

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL FULHAM, EXCAVATIONS AT 31–35 FULHAM HIGH STREET, FULHAM SW6, 2002

Chiz Harward

With contributions by Lyn Blackmore, Anne Davis, Jackie Keily, Alan Pipe and Alan Vince

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation and excavation at 31–35 Fulham High Street, London SW6, site code FUA02, revealed evidence for occupation along the eastern side of Fulham High Street from the late 12th century. A small amount of Roman material was recovered from later contexts.

The site was subdivided by a shallow gully into two plots, with small scale quarrying of the natural sands and gravels. Domestic refuse deposited in disused quarries and back-garden rubbish pits includes an important assemblage of medieval ceramics (two vessels have been subjected to thin sectioning and Inductively-Coupled Plasma Spectroscopy). The remains of a wattle-lined sunken structure, a slumped brickearth floor, and a peg-tile hearth indicate occupation along the eastern side of Fulham High Street into the 15th century.

Occupation appears to have ceased in the later 15th century, and a horticultural soil was established over the site, truncating the earlier deposits. This soil appears to be associated with the development of Fulham as a centre for market gardening, supplying London.

Probably in the late 16th century, a half-cellarred masonry building was constructed, re-using greensand ashlar blocks, with a cobbled path or yard to the rear. This was superseded by a more substantial brick building, with external chimney, and a well constructed in the early to mid-17th century. A long narrow cellar was constructed down the northern side of the site. Cartographic sources suggest that the main building had been extended to the rear by the mid-19th century, although no archaeological trace of this was found. The building and cellar appear to have been demolished in the mid-20th century.

INTRODUCTION AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXCAVATION

The evaluation and excavation at 31–35 Fulham High Street was conducted by MoLAS in advance of redevelopment of the site by Buxton Homes (Fig 1). Work took place between 29 April and 10 May 2002, following the demolition of a 1960s garage and No. 35 Fulham High Street, an early Victorian building. Site clearance had disturbed some of the post-medieval deposits, underlying deposits were less affected. A single trench measuring 8.5m by 6.5m was machine excavated to the top of the post-medieval levels; within this trench two trial pits were dug (one by machine) to investigate the underlying deposits.

Following the initial results of the evaluation, and because of the imminent redevelopment works, the site was taken straight on to full excavation. At the suggestion of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) the area of the evaluation trench was fully excavated and in addition an exposed section was recorded at the east of the site. Excavation was completed on 10 May 2002. All archaeological work on the site was recorded under Museum of London site code FUA02; the full stratigraphic, finds, and environmental archive will be available for consultation on request at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre.

Previously MoLAS had carried out an evaluation on the adjacent site of Rigault Road (see Fig 1,

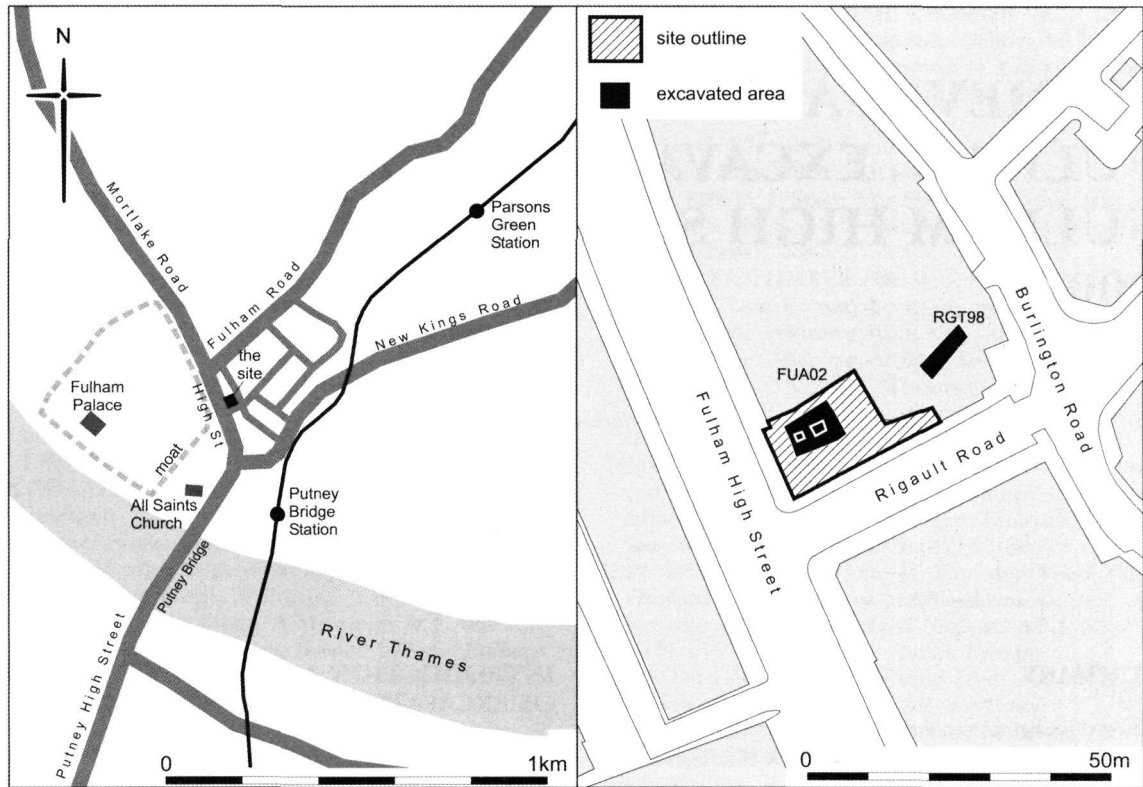


Fig 1. Site location. Inset shows trench location of FUA02 and RGT98

RGT98; Roycroft 1998), the results of which have been drawn on to allow better interpretation of the topographic setting of the site.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated some 340m from the current northern bank of the River Thames, at the foot of a low scarp of Kempton Park sands and gravels (British Geological Survey Sheet 270). Brickearth has been observed sealing the lower terrace in the locality (eg at 69A Fulham High Street; Partridge 1997). Current ground level at the top of this scarp, which is followed by Burlington Road, is 6.73m OD, whilst the pavement level at the base of the scarp is 4.60m OD.

Open Area 1: natural deposits

The levels of natural sands and gravels on the site rise from 3.06m OD at the west of the excavated area, to 3.39m at the east, before rising to 4.60m OD at the Rigault Road site 16m to the east.

Sealing the sands and gravels was a 0.22m thick layer of sticky brickearth. The surface of the brickearth appeared to have been terraced to approximately 3.28m OD; the brickearth only survived this terracing at the west of the site. At RGT98 no brickearth was observed as this will have been eroded off the higher terrace.

MEDIEVAL, c.1180–1500

During the medieval period the settlement at Fulham was concentrated around the east side of the High Street, adjacent to an early ferry crossing of the Thames. The basic road layout was probably established at this time. The earliest reference to the church, located some 240m south of the site, is in 1154, with some physical evidence from the same period, whilst the adjoining vicarage (now lost) is documented from 1430. Fulham High Street was known as *Burystrete* in 1391, probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon *burgh*, or fortified place. Several tenements are recorded along the length of

Burystrete in the 14th and 15th centuries. Watermills and wharves were sited on the Thames (Ferret 1900). The medieval Fulham Palace, which lay within the moated area to the west of the High Street, was substantially demolished and rebuilt between 1506 and the 19th century.

Limited quantities of medieval material have been excavated from various sites in the locality, including two potsherds from the adjacent site, RGT98. The distribution of medieval material suggests that the village spread along the High Street and other medieval lanes, with buildings fronting the road. This ribbon development may have been intermittent, with various plots being built on at different times.

