
Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCV
for 2006



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Editor Alison Taylor

Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 2006

ISSN 0309-3606

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A Romano-British temple complex and Anglo-Saxon burials at Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior

Tim Malim

with contributions by Rebecca Casa Hatton, Nina Crummy,
Corinne Duhig, Lorrain Higbee and Gavin Lucas

A Romano-British temple complex just southwest of Devil's Dyke overlooked a Roman villa 1km away in Reach, to which the site appears linked by a trackway. The complex consisted of a main compound, defined by a palisade trench, containing three subsidiary areas: the large outer enclosure may represent a funerary precinct or temenos. Placed centrally within it is a rectangular area, itself subdivided, which, on the basis of cropmark evidence, contains a possible shrine or temple. To the north, post-dating the central enclosure, an internal double-ditched courtyard surrounds a circular feature and associated square structure, possibly a second shrine or temple. Within the third enclosure to the southwest a small single-celled building may represent another shrine or mausoleum.

On the basis of artefactual evidence, the whole complex appears to have been short lived, the main focus being during the 1st century and earlier half of the 2nd century. The site was subsequently abandoned and was reused by Early Anglo-Saxons as a burial ground. An undated adult inhumation was found within demolition debris associated with the shrine/mausoleum located within the southwestern enclosure, while seven further inhumations were scattered across the investigation site. Two were identified as Anglo-Saxon on the basis of associated grave goods. The remaining graves were not excavated and may have been late Roman or Anglo-Saxon in date.

In 1990, a survey of Cambridgeshire County Council's farmland identified sites of special archaeological interest and made recommendations for future management (Malim 1990). During this survey a complex system of rectilinear cropmarks was identified at Gallows Hill, Swaffham Prior (TL 578 643; Figs. 1, 2 and 3). Subsequent opportunities were taken for fieldwork assessment to determine the value of the site. A variety of techniques were used to investigate the site, including trial trenching, resistivity survey, metal detecting and fieldwalking covering one hectare. Excavation and other investigations were kept to the minimum required to justify management changes, with no more than 10% excavated. The results justified proposals for the preservation of the site, with

removal of the land from arable agriculture and conversion to grassland with some tree cover.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies near the fen-edge, on an outcrop of Middle Chalk surrounded by a band of Melbourn Rock. The chalk hill, known locally as Gallows Hill, rises up to over 35m OD from a ridge of Lower Chalk which crosses southern Cambridgeshire (BGS Sheet 188) (Fig. 1). The site has a commanding view across the landscape. To the northwest the land drops away sharply into the fens, while to the south and southeast it gradually descends from the chalk ridge to gently undulating chalkland.

Devil's Dyke, lying approximately 350m northeast of the site, runs from Reach in a southeasterly direction for 12km, terminating between Stetchworth and Wood Ditton.

Archaeological and historical background

The archaeology and history of the immediate surrounding area is well studied, with numerous finds' spots representing all periods recorded on Cambridgeshire's Historic Environment Record. The site is positioned within a landscape that has long provided a focus for settlement and activity with the attraction of the combined resources of the fen and upland chalk grassland.

Immediately south of Gallows Hill (Fig. 2) are five ring-ditches, possibly the site of prehistoric barrows, and to the north, on the fen-edge, an Iron Age settlement and burials. The well-defined cropmark of a ditched trackway leads down the slope from the site to a lavish Roman villa, 1km away in Reach. The villa was excavated in the late 19th century and appears to belong to the winged-corridor type with substantial walls of flint and Barnack limestone, facing south towards Gallows Hill (Atkinson 1893). Unfortunately there is no evidence that can be used for dating in

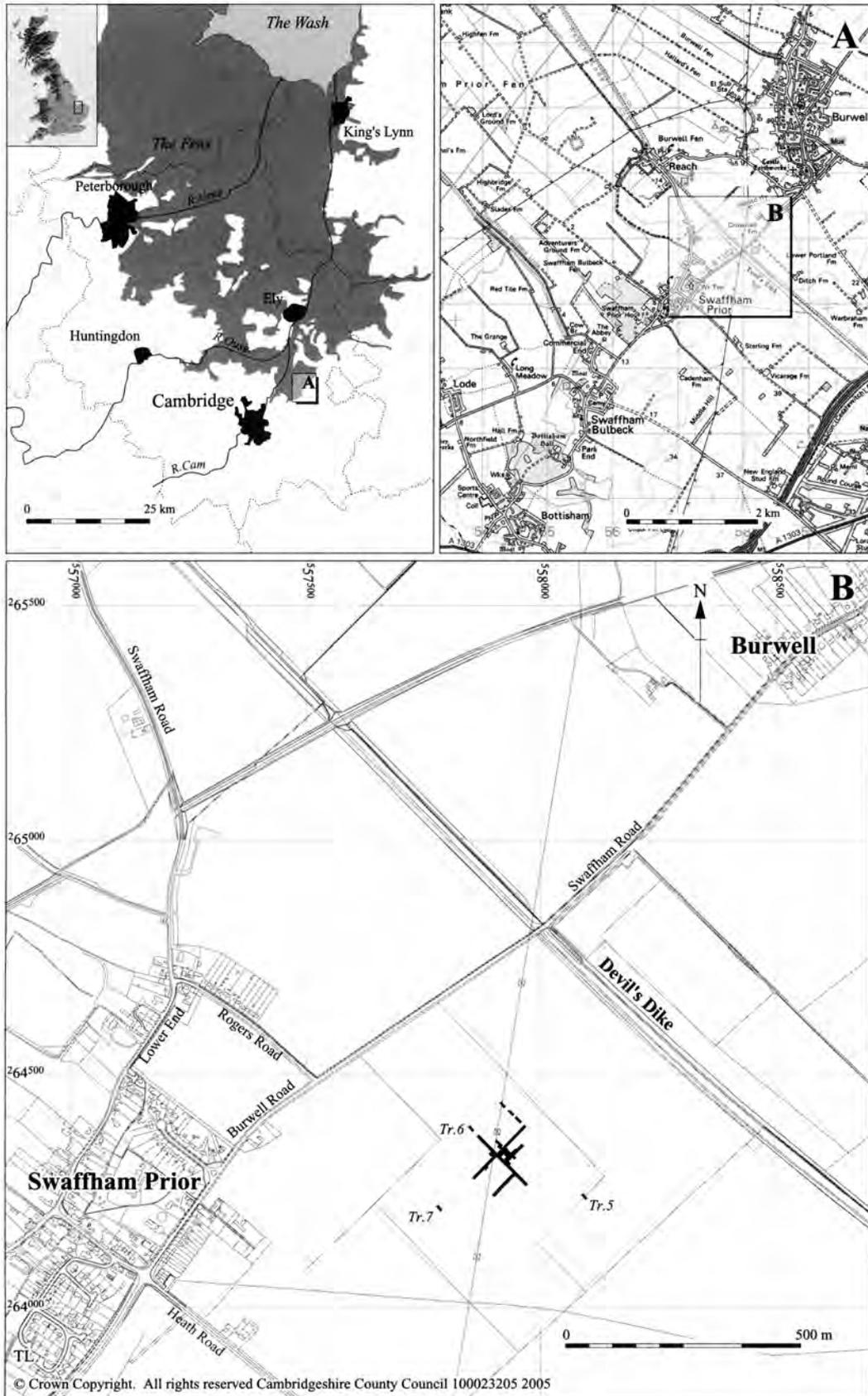
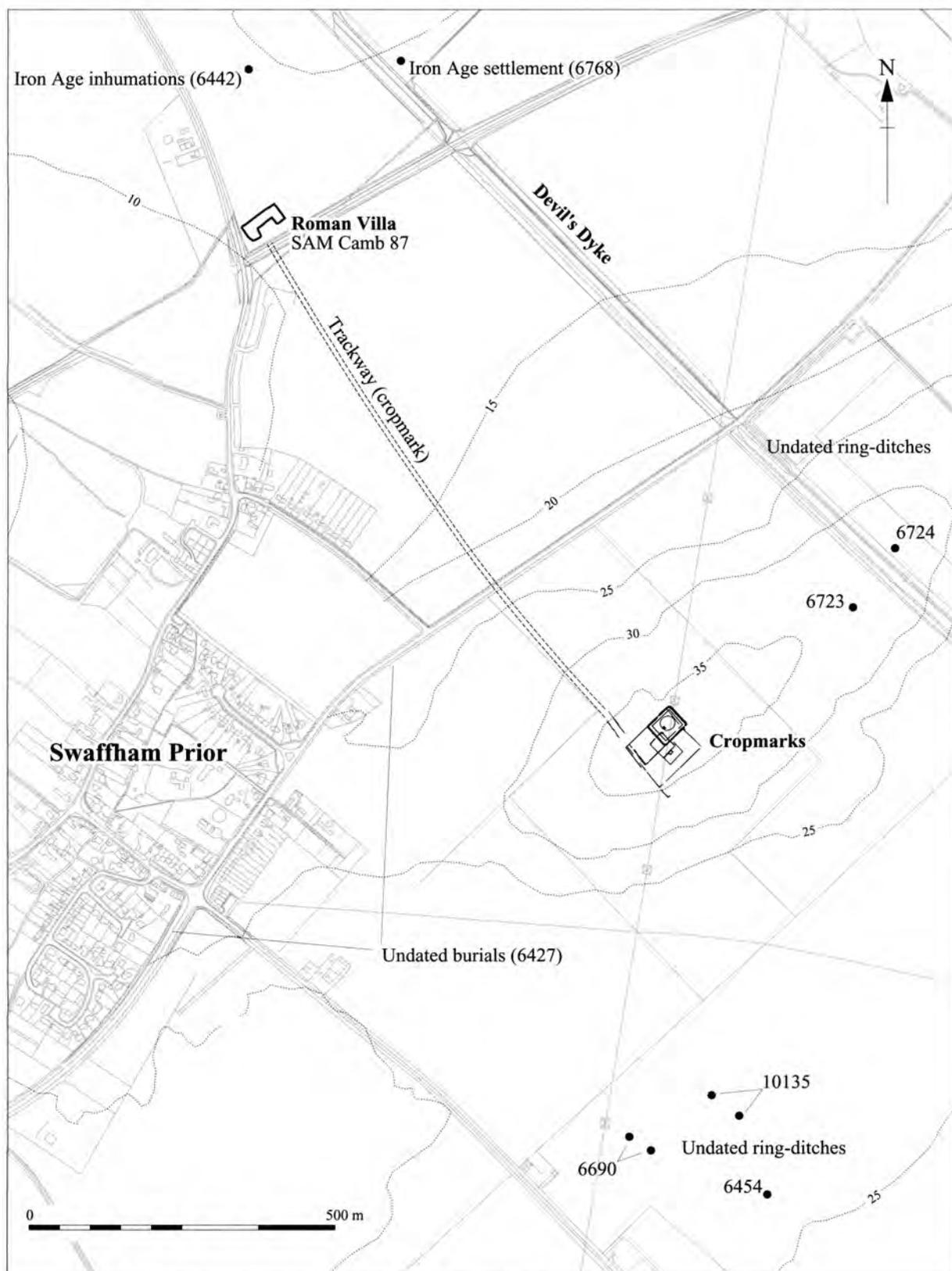


Figure 1. Location map with trenches in black.



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Figure 2. Location of villa in relation to square cropmark enclosure.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the cropmarks on Gallows Hill, taken in 1977, viewed from the east (CUCAP BFE 60: copyright reserved).

the published report. The trackway was partially excavated in 1992 and 1993: ditches 6.5m apart were located, although no metalling or wheel-ruts were apparent (Robinson 1992, 20).

Devil's Dyke, the longest and most impressive of a series of four dykes in southern Cambridgeshire is traditionally seen as a defensive earthwork in use in the 7th century when conflict occurred between the Mercian and Anglian kings. Alternative explanations have been put forward, according to which the dyke may represent a statement of political control on the landscape, a deterrent against cattle rustling

or a means of controlling trade. Excavations in 1973 confirmed a post-AD350 date of construction (Hope-Taylor and Hill 1976). More recent work on another dyke, Fleam Dyke, showed that this monument had been constructed in the immediate post-Roman period (Malim *et al* 1997).

During the construction of Swaffham Prior by-pass in 1973 up to six skeletons without grave goods were found. Two further Anglo-Saxon burials were reported from Cadenham Road to the south, whilst between the by-pass and Gallows Hill six other skeletons had been found in 1966 during pipe-laying operations

(HER 6427, 6419 and 6428). The name of Gallows Hill and Cage Hill at Swaffham Prior could, however, suggest that these burials derive from an execution site, consistent with the discovery of a skeleton in an iron casket (or a 'cage') as reported by locals in 1993 who remembered the skeletons found on the by-pass. The location of gallows in prominent positions on parish boundaries is well known.

The place-name Swaffham may derive from the Old English *Swafham* meaning 'the Swabian Home', ie the land of the *Swaeffe*, a tribe originally from eastern Germany (Ekwall 1991). The settlement was first recorded in the early 10th century, and later in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Reaney 1943, 133). It may have received the name of Swaffham Prior in the late 12th century, following the foundation of a priory of Benedictine nuns under the Prior of Ely.

The excavation

Roman (1st to 3rd century)

Trackway

Cropmark evidence indicates a trackway connecting the investigation site to the nearby Roman villa (Fig. 2). Running parallel to the temple complex was a ditch (106) some 1.50m wide and 0.70m deep, steep-sided with a flat base (Fig. 4). This may represent a continuation of the southern trackside drainage ditch indicated by cropmarks. A second ditch (67) ran parallel to the first at a distance of some 12m and was 1.50m wide and 0.10m deep with steep sides. Its fill contained small abraded sherds of 3rd-century pottery. It was initially suggested that this feature might have been Iron Age in origin, representing the northern drainage ditch of the trackway (Bray and Malim 1998, 14, 25) although, on the basis of its shallow depth and location in relation to cropmarks, it is possible that the ditch was in fact part of an ephemeral square enclosure surrounding a shrine or mausoleum (below). This would indicate that the track was either out of use or truncated by the time of the insertion of the enclosure above it. The trackway also appeared to pre-date creation of the main enclosure and a pre-Roman origin remains plausible (see discussion below).

