

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
OF SOUTHERNHAY EAST CAR PARK
EXETER**

by

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**with contributions from
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1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) between November 2002 and January 2003 at Southernhay East car park, Southernhay, Exeter (SX 924924). The work was required by the Local Planning Authority (Exeter City Council) as a condition of the granting of planning consent for the development of the site as a new Crown and County Courts Complex (Planning Application No. 01/1584/03).

The excavation was the third stage of a programme of archaeological investigation of the site. The first two stages consisted of a desktop study (Exeter Archaeology 2000) and an evaluation excavation (Bedford 2001).

1.1 **The site** (centred on SX 924924; Fig. 1)

The site, a former ECC car park, lies just outside the South Gate of the Roman and medieval walled town on ground that originally sloped eastwards down to the Shutebrook (Schytebrooke) or Larkbeare Stream, which was culverted in the 19th century. The site occupies an area of approximately 0.56ha bounded by a walkway to the north, Western Way to the east and south-east, the rear of Pavilion Place and The Friend's Meeting House to the south, and the rear of Oriel House to the west.

The underlying geology comprises Alphington Breccia in the southern part of the site and the earlier Whipton Formation in the north, overlain by blanket head and regolith, along with deposits of the Fifth River Terrace (Bristow 1985).

2. BACKGROUND

The previous desktop study (Exeter Archaeology 2000) detailed the historical and archaeological background of the site and identified areas of varying archaeological potential.

There was evidence of 1st-century and later activity in the vicinity of the site, outside the limits of the Roman legionary fortress and the later Roman city wall. First-century structures (possibly an extramural compound) were located at the Acorn roundabout in 1988–89 and during investigations in 1974 before the construction of Keble House, to the north of the current site, where a wattle-lined well containing 1st-century pottery was also found. The latter site may relate to a dependent civil settlement (*canabae*) associated with the fortress.

Evidence for medieval extramural settlement in this area from previous excavations is limited to a number of rubbish and cesspits, several ditches and a possible structure (Valiant Soldier 1973–4 and Acorn roundabout 1988–9). The putative extent of the Civil War siegeworks in the vicinity did not impact upon the area under investigation.

The post-medieval maps of John Hooker probably reflect a fairly accurate picture of the extent of medieval and later development, with the site area still being shown as open land. It was not until the 20th century that the site area was to any degree developed, prior to which time it largely consisted of market gardens, nurseries and orchards. The most significant development in terms

of impact upon buried archaeological remains was the construction in the late 19th century, and subsequently in the 1940s, of ancillary buildings for the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

In July 2001, ten evaluation trenches, representing a 3% sample of the development area, were excavated. These were sited to investigate the survival of deposits in those areas of the car park that were deemed less likely to have been disturbed by the construction of the ancillary hospital buildings in the 19th and 20th centuries. It was demonstrated that the site had suffered from varying degrees of truncation across much of the area, frequently to below the level of natural ground. Within such areas, all archaeological deposits would have been removed. However, surviving deposits of Roman date were identified within the north-east corner of the site (Bedford 2001).

3. IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT

The construction of the County, Crown and Civil courts and ancillary offices, together with associated access roads, car parking and landscaping, involved the removal of a substantial amount of material over most of the site area. Outside the footprint of the building, the general level of reduction required did not impact on potential archaeological deposits, which were demonstrated to be deeply buried. However, the zone of archaeological potential within the north-eastern part of the site coincided in part with the footprint of a proposed basement, where it was clear that all surviving archaeological material would be destroyed.

4. PROJECT BRIEF

In the light of the results of the assessment and evaluation, the Local Planning Authority required that a further programme of archaeological excavation and recording be commissioned in mitigation of the development. The main requirements of these works set out in a letter from the ECC Archaeology Officer (Pye 28 November 2001) were as follows:

- Controlled removal and recording by archaeologists of the Roman material within the north-west part of the basement footprint during the general reduction of this footprint area;
- Monitoring and recording by archaeologists of deeper groundworks, such as the projected sewer diversions and any deep foundations such as pile pads, in the locations where they are likely to go through archaeological remains;
- Production of an integrated archive;
- Reporting as appropriate.

5. METHOD

A method statement was produced by EA (2002) in response to the project requirements set out above. By agreement with AMSP and the ECC Archaeology Officer, the recording of deposits within the defined zone of potential was undertaken in the form of an archaeological excavation in advance of the groundworks. This was to ensure that archaeological investigation and recording was carried out in a controlled manner with minimal disruption to the construction operations.

The outline of the defined zone of archaeological potential, an area measuring 20m by 12m was marked out by the AMSP surveyor (Fig. 2). Hardstanding and underlying post-medieval and modern deposits were removed using a tracked excavator supplied by the client and fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Grading continued until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural ground was reached (whichever was higher) at which point machining ceased. The site was then cleaned by hand and the nature of the exposed archaeological material established.

It was evident that archaeological survival principally took the form of a number of cut features (ditches) visible at the level of natural ground and in some cases extending beyond the excavated area to the south and east. In view of this, it was mutually agreed that the site should be immediately extended to the south and east so that these features could be traced and recorded. The final excavated area measured approximately 28m by 15m (Fig. 2). This effectively brought forward the greater part of what was originally intended to be a watching brief (archaeological monitoring) during subsequent groundworks.

Stratigraphic information was recorded on standard EA single context record sheets, a drawn record of features and deposits was compiled in plan and section at scales of 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate, and a photographic record was made consisting of black-and-white prints and colour slides. The fills of features showing potential for the survival of organic material were sampled for off-site assessment. Two groups of broken but adjoining pottery sherds (SF 400, 402) found within the fills of two ditches were passed to Exeter City Museums Conservation Service (RAMM) for emergency conservation treatment.

Subsequent to the main excavation, a limited watching brief was maintained during service trench excavations along the southern boundary of the site.

6. RESULTS

6.1 General nature of deposits

Throughout the site the natural ground was overlain by mixed post-medieval cultivation soil, reflecting the documented agricultural and horticultural use of the site during the 18th and 19th centuries. The soil was overlain either by rubble spreads, associated with the demolition and clearance of the 19th and 20th-century hospital buildings, or sub-base for the car park surface. This sequence, measuring up to 1.50m thick, was consistent throughout the site. Surviving archaeological evidence took the form of cut features that had been truncated to the level of the subsoil by later cultivation. In several areas, all the archaeological material had been removed by the deeply dug foundations of the hospital buildings.

6.2 Features (Fig. 2)

Prehistoric (Fig. 3)

The earliest and most substantial feature was a curving ditch (603) exposed for a distance of 15m within the south-west corner of the site (Pls 1–2). This appeared to represent the north-east section of an enclosure. Based on the angle of curve, the enclosed area had an estimated diameter of 12–13m, and the excavated part of the ditch represented approximately 30% of the circuit. It measured *c.* 1m wide and up to 0.70m deep. It was steep-sided in profile with a flat, open base

and it was filled with clean silty sand (604). Within one section, 604 overlay a second fill (644). The ditch was traced to the south where it had been removed by the hospital foundations. To the west, it had been truncated and became progressively shallow, ending 1m from the edge of the site. The ditch was fully excavated and found to contain over a hundred sherds of Iron Age pottery including a broken, though largely complete, Iron Age vessel (SF 402). This appeared to have been deliberately placed upright within the ditch, which had been partially infilled prior to the placement of the vessel.

