

THE ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT STADEN NEAR BUXTON: THE 1987-88 AND 1989-90 EXCAVATIONS, AND FINAL REPORT

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With contributions from

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INTRODUCTION (Fig 1)

Earlier work on the site has been reported in this journal (Makepeace, 1983; 1987; 1989). In 1987-88, a series of excavations was conducted to examine a number of features around the postulated house-platform and the terraced, banked enclosure uncovered in 1985-86 (Makepeace, 1989: 22). Much of this area had suffered from land clearance and stripping, which had damaged many of the archaeological features below ground level. In the early summer of 1989, a number of small areas was opened up to clarify points raised in earlier excavations. In 1989-90, a new and final campaign of excavation concentrated on the area known as 'The Paddock'.

THE 1987-88 EXCAVATIONS

The small platform and boundary bank (Central Area)

An area was opened up to include two small mounds; a series of trenches was also cut across and near to the enclosure bank. This work revealed a small rectangular platform, approximately 2.5 x 3.5 m, constructed from small weathered limestones with slightly larger stones forming the southern edge. Amongst the stones forming the platform was found domestic material in the form of pottery, bone and a pennanular brooch (Fig 3). Immediately to the north-east of the platform was a small area of loose cobbling in which were a few sherds and bone fragments. The platform appeared to be connected by a short rubble wall that joined the enclosing bank.

The 'D'-platform

Leading from House-platform 1 was a stone terrace, linked by a ruined wall to the foundation stones of what may have been a round house with a dividing wall: the 'D-platform'. Most of this building appears to have been removed in antiquity, possibly to provide stone for one the rectangular platforms. Later damage was caused by clearance and levelling. A few sherds found associated with this building suggest an Iron Age date for its construction (Elsdon, 1989).

House-platform 2 (Fig 2)

Close to the D-platform was uncovered a second house-platform. Fortunately this had not suffered any major disturbance except for a small area at the north-east edge where a concrete support had been embedded in the ground for an electricity pole close by. The platform was rectangular in shape, 3.00 x 5.00 m, built on an outcrop of limestone and composed, like its neighbours, of weathered limestone. Only one certain post-hole was found, located at the north-east corner, though other shallow depressions along the southern edge may suggest post-hollows. The absence of other major construction features seems to compel the conclusion that its walls, like those of its neighbours, were carried on sleeper-beams. Bone, pottery and other objects were

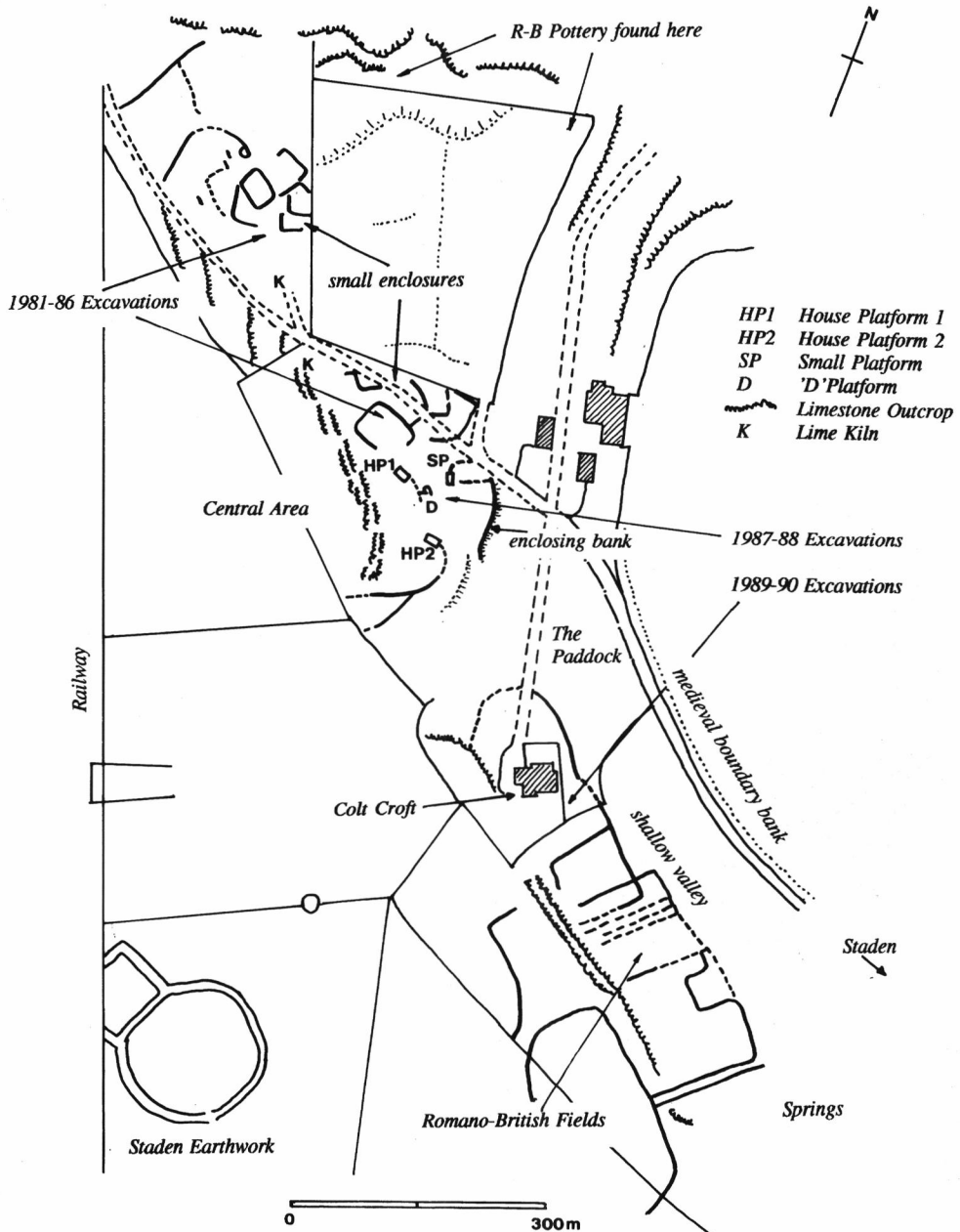


Fig 1 Staden, 1987-90: the settlement.

found either embedded in the floor or amongst the limestone rubble. In this respect, particular mention should be made of two sherds of Spanish amphorae (found on the floor-surface) and a Colchester 'Eye' brooch found embedded in it: Fig 3; (Hawkes and Hull, 1947: 320-1; Mackreth, 1985: 294-6). At the north-west corner, near to the post-hole, was uncovered a hearth containing burnt bone, fragments of clay and sherds. Next to the hearth were found the remains of an ox-jaw.

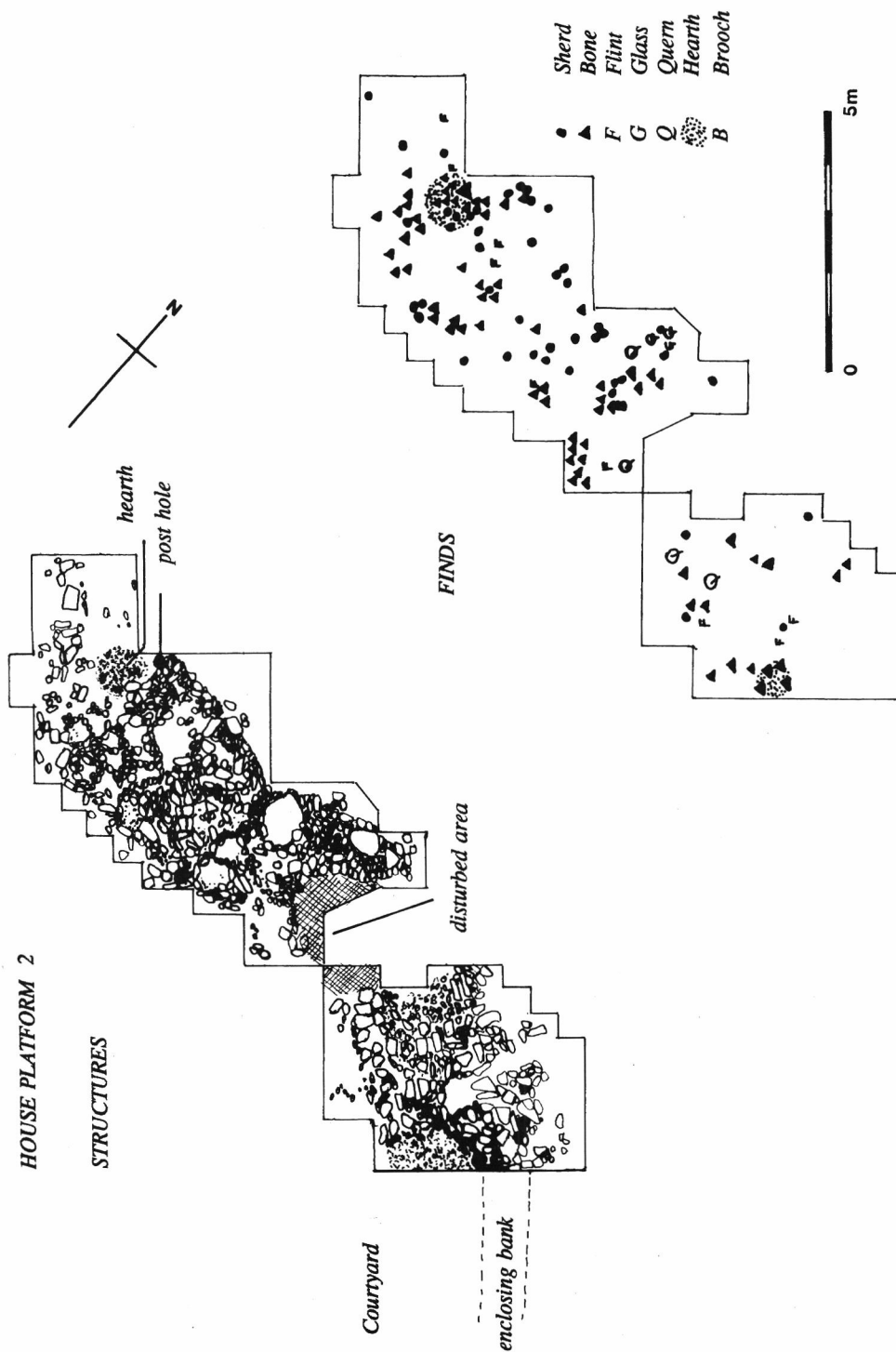


Fig 2 Staden, 1987-90: House-platform 2, structure and finds.

Two querns were found, one a flat quern the other a saddle quern (Fig 10), both from the disturbed area around the concrete support. A glass fragment and two glass beads (Fig 3) were found in the north-east sector; their colour and composition suggest that they have a common provenance. Similar beads have been found at Deepdale Cave (Cox, 1899: 14); they were probably used as earring-pendants.

Leading away south from the house-platform was a curvilinear bank, containing what appears to have been a courtyard-area. In this were found two flat querns (Fig 10), a hearth and general domestic material. The courtyard itself was cobbled with small weathered limestones.

The enclosure bank

A series of small excavations was conducted along and near the enclosure bank to confirm its line. Though it was cut in a number of places by the old path and bridleway, at its eastern end it appears to have retained its original terminal points. One fragment of Spanish amphora, found close up to the bank, matched those from House-platform 2.

The smaller enclosures

In 1988, a series of excavations was conducted to the north of the previous excavations in an area consisting of banks, terraces and hollows. Unlike earlier features that had been investigated, these lay outside the previously described 'enclosed areas' but had again been damaged by the later trackway. It appeared that the area had consisted of small corrals and enclosures, and had originally extended much further: similar features in adjoining fields had been almost completely obliterated by clearing and ploughing. From the field wall were recovered two flat querns, and from a disturbed area near the new trackway a Hunsbury type quern (Fig 11). The relative abundance of domestic material found in this area suggests the proximity of a house-site. In the walls was found the usual pottery and bone, together with two flat querns and a bronze disc-brooch with broken iron pin (Fig 4). Beneath one of the walls were found two very small hearths but no dateable material. Some of the coarse pottery sherds may be Iron Age in date.

