EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT IN EWELL, SURREY

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD 1974–5

Frank Pemberton

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

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Cover illustration. Trench Y viewed from site north, with a partition marking off trench Za at left. The cobbled yard of phase 2 can be seen, and two of the three postholes cut through it in phase 4.

Published as Special Paper 1 of
Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society
2015

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Background

Site location

Ewell lies some 13 miles (21 kilometres) south-west of London on the Roman road of Stane Street, which linked London with Chichester. The site excavated in 1974–5 lies towards the northern edge of Ewell village, in the north-east corner of an extension to St. Mary's churchyard which was laid out on the far side of Church Street when the original area round the church had become full. It is bounded to the north by the rear gardens of houses facing onto London Road, and to the east by the garages and outhouses which lie behind shops fronting onto the Ewell by-pass (fig. 1). The underlying geology is Thanet Sand.

Previous archaeology

The first excavations to trace the route of Stane Street through Ewell took place in the 1930s. A.W.G. Lowther initially located the road at Castle Parade, just north of the churchyard extension; it was 25 feet (7.6m) wide and 1 foot 9 inches (0.53m) thick, and was associated with Roman pottery, tile and coins (Lowther 1935: 32–5, fig. 15, pl. 8). In 1955 Tom Walls found three Roman brooches (appendix 2) in this same area, when a drainage trench cut the western edge of the road. In 1935 S.E. Winbolt drew attention to the Roman structures, coins and pottery which had been found on the western side of the presumed line of Stane Street during the digging of graves in the new churchyard (Winbolt 1936: 226–7). Solid floors of flint nodules associated with flue tiles and pottery were recorded in 1959 and 1961 (Likeman 1960). These were all disturbed during grave digging to the west of the presumed line of the road.

In 1952 Stane Street was located in the north-eastern corner of the churchyard, as was a layer of flints which may have been a cobbled yard, if it was not part of the road itself (Lowther 1954: xxvii). A rescue excavation was conducted in this same area by the writer in 1970–1, and revealed four main phases of Roman activity. This began with the construction of Stane Street *c.* AD 60, followed by a phase of roadside occupation, evidenced by two pits, a midden, cobbled surfaces, and a rectangular building *c.* AD 80–160. Between *c.* AD 160–370 there was a hiatus in the use of the area, followed by the construction of a second building *c.* AD 370 (Pemberton 1973).

Excavation history

Further work was conducted at the north-western corner of the churchyard in 1974–5, at a point immediately to the north of the 1970–1 excavations and west of the presumed line of Stane Street. The 25-foot grid already established on the 1970–1 site was extended onto the 1974–5 excavation; the datum point for this grid was the south-eastern corner of the churchyard, and its alignment was taken from the south edge of the churchyard path. This area slopes towards the south-east; heights were measured at two grid intersections, one at the north-east corner of trench Zc (38.6m OD) and the other 50 feet to the south at the end of the church path (38.21m OD).

The 1974 excavations were directed by the author. Two trenches, each 8m by 2m, were opened to the north of the church path; they feature on the plan as Za and Zc. In 1975 the site was run on a rota basis by James Barfoot, Richard Temple and the author, with open-plan excavation extending from the west side of trench Za and uncovering a large cobbled yard (Barfoot Temple & Pemberton 1974). Some smaller test pits and trenches were opened in the grid square to the north of this excavation and the north-west of trench Zc, in an area where samian and quern fragments had been recorded in 1939 (HER 1143); these revealed only traces of WW2 air raid shelters and are not considered further here.

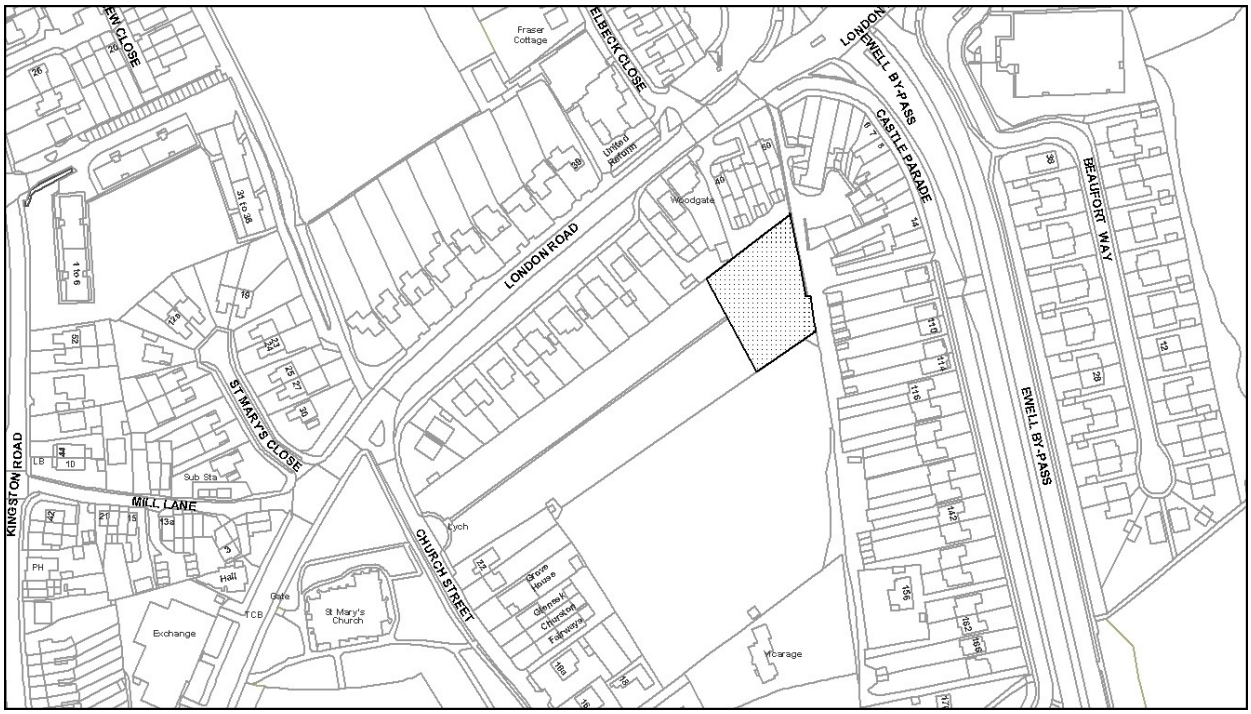


Figure 1. St. Mary's Churchyard. Site location, scale 1:2850. Grid reference at top right, TQ 2240 6315; at bottom left, 2190 6285. Based on the Ordnance Survey map, with permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

The site evidence

Prehistoric

Struck flint was found throughout the site, in all contexts. The flint was mostly debris of an undiagnostic kind, and could represent activity of all periods from the Mesolithic onwards. One diagnostic group of flakes, however, was found resting directly on the natural Thanet Sand in the south-west corner of the main open-plan trench, at a depth of 96–104cm from the ground surface. These flakes were sealed by the Roman deposit 27 and had apparently remained undisturbed since their original deposition.

Roman phase 1 AD 50–70

Roman activity began on the site with the construction of Stane Street. The natural Thanet Sand was scarped back to provide hard, level ground and on this was laid a foundation of pebbles and shattered pebbles embedded in orange sand (context 15). Over this foundation, and apparently extending some 1.5m to either side of it (though excavation only uncovered the western side) there was yellow gravel forming the main body of the road. This had been laid in two phases, contexts 8 and 9. By depositing this layer onto the scarped face of the Thanet Sand, the surface of the road was raised a little above the layer of the original land surface; however, the tip-line of context 9 fell some 0.8m short of meeting up with this original surface, which left a sunken ditch beside the road. This ditch was subsequently filled up by a yellowish clay with silt (context 16), much of which may have washed out from the road surface. This context was barren of finds, suggesting that the ditch filled quite soon after the construction of the road, and that no attempt was made subsequently to cut it back to its original dimensions. A 1m-wide trench (not on the site plan) was dug from the eastern corner of Zc, across the road at right angles to it, and revealed a width of up to 11m for the central agger. Stane Street must have been surfaced with a road metalling of flint but little trace of this was found in excavation, implying that it had been robbed out in later phases.

The only dating evidence from the road material was an as of Vespasian, AD 69–79, found in context 9. However, a date of AD 50s to 70s has been confirmed for Stane Street at other excavations including Road 1 from the London bridgehead for Watling Street and Stane Street in Southwark (Bird, Sheldon & Townend 1978: 15; Drummond-Murray, Thompson & Cowan 2002: 14; Yule 2005: 46). In that case, the coin must have worked its way into the road metalling in the decades after this was laid.

Roman phase 2 AD 70–160

A cobbled surface or yard was laid out to the west of the road. The lowest level of this surface (context 27) consisted of a layer of irregular flint nodules packed with smaller flints and pebbles in a dark brown sandy soil, and was found above the natural Thanet Sand at a depth of 0.68–0.95m. Resting on this, and deposited as part of the same accumulation of material, was a layer of flint nodules 0.18m thick tightly packed with pebbles and smaller flints (context 14).

It is not clear whether this cobbling was deliberately laid to act as a pavement, or whether its regular appearance came about gradually as loads of deposited flint consolidated into a hard surface. The presence of two layers, 27 and 14, suggests that the cobbled surface was a by-product of two successive loads of flint being dumped in a muddy area. Pottery, tile and charcoal were found mixed in with this material. The pottery included Alice Holt Surrey, Highgate and Verulamium white wares as well as a Cologne beaker and Dressel 20 amphorae. Most of the samian was early to mid second century, while coins included an as of Domitian and an AE4 of Trajan. This suggests that the cobbled yard was laid down in the late second century. Stane Street was still being maintained at this time, for a pothole extending down to the yellow gravel (context 11) was filled with material including sherds of Much Hadham ware, which would date the repair work to *c.* 200.

Roman phase 3 AD 160–350

The cobbled floor or yard alongside Stane Street fell into disuse and was gradually covered by an occupation layer of dark brown sandy soil containing charcoal fragments, building material and mortar fragments (context 13). This was between 0.20m and 0.35m thick, and covered the whole area towards the road, including the silted ditch which had run beside it.

While the cobbled yard was no longer visible, and was not retained as a hard surface, it continued to exist as a demarcated area. Although several pits and hollows were dug in this phase, they were all sited outside the former cobbled area, where they could in any case be cut more easily without needing to break through the flints. Several of these features had a clay lining and most contained groups of pottery, bones, daub fragments and metal objects. They seem to be the remnants of dumping or the residue of burning of household refuse on makeshift bases, hearths or braziers.

To the south of the cobbled yard was found a circular group of flints 0.54m in diameter with charcoal fragments in a brown sandy soil (context 18), an oblong patch of charcoal upon a base of flints (context 22), and a circular patch of grey gravel with iron objects and nails (context 32). Another circular group of flints with charcoal fragments in a brown sandy soil, 0.53m in diameter and 0.3m deep (context 19), may have been the fill of a posthole. A shallow hollow layer along the edge of the cobbling (context 34) lay nearby. To the north of the yard was a linear feature 0.50m wide, running along a sloping edge of the cobbled surface, and made up of small pebbles in an ovoid brown clay base 0.10m thick and incorporating charcoal and dark brown soil (context 28). There was also an expanse of orange clay and sand 0.30m in diameter covered with charcoal fragments and surrounded by dark grey gravel (context 31) which was cut into the natural that extended along the edge of the cobbled surface.

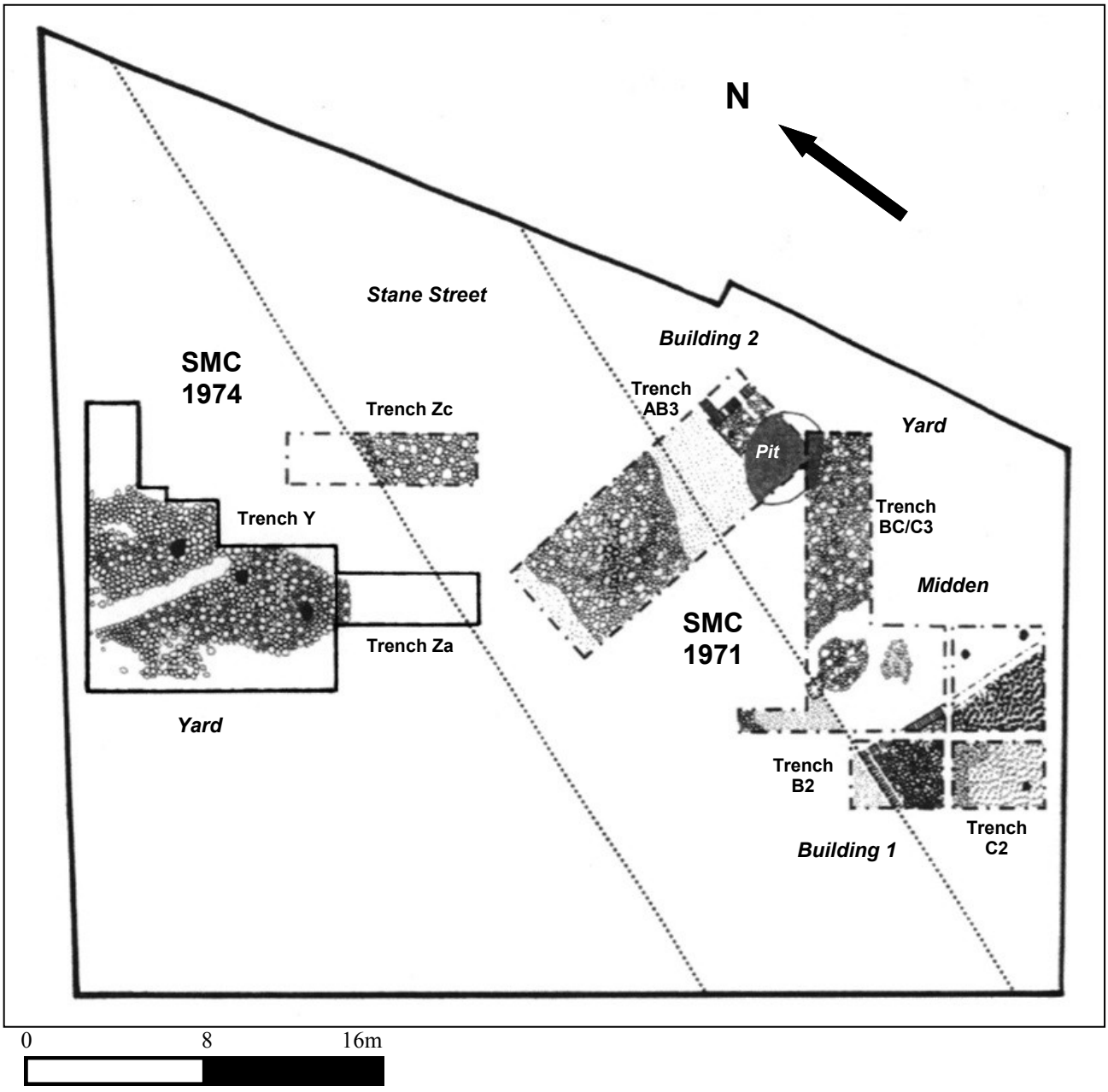


Figure 2. St. Mary's Churchyard. Site plan, scale 1:290. The excavations of 1970–1 are to the east of the site, and those of 1974–5 to the west. Based on working copies (whose accuracy cannot be verified) made from the original plans and sections, which are no longer available.