Three regularly spaced pits (654–6), 3.2m apart, were aligned along the centre of the ditch base (2). Two of the pits (654, 655) were quite distinct, circular with steep sides and a flat base. The third was shallow, at 0.20m deep. No difference could be detected between their fills and that of the ditch.

Two other features had a clear association with the enclosure. The first consisted of the truncated base of a shallow curving ditch (631) situated directly against the inner edge of ditch 603 (Pl. 3). It was visible as two sections (totalling 3.5m), but with a total traceable length of 8.6m. It had gently sloping sides with an open rounded base and was 0.15m deep. Its fill was indistinguishable from that of ditch 603. A gully (638) was located within the eastern side of the enclosure towards the southern edge of the excavation. It was very shallow (0.10m deep) with a pronounced arc suggestive of a round-house.

The interior of the enclosure contained a number of small irregular or broadly circular pits. None of these were convincing as structural elements, i.e. post-holes or post-pits, and there was insufficient secure dating or stratigraphic evidence to distinguish between those that were associated with the enclosure and those relating to a later period. Only three of these features (pits 618, 623, 634) contained dating evidence in the form of a small amount of Iron Age pottery (three, one and two sherds respectively). Apart from gully 638, no firm evidence of occupation, such as hearths, was found; this is probably the result of extensive agricultural truncation in the post-medieval period.

Two parallel linear features (581, 609), orientated north-west to south-east and set 3m apart, were found immediately to the north of the curving ditch. Linear 581 was traced over a distance of 13m and cut through the fill of ditch 603 from its north side, though did not extend beyond it. It contained a sandy silt fill (582) from which 19 sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered. Linear 609 only survived for a distance of 3m. Its fill (610) was similar to ditch 581 and it contained two broken but largely complete vessels (SF 400, 401), which again appeared to have been deliberately placed in an upright position (Pl. 4). A further 38 Iron Age sherds were found representing four other vessels.

Roman

Evidence of Roman activity was found in the form of a soil deposit and a small number of cut features. The soil (535), a dark, reddish-brown silty sand, survived in isolated patches across the site. It was best preserved to the west, where it survived up to 0.10m thick over a small area of c. 3m by 4m beneath the post-medieval cultivation soil. Twenty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this material.

The most extensive feature was a ditch (545) extending across the centre of the site on a NNE-SSW alignment. It was 0.80m wide to the north, reducing to 0.40m wide to the south where it had suffered a greater degree of truncation. It had gently sloping sides and a rounded base. The ditch cut through both the earlier enclosure ditch (603) and one of the two linear features (581). Its dark reddish-brown silty sand fill (544) contained one sherd of 1st/2nd-century samian ware, and Roman tile.

Roman pottery was also recovered from the fills of two pits 595 (one sherd of ?1st-century samian) and 605 (four sherds from a Roman military flagon).

Medieval and post-medieval

A number of later pits and linear features were exposed across the site. Two broadly parallel east-west linears (557, 571/574) were spaced 9m apart and contained pottery of 18th/19th-century date. The remaining, truncated features were undated and no stratigraphic relationships could be established.

7. DISCUSSION

Ditch 603 defines a circular Iron Age enclosure with an estimated internal diameter of 12–13m. It probably contained a single structure (round-house) represented by gully 638. This significant discovery provides the first indication of Iron Age settlement in Exeter in the period preceding the arrival of the Roman army.

There is some evidence to suggest that the enclosure ditch (603) contained a fence or palisade. The three equally spaced pits set centrally within its base may represent settings for substantial timbers, with smaller posts resting on the base of the ditch between them. Such an interpretation is supported by the steep-sided profile of the ditch, which is not consistent with it remaining open for any length of time given the unstable nature of the predominantly sand geology. Additionally, no evidence was found for slumping of the ditch sides or silting within its base. Furthermore, the pottery found in the ditch was distributed throughout its fill, rather than having accumulated in the base as would be expected if the ditch had remained open. The position of the southern terminus of ditch 581 relative to the enclosure ditch is also of interest; it extends towards the centre of ditch 603 but significantly does not continue across its centre line, as if respecting a pre-existing barrier. Similarly, if the curving gully 638 does represent a circular building within the enclosure, as seems likely, it is doubtful that the enclosure ditch would have been left open given its proximity to the structure.

Apart from gully 638, no firm evidence of occupation, such as hearths, was found. Undoubtedly this is the result of extensive post-medieval agricultural disturbance, which would have truncated occupation deposits and shallow features. Post-medieval soil deposits directly overlay natural ground within the area defined by the ditch and in its general vicinity.

There is no clear evidence for an entrance to the enclosure. Although the ditch ends to the west, this occurs very gradually, fading away as the result of the deep truncation within this part of the site; a terminus for an entrance would be characterised by a far more abrupt ending. With a

building (gully 638) against the east side of the enclosure, the most likely position for an entrance would be to the west or south-west.

The shallow gully (631), following the same arc as the main ditch (603) on its internal side, may represent an initial delineation of the intended extent of the enclosure prior to the excavation of the main ditch.

Parallel linear ditches 581 and 609 appear to respect the northern side of the enclosure and may represent contemporary land divisions.

The site produced an assemblage of sherds from at least 20 vessels of South Western Decorated ware (known as 'Glastonbury' in Somerset). This pottery was used in Devon from the 3rd, or possibly 4th, century BC until at least the 1st century BC (see Appendix 1). Radiocarbon dates from the residues of two of the pots, from ditches 603 and 609, provided a combined date range of 350–40BC (Appendix 4; Fig. 4) confirming that the settlement pre-dates the Roman occupation of Exeter in the mid first century AD. This is the first indication of such settlement in Exeter.

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APPENDIX 1: THE LATER IRON AGE POTTERY *by* H. Quinnell

The site has produced an assemblage of sherds from at least 20 vessels of South Western Decorated ware. This ware, known as ‘Glastonbury’ in Somerset, was the pottery used in Devon from the 3rd, or possibly 4th, century BC until at least the 1st century BC. Comparatively little is known about this pottery in Devon, compared to Somerset and Cornwall, partly because there has been little excavation on hillforts of this period, partly because there is evidence that some sites at this date were aceramic, and partly because non-hillfort sites have proved difficult to locate. The only groups known to date from east Devon and the Exe Valley come from the hillforts at Hembury and Blackbury, the open settlements at Seaton and Long Range and the enclosed settlement at Blackhorse; a few other groups are known from south Devon.