Main Enclosure

The main enclosure, 85m northwest to southeast by 90m southwest to northeast (with a cropmark indicating a possible additional element extending to a total of 105m northwest to southeast), was aligned with its corners on the points of the compass (Figs 4 and 5A). The ditch was steep-sided with a basal slot for a possible wooden palisade. It was 0.50m to 0.60m deep and varied slightly in width, being between 1.20m and 2.20m wide (Figs 4 and 7). Its fills contained 1st-century pottery and animal bone, with lesser quantities of 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery. Two large postholes (25 and 340; Figs 4 and 7) may indicate a fence later replaced by a palisade (indicated by a slot

built along the base of the ditch).

Pits and postholes lay scattered across the main enclosure. Furthest to the north a rectangular pit (261) 2m x 1m x 0.50m deep contained sherds of un-abraded late 1st-century pottery and a cattle, horse and sheep/goat bone. To the southeast an oval feature (164) was interpreted as either a pit or the terminus of a ditch not visible as a cropmark. It was not excavated. Nearby lay three rectangular postholes (175, 181, 183) each c.0.40m in diameter: although undated, these may relate to internal divisions within the main or central enclosure. Only one (181) was excavated and was 0.17m deep with a post-pipe and chalky silt packing.

One rectangular pit (338) contained chalk rubble, small flecks of charcoal, fragment of cattle bone and a few unabraded sherds of 1st-century pottery. Cutting this was an oval pit (11) which contained small, abraded sherds of 1st-century pottery and sheep/goat and red deer bone, along with an iron pruning hook(?) (Fig. 12, cat. no. 23) on its base.

Central enclosure

The central enclosure consisted of a rectangular area (47m by 29m), subdivided at 15m from its southeastern end by a ditch (191) measuring 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep (Figs 4 and 5A). Its fill contained abraded sherds of 1st-century pottery and fragments of cattle bone. Immediately adjacent to this ditch to its southeast was a possible structure, perhaps a shrine or *cella* (c.7m x c.4m) indicated by aerial photographs but not archaeologically investigated. The northeastern side of the enclosure was marked by another ditch (290), 1.6m x 0.62m deep, which contained no finds. A possible entrance may have existed on the enclosure's northwestern side.

Double enclosure and associated features

Post-dating the central enclosure was a substantial subsidiary enclosure consisting of four distinct elements: an inner and outer enclosure, a circular cropmark and a square, masonry structure (Figs 4 and 5B). Its full extent enclosed a rectangular area c.42m northwest to southeast and c.52m southwest to northeast, extending some 10m outside the main enclosure to the northeast. Entrances may have been located on the eastern and northwestern perimeters.

The outermost elements of the enclosure consisted of ditchwork (Trench 8, ditches 400 and 404; Trenches 10 and 11, ditches 409 and 420; Fig. 4). On the southwestern side, the ditch (400) was 4m x 1.5m deep and steep-sided with a slot at the base possibly for a wooden palisade. This stretch of ditch provided the best dating evidence for infill processes: its primary fill produced large unabraded sherds of late 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery, while the middle fill contained large sherds of early to mid 2nd-century pottery. This ditch apparently obliterated the northwestern perimeter ditch of the central enclosure. The northeastern ditch (404) was 2.8m x 1.5m deep, again exhibiting a slot at the base (Figs 4 and 7).

An inner enclosure appears to have consisted on

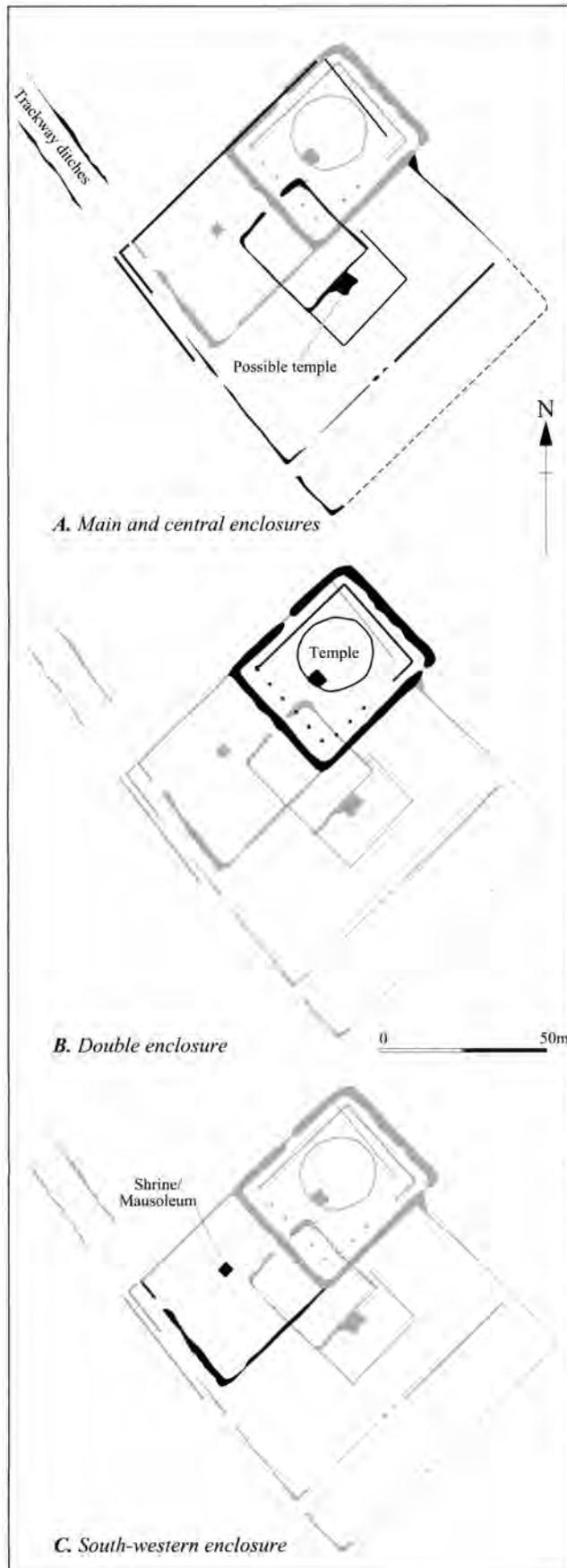


Figure 5. Development of the temple complex.

two sides of a wooden palisade marked by alignments of postholes some 0.75m in diameter set 5m apart. Such posts were recorded in Trench 13, where they ran parallel to the outer ditch, and in Trench 12. One excavated posthole (425) was 0.25m deep and contained large unabraded fragments of *tegula*. On the northeastern side the inner boundary was defined by a shallow ditch with a line of stake holes along its western side. The ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.6m deep, with a basal slot.

Slightly offset within the inner enclosure was a circular enclosure c.20m in diameter, visible in cropmarks. Set at its southwestern side were the foundations of a square building, possibly the *cella* of a temple (F430, Fig. 4). The foundation trenches were 0.30m wide and one excavated example was 0.20m deep. A circular posthole was cut into the base of the trench. These foundations flanked an area of very compacted yellow sand with gravel and mortar mix, measuring 5m by 5m. No artefacts were recovered from the structure.

Southwestern enclosure?

Set within the southwestern corner of the main enclosure a subsidiary area contained a possible shrine or mausoleum (Figs 4 and 5C). Although no direct archaeological evidence for the developmental sequence was forthcoming, this enclosure may have been associated with or may post-date the double enclosure, superseding the central one. Its southern limit may be defined by a shallow ditch (67, Trench 4), although it was originally suggested that this feature might have been Iron Age in origin, representing the northern drainage ditch of the trackway (above, Bray and Malim 1998, 14, 25). It enclosed an area c.42m square.

At the centre of this possible enclosure was a square, single-celled building respecting the alignment of the surrounding ditchwork. Its foundations were 0.2m deep and 0.53m wide, enclosing an area of c.2.5m² (Fig. 6). Its walls were of clunch and flint blocks, with remnants of plaster on the outer faces. A demolition deposit sealed the internal area of the building and contained the fragmented remains of an undated adult (Burial 3). Above the burial, building debris extended some 5m outside the structure and contained fragments of *tegulae* and iron nails, as well as late 1st- to early 2nd-century fine wares. The original presence of a tiled roof is therefore indicated. A copper alloy fitting of uncertain date (Fig. 12, cat. no. 24) was recovered from ploughsoil above the building.

Some limited evidence for industrial processes was found, in particular in Trenches 1 and 8 (Fig. 4), comprising a few pieces of slag and a large piece of kiln lining.

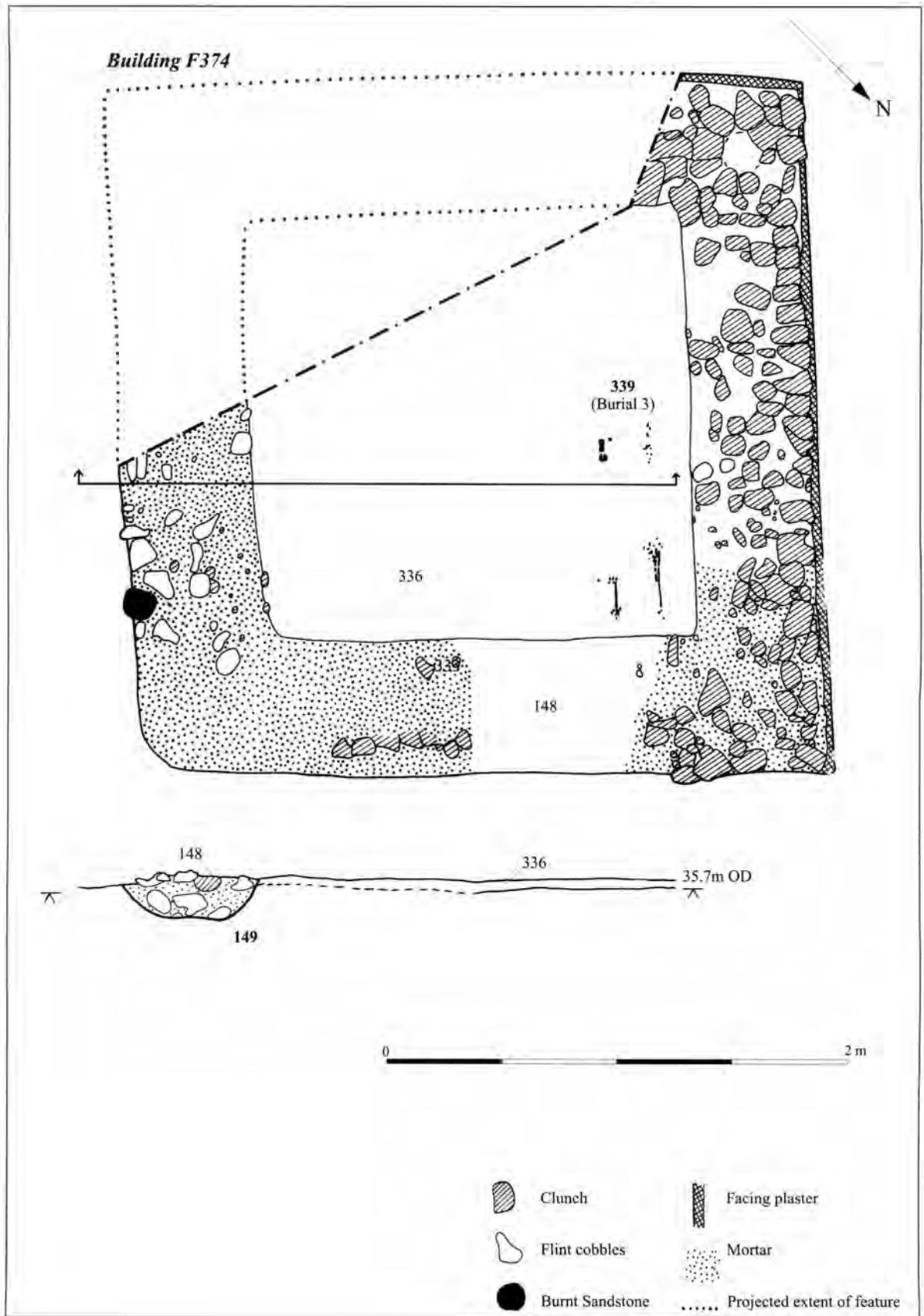


Figure 6. Building F374.

