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EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE OF ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH, BREAD STREET, LONDON, 1973-74

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THE SITE:

The site of St. Mildred's Church is situated on the east side of Bread Street about mid-way between Cannon Street and Queen Victoria Street in the western half of the Roman and Saxon city of London (Fig. 1A). It was the first excavation to be completed by the Department of Urban Archaeology, and was undertaken during a period of six weeks in December 1973 and January 1974. The excavation was under the general supervision of Mark Guterres, parts of the site recording being carried out by Andrew Caldwell and Peter Murphy. The published illustrations were drawn by Vanessa Mead and Howard Pell.

GEOLOGY AND SUMMARY

The natural subsoil of this site comprised a mixture of brickearth and sand and gravel at a height of 9.50 m–10 m above O.D. The site, however, lay at the southern edge of the Taplow Terrace of the Thames, just south of which originally existed the steep slope down to the edge of the Thames and the flood-plain terrace.

The first major use of the site seems to have been the extensive dumping of brickearth (Periods 1 and 2) in preparation for the construction of a stone building during the first century A.D. (Period 3). Following the demolition of the building there seems to have been some extensive clearance of rubble from the site, which was in turn followed by the dumping of more brickearth (Period 4).

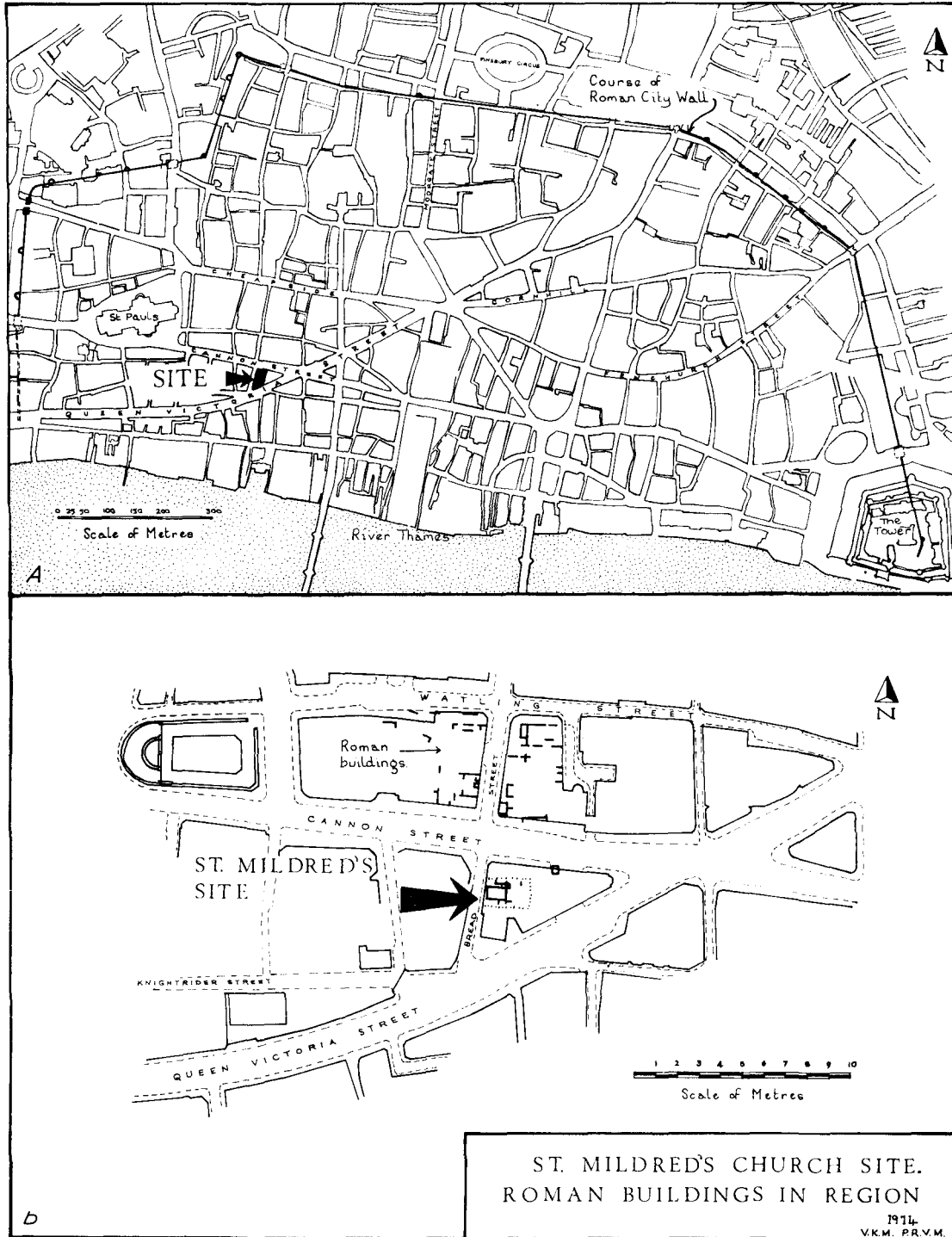


Fig. 1. St. Mildred's Church. Location of site.

During the Saxon period a sunken hut was constructed and occupied (Period 5), this evidently being part of a development which has also been located on a nearby site. Probably associated with the hut were a series of rubbish pits.

The dedication suggests that the church of St. Mildred (Period 6) may have had a Saxon origin, but this was not supported by the limited archaeological evidence which favours the twelfth century. Probable traces of the earliest church were found, together with evidence of at least two later periods of church construction, which includes a tower, dating prior to the destruction of the church in the Great Fire of 1666. Subsequently the church was rebuilt by Wren.

PERIOD 1 (Fig. 2):

The earliest traces of human occupation on this site were very fragmentary and comprised three shallow depressions or gullies and one shallow pit, all cut into the underlying natural subsoil. It would be tempting to suggest that the gullies were slots to contain the sleeper beams of a timber framed building, but as, in fact, two of the "gullies" ("a" and "b") were seen only in section (Section A-B, Fig. 3) it is clearly not certain that they were gullies. Also, as other sections did not show evidence of gullies, and there was no "occupation debris" associated with them, it is difficult to conclude that there was an early timber building on the site.

GULLIES "a" AND "b":

Two shallow angular depressions which were seen in section only (Section A-B, Fig. 3), and had been dug into the natural subsoil. Each was about 100 mm deep and 300 mm across. It is possible, however, that this section may have been cut at an oblique angle to the alignment of the gullies and that their true width could have been less than 300 mm.

GULLY "c":

This was a shallow gully or slot in the natural subsoil about 100 mm deep and 200 mm wide (Fig. 2). It was traced for a distance of 1.40 m, but its eastern end was very shallow, being only 20 mm deep. Its western end was not located at a point 2 m west of the excavation in which the gully was revealed.

PIT 1:

This was a small pit which had been cut by Gully "c" (Fig. 2). It was no more than 300 mm deep and was U-shaped in cross-section.

DATING EVIDENCE:

No dating evidence was found in the pit or gullies though as these were the earliest features on the site it is clear that they should be of pre-Flavian date. Three sherds of indeterminate date were recovered from the small Pit 1 (p. 194, Nos. 1-3, not illustrated).

PERIOD 2A:

An even deposit of brickearth, the "Lower Clay Dump" (shown in Fig. 3, Sections A-B, C-D; Fig. 4, Sections E-G, H-I, J-K, L-M), generally about 300 mm thick was laid over the natural subsoil and the features of period 1, and was found to extend over the whole area of the excavation where the archaeological deposits remained undisturbed. It seems likely that this may have been in preparation for building development on the site—perhaps the period 3 building. A few traces of disturbance to the dump were located, Pit 3, in Section C-D, for example, but these all pre-dated the construction of the period 3 building, and none of the disturbances were sufficiently extensive to suggest that there was any significant occupation of the site prior to the construction of the period 3 building.

The "Lower Clay Dump" described above contained very little pottery or building material (Fig. 10, No. 15), though some pieces of Kentish ragstone were observed in Section L-M (Fig. 4). The ragstone appeared to be a rough jumble of unfaced pieces which had been included in the brickearth brought from elsewhere in the City.

PIT 2:

A small pit-like cut into the "Lower Clay Dump", Section H-I (Figs. 2 and 4) was filled with clean brickearth.

GULLY "d":

This was a small depression in the top of the "Lower Clay Dump" and was seen only in Section H-I (Figs. 2 and 4). There is no evidence that it may have once contained a timber sill beam of a building, and indeed the apparent absence of similar features in the other sections indicates that no phase of Roman timber building existed on top of the dump of brickearth.

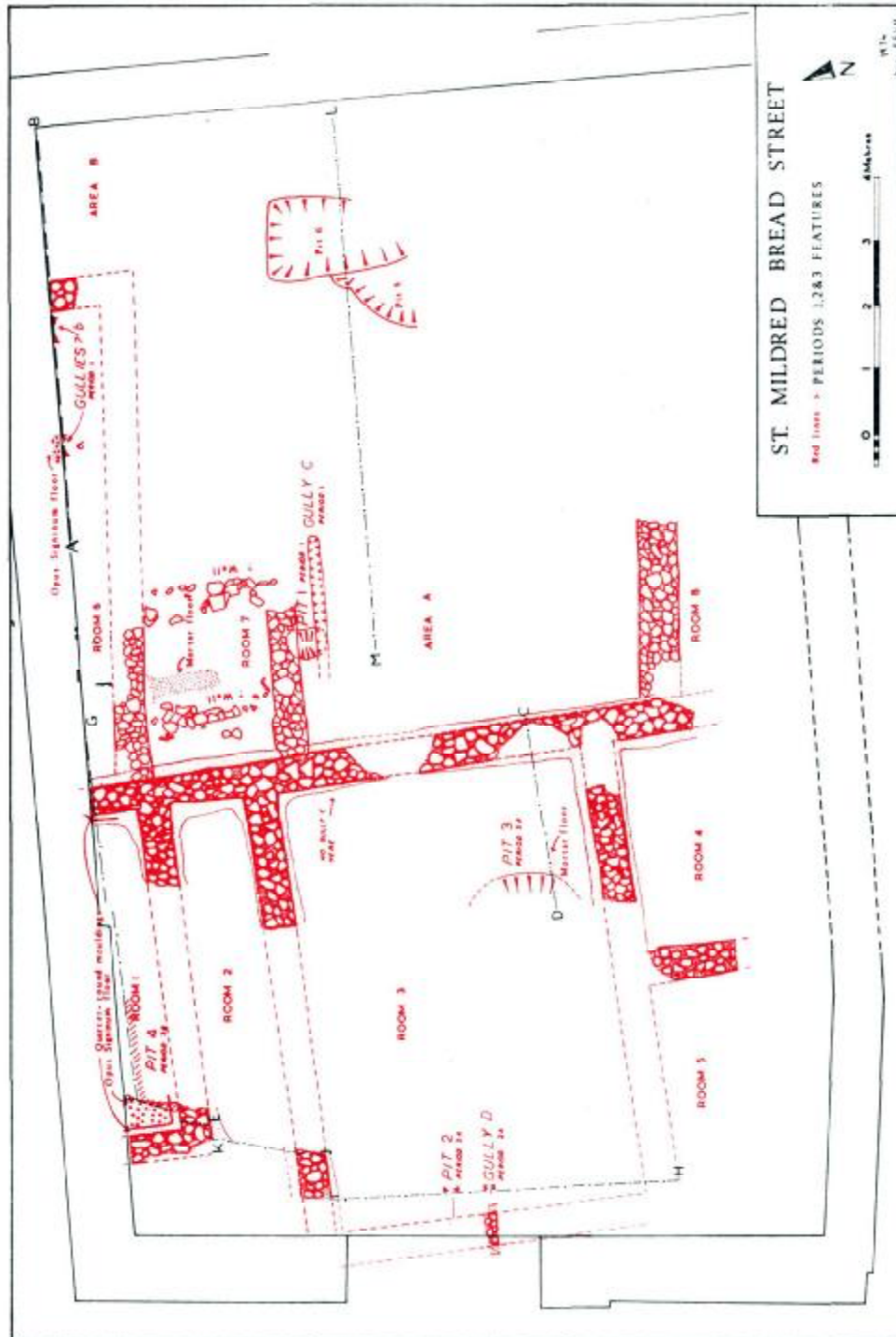


Fig. 2. St. Mildred's Church. Roman features, Periods 1, 2, 3 (in red) and location of sections.

PIT 3:

This was a pit cut into the "Lower Clay Dump" and had a straight side and a flat bottom (Section C-D, Figs. 2 and 3). It was filled with a later dump of brickearth, the "Upper Clay Dump". The pit had been cut by the later Pit 16.

DATING EVIDENCE AND SIGNIFICANCE:

No dating evidence was recovered, possibly indicating that the site did not remain open long before the next major phase of dumping occurred (Period 2B). Indeed, it is reasonable to suggest that the break in dumping between Periods 2A and 2B was merely a reflection of the method of dumping in layers, and that the Gully "d" could have been caused by something as simple as the wheels of heavily laden vehicles bringing clay to the site for dumping.

PERIOD 2B:

A new dump of brickearth, the "Upper Clay Dump" (shown in Sections A-B, C-D, H-I, J-K, Figs. 3 and 4), more orange in colour than the "Lower Clay Dump" over which it was deposited, ranged in depth from 200 mm-600 mm. It filled and overlay all the features associated with Period 2A, but only seems to have occupied the area subsequently covered by the Period 3 stone building.

PIT 4:

The limits of these layers (Section E-G, Layers 11-16, Fig. 4), which are interpreted as the contents of a pit dug into the "Upper Clay Dump", had been destroyed by the construction of the south wall of room 1 of the subsequent Period 3 Roman building, and by the post-Roman Pit 7. The Pit 4 deposits are shown in Section E-G (Figs. 2 and 4), and largely comprised clay containing ash and building materials.

DATING EVIDENCE:

Sherds of the latter half of the first century A.D. were recovered from the "Upper Clay Dump", though as the brickearth deposit in which they occurred had been brought from elsewhere the pottery gives merely a *terminus post quem* date for the dumping of the deposit (Fig. 10, Nos. 4-6).

PERIOD 3 (Fig. 2):

A Roman building with stone walls and foundations was eventually built on the "Upper Clay Dump", and it is perhaps significant that the extent of this deposit in the western half of the site largely coincided with the extent of the first phase of the stone building, whereas the underlying "Lower Clay Dump" appeared to extend over the whole site.

The construction of the Roman walls seems to have been carried out as follows: firstly, a foundation trench was dug into the dumped clay subsoil (Section E-F, Fig. 4), and in this was constructed the lower part of the wall foundation of ragstone and cement. The top level of each foundation was constant wherever it survived. Upon this foundation was built the wall, about 500 mm thick, of ragstone and buff mortar, faced with fairly neatly laid stone blocks. The greatest surviving height of the walls of the building were the north and south walls of Room 2, which stood about 450 mm high, and at that level had a course of red bonding tiles. This was 3.50 m below the present level of Bread Street, and should be considered with the evidence (pp. 192-193) of "ancient" charred wood and thick rubble walls encountered during the course of non-archaeological excavations below the floor of *St. Mildred's* in 1897-98. These operations were said to have penetrated to 16 ft (4.38m), but the precise depth at which individual structures were found was not recorded. An elevation of the west front of *Wren's church*¹ shows that the church floor was between 2-3 ft (610-914 mm) above street level.

Only part of the Roman building was found on this site, it clearly having extended both to the north of and to the south of the excavated area. It seems certain, however, that the eastern limit of the building in its primary phase was found, this being the east wall of Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4. During a secondary phase, rooms 6, 7 and 8 were added to the existing building.

ROOM 1:

Only the south end of this chamber was located, the remainder of the room lying beyond the northern limit of the excavation. The room was about 5 m wide (east-west), and contained traces of three phases of flooring. The earliest floor (Section E-F, Layer 8, Fig. 4) was constructed of pink cement containing many small fragments of brick to form a kind of *opus signinum*, and at the southern edge of the floor was a quarter-round moulding of pink mortar. This floor overlay a dump of brickearth (Layer 10) which had evidently been deposited to fill up the foundation trench of the south wall of this room and to level the room area. The earliest floor was overlaid by a rubbly layer containing much broken mortar and by a dump of brickearth (Layer 7) which may have been dumped to form a base for the second floor (Layer 4). The second floor was of white mortar and had a quarter-round moulding at the southern edge of the room. This was overlaid by an additional dump of orange-

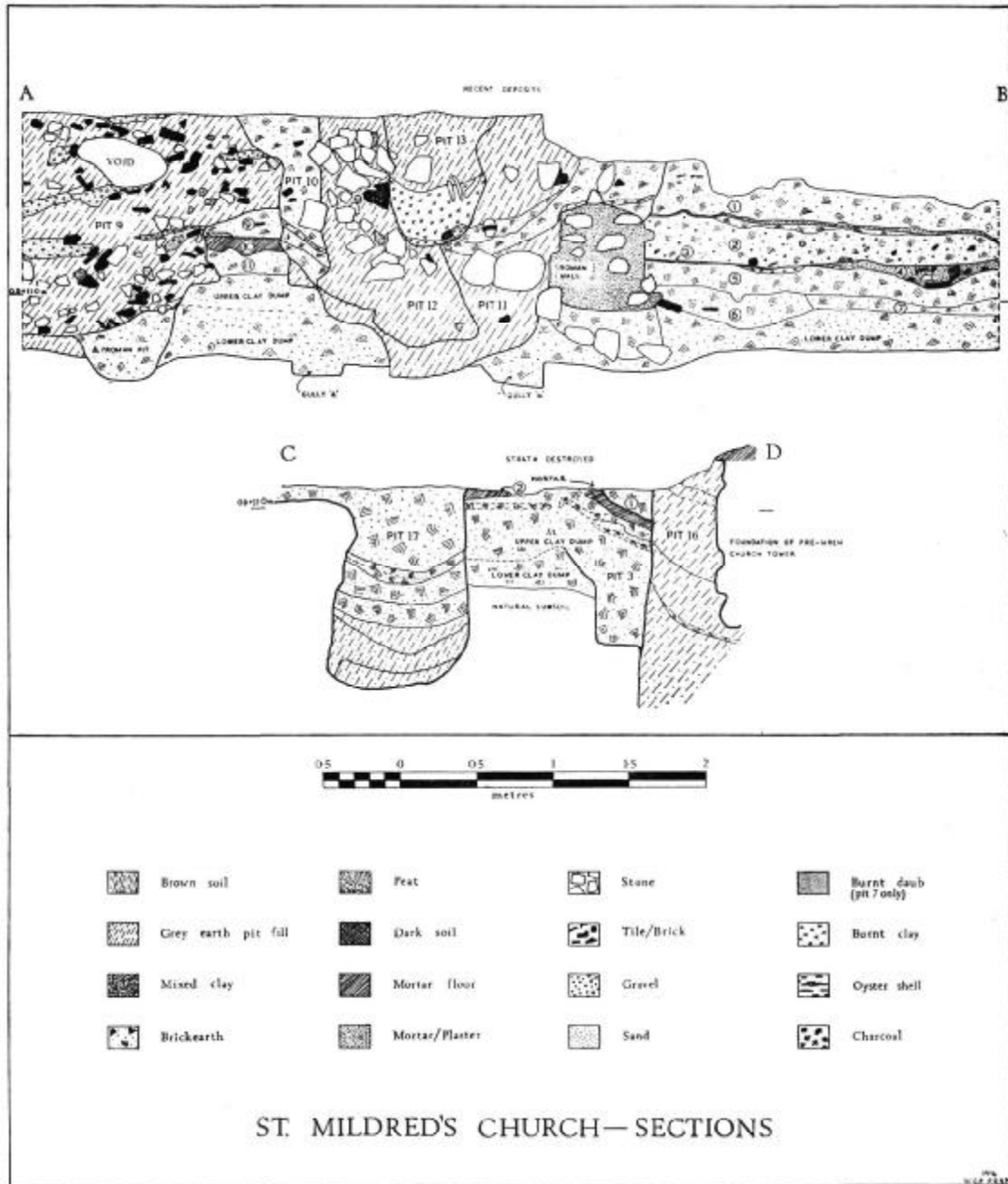


Fig. 3. St. Mildred's Church. Sections A-B, C-D.