The Southernhay assemblage contains the largest concentration of sherds from features associated with a house and an associated boundary gully yet found in Devon, and provides the first indication of settlement in Exeter in the period preceding the arrival of the Roman military. (One unstratified sherd from Paul Street has been the only previous find of similar material; (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991, 3.)

The vessels appear to all be of the same shape, jars or bowls with upright necks; the bead rim jars present at Blackhorse and Long Range are absent (M. Laidlaw & L. Mephram in Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, 148–52, 178–84). The vessels have been burnished and then decorated with a range of geometric or curvilinear designs around their shoulders. The designs are either deeply incised with a sharp point or produced by shallow tooling; some vessels have been left plain. Two decorative features present on some vessels, impressed dimples incorporated in the design and decorated bases, are generally considered to belong to the most accomplished South Western Decorated ware, vessels of very high quality; neither of these features occur at Blackhorse or Long Range. From preliminary examination the assemblage appears to contain a range of similar vessels likely to be deposited over a short period, a point which can only be established by further study. The absence of rouletted and stamped decoration, present at Blackhorse just to the east of Exeter, supports the cohesion of the assemblage.

This cohesion is supported by the fabric. Dr R Taylor has carried out a preliminary examination of all major vessels and most other sherds under a binocular microscope and reports:

The assemblage is quite homogeneous. The predominant temper is of quartz, fine-grained quartzitic sandstone and micaceous slate. Dark, fresh biotite tending to show euhedral outlines is a common minor constituent. Sanidine feldspar occurred in two sherds, and fine-grained granitoid fragments in another two. One group of sherds has only sparse quartz and another a more abundant predominantly quartz temper. The derivation of this temper from the Permian breccias of south and mid Devon is indicated by the presence of biotite and the limited occurrence of sanidine and granitoid fragments. There are no clear comparisons with the fabric Groups defined by Peacock (1969). The sandstone component does not appear to correspond with that of Peacock’s Group 2 (Devonian). Only the restricted minor presence of sanidine points to links with Group 5.

From work on other sites only Peacock's Groups 5 and 6 have been sourced by Permian constituents. The Southernhay assemblage indicates the use of a wider range of Permian-derived clays for Later Iron Age ceramics in Devon than previously thought. Its further petrographic study in tandem with a re-examination of Peacock's Groups 5 and 6 material from Blackhorse, Long Range and from Hembury hillfort should enable a better understanding of Later Iron Age pottery production and distribution in the Exe valley area. It may be noted that Permian Groups 5 and 6 accounted for 48% of the pottery at Blackhorse, the remainder being of unsourced but presumed local fabrics, but 65% at Long Range; data are not available for quantification from Hembury.

A distinctive feature at Southernhay is the presence of large portions of several vessels deposited in an upright position in gullies 603 and 609. These appear to have been carefully placed, not casually dumped as rubbish. Structured deposition of artefacts is increasingly recognised as a significant aspect of Iron Age behavioural practice and its presence at Southernhay adds to the importance of the site.

At present it is unclear when South Western Decorated ware ceased to be made and used. At Seaton (Silvester 1981, 63–7) Durotrigian pottery imported from Dorset was used in the 1st century AD and a small quantity of this was present at Blackhorse. No Durotrigian ware of pre-Roman date has been identified from Exeter. It is possible that South Western Decorated ware continued to be made in the Permian rock areas of the Exe valley until the arrival of Rome.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS LISTING *by* G. Langman

All weights given are in grams (to the nearest 2 grams). SF denotes small finds number and qty denotes quantity. The following site code was used to mark artefacts: SHCP 02.

Context Dating

| <i>context</i> | <i>date/period</i> |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 534 | post 1770 |
| 535 | Roman military |
| 536 | post 1700 |
| 540 | post 1250 |
| 544 | Roman |
| 556 | 18th century |
| 560 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 568 | Roman |
| 572 | 18th/19th century |
| 582 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 596 | Roman (?1st century) |
| 604 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 606 | Roman military |
| 608 | ?Prehistoric/Roman |
| 610 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 617 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 624 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 635 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |
| 650 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) |

Prehistoric

| <i>context</i> | <i>contents/dating evidence</i> | <i>sherds</i> | <i>vessels</i> |
|----------------|---|---------------|----------------|
| 560 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 1 total vessels: 1 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age ?South Western Decorated ware, body sherd with external decoration) | 1 | 1 |
| 582 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 19 total vessels: 2 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, rim sherd, decorated base sherd, decorated body sherd) | 13 | 1 |
| | Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, plain body sherd) | 6 | 1 |
| 604 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 111 total vessels: 14 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, 6 rim sherds, decorated body sherd, plain body sherd, SF 402) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, decorated body sherd, base sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, 6 rim sherds, decorated body sherd, plain body sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, decorated body sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, plain body sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, 1 rim, decorated body sherd, plain body sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, undecorated body sherd) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, rim & body sherd) ?Prehistoric pot (rim) NB: sherds not marked initially for potential radio carbon/chemical analysis | 16 | 1 |
| | | 9 | 1 |
| | | 35 | 1 |
| | | 13 | 1 |
| | | 20 | 1 |
| | | 15 | 6 |
| | | 1 | 1 |
| | | 1 | 1 |
| 608 | ?Prehistoric/Rom total sherds: 2 total vessels: 2 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, small body sherd) unclassified coarseware (?Prehistoric/Roman, plain body sherd) | 1 | 1 |

Clay Pipe

| <i>context</i> | <i>bowls</i> | <i>stems</i> | <i>dates/comments</i> |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 534 | - | 1 | post 1600 |

Glass

| <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>comments</i> |
|----------------|------------|---|
| 572 | 1 | clear glass bottle top: 18th/19th century |

Lithics

| <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>comments</i> |
|----------------|------------|--|
| 535 | 3 | flint (residual): 1 thumbnail scraper, 2 struck flakes |
| 544 | 1 | flint (residual): struck flake |
| 604 | 1 | flint: small scraper (with cortex) |
| 643 | 1 | flint: ?struck |
| unstrat | 1 | flint: ?core (with cortex) |

Miscellaneous

| <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>comments</i> |
|----------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 553 | 3 | burnt matter |
| 610 | 1 | fired clay fragment (?daub) |
| 624 | 5 | fired clay fragments (?daub) |