Open Area 2: medieval tenement crofts

The medieval soil horizon that would have developed across the site had been horizontally truncated by a later garden soil during extensive reworking (Open Area 3). It is possible to estimate the original medieval land surface as having been approximately 3.4m OD. This is based on the level of the surface of the pitched-tile hearth, Structure 3, at 3.41m OD, the

slumped floors of Building 1 at 3.26m OD, and the level of the later garden soil at 3.6–4.17m OD. This implies that at the western end of the site all the medieval features would originally have been approximately 0.3m deeper than as excavated. Structures 1, 2, and 3, and Building 1 are all within Open Area 2.

Structure 1: gully

A shallow gully, dropping down slightly towards the High Street, divided Open Area 2 into two, the gully terminating within the site (Fig 2). The gully was possibly lined or revetted with stakes, although these may represent insubstantial fence-lines on both sides. Five sherds of medieval pottery were found in the fill of the east–west gully. These comprise one sherd each of coarse London-type ware and South Hertfordshire-type greyware, and three of Kingston-type ware, from a jug, a cooking pot and an externally sooted dish or frying pan. The latter sherds indicate that the gully went out of use after 1230. The gully would appear to be a property division, dividing the backyard area of two properties fronting onto Fulham High Street. Across the western area of

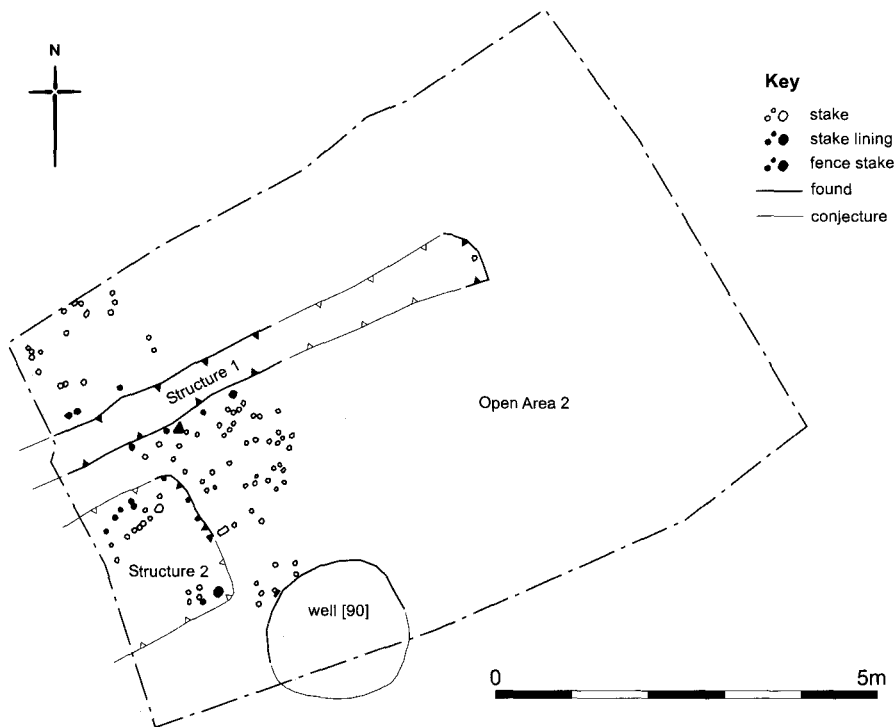


Fig 2. 13th-century structural features

Open Area 2 were a number of stakeholes, the function of which is unclear.

Structure 2: possible building

A flat based, square cornered, feature was dug at the west of the site (Fig 2). Its alignment respected the gully (Structure 1) 0.6m to its north. The base of the cut lay at 3.07m OD and had been highly compacted. A series of 18 stakeholes lined the surviving two sides of the cut; these represent a lining, either of wattle or revetted planks. To the south further stakeholes appear to form the southern side of the structure, which would have measured 1.8m north-south by at least 1.4m east-west. Whilst the structure may merely represent a wattle lined pit, the stakeholes, the compaction of its base, and the shallow depth (it would have been 0.5m deep) suggest that it may have been a more substantial structure, possibly a small building. Some of the stakeholes are larger than others, possibly indicating structural posts. Its disuse was filled by a homogeneous soil; no dating evidence was recovered from this backfill, although it is sealed by early 13th-century pits.

Open Area 2: medieval occupation and pitting

A circular feature, [90], at the south of the site was dug through the natural sands and gravels to 2.05m OD, a depth of 1.2m below natural ground surface. This feature is dissimilar to the other pits, and has been interpreted as a well. If so, it must surely have originally been lined, since it is cut into soft sandy natural and at 1.85m in diameter is substantial, but no traces or impressions survived from any lining. The backfill of the well contained nine sherds dating to the later 12th and 13th centuries, the latest diagnostic piece being the base of a Kingston-type ware baluster jug. The other fabrics comprise London-type ware (both fine and coarse variants), shelly-sandy ware, and South Hertfordshire-type greyware.

Within Open Area 2 a series of pits was dug, both for the small-scale quarrying of sand and gravels, possibly for the adjacent road, and also for the disposal of domestic rubbish (Fig 3). The majority of these are to the south of the gully, Structure 1, although the cutting of pits across the backfilled gully indicates the possible



Fig 3. Medieval pitting and late medieval occupation

merging of the two plots in the later medieval period. The pits varied in size from over 2m in length, dug well down into the sands and gravels, to small scoops of no obvious function. The pits date between 1230 and 1350.

Of the pits, [73] contained one sherd from a Kingston-type ware jug with heavy external sooting (KING), while [71] contained 16 sherds, mainly of South Hertfordshire-type greyware (SHER). In all, 80 sherds were assigned to deposit [69], most of which derive from two near-complete, squat baluster/rounded jugs in a previously unknown fabric (SHERL: <P1>, <P2>, Fig 4). Also present are numerous fragments from the lower body of a London-type ware jug in the North French style (LOND), two other jug sherds in LOND, sherds from cooking pots/jars in SHER and KING whiteware, and two residual shell-tempered sherds. The combination of forms present, and the lack of Mill Green ware, might suggest that these features date to 1230–1270.

Six other pits contained small amounts of pottery (mainly SHER, LOND, and KING). Four of these can be broadly dated to the 13th century: pit [59] two sherds, pit [92] one sherd, pit [94] seven sherds, and pit [78] three sherds of SHER. Pit [96] is perhaps slightly later, as the six sherds include large, externally sooted bases from two conical jugs, one in LOND, the other in Mill Green ware (MG), the latter dates this feature to after 1270. The latest group is from rubbish pit [88], which contained thirteen sherds, including one of Cheam ware that dates to after 1350.

Pit [80]

One pit in particular produced good assemblages of ceramics, accessioned finds, faunal and botanic remains, and is therefore discussed in detail. The pit was located to the south of the gully, Structure 1, and measured 1.85 by 2.26 by 0.61m deep. The pit was one of the latest medieval features on the site.

The largest assemblage of pottery was found in the fill of this pit; it comprised 158 sherds. These mainly derive from jugs in London-type ware and Kingston-type ware, but there is also a cluster of Mill Green ware jug sherds, while a few sherds are from jugs/cisterns in coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware (CBW). The kitchen wares are mainly in South Hertfordshire-type greyware, with a few in KING and CBW; jars/cooking pots are the most common, but sherds from a pipkin and frying pan in KING are also present. The latest diagnostic sherd is from a late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware pipkin, which, together with the distribution of the other wares, dates the group to 1340–1350.

