

Prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval settlement at Glyn House, Ewell

DAN STANSBIE and DAVID SCORE

with contributions by

PAUL BOOTH, DANA CHALLINOR, KATE CRAMP, EMILY EDWARDS and EMMA-JAYNE EVANS

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology at Glyn House, Ewell, revealed prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval remains. Activity of Mesolithic date was identified by the presence of residual microliths. Two concentric curvilinear gullies (one of which contained a barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead) and a tree-throw hole in the south-eastern corner of the site indicated an area of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity. Lying to the north-west of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity was evidence of Roman settlement, including a dense band of intercutting pits, part of a post-built structure and several deep pits (not fully excavated because of their depth), possibly well shafts. Overlying the Roman settlement was a post-medieval structure, which may have been the remains of the rectory, and a number of garden features.

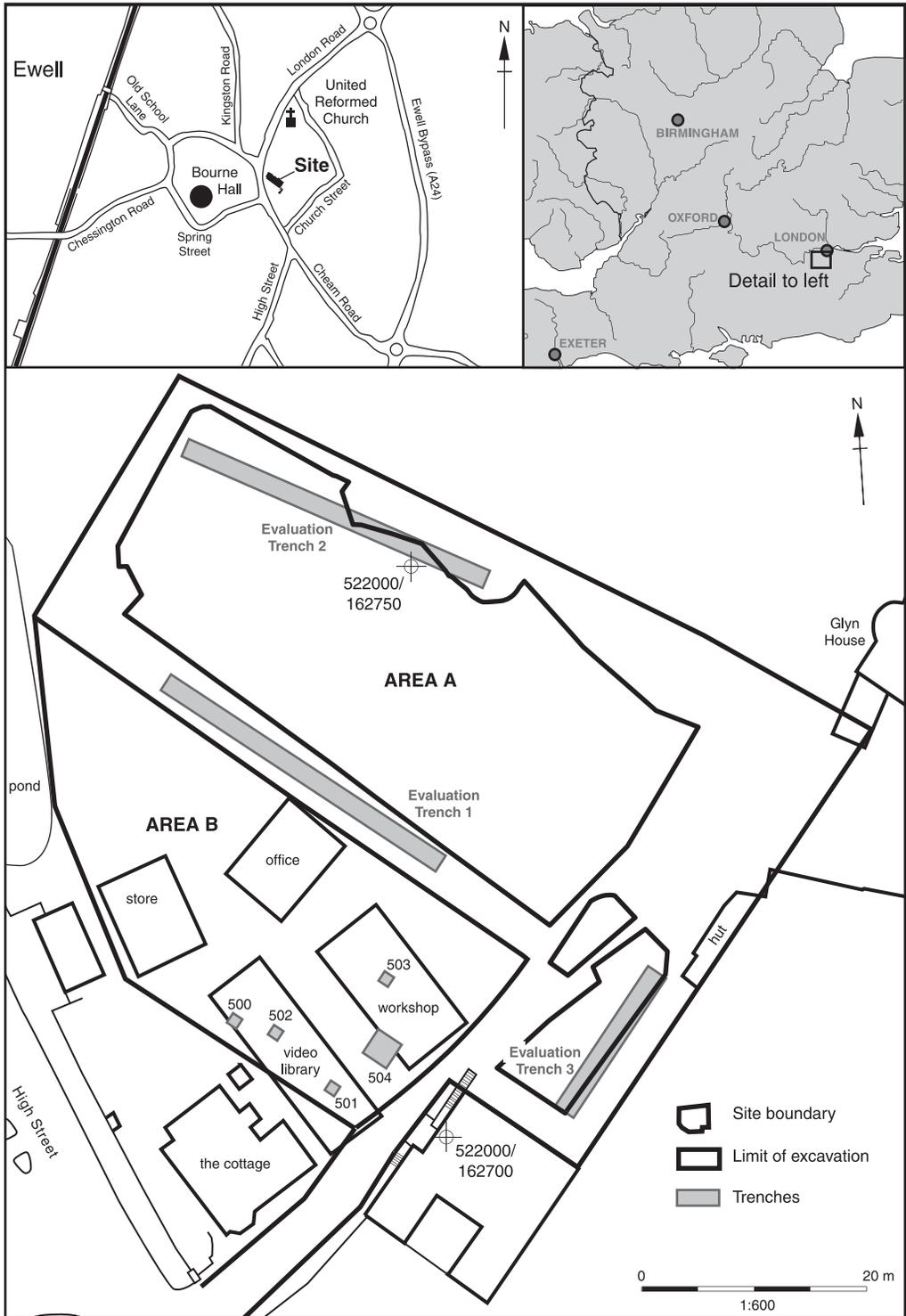
Introduction

LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

Work in advance of property development at Glyn House, Ewell was carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA) between March and April 2003 on behalf of Try Homes Ltd. The development site comprised an area measuring a maximum of 80 x 80m located in the centre of the historic settlement of Ewell (TQ 220 627). The site was bounded by the High Street to the south-west, an area of mature trees and hedges to the north-west, the Glyn House grounds to the north-east and a wall and a number of properties to the south and east (fig 1). The British Geological Survey 1:50,000-scale map (sheet 270) indicates that the site is located mainly on Upper Chalk, with a thin band of Thanet Beds just to the north of the site. However, a recent geotechnical survey (Mike Rowell Associates Ltd 2002) indicates that the layer of Thanet Sands lies further south and underlies the entire site. Immediately to the north of the site is one of a number of springs which make up the headwaters of the Hogsmill river. The site lies at *c* 35m OD, sloping gradually towards the High Street, which lies to the south-west.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Archaeological evidence from the environs of Ewell indicates occupation from the Paleolithic to the present day. A Levallois flake, two small hand axes and three other flakes were found in the Ewell area in 1960 (Wymer 1987, 26). Sixteen different sites in the environs of Ewell yielded evidence of Mesolithic activity in the form of worked flint (Wymer 1977, 273–4), including Glyn House itself (*ibid*, 273). A number of sites in the vicinity have yielded evidence of Neolithic activity including a Late Neolithic discoidal knife (Cotton 1984, 225–6, fig 1.1). Evidence of Bronze Age activity is represented by two sites with Bronze Age flintwork (Needham 1987, 129) and a possible Beaker burial dating to between *c* 2300 and 1700BC, which lay 100m to the south of the development site (Grinsell 1987, 5; Orton 1997). During the Iron Age it appears that the environs of Ewell were relatively well settled, as large quantities of Iron Age pottery (Lowther 1946, 12–15) have been recovered from a number of sites in the area, along with a 4th–3rd century BC La Tène I brooch (Cotton 1982, 169–71). Excavations have revealed a range of evidence for the Romano-British settlement of Ewell (Abdy & Bierton 1997), which may have developed into a small village. These developments



After Try Homes Ltd (2002)

Fig 1 Glyn House, Ewell. Site location. (© Crown Copyright. NC/2004/33611)

can be partly explained by the presence of Stane Street, which linked Chichester and London and ran *c* 70m to the east of the development area. In addition to the settlement evidence, a Romano-British burial mound (*ibid*, 135) was discovered *c* 20m to the east of the site and ten ritual shafts were found in the area of the former Staneway House (Diamond 1847; Warne 1860, 309). The presence of an extensive Saxon cemetery (Lowther 1935) in the Grove and Ewell House area indicates a Saxon settlement somewhere within the locality. Later medieval remains include the village of Ewell itself (Titford 1973, 27–32), and the deserted medieval village of Cuddington (*ibid*, 32–3) which lay *c* 400m to the east of the development site. There are a number of sites within Ewell where the remains of later medieval buildings have been discovered, along with various scatters of medieval pottery and coins (Barfoot *et al* 1974; Biddle 1961). In addition, the medieval church of St Mary the Virgin lies just to the east of the site (Blair 1991, 137), within the grounds of Glyn House. During the post-medieval period Ewell began to expand and by 1618 had developed into a market town (*VCH*, 3, 278). The Senex map of 1729 shows the settlement fairly well established, with numerous houses, including some in the vicinity of the site. By 1802 the Ewell enclosure map shows a number of structures fronting on to the High Street, along the south-western edge of the grounds of Glyn House. Two of these lay within the area of the site. By 1869 the 1st edition 6-inch OS map of the area shows that the site formed part of the grounds of the rectory, with a small building to the south and the coach house to the south-west. The remaining area of the site was fairly well wooded and undeveloped, and remained this way until 1973 when buildings were constructed; those buildings have now been demolished to make way for the present development.

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

A desk-top assessment completed by OA (OA 2002) led to an archaeological evaluation (OA 2003). The development site was divided into Areas A and B. Area A consisted of three 1.8m-wide trenches, two measuring 30m in length and one of 15m and Area B consisted of four test pits, and the excavation of a soakaway (fig 1). Following the evaluation of Area A three open area trenches (fig 1) were stripped of soil cover using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and the exposed surface was then hand cleaned. All visible features were planned and recorded and a sample of features was excavated. Plans were drawn at 1:100 and sections at 1:20. All sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Environmental samples were taken where deposits were identified as having environmental potential. The archive will be deposited with Bourne Hall Museum under site code GHO 03.

Features found during the evaluation of Area A (figs 2–3)

A number of features were found during the evaluation of Area A, which contributed artefacts to the finds assemblages discussed below. These included a circular pit (104) of uncertain date, situated towards the south-eastern end of trench 1 and a sub-rectangular pit (113) of probable post-medieval date containing a horse burial. Running across trench 3 half way along its length was a ditch (320) orientated north-east/south-west, which was almost certainly a continuation of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age curvilinear gully 676/685. This was cut by an oval pit (318) containing six sherds of Iron Age pottery and some residual flintwork.

Layers observed during the watching brief on Area B (fig 1)

During the watching brief carried out on Area B four test pits (500–503) were excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site (fig 1). These revealed several layers of occupation debris and made-ground dating to the post-medieval period, together with a 20th century soakaway (504).