Pottery & Dating Evidence

Abbreviations Listing

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| Bris | Bristol |
| C | Century |
| Chin | China |
| Dor | Dorset |
| E | Early |
| Eng | English |
| Exe | Exeter |
| M | Mid |
| Med | Medieval |
| PM | Post-medieval |
| Rom | Roman |
| SE | South East |
| SS | South Somerset type |
| Staffs | Staffordshire |
| SW | South-Western |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|----|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 610 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 138+ total vessels: 6 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, 1 rim, decorated base sherd, decorated body sherd, 4 sherds with biotite mica plates) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, base sherd, body sherd, SF 400) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, rim sherd, body sherd, base sherd, SF 401) | 38 | 4 | | 544 | Rom total sherds: 5 total vessels: 2 samian (1C/2C, worn sherd no slip) Prehistoric residual (South Western Decorated ware, decorated body sherd) tile: Roman lithic: Prehistoric residual | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 617 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 3 total vessels: 1 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, plain body sherd) | 3 | 1 | | 568 | Roman tile: Roman | | | | |
| 624 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 1 total vessels: 1 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, decorated body sherd) | 1 | 1 | | 596 | Roman (?1C) total sherds: 1 total vessels: 1 samian (?1C, worn sherd) | 1 | 1 | | |
| 635 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 2 total vessels: 2 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, plain body sherd) | 2 | 2 | | 606 | Roman (Military) total sherds: 4 total vessels: 1 Exe Flagon fabric 405 (Mil, rim) | 4 | 1 | | |
| 650 | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 1 total vessels: 1 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, plain body sherd) | 1 | 1 | | <i>Medieval & Post-Medieval</i> | | | | | |
| unstrat | Prehistoric (Iron Age) total sherds: 11 total vessels: 2 Prehistoric pot (Iron Age South Western Decorated ware, 1 rim, 3 decorated body sherd, 5 plain body sherds) Prehistoric pot (Iron Age, plain rim & body sherd, oxidised internal& external surfaces) | 9 | 1 | | context 534 | contents/dating evidence post 1770 total sherds: 6 total vessels: 5 Eng industrial Chin (post 1770, plain) SS coarseware (18C) SS slip ware (post 1720, scrolls slip) Med residual clay pipe: post 1600 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | | 2 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 1 | 1 | | 536 | post 1800 total sherds: 4 total vessels: 4 Eng industrial Chin (post 1800 blue edged Chin) Eng stoneware (19C) Staffs grey salt-glazed stoneware (post 1720) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | | 2 | 1 | | 540 | post 1250 total sherds: 7 total vessels: 2 Saintonge green glazed (post 1250, jug rim/handle) Prehistoric residual (Iron Age) | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Roman | | | | | 556 | 18C total sherds: 7 total vessels: 2 SS coarseware (18C type 3D bowl) Prehistoric residual (South Western Decorated ware) tile: Roman residual | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| context 535 | contents/dating evidence Roman (Mil) total sherds: 27 total vessels: 7 samian (South Gaulish, Neronian AD 54-68, 1 base, 1 ?vessel) Exe Fortress ware 'C' (Military-E2C) South-Western BB1 (1 countersunk-lug jar Military-M3C, 1 cooking pot rim 1C) SE Dor BB1 (oxidised internal & external surface) SE Dor BB1 Roman coarseware tile: Roman lithic: Prehistoric residual | 3 | 1 | | 572 | 18C/19C total sherds: 3 total vessels: 3 unclassified earthenware (18C/19C, ?flowerpot/tile) Med residual | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | | 1 | 1 | | unstrat | Med/PM total sherds: 2 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|
| total vessels: 2 | | | | | 402 | 604 | 1 | ceramic | 16 base & body sherds |
| Bris/Staffs yellow glazed slip ware (18C, feathered slip cup) | | | | | 1 | | | vessel | of Iron Age decorated |
| Exe fabric 20 (1000-E15C, cooking pot base sherd) | | | | | 1 | | | | South Western |
| | | | | | | | | | Decorated ware vessel, found in upright position |
| <i>Statistics</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| total number of sherds: 355 | | | | | Stone | | | | |
| minimum number of vessels: 61 | | | | | <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>comments</i> | | |
| | | | | | 582 | 4 | natural samples | | |
| | | | | | 604 | 3 | natural samples | | |
| | | | | | 617 | 3 | natural samples | | |
| | | | | | 630 | 1 | natural sample | | |
| | | | | | 643 | 8 | natural samples | | |
| Slag | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | | <i>weight</i> | <i>comments</i> | | | | | |
| 535 | 1 | | 230 | iron ?smithing slag | | | | | |
| Slate | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | | <i>comments</i> | | | | | | |
| 556 | 1 | | ?Roman/medieval: residual | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Tile | | | | |
| | | | | | <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>comments</i> | | |
| | | | | | 535 | 3 | Roman tile fragments (discarded) | | |
| | | | | | 544 | 2 | Roman tile fragments | | |
| | | | | | 566 | 2 | Roman residual fragments | | |
| | | | | | 568 | 1 | Roman tile fragment | | |
| Small Finds | | | | | Roman tile data | | | | |
| <i>SF</i> | <i>context</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>material</i> | <i>comments</i> | <i>context</i> | <i>fabric</i> | <i>type</i> | <i>qty</i> | <i>weight</i> |
| 400 | 610 | 1 | ceramic | 100 base & body sherds | 535 | 2 | unclassified | 3 | 58 |
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|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| total vessels: 2 | | | | |
| Bris/Staffs yellow glazed slip ware | | | | |
| (18C, feathered slip cup) | | | | |
| Exe fabric 20 (1000-E15C, cooking | | | | |
| pot base sherd) | | | | |
| 1 | | | | |
| 1 | | | | |
| Statistics | | | | |
| total number of sherds: 355 | | | | |
| minimum number of vessels: 61 | | | | |
| Slag | | | | |
| context | qty | weight | comments | |
| 535 | 1 | 230 | iron ?smithing slag | |
| Slate | | | | |
| context | qty | comments | | |
| 556 | 1 | ?Roman/medieval: residual | | |
| Small Finds | | | | |
| SF | context | qty | material | comments |
| 400 | 610 | 1 | ceramic | 100 base & body sherds |
| | | vessel | | from Iron Age vessel |
| | | | | (pot 1), found in upright |
| | | | | position |
| 401 | 610 | 1 | ceramic | base, body & rim sherds |
| | | vessel | | from Iron Age South |
| | | | | Western Decorated ware |
| | | | | vessel (pot 2), found in |
| | | | | upright position |

APPENDIX 3: THE CHARCOAL *by* R. Gale

Introduction/method

Five samples of charcoal and two samples which included a (possibly) carbonised substance scraped from the interior of Late Iron Age vessels were examined to select suitable material for C14 dating. The charcoal consisted of two larger samples, mostly including narrow roundwood, and three smaller samples. The samples were prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale & Cutler 2000) and examined using a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications up to x400. The anatomical structures were compared to reference slides of modern wood. The pot scrapings consisted of small, thin, very brittle flakes of black material. These were prepared and examined using similar methods to those for the charcoal.

Results

Charcoal

Sample 4440300 from context 582

The sample included a large amount of charcoal, mostly from very narrow roundwood and twiggy material. The following taxa were identified:

Gorse (*Ulex* sp.) or broom (*Cytisus* sp.), roundwood – 1g
 Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), roundwood – 2g
 Hawthorn/ *Sorbus* group (Pomoideae), roundwood – 3g
 Oak (*Quercus* sp.), roundwood – 4g
 Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), roundwood - <1g
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), roundwood – 1g
 Alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), roundwood - <1g
 Willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), roundwood - <1g

C14 – The collective weight of this charcoal amounts to 10g (sufficient for conventional dating).