The occupation layer (context 13) which spread over the disused yard contained much pottery and other finds, but these were mostly residual from earlier use of the site. If, as seems probable, the build-up of soil began shortly after the laying of the flints in phase 2, then the accumulation of context 13 would have taken place between the mid second and the early fourth century. The pottery found in this context included Alice Holt Farnham wares with bead, squared, everted and hooked-rimmed types, Pompeian red and white slipped oxidised wares, and mortaria in Oxfordshire red/brown and white wares. The samian is dominated by Central Gaulish plain and decorated hemispherical bowls (Drag 37), while coins include Claudius II, Tetricus I, Carausius and Constantine, together with issues of Magnentius, Valens and Theodosius I which may however be intrusive.

Roman phase 4 AD 350–400

Eventually the cobbled yard, concealed from view by a continual build-up of soil, ceased to be visible; later activity on the site did not respect its boundaries, and holes were dug there in ignorance of the obstacle which would be created by the flints. This stage must have been reached when three postholes were dug in the yard (the holes feature on the plan, fig. 3, but are not numbered as contexts). These run on a north-south line, at an angle of some 30 degrees to Stane Street; they were cut to an average depth of 0.30m and packed with loose flints and brown soil to carry posts about 0.4m in diameter, spaced 2.75m apart from each other. The size and spacing of these posts suggests that they supported a building, although in the absence of a second, parallel row, it remains possible that they were only for fencing. A shallow gully, which may or may not have been associated with the building, has its head between the northernmost two posts, and was cut some 0.16m deep into the underlying cobbles to drain to the north-west. At the head of this gully was a deposit of yellow sandy clay (context 23) with an ox skull placed in sandy clay at its western end (context 25). Nearby was an oval depression 0.55m across (context 29) which probably acted as a soakaway.

A new but shallower ditch was dug at the edge of Stane Street, cutting through context 13, which seems to have abutted onto the unditched road. The fill of this ditch, a dark grey sandy silt, formed context 10. Whether this ditch was ever recut or maintained is not clear. The activity represented by the building, gully and renewed interest in the road came to an end when a fresh build-up of dark grey soil with charcoal lenses (context 7) accumulated over the area. By this stage the flint metalling on Stane Street had been robbed out, and random pockets of flint had also been taken out from the edge of the buried cobbled yard.

A coin of 383–402 was found in the silt of the second Stane Street ditch, context 10; but there is always the possibility that such coins are intrusive. Context 7, which sealed this phase, contained sherds of Portchester D ware. This suggests that this final phase of activity took place after c, 350 (when the accumulation of context 13 came to an end), and concluded before 400 (the latest date range for Portchester D).

After the disuse of the buildings, a dark brown loam soil with small flints and river pebbles, (context 6) accumulated across the whole site, including Stane Street. This contained some residual Roman pottery, including white-slipped red ware mortaria, and coins which include Gallienus, Carausius, Constantine and Valentinian II. The material would derive from 375–400 and represents an accumulation of soil on an abandoned site.

Post-Roman phase

Medieval sherds were found in a dark brown soil which occurred across the site down to a level of 0.40m (context 2), and which gradually gave way to the modern topsoil (context 1).

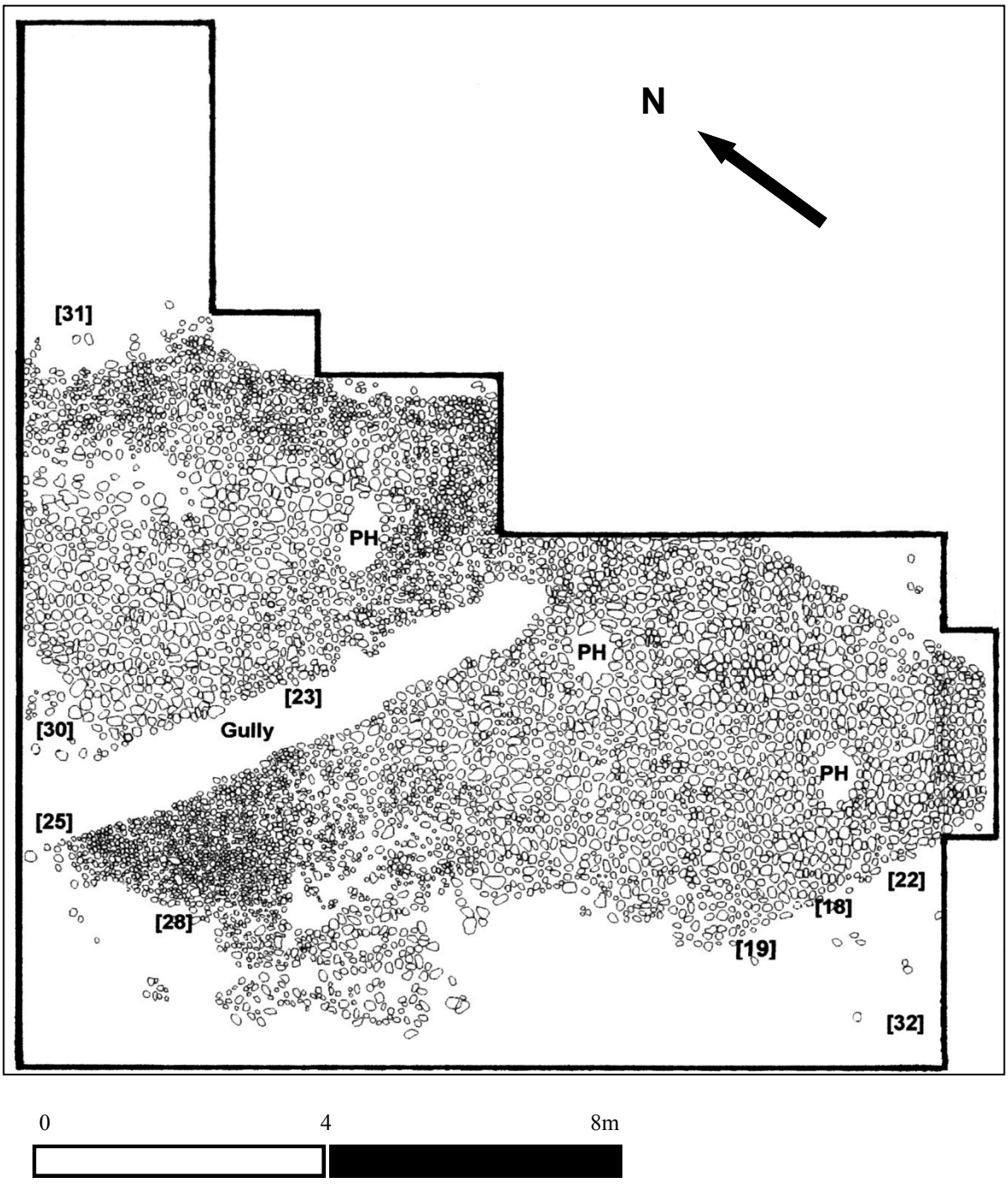


Figure 3. Trench Y. A cobbled yard (Roman phase 2) cut by postholes and other features (phases 3 and 4).

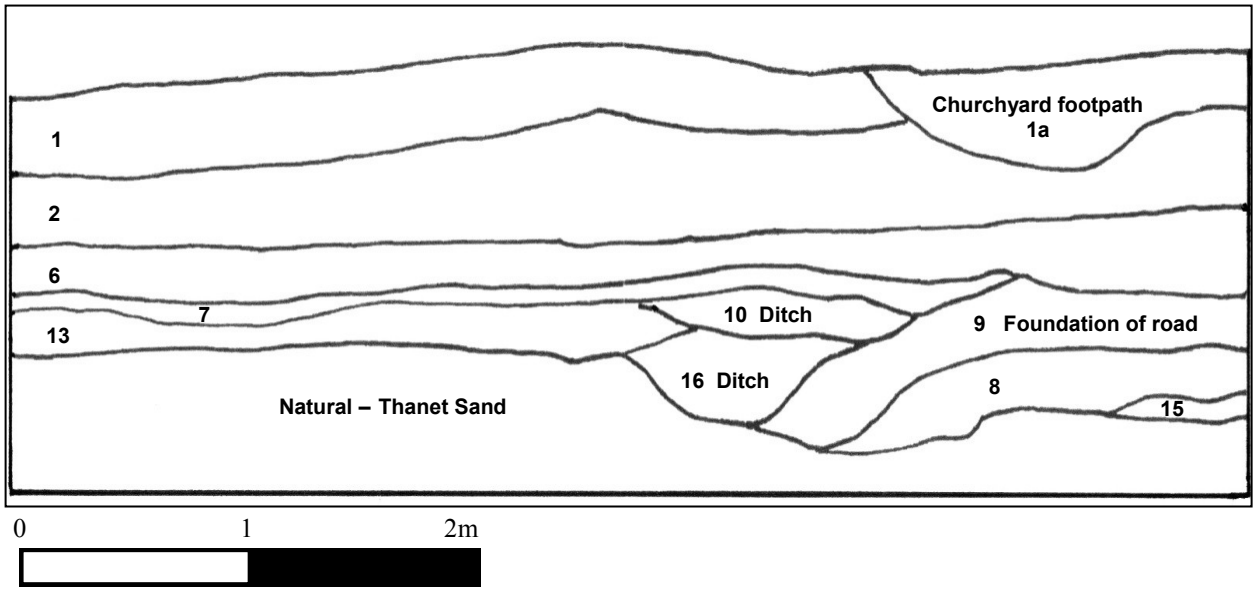


Figure 4. Section of trench Za, showing the foundation layers of Stane Street (8, 9) with successive roadside ditches (16, 10) and the subsequent build-up of late Roman layers (7, 6).

The finds: 1. Flintwork, by Jon Cotton

In all, 104 pieces of worked flint were recovered from thirteen separate contexts, as follows:

Cxt	Flake (frag)	Blade (frag)	Flake/ Blade	Chip	Thermal Frag	Core (frag)	Other	Total
1		3 (1)						**4**
2	6 (7)	2 (3)	2	1	1	1	1 retouch piece, misc	**24**
6	3 (4)	(1)	1	1			2 retouched pieces, misc	**12**
7	1							**1**
9	3							**3**
13	8 (3)	6 (15)	3	1		1	1 scraper frag, 1 ?burin spall,	**39**
14		(1)						**1**
23		1						**1**
27	6	(3)	1			1 (1)	2 convex scrapers	**14**
28		1	1					**2**
33	1					(1)		**2**
35	1							**1**
Total	**29 (14)**	**13 (24)**	**8**	**3**	**1**	**3 (2)**	**7**	**104**

A further report will be made when excavation of the area, still under way at the time of writing, is completed. However, it is already clear that the material is likely to belong to more than one phase of activity.

2. Roman coarse wares, by Frank Pemberton

Methodology

This report follows the methodology of Drummond-Murray, Thompson & Cowan (2002) and Symonds (2003); for early Roman fabrics the definitions of Lyne & Jefferies (1979), Millett (1979) and Davies, Richardson & Tomber (1994) have been used, while the identification of later fabrics relies on Fulford (1975), Symonds & Tomber (1991), Hall (1999), and Hall & Stanley (2008). Peacock and Williams (1986) were consulted for the amphorae. Initial identification of forms and fabrics was undertaken by the late Peggy Bedwell, the late Margaret Nobbs and the author, following the processes in Fulford & Huddleston (1991), Orton (1989) and Orton, Tyers and Vince (1993), and taking into account the London form and fabric codes of MOLA. Final quantification of both form and fabric was carried out by Chris and Gay Harris.

Fabrics

In all, 90kg of Roman pottery was recovered from the site and was sorted by fabric (as defined in appendix 1). Much of this material was residual, so that quantification by phase would give misleading results; analysis is therefore based on a cumulative total for all periods.

Coarse wares in the narrowest sense of the term – wares typically used for jars and other cooking vessels – made up 77.6% by weight of all the pottery found; the commonest of these wares came from the Alice Holt potteries (33.6%). The only other significant wares were SAND (21.9%) and OXID (15.7%); there was also some GROG (2.7%), while Black-Burnished wares, CALC, FLINT, HWC, LOXI, PORD, SHELL and VRG accounted for less than 1% each.

