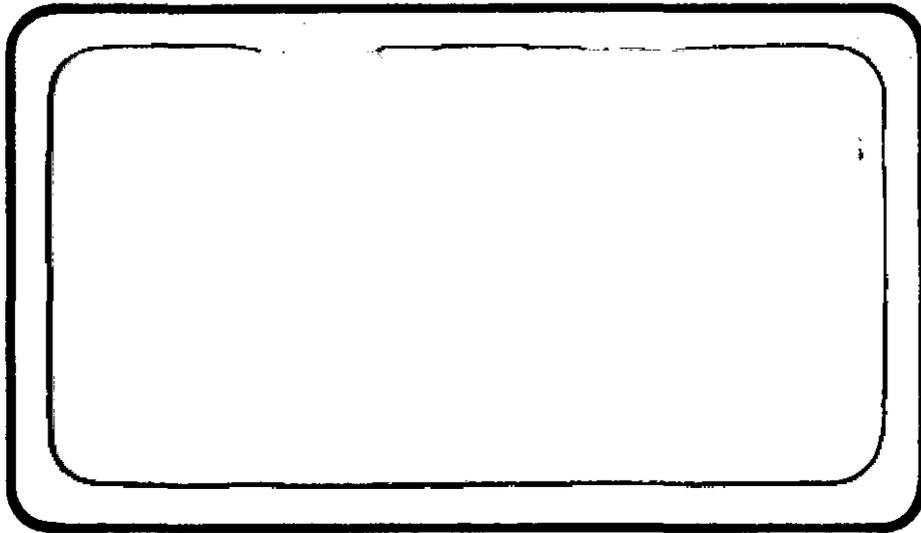


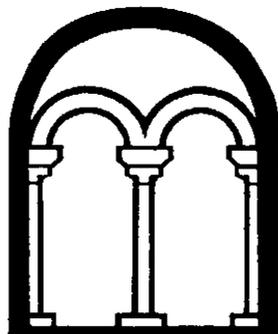
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SALFORD QUARRY EXCAVATIONS
BEDFORDSHIRE

Part 1 Post excavation assessment of the potential
for analysis

Planning Department
Bedfordshire Archaeology Service

January 1995

Report 94/7.1

THE NEOLITHIC, BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE SITE AT SALFORD,
BEDFORDSHIRE

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THE NEOLITHIC, BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE SITE AT SALFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Neolithic, late Bronze Age and Iron Age site at Salford quarry lies on a gravel island at the western end of the Greensand Ridge (SP 928392), Bedfordshire. The site was excavated during 1989 and 1990 in advance of quarrying by GFX Hartigan plc.

1.2 The site is of national importance because of the surviving evidence of a series of round houses sealed by a deposit containing Iron Age materials. This deposit was protected from cultivation damage by a medieval headland that coincided with the location of part of the main settlement area. Of considerable interest are four Bronze Age ring ditches which predate the settlement and which may have provided a focus for the later settlement.

1.3 The site is of particular importance because of its place in the wider context of the Archaeology Service's investigation of the Bronze Age and Iron Age landscape of Bedfordshire. The results of this excavation will benefit from comparison with other sites currently under analysis. These sites are the late Iron Age settlement at Stagsden and the middle Iron Age settlement at Gold Lane, Biddenham. In addition sites such as those at Willington Quarry and Norse Road, Bedford, provide a valuable comparison with settlements in different topographical locations. Salford is outstanding amongst the sites of the Ouse Valley/Greensand ridge region in the extent of excavation and in the quality of survival of the settlement area.

1.4 In accordance with *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) this document presents the results of the post excavation assessment of the data produced by the 1989-90 excavations together with the results of salvage recording in 1988.

The report is bound in two separate volumes:

Part 1: Assessment of potential

Part 2: Updated project design

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is one of only a limited number of cropmark sites on the Greensand Ridge at the western end of the clay vale. It was threatened by gravel extraction which has destroyed all the cropmarks in land parcel OS8724 and the northern part of OS6127. Aerial photographs suggested the presence of two ring ditches and a driveway comprising two linear ditches which curved northwards. A single linear feature described an arc which appeared to cut the western ring. Other smaller cropmarks suggested the presence of pits and other less well defined features.

No previous work had taken place on the site and the excavation strategy was devised to fall in with the programme of quarrying following on from a watching brief/salvage period in 1988. In the first phase the western access route and the northern part of OS6127 were investigated and the results used to evaluate the potential for further work in the area of OS8724.

2.2 The excavation was funded by English Heritage and GFX Hartigan plc. The site was excavated by Royston Clark (Senior Archaeological Field Officer). This assessment was carried out by Michael Dawson (Senior Archaeological Field Officer) with Holly Duncan (Non-Ceramic Artefacts Officer) and Anna Slowikowski (Ceramic Artefacts Officer) and commissioned specialists listed in the text.

2.3 The original aim of the project was to carry out full excavation of the site before destruction by quarrying. However, as the extent of the settlement and other features became clearer, the objective of full excavation was modified to adopt a sampling strategy which allowed for interpretation at less than total excavation. The aims specified in the original research design may be listed as:

- 2.3.1. to place the site in its landscape context;
- 2.3.2. to clarify the economic and, ultimately, social status of the site;
- 2.3.3. to define the limit of the later settlement;
- 2.3.4. to produce stratigraphic and finds evidence for a dating sequence of structures and ditches;
- 2.3.5. to define the limit of the cremation cemetery and examine its relationship with the settlement
- 2.3.6. to examine the dark earth mound (the 'occupation' spread), defining its function and date, and to produce an environmental framework for its interpretation;
- 2.3.7. to examine internal site development from the late Neolithic onwards and to examine the changing settlement pattern and distinguish middle and late Iron Age settlements together with the extent of overlap if any;
- 2.3.8. to analyse, using all classes of data, the evidence for discrete areas of activity within the settlement and to examine enclosures and enclosure ditches for environmental evidence and evidence of agricultural activities.

3 THE STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The excavation at Salford took place in advance of quarrying when it was initially intended to examine the remains of ring-ditches and other linear features which were visible on aerial photographs. It became clear during the excavation however that activity at the site may have begun with tree clearance in the Neolithic and extended into the Saxon period.

3.2 Quantity of material and records

Contexts	Initially 3900 numbered contexts were recorded during the excavation; during the assessment this figure was increased to 4651 to include those contexts not assigned context numbers during excavation but described on annotated plans or photographs.
Plans	137
Sections	374
Photographs	43 films (approximately 1505 photos)

All site records have been entered onto a computerised database using DBase IV software.

3.3 Range and variety

3.3.1 Excavation at Salford (fig 1) was undertaken under three separate regimes. In 1988 extreme rescue conditions led to the salvage excavation of features on the west side of the site, including structures 42 and 45 (fig 2). In 1989-90 area excavation was carried out on the eastern half of the site (the Iron Age settlement). During the latter excavation a deposit beneath the headland bank (the 'occupation' spread) was sampled.

3.3.2 The area excavation allowed the clear definition of a large number of Iron Age round-houses evident from drip gullies and post settings. At first these were considered to be contemporary but the ceramic assessment suggests that occupation progressed across the site, with only a few structures occupied at any time. Rather than a single large 'village', Salford may have been occupied episodically over a period of time.

3.3.3 In all areas except the occupation spread the excavation followed a policy of sampling which resulted in 50% excavation of all structural remains with the exception of the palisade where approximately 30% of all features were half sectioned. The sampling, which was not closely defined except through practice on site, resulted in the exploration of feature relationships and concentration on the maximisation of ecofact and artefactual data. In some cases interesting pit assemblages were fully excavated, as were the cremations. In the case of excavated contexts, recovery of finds was undertaken during manual excavation: no sieving took place and no quantification of the collection rate was carried out.

3.3.4 During the assessment all context records have been examined and a preliminary phasing constructed using the stratigraphic record and artefactual data.

3.4 Site definition

3.4.1 The constituent parts of the Salford site comprise several elements of which none is complete. The restrictions on the area of excavation specified by the quarry, woodland to the north of the site, and the extensive cropmarks in adjacent fields indicate that the limits of each of the site's components have not been reached. In particular the ring ditches and evidence of Neolithic activity may form part of a larger group, whilst the Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement may extend further to the north. The cemetery evidence, Roman and Saxon features, represent only part of sites investigated.

3.5 Additional data

In addition to the excavated evidence two scientific techniques were employed at Salford. The first a Magnetic Susceptibility survey was undertaken in an experiment with equipment from Southampton University; the second was an archaeomagnetic date from A J Clark.

3.6 Magnetic susceptibility survey

3.6.1 In 1989 a magnetic susceptibility survey was undertaken at Salford at the level of sub-ploughsoil to examine the survival of Iron Age structures, and to attempt to identify activity areas prior to excavation as well as testing the technique against the results of excavation. This work complements that carried out in the Fens where, although nothing remained to excavate, shadow rings of drip gullies were recovered by MS survey (Challands 1992). The location of the MS survey (fig 3) over structures 1, 2 and 3 illustrates their survival in the sub-ploughsoil horizon where bio-turbation has resulted in the upward movement of magnetically sensitive material. High points in the survey plots may indicate areas of burning or concentrations of ceramics or other magnetically sensitive material. In particular the survey illustrates that evidence of structure 3 is more extensive than excavation had indicated.

3.6.2 The MS survey, carried out by the excavator R C Clark, was processed using Surfer software at Southampton University in December 1989 (fig 4).

3.7 Scientific Dating

3.7.1 An archaeomagnetic date has been sought from a hearth in Salford (context 1857) located between structures 1, 2 and 37. The date has yet to be determined. This work was undertaken by A J Clarke.

3.8 Provenance: the provisional phasing.

3.8.1 The dataset, which comprises the context records, photographs and magnetic susceptibility survey and additional observations made during excavation, has been assembled for the purpose of assessing its potential for analysis. The structural evidence of human activity at the Salford site has been grouped into 8 broad phases based on the stratigraphic record. These are:

Table 3.1 Summary of principal phases of activity at Salford

PHASE	PERIOD	STRUCTURES
1	Neolithic	Pits; burnt features truncated by Structure 1; features to west excavated in 1988
2	Middle to Late Bronze Age	Four ring ditches; structures 43, 44, 42, *16a (outer ring)
3	Late Bronze Age	Structures 5, 12, 45, 38, 40
4	Iron Age	Structures 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16b, 16c, 17, 36, 38
5	Late Iron Age	Cremations
6	Roman	Structure 37, dates based on spot dating
7	Saxon	Well, structure 39, and associated features
8	Medieval	Furrows & headland
*Structure 16 comprises three circular ditches. One is considered to be an early ring ditch 16a, the remains of a barrow, and the others the remains of round houses 16b, 16c.		

3.9 Phase 1 Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

3.9.1 Description

Archaeological evidence for human activity during the earliest period of occupation at Salford is diverse. Possibly the earliest process is that of tree clearance which may be evident from several 'tree throw' holes or pits found on the western side of the excavation. Although of course these may be storm damage, or have fallen over due to old age or struck by lightning etc, evidence of such features occurring at a similar date have been recorded elsewhere in the region. Recent, but unpublished, work in the Ouse Valley area has revealed more evidence of tree clearing in the form of tree throw holes at Warren Villas (River Ivel) and Cardington Cross (Elstow Brook) and Octagon Farm. Although generally dated to the Neolithic, proposed C14 dates from Cardington Cross and analysis of the Neolithic ceramics from the Salford features may refine the dating of this process in the region.

3.9.2 A single pit north of ring ditch 42 contained Neolithic pottery and two further pits containing Neolithic pottery were excavated from the area of Iron Age settlement (see section 4.1.3). These were dated by Peterborough wares and flint material recovered from their fills. In addition three grooved ware sherds and flint material were found in layers across the site, either as discarded debris from activity areas or re-deposited in later prehistoric features. Bronze Age activity is associated with three Beaker sherds from a pit.

3.9.3 The tree throw holes on a hillslope at the end of the Greensand Ridge are an important indication of the extent of Neolithic land usage and provide a valuable counterpoint to studies of the late Neolithic and Bronze Age which have examined data from the river valleys (Woodward 1978).

3.10 Phase 2 Middle to late Bronze Age

3.10.1 Description

Evidence of activity in the middle to later Bronze Age comprises four ring ditches (structures 16, 42, 43, 44). All four were probably burial monuments although only structure 42 had slight evidence for a central inhumation. The ascription of a middle to late Bronze age date is based on flint material found in the ditch fills.

Structure 42 comprised a roughly circular ditch with a diameter of approximately 23m. The width of the ditch varied from 1.2m to 2.65m, with sides sloping to a narrow base at an angle of 30°-40°, to a maximum depth of 650mm. Two fills were identified, the lower, a silty sandy loam, was the primary silting horizon and the upper probably represented a consolidation level.

Close to the centre of the ring ditch was a stone cist set into a shallow pit. The pit was sub-rectangular, oriented north to south and measured 2.6m x 1.8m. The cist was made of rounded sandstone pebbles, up 350mm diameter, surrounding an oval-shaped area 1m x 0.8m. There were no surviving bones or a stain to indicate the presence of a body at this level.

Structure 43 comprised a single circular ring ditch, external diameter 25m. The ditch was up to 4m wide and its depth varied from 0.4m to 1.0m. The sides sloped at an angle of 30° - 40° with a narrow base. The ditch fill comprised an orange brown sandy silt. No burial was found associated with this ring ditch.

Structure 44 This structure comprised a roughly circular ring ditch approximately 20m external diameter, with ditches which varied in depth from 200mm to 400mm. The profile varied from vertical to steeply sloping (45°) sides. The single fill was a light to mid brown sandy silt. A possible shadow remaining from a central burial was partially excavated but abandoned by the excavators who considered it to be natural.

Structure 16a This structure comprised a circular ditch or gully which may be the truncated remains of the ring ditch of a barrow burial. Pottery from the fills of Iron Age date is probably intrusive. All are small single sherds (eight from context 466; seventeen from context 579) averaging 5.7g in weight each.

3.11 Phase 3 Later Bronze Age

3.11.1 Description

The Later Bronze Age is represented by **two** post-built round houses (structures 12, 45) a round house (structure 5) identified by a drip gully, a post built droveway (structure 38) and a palisade (structure 40).

Structure 5 comprised a single gully surviving for three quarters of a circle. Its diameter was 13m and the gully varied in depth to a maximum of 350mm. Several post holes within this structure may have formed part of an entrance way and associated structure. This near circular ditch is interpreted as the drip gully of a round house and has clear evidence of recutting or cleaning during occupation.

Structure 12 This post-built house measured 10m in diameter with an entrance facing west. It comprised 16 post holes which made up the entrance, outer and inner rings and is similar to examples in Guilbert (1981).

Structure 38 This structure comprised two lines of post/stake holes running approximately north to south across the east front of structure 6 and truncated by structures 7, 8, 9, 10. The post settings may represent a droveway. The juxtaposition of structures 6 (see 3.12.1 below) and 38 suggests they are unlikely to be contemporary.

Structure 45 This structure certainly comprised a ring of post holes (8m diameter) around a central hearth with a possible second ring. The hearth comprised a circle of sandstone pebbles, up to 100mm diameter, around a clay lined hearth of 900mm diameter. Structure 45 may be interpreted as a double ringed aisled structure (Guilbert 1981, 301 fig 1) with an entrance way to the south. This structure had been considerably eroded by ploughing and was further damaged during topsoil stripping in the early phases of quarrying.

Structure 40, the palisade The palisade, which comprised a linear trench and post hole alignments, was isolated from the main settlement area and had no stratigraphic relationship with any earlier dated features. However, the ceramic assemblage and a fragment of Bronze Age spearhead have demonstrated that the palisade may have been in use by the late Bronze Age.

3.12 Phase 4 Iron Age

3.12.1 Description

The Iron Age occupation of Salford constitutes the main period of settlement activity at the site with 16 round houses, at least 18 four-post, and several two-post structures. At least two of the houses had adjacent enclosures which may have been stock pens. A droveway defined by parallel ditches crosses the site from west to east. There is no evidence of storage pits on the site. From the late Bronze Age, the earliest period of occupation, the settlement may have been enclosed within a palisade which survived into the Iron Age although no evidence of the palisade survives on the west side of the site. There is the possibility that further structures will emerge as a result of detailed structural analysis.

Structure 1 This structure comprised an external recut circular gully with a smaller internal circular gully. A break on the eastern side suggests an entrance way. The outer gully had a U-shaped profile which suggests cleaning; it varied in depth from 150mm to 250mm. The sides were steeply angled to between 45° and 60°. The fill comprised a grey brown clayey silt. Several post holes within the structure suggested some internal division and the remains of an entrance way. The structure is similar to house types noted in the Thames valley at Minges Ditches and in Wiltshire at Groundwell Farm (Allen, Miles & Palmer 1984, Fig 6.5, 6.8).

Structure 2 This structure comprised a single circular drip gully 13m in diameter. A gap on the east side suggests the presence of an entrance, and post holes indicate the presence of a porch.

Structure 4 This structure comprised a complex of recut gullies indicating at least three phases of activity. The outer and largest gully had an external diameter of 16m and varied in depth to a maximum of 750mm. A 5m gap on the east side suggests the presence of an entrance. Post holes, 2m apart, are evidence of the structure of the porch. An internal arc of post/stake holes on the south side suggests parallels with House 5 at Minges Ditches (Allen, Miles & Palmer 1984, fig 6.8).

Structure 6 This structure comprised a single circular drip gully approximately 14m diameter. The gully varied in depth to a maximum of 500mm and had been recut at least four times. Throughout the life of the structure a gap was maintained on the east side of up to 4.5m. Four post holes may represent two phases of entrance construction; two further post settings to the east may have formed part of an outer porch. Some evidence of internal partitions survived but with no detailed structural pattern discernible.

Structure 7 Structure 7 is the most westerly of a complex of ring ditches, probably drip gullies, which cut the post/stake hole droveway, structure 38. Structure 7 is 15m in diameter and had evidence of considerable recutting which resulted in a comparatively deep gully of up to 500mm.

Structure 8 This structure comprised a single circular gully approximately 12m in diameter. In contrast to structure 7 (above) this gully was shallow, 100mm -200mm, and may represent only a short period of occupation.

Structure 9 Structure 9 is a smaller drip gully enclosing an area of 10m diameter. In common with structure 8 (above) the gully was shallow, 100mm deep, and had a single dark yellow brown silty clay fill. This structure may have been occupied only for a short period.

Structure 10 This structure comprised a circular drip gully with a diameter of 15m. The gully varies in depth to a maximum of 300mm. Two separate phases of clearance or recutting are evident on the north-east side of the gully. In common with other structures a gap was maintained on the east side of the ring. A single large post hole may be the remaining evidence of an entranceway. A single break on the south side has been ascribed by one of the site supervisors to over-zealous machining.

Structure 11 This structure comprised a circular drip gully of approximately 15m diameter. The gully varied in depth to a maximum of 350mm and was filled with a dark brown silty clay. Two post holes represent an east facing entrance, whilst further post holes in the area suggest rebuilding of the entrance way.

Structure 13 This structure comprised a circular drip gully enclosing an area of 15m diameter. The gully had extensive evidence of recutting and clearance, although a gap was consistently maintained on the east side of the structure, presumably for an entrance way.

Structure 14 Structure 14 comprised a crescent-shaped gully adjacent to structure 13. This is probably the eroded remains of a near circular drip gully. The gully was shallow, 200mm deep. Modern disturbance and possibly the construction of structure 15, account for the fragmentary nature of this structure.

Structure 15 This structure comprised a single crescent-shaped gully, part of a circular drip gully. With a variable profile the gully width ranged from 250mm to 500mm and the depth from 200mm to 300mm.