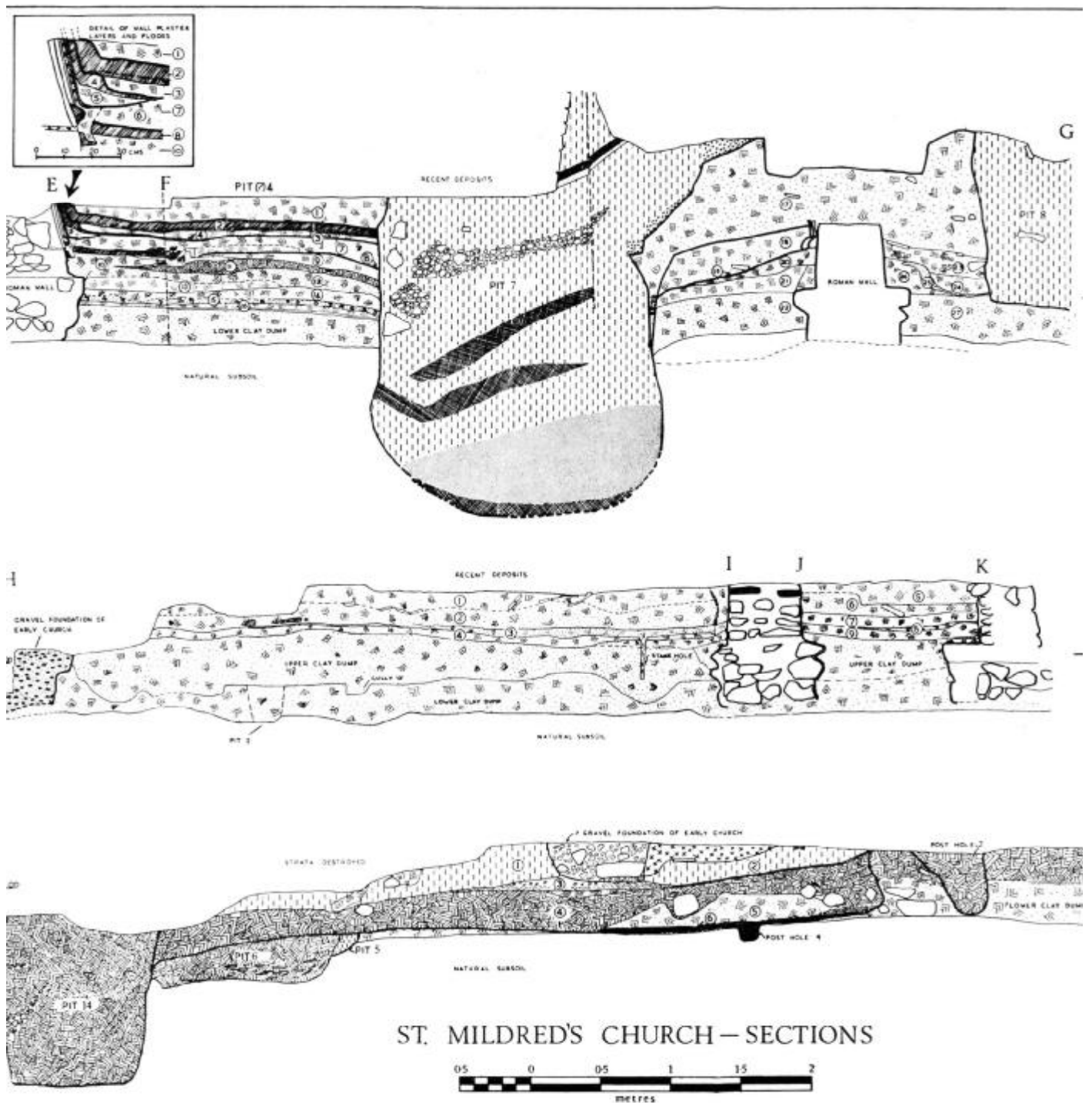


Fig. 4. St. Mildred's Church. Sections E-F-G, H-I-J-K, L-M

brown brickearth which contained many fragments of wall plaster (Layer 3), and was finally overlaid by the third floor (Layer 2), which was of *opus signinum* and also had a quarter-round moulding at the southern edge of the room.

Associated with each floor was a new surface of painted wall plaster, superimposed over those that had already been laid, the earliest floor having two plaster surfaces associated with it. This was superseded by yet another (Section E-F, Layer 6, Fig. 4) which overlay the quarter-round moulding of the first floor, perhaps to form an additional mortar floor (Fig. 4 insert). It is difficult to link up the western part of the section across this room with that to the east because a large medieval pit (Pit 7, Fig. 5) had been dug into the room and had removed certain key deposits. In addition, the floors of this chamber, especially the first and second floors (Section E-F, Layers 8 and 4, Fig. 4 insert) seem to have been either mostly worn away or otherwise removed, making it difficult to trace their position in the stratigraphical sequence across the room. The two quarter-round mouldings against the east wall of the room, however, would seem to have been parts of the first and second floors, and the overlying dump of brickearth (Layer 18, Fig. 4) seems to have been a continuation of Layer 3 which underlay the third floor (Layer 2).

ROOM 2:

This seems to have been a corridor about 1.20 m wide, and 7 m long—if one assumes that there was no cross wall in the central part of the chamber where later church burials had destroyed the Roman structures.

Section J-K (Fig. 4) across this room shows no definite trace of any mortar floors although, even if the floors had been worn away, it might be expected that some trace would have survived adjacent to the walls of the room. Instead the section shows a succession of deposits of clay, mostly brickearth, which may be interpreted in two alternative ways. They may represent a succession of clay floors, or they may have been dumps to raise the ground level above the surviving tops of the walls prior to the construction of a mortar floor.

The lowest deposit in Section J-K which completely overlay the "Upper Clay Dump" was Layer 9, a layer of brickearth which had a thin, grey, clayey upper surface which included flecks of charcoal—perhaps a trampled layer. This was overlaid by another dump of brickearth, Layer 7, above which was a thick layer of grey, sandy clay, Layer 6. The nature, form and thickness of this grey deposit is more consistent with a dumped deposit than with an "occupation layer". This was overlaid by an additional dump of brickearth (Layer 5), the top of which had been truncated by post-Roman disturbances.

ROOM 3:

This was a large chamber (assuming that no cross-wall existed across its destroyed central area) internally measuring about 6 m by 4.75 m.

Two sections (Sections C-D, Fig. 3 and H-I, Fig. 4) were investigated across this room, and as in Room 2 there was no clear evidence of any good mortar floor, except in Section C-D, Layer 2, and it seems likely that the deposits, which mostly comprised layers of dumped brickearth and other debris, were either dumped to raise the floor level soon after the walls of the building had been completed, or represent a succession of clay floors.

In Section H-I the "Upper Clay Dump" was overlaid by a deposit of brickearth (Layer 4) which seems to have formed a floor or working surface. This deposit also overlay the brickearth layer which had been used to fill in the foundation trench of the north wall of this room. Clay Layer 4 was overlaid by Deposit 3, a layer of dark brown and black sandy clay containing much charcoal which may be interpreted as a working surface or as an occupation level. A small post hole or stake hole was recorded in Section H-I descending from Layer 3, perhaps indicating construction activity within the room during this phase. Two dumps of brickearth and other debris, Layers 1 and 2, overlay Layer 3, and the upper of these two deposits seems to have slightly overlain the top of the north wall of Room 3, indicating that it had been dumped after the stone building had been demolished.

The deposits in Section C-D (Fig. 3), however, were more disturbed by later features, though even here some significant information had survived. Overlaying the "Upper Clay Dump" and pre-dating the construction of the stone building, were several thin deposits of brickearth, all of which sloped steeply down to the west—this slope presumably indicating some form of tip or subsidence into an earlier pit which had largely been dug away by the post-Roman Pit 16 (Fig. 5). Of particular interest was the mortar layer (Layer 2) overlaying the clay deposits, which is perhaps best interpreted as a floor of the stone building, the survival here having been due to the land subsidence. A thin layer of brown soil overlay the floor, and above that was a dump of brickearth (Layer 1).

ROOM 4:

This was a small chamber about 3.40 m wide (east–west), which extended southwards beneath the pre-1666 tower of the church. No definite floor surface was recorded.

ROOM 5:

Traces of only the east wall of this room were found: the presumed north, west and south walls could not be located as they either lay beyond the limits of the excavation or had been destroyed. Assuming that the west wall of Room 3 had continued southwards to form the west wall of Room 5, it may be conjectured that Room 5 was about 3 m wide (east–west).

ROOM 6:

This room had suffered a very considerable amount of later disturbance with the result that the positions of the walls and the associated stratigraphy are very difficult to interpret. Indeed, more than one room might have existed, but in the absence of any evidence it is here assumed that Room 6 was one chamber.

The south wall of this room had clearly been added to the east wall of Room 1, the foundation of the former being separated from that of the latter by a straight joint. Only the bottom of the foundation of this south wall had survived beneath the later disturbances. Its foundation was different from the construction of the east wall of Room 1, for it had been built of rough pieces of ragstone, tiles (mainly *tegulae*) and lumps of mortar, and the whole foundation had been dug into some of the underlying dumps of brickearth.

The east wall of the room was only recorded in section (Section A–B, Fig 3). It was a little different in build from the walls in the western part of the site, its construction comprising a ragstone and yellow mortar wall and foundation on top of a lower foundation apparently of unmortared ragstone set in clay—this suggesting the existence of more than one period of construction. There were possible traces of a course of bonding tiles at the top of the wall.

What may have been the floor of this room had survived in a small undisturbed area between Pits 9 and 10 (Section A–B, Layer 10). This was a floor of *opus signinum* which had been built on top of a dump of brickearth. It is perhaps significant that the “offset” on the west face of the east wall of this room coincided in level with the *opus signinum* floor, indicating that the floor and wall were originally directly associated.

ROOM 7:

This was a chamber about 2 m wide (north–south) adjacent to Room 6, and it had clearly been added to the earlier Room 2 for the foundations of its north and south walls had been built up against the east wall of Rooms 2 and 3. The north wall of Room 7 was also the south wall of Room 6 and has already been described under Room 6. The foundation of the south wall of Room 7 had survived, this being of the same generally rough construction as the north wall of the room. A small portion of Roman mortar floor was found in an area of shallow subsidence in this room, and it is possible that this was part of the floor of this Roman building.

Deep post-Roman disturbances had removed most traces of the foundations of this room, though the very bottoms of what appear to have been two north–south walls were found in the area of Room 7. The easternmost foundation built of ragstone lying in brickearth seems to have had a straight edge on its east side, and may be interpreted as the east wall of this room. The other foundation lay near the middle of this small room, and although of similar unmortared stone construction, its significance is less easily understood. It is possible, however, that more than one phase of construction is represented here, though as so little of the structure remains it is impossible to interpret it with any degree of certainty.

ROOM 8:

This is presumed to have been a room, but in fact it is merely the area south of a wall uncovered at the southern edge of the excavation to the east of Room 4. It seems reasonable to assume that it was the north end of a room, however, but as the wall, only the foundation of which had survived (this being very similar in construction to the north and south wall foundations of Room 7), was built up against the east wall of Room 4, it is clear that Room 8 had been added to Room 4.

AREA A:

This is the region lying between Rooms 7 and 8, which may have been an additional room in the Roman building, or perhaps it may have comprised a small courtyard enclosed by two or three wings of the Roman building. Unfortunately, post-Roman disturbances had removed all trace of the nature of this “area”, though the two Roman rubbish pits (Pits 5 and 6), at least one of which was of Flavian date, might, assuming that they are contemporary with the Roman stone building, indicate that this was an open, outside area rather than part of the interior of the building.

AREA B:

This too could have comprised another room of the Roman building, though if this was the case it did not have any mortar floor (Section A-B, Fig. 3). A layer of dumped brickearth (Layer 5) was found overlaying the projecting foundation of the west wall of Room 6, and over this was what seemed to be a dump of grey, rubbly earth containing fragments of tiles. This may have formed a working surface in Area B for the duration of the earlier occupation of the Roman building though, of course, this is uncertain. It is perhaps significant that this "surface" is at about the same level as the *opus signinum* floor inside Room 6.

Above Layer 4 were deposits of brick earth containing some building debris, Layer 2, immediately above which was a layer of broken mortar which may represent the destruction of the Roman building.

PIT 5 (Fig. 2):

A pit which contained a few sherds of the first century A.D. (Fig. 11, No. 65), cut by Pit 6.

PIT 6 (Fig. 2):

A Flavian rubbish pit, not stratigraphically related to any of the other Roman features on the site contained fragments of pottery, glass, tiles, painted wall plaster and *opus signinum* (Fig. 10, Nos. 22-37; Fig. 11, Nos. 41-64; Fig. 12, No. 94). Also found was a small tile which had probably been derived from a herringbone pavement. This pit had been partly dug through the earlier Pit 5.

DATING EVIDENCE:

Almost no evidence was recovered from the Roman building to help date its construction and occupation. Pottery from the "Upper Clay Dump" and from the "Lower Clay Dump" below the Roman stone building show that the building was constructed not earlier than the Flavian period. The pottery in the dump of brick-earth over the building after its demolition (Section F-G, Layer 1, Fig. 4) is also of Flavian date and therefore is unlikely to reflect the date of the destruction of the building (Fig. 11, Nos. 70-77).

PERIOD 4:

The Period 3 stone building was destroyed in Period 4, after which thick dumps of brickearth were deposited all over the site, perhaps in preparation for a new building development.

If the building had been constructed entirely of stone it is natural to assume that there should be at least some demolition debris under the later dump of brickearth which overlay the stone walls (*e.g.* Section F-G, Layer 17, Fig. 4). In fact, no roof tiles or other building materials were found, except as a scatter with other artifacts in the dumped clay. Indeed, as the dumped brickearth must have been derived from elsewhere it would seem most likely that so too were the building materials and other items found scattered throughout it.

The absence of a layer of ragstone and tile debris representing the demolition of the Roman building might be interpreted in one of two ways. It might be argued that the surviving low stone walls had merely supported a clay and timber upper work; or, alternatively, that the walls were of stone but had been systematically demolished and the debris removed. The former suggestion might help to account for the great quantity of dumped brickearth, but although the walls had survived to a variety of different levels, indicating uneven demolition, it was clear from the excavation that in spite of there being areas where the demolition of the stone walls had certainly taken place, such as the south wall of Room 3, there was still a marked absence of demolition debris.

The unavoidable inference is, therefore, that the building was probably constructed with stone walls, and presumably a roof of tiles, but that the demolition had occurred in a systematic fashion with almost every piece of rubble having been removed from the site, presumably for re-use elsewhere.

The dump of brickearth (Sections A-B, Layer 1, Fig. 3 and F-G, Layer 17, Fig. 4) which overlay the stumps of the Roman walls and foundations, was presumably deposited to level up the site by burying earlier features, prior to some new building development. The brickearth contained a scatter of building debris which included tiles and painted wall-plaster, and also some pottery, none of which was later in date than the late first century A.D. In Section F-G there was also a suggestion of a pit having been filled with the dumped brickearth, but this had almost completely been dug away by the post-Roman rubbish Pit 7 (Fig. 5).

DISCUSSION:

THE ROMAN PHASES 1-4

Although the stone building is the major Roman structural feature on this site, its relationship and association with the other phases of human activity uncovered in the excavation is crucial to the understanding of all Roman phases. A marked feature of the site is the series of major and minor dumps of brickearth, and the apparent absence of any certain deposits of occupation debris.

In phase 1 there is little evidence of human activity on the site prior to the dumping of brickearth in phase 2, this presumably meaning that the dumping occurred fairly early during the Roman period, and presumably during the first century A.D., as first century occupation has been found nearby.²

The dumping itself occurred in two major layers, each deposit being of almost equal thickness though of differing extent. Again, there is little sign of any significant land use or pause in the dumping process, suggesting that the dumping was a continuous process and that the land surface was raised in two levels. The only really definite trace of an activity between the two phases of dumping was the digging of Pit 3 (Figs. 2 and 3), which was filled up with brickearth, apparently before any rubbish had accumulated in it. So although the digging of this shallow pit possibly indicates a pause within the dumping process, its filling shows that it was a short-lived feature of the site. Although the reason for the dumping is uncertain, it is significant that the Roman stone building of Period 3 lies directly on the dumped brickearth without any intervening deposit of occupation or other debris as might be expected had the dumping been for some purpose other than to form an elevated level base for the stone building. Indeed, the relationship between the stone building and the dumping is more certain when it is realized that the uppermost dump of brickearth approximately sets, at least on its eastern side, the limit of the stone building in its early phase.

