

EXCAVATIONS ADJACENT TO THE RIVER CRANE ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER RAILWAY MARSHALLING YARDS, FELTHAM

Isca Howell

With contributions by Lyn Blackmore, Pippa Bradley, Lisa Gray, Louise Rayner and Terence Smith

SUMMARY

Excavations adjacent to the River Crane, on a site within the former railway marshalling yards, Feltham, revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age occupation and Middle Saxon settlement and agriculture. The evidence consisted of an assemblage of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age pottery sherds and radiocarbon dates for a corn drier and a hearth, calibrated to the Middle Saxon period. There were only a few Middle Saxon pottery sherds but plant remains from the corn drier, and associated daub fragments, indicate there was arable farming and a settlement in the vicinity.

INTRODUCTION

The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) undertook an excavation on a site within the former railway marshalling yards to the south of Hounslow Heath, at OS grid reference TQ 1221 7364 (Fig 1). The site was bounded by a culvert for the Duke of Northumberland River to the west and by the railway to the north. To the east and south, the area of development extended to Hounslow Cemetery, Godfrey Way, and the back of housing along Curtis Road and Farm Road.

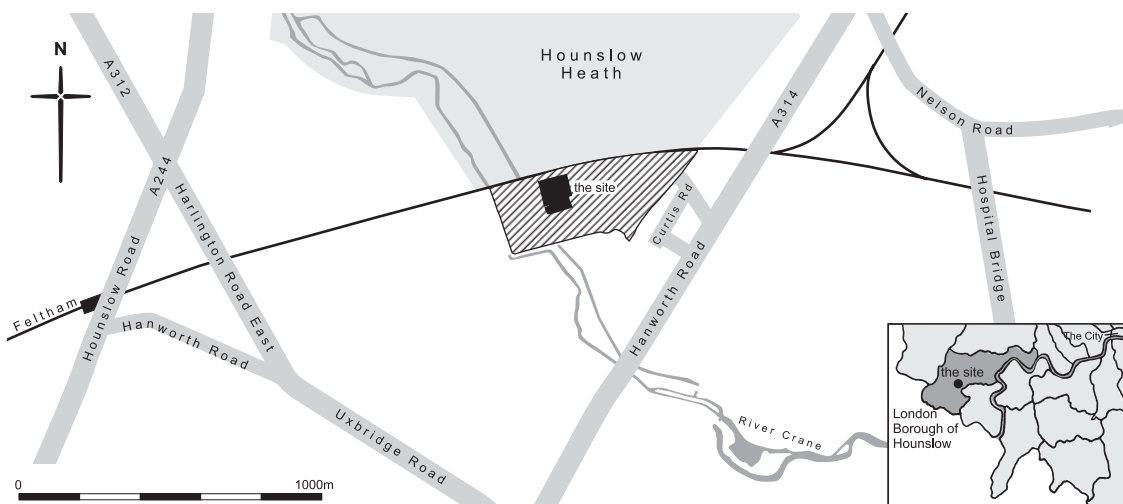


Fig 1. Area of the former railway marshalling yards, showing the site

The purpose of the excavation was to investigate the potential for further archaeological remains within the footprint of a proposed building, as suggested by a previous evaluation (Howell 1999). Prior to these excavations there had been no conclusive evidence for archaeological remains on the site.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies to the east of the River Crane, mostly on the flat ground above the river's floodplain. The underlying geology of this area is the Taplow Terrace Gravels (BGS 1998) with a narrow strip of later alluvium, which has accumulated along the margins of the River Crane.

The construction of the marshalling yards had removed any remnants of earlier ground horizons and, presumably, had truncated the natural gravels. The marshalling yard deposits consisted of *c.*0.50m of ash and clinker overburden overlying the natural sand and gravel at *c.*18.50m OD, except along the southern edge of the site where a 'shunting hump' had raised the ground level by *c.*0.80m, and in the south-west corner, where the site extended into the river valley and the natural gravels sloped down to *c.*17m OD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SEQUENCE

During the course of the investigations 265 postholes, 43 pits, 3 gullies, a corn drier, and a hearth were fully excavated and recorded (Fig 2). All these features were cut into the underlying gravels and were sealed by the marshalling yard deposits. There was no horizontal stratigraphy on the site. The only distinguishing characteristic of the fills of the features was the abundance of charcoal flecks in those in the vicinity of the hearth and corn drier (denoted by the shaded area on Fig 2) and the absence of charcoal flecks in those further away.

The only securely dated features were the corn drier and the hearth, as sealed charcoal-rich layers in each allowed for radiocarbon dating (see Table 1). All the other features either had no dating evidence or the dating evidence was potentially residual. Three groups of postholes were identified on the site: Structure 1, Structure 2 and Structure 3. Other possible groups were regarded as too speculative.