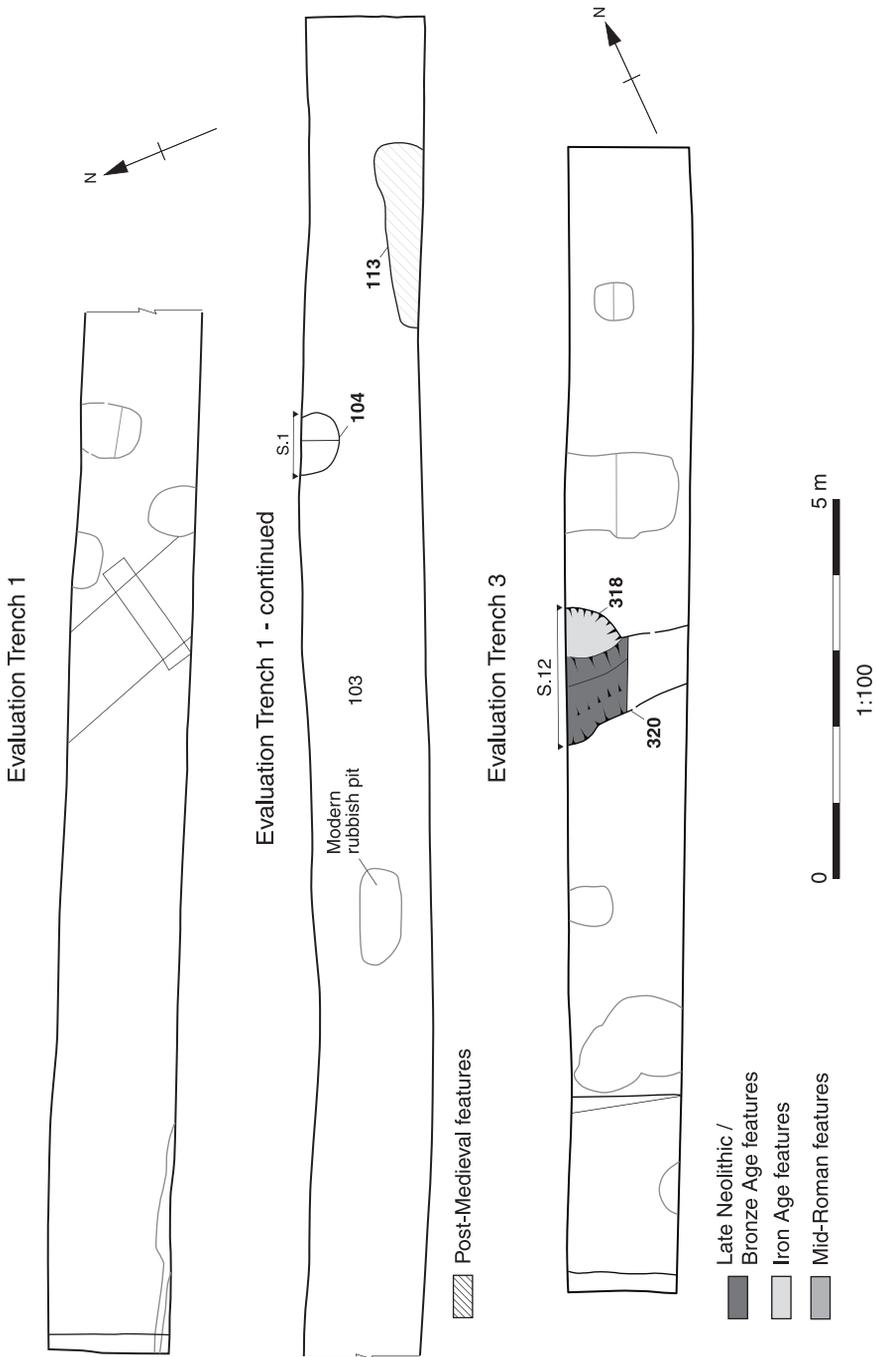
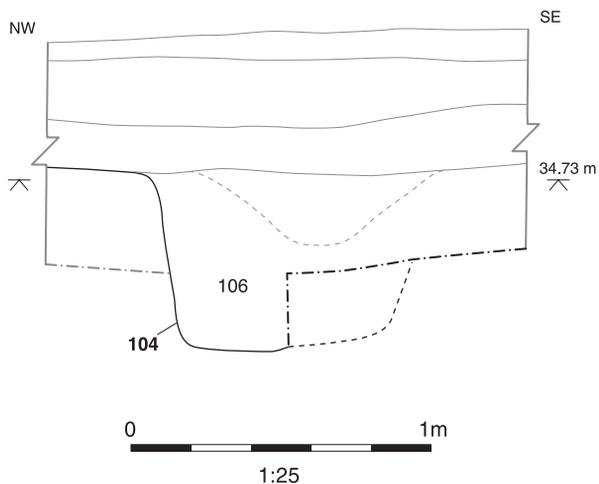


Fig 2 Glyn House, Ewell. Plan of evaluation trenches 1 and 3.

Trench 1: section 1



Trench 3: section 12

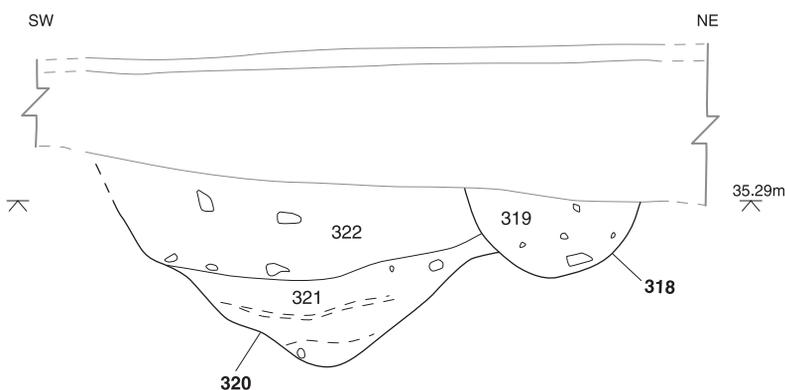


Fig 3 Glyn House, Ewell. Sections of features in evaluation trenches 1 and 3.

Features found during the excavation of Area A

MESOLITHIC and EARLY NEOLITHIC ACTIVITY

Finds of flint from the south-eastern part of the site suggest Mesolithic and Early Neolithic activity in this area, which was situated near to two natural water sources and would have made an ideal settlement location. However, the majority of this material was residual and no features of this date have been identified.

LATE NEOLITHIC/BRONZE AGE ACTIVITY (figs 4–5)

Two curvilinear gullies (690/688 and 676/685) occupied the south-eastern corner of the site, the smaller of the two (690/688) lying inside the larger feature (676/685). Both features extended beyond the limits of the excavated area at either end and were therefore partially

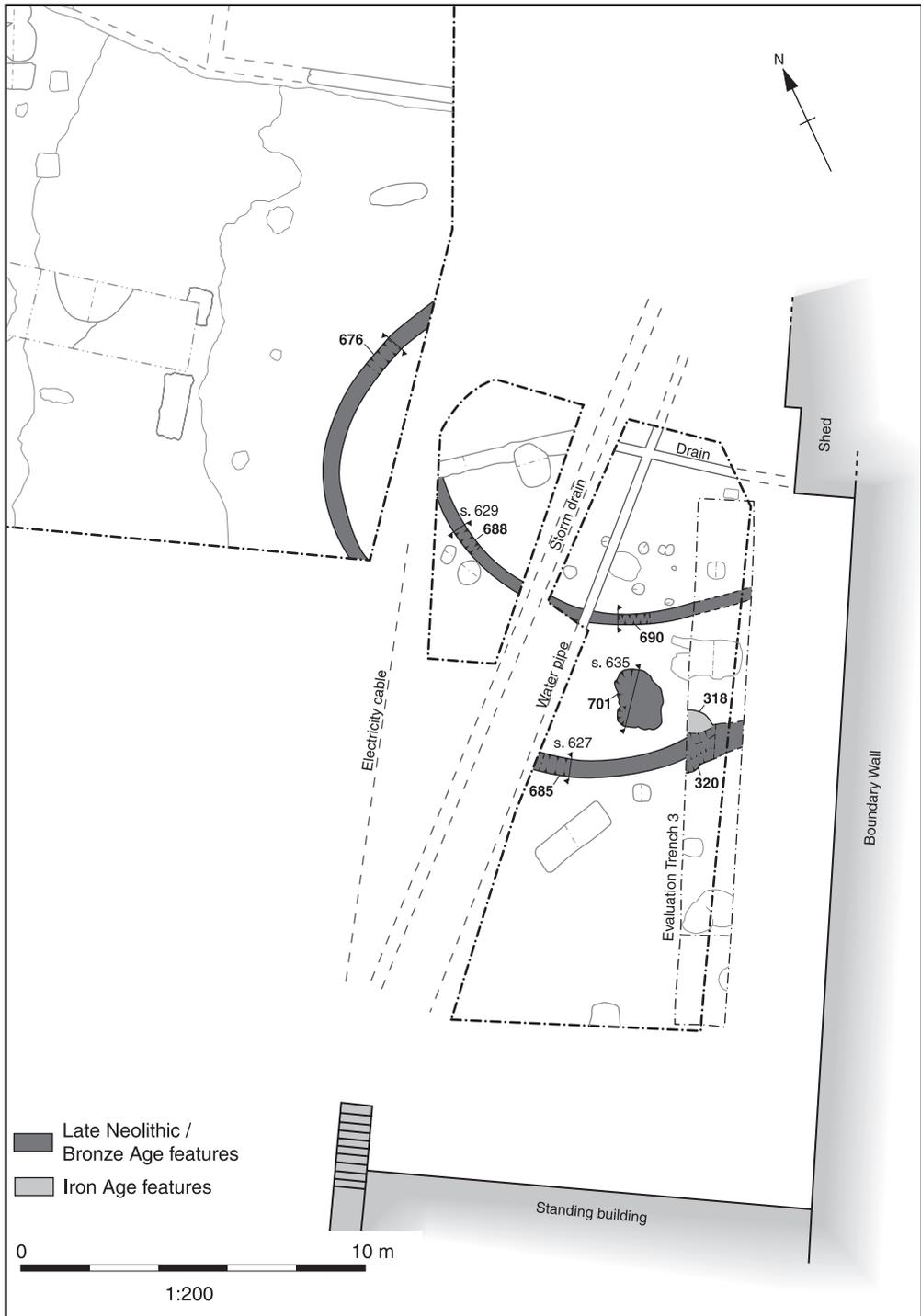


Fig 4 Glyn House, Ewell. Plan showing Late Neolithic/Bronze Age and Iron Age activity.

obscured. Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age worked flint from the fills of both features, including some *in-situ* knapping debris from the larger feature (685/676), strongly suggests that these ditches were of a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Lying 2m from the south-eastern edge of the excavation, between the two curvilinear gullies was a tree-throw hole (701), also containing worked flint of Bronze Age date.

Curvilinear gully 690/688 (figs 4–5)

Curvilinear gully 690/688 was 6.1m long and 0.52m wide with an average depth of 0.19m. In profile the ditch was saucer-shaped at its southern end, but narrowed to form a U-shape towards its northern end. The ditch fills (689, 691) comprised a friable brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of flint. In total, 21 pieces of worked flint of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were recovered from the fill.

Curvilinear gully 676/685 (figs 4–5)

Curvilinear gully 676/685 was 8.5m long and 0.65m wide, with an average depth of 0.17m. In profile the ditch was saucer-shaped at its northern end but narrowed to form a V-shape at its southern end. The ditch fills (675, 684) comprised a friable grey silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of flint and stone. A total of 1065 pieces of worked flint of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date came from the fills.

