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THE FYFOD PROJECT; THE FINDS
PART 2 OF 3 (cf. FWPs 39a & 39b)
OVERTON DOWN ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT (ODXII)

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ODXII: THE FINDS

The Copper Alloy Objects

by Andrew Hutcheson

A total of 47 objects of copper alloy from ODXII have been examined and catalogued. This appears to be a fairly typical assemblage from a 4th century AD farming settlement. ODXII is comparable in the quality, quantity and range of items to Catsgore, Somerset (Leech 1982), except for the relative lack of brooches. Three copper alloy and five iron brooches were found and these all appear to be residual or, more likely, curated by the inhabitants.

Many of the stylistic and decorative elements seen in the copper alloy items here are closely paralleled by objects at Portchester Castle, Chichester and Poundbury, to the extent that it appears all these places were receiving some of their finer items of bronze from the same crafts school. This is particularly true for the ribbon strip bracelets which seem to have become particularly popular in the 4th century AD.

The distribution of copper alloy objects by area is given in *Tables Finds/1-5*.

Personal items

Eleven bracelets or bracelet fragments were examined (Fig. 7.29, 1, 3, 4, 7-9). With the exception of three twisted wire bracelets, they are all of the ribbon-strip variety. These became common in the late 3rd century AD and appear to be remarkably uniform in their stylistic make-up (Webster 1975, 209). One bracelet (Fig. 7.29, 1) is complete and has a hook-and-eye catch which is the most common form of fixing mechanism for ribbon-strip bracelets, with other examples coming from Portchester Castle (Webster 1975, 204, fig.111, 24; 208, fig. 112, 44) and Poundbury cemetery (Farwell and Molleson 1993, fig.64, 2; fig. 65, 8, 11, 12, 14; fig. 66, 17-19). Four of the bracelets (Fig. 7.29, 1, 3, 7, 8) exhibit a simple form of decoration consisting of grouped incised lines separated by plain panels. Another (Fig. 7.29, 4) has a much more complex form of ring and cup with triangular hollowing decoration which is also seen at Portchester (Webster 1975, fig. 112, 35), Chichester (Down 1993, fig.28.1, 13) and Poundbury cemetery (Farwell and Molleson 1993, fig. 65, 8 and 9).

Three brooches (Fig. 7.29, 10, 11, 13) were found; all are essentially La Tène III forms and all may be described as Nauheim derivatives and probably date to the 1st century AD or possibly slightly earlier. This is not an unusual situation, since many sites of 3rd or 4th century AD date do not produce many brooches, while the ones that do come to light tend to date to the early Roman period. For instance, only two brooches were discovered at Portchester and these were also both Nauheim derivatives (Cunliffe 1975, 198-9). Much of the metalwork at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester, for example, appeared to have been redeposited in significantly later contexts; in fact 42% of the non-ferrous metalwork was apparently residual. Some Romano-British metalwork seems, therefore, to have had a long life with heirloom survival accounting for a significant proportion (Henig 1993, 117).

A finger ring (Fig. 7.29, 12) consists of a thick wire with incised transverse decoration. The ring has a face plate which may originally have mounted something,

or possibly carried cast or incised decoration. One ear-ring was identified (Fig. 7.30, 22), consisting of bent wire with overlapping terminals; one with a small drilled hole, the other mutilated. There is incised decoration below each terminal. This piece conforms to Allason-Jones' (1989) Type 3 and is very similar morphologically to a gold example found at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Henig 1993, fig. 59, 1). This type of ear-ring has a very wide currency from the Bronze Age to the Saxon period; they are known throughout the Roman period although most examples belong to the 3rd century AD (Allason-Jones 1989, 5-6).

One buckle (Fig. 7.30, 16) was recovered from a topsoil context; this is almost square with a D-shaped profile on three sides and probably medieval in origin. A second buckle (Fig 7.00, 18) is D-shaped with a hook. This is very similar to a late 4th century example from Verulamium (Frere 1984, 33-4, fig. 11, 76) except that on the ODXII example the hinge pin does not protrude through the side but is set into inner ends of the loop. A fragment of buckle hook was also found in a topsoil context (SF50).

Implements

A complete toilet set (Fig. 7.30, 14) was discovered in a context which appears from the coin evidence to probably be of late 4th century AD date. No close parallels have been found for the set itself which comprises a spoon, hook and 'nail cleaner' attached to a ring. However, the decorative motif on the 'nail cleaner' is almost identical to one found on a fragment from Portchester Castle thought to be part of a stylus (Webster 1975, fig.114, 64).

Three fragments of spoons (Fig. 7.30, 15, 19, 20) were found, comprising a bowl and two handles. These are common finds on late Roman sites. Stylistically these handles are all similar and may be compared with an example from Portchester (Webster 1975, fig.113, 59).

Miscellaneous objects

A miniature socketed bronze axe (SF179) came from Layer 2 in Area 4A. Whether it dates to the Romano-British period or has been kept as an heirloom is impossible to ascertain. These objects have an enormously long currency, from the Late Bronze Age through to the late Romano-British period. A number of examples have been recorded in south west England, of which 22 (including this example) form a concentration of findspots in Wiltshire. An attempt has been made to classify these axes according to form: the ODXII axe falls within a type with parallel vertical sides (Robinson 1995, fig. 2, 23). Robinson concludes that this piece is late Roman on the basis of context.

Two fragments which appear to be parts of the same strip (Fig 7.29, 2, 6) are unusual in that they have flat rather than D-shaped sections and decoration consisting of stamped-out groups of holes. These are presently unparalleled.

Other objects recovered comprise four pin fragments, including one with a partially twisted shaft (Fig 7.30, 21), one fragment from the head of a 'swan neck' pin (Fig. 7.29, 5) of Early Iron Age date (5th/4th centuries BC), a strap end with incised decoration (Fig. 7.30, 17), two rings (SF89, SF132), one with moulded transverse decoration (SF132), and fourteen unidentified wire, bar and sheet fragments (see ODXII Catalogue for detail).

List of illustrated objects

Fig 7.29 - Copper Alloy Objects

1. Complete ribbon strip bracelet with a hook and eye catch and grouped incised transverse decoration. SF34, Area 2, layer 2 (?timber phase).
2. Thin fragment of a ribbon strip bracelet with punched hole decoration. Probably part of the same object as No. 6. SF230, Area 4A, layer 2.
3. Fragment of a ribbon strip bracelet with the eye catch remaining; traces of faint incised transverse decoration near the eye catch and two hollow dot impressions separated by an incised transverse line on the dorsal surface. SF244, Area 4B/C, layer 2, on line of 'fence'.
4. Small fragment of a ribbon strip bracelet decorated with incised ring and dot marks interspersed in a zig-zag line pattern. Triangular shaped hollows are positioned on both sides of each ring and dot mark. SF257, Area 4, layer 3 on line of north wall of B4.
5. Head of 'swan neck' pin. SF327, Area 4, Box 3.
6. Thin fragment of a ribbon strip bracelet with punched hole decoration. Probably part of the same object as No. 2. SF280, Area 4A, floor.
7. Fragment of a child's ribbon strip bracelet with faint incised transverse decoration on the dorsal (outer) face. SF303, Area 3, layer 2.
8. Ribbon strip bracelet with incised transverse decoration in groups of three possessing a notched hollowing at one end of each group. SF305, Area 3, layer 1/2 (over Building 3).
9. Twisted wire bracelet formed from two wires. SF321, Area 3, layer 2, inside Building 3.
10. Single-coil spring brooch with a markedly arched bow; pin missing, also part of catch-plate. The dorsal side of the bow has a moulded relief decoration consisting of two lines of rectangular dots running parallel down almost the entire length of the bow. SF226, Area 4A, layer 2.
11. Nearly complete brooch with part of the pin and the foot missing; three coil mock spring with an internal chord. The bow is markedly arched. SF268, Area 4A, layer 2.
12. Finger ring with a face plate, consisting of a thick wire with incised transverse decoration. SF1, Area 2, layer 1.
13. Brooch pin; four-coil arrangement and internal chord. The bow is missing as is one coil. SF223, Area 4, layer 2, outside Building 4.

Fig. 7.30 - Copper Alloy Objects *cont/...*

14. Toilet set: three objects, a spoon, hook and nail cleaner, attached to a ring.
 - (1) Spoon: the handle of square shaped section is attached to the ring by a loop formed by bending the end round on itself; the bowl is shallow with a flat border around it.
 - (2) Hook: formed from a single bar with a square shaped section; both hook and loop were formed by bending.
 - (3) Nail cleaner: a cut sheet with a decoration on one side. The loop was punched into a slightly flared end.
 - (4) Ring: made from a length of thick wire filed flat on two sides; the ends are bevelled and pressed together. SF227, Area 4A, layer 2.
15. Spoon handle with a small fragment of the bowl and a C-shaped piece between the handle and the bowl. Moulded decoration occurs at the junction of the handle and the bowl and along the top of the handle nearest to the bowl. SF189, Area 4A, layer 2, inside Building 4.
16. Almost square buckle with a D-shaped profile on three of its sides and a circular profile on the fourth where the leather was attached. SF53, Area 2, topsoil.
17. Strap end, folded over with external rivet holes and incised transverse and linear decoration. SF221, Area 4, layer 2.
18. D-shaped buckle with hook, in four fragments, but complete apart from strap attachment. SF40, Area 2, layer 2, ?occupation of Building 2.
19. Spoon bowl: a concave/convex sheet, cast as an oval. The area where the handle would have been attached appears to have been cut through carefully. SF75, Area 2, layer 2.
20. Spoon handle with a small fragment of bowl and a C-shaped piece between the handle and the bowl. SF269, Area 4B/C, topsoil within Building 4.
21. Fragment of a pin, the head missing, twisted along part of its length. SF270, Area 4A, PH21B.

22. Ear-ring, now in an oval shape with two overlapping terminals; incised decoration. One terminal is extant and consists of a flaring with a small drilled hole, the other terminal is mutilated. Unstratified.

The Iron Objects

by Andrew Hutcheson

There is an impressive assemblage of ironwork from ODXII but, as for the copper alloy, a number of objects were not available for examination. Many objects were only studied from their X-radiographs and some from archive drawings.

Knives and tools

ODXII produced four knives, or one cleaver, and three knife blade and two ambiguous blade fragments, which is not a large number considering the number of spearheads in the collection (see below), although there are a number of unidentified fragments which may also be blades. The cleaver (Fig. 7.31, 1) represents the most common type of Romano-British cleaver, a Manning type 2b; this is the sort of instrument often represented on the sides of altars as an augurer's sacrificial knife (Manning 1985, 122). There are a number of good parallels, one from London (Wilmott 1991, fig 86, 429) and one from a more local context at Westbury, Wiltshire (Cunnington and Goddard 1934, plate LIV, 3). The long-backed knife (Fig. 7.31, 2) belongs to Manning's type 17. There are parallels from the Antonine Fort at Newstead (Curle 1911, pl.LX, 14) and more locally from Portchester Castle (Cunliffe 1975, fig. 126, 194). Manning (1985) states that this is not a common type but is long lived. A second knife (Fig. 7.31, 3) appears to be of Manning's type 21 (*ibid.*). The third knife (SF355) and the two blade fragments (SF66, SF258) are too fragmentary to assign to a type or function.

Two pairs of shears were examined. The first (Fig. 7.31, 4) is half of a pair of Manning type 2 medium-sized shears (*ibid.*). The size and the strength of the ring suggest a heavy duty function, such as sheep shearing or coarse cloth cutting. The single pair represented by two halves (Fig. 7.31, 5-6) falls into the larger end of Manning's type 3 (*ibid.*, 34), the small forms probably used for domestic activities. The latter example exhibits traces of magnetite plant pseudomorphs on the blade and loop, indicating that the shears were deposited in a surrounding matrix of straw.

Six chisels (Fig. 7.31, 7, 8, 10; GF161, GF309, SF289) and a gouge (GF33) were examined. One of the chisels (Fig. 7.31, 7) has traces of magnetite plant pseudomorphs, as the shears described above. All these objects are difficult to give a precise function to, if indeed they ever had one, as they could have been used for a number of tasks including metalworking, woodworking and masonry. It seems unlikely that three of these tools were used for anything hard as two are too diminutive for anything but wood or leather working and one has sustained so little damage that it appears not to have been used at all. The gouge is in too fragmentary a state to suggest what it might have been used for. Gouges were mainly used in woodworking, although the typical examples are less substantial than this piece and have sockets rather than a thickened striking platform. There is one gouge in the British Museum collection from Hod Hill which is very like this one (Manning 1985,

pl. 11, B48). Though here the similarity may be more apparent than real, the fragmentary state of this object allows for the possibility that it did once have a socket.

A single fragment of an iron pitchfork (Fig. 7.31, 9) has been provisionally identified. One of the forks has broken off and the tang appears to be broken part way down its length. The classification of this piece as a pitch fork is tentative and purely on the grounds of shape. It is really too small to have made an effective pitch fork. It may have been used as a hand tool much in the way that gardening forks are used today. Rees lists a number of examples of Romano-British pitchforks but only one approaches the diminutive size of this object (Rees 1979, 734-37).

Domestic/household items

A fragment of an iron vessel (Fig. 7.32, 11) was examined. As yet no parallels for this object have been located. Unlike cauldrons, of which there are a fair number known from the Roman period, this fragment has legs attached to it and, therefore, was not likely to have been used in cooking.

Part of a strip with one rounded, perforated end (Fig. 7.33, 33) can be identified as a bucket handle mount. A handle (Fig. 7.32, 16) probably represents a furniture handle, possibly for a wooden box (Manning 1985, 124).

Two latch-lifters (Fig. 7.32, 12, 13) are examples of common finds on sites through from the Late Iron Age throughout the Roman period and during the Saxon era. They are thought to have been used as crude keys. They are remarkably standardised in their form, in most cases consisting of a flat handle with a loop at the end, often containing a ring and with a curved or U-shaped blade turned up at the tip (Manning 1985, 88). However, the larger (Fig. 7.32, 13) is an exceptionally long and flat example of the type. A morphologically similar but shorter example has been found at Chichester (Down 1993, fig 20.4-196).

An unusual T-shaped lift-key (Fig. 7.32, 14), with a complex arrangement of six teeth on two axes is similar to an unstratified example from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, fig. 58, no. 26).

A single fragment of a barb-spring padlock (Fig. 7.32, 15) consisting only of the spring bolt, is an example of the simplest of the padlock forms, with only two barbs on opposite sides of the bolt. Manning states that the type is rare in Roman Britain (1985, 95), though there is another, more complicated example from Baldock, contextually dated to the 4th century AD, together with a number of the type of keys which would have been used to open a device like this (Stead and Rigby 1986, fig.68, 559-561).

Two styli were examined. One (Fig. 7.32, 17) is a Manning Type 1 stylus, nearly complete with only the writing tip missing. This is the simplest type of stylus and both materially and stylistically probably least expensive to manufacture. It consists of a rod with one end sharpened and the other flattened to form a flared chisel used for erasing. The second (GF158) is a fragment consisting of the point and as such is not diagnostically definable to a specific type. These finds are particularly interesting given the late Roman date and the rural setting. Styli found in a similarly rural setting

at Catsgore were interpreted as evidence of the presence of tax collectors, specifically collectors of the *annona* or corn tax (Leech 1982, 36). However, it seems equally plausible that at least some of the inhabitants on Overton Down were literate.

One needle (Fig. 7.32, 18) was identified, although a number of other rod-shaped fragments (*e.g.* Fig. 7.32, 19) could also have been used as needles. From its size and the substantial nature of its stem, this needle is likely to have been used for sewing coarse material, or tough material - perhaps leather. Seven objects, defined as 'rods' here, might also be fragmentary needles.

Brooches

Two iron penannular brooches (Fig. 7.33, 21, 22) were found (there were no bronze penannular brooches). Iron is an unusual material for a penannular brooch. Fowler (1960) in her corpus of penannular brooches does not mention the existence of iron types and indeed neither of these brooches conform particularly well to any of Fowler's categories on morphological grounds. This may partly be a survival bias, as iron objects are intrinsically less likely to survive than their copper alloy counterparts.

