

ASMR 8332
OLDBURY ON SEVERN SILT
LAGOON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE RECORDING



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AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT 1992



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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
3	SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
4	METHODOLOGY
5	EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY
6-13	EVIDENCE OF ROMANO-BRITISH ACTIVITY
14	DISCUSSION

APPENDICES

1	APPENDIX I - FINDS REPORT - S NEWNS
2	APPENDIX II - POTTERY REPORT - J TIMBY
3	APPENDIX III - SKELETON REPORT - G BARBER
4	APPENDIX IV - FLINT REPORT - V RUSSETT
5	BIBLIOGRAPHY

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1A-E	PREHISTORIC FLINT TOOLS
2	FEATURE 90
3	HAMMERSTONE
4	FEATURE 50
5	FEATURE 134
6	FEATURE 119
7	FEATURE 136
8	SPINDLE WHORLS
9	QUERNSTONE
10	FEATURES 49 AND 126
11	RECONSTRUCTED POTTERY
12	RECONSTRUCTED POTTERY
13	RECONSTRUCTED POTTERY
14	FEATURE 142
15	FEATURES 53 AND 54
16	FEATURE 15
17	RECONSTRUCTED POTTERY
18	BROOCHES

LIST OF FIGURES

1	SITE LOCATION: SCALE 1:50000
2	MOSAIC OF SITE
3	LANDSCAPING SCHEDULE
4	SCHEMATIC PLAN OF AREAS 1-60
5	DISTRIBUTION OF PREHISTORIC FEATURES
6	DISTRIBUTION OF ROMANO-BRITISH FEATURES
7	PREHISTORIC AREAS; A-C
8	FEATURE 6
9	FEATURE 7
10	FEATURE 14
11	FEATURES 98-99, 101-107
12	FEATURE 85
13	FEATURES 127-132
14	FEATURE 133

15 ROMANO-BRITISH AREAS; D-K
16 FEATURE 19
17 FEATURES 20-30
18 FEATURE 84
19 FEATURES 74-80
20 FEATURES 35-48

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Oldbury Power Station is located in Oldbury-On-Severn within the district of Northavon (NGR ST 606945). The site is situated on the east bank of the Severn Estuary, approximately three miles West of Thornbury (Figure 1).
- 1.2 Proposals to develop a third silt lagoon, immediately to the south of the Power Station (NGR ST 605940) were submitted to the Local Planning Authority by Nuclear Electric plc (1.10.91, application number P91/ 2462).
- 1.3 The construction of the third silt lagoon involved the removal of c5 million cubic feet of material and the redeposition of the soil around the lagoon in the form of a retaining bund with associated landscaping. Overall fifty four acres of land was scheduled to be incorporated within this development. The lagoon itself covered an area of thirty two acres and included development of seven land parcels (5922, 3800, 4600, 5500, 6800, 4878, 6575 and 8080). The historic and current land use affected by the development included arable cultivation and pasturage.
- 1.4 The development was estimated to take approximately six months to complete and site work began at the beginning of June 1992. The development of this land provided one of the first recent opportunities, albeit in less than ideal conditions, to assess the archaeological significance and preservation of a substantial area of alluvial levels at the margins of the Severn Estuary.
- 1.5 The sites archaeological evaluation (ASMR 8020), undertaken by J.G.P Erskine of Avon County Archaeological unit between February and March 1992, recorded substantial evidence of Romano-British occupation, characterised by abundant pottery sherds, archaeological deposits and structural features. The possibility of neolithic activity on the site was highlighted by flint scatters occurring at the interface of the alluvium and the Keuper Marl. More recent occupation on the site was attested by the remains of a building known as Salmon Lodge (the details of which are not included within this report). This evidence, in conjunction with previous archaeological investigation in the area undertaken by Professors Fulford and Allen (1988), indicated that the site of the proposed lagoon was one of significant archaeological potential.
- 1.6 Therefore, prior to the commencement of groundworks and excavation of the lagoon, a programme of archaeological salvage recording was agreed between the County Archaeological Officer and Nuclear Electric

Site Location



plc in accordance with Avon County Planning Policy BE4A and central government Planning Policy Guidance 16 (DoE 1990). The area of the proposed lagoon was designated Avon County Sites and Monuments Record number 8332 (ASMR 8332).

- 1.7 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by the writer and assistants Gregory Smith and Mathew Young between June and September 1992.
- 1.8 The following report sets out the findings of detailed site observations (section 5.5-13.5) and discusses the material by archaeological period. The two main phases of human activity identified on the site are described under evidence titled for prehistoric and Romano-British activity. The report draws together the archaeological evidence by period in section 14.1-14.1.7 (prehistoric) and 14.2-14.9 (Romano-British).
- 1.9 The plans and sections published within the report have been related to published O.S plans and the O.S datum. Finds reports and results of specialist analyses are appended at the rear of the report as appendices i, ii, iii and iv.
- 1.10 The programme of archaeological salvage recording was wholly funded by Nuclear Electric plc.
- 1.11 The copyright to this report is held by L.Hume and the Avon County Archaeological Unit.
- 1.12 All numeric references in the report not otherwise identified refer to site context numbers.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 Thanks are due to Nuclear Electric plc for financing the project and also to the staff of M.J. Gleeson plc and Raymond Brown Ltd for their co-operation and to Mr Alan Battersby whose enthusiasm and kindness throughout the archaeological project was much appreciated. Thanks are also due to Jane Timby and Geraldine Barber for their valuable contributions to the report, to Andrew Young, Jonathan Erskine, Mathew Young and the staff of the Avon County Archaeological Unit for their help and advice. Special thanks go to Gregory Smith who preserved throughout the duration of the project, whilst often working under very difficult conditions.

3 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The landscape of the lagoon area is essentially flat and low lying, with few dominant topographical

Figure 2

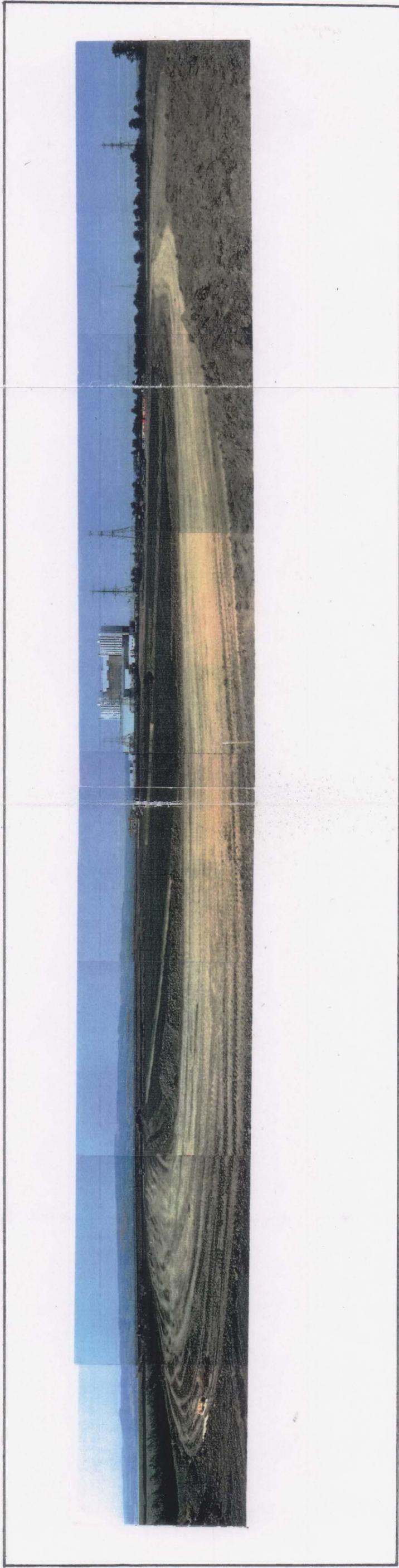
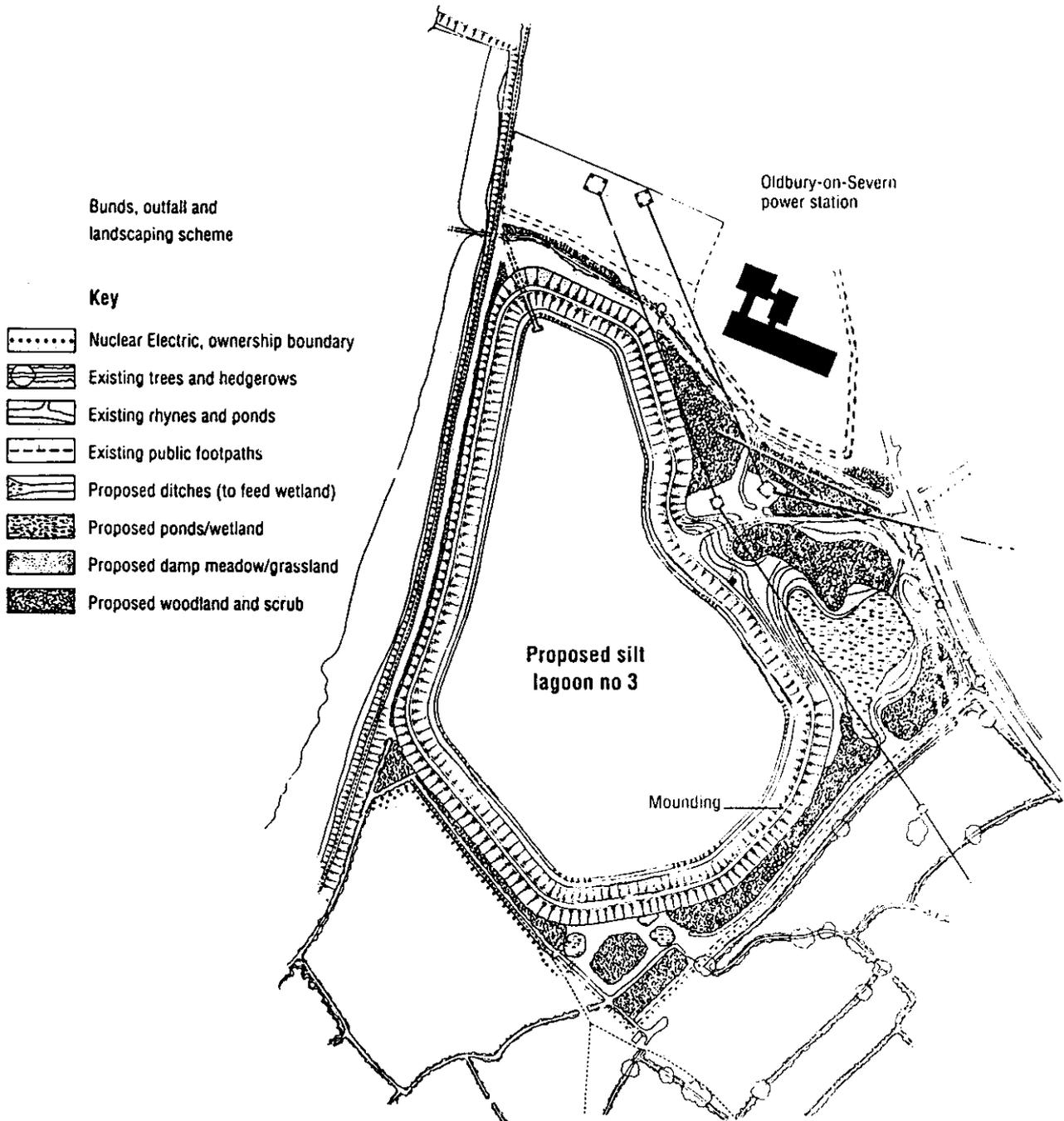


Figure 3



features (Figure 2). Drainage of the site would clearly have been a recurrent problem and periodic flooding would have been common prior to the construction of the modern sea wall. A lack of naturally occurring stone is also of interest.

- 3.2 The geological map of the area (Geological Survey, 1962) indicates that the site is situated on exposures of esturine alluvium of the Wentlooge series. Overall this formation forms an estuary-wide series, up to 15m thick, of blue-green esturine silty-sandy clays which, in the upper parts, contain thick peat horizons. The formation overlies the solid geology of Triassic Keuper Marl. The local stratigraphic sequence consists, schematically, of three main layers; topsoil, alluvium and Keuper Marl although significant internal subdivisions and variations in depth exist in the latter two. The thickness of the alluvium varies from c1.35m to c3.10m and in general consists of soft to firm and firm to stiff grey fissured clay. On the basis of the evidence from the archaeological evaluation there appeared to be two schematic archaeological horizons within the alluvium; an upper horizon representing Romano-British activity (110) and a lower (pre-alluvium (111)) horizon representing prehistoric activity which was tentatively considered to be neolithic in date.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 DEVELOPMENT

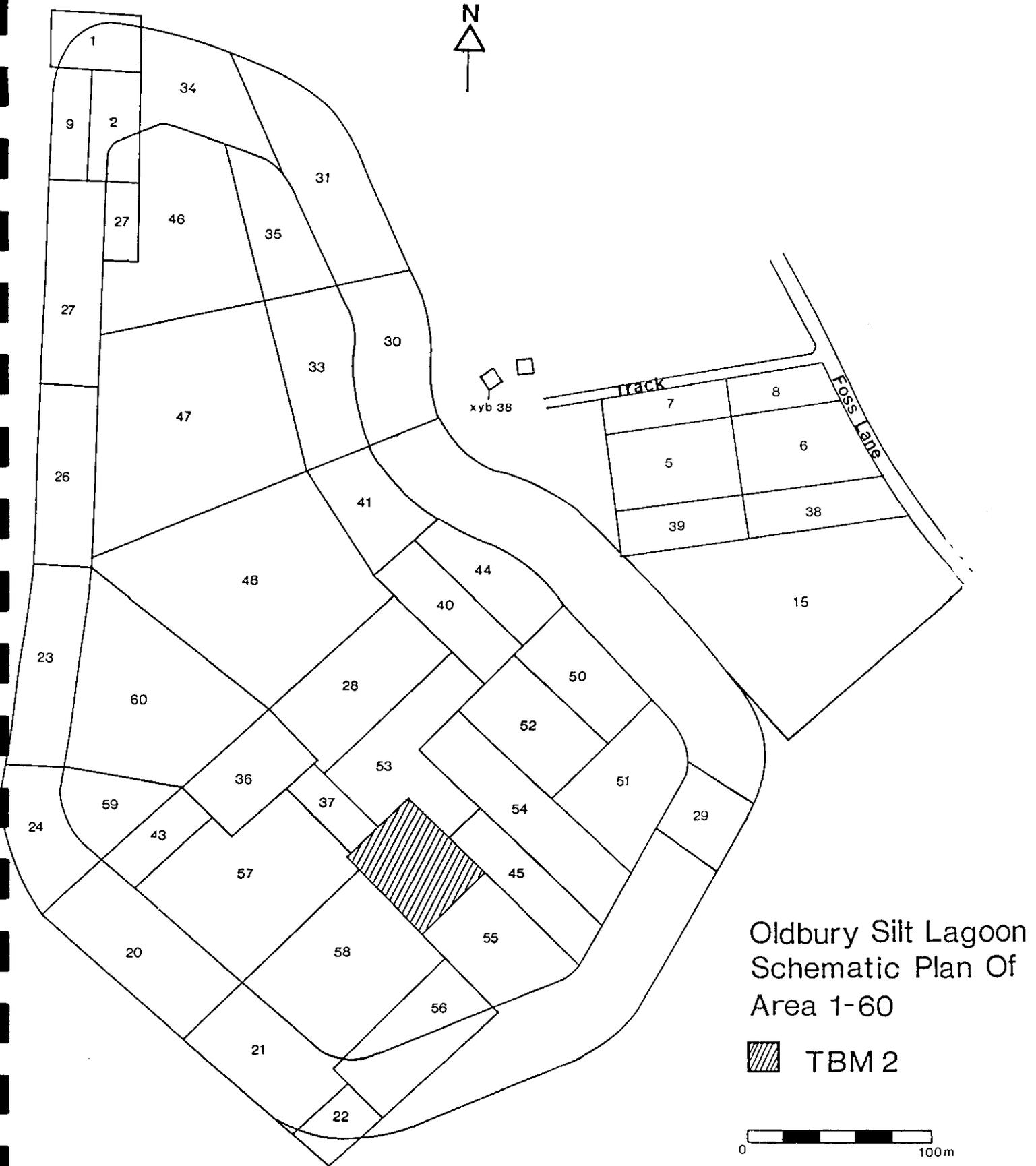
- 4.1.1 During the construction of the silt lagoon earth was excavated to a depth of c1.8m using large Terex T24 scrapers (full capacity twenty five cubic metres) and attending bulldozers. The excavated material was then deposited at the edges of the lagoon to form a landscaped retaining bund. The bund itself was designed to finally stand approximately 2.5m higher than the existing sea-wall defence, ready to incorporate woodlands, wetlands and ponds as part of the landscaping schedule (Figure 3).

- 4.1.2 The earth removing contract was undertaken by Raymond Brown Ltd on behalf of the main contractors for the site; M.J Gleeson plc.

4.2 RECORDING

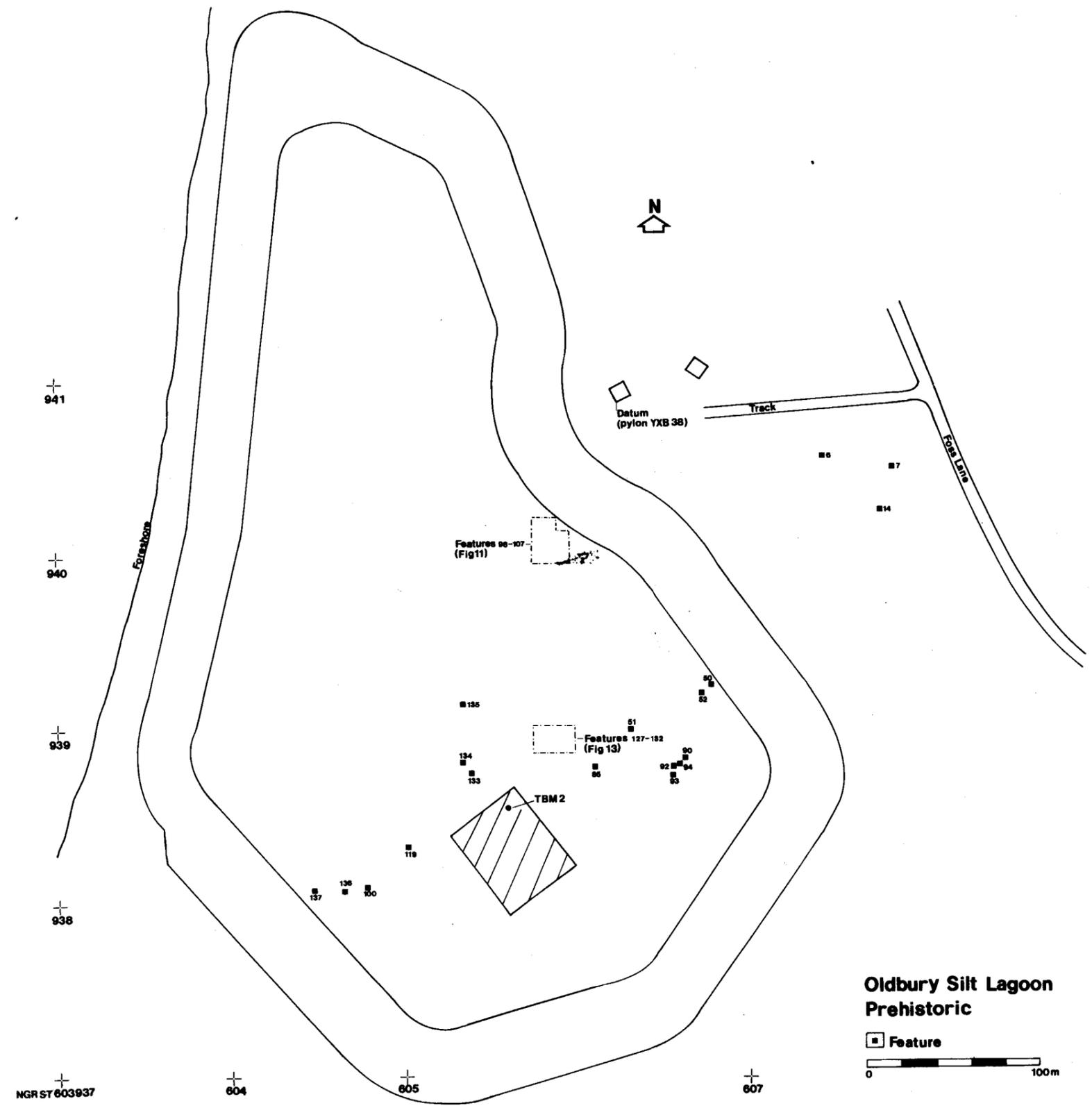
- 4.2.1 The main objective of the archaeological salvage programme was to provide an overall assessment of the date and character of past human activity on the site prior to its destruction. This was facilitated, as far as site constraints allowed, by the documentation of archaeologically significant features and deposits as they occurred via written, drawn and photographic

Figure 4



records. Pottery and soil samples were also taken where possible for dating and for an assessment of palaeoenvironmental evidence.

- 4.2.2 Prior to the commencement of the groundwork it was decided that the site should, for ease of archaeological recording, be divided into a number of arbitrary areas with TBM2 and pylon YXB 38 (Figure 4) providing the two major points of reference. As the machines began stripping the topsoil each area was assigned a unique area number and its location noted on a sketch plan (Figure 4). The number assigned to each area remained standard throughout the various levels of excavation. This method of recording was considered more flexible than utilising the extent of existing large land parcels. As such areas 1-60 formed the basis of the archaeological recording system.
- 4.2.3 Archaeological staff were employed to be permanently on site during the various stages of topsoil and subsoil excavation in order to identify and record archaeological features and finds which were exposed by site machinery. Archaeological features were subsequently assigned unique numbers (1 to 142) and an entry was made in the site notebooks containing: feature/ area number, sketch plan/ section (if appropriate), dimensions, photograph and film roll number (if appropriate), location and height O.D. The detailed characteristics of features were also recorded on standard archaeological context sheets, as was the nature of the natural subsoil and substrata.
- 4.2.4 The level of recording, however, was very much dependent upon the complexity of each archaeological feature and the time available to record them.
- 4.2.4.1 Archaeological finds of exceptional interest were designated Small Finds (SF) and assigned unique numbers.
- 4.2.5 The Terex box scrapers created a viewing area of c2m in width, but overspill, coupled with the movement of the attendant bulldozers, soon compacted the surface and obscured features. The limits of features were often, therefore, not completely apparent through machine excavation, but were based on estimations of total dimensions.
- 4.2.6 The removal of c 0.50m of earth over an area of c3m x 20m by each box scraper is likely to have frequently resulted in the total loss of shallow archaeological features and layers, whilst the more substantial features were often heavily truncated, often making their stratigraphic relationships impossible to determine. It was also important to adhere to Health and Safety guidelines when dealing with large concentrations of site machinery within a relatively



Oldbury Silt Lagoon
Prehistoric



NGR ST 603937 604 605 607

941
940
939
938

restricted area, which meant that often it was simply not possible or safe to record features in detail.

- 4.2.7 In general the recording strategy and site methodology was in accordance with the principles of salvage archaeological recording, utilising field sketches, photographs and rapid surveying. However, a systematic collection of archaeological finds was rarely achieved, due to the piecemeal nature of the development.
- 4.2.8 Where appropriate and possible, standard archaeological recording procedures were followed, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 plans at 1:20, samples were taken for environmental assessment and each feature was photographed using a standard scale of 2m.
- 4.2.9 For the purpose of levelling a temporary bench mark (TBM 2) was established at ST 6055593854 (Figure 4, 6.725 Metres Above Ordinance Datum [A.O.D]) on the lagoon island in order to survey features as they occurred. The base of the southern corner of pylon YXB 38; (ST 96061794087) was utilised as a reference point. The distance, angle and level above sea level of each archaeological feature was then recorded by theodolite from the reference point and recorded in note form ready to be transposed onto a distribution map at a later date (Figures 5 and 6)
- 4.2.10 Large distributions of soil features such as ditches or pits were recorded by plane table surveying. Specific features (labelled with plastic garden tags) were precisely located and surveyed in using an electronic theodolite.
- 4.2.11 Soil samples for palaeoenvironmental analysis and radiocarbon dating (where appropriate) were collected. These were wet sieved during post excavation in preparation for analysis.
- 4.2.12 As soil stripping commenced, unstratified finds from the predesignated areas were bagged and marked (ASMR 8332) with the appropriate area and context number and stored on site for subsequent processing.
- 4.2.13 All site records, drawings and photographs recovered from the salvage programme have subsequently been catalogued in detail and deposited at the offices of Avon County Planning Department (Archaeology Unit) and form the written archive of ASMR 8332.
- 4.2.14 Interpretations of features were updated in light of specialist reports. Those available at the time of this report are appended at the rear of the report (appendices i-iv)

EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

5.1

Within the County of Avon archaeological evidence for the neolithic period is rare and largely represented by impressive neolithic burial monuments such as Stoney Littleton (ST 735572) long barrow. Instances of flint scatters and isolated finds such as stone handaxes are slightly better documented (Allen; 1990, Aston and Iles; 1987). However, evidence of domestic settlement from this period remains extremely scarce, possibly the result of the ephemeral nature of the materials utilised, the inherent lifestyle of neolithic culture and subsequent intensive landuse and erosion. The site at Oldbury produced archaeological evidence in the form of soil features and finds which is certainly prehistoric in date and which, on the basis of previous work undertaken in the area by Professors Fulford and Allen (1990), appears likely to be neolithic in date. In the light of such rare evidence, the finds at Oldbury, which included what appeared to be carbonised elements of possible timber structures and other structural features i.e stakeholes, are of significant importance.

5.2

Three main areas of possible prehistoric activity were identified on the site (Figure 7). The features identified in these areas were distinguished on the basis of their stratigraphic position, located at the base of the alluvium at an interface of weathered sandy marls, directly above the Keuper Marl and the depth below the modern ground surface at which they occurred, usually at a depth of c 1.6m. Overall, this schematic stratigraphic horizon contained evidence which appeared to reflect a broad area of neolithic activity. Such evidence was represented by stratified and unstratified finds of flint tools (Photographs 1A, 1E), flakes, pebbles and associated soil features which appeared to represent elements of structures or associated groups of stakeholes and/or postholes.

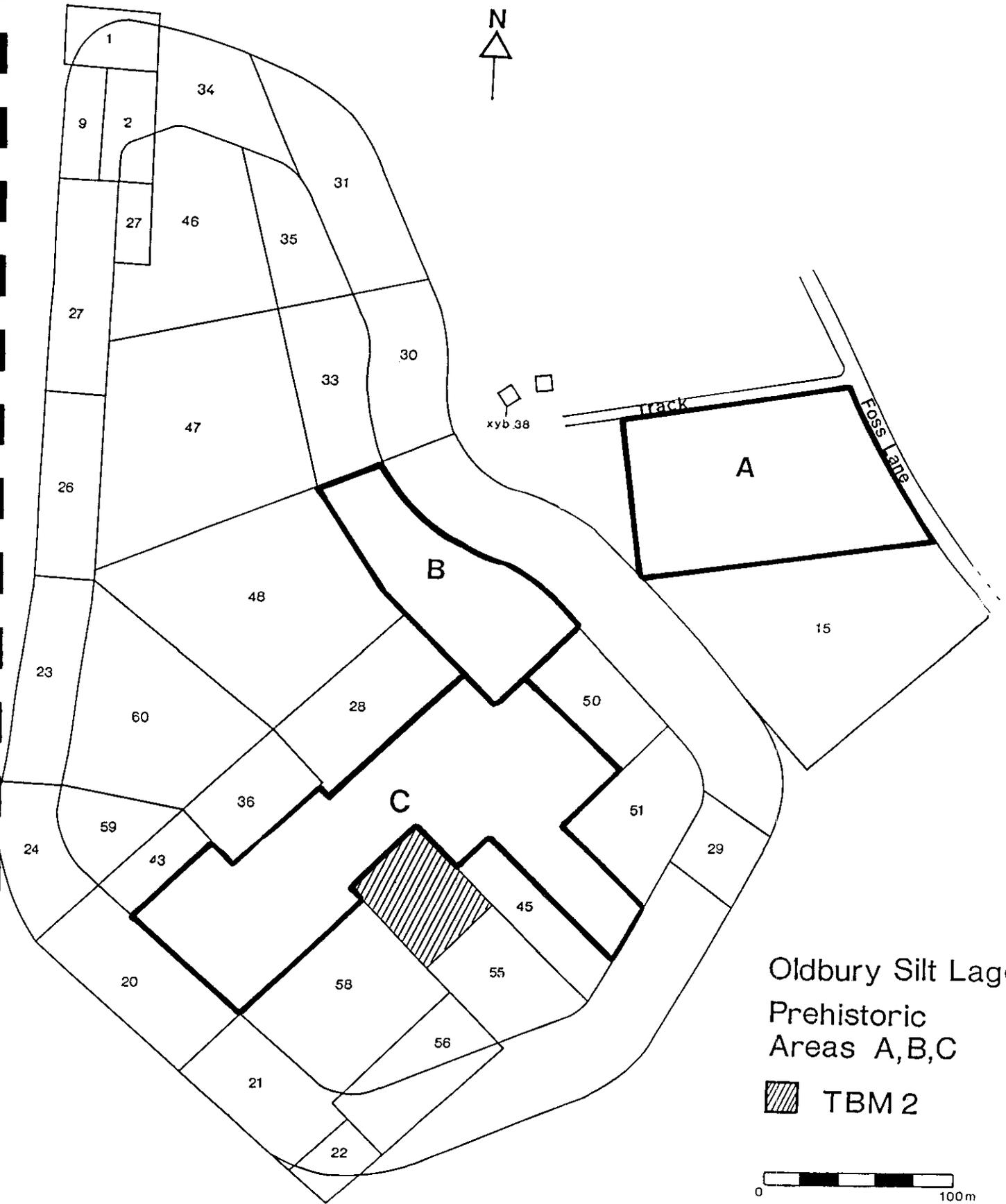
5.3

For the purpose of this report the sixty arbitrary fieldwork recording areas (section 4.2.2 above) are further subdivided into three focal areas of possible prehistoric activity; areas A,B and C (Figure 7).