Tree-throw hole 701 (figs 4–5)

Tree-throw hole 701 was amorphous in plan and asymmetric in profile, having a steeply sloping western side and a more gradual eastern side with an uneven base. It was 1.9m long, 1.7m wide and 0.33m deep. The tree-throw hole was filled with a friable light brown sandy

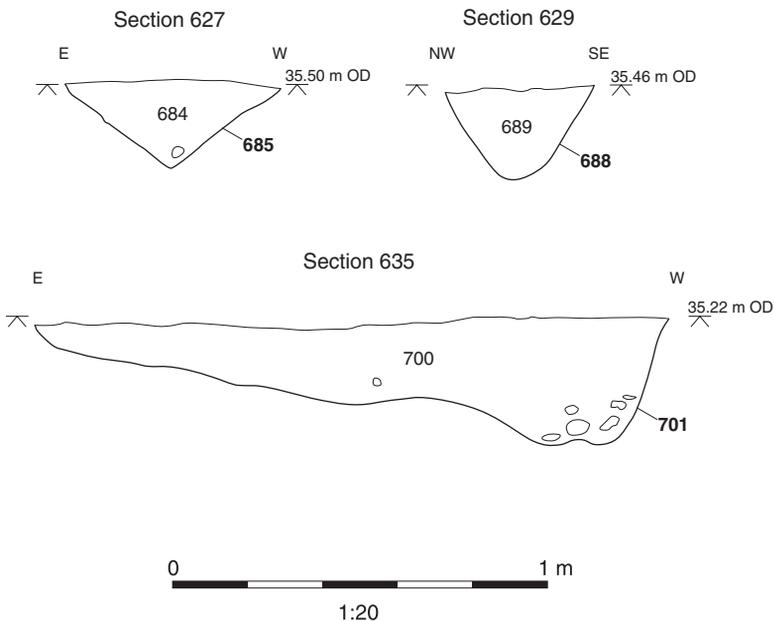


Fig 5 Glyn House, Ewell. Sections of Late Neolithic/Bronze Age features.

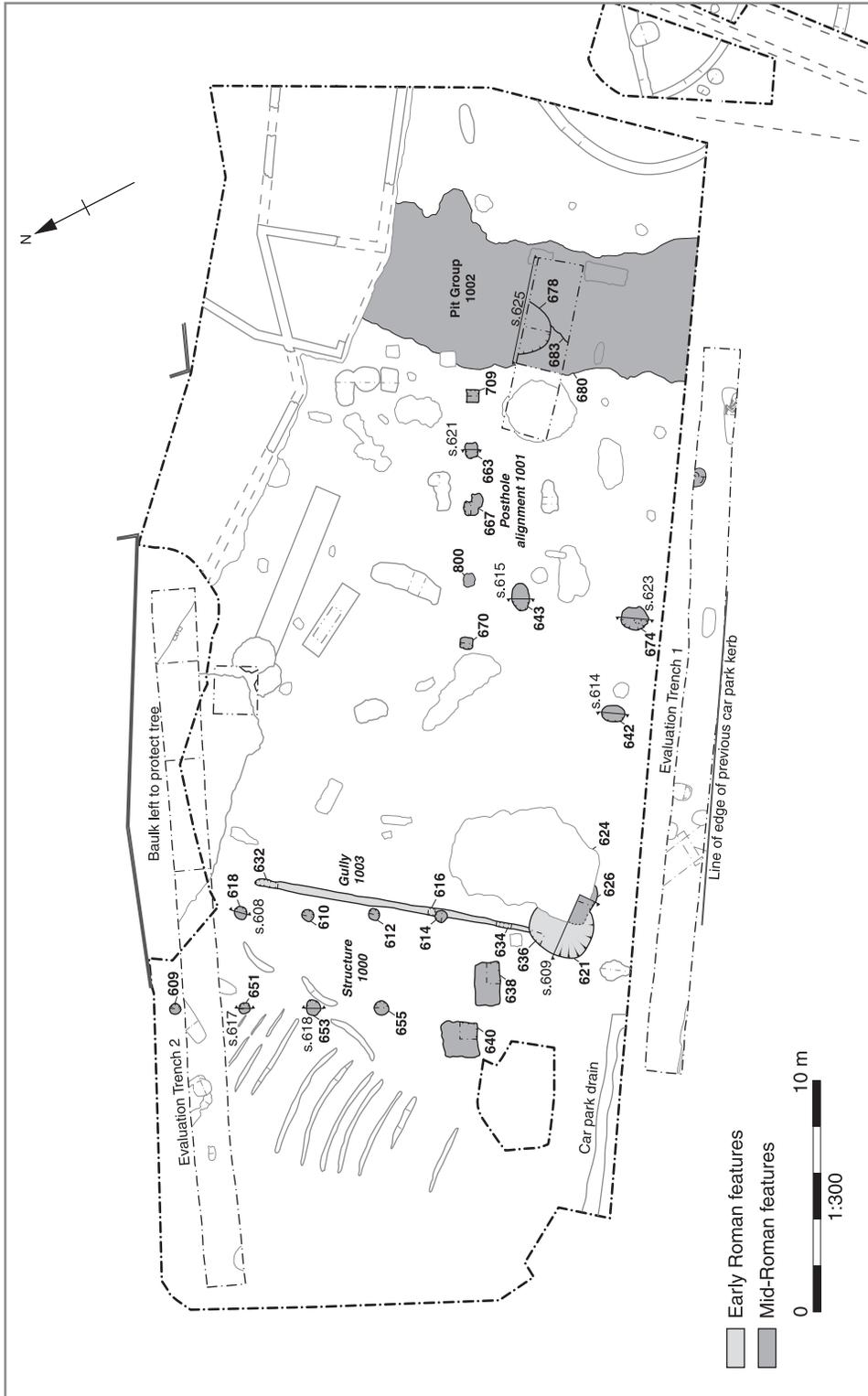


Fig 6 Glyn House, Ewell. Plan of Roman activity.

silt (700) containing occasional inclusions of stone. A collection of nineteen pieces of worked flint, in good condition and of Mesolithic or Neolithic date, came from the fill.

EARLY ROMAN ACTIVITY (fig 6)

A single linear gully (1003) ran across the northern part of the site from north-east to south-west (fig 6). This feature was cut by a posthole, which was probably part of a later post-built structure. Immediately to the south-west of the gully was a pit (621) containing late 1st to early 2nd century pottery.

Gully 1003 (figs 6–7)

Gully 1003 was linear in plan, 12m long and 0.39m wide, with an average depth of 0.11m. In profile it was generally V-shaped but widened towards the northern end to form a U-shape. The gully fills (617, 631 and 633) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy silt. A single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery was recovered.

Pit 621 (figs 6–7)

Pit 621 was sub-circular in plan and bowl-shaped in profile, having steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 2.65m long by 1.9m wide and 0.95m deep. The pit fill (620) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy silt with occasional pieces of stone. The fill yielded 68 sherds of late 1st or early 2nd century AD pottery, together with 84 fragments of animal bone.

MID-ROMAN ACTIVITY (2nd–3rd CENTURIES AD)

The prehistoric activity in the south-eastern corner of the site was superseded by a 2nd–3rd century AD settlement, which occupied the central part of the excavated area. A dense cluster of intercutting pits (pit group 1002) ran across the site from south-west to north-east, close to the south-eastern limit of the site. Immediately to the north of the pit cluster was an alignment of five square postholes running north-west to south-east (posthole alignment 1001), which may have formed part of a post-built structure. To the north of the posthole alignment were two parallel rows of circular postholes running north-east to south-west, representing a second post-built structure (structure 1000). The south-westernmost posthole (616), which may not have been part of the building, cut earlier gully 1003. Scattered to the south-west of the possible buildings were six randomly spaced pits, perhaps representing domestic rubbish pits.

Structure 1000 (figs 6–7)

Structure 1000 comprised eight postholes (609–610, 612, 614, 618, 651, 653 and 655), in two parallel rows orientated north-east to south-west and about 4m apart. The postholes were circular in plan, generally flat based with steep sides and averaged 0.58m in diameter by 0.14m in depth. The fills comprised friable brown silty sand containing occasional inclusions of chalk, flint and charcoal flecks. Four sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fills of postholes 618, 651, 653 and 655.

Posthole alignment 1001 (figs 6 and 8)

Posthole alignment 1001 comprised a line of five postholes (663, 667, 670, 709 and 800) orientated north-west to south-east. The postholes, square or sub-rectangular in plan, with flat bases and near-vertical sides, averaged 0.58m in length by 0.57m in width and 0.37m in depth. They were filled by friable brown sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of chalk

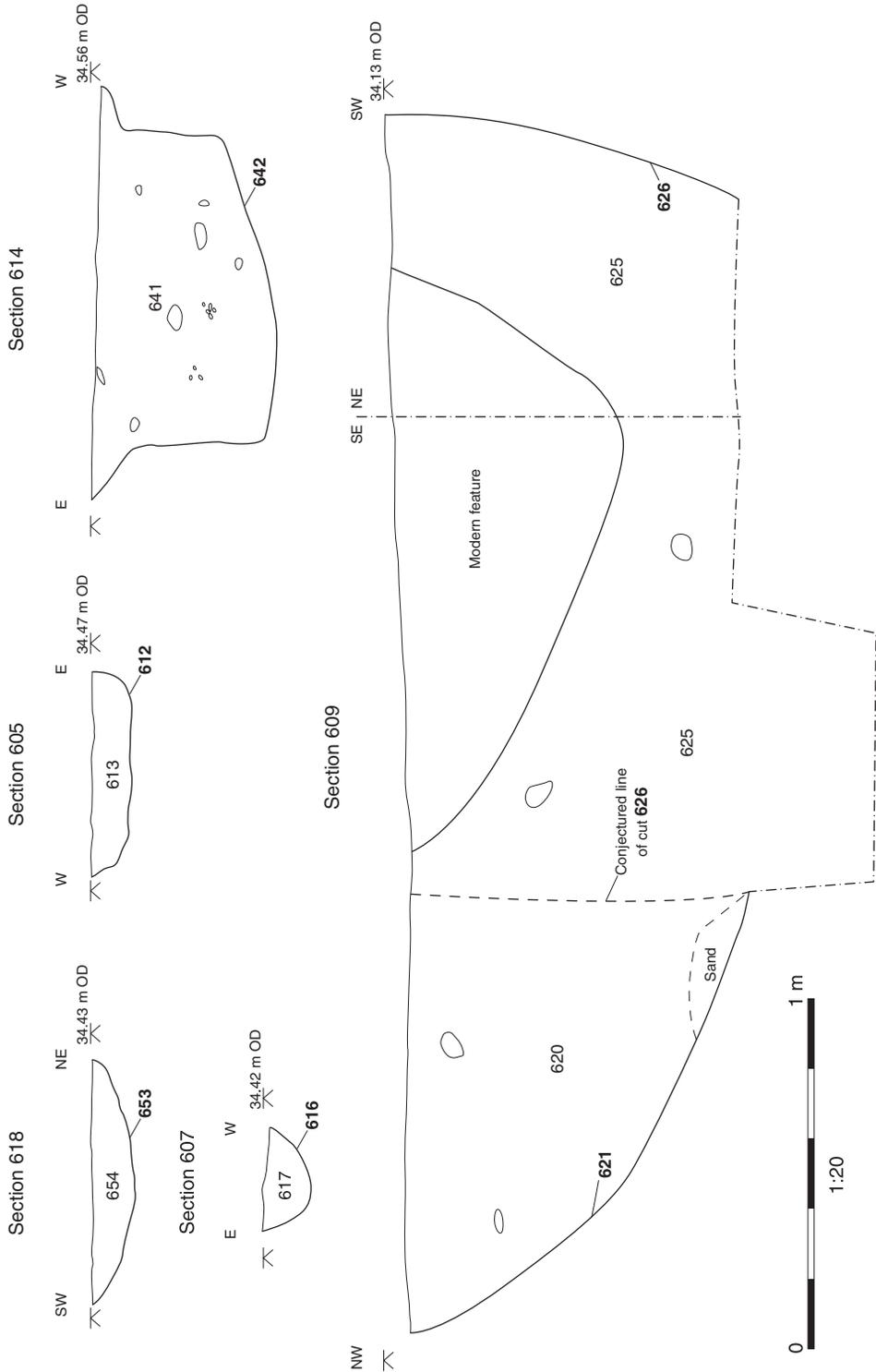


Fig 7 Glyn House, Ewell. Sections of Roman features.

and flint. Four sherds of Roman pottery including a sherd of Central Gaulish samian and two sherds of Alice Holt ware were recovered from postholes 667 and 663, and an intrusive clay pipe stem and a fragment of post-medieval glass from posthole 709.