Structure 1 consisted of 14 postholes, aligned south-west–north-east, for a length of 17.3m. Two postholes at the southern end of Structure

1 contained Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age pottery. It appeared to form a 'palisade' that may continue beyond the limit of excavation. There is an apparent density of postholes to the north-west of the palisade, whereas only a possible four-post structure was located to the south-east. This palisade may mark a division between the internal and external elements of a settlement. Alternatively, there may be returns to the structure at the southern and northern ends to suggest a rectilinear building. This implies a type of building that is more likely to be of Saxon date. On what appears to be the external side of Structure 1, four postholes define a square feature (Structure 2). Measuring approximately 3m on each side, the date and function of this structure are unknown other than it appears to be associated with the palisade or building. Structure 3 lies to the north of the hearth and, as such, appears to be associated with it (see below).

LATE BRONZE AGE TO EARLY IRON AGE OCCUPATION EVIDENCE

The evidence for Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age occupation is derived from the analysis of the pottery. Of the identified features, only 49 contained sherds of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age pottery, including seven postholes that also contained sherds of Saxon pottery. Therefore it is highly likely that many of the sherds were residual in later Saxon features and, as a result, no individual features on the site have been assigned to this period (see Fig 2). However, the quantity of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age pottery sherds does suggest that there was significant activity on the site during the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Transition period (*c.*8th–6th century BC).

The excavation produced 220 sherds (2,224g) of later prehistoric pottery. Nine fabrics have been identified on the basis of the main inclusion types present. There are three main fabric groupings — flint-tempered (FLIN1-5), sand-tempered (QU1-3), and shell-tempered (SH1) — with all nine fabrics apparently of local manufacture (see site archive for full details). Flint-tempered fabrics were commonly used in the Late Bronze Age in the Thames Valley region, as found at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1991). During the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Transition period the use of sand-tempered wares increased, resulting in primarily sandy