Amphorae made up 13.7% of the pottery, the identifiable forms all coming from type Dr. 20. Mortaria from the Oxfordshire potteries constituted 0.2%. Fabrics typically used for flagons made up 2.9%, almost all of this white wares from the Verulamium region (2.2%), while HOO, MHAD and VRR accounted for less than 1% each.

Of the table-wares, fabrics typically used for bowls made up 4.2%, and those typically used for beakers 1.4%. Most of the bowls were samian (2.1%) or Oxfordshire Red Ware (1.2%), while FG, FINE, OXWW, RWS and VCWS accounted for less than 1% each among the bowls, and COLC, FOX, GCC, KOLN, LOMI, MICA, MOSL, and NVCC similarly among the beakers.

Forms

Rim sherds were sorted by vessel form, and in all there were 80.5 estimated vessel equivalents. When measured by EVE, amphorae constituted only 1.2% of the total – a much lesser proportion than the 13.7% which they made up by weight. Mortaria when measured by EVE constituted 1.1% of the total, whereas they had appeared as 0.2% by weight. Flagons made up 5.5% of the EVEs, and beakers 9.1%, in both cases a higher proportion than that calculated from the measuring of fabric by weight. 49.7% of EVEs came from jars and 0.2% from lids, while bowls and dishes (mostly for the kitchen rather than the table) constituted 33.2%.

Catalogue (fig. 5)

Phase 2. Nos. 1–2 from context 14; 3–6 from context 27

1. Bowl with flange (BBS fabric); acute lattice decoration on the middle body panel; this is type 4G in Marsh & Tyers (1978) and subsequently in Davies, Richardson & Tomber (1994); AD 120–400.
2. Beaker (KOLN fabric); colour-coated, with a short neck of 5.5 cm. radius; cf. fig. 18.387 and 20.412 in Symonds (1992); AD 100–160.
3. Bowl (AHSU fabric); a Surrey bowl with lid groove rim and moulded middle body; AD 50–160.
4. Beaker with slight everted rim (HWC fabric); dark grey fabric with pale grey slip; AD 70–160.
5. Mortarium (VRW fabric) belonging to the hooked-flanged variety (HOF); AD 50–160.
6. Mortarium (VRW fabric); black and white gritting extending to vessel edge; has a retrograde potter's stamp M[A]RXR; AD 50–160.

Phase 3. No. 7 from context 6; 8–16 from context 13; 17 from context 19; 18 from context 34

7. Mortarium (OXWS fabric); red ware with white slip to inner face of rim; cf. C100, a Drag 30 form, in Young (1977); AD 240–400
8. Jar with everted rim (BB2 fabric); with acute lattice; this is type 2F in Marsh & Tyers (1978); AD 120–250.
9. Necked jar with a figure 7 rim (SAND fabric); this is type 2D in Marsh & Tyers (1978): AD 60–160.
10. Dish (Pompeian Red Ware); red with a fine light grey sandy core, with simple in-turned rim; cf. nos. 717–20 in Davies, Richardson & Tomber (1994); AD 50–150.
11. Tazza or incense burner (VCWS fabric); with frilled decorated rim/edge, similar to those at London sites; cf. no. 215 in Davies, Richardson & Tomber (1994) and cf. also Tomber & Dore (1998: 45); AD 70–120.
12. Bead-rimmed jar (AHSU fabric); the rim grooved with characteristic internal ledge or lid seating; this is type 2A16 in Marsh & Tyers (1978 fig. 234) and class 4 in Lyne and Jefferies (1979); AD 50–160.
13. Bowl with rounded rim (BB2 fabric); acute irregular lattice decoration; this is type 4H in Marsh & Tyers (1978); AD 120–300.
14. Dish with simple rim; white-slipped oxidised ware; this is type 5J in Marsh & Tyers (1978); AD 120–250.
15. Flagon; oxidised mica-gilded ware, with two grooved rings on the neck; AD 70–120.
16. Globular beaker (KOLN fabric); white fabric decorated with barbotine scales, with a dark brown slip; AD 100–140. Not illustrated.
17. Bowl with rounded rim (BB2 fabric); acute lattice decoration; this is type 4H4 in Marsh & Tyers (1978); AD 120–300.
18. Storage jar with square under-cut rim (AHFA ware); cf. type IC in Lyne and Jefferies (1979 fig. 25); AD 300–400.

Phase 3. Residual in context 7

19. Beaker (SAMTR fabric); black-slipped Trier ware, with white trailed motifs; AD 150–220. Not illustrated.

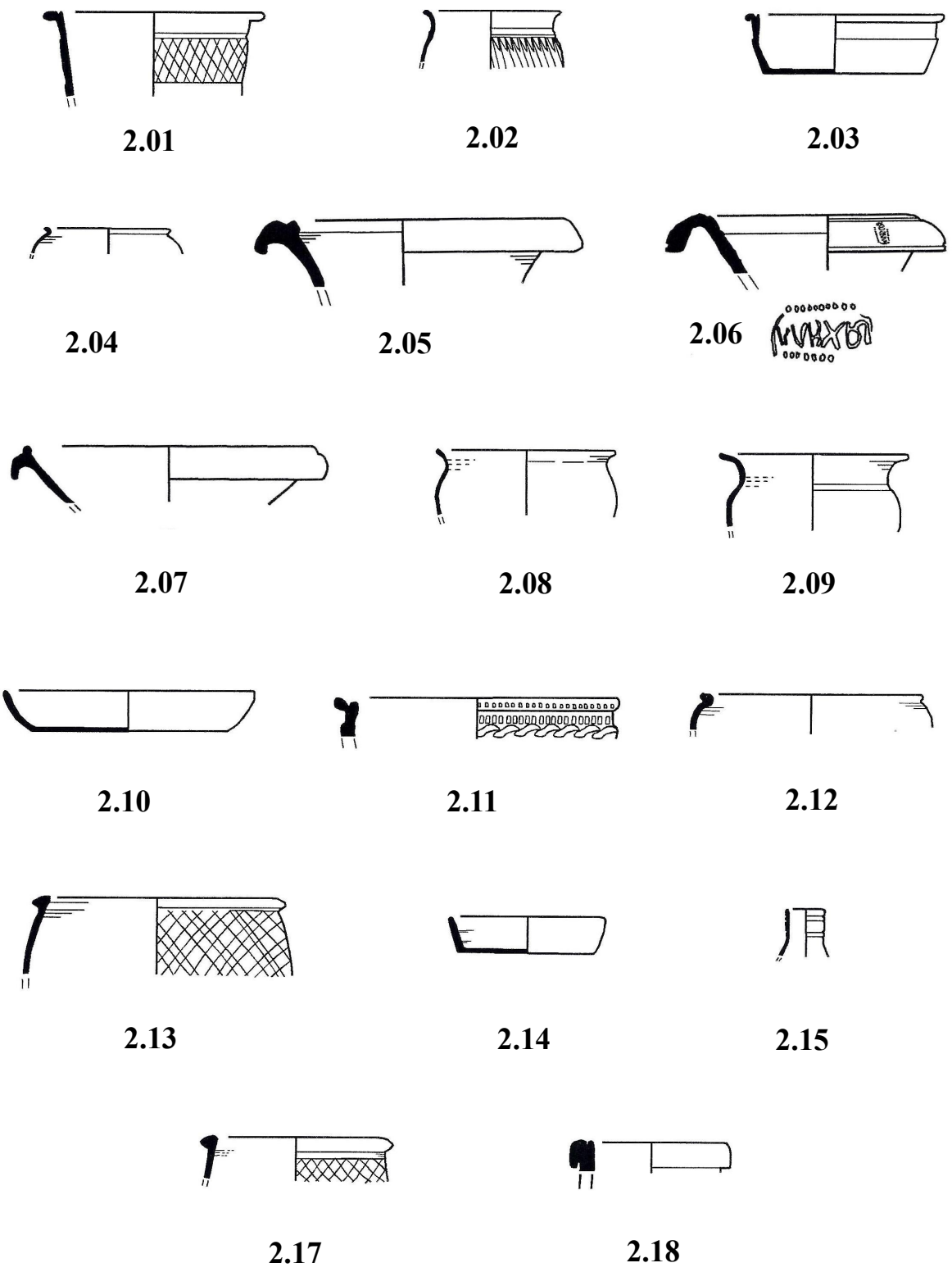


Figure 5. Roman coarse wares. Scale 1:4.

Discussion

Insufficient material was recovered from phase 1 (the construction of Stane Street) to give any insight into the sources of pottery used at this time, but during phase 2 (from the late first to mid second century) the Alice Holt Surrey, Highgate Wood and Verulamium pottery wares were prominent, with mortaria being brought in from Verulamium. A few sherds of colour-coated Cologne beakers and Pompeian wares reflect imports from further afield. The more common beakers were everted rim forms in Highgate and oxidised wares. Jars in Alice Holt Surrey ware had bead, necked and flattened 'fig 7' rims; there were some everted rimmed jars in grog-tempered wares. Bowls were used in AHSU and Black-Burnished style wares.

In London, where assemblages from pit groups and closed contexts allow for a more fine-grained analysis, it appears that beakers and flagons were used for drinking, bowls and dishes were for serving food at table, and jars were employed either for storage or as cooking vessels. Although evidence from Ewell sites is not so clear-cut, some idea of their function may be gathered from comparing the presence of table wares in proportion to cooking vessels and storage jars. At St. Mary's churchyard this ratio (by weight) was 22:78, showing a slight bias to table wares when compared to other local sites such as Ewell Grove (Pemberton & Harte 2011: 239). Dressel 20 amphorae represented 13.7% of all pottery; since these vessels were used to transport olive oil from the Guadalquivir valley of southern Spain, between Seville and Cordoba, their presence here may reflect the use of oil for cooking, bathing or light in roadside establishments. Together with the table wares and samian, this suggests a use for the site serving the needs and wishes of travellers on Stane Street.

By the time of phase 3 (from the mid second to the end of the third century) the earlier Verulamium and Alice Holt Surrey wares were being replaced by Alice Holt light grey sandy ware, and different forms of Black-Burnished pots with lattice decoration were in use. Oxfordshire brown/red and white ware vessels began to be used from the mid third century. Flagons, with ring and plain necks, continue in use from the Verulamium industries. Beakers were typically in poppyhead shape with dot decoration, or in forms from the Nene Valley industry. Jars in Black-Burnished ware had everted rims, while those in Alice Holt Farnham wares had necked bead, squared/'fig 7' rims, as well as everted and hooked rimmed types. Bowls with rounded and triangular rimmed forms were obtained in BB2 and Verulamium wares. Mortaria came in Oxfordshire red/brown and white wares. A tazza or incense burner in VCWS fabric appears to belong to this phase, although it may be earlier. Large numbers of amphora sherds were also found in this phase, and although some of them may be residual, they suggest a continued import of the vessels up until AD 300 and the eclipse of the industry.

Phase 4 (the late fourth century) saw almost exclusive use of the later Alice Holt Farnham vessels with a light bluish slipped sandy ware, with some later Portchester jars. Most forms of black burnished vessels continued together with Oxfordshire red/brown mortaria. The presence of hand-made vessels tempered with grog, shell and flint reflects the characteristics of known late Roman/post Roman fabrics.

3. Samian ware

Abbreviations

SG, CG, EG: South, Central, East Gaul
Drag = form numbers after H. Dragendorff (see Webster 1996)
O = figure-types after Oswald 1936–37
S&S = Stanfield and Simpson 1958

Decorated samian (fig. 6), by Jon Cotton (1987), revised by Joanna Bird (2007)

1. Drag 37, SG. Double-bordered ovolo with trident tongue; below the wavy line border is a panel design, including a saltire. Flavian. Context 33.
2. Drag 37, CG. Style of Attianus with one of his usual ovolos (S&S fig. 23, 2), below which the bowl is divided into panels with beaded borders. The vertical bead rows end in a small four-petalled rosette, shown on S&S pl. 86, 17. The panels include a horseman (O.249 variant) and various animals of which only a lioness (O.1537) can be identified. The leaves used in the corners of the panels are shown on S&S pl. 86, 10. *c.* AD 125–150; there are holes for lead wire repairs. Contexts 13, 14 & 22.
3. Drag 37, CG. Style of the Quintilianus group, who used the ovolo, beaded rosette, tier of cups and leaf (S&S fig. 17, nos. 1, 7, 20 and 23). The satyr (O.610), gladiators (similar to O.1003 and O.1004) and tier of cups are shown on S&S pl. 72, 33 and 38, on bowls assigned to Paterclus. Rogers (1974: 23) notes that the Paterclus signatures have been cut in the moulds after firing and therefore these sherds ought to be assigned to Quintilianus or Bassus. *c.* AD 125–150; there are holes for lead wire repairs. Contexts 13–15 and 21.
4. Drag 37, CG. Style of the Quintilianus group: their ovolo (S&S fig. 17, 1) with wavy line border beneath. Below are two harpies (O.863a; S&S pl. 70, 18). *c.* AD 125–150. Contexts 13 and 22.
5. Drag 37, CG. Style of Cinnamus: the ovolo is his no. 3 (S&S fig. 47), and the leopard (a smaller variant of O.1518) and festoon (Rogers 1974, F35) were both used by him. *c.* AD 145–175; very worn inside. Context 13.
6. Drag 37, CG. Style of Cinnamus: an exact parallel to this sherd with the bear (O.1609) beneath a medallion is shown on S&S pl. 157, 11. *c.* AD 145–175. Context 14
7. Drag 37, CG. Ovolo 3 of the Cinnamus group (S&S fig. 47) with fragment of scroll beneath. Mid-Antonine. Context 13.
8. Drag 37, CG. The double bordered ovolo and astragalus border were used by Censorinus and Laxtucissa. Below is the top of a festoon and a fragment of an unidentifiable figure. *c.* AD 155–185. Context 13.
9. Drag 37, CG. Fragment of decoration, perhaps the hind legs of an animal. Antonine; heavily burnt. Context 14.
10. Drag 37, CG. Style of the Cinnamus group. The bowl is decorated in panels divided by bead rows with small rosettes at the junctions. A festoon contains a bird used by Cinnamus (S&S pl. 157, 10). S&S pl. 157, 2, shows a similar arrangement with a different bird. *c.* AD 145–175. Context 13.
11. Drag 37, CG. Single-bordered ovolo probably with a rosette tongue, used by several Lezoux potters. The circle and rosette beneath a beaded border are not assignable to any specific potter. Judging from the slip and fabric, a Hadrianic to early Antonine date is likely. Context 13.
12. Drag 37 apparently, but with two internal grooves typical of Drag 30; CG. Single-bordered ovolo with plain straight tongue, probably that used by Mercator II (S&S fig. 43, 1). The bowl has a matt brownish slip typical of this potter's work. *c.* AD 160–190. Context 14.
13. Drag 37, CG. Part of a freestyle design showing a lion (O.1450) over another animal, probably a dog and possibly O.2005. Such designs were produced by several Lezoux potters; perhaps the closest is Criciro (cf S&S pl. 117,1). The fabric and fineness of the slip indicate a Hadrianic to early Antonine date. Context 13.