THE 1989 EXCAVATIONS

The concluding excavations in the Central Area added little to what had been known. The artefacts found were further amphora sherds, an iron knife, 'Iron Age pottery', a sandstone disc and a BB1 sherd with curvilinear design on the base (Fig 9).

THE 1987-89 FINDS

Brooches and other objects (Figs 3, 4)

- 1) Pennanular brooch, bronze, pinched ends, grooved, pin has cross on head, 'D' 1 type, c. first century (Hattatt, 1982: 128-9).
- 2) Rhenish 'eye' brooch (Colchester 120), band on bow, knurled design on band, engraved 'chevron' design on foot, almost perfect example except for slight corrosion on pin catch-plate spring, two pairs of 3 turns, side wings, c. AD 43—50 (Hattatt, 1982: 62; Hawkes and Hull, 1947: 320-1; Mackreth, 1985: 294-6).
- 3) Glass fragment, green/clear glass, 3.5-4.5 mm thick, curved, containing elongated and round air bubbles.
- 4) Glass bead, of similar colour and composition to 3), flattened and slightly rough as though formed from a molten drop, 2-3 mm thick.
- 5) Glass bead, similar to 4), but slightly larger, 3-3.5 mm thick.
- 6) Bronze disc-brooch, early type, second century AD, enamelled blue with a hexacintal pattern, having little white dots at the points. Central disk is white enamel. Back-plate has broken iron hinge-pin, corroded bronze catch-plate, iron staining (cf. similar brooch from Cold Kitchen Hill, Wiltshire: Kivell, 1926: 81).
- 7) Iron object, pointed arrow-shape with tang, badly corroded, 7.00 cms in length, perhaps a goad.

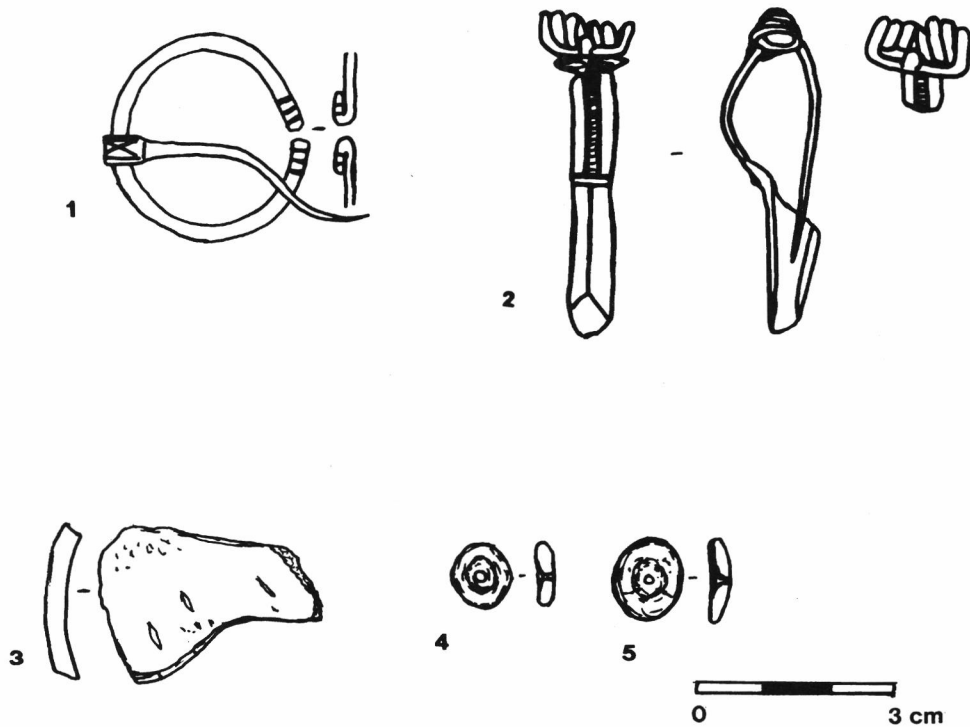


Fig 3 Staden, 1987-90: brooches and other objects, 1987-nos. 1-5.

- 8) Bone handle, red deer horn, trimmed and shaped, with a slight polish or sheen, and a cut end, showing trim marks; hole for tang of ?knife at narrow point.
- 9) Flint scraper, small, trimmed along one edge.
- 10) Stone, grey-green slate, polished on surface, flaked and split, smooth rounded edge along two sides, use unknown.

Pottery

Miscellaneous (Fig 5)

- 1) Mortarium, white/cream fabric, brown trituration grits similar in style to that found earlier (Makepeace, 1983: 80), Mancetter/Hartshill, possibly second century AD.
- 2) Rusticated ware, fine grey ware, with random rustication, possibly late-first/early-second century AD.
- 3) Samian ware, base and wall sherds (possibly Drag. 37), decorated, lion/dog, foot-ring.

Derbyshire ware (Fig 6)

- 1) Base, buff/brown fabric, gritty interior, smooth exterior, cord marks on base.
- 3) Rim, rolled, grey ware, slight ridge on edge, grey core.
- 4) Rim, everted, grey exterior, brown core, gritty texture, coarse fabric.
- 5) Rim, red/orange, rolled rim, fine gritty texture.
- 6) Rim, everted, black exterior, orange interior, fine smooth finish.
- 7) Rim, rim, grey interior, reddish-brown core, fine gritty surface.
- 8) Rim, everted, grey exterior, red/grey core.
- 9) Rim, everted, grey exterior, red core, fine fabric.
- 10) Rim, everted, brown-grey exterior, reddish core, slightly crazed surface.
- 11) Rim, everted, angular lid-seating lip, blue/grey exterior, red interior, fine fabric.

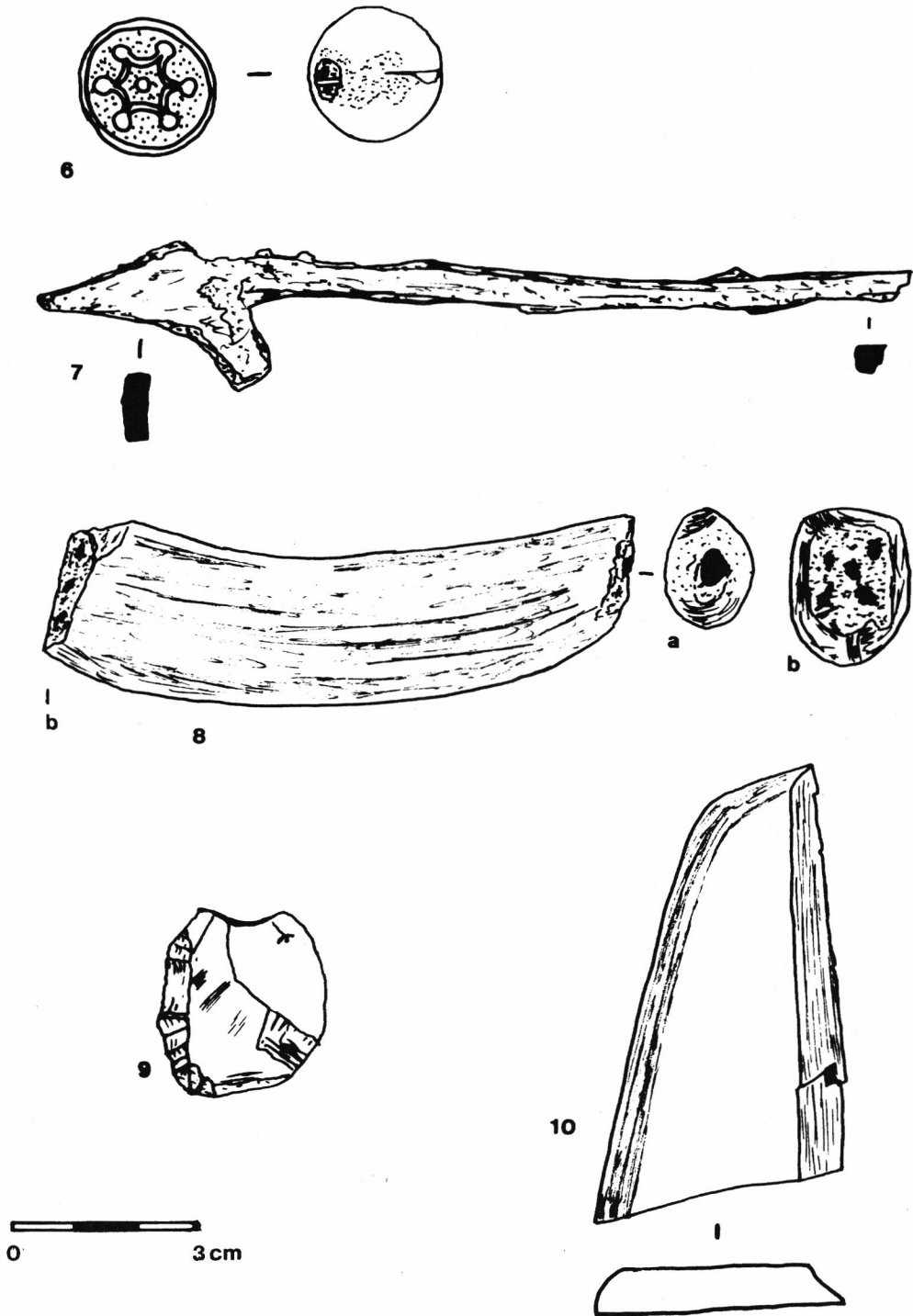


Fig 4 Staden, 1987-90: brooches and other objects, 1987-nos. 6-10.

POTTERY

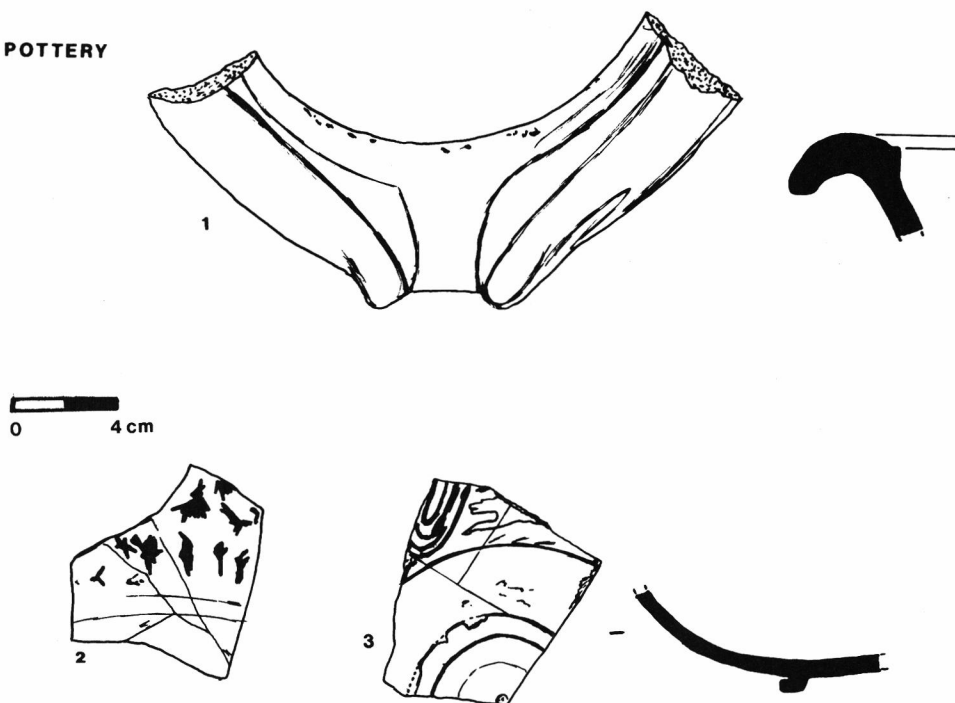


Fig 5 Staden, 1987-90: pottery.

- 12) Rim, rolled, grey exterior, red-brown core, fine gritty texture.