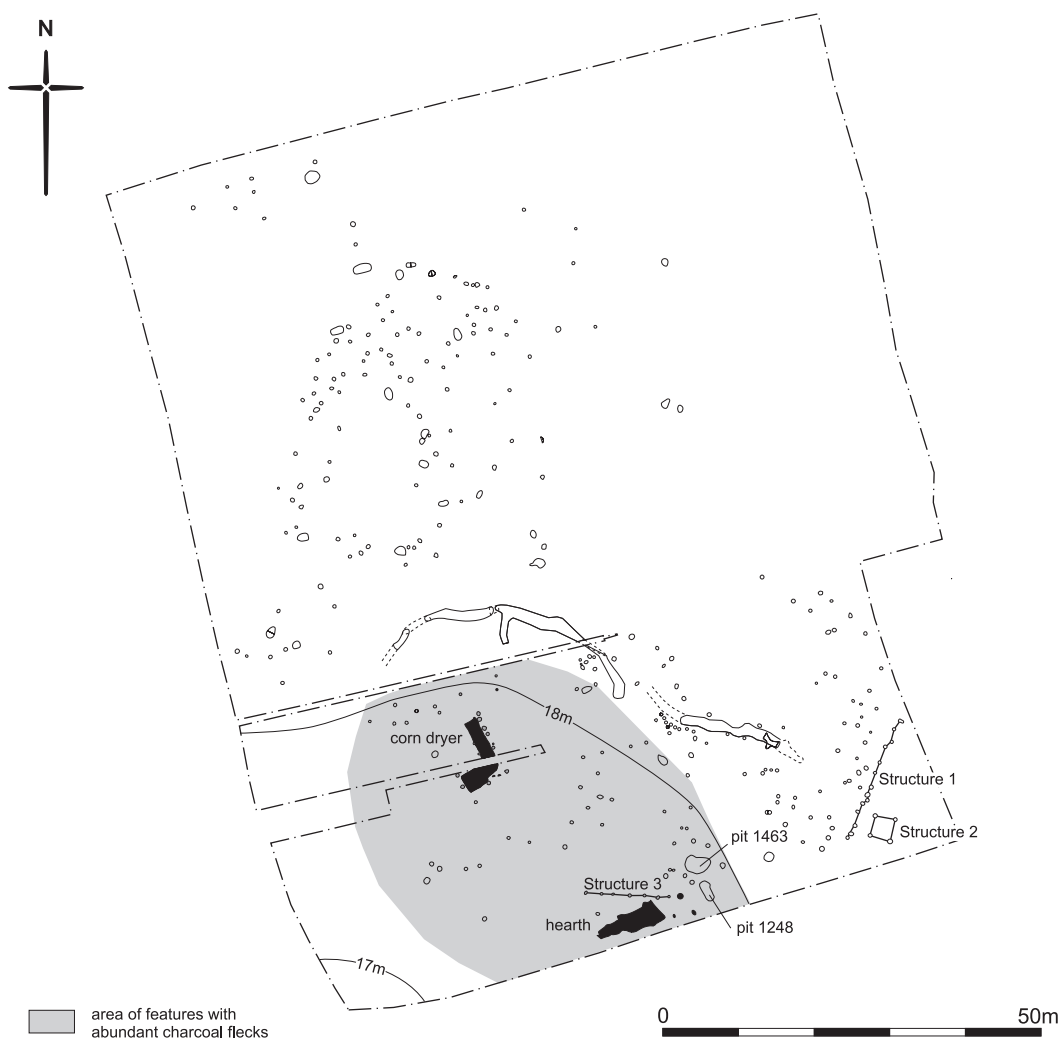


Fig 2. Plan of the site showing the archaeological features as recorded

wares in the Early Iron Age. Following this sequence, this assemblage falls within the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Transition period, as flint-tempered, flint-with-sand, and sandy fabrics are all present (Barclay 1995, 10). Red iron-rich inclusions are present in all but one of the flint-tempered fabrics and in two of the sandy fabrics, suggesting they occurred naturally in the raw clay used for the manufacture of these vessels. The use of clays with iron-rich inclusions has been noted in other assemblages from the West London area. At Caesar's Camp, Heathrow all of the sherds had 'ferruginous pellets or iron-rich inclusions', which after petrological analysis

were considered to be naturally occurring in the clay, and likely to be of local source (Williams 1993, 351). Sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date from Snowy Field Way, Isleworth were also recorded in a flint and iron-rich fabric (Timby 1996, 46–7) and the presence of fabrics with ferruginous pellets was noted in an assemblage from Jewsons Yard, Uxbridge (Barclay 1995, 10).

With only ten rim sherds and two other featured sherds present, only a small proportion of the pottery could be assigned to any known forms. The diagnostic sherds are from coarse ware and fine ware jars (Barrett 1980, Class I &

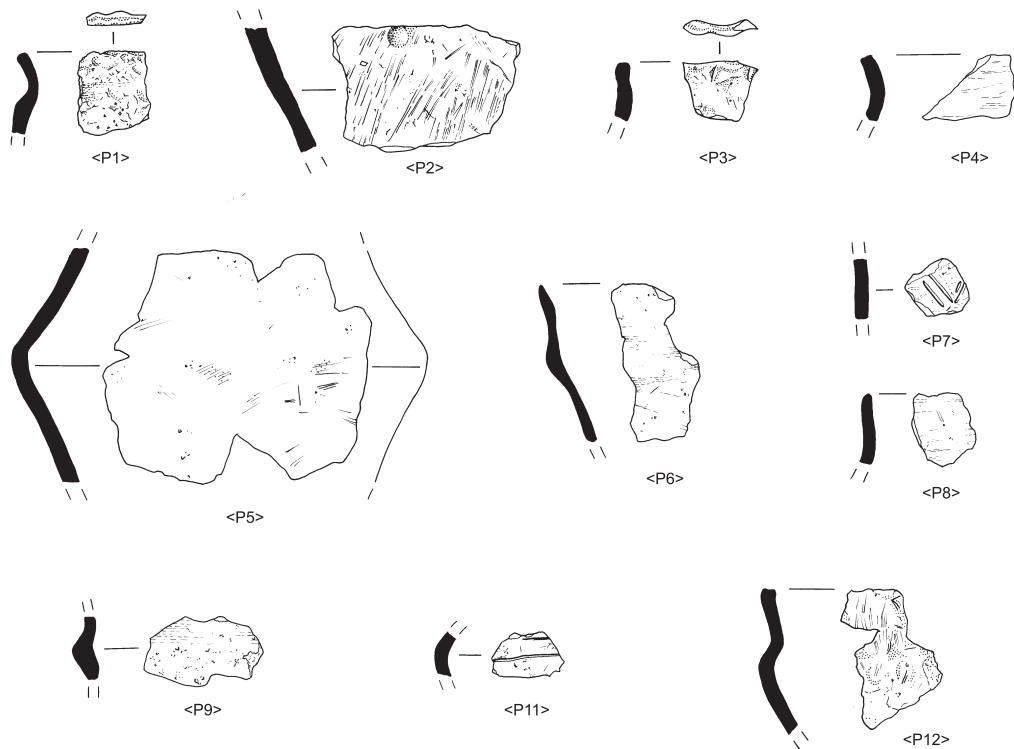


Fig 3. Selected Late Bronze Age—Early Iron Age pottery sherds (<P1>—<P3>, <P5>—<P9>, <P11> and <P12>) and Saxon pottery sherd (<P4>) (scale 1:4)

II) and fine ware bowls, including both bipartite and tripartite examples, such as <P6>, <P8> and <P11> (see Fig 3). The largest fragments came from the shoulder of a carinated jar, <P5>, with well burnished surfaces, conforming to Barrett Class II jars.

Decorated sherds are present in the assemblage, with finger-tipping and fingernail impressions on the shoulders and rims of coarse ware jars of Barrett Class I type (Fig 3, <P1>, <P2>, <P3>, <P12>). The cabling of rims is paralleled in the Late Bronze Age assemblage from Runnymede Bridge, which also has evidence of fingertip and fingernail impressions (Longley 1991, 165). The surfaces of these coarse jars have frequently been wiped, probably with organic matter, leaving striations on the surface. The fine ware vessels are smoothed and burnished and two examples of incised decoration are present (Fig 3, <P7>, <P11>). The small sherd <P7> with incised triangular decoration is similar to examples from Runnymede Bridge, where the use of combed decoration, hatched triangles, and incised lines is evidenced (Longley 1991, 165). The tripartite

bowl with incised lines on the shoulder, <P11>, is paralleled in the assemblage from Heathrow and is closely aligned to vessels in Cunliffe's Darmsden-Linton group (Canham 1978a, 20, fig 14, no. 30; Cunliffe 1991, 326, fig A:11).