It is difficult to ascribe a close date to the dumping as pottery found in the brickearth deposits may be presumed to be derived, like the brickearth, from elsewhere, and its Flavian date does not necessarily reflect the date of the dumping. Nevertheless, as Flavian occupation existed nearby it is reasonable to expect that some evidence of the Flavian occupation in the area would have been found on the site had the dumping occurred later than the Flavian period.

The stone building constructed in Phase 3 initially appears as a north-south structure with a range of rooms of varying size. It is difficult to interpret this incomplete plan, but it is interesting that there is no certain trace of a corridor to link the rooms on its eastern side, unless, of course, one of the shallow and largely destroyed foundations beneath Room 7 was the only surviving remnant of a corridor. This seems unlikely, however, as the stone and clay foundations are of a different construction from the foundations of ragstone and concrete of the main building. Also perhaps suggesting that the frontage of this building lay on its west side is the lack of any form of hard surface to the east of the building (Section A-B, Fig. 3). Instead we might perhaps interpret the plan as possibly the south-east corner of an L-shaped building, the "corridor" Room 2 being situated at the junction of the east and south wings, and that the area or chamber to the west of room 1 may have been a frontage corridor of an east wing. Only further excavation, however, will confirm this suggestion.

There are certainly at least two construction phases represented in the stone building, for abutting its east side were added some extra Rooms 6, 7 and 8, all of which are of uncertain extent. The two rubbish Pits 5 and 6, presumably represent local occupation, and in view of their Flavian date it would seem that they are probably contemporary with the stone building. If this is so it is to be inferred that the area in which they were dug, Area A, was outside the stone building.

The floors of the earlier phase of the stone building present a problem of interpretation for the sections, especially H-K and E-G, show that a series of layers of brickearth were deposited inside Rooms 1, 2 and 3 after the walls of the building had been constructed. The problem that they pose is whether or not they represent a series of clay floors, or alternatively

dumps of brickearth inside the rooms to raise the ground level inside the building in preparation for laying proper floors. The absence of any clear occupation debris on the clay layers and any trace of wall plaster on the wall faces perhaps suggests that the latter possibility is correct, though otherwise the evidence is not really conclusive. It should be noted that slight traces of concrete floors were found preserved in areas of subsidence in Room 3 (Section C-D, Layer 2, Fig. 3) and Room 7, and that a small portion of the floor of Room 6 survived in Section A-B. Only in room 1 was any trace of a concrete floor definitely associated with the walls of the room, there having been three floors each with a quarter-round moulding at the junction of floor and wall. The survival of this floor is presumably due to it having been a little lower than the floors in other rooms.

The Roman stone building seems to have been part of a development of stone buildings (Fig. 1B), presumably houses, which have been found to the north of this site at Gateway House and Watling House.³ The discovery of a Roman cold plunge bath, measuring 4.41 m by 2.45 m⁴ immediately east of the St. Mildred's site suggests that perhaps a public bath building was situated there, the pool being rather large for a private bath suite. Perhaps arguing against this suggestion is the presence nearby at the edge of the Thames of another great public bath building, in Huggin Hill,⁵ though there is no evidence at present to suggest that all of these stone buildings were contemporary with the building on the St. Mildred's site. Most of the sites mentioned here, however, were investigated after the 1939-45 War and are due to be published in detail by the author, when their relationships to each other will be considered.

The dumping of large quantities of brickearth during the Roman period is not a feature peculiar to the St. Mildred's site, this having occurred apparently about the same time in the nearby Huggin Hill public baths.⁶ The source of the brickearth was probably nearby where on the Financial Times site Professor W. F. Grimes found extensive traces of quarrying for brickearth and gravel.⁷

PERIOD 5 (Fig. 5):

Burials and other disturbances immediately overlay the Roman deposits, but cutting into the Roman deposits were various rubbish pits and the bottom of a sunken hut all representing an otherwise destroyed period of occupation which followed the Roman period, but existed prior to the construction of the church of St. Mildred probably during the twelfth century.

THE HUT-PIT:

The lower part of a sunken timber hut was found near the centre of the later medieval church site. It had been built in a hollow, only the lowest half metre of which had survived. The hut had been extensively damaged by later disturbances, parts of the south and west sides only having survived. Sufficient remained, however, to show that projecting from the west side was probably once a porch, the floor of which lay at an intermediate level between the ground level outside the hut and the bottom of the hut-pit. The sides of the hut-pit were roughly vertical (see Section L-M, Fig. 4), and were originally held in position partly by a series of posts of irregular shape and size, which above ground level formed the framework of the hut wall.

Unfortunately, the archaeological deposits overlying the post-holes of the south side of the hut-pit had all been removed during the mechanical clearance of the site immediately prior to the start of the archaeological excavation, but the filling of the holes themselves remained. Each post-hole had apparently been dug into the natural subsoil so that a post could be set in it, for in some of the holes clear evidence of packing rubble was found which once held the posts upright during the initial construction of the hut. The post-holes varied in size and shape but roughly averaged about 300 mm in diameter, and their bottoms were either flat or rounded.

Post-hole 4 was filled with dark grey-brown clay, and contained some large bone fragments. The base of the post-hole lay about 400 mm below the general bottom of the hut-pit.

Post-hole 5 was also filled with dark grey-brown clay, and contained some packing material of large pieces of tiles and ragstone. The bottom of the post-hole lay about 500 mm below the general base of the hut-pit.

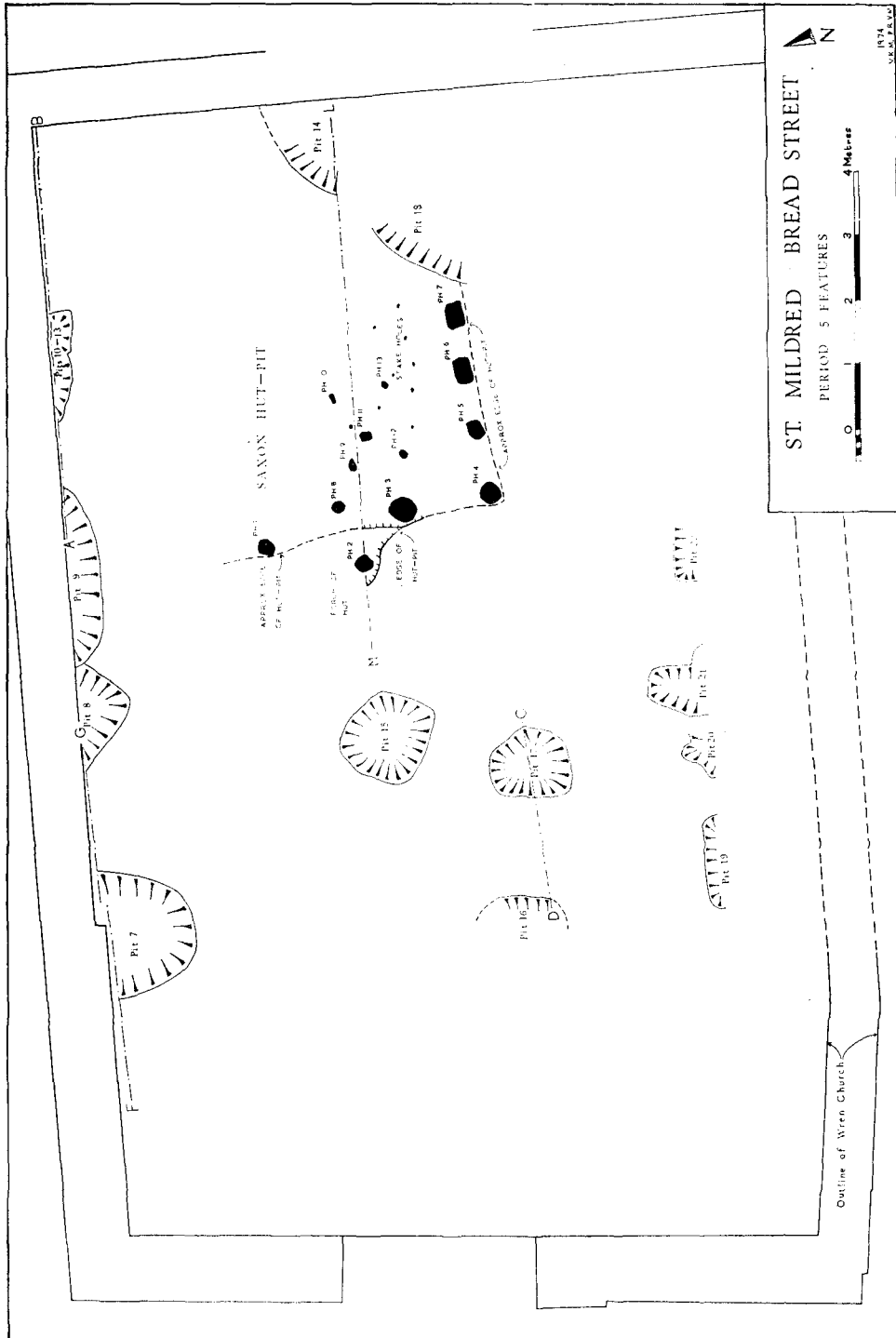


Fig. 5. St. Mildred's Church. Saxon hut, and Saxon and early medieval pits.

Post-hole 6 was filled with dark-brown clay, and contained a packing of large pieces of tile, of broken *opus signinum*, and ragstone. The bottom of the post-hole lay about 600 mm below the bottom of the hut-pit.

Post-hole 7 seems to have comprised one or more holes dug into the natural subsoil, but the main post-hole itself lay at the east end and was filled with dark grey-brown clay with a few fragments of tiles used as packing material. Traces of the actual decayed post were found, this being rectangular in section and measuring 140 mm by 90 mm, though it is not certain whether this was the actual size of the post or merely the remains of the decayed core of the post. The long side of the post lay parallel to the south side of the hut-pit. The south side of the hut to the east of this point had been destroyed by later pit digging.

The posts forming the west side of the hut were disclosed beneath Layer 6 (Section L-M), a thin, peaty deposit lying on the bottom of the hut-pit.

Post-hole 3 contained in its dark peaty filling traces of the bottom of the decayed wooden post 170 mm square which was sloping a little to the east (*i.e.* towards the hut interior). Some Roman tile had been packed around the post, and the bottom of the post-hole lay 330 mm below the bottom of the hut-pit (see Fig. 13, No. 102).

Post-hole 1 did not contain any trace of the actual post, but otherwise there was some packing material which once lay around the post. The bottom of the post-hole lay 150 mm below the bottom of the hut-pit.

A number of smaller post-holes and, it seems, small stake holes were found in the hut-pit at its south end. It is difficult to interpret their function as there is no easily recognizable pattern. A series of larger post-holes (Post-holes 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) may have been associated with the porch as they lay just inside its south side.

Post-hole 9 was filled with dark peaty soil, and appears to have been driven into the natural subsoil instead of having been placed in a pit. Its bottom lay at 280 mm below the hut-pit (see p. 203, Nos. 103-104, not illustrated).

Post-hole 12 also had been driven into the natural subsoil to a depth of 320 mm below the hut-pit bottom.

Post-hole 11 was a shallow scooped hollow in the natural subsoil only 110 mm deep, and it was filled with dark peaty soil.

The porch is represented by post-hole 2 (Section L-M, Fig. 4) which was dug from a higher level outside the hut-pit, and it appears to have been located at the edge of a shelf, the southern edge of which was found, at an intermediate level between the bottom of the hut-pit and the now destroyed outside ground level.

No definite trace of any timber flooring was found, and the bottom of the hut-pit was covered by a layer of black peaty soil (Section L-M, Layer 6). This may have been a kind of silting at the base of the hut-pit which had accumulated during the life of, or soon after, the destruction of the hut. This layer filled and overlay Post-holes 3, 5, 9 and 11 but, unfortunately, the relationship between this deposit and Post-holes 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is unknown.

The dark silting Deposit 6 was overlaid by two dumped deposits of dirty brickearth (Section L-M, Layer 5, Fig. 4), and grey-brown clay (Layer 4; see also p. 203, No. 105). The top of this dumping formed a surface gently sloping down to the east on which apparently more dumping occurred in the form of clay and building debris and a quantity of burnt wood and clay (Layer 2; see p. 203-204, Nos. 106-107). A sample of charcoal from the dump of burnt debris above Layer 2 has been dated by Carbon 14 to A.D. 470 \pm 100 (see p. 205), which seems to confirm that these dumps comprised Roman and other material derived from elsewhere.

The pause between the two phases of dumping was represented by the silt layer (Layer 3) which may have been related to some form of timber structure occupying the partly filled-in hut-pit hollow. Certainly the original hut had been dismantled prior to the dumping of Layers 5 and 4 as that material overlay the post-holes. In the very limited surviving extent of Layer 3 no trace of any posts was found, but associated with the silty Layer 3 were a series of burnt wooden boards, perhaps the remnant of a floor, the grain of which was almost parallel to the west side of the hut-pit hollow (Fig. 6). Alternatively, the boards may merely represent part of the dumping.

THE PITS (Fig. 5):

A series of rubbish pits was found on this site, each of which had been dug into the surviving Roman deposits. In general very little dating evidence was recovered from them due to the limited time available for the excavation, and several of the pits were seen in section only. Mostly the dating evidence recovered from the pits was of late Saxon date (see report on finds 201-205), and it seems likely that some of these pits may have been associated with the occupation of the sunken Saxon hut and possibly nearby buildings.

PIT 7:

Cut into Room 1 of the Roman building. Some sherds of late Saxon date (Fig. 13, Nos. 129, 131; p. 205, Nos. 130, 132, not illustrated).

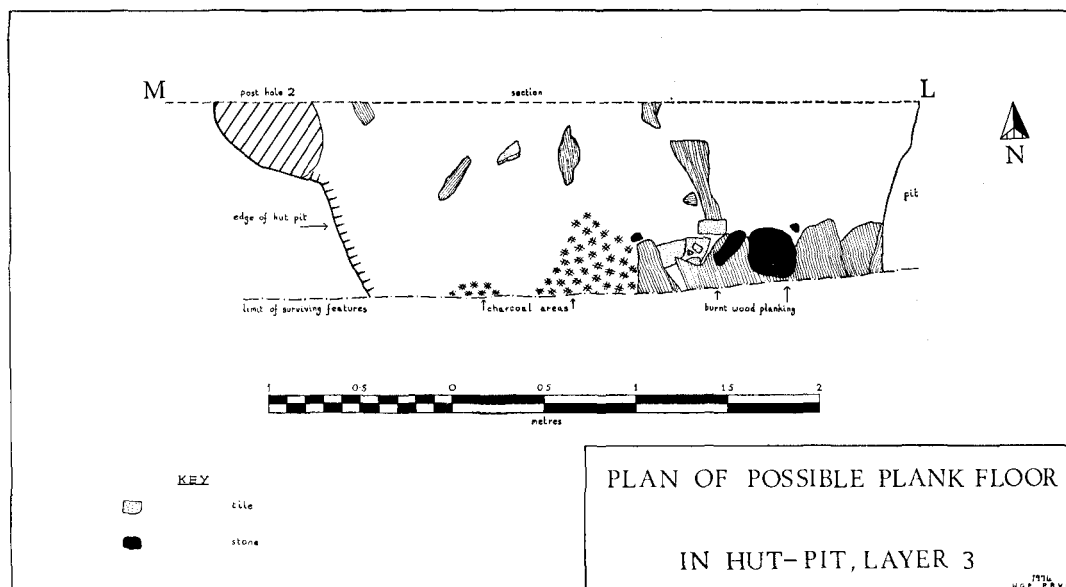


Fig. 6. St. Mildred's Church. Plan of possible floor in Saxon hut.

PIT 8:

A few sherds, possibly of middle Saxon date (Fig. 13, No. 120).

PIT 9:

Not investigated.

PIT 10:

Cut into Room 6 of the Roman building. A few sherds of mid-late Saxon date. This was cut by three other pits, including Pit 11, none of which were dated (p. 205, No. 133, not illustrated).

PIT 14:

Cut into hut-pit. A few sherds, possibly late Saxon date (p. 204, Nos. 121-26, not illustrated).

PIT 15:

Cut into the east wall of Room 3 of the Roman building. Some late Saxon sherds were recovered (Fig. 13, Nos. 111-12; p. 204, Nos. 113-15).

PIT 16:

Cut by the foundation of the medieval church tower (see Section C-D). Some sherds of twelfth century date (Fig. 13, Nos. 134-41).

PIT 17:

Cut into the east wall of Room 3 of the Roman building. Some late Saxon sherds were also recovered (Fig. 13, No. 116, p. 204, Nos. 117-19, not illustrated).

PIT 19:

Not investigated.

PIT 20:

Not investigated.

PIT 21:

Cut into the north-west corner of Room 8 of the Roman building. Some sherds of late Saxon date (Fig. 13, No. 127; p. 205, No. 128, not illustrated).

PIT 22:

Not investigated.

DATING EVIDENCE:

The quantity of dating evidence recovered from the pits is small and, therefore, caution must be used in ascribing positive dates to the various pits. Nevertheless, almost all the dateable pottery is consistently of late Saxon period, though a few possible middle Saxon sherds may be indicative of earlier occupation. It seems likely, therefore, that most of the pits are of late Saxon date, though Pit 16, which contained some early medieval coarse pottery, also included one glazed sherd indicating that it should not be earlier than the twelfth century (see p. 205).

The date of the Saxon hut is uncertain due to the limited amount of evidence. No pottery recovered from its dumped in-fill which followed its destruction is later than the late Saxon period. One sherd recovered from Post-hole 3 (Fig. 13, No. 102) is perhaps of middle Saxon date, the sherd probably being introduced into the post-hole pit at the time of the construction of the hut.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HUT-PIT

The structure represented by the hut-pit is part of a well-known type of timber building common in various parts of Europe during the Dark Ages.⁸ It is usually characterized by its square or rectangular form, sometimes a sunken floor, and two or more post holes forming the base of upright walls, these posts usually being set in broad or round bottomed holes dug at the edge of the hut.