Structure 16 This structure comprised the remains of three structures: a single circular drip gully approximately 14m diameter (16a) within a second sub-circular gully approximately 21m diameter (16b). Both the outer and inner gullies were cut by a third sub-rectangular gully(16c). Preliminary interpretation suggests that the shallow outer ring (16a) may be the ploughed out remains of a barrow as it is similar in size to structures 42 and 44. The smaller ring is probably the remains of a drip gully from an Iron Age round house (16b) coincidentally built on the same location as the barrow, whilst the sub-rectangular enclosure is similar to structure 36 and may be a stock enclosure (16c). The inner drip gully has been recut at least once.

Structures 17 and 36 These structures are grouped together as they appeared to form a single complex. Structure 17 comprised two segments of a single circular drip gully which is 11m in diameter. The drip gully was shallow, reaching a maximum depth of 250mm and there is slight evidence for a recut on the southwest side. The sub-rectangular enclosure 36, approximately 20m x 20m, comprised three segments of a gully which had evidence of several cleaning and recutting episodes. At the point of contact between this enclosure and the drip gully of structure 17, the gully of structure 36 was the last to be cleared. There are clear structural similarities between this complex and enclosure 3 at Farnoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 26 fig 14).

The isolated features It had been hoped to bring many of the isolated features into the phasing either through the analysis of the ceramic cross contexts or through the recognition of further structural patterns. At present ceramic cross contexts have been of minimal use and this can no longer be considered a major avenue of approach. The recognition of further structural patterning must await structural analysis. In the south-eastern corner of the site a **pond** area with Iron Age and Roman pottery may have remained open for a considerable period of time (see pollen assessment).

The four post structures As many as 18 four post structures (structures 19-35, 46) have been identified and with the exception of two, structure 34 & 46, all are in the area to the east of the Salford site. None are related stratigraphically to any of the round house structures, although many may prove to be in combination with pairs or individual round houses. All are single phase structures.

The 'occupation' spread (context 2100)

The occupation deposit comprised a dark sub-plough soil horizon of comparatively rich organic soil extending from between structures 4 and 11, southwards to structures 10 and 44 (fig 5).

The sampling procedure for the 'occupation' spread at Salford was intended to maximise artefact and ecofact recovery from a 1m grid. The grid covered 374m² from which 452 samples of 1000mm x 1000mm x 100mm were excavated. Collection was through dry sieving once the soil had been broken up in a cement mixer; this resulted in some damage to charcoal and animal bone.

Table 3.

Number of spits per square	Number of squares
1 spit	320
2 spits	17
3 spits	17
4 spits	18
5 spits	1
6 spits	1
Total	374

The status of the 'occupation' spread has been of considerable interest during this assessment. For the entirety of its length this strip of soil had survived, preserved beneath a medieval headland. Preliminary interpretation was that the spread was a surviving occupation surface which, although it had probably been ploughed in the post Iron Age period, had not been significantly eroded before the build-up of the medieval headland.

The apparently simple stratigraphic relationship of the spread with the Iron Age round houses may disguise a complex sequence. The spread extended over the early buildings 4 & 11 and the late Bronze Age ring 44. The 'occupation' spread therefore could relate therefore to structures and activities after structures 44, 4 and 11 fell out of use.

The location of the 'occupation' spread has been placed in context and pilot studies of ceramic (table 4.1) and non-ceramic artefacts found therein have taken place (see section 5.2.2). Soil micro-morphology assessment has suggested that some cattle trampling may have taken place in this area indicating the possibility of corralling close to the settlement and preliminary interpretation is that it was a midden deposit. At present, because of the pressure upon the Auto-CAD system dedicated to the Stratton project, no computer design work has been undertaken in analysing the spread (Occupation spread p3 MAP 2 Research Design 1991). However, as an alternative, the data has been assessed using dot density plots for the ceramics. This pilot illustrates the positive potential for defining artefact spreads and should be undertaken for the entire 'occupation' spread (Cogbill & Lane 1985, 53-58; Crowther 1983).

3.13 Phase 5 The late Iron Age

3.13.1 Description

Activity relating to the late Iron Age is restricted to four cremation burials (see 5.2.3). The burials are located on the northern perimeter of the excavated area and probably represent activity associated with settlement to the north. The location of the burials within the parallel ditches of the northern driveway suggests that this feature had passed out of use by the 1st century BC.

3.14 Phase 6 The Roman period

3.14.1 Description

Evidence of activity in the Roman period comprised pottery from the 'occupation spread' and from features relating to a rectangular structure, structure 37. This structure comprised a series of slots, possibly the remains of a timber structure erected on the eastern side of the site. It was east of the location of the round houses but may represent a return to, but reduced, occupation of the site into the Roman period.

3.15 Phase 7 Activity in the post-Roman period

3.15.1 Description

Activity in this period is restricted to the south-eastern edge of the settlement where a well, and several pit-like features (structure 39) were dated to the Saxon period through the environmental assemblage and from ceramic data.

3.16 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

3.16.1 The site in its landscape context

(Research aim 2.3.1)

The features identifying activity in the late 3rd and early 2nd millennium BC suggest land clearance at Salford may have been followed by ritual activity which involved the deposition of pottery and flint in pits (see p71). The dating of these features is based on the evidence of the ceramics, the latter now being analysed by the British Museum (I Kinnes and I Longworth) and the presence of flint. The potential for further analysis of the deposits containing the Neolithic and early Bronze Age ceramics is dealt with in the ceramics section (4.1.3), whilst the stratigraphic record can only provide the most general framework, based on a comparison with similar sites in the region.

Confirmation of the dating evidence will allow consideration to be given to the causative factors which led to land clearance at Salford. Evidence of tree throw holes from sites in the region is consistently dated to the Neolithic period, either on stratigraphic grounds or through artefact association and land clearance may have taken place as part of the late Neolithic transition from pastoral to arable agriculture. At Salford however the clearance may have been more to do with sepulchral needs than agriculture. The potential for clarifying this issue is low due to the lack of comparable environmental evidence, and will depend upon comparison with other landscapes such as Drayton (Lambrick & Moore 1987).

In the middle to late Bronze Age the construction of ring ditches took place. None have clear evidence of associated burial, and their date is derived from flint found in the ditch fills. Some indication of regional landscape trends can be gained through comparison of similar ring ditch sites such as Barrow Hills, Oxfordshire.

The late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement at Salford represents the largest site of its type excavated in Bedfordshire. Other sites in the region possibly of similar type are known from aerial photograph evidence and from excavations of varying quality and scale. These include in Buckinghamshire, Pennylands, (Zeepvat & Williams 1992) in Bedfordshire, Stagsden, Gold Lane (Biddenham), Willington (Pinder 1976), Norse Road, Newnham Marina, Hinksley Road at Flitwick (BCCAS Report 93/22), with less useful Bedfordshire comparisons at Wyboston (Tebbutt 1957), Warren Villas, Kempston Church End, Harlington, Odell, Shillington and Chalton. Salford, therefore, can be placed within its late Bronze Age and Iron Age landscape context and may be contrasted with other regional sites and other regions especially the Upper Thames valley, the Nene valley and East Anglia (Cunliffe 1991).

Sufficient of the site has been excavated for it to be placed in its landscape context, although the depth of analysis is dependent upon other comparable sites excavated in the region. This may be considered to limit the potential of this aspect of the work.

The Roman period structure located in the centre of the site, the pottery from the 'occupation spread' and the ceramics from the pond all suggest Roman period agricultural activity on the site. However this evidence contrasts significantly with that from other Romano-British sites and a working hypothesis is that the structure

(structure 37) is a barn or cattle shed away from the primary focus of settlement. The potential to clarify this interpretation, rests with the integration of animal bone, ceramic and structural evidence in comparison with other Roman period sites.

The Saxon period well is an isolated feature and has little potential to address the landscape context of the site.

3.16.2 The economic and social status of the site (Research aim 2.3.2)

The structural record through the ratio of building types and layout of settlement, when integrated with the artefactual evidence has high potential to address the economic and social status of the Iron Age site. For the earlier periods, the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and the later Roman and Saxon period, the potential to define the economic and social status is reduced as these components are either incomplete due to erosion, or part of landscape units still unexcavated. This situation reflects the spirit of the excavation research design where the objective of defining the economic and social status of the site relates directly to the Iron Age settlement.

The potential for clarifying the **social status** of the Iron Age settlement can only be addressed once artefact distributions and structures have been correlated. Some indication of the social status can only be achieved in the context of models already developed for the Iron Age of south-eastern Britain (eg Cunliffe 1991 523-548, Hingley 1984). The analysis of this aspect of the site will result from a critical appraisal of where the site may best fit with social constructs (Shanks & Tilley 1987, 1991, 121). As Bradley noted at Little Waltham (Bradley 1978, 125), the potential to address this aspect of a site exists, and although the outcome cannot be accurately assessed until the analysis of all classes of data is completed, the potential for integration is high.

The **economic status** of the Iron Age settlement will be judged on the content and variety of the artefactual and ecofactual data but within the structural framework established as part of research objective 2.3.4 (dating sequence of structures and landscape features). As with the definition of the social status this can only be judged in the context of current theory. Presently the theoretical framework spans both socially embedded and restricted networks (Hingley 1984) to the perception of a developing market economy in the late Iron Age (Van Arsdell 1989). The potential to integrate the results of the Salford analysis into current theory is high.

3.16.3 The limits to the Iron Age settlement (Research aim 2.3.3)

The excavation of Salford, although covering a large area of the Iron Age settlement, cannot be assumed to have covered its entire area (see 3.4 above) and does not have the potential to address the original research objective of defining the limits of the Iron Age settlement. Nor, because the area of excavation was defined by the quarry, can the extent of the other site elements be estimated in more than general terms. The potential for further analysis of this aim therefore is limited.

3.16.4 The dating sequence of structures and landscape features (Research aim 2.3.4)

The identification of the ring ditches with flint artefacts in ditch fills and the isolated pits containing Neolithic pottery will not support more than a broadly dated sequence for early activity.

The dating evidence for the structures in the late Bronze Age comprises a combination of parallels with other similar dated structures (Guilbert 1981) and ceramic evidence from them. The identification of these structures will contribute to the definition of a dated structural sequence for the site and to greater understanding of internal site developments (see 2.3.7). The potential for further analysis of the structural components of the buildings is addressed under *Additional research objectives*. These structures will play a major role in the analysis of settlement shift.

The phased evidence of activity during the Iron Age at Salford is dominated by the house structures of the settlement which have yielded the most detailed stratigraphic evidence and the largest quantity of pottery. Relationships such as that between structure 7 and the drove way illustrate the stratigraphical potential for defining a dated sequence; refining the preliminary phasing will require spatial modelling similar to that proposed for the assessment of the 'occupation' spread. The contextual evidence has considerable potential to establish sub-phases within the local Iron Age.

The archaeomagnetic date being sought from A Clarke is expected to contribute to the dated sequence for the Iron Age settlement.

The identification of the Roman period structure is of interest because it may represent reuse of land previously settled in the earlier Iron Age. However the potential for further analysis is low as neither the ceramic nor artefact evidence have significant Roman elements, and the contextual data is limited.

The remains of 'Saxon' activity at the Salford site are slight, comprising a single well and several associated pits and possible post holes, and the potential for further analysis is therefore low.

3.16.5 The limits of the Iron Age cemetery (Research aim 2.3.5)

The cremations of the Iron Age cemetery are located near the northern limit of the excavation. They may be satellites of a larger cemetery, or isolated burials. In the absence of associated structures such as enclosing ditches or post hole settings, this group has no further potential to clarify the limits of the Iron Age cemetery.

Comparison with burial trends in the Iron Age (Whimster 1981) will largely depend upon the results of artefact studies (see below sections 3.3.2).

3.16.6 Understanding the occupation spread (Research aim 2.3.6)

There is scope for further analysis of this horizon through the movement of artefacts within the topsoil and sub-plough soil horizons following the results at Maxey (Pryor & French 1985). The matrix of the "occupation spread" has been assessed and is discussed below under Soil Micromorphology (section 10) where full analysis of the thin sections is proposed. The potential for further analysis of this horizon is discussed in the context of ceramics and non-ceramic finds (sections 4 & 5). The potential to understand and integrate the results of analysis is high.

3.16.7 Internal site development (Research aim 2.3.7)

The stratigraphic evidence is adequate for descriptions of the rings, pits and tree throw holes to be used in discussion of internal site development, whilst the stratigraphic relationships identified between the round houses provides the basis for analysis of internal developments through the Iron Age .

Isolated features are more problematical. Here context records, artefacts and ecofactual data may allow their inclusion in the phasing. At this preliminary stage, the ratio of 16 houses to 18 four-posters seems significant, as does the generally consistent location of the four-posters on the east side of the site. The late Bronze Age and Iron Age phases will be examined in detail when ceramics and ecofactual data are integrated with the contextual analysis (Clarke 1972 801-868).

The magnetic susceptibility survey will be reconsidered in the light of artefact distributions to explore the potential of magnetic susceptibility to identify activity areas resulting from minor changes in ground magnetism. The survey has already shown it has the potential to enhance the structural evidence of structure 3.

3.16.8 The identification of discrete areas of activity within the settlement (Research aim 2.3.8)

The identification of activity areas has high potential and is related to the analysis of internal site development and analysis of the 'occupation' spread. The contextual evidence indicates features such as hearths, entrances, sub-units within structures and internal partitions: these form the framework for activity areas based on structures. Ditches, fenced enclosures and habitation areas form the framework for activity areas based on landscape units, with which the evidence of artefactual and ecofactual assemblages must be integrated. This evidence has been assessed and samples suggest highest potential for the 'occupation' spread, with high potential in the correlation of ceramics, animal bone and structural evidence.

Definition of formation processes requires detailed examination of the site record to identify all contemporary, or possibly contemporary, activities. This has high potential except for feature 42 which was excavated and recorded under salvage conditions. The collation of evidence, from the ring ditches/pits and other early features will include an appraisal of the spatial distribution of artefacts and faunal assemblages as well as

detailed examination of sedimentation patterns in the ditch fills (the latter using photographic and drawn evidence). It is expected the artefact distribution will yield evidence of peripheral activities such as minor flint working (Woodward 1978) or food processing (animal bone). This analysis will be limited by the poor quality of recording during the earliest phases of rescue archaeology and the eroded nature of all the ring ditches. Nevertheless a reappraisal of all groups of evidence indicates that integrated study will contribute to understanding of the early development of the site.

3.17 Additional research objectives identified during assessment

3.17.1 Vernacular architecture

The number of house plans recorded is the largest of any prehistoric site excavated in the Ouse Valley/Greensand ridge area, and provides a unique opportunity for comparative work on house plans of this period. Salford has the potential to contribute to a wider understanding of architectural diversity once the structural evidence has been fully analysed. Several types of round house have been identified including post built, single and double ring types and those represented by drip gullies and sub circular gullies. In addition, architectural elements such as porches and internal divisions have potential. Comparison with similar structures at other sites will significantly aid understanding of their development. Detailed examination of the structural remains, in comparison with experimental work at Butser (Reynolds 1979) and more theoretical architectural studies such as those at Little Waltham (Drury 1978, 118-125), as well as ethnographic material will be employed to enhance the potential of analysis of these Iron Age building forms. The potential for further analysis of vernacular architecture at Salford therefore is high.

3.18 STORAGE AND CURATION

The structural record is presently held in A4 lever arch files and on Asaflex drafting film at St Mary's Church Archaeology Centre, Bedford. Microfiche copies have been made of context sheets and all other data sheets and paper records relating to the site; there are also paper copies of all the site drawings. All the copies are held at County Hall, Bedford. The archive is fully indexed.

4 THE CERAMICS ASSEMBLAGE

4.1 FACTUAL DATA

The ceramic section of the assessment of potential has been divided into the 'excavated' assemblage (which was collected during manual excavation), which comprises all the pottery from the settlement and the cemetery area, and the 'occupation' spread (which was collected by sieving), which comprises the pottery and daub/fired clay from this deposit. The daub/fired clay from the settlement is assessed separately from the pottery. All references to the type series refer to the listing in section 4.1.4.

Ten sieved soil samples produced pottery. These have been incorporated into the excavated assemblage. All quantitative statements and tables in this assessment are based on the sherd count for pottery and the fragment count for daub/fired clay.

4.1.1. Quantity of material and records

The 'excavated' assemblage

All the excavated pottery was recorded by fabric type and by form. Quantification by vessel count, sherd count and weight has been entered on computer database. This was then entered onto computer. A total of 7061 sherds was recorded representing 4158 vessels, weighing 45964g.

Daub/fired clay

A total of 1199 fragments of daub/fired clay were recovered, weighing 5952g. Joining fragments (or those that appeared, on balance of probability, by comparisons of fabric, surface finish, 'firing', and colour, to be from the same structure), were also recorded in the manner of a vessel count, giving a total of 329.

The 'occupation' spread

The 'occupation' spread was sampled as described in section 3.12.1. The squares were excavated in 10cm spits. They are identified in the assessment by square and spit number separated by a decimal point (eg 944.3).

A total of 6743 sherds was recorded on site. On assessment, this record has, however, proved to be incomplete and the final total is 16,927 sherds. The bottom-most spits produced 11,968 sherds, 70% of the total. Of the 70% total, 86% came from squares that only had one spit, due to the shallowness of the deposit.

A small number of Roman sherds, 83 in total, less than 1%, occurred within the deposit. Forty-two sherds came from the bottom-most spits, and 41 came from the upper spits. All are relatively unabraded, suggesting little movement in the soil.

There are 4 boxes of daub/fired clay from the 'occupation' spread. This material was not quantified but scanned to ascertain the level of abrasion and fragmentation. It was

very fragmentary, nearly all pieces being small, rarely weighing more than 5g. The abrasion level was high, due to both the softness of the fabric, and the erosion caused by the action of the cement mixer (see section 3.12).

4.1.2. Provenance

The 'excavated' assemblage

Context	No. of sherds	% Total
Cremations	1171	16.5% (8 vessels)
Ditches and gullies	501	7%
Layers	135	1.9%
Pits	819	11.5%
Structural contexts	4421	62.6%
Hearths	2	<1%
Ring ditches	12	<1%

The table above shows the relative quantities of pottery from the different types of feature on the site. The figures are expressed as a sherd count and as a percentage of the total. The layers are the least fruitful in terms of ceramic information; yielding small quantities of pottery and subject to disturbance and contamination because they were left open for a long time. Exceptionally context 903, contained substantial numbers of sherds belonging to the same vessels, and may relate directly to the use of structure 1. Pits and structural contexts (post holes, drip gullies etc.) produced the bulk of the pottery. These mostly discrete and uncontaminated contexts can therefore potentially yield the most fruitful ceramic information. The ring ditches (Phase 2) produced some Iron Age pottery and this should be regarded as intrusive. Early Prehistoric (Phase 1) pottery has been recorded on the site (see section on range and variety).

The cemetery consisted of four cremation groups, each a cremation urn accompanied by an accessory vessel totalling eight substantially complete vessels. Although the pottery itself could be of a later date, it has been dated to the mid-first century BC by the brooches found within them. For further discussion see section 5.2.3.

All abrasion was recorded, although it is not always a certain guide to the extent of residuality. The proportion of different fabrics, and the ratio of sherds to vessels and sherd weight are of more help in defining residuality. These will be examined in detail at the analysis stage. The constant intercutting of features throughout the phases, so prevalent on urban sites, is absent.

Daub/fired clay

Context	No. of frags	% Total
Ditches and gullies	52	4%
Layers	26	2%
Pits	68	6%
Structural contexts	1053	88%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1199</i>	<i>100%</i>

The above table shows the provenance of daub/fired clay expressed as a fragment count and as a percentage of the total.

Most of the daub/fired clay is probably the remains of building material, although there are fragments of oven floor (88 pieces with pierced or moulded holes from context 2064, a structural cut of structure 6). The material from structural contexts will be particularly relevant to the interpretation of building methodology.

