Berks. Archaeological Journal, Vol. 67
Printed in Great Britain

EXCAVATIONS ON LATE IRON AGE, ROMAN AND SAXON SITES AT UFTON NERVET, BERKSHIRE, IN 1961–1963

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SUMMARY

Three enclosures and an associated trackway, together with a section of the Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester-on-Thames were excavated in the years 1961–1963. The earliest enclosure (I) was built shortly before the Roman conquest and stood for some time in isolation; there were no buildings within it. A second enclosure (III) and the trackway were constructed soon after A.D. 43, while Enclosure I was still in existence, but after a short time this was levelled and replaced by a new enclosure II; both Enclosures II and III may have formed part of the same general plan of enlargement and reconstruction. Although the ditches of Enclosure II were allowed to refill before the end of the first century, the enclosure itself probably remained in use until late in the third century. The ditches of Enclosure III had silted up early in the second century, but the internal buildings, revealed by the drainage gullies around them, continued in use until the late third or early fourth century. A Saxon *Grubenhaus* was built within the area of Enclosure II in the fifth or sixth century, and a fenced pit dug nearby in the late Saxon period.

INTRODUCTION

The crop-marks of the enclosures and trackways lying between the River Kennet and the Bath Road at Ufton Nervet, were discovered and photographed from the air by Dr J. K. St. Joseph in 1959 (Figs. 1 & 2). Further photographs, both oblique and vertical, were taken under varying conditions throughout several successive summers by various people and organisations, most notably by Mr J. J. Wymer, then at Reading Museum, and Fairey Air Surveys.[1] (pl. 1). The work of Mrs M. A. Cotton at Robin Hood's Arbour, near Maidenhead,[2] in 1960 had already drawn attention to rectilinear enclosures of the type seen at Ufton Nervet, and this group appeared to offer an opportunity, unique in the area, for a more-or-less complete examination of two such enclosures unencumbered by the trees which had prevented extensive work at Robin Hood's Arbour. Accordingly with the consent of the landowners, the Englefield Estate, a preliminary excavation was arranged by Reading Museum in 1961 under the direction of the writer, who was then assistant archaeologist at that museum. In this first season the work was confined to the enclosure ditches, the trackway and the Roman road, but the results were sufficiently promising to justify much larger excavations in 1962 and 1963, in the course of which the two main enclosures were almost completely excavated. The finds from the excavation are in Reading Museum.

This report was completed in 1972 and no work subsequent to that date has been incorporated in it.

[1] Photographs in Reading Museum.
[2] Cotton 1961.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The enclosures at Ufton Nervet lie on the Englefield Estate and the excavations were made possible by the ready consent and assistance of Lady Benyon, Lt. Col. D. A. Campbell, and Major Willett of that estate. The work was financed in the main by Reading Corporation through Reading Museum, but in 1962 and 1963 this was supplemented by generous grants from the Society of Antiquaries of London (1962), the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, through the Council for British Archaeology (1962), the Berkshire Archaeological Society (1962), the Newbury and District Field Club (1962 and 1963), the Berkshire Field Research Group (1963) and the Haverfield Trust (1963).

Too many people worked on the site to make it possible to acknowledge them all personally, much as their assistance was appreciated, but the help given us by boys from St. Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury was of particular value. Mr Philip Gulliford acted as deputy director in 1962 and 1963, and Messrs (now Drs) David Churchill and John Myres, and Mrs Gladys Pike as site assistants, while Mrs L. Wymer was in charge of work on the finds; without their help the excavation would have been impossible. Much of the preparatory work was done by Mr T. L. Gwatkin, Mr B. Baker and Mr J. J. Wymer of Reading Museum, and I also received great assistance from Mrs M. A. Cotton and from my colleagues at Reading Museum.

I am indebted to Mr G. C. Boon, Mrs G. Booth, Mr W. J. Britnell, Miss P. Clark, Dr R. A. Gayer, Mr I. H. Goodall, Dr K. T. Greene, Mr D. H. Kennett, Mrs M. O. Manning, Miss P. J. Quennell (now Mrs C. Torrington), Miss Gloria Stephenson, Miss J. Thompson (now Mrs W. J. Britnell), Mrs J. Webster, Mrs B. Westley and Mr J. J. Wymer for their individual contributions to the preparation of this report.

THE PHYSICAL SETTING

The fertile gravels of the Kennet Valley between Reading and Newbury are rich in crop-mark sites of all periods from the Neolithic to the Roman. Even earlier they had formed a congenial habitat for Mesolithic man, and a scatter of worked flints can be found on many of the fields which lie beside the river.[3] The site which forms the subject of this report is in the centre of a large field (26·4 acres), on the western bank of the river in the north-western corner of the parish of Ufton Nervet, some eight miles south-west of Reading, and about four miles north of the Roman city of Silchester (National Grid Reference SU 617690). (Figs. 1, 2 and 27). At this point the valley is rather less than two miles wide, bounded on the north by the low hills which rise gradually into the Berkshire Downs, and on the south by the higher, but fairly level ground on which Silchester stands. Today the site lies between the Bath Road (A4) on the north-west and the main-line railway from London to south-western England on the south-east, both of them running east-west along the Kennet valley. In the Roman period, however, the main road ran north-south from Silchester to Dorchester-on-Thames, passing less than a quarter of a mile to the north of our site. Its course at this point was no doubt dictated by a ford across the Kennet just to the south-east of the enclosures, and aerial photographs (pl. 1) show both the road and the trackway from the site converging on the Kennet at the same point. It was here that local children swimming in the river in the early years of this century knew of a spit of gravel from which they could safely bathe, no doubt the remains of the ford.

The construction of the Kennet and Avon Canal early in the eighteenth century may have slightly altered the drainage of the area, but there is no evidence that it was ever subject to excessive flooding, and where layers of silt were found in the excavations, the archaeological features had been cut through them.

The subsoil is a firm river-gravel, overlain in places by a varying thickness of clay silt which appears as darker bands in the aerial photographs. (pl. I).

[3] Cf. p. 60 below for a report by Mr J. J. Wymer on the flints found at Ufton Nervet.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EARTHWORKS

(Fig. 2 and pl. 1)

The complex of crop-marks on which the excavations were centred consists of three enclosures and a trackway. Detailed examination of a series of aerial photographs, taken over a number of years and under varying conditions, makes clear the sequence in which these earthworks were constructed, and the excavations confirmed these deductions.

The most conspicuous of the crop-marks is a 'sub-rectangular enclosure' bounded by a single, relatively broad ditch (Enclosure I). The greater part of this enclosure is itself overlain by a second, delineated by a smaller ditch, broken in two places (Enclosure II). A short way to the north-west are the slight ditches, double on two sides, of a rectangular enclosure (Enclosure III). The trackway appears to the north-west of the Bath Road, passes Enclosure III on its south-western edge, skirts the north-eastern and part of the south-eastern edges of Enclosure I, and then continues in a wider form towards the river.

The precise dating of these various features is dependent on the excavated pottery which showed that Enclosure I was the earliest of the group, being in existence before the Roman conquest. Enclosures II and III had both been constructed before the end of the first century A.D., but the pottery from their ditches was not in itself sufficiently distinctive to establish which was the earlier. Fortunately this is indicated by their relationship to the trackway and Enclosure I, and the sequence derived from the aerial photographs and the excavation is as follows:

(1) The northern ditch of the trackway curves around Enclosure I, while the southern ditch butts-up against it on the north-west. The trackway is, therefore, later than Enclosure I, but the enclosure was still in existence when it was constructed.

(2) The northern ditch of the trackway butts against the south-western corner of Enclosure III and cuts away part of its ditch in the south-eastern corner, while the southern ditch deviates slightly where it passes the enclosure. The trackway, therefore, is later than Enclosure III. The pottery from the ditch and interior of Enclosure I shows that it predates Enclosure III.

(3) Since the trackway was built when Enclosure I was still in use, and Enclosure II overlies this enclosure and cuts through its refilled ditch on the western side, it is later than the trackway.

THE TRACKWAY

(Fig. 2)

The ditches which mark the edge of the trackway appear abruptly in the field to the north-west of the site at a point almost level with the beginning of the ditches of the Silchester-Dorchester road, a quarter of a mile or so to the north. (Fig. 2 and pl. 1). They then run, with various short changes of alignment, towards the river, which they would have reached a few yards south-west of the Roman road at a point where there appears to have been a ford. They are not visible in the rough meadow grass which lies between the railway and the river, but there is no reason to suppose that they did not originally cross it. From their western end, as far as Enclosure III, the trackway ditches run in an almost straight line, 31 ft apart, with only a slight inturn of the northern ditch where it approaches the enclosure, against which it butts a few yards north of the south-western corner. The southern ditch makes a very slight outward bend opposite the enclosure, but continues in an unbroken line as far as the north-west corner of Enclosure I, where it ends. The northern ditch reappears in the south-eastern corner of Enclosure III, where it cuts into the enclosure ditch for a short way, (Fig. 7 and 9.2), and runs parallel with the north-eastern and part of the south-eastern sides of Enclosure I, before again turning south-east to run on a line parallel with its original course to the river. At this point it is joined by a new

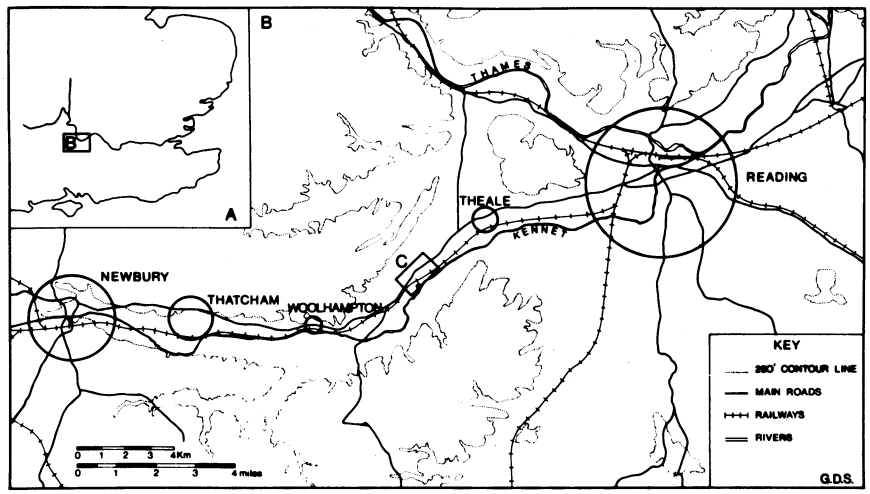

Fig. 1. Ufton Nervet: Location map (Area C is shown in detail in Fig. 2)

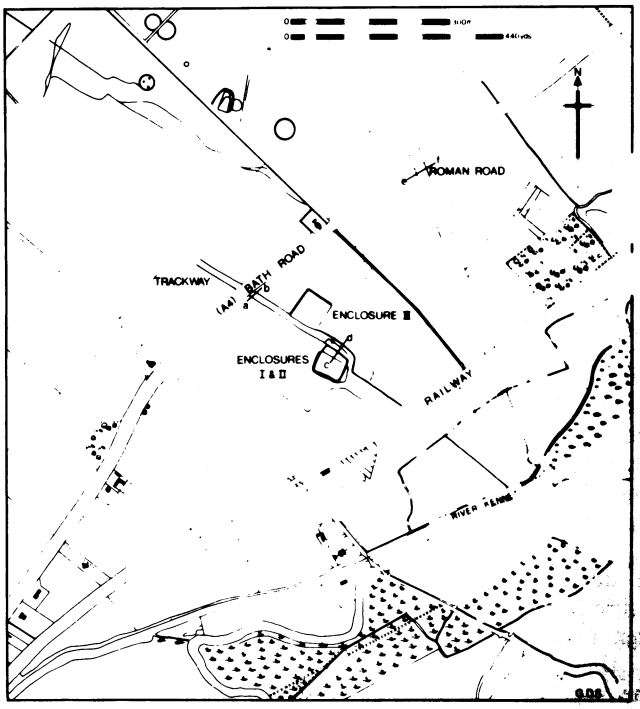

Fig. 2. Ufton Nervet: Map showing crop-mark sites. (a–b, c–d, e–f sections cut in 1961)

southern ditch, which begins to the south-west of Enclosure I. The final stretch of the trackway is exceptionally wide, some 90 ft across, and is more in keeping with a droveway than a farm track. The only other feature of the trackway visible on the aerial photographs is a third ditch which runs parallel with the northern ditch opposite Enclosure I, before turning at its north-western end to butt against the southern trackway ditch a short way to the north-west of that enclosure. The effect of this ditch would be to narrow the track itself from some 36 ft to about 10 ft for traffic coming from the north-west. The reason for this sudden reduction must lie in the existence of Enclosure I with its relatively deep ditch which could have proved a danger to animals being driven along the track, while at the same time it would have prevented the animals from breaking down the edge of the ditch. Clearly, therefore, the ditch of Enclosure I must have been relatively well preserved for sometime after the original trackway was constructed, for this additional ditch is presumably a secondary feature dictated by experience. Where sectioned (Fig. 3.8; pl. 2) the fill of this reducing ditch was found to be a fine, stoneless silt, the product of natural weathering; a fact which eliminates the possibility that it originally held a palisade. There could, of course, have been a hedge set on a slight bank on the southern side of the ditch to increase its effect as an obstacle.[4]

One other length of ditch is visible on the aerial photographs, forming a sharp right-angle opposite to the angle made by the trackway ditch where it turns away from Enclosure I towards the river. It was not excavated but it is probably part of a small paddock or field contemporary with the Roman enclosures.

[4] The aerial photographs show a circular feature on this ditch a short way east of its angle. Although this was not excavated it is unlikely to be of significance for a similar feature, seen in the centre of the northern side of the ditch of Enclosure I, was found on excavation to be a natural patch of silt overlying the gravel.

Two sections were cut across the trackway, both in 1961; the first close to where it enters the field on the north-west (Fig. 2, a–b, and Fig. 3, 4–6), the second opposite Enclosure I (Fig. 2, c–d and Fig. 3, 7–9). The section by the Bath Road revealed the trackway to have a width between the ditches of 31 ft, the width to the centre of each ditch being 36 ft. (Fig. 3.4). Both ditches have steep sides and flat bottoms, and were filled with hard, natural silt containing some gravel; neither produced dating material. The south-western ditch was 6 ft wide and 2 ft deep, (Fig. 3.5); the north-eastern ditch 4 ft wide and again 2 ft deep (Fig. 3.6). Neither had been recut. There was no sign of road metalling, although this could have been removed by ploughing in relatively recent years. The fact that a gate from the Bath Road is set on this trackway indicates that in the past, at least, it provided harder ground for the entry of farm vehicles into the field, and it may be noted that a gate similarly exists where the Roman road reaches the Bath Road.

The second cut was made opposite Enclosure I and was continued across the trackway into the enclosure (Fig. 2, c–d and Fig. 3, 7–9). Here the situation was more complicated. The north-eastern ditch of the trackway was 40 ft from the enclosure ditch, but the effective width of the track was governed by the additional south-western ditch (Ditch a), (Fig. 3.8; pl. 2), which was probably intended as protection for the enclosure ditch. In its final phase the track was only 10 ft wide, but originally it may have been somewhat wider for a recut of the north-eastern ditch had obviously impinged on it. The south-western ditch was 4 ft 6 in. wide and 2 ft 2 in. deep; a wide V-shape in section, filled with a fine silt, containing two fragments of Roman tile, (Fig. 3.8; pl. 2). The edge of the trackway metalling sloped gently from the edge of this ditch to a maximum thickness of 3 in. on the edge of the north-eastern ditch where it had been cut away by the final recut of that ditch (Ditch k). (Fig. 3.7). The north-eastern ditch had, in fact, been recut twice.

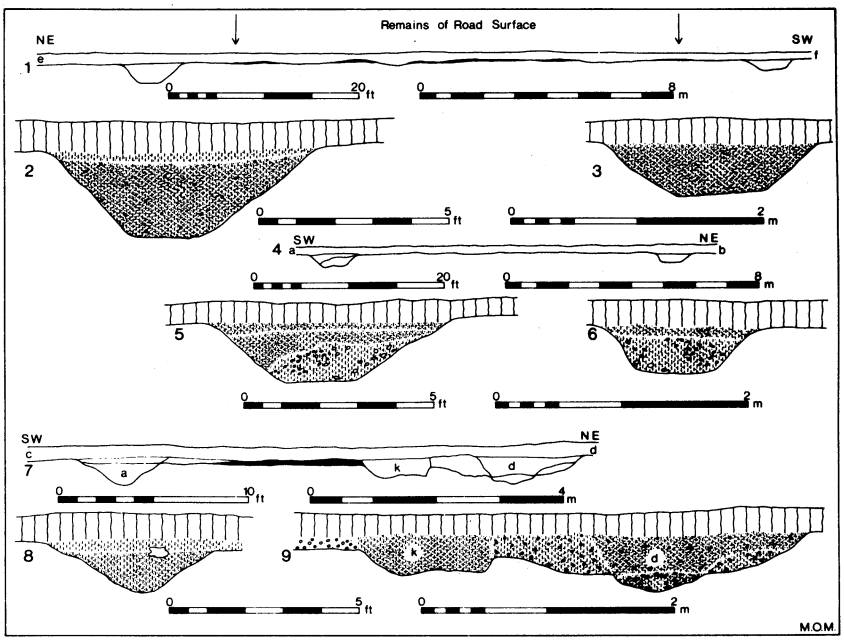

Fig. 3. Ufton Nervet: Sections across Roman Road and Trackway. (For conventions see Fig. 9)

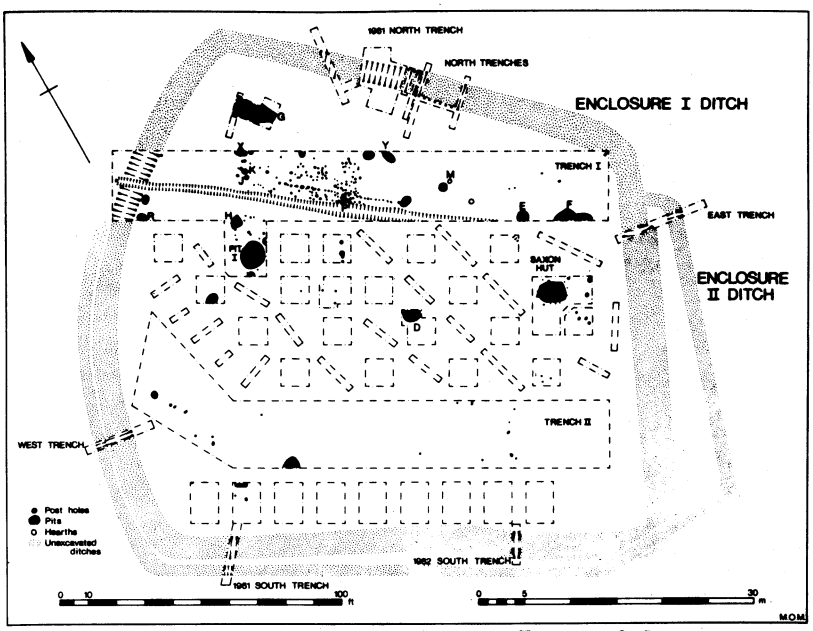

Fig. 4. Ufton Nervet: General plan of Enclosures I and II.

(Fig. 3.9; pl. 3). Originally it was broad and shallow, about 9 ft wide and 2 ft deep; this phase had filled with a fairly stony silt, through which was dug what is probably the first recut (Fig. 3.9d), although, since the recuts are quite separate their relationship cannot be established with finality. The new ditch was 5 ft 6 in. wide and 2 ft deep, and had filled naturally with a fine, stoneless silt. The second recut (Fig. 3.9k), which removed the southern edge of the original ditch and part of the road, was 3 ft 6 in. wide and 1 ft 9 in. deep, and also contained a natural silt. One reason for supposing this to be the final recut is the fact that the metalling did not extend across it. Both recuts are very irregular in profile. Only the first produced datable material, which indicated that it was silting up at a date not long after the Roman conquest (Fig. 20, 161 and 164).

How far these recuts extend is not certain, but the aerial photographs suggest that the second recut (Ditch k) stops just before the end of Ditch a (the south-western ditch), while the clear recut seen on the aerial photographs at the angle of the north ditch where it turns away from the enclosure towards the river, suggests that the first recut (d) may extend at least that far.

A section across the southern ditch of Enclosure III near its south-eastern corner revealed the northern trackway ditch cutting into the edge of the enclosure ditch. At this point the trackway ditch was broad and shallow, almost certainly showing its original form before the two recuts distorted its section (Fig. 9.2).

ENCLOSURE I

(Fig. 4)

This, the earliest of the enclosures, is an irregular rectangle with only the south-eastern corner approximating to a right-angle. The north-eastern and south-eastern sides are straight; the south-western side almost so, although with a kink near its south-eastern end; but the north-western side has a pronounced outward bow. At its north-western, and wider end, the distance between the north-eastern and south-western ditches is some 175 ft, but at the south-eastern end they are only 135 ft apart. The maximum distance from the south-eastern to the north-western ditch, across the centre of the enclosure, is about 185 ft. The area enclosed is thus somewhat over half an acre.

The ditch around the enclosure appears to have been continuous for there is no sign of an entrance gap or causeway at any point on the aerial photographs (pl. 1). In the centre of the north-eastern side is an almost circular patch which was at first taken as a possible entrance, but excavation showed that even here the ditch was present and that the crop-mark was the product of an area of natural silt. The ditch was sectioned in five places in 1961 and 1962; twice on the south-western side (1961 and 1962, Southern trenches), one each on the south-eastern and north-western sides (1962, East and West trenches), and three times on the north-east (1961 and 1962, Northern trenches), but all of these north-eastern sections were so close together that one may be taken as typical of them all. The width and depth of the ditch varies somewhat. It was at its slightest on the north-eastern side (8 ft wide and about 4 ft deep). (Fig. 5.3), and near the north-western end of the south-western side (8 ft 4 in. wide and 3 ft 6 in. deep). (Fig. 5.4). More typical, perhaps, are the sections on the south-eastern, north-western and south-eastern end of the south-western sides where it is about 10 ft wide and 4 ft 6in. deep (Fig. 5.2 and 5; pl. 4). The most exceptional section was on the south-eastern side (pl. 5) where it was found to be of normal size in the northern half of the cut (Fig. 5.2), but in the southern half it widened to 13 ft 9 in. and deepened by 5 in. (Fig. 5.1)—sufficient to take it below the present water table. Assuming, as seems reasonable, that the ditch was dug in sections this sudden variation probably represents no more than the junction of two such lengths. The profile varied between a steep-sided, flat-bottomed, truncated V-shape in the 1961

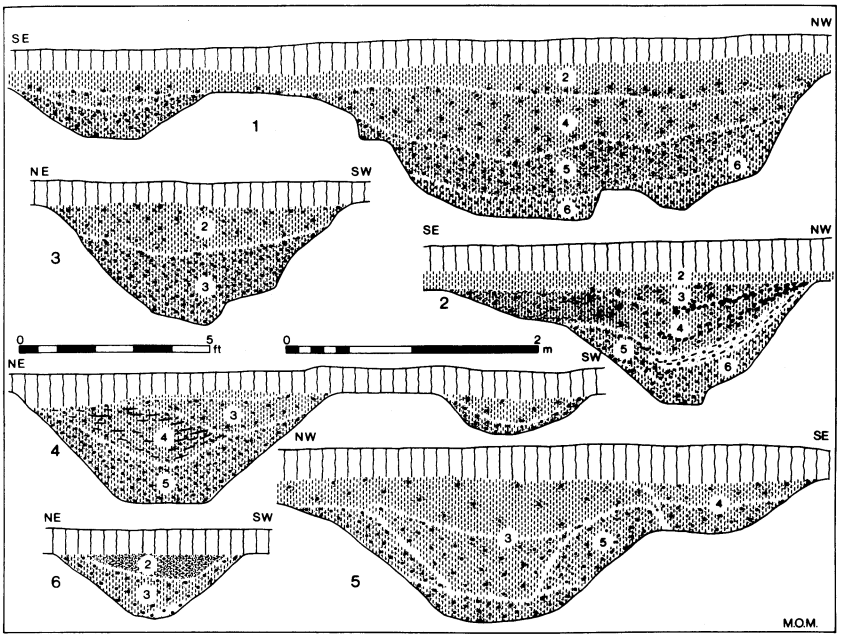

Fig. 5. Ufton Nervet: Sections across ditches of Enclosures I and II. (For conventions see Fig. 9)

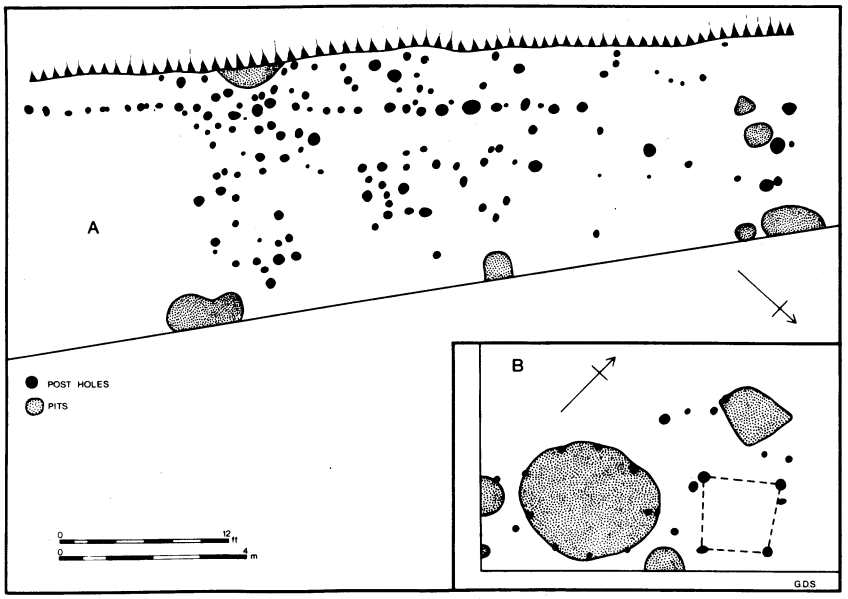

Fig. 6. Ufton Nervet: Enclosures I and II (a) Complex of post-holes in Trench I (b) Post-holes near Pit I.

southern section (Fig. 5.4), to a rather rough U-shape elsewhere; no doubt the nature of the sub-soil largely conditioned this rather slack shape.