14. Drag 30, CG. Style of the Cinnamus group; all the decorative details, circles, small dolphins (Rogers 1974, Q58), trifid leaf (H109), cornucopia (U245), foliage ornament (L11) and small warrior were used by them. *c.* AD 145–175; burnt. Context 34.
15. Drag 37, CG. The smudged ovolo is probably Cinnamus ovolo 3a (S&S fig. 47), used by several Lezoux potters. Below are a beaded border and a piece of unidentified decoration. Early to mid Antonine. Context 13.
16. Drag 30, CG. The wavy line border, diagonal wavy line crossed by an astragalus and large twist are in the style of X-9 of Les Martres-de-Veyre (S&S pl. 29, 249 etc). *c.* AD 110–130. Context 13.
17. Drag 37, CG. Beaded border with astragalus below. Hadrianic to Antonine; slightly burnt.
Context 27. 18. Drag 37, CG. Medium-fine bead row with a fragment of a double-bordered medallion. Early to mid second century; heavily burnt. Context 27.
19. Drag 37, CG. Style of the Cinnamus group with ovolo 3a above a beaded border (S&S fig. 47). Below are two festoons containing a bird facing right and an unidentified figure type. *c.* AD 145–175. Contexts 13 and 17.
20. Drag 37, CG. This sherd, with three converging bead rows and ram's horn motif, belongs to the general style of X-13 of Les Martres-de-Veyre (Terrisse 1968 pls. 27–35). *c.* AD 100–125.
Context 27. 21. Drag 37, CG. The small figure (O.699) was used by several Lezoux potters, including Albucius (S&S pl. 121, 11), although the bead row is not the one usually associated with him. Antonine. Context 13.
22. Drag 37, CG. In the style of one of the earlier Lezoux potters, with an ovolo used by Drusus II (S&S fig. 20, 2). The decoration shows a hare (O.2057) in a festoon. *c.* AD 125–150.Contexts 13 and 22.
23. Drag 37, CG. The figure is a maenad (O.369 variant); the bowl is probably from Lezoux although the fabric and slip are unusual. Hadrianic to mid-Antonine. Context 27.
24. Drag 37, CG. Fragment of double bordered ovolo and unidentifiable decoration. Mid second century; burnt and abraded. Context 13.
25. Drag 37, CG. Warrior (O.157) between beaded borders over the S motif (Rogers 1974, S71) used by the 'Large S Potter' (S&S pl. 76, 33). *c.* AD 125-150. Context 27
26. Drag 37, EG. In the style of Reginus I of Rheinzabern; the motif used as a basal wreath is Ricken and Fischer 1963, R14. Mid to late Antonine. Context 27

Samian stamps

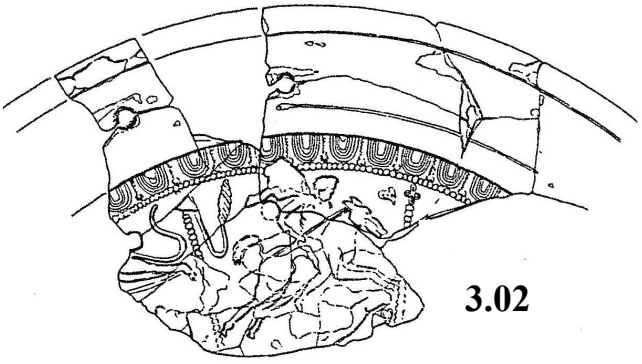
Nos. 27 and 29 were identified by Brenda Dickinson, and her comments have been revised (2014) to include references to the NOTS volumes (Hartley and Dickinson 2008–12). No. 28 has not been seen by a specialist and the comment below (by J. Bird) is provisional.

27. Drag 18/31 stamped REBV[RRI.OF]; die 4i, Reburrus ii of Lezoux (NOTS 7, 329). *c.* AD 140–170.Context 14.
28. Drag 33 stamped SVRBVRO. A Surburo or Surburus was active at Lezoux *c.* AD 145–165 (NOTS 8, 379), but this stamp needs further examination to confirm the reading and identify the die. Context 14.
29. Drag 33 stamped [TIT]VS.FEC[+] ; die 10a, Titus iii of Lezoux (NOTS 9, 73). *c.* AD 150–170. Context 14.

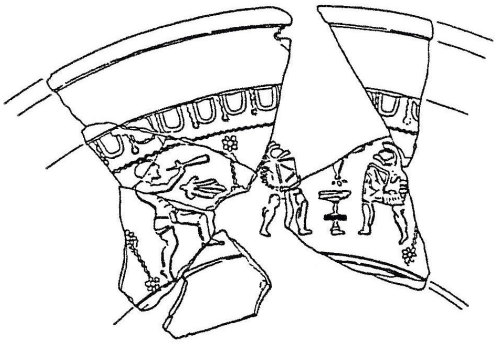
Plain samian, by Geoff Marsh

A report on the plain samian was written by Geoff Marsh in 1987, and can be accessed in the site archive.

3.01



3.02



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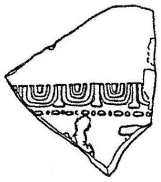
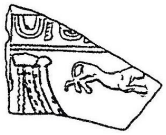
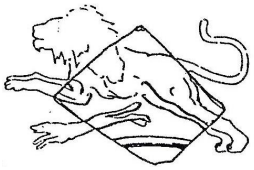


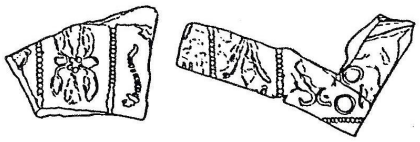
3.08



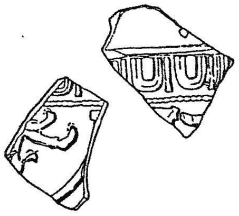
3.05



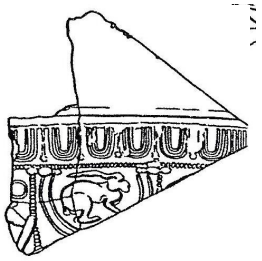
3.13



3.14



3.19



3.22

Figure 6. Samian ware. Scale 1:2.

4. Building material, by Frank Pemberton

Methodology

In all, 66.60kg of Roman ceramic material were recovered from the site. The great majority of this was unrecognisable brick and tile; clearly identifiable tegula made up 2% of the total, imbrex 2%, and flue tile less than 1% (following the definitions of Betts 1986, Brodribb 1987, and Betts, Black & Gower 1997). All the flue tile from the site was comb-marked apart from the pieces listed in the catalogue.

Phase 1, from context 9
1. Fragment of box flue tile decorated with impressed parallel stripes meeting at an angle

Residual in phase 3 (2, from context 13) and phase 4 (3 from context 6 and 4 from context 7)
2. Fragment of box flue tile decorated with an impressed W-chevron design, die 4.
3. Fragment of box flue tile decorated with an impressed W-chevron design, die 4.
4. Fragment of box flue tile decorated with an impressed W-chevron design, die 4.

Discussion

The impressed design made by die no. 4 was used on tiles from the Ashtead tile and villa site (Betts, Black & Gower 1997: 30 fig. 14, 68–70, 74 no. 4). The date range for this design conventionally begins at AD 120 and continues until AD 200 or thereabouts (Betts, Black & Gower 1997: 68), although this date range may be reviewed after the recent excavations at Ashtead. Flue tiles marked with this die have also been found at Purberry Shot and Tayles Hill.

In all other respects, the small amount of brick and tile at the site is symptomatic of the small quantities elsewhere on sites in Roman Ewell, compared to the considerable quantities known at villa sites. This seems to confirm that the buildings in Roman Ewell were largely thatched, which may account for the many burnt layers with charcoal inclusions found throughout the settlement.

5. Stone small finds, by Frank Pemberton

Phase 2. From context 27
1. Rectangular whetstone, broken, 44mm long and 33mm wide.

Phase 3. All from context 13
2. Fragment of a quern in Lower Greensand, 50 mm thick. One face is pitted, the other dressed with radiating grooves. The fragment comes from the inner part of the stone and includes part of a socket hole *c.* 50mm wide.
3. Fragment of a quern in Lower Greensand, 30 mm thick. One face is unworked, the other has circular striations. The fragment appears to come from the outer edge of the quern, which would in that case have been *c.* 700mm in diameter.

Phase 4. From context 7
4. Fragment of a quern in Mayen lava, 55 mm thick. One face is dressed with roughly parallel grooves, set 8mm apart. This face is cut on a slope leading downwards toward the centre, suggesting that it comes from the upper or runner stone. Two other faces are cut with grooves, but this appears to have been to shape the quern and not to dress it for grinding.

Discussion

The quern fragments show the two main quarry sources which were drawn on for this basic item of equipment: greensand from Lodsworth in Sussex, and lava exported from Mayen in the Rhineland.

6. Metal small finds, by Frank Pemberton

Copper alloy

Phase 2. From context 14
1. Fragment of a bow brooch in leaded bronze, the lower bow with a ridge decorated with an incised zigzag line down to a triangular catch plate, which has a triangular opening and a plain foot. This is a small version of the Colchester two-piece brooch, type 93C in Hull (forthcoming), of mid first century date. Colchester two-piece brooches of the post-invasion period are common in Surrey, Kent and Essex.

Phase 3. 2 to 7 from context 13; 8 from context 28
2. Long hair-pin with plain conical head and circular section, 123mm long. This is a version of type 2 at Colchester (Crummy 1983 nos. 467–74).
3. Earring with a teardrop shape, 4mm thick and 20mm long.
4. Fragment of a crenellated bracelet 1.5 mm thick, from a bracelet of some 50 mm internal diameter. It has a rectangular section and toothing between the crenulations. Cf. Crummy 1983 no. 1659.
5. Part of what seems to have been a furniture mount with a convex top, 15mm in diameter and 15mm high, mounted on an iron spindle 7mm in diameter.
6. Tack, round in section, 8mm long.
7. Fragment of riveted strip fitting, 8mm wide and 2mm thick.
8. Tack, round in section, 2mm thick and 11mm long.

Phase 4. 9 from context 23; 10 from context 6
9. Fragment of a flattened pin, 22mm long, which could be the end of a plain clothes pin or possibly from a penannular brooch.
10. Fragment of a bracelet, round in section and 3mm thick; it is decorated with an incised spiral groove.

Residual in phase 5. From context 2
11. Lower end of a hairpin, circular in section and 3mm thick. This is probably a type 2 pin with bead head, as found at Colchester (Crummy 1983 fig. 27).
12. Finger-ring, with a D-section, 17mm in diameter on the outside and 12mm on the inside; it is decorated with fine notched or knurled work on the outer and inner face

Lead

Phase 2. From context 14
13. Length of twisted strip, with a U-section, found in two sections 85mm and 6mm long; it is 3mm in thickness and 6mm wide. The two sections make up an L-shape with a join or rivet at corner, possibly a piece of binding strip as found at Aldborough (Bishop 1996 fig. 44 no. 493), or perhaps a window came as recorded at Colchester (Crummy 1983 fig. 27).

Iron

Phase 1. 14 from context 9; 15 from context 16
14. Ring with round section, 5mm thick and 35mm in diameter.
15. Large figure-of-eight loop chain, the remaining section 65mm long. Cf. Manning 1985: 139.

Phase 2. 16 to 18 from context 14; 19 from context 27
16. Ring, bent into an S shape, round in section and 30mm in diameter.
17. Short tube with an outer diameter of 18mm, formed by twisting a metal strip 5mm in width and 2mm thick into a spiral with a spike at the top. Tubes of this kind have been interpreted as tips for ox-goads (Rees 1979; Cool, Lloyd-Morgan & Hooley 1995 fig. 69 no. 649).
18. Ring, 13mm wide, 3mm thick and 25mm in its outer diameter.
19. Latch lifter, its shaft 8mm square, the whole instrument 117mm in length of which 25mm consists of the curved section for lifting the latch. These lift keys are discussed by Manning (1985 fig. 25 no. 2, pl. 40 nos. 27–38).