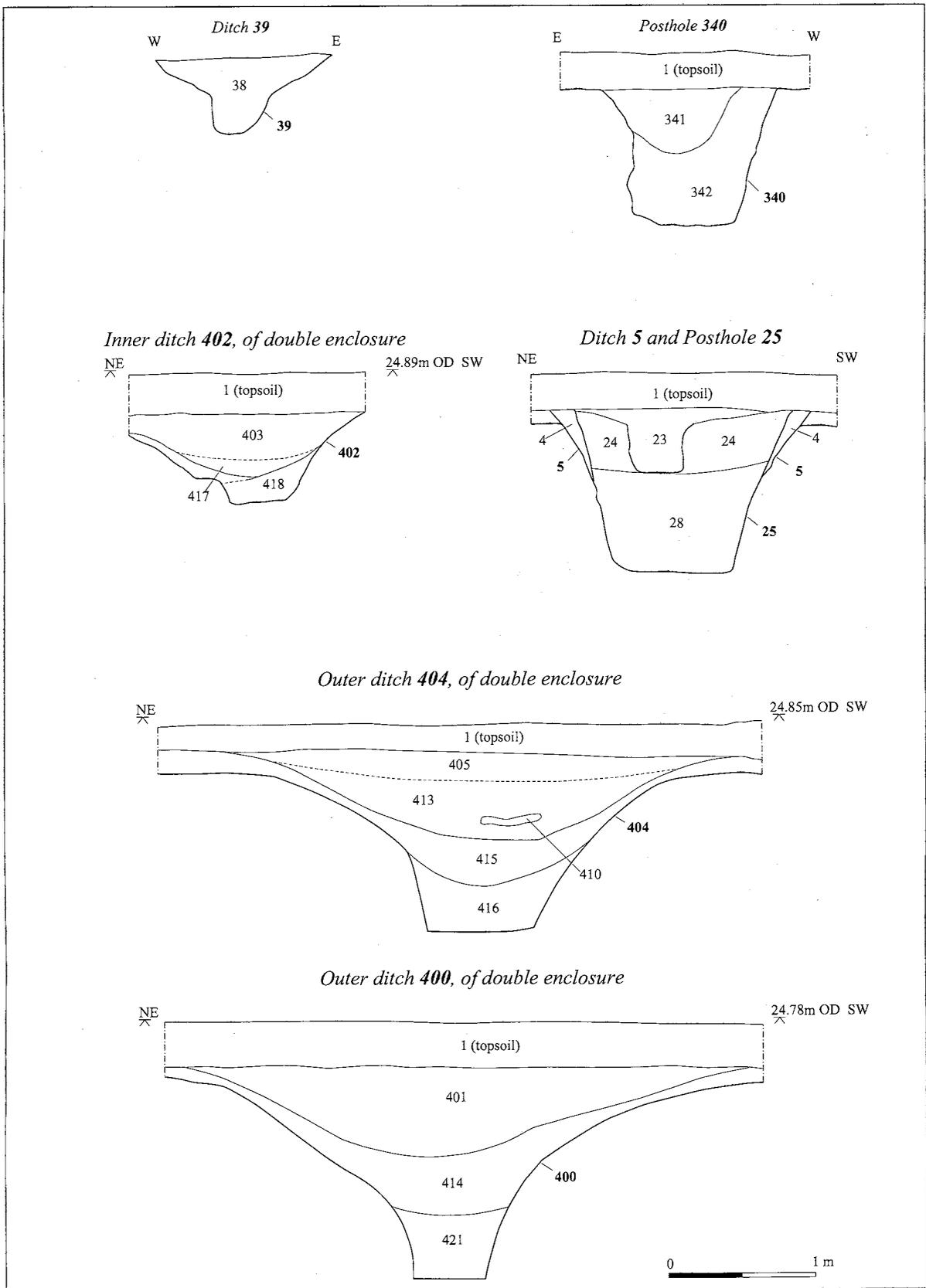


Figure 7. Ditch and posthole sections.

Early Anglo-Saxon

At least two Anglo-Saxon burials were present (Burial 1 and Burial 2). A further six undated inhumations (Burials 3–8) were found scattered across the site, only two of which were excavated. Burials 3–8 could have been late Roman or Anglo-Saxon in date: they are presented below as the latter.

The Burials

Burial 1 (Figs 4, 8a and 9)

Lying to the southwest of the trackway, this subrectangular grave was positioned on a northwest to southeast alignment, with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 1.5m x 0.6m x 0.5m deep and was filled by firm greyish brown chalky silt. It contained a juvenile approximately 11 years old in a semi-contracted position, head to the northwest. The positioning of the legs flexed to the left is possibly indicative of a female (see Malim in Malim and Hines 1998, 34–41). A single broken bowl of 5th- to 6th-century date (Fig. 9, cat. no. 1) was found covering the left side of the pelvis and the left hand.

Burial 2 (Figs 4, 8b and 10)

A subrectangular grave (36) with vertical sides and a flat base, 1.6m x 0.85m x 0.2m deep, on a northeast to southwest alignment. It was filled with firm greyish brown chalky silt with fragments of sheep/goat and dog bone. It contained an adult female aged between 25 and 35 years old, buried extended and supine with the head to the southwest and the arms stretched alongside the body. A posthole (130) 0.20m in diameter and 0.20m deep at the foot of the grave may represent a grave-marker.

The burial was accompanied by rich grave goods of 6th-century date (Crummy, below). Osteological analysis shows that the teeth and gums had been subjected to severe stress in life. The analysis also identified non-metrical traits in the spine, including a thirteenth thoracic vertebra and only four lumbar vertebrae, as well as a partially lumbarised first sacral segment. Similar traits affecting the spine were noted in the skeletal remains of Burial 1, suggesting genetic affinity (Duhig, below).

Burial 3 (Fig. 6)

Within the demolition deposit of the Roman mausoleum/shrine were the fragmented remains of an extended and supine adult individual, aligned southwest-northeast.

Burial 4 (Fig. 9)

To the southwest of the possible mausoleum was another subrectangular grave, measuring 0.8m x 0.5m x 0.25m deep, with steep sides and flat base. It was positioned on a northwest to southeast alignment and contained the badly deteriorated remains of an infant approximately four years old. The body was in a semi-contracted position with the head to the southeast. The skull showed signs of an infection possibly associated with meningitis.

Burial 5

To the northeast of the possible mausoleum, another grave (132) remained unexcavated. It was subrectangular in plan, 1.4m x 0.7m, on a northeast to southwest alignment. No artefacts were recovered from the surface, al-

though part of an Anglo-Saxon silver Class A wrist clasp was found in the spoil above the grave (Fig. 12, cat. no. 25).

Burial 6

Isolated from the other burials to the northeast of the complex, another grave (Trench 3, 263) remained unexcavated. It was subrectangular, 1.5m deep and over 0.3m wide, on a northeast to southwest alignment. No artefacts were recovered.

Burials 7 and 8

Two further burials lying above the line of the trackway (Trench 4, 386 and 487) were not excavated. Burial 7 was subrectangular, over 1.25m long by 0.5m wide, on a northwest to southeast alignment. The grave had been cut into the upper fill of the southwestern boundary of the main enclosure (ditch 5). Burial 8 was also subrectangular, over 0.6m long by 0.3m wide, on a northwest to southeast alignment. During fieldwalking and metal-detector survey two Anglo-Saxon iron spearheads (Fig. 10, cat. nos 21 and 22) were recovered from the ploughsoil above these burials.

Other features

A square pit (Trench 4, 35) of uncertain function was cut into the upper fill of ditch 5 of the main Roman enclosure. It contained a small, complete cup of possible 5th- to 6th-century date (Fig. 12, cat. no. 26).

Grave goods from Burial 2

Nina Crummy

The position of the grave goods from this burial in relation to the body is indicated in Fig. 10. The woman was buried fully clothed and wearing her jewellery and other personal effects. She had a small-long brooch, a double necklace of at least 118 beads (four glass, the rest amber), an iron knife, an iron buckle, and an iron ring; a small copper-alloy fitting found beneath the jaw was probably a dress fitting of some kind. A second brooch, indicated only by staining on some of the bones, was also originally in the grave, but there was no evidence for a third.

The surviving brooch (Fig. 10, cat. no. 2) is of cross-head derivative form and has side lappets that show the type's links with cruciform brooches. Several other brooches of closely similar form have been found in the area. One was found unstratified in the ploughsoil at Edix Hill (Barrington A), Cambridgeshire (Malim and Hines 1998, fig. 3.65, 19) and a pair came from a female grave at Great Chesterford dated to c.500–75 (Evison 1994, fig. 29.40, 1–2). Another was in a female grave at Holywell Row, near Mildenhall, (Lethbridge 1931, 37, fig. 17.82, 1; Lethbridge cites others from Newnham and Little Wilbraham as comparable to the Holywell Row brooch, but they are not close parallels). All five brooches share the same general form, differing only in small details such as the precise shape of the bead and lappets and the type of punch marks. A sixth example came from a 6th-century grave at Mitchell's Hill, Icklingham, but the side-plates of its cross-head are also indented and there is also a ring-and-dot in the middle of the central panel



Figure 8. 8a: Burial 1, viewed from the southeast; 8b: Burial 2, viewed from the northeast.

and another on the foot (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, 141 no. 15.62; West 1998, fig. 50, 4). Mention should also be made of a brooch from Exning, Suffolk, which has a straight edge to the top-plate of the cross-head but indented side-plates, an extra row of punch marks on the head-plate, and large lappets but only a rudimentary bead (West 1998, fig. 42, 5). A more developed variety can be seen in a pair from Haslingfield (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, 141, no. 15.63). Further research may add others to this list, but to date the close proximity of all these brooches, to some extent mirroring the fen-edge, indicates that they came from a common source, probably a local workshop.

The Swaffham Prior brooch lay on the left shoulder; the pin was iron and most is now missing apart from some iron staining and a fragment fixed in the catchplate. In the 6th century the tubular gown worn by Anglian women was often fastened by a brooch on each shoulder, with a single or double festoon of beads hung between them. A loop of thread preserved on the reverse of the brooch passes in an unbroken line across the back but no trace of it was found across the front. It can therefore be identified as the thread on which the bead necklace was strung rather than an indication that the brooch was sewn to the garment to reinforce a weak or broken pin.

Copper-alloy staining in the area of the right

shoulder, strong enough to colour the clavicle (see Duhig below), shows where the second brooch from the suite originally lay. The necklace would have been looped around this object so that it formed a double string (as Owen-Crocker 2004, fig. 32). This arrangement would present a coherent suite of jewellery across the upper chest (as Taylor *et al* 1997, fig. 81).

The majority of the beads are small, but a few of the amber pieces are larger and may have been positioned near the centre of the upper or lower string of the necklace. The same may be true of the four glass beads recovered (those illustrated appear in Fig. 11, cat nos 5 and 6). One is a small globular bead of opaque green glass, the other three are all segmented gold-in-glass beads; two of the latter consist of two segments, the third is in tiny fragments that may only represent one segment. The gold-in-glass beads are a very long-lived form and examples in 6th-century graves in the Anglian region may come from a production centre in southwest Germany (Guido 1999, 79–80).

The amber beads, numbering at least 114, vary considerably in shape but fall into three main forms, viewed across the perforated axis: globular (ie with no distinct facet), wedge-shaped (ie with three distinct facets), and cube/cuboid (ie with four distinct facets). A representative sample of each form is illustrated in Fig. 11. Many of the cuboid beads are quite

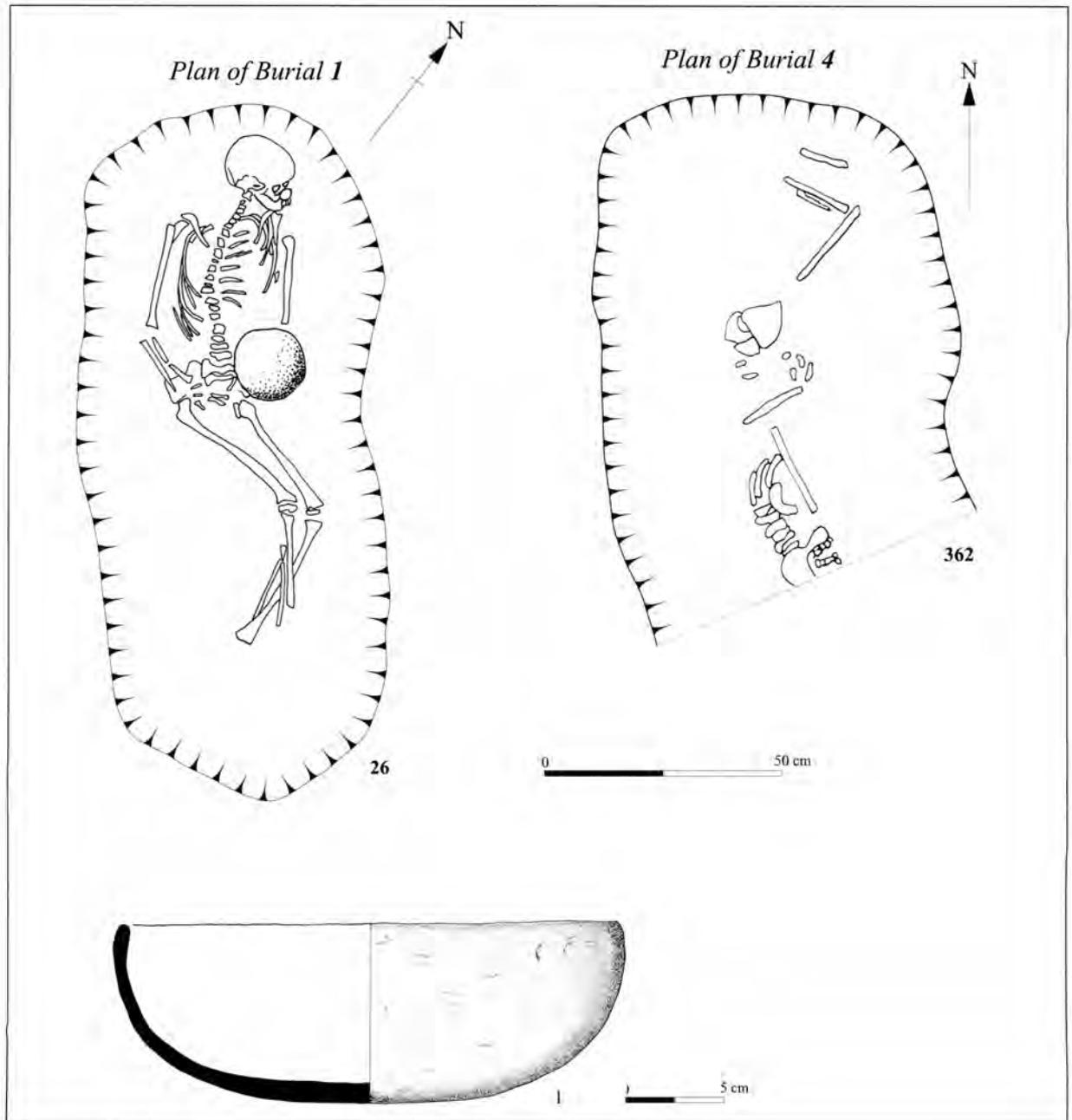


Figure 9. Burials 1 and 4. Pottery from Burial 1.

