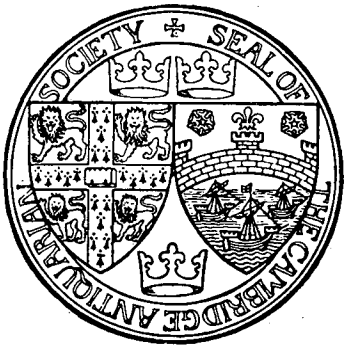
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXVII

for 1988

THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXIV, 1985

Price £4 net for members, £5.50 for non-members

ALISON TAYLOR: *Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Artefacts from the Southern Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire.*
IAN PAYNE: *The Musical Establishment at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1546–1644.*
A.E. BROWN *and* C.C. TAYLOR: *Cambridgeshire Earthwork Surveys V.*
KENNETH RAINSBURY DARK: *Archaeological Survey at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1984.*
COLIN F. PENDELTON: *A Gold 'hair-ring' from Wimblington Parish, Cambridgeshire.*

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXV, 1986

Price £4 net for members, £5.50 for non-members

M.D. CRA'ASTER: *Obituaries – C.F. Tebbutt* and *H.K. Cameron.*
JO DRAPER: *Excavations at Great Chesterford, Essex, 1953–5.*
A.M. JOHNSON: *Wisbech and West Walton Highway by-pass, an Archaeological Survey.*
MARK BLACKBURN: *A Penny of Eadgar from Castle Hill, Cambridge.*
DAVID HAIGH: *Excavations at Barnwell Priory, Cambridge.*
E.M. DAVIES: *Dovecotes of South Cambridgeshire.*

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXVI, 1987

Price £6 net for members, £7.50 for non-members

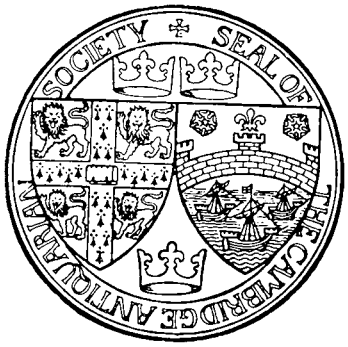
LAUREL PHILLIPSON: *Quakerism in Cambridge before the Act of Toleration (1653–1689)*
CHRISTOPHER EVANS: *Nomads in 'Waterland'? Prehistoric Transhumance and Fenland Archaeology*
C.J. WEBSTER: *Ernest Greenfield's Excavation at Exning Roman Villa*
JEM POSTER *and* DAVID SHERLOCK: *Denny Abbey: The Nuns' Refectory*
PAUL FIRMAN *and* JOYCE PULLINGER: *Excavation at Riverside, Thompsons Lane, Cambridge*
IAN PAYNE: *Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, c. 1557–1679*
JOHN TWIGG: *Royal Mandates for Degrees in the Reign of Charles II (1660–85)*
JOHN MCCANN: *The First Cottage of Clay Bats?*

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXVII

for 1988

Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1989

ISSN 0309-3606

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL, 1987–8

President
MISS E. S. LEEDHAM-GREEN, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

Vice Presidents
R.E. GLASSCOCK, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.
J.G. POLLARD, M.A., F.S.A.
J.C.S. SHAW, M.A.

Disney Professor of Archaeology
PROFESSOR A.C. RENFREW, M.A., Sc.D, F.S.A., F.B.A.

Curator of the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
D.W. PHILLIPSON, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.

Ordinary Members of Council
J. ALEXANDER, M.A. Ph.D, F.S.A.
MISS A.R. le P. DARVALL, M.A.
T. DOIG
J. GOLDSMITH, B.A., A.L.A.
D.N. HALL, M.A., F.S.A.
N. HELLAWELL, Dip. Arch., Dip.T.P., R.I.B.A.
MISS C.M. HILLS, Ph.D, F.S.A.
MRS. D.M. OWEN, M.A., Litt.D., F.S.A.
M.J. PETTY, A.L.A.
MRS N.A. ROOKE, B.A.
M.W. THOMPSON, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

Secretary
MISS A.S. BENDALL, M.A., A.L.A.

Editor
MISS M.D. CRA'STER, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

Registrar
MRS. R. DESMOND

Treasurer
T.E. HOARE

Director of Fieldwork
J. ALEXANDER, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

Editor of Conduit
R.I. BURN-MURDOCH, M.A.

Excursions Secretary
MRS. A. HOLTON-KRAYENBUHL, B.A.

Hon. Librarian
J.D. PICKLES, M.A., Ph.D.

County Archaeological Officer
MISS A.F. TAYLOR, B.A.

Representative of Cambridgeshire Local History Society
J.M.P. FARRAR, M.A.

Hon. Auditor
COUNTY TREASURER

CONTENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE LETCHWORTH AREA, 1958–1974

Blackhorse Road, Letchworth; Norton Road, Baldock; Wilbury Hill, Letchworth

JOHN MOSS-ECCARDT

with contributions by M. Birley, D.F. Cutler, J.A. Davies, C. Johnson, M.J. Kerney, A.J. Legge, I.H. Longworth, G. Moss, J. Williams, P. Williams, J.J. Wymer

SUMMARY

The sites investigated lay on the Middle Chalk ridge north of Icknield Way between Hitchin and Baldock. The evidence showed human activity from Neolithic to modern times.

At Blackhorse Road, Late Neolithic pottery and flints were recovered from pits and ditches. Wild and domestic cattle bones, and land molluscs at Norton Road, Baldock, showed that farming was carried out on land that had been cleared of woodland and scrub. Ring-ditches at Baldock and Wilbury Hill, Letchworth produced Late Neolithic and Late Bronze Age pottery but no signs of settlement.

At Blackhorse Road the earliest Iron Age feature was a palisaded D-shaped enclosure accompanied by pits with seventh/sixth century BC pottery. A second enclosure with two ditches of different phases dated from the second/first centuries BC. The inner ditch contained the iron upper part of a La Tène II/III cauldron. Groups of pits contained material from the fourth/first centuries BC; human skeletal remains were recovered from three. Two further enclosures could have contained round houses of the Middle Iron Age.

Sections across Icknield Way showed the site had been defended by a bank and ditch on the south side during the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman period. Further ditches lay on the eastern sides of the site, part of which was Middle Iron Age with a Romano-British ditch cut into it. Finds from the latter extended from the first century BC to the fourth century AD.

A Pagan Saxon cemetery contained eight graves with iron objects dating from the seventh/eighth centuries AD; one individual had been stabbed with a spear.

A scatter of medieval pottery of a wide dating range, and metalwork occurred near the Romano-British area to the east.

The land was continuously cultivated from prehistoric times and is now occupied by a factory site.

INTRODUCTION

This report covers three sites in North Hertfordshire (Figure 1) examined between 1958 and 1974 by the writer on behalf of the Letchworth Museum and the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Works, and its successors. Financial restraints have caused some specialist contributions to be relegated to the archive. Copies will be supplied on application to the Curator of Letchworth Museum which houses the archive and finds. The report is arranged by period, and groups of related features in sub-sites. Structures are referred to by their context numbers.

The building of Blackhorse Road (Figure 2), an industrial site east of Letchworth, brought to light prehistoric and Roman features (Plate I). Its investigation occupied the years 1958–1973. In 1963 excavations

Plate III. Norton Road, Baldock, location of ring-ditch. a = D (see Fig. 2). Photograph courtesy of Cambridge University Aerial Photography Collection.

were carried out in the vicinity of Norton Road, Baldock, (Plans 1 & 2), to the south-west of Nortonbury Farm, (GLV), and adjacent to the Baldock Refuse Tip (GLVI). The area was threatened by the construction of the A1(M). Three ditched circular features were visible from the air, together with the site of the excavation (Plate III). The re-routing of Norton Road proper also threatened an area to the west which, according to aerial photographs, and resistivity survey by Dr Tony Clark showed prehistoric structures, but nothing was discovered.

The making of tennis courts for Fearnhill School on the southern slope below the Wilbury hillfort (TL213326) posed a threat to a ring-ditch long known from aerial photographs (Plate IV) and a previous exploration in 1929. An excavation was arranged at short notice and carried out in May 1974 on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment. The 1929 investigation had been carried out by W.H. Lane who sectioned the ditch finding it to be 60ft in diameter with the ditch 9ft wide and 3ft deep; from it came three indeterminate potsherds (Appelbaum 1949, 12).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the period of fourteen years a number of people took part in the work and a list of names is given in the Appendix. The contributions by specialists to this report are very gratefully acknowledged. A number of people deserve special mention for their help. Firstly, Dr John Alexander for help and encouragement when resources and expertise were scarce. For Wilbury, the cooperation of Mr G.I. Donaldson of the County Architect's Department is gratefully acknowledged. Valerie Rigby kindly commented on the later pottery from that site. Dick Moss gave his professional services as site surveyor at Blackhorse Road. Thanks are due to Professor Martin Aitken, Dr Tony Clark, and members of the Engineering Test Branch, Cardington, for geophysical site surveys. The predecessor to the Letchworth Garden City Corporation gave permission for excavation on its land. The contractors, Messrs Taylor Woodrow, gave the utmost help and cooperation on

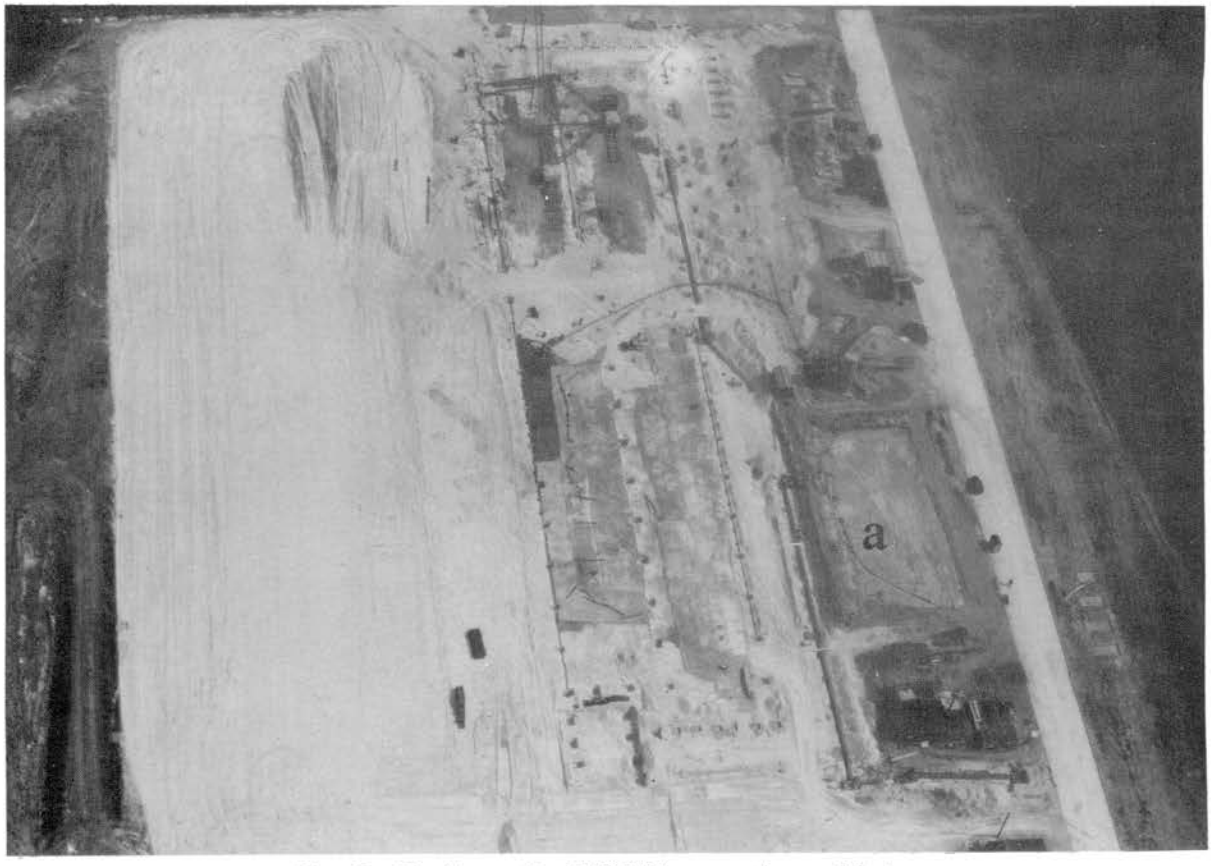


Plate I. Blackhorse Road 1959/60, excavations and factory.
a = North half of Enclosure One, Area V (see Figs. 4 and 26)

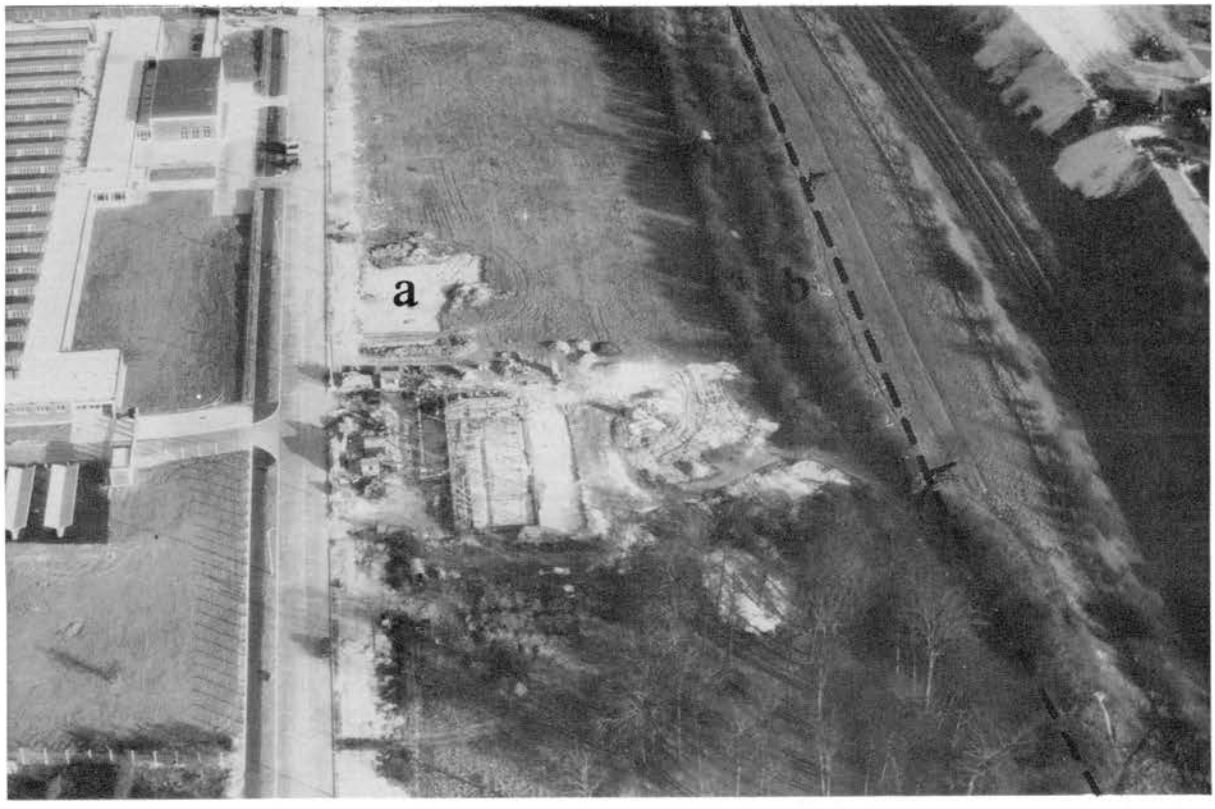


Plate II. Blackhorse Road 1960, site and Icknield Way.
a = South half of Enclosure One, Area V (see Fig. 3).
b = Icknield Way (see Figs. 4 and 26).

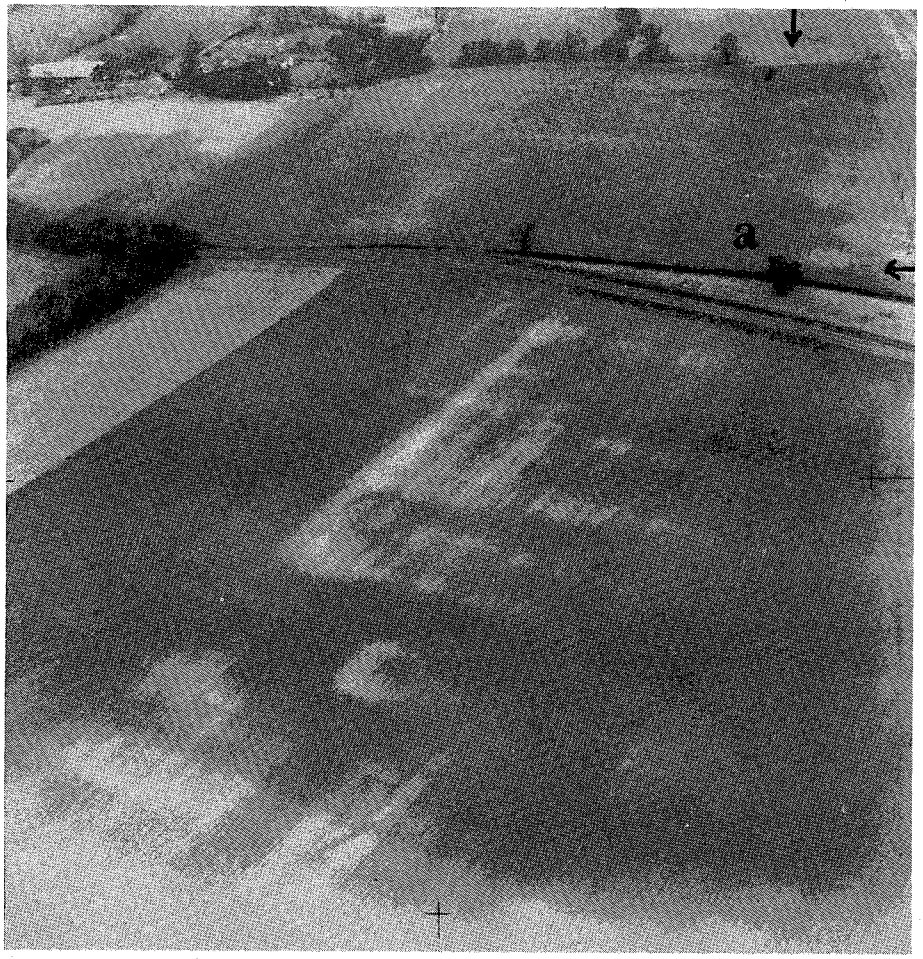


Plate III. Norton Road, Baldock, location of ring-ditch. a = D (see Fig. 2). Photograph courtesy of Cambridge University Aerial Photography Collection.

were carried out in the vicinity of Norton Road, Baldock, (Plans 1 & 2), to the south-west of Nortonbury Farm, (GLV), and adjacent to the Baldock Refuse Tip (GLVI). The area was threatened by the construction of the A1(M). Three ditched circular features were visible from the air, together with the site of the excavation (Plate III). The re-routing of Norton Road proper also threatened an area to the west which, according to aerial photographs, and resistivity survey by Dr Tony Clark showed prehistoric structures, but nothing was discovered.

The making of tennis courts for Fearnhill School on the southern slope below the Wilbury hillfort (TL213326) posed a threat to a ring-ditch long known from aerial photographs (Plate IV) and a previous exploration in 1929. An excavation was arranged at short notice and carried out in May 1974 on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment. The 1929 investigation had been carried out by W.H. Lane who sectioned the ditch finding it to be 60ft in diameter with the ditch 9ft wide and 3ft deep; from it came three indeterminate potsherds (Appelbaum 1949, 12).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the period of fourteen years a number of people took part in the work and a list of names is given in the Appendix. The contributions by specialists to this report are very gratefully acknowledged. A number of people deserve special mention for their help. Firstly, Dr John Alexander for help and encouragement when resources and expertise were scarce. For Wilbury, the cooperation of Mr G.I. Donaldson of the County Architect's Department is gratefully acknowledged. Valerie Rigby kindly commented on the later pottery from that site. Dick Moss gave his professional services as site surveyor at Blackhorse Road. Thanks are due to Professor Martin Aitken, Dr Tony Clark, and members of the Engineering Test Branch, Cardington, for geophysical site surveys. The predecessor to the Letchworth Garden City Corporation gave permission for excavation on its land. The contractors, Messrs Taylor Woodrow, gave the utmost help and cooperation on

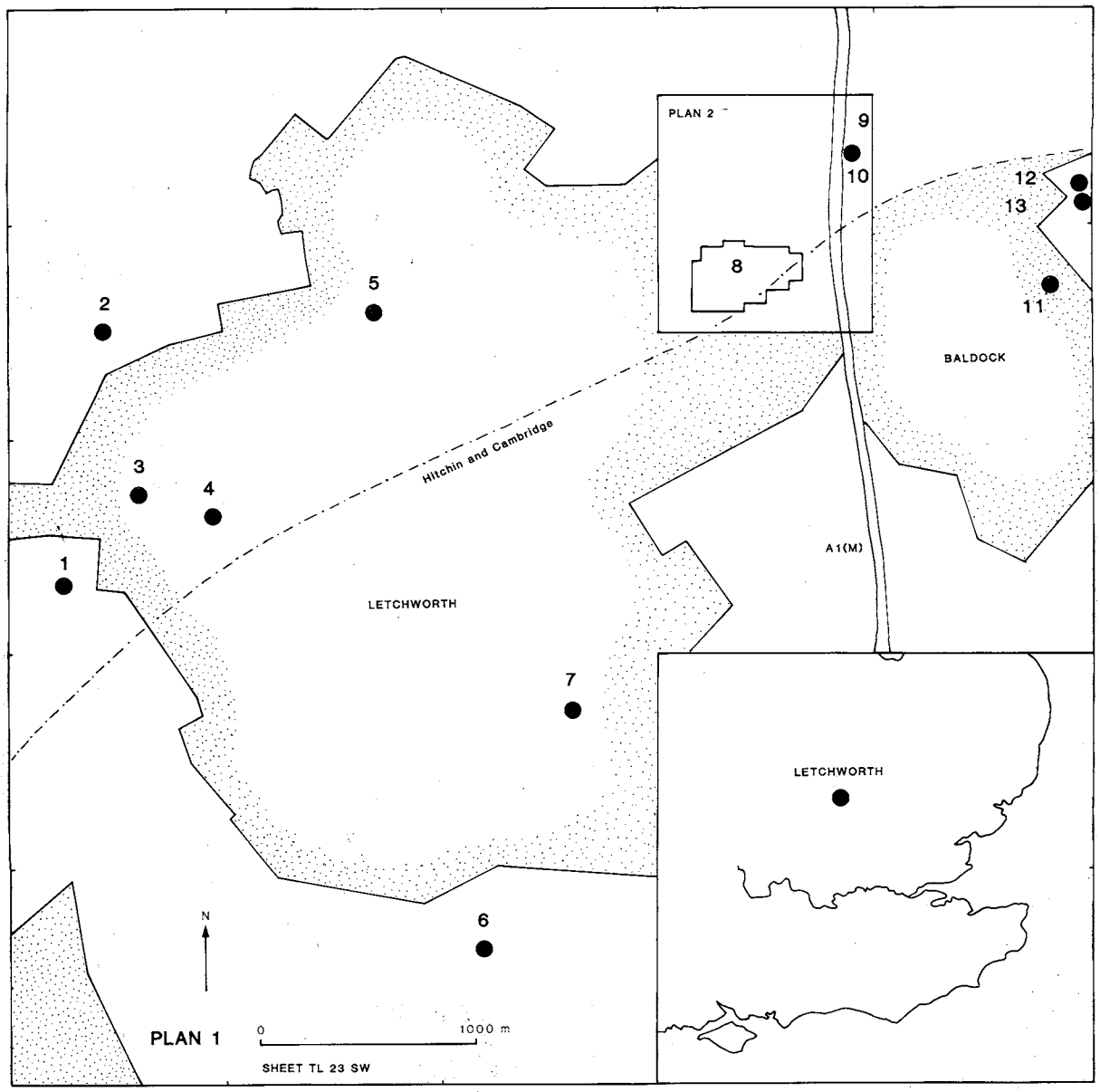


Figure 1. Location plan 1.

1. Wilbury Iron Age hillfort and Neolithic ring-ditch.
2. Two Chimneys mid/late Iron Age pottery.
3. Monklands bronze knife.
4. Archers Way pedestal urn burial.
5. Hawthorn Hill mid/late Iron Age settlement.
6. Willian bucket urn cremations.
7. Lordship Lane Late Bronze Age pottery, tanged chisel.
8. Blackhorse Road Neolithic and Iron Age settlement.
9. Norton Road, Baldock Neolithic ring-ditch.
10. Norton Road, Baldock ditches.
11. The Tene, Baldock Pre-Roman Iron Age/Roman burials.
12. Clothall Common, Baldock Pre-Roman Iron Age burials.
13. Walls Field, Baldock Neolithic finds.

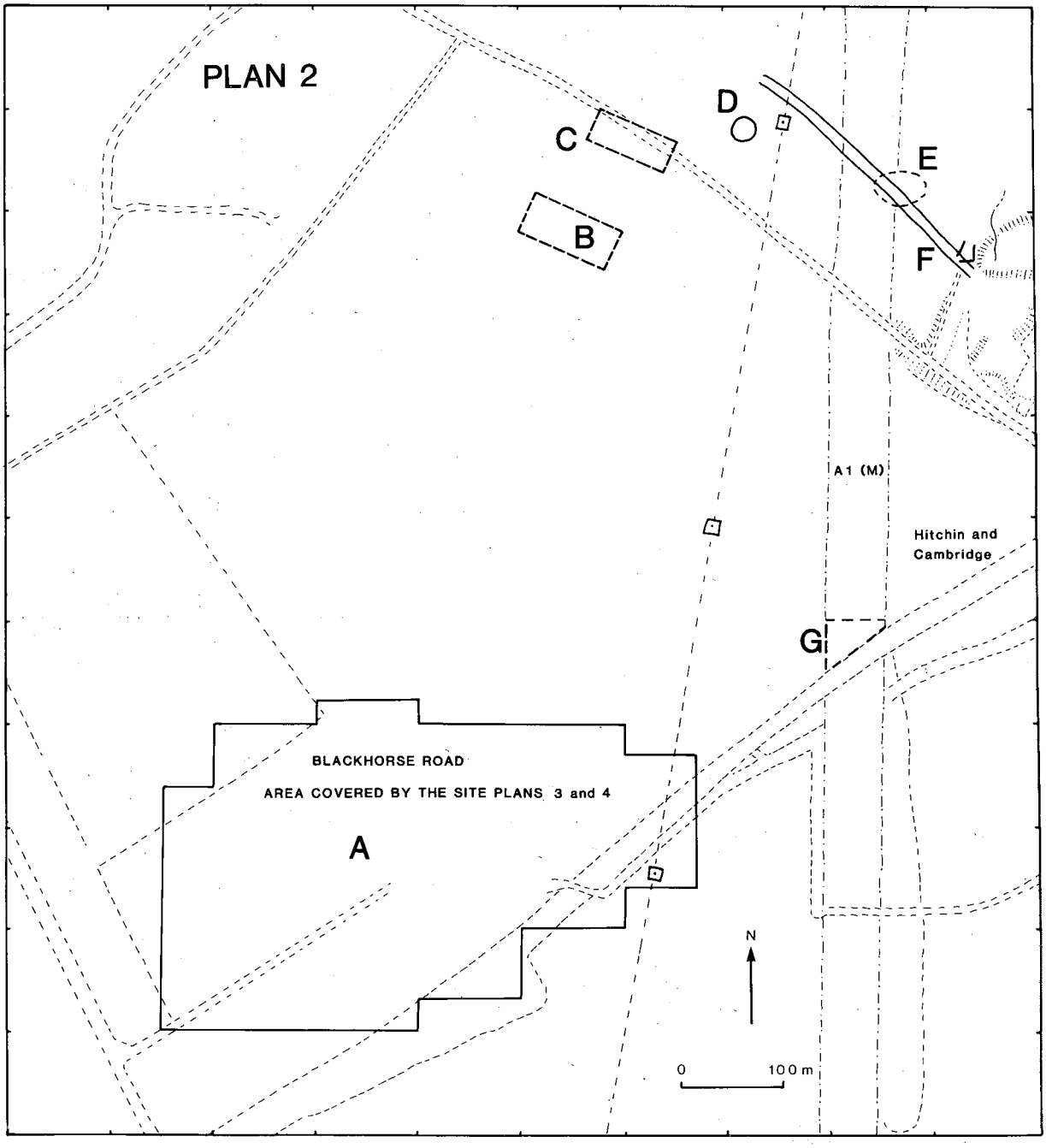


Figure 2. Sites plan 2.

A Blackhorse Road
B, C Sites of resistivity surveys 1963
D Ring-ditch 1963
E Postglacial deposit 1963
F Ditches 1963
G Site of resistivity survey

Plate IV. Wilbury Hill from south, ring-ditch bottom right.
a = 1 (see Fig. 1). Photograph Courtesy of Cambridge University Aerial Photography Collection.

Plate V. Wilbury 1974, general view of excavation of ring-ditch.
a = Section A of Neolithic ring-ditch (see Fig. 12).
b = Section C of Neolithic ring-ditch (see Fig. 12).
c = F2 Iron Age ditch (see Fig. 12).

the site, and Mr Rupert Gurney of Charles Ball Ltd provided help with equipment whenever possible. Mr A.T. Clarke, Curator of the Letchworth Museum bore the excavator's absences from the museum with fortitude while successive Chairmen of the Letchworth Museum Committee gave unstinting support for the enterprise. Thanks are especially due to Mr T. Morton in this connection, as well as to various officers of Letchworth UDC, particularly to the late Mr Horace Plinston and Mr Michael Kelly, former Town Clerks, to members of the Surveyor's Department and to the Treasurer, Mr R. Young. Dr Michael Thompson and R. Robertson-Mackay of the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, Ministry of Works, ensured financial support of the work. The assistance of the publications section of English Heritage is acknowledged, with special thanks to Miss Ann Clark and Robin Taylor. Garth Denning and Dermot Bond were responsible for many of the initial drawings. Casper Johnson was of great assistance in the illustration and preparation of this report and laboured greatly in sorting out the bewildering collection of drawings, as well as providing a report on the Roman pottery.

The CAS acknowledges with thanks a grant towards publication costs from English Heritage.

THE SITES

Blackhorse Road (Figures 3 & 4) comprises *c.* 41 hectare some 1.6km east of Letchworth (TL233336); *c.* 1km to the east is the town of Baldock. To the north lies Norton village, to the south factories cover the line of Icknield Way. The highest point lies at 87m above OD, from which the ground slopes rapidly down to east,west and south, with the Norton ridge to the north. The ploughsoil was seldom deeper than 300mm and gave way at once to the lower part of the Middle Chalk on which the site stands. The land has been cultivated for centuries and there is now little land left free of industrial structures. The existence of the Blackhorse Road site was unknown until its discovery in 1958.

Norton Road, Baldock (TL236341), runs from modern Icknield Way in Baldock to the outskirts of Norton. The sub-sites lie east and west of it at TL242343 (Figures 1 & 2), one at a height of 75m OD on a chalk ridge covered with a thin layer of boulder clay. To the east it falls away to the valley of the River Ivel which flows from a spring at the bottom of a gently sloping hill to the south at a height of 55m, just above the Cambridge to Hitchin railway line. Beyond the Ivel valley on the east is the A1, occupying the line of the former Roman road to Braughing. An electricity pylon now stands a few metres from the location of GLV while the motorway runs several metres below the site of GLVI, which was totally destroyed.

The *Wilbury* site is on the western edge of Letchworth (TL205324), overlooking the valley of the river Hiz whose source rises at a spring *c.* 1000m to the west. To the north of the ring-ditch are the defences of the hill-fort with allotments to the north and east. It is on the southern slope which continues for nearly 1km down to the Hitchin–Cambridge railway line. The glacial drift gives way to Middle Chalk almost immediately and the ploughsoil is little more than 300mm deep. Until the excavation, the land was in agricultural use. A note on samples of soil by B.W. Avery is in the archive.

The seasons at Blackhorse Road of 1958/9 and 1960 were carried out using a 15ft grid based on the construction plan for the ICL factory. After that all features were planned on individual surveys with an Ordnance Survey base, the whole being worked up to a reduced plan at 1:500. The majority of working plans and sections were recorded at scales of 1:12, 1:10 or 1:20. Notes and general observations on features are in notebooks and rolled drawings. For the purpose of this publication the record has been converted to metric and the site divided by a master grid of 10m squares. Each context has a unique number of four digits, the first two of which refer to the year of excavation.

Prefixes refer to:

P pit
PH posthole
F feature
Tr trench
D ditch
PD palisade ditch or trench
STr. slot trench
FP feature based on posts
PF pit-like feature

Norton Road, Baldock sub-sites (GLV and GLVI) were treated separately, the ditch sections were given the same numbers as the trial trenches but are prefixed by two digits denoting the year. Part of the photographic record was stolen from the site caravan and could not be replaced. The Wilbury contexts are designated as (F)eature irrespective of their nature. The site was planned on the scale of 1:50 and 1:10 for the sections. The excavation notebooks have not been found.

The primary sites archive consists of notebooks, section drawings, plans, photographs, and colour transparencies. A computer database has been placed on 5-inch floppy disks together with a hardcopy for consultation by students. All these, with the finds, are held in Letchworth Museum.

THE EXCAVATIONS (Figures 3 & 4, pages 42 & 43)

The excavations were carried out with local resources and financed by the Letchworth

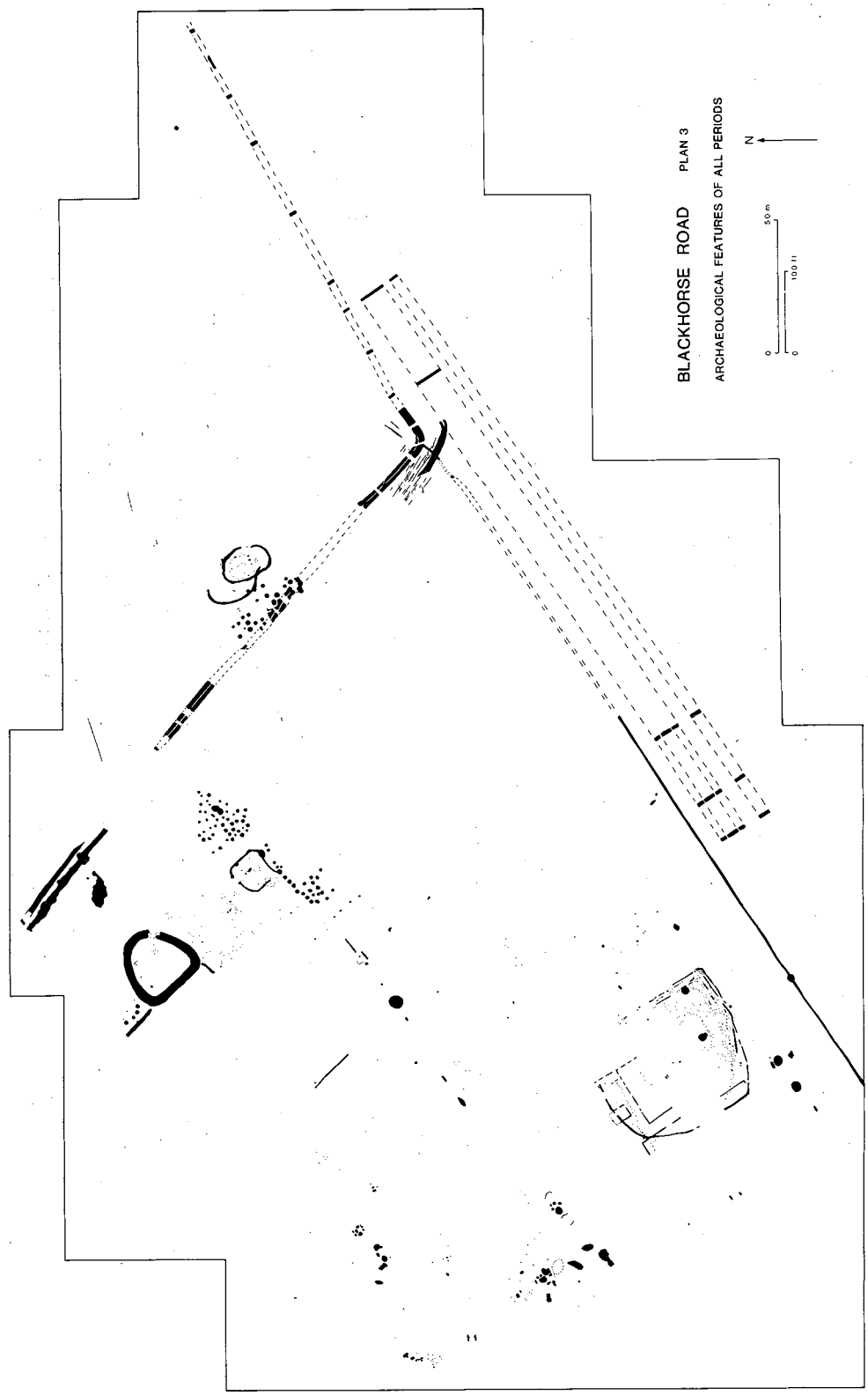


Figure 3. Blackhorse Road archaeological features: Area A.

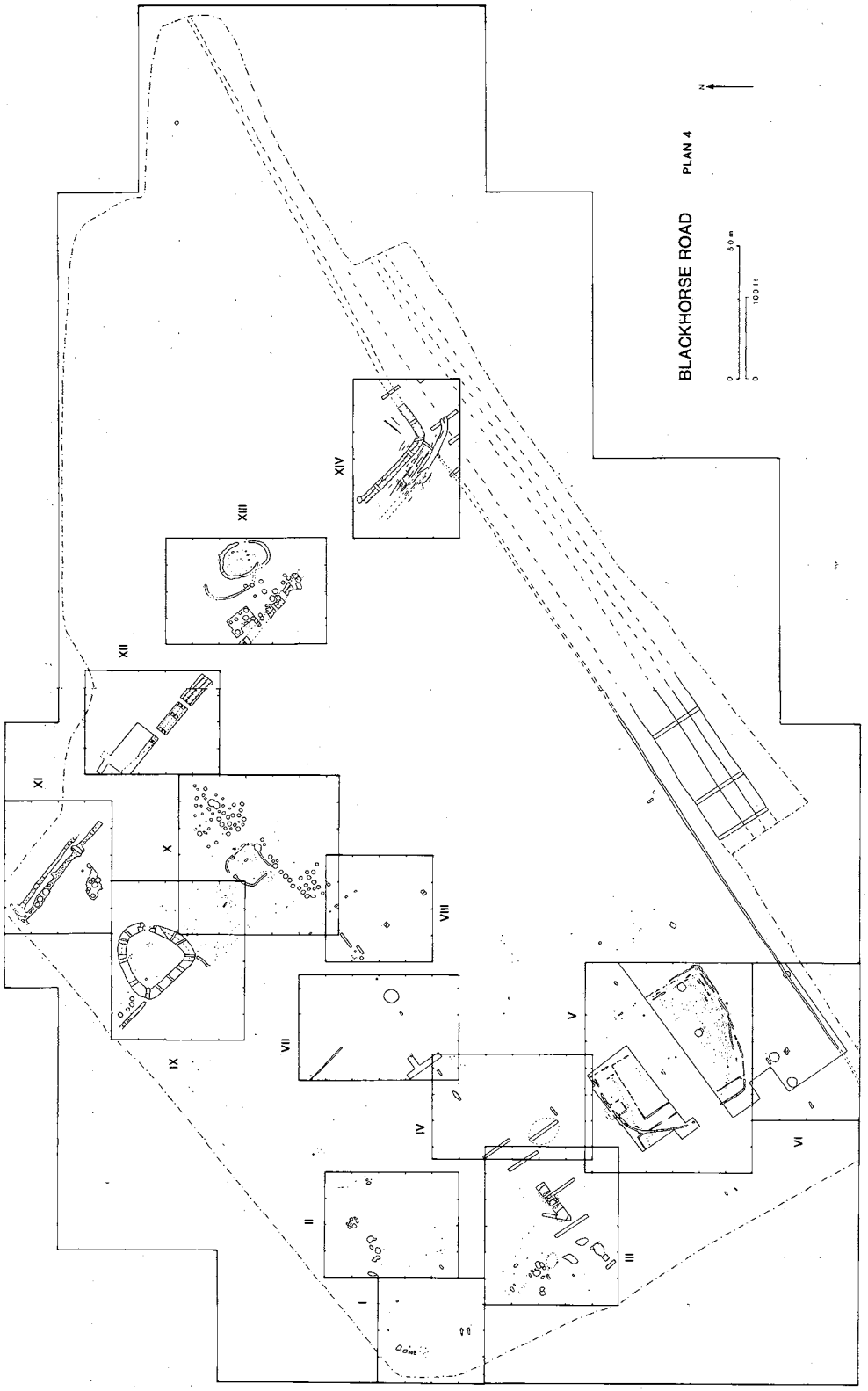


Figure 4. Blackhorse Road archaeological features: Area A.