Phase 3. All from context 13
20. Small bow brooch with a pronounced D-shaped profile and protruding knob foot. There are traces of a loop on the head, which has a spring cover enclosing four spring coils held by an axial bar, with the spring chord beneath. The brooch is difficult to classify due to corrosion, but probably dates from the late first to the second century.
21. Fragments of the pin and spring coils of a simple Nauheim Derivative one-piece brooch (Hattatt 1982 nos. 8–13); probably first century.
22. Stylus with a round section, 100mm long and 3mm thick.
23. Terret ring, oval in shape, round in section and 3 mm thick.
24. Short tube 17mm high with an outer diameter of 15mm, formed by twisting a metal strip 3mm thick into a spiral with a spike at the top. Like 6.17, this is one of the metal tubes conventionally regarded as ox-goads, but also identified as a kind of pen-nib.
25. Corner fragment of a knife blade, 1mm thick.
26. Reaping hook, 50mm long, with a flat hooked blade and a long open socket with a nail-hole near its mouth.
27. Small square staple or joiner's dog, 3mm thick; cf. pl. 61 no. 53 in Manning (1985).
28. Hook, 16mm across and 5mm thick, with oval back plate.
29. Long tapering wire or rod, 155mm long, bearing at the widest end a soldered rivet or decoration 5 mm high and 25 mm across.
30. Fragment of plate with rivets, 65mm by 35mm and 5mm thick.
31. Fragment of sheet 1mm thick and 25mm square, with a central boss or tack.

Phase 4. 32 from context 7; 33 from context 23
32. Tube or socket, 30mm long and 20mm in diameter, the hole being 3mm thick.
33. Latch lifter, its shaft 4mm square, the whole instrument 95mm in length of which 40mm consists of the curved section for lifting the latch; this is type 0.3 in Manning (1985 pl.37.6)

Iron nails

The only metal artefacts to be found in sufficient number for analysis were the nails, of which a little over 700 were identified. Almost all of these were under 70mm in length. About 25% were nails, or rather studs, of less than 10mm; most of these had heads and were clearly hobnails from footwear, an identification borne out by their findspots, since they occurred mostly in contexts 7 and 13 on the area of the road surface and cobbled yard (cf. Cleere 1958). Of the rest, approximately 40% were short nails of between 10 and 40mm long, and some 30% had a length of between 40 and 70mm.

Discussion

The metal finds constitute a small sample of items illustrating daily life, perhaps unrepresentative but indicating the three areas of personal adornment, domestic fittings and working tools. The brooches, bracelets, hair-pin, finger ring and earring all evidence a population prosperous enough to buy small ornaments, although the quality of the items is not outstanding and much of the decoration on the bronze seems to have been rudimentary

punching and engraving of patterns. Some home comforts are suggested by the presence of window glass, if 6.13 is indeed a came for holding glass quarries together, and by the furniture mount. A length of copper alloy with punched hole decoration, probably a decorated strip from some item of furniture, was also found during excavation, but as it came from topsoil (context 1) it may not be Roman. The larger nails would have held together the timber-framing which rested on the foundation walls of buildings. Some of the studs and nails with flat/rectangular section heads and short shanks (those up to 5 cm in length; see Cleere 1958) may be associated with the dismantling of leather and wooden objects on the midden and cobbled surfaces. Latch-lifters were a simple form of key, standardised with a flat handle and an eye at the end to operate the lock (Manning 1985 88, fig. 25). The presence of two of these suggests a community large enough, and with enough domestic property, to feel the need for door locks. As for working life, the iron terret and chain loop could have been used for fastening draught animals; other evidence for the passage of carts along Stane Street is afforded by the two ox goads, if indeed these are goads (Manning 1985 nos. 16 & 17). The extensive traffic which passed down the road and onto the cobbled area over the years is shown by the number of sandal and boot studs with short stems and domed heads, assuming that these broke off from the footwear of pedestrians. The reaping hook (Manning 1985 no. 19) is the only working tool in the collection, used for harvesting cereal crops or for horticulture; the stylus is the only item that points to literacy and access to life outside the small settlement.

7. Glass small finds, by Frank Pemberton

Phase 2. From context 14
1. Fragment of a bead-rimmed jar in light green glass; the neck of the jar would have been *c.* 50mm in diameter.

Phase 3. From context 13
2. Small gadrooned bead of turquoise light blue frit; cf. fig. 32 no. 521 in Crummy (1983). Probably late first to second century.
3. Fragments of a bowl in light blue frosted glass. The walls of the bowl were up to 8mm thick and it was decorated with raised ridges of glass.

Discussion

Very few recognisable sherds of glass were found either in cuts or cobbled surfaces, although the small body of glass found in the 1970–1 excavation had included seven colourless fragments from the floor of Building 1. There is no window glass. The small jar with folded rim (7.1) is the best piece; examples appear in Price and Cottam 1957. John Shepherd of the Museum of London, who viewed the glass from the 1970–1 and 1974–5 excavations, felt that the overall impression was utilitarian, and that high quality glass was missing from the assemblage.

8. Other small finds, by Frank Pemberton

Semi-precious stone.

Phase 3. From context 28
1. A jet spacer bead pierced by two holes. The bead is a flat rectangle 17 by 12 mm, and 3mm thick, while the two holes, which run side by side through the length of the bead, are 1 mm thick; cf. Allason-Jones 1996: 29.

Ceramic

Residual in phase 2. From context 14,
2. Fragments of a loomweight in a gritless light-brown sandy fabric. One surface is flat, the other slightly curved, suggesting that it came from the apex of an Iron Age triangular loomweight.

Phase 2. From context 27
3. Fragment of a spindlewhorl, which would have been 60mm in diameter. It was made from the base of a bowl or dish (Alice Holt fabric) which has been scored with a roughly circular outline and then snapped away to form the shape. The perforation is slightly off-centre.

Phase 3. From context 13
4. Fragment of a lamp base in light greyish sandy fabric.

Worked bone

Phase 3. From context 28
5. Fragment of a needle with a rectangular eye and round section.; cf. no. 1956 in Crummy (1983). Second century.

Discussion

Like the metal small finds, this group suggests a community with some pretensions to decoration and ornament, as represented by the jet and glass beads, but grounded in practical tasks such as spinning and weaving. The needle, though only surviving as a fragment, is clearly too large to have been used for tailoring and may have been for rough work on sacks and nets. The lamp base is unusual – oil lamps are more typical of urban and military sites, and no examples have yet been found in Ewell.

9. Coins, by Trevor Saxby, reviewed by Norman Clarkson

Phase 1. From context 9
1. An as of Vespasian, 69–79.
Obv: IMP CÆSAR VESPASIANVS AVG PM TR PPP COS III, laureate head right.
Rev: Uncertain, as the coin is badly mutilated.

Intrusive in phase 1. From context 9
2. A barbarous commemorative antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus, 268–270, issued 270 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.267a).
Obv: [DIVO CLAVDIO], radiate bust right.
Rev: [CONSECRAT]IO, eagle standing right on altar with head turned.

Phase 2. From context 14
3. An as of Domitian, 81–86.

4. A plated silver imitation denarius of Trajan, 104–111.
Obv: IMP TRAIANVS AVG GEP DAC [TR P COS III S C], laureate and draped bust right
Rev: SPQR OPTIM[O PRINCIPI], facing statue of Hercules Invictus on a base holding club and fleece.
The forged legend on the obverse, reading IMP TRAIANVS AVG GEP, is in variance from the legend IMP TRAIANO AVG GER on the official issue

Intrusive in phase 2. From context 14
5. An imitation AE4 of Theodosius, Arcadius or Honorius, 394–402

Phase 3. From context 13
6. A barbarous antoninianus of the Gallic Empire, 259–273.
Rev: [SPES AVGG], Spes walking left, holding flower and raising skirt.

7. A barbarous antoninianus, probably of Postumus, 263–268.

8. A barbarous antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus 268–270 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.104).
Obv: I[MP C] CLAVDIVS [AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: VIC[TORIA AVG], Victory standing left with wreath and palm branch.

9. A barbarous commemorative antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus, 268–270 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.267a).
Obv: DIVO [CLAVDIO], radiate draped bust right.
Rev: [CONSEC]RATIO, eagle standing left, head turned.

10. A barbarous antoninianus of Victorinus, 268–270.
Obv: [IMP C] VIC[TORINVS] AV[G], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.

11. A barbarous antoninianus of Victorinus, 268–270.

12. A barbarous antoninianus of Victorinus, 268–270.
Obv: [I]MP C VIC[TORINVS P F AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: Pax standing left, holding olive branch and transverse sceptre.

13. An antoninianus of Tetricus I, 270–273.
Rev: Probably Moneta standing left holding scales and cornucopia

14. A barbarous antoninianus of Tetricus I, 270–273.

15. A barbarous antoninianus of Tetricus I, 270–273 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.85).
Obv: [IMP TETRICVS P F AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right
Rev: [F]ID[ES AVG], Fides standing left between two standards.

16. An antoninianus of Carausius, 286–292 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.883).
Obv: [IMP C CARAVSIVS AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: PAX [AV]G, Pax standing left with olive branch and upright sceptre.
Mint of London.

17. A barbarous antoninianus of Carausius, 286–292
Obv: IMP [C CARAVSIVS AV]G, radiate draped cuirassed bust right
Rev: [PAX AVG], Pax standing left with olive branch and upright sceptre.

18. A barbarous antoninianus of Carausius, 286–292 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.235).
Obv: [IMP C]AR[AVSIVS P F AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: [F]OR[TVNA AVG], Fortuna standing left, holding baton and cornucopia.

19. A follis of Constantine I, 307–337; issued 319–320 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 7 no. 523).
Obv: IMP CONSTANT-INVS AVG, high-crested helmeted cuirassed bust right with spear across right shoulder.
Rev: VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP, two Victories standing facing one another holding a shield bearing the letters VOT/PR on a column, PLN in exergue.
Mint of London.

20. A barbarous follis of Constantine I, 307–337; issued 320–321
Obv: [CONS]T[AN-TINVS] AVG, laureate head right.
Rev: [VIRTVS EXERCITVS], a standard bearing the letters VOT/XX between two captives standing.

21. An AE3 of Constantine I, 307–337, issued 335–337 (as Carson Hill & Kent 1984 no. 398).
Obv: [CONSTANTI-NVS MAX AVG], laureate bust right in paludamentum.
Rev: [G]L[OR-]IA EX[ERC-ITVS], a labarum between two soldiers each holding spear and leaning on shield.

22. A centenionialis of Magnentius, 351–353.
Obv: DN MAGNEN[-TIVS PF] AVG, draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: [VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE], two Victories facing one another, holding a wreath VOT/V /MVLT/X on short column, AMB in exergue.
Mint of Amiens.

23. An AE3 of Valens, 367–75 (as Carson Hill & Kent 1984 no.507).
Obv: DN VALENS [PF AVG], diademed draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: [GLORIA RO-MANORVM], emperor advancing right holding labarum and dragging captive from left, PCON in exergue.
Mint of Arles.

24. An AE4 of Theodosius I, 388–392
Obv: [DN THEODO-SIVS PF AVG], diademed head right.
Rev: [VICTOR-IA AVGGG], Victory advancing left with wreath and palm.

25. An unidentified coin.

Phase 4. 26 to 33 from context 6; 34 from context 7; 35 from context 10; 36 from context 23

26 and 27. Barbarous radiates of the mid third century.

28. A barbarous antoninianus of Gallienus, 253–268, issued 265–272.
Obv: Probably IMP GALLIENVS AVG, radiate draped bust right.
Rev: [ORIEN]S AVG, Sol standing left with hand raised and holding whip.

29. A barbarous commemorative antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus, 268–270; issued 270 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 5 no.259).
Obv: [DIV]O [CLAVDIO], radiate bust right.
Rev : [CONS]ECRATIO, altar with flames.

30. A barbarous antoninianus of Carausius, 286–292.
Obv: [IMP C CARAVSIVS P F AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: [PAX AVG], Pax standing left holding olive branch and sceptre.

31. An AE3 of Constantine I, 307–337, issued 319 (as Mattingly 1923–81: 7 no.213).
Obv: IMP CONSTAN-TINVS MAX AVG, laureate helmeted bust right.
Rev: VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP, two Victories standing facing one another and holding shield with words VOT/PR above altar with star to left, S TR in exergue.
Mint of Trier.

32. An AE4 of Valentinian II, 374–392; issued 388–392 (as Carson Hill & Kent 1984 no. 389).
Obv: DN VALEN[TINI-ANVS P F AVG], diademed head right.
Rev: [VICTOR-IA] AVGGG, Victory advancing left with wreath and palm.

33. An AE4 of Valentinian II, Theodosius I, Arcadius or Honorius, 383–402.

34. A barbarous antoninianus of Carausius, 286–292.
Obv: [IMP C CARAVSIVS P F AVG], radiate draped cuirassed bust right.
Rev: CO[NCORDIA AVG], Concord standing left holding cornucopia, XX […] in exergue

35. An AE4 of Valentinian II, Theodosius I, Arcadius or Honorius; issued 383–402.
Rev: Probably VICTOR-IA AVGGG, Victory advancing left with wreath and palm.

36. A barbarous antoninianus of Tetricus I, 270–273

Residual in Post-Roman phase. All from context 2

37. A barbarous antoninianus of Tetricus I, 270–273.
Obv: IMP C TETRICVS PF AVG, radiate draped bust right.
Rev: PAX AVG.

38. An AE3 of Valentinian I, 364–375, issued 364–7 (as Carson Hill & Kent 1984 no. 484; the subject is their type 8).
Obv: [DN VALENTINI-ANVS P F AVG], diademed bust right.
Rev: [GLORIA RO-MANORVM], emperor dragging captive right between the letters OF and II, CON P in exergue.
Mint of Arles.

