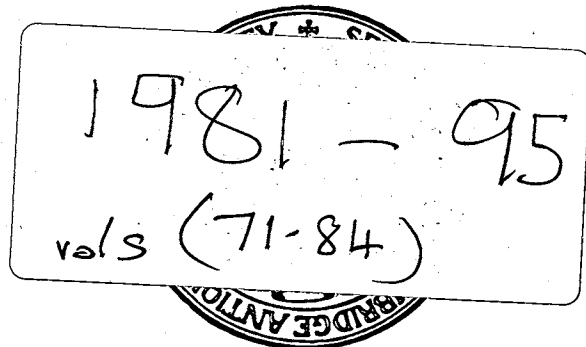

Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological
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Volume LXXXIV

for 1995



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Erratum

In volume LXXXIII, p. 6, Journals exchanged with the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*:

Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, Macclesfield, Cheshire
should read

Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, Manchester

The Romano-British Temple Precinct at Great Chesterford, Essex

T.E. Miller

The Romano-British temple site at Great Chesterford lies just over one kilometre east of the Roman town (NGR TL 514 436). The site is situated at c. 48 m above O.D. on the lower slope of the nearby hill. This slope falls westward in the direction of the present village and southward towards a narrow valley running eastwards into the chalk ridge. The site lies roughly at the interface of the hill chalk and the valley gravels. The subsoil is predominantly brick earth above gravel and areas of marl.

The site came to light as a result of ploughing in 1847 and the central square temple was subsequently excavated by the Hon. R.C. Neville (1848), later Lord Braybrooke of Audley End. Unfortunately he did not record the exact location and its whereabouts remained unknown until it was identified by Major Brinson during 1948/9 (Hull 1963). In 1976 the temple was re-excavated by the Great Chesterford Archaeology Group under the direction of A.E. Collins (1978). In subsequent years it was noticed that a little to the east of the temple, cultivation was bringing to the surface building material, and in 1983 the Group decided to carry out an exploratory excavation in this area. That excavation and subsequent ones in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1988 are the subject of this report (Fig. 1). These excavations revealed a previously unknown substantial temple precinct defined by a wall and an external ditch with a further major building and a nearby secondary site (Site B, Fig. 1:4).

The Ancillary Building

The building was situated 7.5 m inside the eastern precinct wall and faced the east front of the temple with a similar alignment (Fig. 2). Its south wall was apparently aligned with the

south wall of the temple but because its north-south length was less than that of the temple, it appears offset. (It is possible that it was in fact aligned centrally with the temple and the apparent misalignment is a plotting error. The plotting data of the 1976 excavation of the temple, and hence its exact location, were not available at the time of these excavations. The temple's position was determined from re-excavation of small areas of the edge of the 1976 excavation.) In plan the building appears rather like half of a temple (Fig. 3). Its overall north-south length was 9 m and there was a 2-m-long wing to the west (towards the temple) at each end. The overall width, in each case, of the wings and the north-south section was 2.5 m. The western end of each wing had a doorway just over 1 m wide.

Little remained of the southern wing except the gravel foundation. The north wall and a large part of the eastern wall still stood to a height of up to 25 cm above the original floor level. The 'outer' north, east and south walls were more substantial than the 'inner' north, west and south walls. The 'outer' walls were 45 cm wide and constructed of layers of mortar alternating with layers of flint-faced chalk rubble, above foundations of two layers of flints separated by a layer of gravel in a 20-cm-deep trench (Fig. 4). The 'inner' walls were narrower, only 38 cm wide, and were constructed of layers of flint and mortar above a foundation of gravel in an 8-cm-deep trench. The layers of the wall had been constructed by spreading a smooth layer of mortar above each layer of flints and chalk rubble, rather than bedding them into a layer of mortar. The corners and the door reveals were finished with tile quoins; the larger rectangular *bipedalae* being used for outer corners and the reveals, and the small square

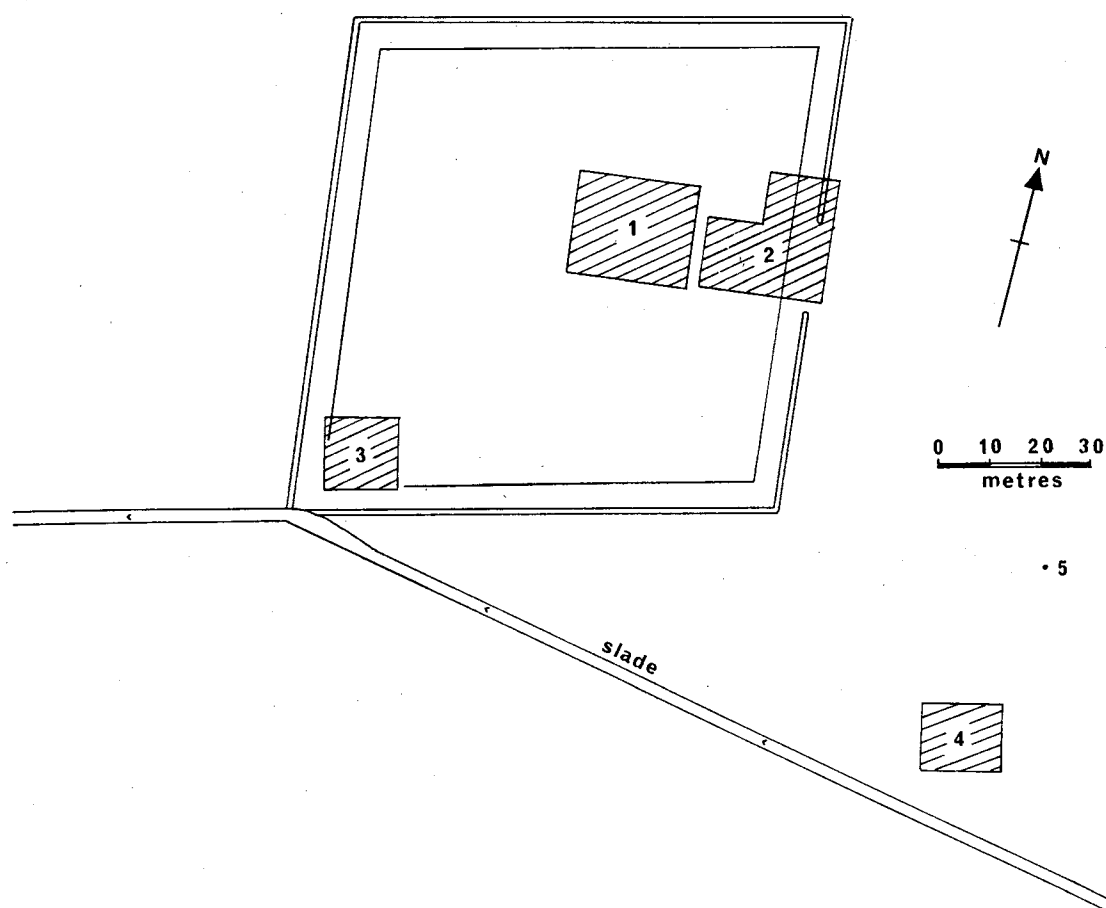


Figure 1. Plan of the temple precinct area showing the general relationships of the main areas of investigation.

ones for the inner corners of the 'inner' wall. In the uppermost remaining layer of mortar close to the western end of the 'outer' north wall, a distinct gully had been left traversing the full width of the wall; its purpose was not obvious.

The internal surface of the 'outer' wall had been coated with painted plaster, some of which was still *in situ* on the northern and eastern walls. This had been painted to give the appearance of marble. The background colour was pale pink with added irregular spots of maroon and dark blue. Several pieces of similar plaster were found in the fill of the building. The fill also contained fragments with bands of darker colours — maroon, brown or black — on a lighter background of pink, cream or white. Although no fragment was found displaying the full width of a band, it seems reasonable to assume that the dark colours were framing panels of the lighter colours surrounded by the pink marbled background. One fragment carried the curved outer edge of a brown band

on a white background, and several fragments of white painted plaster were also found. These may indicate that the upper walls and the ceiling were painted white and that the tops of the panels were arched. A few mauve and yellow fragments were also found. No evidence of any pictorial or motif design was found. The plaster was, in fact, a fairly coarse mortar containing at least pea-sized gravel. It had been applied to the walls in a single 1- to 5-cm-thick layer and the paint had been applied directly to its smoothed surface. One pink-painted fragment was of a fine pink plaster containing pieces of crushed red tile.

Remnants of a chalk and flint floor were still in evidence adjacent to the eastern wall and there were areas of mortar and gravel towards the north end and wing.

The fill of the northern end was fairly well packed fallen building rubble, including part of the identifiable quoin column from the inner corner of the 'inner' wall. As well as the usual

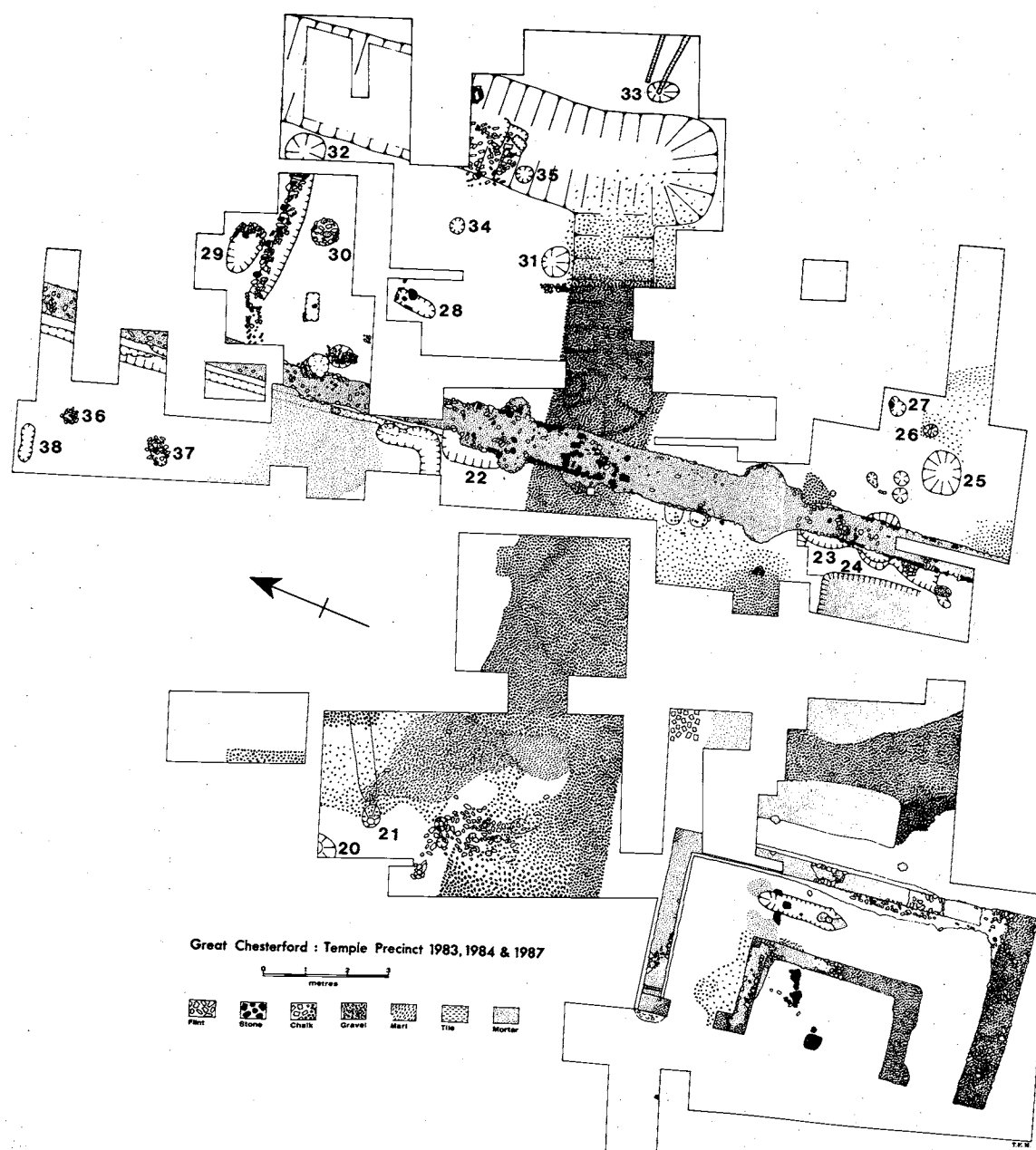


Figure 2. Main area of excavation.

wall and roof-tile fragments, it also contained a small number of sawn chalk blocks all with a slight taper. If one extrapolates the curve formed by placing these blocks side by side, an arch of approximately 1.6 m in width is formed. This dimension is close to the between wall distance of the building and may suggest that the doorways were arched, or perhaps less likely the whole roof was arched.

The remains of a kiln or oven were situated close to the centre of the building with an elongated stokehole (about 2 m) running

towards the north end. Nothing of this feature remained above the floor level, but it still retained a mortar pedestal which presumably supported the floor of the kiln or oven. A kiln or oven seems an unlikely feature in what must have been an elaborately decorated building. Moreover, its position would have almost entirely blocked the centre of the building. A more feasible explanation is that it was a later addition when the building no longer served a religious purpose or was abandoned or partly robbed.

No clear dating evidence for the construction

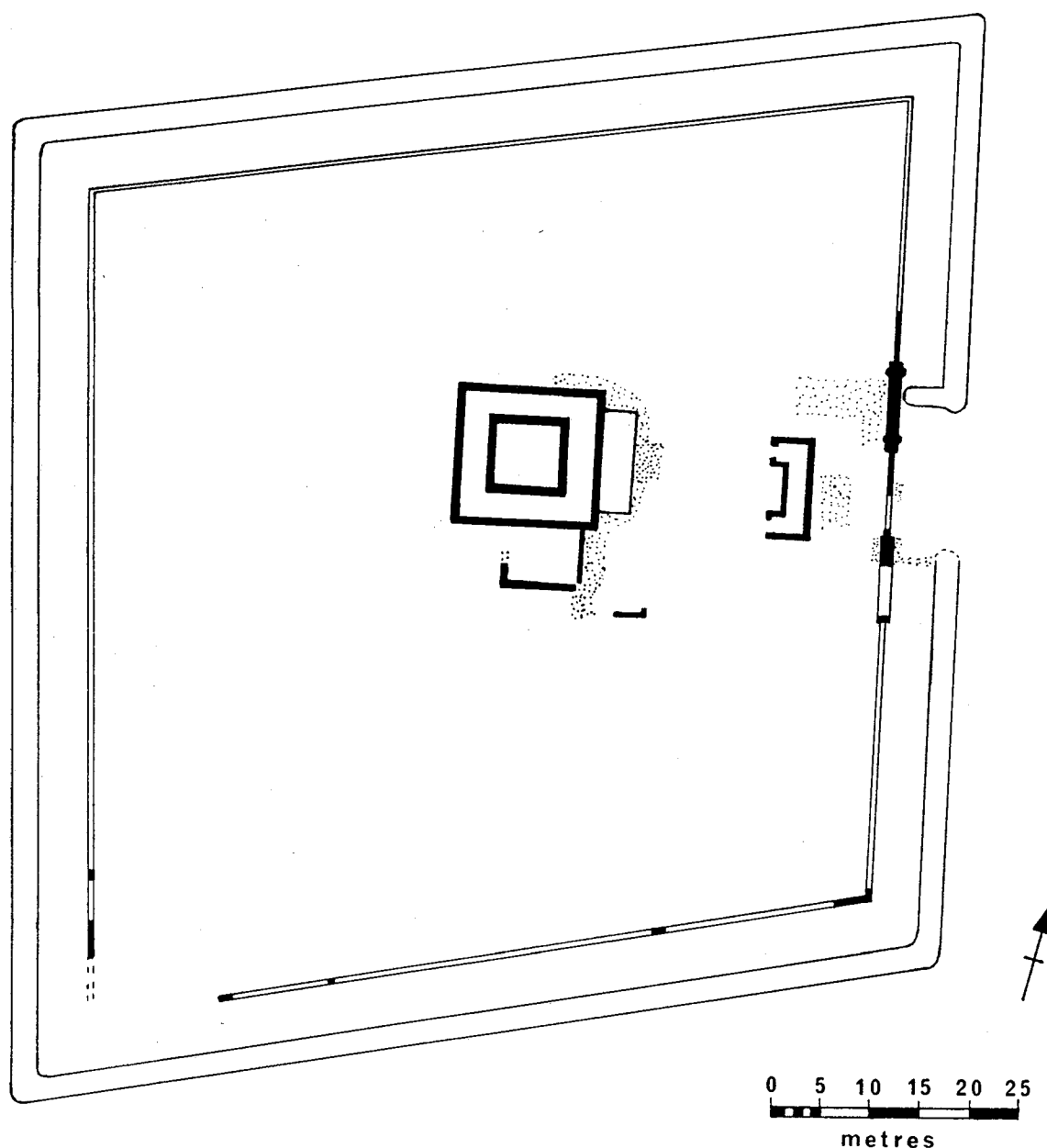


Figure 3. *Plan of precinct showing main features identified to date.*

of this building was obtained and only a small amount of pottery of the late third and early fourth century AD was recovered from the lowest level of its internal fill.

The Precinct Wall

The temple precinct was surrounded by a wall enclosing a rhomboid area of almost one hectare (Fig. 3). The lower levels of much of the eastern and southern sections were still intact, the

eastern section being clearly visible on the aerial photograph (Fig. 5). The wall was examined at several points, the largest portion to be exposed being that part of the eastern section directly opposite the temple and the ancillary building (Figs. 2 & 3). The southeast corner was uncovered along with three small lengths of the southern section and two of the western side close to the southwest corner. Investigation of the northern section produced only the 75-cm-wide foundation trench which was cut 20 cm

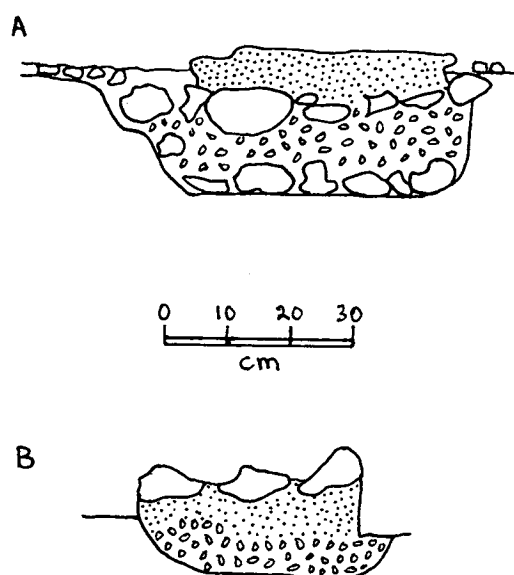


Figure 4. Sections through ancillary building walls: A) west-east section through east (outer) wall with remnant of floor at left; B) west-east section through west (inner) wall.

into the natural chalk; it had presumably been robbed in antiquity. The eastern side was 65 cm wide and constructed of mortared flint and other stones above foundations of alternate layers of rammed chalk and flints to a depth of 35 cm in a U-shaped trench cut into the natural brickearth.

Just north of the ancillary building, for a length of 8.5 m, the wall foundation was much wider (c. 1 m) and deeper (70 cm). Towards each end of the wider section, there were a pair of opposing semi-circular buttresses with 30 cm deep foundations. The two pairs of buttresses were separated by a distance of 5.5 m. The section between them was flanked on both sides by the remnants of a gravelled path. At the level of the path the uppermost remaining layer between the buttresses was faced with squared stones. This was almost certainly the threshold of an entrance into the precinct. The greater width and depth of the foundations and the presence of the buttresses make it reasonable to postulate that the entrance was surmounted by an arch. Supporting evidence for the section being a gateway comes from the filling in of the ditch directly outside it (see below for details). In a similar position, to the south of the ancillary building, a similar wide length of wall also existed, but without the buttresses. This suggests that there may have been twin entrances in the eastern wall of the precinct

leading to pathways that ran immediately to the north and south of the ancillary building (Fig. 3).

On the aerial photograph (Fig. 5), the southeast corner can clearly be seen as a cropmark. A small area was therefore excavated at this point to confirm the exact position of the corner and the line of the southern wall. The angle of the corner was greater than a right angle (Figs. 3 & 4). The eastern wall adjacent to the corner was c. 50 cm wide. The construction was again of mortared flint, but with two and possibly three spaced courses of tile both internally and externally at the corner. These extended for 2 m on the outer side of the southern wall, but only for a single tile on the inside. The extent of the tiles along the eastern wall was not established. No tiles were found in the other parts of the wall. Tile quoins were obviously essential in the construction of the corner and tile courses might be expected along the length of wall. If these did exist they must have been at higher levels than the present-day remains.

Hard against the wall in the internal angle of the corner a well-preserved iron spearhead was found (small find no. 448, Fig. 25). To further confirm the line of the southern wall small slots were excavated 21 m west of the southeast corner and 25 m east of the southwest corner (Fig. 3). At these points it was still 75 cm wide and of the same mortared flint construction. The southern wall stopped 13 m short of the southwest corner; beyond this point there was an area of about 2 m of loose flints, then no further evidence of a wall having existed right up to the corner. At the point where it finished, the southern wall foundation was c. 70 cm wide and again of flint and chalk, but showed no evidence of being neatly finished with quoined corners.

Of the western wall the first 4 m adjacent to the southwest corner only existed as a trace of rubble. A further 4 m north of this was excavated and the foundations were again intact, consisting of chalk and flints c. 90 cm wide in a 40-cm-deep trench. A small length was also uncovered 15 m north of the southwest corner and this was of similar construction.

