

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXI

1981

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

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M11 WESTERN BY-PASS: THREE SITES NEAR CAMBRIDGE

The three reports, – Obelisk Kilns, Lingey Fen and Edmundsoles, – are the fruit of work by members of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's Archaeological Research Group, who daily watched the stripping of topsoil and generally kept an eye on any sites discovered during the construction of the M11 Cambridge Western By-pass, 1977-1979. For the location of the sites, see map, Fig. 1.

(For all figures see after p. 9 below).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks must go first to the two contractors, Bovis C.E. Ltd. and Amey Roadstone Corporation and the subcontractors of the latter, Blackwells, for permission to observe, record, and where possible, excavate archaeological features revealed during the construction of the M11 Cambridge Western By-Pass. Thanks are due also to the M.O.T. Inspectors for their co-operation.

Secondly I wish to thank those members of the C.A.S. Archaeological Research Group who gave so much time to helping with the various aspects of the work.

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E. J. Pullinger
September 1980

1. OBELISK KILNS, HARSTON

JOYCE PULLINGER AND C. J. YOUNG

Summary

The site lies immediately south of the Little Shelford-Newton road (Fig. 2). It was discovered during the construction of the By-Pass by members of the C.A.S. Archaeological Research Group. A series of ditches were seen, which later excavation proved were of two different phases – the footings of walls belonging to one or two buildings, and the remains of three kilns; also two other features, a possible working area, and a series of postholes with a rammed chalk floor. It would appear that this site was occupied during the second, third and fourth centuries A.D.

The Site

It lies on the lowest part of the chalk slope facing north and east, close to the gravel terraces of the river Granta. A layer of loam varying in thickness from 30cms to 50cms overlies the weathered chalk blown down the slope after the fourth century. This weathered chalk thins out towards the north east. The ground has been used for grazing over many centuries and more recently cultivated as arable land.

A group of features were revealed and were sampled.

AREA A

This was a possible working area 13.6m long and 5.0m wide, which continued west of the motorway. It

was flecked with charcoal and associated with a posthole and slot, also a gully. A few heat cracked flints were found (see plan, Fig. 3).

AREA B

A series of postholes on the western side of the motorway suggested a timber structure. The postholes cut into the chalk varied in size from 34-40cms in diameter and some had stones for packing. These postholes were 20-25cms deep. There was one double posthole 1.6m along its length and a third post may have been placed alongside these two (see plan, Fig. 4). A slot leads from posthole 'g'. On the eastern side of the postholes was a rammed chalk floor covered by a fine gravel layer. Small fragments of charcoal were found in the postholes.

AREA C

A series of successive phases could be recognised here. They proved to be part of a Romano-British industrial site.

Phase I (Plan, Fig. 5)

A series of ditches on an east-west alignment appeared to belong to the first phase of occupation. Their fill of fine clay/chalk silt contained many snails and a few animal bones. No pottery was found.

Ditch 1

This ditch sectioned on the west side of the M11 was V-shaped with a slot along the bottom. It was 1.46 wide at the top of natural chalk and 72cms deep (see Section, Fig. 8). Its butt end showed in the mechanically dug drainage trench on the east side of the motorway.

Ditch 2

A nearly U-shaped ditch sectioned on the west side of the M11 had a ledge on the north side for a possible timber. It was 2.48m wide at the top of natural and 94cms deep (see Section, Fig. 8).

Ditch 3

Another-U shaped ditch 1.90 wide and a little over a metre deep. Its butt end was seen in the mechanically dug drainage ditch in the east berm, where its maximum width was 1.84cms.

Ditch 26

This U shaped ditch 1.50m wide and over 1m deep is sealed by the possible potters' workshop, a building of phase II, and cut by Kiln 3, posthole 21 and the edge of the black-filled shallow, 20. There was no sign of this ditch in the mechanically dug drainage ditch in the east berm.

Phase II (see plan, Fig. 6)

The footing of one flint wall (9), 1.0m wide, was traced for approximately 39.0m. This footing overlay ditch 26. Shallow black gullies, 11 and 12, may have been associated with this wall.

Parallel to the flint wall and away to the west was a remnant of wall footing (17), 90cms wide, which formed a right angle. A smaller wall 40cms wide led off the former. The walls consisted of small square-cut clunch blocks about 10 x 10cms. In the angle of the wider wall was a square-cut stone, and one metre from the corner was a clunch base of an hexagonal pillar 57cms wide. Traces of a chalk and gravel floor were seen close to the wall footings. A few Romano-British sherds were found in association with the floor, including Samian ware.

This feature sealed ditch 14.

Phase III (see plan, Fig. 7)

To this belonged a series of ditches diagonal to the M11 alignment, three kilns, several black charcoal filled areas and a possible potters' workshop and waste pit. These features were on an entirely different alignment to the two earlier phases.

Ditch 4

This ditch cuts the earlier cross ditch 3 and could only be traced for 20m. It was 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep, being U-shaped; it had one recut on the south west side. The recut contained a black charcoal-y fill with many sherds and waste from the kilns, also half a bronze bangle. There was very little in the primary silting of the ditch, a few abraded sherds and one or two flints. Along the N.E. side of the ditch were a series of postholes (see plan, Fig. 4). These appear to finish where the ditch cuts the earlier ditch 3. In the intersection of the ditches 3 and 4 a near oval feature (18) was cut and lined with clay. It was 1.5m long, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep, with a raw clay lining 10cms thick. It was filled with similar material to that in ditch 4 (see Section, Fig. 8).

Ditch 28

Parallel to ditch 4, this ditch had a less black fill and appears to finish where it meets the earlier ditch 26. No positive dating evidence was obtained. It was cut by the potters' waste pit (19).

Ditch 12

Another black charcoal-y filled ditch with a number of sherds in it. The sherds were different to those in ditch 4. This ditch 1.8m wide had also been recut on the south west side (see Section, Fig. 8). It cut the earlier ditch 14 and the wall footing (9), (Fig. 6).

Ditches 15 and 16

Ditch 15, 1.25m wide, cut ditch 12 at right angles at the west side of the M11 and continued for 10m where it joined ditch 16 forming a right angle. Both ditches 15 and 16 had black charcoal-y fills.

Ditch 40

This ditch at a right angle to ditch 16, met the latter at the western edge of the M11. To the north of ditches 14 and 12 were several areas filled with black earth and charcoal. Fragments of pottery and iron slag were found in the fill. It was not possible to excavate these features fully but they appeared to be no more than 30cms deep (see plan, Fig. 7, section, Fig. 8).

Possible Wooden Buildings (Potters' Workshop?)

Features 5, 6, 7. (see plan, Fig. 7).

These features were seen and measured as soon as they were revealed by the scraper, but could not be excavated. They consisted of slots cut into the chalk for timber beams. The slots were full of charcoal. There was gravel flooring inside. The slots 40cms wide appeared to form three rooms in a building 14.2m x 8.1m. Room 5 was 3.8m wide, room 6 was 2.5m wide, and room 7, 6.7m wide.

Potters' Waste Pit (see plan, Fig. 7).

Next to the timber buildings was a pit (19), 1.20 in diameter, containing wasters, unfired lumps of clay and charcoal.

*The Kilns (Fig. 7)**Kiln 1 (Plan, Fig. 9)*

The kiln and stokehole were together 2.1m long, the kiln itself being 90cms long and 76cms wide, clay lined with a tongue-like pedestal of clay. The remnant of one fire bar (in two pieces) was found. The fill consisted of black earth and charcoal.

Kiln 2

This kiln was only partially exposed so that it was not possible to obtain its full dimensions (see plan, Fig. 9). The kiln had been cleaned out and patched up with fresh clay ready for future firings. A fine layer of grey ash was on the bottom. A few sherds of red colour-coated wares were found.

Kiln 3

Close to kiln 2, and also only partially exposed, this kiln was of entirely different construction from the

others (see plan and, sections, Fig. 10). The arch of the flue was broken by the mechanical scraper, but the dome of the kiln had collapsed, or was partially removed when the floor of the kiln collapsed during the last firing. A piece of corbelling, which was found *in situ*, for the floor support and thick lumps of baked clay with finger holes through, suggests that kiln floor was a vent-holed one, supported by corbels round the sides.

There was evidence for the kiln being patched up and relined more than once, incorporating wasters from previous firings.

The kiln was full of partially fired vessels, mainly red colour-coated imitations of samian forms, and many mortaria which had broken when the floor collapsed. (For description of pottery see below, p. 5). The stokehole too was full of broken vessels and wasters. The upper fill of the flue contained a coin, date 319 AD.

FIELDS NEXT TO THE M11 OBELISK KILNS, HARSTON

Four small archaeologically dug trenches were cut nearby (plan, Fig. 11) prior to the land being used as a permanent dump for unwanted topsoil.

Trench I was placed to sample the already known Ditch 4. The edge of the ditch was found and its plan at the one side suggested that it had been raised here, or there had been a causeway. It was cut away on the north east side by kiln 4, which in turn was cut by kiln 5.

No kiln furniture was found in the kilns, only traces of ash and charcoal and a few Romano-British sherds.

Two postholes, one circular and the other square were cut into the chalk on the south-west side of the ditch (see plan, Fig. 12).

Trench II (plan, Fig. 11) was at right angles to trench I. A nearly vertical sided gully was located, 38cms wide and 25cms deep. No dating evidence was found, but soil accumulated immediately over the gully contained a few late Romano-British sherds. Ditch 4, expected to come through this area, was not found.

Trench III, placed at an angle of nearly 45° to trench II, revealed a Romano-British feature (? pit) cut into the chalk to a depth of 16cms, with a posthole on its western side (see plan, Fig. 12). The maximum width of this feature was 1.3m, and the fill consisted of fine clay silt.

Trench IV (further north – see plan, Fig. 2 and detail, Fig. 11). This revealed a curving ditch diagonally across the trench with what appeared to be a butt end. There were lumps of chalk marl on the north east side. A layer of ash and charcoal overlay hard compact orange sand on the south west side of the ditch. The latter was not entirely excavated because of the rate at which water was seeping through from the surrounding area. The ditch fill consisted of fine clay/chalk silt.

LITTLE SHELFORD/NEWTON ROAD

Several ditches were located under the original Little Shelford to Newton road (now re-aligned) which was dug away to make room for new bridge footings, and two more ditches associated with existing roadside hedges were seen in the section.

A V-shaped ditch approximately 2.0m wide and 1.5m deep was seen to be running in a N-S direction. Two others were seen, under the existing road, running in a E-W direction, one being V-shaped and the other U-shaped. Both were approximately 1.5m wide and 1.0m deep. These three ditches were sealed by a layer of loam over which the road make-up was placed, but no finds came from them.

DISCUSSION

The possible working area in Area A, is difficult to associate with the other features, and may belong to a pre-second-century phase.