5.4

The spatial organisation of the three areas containing prehistoric evidence appeared to be related to a ridge of Keuper Marl which extended southwest to northeast across the site and which lay within areas of deeper alluvium. It appeared significant that the prehistoric evidence which was identified was confined to this linear palaeofeature, although it is possible, that the horizon of prehistoric evidence extended beneath the surrounding alluvium. The stratigraphic information suggested that all three focal areas were likely to represent broadly contemporary prehistoric activity.

Figure 7



Oldbury Silt Lagoon
Prehistoric
Areas A,B,C

 TBM 2

0  100m

5.5

PREHISTORIC

AREA A (Areas 5,6,7,8,38 and 39; features 6,7 and 14).
Figures 8,9 and 10

Area A was identified as an area of possible prehistoric activity and occupation and was characterised by a horizon containing scatters of worked flint tools (Photographs 1A (a 3-5); 1E (a 1-4), appendix iv) and remnant flakes in association with soil layers and negative features including postholes and stakeholes.

5.5.1

Feature 6 ST 6073394063 Figure 8

Feature 6 (136) consisted of a group of associated soil features (6a-6e below). The feature was initially identified as an area of a charcoal and ash rich soil. Prevailing site conditions meant that these features were only given a cursory examination. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of the features, although it is possible, given the nature and form of the features, that they represented postholes stakeholes.

5.5.2

DETAILED OBSERVATIONS FEATURES 6a-6e Figure 8

5.5.2.1

Feature 6a was a small charcoal rich linear soil feature which measured 0.73m x 0.07m. No diagnostic finds were recovered from it, although, on the basis of the its form, it was interpreted as possibly representing the carbonised remains of a structural beam or timber.

5.5.2.2

Feature 6b was a small circular soil feature measuring 0.35m x 0.25m which was cut into the Marl (112). It contained a charcoal and ash rich fill although no dating evidence was recovered from the feature. It was interpreted, on the basis of its form, to represent a stakehole.

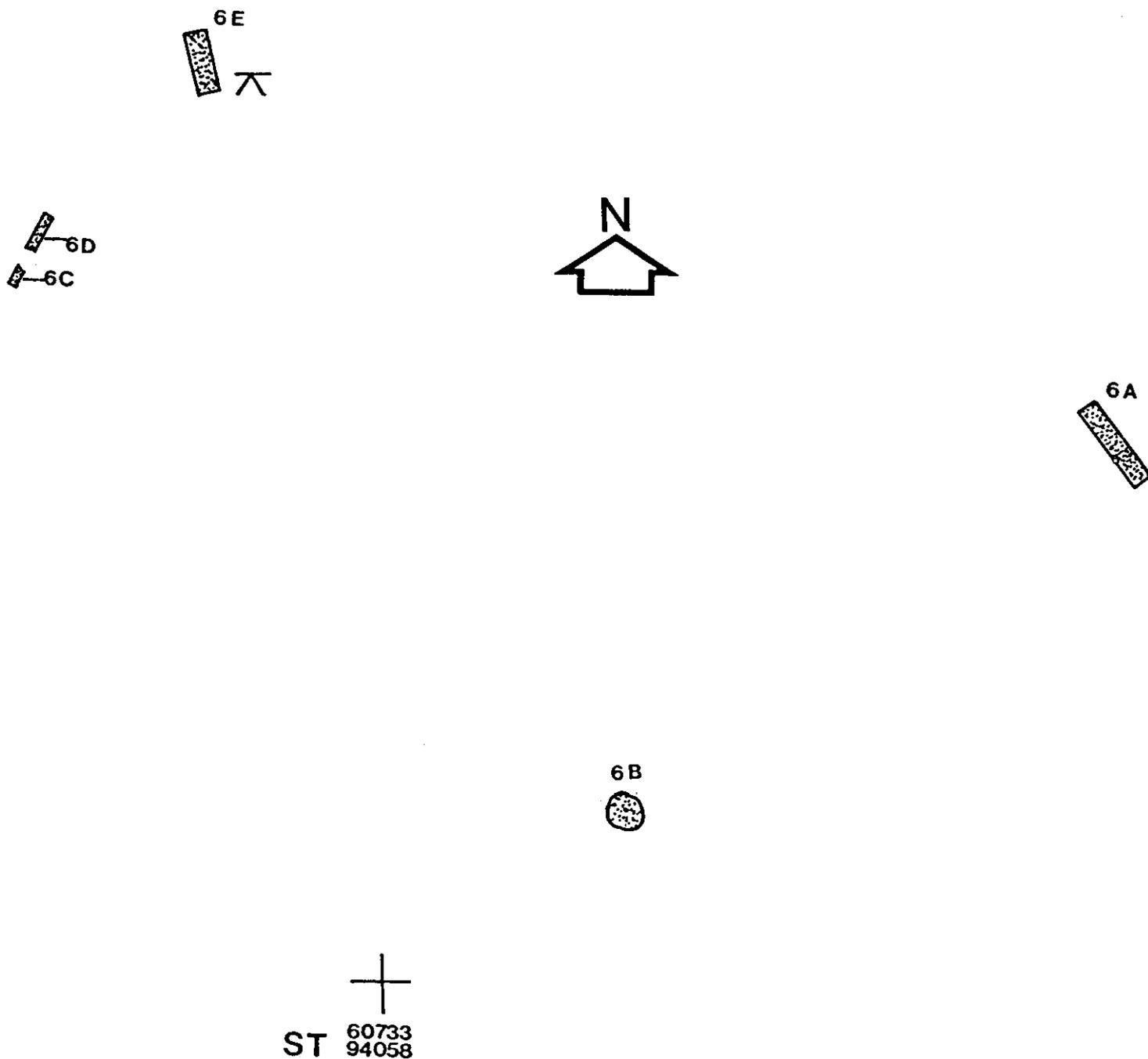
5.5.2.3

Features 6c and 6d were two small linear soil features cut into the sandy Marl (112), which contained concentrated charcoal soil fills. Both features had been truncated by machine activity and measured in total 0.72m x 0.14m. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded to determine their precise function, although it is possible that the two features represented elements of a single carbonised timber or beam. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the features.

5.5.2.4

Feature 6e was identified as a small linear soil feature, consisting of significant amounts of charcoal, cut into the Marl (112) which measured 0.65m x 0.06m. The feature was tentatively interpreted, on the basis of its form, as representing the remains of a beam slot. No dateable finds were recovered from

Figure 8

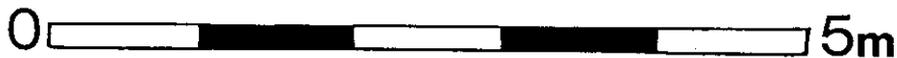


Feature 6

 heavily carbonised

 carbonised

 height 5.453m o.d



this feature.

5.5.2.5 It was not possible to obtain a sample for radiocarbon analysis from this group (features 6a-6e) and no datable finds were recovered from the features. They were tentatively considered to be of prehistoric date on the basis of their secure stratigraphic position (5.433m A.O.D).

5.5.3 Feature 7 ST 6077394058 Figure 9

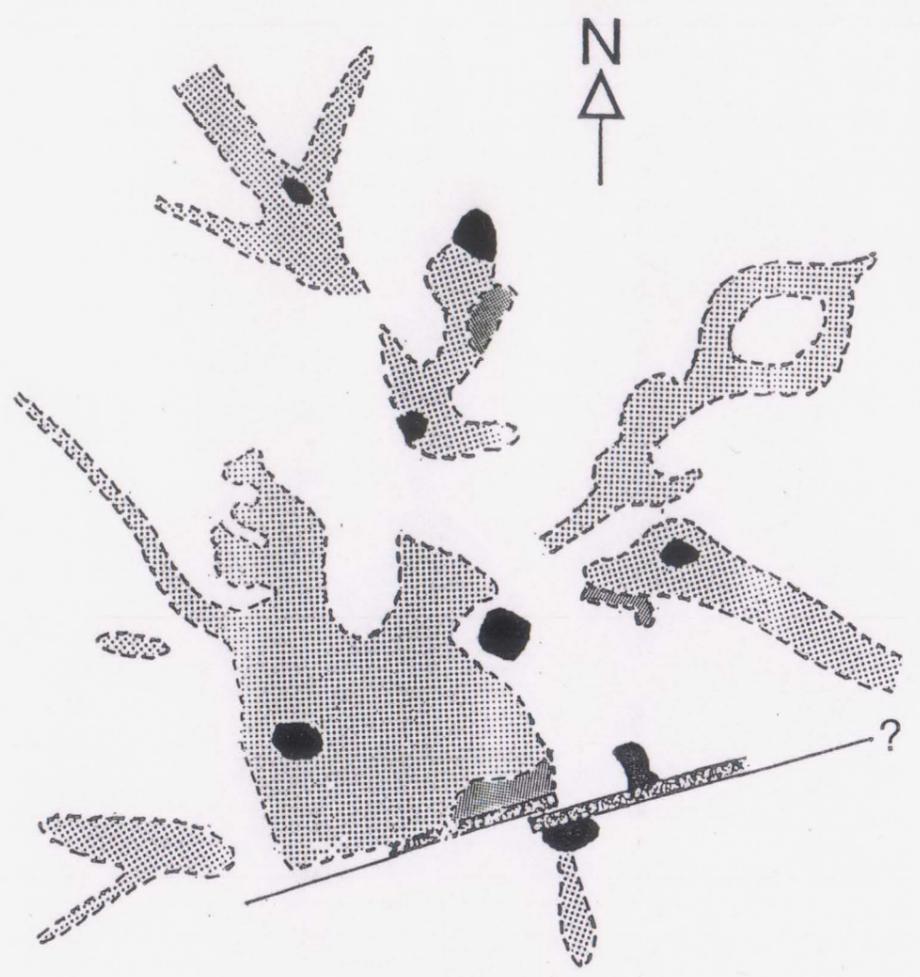
5.5.3.1 Soil stripping within area A revealed Feature 7 (143) (Figure 9; photographs a-c). The feature consisted a layer of charcoal rich occupation soil (exposed for an area of c2.6m x 2.8m) which appeared to be partially bounded by the carbonised remains of dressed timbers preserved in situ (c1.50m x 0.06m) and the remains of several stakeholes (c0.12m in diameter). A sample of the fill was taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis and radiocarbon dating. One stratified flint (SF 93; appendix iv) was recovered from the charcoal rich layer, although numerous other flints, including tools, were recorded from the immediate vicinity and were almost certainly associated with the feature. The soil feature appeared to be bounded to the east by the carbonised timbers and appeared to have a number of stakeholes cut into it. The carbonised timbers (Figure 7; photograph c) appeared to have at least two securing stakeholes and was likely to have been part of a more extensive structure which had been destroyed by development works. Exploratory excavation indicated that the soil layer consisted of a stratified sequence of charcoal and ash rich layers to a depth of c0.35m, although it was not possible to investigate that sequence in any detail due to site conditions.

5.5.4 Feature 14 ST 6076694032 Figure 10

5.5.4.1 Site conditions dictated that Feature 14 (290) and its associated group of features (Figure 10) underwent only a cursory investigation. The group was considered to be of prehistoric date on the basis of their secure stratigraphic position, situated at the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and the sandy Marls (112), at a height of 5.433m A.O.D

5.5.4.2 Feature 14 (290) was a subcircular soil feature in plan, cut into the Marl substratum (112) and measured 1.50m x 1.20m. Investigations were confined to recording the surface exposure of the feature and approximate profile during its destruction by machine activity (which was sketched but not drawn in detail). The cut (290) had a shallow U shaped profile (c0.09m) into the sandy Marls (112) and contained two layers (289 and 287) of ash sandwiching a small layer of sand (288). Context 289, the upper fill, consisted of distinctive light grey silty clay (c0.04m) and laminated ash which contained visible pieces of woody

Figure 9



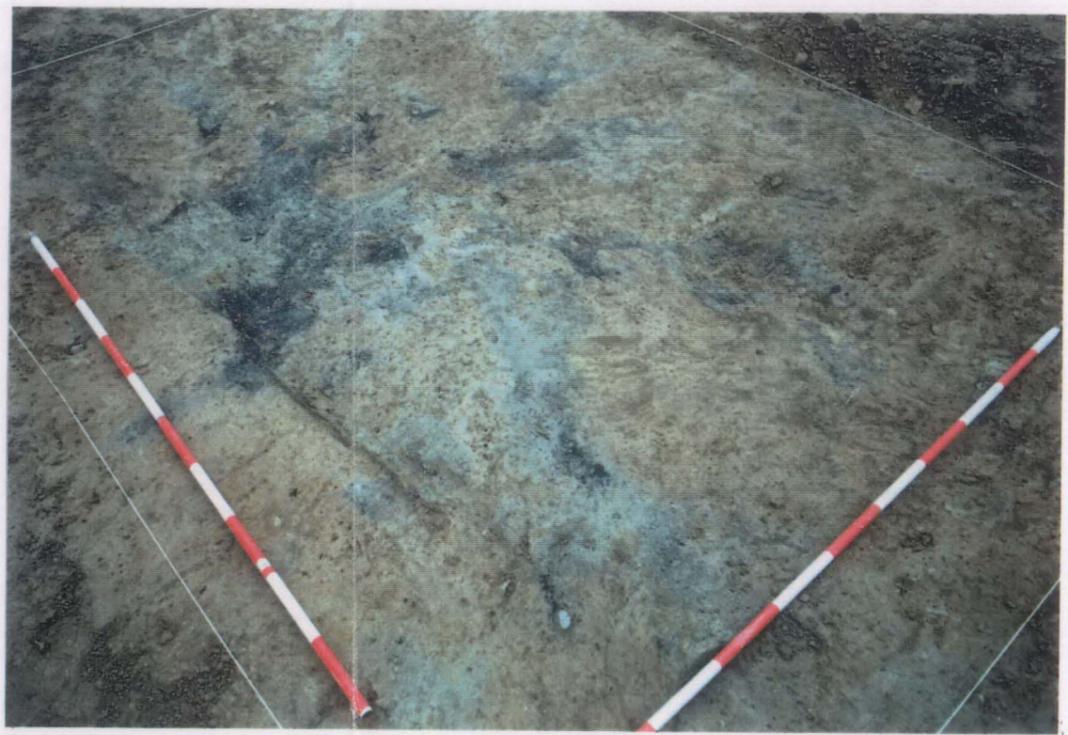
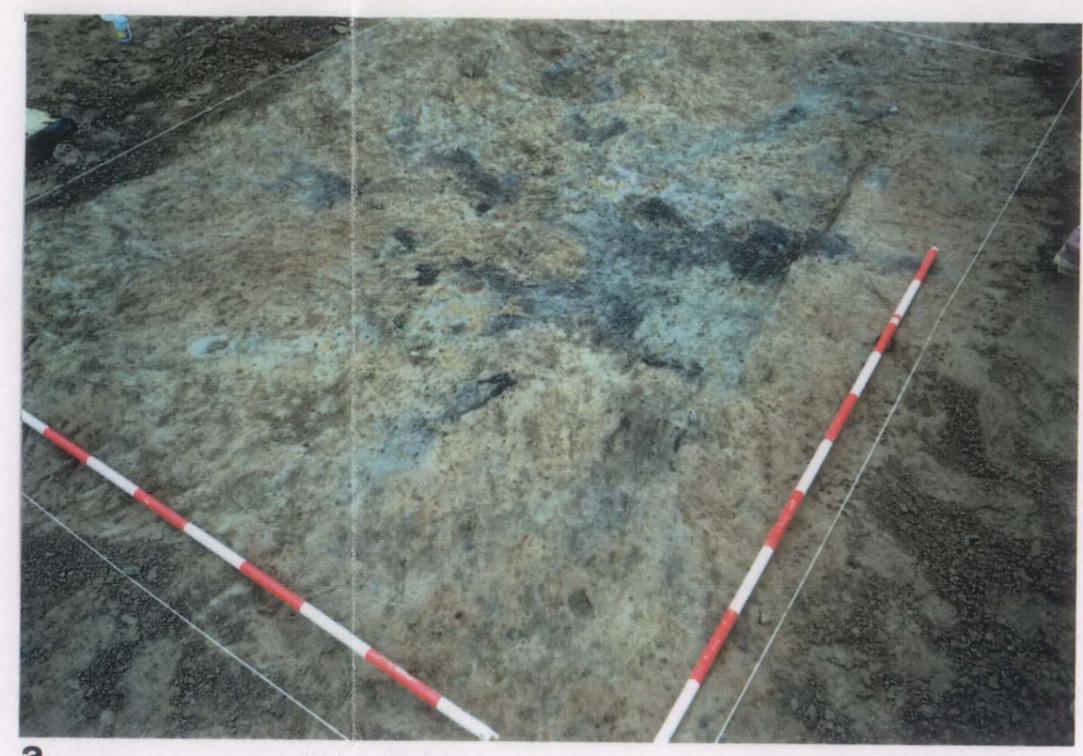
ST 60784
94051

Feature 7

-  carbonised layer
-  heavily carbonised layer
-  stake hole
-  carbonised timber

height 5.453m o.d.

0 1m



charcoal. Two flints were recovered from this fill (a worked point SF 91 and a notched flake SF 92; Photographs 1A, (b 1- 2); appendix iv). Immediately below context 289, a small lens of sand (c0.01m, context 289) contained no finds. Context 287 was situated directly below context 288. This fill (c0.04m deep) was virtually identical in character to the upper fill and again, no finds were recovered from it. On the basis of its form, the feature was interpreted as possibly representing a hearth which may have had more than one phase of use.

5.5.4.3 A series of postholes and stakeholes (i-iv below) formed a rough line adjacent to Feature 14 and were considered to be associated with it.

FEATURE 14: ASSOCIATED FEATURES: Figure 10

- i) Posthole 14A was located c6m to the east of Feature 14. It was circular (0.30m in diameter) and its shallow U shaped profile was cut to c0.09m into the sandy Marls (112). It contained a charcoal rich fill from which no dateable finds were recovered.
- ii) Posthole 14b, context 293, was located to the north of Feature 14 at a distance of c1.5m. It was a circular feature, c0.51m in diameter and its broad U shaped profile was cut to 0.09m into the sandy Marls (112) (Figure 10; section 1, photograph a). It contained a charcoal rich fill (context 292) from which no dateable finds were recovered.
- iii) Posthole 14c was located c5m north of Feature 14b. It was circular, c0.35m in diameter, and contained a charcoal rich fill, context 291. No finds were recovered from the feature. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation, however a sample of the fill (context 291) was taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- iv) Stakehole 14d was located c7m north of pit 14c. It was circular in plan measuring c0.15m in diameter and contained a very charcoal rich fill but no dateable finds. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature.

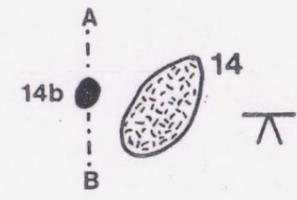
5.5.4.4 To the south of feature 14, at a distance of c8.5m another group of similar soil features (14e to 14g) appeared to represent associated prehistoric activity.

- i) Feature 14e (Figure 10) was located directly south of Feature 14. It was a small circular feature cut into the sandy Marls (112) measuring c0.50m in diameter. It contained a charcoal rich fill which included fragments of burnt bone (not retained). No other finds were recovered from the feature. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine

14d

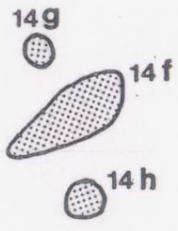


14c



14e

14a



+
ST 60766
94022

Feature 14

-  posthole
-  pit
-  sand and charcoal
-  stakehole
-  hearth
-  height 5.453m o.d

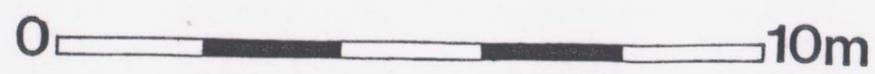
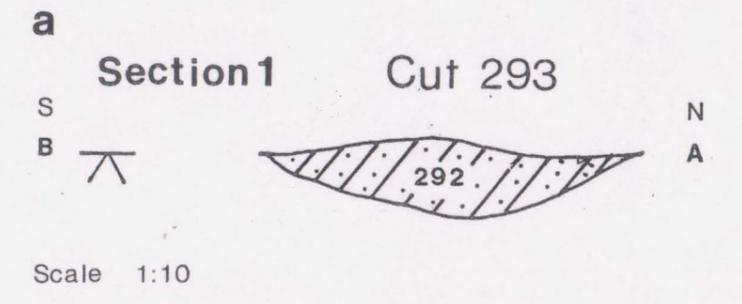


Figure 10



b

ASMR 8332

the precise function of the feature, although it is possible, given its form, that it represented a pit or large posthole.

ii) Feature 14f (Figure 10) was located c8-9m south of Feature 14c (5.5.4.3 above). It was a subrectangular feature which, in plan, measured 1.8m x 0.70m. The shallow U shaped profile (c0.20m) contained a charcoal rich fill but yielded no diagnostic finds. Due to the limited investigation of the profile (observed as it was being destroyed) it was not possible on the evidence recorded to determine the precise function of the feature it is possible, given its size and form that it represented a storage pit.

iii) Features 14g and 14h (Figure 10) were located at a distance of 0.50m either side of Feature 14f. They were circular in plan (0.50m in diameter) and contained charcoal rich fills. No finds were recovered from these features. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of the features although it is possible, given their size, that they represented small pits or postholes.

5.5.4.5 The complex of features described above which were identified in the vicinity of Feature 14 (Figure 10) appeared to represent a hearth with associated pits or postholes and a stakehole. The precise function of these features could not be determined, although it is possible the features represent structural evidence associated with occupation.

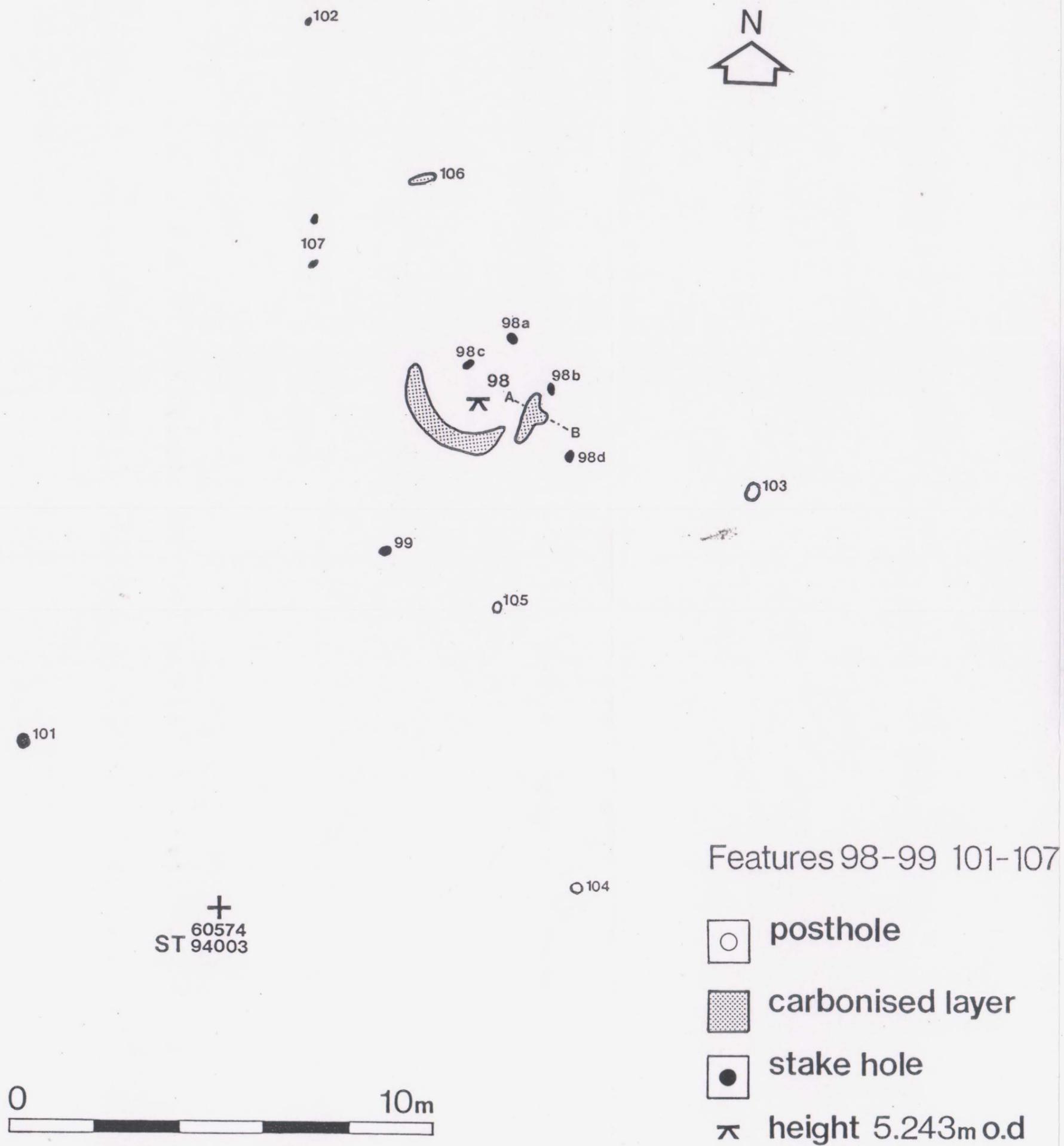
5.6 PREHISTORIC
AREA B (Areas 40, 41 and 44 features; 98-99, 101-107)
Figure 11

Subsoil stripping to a depth of approximately 1m below the modern ground surface revealed Features 98, 99 and 101-107. These were securely sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and cut into the natural sandy Marls (112). This group appeared to represent related features including a hearth and associated stakeholes.

5.6.1 Feature 98 ST 6058094015 Figure 11

5.6.1.1 Feature 98 (326) consisted of an area of charcoal rich soil (3.3m x 2.8m x c0.30m) and four adjacent and possibly associated features (Figure 11: 98a,b,c and d). The main soil feature (326), had been disturbed by machine activity but appeared in plan to be crescent shaped. The feature consisted of a light grey silty clay layer (324), which was slightly raised from the surrounding area (c0.06m thick), containing

Figure 11



ash and significant amounts of charcoal and visible pieces of carbonised wood. Finds from the layer included seven flints (a blunt backed knife SF 94; Photographs 1A, (a 1) and six flakes; appendix iv). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the soil layer or the features which appeared to be associated with it (detailed below 5.6.1.2). Although a sample was obtained for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

5.6.1.2 FEATURE 98: ASSOCIATED FEATURES Figure 11

- i) Feature 98a was located at a distance of 1.4m from the centre of Feature 98. It was circular in plan, measuring c0.10m in diameter and had a shallow U shaped profile. No finds were recovered from the charcoal rich matrix of the fill, although on the basis of its form, it is possible that the feature represented a stakehole
- ii) Feature 98b was located at a distance of 1.6m from the centre of Feature 98. It consisted of a charcoal rich soil layer which was subrectangular in plan (c0.15m x c0.10m) from which no dateable finds were recovered. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, although it appeared to represent a stakehole.
- iii) Feature 98c was located at a distance of 0.70m from the centre of Feature 98. It was circular in plan and measured c0.10m in diameter and had a U shaped profile. No finds were recovered from the charcoal rich fill. The feature appeared to represent a stakehole.
- iv) Feature 98d was located at a distance of 2.3m from the centre of Feature 98. It was subcircular in plan (0.15m x 0.12m) and had a shallow U shaped profile. No finds were recovered from the fill which contained significant amounts of charcoal. The feature appeared to represent a stakehole.
- v) Feature 101 was situated 13.20m from the centre of Feature 98. It was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of c0.35m. No finds were recovered from the fill which contained significant amounts of charcoal. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent either a posthole or a stakehole.
- vi) Feature 102 was located 9.70m from the centre of Feature 98. It was circular in plan measuring 0.20m in diameter. The fill, which contained significant amounts of charcoal, did not contain any archaeological finds. Site conditions prevented any further investigation of the feature, although it appeared to represent either a posthole or a stakehole.

- vii) Feature 103 was located 7m from the centre of Feature 98. It was circular in plan and measured 0.50m in diameter. The feature had a shallow U shaped profile and its fill contained significant amounts of charcoal, although it yielded no finds. The feature appeared to represent a small pit or a posthole.
- viii) Feature 104 was located at a distance of 11.40m from the centre of Feature 98. It measured 0.20m in diameter and its fill contained significant amounts of charcoal, although no finds were recovered. Site conditions prevented any further investigation of the feature, although it appeared to represent a posthole.
- ix) Feature 105 was located at a distance of 4.60m from the centre of Feature 98. It was circular in plan (0.20m in diameter) and its fill contained significant amounts of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the feature, although the feature appeared to represent a posthole.
- x) Feature 106 was located at a distance of 5.30m from the centre of Feature 98 and consisted of a linear area of soil containing concentrated charcoal which measured 0.70m x 0.25m. No finds were recovered from the deposit. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature, although it is possible that it represented a carbonised timber.
- xi) Feature 107 was located at a distance of 5m from the centre of Feature 98. It consisted of two small circular stakeholes which measured c0.10m in diameter. The charcoal rich fill of each yielded no finds and site conditions prevented any further investigation.