The pit also produced two complete and two fragmentary hones: <4>, <5>, <6>, and <7> (Fig 5). Hones would have been common implements in households and workshops and on the person, as smaller examples with suspension holes could be suspended from a belt. All four hones from FUA02 are made from mica schist, probably Norwegian Ragstone. Three of the hones are worn from use; in all cases this appears to be

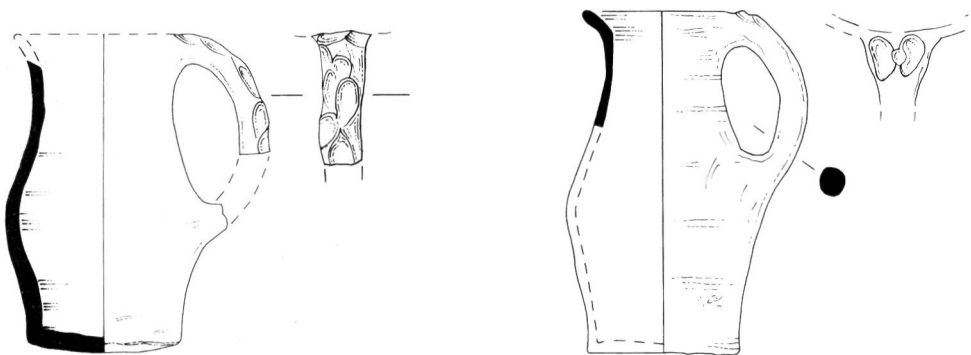


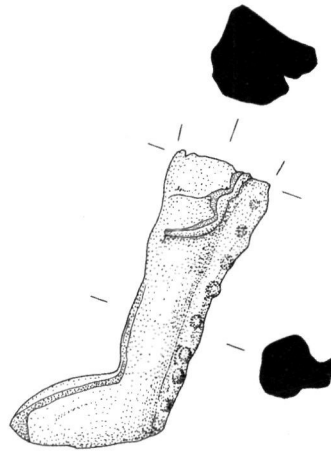
Fig 4. Pottery from deposit [69], hybrid baluster/rounded jugs in SHERL (Scale 1:4)



Fig 5. Hones from backfilling of pit [80]

from the sharpening of blades by holding them flat against the surface of the stone. Only one of the hones, <5>, appears to be unused or it may be a jagged fragment from a larger broken hone. They are likely to derive from a nearby large household or a workshop, such as a cutler's or bladesmith's. The only other accessioned find from this feature is a small lead-alloy leg <3> (Fig 6), probably from a table vessel such as a ewer or a salt. The leg is quite small with a beaded rib down its back. Similar vessels in copper alloy are quite common in the 14th and 15th centuries (Lewis 1987, 2-4; Egan 1998, 158-65), but are generally less common in lead alloys, possibly a reflection of the amount of recycling of lead-tin alloys that was undertaken (Egan 1998, 179).

The sample from the pit fill contained many fragments of wood charcoal, and a number of



*Fig 6. Lead-alloy vessel leg from backfilling of pit [80]
(Scale 1:1)*

charred cereal grains, chaff, and weed seeds. The grains were in poor condition, and many were fragmented, making full identification and quantification difficult. Over 200 grains were successfully identified, however, the majority being wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum sativum*), with a smaller quantity of rye (*Secale cereale*) and a few grains of oats (*Avena* sp.). The wheat grains were rounded in shape, and resembled bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.), the presence of which was confirmed by the identification of a single rachis fragment of this species. A small proportion of the wheat grains had protrusions from either the embryo or the apex end, apparently consisting of molten material from inside the grain, which had oozed out during heating and later solidified. In one case the chaff enclosing the grain at the embryo end remained fused to this material, indicating that the grain was burnt while still inside its spikelet. The barley grains tended to be flattened and often distorted, but twisted grains, indicating 6-row barley were seen to be present. A small amount of cereal chaff was found, consisting of rachis fragments of wheat, barley, and rye, and straw fragments included several culm nodes. The charred assemblage consists of 77% cereal grain, probably from more than one crop, with relatively small proportions of chaff and weeds. It represents cleaned grain, probably the result of domestic spillages, which would perhaps have been swept into a fire, whose ashes were then dumped into the pit. The small quantity of chaff and straw may be remnants of cereal-processing waste used as tinder for lighting the fire.

A number of charred weed seeds came mainly from plants of disturbed ground, and included corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and vetch or vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), all of which are common weeds of cereal crops. Several larger, but very corroded, pulse seeds may have been horse beans (*Vicia faba*), but could not be identified with certainty.

A small assemblage of uncharred seeds was also present in this sample, some preserved by mineralisation. The majority of these come from plants of waste ground, and probably reflect the environment around the pit at the time of deposition. They include several nitrophilous species such as stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), which often grow around rubbish dumps where soil nitrogen levels are high.

The pit produced the largest and most diverse bone group from the whole site. The ox, sheep, and pig material derived mainly from carcass areas of moderate and good meat-bearing quality, with only very limited recovery of foot bones and no toe bones. Sheep/goat mandible derived from an animal between eight and ten years old. A single pig mandible derived from an animal in the second year of life (Schmid 1972). Clear butchery marks were seen on ox and pig material, with clear evidence for disarticulation and, in the ox, transverse division of the humerus and scapula to produce smaller 'joints'. A sheep/goat mandible showed ante-mortem loss of the first molar, with swelling around the alveolus (socket) suggesting an infection around the base of the tooth.

This pit was unique at the site as the only feature to produce fish and chicken bones. The fish, herring (*Clupea harengus*), eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), and cod family (*Gadidae*), were represented by vertebrae and skull elements. These species are common in the Thames estuary and on adjacent coasts, and are still of great economic importance. Whereas all three taxa are widely retrieved in quantity from most medieval sites in London, eels are closely associated with fisheries in the Thames itself. Herring, eel, and the cod family were very much the staples of the London medieval fish diet; this is clearly seen, for example, at St Mary Spital where they made up the majority of the assemblage throughout the medieval period (Locker 1997, 235). The chicken remains consisted of only three fragments of tibiotarsus (the 'drumstick'), each from very young juvenile birds. This may suggest fowl keeping in the vicinity.

Faunal material from other contexts of this period is derived mainly from ox (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat, including sheep (*Ovis aries*), and pig (*Sus scrofa*), but also included mallard/domestic duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Pit [78] produced only a few fragments of ox, sheep, and pig. Sheep were represented by a skull and mandibles from an adult animal; tooth wear evidence suggests that the animal was between six and eight years old (Payne 1973). An ox radius had been chopped at the midshaft, the only butchery evidence from this pit.

Building 1: slumped floor and hearth

Subsiding into the earlier well, a series of horizontal deposits had survived later truncation

(Fig 3). A 100mm-thick, rammed brickearth floor slab was sealed by a thin layer of occupation trample. A burnt area over this trample may represent a temporary hearth. Several stakeholes are associated with this floor and hearth, and may represent contemporary structures.

Six sherds of medieval pottery were found in the trample over the brickearth floor of this building. The latest piece is from the rim of a Cheam ware barrel jug, which, unless intrusive, dates the group to after 1430. The others are from a London-type ware jug, two South Hertfordshire-type greyware cooking pots and two in Kingston-type ware/coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware.

Structure 3

A small area of disturbed, burnt, pitch-tile hearth was recorded at the west of the site (Fig 3). It did not appear to be related to any other features, all other traces of its associated structure or building being presumably removed by later activity, unless it is associated with B1 to the south. The hearth was of peg-tiles, and sealed the disuse of the gully.

The latest features within Open Area 2 date to the mid-15th century. It appears that the buildings went out of use and were demolished, and the site cleared prior to the establishment of Open Area 3.