Urban District Council and the, then, Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Ministry of Works, and, subsequently, the Department of the Environment. An account of the successive seasons is contained in the archive.

In 1958–59, the greater part of the D-shaped enclosure at *Blackhorse Road* was excavated by hand while the area to the north was recorded and investigated ahead of, and during grading by machine. Digging was carried out by a team of never more than four people. In 1960, excavation of the southern part of the D-shaped enclosure, accompanying pits,and three sections cut across 'Icknield Way' was carried out with the help of four Cambridge students who acted as supervisors of the amateur labour force. These were led by P. Ozanne who was Deputy Director for the season. For the first time topsoil was removed by a JCB tractor shovel, the area cleaned up with hand tools and all the features sectioned and emptied. From 1961 onwards, labour was employed on a modest payment basis, mostly from local schools. Volunteers were provided by the newly formed North Herts Archaeological Society. In 1972 work was supervised by P.C. Ozanne and in 1973, by Adrian Havercroft, then on the staff of Letchworth Museum.

At *Norton Road, Baldock,* trial trenching was carried out on the basis of infomation suggested by aerial photographs. The unexpected appearance of the ring-ditch (GLV) caused difficulties with the layout of trenches. The feature was dug in quadrants, the central area being cleared entirely at the end of the excavation. Selected ditch segments were dug, the whole being done without mechanical aid. Sites GLV and GLVI were treated separately.

The investigation of the ring-ditch at the *Wilbury Hill* site (Plate IV) was supervised by Howard Davies and Dermot Bond with assistance from Alan Fleck. Valuable help was provided by members of the Lockleys and East Herts Archaeological Societies. The area was cleared by machine, cleaned with hand tools and sections cut and cleared by hand. The ditch was sectioned in four places and cleared out to the bottom as shown on the plan. Six slots with stakeholes and pits and postholes were investigated.

PRE-IRON AGE OCCUPATION: THE NEOLITHIC

Blackhorse Road

P6631, P6070, 6072, P6078, PH6080, P6601, P6612 were Neolithic. All but two were located on slopes of the highest part of the site (Fig. 6); pits were similar in form and dimension, funnel-shaped with slightly rounded bases (Fig. 5). P6070 was unfinished, of several scoops picked out of the chalk. On the eastern side of the site (Fig. 20, page 59) were pits, a ditch system, and Enclosure Four (Fig. 25, page 66) producing fragments of Neolithic pottery and flints. There was other occupation debris of animal bones, charcoal and stones, some burnt. Over 90 sherds of Ebbsfleet and Grooved wares and 189 flints came from area GL I–III. PH 6080 produced a Grooved Ware sherd and a flint backed knife (Fig. 40:5, page 96). Shallow P6612 contained Grooved Ware sherds, an antler pick, and the shoulder blade of an ox. The antler had been prepared and used as a pick (Fig. 39 page 92, & page 91) and was placed with the non-artifactual scapula at the same level as if deliberately laid out. Such objects are frequently associated with flint mining and the building of ceremonial structures; they were in close proximity to the ditch (6638) which contained a bear (*Ursus arctos*).

The pits are like those recorded at Grime's Graves, and described by Sievieking (in Crawford 1979, 13). The dimensions are within the range he mentions, even to the extent of P6601 being as deep as it is broad. Knapping floors could not be identified due to considerable later disturbance. Wymer comments (page 00) on the restricted size of the nodules used for knapping found on the site but notes that the flint was fresh Chalk flint. Very few nodules were seen in the sides of the excavated features suggesting that the most obvious had already been extracted. That such nodules could once have existed is suggested by the study of an exposure at the same level in the Morden Grange chalk-pit (TL296401) which lies to the northeast, near Ashwell Station. Nodules from there were knapped by Tim Reynolds who produced artifacts similar to those found at Letchworth and of a quality comparable with those made from Brandon flint. It is possible that the five pits were dug for the purpose of mining flint. At the same time, however, Legge's remarks (page 92) on the nature of the selected mammal bones found in these features and the possibility of their forming ritual deposits should be borne in mind. A ritual use would help to explain the rapid refilling of the pits shortly after they were dug.

Dating is based partly on radiocarbon determination and partly on the six Rusticated Beakers, one Necked Beaker, one Grooved Ware vessel, one vessel of Fengate style, one of Mortlake style, and several of Ebbsfleet style. This group forms one of only two in Hertfordshire, the other being from Baldock (Stead and Rigby, 1986). The S4 beaker was associated with charcoal which produced a radiocarbon date of 3590±130 BP (uncalibrated) BM-284. A further date of 3830±140 BP (uncalibrated) BM-283 was provided for Ebbsfleet Ware and associated pottery from P6072, a pit lying some 320m west of the Beaker pit. 307 Late Neolithic flints

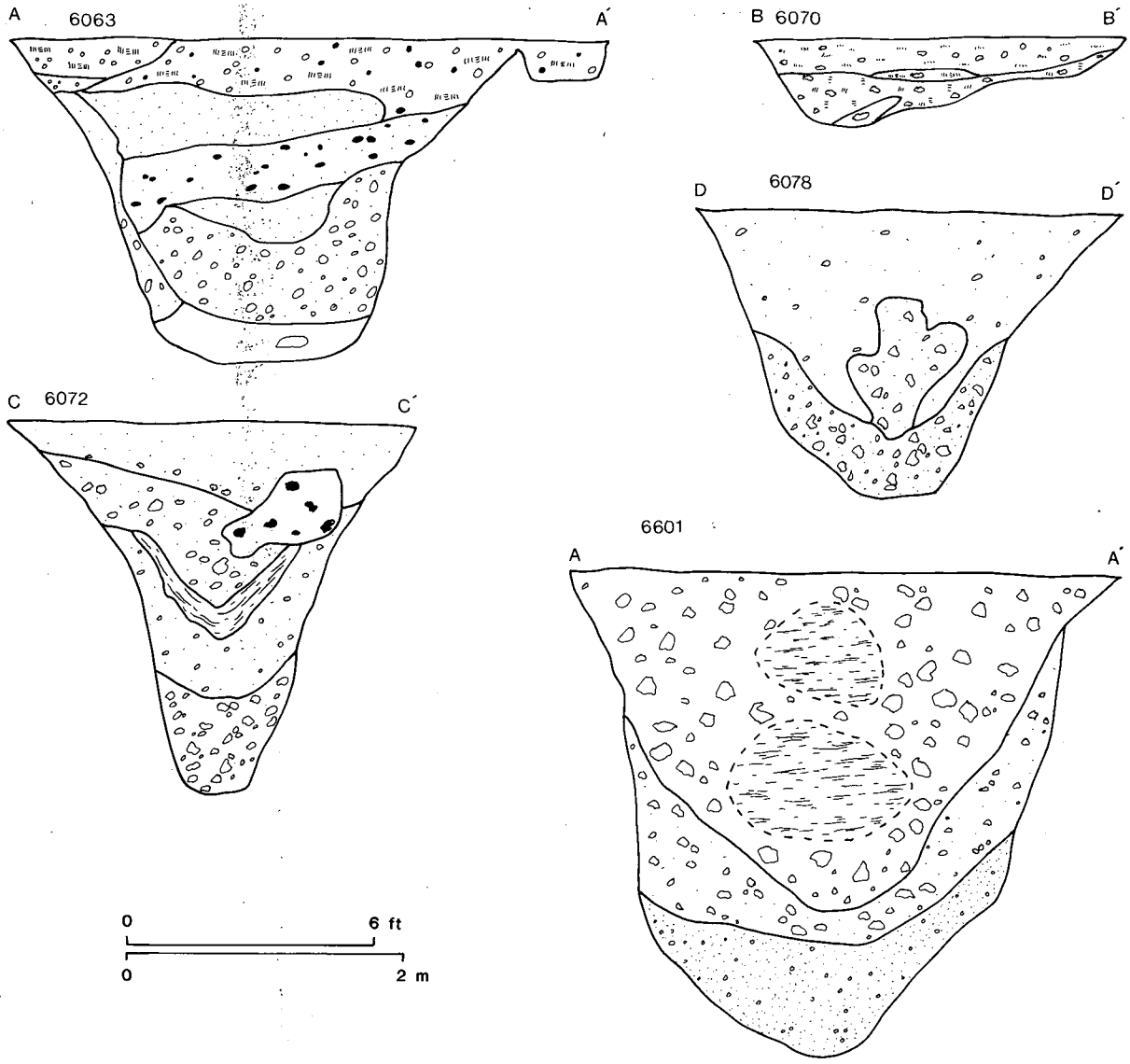


Figure 5. Neolithic pit sections.

came from the pits and ditches to the NE of the site. Pits 7007, 7260–7266, 7274 and pits 7250, 7259 (Fig. 17, page 56) produced four Ebbsfleet and one Mortlake sherd from the eastern pit group as well as fragments of Grooved Ware, Bucket Urn, and 65 flints. Some Grooved Ware sherds contained crushed shell, including freshwater mussel. Shells of these creatures appeared in pit fills, especially P7212, and must have been brought deliberately from the river Ivel which lies some 1.5km to the east of the site.

The Neolithic evidence for the pre-Iron Age pits in the western ditch with their shaft-like profiles, is the occurrence of flints which, on other parts of the site, are associated with Late Neolithic pottery. Unfortunately the digging of the Iron Age ditch has destroyed evidence for any stratigraphic argument. The flints and pottery are of the same types as those from Area V, but some of the pits in the eastern group are entirely different from the shaft structures; perhaps parts of the site were dedicated to different activities, such as flint knapping or the storage of grain. In subsites XIII and XI (Figs. 25, p.66 & 17, p. 56) sandstone nodules occur in practically every feature that produced flintwork. Wymer (page 99) remarks on the absence of hammerstones but this could be because they were overlooked, as the stones mentioned in Dr Forbes's report (in the archive) were discarded at the museum before examination by a flint specialist. In P7212, flint nodules had been assembled deliberately. These and the groups of sandstones suggest lithic fabrication on the site.

The ditch fill (Fig. 30, 6304) was divisible into an

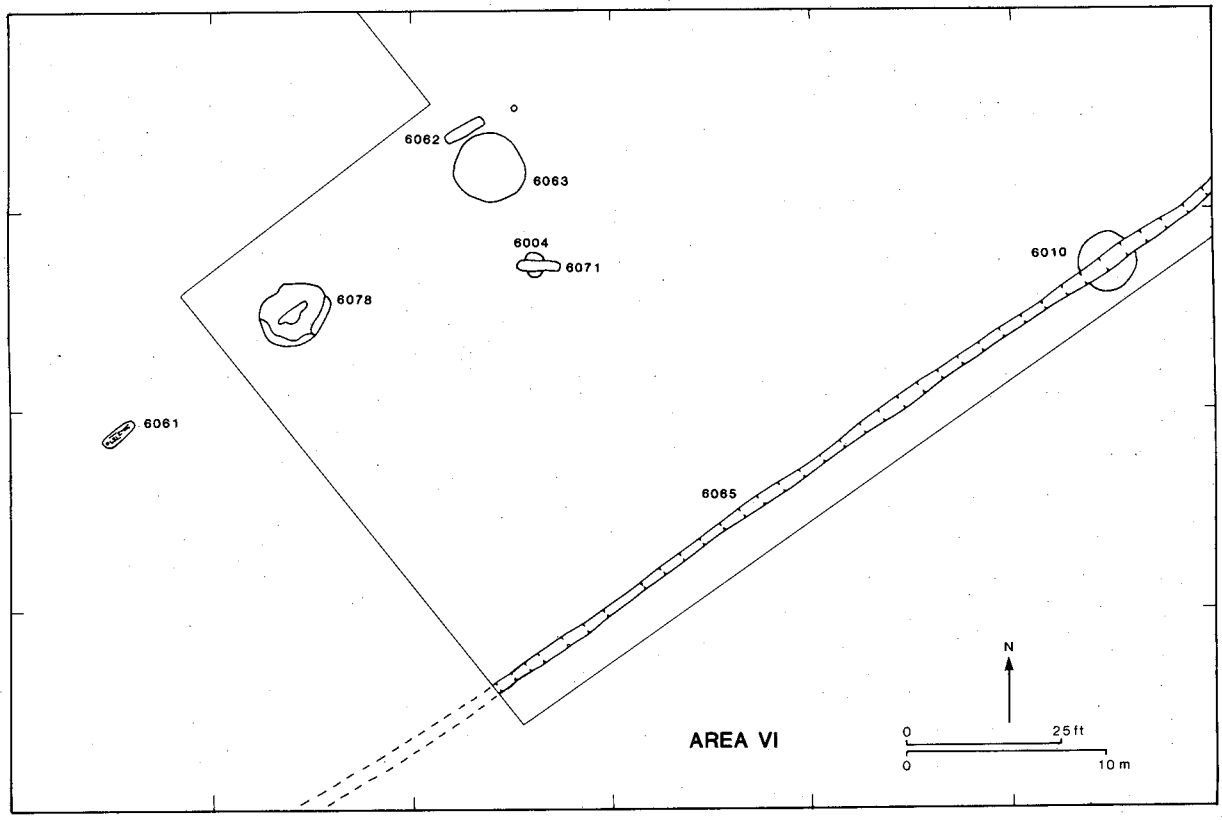


Figure 6. Area VI with Neolithic pits.

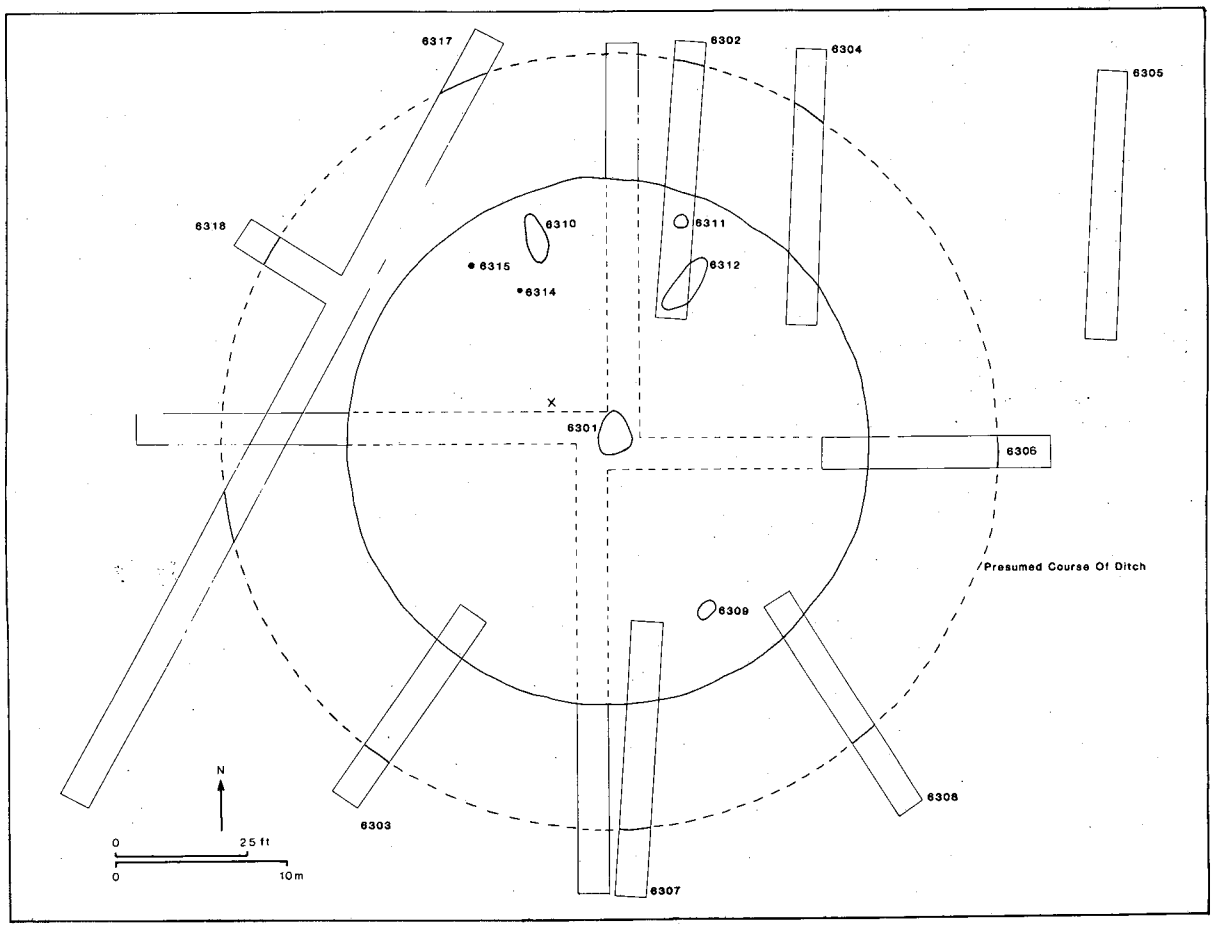


Figure 7. Norton Road, Baldock, plan of ring-ditch, (D) on plan 2.

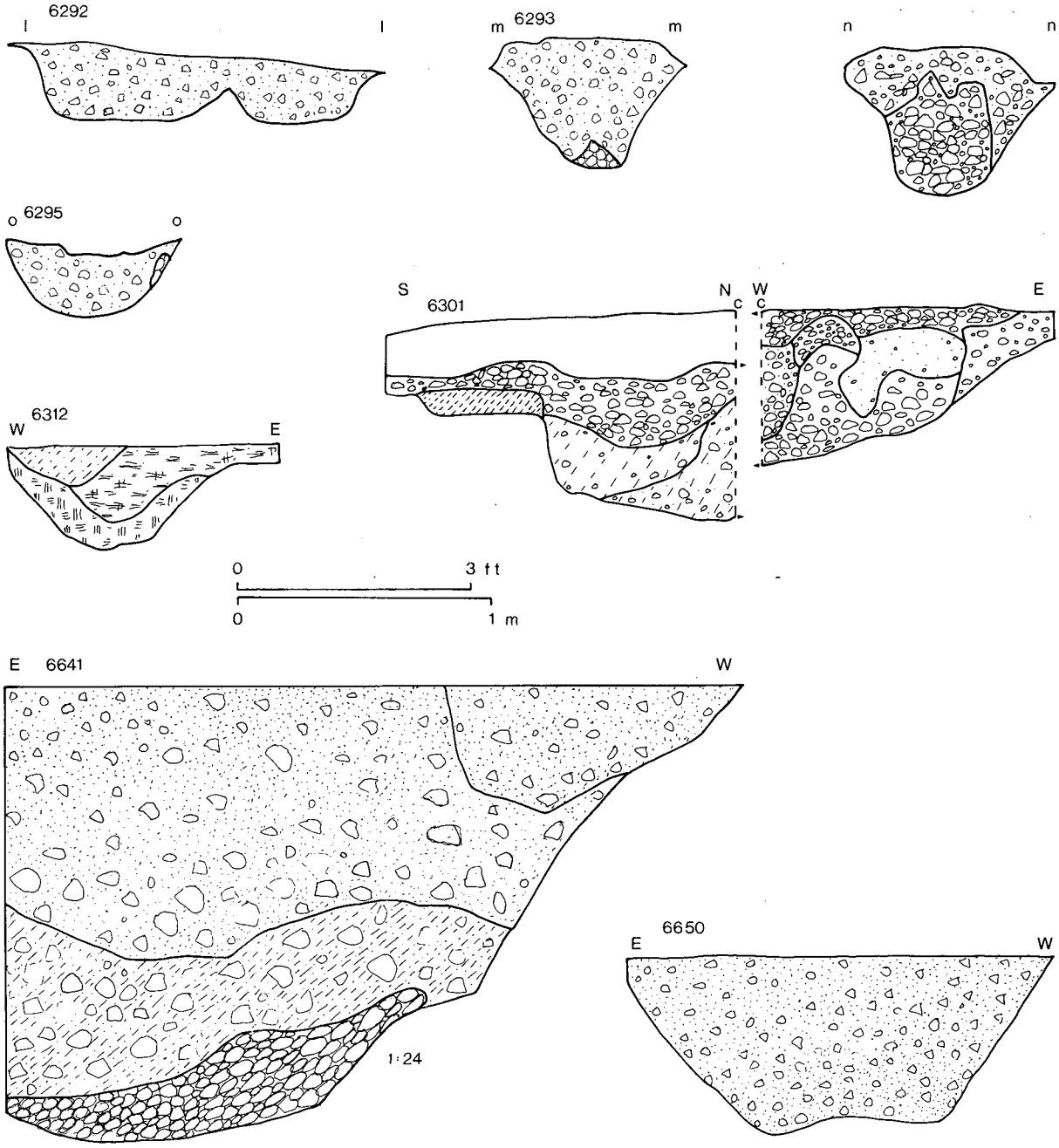


Figure 8. Norton Road and Blackhorse Road sections.

Late Neolithic pottery and flints were found at Walls Field, Baldock (Stead 1986), and a further shallow pit with flints and some debitage was located in the same area (Burleigh, pers. comm.). The finds at Blackhorse Road and Baldock have cultural affinities and, in view of their proximity, may be part of extensive Late Neolithic activity in the area. The sites are two useful additions to those with Neolithic storage pits (Matthews 1976), as well as providing assemblages comparable with others found in East Anglia.

Norton Road, Baldock (Fig. 7)

The Ring Ditch (GLV) was covered by a shallow topsoil and hill-wash of a mere 400mm: it had a diameter of 30.5m. In section the ditch showed sloping sides with a flat bottom: it had a mean width of 4.5m and a depth of 1.5–2m.

The ditch fill (Fig. 30, 6304) was divisible into an

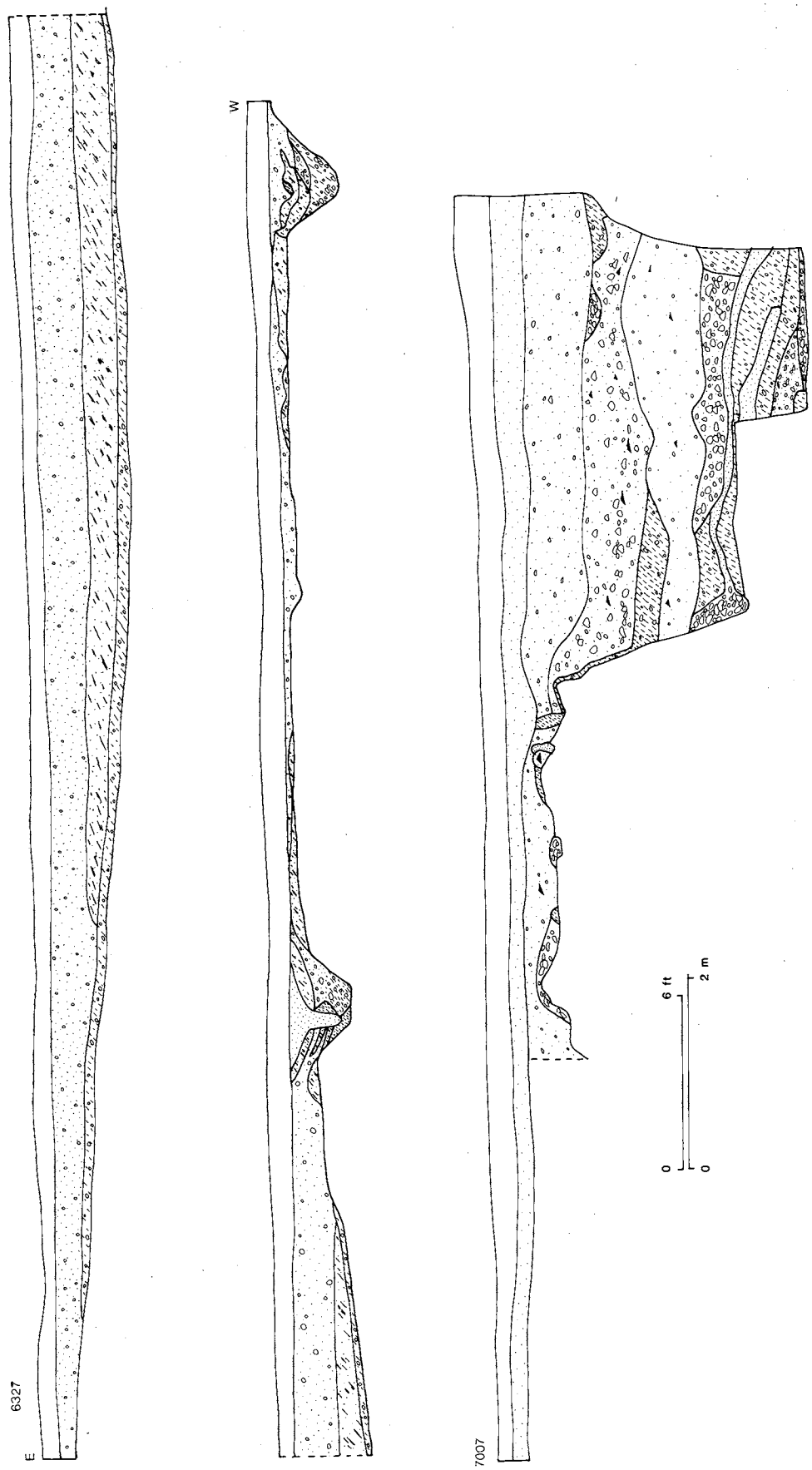


Figure 9. Norton Road and Blackhorse Road sections.

upper dark moist loam with little chalk content, through increased chalk, to chalk rubble at the base, the lower level contained occasional pockets of organic material. The inner edge of the ditch was more heavily weathered than the outside. In the fill was Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery which came from contexts 6304, 6306, 6307, 6308, 6317, 6318 with flints from 6307, 6308, mainly from layers (3) and (4) with the sherds of the Collared Vessel being higher up than the Peterborough Wares; the sherds of rim and plain wall from 6307 were similarly placed. The majority of the Beaker and Collared Vessel sherds were in the NW area, Peterborough Ware to the NE and SE, and a plain sherd accompanying the rim sherd with decorated applied band, flint flakes and scraper in the southernmost cutting. At the true centre of the circle was a small pit, 6301 (Fig. 7); three irregular pits and two postholes occupied the northern half while one further pit lay in the southeastern quadrant. The central pit had a slightly rounded bottom, was 1.14m in diameter, 0.71m deep and filled with predominately fine grey material in the N–S quadrant, with a greater quantity of brown loam in the E–W section. There appeared to have been disturbance, particularly in the N–S section where there could have been an early disturbance and refilling of the pit. There was a general distribution of grey burnt soil throughout with potsherds in the penultimate layer.

P6312 was an elongated oval, slightly rounded at the bottom, 2.56m long, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled with grey, burnt soil but had a clay layer in the bottom. P6310 had a canted V-section, was also elongated, 2m long, 0.82m wide and 0.38m deep. It contained a layer of grey soil overlying a chalky brown one which appeared to be a natural accumulation.

No sign of a mound was found within the ditch but would have been destroyed by modern ploughing and roots of a former hedgerow. The grey fill was like that found in pits containing cremated human remains. The pottery from the ditch indicates at least two periods for the feature, one producing the Late Neolithic pottery, the other the sherds of the Bronze Age Collared Vessel. A possible third is indicated by the rim sherd with applied decorated band, probably of the Earliest Iron Age.

A sherd of Grooved Ware and flints came from GLVI, 6335, layer 3 (Figs. 10 & 30, page 72), a section which was included in the post-Glacial deposit described below (page 50). The plain wall sherd and the flints lay in ash-grey humic chalk silt and rubble which overlaid much larger rubble and chalk lumps. The course of two ditches running parallel to each other from south to north up the hill slope was plotted by sectioning and probing over a distance of 244m; the farthest extent in either direction was not located.

The ditches were generally 7m apart, V-section with rounded bottoms, 1.2m wide at the top, 0.3m at the

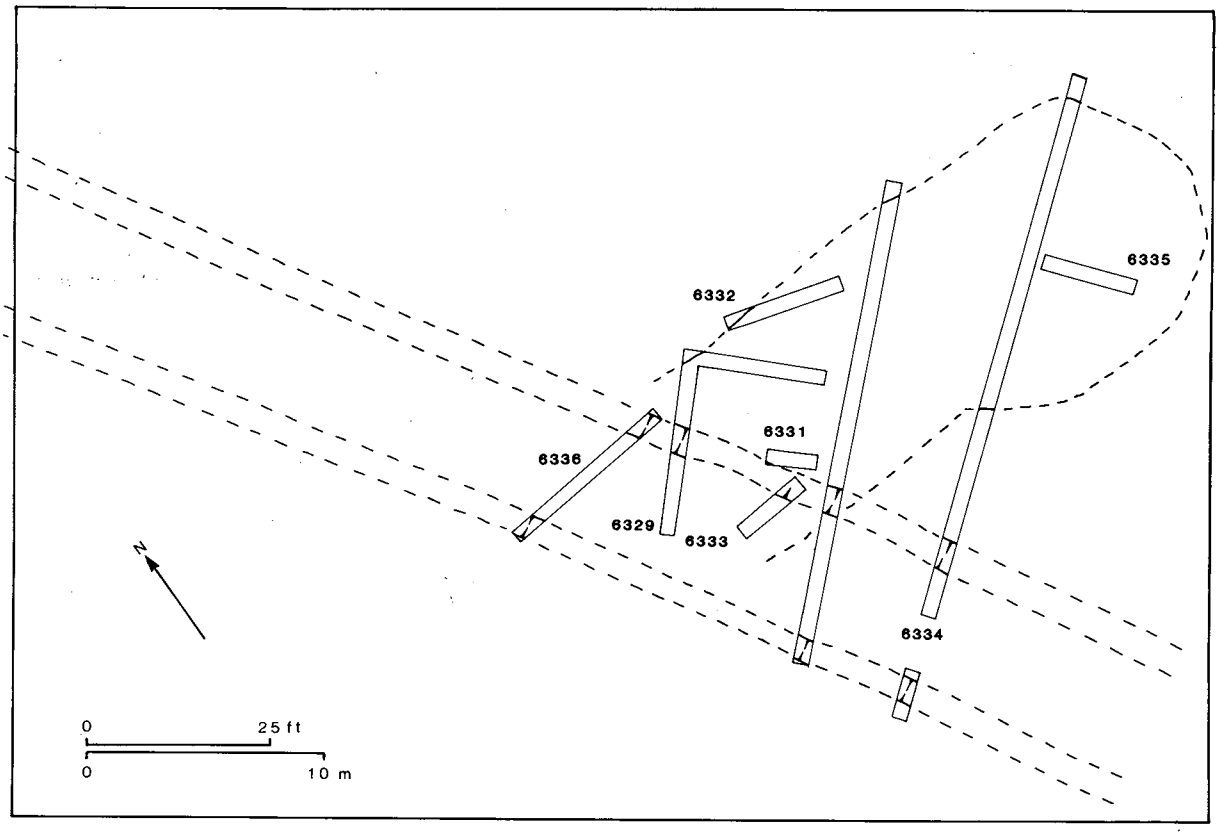


Figure 10. Norton Road, Baldock, plan of GLVI, E on plan 2.

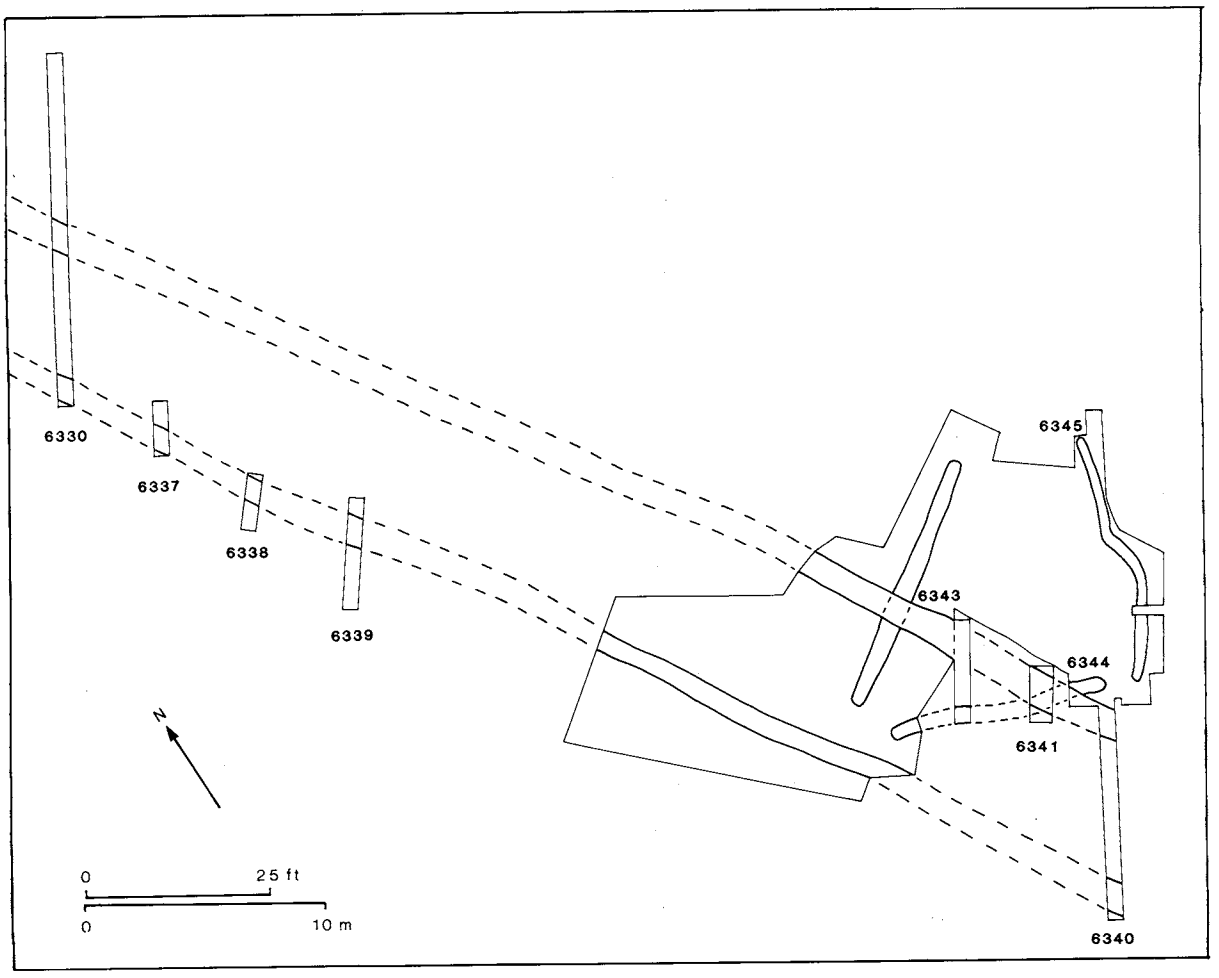


Figure 11. Norton Road, Baldock, plan of GLVI, (E) on plan 2.

bottom, and 0.9m deep. In both sections of 6327 (Fig. 9, page 48) were signs of postholes. In the western ditch was a post-like cavity filled by material rich in decayed organic matter; the eastern ditch had similar traces but without the clear lineaments of a post. In 6327 possible ploughmarks appeared between the ditches 300–350mm below the surface. The eastern ditch sections of 6329, 6331, 6332, 6333 cut into the colluvium of the post-Glacial scar.

Wilbury Hill

At Wilbury Hill there was a further ring-ditch (Fig. 12) which stood on the 83–85m contours above OD, was 17m in diameter, its ditch 2.8m wide, and 0.94m deep; in section a wide trough with a flat bottom (Fig. 13).

The dimensions of the sections were: A–A 4.1m wide, 0.91m deep; B–B 3.84m wide, 0.84m deep; C–C 3.49m wide, 0.85m deep; D–D 4.90m wide, 0.92m deep. The fill consisted of (1) clay with chalk and/or flints, (2) chalk rubble, in varying quantities. In C–C five substantial layers of chalk rubble alone occurred, in B–B were three, while similar layers occurred in the bottom of the other sections as well. The upper layers were made up of variants of clay or loam containing small quantities of chalk, sand and flint. The slot F5 passed through Section B–B (Fig. 13).

Six narrow slots cut across the northern and southern sections of the ditch at right-angles to each other; F4 and F7 may have intersected. F3, F4 and F5 entered the area inside the ditch: F3 and F7 were aligned WNW, F4, F5, and F6 ESE.

The slots were: F3 8.2m long × 0.50m wide × 0.44m deep; F4 12.0m × 0.50m × 0.44m (incomplete); F5 7.2m × 0.50m × 0.44m; F6 14m × 0.50m × 0.44m (incomplete); F7 8.2m × 0.50m × 0.44m (incomplete); F8 21m × 0.50m × 0.44m (incomplete). They were filled with chalk, rubble topped by chalky loam which continued into the postholes in F5 and F6 whose dimensions averaged 0.40m in diameter × 0.31m in depth. F3 contained sherds of Grooved Ware.

A circular pit, F9 (Figs. 12 and 13), occurred in the northern segment of the ditch.

It was 1.51m in diameter, 0.51m deep with a fill of (1)

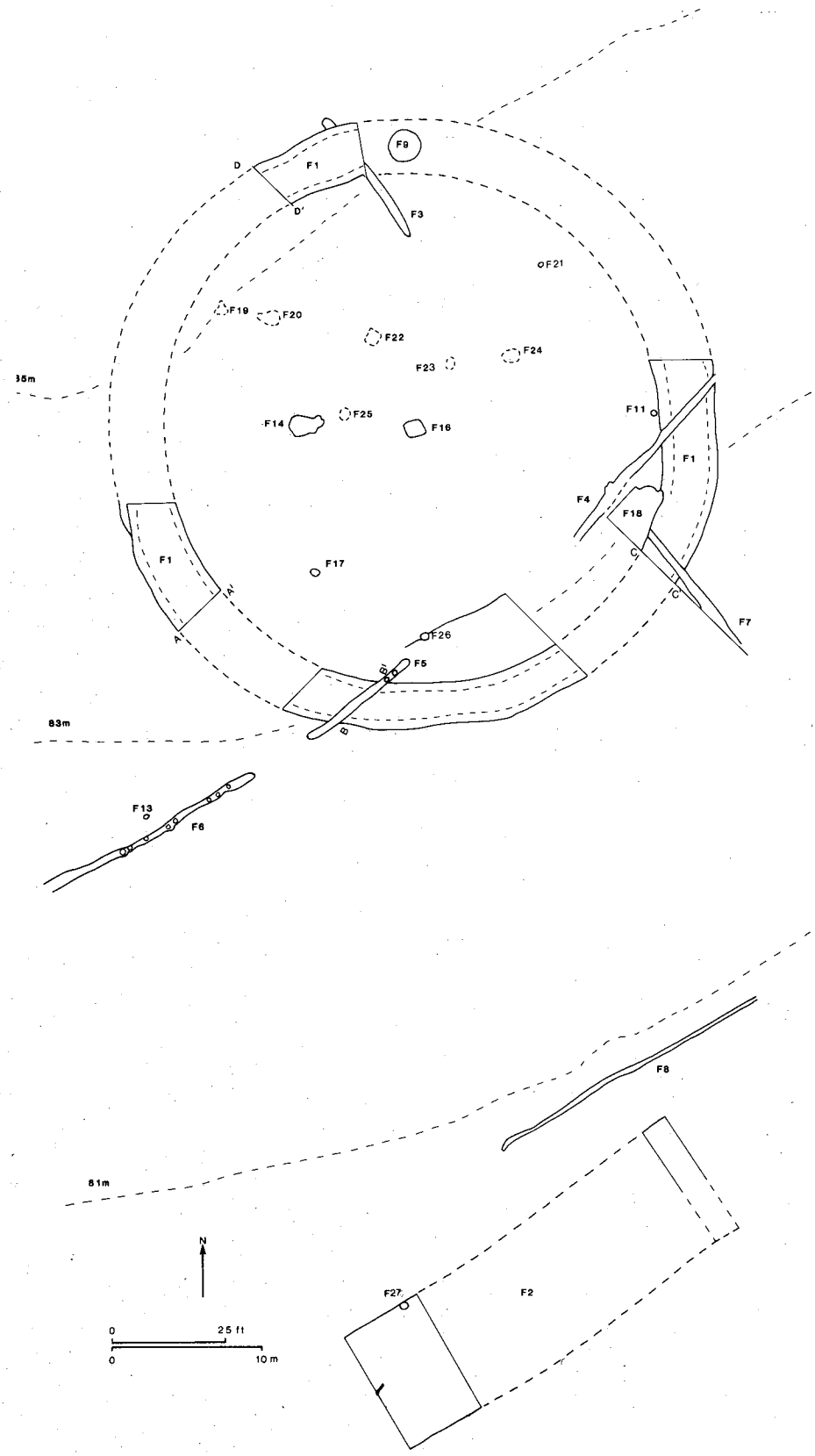


Figure 12. Wilbury ring-ditch, plan.