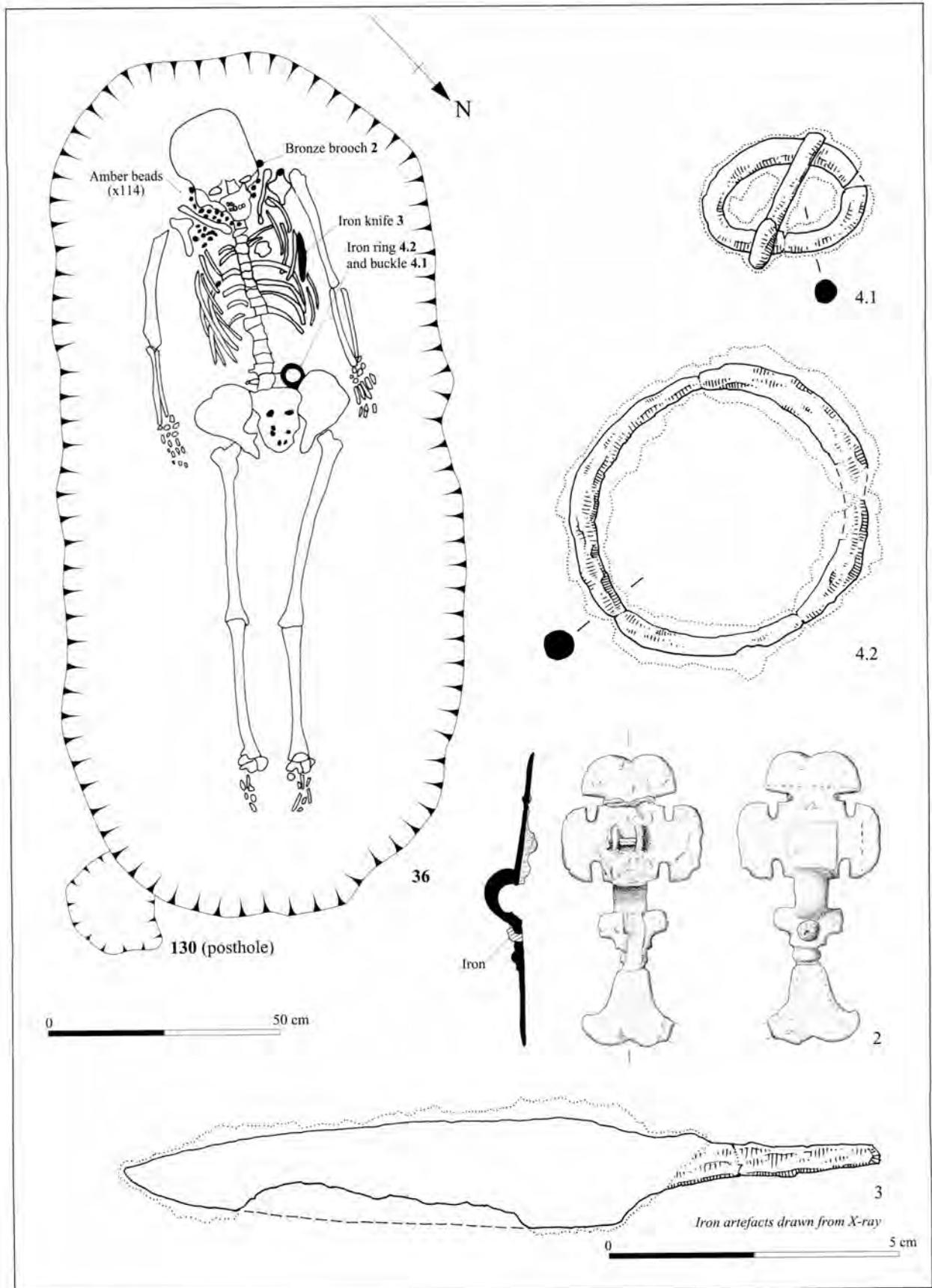


Figure 10. Burial 2 and small finds from grave.

thin on one axis. Two (Fig. 11, cat no. 15 and SF 28, latter not illustrated) are perforated from corner to corner and should more correctly be termed lozenge-shaped. The largest bead is cuboid on the perforated axis, but wedge-shaped on the other (Fig. 11, cat. no. 13). Another is wedge-shaped on one axis, but was perforated from an edge to a face and therefore has four sides to the cross-section (SF 44, not illustrated). In addition there is a discoid bead with large perforation (cat. no. 18), two discoid beads with large perforations that are best described as annular (cat. no. 20 and SF 9, latter not illustrated), one that is roughly heart-shaped (SF 78; not illustrated), and two that are irregularly polygonal (SF 19 and SF 58, not illustrated). Apart from on the discoid and annular beads mentioned above, the perforations are small. Some complete beads are not intact. In all cases the edges are rounded and there is also usually some degree of curvature to one or more of the faces, often, on some beads, producing a barrel-shaped longitudinal profile. Given that all these beads appear to have been carved quite casually, it is inevitable that some fall somewhere between cuboid and wedge-shaped. The cross-section was probably determined (if so strong a word should be used) by the original shape of the unworked fragment.

The number of small amber beads from this burial is very large, a characteristic that matches the 6th-century date (Duncan *et al* 2003, 110). Amber beads formed nearly 80 per cent of the bead assemblage at Edix Hill, and it has been suggested that they may have been sold in weight groups of about 10–12g. This idea has not been tested against the Swaffham Prior beads, as some have not been conserved and still retain a coating of hard chalky soil, but one group from a grave at Alwalton, near Peterborough, lay on this standard at 10g while another from the same site was either over- or underweight at 27g (Crummy forthcoming).

A bronze strip coiled to form a neat ring was found beneath the jaw of the Burial 2 skeleton (SF 2, not illustrated). This position is close to that of a similar strip found on the upper vertebrae of a female at Great Chesterford (Evison 1994, fig. 38.81, 4 and fig. 77.81, 4). The precise function of these strips is not certain, but the position suggests that they were sewn onto the gown. The Great Chesterford coiled strip was not associated with a necklace, but it did lie at the midpoint between a copper-alloy ring on the right shoulder and a bead on the left shoulder; perhaps a thong or lace of coloured thread passed from shoulder to shoulder through the coil. In the same way, the upper string of the Swaffham Prior necklace may have passed through the metal coil so that it hung in two small swags rather than a single long one; this would also serve to secure the necklace to the garment when it was not being worn.

The knife (Fig. 10, cat. no. 3) lay against the ribs inside the left upper arm, too high a position for it to have been stuck in the girdle or held in a sheath attached to the girdle, but it may have been in a pocket or sheath sewn into the sleeve or body of the

undergarment, or possibly into the gown. Its length, 132mm, falls at the lowest end of the range defined by Härke for large knives (1989, 146). The iron girdle- or belt-buckle (Fig. 8, cat. no. 4) is of simple oval form and was found with an iron ring just above the left hip. Unlike the larger rings of elephant ivory that were used to form the frame for the mouth of some cloth bags, the usual interpretation of iron rings is that they were stored in girdle bags and so were probably treasured possessions with some significance in terms of wealth or status (Meaney 1998, 275), whether or not they served as the suspension ring for latchlifter groups. Rings of similar or smaller size made from copper alloy or antler appear to have held similar meaning (eg Lethbridge 1931, fig. 32; Timby 1996, fig. 100, fig. 149, 11; Malim and Hines 1998, fig. 3.58). However, in this instance the close proximity of the ring to the iron buckle, so close that on excavation both were presumed to be one corroded but fragmented object, makes interpretation as a bag-ring seem appropriate, though an alternative interpretation is that it was threaded onto the girdle.

Illustrated items are catalogued below.

Metalwork

- 2 Fig. 10. Small-long brooch of cross-head derivative type. Length 78mm. The upper curved edge of the head-plate is indented and mirrors the shape of the fish-tail foot. The central panel has a slightly raised square element defined by knurled lines. Lines of punched crescents define the inner edge of each of the three arms. Plain side lappets link the form closely to that of cruciform brooches. There is a bead-shaped moulding above the foot. The side edges of the foot are marked by a row of punched crescents that did not continue onto the lower edge. On the reverse the iron pin was held between two rounded lugs set in the middle of the central panel. The catchplate, a simple copper-alloy strip (12.5mm long, 9.5mm wide) rolled over at one end, is now detached; it still retains part of the pin. A single loop of thread that passed around the narrow neck between the central panel and the head-plate is still preserved on the back of the brooch.
- 3 Fig. 10. Iron knife with central tang and straight back tapering gently to the tip. The edge is very damaged but was probably initially straight before curving upwards to the tip. There are very slight traces of mineral-replaced organics on the base of the tang, probably from a wooden or horn handle. Length 132mm.
- 4 Fig. 10. 1: Oval iron buckle in two pieces, the tongue remains in position on the larger fragment. Length 20mm, width about 30mm. 2: Iron round-section ring in fragments. Internal diameter 46mm, section diameter 5.5mm.

Beads*Glass*

- 5 Fig. 11. Globular opaque green glass, chipped. L 9.5mm, D 10.5mm. Guido 1999, Group 5i.
 6 Fig. 11. Segmented gold-in-glass bead; two segments. The outer layer of glass and much of the gold foil has decayed or worn away, but large patch of gold foil remains on one segment. L 8mm, D 4.5mm. Guido 1999, Group 13.

Amber, globular

- 7 Fig. 11. ?Complete; either irregular at one end or chipped in antiquity. L 5.5mm, W 5mm.
 8 Fig. 11. Complete. L 8mm, D 8mm.
 9 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 4.5mm, D 5mm.

Amber, wedge-shaped

- 10 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 5.5mm, W 6mm.
 11 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 11mm, W 8.5mm.
 12 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 10mm, W 11.5mm.

Amber, cube/cuboid

- 13 Fig. 11. Complete. Large, cuboid across the perforated axis, wedge-shaped across the other axis. L 19.5mm, W 20mm.
 14 Fig. 11. Complete. L 16mm, W 16mm.
 15 Fig. 11. Complete. Perforated from corner to corner. L 14mm, W 14.5mm.
 16 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 9.5mm, W 9mm.
 17 Fig. 11. From sieving. Complete. L 7mm, W 7mm.

Amber, other

- 18 Fig. 11. Complete. Discoid, with large perforation. L 3.5mm, D 17mm.
 19 Fig. 11. Complete. Polygonal L 10.5mm, W 12mm.
 20 Fig. 11. Complete. Annular. L 3mm, D 12mm.

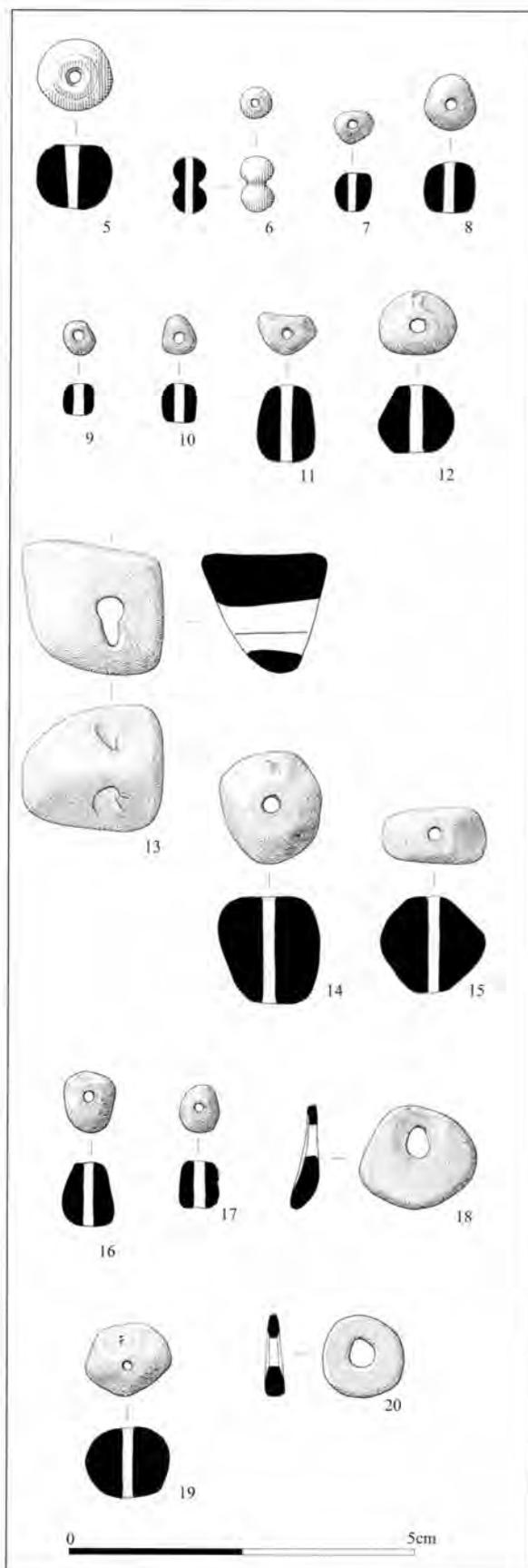


Figure 11. Beads from Burial 2.

