

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



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IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

1982

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### 3. EDMUNDSOLES, HASLINGFIELD

T. E. AND M. MILLER

This Iron Age and Romano-British site is in the parish of Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire, on the north bank of the river Cam (or Granta), approximately 300 metres up-stream from its junction with the river Rhee (Grid reference TL 432539). See general plan, p. 1 above. It lies on the farm land of the Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington, Edmundsoles being the ancient name of the field.

The site is on the lower terrace of the Granta, overlooking an area of alluvium that lies between the two rivers. The thin gravel of the terrace lies on top of gault clay and is covered by only a thin layer of top soil. Coprolite working in the mid-nineteenth century and again during the 1914-18 war, when two large spoil mounds were deposited in the field, caused considerable disturbance in the area.

The site was recognised by the authors in 1971 when they found Romano-British pottery on the surface between the southern mound and the river. Over the succeeding five years the field was extensively field-walked and objects of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman type were collected.

In the autumn of 1976, when it appeared that the southern mound would be removed for use in the construction of the Cambridge Western By-Pass (M11), permission was granted for an exploratory excavation. It was sited on the evidence of crop marks and the high concentration of pottery at that point.

In 1977, the northern mound, which was partially on the motorway line and entirely made up of top soil, was lowered to the level of the present land surface and the surplus spread over low-lying areas bordering the river Cam. No archaeological features were exposed at this time.

In 1978 the southern mound, which consisted entirely of sub-soil, was lowered to a level which permitted cultivation by removing the top soil from the area around the mound, spreading the mound subsoil over the cleared area and then replacing the top-soil.

Permission was again granted for further excavations to be carried out during April and May, 1978. Many features which appeared on aerial photographs and some which had been hidden beneath the northern mound were investigated. (Figs. 1 & 2). (*For all figures see after p. 58*).

For convenience, the site will be dealt with as a unit in chronological order of the features, rather than the separate excavations.

#### PRE-FIRST MILLENIUM B.C.

No features of Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age occupation were found in the excavations, although field walking had previously produced two flint tranchet axes, 100 flint cores and over 700 other flint artifacts (Fig. 14) as well as a scatter of heat crazed flints (pot boilers); more were found throughout the later features.

#### FIRST MILLENIUM B.C.

##### *NON BELGIC IRON AGE*

When the soil was stripped from the area north of the southern mound, a series of 10 pits were revealed (Figs. 1 and 3). It was not possible to excavate these completely but all were extensively sampled and from their contents may be grouped together.

*Pit 1* was 1 metre in diameter and filled with dark loamy soil. It contained five pieces of coarse black pottery with flint temper, a few pieces of burnt clay and fragments of animal bone (Appendix III).

*Pit 2* was 1.5 x 2 metres and filled with dark loamy soil, which contained 22 pieces of coarse black pottery with flint temper (Fig. 11). The surface of some sherds had fired a reddish brown. It also contained animal teeth and bones (Appendix III). There were also pieces of burnt clay, a few large stones and a lump of slag.

*Pit 3* was 1 metre in diameter and may have been a hearth. It was filled with a black ashy loam containing only a few fragments of bone (Appendix III).

*Pit 4* was 1 metre in diameter and filled with dark loamy soil. It contained two small fragments of coarse black pottery, a few pieces of daub and a few bones (Appendix III).

*Pit 5* was 1.5 metres in diameter and filled with dark loamy soil. It contained 24 sherds of coarse black

flint-tempered pottery; two sherds of coarse black fabric with vegetable inclusions and one red shell-tempered sherd. There were also fragments of bone (Appendix III).

*Pit 6* was 1.4 metres in diameter and cut 30 cm. into the natural gravel. It was filled with dark loamy soil. It contained 24 sherds of coarse black flint-tempered pottery, some of which had fired to a reddish brown exterior (Fig. 11:5, 6), one greyish sherd with vegetable inclusions and one sherd of red shell-tempered fabric. There were also small fragments of bone (Appendix III).

*Pit 7* was the largest, being 2.5 metres in diameter and filled with dark loamy soil. It contained 95 sherds (Fig. 11:1, 3, 7, 8) of coarse black flint-tempered fabric, some had fired to a brown exterior, and one was burnished; and one sherd of buff fabric. There was also a quantity of animal bones (Appendix III).

*Pit 8* was 1.6 metres in diameter and filled with dark loamy soil. It contained 105 sherds of coarse black flint-tempered fabric, some had fired to a brownish exterior and 17 were burnished. There were also many bones (Appendix III).

*Pit 9* was 1 metre in diameter, filled with dark loamy soil. It contained one burnished coarse black flint-tempered sherd, a few fragments of bone and a few burnt stones.

*Pit 10* was 1 metre in diameter and filled with black ashy soil. It contained one burnished coarse black sherd (Fig. 11:4), a few small fragments of bone and several burnt stones. This pit may have been a hearth.

At the south-west corner of the southern mound the soil stripping revealed three circular ditches (Fig. 1); unfortunately only a perfunctory examination was possible.

*Circular Ditch 1* contained a very black fill consisting almost entirely of carbonised wood fragments. No features or objects were found inside the circle or in the ditch, but four fragments of coarse black flint-tempered pottery were found close to its outer edge.

*Circular Ditches 2 and 3* were both incomplete and filled with brown soil. No other features or finds were found associated with them.

To the north of the mound and west of the pits, an enclosure and a marl area were revealed (Fig. 1). *The enclosure* was rectangular, being 9.8 metres along the east-west axis and 6 metres from north to south, with a 1 metre wide entrance in the centre of the eastern end. The ditch was 35 cm wide at the surface of bedrock, with one post hole visible in the western side. No datable evidence was found.

The marl patch was trapezoid in shape but no other features or dateable evidence were found in association with it.

### BELGIC IRON AGE

Only a small area of Belgic features were revealed by the excavations. These were a tapered gully, the edge of a gully, and two post holes (Figs. 2 and 4).

#### *Gulley 1*

The gully was 60 cm. wide and cut 20 cm. into the natural gravel which at this point was 56 cm. below the modern land surface. It had a post-hole in its bottom near the tapered eastern end; this was 20 cm. in diameter and 46 cm. deep from the lip of the gully. The post-hole and the gully were filled with soft brown loamy soil which was sealed by the modern plough soil. This contained 57 sherds of large Belgic vessels (Fig. 11:9-13), and 15 sherds of coarse black fabric similar to that found in the pits. There were also bones, pieces of burnt clay, an iron nail and a few large stones.

A post-hole, 27 cm. in diameter, was found 47 cm. north of Gulley 1. It was cut 25 cm. into the natural gravel and the fill was the same as Gulley 1 but no finds came from it.

#### *Gulley 2*

A small area of another gully was uncovered running obliquely to Gulley 1, about 1 metre to the north. Only the southern edge was present; the rest had been destroyed by a later feature. It was filled with a sandy soil and contained a few fragments of Belgic pottery and animal bones.

## THE ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD

Most of the features exposed by the excavations were of the Romano-British period. These were mainly a complex of superimposed foundation trenches (Fig. 2). Despite the overlay and disturbance of the successive developments, it was possible to distinguish several distinct phases of occupation.

*PHASE I* (Fig. 5)

The earliest features were two possible foundation trenches, one running east-west and the second running N.E.-N.W., and a shallow irregularly shaped hollow.

*Structure 1*

This, probably a foundation to a rectangular building, had a shallow butt end to the east and was deeper with a possible right angle corner to the west. Much of it had been obliterated by later features. The eastern butt end contained a 20 cm. deep post-hole. The trench was at this point 40 cm. wide and 20 cm. deep, whereas the middle region varied in width from about 0.5 to 1 metre and was cut 60 cm. into the gravel with sloping sides. On the southern edge there were several small post-holes.

At the western end, the trench was cut with steep sides 65 cm. into the natural gravel and had itself been cut into by the butt end of a later feature.

The fill of the eastern end was sandy soil, containing sherds of 2nd-3rd-century pottery and fragments of bone (Appendix III). This was sealed by the modern plough soil, the surface of which was only 50 cm. above the natural at this point.

The middle region was filled with sandy gravel (Fig. 9, Section 1 (1)), containing a few fragments of 2nd-3rd-century pot. This was sealed by the brown, slightly gravelly soil (Section 1 (2)) of a later trench containing 4th century pottery.

The fill of the western end was a compact orange soil (Fig. 9, Section 2 (1)) which contained a few pieces of early Romano-British pottery, a flint blade and some bone fragments. Near the bottom was a thin black carbonaceous layer, a sample of which contained one grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and several grains of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). This was sealed by a brownish sandy soil (Section 2 (2)) containing sherds of 3rd-century pottery, fragments of bones, a tile, pieces of daub, iron, nails, flint blades, a lump of slag and an iron fibula. This was, in turn, sealed by the modern plough soil.

*Structure 2*

The second trench was approximately 8 metres to the S.E. and was also part of a straight-sided structure. At its northern end it was fairly shallow with sloping sides; the width, at the only point where both sides remained, was about 0.5 metres. At the southern end the south-eastern edge became almost vertical and turned to the west. A 1.2 metre length of the south-east side had a row of post settings against the vertical side, some of which were packed round with stones. The fill was of sandy, gravelly soil (Fig. 9, Section 3 (1)) and contained only 27 small sherds of Romano-British pottery. At the southern end this was sealed by the dark soil with ashy patches of a Phase III trench (Section 3 (2)). At the northern end it was sealed by a layer of brown soil, which was immediately below the plough soil.

*Hollow 1*

A shallow, irregularly shaped, area lay close to the Structure 1 trench. It contained two shallow post-holes; one was circular and 20 cm. in diameter, the other was approximately 30 cm. square. Two further shallow post-holes were situated on the gravel ridge between the arms of the feature. One was circular and 15 cm. in diameter, the other was a rectangle of 20 cm. x 30 cm. The fill, which had a marl edge, was a dark soil containing only 12 sherds of post 2nd century pottery. The hollow was cut by features of Phases II and III.

*PHASE II*

During the 2nd century a large well-built house was erected to the east of the Phase I features.

*The House* (Fig. 6)

A corridors, winged building with a north-east to south-west axis and a door in the north-west wall, was partially excavated. The parts of the building excavated consisted of three rooms; one immediately inside the entrance (A); one at the angle of the main section and the wing (B), one at the end of the wing (C), and a corridor along the south-east side. The remainder still lies beneath the lowered southern mound.

*Room A* was 2.75 metres x 5 metres with a pea-gravel floor. The room led directly to the outside via an entrance, which was 84 cm. wide on the inside and 1.5 metres wide on the outside. Both the inner and outer parts of the entrance were flanked by post holes. The two outer post holes were circular, being 31 cm. x 37 cm. in diameter and both 20 cm. deep. The inner ones were elongated, being 44 cm. x 18 cm. and 49 cm. x 23 cm. and again both were 20 cm. deep.

Just inside the entrance and sealed by the gravel floor were two 25 cm. diameter post-holes. These must

either have belonged to an earlier structure or some modification of the existing building had made them redundant.

There was one more post-hole at the opposite side of the room from the entrance. This was possibly double. It was 64 cm. long, 20 cm. wide at one end, 30 cm. wide at the other and 20 cm. deep. The interior of the room was covered with a brown soil which became darker at the south western end. The soil contained only a few sherds of early 3rd-century pottery. A small area of common orache (*Atriplex patula*) seeds were found on the floor just inside the entrance (Appendix I, Sample 1).

Room B occupied the corner between the main part of the building and the south wing and was presumably entered from the corridor. The room had an overall length of 6.5 metres and an overall width of 3 metres. The central portion was 3 metres square with a 2.5 metre x 1.5 metre extension into the wing and a 1.8 metre x 1.5 metre area beside Room A. The floor area, which was lower than Room A, was natural sand with traces of beam slots around the edges and running at right angles to the main part of the building. The beams presumably held a suspended floor. This area of the building was covered with a very dark ashy soil, which contained, immediately above the floor, a large quantity of early 3rd-century pottery sherds, an iron knife blade, an iron flesh hook, and several iron nails. A later phase ditch had been cut across the west corner of the room but had not penetrated to the floor level. One early 4th-century coin was found just outside the northern wall of this room (Appendix II, Coin 1).

Room C occupied the end of the south wing and was approximately 2 metres square, although the walls were not parallel. The floor was gravelled and on it, as in Room B, lay a dark ashy layer of soil, which contained a few sherds of early 3rd-century pottery, some iron nails and an iron buckle (Fig. 10:10). There was no evidence of an entrance into this room at the level of the remaining wall structure.

The Corridor ran the whole length of the south-east wall of the building. The corridor was 1.25 metres wide and divided from Room A by a faint row of stake holes. There was evidence of sleeper beams along either side. Like Room B the floor level was lower than the Room A floor level; this again suggests a suspended floor. The sub floor consisted of a 15 cm. layer of compact soil above a 25 cm. layer of mixed soil and gravel.

The outer walls of the building had foundations of rammed soil, stones and sherds. At the one point of the south-west wall which was sectioned, the foundations were cut 43 cm. into the natural gravel. There were post settings of about 18 cm. in diameter at approximately 30 cm. intervals. The foundations were capped with a layer of clunch (hard chalk) blocks, some of which showed signs of burning. Post settings at similar intervals were also found in the outer wall of the corridor. A few larger post settings were investigated, notably at the west corner and the junction of Rooms A and B. Both of these settings had curved clunch blocks which had apparently been cut to fit around the post. The outer walls varied in width from slightly less than 0.5 metres for the south-east, north-west and south-west walls to just under one metre for the north-east wall of the wing.

The wall dividing Rooms B and C had foundations 50 cm. wide and 15 cm. deep, containing rammed soil and stones. On the Room B side there was a 15 cm. wide strip of sand with a line of stake holes and inside this a 15 cm. wide and 5 cm. deep beam slot. Above the foundations were a scatter of large stones and lumps of clunch. These foundations seem unduly wide for an internal wall and may have been originally an external one before Room C was added. At the point where the entrance wall disappeared beneath the mound, it no longer had well constructed foundations and only a double row of post-holes existed. These post-holes were in the natural gravel which extended both outside and inside the wall. The surface of this natural gravel was approximately 10 cm. above the level of the floor of Room A.

#### *Hollow 2 (Fig. 6)*

At the eastern corner of the wing there was a shallow irregularly shaped area cut into the natural gravel. This area had a series of post-holes around the edge. From west to east these were 30 cm. in diameter and 20 cm. deep; 30 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. deep; 16 cm. in diameter and 20 cm. deep; 25 cm. in diameter and 20 cm. deep; 25 cm. in diameter and 15 cm. deep; 30 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. deep and 24 cm. in diameter and 20 cm. deep. The three small post-holes just outside the area were 10 cm. in diameter and 15 cm. apart. The area contained pottery similar to the rest of the building. The rather irregular shape of this area in relation to the regular angular shape of the building makes it difficult to draw any conclusions about this feature.