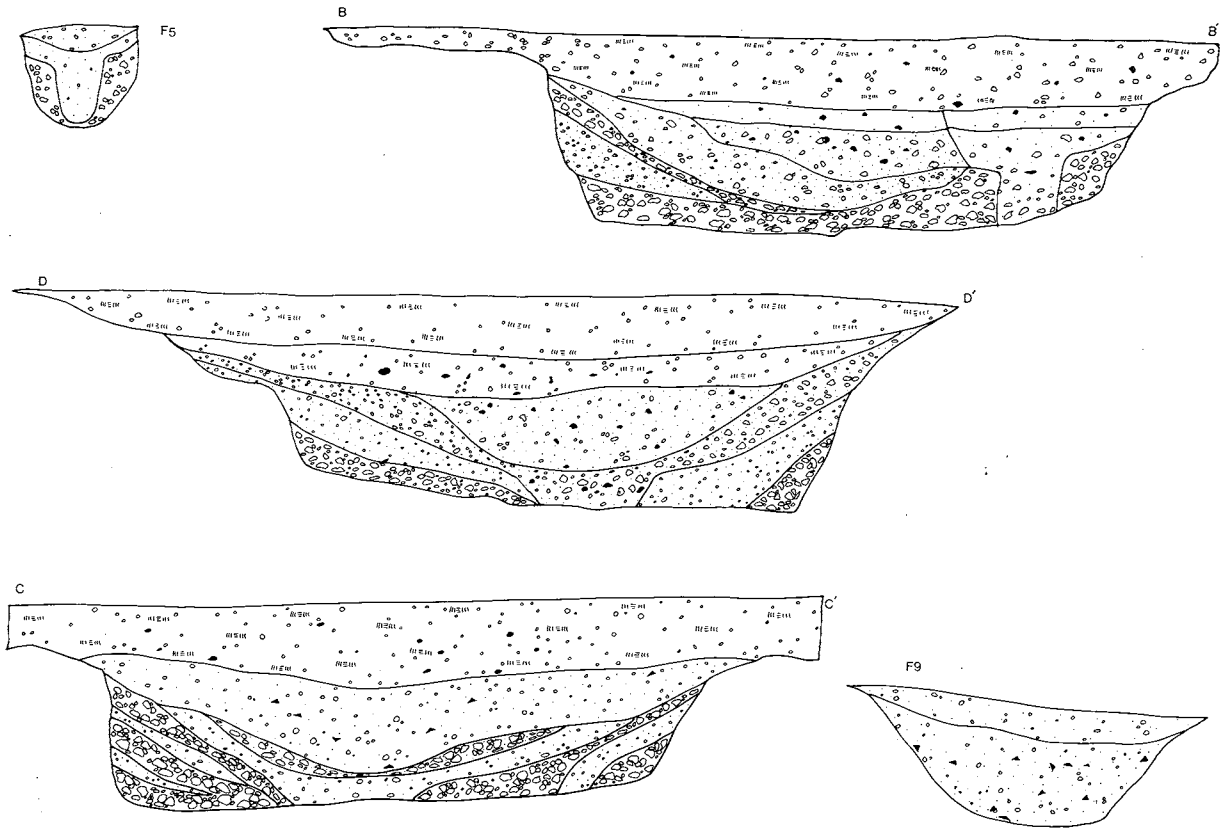


Figure 13. Wilbury ring-ditch, section.

brown loam with chalk specks, (2) dark brown loam with chalk specks and flints. Less well-defined cavities (F14, F16, F18, F19, F20, F22, F23, F24, F25) existed in the area inside the ditch. F14 was an irregular pit 2m long, 1.2m wide, 0.30m deep. It contained some Neolithic, and numerous Bucket-Urn sherds. 16 postholes occurred, 12 of which formed part of the palisade slots, the remainder were aligned on them, with the exception of F10 and F27: the majority had a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.30 m.

A disturbance (F26) was found in the the interior of the southern segment to the north of the ditch, running for some 16m to the east. It appeared to be earlier than the ditch which was not damaged. To the south lay a ditch (F2) with V-section and narrow flat bottom: it was 7.5m wide by 1.8m deep. Its orientation was the same as that of the slots and postholes.

The ring-ditch was Late Neolithic in date. Like the similar structure at Norton Road, Baldock, it produced no flint work or signs of habitation, apart from Late Neolithic and fragmentary Bronze Age pottery. This represents phase 1a on the site. The Bucket Urn and its accompanying pottery belongs to phase 1b when they were deposited in F14 under a hypothetical mound. The remaining features belong to the late prehistoric and Roman periods. To phase 2 belong the rectangular areas delimited by the slots with their chalk rubble fills for packing posts that may have been used in conjunction with daub, a piece of which occurred in F1 near slot F4: F9 belongs to this phase. The material appears to have come from the pre-Roman Iron Age hill-fort situated a few meters up the slope immediately to the north. The ditch to the south produced Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman pottery exclusively and may be assigned to Appelbaum's Belgic/Roman phase of the hill-fort (Appelbaum 1949). The same may be said of F3 which belongs to the slot system and produced pottery of the latest phase. Thus, together with the large ditch to the south, the slots suggest activity outside the hill-fort during the late first century BC/second century AD. Such a model backs up the finds of Appelbaum and others of Roman material all over the area of the site which was, by this time, open and unrestricted by its ramparts.

THE IRON AGE

Blackhorse Road

A number of ditches delimited the site, the most prominent being the line of Icknield Way to the south. Three sections, 21.336m × 0.914m, (6076, 6079, 6081) (Figures 3, page

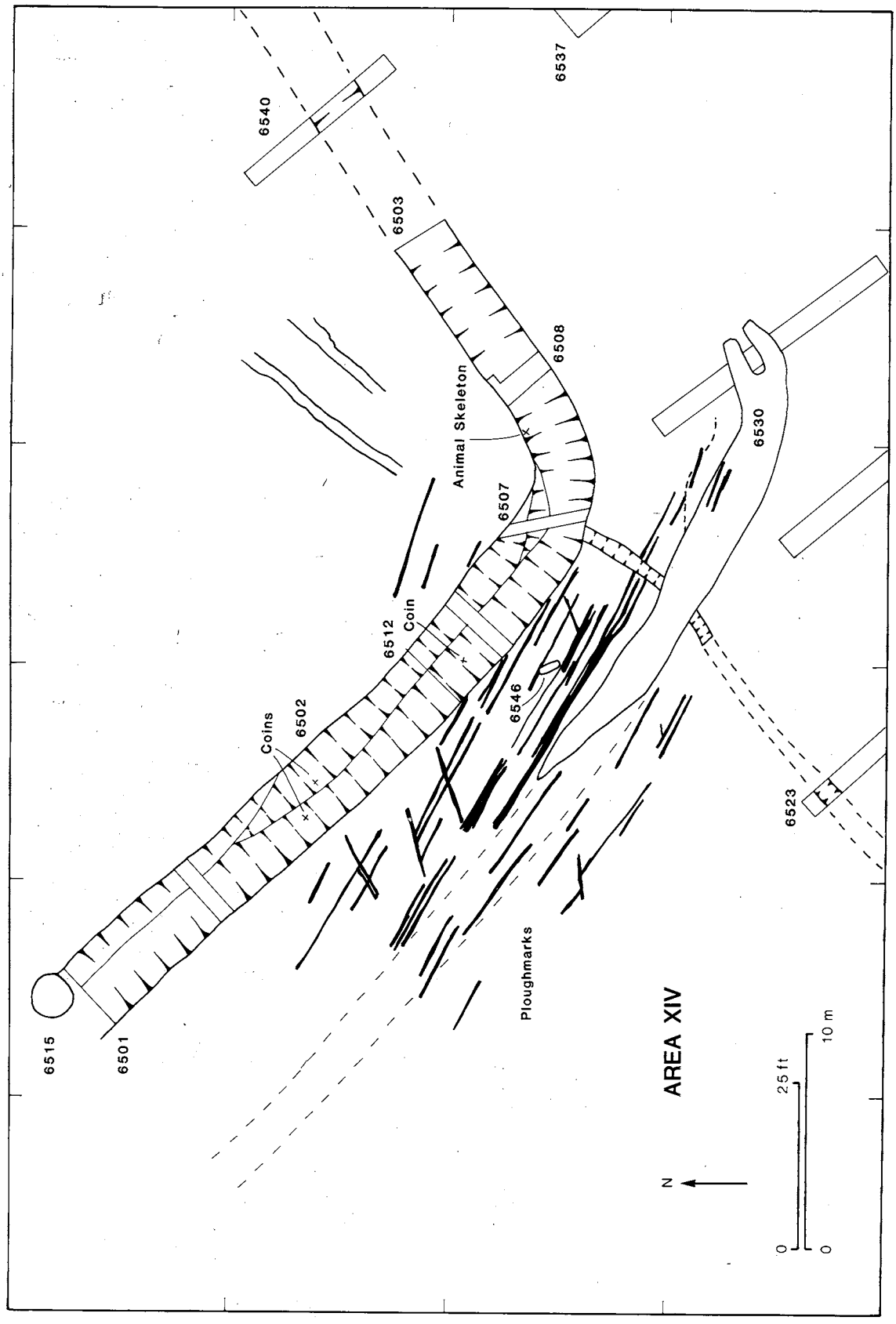


Figure 14. Area XIV, Roman ditches and prehistoric ploughmarks.

42; 4, page 43; 16) were were cut by machine across the hedge-line and cleaned by hand. At the southern limit of the cuttings was a V-section ditch 2.438m wide and between 1.727m and 3.149m deep; its steepest side was to the north where there was a bank of the upcast. There were four recognisable layers in the ditch (2) red-brown loam, (3a) brown with powdery chalk, (3b) dirty brown with chalk lumps, (4) chalky fill with wash.

Sherds of Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery were found in the ditch silt of all three cuttings. On the other side of the bank i.e. to the north, was a sunken trackway at a depth of 1.473m containing wheelruts. These were arranged in pairs some 1.371m apart and were 0.152–0.228m deep; there was no prepared surface but in one area rammed chalk with some faint traces of ruts was seen. A fragment of mid-first-century AD pottery was found in a rut together with some iron nails. The line taken by the ditches respected that of the boundary ditch D6065 (Fig. 6), a section of 6078 which was located to the north of the section and taken to be earlier in date. The trackway had undoubted Roman associations but there was no evidence that it was 'Romanised'. Further sections were cut to the east, including one in 1970 on the Letchworth side of the A1(M1), but there was no indication of a break in the system to provide access to the settlement. All the potsherds found there were of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age with small fragments of Samian ware. It is

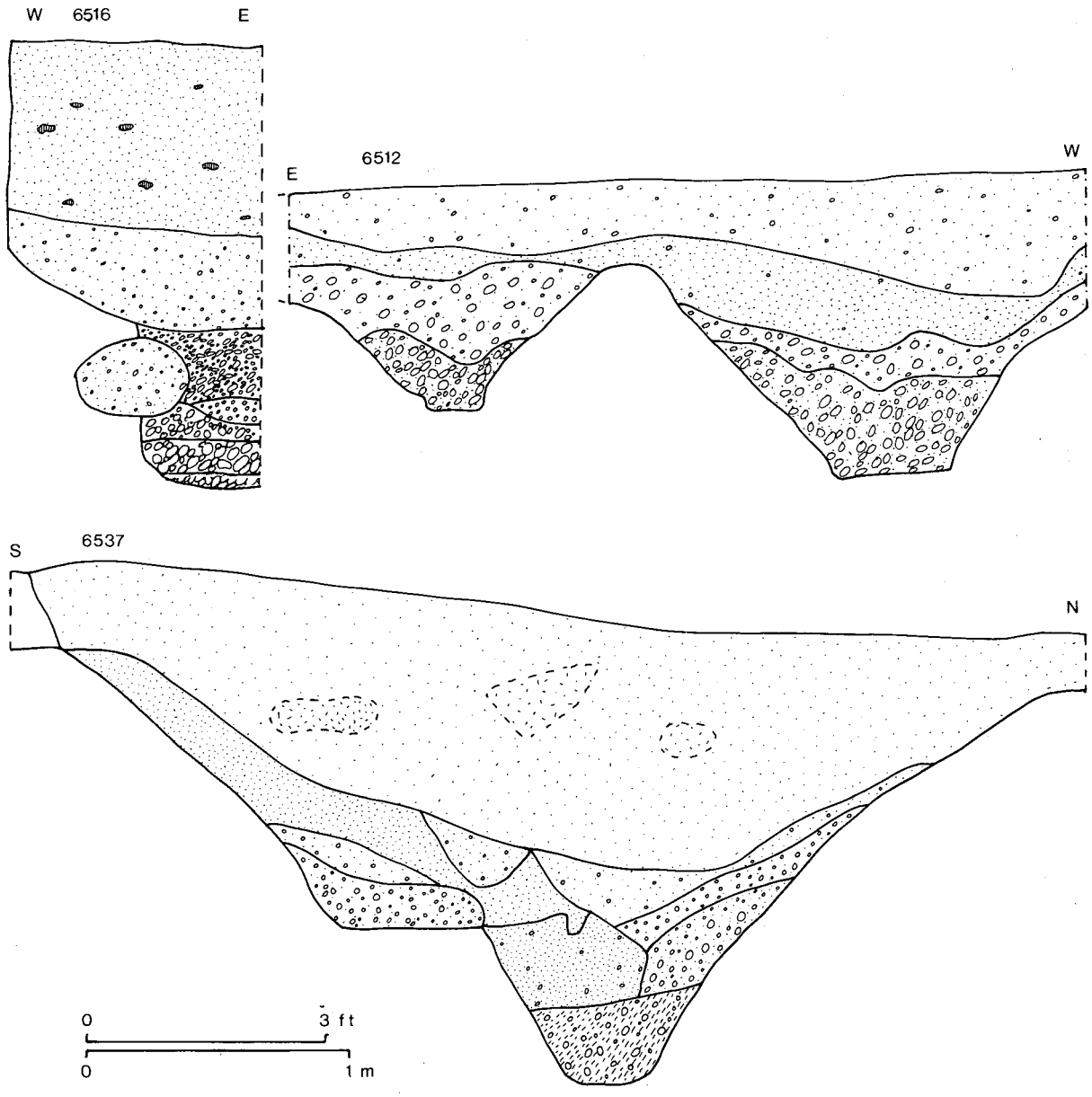


Figure 15. Sections of Roman ditches.

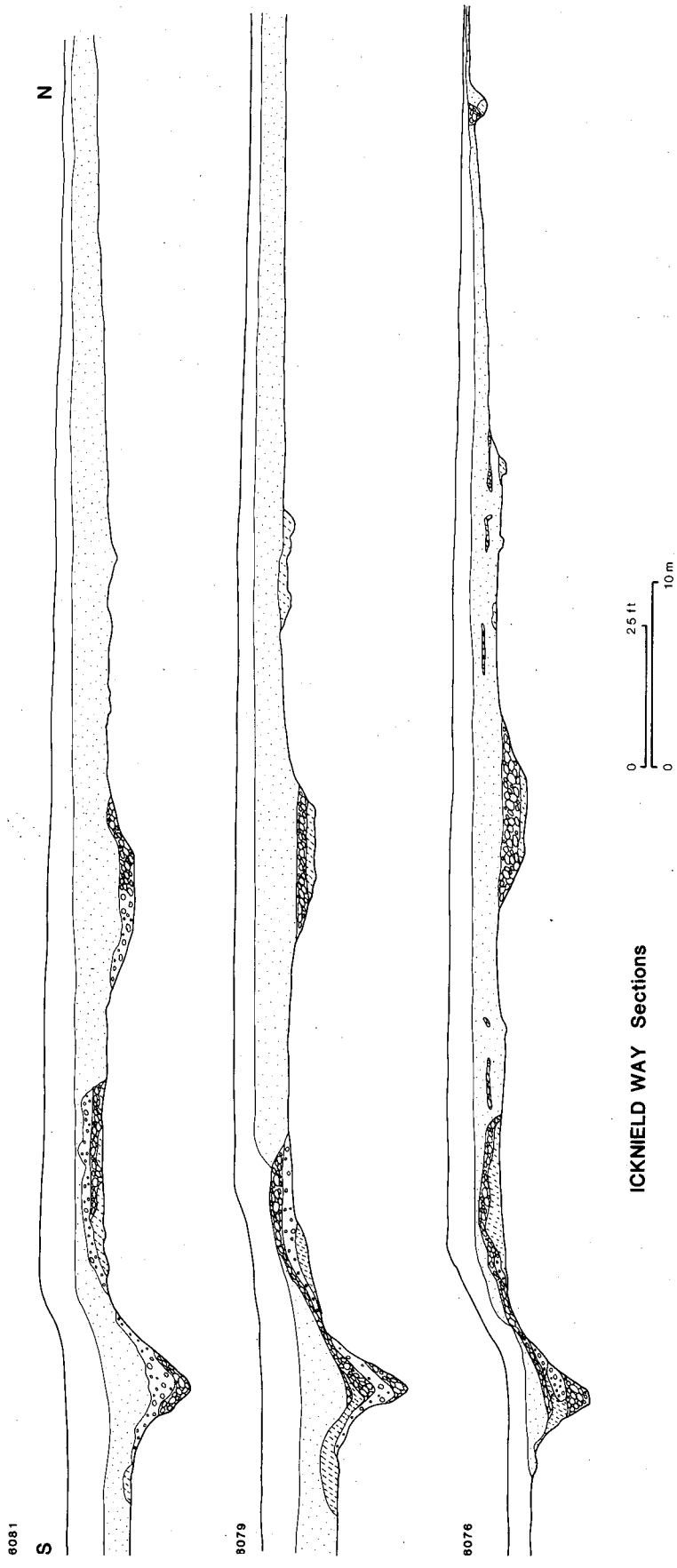


Figure 16. Icknield Way sections.

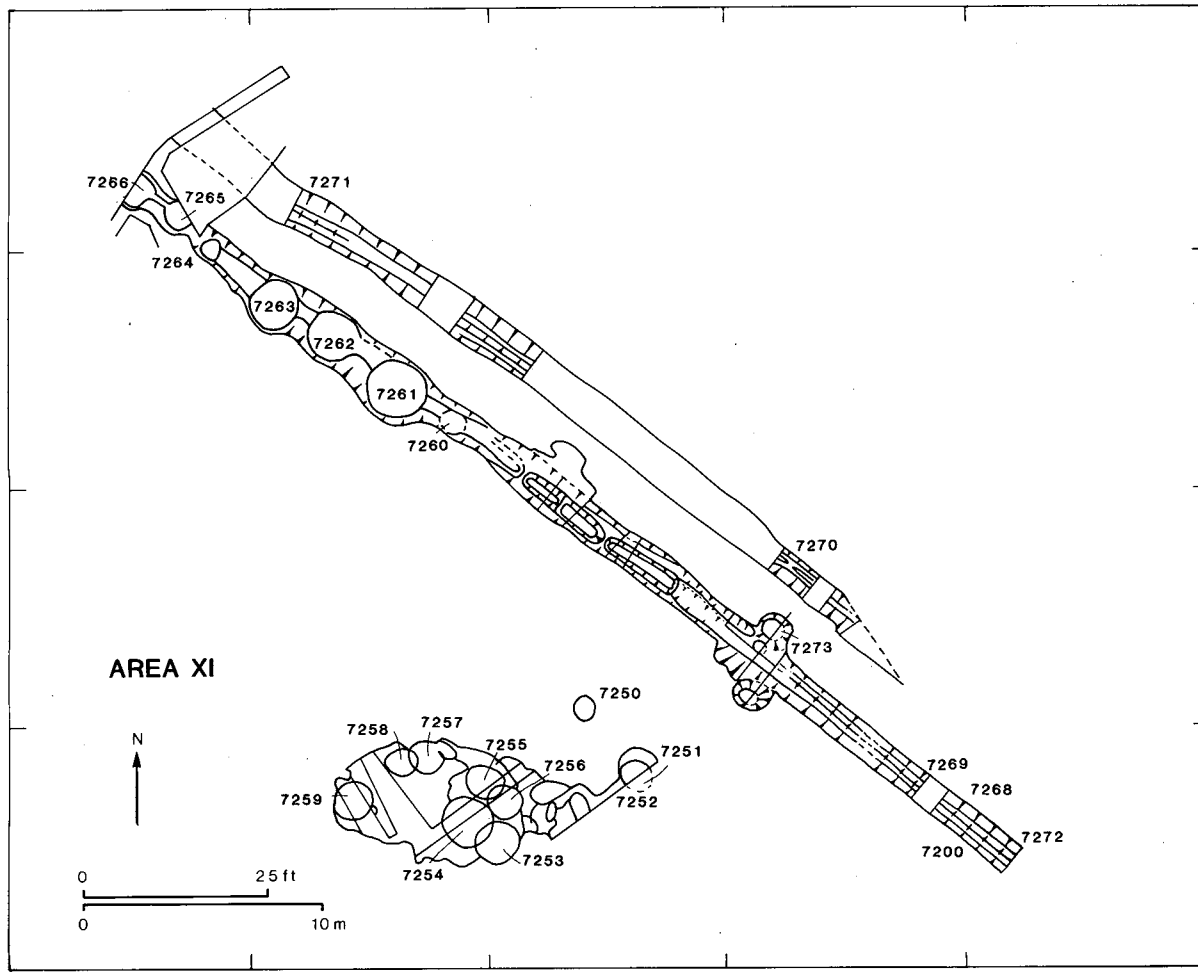


Figure 17. Area XI, eastern ditches.

possible that a complex of ditches continued on this line along the northern border of Roman Baldock to which it might have been related. The sections show that in the late Pre-Roman Iron Age and the Roman period a defensive bank and ditch occupied the southern limit of the site. They also demonstrate some basis for the tradition which positioned Icknield Way on the Ordnance Survey map as it is shown today.

Other ditches may have formed boundaries (Figs. 6, page 46; 14, page 53; 17, page 56; 18, page 57; 25, page 66). D6065 ran parallel to 'Icknield Way' and formed the southern limit of the site (Figs. 6 & 14). It passed through P6010 which it postdated. Its western limit is unknown but at its eastern extent it turned and continued northwards and was destroyed by the subsequent ditch D6501 which shared its course as a single feature for 12.5m, then disappeared, re-emerging as 7200 and ran off the northwest edge of the site. At the northern end 7200 (DW) contained several pits and slots (Fig. 17) which antedated it and were damaged by it; the perpendicular section (Fig. 9,7274) showed up the way in which the lower parts of the pits were detectable below the ditch bottom. This was parallelled at the southern end of Flint Road where two pits could be recognised in the ditch D6609 and 6633. It was in this section that slots occurred in the bottom of the west ditch interspersed with chalk causeways.

The human and animal disturbances make interpretation difficult and the only possible explanation seems to be the former existence of wooden uprights of the size of fencing posts within the ditch. During the prehistoric period, the area to the east could have been 'outside' the settlement which would have been fenced against animals. At the point where it entered the site, it had a V-section (Fig. 4, page 43) with two distinguishable layers of fill, the upper of loam containing a few small, chalk lumps, the lower stony with larger

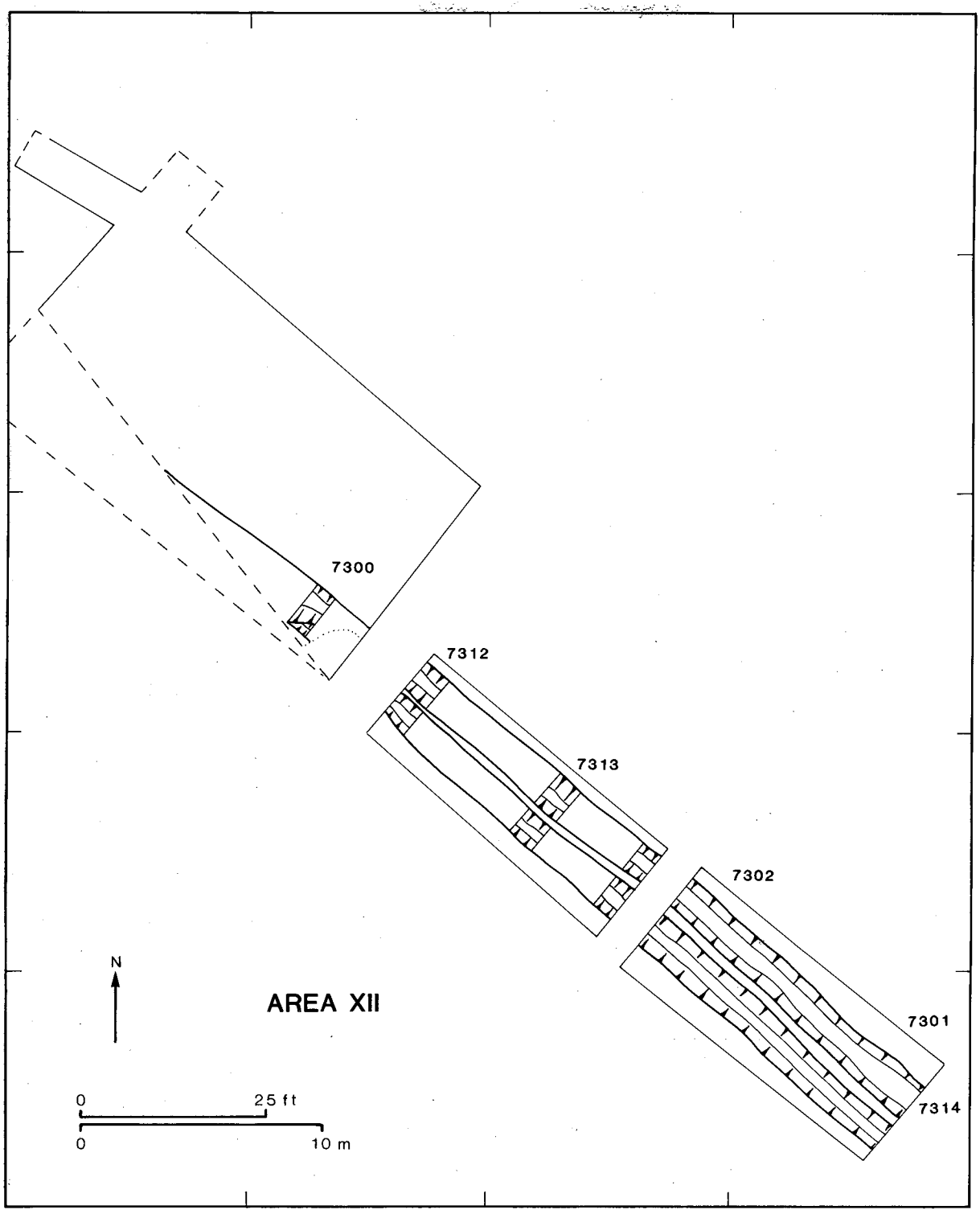


Figure 18. Area XII, eastern ditches.

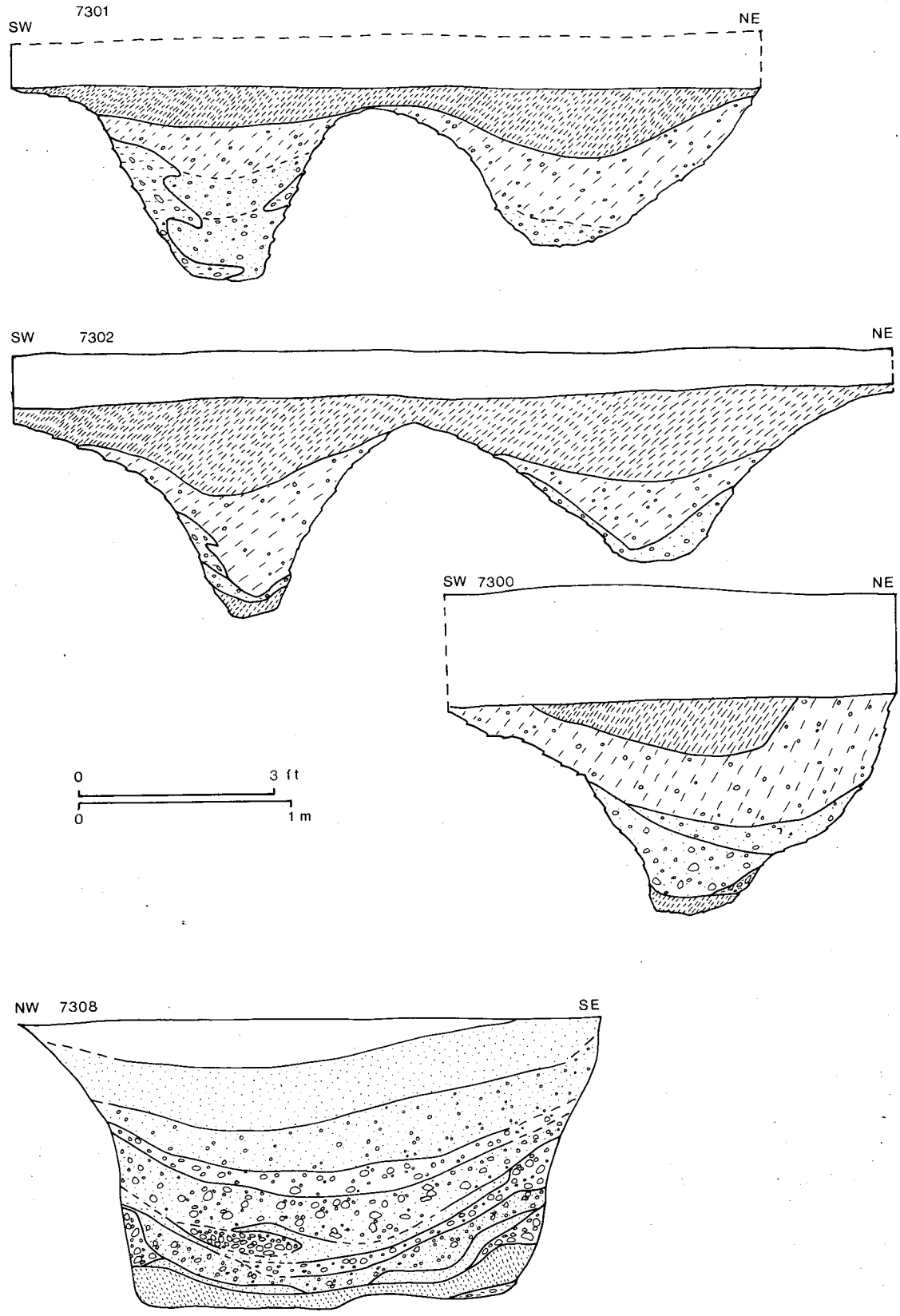


Figure 19. Areas XI/XIII, ditch sections.

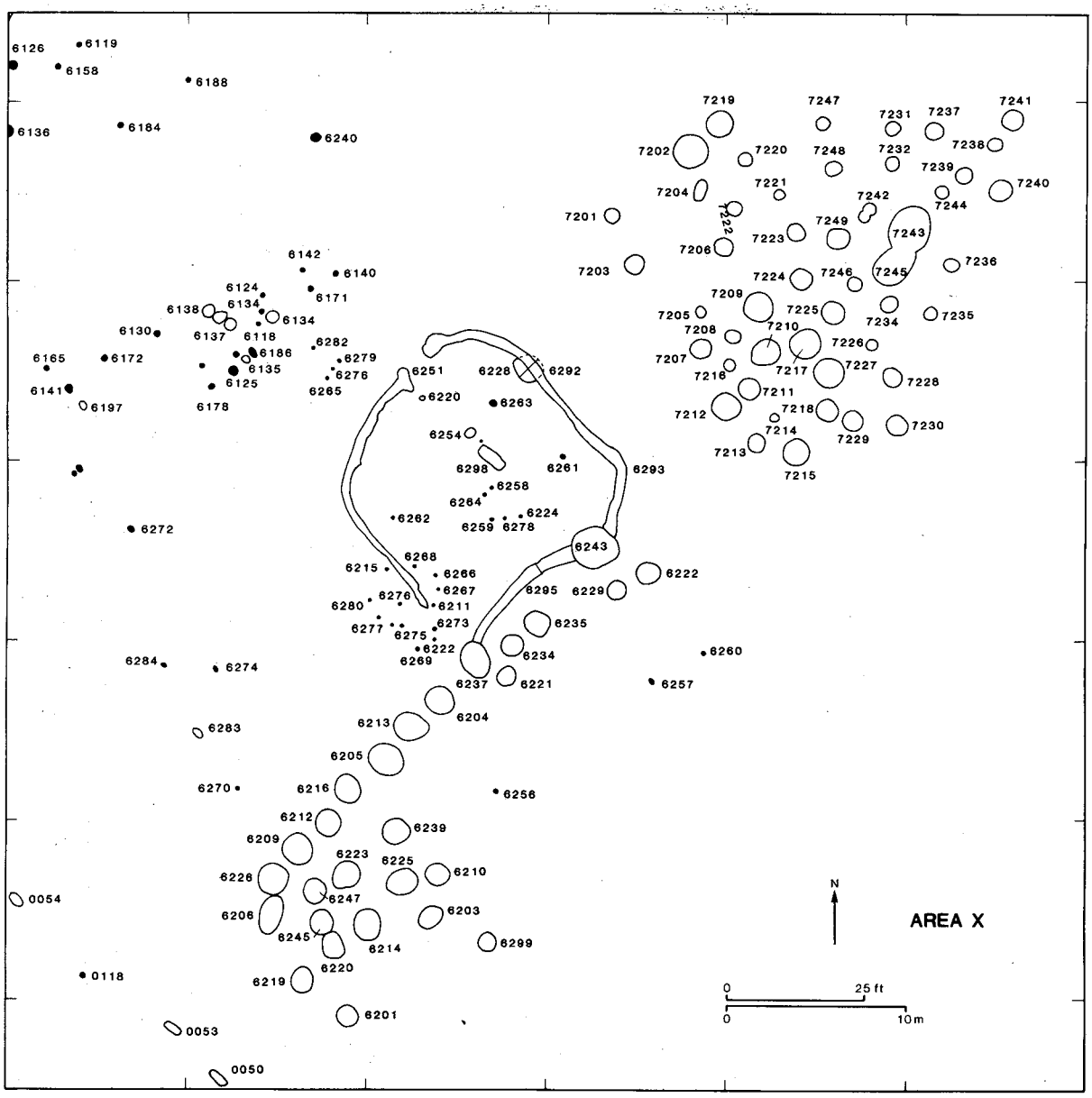


Figure 20. Area X, Enclosure Three and pits.

chalk lumps. Both layers contained small fragments of indeterminate pottery, a flint scraper with slight secondary working, flint flakes and seeds. The source of the fill appears to have been a slight bank on either side; there is no indication that this part of the ditch contained a palisade. The seven potsherds from the southern length of the ditch, including the decorated example (Fig. 33, page 80), belong to the later pre-Roman Iron Age. Part of the eastern ditch (Figs. 14, page 53 & 25, page 66) produced sufficient evidence to suggest Romano-British occupation as early as the Conquest when a number of Iron Age pits were disturbed.

Within this outer framework of ditches were indications that there were some other divisions. The antennae ditches (Fig. 27, page 69) associated with Enclosure Two appear to have formed two sides of a rectangle, while a line of small V-section lengths of ditch ran from the west end of the pit group of Enclosure Three, ending up to the north of Enclosure One. The features included here are 0074, 0075, 0077, 0038. On the site axis, from the north, ran another small ditch which would have formed an intersection at approx. 90 degrees with the previous one. This can be seen in the line of features passing through sub-sites X, VIII, VII, IV, III on Fig. 4, page 43.

It may be assumed that the boundary ditches on the site were two sides of a large rectilinear enclosure and that the missing sides are still in existence under the allotments to the north and, the gardens of the Green Lane houses. There was little to connect the southern ditches in the Icknield Way area directly with the site. Certainly the large ditch and at least one other existed as far as the motorway on the outskirts of Baldock, making it a rather large earthwork.

Two groups of interconnecting pits (Figs. 17 & 21) were located on the site. To the north of the D-shaped enclosure lay one of cylindrical pits so close together that they impinged on each other. They included P0023, 0037, 0039, 0041, 0060, 0064, 0191, 0195, with P0044, to the west. Between them were some deep areas which appeared to belong to the general layout. Their contents included burnt and smoothed stones, lava imported from the Rhineland (see below), iron slag produced by an inefficient process, iron nails, a whetstone, Iron Age pottery, and animal bones. A solitary piece of carbonised grain was found at the bottom of P0041. The pottery found in all these belonged to Group 1a, the earliest phase with one containing an iron ring-headed pin (Fig. 38: 10). Another similar group of ten lay close to the eastern ditch D7200(DW), 7250–59(P1E–P10E) which overlapped each other in an area of disturbed and badly damaged chalk (Figs. 17, page 56, & 22, page 61). Interpretation was impossible because of its condition but it did produce Late Neolithic pottery. In addition to the more ancient disturbance, an earlier trench (Trench III of 1970) had been dug into the feature which was later used as a play area by children, causing collapse and stratigraphic chaos. (Fig. 22, 7254). The groups may have formed 'working hollows' sites, such as those at

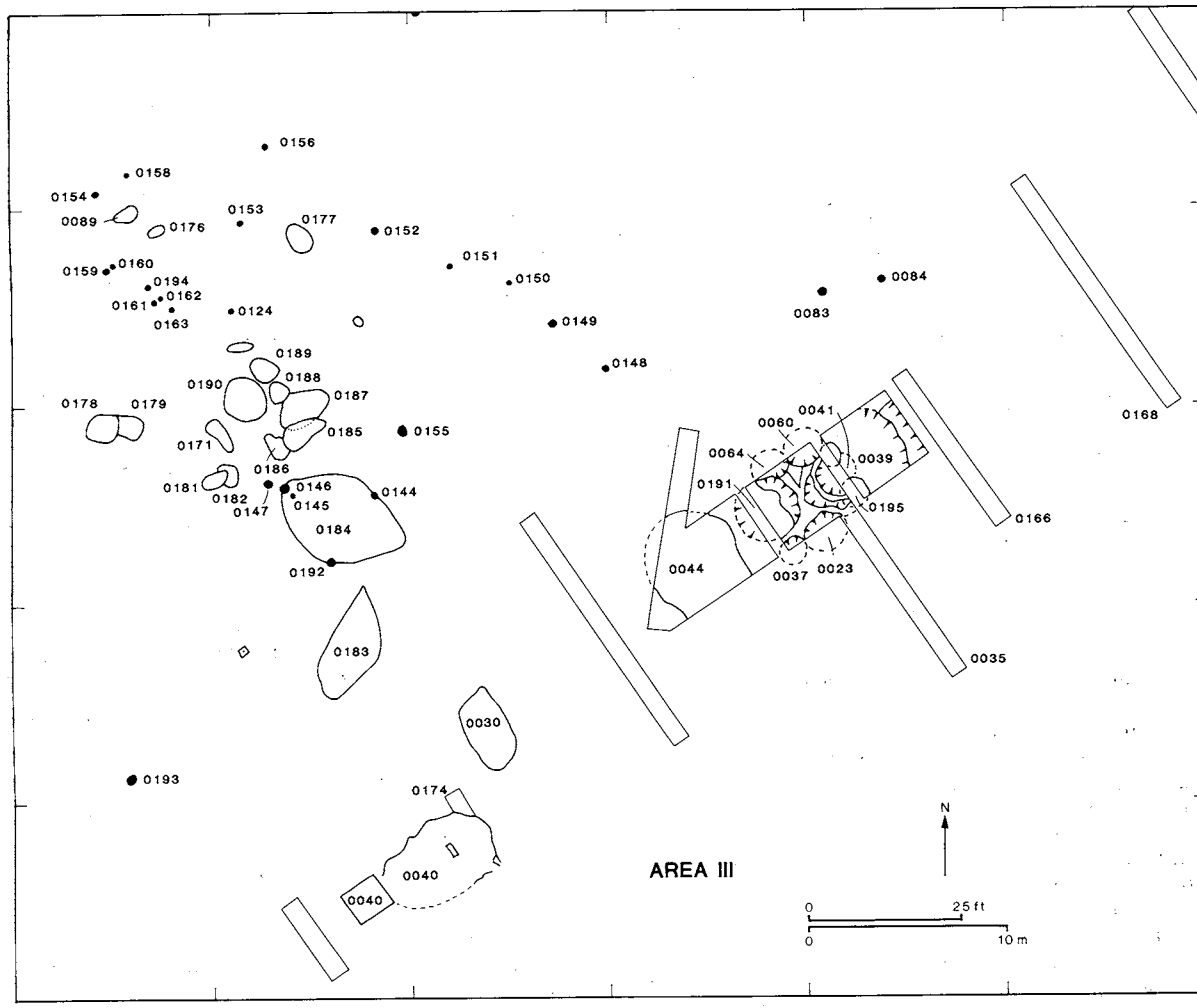


Figure 21. Area III, 'working hollows'.