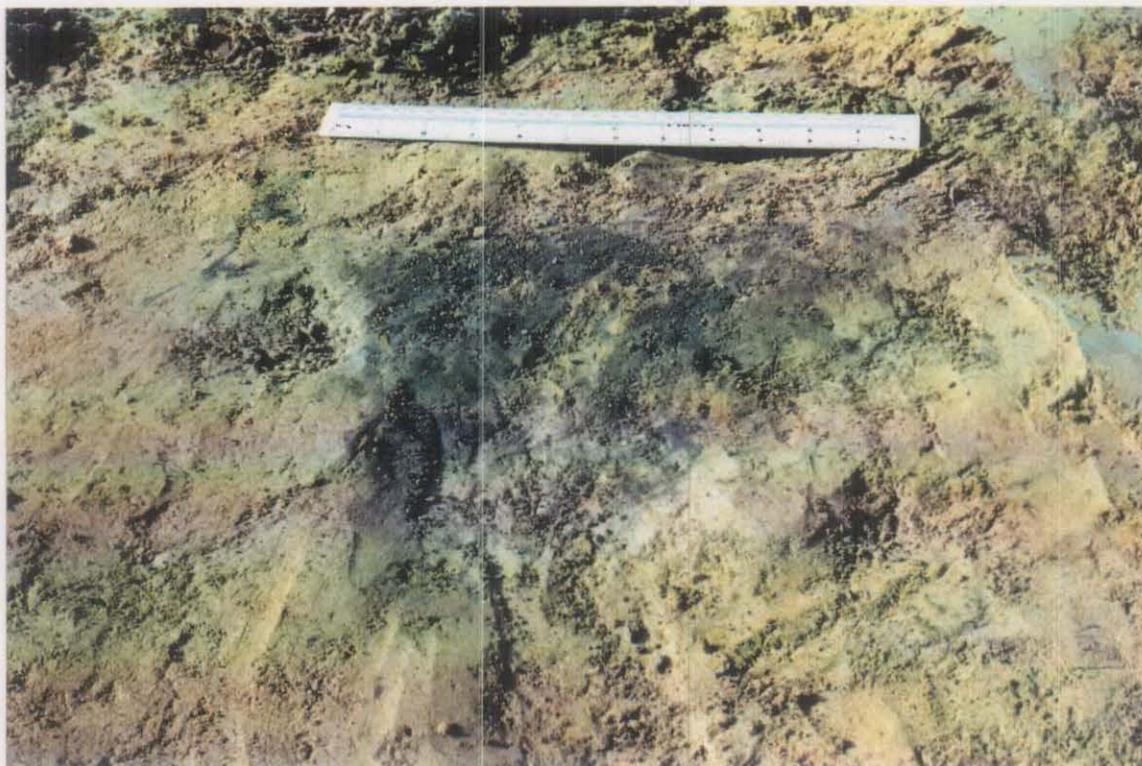
5.6.1.3 Archaeological evidence recorded at and in the vicinity of Feature 98 (Figure 11) appeared to represent a group of features which were spatially and stratigraphically related (5.243m A.O.D). It is possible that, collectively, the features represented the remains of a timber structure formed of various postholes and stakeholes in association with evidence of a hearth.

5.7 PREHISTORIC
 AREA C (Areas 28, 50, 52, 53, 54, 57 and 58 ; features 50-52) Figure 5, Photograph 4

5.7.1 Feature 51 ST 6062493899 Figure 5

Feature 51 (485) consisted of a small circular area of charcoal which measured 0.25m x 0.35m. It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filled a shallow U shaped cut (c3cm) into the sandy Marls (112). Its fill contained no dating evidence although the single isolated feature appeared to represent a posthole.

Photographs 4



a



b

ASMR 8332

5.7.2 Features 50 and 52 (Figure 5; contexts 401 and 402) were identified as two associated soil features which were considered to be of prehistoric date on the basis of their secure stratigraphic position, situated at the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and the sandy Marls (112), at a height A.O.D of 5.543m.

5.7.2.1 Feature 50 ST 6067193924 Figure 5; Photograph 4

Feature 50 (398) was roughly circular in plan (0.35m x 0.25m) and was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111). It was cut to a depth of 0.04m into the sandy Marls (112). The dark sand fill (397) consisted of a concentration of charcoal. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill and it was not possible, on the basis of the cursory examination undertaken, to determine the precise function of the feature. It is possible, given its form, that the feature represented a posthole.

5.7.2.2 Feature 52 ST 6066293920 Figure 5

Feature 52 (399) was identified as a circular area of charcoal which measured 0.29m x 0.16m. The fill (400), was identical to context 397 (above 5.7.2.1) and was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111). In section (sketched but not drawn in detail) it filled a steep conical shaped cut in the sandy Marl (112) which was cut to a depth of c0.15m. Context 400 contained a charcoal rich dark silty loam with no obvious inclusions. No dating evidence or other finds were retrieved from the fill, although on the basis of its form, the feature appeared to represent a posthole.

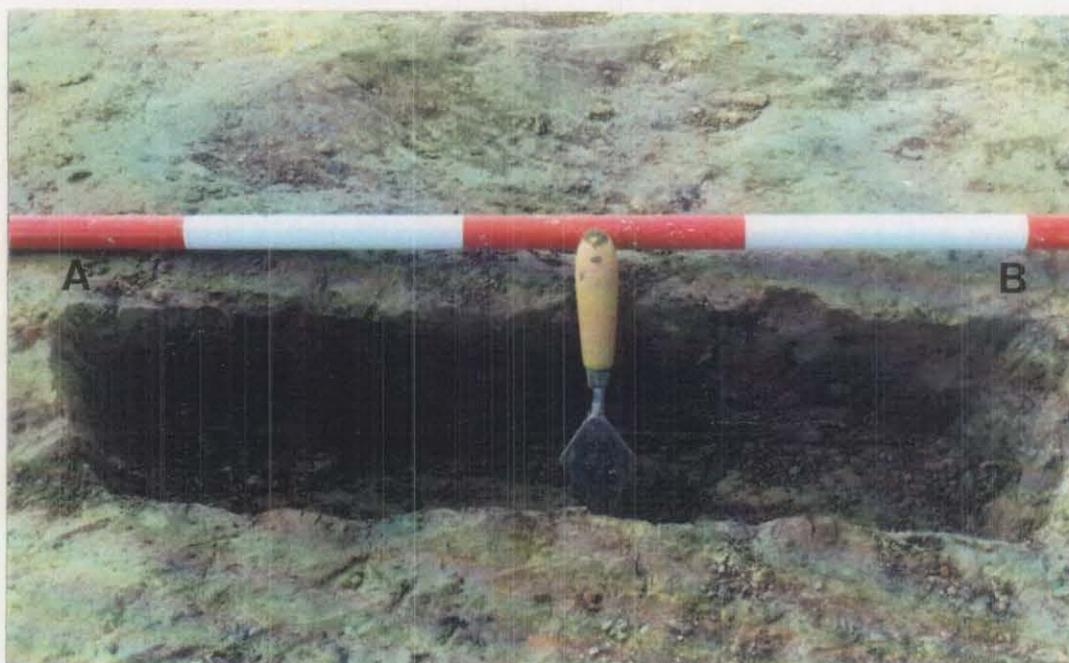
5.7.3 PREHISTORIC
AREA C (areas 52,54,53 and 57; features 85,90, 92-4, 127-35, 100, 119 and 136-7) Figures 5, 12 and 13

5.7.3.1 Feature 85 ST 6060393878 Figure 12

Associated with Feature 85 were four sandstone blocks (Figure 12: 85a-85d) which, situated a short distance from the main soil feature, formed an approximate rectangle. It appeared likely that these blocks were structural features, associated with Feature 85. These are discussed individually below.

5.7.5.2 Feature 85 (476) (Figure 12; photograph a) was a charcoal rich soil feature which measured c1.40m x 0.60m in plan. It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filled a cut into the sandy Marls (112). In section, observed as the machines destroyed the feature, the cut had a shallow U shaped profile containing 2 fills (contexts 477 and 478). The upper fill (478) consisted of a thin layer of visible woody

Photographs 2



b

ASMR 8332

charcoal and charcoal fragments (c0.01m) a sample of this fill was taken for environmental analysis. Directly below context 478 was context 477, a slightly thicker (c0.05m) layer of laminated ash and infrequent charcoal flecks. Although it was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, it was tentatively interpreted as representing a hearth. A single flint was recovered from fill 477, a secondary flake with shallow retouch; SF 127 appendix iv.

FEATURE 85: ASSOCIATED FEATURES 85a-85d Figure 12

- i) Feature 85a (Figure 12) was located 4.1m to the south of Feature 85 and consisted of a sandstone block measuring 0.30m square. The stone appeared to represent a post pad.
- ii) Feature 85b (Figure 12) was a sandstone block measuring 0.30m square which was located at a distance of 2.2m south-east of Feature 85a. The stone appeared to represent a post pad.
- iii) Feature 85c (Figure 12) was located at a distance of 2.3m from Feature 85b and consisted of a roughly rounded sandstone cobble measuring c0.27m in diameter. The cobble showed no obvious signs of working, although, given that the upper surface was very flat it is possible that the stone had functioned as a post pad.
- iv) Feature 85d (Figure 12) was located at a distance of 8.6m from Feature 85c and consisted of a large, roughly rectangular, Pennant sandstone block which measured 0.65m x 0.25m x 0.05m. The block, with its flat surface, may possibly have functioned as a post pad.

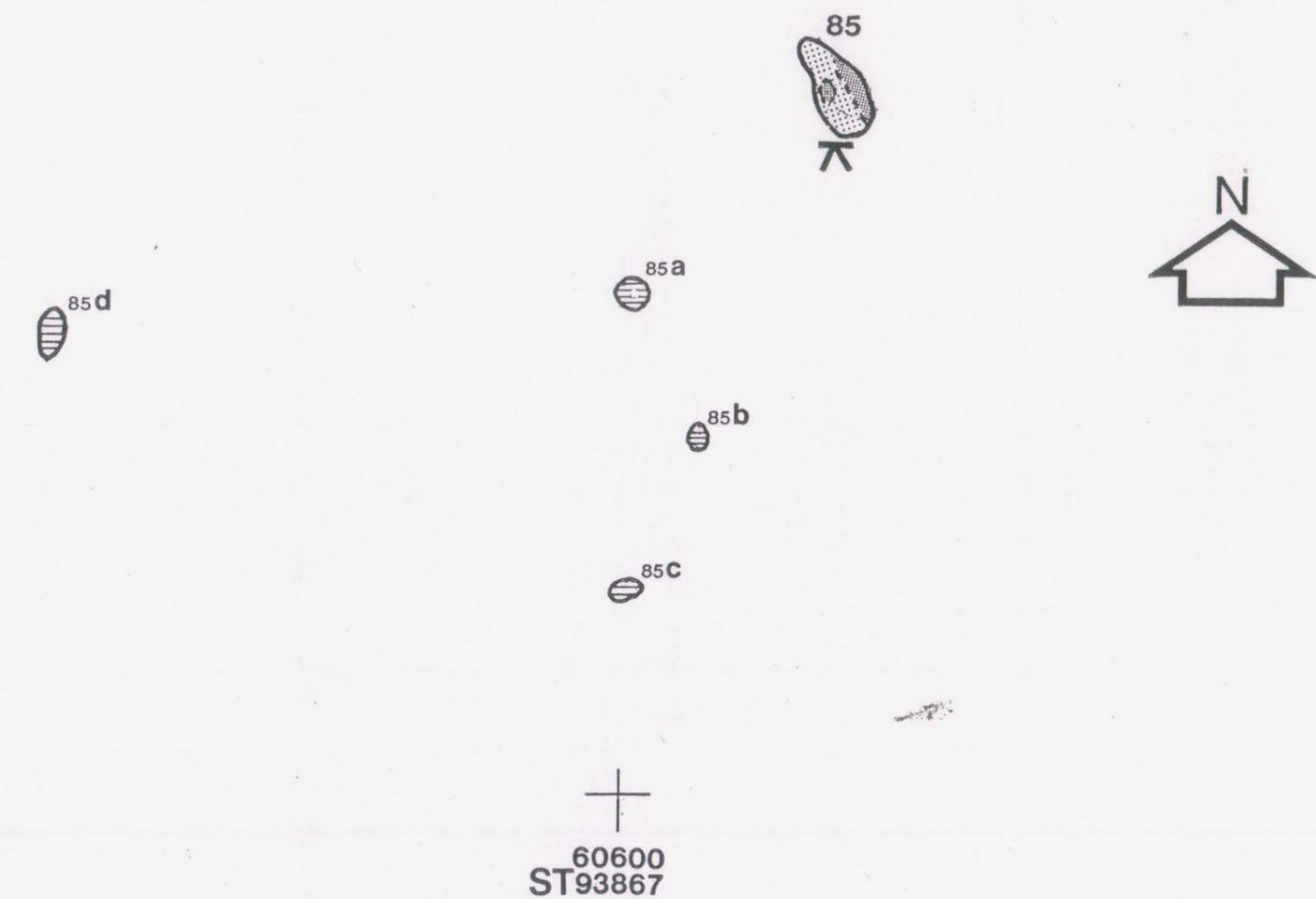
5.7.6 Features 90 and 92-4 (Figure 5)

Features 90 and 92-4 were recorded as a group of pits and postholes. They were all identified at the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and the sandy Marls (112) at a depth A.O.D of 5.213m and they appeared to be contemporary and associated features. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the features.

5.7.6.1 Feature 90 ST 6065793883 Figure 5, Photograph 2

Feature 90 (480) (Figure 5, Photograph 2 a) was located at a distance of 0.70m from Feature 94. It was a subrectangular soil feature measuring 0.70m x 1.60m, sealed below the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into the sandy Marl (112). The U shaped cut (Photograph 2 b) was observed briefly and had a single fill (481). Context 481 contained significant amounts of charcoal, but did not yield any dating evidence. A sample was

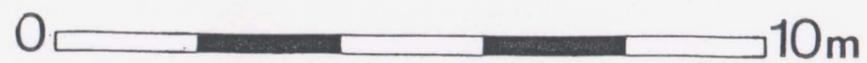
Figure 12



Feature 85

-  carbonised layer
-  heavily carbonised layer
-  pennant sandstone

⋈ height 5.338m o.d



a

taken of this fill for environmental analysis. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of the feature, although it may have served as a pit.

5.7.6.2 Feature 92 ST 6065093879 Figure 5

Feature 92 (483) was located at a distance of 5m from Feature 93. It was roughly circular in plan (1.20m x 1m), was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into the sandy Marls (112). The fill was observed to consist of a dark grey sand which contained significant amounts of ash and sparse charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was retrieved from the feature and it was not possible to determine its precise function, although it may have served as either a posthole or a pit.

5.7.6.3 Feature 93 ST 6064995873 Figure 5

Feature 93 (484) was a subrectangular soil feature located at a distance of 5m from Feature 92 which measured 1m x 0.40m. It was cut into the sandy Marl (112) and was sealed below the lower alluvium (111). The fill consisted of a silty clay and contained significant amounts of charcoal, some of which was visible as woody fragments. No finds or other dating evidence was retrieved from this feature, although, on the basis of its form, it appeared to represent a pit or a large posthole.

5.7.6.4 Feature 94 ST 6065493883 Figure 5

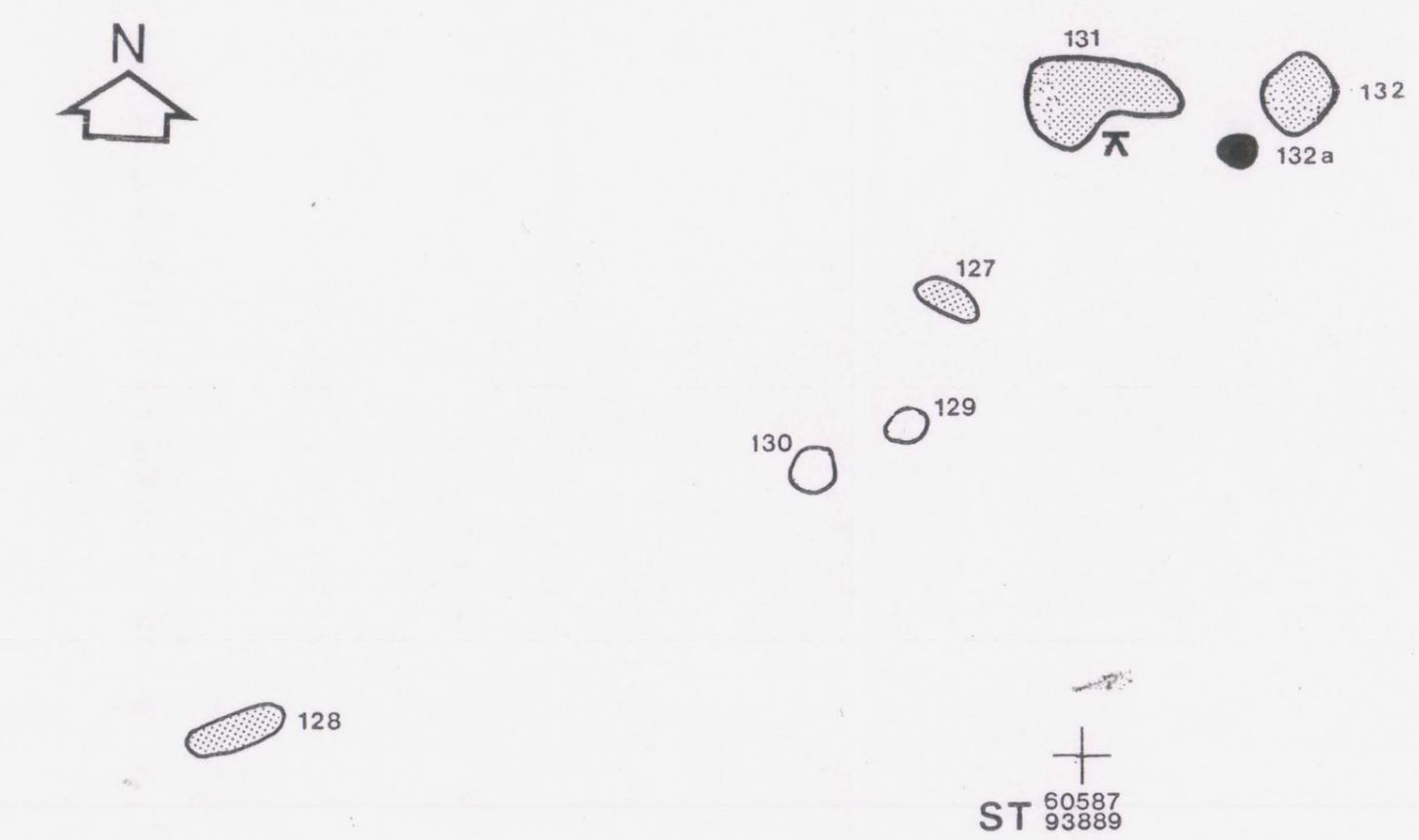
Feature 94 (482) was located at a distance of 0.70m from Feature 90 and was circular in plan (0.80m in diameter). It was sealed below the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into the sandy Marls (112). The fill consisted of very dark brown charcoal rich clay loam. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature and it was not possible to determine the function of this feature, although it appeared to represent a posthole.

5.7.6.5 The spatial organisation of this group of structural features did not permit any overall structural interpretation.

5.7.7 Feature 127 ST 6058493895 Figure 13

Feature 127 (606) was exposed by soil stripping at a depth of 1.8m below the modern topsoil and was located at a distance of 1.40m from Feature 129 (below). It was roughly rectangular in plan (0.50m x 0.90m), was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111), cut into the sandy Marls (112) and was filled by context 607, a dark sandy soil which contained significant amounts of

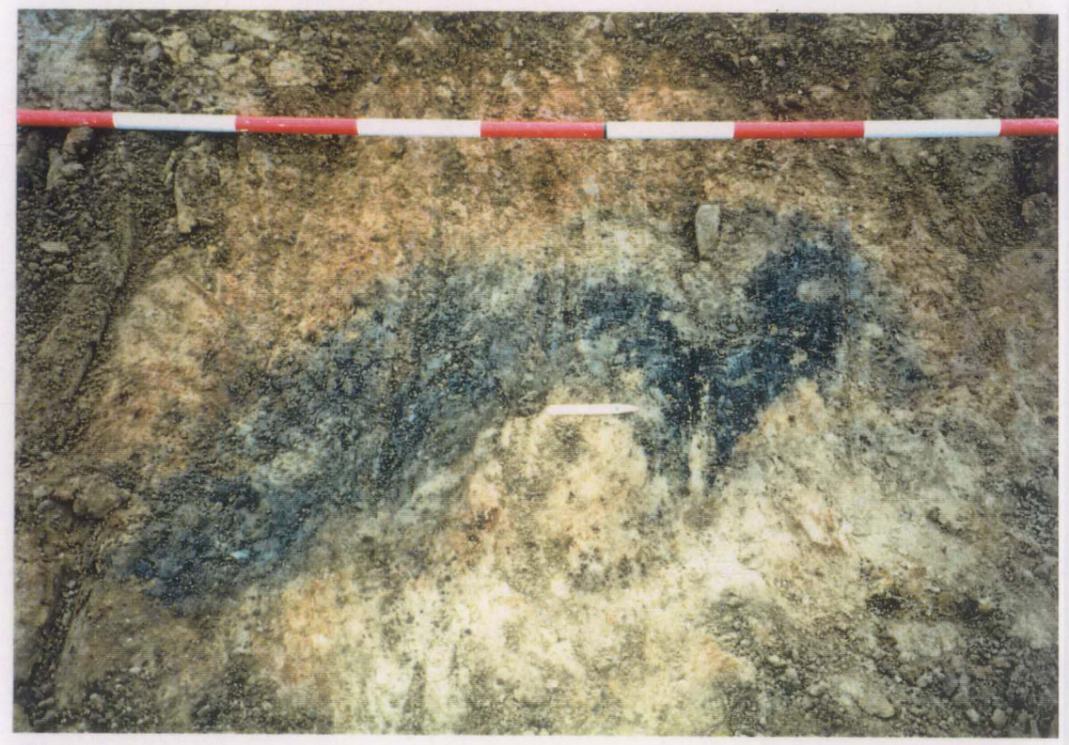
Figure 13



Feature 127 – 132

-  carbonised layer
-  posthole
-  stakehole
-  height 5.239m o.d

10m



a

charcoal. Finds recovered from the feature included three unworked flint flakes; appendix iv.

5.7.8 Feature 128 ST 6057393880 Figure 13

Feature 128 (609) (Figure 13: photograph a) was located at a distance of 8.20m from Feature 130 and was approximately rectangular in plan (1.20m x 0.40m). It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into natural sandy Marls (112). The fill (context 610) consisted of a clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal and ash and traces of burnt clay (?daub). Site conditions allowed only a cursory observation of the features shallow U shaped profile which contained a single fill (610). Located towards the base of the feature were a group of six small sandstone blocks (c0.08m x 0.06m x 0.03m) which showed no visible signs of having been worked, but did show evidence, on their upper surfaces of being heat affected. Finds from fill 610 included one large pebble with a rounded tapering end which may have functioned as a hammerstone (SF 125, Photograph 3, appendix i) or a quernstone and six flints (a broken side scraper (SF 109), a snapped blade (SF 110) and four blades (one of which had evidence of use as a tool: (SF 108); Photographs 1B (b 1-3), appendix iv). It was not possible on the basis of the evidence recorded to determine the precise function of Feature 128.

5.7.9 Feature 129 ST 6058293893 Figure 13

Feature 129 (612) was located at a distance of 1.40m from Feature 127 and consisted of a roughly circular area (0.60m x 0.50m) of charcoal rich soil. It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filled a cut into the sandy Marl (112). The single fill (613), consisted of a dark sandy silt and contained significant amounts of charcoal. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, however, six flints were recovered from the surface of the fill (613) (including; a flake which may have possibly functioned as a blade (SF 103), a long flake which possibly had point use (SF 104) and a blade (SF 105); Photographs 1C (a 1-3), appendix iv). It is not possible to determine the precise function of the feature on the basis of the evidence recorded, although it is possible that it represented a posthole.

5.7.10 Feature 130 ST 6057993893 Figure 13

Feature 130 (615) was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into the sandy Marls (112). The soil feature was subcircular in plan measuring 0.60m x 0.70m. It was filled by context 616, which consisted of a dark brown-grey sand containing

Photographs 1A



a



b

Photographs 1B



Photographs 1C

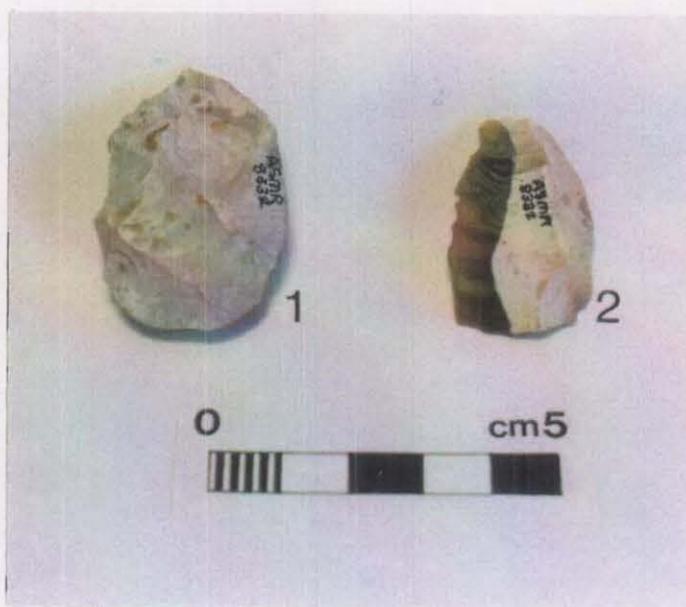


a



b

Photographs 1D



a



b

ASMR 8332

Photographs 1E

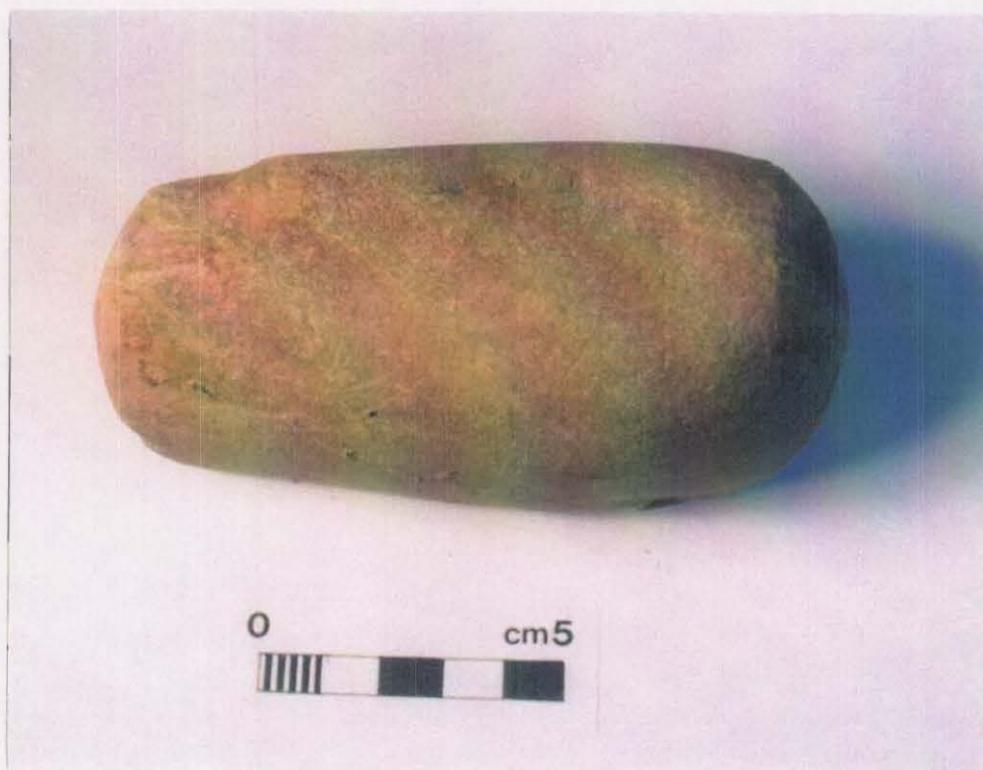


b



c

Photographs 3



ASMR 8332

significant amounts of charcoal, from which four flints were recovered (two flakes; a secondary flake which may have functioned as a knife (SF 106) and a utilised flake with two used edges (SF 107); Photographs 1C (b 1-2), appendix iv). Site conditions prevented a detailed investigation of the feature although it is possible the feature represented a posthole.

5.7.11 Feature 131 ST 6058793898 Figure 13

Feature 131 (618) was located 2.50m to the south west of Feature 127 and was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111). It was cut into the sandy Marls (112) and in plan measured 2.10m x c1.30m. It contained a single fill (619) which consisted of a dark sandy clay and contained significant amounts of charcoal. Five flints were recovered from the fill (three flakes, a flake with snapped point, the tip of a utilised flake (SF 111) and a core trimming flake (SF 112); Photographs 1c (c 1-2), appendix iv). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature and it was not possible to determinate the nature of the feature or its function.

5.7.12 Feature 132 ST 6059193897 Figure 13

Feature 132 (621) was a subcircular soil feature in plan (1.0m x 1.20m) and was located at a distance of 1.10m from Feature 131. It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filled a cut into the sandy Marls (112). It was filled by context 622 which consisted of a dark sandy clay containing significant amounts of charcoal but no dateable finds. It was not possible to determine the depth of the cut or the precise function of the feature, although it was tentatively interpreted as a pit.

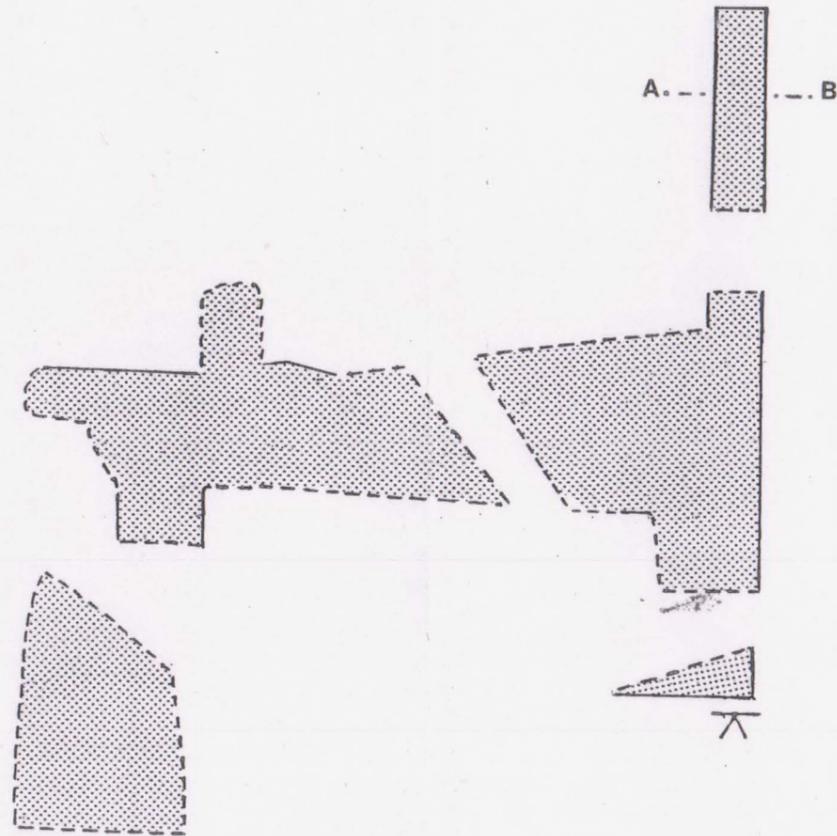
5.7.12.1 Feature 132a (Figure 13), was located at a distance of 0.40m from Feature 132. It consisted of a small charcoal rich soil layer which measured c0.20m in diameter but contained no dateable finds. The feature was not fully investigated although it was interpreted as representing a stakehole.

