


Creslow Manor Farm Buckinghamshire



Archaeological Excavation Report


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Creslow Manor Farm, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

In October 2014 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to undertake an archaeological excavation at Creslow Manor Farm, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR SU 18910 35640). The work was undertaken to investigate a potential burial assemblage that was identified during a metal detecting rally. The findspot is located adjacent to a suspected Roman villa within an arable field that has previously produced a concentration of Roman finds.

The excavation revealed a Roman (late 2nd century AD) wooden casket burial (1.10m long by 0.70m width) with a rich assemblage of grave goods including 2 samian ware cups, 2 samian ware dishes, a pottery flagon or dish, 2 glass vessels, a bronze jug with decorated handle, bronze patera, iron open or lamp holder, 2 unidentified lead objects and an urned cremation burial. The remains of the potential wooden casket were identified as an outline of iron nails and organic deposits within the burial pit. The pit was backfilled with the excavated boulder clay natural and then later sealed by modern ploughsoil. The grave goods were found in-situ but have been disturbed by modern plough and potentially squashed by the use of heavy farm machinery.

The burial lies at the western edge of a group of relatively rare cremation burials which contain glass and bronze vessels. However, the inclusion of lighting equipment make the burial one of only a handful with a 2nd century date. The most significant find from the grave is a highly decorated bronze jug handle depicting a religious 'sacro-idyllic' scene, one of only a few depicting human figures worshipping in front of an altar. This scene is unique and potentially of national importance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 The burial was initially located in October 2014 during a metal detecting rally undertaken by a group called the Weekend Warriors at Creswell Manor Farm, Buckinghamshire. The find was made by Mr John Steele, an American from Boston, who dug a hole to investigate a signal, revealed parts of iron and copper alloy objects. The hole also revealed a series of Samian vessels that indicated that the finds may represent part of an *in-situ* burial assemblage. At this point excavation ceased and the detectorists contacted Ros Tyrell (PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Buckinghamshire) who in turn notified Eliza Alqassar, County Archaeologist for Buckinghamshire.
- 1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was subsequently commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council to investigate and record the nature of the findspot. The finds are indicative of grave goods and are a type generally found within Roman burial contexts. As work progressed the increasing complexity of the remains (exacerbated in particular by the very difficult soil conditions) meant that excavation and recording took place over several days, OA staff being assisted by the help of the detectorists and landowners.



1.1.3 The following report presents a brief summary of the contents of the burial and a preliminary assessment of its context and importance. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation'* (IFA revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The Site occupied an area of c.1.2 hectares and was centred on SU 1891 3643. The site is located at Creslow Manor Farm, Creslow, Buckinghamshire, c 7km north of Aylesbury (Figure 1). It lies in undulating countryside part way down a south-facing slope. Towards the top of the slope, to the north-east, the presence of a Roman villa is suspected, mainly on the basis of metal-detected finds (Figure 2).

1.2.2 The underlying geology is mapped by the British Geological Society as Kimmeridgian Mudstone (BGS 1976 1:50,000), upon which lies a stiff boulder clay forming the subsoil of the site, the material into which the grave was cut (109) and with which it was filled (fill 103).

1.2.3 The excavation area was small – just large enough to encompass the extent of the burial pit, the edges of which were not easily identified. Apart from the intrusion by the detectorists' excavation, it is clear that in many aspects the grave was not in particularly good condition. Some of the objects within it were completely crushed (for example the glass vessels) and parts of others appear to have been disturbed and (in some cases) distributed beyond the original edge of the grave, presumably by relatively recent agricultural activity. The same activity has therefore resulted in truncation of some of the objects, so that a number of them are incomplete, while others are so fragmented as to make interpretation difficult at this stage.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of the excavation

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the excavation were:

- (i) To determine the general nature of the findspot and remains present.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- (iii) To place the finds and remains within their wider archaeological context and landscape setting.
- (iv) To record and secure the burial remains and grave goods.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Hand cleaning and excavation was undertaken following a chance metal detector find of potential grave assemblage at the site (Plates 1 and 2). The initial exploratory hole was first cleaned to help characterise the findspot, recorded and then excavated. Where possible the more delicate vessels like the remains of the bronze jug and cremation vessel, were bulk lifted (Plate 3).

2.2.2 Digital photos and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of finds and deposits and generally throughout the excavation.

2.2.3 Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 using a planning frame (Plate 4). Section drawings of features and 1m wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s. The absolute height (m. OD) of all principal strata and features are indicated on the drawings.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below, beginning with a summary of the stratigraphic description of the burial pit. An index of all contexts is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The excavation was undertaken in predominantly dry weather conditions, but frequent downpours of heavy rain did hinder progress at times.

3.2.2 The soils encountered in the excavation consisted of an organic rich loamy topsoil that varied in thickness from 0.2-0.35m. This sealed subsoil at the base of the slope, which was a mid yellow silty clay. These deposits overlain the fill of the burial pit which had been backfilled with redeposited boulder clay and the organic remains of the wooden casket.

3.2.3 The natural geology was composed of boulder clay at depths between 0.40m and 0.60m.

3.3 Contents of the grave

3.3.1 The grave pit (102) appears to have been slightly sub-rectangular in plan (Figure 3), with maximum dimensions of c 1.10m (NNE-SSW) by c 0.70m (WNW-ESE). The corners of the pit may have been slightly rounded, but this is not certain; the sides were more or less vertical and the base flat. The maximum surviving depth of the pit was c 0.38m, but as indicated above it had clearly been truncated by ploughing. The principal grave fill (103) consisted of redeposited natural boulder clay. Localised deposits of mid and dark brown silty clay (104, 105 and 108), probably representing decayed organic material, were interleaved within (103) or, in the case of (105), lay within the patera SF 17.