The Palisade

The wall had apparently been preceded by a palisade, which had stood on, or very close to, the same alignment as the wall. Evidence for this was found in the form of a slot on both the eastern and western sides, and much more undoubtedly exists below the wall foundations, which in the main were not fully excavated. On

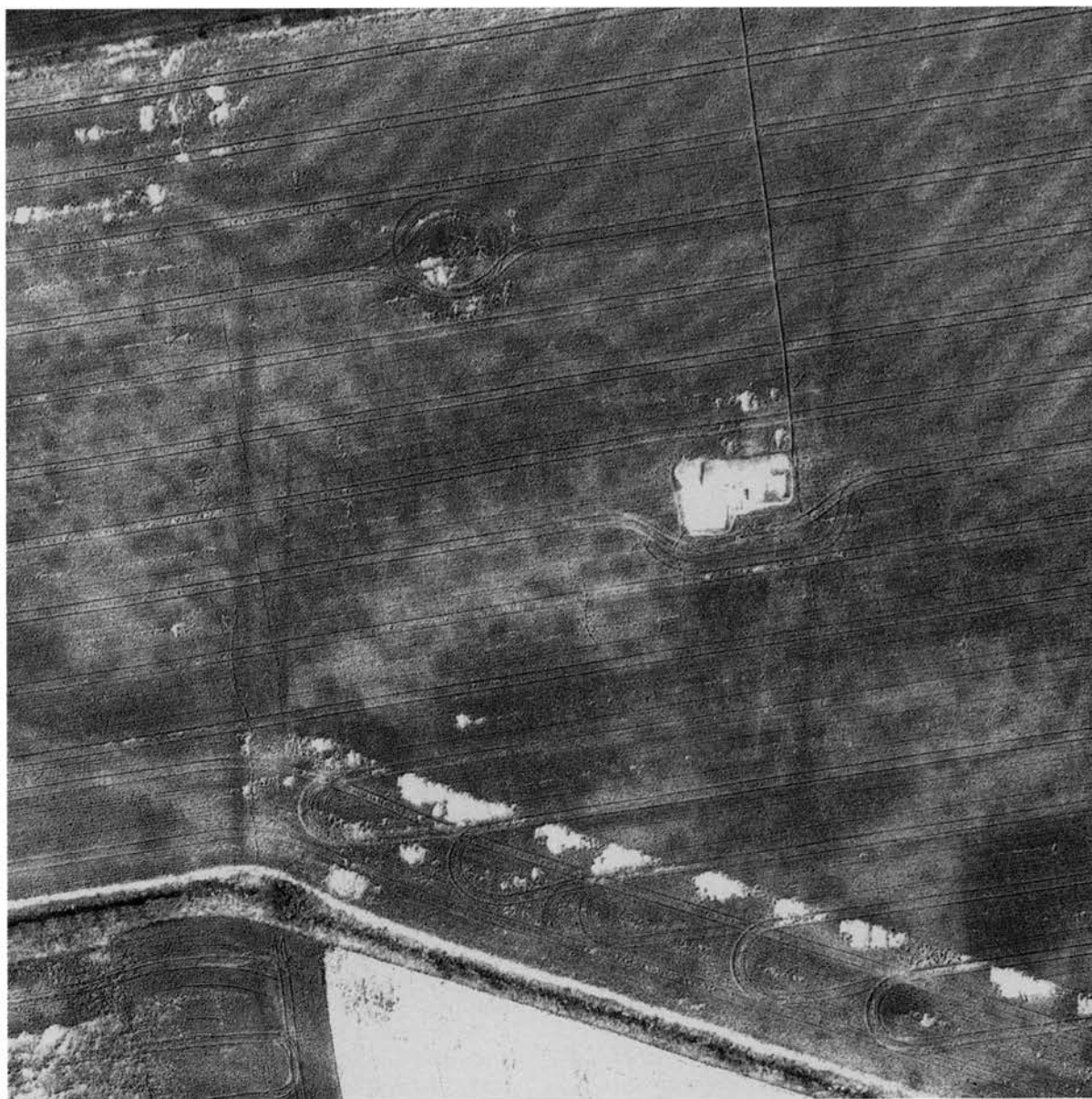


Figure 5. Aerial photograph of precinct clearly showing surrounding ditch and partial line of wall. (ADAS Aerial Photography Unit, Crown copyright.)

the eastern side, to the north of the northern gateway in the wall and 25 cm inside the wall, there was a slot, 25 cm wide and 40 cm deep, which had been cut into the natural reddish brickearth and the underlying marl (Fig. 2). There was evidence of recutting in places and of the slot having held vertical timbers with larger posts in deeper settings at intervals. Three such post settings were clearly identified at 1.3 m and 2.6 m; the latter being twice the former, suggesting a regular spacing of 1.3 m for the major uprights. In the region of the gateway the slot was not discovered. Several reasons are possible for this: the line may have

veered slightly and hence been lost beneath the wider wall foundation at this point; it may not have existed as there may have also been an entrance in the palisade at this point (see also section on the ditch); or it may have been overlooked due to the difficulty of detecting such a feature in dry brickearth.

A similar slot was found below the inner edge of the western wall (Fig. 8). It had been cut by the later wall foundation trench, but 25 cm of its depth still remained beneath the wall foundation. The 1.2 m length excavated did not contain any large post settings, but did contain a few sherds of possibly late first- or early

second-century AD pottery. This western slot finished in a large 45 cm square posthole about 4.5 m short of the southwest corner of the precinct. There was no evidence of there having been any contemporary enclosing structure for this final length, although a shallow square post setting existed at the actual corner.

Similarly, there was no slot for the southern section adjacent to the southwest corner where there was also no wall. As the wall foundation was not removed at any point along the southern side it is conceivable but seems unlikely that no slot and hence no palisade existed along the southern side of the precinct. No evidence for a palisade along the northern side was found either, but only one very small exploratory trench was opened midway along this section.

Midway between the western end of the southern wall and the southwest corner there was a feature on the wall line which may have been contemporary with either the wall or the palisade. This consisted of two almost circular (c. 70 cm diameter) pits or post settings cut c. 50 cm into the natural, connected by a shallower gully and containing a small quantity of early second-century potsherds (Fig. 8, southern edge of excavated area).

The Ditch

The aerial photograph (Fig. 5) shows that the precinct was surrounded on all four sides by a ditch. It was first located close to its southwest

corner where its western side was sectioned in 1985. The ditch at this point was c. 2.6 m wide, U-shaped in section and cut c. 1.0 m into the natural gravel with some evidence of recutting (Fig. 6). On the inner side the natural gravel was 50 cm below the surface, but 80 cm below on the outer side.

The fill on the inner slope from base to lip was a very gravelly brown soil. A similar but less gravelly layer extended down the outer slope and overlay the base of that down the inner slope. Above this in the centre of the ditch the main fill was dark grey and silty and contained a few undatable potsherds and a late third-century coin. Above the main fill, there was a 20-cm-thick layer of large stones and tiles. Next, spanning the full width of the ditch, was a 40-cm-thick layer of brown silty soil separated by a thin stoney layer from a 30 cm layer of brown soil beneath 25 cm of plough soil. These upper layers contained third- and fourth-century AD pottery and a late third-century coin.

In 1987 an area outside the northern gateway in the eastern wall was excavated to elucidate the apparent absence of the eastern ditch in this region. The ditch as indicated in Figure 3 was not continuous, but finished in a butt-end directly opposite the gateway with a westward arm at right angles towards the wall foundation and with a butt-end immediately against it.

The eastern ditch like that on the western side was c. 2.6 m wide and at this point cut

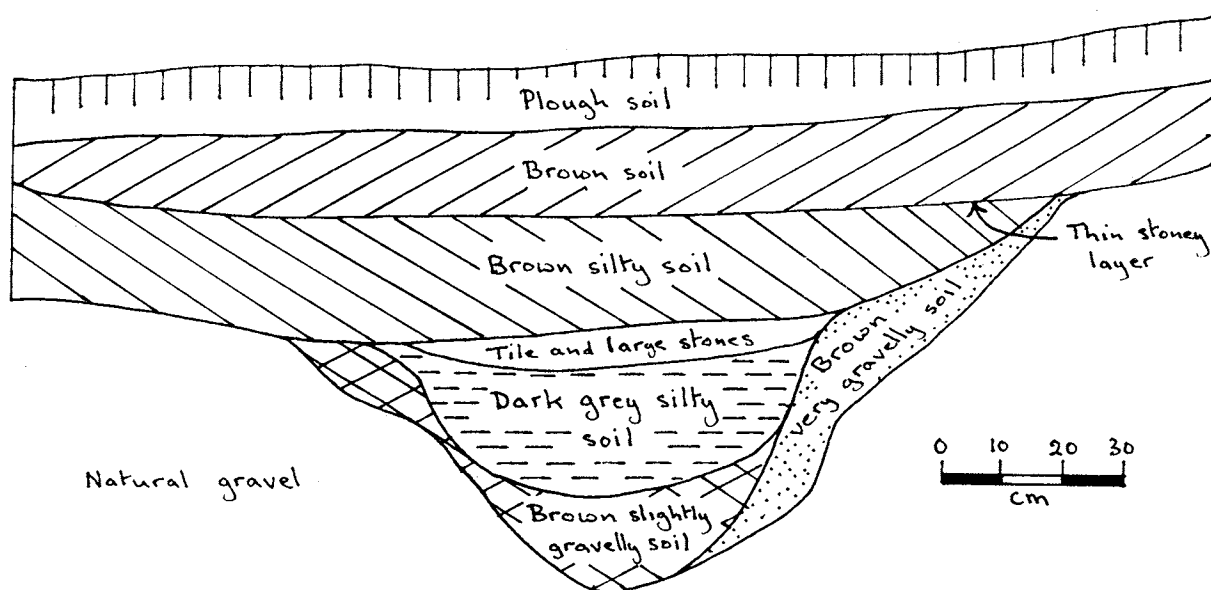


Figure 6. West-east section through surrounding ditch on western side of precinct.

c. 1.2 m into the natural marl. The end was squarish with rounded corners and cut slightly less deep (c. 90 cm). The arm towards the gateway was of similar depth (c. 90 cm) but was only 1.2 m wide. There was no evidence of recutting, but at one point about 4 m from the end, where the depth reduced to 90 cm, there were distinct cut edges in the marl base. These were probably the edges of the final deeper spade cuts of the original ditch construction. In this area the ditch appeared to have been deliberately filled. In the two sections drawn from the south-facing baulks (Fig. 7), a layer of silting is visible in the base of the ditch. The southernmost section, nearest the butt-end, has a grey/brown silty layer above a thin white clayey layer, and the other has a fine brown silty layer. Above these layers the ditch was filled almost to the top of the natural by a single heterogeneous fill. In the southern section this was mainly of brown soil becoming a yellow/brown mixture with chalk and flints towards the north. At one point on the inner slope between the fill and the lower silty layer there was a thin distinct layer of charcoal. There was also a distinct tip of large flints down the inner slope within the fill. This major fill contained: pottery from no later than the second century AD; oyster, mussel and snail shells; bone fragments, mainly sheep; a few nails; a few tile tesserae; a few fragments of mortar and wall plaster; and a number of small finds. At one point a layer of yellow/white chalk, up to 20 cm thick, spread over the fill from the inner edge. The whole ditch was sealed by a layer of dark grey soil up to 40 cm thick containing a similar range of inclusions to the main ditch fill, but in this case the pottery was of the late third or early fourth century AD. In one area of this layer, a quantity of flints and tile fragments had been deposited, and a stone-lined post setting existed; the latter indicating use of the area after the ditch was filled. The coins from this layer ranged from the late first century AD to the early fourth century AD.

The arm of the ditch running towards the wall had a brown sandy fill at the base below the main fill of stoney soil with some ash and a large number of oyster shells. The pottery from both of these layers was from the late first and early second century AD. This area of the ditch was sealed by the remnants of a gravel path which was also just discernible over the end of the main ditch. The full extent to which the ditch had been deliberately filled was not ascertained, but it seems reasonable to suppose that only sufficient was done to allow access to the new gateways created when the wall replaced the palisade. The earlier gateway was

presumably just south of the butt-end of the ditch and between the later two gateways. A similar end and filling would be expected to the ditch south of this gateway, but further excavation will be required to confirm it.

Excavation of a 1 m length of the southern ditch, 21 m west of the southeast corner of the wall, showed it to be cut c. 90 cm into the natural gravel and filled with dark loamy soil. Directly above the ditch fill there was a shallow 30-cm-wide groove filled with stones; a similar parallel groove existed above the natural just south of the ditch edge. The two grooves were, centre to centre, 1.5 m apart and had the appearance of wheel ruts. These could not be dated and in all probability were more recent, perhaps from a time when the wall was being robbed.

The Pits

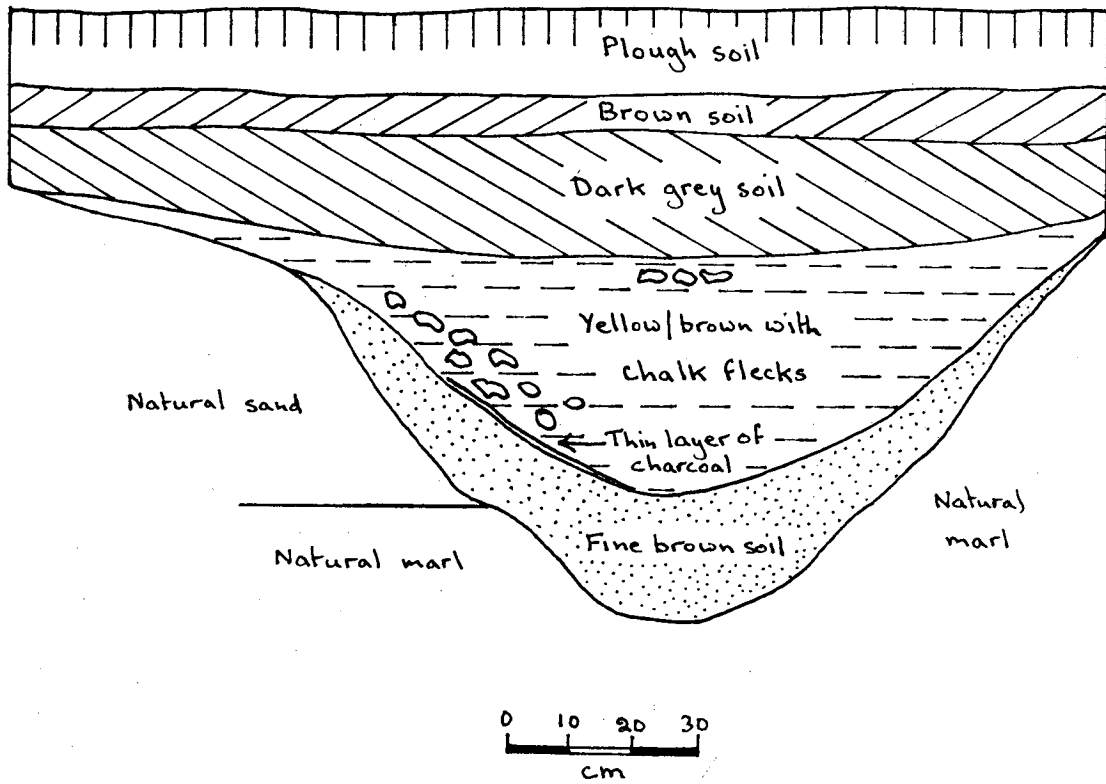
Pits existed throughout the site but the most significant, because of their size and content, were those excavated during 1985 at the southwest corner of the precinct (Fig. 8). After the 1984 harvest a deep furrow at the edge of a fire break ploughed around the field turned up some patches of chalk in the region of the southwest corner of the precinct. A trial trench revealed the presence of a large pit, Pit 1, and resulted in a wider investigation of the area in 1985.

Pit 1

This was 2.7 m deep. The lower 1.75 m which was cut 1.5 m through the natural gravel and 20 cm into the underlying chalk was approximately square, 2 m x 2 m. The upper section sloped out to a much wider oval-shaped top 30 cm below the surface.

The fill consisted of a large number of layers with no evidence of loamy layers between them, suggesting that there was little or no time gap between the deposit of each one. The lowest layer was 30 cm thick and greenish in colour with sandy and ashy patches. The lower 10 cm of this layer above the almost flat bottom consisted almost entirely of animal bones (mostly sheep). The rest of the fill of the square lower part of the pit was of slightly variable layers of greenish-brown soil, again with some ashy patches. The layers in the upper wider part of the pit were more distinct. Because of the confined space and loose nature of the lower fill it was not possible to obtain a complete section drawing, but a partial section is shown in Figure 9. A layer of loamy soil was evident between the fill of the upper and lower parts

A



B

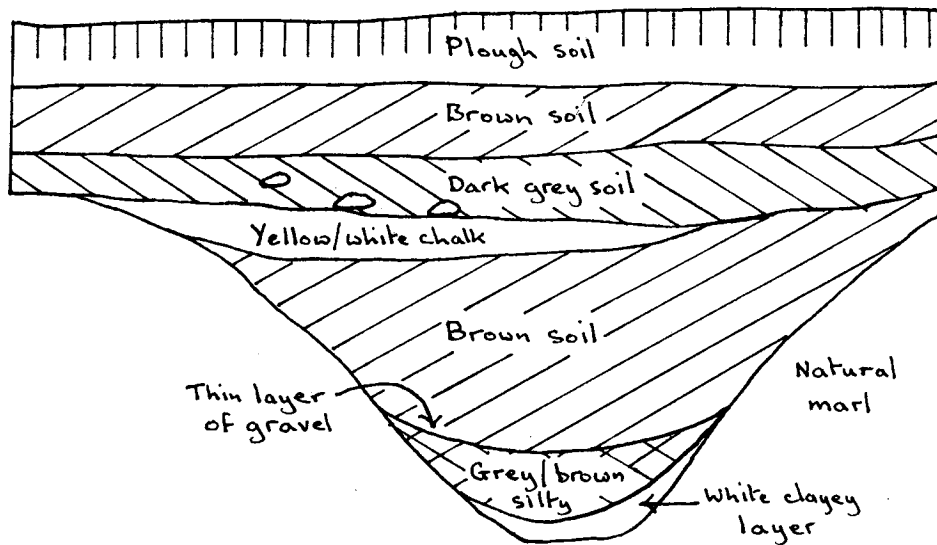


Figure 7. Two sections through the deliberately filled part of surrounding ditch on eastern side of precinct.

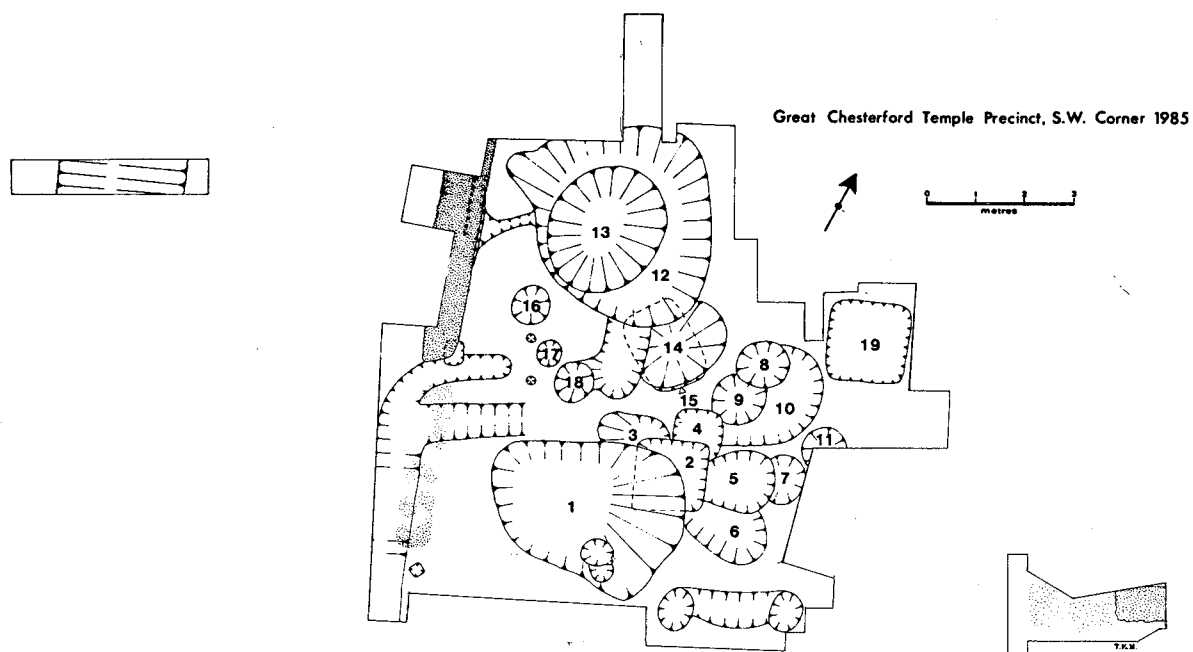


Figure 8. Plan of the area of excavation at the southwest corner of the precinct.