5.7.12.2 Features 127-132a were considered to be of prehistoric date, primarily on the basis of their secure stratigraphic position; situated at the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and the sandy Marls (112).

5.7.13 Feature 133 ST 6053393874 Figure 14

Feature 133 (Figure 14; photographs a and b) was a linear soil feature situated beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filling a cut into the natural sandy Marls (112). The feature measured, in total, 2m x 2.05m and consisted of a charcoal rich fill (491)

Figure 14



+

60533
93873

Feature 133

Interpretative Plan



carbonised layer



height 4.903m o.d

0  1m



a



b

ASMR 8332

from which no datable finds were recovered. It was not possible on the basis of the evidence recorded to determine its function, although given the form and the carbonised nature of the fill the feature may have represented the remains of one or more structural timbers.

5.7.14 Feature 134 ST 6052993880 Figure 5, Photograph 5

Feature 134 (493) was located 6m west of Feature 133. It was circular in plan, measuring 0.40m in diameter, was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and was cut to a depth of c0.35m into the sandy Marls (112). In section (which was sketched but not drawn in detail) the feature had a broad U shaped profile and contained a clay loam fill (492) which included a significant amount of charcoal but yielded no datable finds. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, although on the basis of its form, it appeared to represent a stakehole.

5.7.15 Feature 135 ST 6052893914 Figure 5

Feature 135 (394) was a small linear soil feature (2.5m x 0.35m) which was located 30.4m north of Feature 134 and orientated roughly south-west north-east. The feature was cut into the sandy Marls (112) and was sealed below a thick layer of lower alluvium (111). The fill (395) consisted of sandy soil which contained significant amounts of charcoal, but yielded no dating evidence. It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, although on the basis of its form it may have represented a structural feature.

5.7.16 Features 100, 119 and 136-137

Features 100, 119, and 136-137 (Figure 5) were an associated group which were considered to be of prehistoric date on the basis of their stratigraphic position, situated at the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and sandy Marls (112) at a height A.O.D of 5.138m.

5.7.16.1 Feature 100 ST 6047493810 Figure 5

Feature 100 (453) was exposed during soil stripping at a depth of 1.8m below the modern topsoil. The soil feature was subrectangular in plan and covered an area of 2m x 1.5m. In profile it was U shaped and cut into the sandy Marls (112). The fill (454) consisted of a dark sandy soil and contained significant amounts of ash and charcoal and yielded one flint (a point or flake; (SF 102); Photographs 1B (a 4), appendix iv). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature and it was not possible to determine its precise function, although it may have represented a hearth.

Photographs 5



a



b

ASMR 8332

5.7.16.2 Feature 119 ST 6049893832 Figure 5, Photograph 6

Soil stripping down to a depth of 1.8m below the modern topsoil level exposed Feature 119, (449). The shallow feature was 0.40m in diameter, sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and was cut into the sandy Marls (112). Its fill (448) contained significant amounts of charcoal and ash although it yielded no diagnostic finds. It was not possible on the basis of the evidence recorded to determine the precise function of the feature, although it appeared to represent two stakeholes.

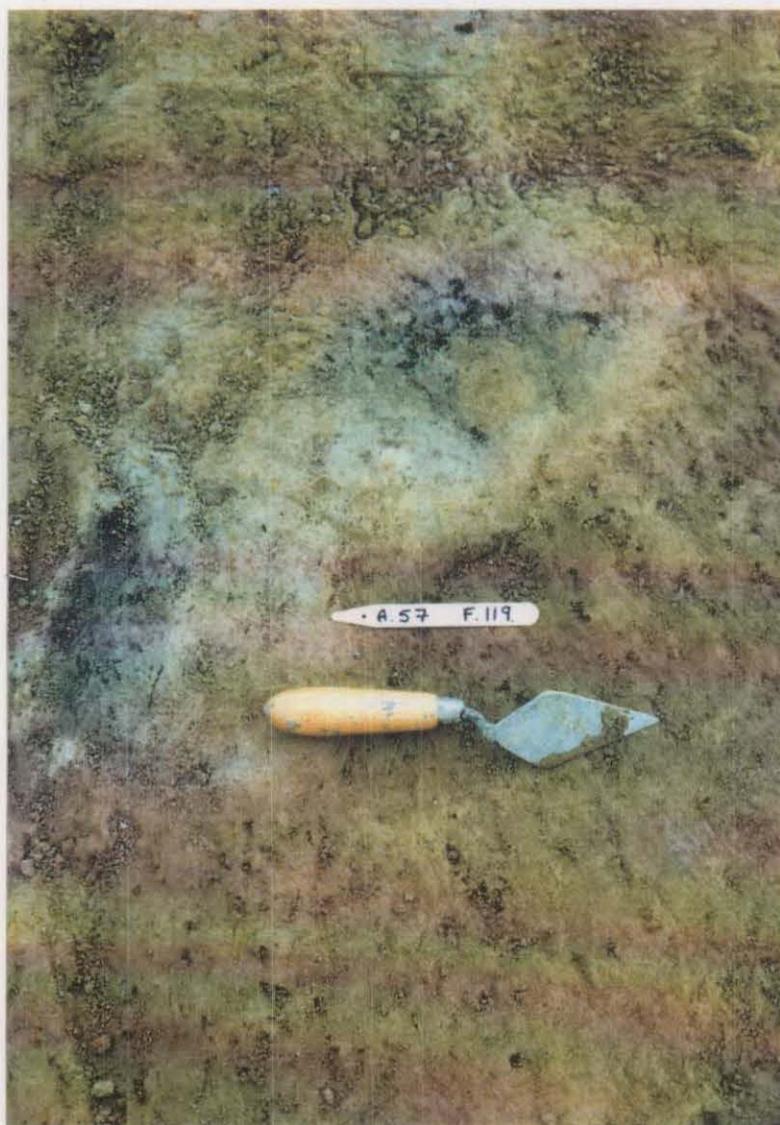
5.7.16.3 Feature 136 ST 6046293808 Figure 5, Photograph 7

Feature 136 (447) was a subrectangular soil feature measuring 0.40m x 0.15m. It was sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and filled a broad U shaped cut (c0.10m) into the sandy Marls (112). The fill (447) consisted of a dark sandy soil and contained significant amounts of charcoal. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered from the fill. Adjacent and c0.40m to the east of the feature were three possible stakeholes (c0.05m in diameter). Directly to the south-west of the feature (136) was a small dark soil horizon (0.80m x 0.30m). It was not possible to determine the precise function or relationship of these features.

5.7.16.4 Feature 137 ST 6044393808 Figure 5

Feature 137 consisted of three separate but closely associated soil features sealed beneath the lower alluvium (111) and cut into sandy Marls (112). The central feature measured 0.70m x 0.90m and was roughly rectangular in plan. Its fill (441) consisted of densely concentrated woody charcoal fragments. To the south of the central feature and at a distance of 0.50m was a small cut measuring 0.40m x 0.50m. The feature contained a concentrated charcoal fill and was interpreted as a stakehole. To the north-west of the central feature and at a distance of 0.70m was a small circular feature 0.20m in diameter. Its fill consisted of a charcoal rich clay loam. No dating evidence was recovered from this group.

Photographs 6



ASMR 8332

Photographs 7



a



b

EVIDENCE OF ROMANO-BRITISH ACTIVITY.

6.1 Eight main areas of Romano-British activity were identified on the site. These were characterised by frequent concentrations of Romano-British pottery and various soil features including layers, pits, ditches postholes, beam slots and burials. For the purposes of interpretation these areas have been subdivided further into focal areas of Romano-British activity (Figures 6 and 15: areas D,E,F,G,H,I,J and K) The Romano-British features occurred at various depths within the alluvium. The shallowest were apparent at only a few centimetres below the modern topsoil (100), the deepest (such as the base of ditches) were cut through the alluvium into the natural sandy horizon (112) just above the Keuper Marl, a depth of c1.5m (5.50m A.O.D). Stratigraphically the features occurred just below the subsoil (105), for the most part cut into the alluvium (110,111).

6.1.1 It should be noted that none of the Romano-British features were preserved in their entirety and observation was possible only after the earth moving equipment had, in many cases, removed the majority of the feature

6.2 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA D (Areas 1,2 and 9; features 1, 2,3,5, 17,19 and 20-30) Figures 6, 15,17 and 18

6.3 Feature 1 ST 6042494285 Figure 6

Subsoil stripping revealed Feature 1 (116) which appeared as a circular soil area in plan filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measuring 0.50m in diameter. The upper fill (115) of the feature consisted of a densely packed horizon of beach washed pebbles, c0.06m deep, within a charcoal rich soil matrix. Finds from this fill included sherds of Romano-British pottery. The pottery assemblage has been identified to consist mostly of Severn Valley ware (FT11B) of later third to fourth century date but also included fabric types; FT010, FT5 (bowl / dish), FT4, FT12A and FT19; appendix ii). Other finds included unburnt bone fragments (which could not be identified) and a single stone spindle whorl (Photograph 8; number 3 : SF 76, appendix i). Time and prevailing site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature to take place although it appeared to represent a small pit or perhaps a soakaway.

6.4 Feature 2 ST 6042594280 Figure 6

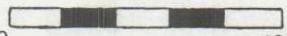
Feature 2 (117) appeared as a roughly subrectangular area of dark soil in plan. The limits of this feature were not completely located but the exposed area measured 7.2m x 1.20m. The feature was sealed beneath

Figure 15



Oldbury Silt Lagoon
Romano-British
Areas D-K

 TBM 2

0  100m

the subsoil (105) and contained two fills (120 and 118). The upper fill (120) consisted of a layer of densely packed beach washed pebbles approximately 0.06m deep (possibly a deliberate levelling fill) and contained sherds of Romano-British pottery and a single whetstone (SF 79, appendix i), below which was a reddish-orange sandy soil (118) which produced no finds. The feature was cut into the upper alluvium (110). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from this feature had a mixed date range from the late first to the fourth century A.D and included fabric types; FTL2, FT30, FTL, FT8, FTR20 (jug), FT11B (jug), FT4 (jug), FT020, FT5 (jug), FT12A (bowl/dish), FT17, FT00 (jug and bowl/dish) and FT33, (appendix ii). Prevailing site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent a pit or possibly a soakaway.

6.5 Feature 3 ST 6043394265 Figure 6

Feature 3 (121) was a small section of stone walling. It was preserved for a single course, was orientated west-east and was exposed for an area of 1.8m x 0.40m. The removal of subsoil (105) also exposed a number of heat affected sandstone fragments adjacent to the wall, preserved to a height of 8cm (although a number of the larger stones had been disturbed and in cases removed by machine activity) which lay within a charcoal rich matrix. No bonding agent or dressing of the stone was apparent. Finds from within the wall and the area immediately adjacent, included Romano-British pottery sherds of late first to fourth century date incorporating fabric types; FT30, FT33 (jug), FT5 and FT12A. It may be significant that of the 33 sherds of pottery recovered, 29 were of later first century date (appendix ii). Finds also included many fragments of animal bone (some of which had apparently been burnt) and teeth. The southern face of the wall had a number of small, heat affected pebbles banked up against it. The wall was located adjacent to skeleton 1 (350) and, by inference a probable cemetery (353). As such the wall may have represented the surviving elements of a wall which enclosed the cemetery.

6.6 Feature 5 ST 6040394270 Figure 6

Subsoil stripping exposed Feature 5 (130). The soil feature appeared to be subcircular in plan (c1.50m x c0.80m) and filled a cut into the alluvium (110). Further archaeological investigation of this feature was not possible due to the prevailing site conditions. No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from within the feature which was provisionally interpreted as representing a small pit.

6.7 Feature 17 ST 6043094270 Figure 6

6.7.1 The construction of a pipeline trench in the north of the site uncovered a number of associated grave features. One grave with accompanying skeleton was located, fully excavated and recorded and dated to the Romano-British period (below 6.7.1.1 and appendix iii). Other dark linear soil features, of a similar orientation, were also exposed within the limited area of the construction trench. Although not excavated these soil features appeared to represent strong evidence for further burials and therefore, cumulatively, evidence for a cemetery (353).

6.7.1.1 Feature 19 ST 6043094269 Figure 16
Grave 1: context 352

This feature represented a grave cut which contained the articulated remains of an adult human (skeleton 1, context 350).

6.7.1.2 The grave cut (352) was subrectangular in plan and only marginally larger than the skeleton itself (1.71m x 0.60m). At some point the grave had undergone some minor disturbance which had resulted in the loss of the skeletons feet. The grave contained no evidence of an accompanying coffin or associated grave goods. The grave cut (352), which consisted of an irregular shallow scoop (0.14m of which survived) and its fill (351) were sealed by subsoil (105) and cut into the upper alluvium (110). Coarse components of the grave fill (351) consisted of weathered limestone fragments (up to 0.35m), a small amount of soft sandstone, very sparse burnt bone and heat affected quartzite pebbles. One sherd of abraded Romano-British Severn Valley Ware pottery was noted but not retained.

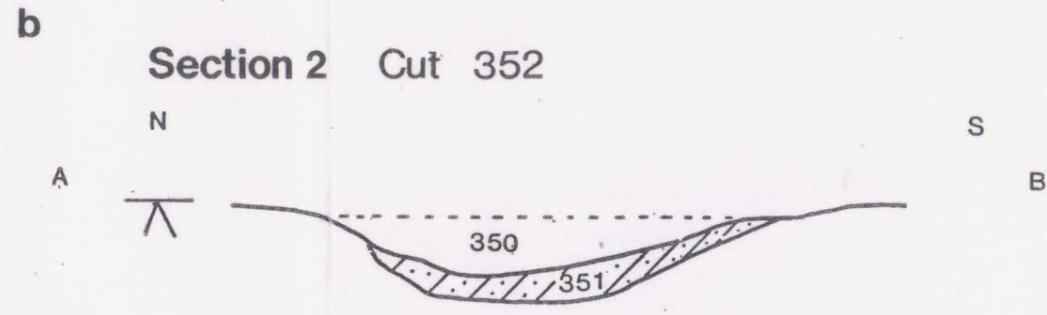
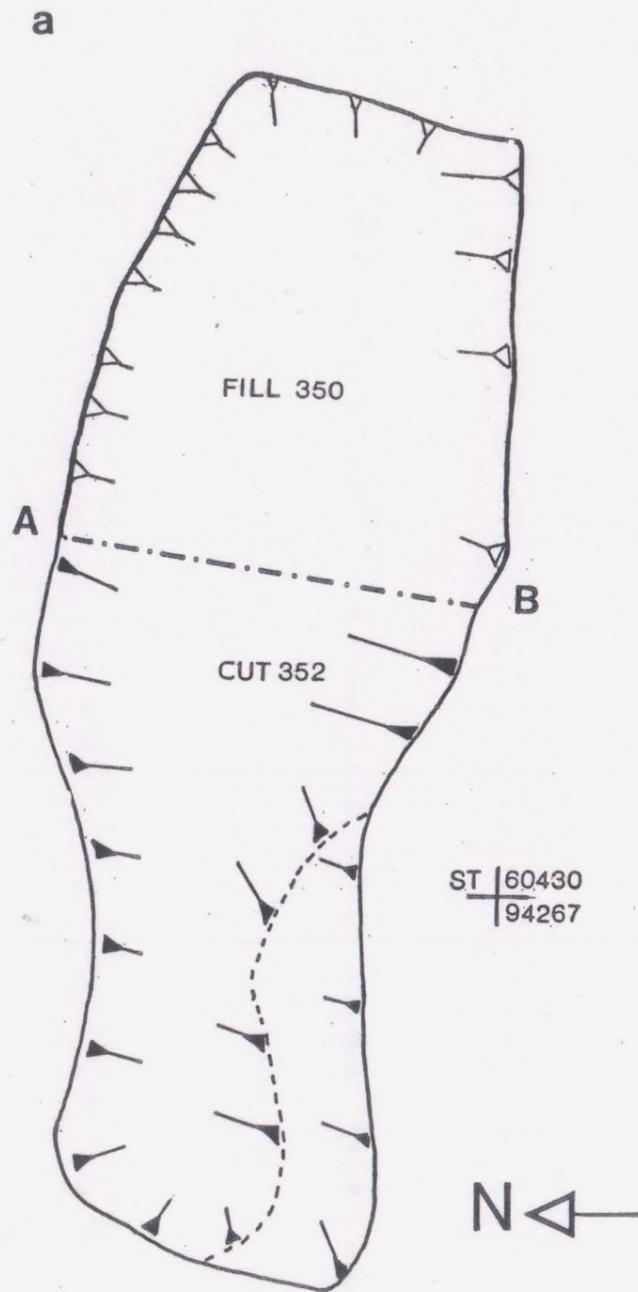
6.7.1.3 The condition of the surviving bone was poor and friable. The bulk of the skeleton was articulated and lay supine, its head extending north-east. Figure 17; photograph a.

6.7.1.4 A specialist report of this skeleton can be found below in appendix iii.

6.8 Feature 20-30

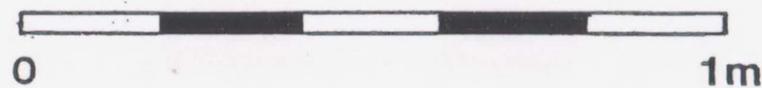
This group of features (20-30) (Figure 17) was comprised of a number of pits and a curved ditch all of which were sealed by subsoil (105). Features 21-23, 25-26 and 28-30 appeared to be enclosed by Feature 20 and were considered to be contemporary on the basis of their stratigraphic position (6.328m A.O.D). Feature 27 was located immediately south of Feature 20 and although it occurred at same level as the features occurred outside of the enclosure and may not be directly associated with them. Feature 24

Figure 16



Feature 19  Clay and Charcoal

 height 6.318m o.d



appeared to cut Feature 20 and may postdate it.

6.8.1 Feature 20 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 20 (236) was initially identified in plan as a small penannular soil feature. The area exposed, in plan, measured 3.5m x 0.70m. Further archaeological investigation showed that the feature was cut into the alluvium, had an elongated U shaped profile (Figure 17; section 3, photograph a) and contained two fills (contexts 209 and 208). It had been cut to a depth of 0.27m into the upper alluvium (110). The primary fill (209) was 0.09m deep and asymmetric. The fill (209) was dark brown with a plastic consistency and contained, apart from sporadic flecks of manganese, no identifiable finds or inclusions. The upper fill (208) was 0.18m thick and consisted of a dark grey-brown silty loam clay. Components of the upper fill included fragments of limestone (no larger than 0.21m x 0.12m x 0.03m), frequent charcoal and manganese flecks and occasional fragments of heat affected fractured pebbles. Scattered along the inside and western facing curve of the cut was a quantity of shattered bone (some of which was burnt) and two sherds of very badly abraded Romano-British pottery (not retained). The shape of the feature was tentatively considered to indicate that it represented part of a curving ditch or possibly an element of a circular enclosure.

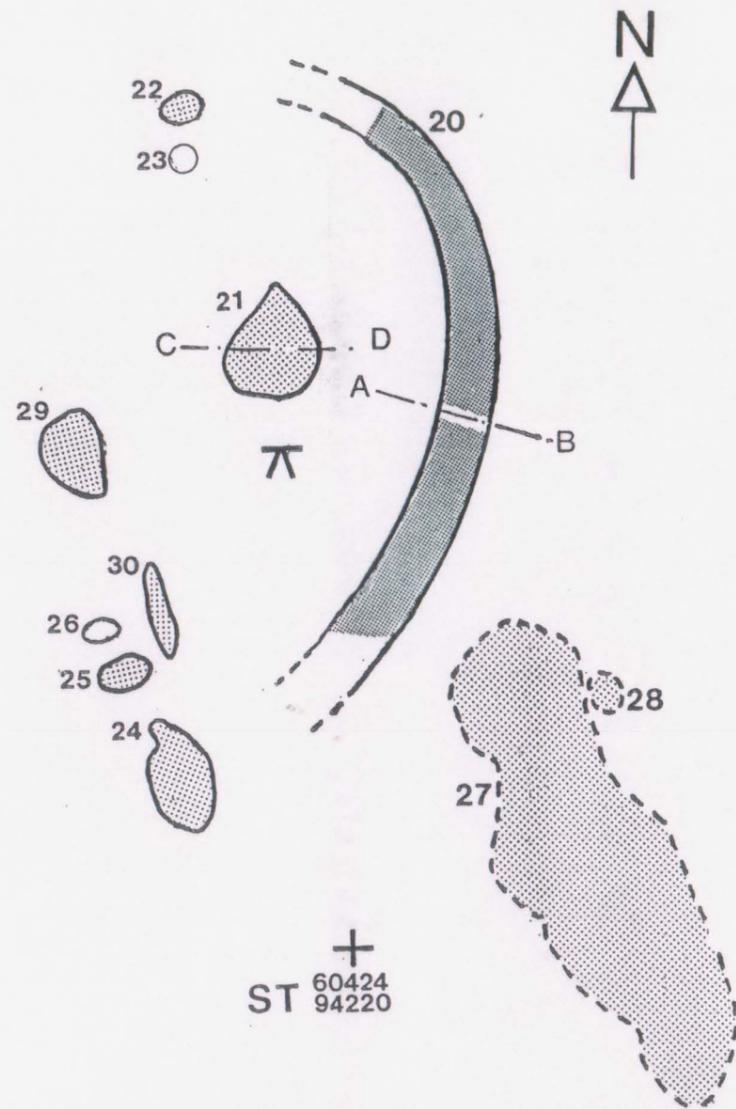
6.8.2 Feature 21 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 21 (237) was subcircular in plan and measured 1.6m x 1.25m. A single fill (229) was distinguished within the shallow U shaped cut (Figure 17; section 4, photograph b), which consisted of a dark brown silty clay loam containing bands (up to 0.02m thick) of charcoal, ash and burnt clay with flecks of charcoal scattered throughout. Two pieces of Pennant sandstone and fragments of fractured, possibly heat affected pebbles were also present in the fill. The profile of the feature appeared as a shallow gully which had been cut to a depth of 0.14m into the upper alluvium (110). No diagnostic pottery or finds were recovered from this feature, but it appeared to represent a small pit.

6.8.3 Feature 22 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 22 (238) was identified initially as an oval soil feature in plan measuring c0.80m x 0.45m. Further investigation indicated that the feature filled a shallow U shaped cut with gently sloping sides and a flat base cut 0.08m into the upper alluvium (110). The profile contained the remnants of

Figure 17

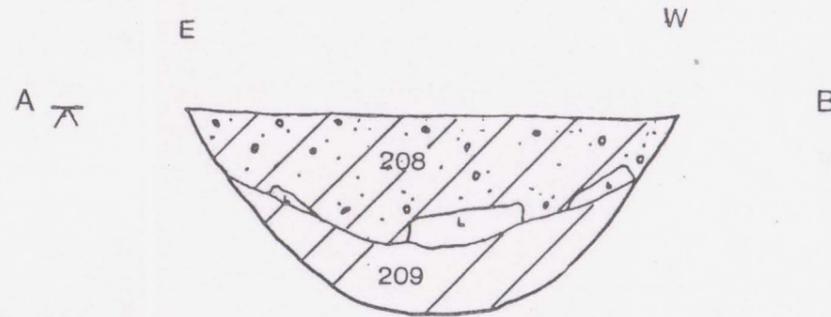


Features 20 - 30

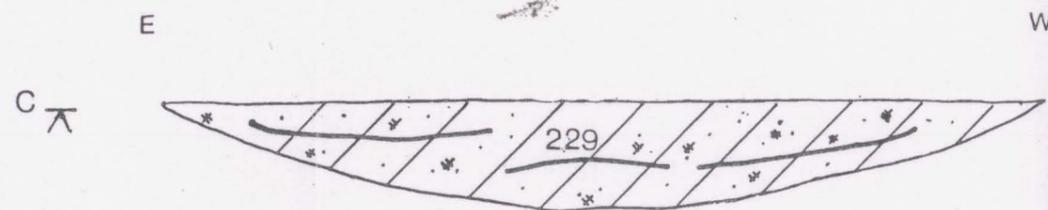
⌘ height 6.328m o.d

0 5m

Section 3 Cut 236 Scale 1:10



Section 4 Cut 237



- pits
 Limestone
- curved ditch
 post-hole
- clay and charcoal
 clay
- clay, fired clay and charcoal



a single fill (234) which consisted of a dark grey, friable clay loam. The coarse components of the fill consisted of significant amounts of charcoal and shattered beach pebbles. The fractured pebbles and the small fragments of Pennant stone (no larger than 0.09m x 0.07m x 0.06m) recovered from the fill appeared to have been heat affected. A single rubber stone (SF 85; appendix i; 1.7) was recovered from the fill, but no datable pottery sherds. It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature although, given its form, it appeared to represent a pit.

6.8.4 Feature 23 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 23 (239) was a circular soil feature in plan, 0.30m in diameter, filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation to take place, however, the upper fill was observed to consist of a dark brown friable clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal. Finds recovered from the fill included animal teeth (sheep/goat) and small irregular fragments of an undetermined stone (no larger than 0.07m x 0.05m x 0.03m). No datable pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the feature, although on the basis of its form, it was interpreted as representing either a small pit or a posthole.

6.8.5 Feature 24 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 24 (240) was an irregular shaped soil feature measuring 1.60m x 0.90m which appeared to cut Feature 20 (236). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature to take place. However, the upper fill was observed to consist of a very dark greyish-brown friable clay loam which contained a significant amount of charcoal. Small numbers of fractured heat affected pebbles, traces of burnt bone (unidentifiable) and fired clay (?daub) were also present within the fill. No datable pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the fill, although on the basis of its form, the feature appeared to represent a large pit.

6.8.6 Feature 25 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Context 241 was oval shaped soil feature in plan measuring 0.75m x 0.45m. A section through the feature (which was observed but not drawn in detail) showed a shallow U shaped profile, cut to a depth of c0.08m into the upper alluvium (110). It contained two fills (227 and 228). The primary fill (228)

consisted of a dark greyish-brown clay loam which contained within its matrix small pockets of a reddish-brown sand (traces of 112?) and one lump of limestone 16cm x 12cm x 3cm. The secondary fill (227) consisted of a densely packed lens of gravel (c0.01m-c0.02m deep) which showed evidence of burning or of being in close proximity to intense heat and small quantities of slag (>0.05m). Small fragments of burnt bone (none of which were identifiable) were observed throughout the both the upper and lower fills. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature. No datable pottery sherds or finds were recovered from this feature but it was interpreted as representing a pit.

6.8.7 Feature 26 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 26 (242) was a circular soil feature in plan. It filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measured c0.40m in diameter. Site conditions prevented detailed investigation of the feature, although it was observed and recorded. The fill of the cut consisted of a dark grey friable clay loam. The coarse components of the fill included significant amounts of charcoal, fractured heat affected pebbles, small pockets of gravel (c5% of the fill) and traces of fired clay (?daub). No datable pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the feature and on the basis of the evidence recorded it was not possible to determine its precise function, although it was interpreted as representing a pit.

6.8.8 Feature 27 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 27 (233) was identified as an indeterminate soil feature in plan, which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). It was truncated in parts but, overall, covered an estimated area of 7.5m x 2.5m. The upper fill (243) consisted of a dark grey loam which incorporated patches of a very dark brown loam within its matrix. The coarse components of the upper fill included significant amounts of charcoal, a number of beach washed pebbles and fragments of sandstone and limestone blocks (<0.20m x 0.17m x 0.06m). A quantity of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the fill (Fabric Types; FT4 (bowl/ dish), FT12A and FT11B appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed examination of this feature which appeared to represent up to four separate pit cuts.

6.8.9 Feature 28 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 28 (244) was located adjacent to Feature 27. The soil feature was circular (c0.45m) in plan and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The upper fill (232) was similar in character to that which filled Feature 27 (243 above) and consisted of a dark

grey loam incorporating isolated patches of a very dark brown soil within its matrix. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature to be undertaken and no diagnostic pottery sherds were recovered from the fill. The feature appeared to represent a pit although its relationship to others in the vicinity could not be determined.

6.8.10 Feature 29 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 29 (245) was exposed during subsoil excavation. The soil feature had an irregular shape in plan (measuring 0.50m x 0.61m) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The edges of the feature were difficult to define as they had been greatly disturbed by machine activity. The upper fill was observed to consist of a very dark greyish brown clay loam. Coarse components of the fill included a significant amount of charcoal and small quantities of sandstone fragments and shattered bone (unidentifiable). No datable pottery sherds or other finds were recovered from the feature. Site conditions prevented any further investigation although it appeared to represent a pit.

6.8.11 Feature 30 ST 6042492427 Figure 17

Feature 30 (246) was an irregular oval shaped soil feature in plan (measuring 1.30m x 0.35m) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature. The upper fill (251) was observed to consist of a dark grey loam clay which contained a significant amount of charcoal, a few fragments of heat affected clay, fractured pebbles and traces of fired clay. No datable pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the feature, but it appeared to represent a small pit.

6.8.12

It was not possible to determine any obvious pattern or conclusions concerning the features identified in area D as they were restricted by machine activity and only partially excavated. The abraded nature of the few pottery sherds observed, coupled with the close proximity of the features to at least one grave (and a probable cemetery) would indicate that these features were possibly peripheral to the sites main focus of occupation but, nonetheless, represented evidence of structures and unknown activity involving the heating of beach pebbles and cobbles. The pits did not contain sufficient debris to suggest they functioned as rubbish pits and suggests that they are more likely related to structures or superimposed phases of timber structures. However, very little material evidence (i.e nails or other structural finds) were recovered and no clear spatial relationships were observed between the features themselves. The features almost certainly date from

the Romano-British period on the basis of their broad stratigraphic position, although material evidence, particularly pottery, was surprisingly rare (FTR20, FTR00, FT11B, FT12A and FT4 (jar); appendix ii).

