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S E R V I C E S

**Manor Cottage, Temple Lane,
Bisham, Berkshire**

Draft publication report

by Jo Pine

Site Code MHB11/39

(SU 8380 8420)

**Manor Cottage, Temple Lane,
Bisham, Berkshire**

**A Draft Excavation Report
for CgMs Consulting**

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

[Site Code MBH11/39]

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Manor Cottage, Temple Lane, Bisham, Berkshire Draft Publication Report

By Jo Pine

with contributions by Steven Crabb, Steve Ford, Matilda Holmes, Rosalind McKenna, Frances Raymond and
Jane Timby

Report 11/39

Summary

The excavations have investigated a dense complex of archaeology with a wide range of periods present but with two main phases in later Iron Age and Roman times. The earliest activity is represented by a small collection of struck flint includes material of Mesolithic date as well as later periods, and pottery of both late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date; all of this, however, is in later deposits. Middle/Late Iron Age activity is marked by the presence of many large pits, presumably used for the storage of grain. Roman activity is represented by a likely multi-phased settlement, beginning in the 2nd century and continuing into the mid 3rd-4th century. The later Roman phases are represented by both circular and rectangular timber structures. The final phase of activity prior to modern-day developments is of Saxon date. Midden deposits overlay the Roman occupation, with a likely linear boundary in an adjacent area.

Background

The site is located approximately 50m south of the River Thames at 29m above Ordnance Datum (SU 8380 8420) (Fig. 1). It was recently occupied by the now-demolished Manor Cottage and grounds. Geological maps indicate the underlying geology is alluvium and Flood Plain Gravel overlying Upper and Middle Chalk (BGS 1974). Gravel and a reddish brown sandy silt, brickearth-type deposit were observed during the fieldwork. There was though, no evidence for waterlogging or flooding in this area despite its proximity to the modern channel of the Thames and the digging of deep pits, presumably for storage, appears to have been feasible.

Planning permission (10/02396) had been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for redevelopment of the site, to comprise the construction of a new house, together with areas of landscaping, services and a swimming pool with plant room. Condition 10 of this permission required that no development should take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The archaeological potential of the site was demonstrated by field evaluation (OA 2003) which revealed the presence of Iron Age pits and gullies. As a result of likely damage to or destruction of these archaeological deposits during groundworks for the redevelopment, a formal programme of archaeological excavation and watching brief was required.

A specification for this work was prepared by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting and approved by Mr Paul Falcini, Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology, in order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on the planning permission. Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology and Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting monitored the fieldwork.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of generally high archaeological potential being located within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley (Gates 1975; Ford 1987; Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009) Various episodes of archaeological fieldwork have also taken place in the vicinity. Fieldwalking survey in the arable fields to the south of the site revealed both a cluster of prehistoric struck flint and one of Roman pottery indicating the presence of both earlier prehistoric and Roman occupation (Ford 1987). The pottery scatter lay about 1200m to the south-west of the excavation site. Evaluation trenching in advance of a water pipeline and borehole abstraction sites along Bradenham Lane, Temple included a trench in the vicinity of the Roman pottery scatter and revealed a series of Roman features dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries (Torrance and Ford 1991). However, a watching brief at Temple Ferry Cottage to the west did not reveal any archaeology (Mundin 2008).

The evaluation

A field evaluation at the site of Manor Cottage and also at Temple Cottage c.130m to the west was carried out in 2003 (Simmonds 2003). Two trenches were excavated at Manor Cottage, located to the south and west of the buildings (since demolished) (Fig.2). One trench contained four pits and a gully, and a probable tree-throw hole. The one excavated pit was bell-shaped, with a depth of 0.7m. It contained late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. A gully crossed the south-west end of the trench on an east-west alignment, with a V-shaped profile.

The second trench contained six pits, a ditch and a tree-throw hole. The pits were all very similar in size, form and date. All were shallow flat-based circular pits with diameters ranging from 1.0–1.5m, and none had a depth greater than 0.3m. They all contained pottery of the middle to late Iron Age. A ditch cut one of the pits on an east-west alignment. The finds from the ditch indicate a similar middle to late Iron Age date.

The single trench at Temple Cottage revealed three pits of probable prehistoric date, with finds of worked flint and burnt flint.

Methodology

An excavation was undertaken within the footprint of the proposed new development (Fig. 2), which targeted the new house, pond, pool complex and a service route from the house to the new pool plant room. Three groundworkers test pits in areas to the east and west of the main excavation were also archaeologically excavated (Fig. 3). Topsoil and overburden were removed by a Kubota mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned as a minimum objective. A range of context types across the site were sampled for environmental evidence. Samples were taken from 33 sealed and securely dated contexts, some of which yielded small quantities of carbonized environmental material.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of all excavated features (Fig. 3) with phasing.

Results

The following phases are discussed:

<i>Site Phase</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Ceramic Phase</i>
<i>Phase 1: Early Prehistoric</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Phase 2: Middle-Late Iron Age</i>		<i>2, 3 (4)</i>
<i>Phase 3: Late Iron Age–early Roman</i>		<i>4, 5</i>
<i>Phase 4: Middle Roman, 2nd (to 3rd?) century</i>		<i>6</i>
<i>Phase 5: Late Roman, later 3rd-4th century</i>		<i>7</i>
<i>Phase 6: Saxon</i>		<i>8</i>

With such a long history of use and palimpsest nature of the deposits there is quite a significant residual component to many of the pottery assemblages. However there is a degree of confidence that the majority of the deposits assigned to a particular phase are broadly correct as the pottery was analysed in conjunction with the site stratigraphy to produce the site development narrative. Site phases, however, involve a certain amount of overlapping of ceramic phases (CP), as above.

Phase 1: Early Prehistoric

A small collection of residual or unstratified worked flints includes a number of well-made blades which are probably of Mesolithic date. The other pieces could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date or even later.

Prehistoric pottery was also recovered as residual finds in later Roman features 49 and 125, both of which are elements of building 202. From post hole 125 (which also contained Roman pottery) came two sherds from late Neolithic Fengate Ware vessels and wall sherds from two early Bronze Age urns and a third sherd which is also possibly early Bronze Age. From pit 49 came three coarse body sherds, one flint-tempered and two made from a clay containing ferruginous inclusions, probably also Bronze Age.

Phase 2: Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 300 BC to AD 43) (Fig.4)

The dating evidence for this period is typically based on pottery styles and fabrics backed up by stratigraphic associations, but frequently few sherds were recovered. Whilst there is some indication of a separate Middle Iron Age as well as Late Iron age subdivision, the issue of residuality for dating features early in the sequence is problematic. There is also an issue as to the extent of the currency of supposedly Middle Iron Age pottery types well into the Late Iron Age. The following narrative has therefore merged any potential subdivisions within this period.

A distinct Middle Iron Age date (CP2 and 3) has been suggested for some of the pits based on the fabric types of the pottery (sandy, alluvial shell or sandy mix fabrics) and the absence of grog-tempered fabrics (typically later) in these features. Conversely, the presence of grog-tempered sherds in other cuts has led to the suggestion of a later Iron Age date (CP4) for these features. In the main the stratigraphy does not contradict this yet some of the pottery assigned to the Middle Iron Age will definitely pre-date, say 150BC, while some may be anywhere in the whole range to 50 BC or later. Further to confuse matters dating based on the absence of distinctive pottery when sherd numbers are so low cannot really lead to great confidence in dividing the chronology so finely. The nature of the activities on the site does not demand sub-division even if the pottery chronology would permit it, so the site narrative assumes a degree of overlap between ceramic phases.

In this phase, the dominant activity was that of pit digging (presumed to be for storage initially and then with re-use for rubbish disposal) with these strongly suggesting there must be occupied structures in the close vicinity. This habitation was likely continuous occupation through the middle Iron Age to the late Iron Age and into the early Roman period when a change in site usage took place .

Potentially the earliest of the Iron Age features may be pits 3, 108, 123, and 124 (the latter as it was truncated by 123).

Pit 3

This was 0.90m in diameter and 0.16m deep. This contained 22 sherds of pottery from its single fill (55). Charred seeds were recovered from environmental sampling with a little barley and indeterminate cereal recovered.

Pit 108

This was observed butting the eastern edge of the site. It was 2.35m by 2.20m and 0.87m deep (Fig. 8). It had near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained twelve fills (260-271) which produced 30 sherds. The majority from an upper fill (271) but two from an early infill deposit (261).

Pit 123

This was not fully exposed in the service trench but was at least 0.80m by 0.70m and 0.80m deep and had been truncated by modern disturbance. It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained four fills (373-376). It truncated another large pit 124 (Fig. 8). A couple of pieces of tile were recovered from top fill 373 however this may be a later infill of a slump hollow in the top and does not contradict an Iron Age date. A sherd of scored ware

alongside various sandy based wares were recovered from this pit and a little barley and indeterminate cereal were recovered from the sieved sample.

Pit 124

This was also not fully exposed in the trench, was at least 1.6m by 0.70m and over 0.80m deep with near vertical side. It contained three fills (377-379) which contained five sherds pottery, and bone.

Other pits which may be middle Iron Age, or at least earlier in this phase, include the following:

Pit 4

This was 1.00m in diameter and 0.30m deep. It contained six sherds of pottery from its single fill (56)

Pit 9

This pit was 1.70m in diameter and 0.48m deep. Two fragments of pottery were recovered from its single fill (65) and a piece of animal bone. A little barley, indeterminate cereal and wood charcoal were recovered from the sieved sample.

Pit 13

This pit was 2.30m in diameter and 0.9m deep with near vertical sides and a rounded base. It contained nine fills (66, 67, 72-78) (Fig. 7). This pit was of particular note in terms of assemblage size with 31 sherds including a decorated saucepan-style jar and a number of finer sandy wares. A little barley, indeterminate cereal and wood charcoal were recovered from the sieved sample. This pit was notable for containing an intact (but now fragmentary) horse skull from layer 33, presumably placed as a ritual deposit.

Pit 17

This pit was 0.70m in diameter and 0.10m deep with shallow sides and a rounded base. It contained a dark brownish grey silty clay (89) containing a single sherd of pottery.

Pit 25

This was oval in plan, 2.30 by 2.10m and 0.38m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill of dark brownish grey silty clay (90) from which ten sherds of pottery and bone was recovered.

Pit 33/43

This pit was 2.0m in diameter and 1.5m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained five fills (153/183, 154-157, and 95). It contained 29 sherds including the profile of a jar and a sherd of scored ware together with animal bone and burnt flint. A little barley, wheat, indeterminate cereal and wood charcoal were recovered from the sieved samples.

Pit 36

This was circular 1.96m in diameter and 0.70m deep with steep concave sides and a slightly curved base. It contained four fills (164-168) with nine sherds of pottery together with animal bone.

Pit 37

This was not seen fully in plan as it butts the eastern edge of the site. It was shown to be at least 0.60m by 1.00m and 0.37m deep. It contained two fills (169-170) with eight sherds of pottery together with animal bone and the remains of a perforated triangular loomweight. It truncated earlier pit 41 and itself was truncated by pit 101.

Pit 41

This was roughly circular 1.00 by 1.10m and 0.68m deep with steep convex sides and a slightly curved base. It contained four fills (171-174) with 14 sherds of pottery and four pieces of loomweight and fired clay, which could be daub.

Pit 38

This pit was 1.14m in diameter and 0.53m deep with steep concave sides and a slightly curved base. It contained six fills (176-181) with one sherd of pottery from deposit (181) together with fired clay from fill 178 and bone from fills 176 and 181.

Pit 42 (Pl. 5)

This pit was 2.05m in diameter and 0.75m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained four fills (162, 281-84, 380-1) (Fig. 9). The complete skeleton of a male dog aged approximately 18 months was recovered from context 163 (Plate 5). Fired clay which contained fragments of white chalk which may be daub came from a fill (284). A little barley, wheat, indeterminate cereal and wood charcoal were recovered from the sieved sample.

Pit 102

This pit was 1.80m in diameter and 0.94m deep with vertical sides and a rounded base. It contained a number of fills (250-255) A lower fill (253) contained only a single sherd of pottery which had a flint and sandy fabric of later prehistoric date. Of course a single sherd does not date this pit and its form and location suggest it could be of either middle or later Iron Age date. A upper fill (250) contained further prehistoric pottery along with later Roman sherds, however this deposit was the latest (deliberate?) infilling of the top an already mostly backfilled pit and does not date its use or its earliest abandonment.

Pit 106

This pit was 1.55m in diameter and 0.52 deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base its relationship with 105 could not be discerned. It contained a single fill (258) with one sherd of pottery and animal bone.

Pit 112

This was partially revealed in the service trench linking the swimming pool and main house. It was at least 1.20m by 0.40m and over 0.42m deep. It contained a single sherd from its single fill 276 together with animal bone.

Pit 117

This oval pit was 1.50m by 1.35m and 0.50m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained three fills (299-351) with two sherds of pottery from fill 299 and animal bone.

Pit 120/136

This oval pit was 1.61m by 1.54m and 0.68m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained four fills (358-361) with six sherds of pottery.

Pit 121

This pit was 1.05m in diameter and 0.75m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained seven fills (353-357) with three sherds of pottery and animal bone. It was truncated by gully 203 (Fig. 8).

Pit 300

This appeared to be circular with slightly undercut sides and a slightly rounded base. It was 1.20m in diameter and 0.70m deep. It contained three sherds of pottery and was cut by gully 203.

Given the presence of grog tempered wares in the following pits there is a hint they are later than the previously described storage pits but as described above this is far from secure.

Posthole 16

This was 0.17m in diameter and 0.10m deep. It was sealed by Spread 15/45 of Saxon date and contained only one sherd of grog-tempered pottery.

Pit 28

This pit was 1.08 m in diameter and 0.43m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat. It contained two fills (93 and 94). Fill 93 was a dark black silty clay with frequent charcoal and 7.2kg of burnt flint together with three sherds of pottery and a small assemblage of animal bone. A small fragment of fired clay from layer (93)

may be from a metal-working mould. The sieved sample recovered a little barley, indeterminable cereal and wood charcoal.

Pit 101

This was not seen fully in plan as it butts the eastern edge of the site. It was shown to be at least 0.90m by 1.10m and over 0.80m deep. It truncated pit 37 and physically cut pit 41 as well. It contained two fills (190-191). Fill 191 contained 3 sherds of pottery together with animal bone. Fill 190 above this contained 8 sherds of Roman pottery of a black sandy ware. But it is likely this is a later infill /levelling and nothing to do with the use and early backfill of the pit.

Pit 105

This pit was 2.30m in diameter and 0.55 deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained two fills (256-7) with four sherds of later prehistoric pottery and animal bone.

Pit 106

This pit was 1.55m in diameter and 0.52 deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base its relationship with 105 could not be discerned. It contained a single fill (258) with one sherd of pottery.

Pit 107

This pit was 1.50m in diameter and 0.22 deep and truncated pit 105. No dating evidence was recorded but is assigned to this phase on the basis of its morphology.

Pit 111

This was not fully exposed in the service trench but was at least 1.10m by 0.70m and 0.90m deep. It had undercut sides bell shaped with steep sides and a flat base. It contained five fills (274, 275, 277, 297 and 298).

Pit 113

This pit was 1.53m in diameter and 0.80m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained fills (285-293, 282 and 283) (Fig. 9). It contained 13 sherds of pottery. It truncated pit 42 and itself was truncated by gully 203.

Pit 114

This was not fully exposed in the trench, it was 1.04m by 0.50 and 0.38m deep. It contained a near complete pottery vessel (278) in a flint fabric and part of a vessel in grog temper (454) together with thirty other sherds of tempered pottery.

Pit 118

This pit was 1.6m in diameter with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained five fills (362-366), a single sherd of oolitic limestone and fossil-shell tempered was recovered from fill 362. A C14 date is being obtained from a bone fragment of the primary fill of this pit (365). The pit was truncated by Pit 46 and gully 203. The environmental sample contained a few indeterminate cereal grains and wood charcoal.