'Occupation' spread

The distribution of the pottery from a number of sample squares was examined in detail to determine whether there were any concentrations in the deposit, and to see if they might relate to any of the structures beneath. The sample area chosen lay across structure 11, adjacent to structure 4. The pottery was recorded by sherd count and by fabric type as defined in the type series. The majority of sherds came from spit 1, interpreted from the soil evidence as the plough-disturbed upper levels of a possible midden (see section 10). The pottery in the sample consisted only of Iron Age and Roman pottery. The sherds of Iron Age pottery were plotted out by dot density (table 4.1). There were three Roman sherds in total, one each coming from 1064.4, 944.2, and 944.3.

The resulting plot clearly shows areas of concentration. Ascertaining any relationship to the structures requires plotting of all the pottery from the 'occupation' spread. The presence of some highly abraded sherds corroborates the disturbance identified in the soil micromorphology. The presence of large and unabraded sherds suggests that disturbance did not extend equally throughout the deposit.

4.1.3. Dating

The 'excavated' assemblage

The date range of the pottery from the site is Neolithic to Saxon. The pottery directly relating to the settlement dates from the **late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (Phase 3)** to **the middle Iron Age**, with late Iron Age pottery occurring only in the cemetery (Phase 4). This is a revision of the late Iron Age dating in the original research design.

Neolithic pottery (Phase 1) came from tree throw holes and pits; it cannot be related to the ring ditches. A large quantity of pottery of Peterborough type was found, over 30 sherds representing 3 or 4 vessels. The pottery is highly decorated, both internally

and externally. Although similar to the Fengate style, this pottery is of a previously unrecognised type and may represent a new decorative style. This pottery is being reported on, by I. Kinnes and I. Longworth (British Museum) with no cost to, or effect on the timetabling of, the project. Fragments of Grooved ware and Beaker were also found.

With the exception of the complete vessels from the cemetery, there is little evidence for **late Iron Age activity** on the site. A small number of sherds have late Iron Age features (rouletting, cordons, possible wheel throwing) but there is not enough to show continued activity throughout the Iron Age.

A number of contexts, allocated to structure 37, contain pottery dated to the **Roman period**, early-mid-second century AD (Phase 6). Nineteen sherds were found in context 1457, and two in context 1449, both ditches or gullies. Middle Iron Age pottery was also found in these contexts, and although not all of it was abraded due to the hardness of its firing, this does not preclude it from being residual. One Iron Age calcareous sherd was abraded and leached.

The other area with **post-Iron Age pottery** is the well, context 3002, (Phase 7). This context contained Iron Age pottery, both abraded and unabraded and presumably residual, Roman pottery of fourth-century date, and a quantity of Saxon pottery. The Saxon pottery consisted of 1 vessel represented by 20 large sherds, in addition to 2 other vessels represented by 8 and 4 sherds each; it is probably of early Saxon date.

A single sherd of Saxon pottery contained possible granite inclusions. A source for this may be Charnwood in Leicestershire, certainly in use during the early Saxon period (Vince and Young 1992). Petrology will clarify this question, and it is recommended that Dr A. Vince (Lincoln Archaeological Trust) examine the sherd.

The assemblage was examined for **cross-contexts**, the linking of sherds from the same vessel but from different contexts. This was considered to be an important element in the phasing of the site because not all contexts could be phased from the stratigraphy alone. In total only nine cross-contexts were found. Four were not significant for the phasing in that they were layers within the same feature. Five of the cross-contexts are from different features: 3727/3445 (a pit and a structural cut); 3685/3489 (two pits); 2233/2212 (two structural cuts); 1545/1475 (two structural cuts); 1149/1080 (a structural cut and a ditch/gully). None of the cross-contexts joined physically; the individually hand-made and bonfire-fired vessels were, however, sufficiently distinctive in their fabric, form, decoration, surface finish, manufacture and signs of use for links to be pinpointed, on balance of probability. The above five cross-contexts have, as yet, only been pinpointed. Their interpretation, taking all possible depositional processes into consideration, will emerge from discussion with the structural analyst at the analysis stage.

In the absence of other diagnostic characteristics the **thinness of the body wall** in the Iron Age assemblage can be a chronological pointer. The sherds from two sample structures (4 and 5) were measured and these are presented in table 4.2. These structures were chosen to see if the pattern of sherd thickness correlated with the stratigraphical phasing. The quantities of vessels of 5mm thick and less are dominant in

structure 5. This suggests an earlier phase than structure 4, confirming the suggested stratigraphical phasing. This will be important for sherds that are undiagnostic of form and have no decoration or other chronologically diagnostic features (Knight pers.comm.). This has been attempted successfully on other late Bronze Age sites, for example Bancroft (Knight 1994).

The fabrics from a sample number of structures (1,4,5,9 and 14), which have been stratigraphically phased at this stage, were tabulated. This information is presented in table 4.3. The fabrics that have been dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (types F26 and F28) appear to decline throughout the phases, and later fabrics (particularly types F17 and F27) appear to increase, but with a peak for fabric type F27 in the middle of the phase.

Using wall thickness and the pattern of fabric use, it may be possible to allocate a range of phases, if not a single phase, to structures that cannot be phased in any other way.

The proportion of fabrics concurs with the provisional phasing for the structures. There appears to be a slight shift from north to south during the early/middle Iron Age, on the evidence of differences in the fabric proportions from the sample structures. Whether this is a true shift will need to be confirmed by the analysis of the fabric proportions from all the other structures.

The fabrics will have to be analysed in conjunction with the forms which are chronologically diagnostic.

The analysis of fabrics is the key to the phasing of Iron Age sites, particularly where there is a lack of detailed vertical stratigraphy. The prime example of this is Danebury, where the ceramic phasing for Wessex and southern England has been established (Cunliffe 1984). Laines Farm, Hampshire, is an example where discrete features, mainly pits, were phased from the ceramic fabrics and forms alone (Morris 1991).

Daub/fired clay

There is no independent dating for daub/fired clay; its dating will depend on the phasing of the context in which it occurs.

The 'occupation' spread

It will be shown (see section 4.1.4 below) that there are differences in concentrations between the squares, at least in terms of the pottery within them, suggesting that movement within the soil was minimal. The interpretation of these differences will be carried out at the analysis stage; the purpose of the assessment was to ascertain the presence of these differences. Distribution of the pottery, in the bottom-most spits only, will give information, additional to the excavated material, about the activity areas on the site, and may help in the clarification of the phasing of the structures. Distribution of the pottery from the intermediate spits will, however, indicate patterns of disposal and dumping.

4.1.4. Range and variety of material

For details of the sampling and collection policies see section 3.3, 3.12 ('occupation' spread).

Type Series

With all the pottery laid out it was possible to define the different fabric types and their characteristics. The only grouping not defined petrologically is the group of carinated forms (F26). These were pinpointed by D. Knight as being chronologically diagnostic, sharing the same characteristics of fine fabric, thin walls, frequent burnishing and carinated form, and have therefore been grouped together for the assessment. This group will be subdivided by petrological constituents at the type series refinement stage of the analysis.

With the exception of the early prehistoric, and post Iron Age pottery, these types have been coded according to the Bedfordshire Pottery Type Series and are listed below in provisional chronological order, together with a quantification of sherds of 'excavated' pottery. The pottery from the 'occupation' deposit has been recorded according to broad period grouping; further subdivisions will be carried out at the analysis stage. Percentages in the following list have been rounded up.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Pottery type	No of sherds	Percentage
F26 carinated forms	468	7%
F28 fine sand	692	10%
F29 coarse sand	79	1%
F30 sand and calcareous inclusions	18	<1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1257</i>	<i>18%</i>

Early Iron Age

F01A coarse flint	31	<1%
F01B fine flint	70	1%
F02 grog and flint	3	<1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>>1%</i>

Early - middle Iron Age

F16 shell tempered	346	5%
F27 shell and grog	794	11%
F17 grog tempered	1886	27%
F22 grog and organic	190	3%
F23 grog and sand	1196	17%
F04 organic	8	<1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>4420</i>	<i>63%</i>

Late Iron Age

F06 grog tempered	406	6%
F09 sand and grog	766	11%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1172</i>	<i>17%</i>

<u>Other periods</u>		
Early Prehistoric	34	<1%
Roman	36	<1%
Saxon	32	<1%
Unrecognisable	6	<1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>108</i>	<i><4%</i>
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>7061</i>	<i>100%</i>

The 'occupation' spread

Pottery type	No of sherds	Percentage	
Early Prehistoric	5	<1%	<1%
Early-middle Iron Age	15,358	91%	91%
Roman	83	<1%	<1%
Medieval/modern	10	<1%	<1%
Misc. unidentified	1471	9%	9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>16,927</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Although the following description of the attributes of the pottery is specific to the 'excavated' assemblage, it is also applicable to the 'occupation' spread.

Forms

Most of the forms consist of ovoid types dating to the middle Iron Age. Other forms found on the site are furrowed and carinated bowls, cordoned vessels, bipartite vessels, T-shaped and flanged-rimmed vessels and situlate vessels, dating to the late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age. Late Iron Age forms were found in the cemetery area.

A small quantity of unusual, previously unrecognised, forms have been found and there needs to be a comparison made with other published and illustrated forms in the literature, to ascertain their function.

Evidence for manufacture

All the pre-Roman pottery is hand-made using coil construction, 'minimum input pottery' (V Rigby pers comm). Several vessels had handles or lugs, and these were attached in different ways. They could be simply applied or plugged into the wall of the vessel. Impressions on the bases can indicate what the vessel rested upon to dry out prior to firing. At Salford, both sand and straw, or other organic matter, appear to have left impressions on the bases of the pottery. There is a single vessel with what might be a potter's mark on the base. There is also evidence of spalling. Although it is possible that this occurred during the pot's use, it is most likely that this was a defect in the firing process.

Surfaces were finished in a variety of ways: wiping with organic matter, possibly a bunch of grass or straw; smoothing with the hand internally, externally or both; smoothing with a tool, but not to the extent of burnishing; burnishing proper. Burnishing can be regarded as a form of decoration in that it leaves a glossy surface.

By forcing the smaller inclusions to the surface, burnishing also leads to less porosity in the vessel.

Decoration

The proportion of decorated to plain vessels can be an indicator of status and/or function of a structure. It might also serve as a chronological indicator. Two sample structures (1 and 10) were used to compare the proportion of decorated to plain vessels for all fabric types. Structure 1, produced a ratio of 1:26 decorated to plain, while structure 10 produced a ratio of 1:60 decorated to plain. Structure 1 contains more than double the quantity of decorated vessels. The same analysis should be done for the other structures once final phases, based on stratigraphy, have been allocated, to ascertain whether this is in fact a chronological pattern or related to the status or function of the structure.

The type of decoration appears to vary across the fabrics, with incised decoration dominating the early fabrics, and scoring and brushing or combing dominating the later fabrics (table 4.4). Decoration made with the fingers, finger-nail impressions and finger indentations, should be further subdivided and analysed by form and fabric. The relationship of decoration to form may be indicative of function, both of the vessel and of the structure within which it was found. The brushing/combing type of decoration should also be subdivided. It appears to be a type of decoration belonging to the later phases.

Few sherds were rouletted, possibly an indicator of chronology, as this type of decoration is usually of late Iron Age date.

Scoring as a functional or decorative technique has been recognised at Salford, although not in great quantities. It was used either in a purely decorative way or as a way of roughening the surface to make it easier to handle. Scored ware is a major middle Iron Age ceramic tradition of the east Midlands, with its concentration between, and particularly along, the river valleys of the Trent and the Nene (Elsdon 1993). Its presence at Salford is on the outskirts of the known distribution and it is, therefore, particularly important in furthering research into this ceramic tradition (Knight pers. comm.).

There appears to be a difference in colour between certain forms of the pottery. A deliberate choice has been made between the oxidised orange-buff pottery and the reduced grey pottery. A distribution will determine whether colour choice relates to a particular structure.

Evidence of function

One hundred and twenty one vessels showed some evidence of their use. The majority of these were sooted (33%), worn (17%) or contained residues (40%). The other types of evidence were pre- or post-firing holes and re-oxidised breaks.

A pilot study was carried out to assess the value of residue analysis. Six samples were chosen and sent to C Heron at Bradford University for analysis by gas chromatography. His report is appended.

The following information was sent to him together with the sherds samples.

Sample 1

This sherd comes from ditch 825, the outer (or recut) drip gully of structure 1. The fill number is 879.

The fabric is fairly soft and smooth, though lumpy. It has a black core with a patchy buff outer surface. Large mid-grey rounded grog inclusions are present (c.0.96-1.61mm), as are sparse voids where organic matter has burned out. Occasional calcareous inclusions occur and were tested with 10% hydrochloric acid (?shell). The fabric also includes sparse subrounded quartz inclusions (c.0.4mm).

There is no visible residue on this sherd.

This context contains a fairly small assemblage of pottery which includes a grog-tempered carinated bowl, three miscellaneous sherds in a grog and sand fabric, two in a leached shell fabric and two in a grog and organic fabric.

Sample 2

This sherd comes from the enclosure ditch (context 315) adjoining structure 4.

The fabric is hard and fairly harsh to the touch with a reduced core and a dark reddish-brown outer surface. It has densely packed subangular-subrounded reddish quartz (c.0.08-0.64mm) and sparse calcareous inclusions (c.0.32-1.21mm) which were tested with 10% hydrochloric acid (?shell). There is a linear impression in the interior surface which may be where a fragment of organic matter has burnt out or an unintentional mark made during manufacture.

There is a visible black residue in the interior surface.

This context contains a fairly small assemblage of pottery, including one sherd of a carinated bowl, the fragmentary remains of five sandy vessels and two shell and grog tempered vessels, a single sherd of a grog and sand vessel and a single sherd of a grog tempered vessel.

Sample 3

This sherd comes from 1474, a fill of structure 5 (cut 1530).

The fabric is fairly hard and smooth and is dark grey in colour with a grey /brown outer surface. It contains frequent medium sorted shell (c.0.16-2.42mm), occasional subrounded quartz (c.0.4-2.01) and very rare iron ore (c.0.4mm). In addition there are occasional voids where shell (?) has leached out. A base sherd, it has vertical wiping on the outer surface possibly produced with a bunch of grass or straw.

There is a visible black residue on the interior surface.

This context contains a large assemblage of pottery including a grog-tempered upright-rimmed bowl, a grog and organic storage jar, an organic and shell flat-rimmed bowl and a sandy carinated bowl.

Sample 5

This sherd is from ditch 825, the outer (or recut) drip gully of structure 1. The sherd is from the same feature as Sample 1, though not from the same fill.

The fabric is fairly soft and flaky, but smooth to the touch and has a grey/orange outer surface, and a dark grey core. Fairly frequent subrounded to rounded quartz (c.0.24-0.56mm) occur as do occasional rounded black inclusions (c.0.4mm) which are probably iron ore. Frequent linear voids also occur where calcareous or organic inclusions have leached out.

There is a visible black residue on the interior surface.

This context contains a fairly small assemblage consisting of one large grog-tempered storage jar, one grog-tempered jar and a number of small miscellaneous sherds in shelly, sandy and grog-tempered fabrics.

Sample 6

The sherd is from 2212, a fill of structure 7 (cut 2465).

The fabric is fairly hard but smooth and is dark grey throughout with a heavily sooted or resided interior. The fabric includes frequent mid-grey rounded grog inclusions (c.0.56-1.12mm) and occasional white inclusions (c.0.08-0.32mm) which were not tested with acid but are possibly calcareous. Sparse voids also occur where possible organic matter has burnt out. The sherd has an uneven outer surface and the interior surface has a number of horizontal striations possibly caused by smoothing or wiping with the hand, or a piece of cloth or leather.

There is a visible black residue on the interior surface.

This context contains a fairly large assemblage of pottery which includes a large grog and sand tempered jar, a carinated bowl, a fine grog tempered jar and a somewhat larger vessel in a similar fine grog-tempered fabric. In addition there are several individual sherds in shelly, sand and organic, and sandy fabrics.

Previous treatment

All sherds have been stored in plastic bags.

Samples 1, 2 and 3 have been washed during normal processing. Only water and a brush were used. Samples 4 and 5 have not been washed.

All the sherds have been handled during normal processing and storage.

It should be noted that not all sherds had visible residues; surface residues chosen for the pilot study were those that did not appear on the break (some of which were also

recorded), and were therefore likely to be caused by use rather than post-depositional processes. It should also be noted that only one base was sent for analysis; the other samples came from the body.

Despite adverse handling and storage conditions, the samples did produce some positive results: lipids were detected in the samples. The analysis of the sterols in the residues would normally be carried out to distinguish between meat and plant lipids. On the advice of Dr Heron, the quantity of residue obtainable from the Salford samples would not be enough to make this a worthwhile exercise, and **no further analysis is recommended.**

A small number of vessels was found which had pre- and post-firing holes bored through them. The post-firing holes indicate either modification of the vessel for some secondary use, or repairs to the vessel. Repairs by binding cracked fragments together are known from the Neolithic to the medieval periods (Cleal 1988; Wrathmell 1989, 39). This has a bearing upon the question of pottery supply.

Eight vessels showed evidence of having been broken in use; their breaks had been re-oxidised, indicating that they broke while on the hearth.

Daub/fired clay

Six fabric types have been recognised. They are listed below with the number of fragments. This does not include material from the 'occupation' spread.

Fabric type	No. of frags	% Total
orange	792	66%
sandy	171	14%
organic	109	9%
calcareous	61	5%
grog	42	4%
shell	14	1%
unidentified	10	1%

The 10 unidentified fragments were too small and abraded to allocate to a fabric type. The 14 shelly fragments, also very small, might be fragments of pottery.

The impressions and surfaces that were recorded are listed below:

Attribute	No. of frags	% Total
surfaces	83	7%
wattle	27	2%
finger	6	1%
grain	137	11%
none	946	79%

The 'occupation' spread

The purpose of the assessment of the 'occupation' spread was to determine the existence of any concentrations of pottery. The full analysis and interpretation of these concentrations will be carried out at the analysis stage.

The pottery from the same spit of a sample of three squares (1629,937,406) in different areas of the deposit was analysed by period group, as defined in the type series; for the position of these squares see figure 6. Abrasion and the presence of decoration were recorded and these are tabulated below. Each square consisted of one spit only. This information is presented as sherd numbers, in the table below.

Recorded attributes	Square 1629.1		Square 937.1		Square 406.1	
abraded sherds	4	31%	58	98%	65	86%
decorated sherds	1	8%	1	2%	2	3%
unabraded/undec	8	61%	0	0%	9	11%
Totals	13	100%	59	100%	76	100%

Date	Square 1629.1		Square 937.1		Square 406.1	
LBA/EIA	2	15%	15	25%	11	14%
EIA	1	7%	2	3%	34	45%
MIA	10	76%	42	71%	31	40%
Totals	13	100%	59	100%	76	100%

This shows a marked difference in the quantities of, for example, early Iron Age sherds, with a concentration in square 406. There is a decrease in the concentration of middle Iron Age sherds in the same square.

The pottery from a further three sample squares (708,1360,1419) was analysed across all the constituent spits. Square 1419 consisted of only 3 spits. The same attributes were recorded as above. The information is tabled as follows.

Attribs	spit 1			spit 2			spit 3			spit 4		
	708	1360	1419	708	1360	1419	708	1360	1419	708	1360	1419
abr	13	20	23	27	22	12	31	29	24	35	8	
dec	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	
LBA/EIA	3	5	9	10	18	14	6	23	10	11	5	
EIA	0	2	4	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	
EIA/MIA	10	15	15	17	21	12	27	37	22	24	8	
ROM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
SAX?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Total	13	22	28	27	40	26	33	64	34	35	14	0

There are fewer differences throughout the spits of the same square, for example square 1360, in the LBA/EIA, contains 5 (23%), 18 (45%), 23 (36%) and 5 (36%) sherds from spits 1 to 4, respectively. Distributions relating solely to the spatial patterning within the Iron Age settlement may be clearer, therefore, if only the bottom-most spit is used, as this is likely to reflect actual abandonment of the structures

covered by the deposit in contrast to the upper spits which may have been plough disturbed. Distribution of pottery in the intermediate spits, interpreted as a midden, however, may clarify patterns of disposal and dumping.