Sample 4440303 from context 604

This sample contained only tiny scraps of charcoal:

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – <1g
 Oak (*Quercus* sp.), roundwood - <1g

C14 – Sufficient only for AMS.

Sample 4440305 from context 610

This sample included a few very small pieces of charcoal:

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) - <1g
 Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) - <1g
 Oak (*Quercus* sp.) roundwood - <1g

C14 – Sufficient only for AMS.

Sample 4440308 from context 639

Willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.) - <1g
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) - <1g
 Hawthorn/ *Sorbus* group (Pomoideae) - <1g
 Oak (*Quercus* sp.), narrow roundwood - <1g

C14 – Sufficient only for AMS.

Sample 4440311 from context 624

A large quantity of material, mainly from very narrow roundwood and twiggy material:

Hawthorn/ *Sorbus* group (Pomoideae), roundwood – 3g
 Gorse (*Ulex* sp.) or broom (*Cytisus* sp.), roundwood – 1g
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), roundwood – 2g
 Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), roundwood – 1g
 Oak (*Quercus* sp.), narrow roundwood – 4g

C14 – The collective weight of this charcoal amounts to 11g and is therefore sufficient for conventional *C14*.

Pot scrapings

Sample 4440610: residue of 610 from pot SF 401 (ditch 609)

The sample included three batches of material labelled 1–3. The content of each was similar and consisted of thin pieces (<0.5mm) of a very fragmented black substance (possibly carbonized). Under high magnification the material appeared to consist of thin layers, sometimes with air spaces but with no organised structure visible. No plant structure was seen.

Sample 4440604: residue of 604 from pot SF 402 (ditch 603)

This sample was similar in appearance to 610 but thicker (about 1mm) and coarser in texture. The material appeared to be almost bubbly in consistency. No recognisable plant structure was seen.

Comment. It was impossible to assess the origin of this material from the structure available for examination. In some respects this residue had the appearance of what might be anticipated from the evaporation of liquid – leaving a thickish, sometimes rather aerated sediment. It was difficult to assess whether its black colour was due to ageing or carbonization.

APPENDIX 4: RADIOCARBON DATING (Fig. 4)

Samples of residue (4440604, 4440610) from the interior of two Iron Age vessels (SF 402, 401) were submitted to the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory of The University of Waikato, New Zealand for accelerator mass spectrometry dating (AMS). These provided the following radiocarbon dates, shown at 95.4% probability:

| Radiocarbon Lab. Sample No. | Sample | Context & sample description | Radiocarbon age years BP (before present) | Calibrated date (95.4% probability) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| Wk-13586 | 4440604 | Residue of 604 from SF 402 (ditch 603) | 2126 ± 43 | 260BC (81.8%) 40BC 360BC (13.6%) 290BC |
| Wk-13587 | 4440610 | Residue of 610 from SF 401 (ditch 609) | 2127 ± 47 | 260BC (80.0%) 40BC 360BC (15.4%) 280BC |

If these dates are combined, using OxCal v3.9, dates of 210–40BC (86.4%), 350–320BC (7.8%), and 230–220BC (1.3%) are obtained. The determinations date both samples to the Late Iron Age and indicate that the settlement pre-dates the Roman occupation of Exeter in the mid first century AD.

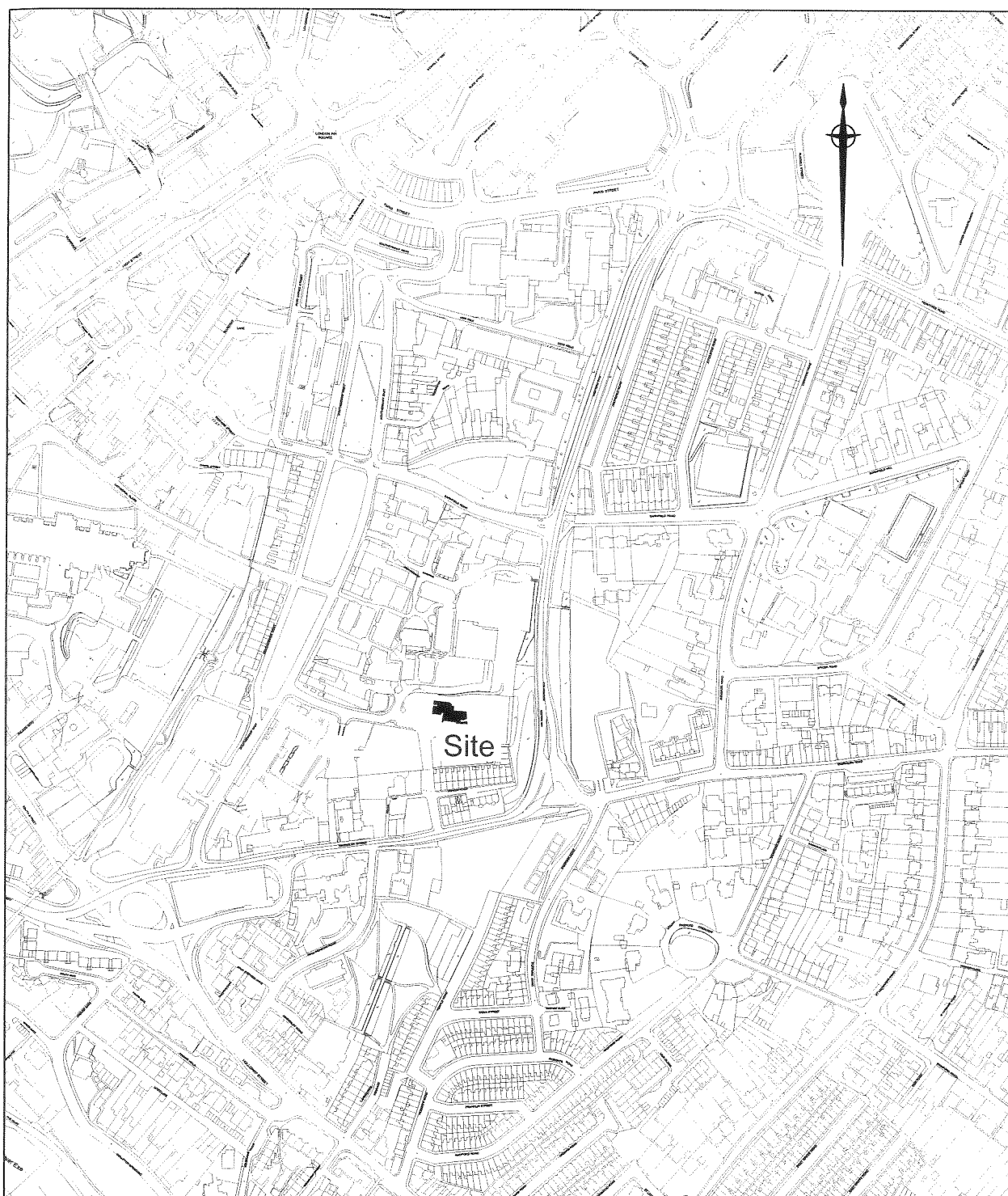


Fig. 1 Location of site. Scale 1:5000. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Exeter City Council LA077968.