Pit 46

This was circular in plan; 1.75m in diameter and 0.86m deep with fills (194-199). It contained two sherds of pottery (an organic and sandy fabric). If pit 118, as has been suggested, is of later Iron Age date and pit 46 is stratigraphically later this too could be later Iron Age rather than middle. However for both features it is far from clear though they likely of this later prehistoric phase. .

Pit 139

This was not seen fully in plan having been truncated by gully 203. It was at least 0.50m deep with a concave side. No pottery was recovered from it but it contained a small assemblage of animal bone and was truncated by the late Iron Age-early Roman ditch 203. It is likely to date to the later prehistoric phase.

Cut 140

This feature was severely truncated by pits 137 and gully 203 so little survived but stratigraphy puts this in this phase. It contained an intrusive piece of later Roman pottery or it is more than likely this sherd actually belongs to pit 137.

Pits 130-2 and 134

These pits did not contain pottery but pit 130-2 is stratigraphically earlier than gully 203. Pit? 134 is truncated by pit 120/136.

Phase 3: Late Iron Age-Early Roman (Fig. 4)

This phase is characterized by the digging of ditches and some limited pit digging.

Ditch 200

A substantial ditch (200) was recorded to the west. It was aligned north-south, and three excavated slots (1, 6 and 14) showed it to be between 1.98–2.50m wide and between 1.06–1.10m deep (Fig. 7). This feature produced 131 sherds of pottery. The pottery suggests the ditch filled in the 1st-century AD. A large assemblage of animal bone was recovered from this ditch, together with a little barley and indeterminate cereal grains from the sieved sample.

Gully 203

Gully 203 entered the site area from the west, was plotted for c.12m and then curved sharply to the south and was recorded for c.6m until it exited under the southern baulk. Sections (115, 119, 122, 131, 140, 143 and 301) through it showed it to be 0.50–0.55m wide and 0.23–0.37m deep with concave sides and rounded base (Figs 8 and 9). Although the gully contained only four sherds of later Iron Age –early Roman sherds stratigraphically it was later than pits 113, 118, 121, 130 and 300 and cut by pit 137.

Ditch 109

This linear is likely to be related to gully 203 creating a narrow entrance way and suggesting another land division to the east outside the excavation area. It truncated pit 108 and on a landscape scale it fits into this phase of site development. It was 0.73m wide and 0.38m deep. It contained pottery in both Iron Age and Roman fabrics, bone. A single indeterminate cereal grain and wood charcoal came from the sieved sample.

Phase 4: Middle Roman: 2nd century (into 3rd?)

The next phase of site development is represented by shallow pits and scoops markedly different from the large Iron Age pits on the site. Most of the features contained very little pottery and even fewer diagnostic sherds. The pottery mainly comprises sherds of grog-tempered storage jar, Alice Holt grey wares, grey or black sandy wares, fine grey ware and a single sherd of Lezoux samian indicating activity into the 2nd century. There is little to indicate this activity carried on into the 3rd century and it may not even have extended far through the 2nd.

Posthole 5

This was 0.30 in diameter and 0.05m deep. Five fragments of pottery were recovered from its fill (59).

Pit 7/10

This was ovoid, with undercutting sides, 1.10m in diameter and 0.40m deep with a flat base.

?Pit 8

Pit 8 was 0.60m in diameter and 0.15m deep and could possibly have been the result of root action.. or it may have been all that remains of a shallow gully 2.

Gully 2

This was recorded on a NE-SW alignment for 5m. It was 0.40m in width and 0.2m deep and had been previously examined in the earlier evaluation (OA 2003). Its relationship with ditch 200 could not be ascertained as the intersection was disturbed by a grubbed out modern hedge line. It contained a fragment of tile.

Pit 11

This was not seen fully in plan but was at least 0.70m 0.34m deep. It was cut by a possible treebole (12)

Pit 30

This pit was 1.25m in diameter and 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Five sherds of pottery were recovered from its fill (150)

Pit 104

This was a shallow cut, ovoid, 0.60m by 0.49m and 0.07m deep. Its single fill (193) contained a single sherd and animal bone.

Pit 103

This oval pit was 0.30m by 0.44m and 0.13m deep and is very similar to pit 104 but did not producer any dating evidence.

Pit 126

This was recorded in the far east of the site. It was not fully exposed in the area but was 0.75 by 0.60 and 0.11 deep. It had concave sides and curved base. It contained four sherds of pottery.

Pit 127

This was also recorded in the far east of the site. It was not fully exposed in the area but was 1.15 by 0.60 and 0.35 deep. It had concave sides and curved base. It contained seven sherds of pottery.

Pit 137

This was not seen fully in plan but was at least 0.60m by 0.50m and 0.40m in deep and contained 7 sherds of later Roman pottery and two fragments of animal bone.

Pit 15/45

This oval pit was 0.80m by 1.20m and 0.20m deep with shallow sides and a rounded base. It contained a dark black brown sandy silt (80/182) from which pottery was recovered; five are Saxon and three are Roman. The Saxon sherds are likely to be intrusive. Pit 15/45 was cut by ditch 201 and by pit 100 suggesting this pit is of a later Roman or later date.

Phase 5: Late Roman (later 3rd-4th century) (Fig.5)

Ditch 201 (Pl. 4)

A curving semi-circular ditch (201) was excavated (slots 21, 22, 27, 29, 34 and 40) (Fig. 7). Its complete plan was not exposed but a c.10m stretch of this ditch was fully excavated. It is possible that this was part of a circular structure with a projected diameter would be c.11m. Circular buildings of Roman date, are not common but are recorded in the general area as at the 2nd-century site at All Souls Farm, Wexham (Ford 2010). The slots

through it showed it to be between 1.00–1.30m wide and between 0.45–0.72m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It produced 69 sherds of pottery.

The interior of the semi-circle created by the cutting of the ditch was lower than the exterior, but whether this was a deliberate cut, erosion or a natural dip was not possible to ascertain due to the baulk of the excavation and areas of modern disturbance. This, and the upper part of ditch 201 were infilled by a dark brownish grey sandy silt spread midden deposit which produced pottery of mixed prehistoric, Roman and Saxon dates. That this midden dump contains later 3rd-4th century pottery indicates there is a sub-phase of occupation later than the use of the roundhouse in the area. It is possible that this material was generated from the use and occupation of another late Roman building (202).

Roman building 202

There is a tantalizing hint of a Roman structure on the site. This is represented by postholes and a crushed chalk surface (386) which covered an area of *c.* 4m by 4.5m and was just 0.05m thick, unfortunately its full extent could not be discerned as it continued under the northern edge of the excavation (Plate 6). The chalk surface (floor?) overlay a brown silt levelling layer or buried soil (476) which contained a Roman pottery sherd and this in turn overlay the natural gravel geology. The chalk surface was sealed by dump layers (388 and 387) both of which contained pottery of later 3rd-4th century date. A row of five postholes (47, 49, 125, 149 and 302) on an approximate N-S alignment and a sixth (48) perhaps forming a corner, are likely to relate to the chalk floor and represent all that remains of the wall of the building, Although not a complete building plan (the remainder lies beyond the eastern baulk) it would have been *c.* 14m in length and at least 5m wide. The postholes contained residual early prehistoric pottery along with Roman sherds (125) (Fig. 9) or just later Roman sherds (149 (Fig. 9) and 302). Posthole 149 cut the edge of chalk surface 385 which strengthens the argument they are contemporary.

Four post structure 133, 135, 144 and 145

This is recorded in the far south-east of the site. The postholes 133 and 135 truncated earlier pits 130/2 whilst postholes 144 and 145 truncated cut spread 465. Posthole 145 also contained later Roman sherds. The postholes were between 0.30–0.67m in diameter and 0.28–0.35m deep and all contained flint nodules as post packing.

Pit 146

This was recorded in the south-eastern part of the site and truncated posthole 145 and itself was cut by pit 147, so its fully shaped and plan was not ascertained but it was 0.35m deep.

Pit 147

This was recorded the south-eastern part of the site. It was 1.27m and 0.30m deep and contained five sherds of pottery of later 3rd-4th century date.

Pit 20

This was circular 2.00m in diameter and 0.32m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill (85) which was a mid yellow brown clayey silt. It contained three sherds of pottery along with two abraded pieces of probable Roman roofing tile (*tegula*).

Pit 129

This was truncated by modern disturbance and an redundant service and was 0.27m by 0.30m only 0.22m deep. It contained two sherds of pottery

It is possible that posthole 128 also in the far eastern part of the site are likely of similar date. This was 0.20 by 0.30m and 0.21m deep.

Phase 6: Saxon (Fig. 6)

A midden and/or 'dark earth' layer 204 was recorded overlying ditch 201, posthole 16 and the natural? hollow (23, 24 and 26) to the east. The spread (79, 82, 84, 86, 91 and 96) was a dark brownish grey sandy silt which produced a total 132 sherds of pottery, of which 34 were Saxon in date, 15 were prehistoric and the remainder were Roman. A large assemblage (for this site) of animal bone, 87 fragments, was recovered from this deposit including three worked bone fragments which took the form of a bone comb, spindle whorl and off cut. A socketed iron implement was also recovered together with fired clay and several tile fragments.

A possible Saxon ditch was recorded in test pits 2 and 3, c. 30m to the north-eastern of the main excavation areas (Fig. 3). Test pit 2 contained a linear feature (304) on a NW-SE alignment. It was at least 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep. Its fill (477) was a mid grey silt which contained one sherd of pottery in a fabric that could be Saxon or Iron Age. Animal bone one was also recovered. About 11m to the SE test pit 3 was excavated. This contained what appeared to be the terminal end of a shallow ditch (305). This was at least 1.5m wide and 0.42m deep and its fill (478) was a mid grey silt which contained one sherd of pottery and animal bone.

Undated

Pit 18 was ovoid 0.18m and 0.44m and 0.10m deep with shallow sides and a rounded base. It contained a dark brownish grey silty clay (98).

Posthole 19. This was 0.27m in diameter and 0.13m deep.

Pits 141 and 142 were recorded the south-eastern part of the site. Neither was seen fully in plan but both had a shallow concave side and concave base. Pit 141 was at least 0.28m deep and truncated pit 142 which was at least 0.25m deep.

Finds

The Early Prehistoric Pottery by Frances Raymond

Ten residual prehistoric sherds derived from five vessels (weighing 152g.) came from one of the Roman postholes (cut 125). The assemblage includes fragments from two late Neolithic Fengate Ware vessels and wall sherds from two early Bronze Age urns. A single undecorated wall fragment in a sandy fabric may be of early Bronze Age date, but an Iron Age origin is more likely.

The pottery has been recorded by context following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Details of fabric, form, decoration, surface treatment and colour, wall thickness, fragmentation and condition have been entered on a database and are available in the archive. Each of the wares is identified by a unique alpha-numeric code based on the initial letters of its non-plastic inclusions. The fabrics were described with the aid of a binocular microscope set at X40 magnification.

The Peterborough Ware

Five sherds of late Neolithic Peterborough Ware are derived from two Fengate vessels (weighing 80g.). A single fresh fragment (11g) from the rim and collar of a thin-walled bowl is decorated with fingernail impressions (collar thickness of 7mm.). These are arranged in a single row on the rim top, with an apparently random distribution on the collar. There might have been patterning in the arrangement, but if so, it is unclear because of the small size of the sherd. The vessel has a light reddish brown exterior (5YR6/4) and is made from a soft, coarse fabric that incorporates sparse burnt flint (0.5 to 6mm.), rare grog (up to 6mm.), sparse mica (<0.06 mm.) and abundant rounded quartz sand (<0.06 to 0.8mm).

The other four lightly abraded sherds are from the collar and walls of a second Fengate bowl (weighing 69g; wall thickness of 8–10mm). This is decorated with interlocking filled triangles composed of twisted cord impressions. The vessel has a very dark grey exterior (5YR3/1 and 7.5YRN3) and a very coarse, soft fabric containing moderate amounts of unevenly distributed burnt flint (0.5–11mm) and similar quantities of rounded quartz sand (0.2–1mm).

Although not restricted to the sub-style, fingernail motifs are common on Fengate rims, while scattered impressions of this type are a recurrent form of embellishment on vessel walls. Interlocking filled triangles composed of twisted cord, end-to-end fingernail impressions or incised lines occur less frequently being used, for example, on other Fengate bowls from Astrop in Northamptonshire (Smith 1956, figs 55.2 and 57.4) and Cannon Hill, Maidenhead (Bradley *et al.* 1976, fig. 6.10).

The Early Bronze Age Pottery

The four early Bronze Age sherds (56g) are made from soft grog tempered wares with evenly distributed inclusions. All are wall fragments providing no indication of vessel form. Three fresh sherds (23g) are from a

thick (13mm) walled urn decorated with up to three parallel rows of deep triangular impressions. The vessel has a reddish brown exterior (5YR5/4) and a fabric incorporating sparse calcareous inclusions that are probably shell (0.5–1.5mm), very common grog (0.3–5mm) and moderate amounts of rounded quartz sand (0.3–0.5mm). The second urn is represented by a single moderately abraded sherd with a light brown exterior that has faint traces of two offset twisted cord impressions (weighing 33g.; wall thickness of 8 to 10mm.; 7.5YR6/4). The fabric incorporates sparse burnt flint (0.5 to 5mm.), moderate grog (0.5 to 5mm.) and abundant quartz sand (<0.06 to 0.8mm.).

Pottery of Uncertain Phasing

A single lightly abraded wall fragment (16g) is made from a soft ware containing abundant, rounded quartz sand (<0.06–1mm.). Fabrics of this type are most common in Iron Age assemblages, but do occur infrequently amongst earlier ceramic groups including those of the early Bronze Age. Given the lack of stylistic attributes and the residual origin of this particular sherd either date is possible.

Later Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of some 929 sherds weighing c. 16.5kg dating to the later prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods, in addition to the small quantity of earlier prehistoric sherds described above. Pottery was recovered from some 70 defined cuts and a total 118 individual contexts.

The assemblage was moderately well preserved with several instances of multiple sherds from single vessels. The overall average sherd weight is 17.7g. The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The fabric codes for the later prehistoric and Saxon material adopted follow the system recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research group (PCRG 1997) where the main inclusions are represented by a two letter prefix for each component (SA – sand; OR – organic etc). The Roman wares are coded using the National Roman reference collection for traded or named wares (Tomber and Dore 1998) and more generically for unprovenanced material. The entire assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces where joins could be made. In addition rims were measured for diameter and percentage present for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE). Evidence of use in the form of residues, sooting or leaching and any post-firing modifications were noted. The resulting data were entered onto an MS Excel spreadsheet a copy of which is with the site archive.

In the following report the assemblage is described chronologically by fabric and form for each main defined period followed by a discussion of the assemblage in terms of the site.

Middle-late Iron Age (Table 1)

In total some 608 sherds of pottery dating to the later prehistoric period were recorded weighing some 11.35kg. These wares effectively account for *c.* 65% of the total assemblage. A wide range of fabrics were recorded which can be divided into seven main ware groups with a total 25 defined fabrics. The similarity of some sherds with later Saxon material has made separating some of the wares from the post-Roman layers difficult.

A quantified summary of the fabrics can be found in Appendix 2, Table 1 with a summary of the main ware groups in Appendix 2, Table 2. Grog-tempered wares typical of the later Iron Age and early Roman period dominate accounting for 27% by count followed by the calcareous group at 20.4%. Flint-tempered wares contribute a further 17.9% and organic-tempered wares 12.5%.

The rims from the later prehistoric assemblage give a total EVE of 6.36 of which 1.83 come from the grog-tempered wares. Of the 4.52 EVE belonging to the non-grog-tempered fabric groups, around 15% are from bowls, 7.7% from saucepan-style pots and the rest from jars. Within the jars some 44% have a beaded rim, 8.9% are very large storage vessels with diameters around 300–400mm; 11% are from ovoid ‘hole-mouthed’ jars with undifferentiated rims, 8.6% are from slack-side jars, 14.9% are from slightly everted rim jars and 7.5% from vertical rimmed jars. The remaining 12.6% are individual one-off or unclassifiable form. The grog-tempered group which includes both hand and wheel made vessels comprises 42% beaded-rim forms, 18% necked cordoned jars/ bowls; 25% simple everted rim jars; 8% rolled, thickened rims and 3.8% neckless jars and 3.2% other types.