The features in Area B, which suggested a timber structure, also failed to produce any datable objects, but do not appear to fit in with the phases recognised in Area C.

Features in Area C fall into three phases dating from the second, third and fourth centuries. The series of ditches on an east-west alignment which form the first phase may well be boundary ditches serving also as drainage ditches, perhaps dividing strips of grazing land.

The wall footings of phase II would appear, from the dating of the few R.B. sherds found, to belong to the late second century A.D. Nearby, worked limestone blocks were found. The structure suggests a dwelling of some local importance.

Phase III appears to belong to the late third and the fourth centuries A.D. The ditches, kilns and black

charcoal areas suggest an industrial site, of which only a small part was revealed by the M11 construction. In 1980 the ditches were seen in the crop marks of neighbouring fields, along with other features. Aerial photographs show features along the gravel terrace which may well be associated with this industrial area. Pottery from kiln 3 has been noted as far afield as Brancaster on the Norfolk coast, and a few pieces have been recognised on nearby late Roman-British sites. Further study on the pottery distribution is necessary, as is excavation of other features in the vicinity, in order to understand the importance of this site.

THE POTTERY FROM KILN 3, HARSTON

C. J. YOUNG

The pottery from kiln 3 and its stokehole at Harston is of considerable interest since the bulk of it can be linked closely to the Oxford industry, and is perhaps evidence of a migrant potter. Nearly 40 kgs was recovered under salvage conditions from kiln 3, its stokehole and associated features around it.

THE FABRICS

Three fabrics were recovered:

(i) (Figs. 13, 14, nos 1-37) soft, smooth fine ware, used mainly for red colour-coated ware, but also for white mortaria and a little parchment ware. The colour of the fabric varies from white/pinkish-white for the mortaria through pinkish-buff (Munsell 5 YR 7/6 and 7/4) to red-orange (Munsell 2.5 YR 5/8) on the few well-fired pieces. The colour-coat varies from light red-orange (Munsell 2.5 YR 6/8) to bright red (Munsell 10 R 4/6).

Mrs K. F. Hartley and Dr D. F. Williams have examined the fabrics from this kiln as part of their project for the definition of mortaria fabrics, and I am grateful to them for permission to quote their work here. They commented on fabric (i):

Mortaria

Very soft, smooth fine-textured fabric, easily abraded, pinkish-white (Munsell 7.5 YR 8/2) throughout, sometimes slightly brownish with a red-brown colour-coat which only survives in tiny patches. Trituration grits; medium to large-size dullish white quartz and quartzite (some coloured grains), with a little flint (some coloured fragments).

Thin section study of the fabric under the petrological microscope shows frequent small fragments of semi-coarse crystalline limestone, together with a groundmass of quartz grains, under 0.05mm in size, and flecks of mica, set in an anisotropic matrix of baked clay.

The red-brown slip, the rim-forms used and even the fine-textured matrix are clearly an attempt to reproduce mortaria of the type made at Baldon, Dorchester and elsewhere in the Oxford region (Young, 1977). A migrant potter could be involved but not necessarily.

In addition to the sample of mortarium, a thin-section examination was also conducted on three other vessels found at the site: two very fine-textured bowls, with a bright red (10R 4/6) colour-coat, and a grey-ware sherd (see fabric (ii) below). The sections from the two bowls proved to be similar in composition to that of the mortarium sample, if slightly more fine-textured.

This ware was used for a range of mortaria, parchment ware and colour-coated vessels.

(ii) (Fig. 15, 38-9) hard, sandy grey ware. Mrs Hartley and Dr Williams comment as follows:

In contrast to fabric (i), the grey-ware sample contains a scatter of shattered quartz grains, in the size range 0.20- .50mm., set in an isotropic matrix of baked clay. With such common inclusions, it is not possible to say if the grey-ware sherd is likely also to be a local product. All that can reasonably be said at this stage is that it appears to have been made of a different clay to the other samples, rather than an unrefined version of the clay used for the finer-textured vessels.

Only a few sherds of this ware were found in Kiln 3. Its scarcity and the fact that it is made from a different clay suggests that it was not made at the same place as fabric (i). The forms also are from a different tradition.¹

1. Subsequent excavation of charcoal-filled ditches and rectangular areas on the site produced many more sherds of fabric (ii), which suggests that it may have been made on the site, but in kilns not yet located. Recent air photographs indicate that the site is much more extensive than was thought earlier. E.J.P.

(iii) (Fig. 15, 40) Hard, sandy grey ware with orange surfaces and white slip inside and out. One sherd only was found and it is presumably a stray that found its way into the kiln.

VESSEL TYPES

The following types were found. The ware is commented on only if it differs from the norm described above:

FABRIC (I) (for Oxford parallels cited, see Young 1977)

Enclosed Vessels (Fig. 13)

1. Flange-rimmed flagon or jug with one 3-ribbed handle; pinkish ware with greeny-white core and surfaces; red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C6.
2. Disc-necked flagon; white ware, no colour-coat survives; cf. Oxford C8.
3. Base of neck of bottle or flagon; white ware with external red colour-coat.
4. Body of flagon or bottle with rouletted bands; buff-orange ware with external red colour-coat. Such rouletting is common on Oxfordshire vessels (e.g. Young 1977, fig. 53, C8.5, fig. 54, C16.2 for examples on enclosed vessels). It is not common in this form on the products of other industries.
5. Narrow-necked jar; pinkish ware with red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C16.
6. Base of flagon or jar, external red colour-coat.
7. Pedestal base, external red colour-coat. The form is not unknown in Oxfordshire but is uncommon.
8. Wide-mouthed jar, badly misfired, with black fabric and red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C18. The form is common in the Nene Valley industry.

Beakers (Fig. 13)

9. Large bulbous beaker with traces of rouletting on body. Insufficient remains for certain, but it is likely that there was a broad band of rouletting, as on the Oxford C23, and rarely elsewhere.

Platters (Fig. 13)

10. Shallow platter with upturned rim and slight groove on exterior; pink ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C40.
11. Shallow platter with upturned and inturned rim, with three prominent ridges on exterior; off-white ware with traces of red colour-coat on rim. The type is similar to the Oxford colour-coat form C41, but is exactly paralleled by the Oxford parchment-ware form P16, which would have been painted in red on the rim. It should perhaps be considered as a parchment-ware copy.

Bowls copying Dr 31 (Fig. 13)

12. Light orange ware, red colour-coat.
 13. Red colour-coat.
 14. Red colour-coat.
 15. Base with footring and three rouletted bands on interior.
- Bowls copying Dr 31 were made by most of the late colour-coated industries. Stylistically these are closest to those of the Oxford potteries (cf. Young 1977, Fig. 58, C45 1-5).

Bowls copying Dr 36 or Curle 15 (Fig. 13)

16. White ware with pink core, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C47.
 17. Pinkish ware with white core, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C49.
 18. As last, but grooved on outer face of rim; cf. Oxford C49.
 19. As last, with traces of painted decoration shown by differential preservation of underlying colour-coat; buffish yellow ware with brown colour-coat. The decorative pattern is common on Oxford vessels (e.g. Young 1977, fig. 58, C48.3).
- This is another common late colour-coat type, made also in the Nene Valley and at Hadham. Stylistically these are closest to Oxford products.

Bowls copying Dr 38 (Fig. 14)

20. Yellowish-orange ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C51.
21. Orange-pink ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C51.
22. Rouletted on exterior wall; red colour-coat. The rouletting is a rare feature on colour-coated examples of this form, but is known on Oxford vessels of this form made in a fine orange ware (cf. Young 1977, fig. 73, 047.1-3).

Other bowl forms (Fig. 14)

23. Hemispherical bowl with deep rouletted band on body; bright orange ware, dull red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C55. The rouletting is typical of the Oxfordshire industry.

24. Double bead-rim, full-bellied bowl; light orange-buff ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C71.

25. Bowl base, fabric as last; ? same vessel.

Apart from the fair numbers of this form from Harston, this type elsewhere was made only by the Oxford industry, in which it was quite common.

26. Necked bowl with everted rim; soft pink-orange ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C75. This form was otherwise made only by the Oxford and New Forest potteries. In the latter industry it was not particularly common and was stamped (Fulford 1975, fig. 21, type 76), but it was one of the staple products of Oxfordshire from c. 325 onwards.

27. Wall-sided bowl; pinkish ware, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C81.

28. As last, rouletted below rim; pinky-orange ware with yellow-buff core, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C81.

29. Wall-sided bowl, with double-bead rim and cordon, rouletted at carination; orange ware, red colour-coat. Cordoned wall-sided bowls are another common product of the major southern fine-ware industries. They are normally elaborately decorated, unlike this example. The closest parallel to this one is from the Oxford industry (Young 1977, Fig. 65, C84.1).

Colour-coated mortaria (Fig. 14)

30. Mortarium copying Dr 45; flint trituration grit, red colour-coat; cf. Oxford C97. The form was made also by other late fine-ware industries, including Hadham and the New Forest (cf. Fulford 1975, Fig. 22, 98-9).

31. Mortarium with angular flange; flint trituration grit; red colour-coat. This is a typical Oxford form, found also in the New Forest (Fulford 1975, fig. 22, 81.1-2); cf. Oxford C100.

32. Mortarium with simple rounded flange; flint trituration grit, red colour-coat. This form is closest to the Oxford white-ware mortarium, M22, but was not normally made by the Oxford industries with a colour-coat. The form is made also in the New Forest (Fulford 1975, fig. 22, 81.3-4).

Mortaria without colour-coat (Fig. 14)

33. White ware, multi-coloured translucent quartzite grit.

34. White ware, flint trituration grit.

35. White ware, flint trituration grit; traces of spout.

These are all typical of the standard fourth-century Oxford white-ware mortarium (Young 1977, Fig. 23, M22). The form was made also in the New Forest (Fulford 1975, Fig. 25, type 106).

36. Very large mortarium with grooved rim and thick flange; multi-coloured translucent quartzite grit. Cf. Oxford M23.

Parchment ware (Fig. 14)

37. Wall-sided, carinated bowl with out-turned rim. White ware with red paint on top of rim. Elsewhere this form is known only in the New Forest and Oxford industries. In the former it was very rare, in the latter it was a staple product; cf. Oxford P24.

FABRIC (II) (Fig. 15)

Only two vessel types were found:

38. Wide-mouthed necked bowl with burnished lines on the body; there are traces of grey-white slip on the pot.

39. Bulbous beaker decorated with alternating bosses and pendant triangles of impressed dots. This is an example of one of the vessel types normally called Romano-Saxon, and has recently been discussed by Gillam (1979, 105). Such vessels are well known in East Anglia (cf. Rodwell 1970) and it is likely that this vessel comes from one of those sites. For reasons discussed above it is unlikely to have been made at the same place as fabric (i).