7 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA E (Area 30; features 108,109,110,111 and 112)
Figure 6

Area E contained a series of ditches which appeared to be related. Prevailing site conditions meant that detailed investigation of each feature could not be undertaken. Therefore, in many cases evidence to support an interpretation of the stratigraphical relationship of the ditches was lost, although a record was made of the features spatial relationships (Figure 6).

7.1 Feature 108 ST 6051394113 Figure 6

This linear soil feature (273) was partially truncated by earth moving processes. It survived for a distance of c3.3m x 0.6m and was orientated north-west to south-east. The feature was not visible during initial subsoil stripping, but was noted later as a cut into the lower alluvium (111). This suggested the possibility that it was sealed by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110). The similarity of this feature to others in the vicinity suggested that it represented the base of a ditch, one of a series in the area. The upper fill (269) consisted of a very dark greyish-brown plastic clay which contained significant amounts of charcoal (c10%) small pieces of heat affected clay and very small quantities of burnt bone (unidentifiable). Five sherds of Romano-British Severn Valley Ware (FT11B) were retrieved from within the fill (273). It was not possible to investigate the feature in detail due to the site conditions. A sample of the fill was taken for environmental analysis.

7.2 Feature 109 ST 6051594110 Figure 6

This feature (277), was linear in plan and measured approximately 4m x 0.70m. It was observed to be orientated roughly parallel to feature 108 (at a distance of 2.90m). Feature 109 was not visible during the first stages of subsoil stripping but was noted later as a cut into the lower alluvium (111), again suggesting the possibility that it had been sealed by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110). The fill of the feature (278), which consisted of a dark greyish-brown clay, was observed to contain significant amounts of charcoal. It was not possible to determine

the profile or overall dimensions of the feature due to earth moving activity at the time of observation although the feature appeared to be the base of a ditch. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered from the feature.

7.3 Feature 110 ST 6051294135 Figure 6

This linear feature was located in the same vicinity as cuts 108 and 109 (7.1 and 7.2 above) and was orientated perpendicular to them. The feature was truncated by machine activity, however, an exposure measuring approximately 3-4m x 0.70m survived. It was orientated east-west and was cut into the lower alluvium (111), again suggesting that it may have been sealed by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110). The upper fill (272) of the feature contained significant amounts of charcoal and a small quantity of Romano-British pottery sherds (FT11B) were observed but not retained. Site conditions prevented any further detailed recording or investigation of the feature, although on the basis of its form the feature appeared to represent the base of a ditch.

7.4 Feature 111 ST 6054894117 Figure 6

Linear soil Feature 111 (266) was partially truncated by machine activity and exposed in an area measuring c12.20m x 1.80m x 0.06m. Cut into the lower alluvium (111) the feature was not evident during initial subsoil stripping which suggested the possibility that it had been sealed by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110). The fill (260) was observed to contain infrequent Romano-British pottery sherds (not retained) and consisted of a dark grey-brown plastic clay containing significant amounts of charcoal, traces of burnt clay, small quantities of bone (some of which had been burnt) and infrequent stone (c15-12cm); mainly sandstone). The feature appeared to represent the base of a ditch, possibly associated with Features 108-110. Site conditions prevented further investigation of the feature.

7.5 Feature 112 ST 6053994118 Figure 6

Feature 112 (268) was a linear soil feature which had been partially truncated by machine activity. It was 4m long and 0.50m wide and was situated directly opposite, and roughly parallel to, Feature 111 and may have represented part of the same feature. Its fill (267), which was sealed by subsoil, and possibly by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110) (see Feature 111 above 7.3), was contained within a broad U shaped cut c0.50m into the lower alluvium (111). The fill (267) consisted of a dark brown to black silty clay loam and contained significant amounts of charcoal, small fragments of bone (some of which were burnt but unidentifiable), fragments of Pennant sandstone and

traces of heat affected clay. Romano-British pottery recovered from the fill was dated to the third or fourth centuries A.D and included Fabric Types; FT5V (jar) and FT5 (jar); appendix ii). The feature was recorded photographically but was not drawn in detail.

7.6 It was not possible to determine the precise function of the features in area E although on the basis of their form and spatial relationship it is possible that they represented a series of boundary or drainage ditches.

8.0 **ROMANO-BRITISH**
AREA F (Areas 40 and 48; features 114- 117, 121-125 and 83, 84) Figures 6 and 18

This group of features (114-117) appeared to represent a series of poorly defined occupation layers, the precise extent of which could not be determined.

8.1 Feature 114 ST 6051394012 Figure 6

Feature 114 (496) was a large roughly circular area (c5.8m in diameter and 0.25m deep) of compacted irregularly shaped sandstone cobbles of varying size within the upper alluvium (110). None of the stones appeared to have been worked and no bonding agent was evident, however, the upper surface of the cobbles were worn and it is possible they represented the site of an entrance. No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the feature. Site conditions did not allow any detailed investigation of the feature but, given the features stratigraphic position, the layer was considered to be Romano-British in date.

8.3 Feature 115 ST 6048993977 Figure 6

Initial topsoil stripping (at a depth of c0.20m below the modern topsoil) exposed Feature 115 (497) as an area of dark soil containing frequent Romano-British pottery sherds (FT010, FT9X (jar), FT8 (bowl/dish), FT5 (jar, bowl/dish), FT4 (bowl/ dish, jar), FT23 (jar), FTR20 (jar), FT12B, FT12A (bowl/dish), FT11B (bowl/dish, jar) and one sherd of post-medieval pottery; appendix ii). Substantial amounts of slag and fragments of Pennant sandstone were also observed in and around the feature. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of this feature to take place.

8.4 Feature 116 ST 6048594013 Figure 6

Feature 116 (502) was a roughly rectangular (4.60m x

1.70m x c0.40m) soil feature in plan and was situated approximately 3.17m north-east of feature 117. It was sealed by subsoil (105) and was cut into the alluvium (110). The fill (498) consisted of a dark grey loam clay which contained significant amounts of charcoal, fragments of bone and a small quantity of iron slag. Further machine stripping around the feature revealed it to be much larger than initially noted (c14m x 1.70m). A large number of disturbed, irregularly shaped sandstone stones were present in the centre of the feature (covering an area of 3.90m x 0.60m). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from the fill included fabric types FT4, FT12A, FT5, FT15, FT8, FTR00, FT20 and FT11B; appendix ii. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature.

8.5 Feature 117 ST 6046694009 Figure 6

Feature 117 (499) was a dark soil feature which measured 16m x 8m. The layer was observed to consist of a dark clay loam and contained substantial amounts of burnt clay (daub?), a small quantity of slag and frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery which dated to the third or fourth centuries A.D; appendix ii. The feature appeared to have undergone some disturbance as it contained modern ceramics, material from a nearby bottle dump and electrical components. No interpretation was made of this feature although, despite the presence of modern material it appeared likely that the feature was essentially Romano-British in date which had undergone subsequent modern disturbance.

8.6 Features 121-125

Features 121-125 (Figure 6) appeared to represent an associated group of soil features, which were securely sealed by subsoil (105). Prevailing site conditions made any detailed investigation of the features impossible, however, the spatial relationship of the feature was recorded in detail. The features appeared to represent three partially truncated ditches and two possible pits.

8.6.1 Feature 121 ST 6046293962 Figure 6

This feature (602) was an L shaped soil feature in plan (13m x 11.50m x 1.50m) and filled a cut into the alluvium (110). Its upper fill (603) consisted of a dark greyish-brown clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal and small quantities of burnt clay (?daub). No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recorded from this feature. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation although, on the basis of its form, it appeared to represent part of a ditch.

8.6.2 Feature 122 ST 6046493968 Figure 6

Feature 122 (506) was an L shaped soil feature in plan filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measured 4m x 3m. The upper fill of the feature (507) was a dark greyish-brown clay loam containing significant amounts of charcoal and frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery (fabric types; FT5 (jar, bowl/dish), FT8 (dish) and FT4 (bowl/dish); appendix ii) and possible whetstone (SF 83, appendix i; 1.6). Other finds included a small quantity of burnt clay and fragments of machine shattered sandstone (up to 0.10m x 0.20m x 0.04m). Site conditions prevented any further investigation of the feature although it appeared to represent part of a ditch.

8.6.3 Feature 123 ST 6046393981 Figure 6

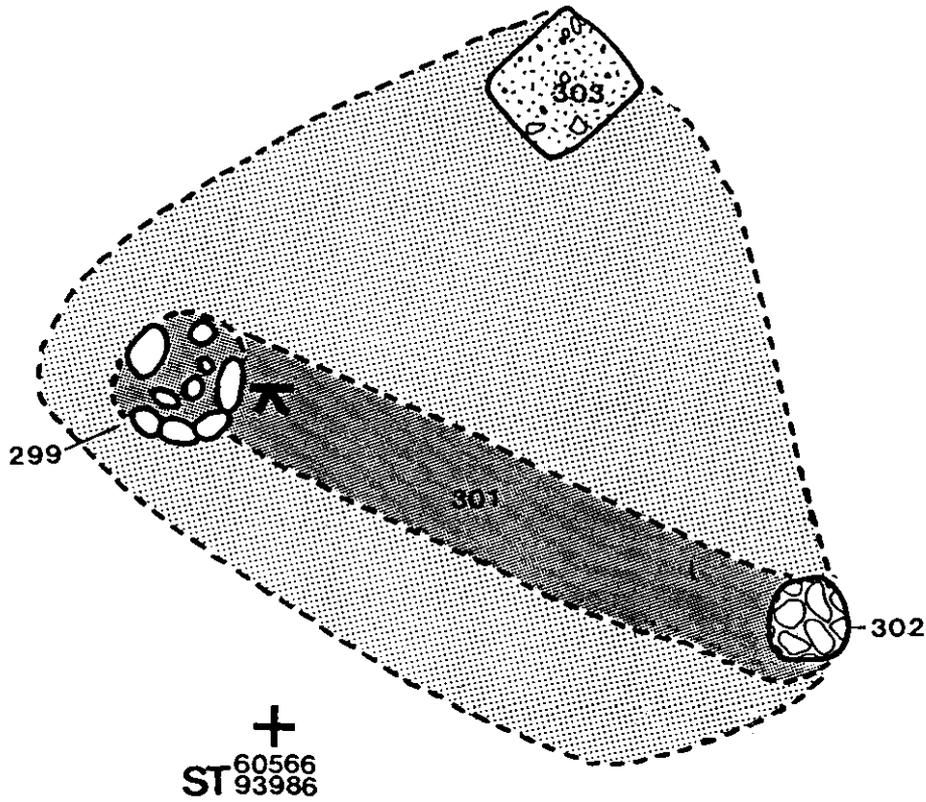
Feature 123 (508) was a subcircular soil feature in plan (2.30m x 2.0m) located 2.90m east of Feature 122. It (508) was sealed by subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill consisted of a dark greyish-brown clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal and a small quantity of burnt clay. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered from the feature. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of this feature although it appeared to represent a pit, the precise function could not be determined.

8.6.4 Feature 124 ST 6045995989 Figure 6

Feature 124 (509) was a subcircular (4.70m x c0.60m) soil feature which was located 5.30m north of Feature 123. It (509) was sealed by subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill (509) was observed to consist of a very dark greyish-brown clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal and small quantities of burnt clay (?daub). A large, roughly rounded, undressed sandstone block (0.30m x 0.40m) was situated in the centre of the feature and a second large rectangular sandstone block was located to the north side of the feature (measuring 0.10m x 0.20m). Both of these stones may have been structural (possibly postpads). No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from this feature. It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of this feature, although it appeared to represent a pit.

8.6.5 Feature 125 ST 6047293982 Figure 6

Feature 125 (600) was a subrectangular soil feature (3.1m x 2m) located within a metre of Feature 123 and was cut into the upper alluvium (110). The single



Feature 84

-  occupation layer (extent exposed)
-  heavily carbonised layer
-  sandstone
-  slag (iron)
-  height 5.708m o.d



fill (601) consisted of a very dark greyish-brown clay loam containing small quantities of charcoal and burnt clay (?daub). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature and no diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from its fill. It was interpreted, on the basis of its form, to represent part of a ditch.

8.6.6 Feature 83 ST 6056993996 Figure 6

Feature 83 (309) was a linear soil feature in plan measuring 5m x 1.16m. It was sealed beneath a thin layer (c0.03m-0.05m) of upper alluvium (110) and was orientated approximately east-west. A section (which was observed but not drawn in detail) was exposed at the western end of the feature and showed a broad U shaped profile cut c0.03m into the lower alluvium (111). The feature contained two fills (contexts 307 and 308). The primary fill (308) was c0.03m thick and consisted of charcoal; no finds were recovered from this fill. The secondary fill (307) (0.27m deep) consisted of a yellowish-brown firm clay which contained infrequent charcoal flecks and traces of heat affected clay. Other finds included Romano-British pottery sherds dated to the later third to fourth centuries A.D (FT12A (dish), FT5, FT4 and FT11B; appendix ii) and a single whetstone (SF 80, appendix i; 1.6)

8.7 Feature 84 ST 6056693991 Figure 18

8.7.1 Feature 84 (306) (Figure 18) was a rectangular soil feature in plan (c9m x c5m) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The feature (84) was composed of a number of different elements including two circular patches of stone (299), a charcoal rich channel (301) and a area of clinker (303).

8.7.2 Context 299 (Figure 18) consisted of a group of large, rectangular, heat affected sandstone blocks (c0.20m x 0.30m x 0.04m) which were one course deep but contained no evidence of a bonding agent. The blocks were arranged in a closely packed circle covering an estimated area of c1.4m in diameter. Finds from the vicinity, and at a depth of c0.10m below the modern ground surface (5.708m. A.O.D), included a single coin (appendix i; 1.8).

8.7.3 Context 301 (Figure 18) extended to the south of these blocks consisted of a charcoal rich linear soil feature (c9m x 1.3m). The feature was shallow and contained significant amounts of fragmentary charcoal and a small quantity of slag and coal. At the end of this gently sloping gully and arranged in a rough circle (c1m diameter), were a second group of heat affected (?sandstone) blocks (context 302). These were irregular in size, generally rectangular, and did not contain evidence of any bonding agent.

8.7.4 Approximately 4-5m north of this group was a circular area (1.50m diameter) of dark greyish-brown burnt clay soil (303) (Figure 18) which contained significant amounts of clinker and slag and which may have represented a pit although site conditions prevented any detailed investigation. No finds were recovered from this feature.

8.7.5 It was not possible, on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of this group of features. The burnt appearance of the opposing stone features and the charcoal rich channel running at a slight slope between them, in conjunction with the deep (1-2cm) deposits of charcoal located at the deepest part of the slope, appeared to represent elements of a structure, which, given the quantities of slag and charcoal recovered may have represented domestic metalworking activity.

9 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA G (Areas 60 and 24; features 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 10) Figure 6 and 19

9.1 Area G was distinguished by a group of pits (Features 74-76 and 78-79), a beam slot (Feature 77), a possible burial (Feature 80) and an area of possible industrial activity (Feature 10) all of which were stratified beneath the subsoil (105) and above the upper alluvium (110).

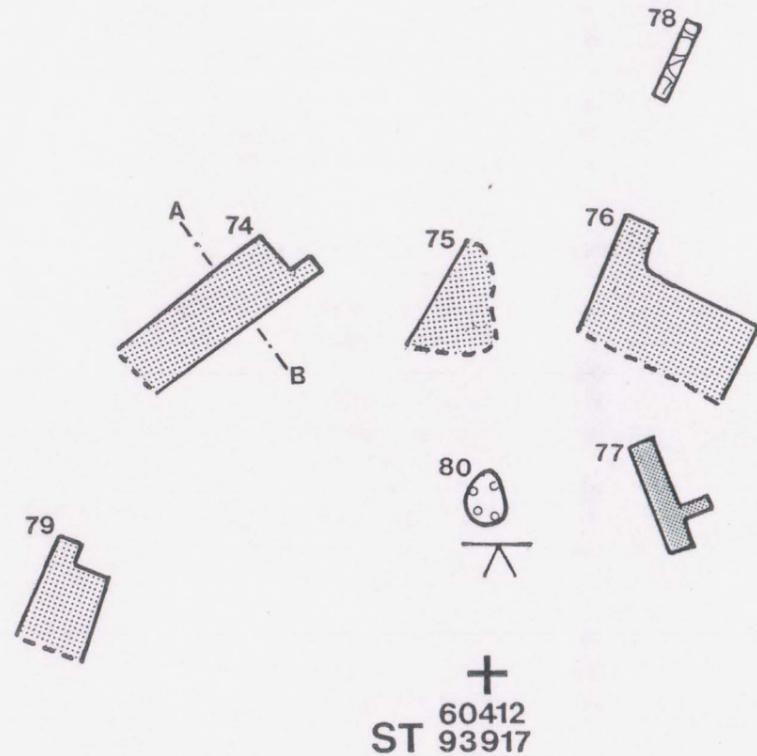
9.1.1 Feature 74 ST 6040593922 Figure 19

Feature 74 (456) (Figure 19; photograph b) was subrectangular in plan and filled a cut to a depth of 0.25m into the upper alluvium (110). The exposure measured approximately 6m x 1.6m. The feature consisted of a shallow U shaped cut (Figure 19; section 5, photograph a) which contained two fills. The primary fill (455) was 0.06m deep and consisted of a blue-grey clay which contained infrequent flecks of charcoal; no finds were recovered from this fill. The secondary fill (461) was 0.20m deep and consisted of a dark grey brown loam which contained approximately 20% charcoal and 10% burnt clay. Other finds included fragments of burnt bone, a small number of pebbles, one piece of sandstone, one small fragment of Pennant sandstone and frequent Romano-British pottery sherds (fabric types FT12A and FT4 (jar) and FT5 (bowl/dish) appendix ii). The feature was interpreted as representing a pit, although its precise function could not be determined.

9.1.2 Feature 75 ST 6040993930 Figure 19

Feature 75 (462) was a soil feature filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and appeared to be

Figure 19

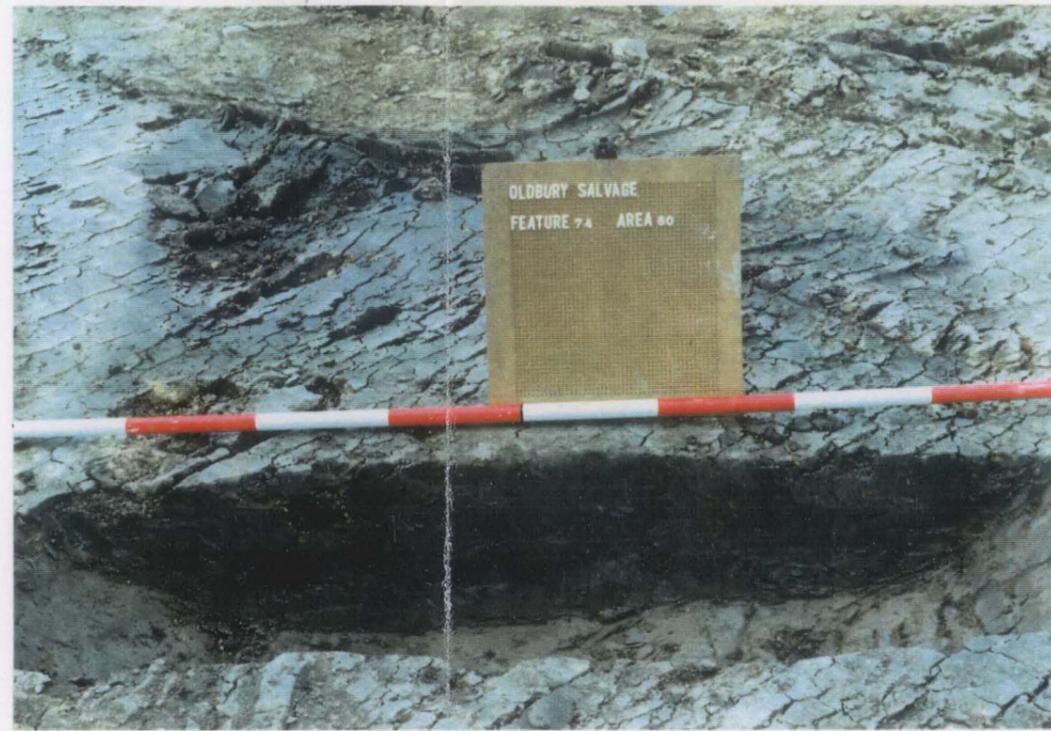


Features 74 – 80

-  pits
-  beamslot
-  wall
-  articulated bone
-  height 6.308m o.d

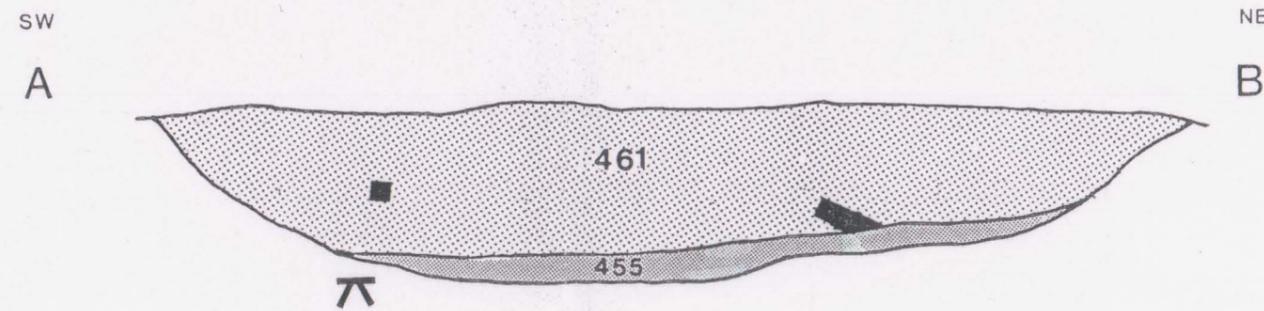
-  clay and charcoal
-  clay
-  Pennant

 height 5.935m o.d



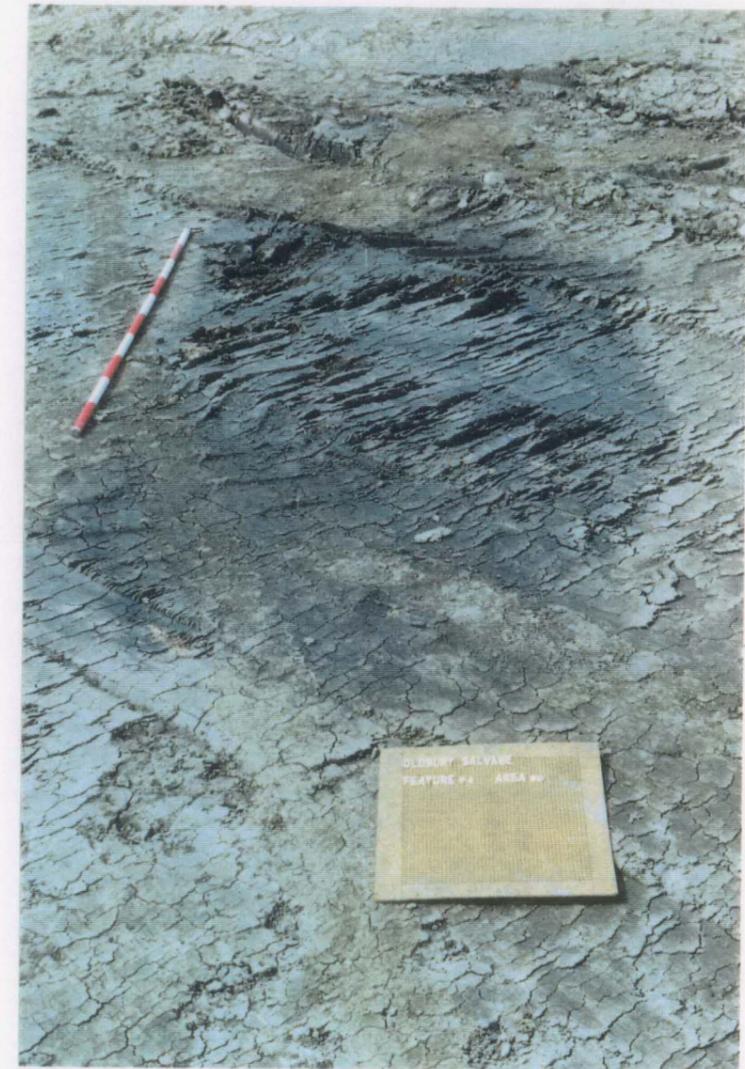
a

Section Cut 456 scale 1:10

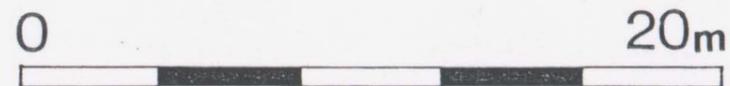


-  clay and charcoal
-  clay
-  Pennant

 height 5.935m o.d



b



roughly semicircular in plan (3.6m x 2m). It was not possible to determine the profile of the feature in detail due to prevailing site conditions. The fill was texturally identical to that of context 461 above and consisted of a black loam which contained a significant amount of charcoal, traces of burnt clay and fragments of bone (unidentified). Finds from the fill included a single sandstone fragment (c0.14m x 0.18m), a small iron nail and frequent Romano-British pottery sherds dated to the fourth century A.D (fabric types; FT9X Jar), FT12A (bowl/dish), FT4 and FT5 appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, although it appeared to represent a pit.

9.1.3 Feature 76 ST 6041093936 Figure 19

Feature 76 (463) was a rectangular soil feature (4.5m x 3.50m) which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill was observed to consist of a very dark grey loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal, a small quantity of burnt clay and fragments of bone (some of which had been burnt). Other finds from the feature included frequent Romano-British pottery sherds which have been dated to the fourth century A.D (fabric types; FT6 (bowl/dish), FT12A (bowl/ dish), FTR20, FT4 (jar), FT11B and FT5 (bowl/ dish; appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed examination of the feature to be undertaken, although on the basis of the finds from the fill, the feature may have represented a rubbish pit.

9.1.4 Feature 77 ST 6041893923 Figure 19

Feature 77 (464) was a narrow straight-edged rectangular soil area (2m long and 0.25m wide) of charcoal which was orientated north-south. Finds from within the charcoal rich fill included Romano-British pottery dating from the later third to fourth centuries A.D (Fabric Types; FT5, FT231. appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature although, on the basis of its form, it is possible the feature represented a beam slot.

9.1.5 Feature 78 ST 6041893937 Figure 19

Feature 78 (469) represented the remains of a stone wall formed of a number of irregularly shaped limestone and sandstones stones (each c 0.40m x c 0.30m) which were set into the upper alluvium (110). Although the feature had been disturbed by machine activity the wall was preserved for a length of 2m and was 0.50m wide. The feature was orientated north-east to south-west. The wall was mostly preserved for two courses, three in places, and showed no surviving

evidence of a bonding agent. Finds from within the feature included Romano-British pottery dating to the later third to fourth centuries A.D. (Fabric Types; FT12A, FT5, FT4, FT11B (jar) and FT8, appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further investigation of the wall although it was recorded photographically.

9.1.6 Feature 79 ST 6039893924 Figure 19

Feature 79 (470), was exposed during subsoil stripping as a well defined rectangular soil feature in plan, measuring 2.4m x 1.7m which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill contained significant amounts of charcoal, a small quantity of bone (some of which was burnt) and small fragments of coal. Finds from the surface of the feature included Romano-British pottery of later third to fourth century date (Fabric Types; FT11B, FTR20 (jar), FT4 Bowl/dish), FT241, FT12A and FT5 (jar); appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed excavation of the feature, although it appeared to represent a pit and was recorded photographically.

9.1.7 Feature 80 ST 6041293922 Figure 19

Feature 80 (471) was a subcircular soil area in plan (0.50m x 0.70m) filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and was situated between Features 74-79. The fill appeared to contain a large proportion of articulated bone, although it was not possible to determine if the bone was animal or human. Prevailing site conditions prevented any detailed excavation of the feature, although it was recorded photographically. A single metal object was noted, possibly an iron nail. The feature was interpreted as a possible burial.

9.8 Feature 10 ST 6036893895 Figure 6

This feature (223) consisted of two irregular soil patches, both of which were approximately 3m x 1.5m in size, which were located 3m apart. A section excavated through one of the features showed a U shaped profile cut to a depth of 0.40m into the upper alluvium (110) and containing two fills (context 224 and 226). The upper fill (224) was c0.10m and consisted of a very dark grey clay loam which contained significant amounts of slag (c30%) ash, coal and reddish-brown to black mottled soil patches but no finds. The primary fill (226) consisted of a dark brown clay which contained very small quantities of slag but no finds. The profile of the cut was sketched but not drawn in detail. The feature contained no archaeologically significant material although it appeared to represent a pit.

10

ROMANO-BRITISH

AREA H (Areas 28,36,37,57; features 8,12,13, 35-39, 40-49,68,73, 82, 118 and 126) Figures 6 and 20

10.1

Feature 8 ST 6050193872 Figure 6

Feature 8 (160) was observed briefly as a rectangular area of dark brown soil, sealed by topsoil (105) and appeared to fill a cut into the top of the upper alluvium (110). The exposure measured 2.1m x 0.25m. Site conditions prevented any detailed examination of this feature and no diagnostic pottery sherds or other finds were recovered. The feature appeared to represent a structural feature, possibly a beam slot.

10.2

Feature 12 ST 6052093860 Figure 6

This feature (161) was an oval area in plan (1.20m x 0.70m) consisting of dark grey silty loam plan situated at the interface of the subsoil (105) and the upper alluvium (110) on the slope of a former hedge line. The feature contained a large quantity of burnt bone (not retained) and four sherds of Romano-British pottery (fabric type; FT11B). No detailed investigation of the feature was possible due to site conditions, although on the basis of its form it appeared to represent a posthole.