The presence of saucepan pots in three of the fabrics: finer flint-tempered (FL2); fine sandy (SA5) and calcareous sandy (SACA), the ovoid jars and rounded globular bowls all suggest that the assemblage starts in the mid-late Iron Age. The beaded-rim jars are particularly well represented in a wide range of fabrics including flint, grog, oolitic limestone, alluvial shell and sandy wares. Whilst most of the vessels are plain with no obvious finish, some vessels, particularly the bowls and saucepan-style pots, have clearly been smoothed and a few have a surviving burnished finish. This latter feature occurs on *c.* 5% of the sherds. Decoration although present is also quite limited with just over 1% of the later prehistoric assemblage showing any form of motif. These include tooled straight or curvilinear lines (sherds to illustrate: 8, 12, 20), rim slashes (1) and two scored pieces. Other sherds shows a roughened finger-smear finish and some show wipe marks on the interior surfaces.

Early to middle Iron Age elements in the assemblage are hinted at from two sherds of scored ware, a single thumb-depressed bodysherd and four pieces of haematite-slipped ware from at least two vessels. There do not appear to be any recognizably early rim forms to go with these sherds, there are no angular bowls or biconical jars but there are several slack-sided jars with undifferentiated rims and one vessel with a slashed rim.

Approximately 1.5% of the sherds showed evidence of use in the form of internal burnt residues; one vessel was sooted on the exterior and one had an internal calcareous deposit. A few of the calcareous-tempered wares had voids on the interior surface where inclusions have leached out through use. Two basesherds have been modified after firing with holes drilled through.

Description of fabrics and associated forms

Group 1: Flint

FL1: black, micaceous sandy ware containing sparse angular calcined flint 2–3mm in size. Two jar sherds both from pit 3.

FL2: handmade, generally reduced ware with a moderate to common frequency of angular white flint less than 1 mm in size. Used to make saucepan-style vessels with burnished finishes and occasional tooled line decoration. Also present is a beaded rim jar.

FL3: moderately thin-walled hard, granular-textured fabric red-brown to grey-brown in colour. The paste contains a sparse to moderate frequency of rounded quartz sand (less than 0.5mm) and a sparse scatter of angular, white flint up to 1.5 mm in size.

FL4: a medium to coarse fabric with a moderate frequency and white angular, calcined, flint up to 2–3mm in size and finer. Represented by a single rimsherd from a large everted rim storage jar.

SAFL: a sandy, fairly hard ware with a sparse frequency of fine angular flint. The fabric is well-represented accounting for 10% by count of the later prehistoric assemblage. Several sherds have a rough finger-smear external finish. One piece from pit 108 has a thumb depression on the body and one saucepan-style vessel from pit 13 is decorated with incised chevrons and has a burnished finish (to illustrate: 12). Other vessels include a slack-sided jar with a notched rim (1) and a rough-surfaced slack-sided jar (9).

SAFLOR: as above but with distinct linear impressions from the inclusion of organic matter. Represented by just three sherds from the same context.

Group 2: Calcareous

LISH: oolitic limestone and fossil-shell tempered. A coarse fabric with a common frequency of coarse fossil shell fragments accompanied by occasional grains of oolitic limestone. Represented by a single rim from a handmade beaded rim jar.

SH1: coarse fossil shell-tempered. Two sherds show the presence of internal residue. A small group with no rims present.

SH2: alluvial shell-tempered. A grey or brown smooth-finished or burnished ware with a moderate frequency of very fine shell fragments. The thin-walled nature of the shell with gastropods suggests it is of alluvial origin rather than fossil shell. Mainly used for medium to large wide-mouthed ovoid jars with short or beaded rims and bowls generally with a burnished finish (2–5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16). One vessel from pit 24 has a swag-style decorative scheme (20). The ware accounts for 14.8% of the later prehistoric assemblage.

SH2FE: alluvial shell-tempered with frequent iron. As SH2 but with the addition of large inclusions of orange-brown iron oxide with grains 2–3mm in size. A small angular fragment from ditch 200 may be part of a handle.

SACA: sandy with calcareous inclusions. These range from quite fine sparse inclusion to one sherd with several coarse lumps of limestone (chalk). One vessel from pit 36 is decorated with a tooled curvilinear line (8). Some sherds have a burnished finish.

SAFECA: sandy with iron oxides and calcareous inclusions (11).

Group 3: Ferruginous

FESA: a generally pale brown ware with a sandy texture. Distinguished by a common to moderate frequency of dark orange-brown inclusions of iron, up to 2–3mm across in size. These undoubtedly occur naturally in the clay and are not additives.

Group 4: Organic

SAOR: a sandy fabric with a sparse to moderate frequency of organic matter incorporated into the clay and visible on the surfaces as linear impressions. A moderately common fabric accounting for 11.3% by count. Vessels appear to be limited to jar and bowl forms (15, 18, 19) but a variety of surface finishes are present.

These include smoothed or burnished sherds, and single examples of a roughened finger-smearred sherd and one with scoring. One sherd from pit 7 has a scar from a handle attachment.

SAORMIC: similar to above but with a finer, micaceous paste. Vessels include an everted rim jar.

Group 5: Sandy

SA1: a medium to fine sandy ware fired to a mid-dark brown or black colour. The paste contains a moderate to common frequency of well-sorted quartz less than 0.5mm in size. A moderately small group with just three jar rims, two everted and one beaded.

SA2: a hard sandy ware with a moderate frequency of dark brown grains of glauconite and quartz sand. A small group including a single jar rim.

SA3: a hard sandy ware with a distinctive granular texture. The only featured sherd is a beaded-rim jar.

SA4: a finer sandy ware sometimes with a burnished or smoothed finish. A moderate to common frequency of very fine well-sorted quartz sand. One bodysherd from pit 13 has a haematite-slipped finish. Used to make jars (6).

SA5: a black sandy micaceous ware. Used to make saucepan-style pots with a burnished finish (17).

SA6: a sandy ware with a haematite slip finish. The paste contains a moderate scatter of well-sorted sub-angular white quartz less than 0.5 mm. A single vessel represented by three bodysherds.

Group 7: Grog-tempered

GR1: A generally dark brown to black ware with a waxy surface feel. Used to make both handmade and wheel-made vessels. The paste is characterised by the present of sparse to moderate grog up to 2 mm in size and finer. Some vessels have a burnished finish. Vessels include necked jars and bowls, cordon-necked jars and beaded rim jars. One base from ditch 6 has a large hole made after firing.

GRFL: as GR1 but with the addition of a sparse frequency of fine, angular white calcined flint. Handmade and wheel-made vessels. A base from ditch 14 has three holes drilled though made after the vessel had been fired.

GRSA: As GR1 but with a much sandier texture suggesting the use of different clay. All the featured sherds are from beaded rim jars.

Roman (Appendix 2, Table 3)

The Roman assemblage comprises some 275 sherds weighing 4623g, with 3.73EVE. Sherd preservation is quite good with an overall average sherd weight of 16.8g. The emphasis appears to be on the earlier and in particular the later Roman period with less evidence of mid Roman activity. The group comprises a mixture of imports, both continental and regional, and probable local wares. Several fabrics are represented by between 1–3 sherds only. Products of the Alice Holt industry dominate and here the emphasis is very much on products of the later industry although there are a few sherds and fabrics more typical of the 1st century. Overall this accounts for 44.9% by count, 30.5% by weight. The second commonest fabric is the handmade grog-tempered storage jar. Although the Alice Holt industry made storage jars only one sherd appears to be present, with the grog-tempered jars fulfilling this function. These jars appear in quantity in the Oxfordshire region from the early 2nd century. All other wares contributed 8% or less of the total Roman assemblage.

The imports are limited to just three sherds of Central Gaulish samian and single examples of a North African amphora, a North Gaulish mortarium and another burnt white ware mortarium. Most of the regional imports highlight the later Roman use of the site with examples of Dorset black burnished ware, late grog-tempered ware, Oxfordshire wares and Midlands shelly ware which usually signals a date from the last quarter of the 4th century.

In terms of the vessel repertoire the range is quite limited and jars dominate accounting for 62% of the Roman assemblage by eve; followed by bowls at 18.4% dishes at 14.3%, mortaria at 2.7% and lids at 2%.

Description of main Roman fabrics and associated forms.

Fabric codes for imported and regionally-traded wares from Tomber and Dore 1998.

Imports

Central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA). Three sherds are present, two very tiny scraps and one piece from a dish Dragendorff 31.

African amphora (NAF AM 2). A single sherd of North African *amphora* was recovered from layer 29 (96). This is probably from a Tunisian cylindrical *amphora* which would have contained olive-oil. African *amphorae* were imported into Britain on a small scale from the later 1st century AD through to the later Roman period. In south-east England examples have been documented from London, Silchester, Canterbury, Winchester and various coastal sites (Williams and Carreras 1995).

North Gaulish white ware (NOG WH). A single broken, beaded rim from a North Gaulish mortaria with no trituration grits. The form would suggest a 1st-century AD date.

White-ware mortaria: Three sherds from a white-ware *mortarium* came from layer (96). The sherds have been heavily burnt black but the trituration grits appear to be very fine grains of quartz sand. Possibly an import.

Regional

Alice Holt reduced wares (ALH RE). Vessels from the Alice Holt industry dominate the Roman assemblage accounting for 45.8% by count. Most of the sherds are in the standard grey fabrics; some with black or white partial slips, but there are a number of black wares some imitating BBI forms such as everted jars, plain-rim dishes and flanged-rim, conical bowls. Most of the vessels are everted or flared rim jars but there are single examples of a lid and a 'Surrey' bowl amongst the rims. There are a small number of sherds in the black, slightly coarser, black fabric more typical of the earlier phase of the industry. Amongst these is a lid knob.

Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BBI). Two sherds, both from plain-rimmed dishes.

Hampshire grog-tempered ware (HAM GT). Unfeatured sherds only.

Overwey white ware (OVW WH). A single sherd a triangular-rimmed jar.

Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXF RS). A small group of 16 sherds which include two examples of Young (1977) form C45 and one variant of the same and the neck of a small flask.

Oxfordshire white-slipped ware (OXF WS). A single mortarium from ditch [22].

Late Roman shelly ware (ROB SH). Two sherds both from layer (96).

Savernake ware (SAV GT). A single possible storage jar bodysherd from ditch [21].

Other wares

Fabrics represented by less than three sherds can be found summarized in Appendix 2, Table 3.

Black sandy wares (BWSY). A small group of 17 sherds of black medium-fine sandy wares, some with a red core. Featured sherds are limited to jars.

Grog-tempered storage jar (GRSJ). A handmade ware used to make large storage jars with everted rims. Two fabrics feature, one with grog and little else with a soapy feel and one slightly sandier variant. One vessel is decorated with a line of interlinked burnished line horizontal 'S' shapes. This ware accounts for 20.9% of the Roman assemblage by count.

Grey sandy wares (GYSY). Miscellaneous medium-fine grey sandy wares with examples of both handmade and wheel-made forms. Vessels include jars and a grooved rim bowl.

Saxon (Appendix 2, Table 4)

A small assemblage of 38 sherds of Saxon pottery was recovered weighing 345g. The sherds were quite fragmented with an overall average sherd weight of 9.3g. Five fabrics could be identified although it should be noted that the sandy, calcareous and organic wares are very similar to some of the Iron Age pieces. A single

sherd shows impressed stamped decoration which suggests a 6th-century date. Other sherds are plain, burnished, or in the case of five of the seven igneous wares have a multi-directional combed surface. These latter sherds are clearly imports to the site. Granitic-tempered pottery dating to the early to middle Saxon period has now been recognized on a number of sites, particularly in the east of the country but also increasing within the London area (cf Williams and Vince 1997). Sherds have also been identified from Prospect Park, Harmondsworth (Williams 1996) and Benson, Oxfordshire (Vince 2004). Many of the British finds probably come from the Charnwood Forest area although other sources cannot necessarily be ruled out. The Bisham sherds are unusual in terms of the surface finish.

The group is dominated by black sandy wares which account for 41% by count followed by organic-tempered sherds at 25.6% but the sample is quite small. The igneous wares account for 17.9% with the remainder comprising finer sandy wares and a single calcareous sherd. Overall the group includes six rims, all from handmade jars. One sherd of the igneous-tempered group has an internal burnt residue.

Description of fabrics and associated forms

SXIGN: igneous-rock-tempered wares. Two variants are present: a black ware with a smooth surface and a coarser ware with a multi-directional combed surface. One sherd has traces of a blackened internal residue.

SXSACA: A sandy ware with sparse calcareous inclusions. The interior surface is pitted with voids where the inclusions have leached out.

SXSAOR: a sandy ware with a sparse to common frequency of organic inclusions. There are two rims both from simple handmade jars (to illustrate: 24).

SXSA: a sandy ware with smoothed surfaces. The paste contains a moderate to common frequency of well-sorted quartz and sparse grains of iron. The sherds include one decorated piece with floral stamped decoration (21) and a simple rim jar (22)..

SXBWSA: a black sandy, micaceous ware. The quartz has a distinctive 'sparkling' quality. Featured sherds come from jar forms (23).

Site distribution

A significant proportion of the pottery was recovered from a high density of cut features mainly pits along with three ditches (200, 201 and 203). A further significant proportion (19.6% of the assemblage) came from various spreads and layers. Not surprisingly with such a long history of use and various soil moving activities there is quite a significant residual component to the pottery and some groups are difficult to interpret. Of the 62 largely discrete pits and postholes containing pottery, 61% have five or fewer sherds and many have just single sherds. In addition several of the pits appear to be largely of later prehistoric in date but have just one later Roman sherd present and it is difficult to know whether this sherd should be dating the feature or should be regarded as intrusive. A similar problem occurs with the Saxon sherds which are mainly accompanied by Roman and earlier pieces.

The potentially earliest Iron Age features where there is significant amounts of pottery are pits 3, 108 and 123. Pit 3 contained 22 sherds weighing 216g in flint, sand, sand and flint, and sandy fabrics. Three of the sandy

wares have a haematite slip. Pit 108 produced 30 sherds, 414g of slightly different composition with sand, sand and flint, sand and organic and alluvial shell fabrics. Featured sherds include one with a body depression, three sherds with a rough finger-smear finish and a burnished bowl (to illustrate: 10). Pit 123 produced a sherd of scored ware alongside various sandy based wares.

Most of the remaining pits appear to date to the middle Iron Age. All contain sandy, alluvial shell or sandy mix fabrics. The individual groups are slightly different but there are too few larger groups with which to attempt a fabric/form seriation. Of particular note is pit 13 with 31 sherds weighing 784g. The sherds are well preserved with several featured pieces (11–14) including a decorated saucepan-style jar and a number of finer sandy wares. Pit 33 also produced a well-preserved assemblage of 29 sherds (1280g) including the profile of a jar (4) and a sherd of scored ware. Fabric SH2 (alluvial shell) dominated the group with several rimsherds including an exceptionally large storage jar (1–7).

Further examples of saucepan-style pots came from pits 25, 124 and 300 (to illustrate: 17); whilst the small group from pit 36 includes another decorated vessel (8) associated with a roughly finished jar in a sand with flint fabric (9). Pits 7 and 30 all had small assemblages of middle Iron Age pottery accompanied by single sherds of Alice Holt grey ware. Feature 24 contained a similar assemblage including another decorated piece (20), but is stratigraphically later as it is part of the same hollow as 27/22/96.