The fill in most of the sections was remarkably uniform; some primary silt containing a little pottery, was covered by a band of fairly sterile gravel, with a more earthy gravel in the top of the ditch. Only in the south trench of 1961 (Fig. 5.4), where a layer of burnt material had been thrown into the ditch from the interior of the enclosure, and in the east trench where a thinner layer of burnt debris ran in from the interior (Fig. 5.2), was the pattern varied. There is no reason to doubt that the thick, sterile layer in the centre of the ditch is material from the bank thrown back in before the enclosure was replaced by Enclosure II. The pottery from the various sections across this ditch indicates that this levelling took place relatively soon after the Claudian conquest.

The Interior In an attempt to discover features in the interior of the enclosure large areas were cleared,[5] (pl. 6 and 9), with the result that it is possible to say with a high degree of certainty that there were no detectable pre-Roman structures of any size, other than an occasional pit (H and R), and possibly a few unrelated post-holes which, by their very nature, cannot be dated. The most striking features seen on the plan (Fig. 4)—most of the pits, the deep, enclosed pit (Pit I), the post-hole alignment, and the only hut found—were either Roman and associated with Enclosure II or, in the case of the hut and Pit I, Saxon. Before the 1962 excavation began it was assumed that the enclosure was a farmstead and would contain huts of some form, and the absence of such huts came rather as a surprise. It seems improbable that a hut had existed, but was constructed in such a manner that its structural remains lay outside any of the excavated areas, especially when it is remembered that a bank must have stood on the inside lip of the ditch, thus substantially reducing the available area. More probably there had either never been a hut, or it had been constructed in a way which left no detectable archaeological trace. There is no doubt that a rectangular hut, which would not be impossible in the cultural context, carried on sleeper-beams set in the topsoil might leave such slight traces as to be undetectable, whereas a large circular hut would have required structural post-holes or slots which would have been discovered. But it is perhaps more likely that there never was a hut at all. There is a singular absence of pits or other features of the required date which might be expected in an inhabited enclosure, and it should be noted that when rectangular huts were built in Enclosure III it was found necessary to construct an elaborate system of gullies and soakaways for the water draining from their roofs. No similar system existed in Enclosure I, although the subsoil is the same.

The date at which this enclosure was constructed is less easily determined than the date of its destruction. The earliest material is that from Pits H and R, with the former possibly being slightly earlier than the latter (pp. 33, 36). It is possible that the enclosure was in existence for some time before this pottery was deposited in it, but this cannot be proved. Unfortunately it is very difficult to give an exact date to these sherds, but as is argued below (p. 25) they are unlikely to predate the Roman conquest by many years. Thus the ceramic evidence suggests that the life of the enclosure was relatively short, being constructed a few years before the Roman conquest and levelled soon after it.

[5] It was originally intended to excavate the interior by means of a series of boxes laid on a grid system, but it soon became clear that the cost would exceed the available resources and three long trenches were bulldozed across the site. These were then cleaned by volunteers, for their whole lengths in cases of Trenches I and II, and in large rectangles in the case of Trench III. Finally single trenches were cut between the original boxes in order to check that no major features lay between them.

ENCLOSURE II

(Fig. 4)

After the ditches of Enclosure I had been refilled, it was replaced by a new enclosure outlined by small V-shaped ditches, (Fig. 5.1, 4, 5 and 6). Its general shape is known from the aerial photographs (pl. 1); on the north-western side the ditch follows the curving line of the Enclosure I ditch, running on its outer edge, and in places cutting into it (Fig. 5.5; pl. 7); on the south-western side it runs parallel with, but a few feet outside, the earlier ditch (Fig. 5.4), cutting across it in the southern corner; only on the south-east does it extend someway beyond the original ditch, (Fig. 5.1). As far as can be seen from the aerial photographs this ditch is continuous on these three sides, but it is separated from the north-eastern side by gaps at each end. This north-eastern ditch (Fig. 5.6; pl. 8) is set some 40 to 50 ft inside the earlier enclosure, although it follows more-or-less the same alignment; almost its whole length was revealed in the 1962 excavation. The gap between its north-western end and the north-eastern end of its companion ditch must be relatively slight, but at its south-eastern end there is a wider space—probably the entrance from the trackway. Within the enclosure there was a scatter of post-holes, and a few shallow pits which can probably be equated with this phase, although only Pit D produced datable material, but nothing which could indicate a meaningful structure, and this enclosure, like its predecessor, appears to have been free from buildings which could leave a detectable trace. The majority of contemporary features, in fact, lay outside the enclosure between its north-eastern ditch and the corresponding edge of Enclosure I.

A date for the construction of this enclosure is given by the fact that on the north-western side its ditch cuts into the filling of the Enclosure I ditch, which, as we have seen was refilled by the end of the first century A.D. (p. 18 below) (Fig. 5.5). Only in parts of the north-eastern ditch was additional pottery being deposited as late as the third century (p. 38 below). It should be remembered, however, that this ditch is a very slight affair and was almost certainly backed by a bank, or a hedge, or quite probably both. The silting of the ditch does not automatically mean, therefore, that the enclosure was abandoned before the end of the first century; indeed the second and third century pottery, and its proximity to Enclosure III, suggests that it was not. As we shall see below, Enclosure III itself continued in use for some two centuries after the silting of its ditch.

The features lying to the north-east of the enclosure, although numerous, make little sense. They consist of a number of shallow pits (E, F, G, P, X and Y), a pair of hearths (including M), and a complex array of post-holes running for about 60 ft, (Fig. 6.A; pl. 9). Little need be said of the pits; they were shallow and contained a few sherds of pottery at most. In almost all cases they had silted gradually and naturally. Only one (Pit P) can be given a relative date in that it is cut through by the north-eastern ditch of Enclosure II, but even then the pottery from it suggests that it predates the ditch by only a few years at most; the others are datable only by their contents

The most conspicuous group of post-holes form a straight line running almost parallel with the central length of the north-eastern ditch of Enclosure II (Fig. 6; pl. 9). This group must represent the remains of a palisade, but whether it is contemporary with the ditch is an open question, although its alignment shows that it must form part of the general assemblage associated with Enclosure II rather than with the earlier enclosure. The other post-holes in this area baffle all attempts to reduce them to meaningful patterns. None form convenient groups of four which might conventionally be identified as granaries, and although in a few cases they seem to form sets of three it would be unwise to place much significance on this. Clearly all the posts were not contemporary, but apart from that, little else can safely be deduced from them. The only marked concentration of post-holes within Enclosure II lay between the north-eastern ditch and Pit. I. Of these four, (Fig. 6.B), of

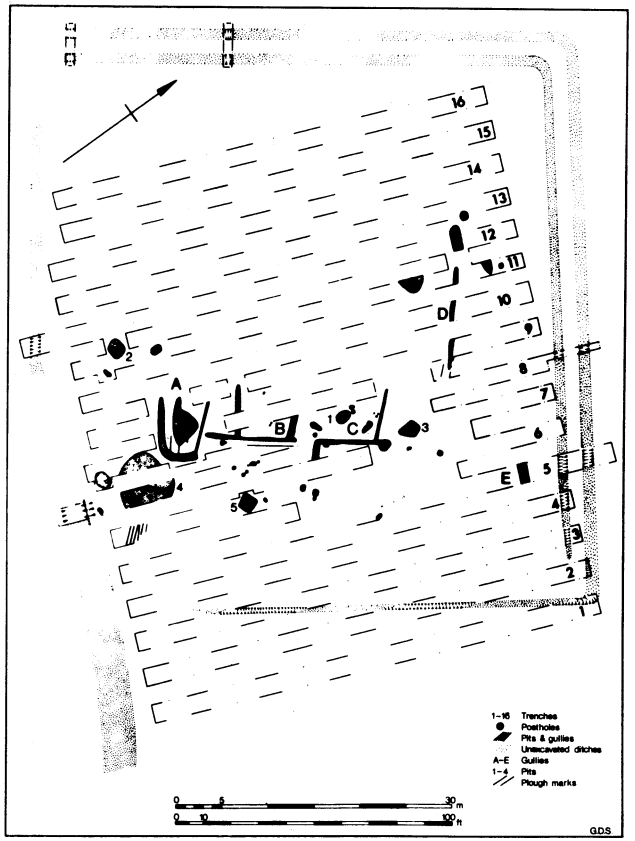

Fig. 7. Ufton Nervet: General plan of Enclosure III.

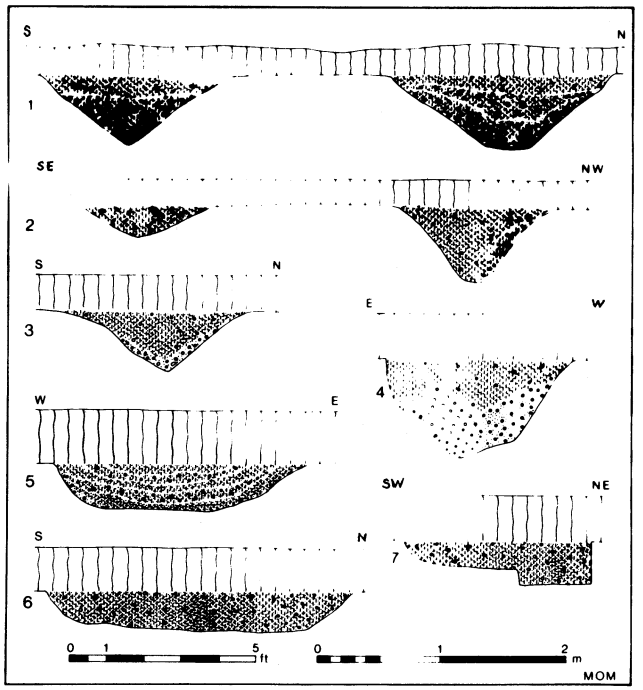

Fig. 8. Ufton Nervet: Sections across ditches and pits of Enclosure III. (For conventions see Fig. 9)

greater depth than the others, form a slightly irregular square with sides of 5 ft which could be the remains of a raised granary of the type postulated at many sites since its discovery at Little Woodbury. There is no evidence to indicate which enclosure it was contemporary with.

ENCLOSURE III

(Fig. 7)

Enclosure III lies about 150 ft north-west of the other enclosures.[6] Its relationship to the trackway ditches makes it clear that it must predate them and Enclosure II, although probably not by many years. In contrast to the other enclosures it is a regular rectangle with sides of almost exactly 200 ft. The north-eastern and north-western sides are marked by a double ditch, but on the remaining sides the ditch is single (Fig. 7). On the south-eastern side the ditch does not run for the full length of the enclosure and there is a wide gap at its southern end. If this represents the entrance, as seems likely, it must have been a very simple one for there was no sign of a gate. The ditches, which are V- or U-shaped, were relatively slight, the outer ditch varying between 3 ft 6 in. and 5 ft in width, and 2 ft to 3 ft in depth; (pl. 10); the inner ditch was distinctly smaller—some 3 or 4 ft wide and usually less than 2 ft 6 in. deep (Fig. 8.1, 2 and 3). The distance between them is about 5 ft. Their fill was a uniform, gravelly earth, producing few finds except on the south-eastern side where it was prolific in pottery, which indicated that it was being refilled throughout the second century. Clearly these ditches had no defensive function, even against marauding animals, and we must assume that the bank produced by their spoil was the functional element. There is no evidence that they held posts, and the amount of refuse found in the south-eastern ditch indicates that they were left open and eventually used as rubbish tips, although, as will be seen, they must have been kept clear for some time before this final filling occurred. The bank probably stood between the ditches, although all sign of it had long since been destroyed by ploughing, and it could have been reinforced by a palisade or, perhaps more probably, a hedge.

Although this enclosure predates Enclosure II, the contrast between the material from their ditches is striking. The ditches around Enclosure II must have been almost completely filled before any pottery was allowed to collect in those of Enclosure III, and, since both would have tended to silt up at an equal rate, the ditches of the earlier enclosure must have been deliberately kept clean until the beginning of the second century. An exception to this rule is in the south-western corner where the ditch had silted up before the digging of the trackway ditch (Fig. 9.2). Doubtless the new ditch rendered cleaning of the old one unnecessary. The date of the construction of this enclosure is provided by the fact that it predates the trackway ditches which follow the north-eastern edge of Enclosure I, which was levelled soon after the Roman conquest. The regularity of the plan of Enclosure III strongly suggests Roman influence, and a date early in the Roman period, certainly in the Claudio-Neronian period, seems most probable.

The excavation of the interior of the enclosure produced no substantial structures. The central area was almost completely free from features of any kind, and although some small pits or post-holes may have escaped detection at the western end of the site, where the examination was less complete, it is certain that no large pits or gullies existed there. The majority of the features lay in the south-eastern half of the enclosure, with others

[6] In order to use the limited money and labour available to the best advantage, a series of strips were cut across the enclosure with a tractor-towed scraper. These were then cleaned by hand, and the intervening baulks removed where necessary to follow the features. Although the majority of these strips were completely cleaned, shortage of time and labour prevented this from being completed over the full lengths of those at the western end of the site, but sufficient work was done to show that no major features had existed at that end of the enclosure.

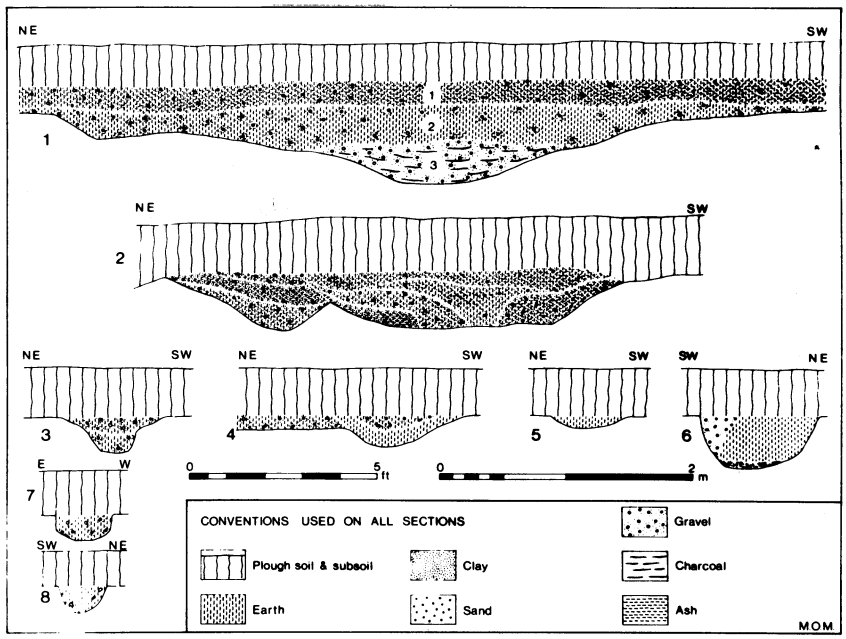

Fig. 9. *Ufton Nervet: Sections across pits and drainage gullies in Enclosure III.*

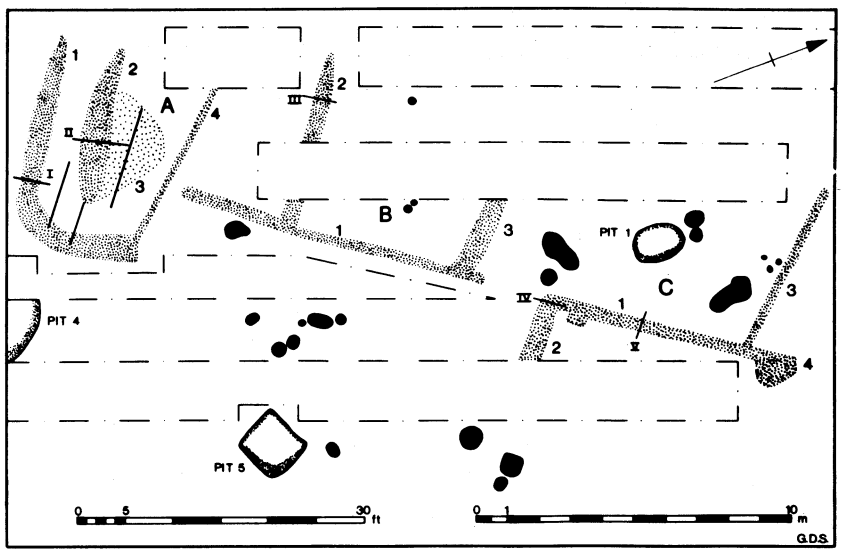

Fig. 10. *Ufton Nervet: Plan of gullies in Enclosure III.*

running along the north-eastern and south-eastern sides. There were a few pits, many of them filled with gravelly silt, obviously the result of natural weathering (Fig. 8.4–7; pl. 11). None produced more than a few sherds of pottery and the majority were sterile. One was markedly larger than the others (Pit 4), some 20 ft in diameter and almost 4 ft deep (Fig. 9.1; pl. 12), but although a fine bronze pin of late Saxon type came from the top of the fill the body of it produced a few scraps of ironwork (Fig. 31) of Roman type. Indeed if the brooch (Fig. 11.9) is of the Langton Down type, it is likely that the pit was refilled before the end of the Flavian period, and the presence of the Saxon pin is no more than a coincidence. The most firmly dated was Pit 1, which produced a small group of pottery, mainly of the first half of the second century A.D. Among these pits was a scatter of post-holes, few of which made any coherent pattern.

In this area also lay the three sets of shallow gullies which formed the main feature of the enclosure (Fig. 10; p. 13). Of these, two sets (B and C) lie on the same axis, parallel with the south-eastern side of the enclosure, while the third (A) curves around the southern end of B. None were deep, although some were up to 2 ft across, and had no doubt been even wider at the surface when they were open; in cross-section they were U-shaped (Fig. 9.3–8). Their fill was a uniform dark silt, and Groups A and B produced sufficient pottery to date their final disuse to the end of the third century A.D. or the beginning of the fourth. No pottery came from the sections cut across the gullies of Group C, but they largely continue the alignment of Group B and are so clearly related that they are not likely to differ markedly in date. In addition to the main series two single gullies were found running parallel with the north-eastern side of the enclosure (Fig. 7, D and E).

There can be little doubt that the main groups are the drainage gullies around rectangular huts, dug to collect and carry away the rain water which ran from their roofs. That they represent more than one phase of construction seems certain, but an exact reconstruction of the group is made difficult by the nature of the evidence. All of the gullies tend to slope down gently from their narrowest end to a maximum depth at the opposite end, but only one (C1) ends in a sump. A certain amount can be deduced from their plans alone, but the probable roof forms must also be considered for these will, to a great extent, control the drainage pattern. Group B is the simplest and has all the appearance of having been dug as a unit. Group C would be equally simple were it not for the narrow gully (C3) running at an angle to the main axis. Had this been part of the original design one would have expected it to be set at a right-angle to the main gully, as are the side gullies of Group B, and it is probably significant that it runs parallel with another anomalous gully in Group A (A4). Unfortunately neither gully produced datable material. In addition to the gully (A4) just mentioned Group A contains two others (A1 and A2) together with a shallow depression filled with a similar dark earth to the gullies (A3). It seems improbable that gullies A1 and A2 can have been in use at the same time, but on the evidence of the pottery from them, and from the depression, they cannot have been separated by more than a few years.[7] The depression (A3) almost certainly represents an area of occupation, perhaps by animals. The section (Fig. 9.4) across it indicated that it was cut by the gully A2, which would suggest an association with gully A1 and confirm that both are earlier than A2.

The plan of the gullies makes it clear that the buildings which they served must have been rectangular, and there appear to be three main possible roof forms:

(1) A double-pitched roof with a central ridge and probably with an entrance in one of

[7] An alternative suggestion that A2 is a bedding trench associated with drip-gully A1 is not supported by the sections. Nor is it probable that it is an internal drain within a hut, perhaps for animals, since it does not drain anywhere.

the ends. Such a building should logically have drainage gullies along both sides and possibly at the back.

(2) A roof pitching down on both sides of a central ridge which does not run the full length of the building but has a third slope running from its end to the back of the building. Such a roof would require drainage gullies on three sides, and the entrance would be at the front. An additional slope to the front of the house would produce standing water outside the door and is inherently improbable.

(3) A single-pitch roof sloping from a high front to a low back. Here a single drainage gully is sufficient. If, however, the entrance is in one end rather than in the centre of the higher side it might be thought advisable to continue the gully around the opposite end.[8]

In Group A the three gullies probably all represent separate buildings, but the order in which they were built is less certain. Gullies A1 and A2 can only be separated by a short space of time since the pottery from them is so similar, and we may postulate a small single-pitch roofed hut for both phases. The evidence mentioned above suggests that A1 is the earlier of the two. The relationship of A4 is by no means clear. It appeared to run into A1, but its end could equally well have been cut by it for the fill of the two features was so similar that it was impossible to decide the point. Its alignment is parallel with that of C3 which also ends in another gully (C1), and it would seem to be an odd coincidence if the ends of both were cut by later gullies. The most likely explanation is that both represent a late phase of building; in the case of C3 it being an addition to the group, and in the case of A4 a replacement, which, since it must post-date the late third or fourth century pottery found in the other gullies of Group A, is likely to be late and of relatively short duration. It is, of course, possible that it ran along the north side of the hut which had A1 along its southern side, but if so the difference of alignment is surprising.

Group B appears to be a single unit and could have served two buildings, one standing in the angle formed by B2 and the southern arm of B1, and the other between B2 and B3. This latter would have been either a double-pitched roof (Type 1), perhaps with a rear slope (Type 2) or a single slope, running into B3, with B1 serving as a drain for B2 and B3. The other hut would have a single-slope roof discharging into B2 with the southern end of B1 running along its eastern side. In all of these, and in Group A, the entrances are likely to have been at the western ends.