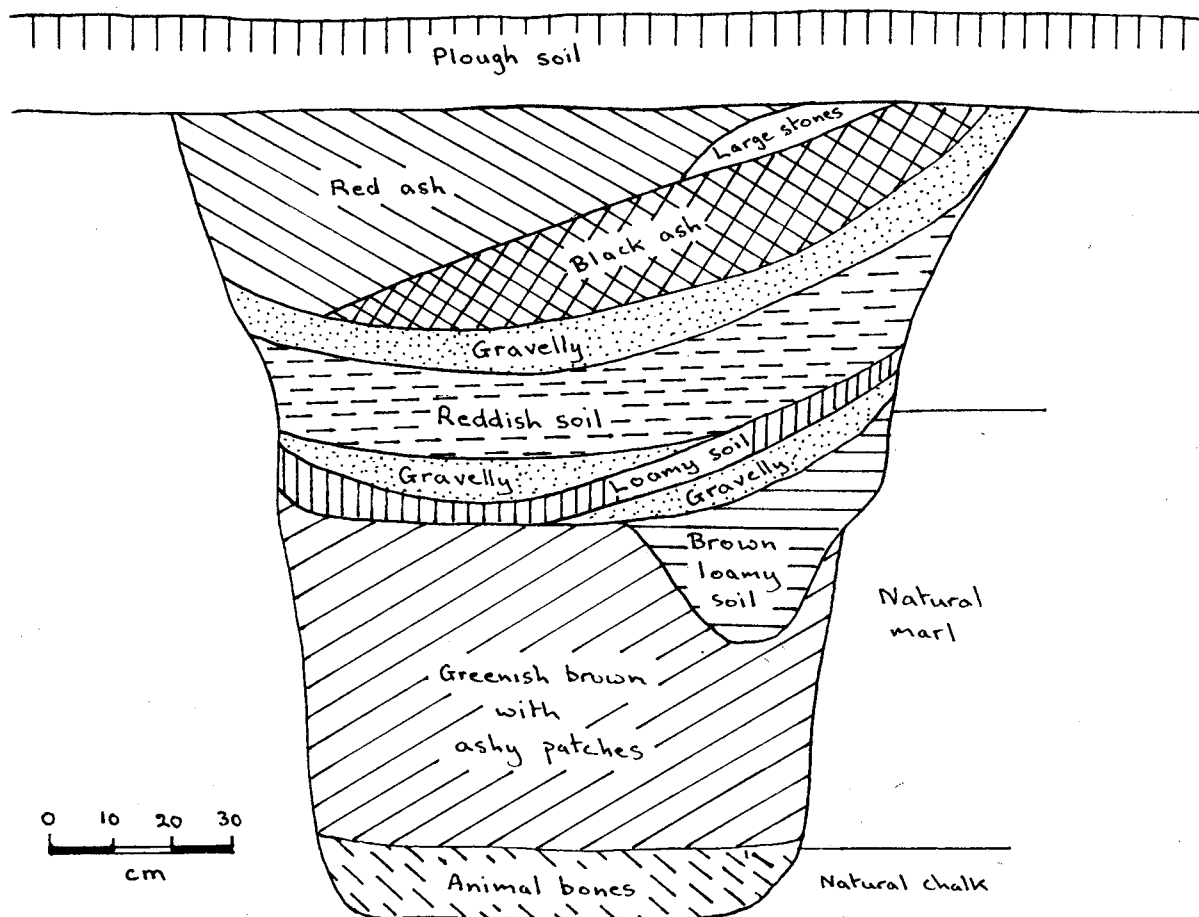


Figure 9. Drawing of section through Pit 1.

and may indicate discontinuity in the filling. Above this loamy layer there was a clear gravelly layer which did not extend the full width of the pit. Above this there was a 30-cm-thick reddish layer then another gravelly layer. Next, on the southern side and sloping up to the base of the plough soil there was an up to 40-cm-thick layer of black ash. On the north side, above the gravel and partly above the black ash, there was a layer of red ash up to 60 cm thick which also reached up to the base of the plough soil. The eastern lip and upper slope of the pit had a coating of marl. At the southern side of the pit two probable post settings, one cutting the other, had been sunk into the fill. The first was dug 1.3 m and the second 1.7 m into the fill.

All layers of the pit contained pottery of the early second century except for the upper red and black ash layers which contained pottery of the late third and the fourth century and coins of the fourth century. No coins were found in the lower fill. Chemical analysis of the upper layer of very red ash showed a high iron content, 3.5 per cent. This level although high was not as high as would be expected as a result of iron working. Its cause remains a mystery. One possible hypothesis is that it results from the haemoglobin of large quantities of discarded offal.

Pit 2

This was 3.5 m deep. Its top was cut to the southwest by Pit 1 and it in turn cut Pits 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Fig. 8). The upper 2.7 m was square, 1.4 m × 1.4 m, but the lower 80 cm which was cut into chalk was circular (1.1 m in diameter) with a flat bottom. The fill of the lower section was a greenish friable soil with a very large number of bones. The only other inclusions were a single mussel shell, a few sherds of late first-century pottery, an iron knife and a piece of glass. The upper fill was a reddish loamy soil with pottery of the late first and early second centuries, a few oyster shells, a few snail shells, a few nails, two pieces of maroon wall plaster, a number of small finds and a quantity of bones. There were a large number of bones close to the sides of the upper section in what may have been a thin residual continuation of the lower fill; the upper fill being a later intrusion resulting from a recutting. Because of the depth of the pit and the proximity of Pit 1, it was necessary to use shuttering during excavation; this restricted detailed examination of the sides and it is therefore not possible to categorically state that recutting had occurred. It also appeared that the corners of the square part may have had timber uprights suggesting a boarded

lining. It is difficult to give a precise estimate but the lower fill was probably over 25 per cent bones. On excavation these were separated by dry coarse sieving and placed in large sacks. All complete mandibles (750) were individually wrapped to ensure no teeth were lost.

Pit 3

A shallow, c. 50 cm deep, oval bowl-shaped pit, c. 1.5 m long containing black ashy loam and cut by Pits 1 and 2. There were only a small number of inclusions: second-century pottery; oyster and snail shells; and a piece of mortar with lath impressions.

Pit 4

A shallow, c. 50 cm deep, almost square, 1-m-wide pit with rounded corners and near vertical sides. It was cut by Pits 2 and 5 but cut Pit 9. The fill was a slightly gravelly soil with many animal bones, a few oyster shells, and a few fragments of second-century pottery.

Pit 5

Another shallow, c. 50 cm deep, oval bowl-shaped pit, c. 1.25 × 1.5 m. It was cut by Pit 2 but cut Pits 6 and 7 and was partly sealed by the marl lining of the eastern edge of Pit 1. The fill was a dark loamy soil with evidence of burning. It contained early second-century pottery, a quantity of oyster shells, a few nails, a quern fragment, a few fragments of painted plaster (one cream, five maroon and one maroon and blue), and a number of small finds.

Pit 6

A very shallow, c. 25 cm deep, oval bowl-shaped pit (c. 1.25 × 2 m) cut by Pits 1 and 5.

Pit 7

A small shallow circular (c. 1 m diameter) bowl-shaped pit cut by Pit 5 and sealed by c. 75 cm of sterile redeposited natural subsoil. There were no datable inclusions.

Pit 8

A shallow (c. 40 cm) circular (c. 1 m diameter) bowl-shaped pit cutting Pits 9 and 10 and filled with dark soil containing many animal bones, a few oyster and snail shells, and second-century potsherds.

Pit 9

A slightly deeper (c. 60 cm) but otherwise identical pit to Pit 8 by which it was cut, but it in turn cut Pit 10.

Pit 10

An oval bowl-shaped pit (c. 1.9 × 2.2 m wide, c. 60 cm deep) cut by Pits 4, 8 and 9 and with a similar fill to the latter two. The fill again contained second-century pottery along with animal bones, oyster and snail shells, and a fragment of glass.

Pit 11

Another shallow (c. 40 cm) circular (c. 1 m) bowl-shaped pit with a dark fill containing animal bones.

Pit 12

A large squarish oval pit, 1.4 × 2 m towards its base, widening to c. 3.6 × c. 4 m at its lip. It was cut 3.85 m through the natural gravel, which was only 40 cm below the surface, into the underlying chalk. The lower 1.15 m was not excavated; the depth of the bottom was determined by auger. The southern lip cut Pits 14 and 15 and the adjacent gully. A later pit, Pit 13, had been dug within its fill (Figs. 8 & 10).

The fill of the excavated lower section (Fig. 10) consisted, as far as could be determined, of a gravelly soil with large flints, some ashy patches, animal bones and a few potsherds. Above this there was an approximately 30-cm-thick red ashy layer containing mid second-century pottery. In the northern half of the pit, this was below a c. 70-cm-thick greenish layer, which had a thin 10-cm-thick layer of red ash above it at the eastern side. These layers were all below a layer of chalk rubble, up to 75 cm thick. Above the chalk were several complete and incomplete layers of varying coloured soil — reddish-brown, brownish-red, brown (Fig. 10) — all of which contained early to mid second-century pottery, but few other inclusions (oyster and snail shells, nails, four tesserae, and a cut chalk block). A number of coins were found, mostly close to the top of the fill; the majority were from the fourth century and may be contemporary with the later Pit 13 as there was some difficulty in separating the upper fills. However, there was one coin from the second century, a dupondius of Crispina wife of Commodus from AD 177, which adds support to the pit being of the second century AD.

Pit 13

This almost circular pit was dug entirely within the fill of Pit 12 to a depth of 2.7 m and had a flat bottom (Figs. 8 & 10). The lower section was vertically sided and 1.1 m in diameter. The upper section sloped outward to a rim diameter of about 2.5 m. The fill consisted of a 10–20 cm layer of brown stoney soil at the base, then a thin red-brown layer containing animal bones. The rest of the lower section was filled almost entirely with a single layer, up to 90 cm thick, of a brown soil containing large stones. This was separated from the fill of the upper part by a thin (c. 10 cm) slightly chalky layer. Above this there was a single upper fill of brownish soil with large stones similar to the main lower fill. The layers contained pottery mainly from the fourth century AD with a few pieces from the second century AD. There were very few other inclusions: oyster, cockle and snail shells; four tesserae; 35 nails; and a number of small finds.

Pit 14

A 50-cm-deep circular (c. 2 m diameter) bowl-shaped pit, cut by Pit 12 to the north and a gully to the west and almost entirely obliterating the top of Pit 15. The fill was an almost black loamy soil and could not be easily separated from the fill of Pit 15 below it.

Pit 15

A rectangular (1.3 × 1.8 m) pit with rounded corners cut c. 90 cm into the natural. Only a very small portion of the southern edge had not been destroyed by other features. The bottom of the pit contained a layer of animal bones. The almost identical fills of this and Pit 14 contained many animal bones and a few oyster shells. There was only a small number of potsherds, but one near complete flagon; these again appeared to date from the early second century.

Pit 16

A shallow bowl-shaped pit, diameter 75 cm, with no dateable material.

Pit 17

A shallow (c. 10 cm) circular (c. 50 cm diameter) bowl-shaped pit with a black ashy fill but with no dateable inclusions. There were two probable post settings just to the west of this pit, these also contained a black ashy fill.

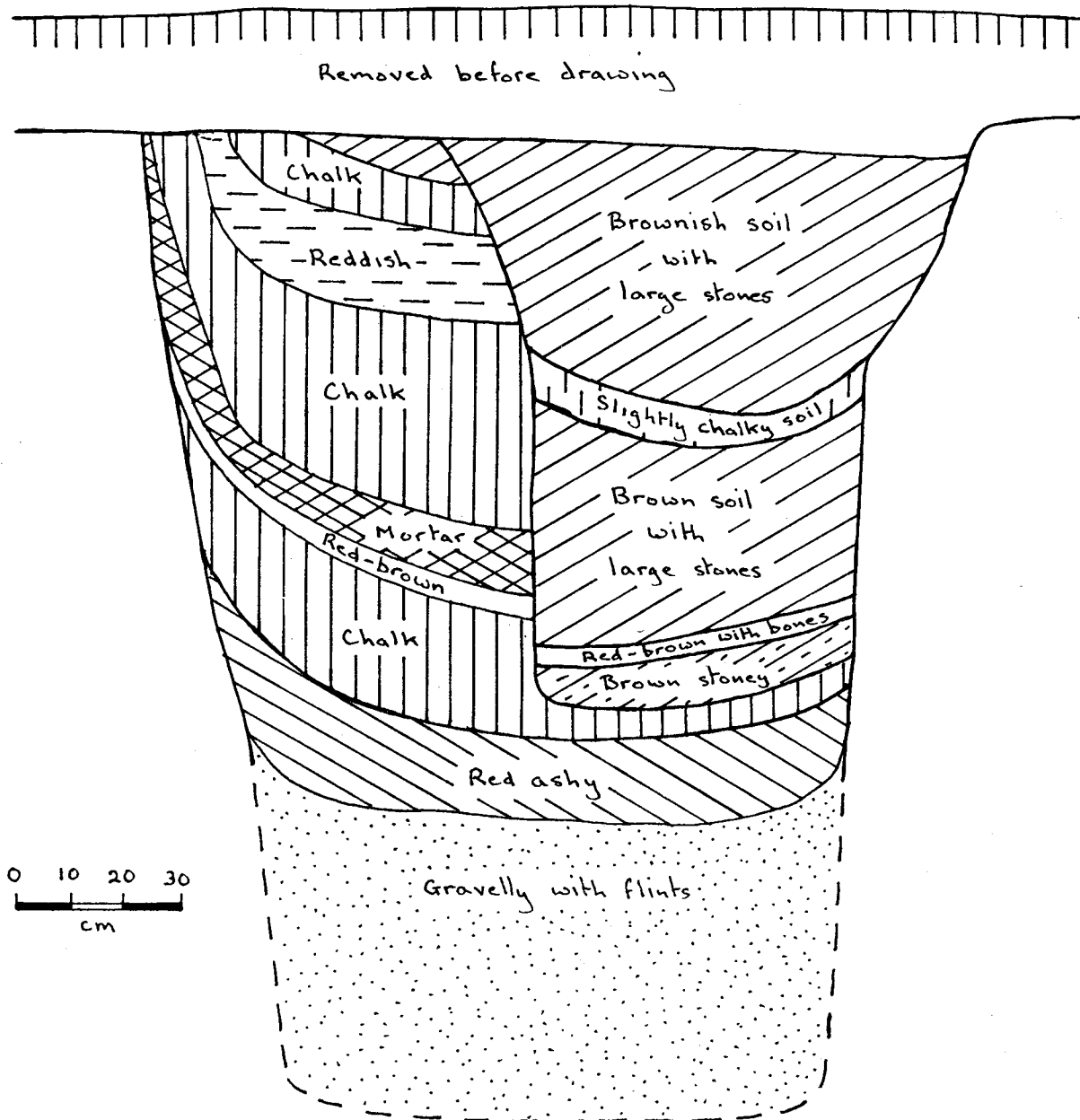


Figure 10. Drawing of section through Pits 12 and 13.

Pit 18

A shallow (c. 30 cm) circular (c. 80 cm diameter) bowl-shaped pit with a black ashy fill and signs of burning, possibly a hearth. Again there were no dateable inclusions.

This pit was associated with a gully which ran from just east of it in a northerly direction until it was obliterated by Pit 12. The gully was about 1 m wide and about 30 cm deep. The fill below a layer of crushed and compressed bones was a slightly reddish soil containing pottery from the first half of the second century. A

second branched gully lay to the west of this pit (Pit 18) and Pit 17. The two branches of the gully ran westwards to approximately the line of the western precinct wall where they united and turned south. The northernmost branch had a distinct butt-end, but the end of the southern arm which became very shallow had been destroyed by ploughing. The gully reached a maximum depth of 40 cm at the southernmost part of the excavation. The fill was grey and clayey with only a few bone and undateable pottery fragments.

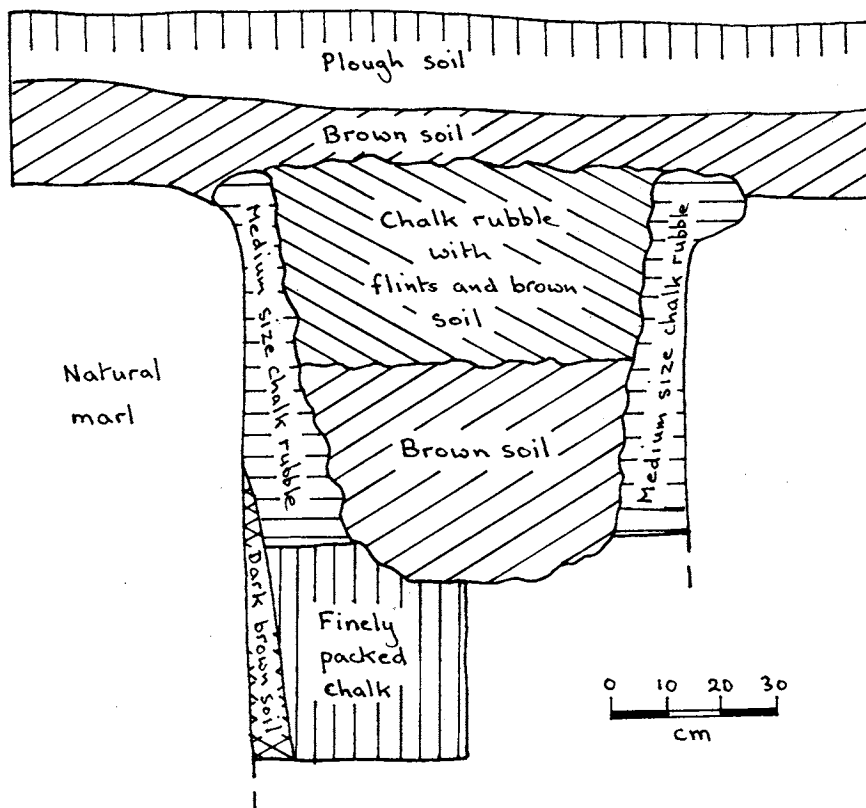


Figure 11. Drawing of section through excavated part of Pit 19.

Pit 19

A square pit (c. 1.6 × 1.6 m) of unknown depth. The pit was not fully excavated and the fill was not amenable to augering. The pit was dug into the natural marl, which at this point was 60 cm below the surface. Excavation was only carried out to a depth of two metres (Fig. 11). The main fill was solidly packed chalk. Below about 1.25 m the chalk was very fine, above this level it was of medium-sized lumps. Between the edge of the pit and the chalk fill a narrow lining of dark brown soil was evident particularly at the lower level of excavation. No artefacts were found in the chalk fill. A secondary pit, also square, appeared to have been cut 1.5 m into the upper chalk fill, leaving a roughly 20-cm-thick surrounding wall of chalk. The fill of this secondary pit consisted of two layers. The lower half was of brown soil and the upper half a mixture of chalk rubble, large flints and brown soil. These two layers contained animal bones, oyster shells, a *tessera*, four herringbone tiles, a large piece of mortar, a few nails, and mid second-century pottery. Three coins from these layers, however, dated from the fourth century.

Below the plough soil and above the pit there was a layer of brown soil with similar

inclusions; the pottery was also probably from the second century. It therefore seems most likely that the secondary pit like Pit 13 was a fourth-century feature cut into an earlier pit and later backfilled with soil containing pottery from an earlier period. The date of the earlier pit was not established. One can only wonder as to why it was felt necessary to backfill it with chalk which would have had to have been brought to the site as most of the pits were not dug deep enough to yield any quantity of chalk.

By comparison with the pits of the southwest corner of the precinct, those in the region of the ancillary building and the gateway (Fig. 2) were rather insignificant in terms of size and content,

and are described briefly below.

Pits 20 & 21

These were possibly early post settings but may just conceivably have been natural features. They were 90 cm below the surface and sealed by a sterile layer of brickearth. Both were 20 cm deep. Pit 21 had a 40-cm-wide and 40-cm-deep vertically sided gully running from it in a southeasterly direction. A number of other small but doubtful post settings were also found in this area.

Pit 22

This probably square pit partly underlay the wall at the northern end of the gateway and was therefore not fully investigated. It contained whelk and oyster shells and a few fragments of pottery which were possibly from the second century.

Pit 23

This pit lay almost entirely beneath the wall and was therefore not fully excavated. The lower fill was a brownish soil, but the upper part had

been filled with gravel with large stones at the centre near the top. The wall foundation was deeper than usual above the pit indicating that the wall builders were aware of it and had partly replaced the fill with gravel and stones as a base for the wall foundation. There were no dateable inclusions but the pit obviously predates the wall.

Pit 24

Like Pit 23 this also lay beneath the wall and consequently was not fully excavated. It was roughly circular (c. 1.5 m in diameter) and may not have been a single pit; it may have been one within another. There were insufficient inclusions to provide a date, but again it must predate the construction of the wall. It is also possible that this and Pit 23 were associated with the pre-wall palisade and could perhaps be large post settings of the early gateway.

Pit 25

A roughly circular pit (c. 1 m in diameter) filled with brown soil containing second-century pottery identical to the layer above the pit which contained the same pottery. Above this there were the thin remnants of a gravel path.

Pit 26

A very small shallow bowl-shaped pit containing crushed pot.

Pit 27

A small shallow pit probably a hearth. A number of shallow possible post settings also existed in this same area just outside the wall.

Pit 28

A small oven or kiln aligned north-south. The pit was c. 1.1 m long and c. 40 cm wide, rounded at the stokehole (southern) end and almost square at the closed end which was lined with tiles, mortar and a large stone. There was a central column of mortar, presumably to support the floor of the oven or kiln (*cf.* similar feature in the Ancillary building). The fill was a black ash with fourth-century pottery.

Pit 29

A hearth or oven. An oval pit, 1.15 m long by 70 cm wide and 25 cm deep lying east-west with the stokehole to the west. The closed end

was lined with large stones, broken tiles and pieces of mortar. The fill was black and ashy and contained fourth-century pottery, a few oyster and mussel shells, a few nails, and a few animal bone fragments.

Pit 30

A shallow (30 cm) circular (65 cm diameter) bowl-shaped pit filled with rubble, almost certainly a post setting.

Pit 31

A shallow circular (70 cm diameter) pit filled with black ash.

Pit 32

An 85-cm-diameter pit cut 50 cm into the natural. Its position at the end of a gully associated with a wall foundation suggests a large post setting.

Pit 33

A shallow (20 cm) oval (2 m × 50 cm) pit almost certainly a post setting. Above and adjacent to this feature were two very narrow (10 cm wide) gullies running in an easterly direction. They had the appearance of very narrow beam slots but were covered with a layer of sterile brown soil. They may have been the result of recent deep chisel ploughing.