FABRIC (III) (Fig. 15)

One vessel only was found:

40. Tall necked jar with out-turned, square-cut rim, rilled on the body. This jar-type was made in a number of fabrics and at a number of centres ranging from Northamptonshire to Hampshire in the late Roman period.

DISCUSSION

Of the three fabrics found in and around kiln 3 it is likely that only (i) was made in or near it. For reasons discussed above it is likely that the sherds of (ii) and (iii) were made elsewhere and were thrown into the kiln at its abandonment. Discussion must therefore centre on fabric (i), since it is quite clear from its quantity, the underfired condition of most of it and the occasional distorted waster, that it was made in the vicinity, probably fired in kiln 3 itself.

It is clear then that we are dealing with the waste products of a minor late Roman fine-ware producer, of which an increasing number are now known. If the c.40 kg of waste material found in and around kiln 3 is representative of the total production c.80% by weight of the products were colour-coat vessels (bowls and enclosed vessels), and nearly all the remainder were mortaria (including colour-coat mortars), with just a little parchment ware being made.

Of the colour-coat vessels the vast bulk were bowls, the most common forms being the double bead-rimmed bowl (no. 24), bowls copying Dr 31 (nos. 12-14) and bowls copying Dr 36/Curle 15 (nos. 16-19). The most common mortarium form was the angular-flanged colour-coated mortar (No. 31).

The most striking feature of the range of vessels produced is its close similarity to the products of the Oxford industry. Normally one would expect a local potter setting out to produce fine wares to be fairly eclectic in his range of products. He would be responding to the same market forces as other fine-ware potters in his area and would be most likely to select for imitation popular forms from his various competitors, or to develop similar forms of his own to fulfill the same demands.

An example of this approach can be seen in the varying ranges of the Oxford and New Forest potteries in the fourth century (cf. Young 1977, Fulford 1975). There are some forms produced by both industries, for example the common imitations of samian bowls and some of the mortaria (e.g. Young 1977, Fig. 23, M22 and Fulford 1975, Fig. 25, types 106, 107). However the two industries produced totally different forms in response to the demand for parchment wares (compare Young 1977, fig. 27, P24 with Fulford 1975, fig. 23, type 89).

Even where two industries do produce the same form the style and decorative patterns tend to be distinctive. This is demonstrated by comparing the geometric patterns of the New Forest with the flowing, bifurcating scrolls of the Oxford potters, or by comparing either with the rather stilted simple curves used by the late Nene Valley potters.

The Harston potters show no signs of drawing inspiration from diverse sources or of developing their own distinctive decorative styles. If a local potter had been developing an existing repertoire to meet a demand for fine wares, he might have been expected to copy the products of the Nene Valley and of Hadham as well as those of Oxford. This is clearly not the case.

Certain of the forms (e.g. Nos. 1, 8, 12-21, 23, 30) were produced by either or both Hadham or the Nene Valley, but even here the Harston examples are closer stylistically to those of the Oxford potters than to the other industries.

All the Harston forms were made at Oxford, and some of them were otherwise made only at Oxford. This is particularly true of the double bead-rimmed bowl (No. 24) which was a common Oxford product and is the most prolific form at Harston. Stylistically all the Harston forms are close to their Oxford counterparts, and the Harston use of rouletting for decoration is entirely in the Oxford manner.

In fact the similarities between both ranges of products are so close that the simplest explanation thereof is a potter migrating from Oxford to Harston. Such a migration from Oxfordshire can be shown to have happened in at least two other cases – to Hartshill, Warwickshire and to the Pevensey area (see Bird and Young 1981).

If it is accepted that an Oxfordshire migrant is involved it should theoretically be easier to date the activities of the Harston potter since the types he produced should be dateable by their Oxford counterparts. Apart from this approach there is little direct dating evidence except for the coin of 319 found in the upper fill of the stokehole, which provides a *terminus ante quem*. Away from Harston the pottery has not yet been recognised in a datable content.

Unfortunately, most of the Oxford types copied at Harston either had a long life or have not yet been dated precisely. There are a few pointers however. The Oxford original of 26(C75) was produced only after c.325. The common bowl from, 23(C71) and the common mortarium 31, are both fourth-century types. There is on the other hand a lack of the heavily decorated types that should have occurred if the move had taken place after c.350.

This would suggest a *floreat* for the Harston potter in the second quarter of the fourth century, which would meet the coin evidence. On the other hand No. 29, the wall-sided cordoned bowl is a copy of an Oxford type (C84) normally dated after 350. The Oxford original is however, with a few exceptions,

heavily decorated with stamps of various sorts, which are conspicuously absent from the Harston example. The plain Oxford examples of this form (C84.1) have not been dated and it is possible that they are earlier than the decorated ones thus showing the sort of progression from plain to decorated that can be seen in other Oxford bowl types, for example the necked bowl, which in its plain form (C75) dates c.325 onwards, and when painted or stamped c.340 onwards, or the wall-sided bowl which if plain (C81), dates from c.300 onwards, began to be painted c.325 (C82) and was stamped from c.350.

If this progression is acceptable in the case of the cordoned bowl also, a date for the Harston fine wares in the second quarter of the fourth century would be perfectly acceptable. It is unclear as to how long the production at Harston lasted. The present sparseness of the distribution and the fact that the pottery was associated with only one kiln of the five found suggests that its life was fairly short.

It is also not possible to do more than speculate about the relationship of the Oxford migrant to other activity in the area. Five kilns were found in an apparent industrial area (see p. 3 above), yet fabric (i) pottery was really only associated with kiln 3, which significantly was of different construction than the others (see Fig. 10). This might suggest that here, as at Hartshill (Bird and Young 1981), the migrant potter settled and worked in an existing pottery.

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APPENDIX

Obelisk Kilns, Harston: pottery from features other than kilns. (Fig. 14)

		<i>Feature</i>
<i>Fig. 16 (Plan, Fig. 4)</i>		
1.	23a	Black slip on buff with grey gritty core.
2.	"	'Flat' dish, dark grey slip on buff with grey core, gritty fabric.
3.	"	Buff, grey core, gritty fabric.
4.	"	Black, shell tempered.
5.	"	Dark grey slip on buff gritty fabric.
6.	"	Black, shell tempered.
7.	"	Black slip on grey gritty fabric, light grey core.
8.	16	Orange buff, black core.
9.	"	Base, red colour-coat on pale orange buff.
10.	"	Base, orange buff.
11.	4	Parchment ware.
12.	"	Dark grey slip on light grey core, sandy fabric.
13.	40	Grey gritty fabric.
14.	"	Black slip on grey gritty fabric.
15.	13	Flagon top orange buff, fine fabric.
16.	18	Mid-grey sandy fabric.
17.	8	Storage jar rim, sandy buff fabric.
18.	5	Black bowl. Large grits in fabric.
19.	"	Black slip on gritty buff with grey core.
20.	"	Mortarium. Nene Valley type. Buff with black grits.

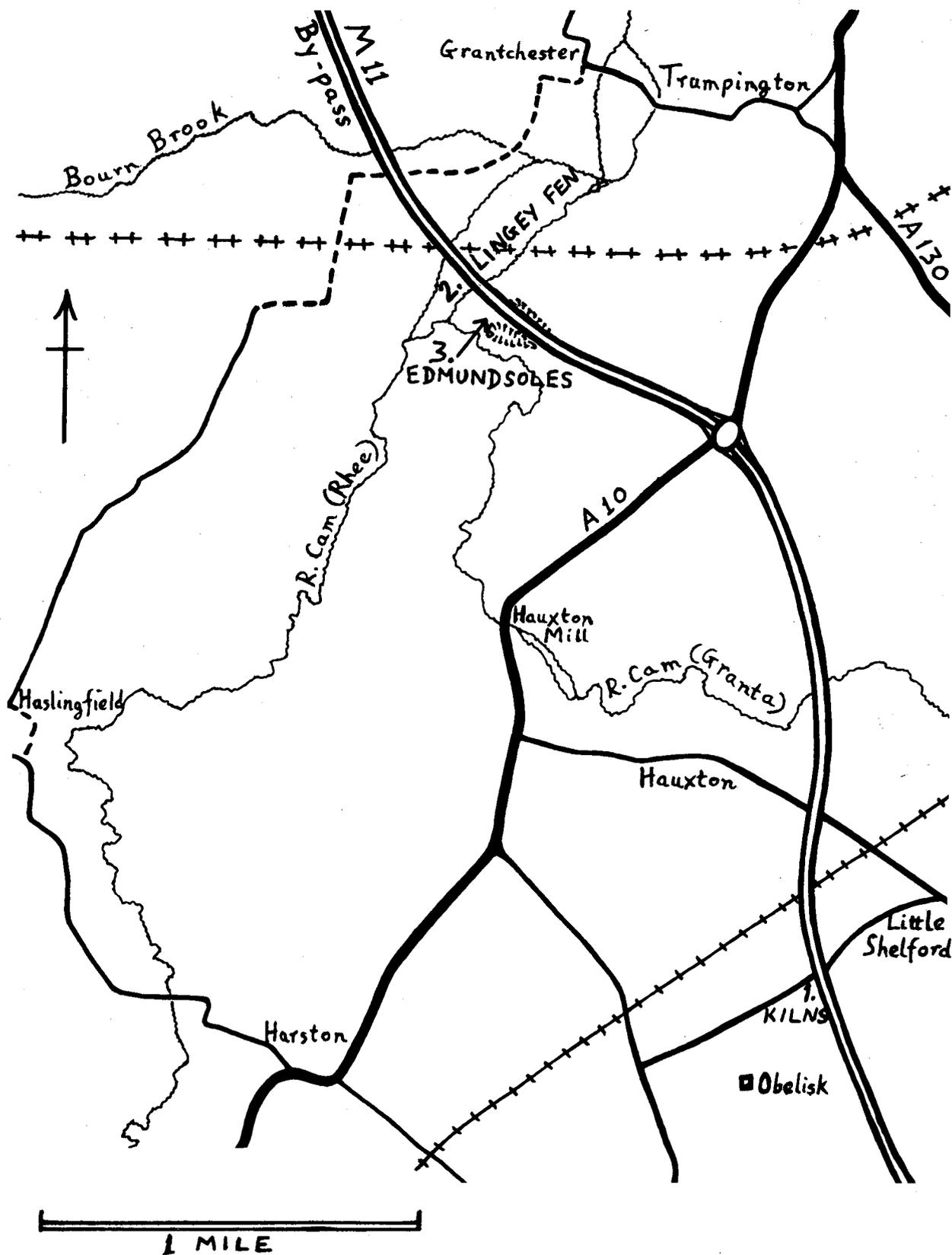


Fig. 1. Map showing archaeological sites.
1. Obelisk Kilns, Harston
2. Lingey Fen, Haslingfield
3. Edmundsoles, Haslingfield