LATE MEDIEVAL/EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL, c.1500–1550

The Domesday Book records the growing of vegetables in Fulham in 1086, whilst by the 14th century the vegetable and fruit market in the City of London had grown to such a size that it had to be moved (Roach 1985, 24–5). Fulham became a centre for the growing of cash vegetable and fruit crops that were taken to the London market daily (Hartlib 1655; Feret 1900). Cartographic sources from Rocque onwards (Rocque 1746) show large areas of market garden both around and within Fulham. These market gardens range from large fields to small plots and orchards; within the historic core of Fulham the market gardens are smaller due to increased division of ownership as seen in MacLure's map of 1853 (MacLure 1853).

Open Area 3: market garden

The medieval activity was sealed by a 0.7m thick

homogeneous soil layer, the surface of which rose from 3.6 to 4.17m OD to the east. The soil would appear to have been largely imported to the site, as it overlies the late medieval structural features, although it would have increased in depth over time with the addition of manure *etc.* The medieval sequence has certainly been truncated by reworking of this soil horizon, which has removed much of the medieval floor surfaces. It would appear that this reworking of the soil layer may have had a terracing effect on the slope to the east of the site.

The lack of plough marks suggests that the area was being dug by hand, probably as part of a market garden; indeed many of the random stakeholes that have been ascribed to earlier periods could just as easily represent temporary horticultural frames or supports. The plot probably did not extend back into RGT98 due to the slope, although a similar soil deposit was excavated on that site at a height of 4.9m OD. The site can be seen as occupying a narrow plot along the side of the High Street.

A total of 27 sherds were associated with Open Area 3. One is from a drinking jug in early Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware, while four are from an early post-medieval redware jar, which together suggest a date of 1480–1550 for the deposit. The other sherds are all of medieval date (South Hertfordshire-type greyware, Kingston-type ware (KING), coarse Surrey/Hampshire border ware, Cheam whiteware, Tudor Green ware). The most notable find comprises five sooted sherds from a probable curfew with incised decoration in KING, a rare form in this fabric.

POST-MEDIEVAL, 1550 ONWARDS

Burystrete evolved into Berestrete, and by 1606 into Bearestrete; 'Bear Street' was used into the 19th century (Feret 1900, vol 1, 71). 19th-century engravings of the tenements along the High Street indicate a motley collection of inns and houses, many of which, when demolished, proved to be Tudor in date (Feret 1900). Excavations along the High Street have revealed 16th/17th-century footings set on reused masonry, and 17th- and 18th-century buildings with associated pitting, drains, and culverts (Harward 2003, Whitehouse 1985).

Rigault Road was constructed in 1898, and the west side of the High Street was widened for trams in 1909. The Victorian building No. 35 Fulham High Street survived up to the

present redevelopment, adjacent to the garage constructed in the 1960s on the site of Nos 31–33.

Building 2: masonry half-basemented building

At the west of the site a shallow cellared building was constructed (Fig 7). The cellar consisted of a masonry lining of reused greensand ashlar blocks and soft orange-red unfrosted bricks. Although the cellar walls had been partially robbed, a stretch of the eastern wall, and a mortar indication of the south wall, enabled the plan to be reconstructed. The cellar was constructed within a 0.5m-deep cut, and extended 3.9m north–south by over 1.2m east–west, extending beyond the trench. The surviving masonry lining was 0.25m thick, which suggests a timber-framed superstructure founded on a low cellar retaining wall. It is likely that the building extended to the street frontage. Within the cellar a thin layer of trample built up; this contained a residual, broken, copper-alloy strap-end <2>. The dating of the cellar is suggested by the use of reused masonry, and the presence of probable Tudor bricks. It is thought probable that Building 2 was constructed in the late 16th century.

An east–west brick partition wall was added within Building 2. It is possible that the building was extended to the south at this time, although due to modern disturbance the sequence was unclear.

Immediately to the east of the cellar wall was a well-laid path or surface of flints, bricks, ragstone cobbles, and peg-tiles (Fig 8). The surface was contemporary with Building 2 to the west. To the north the surface had been truncated by modern grubbing-out works, however it is likely to have extended behind the full width of Building 2. Two sherds were found in the surface. These comprise early post-medieval redware and Surrey/Hampshire border ware, which date the yard to 1550–1600.

A 0.7m-diameter cut through the path may represent a robbed post-setting, possibly relating to a structure behind Building 2. It is conceivable that the presumably substantial post carried a first floor that jettied eastwards, with the surface being a partially covered walkway beneath the overhang. Metropolitan slipware from the back-fill indicates a date after 1630, although this and the ceramics from the yard surface (dating to 1630–1700) may relate to the construction of Building 3.

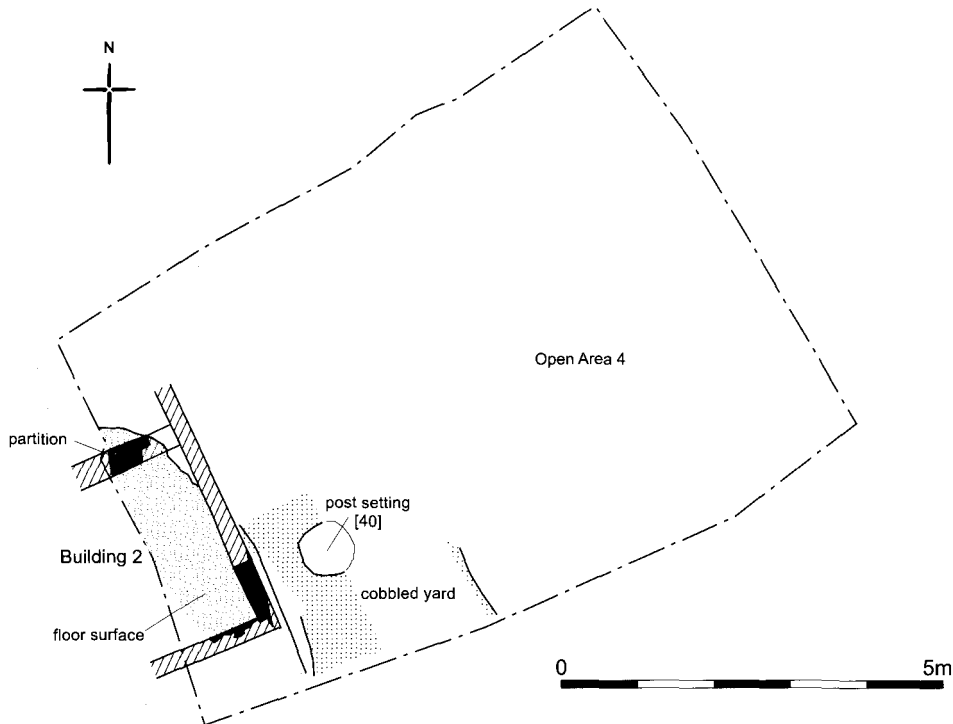


Fig 7. Late 16th-century building



Fig 8. Detail of the cobbled yard, from the west, with Building 3's external wall behind. Note the reuse of blocks of brickwork in the Building 3 footings

Building 3: Nos 31–33 Fulham High Street

Building 2 was demolished, partially robbed, and infilled with a homogeneous soil deposit. Six sherds were found in the backfill and levelling up of the cellar. These comprise post-medieval redware, Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware, and Frechen stoneware, which point to a date after 1600, but possibly before 1630/1650, for this event. The post-setting east of Building 2 was infilled after 1630, and a patch of brickearth laid over to make good the yard surface.