39. An AE4 of Arcadius, 383–408.
Obv: DIV ARCADI-VS PF AVG, diademed head right
Rev: VICTOR-IA AVGG – or AVGGG.

40. An unidentified barbarous radiate.

Discussion

In all, 40 coins were recovered from the site. Few of them came from primary contexts, although an as of Vespasian (9.1) was found in the gravel core of Stane Street, and coins of Domitian and Trajan (9.3 and 4) from the foundation layers of the cobbled yard. The majority of the coins, however, dating from the late third century, had accumulated within the settlement debris of brown sandy soil over the yard. Coins from this period, along with later issues, were redeposited in the last period of the site, when postholes and a drainage gulley were dug for a new building in the old cobbled surface.

36 of the coins could be identified with sufficient accuracy to place them within Reece periods (for the methodology, see Hammerson 2002: 233–5). Of the rest, three could only be dated to the mid third century, while one was unidentifiable. The site archive also records a medallion of Constantine I (Mattingly 1923–81: 7 Trier 523) and an imitation centenionalis of Constans or Constans Gallus, with Falling Horseman type 3 of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO type on the back, both from context 13; these, however, are no longer present. The date distribution of the 36 present and identified coins was:

Reece period	Date	Coins
4	AD 69–96	2
5	96–117	1
13	260–75	15
14	275–96	5
16	317–30	4
18	358–64	1
19	378–88	2
21	388–402	6

Periods 4 and 5 correspond to phase 2 of the site history, the years from AD 70 to 160 during which the initial buildings and their associated yards and open spaces were laid out beside Stane Street. Periods 13, 14 and 16 belong to the site's phase 3, from 160 to 350, in which site activity consisted largely of the accumulation of soil and digging of scattered pits around the earlier features. Finally periods 18, 19 and 21 match with phase 4, the late Roman period from 350 to 400, in which new but cruder buildings were laid out on the site.

Thus the majority of coins from the site – 56% – were minted in periods 13 and 14, a span of only 40 years and a tenth of the whole site history. The overall range is similar to that from the 1970–1 excavation, where 9 coins were found, 8 of them capable of being dated; 1 came from period 4, 2 from period 13, 2 from period 16, and 1 each from periods 18, 19 and 22. The same pattern is found in the coins recorded from elsewhere in Roman Ewell (Orton 1997: 114), with a few dating from period 4, pronounced numbers from periods 13–14, low numbers during periods 15–20, but a slight increase in the late period 21. These patterns of coin loss can be equated with Reece's 'Eastern good towns' category (Reece 1993: 865) which includes London (with Southwark) as well as Chichester and Verulamium. At these towns high numbers of coins occur for the periods AD 260–96 and AD 330–402, but there are low numbers for the periods 180–260 (Reece 2002: 149).

Coin loss does not necessarily equate to coin use, and the high numbers found from periods 13 and 14 may be a consequence not so much of increased economic activity as of the low value of these antoniniani, which were not worth much effort to retrieve them once they were dropped. Certainly it is anomalous that the highest years for coin loss were also those at which the site showed least investment in buildings or other features. Whilst there appears to be some consistency in coin loss in Ewell, there can clearly be differences between sites according to their uses and functions. The King William site, variously interpreted as a granary and a religious centre, yielded many first and some second century coins but few after the middle of the fourth century (Orton 1997 table 6). In this case the coin history falls into Reece's 'Army' category (Orton 1997: 114). The 'Eastern good towns' pattern visible at St. Mary's churchyard may reflect the use of the area for trading.

10. Animal bones, by Jennifer Jones

This report is based on analysis of the 1974–5 site, extracted from a full discussion (Jones 2008) of all animal bone found in excavations at the churchyard from 1970 to 1978.

In total, 873 bones were recovered from the site. Few came from contexts which could be confidently assigned to phases, so that the analysis which follows is based on the cumulative material of all Roman periods. The proportions of bones recovered from each of the animal groups were as follows (using 'large mammal' for unidentified animals the size of a cow, and 'medium mammal' for those the size of a sheep or pig):

Cattle	210
Sheep	143
Sheep/goat	11
Pig	21
Deer	2
Horse	16
Dog	3
Chicken/pheasant	4
Unidentified bird	2
Large mammal	78
Medium mammal	373
Small mammal	10

Among the bones which could be positively attributed to particular taxa, cattle were the most frequent species, accounting for 24% of the total assemblage. They were followed in order by sheep (18%) and pig (2%).

The range of animals at the site was very small. There was only one bone from a red deer and another from a cervid of unidentified species, and very few birds. This suggests that the community relied mostly for food on their cows and sheep, which made up the bulk of those species which could be positively identified. Although wild creatures are likely to have been hunted for food, hunting was clearly not common. However some of the lack of diversity may stem from the method of retrieval: bones were picked by hand, not sieved, so that bones from smaller species are likely to have been overlooked.

The methodology used to compile these proportions is that of NISP, number of identifiable specimens – essentially a count of the retrieved pieces of bone. This gives a useful overview of quantities (O'Connor 2001) but does not allow for the ways in which bones can be cut up or broken. Butchery, for instance, increases the number of potential fragments and therefore the apparent proportion of those animals that were butchered (Grayson 1984). The NISP analysis is offered here as a first-order view of the relative numbers of different species.

Sheep and cattle were by far the commonest animals, with pig the next most frequent. Horse was relatively uncommon, and dog was rare. Sheep and cattle tend to be the species most heavily represented at the majority of Roman sites (Noddle 1984). It is usual for more cattle than sheep to be recovered; but sheep had been very common in the Iron Age, and it is possible that in rural areas wool rather than beef production had been favoured as a way to benefit from the new Roman economy (Grant 1989).

In order to achieve a more accurate assessment of the relative proportion of species, analysis was made of the MNE, minimum number of elements. MNE has been used as it takes into account the repetition of zones (parts of the body) in each context, and so gives a more authentic assessment of the number of different animal carcases which went into the site assemblage (Grayson 1984). In order to make the data for bones more representative of

actual bodies, the figures for phalanges were divided by 4 for cattle and sheep. Figures for the general metapodial category in these species were also divided by 4, since these could be either metatarsals or metacarpals, but values specifically for metacarpals and metatarsals in sheep and cattle were left constant, as there are two of each of these in the skeleton, so they match with the frequency of other bones in the skeleton. For pig the figure for metatarsals (the only type of metapodial present) was divided by 4 since there are eight of them in the pig skeleton; the figure for phalanges was divided by 8 as there are sixteen of them in each pig. This creates a much fairer comparison between the elements (Lyman 1994). The number of probable carcases from the three major domesticates, after adjustment for MNE, was as follows:

Cattle	36
Sheep	52
Pig	7

The most commonly represented element was the mandible. For pig, the MNE was only 1 mandible, a figure much lower than that for sheep and cow, but this may simply be an artefact of the smaller sample size for pig. Otherwise the figures give a more realistic assessment of the relative numbers of sheep and cattle present in the settlement.

It is worth noting that the elements in all species which are most poorly represented are those that carry the most meat, such as the femur, humerus and scapula. By contrast, in sheep and cow the extremities – astragali, calcanei, metatarsals and metapodials – are well represented; sheep tibiae are also frequent. This may represent differential preservation, but is more likely to be the result of carcases being processed on site, with the meat joints taken elsewhere.

16 fragments displayed evidence of butchery in the form of cut and chop marks. The species and elements showing signs of butchery were as follows:

Cattle	6
Sheep	4
Pig	2
Large mammal	2
Medium mammal	2

Butchery marks were common on the extremities of animals, especially sheep and cattle, where they were found mainly on metapodials, calcanei and astragali. The scapula and pelvis also showed signs of butchery. But those bones which hold more meat, such as the humerus, were less well represented, and there were no femurs with signs of butchery on them.

The epiphyseal fusion and tooth wear of cattle, sheep and pig were recorded to profile the age range of animals. The epiphyses of different bones fuse at distinct ages, so that it is possible to tell how old an animal is by comparing the fused and the unfused bones. The evidence was as follows:

Cattle

Age at which element fuses	Element	Unfused	Fused
7-10 months	Scapula		1
7-10 months	Pelvis	1	
15-20 months	Humerus,d		1
24-30 months	Metatarsal		2
36 months	Calcaneus		1

Sheep

Age at which element fuses	Element	Unfused	Fused	Fusing
3-4 months	Humerus,d		1	
5 months	Scapula		1	
15-20 months	Tibia,d		3	1
20-24 months	Metacarpal	1		
20-24 months	Metatarsal		1	
42 months	Tibia,p		1	

Of the 6 bones of cattle, 1 came from an animal less than 7–10 months; the other 5 were from animals of that age or older, and at least 1 had lived to 36 months. Of the 9 bones of sheep, 2 came from animals less than 15–24 months, while all that can be said of the others is that they had lived beyond a range of ages from 3–4 months upwards; one at least was more than 42 months. The only recorded pig was less than 36–42 months in age.

Toothwear analysis involves looking at the state of eruption of teeth, and at the wear on existing teeth (Grant 1982). The estimated ages are as follows:

Cattle	
Mandibles/ loose teeth	Estimated age
4	15-26 months
2	3-6 years
6	6 years+

Sheep	
Mandibles/ loose teeth	Estimated age
12	6-12 months
6	12- 24 months
2	2-3 years
4	2-6 years
6	3-4 years
1	3-6 years
1	4-8 years
5	8 years +

Pig	
Mandibles/ loose teeth	Estimated age
2	Adult

Most cattle were above 3 years, and 6 animals were more than 6 years old. For sheep, by contrast, the most common age ranges are 6-12 months and 12-24 months, suggesting that lambs and yearlings were selectively targeted for slaughter. The evidence for pig suggests that animals were bred to full weight before being killed.

Discussion

The preponderance of cattle and sheep is not unusual for a rural settlement. Hunting, though evidently still carried out, accounted for next to nothing in the diet. Pigs were comparatively unimportant.

The presence of bones from the extremities of animals – metapodials, mandibles and so on – indicates that the butchering of animals took place on site. There was no question of joints being brought in, ready-cut, from sites elsewhere; if that were the case, the meat-bearing elements such as humerus and femur would be much more strongly represented. The reverse situation is more likely to be true, with carcases butchered on the site and the best joints traded or transported elsewhere. Cattle were mostly older than 3 years, and had therefore lived beyond the optimum age for slaughter. It is more likely that the cows were kept for milk, and the bullocks for ploughing, with animals slaughtered only after they had outlived their working use.

Sheep bones were present in sufficient numbers to allow for calculations of age range, and it should be possible to say whether the site had a consuming economy, with only animals of saleable age represented, or whether a breeding flock being kept. Although there is evidence for slaughter of lambs above 6 months and of yearlings, the overall evidence, with numerous older individuals, conforms to the model outlined by Wapnish and Hesse (1988: 85) of a producing economy, in which animals were kept for wool and not slaughtered for the table – although from the range of ages represented, the area may have been a mixed economy with the production of meat, wool and manure all playing their part. It is likely that there was a local industry producing wool for the London market.

Comparative context

The excavations of 1974–5 took place on ground which has been subject to archaeological assessment, at varying intensities, since the 1920s; some of this is classified as HER 1116, 1138, 1143, 1146, 1154, 1157, 1163 and 2571. The assessment which follows is based on manuscript sources and museum collections as well as published literature. Fuller details can be found in a report held at Bourne Hall Museum, *Stane Street North of Ewell*.

The new churchyard of St. Mary's (churchyard no. 4) lies to the east of Church Street on the slope of a hill. These slopes were formerly cultivated as part of the open fields and called Church Furlong; subsequently two houses were built at the foot of the slope, where it adjoins the street. In 1933 the Ewell Bypass cut through along the top of this field and at the same time a row of houses was built along its northern edge, where the land bounds London Road, with St. Mary's no. 4 churchyard laid out on a strip to the south of these houses. Subsequently more building development took place along the line of Church Street, so that today only Church Meadow, a field surrounded by these other developments, remains as open land. These developments have affected the available archaeological resource.

At the point where Stane Street crosses the present Church Street, at TQ 2211 6286, a Roman feature was found in 1929 and described as tiling or a floor, associated with oyster shells (Willis 1931: 3–4; Winbolt 1936: 231, 233). As this lies on the projected line of Stane Street it would seem to have been either the road surface itself or a closely associated feature. It lay six feet below ground level, perhaps because hill wash had redeposited topsoil at the foot of the slope.

In 1965 the northwest half of the camber and a side ditch of Stane Street were sectioned by drain trenches during redevelopment of land at TQ 2214 6290, a little further up the hill. The road surface, which consisted of rammed chalk and flints, was two feet below the present land surface although other Roman material came from depths of four to six feet; this comprised pottery of the first and second centuries, including late first century samian, and a bronze harness mount (Bourne Hall Museum Z 100). A coin of Constantius Chlorus was also found.

It is at here, at the crossing of the present Church Street, that Stane Street deviates twenty degrees to the east, bringing to an end the dogleg which links two parallel stretches of the road. Just to the east of this point, at TQ 2212 6285, two coins (Constans and Arcadius) were found in 1962, although a previous dig in 1960 had found no Roman features apart from a sherd of Portchester D (Morris 1967). Some pottery and a fragment of flue tile was found just west of Stane Street at TQ 2211 6289 in the building development of 1965, as was a pit at TQ 2211 6288.

Within the churchyard, a coin of Tetricus was found at TQ 2207 6292 in 1933, while two coins of Gallienus and one of Domitian as Caesar were reported from nearby (Winbolt 1936: 226, 231, 233); later, in 1965, a coin of Maximinianus was found later in the same area at TQ 2216 6301 (grave A112). Pottery, probably from pits, was found during gravedigging in 1936 (Winbolt 1936: 227) and 1937 (Bourne Hall Museum Z 122). A little further up the slope, pottery including a complete amphora rim was found in 1938 (Bourne Hall Museum Z 126).