3.3.2 All the finds were recorded as coming from fill deposit (103). This main fill was overlain by a ploughsoil/subsoil (101) 0.10m thick beneath the modern ploughsoil (100) which was up to 0.24m thick. One of the clearest indications of the size of the grave was provided by the distribution of iron nails, which were concentrated at the narrow ends of the feature and around the north-west corner. These suggest that the burial may have been contained within a wooden box or small chamber, but it is not possible to be certain that all the nails belonged to a single structure.

3.3.3 In total 21 nails and nail fragments (SFs 1-3, 20-22, 27-33, 35-41 and an unnumbered fragment) were recovered from the main fill of the grave pit (103), while two nail tip fragments were recovered from context 106, associated with the body of the bronze jug. Two further nails from the overlying topsoil (100) were of similar character to those from the burial and may possibly have derived from it. Dark organic fills recovered from within the bronze patera and some of the samian ware vessels, in particular, may possibly represent remnants of the lid of a box after it had decayed and collapsed.

3.3.4 In outline, the contents of the burial are listed in the table below:

Small find No.	Material	Object Description
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SF24	Ceramic	A pottery urn with cremated remains (block lifted and unexcavated at present)
SF 25 and SF 23	Ceramic	Two samian ware dishes
SF 7 and SF 16	Ceramic	Two samian ware cups
SF 8	Ceramic	A pottery flagon/jug
SF 13 and SF 26	Glass	?Two glass vessels
SF 9, SF 12, SF 14, SF 15	Cu alloy	A bronze jug with decorated handle
SF 17/18 and SF 34	Cu alloy	A bronze? patera
SF 6	Iron	A long iron point
SF 5 and SF 11	Iron	An iron open lamp or lamp holder
SF 4	Iron	A small iron object of uncertain function
context 103, no SF number	Iron	An incomplete fragment of iron sheet
SF 10 and SF 19	Lead	Two small lead sheet objects

Table 1: List of grave goods

3.3.5 Insofar as can be determined given the disturbed nature of the remains the disposition of the objects within the grave was as follows:

3.4 Arrangement of grave goods

3.4.1 The cremation urn was located centrally in the southern part of the grave, with the pottery flagon roughly 0.3m away from it to the north. The samian ware vessels may have been arranged in a line running from next to the cremation urn towards the north-west corner of the grave, but this is not certain (it is impossible to say, for example, if any of the samian ware vessels were stacked). The glass vessels were placed next to the samian ware vessels, between them and the pottery flagon. The metal objects all lay in the north end of the grave. Parts of the bronze jug were spread over a distance of some 0.4m extending towards the north-east corner, and the more westerly pieces were intermingled with pieces of the patera. It is likely that the two were originally placed closely adjacent, perhaps with the jug in the patera. The iron objects cluster towards the north-west corner of the grave and were amongst the earliest of its contents to be exposed; they may therefore have been positioned within the upper part of the grave, but this is uncertain. Given their function (see below) they may have been placed above the box in which the other objects lay. The two small lead sheet objects located immediately east and south-east of the main body of the bronze patera are similar in character and presumably of (unknown) function – it is possible that they derive from a single, larger object.

3.5 Provisional grave good inventory

3.5.1 Pottery cremation urn (SF 24)

3.5.2 The cremation urn has not been examined in detail and is currently wrapped pending excavation of the cremation. The Jar is a fine sand-tempered buff-brown fabric with black surfaces. The pot has been badly crushed and the cremated bone is currently held within a soil matrix. The fabric of the urn is local in origin.

**3.5.3 Samian ware dish (SF 23), Plate 7**

3.5.4 The samian dish is Central Gaulish (Lezoux), Drag 31, diameter 185mm. Stamped FLO.ALBINIO - Flo Albinus, 1a. AD 150-185. Fragmented but complete.

3.5.5 Samian ware dish (SF 25).

3.5.6 The samian dish is Central Gaulish (Lezoux), Drag. 31, diameter 180mm. Stamped ?? CTX.[- the reading is very uncertain and part of the stamp is missing; the potter is unidentified. Antonine. The dish is fragmented but almost complete.

3.5.7 Samian ware cup (SF 7), Plate 5.

3.5.8 The cup is Central Gaulish (Lezoux), Drag 33, diameter 100mm. Stamped GRACCHI.M - Gracchus iv, 1a. AD 155-195. Fragmented but complete.

3.5.9 Samian ware cup (SF 16), Plate 6.

3.5.10 The cup is Central Gaulish (Lezoux), Drag 33, diameter 95mm. Stamped PRIMANI - Primanus iii, 6e. AD 160-200. Fragmented and incomplete (c 90% of rim present).

3.5.11 Pottery flagon/jug (SF 8).

3.5.12 The flagon/jug has a fine oxidised (buff/red) fabric. It was highly fragmented and incomplete. The rim is missing (probably lost to ploughing), but a small fragment suggests that there was a flange on the neck. A further small fragment comes from a handle with a simple oval section.

3.5.13 Glass vessel (SF 13 and 26).

3.5.14 Many fragments of clear colourless glass (>1mm thick), from a possible cup or beaker with a ?footring (diameter at junction of body and footring c 30mm). The vessel is highly fragmented and incomplete. The body is decorated with round/oval cut facets up to c 5mm, in no clearly discernible pattern. Cut horizontal lines are apparent on the upper body. No rim fragments have been identified.

3.5.15 Fragments of another thin (<1mm thick) colourless glass, many with thin trails. Only a very small part of the original vessel is represented by the surviving fragments. The fragments are too small to determine the orientation of the trails with certainty, but they seem likely to be horizontal. Perhaps from a convex cup or beaker, cf Price and Cottam (1998), 103-4, fig. 39.

