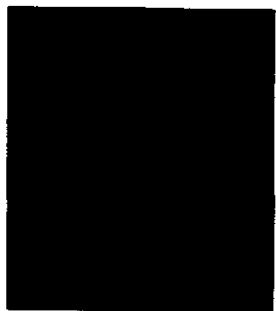


Wessex
Archæology



published in: PHFC Vol. 52 (Hampshire Studies 1997)
pp. 1-58

(1)

**EXCAVATION OF A PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN SITE
AT DAIRY LANE, NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON**

SU3INE 120-124

by Neil J. Adam, Rachael Seager Smith, and Roland J.C. Smith

with contributions by W.A. Boismier, Brenda Dickinson, Elaine L. Morris, Pat Hinton, Rowena
Gale, and Michael J. Allen

Illustrations prepared by Julian Cross and Paul Pearce

HCMS Acc N° A1995.62

Prepared on behalf of:

**Tesco Plc
Dairyglen House
PO Box 40
116 Crossbrook Street
Cheshunt
Waltham Cross
HERTFORDSHIRE EN8 8JT**

**Wessex Archaeology
September 1995**

© copyright The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Limited 1995
all rights reserved

The Trust for Wessex Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No. 287786

**EXCAVATION OF A PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN SITE
AT DAIRY LANE, NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON**

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN SITES AND FINDSPOTS IN NURSLING.....	1
THE SITE.....	3
EXCAVATION STRATEGY	3
THE SITE <i>by Neil J Adam</i>	6
Natural features and deposits.....	6
Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.....	6
Middle Bronze Age.....	6
Late Bronze Age/Iron Age.....	7
Early Roman	7
Late Roman.....	13
Unphased - possibly Roman.....	13
Post-Roman and medieval.....	15
Post-medieval and modern	15
WORKED FLINT ASSEMBLAGE <i>by W A Boismier</i>	16
PREHISTORIC POTTERY <i>by Elaine L Morris</i>	22
ROMAN AND LATER POTTERY <i>by Rachael Seager Smith with Brenda Dickinson</i>	28
COPPER ALLOY <i>by Rachael Seager Smith</i>	44
IRONWORK <i>by Rachael Seager Smith</i>	44
STONE <i>by Rachael Seager Smith</i>	46
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL <i>by Rachael Seager Smith</i>	47
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS <i>by Pat Hinton</i>	48
CHARCOAL <i>by Rowena Gale</i>	49
ANIMAL BONE <i>by Michael J Allen</i>	51
DISCUSSION <i>by Roland J C Smith</i>	52
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	63
REFERENCES	64

List of Figures

- Fig. 1: Site location
- Fig. 2: Site location and principal archaeological sites and findspots in the Nursling area
- Fig. 3: Area A - plan of all archaeological features
- Fig. 4: Area B - Middle Bronze Age: plan of features
- Fig. 5: Area B - Middle Bronze Age: ditch sections
- Fig. 6: Area B - Early Roman Phase 1: plan of features
- Fig. 7: Area B - Early Roman Phase 2: plan of the ditched field system
- Fig. 8: Area B - Early Roman Phase 1 and 2: ditch and pit sections
- Fig. 9: Area A - Early Roman Phase 2: ditch sections
- Fig. 10: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan of enclosure and settlement features and unphased, possibly Roman features
- Fig. 11: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: enclosure ditch sections
- Fig. 12: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan of features in the south-west of the enclosure
- Fig. 13: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: sections of pits features in the south-west of the enclosure
- Fig. 14: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan and sections of features in the centre of the enclosure
- Fig. 15: Area B - Post-medieval: plan of features
- Fig. 16: Bronze Age pottery (P1)
- Fig. 17: Bronze Age pottery (P2-P14)
- Fig. 18: Roman pottery (1-11)
- Fig. 19: Roman pottery (12-18)
- Fig. 20: Roman pottery (19-24)
- Fig. 21: Roman pottery (25-35)
- Fig. 22: Roman pottery (36-45)
- Fig. 23: Roman pottery (46-61)
- Fig. 24: Roman pottery (58)
- Fig. 25: Metalwork: copper alloy (1) and iron (2)
- Fig. 26: Principal known and suspected Roman sites in the Southampton area

Tables List

Table 1: Worked flint recovered by context

Table 2: Worked flint - assemblage condition

Table 3: Worked flint - results of the difference of proportions test for edge-damaged artefacts