In Britain hut-pits are being recognized in increasing numbers on Saxon settlement sites, their dates ranging from soon after the end of the Roman period as at Lower Warbank, Keston in Kent,⁹ and the general type continues to occur into late Saxon times as at Thetford.¹⁰

Huts of the type that occurred at St. Mildred's have already been found in London by Professor W. F. Grimes on the Financial Times site in Cannon Street, in Addle Street and perhaps in Bucklersbury.¹¹ Of these hut-pit 2 measured 9.91 m by 5.18 m (Fig. 7) and was situated in a pit about a metre deep. In the hut were traces of at least two timber floors, as well as timber wall linings. Also about the middle of one of the long sides of the hut were traces of a porch and the remains of a wooden sill. The similarity between hut-pit 2 and the St. Mildred's hut is striking, both having porches, and also a series of larger post-holes inside the hut area close to the porch entrance. Assuming that the porch in the St. Mildred's hut was central to its west side we may conjecture that the hut was probably about 5 m long, though its width is uncertain.

Rarely is there any definite trace of hut structure other than the floor and post-holes, so the discovery of surviving details of floor and wall construction in the hut on the Financial Times site is most unusual. Nevertheless, it is perhaps worth noting here the recent discovery on two sites in the City of the re-use in early medieval contexts of timber posts which seem to have been derived from timber buildings similar to the type of hut which was found at St. Mildred's, though not necessarily with sunken floors. The timbers have been found re-used in waterfront constructions in the area of Baynard's Castle, and also at Seal House near London Bridge. The posts evidently formed the framework of buildings, the vertical slots in their sides containing plank walls. A typical post, re-used in a thirteenth century waterfront on the Baynard's Castle site is reproduced here (Fig. 8). The variety of slot forms on posts is also shown in diagrammatic form and it is clear that this type of timber building had square corners (a), a series of upright posts on each side (b), and with internal cross partitions (c). It is particularly significant that as the grooves do not continue to the bottom of the post the lower part of the post was evidently buried in the ground, the flat bottom of the post showing that it was not driven into the ground, but buried in a specially dug post-hole pit.



Fig. 7. St. Mildred's Church. Saxon huts in London.

Hut-pits of the London type are often interpreted as the homes of humble peasant folk, and excavations elsewhere indicate that they were usually centered on a long house of some form.¹² In London the St. Mildred's hut and the hut-pits on the Financial Times site could well have formed part of a single group of Saxon houses based upon a main building. However, it may be fortuitous, but worthy of comment, that the four certain Saxon hut-pits which have been found in London, in spite of extensive excavation on many sites, have all been found in the western half of the City; and that except for the uncertain discovery in Bucklersbury, all the huts lay in close proximity to probably the two most important focuses of Saxon London—the traditional site of the palace of King Ethelbert in the Aldermanbury region,¹³ and to St. Paul's Cathedral.¹⁴

Although the distribution of hut-pits in the City (Fig. 7) may merely reflect the areas of major post-War controlled archaeological excavation, the recent suggestion that compared with researches into Roman London, "the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon London barely exists as an organized field of enquiry",¹⁵ is not strictly true for definite efforts have been made to fill the Dark Ages gap in the archaeological record, although with little result. This is largely because the post-Roman stratified deposits have usually been destroyed, even on medieval church sites; and it is worth remembering that the Saxon hut on the St. Mildred's site only survived because it had a sunken floor. Nevertheless, it would be correct to say that more enquiry needs to be directed towards the problem of Anglo-Saxon London, perhaps by looking more closely at the contents of rubbish pits to define those which had been dug by the inhabitants of the destroyed Saxon city.

Much archaeological excavation has taken place in the City since the War, and had Saxon huts with sunken floors been particularly common it is likely that others would have been identified. The Saxon city was certainly extensive, reaching from the St. Paul's-Aldermanbury area in the west to the area of All Hallows Barking Church near the Tower of London in the east, and down to the waterfront, as at New Fresh Wharf, where a seventh-eighth century waterfront was recently discovered (1974). Negative archaeological evidence from excavations over so wide an area would suggest, as might be expected, that the majority of Saxon timber buildings in London were not of the sunken floored variety.

In the absence of any stratigraphical relationships it is not possible to link the various pits on the St. Mildred's site, in which Saxon pottery was found, to the hut-pit, but it might perhaps be reasonably assumed that the pits and the hut were mostly contemporary. Unfortunately, in most cases there is insufficient dating evidence either from the pits or from the hut to precisely define their age or to be certain that they were contemporary.

PERIOD 6—THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH (FIG. 9)

Although the physical remains of the medieval church were extremely fragmentary enough had survived to make it possible to establish certain indications of its layout and size during the Middle Ages. The fragmentary foundations were of three different forms of construction, these presumably indicating separate building phases.

One type of feature found on the site was a form of gravel-filled hollow seen only in the sides of the excavations (Sections H-I, L-M, Fig. 4) and traced for a very limited extent. It is unlikely that they were gravel filled pits, but more probably gravel foundations of the earliest phase of church on the site. Gravel and chalk combined were extensively used in the City to form early medieval church foundations, as at St. Nicholas Acon,¹⁶ and St. Michael

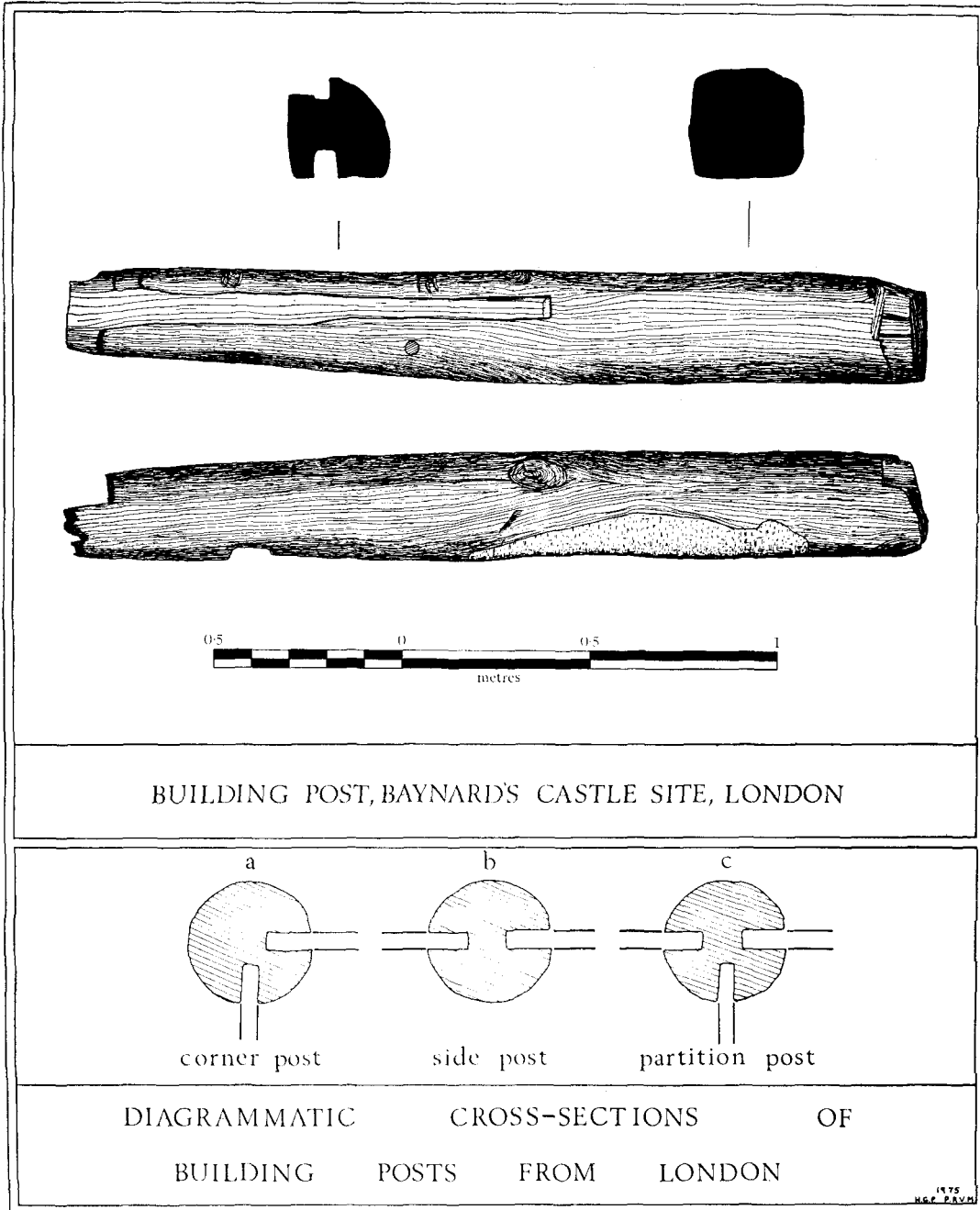


Fig. 8. St. Mildred's Church. Building posts of Saxon type from London.

Bassishaw,¹⁷ and instances are known of gravel-filled trenches only being used as foundations as in the late Saxon church of St. Brides.¹⁸ Assuming that this interpretation of the features at St. Mildred's church is correct we can conclude where the early medieval church was located, though we do not know its shape or extent. It is significant that the twelfth century pit (Pit 16, Fig. 9) was situated between the two gravel foundations, and therefore probably in the area which was occupied by the early church. In view of this it would seem probable that the early church building, at least in that area, was constructed not earlier than the twelfth century.

A second type of foundation, mostly comprising ragstone and mortar, was located beneath parts of the south and east walls of Wren's church, but the surviving remains were very limited in extent. Under the south wall of the church was found clear evidence of a deep east-west foundation rising in level on either side to form relieving arches at the base of the foundation. Other fragments of similar medieval wall foundations were located under the south-east corner of Wren's church, and just south of the north-east corner of the church, and it is possible that these too were the deep points of a wall foundation built in the form of a series of relieving arches. No indication of the age of these foundations was discovered, though as they contained mortar they are unlikely to date from before the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries. Their similar construction technique suggests that they formed one phase of building.

The final form of foundation was located only in the south-west area of the church, and was clearly the base of a tower of the church prior to the Great Fire of 1666. The documentary evidence (see p. 192) indicates that there was a tower in this position in 1428. It was built on a foundation of chalk and yellow mortar, the north, east and south sides of the tower, and probably the west side which was not found, each containing a relieving arch. Judging from this it would seem that the tower was probably about 5 m square. Curiously it was out of alignment with the rest of the pre-1666 church outline, and it was evidently responsible for the change of alignment in the south wall of the Wren church, at the west end of the site. In the unexcavated soil under the relieving arch on the south side of the tower was found an earlier foundation of stone and brown mortar, somewhat similar to the foundations beneath the south and east sides of Wren's church. Little of this was seen, but in view of its position under the relieving arch of the tower, and also in view of its differently coloured mortar from that of the tower, it would seem to have belonged to an earlier building phase, possibly a deep part of a relieving arch of the second form of foundation situated in the south-west corner of the medieval church.

Immediately on the south side of the pre-Great Fire church tower was yet another foundation of chalk, ragstone, and buff mortar, the significance of which is unclear from the archaeological evidence, but which the documentary evidence suggests was part of a parsonage house built soon after 1485 (see p. 192).

We might conclude from this very limited evidence, therefore, the following points: (1) that the church was built during the twelfth century, and that it occupied at least the south-western quarter of the later church built by Wren; (2) that the later medieval church probably occupied at least the same area as the Wren church, with the position of the south and east walls approximately coinciding; and (3) that prior to 1428 a tower was added to the south-west corner of the church, probably involving the demolition of the south-west corner of the church.

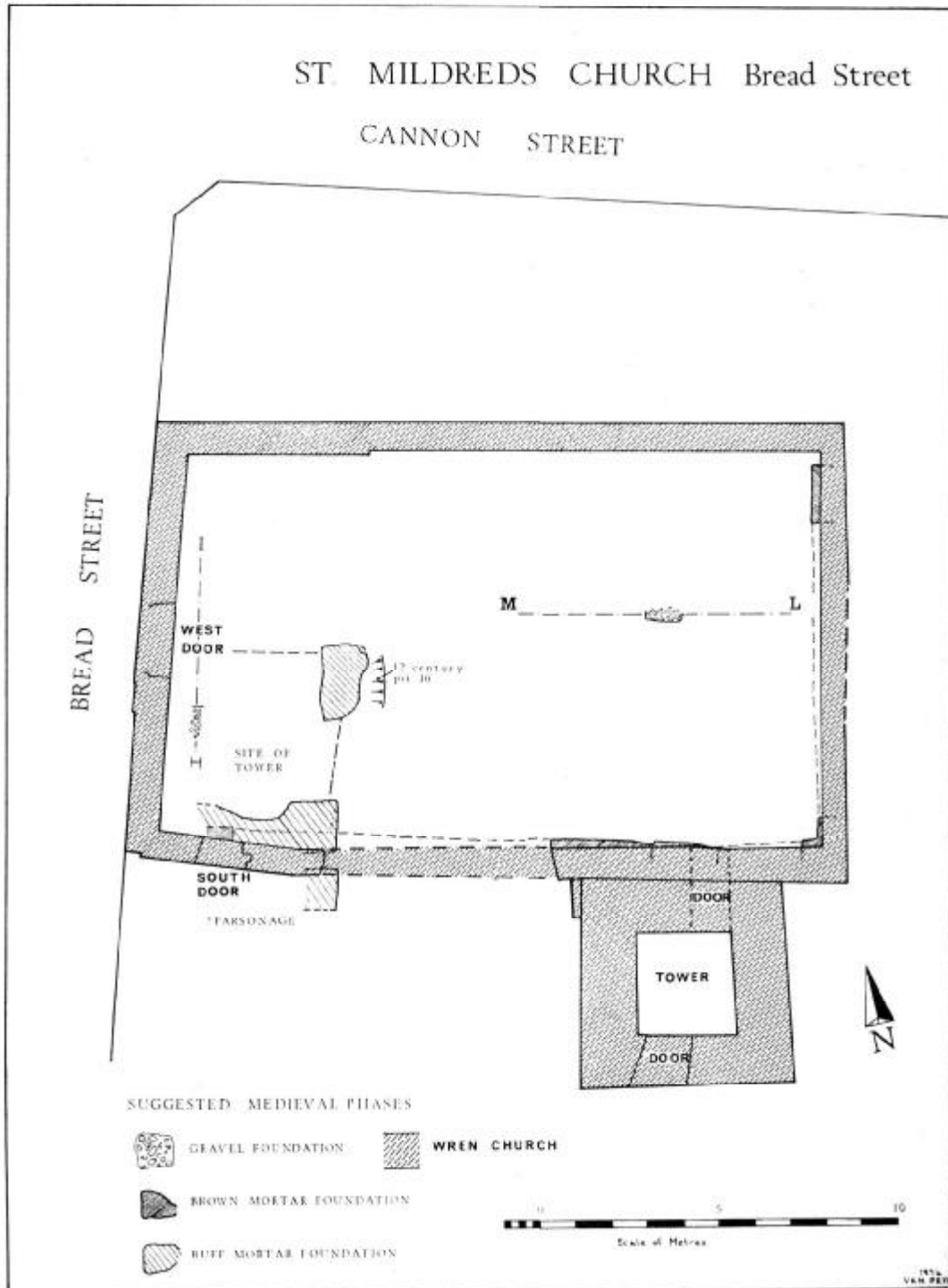


Fig. 9 Plan of St. Mildred's Church.

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ST. MILDRED, BREAD STREET: DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

BY TONY DYSON

The earliest mention of the church of St. Mildred dates from c. 1170,¹ after which references occur fairly frequently.² This circumstance is consistent with the conclusion drawn from the archaeological evidence of a twelfth century pit between two gravel foundations, namely that the first church building, at least in that (western) area, was constructed not earlier than the twelfth century. On the other hand the notion of a purely post-Conquest church dedicated to a popular Saxon saint is not easily acceptable. The advowson, together with those of five other churches, including St. Mildred Poultry and St. Benet Sherehog (first mentioned in 1111-31), belonged to the Augustinian priory of St. Mary Overy, Southwark³ (founded in 1106). St. Mildred, a lady with royal Mercian, Kentish and West Saxon connections, who was the first abbess of Minster-in-Thamet and died c. 700 became the object of a popular cult in, or shortly before 1033, when her remains were translated from Thanet to Canterbury,⁴ and the possibility remains that this church, and St. Mildred Poultry, was founded within a few years of this event. Excavations conducted in 1897-98 to a depth of some 16 ft below the floor of the church disclosed charred fragments of wood from an "ancient edifice",⁵ and wooden churches are known to have existed in the City as late as the early twelfth century.⁶

According to Stow the church was either rebuilt or substantially renovated by Lord Trenchant c. 1300,⁷ but no other evidence of this operation or, indeed, of the man can now be found. The earliest topographical information available is provided by the will of Sir John Shadworth, a mercer and former mayor, who in 1428 bequeathed to the rector and churchwardens a plot of land south of the church for use as a parsonage house and graveyard.⁸ The bequest establishes the main east-west dimension of the church at a minimum 61 ft 1½ in, and an earlier deed of Shadworth's, dated 1404, shows that the vestry was situated at the eastern end of the south wall, and also that the church, or its immediate precinct, must have extended still further eastwards since it shared a common boundary—for some unspecified distance—with a property east of the churchyard area.⁹ This additional length cannot have been great since Ogilby's map of 1677, drawn at a scale of 100 ft to the inch, records the site of the church, which had been destroyed in the Fire as (approximately) 40 ft east and west, 62 ft north and 64 ft south. Also, although Wren's rebuilding of 1682-83 required the addition of a "small slippe or peece of land" to the east,¹⁰ the recovery below his east wall of two fragments of the medieval church wall, including a right-angle at the

south-east corner, suggests that the east-west dimensions of the two churches were practically the same. Ogilby's eastern measurement of 40 ft is roughly confirmed by the 38 ft given in a conveyance of March, 1672, relating to Gerrards Hall, a large tenement to the east of the church.¹¹

The exact description and measurements of the Shadworth bequest also fixes the position of the church tower at the south-west corner of the medieval church, in conformity with the plans of St. Andrew Undershaft and St. Olave Hart Street,¹² but precluding a location at the west end of the nave of an aisled church, the most usual pattern in City churches whose medieval plans have been recovered.¹³ Archaeological evidence confirms the documentary records, for the foundations of the medieval tower were located at the south-west corner of the church, and just south of them a wall which was probably associated either with the house which Shadworth's will intended for use by the rector, or with its successor, built shortly after a fire in 1485.¹⁴ The site of the parsonage house is indicated in two plots of land south of the church which were surveyed and drawn up after the Fire.¹⁵ Albeit "destroyed" in the Fire, there is no way of determining the actual extent of the damage inflicted upon the structure of the church. The parish burial records, available from 1670, show that interments continued to take place both in the churchyard and within the church itself from that date until, and even *during*, the Wren reconstruction of 1682-83.¹⁶ The implication here seems to be that the medieval floor and possible substructures, at the very least, remained intact, and that the construction of the new church more or less from ground-level involved a minimal interference with them. There is no specific reference to any vaults, new or old, in the plans and information relating to Wren's operations, but it seems that much destruction of the medieval church remains would have occurred in the course of burial removal activities in 1897-1898.