Although no evidence of hearths or the like were discovered in any of the rooms, it appears that the building had been destroyed by fire. The main area of burning was in Room B and had spread to the whole of the south-east wing but had not spread far into Room A or along the corridor. From the quantity of pottery and bones in Room B it may have been either a kitchen or a pantry.

*The Boundary Ditch (Fig. 1)*

This had the same orientation as the corridor building and was sampled at two points: where the ditch disappeared under the southern edge of the mound and where a branch appeared to drain it towards the river.

At the first point the ditch was 2.4 metres wide, with the bottom 1.5 metres below the surface. It was cut 80 cm. into the gravel, with sloping sides and flat bottom. The lower 50 cm. of the fill was a sandy gravelly mixture (Fig. 9, Section 14 (1)) containing only one small samian sherd. This was sealed by a layer of soft brown soil with black areas (Section 14 (2)). This upper fill contained a quantity of 2nd and 3rd-century pottery sherds and a few pre-Roman sherds. There were also tiles, iron nails, quern fragments, large stones, many bones, worked flints and a black bone bead.

The second point of investigation confirmed the eastern curve of the outfall towards the river. The ditch at this point was much shallower, being cut only 20 cm. into the natural gravel. The fill was a sandy-gravelly mixture containing Romano-British pottery sherds and a few bones.

*The Boundary Stockade*

On the inside of the ditch was a wide shallow double trench. The trench was 2.6 metres wide and 25 cm. deep with a central sandy ridge 60 cm. wide at its base, with its top level with the sides of the trench (Section 14 (3)). The ridge showed signs of having had a row of stakes set in it. The whole of the trench was filled with soft brown soil like the ditch but without the black patches and with few inclusions.

*PHASE III*

The Phase III features consisted of two structures, which were modified during the later 3rd and 4th century, and a large curved ditch. One consisted of an irregular series of foundation trenches enclosing a roughly oval area with a group of large post-holes in the centre at one end (Fig. 7). The other, lying east of the first, consisted of a series of foundation trenches and post-holes enclosing a roughly rectangular area (Fig. 8).

There were no surviving floor levels of either structure.

*PHASE IIIa**Structure 1 (Fig. 7a)*

Two trenches enclosed a roughly oval area of about 6 metres x 13 metres between the two Phase I structures, which were cut by it at the east and west ends. The northern trench, which was curved and had sloping sides, varied in width from 0.25 metres to 1.25 metres and in depth from 0.20 metres to 0.70 metres from the top of the gravel. The trench finished in a butt end to the west, which had a 30 cm. x 38 cm. diameter post-hole. The hole was 62 cm. deep with a sloping lip on the south side. It was filled with dark soil containing a few sherds of Iron Age pottery and a few fragments of bone. This was sealed by the fill of the trench which was of dark ashy soil containing a few sherds of 3rd-century pottery, which in turn was sealed by the plough soil. The central part of the trench was all but obliterated by Phase IIIb and IIIc modifications. At the east it finished in a butt end with a shallow post-setting at the outer edge and a post-hole just on the inside. Beyond the end was a narrow (25 cm.) and shallow (20 cm.) extension with a shallow post-hole at the end and a square post setting on the inner side. The square post setting was filled with a red clayey soil. The extension trench was filled with a very dark soil containing vertical pieces of carbonised wood, which appeared to have been the remains of stakes. These were sealed with a very mixed layer of soil, sand and gravel, containing a few sherds of 3rd-century and Belgic pottery and a few bones.

The extension, which was at an outward angle to the main trench, may have supported a wattle wind break to protect a doorway situated between the ends of the two trenches.

The southern trench was much straighter and varied in width from 0.5 metres to 1.5 metres. At its western extremity it had a butt end which was cut through the Phase I trench with steep sides 55 cm. into the natural gravel which was 80 cm. below the surface at this point. It was filled with sandy soil (Fig. 9, Section 4 (1)) containing sherds of Romano-British pottery, pieces of bone, pieces of daub and two flint blades. This was sealed by a layer of brown soil (Section 4 (2)) containing sherds of 3rd-century pottery. This, in turn, was sealed by the modern plough soil.

The centre varied in depth, the deepest point being towards the west where it reached a depth of 1.40 metres below the surface and 0.9 metres from the top of the gravel. The sides at this point sloped at about 45° (Fig. 9, Section 5 (1)) and it was filled with orange loamy soil which contained a few sherds of 1st-

century pottery, bones, large stones and a flint blade. This was sealed by a layer of gravelly soil (Section 5 (2)) containing sherds of late 3rd-4th-century pottery, iron nails, bones, pieces of daub and chalk and burnt stone and flint. This, in turn, was sealed by the plough soil.

Midway along the trench, two stake holes and a post setting were found on the inner edge. The trench at this point was 1.5 metres wide and U-profiled. It was 95 cm. deep from the surface and cut 60 cm. into the gravel. The fill was a sandy-stony mixture containing a few sherds of Belgic and Romano-British pottery and a few bones. It was sealed by a layer of slightly stony soil with brown patches, which was gravelly towards the base. This contained a few sherds of pre-Roman and 4th-century pottery. This in turn was sealed by the modern plough soil.

To the east, the trench turned sharply northward towards the northern trench and finished in a butt end. Just before the turn, the trench was just under 1 metre wide and reached a depth of 90 cm. below the surface and cut 25 cm. into the gravel. The trench was U-profiled with a 20 cm. wide and 15 cm. deep slot in the bottom which ended in a slightly wider square end. Both were filled with a gravelly soil (Fig. 9, Section 6 (1)) containing a few sherds of 3rd-4th-century pottery, a few fragments of bone, an oyster shell and a flint point. This was sealed by a layer of brownish soil with reddish sandy patches, containing a few sherds of Romano-British pottery and a few fragments of bone. The southern edge was built up by a layer of sterile sand (Section 6 (3)) and capped with a layer of gravel. This gravel may have been a small remnant of contemporary surface covering.

Only the lip of the butt end remained, as it had been cut into by the Phase IIIb trench. Again the inner edge had been raised by a sterile layer of mixed sand, gravel and soil (Fig. 9, Section 3 (3)) which also carried the remnants of a layer of gravel. The group of post-holes in the central region, none of which contained any datable material, in all probability do not all belong to this phase, but are all included on the plan (Fig. 7a) for convenience.

Both holes of the double setting were approximately 25 cm. in diameter and cut 60 cm. into the gravel. The ones to the north and south of these were 33 cm. in diameter and also 60 cm. deep. The large one to the east was 53 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. deep. The smaller one to the south was 20 cm. in diameter, as was the one to the north which was 23 cm. deep and had a raised lip of re-deposited gravel. The very small 10 cm. diameter hole had a sloping edge all round. All were sealed by a layer of brown soil containing late 3rd-century pottery.

A large irregular pit (Pit 11, Fig. 7) close to the northern trench may belong to this phase or Phase II. The pit cut the northern Phase I trench and was itself cut by the Phase IIIb internal trench. The pit was approximately 2 metres x 80 cm. and cut 80 cm. into the natural gravel. The fill was a sand-soil mixture with many small stones (Fig. 9, Section 13 (1)). Where it had not been cut by later features, it was sealed by the general layer of brown soil just below the plough soil (Section 13 (2)). The fill contained sherds of 3rd-century pottery.

### PHASE IIIb

#### *Structure 1 - First modification (Fig. 7b)*

This phase consists of an enlargement of the Phase IIIa structure and the introduction of a dividing wall in the 4th century A.D. The northern trench was recut and the southern one partly recut and moved southwards, thus increasing the internal area of the structure. Two further trenches appeared running side by side across the centre, probably to support internal dividing walls. If this was their function they were probably cut at different times. Two small pits were also dug close to these central features.

It can be seen from Figure 2 that the northern trench followed the line of the Phase III trench, but without the extension at the eastern end. At its western end it finished short of the Phase III trench. The western butt end was U-shaped in section, the bottom being 1 metre below the modern land surface. It was filled with a dark brown soil (Fig. 9, Section 1 (3)) which contained 4th-century pottery sherds and was sealed by the plough soil.

The central and widest part had a very sloping inner side and contained a gravel-soil mixture containing a few sherds of 3rd-4th-century pottery. This appeared to be back filling on the inside of a later feature (see Fig. 7, Phase IIIc and Fig. 9, Section 8 (1)). On the inner edge of this part of the trench, a small triangular area with 25 cm. sides had been cut. This contained two intact 4th-century vessels (Fig. 12:44, 45). They were placed one inside the other and were obviously purposely buried.

Towards the east, the trench became narrower, about 40 cm. with steeper sides and finished in a butt end. It was filled with dark brown soil with black patches. The fill contained a large quantity of 3rd and 4th-century pottery sherds. There were also iron nails, tiles, brick, pieces of chalk, pieces of iron, large

burnt stones, charcoal, a pair of iron shears (Fig. 10, 15), a hammer-stone and a bone pin. Most of the inclusions were in the upper layers of the fill and by their position may have been packing at the base of a wall.

The southern trench had a butt end to the east where it curved north towards the northern trench. This end was a recutting of the Phase IIIa trench. The trench was U-profiled and reached a depth of 1 metre below the surface. It had a 25 cm. wide and 18 cm. deep slot cut in the bottom, which widened to the full width of the trench at the southern-most point. The inner edge of the trench at this point was built up with a layer of sterile red clay (Fig. 9, Section 6 (6)). The slot was filled with an almost sterile gravelly mixture (Section 6 (4)). This was sealed by the dark brown loamy soil with ashy patches of the upper part of the trench (Fig. 9, Section 3 (2), Section 6 (5)). This fill contained a large number of 3rd-4th-century pottery sherds, pieces of tiles, pieces of chalk, large stones, fragments of querns, iron nails, pieces of iron, bones, oyster shells, a black polished bone bead and an early 4th-century coin (Appendix II, Coin 2). Like the northern trench, most of the finds were in the upper part of the fill. Many of the larger stones, pieces of chalk and quern fragments, lay just outside the centre line of the trench (Section 3 (2)). As in the northern trench, these appeared as if they had been used as packing around the outer base of a wall. There were also indications of vertical stakes along the centre of the fill. The main part of the southern-most curve of the trench was plotted after the soil stripping. Only a small section was excavated in this area. The trench at this point was 75 cm. wide and cut 50 cm. into the gravel which was 40 cm. below the surface at this point. It had a steep inner side and a more sloping outer side. It contained a gravelly fill with few inclusions (Fig. 9, Section 7 (1)) which was sealed by a layer of brownish soil containing a few Romano-British pottery sherds, some bone and pieces of chalk (Section 7 (2)).

Further round, the trench became wider (1 metre) and shallower (60 cm.) and was once more U-profiled. It was filled with a brownish soil containing late 3rd-century pottery sherds, a few bones and iron nails and a lump of slag. In this region it was also cut by a large pit (Pit 12, Fig. 2), approximately 2 metres in diameter, containing a slightly sandy brown soil with a few sherds of 3rd-4th-century pottery, a few fragments of bone, a tile, two flint blades and patches of seed (Appendix I, sample 2). Beyond the pit the trench widened considerably (over 2 metres) into what appeared to be a large butt end. Unfortunately only one side of the trench was excavated and it was not possible to delineate it further after the soil stripping. This end section overlay the Phase IIIa trench. The fill was a stony soil with some brownish patches containing a few 4th-century pottery sherds in the upper levels. In places a few patches of marl and charcoal were found; these may have been all that remained of the floor level on the inside of the wall.

Just inside the south western section of the trench was a small ash-filled pit (Pit 13), 35 cm. diameter and 25 cm. deep. It contained a few bones and a few grains of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). The surrounding area contained patches of marl which again may have been the remnants of the floor. Only a few undatable sherds of Romano-British pottery was found in this area.

The main internal dividing trench ran from the northern trench almost to the southern one where it finished in a post-hole. It varied in width from 30 cm. to 75 cm. and was mostly only cut about 20 cm. into the gravel. Towards the southern end a deeper slot had been cut. About half-way along was a post-hole which may or may not have been contemporary. This is described in Phase IIIa. The fill was a brown soil containing a few Romano-British pottery sherds, a few bones, a few pieces of building material and a bone knife handle (Fig. 10, 16). Towards the northern end groups of stake holes were found. The stakes were about 6 cm. square.

The trench running parallel to the south west was 40 cm. wide and 20 cm. deep. The fill was a sandy soil with marly patches containing a few sherds of 3rd-century pottery. It had one 30 cm. diameter and 50 cm. deep post hole with similar fill but no datable material.

At the southern end of this trench were two adjacent pits (Pits 14 and 15), both approximately 60 cm. across and reaching a depth of 70 cm. below the surface. Both had sides that sloped in two stages. The western pit tapered almost to a point which sloped up to the edge of the trench. The eastern one had a curved bottom. Both showed traces of a marl lining which also spread over and up the far side of the main dividing trench (Fig. 9, Section 6 (7)). The bottom of the pits were filled with a dark soil with traces of ash containing a few sherds of 3rd-4th-century pottery and a few bones (Section 6 (8)). The eastern pit also contained a broken iron scythe blade (Fig. 10, 12). These lower fills were sealed by the same fill as that contained by the trench (Section 6 (9)).

Some of the post-holes described for Phase IIIa may belong to this phase.

*PHASE IIIc**Structure 1 – Second modification (Fig. 7c)*

This phase consists of alterations to the northern wall of the Phase IIIb, Structure 1.

A new foundation trench was cut into the northern Phase IIIb trench. This trench made a right angle turn to the north at its eastern end and may possibly have done the same at the western end. The trench was generally U-profiled, becoming wider to the west and shallow along the northward arm (Fig. 9, Section 9 (1)). The shallower part contained a shallow post-hole, 20 cm. x 30 cm. and 20 cm. deep. The trench contained a dark ashy soil (Section 8 (2) and 9 (1)), late 3rd-4th-century sherds, bones, pieces of tile, fragments of larva quern, pieces of chalk and a late 4th-century coin (Appendix II, Coin 3). The angle of the trench held a 40 cm. diameter post-hole which was 60 cm. deep, containing a few sherds of Romano-British pottery and a piece of bronze.

The eastern section of the northern Phase IIIb trench appeared to have been recut, especially adjacent to the new feature. There was no distinct difference between the fills of the two features.

The Phase IIIb trench on the inner side of the new trench had been backfilled with a gravel soil mixture (Section 8 (1)) containing a few late Romano-British pottery sherds, a few pieces of bone and some fragments of stone and clay tile. Two small shallow adjacent post holes were cut into this back fill; one was 20 cm. in diameter and the other 10 cm. in diameter.