Table 4: Worked flint - assemblage composition

Table 5: Worked flint - core types recovered by the excavation

Table 6: Worked flint - Area A test pits : Sample characteristics

Table 7: Worked flint - Area A features : sample characteristics

Table 8: Worked flint - Area B features : sample characteristics

Table 9: Worked flint - miscellaneous debitage

Table 10: Worked flint - tool classes recovered by the excavation

Table 11: Worked flint - flake shape and termination classes

Table 12: Prehistoric pottery - quantification by fabric type for Areas A and B

Table 13: Prehistoric pottery - quantification by period and feature

Table 14: Prehistoric pottery - mean sherd size variation

Table 15: Roman and later pottery - quantification by fabric, phase and feature type

Table 16: Roman pottery - samian by form and fabric

Table 17: Roman pottery - correlation of the Romano-British vessel forms and fabrics

Table 18: Roman pottery - vessel forms by major feature type

Table 19: Ironwork - summary by feature and by phase

Table 20: Charred plant remains

Table 21: Charcoal - the genera/families identified from fourteen samples

EXCAVATION OF A PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN SITE AT DAIRY LANE, NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON

INTRODUCTION

The parish of Nursling and Rownhams lies to the north-west of Southampton in the lower Test Valley (Fig. 1). The settlement of Nursling, clustered around the church of St. Boniface, lies in the west of the parish and close to the River Test. The character of Nursling has altered considerably in recent years with extensive gravel quarrying to the north and south of the village, with the construction of the M27 and M271 motorways and with the development of Nursling Industrial Estate.

The archaeological potential of the Nursling area, summarised below, is considerable and reflected in the number and range of entries recorded for the parish in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Recent work has highlighted this potential (Rees 1993), although the circumstances of discovery of many of these sites and findspots has not been ideal. In 1992 the proposed construction of a large distribution warehouse in the north of Nursling Industrial Estate provided an opportunity to examine 14 hectares of land in the parish and a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken. This programme culminated in the large scale excavation of an area of 2.7 hectares and the results of this excavation are presented in this report. The excavation, post-excavation, and publication programme have been funded entirely by Tesco plc.

PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN SITES AND FINDSPOTS IN NURSLING

Archaeological discoveries in the lower Test Valley in and around the parish of Nursling and Rownhams span almost every archaeologically defined period. Many of these discoveries date from the 19th century and early part of the 20th century and are poorly provenanced and documented, although recent work has re-emphasised the potential richness and diversity of archaeological remains, especially of the prehistoric period, in the lower Test Valley (Green 1991; Rees 1993).

Figure 2 summarises the principal archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity of the site. Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic activity on this gravel terrace is represented in the local area by the recovery of single or small collections of worked flint. In the wider area, important evidence of Mesolithic exploitation of the lower Test Valley has recently been demonstrated with the discovery of putative Late Mesolithic 'structures' on the west side of the River Test at

Bowman's Farm (Green 1991) and the recovery of an important organic sequence spanning the Mesolithic period at Sharveshill Farm (Smith and Allen 1993).

Bronze Age and Early Iron Age material is particularly well-represented in the Nursling area and much of this evidence has recently been collated by Rees (1993). Of particular interest is the discovery of a hoard of palstaves in the south of Nursling Industrial Estate. A Bronze Age barrow, now destroyed, was recorded 300 m to the west of the site in the Electricity Sub Station. Bronze Age finds have also recently been recorded in the Industrial Estate at Franconia Drive, where a Beaker and Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered (Beamish and Hearne 1995).

Of particular interest to the excavation site is the proximity of a number of discoveries of Roman material in the 19th century along and adjacent to the line of the Southampton to Salisbury railway line. The discoveries, including many pits and three wells along with over 70 coins, bronze brooches and an ornamental weight, 'testify to more wealth and civilisation than we might expect in a village' (VCH 1900, Vol. 1, 311). The Victoria County History summarises the 19th century references for these discoveries, which were used to suggest that the Nursling settlement was the 'ONNA' of the Ravenna Cosmography (Richmond *et al.*, 1949, 43). The potential importance of the site was supported by a proposed series of Roman roads, linking Nursling with Bitterne Manor and *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester) to the east and north-east and the New Forest, Ringwood, and the site of a possible port at Lepe via a crossing of the River Test to the west (Wake Smart 1881 and 1885). Little archaeological evidence has been found to support these proposed routes, although a Roman road, the nearest recorded section of which occurs 2.5 km to the north-east near Rownhams, probably linked the Nursling settlement with *Venta Belgarum*.