Other metalwork

Nina Crummy

A number of further objects were recovered from other features or deposits, most having been retrieved during fieldwalking and field surveying. They include Roman, Anglo-Saxon and modern objects, as well as undateable items. There is a coin dating to the later 2nd or early 3rd century, the socketed blade from a Roman pruning-hook or similar agricultural hooked tool, and a large copper-alloy strap-guide from horse harness of uncertain date but probably Roman or medieval

A fragment of a silver coiled wire wrist-clasp and two iron spearheads are Anglo-Saxon. The wrist-clasp came from topsoil and may have been disturbed and redeposited from Burial 5 (Fig. 12, cat. no. 25); if so, it represents only one quarter of one pair of clasps, and one eighth of a full set. The type is not in general very numerous, but examples came from three graves at Holywell Row in Suffolk, a site that can be linked to Swaffham Prior through the style of the small-long brooch from Burial 2, and there are others nearby from Eriswell and Little Eriswell (West 1998, fig. 38, 3; Lethbridge 1931, graves 17, 20, 79; Hines 1984, 319).

- 21 Fig. 12. Field survey. Iron spearhead with long open socket and short solid tang between blade and socket. The blade is leaf-shaped. At the junction with the tang the blade has been bent over almost at a right angle. Length (straight) 328mm, maximum width 41mm. This belongs to Swanton's Series C3, which dates to the later 6th and 7th century (1973, 55-9).
- 22 Fig. 12. Field survey. Iron spearhead with open socket and little, if any, neck. The blade is long and straight, with angular shoulders at the lower end. The tip is missing. Length 158mm, width above shoulders 20mm. The form is probably Swanton's Series G; Series E is also a possibility as it is more numerous, but examples tend to have longer sockets. A 6th-century date would be appropriate in both cases (Swanton 1973, 77-80, 98-101).
- 23 Fig. 12. Trench 2. (10). Pit 11. The iron blade of a pruning-hook or similar tool with open socket. Length 82mm. Similar blades occur in Late Iron Age and Roman or later contexts (Manning 1985, 56-8, pl. 24).
- 24 Fig. 12. (9). Spoilheap. Large round hollow-backed copper-alloy strap-guide with two rectangular loops on the rim. Diameter 34mm, height 16.5mm. Date uncertain.
- 25 Fig. 12. (9). Spoilheap. Fragment of a silver wrist-clasp of coiled hook-and-eye type (Class A, Hines 1984), diameter 17mm.

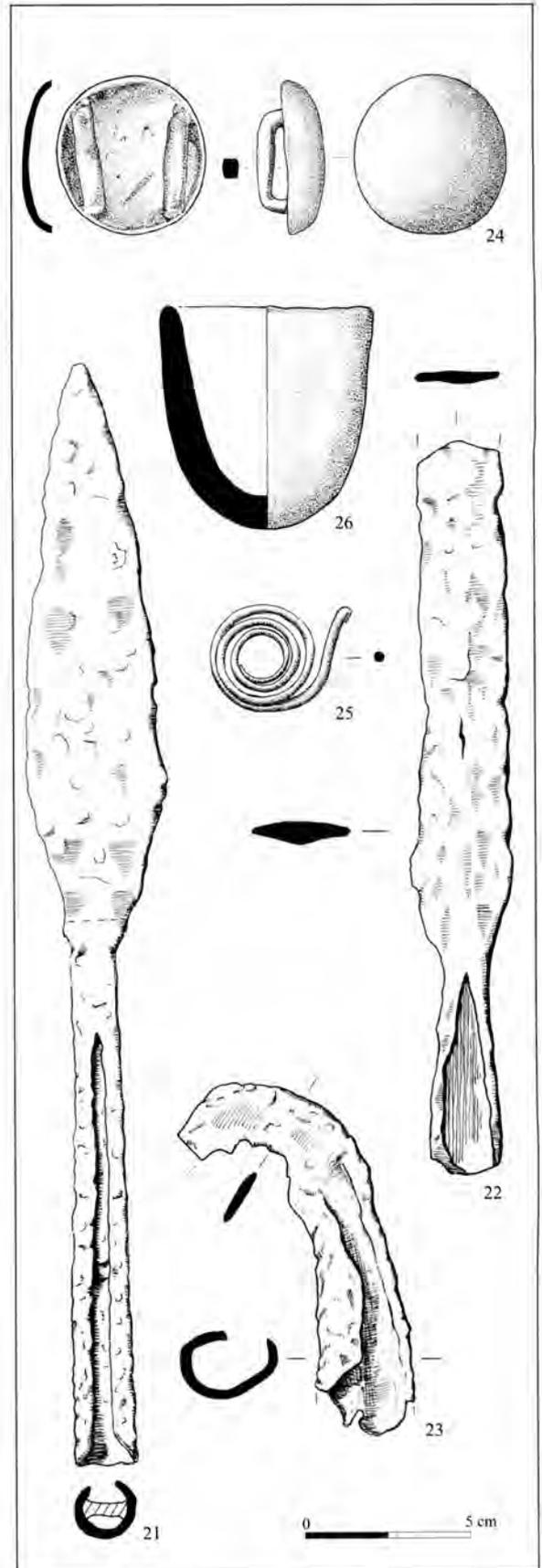


Figure 12. Artefacts from excavation and metal detector surveys.

Pottery

Gavin Lucas

The ceramic assemblage from Gallows Hill produced 27 identifiable fabric types. Most consists of fairly local wares in the Late Iron Age or Belgic tradition. They tend to be in dark sandy fabrics, often with burnished surfaces, and the vessels are carinated or round-shouldered open jars with cordons, grooves or rilling. A finer ware with a grey slip also occurs in similar forms, while a flint and chalk-tempered fabric, though common, is usually residual and has no recoverable forms. Much of the pottery consists of small, abraded sherds and is probably residual. The more familiar Romano-British greywares are not common, though their presence indicates 2nd-century activity. There are none of the typical Romano-British fine wares such as Nene Valley colour-coated vessels. By contrast, samian, local Gallo-Belgic and Colchester wares do occur on the site, albeit in small quantities. In general, the pottery assemblage dates to the 1st and earlier half of the 2nd century AD, with strong pre-Conquest origins. Apart from one feature (fill 366, ditch 67), nothing later than the earlier 3rd century AD was identified.

The pottery assemblage from the northern enclosure (ie the double enclosure and associated features) is contemporary with that from the main enclosure. The Belgic dark carinated jars are frequently the best surviving forms, along with other greywares such as necked jars and flat-rimmed bowls. Most of the pottery is of fairly local manufacture, though a Terra Nigra platter and amphora demonstrate the occurrence of imported vessels, indicative of some status. The only notable absence is of stratified samian, though it did occur in the previous collection. As with the previous assemblage, the overall date suggests a range of mid-1st to mid 2nd century AD, with nothing conspicuously later (or earlier, though pre-Conquest origins should not be ruled out). The pottery from Trenches 1-6 was generally more abraded and consisted of smaller sherds than assemblages from Trenches 7-16), possibly reflecting proximity to the double enclosure.

In addition to the pre-Conquest and Roman pottery assemblages, two Anglo-Saxon vessels were found (cat. nos 1 and 26).

- 1 Fig. 9, Burial 1: large hand-made bowl with plain, slightly incurved rim in dark, sand and grog tempered fabric. 5th to 6th century.
- 26 Fig. 12, Pit 35: small closed cup with plain rim in dark sandy fabric. ?5th to 6th century.

Skeletal remains

Corinne Duhig

The remains of four burials were examined, of which Burial 1 (26) and Burial 2 (36) were almost complete skeletons. Burial 3 (339) consisted mainly of some leg fragments and Burial 4 (362) of the skull and some post-cranial bones (Table 1). All bones were eroded and fragmented. General methods used for analysis are those of Bass (1987), Steele and Bramblett (1988) and Ubelaker (1989). The remaining burials (5-8) were not excavated.

Burial 1 (Figs. 8a and 9)

This skeleton was almost complete, though the less dense parts of the long bones, such as the humeral and radial heads, for instance, were highly eroded or absent. Some epiphyses were recovered, but were unfused in all cases. Although the skull was crushed into small pieces, the vault was complete. Two fragments of maxilla survived and the whole mandible, so it was possible to estimate age from the condition of eruption and formation of the permanent teeth, using Ubelaker's (1989) method. The canines were half erupted, roots incomplete on canines, premolars and second molars, and the unerupted crowns of the second molars were present in their crypts, giving an age range of 11 years (\pm 30 months). The sex could not be determined as this was an immature individual. The condition of *cribra orbitalia* was visible in the right orbit (the left was too eroded and fragmented to examine), a condition thought to indicate iron-deficiency anaemia. An eighth cervical and thirteenth thoracic vertebra were present (the normal number is seven and twelve), variations of no clinical significance, but often indicating a familial relationship. This is noteworthy because similar anomalies were present in Burial 2.

Burial 2 (Figs. 8b and 10)

This was the skeleton of an adult, determined as a female from various diagnostic features of the pelvis and skull. It was in better condition than the others from this site. Stains on the jaw, neck and shoulders indicated the position of copper alloy grave goods deposited with the burial (Crummy, above). An almost complete dentition was present. The attrition of molar crowns gave an age estimate of 25-35 years (Brothwell 1972). However, the crowns of the upper incisors had already been completely worn away, one premolar had been lost and the socket obliterated, and the supporting bone of the molars had resorbed to below the division of the tooth roots. Clearly the teeth and gums had been subjected to severe stress in life, which could have led to many problems, including teeth loosened in their sockets, infections in the pulp cavity, abscesses and ultimate tooth loss. It is in fact surprising that more teeth had not been lost, given the severe attrition of the anterior teeth. Various conditions were present in this skeleton which were not strictly pathological. The spine had thirteen thoracic vertebrae, only four lumbar (usually five) and

a partially lumbarised first sacral segment. Burial 1 (above) also had thirteen thoracic vertebrae and another vertebral anomaly. These traits have familial tendency, although only DNA analysis could confirm genetic correlation. The deltoid tuberosities on the humeri are marked, indicating strong development of this muscle through lifting movements. There was an 'Inca bone', a large triangular bone at the back of the skull, at the intersection of the lambdoid and sagittal sutures, which is another skeletal variant with some familial tendency. It is relatively uncommon in European populations. Within the skull vault, in the frontal bone, are slight changes of *hyperostosis frontalis interna*, a condition of poorly understood aetiology sometimes connected with obesity in older women.

Burial 3

Burial 3 was incomplete and badly fragmented. On excavation the leg bones could be seen in the anatomical position, so it is assumed that all the recovered fragments came from one skeleton. No information could be gleaned from them, apart from the recognition of an adult individual.

Burial 4

The remains of Burial 4 were badly fragmented and eroded. Fortunately, a complete immature dentition with permanent teeth in process of development and eruption was recovered. The permanent lower central incisors and first molars were erupted to near the alveolar margin, the molars had only a small part of the roots developed and the permanent second molars were within their crypts, a stage defined by Ubelaker (1989) as corresponding to 4 years (\pm 12 months). The sex could not be determined as this was an immature individual. On the inner table of the occipital bone there was a small area of pitting and extra-cortical new bone, indicating a focus of infection. It has been suggested that these changes within the skull vault could indicate meningitis (Schultz 2001) which would need to have been of sufficiently long standing to produce these changes. In pre-antibiotic times meningitis would almost certainly have caused death in a short time, particularly in a child, so it is debatable whether survival would have been long enough to allow any bone changes at all.

Table 1. Burial data.

Burial No.	Cut No.	Trench	Orientation	Posture	Bones Present	Sex	Age	Pathology	Notes
1	26	4	NW-SE	Contracted, head to the NW	Complete, apart from sternum, pubic bone and most of the feet bones	N/A	11 years (\pm 30 months)	<i>Cribrra orbitalia</i>	8 cervical and 13 thoracic vertebrae, genetically related? to Burial 2
2	36	1	NE-SW	Extended and supine, head to the SW	Complete, apart from the smaller bones of the feet	F	25-35 years	<i>Hyperostosis frontalis interna</i>	Only 4 lumbar vertebrae but 13 thoracic vertebrae, genetically related? to Burial 1
3	339	1	NE-SW	Extended and supine, head to the SW	Radius, one finger phalanx, femur, tibia and two fibulae	N/A	adult	N/A	Badly fragmented
4	362	4	NW-SE	Contracted, head to the SE	Calvarium, two fragments of maxilla, mandible, seven long bones	N/A	4 years (\pm 12 months)	Infection in the occipital bone (meningitis?)	Badly fragmented and eroded
5	132	1	NE-SW	-	-	-	-	-	Unexcavated
6	263	3	NE-SW	-	-	-	-	-	Unexcavated
7	386	4	NW-SE	-	-	-	-	-	Unexcavated
8	388	4	NW-SE	-	-	-	-	-	Unexcavated

Faunal Remains

Lorrain Higbee

A total of 5.369kg of animal bone was recovered from hand excavated features and a selection from the two phases of excavation was analysed for general quality, species present and butchery marks. Although much of the assemblage had survived as calcified fragments, it had suffered severely from chemical weathering and root etching. The combination of these two taphonomic processes had made it virtually impossible to see surface details such as cut marks and/or pathological changes.

Of the identifiable part of the assemblage (68%; 92 fragments out of a total of 134) cattle bone were the most common, followed by sheep/goat, horse, pig, deer and dog. The age of the cattle was between 24–42 months. This is by no means mature but it was significantly older than the sheep/goat present on the site. These have been aged between 3 and 9 months. None of the pig bone assisted in determining age estimates. The horse and dog bones present belonged to mature individuals and the horse could be estimated at +42 months. Due to the small size of the assemblage, little could be estimated about the husbandry of the stock animals. Exploitation of wild red deer appeared to be of some significance, although nothing could be determined about the relative importance of wild deer to the site economy.

Discussion

Pre-Conquest origins and the local Iron Age context

A faint circular cropmark is visible within the double enclosure, containing a small structure on its southwestern side. These and other features are reminiscent in form to temple sites such as Fison Way, Thetford, Norfolk (Gregory 1991), Elms Farm, Heybridge (Atkinson & Preston 1998), and Hayling Island (Downey *et al* 1980). The parallels are discussed in more detail below, but the date for Hayling Island is early (mid-1st century) and has been interpreted as representing a continuation of local native tradition. In broad concordance with these aspects is the ceramic report which stresses the Iron Age tradition apparent within the pottery assemblage from Gallows Hill, a native element which continued to dominate the deposits well into the Roman period.