The whole was sealed by a layer of brownish soil lying directly below the modern plough soil, containing a few Romano-British pottery sherds (Section 8 (3)).

One large post hole, 54 cm. x 39 cm. across and 56 cm. deep was cut into the side of the Phase IIIb dividing trench. It contained a brownish soil with no inclusions.

Once again, some of the post-holes described for Phase IIIa may belong to, or have continued in use into this phase.

*PHASE IIIb**Structure 2 (Fig. 8a)*

Immediately to the east of the Phase III, Structure 1, and west of the Phase II house, lay a further series of foundation trenches. These enclosed a more or less rectangular area approximately 3 metres x 10 metres, with the long axis running north to south, and a possible entrance in the east side.

On the south side of the possible entrance the trench finished in a butt end with a post-hole. The trench at this point was U-profiled, 40 cm. wide and cut 17 cm. into the natural gravel. The post-hole was 20 cm. x 25 cm. in diameter and 43 cm. deep, with a sloping lip on the side away from the end of the trench. This post-hole formed the end of a line of post-holes which were revealed by the soil stripping. The line ran diagonally across the feature to the south-west corner. It is not known if a final post-hole existed at the end of the line at the corner of the trench; the trench at this point being only excavated sufficiently to locate the corner. The fill of both post-hole, the trench and the surrounding area above the natural at this point, was a dark black compact soil, lying directly below the plough soil. It contained 3rd-century pottery sherds, bones, iron nails, an oyster shell and a piece of marble tile.

Towards the corner, the trench became wider (70 cm.) and deeper, being cut 25 cm. into the gravel which was around 45 cm. below the surface in this area. The fill was still a dark black compact soil, lying immediately below the plough soil. It contained a few sherds of 2nd-3rd-century pottery, a few pieces of bone and a tile.

At the corner, the trench was 90 cm. wide and sides sloped in two steps to a U-profiled bottom. Again the fill was a dark black compact soil, lying immediately below the plough soil. The fill contained late 3rd-4th century pottery sherds, bones, iron nails, pieces of chalk, a mussel shell, an iron blade and a piece of a bone measuring instrument (Fig. 10).

At the south-west corner, the trench was 80 cm. wide. The full depth was not excavated. The fill was a dark soil, which was sealed by the plough soil, and contained a few sherds of 3rd-4th-century pottery, a few pieces of bone and a tile fragment.

The western trench varied in width from just over a metre in the middle down to 70 cm. to the north and reached a maximum depth of 80 cm. below the surface. It was generally U-profiled in section, although in the middle for part of its length the slope of the sides was unequal; the outer slope being more shallow than the inner one. Mid-way along the trench a post-hole had been cut into the slope of the outer side. The hole was 20 cm. x 35 cm. across and cut to a depth of 85 cm. below the surface. The fill was a uniform brownish soil from the base of the trench to the plough soil. It contained a quantity of 3rd-century sherds, bones, iron nails, pieces of larva quern and large stones. The large stones may have been

packing for the base of a wall. Opposite what may have been the entrance, the inner edge of the western trench had been cut by a large pit (Pit 16, Fig. 2). The pit was straight sided and reached a depth of 1 metre below the surface. It was filled with a sandy, gravelly soil which contained a few Romano-British sherds and a few fragments of bone. Two post-holes had been cut into the northern lip of the pit; one was 20 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. deep, the other was 15 cm. in diameter and 10 cm. deep. This feature may have been dug in the interior of the structure or may be of later origin. The north end of the western trench had been destroyed by later features (see Phase IIIc below).

Only a small strip of the eastern trench remained north of the entrance, the rest had been destroyed by a later feature. The remaining portion narrowed from 40 cm. to 25 cm. wide and was cut 25 cm. into the gravel. There was a post-hole in the bottom of a 25 cm. x 40 cm. rectangular protrusion on the inner side. The post-hole was a 13 cm. x 27 cm. oval and 18 cm. deep. The fill was a dark soil containing a few sherds of late 3rd-century pottery (Fig. 9, Section 10 (1)). This was sealed by a layer of brown soil immediately below the plough soil (Section 10 (2)).

About half a metre to the east of the southern part of the eastern trench and parallel to it were two small trenches. The southern one was 1.3 metres long, 20 cm. wide and 26 cm. deep. At the south end it had a 30 cm. diameter post-hole cut obliquely into the gravel. The fill was a dark compact soil. The northern one was 1.25 metres long, 25 cm. wide and 25 cm. deep, containing a dark compact soil with a few sherds of 3rd century pottery.

Between and slightly further east was a post-hole, 35 cm. x 55 cm. across, with a sloping lip towards the main trench. The hole contained a dark compact soil indistinguishable from that of the surrounding area and the two small trenches.

A general layer, which lay directly above the natural gravel and below the modern plough soil, sealed the feature and contained 3rd-4th-century sherds, bones, iron nails, pieces of daub, pieces of stone and shell-tempered ceramic tiles, pieces of quern and an iron chisel (Fig. 10, 14).

Immediately to the east there was an area of pure yellow sand and pure greensand, presumably deposited by the coprolite working of the 19th or 20th century.

### *PHASE IIIc*

#### *Structure 2 Modification (Fig. 8b)*

This feature consisted of a curved trench which cut across the northern end of the Phase III, Structure 2, in the later 3rd or 4th century (see Fig. 2). It cut directly across the north end of the western trench and curved into the north-eastern portion. The trench had a butt end with a post-hole to the east and became narrower and shallower to the west. At its widest it was 1 metre across and at its narrowest it was 30 cm. wide. It was cut 25 cm. into the gravel. The fill was a dark soil which was more gravelly at the base (Fig. 9, Section 11 (1)). The trench fill contained several sherds of late 3rd-century pottery, bones, pieces of tile, oyster shells, a piece of iron and a flint core. The post-hole at the end was a shallow bowl shaped depression, 45 cm. in diameter. Beside the narrow part of the trench were two adjacent post-holes. A large one 33 cm. x 50 cm. and 16 cm. deep, and a small one 18 cm. in diameter and 27 cm. deep. The whole was sealed by a layer of brown soil (Section 11 (2)) lying immediately below the modern plough soil.

### *PHASE III*

#### *Ditch (Figs. 1 & 2)*

A large ditch running in a curve from north-west to south-west was also investigated. It lay immediately north of the Phase IIIc, Structure 2, trench and cut the south-west corner of the Phase II house. The ditch was 1.1 metres wide, with sides that sloped in two stages to a U-profiled bottom which was cut 40 cm. into the gravel. The fill was a dark loamy soil containing pre-Roman and 3rd-century pottery sherds, bones (including a dog skeleton), iron nails, small pieces of clunch and a block of clunch (Fig. 9, Section 12 (1)). This was sealed by a layer of brown soil immediately below the plough soil (Section 12 (2)).

#### *Other Romano-British Features*

Four post-holes were excavated to the south of the Phase III, Structure 1. The northern-most two were 17 cm. in diameter by 27 cm. deep and 16 cm. in diameter by 15 cm. deep. The southern two were larger. The western one, which was 45 cm. in diameter, had been cut by the 19th-century ditch. The eastern one was 26 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. deep (Fig. 9, Section 3 (5)). All four were filled with a brownish soil.

Although they contained no datable material apart from one small Romano-British sherd in each of the northern-most holes, they in all probability belong to the Romano-British period.

During the final stages of mechanical scraping, a quantity of 1st-4th-century Romano-British pottery came to light between the main area of excavation and the river but no associated features were found.

Several large pits were uncovered by the soil stripping, mainly in two areas: one area just west of the main excavations and the other area towards the eastern end of the mound, again on its southern side (Fig. 1). Time was not available to investigate these pits, but they all appeared of similar size and fill to Pit 12 (p. 47) and therefore are also probably of the Romano-British period.

#### *Post Roman Period*

No evidence of the use of the area between the 5th century and the 19th century A.D. was found. Many of the features on the sketch plan (Fig. 1) towards the eastern side, where deposits of greensand occur, may be the result of farming or the coprolite workings of the late 19th and early 20th century.

The large wide ditch running east to west was investigated at the southern end of the excavation (Fig. 2), and probably represents a field boundary or drainage ditch. It was over 3 metres wide and cut 80 cm. into the natural gravel with a flat bottom. The bottom was covered with a very thin layer of silt containing pieces of coal; suggesting that it was open in the later 19th century. On the south side, the fill was a gravel soil mixture which spread in a slope to within 1 metre of the north side (Fig. 9, Section 3 (5)). This layer contained a mixture of modern and earlier material similar to the surface scatter, including a 4th-century Romano-British coin (Appendix II, coin 4). The rest of the fill was a dark loamy soil also containing a mixture of modern and earlier material similar to the surface scatter. Among the inclusions were a counter, made from a samian sherd and a 4th-century Romano-British coin (Appendix II, coin 5). The fill was sealed by the general layer of brown soil immediately below the modern plough surface.

#### *Undated Features*

When the soil was removed mechanically from above the crescent-shaped ditch, between the Phase II house and the river (Fig. 1), parts of at least three human bodies were exposed (Appendix IV). These had been damaged by the weight of the earth scrapers, but one complete skull was reconstructed. One child's radius still wore an iron bangle. The bones were not articulated but lay together in the general fill of the ditch. Unfortunately, no time was available to investigate the area and it is therefore not possible to relate the bones to any particular period.

### DISCUSSION

The gravel terrace at the area of the site rises slightly higher than the surrounding areas and consequently is well drained and dries rapidly. This fact probably made it a prime occupation site, especially with the rising water table of the 1st millennium B.C. At this time the low lying area to the south between the Cam and its tributary was probably the haunt of wild fowl and provided an abundant supply of reeds and osiers.

The lack of any pre-Iron Age features could be due to several reasons. Occupation may have been on the lower ground between the rivers, which although now covered with over 3 metres of alluvium, yielded Late Bronze Age material at that depth during the construction of the motorway (Lingey Fen, see p. 30 above). Alternatively, it could have been destroyed or could lie, inaccessible, beneath the southern mound, an area in excess of 5,000 square metres. The discovery of the large number of humanly struck flints points to the close proximity of an occupation area.

There appears to have been virtually continuous occupation of the site from the later 1st millennium B.C. through to at least the fourth century A.D., a common pattern for sites in this area.

The size of the settlement in the 1st millennium B.C. is impossible to estimate because of the inaccessible area beneath the mound in its centre. It may have formed part of a much larger settlement including the area investigated by Davidson and Curtis in 1969 (*P.C.A.S.* LXIII (1973), 1), 600 metres to the north-east and the one investigated by the authors 1,000 metres to the east-north-east. The settlement was probably part of a series of settlements already known at intervals of a few miles along the gravels of the Cam at Hauxton Mill (Fox, C. *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1920) and Rectory Farm, Gt Shelford (Alexander, Trump, Legge and Woudhuysen, 1976 forthcoming).

No pre-Belgic features were recognisable south of the mound but many of the later features contained

occasional pottery sherds of this period.

Belgic features were found only south of the mound and no estimate, therefore, of the area of occupation can be given; but it may have been similar to that of the pre-Belgic period.

No certain Romano-British features of the first century were discovered, although a few sherds of early Romano-British pottery were found. The first recognisable phase of Romano-British occupation (Phase I) appeared to date to the 2nd century. As the foundation trench of only one side of a building was discovered, it is difficult to draw conclusions about the shape of the building. However, as the trench was straight, with a possible right angle corner, it seems reasonable to suggest a rectangular building for this phase. The other feature of this phase may have been the foundation of a protective fence for the building.

The second phase (Phase II) presents a much more definite picture. Here was a well-defined building with substantial walls and divided into definite rooms, with a corridor running the length of the long axis. The building stood in the centre of a large enclosure, surrounded by a ditch with a fence on the inside. Once again, the mound raises the tantalising question as to what is concealed beneath it. How large was the building, and were there any other structures?

It appeared that the building had been destroyed by fire and not rebuilt. The collapsing structure presumably was responsible for the large quantity of pottery in Room B with clean breaks, many of which fitted together.

Only a few roof tiles were found. If the building had had a tiled roof, these must have been robbed and possibly re-used. Few bricks were found on the whole site, so it seems, therefore, that the structure was probably of timber with wattle and daub walls set in a low foundation wall of clunch blocks. Clunch would have been easily obtained from either Chapel Hill at Haslingfield or St Margarets Mount (Obelisk Hill), Harston, both of which are only 3,000 metres away.

The Phase III, Structure 1, appears to have been a large, roughly oval, hut, which was enlarged and modified over a period during the 3rd and 4th century. The presence of the two intact buried pots, we assume as an offering, leads us to believe this to be a house and not an associated barn or other structure. The evidence here points to an entirely non-brick structure with large central supporting posts and a wattle wall.

The Phase III, Structure 2, on the evidence of the pottery (Table 3), may have been contemporary with the Phase IIIb, Structure 1. On the other hand, its rectangular shape and orientation are more akin to the Phase II house, and possibly suggest a replacement for that building. The presence among the finds of a chisel and a piece of a measuring instrument perhaps indicate that this was a workshop associated with the Phase III, Structure 1.

It is virtually impossible to draw any conclusions about the Phase IIIc, Structure 2, trench as only a small length was investigated. One can categorically state that it post-dated the initial Phase IIIb, Structure 2, but it may only have been a later associated feature.

The curved ditch running north-west to south-east could have been contemporary with all of Phase III, but was certainly later than Phase II as it lay above the remains of that building.

The site was apparently abandoned at some time during the fourth century and has never since been occupied, apart from the short periods of coprolite extraction in recent times.

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#### APPENDICES

- I The Seed Samples by R. J. Flood
- II The Coins by M. Sekulla
- III The Animal Bones
  - Table 1, Iron Age Pits
  - Table 2, Romano-British

IV The Human Bones by C. B. Denston

V The Small Finds (Fig. 10)

VI The Pottery (Figs. 11-13)

Coarse Wares:-

Pre-Belgic Iron Age 1-8

Belgic 9-13

Romano-British 14-69

Table 3, Comparison of Pottery Fabrics

Table 4, Samian Ware

## APPENDIX I

*The seed samples*

R. J. Flood

### *Sample 1*

The sample consisted of 227 completely carbonised seeds of *Atriplex patula* (common orache). The leaves of this species have been used as a spinach-type vegetable, probably by collection from the wild rather than from any deliberate cultivation and in this context it should probably be regarded as a weed. It is a common weed of cereals and certain other crops and is also widespread on bare and waste ground. No other seeds were present in the sample.