Three fragments of brooches were examined. As with the copper alloy brooches from the site, the iron brooches all appear to be much older than they should be, dating to at the very latest the Late Iron Age or early Roman period (mid - late 1st century AD). Again whether this is due to redeposition or preservation in the systemic context through the items being kept as heirlooms is difficult to prove conclusively. The latter theory seems more likely, as different chemical regimes, rolling and abrasion would mitigate against their survival through a process of redeposition. Two (Fig. 7.33, 23, 24) are too fragmentary, with too few diagnostic attributes present, for them to be placed in any discrete type but both are almost certainly Late Iron Age in origin and possibly earlier. The third (GF174) is of a variety known as the Beckley type. This piece is similar to an example from Cold Kitchen Hill (Cunnington and Goddard 1934, plate XXXV, 1) of Hull type La Tène 2Cb and dated to the 3rd century BC.

Horse/Ox furniture

Two fragments of snaffle bits (Fig. 7.33, 25, 26) are both from the two-link snaffle type which was the most common bit used in Roman Britain.

Two ox-shoes (Fig. 7.33, 27, 28) came from the topsoil and are therefore not certainly of Roman date. There are a number of known instances of horse-shoes and ox-shoes coming from Roman sites, including an ox-shoe from Hod Hill. However, none of the published examples come from securely stratified contexts (Manning 1985, 63). There are, however, a few dated examples which prove that shoes were used throughout the period. From Colchester there are two examples from Late Iron Age deposits (Hawkes and Hull 1947, fig.64, 3) and at Maiden Castle 13 shoes were found in late Roman contexts (Wheeler 1943, pl. XXXB) and, more locally, six horse-shoes apparently came from Romano-British contexts at Casterley Camp (Cunnington and Goddard 1934, pl. XXXI, 1-6).

Weapons

Four spearheads were recovered, which seems like a lot for a small farming settlement, particularly when compared to other sites of a larger scale. For instance,

Catsgore produced no spearheads (Leech 1982), Neatham only produced one (Millet and Graham 1986), at Ilchester three were found (Leach 1982) and at Portchester, a military site, only six were recovered (Cunliffe 1975).

Manning has created a typology for Roman spearheads based on the great number found at Hod Hill. This means that the typology relates specifically to the 1st century AD, which might be a problem with some categories of artefact, but this does not seem to be so in the case of spears which appear to be stylistically uniform over the whole Romano-British period. The four spearheads from ODXII all fit into types within Manning's scheme. The two smaller spears (Fig. 7.33, 29, 31) both fall comfortably into Manning's Group 1, a type which was probably intended either for throwing javelins or as cavalry lances (Manning 1985, 163). The larger two (Fig. 7.33, 30; unstratified) both conform to the parameters of Group IV, a type which were probably intended for hand to hand fighting (ibid, 167). In the context here of a rural settlement in the 4th century AD these weapons could be representative of a number of activities. It is possible, considering their typological affinities with military weapons used by the army, that an inhabitant, or perhaps several, had been in the army and had taken particular pieces of personal equipment with them upon discharge. On the other hand if the *pax Romana* was beginning to break down by this time perhaps a small settlement needed to be able to defend itself against aggression. Alternatively, it is possible that these items represent hunting equipment.

Structural and architectural fittings

Two swivel loops (Fig. 7.33, 32; SF124) were found in a fragmentary condition without the oval link attachments commonly found with them. Possibly these objects were parts of cauldron chains (Manning 1985, 138) or part of simple levering systems. Such loops were fairly common objects in Roman Britain; other examples, which include the link attachment, come from Neatham (Millet and Graham 1986, fig. 76, 184), Poundbury (Green 1987, fig. 70, 5) and Waddon Hill (Webster 1979, fig.35, 128).

A fragment of a drop-hinge was identified, consisting of the end of the long arm, with punched perforation (Fig. 7.33, 36). A spike (Fig 7.32) with a broken point and a hot punched perforation at the thicker end may have been a leather punch, though it seems more likely its function was structural.

Five other loops and a loop-headed object (see ODXII Catalogue) were also recovered. Two of these are of a common type in Roman Britain, thought to be driven into masonry, or more likely wood, as an all purpose attachment (Manning 1985, p1. 30). The other five objects could have functioned in a great number of ways and have not been assigned a specific function here. Five iron rings (e.g. fig. 7.33, 34) could have fulfilled a wide variety of functions.

In addition, there are a very large number of structural fittings and attaching tools consisting of:

- 1935 nails which overwhelmingly are of Manning's type 1b, although there are a small number of hobnails (e.g. Fig. 7.33, 39). The vast majority of these had lost their contextual provenance by the time they came to be analysed.

- 50 cleats, which are often assigned the function of boot or shoe heel reinforcers (e.g. Fig. 7.33, 35, 37), but as Manning has pointed out the length of the prong makes this interpretation unlikely (1985, 131). It is more likely that these objects are a form of small staple.
- eight reinforcing strips or ties (e.g. Fig. 7.33, 38).
- six staples

Unidentified objects

There were also 71 unidentified objects, a number of which could have been structural fittings (see OXII Catalogue).

Discussion

The distribution of iron objects (excluding nails) is given in Tables Finds/1-5. As most of the nails were unprovenanced, tabulation by context or even by area was not considered appropriate.

The numbers of objects are fairly evenly distributed between the four main areas, but some comment may be made regarding the distribution of various types across the site. All four areas produced tools (including knives), but Area 3 contained a noticeable concentration of such items: three chisels, two pairs of shears and a cleaver. This accounts for both pairs of shears identified from the site, the only cleaver and three of the five chisels identified (the remaining two came from Area 4). Both of the styli identified came from Area 4. No other object type shows such a marked clustering in one area, although numbers of objects are really too small to draw any significant conclusions. Each area produced a similar range of domestic and structural items, and the spearheads and horse/ox furniture were spread between areas.

List of illustrated objects

Fig 7.31 - Iron Objects

1. Socketed cleaver with straight back and a curving blade. Both socket and blade are both fragmentary. SF310, Area 3, layer 2.
2. Tanged, long-backed knife with a slight rib down the back. SF260, Area 4A, Ditch.
3. Tanged knife. SF208, Area 4A, layer 2.
4. Fragment of shears, consisting of part of the blade and part of the spring. SF297, Area 3, topsoil.
- 5-6. Pair of shears; the loop is broken and a piece missing and the tip of one blade is missing. SF322; SF333, Area 3, layer 2, outside Building 3.
7. Mortise chisel. The head is subrectangular in section, the blade gently bevelled. SF291, Area 3, topsoil.
8. Mortise chisel. SF316, Area 3, layer 2.
9. Possible pitchfork: a single prong attaches to a tang, thickening at the intersection where they meet. SF42, Area 2, topsoil.
10. Mortise chisel. The head is subrectangular in section, the blade gently bevelled. SF283, Area 4B/C, layer 2.

Fig 7.32 - Iron Objects *cont/...*

11. Three fragments of an iron vessel comprising a base with a tripod set of legs attached with a single rivet. SF294, Area 4B/C, layer 2, on north wall of Building 5.

12. Latch-lifter: the handle is flat with a loop containing a ring and formed by nipping then turning over the end during smithing. SF229, Area 4A, layer 2.
13. Latch-lifter; an exceptionally long and flat example of the type. SF285, Area 4B/C, layer 2, west of Hearth a (Fig. 7.27).
14. T-shaped slide-key; six teeth. Key consists of two sections on opposing axes, an unusually complex arrangement. SF302, Area 3, layer 2, inside Building 3.
15. Barb spring bolt from a padlock, one of the simplest of the padlock forms. SF7, Area 1, layer 2, outside north corner, Building 1.
16. Thin bar with a rectangular shaped section shaped into a half rectangle. Probably a furniture handle, possibly for a wooden box. SF20, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.
17. Stylus: a rod flared at one end to form an eraser. The writing point is missing. SF175, Area 4A, layer 2, in top of lynchet (Fig. 7.7, d, layer 5).
18. Needle: the eye end corroded, but of a size to suggest it was used for sewing coarse or tough material, perhaps leather. SF296, Area 3, topsoil.
19. Fragment of a rod, bent at one end and with a spatulate shaped bulb at the other. SF366, Area 3, early occupation.
20. Spike; rectangular sectioned bar tapering to a broken point; rectangular perforation at thick end. SF277, Area 4, layer 2.

Fig. 7.33 - Iron Objects cont/...

21. Penannular brooch with terminals bent up at 90° to the dominant plane. The pin is fragmentary but apparently straight and attached off centre. SF8, Area 2, layer 3, the ploughsoil in the lynchet preceding settlement (Fig. 7.7, b, layer 13).
22. Penannular brooch with slightly flared terminals and a straight pin attached off centre. SF190, Area 4A, layer 2.
23. Fragment of brooch consisting of the spring and part of the pin. The spring appears to have been made up of four coils with an external chord. GF55, Area 2, topsoil outside Building 2.
24. Fragment of brooch consisting of the spring and part of the pin. Unstratified.
25. Snaffle bit: a two bit link type, but only one of the bit links and one ring are present. SF116, Area 1, Pit 3 (Fig. 7.11, plan and section a, layer 3).
26. One of the bit links from a two link bit. SF259, Area 4A, layer 2, overlying wall of Building 4.
27. Ox?-shoe: a U-shaped bar with a D-shaped section possessing five rectangular holes. SF52, Area 2, topsoil inside Building 2.
28. Ox-shoe: a crescent shaped bar with five holes grouped closely together leaving the majority of the piece blank. Remains of nails within four of the holes. SF421, Area 3, topsoil.
29. Small socketed spearhead with a triangular shaped blade with a flattened profile and no mid-rib. SF29, Area 1, layer 2.
30. Large socketed spearhead with a narrow rounded long leaf shape and a pronounced mid-rib. SF55, Area 2, layer 1.
31. Small socketed spearhead with a triangular, flat-profiled blade with no apparent mid-rib. SF160, Area 4A, layer 2.
32. Swivel loop made from a single rod, one end has been formed into a loop, attached by twisting round the stem twice; the other end has a bulb which would have held the object in a simple socket of a specially made link, allowing both to move in the horizontal. SF133, Area 1, Pit 3 (Fig. 7.11, plan and section a, layer 3).
33. Bucket handle mount; plate with pierced oval hole, broken at one end. SF13, Area 2, topsoil.
34. Oval ring made from a single rod, with overlapping ends. SF411, Area 3, topsoil.
35. Cleat. GF15, Area 2, topsoil inside Building 2.
36. Fragment of drop-hinge, consisting of the end of the long arm. Bulbed head with punched perforation. SF234, Area 4, layer 2.
37. Cleat. GF52, Area 2, topsoil inside Building 2.
38. Reinforcing strip or tie, consisting of a complete plate - now in two pieces - rounded at both ends with two perforations which contain two small nails. SF345, Area 3, in kiln filling (Fig. 7.19, kiln section, layer 1).
39. Hobnail. GF95, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.

The Lead Objects

by Andrew Hutcheson

Two pieces of lead were identified: one piece of sheet with a single small perforation, possibly from the lining of a tank; and a cross-shaped fragment of window lead with grooves to hold pans of glass (Fig. 7.33, 40).

Illustrated object (Fig. 7.33)

40. Lead; cross shaped fragment of window came with grooves to hold glass pane. SF324, Area 3, layer 2, inside Building 3.

The Worked and Utilised Stone

by Nicholas A. Wells, with geological identifications by Adrian Murray

A total of 197 fragments of stone, weighing 66,166 grammes, was recovered from excavations at ODXII. These have been divided into two main categories, Building Material and Portable Objects and further subdivided as follows:

- *Building Material*
 - Sandstone roof tiles
 - Other building material
- *Portable Objects*
 - Quernstones
 - Whetstones/honestones
 - Miscellaneous

Each is dealt with separately below. *Tables Finds/6-10* list the quantities of building material by area (together with the ceramic building material). A catalogue of all the items found (including unworked ferruginous sandstone and fossil fragments, neither of which are discussed here) can be found in the site archive.

Building Material

Sandstone Roof Tiles

This is by far the largest category of stone fragments, consisting of roof tiles in various types of sandstone. None were complete, the only recordable dimension being thickness.

A total of 108 sandstone tile fragments were found, only five of which had nail holes present. From the surviving fragments it seems that the tiles were rectangular in shape, with one face worked flat, the other left relatively unworked. Four tiles exhibit further working; an inset cut into one side of the tile, while another has possible chamfering along one long (and possibly one short) edge. The mean thickness of the tiles is 18.5mm, with a total range from 13 to 24mm. Five fragments are burnt.

A further 24 tile fragments show evidence of extreme wearing on one, or both faces. Five of these fragments have angular striations on one of their worn faces. This group

of tiles has the same average thickness as those mentioned above and it is postulated that these are broken roof tiles that have been reused as sharpening stones.

A total of 25 fragments of roof tile was found in Area 1, of which five are worn. No specific concentrations were observed, though 11 fragments were found in the trench beneath the north-east of Building 1. Two fragments were further worked with an inset. One fragment has an incomplete nail hole, diameter c.8mm.

The vast majority of the sandstone roof tile was found in Area 2, where 61 fragments, both worn and unworn, were recovered. Of these, 36 occurred in Layer 2, 10 of which are worn. Within this layer a concentration of 30 tiles was noted lying within the building. Four fragments from Layer 2 have nail holes present, their diameters ranging from 5 to 10mm. Two fragments were further worked with an inset. Given the similar propensity for ceramic roof tile fragments in this layer (see **Ceramic Building Material**, below) it seems likely that Layer 2 may represent some form of dump deposit, perhaps to form a floor surface, both within and without the structure.

Only nine fragments of roof tile were found in Area 3, of which four are worn. Six fragments were found in Layer 2, one of which has an incomplete nail hole present, c.7mm in diameter. The remaining tiles are unstratified or from the topsoil (Layer 1).

Thirteen fragments of roof tile were found in Area 4, of which three are worn. No nail-holes were evident.

Samples of the sandstone roof tiles revealed a number of different types, including red sandstone, probably Old Red Sandstone, metamorphosed red sandstone, fine micaceous sandstone and dark quartzite. All these types, including the probable Old Red Sandstone, have a probable source in the North Devon area, although similar material can be found in southern and central Wales.

Other Building Material

Masonry appears to have been confined to Areas 1 and 2. An incomplete worked chalk block, 70mm thick, was found in Area 1 (pre-wall trenches). In the same context a large oolitic limestone block with one worked face was also excavated. Furthermore, in the same area (occupation layer) is what is possibly an oolitic limestone roof tile. Two yellow sandstone blocks were found in Area 2 (?timber phase), one worked on two faces. The most complete piece of masonry, however, is unstratified, being 280mm long and 68mm thick and again of oolitic limestone.

Portable Objects

Quernstones

Two complete quern stones were found in ODXII (Fig. 7.34, 1, 2). *[NB these two querns are still in Devizes Museum and have not yet been seen - described from archive drawings only]*

A further 11 quern fragments were found; six of quartzite of various types, three of sandstone and one each of greensand and lava. With the exception of one saddle quern fragment (Area 1, occupation layer), all are from rotary querns, but with the exception of the greensand fragment, which is from an upper stone, it is not possible to say

whether the fragments are from upper or lower stones (but see Ruth Sanders letter, 19.06.97, Archive 000).

The greensand rotary quern fragment with its lead 'plug' (Fig 7.34, 3) is of particular interest, as it shows evidence of having been repaired; the lead keeping iron clamps in position, holding the broken quern together (cf. Anderson and Wachter, 1980, 119; Buckley, *forthcoming*, no.16). This fragment was found in Area 2 (PH2) and was latterly used as post-hole packing. Two further quern fragments were so used: one example from Area 4 (GF242, PH33) and one from Area 1 (GF136, PH2).