Some nine pits 28, 105, 106, 109, 111, 113, 114, 117 and possibly 118, and posthole 16 have grog-tempered wares present suggesting they are likely to date from the later Iron Age. The sherds are associated with fabrics continuing from the middle Iron Age. Ditch 200 also belongs to the later Iron Age-early Roman period. This feature produced 131 sherds, 2104g of pottery of which 75% are grog-tempered with both handmade and wheel-made vessels. Also present is a single imported North Gaulish *mortarium* and seven sherds of Alice Holt grey ware which suggest continued accumulation into the early Roman period. Gully 203 although only with four sherds may be broadly contemporary.

The next defined phase on ceramic grounds is quite ephemeral as most of the features contain very little pottery and very few diagnostic sherds. This includes ten pits (8, 10–12, 101, 104, 125-6, 137 and 302), one posthole (5) and scoop 127, combining for a total of just 54 sherds. The pottery mainly comprises sherds of grog-tempered storage jar, Alice Holt grey wares, grey or black sandy wares, fine grey ware and a single sherd of Lezoux samian indicating continued use of the site into the 2nd century.

The next group of features appears to date more clearly to the later Roman period. These include ditch group 201 which produced 69 sherds of which 43.5% are Alice Holt wares. Also present are sherds of DOR BBI, LEZ SA, OXF RS, OXF WS, HAM GT grog-tempered storage jar and four Saxon sherds. Presumably the latter represent post-Roman accumulation into the ditch fill. Also dating to the later 3rd-4th century are pits 20,

129 and 147 and postholes 145 and 149. Later fabrics include OXF RS, OVY WH, HAM GT and Alice Holt wares copying late BB1 forms such as flanged-rim conical bowls and flared rim jars. Several redeposited sherds of Iron Age date also feature.

The final phase of use of the site appears to date to the post-Roman period and mainly relates to spreads 79, 84 and 96. Pits 45 and 305 probably belong here. The spreads produced a total 104 sherds of which 26 are Saxon in date, 15 are prehistoric and 63 are Roman. Of particular note in the Roman material are the only two sherds of late Roman shelly ware and the single sherd of African *amphora*. Pit 45 produced eight sherds of which five are Saxon and three are Roman, whilst feature 305 produced the single sherd of stamped Saxon urn probably dating to around the 6th century.

Summary

The site at Bisham show multi-period activity dating to the earlier prehistoric, middle-late Iron Age periods, early Roman, late Roman and Saxon periods. The range of forms associated with the Iron Age occupation typified by barrel-shaped or ovoid jars with simple rims, saucepan-style pots, bowls and a small number of decorated pots would suggest a phase of occupation dating to the period 3rd-1st century BC. The hint of earlier traditions from a small number of sherds could either be a survival of a few pots into the 3rd century or may indicate an earlier phase of Iron Age activity nearby with some settlement shift. The range of fabrics seems quite typical and elements can be paralleled with other sites in the middle Thames Valley, for example, sandy, ferruginous, organic and grog-tempered wares dating to the mid-later Iron Age have been recorded from Riseley Farm, Swallowfield (Morris 1993). Certain elements such as the swag decorated bowl, and the general range of ovoid jars and bowls with slightly beaded rims and the slashed rim jar can be directly compared with assemblages from the Thames and Windrush valleys in Oxford, for example Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Lambrick and Allen 2004) and Watkins Farm, Northmoor (Allen 1990). Alluvial shell fabrics also featured at the latter site (Allen 1990, fabric group 10) but only as a very minor component but is better represented at Gravelly Guy (Duncan *et al.* 2004, table 7.4). The higher incidence in the area south of the Chilterns might suggest that this is the prevailing tradition in this area replacing the more calcareous gravel-tempered wares found to the west.

There may be an element of continuity from the later Iron Age into the early Roman period but the quantity of material is small. Although there is a single imported North Gaulish *mortarium* the assemblage is very much dominated by local wares. The complete absence of other imports to accompany the *mortarium* is perhaps a little unusual. The later Roman assemblage is more typical with small numbers of the regional imports to be expected augmented by two less common imports in the form of the North African *amphora* and imported white ware *mortarium*. The overall lack of samian at the site is perhaps noteworthy as is the absence of the generally

ubiquitous Dressel 20 Baetican *amphora* and could be a reflection of chronology, status or function. The apparent high incidence of storage jar may indicate some sort of processing and storage activity perhaps connected with agricultural production.

The scatter of Saxon material is tantalizingly sparse and highlighted by the presence of the 'imported' sherds, possibly from the Charnwood Forest area, Leicestershire. Most of the material appears to be associated with post-Roman spreads.

Catalogue of sherds to be illustrated

Nos 1-20 Iron Age

1. Slack-sided jar vertically smoothed. The upper rim surface is incised with diagonal sharp cuts. Patch black to brown in colour with a dark grey core. Fabric: SAFL. Pit [33] (154).
2. Ovoid vessel with an undifferentiated rim. Dark grey in colour with a mid brown surface. Smoothed matt exterior. Fabric SAFE. Pit [33] (154).
3. Slightly everted rim barrel-bodied jar. Light brown with a dark grey core. Fabric: SH2. Pit [33] (154).
4. Large globular bowl with a burnished exterior. Fabric: SH2. Pit [33] (154).
5. Very large storage jar with a slightly everted rim. Slightly uncertain angle due to uneven rim. The interior shows vertical scraping marks where the vessel walls have been drawn up and consolidated. The exterior is roughly burnished horizontally and diagonally. Fabric: SH2. Pit [33] (154).
6. Roughly made wide-mouthed jar with an internally bevelled rim. Brown in colour with orange margins to the core. Fabric: SA4. Pit [33] (153).
7. Barrel-shaped jar with a slightly beaded rim. Black in colour. Fabric: SH2. Pit [33] (153).
8. Beaded rim ovoid jar, dark brown in colour. Fabric: SACA. Decorated with a single curvilinear lightly tooled line. Pit [36] (164).
9. Slack-sided jar with an undifferentiated rim. Rough exterior surfaces and wipe/scrape marks on the interior. Brown with a black core. Fabric: SAFL. Pit [36] (164).
10. Round-bodied bowl with a slightly beaded rim and an exterior vertical burnish. Fabric: SH2. pit [108] (271).
11. Large diameter storage vessel with a rolled rim. Light brown in colour. Fabric: SAFECA. Pit [13] (66).
12. Saucepan-style pot black in colour. Decorated on the exterior with double-line chevrons. Sooted from use. Fabric: SAFL. Pit [13] (66).
13. Round-bodied bowl with a short vertical rim. Patchy black to brown in colour. Fabric: SH2. The inclusions have leached from the interior surface leaving voids. Pit [13] (66).
14. Curved wall vessel – either an open bowl or a slack-sided jar. Fabric: SH2. The calcareous inclusions have leached from the interior surface leaving voids. Pit [13] (66).
15. Slack-sided jar dark brown to black in colour and with a smooth exterior. Fabric: SAOR. Pit [41] (171).
16. Globular-bodied jar with a small vertical rounded rim. Dark grey in colour with a smoothed surface finish. Fabric: SH2. Pit [106] (258).
17. Saucepan-style pot, black in colour with a burnished exterior finish. Fabric: SA5. Pit [300] (471).
18. Slightly shouldered jar with a smooth exterior surface. Brown in colour. Fabric: micaceous SAOR. Pit [42] (162).
19. Small round-bodied bowl with a burnished exterior surface. Fabric: SAOR. Pit [24] (379).
20. Ovoid-bodied jar with a slightly everted lip. Smooth surfaces decorated with curvi-linear swag decoration and horizontal lines. Fabric: SH2. Pit [24] (379).

Nos 21-4 Saxon

21. Bodysherd from the upper part of a closed vessel. The vessel is decorated with zones defined by horizontal lines. The upper zone has a line of impressed segmented ring or rosette stamps; the lower zone has triple lines incised chevrons with further rosette stamps used as infilling. Fabric: SXSA. Feature [305] (478).
22. Slightly flaring rim jar. Brown exterior with a black interior and core. Fabric SXSA. Spread [29] (96).
23. Narrow mouthed round-bodied jar. Fabric: SXBWSY. Spread [29] (96).
24. Everted rim jar, black in colour. Fabric: SXSAOR. Spread [29] (96).

Fired Clay by Jane Timby

A moderately small assemblage of 155 pieces of fired clay weighing 1924g was recovered (Appendix 3). Most of this comprises small amorphous fragments of no obvious function. A few fragments contained fragments of white chalk which may be pieces of daub. Examples were recovered in particular from pits 41 and 42. One piece from ditch 21 showed the impression of a round stick, perhaps a wattle suggesting it may also have been structural. The only other fragments of note are 20 degraded pieces of sandy ware with flint pebbles and organic matter from pit 37 which are probably the remains of a perforated triangular loomweight. Four further pieces of loomweight came from pit 41. A small fragment from pit 28 may be from a metal-working mould

The fired clay was distributed across a larger number of features with the only concentration coming from pit 114 which produced some 74 small fragments weighing 264g.

Ceramic building material

Fifty eight pieces of ceramic building material weighing 4kg were recovered (Appendix 4), the majority from the later Roman buildings and midden spreads. A tegula was recovered from dark earth deposit 96 and two pieces from pit 20 are probably from Roman roofing tile (*tegula*) but are in a battered condition. A possible floor tile came from the midden (79) and Roman tile fragments from elements of Roman building 202.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 21 struck flints was recovered from the site (Appendix 5). These comprised nine flakes, six blades (narrow flakes) 4 spalls (piece less than 20x20mm) and two retouched pieces. All pieces were recovered as residual or as unstratified finds. The material was in a moderate condition, with some pieces lightly patinated light blue. Two sources of flint seemed to have been in use from the cortex present with both gravel flint and flint direct from the chalk represented.

The collection includes a number of well made blades which are probably of Mesolithic date. The other pieces have no distinctive chronological attributes. They could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, or even reflect *ad hoc* use or accidental production in Iron Age and Roman times.

One of the retouched pieces is difficult to ascribe to type. It appears to have commenced as a core but was subsequently retouched to form a scraping edge. Alternatively it is some form of small core tool. The other retouched piece is a narrow flake segment with the ventral surface of the bulbar end edge retouched to form a point. It is possibly a fragmentary Mesolithic oblique blunted microlith with basal retouch.

Burnt Flint

Burnt flint was recovered from 33 contexts across the site, both later prehistoric and Roman (Appendix 6). These were in very low numbers in the majority of the contexts apart from middle-late Iron Age pits 33 (64 fragments) and 28 (100 fragments). It is likely this flint was used for cooking. The material has been weighed, counted and discarded.

Metalwork and Metallurgical debris by Steven Crabb

A small assemblage of metalwork was recovered consisting of 9 ferrous objects weighing 177g all of which are identifiable. They can be split into the following categories, implements or tools, personal objects and fittings.

Implements or tools

Cat. No. 1 from Saxon deposit 79 is a socketed implement measuring 114mm long. The socket is 20mm external diameter and 16mm internal diameter. The socket flattens out to a plate which is square in shape with rounded corners and measures 33mm across and has a hooked indentation on the socket side of the square. Although the exact function is not clear it seems to be a hooked implement mounted on a long handle.

Cat. No. 7 from late Roman deposit (388) is a piece of iron 50mm long square at one end 6mm across and hexagonal at the other end measuring 4mm across. It is similar in form to a number of implements including plasterer's tools, small chisels, gouges and some small drill bits.

Cat. No. 9 is a punch or chisel from modern? pit 148 (470), it measures 94mm long and is rectangular in cross section measuring 14mm by 10mm at the widest point tapering to 5mm by 6mm where the tip has been broken off. It bears similarity to objects used to shape or decorate metal, although given the blunt edge it is also possible it was used as mason's fine chisel.

Personal objects

Cat. No. 6 from Roman deposit (388) is a long piece of round section iron 10mm wide and 77mm long it is then right angled to a rectangular section 35mm long and 6mm by 5mm in cross section. It then is right angled again to an 18mm long square section piece 4mm across. The end is a circular piece but is corroded beyond recognition. This may be a key which has extensive damage to the head with all the teeth broken off.

Cat. No. 8 from later Roman pit 137 (398) is a section of bangle 60mm long and circular in cross section 2mm across. There is no visible decoration present on this item.

Fittings

Four nails were recovered (from features 35, 29, 102 and 123) which represents a very small number, suggesting that if any structure was on or near this site then it did not rely on nails but either used wooden pegs or fitted carpentry. Details of the nails are in archive.

Slag

A single fragment of bloomery slag weighing 42g was recovered from Iron Age pit 106 (258).

Animal Bone bones by Matilda Holmes

Animal bone was recovered from contexts spanning the early prehistoric to Saxon periods. Sample sizes were small - the largest assemblages came from mid-later Iron Age pits, later Iron Age-early Roman pits and ditches,

and a range of Saxon features (Appendix 7, Table 1), so only the bones recorded from these phases will be considered in any depth. Even combining the mid-later Roman phases produces a very small assemblage.

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification (Prummel and Frisch, 1986; Payne, 1985) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (small – rodent /rabbit sized; medium – sheep / pig / dog size; or large – cattle / horse size). Ribs were not identified to species, vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments.

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Silver (1969), as were bone fusion (Silver 1969), metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988; Sykes 2007) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is so badly degraded to be almost unrecognisable (Lyman 1994: 355). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. All fragments were recorded, although articulated or associated fragments were entered as a count of 1, so they did not bias the relative frequency of species present. Details of associated bone groups were recorded in a separate table.

A number of sieved samples were collected but because of the highly fragmentary nature of such samples a selective process was undertaken, whereby fragments were recorded only if they could be identified to species and / or element, or showed signs of taphonomic processes.

Taphonomy and Condition

As Appendix 7, table 2 shows, the bones were generally in good to fair condition but subject to considerable fragmentation (following Holmes and Browning 2011). A high proportion of the assemblage (25–35%) contained fresh breaks, reflecting the friable nature of the bones. Relatively few fragments could be refitted, implying that they were subject to minimal post-depositional movement – the high number of refitted fragments from the mid-late Iron Age came from a crushed horse skull.

There was considerable gnawing in all phases, indicating that a proportion of the assemblage was not buried immediately after discard, but were accessible to dogs to chew. The fairly high ratio of loose teeth to those remaining within the mandible also suggests that not all fragments were buried straight away, being left for long enough for the connective tissue holding teeth in the mandible to break down and the teeth fall out. This ratio was least for the Iron Age assemblage, which was afforded more protection by deposition in pits, and

suggests little post burial movement. Contrasting with this, all teeth were loose in the Saxon deposits, reflecting the spread of midden material.

There was very little evidence of burning, suggesting that bones were not directly exposed to flames, either from cooking, as a method of disposal or as a fuel. The only exception to this were the group of calcined bones from context 278 which had been subject to high temperatures. Few butchery marks were observed, but these could have been obliterated by the action of canid gnawing.

The complete skeleton of a male dog aged approximately 18 months was recovered from context 163, one of the fills of mid-late Iron Age pit 42. There was no evidence that the animal was skinned or disarticulated, and it may be that it was a convenient way of disposing of the animal, although the deliberate placing of animal carcasses in pits of this date is a common ritual activity, which provides an alternative possibility (Morris 2008; Wilson 1999).

The Assemblage

Although few butchery marks were observed, the high fragmentation of the assemblage suggests that some form of processing took place – the presence of greater numbers of limb bones, and few bones indicative of primary butchery (i.e. vertebrae and phalanges) suggests that the assemblages in all phases consisted largely of food refuse (Appendix 7, Table 3). As none of the samples sizes are above the recommended threshold of 300 identified fragments (Hambleton 1999) for full, detailed analysis, only a basic summary will be given.

The assemblage was dominated by the main domesticates (cattle, sheep/ goat and pig) with an apparent decrease in sheep/ goat numbers with time (Appendix 7, Table 4). Horse remains were also recorded in low numbers and a number of postcranial red deer bones were recovered from the late Roman (metatarsal) and Saxon (metatarsal and radius) phases, indicating that they formed part of the diet. The absence of bird remains and the presence of just a single (unidentified) fish bone suggests these animals were not commonly eaten, and the results from the sieved samples reflect this (Appendix 7, Table 5).

