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Editor Alison Taylor

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Editorial

My first task in this volume is to thank and pay tribute to the retiring editor, Audrey Meaney. She took the Proceedings through several difficult years, from 1993-7, coping in particular with new publishing technology and increasingly complex archaeological reports. In this time she made tremendous efforts to catch up with annual publication, so that, by September 1998, we are only nine months behind the date for which the issue is intended. This is despite the size and professional standards required for the only vehicle for regular reporting of most archaeological discoveries to a wide local and international readership in Cambridgeshire, as well as publishing historical and other antiquarian research.

1996-7 once again had a well-filled programme for the Society, with two conferences, on Fenland Waterways in March and on recent archaeological excavations in November. There was an impressive programme of lectures, headed by Barry Cunliffe and our own ex-President Christopher Taylor, and some enjoyable excursions. It was also a year when the Council, and in particular its President and Secretary, were involved in efforts to protect local services for archives, archaeology and local studies. Sadly, just as this volume was being prepared for the press, we heard of the deaths of two of our stalwart members and supporters. Nesta Rooke, for many years Sites and Monuments Officer for Cambridgeshire, and Brian Charge, Director of the Haverhill and District Archaeological Group, died in July 1998.

This volume contains a few minor changes in design, principally with the intention of making better use of expensive space, and it follows the usual format except for the revival, after several years, of a Reviews section. As a first attempt it perhaps appears rather incestuous, but I hope that in future we will receive a wider range of books, and I would also welcome offers of suitable reviews by other writers. This is an important way to bring works that might easily be missed to the attention of members, and to entice them to read reports which are often more interesting than their titles suggest.

Alison Taylor

Prehistoric and Roman remains at Edix Hill, Barrington, Cambridgeshire

Tim Malim

with contributions by Simon Davis, Corinne Duhig and Morag Woudhuysen

Summary

Evidence for early prehistoric activity on Edix Hill includes flint scatters of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, a Neolithic axe found in one of the Anglo-Saxon graves, and a Bronze Age burial mound on the brow of the hill, of which only a ring-ditch survived. During the Iron Age Edix Hill became the site of a farmstead, typical of settlements in the Cam valley, and a sequence of events seems to span the entire Iron Age, according to the coarse framework for ceramic typologies in Cambridgeshire. Numerous pits were constructed between 500 - 300 BC, pits and ditches were being built between 300 - 100 BC, and there was more intense use and construction of ditched and fenced boundaries defining droveways and stock enclosures between 100 BC - AD 100. In this later period there were signs that the landscape was being increasingly divided up and organised for stock control. Some ritual activity can be detected, such as the deposition of a dog and cattle-skull in one of the pits, and other possibly ritual activities are discussed in this text. No definite structures were found, and functional zoning within farmsteads would suggest that the excavated area was concerned with the organisation of crop storage in the earlier Iron Age, and stock control in the later Iron Age. The ceramic assemblages and the wealth of butchered bone demonstrate that there was human settlement of the same periods in the close vicinity.

Introduction

Edix Hill is close to the parish boundary between Barrington and Orwell, about 12km southwest of Cambridge. It is within the watershed of the Cam, near one of its major tributaries, the Rhee (Fig. 1). This chalk knoll, part of a spur of Lower Chalk extending northwestwards from a main core around Barrington and Shepreth, rises to 27m above sea level, about 4m above the Gault Clay that largely surrounds it. To the north is the Chapel Hill ridge, about 70m above sea level, along which Mare Way ran from prehistoric times. Within the excavated areas there were also river gravels, brought to the surface by periglacial action, manifesting itself as gravelly sand polygons in Trenches XII and XIV, and green patches in the chalk

marl which derived from Cambridge Greensand, a geological layer associated with phosphates and coprolites.

There were several crossing places of the Rhee in the area of Edix Hill, notably in Barrington village, at Malton Farm and King's Bridge in Orwell, and further west at Arrington Bridge on Ermine Street. A network of Roman roads and tracks, many of which had prehistoric foundations, can be traced within this general area (Fox 1923, 161-72, Taylor 1997, 1-2).

The archaeological importance of Edix Hill was first identified in the 19th century when drainage works uncovered human skeletons and Anglo-Saxon artefacts. At the time there were some 18 inches of topsoil on the site and good preservation of metal artefacts, bone and even wood because of the generally wet nature of the ground (Wilkinson 1868), before the drainage works that led to the discoveries took effect. During excavation of a major Anglo-Saxon cemetery from 1989-91 (Malim and Hines 1998) it became apparent that the Anglo-Saxons had reused an earlier site, as their graves cut a complex of ditches, pits and other features (Fig. 2). A fairly comprehensive sample of these earlier remains was investigated to gain an understanding of the nature and date of activity that had occurred at the site, although during the third season the complex nature of the Iron Age site meant there could only be limited excavation of these features, which had in any case been truncated by coprolite digging on the southeastern side and by the erosion of about 30cms of topsoil.

Survey

Fieldwalking and metal-detecting

Large areas near the Anglo-Saxon cemetery were fieldwalked in an attempt to find its associated settlement. Members of the excavation team fieldwalked 8 ha over the brow of Edix Hill, and a further 20 ha were walked by the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG). Iron Age pottery (much of it at first thought to be Anglo-Saxon by association with the cemetery) and some bone was found as a spread along the ridge of Edix Hill, with a concentration across the southern tail

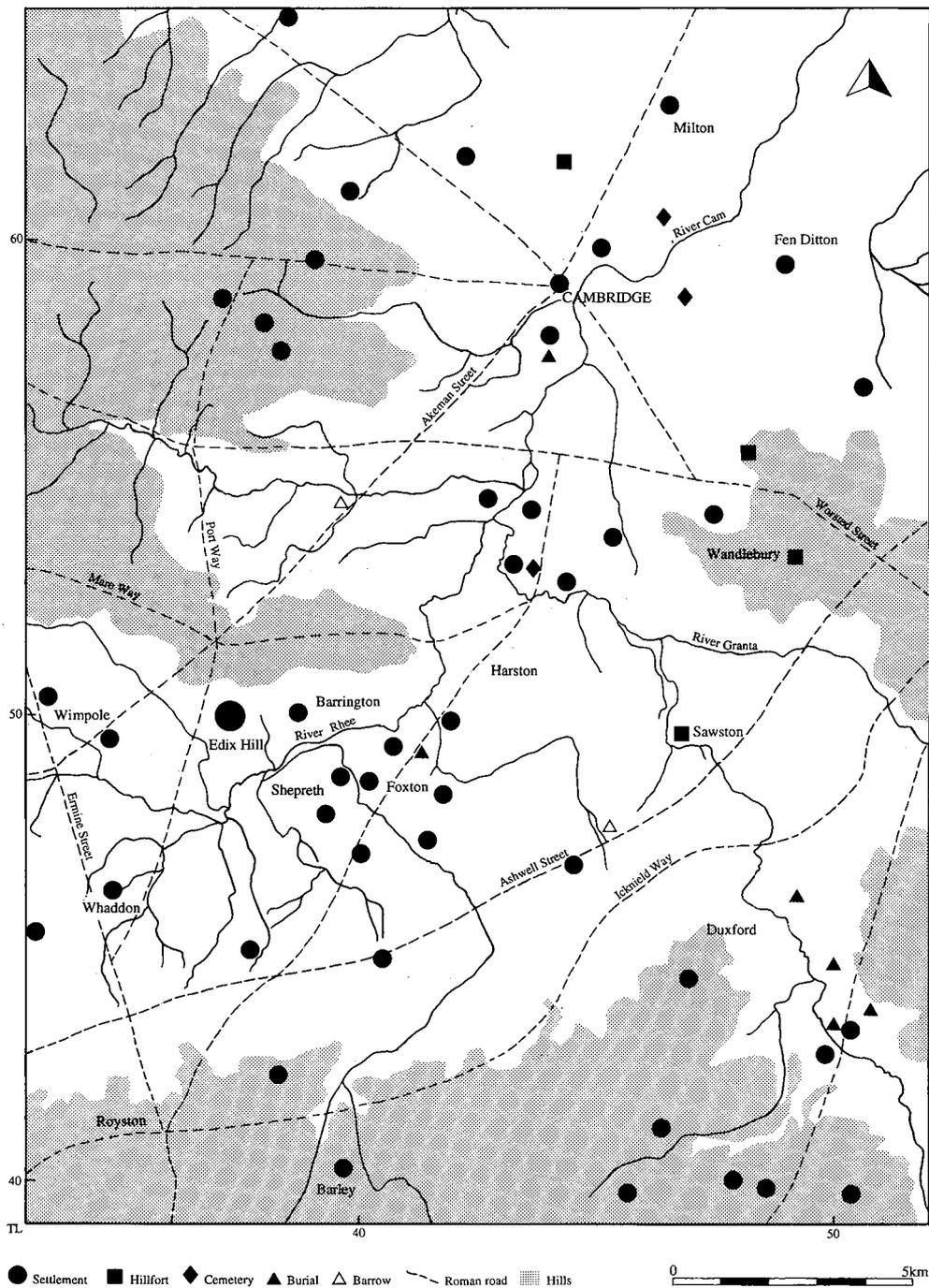


Figure 1. South Cambridgeshire, with Iron Age sites

of the knoll, just outside the excavated areas. Four Iron Age coins were found just south of the main areas of excavation. Roman pottery scatters were concentrated south of the excavations, and a thin spread of sherds continued westwards towards the Orwell-Malton road. Metal finds were concentrated on the southeast of the knoll. They consisted of 4 late Roman coins and 7 brooches of the 1st century AD. Medieval and post-medieval finds were concentrated on the ridge.

Further fieldwalking by CAFG north of Edix Hill,

immediately south of the present Orwell – Barrington road, located a concentration of pottery, but the usual problems of positive identification of the pottery as Anglo-Saxon rather than Iron Age (see Appendix I), apply. Structured metal detecting revealed little that was of interest for either the Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon periods. However, casual finds made over a period of years by Chris Montague (who re-discovered the Anglo-Saxon cemetery) include important artefacts of all periods.



Figure 2. Excavations at Edix Hill in 1990 (Trench X from west): note the dark lines of Iron Age and Roman gullies with Anglo-Saxon skeletons above, and the deep section across Ditch A, top right.

Geophysics

In October 1990 Geophysical Surveys of Bradford undertook a magnetometer survey of 1.2 ha on the brow of Edix Hill (Fig. 3), partly in order to test the applicability of geophysical survey (in this case by magnetometer) to locating graves and to help in planning excavation strategy. A Fluxgate Gradiometer (Geoscan FM36) was used, and 800 readings were taken in each 20m x 20m grid. Three types of result were plotted:

- i) linear anomalies representing large ditches and enclosures;
- ii) grave/pit-type anomalies;
- iii) points of high ferrous anomaly.

Large features, especially those close to the surface (ie on the brow of the hill) or containing habitation debris, were located with considerable accuracy, and all features interpreted as pits and ditches on the magnetometer plot could be tied into archaeological features (Fig. 4). Identification of graves, however, was successful in only six cases.

Excavation results

Evidence for past activity at Edix Hill fall into four periods ranging from Bronze Age (Phase 1) to Anglo-Saxon (Phase 6) times. Within this basic chronology the two middle periods can be subdivided into four

main phases from stratigraphic and pottery evidence (Fig. 5): Phase 2 is an early Iron Age phase dating from 500 - 300 BC; Phase 3 is characterised by Iron Age pottery which is not typical of either early or late styles or fabrics, and includes hints of middle or later Iron Age (hereafter referred to as 'middle Iron Age'); Phase 4 is a late Iron Age/Belgic/Conquest transition phase (referred to as 'late Iron Age'); and Phase 5 is Roman, largely restricted to the 1st century AD, but with possible continuation into the 2nd, and with occasional finds which can be dated to the 4th century AD. Metal artefacts from both stratified and unstratified contexts support this pattern of activity, with Iron Age coins and 1st century AD brooches, and a scatter of Roman coins of 4th century date. The chronological progression of the site is summarised in Table 1.

The Bronze Age (Phase 1) (Fig. 6)

Although a flaked Neolithic flint axe (Fig. 20) and other worked flints were found through field walking and as redeposited objects, the earliest feature discovered was a ring-ditch (F474). This was 17m in diameter with a shallow U-shaped ditch 1.37m wide at the top and 0.35m deep. It formed a penannular ditch with a 1m wide causeway to the southeast, with possible internal structural features. Its fills were of a less organic nature than Iron Age or later features. Lack of artefactual finds strongly suggests this feature is not

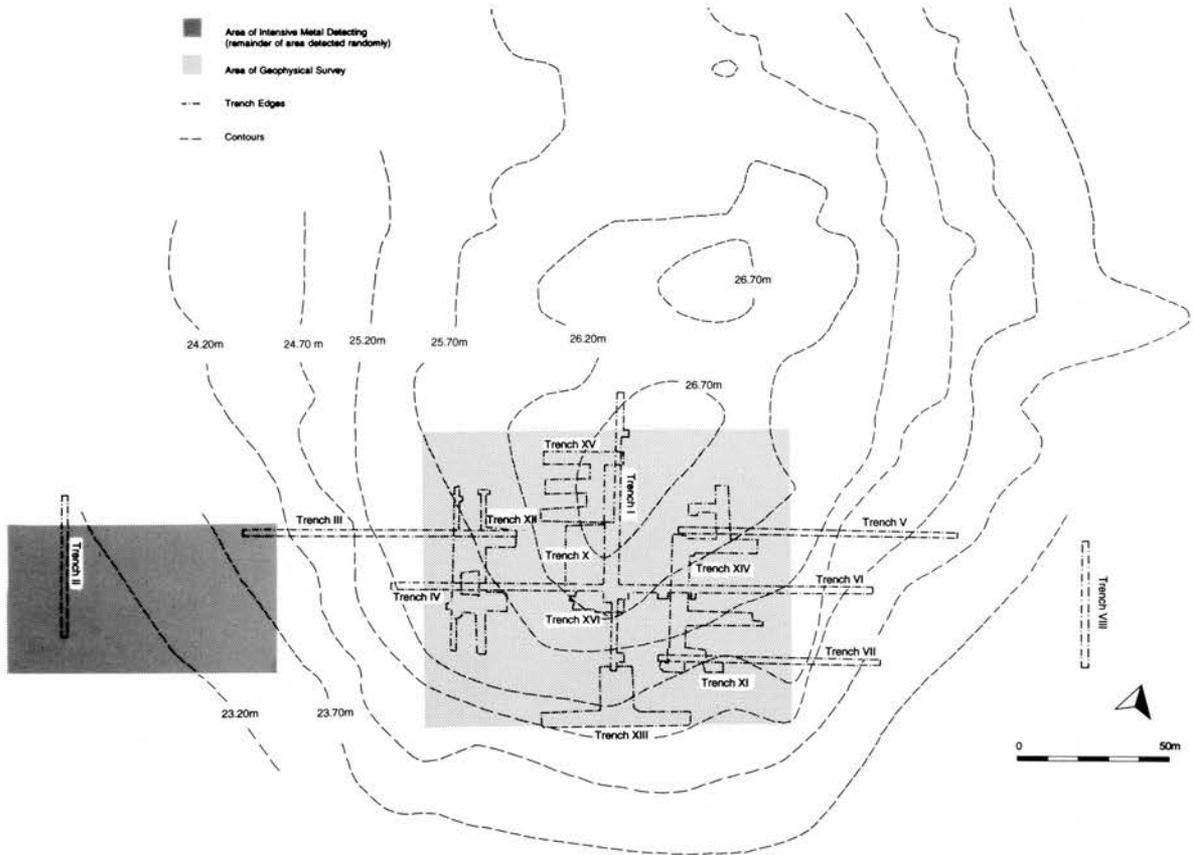


Figure 3. Edix Hill, showing areas investigated

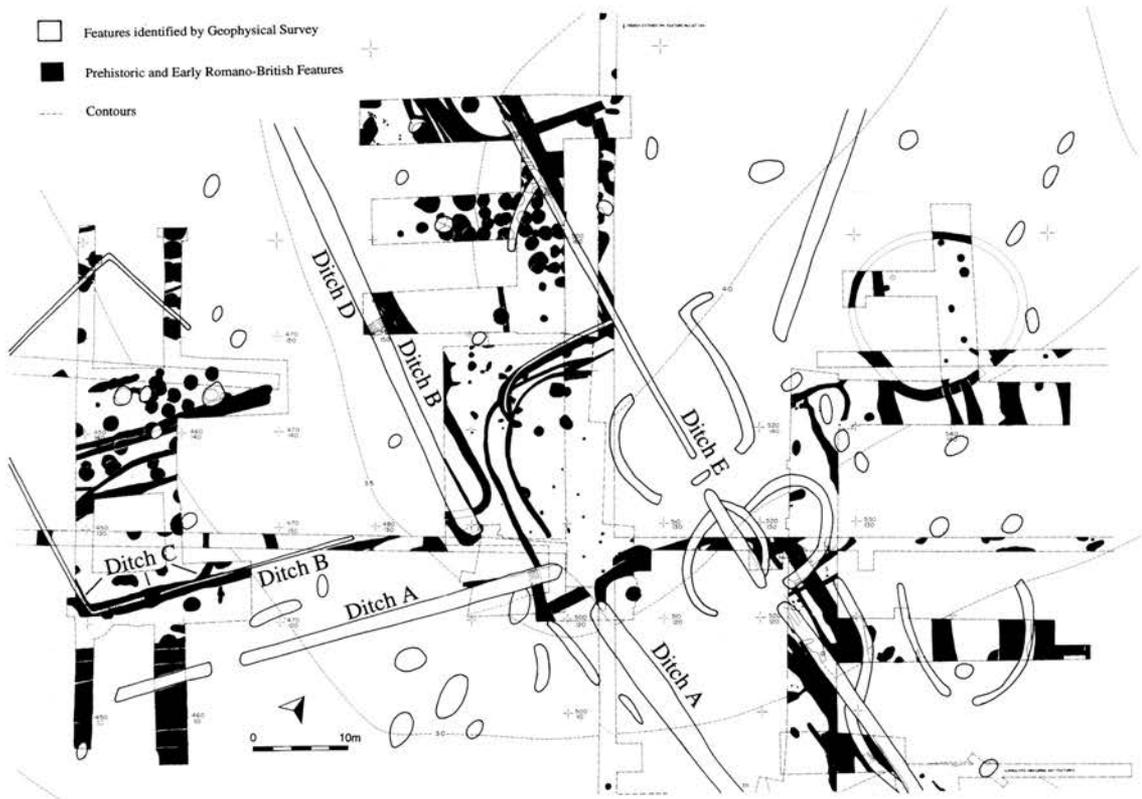


Figure 4. Non-Anglo-Saxon features and results of geophysical survey

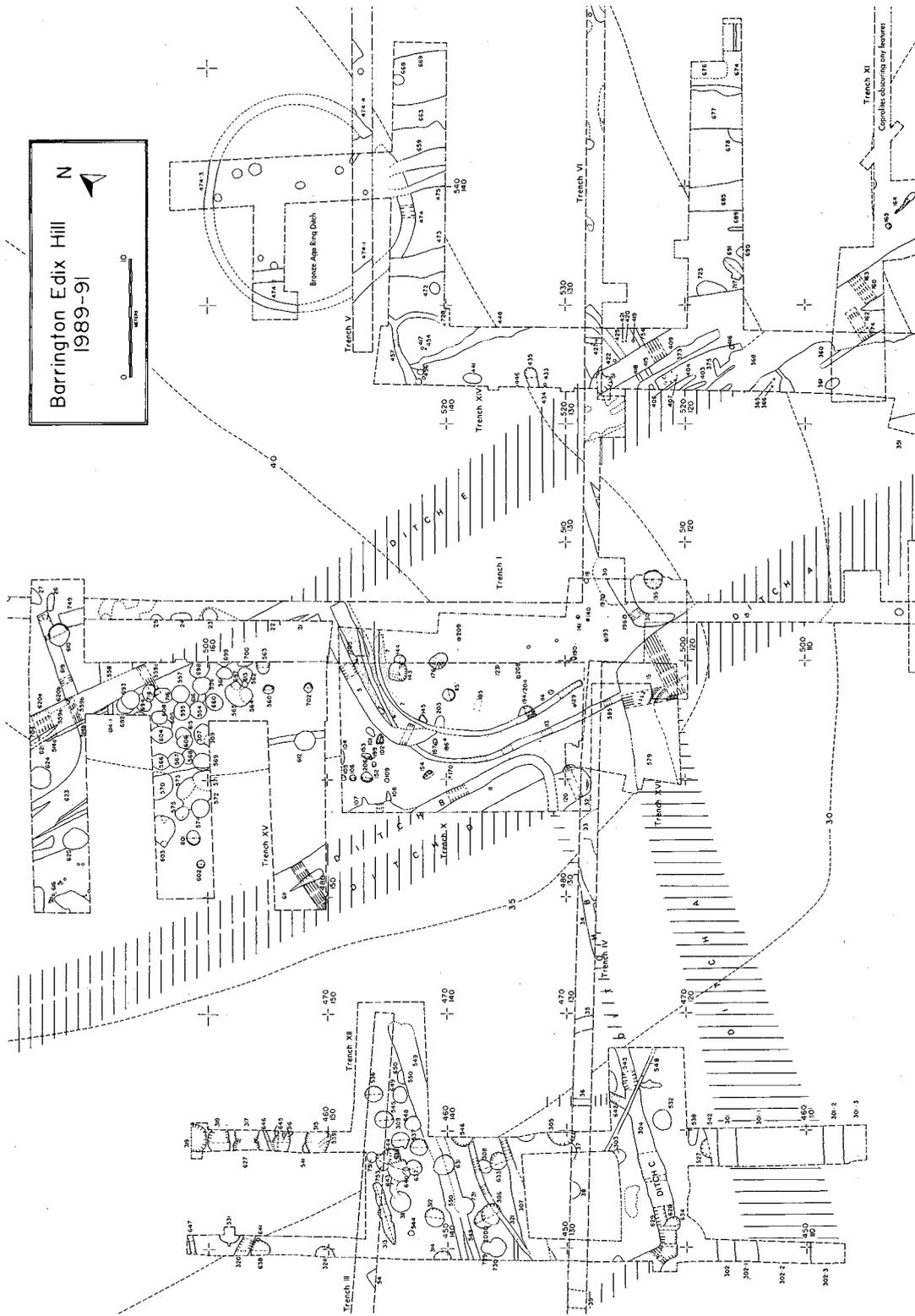


Figure 5. Pre-Anglo-Saxon features showing context numbers and excavated segments

PITS		DITCHES				
Phase 5 - Romano-British Phase 5I1 Grave 149		Ditches/Gullies	Ditch A		Ditch B	
Phase 5I 305 305.1 305.2 305.3 305.4 305.5			15A 579.3 Cut 6 158A 579.2 Cut 5			
Phase 4 - Late Iron Age/Belgie/Roman conquest			6 7 113 114 15817 579.6 1582B 579.5 Cut 4 585		548 2nd century 628.1 629.2 643.2 611.2 629.1 643.1 111.1 611.1 304 629 543 111 611	
309 309.1 309.2 309.3 324 324.1 324.2 318.1 531.1 537.1		5 30 162 114	Ditch A 15B3 15B2 15D1 15C1 679.1 15E1 579.4 15E2 Cut 3	Ditch E 160.1 163.1 162/174 514.1 628.1 22 Cut 5 359.1 359.2 Cut 4	Ditch C 628.2 628 642	Ditch D 611.3 Cut D4 611.9 611.8 Cut D3 611.5 611.6 611.7 Cut D2 120.1 611.4 120 Cut D1 611
Phase 3 - No pot or just Iron Age Phase 3I1 204 204.2 204.3 204.4 204.5 204.6 204.7 312 312.1 312.2 312.3 115 115.1 115.2 115.3 315 315.1 315.2 143 143.1 143.2 143.3 563 601 601.1 601.2 176.1 602 602.1 602.2 610 194 194.1 194.2 194.3 194.4 627 627.1 627.2 627.3 318 317.2 317.1 634 634.1 634.2 634.3 634.4 637 637.1 644 560		Ditches 409	Ditch A 15C2 579.4 Cut 2	Ditch E 708.1 709 Cut 3 704.1 704.2 Cut 2 621.1 622.1 621.2 Cut 1 622 621		
Phase 3I 144 1 1.1 1.2 28 531 531.1 531.2 531.3 531.4 531.5 531.6 536 537 545 631 638 638.1 638.2 638.3 638.4 638.5 638.6 638.7 639 640 640.1 640.2 640.3 640.4 640.5 640.6 640.7 645 714 716 753		623 619 320 646 316 15E3 15E4 579.7 Cut 1 15 579				
Phase 2 - Early Iron Age Phase 2I11 Phase 2I1 176.2 176.7a Cut 3 314 314.1 (and stakeholes 180) 317 317.3 319 630 633 633.1 633.2 633.3 Phase 2I 546 546.3 546.4 546.5 308 308.2 308.1 306 306.3 306.4 306.5 306.6 306.7 306.8		549 550 307 307.1 321 321.1 176.6 176.5 Cut 1 176				
Phase 1 - Bronze Age 474						