No specific concentrations of quern fragments has been observed; however, it should be noted that none are found in Area 3.

As for the stone building material, the quartzites and sandstones have a probable source in North Devon, although similar material can be found in southern and central Wales. The single example of arkosic material (feldspar-rich sandstone) is more likely to have come from the Permo-Triassic beds of Devon, although again similar material can be found in south Wales. The lava quern fragment is likely to have been imported from the Continent, probably from the Rhineland; such querns were imported in some quantity into England throughout the Roman period.

Whetstones/Honestones (Fig. 7.34, 4-9)

Eleven whetstones (of which four are complete) have been identified. All are in fine-grained sandstone, mostly micaceous, again with a probable North Devon/South Wales source. All are square or rectangular in section and worn on all sides. It seems that some are 'bone' shaped, with a thinner central section widening out at the ends, while others are simply squared off at the end. One is fashioned so as to be set onto a mount. Staining on its flat side indicates that this may have been iron.

No specific concentrations of whetstones have been observed, objects being distributed evenly over the whole site.

List of illustrated objects

Fig. 7.34 - Worked and Utilised Stone

1. Rotary quernstone, almost complete lower stone. SF405, ?SF123, Area 1, Building 1, layer 3, chalk floor.
2. Rotary quernstone, almost complete, probably upper stone. SF404, ?SF110, Area 2, layer 1.
3. Greensand rotary quern fragment, upper stone, with lead plug repair. SF424, Area 2, reused as packing in PH2.
4. Small, flat, rectangular-sectioned whetstone, possibly a piece of re-used roof tile; slight waisting on two long edges; fine micaceous sandstone. SF417, Area 2, topsoil.
5. Small, rectangular-sectioned whetstone, both ends broken; slightly waisted on one edge; lateral wear grooves on two other faces; fine-grained sandstone. SF418, Area 3, layer 2.
6. Small, slightly tapering, square-sectioned whetstone; tapering to circular section, broken; fine-grained sandstone. SF86, Area 1, layer 2.
7. Tapering, rectangular-sectioned whetstone, marked waisting on one long edge and shallow lateral grooves on opposite edge; fine, micaceous sandstone. GF136, Area 1, Building 1 construction.
8. Tapering whetstone, ?complete; subrectangular-sectioned at wider end, circular-sectioned at narrower end; 'waisting' at narrower end; fine-grained sandstone. SF357, Area 3, layer 2, inside Building 2.

9. Rectangular-sectioned whetstone, both ends broken; fine-grained sandstone. SF65, Area 1, layer 2.

The Pottery

by Rachael Seager Smith

Introduction

The pottery from Areas 1-4 totals 11,370 sherds, weighing 118,086g. The assemblage is predominantly of late Roman date although the presence of at least small quantities of earlier Roman material is indicated by samian. One sherd of prehistoric, probably Late Bronze Age and one sherd of medieval pottery were also recognised.

Methodology

The assemblage has been analysed according to the guidelines set out in *The Analysis of Pottery* (Wessex Archaeology Guideline No. 4: Morris 1992). The pottery was recorded using the General Finds (GF) and where appropriate, the Small Finds (SF) Numbers assigned to the material at the time of excavation, grouped according to the Area/Building (1 - 4) from which they derive. No detailed fabric analysis was undertaken but in addition to a range of fabrics of known type or source, the assemblage was divided into broad fabric groups on the basis on the range, frequency and size of the predominant inclusions present and each was assigned a unique fabric code. The following terms are used to describe the frequency of inclusions present: rare - less than 2%; sparse - 3-7%; moderate - 10-15%; common - 20-25% and abundant - 30%+.

The whole assemblage from Areas/Buildings 1-4 was quantified using the number and weight (to the nearest whole gramme) of sherds for each fabric type by General Finds Number or Small Finds Number. Each sherd or group of related sherds was examined and assigned a form type with additional attributes recorded where appropriate. These include details of vessel form, size, percentage present, surface treatment, decoration and manufacturing technique recorded to identify and characterise the range and nature of the assemblage. Additional details, such as the presence of perforations, residues and evidence of reuse or repair, providing information about the ways in which the assemblage was used, were also noted. A site-specific vessel type series was constructed for the assemblage although the New Forest and Oxfordshire wares present were cross-referenced to the published type series for these industries (Fulford 1975a; Young 1977). Each sherd or group of related sherds was given a unique number (a Pottery Record Number or PRN) and of the data recorded for them, selected attributes relating to the context and quantity of the fabrics and forms present, were subsequently computerised, using the data-handling system dBase IV.

In addition to the pottery assignable to Areas/Buildings 1-4, a further 13.5kg of pottery is classed as 'unstratified', mainly because the GF number marked on the sherds is no longer readable. This material is not included in any of the quantifications given in this report and no detailed analysis was undertaken. Rapid scanning of these sherds, to ensure that no new fabrics or forms were represented, indicates that this material is of a similar date range and character to the rest of the assemblage.

As a whole, the assemblage is very fragmentary and the surface condition of the majority of sherds is consistently poor. Few crisp fractures were noted, the edges of most sherds being very battered and rolled while the surfaces are abraded. Very few refits could be made and those that were observed, generally occurred between sherds from General Finds Numbers which formed parts of the same deposit. The mean sherd weight for the assemblage as a whole is 10.4g, falling to 8.7g when the fabrics generally associated with large, heavy, thick-walled storage jar forms (Fabrics Q104, G100 and F102) are excluded.

The overall number and weight of sherds by fabric from each Area/Building is given in *Table Finds/11*, while the assemblages from the individual Areas/Buildings are examined in more detail in *Tables Finds/15-20*. The correlation between fabrics types and vessel forms is shown in *Table Finds/13*.

Prehistoric Pottery

One sherd (5g) of prehistoric pottery was noted amongst the assemblage (PRN 12798). The sherd, a rim from a slack-shouldered necked jar (*Fig. 7.36, 1*), is probably of Late Bronze Age date and occurs in a fine flint-gritted fabric (Fabric F1). It was found in a floor deposit (GF231) associated with the stone construction phase of Building 4 and is certainly residual.

Fabric F1 Moderately hard, very fine grained micaceous fabric containing sparse crushed flint fragments <2mm across and rare iron oxides and fragments of carbonised plant material. Handmade. Unoxidised; a dark grey-brown in colour.

The Romano-British Pottery

Imported wares

Samian

A total of 142 sherds, 788g, of samian (Fabric E300) was identified. This represents 1.2% of the total number of sherds recovered, a surprisingly high proportion given the predominantly late date of the rest of the assemblage. The mean sherd weight is below average at 5.5g and many of the sherds are very small and abraded although some are comparatively well-preserved. No attempt was made to assign these sherds to particular production centres but products from all three of the major source areas were recognised. Dr 18/31 and/or Dr 31 platters are the commonest recognisable forms but sherds from Dr. 33 cups, Dr. 37 and 38 bowls and Dr 45 mortaria were also noted. In general decorated forms were poorly represented but this might be at least partially due to the small size and severe surface abrasion typical of the majority of these sherds. Samian sherds are most numerous in Area 3 but those with the highest mean sherd weight are from Area 1.

Other imports

Other imported finewares are confined to five sherds, 7g, of Rhenish ware (Fabric E120). These sherds, which date from c. AD 150 into the 3rd century AD (Greene 1978, 19) possibly continuing into the late 3rd or even 4th centuries AD (Millett 1986, 75) may all derive from a single, closed vessel. At least one Dressel 20 amphora (Fabric E256), used to transport olive oil from the southern Spain, is represented by two body sherds, 38g. These vessels were widely traded across the western provinces

of the Roman Empire from the 1st to at least the 3rd century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136) and are perhaps the most common amphora type to have reached Roman Britain. The sherds of both these fabrics were found in Area/Building 3 (*Table Finds/17*).

British Finewares

British finewares of known source are confined to the products of the two major Late Roman production centres of southern England, the New Forest and Oxfordshire industries. Six fabric types were recognised, two from the New Forest and four from the Oxfordshire region.

Fabric E160	New Forest parchment ware (Fulford 1975a, 26, fabrics 2a and 2b)
Fabric E162	New Forest colour-coated ware (<i>ibid.</i> , 24-25, fabrics 1a and 1b)
Fabric E170	Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated wares (Young 1977, 123)
Fabric E171	Oxfordshire white colour-coated ware (<i>ibid.</i> , 117)
Fabric E172	Oxfordshire parchment ware (<i>ibid.</i> , 81)
Fabric E173	Oxfordshire white ware (<i>ibid.</i> , 56)

Oxfordshire products, accounting for 15% of the total number of sherds, were far more numerous than the New Forest wares which represented only 0.6% of the total. This equals a ratio of one New Forest sherd for every 24.6 Oxfordshire sherds. The colour-coated wares were the most common products from both centres. Although the paucity of New Forest wares may be due, in part, to the mis-identification of small, badly abraded body sherds, the small quantity of New Forest wares does follow the known distribution pattern of these products in Wiltshire (Swan, 1973, fig. 2), possibly due to the differing marketing patterns used and the closer proximity of the Oxfordshire kilns. Similarly, no attempt was made to distinguish sherds of the 'local' late Roman colour-coated ware from the Oxfordshire colour-coated wares which they closely resemble. These 'local' wares have been identified at Cirencester and at variety of other sites in the region in levels post-dating c. AD 350, (Rigby 1982b, fig. 50, 212; Keely 1986, 160, fabric 105) and are almost certainly present among the Overton Down assemblage, perhaps also contributing to the over-representation of Oxfordshire wares at this site.

The Oxfordshire and New Forest vessel forms present are listed below and their occurrence by area is tabulated in *Table Finds/12*. A wide range of vessel forms was identified, but each one is represented by only a small number of examples. The majority are common types produced throughout the life of the Oxfordshire and New Forest industries. A small number of forms can however, be more precisely dated. These include the indented beakers with painted decoration (Type R166; Fulford 1975a 56, type 46) which can be dated to c. AD 300-330/340 and the globular flagons/flasks (Type R177; *ibid.*, 43-46, types 1-10) which are of 4th century AD date, from the New Forest. One Oxfordshire flagon recognised (Type R150; Young 1977, 148, type C4) has a date range extending from c. AD 240-350, but, with the exception of some of the mortaria forms considered separately below, the remainder of the more datable Oxfordshire types are confined to the 4th century AD. These include a variety of cup, bowl and dish forms (Types R151, R157, R171, R176, R180 and R188; Young 1977, types P14, C81, C71, C110, C41 and C94 respectively). In addition, a necked bowl form (Type R153) is dated to c. AD 325-400+ (Young 1977, 164-166, type C75) while a jug, a jar/jug and two bowl forms (Types R156, R165, R187 and

R192; *ibid.*, types C14, C13, C84 and C83 respectively) belong to the second half of the 4th century AD (c. AD 350-400 +). One very unusual form, possibly part of a lamp (Type R137; *Fig. 7.38, 55*) was also present. No parallels have been found for this vessel.

With the exception of the samian Dr 45 sherds, the only mortaria identified among the assemblage were Oxfordshire products. Eight forms were identified, two occurring in the red/brown colour-coated ware (Fabric E170), three in white colour-coated ware (Fabric E171) and three in white ware (Fabric E173) fabrics. Two of the forms recognised were produced throughout the life of the Oxfordshire industry (Types R182 and R164; Young 1977, 174, type C97 and 76, type M22) and four (Types R170, R175, R184 and R194) can be dated to c. AD 240-300 (*ibid.*, types WC5, WC4, M17 and M18 respectively). One of the red/brown colour-coated forms (Type R179; *ibid.*, 174, type C100) is of 4th century AD date, becoming more common and widely distributed as the century progressed, while a white colour-coated type (Type R162; *ibid.*, 122, type WC7), although produced from c. AD 240 onwards, only became common during the 4th century AD.

The colour-coats of the softer fired vessels from both these regions have not survived well at Overton Down but in general the surface treatments and decoration recorded all occur within the range identified by Fulford (1975a) and Young (1977) for the appropriate fabric types. Rouletted decoration was especially common on products from both centres while painted line motifs were noted on some of the New Forest 'stonewares'. A small number of Oxfordshire sherds with barbotine scale decoration were noted, in addition to some vessels with impressed decoration. These include the linear 'comb-stamps', rosettes and demi-rosettes which only become common after the middle of the 4th century AD (Young 1977, 132).

Unassigned Finewares

Three other fineware fabrics were identified:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Fabric Q103 | Very hard, wheelmade fineware; dense, high-fired fabric with sparse fragments of off-white quartz or quartzite <0.5mm and rare iron oxides <1mm across. Wheelmade. Surfaces are dark blue-grey in colour while the core is brick red. Quartz/quartzite grains protrude through the surface resulting in a pimply texture, almost as if the sherds have been roughcast. |
| Fabric Q105 | Unassigned colour-coated ware; fine-grained, well prepared clay matrix containing sparse white mica or microscopic quartz flecks <0.125mm and rare to sparse red and black iron oxides <2mm across. Wheelmade. Oxidised to a uniform bright orange with a thick, evenly applied, matt brown colour-coat. |
| Fabric Q107 | Colour-coated white ware; hard, fine-grained, close-textured fabric with sparse to moderate quartz sand, <0.25mm and iron oxides, most commonly red, up to 1mm across. Wheelmade. White-firing, 'pipeclay' fabric with a matt orange or red-brown colour-coat on both surfaces. |

Both individually and as a group these three fabrics represent a very insignificant proportion of the assemblage. The provenances of these fabrics are uncertain, although it is likely that the fine, pimply grey ware (Fabrics Q103) and the colour-coated white ware (Fabric Q107) are relatively local. The fine, pimply grey ware occurs only in Areas/Buildings 1 and 2 while sherds of the other two fabrics are confined to Areas/Buildings 3 and 4 respectively. All the sherds of the colour-coated

white ware may well be derived from a single vessel, a large beaker or jar with a broad band of rouletting around its girth. The majority of the fine, pimply grey ware sherds indicate its use for small, closed vessels, probably beakers, although the rim of a small jar (Type R111; *Fig. 7.36, 22*), was found in the topsoil inside Building 2. Only one sherd, a beaker rim (Type R118; *Fig. Finds/9, 32*), of the unassigned colour-coated ware (Fabric Q105) was recognised and it is just possible that this is an imported ware.

Coarsewares

Eleven coarseware fabric types were identified, including two of known source. Seven further fabrics are 'catch-all' types and include the products of more than one source.

Fabric E101	Black Burnished ware (BB1); for fabric description see Williams 1977.
Fabric Q100	Sandy grey wares, all types including oxidised sherds of fabrics more commonly unoxidised.
Fabric Q101	Oxidised wares, all types.
Fabric Q102	Calcareous sandy ware; soft, gritty fabric with irregular voids, especially near the surface. Inclusions comprise common sub-rounded quartz <0.75mm, sparse soft, off-white calcareous fragments, probably shell, from 0.5-6mm across and rare iron oxides <0.5mm. Wheelmade. Predominantly unoxidised, dull grey-brown in colour.
Fabric Q104	Very coarse sandy ware; coarse, open-textured fabric containing common subrounded quartz <2mm and sparse iron oxides and soft, off-white non-calcareous particles both <0.75mm across. Handmade. Predominantly oxidised although irregularly fired and unoxidised examples also occur.
Fabric Q106	Tilford/Overwey ware (Portchester D ware - Fulford 1975b, 299)
Fabric G100	Grog-tempered wares; another highly variable fabric group characterised by the presence of grog as the predominant inclusion type; a range of other inclusions including quartz, iron oxides, crushed flint and carbonised plant material were also noted in greater or lesser quantities. Handmade.
Fabric F100	Fine flint-gritted wares; a fabric group characterised by rare to sparse crushed flint fragments less than 2mm; variable quantities of quartz and rare iron oxides, both <0.5mm, may also be present, often in a micaceous clay matrix. Handmade. Predominantly unoxidised although oxidised and irregularly fired sherds were also noted.
Fabric F101	Coarse flint-gritted wares; a fabric group characterised by sparse to moderate crushed flint fragments up to 4mm across; other inclusions may consist of sparse quartz <0.5mm and rare iron oxides or grog fragments often in a very fine, dense micaceous clay matrix. Handmade. Predominantly unoxidised although oxidised and irregularly fired sherds were also noted.
Fabric F102	Flint and grog-tempered coarseware; a hard fabric, orange-brown to very dark grey in colour containing moderate crushed flint and grog fragments both <4mm across, sparse quartz <0.5mm and rare iron oxides <0.5mm, in a fine micaceous clay matrix. Handmade. Predominantly unoxidised although oxidised and irregularly fired sherds also occur.
Fabric C100	Calcareous wares; moderately hard, well-fired fabric containing moderate to common amounts of poorly sorted crushed shell and/or limestone fragments up to 4mm across and rare quartz and iron oxides <0.5mm across. The matrix of some sherds is micaceous; voids are often apparent especially near the surface. Hand and wheel made examples. Predominantly unoxidised although oxidised and irregularly fired sherds also occur.