From 1670 to 1853 a very considerable number of burials were accommodated both in the churchyard and within the church. Such exact locations as the burial registers provide refer to the aisles, the chancel and choir, the great and (or?) common vault (? the west vault) and the rector's and Crispe vault (apparently at the east end of the aisles) and make it clear that virtually the whole available floor space was utilized. Shortage of space was apparent as early as 1740 when the rector and church wardens applied for, ¹⁷and received, a faculty to clear the main vault and to make way for intact burials and for future interments.¹⁸ This was achieved by knocking a hole through the brick wall of the vault through which the bones of "several ancient and decayed bodies"—possibly pre-Fire burials disturbed by Wren's works—could be disposed, thereby making use of space below the nave at a level lower than the interments previously effected from the church floor. These problems and expedients were to have drastic consequences a century and a half later. In September, 1896, an examination of the damaged flooring of the church disclosed a number of human remains. The City officer of health reported to the Home Secretary that the church was in an unsanitary condition, and an Order in Council was issued for the removal of the bodies to Woking.¹⁹ Bishop Creighton's faculty, permitting such a removal, shows that between 150 and 200 bodies were found in the large vault at the west end of the church, and authorized the filling-up of other places of burial under the church with clean, dry earth or other dry materials, and the relaying of the floor upon a bed of concrete.²⁰

According to the incumbent, the Rev. C. L. Engström, the whole of the church, except the vaults, was thereby excavated in 1897-98 to about 16 ft, to which depth some "470 cases of coffins and human remains", many pre-1666 were removed. Charred fragments

of wood from an "ancient edifice" were unearthed, together with several thick walls of stone rubble which were utilized to support the new floor of the church. The earth was duly sifted and covered with a thick layer of cement concrete,²⁴ traces of which were observed during the present excavation. These operations effectively destroyed the archaeological evidence lying below the central section of the church between the east and west vaults, to a depth which must approximate to the level of the medieval wall footings, and no additional notes or sketches which may have been made at the time appear to have survived.

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THE FINDS

BY MICHAEL RHODES

with contributions by Don Bramwell, Juliet Clutton-Brock, G. B. Dannel, Joan Liversidge and Margaret Wood and notes supplied by B. R. Hartley, Peter Marsden, Ralph Merrifield and David Moore.

INTRODUCTION:

The finds from St. Mildred's Church were excavated under very difficult conditions and consequently the percentage of finds recovered must be fairly low. Whilst most of the stratified finds are described, a few have been excluded, notably some highly corroded Saxon nails (?) and bones from layers of redeposited material. The finds from Pit 6 were carefully collected and are all included.

This report is divided into two main sections dealing with the Roman and post-Roman periods. Every individually described object or pot-sherd is given a *Catalogue Number*, these also being used in the illustrations. The deposits from which the finds come are referred to by letters and numbers, indicating sections and layers as published in the site report. A Museum of London Group accession number, prefixed by the letters *E.R.* is given with the Context Number of each group of finds. *Accession Numbers* for individual finds are also given, these being in two parts, the first half being the *E.R.* number of the group to which each belongs.

The finds are now in the Museum of London.

ROMAN

Pottery (excluding samian) by Margaret Wood.

Although less in quantity than the unstratified material from this site, the Romano-British and imported pottery from stratified contexts includes a variety of fabrics, frequently represented by body-sherds alone. In these circumstances, a discussion of only those items capable of illustration would be unrepresentative. The

report text, therefore, includes many descriptions in which only the fabric of an individual vessel has been discussed, insufficient sherds surviving to indicate form, let alone to provide even a partial profile. The paucity of sherds providing information on form and decoration has also made it perilous to suggest close dating for the pottery-groups from any of the stratified contexts, but it is probable that all fall within the first century A.D. On the basis of fabric-representation, it would likewise be imprudent to attempt to establish the chronological relationships between the pottery-groups. Several fabrics occur in most of the stratified groups, but sherd quantities for all contexts—except perhaps for Pit 6 of Period 3—are insufficient for the absences of certain fabrics from particular groups to be regarded as of any reliable significance.

With the exception of sherds representing flagons and mortaria from the several production centres making up the "Verulamium region", sources for even the most common—the "reduced sandy" and "reduced pimply"—fabrics among the stratified material are not yet known. Because of the quantitative limitations of the pottery groups, it is impossible to place any significance on the absence of material attributable to the kilns in Highgate Wood.

(For much helpful advice and information thanks are due to Mrs. Joanna Bird, Miss Valery Rigby, Miss Pamela Clarke of the Department of the Environment, and Mr. Peter Marsden of the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London. Mr. Hugh Chapman of the Museum of London was an indefatigable guide to relevant material in the former Guildhall Museum's collections. Mrs. Sue Heaser drew the pottery and made many helpful suggestions and observations.)

FIG. 10, 1-37:

Pit. 1: E.R. 1394 (Period 1)

From this context came only three sherds, none capable of illustration. Three fabrics are represented, all consistent with a first century date.

1. Rim sherd of lid, diameter *c.* 280 mm, in a reduced, slightly micaceous, pimply fabric containing copious dark, soft, grits and traces of fibrous matter.
2. Undecorated body sherd, probably from a flagon, in hard, pale pink fabric with small inclusions of quartz and minute grey grits. The external surface is covered with a thin, off-white slip, slightly micaceous.
3. Body sherd of amphora in hard, buff fabric, slightly micaceous, with plentiful inclusions of quartzite and hard, dark, rounded grits. An import from Spain.

Section J-K, Upper Clay Dump: E.R. 1374 (Period 2B)

The upper deposit of brickearth clay produced ten coarse-ware sherds and two fragments of *tegula*. No fabric is inconsistent with a first century A.D. date, although the platter sherd No. 6 may be the latest in this group.

4. Slightly everted rim sherd of small jar in fine, almost grit-free, reduced fabric containing traces of mica. Inner rim surface lightly burnished (Illustrated).
5. Single sherd in a very hard fabric containing inclusions of calcite and quartzite and small black and red grits. The core is pink, the surfaces light buff. The fabric may be from the Verulamium region, but is rather smoother than is usually the case with products of that area. Both surfaces are heavily grooved, the external surface roughly wiped. The wide, circular vent at the apex is crudely finished, its edge unsmoothed. The sherd is too small to provide a certain identification of the original form, but it may have been from a lid, or perhaps from an unguent jar, such as those from contexts of the early and mid-second century at Verulamium, amongst which occur examples with and without rims; *cf.* Frere (1972, 298, No. 476 and Fig. 113, No. 885) (Illustrated).
6. Single sherd giving a part-profile of a platter in a hard, sandy fabric, with pale grey core and grey-brown surfaces, very similar in texture to the reduced sandy fabrics among the material of Period 3 (Pit 6). The

internal surface is lightly burnished. The platter copies a Gallo-Belgic form; *cf.* Hawkes (1947, 222, form 24B) and Castle (1973, 93, No. 4). A date range of A.D. 70-95 has been suggested for this item (Illustrated).

7. Base sherd with footring, diameter 95 mm, perhaps from a flagon, in a hard, pink, sandy fabric with cream external surface. Verulamium region.
8. Base sherd only of mortarium in very similar fabric to that of No. 7 above. Verulamium region.
9. Body sherd probably from a flagon in a friable, cream fabric containing sparse, small, dark grits. The external surface is very smooth, possibly slipped: surface and fracture are identical in colour.
10. Small body sherd in fine, soft, orange fabric. A single, shallow, horizontal, V-shaped groove indicates that the sherd comes from the shoulder of what was probably a very small vessel, to judge from the curvature and thinness of the sherd, but there is no reliable indication of size.
11. Badly abraded sherd from a base of small diameter with a slight kick. The fabric is soft, easily scratched and micaceous, with sparse, quartzite inclusions. The core and internal surface are brownish-purple, the external surface black.
12. Undecorated body sherd in slightly micaceous fabric with sparse inclusions of quartzite and angular, dark grey grits. The core is grey, with red sub-surface margins and black surfaces, somewhat worn.
13. Undecorated body sherd in a reduced, slightly micaceous, pimply fabric with copious dark, angular grits.

Section C-D, Lower Clay Dump: E.R. 1375 (Period 2A)

This deposit contained eight coarse-ware sherds, representing eight vessels. There were five fragments of tile, two in red, three in buff fabrics, and two fragments of brick, one reused, apparently in hard-core, with mortar on all fractures and surfaces. Although forms were in some cases indeterminable, none of the fabrics was inconsistent with a first century A.D. date.

14. Base sherd in reduced, slightly micaceous, pimply fabric, rather underfired.
15. Sherd from flagon in hard, sandy, pale pink fabric with a thin trickle of white slip on the internal surface: externally, the slip has fired buff-yellow. Verulamium region. Heavy corrugations on the inner surface only occur also at Camulodunum (Hawkes, 1947, 246, 249, forms 161B and 167), and in a later context at Jewry Wall (Kenyon, 1948, 160-61, Fig. 13, No. 12) (Illustrated).
16. Sherd from flagon, in hard slightly sandy, off-white fabric. Verulamium region.

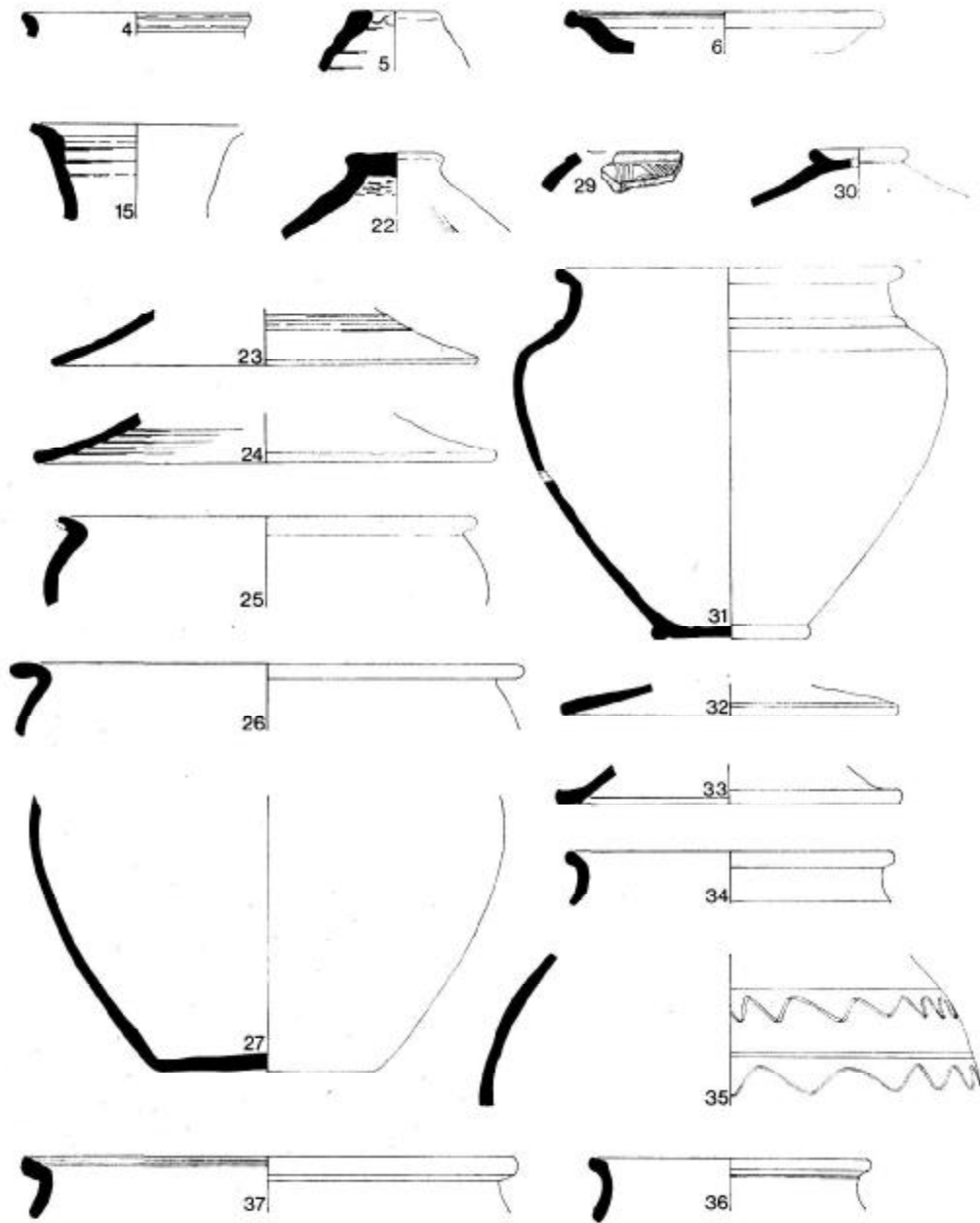


Fig. 10. St. Mildred's Church. Roman Pottery (4)

17. Undecorated body sherd in hard, pink fabric containing granules of quartzite and calcite, the latter having to some extent leached out, leaving surface vesicles.
18. Body sherd from offset shoulder of a flagon in fine, red, sandy, slightly micaceous fabric, its sparse gritting comprising both small, dark, granular inclusions and fragments of calcite. The external surface bears a heavily micaceous buff slip. This may be an import—no similar fabric and slip occur in other St. Mildred's contexts—but no source has yet been suggested.
19. Body sherd in fine, sandy, reduced, micaceous fabric with unevenly burnished external surface.
20. Badly damaged rim sherd of amphora in fine, friable, light buff fabric with wide V-shaped groove on external surface beneath rim. Internal rim diameter 120 mm.
21. Body sherd of unidentified, thin-walled vessel in smooth, buff fabric, with spalled internal surface. Part of one fracture appears to be a deliberately smoothed edge, but as the fabric is fairly soft, it is impossible to determine if the vessel wall could have been pierced before firing or subsequently.

Pit 6: E.R. 1384 (Period 3)

Reduced pimply fabric

Forty-three sherds represent eight lids and seven jars in a pimply, reduced, micaceous fabric, varying in density, but mostly soft enough to be scratched by a fingernail, and possibly underfired. Similar fabric occurs among the material from Periods I, II and IV at this site. No complete profile could be reconstructed. Three bases, represented by one sherd apiece, and three lids duplicate the items described.

22. Lid in thick, heavy fabric, with wide, flat knob, hollowed internally. Fissuring is visible on both surfaces of the knob (Illustrated).
23. Rim of lid with corrugated external surface (Illustrated).
24. Rim of lid, its fabric approaching a stoneware in hardness and density. The internal surface is heavily corrugated, the external surface less so (Illustrated).
25. Rim sherd of jar: the rim profile is damaged (Illustrated).
26. Rim sherd of jar: the upper surface of the rim is lightly burnished (Illustrated).
27. Profile from base to maximum girth of large jar. The base is slightly concave (Illustrated).
28. Rim of lid with slight external bead. The fabric is hard. The sherd is too small for the diameter to be estimated.

Reduced sandy fabric

Eighty sherds represent eleven jars and two lids. Eleven other unidentifiable vessels are represented only by undecorated body sherds. In most cases, the fabric is hard and slightly micaceous. Fractures show a mid- to light-grey core, with brown margins and dark grey surfaces. There are many parallels for both fabric and forms from first century contexts in the City of London.

29. Body sherds only of a cordoned jar with a panel of burnished lines above the shoulder (Illustrated).
30. Single sherd of lid with wide, externally-hollowed knob; cf. Hawkes (1947, Pl. LXXXV, 10) (Illustrated).
31. Cordoned, carinated jar with tall neck and everted, bevelled rim. The base has a small footring. The external surface of the body is evenly burnished from under the rim to below the maximum girth. The inner surface of the rim is also burnished (Illustrated). There are single sherds of three similar jars.

32. Single sherd of lid in very micaceous fabric with oxidized core and external surface (Illustrated).
33. Single sherd of lid with rim flattened and doubled back to form thick flange. For similar form, but not fabric, cf. Chapman (1973, 36, No. 222) (Illustrated).
34. Rim sherd of tall-necked jar with everted, bevelled rim. There is a trace of groove and cordon at the base of the neck. There is burnishing on the inner surface of the rim and outer surface of the neck. Part of the inner surface has laminated, perhaps due to salt action (Illustrated).
35. Sherds from maximum girth of large jar, decorated with alternate straight and wavy burnished lines (Illustrated).
36. Rim sherd of tall-necked jar with slightly squared, bevelled rim. The rim and external surface of the neck are burnished (Illustrated).
37. Rim sherds only of tall-necked jar. There are two concentric grooves on the inner surface of its everted, bevelled rim. The external surface of the neck and inner surface of the rim are slightly burnished. For similar form, cf. Chapman (1973, 30, No. 195), also Sheldon (1974, 51, No. 132 and 53, No. 157) (Illustrated).
38. Base and body sherds of jar. The base is flat with a single, shallow, concentric groove on the under-surface.

FIG. 11, 38–90:

Light-coloured sandy fabrics (Verulamium region)

Forty-five sherds represent two mortaria, two flagons, one small jar and seven other vessels (body sherds only) of unidentifiable form. Fabrics vary in fracture and surface colouration from greyish-white and creamy yellow to dull, light pink.

39. Handle and body sherds only of flagon in harsh, light grey fabric with slightly mottled buff/cream external surface.
40. Body sherds only of flagon. Fractures show pink core, thick white margin beneath creamy-yellow external surface, and white internal surface, coated in part with grey-buff slip.
41. Rim sherd, possibly of flagon, in harsh, cream fabric (Illustrated).
42. Mortarium in harsh, buff fabric, its surface colouration varying from buff to orange. The grit scatter includes chips of flint, quartzite, and particles of red grog. It has spread over the upper surface of the rim. The pouring-lip is incomplete (Illustrated).
43. Damaged rim sherd of mortarium in harsh, off-white fabric. The grit scatter is similar in composition to that of No. 42 above.

Amphorae

Thirty-four sherds represent five vessels, none capable of illustration.