The majority of the assemblage is treated here as one ceramic phase in the absence of stratigraphic information. This aside, the pottery has many traits comparable to other assemblages from the Thames Valley, especially those from Heathrow (Canham 1978a), Petters Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986, 62), and Snowy Field Way, Isleworth (Timby 1996, 46). Unfortunately analysis did not reveal any obvious pattern to the spatial distribution of the pottery sherds, but in spite of this, the recovery of this pottery is important as it provides evidence for settlement in the vicinity. The presence of carbonised residues and sooting on some of the sherds suggests this activity included cooking and this is supported by a small amount of burnt flint.

Also recovered from the site were 234 pieces of burnt flint (weighing 1,595g). These were collected from a range of features, including

those associated with a corn drier (see below). The large quantity of burnt flint may reflect various domestic activities such as cooking, but may also have had a secondary use as temper for pottery. Burnt unworked flint is relatively common on prehistoric sites, becoming particularly abundant on later Bronze Age and Iron Age sites. In the vicinity, a number of sites have produced comparable material, including the former Jewsons Yard site at Uxbridge (Bradley 1995, 16–17).

Discussion

The significance of the west Middlesex tributaries in the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age is poorly understood compared to the field-systems that have been extensively excavated in the Heathrow area. What the functional use of these rivers was and whether they were used as trade routes has not been established. Finds such as the five copper-alloy socketed axes discovered near to the River Brent at Park Royal (Cotton & Wood 1996, 19–21) show the potential for further finds of this period in the catchment of the West London tributaries. The excavations at the former marshalling yards, considering the extensive horizontal truncation, have recovered a little evidence of what might have been a large settlement. However, the interpretation of the site in this period probably lies in understanding its relationship with the earthwork known as Hounslow Camp to the east. Although undated, Hounslow Camp is similar to other Bronze Age/Iron Age enclosures in the Thames Valley, such as St John's Camp, 3km to the north (Cotton 1990, 1–3), and another morphologically similar camp 400m to the west of the River Brent at Wyke Green.

MIDDLE SAXON SETTLEMENT AND AGRICULTURE

The highly truncated nature of the site presents the same problems for identifying features of Middle Saxon date as it does for the Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age features. Seven postholes,

distributed across the site, contained sherds of pottery dated to the 5th–7th centuries AD. A possible indicator of Middle Saxon features is the presence of charcoal in the fill. These features (see Fig 2) are found in the vicinity of the corn drier and the hearth to the south of the site, which are presumably the origin of the debris. However the absence of charcoal in the pits and postholes to the north and east does not preclude them from being of Saxon date. The only secured dating on site came from radiocarbon dated samples from sealed contexts within a feature identified as a corn drier and another identified as a hearth (Table 1). Sample {104} was taken from a deposit [1522] in the corn drier and sample {109} from a carbon-rich deposit [1635] in the layers of debris in the hearth.

The corn drier

The 'L'-shaped corn drier (Fig 4) was located where the slope towards the river begins; it is made up of two components: the drying chamber and the flue. Measuring 2.90 x 2.50m and 0.60m deep, the pit of the drying chamber was clad with a 0.10–0.30m thick lining of reconstituted brickearth. Around the outer base of the pit 24 stakeholes were found cutting the lining, although they could have predated it. Overlying this construction was a charred grain-rich deposit [1522], from which the radiocarbon dating sample was retrieved. There was also an environmental sample (see below) taken from the same deposit (evaluation context [212] sample {2}). The charred material might be the result of a catastrophic event or an accumulation of grains falling through from a superstructure above. The main backfill deposit contained abundant daub fragments, many of which have wattle impressions on them (see below). The flue is 7.40m long, 1.70m wide and 0.38m deep, and, despite being truncated by the footings of the wagon repair shed at a crucial point, it appears to bend through 90 degrees to join the drying chamber. The sides of the flue were clad with the same material as the drying chamber,

Table 1. Radiocarbon dates calibrated by Beta Analytic, using INTCAL 98 (Stuiver et al 1998)

Sample no.	Laboratory no.	Uncalibrated Date	Calibrated Date (95% probability)
104	Beta-136729	1380±70 BP	AD 550 to 775
109	Beta-136730	1240±60 BP	AD 665 to 910 and AD 920 to 955