3.5.16 SF 13 was assigned to a single piece (2 fragments) of colourless vessel glass. SF 26 was assigned to a group of glass fragments located a little to the south, recovered in lumps of clay, and a further larger 'glass sample', also consisting of glass fragments within clay lumps of varying size, was simply assigned the context number 103 but came from a location immediately adjacent to SF 26. Both SF 26 and the 'glass sample' material include more than 100 glass fragments each, many of which are very small or tiny chips and splinters. Despite the extreme fragmentation, however, it is clear that two modules are present in both groups. The majority of the material is from a vessel of clear, colourless glass, the fragments of which range from just over 1mm to a little over 2mm in thickness. SF 13 is of this module. The second module, also of colourless glass which can be clear or opaque, consists of fragments which range from c 0.7-1mm in thickness. The decorative types found on each module are mutually exclusive.

3.5.17 Bronze jug (SF 9, SF 12, SF 14, SF 15), Plates 8 and 9.

3.5.18 The bronze jug was found fragmented and is partly still unexcavated. The Jug has a rounded body (SF 9, still in a block with fill *in situ*) and rolled tubular rim (SF14, separate fragments), c 90mm in diameter, but incomplete. The jug handle (SF12), a



solid casting as opposed to the relatively thin spun bronze of the vessel body and base, survives in reasonable condition but requires specialist cleaning for its iconography, particularly that of the upper part. At the base of the handle is a 'sacro-idyllic' scene (M Henig pers. comm. for the use of this term). There are two prominent central standing figures, a male to the right and possibly a female to the left. The man has his left hand on the upper edge of an altar at the right side of the scene (as viewed). Balancing the altar on the left hand side of the scene is a third figure, smaller figure than the central two, perhaps a child or young adult. A stylised tree rises above the two central figures. The details of what is above the tree are less clear. The top of the handle curves upwards and away from the rim in a slightly hooked form, while lateral projections with volutes would have engaged with the rim of the vessel.

- 3.5.19 The form of the vessel is well-known and has a number of parallels in Roman Britain, including two from burials. The key point relates to the specifically religious imagery of the scene at the base of the handle. Comparable vessels come from Bayford (Kent; Wheeler 1932, plate XV, no. 2), Carlisle (Henig 1984, 134, fig. 57), Lesmahagow (Lanarkshire; Toynbee 1962, 175 and plate 128, no. 120) and (closer to hand) Thornborough barrow (Liversidge 1953-60, plate 3A; Eggers 1966, 138, Abb. 38, b). In each case the scene is different and probably or certainly involves overtly religious activity (sacrifice, altars etc), though only the Carlisle and Creslow pieces include more than one figure. These scenes contrast with the more common individual masks or medallions found widely on Campanian jugs of the 1st century AD. The Creslow vessel therefore belongs to a recognisable but rare type. Martin Henig comments (pers. comm.) 'The style is not obviously RB; it is essentially very much Roman in feel, but might have come from Gaul.'
- 3.5.20 **Bronze patera or dish (SF 17/18 and SF 34), Plates 10 and 12.**
- 3.5.21 Probable patera, with heavy cast base and thick, solid rounded rim, diameter c 190mm. The vessel has corroded where the metal is thinnest, at the bottom of the curving body wall where it would join the base. The two main surviving rim fragments (SF18 and SF 34, the latter in two separate pieces) make up most of the circumference of the rim. The intervening body is heavily fragmented and the base is also damaged. This vessel is interpreted as a patera since this is the usual accompaniment to a jug, but there is no obvious sign of a handle. It is likely that such a handle would have been a flat (perhaps decorated) casting rather than a heavy tubular one as seen in earlier examples of this form (though one of these is present in the Thornborough barrow), and it is possible that evidence of it may emerge upon conservation of the various bronze fragments from the burial.
- 3.5.22 **Iron point (SF 6).**
- 3.5.23 The iron object is probably incomplete, and is damaged. It has a flat rounded end, probably originally a loop but now corroded solid (c 23mm across), and a roughly rounded section shaft c 8-9mm across, tapering gradually to a point. The total extant length including the ?looped end is c 171mm, but the object has been partly fractured and bent through more than 90 degrees about 42mm from the point. This damage is clearly recent, but it is not clear if the object was completely straight before the damage occurred, or whether it had originally been angled at this point. However, the object was almost certainly associated functionally with SF11 below, and on this basis it is most likely that it is incomplete and would have had a more clearly defined hook at the end of the shaft, which could have been at least twice as long as the surviving piece.
- 3.5.24 **Iron open lamp or lamp holder (SF 5 and SF 11), Plate 11.**