Group C (pl. 13) is probably of two periods; Gully C3 being a later addition for a hut with a single-slope roof which utilised the existing drainage by flowing into C1 and its sump. The fact that C3 runs parallel with Gully A4, which we have suggested is probably a late feature, may indicate a correspondingly late date, and this would accord with its being secondary to C1. In any case the hut standing to the east of C1 in its angle with the sump (C2) would have had a single-pitched roof and would be exceptional in having its entrance on the northern or eastern side. All must have had timber foundations—sill beams—lying directly on the ground or set so shallowly that they did not disturb the subsoil.

The probable existence of single-pitch roofed buildings[9] in this enclosure suggests an explanation for the otherwise puzzling gullies D (pl. 14) and E, namely that they are the drainage gullies for similar structures, although if E is to be connected with a gully of this type it must have been a small one. It may be noted that D drains into a deeper pit or sump at its western end. Both of these gullies are aligned more or less at right angles to the

[8] In the case of a gully such as A1 this probably offers a better explanation than the alternative of a single pitch roof with an additional slope at one end—although this is not impossible.

[9] A substantial building of second century date at Usk, Monmouthshire, excavated by the writer in 1970, had a single drainage gully running along one side and curving slightly around it at one end. The differences in the post-holes on the two longer sides of the building made it quite clear that this gully was at the back of the building.

main north-east/south-west axis of Groups B and C, with which they *could* be contemporary.

Although a number of post-holes were found in the area of these gullies only two can reasonably be identified as forming part of the structure of one of the huts. These are the two large post-holes lying just to the north-west of gully C1; their size and position strongly suggests that they held two corner posts of the hut associated with gully C3, but unless the corresponding posts at the other end lay under one of the baulks, which seems improbable, the buildings must have been a hybrid of post-holes and sleeper beams. The existence of the second century pit (Pit 1) probably indicates that the building was constructed after that date, for it is unlikely that it would have been dug within the building. It is noticeable that although there are a number of pits in this general area, with the exception of Pit 1 they lie outside the areas of the huts.

The finds from the gullies of Groups A and B showed that they were allowed to silt-up in the late third or early fourth centuries A.D., (Fig. 24. 258–264; Fig. 25. 265–284) and, since once silted their efficiency would be greatly reduced, we may safely accept that this represents the period shortly before the final abandonment of the buildings and presumably of the enclosure. Although no dating evidence came from the other gullies there is no reason to suppose that the buildings which they served continued in use after Groups A and B. This evidence does not, of course, indicate when they were constructed, and this could have been many years, indeed several centuries, earlier; for the gullies would have to be kept clear if they were to function efficiently. There is a striking discrepancy between the date of the abandonment of the enclosure, provided by the material from the gullies, and the date at which the enclosure ditches were allowed to silt-up. As far as we can tell somewhere around two centuries divided the two events, and, since we lack any indication of other buildings within the enclosure, we must assume either that there was a long period when there were no buildings, or that this indicates the period of occupation for this group of buildings. Of the two possibilities the latter is the most probable, since it provides an explanation for the considerable quantities of pottery dumped in the ditches of the various enclosures, while the alternative explanation of buildings outside the enclosures in the first and second centuries, although not impossible, seems improbable. Within this period, of course, individual buildings could have been rebuilt, and the evidence of Group A indicates that this was in fact done, while the gully C3 almost certainly reveals an addition to the original group. Rebuilding need not, of course, have affected the layout of the gullies, but there is no inherent reason why all the buildings should have been regularly replaced. A period of over two hundred years is not excessive for the life of a timber-framed building, as is shown by the number of medieval houses which, with no more elaborate foundations than we have suggested for ours, survive to the present day. The fact that drainage gullies were found to be necessary in the third century suggests that the existence of earlier buildings without gullies is unlikely.

A few yards to the north of these gullies was a dump of fragmentary roofing tiles, both tegulae and imbrices, which had presumably originally come from these buildings, and which indicates a degree of Romanisation which is almost surprising in view of the apparent poverty of the site. The fact that they had been gathered together suggests a regular demolition of the buildings rather than gradual decay, with the complete tiles being salvaged for use elsewhere.

If the gullies indicate the true size of these buildings, and to a great extent they must, they were too small for many internal divisions. Rather they appear to be a series of individual huts, more reminiscent of an Iron Age hut-group than the adjacent rooms of a Romanised house. Such an arrangement would, of course, be perfectly logical if these huts, at least in their earliest form, were contemporary with

the construction of the enclosure. Other sites, such as the villas at Park Street, Ditchley and Whitton,[10] show that the first stages of Romanisation might take the form of buildings which were little more than rectangular huts—indeed in some cases, including Whitton and Catsgore,[11] the huts were not even rectangular. In this case Ufton Nervet is unusual only in the timber buildings continuing in use until the late third century without the later refinement of stone foundations.

Plough-marks. Two groups of plough-marks were found in Trench 6 and among the gullies of Group A, but although they were later than the drainage gullies their exact date could not be established. The fact that they lay below almost two feet of soil suggests that they are not recent, and they may be connected with the fragment of ridge and furrow which survives on the eastern side of the railway (pl. 1 and Fig. 2); their alignment would accord with such an association.

DISCUSSION

Enclosure I Small enclosures of this general type are not uncommon in the late Iron Age and Roman period, nor are they confined to any one area. Mrs M. A. Cotton has discussed the distribution of rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire in some detail,[12] and there would be little point in repeating her work here. Although she included enclosures of differing dates within her survey, the site on which it was centred, Robin Hood's Arbour, near Maidenhead, provides a good parallel for our Enclosure I. The site is wooded, and too little of the interior was excavated for it to be clear if it had contained buildings or not, but in date and size (the internal area is $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, and the ditch is 16 ft wide and 2–3 ft deep) it is very comparable with our earthwork. It differs somewhat in having a well-marked entrance, with a paved or cobbled yard within it, but it was notable that there was no sign of a gate and the ditch itself stopped well short of the entrance. Freedom from ploughing had left the internal bank in a relatively good state of preservation.

Another enclosure of the same date and probably of similar size, was partially excavated in 1958–9 at the Prior's Park Gravel Pit, Cookham.[13] Here the ditches were 6 ft wide and about 3 ft deep, bounding an enclosure 72 ft wide and at least 60 ft long. The entrance had associated post-holes, but they made no clear pattern. The occupation of the site continued into the Roman period. A third comparable site is at Rams Hill, Kingston Lisle,[14] where excavations in 1938–9 by S. and C. M. Piggott revealed a series of earthworks beginning in the Bronze Age and including a rectangular enclosure of late Iron Age or early Roman date, too little pottery being found to decide between the two. The ditch was 8 ft wide and 4 ft deep, and although the exact size of the enclosure was not discovered, one side was found to be 260 ft long, while those at right angles to it were traced for 110 ft. Insufficient of the interior was cleared for any meaningful comment on it, although the very small ditch found running parallel with the south side of the enclosure 75 ft inside it could have been a drainage gully of the type found in Enclosure III at Ufton Nervet. It is quite possible that it should be compared with our Enclosure III rather than with the earlier one.

Of the other sites listed by Mrs Cotton, several are Roman and more comparable with Enclosure II and III, while subsequent work has shown that others lie outside our period.[15]

On a wider scale, small enclosures, usually containing a circular hut, were common in many parts of Britain in the years prior to the Roman conquest. They vary in shape, but the

[10] Park Street: O'Neill 1945; Ditchley: Radford 1936; Whitton: *J.R.S.* LIX (1969) 200, Fig. 26.
[11] Catsgore: Radford 1951.
[12] Cotton 1961, 14.
[13] Cotton 1961, 25.
[14] Piggott & Piggott 1940.
[15] Straithanger Field, Sonning (Cotton 1961, 28) is now known to be Neolithic (*Berks. Arch. J.* LVI (1963–4) 4).

general principle remains the same, and they are usually identified as small farmsteads—no doubt correctly.[16]

Ufton Nervet I is one of the few enclosures of this type which has been sufficiently fully excavated for the presence or absence of huts to be obvious, and it is unfortunate, though inevitable, that a doubt still remains. Upon the whole, the probability is against there having been a hut within it, but certainty is impossible, particularly when it is remembered that rectangular huts might reasonably be expected in such a cultural context. If the absence of a hut is accepted the function of the enclosure becomes less certain. Traditionally enclosures lacking huts are regarded as animal pens or kraals, and this would form an acceptable explanation for our enclosure. The ditch is scarcely defensive; no active thief, and none but the most aged and decrepit of predatory animals, would find it a real obstacle, and it seems more probable that it was intended, together with the bank, and perhaps a hedge or palisade as well, to keep animals in rather than out, and to offer a token resistance to human intruders. By comparison the present ditch around the field is a far more formidable defence, being both wider and deeper, but this is not its function. Additional confirmation that the enclosure was intended for animals may be seen in the fact that the trackway from the enclosure to the river, is so wide as to suggest that it was a droveway for cattle or sheep; and that it was thought necessary to protect the northern ditch of the enclosure with an additional ditch, and presumably bank, again suggesting the herding of animals. It may also be significant that Enclosure II, which replaced it and may have continued its function, contained no detectable building, although in Enclosure III, with which it was contemporary, the buildings were made obvious by their drainage gullies. The pottery from the ditch of Enclosure I is not in itself an argument for habitation within the enclosure, for most of it entered the ditch when it was being refilled and could, therefore, have originated in Enclosure III, which must have been in existence at that time.

In recent years, however, an alternative explanation for such enclosures has been suggested. The problems of Celtic religion, and particularly the archaeological remains which may be associated with it have begun to receive considerable attention from archaeologists. Much of the evidence comes from the continent, and there rectangular enclosures are regularly found associated with shrines and burials.[17] In his discussion of this evidence Professor Stuart Piggott has drawn attention to the small rectangular enclosures, 10 m square or less, containing graves and frequently a setting of four posts forming a rectangle, which are found in the Marne area of France in the Pre-Roman Iron Age. Burials within small, square enclosures are known in Iron Age Britain and have been discussed by Dr I. M. Stead, but in the main, they are confined to Yorkshire and are earlier than the period we are concerned with.[18] More relevant to Ufton Nervet is Piggott's suggestion that some of the British rectilinear enclosures also have a religious significance, the more so as he particularly mentions Robin Hood's Arbour and Ram's Hill as probable examples.[19] Clearly the evidence which could lead to their identification as religious sites must apply equally to Enclosure I at Ufton Nervet and this possibility must be considered.

The British enclosures are less comparable with the burial enclosures mentioned above than with the *Viereckschanzen* sites of

[16] Too many of these enclosures exist for any list to be more than a random selection, but they range in area from South Wales to Southern Scotland, with large numbers in south-eastern England.

[17] Conveniently summarised in Piggott 1968, 58 ff., and Piggott 1965, 232 ff.

[18] I. M. Stead *The La Tène Cultures of Eastern Yorkshire.* A possible continuation of this custom may be seen in the small, square cremating place and burial ground at Romano-British date at Roden Down, Compton, Berks. (*Trans. Newbury and Dist. F.C.* IX (1948) 10 ff.).

[19] Piggott 1968, 78. Piggott 1965, 232.

Germany and parts of Switzerland and France, which date from shortly before the Roman period and continue into it.[20] Within these enclosures which have been excavated, such as Holzhausen in Bavaria, or Tomerdingen in Württemburg,[21] are found deep ritual shafts. The evidence for Ufton Nervet having a religious origin is essentially negative, namely that it is the right date and that there is no certain evidence that it was a habitation site, but such an argument is really too slight to be convincing, the more so since Enclosure I was succeeded by another which did contain huts and was presumably, therefore, a farmstead.

Enclosure II: is obviously a replacement for Enclosure I, and although it is slightly later in date than Enclosure III, it is quite probable that the gap between them is a short one and that they form part of the same plan. The absence of major internal features suggests that it was an outlying, enclosed yard, probably for stock, of Enclosure III. The presence of two hearths may be noted, although they need not be domestic, but the post-holes, whether in alignment or in the apparently random patterns, have no very obvious meaning. The evidence suggesting that this enclosure remained in use long after its ditches had silted-up has been given above, and it is quite probable that it continued to function until the abandonment of Enclosure III.

Enclosure III: Enclosures more or less comparable with our Enclosure III are quite common in Roman Britain; some have been known for centuries, but many more have been found in recent years by aerial photography. In some cases such as Ditchley, Oxon. or Cox Green, Berks. they enclose a small villa; in others there is a slighter degree of Romanisation, or perhaps of wealth, and no stone building appears. In this latter case early excavations will have missed any timber buildings, and even today without almost total excavation we cannot be certain whether they existed or not; indeed as was seen with Enclosure I a final negative is almost impossible even after excavation. The difference between timber and stone buildings in the more prosperous parts of the province is probably one of degree, for several villas excavated in recent years are known to have had timber predecessors; and the failure to develop from a timber house into a fully Romanised one with stone foundations is as likely to have been a matter of economics as of culture. In itself the rectangular shape of such enclosures is probably of no great significance, rectangular enclosures are too common in the Roman period, and serve too wide a variety of uses, for much emphasis to be put on shape alone. Their regularity and the use of small V-shaped ditches *may* be indicative of a Roman origin, but even this is not certain, for a number of late Iron Age enclosures are almost as regular, and by no means all Roman enclosures are as rectangular as is Ufton Nervet.

Among the rectilinear enclosures included in Mrs M. A. Cotton's paper are four which are certainly of Roman date: Weycock Hill, Cox Green, Lowbury Hill and Long Wittenham; while Ram's Hill could as easily be early Roman as late Iron Age.[22] Others known from aerial photographs are probably Roman, but without excavation this cannot be proved. Of the four listed above, the Weycock Hill enclosure is a temple *temenos*; the Lowbury enclosure differs in being surrounded by a wall and not a ditch and is a most puzzling site which may well have been religious; the Cox Green enclosure surrounds a villa; and the Long Wittenham enclosures, though probably

[20] Piggott 1968, 77 ff. J. Filip *Celtic Civilization and its Heritage* 132 ff. Zürn 1971, 218 and the references cited on 226.

[21] Zürn 1971, 218 ff.

[22] Weycock Hill: *Berks. Arch. J.* LV (1957) 48 ff.; Cotton 1961, 30. Cox Green: *Berks. Arch J.* LX (1962) 62 ff.; Cotton 1961, 24. Lowbury Hill: D. Atkinson *Romano-British Site at Lowbury Hill* (1916); Cotton 1961, 24. Long Wittenham: *P.S.A.* XVIII (2nd Ser.) (1899–1901) 10 ff.; Cotton 1961. 25. Rams Hill: Piggott & Piggott 1940, 465 ff.; Cotton 1961, 25.

agricultural settlements, present certain problems. They were planned and excavated at the end of the last century and although it seems safe to say that they did not contain stone buildings, timber buildings, or their drainage gullies, would not have been detected. The most informative of the group were the three in Fox Furlong, each containing a well, in one of which was found five 'nearly perfect late-Celtic urns'. Another of the enclosures produced a human burial. Although they have always been accepted as agricultural settlement sites,[23] Professor S. Piggott has recently suggested that they are in fact ritual sites of the *Viereckschanzen* type.[24]

Another small group of enclosures on the Lambourn Downs near Ram's Hill deserve mentioned since, although rather less regular than Ufton Nervet, they are associated with Celtic fields, and therefore may be safely identified as farms. These are Botley Copse, Odstone Down, Knighton Bushes and Uffington Down.[25] Of these, Botley Copse, which is irregular in shape, probably contained buildings, no doubt mainly of wood, with sarsen foundations. Surface finds suggest a third or fourth century date, although the fact that some samian ware has been found probably indicates an earlier occupation as well. At Odstone Down the enclosure ditch was thought to have been dug early in the Roman period and refilled in the second century A.D., although buildings with sarsen foundations may have existed outside the enclosure in the third or fourth century. The Knighton Bushes enclosure is sub-rectangular and has produced Constantinian coins. The last of the group, that on Uffington Down, is small (only 69 ft × 52 ft), and although probably Roman, potsherds of that period having been found within it, it may be of a different type to the others.

Groups of crop-marks—small enclosures, trackways and ring ditches—similar to those found in the Kennet Valley are prolific in the valleys of the Upper Thames and its tributaries. Several of these enclosures have been partially excavated and their Roman date confirmed,[26] but internal buildings were not found and they need not be considered in detail here.

The fact that the Cox Green villa in Berkshire lay within an enclosure has already been mentioned, but it was not unique in this. Similar enclosures are known to surround other villas in this region, including Callow Hill, Little Milton and Ditchley.[27] These boundary ditches are almost invariably located by aerial photography for they lie too far from the house itself to be discovered in the main excavation, and there is no doubt that many other villas would be found to have such enclosures if they were looked for. For comparison with Ufton Nervet the date of these enclosure ditches is obviously of importance. Unfortunately the date of the Cox Green ditch remains somewhat uncertain, although it was being refilled in the late third century. The Little Milton site remains unexcavated, but sections were cut across the Callow Hill ditches by Mr Nicholas Thomas in 1950, and indicated that it was dug in the second half of the first century A.D., probably a little before A.D., 75. The most interesting example, however, is the Ditchley villa where Dr C. A. R. Radford was able to show that the

[23] I. A. Richmond in his revision of Collingwood's *Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1969) 178, accepts them as such.

[24] Piggott 1968, 78. The present writer remains unconvinced by this suggestion.

[25] Botley Copse: *Oxon.* XV (1950) 16—18. Odstone Down: *Trans. Newbury and Dist. F.C.* X (no. 1) (1953) 49 ff. Knighton Bushes: *Oxon.* XV 1950 18–19. Uffington Down: *Oxon.* XV (1950) 19. My discussion of these sites, and those in the Upper Thames Valley, is partly based on the work of Mr W. Britnell, to whom I am much indebted.

[26] Mount Farm: *Oxon.* II (1937) 12 ff., and Wally Corner: *Oxon.* XXVI–XXVII (1961) 7 ff., both south of Oxford, near Long Wittenham; Cassington Mill: *Oxon.* XVI (1951) 1 ff., and Eynsham: *Oxon.* VI (1941) 85 ff.; both north of Oxford. Also Vicarage Field, nr. Stanton Harcourt; *Oxon.* XX (1955) 1 ff.

[27] Callow Hill: *Oxon.* XXII (1957) 11 ff. Little Milton: *J.R.S.* XLIII 1953, 94; *J.R.S.* XL (1950) 102, pl. VI, 2 and Fig. 21. Ditchley: Radford 1936.

enclosure ditch was probably contemporary with the first, timber phase of the villa itself, which was built c. A.D. 70. That stone built villas often had timber precursors which could extend back as far as the late Iron Age was one of the most important discoveries of Romano-British archaeology in the years immediately before the Second World War, and to Ditchley may now be added Park Street, near St. Albans, Lockleys, Catsgore, Whitton and several other sites.[28] Indeed it appears probable that the standard form of 'villa' in the early years of the Roman occupation was a simple timber building, which was either still essentially in the local native tradition, such as the round houses at Catsgore and Whitton, or at most showed its Romanisation only in a rectangular form, as at Park Street and Ditchley.[29] It is only late in the first or in the second century that these timber houses were replaced in stone, although in reality even then they were probably little more than wooden buildings resting on low stone walls. Seen in this context Ufton Nervet Enclosure III becomes yet another example of the early stages of Romanisation of a small farm, but one which progressed no further and remained in this simple form until the late third or fourth century. This apparent poverty may largely be the result of its proximity to Silchester, four miles to the south along a major road. Such a situation makes it certain that Ufton Nervet would be closely connected with the city, and it hardly needs the evidence of the pottery to confirm this; (cf. p. 24 below). We know too little of the detailed economic relationship of the large towns of Roman Britain to the country immediately around them, but it is probable that much of this land was farmed from the city itself, as still happens in parts of Italy and other Mediterranean countries today. The rarity of villas around such cities as London, Verulamium and Silchester itself would tend to confirm this, and even if some of the farm labourers did not live in the city, the owners probably would do so. Under such conditions the timber buildings at Ufton Nervet would be at most the dwellings of some farm labourers and their families, and the poor material conditions would reflect their social status rather than the wealth of the owner of the farm. Nor need this arrangement have been confined to the Roman period, for the absence of buildings in Enclosure I is probably best explained by the suggestion that it was a cattle-pound on a farm run from the Atrebatic capital with no more than a cow-herd living on the site, and then not necessarily permanently or in the enclosure itself. Only with the reorganisation after the Roman conquest was it thought necessary to either increase the work force actually living on the farm, or at least to bring their huts together within an enclosure.

[28] Park Street: O'Neil 1945; Lockleys: *Ant. J.* XVIII (1938) 339 ff. (though see also G. Webster in A. L. F. Rivet *The Roman Villa in Britain* (1969) 243 for a possible reinterpretation of the evidence). Catsgore: Radford 1951, 41 ff.; Whitton *J.R.S,* LIX (1969) 200, Fig. 26.

[29] It is often forgotten that in a Belgic or Aylesford-Swarling context (La Tène III) rectangular houses are to be expected, and that in south-eastern England, at least, houses built early in the Roman period are likely to have been in this native tradition. However, linking a series of rectangular buildings together to form a multi-roomed house, even of the simplest form, is probably a Roman idea unusual in late Iron Age Britain, although until more domestic sites of the period have been excavated we cannot be sure of this.

IRON AGE AND ROMAN FINDS FROM ENCLOSURES I, II AND III

COINS

G. C. BOON

1. Hadrian, 117–138. *Dupondius*, very much worn, with the long obverse inscription of A.D. 119–121. Enclosure III, south end of Trench 7. From the bottom of the plough-soil above the enclosure ditch where it is cut by the trackway ditch.
2. Second century. *Sestertius*. Fragment. Enclosure III. From the filling of the depression A3.
3. Antonine. *Sestertius*, fragment. Enclosure III. On the gravel immediately to the west of Gully B2. The coin had been intentionally cut up in antiquity and it is possible that the *sestertii* were being used as a source of metal for counterfeit coins.
4. Divo Claudio, 269. *Consecratio* (eagle) type. Counterfeit (struck), 18 mm (contemporary). Enclosure III. From the filling of the depression A3.
5. Victorinus, 269–71. *Antoninianus*, worn fragment only, showing head to right. Enclosure III. Plough-soil.

SMALL FINDS

(Fig. 11)

Bronze

1. Ring. Diameter 2·0 cm. (Enclosure III. Trench 3, on gravel at north end.)
2. Binding. Length 4·4 cm. Bronze strip, originally forming a cylinder but now squashed. (Enclosure III. Trench 11, on gravel at south end.)