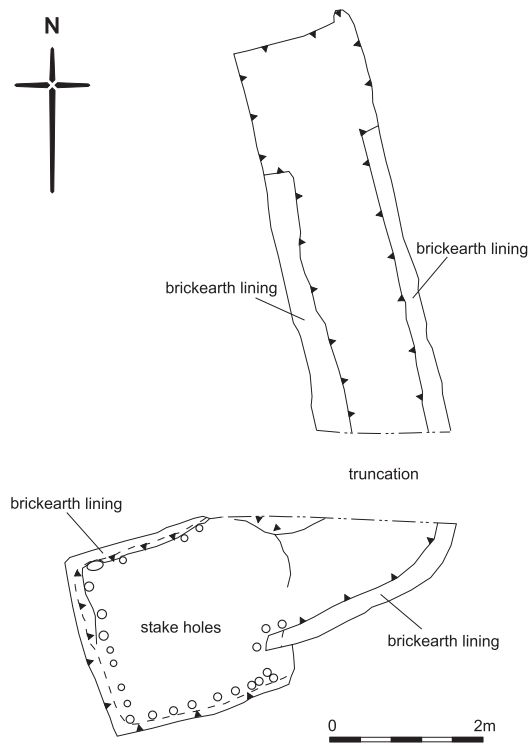


Fig 4. Plan of Middle Saxon corn drier (scale 1:100)

except at the northern end, where the absence of lining suggests the location of a stokehole. The brickearth cladding on the base of the drying chamber only extends a short length into the flue. There were no charred grain deposits in the drying chamber, only the general backfill deposits. It is possible that some of the gullies to the north and the irregular alignment of postholes to the south represent an enclosure for the corn drier. In addition, there are three sherds of pottery from a posthole and a stakehole in the immediate vicinity of the hearth ([1458], [1540]) and four sherds from a single jar are from a posthole to the north-east of the corn drier ([1426]).

A sample from the corn drier was dominated by charred grains and seeds. The most abundant identifiable grains were those of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L) and barley (*Hordeum sativum* L). Also present were grains of rye/wheat (*Secale/Triticum* spp) and wheat (*Triticum* spp). No chaff was recorded, indicating that this grain-rich sample represents cleaned grain, ready for milling or drying. The weed seeds present are smaller than the grains so would have passed

through sieves as the grain was cleaned. The best preserved weed seeds were those of fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L). Fat hen prefers nitrogenous soils and is common among vegetable crops and spring cereals (Hanf 1982, 202). Stinking mayweed thrives in nutrient-rich, waterlogged loams and clay soils (*ibid*, 235), confirming the location next to a slow-running river. Seeds of brome (*Bromus* spp) and vetch/tare/vetchling (*Lathyrus/Vicia* spp) were present but were too poorly preserved to allow closer identification; species of these plants are also common in arable land and among cereal crops.

Hearth

25m to the south-east of the corn drier, there is an irregular feature. Like the corn drier, it is located on the edge of the slope down to the river and has two components: a hearth and a flue. At its eastern end there was the following sequence of deposits. It had a clay base with a burnt surface. Over this was a layer of charcoal, from which the radiocarbon sample was obtained. Then another layer of burnt clay into which flint pebbles had been set. This was overlain by a layer of fire debris. The hearth measured 3 by c.2m and was 250mm thick. An irregular cut tapers for c.6.5m to the west from the hearth; its exact relationship to the hearth is unclear but presumably its function was to provide extra oxygen for more effective firing/heating.

To the north lies Structure 3 which appears to be the north wall of a building housing the hearth. At c.13m in length, this would suggest a sizeable, but not unusual, building for the early to mid-Saxon period (Bob Cowie, pers comm). There is no evidence of a return wall to the structure and little evidence that the two are even contemporary, as the post alignment is dated to the 5th–6th century AD, from a sherd of Early Saxon pottery from a posthole at the eastern end, while the hearth is at the earliest 7th-century.

One fragment of brick and two fragments of roofing *tegula* were found in the hearth, [1628]. They belong to a fabric which was manufactured at various kilns sites between London and St Albans and perhaps also to the south-west of London in the period between c. AD 50 and the mid-2nd century. Radiocarbon dates, however, indicate a Saxon date for the hearth, so this material must be residual.

Pits [1463] and [1248]

A third possible industrial feature is located c.6.5m to the north-east of the hearth. It consists of pit [1463] and pit [1248]. Both features have a light grey fine sandy silt fill and contain fragments of daub in their upper fills, which suggests a Saxon date. The pits are relatively large for the site, with pit [1463] 2.50–3.50m in diameter and 0.5m deep. The lowest fill of this pit is a light bluish-grey ash deposit, 0.30m thick, which suggests that the function of the pit was associated with a firing process. Heavily fragmented animal bone recovered from the upper fills had been calcined. To obtain the characteristic bluish-white appearance of calcined bone, temperatures in excess of 600°C need to be applied for a prolonged period of time (Liddle 2000). Pit [1248], to the south, appears to be associated with the former as it is elongated towards it. However the function of the two pits, whether associated or not, is unclear.