Other probable post settings existed in this area just outside the wall, *eg.* Pits 34 and 35. Most were of small diameter and were very shallow. Similar post settings also existed just inside the wall (Pits 36 & 37). The former was obviously a post setting being 30 × 30 cm square and 60 cm deep.

Pit 38

This was a shallow ash-filled depression, c. 20 cm deep and c. 95 cm long. It was notable in containing a first-century samian-ware dish.

Pit 39

This was an isolated pit approximately 75 m southeast of the precinct (Fig. 1:5). Apart from the precinct wall and ditch it was one of the very few features visible on the aerial photograph. The main shaft was roughly square (1.2 × 1.5 m) flaring out at the top to about 3 m across (Fig. 12). It had been dug 3.95 m into

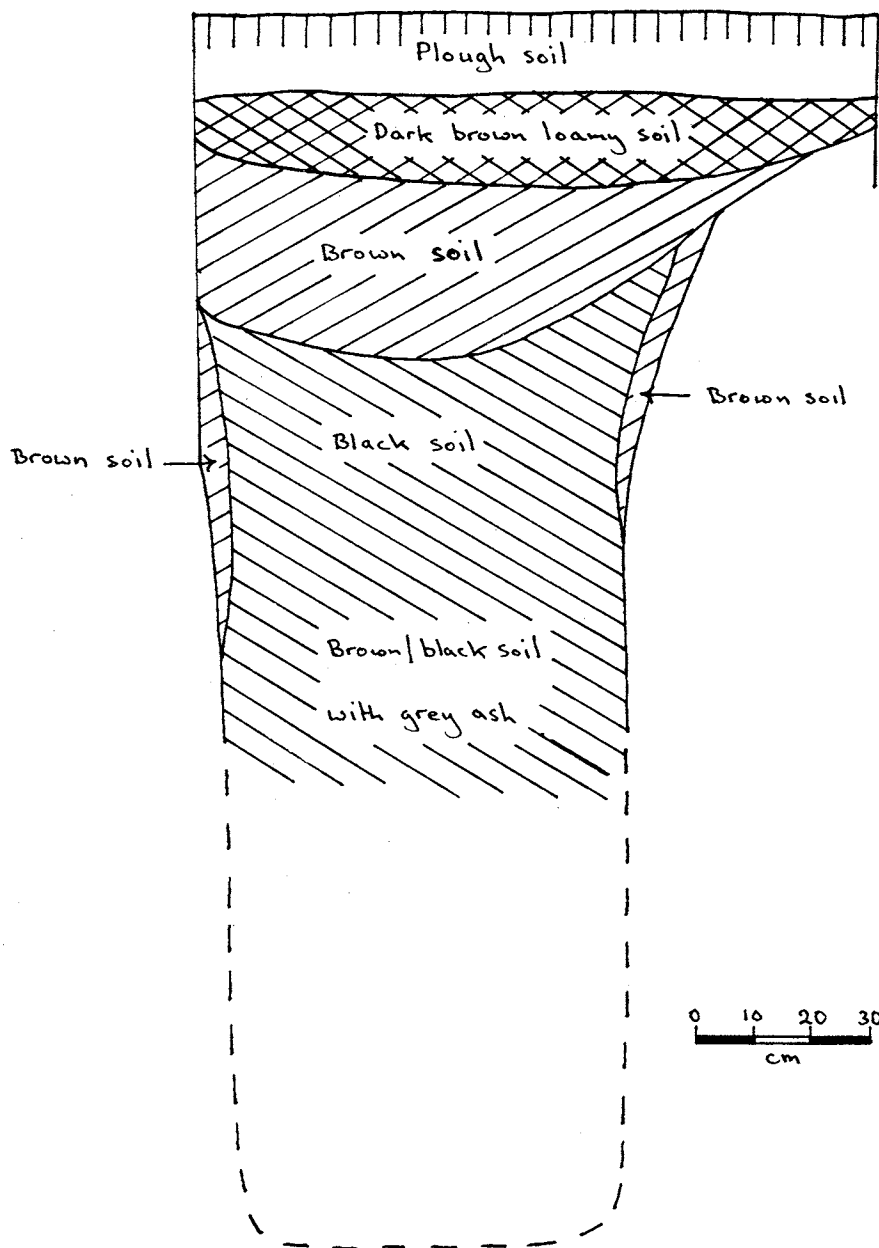


Figure 12. Drawing of section through isolated Pit 39.

the natural gravel and marl. Only 2.1 m of this depth was excavated, but the full depth was determined by auger. The main fill was a brown/black soil with patches of grey ash, becoming blacker towards the top. Above this there was an up to 60-cm-thick layer of brown soil. The uppermost layer (c. 30 cm) was a dark brown silty soil which was immediately below the ploughsoil. With the exception of the upper layer, the other layers all contained a good sample of pottery dating from the period AD 70–AD 125 (Figs. 14 & 15). Potsherds in the upper regions were found to match sherds from lower

down indicating that the whole of the main fill was contemporary. Other inclusions consisted mainly of oyster shells, a few whelk shells, a few nails, a few animal bone fragments, and a few small finds. In contrast the uppermost layer contained pottery from the fourth century.

The Pathways

The major pathway discovered was that running in an easterly direction past the north side of the ancillary building and out through the gateway in the wall (Fig. 2). This path lay about 40 cm below the surface. Above it and below the ploughsoil there was a layer of brown soil containing a quantity of building rubble, particularly just north of the ancillary building. This was the source of the building material that initially drew attention to the area. This layer produced a number of small finds including coins, mainly from the late third century and the first half of the fourth century. The pottery was also mainly from the fourth century.

The path consisted of a layer of gravel up to 10 cm thick and 3 m wide. It was traceable for 6 m outside the gateway where it was above the deliberately filled part of the ditch. The

first 4 m outside the gateway were substantial but the last 2 m were very thin. This suggests that the pathway had only been gravelled for a short distance outside the wall; the thinner layer being just a spread resulting from usage. No dateable material was recovered from the gravel but it did include a few boot nails which provide evidence of it being an area where people walked.

Areas of gravel were also discovered between the ancillary building and the precinct wall, and just outside the wall in the same area. Some of these may have been remnants of the pre-wall

entrance to the precinct, but they were not sufficiently contiguous to draw any real conclusions.

Part of another distinct pathway was also found between the ancillary building and the wall, but running roughly parallel to both (Fig. 2). It was 1.5 m wide and consisted of an even layer of gravel and mortar, 10 cm thick. Below this path and separated from it by a thin layer of brown soil containing second-century pottery lay an earlier path with the same orientation. This path consisted of, on its western side, a layer of crushed chalk 60 cm wide and 1 cm thick. Its eastern side consisted of a further 1.4 m width of large stones. No clear date was obtained for these two paths, but the soil between, beside and above them, which could not be distinguished into separate layers, contained second-century pottery.

In the trench in the area of the proposed second gateway in the eastern wall of the precinct, areas of gravel were located adjacent to both the inner and outer faces of the wall. That on the inside spread only 1 m from the wall and would seem to be insufficient evidence for a major pathway similar to that inside the other gateway. However, the present surface slopes away to the south and there has been disturbance in this direction (*cf.* the southern end of the Ancillary building). The gravel on the outside of the wall covered a wider area and was up to 10 cm thick.

Excavation of a small area immediately south of the main temple and adjoining the 1978 excavation located a 5-m-long and up to 20-cm-thick continuation of the gravel path running southwards from the southeast corner of the temple (Fig. 3). This trench also enabled the excavations reported here to be fairly precisely tied into the 1978 excavation. The wall foundation running along the western edge of the path from the temple (Fig. 3) was also located in 1978. Further foundations were discovered in this area. One ran at right angles to the end of that found in 1978, but was not joined to it and was more substantial. It ran parallel to the south wall of the temple for 7.7 m before making a right-angle turn back towards the temple. This north-south section had been partly removed but not recorded during the 1978 excavation. The foundation was 65 cm wide and of mortared flint construction; the eastern end was finished with large stones and tile quoins; the north-south section was of large unmortared flints and although badly plough-damaged there was evidence of tile quoins at the corner. On the same line as the north-south foundation found in 1978 beside the path but 2.2 m south of the

east-west foundation and about 20 cm in from the edge of the path a 20-cm-square post setting had been cut 10 cm into the underlying marl.

Interpretation and Discussion

From the coin and pottery evidence the site was occupied for most of the period of the Roman occupation. Pottery forms from the late first century (*c.* AD 70) until well into the fourth century were abundant. The coins ranged from an As of Vespasian, AD 69–79 to an AE4 of Arcadius, AD 388–408. The adjoining site (Site B, see below) produced a slightly later centenionalis of Honorius, AD 393–423. Apart from a single sherd of mid first-century BC pottery, no evidence of earlier occupation was found, although it remains possible that the undateable postholes and gully below the pathway just north of the ancillary building could be earlier. As a result of the 1978 excavation Collins (1978) concluded that the temple had been initially constructed during the period AD 60–90 and nothing revealed by these later excavations contradicts that.

It has been possible to show that the temple was not an isolated structure but was placed centrally in a large precinct, containing at least one other masonry building. The area of the precinct appears to have been defined at the outset and was surrounded by the ditch and initially by a wooden palisade. But why was the precinct constructed as a rhombus and not a square; was this just an error or was it planned? The temple itself was however constructed parallel to and opposite the mid-point of the eastern side. The excavations did not determine the precise sequence of events, and it is not possible to say whether the building of the temple was contemporary with the initial ditch and palisade or with the construction of the masonry wall.

The entrance to the precinct would have been through a single eastern gateway approached through a gap in the ditch and flanked by ditches connecting the main ditch to the palisade. It is also possible that some form of entrance also existed at the southwest corner of the precinct. The exact width of the gateway and the gap in the ditch were not determined. Assuming it was symmetrically aligned with the temple and at the mid-point in the eastern side then the gap in the ditch would have been about 15 m wide. Confirmation of the true width will require further excavation. Likewise the details of the assumed gateway in the palisade can only be determined by complete further excavation of the wall foundations, but even then the depth

of the foundations may have obliterated the evidence.

The majority of the pits investigated at the southwest corner of the precinct and the isolated pit, Pit 39, relate to the early phase of the site. From the evidence of the bones (Legge *et al.* 1991; forthcoming) a major activity at the site occurred in the spring and the autumn during this phase. Most of the bones were two month old lambs or six to eight month old male lambs. This suggests a spring and autumn cull, the latter being necessary to reduce the size of the overwintering flock; only a small number of males would be required for mating with a much larger number of females. The reason for a large spring cull is less obvious and since this is a religious site a religious feast must be a possibility. The lack of vertebrae and pelvic bones does, however, suggest butchering with the main joints of meat being perhaps consumed elsewhere. Whether this was a short-lived activity or whether it continued throughout the late first and early second century AD is hard to say; the pits although large were relatively few in number. Unless each pit was used for several years, a short period for this activity seems more likely. It is of course possible that other pits exist in the vicinity as the excavated area was small, but none were indicated by cropmarks either on the ground or on the aerial photograph.

From this early period a large number of small finds were discovered, many of which were found at random in the area between the temple and the gateway. These were predominantly of copper alloy and were probably votive offerings. Many of the items had been damaged in antiquity, perhaps suggesting that if it was necessary to donate an item of bronze jewellery such as a brooch or hairpin, then the devotees were careful to donate their damaged possessions.

Although no precise date for the construction of the masonry precinct wall and the ancillary building could be deduced from the excavations, it seems reasonable to assume that they are contemporary. This assumption is based on the ancillary building having its back towards the earlier palisade entrance and thus in effect blocking direct access to the front of the temple, and on the two entrances in the wall being positioned to give access on either side of the ancillary building. The presence of late third- and fourth-century pottery above the gravel pathway and associated with the ancillary building shows that they were in existence by at least the late third century. The presence of pottery from the late first to the mid second century in pits below the wall

foundations gives a construction date no earlier than the middle of the second century.

Collins (1978) proposed, from the evidence of the main temple re-excavation, that the temple had undergone a period of dilapidation and repair during the second and early third century followed by a major reconstruction after AD 280. The artefacts from the excavations reported here indicate that the site was in regular use at least until the middle of the second century.

Coins of the first and second century were rare (Table 1); the latest being a dupondius from AD 177 of Crispina wife of Commodus. There is then a gap in the coin record until approximately two-thirds of the way through the third century, in particular around AD 270 (Table 1). This coin record would seem to fit fairly well into Collins' proposed chronology. The sudden increase in coins around AD 270, however, seems to suggest an increase in activity about a decade earlier than his proposed reconstruction date of after AD 280.

There is one piece of evidence that may suggest an earlier date for the ancillary building and hence possibly for the wall; that is the earlier of the two north-south paths between the ancillary building and the wall. This path apparently dates from the second century and lay across the line of the earlier entrance. If the early single entrance existed until the late third century and the ancillary building was not constructed until then, it is difficult to explain the presence and alignment of this early pathway. A further piece of evidence for an earlier reconstruction date comes from the pottery from the purposeful filling of the ditch outside the gateway. This suggests that it was filled during the second century, presumably when the wall and its gateways were constructed.

There was undoubtedly considerable activity on the site (and the adjoining site B) from the late third century until well into the fourth century and possibly even into the early part of the fifth century. The coin record is almost continuous from AD 250–350 but becomes less so for the second half of the fourth century (Table 1). The upper north-south pathway between the ancillary building and the wall belongs to this later phase as does the adjacent mortar mixing area on its western edge immediately behind the ancillary building. This mixing area consisted of a flat layer of pink mortar, c. 8 cm thick, above a 4-cm-thick layer of white mortar. The eastern edge had clearly been retained by a 'straight-edge', presumably of wood but no longer in evidence. On the opposite side of the path, between the path and

Table 1. *Frequency of coins.*

Period	AD 55-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	301-350	351-400
Precinct	2	5 (1)	1	—	57	50 (31)	8 (1)
Site B	1	1	1	—	2	8 (8)	1
Total	3	7	2	—	59	97	10

Numbers in parentheses indicate coins not clearly identified.

the wall, there was a similar area. This was a rectangular hollow, 15 cm deep, lined with mortar and covered with building rubble. The rubble contained a small number of fourth-century potsherds and towards its bottom a coin of Arcadius, AD 388-408. This suggests a fairly late date for the deposition of the rubble, although by the open nature of the building rubble it is possible that the coin could have found its way into it at a later date.

A number of other features also from this later period were discovered outside the wall and immediately to the north of the gateway, particularly in the area between the ditch and the wall (Fig. 2). These included the two ovens/kilns, Pits 28 and 29, and the loose wall foundation running between the wall and the ditch just south of Pit 29. This foundation was associated with a shallow gully which terminated in a large posthole, Pit 32. The foundation and the associated postholes suggest a late phase building, much less substantial than the temple or the ancillary building, but utilising the precinct wall as one side.

An interesting fourth-century feature of this area was a hard chalk/soil base partially set into the outside of the wall. It was roughly circular — 70 cm wide and 60 cm from front to back. The base was set into a bowl-shaped hollow. Of particular interest were the artefacts included in its make-up: an enamelled disk brooch, a lead finger ring, three copper alloy finger rings, a bone pin, an iron lock, shale bangle fragments, several copper alloy tacks, washers, and other items of scrap and pieces of eggshell. This feature was not contemporary with the wall; rather it appeared to have been crudely set into its side. Does this indicate that the wall was already crumbling by this time? Further evidence of this phase of occupation comes from many of the pits, which had late third- and fourth-century pottery in their upper layers, and from one large pit, Pit 13, dating from this period.

This late third- and fourth-century phase shows evidence of a change in activity at the

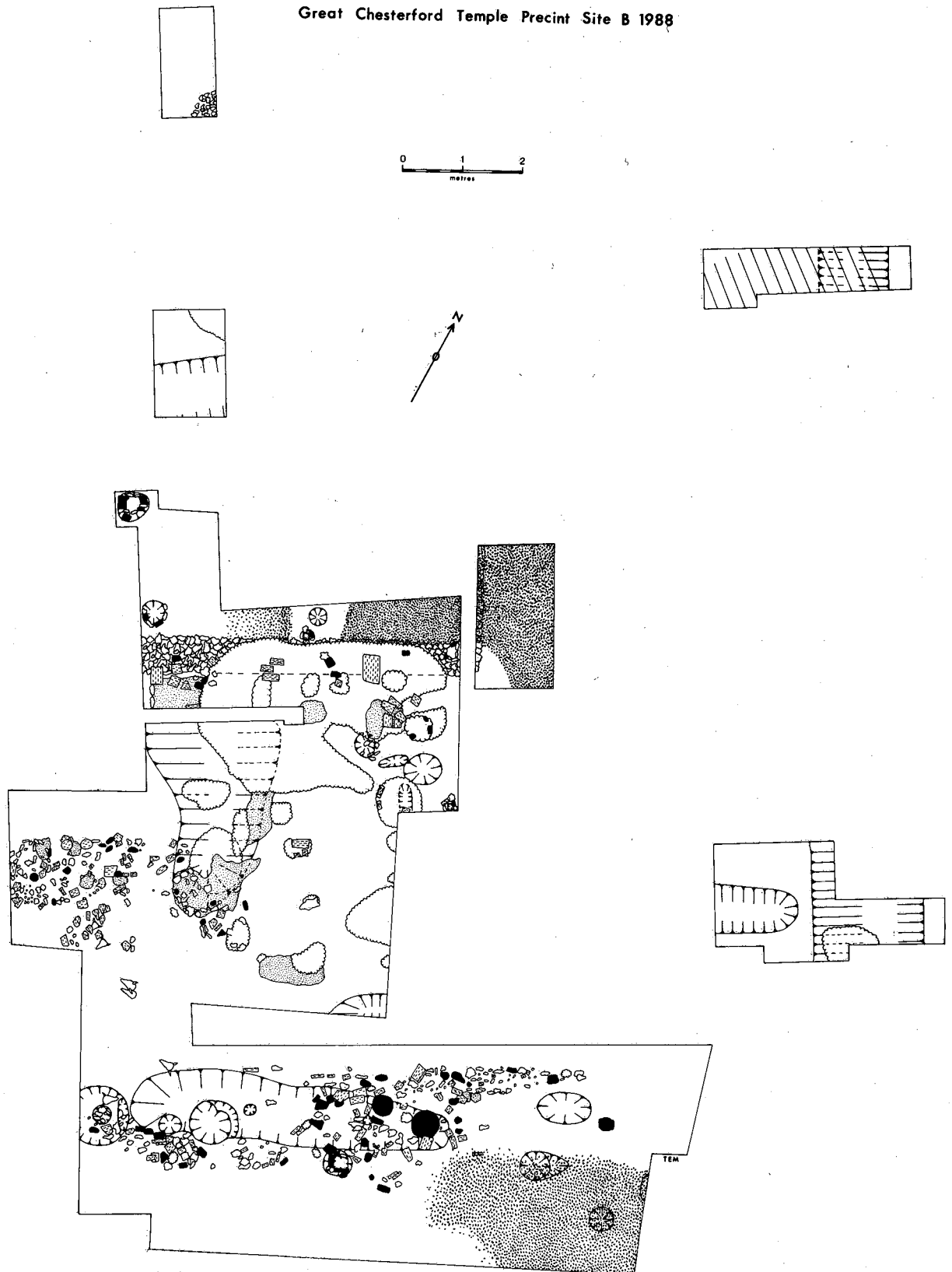
site. There were three ovens/kilns, two in the area outside the gateway (Pits 28 & 29) and one in the ancillary building. Whether the changes are the result of changes in religious practice or indicate a change to secular activity it was not possible to determine. There was a considerable increase in the number of coins found for this period. This may indicate a more commercial activity or a change to monetary votive offerings or it may just show an increased loss of coins which were of much lower value than those of earlier centuries.

Site B

Field-walking of the surrounding area identified a concentration of potsherds and building material about 60 m southeast of the temple precinct (Fig. 1:4). This area was partially excavated in 1988 (Fig. 13). Although the current tenant farmer had refrained from deep ploughing the precinct area, as he was unaware of remains outside it, he had carried out deep (c. 45 cm) chisel ploughing. This had further added to the already considerable damage from earlier cultivation. For example at one point a large roof tile, at a depth of almost half a metre, had been broken in two and one portion moved horizontally just over a metre.

The main feature of this site was the fragmentary remnants of a c. 5-cm-thick chalk rubble floor. This was best preserved at its northern edge where it was at its greatest depth below the surface. There were small areas of mortar associated with the chalk which also appeared to be part of the floor make-up. There were no artefacts in this floor material. Towards the northern edge there were a number of small areas of greater depth consisting of larger pieces of chalk, which may have been bases for some form of superstructure. At its northern side the floor overlay a foundation of large flints, with the floor edge coinciding with the northern edge of the flints. The flint foundation, the full extent of which was not determined, continued in a westerly direction well beyond the apparent end of the floor. Its eastern end, however, lay just

Great Chesterford Temple Precint Site B 1988



beyond (50 cm) the eastern edge of the floor. The foundation was c. 20 cm deep and c. 60 cm wide. It was not in any obvious trench and was bounded to the north by a 4-cm-thick area of gravel.

A series of post settings, 2.6 m apart lay just beyond the northern and eastern edges of the chalk floor. The northern row was not quite parallel to the flint foundation; the post at the northeastern corner of the floor being set into the flints. Two of the holes showed obvious evidence of having held square posts and all had been packed with large stones and tile fragments. The western edge of the floor could not categorically be determined, but an alignment of a tile and two chalk lumps coinciding with the edge of an area of mortar may have indicated its position. At one point above the butt-end of a shallow depression there was a much deeper area of mortar containing large flints. Whether this was to support some form of superstructure or was just an infilling of a low area could not be determined. The latter seems unlikely as the area appeared to have been levelled before the floor was laid (see below).