Also found during gravedigging was a coin of Carausius (Frere 1943). Five coins of the late third and fourth centuries – Carausius, Allectus, Valens, Gratian and Arcadius – were found during allotment digging in 1946, apparently just to the east of the boundary separating the graveyard from Church Meadow (Guildford Museum AG.804 and 9735–8). Gravedigging in 1951 found a flint feature, about eighteen inches thick, at TQ 2215 6297 (grave H18). A little to the west, at TQ 2216 6298 (grave H30), a feature containing amphorae sherds in black earth was found in 1957 and interpreted as a ditch. Another coin, of Maximinianus, came from this sector of the churchyard in 1964, and another of Constans at TQ 2219 6301 (grave J77).

A little to the north at TQ 2219 6301 (grave J107), and closer to the line of Stane Street, another flint feature was found in 1959 (Likeman 1960). This, too, was eighteen inches thick, resting on the natural subsoil, and contained two substantially complete flue tiles embedded in it. Nearby trenching also found flints, although these formed a less thick layer. The grave adjoining to the south-east (J109) was found in 1961 to contain a pit, about five feet in diameter; pottery of the first and second centuries was found nearby along with part of a quern (other quern fragments, along with samian, had been reported in 1939 from an ill-defined location, apparently the air-raid shelters sectioned by test pits in 1974). Just to the north-east, graves J125–8 were found to have cut a ditch, which lay at right angles to Stane Street. This ditch was dated from the pottery fill to the third century.

At this point the line of Stane Street crosses into no.4 churchyard, and the sporadic evidence from gravedigging can be supplemented by the much fuller record afforded by the excavations of 1970–1 (Pemberton 1973). These confirmed that the first phase of Roman activity, beginning in the 50s AD, was associated with the construction of Stane Street. First the side-ditches were dug; only one of these, to the east of the road, was excavated (context R4). This was 0.4m deep, and had soon filled up with a light grey silt. Between the ditches, a cambered foundation of layers of grey sandy soil, twelve inches thick (context R3), was laid on the natural Thanet sand to make an even surface. The foundation layer of the road was overlaid by a layer of medium-size pebbles (context R2) set in orange sand. Its surface (context R1) was made up of flint nodules and larger pebbles embedded in yellow gravel, giving a road surface some 9m wide, although when excavated this was found to be bare of flints at either side; they seem to have been robbed out at some later date. Early in the history of the road, but at a time when 0.2m of soil had already accumulated on its surface, a long pit was dug on the east side of the road. It was 2.8m wide with an irregular profile, over 1m deep; to the north of the site, it cut right next to the road metalling, leaving no trace of the ditch R4, but further south it lay east of the ditch. This long pit may have been a quarry for the Thanet sand; it was filled with a deposit of clay mixed with some vegetation or organic material, which later decomposed to give the clay a lime-green colour.

In a second phase, lasting from about AD 80 to 160, a pavement or yard was laid out to the east of the road (contexts Y4 and 5), with an associated building (B1). The yard consisted of flints bedded in yellow clay, and was sealed by an occupation layer (context Y3). A dupondius of Vespasian, found in residual levels, dates from this phase. South of this yard was an open space some 2m wide, and beyond this lay building B1. Its walls were laid with courses of flint nodules, each about 15cm long, set as headers in a pale, yellow mortar, with a core of ovoid flints and squared chalk blocks. The building lay directly next to Stane Street, and in line with it, so that its western foundation trench cut the ditch R4. Two of its walls were excavated. The one to the west, butting onto the road, had an inner and outer face of flint with a central rubble core, giving an overall width of about 0.45m. The return wall on the north was more slenderly built, with two flint faces but no core, so that it was only 0.3m wide. The building had a floor of smooth-sided flint nodules set in a mortar base (context F1), most of which was later robbed, leaving only an area in the northwest corner; part of the northern wall was also robbed out.

Between the building and the yard an oval pit, 0.8m at its greatest diameter and more than 1m deep, was cut into the long pit at the edge of Stane Street. It was subsequently filled in four episodes of tipping (contexts F, E, D and C1), one of which included the head of a Colchester one-piece brooch dating from before AD 70. It was then sealed with a layer of flints and tiles (context CA).

During the main period of use of Building 1, from *c.* 120–160, debris was distributed over the area to its north, the scatter being most visible in a small midden area southeast of the oval pit. At least two postholes (1 and 2) were dug just north of the building, in the open ground that lay between it and the yard, and these may have supported some kind of lean-to or arcade.

During the same period a pit 1.3m at its greatest diameter (contexts CP1 and CP2) was dug to the north of the yard, cutting into its surface. This again was on the edge of Stane Street, and cut slightly into the road. The pit was shallow, only 0.3m, and a trench had been dug north-east/south-west through its centre to act as a flue. It was filled with charcoal, suggesting that it had been used for cooking.

Following these developments the third phase saw a hiatus in the life of the settlement, lasting from the late second to the mid fourth century, although at least one coin of Claudius Gothicus was found in later layers. This period may have seen alterations to, or disuse of, the building B1. Three postholes were dug through the mortared flooring. These may have been supports for the roof as it began to fall in. Otherwise there do not seem to have been any structures along the eastern edge of the road, and the only evidence of activity comes from abraded third century Alice Holt Farnham ware found in the general dark brown loam soil across the earlier features.

The fourth and final Roman phase, from *c.* 350 to 420, is represented by another structure, building B2, at the north of the site. This was again set up against the road, though on a slightly different alignment. The footings were of flints packed without mortar, and on these rested walls of flint nodules bonded with blocks of Reigate stone. Short stretches of the western and southern walls were excavated, along with a posthole just south of the corner. Whatever the original purpose of this building, it seems to have later been used for animals, since a gap was cut through its wall on the south side with a drainage gulley running downhill into what had been the cobbled yard. Coins from this phase included Constantine I, Constantius II and Valens, all found in later soil accumulation apart from one of Constantius which had worked its way down to the Stane Street surface.

Concluding discussion

The Roman settlement at Ewell came into being when road engineers routed Stane Street across the upper valley of the Hogsmill. The road ran straightfrom London to the crest of the hill where St. Mary's churchyard now stands, continued on this course down the slope to the line of the present Church Street, then deviated slightly to the east in order to avoid the wet ground at the head of the stream. From here it ran across the valley and up the hill towards Epsom, where a second, westward deviation set the road parallel to its original course.

Sections cut in the road as it runs through Ewell have now confirmed its course, its date, and its method of construction (Hall & Pemberton 2006; Hall 2008: 242–6). The road was laid out in the 50s AD, a date which is supported by evidence from Southwark. Ditches were cut on either side and between them the ground was scarped where necessary, and then built up with an agger up to 11m wide, made with a foundation of pebbles in sand, a bank of yellow gravel, and then a metalled surface of flint. There has been debate over the route across the low-lying ground between the present Church Street and Bypass, although this has now been substantially settled by trial trenches; in any case, this does not affect projections of the London Road route over the churchyard site (Hall 2008: 246). It is possible that in the later Roman period, the road was not maintained on its original route, or in its original condition, and it may have been supplemented by other routeways. A case has been made for a later diversion south of the site towards the springs at Bourne Hall (Bird 2002: 41–45), and by the third century there was a parallel or replacement road running west of the original line through the site at Purberry Shot (Lowther 1946–7). However, the line of Stane Street through the churchyard site remained the point of entry to Ewell.

Within a generation of the road's arrival, properties were being laid out beside it; Building 1 of the 1970–1 excavations seems to have been constructed by the end of the first century. The churchyard site must have been on the outskirts of Ewell, where the natural focus of the settlement has always been in the valley above the river where the present crossroads lie. The development of buildings on the slope north of the springs is likely to have been a deliberate decision, probably inspired by commercial considerations, to lay out properties where they would first catch the eye of travellers coming out of London.

Building 1 abutted onto the road on its eastern side. It was a timber structure resting on mortared flint foundations, with a rammed chalk floor. Strip buildings like this – each in its own plot, normally having three or even four rooms – are well known from sites in the City of London, such as the Newgate Street site (Perring 1991 fig. 21) and have also been found facing street frontages in the suburb in Southwark (Drummond-Murray, Thompson & Cowan 2002 fig. 56). To the north of Building 1 lay an area of open ground some 5m wide, and then a cobbled yard 8m wide. The cobbled surface found in 1974–5, on the western side of the road, was also 8m wide and showed signs of having had straight edges at right angles to the road. Flint features reported earlier from graves H18 and J107, both stated to be .45m thick, may represent other yards, and a ditch which was sectioned in graves J125–8, and which lay at right angles to the road, may have been another property boundary.

The ribbon development of the buildings, the cobbled surfaces beside them, and the boundaries at right angles to the road, all suggest that these individual structures occupied plots of land at regular intervals along the highway. Similar plots have been found alongside Stane Street at Alfoldean (Luke & Wells 2000 fig. 2, 79 & 99) and others are known from Enfield (Dearne 2008: 90-92), Heybridge in Essex (Atkinson & Preston 1998 fig. 8), and Westhawk Farm at Ashford in Kent (Booth, Bingham & Lawrence 2008). The pattern which emerges is one of properties set out to the right and left of the road and demarcated by fences and ditches, within which the owners or tenants laid out buildings suitable for the sale of goods and services, and had them flanked by areas of hard standing suitable for animals, as well as open areas which could have served as small gardens.

Although this roadside settlement may had been laid out to attract passing trade, the residents did not maintain it as originally planned. By the second century pits were being dug in the open spaces between buildings, at least one of them right up against the edge of the road. The presence of charcoal fill suggests that this may have been a kind of barbecue area, preparing roast food. But other features, such as the accumulation of a small midden and the build-up of soil on the surfaced yards, suggest neglect. Building 1 seems to have been extended with a rough lean-to on the northern side. Over the next hundred years a number of small pits and hollows were cut around the cobbled yards and used for burning household waste. These may be more visible in the archaeological record than they were at the time; they could simply represent house clearance into bonfires and pits each winter before renovation for the summer trade. Certainly the evidence of the pottery suggests that there were continued imports of amphorae full of oil, Oxfordshire flagons and mortaria, and samian table ware (at least until AD 150). These could all have supplied roadside inns.

Throughout the third and early fourth century, the same disparity exists between poor physical maintenance of the site and an apparently continued level of material prosperity. The sagging roof of Building 1 was held up by posts bedded in the chalk floor. But during the same period coins minted between 260 and 296 were being dropped, lost or redeposited in large numbers, and while their abundance may partly be explained by their low value – and, for issues of Carausius and Allectus, by a demonetisation of the usurpers' currency – nevertheless there must have been significant trade for the coins to be present in the first place.

At some time around AD 350 building work began again. New ditches were cut alongside Stane Street, an action which suggests central rather than local involvement. There may have been a reallocation of property, since new buildings were constructed away from the old ones. Building 2, set out uphill from its predecessor, was another timber-framed structure resting on a foundation wall of flint and Reigate stone. On the other side of the road, the presence of three postholes and a gully is evidence for a cruder mode of building. At the head of the gulley, a hollow was dug out to take a cow's head bedded in clay. If this was a ritual deposit, as seems likely, then the building may have been a byre intended for livestock. Similar deposits have been recorded at Hatch Furlong, where the skull lay on a plinth of pebbles at the top of a shaft (Cotton & Sheldon 2006), and in a pit found in the 2014 season at Church Meadow, a little to the south and east of the 1974–5 excavations (Cowlard in prep). Another gully was later cut through the walls of Building 2; this would hardly have been necessary on a well-drained hillside unless, like its neighbour across the road, the building was being used for animals and a drain was needed to wash out the slurry. Building 2 was slightly out of alignment with the road, and the byre opposite even more so, which implies that after the recut ditch had silted up again, the course of Stane Street was no longer obvious. The pottery from this phase includes vessels handmade locally with grog, shell and flint tempers, suggesting impoverishment; but the coin evidence shows that the site continued functioning until at least the 390s.

Where did Ewell fit into the southern hinterland of Roman London? Since the settlement covered at least 6 hectares, it has been considered as a small town (Millett 1992: 155 & 192), but the layout revealed by excavations in the churchyard and elsewhere (Stansbie & Score 2004: 213–4) suggests that it is better regarded as a roadside settlement. It came into being with the road, and its boundary ditches run behind and parallel to the road, as if that was the only line of settlement (Lowther 1935: 17–18; Pemberton & Harte 2011: 245–6). Given the absence of any substantial evidence for Roman settlement at Merton (Miller & Saxby 2007), Ewell emerges as a natural stopping-place, the last settlement for travellers into London and the first for those on their journey southwards. Sites elsewhere in the London hinterland have shown the same pattern of vigorous growth in the first and second centuries, decline in the third, and a revival on a more local scale in the 350s (Sheldon & Schaaf 1978: 82). Whenever London was expanding, and its travellers were seen along the road from the city, Ewell prospered; when traffic died, Ewell died too.

Some goods came up the road from the Weald and Surrey hills, among them iron ore, querns, and building stone quarried from the Greensand beds. Most trade, however, was from the north. At 20km out of London, Ewell lay at the furthest distance accessible in a single day by an ox-cart, with its estimated speed of about 3 km per hour. Some prestige goods, such as samian, could have been brought in on foot, but the presence of terrets, chains and goad tips suggests a regular passage of carts, and bulk goods such as amphorae and the Oxfordshire and Verulamium wares would have been brought in by this route.