This group of fabrics overwhelmingly dominate the assemblage, together accounting for 82.5% of the total number of sherds recovered. Only two fabrics could be positively attributed to a known source; the Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset and the Overwey/Tilford ware from the

Farnham area of Surrey. Thirty-five broad vessel types were identified; the small sherd size characteristic of the assemblage making it impossible to define individual forms with any precision. The standard range of jar, storage jar, bowl/dish, jug, flagon, beaker and lid forms were all represented. The vessel forms are listed below and the correlation between fabrics and forms is shown in *Table Finds/13*.

The Black Burnished ware is present in each of the four excavated areas. All the recognisable vessel forms are characteristic elements of the industry and although predominantly of late 3rd to 4th century AD + date (dropped flange bowls/dishes - Types R102 and R103, 'dog-dishes' - Type R104 and the everted rim jars - Type R110), also include vessels, such as the incipient flanged bowls/dishes (Type R134) and at least some of the upright or slightly everted rim jars (Type R111), which are present from the mid 2nd century AD onwards. These BB1 vessels are well-known in the area (Rigby 1982b, fig. 45, 95 and 96 and fig. 46, 115-123; Keely 1986, 171; Seager Smith forthcoming a fig. 99, 448 and 449, fig. 100, 463-467 and fig. 101, 481-489) and are amongst the most widely distributed of all the products of this industry. Less common, however, although both forms are known outside Dorset, are the 'fish-dishes' (Type R105) and globular jars/bowls with everted rims (Type R134) which are of 4th to 5th century AD date. Both these forms are confined to levels dated from c. AD 350-450 at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233). A similar globular bowl occurs in a late 4th to 5th century group from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, fig. 111, 474).

At Overton Down, the Dorset Black Burnished ware accounts for approximately 10% of all the sherds recovered (*Table Finds/11*). This total represents very much a minimum figure (badly abraded sherds were difficult to distinguish from the coarser sandy grey wares and only definite Wareham/Poole Harbour sherds were attributed to this fabric type) but on currently available evidence, it would appear that the importance of Black Burnished ware in this assemblage is significantly less than at other sites of a comparable date in the area. By the 4th century AD, Black Burnished ware appears to have been the most commonly used coarseware fabric at Wanborough (Seager Smith forthcoming a fabric 54) for example, while at the Beeches, Cirencester, the black burnished wares dominate the pottery groups from all three periods at sites CQ and CX/CY and are second to the grey wares at site DF/DE (Keely 1986, 171-172). This group, however, includes local, imitation black burnished wares which makes the proportion of true Dorset products difficult to assess. However, a lower proportion of Black Burnished ware in the Overton Down assemblage would concur with the theory that, outside their heartland in Dorset, the distribution of these wares is concentrated around major population centres and military sites, with a significant decrease in availability to the smaller, rural sites beyond (Lyne unpublished PhD thesis, University of Reading).

The Overwey/Tilford wares (Fabric Q106; Clark 1949) are perhaps better known as Portchester 'D' wares (Fulford 1975b, 299) and can be dated to c. AD 325-420. The distribution of these wares mostly lies in a south and easterly direction from their heartland in Surrey but at least one sherd of this fabric has been identified among the assemblage collected from the Avebury area, along the line of the Kennet Valley foul sewer pipeline (Seager Smith in prep. fabric Q104) and small quantities of these wares may also occur at the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, 164, fabric 121). Examples

have been noted as far west as the Chew Valley in Somerset, while very similar vessel forms in only subtly different fabrics mark the very latest Roman contexts at Lincoln and Leicester, for example (M. Darling and R. Pollard, pers. comm.). It is possible that these vessels represent the output of itinerant potters, using locally-available materials (M. Lyne, pers. comm.) although the probable presence of Alice Holt greywares in the Overton Down assemblage and in others from north Wiltshire, do indicate links between the two areas.

The problems of differentiating the products of the numerous sandy grey ware industries of Roman Britain are well-known and, for this assemblage exacerbated by the low mean sherd weight and poor condition of the sherds. Consequently, except where especially distinctive (Fabrics Q102 and F102), the remainder of the coarseware assemblage which is dominated by sandy fabrics, was divided into broad, 'catch-all' fabric groups.

The sandy grey wares (Fabric Q100) are numerically dominant amongst the assemblage, representing 55% of the total number of sherds (*Table Finds/14*). Fabrics vary from comparatively soft, coarse-grained, dark brownish-grey wares, often burnished and used to imitate Dorset Black Burnished ware forms, to much harder, fine-grained, blue-grey fabrics. Almost all the sandy grey wares are wheelmade, including those imitating the handmade Dorset BB1, although occasional handmade vessels were noted. These wares are clearly derived from a number of different sources. Local sources would include the kilns to the west of Swindon, which are known to have produced sandy grey wares from the early 2nd century into the mid 4th century AD (Anderson 1979). These wares, commonly known as Whitehill Farm wares after the original kiln site west of Swindon, clearly played a significant role in the supply of coarseware pottery to *Corinium* during the mid 3rd century and earlier 4th centuries AD, but decline from c. AD 350-360 onwards (Rigby 1982b fiche 1/5; Keely 1986, 162 and 172-173, fabric 98). Several of the vessel forms present (i.e. Types R114, R117, R120, R121, R124, R131 and R132) find parallels among the greyware products of the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, 89-103), Oxfordshire (Young 1977, 202-230) and Alice Holt (Lyne and Jefferies 1979) industries, indicating that vessels from these centres may well be present at Overton Down. The large bowls with heavy, moulded rims, often internally bevelled, (Type R130), for example, are typical New Forest products, made throughout the life of this industry, c. AD 270-400, but do not appear to have been made at any of the other late Roman kilns in southern England (Fulford 1975a, 93-94, type 8). Small quantities of late Alice Holt greyware are known to occur in this area of north Wiltshire/south Gloucestershire (Rigby 1982b, fiche 1/5; Keely 1986, 163, fabric 99; Seager Smith forthcoming, fabric 100). The presence of probable glauconite in some of the Fabric Q100 sherds suggests that at least some of the greywares are from the Upper Greensand areas in north and west Wiltshire, where deposits of such glauconitic sand occur. Kiln furniture and possible greyware wasters have been found at Westbury (Rodgers and Roddham 1991, 5), which is located on the Upper Greensand and it is likely that other kiln sites have yet to be identified in these areas.

The oxidised sandy coarsewares (Fabric Q101) represent 8% of the total number of sherds recovered (*Table Finds/14*). These fabrics form part of the standard range of wares found on Roman sites of all periods, providing a range of medium-quality

wares between the coarse, storage and food preparation vessels and the fine tablewares. However, the mean sherd weight of this group is well below that of the assemblage as a whole (5.6g compared with 10.4g) and the majority of sherds show severe surface abrasion. All the sherds in this group were wheelmade. Although the output of fine and coarse oxidised wares never formed more than a subsidiary part of the production of the Oxfordshire potters (Young 1977, 189-191, fig. 70), at least some of the Fabric Q101 sherds may have derived from this region. Other products might include Severn Valley wares (Webster 1976, 18), which also occur in late Roman Cirencester (Rigby 1982b, fiche 1/5 D09; Keely 1986, 164, fabrics 106-110). This industry, beginning in the mid 1st century AD, continued to flourish until the mid 4th century AD and there is some evidence to indicate the continued production of a more limited range of forms throughout the 4th century AD (Hassall and Rhodes 1974). More locally, kilns at Purton to the west of Swindon are known to have been involved in the production of oxidised coarsewares from the late 2nd into the 3rd century AD (Anderson 1980).

The widest range of vessel forms occurred among the sandy grey wares but comparatively few forms were recognised among the oxidised wares (*Table Finds/12*). A standard range of jar, bowl and dish forms was present, together with a small group of miscellaneous types such as jugs/flagons, colanders, beakers and lids. Individual elements within the two sandy coarseware fabric groups are not closely datable. The local industries located to the west of Swindon are poorly published and little is understood about their development or the chronology of individual vessel types produced there. The date-range of the majority of coarseware forms produced by the New Forest, Oxfordshire and Alice Holt industries span the entire production period at these centres, c. AD 240-400+, while the recognition of the products from other sources is hampered by the problems of distinguishing between the multiplicity of coarseware fabrics. Conservatism of form is a feature common to all coarseware fabrics and presumably reflects the functional and utilitarian nature of these vessels. While the majority of sherds in these groups are probably of late 3rd to 4th century AD + date, the possibility of earlier, 2nd to 3rd century AD, material being present cannot be excluded.

The grog-tempered wares (Fabric G100) also contain the products of more than one source. All the sherds of the grog with flint tempered fabric (Fabric F102) recognised in Area/Building 4, are likely to be derived from a single vessel and should probably be considered as a variation within the grog-tempered fabric tradition. Together, Fabrics G100 and F102 account for approximately 6% of the total number of sherds from Areas/Buildings 1-4. The overall mean sherd weight is very high (24.9g) and reflects the predominant use of these fabrics for large, thick-walled storage jar forms (Types R112; *Fig. 7.37, 25*).

The grog-tempered wares may span a wide date range. During the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD the use of grog-tempered fabrics for the production of large, thick-walled jars is well paralleled in the south of the county (Mephram 1993, fig. 12, 13 and 14; Lehmann in prep.; Seager Smith in prep.). A wider range of forms was made in the highly variable Savernake wares, produced near Mildenhall in the Savernake Forest and possibly also at Pewsey and Ower, from the immediate post-conquest period until the mid 2nd century AD at least (Annable 1962, 142-145; Hodder 1974,

67-84; Swan 1975, 36-47; Rigby 1982a, 154). The possibility of small quantities of probably residual Savernake ware at Overton Down is suggested by the bead rim jar (Type R122) sherds, a very common form in these fabrics (Annable 1962, 153, type 4). Large jars were also made in a grog-tempered fabric at Purton during the later 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Anderson 1980, fabric 2).

Grog-tempered wares do not figure largely in other late Roman assemblages from the area (Rigby 1982b; Keely 1986; Wedlake 1982; Brodrigg, Hands and Walker 1971; Seager Smith forthcoming a) but it is unlikely that all the sherds of these wares from Overton Down are residual. The paucity of these wares at other sites may well be related to the comparatively small number of large thick-walled storage jars in any fabric recognised at these sites, reflecting possible functional and/or status differences between them. Grog-tempered fabrics, especially for large jar forms, are well-known in Hampshire and south-east Wiltshire (Fulford 1975b, 286-291, fabric A) from the late 3rd century AD onwards, while the return to coarse, handmade fabrics after the breakdown of the wheelthrown pottery industry at the end of the Roman period is a widespread, if over generalised, view. At Overton Down, sherds from a dropped flanged bowl (Type R103; *Fig. 7.36*, 8), from Layer 1/2 overlying Building 3 and an everted rim jar (Type R111), found in Layer 2 inside Building 4A, both typical late 3rd-4th century AD + forms, indicate the presence of late Roman grog-tempered fabrics. Other grog-tempered ware forms recognised comprise a jar with a flared rim and a long sloping shoulder (Type R133; *Fig. 7.38*, 52), from Layer 2 inside Building 4A and a thin-walled sherd from a colander (Type R117) found in the topsoil outside this building.

The very coarse, predominantly oxidised sandy fabric (Fabric Q104) was used exclusively for large jar forms (Types R112; *Fig. 7.36*, 23 and R114; *Fig. 7.37*, 28). The fabric is unprovenanced but similar vessels were made by the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, type 40) and Alice Holt (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, class 10) potters in greyware fabrics from c. AD 260 onwards. In Dorset, a coarser, predominantly oxidised version of Black Burnished ware with very visible clay pellets/shale fragments was used for large jars with 'rope-rims' which, like the Type R114 jars, are often perforated around the shoulder/neck and/or base (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233, type 12; Seager Smith forthcoming b fabric Q107). These vessels generally occur in deposits dated to the 4th century AD + and may have served some specialist function. These jar forms also occur in very late Roman levels at Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, fig. 111, 460-462).

The calcareous wares (Fabric C100) represent just 1% of the all the sherds recovered (*Table Finds/11*) and include an almost complete flanged bowl (Type R128; *Fig. 7.37*, 46) from the area of the southern extension of Building 4. At least two individual fabric types can be identified among this group, one containing considerable quantities of crushed shell, the second limestone fragments, sometimes oolitic. Similar fabrics occur on most 4th century AD sites in central southern Britain. Production centres are known at Harrold, Bedfordshire (Swan 1984, fiche 1.207-10), Lakenheath, Suffolk (*ibid.*, fiche 5.606-7) while others may have been located in Northamptonshire (Sanders 1979, 47). Suitable areas for more local supply might include the Corallian limestone areas to the west of Calne, some 15-20km distant from Overton Down and the Cotswold region. A restricted range of forms were produced in these wares (*Table*

Finds/12) and all the forms present at Overton Down are well paralleled at other sites in the area (Rigby 1982b, 1/5 D10; Keely 1986, 163, fig. 111, 203; Brodribb, Hands and Walker 1971, I, 68ff and 1972, III, 54; Wedlake 1982, 250, fig. 109, 422-438; Seager Smith forthcoming a fig. 0, 461). Sherds of this fabric type have also been found in the Avebury area (Seager Smith in prep.) and at the Hermitage in Swindon (Seager Smith in prep.). The absence of shell-tempered wares from the make-up levels at the Beeches, Cirencester suggests that these fabrics only appear, in this area at least, after the middle of the 4th century AD (Keely 1986, 163).

The remaining coarsewares, the calcareous sandy fabric (Fabrics Q102) found only in Area/Building 1 and the flint-tempered wares (Fabrics F100 and F101) represent only very minor components of the assemblage. Only one identifiable rim sherd was present, a small fragment from a shallow, straight-sided 'dog-dish', found in the occupation layer of Building 1 although a tiny rim fragment from an unidentifiable jar form was also noted in this deposit (*Table Finds/12*). These fabrics are probably derived from comparatively local sources; their date range is uncertain.

Comments on the range of surface treatments and decoration present among the coarseware assemblage are limited by the degree of surface abrasion apparent on many of the sherds. The majority of vessels are roughly finished, with unevenly smoothed, wiped or unaltered surfaces. Some attempts at burnishing occur but rarely to an even finish or a high gloss. Finger-smearing occurs on the exterior surface of the large storage jars in the very coarse, predominantly oxidised sandy ware (Fabric Q104), while heavy wiping occurs on the inside (e.g. *Fig. 7.36*, 23). Among the Dorset Black Burnished wares, the surface finishes characteristic of the late 3rd to 4th century AD + wares (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 257) were apparent and often used as an aid in the distinction between the true Dorset BB1 products and the local imitations. Closely-spaced horizontal rilling was apparent on the exterior surface of the majority of the calcareous ware (Fabric C100) sherds (e.g. *Fig. 7.38*, 50) and on a small proportion of the sandy grey wares. Horizontal bands of multiple, closely-spaced incised or combed wavy lines were also noted on some of the sandy grey ware sherds. This form of decoration is a characteristic feature of the North Wiltshire colour-coated wares produced during the first half of the 2nd century AD (Anderson 1978, 380-383) and may have been copied from them. Other decoration on coarsewares was limited to a small range of burnished line motifs, most commonly obtuse-angled lattice or interlocking hoops, which can be paralleled among the products of the late Roman pottery industries (Fulford 1975; Young 1977; Lyne and Jefferies 1979; Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 256).