### *Sample 2*

The "seed" was not carbonised, although small pieces of charcoal were present, but it had a dull, weathered appearance and most appeared to have been damaged, possibly by insect action. In almost every case the seed coats had been broken open and the embryo and nutritive tissue completely destroyed. The seed coat damage did not seem likely to have been the result of natural decay or damage in the soil. The composition of the sample was as follows:-

	No.
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> (fools parsley)	36
<i>Atriplex patula</i> (common orache)	3
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> (knotgrass)	33350*
<i>Stellaria media</i> (chickweed)	1

\* number estimated by weighing

These species are all common weeds of cereal crops and the deposit is most likely to represent seeds cleaned out of a cereal crop. In this respect it is rather unusual that so few species are present, that no seeds of the crop occur and that there is such a large preponderance of one species. In these circumstances it is necessary to consider if this represents a deliberate collection of *Polygonum aviculare* with the other species present as contaminants. This would imply use of the "seed" either as a food material or for some form of "manufacturing process". There is little evidence of use of seeds of plants of *P. aviculare* for food purposes; they tend to act as an irritant and can cause gastro-enteritis if eaten in any quantity. Seeds of this species were found in the stomach of Grauballe man but only in small quantities and these could have occurred as contaminants of other species present in the "gruel", which may have been a ritual last meal rather than a normal part of the diet.

Flour has been produced, at times, from two related species, *Polygonum convolvulus* (black bindweed) and *Fagopyrum esculentum* (buckwheat) but these have larger seeds and there is no evidence of the use of *Polygonum aviculare* for this purpose. There seems to be no record of nor evidence for any non-food use of the plants or seeds of this species. This leads to the conclusion that the material is probably the residue of a seed cleaning operation.

## APPENDIX II

*The coins*

M. Sekulla

1. House of Constantine, post 330 A.D. Contemporary forgery. Very worn. Obv. VRBS ROMA.
2. Crispus (as Caesar) Follis 317-326 A.D. Very worn. Obv. CRISPVS NOB CAES. Rev. BEATA TRANQVILITAS PLG. Mint: LVGDVNVM.
3. Valentinian I, AE 3 367-375 A.D. Obv. DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG. Rev. SECVRITAS REPUBLICAE.
4. House of Constantine, 335-341 A.D. Rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS. Mint: probably Trier.
5. Constantine II (as Caesar), 330-335 A.D. Slightly worn. Obv. CONSTANTINVS IVNNOBC. Rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS Mint: Trier.
6. Constantine I? Follis 320 A.D.? Slightly worn. Rev. BEATA TRANQVILITVS.

## APPENDIX III

*The Animal Bones*

TABLE 1 *Summary of identifiable bones from the Pre-Belgic Pits*

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Caprines</i>	<i>Pig</i>
Pit 1	-	-	4
Pit 2	4	10	11
Pit 3	1	-	-
Pit 4	-	-	-
Pit 5	2	-	6
Pit 6	-	5	-
Pit 7	12	16	7
Pit 8	5	46	13
Species total	24	78	41
Percentage	16.8	54.5	28.7

TABLE 2 *Summary of identifiable bones from the major Romano-British features*

		<i>Horse</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Caprines</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Phase II</i>	Species total	65	254	94	12	425
House	Percentage	15.3	59.7	22.2	2.8	100
<i>Phase II</i>	Species total	3	35	26	9	73
Boundary Ditch	Percentage	4.1	47.9	35.7	12.3	100
<i>Phase IIIa</i>	Species total	10	36	26	3	75
Structure 1	Percentage	13.3	48.0	34.7	4.0	100
<i>Phase IIIb</i>	Species total	5	25	39	8	77
Structure 1	Percentage	6.5	32.5	50.6	10.4	100
<i>Phase IIIc</i>	Species total	9	80	102	11	202
Structure 1	Percentage	4.5	39.6	50.5	5.4	100
<i>Phase IIIb</i>	Species total	7	23	26	-	56
Structure 2	Percentage	12.5	41.1	46.4	-	100

<i>Phase IIIc</i>	Species total	3	7	10	-	20
Structure 2	Percentage	15.0	35.0	50.0	-	100
<i>Phase III</i>	Species total	6	6	6	-	18
Ditch*	Percentage	33.3	33.3	33.3	-	100
Overall total		108	466	329	43	946
Overall percentage		11.4	49.3	34.8	4.5	100

\* Also contained 41 partly articulated dog bones

#### APPENDIX IV

##### *The Human Skeletal Remains*

C. B. Denston

A thorough examination, and reconstruction of the bones where possible, suggested that the remains were possibly representative of four individuals.

##### No. 1

Sex: male

Age at death: approximately 25 years

Stature: approximately 5' 7"

Possibly associated material: cranium plus a mandible, right radius, right ulna, right clavicle, fragment of a right scapula, fragmentary atlas, an axis, three cervical and one thoracic vertebrae, a right calcaneum, two metacarpal bones and four phalanges of the hand, and two metatarsal bones and one phalange of the foot.

##### No. 2

Sex: female

Age at death: approximately 15 years

Possibly associated material: the facial portion, frontal bone, left temporal and a few other fragments of a cranium, plus a mandible. A portion of a sacrum, two lumbar vertebrae, shaft of a right fibula, a left talus, and the distal half of a metatarsal bone.

##### No. 3

Sex: ? male

Age at death: between 9-11 years

Material: just the right half of a mandible

##### No. 4

Sex: indeterminable

Age at death: possibly 7-8 years

Possibly associated material: remains of a left femur, left fibula, left tibia, right humerus, right ulna, right radius (that found with iron bangle), right and left clavicles, pelvic bones, four lumbar, two thoracic and one cervical vertebrae.

Teeth were in situ in the maxilla and mandible of skull No. 1 = 16 teeth; the maxilla and mandible of No. 2 = 21 teeth; and the mandible of No. 3 = 6 teeth, the condition of the teeth reflecting a consistent degree of good oral health (absence of caries etc.).

Fragments of ribs were also found with the remains.

## APPENDIX V

*Small Finds (Fig. 10)*

1. Bronze fibula with scroll pattern, 4cm x 1cm. Possibly first century continental. Surface find.
2. Bone pin with point missing, length 8cm. Phase IIIb, Structure 1.
3. Bronze pin, length 9cm. Pit 11.
4. Bronze shield-shaped clasp, 6cm x 3cm. Surface find.
5. Bronze penannular brooch. Turned ends and transverse incised lines. Surface find.
6. Decorated bronze strip, 3cm x 1.8cm. Pattern has some similarity to that of the bronze fibula. Surface find.
7. Iron fibula, length 7cm. Phase I, Structure 1.
8. Part of a small cast bronze face, 3cm x 2cm. Surface find.
9. Part of a shale bangle. Phase IIIc, Structure 1.
10. Iron buckle with fixing rivets, 5.5cm x 3.25 cm. Phase II, House, Room C.
11. Stone bead. Surface find.
12. Iron scythe with thickened back to blade and upturned haft socket with petrified remains of wooden haft. Length 78cm (end missing), width 4cm. Phase III, Pit 15.
13. Iron knife blade. Phase II, House.
14. Iron chisel, length 13cm, width 1.2cm. Phase IIIb, Structure 2.
15. Iron shears, length 15.5cm. Phase IIIc, Structure 1.
16. Carved bone knife-handle, length 7cm. Phase IIIb, Structure 1.
17. Black polished bone bracelet beads with two longitudinal holes.  
*a.* 1.8cm x 1.2cm, Phase IIIb, Structure 1. *b.* 2.2cm x 1.4cm, Phase II, Boundary ditch.
18. Broken counter made from a samian sherd. 19th century ditch.
19. Part of bone measuring instrument with small divisions, approximately 7 per cm. Large divisions at 2cm. Holes for iron rivets. Phase IIIb, Structure 2.
20. Oyster shell pendant with drilled hole. Phase II, house area.
21. Spindle whorl made from base of coarse ware pot. Surface find.
22. Large "counter" with carefully chamfered edges; made from the base of a coarse grey pot. Phase IIIc, Structure 1.
23. Colour-coated Nene valley ware pot face. Phase I, Structure 1.
24. Brick red fabric pot face. Surface find.
25. Pinched face; brick red fabric pot. Phase IIIc, Structure 1.
26. Polished oval sandstone hammer stone, length 9.2cm, diameter 5.1cm. Phase III, Structure 1 (not illustrated).

## APPENDIX VI

*The Pottery**Coarse Wares*

The following selection of the coarse wares are illustrated in Figs. 11-13.

*Pre-Belgic Iron Age (p. 39 and Fig. 11).*

1. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit, burnished outside. Pit. 7.
2. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit. Pit 2.
3. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit fired to a red-brown exterior; vertical combing on outside. Pit 7.
4. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit fired to a brown exterior; burnished outside. Pit 10.
5. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit. Pit 6.
6. Beaker; coarse black fabric with calcite grit fired to a brown exterior. Pit 6.
7. Beaker; coarse buff fabric fired to a brown exterior, with incised pattern on rim. Pit 7.
8. Dish; coarse black fabric with calcite grit. Pit 7.

*Belgic (Fig. 11)*

9. Cooking pot; grey fabric with three burnished lines.

10. Cooking pot; grey fabric.
11. Cooking pot; grey fabric; burnished grooves and pattern on shoulder.
12. Storage jar; coarse grey fabric; hole in side made after firing.
13. Cooking pot; coarse black fabric with calcite grit; irregularly combed outside and burnished rim.

*Romano-British* (Nos. 14-39, Fig. 12; nos. 40-69, Fig. 13).

14. Cooking pot; pink shell-tempered fabric; combed pattern on outside. Phase I.
15. Flagon; white fabric with brown colour-coat; surface find.
16. Flagon; buff fabric with green-brown metallic colour-coat. Phase III.
17. Jar; white fabric with dark brown colour-coat. Phase II.
18. Flagon; pale buff fabric with orange colour-coat. Phase III.
19. Flanged bowl; grey fabric with black colour-coat, burnished inside and outside of rim. Phase II.
20. Cooking pot; grey fabric with broken tile temper; black burnished outside. Phase I.
21. Castor box lid; white fabric with brown colour-coat, patterned. Phase II.
22. Castor box; white fabric with brown colour-coat. Phase III.
23. Small flagon; pale buff fabric with colour-coat and brown painted lines. Phase II.
24. Jar; buff fabric with painted and impressed pattern. Phase II.
25. Cooking pot; grey fabric; horizontal line pattern. Phase II.
26. Candle stick? Grey fabric with black coat. Phase III.
27. Jar; buff fabric with burnished and decorated rim. Surface find.
28. Cooking pot; red-grey fabric; burnished pattern and lower outside. Phase II.
29. Dog dish; white fabric with brown colour-coat. Phase II.
30. Storage jar; coarse grey fabric. Phase III.
31. Bowl; buff fabric with red colour wash. Phase III.
32. Cooking pot; buff fabric with red colour wash and incised pattern. Surface find.
33. Cooking pot; grey-white fabric. Phase I.
34. Bowl; grey fabric with black burnished surface and pattern. Phase III.
35. Dish; grey fabric with black burnished surface; fine burnished line pattern on underside of base. Phase II.
- 36-38. Three dishes; grey fabric with black burnished surface; scored burnished pattern on inside of base.
39. Cup; grey fabric with burnished lines and impressed pattern. Phase III.
40. Jar; orange fabric with pattern on underside of rim. Phase III.
41. Strainer; brick red fabric. Phase III.
42. Strainer; black fabric. Phase III.
43. Mortarium; pale buff fabric with cream coat and black grit. Phase III. Buried offering with 44.
44. Imitation samian bowl; buff fabric with red colour-coat. Phase III.
45. Dish; white fabric with brown colour-coat. Phase II.
46. Cooking pot; grey fabric with black burnished outside and inside of rim. Phase III.
47. Storage vessel; brown shell-tempered fabric, pie crust rim. Phase III.
48. Bowl; grey fabric with chamfered base. Phase II.
49. Storage jar; brown shell-tempered fabric. Phase III.
50. Beaker; white fabric with dark green colour-coat. Phase III.
51. Deep bowl; grey fabric with black coat, part burnished. Phase III.
52. Cooking pot; grey fabric with black burnished outside. Phase III.
53. Flanged bowl; grey fabric with black burnish. Phase II.
54. Flanged bowl; white fabric with dark green colour-coat. Phase III.
55. Storage jar; grey fabric. Phase II.
56. Dish with internal flange; pink shell-tempered fabric. Phase III.
57. Jar; white fabric with orange colour-coat; circular dimples and incised pattern. Phase III.
58. Shallow dish with chamfered base; grey fabric. Phase II.
59. Mortarium; cream fabric; black grit. Phase III.
60. Mortarium; pale buff fabric; coloured grit. Surface find.
61. Mortarium; brown fabric with grey centre, black burnish and coloured grit. Surface find.
62. Mortarium; cream fabric; black grit.
63. Mortarium; red fabric with grey centre and red colour-coat and coloured grit. Phase III.
64. Mortarium; brick red fabric; coloured grit.

65. Mortarium; cream fabric, scored pattern on rim. Surface find.  
 66. Mortarium; cream fabric; fine black grit. Phase III.  
 67. Mortarium; buff fabric; coloured grit. Surface find.  
 68. Mortarium; red fabric with grey centre and cream colour wash; coloured grit. Phase III.  
 69. Mortarium; cream fabric; black grit. Surface find.

TABLE 3  
*Comparison of pottery fabrics found in the major Romano-British features*

	<i>Samian</i>	<i>Colour-coat</i>	<i>Buff</i>	<i>Grey</i>	<i>Shell-tempered</i>	<i>Mortaria</i>
<b>Phase I</b>						
<i>Structure 1</i>						
No. of sherds	6	7	47	181	28	1
%	2.2	2.3	17.3	67.1	10.4	0.4
<b>Phase II</b>						
<i>House</i>						
No. of sherds	43	120	382	1305	213	12
%	2.1	5.8	18.4	62.9	10.3	0.6
<b>Phase IIIa</b>						
<i>Structure 1</i>						
No. of sherds	1	11	18	259	28	3
%	0.3	3.4	5.6	80.9	8.7	0.9
<b>Phase IIIb</b>						
<i>Structure 1</i>						
No. of sherds	1	55	103	406	81	3
%	0.2	8.5	15.9	62.5	11.4	0.5
<b>Phase IIIc</b>						
<i>Structure 1</i>						
No. of sherds	2	66	139	349	116	4
%	0.3	9.8	20.6	51.6	17.2	0.6
<b>Phase IIIb</b>						
<i>Structure 2</i>						
No. of sherds	2	51	103	317	96	7
%	0.3	8.9	17.9	55.1	16.7	1.2
<b>Phase IIIc</b>						
<i>Structure 2</i>						
No. of sherds	1	15	42	114	22	-
%	0.5	7.7	21.6	58.8	11.3	-

TABLE 4  
*Samian Ware*

*Phase I*

One rim, two bases and one body sherd, all small and unidentifiable.