Despite the small size of the assemblage, a number of pathological fragments were observed: The dog skeleton from a mid-late Iron Age pit had lost its 4th premolar ante-mortem, and the alveolar space had rehealed. One out of two mid-late Iron Age cattle 3rd molars had no anterior cusp, which represents a congenital condition. A late Iron Age cattle 3rd phalange exhibited lipping to the proximal articular surface, which could be an age-related change, or due to trauma related with the animals use for traction. Finally, a later Iron Age pig tibia had signs of a massive infection, with a sinus in the shaft, and a build up of bone surrounding it.

Worked bone

A number of worked bones were recovered:

Saxon? spindle whorl probably antler, though could be a large mammal (e.g. cattle or horse size) pelvis from deposit (82).

Saxon bone composite comb made from the large flat bone of a large mammal from deposit (79).

Saxon bone offcut, of indeterminate origin from deposit (96).

Radiocarbon dating

Analyses of samples animal bone from pits 42 (282) and 118 (365) are being carried out by the University of Kiel laboratory and we are awaiting the results.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Rosalind McKenna

Thirty-three samples were submitted for analysis (Appendix 8). The samples were from pits, postholes, ditches and gully features as well as deposits from middens and general spreads. The samples dated from the prehistoric to the Saxon periods. The samples were subjected to standard water flotation techniques.

The flot was then sieved into convenient fractions (4, 2, 1 and 0.3mm) for sorting and identification of charcoal fragments. Identifiable material was only present within the 4 and 2mm fractions. A random selection of ideally 100 fragments of charcoal of varying sizes was made, which these were then identified. Where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments, all fragments were studied and recorded. This information is recorded with the results of the assessment in Appendix 8, Table 1. Charcoal identification was made using the wood identification guides of Schweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000).

Charred plant macrofossils were present in twenty three of the samples but were generally very poorly preserved, and were lacking in most identifying morphological characteristics. The plant macrofossils present in the samples varied in preservation (from very poor to average), abundance and diversity throughout the samples. The most commonly recorded macrofossil was indeterminate cereal.

Where identifications were possible, wheat and barley were represented, mainly in small numbers.

Charcoal fragments were present in 32 of the samples, and mainly scored a '1' or '2' on the semi quantitative scale. Charcoal that was large enough to be identified was present within just thirteen of the samples.

Middle to Late Iron Age

Five samples produced remains which were identifiable, all in tiny amounts. Willow / poplar, hazel and ash were present within the samples in small numbers. A single sample contained identifiable remains of oak only.

Late Iron Age

Three of the samples from this phase produced samples with identifiable remains. One contained purely oak and one was purely willow / poplar. The third sample was dominated by willow / poplar and also contained small amounts of hazel and oak.

Late Iron Age to early Roman and Late Roman

Samples of these phases follow the pattern of the late Iron Age. One sample contained only remains of oak charcoal. The other samples were dominated by willow / poplar with hazel and oak also present, and just one sample contained ash.

The total range of charcoal taxa comprises oak (*Quercus*), hazel (*Corylus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), and willow / poplar (*Salix / Populus*), with the latter by far the most numerous of the identified charcoal fragments, and it is possible that this was the preferred fuel wood-obtained from a local environment containing a broader choice of species. Bark was also present on some of the charcoal fragments, and this indicates that the material is more likely to have been firewood, or the result of a natural fire. Generally, there are various, largely unquantifiable, factors that effect the representation of species in charcoal samples including bias in contemporary collection, inclusive of social and economic factors, and various factors of taphonomy and conservation (Théry-Parisot 2002). On account of these considerations, the identified taxa are not considered to be proportionately representative of the availability of wood resources in the environment in a definitive sense, and are possibly reflective of particular choice of fire making fuel from these resources, with the prevalence of smaller trees - salix / poplar being selected. It is worth noting that larger trees such as oak and ash are only present as a background species within the samples, perhaps indicating they were absent from the local environment or that they were the chosen timber for structures and so not used as a fire wood.

Cereal grains were present, in 23 of the samples and varied in preservation. Most of the grains were so poorly preserved that they cannot be identified further than 'indeterminate cereal grain'. Barley, and wheat were all present within the samples. Barley was the most commonly occurring identifiable cereal grain present in eleven of the samples. Wheat was also present in four of the samples. It is important to note, however, that the majority of cereal grains recovered from this site were in fact indeterminate. It is likely though that the identified cereal grains reflect the proportion in which they existed and were cultivated on the site.

The archaeobotanical evidence was all very similar in the various features and periods studied. Overall, the low numbers of grains, chaff and weed seeds in the majority of the samples indicates the accidental burning of cleaned grain and its subsequent disposal, or the use of material cut from cultivated ground as fuel.

Conclusions

These excavations have revealed a dense cluster of archaeological deposits used over a long period of time from the Iron Age through Roman and into Saxon periods. There was limited evidence for earlier prehistoric activity on the site with Mesolithic and later flintwork present. Most of this flintwork was recovered from features of clearly later date, and the density of finds recovered does not appear to indicate the former presence of a well used occupation site, yet is more than sufficient to conclude that the location was used frequently, with casual loss or discard of flintwork occurring repeatedly. The Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered as residual finds from later features but given its fragility, the large size of the sherds recovered suggests this is likely to have been derived ultimately from cut features on the site. Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age deposits located away from monumental or burial sites are infrequently encountered but often take the form of isolated pits (cf Ford and Taylor 2004). There is debate as to whether such pits represent a ritual/ceremonial activity in isolation or simple domestic activity though it is probable that they represent a combination of both activities (Garrow *et al.* 2006). From this perspective, despite the tentative nature of the evidence it seems likely that Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age occupation was present on the site also.

The later prehistoric (Iron Age) occupation was represented by large, often intercutting, pits. These are considered to be for below-ground grain storage, with both classical references to the practice and experimental data to support the notion (Reynolds 1974; Cunliffe and Poole 1991). Their distinctive 'beehive' or undercut profiles are likely to be a product of repeated cleaning. There is, though, little evidence to confirm or refute this interpretation here. Whilst it is not expected that there is a direct correlation between grain storage and charred cereals recovered from sieved samples, since the backfills may relate to secondary usage for rubbish disposal rather than any primary storage function, still, very little grain was recovered, nor processing debris such as chaff.

The animal bone assemblage indicated cattle, sheep/goat and pig were kept as the predominant animal species and in a proportion typical of domestic assemblages recorded elsewhere, with cattle being the most important in terms of meat. Some horse was also represented (but mostly as a ritually placed horse skull) but no wild species, and it is perhaps surprising, but not necessarily unusual, that there is a lack of fish (just a single bone) or wild fowl despite the proximity of the river resources.

It seems clear that only part of the Iron Age settlement has been identified. There was no evidence of buildings for living or storage in the ground plans, even for the northern areas where the pit digging was much less intense. The density of pits recorded points to an ability to store a large volume of grain, much more so than

that needed by a single family farmstead. The inference of this is that there is some form of centralized storage (cf Weaver and Ford 2005). It has been argued that each pit represents only a single episode of use and thus just one family farm could easily generate the volume of pits found here within a single generation. If this assumption was accepted uncritically, it would be difficult to reconcile why, overall, there are so relatively *few* pits recorded on Iron Age sites. There has been much discussion and experimental data on the topic of the use of Iron Age pits for grain storage (Reynolds 1995; Cunliffe and Poole 1991) and whilst there is clearly some time depth in the use of the pits here (as they intercut), there is no practical reason why a pit could not be repeatedly used over many years. The use of abandoned pits for the deliberate burial of bones, namely a horse skull and the complete skeleton of a dog is a well recorded ritual activity (Wait 1985).

In the late Iron Age–early Roman period use of the site changed in form. The deep pits seem to have gone out of use and are cross-cut by a number of curvilinear ditches. The plan of these features is too limited to determine their function, such as to differentiate between a widespread field system, or internal boundaries relating to stock management. Yet they still contained domestic material cultural remains indicating that inhabited zones were not far from the excavation areas.

Further development of the site took place within Roman times, with several episodes of reorganization present, and a suggestion of a break in the occupation in the 3rd century. Overall for the Roman period, faunal remains and charred plant remains recovered were few. For the stock this again indicated the usual cattle dominated-range of domestic animals, but with a number of deer bones recovered. Charred plant remains were mainly charcoal with a little cereal present.

Early (2nd century) Roman activity is not especially well represented with some shallow pits present but with a modest volume of cultural material, such as pottery, recovered, and quite possibly nothing for the early 3rd century. It is possible that the site overall is much less intensively used at this time or simply that the main focus of the habitation zones had shifted away from the excavation area. Whilst arguments from absence cannot be conclusive, especially when only a small area is examined, nonetheless, a break in occupation in the middle Roman period is becoming a clear trend across the region, with notably few minor sites occupied continuously (Booth *et al.* 2007, 43; Milbank 2010, chart 1).

In the later Roman period (later 3rd-4th century) more intensive use recurred and further reorganization of the site took place with, notably, a rectangular timber post-built building with a laid chalk floor (202). Buildings other than stone-built villas are not routinely encountered on rural Roman sites and it is assumed that this is a

product of a construction technique (such as sleeper beam or post pad) which leaves little below ground trace, but a number of such structures have recently been recorded for the region which provide comparison. Less clear cut is whether the slightly earlier ring gully feature (201) represents a circular structure rather than a small enclosure or pen. Roman circular structures are generally uncommon (or perhaps, not recognized) but one has recently been recorded at All Souls Farm, Wexham which comprised a ring gully of 2nd century date (Ford 2008). At the same site, two rectangular structures were recorded. One was a simple post-in-hole construction of 2nd century date, whereas the second comprised a mixed posthole, post-pad and beam trench structure of 3rd century date. Neither of these latter structures retained floors. Two structures at Wood Lane, Cippenham also of 2nd century date did retain their (gravel) floors but the comparison stops there as despite evidence for stake-built walling, no main structural features survived (Ford 2003, fig. 3.12).

The final phase of activity on the site occurred in Early Saxon times. A small collection of 38 sherds of pottery, one of which with had impressed stamped decoration suggesting a 6th-century date, along with worked bone implements were recovered from the 'darkearth' or midden deposits overlying the Roman deposits. One of the test pits to the east of the main excavation areas located a probable ditch of Saxon date. As for most of the periods represented here, it is considered that the excavations have only examined a small portion of Saxon occupation in the area, and unfortunately shed little light either on its nature or on the question of continuity from the Roman occupation.

The excavations have examined in detail a very dense area of archaeological deposits, but from the results here, and from previous survey data, only a small portion of a more extensive site has been examined. What is clear is that this location has been favoured for settlement with repeated use in several periods, and perhaps even continuous use from Middle Iron Age times throughout Roman times, and possibly into Saxon times.

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of excavated features with phasing

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Evidence</i>
	50		Topsoil		
	51		Subsoil		
	79	204	Spread	Saxon	Pottery
	96	204	Layer	Saxon	Pottery
	385	202	Chalk surface	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	386	202	Chalk surface	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	387		Spread	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	388		Spread	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	389		Spread	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	463		Spread	Roman	Pottery
	465		Spread	?	Pottery
	475		Spread	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
	476		Deposit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
1	52-3, 57-8	200	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
2	54		Gully	2nd Century	Association
3	55		Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
4	56		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
5	59		Posthole	2nd Century	Pottery
6	60-1	200	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
7	62-3		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
8	64		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
9	65		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
10	68		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
11	69		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
12	70		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
13	66-7, 72-8		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
14	71	200	Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
15	80		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
16	81		Posthole	Late Iron Age	Pottery
17	89		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
18	98		Pit	?	
19	99		Posthole	?	
20	85		Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
21	86-7	201	Ditch	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
22	82-3	201	Ditch	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
23	84		Hollow	Saxon	Pottery
24	88		Hollow	Saxon	Stratigraphy
25	90		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
26	91	204	Hollow	Saxon	Pottery
27	92	201	Ditch terminus	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
28	93-4		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
29	97, 175, 189	201	Ditch	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
30	150		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
31	151		Tree bole		
32	152		Tree bole		
33	95, 153-4, 156-7		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
34	158	201	Ditch	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
35	159		Tree bole		
36	164-8		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
37	169-70		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
38	176-81		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
39	160		Hollow	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
40	161	201	Ditch	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
41	171-4		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
42	162-3, 281-4, 380-1		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
43	183		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
44	184		Pit	Modern	
45	182		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
46	194-9		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
47	185	202	Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Association
48	186	202	Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Association
49	187	202	Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Association
100	188		Pit	Roman?	Pottery
101	190-1		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
102	250-5		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
103	192		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
104	193		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
105	256-7		Pit	Late Iron Age	Pottery
106	258		Pit	Late Iron Age	Pottery
107	259		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Evidence</i>
108	260-71		Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
109	272		Ditch	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
110	273		Tree bole		Pottery
111	274-5, 277, 297-8		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
112	276, 295-6		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
113	286-93, 382-3		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
114	278-80, 454-5, 480		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
115	294	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
116	285		Pit	Modern	
117	299, 350-1		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
118	362-6		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
119	367	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
120	358-61		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
121	353-7		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
122	352	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
123	373-6		Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
124	377-9		Pit	Middle Iron Age	Stratigraphy
125	368	202	Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Association
126	369, 372		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
127	370		Scoop	2nd Century	Pottery
128	371		Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
129	384		Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
130	390		Pit	Middle-late Iron Age	Stratigraphy
131	391	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
132	392		Pit	Middle-late Iron Age	Stratigraphy
133	393		Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Stratigraphy
134	394, 396		Pit	Middle-late Iron Age?	Stratigraphy
135	395		Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Stratigraphy
136	397		Pit	Middle-late Iron Age	=120
137	398		Pit	2nd Century	Pottery
138	399	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
139	450-2		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
140	453		Gully	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
141	458-60		Pit	?	Pottery
142	461		Pit	?	Pottery
143	462	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Stratigraphy
144	464		Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
145	466		Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
146	467-8		Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
147	469		Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
148	470		Pit	Modern	Metalwork
149	456-7	202	Posthole	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
300	471, 479		Pit	Middle-Late Iron Age	Pottery
301	472	203	Gully	Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Pottery
302	473-4	202	Pit	Later 3rd-4th century	Pottery
304	477		Ditch?	Saxon	Pottery
305	478		Ditch?	Saxon	Pottery

APPENDIX 2: Pottery summary

Table 1

Iron Age	Fabric code	Description	No	No %	Wt	Wt%	EVE	EVE %
Flint	FL1	sparse flint-tempered	2	0.3	11	0.1	6	0.9
	FL2	fine flint-tempered	21	3.5	232	2.0	10	1.6
	FL3	medium flint-tempered	85	14.0	2133	18.8	70	10.9
	FL4	med-coarse flint tempered	1	0.2	89	0.8	11	1.7
Sand/flint	SAFL	sandy with fine flint	61	10.0	1808	15.9	27	4.2
	SAFLOR	sandy with flint and organic	2	0.3	12	0.1	0	0.0
Calcareous	LISH	oolitic limestone/ fossil shell	1	0.2	26	0.2	7	1.1
	SH1	medium shelly	8	1.3	254	2.2	0	0.0
	SH2	alluvial shell	90	14.8	2315	20.4	148	23.1
	SH2FE	iron rich alluvial shell	11	1.8	182	1.6	0	0.0
Sandy/calcar.	SACA	sandy with calcareous	13	2.1	97	0.9	23	3.6
	SAFECA	sandy with iron and limestone	1	0.2	155	1.4	5	0.8
Ferruginous	FESA	sandy with iron oxides	12	2.0	132	1.2	10	1.6
Organic	SAOR	sandy with organic	65	10.7	707	6.2	72	11.2
	SAORMIC	micaceous sandy with organic	8	1.3	83	0.7	7	1.1
	SAFEOR	sandy with iron and organic	3	0.5	14	0.1	0	0.0
Sandy	SA1	medium sandy	30	4.9	396	3.5	16	2.5
	SA2	glaucanitic sandy	4	0.7	40	0.4	1	0.2
	SA3	granular sandy	1	0.2	10	0.1	3	0.5
	SA4	fine sandy	20	3.3	289	2.5	13	2.0
	SA5	fine micaceous sandy	2	0.3	11	0.1	7	1.1
	SA6	sandy with haematite slip	3	0.5	16	0.1	0	0.0
Grog	GR1	grog-tempered	131	21.5	1788	15.7	135	21.0
Grog/flint	GRFL	grog and flint tempered	25	4.1	424	3.7	46	7.2
Grog/sand	GRSA	sandy with grog	8	1.3	131	1.2	25	3.9
TOTAL			608		11355		642	