Sections

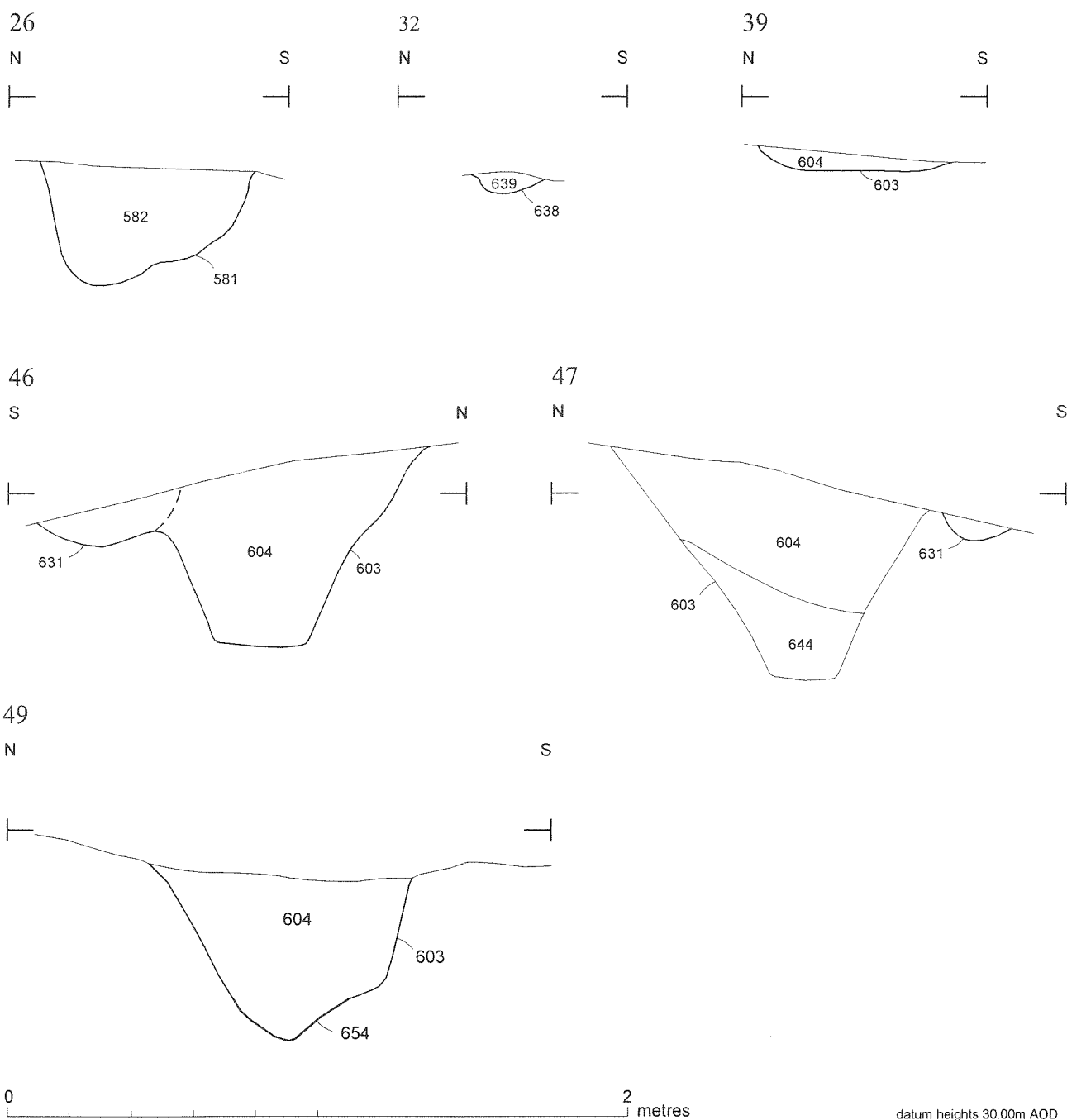


Fig. 3 Sections. Scale 1:20.