Of the sample squares examined above, 406, 708 and 937 lie over the interior of structure 11, and 1360, 1419 and 1629 lie outside the structure. There appears to be a higher concentration of pottery in the bottom-most spits inside the structure (170 sherds) than outside (53 sherds). The nature of this apparent concentration and its significance will be determined at the analysis stage.

4.1.5. Condition of material

The 'excavated' assemblage

The condition of the excavated pottery is generally very good. It was possible to distinguish between post-depositional abrasion and wear caused by use. The fabrics ranged from soft fired, usually calcareous tempered pottery to harder fired, sand tempered pottery. All abrasion was recorded, although this is not always a certain guide to the extent of residuality. Post-depositional abrasion is more obvious on the softer fired fabrics. The proportions of different fabrics, the ratio of sherds to vessels and the sherd weight are of more help in defining residuality. There appears to be little contamination from pre- and post-settlement activity.

Daub/fired clay

The daub/fired clay from the excavated assemblage is in a good but fragmentary condition, with few abraded fragments. A number of fragments have surfaces, wattle impressions, finger impressions and organic/grain impressions surviving. These have been listed above (section 4.1.4).

The 'occupation' spread

The level of abrasion was recorded: of the total 16,927 sherds, 73% were abraded; 12.5% were large (>15g) and/or unabraded, and 14.5% were slightly abraded. The abrasion on the latter 14.5% may have been caused by the action of the cement mixer rather than movement within the deposit. There were examples of vessels with more than one sherd (without fresh breaks), indicating only slight movement within the soil. There were also examples where the pattern of abrasion was somewhat unexpected: for example, pottery of the same date was both abraded and unabraded; nor was it always the softer fired fabrics that were abraded. A variety of formation processes might account for this (eg secondary or tertiary deposition; midden reworking; animal disturbance etc). Abrasion on the Roman pottery accounted for only 33% of the Roman total, and these were always greywares. Unabraded Roman pottery totalled 35%, while slightly abraded Roman pottery totalled 32%.

It has been noted above, in the section on quantification, that the level of abrasion on the daub/fired clay from this deposit is high, and that the pieces are very fragmentary and small.

4.1.6. Data collection method statement

The 'excavated' assemblage

All the pottery was laid out in structure groups as far as possible. A number of contexts were not allocated to a structure group during assessment. Their phasing will, however, be clarified during the analysis stage. A single box of pottery from the salvage recording in 1988 has also not been quantified although the pottery has been scanned to ascertain its relationship to the features. All the pottery from the excavated assemblage was quantified by vessel, sherd and weight. The following attributes were fully recorded: fabric, form, decoration, evidence of use, whether primary or secondary; evidence of manufacture; level of abrasion. Wall thickness was measured on 50% of the pottery. The rest will be completed at the analysis stage.

While the pottery was laid out, David Knight (Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust) and Val Rigby (British Museum) were able to examine it. In addition the pottery was the subject of a meeting of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group. All the comments made have been incorporated into the relevant sections of this report.

Daub/fired clay

This material was quantified by 'vessel', sherd and weight. For a definition of the quantification methods see Quantification above. Attributes recorded are presence of surfaces, and impressions of fingers, wattle, grain or other organic matter.

The 'occupation' spread

For a detailed description of the sampling and collection policy see section 3.12. The pottery from the 'occupation' spread was quantified by sherd, according to the period groupings listed in the type series, in order to ascertain its potential for further analysis and therefore a fuller recording. A note was kept of the level of abrasion, size of sherd, and type of decoration. The daub/fired clay from the deposit was scanned to ascertain its condition.

4.2. POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

4.2.1. This section deals with the potential for further analysis of the 'excavated' assemblage of pottery and daub/fired clay, and the pottery and daub/fired clay from the 'occupation' spread. The Research Aim numbers refer to paragraphs in section 2.

The site in its landscape context

(Research aim 2.3.1)

The daub/fired clay has no potential to address this question. Potential of the pottery to address this question is excellent

Comparisons with assemblages from other sites in the region will help to place the pottery in its regional context. Fabric and form will be compared with all the assemblages mentioned below, for purposes of regional distribution.

Few Iron Age sites of this extent and nature have been excavated in the region and none in the county. Pottery for comparison may be found at Pennylands and Hartigans, Milton Keynes (Williams 1993); Bancroft, Milton Keynes (Zeevat and Williams, 1994); Chamberlains Barn, near Luton (Slowikowski in prep); and Puddlehill (Matthews 1976). Other pottery from sites in the Thames valley, the Chilterns and the Midlands will also be an important comparison (Cunliffe 1991,75).

Pottery from outside the immediate area, or the influence from such pottery upon the local ceramics on the site, may be pinpointed from the petrology. The examination of such questions can indicate how much and where outside contacts were made, whether through trade or other cultural exchanges. In particular, the examination of the scored ware vessels will address this research aim.

The evidence from stratigraphy and ceramics indicates some form of activity on the site before and after the Iron Age settlement, in the early Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods and its analysis will place the site within a temporal framework.

The Saxon pottery, in particular, is a valuable addition to the ceramic database for this period in the county; most Saxon pottery consists of single sherds. There are few complete profiles, as are present at Salford, from non-cemetery contexts, which makes this a small but relatively important group.

Analysis of the post Iron Age ceramics in comparison with assemblages at other sites will help refine the chronology of post Iron Age activity at the site and contribute to understanding the extent of settlement shift away from the Iron Age site.

The economic and social status of the site

(Research aim 2.3.2)

The daub/fired clay has no potential to address this question. Potential of the pottery to address this question is good.

The pottery to be analysed to clarify this question will be the same Iron Age pottery as that for Research Aim 2.3.1, above. The extent of outside contacts will have a bearing upon the questions of both economy and status. There was no evidence for pottery manufacture on the site. The examination of the pottery itself, however, can tell us much about how the pottery was made. An analysis of the techniques of manufacture can help in pinpointing or confirming ceramic traditions. This might also have a bearing upon the question of status; the presence of a possible potter's mark and spalled vessels have been noted.

The examination of the petrology of the scored wares may indicate the relationship of Salford to the main distribution of this type along the Nene valley (see section 4.1.4 Decoration). It may answer the questions how far was this pottery travelling, and was it the pottery itself or the tradition of decoration and manufacture that spread outwards.

Analysis of these vessels in relation to their forms and fabrics may help in deciding upon the value put on these vessels, as well as the difficulty or ease with which Iron Age people could obtain their pottery, either locally or from a distance.

The limits to the Iron Age settlement (Research aim 2.3.3)

There is no potential for either the pottery or the daub/fired clay to address this question. No ceramics were collected from outside the area of excavation.

The dating sequence of structures and landscape features (Research aim 2.3.4)

The pottery

Potential for the pottery to address this question is good. At the very least, the pottery will help to date the ditches and structures by broad period. The more detailed analysis of the pattern of fabric use will be used to confirm and refine the stratigraphical phasing; it will not be the sole criterion for allocating a phase to a structure.

This pattern in the proportion of fabrics will have to be confirmed when all the fabrics from the other structures have been tabulated and all the structures finally phased from the stratigraphy. If the pattern of the proportion of fabrics concurs with the phasing of the structures, as it appears to do, then this pattern, in conjunction with forms and wall thicknesses, should also help to phase the structures that cannot be phased solely by the stratigraphy, at least within a range. For example, the apparent presence of a high proportion of type F26 associated with the palisade, structure 40, might suggest that it belongs to one of the earlier phases of the settlement. The apparent presence of a high proportion of Roman pottery in contexts allocated to structure 37, suggests that it probably dates to one of the later phases on the site. These need to be confirmed.

The analysis of cross-contexts will not be of major use in the phasing of the site although the few that have been pinpointed as coming from different features may be of help, taken in the context of site formation processes.

Additional chronological indicators, such as the type of decoration, for example the distinction between combing and brushing, or the thickness of the body wall, may help to refine the chronology of the pottery assemblage.

Daub/fired clay

Potential for the daub/fired clay to address this question is low. The distribution of daub/fired clay fragments across the site may confirm the established stratigraphical phasing, by suggesting which buildings or areas may have been in use at the same time.

The limits of the Iron Age cemetery (Research aim 2.3.5)

The daub/fired clay has no potential to address this question. The potential for the pottery to address this question is excellent

There is a lack of any significant late Iron Age pottery from the settlement itself, confirming that the cemetery post-dates the settlement. However, the presence of both pot and brooch in the cemetery is rare; its early date and position on the edge of the known distribution of such cemeteries makes this a find of national significance (Rigby pers comm.). This is further discussed in section 5.2.3.

Understanding the occupation spread (Research aim 2.3.6)

The pottery

The potential for the pottery to address this question is only moderate, because of the discrepancy in number and condition of the other finds. The potential to address this question lies, first, in the distribution of the pottery in the bottom-most spits which may reflect the pattern of occupation in the Iron Age settlement, and, second, in that of the intermediate spits which will reflect patterns of disposal and dumping. There is however a discrepancy between the evidence of the registered finds, the flint and that of the ceramics (see section 5.2.2 and 6.2.2). This might be explained by the bias in quantity towards the large amount of pottery in comparison with the small numbers of registered finds and flint. A closer comparison will have to be made with the animal bone as the level of recovery was similar to the pottery. The 'occupation' spread is a layer accumulated during occupation of the Iron Age settlement and does reflect the accumulation of material through rubbish disposal and dumping.

The small quantity of Roman pottery in the deposit possibly originated during the occupation of structure 37, although it might also reflect ploughing and manuring at a later date.

Daub/fired clay

The potential for the daub/fired clay to address this question is low. The abraded nature of the daub/fired clay means that its potential for enhancing the data from the 'occupation' spread is minimal. Any distribution will serve only to pinpoint the presence/absence of this material; identification of attributes and therefore a suggestion of function will not be possible.

Internal site development

(Research aim 2.3.7)

The pottery

The potential for the pottery to address this question is good. When the stratigraphical phasing has been completed, the pattern of fabric use can be used to refine and confirm this phasing. It should then be clear which structures were in use at the same time, allowing the internal site development to be defined. The examination of all classes of finds, including the pottery, will help in defining the activities that were being carried out in within and around the structures (see also Research aim 2.3.8 below).

Daub/fired clay

The potential for the daub/fired clay to address this question is moderate. The daub/fired clay will be direct evidence of the methods of building used on the site. The large proportions of the orange and sandy fabrics, together 80%, suggest that these fabric types were used predominantly as building material. The definition of function (whether building, oven floor, hearth lining or other) and its distribution will determine where and when daub/fired clay had been used. Distributions by phase and structure will determine any differences in choice of building fabric.

The identification of discrete areas of activity within the settlement and to examine enclosures and enclosure ditches for environmental evidence and evidence of agricultural activities

(Research aim 2.3.8)

The pottery

The potential for the pottery to address the first part of this question is good. This material is not applicable to the second part of the objective.

The use to which a vessel was put can leave physical evidence on the surface. Sooting on vessels, particularly in combination with other types of evidence, can indicate which vessels were used for heating, either cooking or other functions; how the vessels were used, either over, beside or on a hearth; whether they were covered or left open.

The intensity and position of wear marks can indicate the length of use of a vessel, how much heavy usage it had and the possible material of other objects with which it had been used. For example, any wear mark originating with the use of a lid would have been caused by material harder than the vessel. A worn interior or one that is pitted and/or leached may indicate vigorous stirring of the contents or the storage of an acidic substance.

The relationship of the evidence of use to form, colour and decoration may indicate which vessels were deliberately chosen for a particular purpose, and how they were treated.

A distribution plot of different forms, decoration and vessels with evidence of use may indicate whether specialist activities were being carried out in any of the structures. Patterns of disposal and evidence of deliberate dumping may show up from the distributions of different fabric types and forms, both in the excavated assemblage and the 'occupation' spread.

A closer examination of the various surface finishes in relation to fabric types, decoration and forms, may clarify both ceramic traditions and functional requirements. Further analysis may clarify the relationship between surface colour and forms, fabrics, decoration and functional evidence.

These distributions will point to areas of specific activity, such as cooking or storage areas as well as areas of food preparation and consumption. Any negative areas in the distributions will also be highlighted as areas where activities not involving the use of pottery may have occurred. Possible definitions of these and other areas will be sought from archaeological and ethnographic parallels.

Daub/fired clay

The potential for the daub/fired clay to address the first part of this question is good. This material is not applicable to the second part of the objective.

The identification of the possible function of the daub/fired clay (buildings, ovens, hearths), will enhance the evidence from the pottery, showing where various activities occurred on the site. The distributions of diagnostic pieces will enhance the non-ceramic finds data in the distinguishing of areas of craft activities, and the other ceramic data in the distinguishing of areas of food preparation and consumption.

4.3 STORAGE AND CURATION

Potential for long term storage is good; no further treatment is necessary. the cremation vessels are complete but broken and worthy of restoration and display by the relevant museum. The pottery has been marked and varnished where appropriate and stored by fabric type and context, in plastic bags within acid free cardboard boxes. Pottery for illustration has been boxed separately.

All the pottery should be kept, in accordance with the guidelines of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993, 26) and the general policies of the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (1991, 8). Suitable arrangements for transfer and accessioning to Bedford Museum, on completion of publication, have been made.

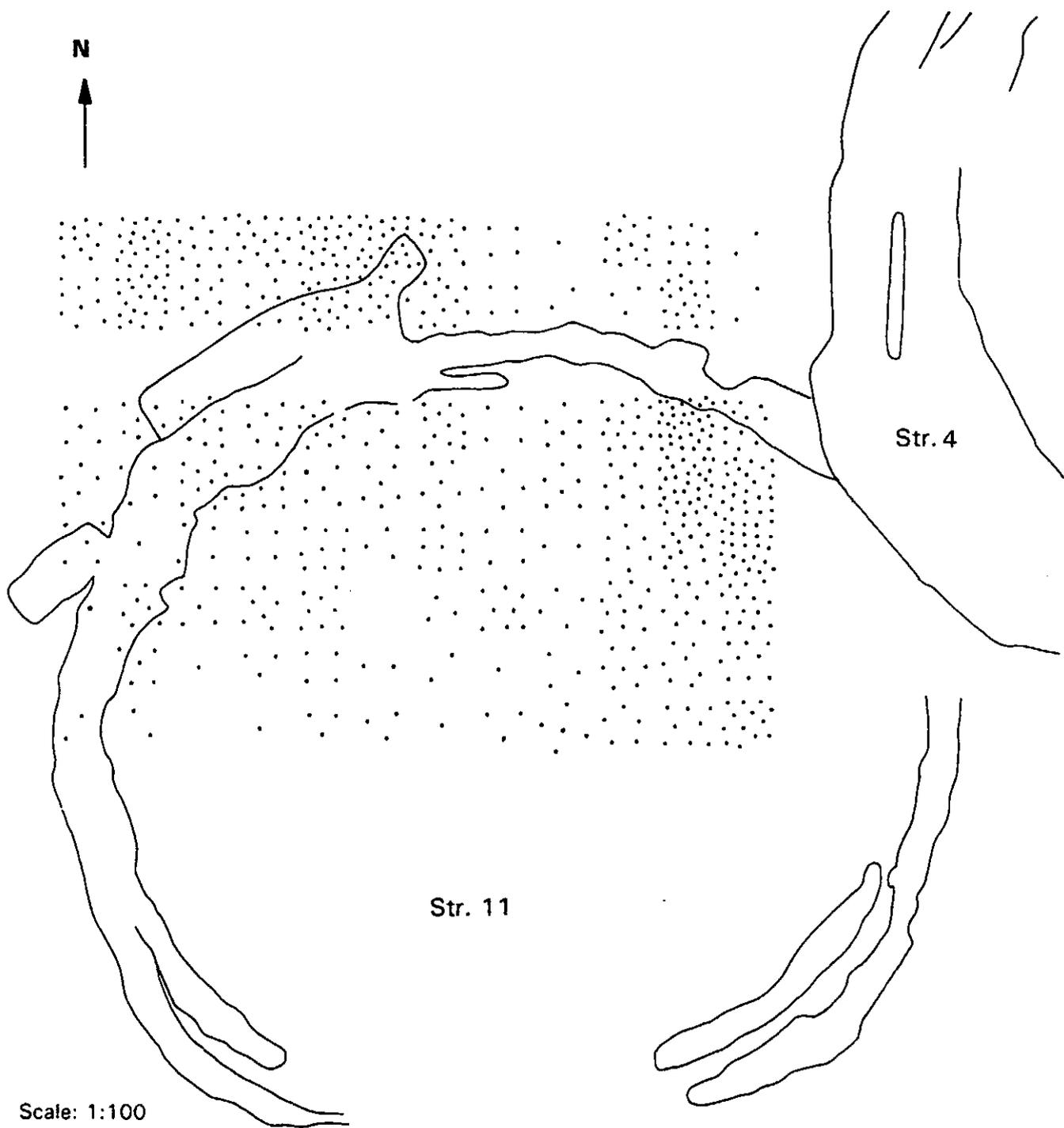


Table 4.1: Distribution of Iron Age sherds in the sample area of the "occupation" deposit. (Each dot represents 5 sherds.)

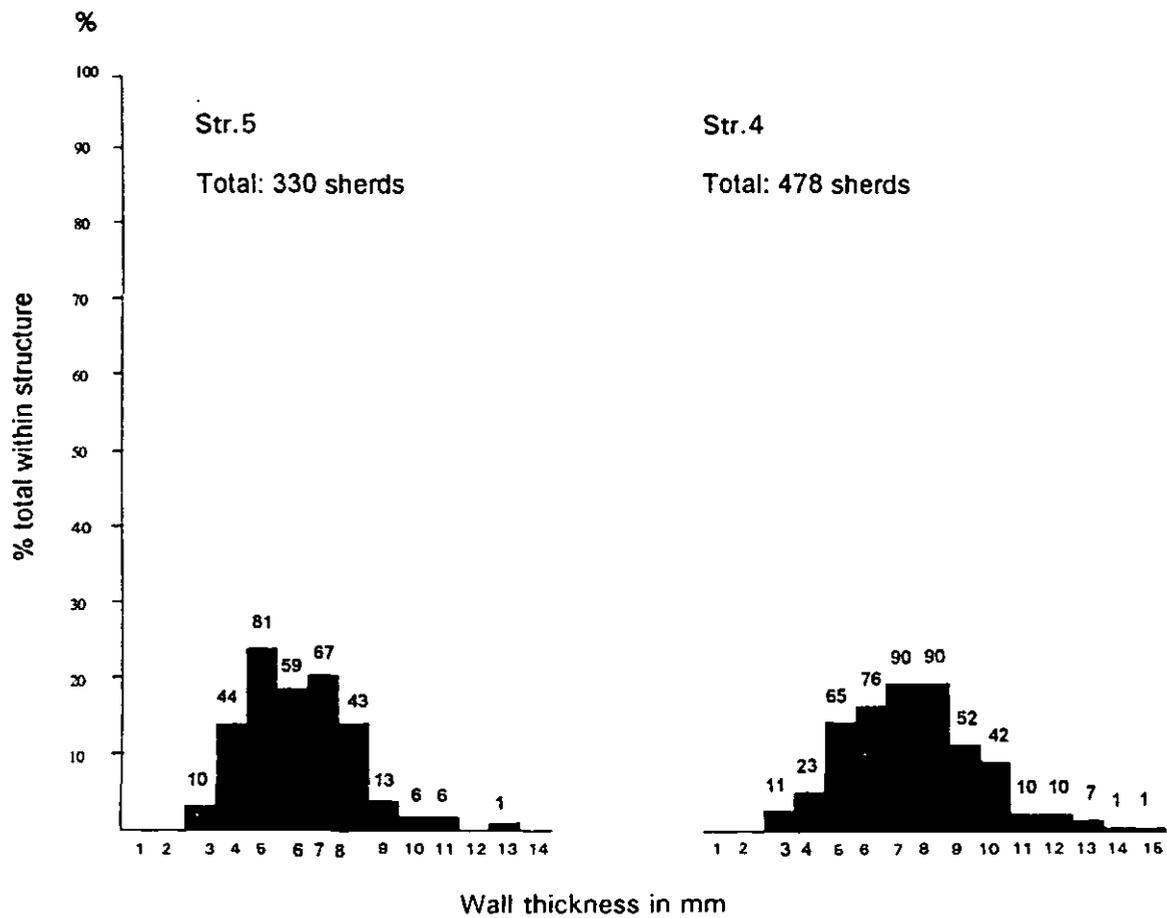


Table 4.2: Wall thickness of pottery from two sample structures expressed as % of total within each structure and as a sherd count (above each column).