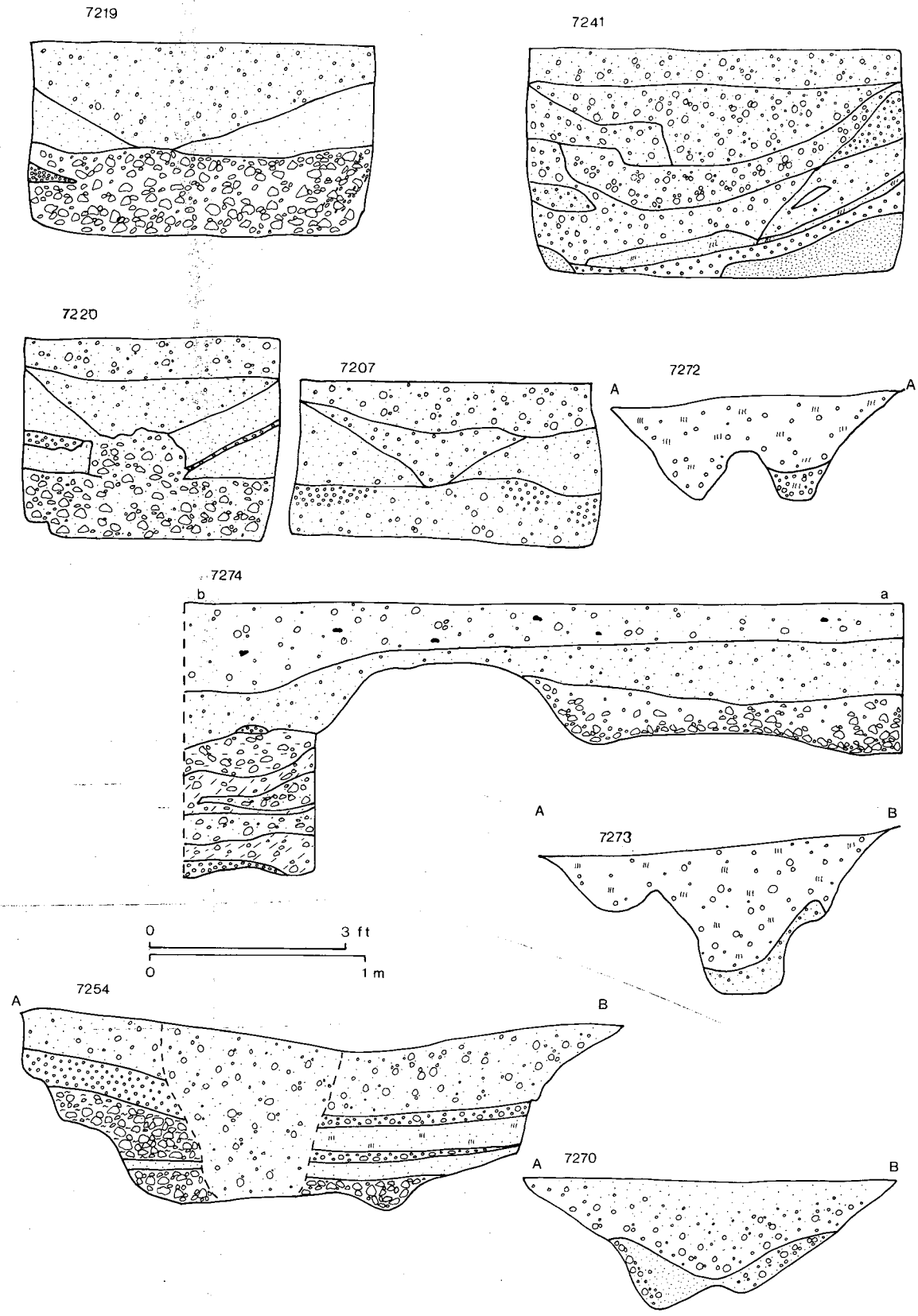


Figure 22. Sections of 'working hollows'.

Hunstanton, Norfolk (Wymer, pers. comm.) and at the fourth/third-century BC site of Chinnor, Oxfordshire (Richardson and Young 1951, 132–48). The latter produced iron ring-headed pins like the Letchworth example.

There were other hollows in which various activities took place. They were too large and irregular to be described as pits. One group (Fig. 21, page 60) lay near the first interconnected pit group 0035, and consisted of 0040, 0030, 0183, 0184; the latter having a peripheral triangle of postholes which may have supported a covering of some sort. The pottery finds placed these in the first phase of the Iron Age.

Four groups of *four-posthole* arrangements were found. Three lay to the northwest (Fig. 24), and one within the D-shaped Enclosure One. FP2(0102) consisted of four postholes, 0102, 0106, 0108, 0109 spaced equidistantly at 2m intervals lying within 2.5m of first phase pits, P0092–0097. The voids had diameters of 300mm and depths of 101mm, containing a fill where medium chalk lumps were concentrated towards their middles. There were no finds from this. At a slight angle to it was FP3(0105), one of whose postholes, PH0108, infringed on its line. The sides of the figure were not regular being 2.30m on two non-opposing sides and 2.10m on the others. This may have been due to the prior existence of FP2. The postholes were 300mm in diameter and between 50mm and 25mm deep. Like FP2 the postholes contained chalk lump concentrations at their centres and produced no finds.

FP4(0045) consisted of two trenches, 2m long by 300mm wide and 260mm deep, lying parallel to each other with an opposing pair of postholes lying about three-quarters of the way along them. There was a distance of 2.60m between them, as well as between the centres of the middle postholes. The diameters of all six postholes were approximately 300mm, four having a depth of 24mm. The ends of the trenches were rounded, the bottoms flat with regular vertical sides; the eastern postholes were stepped up to be 130mm above the trench bottom. The fill was homogeneous, brown and organic with chalk lumps, but no finds. A parallel at Danebury (Cunliffe 1984, Figs. 69, 70; pp. 109, 110) has trenches which could have held wattle walls. An alternative function would be a gateway through a brushwood fence or a similar shallow feature.

Although FP2–4 failed to yield any finds, these features do seem to be restricted to the earliest part of the site i.e. Areas I/III and V. They belong to the class of structure which offers numerous possibilities of interpretation of function from dwelling to excarnation platform (Guilbert 1981, 104–10). There is no evidence at Blackhorse Road that these arrangements constituted the foundations of granaries. Analysis of the postholes has failed to provide the right combinations of dimensions to make them the porches of post-ring round-houses. In size they are well within the range of similar structures on sites like Danebury (Cunliffe 1984, 87–110) and Gussage All Saints (Wainwright 1979, 18). Stanford has made a strong case for the interpretation of such structures as rectangular houses (Stanford 1974) but, so far, most of his examples come from hillforts. At Letchworth other groups of postholes featured in close proximity to, or inside enclosures and may have formed part of houses or buildings for storage.

Pits occurred in all parts of the site. They can be initially divided into 31 shallow scoops and 112 deeper cylindical forms of the type known as 'storage pits'. A discussion and classification of them with their plans and sections are to be found in the archive. In general the distribution of these structures on the site was very localised, three major groups to the northwest, and two main groups to the northeast.

The group (Figs. 21, page 60, & 24, page 64) NW of the working hollow consisted of some 18 shallow excavations 0089, 0171–179, 0180–0190), of irregular shape and depth. It is plain that they were not intended for grain storage, while the finds indicate that they were probably hearths and activity areas. The 98 potsherds contained in 0058 were of Group 1a, the same as those found in the nearby working hollow pits, 0037, 0041. P0037 contained animal bones, ash, and Romano-British pottery in its upmost layer; on the other side of the hollow 0060 contained sherds of Group 1b type. The remainder produced nothing. On the western boundary of the excavated Area I (Fig. 24) was a line of six small closely packed scoops of irregular shape (0092–0097). They were so shallow and badly disturbed by the earth-moving machinery that nothing was found. The third group was farthest north (Fig. 23) in this earliest part of the site. They were larger than those of the other group, two being subdivided into basins of varying shapes and depths. 0043 was 3.657m in length and 500mm deep; 0197 was 2.561 m by the

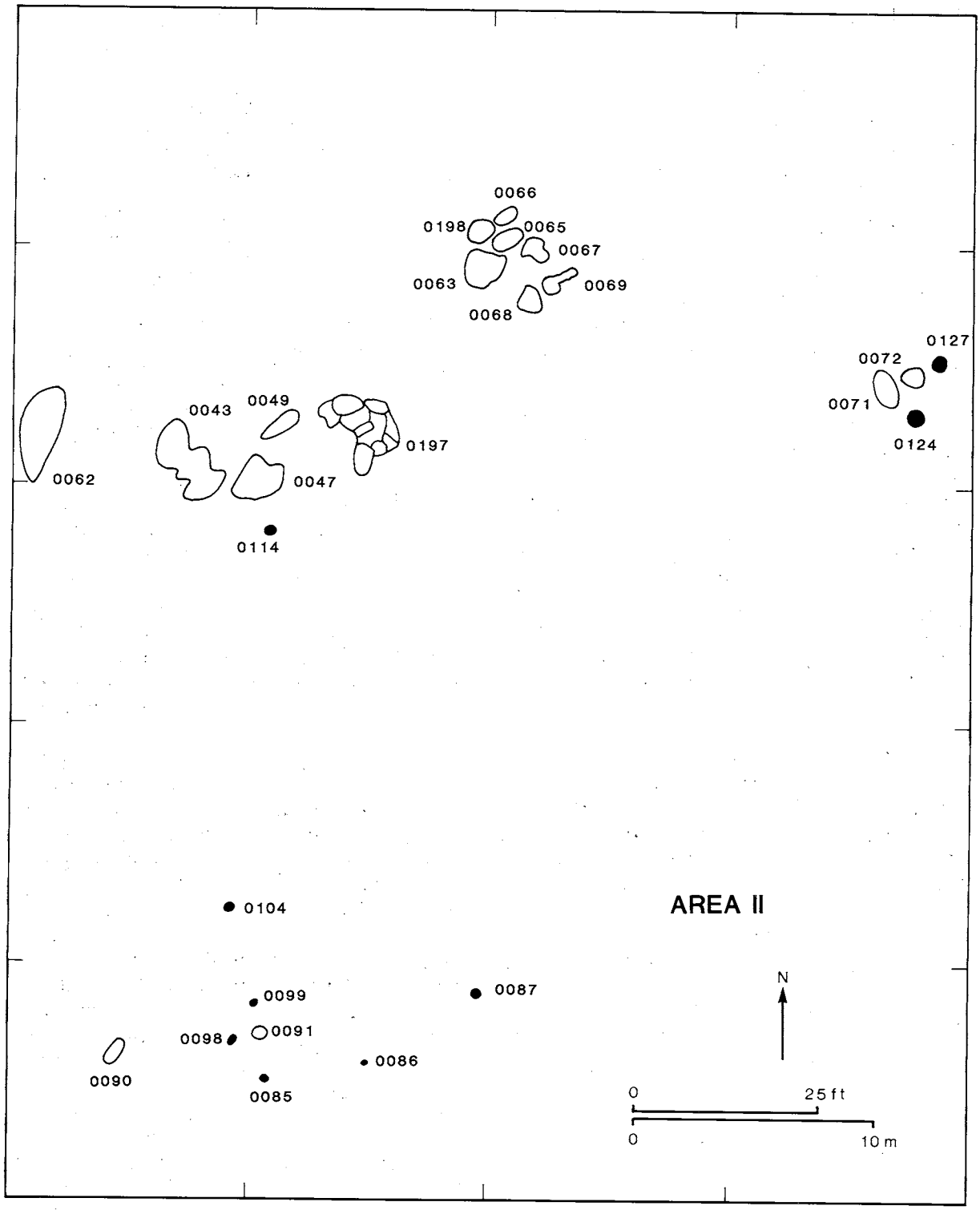


Figure 23. Area II.

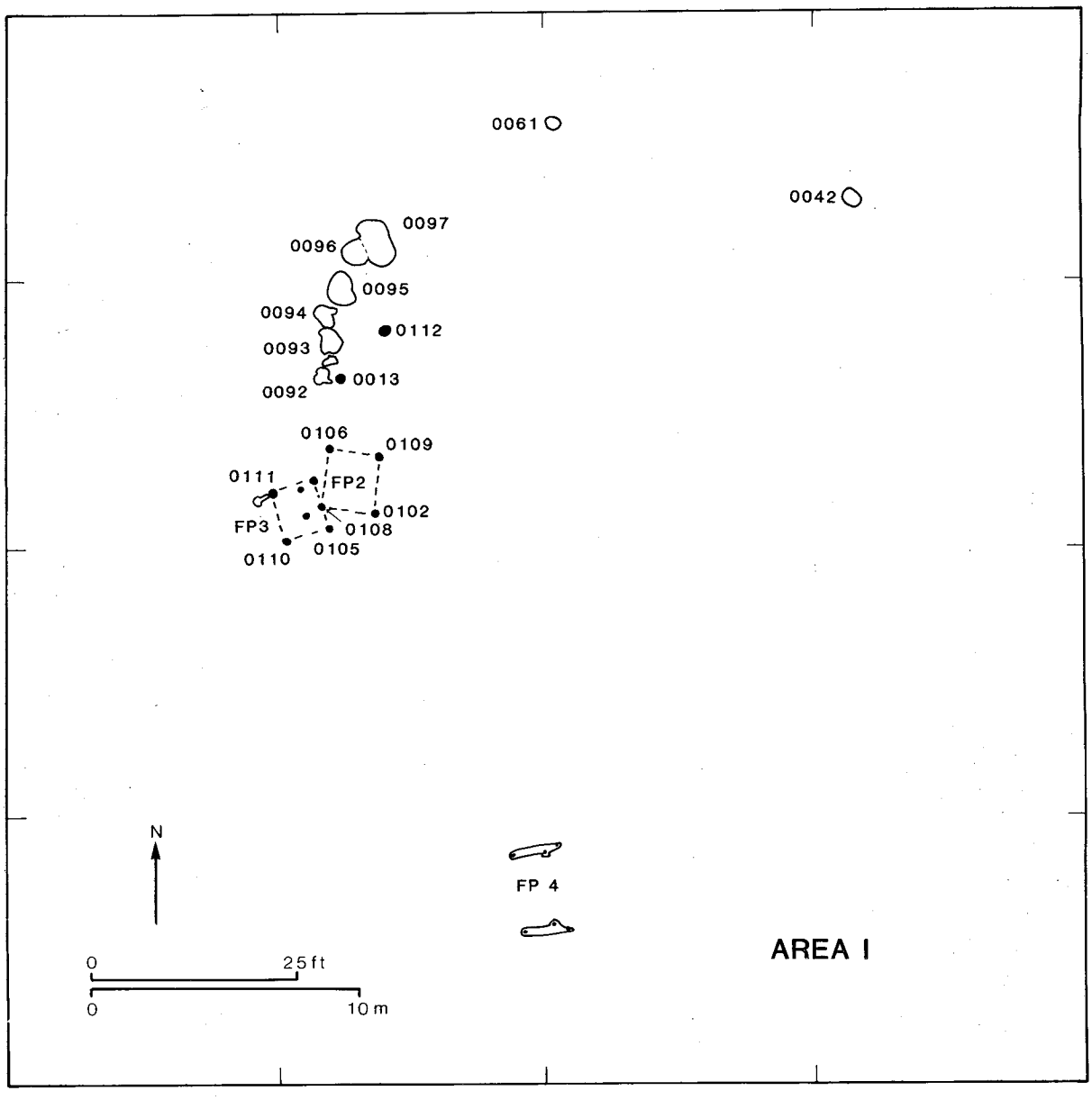


Figure 24. Area I, 'four-posters'.

same depth. There were really two sub-groups, 0043, 0047, 0049, 0197 and 0063–0069, 0198 separated by a distance of 4.628m. The first sub-group produced evidence of use as hearths and contained numerous burnt stones, charcoal and ash; all the pottery belonged to Group 1b. Unfortunately, the other sub-group was subject to damage by the machines and produced no useful finds.

Miscellaneous and unrelated pits occurred on the extreme north- east of the site, forming a hollow (see page 62 above). In the same area (Fig. 17, page 56), seven pits, 7260–7266 had been partly destroyed by the ditch 7200. Three of them were large when compared with the average for the site, having a mean volume of 4.36cu.m while their width/depth ratio of 1.75:1 was nearer to the 1.34:1 of the Neolithic pits than the Iron Age examples at 6:1 or 2.5·1 Residual Neolithic material came from these features, as well as from the ditch.

83 deeper pits formed a group between Enclosure Three and Ditch 7200 on the eastern edge of the site (Figs. 17, page 56, & 20, page 59). More detailed treatment is in the

archive by simple analysis of form, distribution and possible function.

Human skeletal remains were recovered from three of these, P7215, 7239, 7243, and two shallow scoops, P6548, and 6546. Unfortunately the smallness of this sample makes it useless for any evaluation of the population, either socially or physically.

In 6546, a female of 40–45 years of age lay just outside ditch 6501 in a hollow scoop. The skeleton was much disturbed but appears to have been in a flexed position, lying on the right side, the head to the north and facing east; there were no associated finds. A male of 20–30 years of age was discovered at 6548 in a builder's trench but there was no sign of a grave. The individual lay on his right side, head to the north, and facing east. There were no grave goods.

Pit 7215 contained a female skeleton aged 10–12 years of age at a depth of 355mm below the chalk level, on the right side, with head to he north facing east. The arms were bent upwards with the hands towards the face, the knees raised and bent so that the lower legs were at 90 degrees to the normal axis of the vertebral column i.e. the 'moderate crouching' attitude. Beneath the skeleton lay the jaw of a horse and a flint knife. A damaged human cranium of a 20–25 year old female was discovered in P7239. It lay on its left side facing north in the western section of the pit. The damage had occurred before excavation and the sutures were open and roots had grown through them in several places. It was found in very dry grey fine soil with chalk lumps of medium size. A piece of ?iron slag lay beneath it.

P7243 the rib of a child, approx. 6 years, was found with Early Iron Age pottery, animal bones, flints, and sandstone in clay with medium chalk lumps. These three individuals come from Middle Iron Age contexts associated with domestic rubbish. A report on the remains by C.B. Denston has been placed in the archive.

A great deal of chalk featured in all the pit fills, often mixed with soil, and this could only have come either from the digging of pits for the provision of chalk, the digging of storage pits, or from cleaning up floor areas on the site.

The line of the pits ran ENE by WSW from 6226 to 6237 and followed the overall orientation of the features on the site. Dating material came from nine pits only, seven of which belonged to the first phase of the Middle Iron Age, two to the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age. P7233 of phase 1 is part of a double pit which bears little resemblance to its neighbours. P6243, which belongs to phase 2, had been dug into the ditch of that enclosure which it obviously postdated and may reasonably be associated with the early pits. Pits 7204, 7205 contained pottery of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and could be seen as being contemporary with Enclosure Two. Thus these 83 pits possibly spread over a period of some two hundred and fifty years.

20 cylindrical pits between the ditch 6635 and Enclosure Four (Fig. 25) were on a NNE by SSW axis, like many other features of the site. Their dimensions are to be found in the archive. These are exclusively Iron Age features. The dating material is restricted to that found in 1966/67 as that from 1973 is missing. but from the site notebook it has been possible to learn that pits 7303, 7304, 7305, 7306, 7307, 7308 (Fig. 25, page 66) contained material from phase 2 of the Middle Iron Age, probably towards its end as fingertip impressions on the upper surface of the rim occur (170, 179). Such a chronology is not surprising in view of the activity in the ditch area during the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman periods. Similar pottery came from the second-phase ditch of Enclosure Four.

Finally, there were small groups or single pits distributed about the site like that associated with Enclosure Two (Fig. 27, page 69) which consisted of four examples, 6101–4, set in a line to the east of one of the antenna ditches. Their fills included domestic rubbish with weathered material. Finds included potsherds of the Middle Iron Age phase 2/3 of first century BC, daub, and sandstone pebbles. They were storage pits with only a short period of use. Within the same sub-site there were five smaller pits, too small for storage but functioning as utility pits of some sort. 6137 and 6138 contained sixteen large sandstone pebbles distributed throughout; the largest was 380mm × 150mm, probably the debris of a quernary. A number of assorted pits were found to the east of Enclosure One, containing pottery, animal bones, and burnt material including stones. In the bottom of Pit 0020 lay a large piece of millstone grit, while in 6020 lay a piece of quern. In all these pits there were numerous animal bones.

A circumstance of the pit distribution is that the highest proportion of the deeper examples were to the east of the modern field boundary which ran from 2326 in the north to 2344 in the south and shared the same orientation as the prehistoric linear features of the site; no substantial Iron Age pits occurred to the west of this, except for a few stray examples. The main groups of these features appear to be associated with the Pre-Roman Iron Age enclosures. The shallow hearth-like scoops and pits are East Anglian features especially in the Lakenheath area of Suffolk (Briscoe 1957, 19–29) and at Hunstanton (Wymer forthcoming). On the other hand, the cylindrical pits, are of the type most commonly associated with Bersu's farmsteads of the Little Woodbury type (Bersu 1940), as exemplified by the Hertfordshire site at Barley (Cra'ster 1961). At Blackhorse Road the pits, like the pottery, seem to show two traditions. In the first phase the shallow scoops show strong pottery connections with East

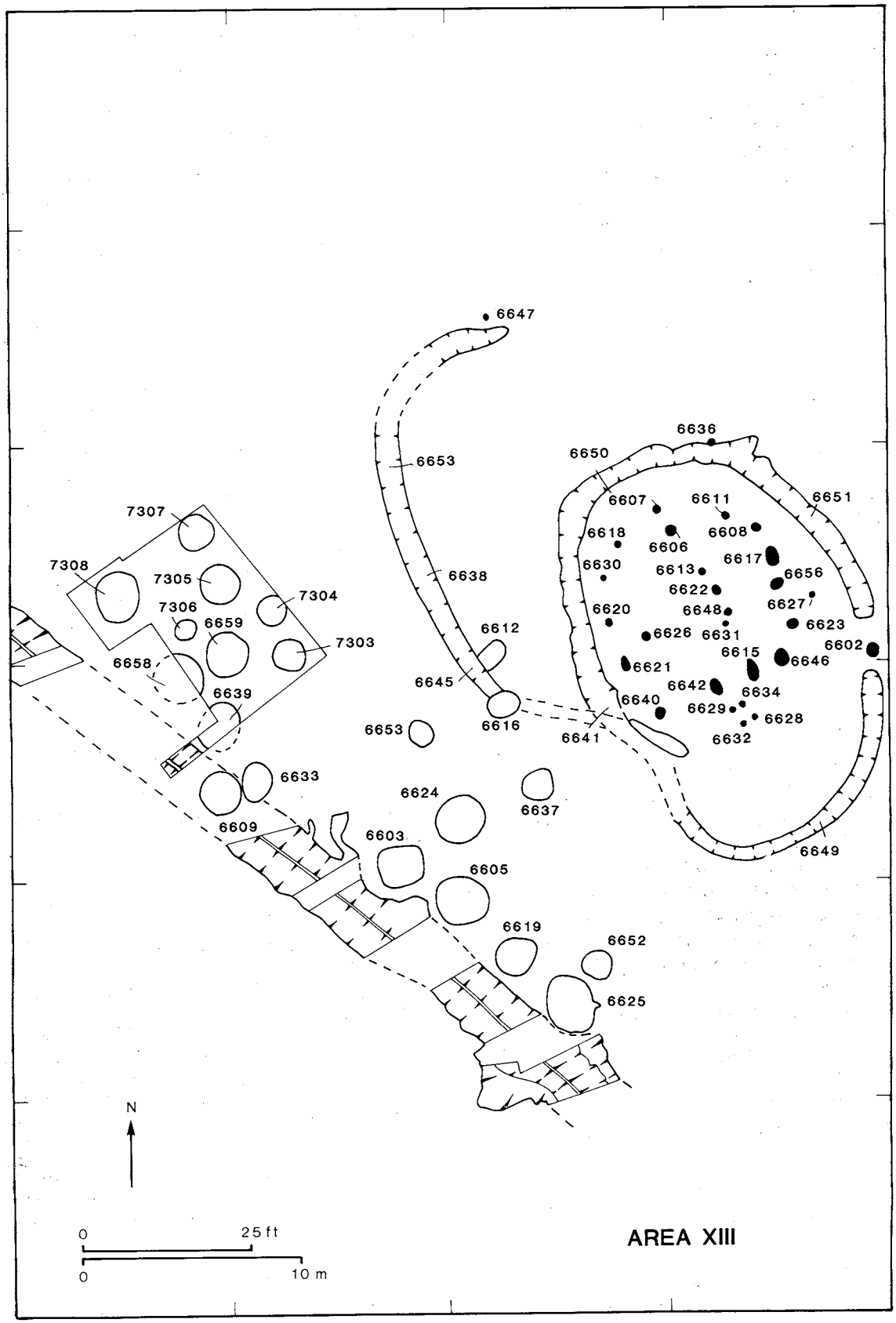


Figure 25. Area XIII, Enclosure Four and pits.

Anglia, while in the Middle and Late pre-Roman Iron Age influences from the direction of the Thames Valley show themselves.

There were four enclosures on the site.

Enclosure One (Fig. 26) existed as a palisade of D-form where traces of the timber uprights still showed up in its trench. Its interior was 58m at its greatest length and 51.8m across. Within it were postholes and small pits; two large pits belonged to the Late Neolithic. An arrangement of narrow shallow trenches made up three rectangles which formed timber-based structures. Two of these were associated with postholes. In the northeast corner were four postholes of a rectangular structure. To the east the palisade trench showed signs of renewal.

The three rectangular features (Fig. 26) appear to have pre-dated the palisade trenches (below). They were generally some 150–160mm deep and of similar width. The sides were vertical and cleanly cut but the probable insertion of timber had destroyed the sharp angles at the bottom and lip, producing a narrow U-profile. The brown fill was fine and relatively dry, containing moderate quantities of small chalk fragments. In any assessment of structural efficiency it must be remembered here that this part of the site had been subject to a great loss of soil; a reasonable estimate would be around 300–400mm. The westerly trench arrangement (RS1) measured 6m by 16.75m with a possible continuation to the south of 12.2m, making a total of 28.95m. There was no sign of the return of the other side to the west. It was unlikely to have been the continuation of the same structure as no sign of it was seen during the stripping of topsoil for the modern roadway. A gap of 1.8m occurs at 10m on the east side while postholes 32 and 52, together with 31 and one now missing, could have formed an entrance. The line of postholes, beginning at 31, was aligned and shared the same axis as the trench. It is possible that they formed an internal wall or screen. No. 10 is deeper than the larger hole which cut into it and provided another indication of phasing.

The second part-rectangle (RS2) lay to the east across a gap of some 4m, perhaps an alley. Its dimensions were 23.5m by 10.6m with small interruptions near the northeast corner and down the east side. The fourth side may have lain under the verge which was not available for excavation, giving the whole an area of 1807sq.m. To the north, was a third rectangle whose area could be calculated as portions of all four sides were represented. It measured 5.9 × 7m, providing an area of 41.3sq.m which is within the size-range of structures which have been identified as houses (Harding 1973, 43–62). A break of 1.2m occurred on the east side, a positioning which all these features had in common. The trenches could have held walls of timber, or wattle and daub for buildings. Their plans are consistent with those of houses reported in Holland (Harsema 1982, 199–222) and those illustrated by Dixon (1982, 280–81). In the northeast corner was another pair of slots spaced some 3m apart, and 1.5m north of the second rectangle. Another succeeded the most easterly of these after a break of 1.2m, then in the corner lay a short length at right angles. Less than two dozen potsherds came from these features, all of the Early Iron Age Group 1, with a probable date of the seventh/sixth centuries BC. In view of the strong West Harling complexion of this phase of the Blackhorse Road pottery it is interesting that the Norfolk site also contained Early Iron Age rectangular structures (Clark and Fell 1953, 12–14). At the same time, however, certain aspects of the rim decoration of the Letchworth pottery appear to have affinities in the Thames Valley where further rectangular structures of similar date have been discovered (Harding 1971, 32–5).

The *palisade trenches* were dug into the chalk and contained substantial postholes at roughly regular intervals on the northern side of Blackhorse Road, the whole system being orientated on an axis of some 45 degrees W of Grid North. The U-shaped trenches were 300–600mm wide, generally regular,with vertical sides and flat bottoms. They were generally 460–600mm below the modern surface. In the NW quadrant the outlines of substantial timbers could be seen.

The fine red-brown loam fill contained chalk pebbles, flints amd minute fragments of pottery in (2); concentrations of medium-sized chalk lumps occurred in the posthole areas. The large posts seemed to be restricted to the northern section of the enclosure. To the south a number of oval holes ran parallel to the alignment of the east–west trench.

There were two major breaks in the circuit of the enclosure, one on the east, the other on the west.

There was what seemed to be a deliberate gap of 2m on the eastern side near P6016 and P6017 which gave direct access into the interior without obstruction. All the other gaps were either very insubstantial or masked from inside by other lengths of trench There was a remarkable concentration of postholes in the southern area of the enclosure with little indication as to their function. Four posts in rectangular plan, FP1(0031) occupied the northeast corner of the enclosure with average dimensions 280 × 250 mm, equidistantly 1.9m apart. All had vertical sides, a uniform brown fill enriched by organic material in the centre and contained unfeatured potsherds of Iron Age appearance. PH6000 contained a hard encasement cast with a soft centre of loose filling. None of these had undergone replacement.

The animal remains from the pre-enclosure phase showed a high percentage of cattle (64.8%) as opposed to sheep (22.2%) but the contexts were widely scattered and many features had been lost through the building operations. The ditch of the enclosure showed a different picture, with cattle at 46.9%, a figure equalled by sheep but it changed dramatically in the Middle Iron Age in favour of cattle.

Enclosure Two was sub-triangular, double-ditched (Fig. 27), with a single southeastern

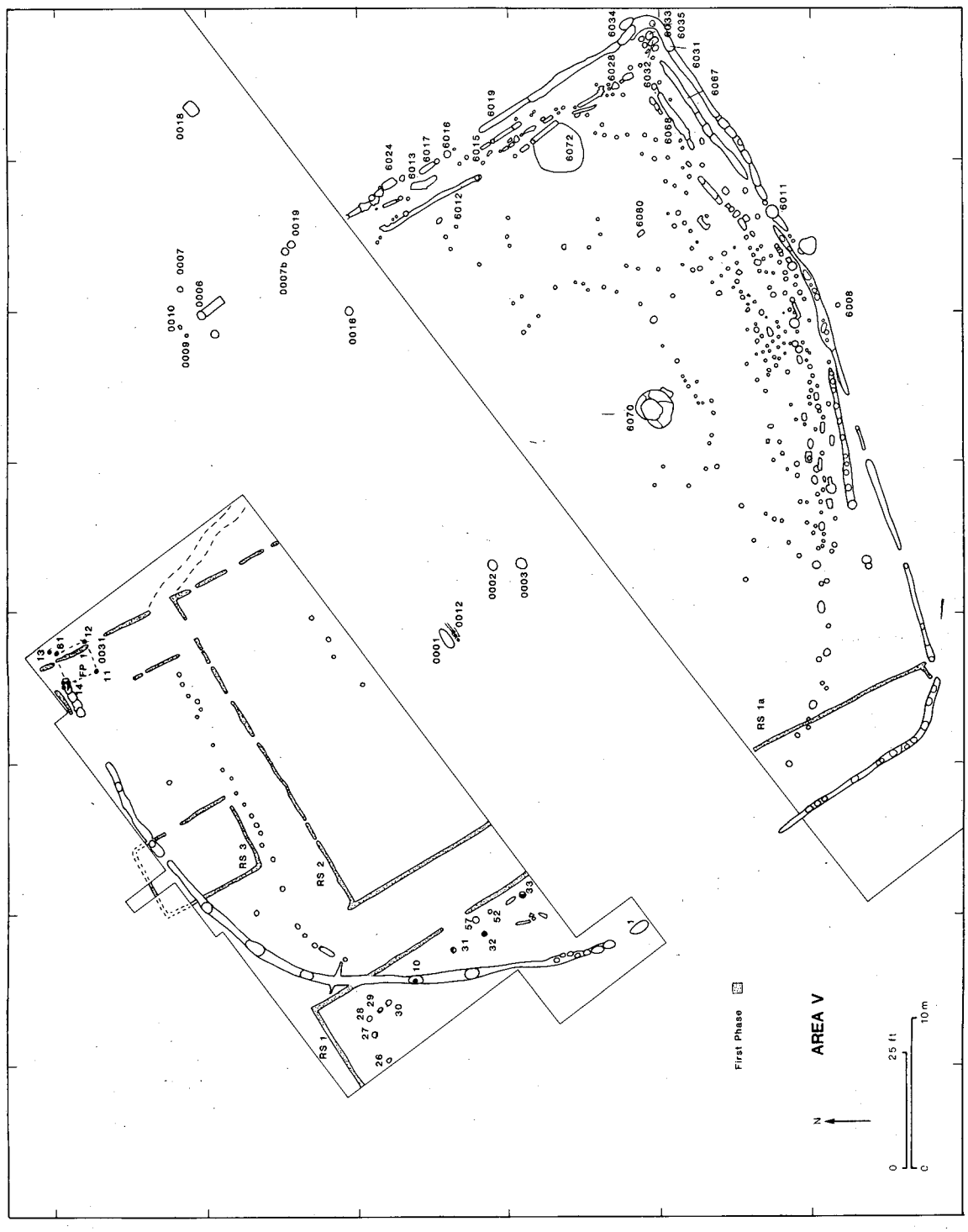


Figure 26. Area V, Enclosure One.

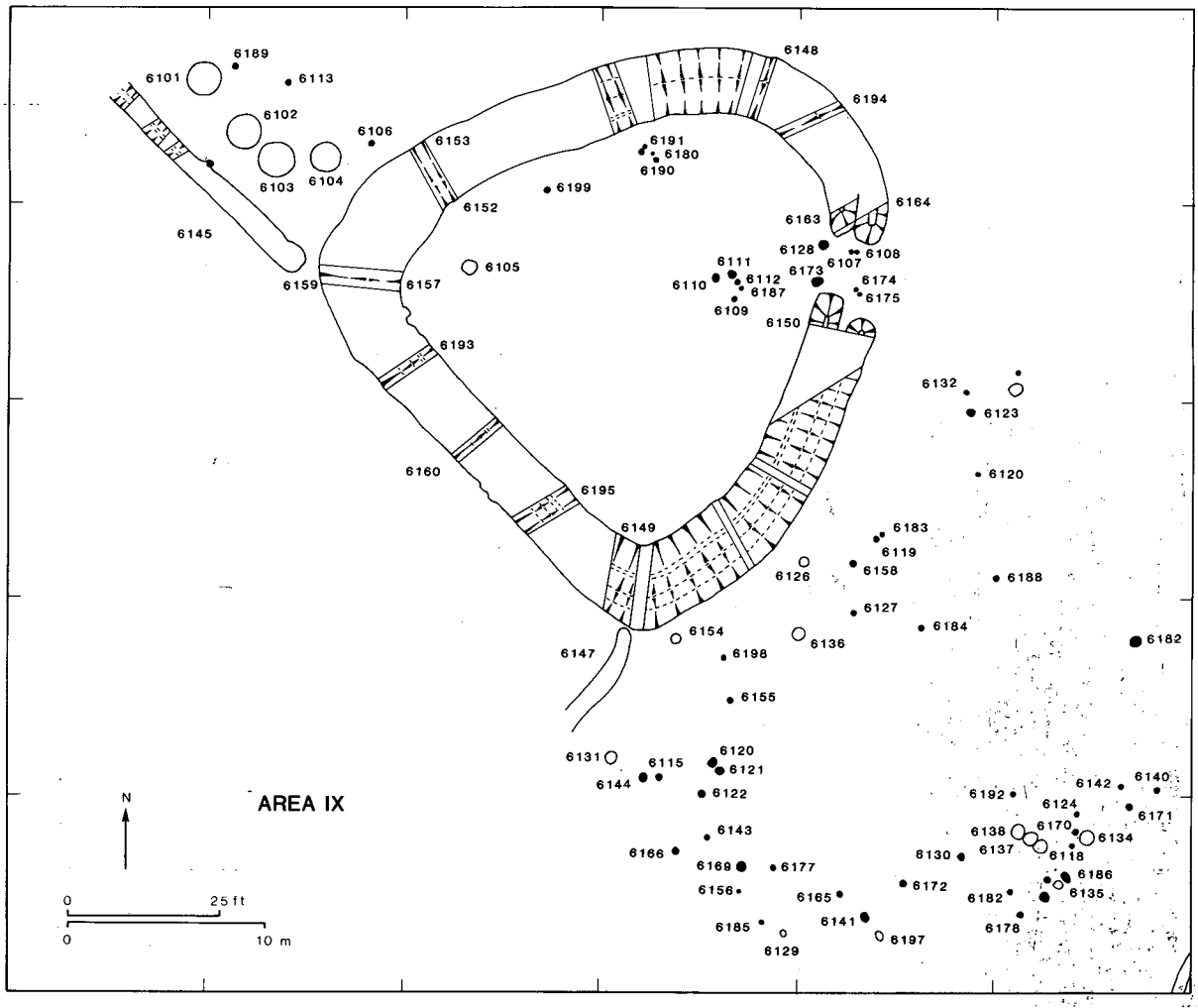


Figure 27. Area IX, Enclosure Two.

entrance, two antenna ditches and five associated pits. The ditch was W-section, the outer part being relatively shallow when compared with the inner. The chalk ridge between them did not vary much in position; the outer and inner ditches took parallel courses. So closely did they resemble each other in plan, that they can be regarded as representing two phases of the enclosure.

Near the entrance, the outer ditch was 865mm deep, 2m wide, and V-shaped with a rounded bottom. Its fill was of chalk wash and brown loam with chalk lumps which it shared with the top layer of the inner ditch (Fig. 28, 6163 & 6164). The latter (Fig. 29, 6150) was 3m wide from the chalk ridge and nearly 2m deep with a steep-sided V-section and a very narrow flat bottom. Its fill consisted of quantities of chalk wash and silt coming from the outside edge. This had accumulated rapidly, followed by dumping of soil and chalk rubble derived from the outer ditch which was probably covered by a bank during phase two. The antennae ditches (Fig. 28, 6145 and 6147) must have belonged to phase one with the outer ditch. They abutted on to the outer ditch until erosion removed the connection. The sections of all three were similar and contained pottery from Group 2, being 1.168m wide by 0.66m deep and 1.117m wide by 0.58m deep respectively. They must have formed part of another enclosure like that hinted at on the Milton Keynes 3 site (Knight 1984, 230). The external ditches are aligned on that of the main enclosure ditch, sharing axes in common with other linear features on the site. The area of the enclosure during the first phase must have been greater than in the second by the width of the inner ditch. The inner area of phase two was 20m across at its greatest width and was entered by means of a causewayed entrance whose postholes testify to the existence of a gate. Within, a few postholes failed to indicate any significant structure there. Such a building would have had a diameter of some 16m, a size well in the range of such structures in this region (Rodwell 1976). Only the postholes at the entrance could be applied to the phasing of the feature. PH6108 replaced 6107 as one of a corresponding pair on the other side, 6174 and 6175. The arrangement mirroring the pair placed just inside the inner ditch, 6128 and 6173; these last must have belonged to the inner ditch phase.