Iron

3. Horse-shoe. Length 9·2 cm. Fragment with the remains of three nail holes, and a slight ridge on the inner edge. There is no indication that it ever had a calkin. The edge was probably originally of the wavy type. Probably, but not certainly, Roman. (Enclosure III. Trench 6, on gravel at south end.) Well authenticated Roman horse-shoes are rare, but a group from Maiden Castle (291, pl. XXXB) of late Roman date includes both the smooth and wavy edged varieties. Two from Camulodunum (342, Fig. 64, 2 and 3) date from the Belgic period; one is smooth edged, the other wavy.
4. Link from snaffle bit. Length 7·6 cm. One of the terminal loops remains, the other is lost. (Enclosure III. Trench 2, on gravel at south end.) Compare with examples from Hod Hill (I, 19, pl. XIII, K29), Caister-by-Norwich (Norwich Museum), Woodcuts (Pitt Rivers 1887, 75, pl. XXV, 3) and Silchester (Reading Museum).
5. Knife blade. Length 12·9 cm. (Enclosure III. Trench 5, on gravel at south end.) A fragment of a common Roman type which can be compared with examples from Silchester (Reading Museum, Silchester Collection Catalogue 07060), Bokerly Dyke (Pitt Rivers 1892, 107–8, pl. CLXXVI, 12), Caerwent (Newport Museum) etc.
6. Stylus. Length 11·2 cm. The terminal eraser is missing. (Enclosure III. Trench 7. Pit 4, Layer 3). This is the simplest form of stylus and may be compared with examples from Newstead (pl. LXXX, 8), Richborough (IV, 153, pl. LIX, 310) and Rotherley (Pitt Rivers 1888, pl CV, 3).
7. Binding or link. Length 3·6 cm. (Enclosure III. Trench 7. Pit 4, Layer 3). It consists of a short bar, flattened and pierced at its ends. A small nail remains in place at one end. Probably used to join two pieces of wood.
8. Brooch. Length 4·5 cm. (Enclosure I, North ditch, 1961 section, Layer 3). It has a thin wire bow and a three-coiled spring; the catch plate and tip of the pin are lost. This is a relatively common La Tène III form and usually has a three- or four-

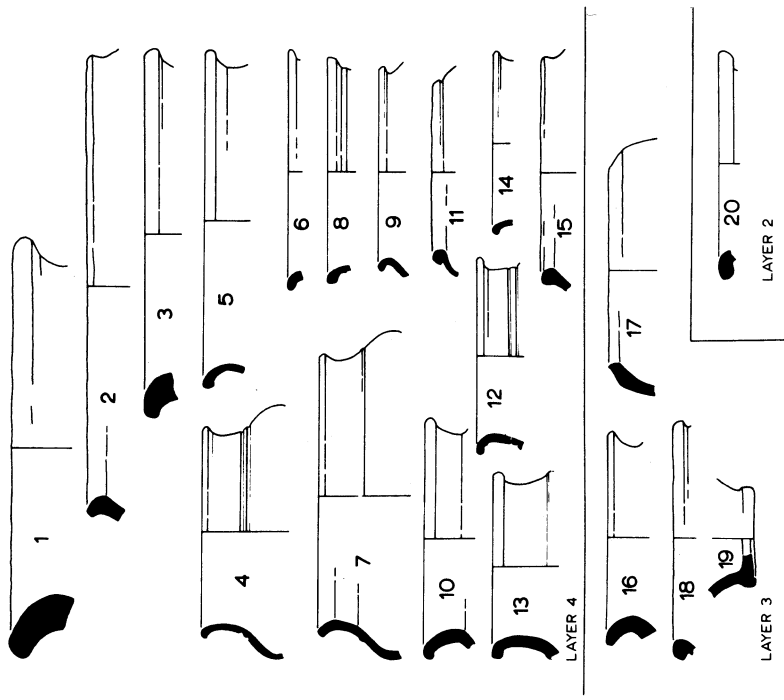

Fig. 12. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure I* (1:3)

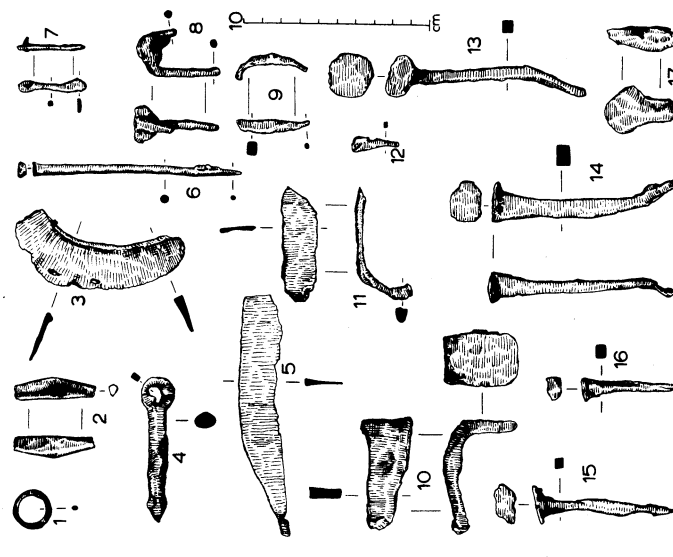

Fig. 11. *Ufton Nervet: Roman Bronze* (1 *and* 2) *and Iron* (3–17) *objects. (Drawings by P. Clark)* (1:3)

coiled spring. It has been found at such sites as Camulodunum (308, pl. LXXXIX, 4), where it forms Type II of Hawkes and Hull's classification, Hod Hill (I, 11), Maiden Castle (262, Fig. 85, 34) and Rotherley (Pitt Rivers 1888, 126, pl. CI, 6).

9. Brooch. Length 3·9 cm. Only the bow remains. (Enclosure III. Trench 7. Pit 4, Layer 3). cf. Maiden Castle 262, Fig. 85, 36 (pre-Roman); Pitt Rivers 1888, 126, pl. CI, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 for similar fragments and the type of brooch from which they derive. It is comparable with the bronze 'Langton Down' form, a type which dies out by the Flavian period (Collingwood-Richmond 1969, 293), but iron brooches are always simple and it would be unwise to be dogmatic in equating the two forms. Where the iron ones can be dated however, as at Maiden Castle and in an unpublished example from Hod Hill in the British Museum, they are pre-Flavian.
10. Fragment. Length 6·1 cm. (Enclosure III. Top of Pit 5).
11. Joiner's Dog. Length 6·0 cm. It consists of a flat plate originally with spikes projecting at right-angles from each end, but only one now remains. (Enclosure III. Trench 8–9, Gully A2). These are common; compare Heywood Sumner *East Grimstead Villa* (1924) 47, pl. XII, 14; Pitt Rivers 1887, 91, pl. XXIX, 21, from Woodcuts; Pitt Rivers 1892, 137, pl. CLXXXIII, 20 from Woodyates, etc.
12. Horse-shoe nail (?). Length 2·5 cm. Small wedge-shaped nail lacking a distinct head, similar to a modern horse-shoe nail. (Enclosure III, Trench 7, Pit 4, Layer 3). Compare with Pitt Rivers 1892, 126, pl. CLXXXI, 7, from Bokerly Dyke.
13. Nail. Length 10·7 cm. (Enclosure III. Trench 8–9, Gully A2). Roman nails have been classified by the writer (in 'The Ironwork' in S. S. Frere, Verulamium Excavations I (1972) 186) into two main types (I and II) and this system will be used here. This is an example of Type I.
14. Nail. Length 9·9 cm. Type I. (Enclosure III, Trench 5, on gravel at south end).
15. Nail. Length 8·1 cm. Type I. (Enclosure III, Trench 9, Gully B1).
16. Nail. Length 5·4 cm. Type I. (Enclosure III, Trench 6, on gravel at south end).
17. Nail. Length 4·0 cm. Type II. Only the head remains. (Enclosure III. Trench 7, on gravel).

THE POTTERY FROM ENCLOSURES I AND II

(Fig. 12–21)

JENNIFER THOMPSON AND W. H. MANNING
With notes on the samian ware by K. T. GREENE[30]

The pottery found in the Belgic enclosure in 1962 is mainly coarse, domestic ware of simple form, and where decoration is present it is usually a single cordon or groove; burnishing is mostly rough and patchy. It would appear from the fabric that most of the pots are of local manufacture: the distinctive local fabrics being the hand-made 'Silchester Ware', and a coarse, reddish-brown to dark grey, sandy ware, which usually occurs as wheel-made vessels.

[30] A preliminary study of this pottery was made by Miss P. J. Quennell for an undergraduate thesis. Unfortunately she was unable to edit it for publication. The present catalogue and discussion is mainly the work of Miss J. E. Thompson, who was also responsible for the drawings, with some additional material provided by W. H. Manning.

'Silchester ware' was so named by May in 1916, and had been called by G. C. Boon "the native coarse ware vessel of the early Roman period, beginning, not apparently in quantity, in pre-Inner-Earthwork levels and is perhaps mainly Claudian." (Boon 1969, 64–5). This pottery has an extremely coarse, grey to black fabric: the clay itself is fine but is charged with large particles of crushed flint. It is used in hand-made vessels with the surfaces wiped smooth and occasionally burnished. At Ufton Nervet, 'Silchester ware' occurs predominantly in the form of bead rim jars, large storage jars—often very unevenly fired, and a few probable lids. The bead rim jars are very simple vessels, occuring in great quantity, and examples are found in most deposits at the site except for the early pits H and R, where bead rim jars in other fabrics appear (Fig. 18. 113–126).

The second local fabric, the sandy, reddish-brown or dark grey ware, is most frequently found in the form of cordoned jars and bowls and in wheel-made bead rim jars. The latter is a common form in first century Roman deposits in the south and east of England, and form and fabric are paralleled in our area by examples from Silchester, (e.g. Boon 1969, nos. 1, 118).

Cordoned jars and bowls are common on the site. Two early examples come from pit H (Fig 18. 114 and 121), both fairly roughly made in the local fabric characteristic of the early hand-made pots. Most cordoned vessels, however, come from the later deposits; and the type continues until the end of Enclosure I. The later ones are 'Romanised', having a pale grey to blue-grey fabric (e.g. Fig. 19, 146). There are many parallels for both of these stages at Silchester.

Of the more 'exotic' pottery found at the site mention should be made of the 'tazza' (Fig. 15. 60), of which a sherd was found in the Enclosure II recut of the West ditch. This is in a fine blue-grey ware with black surface coating and double grooves on the wall in imitation of the cordon that would be found on finer vessels (e.g. Camulodunum, pl. LXXV, 211A). Many of the tazzas on the larger British sites are of imported terra nigra, but smaller, more local varieties comparable with ours occur, for example, at sites in Kent,[31] and at the classic Belgic sites north of the Thames such as Colchester and Verulamium.[32] In the Berkshire/Hampshire areas the tazza is extremely rare; none have been found at Silchester, and a possible link with the areas to the north *may* be indicated.

The north ditch of Enclosure II produced mostly typical first century pottery: blue-grey cordoned jars, grey bowls and dishes, along with some 'Silchester ware'. There is an almost complete example of an imitation samian bowl (Fig 21. 183), probably dating to the early second century, and sherds of a third century mortarium (Fig. 21. 170).

The scarcity of fine wares suggests that the community was not affluent; most of the 'domestic' pottery from the site can be paralleled in fabric and form at Silchester, and it does not seem necessary to go much farther afield for normal contacts.

SOUTH TRENCH (1962)

Section not illustrated

The material from Layers 3 and 4 form a basically homogeneous group, characterised by necked bowls with cordons around the shoulder (e.g. 4 and 7) and various bead rim bowls and jars (e.g. 11 and 17). There are no specifically 'Roman' forms from these layers and no fragments of the hard, even grey, sandy ware which is the characteristic early Roman fabric of this site. Most of the forms are closely paralleled at Silchester, and even Camulodunum, in contexts which date from

[31] e.g. M. A. Cotton and K. M. Richardson, A Belgic Cremation Site at Stone, Kent, *P.P.S.* VII (1941) 138, Fig. 3.5; P. J. Tester and H. F. Bing, A First Century Urnfield at Cheriton, near Folkestone, *Arch. Cant.* LXII (1949) 21 ff., Fig. 3.30; J. G. S. Brinson, Two Burial Groups of Belgic Age, Hothfield Common, Near Ashford, *Arch. Cant.* LVI (1943) 44, Beaker B, pl. III.

[32] e.g. Lexden and Kelvedon, Swarling 22, pl. XI, 3 and 9. Verulamium 1936, 161 Fig. 15.3 c.

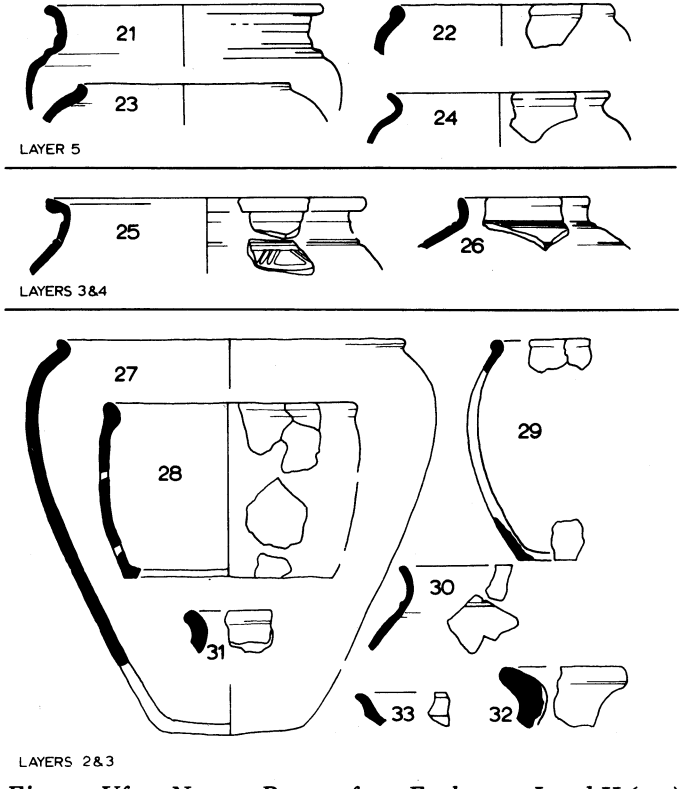

Fig. 13. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosures I and II* (1:3)

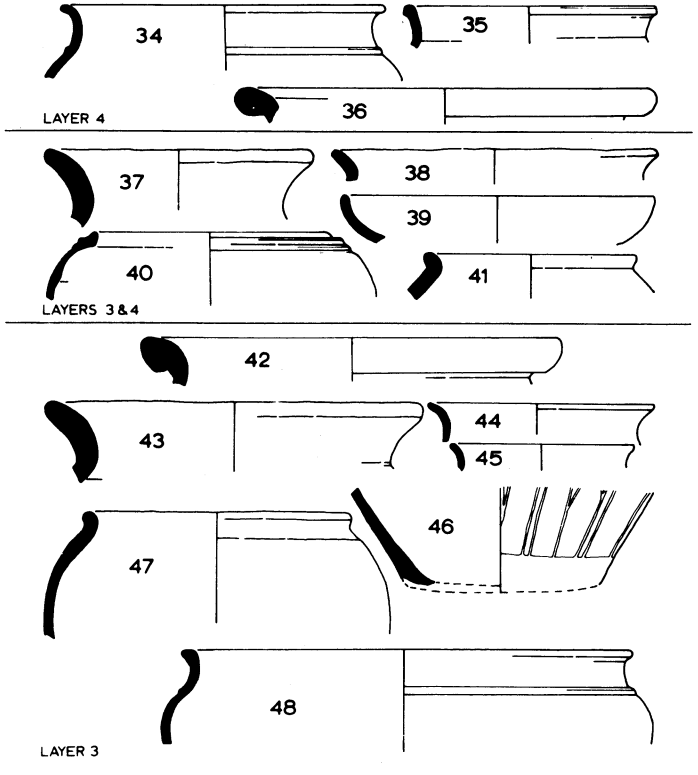

Fig. 14. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure I* (1:3)

around the time of the Roman conquest. We may note Boon's statement that at Silchester the bead rim jar in 'Silchester ware' is "par surcroît the native coarse vessel of the early Roman period beginning—not apparently in quantity—in pre-Inner-Earthwork levels and is perhaps mainly Claudian". (Boon 1969, 64–5). Thus this section of the enclosure ditch appears to have been refilled at about the time of, or soon after, the Roman conquest. The sherd illustrated from Layer 2 (20) is Roman both in form and fabric as might be expected from its position.

Layer 4 Body of ditch fill. (Equivalent to Layer 5 in 1961 South Trench—(Fig. 5.4)).

1. Storage jar in hard, coarse, buff-grey ware with much flint gritting. Surfaces wiped smooth. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969 nos. 76, 77. A very common form, beginning before the Roman conquest but continuing long after it).
2. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, black ware with flint gritting. Surfaces smoothed. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 60–68. At Silchester this form in this fabric is extremely common in the early Roman period, "and is perhaps, mainly Claudian").
3. Storage jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with dark grey surfaces and much flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 76 and 77).
4. Bowl in hard, fine, dull-orange ware with greenish-buff exterior and some flint, sand and grog filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 43; Camulodunum, Fig. 54. 20, and Type 221B. The cordon is normally applied, unlike ours which is produced by paired grooves).
5. Bowl in hard, soapy, blue-grey ware with traces of grey surface colouring.
6. Bowl in hard, quite fine, red to grey-brown ware with some sand filler.
7. Bowl in hard, fine, buff-orange ware with grit, grog and some flint filler. (cf. for form, Boon 1969, nos. 3, 9, 156 and 66).
8. Bowl in hard, fine, bluish-grey ware with dark grey surfaces and fine sand filler. (cf. 12 below).
9. Bowl in hard, quite fine, buff ware with grey to brown-grey surfaces and some fine sand filler.
10. Jar in hard, coarse, buff-orange ware with flint gritting. (cf. May 1916, pl. LXXVII, 3, from Pit A).
11. Bead rim jar in hard, fine grey-brown to dark grey ware with burnished black exterior and some sand filler. Hand-made.
12. Jar in hard, fine, bluish-grey ware with some sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 53).
13. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with grey surfaces and grit filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 47; Camulodunum Type 232).
14. Jar in hard, fine, red-brown ware with grey-brown surfaces. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 87).
15. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, dark grey to black ware with grey-black burnished surfaces and some grit filler. Hand-made 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 62).

Layer 3 Top of ditch fill

16. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with smoothed surfaces and much flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, storage jar form no. 77).
17. Bead rim bowl in hard, very coarse, black ware with burnished surfaces and much flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 159).
18. Bowl in hard, grey ware with buff-orange to black surfaces. Grit filler with some grog.
19. Base in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with dark grey to black surfaces and much fine sand and some mica filler. Burnished externally.

Layer 2 Subsoil over ditch

20. Bowl in hard, pale grey ware with sandy filler.

SOUTH TRENCH (1961)

(Fig. 5.4)

The material from Layer 5 is comparable with that from South Trench (1962) Layers 3 and 4, and confirms the date of soon after A.D. 43. The two sherds from the 'Roman' ditch (the ditch of Enclosure II) suggest that it was refilled in the last quarter of the first century A.D.

Layer 5

21. Jar in hard, fine, brown-black ware with burnished surfaces and some flint filler. (cf. Camulodunum, Form 220Ba).
22. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, black ware with smoothed surfaces and shell filler.
23. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey-brown ware with coarse grit filler. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.
24. Bowl in hard, coarse, black ware with smoothed surfaces.

Layer 3 and 4 Roman Ditch

25. Bowl in hard, coarse, light grey ware with dark grey slip and grit filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 117).
26. Jar in hard, coarse, light grey ware with grit filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 162).

NORTH TRENCH (1961)

(Fig. 5.3)

AND NORTH TRENCHES (1962)

All of this material, including the forms not found in the South Trenches, is consistent with the date of A.D. 43+ suggested for the refilling of the South ditch.

NORTH TRENCH (1961)

(Fig. 5.3)

Layers 2 and 3

27. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, buff-grey to grey ware with grey surface and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 60 etc.).
28. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, orange-buff ware with grey surfaces. Hand-made. (For form cf. Boon 1969, no. 120; Camulodunum, Type 254).
29. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with smoothed surfaces and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 60 ff.).
30. Bowl/jar in hard, fine, orange-brown ware with shell filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 43).
31. Jar in hard, coarse, light orange-buff ware with uneven dark core and flint gritting.
32. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, buff to grey-brown ware with smoothed surfaces and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.
33. Platter in hard, orange-brown ware with darker core and smoothed surfaces, grit filler. Native copy of a Gallo-Belgic platter. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 27).

NORTH TRENCHES (1962)

Section not illustrated

Layer 4 Equivalent to Layer 3 in 1961 North Trenches

34. Bowl in hard, fine, buff-brown ware with fine sand filler. (cf. 7 above).
35. Bowl in hard, fine pale grey ware with darker interior, flint gritted.
36. Storage jar in hard, pale grey ware with grit and sand filler.

Layer 3/4

37. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, grey ware with dull-orange to buff-grey smoothed surfaces and heavy flint gritting. Hand-made 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 77).
38. Bowl in hard, coarse, reddish-grey ware with dark grey-brown smoothed surfaces and flint and grit filler. Hand-made.
39. Platter in hard, fine, pale grey ware with grey surfaces. (Probably Camulodunum Type 16; cf. May 1916, pl. LXXIV, 191).
40. Bowl in hard, fine, grey ware with orange-brown interior and dark grey-brown exterior. Sand and grog filler. (The type

appears as early as Swarling—pl. IX, 33—but probably more relevant are Camulodunum, Type 255B; Jewry Wall, Fig. 36.25 (Claudius–Nero); Roman London (R.C.H.M.) Fig. 63, 2 and 4; Boon 1969, no. 215 is essentially similar).

41. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with reddish-brown surfaces and some sandy filler.

Layer 3 Equivalent to Layer 2 in 1961 North Trench

42. Storage jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with dark grey to buff surfaces and quartz grit filler. Hand-made. (cf. Camulodunum Type 271).
43. Storage jar in very hard and coarse, grey ware with red-brown, smoothed surfaces and much flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 77).
44. Jar in hard, fine pale grey ware with dark grey-brown surfaces. Burnished externally and over top of rim, fine sand and quartz grit filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 43).
45. Jar in hard, fine, grey ware with some sand filler.
46. Base of jar in very hard, coarse grey ware with blackened exterior and burnished decoraton. Much fine sand filler.
47. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, black to buff ware with burnishing externally and on top of rim. Some flint and quartz gritting. Hand-made.
48. Bowl in hard, coarse, buff to black ware with smoothed exterior surface and some quartz and fine sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 191 ff. Possibly from a pedestal urn, though this seems unlikely in our case).

WEST TRENCH (1962)

(Fig. 5.5)

The material from Layer 5 is essentially the same as that from the comparable layers of the South and North Trenches, although it also produced some fragments of tile—presumably of Roman origin. Layer 4, which represents the Roman recut (Enclosure II) is a more mixed group. Much of it would not be out of place in the fill of the large ditch, but certain sherds are unmistakably early Roman in form and fabric. This is the type of assemblage which might be expected a few years after the conquest and a date relatively early in the Roman period appears likely, possibly Neronian or early Flavian.

Layer 5

49. Bowl in hard, fine, grey-brown ware with darker surfaces, externally burnished. Some sand and red-brown grog filler. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 40–44).
50. Bowl in hard, fine, pale grey ware with dark grey-brown burnished exterior and brown to pink-brown interior. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 40–44).
51. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey to grey ware with black burnished exterior and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 66 and 152).
52. Jar in hard, grey ware with greyish-brown surfaces, externally burnished. Filler of some sand and grog. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 40–44).

Layer 4 Roman recut

53. Storage jar in fairly hard, coarse, grey to buff ware with dark grey-brown to buff-orange surfaces. Much flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no, 77).
54. Jar in hard, dark-grey to grey-buff ware with black surfaces and fine sand filler.
55. Storage jar in hard, coarse, creamy-buff to grey ware with much grit filler. (A very common type in the Belgic and Roman periods. cf. Verulamium 1936, Fig. 18 and 19 (Type 60)).
56. Bowl in hard, dark grey to grey-brown ware with dark grey to black surfaces and remains of slight burnishing on exterior and on top of rim. Fine sand filler.
57. Bowl in hard, coarse, red-brown ware with dark grey-brown surfaces and filler of white grit and red and brown grog.
58. Bowl in hard, pale grey ware with dark grey-brown surfaces and filler of fine sand and some white grits.