Grey ware (Fig 6)

- 13) Rim, rolled, brown core, small ridge under rim, smooth finish.
 14) Rim, smooth grey fabric, brown core.
 15) Rim, everted, smooth grey fabric.

Prehistoric pottery (Fig 7)

- 1) Rim, from large vessel, coarse fabric, reddish oxidised surface, brown core, pitted surface has 'soapy' feel, diameter *c.* 45 cms; hollow core in rim, slight crescent shape.
 2) Rim, flat top, rounded edge, brown exterior, black interior/core, coarse fabric; possible 'V' incised decoration below rim.
 3) Rim, small flat-topped sherd, slight groove below rim edge, grey exterior, brown interior, coarse fabric, slight pitting.
 4) Base, grey/black coarse hard fabric, smooth outer surface, black core.
 5) Base, brown/black exterior, black interior, coarse texture, hard fabric, smooth outer surface, black core.

BB1 sherd (Fig 8)

- 1) Base, BB1, cross design on base (see JS report).

Not illustrated are numerous body sherds of undecorated coarse fabric, with gritty-calcitic inclusions. Colour varies from reddish brown to black. Some sherds appear to show coiling due to the natural breaks along the coil. Some brush-marks on their outer surface. Many sherds are abraded. There were also fragments of burnt clay, of an oxidised coarse fabric, with gritty inclusions (some being found near the hearth of House-platform 2).

Other pottery found included two large body sherds of Spanish amphorae, reddish brown, of a fine smooth fabric, and several amphorae body sherds, in a brownish, fine, sandy texture. There

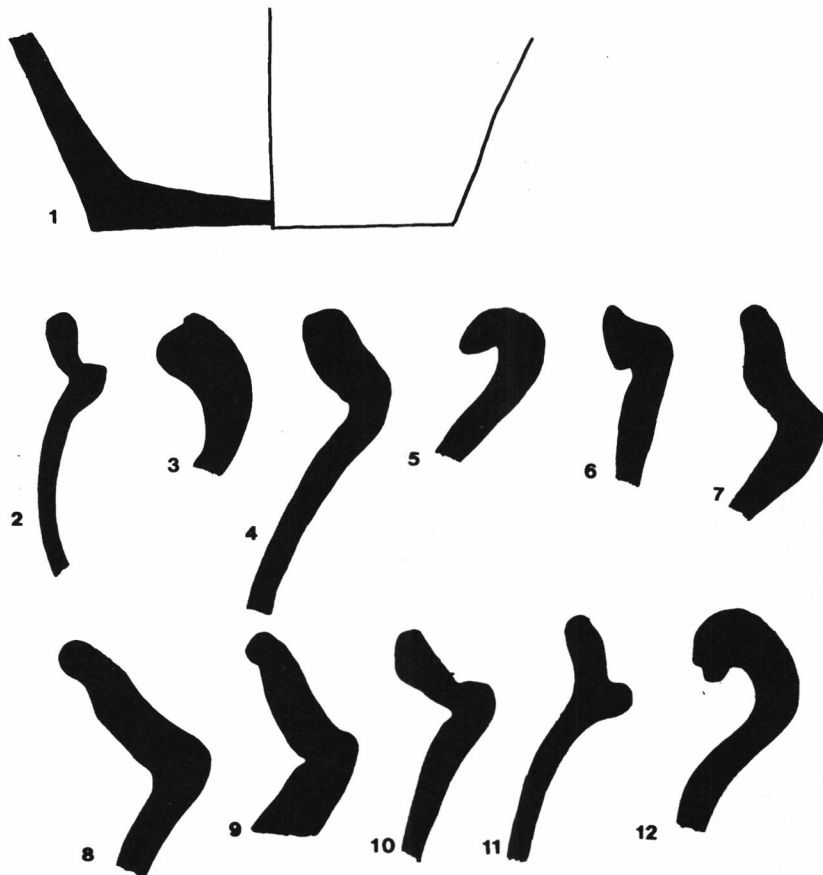
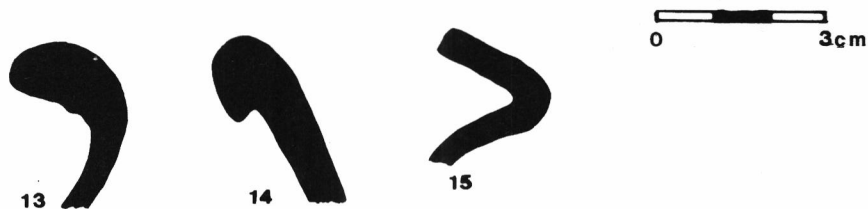
DERBYSHIRE WARE**GREY WARE**

Fig 6 Staden, 1987-90: Derbyshire ware; grey ware.

was also a tile fragment, reddish in colour, with gritty/calclitic inclusions.

Other finds from the Central Area (Fig 9)

- 1) Prehistoric rim/body sherd, coarse fabric, bead rim, large grit inclusions, light-brown exterior, black interior, possibly late Iron Age.
- 2) BB1 base sherd, slight burnish with curvilinear design on base (see JS report).
- 3) Base/body sherd, grey ware, fine sandy texture, grey core.

PREHISTORIC POTTERY



Fig 7 Staden, 1987-90: prehistoric pottery (1987-89).

- 4) Base/body sherd, grey ware, fine sandy texture, grey core.
- 5) Rim sherd, grey ware, fine sandy texture, grey core.
- 6) Rim/body sherd, bead rim, grey ware, fine texture, grey core, dish or platter.
- 7) Stone disk, fine grained micaceous sandstone, reddish-brown, diameter 5.3-6.0 cms, thickness 1.3-1.4 cms.
- 8) Iron knife, overall length (including tang) 11 cms, blade length 5.5 cms long, broken tip, curved cutting edge; original length *c.* 12 cms.

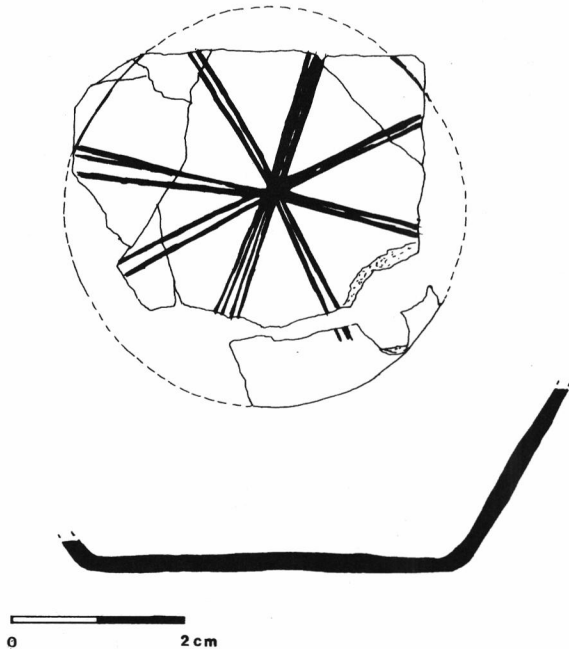
Querns

Querns found in 1987 (Fig 10)

- 1) Flat quern, base stone, upper grinding surface, partly pick-pecked outer edge, fine gritstone.
- 2) Flat quern fragment, showing spindle hole, upper grinding surface, slight lip to spindle hole, rough base, fine gritstone.

BB1 BASE

Fig 8 Staden, 1987-90: BB1 base.



- 3) Hunsbury type quern, upper stone, deep hopper, pick-pecked on outer surface, handle hole present, millstone grit.
- 4) Flat quern, rough base stone, spindle hole appears to have been unfinished, damaged during manufacture.
- 5) Flat quern, small fragment, ribbed upper surface, coarse gritstone.
- 6) Flat quern, base fragment, pick-pecked upper surface, rough base (lower stone).
- 7) Fragment of quern, slightly dished and polished, some scalloping on outer edge, fine grained sandstone.
- 8) Saddle quern fragment, coarse gritstone, slightly dished surface.

Querns found in 1988 (Fig 11)

- 1) Flat quern, base stone, pick-pecked base, c. 32 cms in diameter, curved/convex grinding surface showing curved groove marks, fine gritstone.
- 2) Flat quern, upper stone, c. 33 cms in diameter, curved lower grinding surface showing curved groove marks, upper surface with pick-pecked radial groove marks, dished 'hopper', fine gritstone; 1) and 2) are possibly part of a broken pair of stones.
- 3) Flat quern, base stone, smooth grinding surface, pick-pecked base, c. 36 cms in diameter.
- 4) Hunsbury type quern, upper stone, deep hopper, pick-pecked on outer surface, heavily damaged fragment similar to that found in 1987 (Fig 10), gritstone.
- 5) Bun type quern, small fragment of upper stone, deep hopper, pick-pecked surface, gritstone.
- 6) Flat quern, small edge fragment, fluted on outer edge, gritstone.

SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

Grain impression

A body sherd of Derbyshire ware bearing a grain impression (not illustrated) was submitted to GJ, who reported:

The closest parallel seems to be with rye (cf. *secale cereale*) but [*sc.* the seed] may also be one of the larger seeded grass species. The seed has been replaced by clay and some of the most diagnostic features are on the obscured parts of the grain.

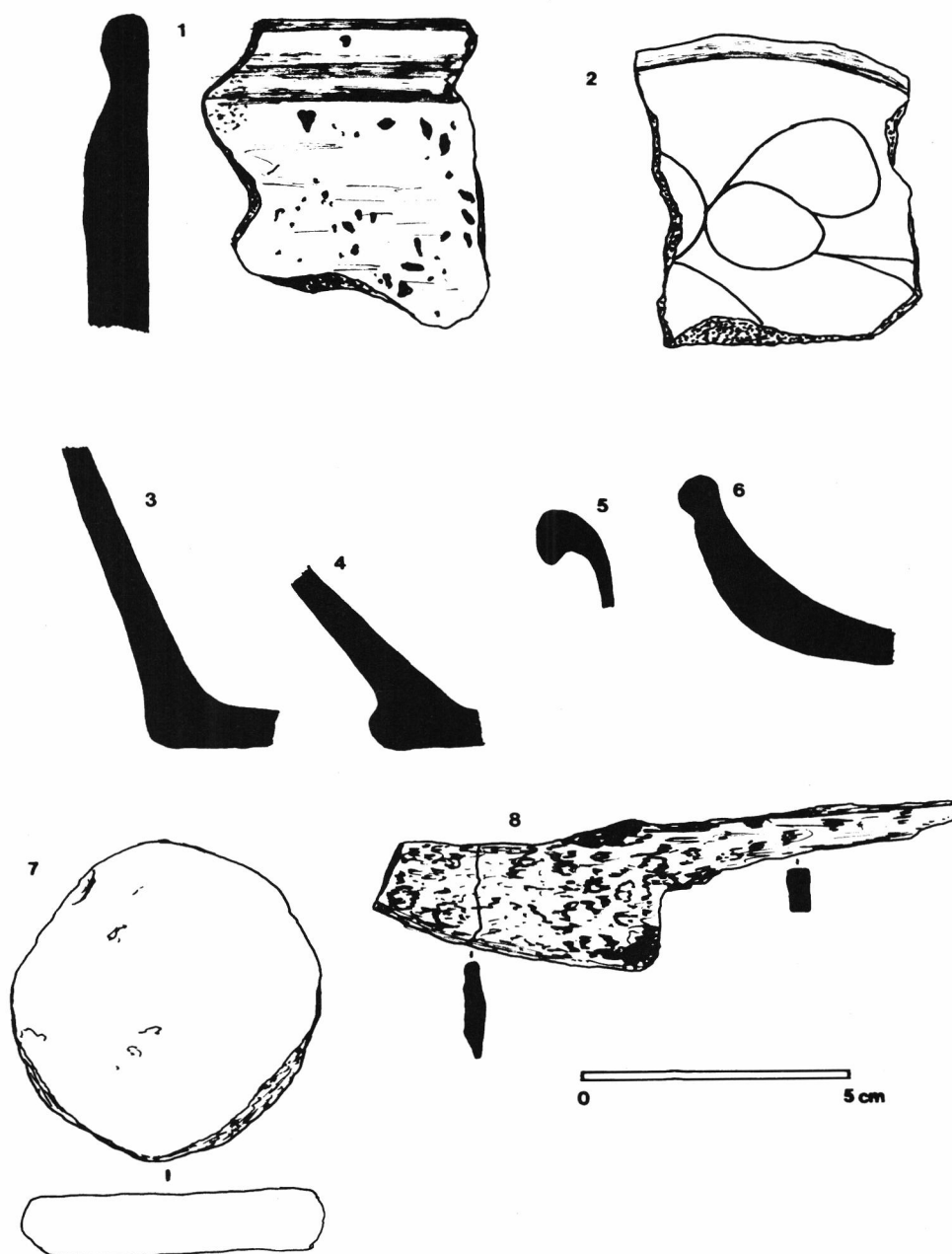


Fig 9 Staden, 1987-90: Central Area (1989) finds.