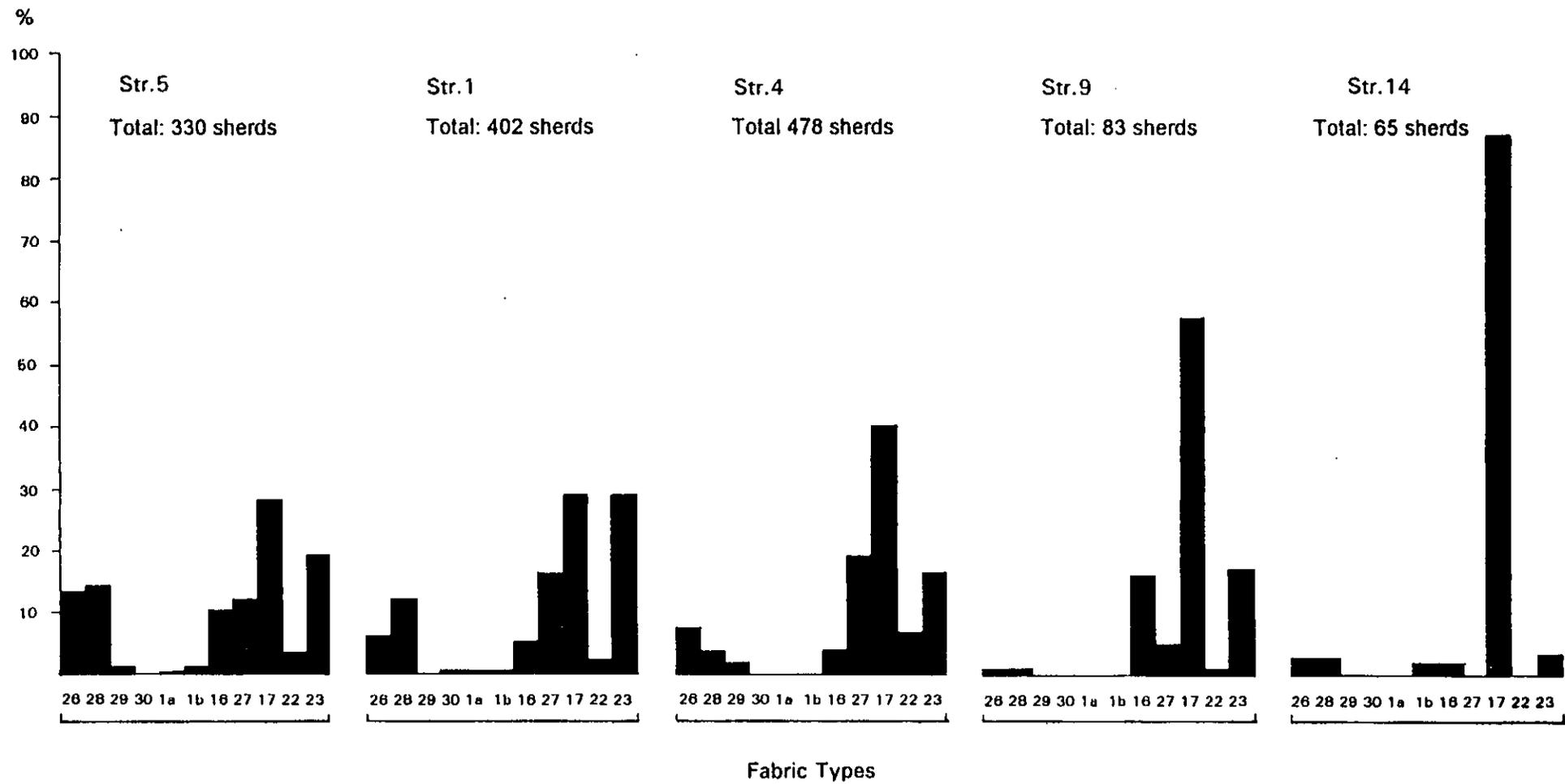


Table 4.3: Fabric types by structure expressed as a % of total within each structure.

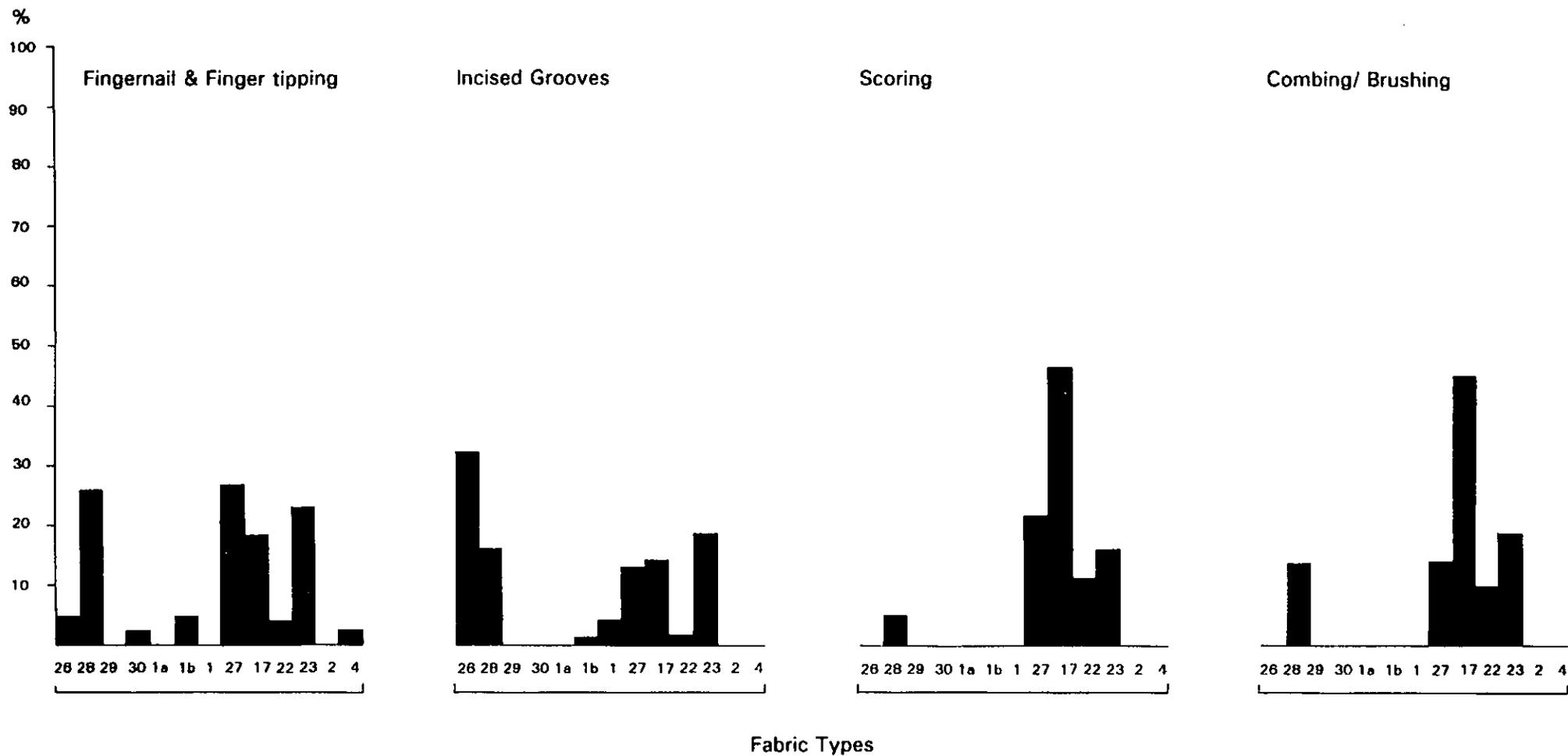


Table 4.4: Percentages of fabric types by decorative style expressed as a % of total within each style

5. NON CERAMIC ARTEFACTS: THE REGISTERED FINDS

5.1 FACTUAL DATA

5.1.1 Quantity of material

A total of 43 registered or small finds were recorded on site, of which three were flint. These are discussed in Section 7 with the bulk flint assemblage. Bulk artefacts included slag (1962.2 g), burnt stone (1576.62 kg), two pieces of vessel glass and three nails. The burnt stone was recorded by context on site and then discarded.

5.1.2 Provenance

The date range of the finds (excluding flint) from the site spans from the late Bronze Age to the mid-third/fourth century AD, with three intrusive artefacts from the later medieval period (a lace tag and the vessel glass).

The artefacts were recovered from two areas, the settlement and the cremation cemetery. The settlement area yielded 26 registered and all bulk finds. This group can be sub-divided into those from hand-excavated features and layers and those from the 'occupation' spread (see Section 3.12 and fig 5). This deposit was divided into metre squares (374 in total) and soil removed in 10cm spits. The soil was broken up in a cement mixer and dry sieved and sorted by artefact material type.

Table 5.1 Spits per square of the 'Occupation' Spread

Number of spits per square	Number of squares containing spits
1 spit	320
2 spits	17
3 spits	17
4 spits	18
5 spits	1
6 spits	1
Total	374

The artefacts recovered from hand-excavated features and layers of the settlement are presented, by structure, in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Excavated artefacts from the Settlement

Structure No	Phase	Registered Finds (Sf)	Fe Smithing Slag	Vitrified Clay/ Glassy Slag	Burnt Stone	Fe nail
1	4	Fe Bracelet		12g	50.28kg	
4	4	Clay Loomweight	362g	29g	196.25kg	
5	3	Ca sheet fragment Whetstone	31g	61g	32kg	
6	4	Bone ?needle Clay spindlewhorl			307.25kg	1
7/8/9	4			6g	619.75kg	
10	4				3.25kg	
10A	4				0.5kg	
10A/13A	4				14.75kg	
11	4	Shale bracelet	639g	14g	118.25kg	
12	3			285g		
38	4				0.5kg	
39	7	Worked antler Clay loomweight	201g		137kg	
40	unph	Ca Spearhead				
44	2	Ca Lacetag Ca wire			8kg	
Unrelated		Ca sheet				1
Total		13 registered finds	1233g	407g	1487.78kg	2

A = associated with (immediately adjacent)

The artefacts from the 'occupation' spread are presented in Table 5.3 by spit number.

Table 5.3 Artefacts from the 'Occupation' Spread

Spit number	Registered Finds	Fe Smithing Slag	Vitrified clay/ glassy slag	Burnt Stone	Nail	Glass
2100 (ungridded)		153g		8.75kg		
Spit 1	Shale bead Clay spindlewhorls (3) Ca sheet (2) Ca brooch pin Ca pin Ca rod Ca coin (Roman)	94.2g	61.1g	69.9kg	1	2 sherds (p-med)
Spit 2	Glass bead	3.7g	6.5g	6.3kg		
Spit 3	Ca wire Clay spindlewhorl		2.1g	.34kg		
Spit 4			1.6g	3.3kg		
Total	13 registered finds	250.9g	71.3g	79.84kg	1	2 sherds

The higher quantity of artefacts recovered from spit 1 reflects the number of squares which only contained one spit in depth (see Table 5.1).

Twelve of the registered finds from the 'occupation' spread were recovered from the soil overlying or immediately adjacent to structure 11; only the shale bead came from the soil overlying the terminal of structure 10. A similar concentration of iron smithing slag (66.1g of the smithing slag from gridded squares) was noted over and in the environs of structure 11.

The registered finds from the cremation cemetery are presented in Table 5.4, by cremation number.

Table 5.4 Registered finds from the Cremation Cemetery

Cremation Number	Registered Finds (Sf)
1	Fe brooch (2)
2	Ca brooch (3)
3	Ca brooch (2); Fe brooch pin (1); Ca sheet fragment (1)
4	Ca brooch (3); Ca chain (1); Ca/Fe melted lump (1)
Total	14 Registered Finds

The assemblage from the excavated features and layers in the settlement area indicates some intrusion, particularly the presence of a late-to-post-medieval lace tag (Sf 42, context 2470) from the fill of structural cut 2469 of structure 44, phase 2. Further evidence of intrusion may be indicated by the possible iron bracelet (Sf 21) recovered from the fill of structural cut 825, structure 1, phase 4. Due to the bracelet's fragmentary survival its identity is not certain. However an iron bracelet of similar dimensions, found at King Harry Lane (Stead & Rigby 1989, 102-3), is described as a popular La Tene III form.

Residuality may be indicated by the fragment of a late Bronze Age, peghole, socketed spear head (Sf 51) from the fill of a palisade post hole. Its condition suggests redeposition, its presence possibly explained by the nearby phase 2 structures. However, ceramic evidence indicates an early date for this palisade (LBA/EIA), which stratigraphically cannot be related to any of the other structures. The loom weight (Sf 53) from structure 39 (phase 7), is of a fabric type thought to be of early to mid-Iron Age (see Table 5.8) and therefore this would appear to be residual.

The assemblage from the 'occupation' spread contains intrusive elements, in particular two sherds of glass from the body of a post-medieval wine bottle.

The cremation cemetery, phase 5 late Iron Age, appears to show no signs of disturbance or residuality, the brooches consistently dating to mid first century BC to early first century AD.

5.1.3 Range and Variety

The material range of the artefacts (excluding flint) is presented in Table 5.5.

Table 5.5 Range of material types

Material	Quantities
Registered Finds	40
Copper alloy	23 (including one coin)
Iron	4
Clay	7
Bone	1
Antler	1
Shale	2
Glass	1
Stone	1
Bulk Finds	
Iron (nails)	3
Glass	2
Ferrous smithing slag	1483.9g
Vitrified clay/glassy slag	478.3g
Burnt stone	1576.62kg

Twenty-one different forms of artefact were recovered. These are presented below in two tables: Table 5.6, artefacts recovered from the settlement and Table 5.7, artefacts recovered from the cemetery. The tables are laid out in object ('simple name') order under the functional category assigned to them (see Bedfordshire Artefact Typology for allocations of simple names to functional categories).

Table 5.6 Artefacts from the Settlement

Simple name	Fastenings	Household	Craft & Industry	Multi-purpose tools	Trade	Weapons	Personal	Multi-functional
nails	3							
vessel glass		2 intrusive						
loom weight			2					
spindle-whorl			5					
worked antler			1					
slag			1962.2g					
burnt stone			1576.62kg					
whetstone				1				
coin					1			
spearhead						1		
brooch							1	
pin							2	
bracelet							2	
bead							2	
lace tag							1 intrusive	
pin							2	
sheet								4
wire								2
rod								1

Table 5.7 Artefacts from the Cemetery

Simple name	Personal Adornment	Multi-functional/query
brooch	10	
brooch pin	1	
brooch chain	1	
melted lump		1 (may be melted brooch?)
sheet		1

5.1.4 Condition

Overall the registered finds survived in a fragmentary state and hence identifications in many cases are tentative. The ironwork survived in a very poor condition and the copper alloy, although a slight improvement, was in fair to poor condition. The shale bracelet was stored wet and required consolidation, while the bead was in a stable condition.

Seventeen of the registered finds were selected for conservation. The copper alloy finds were mechanically cleaned and where possible consolidated. Iron objects underwent radiography and the shale bracelet was consolidated using an acrylic copolymer solution. The conservator's record cards and report form part of the archive.

5.1.5 Means of collecting data

In accordance with Bedfordshire Archaeology Service's Procedures (Section 2.2.9) each registered find was recorded on an 'Object Record Card' and its identification (simple name), context, material and condition noted. These records were then entered onto a computerised database. Bulk finds were identified by type and manually recorded and quantified. The burnt stone and slag from the 'occupation' spread was visually examined and quantified (by weight) by square and spit number.

The finds were allocated to functional categories (cf Crummy 1983; BAS Procedures Manual 2.2.11) in order to facilitate the interpretation of the status and function of the site.

5.2 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.2.1 Artefacts from the Settlement

The dating sequence of structures and landscape features and internal site development

(Research Aims 2.3.4 and 2.3.7)

Due to the limited number of registered and non-ceramic bulk finds there is a poor potential to contribute to a dating sequence of structures and ditches (Research Aim 2.3.4) or the internal site development (Research Aim 2.3.7). Typologically, few of the finds are closely datable. This is in some cases due to fragmentary survival, for example copper alloy sheet fragments (4), wire (2) and pins (2). Other finds have a long period of use, for example the blue glass bead from spit 2 of the 'occupation' spread is of a type known to have been in use from about the sixth or fifth centuries BC to at least the eighth century AD (Guido 1978, 66-8). Long-lived forms therefore have little potential to assist in creating a dating sequence. The possible exception to

the overall low potential to achieve research aim 2.3.4 lies with the clay spindle whorls and loom weights.

The assemblage of clay spindle whorls (five pieces, two of which join) and loom weights (two) are of five different fabrics, four of which correspond to recognised fabric types within the Bedfordshire Fabric Type Series (see Table 5.8).

Table 5.8 Spindle whorls and loom weights

Registered find (Sf)	Fabric type	Provisional date	Structure
spindle whorl Sf 25 spindle whorl Sf 57	F29 F29	EIA/MIA EIA/MIA	6 'occupation spread' 1301.3 adj to St 11
spindle whorl Sf 33	F19	MIA	'occupation spread' 822.1 over St 11
spindle whorl Sf 41 and Sf 56	new type		'occupation spread' 1061.1 and 1116.1 over St 11
loom weight Sf 22	F30	LBA/EIA	4
loom weight Sf 53	F22	EIA/MIA	39

Five of these artefacts are decorated, with no two patterns alike. Comparison with the decoration on the pottery vessels may further assist in more closely dating these objects and hence contribute to establishing a dating sequence. Potential however is still limited due to the small number and to the fact that only two may definitely be associated with structures (Sf 53 is residual).

Evidence of discrete areas of activity within the settlement (Research Aim 2.3.8)

Due to the paucity of material, a study of the distribution by phase of the ferrous smithing slag and the loom weights and spindle whorls has low potential to determine discrete areas of activity (Research Aim 2.3.8), assuming a distinction existed between living and craft 'space' (Barrett 1981, 211). This analysis, in conjunction with ceramic analysis of form and decoration, has poor potential to indicate whether structures in which crafts were carried out had the same status as those serving as living quarters.

The presence of ferrous smithing slag in structure 4 (362g in total) and structure 11 (639 g) would appear to indicate a degree of iron-working. The only other ferrous smithing slag from the excavated features was 31g from structure 5 and 201g from the pit group, structure 39. As the slag from structure 4 was found in a re-cut drip gully abutting structure 11, further stratigraphical analysis may indicate that iron-working was restricted to a single structure. Of the 97.9g of ferrous smithing slag from the gridded squares of the 'occupation' spread, 65.1g (66%) comes from over, or the immediate surrounds of, structure 11.

The presence of iron smithing slag in deposits of early-to-mid-Iron Age is in itself significant. The small quantity is consistent with retrieval levels from contemporary sites both regionally (cf Knight 1984, 166-67; Salter 1993, 100-102) and nationally (Cunliffe 1991, 452-54). The material from Salford merits further examination during

the analysis phase to confirm both its provisional identification (ie smithing versus smelting) and phasing.