Table 2

Iron Age wares	No	No %	Wt	Wt%	EVE	EVE %
Flint	109	17.9	2465	21.7	97	15.1
Sand/flint	63	10.4	1820	16.1	27	4.2
Calcareous	124	20.4	3029	26.7	183	28.5
Ferruginous	12	2.0	132	1.2	10	1.6
Organic	76	12.5	804	7.1	79	12.3
Sandy	60	9.9	742	6.5	40	6.2
Grog	164	27.0	2343	20.7	206	32.1
TOTAL	608		11335		642	

Table 3

Roman	Fabric code	Description	No	No %	Wt	Wt%	EVE	EVE %
Imports	LEZ SA	Central Gaulish samian	3	1.1	7	0.1	0	0.0
	NAF AM	North African amphora	1	0.4	23	0.5	0	0.0
	NOG WH	North Gaulish white ware	1	0.4	102	2.2	0	0.0
	IMP WW	?imported whiteware mortaria	3	1.1	65	1.4	0	0.0
Regional	ALH RE	Alice Holt ware	127	44.9	1426	30.5	196	52.5
	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	2	0.7	151	3.2	19	5.1
	HAM GT	late grog-tempered ware	13	4.6	102	2.2	0	0.0
	OVY WH	Overwey whiteware	1	0.4	16	0.3	10	2.7
	OXF RS	Oxfordshire colour-coat	16	5.7	229	4.9	20	5.4
	OXFWS	Oxon white-slipped mortaria	2	0.7	72	1.5	10	2.7
	ROB SH	late Roman shelly ware	2	0.7	22	0.5	0	0.0
	SAV GT?	Savernake ware	1	0.4	14	0.3	0	0.0
Other	BSGW	black surfaced grey ware	1	0.4	6	0.1	0	0.0
	BSOXID	black surfaced oxidised	1	0.4	4	0.1	0	0.0
	BWSY	black sandy ware	17	6.0	108	2.3	20	5.4
	BWF	fine black ware	1	0.4	2	0.0	0	0.0
	BWSYMIC	black sandy micaceous ware	2	0.7	10	0.2	0	0.0
	CC	miscellaneous colour-coat	1	0.4	1	0.0	0	0.0
	GRSJ	grog-tempered storage jar	58	20.5	2008	43.0	37	9.9
	GYSY	grey sandy wares	23	8.1	266	5.7	53	14.2
	GYF	fine grey ware	6	2.1	32	0.7	8	2.1
	GYFGR	fine grey with grog/clay pellets	1	0.4	5	0.1	0	0.0
TOTAL			283		4671		373	

Table 4

Saxon	Fabric code	Description	No	No %	Wt	Wt%	EVE	EVE %
Imports	SXIGN	igneous rock tempered	7	18.4	134	30.8	0	0.0
	SXSACA	Calcareous	1	2.6	17	3.9	0	0.0
?Local	SXSAOR	sandy with organic	10	26.3	143	32.9	12	35.3
	SXSA	sandy	4	10.5	25	5.7	5	14.7
	SXBWSA	black sandy ware	16	42.1	116	26.7	17	50.0
TOTAL			38		435		34	

APPENDIX 3: Fired Clay catalogue by context

Cut	Deposit	Group	FType	No	Wt(g)	
4	56		pit	2	5	
6	60	200	ditch	1	18	
13	67		pit	1	30	
14	71		ditch	4	24	
15	79		spread	1	13	
21	86	201	ditch	2	46	?PERFOR/ WATTLE?
22	82	201	ditch	1	7	
28	93		pit	1	4	* ?mould frag
29	96		layer	2	38	
29	97	201	ditch	3	40	
32	152		tree bole	2	12	
33	154		pit	3	105	
33	158		pit	1	8	loomweight
37	169		pit	20	575	
38	178		pit	1	94	
41	171		pit	8	98	daub
41	174		pit	4	379	sy with org, sparse fl; loomweight
42	284		pit	2	24	or daub - chalk
45	182		pit	1	2	
102	250		pit	1	23	
105	256		pit	1	6	
111	275		pit	1	28	
114	278		pit	42	117	
114	280		pit	32	147	
123	373		pit	9	27	
124	378		pit	4	41	
125	368		pit	3	6	
137	398		pit	1	7	
138	399	203	gully	1	10	
				155	1924	

APPENDIX 4: Ceramic Building Material catalogue by context

Cut	Deposit	Group	Type	B-T	No	Wt (g)	COMMENT
	50		Topsoil				
	51		Subsoil	tile	1	32	tile light red
2	54		Gully	tile	2	44	tile light red
13	73		Pit	tile	4	254	tile light red
	79		Spread	tile	1	78	floor tile?
22	83	201	Ditch	tile	1	42	tile 2cm thick
20	85		Pit	tile	3	170	tile light red includes tegula
21	87	201	Ditch	tile	1	128	tile light red, grey inside with visible incc of flint
24	88		Hollow	tile	1	54	tile light red
	96		Layer	tile	14	1497	roof tile=tegula=570g, light red(dark red inside) with flint incc; another tegula (small piece)108g dark red;
34	158	201	Ditch	brick	5	290	small pieces of tile light red
39	160		Hollow	tile	2	92	tiles, orange
116	285		Pit	tile	1	1	modern
113	287		Pit	tile	1	42	tile light red
115	294	203	Gully	tile	2	48	tile light red grey inside
123	373		Pit	tile	2	38	tile light red
	386	202	Chalk surface	tile	2	768	roman tile? 3cm thick
	387	202	Spread	tile	6	246	small pieces light red in colour
138	399	203	Gully	tile	1	102	rectangular in shape
139	450		Pit	tile	1	12	tile dark red
149	456	202	Posthole	tile	2	1	tile small pieces
	476		Deposit	tile	2	70	tile dark red-grey inside
305	478				1	12	
			surface find	tile	2	58	modern
					58	4079	

APPENDIX 5: Struck Flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Other</i>
1	54		Gully			1			
7	63		Pit	1					
12	70		Pit	1					
14	71	200	Ditch slot				1		
25	90		Pit	1	1				
(31)	151		Tree bole					1	
34	158	201	Ditch		1				
37	169		Pit	1					
46	195		Pit		1	1			
42	282		Pit						retouched point, microlith?
118	368		Pit	3				2	
123	373	subsoil	Pit						scraper on core?
124	378		Pit		1				
42	380	top	Pit				1		
-	475		Spread					1	

APPENDIX 6: Burnt Flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
3	55		Pit	1	34
4	56		Pit	2	24
6	60	200	Ditch slot	1	34
7	62		Pit	8	458
7	63		Pit	29	816
9	65		Pit	1	6
10	68		Pit	5	182
11	69		Pit	3	130
12	70		Pit	2	190
21	86	201	Ditch slot	2	32
28	93		Pit	100	7285
33	153		Pit	4	210
33	155		Pit	61	1212
40	161	201	Ditch slot	1	1
29	175	201	Ditch slot	1	2
38	176		Pit	2	16
105	256		Pit	1	16
108	271		Pit	1	48
109	272		Ditch slot	12	682
111	275		Pit	3	16
42	281		Pit	3	98
117	299		Pit	1	34
118	362		Pit	1	80
123	375		Pit	5	86
	386	202	Chalk surface	2	96
	387		Spread	1	32
149	456		Posthole	1	54

APPENDIX 7: Bone tables

Table 1: NISP by feature type and phase. Only bones and teeth identified to species and/ or element are included.

Feature	M-LIA	LIA	LIA-ER	Mid/LateR	Saxon
Ditch			76	14	10
Pit	129	3	26	5	3
Tree Bole	1				
Deposit				1	
Feature					3
Gully			2		
Hollow					8
Layer					22
Post Hole				2	
Spread				4	12
Total	129	3	104	26	58

Table 2: Condition and Taphonomic processes affecting the assemblage

Condition	M-LIA	LIA	LIA-ER	Mid/LateR	Saxon
Fresh	1				
Good	2	51	1	34	3
Fair	3	31	1	16	10
Poor	4	5		2	2
Very Bad	5				
Total		87	2	52	15
Taphonomic Processes					
	M-LIA	LIA	LIA-ER	Mid/Late R	Saxon
Fresh Break	21		18	5	17
Refit	14=138		6=22	1=2	6=16
Gnawed	18		14	5	15
Loose Molars: Molars in Mandibles	9:11		5:7	3:1	3:0
Burnt					1
Butchered	5		7		4
Fragmentation Index	0.39		0.47		0.3

APPENDIX 7: Bone tables (cont'd)

Table 3: Anatomical representation of the main domestic mammals (fragment count)

Anatomy	Mid- late Iron Age			Late Iron Age- Early Roman			Saxon		
	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig
Mandible with molars	3	3	3	3	1	3	-	-	-
Zygomaticus	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Occipitale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horn Core	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Skull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Atlas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Axis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sacrum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cervical	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Thoracic	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Lumbar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scapula	8	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	3
Humerus	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Radius	2	8	1	3	-	-	3	2	1
Ulna	-	3	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Pelvis	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-
Femur	-	3	1	2	-	1	1	-	2
Tibia	2	8	-	4	7	1	1	2	2
Fibula	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Astragalus	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Calcaneus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metacarpal	1	4	-	1	6	-	3	1	-
Metatarsal	-	7	-	1	1	-	5	1	-
Mctapodial	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
1st Phalange	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd Phalange	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Phalange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX 7: Bone tables (cont'd)

Table 4: Species representation (NISP) of the hand collected assemblage

Species	Prehistoric	M-LIA	LIA	LIA-ER	Mid/LateR	Saxon
Cattle		40	1	45	8	23
Sheep/ Goat		42		20	6	9
Sheep		7		2		
Pig		10	2	11	3	11
Horse		6		2	2	
Dog		4				
Deer					1	
Red Deer					1	2
Frog		1				
Total Identified		110	3	80	21	45
Large Mammal		78		53	21	56
Medium Mammal	1	59	4	18	12	21
Unidentified Mammal		22		25	25	7
Fish		1				
Total	1	270	7	176	79	129

Table 5: NISP from sieved samples

Species	Mid-Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Late 2nd-3rd C
Cattle	2		
Sheep/ Goat	4		3
Pig	1	1	

APPENDIX 8: Environmental remains

Table 1. Charcoal Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978).

	Cut	3	13	33	38	102	28	114	114
	Deposit	55	67	155	176	253	93	280	278
	Sample	3	7	14	18	21	10	31	33
	Ftype	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
	Phase	MIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	LIA	LIA	LIA
	no. frags	23	24	38	50+	20	500+	14	50+
	max frag size (mm)	18	5	9	16	8	15	9	8
Name	Vernacular								
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	5	-	2	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	-	-	1	5	1	29	-	17
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Oak	-	5	-	1	-	17	6	-
	Indet.	16	19	35	42	19	39	8	33

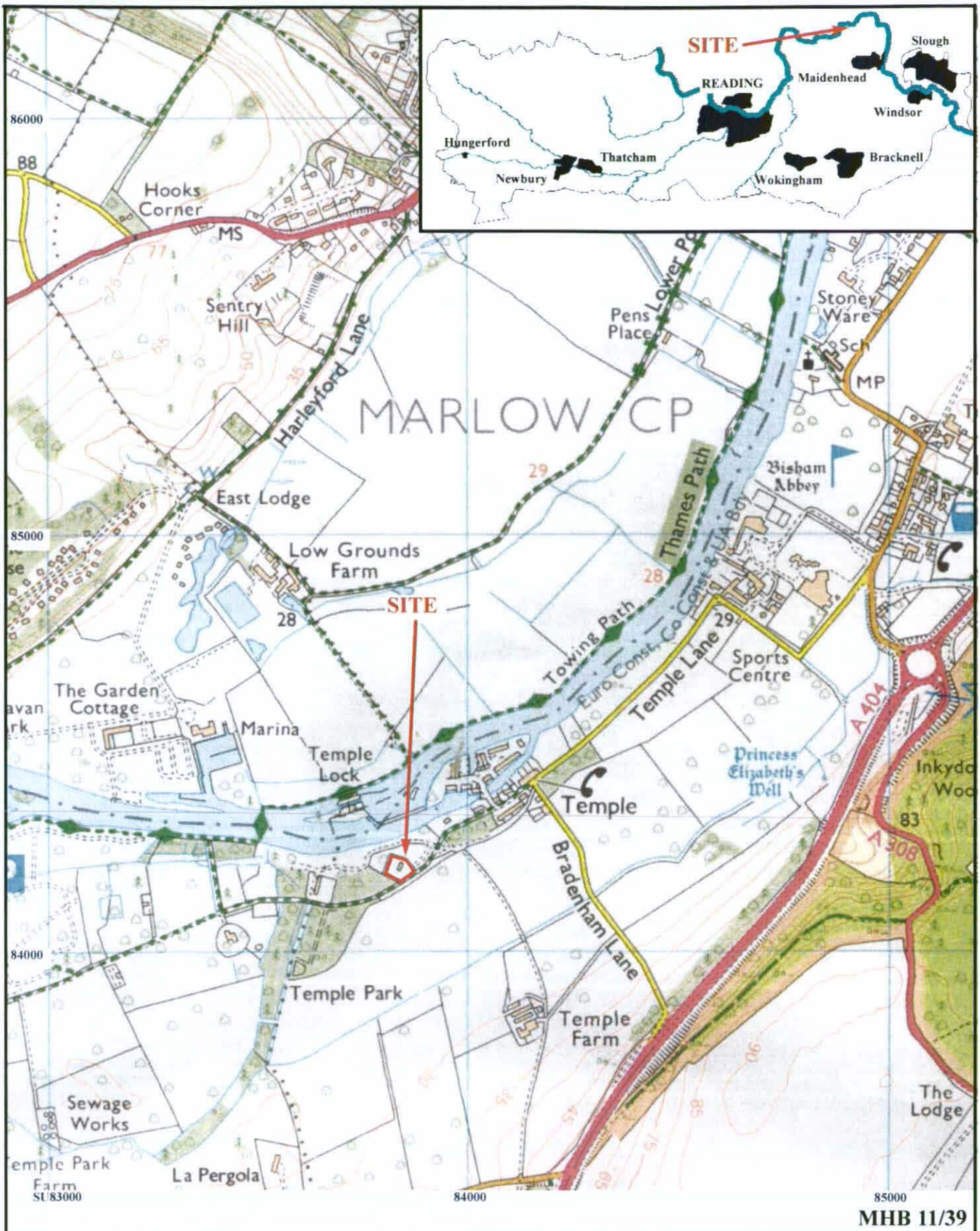
	Cut	109	21	302	29	29
	Deposit	272	86	474	97	175
	Sample	22	8	32	16	17
	Ftype	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
	Phase	LIA-ER	Late R	Late R	Late R	Late R
	no. frags	30+	36	100+	50+	10
	max frag size (mm)	14	6	27	5	5
Name	Vernacular					
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	-	1	-	3	-
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	8	3	-	20	1
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Oak	3	-	34	8	2
	Indet.	19	30	66	19	7

Table 2: Charred plant remains Taxonomy and Nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

	Cut	3	4	13	25	33	33	33	28
	Deposit	55	56	67	90	153	154	155	93
	Sample	3	4	7	9	12	13	14	10
	Ftype	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
	Phase	MIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	LIA
LATIN BINOMIAL									COMMON NAME
<i>Chenopodium</i> spp. / <i>Atriplex</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Goosefoot / Orache
BRASSICACEAE	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	Cabbage Family
<i>Carex</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Sedge
POACEAE	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	1	Grass Family
<i>Hordeum</i> spp.	4	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	Barley
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	Wheat
Indeterminate cereal	8	-	4	1	2	8	1	6	Indet Cereal