Table 1. Phasing of features according to stratigraphic and ceramic evidence

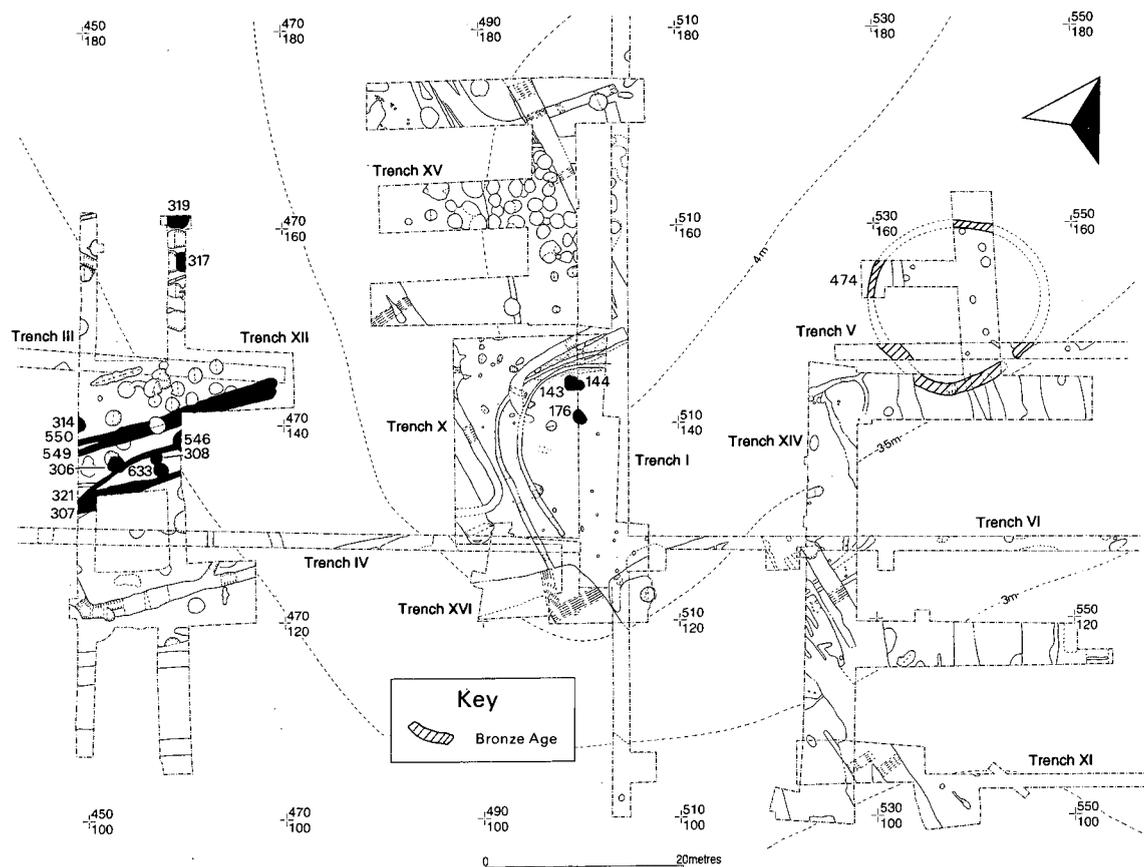


Figure 6. Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (Phases 1 and 2)

Iron Age or domestic in nature and it is therefore interpreted as a Bronze Age burial monument. A number of possible postholes were observed in plan within the enclosed area, but were not excavated.

Other evidence for Bronze Age activity at Edix Hill is represented by a number of residual artefacts found unstratified or in later features. These included a jet ring, (Fig. 21:14), and a single sherd of Beaker pottery (Fig. 19:1) which were found in the fills of two neighbouring Iron Age pits (F315 and F317), and two fragments of bronze which resemble parts of a dirk or rapier found by metal detecting (Fig. 21:15 and 16).

The Early Iron Age (Phase 2) (Fig. 6)

Ditches

Gullies in Trench XII appear to be largely early Iron Age, as there was stratigraphic linkage between F321 and F307 with a series of early Iron Age pits. Two other gullies, F549 and F550, although unexcavated, were cut by a pit (F631) which contained coarse Iron Age pot sherds.

Pits

Pits of all phases were either regular-cut cylindrical features, or sub-rounded shapes and irregular scoops into the chalk (Fig. 11 and 12); beehive or bell-shaped pits were not encountered. The vertical-sided and flat-based nature of the pits described below appears

also to dominate the design of the majority of pits in the remaining phases (Table 2), especially in the area of Trench XII. The range in diameter was from 1.25 - 2m for pits of all phases, with many grouping around the mean of 1.6m. It is in the depth and complexity of infill that the greatest diversity occurs. Here the range is from 0.15 - 0.65m deep and from a single fill to layered sequences, tip lines and placed deposits.

Cylindrical pits F306, F308 and F546 were filled with horizontally-bedded clayey silts containing varying amounts of chalk and charcoal inclusions, and the top fills and edges of each were cut by gully F321. The vertical sided and flat based nature of pits F306 and F546 (0.65 and 0.55m deep respectively) demonstrate a common design and their diameters are also similar at 1.85m and 1.6m respectively; pit F308 was much shallower and only 1.4m in diameter. The largely uneroded sides of the pits suggest they were not exposed to weathering. This is particularly evident in F306 and a thin silty basal deposit in this pit containing charcoal and only moderately abraded pottery must derive from primary use. However, a homogeneous clay-rich layer which sealed the primary fill was probably redeposited chalk, and it is mirrored as the basal layer in both pits F546 and F308. The interpretation for this layer would seem to be surface chalk that has washed into the pits, and the section from F546 indeed suggests that a little erosion of the top of the feature occurred. However, this

Period	Context. No.	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Layers	Comments	Shape
	544	0.67	0.15		Uneven. IA sherds	
	541	1.44	0.32	1	Small primary deposit in corner	Cylindrical
	315/541	2.2			Layering not clear	Cylindrical
	1or 2	1.65	0.45		Cow skull on base	Irregular
Early Iron Age	314	1.64	0.15	1	50 sherds all good finish, wide mouthed bowls with necks and carinations	Cylindrical
Early Iron Age	317	1.65	0.47	3	3 level layers. Early IA in basal layer. IA/RB in upper layer	Cylindrical
Early Iron Age	319	2.25	0.36	1-2	Some pot	Cylindrical
Early Iron Age	546	1.4	0.55	3	Upper layers cut by 321. Sealed by 630. 3 level accumulation layers. Pot in all layers	Cylindrical
Early Iron Age	633	1.44	0.24	3	Level accumulation	Cylindrical
Early Iron Age	176	1.7	0.5		Have original primary chalky fills been missed?	Irregular
Early Iron Age 500-300BC	306	1.65	0.63	5	5 level accumulation layers. Pot in all layers, most in top fill, lots of rims	Cylindrical
Iron Age	312	1.61	0.26	3	3 layers level accumulation. Pot in upper two layers. Hand made, well fired	Cylindrical
Iron Age	537	1.5	0.33	3	3 layers level accumulation. Pot mostly in top layer (100 sherds), 5 sherds in basal layer	Cylindrical
Iron Age	545	1.62	0.36	1	With small primary fill 545.4 in corner? Well finished, hand made sherds	Cylindrical
Iron Age	601	1.3	0.66	2	2 level layers. 30 sherds in large basal deposit	Cylindrical
Iron Age	637	1.4	0.35	1	33 hand made sherds	Cylindrical
Iron Age	28	1.28	0.36		V-shaped	Irregular
Iron Age	194	0.73	0.46	4	U-shaped. Lots of IA sherds and posthole	Irregular
Iron Age	204	1.35	0.66	6	Level accumulation. A few IA/LIA sherds. Cut by 194	Irregular
Iron Age	527	1.72	0.25			Irregular
Iron Age	602	0.93	0.23	2	4 sherds IA?	Irregular
Iron Age	610	1.7	0.2		10 sherds	Irregular
Iron Age	627	1.64	0.5		Very unclear sides/layers. IA sherds throughout	Irregular
Iron Age	638	1.55	0.4	5	Level accumulation. Sherds in major layers. Good quality fine ware	Irregular
Iron Age	640	1.55	0.55	7	Layers mostly level. Sherds throughout	Irregular
Iron Age	644	1	0.3	1	U-shaped. 60 sherds	Irregular
Iron Age	714	1.6	0.35	1	Cut by 713. Hand made profile with cordon	Irregular
Late 1st C BC	531	1.72	0.46	1	Tipping layers. Ritual deposit in Layer 1. Pot in top 2 layers	Cylindrical
Late Iron Age 1st C AD	318	1.95	0.33	2	Looks like a recut. Well made, well finished IA sherds	Cylindrical
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	324	1.5	0.4	1		Cylindrical
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	143	1.6	0.5	3	V-shaped, or cuts into square cut	Irregular
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	309	1.55	0.22		3 IA/RB sherds	Irregular
Romano-British 2nd century	305	2.3	0.37	3	Re-cut? RB sherds. Dog-dish.	Irregular

Table 2 Dimensions and characteristics of pits

contradicts the lack of evidence for weathering in general to the pit sides and so perhaps the deposit was deliberate infill. A subsequent episode of infilling in both main pits contains charcoal and organic remains in loose clayey silts with moderately abraded pottery, some of which is burnished, with profiles attributable to the early Iron Age. Final episodes of infill in both pits are recorded as compact clayey silts with many chalk inclusions, containing a large and diverse assemblage of pottery with distinctive early Iron Age characteristics. In F306 the size of sherds and the edges of some would suggest that they were not a residual surface scatter that had found its way into the top of these features but rather the result of deliberate infill – as rubbish? The sealing layer 630 above pit F546 and gully F321 has a similar assemblage, although this is much more abraded and smaller in sherd size, while the pottery from F308 and F321 is not dissimilar in nature.

Pit F308 was cut on its southern side by another pit (F633) which was similar in design to F308, shallow and with a slightly larger diameter. Pit F633 appears to have been considerably weathered on base and edges leaving a chalky marl deposit, but two layers of silty clay with stones and relatively unabraded pottery were found in the top of the feature, some of which appears to be early Iron Age. A very shallow

gully (F307) was cut through the edge of pit F633 and filled with a compact silty clay but with few diagnostic finds, and thus might be of later origin.

Three isolated cylindrical pits (F314, F317 and F319) within Trench XII have also been assigned to this early Iron Age phase by the pottery they contained. F314 was a shallow flat-based feature 1.65m in diameter with a single silty fill containing a large assemblage of relatively unabraded pottery, which would be reasonable to interpret as an episode of deliberate backfill. F317 was a 1.65m diameter vertical-sided and flat-based pit with three episodes of infill. The basal deposit was a silty clay with a few sherds of pot, some of which could be recognised as early Iron Age (and also a single Beaker sherd), but upper fills contained some wheel-made sherds. This discrepancy might have originated from disturbance when pit F627 was cut into it, although the basal deposit secures the date of pit F317 as early Iron Age. Close to F317 was a large pit F319 2.25m in diameter and 0.4m deep. It had gently sloping sides with a flat base, and only one fill (containing an important assemblage of early Iron Age pottery (Fig. 19:6)) which could be identified with confidence.

One irregular pit which can be attributed to this phase because of the large assemblage of pot in its middle fills is F176, and this seems to have been

connected with some industrial or ritual activity involving a wooden structure, burning, and residues of concreted chalk or lime. An irregular oval shape with a series of episodes of use, and with a group of 10 stakeholes cut into the base (Figs. 15 and 17), this pit was filled by several interleaving layers (Fig. 12). The probable sequence for the pit was an original cut into natural chalk, followed by an episode of use and fill with ash-like deposit and very abraded hand-made pottery; then a reuse and possible recut, represented by a clay lining and an episode of use resulting in a layer of compact chalky crust around stakes, the holes of which were filled with an ashy deposit, the same as the fill of this episode; and finally a further remodeling or recut, again lined with clay and which became filled with grey-brown silts. In the latter a very large assemblage of abraded Iron Age pottery was found, consisting of sherds from large jars and bowls, with no evidence of late Iron Age style. Curiously, a number of other artefacts and decorated pottery which could comfortably be Anglo-Saxon were also found in this pit, in both the upper fill and also in the fill of episode 2. However, episode 2 contained a group of relatively unabraded pottery which is early Iron Age in date, and includes sherds from high quality bowls and many rims. With this assemblage a ceramic spindle whorl, pierced dog tooth and bone pin were found (Fig. 21). The enigmatic nature of these assemblages and stratigraphic relationships perhaps suggests an origin in Phase 2 and reuse in Phase 3, and the sherds might in fact be Iron Age, misidentified as Anglo-Saxon decoration (Fig. 19 and 25 and App I). Placing it in the early Iron Age would suggest that this pit, in form unlike the other pits securely dated to the early Iron Age, was placed in isolation on the brow of Edix Hill presumably because it was functionally diverse from the main group. Perhaps pit F143 should also be seen as belonging to this phase as it was close to F176 and was very similar in design and history. The chalky concretions found in both pits were thin-sectioned as they appeared to be residues from possible industrial use, but the results showed them to be Totternhoe stone or clunch and would not have been a suitable material for lime burning; (see below, **Environment**).

The Middle Iron Age (Phase 3) (Figs. 7 and 10)

Major linear features: Ditches A–E

A series of boundaries, demarcated by ditches (sometimes intermittent) and fence or palisade lines, were found to follow a co-axial arrangement north-west–southeast and northeast–southwest. The earliest evidence for the creation of these boundaries lies in Phase 3 (middle Iron Age) for Ditches A and E, (see Table 1) but this does not preclude the possibility of an undetected origin in the early Iron Age. The boundaries continued in use throughout phases 3 and 4 and were reinstated in the Roman period.

A1 The first cut formed a steep-sided flat-bottomed ditch 0.5m deep into the chalk which was infilled with a deposit of silty clay containing no pottery.

A2 A second cut of a very similar nature to the first was made through the northwestern and northeastern edge of the partially infilled primary ditch, again steep-sided and flat-bottomed and of the same general depth. A similar deposit of silty clay was found in this later ditch with some sherds of Iron Age pot; these were mostly hand-made but with one small wheel-made sherd suggesting a late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD date.

The nature of the pottery from A2 has therefore placed the earliest two episodes of Ditch A in Phase 3, with the single wheel-made sherd regarded as intrusive

E1 Two U-shaped cuts (F621 and F622) up to 0.8m deep into chalk natural represented the first phase of ditch construction at the northwestern end of this boundary. These ditches were filled with dark brown silty clay and contained abraded Iron Age pot. To the southeast of the site in Trench XIV ditch F409 might represent a continuation of the line of this boundary.

E2 The first ditch was replaced by a flat-based feature (F704) over 2m in width which cut the earlier ditch fill. Two layers of accumulation deposits were found containing moderately abraded Iron Age pottery, with a single wheel-made sherd.

E3 On the northern edge of the second ditch a 0.2m wide cut (F708) was made into fills from both E1 and E2 and postholes (F709) were found in the base of this slot, suggesting a fence or palisade was constructed along an existing boundary

ditch F409 was a V-shaped ditch 1.75m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 14) found in Trench XIV, running northwest–southeast parallel to the eastern extension of Ditch A. Several episodes of infill and one possible recut were visible in the section, and the ditch contained coarse Iron Age pottery. This ditch might be an early continuation of the boundary described in Ditch E1, and would therefore equate with F621 and F622, while later phases of Ditch E perhaps migrated slightly to the west in this area (see ditch E5).

ditch F619/F623 (largely unexcavated) was found in Trench XV and appears to have been cut by Ditch E. A small amount of abraded coarse Iron Age pottery was apparent, and a decorated strip of silver was found in the top fill of F623 (Fig. 21:7).

Pits

The majority of pits have been assigned to this phase as they either contained no artefactual finds, there was no stratigraphic linkage with other dated features, or the pottery that was found in them was diagnostic as Iron Age but not distinct as either early or late types. Cylindrical pits filled with mostly just one deposit of grey brown silty clays were F541, F545, F601, and F637. Any pottery found in them was small and worn, probably residual material. More complex histories of infill were found in cylindrical pits F312, F315, F531 and F631 (Fig. 11). The first two were composed of 2 or 3 horizontal layers of silty clay with relatively large and moderately abraded pottery including flint tempering, mostly hand-made although some wheel-made was found in the upper layers, and the fills of F315 had been disturbed by the cutting of pit F541. F631, however, was exceptional in having a series of horizontal layers, a large collection of pottery, including one decorated sherd in the basal

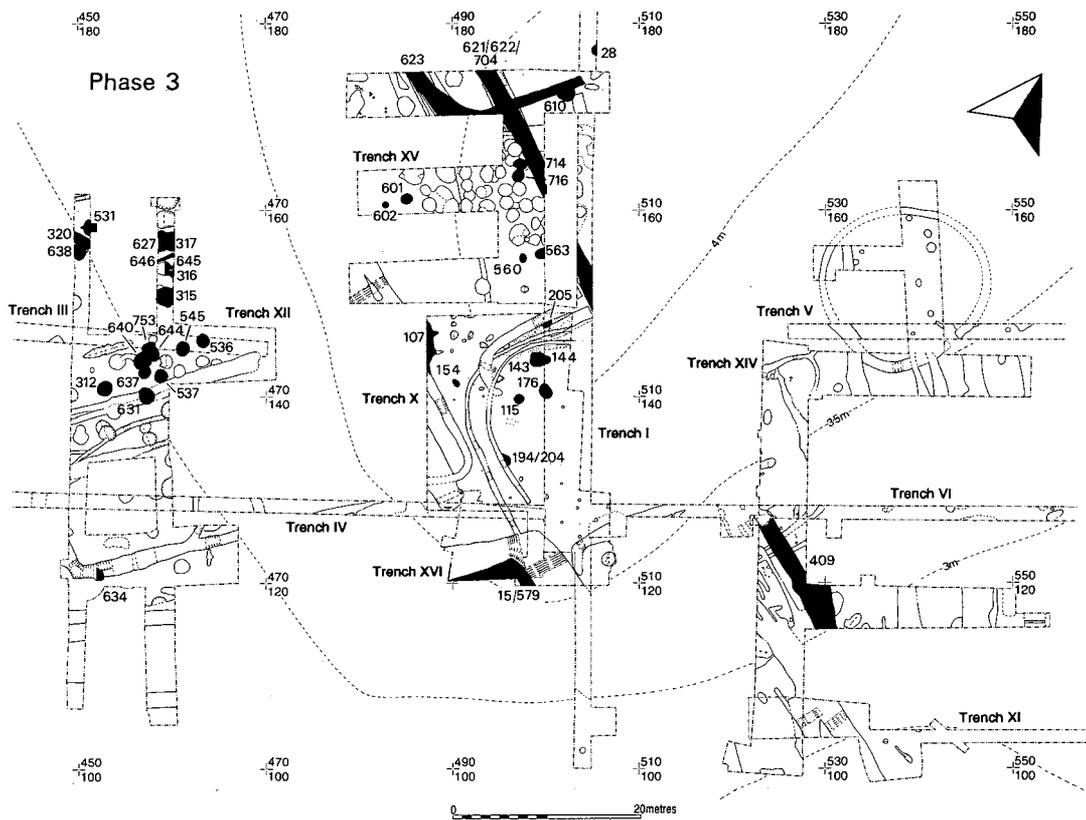


Figure 7. (Middle) Iron Age (Phase 3)

fill (Appendix I).

Sub-rounded and irregular pits assigned to Phase 3 are: F1, F28, F143, F144, F154, F176, F194/204, F205, F536, F602, F610, F627, F634, F638, F640, F645, F714, F716, F753. In design these pits were mostly roughly circular or ovoid features with sloping sides and scooped or roughly levelled bases ranging from 0.3 - 0.7m deep into the natural chalk, and from 1m - 1.7m on their longest axis (Fig. 12). The variety in size and shape suggests mixed functions. Some of the smaller ones might have acted as postholes, and others may have been poorly-executed cylindrical pits; but there is no doubt that amongst this group are several pits distinctly different in design from the normal cylindrical type, and associated patterns of infill and evidence of use would substantiate an interpretation of different function; this is especially true of F143 (which cut an earlier pit F144) and F176 discussed above. With the exception of these latter, together with pit F194/204 and the pit complex F637/640, indistinctive pottery was found in small quantities in a few of the pits in this group, and fills were largely homogeneous silty clays. Pit F154, cut by an Anglo-Saxon grave, also contained an exceptional assemblage of pottery (see App. I) with some abraded sherds but also a group of large decorated sherds from a single vessel; probably a deliberate deposit.

Pit F143 was an irregular feature 0.7m deep with 3 infill episodes and 13 stakeholes cut into the western part of its base, with a further 6 in the south (Fig. 17).

The two lower fills consisted of compacted silts and clays, but the upper fill was very ash-like in nature, containing burnt stones and hand-made pottery, and may be the result of a cut into the earlier fills and reuse of the pit for burning. It is worth noting that the pot sherds from the west side appear less abraded than those from the east side which must relate to the activity connected with the stakeholes.

Pit F176 was similar to F143 and situated 3m south of it. The final phase of its use could be attributed to Phase 3 as none of the pottery shows affinities to late Iron Age, but similarly this group does not appear wholly early Iron Age. Indeed there is some indication of middle Iron Age forms as recorded at Barley (Cra'ster 1961).