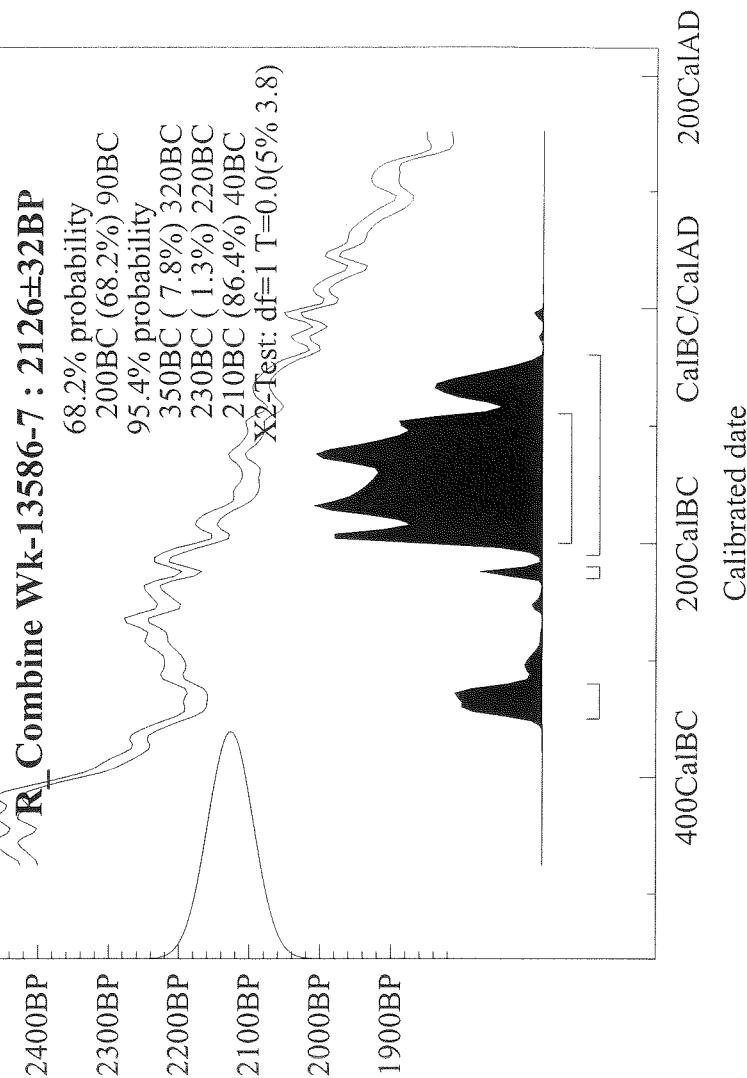
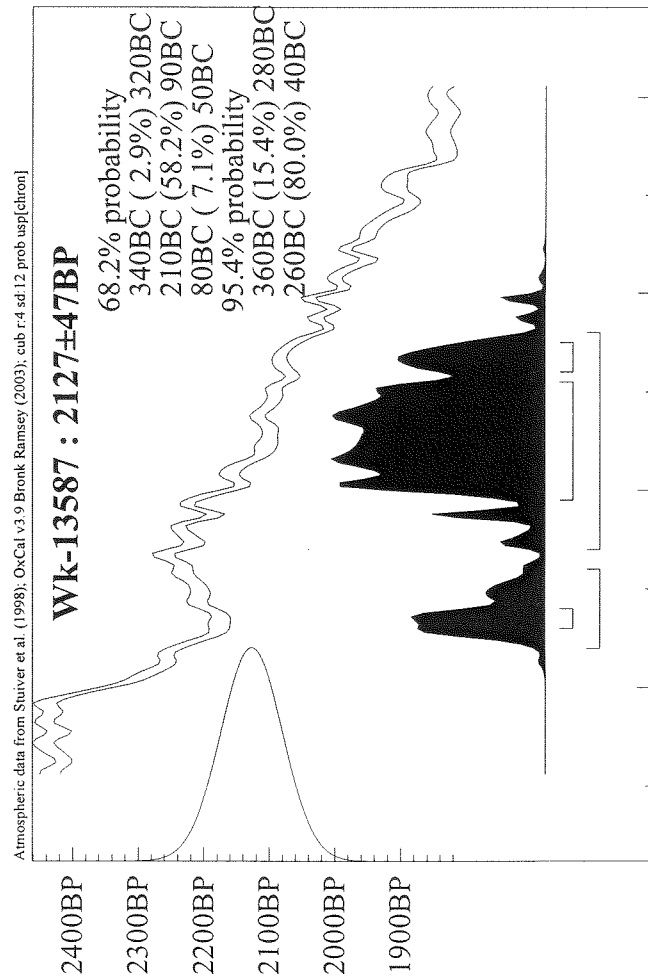
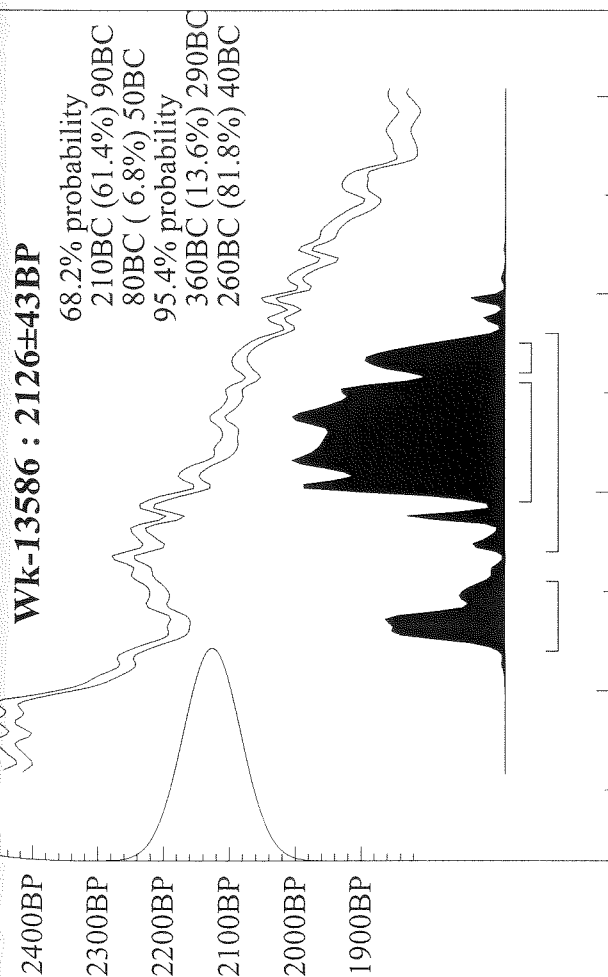
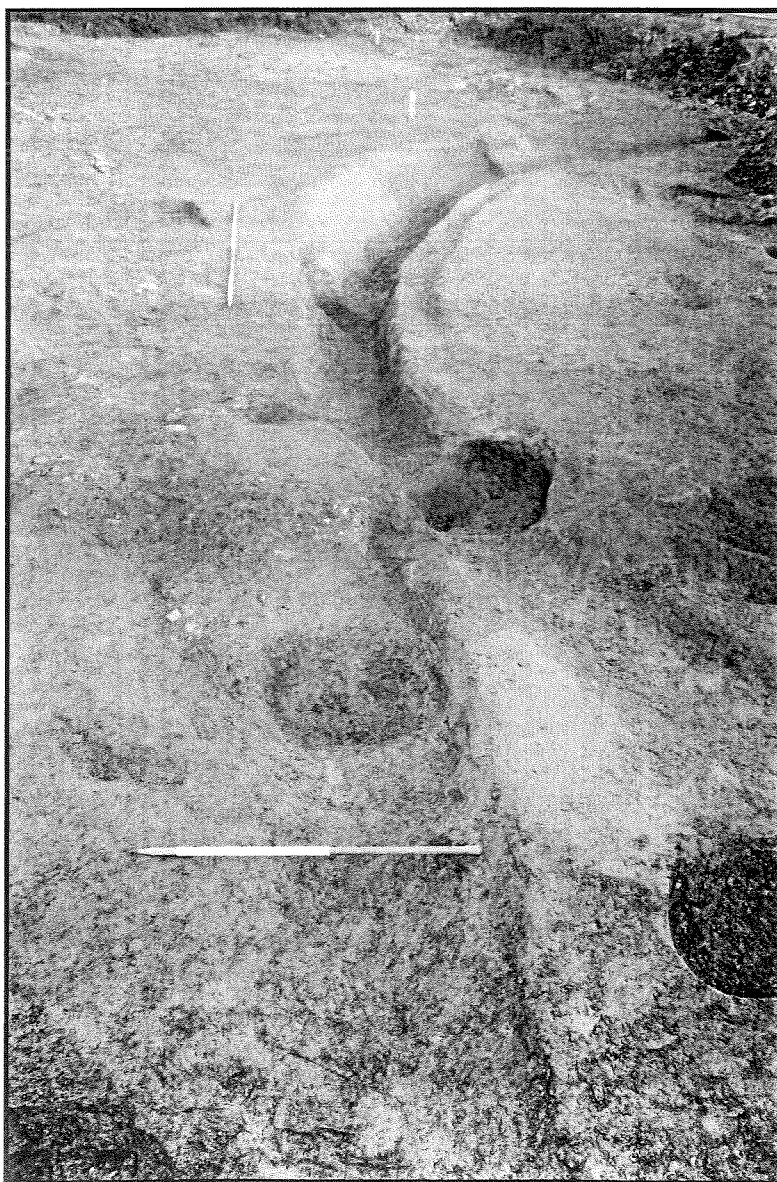