- 3.5.25 These two almost-joining pieces are certainly parts of the same, incomplete object. The larger piece, SF 5, was one of the first to be encountered in the initial excavation by the detectorists. It comprises part of a rounded flat sheet with an up-turned flange/side with a total height of c 16mm. From the top of the flange an arm, of slightly tapering rectangular section (16mm x 5mm at the midpoint), projects downwards for a further 90mm. At the top the arm is bent inwards slightly, but appears complete. SF11 has the same flange as SF5 and is S-shaped in plan, forming part of the 'wick end' of the lamp. Although the two pieces do not join they can be associated to suggest an internal length of c 110mm.
- 3.5.26 The object can be interpreted either as a lamp holder or as an open lamp in its own right. Eckardt (2002) regards comparable pieces as lamps. The closest parallels for the form, with a simple upright projecting handle, are in lead, from Caerleon and Colchester (Eckardt 2002, 242, nos 2259 and 1603). It is nevertheless probable that the handle end of SF 5 was linked to other elements, and therefore at least possible that the apparently complete end of the upright handle is in fact broken. It is almost certain that the iron 'point' SF6 (No. 11 above) was part of an arrangement for suspension. Another close parallel to the iron open lamp comes from a cremation burial at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes, discussed by Hylton (1996, 123-124, fig. 71), which also provides a good parallel for the suspension rod, comparable to SF6. This burial is dated to the mid 2nd century.
- 3.5.27 **Iron object (SF 4).**
- 3.5.28 This object consists of a flat piece of very dense iron, in shape roughly like an elongated pear, c 55mm long, up to 29mm wide at the rounded end and c 5mm thick. From the centre of the top of the rounded end a stem with a roughly spherical head projects at an oblique angle, and there is a corresponding broken pointed projection below. It is almost certain that the projections belong to a nail driven obliquely through the flat plate, but corrosion has in effect reduced these elements to a single piece. The sub-spherical form of the nail head is unusual. The flat plate appears to be complete. The function of the object is unclear, but it is just possible that it relates to SF11 and SF5 above, and provided a means of attaching the upper end of the suspension system of the lamp to a wall.
- 3.5.29 **Iron fragment (Context 103, no SF number).**
- 3.5.30 A fragment of iron sheet, sub-rectangular, with extant dimensions of 30mm x 22mm x 3mm thick. This appears to be part of a longer piece. One end is rounded and may be complete, but the other is clearly broken.
- 3.5.31 **Lead object (SF 10).**
- 3.5.32 An irregularly shaped piece of lead, roughly in the form of a mostly in-filled U, with maximum dimensions of 25mm x 25mm and up to 7mm thick. The object may be complete.
- 3.5.33 **Lead object (SF 19).**
- 3.5.34 An irregularly-shaped piece of lead, sub-square with one corner cut out, all corners roughly rounded. Maximum dimensions 26mm x 25mm x 3mm thick. There is an irregularly shaped perforation (7mm x 5mm) towards one edge.
- 3.5.35 The lead objects are similar in character and were found c 0.15m apart. They are presumably related in function. It is possible that they were associated in some way with the lamp (SF5 and SF11 above).

3.6 Chronology and character of the grave

3.6.1 The date of the burial is clear from the evidence of the samian ware, and is based in particular on the identifiable stamps, which give ranges of AD 150-185, 155-195 and 160-200 (Hartley and Dickinson 2008-2012). The form of the fourth samian ware vessel with the as yet unidentified stamp is entirely consistent with the others. In terms of other parallels, the Wavendon Gate burial quoted above is dated to the mid 2nd century, and 2nd-century dates are thought likely for other examples of the bronze jug type discussed above. The pottery indicates a *terminus post quem* of at least AD 160 for the burial, and allowing for this it can be suggested provisionally that the interment probably took place in the last quarter of the 2nd century, although a slightly later date is also possible.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Interpretation

4.1.1 Despite its relatively poor state of preservation the burial has a number of characteristics that make it of particular interest and importance. The main ones that will merit further work include the presence of multiple vessels including samian ware, the presence of glass vessels, the presence of a lamp and the provision of bronze vessels.

4.1.2 Glass vessels are found fairly commonly in cremation burials, but nevertheless serve to distinguish a significant minority of burials in Roman Britain (for example, in the recently published cemetery at Wallington Road, Baldock (Burleigh and Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010) only one grave out of about 200 produced glass vessels).

4.1.3 Lighting equipment is less common. Philpott (1991, 191) comments that 'Iron or lead lamp-hangers with brackets are found in a number of 2nd century cremations especially in south-eastern cist and box burials'. This scenario fits the present one exactly. With regard to lamps, Eckardt (2002, 330-331) lists 32 examples of iron open lamps from burials in her comprehensive review of lighting in Roman Britain. Chronologies range from late 1st to late 2nd century, but of the 23 cases for which dates are suggested 3 are assigned to the late 1st century, 5 to the early-middle 2nd century, 9 are Hadrianic/Antonine or later and 6 are only defined as 2nd century.

4.1.4 Burials with bronze vessels are likewise scarce. Philpott (1991, 410-411, fig. 8) lists only 30 instances of cremation burials with metal vessels, of which only about a dozen contain or include a set of jug and patera or skillet. There are, of course, several significant finds of graves including this vessel combination since Philpott's corpus was compiled some 25 years ago, with examples from (inter alia) Kent (Booth *et al.* 2008, 27-34; Allen *et al.* 2012) and Essex (Crummy *et al.* 2007, 185-186), but most of these graves are of early Roman date and are therefore not directly analogous with the present example. Graves which do have several points of comparison with Creslow include grave 2 at Bayford, Kent, which produced one of the relatively small number of bronze jugs with a 'sacro-idyllic' scene on the handle, and whose contents also included an iron open lamp, several glass vessels and no fewer than 15 samian ware vessels (6 dishes and 9 cups) (Payne 1886).

4.1.5 Most significant, however, in view of its proximity (only c 14km NNW of Creslow) is Thornborough. The finds from barrow 1 (Liversidge 1953-60) include another bronze jug with a religious scene (it may be suggested that the flat-topped object upon which the standing figure rests his left hand could be another altar, as in the scene on the Creslow jug) and further bronze vessels, glass vessels, pottery (including, unusually, a



decorated samian ware bowl), a bronze lamp and other objects. Obviously the resources involved, particularly in erecting the mound over the burial, make this of a significantly different order from the Creslow burial, but points of similarity remain, not least in the dating, which Liversidge suggested (*ibid.*, 32) was 'perhaps in the later years of the second century'.

- 4.1.6 Some of the key characteristics identified above appear to have interestingly complementary distribution patterns. A quick review of Philpott's (1991) distribution maps shows that Buckinghamshire lies at the western edge of the core distributions of cremation burials which contain glass and bronze vessels, and the evidence for metal lighting equipment suggests a similar pattern. This distribution pattern is reinforced by the inclusion of Buckinghamshire sites such as Wavendon Gate. The rich burial at Creslow is an important addition to this body of evidence, containing a characteristic combination of relatively rare object types, of which the decorated jug is individually the most important and, because of the unique detail of its decoration, a piece of national importance, enhanced by association with a securely dated burial context.