Distribution across the site

The number and weight of sherds of each fabric type present in the various deposits, feature groups and structural elements of Buildings 1-4 are shown in *Tables Finds/15-20* while a generalised correlation of the vessels forms present in each fabric is shown in *Tables Finds/12* and *13*. Full details are contained in the archive. The proportion of the various fabric types (expressed as a percentage of the total number of sherds) for the assemblage as a whole and for the individual Areas, remains remarkably consistent as can be seen from *Table Finds/14*. Few specific patterns of deposition or distribution were observed, either for the assemblage as a whole or when considered

by individual Area. Minor variations do, of course occur; these are described for each Area below.

Area/Building 1

The 1338 sherds, 11613g, from this Area account for 11.8% of the total number of sherds recovered. The mean sherd weight for this material is 8.7g, below that of the assemblage as a whole (10.4g). One notable feature of the Area 1 assemblage is the absence of New Forest fabrics. This might be due, at least in part, to the smaller assemblage recovered, as these ware were never common at Overton Down. Using the ratio of one New Forest sherd to every 24.6 Oxfordshire sherds applicable to the assemblage as a whole, Oxfordshire wares occur in Area 1 in sufficient quantities for only 8 New Forest sherds to be present.

No significant horizontal clustering of the material is apparent from the presently available stratigraphic evidence, although the majority of sherds were found in the upper three layers; 21% from the topsoil, 47% from Layer 2 and a further 21% from the Occupation Layer. All the sherds of samian, Oxfordshire white-ware, the calcareous sandy coarseware and the flint-gritted fabrics present in Area 1 were recovered from these three deposits while Oxfordshire parchment ware and the calcareous coarsewares only occurred in the Topsoil and Layer 2.

Far smaller quantities of material, totalling only 7.5% of the sherds, were recovered from the structural elements of Building 1 (*Table Finds/15* - post-holes, Bld. 1 const., pre-wall and pre-wall trenches). Comparatively little of this material is closely datable although a rim sherd from an Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated jug (Type R156) which can be dated to c. AD 350-400+ (Young 1977, 150), was found in Post-hole 3 and part of a necked bowl (Type R153), dated to c. AD 325-400+ (*ibid*, 164-166) was found in the stone construction deposits (GF118). Sherds from the Pre-wall and Pre-wall trench deposits were much larger than the average for Area 1 (mean sherd weights of 16.9g and 17.2g respectively) but otherwise the character of this material does not differ markedly from the rest of the Area 1 assemblage. The rim of an Oxfordshire flagon (Type R152), dated c. AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, 148) was found in one of the pre-wall trenches, while the coarsewares include everted rim and other jar types, dropped flange bowls, dog-dishes and part of a Black Burnished ware fish-dish, a type generally dated from c. AD 350 onwards (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233). This was found in one of the Pre-wall deposits.

Only 22 sherds, 211g, were recovered from the Lynchet soils. This equals approximately 2% of all the sherds from Area 1 and 3% of the total number (802 sherds) from all four areas assigned to the lynchet soils. Oxfordshire colour-coated ware sherds and part of a Black Burnished ware dog-dish was present but the remainder of the sherds were undiagnostic coarsewares.

The mean sherd weight of the material from the ditch, which represents 1.5% of the Area 1 sherds, is only 7.2g and all the sherds are very abraded. Sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and a small fragment from a necked jar (Type R111) in a sandy greyware fabric were present but the remainder were all undiagnostic.

Thirteen sherds, 153g, were found in the pit in Area 1. The mean sherd weight of this material is above average at 11.7g. Only two datable sherds were recovered, part of a Black Burnished ware everted rim jar (Type R110) from its upper filling and an Oxfordshire brown colour-coated ware beaker rim (Type R154) from the middle filling but neither of these forms can be dated more closely within the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD +.

Area/Building 2

A total of 4227 sherds, 42777g, which represents 37.2% of all the sherds recovered, could be assigned to this area. This is the largest assemblage recovered from any of the four excavated areas. The mean sherd weight is 10.1g, marginally below that for the assemblage as a whole (10.4g).

In general, the proportions of the various fabrics conform well to the expected pattern (*Table Finds/16*). It is, however, notable for its comparatively high proportion of the sandy, grog and flint-gritted fabrics (Fabrics Q104, G100 and F102) predominantly used for the large storage jar forms. Of the 518 sherds of these fabrics, the majority were found in the topsoil, Layer 2 and the Layer 2 occupation deposits both inside and outside the building, with significant numbers of grog-tempered sherds from the lynchets soils (*Table Finds/16*). The reason for this high proportion is unknown. There is little direct evidence to suggest that such vessels were used more frequently or extensively in Area 2 and, in this Area, the mean sherd weight for these fabrics is actually lower than that in the other areas (25g, compared with 34g, 29g and 41g for Areas 1, 3 and 4 respectively).

Again, the majority of the Area 2 sherds were from the upper layers (26% of the total assemblage being from the Topsoil, 4% from Layer 1, 20% from Layer 2 and 25% from the Layer 2 occupation deposits). In total, 3202 sherds were recovered from these layers; 48% (1540 sherds) from deposits deemed to belong inside the building (including layers overlying the walls, partition etc), 38% (1232 sherds) from deposits outside the building while the remaining 13% (430 sherds) were unlocated.

Comparatively little material was associated with the structural components of Building 2. Only 18 sherds, 144g, were found among the outer sarsens and walls of the stone construction phase. The only datable material consisted of body sherds of Oxfordshire ware and one rim sherd from a sandy greyware flanged bowl. A further 156 sherds, 1870g, were found in layers "under the walls". In addition to samian, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware was the only other fineware but none of the sherds present were closely datable. Fragments of dropped flanged bowls (Types R102 and R103), bowls with moulded or rolled rims (Types R115 and R116) and jug or handled jar (Type R123) were present among the sandy greywares while a sherd from a large grog-tempered storage jar (Type R112) and one sherd of calcareous coarseware (Fabric C100) were recognised. Sixteen sherds, 344g, were found in the post-holes representing a possible timber construction phase. These include small sherds from two Oxfordshire forms; both are of 4th century AD date, but one (Type R165) probably post-dates c. AD 350. None of the other sherds are datable. Two 4th century forms (Types R153 and R162) were recognised among the material from Layer 3. The coarsewares included rim fragments from a dropped flange bowl and a 'dog-dish', also

late 3rd to 4th century AD + types, but the presence of samian indicates the possibility that other earlier material is also present.

The pit contained only 27 sherds, 344g. The 15 sherds of the very coarse, predominantly oxidised ware (Fabric Q104) present, some of which have pre-firing perforations, are all from the base and lower part of a single vessel. The other sherds were all very small and abraded; a rim fragment from a 'dog-dish' was noted while the Oxfordshire white-colour coated ware sherd was from a mortaria.

A total of 618 sherds, 4051g, was assigned to the lynchet soils. This equals 15% of all the sherds from Area 2 and an amazing 77% of all those assigned to lynchet soils in the assemblage as a whole. A wide range of fabrics and vessel forms occurred among this material but unfortunately their mean sherd weight is very low, only 6.5g.

Excavated sections through the ditch in Area 2 produced 77 sherds, 691g. Only two identifiable rim forms were noted, one from a large grog-tempered jar (Type R112) and the other from a greyware jug or handled jar (Type R123). Sherds of Oxfordshire red/brown and white colour-coated ware were noted but the presence of the samian indicates that earlier material may also be present.

Area/Building 3

A total of 2248 sherds, 25656g, was recovered. This equals 21.5% of the total number of sherds recovered; the mean sherd weight is 10.5g.

Samian would appear to be concentrated in Area 3 (*Table Finds/17*); 72 sherds were recognised which represents just over half the total number present in the assemblage as a whole. Here, the mean sherd weight for this fabric is 6g, higher than that for Areas 2 (4.9g) and 4 (3.8g), although lower than for Area 1 (9.8g) but this latter figure is probably related to the small number of samian sherds found there (only six). Samian sherds occur in all Area 3 deposits, with the exception of the lynchet soils, the ditch filling and Layer 3 (*Table Finds/17*). Layer 2 was especially prolific (29 sherds), while eight sherds were associated with the Phase 1 occupation deposits and a single sherd was found in the Phase 2 stone construction deposits. The percentage of Black Burnished ware sherds present in Area 3 is also notably greater than among the collections from the other Areas, although a corresponding drop in the percentage of the sandy grey coarsewares offsets this difference. A higher than average percentage of the oxidised sandy coarsewares was also present in Area 3; it is also notable that all the sherds of Rhenish ware and the Dressel 20 amphora were found in this area.

In this area, 26% of all the sherds were found in the Topsoil, 18% in Layer 1/2 and 45% in Layer 2, although in this deposit the mean sherd weight is well below the Area 3 average at only 7.5g. In Area 3, the location of these deposits to areas inside and outside the structure is not as clear-cut as it was for Area 1. However, for the Layer 2 material at least, the distribution would appear to be much more even with 35% of the sherds being from inside the building and 38% from outside it although the remaining 29% of sherds were unlocated. A wide range of fabrics, including samian and form types were recovered from these layers and no discrete groups were apparent within them. One of the Dressel 20 amphora sherds was found in the Topsoil, the other in

Layer 2 inside the building. Two the Rhenish ware sherds were also from Layer 2 but were found outside the building.

Fifteen sherds, 118g, were found in a robber trench in Area 3. These include one fragment of samian and three very small sherds of Rhenish ware. Two sherds from a Dorset Black Burnished ware dropped flange bowl, a late 3rd to 4th century AD form, were noted and it may be significant that these sherds are by far the largest among this group (excluding these two, the mean sherd weight for the rest of the material from this feature is only 2.4g). All the other sherds are chronologically undiagnostic plain bodies.

A total of 73 sherds, 1105g, was associated with the Phase 2 stone construction of Building 3. The mean sherd weight for this group is comparatively high (15g). New Forest and Oxfordshire colour-coated wares are present and these include a sherd from a 4th century AD mortaria (Type R179), a type which becomes increasingly common as the century progresses. Part of a greyware 'dog-dish' was identified but the majority of other coarseware sherds are undiagnostic plain bodies or bases. One sherd from a greyware bead rim jar was noted and this, together with the samian sherd may well be residual.

Material associated with the first phase of occupation in Building 3 amounted to a total of 169 sherds, 1377g. Twelve sherds, 42g, were found in the central hearth (GF310); one unidentifiable rim sherd of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware was noted, the other are all undiagnostic fragments of the three most common coarseware fabrics. Although a larger number of sherds (108 sherds, 756g) were found in the layers under the floor, very little of this material is chronologically diagnostic. Late Roman material includes three calcareous coarseware sherds, New Forest colour-coated ware sherds, one probably from an indented beaker, fragments from an Oxfordshire colour-coated ware beaker (Type R154) and a wall-sided, carinated bowl (Type R157) and part of a sandy greyware 'dog-dish'. Four sherds of samian were also present, including a small rim sherd from a Dr.33 cup. The remaining sherds were from the west hearth but again the dating evidence is not conclusive. The beaker rim of unassigned colour-coated ware (Fabric Q105) and comparatively large sherds from a samian Dr.38 bowl and a Dr.18/31R or 31R platter were present among this material. The four Oxfordshire sherds present are all small and undiagnostic bodies; a 'dog-dish' was noted among the Black Burnished wares, a necked jar with a flared rim (Type R129) among the sandy greywares while dropped flanged bowls were recorded in both these fabrics.

Only very small quantities of material were found in the other features and deposits in Area 3. Seven sherds, 36g, were found in Layer 3 outside the building. One sherd from a greyware dropped flange bowl was present but the others were all undiagnostic. Twelve sherds, 53g, including a small rim sherd from a grog-tempered bead rim jar, probably of 1st to 2nd century AD date, could be assigned to the lynchet soils. One thick-walled, body sherd of coarse, predominantly oxidised ware (Fabric Q104) was found in the Ditch. Two of the Black Burnished ware sherds recorded as SF. no. 370 join together and are from the shoulder area of an everted rim jar; the third is a rim fragment from a dropped flange bowl (Type R103). Both these vessels are of

late 3rd to 4th century AD + date, the date of the jar sherds being indicated by their characteristic surface finish.

Area 4

Overall, 3356 sherds, 38037g, were found in Area 4, including the single prehistoric sherd noted above. These sherds represent 29.5% of the total number recovered and their mean sherd weight is 11.3g. However, the Area 4 assemblage has been subdivided so that the material from and around Buildings 4A, 4B/C and the southern extension to Building 4B/C can be considered separately and compared with each other and the collections from Areas/Buildings 1-3.

The percentages of the major fabric types from each of these three areas broadly correspond with the expected pattern (*Tables Finds/18-20*). The high percentage of other finewares from Building 4B/C is accounted for by the sherds, probably from a single vessel, of the white 'pipeclay' colour-coated ware (Fabric Q107). The fabrics used predominantly for large, thick-walled jars (Fabrics Q104, G100 and F102) are comparatively poorly represented in Area 4A, despite the additional presence of the flint with grog-gritted ware (Fabric F102). The only other notable feature of the Area 4 assemblages is the higher proportions of Overwey/Tilford ware (Fabric Q106) and the calcareous coarsewares (Fabric C100) present. Both these fabrics are of 4th century AD + date and their frequency in Area 4 *might* suggest some difference in the chronology of the activity in this area of the site. The lack of discrete groupings discernible within the assemblage, however, means that this is impossible to prove, at least without extensive further analysis outside the scope of the present project.

Building 4A

Over half (55%) of the Area 4 sherds were derived from Building 4A (1855 sherds, 20647g. The mean sherd weight is 11g.

Only 10% of these sherds were found in the Topsoil. Of these, over two-thirds occurred in areas outside the limits of the building itself. By far the largest number of sherds from a single deposit were recovered from a Flinty layer which was mostly but not entirely located outside the building. The 718 sherds, 7817g, from this layer represent 39% of the sherds from Area 4A. A further 397 sherds, 4358g, were found in Layer 2. These represent 21% of the assemblage and approximately half of them were found inside the building. Small quantities of samian were found in all three of these layers.

Thirty sherds, 341g, were found in the post-holes. These include four body sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware and Black Burnished ware rim sherds from a 'dog-dish' and an incipient dropped flange bowl (Type R134), a mid 2nd to 3rd century AD form.

A total of 42 sherds, 255g, were found among the walls of stone construction (Phase 2). Sherds from a narrow-mouthed jar (Type R119) and an incipient flange bowl (Type R134) occurred among the sandy greywares but the Oxfordshire ware sherds were all plain bodies. Sherds of the 4th century fabrics (Fabric Q106 and C100) were also present. However, the mean sherd weight of these sherds is only 6g and all of them could have fallen among the stones from the layers above. A rim sherd from a

Black Burnished ware dropped flange bowl was the only featured sherd to be found among the 23 sherds, 475g, from the inner post-holes of the Phase 1 timber construction.

All the datable material from Layer 3 belongs to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD + although in character this assemblage appears to differ little from the rest of the Area 4A material. Finewares were restricted to New Forest and Oxfordshire types; recognisable forms consisted of an internally flanged bowl (Type R127) from the New Forest and a necked bowl (Type R153), which can be dated to c. AD 350-400+ (young 1977, 164-166), from the Oxfordshire region. Dropped flanged bowl forms occur in Black Burnished ware and the sandy greyware fabrics in addition to a range of other bowl/dish (Types R101 and R104), jar (Types R111, R121, R126 and R131) and miscellaneous forms (Type R106) in this latter group. Sherds of the 4th century AD + fabrics (Fabrics Q106 and C100) were also well-represented.