Subsequent to this a new, larger building was laid out, Building 3 (Fig 9). The building fronted onto Fulham High Street; however only the rear of the property lay within the area of excavation. The rear wall of the building is of brick, laid on a foundation of blocks of reused brickwork, with occasional reused ragstone blocks (Fig 8). It is possible that the wall reused an earlier robber trench, as the construction trench was wider than the wall on one side, and had a thin layer of chalk chippings in the base, although chalk

was not used in the new wall. The wall extended across the site from south to north, a distance of 6m, and, assuming the present street frontage is approximately the same as in the 17th century, the building would have been 6.75m deep.

A brickearth floor was laid up against a brick partition wall that divided the building, either into two rooms, or into two properties. This had been mostly truncated by modern grubbing-out works. A brick structure built butting onto the rear of the property represents the base of an external chimney. A square, shallow, brick lined structure (Structure 5) appears to relate to water management, possibly from a downpipe on Building 3; it was filled by a waterlain silt.

Pottery from Building 3 comprised post-medieval blackware, Surrey/Hampshire border redware, and brown-glazed Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware, all of which date to after 1580. In addition, nine sherds were recovered from the make-up layer for the floor. Two of these are medieval, but the others comprise Cistercian ware, post-medieval blackware, and

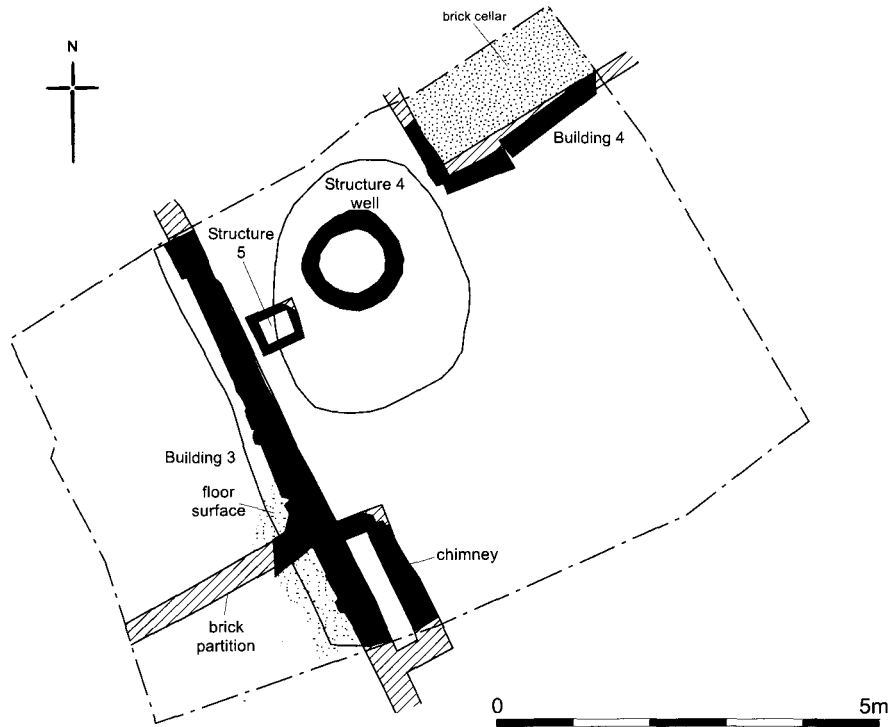


Fig 9. 17th century: Buildings 3 and 4

Surrey/Hampshire border redware (RBOR). The lack of later types and the fact that sherds from the same RBOR pipkin as was found in the construction trench are present show that this deposit is contemporary with the construction cut. The building therefore appears from the dating evidence to have been constructed in the mid-17th century, after 1630.

Building 4: long cellar

A half-basemented brick cellar was constructed at the east of the site. Aligned east–west, it extended beyond the eastern boundary of the site, with a length of over 8m; assuming it extended up to the property line to the north, it would have had a width of approximately 3m (Figs 9–10). The cellar had a floor of bricks and chalk blocks at 3.51m OD. It is believed that Building 4 was constructed at around the same time as Building 3, although there is no good dating evidence for the construction, beyond the brick type and the construction technique using chalk.

The building apparently met a violent end, with the brick lining severely disturbed. The

interior of the cellar was filled with a mix of rubble, glass, mortar and wood. It contained several jars and bottles, including an Express Dairies milk bottle from the 1930s.

Open Area 4: yard to rear of Buildings 3 and 4

The rear of the site appears to have continued in use as a garden or yard area, as there is no indication of any activities taking place within the garden area aside from Building 4 and Structure 4. It is likely that the area was used merely as a yard or back garden, possibly with limited cultivation.

Structure 4: brick well

A brick lined well was constructed within the backyard Open Area 4 (Fig 9). The well was circular and well built, within a large construction cut 3m in diameter. The top of the well had been grubbed out during demolition works, so the nature of any above ground structure remains unknown. Due to

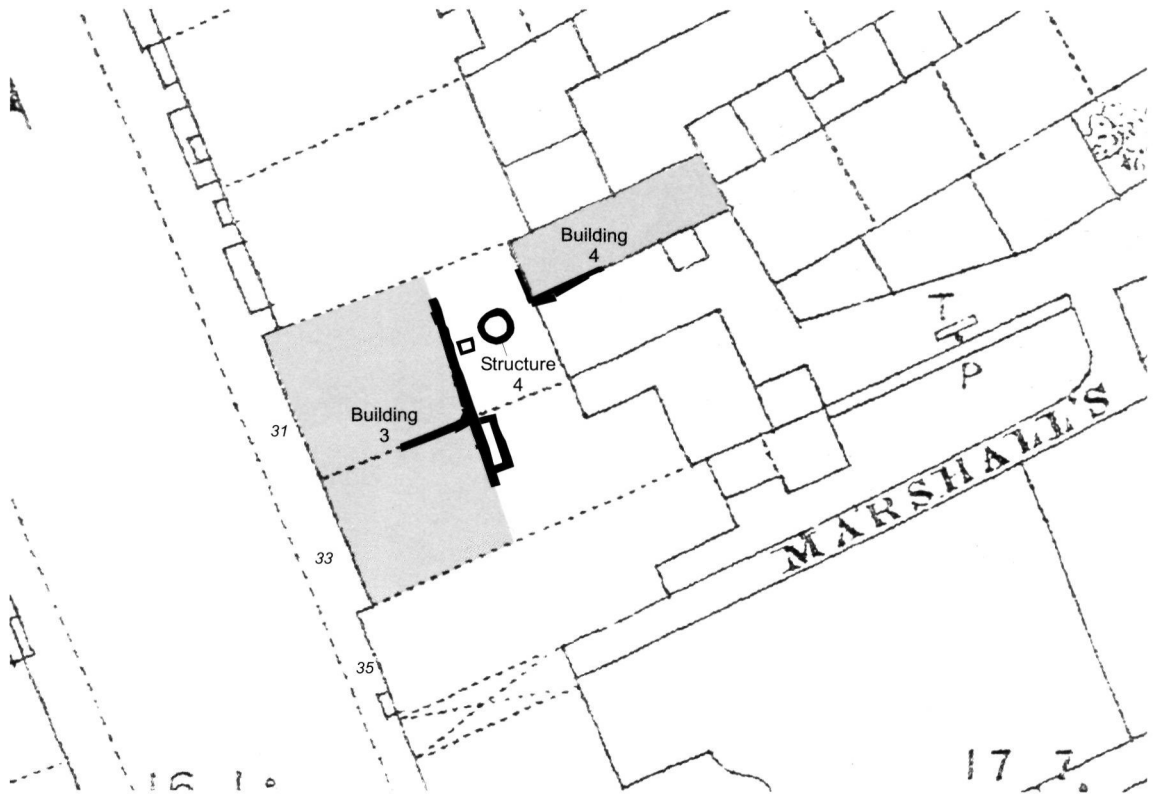


Fig 10. The 1866 Ordnance Survey map with Buildings 3 and 4 superimposed

the nature of the backfill it was not possible to augur to the base of the well, which was lower than 2.5m OD.