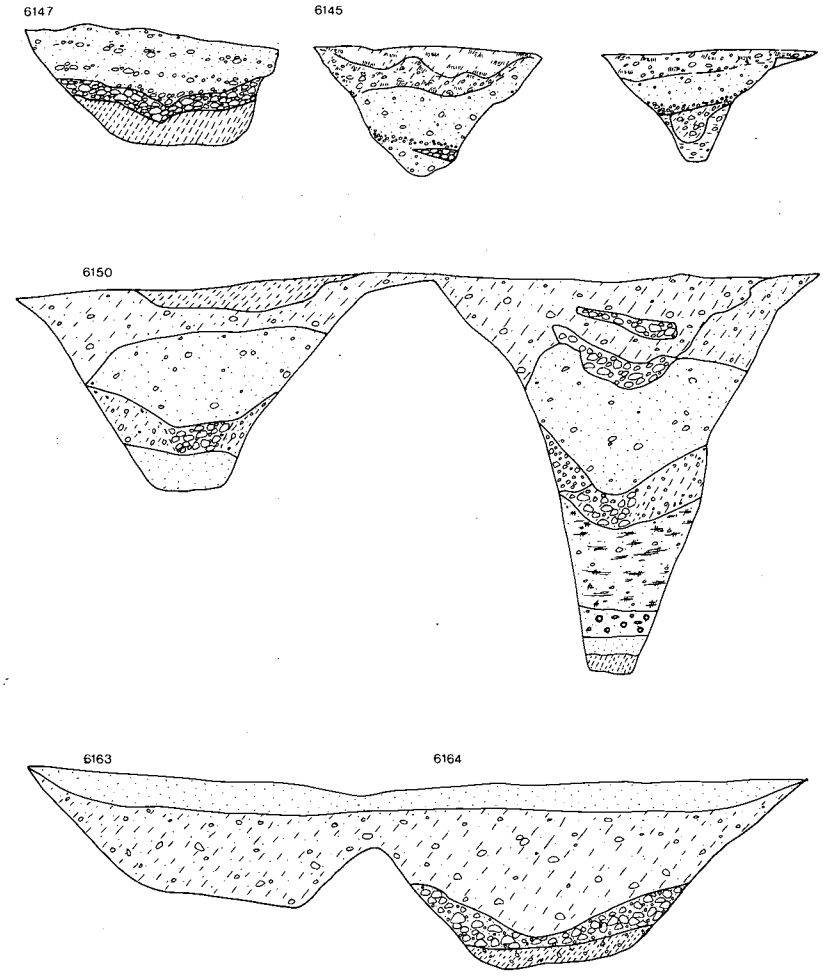


Figure 28. Area IX, Enclosure Two sections.

The pottery from the ditches came mainly from the inner ditch and dates from a period between the second and late first centuries BC. The two phases cannot be separated by use of the pottery, because some of it originated from the outer ditch and became part of the fill of the inner. There is evidence of disturbance in the ditch fill as seen in section 6159 where a small kink in the ditch occurs at 6157 (Fig. 29, page 71). That the ditch remained open for some of its life is shown by the finding of an iron cauldron collar and rim (see below, page 88) in 6149 of the inner ditch (Fig. 29). When found, it was on its side with one ring-handle hanging down, the other folded, resting on the wall of its iron collar. This indicated that its descent was into a ditch that was still open, with a fill sufficiently soft to receive the handle without deflecting it from the vertical. It remained in that position as the ditch gradually filled up.

The enclosure occupied a prominent position on the site. On the continent bronze cauldrons of the Letchworth type were used in cemeteries as containers for cremated human remains, for ritual, or status. A similar vessel was discovered in a La Tène III cremation burial at Baldock (Stead & Rigby 1986, 51–61). The inclusion of a Dressel 1A amphora there makes a date of the early first century BC likely. Many similar enclosures have been discovered in the South Midlands area, from the single version at Totternhoe, Beds (Matthews 1976, 153) to double forms at Twywell, Northants (Jackson 1975, 31–93) and Geddington, Northants (Jackson 1979, 10–16). The contents of the ditch and the interior indicate domestic activities. Pieces of lava and sandstone (?)querns came from the area inside, and numerous animal bones and the cauldron top, from the ditch. There were also in the ditch a number of potsherds which had been carefully sawn through in a way associated with vessels which some say contained salt. The latter could be used in an economy based on the large number of cattle (57.5%)

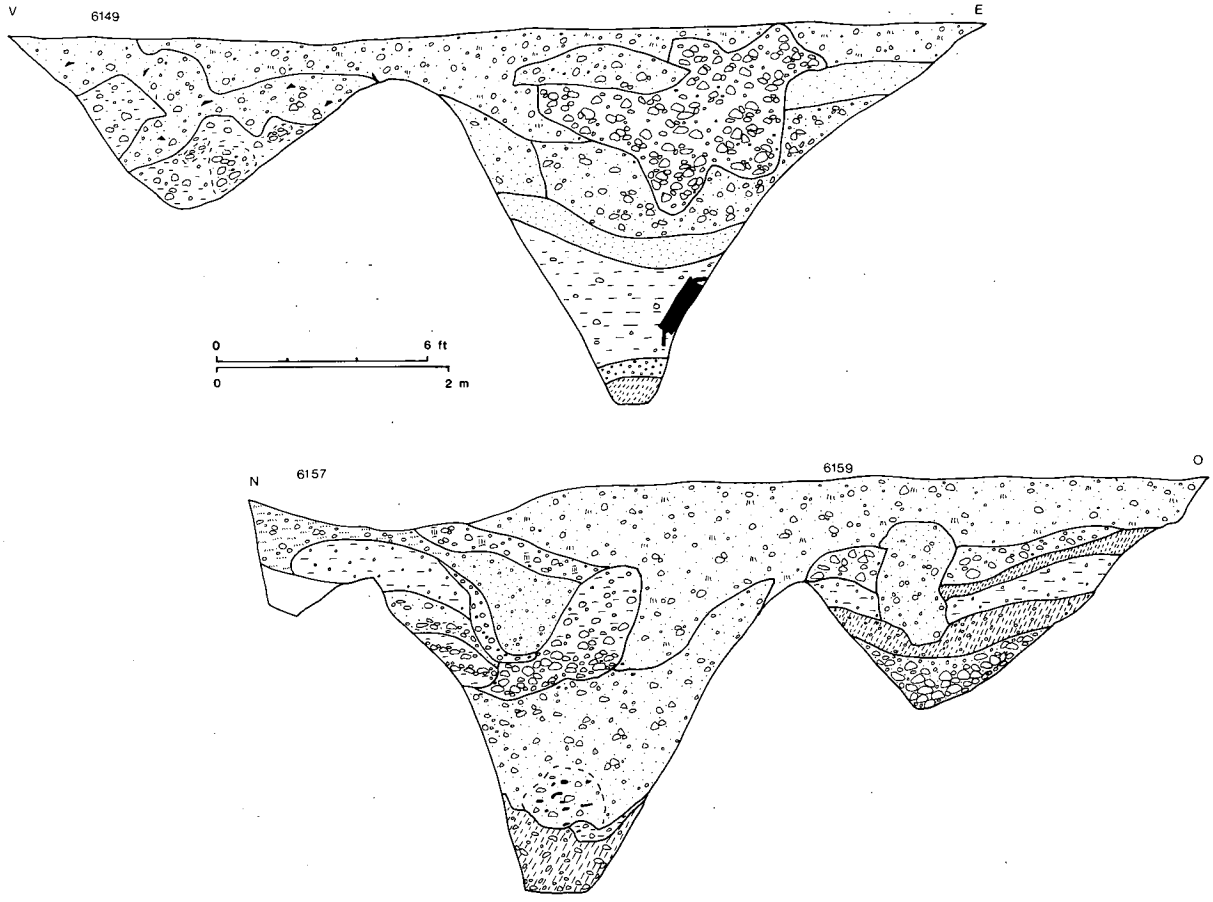


Figure 29. Area IX, Enclosure Two sections.

whose remains were found. Here may be seen the beginning of a tendency to maximise exploitation of the largest domestic animal in a 'store' economy as evidenced by the numerous pits nearby. Bone toggles were produced on site as evidenced by two (?)sheep tibia from the ditch (see page 94). Normally such a feature would be expected to include the evidence of a dwelling.

Enclosure Three, a sub-rectangular arrangement of U-section ditches (Fig. 20, page 59; 6293, 6295) with an entrance to the north and a gap in the southwest corner, lay south of Enclosure Two (Fig. 27). The interior measured 10.5m × 10.5m, the enclosing ditch had a maximum width of 600mm and an average depth of 390mm. At the entrance were two sump-like features which with the ditch served as drainage. The interior postholes and pit features were not enough for reconstruction. Near the centre was a possible hearth (6288) which stood in line with the entrance. Before it was a large pit feature (6254) with a diameter of 500mm that may have served as a posthole in the structure which the gully drained. Two other holes, (6220) and (6263) were of the same order and may have formed the forward part, or porch, of a house. The general form and dimensions of the structure were well within models of similar house buildings on many sites of the period.

The remains of circular structures at Danebury (Cunliffe 1984, 54–81) show how great a variety of these existed and demonstrates the need for caution in assigning functions to them. Pits 6292 (Fig. 8, page 47), 6243, 6237 of later date intruded into the gully on the east and south sides. These would seem to have belonged to the pit group to the south and west.

Enclosure Four was within an oval ditch on the eastern boundary of the site (Fig. 25, page 66). It had a V-section with rounded-off bottom, a maximum width of 1.219m and depth of 760mm (Fig. 8, 6650). It had a south-eastern entrance and overlaid part of the earlier ditch 6635 (Figs. 25, page 66, 6641). The interior was 11.25m wide by 17.35m long and within it were 25 postholes, which occupied over 75% of the space, and

one centrally in the entrance. The most southerly four postholes (6628, 6629, 6632, 6634) stood clear from the rest and formed a group 914mm by 609 mm.

Their alignment and position made it unlikely that they were part of a porch or similar structure in sub-site phase two, but could have belonged to the phase of Ditch 1 (6635) which had a width of 914mm and a depth of 304mm. Had it formed an ellipse it would have had a greatest interior length of 21.3m. At its northern end it flanked an entrance, the other side of which was lost. It overlaid the Late Neolithic pit 6612 (see page 00 above) and by pit 6616 which held no dating material. The enclosure alignment fitted the rest of the site. The entrance faced north, at right angles to that of the enclosure of phase two, but the same as Enclosure Three; perhaps they were contemporary. Middle Iron Age pottery occurred in the pits, sherds coming also from the phase 2 ditch, 6649. They had both fingernail and fingertip decoration with vertical scoring. Such features suggested a placing in the phase 2/3 period, contemporary with the cylindrical pits and part, at least, of the life of Enclosure Two.

Norton Road, Baldock (Figs. 11 and 30)

At sub-site GLVI a triangular arrangement of ditches lay to the southeast, two of which passed through the eastern part of the parallel ditches. The northern ditch, 6346, was straight, V-sectioned, flat-bottomed, 15.5m long, 1m wide, and 1.21m deep. The western ditch, 6347, was of the same section, slightly 'kinked' towards an 'S' in plan, 12.8m long, 1m wide, and 1.21m deep. 6345 was 14.94m long, 1.21m wide and 1.21 m deep. 6346 and 6347 formed two sides of an incomplete triangle but did not converge, remaining 2.13m apart. 6345 did not form the base but was set on a converging course with 6346, stopping when they were 6.7m apart; at the western end of 6345, the gap between it and 6347 was 1.5m. The interior was completely free of any features. 6346 and 6347 crossed the eastern parallel ditch in two places which they partly destroyed. The fill of the ditches was distinctive due to the existence of pockets and bands of fine gravel in it. In 6343 there was a dipping of a pocket as if it had formed the border of a posthole; it continued to a level below that of the previous ditch. The area was almost continuously wet or waterlogged and the source of the River Ivel rises a short distance away. Finds were restricted to the Middle Iron Age.

It is difficult to find a function for this arrangement of ditches whose fill could be the result of constantly

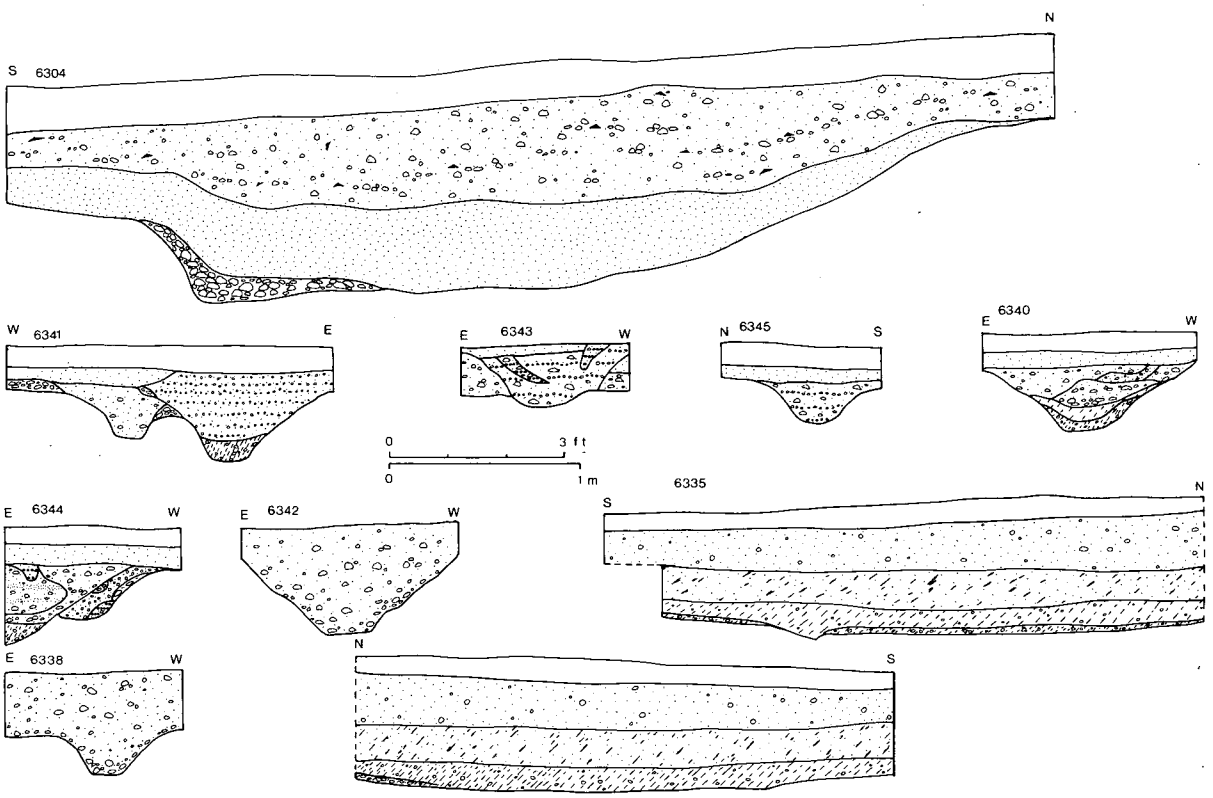


Figure 30. Norton Road, Baldock, sections.

changing levels of water depositing differentiated layers of silts. The position of chalk springs is known to change frequently over the years and perhaps the spring which once supplied Blackhorse Road was contained within these ditches. The parallel ditches may have marked a droveway rather than a ceremonial feature. There are ring-ditches on the ridge to the north but, no connection has been established.

The evidence of the land molluscs provides environmental information where there is nothing else. The indications of phases of woodland clearance, and late prehistoric arable are consistent with the dating material from the Late Neolithic for the former, and the pre-Roman Iron Age for the latter. The parallel ditches, thus, appear to antedate the Iron Age phase and it was from these that the Neolithic material came. The area in the vicinity of the spring was not used for cultivation and there the soil is completely free of hill-wash or ploughsoil. A glance at the map will show that the southern boundary of the site is only 1200m from the Walls Field, Baldock site which produced both Late Neolithic and Iron Age material.

The only Iron Age feature at *Wilbury* was the ditch to the south of the ring-ditch (see above, page 52).

LATE PRE-ROMAN AND ROMAN PERIOD

The few features and finds of this period were concentrated in the most easterly part of the Norton Road site. This included the Icknield Way sections and the second phase of the eastern ditch 7200. Only pits P0040 and 0040a contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age/ Roman material exclusively. These consisted of a large hollow joined to a deep ash pit (Fig. 21, page 60), both being filled with burnt stones, ash, charcoal and late first/early second centuries AD pottery from the top layer. Some other features on the sub-site also produced similar pottery, especially in the working hollow upper layer. P0039 yielded a few Late Pre-Roman Iron Age sherds, P0166 some from the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the mid first century AD. This was intrusive and the features may be attributed the earliest Iron Age.

The second phase of the ditch on the eastern boundary of the site most certainly belonged to the Roman period (Figs. 14, page 53; 15, page 54; 18, page 57; 25, page 66). At its southern end it turned east and continued towards Baldock, disappearing into the railway embankment. It also destroyed the earlier boundary ditch and eradicated the remainder of the prehistoric ploughmarks which occurred immediately to the west of it. The ditch, with a W-section and a solid chalk division between the two parts, 6512 (Fig. 17), was 3.35m wide by 1m deep. As it moved north, its two sections amalgamated between 6502 and 6515, forming a single V-sectioned feature which continued to the edge of the site. They were flat-bottomed with identical fills and sections which had well-cut, very sharp profiles. The angles of rest suggested that the material was initially natural silting and weathering, followed by a deliberate back-filling of the top layer. The section 6512 clearly represented the replacement of the smaller ditch, on the east, by a larger western one which was of the same profile, but without any destruction having taken place. The finds bore this out, with the denarius of Domitian occurring in the eastern section, those of Constantius II and Valens in the western. The 'Colchester' type brooch (Fig. 38: 43, page 89) was found on the chalk division between the sections.

Beyond the Blackhorse Road carriageway, and east of Flint Road (Fig. 25, page 66) was a more clearly marked 'takeover'. In each successive section of the re-emergent ditch, (Fig. 19, page 58; sections 7300, 7301, 7302) its eastern section gradually moved over and, by the time it reached 7300, destroyed the upper part of the western section. At this point, layers (1) and (2) of the west section had been removed and succeeded by (1a), and (3c) of the eastern section which included some sherds of early Iron Age pottery in (2a). After this the two ditches diverged and ran parallel to each other, the eastern retaining its Roman character, the western its prehistoric.

The pottery, though not produced by good stratigraphic provenance, was able to indicate the chronological sequence of the area. The pit, 6516 (Fig. 15, page 54; section 6512, 6516), showed Late Pre-Roman Iron Age in its lower levels giving way to destruction and replacement by the ditch, 6501. This contained, first of all pre-Flavian and early Flavian Samian with coarse wares of the late first/early second centuries AD, followed by material from the mid-second/early-third, and late-third/early-fourth centuries; included in the latter was 'Romano-Saxon' ware. The ditch section on the east side produced 15 Late Pre-Roman Iron Age sherds from layers 3/4 and 12 late first/early second century from layer 2, while that on the west contained mid-second/early-third/third-century sherds in layers 3/4 and 'Romano-Saxon' in layer 2. A similar series occurred in 6507 with Claudian Samian occurring with Late Pre-Roman Iron Age in layers 2 & 3 in the east section, and coarse wares from the late-first/early-second/mid-second centuries with Romano-Saxon in layer 3 in the western section. In 6508 where evidence of only one ditch existed, the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery

cames from layer 3, while layer 2 contained sherds from the late first and early second centuries AD.

To the south, was a ditch (Fig. 15, 6537) which had had a wide U-shaped profile later re-cut to a V-section profile; the same profile as 6076. It was 7.315m wide by 1.981m deep; a bank of its upcast had collapsed into it. The first phase ditch produced potsherds of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age while the second contained Flavian Samian and coarse ware of the late first/early second and second centuries in the silt at the bottom. A further section (6547) produced similar results, although no Samian was present.

The extreme eastern distribution of Roman features and the turning east of the southern end of the ditch indicates that whatever was being delimited lay in that direction and not within the prehistoric area at all. The way in which the prehistoric pits had been split off with Enclosure Four by the ditch (Fig. 25, page 66) showed that these structures were not respected. A full-scale settlement on this site would hardly be expected at this time, in view of the proximity of the thriving town of Baldock. It probably had an agricultural function in which cattle and horses played a part. There is some suggestion of contact with literacy in the Samian sherd bearing the graffito (Fig. 35:3, page 85). The ditches on the line of the Icknield Way which have been traced as far as the motorway, are also late in date and appear to fall within the Roman period.

POST-ROMAN

A Pagan Saxon cemetery of inhumations was uncovered, mostly by the building contractors, during the period ending 1969. This was published in 1971 (Moss-Eccardt, 1971, 27–32). Since then a growing body of information concerning Iron Age burials has made it possible to place 6548 (formerly SkVIII) and 6546 (formerly SkIX) in the Iron Age on the grounds of mode of disposal, lack of grave, no grave goods, and position on the site. This makes a fresh presentation of the data necessary (Table 1). All were orientated ENE × WSW.

These formed a cemetery at the western end of the site. The method of disposal was entirely different from the two Iron Age interments.

A number of small finds from the medieval and post-medieval period were made, mostly in the area which produced Roman material. They were not stratified and have the character of intrusive stray finds.

THE FINDS: POTTERY

Neolithic and Bronze Age
by I.H. Longworth

In 1960 a total of 92 Neolithic sherds was recovered, of which 56 came from P6072, 34 from P6070, and 2 from P6063. The majority of these were from vessels of the Ebbsfleet style of Peterborough Ware, but at least two from P6072 and fragments from PH6080 were Grooved Ware. While the Ebbsfleet sherds were found throughout the filling of P6072, in P6070 and P6063 they were confined to the upper two levels. In 6070 and 6072, level 2 contained isolated small sherds of Early Iron Age fabric. Below this level no extraneous later material was evident.

The illustrated material is as follows, the remainder is described in the archive. Unless stated otherwise, sherds come from *Blackhorse Road.*

Fig. 31
Ebbsfleet

1 One decorated rim and 30 undecorated body sherds probably from the same same vessel, of soft laminated, flakey paste tempered profusely with shell and a little chalk, reddish brown externally, generally darker internally with black core. Both surfaces have been smoothed. Decoration: a single row of diagonal whipped cord maggots running over the rim and external rim bevel. Diam. of mouth: *c.* 13.0 ins. P6070 levels 1 & 2.

2–5 Twenty-one sherds from the upper part of a single vessel of hard, compact paste, tempered with some shell and chalk, patchy reddish brown externally, darker internally, with a dark brown core. Both faces have been smoothed. Decoration: on the external rim bevel, a row of diagonal whipped cord maggots. On the internal surface, short lengths of whipped cord applied rather haphazardly both vertically and diagonally to a depth of something over 1.5 ins. One rim sherd shows a double row of fingernail impressions just

Table 1. Saxon cemetery, Norton Road, Baldock.

skeleton		*grave*	*facing*	*sex*	*age(yrs)*	*finds*
0001	I	X	W	M	middle	iron pin
0012	II	X	W	?	12	iron knife
0019	III	X	W	M	*c.*50	
0021	IV	X	W	?	5–6	
6061	V	X	W	F	45–50	IA/PS pot
6062	VI	X	W	M	20–25	iron spearhead
6071	VII	X		M	30–35	iron knife

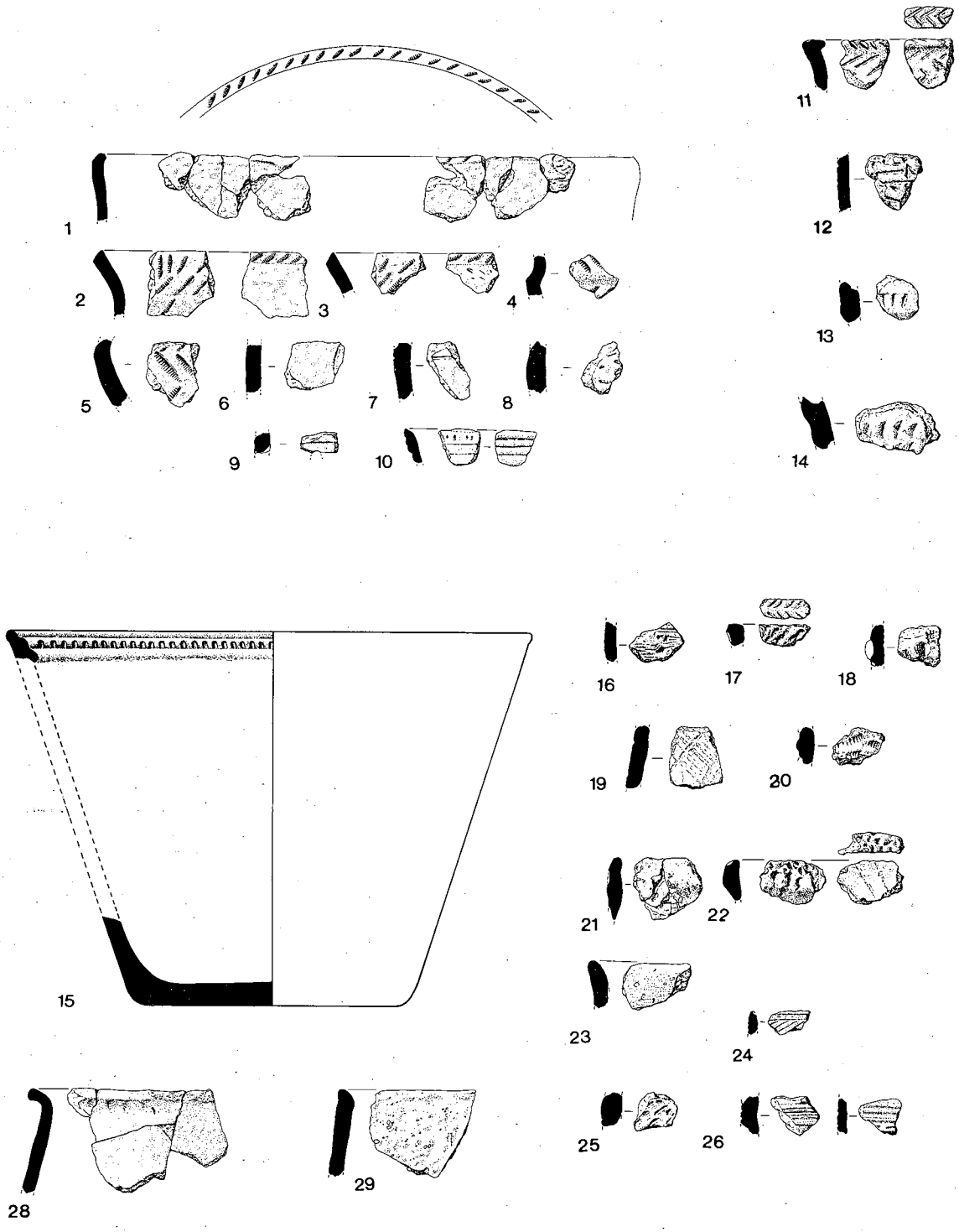


Figure 31. Neolithic pottery.

below the rim. On the remaining sherds the upper part of the neck is plain but a whipped cord herring-bone design appears to begin just above and continues over the shoulder on to the body of the vessel. P6072 levels 3, 4, & 5.

6–8 Thirty body sherds of paste similar to 4, though the external surface is consistently light brown, while the internal surface varies from dark to greyish brown. The core is always dark. Many of these are likely to be body sherds from the bowl just described, and one fragment carries the remains of whipped cord decoration. Three other sherds are decorated; two with incised lines, the third with a series of imprecise impressions made with a blunt instrument (Fig. 31,7). All three sherds are small and it is impossible to be certain as to the type of scheme to which they might belong or whether they come from a vessel or vessels distinct from bowl 4. P6072 levels 2, 3, & 4.

Grooved Ware

9 Small sherd of hard, sandy paste, brown in colour carrying a shallow groove and remains of perforations through the wall of the pot. P6072 level 4.

10 Small rim sherd of hard, sandy texture and yellow throughout. Decoration: four grooves on the external surface (the sherd having broken at the fourth). On the internal surface, three incised horizontal lines, the space between the upper two carrying short vertical impressions. P6072 level 3.

Ebbsfleet

11 Rim sherd of fairly compact paste tempered with a quantity of shell grit, brown throughout. Decoration: on top of rim, externally and internally, incised herring-bone. 7253 Area E.

Grooved Ware

12 Wall sherd of compact, soft paste, tempered with a little grit, brown externally, dark grey internally. Decoration: grooved lines, possibly part of filled triangle pattern. Tr15 6335 layer 3 Norton Road Baldock.

13 Wall sherd of compact paste, light brown externally, brown internally with dark grey core. Weathered. Decoration: a row of wedge-shaped impressions. 6151 D2 C–D, E–F.

Rusticated Beaker

14 Wall sherd of compact paste tempered with a large quantity of crushed calcined flint, brown externally, grey internally. Decoration: rows of deep, diagonally placed fingernail impressions. Tr12 6332 layer 2 Norton Road Baldock.

Grooved Ware

15 20 sherds from the base, wall and rim of a Grooved Ware vessel of coarse, flakey, paste tempered with a large quantity of chalk and ? crushed freshwater mussel shell, light reddish brown externally, dark grey internally. The surface is heavily weathered. The only surviving decoration is on the internal bevel of the rim, comprising short vertical impressions set between two circumferential grooves. P6601.

16 Wall sherd of soft compact paste, grey throughout, weathered. Decoration: remains of incised lines. On chalk surface A 00.

17 Rim sherd of rather soft paste tempered with shell grit, brown externally, grey internally. Decoration: on top of the rim, fingernail herringbone. Externally remains of diagonal twisted cord line. 7253 Area E.

Bucket Urn

18 Wall sherd of fairly compact paste tempered with a little grit, reddish brown externally, grey internally. Decoration: remains of finger-tipped cordon. 7254 Area E.

19 Wall sherd of soft flakey paste tempered with shell, brown externally, grey internally. Decoration: grooved ladder pattern. 6164 GLIV D2Z level 2.

Peterborough Ware

20 Wall sherd of coarse paste, tempered with crushed flint, reddish brown externally, grey internally. Decoration: opposed whipped cord lines.Tr12 6332 layer 2 Norton Road Baldock.

21 Plain rim sherd of soft flakey paste tempered with a large quantity of shell, brown externally, grey internally with dark grey core. 6133 PXVII.

Mortlake

22 Rim sherd of flakey paste tempered with flint grit, light brown throughout. Decoration: on the rim, rows of impressions, some perhaps made with a corner of a broken flint flake. 7251 Area E.

23 Undecorated rim sherd of hard paste tempered with coarse flint grits, patchy brown to grey both faces. F17 (137). Wilbury.

Grooved Ware

24 Small fragment of rim of compact paste, grey throughout. Decoration: two horizontal, above diagonal, incised lines. F1 14 (135). Wilbury.

Rusticated Beaker

25 Wall sherd of compact paste tempered with crushed calcined flint, reddish brown externally, brown internally with dark grey core. Decoration: impressions ? made with a spatula. 6157 D2 N level 2.

26 Two wall sherds of rather flakey paste, grey throughout. Decoration: grooved lines. F3 19. Wilbury.

27 Not described.

28 Four joining sherds from rim of undecorated Neolithic bowl of hard compact paste tempered with fine flint grit, patchy brown to black both faces. F14 (4), (46), (47), (61). Wilbury.

29 Undecorated rim sherd of hard, compact

paste tempered with fine coarse flint grits, brown externally, patchy brown to grey internally. F14 (42). Wilbury

Fig. 32

1 19 sherds from a Rusticated Beaker of coarse paste, tempered with grit including both grog and flint, reddish brown both faces, darker internally with dark grey core. Surface smoothed. Decoration: finger-nail impressions set vertically in roughly horizontal rows, giving place at one stage to vertical lines of continuous fingernail impressions. 6601.

2 16 sherds from the lower two-thirds of an S4 Beaker, of fairly hard, slighly sandy, paste tempered with grog, light brown on boh faces with dark grey core. Decoration: on the neck, a zone comprising two rows of incised lozenges filled with incised lattice above a row of discontinuous incised horizontal strokes. On the body, a zone comprising incised lozenges again filled with incised lattice with at least part of the background filled with jabbed impressions. The basal zone consists of a further band of discontinuous horizontal strokes. 6601.

Peterborough Ware

3 26 fragments from the collar and neck of a Fengate Ware vessel, of a hard, compact and rather sandy fabric tempered with a little grit including chalk, reddish brown externally to dark grey internally. Much of the external surface has been eroded. Decoration: on the collar, a complex scheme including hurdle pattern, herring-bone and partially filled triangles combining both twisted cord and incised techniques. At the base of the neck, two rows of incised herring-bone. 6601.

4 Six sherds from a Rusticated Beaker of hard compact paste tempered with small grit, reddish brown externally, grey internally. Surface smoothed. Decoration: above and below the shoulder consists of light, widely spaced, vertical finger pinching. 6601.

5 Large fragment of rim and neck from a Rusticated Beaker of coarse flakey paste tempered with a considerable quantity of coarse grog, light brown to grey externally to grey internally. Decoration: vertical rows of light finger pinching. 6601.

6 33 sherds from a large Rusticated Beaker of coarse paste tempered with grog, chalk and a little flint. Decoration: horizontal grooves and ridges, the majority of the grooves being enhanced by diagonal fingernail impressions. The pattern is broken at the greatest diameter by a wider plain zone and a series pinched-up lugs. 6601.

7 17 sherds from a Rusticated Beaker of somewhat flakey paste tempered with a little sand and some grog, light reddish brown to grey externally, light brown internally with grey core. Surface in parts eroded. Decoration: vertical impressions made by a blunt instrument. 6601.

8 Small fragments, including rim, of a small Grooved Ware vessel, of compact, sandy paste, reddish brown both faces. Surface rather weethered, incised lines beneath the rim above a series of jabs. On the internal surface of the rim a row of short vertical incised lines. PH6080.

9 Not described.

10 Three small fragments of a Peterborough bowl, of fairly hard coarse paste tempered with large fragments of burnt flint, reddish brown externally, dark grey internally. Surface smoothed. Decoration: diagonal twisted lines. P6601.

11 Small fragment of base angle of a fairly coarse paste tempered with grit. Reddish brown externally to brown internally. Undecorated. 6601.

12 Small fragment of base angle of fairly coarse paste tempered with some grog. Reddish brown externally, grey brown internally with dark grey core. Surface smoothed. Undecorated. 6601.

13 Two fragments, including rim, of a Rusticated Beaker of compact sandy paste, reddish brown both faces. Surface smoothed. Decoration: vertical fingernail impressions set in horizontal rows. 6601.

Uncertain

14 Small fragment of undecorated rim of compact sandy paste. Light reddish brown both faces with dark grey core. Surface smoothed. 6601.

15 Small shoulder fragment of compact, very sandy paste with some grit. Red externally, brown internally. Decoration: above the shoulder remains of diagonal lines. Weathered. 6601.

16 Small fragment of undecorated rim of hard, slightly porous, paste. Brown externally, grey internally. Surface smoothed. 6601.

From Wilbury: not illustrated

Bucket Urn

17 134 undecorated sherds of bucket urn including 9 base angle of soft paste tempered with grit including flint; surfaces light brown to brown with dark grey core. 14 (72) – (74), (76) – (117), (119) – (134).

The sherds below are all flint-tempered which places them in the Late Bronze Age pottery tradition rather than the Early Iron Age, i.e. before 8th century BC.

Late Bronze Age pottery

18 Rim and body sherd from the same rather shapeless jar, with narrow, out-turned rim decorated with sloping slashes. Well shaped and well finished inside and out. Similar to Runnymede Bridge 1976 (Surrey Arch. Research Vol. no. 6 (1980); Fig. 44, type 14C. 14 (28).

19 Two rims and body sherds from the same rimless jar. Insufficient to determine whether it is a Deverel Rimbury bucket urn or a rather later rimless, non-spill jar. 14 (51) + (56).

20 Small upright rim of thin cup-like bowl in red/brown handmade ware. 14 (51).

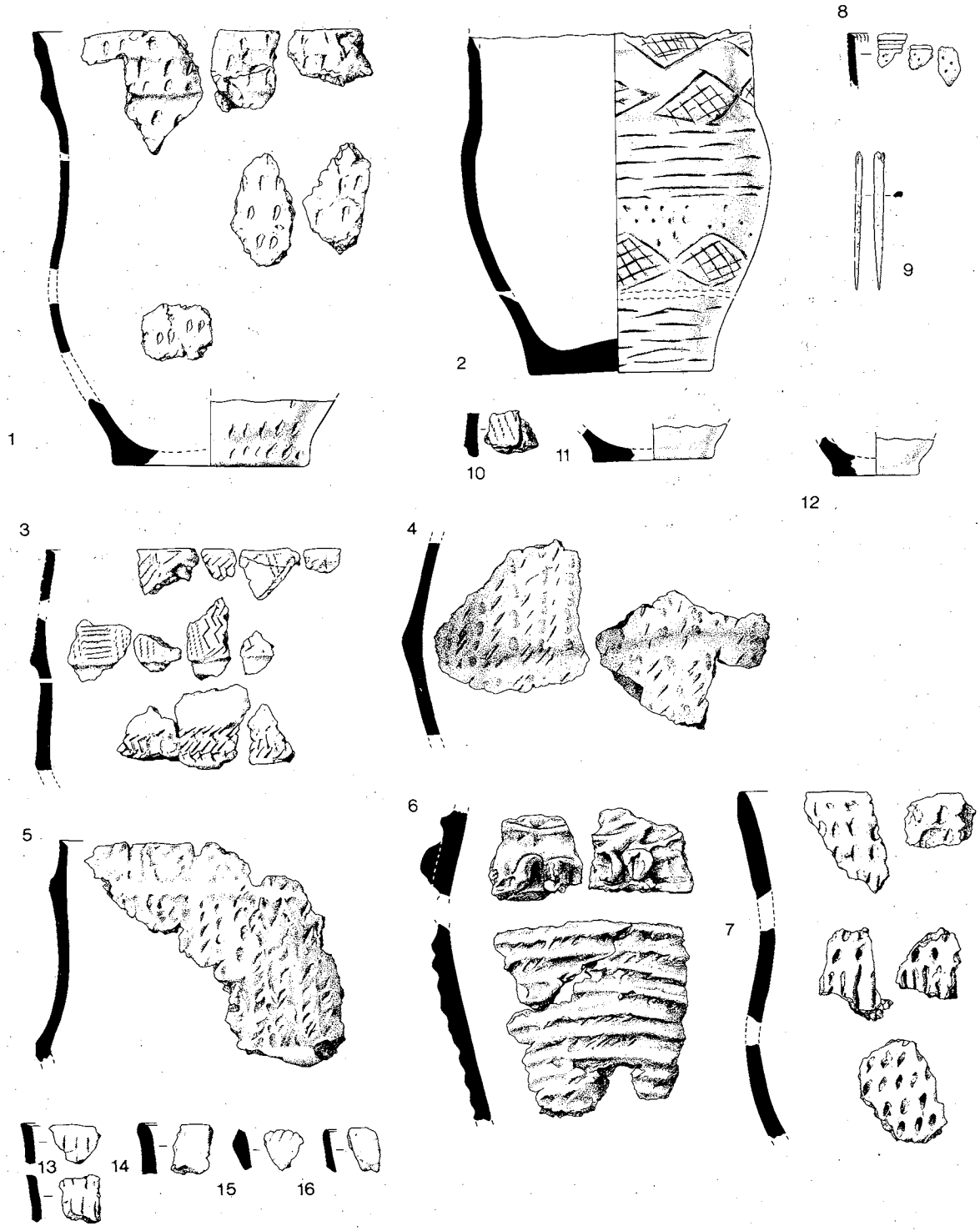


Figure 32. Neolithic pottery.

Iron Age
by Mark Birley

The excavations on the Blackhorse Road site produced some 2250 sherds of certain or probable Iron Age pottery. The majority came from pits so that it is impossible to group material by stratigraphic phase. The catalogue and illustrations are, therefore, arranged by sub-site and by individual feature within the sub-site. The only exception is that Areas I/II/III/IV/V have been conflated because so few features produced Iron Age pottery, and, in any case, the pottery from these sub-sites can be distinguished from that found in the remainder; Areas I/II/III/IV/V producing Early Iron pottery, the other Middle Iron Age pottery. Initially, some quantitative analysis of the main tempering ingredients was attempted but abandoned because very few contexts produced sufficient material. However, it was demonstrated that the main tempering used in the Early Iron Age was flint and quartz (almost 50%), while in the Middle Iron Age vegetable tempering predominates, (*c.* 60%). It will be seen from the catalogue, however, that tempering materials were frequently combined. This is particularly true of fabric B which contains both quartz and flint. It proved difficult to distinguish between the two, particularly if finely crushed, because they invariably occurred together.