There is therefore some circumstantial evidence to suggest that the Swaffham Prior temple might have been founded pre-Conquest, in the first half of the 1st century AD. The temple complex then developed during the latter part of the 1st century and through the 2nd century as a hybrid combining native and classical elements. This process reflects Romanisation of the area that occurred during this period, and it would be easy to imagine that the patronage of the temple complex came from a local elite Catuvellaunian family who would have also constructed the villa at Reach. It

is probably no coincidence that a powerful figure was based here, on the border between Catuvellauni territory and the Iceni. The Iron Age cemetery to the north of the villa, and settlement evidence to the west, helps support the idea that this was a pre-Roman focal centre.

This pattern of Romanisation by the native Iron Age elite of the region, and the links between their domestic centres, cemeteries and temple sites, can be witnessed at a number of important locations. Bartlow Hills are a particular example of how a wealthy family chose to continue native burial practice beneath huge barrows during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and yet they furnished these burials with the rich trappings of a Roman lifestyle. Further to the west and located on the Roman road of Street Way, Litlington provides another fine example at the other end of Cambridgeshire. The massive villa there has been shown to have been founded on an elite Iron Age site, one that looked south to the barrow and square enclosure on Limlow Hill, around which a number of burials were placed (Malim 2000). The burials were early Roman in date (mid-late 1st century) and Iron Age pottery sherds were found in the basal deposits of the enclosure ditch. Beyond Limlow Hill the pre-historic barrow field on Therfield Heath would have been visible in the distance. Such an arrangement of villa looking south towards contemporary and ancient ritual sites is a direct comparison to the pattern at Reach villa and Gallows Hill. It is worth noting that Litlington is located on another important territorial boundary, Mile Ditches.

Between Litlington and Gallows Hill a number of Roman temples of various dates exist, such as those at Heydon, Great Chesterford, and Mutlow Hill, Fulbourn. These are not so clearly linked to great houses, but the proximity of each of these to the other three Cambridgeshire dykes is reminiscent of the proximity of Gallows Hill to Devils Dyke and thus also to potential Iron Age territorial boundaries (which were more emphatically rebuilt during Anglo-Saxon times) (Malim *et al* 1997). The temple at Great Chesterford, partially investigated in the 1970s and 1980s (Miller 1995) lies near to the southern terminus of Brent Ditch, whereas Heydon was discovered by RC Neville in the 19th century (Neville 1848) and lies near the southern terminal to Bran Ditch. A circular building (also excavated by Neville) at the Bronze Age barrow of Mutlow Hill, located on a local high point of Fleam Dyke where it is crossed by the Icknield Way, has been interpreted as a temple; a hill-top location, associated with earlier burial practice and with a circular structure which are all elements similar to the Gallows Hill and Limlow Hill complexes (Fox and Palmer 1924).

Iron Age precursors to Roman temples are also found along the fen edge and within the fens themselves, for example those of 2nd- to 3rd-century date at Haddenham (Evans and Hodder 2006) and Stonea (Jackson and Potter 1996). The Haddenham temple was also located on a Bronze Age barrow and was accompanied by a number of sheep sacrifices. At

Gallows Hill a number of ring-ditches presumed to represent the cropmarks of Bronze Age barrows are found in close proximity, and amongst the animal bone from pits at the temple the identification of sheep/goat may reflect similar sacrifice and offerings. At Stonea an Iron Age temple complex was adapted during the Roman period for a Romano-Celtic building with classical pretensions, and the circular terminus ditch could well be a surviving element from its original foundation. The main deities appear to have been Minerva, Epona as well as Mercury etc, and thus demonstrate that native goddesses continued to be worshipped (Jackson and Potter 1996).

Further south in Essex the temple at Harlow provides a further parallel for Gallows Hill. This also lies on top of a prominent hill, previously used during the Bronze Age for burial. This site also included an early circular building prior to construction of the early Romano-Celtic rectangular temple with a square inner shrine. Animal sacrifice was practised and Iron Age coin hoards have been found, whilst stone carvings of a possible warrior suggest that the deity may have been a war god. This temple was located adjacent to the tribal boundary of the Trinovantes with the Catuvellauni, a symbolic location perhaps reflecting and adding strength to the boundary between earthly and spiritual realms (Green 2005, 121).

The Romano-British temple complex (1st to mid 2nd century)

Rebecca Casa Hatton

Chronology

Although short lived, the temple complex appears to have been multi-phased. Notwithstanding the possible pre-Roman origins noted above, diagnostic materials from the excavations, together with the few direct stratigraphic relationships, indicate a 1st century origin for the construction of the main enclosure, and the later part of the 1st century for that of the double one. Activity appears to have continued until the early to mid-2nd century, with only small quantities of later 2nd- to early 3rd-century pottery recovered. The temple complex fell from use around the beginning of the 3rd century.

Main and central enclosures

Cropmarks (Figs. 3 and 4) indicate a large square enclosure, its corners oriented to the cardinal points of the compass. On excavation, this enclosure was found to be defined by steep-sided ditches with basal slots for wooden palisades.

The location of a small enclosure exactly at the centre of the main compound suggests that these two features formed part of the same original complex. It is possible that the unexcavated square structure within this central area represented a shrine in its own right, with the central enclosure acting as the precinct, or series of interlinked multiphase precincts, set within a larger *temenos*. It is also interesting to note that from the cropmark evidence on the northeastern side of the central enclosure the inner and outer ditches seem

to form a partial narrow 'ambulatory' some 3m wide (Fig. 5A). However, this 'ambulatory' is not visible on any of the other three sides, indicating that the outer ditch might simply represent a separate phase of construction or maintenance of the central enclosure. If the square structure represents a shrine, it is possible to find comparable evidence at Springhead (Sites 3–5, Lewis 1966) and Richborough (Site 4, Lewis 1966) in Kent, Wycombe (Temple 1, Lewis 1966) in Gloucestershire, Bowes in County Durham (Drury 1980, 62–64) and Orton's Pasture in Staffordshire (Ferris 2000, *passim*). Rectangular religious buildings of non-Romano-Celtic form are still relatively rare in Roman Britain although more are now being found, and are often found in association with forts. They tend to be short-lived small masonry structures, square or rectangular in plan, sometimes with an internal subdivision, varying in size from 20m² to 80m² (Drury *ibid*). At Orton's Pasture the shrine was located within an irregular enclosure which had been redefined throughout the 2nd century (Ferris *ibid*).

At Gallows Hill the use of timber for the *temenos* is consistent with the early date of the complex. A parallel is found at Godmanchester where the *cella* of the temple associated with the 2nd-century *mansio* was surrounded by a timber portico. As time progressed, timber in Romano-British temples seems to have been replaced by more durable material.

A series of subrectangular pits was recorded within the main enclosure at Gallows Hill along the south-eastern and northeastern perimeters. Despite the limited nature of the available evidence, it is notable that all these appeared to be located at a distance of 3m to 5m from the boundary of the main compound, pointing to some regularity in their spacing. The apparent spatial regularity, together with the presence of possible food offerings and containers, may indicate a ritual function for these pits.

Double enclosure

In the northern corner of the main precinct was a double enclosure, the outer boundary of which was defined by substantial ditches with slots at the base for possible wooden palisades (Fig. 5B). Based on aerial photographic evidence, entrances might have been located on the eastern side and along the northwestern perimeter. The internal boundary was defined by a series of unexcavated postholes on the southwestern and southeastern sides, and by a shallow ditch with a basal slot on its northeastern side (402). The ditch contained large sherds of unabraded pottery, including jars and possible beakers, giving it a date in the late 1st century, and one of the postholes had a 1st-century bowl sherd in its uppermost fill. A gap on the southeastern side might have marked a possible inner entrance. A line of stakeholes along its western edge suggests a possible double fence line.

Within the centre of the double enclosure was an unexcavated circular feature with an adjacent square structure (F 430), an arrangement in design and size similar to that seen at Stonea (Jackson and Potter 1996). In the initial site report it was suggested

that this structure represented the *cella* of a Romano-British temple within an ambulatory (ie the double enclosure) defined by wooden columns or fences on the southeastern and southwestern sides and defined to the northeast by a ditch (Bray and Malim 1998). It was also suggested that the main enclosure represented the *temenos* of this temple, an interpretation that is derived from detailed comparison to other temple sites.

Based on visible cropmarks, the complex of features associated with the double enclosure at Swaffham Prior is at least superficially reminiscent of the circular temple at Hayling Island, near Portsmouth in Hampshire. The latter was built c.AD55–60 over a 1st-century BC Iron Age timber shrine which retained a circular plan within a fenced square courtyard (Downey *et al* 1980). The cult practised here may have been a Celtic version of the cult of Mars, as attested in circular temples of central and western Gaul (Woodward 1992, 36). The Romano-British complex comprised a circular *cella* of dressed local limestone rendered with painted plaster, approximately 14m in diameter. Cropmark evidence at Swaffham Prior suggests a circular structure with an internal diameter of some 20m, therefore bigger than the shrine at Hayling Island.

At Hayling Island the *cella* was enclosed within a square *temenos* with an ambulatory defined by columns on three sides and by a range of five rooms and a large niche on the eastern, entrance(?) side. At Swaffham Prior the evidence again suggests a *temenos* with ambulatory defined by columns on two or three sides, with an opening on the northeastern, entrance(?) side. The courtyard at Gallows Hill seems to have enclosed an area of 42m by 52m, the ambulatory being some 3m wide. Similarly the courtyard at Hayling Island was 40m by 40m with an ambulatory 3m wide. The circular shrine at this latter site had an entrance porch on its eastern side measuring c.7m by 4m. At Gallows Hill, the rectangular structure (F 430) could also have represented a porch 5m by 5m in size and facing southwest. On excavation it was found to have substantial gravel foundations, although the centre of the structure was not examined.

If it is assumed that the circular cropmark at Swaffham Prior derives from the foundations for a building, rather than a circular courtyard, then – notwithstanding the smaller example at Hayling Island – there are no British parallels for such a large-scale temple, the closest comparable examples being found in central and western Gaul. Two sites in adjacent counties, however, are of similar date and exhibit broadly similar features to Swaffham Prior. At Fison Way, Thetford, Norfolk, Tony Gregory excavated a temple complex which consisted of circular buildings (measuring up to c.13–14m in diameter) set within a rectangular *temenos*, and concentric rows of features within the outer enclosure that may have represented ‘fences’ or a stylised grove of trees; this complex was dated c.40–70AD (Gregory 1991). At Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex, a 10m diameter circular building or *cella* was enclosed by a rectilinear feature (a

boundary wall?) with porticos to the east; this phase of the temple was also dated c.40 – 70AD (Atkinson and Preston 1998).

This type appears to have been more common in the tribal territory of the Coritani in the East Midlands where early, as well as late, Roman small timber-framed or dry stone walled structures some 10m (or less) in diameter have been recorded. In many instances, circular shrines in Roman Britain appear to have been built over an Iron Age predecessor retaining the circular plan, as at Hayling Island or Maiden Castle in Dorset (Wheeler 1943), though the temple site at Collyweston in Northamptonshire, as at Gallows Hill, produced no direct evidence of pre-Roman activity (Drury 1980, 64 ff.). The site at Gallows Hill would therefore seem to have combined local tradition from the neighbouring Coritanian area, especially in the use of timber (eg for the ambulatory), and Gaulish influence in the size and general plan (*cella* and columned ambulatory).

The mausoleum

Mausolea associated with villas, such as that at Swaffham Prior, are recorded from the 2nd century throughout the whole of the Roman period, having been introduced by official dignitaries and progressively adopted by the local rural gentry. They usually went out of use in the 3rd century, undergoing the same fate as their ‘associated villas’ during the period of political instability which led to a series of Gallic usurpers in Britain. They were frequently (re)constructed in the course of the 4th century, mirroring the occupational/refurbishment phases of villas (Casa Hatton 1999). Mausolea on villa estates often took the form of temples or were associated with them, as at Bancroft and Lullingstone in Kent (Meates 1979), Harpenden in Hertfordshire (Lowther 1937) and Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead (Neal 1984), this latter being part of a major ritual complex possibly associated with the villa at Gorhambury, near *Verulamium*-St Albans (Neal *et al* 1990).

At Gallows Hill, sherds of late 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery were recovered from a layer which sealed a demolition deposit associated with the possible mausoleum. Bearing in mind the limited nature of the available evidence, the pottery might provide a *terminus ante quem* for the building, which would have been constructed and used some time during the later part of the 1st century, being contemporary with the religious complex and thus representing one of the earliest known examples of such structures in Roman Britain.

The demolition deposit associated with the shrine/mausoleum also contained the fragmented remains of an inhumed unsexed adult (Burial 3). It was the presence of this inhumation that provided a clue for the excavators as to the function of the structure as a possible mausoleum. Given the extent of plough disturbance, the burial, which could have been either late Roman or Anglo-Saxon (above), was not assigned to any specific period (Bray and Malim 1998). The absence of a grave cut would indicate that the

inhumation was placed over the demolition deposit of the shrine/mausoleum being therefore secondary to the building. If the early date for the structure is correct, then its associated primary burials are likely to have been cremations. However, no cremated remains were uncovered during the archaeological investigations.

The 'offerings'

Analysis of possible offerings is hampered by the limited nature of investigation so far conducted at Swaffham Prior. No clear indication of specific cults was recorded and the finds from the site had no particular votive connotations. Pits within the main enclosure contained animal bones, as well as sherds of jars and flagons, perhaps associated with libation rituals or sacrifice. Offerings at Romano-British temple sites show in general that items of jewellery were most common, together with figurines, miniature weapons, tools and pottery, sheet and leaf plaques, metal vessels and coins, as suggested by the assemblages deposited at the ritual complex at Uley in Gloucestershire (Woodward 1992, 66ff). Although a very small and statistically insignificant assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the pits at Gallows Hill it would not be inconsistent with the pre-Conquest and later tradition of sacrifice (Wait 1985). No complete animal burials were recorded.