BB1 base sherds (Figs 8, 9)

These were submitted to JS, who reported:

The sherds form part of a base of a BB1 vessel, most likely a lipped dish. As with all BB1, it is handmade, but these sherds do not have the highly burnished black surface commonly found on the material

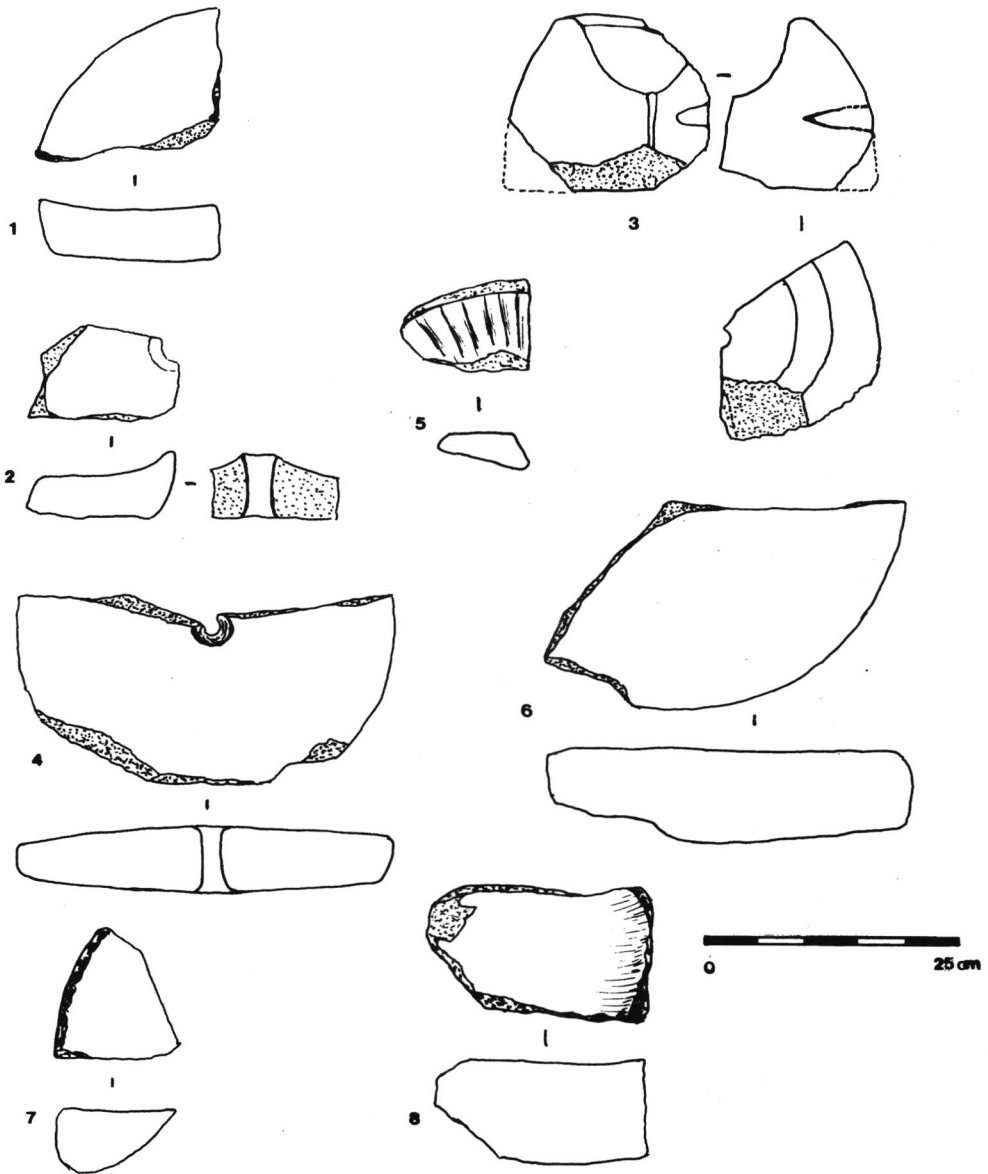


Fig 10 Staden, 1987-90: querns, 1987.

produced in Dorset (Farrar, 1973). Neither is the fabric similar. It is hard, thinner and, although full of small rounded quartz grits, they are not so profuse as in Dorset material. BB1 of a similar fabric was produced at Rossington Bridge, South Yorkshire *c.* AD 135-170 (Samuels, 1983), although these sherds do not “feel” as though they come from this source. Their fabric is thinner although the appearance is much the same—particularly the lack of a black glossy outer surface. Similar material has been found at other Midlands sites, particularly Derby Racecourse, and it may be that another source exists in this area.

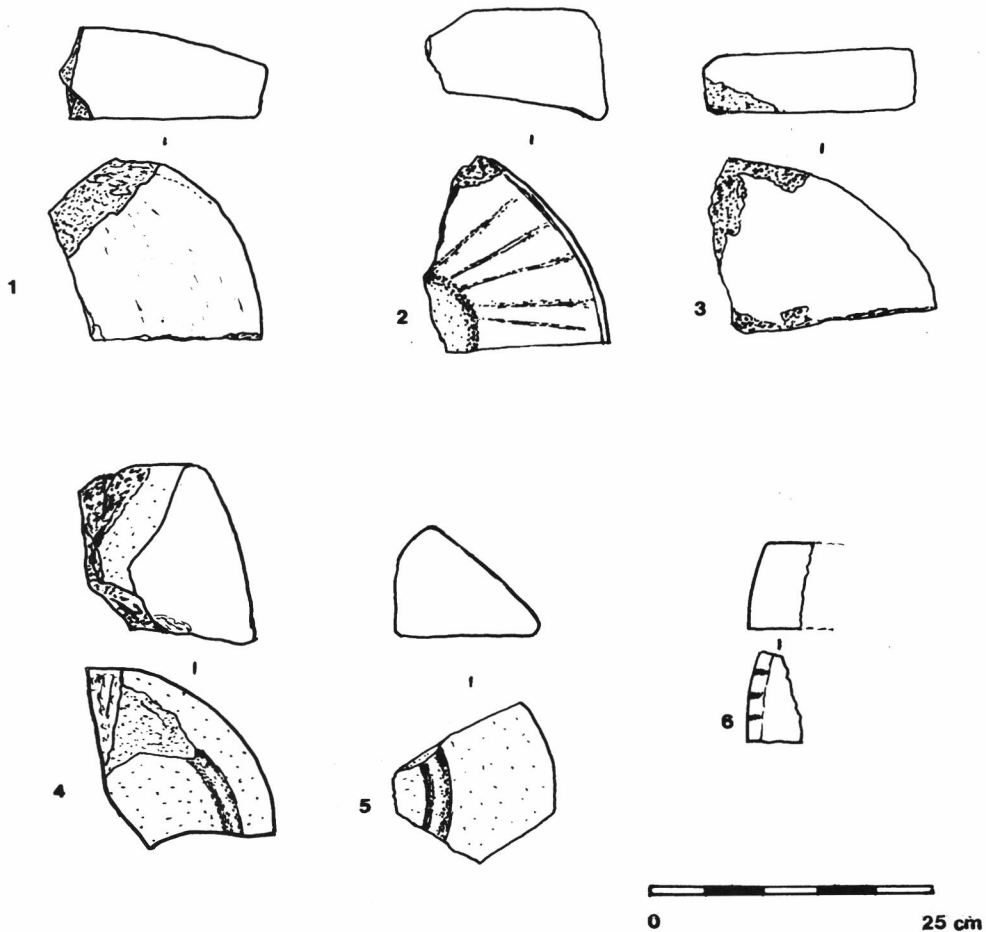


Fig 11 Staden, 1987-90: querns, 1988.

Bones

MB's report is summarised in Table 1.

THE 1987-89 EXCAVATIONS: DISCUSSION

Besides a few scattered flints (not illustrated) indicating further Neolithic or Bronze Age activity in the area (Makepeace, 1983; 1987; 1989), most of the prehistoric evidence, in the form of beehive- and Hunsbury type querns and pottery, suggests that the Staden settlement began in Iron Age and continued into the Roman period. The pottery finds clearly indicate the use of early forms of Derbyshire Ware, produced in or around Derby towards the end of the first century AD (Dearne, 1993; Dool, Wheeler *et al.*, 1985). The appearance of so many quern-forms on one site over such a relatively short period hints at a rapid increase in grain production. The presence of many animal bones confirms extensive animal husbandry, especially that of cattle, though horse, sheep and pig are also present. Most animals were butchered on the site at young adult or sub-adult stage, either used for the settlement's own consumption or for the garrison and *vicus* at Buxton, not far away.

	Platform 2/Hearth Deposit					Bank and 'D' Platform				
	Ox	Sheep/ Goat	Horse	Red Deer	Other	Ox	Sheep/ Goat	Horse	Red Deer	Other
Teeth										
Upper		3				4	1			
Lower	12					9	2			
Deciduous	1									
Mandible	1									
Vertebra	14									
Rib	8									
Scapula	1					1				
Humerus						1				
Metacarpal	1					1				
Pelvis						1				
Astragalus	1									
Calcaneum						2				
Other fragments		c.80 fragments possibly Ox					c.50 fragments possibly Ox			

Table 1 Staden Romano-British settlement: Bone Report

The D-platform may be the last vestiges of a round house though much of this appears to have been removed during antiquity and certainly during later land clearances. The rectangular house-platforms, of which three were found, two almost intact, were all constructed in a similar style, consisting of a rubble core base of weathered stones with slightly larger stones forming part of the outer edge in places. All had domestic material, in the form of animal bones and pottery, in the material of the floors. Occasionally, bronze artefacts were found deposited amongst this material, or trampled into the surface of the floors. From the evidence of the pottery and the bronze artefacts found, these house-platforms appear to have been in use from the mid-first to the second century AD. Evidence of 'industrial' activity was slight in the Romano-British settlement, amounting only to the occasional 'hearth' associated with glass, clay fragments and some traces of lead-working. The ability to purchase amphorae may suggest some affluence deriving from the sale of livestock, meat and grain. The central and western sections of the site probably formed the main complex, consisting of corrals, enclosures and house-platforms.

The Staden settlement appears to have had its origins in the late Iron Age, and to have continued into the second century AD. Its Roman development probably reflects that of the fort and *vicus* at Buxton, though in this case it is difficult to understand why there is no third- or fourth-century material, as at Buxton. It is possible that other sites in the Peak District have similar origins (Makepeace, forthcoming).

THE 1989-90 EXCAVATIONS

The 1989-90 excavations were focused on the area known as 'The Paddock', east of the bungalow called Colt Croft, at the junction of the Romano-British field system and a curvilinear enclosure (Figs 1, 12). When the bungalow was built a few sherds of Romano-British pottery and a brooch were found, indicating that there might be a house-site in the vicinity (Makepeace, 1983: 84). It was therefore decided to use the last phase of excavation to determine the nature of the enclosure and to settle the question of the possible house-site. The area investigated was situated between the garden-wall and the later enclosure field-wall, and was chosen because it allowed systematic excavation of both the Romano-British enclosure and areas inside and outside this feature. The area outside sloped gently to what may once have been a small stream. Though this is now dry, there are still springs issuing from below Staden Low, which was the obvious water supply for the settlement. The excavations started in spring 1989 and terminated in summer 1990.