Stratigraphic relationships within Phase 3 can be seen with two main groups:

- i) Pit F204 which was filled by a series of horizontal layers largely devoid of pottery, and later recut as Pit F194 (Fig. 12). This feature was contained within the earlier pit and did not go as deep, and was similarly filled with horizontal layers with some inclusions of abraded Iron Age pot, with the largest sherds found sealed by the uppermost deposit. These layers were cut by insertion of a post, and later recut as a shallow steep sided pit containing a relatively large assemblage of pottery. Finally the fill of this last pit was cut by gully F7/114, which has been assigned to the Roman period, Phase 5.
- ii) Pit complex (features F637, F639, F640, F644, F753) which shows that F639, containing well worn Iron Age

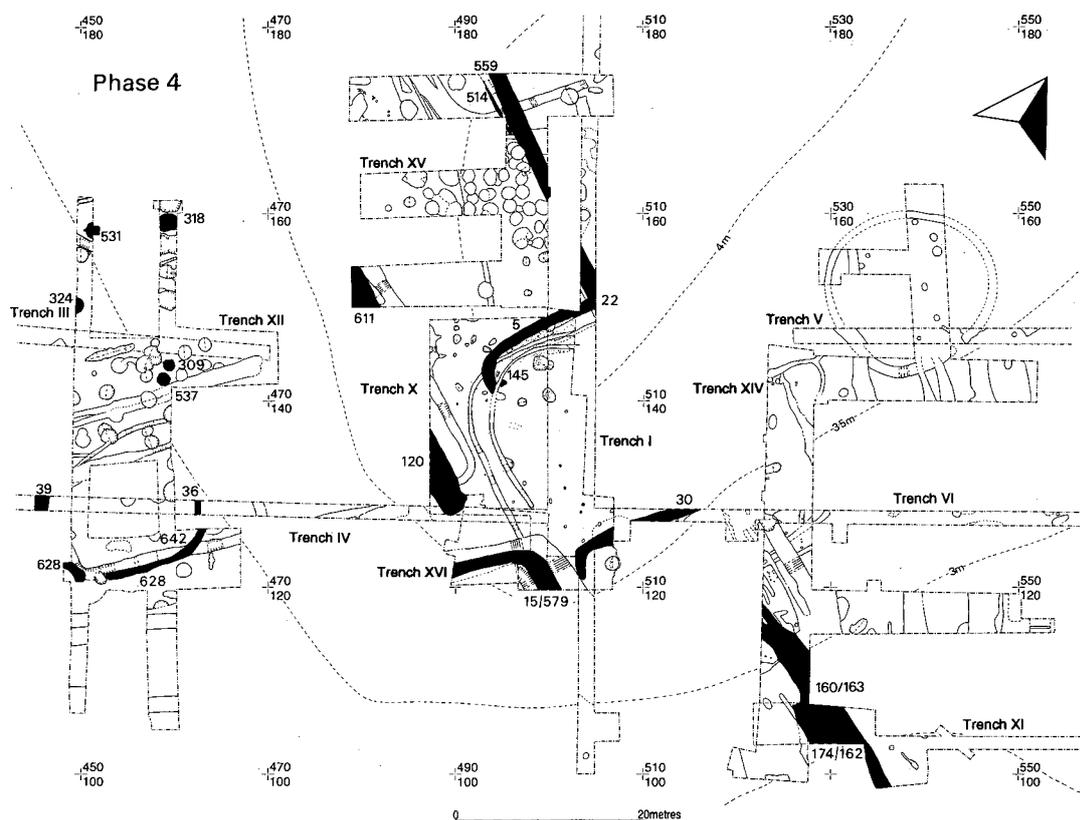


Figure 8. Late Iron Age/Belgic/Roman Conquest (Phase 4)

pottery, was the first pit, which was cut by F640, possibly with a posthole in the base. This pit (F640) was, cut to 0.55m deep, steep sided and roughly flat based, and filled by a series of silty clay deposits which appear to have washed in from the sides. A sizeable assemblage of pottery was found in the upper layers which consisted of substantial but well abraded sherds from probable storage jars. Two shallower flat-based pits were cut through the filled-in earlier pit on the north and south sides. They each contained a single homogeneous fill, and that in F637 included a further group of hand-made Iron Age pot sherds including three rims, a lug and decorated sherd.

The Late Iron Age/Conquest phase (Phase 4)(Figs. 8–12)

Ditch A

This (F15 and F579) appears to have been one of the major features of the site during the late Iron Age, perhaps a boundary which ran in a northeasterly direction from the southwest corner of the excavations (Trench XII) and then southeasterly on the brow of Edix Hill (Trenches I and XVI). The ditch developed over at least 100 years (see Phase 3) into 6 successive cuts with subsequent episodes of infill (Fig. 9).

A3 Cut 3 was a wide flat-based feature, originally steep sided, which destroyed much of the second ditch. During construction of this later ditch it appears that excavated chalk was thrown up to deliberately backfill the top of ditch A1, and a largely complete late Iron Age-type vessel was found in this layer (Fig. 19:25). Thick de-

posits of silty clay with chalk lumps accumulated in this third ditch and the sides were found to be gently sloping at the top suggestive of erosion; it is therefore likely that this ditch remained open for a substantial period. Worn and small sherds of pottery consistent with weathering and dating to the early 1st century AD and Conquest period were found together with animal bone in the deposit. The association this episode has with the late Iron Age vessel, and its stratigraphic position between Phases 3 and 5, firmly places A3 in Phase 4.

Ditch C

This shallow curvilinear feature (F628 and F642) in Trench XII ran eastwards for a short distance parallel to the southwestern side of Ditch A, before turning to the north as F642, and perhaps F36 in Trench IV. Its western origin was an infilled pit (F634), but to the northwest of this the rounded terminal of a ditch heading northwestwards was found which could represent a third side to a small enclosure c. 15m wide, with a 3m wide causeway as entrance facing southwest.

Ditch C was an 0.8m wide steep-sided flat-based gully excavated 0.2m into the chalk which contained grey clayey silt infill with chalk lumps, flint, charcoal, animal bone and 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery (Fig. 10). Some sherds of late Iron Age and Roman pottery occur from the top of the feature, F628.1 (F304), but the close association and cut of the Roman period Ditch B could have introduced later sherds to this deposit. Because of the apparent replacement of this

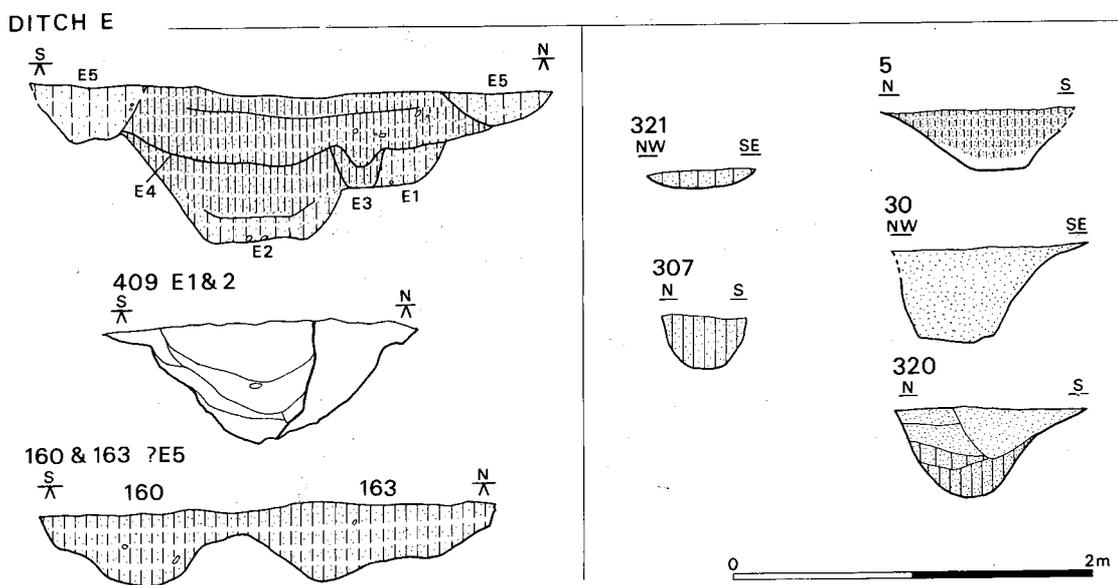
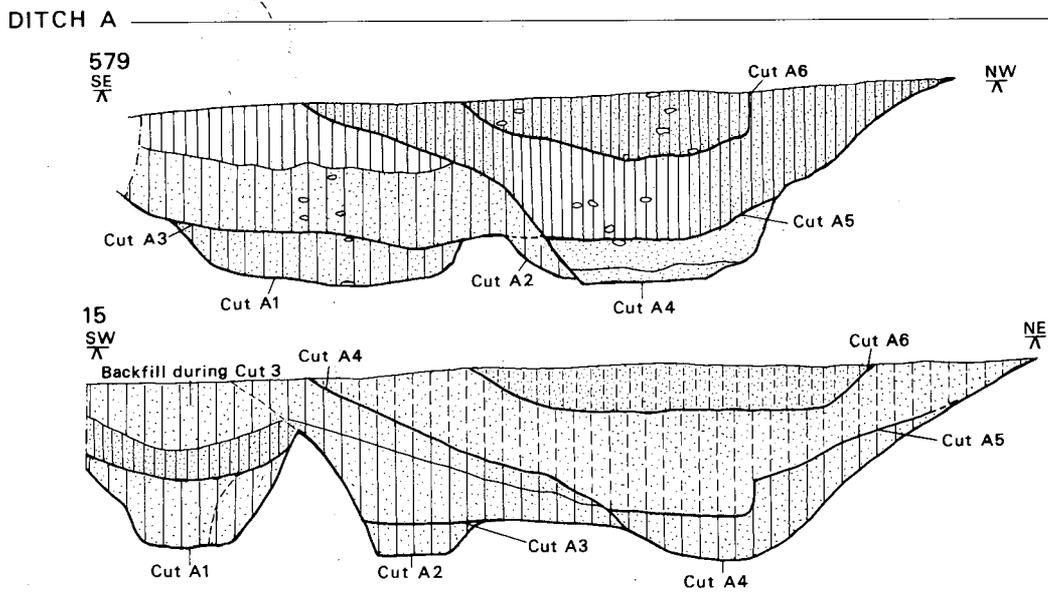
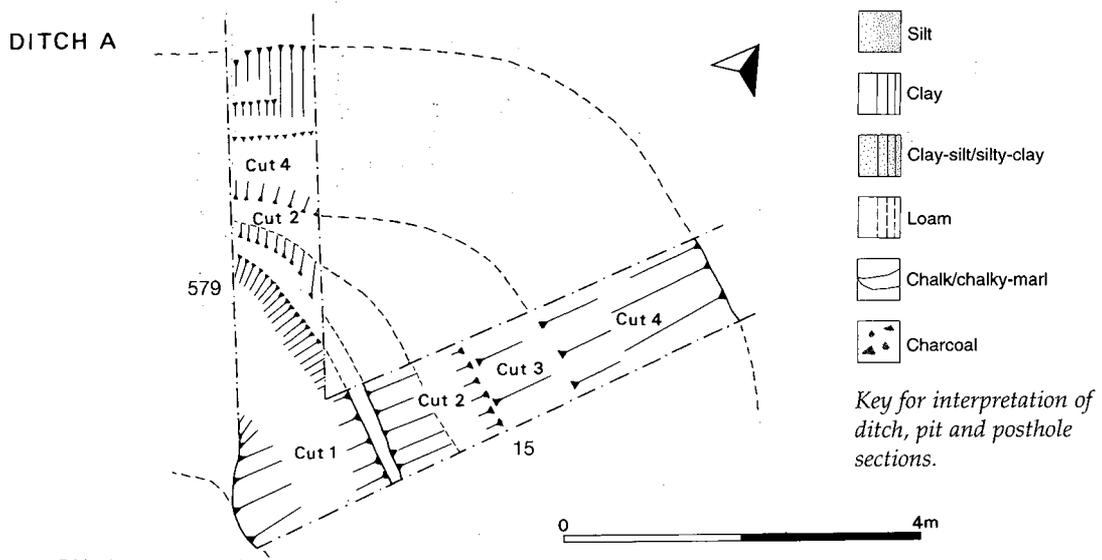


Figure 9. Sections through Ditches A and E and minor Iron Age ditches. Note: the plan of Ditch A is at half the scale of Sections.

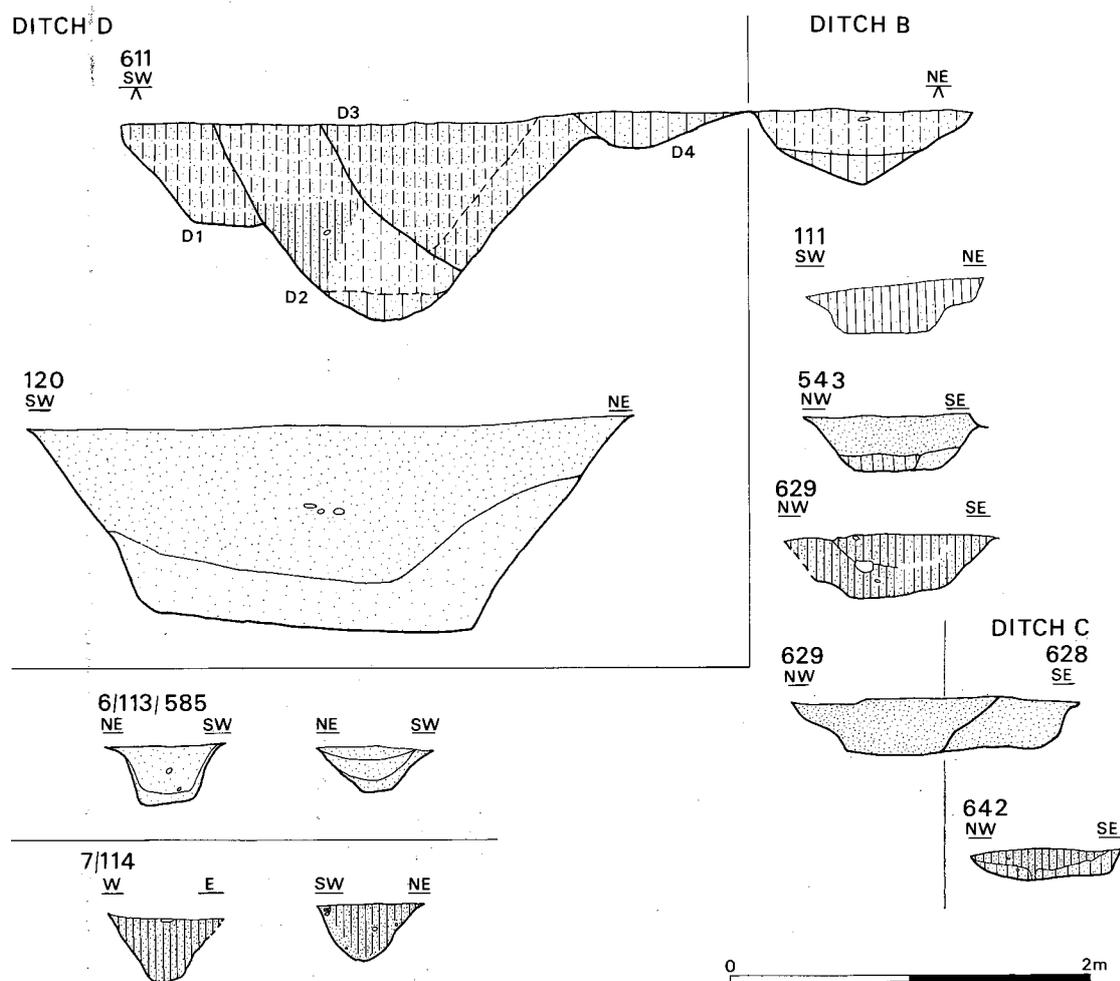


Figure 10. Sections through Ditches D, B and C and Romano-British gullies

ditch with Ditch C, and therefore continuity in function, it has been attributed to Phase 4 although it could have been of earlier date.

Ditch D

This substantial ditch ran in a northwesterly direction from its terminal close to the corner of Ditch A on the brow of Edix Hill (Trenches X and XV). The rounded end left a 4m wide causeway as a gap between Ditch A and itself, allowing access through these major boundaries (Fig. 8).

At its southern end it was a 3m wide steep-sided flat-based feature (F120) which was 1.1m deep. Further north the ditch was seen as a single feature, 5m wide (F611), but on excavation this resolved into several cuts, and the easternmost part was seen as a separate feature and equated with Ditch B (Fig. 10). A U-shaped feature (D2) was of similar depth to, but less wide than (F120), which was seen to cut an earlier flat-based feature (D1), and in turn appears to have been recut by a V-shaped ditch (D3) through the fills of D2. Finally a small gully was cut through the eastern side of this ditch (D4). The basal fill at its southeastern terminal and in D2 was a chalky deposit

above which a homogeneous silty clay was found to fill the feature (D1 and D3). The chalky material was found to mound upon the east side of the ditch (F120) perhaps indicating slippage from a bank on this side. All deposits contained late Iron Age and Conquest-period pottery, local and imported wares, as well as animal bone and some stones, with the largest sherds and greatest number occurring in the upper levels. The whole of Ditch D therefore fits in to Phase 4.

Ditch E

Another long-standing northwest-southeast boundary (which began in Phase 3, see Table 1), is parallel to both Ditch D and the eastern extension of Ditch A, appears to have been maintained along the line of Ditch E, with 5 successive ditch cuts at its western end (Trench XV) (Fig. 9). It appears that the ditches might have been discontinuous, and that a fence line was also utilised for at least one episode in the life of this boundary. The first three episodes have been assigned to Phase 3 from pottery and stratigraphic evidence.

E4 A wide gently sloping recut (F559) followed by two episodes of infill of dark brown silty clay saw the final phase of the main ditch and the penultimate for the

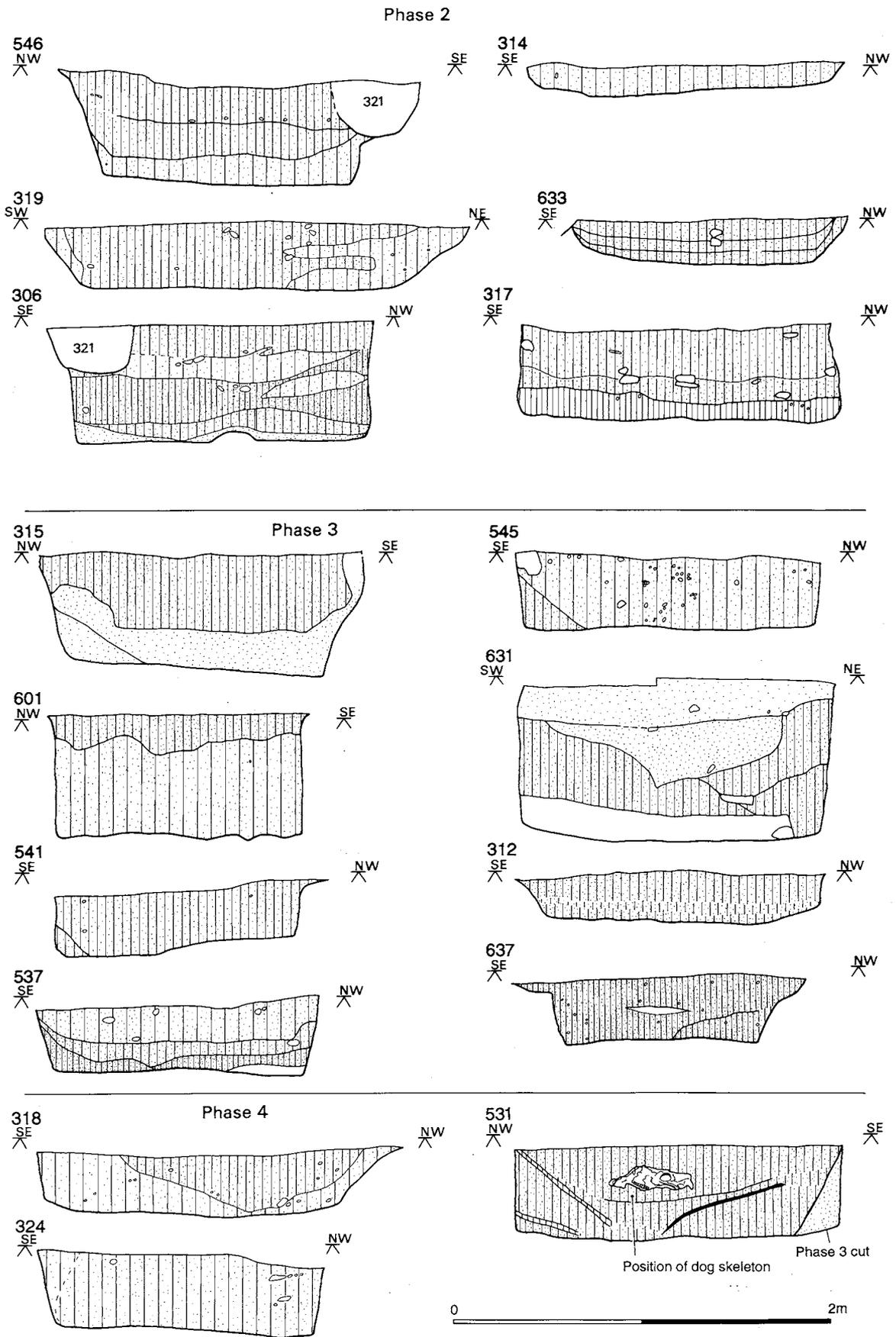


Figure 11. Pit sections: cylindrical by phase

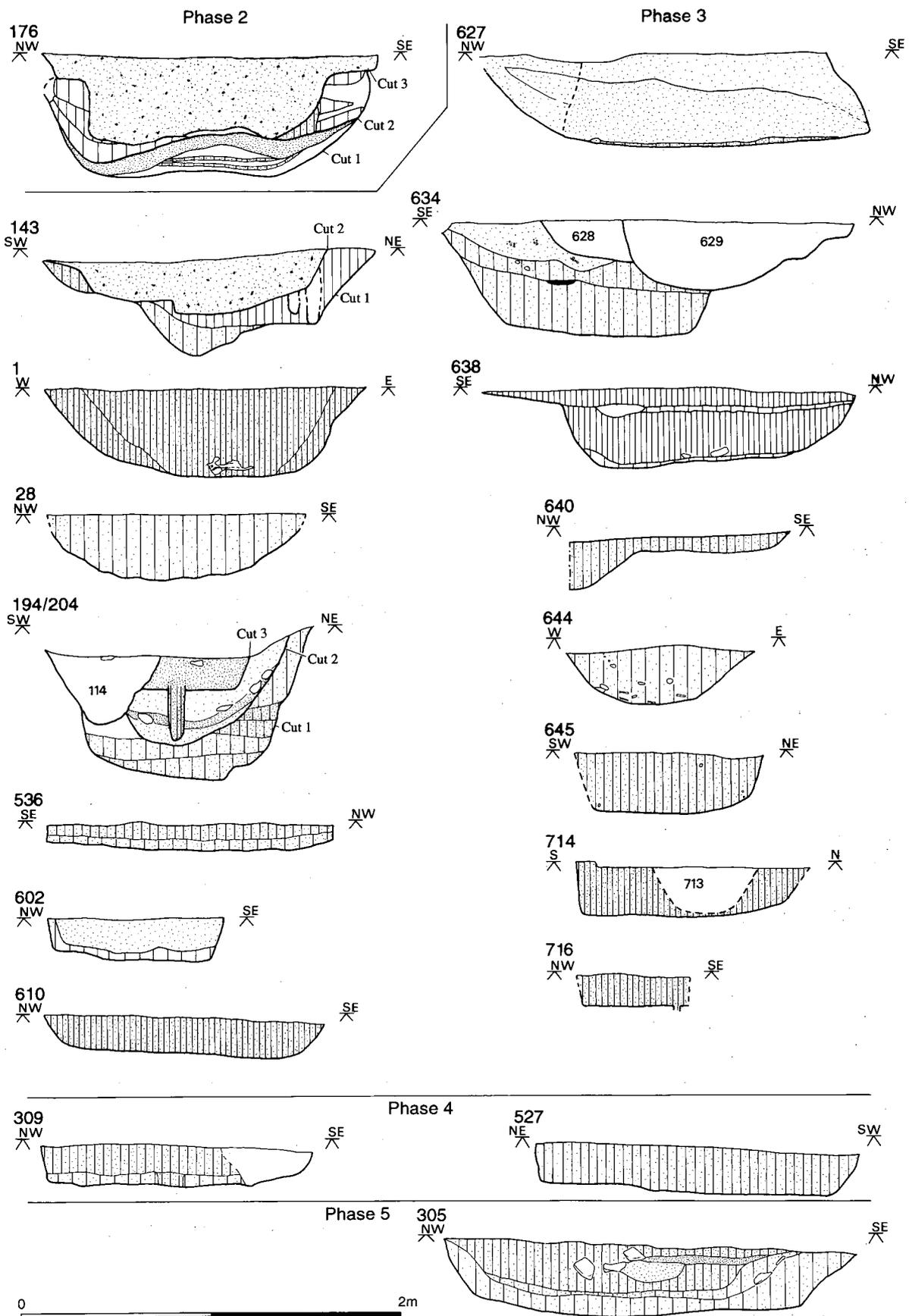


Figure 12. Pit sections: irregular by phase

boundary. Early Roman pottery and a relatively large assemblage of very worn 1st century BC sherds suggest that these episodes date to Conquest and later times, and therefore the cut and initial use has been placed in Phase 4.