Group 1: Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age
All the pottery from this group was recovered from Areas I/II/III/IV/V although very little came from the palisaded enclosure. In fact most came from pits north of this enclosure and it is this material which provides the most useful groups for discussion and against which we can assess the remainder. Virtually all the Group 1 pottery can be accommodated within the West Harling –Staple Howe style zone defined by Cunliffe (1968, 36–7). The West Harling site itself proves a ready source for comparanda. The fingertip decoration on the shoulder of our (1) is represented at West Harling (Clarke & Fell 1953, nos. 10, 11, 22, 80 and Apling 1933, Fig. 7, 114) which also share an angular shoulder. Our (15), a fine bipartite bowl, is paralleled at the same site (Clarke & Fell 1953, Fig. 97). A particular feature of the carinated bowls from Blackhorse Road is the external beading on the rims, viz. (16), a feature shared with West Harling (Clarke & Fell 1953, Fig. 67, 91). There are, however, distinctive differences. West Harling produced a range of vessels profusely decorated with finger printing which are absent from Blackhorse Road. Here the finger nail decoration around the inside of the rim (3, 10, 19, 20, 25) cannot be paralleled at the former site, but finds comparison with similar pottery from the Lower Thames Valley (Barrett 1980, Fig. 5, 4, 1; Barrett 1978, Fig. 39, 15; Fig. 40, 25; Longley 1980, Fig. 21, 51; Fig. 35, 359, 360).

Cunliffe's West Harling–Staple Howe group has a very wide distribution, from Yorkshire, East Anglia, the Lower Thames Valley, and even Minnis Bay, Kent (Cunliffe 1978, Fig. 3:2). This wide geographical distribution raises questions concerning the validity of this stylistic grouping as a whole, quite apart from problems of chronology. On the one hand, while the range of forms can be accommodated within the style, none in itself is confined to discrete geographical areas, unlike later styles, such as the Chinnor–Wandlebury group, with its distinctive fine bowls and characteristic decoration (Cunliffe 1978, 41). If any geographical integrity of this style-zone is to be maintained, then there must be some subdivision into allied traditions or facies, occupying their own discrete distributions. Thus we may tentatively suggest a West Harling style characterised by the profuse finger-printing of the type-site in East Anglia. The Yorkshire sites of Cunliffe's group seem to lack this characteristic and so, although related, have some stylistic independence. A third group might be that from the Thames Valley which has as a feature of impressions inside the rim and may be be related to the Blackhorse Road material. These groupings are very tentative and are offered as a testable hypothesis rather than a new orthodoxy.

Chronology, the subject of much debate recently has effectively demonstrated that our traditional Early Iron Age styles developed, and are indeed, present well within the Later Bronze Age (Barrett 1980 with Refs). This has undermined the validity of the geographical style zones by extending their chronological range and opening up the possibility that a style which once occupied a discrete point in time and space, a single century for example, may in fact be an amalgam of developments over a period of 500 years. Blackhorse Road illustrates this point. The Group 1 pottery can be subdivided into spatially discrete sub-groups. The first group 1A comprises the material from features in the area of Pits 0058, 0037, 0041; Group 1b comprises the cluster of Pits 0047, 0043, 0049, north of the Group 1a features, and can be further distinguished stylistically by the tripartite angular forms of the ceramic assemblage (e.g. (1), (16), (14)). As we have seen, both sub-groups can be easily accommodated within a single style zone (above), but within the context of an individual site, the stylistic differences are most striking. It seems that two phases of occupation are represented (see below) but the decoration inside the rim of (3) from P0047 and its affinity with similar examples from P0058, 0020, 0060, suggests a development within a single broader tradition.

Since our Group 1 is related to a tradition in the Thames Valley, it is appropriate to assess its dating within Barrett's sequence for the Thames region (Barrett 1980). Here, fingertip decoration, particularly on the shoulder, becomes most frequent from the eighth century (Barrett 1980; Bradley *et al.* 1980), providing us with a useful *terminus post quem* for Group 1. The other features also seem important. Firstly, the finger decoration around the rim seems to be an earlier feature within a sequence from the eighth to the fourth centuries BC (Barrett 1978, 277). At Orsett, only two vessels (15, 25) have this feature. These were associated with a radiocarbon date of 564±81 b.c. (BM-1979) and were part of a stratigraphically earlier group (Barrett 1978, 277). At Blackhorse Road, Pits 0058 and 0049 produced the assemblages most similar in quantity, 98 sherds and 71 sherds respectively. If the decrease from three internally decorated rims in P0058 to one in P0049 is significant, then the latter should be the later. Secondly, frequent beading of the rim seems to be a slightly later feature within the earlier part of the eighth to fourth century sequence. Longley notes that, although it is present in eighth-century contexts at Runnymede

Bridge, it occurs more frequently at a slightly later site near by, Petters Sports Field (Longley 1980, 73). This is a prominent feature of the Group 1a assemblage from Pit 0058. Taken together, this evidence suggests that the occupation with which our Group 1 pottery is associated occurred during the seventh and sixth centuries b.c., perhaps extending even a little later. Although the angularity of Group 1b seems to reflect a chronological difference, I have avoided stressing it overmuch. On the one hand the debate over the 'Angular Horizon' (Harding 1974) has focussed on much later material, on the other, Barrett has shown that such forms are present well within the Late Bronze Age (1978). Group 1b from Blackhorse Road certainly supports this latter view. The most relevant material to this argument, however, consists of fine decorated pottery, such as Cunliffe's Chinnor–Wandlebury group (Cunliffe 1978, 41). Such a description is difficult to apply to our Group 1b since it notably lacks well-finished surfaces. As it has not been possible to identify a comparable sequence elsewhere, it seems possible that the significance of our angular group is entirely local. The foregoing discussion has undoubtedly raised more questions than it is possible to answer. While we can see two possible phases represented, and suggest that Group 1b succeeds Group 1a, we can also observe that the characteristics of each are but facies of a long-lived tradition. That tradition may, in turn, have defineable regional and local variants, each of which is capable of its own, perhaps independent, development throughout a long currency. Obviously it requires a much larger site and assemblage to define these in a particular area through time.

The amount of pottery from the palisaded enclosure is very small; only two sherds carry incised decoration, which could belong anywhere within the general period discussed above. If either of the two groups of pits were contemporary and reflected the disposal of refuse from the enclosure, we might expect the incised decoration to be present in one other group. It does not seem likely that either group could be contemporary with it if they represent actual occupation sites, since either one may have been too close for comfort. The problem cannot be clarified by the enclosure's meagre pottery assemblage, and is compounded by its presumably lengthly occupation suggested by the modifications and rebuilding of the palisade.

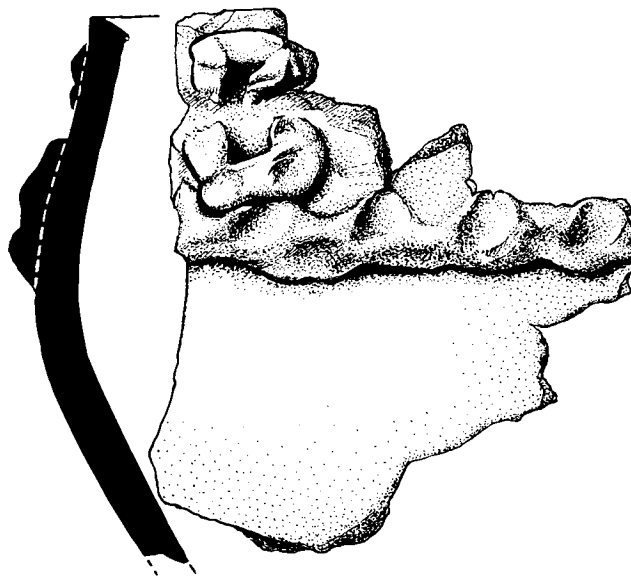


Figure 33. LBA/EIA sherd, Norton Road.

Group 2 – Middle Iron Age

This group came from the Areas IX, X, XI, XII, XIII. Unlike Group 1, little spatial grouping of distinctive styles of pottery was readily apparent. As a result it is necessary to look for quite detailed differences in groups of features. The grouping of features by pottery alone is suspect at the best of times, particularly when only a very limited number of contexts produce assemblages with useful traits, and the size of individual assemblages varies considerably. Moreover, the results of such analysis cannot be independently checked by stratigraphy, or other means. Although this weakens our analysis, it should not be considered an insurmountable problem as even very tentative conclusions may acquire greater credibility when compared with other sites, or in the light of future research.

The range of forms is restricted; bowls, vessels whose height is less than their maximum diameter, appear to dominate this group to the exclusion of any other. These have weak, often low, shoulders and short necks and rims, which suggest a weak globular profile (43), (162). Any variation seems a matter of degree as might be expected with handmade pottery. Unfortunately the dearth of complete profiles makes further discussion of this topic inadvisable. At first glance, the range of decoration, while showing a little more variation, is also restricted. This is more striking when ones notices that extreme variations, such as the curvilinear tooled decoration of (52)–(54), are isolated examples, exceptions rather than rules. The only recurrent types of decoration are fingertip or nail decoration on the rim, and scoring on the body. Even so, decoration is comparatively rare, only 42 sherds of the 143 illustrated from the 1000 sherds of certain Middle Iron Age context i.e. those providing illustrated sherds. On closer examination, however, there are subtle differences in the rim and body decoration. Fingertip impressions on top of the rim are almost exclusive to the Enclosure Two ditch, (76), only one sherd of this kind being found elsewhere. Fingernail impressions on top of the rim, e.g. (99), are entirely absent from Enclosure Two and in three instances are associated with scored pottery. In two instances, rims decorated like this occurred with a rim whose top had been slashed with a sharp point, (115), and a carefully cabled rim, (162). The third type of rim decoration is fingernail, in one case fingertip (155), impressions around the outside of the rim, e.g. (99), (134). This is never associated with any other form of decoration.

The scored decoration on the body also shows some variation and three types may be described. Firstly, it can be executed very precisely, often quite deep and vertical, e.g. (162). The second type is lighter but of consistent depth, appox. 1mm, yet quite random, e.g. (96). The third is very light and uneven, and is, perhaps, better described as brushed rather than scored, (50). The lightly combed sherd, (70), can be attributed to this group. The first type of scoring is absent from the Enclosure Two but the third is unique

to it. While this chain of associations is encouraging, it should be borne in mind that only seven features over the whole site produced scored pottery, and only 14 produced pottery with any of the above characteristics. Nevertheless, the contact between Enclosure Two and the rest of the site does seem to be significant. The enclosure produced an iron cauldron rim low down in the ditch which can be dated to the first century BC (Moss-Eccardt 1965, 173–7; cf. p. 00 below). The pottery is, for the most part, stratified above but there are no real distinctions to be made between the layers. In the absence of Late Iron Age wheel-made pottery, it seems that the material from the enclosure is the latest from the Iron Age. Thus the fingernail decoration on top and outside the rim, which is absent from the enclosure, must be earlier. In addition to the dating evidence for Enclosure Two, there is also a single piece of stratigraphy which might assist in elucidating the relationship between externally decorated rims and those with decoration on top. The gully in Enclosure Three is cut by P6243. While neither produced substantial quantities of pottery, the gully at the entrance contained an externally decorated rim, (134), while P6243 produced two rims with fingernail decoration on top, (131).

The analysis would suggest, but not conclusively, that there may be as many as three chronological groups of pottery. The earliest may be an essentially plain group whose sole decorative feature is fingernail decoration outside the rim. In the second, this is replaced by similar impressions on the upper surface of the rim but there is also the isolated occurrence of cabling and slashing of the rim, with the introduction of evenly executed scoring. In the third and latest group, fingertip impressions replace the fingernail decoration on the upper rim surface accompanied by lighter and less even scoring. This decorative form occurs only in the ditch of Enclosure Two where it is placed in the first century BC by its association with the cauldron rim. It is not possible to suggest similarly close dating for the majority of the other Middle Iron Age features by using this method because no more than fourteeen features produced relevant decorated pottery.

The predominance of bowl forms links the Blackhorse Road Middle Iron Age pottery to Cunliffe's bowl continuum of the Midlands (1978, 50–51) but the material in general is difficult to date with any precision. The one element of the Blackhorse Road material which can be parallelled quite widely in Eastern England is the scoring. It is most common and forms a much more substantial part of assemblages in the Lower Nene, Ouse and Trent valleys (Kenyon 1950; 1952; Pryor 1984). The excavator argues a *terminus post quem* of 350 + 46 b.c. (GaK-4198) for such pottery at Fengate and suggests it has its origins in the fifth century BC (Pryor 1984, 154). This seems far too early for the Blackhorse Road examples and, possibly, the Eastern Chilterns as a whole. At a number of sites in our area scored handmade pottery occurred in association with wheeelmade pottery, notably at Wilbury Hill (Applebaum 1950), Puddlehill Group 6 (Matthews 1976, Fig. 84, 127) and, further west, at Cholesbury (Kimble 1933). It was the latter site which prompted Hawkes to suggest that the pottery associated with the Egginton inhumation might just be as late as the first century BC (Gurney & Hawkes 1940). Even in the 'core area' this type of pottery persists until the Roman Conquest (Pryor 1984) but on the fringe of its distribution, even in Northamptonshire, it seems to diminish in qauntity (Jackson 1979, 15) and is possibly not associated with the earliest groups nearer the Wash. If this were to be the case, then the pottery of Matthews' Group 5 at Puddlehill may antedate his earlier Group 4, especially as there is no stratigraphic evidence for the Puddlehill succession of pottery groups (Matthews 1976): scored pottery is absent in Group 5 and present in the Group 4.

The evidence is still rather tenuous and there are no sites which indisputably support the suggestions outlined above. Perhaps clearer patterns would emerge if more sites were subject to analysis similar to that used here. This cannot be attempted from published sources unless all the diagnostic sherds have been illustrated. Some of the traits described here may be very localised. To take an example concerning the sequence of rim decoration, at Barley, a site only 15 miles distant, the two pits fully illustrated, Pits 5 and 36, produced both fingernail and fingertip decorated rims in association (Cra'ster 1961, Figs. 7 & 8). In a western direction, at Puddlehill, fingertip-decorated rims are almost entirely absent from any of the illustrated Middle and Late Iron Age pottery groups (Matthews 1976).

In conclusion, it is only possible to say that despite some evidence for development within Blackhorse Road Group 2, it is difficult to compare it with other sites unless they have been subjected to the same type of rigorous analysis which does not have to be of the same traits used here. The only real point of comparison is that of scoring but any chronological significance read into the practice depends on a currently hypothetical model which places it on the fringe of a 'core area' around the Wash at a much later date, and in small quantities. On this basis, the practice may not have reached the Eastern Chilterns until the second century BC. That it is virtually absent in the Western Chilterns may support this model (Saunders 1972), but it might equally reflect no more than the direction of contact between regions. With our Group 1 pottery there appears to be such contact in the direction of the Thames Valley, rather than following the Icknield Way. At least by the first century BC, the direction of contact is northwards. The restrained exploitation of the Icknield Way in this context is intriguing since, despite claims both for its antiquity and as a focus for settlement (Fox 1923; Saunders 1972), it clearly cannot have conditioned the nature of settlement or culture in the way that is often assumed (ibid).

The Catalogue of Iron Age Pottery is kept in the archive. Selected diagnostic sherds referred to in the text above are illustrated (Fig. 34).

Area I/II/III/IV/V

Pit 0047

1 Diameter at shoulder 38cm. Sharp-shouldered, tripartite jar with fairly thick wall. Exterior red, smooth; interior red, rough and gritty. Fingertip decoration just above shoulder.

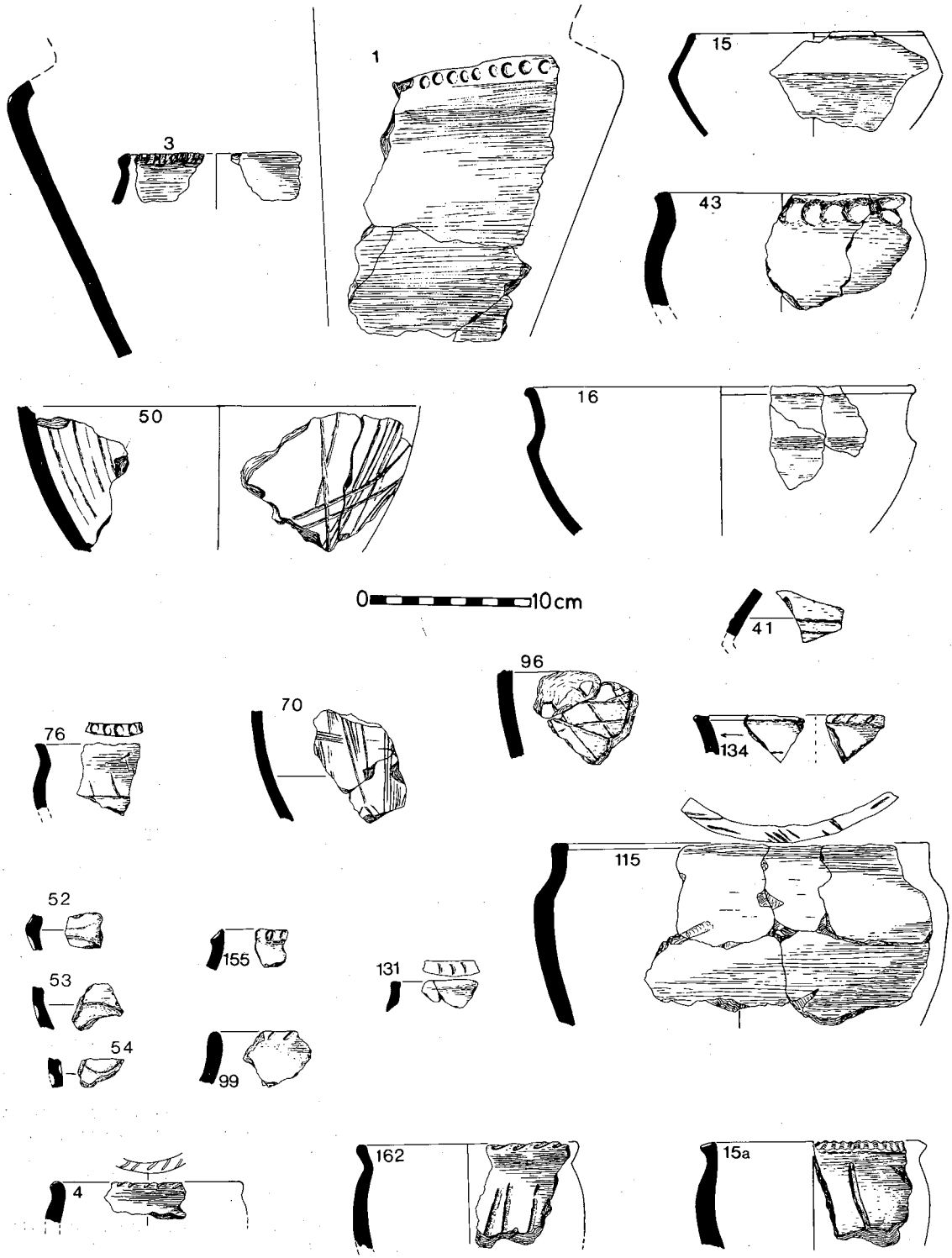


Figure 34. Iron Age pottery.

3 Diameter uncertain; upper part of thin-walled vessel similar to 2, but with pronounced internal lip, decorated with deep fingernail impressions. Surfaces orange, smooth.

Pit 0058

15 Diameter of rim 14cm; smooth, thin-walled bipartite bowl with shallow collar beneath rim. Outside black, burnished; inside reddish-buff, smoothed.

16 Diameter 24cm; smooth, thin-walled bowl with low sharp shoulder and outward curved neck and externally beaded rim. Outside black to brown, smooth; inside reddish-brown, less smooth.

Trench 6082

41 Decorated sherd; two even grooves at lower edge. Form uncertain.

Area IX Enclosure Two

6148 Ditch section I–J (3)

43 Diameter 16cm; medium-sized bowl with flat rim and weak rounded shoulder. Thumb print impressions around the neck, surfaces smooth, slightly sandy. Red to brown.

50 Large decorated lower body sherd from large bowl. Exterior orange, vertical scoring radiating from base, and some diagonal scoring. Interior black to grey-buff with drag lines of fingers to smooth surface. Overlapping coil construction.

52–4 Decorated sherds from the same vessel. Deep fingertip curved scoring. Surfaces: exterior dark brown, interior black, sandy.

70 Decorated body sherd; fine vertical and horizontal scoring with comb. Exterior soapy, dark pink/buff. Interior black.

76 Diameter uncertain; flat rim with fingertip impressions of low round-shouldered bowl. Faint vertical and horizontal scoring on body. Surfaces rather deteriorated, pink to dark brown.

Pit 6201

96 Decorated sherd; diagonal and horizontal scoring. Coarse texture; red to brown exterior, dark brown interior.

Pit 6203

99 Decorated rim, fingernail incisions on outside of rounded rim; profile probably as (63). Exterior dark brown, interior black. Smooth but with speckled appearance because of temper density.

Pit 6239

115 Diameter 23cm; high round-shouldered coarse bowl. Surfaces roughly smoothed. Grey-brown to black. Slashing on flat rim surface. Fabric C2; some flint and chalk grits.

Pit 6243

131 Diameter uncertain; flattened rim with fingernail decoration. Slight thickening of rim as a result of flattening. Sandy texture, red exterior, grey-brown interior.

Ditch of Enclosure Three entrance

134 Rim sherd with internal and external lip. Fingernail incisions on outer lip. Slight grooving inside. Soapy texture, exterior buff to dark grey. Interior dark grey.

Pit 6217

155 Diameter uncertain; flat rim of probably S-profile bowl. Surfaces smooth, black.

Pit 7227

162 Diameter 18cm; fairly large bowl with high round shoulder and flat decorated rim, with external lip. Fingernail impressions. Surfaces sandy, exterior brown, interior red.

From *Norton Road, Baldock*

The material itself matches that from the Blackhorse Road Group 2, and the discussion of that material seems applicable here. The fingernail impressions on the upper surface of the rim of (4), and the broad, deep scoring of (15) suggest that this pottery pre-dates that from Enclosure Two and, if the more refined sequence proposed for Blackhorse Road is accepted, equates with the second phase of Group 2. A date in the second century BC seems possible.

Tr 20 (3) 6340

4 Diameter 12cm; small, low-shouldered bowl with regular fingernail decoration on rim. Surfaces coarse, burnished, black.

Ditch CIII2 6343

15a Diameter 14cm; low-shouldered bowl with flat 'currugated' rim and vertical scoring on body. Surfaces sandy, exterior dark brown to black, interior pink-brown.

Dr Ian Cornwall examined a thin-section of a red-brown burnished sherd and found that it contained a quantity of burnt pond weed, suggesting a use of local clay.

Iron Age pottery from Wilbury Hill, Letchworth
with the assistance of Valerie Rigby

A numbered of unfeatured sherds were found. This was highly gritted with flint and shell; most surfaces were badly eroded. It varied in thickness from a 'chunky' 4.7mm to a very thin 1.2mm. The colour was predominately red to brown with a few examples in grey to black. In character it was very different from all the Blackhorse Road wares but like those from Hawthorn Hill. In view of the soils prevalent at both Wilbury and Hawthorn Hill, there is every reason for believing that the clay used for potting was derived from the sites themselves. Its distribution indicated its probable derivation from the hill-fort higher up the slope. The majority of this material may be placed in the late pre-Roman Iron Age.

1 Lug handle, with round section, which appears to have been applied vertically to the

maximum girth of a large, shapeless, hand-made jar. Shell-tempered ware. 14 (28).

A date somewhere between tenth century BC and first century AD is possible for the lugged jar form. Such vessels have a long, if intermittent, history in the North Herts/Beds/Bucks/Cambs region, e.g. Harrold (Eagles & Evison, *Beds Arch.* 1970, 26–7), Puddlehill (Matthews 1976, 53, 69, 80, 85), Oakley (*Beds Arch.* 1973, 9), Linton (Fell, *PCAS* 1952, 36–7). In addition there are published examples found farther afield at Queen Mary Hospital, Carshalton (Lowther, *SAC* 1986, 23–4), and Allen's Pit, Oxon. (Bradford 1942), thought to be Late Bronze Age rather than Early Iron Age. In the later Iron Age and Roman periods two main production areas emerged – the Northeast, Yorks–North Lincs, and the BB1 industry of the South-west, Dorset–Somerset. The shelly fabric suggests production from the seventh century BC into the Roman period, with a likely source of origin lying north of Wilbury on the shelly clays or the Jurassic outcrop beyond the chalk, between the Thames and the Humber.

2 Everted rim with body sherds of black flint-gritted bowl with burnished outside surface.
3 Two rim sherds from a lugged bucket in shell-tempered ware. Late first century BC–late first century AD.
4 Two body sherds from a combed storage jar. Grog-tempered ware. First century BC–late first century AD.

Roman pottery from Wilbury Hill, Letchworth

This was largely of native ware which was indistinguishable from earlier material, apart from the outside surface finish and reduction in the amount of inclusions. The early pre-Roman Iron Age pottery was not burnished but so few featured sherds were available, that some doubt must exist over the assignment of this to one period or the other. There is an indication of continuity from the late first century BC to the second century AD in several of the wares but the quality is noticeably inferior to that from Blackhorse Road and Baldock.

1 Small fragment of plain Samian ware. 22 (4).
2 Rim and rim/handle sherds of thick colour-coated ware. 2 (24).
3 Bead rim with body sherds of flint-gritted globular bowl with a single channel below the neck. Inside surface red, outside black with burnishing. 9 (26).
4. Sherd of splayed base fragment with wall junction of hard grey ware, probably of bowl.

Late Iron Age and Roman Age
by Casper Johnson

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and post-Conquest pottery came from two main areas of the Blackhorse Road site, the eastern ditch (7271) of the double-ditch on the eastern edge of the site (Fig. 17, page 56), and the pits and scoops on the west (Fig. 21). Most of the pottery from the latter was locally made and may be described as of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age. One sherd is from Verulamium, and two pieces, (17) and (23), are imports from Gaul, dating from the first century AD. Though it was poorly stratified, these finds do indicate continuity from Iron Age to Roman for this part of the site. The working hollow at (Fig. 21) which consisted of pits and scoops produced Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery but no stratified post-Conquest material. The western ditch 7200 produced no Late Pre-Roman Iron Age or post-Conquest pottery. The considerable amount of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery would make a pre-, rather than a post-Conquest date for the digging of the ditch likely.

Area XIV (Fig. 14) produced a similar range to that from X and XI which was dateable from Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the fourth century AD. The considerable amount of fabrics dated to the third and fourth centuries AD is interesting,and it is possible that some unrecognised Anglo-Saxon pottery has been included in the locally made Late Pre-Roman Iron Age wares. The range of fabrics is typical of the neighbouring Roman occupation of Baldock. Much is locally made, tempered with chalk and shell. Verulamium and Much Hadham supplied most of the local wares, whilst each context produced one or two Gaulish imports, either flagons or Samian vessels. Five groups of sherds possibly representing complete pots were recovered from the site but most of these, because of their provenance in the ditch fill, were small, abraded and had lost their surfaces. The lack of forms has meant that only a general date range can be provided on the basis of the fabrics. This can do little more than indicate the continuity in the ceramic traditions, from the Iron Age through until the late Roman period. The brooch (Fig. 38: 43, page 89) and the coins confirm the broad range of dates indicated by the pottery.

Only diagnostic sherds illustrated on Figs. 35 & 36 are included here. Numbers in brackets (1) denote illustrations. The full catalogue is in the archive; its numbering is retained here.

Samian Ware (Fig. 35)

5 Rim, Drag.30, South Gaulish, Flavian. (2). 6537 Ditch layer 2.
6 Rim, Drag.18, Pre-Flavian. (1). 6515 P15 in ditch.
7 Base, Drag.15/17 or 18, Early Flavian. (5).
8 Base of large dish, South Gaulish, Flavian. (6). 6523 Icknield Way.
9 Base with grafitto, Drag.15/17 R or 18 R, Early Flavian. (3).
10 Two decorated sherds, ?bowl Drag.37. Style of ALBVCIVS, AD 150–180. Lezoux, Central Gaulish. (4).

Coarse pottery (Figs. 35 & 36)

Descriptions of fabric types as per those from Baldock in Letchworth Museum as classified by Valerie Rigby (Stead & Rigby, 1986).

11 Flagon base, cream F.20, Verulamium. 2nd century AD. 7271 bottom. (7).
12 Storage jar, rim, crude F.4. 7217. (8).
15 Rim, F.2A, LPRIA. 0183. (9).
16 Lid-seated jar, rim, F.2A, LPRIA. 0166 layer 2. (10). 1st century AD. 0166 layer 2.
20 Jar, rim, F.8. 0040. (11).
21 Jar, rim, F.8. Shell, quartz and grog tempered. 0040. (12).

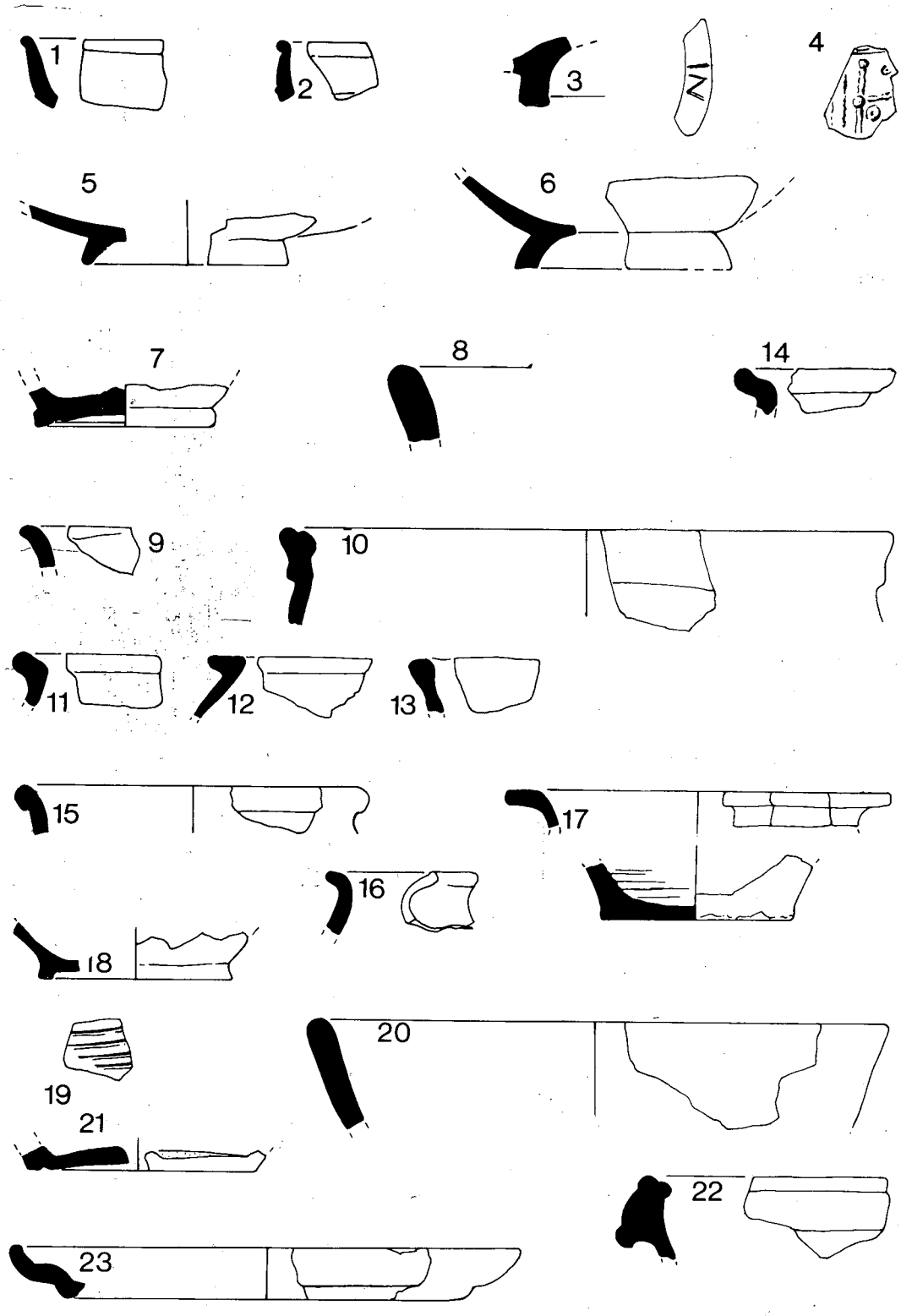


Figure 35. Roman pottery.

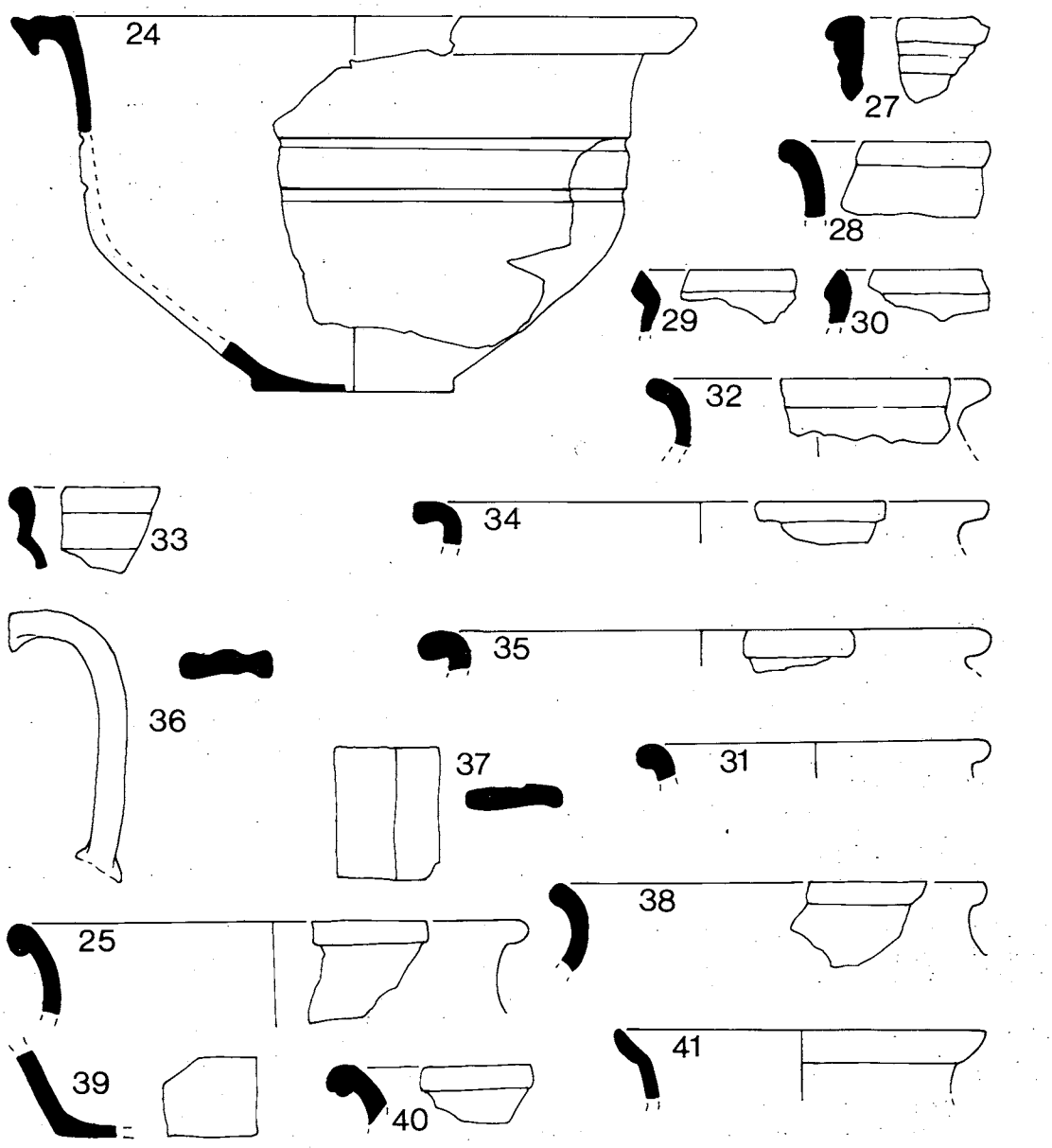


Figure 36. Roman pottery.

22 Coarse sandy piece, F.4. Locally made. 0040. (13).

25 Dish, flanged rim, quartz tempered. Late 2nd–3rd century AD. 0119. (14).

27 Rim undercut, eleven sherds, three with rilled surfaces, F.8. Early 2nd century AD. 7273 layer (15).

28 Rim, F.2A, LPRIA. F.1, LPRIA. 7204 top layer. (16).

31 Rim and base of same vessel, F.8. Diameter 7.5cm. Also twenty small sherds of the same fabric. Late 1st century AD. 7204 top layer. (17).

33 Foot-base, F.2A, LPRIA. 7205. (18).

34 Two sherds with combed decoration, F.2A, LPRIA. 7205. (19).

35 Dog-dish type, F.4, wheelmade. Mid–late 2nd century AD. Top of 7271.(20).

38 Base, crude F.7, diameter 9 cm. Seven sherds of early 2nd century AD. 7270. (21).

42 Wall sided mortarium sherd, F.9. Verulamium. 1st century AD. 7270. (22).

43 Platter sherd, F.7. Late 1st–early 2nd century AD. 7270. (23).

44 Flagon handle, coarse-gritted, white slip. Verulamium. Late 1st–early 2nd century AD. 7270. (36).

45 Handle, white pipeclay, Gaulish, F.43.

Tibero-Claudian. 7270. (37).
46 Storage jar, F.2A, diameter 30cm, LPRIA. 7270.
47 Rim, red-brown type F.8. Early 2nd century AD. 7270. (25).
49 Poppy-headed Beaker, rim, two sherds, F.7. Late 2nd century AD. 7270. (41).
50 Base, soft F.27. Mid–late 2nd century AD. 7270. (39).
55 Rim, F.1 wheel finished, LPRIA. 7270. (38).
57 Jar, black slip F.27. 7270. (40).
58 Complete vessel, F.15A, white slip, sooted exterior. 2nd century AD. 7270. (24).
66 Flagon rim, F.20, pink/grey grits. Late 2nd–early 3rd century AD. Above 6515 (27).
67 Cooking pot, rim, black slip F.13 or F.15. Mid 2nd century AD. Above 6515. (28).
68 Bowl, F.27, hard and sandy. 2nd and 3rd century AD. Above 6515. (29).
69 Bowl, F.27 without surface, cream and sandy. Above 6515. (30).
70 Rim, orange, F.42. Much Hadham, 'Romano-Saxon'. Late 3rd and 4th century AD. Above 6515. (31).
71 Jar with upstanding rim, forty sherds, black F.8, wheel-thrown. Late 1st–early 2nd century AD. Above 6515. (32).
75 Bowl, high carination, F.4. Late 1st–2nd century AD. 6537 recut. (33).
76 Small storage jar, rim, F.15, grog tempered. 2nd century AD. 6537 recut. (34).
77 Coarse pot, rim, F.13, used for cooking. Also 30 small sherds. 2nd century AD. 6547 layer 3. (35).
99. Base, three rim sherds and forty-one body sherds, F.27, B.B.1 type. 6512 layers 3/4 (40)

I would like to thank H. Pengelly for notes on the Samian, and Charmian Woodfield, Helen Ashworth, and Siobham Emery for notes on the coarse pottery.

Medieval and later
by Geoffry Moss

Unfortunately a high proportion of the sherds submitted for examination are too small to be dated with any accuracy; indeed several connot even be ascribed to a chronological period with any degree of certainty. Notwithstanding this setback there a few emergent facts.

The medieval group is, in the main part, typically well-fired, hard and sandy. The few rims that are present are mostly of thirteenth-century date. One is of a form that also occurs in the late twelfth century, but the texture and hardness would suggest that it ought to be attributed to the early thirteenth century, rather than the twelfth. One rim of developed St Neots ware occurs; also from its form, to belong to the early thirteenth century. Two typically evolved, angular rims of late thirteenth-century date occur. Also included in this group are a few fragments of late-thirteenth- or possibly early-fourteenth-century green glazed wares.

The post-medieval group consists mainly of yellow-brown and brown glazed red wares, all of which are of late-seventeenth-century date. Two sherds of black-glazed red ware occur, perhaps of similar date to the last but more probably of the eighteenth century. A single sherd of *c.* nineteenth century stoneware is the most modern item noticed.