10.3

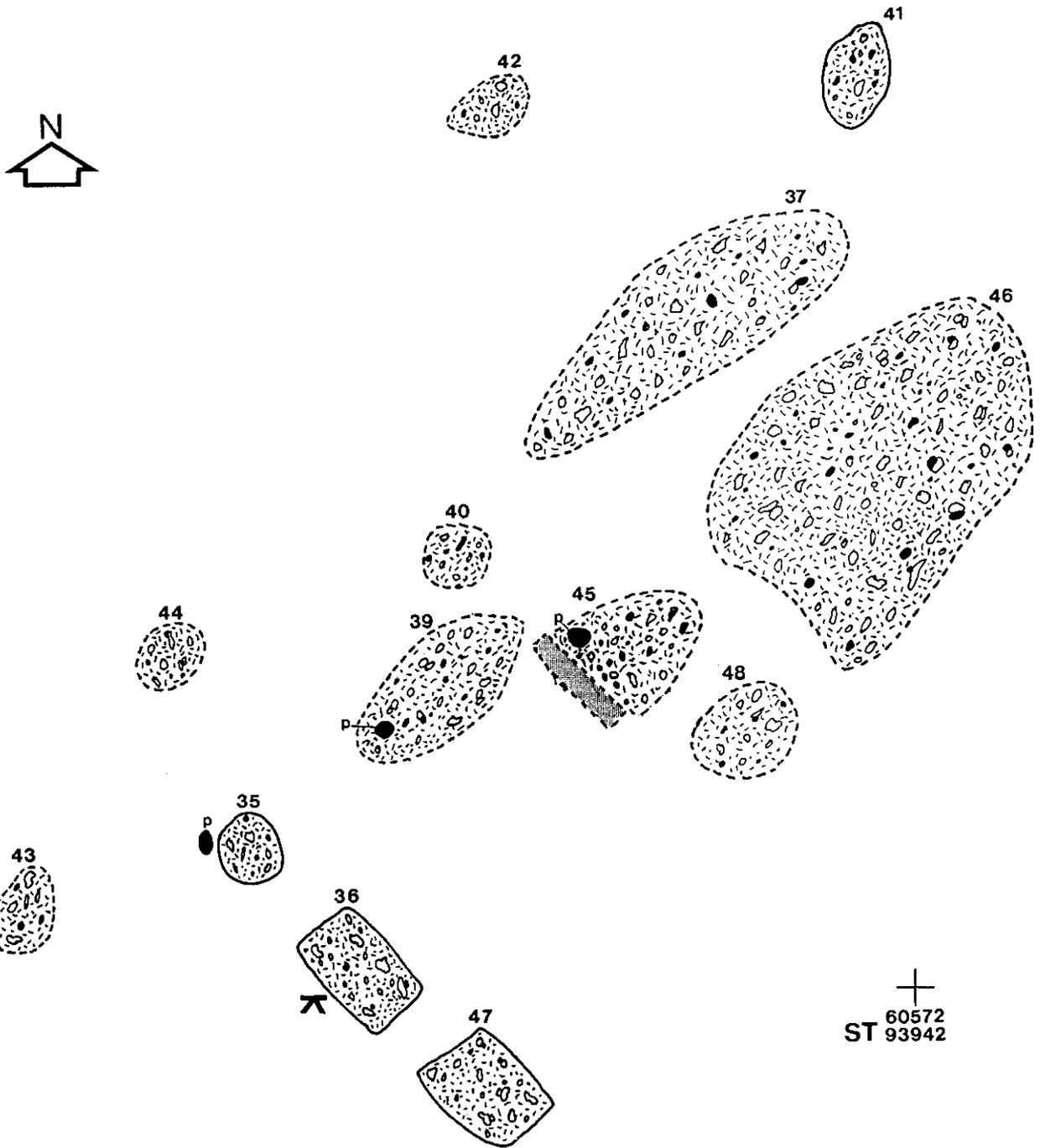
Feature 13 ST 6046993875 Figure 6

Feature 13 (280) was a section of a small linear wall (1.50m long), orientated east-west. The group of largest stones (0.45m x 0.25m) were within the subsoil (105). Although some Romano-British pottery was retrieved from the vicinity of the feature (fabric types; FT11B, FT5 and FT23), modern willow patterned pottery, tiles and clay pipes (not retained) were also retrieved. Further excavation in the vicinity exposed further remnants of the feature within the upper alluvium (110). It is possible the feature was Romano-British, although, due to the presence of modern and post medieval material, such a date remains tentative.

10.4

Features 35-48 (Figure 20) were observed during subsoil stripping. The intensity of machine activity in this area prevented any detailed investigation of features which were clearly significant and complex, as such their form and precise function could not be determined in any detail although, on the basis of the material evidence, the features may have been collectively associated with ironworking

Figure 20



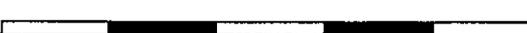
Features 35 - 48

 iron slag rich deposits

 beamslot

 padstone

 height 6.004m o.d

0  10m

ASMR 8332

10.4.1 Feature 35 ST 6055193946 Figure 20

Feature 35 (361) was one of a group of similar soil features. The feature was circular in plan filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measured 1.50m in diameter. The fill consisted of a dark grey loam which contained a concentration of slag (c30%) and a number of small burnt stones. Directly north-west of the feature, and possibly associated with it, was a large, flat heat affected stone measuring c30cm x 20cm. Site conditions prevented any detailed examination of the feature, but the high proportion of slag combined with the large number of heat affected stones suggested that the feature may have been associated with some type of industrial activity. No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from the feature.

10.4.2 Feature 36 ST 6055393942 Figure 20

Feature 36 (362) appeared to be associated with Feature 35 (10.4.1 above). The subrectangular (2.40m x 1.55m) soil feature was sealed by subsoil (105), filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and consisted of a dark loam containing a concentration of slag and a small number of heat affected stones. It is possible, given the concentration of slag and burnt stone, that the feature represented some type of industrial activity. Romano-British pottery sherds recovered were of Fabric Types: FT11B, FTR20, FTL, FT8, FT17, FT5, FT4, FT201. (appendix ii)

10.4.3 Feature 37 ST 6056493953 Figure 20

Feature 37 (363) was rectangular area (1.m x 2.0m) of dark loam filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110) which contained significant amounts of iron slag, a small number of heat affected stones and frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery (Fabric Types; FT020, FT010, FT8, FT4 and FT11B (tankard), appendix ii) which dated to the late fourth century A.D. A small quantity of post medieval ceramics were also noted on the surface of the feature but were not retained. Their presence suggested some modern contamination possibly due to ploughing. It was not possible on the basis of the evidence recorded, to determine the precise function of the feature.

10.4.4 Feature 38 ST 6055693948 Figure 20

Feature 38 (364) was a well defined subrectangular (2.35m x 0.26m) area of dark grey-brown soil, orientated north-south, filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The feature contained a number of Romano-British pottery sherds (fabric types FT5 (jar, bowl/ dish), FT12A (bowl/ dish), FT9X (jar), FT4 (bowl/ dish, jar), FT13, FT11B FT8 and FTR20; appendix ii) of fourth century date. Other finds

included small amounts of slag and coal. Located to the north of the feature was a rectangular and flat sandstone block (0.32m x 0.23m) which appeared to represent a postpad. The feature contained a number of well preserved Romano-British pots of the same type and fabric stacked inside of each other. Structurally the feature appeared to represent a beam slot.

10.4.5 Feature 39 ST 6055493949 Figure 20

Feature 39 (365) was a rectangular area (1.5m x 2.0m) of dark greyish-brown soil in plan, which contained small quantities of iron slag. It was sealed beneath subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the alluvium (110). Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the surface of the feature dating to the later third to fourth centuries A.D (fabric types FT8, FT9X, FTR20, FT5 (jar), FT4 (bowl/dish), FT11B (flagon/flask) and FT12A. appendix ii). To the north-west of this feature lay a large (0.34m x 0.27m) heat affected stone, similar to those adjacent to Feature 35 and Feature 38, which may have functioned as a postpad.

10.4.6 Feature 40 ST 6055793951 Figure 20

Feature 40 (366) was a roughly circular area (1.40m x 1.60m) of dark heat affected soil which contained quantities of iron slag and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the feature dating to be third and fourth century A.D and included Fabric Types: FT11B, FT4 (bowl/dish), FT5 (dish/bowl, jar), FT8 and FTR00 (jar) appendix ii.

10.4.7 Feature 41 ST 6056693951 Figure 20

Context (368) was a subcircular (1.5m x 2.5m) soil feature which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). It consisted of a very dark greyish-brown plastic clay and contained significant amounts of charcoal. Finds from the fill included large stones (sandstone and limestone up to 0.26m x 0.13m x 0.04m), which had been disturbed by machine activity, significant quantities of slag and frequent Romano-British pottery sherds dating to the later third and fourth centuries A.D (Fabric Types; FTR20, FT4 (dish/bowl), FT11B, FT5 (dish/bowl), and FT12A, appendix ii) Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature. It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature although it is possible, given the nature of the fill, that it represented a pit associated with some type of industrial activity.

10.4.8 Feature 42 ST 6055793956 Figure 20

Context (367) was identified as a subcircular soil feature in plan measuring 3m x 1.50 x c0.05m. It filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110), was sealed by subsoil (105) and consisted of a charcoal rich layer which contained within its matrix frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery. These proved to be of later third to fourth century A.D in date (Fabric Types; FT4 (dish/bowl, jar), FT8 (dish, cup), FT15 (jar), FT020, FTR20, FT9X (jar), FTR10 (jar), FT11B (jar, tankard), FT12A (dish/bowl) and FT5 (jar, dish/bowl); appendix ii). Other finds from the surface of the feature included fragments of stone, animal teeth and bone (some of which was burnt) and significant amounts of slag. One fragment of sandstone was also recovered which had been worked to form chamfered edges (SF 126; appendix i). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of this feature and it was not possible to determine its precise function although it appeared to represent a pit.

10.4.9 Feature 43 ST 6054693942 Figure 20

Soil feature 43 (369) measured 1.50m x c1.45m and was not recorded in any detail. It was similar in character to other features in the area. Pottery recovered from the surface of the feature dated to the later third to fourth centuries and included Fabric Types; FT4 (jar), FT11B (dish), FT12A, FT9X (jar) and FT5 (jar); appendix ii.

10.4.10 Feature 44 ST 6054893949 Figure 20

Site conditions dictated that only a rapid observation could be made of Feature 44 (370), an irregular shaped soil feature (c1.60m x 1.50m), which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and was located c0.65m south-west of Feature 39. The feature consisted of a dark, heat affected greyish-brown charcoal rich clay loam, containing small quantities of burnt bone slag and one sherd of patterned Samian ware, (fabric type FT8 appendix ii).

10.4.11 Feature 45 ST 6056093951 Figure 20

Rapid observation of Feature 45 (375) indicated that it was a circular (c1.70m diameter) feature which consisted of a dark greyish-brown charcoal rich soil containing small quantities of burnt bone and slag, Romano-British pottery retrieved from the surface dated to the fourth century A.D and included fabric types; FT11B (jar), FT4 (jar, dish/bowl), FT8 (dish), FT5 and FT12A (dish/bowl). Other finds included two fragments of a rod shaped whetstone (SF 88, appendix i; 1.6)

10.6 Feature 73 ST 6052893926 Figure 6

Feature 73 (472) was a disturbed soil feature which measured c5.80m x 1.3m in plan and formed an approximate rectangle. Sealed beneath subsoil (105) and cut into the upper alluvium (110), its fill (465) was observed to consist of a black charcoal rich soil containing bone (some of which was burnt), and several large, flat, heat affected sandstones blocks (c0.30m in diameter). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from the feature varied greatly in quality and included a mixture of coarse wares and stamped Samian ware (Photograph 17; c). The pottery assemblage dated to between the second to fourth centuries A.D and included Fabric Types; FT11B (tankard, jug, dish/bowl and jar), FT8 (cup), FT5 (jar), FT4 (jar), FT12A (bowl/dish), FT15A and FTR20; appendix ii. It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, although it may have represented a ditch.

10.7 Feature 49 ST 6052893928 Figure 6, Photograph 10a

Feature 49 (466) was located 1.60m west of Feature 73. It was a tapering linear charcoal rich soil feature, measuring 4.10m x 0.30m which filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Finds from the surface of the feature included fragments of bone (some of which had been burnt). A large flat sandstone block (0.30m x 0.40m) was located at the east end of the feature. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, although it appeared to represent a beam slot.

10.8 Feature 82 ST 6050593829 Figure 6

Context 450 was a subrectangular soil feature which measured 10m x 1.40m. It filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and was orientated north east, south west. The fill consisted of a dark brown-grey silty clay surrounded by a blue grey clay 0.10m in width (113). The feature was notable for an absence of both charcoal and burnt clay and may have represented the very base of a larger feature. Frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the surface of the fill which dated to the second century A.D (fabric types; FTR10, FT11V, FT5 (jar), FT201, FT11E, FT6, FT8(dish) FT6V. FT12A (jar), FT11B (tankard and jar), FT4 (jar, dish/bowl), FT00 (jar), FT23 (jar), FT15A, FT020 (beaker), FTR20 (lid), appendix ii) Site conditions prevented any further detailed examination of the feature.

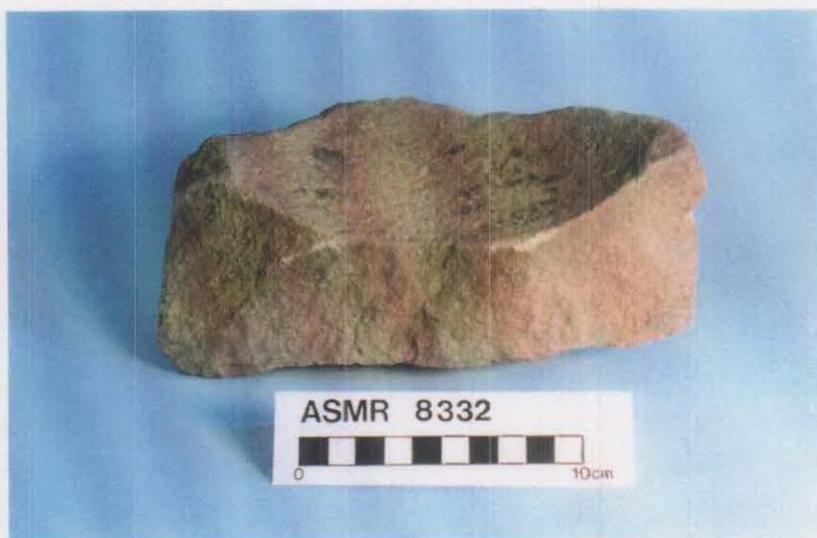
10.9 Feature 118 ST 60508939001 Figure 6

Feature 118 (501) was subrectangular in plan, (10m x

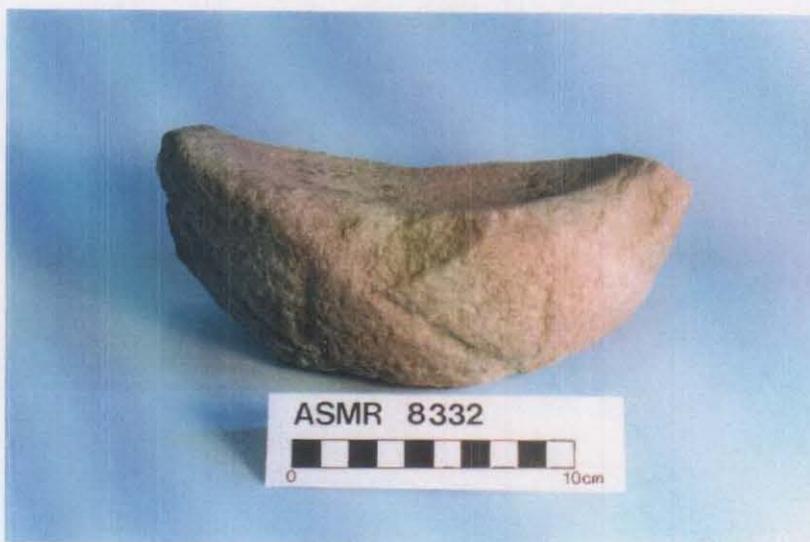
Photographs 8



Photographs 9



a



b



c

ASMR 8332

1.3m) and filled a cut into the lower alluvium (111). The fill (500) was a dark brownish-grey silty loam which contained frequent Romano-British pottery sherds of first to second century date (fabric types; FT11B (tankard and jar), FTR20, FTL, FT8, FT17 (jar), FT5, FT4 (bowl/dish) and FT201; appendix ii). A small amount of post medieval material was also observed (not retained) on the surface of the feature which appeared to be due to overspill from the site machinery. Other finds from context 500 included significant amounts of charcoal and burnt clay, small fragments of Pennant sandstone and bone. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature.

10.10 Feature 126 ST 6048493852 Figure 6, Photograph 10b

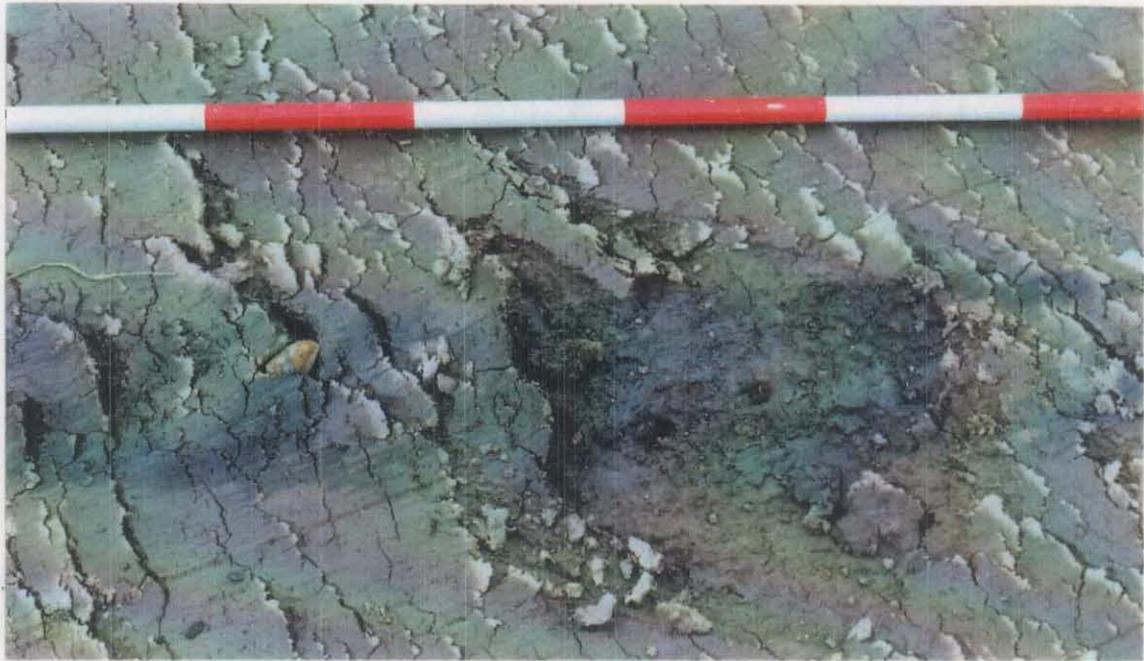
Feature 126 was a subrectangular (3.6m x 2.5m) soil feature in plan. It was sealed by the upper alluvium (110) and filled a cut into the lower alluvium (111). The profile of the feature, which was only rapidly observed as it was destroyed by site machinery, was shallow and U shaped containing a single fill (446). A group of very small stones 4cm in diameter were recorded at the South-West corner of the feature. Other finds from context 446 included a possible spindle whorl (SF 75, Photograph 8, number 1. Appendix 1.5), a significant quantity of animal bone and teeth, (some of which was burnt) and charcoal, which accounted for >5% of the fill and suggested that the feature may have been a domestic rubbish pit. Romano-British pottery from the fill proved to be of later first and second century A.D in date and included fabric types; FTR10 (jar), FT11V, FT5, FT201 (platter and jar), FT11E, FT6 (jar), FT6V (jar), FT12A and FT11B; appendix ii).

11 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA I (Areas 45,53,55 and 58; features 61-67, 69,72, 81,87,88,89 and 91 and 142) Figure 6

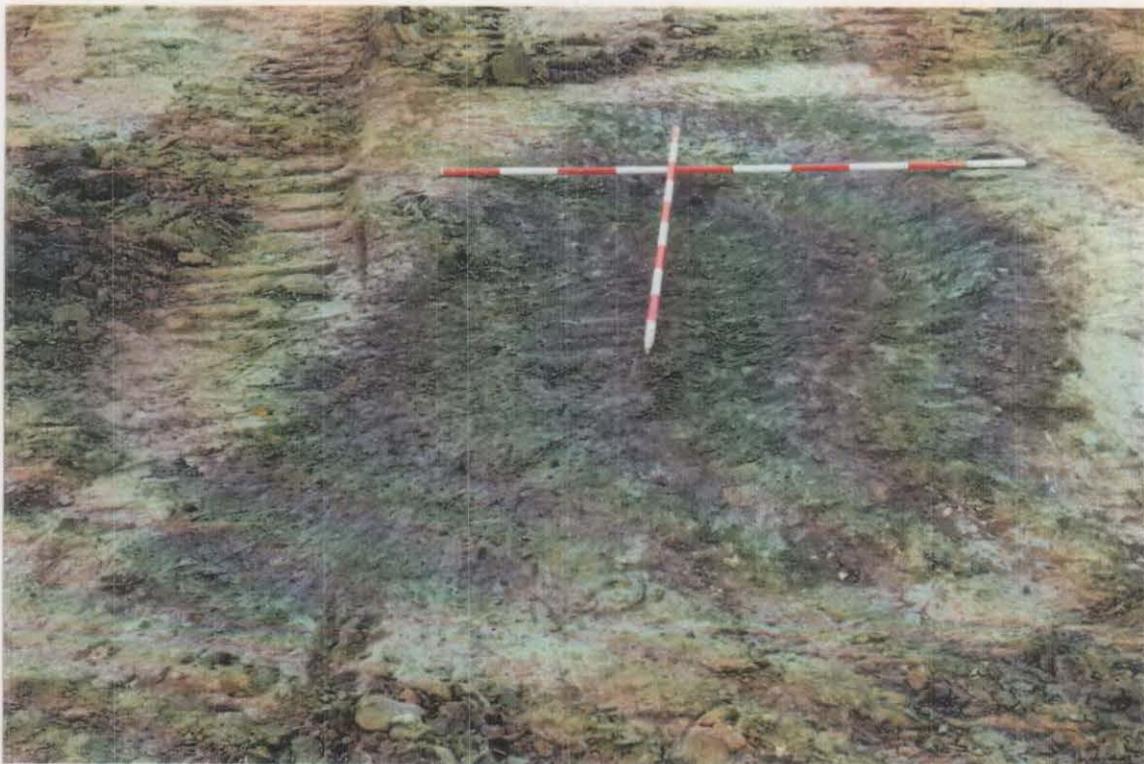
11.1 Feature 61 ST 6057090918 Figure 6

Feature 61 (415) was a linear soil feature which measured 7m x 3m. It filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110) and consisted of a dark greyish-brown loam containing significant amounts of charcoal, burnt clay and frequent burnt bone. Three large sandstone blocks approximately 0.15m square were located towards the centre of the feature although machine activity may have disturbed them. Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from this feature dated to the second century A.D and included fabric types; FT8 (dish/bowl), FT11B, FT5 (jar, tankard, bowl/dish), FT15A, FT6 (jar), FT4 and FT18; appendix ii. Other finds from within the vicinity of the feature included

Photographs 10



a



b

ASMR 8332

half a quernstone; SF 128, Photograph 9. It was not possible to determine the precise function of this feature on the basis of the evidence recorded.

11.2 Features 62-67 Figure 6

Features 62-67, formed a group of closely associated features and appeared to represent one phase of activity represented by three pits which were surrounded by three stakeholes or postholes

11.2.1 Feature 62 ST 6062493790 Figure 6

Rapid observation of Feature 62 (426) indicated the feature was subcircular in plan, cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measured 2.10m x 1.50m. Finds from the feature included Romano-British pottery sherds of fabric type FTR20, FT11A? and FT5. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent a pit.

11.2.2 Feature 63 ST 6062893791 Figure 6

This circular soil feature (427) was located 2.20m from Feature 62, was 0.60m in diameter and cut into the upper alluvium (110). The feature appeared to contain significant amounts of charcoal and finds recovered from it included Romano-British pottery sherds of fabric type FT5. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent a pit of indeterminate function.

11.2.3 Feature 64 ST 6062393794 Figure 6

Feature 64 (428) was located c0.60m from Feature 62. It was cut into the upper alluvium (110) and measured 1.70m x 0.60m. The fill appeared to consist of a charcoal rich soil from which sherds of Romano-British pottery was recovered (fabric types; FT12A (dish) (Photograph 17; a; 1), FT5 and FT4). Site conditions prevented any further detailed examination of this feature which appeared to represent a pit of indeterminate nature.

11.2.4 Feature 65 ST 6061993796 Figure 6

Feature 65 (429) was subcircular (0.50m x 0.30m) in plan and was cut into the upper alluvium (110). It was located 0.30m northwest of feature 64. No pottery sherds or other finds were retrieved from the charcoal rich fill. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature and it was not possible

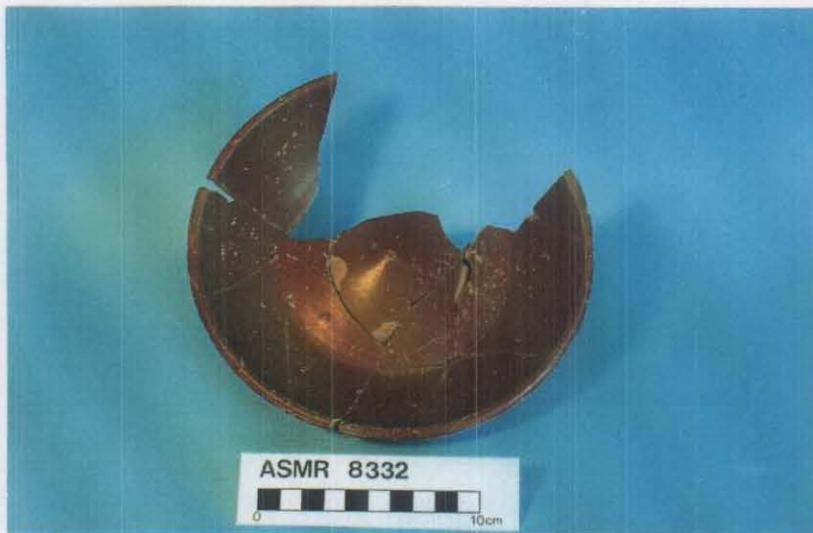
Photographs 17



a



b



c

ASMR 8332

to determine the precise function of the feature. It is possible, given its small size and rich fill, that it represented a posthole.

11.2.5 Feature 66 ST 6063393795 Figure 6

Feature 66 (429) was circular in plan and measured 0.13m in diameter. It was located 0.50m northeast of Feature 63. No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were recovered from within the layer, which was observed to consist of a very dark greyish-brown silty loam. Site conditions prevented any further investigation, however, given its form, the feature appeared to represent a stakehole.

11.2.6 Feature 67 ST 6062593784 Figure 6

Feature 67 (429) was observed to be a small (c0.26m diameter) circular soil feature in plan. It was located 2.10m southeast of Feature 62 and was cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill consisted of a very dark grey silty loam which contained a significant amount of charcoal. No diagnostic pottery sherds or finds were retrieved from the feature. Site conditions prevented any further detailed examination, but on the basis of its small size, the feature appeared to represent a posthole.

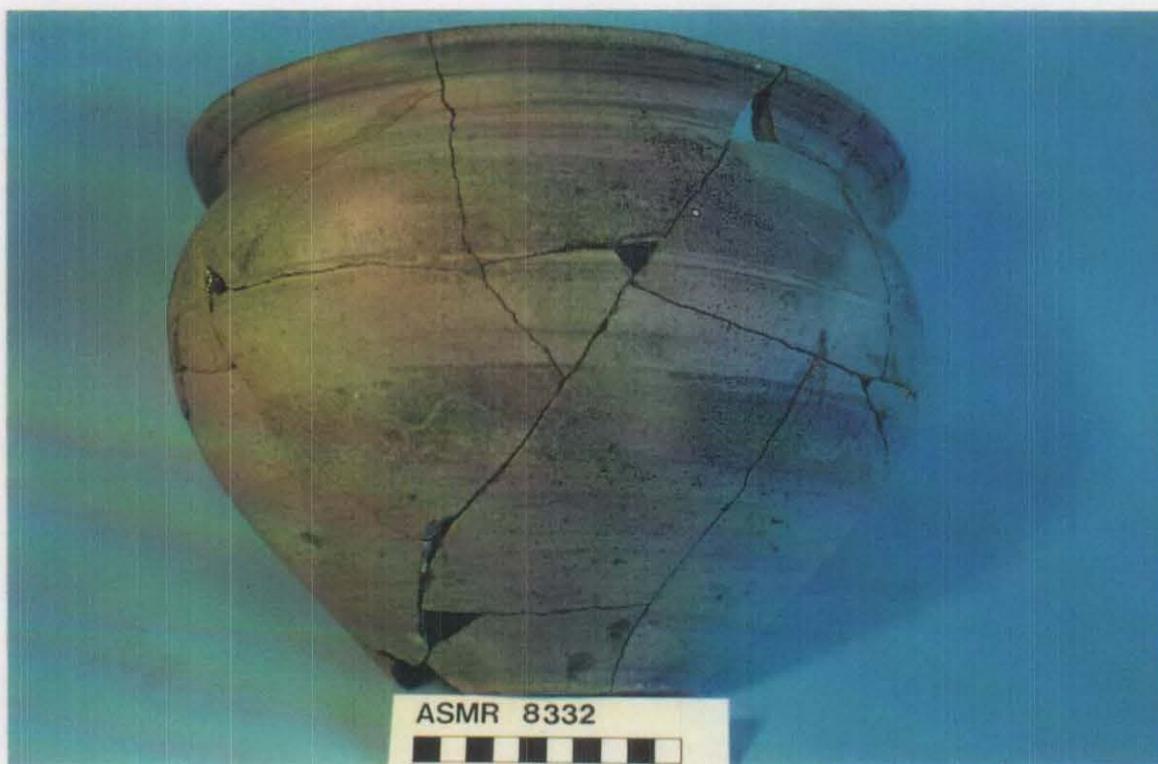
11.3 Feature 69 ST 6061593755 Figure 6

Feature 69 (436) was, in plan, a subrectangular (4.0m x 0.90m) soil feature orientated east-west, which filled a cut into the lower alluvium (111). The area surrounding the feature, a dark greyish brown clay, was much less compacted than that within the feature. Partial excavation of the feature showed that the feature consisted of two fills (435 and 437. Context 437 was a thin lens of charcoal (c0.02m thick) which contained no finds. Immediately above this was context 435 which consisted of a very dark greyish-brown clay which contained coarse components of small amounts of pennant stone and bone (some of which was burnt). Frequent Romano-British pottery, was recovered from this fill and has been dated to the second and third century (fabric types; FT11B (bowl/dish and a tankard Photograph 17; a 2), FT8 (bowl/dish), FT4 (jar), FTOO, FT15A, FT5 (jar), FTR20 and FT010; appendix ii). A large, rectangular sandstone /limestone (c0.30m x c0.15m) was located to the north of the feature. On the basis of its form, the feature was considered to represent a beam slot.