Hearth areas may be indicated by the higher concentrations (over 30g) of vitrified clay lining and glassy slag, in structures 5 (61g) and 12 (285g). Equally, the concentrations of burnt stone in structures 4, 6, 7/8/9, and 11 (see Table 5.2) are likely to be indicative of hearths, although other uses, for example post-packing, must be considered. The distribution of this material within the structures must be plotted to ascertain the position of recovery. This will be particularly useful in establishing the relationships of vitrified clay lining and slag residues as evidence for hearths and iron-working.

Evidence of textile production, in the form of spindle whorls and a loom weight, were recovered from structure 4 (a loom weight) and structure 6 (a spindle whorl). Three further spindle whorls were found in the 'occupation' spread overlying, or adjacent to, structure 11. A single loom weight was recovered from structure 39, a pit group thought to be of Saxon date and is therefore likely to be residual. A more detailed examination of these objects may assist in determining the time frame for this activity (see above) although there is poor potential to determine whether textile working was carried out in more than one structure.

5.2.2 The 'occupation' spread

Understanding the occupation spread

(Research Aim 2.3.6)

Only three finds from the 'occupation' spread can be dated with some certainty; the remainder are either too fragmentary to determine their complete form, or are of a long-lived type, for example the blue glass bead (see above Research Aim 2.3.4 and 2.3.7). Of the more closely datable finds two can be ascribed to the Iron Age: spindle whorl Sf 33, fabric type F19 thought to be of mid-Iron Age date, and spindle whorl Sf 57, fabric type F29 thought to be of the early-to-mid Iron Age. The third spindle whorl from the 'occupation' spread (Sf 41 and Sf 56) is of an unrecognised fabric type and will need further analysis before any dating can be forwarded. The third datable object (Sf 30) is an abraded Roman coin of the third to fourth century AD. Both Sf 33 and Sf 30 are from the uppermost spits overlying structure 11. This would appear to indicate that the 'dark earth mound' was formed during the Iron Age occupation of the settlement, with some intermixing of the finds, probably caused by ploughing, in later periods. The presence of the late Roman coin suggests a chance loss in an area that was left open, possibly as pasture, for an extended period. As no artefacts attributable to the interval between the late-Roman and the late/post-medieval periods have been identified, this suggests that little ploughing occurred during this period. The formation of the medieval headland which overlay the deposit, and subsequent ploughing, is the likely source of the two intrusive fragments of post-medieval wine bottle. The registered finds therefore appear to have a good potential to address Research Aim 2.3.6.

5.2.3 Artefacts from the Cremation Cemetery

The limits of the Iron Age cemetery

(Research Aim 2.3.5)

Although the cremation cemetery cannot be shown to be chronologically related to the settlement, it does indicate continued occupation in the area. The finds assemblage from the cremation cemetery has excellent potential to address Research Aim 2.3.5 and proves to be of both national and intrinsic importance.

Four cremations were recovered, each accompanied by two ceramic vessels. The non-ceramic artefacts were confined, in each case, to one pot. The importance of this assemblage lies in the types of brooches and their associations with each other. Preliminary identification of the brooches indicates the presence of two La Tene III brooches with bosses on their bows, two possible Nauheim, two simple iron brooches but with perforated triangular catchplates (Nauheim variant or derivative?), two Camulodunum Type VII with domes on their bows (Feugere Type 11 "unguiforme"), and one Alesia. The final brooch, incomplete and fragmentary, appears to be a further Camulodunum type VII, with four coil spring and internal chord, rectangular-sectioned wire bow laterally decorated, but it seems to expand as it approaches the now missing foot. Where three brooches occurred together, two were paired and Cremation 4 yielded the remains of a copper alloy chain.

Table 5.9 Brooch types accompanying the cremations

Crem.	La Tene III boss	?Nauheim	Simple Fe	Camulo VII dome	Camulo VII foot expand.	Alesia	Vessel Fabric Type
1			2				FO6B/ FO9
2	1	2					FO9 (2)
3					1	1	FO6B (2)
4	1			2			FO9 (2)

La Tene III brooches with bosses are not common, with a restricted distribution limited to a narrow arc from Faversham in North Kent through the Luton/Dunstable area to Northamptonshire (Olivier 1988, 35). The importance of the Salford brooches lies in the nature of their deposition, accompanying cremation vessels dated to the mid-first century BC, and their association with other brooch types (see below).

Few brooches of this form have been found in securely dated contexts. It is also noteworthy that parallels from Borough Green, Wrotham, Kent were recovered from a "Belgic cremation burial" disturbed during quarrying. Examples from Faversham, Dunstable and Luton may also have been associated with burials (Olivier 1988, 35-6).

There are two possible Nauheim, only one of which is near complete (Sf 2). This brooch has a number of the features of a true Nauheim (Hattatt 1987, 20) - a four coil spring with internal chord, a moulded rod-like bow which tapers to the foot, a trapezoidal catchplate with trapezoidal opening which extends to about one-third the length of the bow. However, it also has a fairly sharp bend in the bow, reminiscent of

the 'soldatenfibel' of the second half of the first century AD. It may be a true Nauheim or a variant (cf Olivier 1988, 36).

The Alesia brooch (Sf 6) is a Feugere Type 21a. Hattatt listed ten examples known in Britain (Hattatt 1989, 48), thus making this the eleventh example. This in itself is of intrinsic interest, its presence in a cremation vessel of mid-first century BC is of even greater significance.

The presence of La Tene III brooches with a boss on the bow in cremations has been used as a type fossil for the Welwyn phase of Aylesford-Swarling culture (Stead 1976). On this basis Salford Cremations 2 and 4 belong to this phase. Unlike the other sites north of the Thames quoted by Stead (1976, 408), Salford does not lie within four miles of the Icknield Way. These cremations are of further interest in that previously only Aylesford produced an association between a La Tene III brooch with a boss on the bow and one of another type (Stead 1976, 410). At Salford this brooch type was found with pairs of possible Nauheim and Camulodunum Type VII with a dome on the upper bow.

The two remaining cremations (1 and 3) were in close proximity to nos 2 and 4. Cremations 2 and 4 were accompanied by two vessels each of fabric type F09 - Cremation 1 contained one vessel of this fabric type, the second vessel of type F06B, while Cremation 3 contained two vessels of fabric type F06B. Hence it can be argued that all four cremations are likely to be of the same phase. If this argument is accepted then Alesia brooches and simple iron brooches with perforated catchplates also may be able to be used as type fossils for Welwyn phase cremations.

This assemblage of brooches needs more detailed study by a specialist to confirm both their identifications and their importance in relation to the definition of the Welwyn phase (50BC - AD0). This will be undertaken by Don Macreth. Metal analysis of the copper alloy brooches (Justine Bayley) will contribute to the growing corpus of information on the composition of late Iron Age and Roman brooches.

5.3 STORAGE AND CURATION

All the material will be appropriately packaged (UKIC 1984) to ensure, as far as possible, its long-term preservation. Particular care must be taken with the metal artefacts from the site, due to their poor state of preservation. The material will eventually be deposited in Bedford Museum. The following points should be noted:

1. The Metalwork: the RH within the air-tight boxes in which this material is stored must be regularly monitored. An RH indicator card and/or self-indicating silica gel will be placed in every box and as soon as the RH rises above 20%, the silica gel must be removed, regenerated and replaced.
2. The Non-Metalwork: these items should be stored in as stable an environment as possible, preferably at an RH of 50-55% and a temperature of 18-20 degrees Celsius.

3. **The Finds for Display:** the copper alloy brooches, due to their rarity, have the potential for display. However, due to their fragile and fragmented state some reconstruction work will be necessary. Handling should be kept to a strict minimum as the metal is prone to fracture. The condition of these items must be monitored closely and they should only be displayed in environmentally controlled cases.

6. THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGE

6.1 FACTUAL DATA

6.1.1 Quantity

The total flint assemblage from Salford numbered 1231 artefacts: 462 pieces were recovered from hand-excavated features and layers (henceforth referred to as the excavated assemblage) while the 'occupation' spread (see Section 5.1.2 and Table 5.1) yielded 769 pieces. Within the 'occupation' spread an area of 12m by 9m was chosen for a pilot study. This pilot area produced 196 pieces.

6.1.2 Provenance

'Excavated' Assemblage

The excavated assemblage spanned the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. Provisional identifications indicate that 20 pieces are of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date, and 442 pieces are of the late Neolithic/Bronze Age.

The majority (94.2%) of excavated flint was contained within fills of features, as opposed to layers (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Flint occurrence by context type

Context Type	Quantity of Context Types	Quantity of Flint recovered
Grave fill	1	5
Hearth	1	1
Ring Ditch	5	42
Ditch	32	62
Pit	39	126
Structural Cut	122	199
Layer	7	26
Natural	1	1
Total	208	462

Of the 208 contexts containing flint, 108 have been assigned provisional phasing and/or structure numbers. The flint from these contexts is presented in Table 6.2 by phase and structure.

Table 6.2 Flint by Phase and Structure

Phase	Structure	Quantity	Comment
1		3	1 scraper, 1 misc. retouched flake, 1 waste flake
2	42	14	1 thumbnail scraper, 3 misc. retouched flakes, 10 waste flakes
2	43	17	1 core, 4 scrapers (1 thumbnail), 1 backed knife, 11 waste flakes
2	44	33	1 knife/ cutting blade, 1 core, 1 core rejuvenation flake, 30 waste flakes
3	5	13	1 core, 12 waste flakes
3	12	1	1 waste flake
4	1	21	4 scrapers, 1 core, 16 waste flakes
4	2	4	4 waste flakes
4	4	12	1 core, 11 waste flakes
4	6	4	4 waste flakes
4	7	13	2 scrapers, 2 cores, 1 core tool, 2 cutting blades, 1 leaf-shaped arrowhead, 5 waste flakes
4	8	1	1 waste flake
4	9	2	1 core, 1 scraper
4	10	2	2 waste flakes
4	11	12	1 cutting blade/knife, 11 waste flakes
4	13	3	3 waste flakes
4	15	1	1 waste flake
4	16	3	1 scraper, 2 waste flakes
4	17	1	1 waste flake
4	36	8	8 waste flakes
4	38	3	3 waste flakes
6	37	2	1 possible core, 1 waste flake
7	39	51	3 scrapers, 2 cores, 4 cutting blades/knives, 40 waste flakes, 2 chert tools?
unphased	3	1	1 waste flake
unphased	40	20	1 scraper, 19 waste flakes
unphased	41	7	2 cores, 1 scraper, 4 waste flakes
Total		252	

'Occupation' Spread

A total of 769 flint artefacts were recovered from the 'occupation' spread. Although the whole assemblage was scanned for tool types present, and a count carried out, only the pilot area (9m by 12m) overlying the area of structure 11 was recorded and quantified by square and spit number for the purpose of assessing its potential. This area, henceforth referred to as the pilot area, produced 196 worked flints. The flint recovered from the pilot area is presented in Table 6.3 by spit number.

Table 6.3 Flint occurrence by spit number

Spit number	Quantity	Mesolithic/early Neolithic	Late Neolithic/Bronze Age
1	165	12- 3 blades/knives; 1 bladelet; 8 waste flakes	153- 4 blades/knives; 2 scrapers; 3 cores; 1 core rejuvenation; 143 waste flakes
2	10		10 waste flakes
3	10		1 scraper, 9 waste flakes
4	10		10 waste flakes
6	1		1 waste flake
Total	196	12	184

The large quantity of flint from spit 1, reflects the fact that of the 105 squares contained within the pilot area, 92 contained only one spit.

6.1.3 Range and Variety

'Excavated Assemblage'

The quality was variable, ranging from good quality flint to poor quality gravel flints. The range includes white and blue patinated pieces through to browns, greys and blacks. The initial categorisations indicate that there are 28 core pieces, 64 tools, [including scrapers, end and thumbnail (32), arrowheads (1 leaf-shaped and 1 barbed and tanged), core tools (3), polished axe fragments (2), knives/cutting blades (15), piercer (1) and miscellaneous retouched flakes (9)], and 370 debitage fragments.

In comparison to the quantity of flint recovered from the 'occupation' spread, the excavated assemblage is meagre. This difference in quantity may be due to the fact that sieving was not carried out on the excavated deposits.

'Occupation' Spread

The flint from the the 'occupation' spread comprised a mixture of toffee brown to grey and black flint, mostly of poor quality. Tool types present within the assemblage are presented in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Tool types present within the 'Occupation' Spread

Period	Tool types and quantities
Mesolithic	3 blades/knives, 1 bladelet, 1 microlith
Early Neolithic	1 leaf-shaped arrowhead
Late Neolithic/Bronze Age	6 scrapers (1 discoid), 7 knives, 1 possible rod, 1 transverse arrowhead, 1 notched flake and 1 thin-butted, flaked and ground-edge axe.

Although this would appear to be a large assemblage, in comparison to that recovered from the larger excavated area, this can be counterbalanced by the intensive collection technique.

6.1.4 Condition

Overall the assemblage of flint from Salford is of rather poor quality flint and has suffered from considerable post-depositional damage, the flint from the 'occupation' spread in particular is heavily abraded.

6.1.5 Means of Collecting Data

The assessment of the 'excavated' flint assemblage is based upon a paper record, recorded by context, consisting of quantification, provisional identification and spot-dating determined by a combination of manufacture techniques (including soft versus hard hammer, flakes versus blades, thickness of butt), flint quality and diagnostic tool types. The 'occupation' spread assemblage as a whole was counted and scanned for tool types. The flint recovered from the pilot area (9m by 12m) overlying structure 11, was recorded on paper by square and spit number, noting quantities, provisional identifications and spot-dating based on the same factors used in recording the 'excavated' assemblage. This work was carried out in consultation with Robin Holgate (Luton Museum).

6.2 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.2.1 Excavated Assemblage

The dating sequence of structures and landscape features (Research aim 2.3.4)

There is moderate potential that confirmation of the provisional identifications and analysis of the flint manufacturing techniques will assist in dating the fills of features of phases 1 and 2, and possibly structure 40, the palisade.

Internal site development (Research Aim 2.3.7)

There is moderate potential to clarify the earlier phases of the settlement's development by plotting the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age component of the assemblage from contexts allocated to phases 1 to 3, especially in relation to the Bronze Age ring ditches.

Evidence of discrete areas of activity within the settlement (Research aim 2.3.8)

Given the limited range and small quantity of the tool types, there is poor potential for locating or defining specific task/activity areas. The quantity of debitage could suggest that there was a higher probability of locating flint-working areas. However the abraded condition of much of the flint, and its retrieval from fills of structures of phases 4-7 (57% of the phased assemblage) indicates the potential overall is low. There is moderate potential, if plotting is restricted to flints recovered from phase 2, for confirming whether flint working was carried out adjacent to but not within, the ring ditches (Bradley 1978, 55-6).

6.2.2 'Occupation' Spread

Understanding the 'occupation' spread (Research Aim 2.3.6)

The assemblage from the pilot area of the 'occupation' spread is generally poor. The tools and cores present were plotted but did not produce a significant distribution pattern. It would appear, given the very abraded condition of the flint and the high quantities and general intermixing of Mesolithic and late Neolithic/Bronze Age types from spit 1 (see Table 6.3), that the flint assemblage from the pilot area supports the general hypothesis that the 'occupation' spread was formed through midden deposition, which subsequently suffered plough damage in the late medieval period. The flint assemblage therefore appears to have a good potential to address research aim 2.3.6.

6.3 CURATION AND STORAGE

The assemblage is environmentally stable and the potential for long term storage is good. The flint has been marked and varnished where appropriate and stored, by context, within self-sealing, labelled plastic bags. The bags are stored, in context order, within labelled cardboard boxes. Suitable arrangements for transfer and accessioning to Bedford Museum, on completion of publication, have been made.

7 PLANT MACROFOSSILS (M Robinson)

The analysis of the plant macros remains is now complete and what follows is a summary of that data

7.1 FACTUAL DATA

7.1.1 Quantity and Provenance

Excavation in advance of gravel extraction at Salford revealed a series of Neolithic pits (Phase 1), three Bronze Age ring ditches (Phase 2), a Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement (Phases 3 & 4) and a group of waterlogged pits of Saxon date (Phase 7). Some of the round houses of the Iron Age settlement were covered by an extensive spread of 'occupation' debris. During the excavation, all samples were processed on site using a siraf tank for the recovery of botanical remains and no unprocessed soil remains. Bulk sieving was undertaken with the aid of a cement mixer and samples were taken for laboratory analysis from waterlogged deposits. The material available for analysis comprises 43 flots of carbonised plant material from a wide range of archaeological features, 9 flots of waterlogged material from the pits, 398 bags of abraded charcoal recovered from the 'occupation' deposit with the aid of the cement mixer and 9 unprocessed waterlogged samples from the pits.

7.1.2 Range and Variety

Phases 1 & 2 The Neolithic and Bronze Age Samples

With the exception of a single barley grain from a Neolithic pit, carbonised plant remains were absent from the four pre-Iron Age samples.

Phase 3 The Iron Age Samples

The 25 Iron Age samples (excluding the samples of uncertain date from the pit complex) contain low concentrations of cereal grain, chaff and weed seeds. The cereals present include *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (six-row hulled barley) which were probably the main arable crop. A possible oat of doubtful status was also present. While the settlement certainly used cereals there is no evidence for large scale crop processing on the site.

Charcoal, mostly *Quercus* (oak), was present in many of the samples. The charcoal from the bulk sieving of the 'occupation' deposit will not be not be examined further. It probably represents the fuel of domestic hearths.

Phase 7 The Saxon Material

The carbonised material from the Iron Age or Saxon pit complex comprises a small quantity of grain and some charcoal, again mostly oak. It is possible that much of this material is from the Iron Age occupation of the site.

The flots from the waterlogged deposits suggest a pond like environment. The seeds suggest the damp margins of the pits to have supported such plants as Ranunculus sceleratus (Celery leaved crowfoot), Rorippa cf palustris (marsh yellow cress) and Lycopus europaeus (gypsy wort). The remaining seeds were mostly from plants of nutrient rich moist disturbed ground, Chenopodium ficifolium (goosefoot), Polygonum lapathifolium (pale persicaria) and Stellaria media gp (chickweed). Scrub or hedgerow, with Crataegus sp (hawthorn), Cornus sanguinea (dogwood) and Urtica dioica (stinging nettle) also grew in the vicinity of the pits. In addition to the seeds/fruit stones, thorny twigs of Crataegus/prunus (hawthorn/sloe) type are also present. One of the samples contains seeds and capsule fragments of Linum usitatissimum (flax). There were relatively few seeds of grassland plants but the beetle Phyllopertha horticola, which has larvae that feed on the roots of grassland herbs, were present in several of the samples. Dung beetles from the genera Geotrupes, Aphodius and Onthophagus which feed on the droppings of domestic animals on pasturelands were also identified. These results broadly corroborate the preliminary assessments of pollen and animal bone.

8 WATERLOGGED WOOD (R Gale)

8.1 FACTUAL DATA

8.1.2 Quantity and Provenance

During the excavation, samples of waterlogged wood were collected from contexts 3000 (fill of pit/pond 3029), 3002 (fill of well-like feature 3001), 3480 (fill of pit 3458) and 3653 (fill of pit 3651). As feature 3001 was deemed to be of Saxon date the wood samples were not submitted for identification, but stored for possible future study. The remaining 18 samples (many containing more than one species) were submitted to Rowena Gale for identification.

8.1.2 Range and Variety

The samples were mainly fragments of woody stem measuring approximately 7.5-30mm diameter. Although the bark remained *in situ* on several samples it was detached on others and the surface of the exposed wood on the latter was worn and abraded. Two larger non-stem fragments exhibited worked surfaces. The condition of the material was variable but, in general, the structure of the wood showed considerable degeneration; fungal hyphae and spores were present.