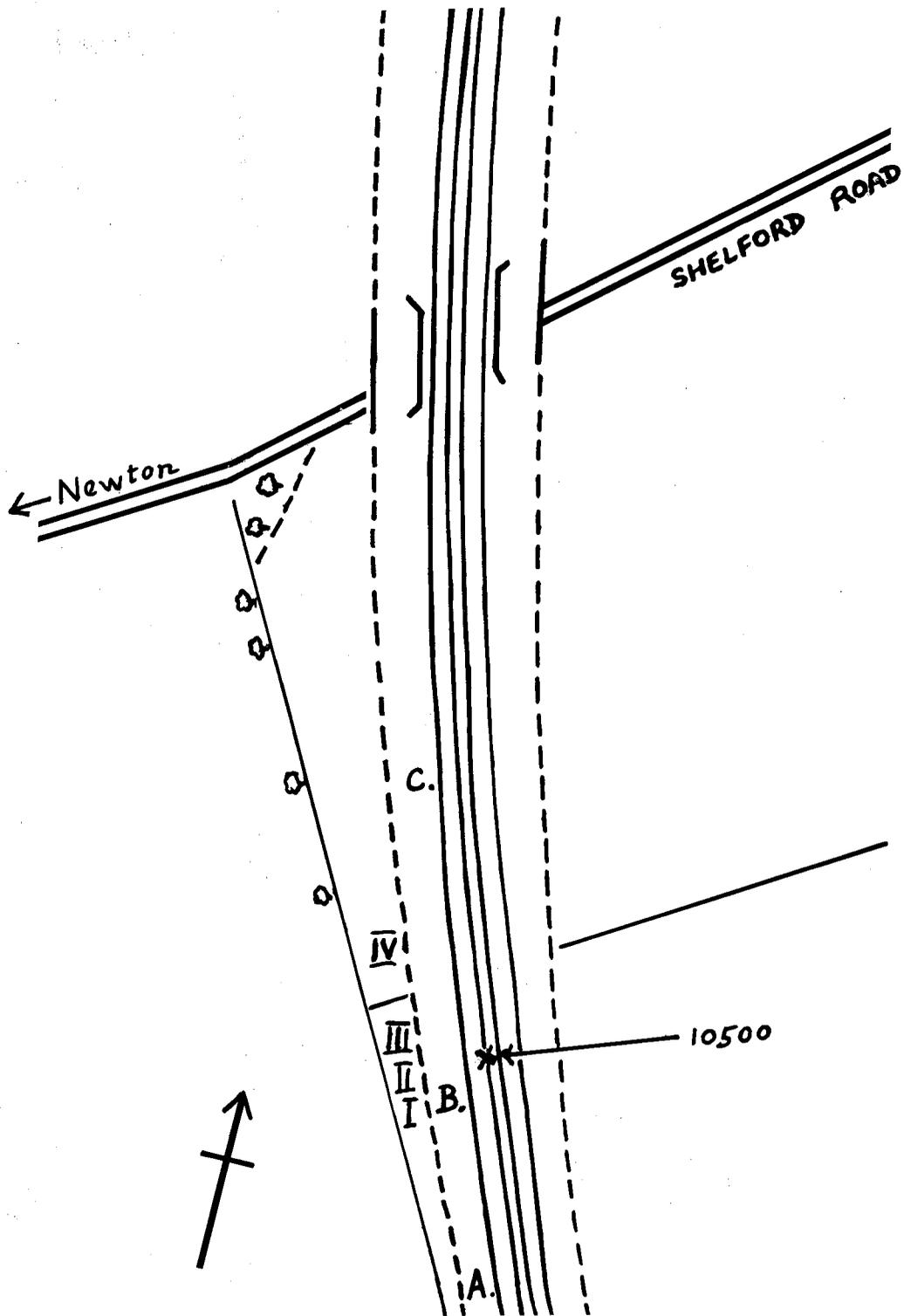


Fig. 2. Site of Obelisk Kilns, Harston

A-C. Areas of archaeological features (see p. 1).

I-IV. Trenches in fields (see p. 4).

10500. Contractors' survey point, used as reference in plans (Figs. 4-7).

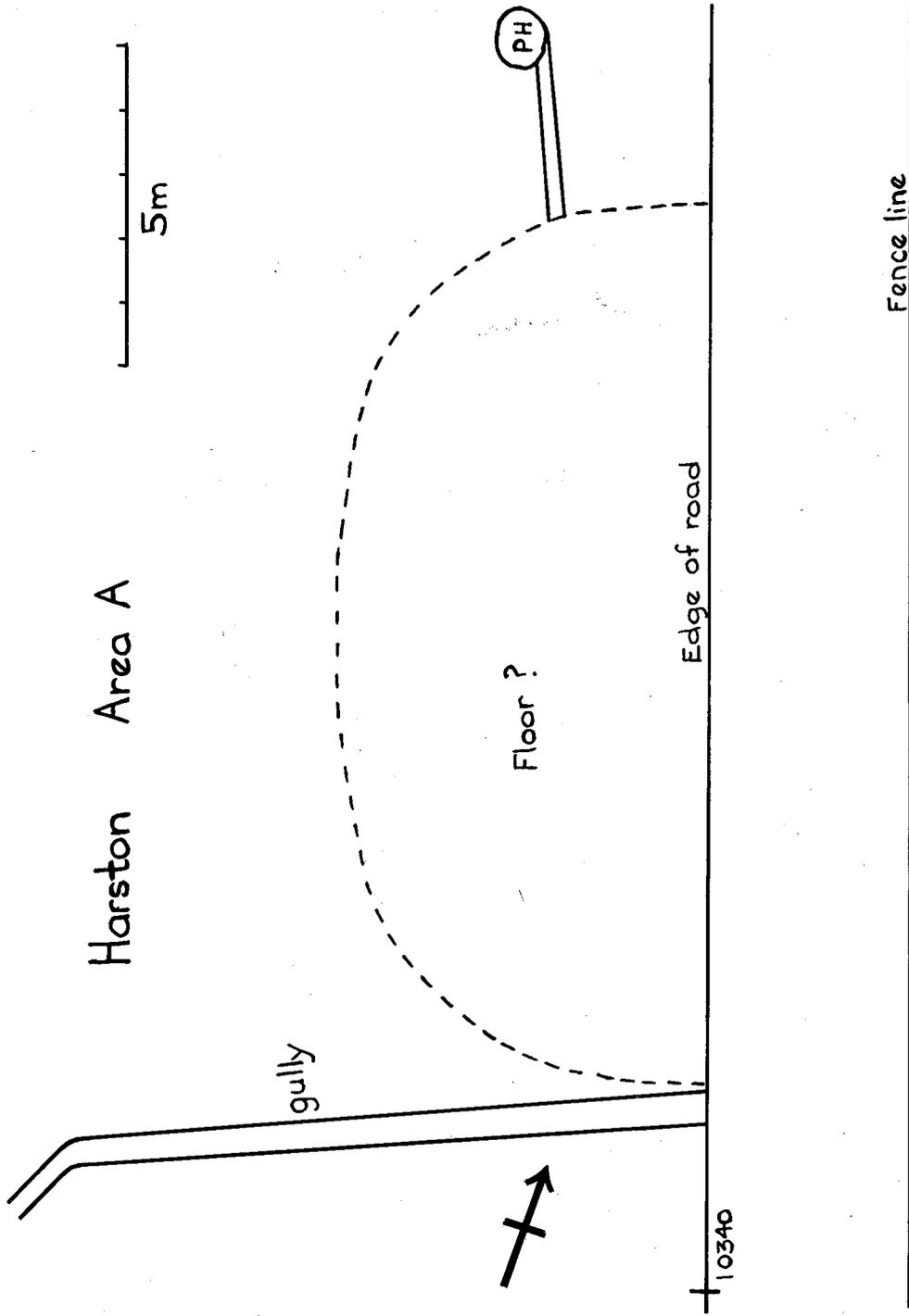


Fig. 3. Obelisk Kilns, Harston. Area A
For location, see Fig. 2.
10340, contractors' survey point.

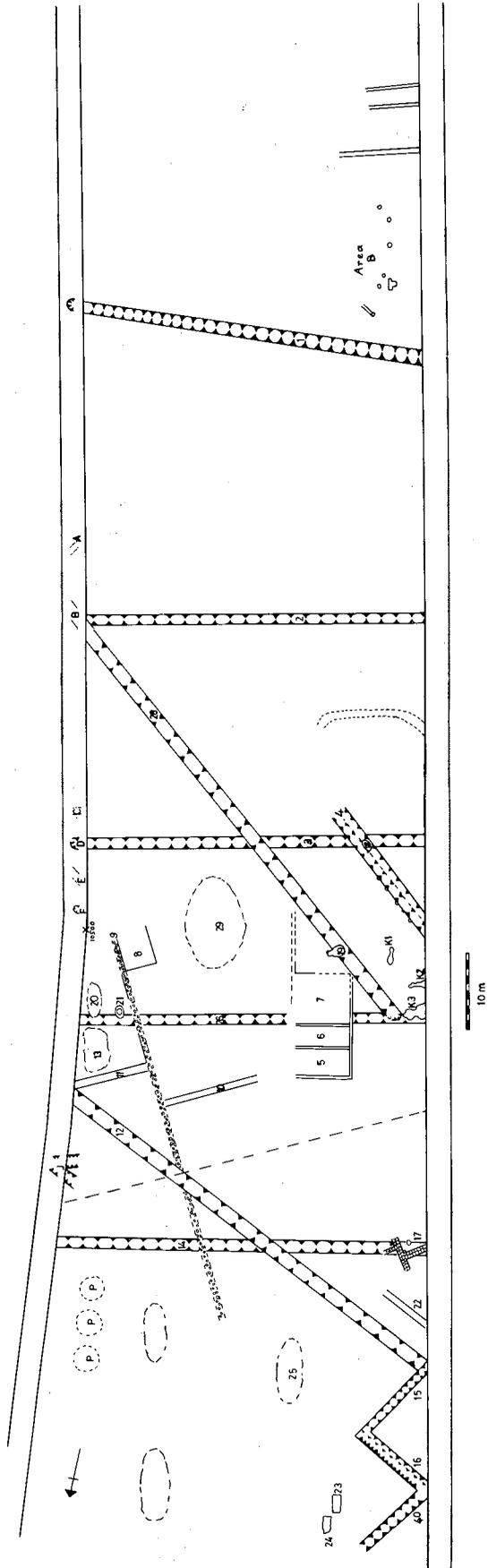


Fig. 4. Obelisk Kilns, Harston. Areas C and B.

