

any pre-Roman occupation. Following the Roman invasion in AD 43, a network of roads was built. One of these is known as the "London-Brighton Way" and is thought to lie under the modern A23, the Streatham High Road. A few Roman items have been found in and near St. Leonard's Churchyard. Roman pottery was recovered when a pipe-trench was dug across Tooting Graveney Common in 1982, and a Roman coin is reputed to have been found thereabouts recently. However, despite these finds, it will not be until a building or features, such as ditches or pits, are found that we can be confident that a Roman settlement existed in the area.

No Saxon material has yet been reported from Streatham, but the place name, meaning "settlement on the straight road", implies that a Saxon community existed there. The name is recorded on three Saxon charters, for AD 727, 933 and 1062, which granted or confirmed the rights of Chertsey Abbey to land at Streatham and elsewhere. However, these charters must be used with caution as they are described as 'spurious' by scholars.

A small village with a chapel is attested in Domesday Book (AD 1086): the chapel may have stood on the site of St. Leonard's Church, which is first recorded in the late 13th century. The manor house was built in 1394 and stood on the corner of Streatham Common North and the High Road. The cellar described above was part of a building of the medieval village.

It is clear that the village was small at the time of the earliest Parish Registers for Streatham, which date to 1538. The later history of the settlement is described in Graham Gower's *A Brief History of Streatham* (Streatham Society Local History Booklet No. 1, 1980).

Detailed information about the origins, appearance, and historical development of the ancient Streatham settlement can only be provided by further archaeological excavations.

Acknowledgements

Alain Didinal Associates and A. Roberts (Building) Ltd. provided access to the site, and special

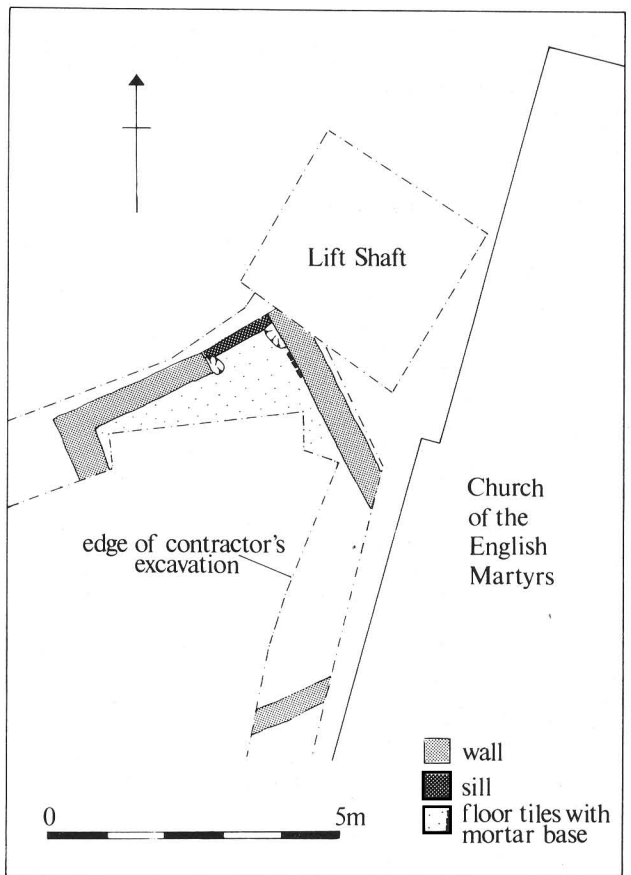


Fig. 3: The cellar.

thanks are due to the site agent, Bill Hollamby, for much help and co-operation. Carrie Bowden, Gary Harding, Peter Hinton and the writer carried out the work on site. John Dillon drew Figs. 2 and 3. Elizabeth Eames examined the tiles and kindly provided the information about them. Laura Schaaf and Peter Hinton assisted with the preparation of the article.

Local Societies – amendments

THE FIRST SET of amendments to the new list of local societies published in Vol. 4, No. 15 (Summer 1984) 403-4 is as follows:

Orpington and District Archaeological Society,

Sec. Mrs. H. Shave, 35 Masfield View, Orpington, BR6 8PH.

Pinner Local History Society, Sec. Ken Kirkman, 35 Albany Drive, HA5 3RL.