Excavation began where the Romano-British bank and the garden-wall almost converge; from this point it was relatively easy to grid out the area for excavation (Fig 12). The first season opened up an area containing a substantial double orthostat and rubble bank belonging to the Romano-British enclosure-wall. West of this wall, and interior to it, was part of a much damaged and robbed round house, and the northern or lower part of what was eventually recognised as the end of a medieval longhouse. An area was also opened up to the east of the Romano-British enclosure-wall, towards the gently sloping stream bed. The second season extended excavation southwards, up-slope, to examine still further the longhouse and an area to the west, between the longhouse and the garden wall.

It became obvious that the whole area had been considerably disturbed by the construction of the medieval longhouse, other medieval activity, later stone-robbing for the later field/enclosure-walls, twentieth-century activity and faunal burrowing. This meant that there were no earlier horizons left undisturbed. Artefacts from all periods from the Mesolithic to the modern were found intermixed. However, the discovery of the medieval longhouse, of which there had been no indications at surface level, has now added a new dimension to the history of the site.

Prehistoric activity

The whole of the excavated area was littered with flint-chert implements and related debris, including the occasional prehistoric sherd (Figs 14, 15). From the flint evidence it became obvious that the site had attracted peoples over several millennia, from the Mesolithic onwards. Prehistoric activity had been recorded in all previous excavations at Staden (Makepeace, 1983; 1987; 1989), and cannot be said to have been concentrated in any particular area. However, the largest number and greatest range of flints were found at the Paddock Site. The most significant finds represented three distinct styles of late Iron Age pottery: a sherd of a bead-rimmed jar; a much finer vessel dateable to the first century BC; and a sherd of a Butt Beaker (late first century BC/early first century AD: Elsdon, 1989: 40-1; Fig 15). These reinforced evidence from earlier excavations (Makepeace, 1983; 1989) and those of 1988-89, which suggested that the site had been established during the late Iron Age, and continued into the Roman period.

Besides the flint tools, other interesting stone objects were a cup-marked limestone block and a sandstone saddle quern (Fig 18). The cup-marked limestone block has four equal-sized round cup-marks of varying depth. It is difficult to say how such a stone was used, as it was found in an area of stone-robbing, presumably from the wall of the longhouse.

The sandstone saddle quern was also found nearby and, again, may have been incorporated into the wall of the longhouse and then robbed out.

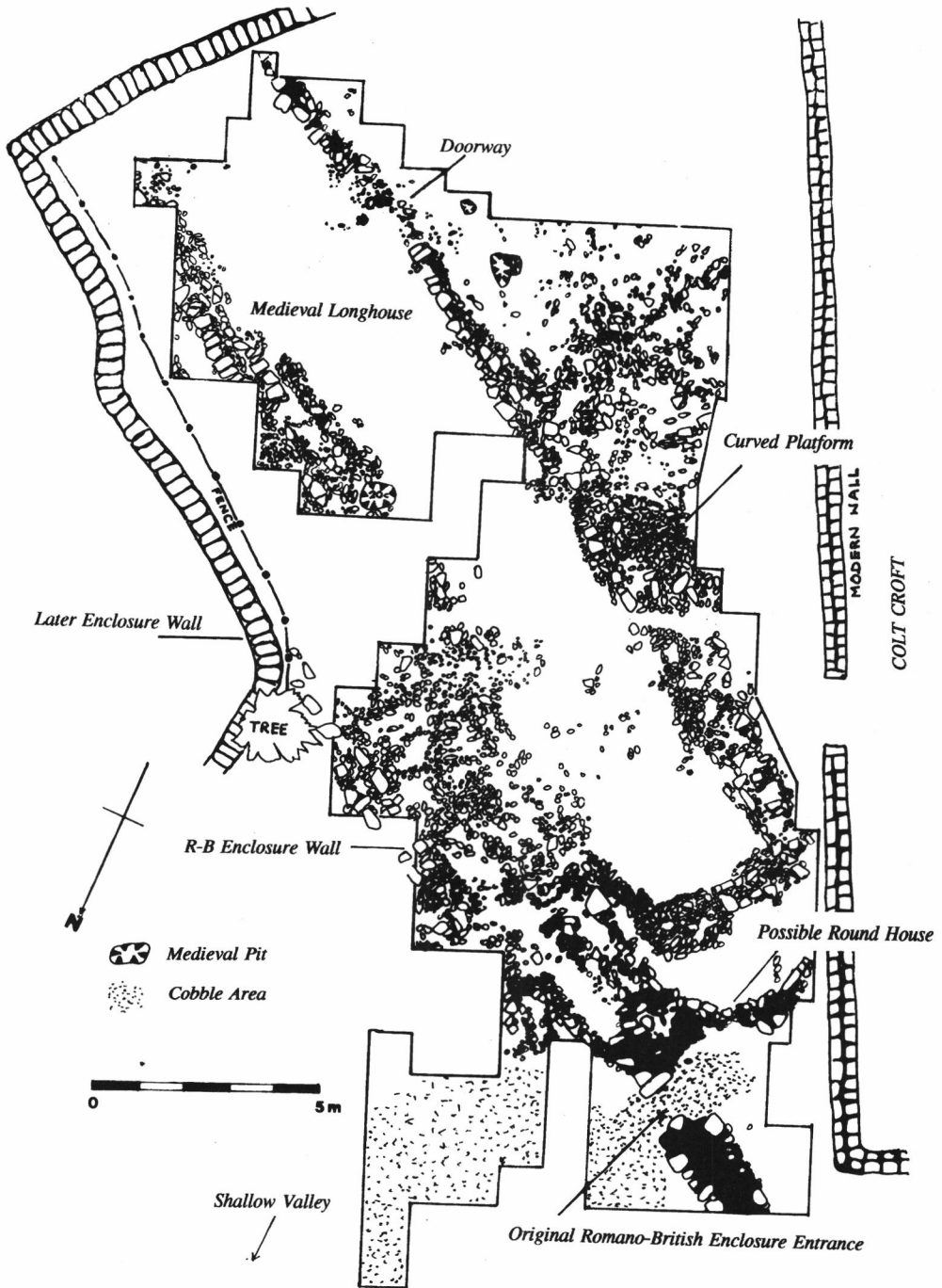


Fig 12 Staden, 1987-90: Longhouse, structure.

The Romano-British enclosure and related features

The only feature that had not been disturbed was a short stretch of orthostat and rubble wall, about five metres long, in which was found the original entrance to the enclosure (Fig 12). Immediately to the south, close to this entrance, the wall is entirely robbed out. However, further away, closer to the later enclosure-wall, its line is preserved by a few basal orthostats. It then ran alongside the eastern wall of the longhouse to the linear bank linking the field system to the enclosure.

Just inside the entrance to the enclosure was found part of what may have been the curving wall of a round house, approximately 4.5 m in diameter. No positive dating material was found associated with this, since much of it had been disturbed by human and animal activities. The position of this postulated round house suggests that it was, in some way or other, intended to guard the entrance to the enclosure. This entrance was found to have been cobbled with small basaltic stones, as was the exterior area to the east (Fig 12), which led down to the shallow valley. Amongst the cobbles were found prehistoric, Roman and medieval artefacts and pottery, as well as fragments of burnt clay. Only two post-holes appeared to predate the medieval occupation. One was sealed beneath the medieval stone platform and the other, slightly to the south, located in a slight hollow (Fig 13). There were no indications that these postholes were related. Only a few sherds of Romano-British pottery were found, many abraded and worn. All appeared to date from the first/second century AD, as with other material from the settlement.

The medieval longhouse and associated features (Figs 12, 13)

The longhouse was 5-5.5 m wide and at least 22.5 m long. Its exact length could not be ascertained as it went under the later enclosure-wall into the next field. Though this building had suffered considerably from stone-robbing, sufficient of it remained to show that the two long walls differed in their construction. The east wall had a double row of limestone blocks with rubble infill, while the west wall appeared to have only one row of stones (Fig 12). Beresford and Hurst (1989: 97) point out that a number of longhouses appear to have one wall less substantial than the other three, and suggest that the practice may have been adopted to permit the easier construction of doorways or even windows. In this respect, it is significant that in the Staden longhouse the doorway is found in the weaker western wall.

The walls were probably originally bonded with clay (Beresford and Hurst, 1987: 94), but this is difficult to prove since the clay bonding may have been worked out or replaced by humus through worm-action. The walls appear to have laid directly on the ground surface after de-turfing. The relatively small size and width of the walls might indicate that they were not weight carriers but foundations for timber structures. The roof trusses may have rested on sleeper beams or timber sills lying on these low or dwarf foundation walls (Beresford and Hurst, 1989: 95).

There is evidence of a least one doorway in the south-west wall, where there was a post-hole associated with a break in the wall (Figs 12, 13). There may have been another entrance in the eastern wall, where a large amount of stone rubble, medieval pottery, bone and deer tines was found, but this is not conclusive. The rubbish had accumulated to a depth of at least 40 cms below the present surface, and lay in a slight hollow between the longhouse and the Romano-British enclosure-bank. It is difficult to visualise a longhouse such as this without another entrance; however, since this area had suffered badly from robbing, its identification owes much to conjecture, and indeed conflicts with earlier suggestions concerning the unsuitability of the thickest wall for window- and door-openings..

Inside the longhouse there was little occupational debris: a few sherds of Roman and medieval pottery, a few flints, a lead spindle whorl, a lump of iron chain, a lead ring and a few

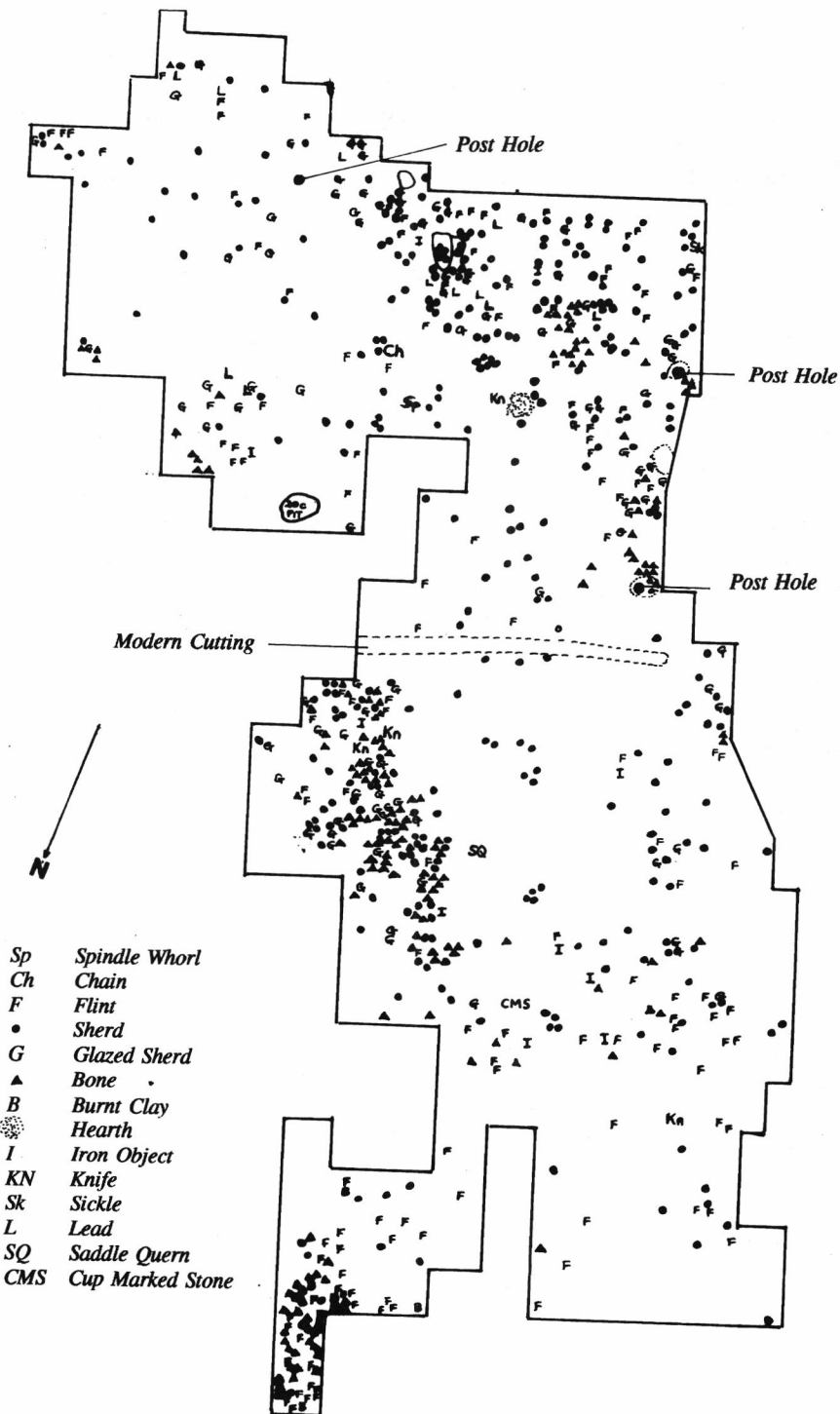


Fig 13 Staden, 1987-90: Longhouse, finds.