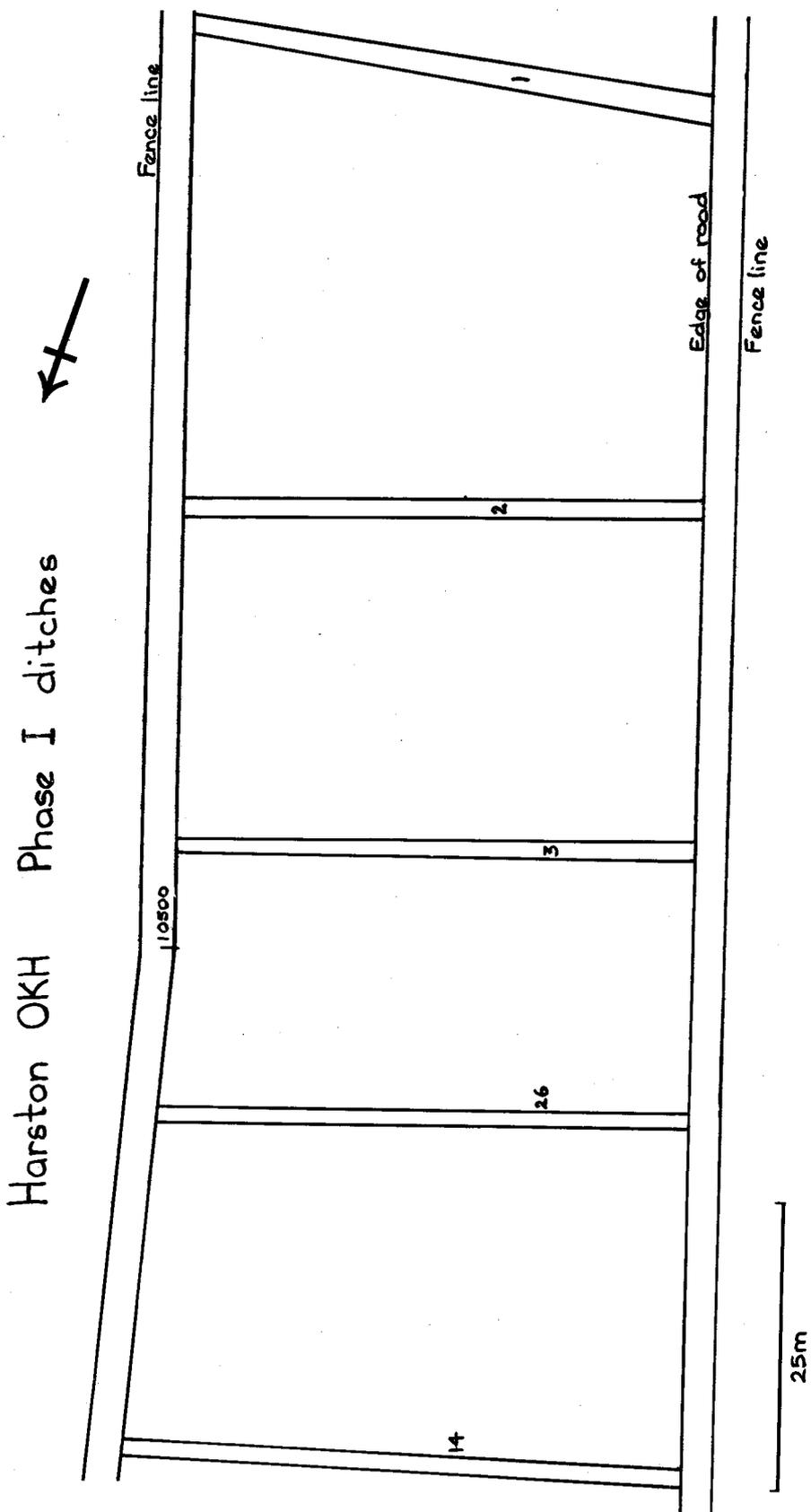


Fig. 5. Obelisk Kilns, Harston. Area C.
Phase I.

Harston OKH Phase II

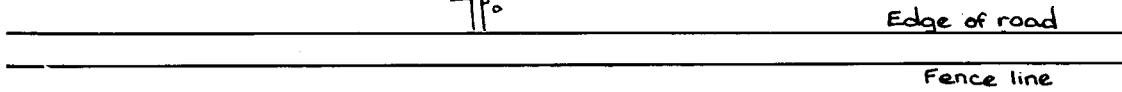
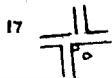
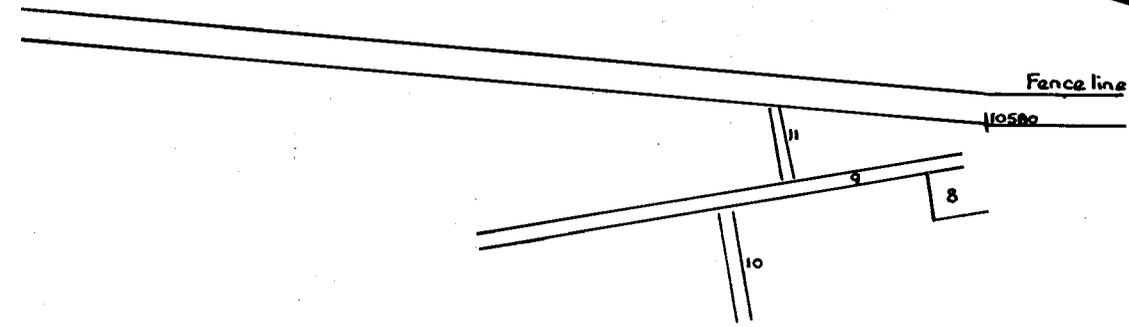


Fig. 6. Obelisk Kilns, Harston, Area C. Phase II.

Harston OKH Phase III

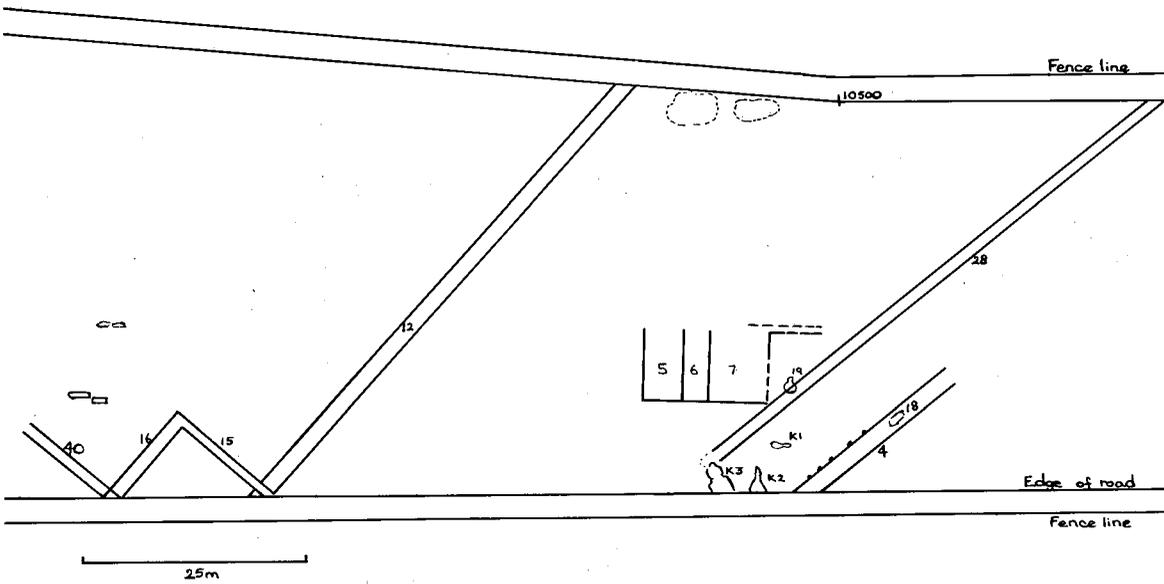


Fig. 7. Obelisk Kilns, Harston, Area C. Phase III.

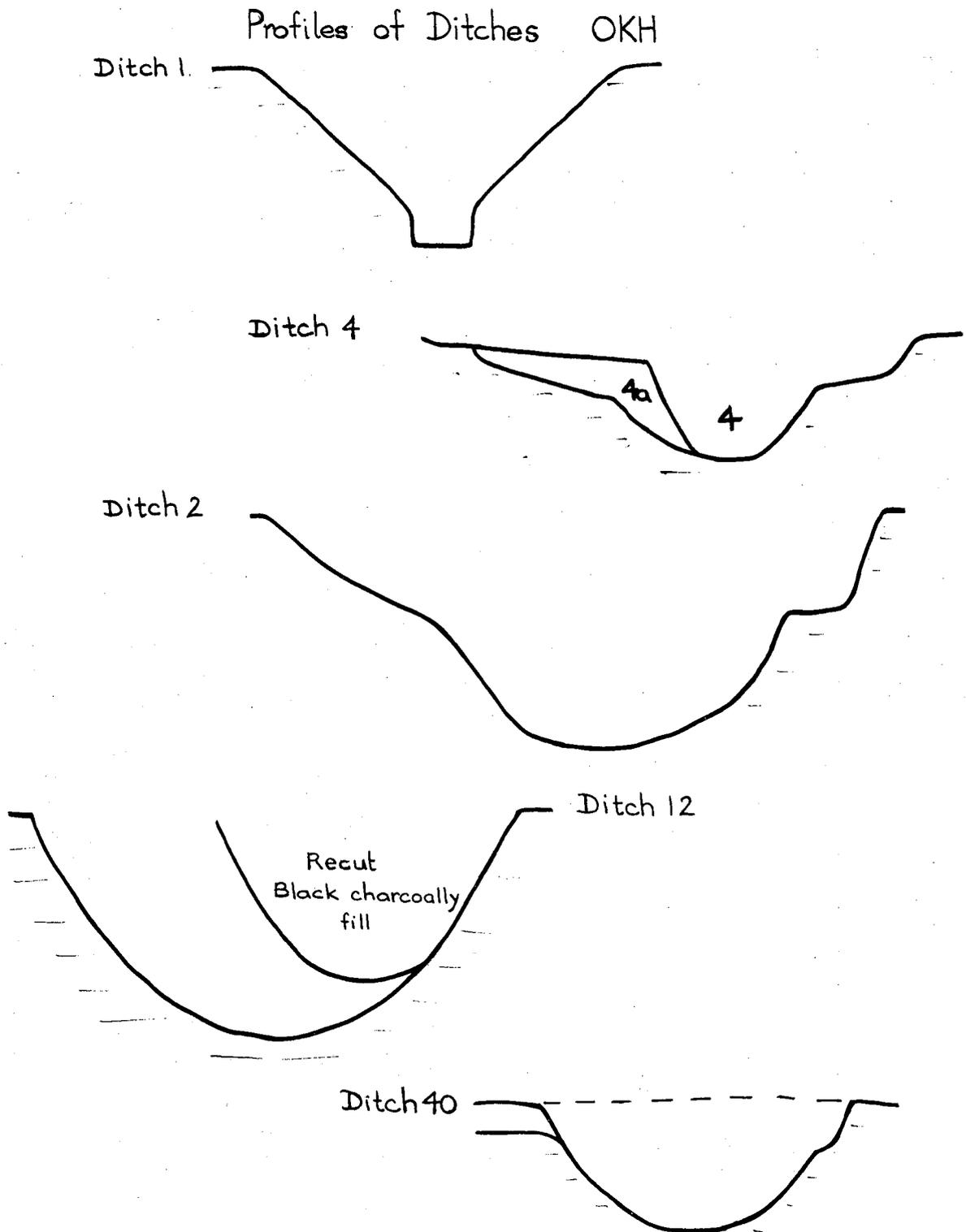


Fig. 8. Obelisk Kilns, Harston. Area C.