- E5 Two shallow gullies of 0.7m width were cut through the top fill of Ditch E, one on each side of the main ditch and partly into the chalk natural at the edge. F620 was U-shaped but F514 was steep sided and relatively flat-based, suggesting a possible function as a trench for a fence line or palisade. It is this final phase for the boundary that can be detected occurring in the southeastern part of the site in Trench XIV as shallow parallel ditches F160 and F163, and/or F162 and F174, thus showing migration westwards from phase E1 in this area. All were filled with grey silty clay deposits. A sherd of wheel-made pot was found in F620, whilst late Iron Age pottery of probable 1st century AD date was found in F160, F163, and in the top of F22. From F162 the jaw of a pony was found with an abnormal tooth wear pattern (see below, Faunal Remains).

Ditch F5 extended perpendicular from Ditch E to the southwest with a southeast-turning terminal in the central area of Trench X on the top of Edix Hill. It had a distinct V-shaped profile 0.35m deep into chalk natural, 1.15m wide at the top and contained late Iron Age and Conquest pottery in a matrix of silty clay (Fig. 9). Ditch F30 appears to mirror the pattern of ditch F5 and is situated 25m to the east and was a V-shaped ditch 1.4m wide at the top and 0.5m deep. (Fig. 9). It also intersected with the line of Ditch E in Trench VI and its southern terminal turns to the east in the same way as ditch F5. This terminal came very close to the southeastern extension of Ditch A. A bronze decorated attachment was found in the sandy silt fill of this feature (Fig. 21:6). The similarity in size and design of these two ditches suggests they were constructed at the same time for a common purpose and a line of postholes runs between them (see below, Post and Stakeholes). Ditch F320 (Fig. 9) was also very similar, and perhaps therefore should also be considered as potentially a Phase 4 feature.

Pits

Cylindrical pits F318, F324, later infills of F531 and F537, irregular pit 309.

Both F318 and F531 show signs of having been recut and refilled in the late Iron Age or Roman period as the descriptions of the primary fills are different from the later ones and the angle of deposition could indicate that the earlier fill had been dug into before the later deposits were dumped. Pits F318 and F324 had abraded 1st century BC/AD pottery as well as fragments of amphora, flagon and wheel-made sherds from F318, while pot from F531 was 1st century BC. Pit F537 had three horizontally-lying deposits with a large assemblage of pot in the uppermost fill which included sherds from both hand-made and wheel-made vessels, some of which were relatively large and unabraded. Irregular pit F309 appears to have started life as a shallow cylindrical pit but had been damaged by ploughing, and possibly contained a central post.

Ritual Pit?

Pit F531, originally dug in the middle Iron Age and filled with silty marl, was recut in Phase 4 and filled with a series of silty tipped deposits, in the centre of which a dog skeleton and a cattle skull were found (Fig. 13) although not many sherds of pot.



Figure 13. Pit F531 with cow skull and dog bones

Roman (Phase 5)(Figs. 9, 10, 14)

- A4 The fourth cut continued the shift of Ditch A to the northwards with a large gently sloping flat-based feature which cut into the infill of A3 and removed the northern side of the earlier ditch. It was filled by two layers, a basal clayey deposit with a slightly siltier layer above. Very few finds were contained in these deposits though some sand and stones were noted, which may indicate relatively rapid infill from erosion of the ditch sides and washed in deposits from the surrounding area.
- A5 The top of the last infill deposit in Ditch A4 was found to be largely level across the base and is interpreted as indicating a recut of the ditch, an activity which perhaps also contributed to the gentle angle of the sides of this ditch. A thick silty deposit accumulated which contained relatively unabraded Roman pottery, some of possible 2nd century date, mixed with late Iron Age sherds, animal bone and large stones, some with signs of burning. The overall impression of the assemblage is that it belongs to the late 1st century AD.
- A6 A final recut was made into the top of Ditch A4/A5 forming a shallow flat-based feature with steeper side to the north. This was filled by silt much darker than all preceding deposits, and it contained abraded and unabraded pottery of 1st-2nd century date, animal bone, burnt stone and some sherds of Anglo-Saxon pot. The infill of this final phase of ditch is interpreted as occurring through natural accumulation incorporating residual artefacts scattered around the vicinity.

Cuts A4–A6 with their episodes of use and infill are all placed in the Roman period, with the final infilling incorporating some later material, probably as a result of slumping into hollows at the top of the features.

Ditch B

This late feature (F304, F629, F543, F111, F611.1) ran parallel to the north of Ditch A, and turns away to the northwest (in Trench X) in the same area as Ditch A turns to the southeast (Fig. 14). The two ditches

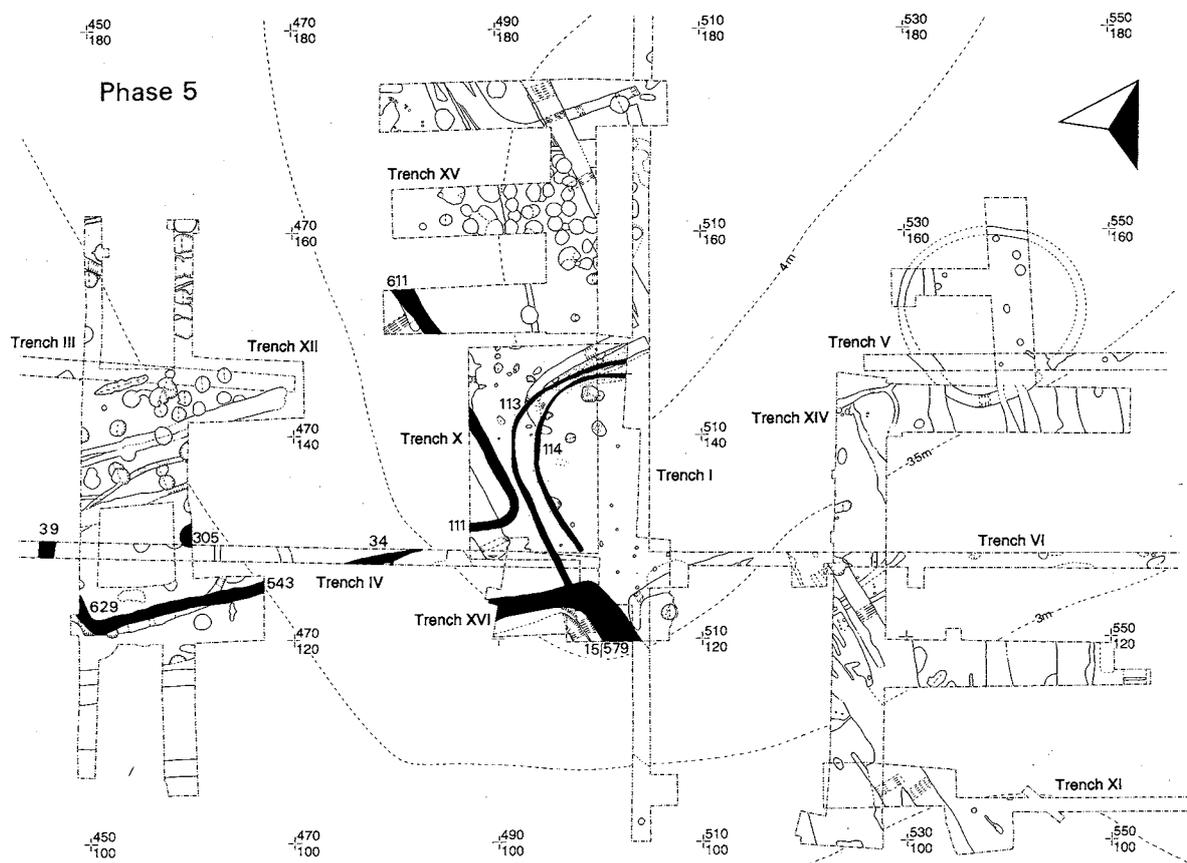


Figure 14. Romano-British (Phase 5)

appear to create a corridor or droveway between them during the Roman period. At its northern end it cut across the top of Ditch D and at its southwestern end Ditch B cuts and crosses over Ditch C before terminating a little beyond the terminal of this earlier ditch (Trench XII). A further ditch runs northwestwards at right angles to Ditch B's western terminal, and may represent a continuation of this feature to the northwest, perhaps through F39 in Trench IV, and thus making Ditch B three sides of an enclosure at least 40m wide. The 1m wide ditch had an uneven base and sloping sides cut to a depth of 0.35m into the chalk (Fig. 10). The two layers that filled Ditch B were very similar in appearance consisting of a dark silty deposit, but whereas the underlying deposit had few finds the relative abundance of pottery and animal bone in the top layer, F629.1, and 304 was quite distinctive. This pottery was a mixture of abraded Iron Age sherds with Roman wares, and is therefore placed in Phase 5.

Gullies F6/113/585 and F7/114 (Fig. 10)

Two parallel gullies run through the central area of Edix Hill in Trench X and follow the pattern previously outlined for ditches F5 and F30, as they run southwest from Ditch E and then turn to the southeast, meeting with Ditch A. The profiles of these features show steep-sided flat-based gullies 0.25–0.4m in width and up to 0.6m deep; the fills contained very

worn Iron Age pot consistent with residual material, and they cut ditch 5 and the stakeholes that post date this ditch (see below, Post and Stakeholes); the gullies are therefore phased with the Roman period. The well-preserved profile of their cuts suggest these features were not open and exposed to erosion and thus their function could have been that of trenches for a fence or palisade. Another gully (F548) containing some sherds of 2nd century pot cuts across the top of Ditch B.

Pit F305 (Fig. 12)

Contained Roman pottery, with a 2nd century 'dog dish', a fragment of samian, tile and Niedermendig lava quern fragments. It had gently sloping sides with a flat/slightly concave base at 0.4m depth, and had a diameter of 2.3m. The lava quern and tile fragments were found in a thin horizontal layer of ash near the top of the feature, and it is possible that the upper layers represent the fills of a recut into the basal deposit of F305.

Undated features

Ditch F320 and gullies F316 and F646 from Trench XII are assigned a general Iron Age date on the nondescript nature of their coarse pottery. Ditch F320 was a 0.5m deep V-shaped ditch, 1.4m wide at the top, (Fig. 9) with several infill episodes and a possible recut at the top; it cut the northern edge of pit F638.

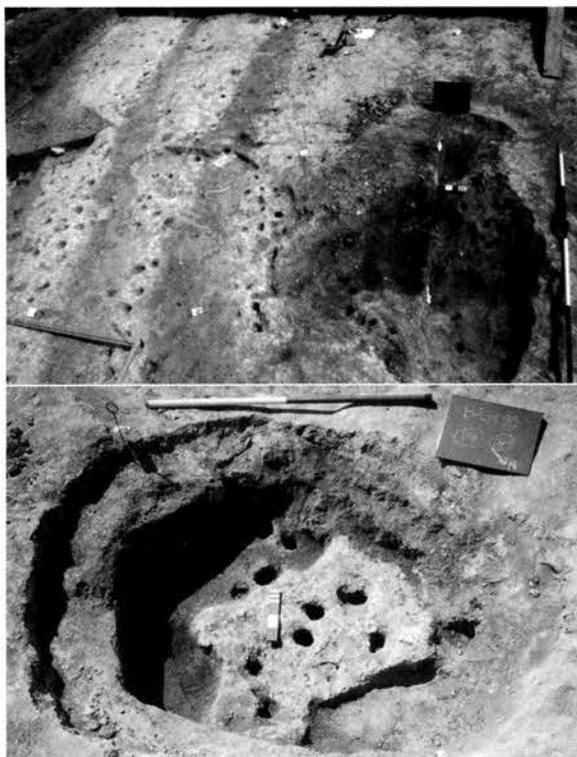


Figure 15. Stakeholes and gullies
Top: Lines of stakeholes beside Romano-British gullies and stakeholes within pit F143.
Below: Stakeholes forming a structure with a chalky marl crust around those in pit F176.

Post and stakeholes (Figs. 5, 15, 16 and 17)

There were approximately 60 postholes or small pits identified at Edix Hill, of which 10 have been interpreted as marker posts for the positions of Anglo-Saxon graves and therefore are not included further as part of this report. The few remaining postholes that were investigated were vertical and not very deep (c. 0.4m), but often the post-pipe was clearly visible; these varied in diameter from 0.25 - 0.4m with chalk and stone packing around them (Fig. 16). Several postholes appear to be evenly spaced along approximate lines and thus could represent fence lines, but otherwise there is very little evidence to deduce structures from the information as yet available. Some of these fenced boundaries have already been discussed above under Ditch E.

One possible line of small pits and postholes runs from the area of pit/hearth F145 and the terminal of ditch 5 towards ditch F30 (see Figs. 5, 8, F115, F123, F208, F141, F140 and two unnumbered postholes). If a fence line had run between these posts it would have joined these two extremely similar ditches (assigned to the late Iron Age), and have controlled access between them. The later double gullies of F6/113/585 and F7/114 have an alignment that runs parallel to the arrangement of postholes and possible fence postulated above, and their interpretation as foundation trenches for palisades suggests they performed a similar function, the continuation of which from Iron Age

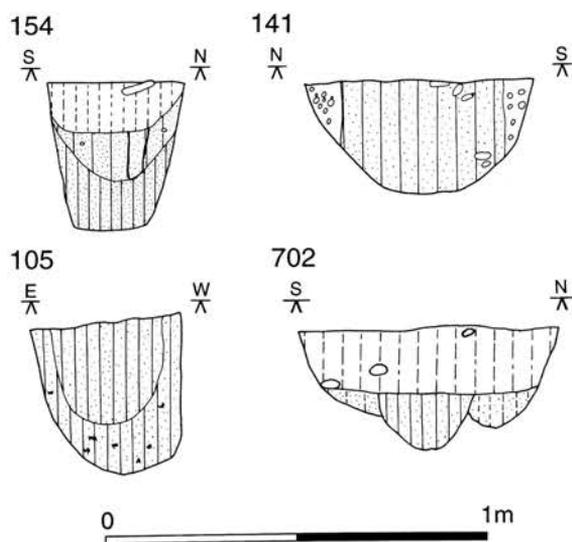


Figure 16. Representative selection of sections through postholes

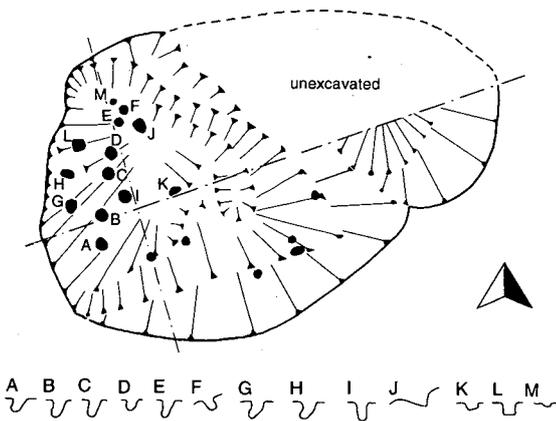
to Roman times would suggest little interruption to the life and activities at Edix Hill during the period of transition.

A line of small pits (F154, F109, F152, F106, and F105, Fig. 5) might indicate another fence running south-north from the point where Roman Ditch B (F111) and gully F6/113 curve away from one another. To the north in Trench XV small pits F702, F560 and postholes F613, F697 seem to run parallel to this line some 4m to the east, while a group of other postholes were found in a line running east from F152 towards ditch 5. It is possible that this arrangement might be associated with some structure in this area. However, the pottery from F154 is unusual in that a number of sherds from a single decorated pot occurred here, amongst an assemblage of very abraded body sherds (App. I and Fig. 25).

Stakeholes were found cut into other features, perhaps as fence lines within Ditch E (F709) for example, or for structural purposes within pits F143 and F176. A whole mass of stakeholes was found around gullies F6/113 and F7/114, and cutting ditch 5, suggesting that some of these should be phased later than this ditch, and perhaps formed a whole series of light-weight fences in this area, or were for some unroofed structures such as drying racks (Fig. 15).

Within pits F143 and F176 stakeholes occur which, if all are considered contemporary, show reuse of the pits for some industrial, or possibly ritual, activity (Figs. 15 and 17). Within F143 three pairs of postholes form a line (F179:A-F), with three single postholes set back from them (G,H,L) against the western edge of the pit. There were two stakeholes (I, J) towards the pit's centre, and a single one (K) further out, but on a line with G and I. A small irregular hole (M) might represent the base of another stake. All have circular profiles except L which is square, and most tilt towards the east. However the northern ones (F and J)

Pit 143 and Stakeholes 179



Pit 176 and Stakeholes 180

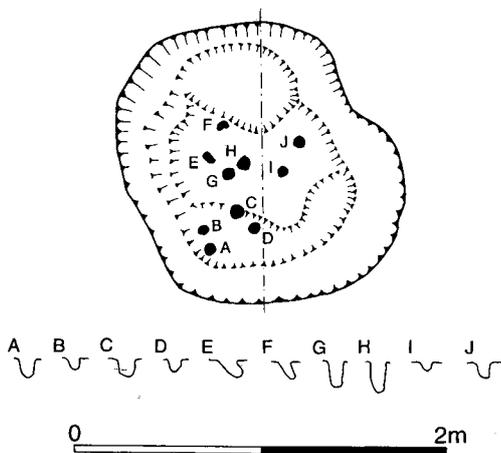


Figure 17. Pits F143 and F176 with stakehole structures F179 and F180, and stakehole profiles

tilt to the south, perhaps countering the effect of the others. The interpretation for this arrangement would seem to imply some sort of structure, perhaps a rack, along the line of A-F and supported by the outer stakes. Another group of stakeholes were found in the southern segment which were presumably also associated with this structure, and most of these tilt towards the north, supporting the structure as with F and J.

There were 10 stakeholes in pit F176, two pairs against the southern edge (F180: A-D), and the rest in the centre of the pit. All were circular and vertical except for E and F which were angled in towards G and H, presumably to act as support to whatever structure these stakes formed.

A group of 6 stakeholes (F185), each 0.06m diameter and 0.16m deep, in two parallel rows of 3, might represent a structure 1m long by 0.5m wide, situated within the enclosure formed by gully F7/114. However, the size of this is not consistent with 6-post granaries for example, found at other sites.

Grave and other features

An extended inhumation of a 25-35 year old woman

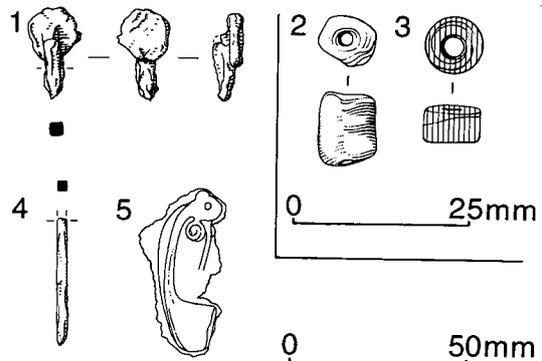
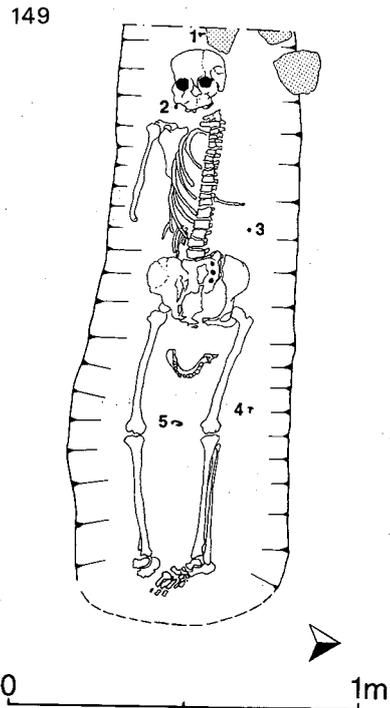


Figure 18. Late Iron Age Burial with small finds found in Ditch B (F111) where it crossed Ditch D

was found in the fills of the Roman Ditch B (F111) (Fig. 18 and see below, **Human Remains**). Stones had been placed around the head and the jaw was found between the legs. This showed no signs of having been cut or broken and thus must have been removed from the skull after decomposition. Two possibly intrusive beads were of Anglo-Saxon type, but a well-worn Colchester type iron brooch, attributable to the first part of the 1st century AD, was found with the burial, and part of another one was found in the fill of Ditch D in the immediate vicinity of the grave (Fig. 21:5 and 4). The position of the skeleton, lying exactly within the confines of the narrow ditch and partly overlain by an Anglo-Saxon burial, together with the ambiguous nature of the grave-goods, suggest this burial belongs to the 1st century AD. Subsequent examination of the foot-bones by Phyllis Jackson (pers. comm.) confirms this individual is likely to be Iron Age rather than Anglo-Saxon in race.

A group of burnt stones set in a shallow depression F145 may reveal the remains of a small pit but more likely represents the position of a hearth. Close to this feature was pit F201, which was an irregular depression with much charcoal included in its fill.

Summary of main Features and Stratigraphy

Sections through ditches have provided the best data with which to enable stratigraphic sequences to be constructed. Although the original work on site treated most features and excavated sections as discrete entities, later analysis and the results from geophysical survey have helped to link major ditches between trenches and thus enable a crude picture of the stratigraphic development of the site to be constructed. For example F304 turned into two features, subsequently called Ditches B and C. The major elements of this sequence are shown as Ditches A–E in Fig. 5 and in Table 1; around this framework the more isolated sequences of the pit complexes and other individual features have been slotted in by means of stratigraphy, spatial relationships, morphological characteristics and the associated ceramic assemblage found in the fills of these features. During the Iron Age Edix Hill could therefore have acted as a focus for activity over several hundred years, and did not become redundant again until the 2nd century AD. However, phases of disuse can be difficult to identify and it is likely that the site saw periods of reuse than real continuity. The type of activity revealed by the features suggest changing functions for the site over the years. In simple terms it appears that the majority of the pits were of early origin, with a distinct group definitely early or middle Iron Age and most of the remainder containing little evidence for late Iron Age or Roman manufacture and use. In contrast the majority of the ditches are late Iron Age with Roman recuts. This chronological progression is most clearly represented in Table 1. Such dichotomy in feature type between the two phases would be unremarkable in the context of the known shift from unenclosed to enclosed settlement during this period. However, the interpretation at Edix Hill is more complex than this.

Characterisation of Edix Hill by feature type divides simply into pitting and a variety of linear arrangements. The orientation of the site as defined by the linear features shows that northwest–southeast and southwest–northeast were the principal axes, a system which appears to have been respected and renewed over generations during the late Iron Age and Roman transition period. These boundaries included ditches, gullies and lines of post and stakeholes.

Stratigraphic linkage between different areas was provided by the major ditches which revealed the successive nature of their construction as a series of cuts, with each new episode of construction and use having an impact on preceding ones. It would also appear that although some of the pits were isolated phenomena with single fills, many others had complex histories with reuse or intercutting, (Table 2). This suggests that specific locations had been set

aside for pitting and their related activities, which resulted in re-visits over a long span of time, sometimes reusing the same pit, sometimes cutting a new pit partly over the location of an earlier one, and sometimes placing the new pits in the spaces between old ones.

The distribution of phased features shows a progression over the site from northwest–southeast. In the early Iron Age, pits and gullies were dug in the western (Trench XII) area, and a proliferation of pits in this area and to the northeast on the brow of Edix Hill have largely been assigned either a general or a middle Iron Age date on pottery evidence (Phase 3) but in character many are identical in design and size to the early Iron Age features. The beginnings of some of the main boundaries have been placed in Phase 3 because of the scarcity, or undiagnostic nature, of artefactual evidence in them and yet they have later cuts which can be given late Iron Age and Roman dates with reasonable confidence. During the late Iron Age the ditches and stakehole related activities appear to predominate, with some reuse of pits, and the pattern of activity would seem to concentrate on the central part of the site on the southern brow of Edix Hill. Early Roman period activity was apparent as final episodes in some of the main ditched features and also included palisade trenches. The minimal amount of information from the east of the site (Trench XIV) nonetheless demonstrates that pitting was not an important element in this area. Activities associated with burning appear to occur a number of times in both pits and ditches, especially with the later infill episodes.