small lead fragments (Fig 17). The earlier material had worked its way upwards due to worm- or frost-action. Overall, the floor did not appear to have been heavily used, despite the fact that it was slightly hollowed in the centre. However, such general 'cleanliness' can be misleading, as there is sufficient evidence from other sites to suggest that such a state is far from untypical. Remains elsewhere indicate the use of some form of plank-flooring; only when this rotted away did litter lying upon it fall onto the earthen floor. There were no indications of an internal hearth or partitions. The only internal spreads of stone appeared to be associated with stone-robbing.

Outside to the south-west was what appears to have been a working- or domestic area. A hearth, shallow pits and a rubble limestone platform with curving edge were all that was found (Figs 12, 13). Other small pieces of lead were found, as well as very small lead bars or strips. There appears to have been some resmelting of lead to manufacture items for use, like the lead ring and lead spindle whorl discovered in the longhouse. The two shallow pits, one recut, had medieval shelly ware in them. Close to this, iron knives and an iron sickle were also found (Fig 17).

Was this part of the medieval settlement of Staden, first recorded in the early twelfth century (AD 1101-8: Cameron, 1959: 135)? The date of the pottery found (late twelfth/late thirteenth century) certainly supports such an hypothesis. The present settlement at Staden lies over the back of Staden Low to the east, so whether excavation has uncovered an outlier to the main settlement or the original settlement itself is hard to say. However, at least the first recording of the settlement has now been complemented by pottery evidence of a similar date.

The nearest buildings of similar character and date to the one at Staden can be seen at the Lawrence Field and Padley Wood settlements near Grindleford. Only the Lawrence Field site has been excavated. The excavations were conducted by L. H. Butler, C. James and GM in 1959-60. The site consisted of two houses constructed from horizontally laid gritstone blocks at least five courses high. The larger house had what appeared to be a byre at the lower end of the building, and two doorways opening onto what might be termed a courtyard. The medieval pottery from the site was dated to the eleventh/twelfth centuries. Unfortunately, much of the excavated material has been lost, including a number of flat quern fragments and pieces of lead. Only GAM's few notes, photographs and drawings of these excavations remain.

THE FINDS

The flints (CRH: Fig 14) (Clarke, 1960: 215-16; 1970: 61)

Knapping debris

Clarke (1960) types:	A	B	C	D
Flint cores	3	2	1	0
Chert cores	1	2	1	2
Core trimmings	4 black chert			
	9 flint			
Bunter nodules/pebbles	5 flint			
Cherty lumps/pebbles	4 black chert			
	42 grey chert			
	9 brown chert			
	14 yellow chert			
Hammered flints	2			
Thinning flakes/blades	76 flint			
	17 black chert			

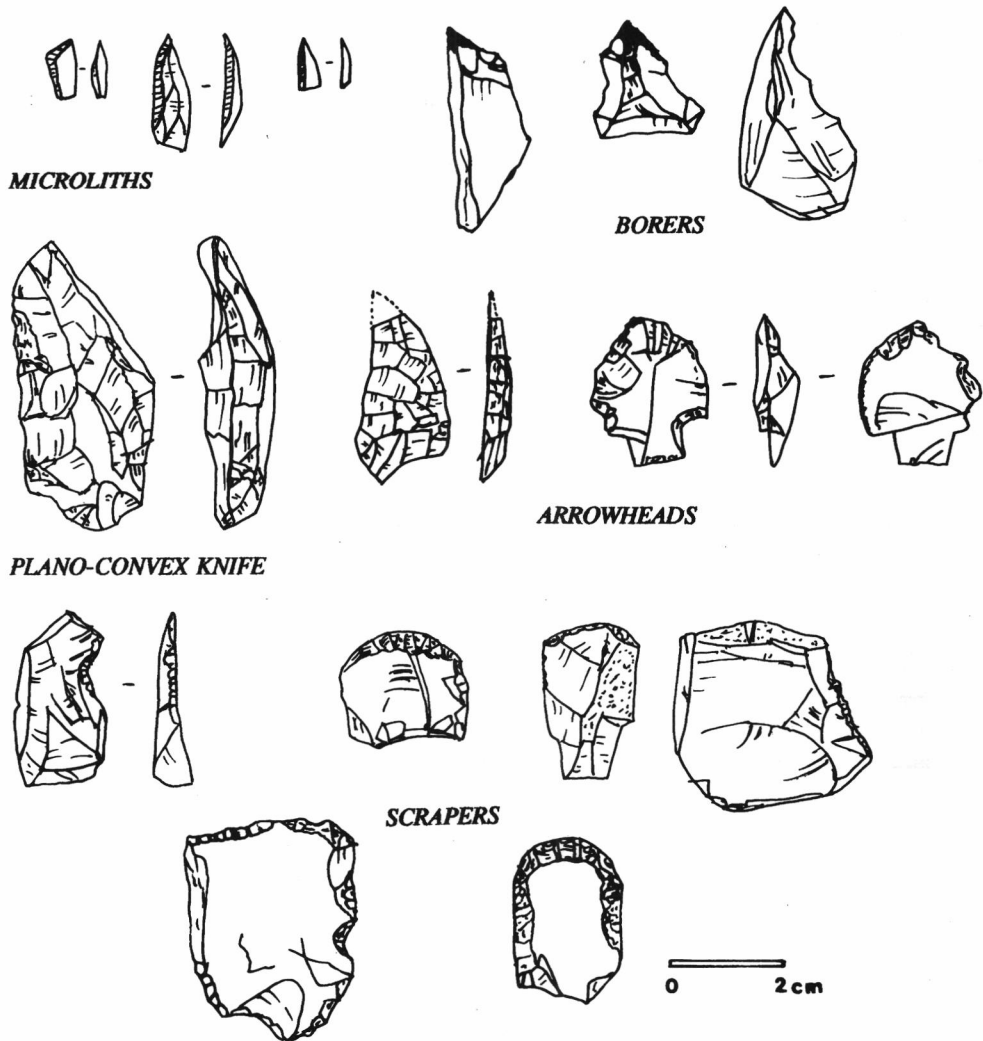


Fig 14 Staden, 1987-90: flints.

Tool types

Misc. retouched flakes/blades	8
Leaf-shaped arrowhead	1
Barbed and tanged arrowhead	1
Burins/borers	3 (1 black chert/2 flint)
Plano-convex knife	1 (broken)
End scrapers	3
Side scrapers	2
Hollow scraper	1
Microliths	1 scalene triangle, black chert 2 rods-battered back

The prehistoric pottery (GAM: Fig 15)

- 1) Body sherd, Butt Beaker with median groove and vertical comb decoration, dark brown exterior, black interior, black core (CAM 113: Elsdon, 1989: 40-1). Date 10BC-AD 60.
- 2) Rim sherd, bead rim, coarse fabric, gritty with large inclusions, brown exterior, black interior with black-grey core. Late Iron Age.
- 3) Rim-body sherds, possible jar, fine vesicular fabric, shelly matrix, leached out giving vesicular appearance, uneven rim-profile, brown exterior, brown-black interior, some smoothing lines on exterior, cf. Smith, 1979: fig. 12:1. C. late Iron Age, possibly first century BC.
- 4) Rim sherd, flat top with bead rim, brown exterior, black interior. Date unknown.
- 5) Rim sherd, hollow, with diagonal line decoration, possible bowl, coarse fabric, grey-brown exterior, black interior. Date unknown.

The medieval pottery (RCA: Fig 16)

This small group of pottery from the White Peak is important because it contains a substantial amount of pottery from the Brackenfield kilns (Strange, n.d.).

Fabrics

Brackenfield type ware:

A hard creamy white to pink fabric, sandy with some grits and red iron inclusions. Grog is also contained in some sherds, one being 22 x 22 mm and 2.2 mm thick. One sherd also contained a lump of millstone grit 9.7 x 5.4 mm. The bases are knife trimmed, flat or sagging.

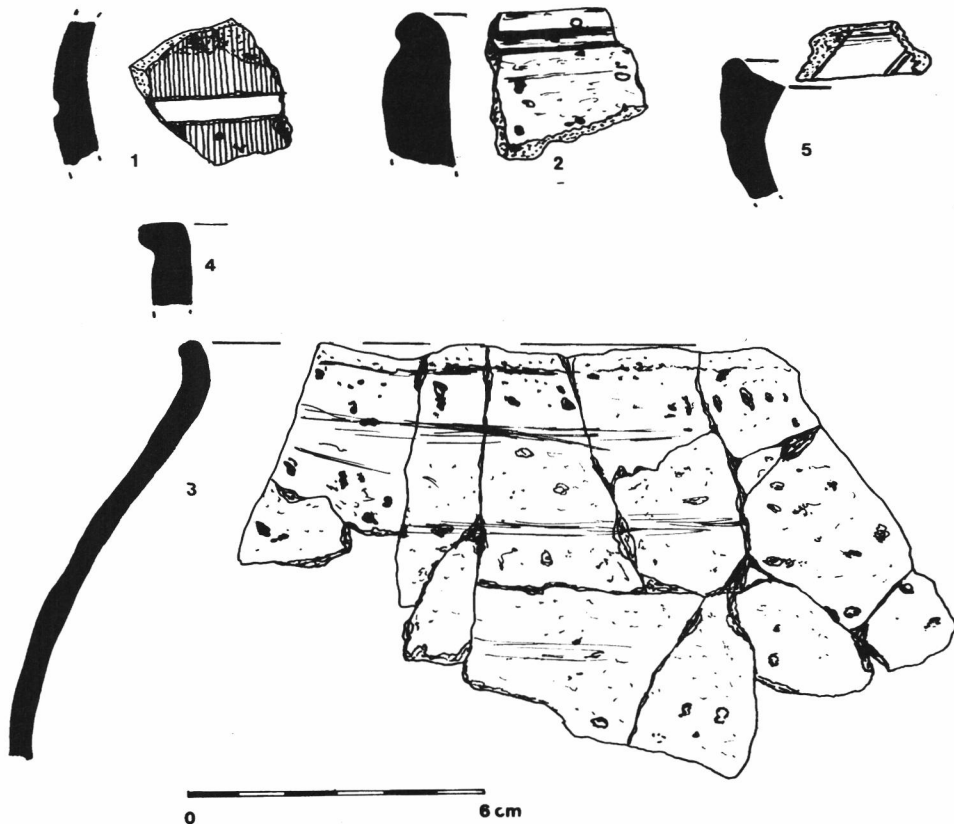


Fig 15 Staden, 1987-90: prehistoric pottery (1989-90).

Decoration on a jug body sherd is a series of parallel lines of square notched rouletting. This form of decoration is to be seen on wasters from the Brackenfield kilns.

Burley Hill type:

A hard, sandy, orange-red fabric, again represented at Staden only in small amounts.

Pink slightly sandy ware:

A soft fabric with a dark apple green glaze.