44. Body and rod-handle sherds in friable, greyish-buff fabric, with inclusions of quartz and flint. Possibly an import from southern Spain.
45. Rim sherd in pink, slightly micaceous fabric with small brown and white grits.
46. Neck sherds in sandy fabric containing minute, dark grits: the core and external surface are pink, the internal surface buff.
47. Single body sherd in smooth, buff fabric, with small, dark grits. Thin, off-white slip on external surface.
48. Unslipped sherd in similar fabric to No. 45, buff-grey in colour.

White-slipped red fabrics

Thirteen sherds represent six vessels, all probably flagons. Three items, represented by single body-sherds, duplicate the fabrics described.

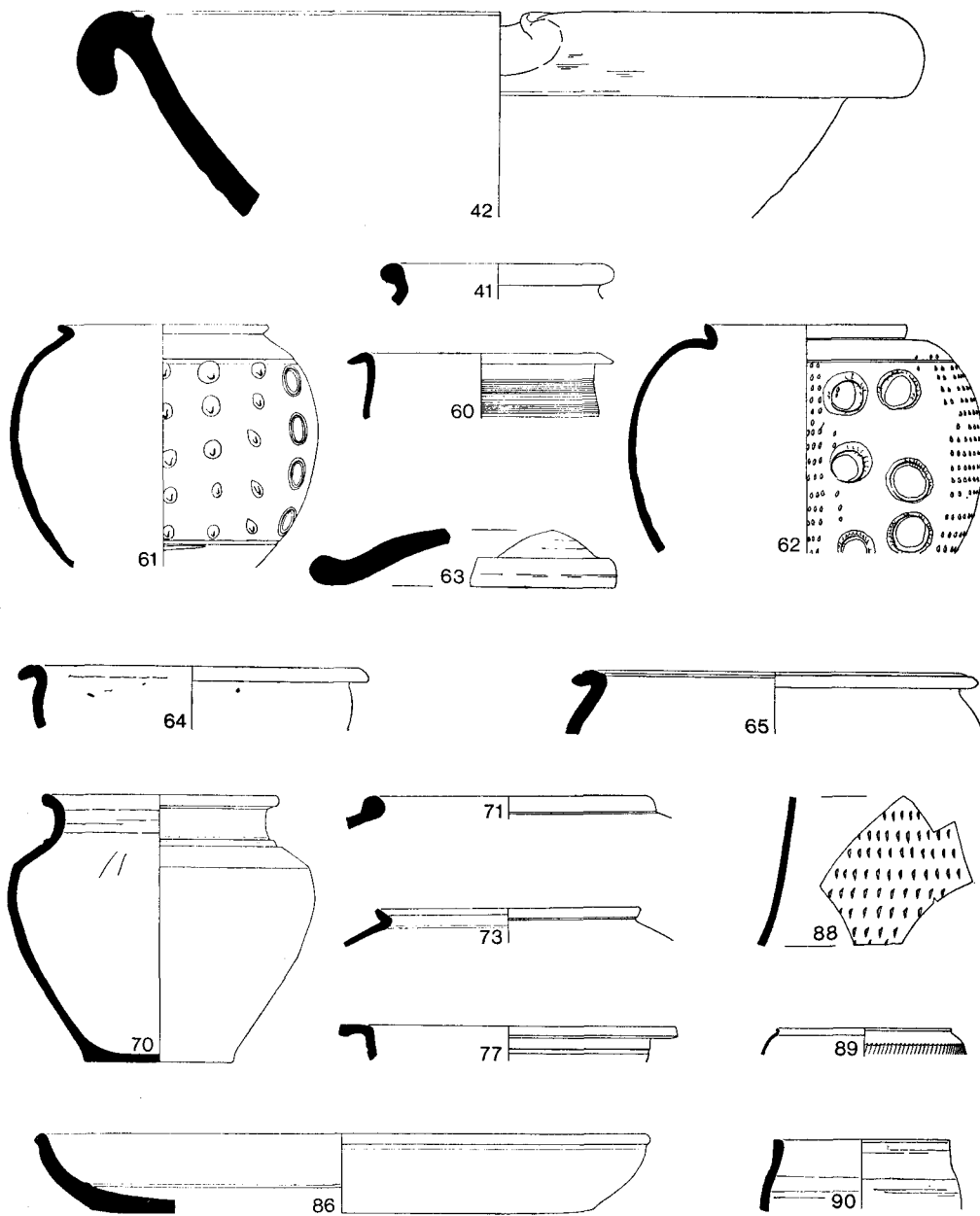


Fig. 11. St. Mildred's Church. Roman Pottery ($\frac{1}{4}$)

49. Base sherds of flagon with ringfoot. The red-brown fabric is fine, slightly micaceous, and almost grit-free. The slip is thick.
50. Body sherds of flagon in fine, soft, micaceous, buff-red fabric containing sparse particles of grog. The slip is thin and uneven.
51. Body sherd of a thick-walled and therefore, perhaps, large flagon in thick, orange-red fabric, with heavy internal grooving, and roughly-finished external surface. Even, cream slip.

Other fabrics

52. Abraded body sherd of beaker in soft, cream fabric, externally rough-cast beneath an uneven, brown colour-coat, applied thinly to the internal surface also. Colchester; cf. Hawkes (1947, 235, form 94B, 283-84, 10 and 11).
53. Body-herd, possibly from shoulder of small beaker, in fine, soft, micaceous, cream fabric, with three, narrow, incised, V-shaped, parallel grooves on the external surface.
54. Shoulder sherd from small, globular beaker in hard, off-white fabric containing minute, dark grits. The external surface is partly coated in off-white slip.
55. Single body-herd from folded beaker in smooth, hard, grey, micaceous fabric.
56. Body sherd of small flagon in fine, micaceous, red fabric, with sparse grits, some of which have leached out, leaving surface vesicles. There are traces of mica-dusting on the external surface.
- 57, 58, 59. Undecorated body sherds of three vessels in soft, reduced, micaceous fabrics, varying from brown to grey in fracture, but with grey surfaces.
60. Rim sherd of small, carinated bowl in very hard, dark grey fabric with slightly pimply surfaces. It is difficult to find a parallel in a first century context for the "beak-like" rim form, but close external rilling occurs on cooking-pots from mid-first century contexts (Period III) at Camulodunum. Similar decoration, but on a finer fabric, occurs in a Trajanic context at Toppings Wharf; see Sheldon (1974, 49, No. 88); cf. also Hawkes (1947, 270, form 260A and 260B) (Illustrated).
61. Barbotine-decorated, globular beaker in micaceous, red fabric with unevenly burnished external surface. The decoration is in cream slip. Examples of barbotine in similar large, conical pellets were found at the Walbrook site, City of London (information from Mrs. Joanna Bird) (Illustrated).
62. Barbotine-decorated, globular beaker in slightly micaceous, creamy-buff fabric containing inclusions of flint: these are mostly small, but some exceptionally large fragments have pierced the surfaces. The external surface is burnished and varies in colour from cream to orange-brown, as does the barbotine decoration. Alternating, vertical panels of trailed circles and thin, triangular pellets on beakers in similar light-coloured fabrics are known from other first-century contexts in the City of London, e.g. Barclays Bank site, Lombard Street, and London Assurance Co. site, near St. Swithin's Lane (the Museum of London), E.R. 775 and 170). Similar motifs are also used on an example from a context of A.D. 60-75 at Verulamium; see Frere (1972, 275, No. 130); also Sheldon (1974, 58, No. 216) (Illustrated).
63. Rim sherd of large lid in harsh, red, micaceous fabric with small, calcite and quartzite inclusions, angular dark grits and particles of red grog. The external surface is coated with a thin red-buff slip. An Italian or Rhenish origin has been suggested for this item (Illustrated).
64. Rim sherd of hook rim bowl in very hard, pimply fabric, with dark grey core and surfaces. There is a shallow, incised groove near the inner edge of the rim (Illustrated).

Pit 5: E.R. 1386 (Period 3)

A total of ten sherds from this context represented five vessels. Building material was represented by two fragments of tile and one of brick in red fabric, and two fragments of tile in buff fabric.

65. Rim sherd only of jar in very hard, reduced, pimply, slightly micaceous fabric. The surfaces are oxidized mid-brown. There are two concentric grooves on the convex upper surface of the rim (Illustrated).
66. Body sherd only in reduced, pimply fabric, slightly micaceous, with uneven oxidation of the external surface.
67. Base sherds only of flagon on small footing, in a hard, sandy, cream fabric, slipped on both surfaces. The external surface is unevenly burnished over bands of "grit-drag" caused by paring of the surface before firing. Verulamium region.
68. Body sherd of amphora in pink fabric with inclusions of quartz and dark grits. Buff, internal slip: off-white external slip. Possibly a Spanish import.
69. Body sherd in micaceous, red fabric containing red grog, small, dark grits and many minute inclusions of calcite, in some cases leached out. The external surface is coated with slightly micaceous, buff slip. Possibly a Rhenish or Italian import, the fabric resembling that of No. 63.

Section F-G, Layer 17: E.R. 1373 (Period 4)

This context produced forty-six sherds representing seventeen vessels: of the four main fabric types none is inconsistent with a first-century date.

Red sandy fabric

70. Tall-necked, carinated jar with faceted cordon at base of neck. The fabric is micaceous, with brown core and reduced surfaces. Paring of the surface before firing has left bands of "grit-drag", subsequently smoothed by the burnishing which covers two-thirds of the external surface and the upper surface of the rim (Illustrated).
71. Rim sherd of bead-rim jar in slightly micaceous fabric with pale grey core and dark grey surfaces. The rim and external surface are burnished (Illustrated).
72. Body sherd from above the shoulder of a jar in slightly micaceous fabric, with pale grey core and mid-grey surfaces. There is a single, narrow, horizontal burnished line.

Red smooth fabric

73. Rim sherd of small, thin-walled jar in smooth, brown, micaceous fabric with sparse inclusions of red grog and reduced surfaces. There is a narrow groove on the inner surface of the rim. Both the rim and the external surface are burnished (Illustrated).
- 74, 75, 76. Body sherds of three other vessels are in similar fabric with external surface burnishing.

Reduced pimply fabric

77. Rim sherd of bowl in very hard fabric, with brown core and reduced surfaces. There are two shallow, concentric grooves on the upper surface of the rim, and a deeper groove below the rim on the external surface of the body (Illustrated).
78. Body sherd in hard fabric with black internal surface and unevenly reduced external surface. There are finger-indentations on the internal surface.
79. Body sherd from neck and shoulder of jar in reduced fabric with light grey core and mid-grey surfaces. There is a slight cordon at the base of the neck.

White-slipped red fabrics

80. Body sherd from large flagon in sandy fabric with abraded, thin, cream slip.
81. Body sherd of flagon in smooth, orange-red fabric with inclusions of calcite and sparse, minute, dark grits. Buff internal surface. Thin, white slip.
82. Body sherd in soft, friable, micaceous fabric with thick buff slip.
83. Body sherd in hard, smooth, red fabric with sparse, minute, dark grits. There are irregular, narrow grooves on the external surface beneath an even coat of off-white slip.
84. Body sherd in hard, smooth, slightly micaceous fabric with grey core and red internal surface (possibly slipped). The external surface and margin beneath are red under a thick, cream slip. A sherd in the same fabric without external slip may be from the same vessel.
85. Base sherd of dish in "Pompeian Red" ware. Fabric, slip, basal diameter and decoration are identical with, and the sherd may well be from the same vessel as, the unstratified rim sherd No. 86 described below.

Unstratified pottery: E.R. 1372

86. Rim sherd of dish in "Pompeian Red" ware, a dark grey, fairly hard, sandy fabric, slightly micaceous. The external surface is almost black, and the internal surface bears a thick, red slip, itself also slightly micaceous. Both surfaces are burnished. The internal surface bears a deep groove, rounded in section, above the external angle, and a pair of lightly-incised, concentric grooves about 50 mm smaller in diameter. The source of this dish is unknown: "Pompeian Red" ware was manufactured in Gaul, Italy, and in Britain,

- near Peterborough at the Longthorpe kilns, whose fabric tended to be brown with a red slip (Illustrated).
87. Rim sherd of flagon in pinkish-red, slightly micaceous fabric with inclusions of calcite and small, dark grits, very similar to the fabric of No. 69 (Period 3, Pit 5). There is a very thin slip, white on the rim and pink on the interior surface. This is possibly also an import from a Rhenish or Italian source.
88. Body sherds of a thin-walled vessel, possibly a small flagon in very hard, pale pink fabric with very small, sparse, white grits. Both surfaces are very smooth, possibly slipped. The external surface is rouletted. This is probably an import from Gaul (Illustrated).
89. Rim of small thin-walled jar in very hard, off-white fabric with thin, white slip on external surface and inside rim. Like No. 88 above, this is probably an import from Gaul; cf. Wheeler (1936, 175 and Pl. LV A) (Illustrated).
90. Rim sherd of dish in sandy fabric with dark grey core, brown sub-surface margins and dark grey-brown slipped and burnished surfaces. There is a single line of lightly-incised meander on the external surface. Gillam (1970, Type 328) in BB2 (second century), and Frere (1972, 338, No. 1005) are similar forms; cf. also Tatton-Brown (1974, 173, No. 335) (Illustrated).
91. Sherds from the neck and shoulder possibly of a ring-necked flagon in hard, coarse, pink, sandy fabric. There is a lightly-faceted cordon at the base of the neck. Possibly Verulamium region.
92. Rim sherd of vessel in very hard, creamy-buff fabric, with traces of thin, cream slip on external surface.

SAMIAN

BY G. B. DANNELL, F.S.A.

The numbers given indicate the number of vessels represented. All the sherds have a source in South Gaul.

FIG. 12, 93-95:

Section C-D, Lower Clay Dump: E.R. 1375

Drag 29, one, c. A.D. 50-65.

93. Drag 29, one. Upper zone: straight wreath with sessile leaves. An exactly similar wreath is on a vessel at the Museum of London (Pryce, 1928, 87, No. 34), c. A.D. 40-55 (Illustrated).

Pit 5: E.R. 1385

Drag 18, one, first century.

Pit 6: E.R. 1384

Drag 18, one, pre-Flavian.

Drag 18, one, Flavian.

Drag 27, one, probably Flavian.

94. Drag 29, one. Upper zone: arrow-head. Lower zone: alternate St. Andrew's Cross motif and three-ringed medallion, containing a griffin o. 881. Probably by the PASSIENVVS workshop; the arrow-heads are on a 29 from Mainz (Knorr, 1919, Taf. 64F), the slightly smudged striated rod is detail 17 (Knorr, 1919, Taf. 62), and the griffin is on a 29 from Mainz (Knorr, 1952, Taf. 48) and a 37 from Fishbourne (Cunliffe, 1971, 279, 20), c. A.D. 70-85 (Illustrated).

Unstratified: E.R. 1372

Drag 15/17, one, pre-Flavian.

Drag 15/17, two, probably pre-Flavian.

Drag 15/17R, one, probably pre-Flavian.

Drag 18, one, probably pre-Flavian.

95. Drag 18, one, stamp.]IS : B.R. Hartley, F.S.A., writes: SILVINIF (SILVINVS i 8a) SILVINVS i was Neronian-Flavian (unless plural). This stamp crops up at the Gloucester fortress/colonia Nijmegen (Ulpi Noviomagus cemetery) and Caerleon fortress, c. A.D. 65-80 (Illustrated).

Drag 18, one,

Drag 18?, one, Flavian?

Drag 27, two, probably pre-Flavian.

Drag 27?, one, pre-Flavian.

Drag 29, one, first century.

Drag 35, one, Flavian?

Drag 35/36, one, first century.

Chip, one, first century.

PAINTED WALL-PLASTER

BY JOAN LIVERSIDGE

This small collection of wall-painting consists of unstratified finds (E.R. 1372) and various other fragments from Section F-G, Layer 17 (E.R. 1373), a layer of brickearth brought in to level the site after the demolition of the Flavian building. These are, therefore, also considered to be unstratified, and it may not be assumed that they come from the same room or even the same area. The collection may be divided into three main categories:

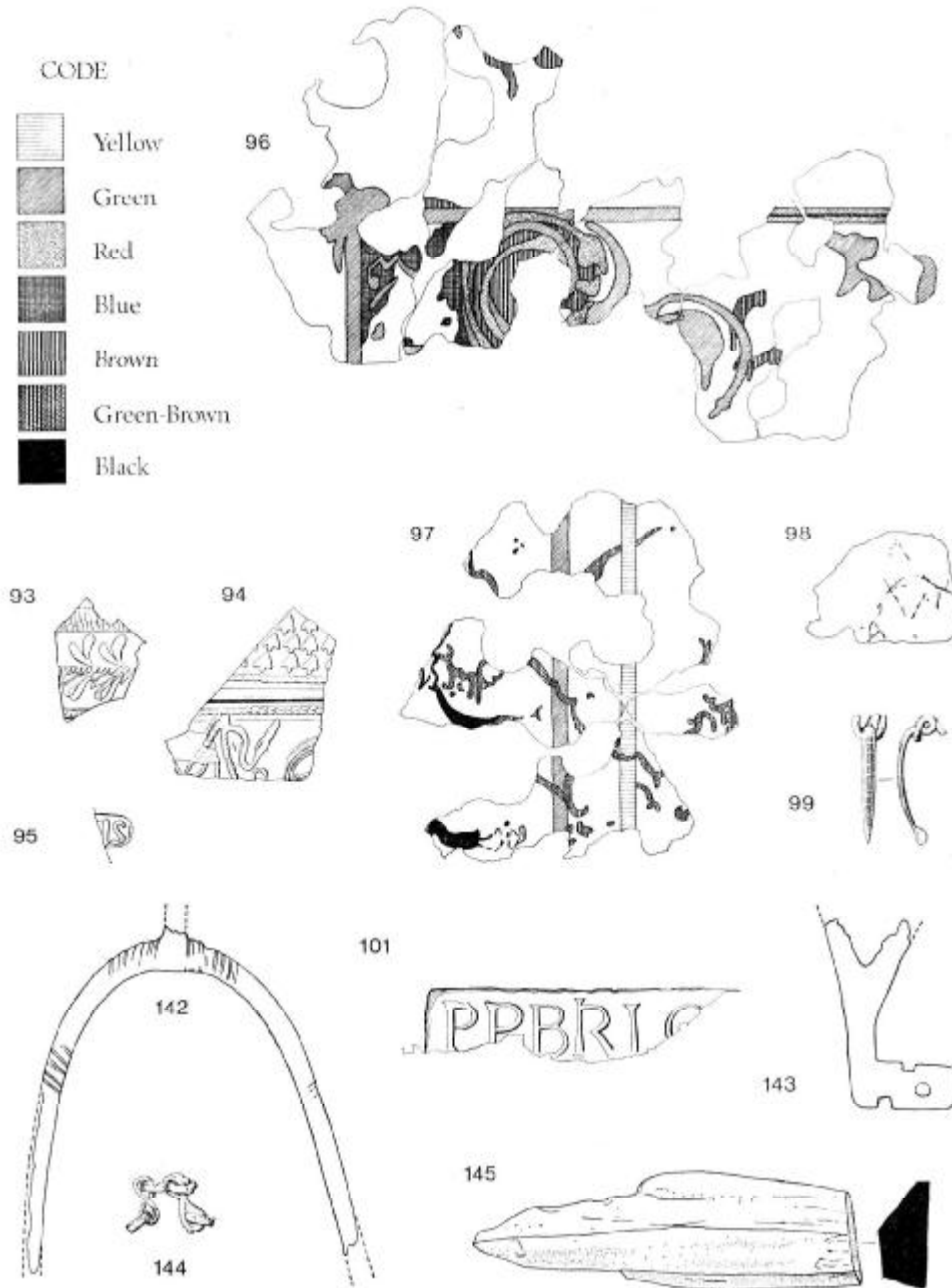


Fig. 12. St. Mildred's Church. Samian 93-95 ($\frac{1}{2}$) Roman Wall Plaster 96-98 ($\frac{1}{3}$) Other finds ($\frac{1}{2}$)