*Phase II*

- 1 Drag 18/31 R  
 1 Drag 18/31 R with part Potter's stamp VNDI  
 4 Drag 31 all 24 cm. diameter.  
 1 Drag 33 cup, slight concave wall with single groove half-way down outside.  
 1 Drag 37 patterned bowl

- 1 Drag 45 Mortarium base (probably used inverted as a small dish).  
 1 unidentified 25 cm. diameter rim.

*Phase IV*

- 1 Drag 31  
 1 Drag 38 with bead rim and very high gloss. 14 cm. diameter.  
 1 Ritterling 8

*Phase VI*

- 1 Drag 37 patterned body sherd (possibly same vessel as Phase II bowl).  
 1 unidentifiable base

*Phase VII*

- 1 Drag 32

*Surface finds*

- 2 Drag 33  
 1 unidentifiable bead rim.

#### FURTHER FINDS FROM THE MOTORWAY SPOIL-HEAPS

These finds were made by Mr Miller on contractors' spoil-heaps on the Plant Breeding Institute's farm. The material was peat alluvial deposit and came from Lingey Fen. The objects found remain in Mr Miller's possession.

Two shafts of red deer antler were found. One had a deep V-shaped notch with smooth edges at the basal end where the shaft had been broken, and there was a cut surface where a tine had been removed. The second was a shed antler, retaining the burr. Three of the tine stubs had cut surfaces and there were three transverse notches and three cut marks across the shaft, as well as a round hole 3mm. deep and a large oval hole 2cms. deep with a notch at each side of it.

Two antler side-pieces from a bit of early Iron Age pattern were also found (Fig. 15). One (b) was found close to the notched and holed antler (above), while (a), though found on a different spoil-heap, came from similar material. They appear in fact to be a matched pair, as the patterning and holes correspond to each other on opposite sides. Only the central hole goes right through, although the upper and lower holes penetrate most of the way. (a) is made from a solid piece of antler, while (b) is hollow, with a cavity tapering towards the burr. Both are polished, and decorated with areas of dots; both also show scored marks where the tool has slipped.

\*\*\*\*\*

These finds, together with all those from the Edmundsoles site, remain in the possession of Mr Miller of the Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington.

The finds from the Obelisk Kilns, Harston will be deposited in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

M.D.C.

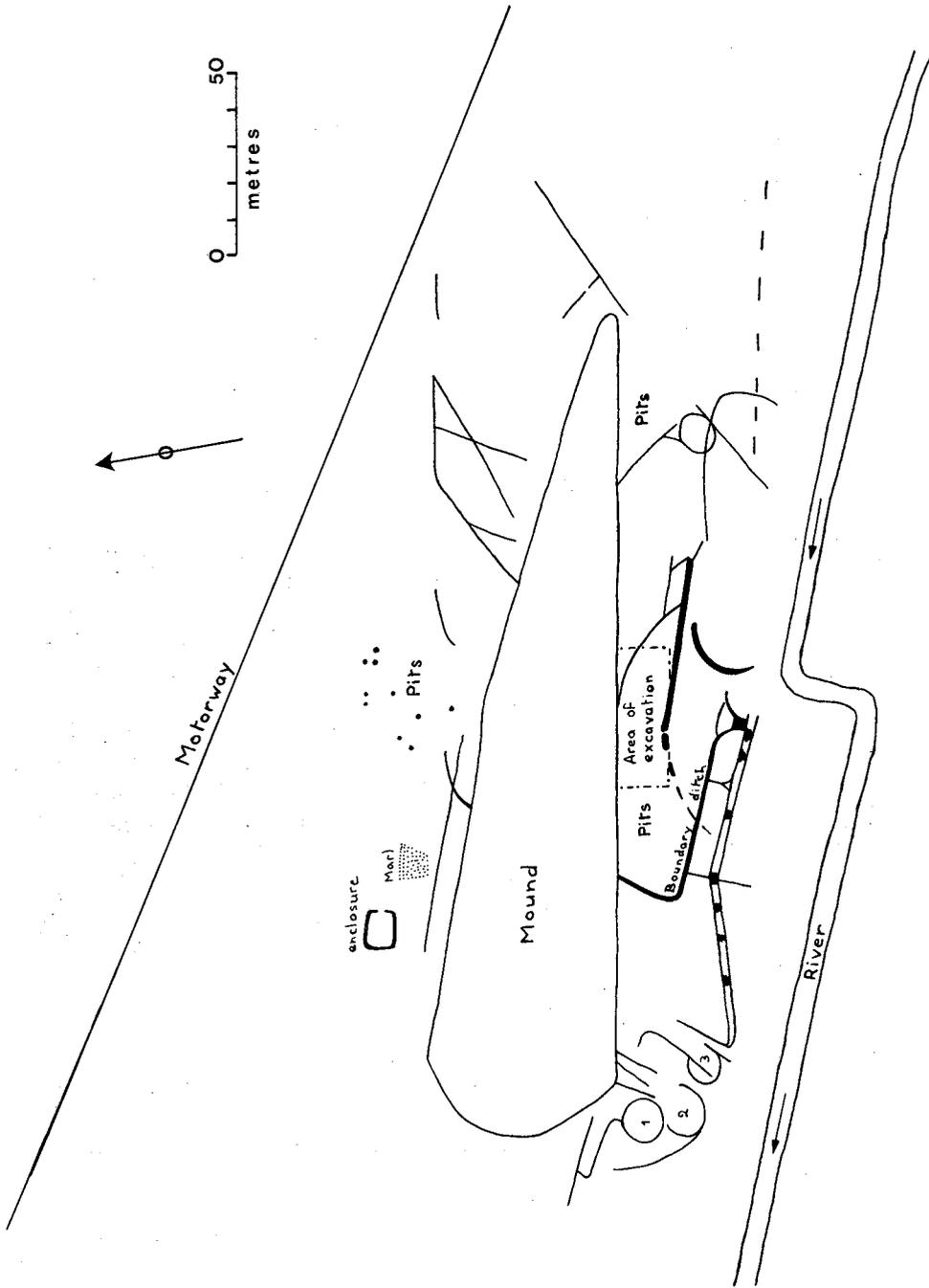


Fig. 1. Sketch map of the Edmundsole site, compiled from aerial photographs and investigations on the ground.  
For details of Pits north of Mound, see p. 41 and Fig. 3.  
For details of Circular Ditches 1-3 see p. 42.  
For details of Enclosure north of Mound, see p. 42.  
For details of Area of Excavation, see p. 42, fol. and Figs. 4-8.

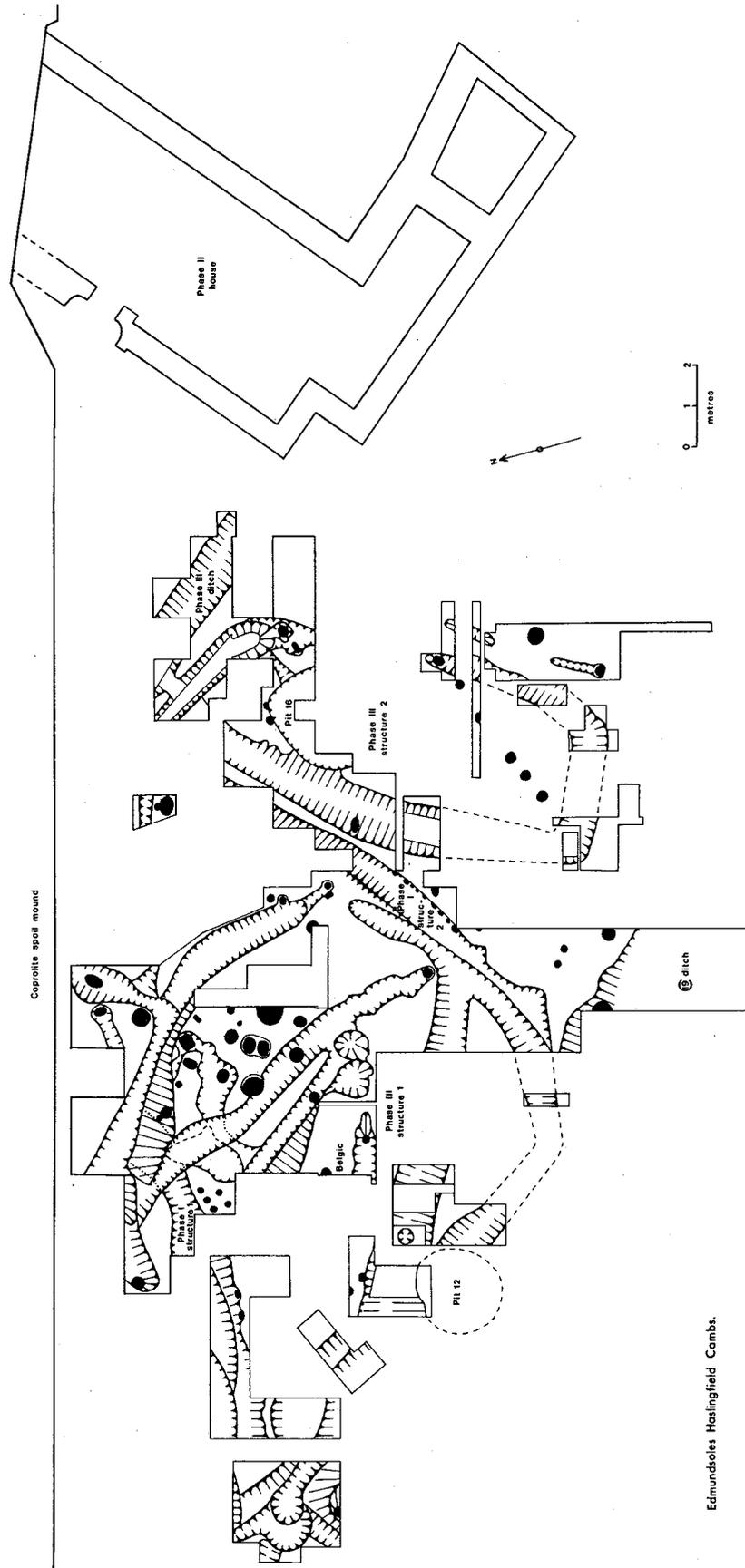


Fig. 2. Plan of main area of excavation.

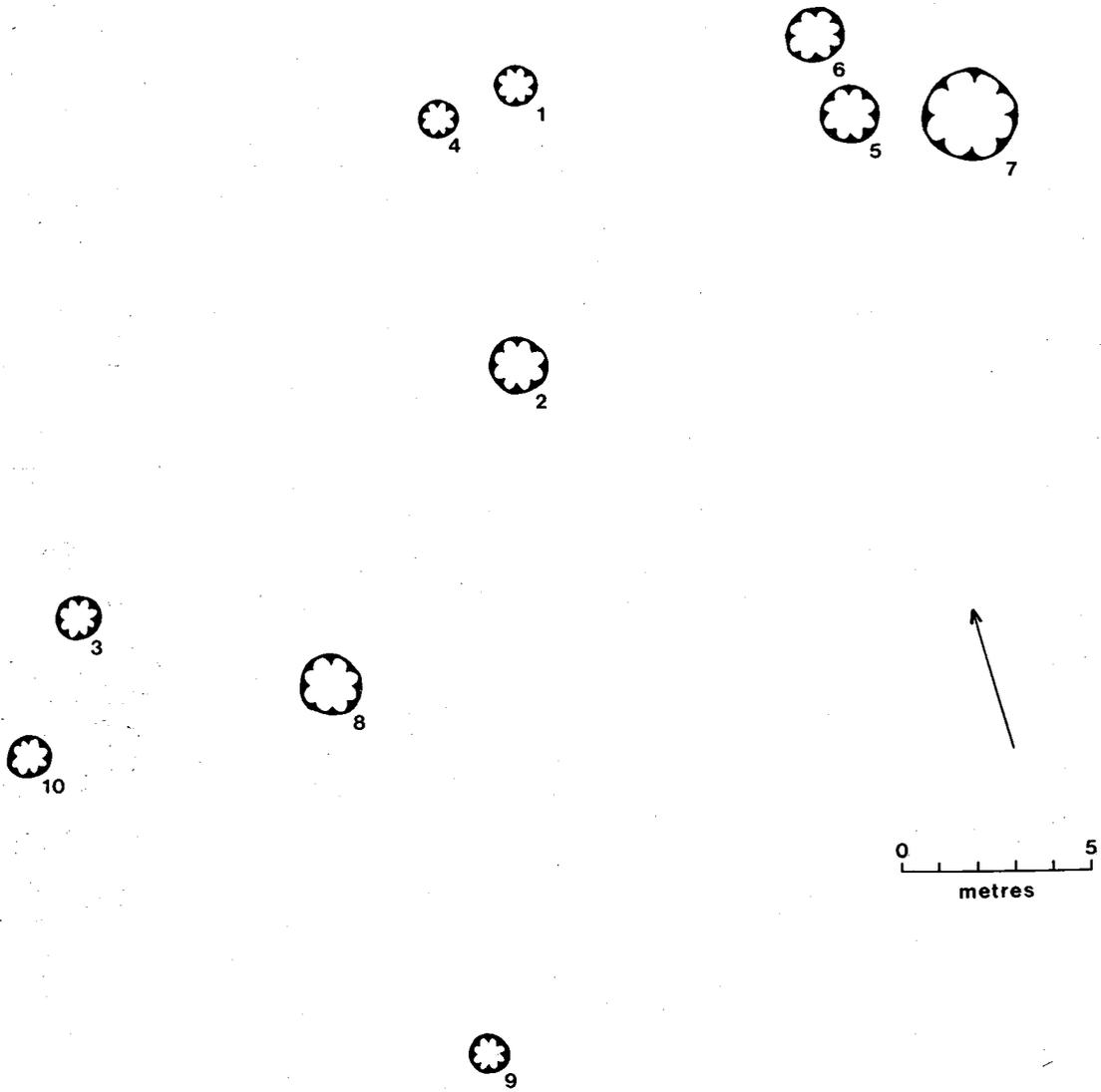


Fig. 3. Pre-Belgic Iron Age pits north of Mound (see Fig. 2).

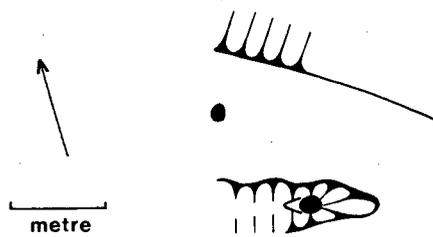


Fig. 4. Belgic features (see Fig. 2).