Pottery (Figs. 19 and 25, and App. I)

Morag Woudhuysen

Introduction and chronology

The total assemblage of Iron Age pottery from Edix Hill consists of 6396 sherds weighing 80362 gm. The material came from a range of features across the site, with a concentration to the westward side. The majority of these features were pits which had no stratigraphic overlap with other features. Most of the material is moderately worn or well abraded, particularly in the first two phases of the site sequence. The comparative quantities (from key contexts only), are:

Phase	sherd count	weight(gms)	Average sherd weight ratio (gms)
EIA	991	9160	9.24
MIA	1266	11825	9.34
LIA	1131	11964	10.58
RB	622	6405	10.29

A comparison between the condition and type of ceramic material found in the pits as opposed to ditches revealed no clear distinction between depositional processes. However, there were distinct differences when comparing assemblages from one ditch with another, or pot from fills of pits with one another. Such differences tend to support the suggestion given in the stratigraphic discussion for different phases of construction and use of individual ditches and pits.

Methodology

The sherds were examined using a hand lens. Although it was hoped to create a site type-series of wares the lack of substantial profiles which would allow the pot typology and the fabric to be related meant that there was the risk of creating a cumbersome recording system. This was particularly the case with the Iron Age material, where there was considerable variation in sherd thickness and colour within a single pot. Lack of typological detail has made identification of basic vessel forms difficult.

General characteristics

A variety of tempering materials were recognised. Shell tempered pots occurred in all periods but the shell was often sparse and may have been no more than incidentally present in the clay. More evenly shell-tempered clay was particularly associated with vessels with seated lid rims although no matching lids were recognised. These occurred in the late Iron Age/early Roman period and the thin walls suggest that some of these vessels were wheel-made.

Flint-tempered sherds occurred in all prehistoric phases. The coarsest contained large fractured pieces of flint or rounded small pebbles, and sometimes both. In the case of the rounded pebbles, the flint may represent no more than natural inclusions which were not removed from the clay. Where the flint appears fractured this may suggest it was a deliberate addition to the clay body. In a number of sherds flint ap-

peared to be present in such a fine form that it must have been a deliberate and careful addition.

There was no indication as to what form of vessel was flint-gritted. The larger grits tended to be associated with thick, brown-pink coloured wares while the fine gritting was always found in relatively thin, black sherds. These had clearly been well finished with the surfaces often smooth and dense. No rims, bases or known forms could be linked to these sherds. There remains the possibility that some flint-tempered sherds may have been Neolithic in date. However, no diagnostic sherds were identified. Chaff-tempered sherds occurred occasionally. In some instances chaff may have become incorporated through the working processes rather than as a deliberate addition. Grog was present in some sherds but not consistently and, in some instances, may reflect the working conditions of the potter rather than a deliberate addition to the clay.

The pottery could be divided into four groups i.e. phases 2-5. The earliest came predominantly from a small group of associated pits and ditches found to the west of the site. During analysis it became apparent that a small group of decorated sherds required further work in order to distinguish more clearly between an Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon date for them. These are discussed separately in Appendix I.

Detailed description of illustrated sherds (Fig. 19)

Bronze Age sherds

- 1 317.3 Bronze Age sherd. A small body sherd in orange sand tempered fabric with a few flint grits and a small amount of grog. The sherd is decorated with six lines of comb impressions bounded by a fainter horizontal line.

Iron Age sherds

Large mouthed jars

A number of near-vertical necks with squared-off rim profiles were found at Edix Hill. These tended to be in dark grey fabrics with sand temper and were generally rather carelessly finished. The lack of curvature together with the smallness of the sherds has made it difficult to estimate the original size of the pots but a diameter of c. 16-18 cm appears to be possible. Pots with rims and necks of this type and comparable size were found at Wandlebury (Hartley 1957) where they formed a group of large, wide mouthed, slack shouldered jars which tapered to relatively narrow bases. Hill (Cra'ster 1996) has suggested that a 'dense, sandy fabric ... is typical of the Later Iron Age (c. 300BC-AD40/60) pottery in the region.' At Barley (1961) the assemblage tended towards shorter necks, many of which had slightly out curved rims. Wide mouthed vessels were also present at Linton.

- 2 640.1 Slightly out turned rim in a brown-grey fabric with sand temper. The top of the rim has been squared-off. The outside has been burnished and the interior wiped. The lack of curvature to the sherd suggests this is from a wide mouthed vessel, possibly c. 18 cm diameter. cf. Barley Fig. 8.83.
- 3 640.1 An upright neck and rim in a light grey, sand tem-

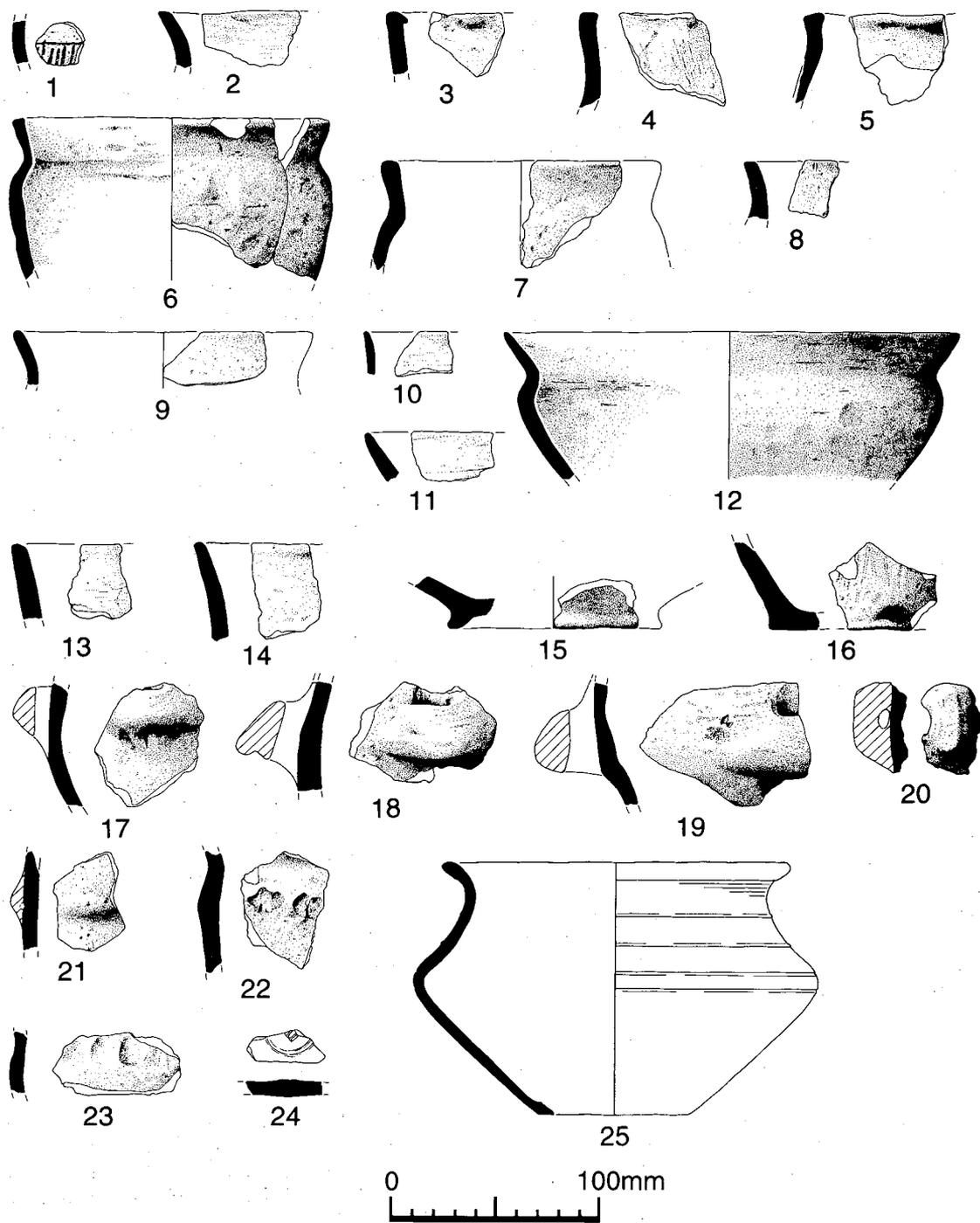


Figure 19. Pottery

pered fabric. The exterior has been wiped leaving a soft and smooth, although irregular, surface. The rim top is very uneven having been formed by pressing and wiping with fingers, cf Wandlebury Fig. 8, 42.

- 4 640.1 A tall, slightly concave rim in a dark grey sand tempered fabric. The rim is crudely squared-off, cf. Wandlebury Fig.7,25.
- 5 319.1 Rim in a hard sandy dark grey-brown fabric. The rim has been irregularly flattened along the top and in turned forming a small internal lip. A number of these

rim were found; some had greater lipping and some had been flattened internally and externally to a T-shape. cf. Linton Fig 3,4

Small Jars

Thinner fabric sherds or rim sherds with a smaller curvature may be presumed to come from small vessels. However, the smallness of surviving sherds made it difficult to establish curvature and, hence, a possible rim-curvature correlation in many cases. The

substantial sherd from 319.1 suggests that small pots may have had the same slack shouldered profiles that have been observed in larger and more complete pots elsewhere. Little material was found to have been combed down on the outside and it is therefore likely that both large and small jars were usually left plain.

- 6 319.1 A small ovoid jar in a shell tempered fabric. The inner core is grey and the surfaces a pale fawn. On the outside there are irregular blotches of red and grey from the firing. The walls of the pot have been pressed out and are irregular from the pressure of fingers. The rim is slightly out-turned and squared-off. The fabric has cracked on the outside, possibly because the clay was over-tempered or used rather dry. The outside of the neck, the rim and interior of the pot are smoother, by contrast, and uncracked. Surface marks suggest these areas were wiped over – if this was done with a wet cloth it would account for the different quality of finish in the two areas.
- 7 319.1 Shell tempered upright rim and shoulder. The shell is relatively fine and occurs evenly through the sherds suggesting this is a deliberate mix rather than a naturally occurring clay-shell mix. The sherd is a blotchy brown-grey. The rim has a square profile and the outside has been well smoothed. A similar profile, although from a wider mouthed pot, comes from Cunliffe A:10,14.
- 8 640.1 A slightly out curved, squared-off rim in a dark grey fabric with light brown outer face, running down to an apparent sharp outward angle.
- 9 637.1 A slightly outcurved rim in a grey sandy fabric.
- 10 637.1 Relatively fine rim in a hard mid grey fabric extremely well burnished on all surfaces.

Bowls

Bowls are a key type in Cunliffe's (1974) Chinnor-Wandlebury group but were represented at Edix Hill by small rim sherds. These were normally in a dark grey fabric which had been well burnished and were probably from flared rim bowls. Globular bowls may have also been present at Edix Hill although none could be recognised with certainty. Some tall rim sherds appeared to be in a less sandy fabric than that which was identified with large storage jars. These rims may have belonged to a third type of bowl which had a tall rim and angled or carinated body. These are a feature of Cunliffe's Chinnor-Wandlebury group. The care taken in achieving difficult shapes and a high quality of finish suggests bowls may have been high value and status objects. The shell tempered bowl is unusual on the site where shell tempered wares were not common.

- 11 319.1 Small rim in a dark grey fabric with fine white grits. The rim is round edged, out turned and well finished on both faces. The finishing process has left no marks so the rim was probably wiped smooth. It is difficult to establish the original circumference due to the smallness of the sherd but this may originally have come from a wide mouthed bowl with flared rim. *cf.* Linton Fig. 4,3.
- 12 314.1 A bowl in a mid-grey fabric tempered with variously sized shell fragments. The bowl has possibly made from coils which have been heavily pressed in order to

lute them together. Finger impressions can be felt all over the irregular surface although it has been burnished inside and out. This appears to be a wide mouthed bowl with a high, slightly rounded shoulder although this form was more commonly made in a dark grey sand tempered fabric, *cf.* Wandlebury Fig.7,28

- 13 319.1 A thick rim in a dense dark grey fabric with a few small white grits. The sherd has been well polished on the outside and smoothed on the inside. It is unusual to find so thick a rim in this fabric. However, at Linton some thick rims in a similar fabric were found on wide mouthed globular bowls, *cf.* Linton Fig.4,19 and 20.
- 14 601.2 A near upright round edged rim in a mid-grey sand tempered fabric. The inside has been left matt, the outside wiped to a smooth finish. It is not clear what form this comes from or the precise angle of the sherd, but the slightly rougher inner surface suggests this was not intended to be visible and that the neck may have therefore been upright. This is possibly from a tall necked tripartite bowl, *cf.* Cunliffe (1974) A:10,18

Bases

- 15 319.1 Small base with footring. The fabric is a dark grey with no visible temper. The base has been carefully finished underneath to form a neat ring and all surfaces have been burnished. The fact that the pot appears to have been completely burnished inside suggests this was a wide vessel where the inside would be fully visible, while the care and time taken to burnish under the footring suggests this was a high value pot. Only one such foot ring was recovered from Wandlebury (Fig 7.24) where it belonged to a relatively tall and narrow vessel. Because of the internal finish it is more likely that the Edix Hill base should be associated with a wider vessel and this may be the base of a wide mouthed bowl.
- 16 319.1 A base in a heavy dark grey fabric with some sand temper. The base has been crudely pressed out and the sides roughly shaped down. This may be the base of a small jar.

Lugs

A number of lugs were found on the site. Their survival may have been enhanced by the thickness of the material. The variety of forms, horizontal or vertical, shapes and sizes, is of interest as different lugs may have been associated with different sized pots and, possibly, pots intended for different purposes. The three horizontal lugs may be seen as sized variations each, perhaps, attached to a larger sized pot, while the vertical lug appears to have come from a lighter pot. The 'false' lug is unusual and may be a Neolithic residual sherd.

- 17 637.1 A small lug in a dark grey fabric with sparkling sand filler and a few small white calcite grits. The lug has been formed by attaching a piece of clay to the pot side, piercing it vertically to form a small hole and then smoothing the area well. The wall of the pot appears curved.
- 18 601.2 A medium lug in a dark grey sand tempered fabric. The lug has been formed by the addition of a clay piece which has been well smoothed. The distinct

downward shape of this lug suggests it may have doubled up as a handle. The addition of the lug to the pot has been done carefully with no distortion to the pot wall.

- 19 319.1 A large horizontal lug. The fabric is a dark grey paste with sand temper. The lug has been formed by the addition of a clay piece to the wall of the pot which may have been moulded over a former to create the hole. The lug has been carefully smoothed and finished. Sufficient of the pot remains to suggest that the lug may have sat at the widest circumference of the pot.
- 20 638.4 A small vertical lug in a brown-grey fabric. The lug has been made by attaching clay to the pot, possibly over an oval stick to form the hole. The lug has been carefully finished and has a distinct square profile unlike the horizontal lugs which are rounded.
- 21 638.1 A false lug in a soft fabric with a grey middle and light orange-brown exterior and interior face containing sand and calcite grits. The lug lies horizontally and has been created by adding a small amount of clay to the outside of the pot. Each end of this has been pierced partially with a pointed implement to create the impression of a hole going through. The sherd is worn and not matched by any other sherds in the deposit from which it came and is quite distinct from other lugs found on site. Lugs were discussed by Wheeler (Maiden Castle p162) and Fig 37.144 & 145 shows two similar lugs which are Neolithic in date. Of particular interest is Fig 37.145 which is an unpierced lug although each end has been partially pierced. A further illustrated imitatively pierced lug is Fig.37.149. Wheeler dated all these as 'Neolithic A'. These close parallels for an unusual sherd suggest that the Edix Hill sherd may also be Neolithic and is, presumably, residual here.

Fingertipped sherds

Finger tipping was the main type of decoration found at Edix Hill and was normally restricted to sand tempered wares. Finger tipping occurred along the upper surface of rims and along shoulder angles. A few sherds were found which had been fingertipped all over. Nail marking did not occur except as incidental to the finger impressions. Decoration varied from shallow impressions to deep scoops and was generally applied in bands.

- 22 319.1 Body sherd in a dark grey fabric with a blotchy grey-brown surface with some sand temper. Decorated with a row of shallow finger impressions situated, probably, on the shoulder line.
- 23 319.1 Body sherd in a hard dark grey fabric core in a thick orange brown sandwich with some small flint inclusions. The decoration has been formed by a row of deep fingernail scoops producing small raised areas in-between each impression, and occurs along a high, weak shoulder angle. The inside of the sherd has been well finished by pebble polishing producing an even, dense surface. This may be a response to the pressure of the fingertip and nail impressions, or indicate that this was a sufficiently wide mouthed vessel for this area of the in-

terior to be visible and, therefore, well finished. A wide mouthed bowl with fingertip decoration was recorded at Wandlebury (Fig 8.41).

Other sherds

- 24 15B/1 Stamped base sherd in terra nigra. The stamp is set in a poorly inscribed circle.
- 25 15E A wheel made Belgic type carinated bowl in a light grey sandy fabric. The shoulder has two shallow cordons and the carinations marked by a slight groove. Below this the pot has been finished by broad band of burnishing probably achieved by turning the pot upside down and rotating it on the wheel. This finish is uneven and has produced a low grade polished but faceted surface. Presumably this lower zone was less visible and so less well finished.

Discussion

The Early Iron Age (Phase 2)

Two distinct types of fabric were distinguished in this phase. The first was dark grey throughout, moderately sand tempered. The surfaces were polished or burnished leaving the pottery with a 'soft', smooth feel. Occasional sherds had patches of fawn or orange colour probably due to heat variation during firing. Pots in similar fabric were recognised by Hartley (1957) at Wandlebury and many of the Edix Hill pots appeared to have close similarities to the Wandlebury material. The most recognisable elements of pots made in this fabric were flared rims from open-mouthed bowls. These had normally broken at the angle with the side wall making it difficult to say whether there were variations in form present of the site. An internally-burnished base in the same sort of fabric with a foot-ring, in F319, may indicate the type of base associated with these rims. It is possible that some of these rims came from tripartite bowls with flared rims, a sloping shoulder and carination. A few sherds found might have been from the shoulder area of such bowls but without recognisably joining sherds the presence of tripartite bowls could not be confirmed.

At Wandlebury a further variant of open-mouthed bowls was found where the rim ran almost directly into the bowl – the angle being marked by a near folding back upon itself of the clay wall. Several 'Z' shaped sherds which must have come from this folding-back area were recognised at Edix Hill, suggesting that this 'mortar-like' variant of the open mouthed bowl was also present here. This 'Z' shape seems to be a local Hertfordshire type, several examples occurring along the Hertfordshire Chiltern edge. All variants of these bowls were distinguished by the care taken in their production. The shape, with its sharp, angular changes of direction, and the splayed nature of the walls would have taken skill while the finish on these vessels is always of a high standard. Surfaces, both inside and out, appear to have been burnished and, possibly, subsequently polished. Care in manufacture and the difficult shapes suggest these

pots may have been valued possessions and that the potters were capable of high quality, consistent work.

The forms associated with this fabric appeared to all be variants of the bowls associated with the Wandlebury site (Hartley 1957). No immediate parallels to the published decoration of the Wandlebury material – in particular the wavering zigzag motif – were seen at Edix Hill but there were a few small sherds with tooled decoration which, had the sherds been larger, might have been seen to have fitted into the Wandlebury type of decoration.

The Wandlebury material was broadly classified by Cunliffe (1991) as the Chinnor-Wandlebury group and dated as 500–300 BC, and this dating has been generally accepted on Edix Hill. Cunliffe also suggested a Darmsden-Linton grouping of similar date and geographically overlapping with the Chinnor-Wandlebury group. Although the Chinnor-Wandlebury and Darmsden-Linton groups have much in common, the material from Edix Hill does not have the shallow furrowing at the neck-shoulder conjunction which is seen on the Darmsden-Linton pots. It is possible, therefore, that the Edix Hill material should be seen as part of the more westward traditions in the region – with Wandlebury as the most easterly outlier.

A fabric which frequently appeared together with the Wandlebury type material was a dark grey-black throughout with a heavy sand temper. This fabric was of moderate thickness and so heavily sanded as to give a fine pimply look to both the interior and exterior surfaces. The moderate thickness of the walls, the pimply surface and the generally uniform colour of this fabric suggests the vessels were only of moderate size which would allow a 'wet' clay to be used (resulting in the pimply surface caused through evaporation and shrinkage leaving the sand on the surface). The fairly uniform colouring is, perhaps, slightly unusual in that bonfire or clamp fired pots tend to have colour variations. Lack of variation here suggests careful reduced firing and relatively small pots which could be evenly heated both in firing and use. No rims or bases were present in this fabric. Shallow curvature of the sherds suggests these were small cooking jars.

The Middle Iron Age (Phase 3)

Possibly overlapping with the Wandlebury-style material were coarser wares with less consistent finish. This phase might represent the middle Iron Age at Edix Hill. However, the lack of securely dated stratigraphic sequences and non-distinctive nature of the middle Iron Age material makes it impossible to assign any particular date to these assemblages. The most common rim form was an upright, often tall, rim which was squared-off in a sand tempered fabric. Rim-finish ranged in quality from an irregular and uneven finish to a near mechanic squareness. It is likely that these rims belonged to slack-shouldered jars, although shoulders were relatively rare – possibly because of breakage along the line of the angle.

Finger tip decoration was found on these upright

rims and slack-shouldered pots, either as impressions into the clay of the body of the pot or on the top surface of the rim, or as small raised areas formed by pinching up the clay between thumb and forefinger. Decoration was applied directly to the pot, not to applied bands, often along the line of a weak shoulder angle. Slightly everted rims, with a neck formed by pinching out, or slightly everting the clay over a finger, also occurred but it was not possible to say whether there was any typological difference in the final vessel associated with different rims.

Whilst upright rims occurred in some early deposits, associated with Wandlebury-type sherds, they appear to have had a long history on the site and to have continued up to the Conquest. No chronological significance could be seen between decorated and undecorated rims or between those which had finger tipping along the rims and those which were decorated with diagonal grooving or slashes. The one recognisable type of pot associated with upright rims appeared to be a relatively broad-mouthed pot with a slack-shoulder angle not infrequently marked by some form of finger tipping. These might, from their thickness be loosely described as storage jars. However, at Barley, Iron Age settlement similar slack-shouldered jars with upright or slightly everted rims were a dominant element of the pottery typology and some were recovered complete. From these it could be seen that such pots were relatively short, c. 150mm tall, and had limited storage capacity. While 'storage' in its broadest sense may be acceptable as a description for these pots, it is, therefore, likely that they had a broader, perhaps general purpose function, for both storage and cooking.

For considerable amounts of pottery there were no dominant characteristics but plainness. This was sufficiently persistent to suggest that there was a distinct corpus of pottery which could be characterised by this trait. Plain pottery tended towards thickness, was frequently fawn coloured and had carefully smoothed outer faces, perhaps by wiping at the leather-hard stage, but the effect was to leave a low grade shine and a slightly 'soft' feel to the outer surface. No rims or bases could be associated with this group of material; the fact that some sherds thickened over short distances suggests, tentatively, that some of these vessels might have been round based. Other similar thickness sherds occurred alongside the plain wares; these tended to be sand-tempered and the surface was left with an irregular sandy finish which might be expected from the movement of hands on the surface during shaping. Combing down or scratching with vegetation was rare. These plain sherds appeared to be more frequently associated with the upright rims that are the typical middle Iron Age form in this area, rather than the Wandlebury-type pots, suggesting that there may be some chronological significance. Cra'ster (1965) suggested that Barley should be regarded as later than Wandlebury and suggested a date in the second century BC. The strong similarity between the finger-tipped and slack-shouldered jars at Barley and Edix Hill may suggest that the Edix Hill

assemblage of upright rims, finger tipping and plain wares should reflect a similar lateness.

One distinct type of pot which could be recognised at Edix Hill was the lugged pot. These, nearly always, occurred in a dark grey fabric with a sand temper. The external surface was well smoothed by tooling and, perhaps careful wiping, resulting in a patchy burnish. The lugs appear to have been horizontal and substantial and, where some fragment of the body survived, attached to a possibly globular body. The lugs were always attached by extra clay carefully luted onto the main body. Characteristically the pot wall was never bent inwards from this attachment and the lugs never countersunk. The constancy of the fabric and attachment care suggest these may be the product of a single (unknown) source. Lugs of this type do not appear to have been present at Barley but were recorded at Wandlebury.