Limited evidence for industrial processing in the form of slag and a large piece of kiln lining was found scattered across the excavated area. Although there was no evidence for kilns or furnaces, it is possible that light industrial activities were carried out, where metalwork and pottery could have been manufactured to be sold to worshippers. It is not unusual to find evidence for metalworking at temples in Roman Britain. An example is provided by Uley where bronze rings were produced and sold to pilgrims. At Nettleton Scrubb in Wiltshire remains of pewter and iron working were identified (Woodward 1992). It has been suggested that waste generated on a ritual site had to remain within its confines (Green 1976).

Anglo-Saxon burials

Rebecca Casa Hatton

Two grave alignments were identified, northwest to southeast (Burials 1, 4, 7 and 8) and northeast to southwest (Burials 2, 3, 5 and 6), being clearly conditioned by the orientation of the ditches and structures associated with the Romano-British ritual complex. The evidence would therefore suggest that, although in disuse, this latter was still visible on the surface, as further demonstrated by the presence of Burial 7 within the ditch of the main enclosure. There was no consistent pattern in the position of the heads in relation to the alignments of the burials. By contrast, there were two recurrent body postures, extended and supine (Burials 2 and 3), and contracted (Burials 1 and 4). The latter posture appeared to be associated with juveniles, as was the relative absence of items of furniture. Based on the series of similarities described

above, it is possible that the inhumations might have been contemporary with each other, representing the burials of members of the same family group. Dating evidence provided by Burials 1 and 2 and a silver wrist clasp from above Burial 5 (Fig. 12, cat. no. 25), belongs to the 6th century. Of two spearheads (Fig. 12, cat. nos 21 and 22) from the ploughsoil above Burials 7 and 8, the latest is a Swanton Type C3 spearhead of the late 6th to 7th century (Swanton 1973).

The presence of furnished and unfurnished inhumations within the same burial ground is not unusual in the context of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, nor is the appearance of a variety of body postures. Unfurnished graves, whether extended or contracted, have been traditionally assigned to indigenous people, although some unfurnished burials could have also represented pagan Anglo-Saxons who became influenced by British practices. Similarly, the location of Anglo-Saxon burials in close proximity to a former ritual/burial site in a position of good visibility dominating a much earlier, ritual landscape is not uncommon for the period, and could indicate the desire expressed by the incomers to be associated with the local ancestors, or an attempt to legitimize power (O'Brien 1999, 60). Whether the burials at Gallows Hill might have represented indigenous, as well as Anglo-Saxon people, is uncertain. More certain is the intentional reuse of a former ritual/burial site by an intrusive group, and the possibility exists that some of the structural elements of the complex could, in fact, be Anglo-Saxon pagan shrines (Blair 1995).

Conclusions

Results of investigations of the cropmarks at Gallows Hill suggests that they represent a religious centre associated with a nearby villa. Whilst the site witnessed major Roman activity including two possible temples, a shrine/mausoleum and 'votive' pits, it also played an important role during the Early Anglo-Saxon period as a cemetery. The commanding position of the site, overlooking a prehistoric ritual landscape in one direction and the Fens in the other, would have led to its reuse by emerging elite families as they sought to legitimise their position by identifying themselves with the local ancestors.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the County Farm Managers – Jon Megginson and Karen Greenleaves – for their enthusiastic support, Andrew Hill, the farmer, for his interest and patience during the fieldwork, R Bartlett, Harlow Museum, for advice and comments regarding phasing and identifying artefacts, and Ian Meadows for helpful comments on the interpretation of the site. The fieldwork was conducted by Simon Bray. Special thanks go to the following people for their contribution during excavation: Mary Alexander, Crane Begg, Pete Emberson, Caroline Malim, Gavin Lucas,

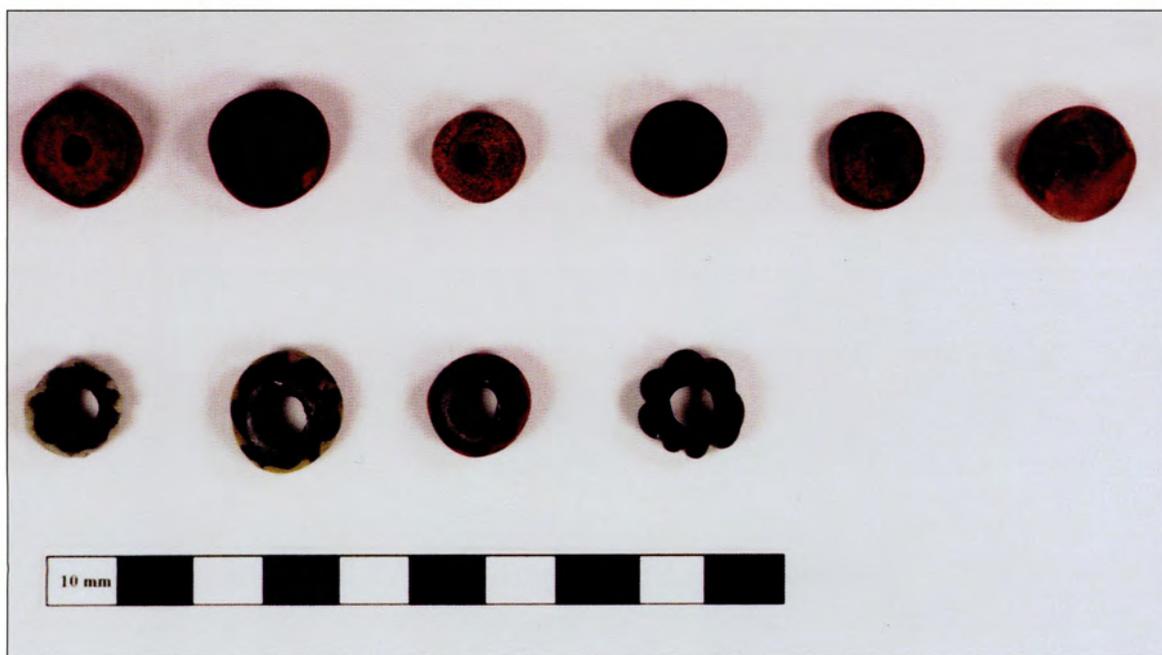
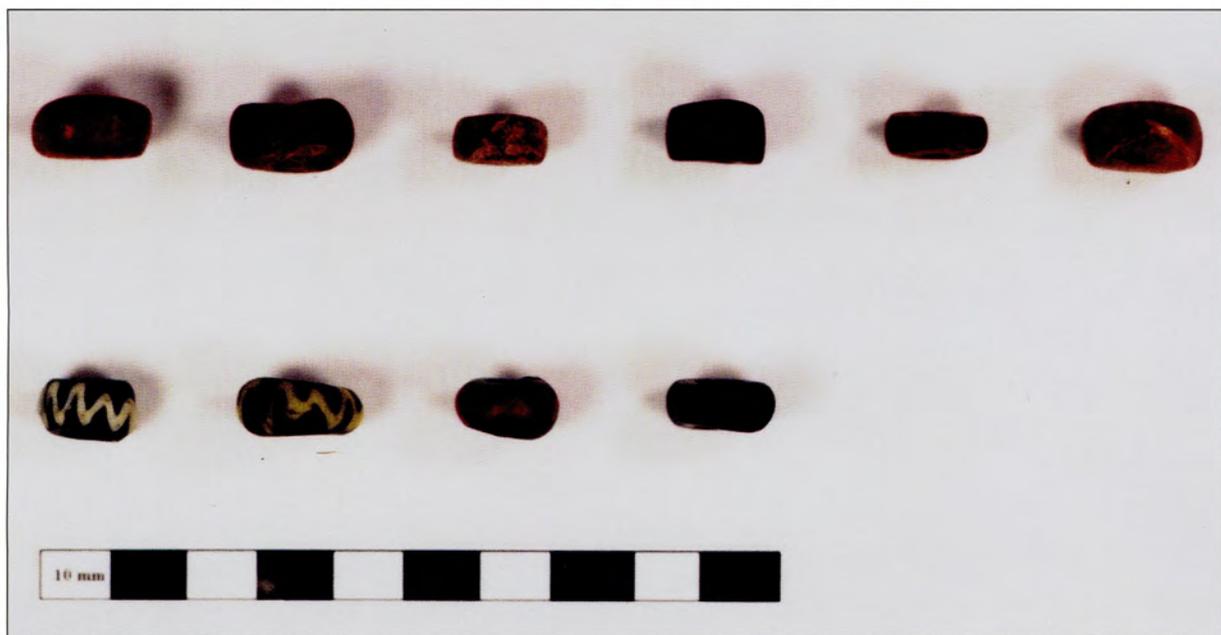


Plate 1. Glass and amber beads from Durobrivae grave 115.



Plate 2. The wall painting on the west wall, after conservation (Tobit Curteis Associates 2006).



Plate 3. The wall painting on the north wall, after conservation (Tobit Curteis Associates 2006).



Plate 4. Watercolour of the painting on the west wall by Agatha Hall Shore (©V&A Images/Victoria and Albert Museum).

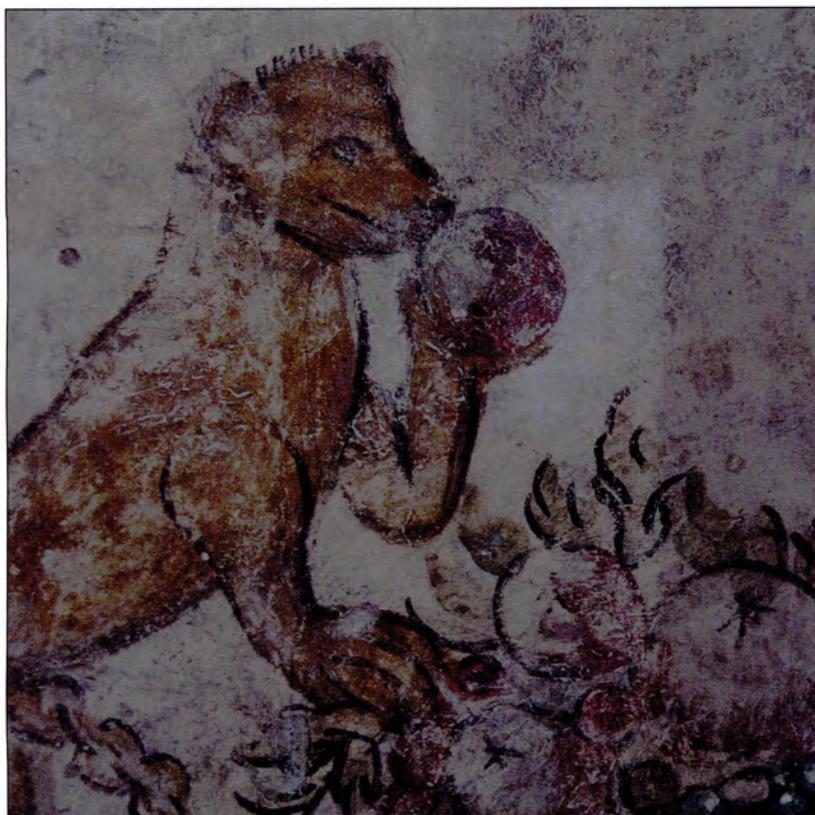


Plate 5. Detail of the ape during the treatment of the wax layer. The area on the left has had the wax layer removed. (Tobit Curteis Associates 2006).

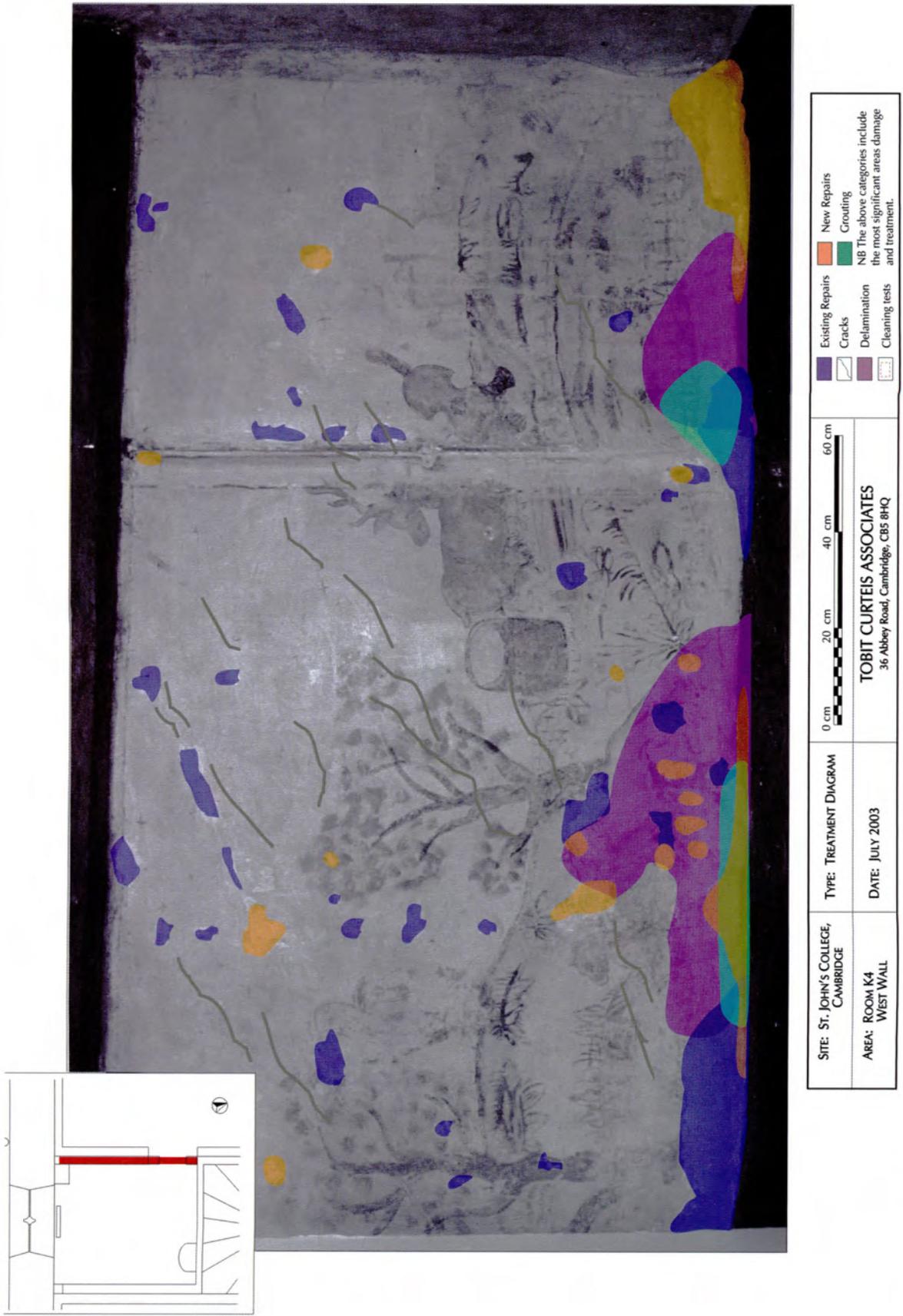


Plate 6. Part of the graphic documentation for the conservation treatment (Tobit Curteis Associates 2006).