Red sandy ware:

A hard to soft sandy fabric with a grey core and green glaze.

Shelly ware:

A hard to soft fabric with medium sized shell tempering, slightly sandy with odd mica inclusions, reddish orange with a grey core. Body coil made with wheel-thrown rim, shell fragments, fossil or fresh (Addymank, 1964: 50-2) leached out. Similar types of ware have been found at Derby (Hall and Coppack, 1972: figs 11-13, 82-4, 98, 121), South Wingfield (Alvey, n.d.) and Chesterfield (Bourne, Courtney and Dixon, 1978: fig. 15:5).

Slashed ware type:

A hard, creamy-pink fabric, sandy with red iron inclusions, similar to Brackenfield types and could well come from these kilns.

Stamford ware type:

Represented only by a single very small sherd fragment.

Representation of fabrics

	<i>Number of sherds</i>	<i>Weight [gms]</i>
Brackenfield type ware	243	1912.00
Burley Hill type ware	4	18.00
Pink sandy ware	2	2.50
Red sandy ware	21	74.00
Shelly ware	89	1228.00
Slashed ware	3	40.00
Stamford ware	1	2.00
Skellet handle	1	13.50
Total	364	3288.00

Main diagnostic vessels (Fig 16)

Shelly ware:

- 1) Cooking-pot, in hard to soft, smooth slightly sandy fabric with the odd mica inclusion. Sooted exterior.
- 2) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, orange with grey core. A single flint or chert inclusion 8.7 x 6.2 mm.
- 3) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, orange with grey core.
- 4) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, buff with grey core. Sooted.
- 5) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, buff with grey core. Sooted.
- 6) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, buff with grey core. Diameter c.20 cms.
- 7) Cooking-pot, in a slightly sandy fabric, buff to orange with grey core. Sooted. Diameter c. 14 cms.

(*Not illustrated*) Base, flat, diameter 24 cms.

Brackenfield type wares:

- 8) Cooking-pot, in a hard, creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. Traces of a pale green glaze.
- 9) Pancheon, with sloping rim, in a hard creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. No traces of glaze. Sooted exterior.

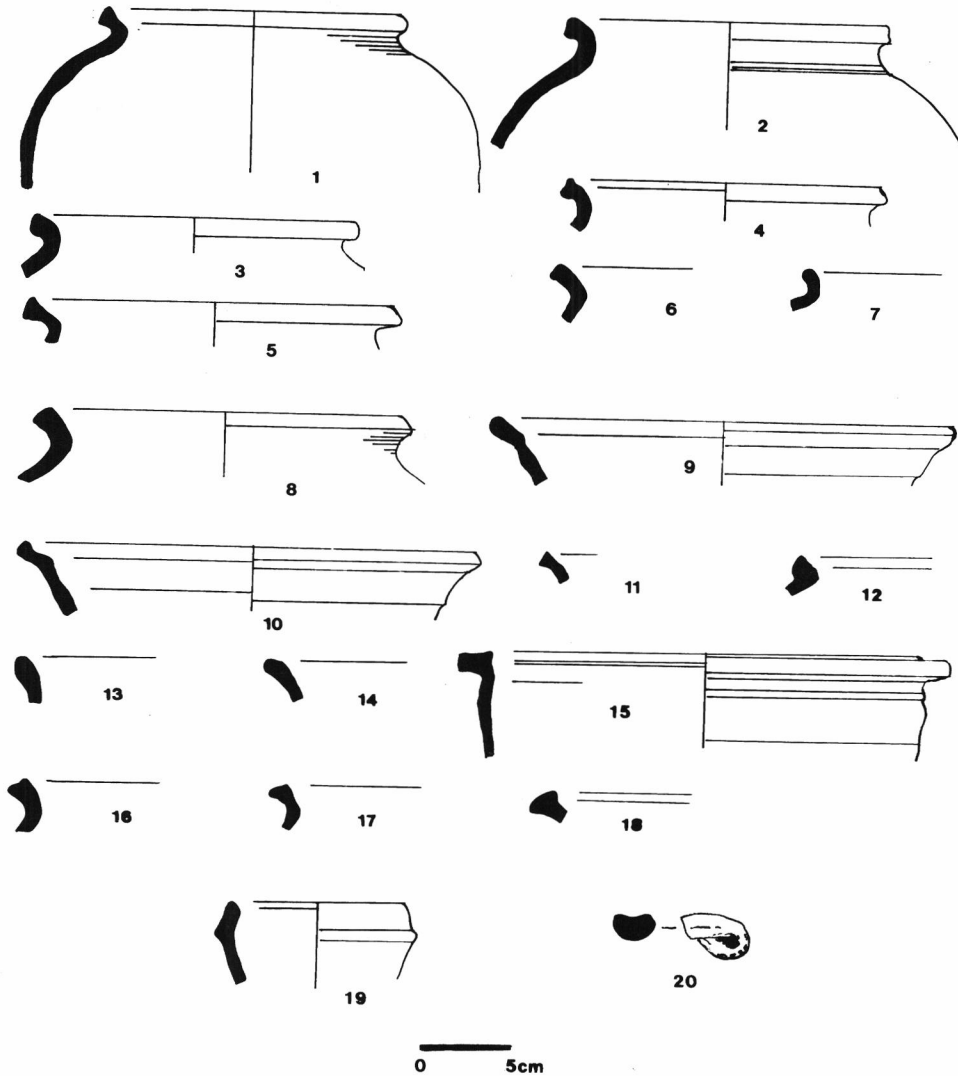


Fig 16 Staden, 1987-90: medieval pottery.

- 10) Pancheon, with sloping rim, in a hard creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. No traces of glaze. Sooted exterior.
- 11) Cooking-pot, in a creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions, with possible pouring-lip.
- 12) Cooking-pot, with lid seating, in a hard creamy white sandy fabric with red iron and grog inclusions.
- 13) Cooking-pot, everted rim, in a hard creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions, diameter 19 cms.
- 14) Cooking-pot, everted rim, in a cream sandy, gritty fabric.
- 15) Cooking-pot, upright square rim, in a hard creamy pink sandy gritty fabric with red iron inclusions. Sooted. No glaze.
- 16) Cooking-pot with Stamford ware type rim form, in a creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. No glaze. Diameter c. 20 cms.

- 17) Cooking-pot, Stamford ware type rim form, in a creamy white sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. Crazed yellow glaze with iron staining.
- 18) Pancheon or bowl in a hard pinkish red sandy fabric, with red iron inclusions. Traces of brownish green glaze. Diameter *c.* 24 cms.
- 19) Jug, in a hard cream sandy fabric with red iron inclusions. External crazed light green glaze. Pouring-lip.
- 20) Skellet handle, in a hard creamy sandy, gritty fabric with red iron and grog inclusions. A single spot of yellow-green glaze.

Dating

The date of manufacture of this group of pottery sherds would appear to be between the late-twelfth and late-thirteenth century.

The medieval objects (GAM: Fig 17)

- 1) Lead spindle-whorl, 2.9 cms in diameter, 5.0 mm thick with central hole 1 cm in diameter, slightly off-centre. Plain with slight rounding/bevelling on the edges.
- 2) Lead ring, 1.6 cms in diameter, 2.0 mm thick, broken, round section.
- 3) Iron chain, figure-of-eight linked chain of four links, each *c.* 4.5 cms long, and appearing to have been formed from one round link, pinched in the middle. Corroded.
- 4) Iron sickle, 22 cms long (tang 7.0 cms long, curved blade 15 cms long), 2.0 cms wide, 5.0 mm thick at back of blade. Heavily corroded.
- 5) Iron horseshoe, fragment, 9.5 cms long, 2-3 cms wide, 5-6 mm thick. Nail hole indentations, corroded and worn.
- 6) Iron knife, 14.5 cms long (tang 4.0 cms long, blade 10.5 cms long), 6.0 mm thick at back of blade, badly corroded, tang continuation of blade back, blade width 1.8 cms.
- 7) Iron knife, 11.5 cms long (tang 2.5 cms long, blade 9.0 cms long), blade 8.0 mm thick at blade back, blade broken, badly corroded, tang central to blade, blade width 2.1 cms.
- 8) Iron knife, 9.2 cms long (tang 2.6 cms long, blade 9.0 cms long), blade 8.0 mm thick at blade back, broken, corroded, tang continuation of blade back, width 1.5 cms.
- 9) Iron knife, 9.6 cms long, blade only, blade width 2.0 cms, blade 6.0 mm thick at blade back, corroded.
- 10) Iron knife, 21.5 cms long (tang 4.5 cms long, blade 17 cms long), blade 10.0 mm thick at blade back, tang central to blade, blade width 2.4 cms, corroded.

Other objects

Illustrated (Fig 18)

- 1) Clay spindle-whorl, broken in half, 3.0 cms in diameter, 1.4-1.7 cms thick, central hole 6.0 mm in diameter, grey-black matrix.
- 2) Stone disk, 4.0-4.5 cms in diameter, 7.0 mm thick, with rounded edges and slightly dished on one surface, fine micaceous sandstone.
- 3) Whetstone, 2.4 x 4.2 cms, broken in half, hollowed on four sides, fine micaceous sandstone.
- 4) Saddle quern, fragment, *c.* 15 x 12 cms, dished or hollowed, fine grained sandstone.
- 5) Cup-marked stone: four cup-marks, each 2.0 cms in diameter, on a limestone block, *c.* 20 x 24 cms; depths of cups vary slightly, one being very shallow.

Not illustrated

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Lead | 1 strip, 3.5 cms long, 4.0 mm wide; 1 strip/bar, bent, 11.5 cms long, irregular section, 8-10 mm thick; 1 strip/bar, bent, 10.0 cms long, irregular section, formed with thin lead sheet attached; 1 piece of galena. |
| Copper | 1 strip, damaged, bent, 9.5 cms long, 8.0 mm wide, three rivet/nail holes, date unknown. |
| Burnt Clay | A number of small fragments, coarse matrix, oxidised red-orange, perhaps to be associated with resmelting of lead. |