Late Iron Age/Conquest period (Phase 4)

Material in this phase continued to include coarse body sherds but with an increase in combing and scoring on the outer surface. Scoring may have been done using twigs – it tended to be haphazard and was not particularly decorative. Combing, done with pre-formed instruments, was carefully applied. On thicker sherds there was a tendency for combing to run vertically where it may have helped to disguise the manufacturing process. While these thicker sherds may be loosely categorised as coming from storage vessels their actual shape was not reconstructable. Thickened sub-bead rims, which were sometimes internally thickened, and often well burnished, suggest that hand-made pots either with a vertical wall and bucket shaped, or hole-mouthed jars were present. These appeared alongside Roman wheel-made wares suggesting that a hand made tradition continued well into the first century AD. Small shell-tempered bowls and, possibly, shell-tempered jars with seated rims often with diagonal slashing along the rim were present and also represent continuity. Some of these appear to be wheel- rather than hand-made. Belgian material was represented by cordoned vessels, small necked bowls and carinated bowls and some hand-made copies of these. No pedestal bases were recognised. Imported wares appeared together with Belgian-style material. An imported terra nigra platter wall was found as well as some local terra nigra copies. Imported flagon sherds and amphorae sherds were also present as was an imported butt beaker fragment. Where it was possible to suggest a date these seemed to cluster around the Conquest, or just after.

Roman (Phase 5)

Although Roman pottery was present the amount was small and spanned the 1st–2nd centuries AD. Most was a variation on wheel-made jars in shades of grey, and sand-tempered. There were several wheel-made copies of carinated Belgian forms which survived surprisingly complete. However, remarkably few types of Roman pottery were represented on the site.

No mortaria were found; no black burnished ware (or variants) was present. Cream wares were represented by a few sherds and a small number of pinkish variants – which might have been locally produced flagons – were found. This suggests that this site was not a main focus of Roman occupation.

Imported wares were few. Only a very small quantity of samian was present and it was generally in such shattered fragments that only its presence could be noted. At least one 18/31 Central Gaul bowl was present; other small rim fragments indicate there may have been another 18/31. Two bowls in a cream, granular ware with reeded rims may have come from St Albans, although they lacked the angle-change furrow which characterises much of the St Albans cream ware. Nene Valley type sherds were also present but in small numbers and as fragmentary pieces only. No forms could be deduced. A sherd of an unusual small bowl may be in a Colchester-made variant of terra rubra. The latest Roman phase was represented by a worn base of a Nene Valley flagon.

It was also noticeable that the pottery recovered from fieldwalking was composed predominantly of Roman wares, suggesting that there was more Roman use of the areas than might be suggested by the features discussed. This assemblage may have derived from manuring. A few glazed and modern sherds also from fieldwalking probably came from a similar source.

Other Artefacts

Iron (Fig. 21)

Objects other than pottery and animal bone found in stratified contexts were few, mostly from upper layers (ie can be associated with the latest phases) and consisted in the main of a variety of square-sectioned iron nails, and some “tacks”. Apart from these nails other iron artefacts were found in several ditches, including a possible twisted square-sectioned handle from ditch F5 (Fig. 21:1), a possible curved knife or sickle blade and tang from pit F537 (Fig. 21:2), and a square-sectioned bar with slightly spatulate end from Ditch A, possibly an awl (Fig. 21:3). The sickle is very similar to one represented from Grubenhäus 57 at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 128 and Fig. 114), and so could be Anglo-Saxon, but also resembles illustrated examples of Iron Age knives (e.g. Cunliffe 1986 124:3). In addition two examples of Colchester brooches were found in stratified contexts, and both of these were made of iron. A triangular catch plate with the beginning part of the bow came from Ditch D (F120) (Fig. 21:4), which was found close to the burial (F149) with another Colchester brooch in the grave (Figs. 18 and 21:5). This latter was heavily corroded but x-radiograph photography revealed a number of features which allowed its manufacture to be assigned no later than c. 50 AD. (Hattatt 1982; especially 61, Fig. 18.16).

Iron Age coins

Bronze of Tasciovanus, c. 20 BC

Gallo-Belgic Type E, 60–50 BC (copper (plated?) forgery)

Bronze of Tasciovanus, c. 20 BC–10 AD

Bronze of Tasciovanus, interregnum Rues 10 BC–10 AD

In addition to the coins actually found on the site, 6 Ambiani gold staters were found to the south of Edix Hill, near the river. In total, 12 coins are recorded in the Celtic Coin Index for Barrington, and 4 further coins from Orwell and one from Shepreth. In this context, such a concentration on and around Edix Hill appears significant, with implications for the status of the site. The dates of the site-specific coins fits with the general bias of the Barrington group.

Roman coins

Aes of Valens, 364–78 AD

Constantine I, 313–5

Aes of Valentinian I, 364–7 AD

Aes of Gratian ?

Four Roman coins were found from unstratified contexts, 3 of which could be identified as 4th century in date, corresponding to the one stratified example from Ditch A. Four Roman coins were found with Anglo-Saxon burials (two of 4th century date, one of 1st century, and 1 possibly of the 3rd century); although these examples might have been collected from elsewhere and introduced to Edix Hill as part of the grave group, nonetheless the evidence for other examples of similar date occurring at the site could suggest they had originally been found there.

Bronze

Two fragments of a Bronze Age rapier or dirk (Fig. 21:15 and 16) were found in top-soil.

There were 7 brooch fragments (Fig. 21:17–23) of bronze, all belonging within the 1st century AD. These included 2 fragments of Hod Hill type, 2 Colchester type, and examples of Dolphin (Colchester derivative), Langton Down and Lion-bow brooches. A solid triangular piece of bronze was also found which is tentatively interpreted as a leg for a large container (Fig. 21:25) and a possible strap-end (Fig. 21:24).

A decorated bronze strip was found in ditch F30 (Fig. 21:6), decorated with parallel incised lines. It was found about half way down the fill of the feature and resembles in size and form a Late Roman belt “stiffener” (Clarke 1979, Grave 376, 261 and 285 and Fig. 95, 491) dated to around AD 400. Attribution of such a date would show very late activity on site as also demonstrated by some sherds of pottery, but its position in an Iron Age ditch suggests this uncertain identification could be misleading. A bronze pin with a flattened head and incised lines (Fig. 21:8) was found in ditch F160 (perhaps part of the Ditch E complex) and a parallel to this of early Roman date can be seen at Irchester (Hall and Nickerson 1967, 97, small find 5).

Silver

A silver strip in ditch F623 (Fig. 21:7) was decorated with parallel incised lines.

Lead

Two strips of lead folded together were found in F167

(Fig. 21: 9), although this ditch could be part of 19th century coprolite working.

Bone

In Pit F176 a bone pin and pierced dog tooth (Fig 21:10 and 11) were found with animal bone and a large assemblage of early Iron Age pottery in an ashy deposit. A bone needle (Fig. 21:13) found above Ditch B (F325) had been broken and redrilled in antiquity. A red deer antler from F27 had been worked.

Ceramic

A ceramic spindle whorl (Fig. 21:12) was also found in Pit F176

Jet

A jet ring (Fig. 21:14) was found in pit F315. It is presumed to date from the Bronze Age and to have been redeposited in an Iron Age pit.

Flint

One Neolithic axe (Fig. 20) was found in an Anglo-Saxon grave (29), having presumably been deposited as a grave-good (Malim and Hines 1998, 57).

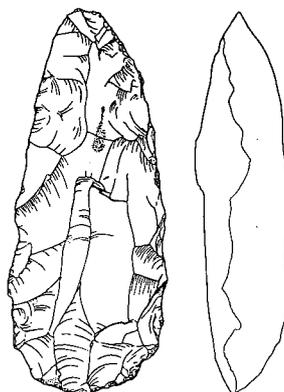


Figure 20. Neolithic flaked flint axe. Length 88mm.

Foreign stones

Quartzite, limestone and an igneous rock were identified. The various reddish and blackish discolourations evident on the exteriors of many quartzites, as distinguished from their interior colour, indicate exposure to fire at a temperatures expected from open domestic hearths (Colin Forbes, pers. comm.). A quern fragment of millstone grit was identified from pit F194 and a fragment of whetstone from the Roman phase of Ditch A. Niedermendig lava quern fragments were recovered from pit F305.

Other

Daub was found in small quantities from pits F537 and F350 and F368, and from Ditch A. Chalk concretion residues from industrial activity were found in pits F176 and F143. A small amount of slag was recovered from several of the ditch fills, but most of it came from the Roman Ditch B (F111).

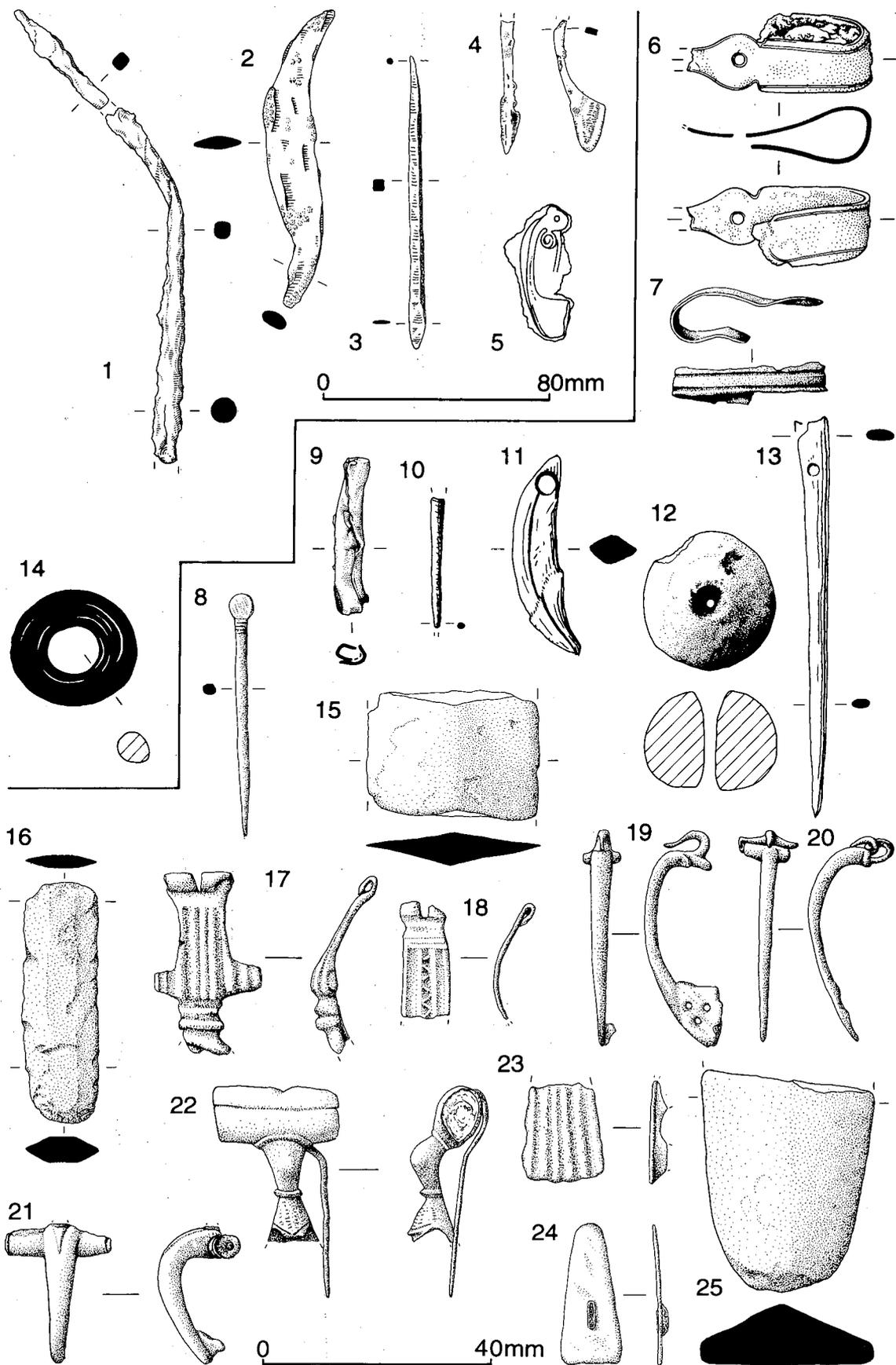


Figure 21. Selected Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts

Faunal Remains

Simon J. M. Davis

(See also *Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 54/95*)

Most of the animal remains were recovered by hand excavation only and derive from the Iron Age pits and ditches. It is unfortunate that sieving was not undertaken on a larger scale as many smaller bones and isolated teeth, even of large animals such as cattle and sheep may well have been missed causing a bias favouring larger bones. Small bags of sieved material were recovered, but these contain too few remains of small mammals to be significant. Most bones are fairly well preserved and some appear to have been gnawed by carnivores (see below). For a full description of the methods used see Davis (1992). The species represented and their size are discussed below and summarised in Table 3.

Sheep and goat

As Table 3 indicates, most of the caprine bones at Edix Hill belonged to sheep and there was no evidence for the presence of goat. In the British Iron Age goats were kept in very small numbers only (Grant 1984a). For the purposes of further study (eg biometry and age at death) the sheep/goat teeth and bones are referred to herein as sheep. The sheep at Edix Hill are compared to their Roman and medieval relatives from Owslebury, Hampshire and Launceston Castle, Cornwall respectively (Maltby 1987; Albarella and Davis 1995; Davis, in press) using a log ratio diagram, with a sample of 26 modern unimproved Shetland ewes (see Fig. 22). This shows that the Edix Hill sheep were rather small and little different from the Roman sheep at Owslebury and the medieval ones at Launceston Castle. Note that most of the breadth and depth measurements of various bones such as humerus, tibia, astragalus and the metapodials, lie to the left of the Shetland standard (the 0.00 line in Fig. 22). It is interesting that two of the three metapodials are longer than the Shetland standard sample.

Since limb-bone lengths are all highly correlated (Davis in press) it is probable that the Iron Age sheep at Edix Hill had long slender limb-bones compared to modern unimproved Shetland sheep. The Roman and medieval sheep mentioned above also had longer and slenderer limb bones than the modern Shetland standard. Luff's (1993) measurements of the distal widths (Bd) of sheep tibiae from Roman Colchester also indicate that the Edix Hill sheep were probably also similar in size to those from that city. The distal tibia widths (Bd) listed for several Roman sites in Luff (1982) are also similar to the tibia Bd measurements at Edix Hill.

	N	%
Sheep/Goat	337	50
(Sheep	76)	
(Goat	-)	
Cattle	177	26
Pig	102	15
Horse	35	5
?Red deer	+	
Hare	5	
Dog	19	
Fox	1	
Water vole	19	
Field vole	17	
Mole	1	
Peregrine falcon	1	
Amphibia	7	

Table 3. Numbers of animal bones found at Barrington. Percentages are given for the more common food animals. "+" denotes the presence of a non-countable (see Davis, 1992) bone.

Cattle

The cattle bones at Edix Hill are too few and damaged to enable detailed study of their size. Those that were measured are small, though not quite as small as the ones at Danebury (Grant 1984).

Equids

Equid teeth and bones can also be difficult to determine to species (certain ass and horse bones are sometimes easily confused). The Edix Hill equid teeth undoubtedly belonged to horse: the enamel folds on the biting surfaces of the mandibular teeth had "U" shaped lingual folds and the buccal folds partially penetrate between the flexids in the molars (see Eisenmann 1981).

There are several series of horse mandibular teeth and their measurements can be compared to the Iron Age pony from Hook in Hampshire (Davis 1987). The P2-P4 tooth row from F160 is similar in size to the Hook pony, but the two other specimens, a P3-M3 tooth row from F111 and the P2 from F162 (see also below) are approximately 10% larger than the Hook pony. Differences in equid dental measurements should be treated with caution due to age-related changes in the shape and size of teeth. The metacarpal from F315.1 has a lateral length of 193.5 mm and the metatarsal from F611.2 has a lateral length of 250.9 mm. Multiplying these measurements by Kiesewalter's factors (von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974) indicates their withers heights were 1.24 metres (12 hands 1 inch) and 1.34 metres (13 hands 1 inch) respectively. Since the pony - horse boundary lies at 14 hands 2 inches, both Edix Hill metapodials belonged to ponies rather than horses. According to Coy and Maltby (1987) Iron Age ponies ranged from 10-14 hands.

Pigs

The absence of any especially large specimens of *Sus* suggests that the small sample of pig bones and teeth

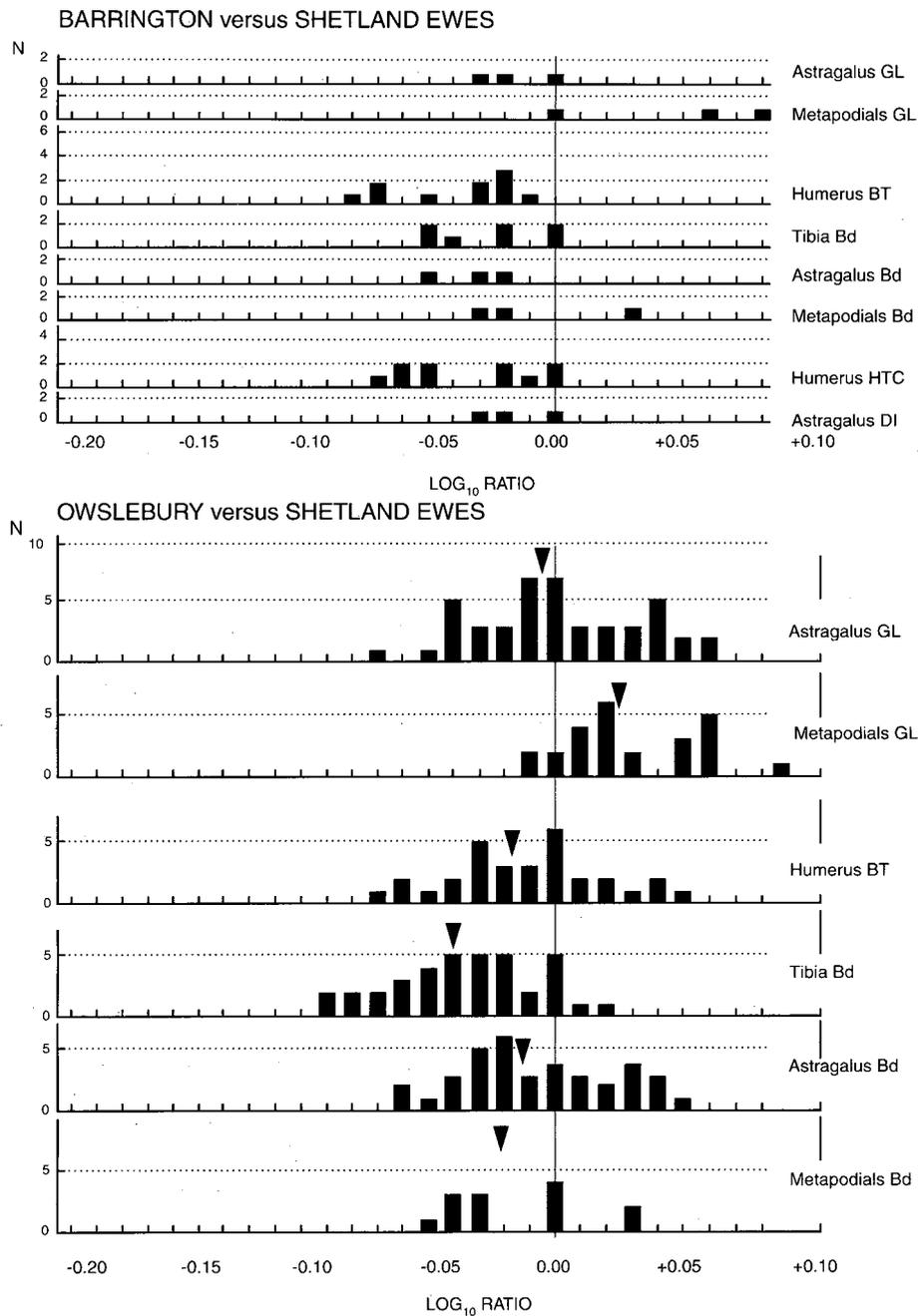


Figure 22 Comparison between Barrington, Owslebury and Shetland sheep

Log ratio diagram: note the means for larger samples are represented by an inverted triangle. The following measurements are pooled: [metacarpal GL + metatarsal GL], [metacarpal Bd + metatarsal Bd]. Data from Owslebury were kindly supplied by Mark Maltby (see also Maltby, 1987).

belonged to the domestic pig rather than the wild boar.

Dog

The mandible of an exceptionally small dog, possibly found in ditch 5, has a lower carnassial tooth (M₁) whose antero-posterior length measures 13.3mm. The Edix Hill mandible is smaller than a Jack Russell and almost as small as a Pekinese. Harcourt (1974) sur-

veyed dog remains from archaeological sites in Britain. He suggested that small dogs of this size, otherwise known as lap dogs, were (as indeed they are today) a luxury. As far as his records indicated, lap dogs first appeared in Roman times. Its location within an Iron Age ditch, however, was uncertain, as Grave 62 was positioned in the same place. It is more likely, therefore, that this was a grave good put in with an Anglo-Saxon burial which had been situated

over the ditch.

Other taxa

Several hare and a fox bone testify to some hunting by the inhabitants of Edix Hill. There is a single fragment of deer (probably red deer) antler from F27. It appears to have been worked: its surface had been abraded perhaps by rubbing on a stone. The absence of other deer bones is worth noting but in view of the total size of the assemblage, may not be of any great significance. According to Grant (1984a) bones of wild animals are very rare on most Iron Age sites in Britain. Little importance can be attached to a mole bone (Table 3), which probably represents a later contamination. The presence of water vole (in pits only, see below) and amphibia bones (in both pits and ditches) indicate the presence of water. The field and water vole bones all derive from pits, into which they had evidently fallen. A mature falconid tibiotarsus found in general cleaning levels over ditch F425 was identified by Dale Serjeantson as peregrine falcon. She has compared it with sexed specimens at the Ornithology Department of the Natural History Museum (Tring) and suggests (pers. comm.) that it is more likely to have belonged to a female than a male. She also points out that this species is rare on Iron Age sites in England.

Frequencies of taxa

Of the nearly 700 recorded bones and teeth 50% belonged to sheep, 26% to cattle and 15% to pig. Undoubtedly hand collection has meant that many of the smaller bones and teeth, especially the smaller taxa, were lost during excavation. Notwithstanding recovery (as well as preservation) biases, and given the greater size of cattle, the inhabitants of Edix Hill probably ate mainly beef and rather less lamb/mutton and some pork. There are approximately 4–5 times more sheep molars than cattle molars. These teeth tend to preserve well, are less subject to the action of dogs, and are easier to see on excavation. They may therefore provide a better estimate of the ratio of sheep to cattle – at Edix Hill more like 5 to 1, though given the greater size of (even Iron Age) cattle, it still seems reasonable to assume that the inhabitants of Edix Hill ate more beef than mutton. At the nearby

site of Baldock, sheep were also the most common species in the Iron Age phase (Chaplin and McCormick 1986).

The abundance of sheep compared to cattle appears to be a characteristic of first millennium Iron Age sites in England, especially the second half. This general increase in the numbers of sheep throughout the first millennium is linked to the spread of downland arable, with even higher frequencies of sheep occurring on sites located on higher ground such as chalk downland (Grant 1984a, Cunliffe 1991). At Danebury for example sheep numbers were as high as 70% (Grant 1984b). Robinson and Wilson (1987) noted that the percentages of sheep remains on 12 Iron Age sites in the midlands ranged between 25% and 63% while on 15 Roman sites these percentages dropped to between 12% and 45% with pig and cattle becoming more frequent (see also King 1978). Thus with its predominance of sheep over cattle and pig the Edix Hill fauna is typical of Iron Age sites in southern Britain. Another point of interest is the rather low percentage of pig. Annie Grant (in press) suggests that there is a correlation between relatively high proportions of pig remains and high status occupation, although she cautions that the 'high' percentages are rather lower than those of Roman and medieval periods. Those with little pig are low status or ordinary rural sites. The Celts prized pork above all other flesh and regarded it as the food of the gods (Ross 1967, 313).