The three sherds recorded as SF286 are all small and abraded and each one is of a different fabric type.

Building 4B/C

A total of 952 sherds, 10784g, was found in this area. This represents 28% of all the Area 4 sherds. The mean sherd weight of material from this structure is also 11g.

A total of 112 sherds, 1251g, or 11% of the assemblage from this area were found in the Topsoil, predominantly from areas outside the building. A further 11% (110 sherds, 1856g) were derived from Layer 2. Most of the sherds assigned to this area were from the structural elements of the building (526 sherds, 6086g), which are considered together here. With the exception of the two sherds of samian and the prehistoric sherd described above which was found in the floor of this building, all the datable material is of late 3rd to 4th century AD date, with strong 4th century AD+ elements. Of the seven Oxfordshire forms identified (Types R157, R159, R176, R179, R182, R189 and R192), five are more closely datable with the lifespan of the industry - one (Type R184) to c. AD 240-300, three (Types R157, R176 and R179) to the 4th century AD, the latter form becoming increasingly common as the century progressed, while the remaining one (Type R192) is of mid to late 4th century AD date. Other vessel forms include Black Burnished ware dropped flange bowls and 'dog-dishes' (Types R103 and R104), jars with collared and hooked rims (Types R121 and R131) and a dropped flange bowl (Type R128) in the calcareous coarseware fabric and a wide range of jar (Types R110, R111, R113, R119, R121 and R123), bowl (Type R103, R115 and R125) and dish (Types R101 and R104) types in the sandy greywares. 4th century AD + material, including sherds of Overwey/Tilford ware, dated from c. AD 325-420 and Oxfordshire mortaria fragments (Types R162 and R179) from forms which become increasingly common as the 4th century AD progresses, also occurred in the soil on the line of the 'fence' in this area.

Southern Extension to Building 4B/C

Only 548 sherds, 6601g, or 16% of all the Area 4 sherds, were associated with this structure. The mean sherd weight equals 12g. The most notable element of the assemblage from this area is the almost complete dropped flanged bowl (SF289) found in Layer 2. This form can be paralleled among the calcite-gritted wares from

Shakenoak (Brodrigg, Hands and Walker 1971, fig.39, 377-379) but it is not common at Overton Down, the only other example occurring among the material from Structure 4B/C itself.

The difficulties of dating the assemblage with any precision are apparent from the above discussion. None of the pottery types present are as well known or dated as the Oxfordshire and Dorset Black Burnished ware industries and even these industries are inherently conservative during the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD. There appear to be few changes in the repertoire of the Oxford potters during the 4th century and relatively few of the vessel types can be attributed to the period after c. AD 350 (Young 1977, 134). Similarly, the characteristically 'late Roman' Black Burnished ware forms (the dog-dishes, dropped flange bowls and everted rim jars) all begin in the later 3rd century AD and continue well into the 4th century, if not the 5th century AD. The North Wiltshire kilns are poorly published and the chronology of their products little understood and, with the exception of Cirencester (Rigby 1982 a and b; Keely 1986), few stratified deposits from occupation sites to which these wares were distributed have been published either. Fourth century AD + material, such as the Overwey/Tilford ware (Fabric Q106), the calcareous coarsewares (Fabric C100) and the very coarse, predominantly oxidised sandy ware (Fabric Q104), is undoubtedly present at Overton Down. However, these three fabrics account for only a very small proportion of the assemblage (3.6%; 417 sherds) and the overall level of residuality in the assemblage, hinted at by the samian and possibly some of the grog-tempered wares especially the bead rim jars, is impossible to assess due to the paucity of securely dated material, both from this and other broadly comparable sites in the area.

Vessel Forms

New Forest wares

Colour-coated wares:

- Type R161 Indented beakers (Fulford 1975a, 50-52, type 27). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R166 Indented beakers with painted decoration between the indents (Fulford 1975, 56, type 42). c. AD 300-330/340.
- Type R173 Small cups (Fulford 1975a, 60, type 53). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R177 Flagons/flasks with globular bodies and narrow necks; precise details of form uncertain (Fulford 1975a, 43-46, types 1-10). 4th century AD.

Parchment ware:

- Type R127/R185 Externally carinated open bowl with a plain rim and an internal flange below the rim (Fulford 1975a, 70-72, type 89). c. AD 270-400+ (*Fig. 7.37, 45*)

Oxfordshire wares

Red and brown colour-coated wares:

- Type R107 Red and brown colour-coated ware rim fragments too small to assign to a specific vessel form; mostly from bowls. c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R137 A closed form (the interior is not well-finished and colour-coat is only patchy here), possibly a lamp. Survives as c. 75% of a wheelmade (?) disc with up to 50mm of vessel wall preserved. The surviving sherd is perforated by two opposing, roughly circular holes, made before the vessel was fired, with the stump of a 'handle' or, less probably, a 'foot', angled towards the centre of the vessel, applied to the exterior surface over a third perforation. Further traces of applied clay, opposite the first, can be observed along the broken edge of the sherd, but insufficient survives to ascertain whether this covered a fourth perforation (*Fig. 7.38, 55*).

- Type R150 Flagon with a wide disc rim (Young 1977, 148, type C4). c. AD 240-350.
- Type R152 A long necked flagon with a flange half-way down the neck and a single handle (Young 1977, 148, type C8). The most common Oxfordshire flagon type. c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R153 Necked bowls with an out-turned rim and a full, curved body. Rouletting is common at the neck and at the base of the vessel wall (Young 1977, 164-166, type C75). c. AD 325-400+.
- Type R154 Beakers with long, sloping necks and globular bodies (Young 1977, 152, type C22). The most common Oxfordshire beaker type. Type number also used to refer to beaker sherds which cannot be assigned to a more specific vessel type. c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R155 Indented beakers (Young 1977, type C20, 152). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R156 Jug with a pulley-wheel rim (Young 1977, 150, type C14). c. AD 350-400+.
- Type R157 Wall-sided carinated bowl with a beaded rim; sometimes rouletted (Young 1977, 166, type C81). 4th century AD.
- Type R158 Globular bowl with an everted rim; often rouletted (Young 1977, 164, type C74). No dating evidence.
- Type R159 Flanged bowl copying samian form Dr. 38 (Young 1977, 160, type C51). Very common Oxfordshire form. c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R160 Narrow-necked jar with an out-turned rim which may be grooved on the upper or outer surface (Young 1977, 150, type C16). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R163 Shallow bowl with a beaded rim, copying samian form Dr. 31 (Young 1977, 158, type C45). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R165 Large handled jar or jug with a rounded rim (Young 1977, 150, type C13). c. AD 350-400+.
- Type R169 Wide-mouthed, necked jar (Young 1977, 152, type C18). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R171 Deep, round bodied open bowl with a double bead rim, sometimes rouletted (Young 1977, 164, type C71). c. AD 300-400+.
- Type R174 Shallow bowl with a wide rim rolled under at its tip, copying samian form Dr. 36 (Young 1977, 158, type C47). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R176 Small, hemispherical cup with a footing base (Young 1977, 174, type C110). c. AD ?300-400+.
- Type R178 Shallow bowl with a wide rim, upturned at its tip; probably based on samian forms Dr. 36 and Curle 15 (Young 1977, 158, type C49). c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R179 Mortaria with an upright rim and an angular flange (Young 1977, 174, type C100). 4th century AD; the type became more common as the century progressed.
- Type R180 Shallow, straight-sided dish, sometimes with grooved beneath the rim (Young 1977, 173, type C94). 4th century AD.
- Type R182 Mortaria copying samian form Dr. 45 (Young 1977, 173, type C97). c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R186 Round-bodied open bowl, probably based on the samian form Dr. 37; often rouletted (Young 1977, 160, type C55). c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R187 Wall-sided carinated bowl with a beaded rim and a cordon mid-way down the wall (Young 1977, 170, type C84). Second half of the 4th century AD.
- Type R188 Shallow bowl or platter with a hammerhead rim (Young 1977, 156, type C41). c. AD 300-400+.
- Type R189 Flagon with an expanded pulley-wheel rim (Young 1977, 148, type C3). c. AD 270-400+.
- Type R192 Wall-sided carinated bowl with a beaded rim and impressed decoration (Young 1977, 170, type C83). Mid to late 4th century AD.

White colour-coated ware:

- Type R162 Mortarium with an upstanding rim and a squat flange folded close to the body; both body and flange may be grooved (Young 1977, 122, type WC7). Produced from c. AD 240 onwards but only became popular during the 4th century AD.
- Type R167 Necked jar with an upright or slightly everted rim (Young 1977, 120, type WC2). c. AD 240-400+.
- Type R170 Mortarium with an upstanding rim with a wide flat flange, rounded at the tip (Young 1977, 122, type WC5). c. AD 240-300.
- Type R175 Mortarium with an upstanding rim with a wide flat flange, hooked at the tip (Young 1977, 122, type WC4). c. AD 240-300.

Type R181 Wall-sided carinated bowl (Young 1977, 120, type WC3). c. AD 240-400+.

Parchment ware:

Type R151 Shallow dish with a simple up-turned rim, grooved on exterior (Young 1977, 86, type P14). c. AD 300-400+.

Type R172/R183 Wall-sided bowl moulded at rim and at carination (Young 1977, 87, type P24). c. AD 240-400+.

White ware:

Type R164 Mortarium with an upstanding rim and a squat flange folded close to the body; both body and flange may be grooved (Young 1977, 76, type M22). c. AD 240-400+.

Type R168 Shallow bowl with an out-turned rim; perhaps based on the samian form Dr. 36 (Young 1977, 107, type W52). c. AD 240-400+.

Type R184 Mortarium with an upstanding rim with a wide flat flange, hooked at the tip (Young 1977, 72, type M17). c. AD 240-300.

Type R194 Mortarium with an upstanding rim with a wide flat flange, rounded at the tip (Young 1977, 72, type M18). c. AD 240-300.

Other fabric types

Type R100 Rim fragments too small to assign to a more specific type. Mostly from the various necked jar types.

Type R101 Upright, very slightly beaded rim, sometimes with a groove beneath, from an open/very wide-mouthed form with slightly rounded walls. Probably a shallow dish or platter. Represented only by small fragments (*Fig. 7.36, 1*).

Type R102 Straight-sided bowl/dish form with a small, rounded and very slightly dropped flange. Precise details of profile vary (*Fig. 7.36, 2, 3*).

Type R103 More 'developed' version of Type R102 - straight-sided bowls/dishes with a wider, flatter flange, dropped significantly below the level of the rim. Precise details of profile vary considerably (*Fig. 7.36, 4-10*).

The dropped flanged bowl/dish form is one commonest and widely distributed forms produced by the Dorset Black Burnished ware industry during the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD + Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 235, type 25). It was copied by all the major industries in southern Britain at this time (Fulford 1975a, 92, types 5 and 6; Young 1977, 220, type R47; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 46, class 5B) as well as many of the more minor ones including that located to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1979, fig. 8, 11).

Type R104 Shallow dishes, circular in plan, with straight or slightly convex sides and flat bases. 'Dog-dishes'. Rims are usually plain but some examples are beaded while others have a shallow groove beneath the rim (*Fig. 7.36, 11*). The form is present among the products of the Dorset Black Burnished ware industry probably from the late 1st century AD onwards (Gilliam 1976, 73-77), with a significant increase in numbers from the late 2nd century. However, the form becomes abundant in all areas of Roman Britain during the late 3rd to 4th century AD + and was widely copied in a variety of coarseware fabrics at almost all production centres dating to this period.

Type R105 Shallow dishes, oval in plan, with plain rims, straight or slightly convex sides and a flat base. 'Fish-dishes' (*Fig. 7.36, 12*). Small, 'ear-shaped' strap handles situated at the narrow ends of these vessels are a diagnostic feature of this form, small fragments of which may be mis-identified as belonging to the far more common circular "dog-dishes". Black Burnished ware examples are confined to levels dated from c. AD 350-450 at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233, type 21) while examples in sandy greyware fabrics from Cirencester indicate a date from the late 3rd to 4th century AD + (Keely 1986, fig. 109, 143, 146-149).

Type R106 Lids; all forms (*Fig. 7.36, 13*). Also widely produced throughout the Roman period (Fulford 1975a, 98, type 23; Young 1977, 199, type O56 and 226, type R76; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 50, class 7; Anderson 1979, fig. 8, 7; Anderson 1980, 57, type 5).

Type R108 Small to medium sized jars with a sharply out-bent rim and little or no neck. There is a characteristic 'kink' (presumably left by a shaping tool during manufacture) on the underside of the out-bent rim (*Fig. 7.36, 14*). Noted among the sandy greywares from the Hermitage, Swindon (Seager Smith in prep).

- Type R109 Open bowl with a triangular, sometimes slightly flattened, rim; very slight grooves apparent on the upper surface of the rim of some examples and exterior wall of vessel may be ribbed (*Fig. 7.36, 15*).
- Type R110 Jars with everted rims; the external diameter of the rim is equal to or greater than the greatest diameter of the body (*Fig. 7.36, 16, 17*). A characteristic Black Burnished ware jar form (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 231, type 3) of the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD +; also frequently copied at all the major production centres (Fulford 1975a, 100, type 30; Young 1977, 216, type 27; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 42, class 3B).
- Type R111 High-shouldered, necked jars with upright or slightly everted rims, the terminals of which are often beaded or slightly hooked. Some examples of this form have a slight groove or offset at the junction between the shoulder and neck (*Fig. 7.36, 18-22*). May include examples and imitations of the 2nd to 3rd century Black Burnished ware jar forms (vessels with a rim diameter less than the greatest diameter of the body - Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 231, type 2). Similar vessels were produced at Whitehill Farm (Anderson 1979, fig. 8, 5) and Purton (Anderson 1980, type 2) to the west of Swindon, in the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, 100, type 30.3 and 30.4) and in the Oxford region (Young 1977, 216, type R26).
- Type R112 Large, thick-walled jars with heavy rolled rims; precise details of rim profile vary even within a single vessel (*Fig. 7.36, 22-24; Fig. 7.37, 25*). Produced in a wide variety of fabrics from the grog-tempered Savernake wares of the 1st to 2nd centuries AD to the sandy greywares of the late 3rd and 4th centuries (ie. Fulford 1975a, 103, type 40; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 51, class 10).
- Type R113 Jars with a relatively restricted neck and an out-bent rim, the exterior surface of which is grooved or moulded (*Fig. 7.37, 26, 27*). Similar forms were produced in the Oxfordshire region in a variety of fabrics, including the sandy greywares c. AD 300-400+ (Young 1977, types R23, O11 and W34). Examples of this form occur in Period III deposits at the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, fig. 111, 198 and 200.)
- Type R114 Large, moderately thick-walled jars with a rolled rim, pinched during manufacture giving it a rope-like appearance (*Fig. 7.37, 28*). A common late Roman form produced by a variety of centres including the New Forest (Fulford 1975, type 40) and the Black Burnished ware industry of the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 12). Similar vessels, although with distinctive features, also form part of the repertoire of the later Alice Holt industry (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, class 10, fig. 41) but rope-rimmed vessels do not appear to feature among the products of the Oxfordshire region (Young 1977).
- Type R115 Large wall-sided bowl, moulded at the rim which is internally bevelled (*Fig. 7.37, 29*). No precise parallels have been noted although broadly similar forms do occur amongst the products of the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, type 82) and Oxfordshire (Young 1977, type R73) industries.
- Type R116 Bowl with a high, rounded shoulder, a short upright neck and a rolled rim (*Fig. 7.37, 30*). Similar vessels were produced at Purton (Anderson 1980, types 3 and 4) while some of the Oxfordshire reduced ware colanders have similar rims (Young 1977, fig. 84, 80.3).
- Type R117 Colanders; all forms (*Fig. 7.38, 57*). Also used to record body or base sherds with multiple, small, closely-spaced, prefiring perforations. Strainers were produced in reduced ware fabrics by the Oxfordshire potters from the mid 1st to 3rd centuries AD (Young 1977, type R80) and are also present among the products of the Alice Holt industry where this class of vessel became more important after c. AD 270 (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, class 5C).
- Type R118 Small jars or beakers (and possibly jugs) with narrow mouths and long sloping shoulders/necks; the rim is beaded and sometimes slightly flattened on top, with one or more shallow, incised grooves beneath (*Fig. 7.37, 31, 32*).
- Type R119 Narrow-mouthed jars, beakers and/or jugs with a long sloping neck and a simple rim, expanded externally. At least one example has traces of an applied handle immediately beneath the rim (*Fig. 7.37, 33, 34*).
- Type R120 Bowl with an inturned rim, roughly triangular in cross-section, the upper surface of which is flattened. Incised grooves occur on the exterior surface of the vessel wall beneath the rim (*Fig. 7.37, 35*). Comparable vessels were produced in the New Forest