The soil above the remnants of the floor generally contained a scatter of building rubble. However, there were two areas with a concentration of rubble. One to the west contained many broken roof-tiles, lumps of mortar and large flints and other stones. Among this rubble there were two distinct circular tiles. These had been cut from presumably square or rectangular tiles and both had a small depression chipped into the centre of one face. They suggest that somewhere the building had contained a circular column constructed of such tiles; perhaps as the central support of a window. The other concentration of rubble was in the southern part of the excavation and associated with an east-west gully, the eastern end of which was partly filled by it. The length of the gully, just over 5 m, matched the assumed east-west dimension of the chalk floor, and may therefore have been an eaves-drip gully for the building. Its width, up to 1 m, was irregular as was its depth of c. 20 cm. No postholes matching those to the north and east of the floor were found. A number of possible postholes were associated with the gully but they did not fit any definite pattern. Within the gully there were three small and shallow, and one large, 70 cm diameter and 40 cm deep. Beyond the gully, close to its southern edge, there was one definite post setting. This consisted of a small pit 40 cm diameter and 30 cm deep into which had been set a 20 cm square post. The post had been set on a large stone and packed

round with other large stones. The gully, like the soil above the floor, contained late third- and fourth-century pottery. At its western end there was a pit 1 m in diameter and 45 cm deep, which from the pottery inclusions was of an earlier date, possibly late second century. However, a posthole in its fill may have been contemporary with the gully.

An area of gravel, only 30 cm below the surface, lay to the southeast of the gully; although somewhat disturbed, its northern edge appeared to coincide with an extrapolation of the line of the gully to the east, and its western edge aligned with the eastern end of the gully. A number of small pits, possibly postholes, were found beneath the gravel layer and cut into the underlying natural gravel. It is possible that the apparent sealing of these by the gravel layer was the result of the more recent disturbances and they could therefore have been contemporary with, or even later than, the gravel layer. Only the largest of them produced dateable material and that as on most of the site, was from the fourth century. Beneath the gravel layer there was only a layer of brown soil, c. 5 cm thick, above the natural ground. One small interesting feature of this area was a stone, c. 40 cm diameter, with a tile placed squarely on top of it. It may have been a chance occurrence but this seems unlikely; a purposely laid base seems a more likely explanation, although for what purpose must remain conjecture.

To the west of the gravelled area there was just the brown brickearth above the natural gravel, but at about the same level as the gravel layer there was some evidence of a contemporary surface in the form of a thin layer of horizontal oyster shells and potsherds, again dating from the fourth century. At this same level, southwest of the chalk floor area, a number of animal skulls were discovered — five cow and one horse. All but one lay base uppermost and all lacked mandibles. Below the western edge of the chalk floor there was a 30-cm-deep depression filled with dark loamy soil; from the pottery inclusions this also dated from the same period as the floor. Below the main area of the chalk floor there was a patchy layer of brown soil containing late third- and fourth-century potsherds, quern fragments, nails, oyster and cockle shells, and a few animal bone fragments. Below this there was a dense layer of yellowish re-deposited subsoil with few but similar inclusions to the layer above. This layer appeared to have been laid as a level foundation for the chalk floor. Finally below this and above the undisturbed natural there was a layer of dark brown soil with few inclusions. The few

potsherds possibly dated from the second century. A similar layer was found above the natural to the southwest of the chalk floor, again with possibly second-century pottery. This layer also produced a silver pre-conquest Roman Republic coin.

Few features of this earlier phase were found; there were a few shallow depressions containing darker soil, a small bowl-shaped pit (c. 60 cm in diameter) filled with chalk and a few burnt areas. One other feature also probably from this phase was found below the depression at the western edge of the floor; this was an almost 1 m diameter base of crushed chalk. The soil surrounding it was much reddened, and it and the base had been subjected to considerable heat. Surrounding the base there was a suggestion of a ring of small stakeholes. There were no artefacts associated with the feature and no evidence of any superstructure.

Three and a half metres north of the chalk floor a shallow east-west ditch/gully was discovered. It was 30 cm deep and 1 m wide. The fill was a fine yellowish soil which also spread over the northern edge and contained fourth-century pottery. On the northern edge there was an area of burnt pink mortar and an area of chalk. The whole was covered by a layer of fine dark silty soil which dipped above the ditch. This layer also contained fourth-century pottery. Immediately below the plough soil the whole area was sealed by a c. 10 cm layer of sterile brown soil, probably hill wash. Between the ditch/gully and the chalk floor the strata were similar with the addition of a trace of a gravel surface at the same level as the gravel surface adjacent to the northeast corner of the floor. A substantial post setting was also found in this area.

On aerial photographs there was a suggestion of a north-south ditch to the east of the site. This was investigated at two points. The first was directly east of the floor area and 6 m from it. At this point the ditch was c. 2 m wide and cut 35 cm into the natural gravel which was 70 cm below the surface. The lower fill was a fine greyish soil with a few oyster shells, animal bones, and potsherds, possibly dating from the early second century. Above this there was a layer of dark soil with many oyster shells, a few cockle shells, a few animal bones, and fourth-century potsherds. Above the ditch at 45 cm below the surface there was a Roman surface layer with many oyster shells. At one point above the ditch at a depth of 35 cm below the surface there was a 5-cm-thick patch of chalk similar to the make up of the chalk floor. The whole area was again sealed by the sterile layer of hill wash. Running west from a butt-

end close to the ditch ran a 80-cm-wide and 35-cm-deep gully filled with black soil again with fourth-century pottery and fragments of a quern; the latter matched fragments from the thin layer of soil below the chalk floor. The length of the gully was not determined, but it must have terminated before it reached the area of the chalk floor.

The ditch was also investigated further north at its intersection with the east-west ditch/gully. Here it had an orange stoney fill very similar to the natural subsoil into which it had been dug c. 60 cm. It again yielded early second-century pottery. The east-west ditch/gully cut the western edge of the north-south ditch but not its eastern edge. Although the precise relationship was not clear, the east-west ditch/gully appeared to end at the line of the north-south ditch. At this point the east-west gully contained dark loamy soil but still with fourth-century potsherds.

Site B lies at the southern edge of a roughly circular area of deeper soil (c. 1 m) above the natural gravel. Whether this is a natural depression or a manmade one is difficult to judge without further excavation. However, the few earlier (second-century) layers discovered were close to the bottom of this area, indicating that at least it was an open low area during the second century. Moreover, before the construction of the chalk floor it had been necessary to raise the level.

Due to considerable plough damage, no clear conclusion could be drawn as to the site's use. Its proximity to the temple precinct might lead one to suppose it was part of the religious complex but there was no positive evidence of this. What little evidence exists perhaps suggests a more secular use. The pottery covered a wider range of forms than found in the precinct. This together with a number of quern fragments and the animal skulls tends to suggest a domestic or agricultural use; perhaps linking with the apparent change of use of the temple precinct during the fourth century.

The Slade

The ditch known locally as the Slade, which runs from east to west just south of the temple precinct and Site B (Figs. 1 & 5), is an early nineteenth-century re-alignment of an earlier watercourse. The earlier line of this watercourse, which meandered along the valley bottom, is still just discernible. In the vicinity of the sites the straightened alignment lies to the north of the original course and consequently cuts through possible areas of

occupation on the temple side of the original course.

Little detail has come to light in the Slade, even during deep mechanical recutting in the winter of 1988–89. At one point close to the southwest corner of the temple precinct a 5-m-long layer of oyster shells was visible in the southern bank at a depth of 1.2 m below the surface. At a few points further east, still in the vicinity of the sites, there was some evidence of surfaces from the Romano-British period. These were mainly thin layers of oyster shells, bone fragments, and potsherds. A few small finds also occurred.

Appendix 1. The Pottery

In common with most Romano-British sites the excavations yielded large quantities of pottery. A detailed description and study of this is a major task and has not yet been fully carried out. Moreover, space does not allow the inclusion of a full-scale study in this report.

The majority of the pottery was native coarseware and two assemblages of this are described and illustrated. These are: the pottery from Pit 39, a single stratum assemblage showing a good range of late first-century and early second-century pottery from the early period of the site (Figs. 14 & 15); and the Site B fourth-century pottery representing the latest period of occupation (Figs. 16 & 17).

The imported wares consisted almost entirely of Samian Ware, predominantly from Central Gaul, although a few sherds of greenish-yellow glazed St Remy ware were also found. The following Samian forms were represented:

Plain: Form 18, 18R, 18/31, 31, 31R, 27, 27g, 33, 35, 36, 38, 42, 79, 80, 81, Curle 11, Curle 15, Curle 23, Curle 23 (cup version), Ritterling 6, Ritterling 8?, Ritterling 9? and Ritterling 12? Decorated: Form 29, 30, 37.

Pottery from Pit 39, AD 60–120 (Figs. 14 & 15)

1. A straight-sided bowl of black micaceous fabric with burnished exterior and rouletted decoration, probably imitating Samian Ware Form 30.
2. A carinated bowl of fine grey micaceous fabric with burnished exterior and rouletted decoration, probably imitating Samian Ware Form 29.
3. A carinated jar of fine grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on exterior and decorated with combing on the shoulder.
4. A bowl of fine grey slightly micaceous fabric with a brown slip, burnished on exterior and decorated with wavy lines. Again probably an

attempt to imitate Samian Ware, possibly Form 27 or Form 29.

5. A bowl of fine grey slightly micaceous fabric burnished on exterior possibly another Samian Ware imitation, Form 29 or 37?
6. A bowl of fine grey slightly micaceous fabric with interior burnished lines and burnished exterior with a decoration of applied grey coarse slip. Probably a Samian Ware Form 37 imitation.
7. A bowl of coarse grey slightly micaceous fabric with a flattish burnished rim.
8. A bowl of brownish-grey slightly micaceous fabric with a bead rim and burnishing of both internal and external surfaces.
9. A bowl of fine grey slightly micaceous fabric with a slightly hooked bead rim and burnished exterior.
10. A shallow bowl of fine buff-grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on both internal and external surfaces.
11. A bulbous beaker of black micaceous fabric with burnished neck and rim and decoration of small incisions.
12. A beaker of fine black fabric with flared rim, burnished on exterior and inside rim.
13. A poppy-head beaker of fine black slightly micaceous fabric, the rim is flared and there are only a few large dots.
14. A poppy-head beaker of fine grey fabric with a pale grey burnished slip on exterior and inside the rim. The dots are dark grey and applied over the burnishing.
15. A poppy-head beaker of orange-buff fabric with a cream burnished slip on exterior surface; very small dots.
16. A shallow almost carinated jar of coarse red sandy fabric.
17. A jar of coarse black fabric with sparse flint temper; incised decoration on shoulder.
18. A jar of coarse black slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on rim and neck and decorated with horizontal grooves.
19. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on rim and neck and decorated with horizontal grooves.
20. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric with flint temper; burnished on rim and lower exterior; decoration of burnished diagonal lines on shoulder.
21. A carinated jar of dark grey micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on exterior surface.
22. A small jar of grey fabric with grooves on shoulder.
23. A very small round jar of grey micaceous fabric.
24. A jar with double carination of black micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on

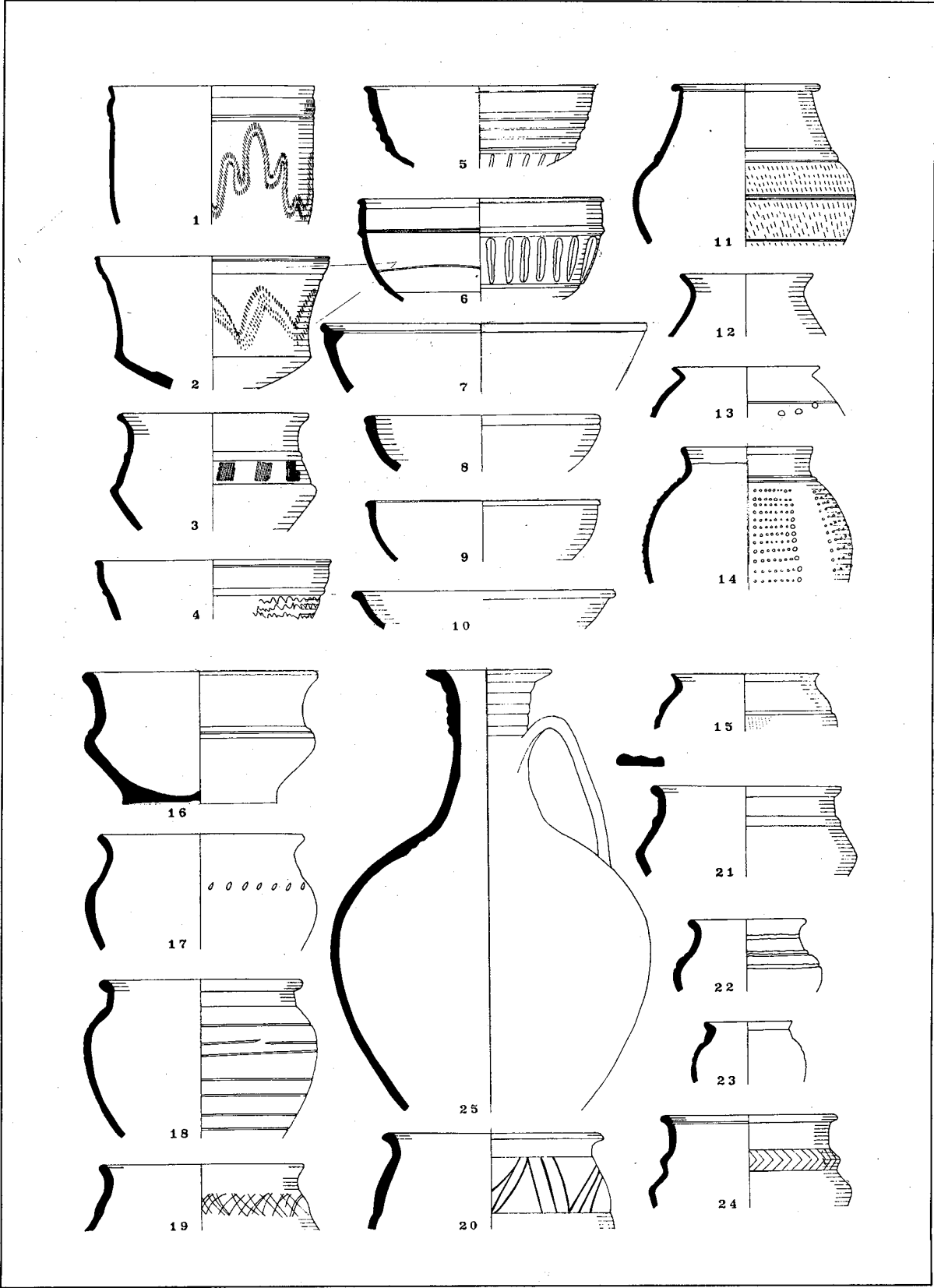


Figure 14. Pottery from Pit 39 (late 1st century AD–early 2nd century AD). $\times 1/4$.

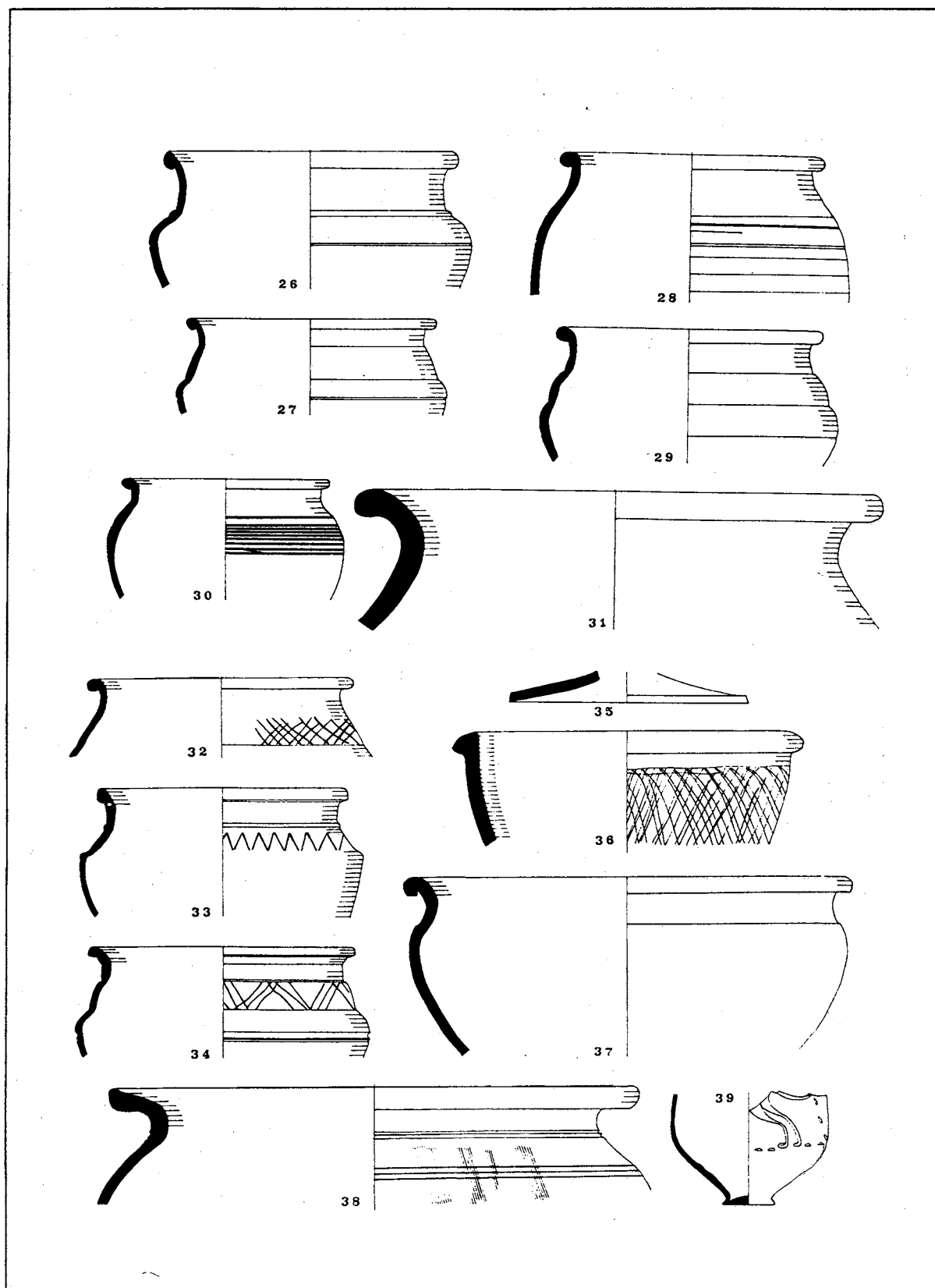


Figure 15. Pottery from Pit 39 (late 1st century AD-early 2nd century AD). $\times 1/4$.

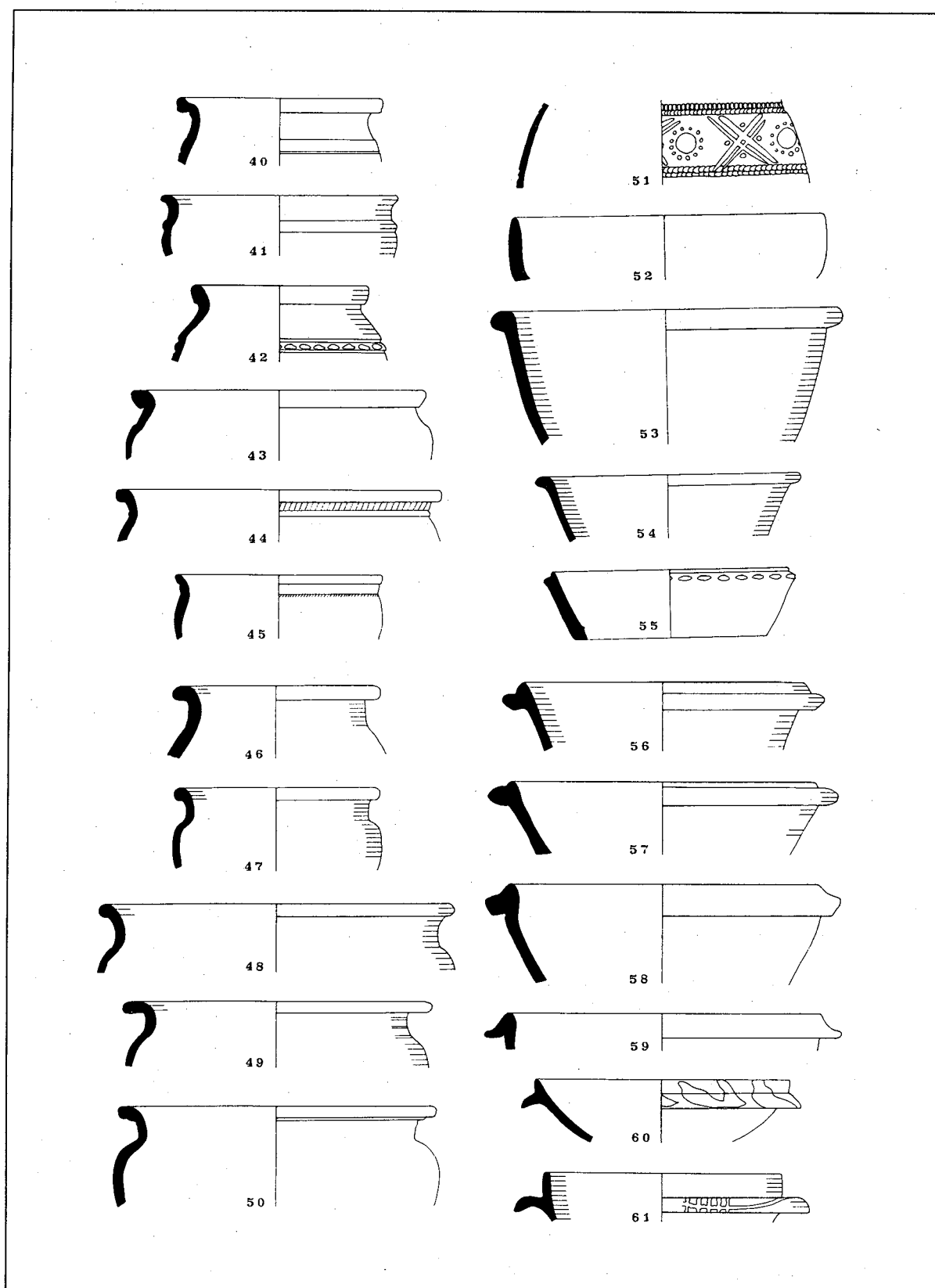


Figure 16. Pottery of the late period of occupation of Site B (4th century AD). $\times 1/4$.

exterior surface. Incised pattern on shoulder.