Parts of the skeleton present and butchery marks.

There are insufficient bones to investigate possible body part preferences. Variations between the different bone-counts probably reflect differential preservation and recovery (Brain 1967). However, the rather high ratio of teeth to bones, especially in the case of the sheep, is worth noting and is probably to some extent due to the action of dogs; teeth are harder and relatively unpalatable. High teeth-to-bone ratios appear to characterise many rural sites where the rate of deposition may have been lower (than in towns) and dogs were perhaps more common (Albarella and Davis 1994).

Some bones at Edix Hill had been gnawed and some others, generally smaller ones, show the typical

a. Ditches

	Cattle	Sh/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Hare
Number of gnawed bones	3	1	2	2	-	-
Number of partially digested bones	-	6	-	-	-	-
Total number of bones	93.5	180.5	38	27	8	1

b. Pits

	Cattle	Sh/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Hare
Number of gnawed bones	9	3	-	1	-	-
Number of partially digested bones	-	4	1	-	-	-
Total number of bones	76	142	60.5	8	11	5

Table 4. The effect of carnivores on the Barrington animal bones – ditches and pits compared. Numbers of gnawed and partially digested bones.

pattern of partial digestion (as described by Payne and Munson 1985) also probably the result of carnivore activity (Table 4). The number of gnawed plus partially digested bones in ditches is 14 (4%) and in pits is 18 (6%). This small difference in apparent carnivore activity between pits and ditches, however, is not statistically significant (at the 5% level, $\chi^2 = 1.3$). General post-depositional destruction may also have been more severe in ditches than in pits, a factor which may have some bearing upon the frequencies of juveniles versus adults (see below). Thus for sheep in ditches the bone: tooth ratio is only 0.4:1 while in the pits it is higher at 0.6:1. (These ratios are calculated by comparing total numbers of all sheep teeth with total numbers of all sheep bones.)

Some of the bones had been chopped and/or bear cut marks, but the number is too small to allow, for example, a comparison of the cattle and equid bones. However, an equid femur (F642.1) has a small mark which may have been inflicted by a blade and an equid metapodial (F162) has some small transverse cut marks which may well be skinning marks. With so few butchery/cut mark data for both equid bones and cattle bones it is not possible to discern any difference in the treatment of these two animals at Edix Hill. How horse flesh was exploited (eg fed to the dogs or consumed by the human inhabitants) remains an unanswered question. In the Celtic tradition the horse played an important role, and there are known references to horses being killed and eaten such as the ritual consumption of a mare during the inauguration of a king (Ross 1967, 321–333).

Age distribution of animals culled

The relatively large number of lambs is especially evident. Note the high counts of deciduous teeth compared to permanent ones. If we look more closely at these, ie at the wear stages of the last deciduous premolar or dP4, the majority are in wear stages 13–18 (probably aged around 3–18 months; Deniz and Payne 1982). They do not therefore appear to include many lambs in the 0–3 month old category (there is just one with no wear). In other words they belonged to “older” lambs. In table 7 the dental wear data are pooled into the mandible age classes of Payne (1973). This also shows the high numbers, some 18–25 out of a total of 48 mandibles, culled in their first year of life and only < 11 culled at ages greater than three years. A large cull of lambs towards the end of their juvenile period suggests, admittedly tentatively (especially since it is quite likely that younger lamb bones and teeth did not preserve and/or were not recovered), that the prime reason for rearing sheep at Edix Hill was for their meat. This age pattern is at variance with those patterns found on many other Iron Age sites (Grant 1984a), though as Grant indicates, there was considerable variation. Countrywide, wool appears to have become increasingly important as evidenced by the findings of loom weights, spindle whorls and weaving combs (Ryder 1983). Robinson and Wilson (1987) suggest too that the provision of meat from relatively young animals was a major aim of the sheep

husbandry, though there may well have been a greater demand for secondary products. In Roman times evidence suggests that sheep were slaughtered at later ages implying greater emphasis on milk and wool.

With so few specimens, it is difficult to interpret the cattle, horse and pig ageing data. As is generally the case for pig, an animal bred mainly for its meat and fat, most of the pigs at Edix Hill were culled young. The cattle were culled over a wide range of ages. The presence of some milk equid teeth as well as very worn permanent teeth suggests (very tentatively) that horses may have been bred locally and were exploited for their full life span.

An equid premolar with a strange pattern of wear

The equid anterior mandible fragment (Fig. 23) from ditch F162 showing a peculiar pattern of tooth wear. It has canine teeth and so probably belonged to a stallion. Especially interesting is the front part of the biting surface of the P2 (the first cheek tooth), which is bevelled. Close examination of the tooth failed to reveal any evidence for spalling of the enamel such as might occur through use of a bit, the most common cause of this bevelling effect. Indeed the enamel folds of the paraconid are little different from those further back on the tooth. There are two other possible explanations for the bevel; either this aberrant wear pattern occurred ‘naturally’ as a result of unequal wear between the P2 and its counterpart in the upper jaw, for bevelling of the P2 can be caused if a horse is “parrot-mouthed” when the upper tooth row overshoots the lower one (Payne, in press). or the anterior part of the P2 had been filed down. Immediately following such treatment both enamel and dentine would be flush, but after several weeks/months, continued wear would reduce the height of the dentine more than the harder enamel and the latter’s folds would again stand proud. The enamel on the bevelled part of this specimen does indeed stand proud but not to quite the same extent as on the posterior $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of the biting surface. This could be taken as evidence that the tooth had indeed been filed some weeks/months

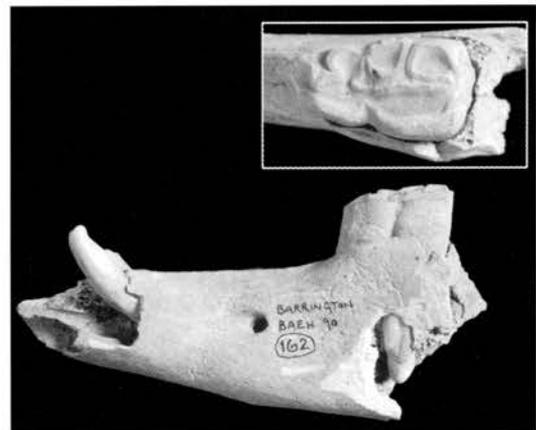


Figure 23 Horse tooth, showing wear pattern

before death. My own feeling, however, is that this peculiar wear pattern is simply due to unequal wear of upper and lower P2s.

Other anomalies and pathology

In artiodactyls the lower third molar tooth is characterised by having three pillars. The third pillar, or hypoconulid, is somewhat smaller, and occasionally fails to develop. The cause of this failure is not understood and it may be an inherited trait. Of the 10 cattle M3s at Edix Hill, 3 have missing hypoconulids – a rather high frequency. Relatively high frequencies have been reported in Roman assemblages at Exeter, Devon (10/76 cases; Maltby 1979) and Dorchester, Dorset (7/114 cases; Maltby 1993) and the medieval levels at Launceston, Cornwall (14/108 cases; Albarella and Davis 1995). In the post medieval at Launceston this trait appears to have almost completely disappeared and Maltby (1979, 40) suggests that it may have disappeared from English cattle some time after the Roman period. More data concerning this trait should prove interesting and may reflect genotypic variation in cattle both geographically and through time.

A cattle caput femoris (the proximal articular surface of the thigh bone) from F629.1 has exostoses (bony outgrowths) around its neck and the caput surface is worn down and shiny in appearance. This condition may develop in old individuals and is thought to be associated with old work animals and animals which have suffered excessive strain to their hindquarters.

Pits versus ditches and the nature of the pit contexts containing animal bones

A detailed examination of the pit contexts in which bones and teeth were found revealed that most of the bones and teeth derived from "infills" rather than primary deposit. There is no evidence for any difference between pits and ditches. Tables 5 and 6 show that the percentages of juvenile sheep teeth and bones are higher in the pits than in the ditches. This is perhaps because the conditions of preservation were better in the pits than in the ditches due to different soil conditions. Robinson and Wilson (1987) note that bones from Iron Age sites tend to be well preserved "particularly those deposited in storage pits, but those in ditches are more degraded".

Pit F531 contained a special burial of a dog with a cattle skull placed on top of it. The dog skeleton is nearly complete and in articulation. The cattle skull is also complete and lay the right way up over the dog's skull. The dog bones are relatively undamaged, and do not bear any traces of butchery or knife cuts. Clearly a complete carcass was buried. Other bones and teeth recorded from this context include a pig milk incisor, a caprine mandible, a cattle distal radius and a gnawed cattle calcaneum. The dog femur and tibia are similar in size to a modern collie skeleton in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory collection which stood 18 inches at the shoulder.

	Pits	Ditches
dP ₄ s in wear stages 0–13	9	2
dP ₄ s in wear stages 14 and above	8	8
M ₁ s and M ₂ s in wear stages 0–4	3	1
M ₁ s and M ₂ s in wear stages 5–8	12	27

Table 5. Pits and ditches compared: wear stages of the very young sheep teeth at Barrington. Wear stages follow Payne (1987)

	Pits		Ditches	
	Cattle	Sh/G	Cattle	Sh/G
Deciduous teeth	11	37	8	27
adult teeth	30	50	37	101
% juveniles	27	43	18	21
Unfused limb bones (metaphysis or epiphysis)	3.5	24	6.5	15
Fused limb bones	19.5	19.5	22	22
% juveniles	15	55	23	41

Table 6. Pits and ditches compared: numbers and percentages of juvenile and adult cattle and sheep/goat teeth and limb bones.

Discussion

Almost 700 hand-recovered animal bones and teeth were identified and recorded from Edix Hill. Most derive from pits and ditches and belonged to sheep (50%), cattle (26%), pig (15%) and horse (5%) and a small number of other species. The sheep were small and slender-limbed and the majority were slaughtered at 3–18 months, indicating that they were probably kept primarily for their meat. The assemblage includes an exceptionally small dog mandible and a pony lower premolar tooth (P2) with an anomalous bevelled front corner. Apart from a higher proportion of lambs in the pits, there was little difference between the faunal assemblages from pits and ditches and it seems most likely that the pits were simply filled with rubbish after their use was discontinued.

Most of the faunal remains from Edix Hill were from animals commonly eaten in antiquity. Taking into consideration the greater weight of cattle compared to sheep, the frequencies of the species at Edix Hill indicate that the bulk of the meat consumed at Edix Hill was probably beef, followed by lamb/mutton and some pork. The relatively (in comparison to earlier Iron Age sites and Roman sites) high percentage of sheep is typical of this period and the low number of pig bones is typical of settlements of this period.

The sheep (there was no evidence for goat) were similar in size (and probably also conformation) to Roman and medieval sheep, and they had similarly slender metapodials. They were small compared to modern unimproved sheep. The rather high proportion of lamb teeth suggests that the sheep were kept

primarily for meat. Most of the animal bones from the pits were recovered from the later rather than the primary fillings. This suggests that animal bones in pits are derived from debris which had been lying around the site rather than being specially placed in pits. There appears to be little difference between the pits and ditches at Edix Hill, except for a higher proportion of juvenile sheep bones and teeth in the pits. This could reflect better conditions for preservation in pits and/or more careful excavation of these features.

A peculiarly bevelled equid lower cheek tooth (P2) could be an early example of a veterinary practice in which horse teeth are filed down to prevent injury to their cheeks, although a more probable but mundane explanation is that it was caused by unequal wear of upper versus lower P2s.

Human Remains

Corrine Duhig

The skeleton, which lay in a supine position (Fig. 18), was that of a female, aged 25–35 who was probably approximately 1.61m. tall during life. It showed evidence of arthritis and dental disease and was 75% complete. The skeleton had severe Schmorl's nodes. These are indentations in the vertebral body surfaces produced by pressure from the soft, interior nucleus pulposus of the disc which has herniated through its firm outer covering, and are indicative of disc degeneration resulting from weight-bearing stresses on the spine (Resnick and Niwayama 1988, 1527–8).

The Environment

Peter Murphy

Bulk samples for flotation were taken from a range of Iron Age pits. The samples were processed in a bulk sieving/flotation tank using 0.5mm meshes throughout. Flots and residues from approximately 200 litres of bulk sample were received for assessment, together with a few hand-collected items. The flots were largely composed of modern roots with very low densities of charcoal fragments, some charred cereal remains and weed seeds and abundant mollusc shells. Mammal bone fragments, small mammal and amphibian bones had been extracted from the residues.

Apart from charcoal the samples included charred cereal grain fragments, *Triticum spelta* type grains, *Hordeum* grains and *Triticum spelta* glume bases, with fruits and seeds of *Rumex* sp, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Galium aparine*, *Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis* and nutshell fragments of *Corylus avellana*. These charred plant remains, however, occurred at very low densities. They must indicate some cereal processing on site, but apparently not in close proximity to the features sampled.

The land mollusc assemblages were generally dominated by species characteristic of open conditions: *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excenetrica*, *Helicella itala* and a few *Vertigo pygmaea*. *Cochlicopa* spp and the *Trichia hispida* group were also frequent. In some contexts snails indicating shaded habitats were present: mainly *Carychium* spp and *Discus rotundatus* with *Pomatias elegans*, *Acanthinula*

aculeata, *Vitrea* spp, *Aegopinella* spp, *Oxychilus* spp and occasionally *Vertigo pusilla*. There were also some freshwater species: *Valvata cristata*, *Valvata piscinalis*, *Aplexa hypnorum*, *Anisus* spp, *Bathyomphalus contortus*, *Gyraulus albus* and *Armiger crista*, especially in the top fill of Ditch E (F559).

The terrestrial snails are assumed to represent the local fauna, indicating generally open conditions but with some more shaded micro-habitats, perhaps in the features themselves. The aquatic snails are mostly not typical ditch species, tolerant of desiccation and poor oxygenation. It seems more probable that they were imported to the site with various raw materials—perhaps hay, reeds or alluvial clay.

Calcareous material from pits F105, F143, F176, and F194 was also examined. It consisted of hard lumps, very irregular in shape with cavities and rounded projections, which show a semi-crystalline structure where fractured. These resemble calccrete or perhaps chalk indurated by secondary calcite deposition, although this is unlikely to have occurred in a shallow archaeological feature. The associated charcoal and (in pit F176) small porous globules of fused material suggest that the structure of this material resulted from heating. Sparse charred cereal remains were associated with this, but might be related to the use of the cereal by-products as fuel rather than indicating that some sort of crop-processing activity is represented.

Interpretation

The Farmstead

Most of the early features on Edix Hill are either pits or boundaries. There is chronological overlap between these feature types, but nonetheless our evidence suggests that many of the pits predated the major ditches. In broad terms, the focus of activity appears to have shifted from the west to the centre, with later features found mostly on the brow of Edix Hill, or as ditches leading up to it. Comparison of finds from ditches and pits shows no distinction between deposition purpose or origin between the two feature types, suggesting rubbish found its way into most features.

Pits

Cylindrical pits were generally uniform in size and shape, and often appear uneroded. This suggests they were either covered or quickly backfilled once they had fulfilled their purpose. The common design, with vertical sides and flat bases, demonstrates the care with which they were cut, which discounts their use as marl pits, for example. As they were not structural features, and few show signs of long-term use, their most obvious function would be for storage. Similar pits can be seen on Iron Age sites in most of Britain. Flotation of soil samples from basal fills of these pits revealed small quantities of charred cereals such as barley and spelt, as well as hazelnuts.

Most of the irregular pits may just be weathered examples of the cylindrical ones (eg F1, F28 etc), but

some seem to have had a different purpose. The most striking of these are F143 and F176 with their complex sequence of cuts and fills and series of stakeholes, found in association were layers of ash, burnt stones and chalky concretions, evidence that suggests industrial use.

Boundaries

The boundaries, ditched and fenced, formed droves and enclosed areas, possible stock pens, and appear to have been maintained and reinstated over a long period of time, perhaps three or four generations. Some were small gullies with sharp profiles with little erosion, probably foundation trenches for fences or palisades. The larger ditches, mostly flat based, would have formed substantial barriers, and with banks thrown up on the inside (for which some evidence survives, see Ditch B and Ditch A3), and hedging or fencing on top, control of animals would have been effective. There is little evidence for erosion from use as drains, although they may have held water at certain times of the year.

Other features

Remaining features, small and large postholes in singles or groups, probably represent temporary structures, possibly racks for agricultural purposes such as drying vegetation or skins, or as windbreaks, haystacks or other functions.

The concentration of stakeholes in one small area of Trench X, their relationship with various pits, such as F143 and F176, and the association with burning in these and F145 are important when considering their function. The report on the chalky concretion (see **Environment**) shows that it was fire and not water

that had affected the deposits, evidence which agrees with the ash and burnt stones also found in them. Simple cooking hearths seems unlikely; no evidence for metal working was found in association, nor did the degree of heat represented by the sides and concretion suggest great temperature. It is possible that they formed the base of some kind of pottery firing in a turf kiln, and that the clay lining would have helped as an oven for this or a baking purpose. However, the stakeholes are difficult to relate to these interpretations, unless they were holding some platform on which things were to be burnt. It is also possible that these pits were used as pyres for offerings. The deposition of a large body of reasonably high quality pottery from F176, would tend to support an idea that these pits might have been concerned with the ritual side of life closely linked with the domestic.

The Economy

The assemblage of animal remains found at Edix Hill was small, and so comments relating to animal husbandry can only be tentative. The indications are that cattle (some long-lived, and with evidence from one of use as a work animal) was the most important meat animal on site, but that numbers of sheep were far greater. The predominance of young animals shows that sheep were reared for meat rather than for wool. As is normal with Iron Age sites many bones showed evidence of having been gnawed and partially digested by carnivores, and dogs were clearly present, best represented in the articulated burial of a complete dog in pit F531. Horse (pony) bones were found in small numbers, some with possible defleshing marks. The presence of milk teeth and very well worn permanent teeth suggests they were bred locally and

	<i>Structures</i>	<i>Artefacts</i>	<i>Processing</i>
<i>Domestic</i>	some daub	pottery (bowls, storage jars, cooking pots) needles/pins spindle whorl nails	butchered bone quern fragments
<i>Agriculture</i>	storage pits granary? drying racks? ditched droves/palisades/fences	sickle?/knife	cereals (wheat, barley) faunal remains (sheep, cattle, goats)
<i>Industry</i>	pits and stakeholes	imported stones	ash deposits chalky concretions some slag
<i>Trade and exchange</i>		brooches coins imported pottery (amphorae, flagons, beakers, terra rubra/nigra)	
<i>Religion</i>	pits with placed deposits (dog skeleton, cattle skulls) graves (Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon, as well as Bronze Age ring-ditch)		

Table 7. Evidence from Edix Hill of Iron Age activities

used for their full life span.

Pottery and animal bone found in the pits and ditches demonstrate domestic activity in the area. Metal artefacts, such as brooches and coins, indicate that the inhabitants were not particularly poor, evidence borne out by the number of imported wares among the ceramic assemblage especially amphorae and flagon fragments, and access to such markets would have been easy along well-defined routes such as the Icknield Way, lesser tracks in the vicinity, and the river. Craft activities are represented by occasional finds of spindle whorls and bone needles, some in association with the pits mentioned above. Crop processing of spelt and barley, amongst other species, was happening somewhere on Edix Hill, represented by querns and environmental evidence, which also showed that other materials such as reeds and foreign stones had been brought in to the site. Wild animal bones and hazel nuts suggests only a small element of hunting and collecting. The activities represented on site are summarised on Table 7.

Ritual

The earliest feature found at Edix Hill was a Bronze Age burial mound, and the site was reused as a cemetery in its latest, Anglo-Saxon, phase. There is also one burial that may date to the 1st century AD. Evidence for ritual use is therefore also worth exploring in the Iron Age.

Two pits show definite evidence for placed deposits, F1 and F531. A cattle skull was placed centrally on the very base of the pit in the first, and a homogeneous fill, devoid of other finds, indicates that the pit was then backfilled around it, while the skeleton of a dog with a cattle skull placed above was found as a secondary deposit in pit F531. Such evidence is in line with deposits in storage pits on many Iron Age sites. Deliberately lighting of fires in pits is also sometimes recognised, most probably as part of a ritual activity. In pits F176 and F143 at Edix Hill low temperature fires appear to have been burnt, associated with stakeholes and a large deposit of fine pottery. One interpretation for this could be use of the pits for offering pyres, and deliberate deposition of important possessions.

It is also possible that some of the other pits with layered episodes of infill and large assemblages either pot or animal bone (not both) could also reflect placed deposits, although this was not apparent when they were excavated. The ritual function of Iron Age pits is presently the subject of much research (e.g. Hill 1995) and is explored in some detail by Cunliffe (1992). It is worth noting that certain pits contain large assemblages of pot, sometimes with particular parts predominant such as rims, or are largely one vessel, while others contain very little or none. It is therefore possible that some of the pottery was also deliberately deposited (for example pit F154) and such conclusions would be comparable to recent reassessment of the Wandlebury material (Hill unpublished mss). The apparent exclusivity of pits containing either animal bone or pottery is similar to patterns seen on Wessex

sites (J. D. Hill, pers. comm.).

Finally, the occurrence of coins at the site sits uncomfortably with its general status as a rural farmstead. If, however, its dimension as a religious site was also important at this stage then perhaps the coins were part of votive deposits. It is very interesting to record the find of 6 gold staters (Ambiani) near a crossing-place of the river Rhee 1km to the south of Edix Hill. Both the river and a possible trackway (the Portway or Great Potters Way) which ran along its northern bank show that this hoard might have been linked to communication routes, but the reasons for the deposition of a relatively common but valuable group of coins is unknown. Twelve other Iron Age coins are known from Barrington (Index of Celtic Coins, de Jersey, pers. comm.).

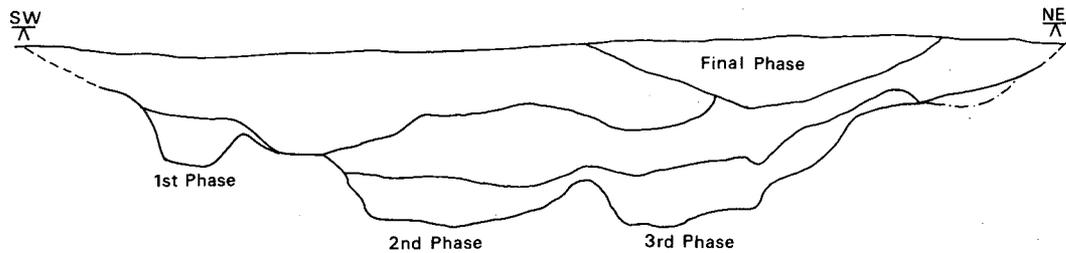
Local and Regional Context

Many sites of similar age and character are known from the region (Fig. 1) although very little has been found on the claylands west of Edix Hill. Apart from stray finds from Orwell and Malton the nearest sites are those discovered and excavated as part of a British Gas pipeline in 1994/5 at Wimpole (Site 6), Shepreth (Site 10) and Foxton (Site 5) (Price *et al.*, 1997, 12–39).

Three penannular gullies for roundhouses were discovered at Wimpole dated between 100 BC and the Roman Conquest, although pottery suggests the possibility of a slightly earlier, middle Iron Age date for the beginning of use (*ibid.*, 19). This site is interpreted as having been a typical unenclosed settlement with mixed farming situated on marginal clay land. Features suggesting stock control replaced the roundhouses, and around the Conquest period an enclosed settlement appears to have been constructed immediately to the south, with a large “defensive” ditch (*ibid.*, 17–8). Its close proximity to both Akeman and Ermine Street suggests that the settlement would have been strategic, but the ditch was backfilled and the site deserted c. 80 AD. Close to Foxton Brook in Shepreth a curvilinear enclosure was discovered with isolated pits and postholes. Late Iron Age pot and a radiocarbon date of 195 BC–AD 75 established its date and the interpretation given was of water management to create lush pasture for stock. A rectilinear enclosure, c. 60 x 40m containing a circular feature (roundhouse?) was seen from air photographs lying parallel to the stream and immediately to the south of the curvilinear one (Wilson and Taylor 1995). Across the brook in Foxton parish, mid - late Iron Age pits and 4 roundhouses were found on drier land (Price *et al.*, 1997, 24–26).