Fig. 12, 96-98

- i. Stippled and striped material which probably came from the lower parts of one or more walls. Two pieces have dark red, pale green and yellow spots and splotches painted on a pale pink ground. Several more have larger red blotches on white, and these may be associated with red bands. One such fragment may come from a red, vertical stripe at the corner of a room. This decoration is typical of the areas of imitation marbling, often split up into rectangles by bands of solid colour, normally used for the lower levels of the walls. Similar stippled material in purple on white may be associated with black lines and stripes.
- ii. A small amount of painted plaster which may come from higher up the walls and probably forms part of some panel decoration. It has survived badly, partly because it has been gashed with pock-marks intended to make a layer of later Roman plaster adhere firmly. Nevertheless, this later plaster has broken away, bringing with it much of the earlier white surface. Several pieces of this plaster form part of a design which may belong to the inner framework of a panel where two fine green lines meet at right angles. From this corner may spring a foliate scroll design of green leaves painted partly over blue-green, but mostly on a white ground. Red flowers painted on white with traces of brown and black also occur, perhaps leaves and stalks (96, Fig. 12, 1373/38). Too little survives to allow us to do more than speculate as to whether

we have here part of a swag, but panels decorated in this way are known from other British sites, e.g. Davey (1972, Fig. 8) and Liversidge (1971, Pl. XXVII, XXVIII).

Other fragments include yellow and green lines painted on white (97, Fig. 12, 1373/39). Faint traces of a design can just be discerned, possibly a black scroll with leaves and stalks in greenish-brown; cf. Drack (1950, Fig. 118).

From the later period of redecoration come a few pieces of plain white painted on a thin layer of plaster of a finer consistency, and roughened on the back to key into the holes gashed into the earlier material. Traces of the white paint of the earlier period are also faintly visible.

- iii. The typical bright Roman red plaster of which there are only a few pieces. One such fragment is bordered by a white line 80 mm wide, more red for 40 mm and then green 800 mm wide, possibly edged with black. This could be part of a panel framework and it is possible that it belongs to the later period of category ii. One small piece of plain red has a grafitto (98, Fig. 12, 1372/40), thought by Miss J. Reynolds (whom I should like to thank for her help) to be a roughly-formed A EM. Another fragment is painted green over yellow next to black, and should possibly be associated with one piece of yellow coarsely stippled in white, black and green.

UNSTRATIFIED FINDS

FIG. 12, 99-101:

99. (1372/20). A small one-piece bronze brooch with a four-turn spring and a low-curved tapering bar having transverse grooving as well as grooves down both sides. The pin and part of the catchplate are missing. A Nauheim derivative of the first century, probably Claudio-Neronian. Somewhat similar brooches with the unusual transverse grooving have been found at Fishbourne, see Cunliffe (1971, 100-2) (Illustrated).
100. (1372/30). Coin: identified by Ralph Merrifield as a dupondius of Vespasian (R.I.C. 744), A.D. 72-73, Mint of Lugdunum.
O IMP. CAESAR VESPASIAN AUG. COS. III
Radiate bust of Vespasian r.
R SECVR [ITAS AUGUSTI]
S.C. Securitas seated r. resting head on right hand in front altar and torch.

101. (1377/29). Stamped tile: Peter Marsden comments: The stamp P P BRI LO(N) on this red brick is part of a series of Roman brick stamps only found in London. Other examples from this or a very similar die are in the Museum of London collection (Museum accession numbers 2177, 2176, 2178, E.R. 1121) from unspecified sites in the City. Another, also probably from the same die, has been found on the Dyers Arms site in Cannon Street in a deposit which probably dates it to the Flavian period (E.R. 1121). The significance of these tile stamps has been discussed by Ralph Merrifield and others (Merrifield, 1969, 72), and the general interpretation is that it refers to the Procurator of the Province of Britain in London who officially issued the bricks and tiles. Residual, from post-hole 9 (Illustrated).

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

POTTERY:

There are in all twelve groups of stratified post-Roman pottery from the excavations beneath St. Mildred's Church. These are not only interesting in that they contain unusual types, but are also of considerable importance in the first instance because they come from deposits dated with a fair degree of certainty to before the construction of the late twelfth century church and also because it seems probable that most of the groups date from before the Norman Conquest. Unfortunately, the circumstances of the excavation means that there is a possibility of contamination.

The sherds, which number fifty altogether, are in general rather small, and it is quite difficult to tell whether some of them are Saxon or Roman, particularly as over one half of the total number of pieces of pottery from the post-Roman deposits are residual Roman sherds. Most are from different pots and are of different forms and fabrics which means that it is not possible to establish any seriation even though some of the groups are from a sequence of deposits. Because of the dissimilarity between the sherds, they have been catalogued according to the deposits from which they were recovered and not according to their fabric, form or probable age. Munsell colour-names have been used to describe the fabric colours.

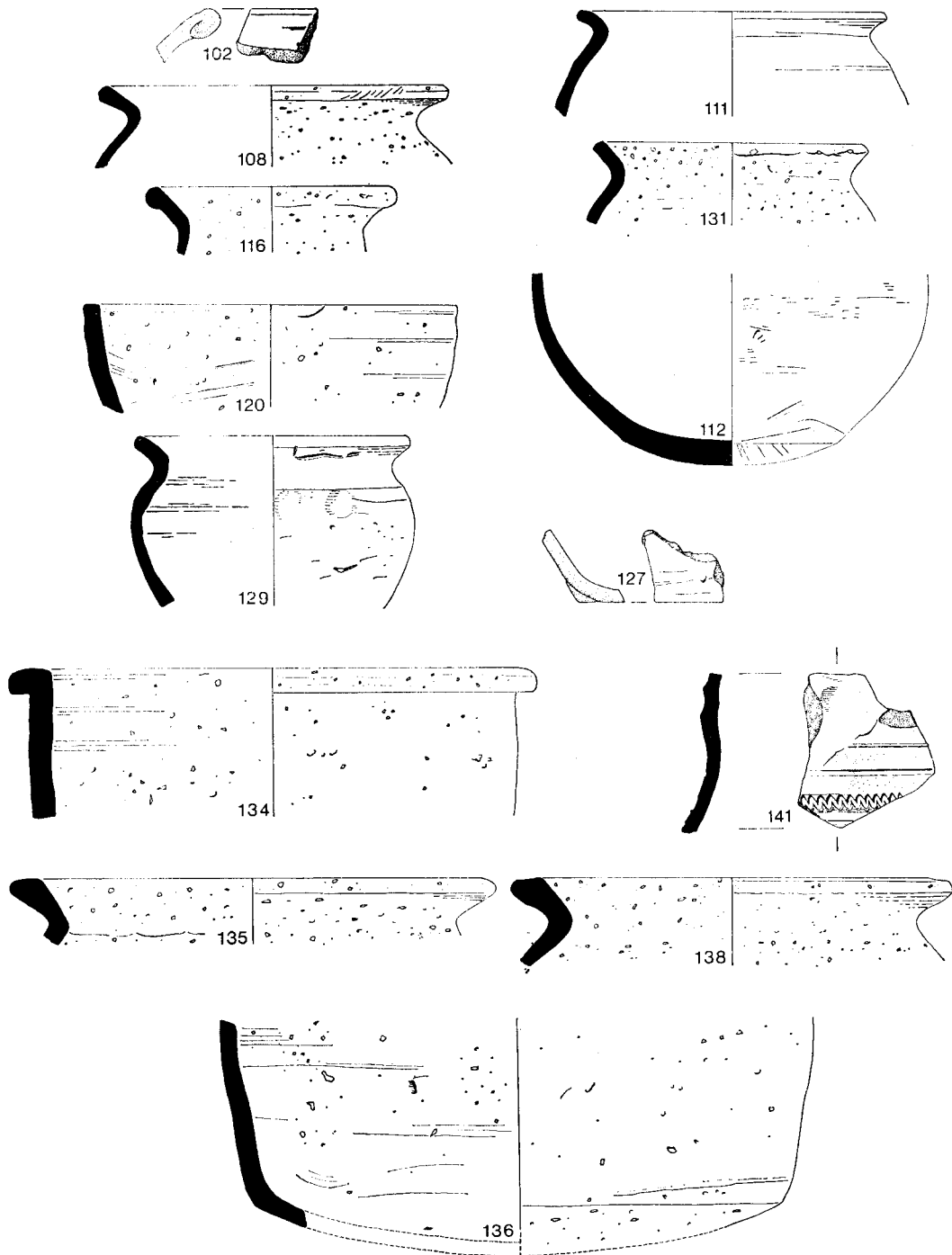


Fig. 13. St. Mildred's Church. Post-Roman Pottery (1/3)

At the end of the description of each group a broad dating is given but these are by no means certain and indeed cannot be at the present time due to a severe shortage of comparative material from London which can be definitely dated to before the Norman era. There are, however, quite a few groups which can be dated by imported continental pottery to the decades immediately after the Conquest and it is highly significant that none of the common fabrics and forms of this period are represented among the sherds from St. Mildred's (reference is here made mainly to Norman cooking pots in grey sandy or black, reduced shell gritted fabrics, some with high shoulders and everted finger-impressed rims, see Chapman (1973, 40-41), to red-painted wares, see Dunning (1959, 73-78) and to yellow-glazed Stamford wares).

Only two sherds (Nos. 102 and 120) have been ascribed to the Middle-Saxon period, but some of the others may well belong with them. Although they have been dated on rather insubstantial typological evidence it is gratifying to find that No. 102 comes from one of the earliest post-Roman deposits on the site. They both have very unusual forms, are both hand-made and have received a final wiping before firing. Both have similarities with sherds from Maxey but these may be coincidental.

Nine groups have been ascribed to the Late Saxon period and several of the fabric types represented here have been found elsewhere in London. Of these the most easily recognizable types are the hard, orange-brown to brown sand-tempered fabrics represented here by Nos. 106, 125 and 127. These fabrics are also represented in three groups recovered from pits apparently pre-dating the Church of St. Nicholas Acon which was in existence by 1084, see Marsden (1967, 218-20). About one half of the fabrics represented are sand-tempered, the other half being tempered with shell, usually by itself but with the addition of crushed flint in Nos. 103 and 104 and probably with fragments of chalk in No. 131.

Most of the body-sherds appear to be hand-made although five of the seven rims (Nos. 108, 111, 129, 130 and 132) have wide internal grooves and regular smoothing lines on the rim. It is, therefore, suggested that these pots were formed by hand and were later transferred to turntables in order to form more regular rims than could be achieved by hand-moulding by the "slow-wheel" method. This technique of manufacture is consistent with a late Saxon date. All the rims are everted, of small diameter, and very simple, and all the bases, with the exception of Nos. 112 and 123, are of the sagging variety.

The presence of vessels in the same type of fabric in Pit 15 and Pit 7 with rims of the same shape and formed in the same manner, the strangely-shaped base from Pit 15 (No. 112) and the possibility of wasters in both deposits suggests that these two pits may be contemporaneous and raises the possibility that the pots represented within them were made by an inexperienced potter somewhere in the immediate area.

Only one group (from Pit 16) is consigned to after the Norman Conquest. Its twelfth century dating does, however, raise the problem of why there should be an intermission of up to one hundred years in the material evidence.

(The writer would like to express his thanks to the following for their help during the preparation of this report: Mr. J. Cherry, Mr. J. Haslam, Mrs. R. Huggins, Mr. J. G. Hurst and Miss Margaret Wood.)

FIG. 13, 102-41:

Pottery Associated with the Construction of the Saxon Hut.
Posthole 3: E.R. 1393

102. Rim sherd from a hand-made vessel, possibly a bowl, having an inturned rim. The internal beading was formed by folding the top of the clay wall inwards. Wipe-marks on the outside indicate the pot was probably finished with a damp cloth before it was fired. The fabric, which is hard-fired and lightly tempered with quartz grits, is of a purply orange-brown colour turning to grey in parts and shows some similarity to the Maxey class G fabrics, see Addyman (1964), although it lacks the white inclusions (Illustrated).

This is one of the earliest post-Roman sherds in the collection and was probably deposited in the posthole at the time of the building of the hut. Probably Middle Saxon.

Pottery associated with the infill of the Hut-Pit.

Posthole 9: E.R. 1379

103. A small sherd from a hand-made vessel smoothed on the outer surface by a final wiping. A hard, brown-grey fabric with surfaces of dull red-brown to black

tempered with crushed shell and flint. A similar sherd comes from St. Nicholas Acon, E.R. 893.

104. A small sherd from the basal angle of a cooking-pot in a somewhat similar fabric to No. 103, but with more orangey surfaces and apparently from a much better made vessel.

This group also contains seven sherds of residual Roman pottery. Probably Late Saxon.

Section L-M, Layer 4: E.R. 1378

105. A small sherd from the basal angle of a cooking-pot with a sagging base. Hard, grey fabric, heavily shell-tempered.

This group also contains two sherds of residual Roman pottery. Probably Late Saxon.

Section L-M, Layer 2: E.R. 1376

106. A small sherd from the basal angle of a well-formed cooking-pot with a sagging base. Inside are two diagonal finger impressions which must have been formed by the potter's right hand. A hard, purple-brown fabric burnt black on the outside and heavily tempered with quartz sand. A sherd in a similar fabric comes from the St. Nicholas Acon site (E.R. 878) and is firmly dated to the middle of the eleventh century.

107. A rather flat sherd probably from the base of a vessel in a similar fabric to No. 105. Shows the marks of a final wiping before firing on both sides.

This group also contains eight sherds of residual Roman pottery. It post-dates all the groups so far described and on the basis of No. 106 is probably Late Saxon.

Pottery from a layer overlying the Hut-Pit.

Section L-M, Layer 1: E.R. 1390

108. Rim sherd of a well-made cooking-pot with a sharply everted rim thickening towards the top. Orange pink to purple brown fabric with a grey core in parts and tempered with crushed shell and flint. Surfaces show that the vessel was probably finished on a turntable (Illustrated).

109. Two sherds of a hand-made pot in a dark grey fabric with surfaces of purply orange to brown and grey, so heavily filled with coarse quartz sand that the sherds are extremely crumbly and may even be from a waster.

110. One small sherd in a dense grey fabric with light crushed-shell tempering.

This group also contains four sherds of residual Roman pottery. Probably Late Saxon.

Pottery from two pre-Church cesspits.

Pit 15: E.R. 1380

111. Rim of a well-formed cooking-pot with a simple everted tapering rim. On the shoulder is slight ridge which probably formed between the potters first and second finger when, turning the pot on a turntable, he pressed the top outwards over his first finger to form the rim. The rims of Nos. 129 and 130 have been formed in exactly the same manner. The fabric is hard, tempered with fine quartz sand and brown-grey to black in colour. Fissures along the edges of the sherd may indicate that the pot was damaged during firing, or may be due to salt action. Two other sherds of this fabric are probably from the same vessel (Illustrated).

112. The lower part of a hand-made cooking-pot with rounded body and a small sagging base in a similar fabric to No. 108. Grit-drag on the outside and wipe marks on the inside indicate that the pot was given a final wiping. A large fissure down the side of the pot and smaller fissures visible along the broken edges indicate that the vessel was damaged during firing and therefore may never have been used. Three other small sherds are probably from the same vessel (Illustrated).

113. One sherd in a hard, sandy fabric, fired pink, blue and green with partially vitrified broken edges. Probably from a waster.

114. Three sherds probably from one hand-made vessel in a light brown fabric fired grey in parts, with a heavy filling of crushed shell. The inside surfaces show the marks of a final wiping whilst the outside surface is very rough.

115. One small sherd in a very hard dark-grey fabric containing flecks of mica, tempered with quartz sand and some quartz grit. Possibly Roman.

Twenty residual Roman sherds were also found with this group. Probably Late Saxon.

Pit 17: E.R. 1381

116. Small rim sherd of hand-made vessel with an everted rim thickening into a rough beading at the top. A hard, light-brown fabric fired grey in parts with a filling of finely crushed shell (Illustrated).

117. Sherd from the base of a cooking-pot with a slightly sagging base which thickens towards the centre. A hard orange-brown fabric containing flecks of mica with a dark brown core and dark grey surfaces. Lightly tempered with sand. Grit drag is visible on the underside of the base indicating a final wiping and fingermarks are visible on the inside of the basal angle.

118. One small sherd in a fairly soft dark-grey fabric with a light orange-brown surface heavily tempered with crushed shell.

119. One small sherd in a sandy purple-brown fabric with dark brown-grey surfaces. Possibly Roman.

This group also includes seven sherds of residual Roman pottery. Probably Late Saxon.

Finds from Pits around the periphery of the site.