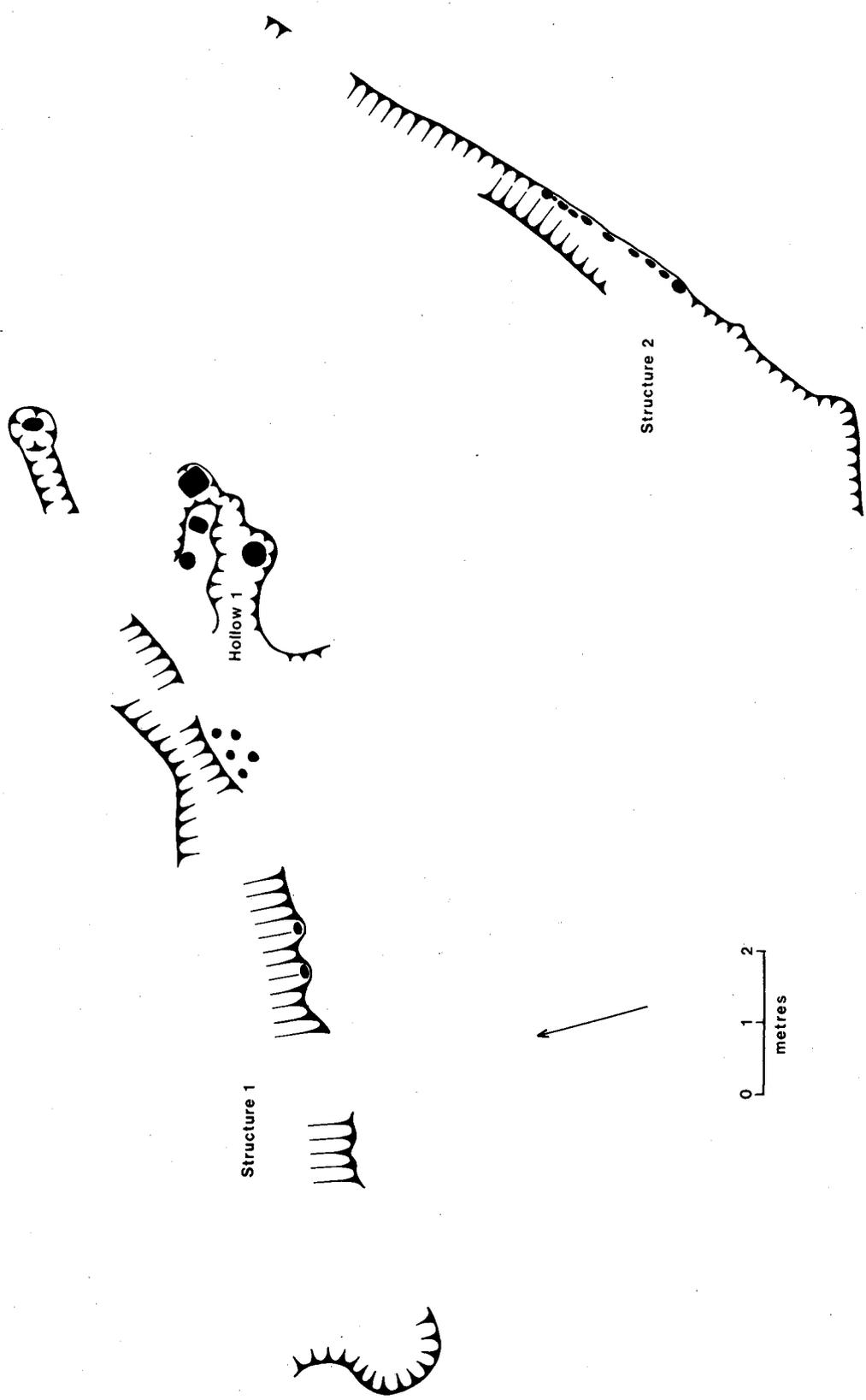


Fig. 5. Romano-British Phase I features (see Fig. 2).

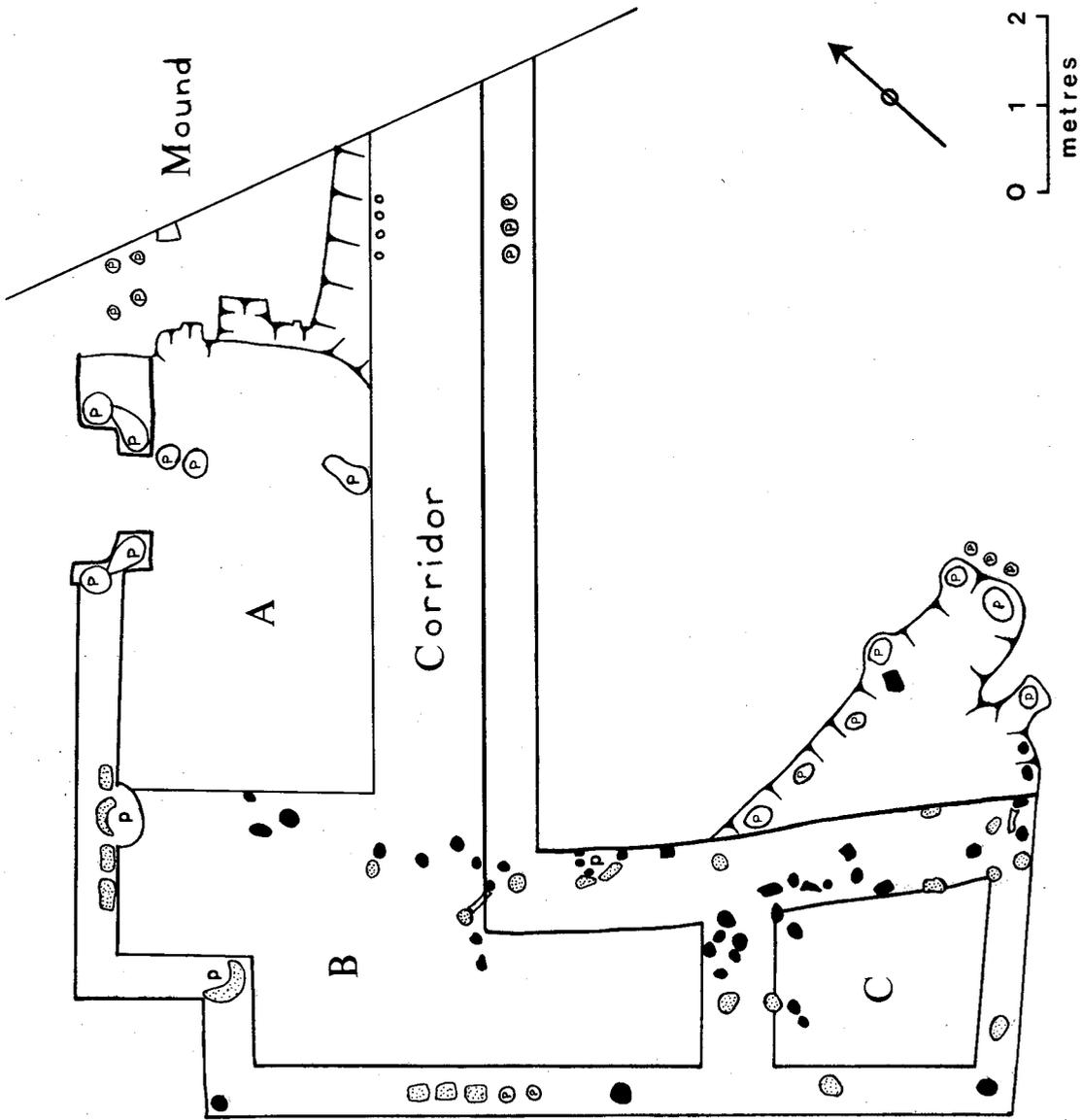


Fig. 6. Romano-British Phase II House.

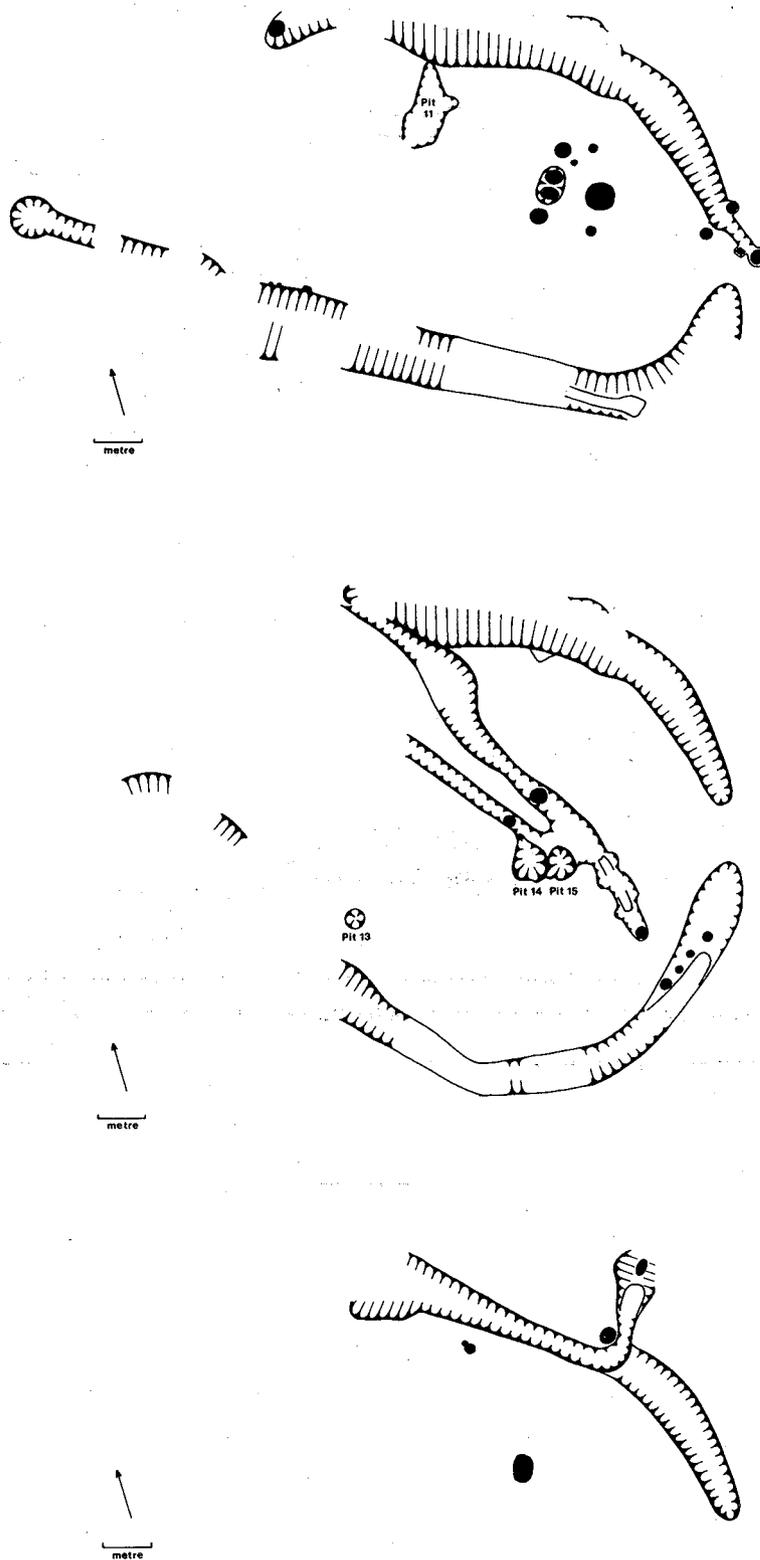


Fig. 7. Structure 1 (see Fig. 2).  
 (a) Romano-British Phase IIIa.  
 (b) Phase IIIb, first modification.  
 (c) Phase IIIc, second modification.

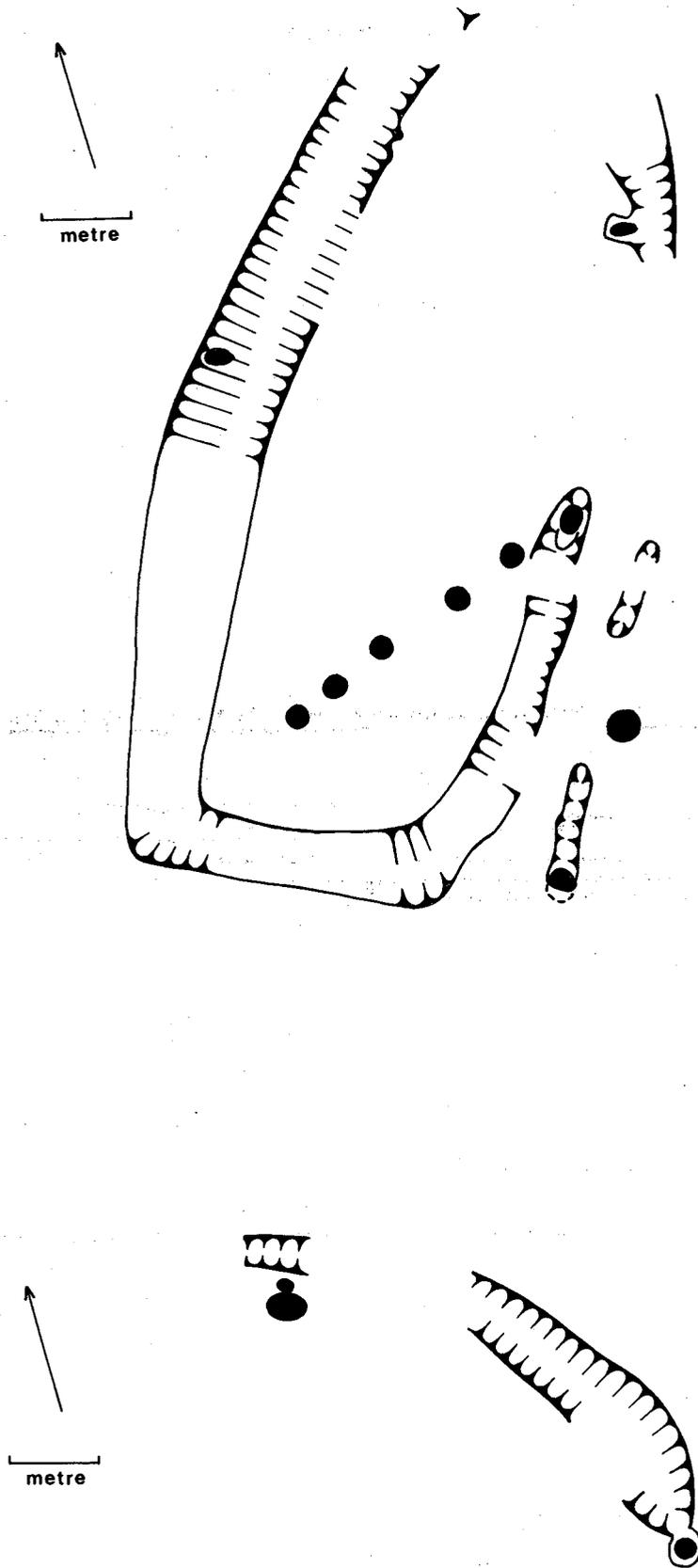


Fig. 8. Structure 2 (see Fig. 2).  
(a) Romano-British Phase IIIb, Structure 2.  
(b) Phase IIIc, modification.