Further south at Foxton, and also situated beside the brook, a late Iron Age settlement containing stock enclosures and ditched droveways was shown to have been occupied between 1st century BC - early 1st century AD (Macaulay 1995). This settlement was rich in faunal remains and allowed speculation that the site had specialized in animal husbandry. Fox also found late Iron Age settlement remains in the parish (Fox 1924), and at Manor Farm, Harston, there were ditched features (droveways, paddocks and bound-

WIMPOLE SITE 6 DEFENSIVE DITCH (7q)



EDIX HILL DITCH A

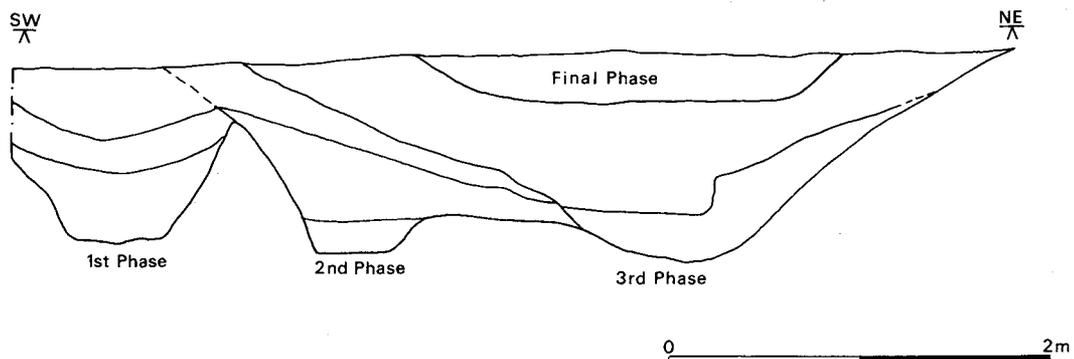


Figure 24. Comparison of major ditch profiles from Wimpole and Edix Hill (Wimpole section after Taylor 1995, 143-146).

aries) similar to Edix Hill (Malim 1994).

At Wimpole, the small area investigated included domestic structures dating to the 1st century BC and a "defensive" ditch, or major boundary with evidence of complex reuse, similar to Ditch A at Edix Hill, and with a similar date for the final phase of infill. The design of this successive boundary is virtually mirrored by Ditch A (Fig. 24), suggesting that the two sites could have been constructed with a common purpose and design. At Hooper's Field, Barrington, Foster reported on another Iron Age enclosure with a ditch of larger scale (approximately 4.3m wide and 2.5m deep). The enclosure was about 80m x 30m and contained large pits and "drains" (gullies, possibly trenches for palisades or fence lines) (Foster 1883, 6-9).

Complex use and reuse of Iron Age storage pits has been examined at many sites. Local examples include Barley, Wandlebury, and Greenhouse Farm, (Fen Ditton). At Barley, approximately 150 pits and one horseshoe shaped gully (a house?) were excavated. The design and size of the pits, as well as their history of infill, is remarkably similar to those from Edix Hill, and it was noted that these must have been covered and quickly infilled as little erosion appears to have occurred (Cra'ster 1961 and 1965). Evidence for intense burning in two, plus two dog skeletons, cattle skulls, an infant and 2 child burials, and stacked pot sherds as well as complete or near complete vessels, suggests ritual activity was practised at Barley. At Wandlebury the pits were mainly shallow cylindrical

features and were found to have up to 3 layers filling them which were interpreted as rubbish quickly deposited, as adjoining pot sherds were found from different layers. At least three of the pits had been used for burial. A profusion of pits both inside and outside of the hill fort is presently the focus of much fieldwork and reassessment of previous work (French and Gdaniec 1996 and Hill 1996).

At Duxford, Pepperton Hill, evidence for storage pits, possible granaries, and a system of ditches and enclosures or paddocks was found by the 1994 British Gas Pipeline (*ibid*, 40-8). This settlement appears to date to the early Iron Age, with reuse in the 1st century AD. Another early Iron Age settlement was recently excavated at Fordham, containing irregular pits and postholes, with 4-post granaries and circular arrangements. Palisaded Bronze Age enclosures and field ditches were also found, suggesting possible continuity, with large ditches acting as "cross-ridge" boundaries between low-lying fen areas. Deliberately-placed deposits of articulated bone and stacked pot sherds were found in some pits (Denham *et al.* 1997). At Greenhouse Farm, Fen Ditton, approximately 200 pits and some ditched features were found containing middle Iron Age pottery, (Evans *et al.* 1997) and across the Cam at Milton excavations revealed Iron Age roundhouses with separate areas of pitting and agricultural structures (Reynolds 1994, Bray and Reynolds 1997, and Connor 1997).

The abundance and size of pits at Edix Hill, therefore, is consistent with sites in the area, as is their ap-

parent episodic infilling. The zoning of pits in one area, granaries and agricultural structures in others, stock enclosures elsewhere, and domestic housing grouped in another zone, would be an acceptable division of any farm unit. A good example of such zoning can be seen at Rectory Farm, Great Shelford where a roundhouse enclosed by a rectangular ditch formed a domestic zone (Site V), with an area of extensive pitting located 250m to the south (Site II) (Trump *et al.* 1978). Stock handling replaced settlement at Wimpole, and was found to be the main area of interest at Herods Farm, Foxton, at Shepreth and possibly at Duxford in its later use. The large area uncovered at Fordham has allowed a widespread picture to be obtained, and it is interesting to note that at this purely early Iron Age site there is little evidence of ditched features for stock control. In general, therefore, we can see a change from sites with numerous pits in early-middle Iron Age times, while larger ditched features and parcelling up of the landscape occurred in the later Iron Age. Such parcelling up of the land is reflected on a large scale by features such as the Cambridgeshire dykes (Malim *et al.* 1997, 109, 117). The southeast to northwest orientation of these linear earthworks is mirrored by the enclosures and co-axial field-systems found at Edix Hill and Hooper's Field in Barrington and at other sites in the vicinity. The significance of such territorial sub-divisions and their implications for a changing economy within the later Iron Age need to be discussed in greater depth elsewhere.

APPENDIX I

The decorated pottery: is it Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon?

Morag Woudhuysen

Simply decorated sherds, often with no more than a few tooled or incised lines, were found at Edix Hill and, on a site where this technique could be either Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon, the problem of distinguishing particular periods arose. As a result all the decorated sherds were examined as a group to see if any clearer distinctions might be made (Fig. 25). Stratigraphic evidence was ambiguous in some cases, but others (see below) were in Iron Age contexts.

- 306.1 Small body sherd in a grey brown fabric, sand tempered with a few flint grits. 6mm thick. The exterior face smoothed and brown coloured, the interior dark grey and sandy. Four sharply incised fine parallel lines.
- 40 Dark grey body sherd, possibly from a base angle. The fabric contains fine sparkling filler. The pot may have been coil made and then well pressed to produce even walls 5mm thick. The exterior has haphazard lines scratched, possibly with vegetation.
- 10/A:3 Small body sherd in a light brown fabric with fine flint temper. 5mm thick. Two fine tooled parallel lines.
- 19 Small body sherd in a dark grey-brown sandy fabric. 4mm thick. A fine tooled line and a small round

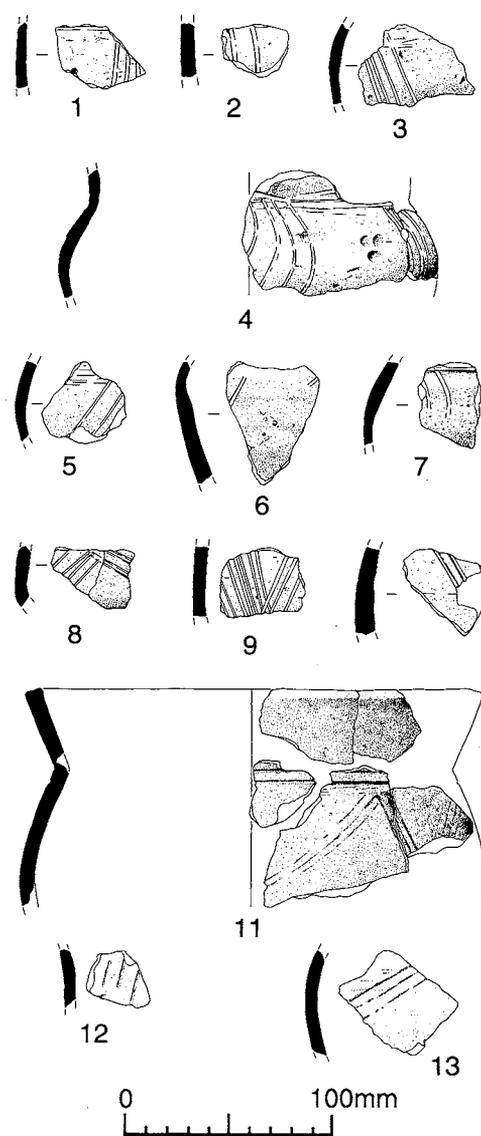


Figure 25. Decorated pottery

- impression.
- 321.1 1 Two body sherds in a dark grey sandy fabric 10mm thick. Deep, fine irregular cuts on surface
- 2 Body sherd in a light brown fabric with a few fine grits. 5mm thick. Three parallel fine tooled lines, slightly curving.
- 3 Dark grey body sherd in a sandy fabric. 8mm thick. One tooled line.
- 304.1 Body sherd in a dark grey fabric. 7mm thick. Possibly from the shoulder area. Three deeply tooled parallel lines.
- XII 1000/325 Large body sherd in a dark grey sandy fabric with fine flint tempering and small flint grits. 6mm thick. Two broad, rather irregular tooled lines.
- 321/1000 Body sherd in a dark grey fabric; a little rounded quartz gritting. 5mm thick. Possibly from the shoulder area. Medium thickness tooled lines possibly originally three parallel lines set at an angle to three other parallel lines in a chevron, meeting at a tooled horizontal line.

- 705/1000 Dark grey body sherd with a brown-grey exterior face. Sand tempered. 5mm thick. The decoration has been formed by several short, roughly horizontal impressions which form an irregular line from which depend four incised lines at different angles to each other suggesting that they may have formed a swag
- 683.1 Dark grey body sherd with a well smoothed exterior. 6mm thick. A very small area with two tooled curving lines possibly stamp impressed.
- 631.9 Body sherd in a dark grey fabric with some sand temper. 6 mm thick. Two tooled lines and three tooled lines meeting in a chevron.
- 628.1 The inside surface has smoothed areas possibly caused by pebble wiping on the inside; the exterior is well smoothed. 8mm thick. Two groups of three tooled parallel lines meet in a chevron.
- 312.1 Small mid-grey body sherd with sand temper. 4mm thick. Two fine parallel tooled lines
- 457/1000 Dark grey body sherd with a few fine flint grits, and sparkling sand filler. 8mm thick. The inside appears to have been smoothed, possibly by pebble wiping. The exterior face has been smoothed and left faintly faceted. There is a shallow circular impression with a shallow tooled line joining to it.
- 726.4
- *1-and 2 (Fig. 25; 3 and 5). Two body sherds almost certainly from the same pot. The fabric is dark grey with some sparkling sand and occasional grits. The pottery is irregular c. 5mm thick. The exterior has a broad burnished band from which descend near-vertical, four broad parallel burnished lines and, on the other sherd, two widely spaced parallel burnished lines at an angle.
- 3 (Fig. 25;9) Body sherd in a mid-grey fabric, light brown-grey on the interior face. 6mm thick. Exterior well smoothed. Three parallel lines and eight parallel burnished lines meet in a chevron.
- 176.5
- *1 (Fig. 25; 6) Dark grey body sherd with a light brown exterior face. 8mm thick. The inside has been pebble polished to such an extent as to leave the surface nearly entirely burnished. On the outside a short length of a single broad tooled line curving very slightly
- *2 (Fig. 25; 7) Dark grey body sherd which has had the interior pebble polished. 5mm thick. Two lightly tooled lines roughly parallel and curving on the outside.
- *176.1 (Fig. 25; 2) Body sherd in a light grey fabric. 7mm thick. The inside appears to be pebble polished; the exterior is well smoothed. Two broad tooled lines parallel to each other and curving slightly.
- 176.5 Dark grey body sherd with small white grits. 5mm thick. Outside has two incised parallel lines meeting two others in an acute angle chevron.
- *176.3 (Fig. 25; 4) Large body sherd from a possibly globular vessel with a flared rim. The fabric contains sand and white grits and is dark grey; the exterior patchy grey-brown. The interior has been pebble polished to a burnish and the exterior has been irregularly smoothed. At the angle with the rim is a broad, irregular tooled furrow from which depend two groups of tooled lines both curving leftwards. In the field between the lines are three shallow depression arranged in an inverted triangle.
- 531.1 (Fig. 25; 1) Dark grey body sherd with a dark grey-brown face. Some sparkling sand and fine white grits. A horizontal tooled line from which descends three parallel broad tooled lines. A small round depression also.
- *551.1 (Fig. 25; 8) Body sherd in a dark grey fabric with a brown exterior. 6mm thick. The inside appears to have been pebble polished. The outside is decorated with two groups of four roughly parallel tooled lines meeting in a broad angled chevron.
- *679.1 (Fig. 25; 10) Dark grey body sherd with sand and small white grits in the body. 10mm thick. Two parallel deeply tooled lines.
- 637.1 (Fig. 25; 12) Light grey body sherd with a dark grey outer face. Some sparkling sand filler. 5mm thick. Three broad tooled parallel lines.
- 640.1 (Fig. 25; 13) Body sherd in a mid-grey sand tempered fabric. The exterior face is patchy brown-grey. 5mm thick. Exterior face burnished all over and has three parallel incised lines.
- 154 (Fig. 25; 11) Sherds probably all from the same pot. The rim is tall and upright with a sharply squared-off profile in an orange-brown sandy fabric. Rounded white quartz and small white flint inclusions, together with a few random larger stones, have been included in the fabric which is c. 6mm thick. Bottom of neck marked by a deep groove, below which the pot appears to be sub-globular. The sherds from the body area are dark grey and have the remains of a burnish on them; although no joins are possible it is probable that all this material is from one pot, as decorative elements in common can be found on both orange-brown and grey sherds. The decoration consists of swags across the body of the pot which have been applied with a three toothed comb. The swags are poorly applied and the lines tend to be intermittent.

Some of the above sherds, marked *, have been suggested as possible Anglo-Saxon sherds (Malim and Hines, 1998). Two examples, (Fig. 25; 3 and 5 (also in Malim and Hines as Figs. 5.9; 5 and 6) have been referred to as having 'multilinear incised decoration, forming a chevron...' However, it should be noted that these sherds have a burnished decoration. Another, (Fig. 25; 9 Malim and Hines Fig. 5.9; 7) differs in fabric from the other two and has burnished decorative lines. The burnishing tool has left slight furrows. The remaining sherds correspond as: Fig. 25; 2, 4, 6-8, 10/Malim and Hines 1998, Fig. 5.9; 8, 15-18, 10 respectively.

From the above it is clear that the majority of sherds have been decorated with tooling with some rounded-point instrument – possibly a piece of polished wood or bone. The result is a shallow furrow with a rounded profile which may also appear to have a shiny surface. Incising was found more rarely at Edix Hill. Whilst the actions of tooling and incising are not dissimilar, there is a distinction between the two techniques which was rarely recognised in older reports. Burnished patterning was rarely found at Edix Hill although all-over burnishing of a surface to produce a polished look was done, particularly in the

Late Iron Age.

Although the sherds are generally very small some have a slight curve at one side suggesting that the decorated area came from just above or below an abrupt change of angle in the pot. The sherds are so small that it is impossible to discuss complete schemes of decoration, however there appear to be two major forms of decoration present – parallel tooled lines, often in a chevron shape; or curving tooled lines. A further decorative element found consisted of pitting, with a small round ended tool, or the creation of shallow circular depressions. These are carefully finished and clearly distinguished from finger tipping which can be found on other wares from the site and may have been intended to imitate metal prototypes. Many sherds were well made, with a smoothed surface, perhaps carefully finished before decoration.

Highly decorated regional pottery from the Iron Age is known, particularly outside the eastern regions and further to the west. The eastern regions appear to have had simpler forms of decoration, often executed with less confidence than that found elsewhere. Decorated sherds found on Iron Age sites in the region are relatively few and often too small to allow speculation about the full scheme or the pot from which they are derived. However, Cunliffe (1968) has discussed some decorative elements found in the eastern regions and a number of parallels to Edix Hill material can be cited. Tooled diagonal lines and small pits were recorded at West Harling, Plate III. 5 and 8 (Clark and Fell 1953). At Fengate (Hawkes and Fell 1945) a number of wide-mouthed, carinated bowls were excavated. These had tooled lines meeting at angles, chevron patterns and arcading, often set between tooled horizontal lines (cf. Plate I.2 and Plate II. 3). The decoration extended all over the pot in a few cases but was predominately defined to the angled shoulder area where it would have been most visible. Many of the Fengate bowls had tall, slightly flared rims and it is likely that the tall flared rims from Edix Hill may have come from such vessels although no rims could be linked to other parts of the appropriate profile. A tooled base from Linton (Fell 1953) had lines arranged in a chevron pattern between horizontal lines.

Fengate also had pottery decorated with round punch marks which, the excavators suggested, was of a slightly later date. Similar decoration was found at Darmsden (Cunliffe 1968) where several pots were decorated with “isolated neat circular depressions, from which spring zones of shallow tooled lines usually converging at their lower end to form a ‘V’ pendant from the depressions.” However, broad tooled furrows, particularly at the angle of the neck to the body, which appeared frequently at Darmsden were not recognised at Edix Hill. The use of small pits (‘punched decoration’) together with short straight or curved lines is a characteristic of pottery over a wide area which Cunliffe (1974) characterised as the Chinnor-Wandlebury group.

At Hunsbury hill fort (Fell 1937) elegant rounded

or globular bowls and jars were decorated with curving lines (*ibid.* Fig 6 D.11) and hanging swags between tooled horizontal lines (*ibid.* Fig 6 D.12). Also present was pottery decorated with shallow circular depressions (*ibid.* Fig 10 D.15). Some sherds from Barley (Cra’ster 1961) were found decorated with small circular pits and broad, curved, tooled lines although no overall pattern could be deduced from these. However, they may represent Hunsbury type decoration. From further west, decorated pottery from The Caburn (Hawkes 1939) had arcades, tooled lines, small round pits (Plate XI) and circular, possibly stamped, decoration (Fig. K.80) occurring together.

All these elements – tooled furrows, tooled lines in chevrons, parallel-line groups and arcades/swags, small pits, circular depressions and, possibly, stamped decoration – can be found at Edix Hill, albeit in very small quantities. On the forms of decoration sherds can be paralleled from a wide range of sites. Although the original dating may be an issue at some sites (not least because the original excavations may have been done more than fifty years ago) such material and schemes of decoration are accepted as Iron Age. There is, therefore a strong case that all such similarly decorated material from Edix Hill (with the exception of obvious Anglo-Saxon sherds included in graves and few of which were decorated) may be Iron Age rather than later.

However, the methods and decorative techniques used in the Iron Age were very simple and the same techniques can be found on well-accepted Anglo-Saxon material. Visual inspection of the fabrics has not allowed any strong conclusions to be drawn by which the sherds could be assigned to either period. All the sherds are hand-made and many of them show fine flint gritting. Of particular interest, as part of the manufacturing techniques, is the treatment of the inside surface of some sherds. These have become burnished by the movement of a smooth object on the inside which may have been used to help maintain the wall of the pot during its formation. The term ‘pebble polish’ has been given to these examples without implying that the resultant burnished/polished surface was an intentional outcome. It is not clear to the writer whether this is a period-specific technique or a commonly used way of pot shaping used at various times. This unintentional effect has been noted on Anglo-Saxon pots but it would be of interest to know if the effect has been observed elsewhere and under what conditions.

Two sherds, probably from the same pot, which do appear to be different are the first two sherds described in 726.2. These have a different feel from all other sherds and the surface feel is of almost imperceptible surface irregularities – possibly caused during manufacture. These are the only sherds decorated with burnishing as opposed to tooled lines. These two sherds are, therefore, distinctive and have been positively recognised by Hines as Anglo-Saxon.

The difficulty in distinguishing between Anglo-Saxon and Iron Age by fabric means that decoration is a particularly important factor in assigning dates.

Two large sherds in the group of decorated sherds are of particular interest because they exhibit something of the pot profile as well as a scheme of decoration; one has been assigned an Anglo-Saxon date by Hines. The sherd, 176/3, includes both decoration and some indication of the body shape. Decorated with hanging, curving lines and shallow impressions this pot has elements which are common in the Anglo-Saxon period, and which are also often associated with Romano-Saxon wares, but, it is suggested, which could be equally at home in the Iron Age.

The globular shape of the bowl is distinctive at Edix Hill where much of the finer material appears to have been wide-mouthed bowls with carinated or angled shoulders. Globular bowls are, however, found at Hunsbury (Fell 1937) and Fengate (Hawkes and Fell 1945). An example from Fengate, Fig. 7 R.6. shows the lower part of a bowl with three parallel lines curving across, while Hunsbury, Fig. 6 D.12, shows hanging swags with tooled lines above. Between the curved lines of 176.3 are circular impressions in an inverted triangle. Carefully made circular impressions were noted in a number of earlier excavations, often because it was felt they showed affinities with examples of pottery from the Continent. Bushe-Fox (1915) noted the occurrence at Hengistbury Head in his Class E pottery (Plate XX) which was distinguished by circular depressions sometimes arranged in inverted triangles. Parallels of an appropriate date can, therefore, be found for the decoration on 176/3. Precise parallels to the form of this pot have not been found but a somewhat similarly shaped pot from Esher is shown in Cunliffe (1974) Darmsden-Linton group A:11.28 which is represented as a round bodied pot with a tall flaring rim and decorated with horizontal furrows and circular depressions.

Two further pots with similarities can be found in Fox (1923); Plate XI.A3 shows a drawing of a pot from Grantchester with a slight carination and (suggested) flaring rim, decorated with circular depressions and parallel (presumably tooled) line and described as 'early Iron Age'; Plate XV.1 shows a remarkable pot with bosses and inverted triangles of shallow circular depressions between parallel lines which might be regarded, on sight, as Romano-Saxon. Fox was clearly in two minds about this pot – he describes it as wheel-made – and drew attention to the similarities between Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon wares. Whilst bosses are not usually found on Iron Age pottery examples are known, *cf.* Fengate Fig. 10. Misc. 6. Fox included this pot in a section clearly dealing with Iron Age material and must have understood it to be of this date. The pot is not dissimilar in form to the Darmsden-Linton group pot already discussed.

Pot 176/3 can, therefore, be shown to have similarities in both shape and decoration with Iron Age material and could be acceptably dated to this period. Stratigraphically it was found in a layer in a pit with a large assemblage of other sherds clearly attributable to the early Iron Age, and sealed by a further layer containing other Iron Age pot. The second pot is 154.

The pot finds the closest parallels from Fengate where the tall, slightly flared rim with a squared-off top can be paralleled with Fig. 6. Q.2, while a similar hanging swag of three parallel lines can be matched on a globular pot in Fig. 7 R.6.

From this it may be seen that the decorated sherds from Edix Hill can be paralleled with material from other Iron Age sites, particularly Fengate and Hunsbury and thus both of the largest sherds (176/3 and 154) may be Iron Age rather than Anglo-Saxon. Although the amount of decorated material is small it would appear to have slightly stronger affinities with sites predominately to the west and north rather than eastwards and its presence may indicate a class of finer Iron Age material present at Edix Hill.

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Bibliography

Abbreviations used

AM Lab Rpt	Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
BMP	British Museum Publications
CBA Res Rpt	Council for British Archaeology Research Report
CCC Rpt	Cambridgeshire County Council Report by the Archaeological Field Unit
CUP	Cambridge University Press
HBMC	Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission
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