	Cut	9	102	120	118	123	42	111	111
	Deposit	65	253	360	362	375	281	275	277
	Sample	6	21	25	26	29	30	23	24
	Ftype	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
	Phase	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	M-LIA	MIA	M-LIA	LIA	LIA
LATIN BINOMIAL									COMMON NAME
<i>Hordeum</i> spp.	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	Barley
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	Wheat
Indeterminate cereal	2	14	4	2	4	5	1	1	Indet Cereal

	Cut	1	21	109	119	40	29	29	
	Deposit	53	86	272	367	161	97	96	
	Sample	1	8	22	27	15	16	11	
	Ftype	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Ditch	Ditch	Layer	
	Phase	LIA-ER	LIA-ER	LIA-ER	LIA-ER	Late R	Late R	Saxon	
LATIN BINOMIAL								COMMON NAME	
BRASSICACEAE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cabbage Family
POACEAE	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	Grass Family
<i>Hordeum</i> spp.	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	Barley
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Wheat
Indeterminate cereal	1	4	1	1	1	6	-	-	Indet cereal



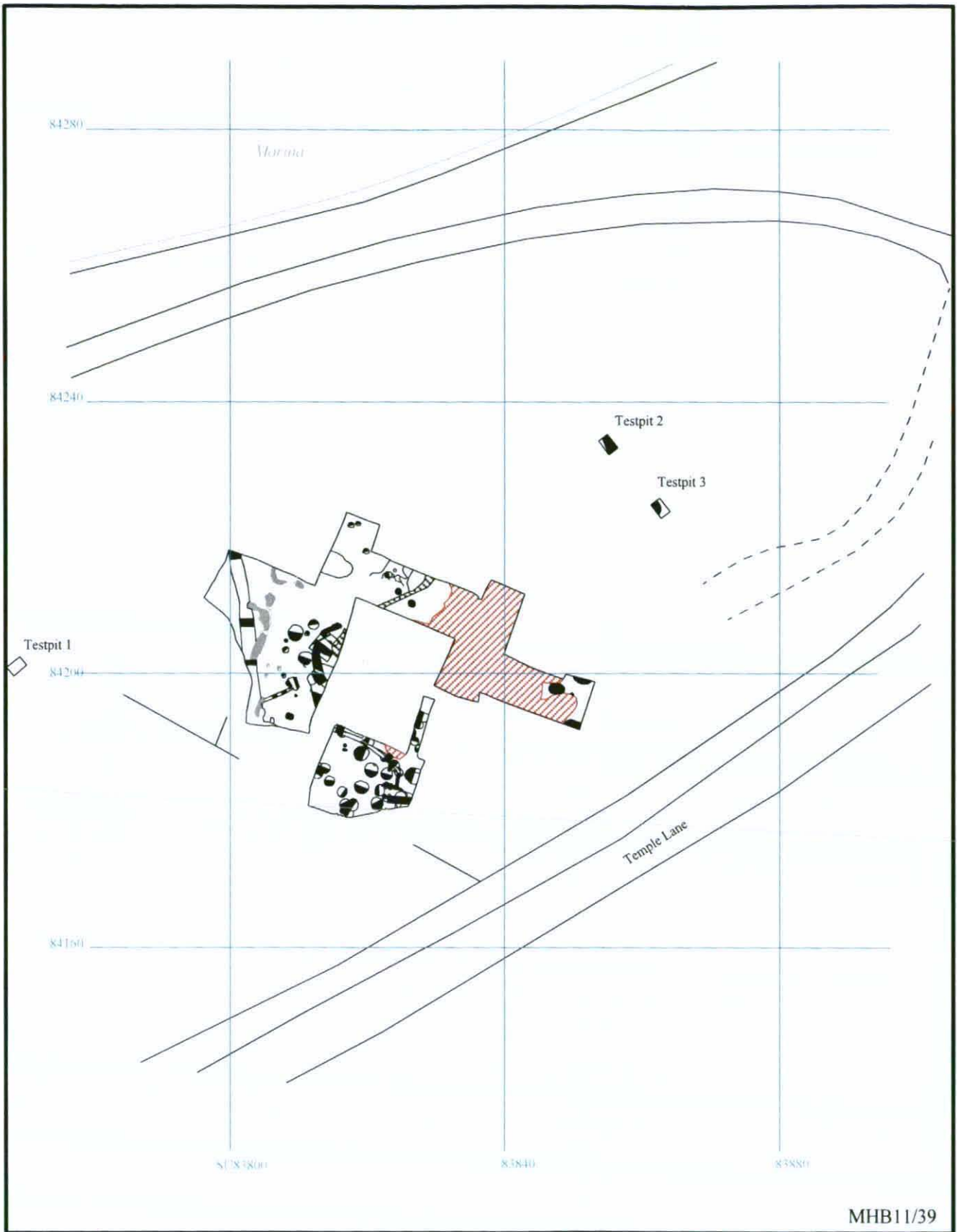
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Figure 1. Location of site within Temple and Berkshire.

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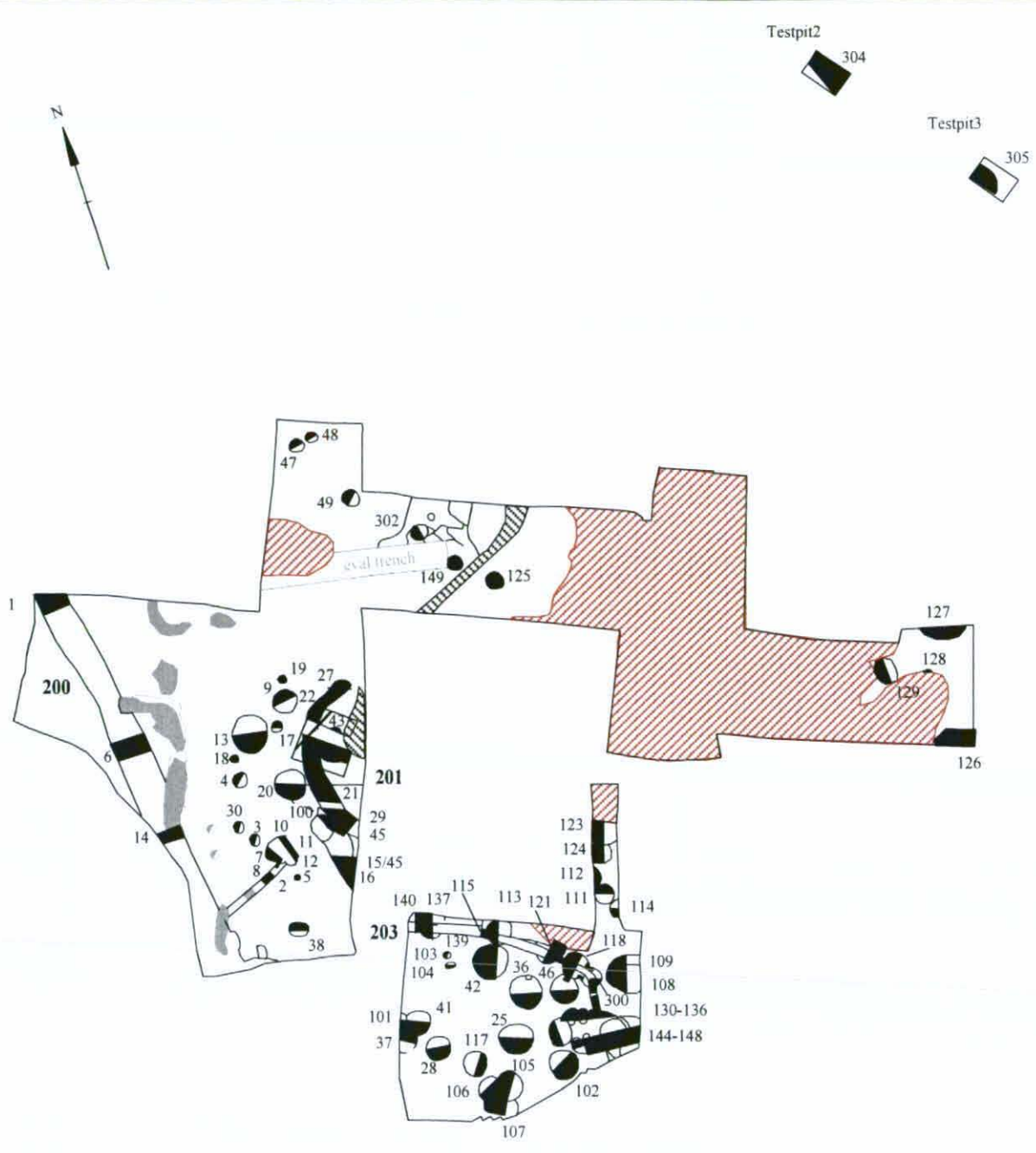


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Figure 2. Excavation area



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 modern trunc

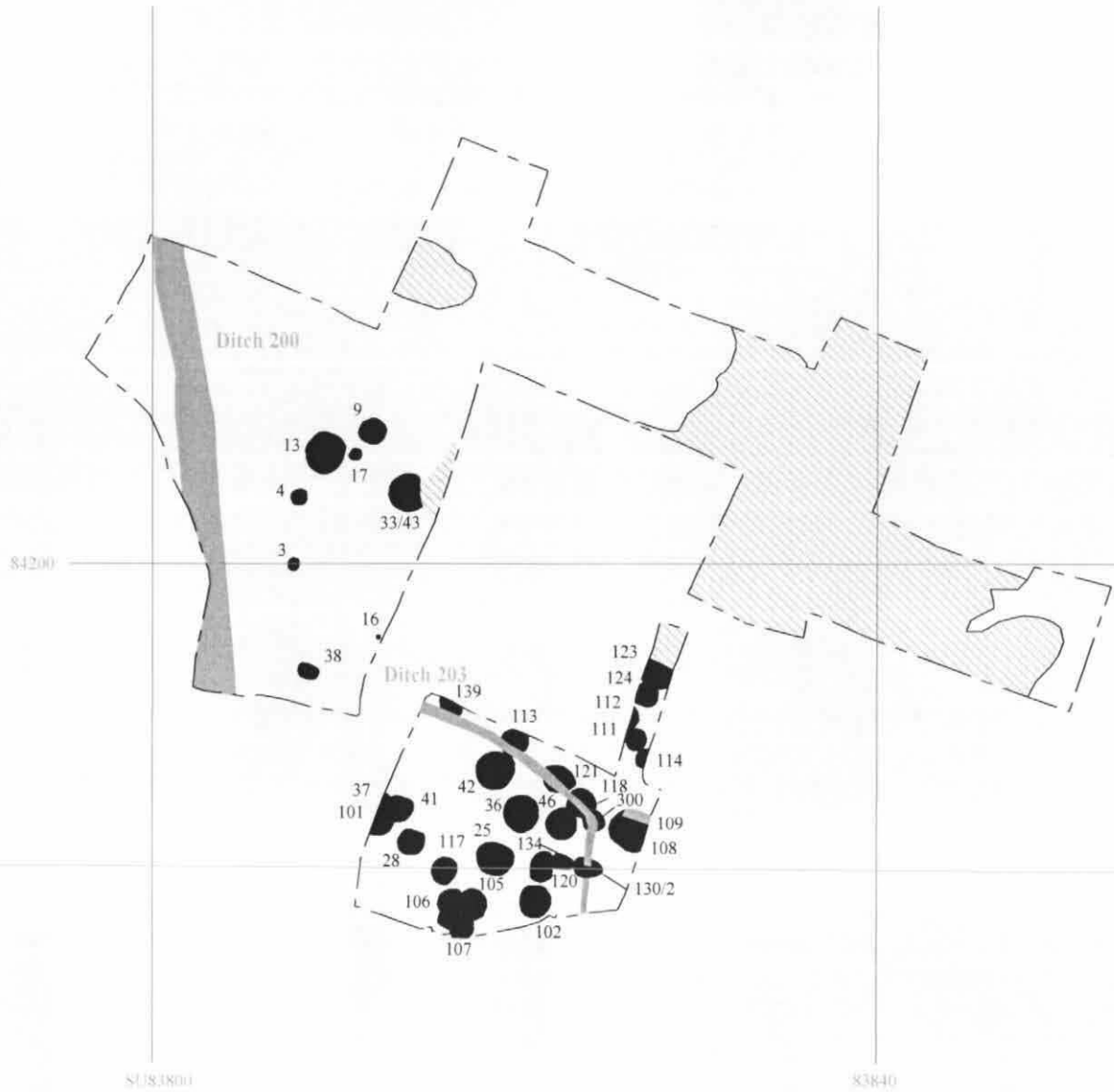
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Figure 3. Detailed plan of main excavation area.



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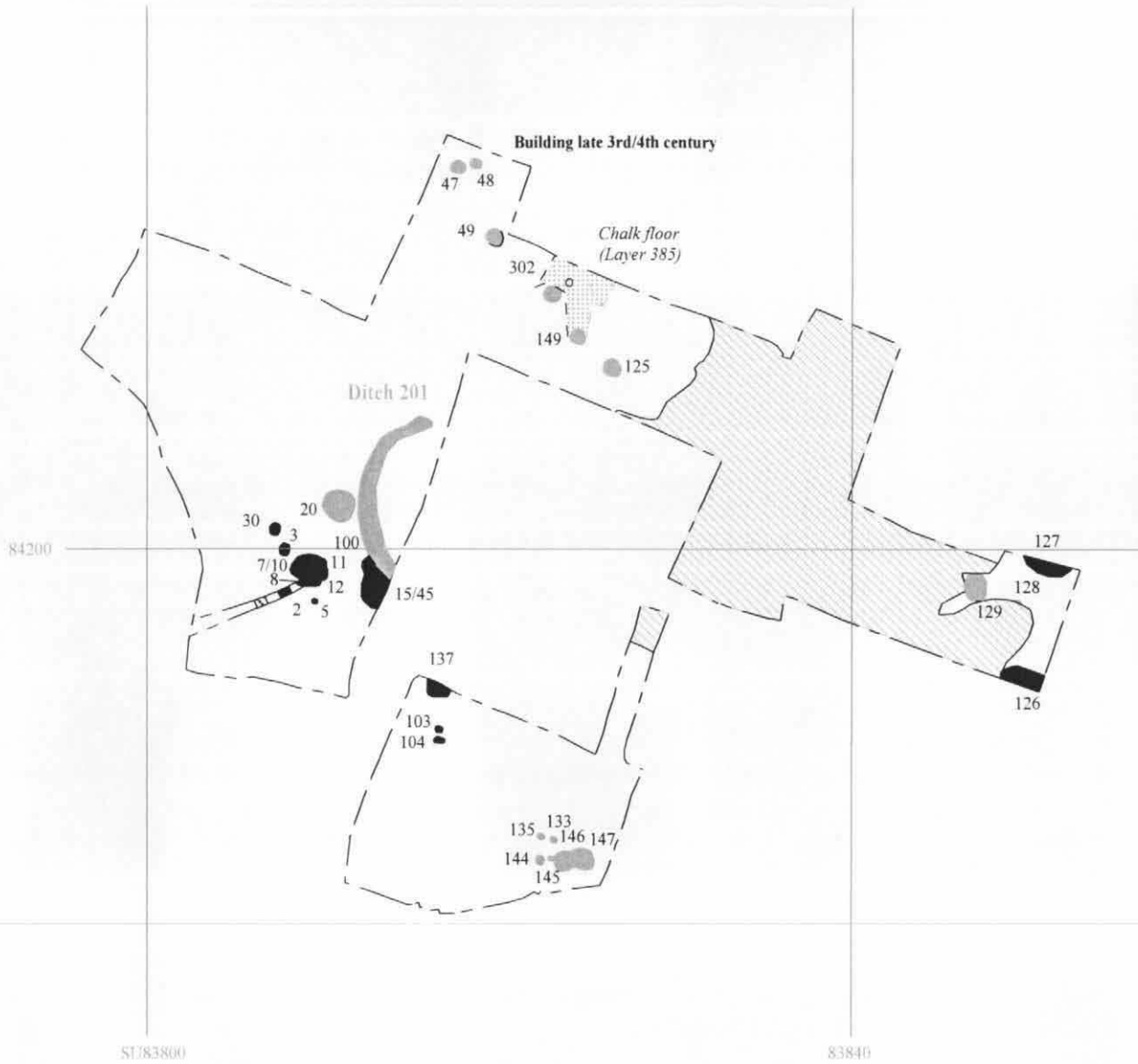
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Figure 4. Phase plan of Iron Age and Early Roman Features