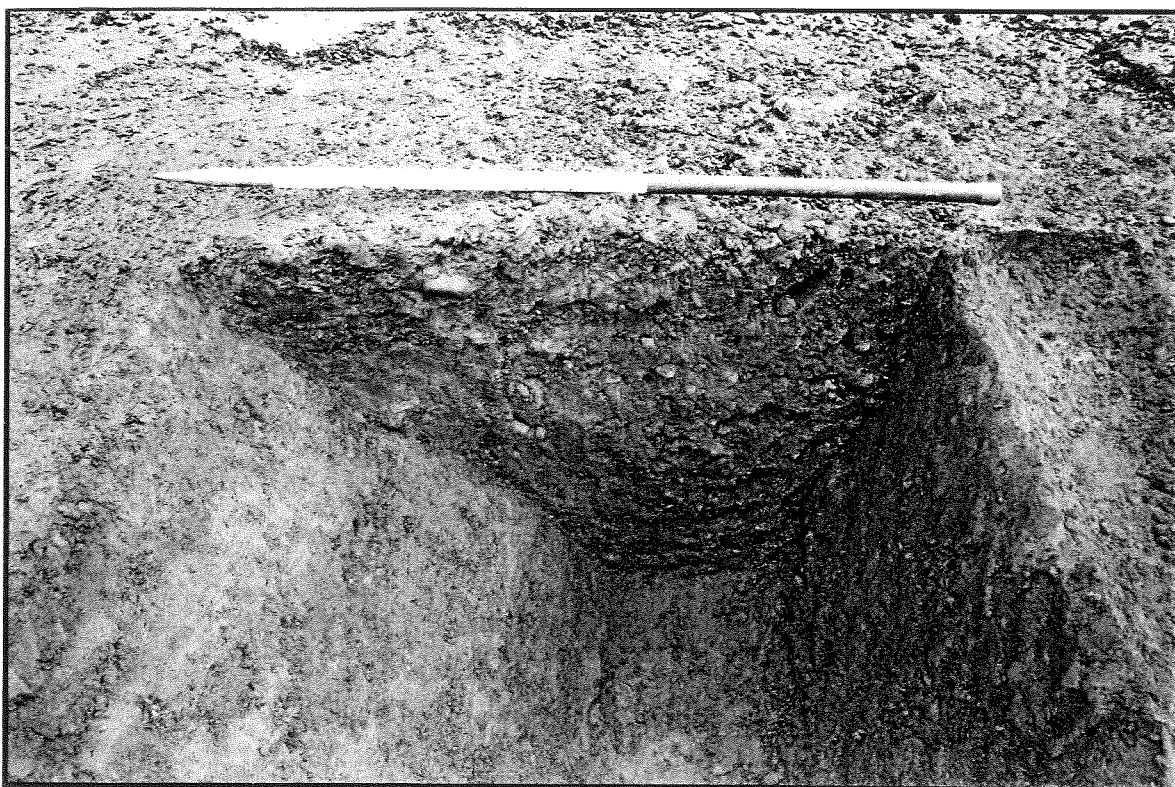
Fig. 4 Radiocarbon dates: samples 4440604 (Wk-13586), 4440610 (Wk-13587), and combined.



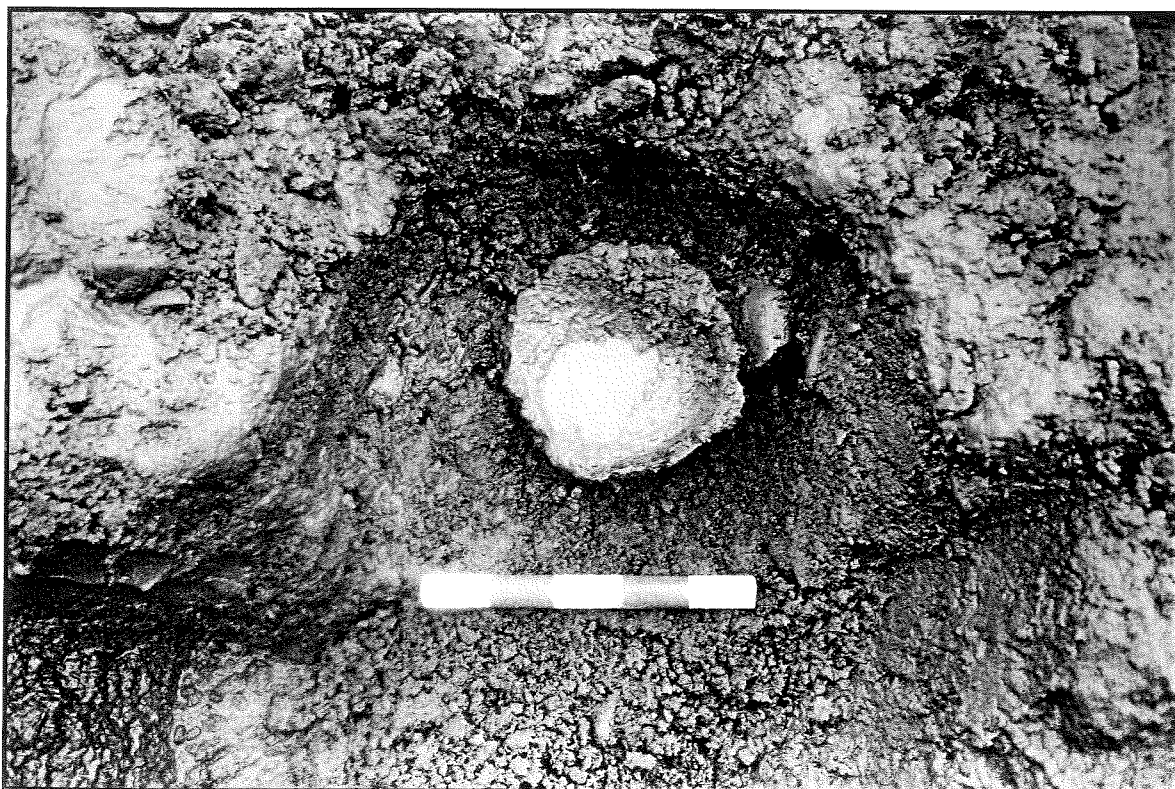
Pl. 1 General view of site, showing Iron Age ditch 603 (centre). Looking north-west.



Pl. 2 Ditch 603 after excavation, showing post-pit 654 (centre, within ditch). Looking south-east. Scales 2m (top) and 1m (bottom).



Pl. 3 Section across ditch 603 with gully 631 to right. Looking south-east. Scale 1m.



Pl. 4 Late Iron Age vessel placed within ditch 609. Looking north. Scale 0.25m