Profiles of Ditches.

Ditch 1 and 2, see Fig. 5.

Ditch 4, 12, and 40, see Fig. 7.

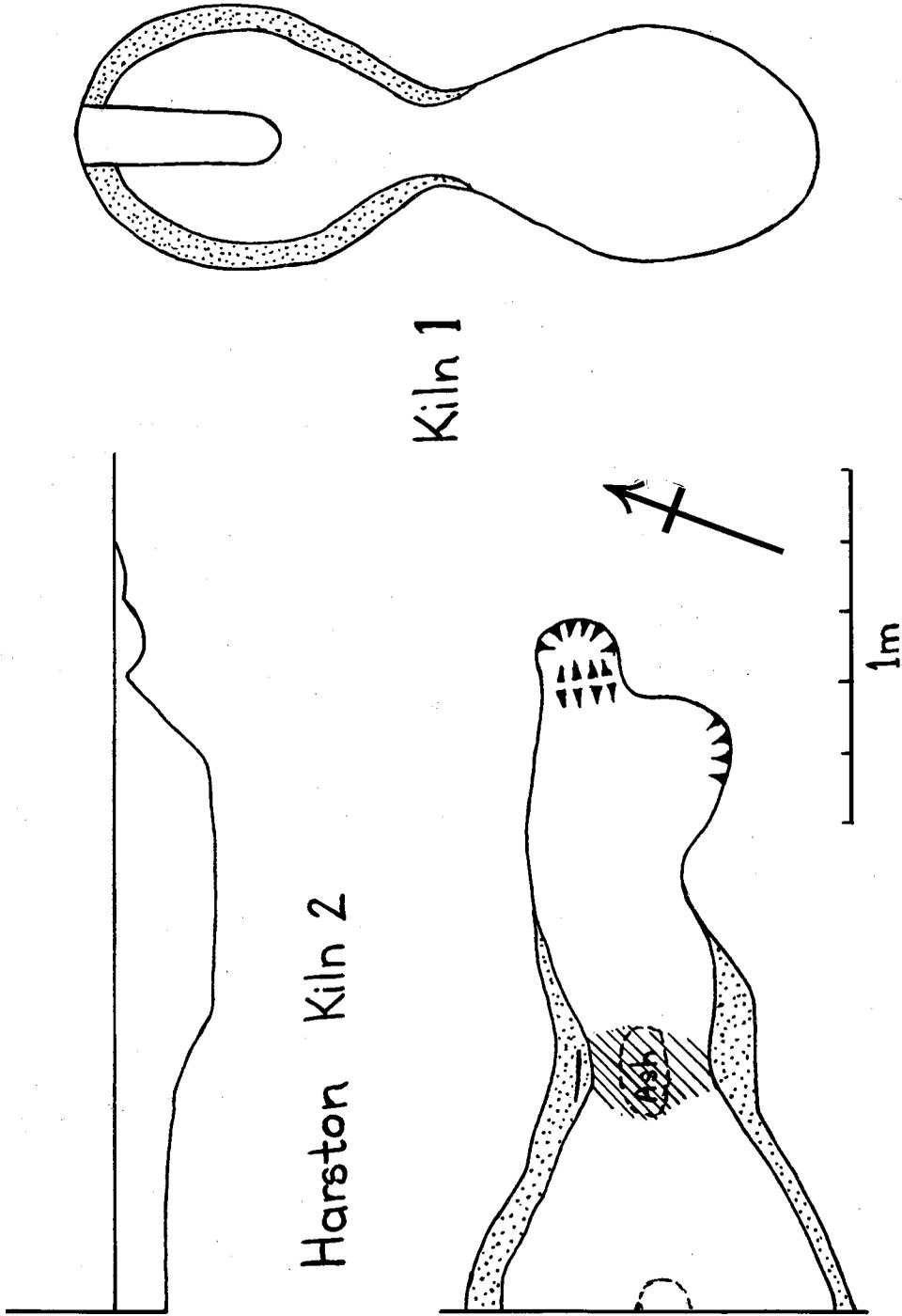


Fig. 9. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Plan of Kilns 1 and 2.

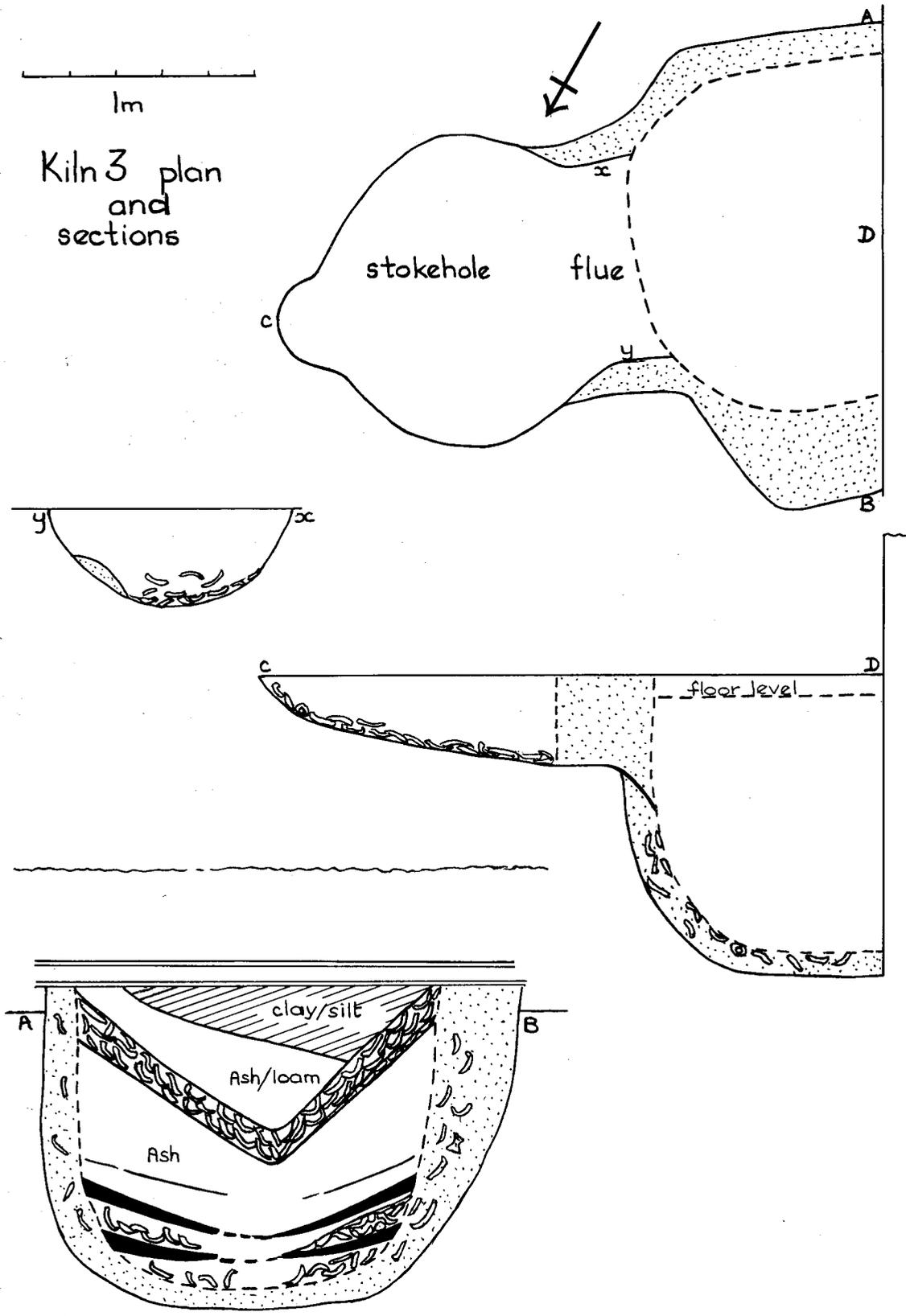


Fig. 10. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Plan and sections of Kiln 3.