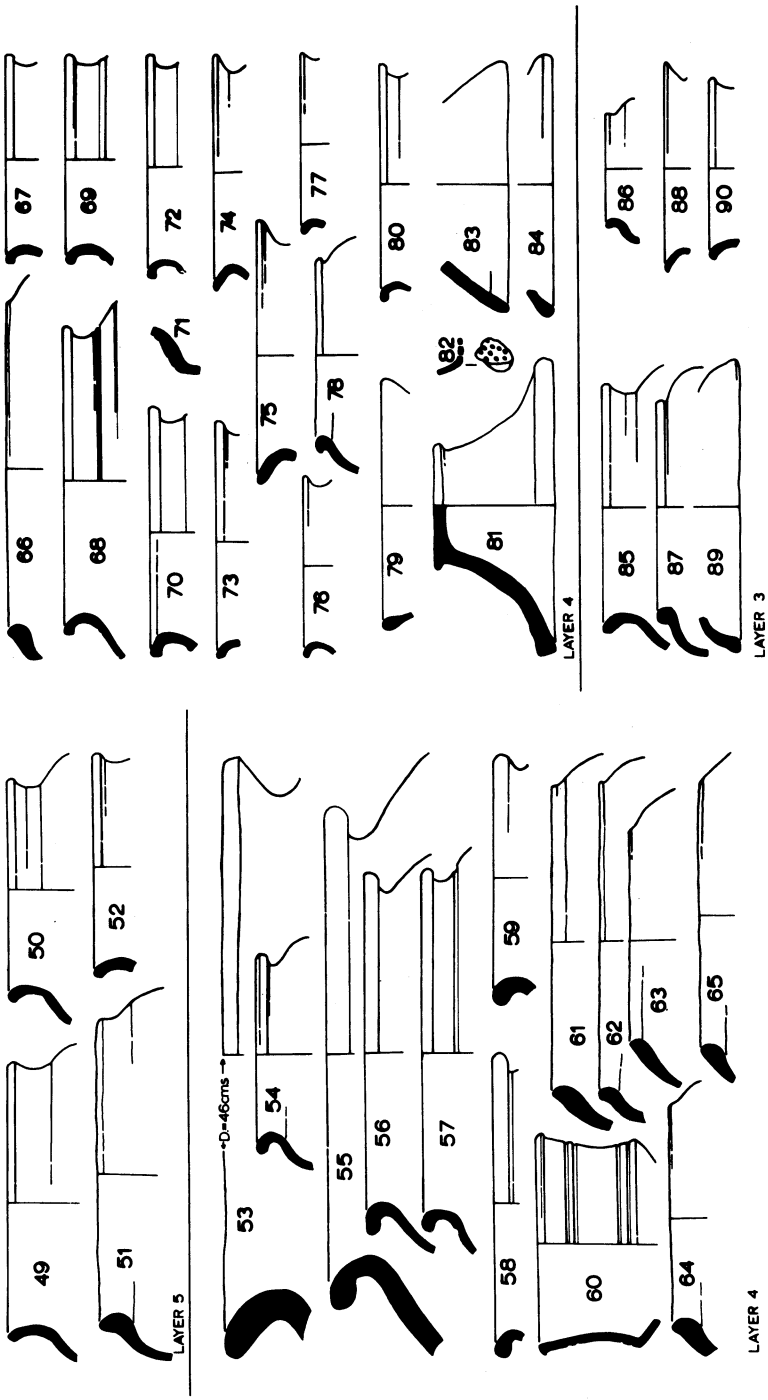

Fig. 15. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosures I and II* (1:3)

Fig. 16. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosures I and II* (1:3)

59. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with buff-grey surfaces and sand filler.
60. Carinated bowl in hard, fine, blue-grey ware with black surfaces: imitation terra nigra. (cf. Camulodunum Type 211—which has cordons where ours has grooves; Jewry Wall Fig. 36. 15, from a Claudio/Neronian pit).
61. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with black, burnished surfaces and some fine grit and flint filler. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 152 and 159).
62. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, very dark grey ware with black, burnished surfaces. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 63).
63. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with black, burnished exterior and grey-brown interior. Some flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 159).
64. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, black ware with smoothed surfaces and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 152 and 220).
65. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey to pale grey ware with dark grey, burnished exterior and buff-grey interior. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 62).
66. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with black, burnished exterior and grey brown interior. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 152 etc.).
67. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with dark grey-brown surfaces and fine sand filler.
68. Bowl in hard, pale buff-grey ware with dark grey-brown to brown surfaces. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 117, with cordons in place of our grooves).
69. Bowl in hard, sandy, pale creamy-grey ware with pale grey surfaces. (Essentially Boon 1969, no. 41 in a Romanised fabric).
70. Bowl in hard, sandy, grey ware with black burnished exterior and black to grey-brown interior. Top of rim also burnished. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 117).
71. Body sherd in hard, pale grey ware with dark grey exterior and grey interior; grooves on shoulder.
72. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with fine sand filler.
73. Jar in hard, sandy, pale grey ware with grey surfaces.
74. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with bluish-grey surfaces and fine sand filler.
75. Jar in hard, dark grey ware with orange-buff to black surfaces and fine sand filler.
76. Jar in hard, sandy, pale grey ware with grey-brown surfaces. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 68).
77. Jar in hard, sandy, pale grey ware with brown-grey surfaces.
78. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, pale grey to buff ware with flint gritting and some brown grog; surfaces smoothed. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 68).
79. Bowl in hard, fine, buff to grey ware with pinkish buff exterior and fine sand filler. (Overfired example of Boon 1969, no. 28?).
80. Bowl in hard, fine buff-brown ware with creamy-buff surfaces and fine sand filler.
81. Lid in hard, coarse, grey-brown ware with dark grey-brown smoothed surfaces. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 78–9 for the general type).
82. Seive in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with black surfaces, some grit filler.
83. Lid in hard, dark grey ware with black to dark grey surfaces; the outer being partially burnished in horizontal strips. Fine sand filler. Hand-made. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 79).
84. Lid in hard, sandy, pale grey ware with black burnished surfaces.

Layer 3

85. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with black, burnished exterior and filler of some flint grits and cream grog.
86. Bead rim jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with dull-orange core.

87. Bead rim jar in hard, grey ware with dark grey to grey-brown surfaces and much fine sand filler.
88. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with fine micaceous sand filler.
89. Lid in hard, coarse, dark grey to brown ware with smoothed surfaces. Flint gritting.
90. Jar in hard, quite fine, grey ware with grey brown surfaces and sand and grit filler.

ENCLOSURE I
DITCH AT WEST END OF TRENCH I
Top of ditch fill
(section not illustrated)

This group, like that from West Trench Layer 4, is early Roman in date but with many 'native' fabrics still present; as a group it can probably be assigned to the Flavian period.

91. Bead rim bowl in hard, fine, dark grey ware with grey-brown surfaces and some sand filler.
92. Beaker in hard, coarse, orange-buff ware with orange- to grey-buff surfaces and some sand and red grog filler.
93. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, grey to buff ware with surfaces wiped smooth. Heavily flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 192).
94. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with grey surfaces and fine sand filler.
95. Bead rim jar in hard, fine, brownish-grey ware with black to brown grey surfaces and fine sand filler.
96. Jar in hard, fine grey ware with grey surfaces and fine sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 92).
97. Bowl in hard, fine, pale grey ware with pale bluish-grey surfaces and some fine sand filler. (cf. Richborough IV, pl. LXXXIX, 406).
98. Jar in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with bluish-grey surfaces and some fine sand filler. (cf. Roman London (R.C.H.M.), Fig. 6528).
99. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey to black exterior. Surfaces smoothed. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 58–69).
100. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware.
101. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey-brown to dark grey ware; black and burnished externally. Some flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 59).
102. Bead rim bowl in hard, very coarse, grey ware with black, burnished exterior and grey to brown-red interior. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware', (cf. Boon 1969, no. 59).
103. Bead rim jar in hard, very coarse, dark grey ware with black, burnished exterior. Flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.
104. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey to black ware with smoothed surfaces and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.

EAST TRENCH
(Fig. 5.1 and 2)

Layer 6: the most important sherds for dating this group are nos. 105 and 108, both of which are early Roman. The material from Layers 4 and 3 would appear to be slightly later, possibly Neronian/Flavian.

Layer 6

105. Jar in hard, fine, black ware with red-brown to dark grey-brown surfaces and fine sand and red grog filler. (cf. May 1916, pl. LXXV, 5).
106. Sieve in dark grey, coarse ware with some grit filler.
107. Jar in hard, fine, grey ware with red-brown surfaces and some sand filler.
108. Jar in hard grey ware with orange-brown surfaces and some grit filler. (cf. 40 above. Probably Claudian).

Layer 4

109. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey to grey ware with fine sand filler.

110. Jar in hard, fine, dark grey ware with "burnt sienna" surfaces and sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 142 and 160).

Layer 3

111. Jar in hard, fine, dark grey ware with some grit filler. (cf. Camulodunum, Type 220Bb).
112. Jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with red-brown surfaces. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 87 (Nero-Flavian?)).

PIT H

A shallow pit near Pit 1, cut some 10 in. into the gravel and filled with fine silt. This is the most interesting single group from the site, and is conspicuous for the complete absence of examples of 'Silchester ware', which as Boon has shown at the type-site appears, at least in the form of bead rim bowls, to be the characteristic fabric of the Claudian period. The absence of this fabric from a group containing so many bead rims and allied forms can hardly be an accident and would suggest a date for the group prior to the refilling of the Enclosure I ditch and most of the other pits. It should be noted, however, that the vessel forms are not basically different from the types found in the later contexts, and several are wheel made. Upon the whole, a date before, but perhaps not long before, the Roman conquest seems most likely for the group.

113. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with black to dark grey surfaces, the outer burnished, some sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 191; also 48 above).
114. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with black to buff-brown surfaces, the outer burnished, some micaceous sand filler.
115. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey to dark grey ware with black to grey-buff surfaces, smoothed internally and burnished on exterior; incised decoration. Hand-made.
116. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey-brown, burnished exterior, sand filler. Hand-made. (cf. May 1916, pl. LXXVIII, 7).
117. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey to black surfaces, the outer burnished and some grit filler. Hand-made.
118. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with darker, smoothed surfaces and some patchy burnishing on the exterior. Some sand and flint filler. Hand-made. (cf. May 1916, pl. LXXVII, 8 and, from the same group from Pit A Insula XII, Boon 1969, Fig. 4.10).
119. Bowl in hard, coarse, black to dark buff-brown ware with smoothed surfaces. Hand-made.
120. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, red-brown to dark grey-brown ware with smoothed surfaces and some flint gritting. Hand-made.
121. Bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with dark brown-grey surfaces, externally burnished. (cf. 113 above).
122. Jar in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with fine sand filler.
123. Bowl in hard, grey-brown ware with some grit filler, Hand-made.
124. Bowl in hard, coarse dark grey ware with dark brown to grey-brown burnished surfaces and filler of grog and some sand. Hand-made.
125. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark brown to grey-brown, burnished surfaces and filler of grog and some sand. Hand-made.
126. Lid in hard, coarse, black to dark grey ware with sparse sand filler.

PIT E

A shallow pit, 22·5 in. deep from the surface, filled with silt and gravel. Roman, probably well into the second half of the first century A.D. In addition to the coarse pottery, it produced a single sherd of a South Gaulish samian bowl, of uncertain form, of Flavian date.

127. Jar in hard, fine, greyish white ware with sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 117, where the rim is not undercut. Early second century).

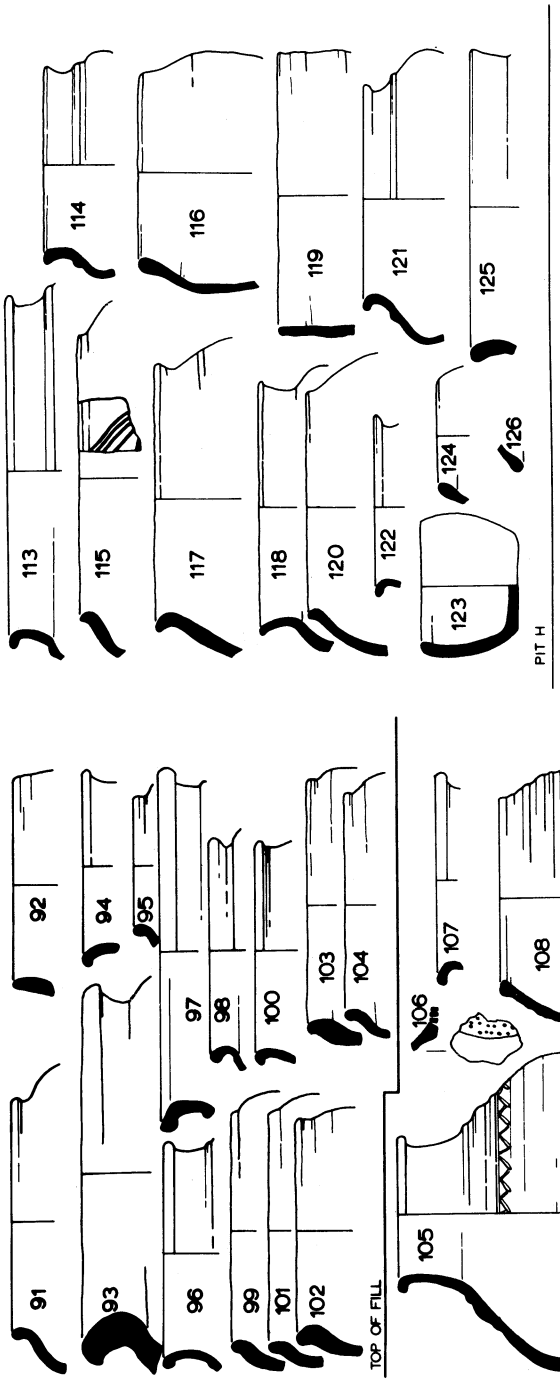

Fig. 17. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure I* (1:3)

Fig. 18. *Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure I* (1:3)

128. Jar in hard, fine, reddish-grey to grey ware with reddish-orange coating and very fine sand filler,
129. Jar in hard, fine, pale creamy-grey ware with pale bluish-grey surfaces and fine sand filler,
130. Jar in hard, fine, pale bluish-grey ware with creamy-white to grey-white surfaces and fine sand filler.
131. Bead rim bowl in hard, fine, pale bluish-grey ware with buff-grey surfaces and some fine sand filler.

PIT D

26 in. deep from the surface, filled with dark silt. Roman, probably before A.D. 70.

Layer 3

132. Storage jar with seating for lid in hard, very coarse, grey ware with greyish-buff surfaces and filler of some flint and other grits, surfaces wiped smooth. Hand-made. (This general form is Camulodunum 262 and Boon 1969, no. 167, although the fabric is different).
133. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, dark grey-brown to buff-orange ware with darker surface and much flint gritting. Surfaces wiped smooth. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, nos. 76 and 77).
134. Jar in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with brownish-grey surfaces and fine sand filler.
135. Jar in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with buff-grey surfaces and filler of smooth quartz grits and some red grog.
136. Jar in soft, fine, dull orange ware with orange-brown coating and filler of small flint and other grits (cf. Boon 1969, no. 43).
137. Flagon in hard, fine, dull buffish-orange ware with much fine sand filler. (A first century form; cf. Richborough III, no. 189—Claudius/Nero).
138. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, red-brown to brownish-grey ware; black, burnished exterior. Flint gritted, hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.
139. Jar in hard, fine, pale buff-grey ware with dark grey to black surfaces, the outer slightly burnished.
140. Bead rim bowl in hard, very coarse, dark grey to black ware with smoothed surfaces: the outer slightly burnished. Heavily flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.
141. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey to black ware with smoothed surfaces. Heavily flint gritted. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.

Layer 2

142. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey to black smoothed surfaces and flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.

PIT X

Shallow depression on the northern side of Trench I. Roman, probably early in the second half of the first century.

143. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, grey-white ware with buff to brown, smoothed surfaces. Flint gritted. Hand-made.
144. Beaker in hard, coarse, grey-brown to dark grey ware with dark grey to black burnished exterior and some sand filler.
145. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with much very fine sand filler. Incised decoration.

PIT Y

Shallow, silt filled depression on the northern side of Trench I. Roman.

146. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with some fine sand filler. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 5: Claudian or later).
147. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey to black, smoothed surfaces and heavy flint gritting. Hand-made 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 159).
148. "Beaker" in hard, fine, dark brownish-grey ware with dark grey to black burnished surfaces and some fine sand filler.

PIT F

Shallow pit, 21 in. deep from the surface, filled with silt and gravel; on the southern side of Trench I. Roman, first century A.D.

149. Jar in hard, fine, pale bluish-grey ware with grey to pale grey burnished surfaces (the interior the more highly burnished). Some fine sand filler.

PIT M

Small hearth, cut 6 in. into the gravel, filled with silt and charcoal.

150. Bowl in hard, fine, pale grey ware with blue-grey surfaces and fine sand filler.

PIT R

Shallow pit, 19 in. deep from the surface, filled with fine silt. This is the only other pit group which can be compared with Pit H. It too lacks examples of 'Silchester ware' but it is probable that it is somewhat later in date, although there are too few vessels, and those are too fragmentary, to be certain of this. It probably dates from shortly before the Roman conquest.

151. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey to black ware with burnished surfaces and sand filler.
152. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey-brown ware with sand filler.
153. Bowl in hard coarse, dark grey-brown ware with smoothed surfaces and flint and other grit filler.
154. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey to black burnished surfaces and flint and other grit filler. Hand-made.
155. Jar in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with smoothed surfaces and some flint grits.
156. Bowl in hard, fine, grey ware with dark grey-brown burnished outer surface and some grog and grit filler.

PIT P

Small pit which is cut through by the north side of Enclosure II (the 'Roman ditch'), filled with gravel and silt. Early Roman?

157. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with dark grey-brown burnished surfaces and some fine sand filler.

PIT G

Large shallow depression to the north of Trench I. In addition to the coarse pottery, it produced sherds of a South Gaulish Dr. 27 samian cup, probably of Flavian date, and a fragment of a Central Gaulish Dr. 33 cup, probably of second century date which would suggest a slightly later date than the coarse pottery.

158. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with bluish-grey surfaces. (Basically a narrow necked version of no. 4 above).
159. Bowl in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with black, highly burnished exterior and much fine sand filler.
160. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with black, burnished exterior and some flint gritting. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 159).

TRACKWAY: DITCH D

(Fig. 3.9)

161. Jar in hard, fine, buff-grey ware with sand filler. (cf. for the general form, May 1916, pl. LXXVIII, 5 from Pit X, Insula XXXVI; dating from soon after the Roman conquest?).
162. Sieve in hard, dark grey ware with some grit filler.
163. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with smoothed surfaces. Fine sand and some grit filler.
216).

TRENCH I (1962)

Unstratified

164. Jar in hard, fine, pale grey ware with some fine sand filler.
165. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, dark grey ware smoothed surfaces. Fine sand and some grit filler.
166. Pot in hard, coarse, dark grey ware with black, patchily burnished outer surface

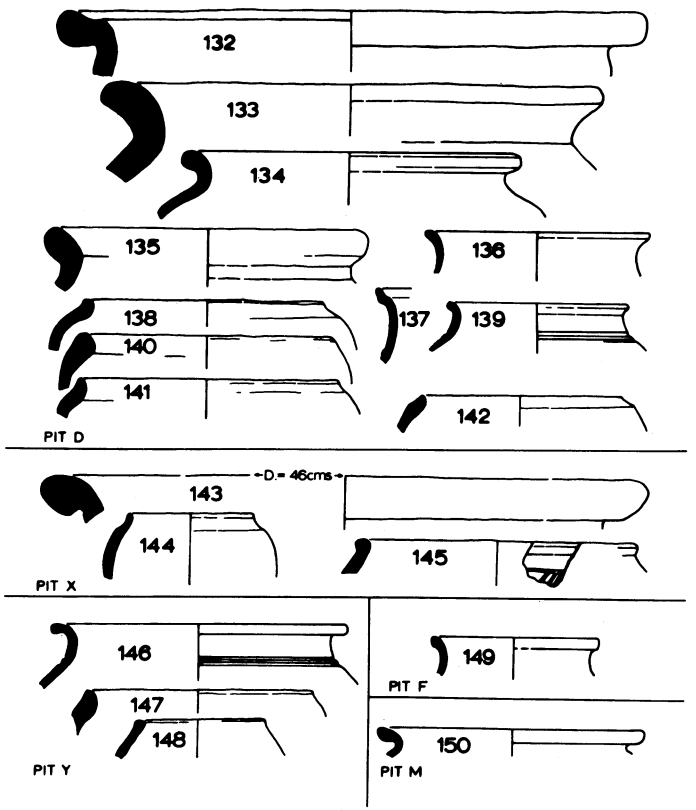

Fig. 19. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosures I and II (1:3)

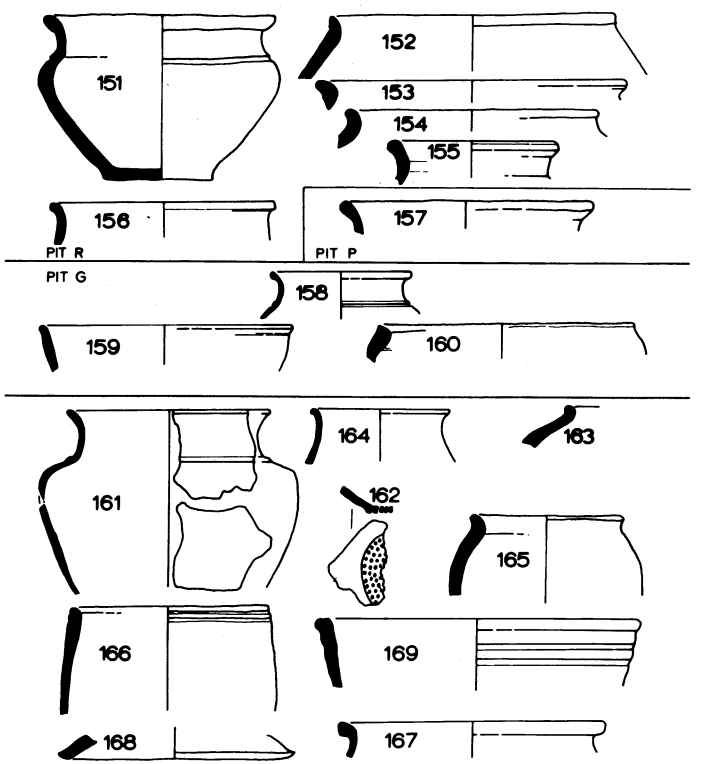

Fig. 20. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosures I and II and Trackway Ditch (1:3)

and filler of some small flint and other grits. Hand-made. (cf. Cotton 1947, Fig. 11.10; Claudius/Nero).

167. Jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with grey to orange-grey surfaces and fine sand filler.

168. Lid in hard, coarse, black ware with burnished surfaces and sand filler.

TRENCH I (1962)

From line of post-holes

169. Bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with outer surface burnished and fine sand filler. (cf. May 1916, pl. LXXV, 12. Essentially a mid-first century form with many variants, e.g. Camulodunum Type 43B and 44B, which continues into the early second century; e.g. Cotton 1947, Fig. 13.17: A.D. 100–120).

NORTH DITCH OF ENCLOSURE II (1962)

(Fig. 5.6)

Although the material was separated into two layers at the time of excavation, this division had no real validity and the group must be considered as a whole. It consists of a great mixture of types, ranging from first century forms, such as the bead rim bowls in 'Silchester ware', through some of the second century (e.g. 174, 179 and 183) to an unmistakably third century mortarium (170). The only samian ware from this ditch are two fragments of South Gaulish Dr. 27 cups of Nero/Flavian date. The most reasonable explanation for this mixture is that the ditch was mainly filled by the late first century A.D., but continued to be used as a convenient dump until the third century, the mixing of the types of different dates being the result of human or animal action.

Layer 4

170. Mortarium in hard, pinkish-cream ware with fine sand filler and grits on inner surface. Third century, from the Oxfordshire kilns. (cf. Frere 1964, Fig. 19.250).

171. Jar in hard, dull orange-brown ware with dark grey-brown surfaces and fine sand filler.

172. Jar in hard, coarse, bluish-grey ware with traces of a white coating and fine sand filler.

173. Jar in hard, sandy, pale grey ware.

Layer 3

174. Flanged bowl in hard, grey ware with surfaces burnt to reddish-brown. (Probably late second century).

175. Bowl in hard, red-brown ware with very dark grey-brown surfaces and fine sand filler.

Layer 2

176. Storage jar in hard, very coarse, grey ware with filler of many small flint grits. Hand-made, 'Silchester ware'.

177. Bead rim bowl in hard, coarse, grey ware with grey to black surfaces; the outer burnished. Some small flint grit filler. Hand-made.