Objects of clay from Blackhorse Road
1 Triangular loomweight with two holes passing through it at an angle of 45 degrees. Burnt, chalk tempered with small amounts of flint. Greatest width at base 160mm, greatest width at top 50cm, height 108mm. The two holes with diameters of 140mm, funnelling out at surface to 210mm and 160mm respectively. Bottom of 6237. (Fig. 37.)
2 Fragment of triangular loomweight.

Coins
by John A. Davies

Three coins were found during the excavation of the ditch (6512 and 6514).

1 Domitian, denarius.
IMP. CAES. DIVI. VESP. F. DOMITIAN AVG.
TR. POT. COS. VIII. P.P. Minerva, l.
Rome AD 82.
2 Constantius II, AE3.
DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG.
FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Fallen horseman.
Lyons AD 355–60.
3 Valens, AE 3.
RIC vol. 9, 21(a).
Lyons AD 367–75.

The three coins span the Roman occupation of Britain. Coin 1 is from the Flavian period when a high volumn of coinage, including denarii, were being injected into the developing province. This is the first period of high coin-loss recorded on many British sites. Coins 2 and 3, both bronzes of the mid and late fourth century, are from similar phases in he coinage. All three coins represent some of the most prolific periods of coin-use and coin-loss in the province. This small sample, therefore, reflects the normal pattern on Romano-British sites.

Metal objects

Norton Road, Baldock – Bronze Age context

Fig. 38
1 Copper alloy ? button: 15mm diameter, 4mm thick; chalk surface GLV 2.74m west × 1.2m north of centre; (Fig. 38: 16).

Blackhorse Road – Iron Age contexts

Fig. 38
1 Copper alloy pin of fibula: 60mm long; 6603 (Fig. 38: 1).
2 Copper alloy ring: 17mm external diameter, 10mm internal diameter; 0039 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 2).
3 Copper alloy ? ferrule: 18mm external dia-

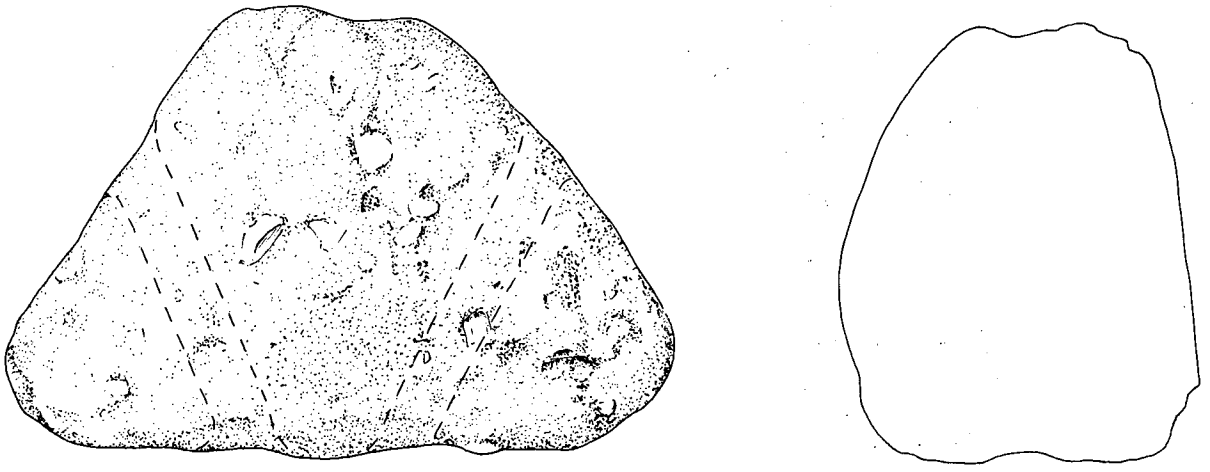


Figure 37. Loomweight, Blackhorse Road.

meter, 6mm internal diameter; 0039 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 3).

4 Iron nail with square section: 60mm long, 5mm maximum section; 0029 (Fig. 38: 4).

5 Iron lump: 35mm long, 15mm wide; 0039 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 5).

6 Copper alloy fragment of ribbed object: 41mm long, 9mm maximum width; 0017 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 6).

7 Iron tanged blade: 22mm long, 12mm maximum width, 4mm thick; 0002 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 8).

8 Iron peg: 27mm long, 3mm shaft width, 17mm head width; 0040 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 9).

9 Iron ring-headed pin: 103mm long, 4mm diameter; 0041 layer 4 (Fig. 38: 10).

10 Short iron nail: 26mm long, 10mm head width, 0029 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 11).

11 Iron joiner's dog: 40mm long, 5mm thick; 0029 (Fig. 38: 12).

12 Large nail head: 25mm high, 56 width of head; (Fig. 38: 18).

13 Copper alloy disc with hole: 25mm diam 4mm; (Fig. 38: 25).

14 Iron nail: 116mm length, 9mm width, 13mm maximum thickness, 2 minimum thickness; 6603 (Fig. 38: 26).

15 Iron knife, curved with rivetted handle: 109mm long, 28mm wide, 1mm thick, 15mm thick at rivet; 6629 layer 2 (Fig. 38: 27).

16 Iron blade, tanged: 115mm long, 48mm wide, 12mm tang; 6650 (Fig. 38: 34).

17 Iron bolt with domed head: 60mm high, 22mm diameter of head, 10 diameter of shaft; 7222 (Fig. 38: 35).

18 Iron peg: 25mm high, 5mm diameter of shaft; 13mm width of head; 0035 (Fig. 38: 38).

19 Iron ? handle: 104mm apart, 5mm thick; 6602 (Fig. 38: 42).

The iron upper part of a bipartite cauldron came from section E–V of the inner ditch, 6149 (Fig. 29, page 71). Its dimensions were as follows: greatest internal diameter at mouth 508mm; greatest internal diameter at bottom of collar 513mm; height of fragment 76mm; thickness of rim 21mm; thickness of body wall 4mm. The ring handles were of wrought-iron and of round section, with a diameter of 102mm and a thickness of 15mm. The handles were secured to the collar by iron staples held in place by two large rivets, 25mm in diameter. The iron staples are decorated by two deep incisions on each and they hang below the rim and not above it. Around the bottom of the collar were rivet holes spaced evenly at 15mm intervals. These holes formerly held the rivets which joined the collar and the cauldron basin which would normally have been of bronze. A possible bronze cauldron patch came from 6520 (Fig. 38: 40) which may have been part of this vessel.

This object was published (Moss-Eccardt 1965) soon after its discovery but needs further discussion here. The pottery which lay below and above it places it somewhere between the middle of the second and first centuries BC. The recent publication of the La Tène III burials from Baldock (Stead 1968, 51–61), only 1.5km distant, provides a near similar example which the excavator would place early in the first half of the first century BC, ante-dating the classic Welwyn-type burials. Reference may be made to parallels other than La Tène now that many more recent finds of similar vessels on the continent have been made. The form of the Blackhorse Road vessel corresponds to Eggers' Type 5 (Eggers 1951, Taf 2) except for the handles. In the German examples the staple rings are plain, while at Letchworth these are more elegantly executed with only the heads of two large rivets showing proud of the collar wall. The positioning and treatment of these suggests a descent from cauldrons of the Brå type.

Since Eggers' work appeared, there have been numerous discoveries in Germany, in the area between the rivers Elbe and Weser, of Type 4 and 5 cauldrons. A number were also found at the oppidum of Manching where they are dated to Middle/Late La Tène (Jacobi and Kramer 1974, 142–50). Many of the same type are already known from Scandinavian sites where, like those in NW Germany, they frequently contain crema-

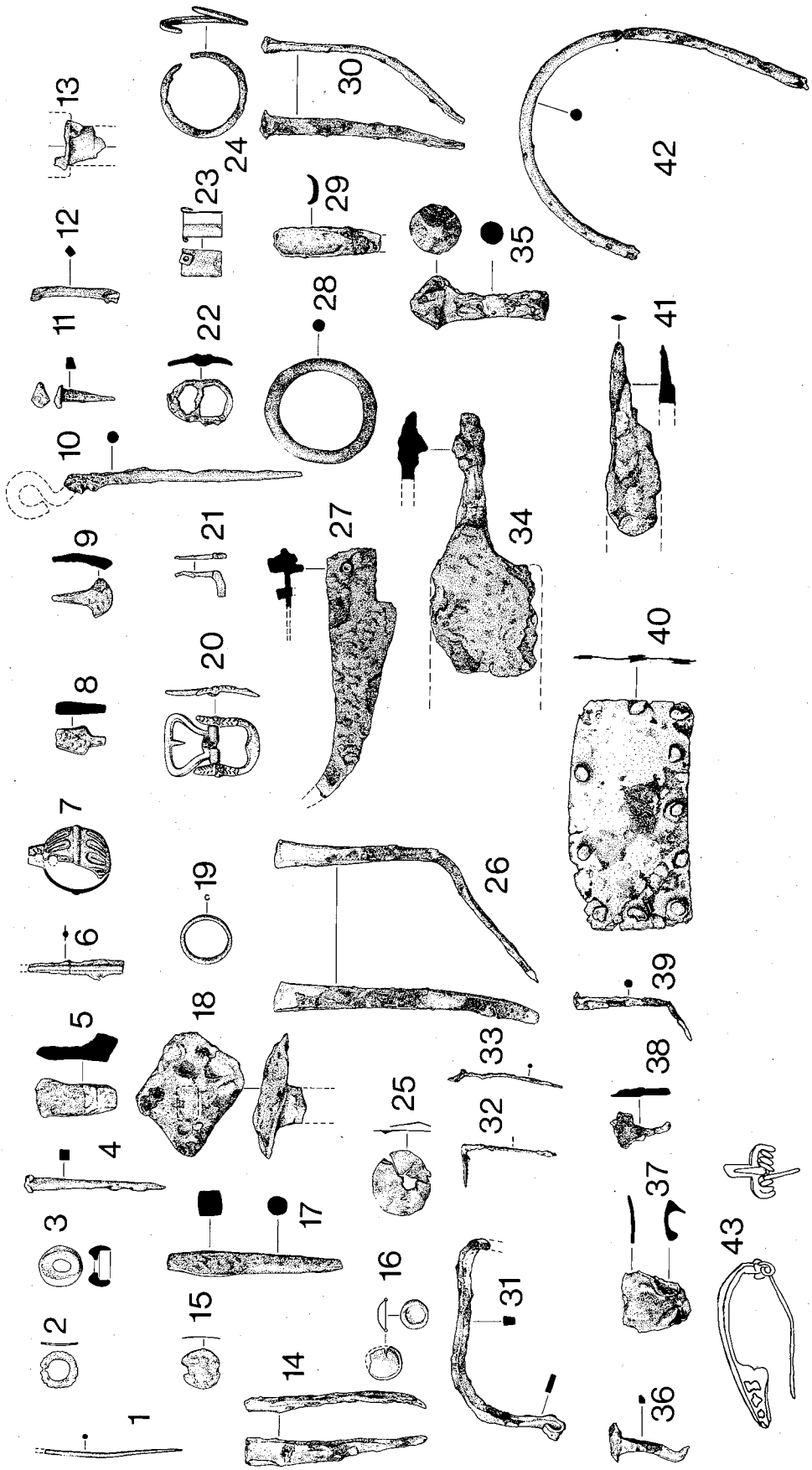


Figure 38. Metal objects.

tions. In the case of the latter, they occur as common cremation vessels in urnfields, such as Klein-Wesenberg, Kreis Stormarn (Tromnau 1975, 77–92) and Putensen, Kreis Harburg (Wegewitz 1961/2, 91–118). A feature of these finds is the deliberate damaging of the cauldrons, which is not the case at Letchworth. It is true that the vessel is without its bronze basin but the pieces had been carefully separated, as the surviving rivet holes and complete handles attest. At Baldock the cauldron was in a state of disintegration, and stains on the ground showed the position of the handles, one on either side, a position unlikely to be due to deliberate damage. Thus in spite of certain continental tendencies these Hertfordshire fragments are not straightforward parallels of that burial rite. What function the Letchworth example performed is quite unknown. Further research into these artifacts is necessary to place them in the wider context of late British prehistory.

Blackhorse Road.– Roman contexts

Fig. 38

1 Copper alloy 'Colchester' fibula: 76mm long, 22mm max of bow, 25mm across spiral; from layer 3 of 6519. First half of 1st century AD. (Fig. 38: 43)
2 Iron object, possible pot-holder; from layer 2 of 6514.
3 Copper alloy sheet fragment: 17mm high, maximum diameter 21mm; surface of chalk. (Fig. 38: 13).
4 Iron fitting: 55mm long, 8mm wide, 4mm thick; 6506 (Fig. 38: 14).
5 Copper alloy disc: 17mm diameter, 0.79mm thick; 6506 (Fig. 38: 15).
6 Iron ? punch: 77mm long, 9mm square section, 6mm cylindrical section; 6523 (Fig. 38: 17).
7 Copper alloy finger-ring: 22mm diameter, 1mm thick; 6519 (Fig. 38: 19).
8 Small bent iron fragment: 22mm long, 2mm thick; 6504 (Fig. 38: 21).
9 Copper alloy fragment: 17mm high, 11mm wide, 4mm thick; 6549 (Fig. 38: 23).
10 Copper alloy spiral ring: 38mm external diameter, 3mm thick; 6539 (Fig. 38: 24).
11 Copper alloy round-section ring: 47mm maximum diameter, 5mm thick; 6513 (Fig. 38: 28).
12 Iron ring fragment: 46mm, 13mm wide; 6513 (Fig. 38: 29).
13 Iron nail: 90mm l, 7mm wide, 2mm thick; 6513 (Fig. 38: 30).
14 Iron binding: 88mm long, 48mm high, 8mm thick (Fig. 38: 31).
15 Iron fragment bent at right-angles: 42mm high, 19mm long, 2mm thick; (Fig. 38: 32).
16 Iron fragment bent but broken: 50mm high, 2mm thick; (Fig. 38: 33).
17 Short iron nail: 21mm long, 6mm diameter of shaft, 8mm diameter of head; 6519 (Fig. 38: 36).
18 Iron fragment: 27mm long, 27mm wide, 2mm thick; 6519 (Fig. 38: 37).
19 Iron nail: 61mm long, 10mm head width; 6519 (Fig. 38: 39).
20 Copper alloy plaque with 10 holes: 102mm long, 53mm high; 6520. Probable repair patch for cauldron or bucket (Fig. 38: 40).
21 Iron blade fragment with diamond section tang: 86mm long, 24mm wide, tang length 16mm; (Fig. 38: 41).

Blackhorse Road – probable Post-Roman.

1 Copper token.
Obverse. In the field R H.
Legend IN. FINCH.L.
Reverse. ? Coat of arms. AT. D.
From top of ditch in 6509.
2 Copper alloy decorated buckle: 42mm × 26mm × 3mm; 6501 (Fig. 38: 20).
3 Copper alloy plain belt buckle: 27mm × 4mm × 2mm; 3549 (Fig. 38: 22).
4 Copper alloy harness bell: 24mm diameter; 6650 (Fig. 38: 7).

Human remains

A report on the human remains from Blackhorse Road was provided by C.B. Denston, formerly of the Department of Physical Anthropology, University of Cambridge, which is lodged in the archive. The finds are in Cambridge Department of Physical Anthropology. They were of individuals from contexts 6548, 6546, 7215, 7239, 7243.

Animal remains from Blackhorse Road, Letchworth by Anthony Legge, John Williams and Phoebe Williams, of Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London.

During excavations at Blackhorse Road, animal bones were recovered from several sub-sites ranging from the Late Neolithic to the Romano-British periods. It should be noted that this material was excavated before the time that sieving was shown to have a marked effect upon the efficiency of recovery, and in consequence the proportions of identified bones and the species that they represent will inevitably show some bias towards the larger species and the more intact specimens. The sites are considered in chronological order.

Five Neolithic pits containing sherds of Beaker, Grooved Ware, flints and animal bones were discovered. Although all of the animal remains from Blackhorse Road have recently been examined, it is unfortunate that the bones from these Neolithic pits cannot now be found among them. However, the bones from the pits were originally examined in the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, as a teaching exercise. An unsigned list of identifications for the bones found in two pits (pits 1 and 7) was made at that time, and the original list is in the archive at Letchworth Museum. The only bones surviving from Neolithic contexts are two specimens displayed in Letchworth Museum, an antler pick, and the scapula of domestic Bos.

Species from Neolithic pits at Blackhorse Road, are shown as originally listed. This list seldom records whether the bones were from the right or left side, or,

often, whether the proximal or distal end of a bone is represented. The numbering of the teeth does not follow the modern convention. These have been renumbered to conform to the system commonly used now (i.e. P2, P3, P4, M1, M2 and M3 for the lower permanent premolars and molars of animals such as cattle or sheep; pigs have one more premolar). The identifications are listed and suggested revisions are noted.

Contents of Pit 6063

Wild cattle: metacarpal; navicular-cuboid; cuneiform; medial phalanx (2) lower milk molars 1 and 2; P2; P2; M2; M3.

Domestic cattle: unfused metatarsal; proximal metacarpal; distal unfused metapodial; M1, M2, M1, M3, (not separated upper/lower);incisor.

Pig: unfused distal epiphysis of tibia; scapula; phalanx 1; phalanx 2 (3 specimens); M3; and one each of Incisor, Molar, (not separated upper/lower). Besides these bones, there was most of the skeleton of a piglet, noted as 'extremely young'.

Sheep: proximal phalanx; pelvis.

Dog: 1 molar, 2 incisors, 1 phalanx.

Red deer: phalanx 3 (2); femur fragment; (two further specimens of phalanx 1 are attributed to fallow deer; as this species is not know to be present in Britain during the Neolithic period it is more likely that these are also from red deer; it is suggested that the number of red deer phalanges should be regarded as 4).

Human: humerus.

Pit 6072

Wild cattle: distal metapodial (2); navicular-cuboid; phalanx 2 (3); phalanx 3; (distal?) epiphysis of femur; patella; sacrum; 3 molar teeth (2 recorded as upper right); 1 incisor.

Domestic cattle: phalanx 1; phalanx 2; distal epiphysis of tibia; sesamoid; 5 milk molars (2 recorded as lower and 2 as upper); 2 permanent molars (1 upper, 1 lower) 2 third permanent molars (not distinguished upper/lower)

Pig: distal humerus; phalanx 1; phalanx 2; ulna; lateral metapodial; maxilla with M2 and M3 (worn), 4 molar teeth (1 recorded lower, 1 upper); 1 incisor.

Sheep: calcaneum; proximal phalanx; maxilla with M2 and M3; mandible with milk dentition; 4 molars. There was also the skeleton of a lamb, described only as 'young'.

Pit 6612

The antler pick (Fig. 39) is made in the typical form. The base shows that it had been shed, and the burr does not show the battering characteristic of many (but not all) antler picks from flint-mining sites (Legge 1981a). It had a double brow tine (or brow and bez tines), the lower of which is broken off. The remaining tine has a considerable degree of tip wear. Above the brow tines, the third or trez tine had also been snapped from the beam, and the broken end at the beam shows evidence of deliberate smoothing. The beam had been snapped through above this, possibly following from ring-cutting through the hard surface of the antler before it was broken, and the broken end was smoothed, typically again for antler picks, by charring. The specimen has all of the attributes of a typical antler pick (see Legge 1981a, Fig. 57), and the wear on the brow tine indicates that it had been used for that purpose. It was placed, or discarded, in the pit when still capable of effective use.

The second specimen is part of a large left scapula, probably from a domestic bull. Much of the blade is broken, and the spine is also broken off. The preservation of the specimen is not very good; it has been displayed as a possible scapula shovel, of the type found in the flint mines at Harrow Hill and Cissbury (Curwen 1937). However, the glenoid is not pierced, nor are there indications of use or wear on the broken margins. The specimen was seen by one of us (AJL), whose opinion is that it is not an artifact, and was not utilised in any way. The type of damage is characteristic for this bone, with the more fragile parts being lost; only the more robust glenoid and neck region survive well.

A significant proportion of the bones listed above are identified as wild cattle (*Bos primigenius*). It is possible that some of these are domestic bulls, as it is known that the bones of these and wild cows overlapped in size (Degerbol and Fredskild 1970, Legge 1981b). In some cases this diagnosis is undoubtedly correct; from pit 60631 a Bos metacarpal, in which the measurement points that were used can be reasonably predicted, falls within the range of male *Bos primigenius*; other measurements listed are less certain, or were made on juvenile specimens.

Pits 6063 and 6072 show quite similar proportions of species, and in both pits cattle (those identified as wild and domestic together) are the most common species. The contents of the two pits are therefore combined in the tabulation below. The relative abundance of species is calculated by counting all bones, and jaws with teeth. Loose teeth and the skeletons of very young animals are not counted. If the identifications are taken as given, proportions:

	wild cattle	*domestic cattle*	*pig*	*sheep*	*red deer*
bones & teeth	14	8	13	6	5
percent	30.4	17.4	28.2	13.0	10.8

If the bones attributed to wild and domestic cattle are combined, the 22 specimens of cattle amount to 47% of the sample. For the purpose of comparison, the animal bones from Neolithic pits known from sites elsewhere are treated in the same way (by counting only identified bones and jaws, and ignoring loose teeth and bone fragments).

Puddlehill (Bedfordshire), pit 6 (Grigson 1976)

	wild cattle	*domestic cattle*	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*red deer*
all specimens	26	26	7	4	2
percent	40.0	40.0	10.8	6.1	3.0

While the bones of cattle and pigs are about equally well represented in pit 6, this does not appear to be the case in other pits at the same site. The animal remains from pits 1, 2 and 3 found at Puddlehill are less easy to compare in this way, as mandibles and loose teeth appear to be counted together (Ewbank 1964). It is evident, however, that pigs are the most common

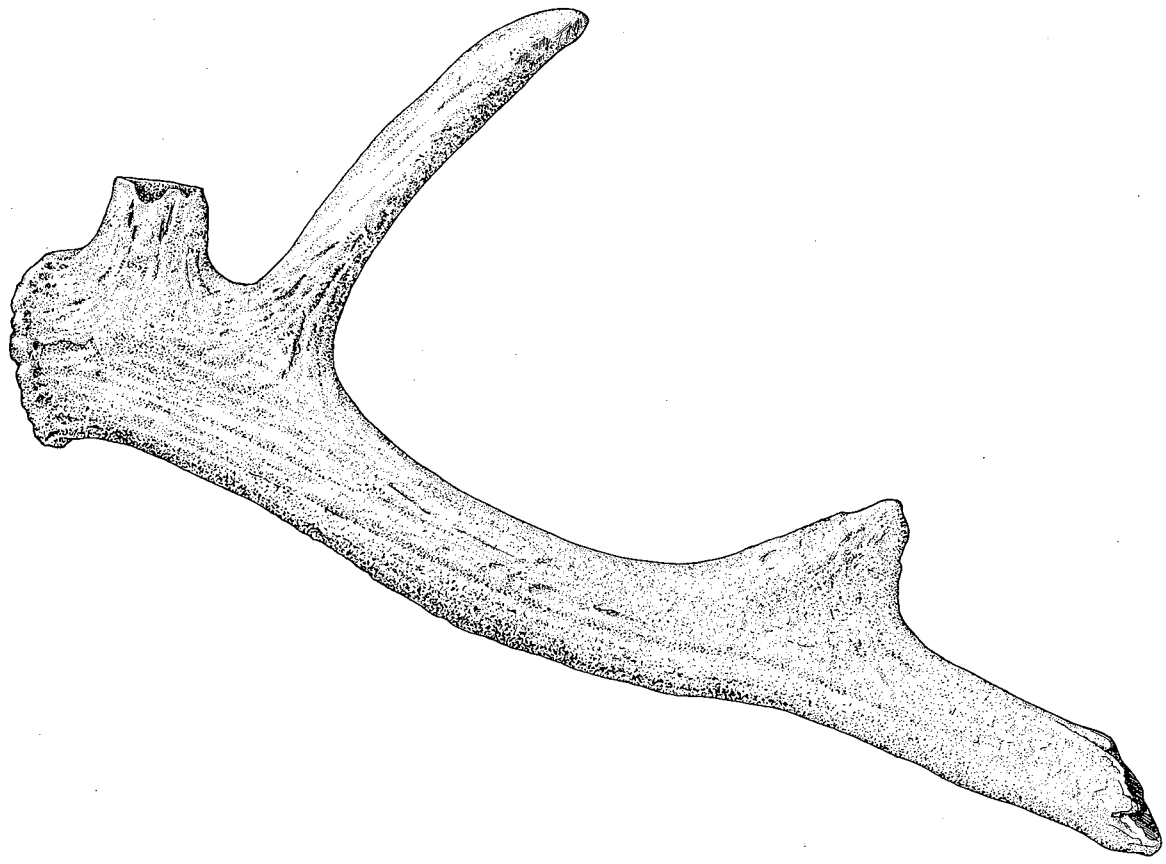


Figure 39. Neolithic antler pick.

species in these pits; in pits 1 and 3 the bones of pigs greatly outnumber those of cattle.

Among a recent sample of 14 pits of Neolithic date at Down Farm in Wiltshire, the proportions of species were again found to vary from one pit to another (Legge, forthcoming). The proportions of species found were:

Down Farm, Wilts: proportions of main species; all Neolithic pits:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*red/roe deer*	*others*
all pits combined	47.9%	41.7%	4.9%	4.9%	0.7%
Pit 11A	64.8%	9.3%	7.4%	13.0%	1.9%
Pit 29	40.9%	59.1%	0	0	0

From this, it can be seen that the predominant mammalian species found in such late Neolithic pits may be cattle in some cases and pig in others. The Blackhorse Road pits share with Puddlehill pit 6 (Grigson 1976) and Down Farm pit 11A assemblages of bones where cattle bones (both wild and domestic) are common. On the other hand, pits 1 and 3 at Puddlehill (Ewbank 1964) show a marked preponderance of pig bones, as does pit 29 at Down Farm. While the proportions of the most common species are found to vary in this way, there are other features which such pit groups do have in common. The proportion of wild mammals is usually (for British Neolithic sites) quite high; red and roe deer often make up 5–10% of the identified bones, and Bos primigenius remains are common among those of cattle. However, the variable proportion of species found in such pits, even in different pits at the same site, suggests that care should be taken in the interpretation of such assemblages in environmental terms.

Elsewhere (Legge, forthcoming) I have argued that the contents of the pits at Down Farm are not simply domestic refuse. The number of identifiable bones that such pits contain is usually modest; there are quite commonly whole skulls and antlers or antler picks included, and there are relatively few unidentifiable fragments in relation to the identified bones. The position of objects within the pits, and the association of sherds and other artefacts with the bones, is indicative of arranged or specially deposited assemblages of objects. At the same time the bones which are most often found are also those which have a high density, and are resistant to destruction by dogs and other agents (Binford and Bertram 1977; Binford 1981). These are bones such as the metapodials, phalanges, astragalus, distal humerus and distal tibia. Although occasional vertebrae may be found (Puddlehill pit 6 is unusual in that vertebrae are rather common), it is usually the more robust limb extremities and mandibles which are found. The bones also commonly show the

effects of dog-gnawing. If this interpretation is correct (and it is set out in detail in the forthcoming report on the animal bones from Down Farm), then other pits such as those at Puddlehill and Blackhorse Road which exhibit many similar characteristics among the animal bones that were deposited may also have a marked 'ritual' character.

At Blackhorse Road, the pits show a concentration of head and foot parts, and the other bones which survive are usually those of high density. There is also at least one antler pick of typical form from the site. It is unfortunate that other studies of Neolithic pit groups, for example at Ratfyn (Jackson 1935) and Rudston and Boynton (Bramwell 1974), either do not list the bones that were identified, or present the proportions of species in such a manner as not to allow the data to be examined in other ways.

The animal bones from Blackhorse Road which were examined by the writers of this report are described below. As with the Neolithic contexts above, excavation took place at a time when the necessity of sieving for the recovery of bones was not appreciated. In consequence, the proportions of the species found and even the age classes of the animals as determined by the mandibles can only be taken as an indication of the former faunal composition in the various phases and features. However, in this case the bones survive in Letchworth Museum. The tables below are based on all identified fragments of bone, and on jaws which retain teeth. Where loose lower third milk and permanent molars were found which, from their wear states were unlikely to come from jaw-fragments which had been counted, these were added to the totals. For other loose teeth – of which there is a considerable number – counts only are given, without percentages.

Possibly attributable to the Late Neolithic are 126 bones and 29 jaws from the fill of a ditch in the vicinity of Enclosure Four but suffering the intrusion of Middle Iron Age pits and a Roman ditch. The proportions are:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*	*total*
bones	60	8	42	16	126
percent	47.6	6.3	33.3	12.7	
jaws	17	2	10	0	29
percent	58.0	6.9	34.5	0	

It is probable that most of the horses were derived from the later phases that are represented in the pits, as the horse, while possibly present in the Neolithic period of Britain, is always found to be rare at that time (Grigson 1966).

From 6638, Ditch 2 (2) which contained Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery came an important find in the form of the left mandible of the brown bear, *Ursus arctos*. The mandible is broken immediately in front of the alveolus of M1, and the mandibular hinge and ascending ramus are also broken away. M2 is also lost, with only the posterior root remaining in the alveolus. M3 is present in the jaw, and is worn flat. The remains of bears are especially rare in the later prehistory of southern Britain, and only two other specimens are known to us. One of these was found at the Neolithic site of Ratfyn in Wiltshire (Jackson 1935), and a left ulna was recently found in a Neolithic pit associated with Grooved Ware at Down Farm, also in Wiltshire (Legge, forthcoming).

From Iron Age contexts

GLI/II, Enclosure One, Early Iron Age, provided bones from

a a pre-enclosure phase;
b ditch of Enclosure One;
c pits and features within Enclosure One.

From the pre-enclosure phase, the following species have been identified:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*
bones	35	4	12	3
percent	64.8	7.4	22.2	3.7

From the ditch of Enclosure One, the following bones of large mammals were identified:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*
bones	31	2	31	2
percent	46.9	3.0	46.9	3.0
jaws	6	2	3	2

Small mammals and birds:

1 dog (*Canis familiaris*), most of skeleton;
2 chicken (*Gallus gallus*), left tibio-metatarsus.

From within Enclosure One came additional bones and jaws:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*
bones	26	1	1	2
jaws	4	2	1	0

Small animals from features within interior of Enclosure One:

1 chicken (*Gallus gallus*), right tibio-metatarsus;
2 toad (*Bufo bufo*), several bones;
3 fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), atlas vertebra, left astragalus and calcaneum, 2 phalanges.

From Enclosure Two, Middle Iron Age

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*	*total*
bones	115	7	63	15	200
percent	57.5	3.5	31.5	7.5	
jaws	10	6	16	0	34
percent	31.2	18.8	50.0	0	

Loose teeth

	cattle		*pig*		*sheep/ goat*		*horse*	
	R	*L*	*R*	*L*	*R*	*L*	*R*	*L*
mandibular	11	4	2	0	2	1	3	6
maxillary	4	4	0	0	2	1	0	0

Small mammals

Hare (*Lepus europaeus*), part skeletons, 2 animals;
Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*), mandible and limb bones;
Small bird, metacarpal, blackbird size.

Bone implements

1 From ditch section 6195 at depth of 1.22 m. The shaft of a left tibia, sheep size. The proximal and distal epiphyses are broken off by the usual form of percussive butchery breaks. The spiral form of fracture on the distal shaft has been worked to a short slender point.

2 From ditch section 6150 layer 3. The distal tibia shaft, probably of a sheep. The specimen shows two carefully made circular grooves cut round the circumference of the bone. At one end, the bone has been snapped at one of these grooves; the other end shows a natural break. The second cut circles the centre of the shaft fragment. The shaft between the two circular cuts has been pierced on one face by rotary drilling, using a small tapered drill bit. The bone has been used for the manufacture of one or more small, hollow toggles, one of which is unfinished.

From Middle Iron Age pits in Area XIII

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*	*total*
bones	45	6	18	4	73
percent	61.6	8.2	24.6	5.5	
jaws	6	1	1	1	9

Other finds with the middle Iron Age material were two bones of the hare, *Lepus europaeus*. These were a distal left humerus, and a left tibia. These showed no sign of cutting or burning, but their position in the pit suggests that they do represent food remains.

From the Middle Iron Age pits of Area X

It is possible that a small amount of Neolithic bone is incorporated in this assemblage, due to ancient admixture. The species found were:

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*	*total*
bones	134	8	23	38	203
percent	66.0	3.9	15.3	18.7	
jaws	20	3	9	0	32
percent	62.5	9.4	28.1		

Among the bones from these features was a very broken skull of a small cow. It was impracticable to attempt reconstruction of this specimen, though some of its characteristics can be described. The skull shows some evidence of bone damage and inflammation on the frontal bone between the horn cores. The horn cores are very small, and curve forwards and slightly upwards. The intact horn core has a maximum anterior–posterior thickness at the base (measurement 45 in Von den Dreisch 1976) of 35.3mm, and a minimal measurement (measurement 46) of 31.3mm. The length on the outside curve (measurement 47) is 111.2mm.

From Romano-British double-ditch in Area XIV

	cattle	*pig*	*sheep/ goat*	*horse*	*total*
bones	42	8	31	22	103
percent	40.8	7.8	30.1	21.4	
jaws	9	2	6	4	21
percent	42.9	9.5	28.6	19.0	

Other species:

1 Right humerus shaft of human, broken mid-shaft and with the distal epiphysis broken off.

2 Right femur shaft of human, broken mid-shaft and with the proximal articulation broken off. The linear aspera is very strongly developed in this specimen, indicating a male.

3 Skull fragment of human; probably parietal. The sutures at one margin are not closed.

4 Corvus sp.; raven? left proximal tibio-metatarsus.

5 Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), distal right humerus and 1 lumbar vertebra.

Conclusions

In the tables above, sheep bones are given as 'sheep/goat' as it is always impossible to distinguish every fragment into one or other of these species. Of those bones which could be potentially separated using existing criteria (Boessneck *et al.* 1964, Prummel and Frisch 1986), all proved to be sheep. In the discussion, the group is collectively identified as sheep, as there is no doubt that these made up the greater part of the sheep/goat bones in all phases of the site.

A detailed discussion concerning the form of the Iron Age economy is limited by the nature of the samples. While the total number of bones from Blackhorse Road is moderately large, it is divided among several sub-sites so that each site has only a few hundred identified bones and jaws. However the Tables show that the faunas from all of the sites show certain common features. Cattle are the most common domestic mammal, and are equalled in importance by sheep only in a small sample from the Iron Age palisade trench. Pigs are rather infrequent in all of the later sites. Sheep vary somewhat between 22.2% and 46.9% but, bearing in mind the note of caution above, the proportion of this species will certainly be the most influenced by methods of recovery.

Small mammal and bird bones are not very abundant at any of the sites. Fox bones are occasionally encountered, but it is at least as probable that these are intrusive as that they were contemporary with the settlement. Hare bones were found in the middle Iron Age pits, and in the ditch fill of Enclosure Two. These finds, combined with the virtual absence of deer from any of the Iron Age sites, supports the interpretation that the Iron Age landscape was very open. The finds of bird bones were largely restricted to those of a member of the crow family, probably the raven. These are (and other members of the same family) are likely to be found as scavengers.

Age at death in cattle and sheep

The age classes at death have been determined using the method of Payne (1973); as the dentition and pattern of eruption is very similar between sheep and

cattle, the method has been used for the latter species as well as the sheep for which the it was originally designed. The system is based upon the observation of a number of tooth eruption events:

A lower milk molar 3 unworn.
B milk molar 3 in wear, M1 unworn.
C M1 in wear, M2 unworn.
D M2 in wear, M3 unworn.
E M3 in wear, posterior cusp unworn.
F posterior cusp of M3 in wear, infundibulae still open.
G infundibulae of M2 and M3 closed.
H infundibulae of M2 reduced in size.
I infundibulae of M3 reduced in size.

(Note: the infundibulum is described as 'closed' when wear has extended to the point where the enamel surround of the infundibulum is no longer continuous with the enamel of the outer surface of the tooth, and the infundibulum is isolated by exposed dentine. For stages G–I, this can be seen in Payne 1973, Figs. 6 and 8.)

Sheep: age classes from mandibles

Tooth eruption stage	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*
Enclosure Two	0	0	7	2	3	2	4	0	0
Middle Iron Age pits	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	0
Romano-British ditch	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0

No site has a sufficient number of jaws to allow a consideration of the age profiles in relation to husbandry. Overall, the Iron Age sheep mandibles show a concentration on killing in age classes C, D and E of Payne (1973), which suggests that a substantial proportion died at an age of 1–2 years; stage E represents rather older animals in the 2–3 year age class.

Cattle: age classes from mandibles

Tooth eruption stage	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*
Enclosure One trench	0	0	1	0	4	3	2	3	7
Enclosure Two	0	0	2	4	4	1	2	3	1
Middle Iron Age pits	0	0	4	2	1	1	3	3	2
Romano-British ditch	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	4

Cattle also show a peak of killing at about the same tooth eruption stages as the sheep (that is, stages C, D and E), though in this larger, slower maturing species this represents more advanced ages. Stage E, in which the first wear appears on the third permanent molar, represents a wear stage which according to Simonds (1854) was attained in mid-nineteenth-century cattle at between 2 and 3 years of age. It appears from this that this initial cull was of cattle at or near their maximum body size, representing the most efficient point of killing for meat. Some cattle were killed in at intermediate states of mature age, represented by age classes F and G, though a substantial proportion lived on to relatively advanced ages marked by classes H and I.

As far as this reflects the original culling policies it is as would be anticipated; both sheep and cattle appear to show peaks of killing at the time when the surplus animals had attained most of their adult body size. The evidence points to a generalised form of economy in which the species were no doubt exploited for a variety of outputs.

Body size

Cattle

A small number of bones can be used to establish some aspects of body size in the cattle and sheep. For the cattle, Fig. 3 (Legge 1980) shows two dimensions of the distal humerus plotted for all measurable specimens from the Iron Age sites, and one of Late Neolithic age. The specimens show a considerable variation in size. Some of the cattle are relatively large, and overlap with populations of known Neolithic date (Legge 1981b, Fig. 5). This may well represent the later incorporation of earlier Neolithic or Bronze Age specimens into Iron Age deposits at Blackhorse Road. On the other hand even the three smallest specimens, from the Middle Iron Age, are only as small as the lower end of the size range for Bronze Age cattle from Grimes Graves (Fig. 4, Legge 1980). It would therefore seem that the cattle from the Iron Age contexts at Blackhorse Road had shown no size reduction from the time of the Bronze Age; this is contrary to the findings of Jewell (1963, Fig. 20). However, as the sample from Blackhorse Road is few, and earlier material might be incorporated into the sample, too much weight cannot be given to these conclusions.

Sheep

Very few sheep bones could be measured; no measurement is sufficiently numerous for the size of the sheep to be considered.

Horse

Three Iron Age horse metacarpals could be measured, and their lengths (202.7, 204.0 and 221.4mm) indicate the small pony known from other British Iron Age sites (Wilson *et al.* 1978).

Measurements

The site from which the specimen comes is listed. The appropriate code following von den Dreisch (1976) is given in brackets. The measurement TT is not given in von den Dreisch; it represents the maximum thickness of the medial border of the humerus condyle (see Legge 1981a, Fig. 58B).

Pit 6063: Bos metacarpal, complete: (GL) 268mm; (Bp) 84.5mm; (Bd) 84mm; (SD) 50.5mm.

Bos, distal humerus:

		BT	*TT*
1	*Late Neolithic*	65.6	40.6
2	*Enclosure Two*	61.9	37.1
3	*Enclosure Two*	69.1	39.6
4	*Enclosure Two*	76.0	38.6
5	*Middle Iron Age*	61.0	36.0
5	*Romano-British*	74.0	38.2
6	*Romano-British*	64.7	36.5
7	*Romano-British*	64.0	38.1
8	*No context*	62.7	37.7

Horse, metacarpal:

Middle Iron Age, GL = 202.7, Bp = 47.7, SD = 31.4, Bd=36.4;

Middle Iron Age, GL = 204.0, Bp = 45.6, SD = 31.1,;

Enclosure Two, GL = 221.4, Bp = 45.0, SD = 28.4, Bd = 43.4.

OBJECTS OF STONE

Flint artifacts
by J.J. Wymer

The flints submitted for this report come from various contexts and, in the absence of other dating evidence, an assessment as to whether they constitute one or more industries, or are spread over a long or short period of time, can only be made from their typology and condition.

Finished tool forms of diagnostic types are rare, the most informative being a few petit tranchet or petit tranchet derivative arrowheads. The technology of flake removal varies from the very crude to reasonably skilled blade production. With rare exceptions, the flints are uniformly patinated a smooth white.