Photographs 11



a



b

ASMR 8332

Photographs 12



a



b

ASMR 8332

Photographs 13



a



b

ASMR 8332

11.4

Feature 72 ST 6056593910 Figure 6

Feature 72 (417) was an L shaped area of dark soil measuring 9m x 1.30m. It was sealed beneath subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill (416) consisted of a very dark, charcoal rich loam soil, containing significant amounts of burnt clay (?daub), fragmentary bone (some of which was burnt) and large stones of c0.20-0.30m in diameter, which although greatly disturbed by the movement of site machinery, were concentrated along the southern edge of the cut. Stones which were situated towards the centre of the feature appeared to have been heat affected. Charcoal which formed a straight edge along the northeast side of the feature was sampled for later analysis. A small linear feature of 7m long and 0.80m wide tapered off from the southern end of the L shaped feature to form an "arm". It consisted of a soil which was texturally identical to that of the main feature (416). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from Feature 72 included fabric types FT5 (jar, bowl/dish), FT11B (jar), FT15, FT4 (bowl/dish and jar), FT8 (cup, dish / bowl), FTR20 (jar), FT5V and FT15A; Photograph 11, Photograph 12a and Photograph 13b; appendix ii. Other finds from the feature included a single ceramic spindle whorl (SF 73, Photograph 8a, number 4. Appendix i; 1.5). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature, although on the basis of its form and fill, it appeared to represent a possible ditch.

11.5

Feature 81 ST 6054393800 Figure 6

Feature 81 (457) was a charcoal rich subrectangular soil feature filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Only partially uncovered by earth moving machinery the feature was exposed for an area of 3.7m x c 0.50m. To the north east of the feature two large blocks of ?limestone (>0.30m x 0.20m) were noted. A section (which was sketched but not drawn in detail), was excavated c0.50m west of the two blocks. It revealed three layers (contexts 459, 458, 451). Context 459 was a thin layer (0.01m) of brown firm clay containing beach washed pebbles and small fragments of bone. No finds were recovered from this layer. The secondary fill (458) consisted of a thick lens (0.06m) of dark silty sand which contained significant amounts of charcoal and ash but no finds. The primary fill (451) was a stratum of smaller sandstones (c0.10m x 0.06m x c0.4m) which were tightly packed (3-4 courses exposed) but had no deliberate bonding agent. Frequent Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from this layer (451) which dated to the late third century A.D (fabric types; FT5, FT11B (jar), FT4 (jar), FT15A and FT8,

appendix ii). On the basis of the evidence recorded it was not possible to determine the precise function of this feature, although the two large stone blocks may have represented postpads and the sandstone stones (451) possibly the remnants of a wall.

11.6 Feature 142 ST 6055793900 Figure 6, Photograph 14

Feature 142 (489) was a linear soil feature and formed a right angle in plan. The feature was orientated roughly east-west and measured 3.8m x 1.20m. In section the profile was broadly U shaped and was cut 0.15m into the lower alluvium (111). The single fill (490) consisted of a dark grey clay and contained fragments of machine shattered Romano-British pottery sherds which dated to between the second and fourth centuries A.D (Fabric Type; FT5 appendix ii). At the northern end of the feature were two large rectangular stones (0.30m x 0.10m), 2m apart. It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, although given its form, it appeared to represent the base of a ditch.

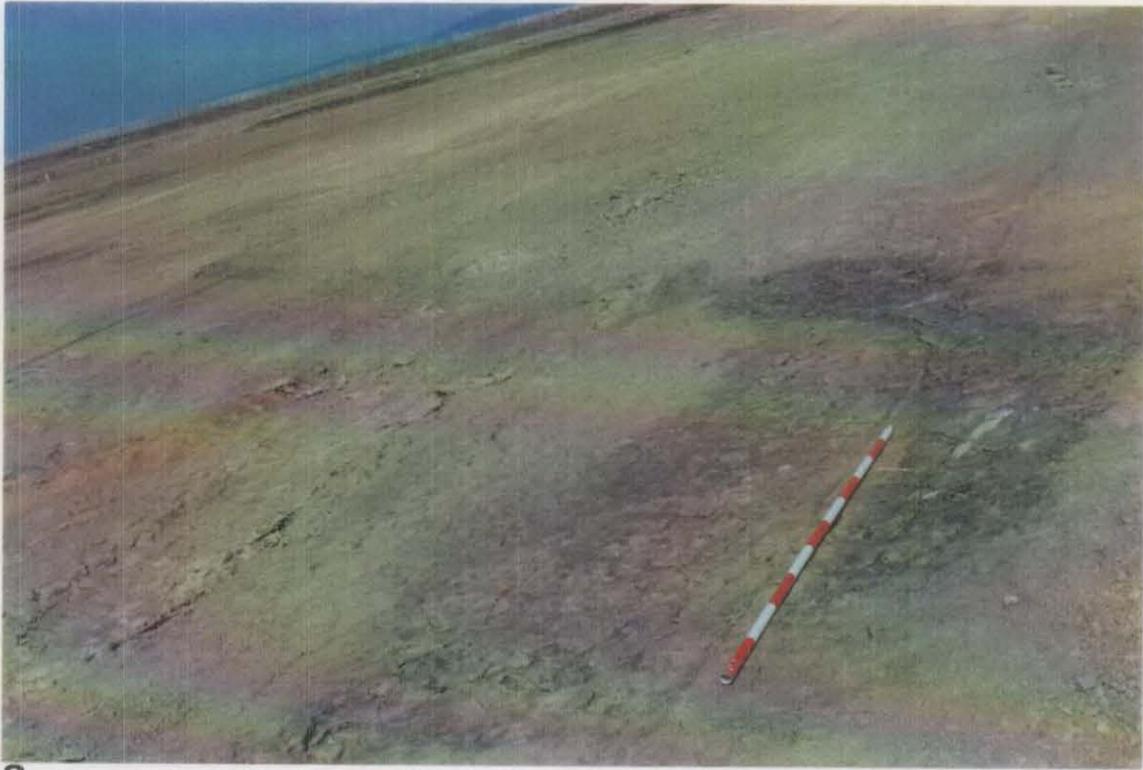
11.7 Feature 87 ST 6051993888 Figure 6

This feature (421) was difficult to delineate and was only distinguished as a dark soil area (c15m x c6m) containing significant amounts of charcoal. The feature was cut into the upper alluvium (110) and contained large flat stones, burnt clay and bone. Other finds included Romano-British pottery sherds which dated to the second century A.D appendix...The cut had an shallow, broad, U shaped profile and contained two fills (418 and 419). The primary fill (418) contained frequent charcoal and burnt clay. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered from this fill. The upper fill (419) consisted of a dark brown clay and contained frequent Romano-British pottery sherds (Fabric Types; FT18, FT201, FT11B (tankard), FT5 and FT2B); appendix ii. It was not possible to determine the precise extent or function of this feature.

11.8 Feature 88 ST 6058093808 Figure 6

Feature 88 (430) was a shallow (0.02m-0.03m) linear soil feature which measured 2m x 0.65m and was orientated north-south. The feature was sealed beneath the topsoil and consisted of a charcoal rich silty loam containing small traces of burnt clay (?daub). Finds from the feature included Romano-British pottery sherds (fabric type FT11B; appendix ii). Partial excavation suggested the feature was more extensive than originally observed, however, site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation. Samples

Photographs 14



a



b

were taken for environmental analysis. It was not possible to determine the overall extent or the precise function of the feature.

11.9 Feature 89 ST 6057693804 Figure 6

Feature 89 (431) was located c2m south of Feature 88 and was an intermittent linear soil area of charcoal similar to those of feature 88. Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from this feature included fabric types; FT4 (jar), FT5 and FT11B; appendix ii. Site conditions prevented any further investigation of the feature.

12 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA J (areas 50,51 and 52; features; 53,54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 70 and 71) Figure 6, Photographs 15a and b

12.1 Feature 53 ST 6065193917 Figure 6, Photograph 15a

Feature 53 (404) was a linear soil feature, orientated southwest to northeast, which was 8m long and 1.20m wide. In section (which was sketched but not drawn in detail) the profile was a deep, elongated U shape and contained a single fill (403). The feature was cut to a depth of 0.25m into the sandy marls (112). The fill (404) consisted of a dark grey friable clay containing infrequent charcoal flecks and small amounts of bone. Finds from the base of the feature included one complete but shattered Romano-British pot dated between the second and third centuries A.D. (Fabric types; FT11B (jar), FT4 (jar) and FT5, appendix ii). It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, although, given its form and stratigraphic position, it appeared to represent the base of a ditch.

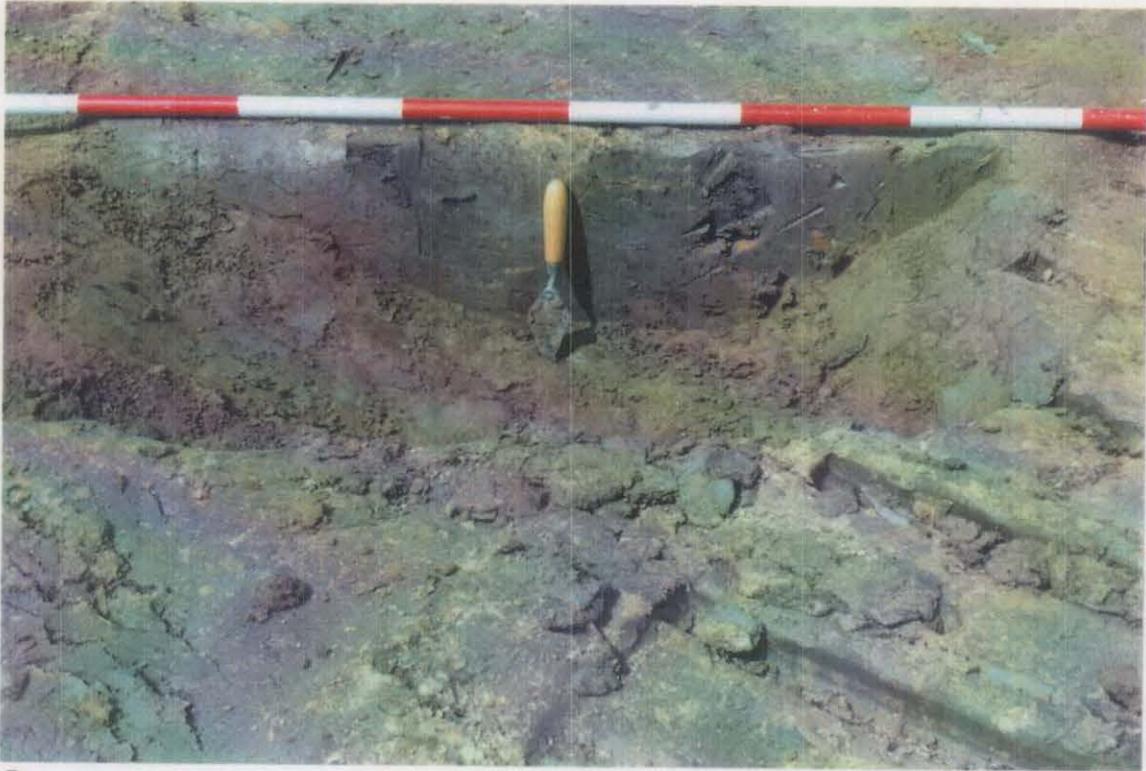
12.2 Feature 54 ST 6068093884 Figure 6, Photograph 15b

Feature 54 (424) was a linear soil feature orientated northeast to southwest which measured 19m x 0.70m. It filled a cut into the sandy Marls (112) to a depth of c0.25m. Site conditions allowed only a rapid survey of this feature to be carried out although a large flint flake (SF 10; appendix iv), presumably residual, was recovered from the base of the feature. It is not possible to determine the function of the feature, although given its form and stratigraphic position, it appeared to represent the base of a Romano-British ditch.

12.3 Feature 55 ST 6069393888 Figure 6

Feature 55 (401) was a chevron shaped soil feature in

Photographs 15



a



b

plan 4.90m long and 1.10m wide. Partial excavation indicated the feature had a V shaped profile which contained a single fill (406) consisting of a black charcoal rich (15-20%) soil. It was cut 0.25m into the "dirty" alluvium which contained sand and iron staining (111?). Coarse components of the fill included traces of burnt clay (?daub) and frequent sherds of Romano-British pottery (Fabric types; FT4, FT5 (jar), FT15 (beaker) and FT90 (mortaria), appendix ii). It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, although given its form, it is likely that it represented a ditch.

12.4 Feature 56 ST 6069793887 Figure 6

Feature 56 (407) was located c5m east of Feature 55. It was a circular soil feature in plan (1m in diameter), sealed beneath subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). The fill consisted of a very dark brown clay loam and contained significant amounts of charcoal (c20%). Other finds from the feature included large fragments of irregularly shaped Pennant sandstone (up to 5cm x 7cm x 2cm) and a small number of Romano-British pottery sherds (fabric types; FT11B and FT5, appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature although on the basis of the evidence recorded it appeared to represent a pit.

12.5 Feature 57 ST 6069393830 Figure 6

Feature 57 (408) was located c6m due south of Feature 55. It was a circular soil feature (c1.0m diameter), cut into the upper alluvium (110) consisting of a very dark brown clay loam which contained significant amounts of charcoal, small quantities of burnt bone and fragments of heat affected sandstone. Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from the base of the fill dated to the second and third centuries A.D (fabric types; FT8, FT4, FT15A and FT11B (tankard), appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature. It was not possible to determine the precise function of this feature although it was provisionally interpreted as representing a pit.

12.6 Feature 60 ST 6064993893 Figure 6

Feature 60 (410) was a rectangular (3.5m x 0.50m) layer of dark brown silty clay which contained significant amounts of charcoal and traces of burnt clay (?daub). It was sealed beneath the subsoil (105) and filled a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered from the feature as a whole dated between the second-fourth centuries A.D and included fabric types; FT12A, FT15, FT33, FT11B, FT5, FT4 and FT13; appendix ii. Other finds included a residual broken steep angled

retouched end scraper with evidence of heavy use; appendix iv. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent a pit.

12.7 Feature 70 ST 6069193892 Figure 6

Feature 70 (411) was a circular soil feature in plan c2.4m in diameter. It was cut into the upper alluvium (110) and a section excavated by earth moving machinery indicated a V shaped profile with steep sloping sides. The fill (411) contained common charcoal fragments and frequent Romano-British pottery sherds (Fabric Types; FT5 (jar), FT4 and FT11B; appendix ii). Other finds from the fill included small quantities of burnt bone. Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature which appeared to represent a pit.

12.8 Feature 71 ST 6069293889 Figure 6

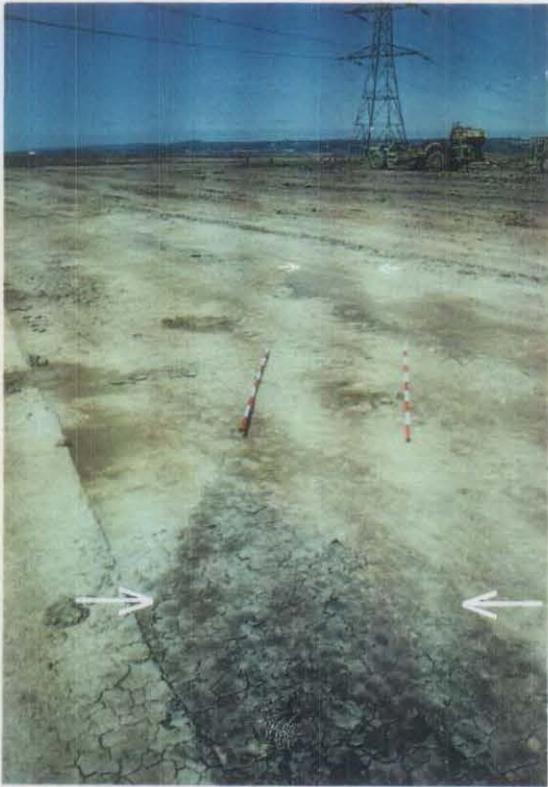
Feature 71 (413) was located c10m from Feature 70 and was briefly observed as an amorphous area of charcoal rich soil, covering an area of c2.5m x 0.50m, filling a cut into the upper alluvium (110). Finds from the feature included a small number of Romano-British pottery sherds (fabric type; FT5 (jar, bowl/dish); appendix ii) and small quantities of burnt clay. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature. It was not possible to determine the function of the feature.

13 ROMANO-BRITISH
AREA K (Areas 15,38 and 39; features 15,31,138,139,140 and 141) Figures 6 and 21

13.1 Feature 15 ST 6072293992 Figure 6, Photograph 16

This linear feature (341) was sealed by the upper alluvium (110) and was initially observed as an area of dark soil containing infrequent river washed pebbles. Further machine excavation exposed linear feature 341 which was cut into the lower alluvium (111). It (341) extended for an area of 48m x 1.0m (1.40m at its widest) and was orientated south east to north west. A section, cut at the northeastern end of the feature exposed a U shaped cut (Photograph 16, section 6) extending some 0.40m through the lower alluvium (111) and into the sandy Marls (112). A single fill (342) was recorded which consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty clay loam. Frequent Romano-British pottery sherds of fourth century date (fabric types; FTR20, FT11B, FT4, FT5 (jar) and FT12A; appendix ii) were retrieved from a few centimetres below the surface of the fill (342). Other finds included two flints (SF 89 and 90; a crude half scraper; Photograph 1A (a 2) and a flake; appendix iv)

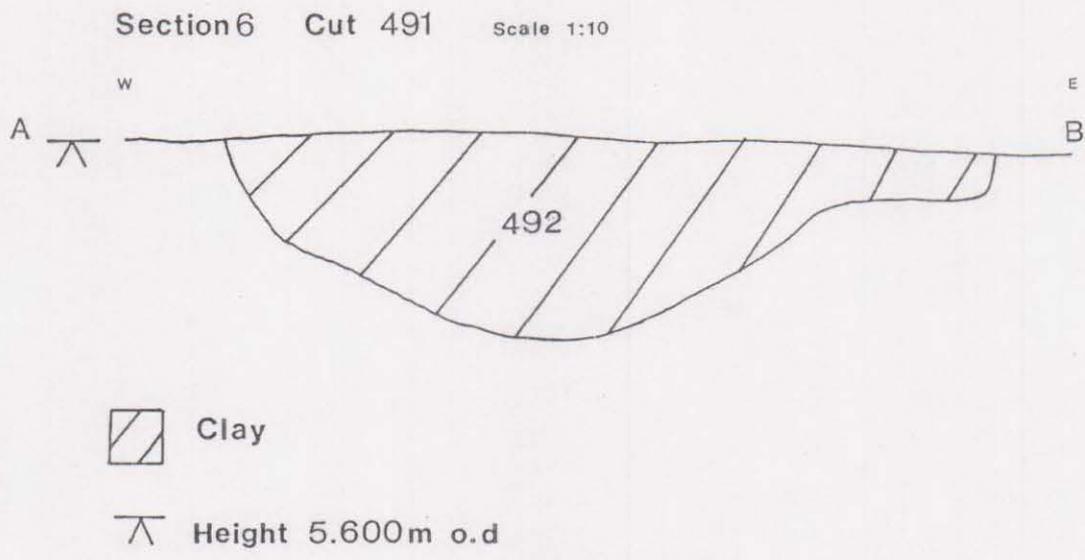
Photographs 16



a



b



which were recovered from the base of the fill at the interface of the sandy marls (112) and considered residual. The feature appeared to represent a substantial ditch although it was not possible to determine the stratigraphic horizon from which it was cut.

13.2 Feature 138 ST 6080693961 Figure 6

Feature 138 (184) was a linear soil feature in plan, 25m long and 0.50m wide (2m at its widest) which was orientated west-east. It was cut into the lower alluvium (111). The single fill (186) consisted of a dark grey clay (surviving to a depth of c0.08m) and contained no obvious coarse components. A small number of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the fill were (fabric type; FT11B (tankard); appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature and on the basis of the evidence recorded, it was not possible to determine its precise function, although given the shape and similarity to other such features on the site, it appeared to represent the base of a ditch.

13.3 Feature 139 ST 6072293973 Figure 6

Feature 139 (193) was an amorphous soil feature in plan (c1m x 2m and badly disturbed). It was sealed by a thin layer of upper alluvium (110) and was cut into the lower alluvium (111). The surviving fill of the feature (187) consisted of a brown silty clay loam containing a small proportion of charcoal, heat affected clay and fragments of stone. Romano-British recovered from the fill dated to the late second or third centuries A.D (fabric types; FT5 (jar, tankard), FT11B (tankard, dish), FT8 (cup) and FT4 (jar); appendix ii). Site conditions prevented any further detailed investigation of the feature.

13.4 Feature 140 ST 6082593932 Figure 6

Feature 140 (191) was identified as a linear soil feature, measured an exposed area of 20m x 8m and was roughly orientated east-west. It was cut into the lower alluvium (111) and contained a single fill. The fill (189) consisted of a dark brown sticky to firm clay loam which contained a significant amount of charcoal (c 10%) and a high proportion of slag (>10% which was located both within and around the feature). Romano-British pottery recovered from surface of the fill dated to the late third to fourth centuries A.D (fabric types; FT8, FT4 (bowl/dish, jar), FT5 (jar) and FT12; appendix ii). It was not possible to determine the precise function of the feature, on the basis of the evidence recorded, although it is possible that the feature represented the base of a ditch or of a very large pit.

13.5 Feature 141 ST 6083693926 Figure 6.

This linear soil feature (190) was located c10m northwest of Feature 140. It was 2m long and 1m wide and was orientated northeast to southwest cut into the lower alluvium (111). Only the upper fill (192) was observed which consisted of a dark brown clay loam containing significant amounts of charcoal and traces of heat affected clay. Other finds from the feature included a significant amount of slag. A small number of very badly abraded and fragmentary sherds of Romano-British pottery were observed but not retained. Site conditions prevented any detailed investigation of the feature, although on the basis of its form it appeared to represent the base of a ditch

14 DISCUSSION

14.1 PREHISTORIC EVIDENCE

The evidence for prehistoric activity on the site and its dating is based on the flint assemblage and the depth of the stratigraphic horizon at which both they, and associated soil features, occurred. The archaeological evidence was located at the base of the lower alluvium (111) within a horizon of weathered and sandy marls (112) which appeared to reflect human activity which was confined to an exposure of natural Marl. The range of evidence included structural and environmental data which provided suitable material for carbon 14 dating. On the basis of the evidence recorded on the site, albeit under less than satisfactory conditions, the evidence of prehistoric activity can be outlined broadly as follows:

14.1.1 POSTHOLES AND STAKEHOLES

In general the postholes and stakeholes identified across the prehistoric horizon varied in diameter between 0.05 cm to 1m x 0.40m. Most were circular and relatively shallow features (less than 0.15m deep) and they invariably had a smooth U shaped profile. The features were, in general, confined to discreet and apparently associated groupings and although it was not possible to interpret specific structural groups it is considered likely that a number of them do reflect evidence of timber structures. For example Feature 98 (Figure 11, section 5.6.1.1) and an associated group of soil features appear, collectively, to represent a timber structure formed of a series of postholes and stakeholes in association with the remains of a hearth.

14.1.2 PITS

Further evidence of prehistoric activity on the site was indicated by a number of pits, which occurred either singly or in groups (Features 14a-14h, 5.5.4 above). Most of the pits contained cultural debris although in general this was confined to stratified flints and possible stone tools (ie a stone cobble from Feature 128; (SF 125), Photograph 3). The frequent occurrence of burnt material within the pits suggested that some may have represented hearths. However, archaeological investigation rarely recorded any trace of burning on the sides of the pits. It is more likely that the carbonised material was in general a secondary deposit derived from adjacent activity and that the pits may have functioned as storage pits, perhaps for cereals or other foodstuffs.

A number of the shallower pits contained stratified fills including sand, laminated ash and charcoal (5.5.4.1 and 5.6.1.1 above). These features did appear to represent hearths which, far from temporary, appeared to have accumulated significant deposits perhaps over a considerable period of time.

14.1.3

A small number of soil features appeared to reflect structural timbers which had been burnt and preserved in situ. Feature 7 (section 5.5.3 above) contained the carbonised remains of two overlapping timbers which appeared to have been squared and supported by a number of wooden stakes and which confined the extent of a stratified remnant of an area of occupation soil, possibly a hearth. The feature was tentatively interpreted to represent the remains of a timber structure, possibly part of a dwelling, although other alternative explanations, for example that it may represent elements of a wooden trackway, are clearly also possible.

14.1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Results from the environmental analysis of soil and other samples which were collected may shed more light on the nature of the activity at Oldbury during the prehistoric period. Although the samples are selective and cannot be considered representative of the range of prehistoric features, they may provide broad indications as to the nature of the prehistoric activity on the site and the local environment.

14.1.5 RADIOCARBON DATES

Samples of carbonised material were taken from selected, possibly prehistoric, features for radiocarbon dating (Feature 98, section 5.6.1.1 and Feature 7, section 5.5.3 above). The samples were

taken in order to confirm tentative dating of the typological evidence for activity on the site, which was considered to be of Neolithic or early Bronze Age in date. Dating evidence from the samples was not available at the time of publication, although the results will be incorporated subsequently in the site archive (ASMR 8332).

14.1.6 FINDS

The prehistoric activity at Oldbury was characterised by a stratified flint assemblage which was recovered from the site (appendix iv). The assemblage included tools such as scrapers, knives and blades which were generally recovered from within or in close proximity to potential structural features. These may have had a variety of domestic, agricultural and hunting uses (for example scrapers are, traditionally, considered to have been used in the preparation of animal skins and pelts). The relative distribution of flint tools across the prehistoric horizon appeared to correlate with structural evidence in the three focal areas (prehistoric areas A, B and C). Evidence from flint cores (SF 124, Photograph 1D (a 2) recovered, suggests that the inhabitants were making tools on the site. The nearest source of flint in any quantity is northeast Wiltshire, although it is possible that some may have been obtained from the shores of the estuary. Evidence of possible agricultural activity is indicated by the presence of a worked cobble (SF 125, Photograph 3) which may have been used in conjunction with a quern. Fishing is likely to have formed one of the activities on the site. Whilst no direct evidence for this was recorded, the area of the estuary was well known for its rich fishing, particularly salmon, until recent times. No prehistoric pottery was recovered on the site

14.1.7 SUMMARY

It is only possible to draw broad, tentative conclusions from the prehistoric evidence recorded concerning the form and range of activities which were undertaken at Oldbury. The range and quantity of soil features appeared to indicate that a number of timber structures were built on the site, although their precise form was not clear. These features, in conjunction with possible hearths, pits and a variety of stakeholes and other soil deposits suggest the activity represented reflects a period, possibly incorporating several phases, of occupation, on the site which is likely to have exploited the varied food and other resources of the estuary. Beyond its site specific significance the evidence from Oldbury has highlighted the possibility that further rich evidence of prehistoric activity, rare in the County, is likely to be similarly preserved elsewhere in the Severn Estuary levels.

The material assemblage recovered from Oldbury, principally pottery, indicated that the site had substantial Romano-British occupation during the second and fourth centuries A.D and may have had some minor earlier Romano-British occupation. The evidence suggests that the settlement was primarily domestic and of moderate economic status, -- abandoned sometime during the fourth century. The structural evidence on the site was varied and extensive (below) and included the probable remains of timber buildings (in the form of postholes and beam slots) and numerous ancillary features such as pits, ditches, stakeholes and human burials.

14.2.1 STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

The distribution of structural features and Romano-British finds on the site appeared to indicate eight focal areas of activity which, on the basis of the pottery recovered from each area, appeared to represent broadly contemporary occupation sites.

- 14.2.1.1 In the northwest of the site (Romano-British Area D) lay a concentration of pits, postholes and a single curved ditch which formed a small, discreet and associated group. Although it was not possible to interpret a specific structure, it was considered that they reflected evidence of timber structures. Immediately adjacent and to the east of these features were the remnants of a small wall which may have formed a boundary to the cemetery located at short distance away (c2m). The proximity of the possible timber structures to the cemetery and the abraded nature of the pottery recovered indicating that this area may have been sited at the periphery of a settlement. Alternatively it may be significant that of the 113 Romano-British pottery sherds collected from Area D, 40 were examples of earlier pottery types (FT30 and FT33; appendix ii) dating to the first century A.D. and may indicate an earlier phase of Romano-British activity.
- 14.2.1.2 Area E appeared to represent the location of a series of boundary ditches which may have separated the focus of Romano-British occupation occurring to the south of the site from the cemetery in the north.
- 14.2.1.3 The evidence from Area F included, along with various indeterminate features, ditches, pits and also some evidence (Feature 84, section 8.7 to 8.7.5 above) of domestic metal working activity.
- 14.2.1.4 Area G comprised a number of rubbish pits, a wall, a beam slot and a possible burial.

14.2.1.5 Romano-British Area H seemed to have a concentration of ironworking residues, and included elements of structures such as postholes, beam slots, postpads and associated pits.

14.2.1.6 Elements of structural features were also apparent in Area I and included a number of stakeholes, postholes, postpads, beam slots, walls, ditches and rubbish pits.

14.2.1.7 Areas J and K appeared to represent the location of a number of pits and ditches.

14.3 The evidence for timber structures was substantial and inferred from the large number of postholes and other structural elements which occurred across the Romano-British focal areas of the site. These features may collectively represent a series of contemporary timber farmsteads.