Pit 640 (fig 6)

Pit 640 was not fully excavated because of its depth. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan and straight-sided, being 1.7m long x 1.5m wide and more than 1.2m deep. The single fill (639) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of stone. Thirteen sherds of mid-2nd to late 3rd century pottery and two sherds of late prehistoric pottery came from the fill.

Pit 638 (fig 6)

Pit 638 was not fully excavated because of its depth. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan and steep sided, being 1.8m long x 1.1m wide and more than 1.2m deep. The single fill (637) comprised a friable dark brown/grey sandy silt. Fourteen sherds of mid-2nd to late 3rd century pottery were recovered.

Pit 626 (figs 7–8)

Pit 626 was not fully excavated because of its depth. The pit was sub-circular in plan and steep-sided, being 1.45m long x 0.84m wide and more than 1.3m deep. The single fill (625) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy silt with occasional inclusions of stone. The fill contained sixteen sherds of 2nd to late 3rd century Roman pottery, including a single sherd of South Spanish amphora, a single sherd of Central Gaulish samian and fourteen sherds of undiagnostic coarseware along with eleven fragments of animal bone.

Pit 642 (figs 6–7)

Pit 642 was oval in plan and U-shaped in profile, having very straight sides and a concave base. It was 1.2m long x 0.94m wide and 0.52m deep. The single fill (641) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy silt with occasional inclusions of flint and stone. Two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fill, together with three pieces of worked flint.

Pit 674 (figs 6 and 8)

Pit 674 was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, having irregular sides and a flat base. It was 0.52m long x 0.3m wide and 0.42m deep. The pit fill (673) consisted of a friable brown/grey sandy silt with occasional inclusions of chalk. One unidentified animal tibia, four fragments of worked flint and three fragments of undated ceramic building material were recovered from the fill.

Pit 643 (figs 6 and 8)

Pit 643 was oval in plan and V-shaped in profile, having steeply sloping concave sides and a narrow rounded base. It was 1.2m long x 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep. The pit fill (644) comprised a friable greenish/brown silty sand with occasional chalk flecks and small flints. Three sherds of 2nd to late 3rd century Roman pottery and an oyster shell were recovered from the fill.

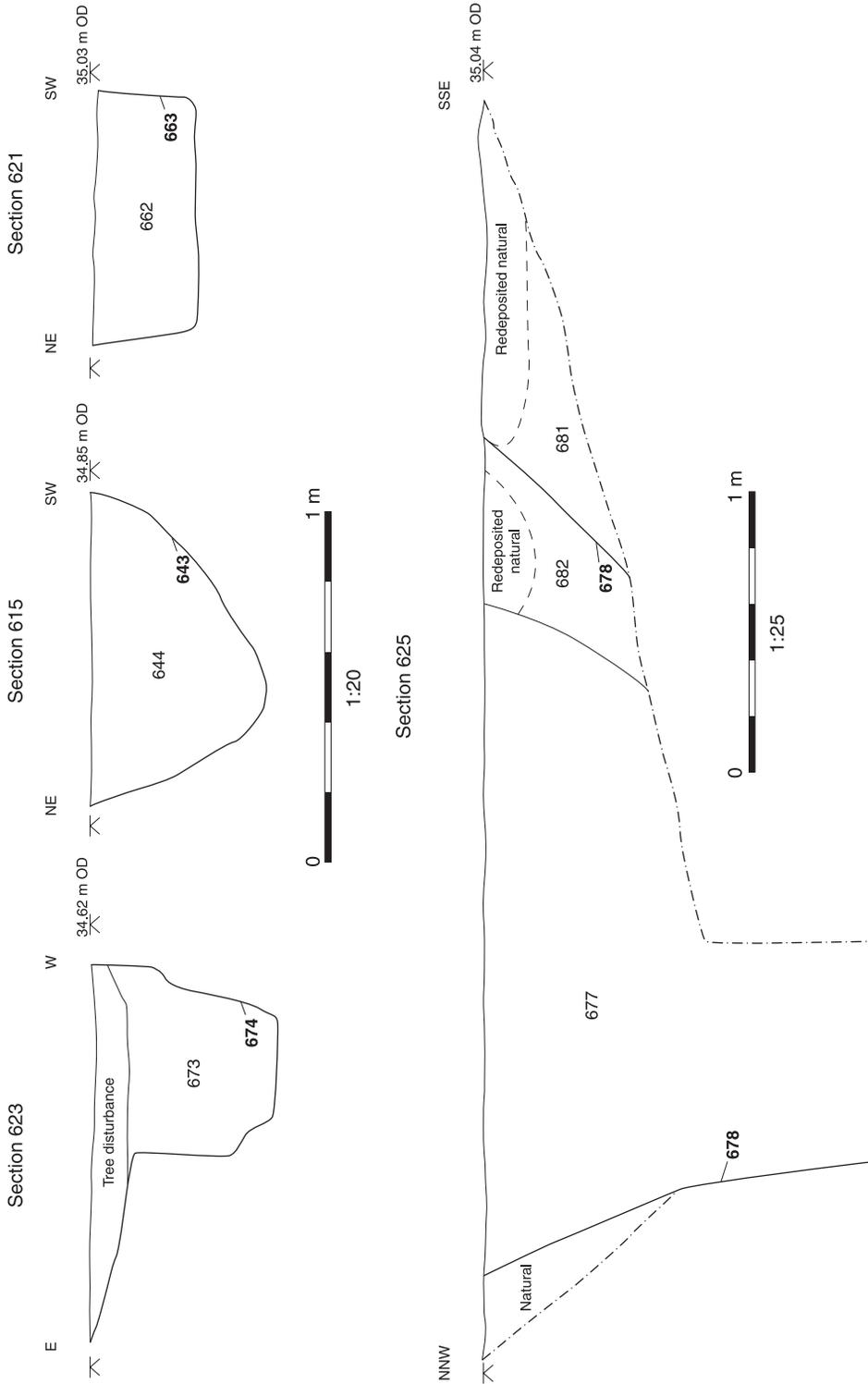


Fig 8 Glyn House, Ewell. Sections of Roman features.

Pit group 1002 (figs 6 and 8)

Pit group 1002 comprised a dense band of intercutting pits running north-east to south-west across the site and continuing beyond the limits of excavation. It was *c.* 13.5m long x 6m wide and over 1.2m deep. A 7.5 x 2m trench was excavated by machine through this cluster of pits to a depth of 1.2m, revealing two of the pits (678 and 683) in plan and section. Pit 678 was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, having diffuse edges. The primary pit fill (682) comprised a friable brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. A steep-sided recut through this fill was in turn filled by a friable brown sandy silt (677) and contained occasional flint nodules and fragments of chalk. A total of 142 sherds of 2nd to late 3rd century Roman pottery including 121 sherds of Alice Holt/Farnham ware was recovered from fill 677, together with 49 fragments of animal bone, 43 pieces of worked flint, a broken bone pin, seventeen fragments of ceramic building material and two oyster shells. Pit 683 was unclear in plan and section, but appeared to be a very large sub-circular pit, with steeply sloping concave sides. The pit fill (681) comprised a friable brown sandy silt, with occasional small stones. Three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

Post-medieval activity

Apart from the presence of several sherds of medieval pottery, there is no evidence for activity between the end of the 3rd century AD and the post-medieval period. A large stone, flint and brick built structure (718) of post-medieval date was constructed in the eastern corner of the site, overlying the eastern end of 2nd to late 3rd century Roman pit group 1002 (fig 9). Lying to the north of this structure was a large square cut feature (646), which may have been a cellar and to the north and east were a number of garden features including the remains of flower beds and cultivation plots.

Structure 718 (fig 9)

Structure 718 comprised the stone, flint and brick built foundations of a rectangular building occupying the south-eastern corner of the site and orientated north-west to south-east. This structure consisted of a main building to the north-west and an outhouse building to the south-east, in total measuring 21.8m long x 7.5m maximum width. The remains of the building ran beyond the limits of excavation to the east and south-east and were overlain by a layer of demolition debris (721) comprising brick, stone, tile and flint. Two square features lying immediately to the south-west of structure 718 may represent postholes associated with the building.

Structure 646 (fig 9)

Structure 646 comprised a large square feature of uncertain dimensions and depth that lay immediately to the north-west of structure 718 and may have been the remains of the cellar of this building. This feature was backfilled by a friable brown sandy silt containing many fragments of brick, chalk and stone.

Garden features

Lying to the north and west of structure 718 were numerous rectangular and linear features which may be interpreted as garden features. These tended to run parallel with, or at right-angles to the building and were probably the remains of flower beds and cultivation plots.