25. A flagon of buff fabric with single handle.
26. A jar of black micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on exterior surface and with a single groove around the body and a ridge at base of neck.
27. A jar of black micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on the exterior surface and with a single groove around the body.
28. A jar of grey fabric with flint temper, burnished on the rim and on the neck; with grooves and lines around the body.
29. A jar of black slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on the neck and upper part of body.
30. A jar of coarse black micaceous fabric, burnished on the rim and neck with several grooves around the body.
31. A large jar of grey-black grog fabric, burnished both inside and outside of the neck and rim, and with burnished bands on the body.
32. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric burnished on rim and exterior and with burnished lattice pattern on unburnished shoulder.
33. A carinated jar of black micaceous fabric, burnished inside rim and on exterior, with a ridge at base of neck and a burnished inverted V pattern on unburnished shoulder.
34. A jar of hard black micaceous fabric, burnished on rim and exterior of neck and body and with a burnished band on inside of neck; burnished semi-lattice pattern on unburnished shoulder; groove at base of neck and small and large groove around body.
35. Lid of coarse grey slightly micaceous fabric.
36. Bowl of grey fabric; burnished inside, on rim and just below rim on exterior; rough lattice decoration on body.
37. Large shallow jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric with slight offset at base of neck.
38. Large jar of red fabric, burnished on rim and inside of neck; two grooves around neck; three horizontal lines and lightly combed vertical decoration on shoulder.
39. A beaker of white fabric with brown metallic slip. Animal and dot barbotine decoration.

*Fourth century AD pottery from Site B
(Figs. 16 & 17)*

40. A jar, with squarish rim, of coarse grey slightly micaceous fabric with flint temper; slight offset at base of neck and groove round upper body.
41. A bowl of grey fabric with black micaceous slip, burnished inside rim and on exterior, and with a ridge on the shoulder.

42. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on outside of rim and neck; row of irregular depressions between two grooves on shoulder.

43. A jar, with turned over rim, of white fabric with orange-brown colour coat.
44. A jar, with squarish rim, of orange micaceous fabric with orange red slip; incised pattern on neck is beneath slip.
45. A bowl of orange fabric with a brown slightly micaceous slip and rouletted decoration on shoulder.
46. A jar of coarse grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished only on inside of rim and outside of neck.
47. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on inside of rim and outside of neck and upper body.
48. A jar of grey slightly micaceous fabric, burnished inside and outside of rim and on exterior surface.
49. A jar of hard red fabric, burnished inside rim and on exterior of body and with burnished bands around the neck.
50. A jar of orange slightly micaceous fabric.
51. A vessel of buff fabric coated in brown slip with a decoration of orange slip.
52. A 'dog' dish of off-white fabric with fine flint and tile temper and coated with orange-brown slip.
53. A basin of grey fabric, burnished on internal and external surfaces.
54. A dish of grey fabric, burnished on internal and external surfaces.
55. A dish of black micaceous fabric with slightly flanged rim with decoration of oval depressions.
56. A dish, with a flanged rim, of brown micaceous fabric with a black surface, burnished on internal and external surfaces.
57. A dish, with flanged rim, of brown micaceous fabric with a black surface, burnished on flange and with two burnished bands around body.
58. A dish, with a squarish flanged rim, of shell-tempered fabric with a black outer and red inner surface.
59. A bowl of black shell-tempered fabric with the exterior fired brown.
60. A hemispherical bowl of pale buff fabric with a black slip decoration on the flange, possibly imitating Samian Ware Form Curle 11.
61. A hemispherical bowl of grey micaceous fabric with the surface fired red-brown and a white slip decoration on the flange. Also possibly an imitation of Samian Ware Form Curle 11.
62. A mortarium of buff fabric with coloured

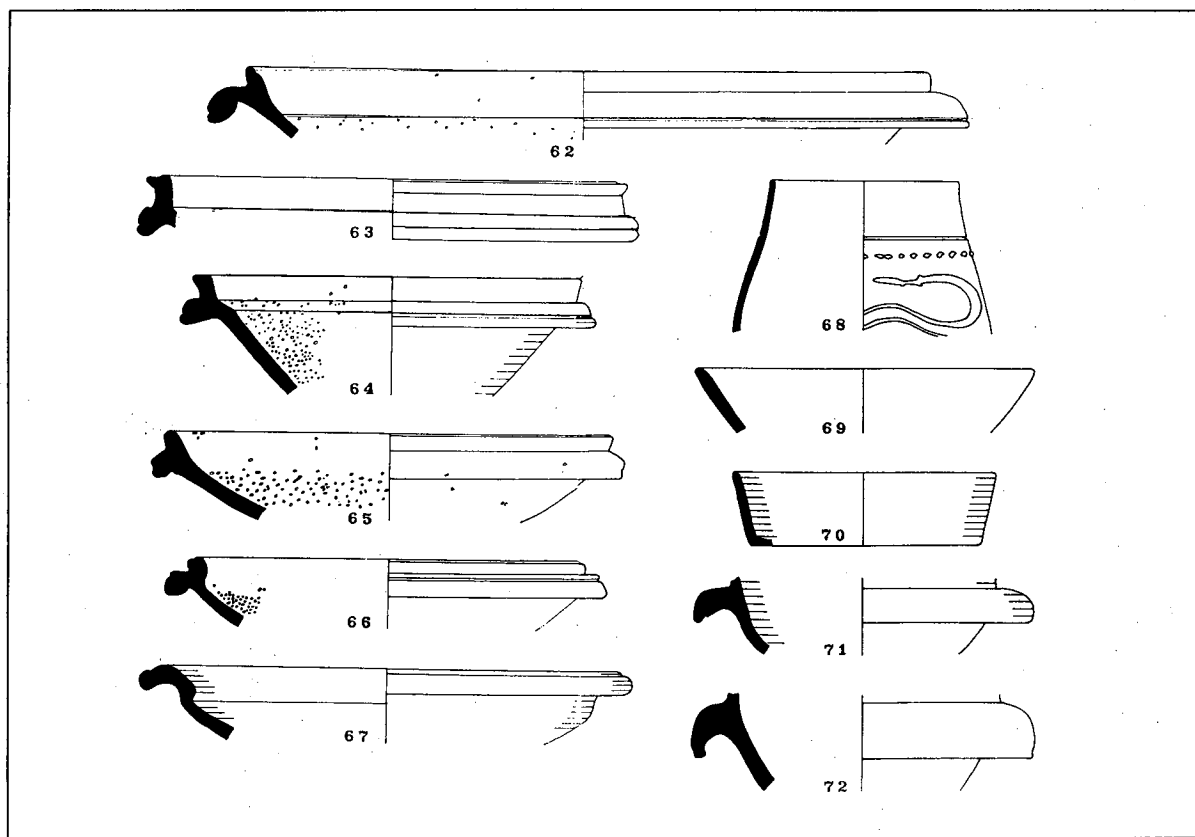


Figure 17. Pottery of the late period of occupation of Site B (4th century AD). $\times 1/4$.

grit.

63. A mortarium of buff micaceous fabric with coloured grit.

64. A mortarium of orange fabric with coloured grit, burnished on lower half of flange and exterior of body.

65. A mortarium of buff fabric with a cream slip on rim and inner surface, coloured grit.

66. A mortarium of buff fabric with coloured grit.

67. A bowl of orange-brown slightly micaceous fabric, burnished inside and out.

68. A beaker of pale buff fabric, brown metallic slip inside and orange brown slip over the applied decoration on outside and with a single horizontal groove at base of neck.

69. A dish of grey micaceous fabric with a black surface.

70. A 'dog' dish of black slightly micaceous fabric, burnished on all surfaces.

71. A flanged bowl of orange fabric, burnished inside, on outside of rim and on flange. Possibly an imitation of Samian Form 38 or Curle 11.

72. A bowl of orange micaceous fabric with a very large flange.

Appendix 2. The Small Finds

Copper Alloy (Figs. 18-23)

1-5. Brooches, type 10 Nauheim derivatives.

6-12. Brooches, type 11 Nauheim derivatives.

13-18. Brooches, Nauheim derivatives.

19. Brooch pin, Nauheim derivative.

20-24. Brooches, type 92 Colchester B.

25. Brooch, intermediate Colchester B and BB types.

26-34. Brooches, type 93 Colchester BB.

35. Trumpet brooch, cf. Hattatt 433.

36. Polden Hill brooch.

37. Knee brooch.

38. Knee brooch bow fragment.

39. Brooch bow fragment.

40. Disc brooch, enamelled.

41. Disc brooch.

42. Penannular brooch.

43. Penannular brooch, cf. Hattatt 653.

44. Brooch spring fragment.

45-7. Brooch pin fragments.

48-53. Finger rings.

54-6. Finger ring fragments.

57. Finger ring?

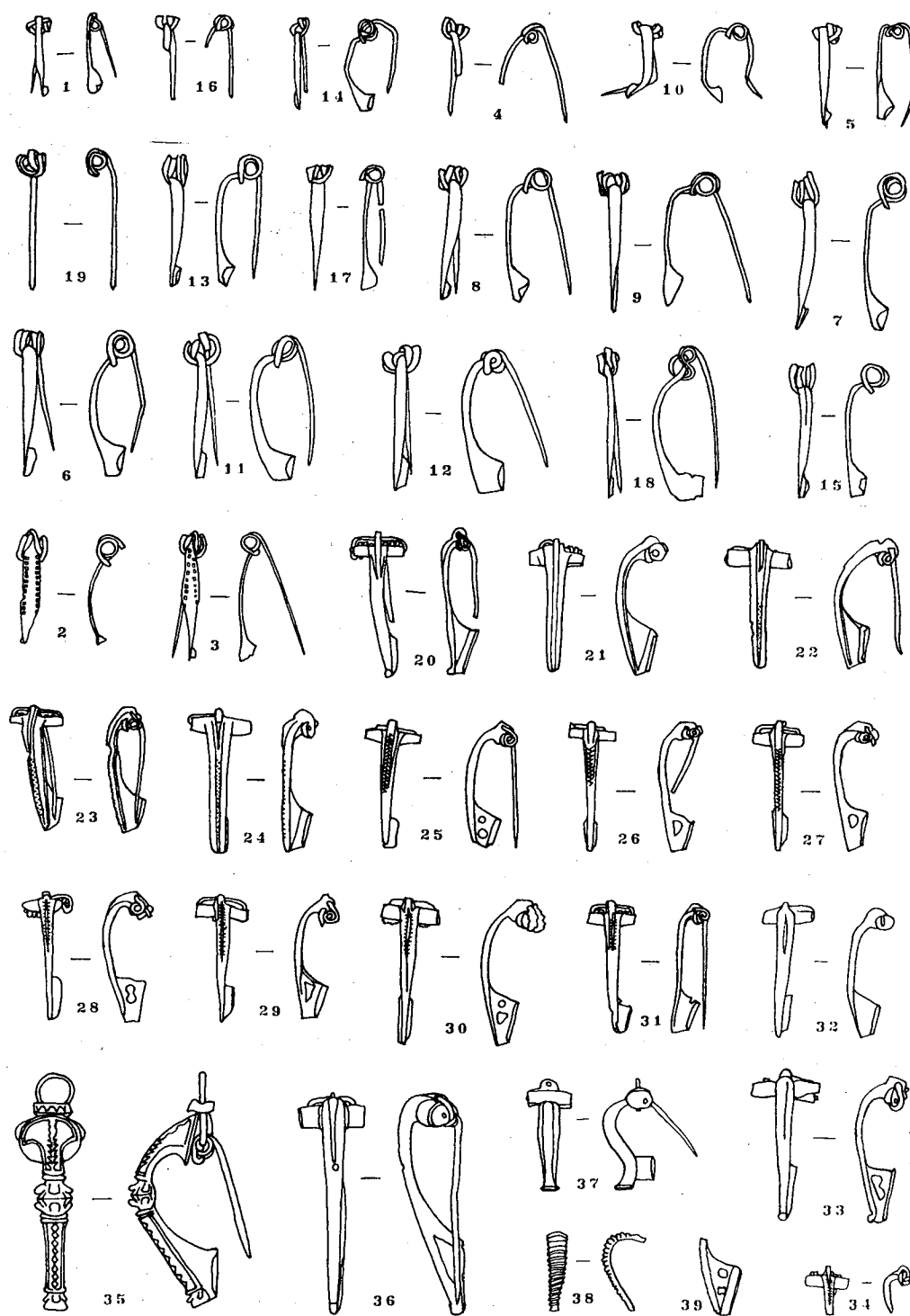


Figure 18. Objects of copper alloy. $\times 1/2$.

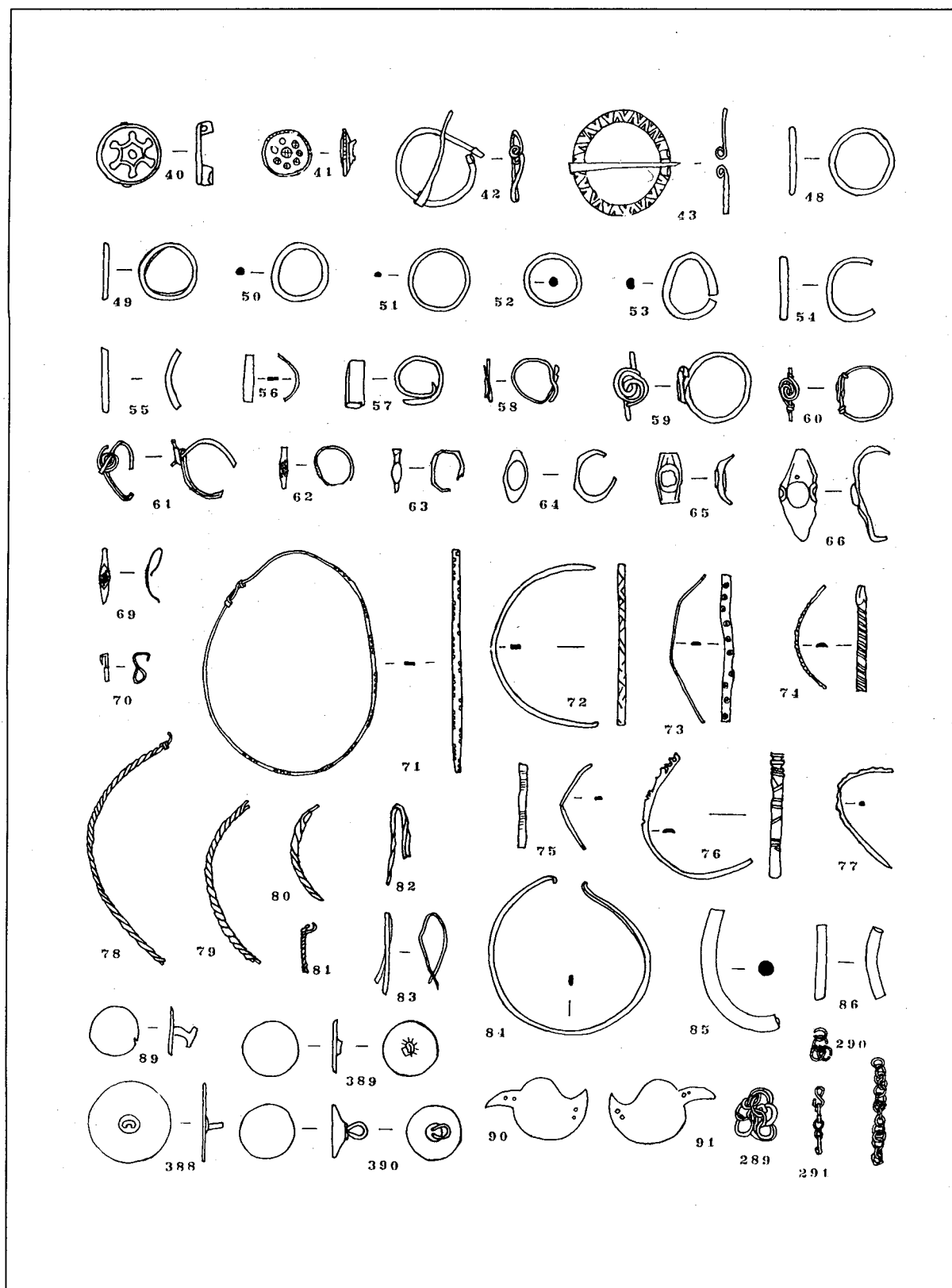


Figure 19. Objects of copper alloy. $\times 1/2$.

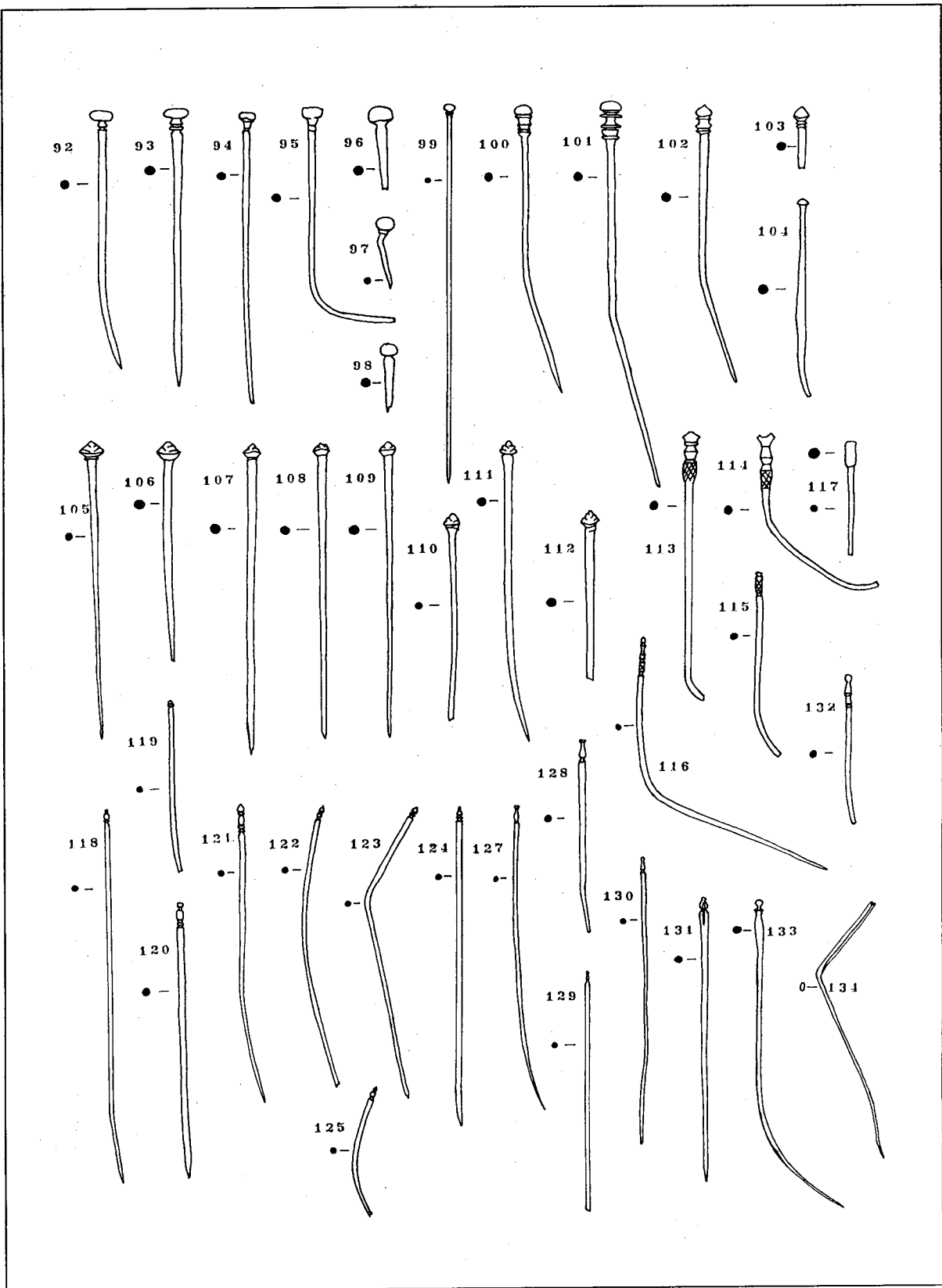


Figure 20. Objects of copper alloy. $\times 1/2$.