Many of the finds from the 'Roman settlement' are now held by Southampton Museums Service. Unfortunately, the provenance of many of these finds is now unknown and cannot be precisely established from contemporary accounts. Recent research by the Nursling and Rownhams History Group has not been able to establish the site of their discovery beyond a general location and recent fieldwork appears to confirm that the ballast quarrying that brought many of these finds to light has totally destroyed any archaeological features that might otherwise have survived (Keevil 1993).

The location of the Roman settlement on a gravel spur projecting across the floodplain of the River Test has been used to infer that the site was both settlement and port as well as river crossing (Crawford 1913, 38). Crawford also records an earthwork enclosure, 'The Walls', and a promontory fort, both now totally destroyed by quarrying, suggesting the importance of this spur

location in the prehistoric period. Unfortunately no archaeological record or dating evidence was recovered from these earthworks prior to their destruction.

THE SITE

The site (centred on SU 3660 1615) comprises a rectangular plot of land, limited to the north and east by the M27 and M271 motorways respectively, to the west by the Southampton to Salisbury railway line, and to the south by Dairy Lane and Nursling Industrial Estate. The site lies on a west-facing slope around the 10 m OD contour with a fall of around 7 m from east to west. There is a sharp fall in the very west of the site caused by the cutting for the now infilled Andover to Southampton Canal (Course 1977), and which was subsequently enlarged in 1857 with the cutting for the Salisbury-Southampton railway line.

The site lies on River Terrace Deposits comprising brown sandy clay and gravelly clay on fine- to coarse-grained sand and gravel. The site lies on the first terrace which forms a wide and extensive outcrop between Romsey and Nursling (Edwards and Freshney 1987, 79). The natural topography of the site remains largely unaltered by developments in the vicinity, although extensive gravel quarrying to the west of the site has substantially altered the topography in this area. This quarrying has obscured a former gravel spur projecting across the floodplain of the River Test, which is tidal to this point. The floodplain to the west of Nursling is also the lowest fording point across the River Test (Crawford 1913, 38). The soils of the site area comprised deep, well-drained loamy soils and, prior to the excavation, all the plots within the site were in pasture.

EXCAVATION STRATEGY

In view of the archaeological potential of the site and following the advice of the County Archaeological Officer, an archaeological evaluation of the 14 hectare site was undertaken in January 1992 by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (1992) in advance of the development scheme. The evaluation involved the examination and recording of 39 machine-excavated trenches, totalling 0.27 ha., or a 2% sample, of the site area (Fig. 1).

The evaluation concluded that there were three areas of archaeological interest within the site: a Mesolithic flint scatter in the west; an area of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age activity in the east; and an extensive area of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation in the south.

The CAO recommended that

*should be undertaken
prior to development*

In view of these results a programme of archaeological excavation and recording was proposed (by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and approved by the County Archaeological Officer.) Details of the excavation strategy, which is summarised below, are held in the project archive.

prepared by the OAU

*should better
reflect our role*

The Mesolithic flint scatter

The evaluation suggested that the Mesolithic activity in the west of the site occurred as a collection of worked flint recovered from a worm sorted horizon at the base of the topsoil and from a 'silt-filled hollow' and a number of other features, including treeholes and ditches, sealed below topsoil and cut into the subsoil. The excavation strategy was designed to examine and recover worked flint from these various locations.

Excavation Area A (Fig. 1), totalling 0.3 ha., was centred on the Mesolithic flint scatter. The greater depth of topsoil was removed by machine, with the lowest 0.05 m hand-excavated in 4 m² test pits set out on a regular grid basis, covering 10% of Area A. Preliminary assessment suggested that the basal topsoil contained a generally plough-damaged worked flint assemblage, less than 20% of which could be positively attributed a Mesolithic date (Boismier this volume). On this basis, the remaining basal topsoil was machine stripped from Area A and all subsoil features, including the 'silt-filled hollow' were subsequently hand-excavated, sampled, and recorded. Details of test pit locations and finds by test pit are held in the archive.