178. Bead rim jar in hard, coarse, grey ware with smoothed surfaces. Hand-made, flint gritted, 'Silchester ware'.

179. Flagon in soft, fine white ware with some very fine sand filler. (A second century form).

180. Jar in hard, pale grey ware with fine sand filler.

181. Bowl in hard, pale grey ware with creamy-buff surfaces, some sand filler.

182. Bowl in hard, grey ware with very dark grey surfaces, fine sand filler.

183. Bowl in soft, fine, orange ware (coating now lost) and red-brown grog filler. Imitating a Dr. 37 samian bowl. (Second century; cf. Gillam nos. 196 and 197).

184. Jar in hard, fine, orange-brown ware with pale grey surfaces.

185. Bead rim bowl in hard, pale grey ware with dark grey-brown exterior and much fine sand filler.

186. Jar in hard, coarse, pale grey ware with black surfaces and fine sand filler. (A late first or early second century form).
187. Platter in hard, fine, dark grey ware with black surfaces and fine sand filler. A Romanised version of a Gallo-Belgic platter. Probably mid-first century A.D. (cf. Camulodunum, pl. L, 24Ca, and Jewry Wall, Fig. 35.17).
188. Flanged bowl in hard, pale grey ware with fine sand filler. (cf. Gillam, 291: A.D. 80–120).

THE ROMAN COARSE POTTERY FROM ENCLOSURE III

(Fig. 22–25)

WILLIAM BRITNELL
With notes on the samian ware by K. T. GREENE

POTTERY FROM THE ENCLOSURE DITCHES:

(Sections Fig. 8.1–3)

Relatively large amounts of pottery were found in the enclosure ditches, particularly from Trench II where the Eastern ditch was most fully excavated. However, since little meaningful stratification was evident in these shallow features, the pottery from all the cuttings has been grouped together for the purpose of dating.

The group as a whole is not very closely datable, a fact which is in accord with the nature of the fill of the ditches. Since they were filled by a combination of natural silting and the disposal of rubbish, one should obviously allow some period of time for this process to take place. The coarse pottery from these ditches would be consistent with a date early in the second century A.D. for the beginning of their refilling, whilst the dark burnished series of bowls and jars would suggest that they were completely refilled by about A.D. 180–200. The evidence of the few sherds of samian ware found supports this dating.

Not illustrated, is a sherd representing the base of a jar in 'Silchester ware'. This was practically the only 'native' sherd found on the site.

EAST DITCH, TRENCH 2

189. Jar in hard, light grey ware.
190. Jar in grey ware with brown-grey-pink exterior surfaces; latter are slightly smoothed and darkened from shoulder to inside rim. (cf. Cotton 1947, Fig. 13, 21; ca. A.D. 100–120; Shakenoak I, no. 111; first half of the second century.)
191. Jar in hard, light grey ware.
192. Jar in buff-white ware with dark external surface.
193. Jar in hard, light grey ware with darker external surface.
194. Jar in soft, light grey ware.
195. Jar in hard, light grey ware with lighter slip.
196. Jar in light buff-grey ware with darker exterior.

NORTH INNER DITCH, TRENCH 8

197. Jar in hard, light grey ware with slightly darker surfaces.

EAST DITCH, TRENCH 2

198. Jar in light grey ware with burnished slip surface.
199. Jar in hard, light grey ware.
200. Jar in hard, brown ware with dark grey, smoothed surface.
201. Jar in soft, pale grey ware.
202. Jar in hard, light grey, gritty ware with darker surface.
203. Jar in grey-black, burnished ware with flint-grit filler. (For rim form cf. Gillam 119: A.D. 125–160).
204. Jar in grey ware with darker external surface.
205. Jar in pale blue-buff ware with purple-orange exterior (burnt). (cf. Gillam 120: A.D. 125–160).
206. Jar in grey-black ware, burnished beneath neck and on internal rim bevel. (No close Gillam parallel, but this approaches the later narrow-necked series of the late second to fourth century A.D.).
207. Bowl (?) in hard, dark grey-brown ware.
208. Bowl in grey-brown ware. (cf. Hadrianic reeded-rim bowl series. Jewry Wall, Fig. 42. 2: c. 125–130).
209. Jar in buff-pink, sand-gritted ware with dark grey slip and burnished decoration.
210. Jar in light grey ware with darker grey exterior.
211. Jar in soft, orange ware with grey-brown slip.
212. Jar in hard, grey-brown ware with grey slip. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 87).
213. Jar in light grey, sandy ware with orange banded core.
214. Jar in soft, orange ware with light brown slip.
215. Jar in soft, grey ware.
216. Jar in soft, orange ware with grey-brown slip.
217. Body sherd from beaker of 'poppy-head' type in soft, light grey burnished ware. (cf. Boon 1969, no. 98; Frere 1964, no. 176). This and nos. 214–216 above are probably early to mid-second century A.D.
218. Base of beaker with foot-ring, in soft, light grey ware.
219. Jar in soft, grey, burnished ware.
220. Jar in soft, grey, burnished ware. (For form cf. Frere 1964, no. 139 and 143: both before c. A.D. 160–185).
221. Jar in dark grey, sand-gritted ware.
222. Storage jar in coarse, soft, orange-grey ware with some grog filler and traces of a light coloured slip.
223. Dish in grey-black, burnished ware.
224. Bowl in grey-black, burnished ware.
225. Bowl in dark grey ware with slightly darker surface, burnished internally. (cf. Frere 1964, no. 163: before c. A.D. 185–200; Cotton 1947, Fig. 15.3: A.D. 160–170).
226. Bowl in grey ware with flint grit filler and grey-black, burnished surfaces. (cf. Gillam 318: A.D. 160–200; Frere 1964, no. 162: before c. A.D. 185–200).
227. Bowl in dark grey ware with black, burnished surfaces.
228. Bowl in grey ware.
229. Dish in grey ware.
230. Bowl in black ware with horizontal burnished bands.
231. Flagon in creamy-white ware. A handle probably from the same vessel has three ribs. (Probably Hadrianic).
232. Flagon in whitish, sand-gritted ware, with grey slip.
233. Flagon in light grey, sand-gritted ware.
234. Flagon in hard, light grey, sand-gritted ware with darker grey slip.
235. Lid in orange-grey ware.
236. Lid in light pink-grey ware.
237. Lid in light grey ware.
238. Lid in light grey ware.
239. Bowl (?) in grey ware.
240. Bowl (?) in orange ware.

NORTH INNER DITCH, TRENCH 8

241. Mortarium in cream-white ware (burnt) with mixed colour grits. Maximum diameter c. 34 cms.

EAST DITCH, TRENCH 2

242. Mortarium in cream coloured ware with brown grits. Diameter indeterminate.
243. Flagon or small amphora in white ware.

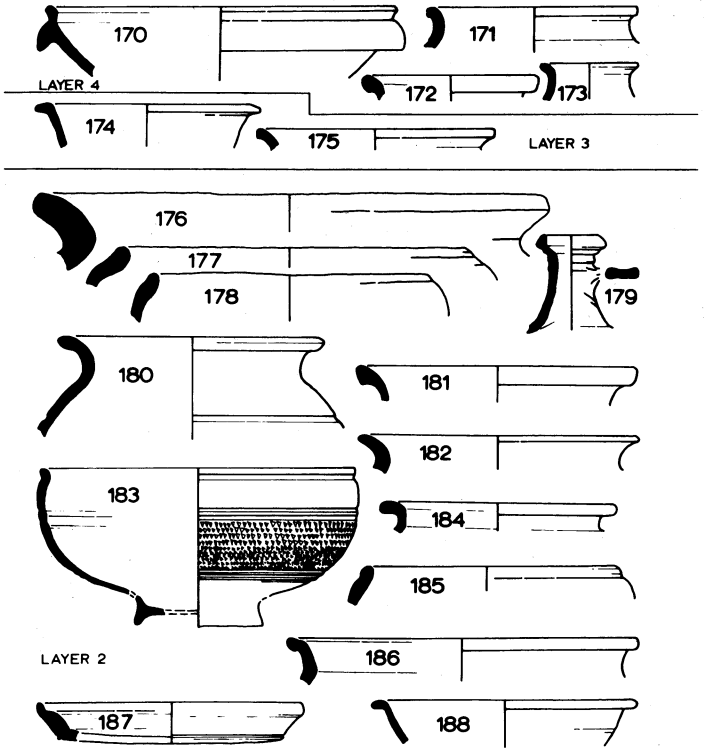

Fig. 21. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure III (1:3)

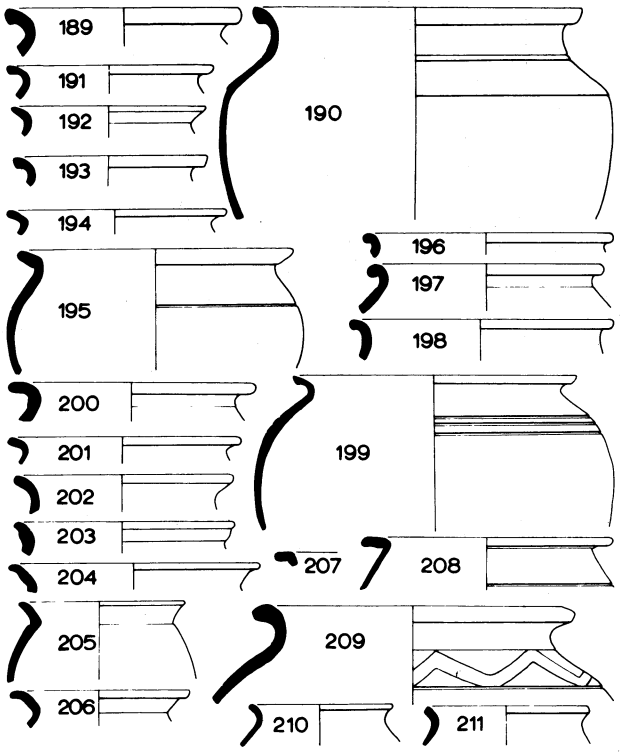

Fig. 22. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure III (1:3)

244. Beaker in dark, burnished ware. (cf. Gillam 65: A.D. 140–300. Verulamium 1936, Fig. 28, 16: A.D. 160–190).
245. Sieve in brown-grey ware with grey surfaces.
246. Handled beaker in pale grey ware with dark, bluish-grey surfaces.

SAMIAN WARE: ENCLOSURE III DITCHES

by K. T. Greene (not illustrated)

North side

Trench 3:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 33: Antonine.

East side

Trench 2:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 35/36: Trajanic.
Central Gaulish, Dr. 33: Hadrian/Antonine.
Central Gaulish, Dr. 37: Hadrian/Antonine.
Central Gaulish, Dr. 18/31: Antonine.
South Gaulish, form uncertain: Nero/Flavian?

South side

Trench 7:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 30 or 37: Hadrian/Antonine?

West side

Inner ditch:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 18/31 (3 vessels): second century.

Outer ditch:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 37: Antonine.

Pit 1:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 37: Hadrian/Antonine.

Gully A2:

Central Gaulish, Dr. 18/31: second century.

POTTERY FROM PITS

Pit 1. (Fig. 8.4)

247. Jar in hard, light grey ware. (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 37, 13: Flavian).
248. Jar in hard, orange, gritted ware.
249. Jar in hard, grey ware, smoothed externally. (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 42, 32: c. A.D. 125–130).
250. Dish in black, burnished ware. (cf. (Cotton 1947, Fig. 14, 16: c. 120–160/70).
251. Jar in hard, grey-orange, slightly gritty ware. Unevenly fired core and grey slip. (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 42, 33: A.D. 125–130).
252. Jar in hard, orange, sand-gritted ware.
253. Jar in soft, grey ware.

Samian. One sherd of Central Gaulish, Dr. 37 of Hadrian/Antonine date.

Pit 2

254. Bowl in sandy, orange-buff ware. (cf. Frere 1964, no. 117: c. A.D. 160–185).
255. Dish in fine, hard, black-brown ware.
256. Spout of Mortarium in cream-coloured ware.

Pit 3. (Fig. 8.6).

257. Mortarium in pinky-white ware with brown and white coloured grits. Flat bead, level with rim, is defined on top by a narrow groove. (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 18.8; Roman Colchester, Fig. 23B.44; Richborough IV pl. XCV, 505. All late first century).

POTTERY FROM DRIP GULLIES

(Sections Fig. 9.3–8)

All the pottery from the drip gullies has been grouped together for the purpose of dating. The depression filled with dark earth (A3) also produced a contemporary counterfeit of a *Divi Claudio* coin of A.D. 269 (p. 22 above). The group of coarse pottery is not very closely datable but suggests a late third century or early fourth century date for their final refilling.

258. Fragment of mortarium, imitation Dr. 45. Orange, colour-coated ware with brown and yellow grits. GULLY B2 (cf. Harden 1936, Fig. 15, 2; Frere 1964, nos. 213 and 216: fourth century A.D.; Shakenoak I, no. 70: c. A.D. 350–430).

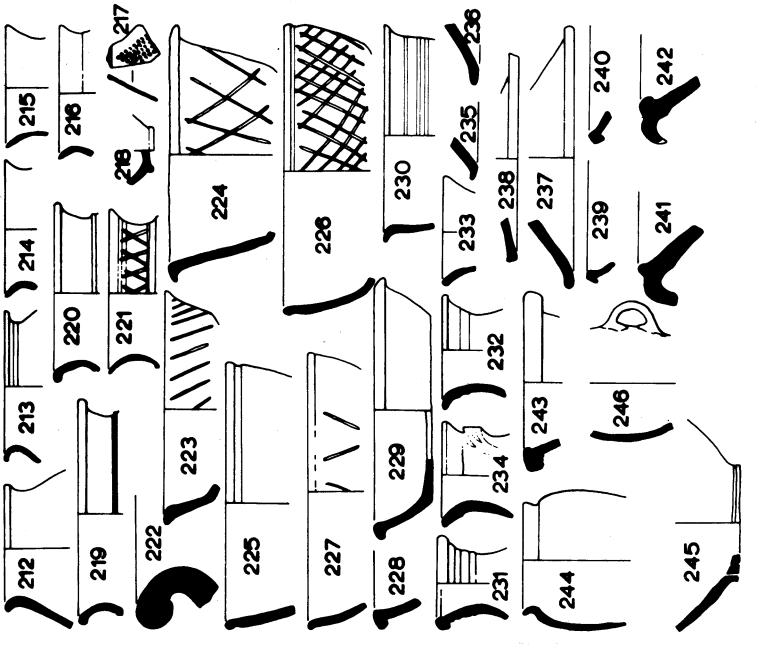

Fig. 23. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure III (1:3)

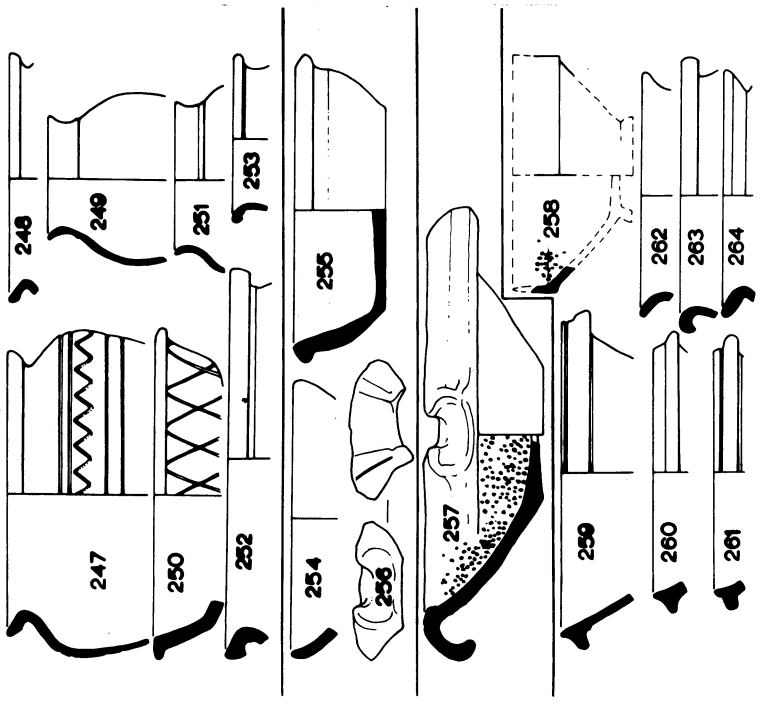

Fig. 24. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure III (1:3)

259. Flanged bowl in hard, light grey ware with burnished surfaces. GULLY A2 (cf. 260–261 below; Jewry Wall, Fig. 28, 13; Shakenoak I, no. 50: normally datable within range c. A.D. 250–400).
260. Flanged bowl in sandy, orange ware with buff slip. GULLY B2
261. Flanged bowl in buff-orange ware with dark grey slip and fine sandy filler, slightly burnished. GULLY B2
262. Jar in light grey, sandy ware with buff-grey surfaces. GULLY B2
263. Jar in fine, hard, brown ware, possibly with black slip. GULLY A2
264. Jar in buff-grey ware with grey slip. GULLY A1
265. Bowl in soft, orange ware. GULLY A1
266. Jar in buff-reddish-brown ware, sand gritted; black burnished above point of maximum girth and extending internally over rim bevel. Inner surface slightly darkened. GULLY A2
267. Jar in hard, blue-grey ware, possibly with black slip. GULLY A1
268. Jar in orange-buff ware. GULLY B2
269. Jar in hard, blue-grey ware. GULLY A2
270. Jar (?) in light, red-brown ware with brown surfaces. GULLY A2
271. Jar in hard, blue-grey ware. GULLY B2
272. Bowl in hard, blue-grey ware with black slip. GULLY A2
273. Flagon in grey-buff ware. GULLY A1 (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 28, 13: third to fourth century A.D.).
274. Jar in white, sandy ware with grey exterior. GULLY A1
275. Jar in hard, blue-grey ware. GULLY B2
276. Jar in light grey ware. GULLY B2
277. Jar in fine, orange-buff ware with sand filler GULLY A2
278. Bowl in red-brown ware with black, burnished surfaces. GULLY A1
279. Bowl in sandy, buff-grey ware with darkened surfaces. GULLY A1

POTTERY FROM DARK DEPRESSION (A3) CUT BY GULLY A2

The flanged bowls are probably of the first half of the fourth century and the other sherds would agree with this date. (cf. Jewry Wall, Fig. 19.29 and Fig. 55.5. Roman Colchester, Fig. 121, 305B).

280. Flanged bowl in light grey ware.
281. Jar in light grey ware.
282. Reeded rim jar in sandy, orange ware with cream-coloured slip.
283. Jar in light grey ware.
284. Flanged bowl in light buff-grey ware with brown, burnished surface.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Unstratified

285. Jar in soft, orange ware.
286. Jar in hard, light grey ware.
287. Flagon or small amphora in hard, white ware.
288. Jar in soft, orange ware with grog filler and red slip. TRENCH 9
289. Dish in fine, orange ware. TRENCH 12, SOUTH END
290. Jar in light grey ware with darker exterior. TRENCH 8
291. Bowl in orange-buff ware with traces of red slip. TRENCH 8 (cf. Harden 1936, Fig. 15, 18; Boon 1969, no. 136).
292. Jar in hard, sandy orange ware with dark surface. Between Trenches 6 and 7, north end.

TILES, LOOMWEIGHTS AND FIRE BARS

(Fig. 26)

WILLIAM BRITNELL

(1) Tile. Flat on one face with a slightly moulded edge on the other. Only one straight side of the original shape remains. Brown-orange fabric with some pieces of pebble and small angular grit filler. Well fired and having relatively smooth surfaces. Average thickness c. 2·1 cm. (From 1961 South Cut through Enclosure I ditch, Layer 5.)

Similar objects have been found before in 'Belgic' contexts, for example at Verulamium (Verulamium 1936, 178, 180, Fig. 26, 3, and pl. LVI), and at Camulodunum (Camulodunum

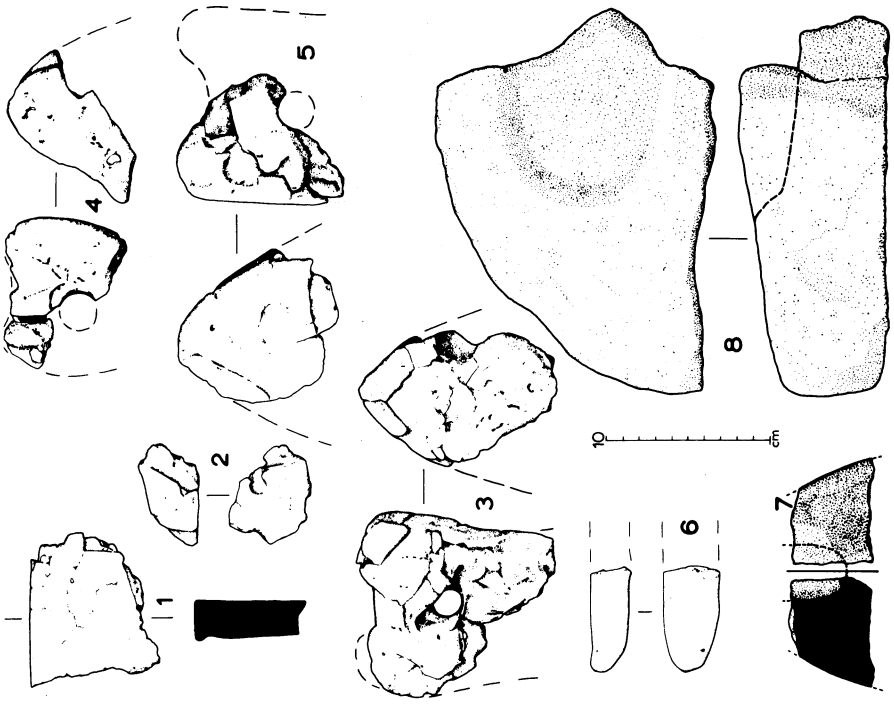

Fig. 26. Ufton Nervet: (1) Tile, (2–5) Weights, (6) Fire bar and (7–8) Querns. (Drawings by W. Britnell (1–6) and C. Saunders (7–8)) (1:4)

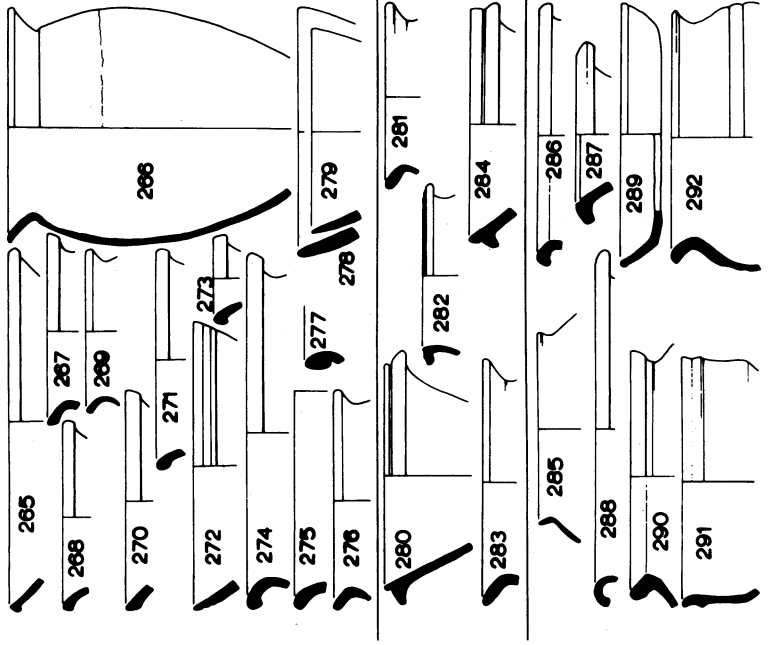

Fig. 25. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Enclosure III (1:3)

347). On neither of these sites were the associations structural and it has been suggested that such objects may have been used in cooking.

(2) Fragment of clay weight. Black reduced fabric with red-brown surfaces and some flint-grit filler. Only one original surface remains. The perforation has a diameter of 1 cm. (From Pit G, Enclosure I/II.) 2nd century. Another very similar fragment (not illustrated) came from Pit D, Enclosure I. Pre-Flavian.