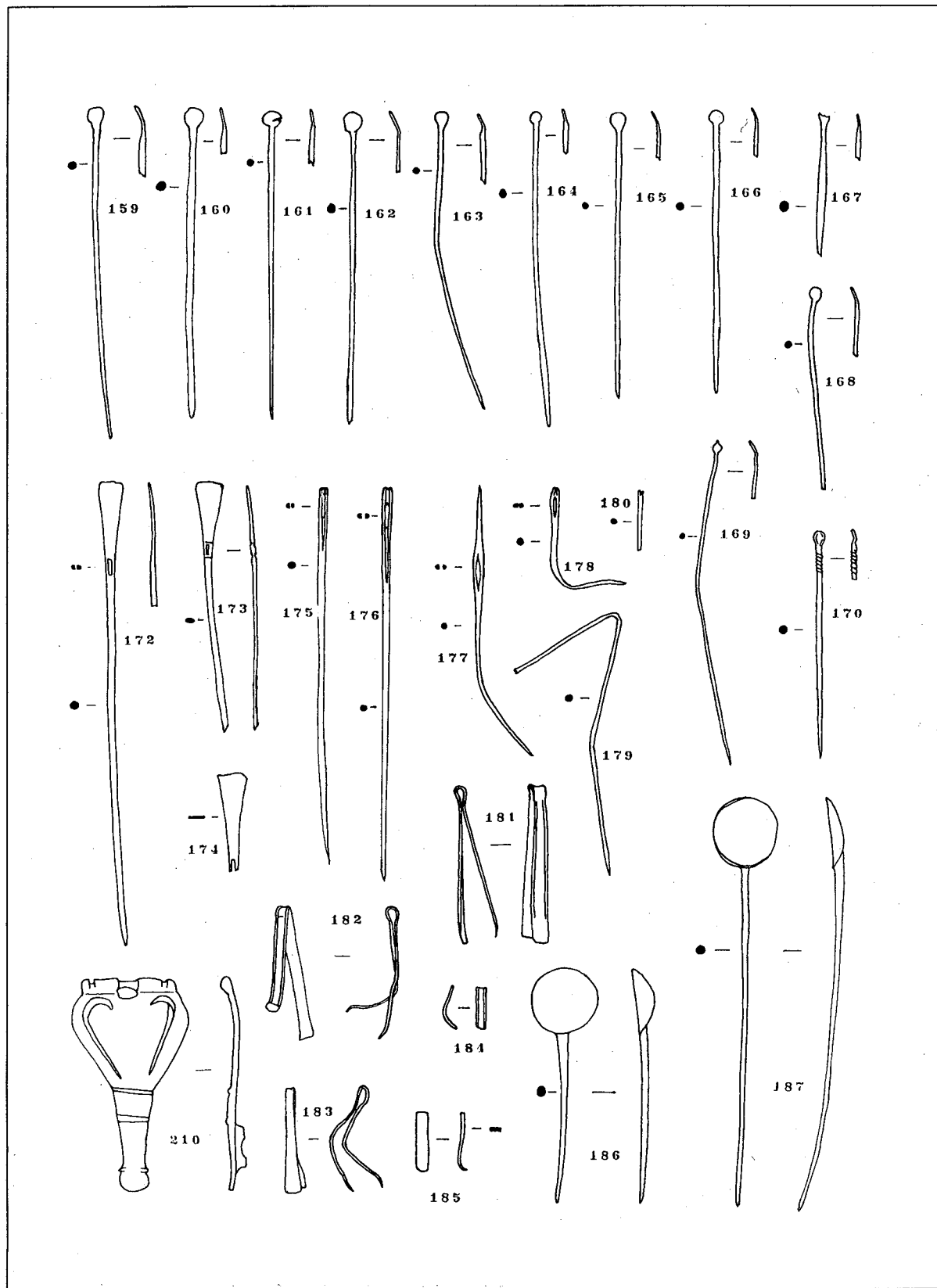


Figure 21. Objects of copper alloy. $\times 1/2$.

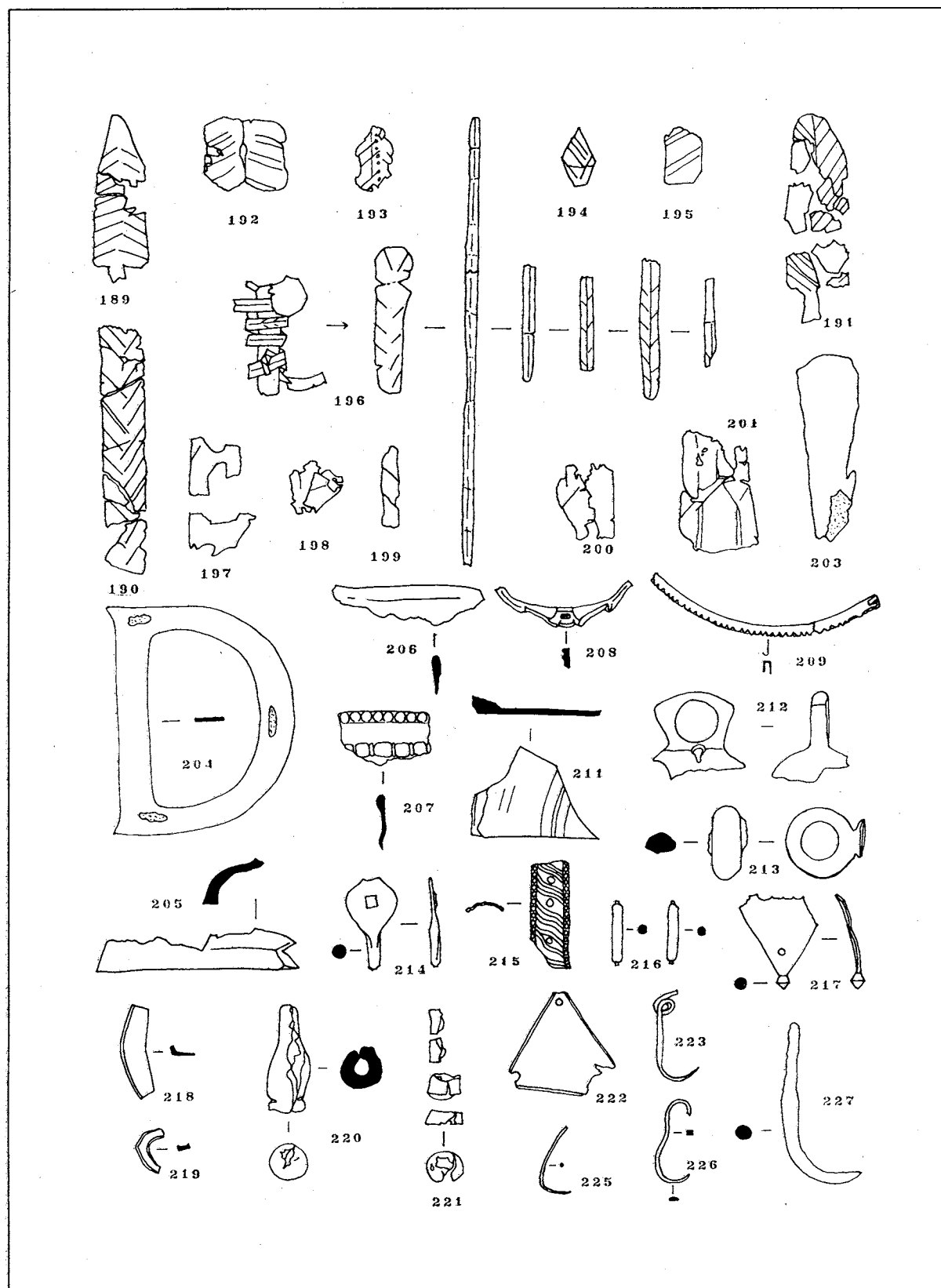


Figure 22. Objects of copper alloy. $\times 1/2$.

-
- 58–62. Finger rings.
 - 63–8. Finger ring fragments.
 - 69–70. Earrings for pierced ears.
 - 71. Armlet.
 - 72–82. Armlet fragments.
 - 83. Armlet(?) fragment.
 - 84. Armlet.
 - 85–8. Armlet fragments.
 - 89. Button.
 - 90–91. 'Birds'.
 - 92–158. Hair pins and hair pin fragments.
 - 159–71. Toilet spoons and toilet spoon fragments.
 - 172–4. Needles (styli?), Colchester Type 1.
 - 175–6. Needles, Colchester Type 3.
 - 177–80. Needles.
 - 181–3. Tweezers.
 - 184–5. Tweezer fragments.
 - 186–7. Spoons, white metal coated.
 - 188–88a. Spoon handle fragments.
 - 189. Votive feather.
 - 190. Strip with feather pattern.
 - 191. Votive feather fragments (silver).
 - 192–202. Votive feather fragments.
 - 203. 'Leaf' with patch of solder at base.
 - 204. Letter D, three soldered attachment points at rear.
 - 205. Fragment of a base.
 - 206–7. Rim fragments.
 - 208. Curved handle?
 - 209. Edging with serrated edges, two fragments.
 - 210. Seal box lid.
 - 211. Fragment of a base.
 - 212. Bell fragment.
 - 213. Circular handle.
 - 214. Fitment fragment.
 - 215. Strip, curved with pattern of wavy lines and dots along edge.
 - 216. Two hinge pins?
 - 217. Fitment fragment.
 - 218. Flat object, angular inner edge, curved flanged outer edge.
 - 219. Flat curved object with raised edges.
 - 220. Plumb bob.
 - 221. Plumb bob?
 - 222. Flat triangular weaving plate with one corner missing.
 - 223–4. Fishing hooks with loop for attaching line.
 - 225. Fishing hook.
 - 226. Hook, flat in section, with loop.
 - 227. Hook.
 - 228. Nail with hemi-spherical head.
 - 229–31. Nails with spherical heads.
 - 232. Nail?
 - 233 & 236. Nails.
 - 234. Nail fragment.
 - 235. Pin, ring head with flange beneath.
 - 237. Dressmaker's pin.
 - 238 & 241–6. Tacks.
 - 239 & 247–50. Rivets.
 - 240. Upholstery nail, iron with copper alloy dome-shaped head.
 - 251–65. Dome headed upholstery nails.
 - 266. Dome head of nail?
 - 267. Dome upholstery nail head with lead filling.
 - 268–9. 'Drawing' pins.
 - 270–71. 'Drawing' pin heads.
 - 272. Dome-shaped head with upturned rim.
 - 273. Upholstery nail with mortar filled dome head.
 - 274. Upholstery nail with lead filled dome head.
 - 275. Octagonal washer or nail head.
 - 276. Washer.
 - 277. Disc.
 - 278. Tube with longitudinal seam and slight flange at one end.
 - 279. Tapered tube, with conical washer.
 - 280–82. Tapered bars, rectangular in section.
 - 283–4. Split pins.
 - 285. Bar fragment.
 - 286. Strip bent to form oval ring.
 - 287. S-shaped hook or link.
 - 288. Chain fabric, corroded lump of circular links.
 - 289. Links of chain material.
 - 290. Chain fragment, S-shaped flat section links.
 - 291. Chain fragment, circular links.
 - 292–3. Chain links.
 - 294. Strip with repoussé decoration of dots.
 - 295. Disc with two curved projections.
 - 296–7. Lozenges.
 - 298. Small flat bar with groove across one end.
 - 299. Small curved strip.
 - 300. Small angled bar.
 - 301. Tube fragment with outward turned end.
 - 302. Strip, slight lateral and longitudinal curvature and two diagonal grooves.
 - 303–11. Folded strips.
 - 312. Sheet fragment, folded, groove along two edges, appears to be cut from large sheet.
 - 313–15. Folded sheet fragments.
 - 316. Sheet fragment, with cuts and folds; a grey alloy.
 - 317. Fragment with notch; found with tooth in notch.
 - 318. Strip, U-shaped in section.
 - 319. Corner fragment of box fitting?
 - 320. ?Circular key hole plate with 8-shaped key hole.
 - 321. Two circular fragments joined by a rivet.
 - 322 & 325. Fragments with rivets.
 - 323. Fragment with curved turned down edge.
 - 324. Fragment, curved in section with folded over edges.
 - 326–35. Sheet fragments.
 - 336. Ridged fragment.

- 337-43. Strip fragments.
 344. Several sheet fragments riveted together.
 345. Sheet fragment with nail hole.
 346. Fragment with nail hole.
 347. Curved flat fragment.
 348-71. Fragments.
 372. Wire loop.
 373. Twisted length of wire with loop at one end.
 374. Wire fragment.
 375. Thin roughly cut oval disc.
 378. Tube fragment with spiral groove.
 379. Oval disc.
 380 & 382. Weights, 3.2 g and 3.8 g.
 381. Weight fragment.
 383-4. ?Weights.
 385. Solidified molten droplet.
 386. Solidified molten fragment.
 387. Quantity of scrap.

White metal

388. Blazer type button.
 389-90. Blazer type buttons, probably modern.
 391. Bullet, spherical, probably modern.
 392. Strip with one rounded end.
 393. Strip fragment.
 394. Three sheet fragments (base silver?).
 395. Triangular fragment.

Lead (Fig. 24)

396. Ingot, incisions on one side.
 397. ?Amulet, trace of motif on both sides.

- 398-9. Weights, 69.2 g and 8 g.
 400. Bullet, probably modern.
 401. Rough disc.
 402. Folded sheet.
 403. Spoon bowl fragment.
 404. Oval ring with external lug, possibly a harness fitting.
 405. Finger ring.

Iron (Figs. 25 & 26)

406. Knife with bone handle.
 407-8. Knives.
 409. Knife or spear head.
 410-22. Knives.
 423. Knife/strigil?.
 424-7. Styli.
 428. Hair pin.
 429. Brooch, Nauheim derivative?
 430-31. Flesh hooks.
 432-3. Ladles.
 434. Implement with socket for haft.
 435. Punch.
 436. Chisel.
 437. Wood chisel?
 438. Chisel?
 439. Implement?
 440. Wedge.
 441. Chisel.
 442. Finger ring with blue-grey stone.
 443-44. Boot nails.
 445. Arrow head.
 446. Knife or spear head.

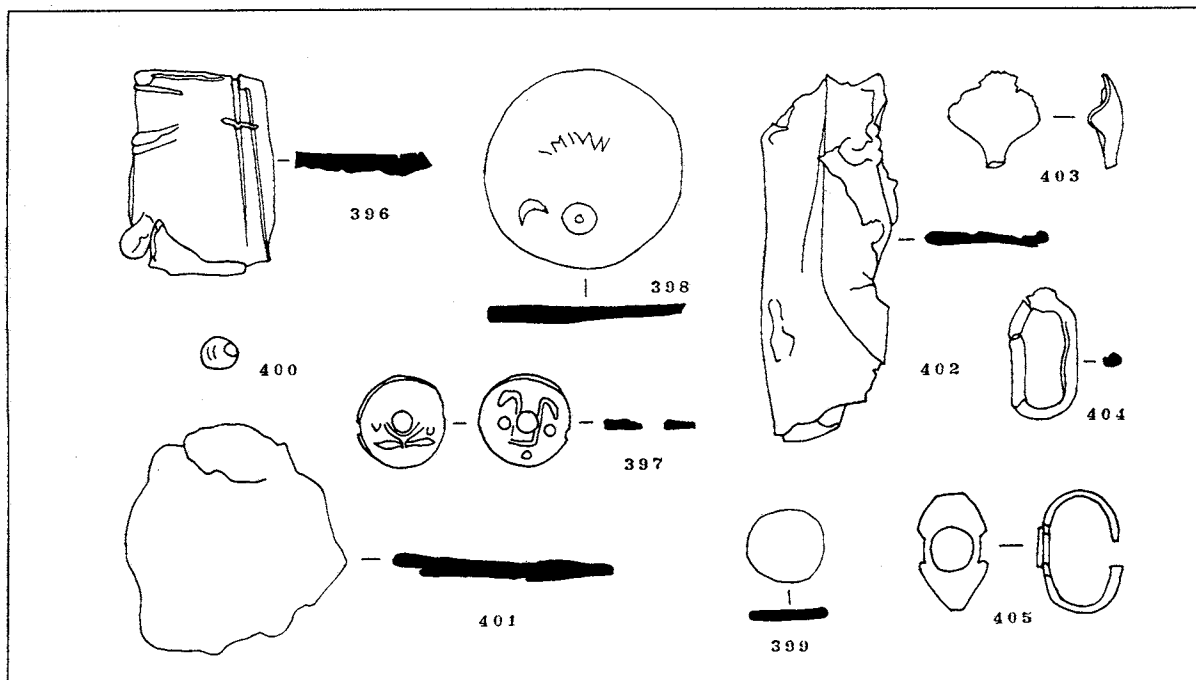


Figure 24. Objects of lead. $\times 1/2$.

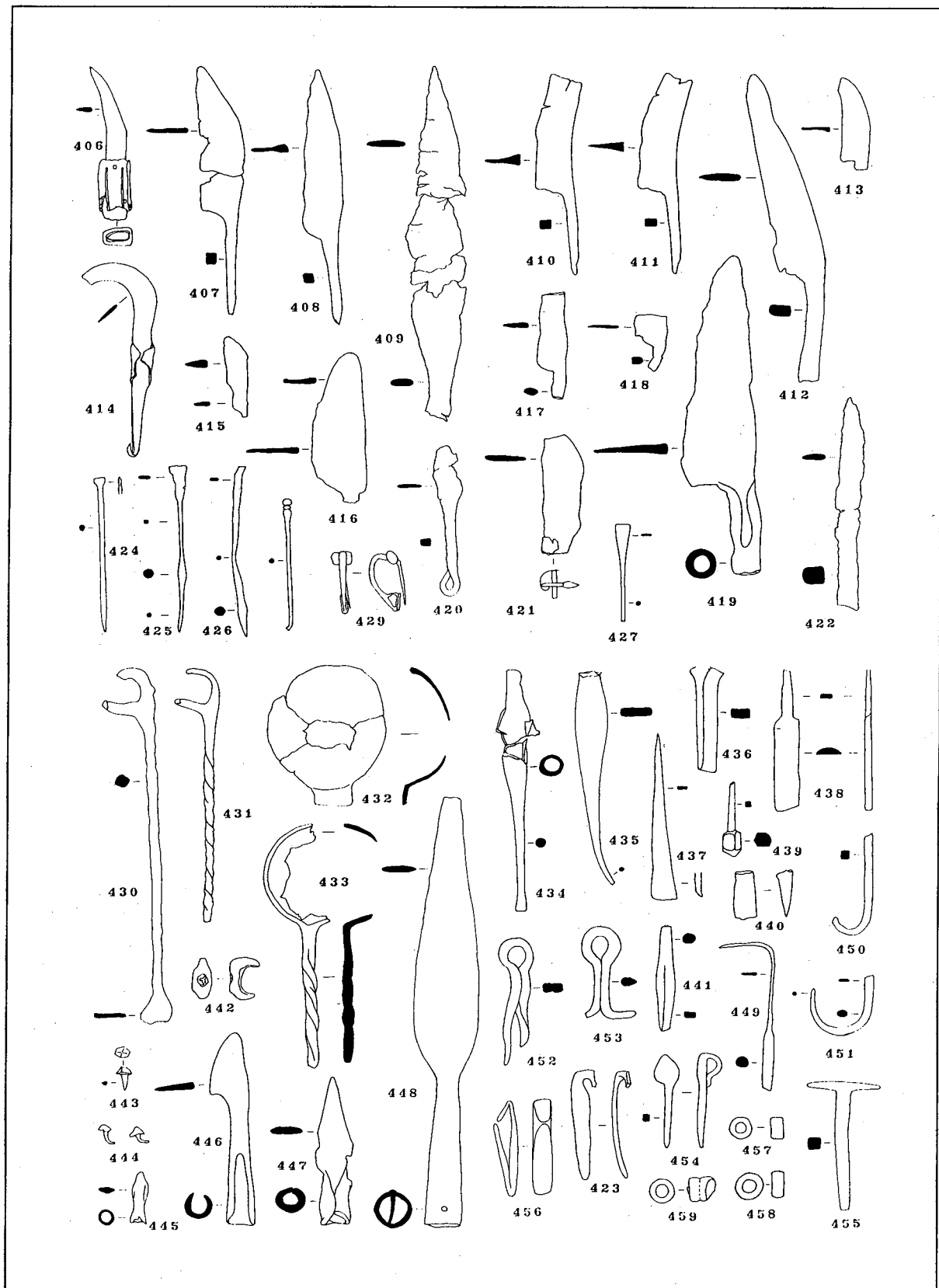


Figure 25. Objects of iron. $\times 1/4$.