- c. AD 270-350 (Fulford 1975a, type 7.1) and it should also be noted that some of the strainers made in the Alice Holt/Farnham area also have very similar rims (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 33, 5C.2 and 5C.3).
- Type R121 Jars with an everted, collared rim. Slight inward cupping of the rim. Exterior surface of vessel may be horizontally rilled (*Fig. 7.37, 36*). Similar to Types R113, but without the moulding on the outer surface of the rim and R131 but not undercut. These vessels can be paralleled among the sandy greyware products of the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, type 30.1) and Alice Holt (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 29, 3C.2-5) industries including the Overwey/Tilford group. Similar vessels in shell-tempered ware occur at the Hermitage, Old Town Swindon (Seager Smith in prep) and in contexts dated to c. AD 325-400 at Wanborough (Seager Smith forthcoming a). It is a common form at the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, fig. 111, 194, 195, , 197 and 199).
- Type R122 High-shouldered bead rim jars; precise details of profile and rim form vary considerably. Bead rim bowl forms may also be included in this category especially if the sherds are small or badly abraded (*Fig. 7.37, 37*).
- Type R123 Jugs or handled jars; the rim is externally expanded to give a collar-like effect and may be plain or grooved in the centre of the exterior surface give a pulley-wheel type rim. The neck is constricted and cylindrical and the body is globular. The upper attachment of one or more handles is level with or immediately beneath the rim (*Fig. 7.37, 38, 39*).
- Type R124 Narrow-mouthed jars with a short neck and a squared rim. Precise details differ but the upper and outer edge of the rim is generally grooved; the groove(s) in the upper surface possibly acting as a lid seat. Body shape is uncertain but likely to be fairly globular (*Fig. 7.37, 40, 41*). This form can be paralleled among the greyware products of the three major late Roman pottery industries in southern Britain where it was produced from c. AD 240-400+ (Fulford 1975a, types 31-35; Young 1977, type R17; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, class 1A).
- Type R125 High-shouldered necked bowls with an out-bent rim, sometimes slightly hooked (*Fig. 7.37, 42, 43*). Also similar to some of the vessels produced at Purton to the west of Swindon (Anderson 1980, 57, type 3).
- Type R126 Small jar or large beaker with a simple flared rim, the terminal of which is slightly beaded. Body shape uncertain but likely to be bag-shaped (*Fig. 7.37, 44*).
- Type R128 Straight-sided bowl/dish with a downward drooping flange, triangular in cross-section. Exterior surface may be horizontally rilled (*Fig. 7.37, 46*). This form can be paralleled among the calcite-gritted wares from Period A.3a (c. AD 250-350) at Shakenoak (Brodrigg, Hands and Walker 1971, fig. 39, 377-379) and in Period III contexts at the Beeches in Cirencester (Keely 1986, fig. 107, 107 and 109).
- Type R129 Narrow-mouthed jar (?) with an exaggerated flared and flanged rim, the flange rising above the level of the rim providing a deep lid seat (*Fig. 7.37, 47*). A similar rim in an imitation black burnished ware fabric occurs at the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, fig. 110, 171).
- Type R130 Large bowl with a heavy, moulded rim, generally internally bevelled to provide a lid seat (*Fig. 7.37, 48*). This form is a typical product of the New Forest potters, produced throughout the life of the industry, c. AD 270-400 (Fulford 1975a, 93-94, type 8) and does not appear to have been made at any of the other late Roman kiln sites in the south.
- Type R131 Jars with an everted, almost triangular, undercut or 'hooked' rim. Exterior surface of these vessels is frequently covered by closely-spaced horizontal rilling (*Fig. 7.37, 49; Fig. 7.38, 50*). These vessels can be paralleled among the sandy greyware products of the New Forest (Fulford 1975a, type 30.3) and Alice Holt (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 29, 3C.1, .7-9, .11 and .18) industries including the Overwey/Tilford group. Similar vessels in shell-tempered ware occur at the Hermitage, Old Town Swindon (Seager Smith in prep) and in a variety of fabrics at the Beeches, Cirencester (Keely 1986, fig. 111, 196, 197, 201-209).
- Type R132 Wide-mouthed, necked bowl with a flat, reeded rim (not illustrated). Vessels of this type are represented among the products of the New Forest by types 9 and 10, both of which are dated to c. AD 300-350 (Fulford 1975a, 94, fig. 31) and the Alice Holt

- industry by class 5E vessels, dated from c. AD 220-350 (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 47, fig. 35).
- Type R133 Jar with a simple flared rim and a long, sloping shoulder. The interior slope of the rim provides a lid seat (*Fig. 7.38*, 51, 52).
- Type R134 Straight-sided (although occasional examples may be chamfered) bowls/dishes with a flat, grooved flange. 'Incipient dropped flange' bowls/dishes (not illustrated).
- Type R135 Round-bodied jar/bowl with an everted rim (*Fig. 7.38*, 53). A characteristically late Roman Black Burnished ware form. It can be paralleled by vessels from 4th century AD + contexts at Poundbury (Davies and Hawkes 1987, fig. 88, 41) and Worgret (Herne 1992, fig. 14, 56), in late 4th to early 4th century AD collapse deposits at the Dorchester Bath House site (Andrews forthcoming) and in a Period 10 deposit (c. AD 350-450) at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, fig. 149, 309) while an example from Catsgore (Leech 1982, fig. 109, 422) was found in complex 3c (after c. AD 360). A similar globular bowl occurs in a late 4th to 5th century group from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, fig. 111, 474).
- Type R136 Long necked carinated bowl with a bead rim (*Fig. 7.38*, 54).

Medieval Pottery

One small sherd (3g) of medieval pottery of 13th-14th century AD date, was found in the topsoil overlying Area/Building 1 (GF64). The fabric is a moderately coarse sandy ware with an off-white or pale green glaze on the exterior surface (Fabric Q400), probably from an Oxfordshire source. This sherd is unlikely to represent anything more than a stray find at this site.

Fabric Q400 Hard, moderately coarse fabric containing moderate amounts of subrounded quartz, up to 1mm across and rare iron oxides <0.5mm. Wheelmade. Oxidised; off-white to pinkish-buff in colour with an off-white or pale green glaze on the exterior surface.

List of illustrated vessels

Fig 7.36 - Pottery

1. Prehistoric sherd. R1, PRN 12798. GF231, Area 4A, Building 4, stone phase, floor level.
1. Shallow dish with beaded rim (R101), fabric Q100. PRN 11297, GF9, Area 2, layer 3, top of lynchet. Same context as no. 35.
2. Straight-sided bowl with slightly dropped flange (R102), fabric Q100. PRN 10269, GF121, Area 1, pre-Building 1, boundary ditch.
3. Straight-sided bowl with slightly dropped flange (R102), fabric E101. PRN 10945, GF95, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.
4. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric E101; traces of burnished decoration (intersecting arcs) on exterior. PRN 11727, GF260, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 3.
5. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric E101. PRN 13078, GF166, Area 4A, in lynchet.
6. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric Q100. PRN 11983, GF291, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 3.
7. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric Q100. PRN 10835, GF74, Area 2, layer 2, ?occupation layer inside Building 2.
8. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric G100. PRN 11702, GF260, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 3/ in wall stones.
9. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric E100. PRN 10286, GF134, Area 1, layer 4, pre-Building 1/ B1 construction. Same context as no. 12.
10. Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange (R103), fabric Q100. PRN 11982, GF291, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 3.
11. 'Dog dish', plain rim (R104), fabric Q100. PRN 12083, GF311, Area 3, layer 3, Building 3, floor.
12. Shallow oval 'fish dish' with strap handle (R105), fabric E100. PRN 10283, GF134, Area 1, layer 4, pre-Building 1/ B1 construction. Same context as no. 9.

13. Lid with externally thickened, flattened knob (R106), fabric Q100. PRN 12244, GF167, Area 4 B/C (S. extension), topsoil.
14. Medium sized jar with sharply everted rim (R108), fabric Q100. PRN 10280, GF118, Area 1, layer 4, pre-Building 1/ B1 construction.
15. Shallow bowl with triangular rim (R109), fabric Q100. PRN 10898, GF81, Area 2, layer 2 (outside building).
16. Everted rim jar with sharply everted rim (R110), fabric E101. PRN 10946, GF95, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.
17. Everted rim jar with sharply everted rim (R110), fabric E101. PRN 10886, GF81, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.
18. High-shouldered, necked jar with everted rim (R111), fabric Q100. PRN 10259, GF104, Area 1, layer 4, pre-Building 1/ B1 construction, in trench.
19. High-shouldered, necked jar with everted rim (R111), fabric Q100. PRN 10952, GF95, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2.
20. Small, high-shouldered, necked jar with everted rim (R111), fabric Q100. PRN 12037, GF324, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 2.
21. High-shouldered, necked jar with everted rim (R111), fabric Q101. PRN 11715, GF260, Area 3, layer 1/2, over Building 2.
22. Small, high-shouldered, necked jar with everted rim (R111), fabric Q103. PRN 10527-8, GF52, Area 2, layer 1.
23. Large, thick-walled jar with heavy rim (R112); rim finger-impressed on exterior; fingered also inside at rim/body junction, fabric Q104. PRN 11031, GF119, Area 2, layer 1A, inside Building 2.
24. Large, thick-walled jar with heavy, rolled rim (R112), fabric F102. PRN 12399, GF162, Area 4A, layer 2, occupation of Building 2.

Fig 7.37 - Pottery cont/...

25. Large, thick-walled jar with heavy, rolled rim (R112), fabric G100. PRN 12782, GF230, Area 4A, layer 2, Building 4, floor layer. Same context as no. 54.
26. Necked jar with everted, moulded rim (R113), fabric Q101. PRNs 10317, 10385; GF2, Area 2, layer 2, Building 2, occupation/ GF15, Area 2, layer 1, topsoil.
27. Necked jar with everted, moulded rim (R113), fabric Q106. PRN 12607, GF175, Area 4A, layer 2.
28. Large, thick-walled, rope-rimmed jar (R114), fabric Q104. PRNs 12300, 12791, GF221, Area 4B/C, topsoil/ GF231, Area 4A, Building 4, floor layer.
29. Large, wall-sided bowl with moulded rim (R115), fabric Q100. PRNs 11019, 10401, GF15, Area 2, layer 1 / GF117, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2, ?occupation. Same contexts as no. 30.
30. Shouldered bowl with rolled rim (R116), fabric Q100. PRNs 11020, 10403; GF15, Area 2, layer 1 / GF117, Area 2, layer 2, outside Building 2, ?occupation. Same contexts as no. 29.
31. Small jar or beaker with sloping shoulder and beaded rim, grooved below rim (R118), fabric Q101. PRN 10860, GF77, Area 2, layer 2. Same context as no. 41.
32. Small jar or beaker with straight neck and beaded rim (R118), fabric Q105. PRN 12141, GF294, Area 3, Building 3, early phase.
33. Narrow-mouthed, necked jar with expanded rim (R119), fabric Q100. PRN 10427, GF17, Area 2, layer 1.
34. Narrow-mouthed jug with expanded rim and strap handle (R119), fabric Q100. PRN12038, GF324, Area 3, layer 1/2.
35. Shouldered bowl with inturned, flattened rim (R120), fabric Q100; two horizontal incised grooves on exterior. PRN 11306, GF9, Area 2, layer 3, top of lynchet. Same context as no. 1.
36. Jar with everted, collared rim (R121), fabric Q100. PRN 10470, GF31, Area 2, layer 1.
37. Bead rim jar (R122), fabric G100. PRN 12726, GF210, Area 4A, layer 2.
38. Jug with expanded rim and handle stump (R123), fabric Q100. PRN 10746, GF45, Area 2, layer 2, Building 2, walls.
39. Jug with collared rim and strap handle (R123), Q100. PRN 12424, GF162, Area 4A, layer 2, occupation inside Building 4.
40. Narrow-mouthed jar with clubbed rim, grooved on top (R124), fabric Q100. PRN 12003, GF293, Area 3, layer 1/2.

41. Narrow-mouthed jar with clubbed, moulded rim (R124), fabric Q100. PRN 10873, GF77, Area 2, layer 2. Same context as no. 31.
42. High-shouldered, necked bowl with everted rim (R125), fabric Q100. PRN 11624, GF302, Area 3, topsoil.
43. High-shouldered, necked bowl with everted, hooked rim (R125), fabric Q101. PRN 11490, GF254, Area 3, topsoil.
44. Jar or beaker with simple everted rim (R126), fabric Q100. PRN 11512, GF254, Area 3, topsoil.
45. Carinated bowl with plain rim and internal flange (R127; Fulford 1975a, type 89), New Forest parchment ware (E160). PRNs 11705, 11965, GF260/291, Area 3, layer 1/2, topsoil.
46. Straight-sided bowl with dropped, squared flange (R128), exterior surface rilled, fabric C100. PRN 13456, SF289, GF257, Area 4B/C (S. extension), layer 2.
47. Narrow-mouthed jar or jug with exaggerated flared rim and internal lid seating (R129), fabric Q100. PRN 12139, GF304, Area 3, Building 3, layer 3, ?in Kiln (fig. 7.19, layer 2).
48. Large bowl with heavy, moulded rim, internally bevelled (R130), impressed decoration on exterior of rim, fabric Q100. PRN 12261, GF173, Area 4A, topsoil.
49. Jar with everted, hooked rim (R131), exterior surface rilled, fabric Q100. PRN 13260, GF184, Area 4, layer 3, inside Building 4.

Fig 7.38 - Pottery cont/...

50. Jar with everted, hooked rim (R131), exterior surface rilled, fabric C100. PRN 13465, GF267, Area 3, ditch filling (ditch unlocated).
51. Jar with simple flared rim and sloping shoulder (R133), fabric Q100, PRNs 12322, 13056, GF221/227, Area 4B/C, topsoil.
52. Jar with simple flared rim, thickened internally at neck and sloping shoulders (R133), fabric G100. PRN 12403, GF162, Area 4, layer 2, Building 4, occupation.
53. Round-bodied jar with everted rim (R135), Black Burnished ware (E101). PRN 12556, GF174, Area 4A, layer 2.
54. Long-necked, carinated bowl with beaded rim (R136), fabric Q100. PRN 12767, GF230, Area 4A, layer 2, Building 4, floor layer. Same context as no. 25.
55. Possible lamp, perforated by two opposing, pre-firing holes and applied ?handle stump angled towards centre of vessel (R137), Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (E170). PRN 12733, GF210, Area 4A, layer 2.
56. Lower part of globular-bodied jar or flagon, fabric Q101. PRN 11933, GF281, Area 3, layer 2, outside Building 3.
57. Colander base, fabric Q100. PRN 10405, GF15, Area 2, topsoil.

The Ceramic Building Material

by Nicholas A. Wells

A total of 379 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 20,081 grammes, was examined. Despite the quantity, no complete tiles were recovered, though it was possible to partially reconstruct a few. In all, 93% (by number) of the excavated ceramic building material was found in stratified contexts.