4.2 **Recommendations for further work**

- 4.2.1 The primary tasks are to ensure that the finds are all in appropriate condition for long-term storage.
- Basic cleaning, marking and boxing needs to be undertaken for all the material.
 - The cremated human bone needs to be extracted systematically from the remains of the urn within which it was placed, involving careful excavation in spits with associated recording as necessary.
 - The extant fill needs to be extracted from the body of the bronze jug. This might best be done by a specialist conservator.
 - The bronze vessels require careful cleaning (and stabilisation as required) by a conservator.
 - The iron objects should be X-rayed. Further conservation may be required.
- 4.2.2 An expanded report for formal publication, including analysis of the human remains, with appropriate illustrations, can be prepared in the light of the information emerging from these tasks.
- 4.2.3 Decisions on the desirability of any further work, such as reassembly/restoration for potential display etc, can be deferred until the foregoing stages of work are complete.

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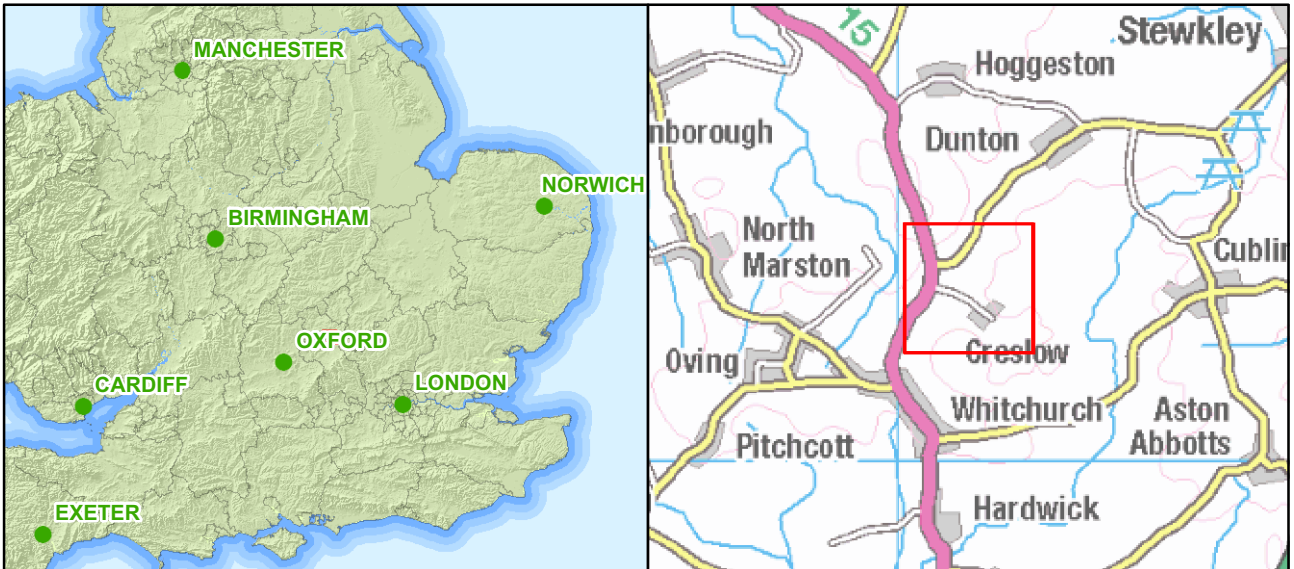
APPENDIX A. CONTEXT TABLE

Burial pit						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
<p>The excavation of the casket burial revealed a late 2nd urned cremation burial with the inclusion of a rich assemblage of grave goods including samian dishes and cups, glass vessels, iron lamp holder, bronze vessels and cremation urn. The remains of the wood casket was represented by various organic fills at the base of the pit and an outline of iron nails. The pit was backfilled immediately with boulder clay and was later sealed by modern ploughsoil.</p>				Avg. depth (m)		0.60
				Width (m)		0.70
				Length (m)		1.10
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0-0.30	Ploughsoil	Iron nails	Modern
101	Layer	-	0.30-0.40	Subsoil (weather upper boulder clay surface)	-	-
102	Cut	-	0.40-0.65	Cut of burial pit		Roman (late 2 nd century AD)
103	Layer			Redeposited boulder clay used to backfill the burial pit		
104	Layer			Dark organic		
105	Layer			Fill of Cu alloy dish SF17		
106	Layer			Fill of Cu alloy Flagon SF9		
107	Layer			Organic fill of SF 24		
108	Layer			Wood/dark organic deposit possible remains of wooden box		
109	Layer			Boulder clay (drift geology)		Pleistocene



APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Creslow Manor Farm, Buckinghamshire
Site code:	CRESL014
Grid reference:	SU 18910 35640
Type:	Excavation
Date and duration:	October 2014
Area of site:	1.2 ha
Summary of results:	The excavation of the casket burial revealed a late 2 nd urned cremation burial with the inclusion of a rich assemblage of grave goods including samian vessels and cups, glass and metal vessels, iron lamp holder and cremation urn. The remains of the wood casket was represented by various organic fills and an outline of iron nails. The pit was backfilled immediately with boulder clay and was sealed by the modern topsoil.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Buckingham Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: CRESLO14



X:\c\Creslow Manor Farm Bucks\010\Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figure1_061114.mxd\gary.jones\06/11/2014

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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus
 DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS

Figure 1: Site location

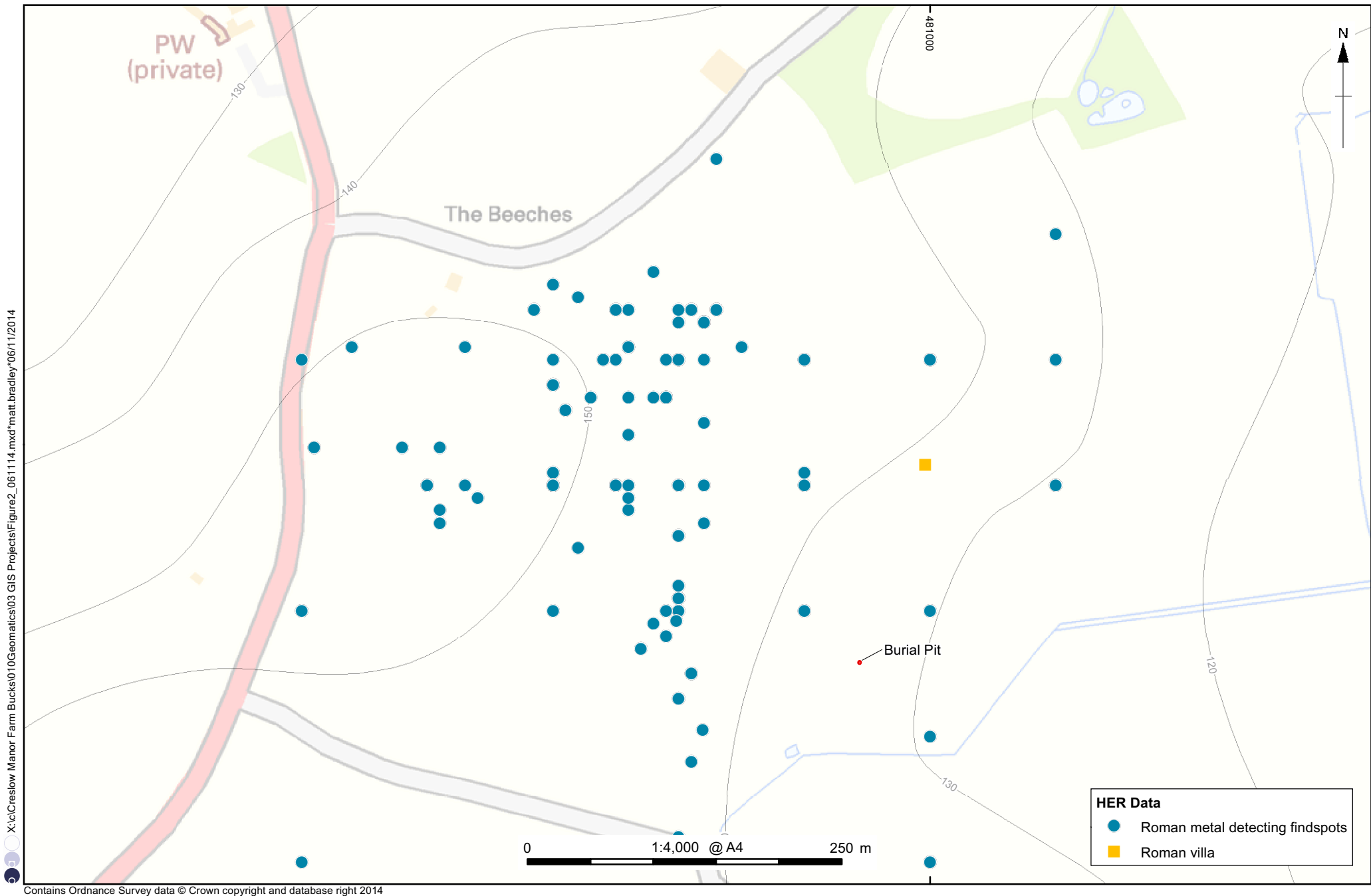


Figure 2: Wider landscape and heritage assets of the burial pit