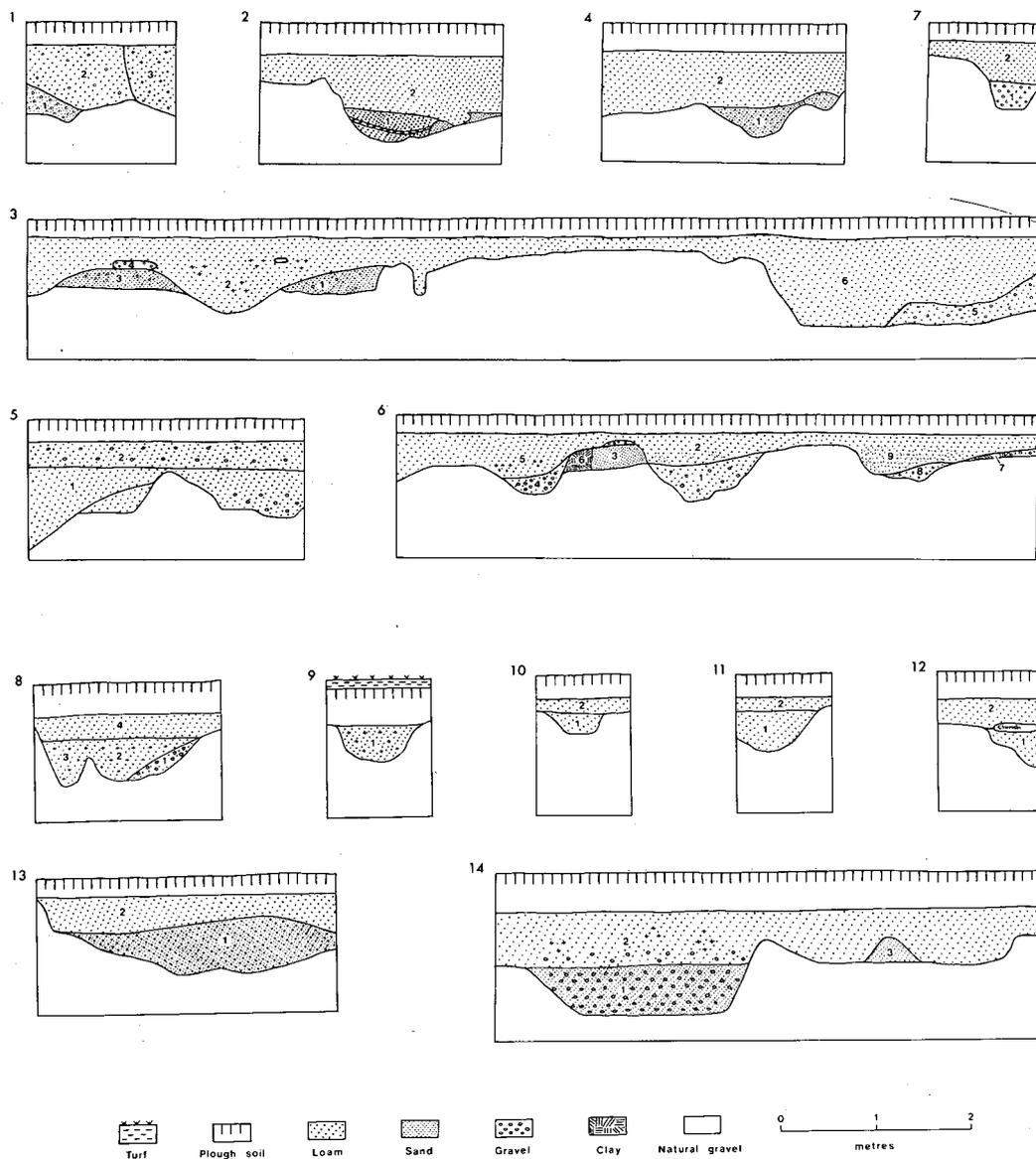


Fig. 9. Section drawings.

1. N - S. Middle region of Phase I, Structure 1, trench.
2. N - S. Western end of Phase I, Structure 1, trench.
3. N - S. Phase III, Structure 1, southern trench (oblique).  
Phase I, Structure 1 (oblique) and 19C ditch.
4. N - S. Phase IIIa, Structure 1, southern trench.
5. S - N. Phase IIIa, Structure 1, southern trench.
6. S - N. Phase IIIa and Phase IIIb, Structure 1, southern trench and Pit 15.
7. S - N. Phase IIIb, Structure 1, southern trench.
8. N - S. Phase IIIc, Structure 1, modification.
9. W - E. Phase IIIc, Structure 1, modification.
10. E - W. Phase IIIb, Structure 2, northern trench.
11. W - E. Phase IIIc, Structure 2, trench.
12. N - S. Phase III, Ditch.
13. S - N. Pit 11.
14. W - E. Phase II, Boundary ditch and stockade.

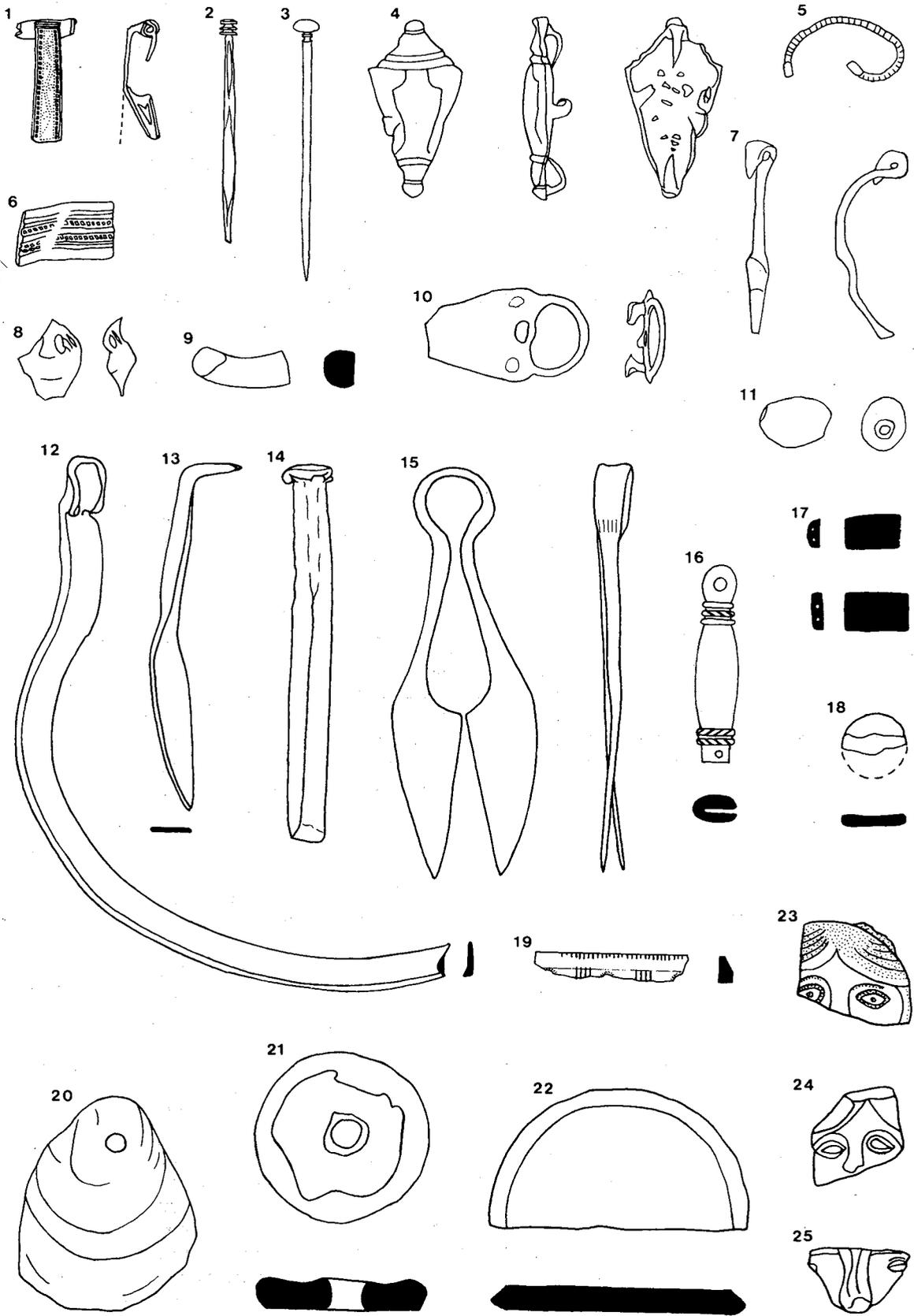


Fig. 10. Small Finds; see Appendix V. Scale  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

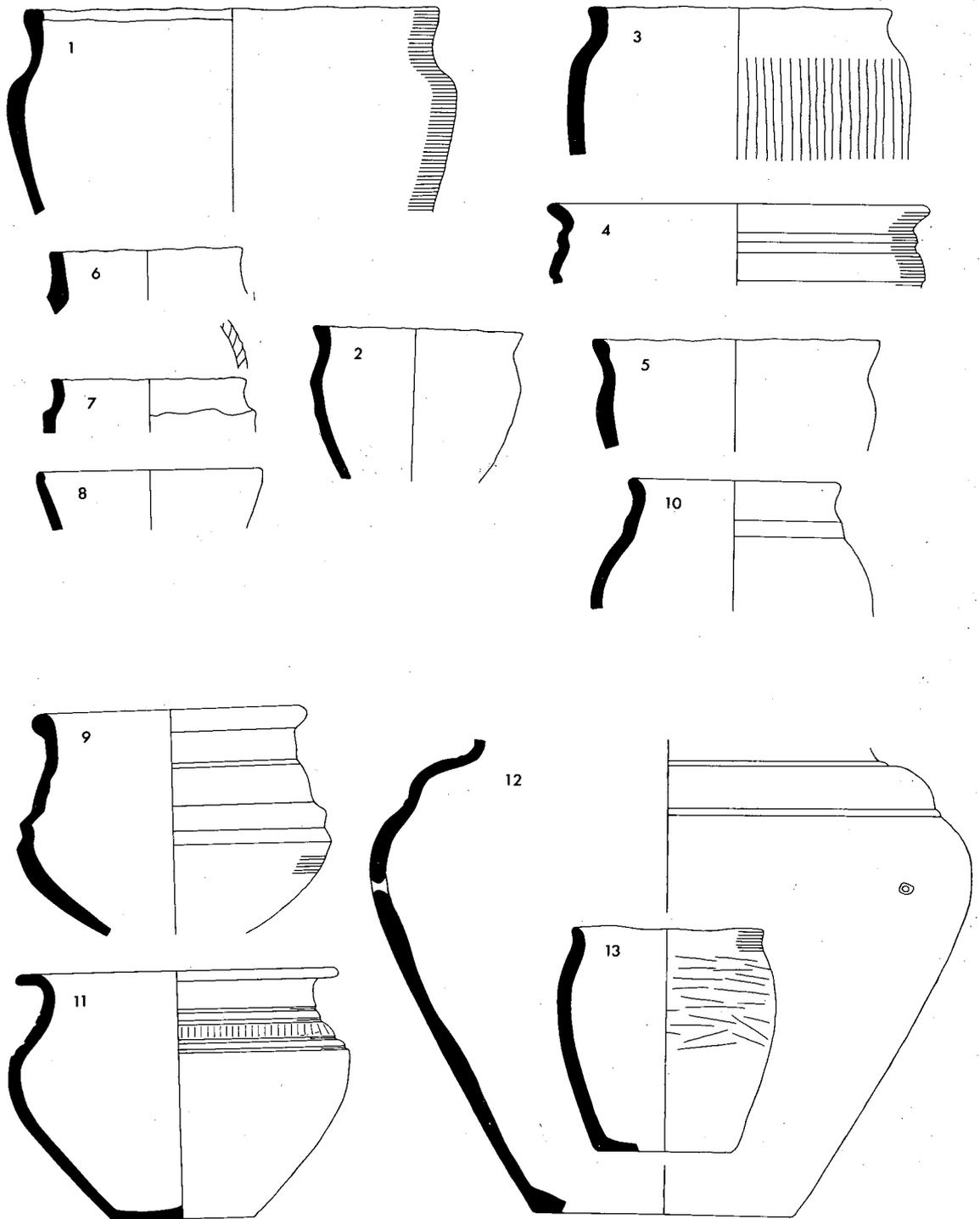


Fig. 11. Iron Age Pottery; see Appendix VI. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