Methodology

All ceramic building material fragments were quantified by number and weight according to form, dimensions (where surviving complete) and fabric. Details of diagnostic fragments were recorded, as was the presence of any distinguishing features, such as decoration. Material from stratified contexts was then analysed spatially (by area), the ultimate aim being to recover the distribution of certain forms of ceramic building material.

No attempt at a detailed fabric analysis has been attempted although they have been defined on a fairly broad level, with the aim of discerning some general correlation between fabric and form.

A full catalogue and contextual details can be found in the ODXII Catalogue and Archive.

Results

The form, manufacture and function of Roman ceramic building material has been discussed in detail by Brodribb (1987). Below is a summary of the different materials recovered listed according to Brodribb's established classifications. *Tables Finds/6-10* list all the ceramic building material (together with the stone building material) by area.

Tegulae

Four fragments of *tegulae* were identified, one unstratified. None were complete, although a fragment found in Layer 2 (Area 2) possibly exhibits a cut-away. No concentrations of *tegulae* fragments were observed, although it may be noted that none were found in Area 3, this being consistent with the relative paucity of ceramic building material in the latter area.

Pedalites

Four fragments of possible *pedalites*, one unstratified, were identified. One fragment (Fig. 7.35, 2) exhibits comb-incised keying. Another fragment, found in Area 2, has two shallow lateral incisions which may also result from keying.

Box Flue Tiles

Two fragments of box flue tile were found, one of which, found in Area 4 (Fig. 7.35, 3), exhibits comb-incised keying. The other (fig. 7.35, 4), from Area 2, has no further embellishment, but may possibly be an half-box flue.

Dimensions

No complete artefact was observed and as such true dimensions have been impossible to ascertain. The vast majority of material is very fragmented and no dimensions were apparent. Where widths were measurable (see ODXII Catalogue) they varied considerably.

Distribution and Discussion

It is clear from *Tables Finds/6-10* and the summary above, that no ceramic building material form is concentrated in any particular area. However, it is apparent that the vast majority of material (over half: 257 out of 379 pieces) was concentrated in Area 2. In this area, most was found in Layer 2, both within and outside the structure. All of the material was fragmented and highly abraded, a feature common in all areas.

This distribution is mirrored, not only by the ceramic assemblage (see **Pottery**, above) but also in that of the sandstone roof tiles (see **Worked and Utilised Stone**, above). The highly abraded nature of all this material suggests that it had a previous use. Certainly it is suggested that the ceramic building material was not used on site as roof tile/bricks and it seems likely that it was transported from a nearby site. Indeed, it is

probable that all the ceramic building material recovered from ODXII (and possibly also the stone roof tiles) has been redeposited, probably as hardcore, providing the basis for a floor both inside and outside the buildings.

If this is the case, Area 3 is likely to have had an earthen floor, as only four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered there. Area 1 had material distributed evenly throughout, while Area 4 had a smaller quantity of material (37 pieces), mostly concentrated in Layer 2.

List of illustrated objects

Fig. 7.35 - Ceramic Building Material

2. *Pedalis* with comb-incised keying. SF420, unstratified.
3. Box flue tile. SF186, Area 4, outside South wall of Building 4, topsoil (see fig. 7.27).
4. Box flue/ half-box flue tile. GF123, Area 2, layer 2.

The Ceramic Objects

by Nicholas A. Wells

Fourteen ceramic objects were identified, all fashioned from pottery sherds. These comprise mostly discs or counters, with one spindlewhorl.

Counters

A total of 13 sherds of pottery show evidence of having been smoothed and shaped to form circular discs. These have been interpreted as pottery counters (see ODXII Catalogue). Their definite function is uncertain, however it is postulated that they were used as gaming pieces (Crummy 1983, 93-4).

Of the 13 fragments, nine were in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (pottery fabric E170, see **Pottery**, above). Three were in coarse sandy greywares and one in Black Burnished Ware (BB1).

Overall the counters range in diameter from 14mm to 34mm; there is a tendency for the Oxfordshire ware counters to be smaller, with four examples less than 20mm in diameter. The greyware and BB1 counters range from 22mm to 34mm in diameter.

The counters came from all areas of the site: two from Area 1, five from Area 2, two from Area 3 and four from Area 4.

Spindlewhorl

One further worked pottery sherd was found in a pit in Area 1 (Pit 3; Fig. 7.35, 1). This is 25mm in diameter and 7mm thick, with a central perforation of 5mm in diameter. The fabric is a grog tempered ware commonly found on the site (see **Pottery**, above).

List of illustrated object

Fig. 7.35 - Ceramic Object

1. Spindlewhorl made from a pottery sherd, grog-tempered fabric. GF143, Area 1, Pit 3.

The Daub

by Nicholas A. Wells

A total of 54 fragments of daub, weighing 1,324 grammes, was recovered from excavations at ODXII. By far the largest amount was found within layers of Area 3, where 29 fragments, weighing 1,048 grammes, was recovered. The daub here was predominantly buff coloured with very frequent, moderately coarse to coarse (<5mm) calcareous and calcined flint inclusions.

The only daub to show any degree of application was found in Area 4. Here 12 fragments (154g) of a brown calcareous daub showed when reconstructed one long face with a short side - evidently from the corner of a room. The back of the face is striated lengthways and it seems that the daub was applied to a wooden beam, the striations caused by the graining of the wood. Furthermore there is also what appears to be an incomplete nail hole present.

Perhaps significantly, only one fragment of daub was found in Area 2.

The Shale and Jet Objects

by Lorraine Mephram

One shale spindlewhorl (*Fig. 7.35, 2*) and one jet bead (*Fig. 7.35, 4*) were recovered from ODXII. The spindlewhorl is biconical; this object came from the occupation layer in Area 1. The jet bead, of annular form, was a topsoil find in Area 4.

List of illustrated objects

Fig. 7.35 - Shale and Jet Objects

5. Biconical shale spindlewhorl, complete. SF35, Area 1, Building 1, occupation.
6. Annular jet bead. SF271, Area 4B/C, topsoil.

The Worked Bone

by Nicholas A. Wells

Two objects of worked bone were recovered from ODXII. The first is the tip of a decorated hair pin (*Fig. 7.35, 7*), which can be compared to Crummy's Type 2 pins from Colchester (1983, no. 441), a type which has a wide date range throughout the Romano-British period (*ibid.*, 21). The pin came from a ditch fill in Area 2. The second object is a small length of curved strip, width 7mm, possibly from a bracelet; this came from the first phase occupation layers in Area 3.

Illustrated object

7.35 - Worked Bone

7. Decorated head from a hairpin. SF105, Area 2, ditch.

The Animal Bones

by Barbara Noddle

Introductory note

by Michael J. Allen

The following report is extracted from three archive reports prepared by Barbara Noddle in the early 1970s. These were summaries of the faunal remains from the Overton Down sites and Wroughton Copse. The data for ODXII has been extracted largely from her reports and although some further bone that may not have been reported upon was found, this was assessed (see archive) and does not significantly add to the overall interpretation provided by Noddle. Barbara Noddle's original work was written as a combined report of the animal bone from both the sites on Overton Down and that at Wroughton Copse. The aim of her reports was to assess animal husbandry over time, rather than provide detailed information about the disposal patterns and spatial variation on each site. The detailed information of material by context does not survive in the current archive. The faunal report below is accompanied by the short report on the non domestic and amphibian bones extracted from an original report by N E King and P J Fowler. The full discussion of all the animal bone material from Overton Down and Wroughton Copse is presented separately.

Introduction

A total of 3,133 bones were examined from ODXII and are dealt with here as a single assemblage (*Table Finds/21*). (NOTE: no details are present in the archive to give any spatial or feature distribution MJA). This total excludes the small mammal and amphibian bones discussed below.

As with ODXI, following identification, the proportion of fragments per species, minimum number of individuals, percentage of species, proportions of certain anatomical fragments and the age of those individuals (where possible) were calculated (*Table Finds/21*). The bones were also measured where appropriate and this data is used in the discussion of the changes in animal husbandry, agricultural practice and dietary habitats in the overview of the faunal remains. The analysis of the bones from this site were mainly undertaken for this aim and an overview of the material is discussed in Chapter 13 of the FYFOD monograph.

Numbers of recognisable fragments are generally not used as one bone may be broken into a number of recognisable fragments and fragmentation on this site in particular is high.

Preservation and recovery

Bone fragmentation was considerable and this the preservation of material is reflected, in part, by the proportion of loose teeth. Although the high percentage of sheep teeth (70 - 90%) indicates good recovery on site, it also suggested poor preservation of the remaining faunal material. Indeed, loose teeth made up about one third of the bovine and pig fragments. These proportions are higher than ODXI.

Results

Proportions of species (common domestic animals) (*Tables Finds/21 and Finds/23*)

Sheep and cattle together comprise nearly 75% of the assemblage. Sheep is the dominant species representing over 50% of the bones by either fragments or numbers of individuals whereas cattle are only c 13% when assessed as minimum number of individuals (*Table Finds/21*). By fragments pig and horse are almost equal (about 10%) but when assessed as numbers of individual pig are more common (13%) than horse.

Sheep. The remains of over 140 individuals were found; waste parts, particularly teeth, predominate. One pair of horn cores appear to be those of a ram, which could conceivably be a bought in ram for stock improvement. The bones were in a very fragmentary state and this may, as a consequence, include some goat and roe deer bones

The age range of the animals, mainly assessed from the teeth (archive) shows that most of the animals are mature, with a few youthful casualties and a few killed in their second or third autumns. Thus the flock appears to have been kept for wool or for sale of young stock.

Cattle. The remains of 35 individuals were found, represented mainly by waste parts. One pair of horn cores is rather larger and could have come from a bull. The range of ages (*see archive*) seems to indicate that the majority of animals were killed in their second autumn however, the sample is too small to attach great weight to it. It is possible that these animals would be rather immature to give the best beef and might indicate a shortage of winter feed or hard winters. There is a slight predominance of mandibles and teeth over edible joints on the site.

The cattle appear to have been of the Celtic Shorthorn type, to judge from the horn cores. The animals were very small compared with modern ones, but this is may be due in part to poor nutrition; it is unlikely that animals from this period reached their full genetic potential owing to scarcity of winter fodder. The measurements are within the range given by Jewell (1963) for Romano-British cattle.

Pig. The remains of 36 individuals were found, most of them of breeding age at least.

Horse. The remains of 21 individuals were found, mainly represented by the teeth. Two of the animals are below working age and were presumably killed as casualties of for meat.

Less common domestic and wild animals. The remains of six red deer and five roe deer were found, indicating that some hunting was carried out, though the greater part of the meat used was supplied by domestic animals. Hare was also found and is presumed to have been hunted, the rabbit bones are considered intrusive.

The red deer included the base of an antler and brow tine, the measurements of which suggest an extremely large animal, certainly exceeding that of the present day British race of this deer (circumference of antler coronet was 310mm and between the brow any bay tine was 220mm).

Pig bones include two metatarsals over 100 mm long and a lower third molar tooth over 40 mm long, which are most likely to have come from a wild animal.

The remains of seven dogs were found, they included at least one of approximately alsatian size, a considerably smaller dog and a puppy. There seem to be more individuals under one year old than one would expect, although the numbers are too

small to be really significant; it is possible that the animals suffered from a puppy disease such as distemper.

No goats were identified from this site.

Birds. There were very few bird bones but some domestic fowl (identified by Mr D Bramwell) were present and included mainly leg bones from two individuals. One right tibia was noted of an unusually small form.

Age of animals at death

Ageing followed the methods provided by Silver (1953) based on dental evidence and that of epiphysical closure. It is recognised by the however that there are limitations of using this data.

The age at which an animal is killed is used to give some indication of their economic function (see ODXI). The proportions of mature individuals are summarised in *Table Finds/22* and are used to provide some information about the agricultural systems in use. In the case of cattle, the proportion of mature individuals is about 26% and this indicates few of the cattle were being used for traction or dairy production, the majority being bred for consumption. For sheep *c* 50% were mature animals which may be interpreted their use for wool production in the Romano-British period, perhaps following the introduction of an improved wool sheep by the Romans (Ryder 1964).

Small mammal and amphibian bones

NOTE (MJA): A report on the non-domestic mammalian and amphibian bones from pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age settlements on Overton Down was prepared by NE King and PJ Fowler. The identifications discussed below are extracted from that report.

The bones of small mammal and amphibians have not been fully quantified. The species recorded included short-tailed vole (*Microtus agrestis*), water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) and frog (*Rana tempoaria*). Most animals were presented by their skulls or lower jaws only (but these are the largest and most easily recognisable elements). The frog, however, were presented by limb bones and vertebrae but no skulls.

Nearly all the animals were recovered from pits with and are almost certainly pit-fall victims.

The range of animals present is typical of open downland pasture and fields; frogs migrate and are often pit-fall victims. Only the water vole is more unusual in this context, being 1.5kms from the present river. It may, however, have lived in wetter niches in the Down Barn/Pickledean dry valley, which may have supported a winterbourne. It could also have lived in ungrazed vegetation (Jewell pers. comm.) and so would not be out of place in this landscape.

Conclusions

The bones were very fragmentary and consisted largely of loose teeth, apart from the pits, where bones may have been buried in an articulated state. It is probable that only a small proportion of the bones deposited survived because of the high largely

mechanical fragmentation. Sheep farming was prevalent and flocks were kept for their wool, while the cattle were largely meat rather than dairy herds. Horses were also fairly common (8%).

The Glass Beads

by Nicholas A. Wells

A total of seven glass beads was found. All are of typical Roman form and fall into three broad groups, as defined by Guido (1978).

Short Cylinder Beads

Four short cut cylinder beads were found, all opaque green in colour (*e.g.* Fig 7.35, 8). All range from to 3 to 5.5mm in length and 4 to 5mm in diameter, all with a central perforation.

Long Cylinder Bead

One bead is of long cylinder type (Fig. 7.35, 9), 9 mm in length and 3 mm in diameter, with a central perforation.

Long Polygonal Beads

The remaining two beads, both translucent sea-green in colour, are long polygonal types (Fig.7.35, 10). These are, respectively, 10mm and 9mm in length, with diameters of 5mm and 4.5mm.

Five of the beads were found within Area 4, two from Layer 3 within Building 4 and three from the flinty layer to the south-east (Layer 2). This group comprises three of the short cut cylinders, the long cylinder and one of the polygonal beads; some or all of these may have derived from the same item of jewellery. It may be noted that a jet bead was also found within Area 4, this one from the topsoil (see above, **Shale and Jet Objects**). The other two glass beads came from, respectively, Area 3 (topsoil) and Area 1 (Layer 2).

List of illustrated objects

Fig.7.35 - Glass Beads

8. Short cut cylinder bead, opaque green. SF246, Area 4A, layer 3, inside Building 3.
9. Long cylinder bead, translucent sea-green. SF163, Area 4A, layer 2.
10. Long polygonal bead, translucent sea-green. SF248, Area 4A, layer 3, inside Building 3.

The Marine Shell

by Sarah F. Wyles

A total of 54 oyster shells (minimum number of individuals: 51) was recovered from the site from 40 contexts. They were in a rather fragmentary and worn condition. No other marine shell was retrieved and the oysters do not appear to have formed a significant part of the diet. The oysters are tabulated by area in *Table Finds/24*, which demonstrates that the largest number of shells derived from Area 3, where they were spread throughout topsoil and occupation layers. Smaller quantities came from Areas

1 and 2, again spread throughout the stratigraphic sequence for each area. No oyster shell was recovered from Area 4.

The Charcoal

by Rowena Gale

The identification of charcoal fragments was undertaken on three samples from ODXII. The charcoal was prepared and identified using standard techniques. Where possible the presence of stem, sapwood or heartwood was noted. The results are summarised in *Table Finds/25*. The following taxa were identified:

Corylus sp., hazel

Fraxinus sp., ash

Prunus sp., which includes *P. avium*, wild cherry, *P. padus*, bird cherry, *P. spinosa*, blackthorn. It is not usually possible to separate the members of this genus using anatomical methods.

Quercus sp., oak

Ulmus sp., elm.