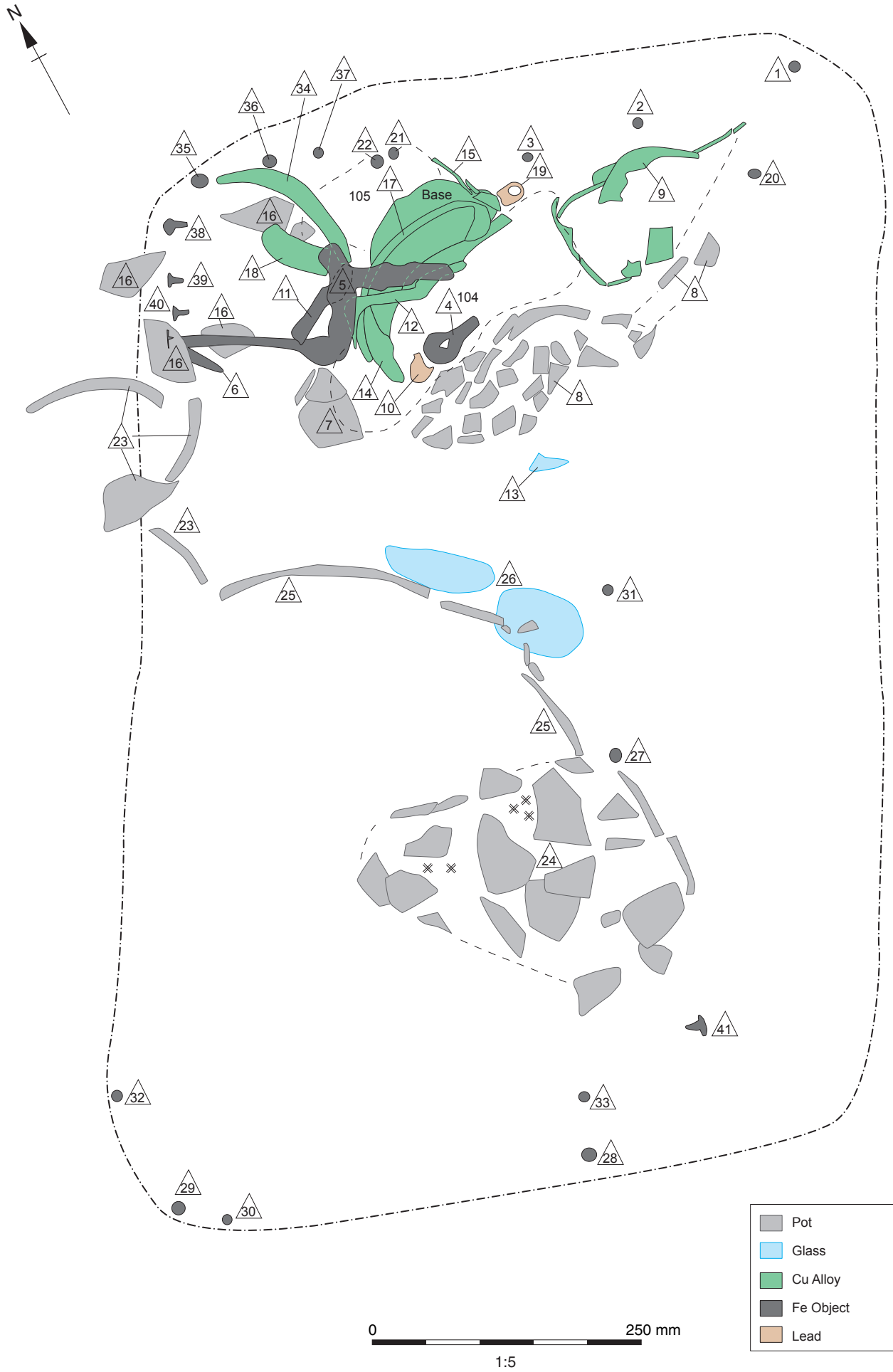


Figure 3: Plan of casket burial

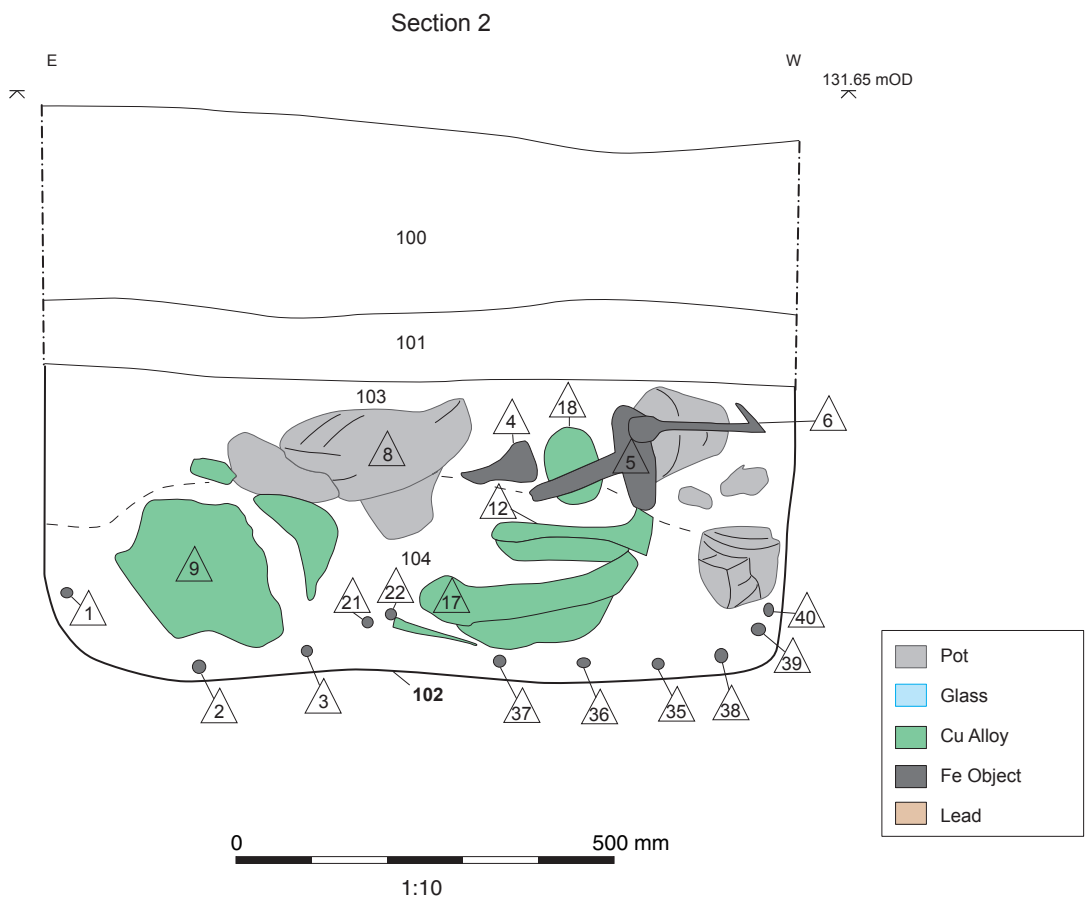
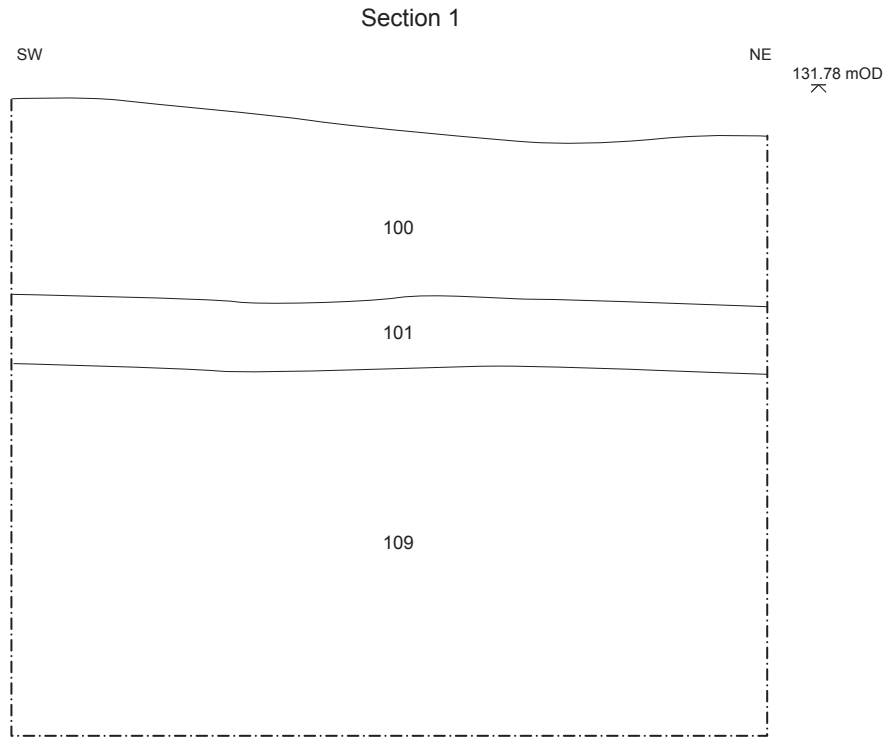