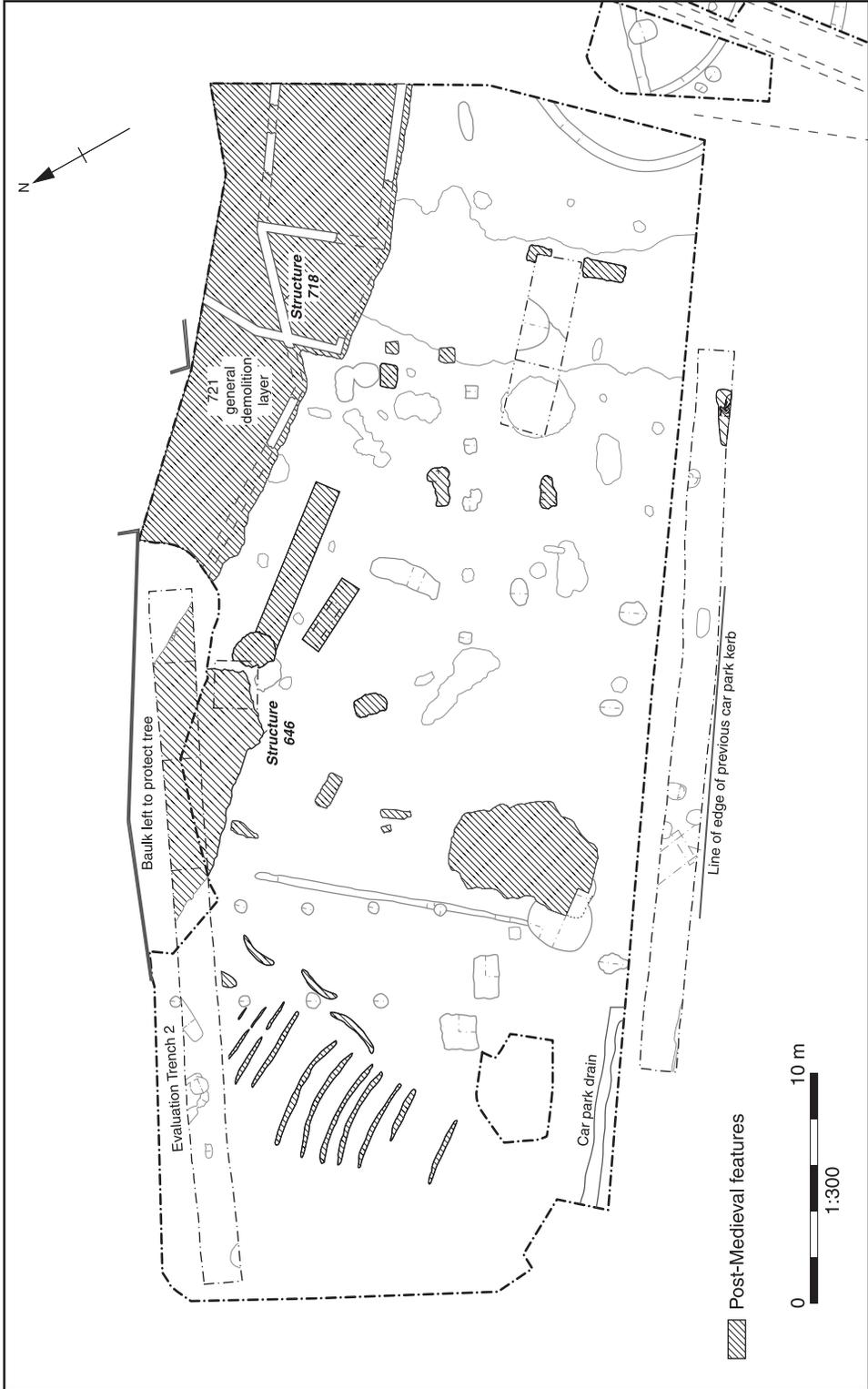


Fig 9 Glyn House, Ewell. Plan of post-medieval features.

The finds

(Note: the tables referred to in the text are available on the Archaeology Data Service website: see *Endnote*)

THE WORKED FLINT, by Kate Cramp

Introduction

A total of 1248 struck flints, including 965 chips, were recovered from the evaluation and excavation (table 1). A further 256 fragments (1.275kg) of burnt unworked flint were recovered from eighteen contexts (table 3). The flint assemblage reflects human activity from the Early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

Methodology

All the struck flints were individually examined and catalogued according to broad débitage, tool or core type. Further information relating to the condition, character and date of the material was recorded, along with evidence of burning, breakage and use. Cores/core fragments were classified according to the organization and types of removals exhibited, and were individually weighed. Burnt flint was described and quantified by piece and by weight.

Raw material

A good quality, gravel-derived flint provided the main source of raw material for both knapping and burning purposes. A smaller contribution was made by flint of probable chalk flint origin, which is distinguished by a thick but sometimes slightly abraded cortex. These nodules were probably obtained from nearby surface deposits. The use of Bullhead flint, which occurs at the base of the Reading Beds (Dewey & Bromehead 1915; Shepherd 1972, 114), is also represented in small quantities.

The assemblage

With the exclusion of chips, the majority of the struck assemblage (245 pieces) was recovered from eight features: pits 621 and 678, ditches 320, 676, 685, 688 and 690, and tree-throw hole 701 (table 2). The remaining flints (38 pieces) were more thinly spread across the site, generally occurring as residual finds within later features.

Ditch segment 320

A total of 88 flints in fresh, uncorticated condition were recovered from ditch 320, and mainly from the upper fill (table 2). The flintwork forms a technologically coherent assemblage of probable Early Bronze Age date, which is confirmed by the presence of a thumbnail scraper.

The assemblage is largely composed of broad, squat, regularly-shaped flakes. The majority have been struck using hard-hammer percussion and platform edge abrasion is occasionally present. Macroscopically visible use-wear was noted on several pieces. Three flake cores and a flake core fragment were also recovered, providing an average complete weight of 70.7g. The distinctly flake-based character of the assemblage is consistent with a Bronze Age industry (eg Ford 1987).

The retouched component includes an Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper, made on a disc-like flake of Bullhead flint. The same context produced a narrow, parallel-sided blade with a neat proximal notch retouched on the left-hand edge (fig 10, no 1), perhaps representing an unfinished attempt at microlith manufacture using the microburin technique (Inizan *et al* 1992, 69). A broad Mesolithic date would therefore be appropriate for this piece and, as such, it probably forms a residual element within the deposit.

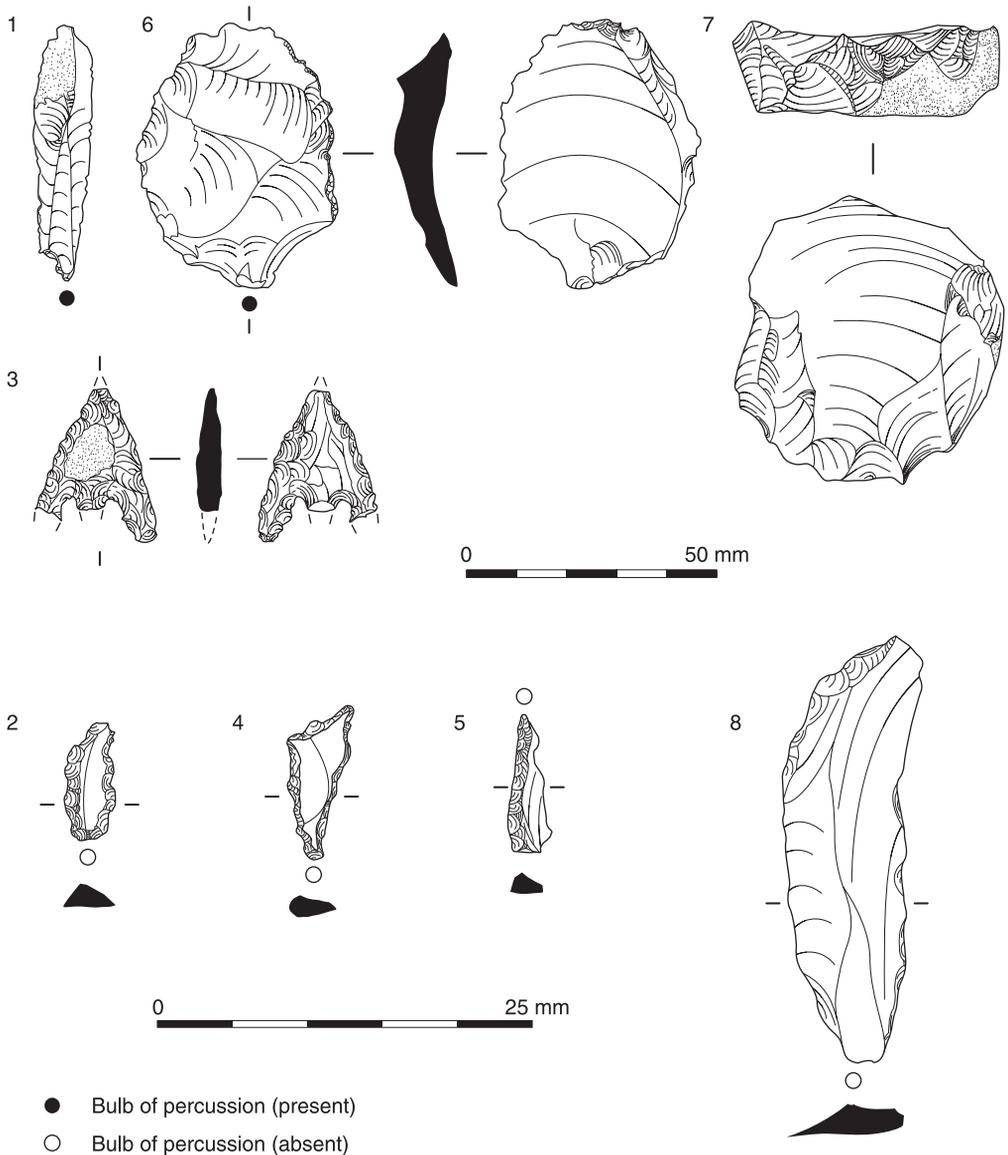


Fig 10 Glyn House, Ewell. Worked flint: 1, notched blade (322); 2, microlith (620); 3, barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (684); 4–5, microliths (684); 6, axe-sharpening flake (689); 7, Levallois core (691); 8, microlith (691).

Pit 621

An assemblage of 72 flints (including 47 chips) was recovered through the environmental sampling of context 620 within Early Roman pit 621 (table 3). A further 126 pieces (262 g) of burnt unworked flint were also retrieved.

The flintwork is residual, in variable condition, and probably of mixed date. The majority can be dated broadly to the Neolithic or Bronze Age on technological grounds, although the

presence of a rolled microlith comparable to Jacobi's type 7a2 (fig 10, no 2) (Pitts & Jacobi 1979, 16) indicates a probable Late Mesolithic element. The presence of so many fresh chips is of interest; it is possible that the Roman pit disturbed an *in-situ* scatter of microdébitage.

Ditch segment 676

A total of 28 flints in fresh, uncorticated condition were recovered from ditch segment 676 (table 2). Technologically and morphologically, the flintwork forms a coherent assemblage of probable later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Unretouched flakes predominate (21 pieces), most of which exhibit the pronounced bulbs of percussion associated with the use of hard-hammer percussion. A small number of flakes possess abraded platform edges. The possible axe-thinning flake, distinguished by its thin, curved profile and narrow platform, may represent a residual Mesolithic piece.

While only three tools were recovered (three edge-retouched flakes), a proportion of the unretouched material appears to have been used. Similarities in flint type indicate that some of the material derives from the same reduction sequence, although no refits were found.

Pit 678 (Pit group 1002)

A total of 43 flints in variable condition were recovered from Roman pit 678 (table 2). The assemblage is composed entirely of unretouched types, including twelve flakes, one bladelike flake and one blade. The quantity of fresh knapping microdébitage may reflect the disturbed remains of prehistoric knapping activity.

Ditch segment 685

A total of 942 struck flints, including 884 chips, were recovered from ditch segment 685 (table 2). A further 120 pieces (198g) of burnt unworked flint were also retrieved.