Prehistoric and Roman features

In the south and east of the site, excavation Area B, split between two areas east and west of Dairy Lane (Fig. 1), was centred on the prehistoric and Roman features recorded during the evaluation. Topsoil was stripped by machine from a total area of 2.4 ha. Preliminary cleaning and recording confirmed the results of the evaluation and that archaeological features largely consisted of discrete features cut into the subsoil. Hand-excavation of archaeological features maintained a minimum of a 10% sample of linear features and a 50% sample of other features.

The watching brief

The fieldwork programme was concluded with a watching brief during construction. The watching brief was originally proposed for areas immediately adjacent to Area B, although limited observations and recording were undertaken throughout the site area.

The excavations were undertaken by Wessex Archaeology between April and July 1993, with the watching brief undertaken in July and August 1994. The full project archive, including the finds,

HCMS
Acc N^o A1995.62

has been deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service under the site code W584. A microfilm copy of the site archive has also been deposited with the National Monuments Record.

THE SITE

By Neil J. Adam

Natural features and deposits

In Area A the 'silt-filled hollow' recorded during the evaluation and re-examined during the excavation, was 25 m long, 11 m wide and 0.1-0.2 m in depth (Fig. 3). It was filled with a yellowish-brown clay silt with rare flint inclusions and was cut by two Roman ditches. The hollow was oval and was formed by a natural depression in the underlying geology. This depression was then in-filled with silt, probably via rainwater that would have collected in it. No artefacts were recovered from the 'silt-filled hollow' and the potential for the recovery of Mesolithic evidence suggested by the evaluation was not realised.

Two irregular features, probably treeholes, were recorded in the east of Area A (Fig. 3, 7003 and 7142). Both were probably oval in plan, although both had been partially destroyed by a Roman ditch. Treehole 7003 was 1.15 m long, 1.4 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Treehole 7142 was 0.45 m long, 1.3 m wide, and 0.46 m deep. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery and one of Roman manufacture were recovered from 7142 and both treeholes are of Roman or earlier date.

Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age

A mixed assemblage of worked flint of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age date was found in Area A and to a lesser extent in Area B (Boismier this volume). With the exception of six pieces of worked flint from Middle Bronze Age ditches (see below), all the material was recovered as residual material in later features or from the topsoil. The largest quantity of material was recovered from Area A, partly reflecting the excavation strategy involving test pit sampling of the basal topsoil.

Analysis of the material suggests long and varied use and occupation of the area from the Mesolithic period onwards (Boismier this volume), although no *in situ* Mesolithic, Neolithic or Early Bronze Age deposits, as suggested by the evaluation, were identified during the excavation.

Middle Bronze Age

The earliest dated archaeological features from the site are assigned to this period. Three ditches, probably field boundaries, were recorded in Area B (Figs. 4 and 5).

Ditch 3657 was aligned south-east to north-west. It was 1.1 m wide with steep sides and a flat base and averaged 0.5 m deep. It was filled with a dark yellowish-brown silty clay loam with sparse gravel and flint inclusions (Fig. 5). Sherds from one possible globular urn (Fig. 17, 4), barrel urns (Fig. 17, 2, 5-6), and a possible accessory vessel (Fig. 17, 3) were recovered from the base of the ditch (Fig. 5). This material may represent refuse from a domestic settlement (Morris this volume). A radiocarbon determination of 2695 ± 65 BP (910-807 cal BC - AA-14701) was made on charcoal from the fill of ditch 3657 (Fig. 5, 3247).

Two ditches were situated 13 m to the north of ditch 3657 (Fig. 5, 3637 and 3639). Each ditch was 28 m long, 0.36 m wide and 0.16 m deep (Figs 4 and 5). Both were aligned south-east to north-west and were some 1.5 m apart. At their north-western ends, both ditches came together to form a single feature 0.5 m wide, which then shallowed and disappeared around 5 m further to the north-west. Ditch 3637 contained a number of sherds of globular urn (Fig. 16, 1).

Sherds of Bronze Age pottery were also recovered as residual finds in Roman ditches and later features in both Areas A and B. This material had a wide distribution with small number of sherds recovered from most Roman ditches across the site (Table 13).

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Archaeological evidence for human activity from the Middle Bronze Age to the Early Roman period was limited to a handful of residual pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date (Fig. 19, 12, and 14) found in Roman ditches 3656 (Fig. 7) and 3319 (Fig. 10) in Area B.