Pottery

The excavation produced a small assemblage of 16 sherds (113g) that could be of Saxon date. These were recovered from seven excavated contexts, all the fills of postholes and stakeholes. Six fabrics have been defined in this assemblage on the basis of the main inclusion types present (see site archive for full details). All but one are predominantly sand-tempered. The most distinctive feature of the sandy fabrics is the presence of iron-rich inclusions that occur as pellets and rounded nodules in all but one of the fabrics. This suggests that the clay is from the same source as that used for the prehistoric fabrics. Only one rim is present; this is of a simple everted form (Fig 3, <P4>). Most other sherds can be said to derive from jars; the chaff-tempered sherd is from part of a base, but more precise identification is impossible. No decorated sherds are present, and surface treatment is confined to burnishing. The pottery can be placed in the Early Saxon period (c.5th–7th century AD) and is treated here as one group, although some sherds could be of prehistoric date. Taken together, the lack of coarse sandstone-tempered wares, decorated sherds, and chaff-tempered wares, together with the homogeneous nature of the assemblage, might point to a date in the first half of the 6th century. This just falls on the edge of the earlier

bracket of one of the radiocarbon dates (see Table 1), but on the whole the latter appear to point towards a 7th-century date for at least some activity on the site. The assemblage is, however, too small and undiagnostic to offer anything but the broadest dating. Saxon pottery has not been found in this area before now.

Although limited in size, the assemblage is of importance in providing evidence for some form of settlement in the vicinity. The pottery also fits within a wider distribution pattern of Saxon features and finds from excavations in West London (Blackmore 1986; Cotton *et al* 1986, 69–74; Blackmore 1993). Here the distribution of Saxon occupation sites seems to be bimodal. Some sites are alongside the Thames, but an increasing number are being discovered in tributary valleys at some distance from the Thames. In the Crane valley itself, Saxon pottery has been recovered from sites upstream, in the Cranford area, at Harlington. In the Colne valley, there seems to have been a concentration of occupation at Harmondsworth (Laidlaw & Mephams 1996, 26–38; Laidlaw & Mephams 1999, 35–43). No Saxon finds have so far been recovered downstream from the Feltham site, but other settlements might be expected at the confluence of the Thames and the Crane. Other sites in the area include Northolt (Hurst 1961), a possible cemetery and settlement at Hanwell (Wheeler 1935, 136–8), and Brentford (Canham 1978b). It can be said that the proportions of sandy and sandstone-tempered wares decrease during the 5th century and into the 6th century, as chaff-tempered wares become more common, but, in the absence of diagnostic sherds, there is a serious problem in distinguishing 8th-century contexts from 6th- or 7th-century ones. This is mainly due to the fact that the forms of the undecorated chaff-tempered vessels changed little over time, and because imported wares such as are found in the 7th-to-9th-century trading settlement of *Lundenwic* have not yet been identified in the hinterland and may never have reached it.

Building material

A total of almost 77kg of daub was recorded, mostly from the pits and postholes that are a marked feature of the site. Most of the approximately 1,900 fragments are very small, although there are also a number of larger pieces, up to 160mm across. Some of the daub

preserves very good impressions of stakes and wattles and occasionally there are other impressions. A number of flat faces are present and these sometimes show evidence of surface treatment. The daub from the corn drier is dated by radiocarbon to the Saxon period and the rest is of similar date. Two principal fabrics have been recognised. Both are mainly reddish-brown in colour, but whereas one has a very fine sandy matrix, the other has much larger quartz grains. Similar distinctions have been noted in other assemblages of Saxon daub, for example from Middle Saxon occupation sites in *Lundenwic*, in the Covent Garden area of London (Goffin 1988, 115; Goffin 1989, 110). The distinction between the two types on this site is sometimes very marked, notably in context [1459]. Both types contain occasional large rounded pebbles. Some of the material has been burned, presumably accidentally, and some of this is light in weight with small voids, caused by organic grass, or straw, binders having rotted; such binders helped to prevent the daub cracking as it dried out. Some of the burnt pieces have grey interiors from where the material has been reduced during accidental firing; others have blackened surfaces. A few pieces in the finer fabric contain calcareous inclusions and are slightly pinkish in colour. There are occasional fine organic fibres, possibly plant roots, in the matrix; these may come from plants in the raw material or from plant matter present in animal dung added to the daub mix. The fibres would have acted as binders to the daub, though it is unlikely that such small fibres were deliberately added (other than as part of animal dung) in order to achieve this end. However, apart from these roots and the voids in some pieces mentioned above, the daub shows little evidence for the use of binders. This indicates that the daub dried slowly, suggesting that it was applied in the winter, or that the climate was cooler.

The larger pieces and some of the smaller pieces show clear evidence of their having been used as part of wattle-and-daub construction. The slightly curving impressions, round in section, from interwoven wattles are very well preserved in a number of examples. In diameter they range from 7mm to 20mm with most lying in the range 11–13mm. Some pieces also preserve the impressions of the vertical stakes around which the wattles would have been woven. These are slightly thicker than the wattles, ranging

between about 20 and 24mm in diameter. One piece found in the hearth, [1628], has the impression of a thin wooden lath rather than of wattles, indicating its use in lath-and-daub construction. Although wattle-and-daub, or lath-and-daub as an alternative, could be used on their own, their commonest deployment was as panel filling in timber-framed construction. One piece from context [1460] preserves what appears to be the impression of a probably circular post, although insufficient remains to determine its radius. This would indicate a fairly ‘primitive’ form of construction, with the wattles attached to a support of unsquared timbers. A piece from context [214], on the other hand, has the impression of a square timber, although once again its dimensions are not preserved. This may represent a post or stud from a timber-framed structure superior to that using the circular post, although equally it may represent no more than a door-post within a more ‘primitive’ structure of the sort employing the circular post.