Pit 8: E.R. 1386

120. Rim sherd of a hand-made bowl (?) with a flat rim slightly thinned at the top. Orange-pink to purple-brown surfaces with a grey core in parts tempered with crushed shell and flint. Both surfaces show wipe marks. This is of a similar shape to a sherd excavated at Maxey (Addyman, 1964, Fig. 14, No. 35). Their fabrics are also similar in that they are both hard and tempered with finely crushed shell, but their colours and textures are different. Addyman cautiously suggests that Danish settlement may be the reason for the occurrence of this and other associated unusual forms (Illustrated).

This context also contained seven sherds of residual Roman pottery. Probably Middle Saxon.

Pit 14: E.R. 1383

121. Two sherds probably from the same vessel. A soft, mid-grey fabric with a darker outside surface, a light pinky brown inside surface and tempered with very finely crushed fossil? shell. A similar fabric has been found at Thetford (sherd in type-series of British Museum Dept. Medieval and Later Antiquities, registration number 1955 4-2 12). Probably of a St. Neots type.

122. One small sherd in a similar fabric to No. 105 with wide grooves on the inside indicating that it was partially formed on a turntable.

123. One sherd from the base of a flat-based vessel. A hard, grey fabric with surfaces of pinky orange to blue and dark grey, tempered with a scatter of fine quartz grits. Tiny flecks of mica can be seen on the surfaces and soft black spots on the broken edges suggest organic inclusions. Possibly Roman.

124. One base sherd in a dark grey fabric with a light yellow-brown to grey outer surface which has been worn or rubbed smooth after firing. Minute flecks of mica can be seen on the surfaces.

125. One sherd from the basal angle of a cooking-pot. Wide, uneven, horizontal grooves on the inside indicate that the pot may have been finished on a turntable. Hard, light-grey core with greyish-brown inner surface and a smooth outer surface fired light red to dark grey. Tempered with fine quartz sand. Similar types come from one of the dated deposits from St. Nicholas Acon (E.R. 893) and also from E.R. 878.

126. One sherd in a hard, brown-grey to very dark grey fabric and a grey to light grey inner surface tempered with fine quartz sand. Possibly Roman.

This group also contains three residual Roman sherds. From a context stratigraphically later than Section L-M, Layer 4, and probably also Late Saxon.

Pit 21: E.R. 1387

127. One base sherd from a flat-based vessel. It appears that at some stage in its manufacture a coil of clay was smoothed onto the outside of the pot at the basal angle to give it extra stability. A hard, grey fabric, fired red to dark grey on the outside with quartz sand tempering. Sherds of similar fabric came from a dated group from St. Nicholas Acon (E.R. 893) (Illustrated).

128. One sherd in a hard, grey to black fabric with a light grey inner surface and tempered with quartz sand. Similar sherds come from likely Late-Saxon groups from the Dyers Arms site, E.R. Nos. 1127 and 1205.

This group also contains three residual Roman sherds. Probably Late Saxon.

Pit 7: E.R. 1388

129. A small hand-made cooking-pot with a simple everted rim and a rounded body. Wide, uneven grooves on the inside suggest that the vessel was finished on a turntable and two finger marks on the shoulder indicate that the vessel was carried upside down whilst it was still soft. It is in a similar fabric to Nos. 111, 112 and 130 (Illustrated).

130. The rim of a similar vessel with a slightly wider diameter and a better-formed rim.

131. Rim sherd of a hand-made cooking-pot with a simple everted rim in a hard fabric tempered with crushed shell and probably also with chalk, which varies in colour between pink, light-brown and dark grey (Illustrated).

132. Rim sherd and one other sherd probably from the same basically hand-made vessel with a rim formed on a turntable. Both sherds are damaged either by salt activity or by a bad firing and may be from a waster. The fabric is hard, sand-tempered and of a pinky-brown colour, although in one place it is completely black as if the vessel were over-fired. The surfaces are pink to pinkish grey. The rim, although much damaged, appears to have been of a simple everted shape.

This group also contains two sherds of residual Roman pottery and what appears to be part of a medieval roof tile. There is, however, no other reason to suggest this is anything other than a stray, intrusive find and a Late Saxon date for the pottery would seem probable.

Pit 10: E.R. 1389

133. One small sherd of a hand-made vessel in a light-grey fabric with orange-brown surfaces tempered with shell and crushed flint. The surfaces were smoothed with a damp cloth before firing. Middle or Late Saxon,

Pottery from a pit beneath the foundations of the early medieval church tower.

Pit 16: E.R. 1395

134. Rim of a wheel-turned, straight-sided bowl with an external flange. Blue-grey fabric with purple-brown surfaces and tempered with crushed shell. Carbon deposits on the outside indicate its use as a cooking-pot. Two somewhat similar bowls but in developed St. Neots ware have been found at Northolt Manor, see Hurst (1961, Fig. 66, 17 and 18), where they are dated by J. G. Hurst to between A.D. 1050 and 1150 (Illustrated).

135. Rim sherd from a wheel-turned cooking-pot in a similar fabric to No. 134 (Illustrated).

136. Base from a wheel-turned cooking-pot with a sagging base in a similar fabric to No. 134 (Illustrated).

137. Body sherd from a cooking-pot in a similar fabric to No. 134. Broad grooves which have been partially smoothed out can be seen on the inside, suggesting perhaps that the body of this vessel was initially coil-built.

138. Rim sherd from a wheel-turned cooking-pot in a soft, brown-grey fabric with light orange-brown surfaces (Illustrated).

139. Sherd from the basal angle of a sagging base cooking-pot in a similar fabric to No. 138.

140. One sherd from a hand-made vessel in a fairly hard, dark grey fabric with dark orange-grey to orange-brown surfaces tempered with crushed shell. The surfaces received a final wiping probably with a cloth before the pot was fired.

141. One sherd from a glazed jug or pitcher from near the neck and upper handle (?) joint. The vessel was thrown and the "handle" luted onto the surface. There is decorative finger impression in the luted clay on the right of the "handle" and below this is a decorative band consisting of three grooves, the lower two of which border a wavy line incised with a blunt point. The fabric is hard, sandy and light grey to orange in colour with surfaces of pinkish grey. The glaze is light green, very sparse and patchy with grains of sand adhering to its surface.

Glazed pottery, apart from hard-fired continental imports and Stamford ware, does not seem to appear in London before the early twelfth century and as far as it is known no true jugs have been found dating prior to this time either.

Sixteen sherds of residual Roman pottery were found with this group. Probably early to mid-twelfth century (Illustrated).

CHARCOAL:

A small lens of charcoal (1376/34) was recovered from Section L-M, Layer 2, which is the top-most layer of infill in the hut-pit. In an attempt to establish a *terminus ante-quem* for the construction of the hut it was decided to obtain a radio-carbon date and a sample of the charcoal was sent to the Department of Geology, Birmingham University. The analysis, carried out by Professor F. W. Shotton, gave an age of A.D. 470 ± 100, which is, unfortunately much earlier than expected as other evidence seems to indicate a late Saxon date for the in-filling. In conjunction with the fact that there was a preponderance of Roman over post-Roman sherds in this deposit, this evidence suggests that much earlier strata may have been disturbed and re-deposited in the disused hut-pit in order to level the site.

The late Roman or dark-age date might be of considerable interest if there were not a possibility that the charcoal was contaminated when this redeposition took place.

DAUB:

Fragments of "burnt daub" were found in Pits 7 (E.R. 1388) and 8 (E.R. 1386), which were sealed by the wall of Wren's church. All bear the impressions of twigs and branches, and appear to be of the local "brickearth". The pieces of daub from Pit 7 are rather larger than those from Pit 8 and bear the impressions of larger twigs and branches. They are of duller colour, are lighter in weight and some bear deep fissures due to heating. One fragment has a blistered and vitrified surface suggesting that they may be from an oven or some similar structure. Three pieces of daub from Pit 8 have flat surfaces of similar appearance to that which characterizes the underside of medieval floor tiles which have been laid on sand before firing. The reason for this is not clear.

IRON (Fig. 12, 142-43)

142. (1388/1). Prick-spur. Highly corroded with point and terminals missing. X-ray examination revealed a series of bands, radiographically denser than the corroded iron, apparently running around the body near the point and around at least one of the arms. It is thought that these may represent some kind of inlaid decoration. Conservators at the Museum of London noticed some fine, white powder when they tried to remove the corrosion in order to examine these features, but chemical tests failed to produce

positive results. The straight arms suggest a date prior to the middle of the twelfth century (see London Museum, 1965, 96). From Pit 7 and therefore probably Late Saxon (Illustrated from a radiograph).

143. (1395/33.1). Key, with part of loop-shaped bow missing. London Museum (1965, type 1A). Similar to a late twelfth century example from King John's House, Tollard Royal, London Museum (1965, 134). From Pit 16 which also indicates a twelfth century date (Illustrated from a radiograph).

OTHER FINDS (Fig. 12, 144-45):

144. Fig. 12 (1381/15) Chain: Five closed S-shaped links formed from flat strips of bronze. From Pit 17 and therefore probably Late Saxon.

145. Fig. 12 (1381/6) Hone: Medium sized, broken at both ends and one face and showing signs of a long usage. From Pit 17 and therefore probably Late Saxon. David Moore of the British Museum, Natural History Museum, makes the following comments on the rock: This is a purple, fine grained phyllite, with a well developed cleavage. Under the microscope the rock is seen to contain abundant quartz grains, small flakes

of white mica, and evenly distributed opaque grains of ore. This is a very low grade metamorphic rock of sedimentary origin which falls into Ellis's class B—the silty quartz phyllites (Ellis, 1969, 135-87). Such rocks are abundant in many low grade metamorphic sequences, and matches could probably be made with rocks from south-west England, Wales, the Ardennes, Brittany, Scotland and Norway. However, Mr. Ellis is of the opinion that this hone is likely to be from Eidsborg (Southern Norway), as similar types are found associated with the typical Eidsborg achists.

APPENDIX I: MAMMALIAN REMAINS

BY JULIET CLUTTON-BROCK

With the exception of one Roman cesspit, the mammalian remains all came from post-Roman rubbish pits. The date of the pits is uncertain but it is probably pre-Conquest.

The mammal bones are listed below under the pit headings. The only wild mammals that were represented were a few hare bones from the Roman pit and a worked section of red deer antler from Pit 15. There is no evidence for the presence of goat.

*Pit 6: E.R. 1384 Roman cesspit**Domestic pig*

Fragments of scapulae, metapodia, and tibiae, all from juvenile animals.

Domestic Ox

One right horizontal ramus with cheek teeth: length of cheek teeth row, 126.4 mm; length M_3 34.5 mm; width M_3 , 13.8 mm.

Limb bone fragments and ribs.

One complete calcaneum: greatest width, 32.8 mm; width tuber calcanei, 25.4 mm.

One complete phalanx I: length, 56.3 mm; proximal width, 29.3 mm.

Domestic sheep

Fragments from juvenile animals and 1 adult mandible.

Lepus sp. Hare

Two tibiae and 2 fragments of limb bones.

*Pit 15: E.R. 1380. Late Saxon? cesspit**Domestic pig*

3 skull fragments.

1 mandible fragment with unerupted M_3 .

2 scapulae, 1 fragment + 1 more complete; length of articular surface, 31.8 mm; width articular surface, 23.3 mm; height of neck, 21.5 mm.

1 humerus shaft.

1 proximal end of radius: proximal width, 25.2; shaft width, 14.5.

2 metapodial bones with distal epiphyses missing; juvenile.

1 complete femur; sub adult; length, 196.0 mm; proximal width, 52.5 mm; distal width, 42.3 mm; shaft width, 18.3 mm.

The surface of the shaft shows chopping marks.

Cervus elaphus, Red Deer

1 section of a tine, sawn through at both ends. The ring of antler is about 28 mm thick and has a diameter of approximately 45 mm. A very fine saw has been used and the cut surface is slightly polished. This was probably a waste piece left because the first cut was diagonal instead of straight through the antler.

Domestic Ox

Fragments of skull, limb bones, pelvis, ribs, vertebrae and scapular. One fragment of a pelvic bone has been chopped. This bone has also been gnawed, probably by a dog.

The bones that were complete enough for measurement are as follows:

Tibia, juvenile, proximal epiphysis missing: distal width, 56.6 mm; shaft width, 39.7 mm. Metatarsals (2), left and right from two individuals, small and probably from cows or possibly a cow and an ox (castrate). The larger metatarsal that could be from an ox has a slight overgrowth and widening of one of the distal articular condyles, resulting perhaps from the use of the animal for draught: length of bone, 190.0 mm; 203.0 mm; proximal width, 38.7 mm; 40.4 mm; distal width, 43.3 mm; 47.3 mm; shaft width, 23.5 mm; 24.3 mm. The smaller metatarsal has had a sliver of bone about 10 mm long shaved off its posterior surface; possibly this occurred during skinning of the carcass.

Phalanx I: length, 58.9 mm; proximal width, 25.2 mm.

Hoof core: length of sole, 33.6 mm; height of hoof core, 58.8 mm.

In addition, from this pit there was a small nearly complete horn core of an ox, of the "short-horn" type.

Domestic sheep

One bisected cranium of a large animal possibly a ram. The horn core had been removed from the skull.

Four horn cores, one nearly complete and 3 smaller ones which are only fragments. All these horn cores have been sawn or cut off the skulls.

Fragments of skulls, limb bones, and an atlas.

Humerus: distal width, 30.0 mm.

Radius: length, 156.4 mm; proximal width, 32.2 mm; distal width, 31.0 mm; shaft width, 17.6 mm.

Pit 17: E.R. 1981. Late Saxon? cesspit

Domestic pig

Fragments of limb bones, pelvic bone, and vertebra. Nearly all from juveniles.

Domestic Ox

Fragments of limb bones, pelvic bone, and vertebra. Mostly with chopping marks and evidence of butchery.

Radius: distal width, 73.1 mm.

CONCLUSION:

The remains of pig from St. Mildred's Church show that the animals were all small and not fully grown when they were killed. The sheep bones are more variable in type; there being one large horn core, probably from a ram, and several smaller ones that presumably came from ewes or wethers. All the sheep horn cores have been sawn or cut from the skulls. Both adult sheep and quite young lambs are represented.

The three cattle horn cores cover the three varieties in horn shape that are commonly found in Roman and post-Roman excavations. One is quite short and pointed similar to the small horn cores found on Iron Age sites, one is intermediate in length and the third is of the "long horn type", that is quite long and relatively straight, and the frontal bone attached to the core shows that the skull was relatively broad.

A large majority of the bones of cattle and sheep show evidence of butchery. This could have been associated with the use of bone for artefacts rather than for meat alone, suggested in particular by the longitudinal splitting of some of the bones, especially the metacarpal from Pit 7.

The sample of bones is not large enough to show any differences between the livestock represented in the Roman pit and those of the later periods. (The catalogue of these bones is held by the British Museum, Natural History Museum, Catalogue No. A.R.C. 1974 R. 5048-61.)

APPENDIX II: BIRD REMAINS

BY DON BRAMWELL

Pit 6: E.R. 1984. Roman

Domestic fowl, Gallus gallus

As is usual from Roman occupation sites, there are remains of domestic chicken of differing breeds, the commonest being a bird of a small, light variety, by

Domestic sheep

Fragments of horn core, skull, mandible, pelvic bone, and limb bones.

Humerus: distal width, 30.4 mm.

Femur: proximal width, 42.0 mm.

Pit 14: E.R. 1983. Late Saxon? rubbish-pit

Domestic pig

One scapula from a small pig, two vertebrae, one radius from a juvenile, one distal femur, and one small tusk.

Domestic Ox

One nearly complete, fairly large horn core of the "longhorn type". Fragments of scapula, rib, radius, tibia, and metatarsal; measurements as follows:

Radius (two individuals): proximal end, width, 72.4 mm; distal end, width, 66.1 mm.

Metatarsal: distal width, 45.4 mm.

Pit 7: E.R. 1988. Late Saxon? rubbish-pit

Domestic pig

Two fragments of mandible: length right M₃, 31.6 mm; width RM₃, 15.4 mm. One small tusk.

Fragments of humerus, radius, ulna, and pelvic bone; all from juveniles: distal width of humerus, 32.5 mm, shaft width, 14.5 mm; proximal width of radius, 27.3 mm, shaft width, 18.8 mm.

Domestic Ox

One horn core of intermediate length, probably from a cow or an ox.

One upper molar that has been burnt.

Fragments of mandible, atlas vertebra, rib, scapula, pelvic bone, and limb bones.

Measurements as follows:

Humerus: distal width, 80.6 mm, chopped through shaft.

Femur: proximal width, 126.6 mm. This bone has been burnt and chopped through vertically, so that only the anterior side is present. There is some exostosis of the bone around the epiphysis which is not fully fused. This may suggest that this animal was an ox that had been used for draught.

Tibia (2 individuals): proximal widths, 81.4 mm, 78.4 mm. The bone has been chopped through the shaft and the end is gnawed, probably by a dog.

Metacarpal: length, 165.1 mm. This bone has been split, by a chopper, longitudinally.

present-day standards. Five birds are represented, of which one bird is immature. There is also a very small tarsal bone of a cock Bantam which is about the smallest chicken specimen I have seen, from many collections.

Crane, *Grus grus*

This huge edible marsh bird is not unusual in sites from Roman to medieval times. It formerly nested in Britain and was also known as a winter visitor from mainland Europe. The carcass would probably weigh in the region of 30 lbs.

Pit 15: E.R. 1380. Late Saxon?

Domestic fowl

Only one certain and two possible bones. Fowl was commonly kept by the Saxons.

Sparrow hawk, *Accipiter nisus*

There are parts of the skeletons of two birds which I have tried to match up as far as possible. They both agree with the measurements for females which are the larger and more powerful of the sexes and so more in demand for the sport of hawking. I have no doubt that these two hawks had been so used. The chief parts missing from each skeleton are the tibiae and tarsals and it may be they had been removed from the carcasses as souvenirs of two favourite birds.

Pit 17: E.R. 1381. Late Saxon?

Large duck, cf. *Anas platyrhynchos*, domestic variety

Part of a lower beak is thought to be large enough to belong to the domestic rather than the wild form.

Pigeon, *Columba* sp.

The tibia is difficult to determine as to species and could belong to small wood pigeon, rock dove or domestic pigeon. There would be only slight differences and it would be unwise to specify one or the other. In any case all three are widely used as food from Roman to medieval and later times.

Raven, *Corvus corax*

Raven bones are commonly found in Roman and later contexts. The birds may have been pets but are more likely, in my opinion, to have been killed for menacing domestic poultry chicks as these birds are great scavengers and were probably often present round human settlements.

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