Seventeen post-medieval sherds were found in the construction backfill of the well, and residual medieval material was also present. Represented are Surrey/Hampshire border redware (RBOR), fine post-medieval redware, and a battered sherd from a tin-glazed ware dish with blue dashes round the rim. The latter is the latest diagnostic piece; if from Antwerp, it could date to the late 16th century, but it is more likely that it is from London and of 17th-century date. It would seem, therefore, that the well was constructed in the first half of the 17th century and was contemporary with Building 3. The other post-medieval fabrics comprise Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware, early post-medieval redware, and slipped post-medieval redware. Of note is a pipkin in RBOR, which has a kiln scar inside the base.

The well was backfilled with 19th-century rubble and plaster, probably at the time that the

well became redundant with the advent of mains water supply. No features such as sewer or mains water pipes, or foundations relating to post-17th-century structures were observed. These may have been grubbed out in the demolition process prior to excavation.

Although there is limited documentary or cartographic evidence for the area of the site until the Victorian period, the later development of the site can be outlined with some certainty. Cartographic sources from the 18th century show the site as being occupied by housing, at which time Buildings 3 and 4 would have been around a hundred years old (Rocque 1746). By 1843 a 3' 3"-wide alley ran down the south side of No. 35, which was itself probably early 19th-century (Fig 10). This 'Marshall's Alley', named after Greengrocer Mrs Marshall of No. 35, was replaced by Rigault Road in 1898 (Feret 1900).

The 1866 Ordnance Survey shows the site in some detail, and it is clear that the unexcavated No. 35 is already fully developed. Nos 31 and 33 are shown as two properties, with a long narrow

building to the rear, identifiable as Building 4 (Fig 10). The 1866 Ordnance Survey, and the subsequent 1894 and 1906 maps indicate that Nos 31 and 33 extend back further than the excavated Building 3, back as far as Building 4. It appears that this is due to the extension of both properties to the rear, encasing the original 17th-century building. It is possible that the façade was rebuilt at this time.

A photograph showing all three properties in 1935 shows No. 35 on the corner of Rigault Road, apparently partially rebuilt after the insertion of that road (Fig 11). Nos 31–33 are shown as a two-storey building with a gable roof, pitched at approximately 40 degrees. The ground floor is entered by a recessed, centrally placed, doorway. The entire ground floor is occupied by a Domestic Stores, with shopfront display. The first floor is pierced by two pairs of moderately tall windows, fairly flush to the walls. There are two chimney stacks, centrally placed along the property, one to the front of

the ridge, one to the rear in a position similar to the excavated chimney base. It is therefore clear that the properties were built at the same time (similar façade, sharing chimney stacks), and that the ground floor at least was amalgamated to create a shop.

A later photograph from 1979 appears to solve the problem of the eastward extension of the two houses. It shows the site of Nos 31–33 after they had been demolished. On the adjacent, larger, building the roof scar of No. 31 is clearly evident indicating a symmetrical gable roofed building; however two scars are clearly visible at the rear of the property, one at the point where the back wall of Building 3 was excavated, the other further east (Fig 12). The gable roof had been extended down to meet this later extension. It is therefore clear that Building 3, divided into two properties by the partition wall, was extended to the rear, at some point pre-1866. The lack of excavated evidence for this extension is slightly odd, however it may be that the foundations were



Fig 11. View of Nos 31–35 Fulham High Street, 1935



Fig 12. View showing roof scars of No. 31 Fulham High Street, No. 35 is shown standing, 1979

grubbed out at some point, possibly immediately prior to the excavation. By the demolition of Nos 31 and 35 in the mid-20th century, the houses, though clearly altered, were over three hundred years old.

THE CERAMICS

Medieval pottery

A medium-sized group of domestic pottery was recovered, ranging in date from the later 12th to the 15th century. Kitchen wares (jars, cooking pots, pipkins, frying pans, and dishes) and table/serving wares (jugs, drinking jugs, and lobed cups) are more or less equally represented.

Fabrics and forms

The complete range of fabrics and forms recovered is listed in the site archive. Taking the assemblage as whole, the most common fabric is Kingston-type ware (136 sherds). This mainly comprises the usual whitewares, with more or

less equal numbers of jugs and other forms. The latter include part of a frying pan and a pipkin with ladle handle, and part of a possible curfew with incised decoration that is heavily sooted both inside and out; this form is rarely found in Kingston-type ware, although one example was recovered from the Millenium Bridge site (Ayre & Wroe-Brown 2003, fig 44). The standard South Hertfordshire greywares are the second most frequent group; most sherds are from cooking pots and jars, but the group included sherds from five jugs, one with a double-thumbed handle ([90]). Also present, however, are two greyware jugs, both from [69], in a new fabric that has provisionally been listed as SHERL (Fig 4). These were analysed both in thin section and by ICPS (Vince 2003), and it was found that <P1> is made of Reading Beds clay, like the Kingston whitewares; <P2> contains similar inclusions but is finer and more reduced, and more like the usual South Hertfordshire-type greywares. Both fabrics are visually different from the greyware wasters recently discovered during excavations by PCA in Kingston (site codes CMK00, LDK01;

Jarrett 2001; C Jarrett pers comm). The chemical composition of the samples was compared with whitewares from Kingston and Southwark, and with greywares from a range of sources, both in Kingston and in Hertfordshire. It was found that the parent clay of the Fulham pots is most like that of the Kingston whitewares, albeit lying on the edge of that cluster, but not like some of the other reduced wares from Kingston (Pearce in prep; Vince in prep). Stylistically, however, the thumbled handles and other features of <P1> and <P2> are very much in the South Hertfordshire tradition, and this makes it difficult to suggest a source for these finds (see also below). The handles are of oval section; that on <P2> was either pushed through the wall of the pot or plugged from the inside, whereas the inner surface on <P1> is smooth. It is possible that some of the other finds recorded as SHER belong to this new group.

Post-medieval pottery

A total of 54 sherds of 16th- to later 17th-century domestic pottery was recovered. Most sherds derive from kitchen/serving wares, but some finer tablewares and part of a chamber pot were also found.

Fabrics and forms

The complete range of fabrics and forms recovered is listed in the site archive. Fabric types include Surrey/Hampshire Border wares, regionally produced redwares, metropolitan slipware, tinwares, and four sherds of imported stoneware.

Discussion

The medieval pottery mainly dates to the 13th and 14th centuries and can probably be related to buildings fronting onto Fulham High Street. The assemblage is of importance firstly as the first group of any size from Fulham, and secondly because most of the finds are stratified. All earlier groups are residual, comprising 38 sherds from Burlington Road (Blackmore 1983, 103), three sherds from 69a Fulham High Street (sitecode FUH97; Stephenson 1997), and two from Rigault Road (sitecode RGT98; Stephenson 1998); there has also been a general lack of published medieval pottery on other sites in the area (Blackmore 1983, 103; Thompson *et al* 1998, 66–7).

Given the general lack of material, the present

assemblage can only hint at trade connections, but it suggests that the main sources of supply were in Kingston and south Hertfordshire (the latter possibly marketed through Kingston or Uxbridge?), and Surrey wares also dominated at Burlington Road. This fits well with the location of the site near the Thames in west London, with easy river access to Kingston, but does not entirely explain why Kingston ware is twice as common as London-type wares, which could also have been easily supplied by river. The fact that Fulham is upstream from London may be a contributory factor, but local preference, and dating, must have also played a part. The Mill Green wares are unexpected in this area of London, as the type rarely occurs so far to the west of central London (Pearce *et al* 1982, fig 2). Late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware is also uncommon in this area (Jenner & Vince 1983).