Early Roman

The majority of archaeological features recorded during the excavation date to the Roman period, within the range c. AD 60-130 as suggested by the pottery (Seager Smith this volume). Limited stratigraphic relationships suggest at least three principal phases of activity within this period, although there is no ceramic differentiation between phases, which are therefore considered to be broadly contemporary. The majority of poorly dated or undated features recorded during the excavation are also attributed to this period on the basis of their finds or their spatial relationship to well-dated Roman features.

Phase 1 Features pre-dating the Phase 2 ditched field system

The stratigraphically earliest Roman features were ditch 3579 and pit 3566. Curvilinear ditch 3579, 1.1 m wide and 0.6 m deep, was U-profiled, with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 6). The ditch had been re-cut at least once along part of its length (Fig. 8, 3358) and was filled with two sandy silt deposits, a greyish-brown lower fill, sealed by a yellowish-brown upper fill. One hundred and fifty sherds of Roman pottery, all small and abraded, and including fragments from three bead rim jars (Fig. 18, 1-3) were recovered from ditch 3579. This pottery is chronologically little different to that recovered from the ditches of the Phase 2 field system that was subsequently laid out across the site. One of the ditches of the field system (Fig. 7, 3198) cut ditch 3579.

Pit 3566 was also cut by one of the ditches of the Phase 2 field system (Fig. 8, 3656). This oval pit was 2.2 m long, 1.4 m wide, and 0.25 m deep (Fig. 8). It was filled with a light greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of gravel and charcoal. The majority of the pottery recovered from pit 3566 consisted of sherds of amphora, including a strap handle (Fig. 21, 25) and probably dating within the period mid 1st to early 2nd century AD. Pit 3566 may represent the remnants of a low level of occupation in this area of the site which may account for the relatively high number of sherds recovered from ditch 3579.

Phase 2 The ditched field system

This phase is represented by the laying out of a rectilinear ditched field system across most of the site and which was recorded in both Areas A and B, with further elements identified by the evaluation trenches of 1992 and observations during the watching brief (Figs 1, 3 and 7).

The field system was represented by a series of generally shallow ditches, oriented north-west/south-east or north-east/south-west, and defining rectangular plots covering an area of at least four hectares. The ditches of the field system cut across the Middle Bronze ditches, as well as ditch 3579 and pit 3566 which were stratigraphically the earliest Roman features.

The field ditches were generally 0.9-1.0 m wide, 0.2-0.5 m deep, with U-profiles and naturally filled with dark yellowish-brown clayey silts with occasional flint gravel. A representative sample of ditch sections is illustrated in Figure 8. The ditches were generally continuous; apparent breaks may be deliberate or reflect those parts of their length which have since been truncated or were originally cut entirely through topsoil. Ditch 7222 in Area A was apparently deliberately excavated as a series of short lengths (Fig. 3).

Some of the ditches were recut at least once, for example ditch 3656 (Fig. 8, 3626), or re-established on a new alignment as suggested by the close proximity of some ditches, for example ditches 3124 and 3272 in Area B (Fig. 7), and 7222 and 7063 in Area A (Fig. 3).

Generally low numbers of small and abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the field ditches and especially in the east of Area B and in Area A. All of this material is of early Roman date except for two sherds of intrusive medieval pottery in the upper fill of ditch 3022. The greatest number of sherds was recovered from ditch 3124, including sherds from four near complete coarseware vessels (Fig. 17, 4-7). This may be explained by its proximity to the Phase 3 enclosure and settlement features which, although stratigraphically later, can on ceramic evidence be considered broadly contemporaneous.

Phase 3 The enclosure and settlement features

This phase is represented by the insertion of a rectangular ditched enclosure into the Phase 2 field system (Fig. 10). Three parallel ditches (Fig. 10, 3335, 3319, and 3283) are interpreted as successive enclosure ditches, defining an increasingly larger area. Material in each enclosure ditch dates to within the period *c.* AD 60–130 and, as for all the early Roman features, the sequence is proposed on stratigraphic evidence, although each development probably took place within a narrow time span. A number of settlement features, including pits and post-holes, was recorded in the enclosure.

The continuing use of the Phase 2 field system and infilling of its ditches into and during Phase 3 is suggested by the recutting of some of the field ditches, the comparable date range of the pottery from the field and enclosure ditches, and the comparable alignment of the west limb of the enclosures and field ditch 3124.