The species identified included *Prunus* (probably blackthorn), hazel, willow/poplar, oak and ?apple/hawthorn/whitebeam/rowan/wild service. (A complete listing of the identification of samples is available in the archive.)

The greater proportion of the samples arose from stem wood (or narrow branches) and many still retained their bark. Most samples (the *Prunus* in particular) were knobby or had numerous scars from lateral shoots suggesting that these arose from naturally growing specimens rather than coppiced trees which produce long, straight stems with relatively few laterals. Although a heel (often typical of coppice growth) was present on one sample (71a - hazel) a lateral shoot initiated approximately 1cm above the heel, suggested that this probably originated from a non-coppiced specimen. The 50mm length of sample 82b (hazel) was straight and free from lateral growth and therefore more characteristic of coppice wood. However, in contrast to coppice stems, the early annual growth rings in this sample were very variable in width, but it is possible that this variation in ring width merely signified climate changes. With such a paucity of comparable samples for examination, evidence of coppicing or pollarding practices co-eval with the settlement remains inconclusive.

The samples (73b, 74, 76, 77) identified as oak all appeared to be from heartwood but slight curvature of the annual growth rings suggested that these fragments were more likely to have originated from narrow trunk or branch than from an outer area of trunk of wide girth. Samples 76 and 77 showed worked areas with tool marks.

The bulk of the samples were recovered from context 3000 (fill of pit/pond 3029) and may represent a mixture of deposited waste material and natural debris (the latter perhaps including the abundance of knobby *Prunus*). The oak (samples 76

and 77) evidently represent waste material from some form of activity associated with the settlement.

8.1.3 Means of collecting data

Thin sections were made in the transverse, radial longitudinal and tangential longitudinal planes and mounted in 70% glycerol on microscope slides. These were examined using a light transmitting microscope at magnifications of up to X400 and the structure was compared to authenticated reference material. Where possible the stem diameter was measured and the number of annual rings counted.

8.2 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

8.4.1 No further work is considered necessary on this area of analysis.

9 POLLEN ANALYSIS (Patricia E J Wiltshire)

9.1 FACTUAL DATA

9.1.1 Methods

The pollen sample was taken from the Iron Age and Roman period pond (Phases 4, 5, 6). Context 3028 (square 5062 of the pond area) contained 46cm of stony iron-mottled, clayey infill which overlay 29cm of dark, fine-grained clay. The dark clay had accumulated over a basal orange, gravelly sand. Fifteen samples were taken from the dark clay from 0-1cm (interface) to 28-29cm (interface). Standard techniques were used for concentrating pollen from the sediments and at least five traverses of each preparation were scanned.

9.1.2 Pollen Preservation

The pollen was moderately abundant and in a very good state of preservation, with no suggestion of differential decay. Microscopic charcoal was present in every sample, being more abundant at some levels than others. The scanning suggested that there were floristic differences throughout the profile but this impression will be confirmed only by detailed pollen counting.

9.1.3 Results and discussion

The pollen spectra were overwhelmingly dominated by Poaceae (grasses), Lactuceae (eg. dandelion, hawkbit, sowthistle) and *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain). This suggests that the local landscape was dominated by pasture. Indeed, the other herb taxa supports the contention that the site was set in weedy grassland with areas of open, disturbed soils. The presence of the liverwort *Anthoceros* might suggest areas of fallow land in the vicinity of the watering hole.

Cereal-type pollen was found throughout the profile and was fairly abundant in the upper levels of the sediments; this might indicate that cereal growing and/or processing was being carried out locally.

The feature itself seems to have contained standing water for at least part of its history, as evidenced by the finds of *Lemna* (duckweed), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife) and *Scrophularia* type (eg. figwort). The sedges also suggest wetness although not necessarily any depth of water.

The spores of rust and smut fungi were found in several layers. These fungi are obligate parasites of a wide range of plants, both herbaceous and woody, and proliferate when conditions are humid. The spores were found as tetrads in some levels and this indicates that they were infesting vegetation immediately around the feature. Indeed, on several occasions pollen grains of various taxa were found as clumps (from whole anthers) or as tetrads. This again indicates that they were derived from plants growing immediately adjacent to the watering hole.

Although a picture of an open, agricultural landscape is suggested by the pollen taxa, there were certainly trees and shrubs in the catchment. The scan suggested that *Quercus* (oak) was the most abundant tree in the area. *Tilia* (lime) was found in the basal layers and might have been derived from older soil since it is known to have been extremely common in the east Midlands in prehistoric times.

9.1.4 Summary

Although this cursory examination gives a rather crude picture, there is evidence that the site was set in an area of mixed farming with some trees in the hinterland. There is also tentative evidence of fallow land locally. The feature itself was probably skirted by tall herb communities and duckweed might have coated the surface water. Plants adjacent to the watering hole seem to have been infested by rusts and smuts and this is very common in very humid conditions.

Pollen assemblage from Feature 3028 Square 5062

Trees/Shrubs	English Name
Alnus	alder
Betula	birch
Corylus	hazel
Pinus	pine
Quercus	oak
Tilia	lime
Crops and Plants	
Cereal-type	cereals
Herbs	
Artemisia	mugwort
Aster type	eg daisy
Caryophyllaceae	eg chickweed
chenopodiaceae	eg orache
Cirsium	thistle
Lactuceae	eg dandelion
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort plantain
Poaceae	grasses
Ranunculus	eg buttercup
Rhinanthus type	eg yellow rattle
Sinapis type	eg charlock
Trifolium type	eg clover
Aquatics and Plants of Wet Soil	
Cyperaceae	sedges
Lemna	duckweed
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Scrophularia	figwort
Spore Formers	
Anthoceros	liverwort
Polypodium	polypody fern
Pteridium	bracken
Fungal Spores	
Tilletia sp.	smut
Uredinales (Puccinia type)	rust

9.2 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

The potential for further analysis is high both because of the context of the pollen samples and the quality of their survival as this will contribute to the environmental history of the site during the period of settlement.

10 SOIL MICROMORPHOLOGY (Dr R I MacPhail)

10.1 FACTUAL DATA

10.1.1 Quantity

Two samples were taken for purposes of thin sectioning.

10.1.2 Provenance and Range and Variety

Context 2100 The 'occupation' spread.

Natural soil (A) is a disturbed argillic brown sandy loam with numerous void coatings that reflect its disturbance, possibly by herbivore trampling and by more material being dumped over it. The latter was also disturbed. Above (B) is a dark stained layer containing wood charcoal, phytoliths, bone and highly phosphatic coprolites - possibly human. It contains numerous textural features in part formed by the deposition of liquid waste, and can be tentatively interpreted as a dung heap/midden, variously trampled over by domestic animals. The topmost layer (C) is similar to (B), but is more open in structure through biological (earthworms etc) reworking. Burned daub etc is present. It may also have been affected by soil translocation from above by medieval ploughing.

Context 1850

White layer formed from a concentration of very phytolithic-rich cereal waste material. It has probably been affected by inwash of phosphatic liquids forming vivianite. Bone and possible human coprolites also occur alongside wood charcoal.

10.2 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Understanding the 'occupation' spread (research aim 2.3.6)

These are highly interesting occupation deposits that have been little studied from the Iron Age and will repay detailed micro-morphological analysis particularly in the light of current research at Butser Ancient Farm (Hants).

In addition to soil micro-morphology it is hoped to get some phosphate analyses carried out to quantify P, as phosphatic features are common in the microfabric.

Micro-morphological results will need to be carefully integrated into the contextual, zooarchaeological and microbotanical study of the site, because only a small area of the site can be characterised by this soil study.

Work to be carried out by Dr R McPhail at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory funded by English Heritage.

11 HUMAN BONE (T Jackman)

11.1 FACTUAL DATA

11.1.1 Quantity of material

The total amount of human bone from Salford is small and adds up to part of a jaw bone and 1650g of cremated bone from four cremations. The cremations have been assigned individual numbers, with an archive which includes context sheets, drawings at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 and photographs.

11.1.2 Provenance, Range and Variety

The partial jaw bone was recovered from a layer [3027] from within the pond, suggesting redeposition. All the cremated bone derived from the cremation cemetery. This cemetery has been dated, by the fabric and form of funerary vessels and the accompanying brooches (see Sections 4.2.1 and 5.2.3), to the second half of the first century BC; no disturbance was apparent within this assemblage.

The features containing the cremated bone were the subject of 100% sampling. The contents of the pots were carefully excavated and sieved through a 0.5mm mesh; any stones were removed by subsequent sorting. The soil samples from the cremations have been sorted and the cremated bone separated out.

11.1.3 Means of collecting data

The means by which this information was collected was by a rapid scan and weighing the material.

11.2 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

To define the limit of the cremation cemetery and examine its relationship to the site (Research Aim 2.3.5)

A minimum number of individuals can be calculated and an examination made for demographic and pathological information. Potential also exists to remark on cremation technique. Due to the small size of the assemblage, this material has low potential for addressing this aim and contributing to a greater understanding of cremation practices in the second half of the first century BC.

12 THE ANIMAL BONE ASSEMBLAGE (A R Roberts)

12.1 FACTUAL DATA

12.1.1 Quantity of material records

Hand recovered: 25 boxes 44 x 22 x 18cm

3 boxes 44 x 12 x 18cm

Sieved Samples: 9 boxes 44 x 12 x 18cm

The hand recovered bones consist of approximately 1500 bones and fragments and weigh 74.45kgs.

The sieved material comes from the occupation spread, which was excavated in small spits and sieved in its entirety. It weighs 76.43kgs.

12.1.2 Range and variety

The hand recovered bones come from 416 contexts, of which 238 (57%) are unphased, 25 (6%) from phase 3 (Late Bronze Age) and the remaining 153 (37%) are from phase 4 (Iron Age structures).

Phase 3 (Structures 5, 12)

4kgs of bone are dated to the Late Bronze Age, all coming from the fills of structural features. Cattle bones are the most frequent with small numbers of horse, pig, sheep/goat and dog bones. There is a single antler tine from Cervus elaphus. Aging data is available from mandibles and epiphyseal fusion. There are indications of wear, gnawing and burning on a few specimens. No patterns emerge from this material and it would appear to be residual.

Phase 4

Structures 1, 6, 11, 16, 38

These structures from the Iron Age phase contain the highest number of dated bones. 73 of the bone containing contexts are structural, with 5 from ditches and gullies. Cattle are predominant as in all phases, horse is as frequent as sheep/goat, but pig barely makes a showing. There are signs of gnawing on horse bones and butchery marks on cattle bones. Teeth and fusion data give an indication of age, and cattle horn cores show 2 of Armitage's (1982) age classes.

Structures 2, 4, 7, 17, 36

The contexts in these structures have the same pattern as those above. In addition to the 4 domestic species there is a single bird bone probably from a wild species. A sheep/goat astragalus shows evidence of having passed through the gut of a dog. Horn cores give the same age for cattle as in structures 1, 6, 11, 16, 38, and older specimens are indicated by an acetabulum with eburnation on the articular surfaces.

Structures 8, 9, 13, 10, 14, 15

These structures are represented by a small number of contexts, all structural, all containing 1 or 2 bones or fragments of bones.

The 'Occupation' Spread

A 30% sample was taken from the fragments recovered by sieving from the 'occupation' spread. This amounted to 3 of 9 boxes. All the bones are fragmentary, most of the breaks are old and exhibit surface abrasion and wear. There are no traces of chopping or scraping, but there are fine knife marks on the articular surfaces and gnawing. The species identified are horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The spread (fig 5) seals earlier features of the Bronze and Iron Ages, and due to the intensive nature of its excavation could supply a great deal of information on the site economy.

Unphased Contexts

The unphased contexts have been looked at by type: structural, ditches, pits, layers and natural action. Many are unphased within a period and further work will date them more closely. From ditches come aging data for cattle and evidence of skinning in horses. The pits are rich, particularly those containing complete cattle skulls, which give aging data from teeth and horn cores as well as indications of illness in the restricted growth of the cores. Industry is indicated by sawn horn cores and a horse scapula with a series of holes, which seems to indicate use as a support for activity. There is a group of sheep/goat limb bones, which appear to come from one animal, and some very large pig canines, which may come from a wild specimen. Structural contexts furnish a large shed antler of Cervus elaphus, a probable goat horn core, 2 bird bones and possible bone working waste or trial pieces.

12.1.3 Condition and Means of collecting data

The bones were cursorily examined for species, indications of butchery, pathology, age and potential for measurement. The bone is in fair condition, except for some pieces of antler, which are fragile. A small number of the bones are distinctly darker than the rest, which may be associated with damper conditions.

12.2 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Economy and status (Research aim 2.3.2)

The collection of animal bones from Salford contains sufficient material for further post-excavation analysis. The site offers sealed contexts of Late Bronze and Early Iron Age date and warrants particularly close investigation of the occupation spread. These can answer questions about the diet and economy of the site and whether it changed over the history of the site.

There is evidence of age in teeth, bones and horn cores, a good number of bones are measurable, and others can furnish non-metrical information such as position of nutrient foramina. Skeletal representation can be examined to indicate use of areas in both animal and site. Indications of pathology and congenital traits can reveal the health or otherwise of the animals.

Comparison can be made with the animal bones from other Iron Age settlements in the area, particularly Stagsden, currently under analysis, which will give a wide view of Iron Age diet and economy , and perhaps show local differences between sites with different purposes.

13 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

This summary is based on an assessment of the research aims of the Salford excavation project, it summarises the potential for further work in some areas, identifies new areas and quantifies (see table 13.1) the level of potential judged to be the basis for the updated project design.

Research Aim 2.3.1 - to place the site in its landscape context

There is reasonable potential to place all aspects of the Salford site in their regional context, with the highest potential for the Neolithic/Bronze Age and Iron Age components in context.

In the initial period of activity at Salford, the Neolithic and Bronze Age, potential for exploring their place in the landscape lies in detailed examination of topographical contexts and comparative study of sites in the region.

In the Bronze Age the ring ditches can be placed in the landscape only in the broadest terms, as neither the flint assemblage nor the structural evidence is sufficient to provide more than a general date for these features. Comparison with other sites on the basis of topographical location, relationship to tree throw holes and the later settlement will provide this broad context.

The Iron Age settlement has the highest potential for analysis in landscape terms. The settlement itself, when phased in detail, will provide a comparison for both structural and ceramic traditions within the context of regional and national trends.

Roman period activity comprises a single structure probably to be associated with a settlement near the area of excavation, this has low potential.

There is no potential to place the Saxon elements of the site in their landscape context, except to acknowledge that a well is unlikely to have been located (in England) far from habitation.

Research Aim 2.3.2 - to clarify the economic and, ultimately, social status of the site

There is low potential to clarify the economic and social status of the Neolithic and Bronze Age components of the site. As for the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement there is considerable potential, with the full integration of ceramics, artefactual and ecofactual data to ascertain the economic status of the site. The social status of the Salford site is however a more difficult area and the potential for analysis is moderate. To explore this element fully the evidence of activity areas, the dispersal of structures and artefactual distribution patterns will be used in comparison with other sites and models already developed for Iron Age settlement.

The status of the pottery may be ascertained by the analysis of wear and evidence for repair and fabric sources, forms, decoration and colour may suggest the status of both the pottery and the structures with which it is associated. Light may be shed on the question of supply and demand by the analysis of fabric sources, choice of colour and decoration, and the distribution of particularly the scored ware.

There is no potential to determine the economic and social status of the Roman and Saxon elements of the site.

Research Aim 2.3.3 - to define the limit of the later settlement

There is no potential to determine the limits of any of the elements explored at Salford

Research Aim 2.3.4 - to produce stratigraphic and finds evidence for a dating sequence of structures and ditches

The assessment of the structural evidence has shown that the site record is sufficiently detailed to formulate a preliminary phasing. With the results of ceramics analysis and to a limited extent the artefact assemblage assessment has shown this to be capable of refining to provide the basis for developing a more detailed sequence for the development of the site. Scientific dating, because of its isolated context, however, will make little contribution to this sequence.

The pattern of ceramic fabric use may confirm the stratigraphical phasing and has the potential to help phase archaeologically unrelated and therefore unphased structures, at the least distinguishing those belonging to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age from those of middle Iron Age date. The distribution of fabrics may help in confirming the shift in the settlement.

Research Aim 2.3.5 - to define the limit of the cremation cemetery and examine its relationship with the settlement

Structurally and temporally the cremation cemetery is isolated from the main body of the excavated evidence and its presence suggests a late Iron Age site nearby. The importance of further analysis of the cemetery has been established through further finds analysis. The components of the graves will be analysed and their importance gauged through comparison with similar assemblages.

Research Aim 2.3.6 - to examine the dark earth mound (the 'occupation' spread), defining its function and date, and to produce an environmental framework for its interpretation

The assessment of the 'occupation' spread has indicated the potential which exists to analyse in depth the process which led to its deposition and some of the mechanisms by which the deposit survived in its excavated form. In addition the distribution patterns identified from the ceramics assessment indicate the high potential which exists to analyse further the horizons which are sealed by the spread.

The differences in the ceramic content of the sample squares has been pinpointed. Distributions of the pottery in the bottom-most spits will not only clarify the nature of the spread but help to confirm the phasing of the structures, and therefore the apparent shift in the settlement. The pottery from the upper spits will define patterns of disposal and dumping. Daub/fired clay has no potential for further analysis except for recording a presence in the distribution.

Research Aim 2.3 7 - to examine internal site development from the late Neolithic onwards and to examine the changing settlement pattern and distinguish middle and late Iron Age settlements together with the extent of overlap, if any

The potential for analysing the internal site development of Salford lies principally with the Iron Age settlement; the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age elements and the Roman and Saxon aspects are too limited for more than general phasing to be determined. The sequence of structures of the Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement site can be determined from the stratigraphic record and other features brought into the sequence either through ceramics analysis, spatial disposition or artefact analysis. The potential for clarification of this aspect of the site development is moderate.

The pottery has the potential to confirm the apparent settlement shift suggested by the assessment.

Research Aim 2.3.8 - to analyse, using all classes of data, the evidence for discrete areas of activity within the settlement and to examine enclosures and enclosure ditches for environmental evidence and evidence of agricultural activities

The definition of activity areas can be achieved through the analysis of artefact distributions as demonstrated in the assessment of the 'occupation' spread, and through the analysis of structural factors and artefactual data elsewhere. The potential for analysis of this research object is moderate. Both the pottery and the daub/fired clay has the potential of showing where activities of a particular phase were being carried out.

In the analysis of the ceramics assemblage the physical evidence of use (sooting and wear marks) will have a direct bearing upon the question of function both of the pottery and of the structures with which the pottery is associated. Mode of employment and length of use may be ascertained by this analysis. The analysis of forms and their distribution, surface colour and finish, decoration and manufacturing techniques has the potential to answer this question. Patterns of disposal and dumping may be pinpointed by the distribution and analysis of the different forms, fabrics, decoration and evidence of use on the pottery and other fired clay from the excavated settlement. The pottery from the intermediate spits of the 'occupation' deposit will also address this aim.

Additional research aims

Vernacular architecture

Assessment of the structure plans at Salford and the definition of 18 round houses of varying design indicates the high potential to address questions of building design at Salford. The daub/fired clay will help to refine the structural data in clarifying building construction techniques.

Ritual activity

Assessment of the flint, ceramic and animal bone assemblages suggests ritual activity which may have involved the deposition of these items in pits. Analysis at the British Museum and by animal bone and flint specialists has the potential to address this question once the constituents of the assemblages can be quantified.