(3–5) Fragments of three different weights, but all with the same general form and dimensions. They are triangular on two sides, but are vertical or taper slightly inwards on the other two. The perforations, which are about 1·9 cm in diameter, were made while the clay was still wet and do not show any definite traces of wear. The tops of all three are slightly indented. All are roughly made and are of hard, unevenly fired clay, reddy-brown externally but unevenly oxidised on the inside. There is some pebble and grit filler. (From the ditch of Enclosure II (1962 West Trench, Layer 4)). Roman, 1st century A.D.

They fall into the category of 'loom-weights', 'net sinkers', etc. which are known from sites of the early pre-Roman Iron Age, and Belgic period, although little appears to be known about them in Roman contexts. (Wild 1970, 62–3). Parallels in Belgic contexts come from Wheathampstead (Verulamium 1936, 150 and pl. LII, 5), but in this particular form especially from Belgic Verulamium (Verulamium 1936, 178 and Fig. 25).

(6) Fragments of kiln or fire-bar. Hard, well fired clay, orange to brown in colour and containing fine sand filler and with smooth surfaces. (From Enclosure III, Trench 7, Pit 3.) Late 1st or early 2nd century.

STONE

(7) *Quern* Fragment from the centre of the lower stone with part of the spindle socket. If the present external surface was the original, the quern would have been unusually small and cone-shaped, but this surface is so rough that this seems improbable and it is more likely to be the result of secondary working. Dr R. A. Gayer, of the Department of Geology, University College, Cardiff, reports that it is made of poorly cemented, well rounded, quartz and glauconite sandstone, probably from the lower Greensand of the Lower Cretaceous. It may be relevant that in recent times the Lower Greensand near Faringdon was used for making mill-stones. (From the ditch of Enclosure II where it is cutting into the western edge of the ditch of Enclosure I (1962 West Trench, Layer 4)). Second half of 1st century A.D.

(8) *Quern* Large fragment, with the remains of a depression cut into the top after it had ceased to be used as a quern. Dr R. A. Gayer reported that it is made of the same stone as No. 7 above, with which it was found. (1962 West Trench, Layer 4).

The same deposit also produced a fragment of the upper stone of a quern of unidentifiable form, and several fragments without worked surfaces, all in the same sandstone as Nos. 7 and 8. They are not, however, all from the same quern. Similar fragments in the same stone were found among the broken roofing tiles in Trench 6 in Enclosure III, but there is no reason to suppose that the two groups are related in any other other way.

THE ROMAN ROAD

(Pl. 1, 15 and 16;
Fig. 2, 3.1–3; and 27)

The parallel ditches of this road run across the field to the north-east of the enclosures on a north-south line to disappear on the north side of the Bath Road.[33] They are less clear in the meadow between the railway line and the river but their general course can be made out on the vertical air photographs, probably as a

[33] This road was published as a cursus in the R.C.H.M. *A Matter of Time* (1960) 27, and in J. K. St. Joseph 'Air Reconnaisance in Britain' in *Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain* (ed. R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford) (1956), 278.

result of the road-metalling being better preserved in this relatively unploughed area. A secondary track can be seen leading north-east from the road half way along its course, and there are other rectangular crop-marks between this trackway and the woods (The Tidney Beds) in the north-east corner of the field, perhaps the remains of fields or enclosures. The metalling of the road has long been known to the local ploughmen, who surmised that it was a Roman road, and a gate from the Bath Road into the field stands on its line, no doubt to take advantage of the greater thickness of gravel when bringing farm equipment into the field in wet weather.

The road was sectioned close to the Bath Road (Fig. 2, e–f) and was found to be 59 ft wide between the ditches, with the metalled surface, which is only some 2 in. thick, about 47 ft wide. (Fig. 3.1). The east ditch was 6 ft 6 in. wide, and 3 ft deep (Fig. 3.2 and pl. 16), the west 5 ft 6 in. wide and 2 ft deep (Fig. 3.3). Both have steep sides and a flat bottom and were filled with a hard, fine silt, the east ditch having rather more pebbles in the silt than the west. Needless to say there were no finds from either ditch. The width between the ditches is sufficiently close to the 62 ft which is typical of 'secondary' roads for it to be included in this class.[34] If the measurement was taken from the centres of the ditches, rather than from their inner edges, the width would be 65 ft.

The course of this road (Fig. 27), which is Margary's 160c,[35] is known with certainty only at its ends. From Dorchester as far as Cholsey (SU 588860) its course has been established with a high degree of certainty. From there the A329 continues the line through Moulsford as far as Streatley, but beyond Streatley its route is only surmised. The generally accepted line would follow the A329 to Pangbourne and then turn due south along the A340 to cross the A4 somewhat over half a mile south-west of Theale. Although Margary notes that this last straight stretch of road (the A340) may be a turn-pike improvement, confirmation that it is the course has been seen in an early nineteenth century record of the Roman road being seen near Ufton Nervet Rectory at a point which would continue the line of the Pangbourne to Theale road (SU 635675).[36] There is then another half mile without trace before it re-appears in the fir plantations two miles north of Silchester, where it is running between ditches 62 ft apart. From there it can be traced almost to the north gate of the Roman town.

If we are correct in identifying the stretch of road photographed at Ufton Nervet as part of this road the previously accepted route must be revised. The section immediately north of Silchester is quite certain, but the length by the Ufton Nervet Rectory may well not be part of the same road. Margary has identified the nineteenth century record as referring to a strip between ditches 38 ft apart, a quarter of a mile from the church, but this is little more than half its width near Silchester. Instead we may suggest that the main road turns slightly at about the point where it ceases to be visible in the woods north of Silchester (SU 635657) and then runs not towards Theale, but to the crossing of the Kennet by the Ufton Nervet enclosures. The fact that the width between the ditches just beyond the crossing is 59 ft serves as confirmation that this is the main road and not a branch. The line of the Roman road may be represented by a modern lane which follows the same course as would an extension of the crop-mark road up the hill from the valley floor, near the ruins of the church of St. John the Baptist at Ufton Green (SU 625679), to the edge of Ufton Park, on the level ground at the top of the slope (SU 630668) near the point at which the known stretch running to Silchester begins. The road observed near Ufton Nervet Rectory would then be a secondary road, comparable with the one seen on the aerial photographs in the field by the enclosures, or with the trackway which runs from the enclosures themselves—both of which are of much the same width as the Rectory road.

[34] Margary (1967) 22.
[35] Margary (1967) 165.
[36] Margary (1967) 166.

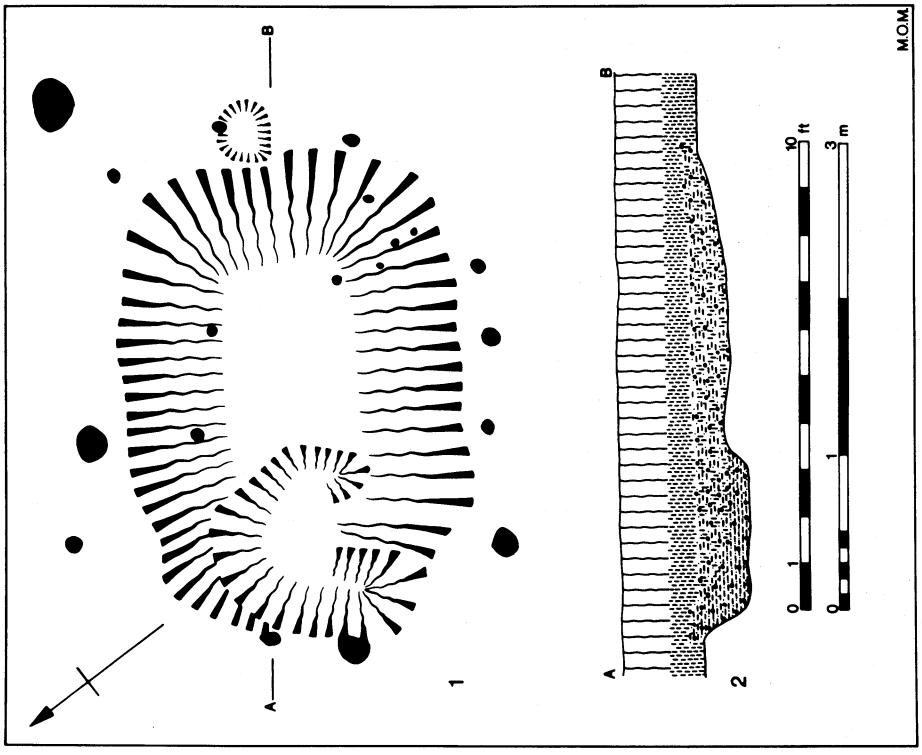

Fig. 28. Ufton Nervet: (1) Plan of Saxon hut, (2) Section of Saxon hut (For conventions see Fig. 9)

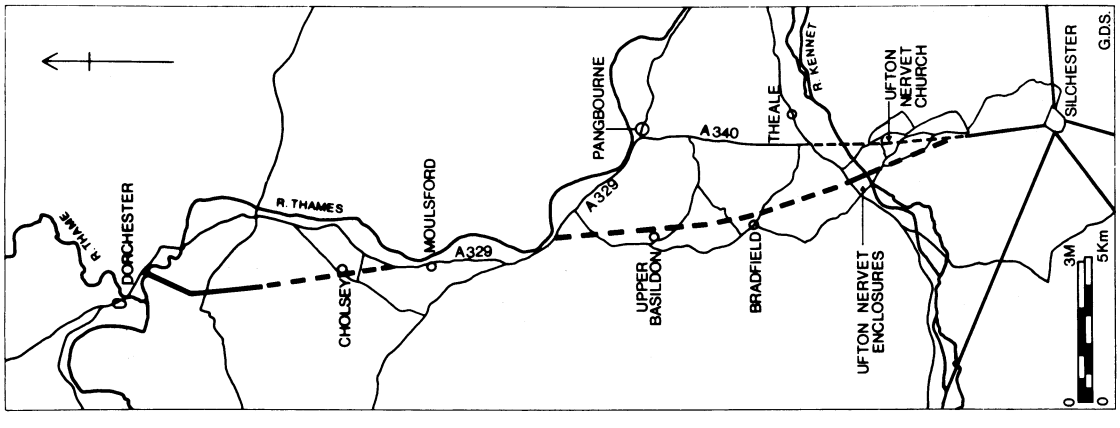

Fig. 27. Ufton Nervet: Course of Roman Road from Silchester to Dorchester-on-Thames.

The course of the main road beyond the point at which the ditches stop on the north-west side of the Bath Road is problematical. It can hardly run along the A340 to Pangbourne, but aerial photographs and reconnaisance have failed to observe any signs of it between the Bath Road (A4) and Streatley, perhaps because an absence of side ditches and slightness of the agger have made it unusually ephemeral; it was never after all, a major road requiring frequent repairs. As we have seen the side ditches stop a short way beyond the enclosures and similarly they disappear when the road approaches Silchester itself.[37] Their existence near the enclosures can easily be explained if the road was there running through cultivated fields, and the ditches were intended to indicate the road zone and safeguard it against encroachment by the ploughman. In areas where there was no such danger ditches would not be needed and the road would be very difficult to discover if the metalling was little thicker than in the excavated section. At a guess we may suggest that it runs almost due north to Bradfield College (SU 605726) and Upper Basildon (SU 600760) to drop down into the Thames Valley at Basildon just below the Goring Gap. This line would be almost a continuation of the stretch north of Streatley to Brightwell, and indeed of the road running north from Dorchester. Such a course would avoid the highest ground, and is not unlikely but it requires examination on the ground before it can be considered probable.

SAXON HUT

(Pl. 17 and Fig. 28)

Near the eastern edge of Enclosure I was a small, sub-rectangular hut, which excavation revealed to be pagan Saxon, probably of the sixth century A.D.[38] It measures no more than 10 ft 6 in. by 7 ft 3 in., and has a number of post-holes around the edge. The maximum depth below the surface of the gravel on the western side is 1 ft, but the greater part was a mere scoop dug 6 in. into the gravel, which here lay below some 1 ft 9 in. of soil. The post-holes around the edge vary from 3 to 6 in. in depth below the surface of the gravel, with three exceptions: two on the western side being 7 and 9·5 in. deep, and a third, set just over 2 ft from its eastern corner, which is 7·5 in. deep. In the centre of the eastern edge was a shallow scoop with a post-hole cut into its northern side, but this is unlikely to be structural. Inside the hut were a few shallow stake holes, the majority being in the south-east corner. The body of the hut was filled with a mixture of earth, ash and gravel with markedly less earth in the deeper part at the western end. Scattered throughout this fill was a considerable quantity of Saxon pot-sherds, some of them decorated (Fig. 29).

Reconstructing the form of such a hut offers certain problems, but the position and size of the post-holes suggests a ridge running east-west, supported at its western end by a pair of posts set in the deeper post-holes and probably inclined to form an arch. The eastern end of the ridge will have been carried on the isolated post-hole lying just beyond the edge of the pit, which is set exactly opposite to the mid-point between the two western post-holes. The smaller post-holes around the edge must have supported the walls. The internal stake-holes in the south-eastern corner probably indicate a minor division or some other structure. The entrance probably lay between the posts at the western end, although it must have been set against the southern post rather than centrally to avoid the drop into the deepest part of the hut.

Huts of this general type are known from a number of Saxon sites, and sometimes, as at Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire or West Stow, Suffolk,[39] they occur in considerable numbers. In size and shape the Ufton Nervet hut is quite

[37] Margary (1967) 166.

[38] Cf. p. 50 below for Mr D. H. Kennett's report on the pottery.

[39] Sutton Courtenay: Leeds 1947; West Stow: West 1969.

typical. The normal form of roof appears to have been a central ridge supported on a pair of posts set on the midline of the hut just inside the depression. This is the characteristic type at Sutton Courtenay and is the most frequent form at West Stow, and our hut is best regarded as a slight variant on this form. The appearance of the post-holes around the edge of the hut, although rather less common, is by no means unique, and may be compared with House XXIX at Sutton Courtenay, Hut 3 at West Stow, and Hut 1 at Linford, Essex.[40] It is with these huts, where a main axial ridge-beam was certainly present, that our hut should be compared, rather than with the hut from Dorchester-on-Thames where there were no obvious main posts for a ridge-beam but a plethora of surrounding stake-holes.[41]

In his report on the pottery from this hut Mr D. H. Kennett suggests that it probably dates from the sixth century, a date which is in accordance with that accepted for other huts of this type. Nothing was found within it to suggest that it had a specialised function. Whether it stood alone or was part of a larger group is a question which cannot be answered without much more excavation, but it may be noted that had the concentration of huts been as great as at Sutton Courtenay or West Stow others should have occurred in the quite considerable areas excavated at Ufton Nervet. If there are others they most probably lie in the area between the 1961–3 excavations and the railway to the east.

[40] Leeds 1947, 89, Fig. 9; West 1969, Fig. 3; Barton 1962, 75, Fig. 13.

[41] Frere, 1964, 123. Fig. 7–9.

POTTERY FROM THE SAXON HUT

(Fig. 29)

DAVID. H. KENNETT

The pottery from the Saxon *Grubenhaus* at Ufton Nervet comprised some two hundred and eighty sherds. Of these eight were decorated and a further two were bossed. Rims accounted for thirty-four sherds, including one of the bossed sherds (no. 301). From the body sherds it was possible to identify at least six separate pots each represented by more than four sherds. Many of the tiny body sherds (at least a hundred of them were less than a centimetre square), could not, however, be confidently placed. A further twenty-five vessels are indicated by their rim sherds alone. The decorated sherds came from at least five more vessels. thus it it possible to identify at least thirty-six different vessels.

Correlation between rim sherds and body sherds was possible with only one vessel. In some cases vessels have been identified from body sherds which do not co-join and they are not illustrated in these cases. The five decorated vessels; the two with bosses; and fifteen of the vessels identified from their rim sherds are illustrated.

Decorated sherds

295. Small carinated bowl. Hard, grey fabric with medium to fine sand filler and smoothed, darker external surfaces. Incised decoration of five slightly irregular grooves between rim and shoulder and pendant swags beneath. Stamped decoration of circles and 'rosettes'.
296. Two sherds from small carinated bowls, possibly different vessels. Fine, dark grey fabric with smooth black surfaces. Fine sand filler. Decorated with incised grooves.
297. Sherd from small carinated bowl. Fine, dark grey fabric with smooth black surfaces and fine sand filler. Ring-and-dot stamp decoration.
298. Sherd from small carinated bowl. Fine, grey fabric with smooth black surfaces. Fine sand, and some larger grit filler. Decoration of oblique grooves and stamp between horizontal grooves.
299. Sherd from small carinated bowl. Fine, dark grey fabric with orange surfaces and very fine sand filler. Impressed ring-and-dot ornament between horizontal grooves.
300. Bossed pot. Coarse orange-buff fabric with unevenly fired, dark grey core and fine sand filler. Red-brown external surfaces.
301. Vessel with vertical boss. Coarse black fabric with medium-grained sand and some small pebble filler. External surface varying in colour between dark grey and buff.

Plain vessels

302. Coarse black fabric with some fine sand filler. External surfaces brown to black. Irregular, slightly everted rim.
303. Coarse, black fabric with smooth black surfaces and medium sand filler.
304. Coarse, unevenly fired fabric. Grey core with orange-buff surfaces and medium to large sand filler.
305. Coarse, dark grey fabric with medium sand filler. Uneven dark grey to orange surfaces.
306. Fairly fine, dark grey fabric with dark orange to brown external surfaces. Fine sand filler.
307. Light grey fabric with fine grit filler. Dark grey to brown exterior surfaces.
308. Orange-buff fabric with dark grey surfaces and fine sand filler.
309. Light grey-buff fabric with medium sized white quartz-sand filler. External surfaces varying in colour between light grey and black.
310. Coarse, grey-buff fabric with medium to large, white quartz-grit filler. Uneven, dark grey to black surfaces.
311. Orange-black fabric with medium to fine quartz-grit filler and having uneven, black surfaces.
312. Coarse, grey-brown fabric with medium-sized white quartz filler and black, uneven surfaces.
313. Dark grey fabric, with medium to fine quartz filler and black surfaces.
314. Dark grey fabric with fine sand filler. Surfaces are dark grey externally and orange-brown internally.
315. Dark grey fabric with medium-sized sand filler. Surface colour varies between buff and black.

Vessels identified from body sherds, but too fragmentary for illustration.

(a) Twenty-three sherds, including three rim sherds, from a large vessel. Fabric grey with smooth, black to light brown outer and smooth grey inner surface.

(b) Fourteen sherds in grey, gritted fabric with smooth, white to red outer and dark grey inner surface.

(c) Five sherds in red-brown, gritted fabric with smooth, grey outer and light, grey-brown inner surface, roughened.

(d) Three sherds in dark-grey fabric with (some large) grits: light brown, rough outer and smooth, dark grey inner surface.

(e) Four sherds in dark grey fabric with red outer surface, slightly pitted and roughened, and smooth inner surface.

(f) Four sherds in gritted fabric with both surfaces heavily pitted and roughened, the outer being red to light brown and the inner, light to dark grey.

(g) Two sherds in black, sparsely gritted fabric with smooth, red to black outer and red, roughened inner surface.

(h) Forty sherds in grey, gritted fabric with light brown to red outer surface on some sherds roughened, but mostly smooth; very dark inner surface with the grits showing. Could represent two vessels.

DISCUSSION

The group is characterised by a paucity of decorated sherds. Only ten sherds have decorative features of any form. This proportion, ten out of approximately two hundred and eighty sherds (i.e. under one thirtieth), is less then the comparable collection of material from the *Grubenhauser* at Sutton Courtenay,[42] where approximately one twentieth of all the sherds found possessed decoration. That the vast majority of pottery from *Grubenhauser* is undecorated is confirmed by the same paucity of decorated sherds in the assemblages from Abingdon, Berkshire, and Upton, Northamptonshire,[43] while from Maxey, Northants., only one decorated sherd has been published.[44]

As Leeds pointed out in his discussion of the Sutton Courtenay pottery, it is almost certain that the pottery at a place was made there. This makes comparative discussion difficult, and in consequence only general comparisons can be made. The Ufton Nervet pottery differs in feel and texture from the pottery from Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay and Upton.

Comparison with material from cemeteries is not always feasible because the proportions of decorated pots is much higher and it is not known how far cremation urns and accessory vessels were specially made for funerary use. It is, however, on analogy with an accessory vessel that no. 295 has been reconstructed. The shape and size recall sixth century vessels such as those from Graves 3 and 20 of the 1912 excavations at East Shefford.[45]

The other stamped sherds, nos. 297, 298 and 299 have, like no. 295, stamps which cannot readily be paralleled in a meaningful way. Sherd no. 299, with the double concentric circles round a central point, has a stamp found on a sherd included in the grave goods of cremation c. 82 at Abingdon.[46] A probable sixth century date would not be inappropriate.

For the undecorated pottery, it is not possible to cite many parallels. The shouldered vessel no. 302, is similar in profile to sherds from Henley Road, Caversham; now in Reading Museum. Most of the vessels, however are large, rather shapeless, baggy pots not dissimilar from those reconstructed from Sutton Courtenay.[47] The vessels identified from body sherds and most of the rims belong to this form of pot. This is a type which is virtually absent from funerary contexts, though one from Kempston, Bedfordshire,[48] might conceivably have come from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery rather than the unknown but obviously present village.

It is not possible to be very precise about dating of the pottery from the Ufton Nervet *Grubenhaus*. The absence of known late forms, such as the low-bellied jar and the open cup or bowl,[49] of the late sixth and seventh

[42] Leeds E. T., 'A Saxon village at Sutton Courtenay', *Arch.* LXXIII (1923), 147–192; LXXVI (1927) 59–79; XCII (1947) 79–94.

[43] Both unpublished, in Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. I am grateful to the Ashmolean Museum for allowing me to study this material.

[44] Addyman 1964, 47–58, Figs. 12–14; the decorated sherd is Fig. 13.16.

[45] Peake, H. and Hooton 'Saxon graveyard at East Shefford, Berkshire'. *J. R. Anth. I.* 45 (1915) 110 and 118; neither pot is figured. They will be figured in Kennett, D. H. 'The Anglo-Saxon settlement of the Lambourn valley' (forthcoming).

[46] Leeds E. T. and Hardem D. B. *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire.* (1963) 23 and pl. 3.

[47] Leeds E. T. *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology* (1936) pl. 8b.

[48] Bedford Museum, 3714.

[49] e.g. Chamberlains Barn Graves 29 and 30 respectively: Hyslop M. 'Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Chamberlains Barn, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire', *Archs. J.* CXX (1963) 179 and Fig. 11d and c.

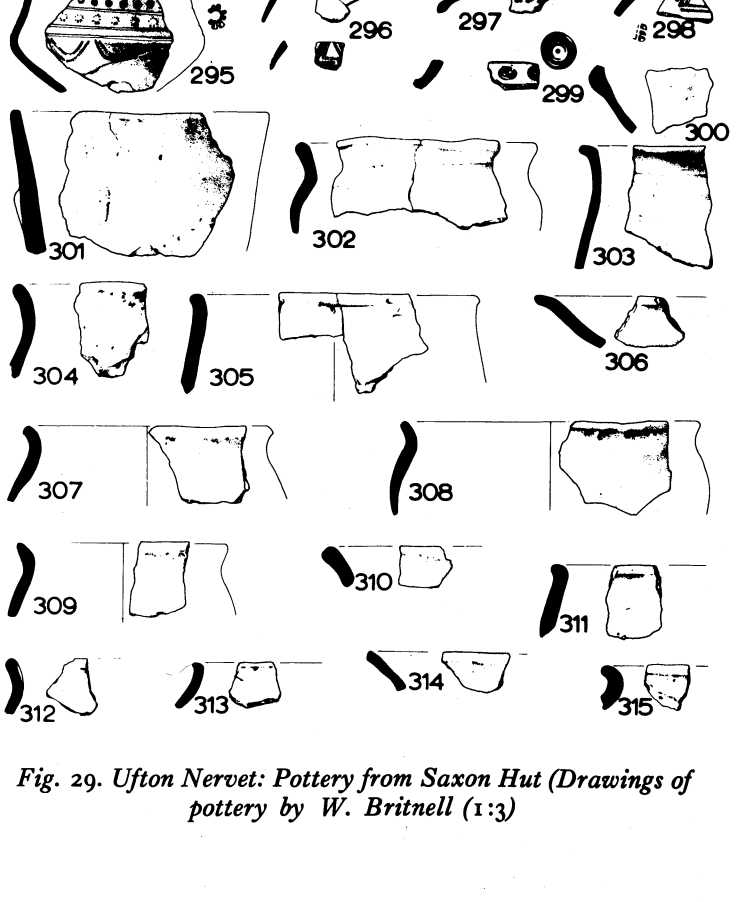

Fig. 29. Ufton Nervet: Pottery from Saxon Hut (Drawings of pottery by W. Britnell (1:3)

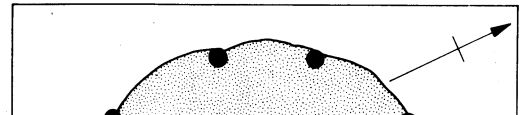

Fig. 30. Ufton Nervet: Late Saxon pit (1) Plan before excavation, (2) Plan after excavation, (3) Section (For conventions see Fig. 9)

centuries would argue against too late a dating. Equally the paucity of decorated sherds would perhaps argue against a date early in the fifth century. It would be safest to suggest that probably the pottery from Ufton Nervet is to be dated to the sixth century.