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: Initial excavation and cleaning of the findspot



Plate 2: Close up of the findspot



Plate 3: Remains of the cremation and samian vessels



Plate 4: Recording of the cremation vessel



Plate 5: Samian cup and maker's stamp SF7

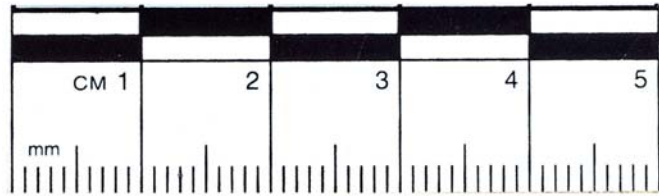
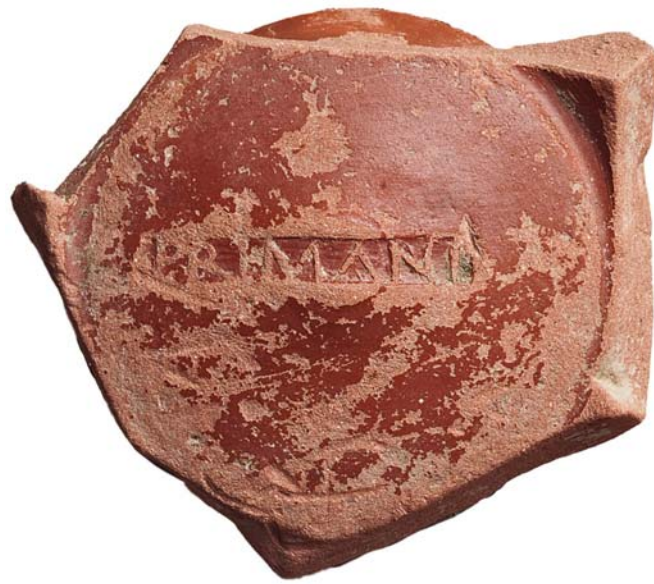


Plate 6: Samian maker's stamp SF16

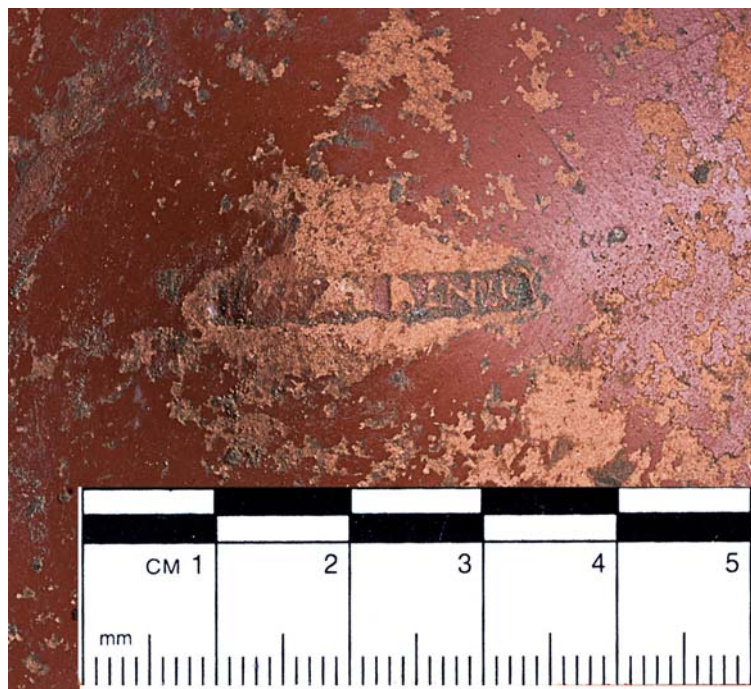


Plate 7: Samian maker's stamp SF23



Plate 9: Bronze Jug SF9



Plate 8: Bronze jug handle SF12



Plate 10: Plan and profile view of copper alloy dish SF17, 18 and 34



Plate 11: Iron lamp SF11 and SF5 (bottom insert) and SF 6 (top insert)



Plate 12: Close-up of bronze jug handle scene SF12



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