Research Aim		Structural evidence	Ceramic vessels	Ceramic building material	Registered & non-ceramic bulk finds	Flint	Human bone	Animal Bone	Environmental evidence
Landscape	2.3.1	****	****						
Economy and status	2.3.2	***	***					****	***
Limit of settlement	2.3.3								
Dated sequence	2.3.4	***	***	*	*	**			
Cremation cemetery	2.3.5	*	****		****		***		
"Occupation spread"	2.3.6	*	**	*	**	**			
Internal development	2.3.6	***	**	*	*	**			
Activity Areas	2.3.7	*	***	**	*	*		***	*
Vernacular architecture		****		**					
Ritual activity			**			**		**	

Key: High potential ****; Good potential ***; Moderate potential **; Low potential *; No potential -

Table 13.1 Summary quantification of the potential shown by various classes of data to address the research objectives identified in the assessment report.

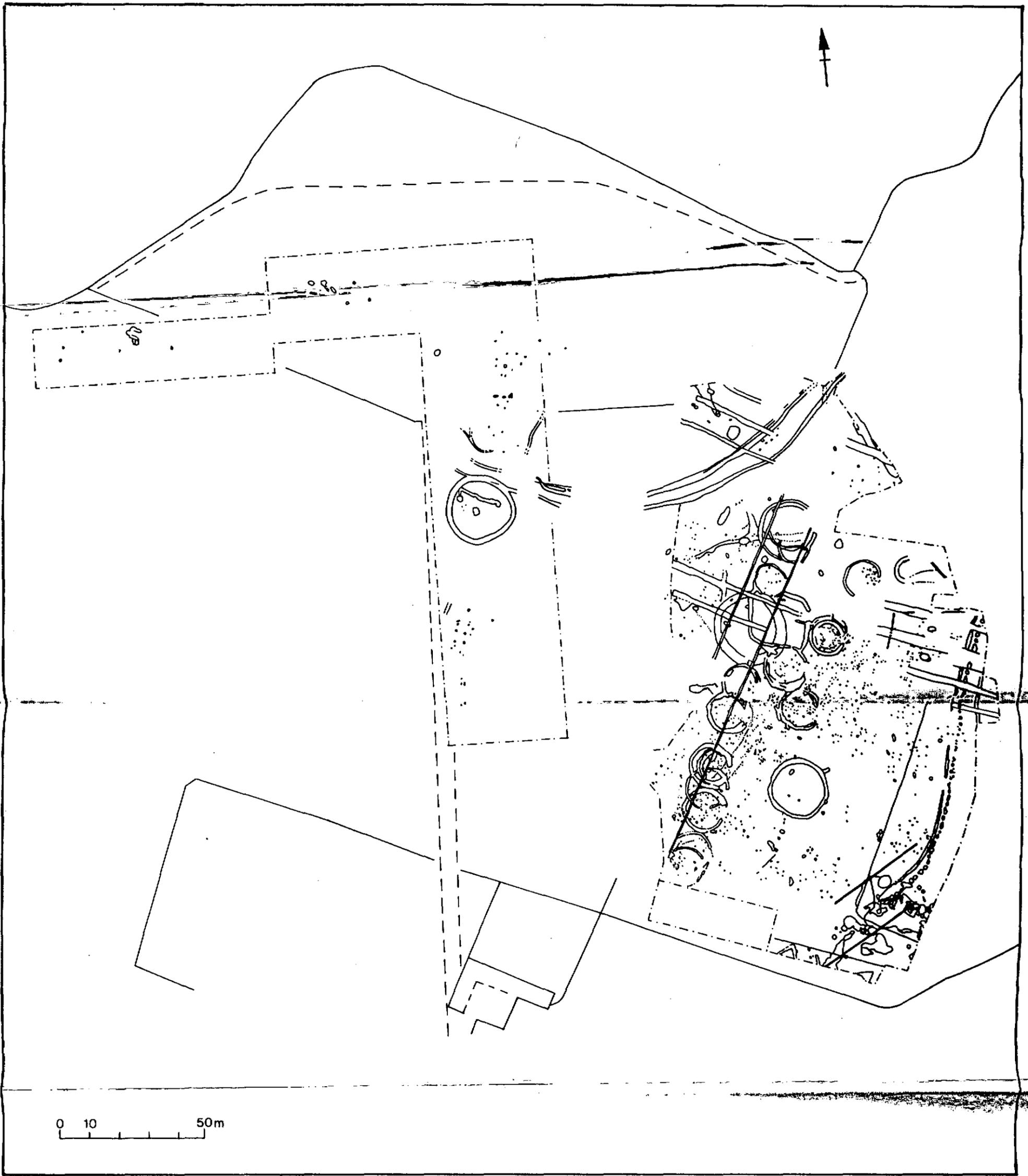


Figure 1: The area of excavations at Salford quarry, Bedfordshire.



Figure 2: Structures identified during the assessment of Salford.

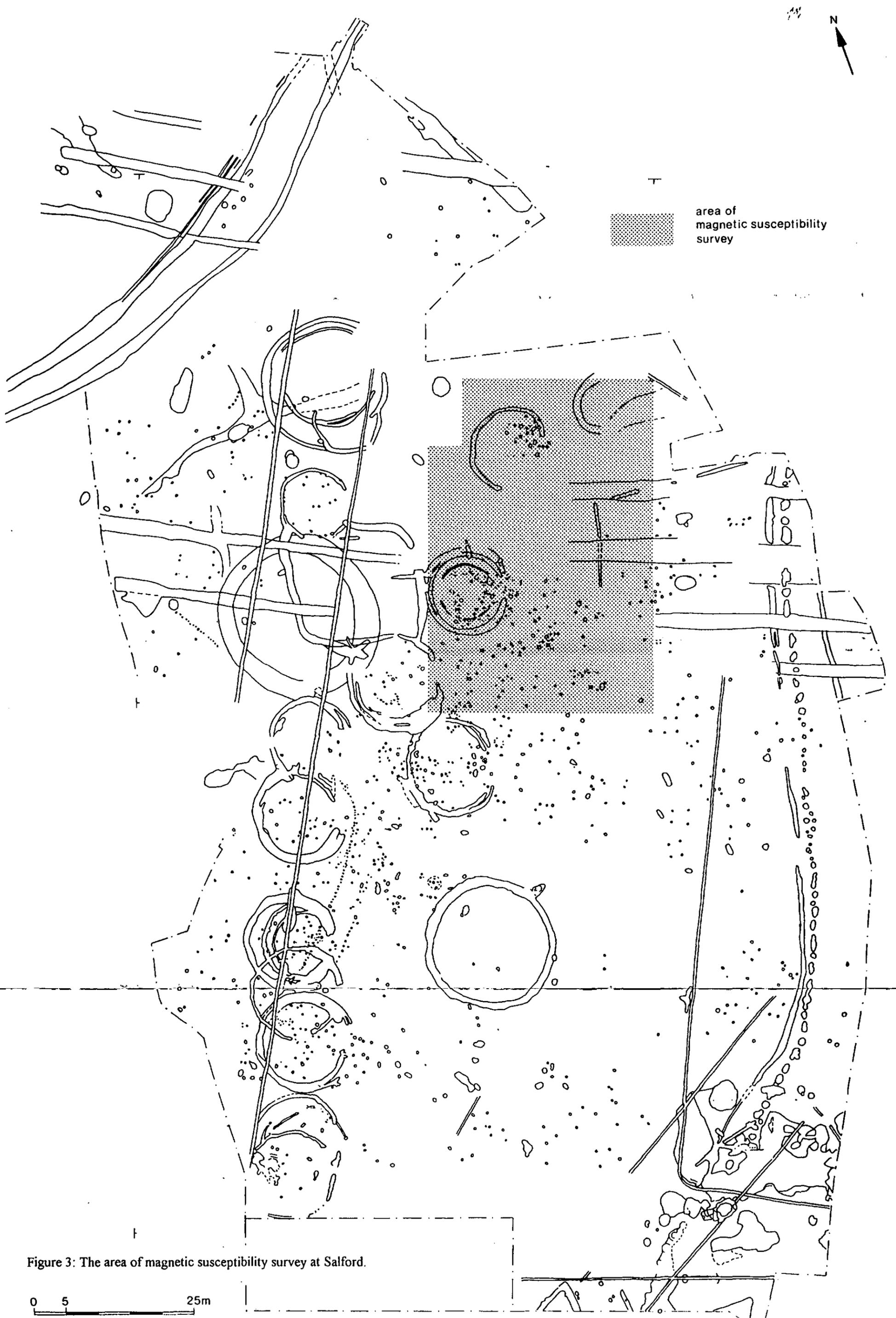


Figure 3: The area of magnetic susceptibility survey at Salford.

0 5 25m

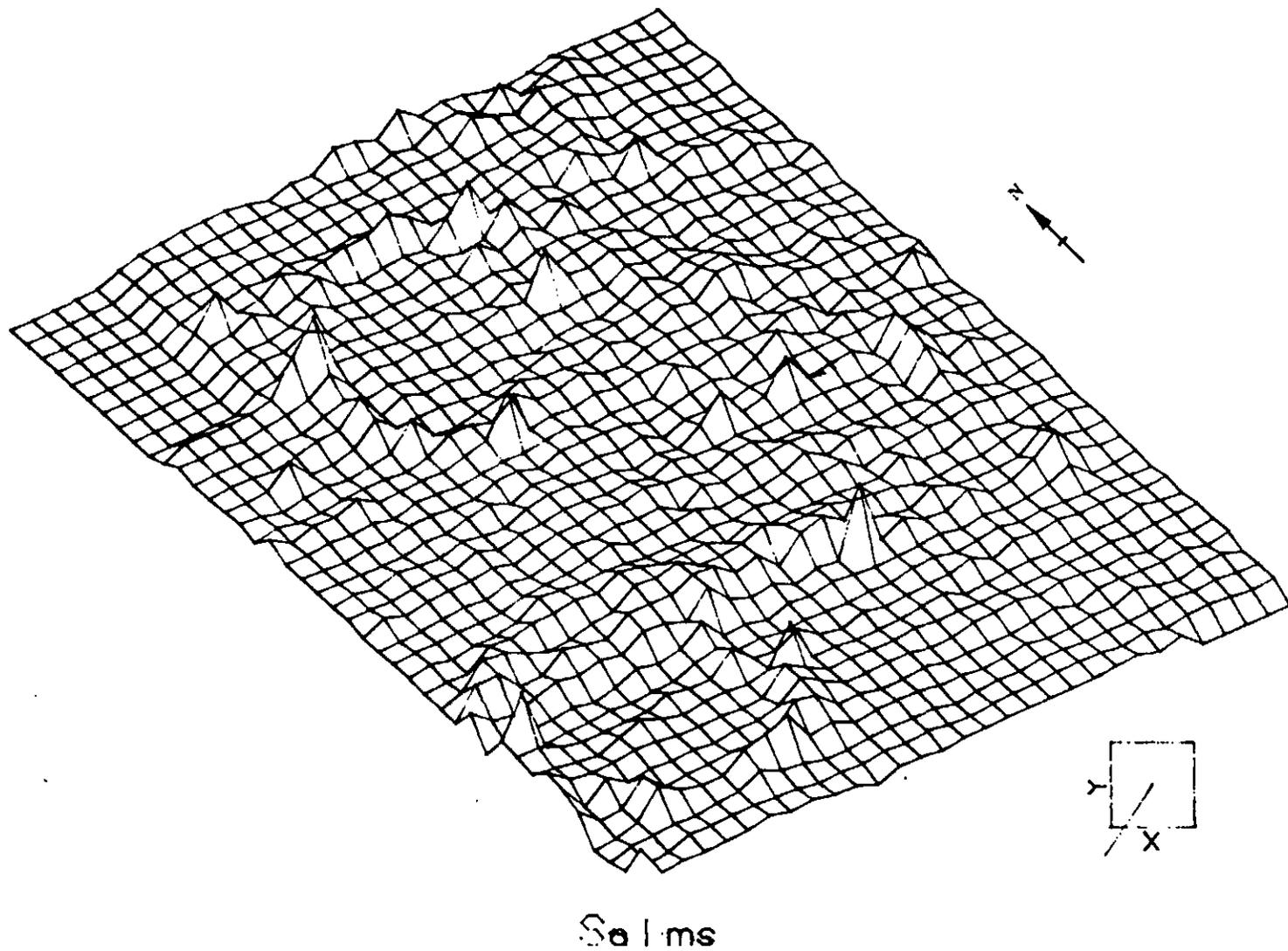


Figure 4: Magnetic susceptibility survey in area of structures 1,2 and 3.

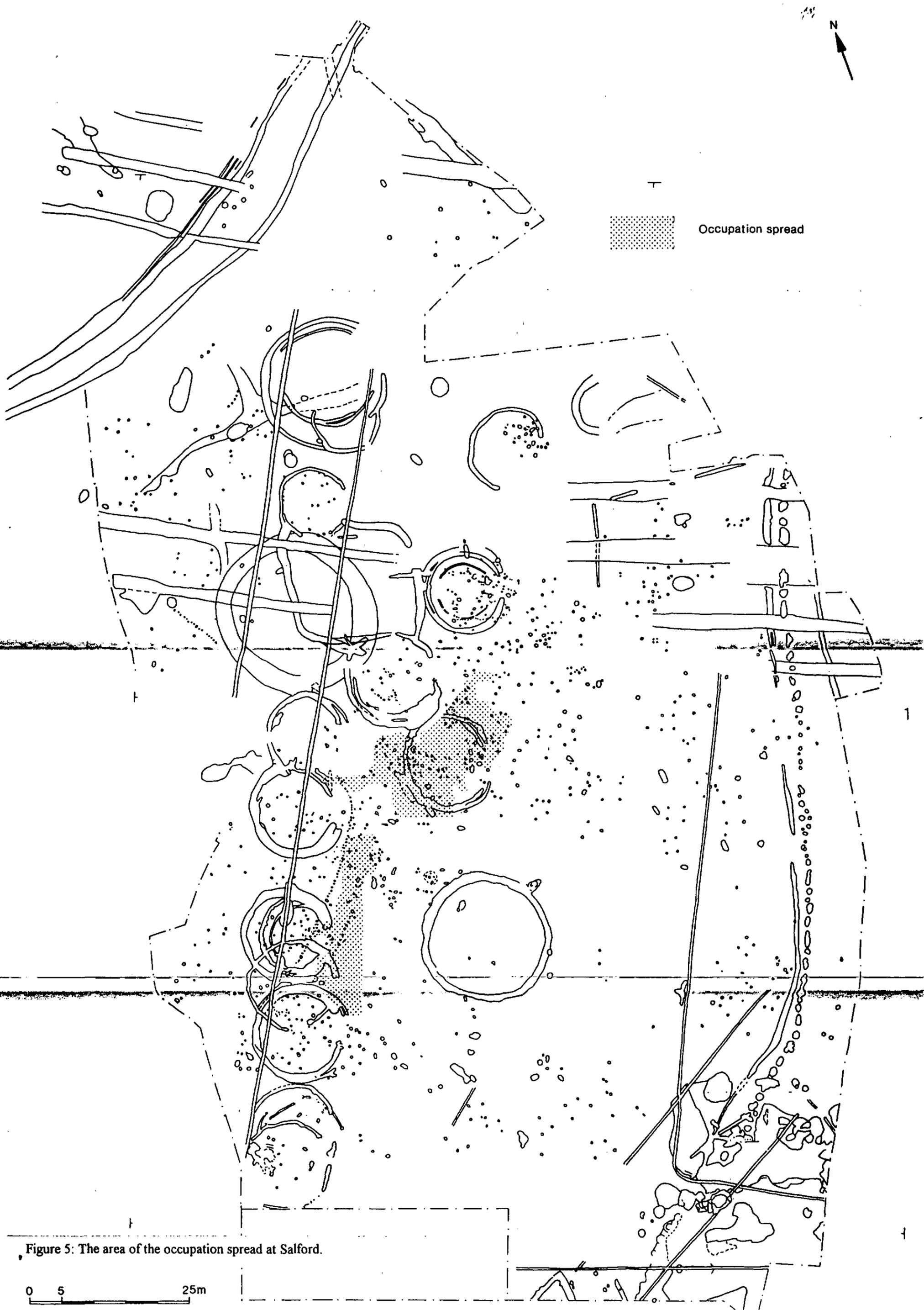


Figure 5: The area of the occupation spread at Salford.

0 5 25m

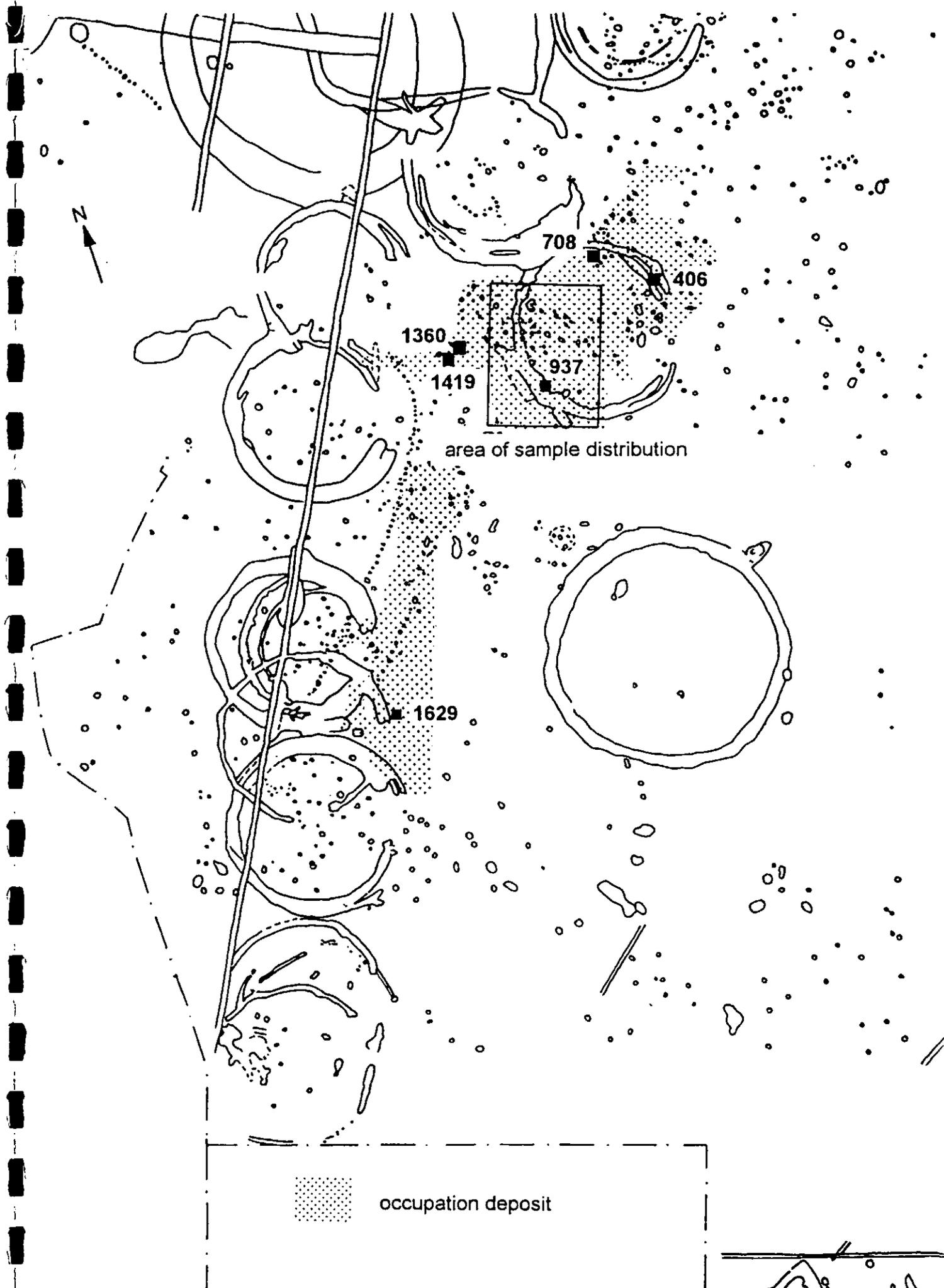


Figure 6: Location of sample squares used in the ceramic assessment.