The most intriguing aspect of the assemblage is the identification of two greyware drinking jugs <P1> and <P2>, which relate to both the Kingston and South Hertfordshire industries, but are not completely like either. The jugs forms are also hybrids. No parallels for them were found in the recent corpus of jugs from Hertfordshire and London (Pearce in prep), and although they are related to the baluster-shaped drinking jugs made in South Hertfordshire-type greywares (*ibid*, fig 142, nos 1297–1300), they differ in having handles. The form is also related to the pear-shaped and small rounded jugs made in Kingston (Pearce & Vince 1988, figs 67–8), but is slightly more biconical than the former, and more slender than the latter; the thumbled handles are also clearly in the South Hertfordshire tradition. This suggests either a short-lived movement of clay from Kingston to an as yet unknown source in Hertfordshire, or a brief experimental period in Kingston, possibly instigated by a visiting potter from Hertfordshire. Dating is also problematic. In Kingston, the evidence suggests that the greyware industry was concentrated in the late 12th to mid-13th century (C Jarrett pers comm). In London, bottles in South Hertfordshire greyware occur in London contexts dating from 1180 to 1220 onwards, but are most common in the early 14th century, and this is in keeping with the dating of the London-type ware equivalents. However, as <P1> and <P2> are jugs, their dating may be different from that of the bottles, and would appear to fall between 1230 and 1270. In terms of forms the remainder of the medieval assemblage is typical of the period as a whole.

The post-medieval period is generally better represented on other sites in the area, notably at Fulham Pottery (Green 1999), and at the nearby sites of Burlington Road, (Blackmore 1983, 103–8), 69a Fulham High Street (Stephenson 1997), and Rigault Road (Stephenson 1998), where 1,010, 56, and 27 sherds were found respectively. Kiln debris, including pieces of kiln furniture, has been found at Fulham High Street, and in two contexts at Rigault Road, but there is nothing to show that the present site was close to that of the Fulham pottery. Indeed, the lack of 18th-century pottery is intriguing; unless the site was within a building or yard that was kept clean, it suggests that the development of the area in the mid-18th century led to the disposal of rubbish elsewhere.

ACCESSIONED FINDS

Stone hones (Fig 5)

<4> Pit [80]. Complete; L 160mm, W 22–26mm, Th 9–19mm. Mica schist, probably Norwegian Ragstone; all surfaces worn smooth from use. The hone tapers towards one end, both in width and particularly in thickness. The wear is indicative of sharpening blades by holding them flat against the surface of the stone.

<5> Pit [80]. Incomplete; L 144mm, W c.33mm, Th c.23mm. Mica schist, probably Norwegian Ragstone; fragmentary hone, very chipped; no utilised surfaces remain. Possibly used and broken or possibly an unused fragment.

<6> Pit [80]. Incomplete; L 170mm, W 39mm, Th c.28mm. Mica schist, probably Norwegian Ragstone; part of a large hone, broken at either end and with one surface partly missing. The two broader faces are worn smooth and slightly concave indicative of sharpening blades by holding them flat against the surface of the stone.

<7> Pit [80]. Incomplete; L 168mm, W 30mm, Th 16–22mm. Mica schist, probably Norwegian Ragstone; one end slightly rounded; the other appears broken. All surfaces are worn smooth from use; the two broader faces are slightly concave indicative of sharpening blades by holding them flat against the surface of the stone.

Lead-alloy vessel (Fig 6)

<3> Pit [80]. Incomplete; L 40mm, maximum Diam of leg 13mm, L of foot 20mm. A small leg and foot with a beaded rib along its back. It probably originated on a table vessel such as a ewer or a salt (for an example of the latter from the Victoria and Albert Museum see Egan 1998, 192, fig 156). Similar vessels in copper alloy are quite common in the 14th and 15th centuries (Lewis 1987, 2–4; Egan 1998, 158–65), but are generally less common in lead alloys, possibly a reflection of the amount of recycling of lead-tin alloys that was undertaken (Egan 1998, 179).

Copper-alloy strap-end (not illus)

<2> Trampled floor of Building 2. Incomplete; L 35mm, W 10.5mm. Part of a composite tongue-shaped strap-end comprising a near-complete sheet with a single rivet hole in its upper edge, a forked spacer, and a small fragment of the other sheet. This is a plain functional object that would have been attached to one end of a narrow strap (c.10mm wide). Strap-ends with forked spacers generally date to the 14th century, although they continue to occur in early 15th-century deposits (Pritchard 1991, 145).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of the excavation have provided the most detailed archaeological evidence for the nature and type of occupation of the medieval and early post-medieval Fulham village. The excavations at the site, although limited in size, have indicated that fairly complicated stratified sequences can survive in a relatively unfragmented state within historic Fulham.

Too much can be inferred from a single excavation, however it is clear that Fulham was a dynamic settlement that adapted to changing times. The village does not appear to have expanded greatly, having been contained within fairly fixed bounds. It appears that the topographic feature along Back Lane formed the rear of the settled area of medieval Fulham: sites to the east of this scarp have produced only small assemblages of residual medieval pottery, presumably from manuring of fields and market gardens.

Activity within the medieval plots (Open Area 2) would appear to be alongside the medieval precursor to Fulham High Street. The widening

of the street in 1909 for the tramlines was on the western side of the street, and the 17th-century street frontage appears to be preserved intact (Fig 10). The medieval street frontage may therefore be largely the same as that of today. The medieval buildings will therefore lie largely under the western, unexcavated, part of the site. The presence of buildings within the excavated area, and the amalgamation of the two plots with the disuse of the gully (Structure 1), may indicate that there was population pressure on the site leading to development of the backyard areas, however this may merely be due to a fluid attitude to building locations.

'Backyard' activity within the plots is fairly limited, although good assemblages of artefacts were recovered, including an excellent assemblage of medieval ceramics. It appears that the semi-rural location meant that most of the rubbish and detritus from the occupation of the site was cleared off-site, presumably spread on the fields, although from the late 14th century there are repeated references to the dumping of rubbish and 'dung': both in the High Street, and onto the Manorial waste across the road (Feret 1900, vol 1, 9–10). The rubbish pits such as pit [80] may therefore be the exception to the normal disposal processes.

There appears to be no physical boundary to the rear of the plots, as the dividing gully (Structure 1) terminates before the scarp slope; although this could be explained by the fact that the brickearth also peters out at this point, and the sands and gravels beyond would not require formal drainage, the area exploited for pitting similarly respected the end of the gully. Whilst it is tempting to consider that the slope behind was sufficient boundary to the High Street plots, this has not been demonstrated archaeologically.

Whilst the market garden soil on the site is perhaps earlier than the rise in Dutch influenced market gardening documented by the 17th-century polymath Samuel Hartlib, small scale gardening enterprises were well established in the Tudor period (Hartlib 1655; Ernle 1936). It is interesting to note that on this site it was considered worthwhile to import large quantities of soil to create the garden soil, implying an extensive outlay of time, thought, and expense (and also that when the garden was built over, it was not considered worthwhile to sell on this well-developed soil). Small plots may therefore have been turned over to market gardening for a short period, and then built on afresh, possibly

due to landlords renting out plots to gardeners as demand increased for the crops. The larger fields, outside the medieval village core, were in permanent use as orchards and market gardens into the 19th century.

The abandonment of the market garden and the re-occupation of the site at the end of the 16th century is perhaps against the perceived trend to increasing development of market gardens in Fulham in the post-medieval period; however within the village core land was possibly of greater value as housing.