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- Middle Roman (2nd/?3rd)
- Later Roman (later 3rd/4th)
- modern truncation

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Figure 5. Phase plan of later Roman features



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 modern truncation

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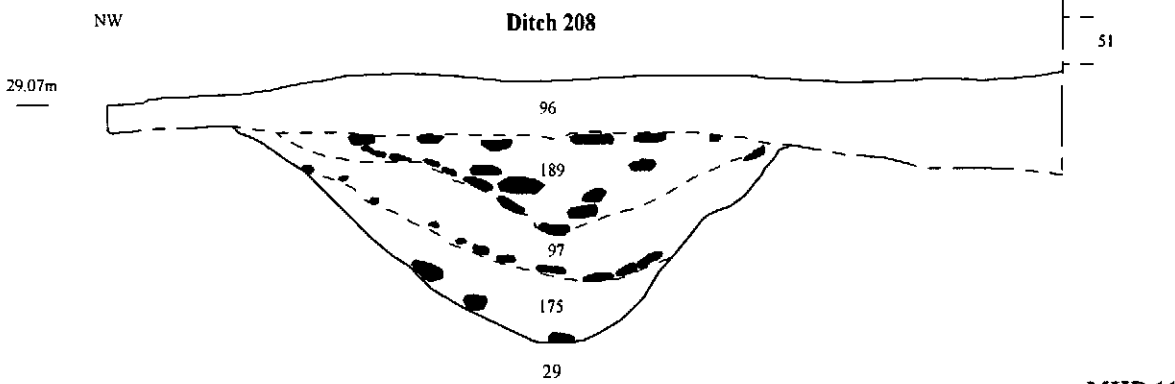
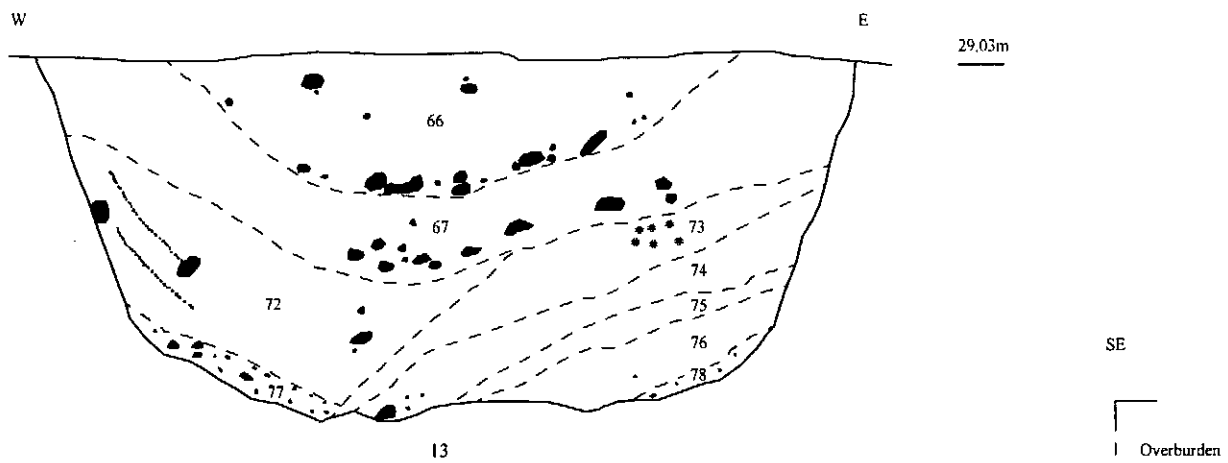
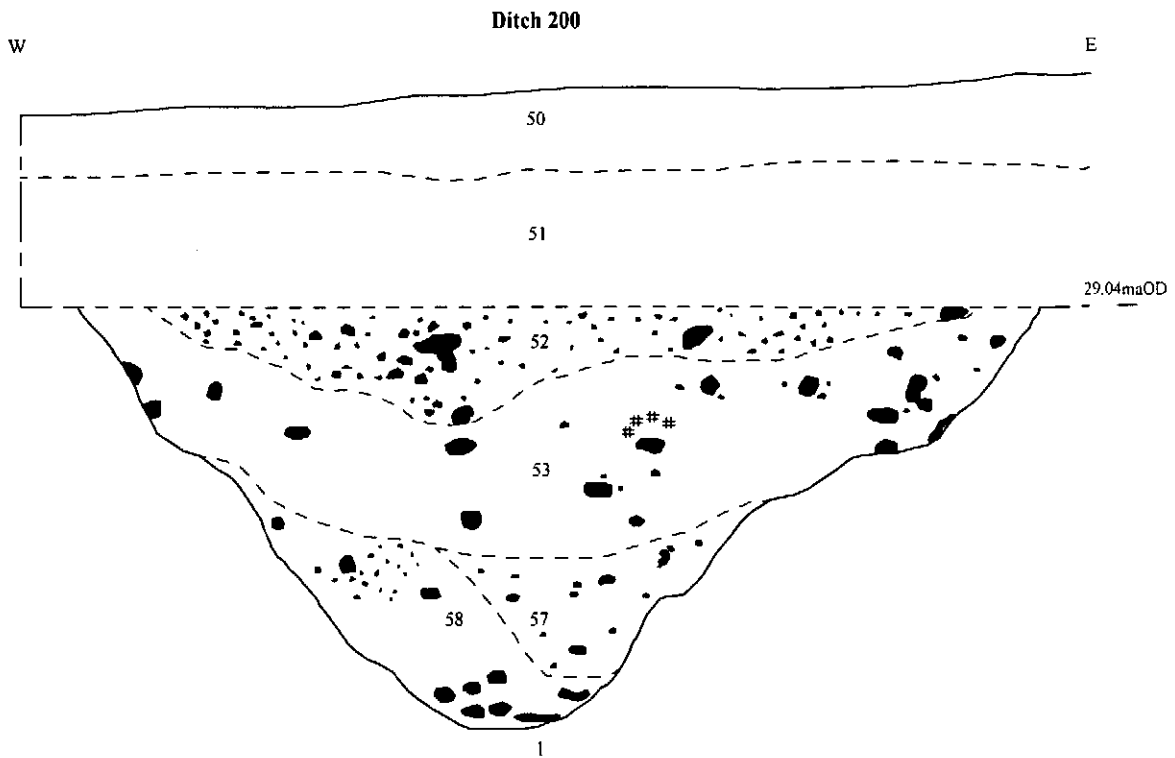


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Figure 6. Phase plan of Saxon and undated features



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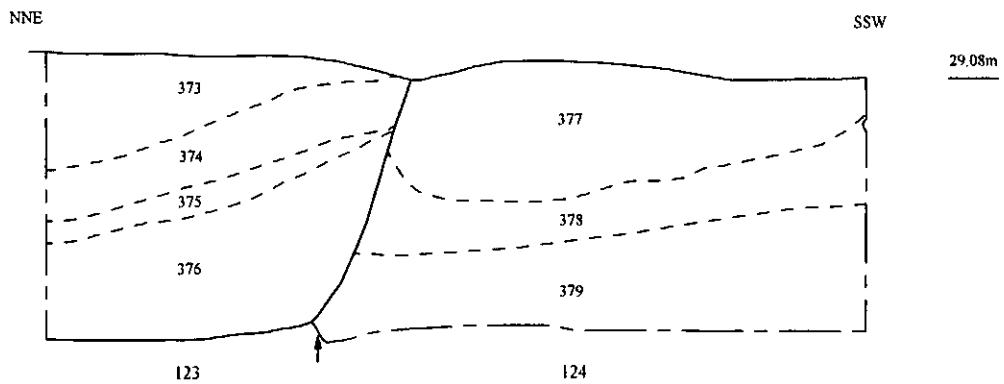
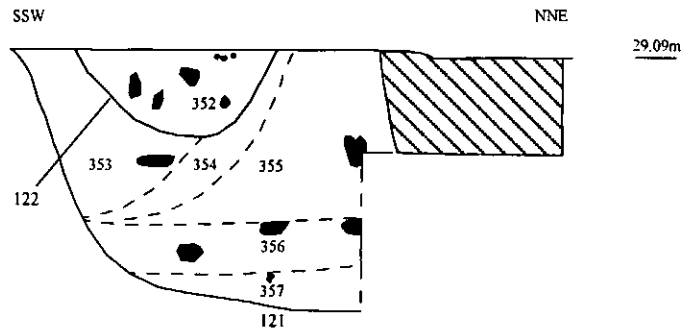
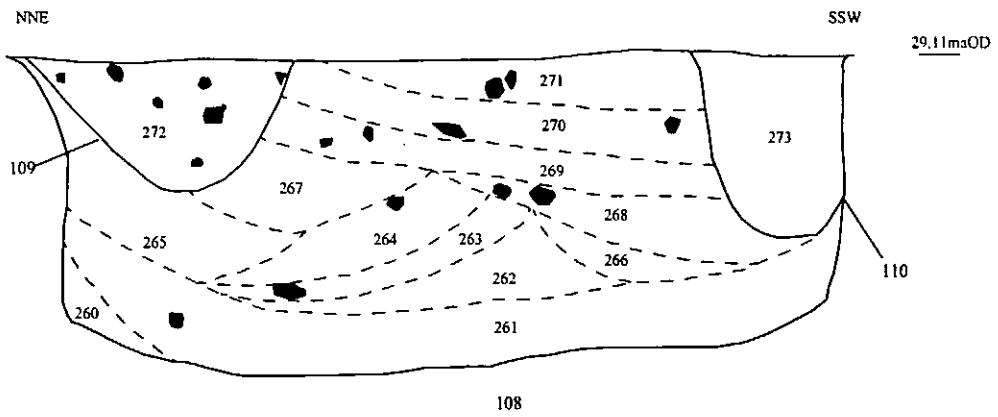
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Figure 7. Sections.



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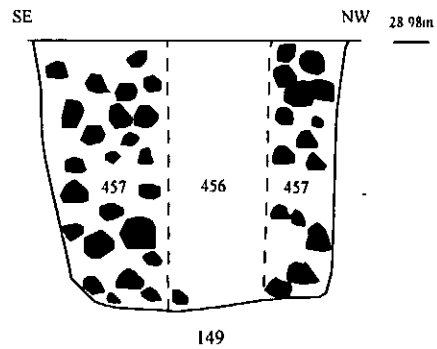
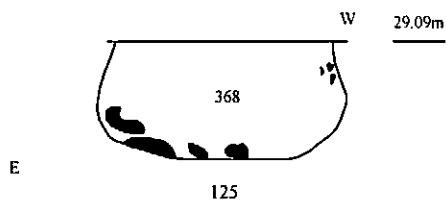
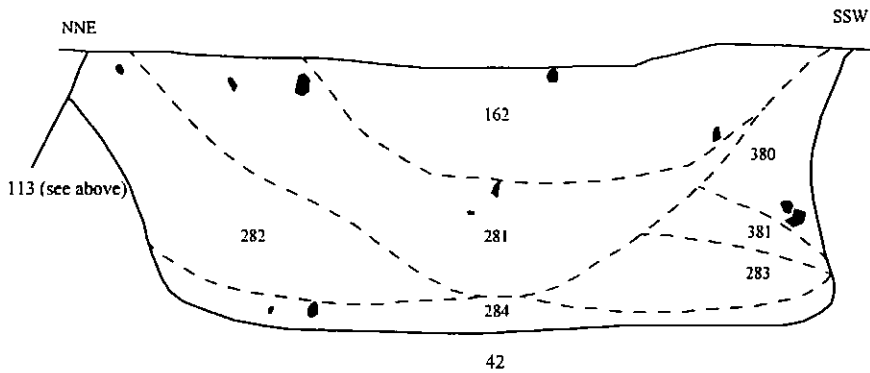
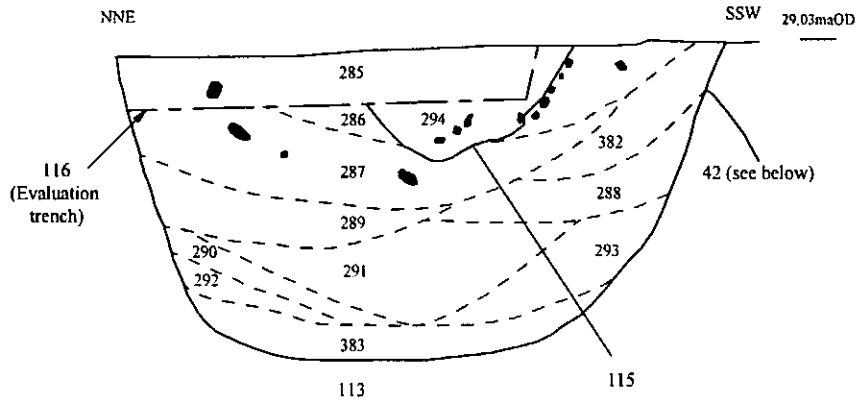
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Figure 8. Sections.



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Figure 9. Sections.



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Plate 1. Koi pond area, (west)



Plate 2. New swimming pool area (south).

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Ditch 200, slot 6, looking south; Scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Ditch 201 fully excavated (slot 27 in foreground), looking south, Scale: 2m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Male dog skeleton in pit 42, looking east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Chalk floor (layer 365), looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 5 and 6.

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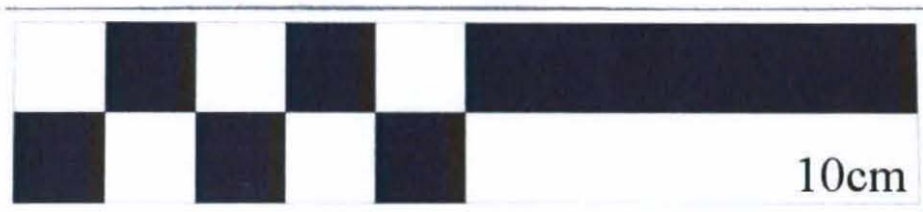


Plate 7. Bone comb handle, deposit 79.

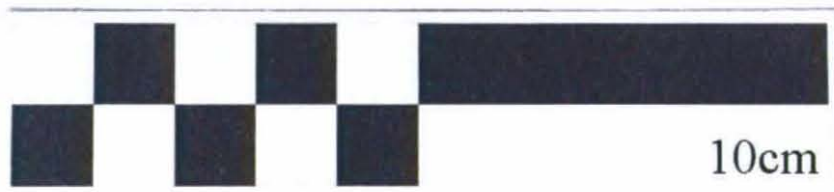


Plate 8. Antler spindle whorl, deposit 82.

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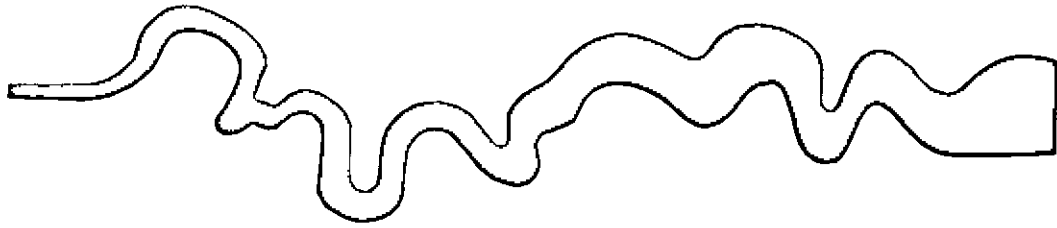
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Plates 7 and 8.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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