Enclosure ditch 3335

Enclosure ditch 3335 was generally 1 m wide and 0.3 m deep (Fig. 11). The north and east limbs of the enclosure ditch were recorded, with the west limb presumed to have been totally removed by subsequent enclosure ditch 3283. The south limb of the enclosure was not defined by a ditch and the southern extent of the enclosure was, therefore, not clearly established. The minimum dimensions of the enclosure were 65 m long and 25 m wide or 0.16 ha. A large quantity, 311 sherds, of Roman pottery including Fig. 20, 19-24, was recovered from ditch 3335 and probably represents the deliberate disposal of domestic debris.

Enclosure ditch 3319

Enclosure ditch 3319 was almost identical in its dimensions and alignment to enclosure ditch 3335 (Fig. 11). The enclosure, defined by ditch 3319, was, however, larger than that for ditch 3335, with minimum dimensions of 65 m long and 50 m wide, or 0.33 ha. The southern extent of the enclosure lay beyond the excavation. There was no certain western limit to the enclosure, although as for enclosure ditch 3335, it is likely that this side of the enclosure was totally removed by subsequent enclosure ditch 3283. Two hundred sherds of Roman pottery (Fig. 18, 11; Fig. 19, 12-18), probably representing the deliberate disposal of domestic refuse, were recovered from ditch 3319, the majority from the western end of the north limb of the enclosure.

Enclosure ditch 3283

Enclosure ditch 3283 was more substantial than enclosure ditches 3335 and 3319 and defined an enclosure of at least 0.4 ha., measuring 80 m long and 50 m wide. The southern extent of the enclosure lay beyond the excavation. The enclosure was sub-rectangular with a near right angle in the north-west and a more obtuse angle in the north-east. Enclosure ditch 3283 was generally 2 m wide, and 1.1 m deep (Fig. 11). The ditch profile varied from a V-shape along the east limb of the enclosure to a more shallow-sided profile with a sump at the base along the north limb. The profile of the west limb of the enclosure was more U-shaped and shallower at 0.9 m deep. The ditch was continuous and entrance into the enclosure was presumably from the south.

The sections excavated across the ditch showed that each limb of the enclosure was in-filled in a different manner. The east limb was lined with a 0.13 m thick layer of redeposited sandy clay sealed by a homogeneous deposit of light grey clay silt, probably representing a deliberate infilling (Fig. 11). The north and west limbs were probably infilled more gradually with a series of layers of silty clay and gravel (Fig. 11). These last two sections show that the ditch was recut to a shallower depth at least once along part of its length.

A lens of silty clay on the inner edge of the ditch on the east side of the enclosure (Fig. 11) suggests an internal bank and this is supported by the infilling of one section of the west ditch which suggests the fills were derived from within the enclosure. The infilling of the north limb of the enclosure ditch, however, and the position of probably contemporaneous pits on the immediate inside of the west of the enclosure, suggests an external bank. This suggests the *ad hoc* dumping of spoil from ditch excavation on the interior and exterior of the enclosure as and where appropriate.

Roman pottery was recovered from enclosure ditch 3283 (Fig. 18, 8-10), although the quantity of material was less than for enclosure ditches 3335 and 3319 and the material was generally smaller and more abraded. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from the upper ditch fills. Fragments from two possible saddle querns were also recovered from this ditch.

Features within the Phase 2 enclosures

A number of features, including pits and post-holes, were recorded within the Phase 2 enclosures, either in the south-west of the enclosure and immediately adjacent to the west ditch, or in the centre of the enclosure. The low density of archaeological features was confirmed by careful hand-cleaning of the majority of the interior of the enclosure and observations for the watching brief during construction. Finds from the pits and post-holes, as for all the Roman features, is of early Roman date and they are broadly contemporary with the infilling of enclosure ditches 3335, 3319, and 3283, but cannot be assigned to any one phase of enclosure ditch.

Features in the south-west of the enclosure

Five pits (Fig. 12, 3420, 3516, 3534, 3631, and 3632) were situated in a line immediately inside enclosure ditch 3283. Pits, 3420, 3516 and 3534, were 1.2 m, 1.3 m, and 2.6 m in diameter and 0.16 m, 0.65 m and at least 1.2 m deep respectively (Fig. 13). Pits 3516 and 3534 had similar patterns of infilling with lenses of silt in their bases, sealed by a homogeneous silty clay deposit. The nature of these deposits suggests that each pit was left to infill gradually before the top half was deliberately filled in a single episode. A large assemblage of pottery was recovered from pit 3516 (Fig. 21, 27-33) with smaller collections from pit 3420 (Fig. 21, 26) and pit 3534. All the pottery from these pits dates to between the mid 1st and early 2nd centuries AD. An iron bucket handle (Fig. 25, 2) was also recovered from pit 3420.