The construction of Building 2 is typical of excavated and observed examples in Fulham, with reused medieval masonry and brick footings (Feret 1900; Whitehouse 1985). It does not appear that the site was one of the many inns and coaching houses along the High Street, although the building does appear to have been not insubstantial, possibly of two floors with the upper floor projecting to the rear on supports. The limited width of the cellar wall indicates a dwarf wall carrying a timber superstructure; such half-timbered buildings were common along the High Street into the 19th century and Tudor fireplaces and timbers were noted in many old cottages only then being pulled down (Feret 1900, vol 1, 83–5).

The later Buildings 3 and 4, dating to the mid-17th century, appear to represent part of the piecemeal development of the High Street; documentary records indicate that throughout the 17th–19th centuries buildings were being converted, enlarged, and rebuilt on a regular basis, although many buildings survived for over two hundred years with only minor structural alterations (Feret 1900, vol 1, 91). The excavated Building 3, with its separate backyard cellar (Building 4), appears to have lasted for around three hundred years, and was extended prior to 1866. Fig 10 shows how Buildings 3 and 4 were retained and enlarged, with the property boundaries on the site lasting from the mid-17th century to nearly the present day — possibly also fossilising the medieval street frontage (see above). It is unfortunate that no cesspits were located within the area of the trench, as they might have provided useful information on the inhabitants, especially in the later periods where there is little physical evidence.

The archaeological sequence of activities on this site appears to be a microcosm of the development of this part of Fulham: the medieval tenements, the creation and growth of the market

gardens, the growth of the post-medieval historic core of the village, and the development of that core area, the retention and reuse of earlier buildings all appear to match the documentary evidence and the limited number of excavations in the area. Further investigations along the High Street since this excavation have already shown that there is considerable potential for further archaeological survival of all periods. It is to be hoped that further excavations in the area will expand our understanding of the settlement and its setting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author and MoLAS would like to thank Buxton Homes for commissioning and generously funding the excavation, analysis, and publication, and Adam Hopkins for his help in the smooth transition from evaluation to excavation. Special thanks are due to Kim Stabler of GLAAS for her advice and support during the excavation and post-excavation process.

The author would like to thank Lyn Blackmore, Anne Davis, Jackie Keily, Alan Pipe, and Alan Vince for their specialist contributions, and Liz Goodman for the conservation of the finds. Thanks to the excavation team of Portia Askew, Nick Elsdon and Stewart Hoad; site survey was by Neville Constantine, Dave Mackie, Ant Sibthorpe and Dan Waterfall; photographic support was provided by Maggie Cox. Drawings were by Joe Severn, Sophie Lamb, and Peter Hart-Allison.

The author would also like to thank Keith Whitehouse, and Francis Sergeant and the staff at Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre for their help and advice, and for permission to reproduce Figs 11 and 12. The MoLAS evaluation RGT98 was supervised by Niall Roycroft. The author would like to thank Nathalie Cohen (MoLAS) for facilitating access to the RGT archive. The site was project managed by David Lakin and Derek Seeley.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AYRE & WROE-BROWN (2003), J Ayre & R Wroe-Brown *The London Millennium Bridge, Excavations of the Medieval and Later Waterfronts at St Peter's Hill, City of London, and Bankside, Southwark* MoLAS Archaeology Study Series 6
- BLACKMORE (1983), L Blackmore 'The medieval and post-medieval pottery' in P S Mills 'Excavations at Burlington Road, Fulham, London SW6' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 35, 103–8
- BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (1975), 1:50:000 Series: Sheet 270

- EGAN (1998), G Egan 'Copper-alloy vessels' in G Egan *The Medieval Household c.1150–c.1450. Medieval Finds from Excavations in London* 6, 158–9, 161–77, 179–80, 183–95
- ERNLE (1936), Lord Ernle *English Farming Past and Present* (5th edn)
- FERET (1900), C J Feret *Fulham Old and New* vol 1
- GREEN (1999), C Green *John Dwight's Fulham Pottery: Excavations 1971–79*
- HARTLIB (1655), S Hartlib *Samuel Hartlib his Legacie: or an enlargement of the Discourse of husbandry used in Brabant and Flaunders...* (3rd edn)
- HARWARD (2003), C Harward 84–88 *Fulham High Street, an Archaeological Evaluation Report* MoLAS unpub rep
- JARRETT (2001), C Jarrett 'Pottery assessment' in J Leary *Phased Summary and Assessment Document of an Archaeological Excavation at Kingston Rotunda, Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames* PCA unpub rep
- JENNER & VINCE (1983), A Jenner & A G Vince 'A dated type-series of London medieval pottery: part 3. A late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 34, 151–70
- LEWIS (1987), J M Lewis *Bronze Aquamaniles and Ewers Finds Research group 700–1700 Datasheet 7*
- LOCKER (1997), A Locker 'The fish bones' in C Thomas, B Sloane & C Philpotts *Excavations at the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, London* MoLAS monograph 1, 234–5
- MACLURE (1853), J M MacLure *Fulham Poor Law Board Valuation Book* (Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre)
- PARTRIDGE (1997), J Partridge 69A *Fulham High Street/423 New Kings Road, SW6, An Archaeological Evaluation* MoLAS unpub rep
- PAYNE (1973), S Payne 'Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale' *Anatolian Studies* 23, 281–303
- PEARCE in prep, J Pearce 'The greyware industries' in L Blackmore & J Pearce *Medieval Coarsewares of the London Area. A Dated Types Series of London Medieval Pottery Part 5: Shelly-sandy Ware and the Greyware Industries* MoLAS/MoLSS monograph
- PEARCE *et al* (1982), J E Pearce, A G Vince & R White with C M Cunningham 'A dated type-series of London medieval pottery: part 1. Mill Green ware' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 33, 266–98
- PEARCE & VINCE (1988), J Pearce & A Vince *Surrey Whitewares. A Dated Type-Series of London Medieval Pottery Part 4* London and Middlesex Archaeol Soc spec pap 10
- PRITCHARD (1991), F Pritchard 'Strap-ends' in G Egan & F Pritchard *Dress Accessories c.1150–c.1450, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 3*, 124–61
- ROCQUE (1746), J Rocque *Map of London and Country Near Ten Miles Around*

- ROACH (1985), F A Roach *Cultivated Fruits of Britain, their Origin and History*
- ROYCROFT (1998), N Roycroft *Junction of Rigault Road and Burlington Road, SW6: an Archaeological Evaluation* MoLAS unpub rep
- SCHMID (1972), E Schmid *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*
- STEPHENSON (1997), R Stephenson 'Pottery assessment' in J Partridge *Evaluation Report, 69a Fulham High Street/423 New Kings Road, SW6*, MoLAS unpub rep
- STEPHENSON (1998), R Stephenson 'Pottery assessment' in N Roycroft *Evaluation Report, Junction of Rigault Road and Burlington Road, SW6*, MoLAS unpub rep
- THOMPSON *et al* (1998), A Thompson, A Westman & T Dyson (eds) *Archaeology in Greater London 1965–90: a Guide to Records of Excavations by the Museum of London Archaeol Gazetteer ser vol 2*
- VINCE (2003), A Vince *Petrological and Chemical Analysis of Two Vessels from 31–35 High Street Fulham (FUA02)* <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2003032.pdf>
- VINCE in prep, A Vince 'The petrology of "Hertfordshire reduced" ware from various sites in the home counties' in L Blackmore & J Pearce *Medieval Coarsewares of the London Area. A Dated Types Series of London Medieval Pottery Part 5. Shelly-sandy Ware and the Greyware Industries* MoLAS/MoLSS monograph
- WHITEHOUSE (1985), K R Whitehouse 'Tanner Bros Garage, Fulham High Street' *London Archaeologist* vol 5, no. 2