OTHER FINDS FROM SAXON HUT

(Fig. 29)

(1) *Whetstone.* Fragment of a flat whetstone with a rounded edge. Dr Gayer reports the stone to be a reddened, well cemented, quartz mica sandstone from the Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian which occurs mainly to the west of the River Severn, although there are outcrops near Bristol.

(2) *Iron Ring.* Diameter 1·4 cm.

LATE SAXON PIT

(Fig. 30 and pl. 18 and 19)

Pit I was the only substantial pit discovered in the area of Enclosures I and II. Oval in plan (10 ft × 8 ft 6 in.), it was irregular in depth, reaching a maximum of about 4 ft 3 in. The fill which was gravelly, contained a remarkable mixture of objects: a great deal of partially cremated and broken animal bone, mainly sheep or goat, most probably goat, but with some horse and cattle;[50] the crushed fragments of a basaltic lava quern, probably originating in the Eifel region of Germany; fragments of a poorly made, circular clay loom-weight; and some fragments of iron, including the tip of a sword blade, and a spade sheath. The only pot sherds were a few fragmentary body sherds of coarse, grass tempered fabric. After the pit had been refilled it was surrounded by a ring of small posts or stakes driven into the edge of the filling, presumably the remains of some form of fencing (Fig. 30.1 and pl. 18). The date of this pit must obviously be established by the objects found within it, and these indicate it to be late Saxon.

[50] Cf. p. 59 below for Mrs Westley's report on the bones.

Pits surrounded by stake-holes are known from a number of Saxon sites of varying dates, including Linford, Essex and Maxey, Northants.,[51] but the stake-holes are usually set well clear of the pit and not in the top of the filling. Such pits are usually considered to be stores of some form and their cross section is normally more regular than ours and flat bottomed. Of the finds from the pit (Fig 31), the circular clay loom-weight (Fig. 31.12) is of the 'bun-shaped' form familiar from late Saxon sites.[52] Such a loom-weight would present problems in an early Saxon context where the usual form is annular, and although Romano-British loom-weights are great rarities, at least in publications, the normal form on the continent, and probably in Britain, was pyramidal.[53] Bronze strap ends (Fig. 31.1) are known in both late Roman and pagan Saxon contexts, but most of the published examples are larger and considerably more elaborate than ours.[54] Small strap ends are, however, common in the late Saxon period; a large group is known from the monastery at Whitby,[55] for example, although all are more elaborate than ours. A very close parallel comes, however, from the Viking site of Haithabu (Hederby) near Schleswig.[56] The quern fragments would be acceptable as Roman, but fragments of basaltic lava querns, probably from Mayen in the Eifel, are also known from many late Saxon sites.[57] Most of the ironwork is too fragmentary for any meaningful discussion, but the sword tip (Fig. 31.2) and the spade sheath (Fig. 31.3) are recognisable types. Of these the sword tip could be either Roman or Saxon. It is pattern-welded and such swords are particularly

[51] Linford: Barton 1962, 17, Fig. 15 (Pit G99); Maxey: Addyman 1964, 36, Type II.
[52] Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24, Fig. 6.3.
[53] Wild 1970, 63 and Table M, p. 136.
[54] Hawkes and Dunning 1961, 63 ff., Fig. 23, figures a number of late Roman and Anglo-Saxon strap ends.
[55] Peers and Radford 1943, 57, Fig. 11 and pl. XXVIII, c.
[56] Jankuhn 1943, 114 and Fig. 43a; Capelle 1968, 108, Taf. 24, 3–5.
[57] Wilson 1962, 68.

common in the Anglo-Saxon period, although they also occur in Roman contexts from the third century onwards.[58] The spade sheath, too, would be at home in a Roman context but similar sheaths were also used in the late Saxon period.[59] The quantity of late Saxon ironwork from England is too small for the absence of an exact parallel to be significant if the general type can be shown to exist, and the loom-weight and strap end must be accepted as decisive in deciding the date of the group. Some fragments of tile from the pit are Roman and could have been collected from any part of the site, but the few sherds of pottery from the pit are of a type which is most common in a Saxon context and the discovery of a pin of late Saxon type (Fig. 31.13) in Enclosure III provides additional evidence of occupation in this period. The case for a late Saxon (8th–9th century?) date for the pit thus appears proven. The reason for fencing it is not obvious, unless it was thought that the soft filling presented some danger. The occurrence of a late Saxon pit in the same general area as the *Grubenhaus* is an odd coincidence but probably nothing more. Somewhere in the vicinity there is presumably a late Saxon habitation site, although no trace of it appeared in the excavations nor on the aerial photographs.

OBJECTS FROM THE SAXON PIT

(Fig. 31)

(1) *Bronze Strap-End* of simple sub-zoomorphic form. Length 3·4 cm. The butt-end is split to receive the strap and two pairs of circular rivet holes remain. From the broader butt-end it tapers to a narrow tip, now damaged by corrosion. The only ornament consists of three ridged-bands lying across the front of the object, one a short distance below the split section of the butt-end and the other two occurring together a short way above the tip. The back is flat and plain. Small strap ends of this general form are common in the late Saxon period (e.g. at Whitby, Peers and Radford 1943, 57, Fig. 11, and pl. XXVIII c), but those illustrated are usually more distinctly zoomorphic and elaborate than ours. A close parallel can, however, be cited from the Viking site at Hederby (Jankuhn 1943, 114, Fig. 43a; Capelle 1968, 108, Taf. 24, 3–5). (I am indebted to Mrs L. Webster and Mrs J. Webster for discussing this object with me.)

IRONWORK

(2) *Sword tip.* Length 21·6 cm. X-ray photographs taken by Mr H. W. M. Hodges showed it to have a two-strand pattern-welded structure. Two-strand pattern-welded swords of late Saxon date are known from a number of sites, some of which are listed in Anstee and Biek 1961, Table 1, facing p. 88.

(3) *Round-mouthed spade sheath.* Width 11·0 cm. The edge is channelled to receive the wooden blade and the ends of the sheath are split into separate arms. It would seem unusually narrow, but Saxon spade sheaths are rare, and one cannot be certain that this is atypical. Mr I. H. Goodall writes as follows:

A curved spade sheath with a groove for the mouth of the blade was found at Southampton (Hamwih): (Addyman and Hill 1969, 65, Fig. 24.13). Two and possibly a third, U-shaped spade sheaths with continuous internal grooves to receive the rectangular blade of the spade, were found at the late Saxon town of Thetford, Norfolk; excavated by G. M. Knocker (by courtesy Dept. of the Environment). These spade sheaths, like that from Ufton Nervet, do little more than protect the edges of the wooden blade from wear. An iron sheath from Sandtun, Kent (Wilson 1971, 76–77, Fig. 14), is grooved internally to receive the mouth and sides of the blade, and at the upper end of each side strap there are nailed lugs. Below the mouth of the spade, the sheath has a sheet iron blade. This form of spade sheath, with a sheet iron blade, is one of the

[58] Tylecote 1962, 274 ff.; Anstee and Biek 1961, 88, Table 1.

[59] From Hamwih (Southampton) (Addyman and Hill, 1969, 65, Fig. 24.13); Thetford; and Sandtun (Wilson 1971, 76–77, Fig. 14). I am greatly indebted to Mr I. H. Goodall for his comments on this object.

types current in the post-Conquest medieval and post-medieval periods (e.g. a sheath from Northolt manor, Middlesex, excavated by J. G. Hurst, in Hassall, W.O., "Notes on Medieval Spades" in Gailey and Fenton 1970, Fig. 1b).

At Sandtun, a mound with two occupation levels separated by a sterile layer were excavated; the lower belonged to the middle-Saxon period, the upper to about the time of the Norman conquest (Hurst, J. G. in Dunning, et al 1959, 21).

(4) *Fragment of iron strip* with a pair of backward twisting spirals at its end. Length 15·2 cm. Probably the end of a binding or hinge from a door or chest.

(5) *'Fork'* with close-set, paired arms and a short tang. Length 8·3 cm. The arms are probably incomplete. Function uncertain.

(6) *Fragment* possibly part of a hinge. Length 6·8 cm. It consists of two parallel, flat arms with a thickened, curved neck between them. Such a hinge would be attached to wood and would hang on an L-shaped staple in the case of a door, or a U-shaped staple on a chest.

(7) *Ring,* formed of a strip, tapering from its centre to its ends, which has been bent into a circle. Diameter 2·6 cm. Probably a simple finger ring.

(8) *Nail.* Length 5·0 cm. It has no distinct head but tapers evenly to a chisel edge.

(9) *Head of a large nail.* Diameter 3·5 cm.

STONE

(10) *Whetstone.* Fragment of flat whetstone which Dr Gayer has identified as a moderately cemented, thinly bedded, red quartz, feldspar and mica sandstone, probably from the Old Red Sandstone to the west of the River Severn. (Not illustrated).

(11) *Quern.* Many small fragments of a basaltic lava quern, probably from the Eifel region of Germany, were found in the pit. All are too small for reconstruction or illustration, and it is clear that the stone must have been intentionally smashed. For such querns in late Saxon contexts cf. Wilson 1962, 68.

FIRED CLAY

(12) *Loom weight.* Fragment of clay weight of circular form. Diameter 10·5–11·0 cm, and c. 6·5 cm thick. The central perforation, formed by pushing a stick through, is placed slightly asymmetrically and has a diameter of 1·8 cm. The fabric is unevenly fired, grey to light orange in colour and has small pebbles and some broken flint grit filler.

It is a typical example of a late Saxon 'bun-shaped' loom weight and is markedly different from the early Roman ones discussed on p. 00 above. (cf. Dunning et al. 1959, 23–15, Fig. 6.5) (W. Britnell).

BONE

See p. 59 below for Mrs Westley's report on the bone from this pit. It should be noted that all of this bone had been deliberately broken into small pieces and partially burnt, probably before being broken.

LATE SAXON PIN

from Pit 4, Enclosure III (Fig. 31.13):

by Janet Webster

The pin is 7·5 cm long. It has a decorated facetted knob, a simple ornamental collar below the knob and a swelling on the shaft about one third of the total length from the tip. The flat topped knob has twelve facets arranged in three zones, each facet ornamented with incised ring-and-dot decoration. The facets of the central zone are of regular lozenge shape. Those of the upper zone are based on the lozenge shape but, in order to allow for the flat top of the knob, the upper corners of the lozenges are omitted, resulting in an irregular pentagonal shape; the lower zone facets are of similar shape to accommodate the collar. The collar comprises two ridged bands with an indented line between and to either side.

Bronze pins with facetted knobs occur in the Roman period. For example, there is a bronze pin with an incised spiral collar and plain facetted knob from Woodeaton (*Oxon.* XIV (1949) Fig. 4.2, p. 18, no. 36, but, as with the other Roman examples cited here, there is no swelling in the shaft). However, the occurrence of ring-and-dot decoration on the facetted head of a *bronze* pin in the Roman period is limited. A bronze pin with a facetted head with ring-and-dot decoration on the large facets of the central zone occurs at Pfunz (*O.R.L.* B.vii Pfunz Taf. XII, no. 11. The pin has a long ornamented collar). From Rodenkirchen, near Cologne, comes a bronze facetted-head pin with ring-and-dot decoration on its six square faces, the intervening triangular faces being left plain (*Bonner Jahrbucher,* 168 (1968) p. 480, Fig. 16, no. 5, Note D b).[60]

However, bronze pins with facetted knobs decorated with ring-and-dot ornament occur with some frequency in Saxon contexts (for example four out of the six facetted knob pins illustrated from Whitby (Peers and Radford 1943, p. 61, Fig. 13.4 and p. 63, Fig. 14) have ring-and-dot ornament) and it is within the Saxon period that the lower swelling of the shank can be readily paralleled,[61] cf. the swelling in the lower part of the shaft of each of the Witham pins (Wilson 1964, no. 19, pp. 132–4 and pl. 18). A bronze pin from Whitby has a similar head to the Ufton Nervet example with a facetted knob bearing a single ring-and-dot ornament on each principal and each intervening facet. It has a collar of one ridged band but bears no thickening to the shank (Peers and Radford 1943, 63, Fig. 14, lower row, third from left. It is of the same length as the Ufton Nervet pin). A pin from Hamwih has a facetted head with ring-and-dot decoration and a thickening in the lower part of the shank but the ring-and-dot ornament is more irregular than on the Ufton Nervet pin and the collar is lacking (Addyman and Hill 1969, 67, Fig. 26.8 and p. 68). Similar pins are a fairly common find at Hamwih.[62]

Although bronze pins with facetted knobs bearing ring-and-dot ornament are not unknown in the Roman period, the swelling in the lower part of the shaft is not a feature of Roman bronze pins. The popularity of pins with facetted knobs bearing ring and dot ornament in the Saxon period and the occurrence of the swelling in the shaft from the 7th century onwards indicate that it is to the Saxon period that the pin belongs. The pin is not dated by its archaeological context but a fairly late date is perhaps suggested by the dates of the Whitby (mid 7th century to the third quarter of the 9th century) and the Hamwih (9th to 10th century) pins. This would agree with the date given to the late Saxon pit from Enclosures I/II.

[60] Found with associated Roman pottery in Cutting J (*op cit.* p. 479) and not in Cutting A as stated in note Db.

[61] I am most grateful to Miss Freda Berisford for discussing the Saxon pins of this type with me.

[62] I am most grateful to Mr R. G. Thomson of the Southampton Museum for this information.

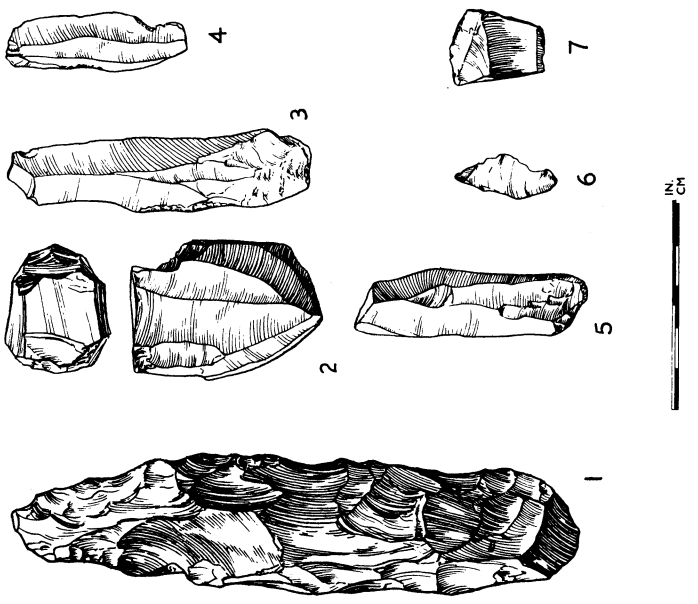

Fig. 32. Ufton Nervet: Worked Flints (Drawings by J. J. Wymer) (1:2)

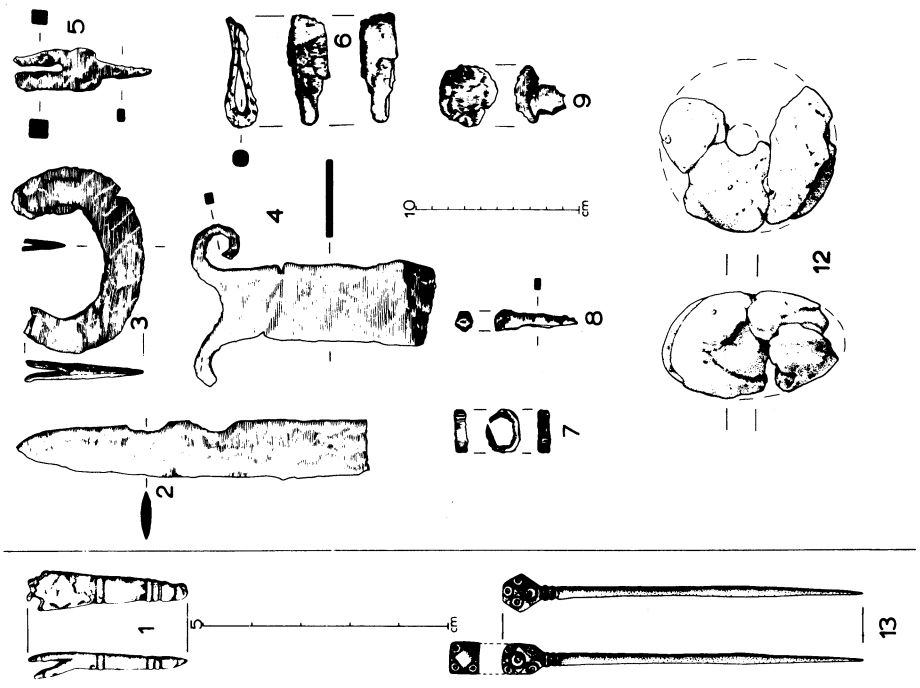

Fig. 31. Ufton Nervet: (1) Bronze strap end, (2–9) Iron Objects and (12) Loom-weight from Saxon Pit, (13) Late Saxon Pin from Enclosure III. (Drawings 1 and 13 by G. D. Stephenson; 2–9 by M. O. Manning; 12 by W. Britnell) (1:3)

W. H. MANNING

ANIMAL BONES FROM THE 1962 EXCAVATIONS

BETTY WESTLEY

The small amount of material involved does not allow assumptions to be made as to the proportions or ages of the species under domestication. There is reasonable representation of all the anatomical elements of the skeleton, and no evidence of special butchering techniques. The fauna, including unstratified fragments not listed below, is as follows:

Sheep/goat.....	104 fragments
Cattle.....	38 fragments
Horse.....	12 fragments

Sheep and goat are not distinguishable on the material available, except those parts from Pit I, where it is the opinion of this writer that they are goat.

Only one bone in the collection is complete and measurable, a cattle calcaneum that is 128 mm overall. The size is unremarkable. The cattle bones do not give any picture of the type domesticated.

The horse bones are all of a young animal.

No bones were found in the 1961 or 1963 excavations.

ENCLOSURE I DITCH

West Trench, Layer 5:
Cattle—3 teeth, fragments; under 3 years.
South Trench (1962), Layer 4:
Cattle—1 fragment of molar.
Layer 5:
Cattle (probable)—5 skull fragments, frontal.
North Trenches, Layers 3 and 4:
Horse—4 teeth and fragmentary mandible, P4, M1, M2, M3.
Cattle—2 molars.
Cattle (probable)—1 humerus fragment.
East Trench, Layer 5:
Cattle (?)—1 fragment of a large long bone.
Trench I, Pit E:
Sheep/goat—1 metacarpal fragment.
Cattle (?)—long-bone fragments.
Trench II, Unstratified:
Cattle—1 calcaneum, complete, 128 mm overall. 1 femur fragment, shaft. 1 metacarpal fragment. 1 tibia fragment, distal.
Horse—1 incisor tooth, age doubtful.
Saxon Pit (Pit I), Layer 3:
Horse—head of fumur, it is unfused, detached, showing an animal of under $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. 1 metacarpal fragment, proximal.
Cattle—1 tooth, premolar. 1st and 2nd phalanges. 2 calcaneum fragments. 2 metapodial fragments, distal. 2 scapula fragments. All of these could be from one animal.
Goat—3 horncore fragments, from a young animal. Most probably goat, but some doubt. 2 mandible fragments. Most probably goat but some doubt. 1 humerus fragment. 2 radius fragments, 1 from a young animal. 4 metacarpal fragments. 5 vertebral fragments, 1 from a young animal. 4 tibia fragments. 5 metatarsal fragments. 4 phalanges. 1 astragalus. 2 caudal vertebrae.
Layer 4:
Horse—1 tooth, 1st upper premolar, unworn, under 3 years old.
Cattle—1 calcaneum fragment, distal. 1 metatarsal fragment, proximal.
Sheep/goat—11 teeth; a third molar unworn, about 3 years old. 1 humerus fragment, distal. 1 phalanx, 1st. 1 metatarsal fragment. 1 tibia fragment, unfused, from a young animal, under 2 years.
Fill of Anglo-Saxon Hut:
Cattle—1 tooth, fragmentary.

THE FLINT ARTIFACTS

(Fig. 32)

J. J. WYMER

The majority of the small number of flints submitted for examination are stained a matt, light orange-brown, and a few are in very fresh condition as though they have moved little from their place of manufacture or use. Others have a slight dulling of their edges, consistent with their having been subjected to movement, such as disturbance by ploughing or the digging of ditches or pits. They presumably owe their association with these features on the site through such human activity at a period far more recent than the one they represent.

The flints can be classified as follows:

Medium tranchet axe	1
Cores	2
Core rejuvenating flake	1
Blades	16
Flakes and blade failures	46
Scrapers	3
Saw	1
Petit tranchet arrowhead	1
Mirco-burin	1
Shatter-pieces	4

In addition are two small rolled and stained flakes which are probably of Palaeolithic date, derived from the Kennet gravel, but they could be of natural origin. There are also a few calcined flints.

It is impossible to be sure that all the flints belong to one period, in fact it is unlikely they do, but there is sufficient evidence from their typology to suggest that the majority are of Mesolithic date. The tranchet axe and micro-burin, in particular, are diagnostic Mesolithic products, and the blades, one of the cores and an end scraper on a thick blade, are also typical. All bear the same ochreous staining which may not be conclusive but does suggest they belong to the same period. The blade-failures would also fit in with a Mesolithic industry but the rougher flakes, several unstained, are probably of various periods, even up to Roman-British times.

None of the blades is longer than 7·4 cm and the majority fall into the bracket of 2–5 cm in length (12 out of 16). One of the cores is a well-struck prismatic core with two platforms, although the second had not been developed far (Fig. 32.2). Battering along one side of this core shows it was subsequently used as a light hammerstone, probably for secondary working. The other core is small and crude, but may be a shatter-piece from the dressing of a larger one. The tranchet axe is 13·5 cm of roughly triangular section and narrow pick-like form (Fig. 32.1). The micro-burin is a normal bulbous-end reject (Fig. 32.6). The end scraper may not be Mesolithic for, apart from typological considerations, the secondary working cuts through the staining and is obviously more recent. Some of the blades and flakes show signs of use or unspecialised secondary working. One warrants classification as a saw.

It may be significant that the petit tranchet arrowhead is not stained (Fig. 32.7). Similar arrowheads have come from late Neolithic contexts in nearby ring-ditches at Englefield (material in Reading Museum), and closer ring-ditches are known from aerial photographs in the fields on the opposite side of the A4 road to the Ufton Nervet site (Fig. 1).

The Mesolithic flints are best paralleled by the industry at Thatcham, only a few miles up the Kennet Valley from this point (Wymer 1962) and the low gravel terrace at Ufton Nervet, close to the actual river, is characteristic of the kind of site where evidence for Mesolithic activity is commonly found.

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