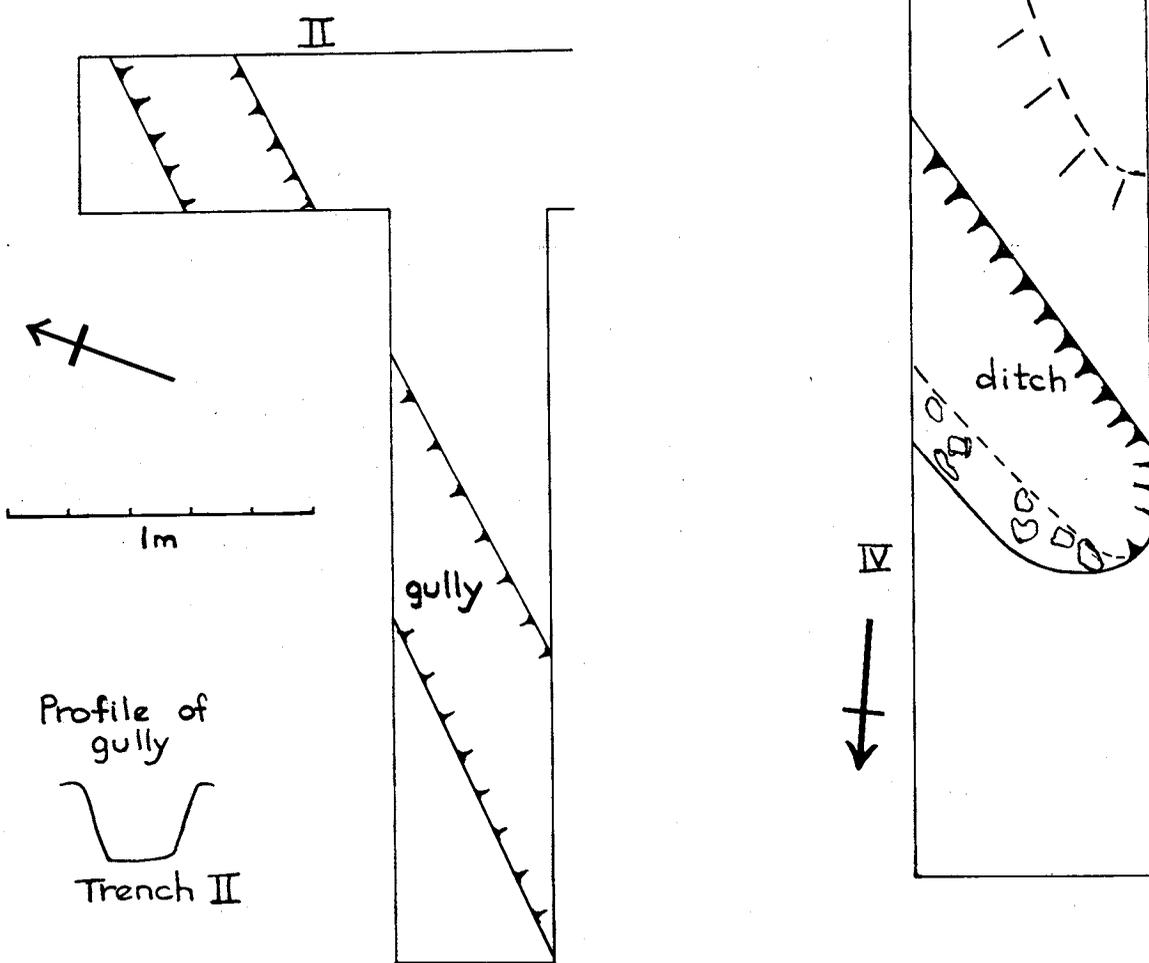
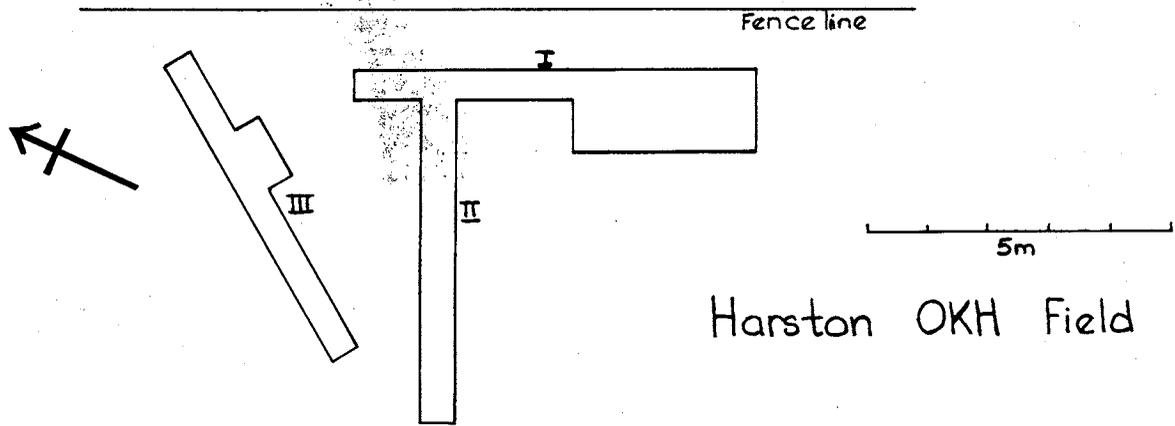
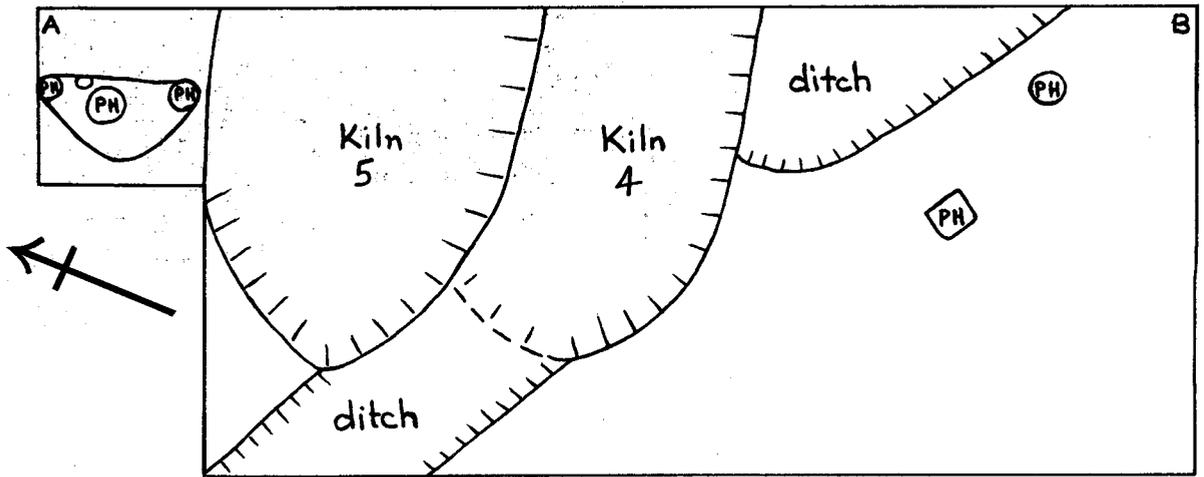
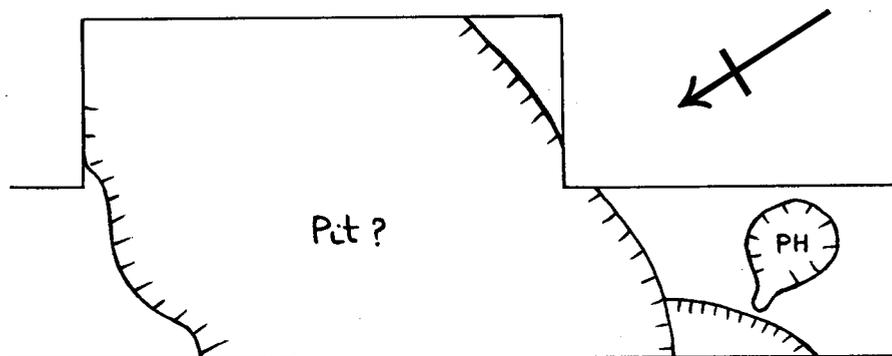
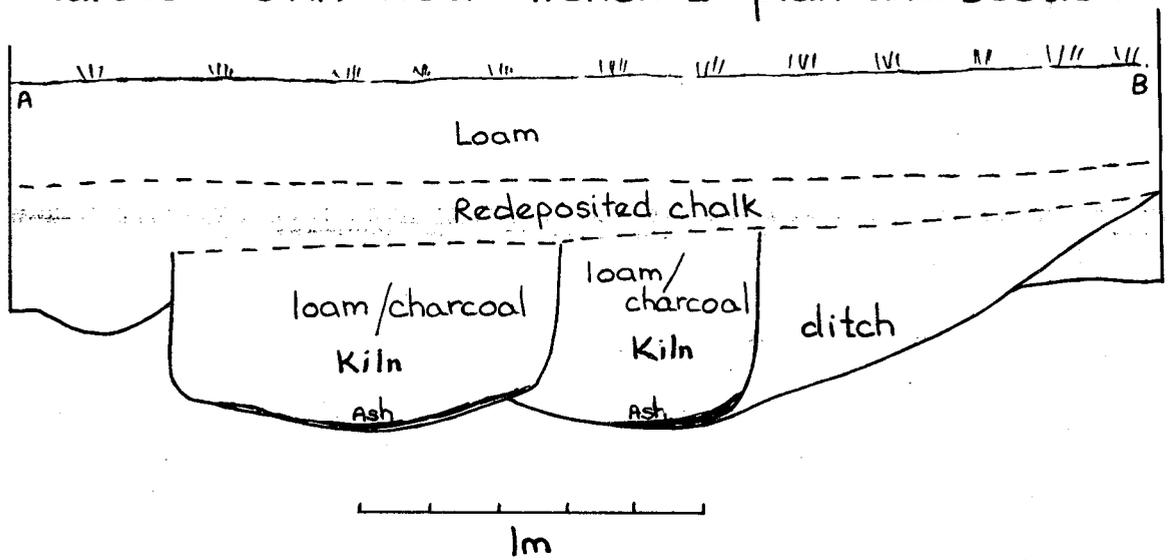


Fig. 11. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
General plan Trenches I-IV (see Fig. 2),
and details of Trenches II and IV.



Harston OKH Field Trench I plan and section



Plan Trench III

Fig. 12. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Details of Trenches I and III.

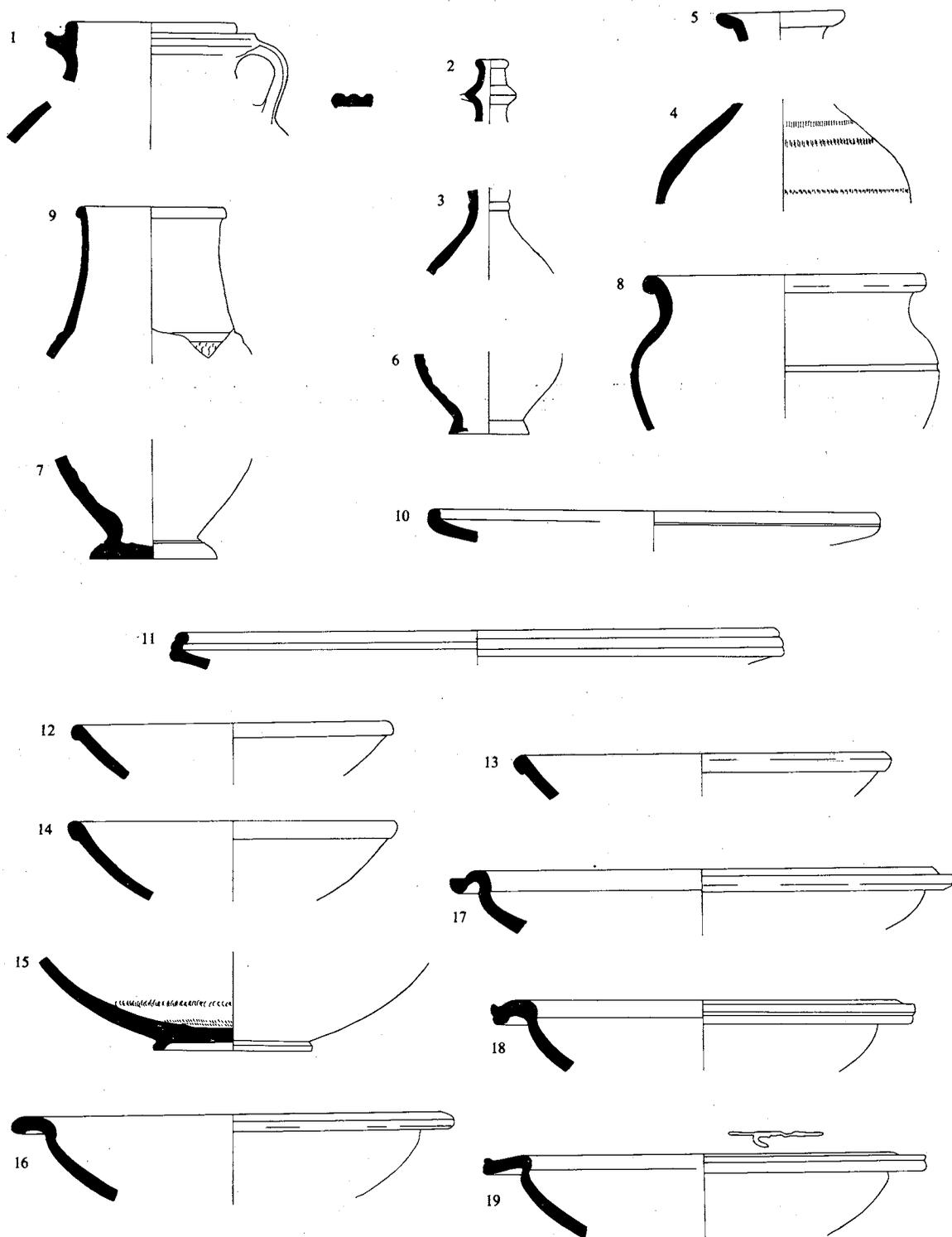


Fig. 13. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Pottery from kilns. Fabric (i), nos. 1-19. Scale 1/4.