Lying at the border of the London Clay and the North Downs, Ewell was well situated to act as a redistribution centre as well as an entrepot for factors buying up food and fuel for the city. The evidence from animal bones suggests that it was a market for agricultural produce from farmsteads on the chalk hills. Orton (1997: 118) has suggested that the village was a centre at which cattle were slaughtered so that meat products could be sent up to London, but urban areas normally receive their meat on the hoof. It is more plausible, given the close association in the ancient world between religious festivals and animal slaughter, that the cattle were killed for feasting at some kind of fair associated with a local shrine. Ewell had two candidates for this – the area where coins and brooches were deposited at the Hogsmill springs (Bird 2004:147), and the square ritual shafts at the Hatch Furlong site (Cotton & Sheldon 2006).

It is clear that some level of trade resulted from Ewell's position on the road network, but it is not obvious how important this was to the local economy. Subsistence agriculture must have supported the community during the intervals – sometimes amounting to generations – when the prosperity of London itself was in decline. Local people were prepared to dig their rubbish pits next to the road, rip up its surface, and built cattle-sheds next to it; this suggests rural rather than urban priorities.

Their material culture, too, points to variable levels of Romanisation. Samian was being acquired up until the mid second century, but after that fewer vessels are present even though new forms continued to be manufactured at the Continental kilns. This may reflect the general availability of the ware in Britain, or it may result from diminished access to or interest in the later productions. The fact that so many vessels were carefully mended with rivets suggests that they were kept as heirlooms. The presence of other fine table wares, and of mortaria and amphorae, shows that people had taken on Roman food culture. Their appearance similarly conformed to the norms of the Empire. Men and women managed their looks with tweezer and ear-pick sets, and fastened their clothing with brooches; a sprung Colchester brooch dated to the first century but may have been kept for some time before being lost. Women valued simple rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings. They wore their hair in elaborate styles, probably influenced by images from elsewhere in the Roman world. It was held up by bone pins with transverse grooves beneath a bead head, known to be in use during the first and second centuries, and contemporary with plain bone and copper alloy hair pins with a conical heads (Crummy 1983: 21). Pins are typically lost at sites with cobbled areas between buildings and near a road (Allason-Jones 2005: 133), which matches the situation in the properties flanking Stane Street. Evidently, up to AD 160 or thereabouts, there were well-dressed women to be seen in and around the buildings that faced the road, drumming up trade from passers-by.

The most telling evidence for Romanisation, however, is the stylus found on the cobbled yard west of Stane Street – assuming, as seems reasonable, that it was being used for writing by one of the residents of the buildings. A bowl or a brooch could have been acquired as a prestige item by someone who was otherwise living a traditional agrarian lifestyle; but literacy (which is well-attested in Ewell; see Pemberton & Harte 2011: 246) implies a longterm commitment to learning formal Latin as well as reading and writing. Children, including slave children selected for an administrative future, could spend up to five years being schooled.

It is significant, however, that the evidence for Romanisation in Ewell all points to the early years of the settlement, and that after the second century the evidence for fine wares and quality dress fittings dies away. In any case the main source of pottery was never London; at first it came from the Alice Holt kilns, and then by the fourth century from the kilns at Overwey and elsewhere which produced Portchester D. These products were delivered to Ewell, not via Stane Street, but along the trackways which skirted the north edge of the downland. Indeed, it is possible to see the whole North Downs trackway, from Farnham to the Medway, as a natural corridor which existed before the imposition of the Roman road network based on London, and which was always liable to reassert itself when the pull of civilisation faded. In the end, after the crises of the fifth century, it was this older pattern which prevailed.

Appendix 1

Pottery fabric definitions

The most common source of tablewares in Roman Ewell was the Alice Holt Farnham group of potteries. The Alice Holt Surrey ware (AHSU) is the earliest, *c.* AD 50–160, having a light grey sandy core fabric with a darker margin and surfaces, examples being given by Lyne and Jefferies (1979: 20–33), Davies, Richardson & Tomber (1994: 97–101) and Millett (1979 types 1–3, 9–10 and 16–21). Some vessels in a light grey sandy fabric continued beyond *c.* AD 160 up to *c.* AD 250, such as various jars with lattice decoration and bowls with triangular rims and those with incipient flanges, all coinciding with an Alice Holt black-burnished style ware. The later Alice Holt Farnham ware (AHFA), dated *c.* AD 250–400 and widespread in London and the South-East, has a finer mid-grey reduced ware often with off-white to bluish-grey slip and a black slip giving the appearance of black burnishing, in a wide range of closed and open vessels; there are examples in Lyne and Jefferies (1979; 20–33) and Millett (1979 types 6–8, 11–15 and 22–37). The last phase of the AHFA potteries has been identified at the nearby Overwey kilns (Clark 1950) where hooked-rimmed jars and bowls are popular in a buff fabric having all-over horizontal body rilling. These vessels have been identified at Leatherhead and elsewhere in the South-East (Hall & Stanley 2008) and at Portchester, where they have been classed as Portchester D ware (Fulford 1975) and dated *c.* AD 350–400.

AMPH Amphorae vessel types set out in Peacock and Williams (1986).

BB1 Black burnished handmade fabric, having a shiny surface with an acute angled lattice decoration. Normally everted jar and flat-rimmed bowl with rounded base edges *c.* AD 120–400.

BB2 A popular wheel-made ware with highly burnished 'silky' surface with acute latticed decoration on everted rim jar or triangular rim bowl/dish with chamfered base. AD 120–250.

BBS A black burnished styled ware, with sandy handmade fabric, the surface having a fine acute lattice. Everted rim jars and flat/plain rimmed bowl/dishes, *c.* AD 120–400. Davies, Richardson & Tomber 1994: 110.

CALC Misc. calcite-tempered wares. *c.* AD50–400.

COLC Colchester colour-coated ware. Mostly beaker forms. AD 140+.

FG Fine reduced wares. Mostly beakers and flagons. AD 75–120.

FINE A range of open vessels in fine unsourced micaceous reduced fabric. Up to AD 160.

FLINT Misc. flint tempered wares. *c.* AD50–200.

FOX Fine oxidised wares. AD 50–400.

GCC Misc. colour coated wares, *c.* AD 50–400.

GROG A grog-tempered handmade ware in open vessels. Davies, Richardson & Tomber 1994: 168. *c.* AD 40+.

HWC Highgate Wood sandy ware, with a reddish-grey core fabric. Appears in necked or everted jars, poppyhead and everted rim beakers and round bodied bowl/dishes. *c.* AD 70–160.

HOO Hoo flagons in light red fabric coated with a white slip. *c.* AD 50–100.

KOLN Beakers with a dark colour coat, having barbotine and other decoration, distributed from the lower Rhineland. AD 75–250. Tyers 1996: 146–8.

LOMI Mica-gilded wares in fine grey fabric with brown or yellowish surfaces. Beakers and flagons. Green 1980.

LOXI Local oxidised wares. Flagons, bowls and lids. AD 120–160.

MHAD Much Hadham ware. Flagons and bowls. AD 200–400.

MICA Mica-gilded wares. Green 1980.

MOSL Trier black-slipped ware (*Moselkeramik*). Motto beakers. AD 175–250.

NVCC Nene-valley colour coated ware in white or orange, with grey core fabric. Vessels are tall beakers with raised 'hunt scenes', or rouletting, and shallow round 'castor' bowls. AD 150–400. Perrin 1999: 87–100.

OXID Oxidised wares at different times, from *c.* AD 50– 400.

OXRC Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware with grey core. Bowls normally copy samian forms. AD 270–400. Tyers 1996:175–178.

OXWW Oxfordshire white ware. Usually mortaria. AD 180–400

PORD Portchester yellow/brown buff ware, with rilled surfaces on hooked rim jar and a plain bowl/dish. Distribution southern Britain and London: Tyers 1996: 195, Symonds & Tomber 1991.

RWS Roman miscellaneous red- and white-slipped wares. AD 50–300.

SAND Sand tempered grey/buff brown fabric wares, from *c.* AD 50–400.

SHEL Shell-tempered ware.

VCWS Verulamium region course white-slipped wares on a red fabric in flagon types. AD 70–200.

VRR Verulamium region red wares with white slip in collared flagons. *c.* AD 50–160.

VRW Verulamium region white ware has the most prolific products. The main ranges are every flagon type, beakers with raised ring and dot decoration, moulded rim bowl. *c.* AD 50–160.

Appendix 2

Three Roman brooches from Castle Parade, Ewell (fig. 7)

In 1934, during construction of shops at the site, a foundation trench at the rear revealed the structure and alignment of Stane Street (Lowther 1935: 32, fig. 16). In 1955, the three brooches were provided with anecdotal site evidence by Tom Walls, who referred to a pipe trench and its spoil-heap. The brooches therefore came from about TQ 222 631, a little to the north-east of the structures found in the St. Mary's Churchyard excavation of 1970–1. Since Walls did not mention any flints or other evidence of metalling, they appear to derive from a roadside feature and not the road itself.

I am grateful to Jon Cotton for the drawings, and to both him and Jeremy Harte for site information.

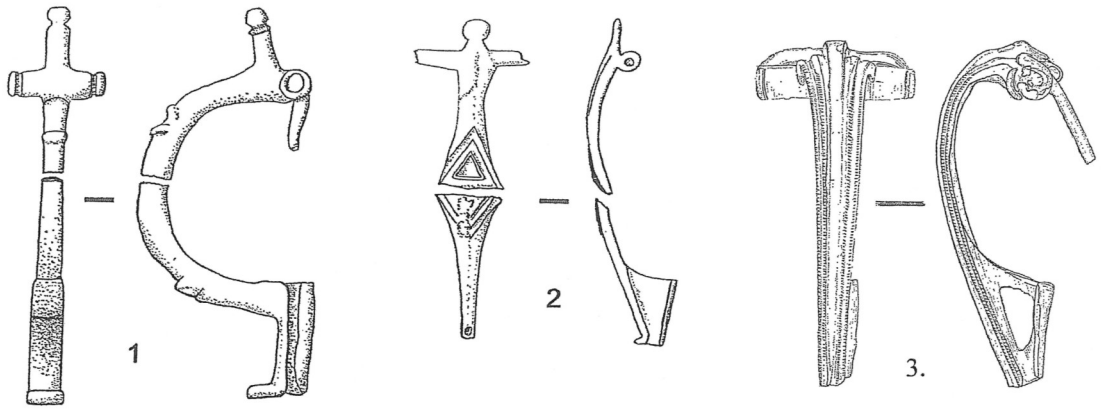


Figure 7. Brooches from Castle Parade. Scale 1:1

1. Light crossbow brooch with very narrow highly arched bow, having a central collared head knob on a narrow crossbar, which contains a hinged pin mechanism. Slight mouldings appear at the top and base of the bow, which has a narrow sheath-foot. Leaded bronze alloy, formerly gilded. The type is Crummy 1983: 15 fig.13 no.73, and type 191A in Hull (forthcoming); it is known from London sites and at Colchester. First half of third century.
2. South-west T-shaped hinged brooch with the head as a cast tab above a flat section bow down to a triangular catchplate with a miniature foot knob. A middle bow with an enamelled lozenge shaped plate having incised y-grooved edges. Hull type 122, with a Wiltshire and west country distribution. Post-Flavian, perhaps into second century.
3. Large two-piece Colchester type brooch with ten spring coils held in a semi-circular crossbar. The central rib and cavetto sides have ribbed decoration down the entire bow to the foot with its triangular catchplate having a cut-out. This type is Crummy 1983:11 fig. 6 no 48, and Hull type 92; it is known at sites throughout the South-East. *c.* AD 50–70.

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Acknowledgements

The excavation of the site, undertaken throughout 1974–5 in all weathers, was made possible by a committed group of volunteers from the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society (now the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society), together with members of other neighbouring archaeological societies. I am deeply grateful to them all. The site was directed by Frank Pemberton in 1974 and by James Barfoot and Richard Temple in 1975.

In writing the finds reports, I am grateful for the advice of Dr. Robin Symonds, formerly of the Museum of London, for his assistance with the pottery report, especially the mortaria. The pottery report was not possible without the considerable commitment spent by the late Peggy Bedwell and the late Margaret Nobbs of the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society. Much help was received from the Society and its archaeology group, most of all the regular team of Peggy Bedwell, Nikki Cowlard, Alfie Hine, David Hartley, Margaret Nobbs, Phil Stanley, with Chris and Gay Harris who also prepared finds for the Bourne Hall Museum archive in liaison with Jeremy Harte, the curator.

For the samian report, I am grateful to Jon Cotton, whose original notes on the decorated pieces were revised by Joanna Bird in 2007. Thanks also to Geoff Marsh, formerly of University College, Cardiff, for his notes on the plain samian, and to Brenda Dickinson for those on the stamped pieces. Thanks go to a number of other specialists for their advice on reports, and also to Jennifer Rose Jones for extracts from her thesis on animal bone from the churchyard sites. David Hartley and Claire Winfield prepared the maps and plans. Thanks also to Alan Hall for digitising the line drawings.

It goes without saying that without the endless commitment of Jeremy Harte, curator at Bourne Hall Museum, to sub-editing in collaboration with the author, it is difficult to see how this report would have been achieved.

I would also like to thank the three referees who peer-reviewed this report. Thanks are also due to Nikki Cowlard, secretary of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society, for encouraging the author and co-ordinating publication, and to colleagues in the Society for supporting this, the first in a proposed series of archaeological monographs reporting on its earlier excavations.

Excavations in 1974–5 revealed the Roman road known as Stane Street as it ran from London into the ancient settlement of Ewell. A history was traced for the road over 300 years and a flint cobbled surface with evidence of structures was uncovered along the western edge of the road. This report compares what was found with a sequence of buildings, pits, middens, postholes, hearths and cobbled surfaces found along the eastern side of the road and in the near vicinity, and dating from the first to the fourth century. It shows how the wayside settlement of Ewell grew, flourished and declined as part of Roman civilisation in South-East Britain.

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