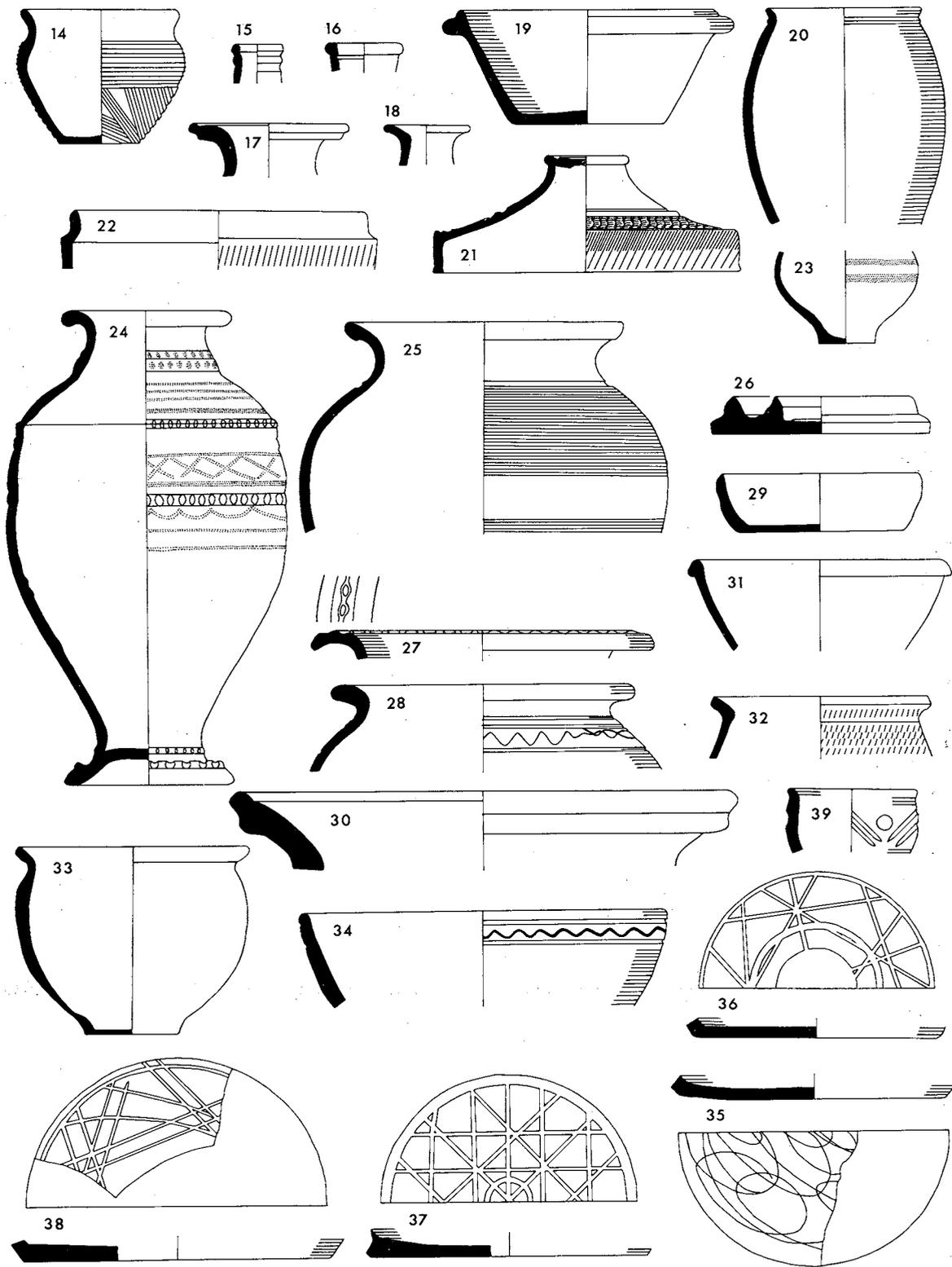


Fig. 12. Coarse Pottery; see Appendix VI. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

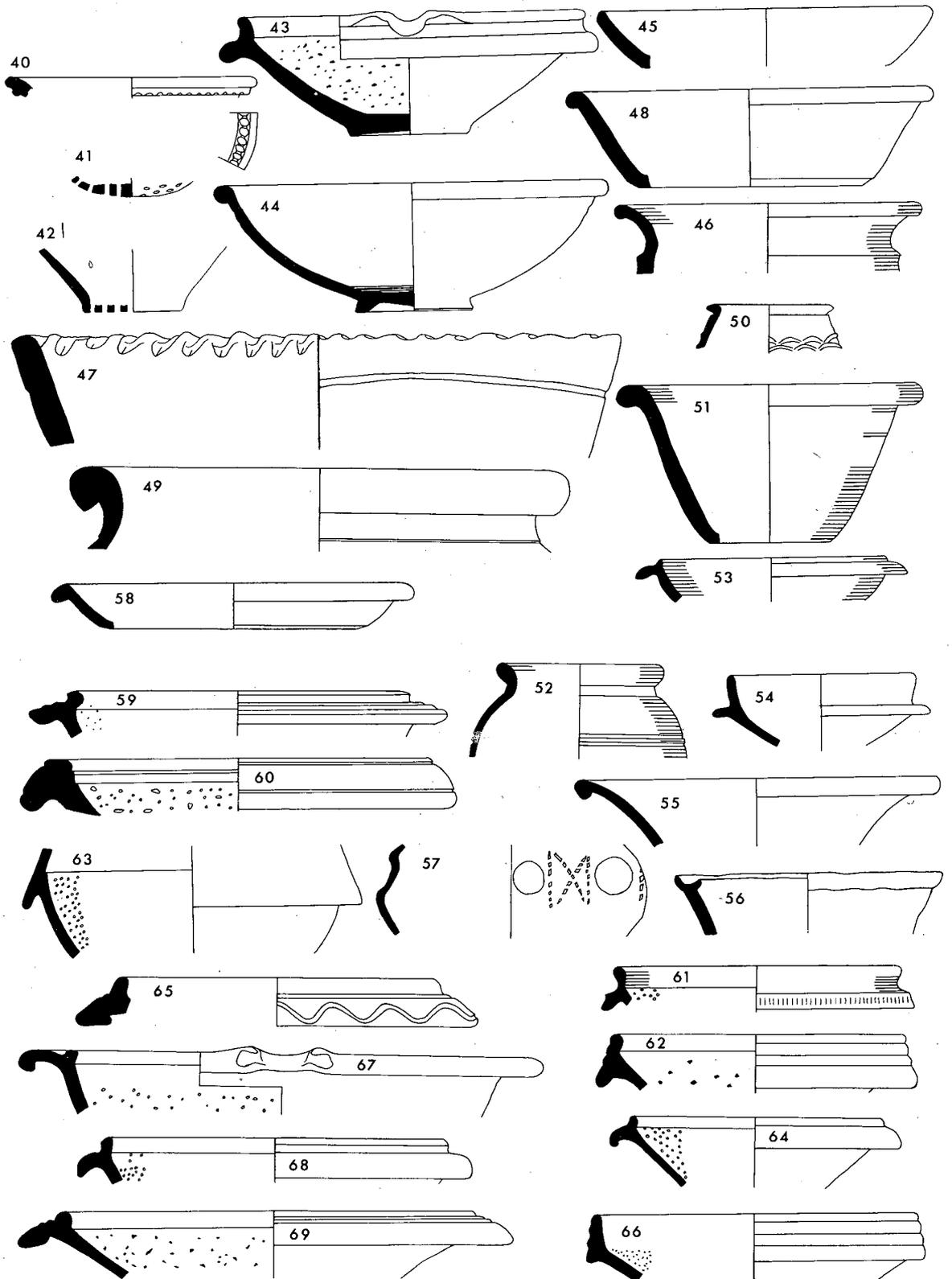


Fig. 13. Coarse Pottery; see Appendix VI. Scale 1/4.

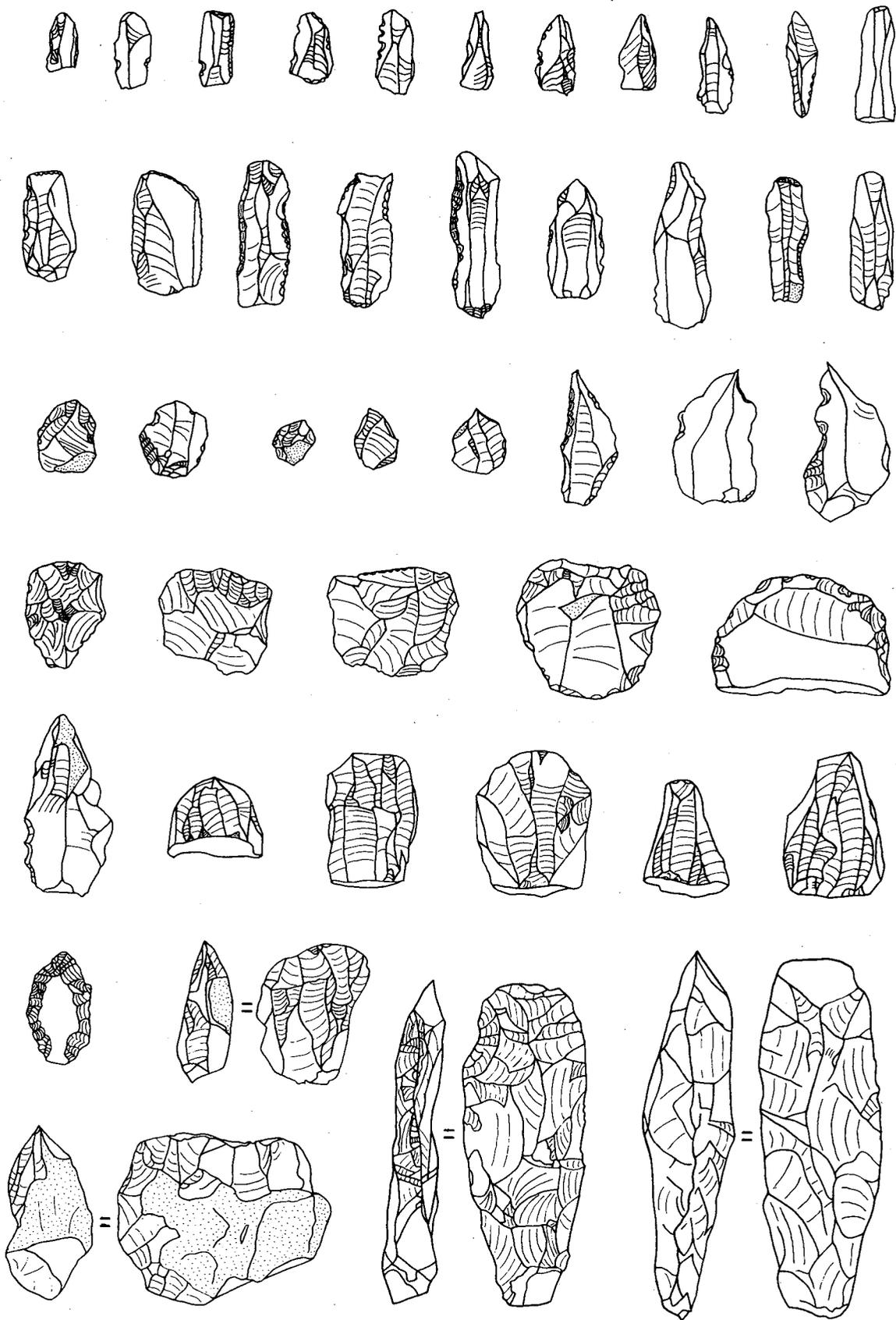
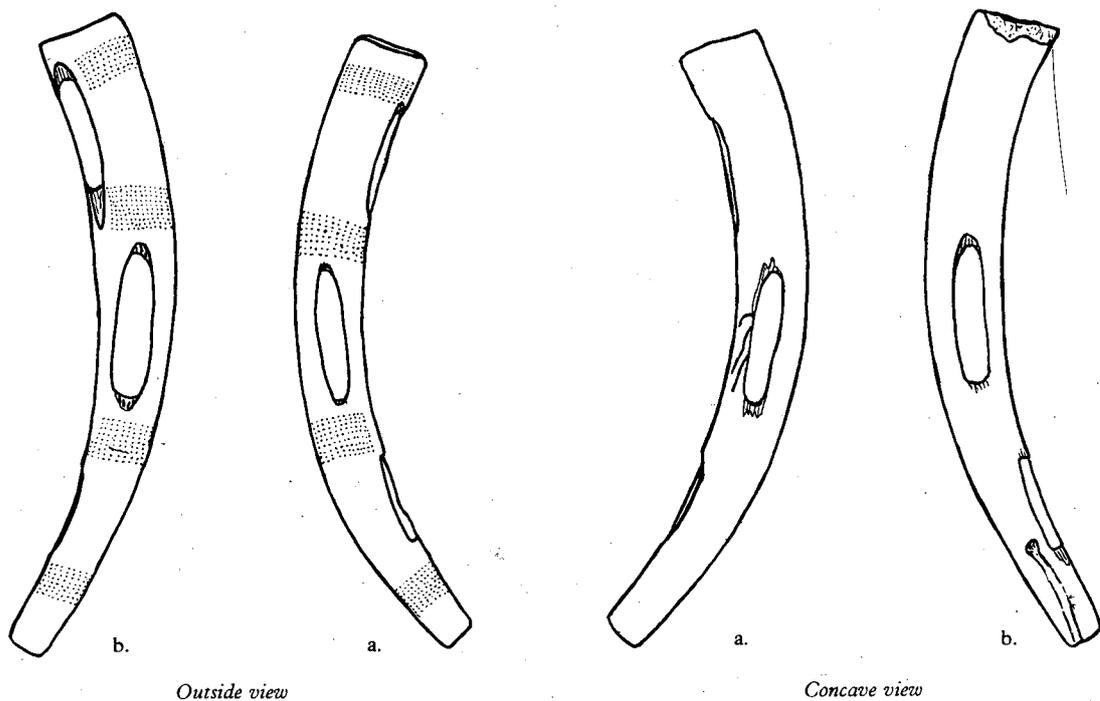


Fig. 14. Selection of flints from Edmundsoles. Scale  $\frac{1}{3}$ .



b.

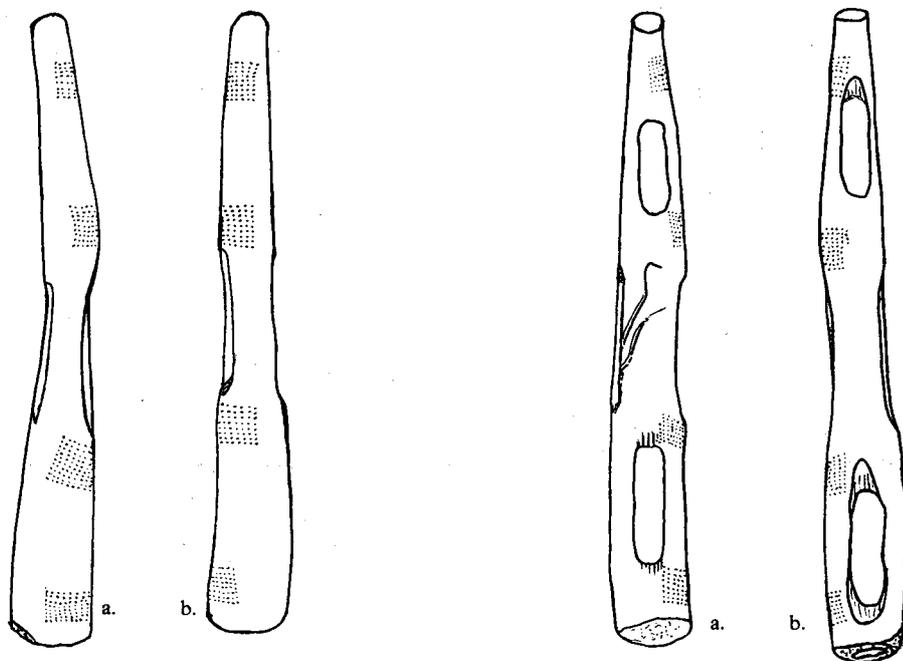
a.

a.

b.

*Outside view*

*Concave view*



a.

b.

a.

b.

*Inside view*

*Convex view*

Fig. 15. Antler side-pieces of Iron Age horse bit. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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