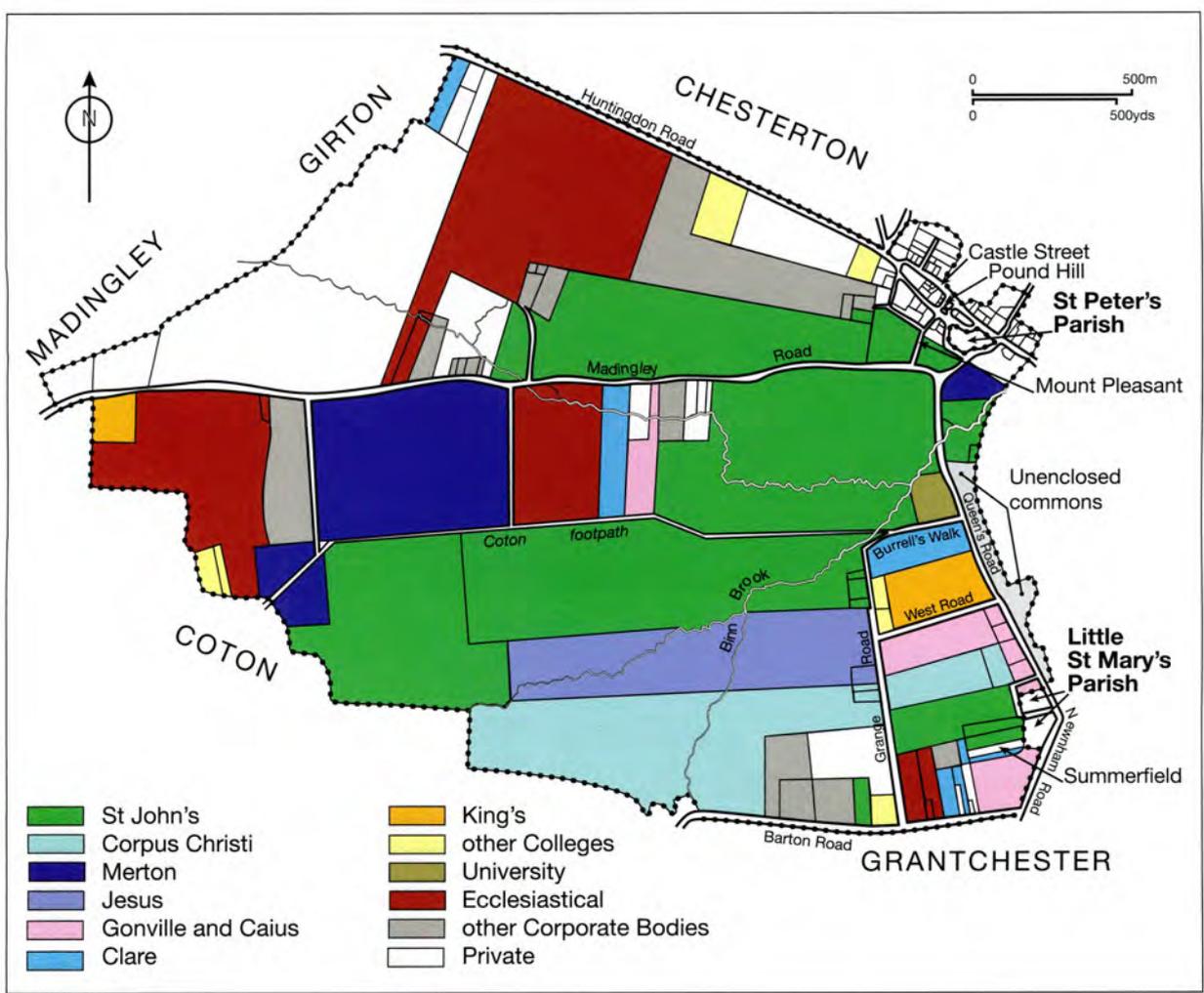


Plate 7. The ownership pattern following Enclosure of St Giles Parish, 1805.



Plate 8. (left) The frame at Woodhurst, Huntingdonshire.

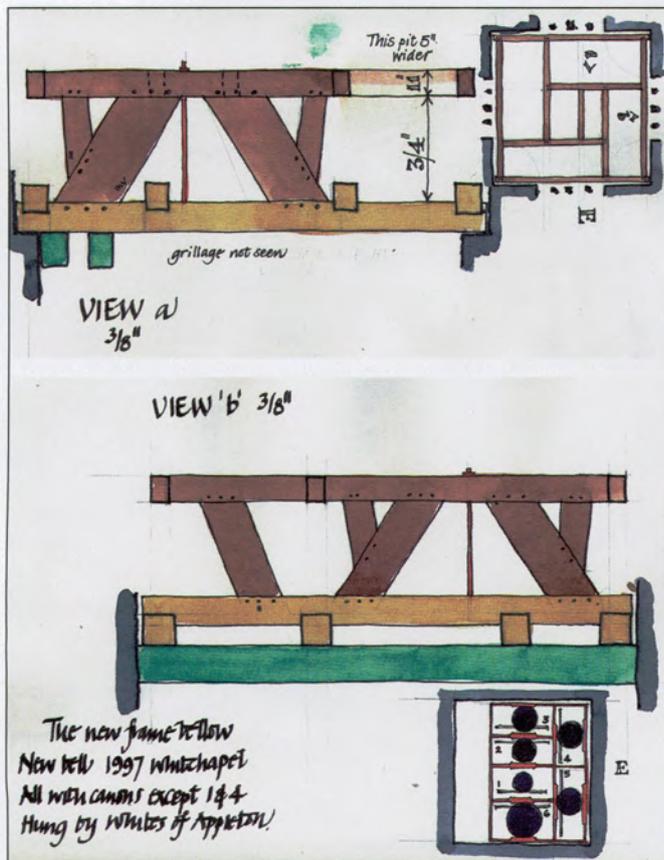


Plate 9. Plan of the bells and frames at Buckden, Huntingdonshire from the author's survey book.

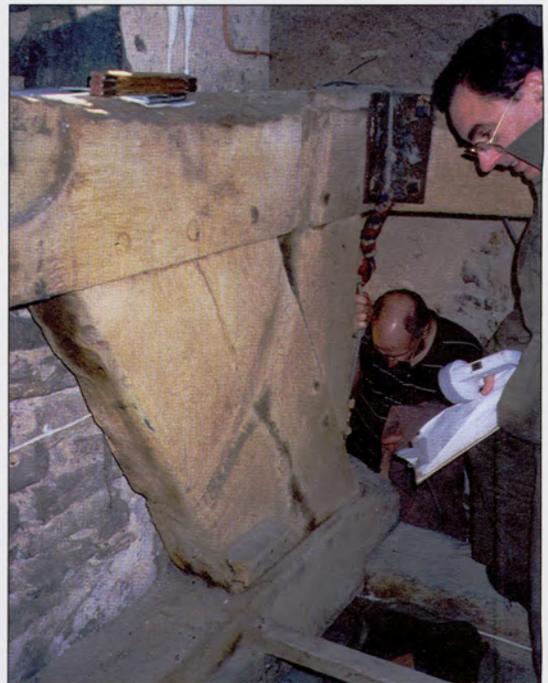


Plate 10. Inspection of the frame at Buckden, Huntingdonshire.

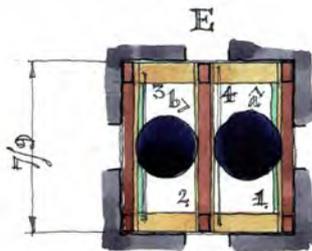
4.60 BYTHORN St. Lawrence 15/5/99
 Visit for DAC. The 1 chimeable, 2 out on top
 of the frame. Others derelict. Photos 9.2,
 11j + 5

All the bells retain their crons,
 finally re-hung by John Eaton

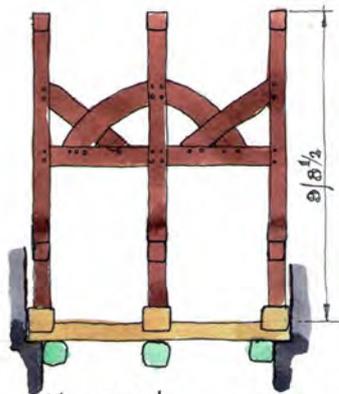
4.61

Now as Open.

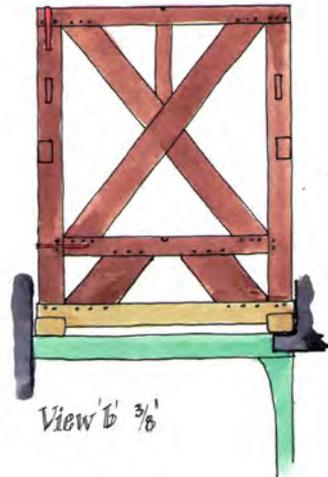
1. Henry Bagley 1682
2. Henry Penn 1711
3. Toby Norris 1620
4. Thomas Norris 1674



Plan 1/4"



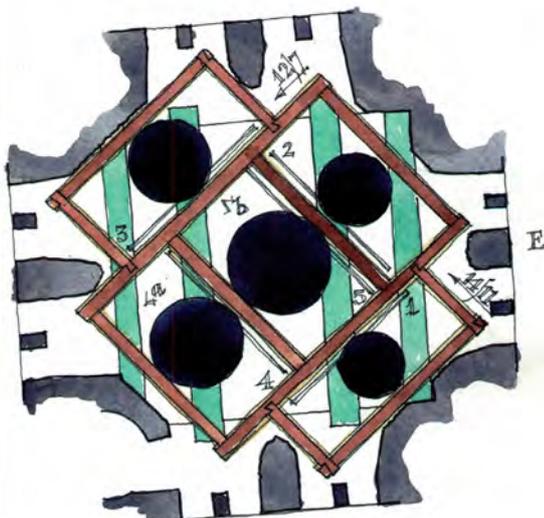
View 'a' 3/8"



View 'b' 3/8"

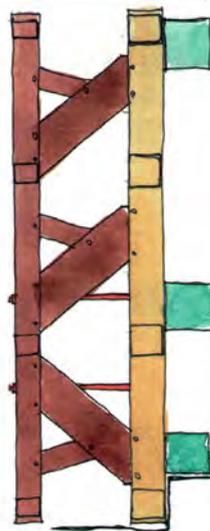
No notch

Plate 11. Plan of the bells and frames at Bythorn, Huntingdonshire from the author's survey book.



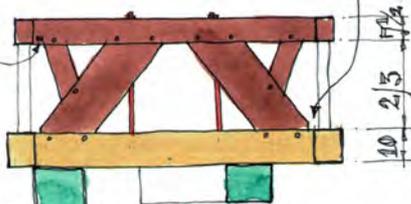
Plan 1/4"

Unringable but last peel ring as recently
 as 1988
 In the chamber below the bells are old chiming
 ball hammers.



View 'b' 3/8"

All trusses of
 similar depth.
 No floor
 No notch
 Slides 11,796-803



View 'a' 3/8"

Small
 Romans

Plate 12. Plan of the bells and frames at Keyston, Huntingdonshire from the author's survey book.



Plate 13. Watercolour of the Cambridge Observatory by Richard Banks Harraden, showing the landscape of west Cambridge in the 1840s. By kind permission of Prof Lord Martin Rees.

Stephanie Leith, Stephen Macaulay, Chris Montague, David Mitchell, Judith Roberts, Paul Spoerry, Charles Rowland-Jones, Ken Welsh. The metal-detector survey was conducted by Chris Montague. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry.

Thanks are also due to the specialists for their contributions and to Stephanie Leith for her work on rectification of the cropmark plots. The aerial photograph of the site is reproduced with the permission of Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP). The illustrations were produced by Carlos Silva, Helen Bailey, Crane Begg, Jon Cane and Jennifer Goode.

The authors would like to acknowledge Cambridgeshire County Council and English Heritage for their financial support. Particular thanks are due to Philip Walker of English Heritage for visiting the site: without his understanding and support the project would not have been possible.

This paper was edited for publication by Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu.

The material archive is held at the Cambridgeshire county store under the site codes SWA GH 93/97, while the remaining archive is currently held at the CCC AFU offices.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society is grateful to Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit for a grant towards the publication of this article.

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