14.4 DITCHES

In general the ditches identified across the area of Romano-British occupation varied in size between 2m and 48m in length and 0.50m-1.3m in width. The features mainly occurred as closely associated groups in areas where other occupation evidence was scarce. Most of the ditches had a U shaped profile (however, some were V shaped; Feature 55 above). Stratigraphically some of these features were sealed below a thin layer of upper alluvium (110) and cut into the interface of the lower alluvium (111) and the sandy marls (112). The depth of the few ditches investigated in detail ranged between 0.25m and 0.40m below the modern surface. There did not appear to be, an exact preferential orientation to the ditches, although the majority were orientated east-west, located at right angles to the estuary. Some ditches were orientated north-south. The piecemeal method of the salvage programme meant that the chronology of the ditches presented a problem. That the ditches were recut, an obvious measure when considering their probable term of use, was evident only from the mixed dates of the pottery assemblages, which were frequently scarce and abraded, salvaged from the often badly disturbed features. It was not possible to determine with any certainty the function of the ditches although it is likely that they not only served as drainage ditches but also formed boundaries within the overall area of occupation.

14.5 CEMETERY

The presence of a cemetery, possibly with a boundary wall, situated to the north of the site may suggest that this part of the site was located at

periphery of the settlement. The cemetery contained at least six graves in situ, although only one was fully excavated and recorded. Although the grave was orientated east-west (head to the east) and contained no associated grave goods, the assumption that it was a Christian burial must be treated with care, as Rahtz and Watts (1979) have emphasised, seldom is it possible to prove such a conclusion.

14.6 PITS

Other evidence for Romano-British activity at Oldbury is represented by the large number of pits which were recorded across the site. The precise function of the pits, which varied in size and shape, could not be determined, but were no doubt diverse. It is possible the pits were initially dug for timber structures or to obtain clay for building purposes and were subsequently utilised as makeshift rubbish pits, for storage or simply infilled.

14.7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Results from environmental analysis of soil and other samples collected will further highlight the nature of the activity at Oldbury during the Romano-British period. It must be underlined that the samples were selective and cannot be considered representative of the range of Romano-British features present. They may, however, provide a broad indication of the nature of Romano-British activity on site and the local environment.

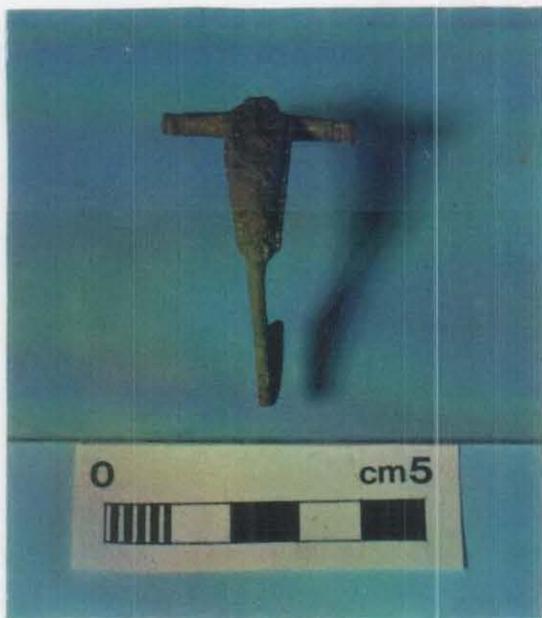
14.8 FINDS

Some insight into the economy of the Romano-British settlement, may be gained from the artefacts which were recovered from the site.

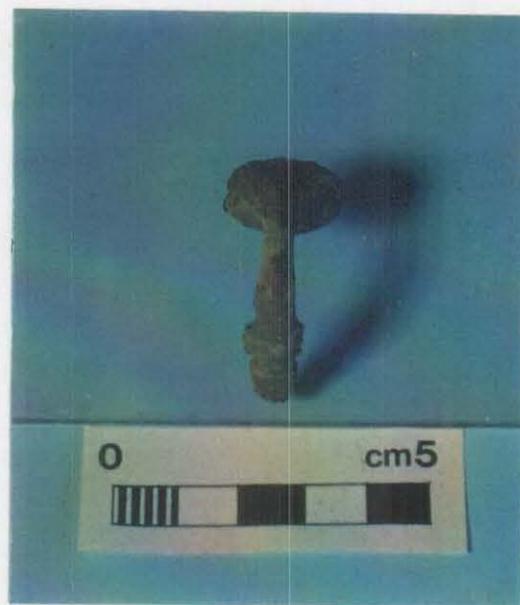
14.8.1 That the Romano-British occupants at Oldbury were able to obtain manufactured goods is apparent from the quantity and differing quality of the pottery types represented (Photographs 11-13 and 17). The presence of such diverse pottery, in which Samian, a prestige item is relatively well represented, along with standard domestic items such as cooking vessels, flagons, jars bowls, mugs and dishes (Photographs 11-13 and 17); appendix ii) and the presence of other objects such as brooches (SF 9; Photograph 18 a, SF 10; Photograph 18 b, SF 6; Photographs 18 c) and coins (SF 1, 2,4 and 5) implies that the site was linked to a wider trading network. The close proximity of the site to the River Severn, undoubtedly provided an ideal corridor for the transport and distribution of such goods.

14.8.2 It is possible that sheep or goat rearing represented one element of agricultural activity carried out by

Photographs 18



a



b



c

the occupants. This appears to be supported by the bone assemblage recovered from the site, which although not representative of the whole, certainly attested the presence of sheep or goat from within Romano-British contexts, and by the recovery of spindle whorls: SF 73; Photographs 8 (4), SF 74; Photographs 8 (2), SF 75; Photographs 8 (1), SF 76; Photographs 8 (3) from the site.

14.8.3 Given the close proximity of the Severn (with its abundant game including salmon), it may be assumed that fish and game were also significant resources of the Romano-British occupants. Despite the lack of direct evidence, apart from the presence of lead ?fishing weights, it seems unlikely that the Romano-British occupants were not exploiting such readily available resources.

14.8.4 The presence of various small scale domestic industries on site may be inferred from the recovery of whetstones (of fine micaceous sandstone) and iron slag residues. Evidence for domestic iron smelting may be deduced from Area H (Features 35-48; section 10.4.1 to 10.4.14 above) where large burnt horizons contained significant quantities of charcoal, slag and flat Pennant slabs. Feature 84 (section 8.7 to 8.75 above) possibly represented the remains of an oven or furnace and was orientated north east to make use of prevailing winds. Whilst cereal farming may only be inferred from the presence of quernstones (SF 128, Photograph 9) although environmental analysis may provide further supporting evidence.

14.9 SUMMARY

From the evidence recorded it is only possible to draw broad conclusions concerning the form and types of the Romano-British activity undertaken at Oldbury. The range and quantity of soil features which included rectangular beam slots, deep ditches, numerous postholes and pits appeared to indicate a number of substantial timber structures were built on the site, although the precise form that they took was unclear. Evidence of domestic metalworking, sheep/goat rearing along with evidence from the pottery assemblage and the presence of coins and brooches appears to indicate a relatively settled and stable, if small, Romano-British community and less likely to reflect a seasonal or temporary occupation. A suggestion further supported by the burial and ?cemetery on the site. Evidence from Oldbury and other recent sites in the Avonmouth Levels (Young 1992) is gradually indicating that the area of the Severn levels was probably more intensively settled during the Romano-British period than had previously been thought.

1 APPENDIX I: FINDS REPORT

1.1 FINDS REPORT BY SARAH NEWNS B.A

METALWORK : Fe

SF number

- 20 (248); Area 28. Nail with a rectangular-sectioned shank and a rounded rectangular head.
- 36 (188); Area 15. Possible pin resembling a bent nail. 105mm long, with a rounded head and possibly a square-sectioned shank.
- 37 (335); Area 47. Possibly modern nail, 98mm long, rounded in section.
- 38 (250); Area 30. Nail with a rectangular-sectioned shank and a rectangular head. 114mm long.
- 39 (250); Area 30. Nail with a rectangular-sectioned shank and an oval head. Tip broken off.
- 40 (320); Area 43. Nail with a rectangular-sectioned shank and an oval head. 130mm long.
- 41 (320); Area 43. Nail 55mm long.
- 42 (320); Area 43. Fragment of a corroded circular object, possibly the head of a pin.
- 43 Unstratified. Nail with a rectangular-sectioned shank and a subrectangular head. 95mm long and curved.
- 70 (119); Area 2. Five fragments of barbed wire.
- 45 (119); Area 2. Clenched nail with the head broken off.
- 46 (119); Area 2. Nail 105mm long.
- 47 (119); Area 2. Nail with shaft broken. 60mm long.
- 50 (365); Area 28. Feature 39. Curved nail or possibly part of a ring. 75mm long.
- 51 U/S; Area 28. Two very corroded Fe fragments.

- 53 Unstratified. Cast-iron sash weight.
Two pieces.
- 58 U/S; Area 28. Piece of metal plate, 78mm
x 37mm.
- 59 (367); Area 28. Feature 42. Two fragments
25mm x 13mm; 12mm x 25mm.
- 60 U/S; Area 28. Horse-shoe.
- 61 (135); Area 5. Two horse-shoe fragments.
- 62 (135); Area 5. Large bolt (?modern, ?from
machinery).
- 63 (248); Area 28. Large bolt (?modern, ?from
machinery).
- 64 U/S; Area 28. Machine part? Rectangular
cover, 120mm x 90mm.
- 67 (420); Area 54. Eye-hole and shank? May be
part of fence/machinery etc. 45mm diameter.
- 68 Unstratified. Scissors, probably modern.

1.2

METALWORK; LEAD

SF number

- 4 (306); Area 40/28. Lead stopper/ bung from
top of ?flask. 20mm diameter. Probably
Romano-British.
- 7 Area 57. Fragment of Romano-British ?brooch.
- 11 (250); Area 30. ?Romano-British fishing
weight / Slingshot. 40mm long, 15mm x 10mm
on cross-section (oval).Cylindrical in form.
- 12 U/S; Area 28. Part of a ?Romano-British
fishing weight/ slingshot 35mm long. 7mm x
8mm profile.
- 13 Unstratified. ?Romano-British fishing
weight/ slingshot. 30mm long. 10mm x 14mm
in section. Cylindrical in form. Hollow in
the centre.
- 14 Unstratified. Fragment of ?Romano-British
fishing weight/ slingshot.30mm long. 10mm x
15mm in section. Incorporates another
material in the centre.

- 19 U/S; Area 55. Semi-circular part of
?stopper. 25mm radius. Grooved circumference
- 22 (248); Area 28. Strip 50mm long 25mm wide,
folded over longitudinally. Clamp marks
suggest it formed some sort of edging.
- 23 (248); Area 28. Strip 80mm long and 5mm wide
- 25 Unstratified. Piece of folded scrap lead
25mm x 25mm x 7mm.
- 26 Unstratified. Semi-circular flat piece of
lead. 47mm diameter with a hole in the
centre.
- 27 U/S; Area 28. Five small waste fragments
(nodules), possibly heat affected.
- 28 U/S; Area 28. Two waste fragments of
worked lead.
- 29 U/S; Area 28. Semi-circular flattened
disk 34mm diameter.
- 30 U/S; Area 28. Rod, with square section,
bent into an S shape ?part of a hook.
- 31 U/S; Area 28. Ten miscellaneous waste
fragments.
- 32 U/S; Area 28. Lead strip 35mm long x 5mm
wide. Rectangular in section.
- 33 U/S; Area 28. Fragment of plate 55mm x
27mm. Curved.
- 35 U/S; Area 28. Two waste fragments, one of
which was folded.
- 44 (119); Area 2. Plate fragment, ?part of
circular piece of flattened lead. 37mm x
23mm.
- 54 Unstratified. possible lead forgery of a
coin.
- 55 Unstratified. Possible seal or waste from
the bottom of a crucible. 30mm x 25mm.
- 56 U/S; Area 55. Cylindrical piece of solid
lead, with a hole pierced at one end. 85mm
long and 18mm diameter.
- 57 Unstratified. Two waste fragments.
- 65 U/S; Area 60. Oval plate (fragment) with

embossed decoration around the edge and
?slag adhering. 60mm x 35mm.

1.3 METALWORK; OTHER METAL

SF number

- 34 U/S; Area 28. One pair of German silver cuff-links. Impressed decoration.
- 71 U/S; Area 60. Possible Romano-British coin. Unidentified metal. 19mm diameter.

1.4 OTHER MATERIALS

- 52 Unstratified. Clay pipe. Part of stem.

1.5 SPINDLE WHORLS

SF number

- 73 (416); Area 53, Feature 72. Spindle whorl of Severn Valley Ware pottery. 38mm diameter. Central hole 12mm diameter. (Photograph 8, number 4)
- 74 (270); Area 34. Spindle whorl of Severn Valley Ware pottery. 62mm diameter. Central hole 9mm diameter. (Photograph 8, number 2)
- 75 (446); Area 34, Feature 126. Possible spindle whorl (frag). 105mm diameter. Central hole 13mm diameter. (Photograph 8, number 1)
- 76 (115); Area 1. Spindle whorl of sandstone. 38mm diameter. Central hole 5mm diameter. (Photograph 8, number 3)

1.6 WHETSTONES

SF number

- 77 (225); Area 25. Rod shaped whetstone. Both ends broken. 140mm x 23mm x 23mm. Micaceous schist.
- 78 (170); Area 12. Rod shaped whetstone. Both ends broken. 120mm x 21mm x 21mm. Micaceous schist.
- 79 (120); Area 2, Feature 2. Rod shaped

whetstone. One end broken. 80mm x 14mm x 12mm. Micaceous sandstone.

80 (307); Area 40, Feature 83. Rod shaped whetstone (frag). 32mm x 22mm x 16mm Micaceous sandstone.

81 (335); Area 47. Bar/rod shaped end frag of whetstone. 46mm x 35mm x 13mm. Micaceous sandstone.

82 (185); Area 15. Possible whetstone? One end broken. 95mm x 42mm x 9mm. Micaceous sandstone.

83 (507); Area 48, Feature 122. Bar/rod shaped ?whetstone. 92mm x 25mm x 9mm. Micaceous sandstone.

84 U/S; Area 27. Possible whetstone? One end broken (2 frags). 63mm x 24mm x 11mm. Mudstone.

88 (375); Area 28, Feature 45. Whetstone in two fragments. Rod shaped. 102mm x 14mm x 28mm Fine grained micaceous sandstone.

1.7

WORKED STONE

SF number

85 (238); Area 2, Feature 22. Possible stone used for polishing/ burnishing. Pebble 63mm x 60mm x 30mm. (unworked). Showing area of polishing on two larger sides. ?Rubber stone.

86 U/S; Area 28. Worked stone fragment. One side flattened with signc of polishing Possibly heat affected. 125mm x 80mm x 48mm ?Grinding/ rubber stone. Medium grained micaceous sandstone.

87 (364); Area 38. Worked stone fragment. Possible edge of ?quern. One side gently curving 95mm x 27mm x 31mm. At least two worked facets. Medium grained micaceous sandstone.

125 (423); Area 54, Feature 128. Worked stone cobble. 105mm x 52mm x 55mm. Medium grained micaceous sandstone. Possibly hammerstone, or quernstone.

- 126 (367); Area 28, Feature 42. Worked stone with chamfered edges. 130mm x 110mm x 30mm.
- 128 (415); Area 53, Feature 61. Worked stone. Broken. 210mm x 110mm x 80mm. ?Half a quern with incised decoration at edge.

1.8

METALWORK; Cu ALLOY

SF number

- 1 U/S; Coin (to be assessed)
- 2 U/S; Coin (to be assessed)
- 3 U/S; Coin (to be assessed)
- 5 U/S; Coin (to be assessed)
- 6 U/S; Area 57 Brooch (to be assessed)
- 8 U/S; Area 57 Brooch frag. (to be assessed)
- 9 U/S; Area 55 Brooch (to be assessed)
- 10 U/S; Area 28 Brooch (to be assessed)
- " Photograph 18
- 15 Unstratified. ?Button 17mm in diameter. Possibly plated with another metal.
- 16 U/S; Area 28. Edging with rivet. 135mm long 5mm wide. Rivet 17mm long.
- 17 U/S; Area 2. ?Part of (paraffin) lamp. 60mm long with decorative edging.
- 18 U/S; Area 2 ?Brass ?engine part. 48mm diameter.
- 21 (248); Area 28. Rectangular/ square sectioned shank; flattened rectangular head ?plated with another metal.
- 24 Unstratified. Buckle. Rectangular 35mm x 29mm. ?Brass. Pin missing.
- 48 (248); Area 28. Coin. 1958 halfpenny.
- 49 U/S; Area 48. Coin. 1943 halfpenny.
- 66 U/S; Area 60. Rolled strip with raised longitudinal lines. 52mm long.

69 Unstratified. Button. Round, flat
button or cuff link. 15mm diameter.

72 (280); Area 36. ?Stud for ?belt or other
leather item. Circular, radius 12mm. Iron
fitting on reverse side.

APPENDIX II; POTTERY REPORT

BY JANE TIMBY BA, PhD, MIFA

2.1

INTRODUCTION

A quantity of pottery, recovered from the salvage work undertaken adjacent to Oldbury power station on the south bank of the River Severn, was submitted for assessment. The material resulted mainly from surface collections within prescribed areas. Some of the material derived from upper fills of features. The pottery was recorded by main fabric categories using the Gloucester type fabric series (Gloucester Archaeological Unit, TF00) which accounted for the bulk of the wares (cf. Appendix 1). A small quantity of fabrics not recorded in the Gloucester series were not described in detail. The pottery was recorded by weight and sherd number by fabric type for each area/context. Broad form categories of jar, bowl etc. were noted for rims. An assessment was made of the general condition of each group of material and the date range represented (Appendix 2)

2.3

CONDITION

Overall the condition of the pottery was good with substantial portions of single vessels present from a number of contexts. A number of groups yielded relatively large unabraded sherds. Colour-coated wares and some of the Samian had totally lost all traces of surface slip. This made positive distinction between unfeatured sherds of Oxfordshire and Severn Valley wares difficult in some cases.

Unfortunately most of the groups were not entirely chronologically homogeneous as might be expected from surface material. In a number of cases odd Post-Medieval sherds were present amongst the Roman and later Roman mixed in with earlier Roman groups.

2.4

DISCUSSION

In total just over 80 kgs of pottery was recovered, some 6730 sherds. Most of this (97.5%) was of Roman date with a small quantity of Medieval and Post-Medieval material. The main date range appears to be from the early second century through to the fourth century. A very small number of sherds could potentially be earlier but these are very limited in number. Wares typical of the very late fourth-early fifth century in this region were not present suggesting that the site was abandoned during the fourth century.

The material was dominated by four main pottery suppliers to the Gloucestershire region in the later Roman period, namely the Severn Valley ware industries

(TF 11, 23) (26% by wt.), Dorset black burnished wares (TF4) (15% by wt.), Oxfordshire industries (TF9A, 9X, 12A and 13) (4% by wt.) and a highly micaceous ware, TF5, from an unknown local source(s) (37% by wt.).

Samian was relatively well represented, accounting for 2% by weight, the products belonging almost entirely to the later industry, Antonine through to third century. One stamp belonging to the Lezoux potter Macrinus (MACRINI) was recovered from area 28, F73 465. Evidence elsewhere (Wroxeter, Chesters, Exeter) suggest this probably dates to the mid-late Antonine period.

A number of vessels in Samian and other wares showed evidence of repair. Part of a lead rivet was still attached to a vessel in TF5 from area 53, F72, 416.

No other non-British imported finewares were identified and unusually no amphora appeared to be present. The remaining 16% of material comprised mainly local wares from the Severn region, the only exceptions being a few sherds of Savernake ware (TF6) and some grey sandy wares (TF231) from Wiltshire, one Nene Valley colour-coated ware (TF12B) and two sherds of Midlands grog-tempered ware (TF241). A small number of handmade "native" wares in calcite, limestone or grog-tempered fabrics (TF30, TF33 and TF2) were present residually amongst later material. These along with some wheel-turned black burnished ware (TF201) may suggest a phase of earlier Roman occupation dating to the later first century in the vicinity.

2.5

ASSESSMENT OF ASSEMBLAGE

The material although of relatively good condition produced no great surprises in terms of its composition. The range of wares and forms reflect those well-known from other major assemblages from the area such as the Frocester and Gloucester. The value of such material would lie in the recovery of intact associated groups from stratified deposits. Evidence has shown elsewhere that material derived from the uppermost fills of features is not necessarily indicative of the abandonment of that particular feature. Sag fills from subsequent activity in the site are a frequent occurrence in both urban and rural situations. In addition features, such as ditches, are often recut on the same alignments causing mixing of deposits.

The range of wares is typical of that from a domestic establishment with a variety of cooking and serving wares. Of particular note is the relatively high numbers of Samian vessels present, perhaps suggesting an establishment of moderately high economic status.

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Young C.J. 1977, Oxfordshire Roman Pottery BAR 43
(oxford)

2.6

APPENDIX 1

Summary of main Fabric and Form Codes Used (Variants are denoted by sub-codes)

FABRICS

TF	Common Name	Description/Forms
2	Grog-tempered	Handmade jars, 1st c AD+
3	Mica-slipped ware	General category, British fineware ?2nd
4	Dorset BB1	2nd-4th, jars, bowls, dishes
5	Micaceous ware	Mainly black and grey, wide category at present local source. 2nd-4th c. Includes BB1 copies, jugs, jars.
6	Savernake ware	Grey grog-tempered ware 1st-3rd, jars.
8	Samian	(C- East Gaul). Forms include Dr 30, 18/31, 31, 33, 36, 37, 45 and 80.
9	Mortaria	General category.
9A	Oxfords. whiteware	Forms Young (1977) M10, M18. 2-3rd c.
90	South-west	
9X	Oxfordsh.cc	Forms Young (1977) C97, C100. 2-3rd c.

11	Severn Valley ware	B- SVW proper, E- with limestone V-micaceous variant. jar, bowls/dishes, tankards. 2nd-4th c.
12A	Oxfordsh.cc	Young (1977) forms C45, C51, beakers, flasks 3rd-4th c.
12B	Nene Valley cc.	Barbotine decorated beaker. 3-4th c.
12D	Local cc.	Beakers/ flagons. 2-3rd?
13	Oxfordsh, whiteware	2nd c +
15	South-west ware	A- with white slip. Beakers, small flagons. 2nd-3rd?
17	SVW variant	Jars 1st-2nd c.
18	Malvernian ware	Handmade jars. 1st-?3rd c
19	Malvernian wares	Handmade/ wheelmade. ?1st-3rd c.
23	SVW variant	Handmade storage jars. 1st-4th c.
30	Calcite-tempered	Handmade jars. 1st c.
33	Limestone-temp	Source-Malvernian. Handmade jars. 1st c.
36	Orange sandy	Similar to 1st c. Kingsholm ware
201	Black sandy ware	Wheelmade platters, beakers, jars. 1st-2nd c.
231	Wilts grey sandy	Jars. 2nd c. +
241	Midlands grog	Storage jars. 2nd-4th c.
	Unclassified Roman wares	
	R20	Grey/black medium-coarse

	sandy
R15	Grey/black fine-medium sandy
R10	Grey/black fine sandy
R00	Reduced miscellaneous
020	Oxidised medium sandy
010	Oxidised fine sandy
L	Limestone-tempered
G	Grog-tempered

M	Medieval
PM	Post-Medieval

Abbreviations: cc - colour-coat; c- century

FORM CODES

I	- jar
II	- bowl/dishes
III	- platter
IV	- dish
V	- cup
VI	- beaker
VII	- flagon/ flask
IX	- mortaria
XI	- lid
XII	- jug
XIV	- tankard

2.7

APPENDIX 2

Approximate date range for groups with 10 or more sherds.

Foreshore		2nd-3rd c. Good group
Area 1+2		Later 3rd-4th c.
Area 1	115	Later 3rd-4th c.
Area 2	u/s	3rd-4th c. (1st-2nd residual)
Area 2	119	3rd-4th c.
Area 2	120	Mixed late 1st-4th c.

Area 2	121	"	"
Area 3	125	Roman t.p.q	4th c. Post-med.
Area 5	342	4th c.	
Area 15	u/s	4th c.	
Area 15	185	Roman t.p.q	4th c. Post-med.
Area 15	187	Late 2nd-3rd c.	
Area 15	188	4th c.	
Area 15	189	Late 3rd-4th c.	
Area 20	210	"	"
Area 23	215	4th c.	
Area 28	u/s	Late 2nd-4th c.	
Area 28	248	Late 2nd-4th c.	Post-med.
Area 28	363	4th c.	Post-med.
Area 28	364	4th c.	
Area 28	365	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 28	366	"	"
Area 28	367	"	"
Area 28	268	"	"
Area 28	269	"	"
Area 28	375	4th c.	
Area 28	380	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 28	451	2nd-3rd c.	
Area 28	465	2nd-4th c.	
Area 28	500	Later 1st-2nd c.	Post-med.
Area 29	247	4th c.	Post-med.
Area 30	250	"	"
Area 33	u/s	Later 2nd-3rd c.	Post-med.
Area 33	267	?3rd/4th c.	
Area 34	270	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 35	275	4th c.	
Area 36	280	??2/3rd c.	?Post-med.
Area 38	u/s	3rd/4th c.	
Area 39	300	2nd/3rd c.	
Area 40	305	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 40	307	"	"
Area 41	310	4th c.	Post-med.
Area 45	330	2nd c.	
Area 46	331	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 47	335	2nd-3rd c.	Post-med.
Area 48	u/s	Later 2nd-4th c.	
Area 48	497	3rd-4th c.	Post-med.
Area 48	499	3rd-4th c.	
Area 48	507	Later 2nd c. +	
Area 50	403	2nd/3rd c.	
Area 51	u/s	"	
Area 51	405	"	
Area 51	406	"	
Area 51	408	"	
Area 52	410	2nd-4th c.	
Area 53	414	2nd c.	
Area 53	415	"	
Area 53	416	2nd-3rd c.	
Area 53	419	2nd c.	
Area 54	420	Later 3rd-4th c.	
Area 55	u/s	"	
Area 55	425	"	
Area 55	428	"	
Area 55	435	2nd-3rd c.	

Area 55	437	?3rd c. +
Area 55	444	Mainly 2nd, some 4th c. Good gp.
Area 57	445	2nd c. +
Area 57	446	Later 1st-2nd c.
Area 57	450	2nd, and some later.
Area 58	451	3rd c. +
Area 60	460	Later 3rd-4th c.
Area 60	462	4th c.
Area 60	463	4th c.
Area 60	469	Later 3rd-4th c.
Area 60	470	"

APPENDIX III: HUMAN SKELETON REPORT

BY GERALDINE BARBER
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL,
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Human bones were discovered and excavated during the watching brief at Oldbury. These came from one individual and were in a very poor and fragmentary state, with about 50% of the body present, including the arms (fragments from both humeri, radii and ulnae), pieces of the skull and mandible, vertebrae, ribs, pelvic fragments and the proximal part of the left and right femurs.

The bones were of an adult male, aged approximately 17-25 years old. There was no evidence of any pathology. Seven teeth were found, some in fragments, which showed little wear and no evidence for caries or other tooth decay.

A tooth (upper molar) from an adult sheep/goat was also found within the bones. It is not of any significance

APPENDIX IV; FLINT ASSEMBLAGE
BY VINCE RUSSETT

AREA A;

Area 6;	Feature 7	(143)	SF 93	2 flakes
Area 6;	Feature 14	(289)	SF 91	1 worked flake
"	"	"	SF 92	1 notched flake
"	"	"	Photograph 1A (b 1 and 2)	
Area 5;	Feature 15	(342)	SF 89	1 crude half scraper
"	"	"	SF 90	1 flake
"	"	"	Photograph 1A (a 1)	
Area 6;	Unstrat	(142)	SF 119	1?trimming flake
"	"	"		1 flake
			Photograph 1A (a 3)	
Area 6;	Unstrat	(141)	SF 120	1 snapped flake
"	"	"	SF 121	1 large flake used as knife.
			Photograph 1A (a 5)	
Area 6;	Unstrat		SF 113	1 utilised worn flake.
Area 6;	Unstrat		SF 114	1 scraper
Area 6;	Unstrat		SF 115	1 knife/scraper
Area 6;	Unstrat		SF 116	1 blade.
			Photograph 1E (a 1-4)	
Area 6;	Unstrat			3 flakes.
Area 6;	Unstrat			6 struck flakes

AREA B

Area 44; Feature 98 (324)	SF 94	1 blunt backed knife
		Photograph 1A (a1)
"	"	SF 95- 6 flakes
		100

AREA C

Area 52; Feature 54 (424)	SF 101	1 large flake.
Area 52; Feature 60 (410)		1 Broken steep angled retouched end scraper. Heavy use.
Area 52; Unstrat (475)		9 Primary and secondary flakes
		1 heavy retouch flake implement
		1 heavily used sec flake - worked to point and used.
Area 54; Feature 86 (477)	SF 127	Secondary flake, shallow retouch.
Area 54; Feature 127 (607)		1 flake
"	"	1 snapped flake
"	"	1 crushed flake
Area 54; Feature 128 (610)	SF 108	1 struck flake, ?used.
"	"	SF 109 1 side scraper, used.
"	"	SF 110 1 snapped blade, no retouch.
		Photographs 1B (b 1-3)
"	"	3 flakes.

Area 54; Feature 129 (613)	SF 103	1 blade/flake
"	"	SF 104 1 long flake, poss ?point use
"	"	3 flakes
"	"	SF 105 1 blade
		Photographs 1C (a 1-3)
Area 54; Feature 130 (616)	SF 106	1 secondary flake used as ?knife.
"	"	SF 107 1 utilised flake with two used edges.
		Photographs 1C (b 1-2)
"	"	2 flakes.
Area 54; Feature 131 (619)	SF 111	1 tip of utilised flake.
"	"	SF 112 1 core trimming flake.
		Photographs 1E (c 1-2)
"	"	3 flakes.
Area 54; Unstrat (422)		1 sec flake with evidence of use on three sides - knife / scraper?
		1 sec flake
Area 57; Feature 100 (454)	SF 102	1 point on flake.
Area 57 Unstrat.	SF 117	1 broken blade
"	"	SF 118 1 knife and secondary use as point.
		Photographs 1E (b 1-2)
Area 54/45 U/S		1 point heavy

" "

1 ?point

" "

1 core -
rejuvenation
flake.

Photographs 1B (a 1-2)

Area 50 Unstrat.

5 waste flakes

Area 46 Unstrat (331)

1 tertiary flake

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