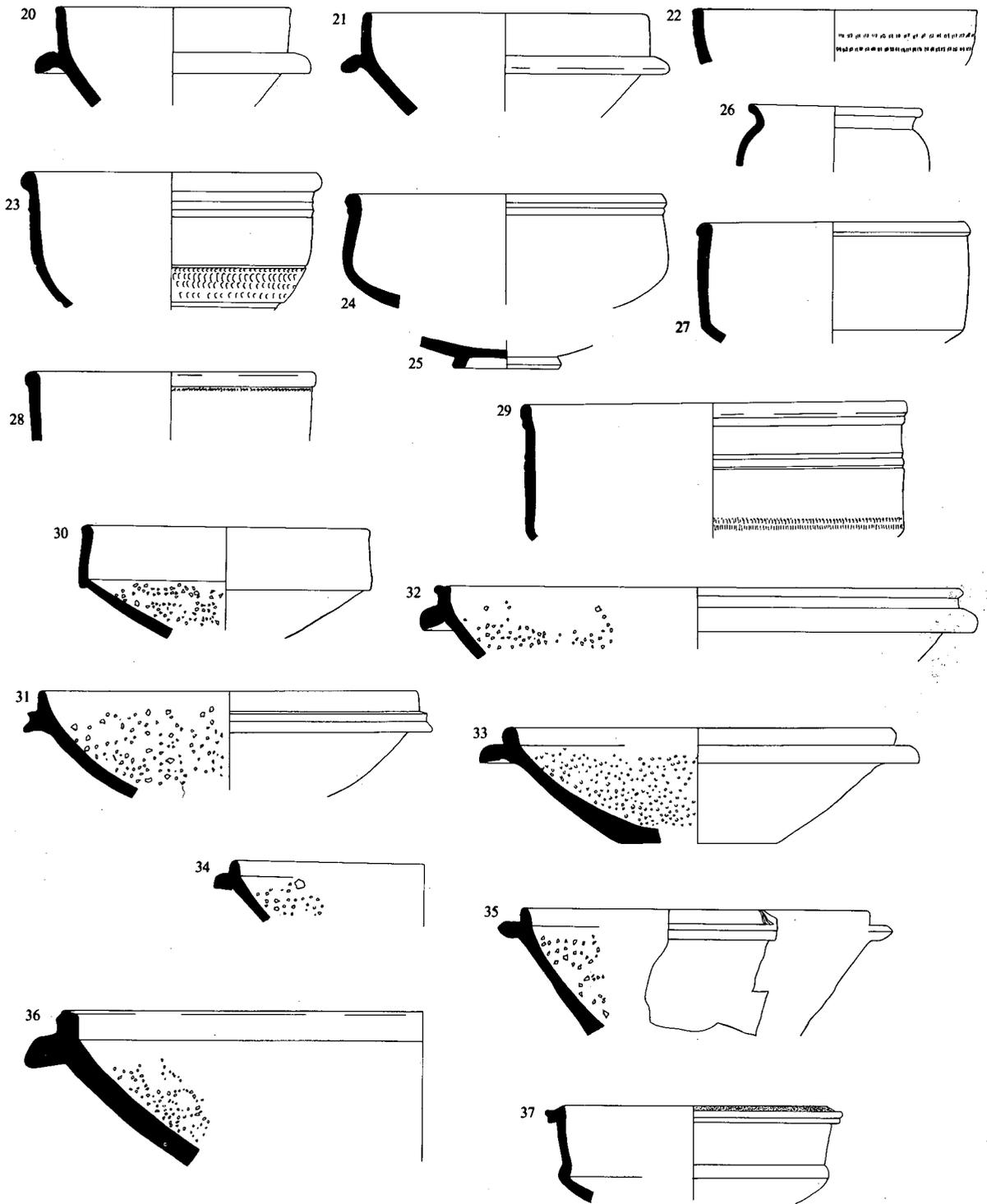


Fig. 14. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Pottery from kilns. Fabric (i), nos. 20-37. Scale 1/4.

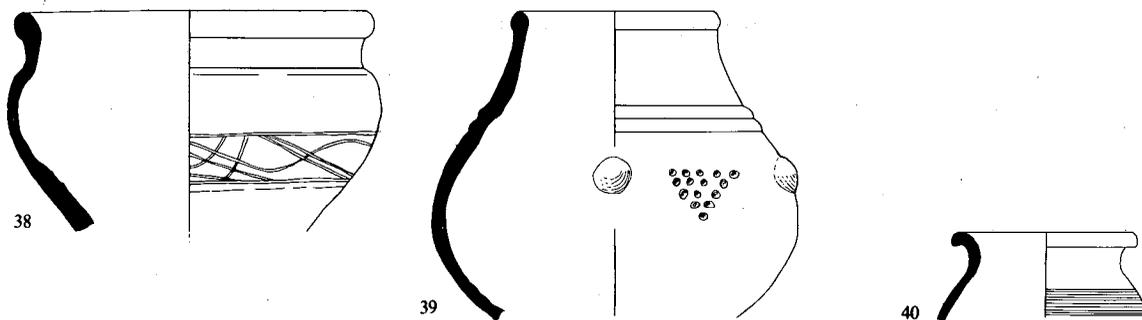


Fig. 15. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Pottery from kilns.
38, 39, Fabric (ii); 40, Fabric (iii). Scale 1/4.

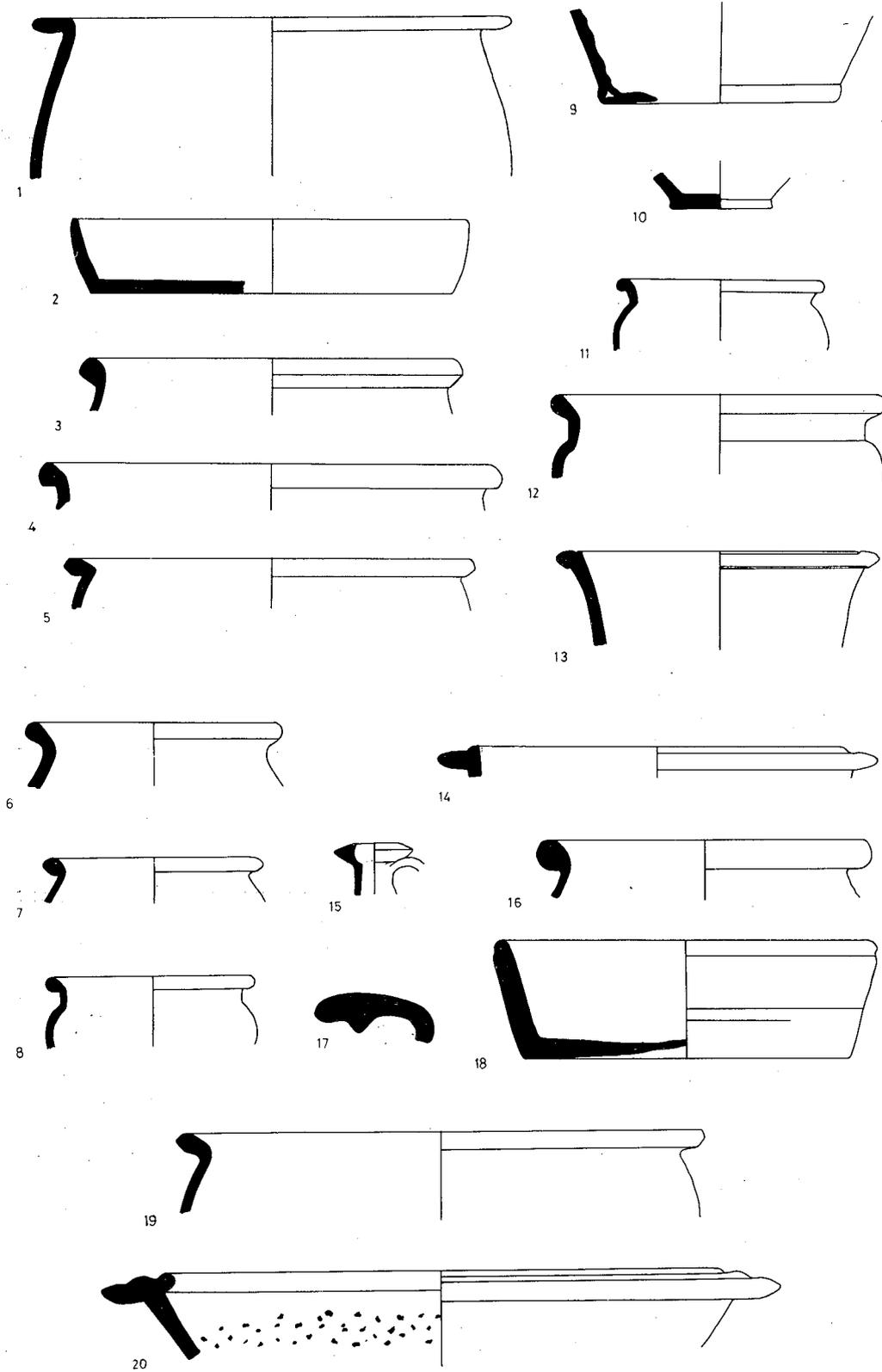


Fig. -16. Obelisk Kilns, Harston.
Pottery from features other than kilns. Scale 1/4.

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