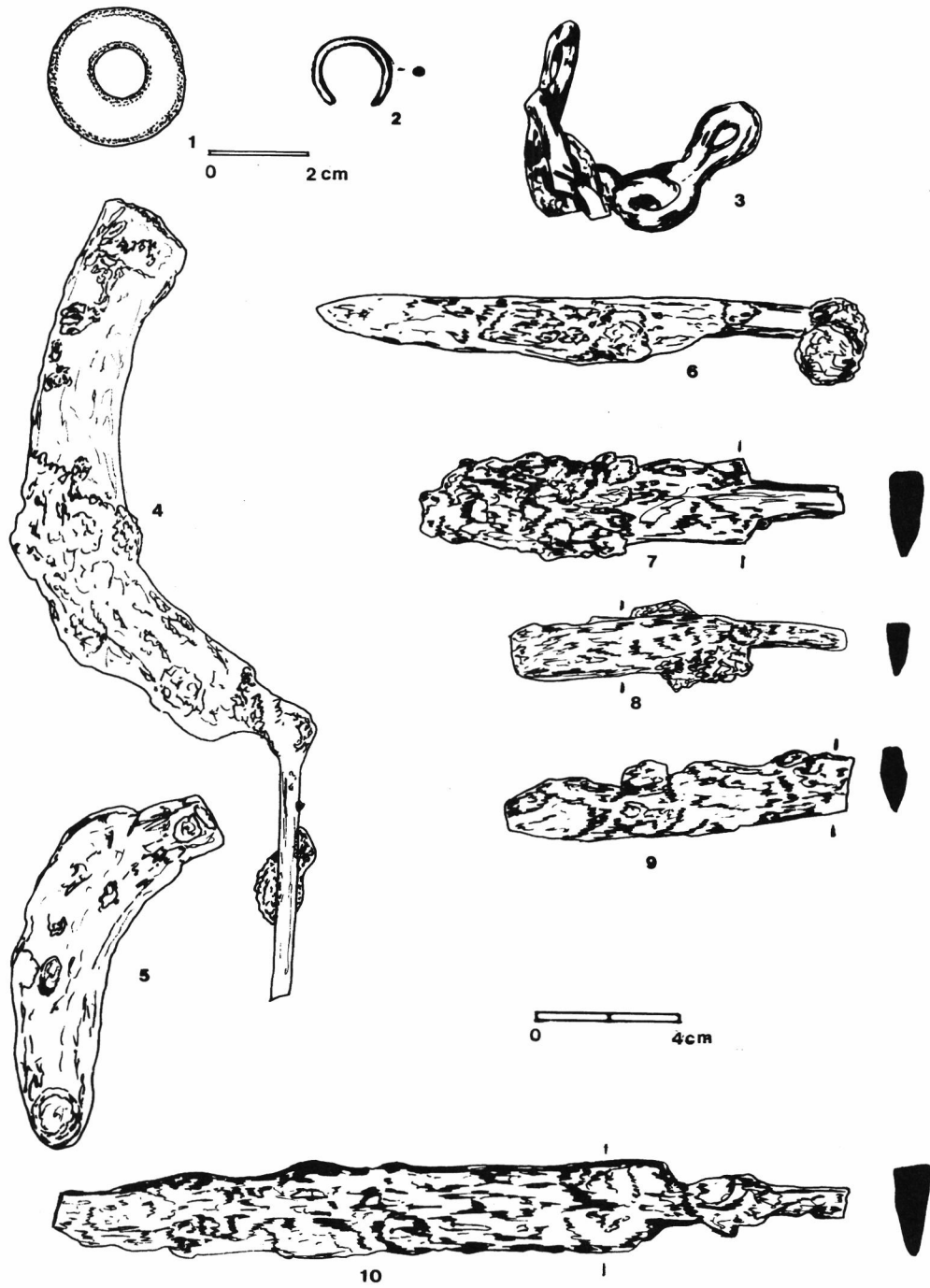


Fig 17 Staden, 1987-90: medieval objects.

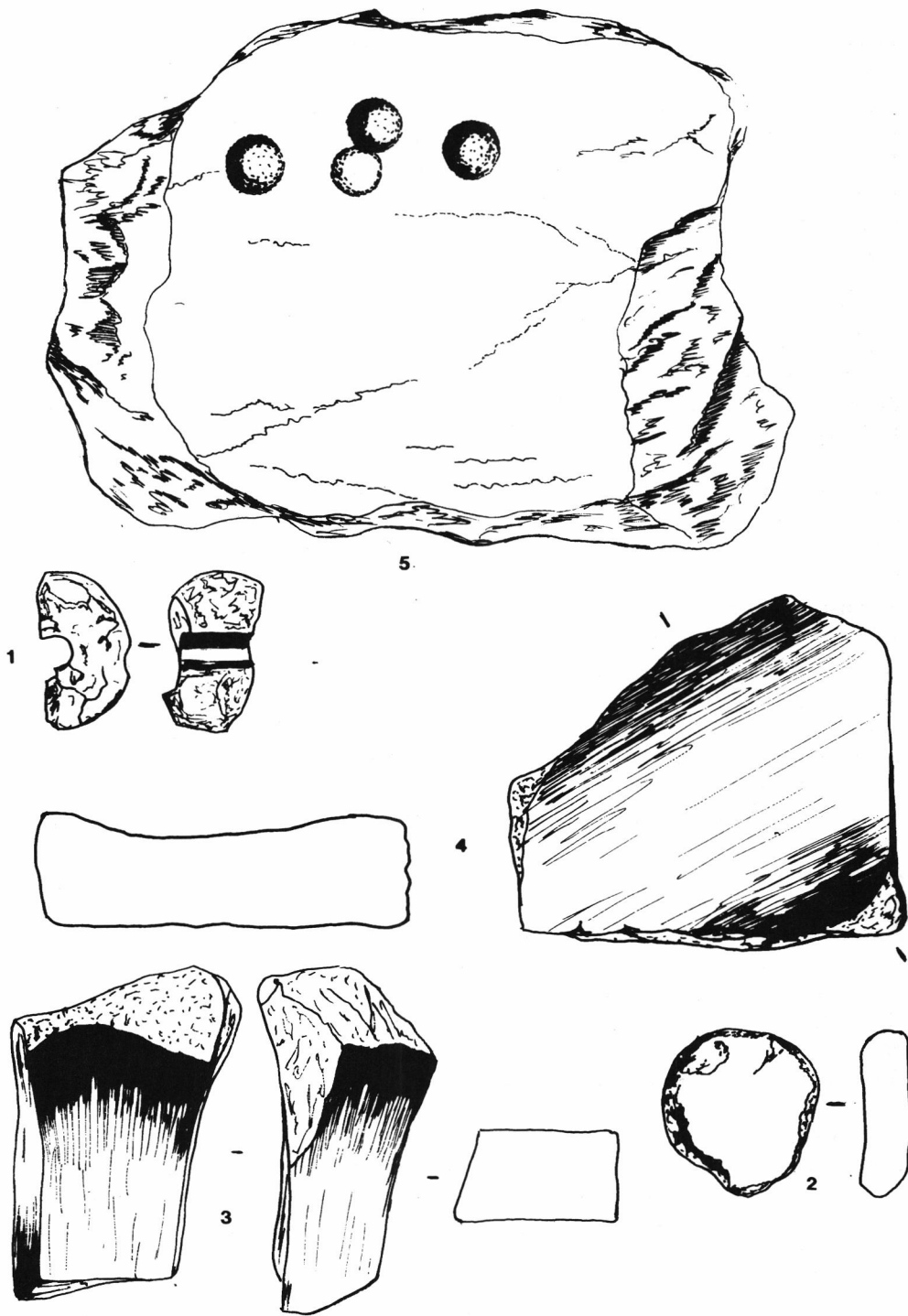


Fig 18 Staden, 1987-90: miscellaneous objects.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In the early 1960s the eastern part of the site was recorded and surveyed by L. H. Butcher, C. James and GAM. This survey covered only the 'fields' of the settlement; the large domestic site was not located until GAM's resurvey of the area in 1980 as part of a fuller survey of all Romano-British settlements in the Peak District and the surrounding area (Makepeace, forthcoming). Excavations of the Staden settlement were stimulated by land clearance in an area near the viaduct by Mr J. Green, the previous owner, who accidentally cut through the back of an ovoid house and an enclosing bank. An immediate rescue-excavation, in 1981, led to a further nine years of work.

The 1981-83 excavations (Makepeace, 1983; 1987) were an extension of the rescue work near the viaduct. Though much of this area had suffered from quarrying, lime-burning, refuse-tipping and land clearance, it became clear that here was a domestic site with its related features. The excavations revealed an ovoid-shaped house, an enclosing courtyard bank or wall, small platforms and rectangular enclosures. The house had a limestone wall of small weathered stones, with internal gritstone paving. The building had been attached to the courtyard bank which formed part of one of its walls. It was possible to date this house to the late first/early second century AD thanks to the discovery of early forms of Derbyshire Ware, a mortarium manufactured by Septiminius (possibly while he was working at Little Chester) and a bronze ring (Makepeace, 1983). The small revetted platforms were formed by constructing a rubble wall behind which was formed a raised, fairly level, surface. The function of these platforms remains enigmatic: they may, for example, have been used for grain storage, or used as hayrick stands. This area also produced a variety of quern-forms ranging from light flat rotary querns to very heavy forms. Whether this indicates a rapid change of quern-form over a short period, or that different querns were used for different purposes, is impossible to decide with certainty. It is, however, surely possible to speculate that the larger querns may have been used to grind wheat in bulk for the market, in which case those using them may have been involved, on a small scale, in supplying flour to the fort and *vicus* at Buxton.

The 1984-88 excavations (Makepeace, 1989) started in the central area of the settlement, beginning in the western half and gradually moving east. The area clearly contained a large number of curvilinear banks and enclosures, but much of it had been disturbed by lime-working, rubbish-dumping and, especially, land improvements for pasture. These activities had removed many of the former extant features, and left those that remained unconnected at surface level. It was only as a result of excavation that certain of these features could be interpreted sufficiently well as to help build a picture of the settlement. The most exciting aspect of these excavations was the finding of three house-platforms, of which there had been little or no indication at surface level. These house-platforms, constructed of weathered limestones, had embedded into their floor surfaces pottery, bone and significant artefacts. Furthermore, built into the edge of one platform was a base-fragment of a Hunsbury type quern and, close by, was a fragment of the matching upper stone. These discoveries helped to confirm an earlier hypothesis, based on the finding of a beehive quern, that the settlement may have had its origins in the late Iron Age (Makepeace, 1983: 82). As excavations progressed, further Hunsbury quern fragments were found, as well as other sherds of late prehistoric pottery. One shell-tempered sherd appeared to be 'Belgic' in character (Makepeace, 1983: 30). A feature, thought to have been the last vestiges of a round house was located (the 'D-platform'), though much of the stone used in its construction had been removed by subsequent activity. It was near the small platform that a number of Melandra type amphora sherds was found; the 'Spanish' type amphora was associated

with Platform 2 and the the enclosing bank. In the area enclosed by the bank around House-platform 2 there was evidence of a small hearth and a cobbled area, more suited to domestic than industrial activity. Two quern fragments were also found in the area, alongside other domestic debris.

Analysis of the animal bones found in the 1981-88 excavations has provided added depth to our understanding of the settlement's activities (Makepeace, 1983: 83; 1987: 30; 1989: 32). This is the first time that such a detailed analysis has been carried out on a Romano-British settlement in the Peak District. The most dominant animals were cattle and horse, followed by sheep/goat and pig. Later finds provided evidence for hare, deer and dog. Dogs may have been used for hunting, and herding; the latter may be supported by the number of small enclosures or corrals on the site.

The Staden Romano-British settlement seems to have been a collection of houses or homesteads, associated with curvilinear enclosures forming courtyards and a field-system to the east. The current evidence suggests that its inhabitants practised mixed farming, from which they generated sufficient profit to afford a few luxuries such as oil, wine and jewellery. The original late Iron Age settlement grew quickly during the first century AD, apparently under the stimulation of the Roman occupation of the area, but ended around the end of the second century. This chronology suggests that its prosperity may have been closely tied to the fort, and subsequently the *vicus* and spa, at Buxton. The abandonment of the fort in the latter half of the second century (Hart, 1981: 87, fig. 8a) would help explain why Staden declined—as it lost first its military market and then, as the Buxton *vicus* itself contracted for the same reason, its civilian markets. However, until the Buxton fort has been located and investigated, the precise economic relationship between it, its *vicus* and the surrounding countryside must remain conjectural.

As far as pre-Roman activity is concerned, it is significant that flints, dateable from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, have been found over the entire site. The site could well have attracted prehistoric populations, since it is fairly well sheltered and close to water. Its gently sloping shelf would have enabled the easy construction of buildings, though none of this date has been found. Nearby, of course, lies the Staden Earthwork, but its place in the history of the area is at present an enigma. It appears to have had only one entrance, in the southern part of the main round enclosure. The square 'annex' has been truncated by the railway and does not appear to have had an entrance. Various suggestions have been made regarding the date and function of this monument (e.g. Bray, 1783: 236; Haverfield, 1905: 373-4); in the light of what is now known of the area, it could well be late Bronze Age/Iron Age, and be interpreted as a fortified homestead rather than a henge or circle.

With regard to post-Roman occupation, the most exciting discovery came in the last season, with the discovery of a longhouse that probably formed part of the medieval settlement of Staden. It was the centre of agrarian activities, which included animal husbandry and some hunting. Whether there was any arable farming is hard to tell due to the lack of any direct evidence (such as querns, etc). The sole sign of such activity was a sickle blade. The lead spindle whorl (Fig 17) indicates spinning, and possibly weaving. The lead finds indicate domestic, not commercial, processing of the metal. This, the first early medieval longhouse to be excavated in the White Peak, demonstrates that the local community had contacts with the pottery industry to the east. The large number of knives (Fig 17) and the chain may also indicate trade with iron manufacturing centres in the region. Analysis of these items might give a clue as to which local iron ores were used.

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