A few pieces preserve their flat faces, which may have been either inside or outside the building. Most are fairly smooth, although a number from contexts [1460] and [1487] are fairly irregular. In a few instances there are faint fingerprints in these surfaces from where the daub was pressed into position between the wattles. Some also have faint straw or grass (hay) impressions in the surfaces. It is difficult to account for these unless the organic materials were lightly pressed into the surfaces to aid drying or possibly to help form a key for subsequent covering of the daub, either with limewash or with a more substantial plaster or render. No such coverings, however, survive on the fragments. One very small fragment from [214] shows what may be fine combing; this may have been intended as a key for limewash or some other finishing coat. A few surfaces show blackening from where they were burned.

Discussion

Large quantities of daub have shown evidence for wattle-and-daub and lath-and-daub panel filling in timber-framed constructions that suggests a settlement. The pottery, although scant, when interpreted with the radiocarbon dating suggests the Saxon settlement existed around the 7th century AD. The most significant features of this period are the corn drier and the

hearth, and these have been shown to indicate the preparation of grain for milling, further suggesting the proximity of a watermill.

If the site is a settlement, then the pottery does not appear to have been influenced by the major trading settlement at *Lundenwic*. However analysis of plant remains recovered from *Lundenwic* suggests that 'cleaned or semi-cleaned' wheat and barley grain was imported from the surrounding countryside (Davis & de Moulins 1988; de Moulins & Davis 1989). Although a direct trade link with *Lundenwic* cannot be proved, the existence of the corn drier at Feltham does suggest that the settlement may have been trading agricultural produce to this developing settlement.

Archaeological evidence for rural settlement in the early to mid-Saxon period in the London region is scarce, despite the high occurrence of placenames of Saxon origin. Charters dating from the 7th century onwards often refer to estates, possibly surviving from earlier Roman ones (Gelling 1979), or reusing Roman boundaries. Whether this site is part of such an estate is unclear. The recovery of Roman roof tiles from the flue of the hearth on this site and the evidence for a substantial late Roman building in the vicinity of Cranford Lane, 5km to the north-west (see Thompson *et al* 1998, 79), suggest the potential for future discoveries of Roman settlement in the vicinity of the River Crane. It remains to be seen whether this link can be made, but further research would benefit from analysis of Ralph Treswell's map of Sion (dated 1607) which shows a feature marked as 'castell', distinct from Hounslow Camp, located near to the site (Cotton 1990, 7). The definition of such an archaeological site may suggest a continuity of landuse that has been over-shadowed by the perceived remoteness of the heath in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The MoLAS would like to thank MDA Group UK, who undertook this project on behalf of British Land Developments Ltd, for their financial support of the fieldwork, and also for funding the post-excavation analysis and the cost of publication. Particular thanks are due to Chris Wall and Mark Firth from MDA Group UK for their overall help and consideration and also to Nigel Webb of British Land Developments Ltd for his help during

the project. Thanks are also due to Simon Ganley and Tom Wenham from Birse for their assistance during the on-site phases of the programme of works, and the London Borough of Hounslow. Thanks are also extended to Robert Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service. The support of the MoLAS Project Managers, David Lakin, Julian Ayre, Al Steele, Al Green and Mark Roberts, has ensured that this project has reached publication. The members of the MoLAS field team who worked on the site were Meredith Collins, Jago Cooper, Robert Cowie, Carl Crozier, Philip Frickers, Charlotte Grindley, Richard Hewett, Stewart Hoad, Mark Landymore, Maureen Pearson, Timothy Stevens, Tiziana Vitali, Mark Wiggins, Rebecca Wilcox, and Tristan Wood-Davies. MoLSS staff whose work is drawn upon in this article are Louise Rayner (prehistoric pottery), Lyn Blackmore (Saxon pottery), Lisa Gray (plant remains), Pippa Bradley (worked flint), Terence Smith (building material), and Jane Liddle (animal bone). The survey of the site was undertaken by Duncan Lees and Kate Pollard. The author would like to express his gratitude to Vanessa Bunton, Peter Hart-Allison and Sophie Lamb of the MoLAS Drawing Office for the graphics in this paper, as well as for the editorial comments from Gordon Malcolm and Tracy Wellman. Thanks are also due to Jon Cotton, of the Museum of London, and Robert Cowie of MoLAS for their advice.