The industry bears technological affinities to the flintwork from ditch segments 320 and 676, and is probably of similar date; this is supported by the presence of a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (fig 10, no 3) (Green 1984, 19).

The large quantity of chips strongly suggests an *in-situ* knapping deposit, formed by knapping directly into the ditch. A knapping refit between two flakes supports this interpretation. Additional flakes of a similar flint type were noted which almost certainly derive from the same core but would not refit. The absence of cores implies that the larger elements of waste were deposited elsewhere.

Although the bulk of the flintwork probably belongs to a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age industry, a significant Late Mesolithic component can be isolated in the form of three narrow blade microliths. Two of these (one of which is illustrated, see fig 10, no 4) can be compared to Jacobi's class 7a2; the third is incomplete but probably belongs to class 5 (fig 10, no 5). It is possible that several of the bladelike flakes and the broken 'scraper', which resembles a minute bladelet core, are also of this date.

Ditch segment 688

Eight flints were recovered from context 689 within ditch segment 688 (table 2). The assemblage includes a tranchet axe sharpening flake (fig 10, no 6) and two soft-hammer blades, which – although residual – form a slight concentration of possible Mesolithic material.

Ditch segment 690

Eleven flints in fresh condition were recovered from ditch segment 690 (table 2). The Levallois core (fig 10, no 7) (63g) can be dated to the mid/Late Neolithic, while the presence of a broad

blade microlith (fig 10, no 8) comparable to Jacobi's type 3b (Jacobi 1978, 16) indicates a limited Early Mesolithic component. Much of the remaining material is chronologically undiagnostic.

Tree-throw hole 701

A total of eighteen flints in good condition were recovered from tree-throw hole 701 (table 2). The assemblage is largely composed of unretouched flakes, which probably date broadly to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. A small number of blades, bladelets and bladelike pieces are also present, some of which may be redeposited Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic pieces but could belong to a later industry.

The remaining assemblage

The remaining 38 flints recovered from the site are thinly distributed between eighteen contexts and are in a much more variable condition. Unretouched flakes, including two platform edge rejuvenation flakes, dominate the assemblage; most are chronologically undiagnostic. Two flake cores (contexts 319 and 644) were also identified. The retouched component consists of one end-and-side scraper and one edge-retouched flake. With the possible exception of some of the blades and bladelike flakes, most of the material is technologically consistent with a Neolithic or Bronze Age industry.

Discussion

The flint assemblage (a representative sample of which is illustrated in fig 10) reflects a long period of human activity. The Mesolithic period is represented by a minimum of five microliths, one axe-thinning flake and one axe-sharpening flake. Four of the microliths can be classified as Late Mesolithic types, which suggests that activity was more prolific in the latter half of the period. It is also significant that these Mesolithic artefacts are concentrated in the vicinity of the ring ditches, implying a focus of Mesolithic activity that may have influenced the location of the later monument.

The greater part of the flint assemblage consists of material of probable Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The Levallois core can be dated to the mid/Late Neolithic, while the thumbnail scraper and barbed-and-tanged arrowhead reflect an Early Bronze Age presence. Several fresh, coherent assemblages of later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date were also recovered from ditch segments 320, 676 and 685. The large quantity of chips recovered from sieving implies that knapping activity was performed at the site, in some cases (eg ditch segment 685) perhaps directly into the features. The retouched component is somewhat restricted in number and range, but nonetheless indicates that various tool-using activities were taking place.

PREHISTORIC POTTERY, by Emily Edwards

Introduction

Three sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered, including an Ebbsfleet Ware rim (context 322), one Middle Bronze Age body sherd (context 319) and one Bronze Age/Early Iron Age body sherd (context 639). The sherds were analysed using a binocular microscope (x 20), following the guidelines provided by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

All three sherds were flint-tempered, representing three different fabrics. The tempering has the shattered shape of flint that has been broken up after calcination. Flint would have been easily procured locally.

Pit 320 (fill 322)

The fabric (Peterborough Ware FA2) contains 10% poorly sorted flint, ranging in size from 6mm to less than 1mm, and 3–5% sand, which is less than 1mm in size. The clay has not been wedged well, as is clear from the poor alignment of inclusions. These factors are common elements of Peterborough Ware fabrics. One sherd (8 g) had the following characteristics. Exterior – red brown; core – red brown to yellow brown; interior – red brown. Surface treatment: exterior – smoothed; interior – smoothed. Decoration: impressed bird bone on internal face. Thickness: 6mm. Vessel type: miscellaneous Ebbsfleet Ware vessel. Rim type: thickened and slightly convex with internal lip (fig 11, no 1).

Pit 318 (fill 319)

The fabric (Deverel Rimbury F2) contains 25% poorly sorted flint, ranging in size from 1 to 6mm. Wall thickness = 11mm. The dense but poorly sorted nature of the fabric suggests a Middle Bronze Age date.

Pit 640 (639)

The fabric (post-Deverel Rimbury AF1) contains 7% moderately sorted calcined flint, 1–2.5mm in size, and 30% coarse rounded sand, (the sand may have been deliberately added). The relatively low density and small size of the flint temper, in addition to the amount of sand present, indicates a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.

Discussion

This small collection of abraded sherds indicates some level of prehistoric activity at Glyn House. Peterborough Ware in the lower Thames valley has been recovered from Runnymede, Berkshire (Kinnes 1991), Eden Walk, Kingston (Penn *et al* 1984, 213–15), the Staines causewayed enclosure (Robertson-Mackay 1987) and from several sites in the Beddington area (Cotton 2004, table 1, 140–1). The assemblage from Staines included eleven predominantly flint-tempered vessels, four of which were decorated with bird-bone impressions. The form and decoration of the Glyn House sherd, is particularly well paralleled by a sherd from Staines (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 89, fig 52).

Illustration (fig 11)

1 Fabric FA2 (Peterborough Ware), type Ebbsfleet Ware rim. Neolithic (320)

THE ROMAN POTTERY, by Dan Stansbie

Introduction

A total of 354 sherds, weighing some 5.95kg, was recovered from the site. In general the pottery, including regional and Continental imports, suggests activity between the middle of the 2nd century and the end of the 3rd century AD. The group was dominated by sherds of Alice Holt or black surfaced reduced wares, although the presence of some earlier types could indicate late 1st or early 2nd century activity. Pottery was recovered from a total of 34 contexts. Many of the groups are quite small, 76% of the contexts having ten sherds or less and only two contexts yielding between 21 and 50 sherds. With an average sherd weight of 16.3g, the condition of the pottery was moderate. Sherds were large and fresh and rims were often easily identifiable, increasing the level of confidence given to form and fabric identification. Undiagnostic reduced coarse wares comprised 57% of the assemblage. Some

3.6% (by weight) of the total pottery derived from context groups which could only be assigned a broad 'Roman' date range.

Methodology

The pottery was recorded using Oxford Archaeology's standard system (Booth 2004). The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on surface appearance and major inclusion types. Where possible, fabrics have been referenced to the National Roman Fabric Collection (NRFC; Tomber & Dore 1998) where fuller descriptions are given (table 3). Vessel forms were classified following the typology set out by Lyne & Jefferies (1979), apart from samian forms which were identified using Webster (1995). The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. Vessel types were quantified by estimated vessel rim-equivalents (EVEs).

Fabrics

The assemblage was sorted into 22 fabric types on the basis of the main inclusions present in the paste, colour, surface treatment and decoration. The majority of these are black surface wares, probably from local sources (R50) and reduced wares coming from the local Alice Holt/Farnham potteries (R39). A number of other miscellaneous sandy (R10) and fine (R20) greywares are also present, along with a small amount of other local greyware probably from the Colne valley industries (R40). There are also small amounts of grog-tempered storage jar (R90), shell-tempered fabrics (C10 & E40) and oxidized wares (O), probably local in origin. Two sherds were of later prehistoric date. Regional and Continental imports comprise a small but significant proportion of the assemblage. Sandy white wares (W20) are present, along with nine sherds of Verulamium white ware (W21). In addition there are sherds of Highgate Wood white-slipped greyware (Q30), white-slipped oxidized ware (Q20) and an unidentified British colour-coated ware, with barbotine decoration (F50) (fig 11, no 2). Two sherds of mortaria are present – one in an unsourced white fabric (M20) and one in Oxfordshire whiteware (M22). Continental imports comprise single sherds of Central Gaulish colour-coated ware (F43), *céramique à l'éponge* (F49), and Dressel 20 amphorae (A11), and samian. The samian ware accounted for 3.1% of the assemblage by sherd number and consisted mainly of Central Gaulish fabrics (S30), with a single sherd of East Gaulish ware (S40).

Forms

The majority of the sherds are wheel-made reduced sandy wares, largely products of the local Alice Holt/Farnham industry (Lyne & Jefferies 1979). Most of the vessels comprise jars, dishes and bowls. The jars include early 2nd century forms such as class 1 cordoned jars, as well as later forms such as class 3A flat rimmed jars, class 3B everted rimmed jars and class 4 bead rimmed jars. Dishes are broadly similar to classes 6, 6A and 6B, although none of the rims were definable as a specific type. Bowls however, mostly consisted of post mid-2nd century forms, including class 5A flat and triangular-rimmed bowls, and class 5B beaded and flanged bowls. A single rim sherd of a class 5D deep decorated bowl was also recovered. Single rim sherds of a flagon, a platter and a beaker, all in black surfaced reduced wares were noted and are probably of local origin. There are also several jars and a lid in sandy grey wares. A body sherd of South Spanish amphora was probably from a Dressel 20 olive oil vessel. Of the fine wares only the samian showed any identifiable vessel forms. There were three cups (Dragendorff forms 27, 33a and 35), two platters (Dragendorff form 18), a bowl (Dragendorff form 31) in Central Gaulish samian and a platter (Dragendorff form 31/31r) in East Gaulish samian.

