



Fig. 2: drawing to show rivetting sequence of the comb.

single or double connecting plate format; the latter comb type does not concern us here⁵. The more prosaic single-connecting-plate type is defined by its squat and broad proportions and by the profiling of its end segments. The comb teeth are invariably long and of different values across the comb. The connecting plates are generally broad and are sometimes modelled to provide a stepped profile, as here. There is a tremendous variety in elements of form and decoration, so that no two late Roman combs are precisely the same, as Anna Roes pointed out some time ago⁶, but the characteristics of form which define the type, outlined above, remain relatively constant.

The technology of comb construction is also important. The rivetting system employed on the Pudding Lane comb recurs on a number of late Roman combs, like the curious 'owl' comb from Cirencester, or two of the combs from Lankhills⁷. It

5. D. Haupt 'Jakobswüllesheim, Kr. Duren. 2. Jahresbericht 1968' *Bonner Jahrbücher* 170 (1970) 381-91; MacGregor *op cit* fn 2.

6. A. Roes *Bone and Antler Objects from the Frisian Terp Mounds* (1963) 14.

7. A. McWhirr, L. Viner and C. Wells *Romano-British Cemeteries at Cirencester* (1982) fig 80.175; Galloway *op cit* fn

is only one of a number of rivetting systems employed during the late Roman period, but it is interesting to note that all of these systems were intended to secure individual tooth-segments. With a few notable exceptions, like a sequence of 6th century combs from Canterbury, post-Roman combs are rivetted across pairs of tooth-segments and do not fasten individual segments⁸. It is only in the 11th century that systems which involve the rivetting of individual tooth-segments return to general use.

The Pudding Lane comb can be compared to a number of combs with a similar stepped profile to their connecting plates. To a certain extent, the incised design of the comb looks like a poor relative of the design of a comb from the site of the Cups Hotel, Colchester; two other combs from Colchester also have stepped connecting plate profiles⁹. The closest parallel for the particular profile of the Pudding Lane end segments lies however with a

3, fig 31.9 and 316.

8. I. Riddler *Hamwic Finds Volume 3: Organic Materials* forthcoming.

9. P. Crummy *Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester* CBA Res Rep 39 (1981) fig 8.2; N. Crummy *op cit* fn 3, figs 58.1851 and 59.1857.

Local Societies – amendments

THE EIGHTH SET of amendments to the list of local societies (Vol. 4, no. 15, 403-4) is below. Secretaries of local societies are asked to tell us of any errors in or changes to this list.

Bexley Archaeological Group Sec. Peter Dawson, 291 Long Lane, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 5JD.

Hornsey Hist. Soc. Sec. Miss Susan Hector, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL.

Kingston upon Thames Arch. Soc. Sec. Julie Wileman, 48 Bond Road, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7SH.

Orpington & Dist. Arch. Soc. Sec. Sue Cover, 25 Clovelly Way, off Cotswold Rise, Orpington, Kent BR6 0WD.

Pinner Local Hist. Soc. Sec. John Young, 24 Melrose Road, Pinner, HA5 5RA.