The numbers of flint artifacts are given in the list below, separated into their site contexts. It will be seen that they are few in number. Those found in 1972 came from various segments of a pair of parallel ditches and some associated pits, and were amalgamated by the excavator. They produce a more sizable assemblage and it seems very likely that they do belong to one flint industry or, at least, the great majority do. This is a subjective assessment, based on the similarity of their condition, their discovery in apparently contemporary features and the absence of anything to denote the contrary. They have, therefore, been treated as such for the purpose of this report and, as can be seen below, an analysis of flakes supports this assumption. There is also no reason to consider the finds made from other contexts as any different.

Associated finds with the flints were Ebbsfleet sherds in pits 7007, layer (6), and sherds of Rusticated Beaker, Grooved Ware, Peterborough vessels, and a bone pin in the pit 6601 layers (3) and (4), charcoal from which produced a radiocarbon date of 3590±130 BP (uncalibrated) (BM284). These are described below followed by an analysis of the industry represented by the 1972 collection. This pit contained 32 flakes, a p.t.d. arrowhead, a scraper (fire-damaged), 4 flakes with secondary working or signs of use and a fire-crackled natural flint (Fig. 40, 1). The association of Grooved Ware sherds with p.t.d. arrowheads is well-attested, and the radiocarbon date is of the right order. A few other associations are known, especially in feature 6072 which contained Beaker sherds. These include four scrapers (Fig. 40, nos. 7–9), a small serrated blade (no. 5), a backed blade with a serrated opposite edge (no. 4) and a broken, probably unfinished arrowhead (no. 2).

The petit tranchet and p.t.d. arrowheads alone give a Late Neolithic date. It is useful to have this additional site to corroborate the association between them and Grooved Ware, but there are few sites in southern England that have yielded a flint industry that can be attributed to this period. One of the first was that under a round barrow on Arreton Down on the Isle of Wight. This is a considerable distance from Hertfordshire, but now there is the well-documented complex of sites at Fengate, which is much closer and offers a better parallel to Blackhorse Road. For this reason, in the analysis of the flints below, they are described in the same manner as those from the Fengate Storey's Bar Road subsite, published in the second and third Fengate reports (Pryor 1978, 1980). Although the numbers of artifacts is small in comparison, it will be seen that Blackhorse Road has produced a similar industry.

The flint artifacts found in 1972 consisted of 306 flakes, the majority uniformally patinated white, 12

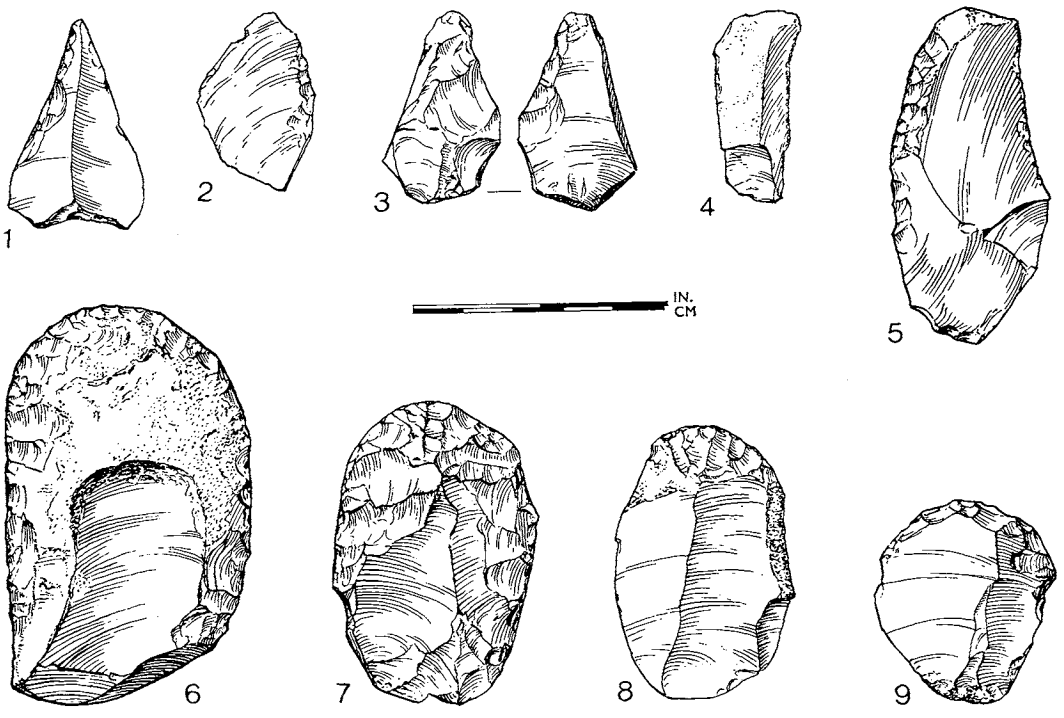


Figure 40. Neolithic flints.

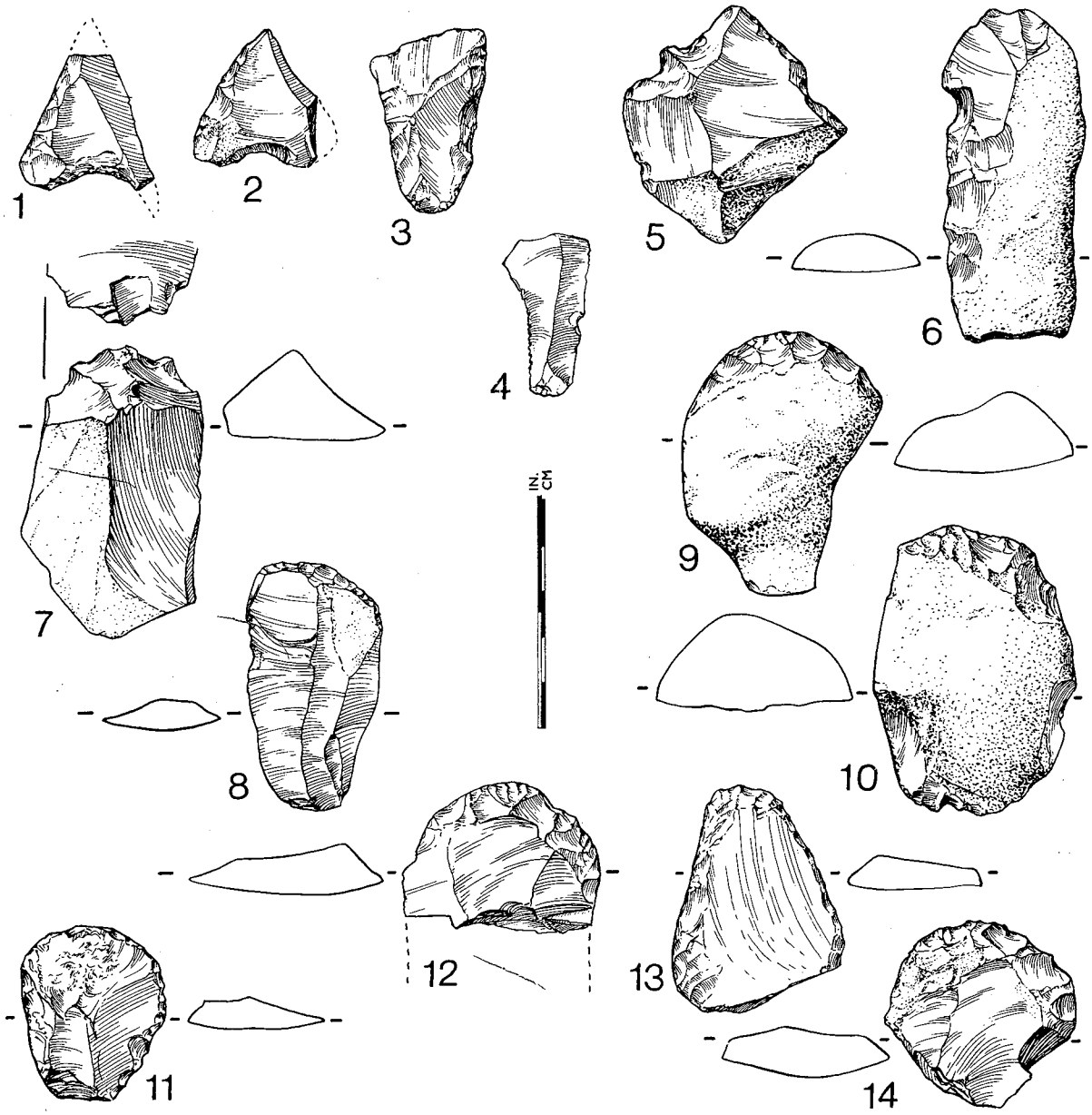


Figure 41. Neolithic flints.

scrapers, 4 serrated flakes, 10 flakes with unspecialised secondary working, 1 petit tranchet arrowhead, 1 petit tranchet derivative arrowhead, 2 cores. Of these 306 flakes, 29 were excluded on account of their being broken, recently damaged or of doubtful provenance. The total number of flints considered was, therefore, 307, made up as follows:

277 flakes	90.2% of the total
12 scrapers	3.9%
14 utilised flakes	4.6%
2 arrowheads	0.7%
2 cores	0.7%
IMPLEMENTS	9.12% of the total

Scrapers (Fig. 41, nos. 7–14)
The 12 scrapers are all complete except one and can be classified as per Clark *et al.* (1960)

Class A	(i) long end	3 (incl. 1 broken)
	(ii) short end	6
Class B	(ii) short double end	1 Class D
	(i) short side	2

Three of the short end and the double end scrapers are made on thick, totally cortical flakes, and only three of all the scrapers are made on flakes totally devoid of cortex. It is noted that many of the artifacts, scrapers

included, have patches of a limey deposition ('race') which is, of course, secondary to their manufacture but could be mistaken for cortex. The three long end scrapers are end scrapers in the sense that their worked edge is restricted to the end of the flake and does not intrude along the edges. The sides of the flakes are broadly parallel and , in this respect, they resemble their mesolithic counterparts. The broken example (Fig. 41, no. 12) is accepted as such because of the nature of the fracture, which still retains a jagged protrusion which would almost certainly have been flaked away if the tool had been made on a broken flake. It is 12mm thick and 34mm of length remains of what was probably about 60mm. It may have, when complete, been set into a handle and broken in use at the point of insertion, but this would have demanded considerable pressure on a flake of such thickness and there is no corresponding sign of heavy use at the working end. One of the other long end scrapers is unusual in being both denticulate and partly bifacial (Fig. 41, no. 7). Another of the short end scrapers is also partly bifacial, but not denticulate.

The short double end scraper is a crude example, made on a thermal flake. One of the side scrapers (Fig. 41, no. 13) is more accurately a convergent scraper. The secondary working is relatively steep and bears a different light blue patina to the white patina of the parent flake. This is the only clear example seen of two periods of workmanship.

Typologically, the Blackhorse Road scrapers are far less regular and discoidal than those from the Fengate subsite as published (Pryor 1978, Fig. 47) but, with such a small sample, this is perhaps not very significant. It could well be the result of their being made on mainly thick, cortical flakes, which seem to have been the only ones available of suitable dimensions for using as blanks.

Lengths of complete scrapers:

mm	*10–20*	*20–30*	*30–40*	*40–50*	*50–60*	*60–70*
number	–	–	1	2	5	3
percent		9.1	18.2	45.5	27.2	

Widths of 11 complete scrapers:

mm	*10–20*	*20–30*	*30–40*	*40–50*	*50–60*	*60–70*
number	–	2	3	4	2	–
percent	–	18.2	27.2	36.4	18.2	–

Thicknesses of 12 scrapers:

mm	*3–5*	*5–7*	*7–9*	*9–11*	*11–13*	*13–15*
number	1	–	2	3	1	1
percent	8.3	–	16.6	25.0	8.3	8.3

mm	*15–17*	*17–19*	*19–21*	*21–23*	*23–25*
number	2	–	–	1	1
percent	16.6			8.3	8.3

Working edge retouch angles of 12 scrapers (to nearest 5 degrees)

angle	*30–35*	*35–40*	*40–45*	*45–50*	*50–55*	*55–60*	*60–65*
number	–	1	1	1	–	6	3
percent	–	8.3	8.3	8.3	–	50	50

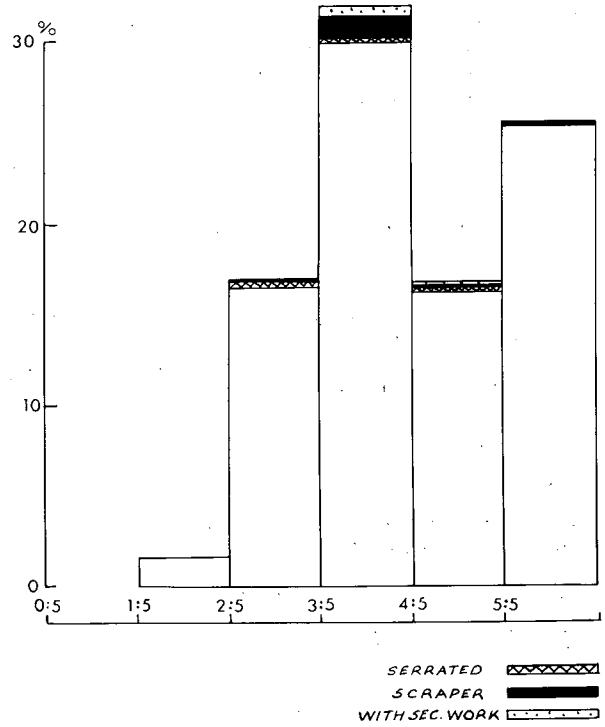


Figure 42. Frequency histogram: scrapers.

There is good agreement in these figures with those from the Fengate subsite: the same highest values for thicknesses and a very slightly lower angle on the working edge at Blackhorse Road.

Arrowheads (Fig. 41, nos. 1–3)
Two examples can be classified as per Clark (1934):
Type C1 Transverse, chisel-ended arrowhead. Finely made with bifacial working mainly intrusive on to the dorsal face of the flake (Fig. 41, no. 3).
Type H Petit tranchet derivative arrowhead with a single barb (broken) and a sharp tip. (Fig. 41, no. 1).

Utilised flakes (Fig. 41, nos. 4–6)

With irregular flaking at one end, possibly rough scrapers	2
Denticulate	1 (Fig. 41, no. 5)
Knife with shallow flaking and a notch, made on a cortical flake	1 (Fig. 41, no. 6)
Bifacial working along one edge on thick cortical flake	1
With steep secondary working on part of dorsal end (unpatinated)	1
With shallow secondary working on part of dorsal end	1
With small notch, made on a completely non-cortical discoidal flake	1
With slight secondary working or damage on proximal ends of small flakes (cf. outils ecailles)	2

Serrated flakes 4 (Fig. 41, no. 4)
Similar serrated flakes are from Mesolithic contexts,

but also occur in Late Neolithic ones, such as at the Fengate subsite. This list of utilised flakes does not take into account the various flakes with minute chippings which could be from use or natural damage. Microwear studies on suitable material would probably show that a very high proportion of flakes had actually been utilised.

BY-PRODUCTS (90.8% of the total)

Cores

Of the only two cores, only one can be classified as per Clark *et al.* (1960): Class B 3 Two platforms at right angles. The other is a small (greatest diameter 42mm) bi-conical discoidal core. The proportion of cores to flakes (0.7%) is even lower than that at Fengate (Storey's Bar Road sub-site 1.9%).

Flakes

A very high proportion of the flakes were either with cortex entirely or on their dorsal faces.

entirely cortex	35	12.6% of all flakes
partly cortex	120	43.3% of all flakes
no cortex	122	44.0% of all flakes

Lengths of 277 complete flakes:

mm	0–10	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	50–60	60–70	70–80
number	1	29	102	80	43	16	5	1
percent	0.4	10.5	36.8	28.9	15.5	5.8	1.8	0.4

Breadths of 277 complete flakes:

mm	0–10	10–20	20–30	30–40	40–50	50–60
number	1	60	124	63	22	7
percent	0.4	2.1	44.8	22.7	7.9	2.5

Breadth/length ratios of 277 complete flakes:

	0–1:5	1:5–2:5	2:5–3:5	3:5–4:5	4:5–5:5
number	–	8	53	89	51	76
percent	–	2.9	19.1	32.1	18.4	27.4

(This table is expressed as a histogram, Fig. 42.)

CONCLUSIONS

Of the flint artifacts from Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, at least the majority belong to one flint industry of Late Neolithic date. This is based on three grounds: (i) the association of a few with Grooved Ware and Beaker sherds, (ii) the typology of the artifacts, (iii) a comparison with a Late Neolithic industry at the Fengate Storey's Bar Road subsite.

The petit tranchet and derivative arrowheads are characteristic of Late Neolithic industries at several sites, especially in East Anglia, and there are no finished forms which are at variance with what is known of their other products. The style of flaking, with a tendency towards squat flakes but the presence of occasional blades, is in agreement.

The metrical tables which have been given above, for comparison with similarly constructed tables at the Fengate subsite (Pryor 1980, 122), show marked similarities, but should not be pressed too far. The size 'preference' for the flakes is the same (20–40mm long) but just slightly broader (20–30mm wide as opposed to 15–20mm at Fengate). There is also the same bi-modal pattern in the breadth/length ratios of the flakes. However, there are several ways of presenting the data for breadth/length ratios and misleading interpretations are easily made, cf. Windmill Hill and Durrington Walls (Farley 1979, 322–3). There is also concern among several archaeologists that known and unknown variables find no expression in such tables. Scattergrams have more to recommend them for visual presentation of selected criteria and it would be a useful exercise to prepare these for the few known Late Neolithic industries in reliable contexts and compare them, but this cannot be attempted here. Nor would Blackhorse Road qualify for such treatment in view of the small sample. Perhaps the most important factor that eludes such metrical tables is the size and quality of the flint available. The large number of cortical and partly cortical flakes from Blackhorse Road, and the lack of any flakes greater than 80mm long, suggests that only small nodules were available for knapping. Yet, the chalk was fresh Chalk flint. Perhaps only small nodules were brought to the site because of the ease of conveyance from the source.

The heavy patina prevents any visual assessment of the quality of the flint that was used, but a few recent chips or breaks show an original colour. Very few of the flints are burnt, but the presence of scrapers, serrated flakes and some retouched pieces attest to domestic activities of some kind, although, apparently, not very intensive. Most surprising, with so many flakes, is the very small number of cores from which they might have been struck. Also, no hammerstones have been recorded, so it would seem that virtually all the knapping took place somewhere else. There is also a total absence of any axe element or any other complete or broken tools that had been ground and polished. The high proportion of cortical flakes in the Blackhorse Road assemblage is somewhat at variance with the lack of much evidence for knapping on the site. However, the smaller proportion of cortical flakes at Fengate can be explained by the use there of gravel flint as opposed to nodules from the Chalk. Most of the flint at Fengate was derived from local gravels and probably not much larger, but this could explain the smaller proportion of cortical flakes.

As for the bi-modal pattern of the breadth/length ratios, this could well be the result of the chance inclusion of numerous small, side-struck flakes produced in secondary working. A similar pattern is to be seen in an earlier collection of flakes found beneath the South Street Barrow in Wiltshire (Ashbee *et al.* 1979, 271).

The flints give little clue to the activities of the contemporary inhabitants in the vicinity , but the small proportion of arrowheads and the fair number of scrapers and utilised flakes (8.5%) attest to domestic rather than hunting or military activity.

Stone specimens modified by human agency

These were identified by Dr C.L. Forbes, then of the Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge. A report on these is in the archive.

A number of sandstone specimens came from Neolithic contexts, many of them crazed, and discoloured by fire. Some had one of their surfaces flattened by human

agency. Several specimens of Millstone Grit had received artificial smoothing. Specimens of Kottenheim lava were recovered from 0035 and from the interior of Enclosure Two, both Iron Age contexts. All the rock types apart from the German specimens could be expected to occur naturally in local boulder clays and river gravels. Some specimens of clinker and slag occurred in 0024, and 0035. Some notes on these by Dr C.E. Turner and Professor R.F. Tylecote, University of London, are in the archive. In the latter's opinion if iron smelting had been carried out on the site, it was done on a very small scale.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Charcoal specimens from Blackhorse Road

The following specimens were submitted to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and kindly identified by Dr D.F. Cutler.

From Neolithic contexts:

Feature	*layer*	*charcoal*
6063	3	*Acer campestre*, 'Field Maple'
	9	*Sorbus* sp.; *Alnus glutinosa*; 'Hawthorn'
	7	*Salix* or *Populus*, 'Willow' or 'Poplar'; a member of Rosaceae, probably *Prunus* sp
	4	*Alnus glutinosa*.
6072	3	probably *Sorbus* sp.; *Alnus glutinosa*
*	4	*Prunus* sp., probably *P. avium*, 'Bird Cherry'; *Crataegus* sp., 'Hawthorn'

* A charcoal sample from this produced a result of 3830±140 yrs BP (uncalibrated), BM-283.

From Iron Age contexts:

Feature	*reference*	*charcoal*
0035	N12: 5′ 4″	*Ulmus* sp.; 'Elm'; *Prunus* sp.; cereal grain probably *Triticum* sp.
	N12S 4′	*Corylus avellana*; 'Hazel'
0022	PD1 4–5	*Quercus* sp. of *robur* type; 'Oak'.
0020	P20 (3)	probably *Crataegus* sp., *Malus* or *Crataegus* sp.; 'Crab Apple'or Hawthorn'
0030	P30	*Acer campestre* and *Dicotyledonous* root
0058	P82	*Quercus* sp.of *robur* type
0021	SkIV	*Quercus* sp.of *robur* type
0048	D14 PTr1	*raxinus excelsior*, 'Ash'; *Salix* or *Populus* sp.
D15	PTr1	probably *Prunus* sp.
D17	PTr1	*Prunus* sp. of *spinosa* type
0176	STrAN	*Ulmus* sp.
0037	P21	*Prunus* sp. of *spinosa* type; 'Blackthorn'
0040a	P29a	probably *Alnus glutinosa*
0043	P41	probably *Crataegus* sp.
0034	TrII	*Quercus* sp. of *robur* type
6037	P37	*Quercus* sp. of *robur* type

The species represented in the charcoal are not unusual in any way for Iron Age vegetation. The plants could all have been found growing in slightly damp or dry scrub or woodland. The cereal grain is probably Triticum sp., but is poorly preserved and not suitable for closer identification.

Radiocarbon dates from Neolithic contexts

Four charcoal samples from Neolithic pits were submitted to the British Museum Research Laboratory with the following with the following results, given as uncalibrated determinations Before Present:

BM-186	3520±150 BP	P6072 layer 3
BM-187	3310±150 BP	P6072 layer 4
BM-283	3830±140 BP	P6072 layer 4
BM-284	3590±130 BP	P6601 layer 4

Non-marine Mollusca

by Michael Kerney

The area lies within a shallow, isolated depression in the hillside, almost certainly of natural origin. The surface of the solid chalk was overlain by up to 1.25m of soil and colluvium. The stratigraphy was everywhere straightforward. The following section was measured in trench:

0–20cm	modern soil
20–63cm	greyish-brown (Munsell 2.5Y 5/2) rubbly chalk silt (colluvium).
63–90cm	very dark greyish-brown (2.5Y 3/2) strongly humic chalk silt, virtually stoneless (A-horizon of buried soil). Grading down into –
90–115cm	ash-grey (N 6/) humic chalk silt and rubble, slightly cemented (Ca-horizon of buried soil). Grading down into –
115 cm+	rubbly broken chalk, essentially *in situ*.

The buried rendsina (63–115cm) is unusually thick in comparison with most chalk rendsinas. It is likely that it was to some extent built up by gentle colluviation from the flanks of the hollow. The A-horizon was extensively penetrated by vertical earthworm holes filled with paler material.

Three samples were taken from the section (40–50cm, 70–80cm, 95–115cm). The Mollusca are listed below. All examples of the burrowing species *Cecilioides acicicula* have a fresh appearance and are probably modern; they have been excluded from the calculation of percentages. In addition to molluscs the lowermost sample yielded a cheek tooth of *Microtus agrestis* (L.) (field vole) and the two upper samples a very small pottery fragment each.

List of Mollusca

depth	*95–105*	*70–80*	*40–50*
dry weight of sample (g.)	1080	1280	1500
Pomatias elegans (Müller)	20	44	16
Carychium tridentatum (Risso)	4	73	1
Cochlicopa spp.	6	22	30
Truncatellina cylindrica (Ferussac)	–	–	2
Vertigo pygmaea (Draparnaud)	1	5	5
Abida secale (Draparnaud)	5	–	–
Pupilla muscorum (L.)	5	89	202
Vallonia costata (Müller)	19	130	64
Vallonia excentrica (Sterki)	3	54	71

Vallonia cf. *excentrica* (juveniles)	9	68	147
Acanthinula aculeata (Müller)	1	8	1
Ena montana (Draparnaud)	1	3	–
Punctum pygmaeum (Draparnaud)	4	11	7
Discus rotundatus (Müller)	9	30	1
Vitrina pellucida (Müller)	1	–	2
Vitrea crystallina (Müller)	1	1	–
Vitrea contracta (Westerlund)	–	4	–
Nesovitrea hammonis (Strom)	–	4	–
Aegopinella pura (Alder)	3	4	–
Aegopinella nitidula (Draparnaud)	6	10	–
Oxychilus cellarius (Müller)	1	3	3
Limax/Deroceras spp.	9	12	12
Cecilioides acicula (Müller)	10	59	123
Cochlodina laminata (Montagu)	2	8	–
Clausilia bidentata (Strom)	21	30	11
Helicella itala (L.)	11	30	59
Trichia cf. plebeia (Draparnaud)	12	63	88
Arianta arbustorum (L.)	x	x	–
Helicigona lapicida (L.)	x	x	x
Cepaea nemoralis (L.)	–	x	x
Cepaea hortensis (Müller)	x	–	–
Cepaea/Arianta spp.	20	19	5

x = non-apical fragments only

The uppermost sample reflects the environment with least ambiguity: the assemblage is that of rather dry calcareous grassland, bare of trees or appreciable scrub. Significant in this respect are the high percentages of *Vallonia* and *Pupilla muscorum*, accounting together for nearly 70% of the total fauna. The rare species *Truncatellina cylindrica* was found only in this sample; its score or so of recorded sites in Britain are mainly dry hillsides where the vegetation cover is sparse and bare rock is locally at the surface.

In general the assemblage is in keeping with conditions widely produced on the chalklands of southern England by late prehistoric arable farming. The material is a ploughwash, which filled the pre-existing hollow fairly rapidly once cultivation had begun on adjacent slopes, burying the soil below.

The assemblages from the buried soil present some difficulties of interpretation. The fauna is more diverse than that of the colluvium and is of ecologically mixed character. The assemblage in the upper part of the soil (70–80cm) mainly reflects grassland. The percentage of *Vallonia* (40.5%) is almost identical to that in the overlying colluvium (39%). But *Pupilla muscorum* is halved in abundance (14.5% as against 28%), suggesting that the grassland was stable and that here were fewer areas of broken ground.

This is of course independently suggested by the excellent development of a stoneless A-horizon, implying a stable and continuous vegetational cover. We may deduce that although forest clearance had been effected, arable cultivation had not yet begun. This supposition is to some extent strengthened by the presence in significant numbers of species which require a certain amount of shade and cover and are intolerant of cultivation (*Carychium tridentatum*, *Acanthinula aculeata*, *Ena montana*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Cochlodina laminata*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Aegopinella* spp.). *Ena montana* is the most important of these: it is a continental species formerly quite widespread but now very local in southern Britain, its decline having apparently been brought about by the combined effects of human interference and the cooler summers of the later part of the Postglacial period.

It is possible that some of these shells may not be contemporary with the grassland element but may be relicts in the soil from an earlier period. On the other hand their preservation is on the whole good, differing in no way from that of the other shells. *Ena montana*, a rather fragile species, is represented by a complete undamaged adult 14.5mm in height. Alternatively it might therefore be suggested that a closer sampling of the A-horizon in thinner slices might have revealed a clear-cut succession from a woodland to a grassland phase. In 1963 the preservation of a stratigraphical record within certain chalk soils was not fully appreciated and the sampling was therefore coarse by modern standards.

The lowermost sample (96–105cm) yielded a rather sparse and ill-preserved assemblage, which in this case is almost certainly a mixture of different dates. It is noteworthy that the scrub and woodland element is proportionately higher than in the A-horizon of the soil, suggesting wooded conditions. The presence of fragments of the locally extinct open-country species *Abida secale* suggests that elements may also survive from an unwooded period in the Late-glacial or very early in the Postglacial.

Soil samples

A report on the soil samples from Wilbury ring-ditch by B.W. Avery, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Herts, is in the archive.

REFERENCES

Applebaum, E.S., 1949. Excavations at Wilbury Hill, an Iron Age Hillfort near Letchworth, *Hertfordshire Archaeological Journal* 106: 12–45.

Ashbee, P., Evans, J.G., and Smith, I.F., 1979. Excavation of three long barrows near Avebury, Wiltshire, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 45: 207–300.

Barrett, J., 1978. The EPRIA prehistoric pottery, in J. Hedges & D. Buckley, Excavations at a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Orsett, Essex, 1975, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 44: 219–308.

Barrett, J., 1980. The pottery of the Late Bronze Age in lowland England, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 46: 297–320.

Bersu, G., 1940. Excavations at Little Woodbury, Wiltshire. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 6: 30–111.

Binford, L.R., 1981. *Bones: ancient men and modern myths*. New York: Academic.

Binford, L.R., and Bertram, J., 1977. Bone frequencies and attritional processes, in L.R. Binford (ed.), *For theory building in archaeology*: 77–153. New York: Academic.

Boessneck, J., Müller, H.H., and Teichert, M., 1964.

Osteologische Unterscheidungsmerkmale zwischen Schaf, *Ovis aries* Linne. und Ziege, *Capra hircus* Linne, *Kuhn-Archiv* 78: 1–129.

Bradley, R., 1980. See Barrett, 1980.

Bramwell, D., 1974. Animal remains from Rudston and Boynton Grooved Ware sites, in T.G. Manby, *Grooved Ware sites in Yorkshire and the North of England*. British Archaeological Reports, British series 9.

Briscoe, G., 1957. Combined Early Iron Age and Romano-British site at Wangford, West Suffolk, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 51: 14–30.

Clark, J.G.D., 1934. Derivative forms of the petit tranchet in Britain, *Archaeological Journal* 91: 32–58.

Clark, J.G.D., and Fell, C.I., 1953. An Early Iron Age Site at Micklemore Hill, West Harling, Norfolk, and its pottery, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 19: 1–40.

Clark, J.G.D., Higgs, E.S., and Longworth, I.H., 1960. Excavations at the Neolithic site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk, 1954, 1957, and 1958, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 26: 202–45.

Cra'ster, M., 1961. The Aldwick Iron Age settlement, Barley, Hertfordshire, *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 54: 22–46.

Cunliffe, B., 1968. Early pre-Roman Iron Age communities in eastern England, *Antiquaries Journal* 48: 175–91.

Cunliffe, B., 1978. *Iron Age communities in Britain*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Cunliffe, B., 1984. *Danebury, an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire*. London: CBA. Research Report.

Curwen, E.C., 1937. *The archaeology of Sussex*. London: Methuen.

Degerbohl, M., and Fredskild, B., 1970. The Urus, *Bos primigenius Bojanus* and Neolithic domesticated cattle, *Bos taurus domesticus* Linne. in Denmark, *Det Kongelige Dansk Videnskabernes Selskab, Biologiske Skrifter* 17, 1. Copenhagen.

Dixon, P., 1982. How Saxon is the Saxon house?, in Drury (1982): 280–81.

Drury, P.J. (ed.), 1982. *Structural reconstruction: approaches to the interpretation of the excavated remains of buildings*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British series 110.

Dunning, G.C., 1934. The swans-neck and ring headed pin of the Early Iron Age in Britain, *Archaeological Journal* 91: 269–95.

Eggers, H.J., 1954. Der Römische Import im Freien Germanien, *Atlas der Urgeschichte*. Hamburg: Hamburgisches Museum für Völkerkunde und Vorgeschichte.

Ewbank, J., 1964. Animal bones, in N.H. Field, C.L. Matthews and I.F. Smith, New Neolithic sites in Dorset and Bedfordshire with a note on the distribution of Neolithic storage pits in Great Britain, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 15: 364–6.

Farley, M., 1979. Flint flake dimensions in the British Neolithic, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*.45: 322.

Fell, C.I., 1952. An Early Iron Age settlement at Linton, Cambs., *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquiarian Society* 46: 31–42.

Fox, C.F., 1923. *The archaeology of the Cambridge region*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Green, H.S., 1980. *The flint arrowheads of the British Isles*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British series 75, i and ii.

Grigson, C., 1966. Animal remains from the Fussells Lodge long barrow, *Archaeologia* 100: 63–73.

Grigson, C., 1976. The animal bones found in Pit 6, in Matthews (1976): 11–18.

Guilbert, G. (ed.), 1981. *Hill-fort studies: essays for A.H.A. Hogg*. Leicester: Leicester University Press.

Gurney, F.G., Hawkes, C.F.C., 1940. An Early Iron Age inhumation and burial at Egginton, Bedfordshire, *Antiquaries Journal* 20: 230–44.

Harding, D.W., 1971. *The Iron Age in the upper Thames basin*. Oxford: Clarendon.

Harding, D.W., 1973. Round and rectangular: Iron Age houses, British and foreign, in C.F.C. and S.C. Hawkes (ed.), *Archaeology into history* 1: *Greeks, Celts and Romans*: 43–62.

Harding, D.W., 1974. *The Iron Age in lowland Britain*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Harsema, O.H., 1982. Structural reconstruction of Iron Age houses in the Netherlands, in Drury (1982): 199–222.

Jackson, D.A., 1975. An Iron Age site at Twywell, Northamptonshire, *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 10: 31–93.

Jackson, D.A., 1979. A Middle Iron Age Site at Geddington, *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 14: 10–16.

Jackson, J.W., 1935. Report on the animal bones from Pit 5, in J.F.S. Stone, Some discoveries at Ratfyn, Amesbury, and their bearing on the date of Woodhenge, *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine* 47: 55–67.

Jewell, P.A., 1963. Cattle from British archaeological sites, in J. Morant and F.E. Zeuner (ed.), *Man and cattle*: 80–91. London: Royal Anthropological Institute, Occasional Paper 8.

Kenyon, K.M., 1950. Excavations at Breedon-on-the-Hill, 1946, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society* 26: 17–82.

Kenyon, K.M., 1952. A survey of the evidence concerning the origins of Iron Age A in southern and Midland Britain, *London Institute of Archaeology Report* 8: 29–78.

Kimble, D., 1933. Cholesbury Camp, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* (new series) 39: 187–212.

Knight, D., 1984. *Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement in the Nene and Great Ouse Basins*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British series 130, i and ii.

Kramer, W., and Jacobi, J., 1974. *Die Ausgrabungen in Manching* 5: *Werkzeuge und Gerät aus dem Oppidum von Manching*. Wiesbaden.

Legge, A.J., 1981a. The agricultural economy, in R.J. Mercer, *Grimes Graves, Norfolk; excavations 1971–1972*: 79–103. London: HMSO, DoE Archaeological Reports.

Legge, A.J., 1981b. Aspects of cattle husbandry, in Mercer (1981): 169–81.

Longley, D., 1980. *The excavation of a Late Bronze Age site at Runnymede Surrey*. Surrey Archaeological Society Research Report 6.

Matthews, C.L., 1976. *Occupation sites on the Chiltern Ridge*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, British series 29.

Mercer, R. (ed.), 1981. *Farming practice in British prehistory*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Moss-Eccardt, J., 1964. Excavations at Wilbury Hill, an Iron Age hill-fort near Letchworth, Herts, 1959, *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 2: 34–46.

Moss-Eccardt, J., 1965. An Iron Age cauldron-rim from Letchworth, Herts., *Antiquaries Journal*. 45: 173–7.

Moss-Eccardt, J., 1971. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 6: 27–32.

Payne, S., 1973. Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale, *Anatolian Studies* 23: 281–303.

Prummel and Frisch, 1986. A guide for the distinction of species, sex and body size in the bones of sheep and goat, *Journal of Archaeological Science* 13: 567–77.

Pryor, F.M., 1978. *Excavation at Fengate, Peterborough, England: the second report*. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, Archaeological Monograph 5.

Pryor, F.M., 1980. *Excavation at Fengate, Peterborough, England: the third report*. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, Archaeological Monograph 6.

Pryor, F.M., 1984. *Excavation at Fengate, Peterborough, England: the fourth report*. Toronto and Northampton: Royal Ontario Museum, Archaeological Monograph 5 and Northamptonshire Archaeological Society Monograph 2.

Rodwell, W., 1976. Coinage, oppidas and the rise of Belgic power in SE Britain, in B. Cunliffe and R.T. Rowley (ed.), *Oppida in Barbarian Europe*. Oxford: BAR 11.

Saunders, C., 1972. The pre-Belgic Iron Age in the Central and Western Chilterns, *Archaeological Journal* 128: 1–30.

Sieveking, G. de G., 1979. Grimes Graves and prehistoric European flint-mining, in H. Crawford (ed.), *Subterranean Britain: aspects of underground archaeology*: 1–43. London: Baker.

Simonds, J.B., 1854. The age of the ox, sheep and the pig. London: W.S. Orr.

Stead, I.M., and Rigby, V., 1986. *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968–72*. Britannia Monograph 7.

Tromnau, G., 1975. *Bronzekessel von einem eisenzeitlichen Urnenfriedhof bei Klein-Wesenberg, Kreis Stormarn*. Neumunster: Hammaburg NF 2.

Wainwright, G.J., 1979. *Gussage All Saints: an Iron Age settlement in Dorset*. London: HMSO, DoE Archaeological Reports 10.

Wegewitz, W., 1961. Vorläufiger Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Putensen, Kr. Harburg, in den Jahren 1961 und 1962, *Harburger Jahrbuch* 1961/62: 91–118.

Wilson, B., Hamilton, J., Bramwell, D., Armitage, P., 1978. The animal bones, in M. Parrington (ed.), *The excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age ring-ditches and Roman features at Ashville Trading Estate, Oxford*: 110–39. Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit Report 1., CBA Research Report 28.

APPENDIX
List of participants in the excavations

Those prefixed by an asterisk * made either a skilled or a long-term contribution to the work.

J. Adams, A. Amess, Fiona Anderson, W. Armitage, Elizabeth Bankhead, M. Bartlett, B. Bennet, *Judy Birmingham, N.M. Blair, Mary Blackburn, H. Bland, *D. Blythin, R. Boughton, A. Bourne, *E. Bowry, Frances Bracey, A. Briers, A H. Briggs, M. Browne, *Doreen Cadwallader, Gavin Campbell, Marianne Cardale, *R.J. Castledine, Robin Clarke, S. Clark, *T. Coleby, *Desmond Collins, M. Collins, Alison Coombe, R. Cooper, M. Crawford, Susan Darlington, W. Davis, Sister/Tutor Duncan, *V.G. Fenton, Marion Fitzgerald, G.J. Foley, R. Fordham, M. Fry, *J. Fossey, Dorothy Gallagher, D. Giddings, Charles Green, D. Gregory, M. Hall, Christine Hart, C. Hart, Vivienne Hailey, H. Hammond, B. Hay, Margery Hester, Pamela Hester, I. Higgins, Cathy Jackson, Hilary Jenkins, J. Johnson, J. Jordan, Zigrida Kambuts, R. Kendall, M. Keen, David Kennet, A. Lambert, Miss Linnell, *C. Marsh, W. Makepeace, Maureen McIllmurray, Elizabeth Michaels, N. Middleton, Mary Middleton, Karen Moore, P. Moore, D. Morgans, Helen Morgans, B. Needham, M. Nieman, G. Newman-Turner, N. Oughton, Audrey Ozanne, Martin Page, *P. Palmer, V. Parr, John Perceval, C. Platt, G. Plinston, N. Pritchard, Francis M.M. Pryor, Klaus Richter, B. Ripley, Cherry-Ann Robertson, Gillian Robertson, Ann Roden, E. Rogers, I. Ross, J. Rothwell, Miss Shaw, G. Slaughter, Jean Stewart, Lorna Storer, M. Treverton, H. Watts, Miss Warne, *Kath. Welch, R. Welch, *Kit Westaway, E. Wheatly, E. Whitfield, A. Whiteman, J. Williams, Jesmary Wilson, *K.G. Wilson, J. Witty, J. Wood, S. Wray, I. Wright.

CONTENTS