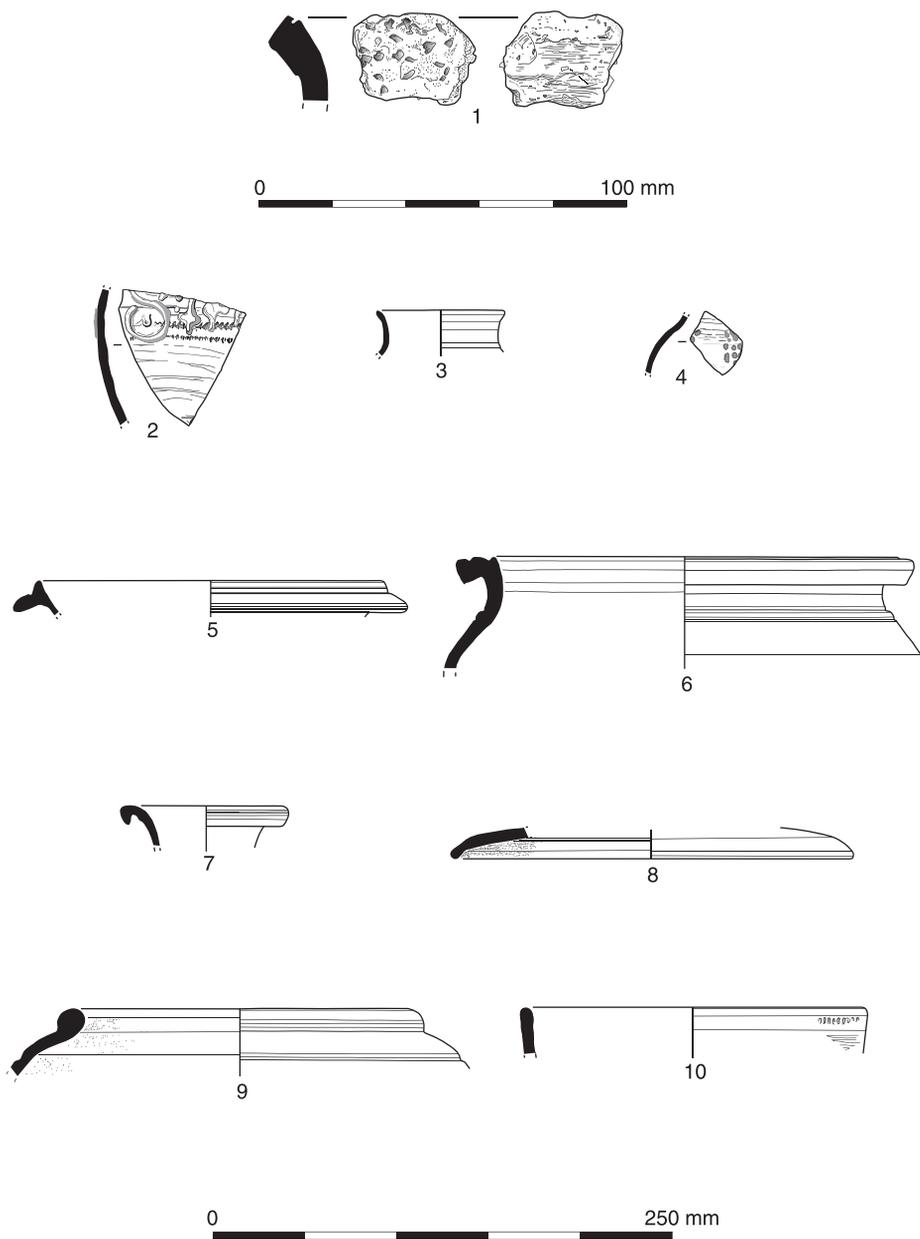


Fig 11 Glyn House, Ewell. Pottery: 1, Ebbsfleet rim; 2, Unidentified British colour coat; 3, Highgate Wood white slipped poppy-head beaker; 4, Highgate Wood beaker with barbotine decoration; 5, Alice Holt flanged dish; 6, Alice Holt jar; 7, Alice Holt flagon; 8, Alice Holt lid; 9, Alice Holt bead-rimmed jar; 10, British colour-coat dish.

Discussion

This was a wide-ranging group of wares for a relatively small assemblage, including regional and continental imports, and fine table wares suggestive of a site with some status and fairly good communications. The typological range suggests a fairly long-lived occupation, with activity beginning in the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD. The main period of occupation spanned the mid-late 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, but activity does not appear to go into the 4th century.

This group of material is broadly comparable with pottery recovered from excavations at the King William IV site in Ewell (Orton 1997), where an assemblage very similar to that at Glyn House, with a comparable range of regional and Continental imports was recovered. Among other more distant comparanda are assemblages recovered from excavations at Charterhouse School, Godalming, which includes a small cremation cemetery (Holmes 1949) and Roman settlement (Harrison 1961; Hall 1999). The pottery from these excavations appears to comprise mainly Alice Holt products (Timby 1999), but unlike the assemblage under discussion it included few if any fine wares. Much of the Ewell material can also be paralleled with that from the Roman temple at Wanborough (O'Connell & Bird 1994), although that site has a wider range of fabrics and forms. Other recently published sites from Surrey have produced little stratified evidence for a similar complement of wares (Timby 1999).

Catalogue of illustrations (fig 11)

The following vessels illustrate the typological and chronological range of the assemblage. Pieces of intrinsic interest are also shown.

- 2 Fabric F50 (British colour coat), barbotine decoration. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (677)
- 3 Fabric Q30 (H), type white slipped poppy-head beaker. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (664)
- 4 Fabric Q30 (H), type beaker with barbotine decoration. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (666)
- 5 Fabric R39 (ALH RE), type flanged dish. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (677)
- 6 Fabric R39 (ALH RE), type jar. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (637)
- 7 Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type flagon. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (620)
- 8 Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type lid. Late 1st to early 2nd century (631)
- 9 Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type bead-rimmed jar. Late 1st to early 2nd century (620)
- 10 Fabric F50 (British colour coat), type dish. Mid-2nd to late 3rd century (677)

THE UNSTRATIFIED ROMAN COIN, by Paul Booth

732, SF600. Æ3 (16.5–17mm). AD 330–5

Obverse: FLIVLCONSTANTIVSNOBC, Constantius II

Reverse: GLORIA EXERCITVS, 2 standards

Mint, SLG (Lyons)

Reference, as LRBC1, 183

THE WORKED BONE PIN, by Emma-Jayne Evans

A fragment from a bone pin was recovered from fill 677 within pit group 1002. The shaft fragment is 40mm in length and has a maximum diameter of 4mm. It has been cut and polished. Both ends are broken. The bone is likely to be from a large mammal as the cross-section shows the pin is made from cortical bone, suggesting a large long bone.

THE ANIMAL BONE, by Emma-Jayne Evans

Introduction

A total of 1004 (12.27kg) fragments of bone and teeth were recovered, of which many broken fragments were refitted, reducing the total number to 382. In addition, 85 fragments were recovered through sieving.

Methodology

Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to a reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were also noted. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified, or were from an identifiable articulated skeleton. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was undertaken using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel & Frisch (1986); in addition to the use of the reference material housed at OA. Where distinctions could not be made, the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (s/g). The condition of the bone was graded from 0 (best preserved) to 5 (bone surface unrecognizable) using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). The total number of fragments of bone and teeth identifiable to each species was quantified. In addition the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was calculated using the zoning method (Serjeantson 1996). The elements used for working out MNI do not include ribs, vertebrae, loose teeth, tarsals and carpals. One of the problems in using the zoning method to work out MNI is that it relies on sided bones. Unsided bones cannot be used as the MNI is reliant on counting duplicate body parts. If bones cannot be sided it is difficult to say whether they could be from the same animal or not, as the presence of one left and one right femur could be from one animal, whereas two left femurs must come from two animals. Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985) and Grant (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface. Withers heights were calculated using Fock (1966), Kieserwalter (von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974), and Matolcsi (1970).

Results

The animal bone has survived in good condition, with the majority of the bone scoring 1 or 2 according to Lyman's grading (see table 4).

Although the bone survived in good condition, the assemblage was very fragmented. Of the 467 fragments of bone and teeth, only 287 (61.4%) could be identified to species. A list of all the species identified is shown in table 5.

The good condition in which the bones have survived has allowed for butchery, gnawing marks and pathologies to be noted. These were present on many of the bones from both Roman and post-medieval contexts.

Roman period

The majority of the animal remains from this site date to the Roman period, with almost all the bone deposited in pits. Table 6 gives the total fragment count for all species present from the Roman period, with the minimum number of individuals shown in table 7.

As the minimum number of individuals represents the absolute minimum number of each species present, it may not be a true reflection of the proportions of the animal species present,

particularly in such a small assemblage of animal bone. Cattle may have been the most common animal consumed on the site but may be slightly under represented in the MNI count as there are several unisided cattle bones. From the total fragment count and MNI calculations it may therefore be fair to say that cattle and sheep/goat were present in roughly equal numbers, with possibly slightly more cattle, pig, present in lower numbers, and horse, dog and bird present in small quantities.

The age at death from tooth eruption and wear stages for cattle could be ascertained for five mandibles, as shown in table 8.

Age at death using fusion data suggests the majority of the bones came from cattle surviving to adulthood, with only two unfused distal femurs giving an age at death of less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ –4 years. Pathologies were only noted on two cattle mandibles. One mandible had abnormal wear of the 3rd molar with the third cusp worn down to the root socket, resulting in the receding of the alveolar bone surrounding the part of the tooth affected. Another mandible had calculus around the teeth. A type 1 non-pathological lesion was also noted on a 1st phalanx (Baker & Brothwell 1980).

Measurements were taken on many cattle bones and withers heights could be estimated for three elements, as shown in table 9.

Age at death from tooth eruption and wear stages for sheep/goat was established for six mandibles, as shown in table 10.

Fusion data suggests that only three bones were from juveniles and that the majority of animals survived into adulthood. An unfused metatarsal, one unfused tibia, and another tibia just beginning to fuse suggests that these animals died before reaching $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 years of age. Cut marks were noted on several bones, including cuts that suggest the filleting of at least one animal (Binford 1981). Also, several long bones had been chopped through the shaft, probably for marrow utilization. No pathologies were noted on any of the bones and although a number of measurements were taken, no complete long bones that would allow for withers heights estimations were present. Only five pig bones were present from the Roman period, giving a minimum number of two. Ageing of the teeth was only possible by analysing eruption stages of the maxillary teeth of two left maxillae, suggesting ages of 7–13 months and 16–22 months. Fusion data based on one unfused proximal ulna suggests an age at death for one animal of less than 3 – $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. One mandible was chopped and a type 3 non-pathological lesion was noted on one ulna (Baker & Brothwell 1980). Only two horse bones were identified, an articulating radius and an ulna. The radius was fully fused, suggesting an age at death of over $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. Cut marks were noted on the distal aspect of the radius. Both bones were measurable, with the radius giving a withers height of 1.33m (13.1 hands). Two dog bones were identified, one of these (a lumbar vertebra) was unfused, suggesting an age at death of $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 years. An unidentifiable bird ulna was also recovered.

Post-medieval period

Although the post-medieval period yielded almost as many bones as the Roman period, the majority came from the burials of a pig and a horse (table 11).

The pig burial found in demolition layer 721 was aged using tooth eruption, wear stages and fusion data, giving an age at death of approximately 2 years. No butchery marks or gnawing were noted on any of the bones. Type 2 non-pathological lesions were observed on all the 1st and 2nd phalanges present (Baker & Brothwell 1980). The 7th lumbar vertebra had fused to the sacrum, and a slight twisting along the sagittal plane was seen on two caudal vertebrae, with depressions in their articular surfaces. Several horse bones were excavated from pit 113. No butchery or gnawing marks were noted on any of the bones, but several of them were measurable. A withers height of 1.25m (12.3 hands) was estimated using the greatest length of a metacarpal. All the bones present were fused, suggesting an age at death of over $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. The remaining disarticulated bones that could be identified to species were from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and chicken. Cut marks were only noted on one cattle bone,

with no gnawing marks or pathologies evident. One sheep/goat metacarpal appeared to have been from a neonatal/infant, and the pig mandible was aged less than 6–12 months.