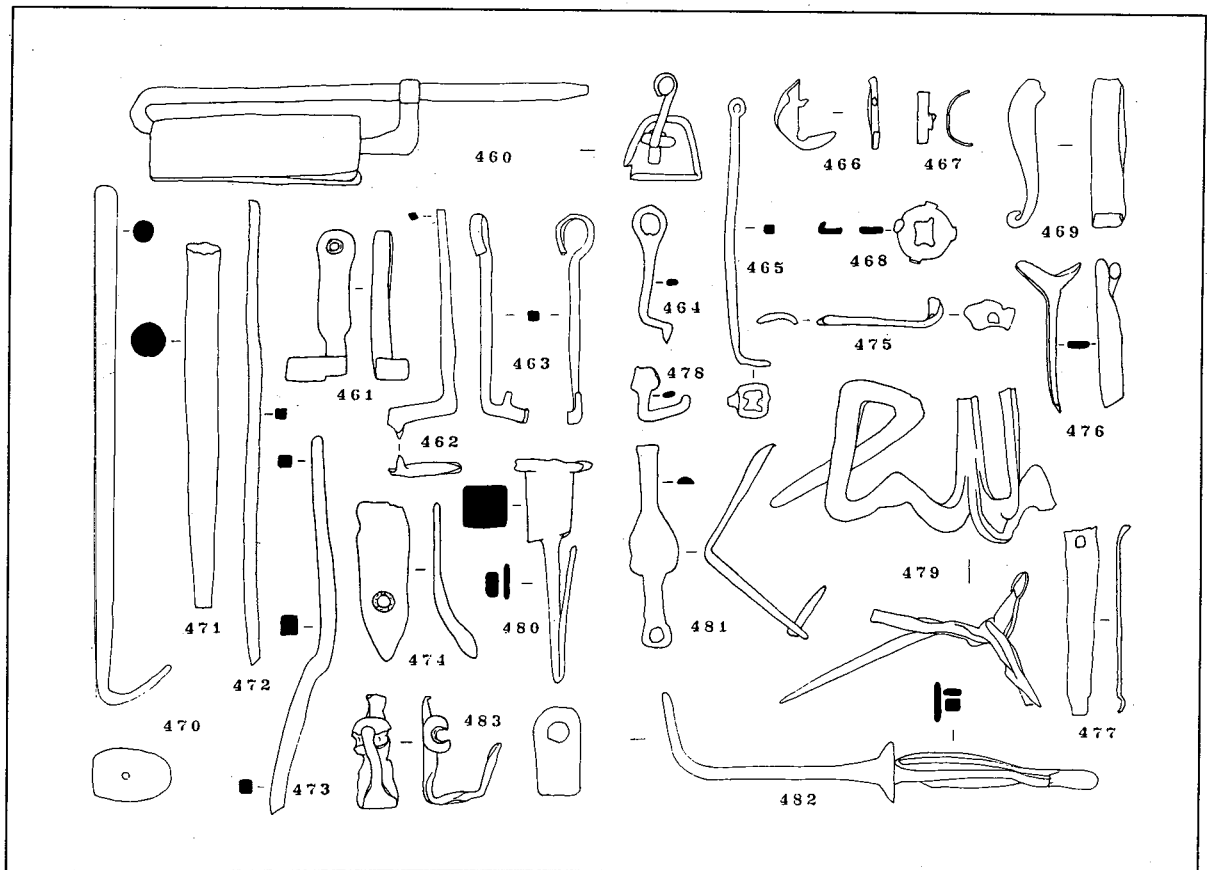


Figure 26. Objects of iron. $\times 1/4$.

- 447-8. Spear heads.
- 449. Strigil.
- 450-51. Hooks.
- 452-3. Split pins.
- 454. Pin, tapered.
- 455. Linch pin or large nail.
- 456. Strap.
- 457-9. Ferrules.
- 460. Lock.
- 461. Tumbler lock slide key.
- 462. Key?
- 463 & 465. Tumbler lock keys.
- 464. Lever lock key.
- 466. Lock or key fragment?
- 467. Curved strip with lug
- 468. Locking washer?
- 469. Handle fragment.
- 470-73. Bars.
- 474. Strap with hole.
- 475. Strip, bent end with hole.
- 476. Y-shaped object.
- 477. Slightly tapering strip (hinge?).
- 478. Hook fragment?
- 479. Object with four arms, three broken.
- 480. Wall nail, square, sprung reflexed point to prevent withdrawal.

- 481. Corner fitting, right angles, possibly for a box.
- 482. Barrel-lock bolt and spring.
- 483. Hook?
- 484. Y-shaped fragment.

Bone (Fig. 27)

- 485-8. Hair pins, Colchester type 1.
- 489-97. Hair pins, Colchester type 2.
- 498-501. Hair pin fragments with head missing.
- 502. Hair pin, Colchester type 2 extreme form?
- 503. Hair pin, Colchester type 2, dyed green.
- 504. Hair pin, Colchester type 5.
- 505-7. Hair pin fragments, Colchester type 3.
- 508. Hair pin, Colchester type 4.
- 509-11. Hair pin fragments.
- 512. Hair pin.
- 513-24. Hair pin fragments.
- 525. Spoon.
- 526. Needle fragment, Colchester type 1, dyed green.
- 527-8. Needle fragments, Colchester type 2.
- 529-32. Needle fragments.
- 533. Whistle.

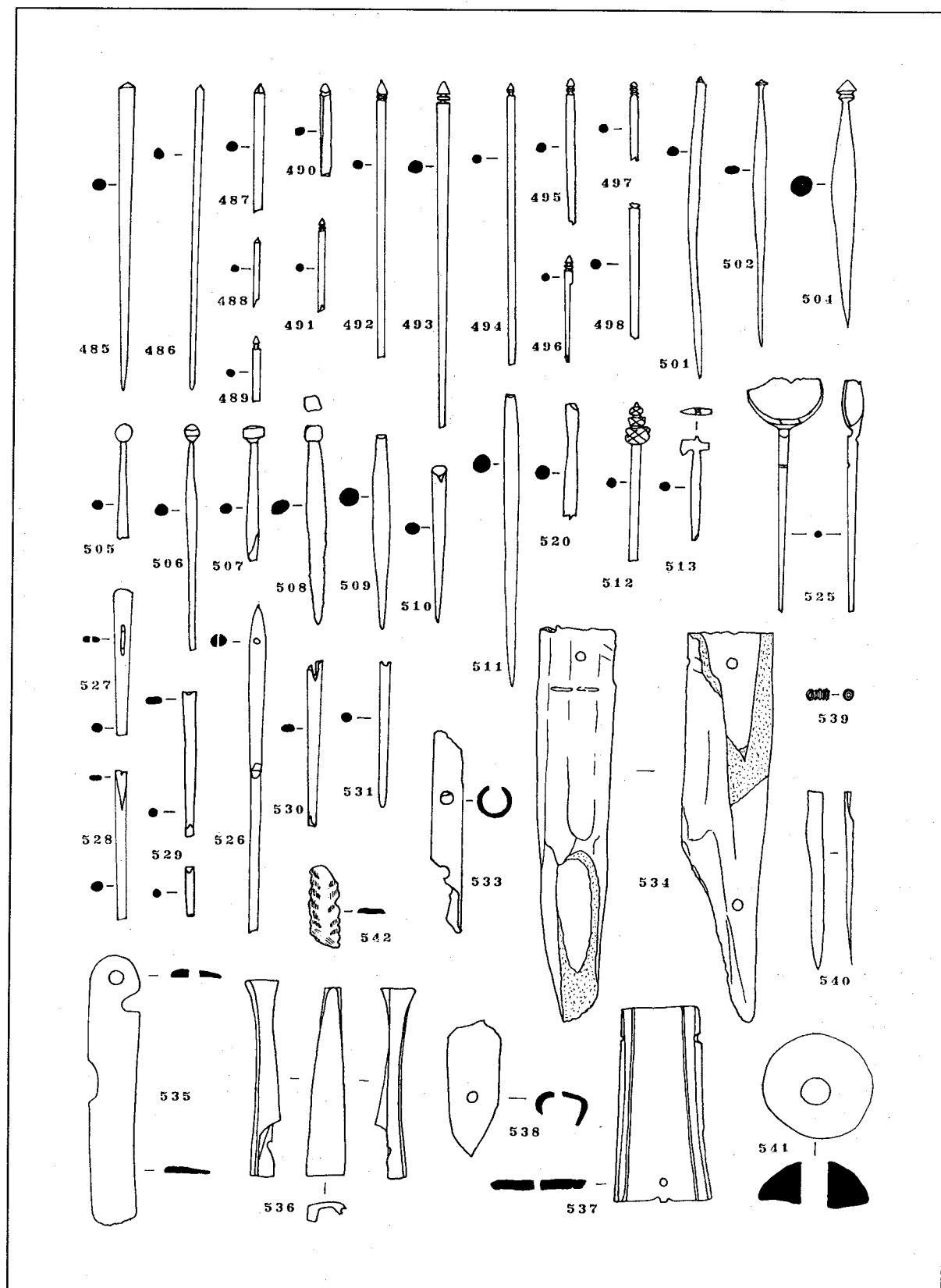


Figure 27. Objects of bone. $\times 1/2$.

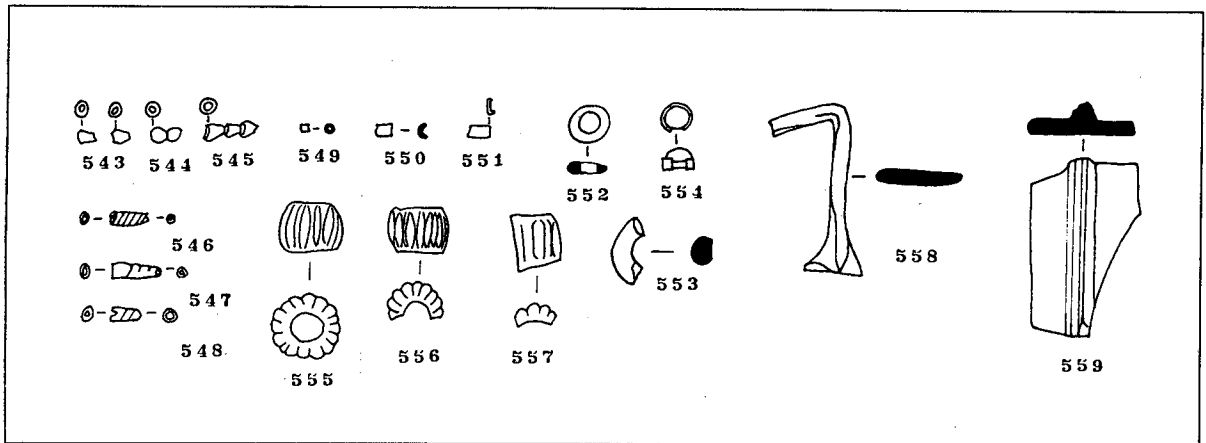


Figure 28. *Objects of glass. $\times 1/2$.*

- 534. ?Tool.
- 535-6. Knife handles.
- 537. Handle, one side only.
- 538. ?Handle fragment.
- 539. Small reel.
- 540. Shaped sliver.
- 541. Spindle whorl, made from head of femur or humerus.
- 542. Mother of pearl 'feather' fragment.

Glass (Fig. 28)

- 543. Two small tapered cylindrical green beads.
- 544. Double tapered cylindrical green bead.
- 545. Triple tapered cylindrical green bead.
- 546-8. Cylindrical green beads.
- 549-50. Translucent green beads.
- 551. Square green bead fragment.
- 552. Annular translucent green bead.
- 553. Annular bead fragment.
- 554. Piece of jewellery, translucent green glass stone set on a clay disc and encased by a copper alloy band.
- 555-7. Turquoise frit melon beads.
- 558. Slightly frosted clear handle.
- 559. Clear pale green handle fragment.
- 560. Clear fragments.
- 561. Dark blue fragments.

Stone (Fig. 29)

- 562. Jet finger ring.
- 563-75. Shale armlet fragments.
- 576. Gaming counters: three white quartzite, one pale grey quartzite, one black quartzite, one dark blue glass; found embedded in a lump of heated iron.
- 577. Spindle whorl, chalk.
- 578. ?Spindle whorl, clay disc.

- 579-87. Hone fragments.
- 588. Clay marble.
- 589. Flint knife with saw-tooth cutting edge.
- 590. Flint backed blade.
- 591. Flint burin.
- 592-3. Flint points.
- 594. Flint scraper.
- 595-7. Flint blade fragments.
- 598. Flint spear point.

Not illustrated:

- 599. Quern, puddingstone, hemispherical upper stone fragment.
- 600. Quern, grey lava, lower stone fragment.
- 601. Quern, white micaceous millstone grit, lower stone fragments
- 602. Quern, grey millstone grit, two upper? stone fragments.
- 603. Quern, pink millstone grit, small fragment.

Pottery (Not illustrated)

- 604. Spindle whorl, made from pot base of buff fabric.
- 605. Spindle whorl, broken, made from pot base of black fabric.
- 606. Spindle whorl, made from pot base of grey fabric.
- 607. Spindle whorl, broken, made of red tile.
- 608. Gaming counter, base of orange-buff fabric pot.
- 609. Gaming counter, broken, base of orange-buff fabric pot.
- 610. Gaming counter, pot base, buff fabric with brown colour coat.
- 611. Gaming counter, brown fabric pot base.
- 612. Gaming counter, black fabric pot base.
- 613-14. Gaming counters, grey fabric pot bases.
- 615. Loom weight, cut from tile.

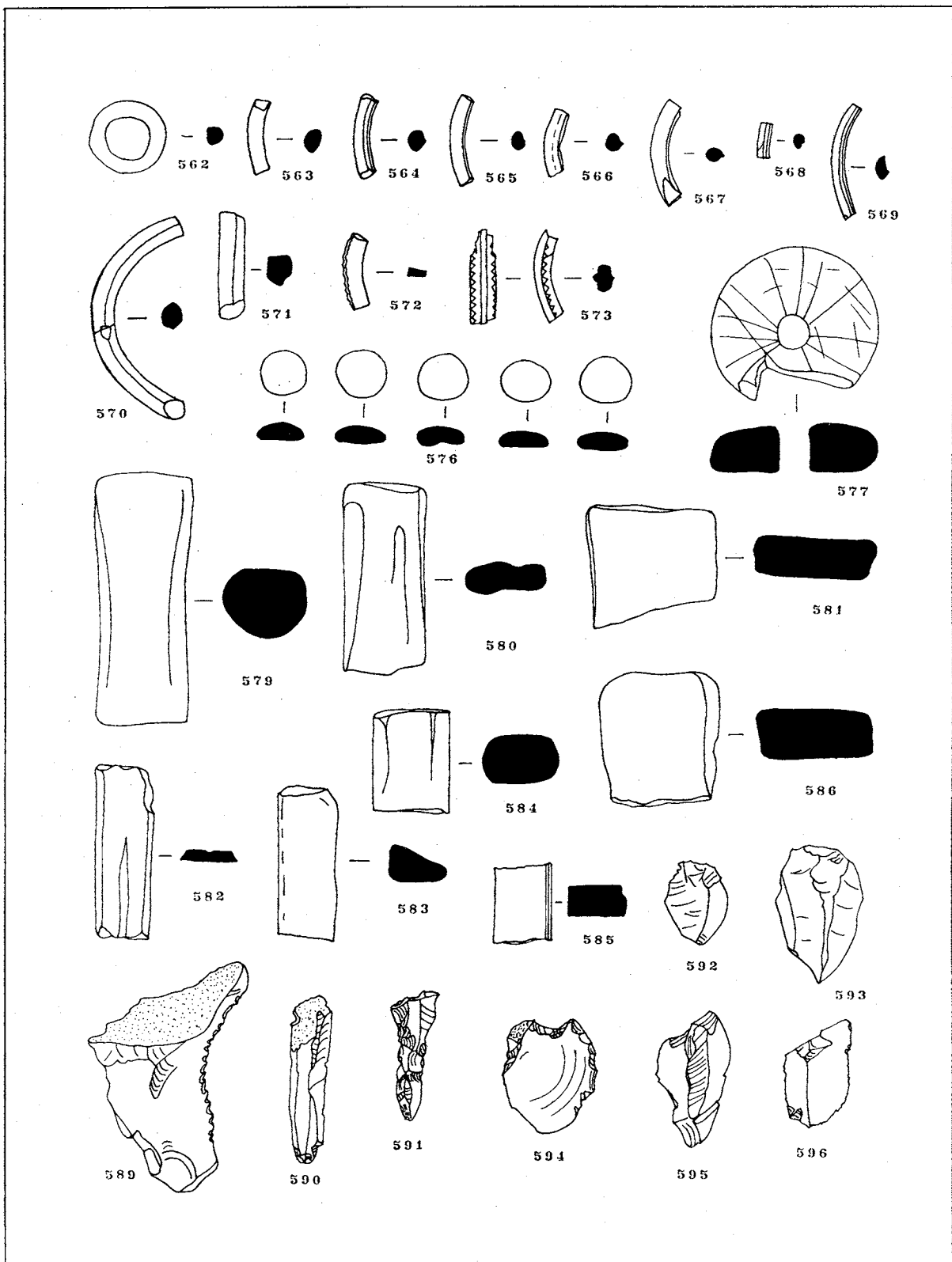


Figure 29. Objects of stone. $\times 1/2$.

Appendix 3. Building Material

A considerable amount of building material was present around the area of the temple and the ancillary building. With the exception of a few items from the fill of the Ancillary building it consisted of small fragments.

The building tiles were of two sizes; square ones, 19.5 × 19.5 cm, these were of two qualities, good square ones with a thickness of 3.5 cm, and thinner 2.5 cm thick ones with less straight sides, usually concave; and rectangular ones with double the length (*bipedalae*). Only one complete *tegula* tile was found, this was 44 cm long and 30 cm wide with notched corners at one end to facilitate overlapping. Several fragments with notches were found but the notches were frequently of different configuration. Some fragments had a central nail hole at one end, presumably to allow fixing to the rafters. Several fragments of *imbrex* were also found; these were generally slightly pointed in section and were tapered to allow overlapping. One similar tile fragment was semi-circular in section, wider and showed no evidence of taper, which may suggest that it was a ridge tile. A single fragment of a tile that was S-shaped in section was also found.

A number of herringbone floor tiles and tile fragments were found although there was no evidence of the presence of a herringbone floor from these or previous excavations. These tiles

were 12 cm long and 3 × 3 cm or 3 × 2.5 cm square. Many *tesserae* were present on the site and it is known from the original excavation of the temple that a mosaic floor existed. The *tesserae* were predominantly of red tile, but dark stone and white chalk ones were also found. They were all approximately 2.5 × 3 cm square and mostly 2 cm thick although a few were only 1 cm thick.

A number of sawn chalk blocks were found in association with the ancillary building. They varied slightly in size. They were approximately 20 cm long and were tapered; their larger ends being for example 6 × 12 cm, 6 × 10 cm and 7.5 × 11.5 cm, and their smaller ends being 2 cm narrower in one dimension e.g. the block with a large end of 6 × 12 cm was 6 × 10 cm at the narrow end.

A number of the tile fragments carried imprints. One *tegula* fragment had a 6-cm-wide and 8-cm-long human handprint. Another had the imprint of a studded boot, with a curved outer row of stud marks and two inner longitudinal rows. There were two fragments with cat paw prints, both with the claws extended. Ten examples of dog paw prints and three goat hoof prints were also found.

Perhaps the most interesting item was a number of fragments of a tile with the inscription TERTIOLVS VENEDVS (Fig. 30).

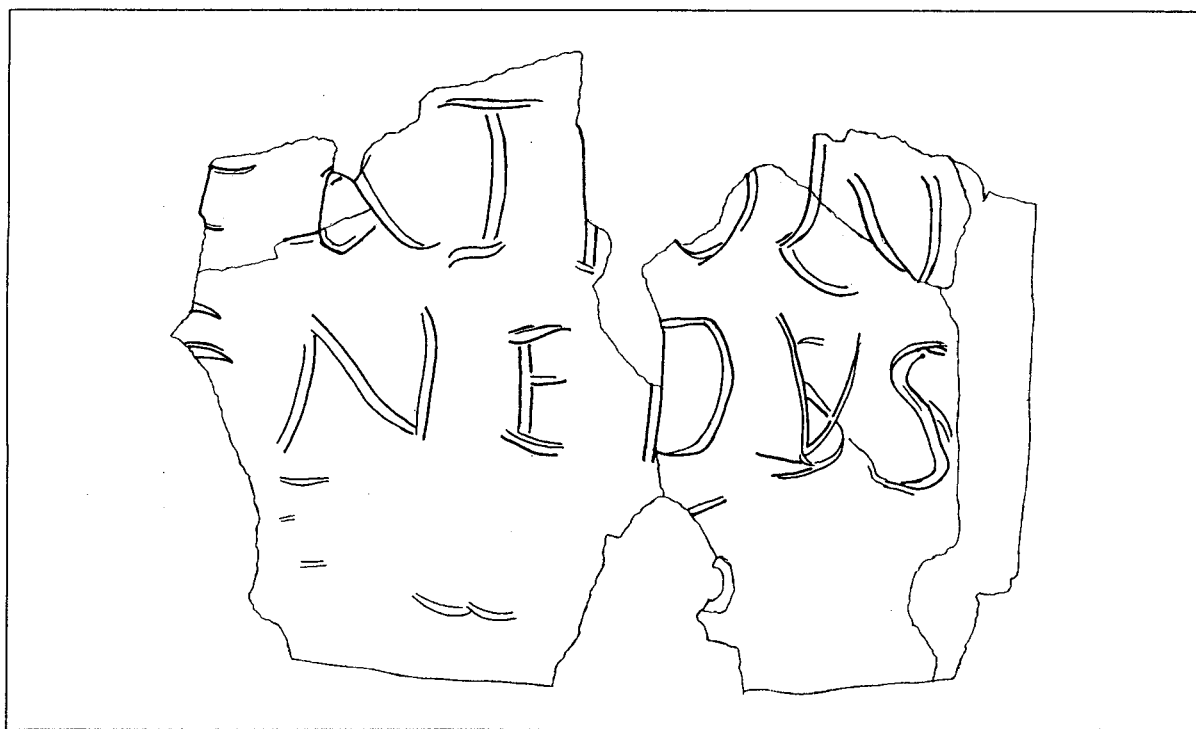


Figure 30. Tile with inscription: TERTIOLVS VENEDVS.

Site B produced two approximately 19 cm diameter circular tiles. These had been cut from c. 19 x 19 cm square tiles; one had a tapered pit c. 4 cm diameter and c. 1.5 cm deep cut into the centre on each side; the other had a slight central depression on one surface. Were these components of a cylindrical column?

A single fragment of a box flue tile was also found on Site B.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Great Chesterford Archaeology Group I wish to thank Hinxton Estates, the landowners, for their kind permission to excavate the site. Special thanks are due to Messrs William and Gavin Hamilton, the tenant farmers, for their tolerance and not inconsiderable help during the several years of the excavations. Valuable encouragement and support was provided by the Archaeology Section of Essex County Council Planning Department. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank those members of the Gt Chesterford Archaeology group who partici-

pated in the excavations — especially my wife Mary — without them none of this would have been possible.

All of the finds have been deposited with the Saffron Walden Museum, Essex.

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