The site archive, which contains detailed site records and analysis, is lodged with the Museum of London. For those wishing to conduct further research on this site, the archive may be consulted by prior arrangement with the Archive Manager at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) at Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BARCLAY (1995), A Barclay 'The later prehistoric pottery' in A Barclay, A Boyle, P Bradley & M R Roberts 'Excavations at the former Jewsons Yard, Harefield Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 46, 9–13
- BARRETT (1980), J C Barrett 'The pottery of the later Bronze Age in lowland England' *Proc Prehist Soc* 46, 297–319
- BGS (1998), British Geological Survey *Sheet 270 South London; 1:50,000*
- BLACKMORE (1986), L Blackmore 'Des Res. (close City and Thames): Early and Middle Saxon buildings in the Greater London area' *London Archaeologist* 5 (8), 207–16

- BLACKMORE (1993), L Blackmore 'La céramique du Vème au Xème siècles à Londres et dans la région londonienne' in G. Bliet (ed) *Travaux du Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes sur la Céramique dans le Nord – Pas-de-Calais; Actes du Colloque d'Outreau 1992 Nord-Ouest Archéologie Hors-serie*, 129–50
- BRADLEY (1995), P Bradley 'The worked flint' in A Barclay, A Boyle, P Bradley & M R Roberts 'Excavations at the former Jewsons Yard, Harefield Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 46, 13–18
- CANHAM (1978a), R Canham 'Excavations at London (Heathrow) Airport 1969' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 29, 1–44
- CANHAM (1978b), R Canham *2000 Years of Brentford*
- COTTON *et al* (1986), J Cotton, J Mills & G Clegg *Archaeology in West Middlesex*
- COTTON (1990), J Cotton 'St John's Camp alias Fern Hill: a forgotten West Middlesex earthwork' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 41, 1–8
- COTTON & WOOD (1996), J Cotton & B Wood 'Recent prehistoric finds from the Thames foreshore and beyond in Greater London' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 47, 1–34
- CUNLIFFE (1991), B W Cunliffe *Iron Age Communities in Britain*
- DAVIS & DE MOULINS (1988), A Davis & D de Moulins 'The plant remains' in R Cowie & R L Whytehead 'Two Middle Saxon occupation sites: excavations at Jubilee Hall and Maiden Lane' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 39, 139–47
- DE MOULINS & DAVIS (1989), D de Moulins & A Davis 'The plant remains' in R L Whytehead & R Cowie 'Excavations at the Peabody site, Chandos Place, and the National Gallery' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 40, 110–12
- GELLING (1979), M Gelling *Early Charters of the Thames Valley*
- GOFFIN (1988), R Goffin 'The Saxon daub' in R Cowie & R L Whytehead 'Two Middle Saxon occupation sites: excavations at Jubilee Hall and Maiden Lane' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 39, 114–19
- GOFFIN (1989), R Goffin 'The daub' in R L Whytehead & R Cowie 'Excavations at the Peabody site, Chandos Place, and the National Gallery' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 40, 110–12
- HANF (1982), M Hanf *The Arable Weeds of Europe*
- HOWELL (1999), I J Howell *East Marshalling Yards, Godfrey Way, Feltham: An Archaeological Evaluation* unpub MoLAS Rep
- HURST (1961), J G Hurst 'The kitchen area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex' *Medieval Archaeol* 5, 211–99
- LAIDLAW & MEPHAM (1996), M Laidlaw & L Mepham 'The pottery' in P Andrews & A Crockett *Three Excavations along the Thames and its Tributaries, 1994 Wessex Archaeology Rep* 10, 26–38
- LAIDLAW & MEPHAM (1999), M Laidlaw & L Mepham, 'Pottery' in D E Farwell, P Andrews & R Brook *Prehistoric, Roman and Early Saxon Settlement at Prospect Park, London Borough of Hillingdon. The Archaeology and Geology of a Site in the Lower Colne Valley: Evaluation, Excavation and Watching Brief 1995–6* Wessex Archaeology for British Airways, 35–43
- LIDDLE (2000), J Liddle 'The animal bones' in I J Howell *Assessment and Updated Research Design for GFY99 Feltham Marshalling Yards* unpub MoLAS Rep
- LONGLEY (1991), D Longley *Runnymede Bridge 1976: Excavations on the Site of a Late Bronze Age Settlement* Surrey Archaeol Soc Res vol 6
- O'CONNELL (1986), M O'CONNELL *Petters Sports Field, Egham: Excavations of a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Site* Surrey Archaeol Soc Res vol 10
- O'CONNELL (1990), M O'Connell 'Excavations during 1979–1985 of a multi-period site at Stanwell, Surrey' *Surrey Archaeol Coll* 80, 1–62
- STUIVER *et al* (1998), M Stuiver, P J Reimer, E Bard, J W Beck, G S Burr, K A Hughen, B Kromer, F G McCormac, J van der Plicht & M Spurk 'INTCAL Radiocarbon Age Calibration' *Radiocarbon* 40 (3), 1041–83
- 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
- TIMBY (1996), J Timby 'The pottery' in C Bell 'An archaeological excavation of land adjacent to Snowy Fielder Waye, Isleworth, London Borough of Hounslow, Middlesex' *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* 47, 42–50
- WHEELER (1935), R E M Wheeler *London and the Saxons* London Museum Catalogues 6
- WILLIAMS (1993), D F Williams 'Notes on the petrology' in W F Grimes & J Close-Brooks 'The excavation of Caesar's Camp, Heathrow, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1944' *Proc Prehist Soc* 59, 352