Discussion

From the small assemblage of bones dating to the Roman period, it may be concluded that all domestic species were represented, with cattle and sheep/goat possibly present in roughly equal numbers, and pig, horse and dog present in fewer numbers. The presence of mainly adult bones may be a true reflection of the ages of animals consumed on site; however, this may equally reflect the better preservation of adult bones relative to juvenile bones. The measurable cattle bones from this site suggest that the cattle may fall into the size category expected for the Roman period, though it must be remembered that this is based on a very small number of bones. Horse and dog are commonly found on Roman sites, but often in low numbers (Ayles & Clark 2000). The withers height calculated on the one measurable horse bone from the Roman period gave a height of 13.1 hands, which falls within the height range often found in the Roman period, but it cannot be assumed that this height is representative of the horse population. The presence of dog would account for the carnivore gnawing noted on several bones.

The pig and horse burials from the post-medieval period are likely to have resulted from natural deaths. The withers height of the horse (12.3 hands) suggests that the burial was that of a pony. Of the remaining pig, cattle, sheep/goat and chicken bones, no conclusions can be made as to the relative importance of each species, but it is likely that they represent household butchery waste.

THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS, by Dana Challinor

Introduction and methodology

Three samples were taken from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ditch 685, and Romano-British pits 621 and 678 for the recovery of charred plant remains. They were processed by flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine, with sample sizes of 40 litres. The quantities of charred remains were moderate and limited analysis was carried out.

The flots were sorted to extract identifiable charred material. Random fragments (up to twenty) of wood charcoal were fractured and examined anatomically. Identifications of seeds were made under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification and were based upon morphological characteristics. Cereal grains were counted on the basis of embryo ends. The plant parts recorded in table 12 are seeds unless otherwise stated. Classification and nomenclature for the weed seeds follow Stace (1997).

Results

Wood charcoal was well preserved and all three flots produced assemblages dominated by *Quercus* sp. (oak), with lesser quantities of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) and Maloideae (hawthorn etc.). While a fuller examination of the charcoal would probably have increased the species list, it was not thought worthwhile.

The results of the charred plant analysis are given in table 12. The preservation was generally poor and in many cases it was not possible to make identifications to species level. The Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sample (context 684) was dominated by cereal grains; both *Triticum* (wheat) and *Hordeum* (barley). The grains identified as *Triticum* cf. *aestivum*/*durum* (bread/durum wheat) were short and round, but the absence of diagnostic chaff makes this identification tentative (Hillman *et al* 1996, 206). Indeed, short grained spelt/emmer has been recorded at other sites (eg Pelling 2000, 327) but usually with a quantity of glume bases. Moreover, it would be unusual to have a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblage with

this quantity of free-threshing wheat, which suggests that this sample may have been contaminated with intrusive material.

Discussion

The assemblages from Glyn House are likely to represent either the waste from cooking fires or crops spoiled during processing. The number of glume bases in the Roman samples roughly equates to the quantity of grain – there is little additional chaff to indicate crop processing waste as such. Moreover the presence of other food remains such as hazelnuts and pulses supports the interpretation of waste from domestic cooking fires. The assemblages from the Roman pits are appropriate for the period but the Bronze Age sample may have intrusive material. There was too little material recovered from the site to warrant a more detailed discussion of the samples.

Discussion

MESOLITHIC ACTIVITY

Small quantities of Mesolithic flintwork were recovered from the site, much of which was in fresh condition suggesting that its original context of deposition had been close to where it was found. The distribution of the flint was localized; all of it, with the exception of the pieces from Roman pit 621, came from the south-eastern corner of the site. One of these pieces (a broad blade microlith: fig 10, no 8) indicates that there was Early Mesolithic activity in the area. The remaining flint suggests that the area was possibly used as a temporary camp for a Late Mesolithic hunting group, perhaps taking advantage of the proximity to a source of fresh water and the relative abundance of fauna on the Thanet Sands. Indeed the Thanet Sands are particularly well endowed with Mesolithic sites, especially around the area of Ewell (Ellaby 1987, 57). Mesolithic settlement in Surrey appears to be based primarily on the free-draining sands and gravels (*ibid*, 55) and it may be that the Mesolithic material at Glyn House relates to more substantial occupation in the vicinity of Ewell.

NEOLITHIC ACTIVITY

A single Levallois core of mid–Late Neolithic date from the fill of curvilinear gully 690 and a single rim sherd of Ebbsfleet ware from the fill of ditch 320, attests to Neolithic activity occurring in a similar area to the Mesolithic activity.

LATE NEOLITHIC/EARLY BRONZE AGE ACTIVITY

The distribution of features suggests a focus of activity in the same area as the Mesolithic and Neolithic activity. Activity is represented by two curvilinear gullies (690/688 and 676/685) and a tree-throw hole (701). Curvilinear gully 676/685 was approximately 14.5m in diameter and curvilinear gully 690/688 was probably about 9 or 10m in diameter. The two curvilinear gullies and the tree-throw hole cannot have been contemporary, as curvilinear gully 690/688 lay within curvilinear gully 676/685 and tree-throw hole 701 lay between them. However, they all contained material of a broadly Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and the sequence is best interpreted as representing two phases of curvilinear gully, with the tree-throw hole either pre-dating or post-dating the curvilinear gullies. It is possible that these curvilinear gullies represent the eaves-drip gullies of roofed buildings; however, there are no coherent patterns of internal postholes and the diameter of the curvilinear gullies was rather too large for such buildings. Additionally the date of these features, suggested by the worked flint from their fills, is too early for buildings of this type. If the interpretation of these curvilinear gullies as the remains of buildings is to be rejected, then it may be suggested that

they represent the badly truncated remains of a double-ditched or multi-phased round barrow. The find of a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead from the fill of curvilinear gully 676/685, may be seen to back up this interpretation. These features are paralleled at the King William IV site, located immediately to the south of Glyn House, where two concentric curvilinear gullies were found, ostensibly dating to the Late Bronze Age (Orton 1997, 94). Interestingly, this site also produced sherds of Beaker pottery and a barbed-and-tanged arrow head similar to the one found at Glyn House. Indeed, Orton suggests that the King William IV site may have been a long-term focus for prehistoric burial and ritual activity (1997, 120).

ROMAN ACTIVITY

Settlement structure

The distribution of features suggests that settlement was organized in relation to the line of a road running north-east to south-west to the south-east of the site; this may have been Stane Street itself. There has been much debate over the course of Stane Street in this part of Ewell, with Orton (1997, 117) arguing that it doglegged around the Roman site at the King William IV public house, a route which would have taken it close to the Glyn House site. A band of deep intercutting pits (1002) ran across the site from south-west to north-east, lying close to the south-eastern boundary of the site and apparently defining a settlement area to their north-west. The main focus of activity, to the north-west of the band of pits, contained more pits, a linear gully and the remains of at least one post-built structure. The gully (1003) was cut by one of the postholes belonging to structure 1000 and pit 621 was cut by later pit 626; both clearly pre-dated the main phase of activity and may have been contemporary. All the other Roman features were broadly contemporary and dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. The eight postholes that made up structure 1000 probably represented the remains of an aisled building and the single line of five postholes to the south of this (1001), may have been all that survived of a similar structure. Alternatively they may have formed part of a simple fence line dividing plots of land. Three sub-rectangular pits to the south of structure 1000 were particularly deep (over 1.2m) and may represent the remains of wells or shafts.

Settlement character and chronology

The structural and artefactual evidence suggest that these remains may represent part of a roadside settlement, with fairly modest buildings fronting on to a yard or open space which was defined by a dense band of rubbish pits, themselves probably fronting on to a road. The yard would have contained a number of pits and possible wells. The pottery assemblage could confirm the site's status as a roadside settlement, providing evidence of regional and continental contacts in the form of imports. Among these imports were Verulamium white wares, Oxfordshire white ware mortaria, Continental and British colour-coated wares, samian and Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae. Additionally there was a large quantity of Alice Holt/Farnham greyware. On a rural site such an assemblage might be seen as a sign of status, though in this context it may be more likely to reflect the proximity of the site to a major communications route. The pottery assemblage suggests that occupation in this phase was fairly long-lived, starting in the late 1st century and continuing through to the end of the 3rd century. However, a coin of Constantius II hints that activity may have continued for a little longer, possibly into the early 4th century. The animal bone assemblage shows that all the major domestic species were present on site, possibly with a slight preponderance of cattle and sheep/goat, though this pattern may reflect a taphonomic difference between these species and others. Evidence from environmental samples could be taken as supporting the interpretation of a domestic site, with quantities of wood charcoal, glume bases, hazelnuts and pulses representing waste from domestic fires and a lack of chaff suggesting that little crop processing was undertaken. This phase of the site has many interesting parallels with

the King William IV site to the south (Orton 1997). Particularly in the range of pottery present, the presence of animal burials ostensibly dated to the post-medieval period and the presence of wells or deep shafts. Orton presents two interpretations of the King William IV site (1997, 117): one as an essentially domestic settlement involved in the processing of agricultural produce destined for markets in London and one as a ritual site involving the deposition of animal remains and of material in deep shafts or wells, an argument that ties in with Diamond's discovery of Roman ritual shafts in the Ewell area in 1847 (Diamond 1847; Warne 1860, 309). Substantial Roman occupation at King William IV came to an end between AD 280 and AD 350 (Orton 1997, 120), at the same time as the Glyn House site went out of use, suggesting that these two sites were perhaps part of the same complex. If this was so, the apparently domestic character of the Glyn House occupation may cast doubt on Orton's second interpretation.

Settlement context

Clearly the Roman occupation at Glyn House was part of the roadside settlement at Ewell, which has been well documented elsewhere (Bird 1987, 169–71; Pemberton 1973). The status of Ewell has been a matter of debate, with Pemberton (1973) maintaining that Ewell was a *mutatio* or posting station on the basis of several stretches of apparently defensive ditch and Bird (1987, 171) arguing that the *mutatio* is more likely to have been in the Merton area. The evidence from Glyn House does not contribute greatly to this debate; however, it may be seen to add fuel to Bird's argument, given the lack of evidence for military activity and the overall impression of a domestic roadside settlement.

POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

The post-medieval features, which comprised the foundations of a domestic structure, a large cut which may have been the remains of an infilled cellar, and a number of rectangular garden features indicate that the site was occupied by a high-status domestic structure during this period. It is likely that these features are the remains of the rectory. Features observed to the south of these during the watching brief on Area B, including several layers and a soakaway, indicate domestic occupation in this area from the 17th to 20th centuries.

Endnote

The tables referred to in the finds reports are available on the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/surreyac/v91.cfm>). Copies of this material will be deposited with: the Society's library, Guildford; Surrey History Centre, Woking, and the Surrey Sites and Monuments Record, Kingston. Photocopies can also be supplied by post – enquiries should be addressed to the Hon Editors, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

TABLES

- 1 Struck flint
- 2 Flint by type from features
- 3 Quantified summary of Roman pottery
- 4 Condition of the animal remains
- 5 Total number of bones and teeth identified to species and date
- 6 Quantity and distribution of animal bones from the Roman period
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