Pit 3632 was U-profiled, 1 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep, and was cut by pit 3631, a cylindrical feature 1.4 m across and at least 1.2 m deep (Fig. 13). Pit 3632 was lined with charcoal and in-filled in a single episode, while pit 3631 was back-filled with a series of silty clay deposits. These deposits showed signs of settling and slumping, before being infilled with one further silty layer with some charcoal inclusions.

Five metres to the east of these pits was a group of 12 post-holes. The post-holes were U-profiled and between 0.25 m - 0.45 m in diameter and 0.1 - 0.25 m deep. They were filled with silty clay with deposits of charcoal and, on occasions, burnt flint. One sherd, each of Bronze Age and Roman pottery from post-hole 3462, was the only datable find recovered from these post-holes. A soil layer

above the post-holes produced a small collection of early Roman material, including sherds from a decorated beaker (Fig. 23, 59). None of the post-holes formed a recognisable pattern or structure.

Features in the centre of the enclosure -

Further pits and post-holes were found in the centre of the enclosures (Fig. 14). -

Pits 3215, 3274, and 3296 ranged between 1.2 - 0.6 m in diameter and 0.2 - 0.25 m deep. They were filled with silty clay with high concentrations of charcoal and burnt flint. Pit 3215 contained sherds of Roman coarseware and several fragments of Roman tile. Post-holes 3241, 3286, 3298, and 3320 were situated to the north of these pits. Post-hole 3298 was 0.2 m in diameter and the three other post-holes were 0.4 m in diameter. Post-holes 3241 and 3298 were 0.08 m deep, while the other two were 0.4 m deep. Post-hole 3241 was cut by pit 3215, although all the other pits and post-holes respected each other. All of these features, with the exception of post-hole 3298, produced Roman pottery from the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD.

Pit 3291 was circular in plan and barrel-shaped in section, measuring 1.4 m in diameter and 1.6 m deep (Fig. 14). The primary fill was a 0.5 m thick deposit of dark greyish-brown clayey silt with a high inclusion of gravel, along with sherds of Roman coarseware and some fragments of white flagon. This was sealed by a 0.55 m thick layer of greyish-brown 'cess' (field interpretation by Dr M.J. Allen), with occasional lenses of gravel and a dump of large pottery sherds at its base. This material included many sherds of Roman coarseware, flagon, some samian and amphorae fragments (Figs. 22, 36-45), and fragments of a Greensand rotary quern. The upper 0.5 m of the feature was filled with four layers of cess-like material with gravel lenses and further sherds of Roman pottery.

Pit 3292 was rectangular in plan and section, measuring 1.6 m long and 1.5 m wide, and was 0.4 m deep (Fig. 14). It was cut by pit 3291. The fills of pit 3292 were a mixture of brown clay and grey silt deposits sealed by a lens of flint gravel. Large amounts of Roman coarse and fineware, dated to the mid 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, were recovered from these deposits, including fragments of flagon and beaker as well as imported Samian and Lezoux ware (Fig. 23, 46-57), including a beaker with moulded decoration (Fig. 24, 58). The greater quantity of sandy fabrics, more 'Romanised' forms, and imported and other finewares in these two pits may suggest a marginally later date for the filling of these features than for the other early Roman features from the excavation (Seager Smith this volume).

Late Roman

No Roman features were recorded from the excavation that could be assigned a certain date after the early part of the 2nd century AD. A soil layer, 0.07 m thick, of light brown clay loam in the south-west of the enclosure, produced the only later Roman material recovered from the site. This comprised a number of sherds of mid to late 2nd century pottery (Fig. 23, 60, and 61) and a copper alloy enamelled brooch possibly of 4th century AD date (Fig. 25, 1).

Unphased — possibly Roman

A number of stratigraphically isolated features were recorded that contained very small quantities of Roman pottery or no datable material at all. The limited finds evidence suggests that the majority of these features are of Roman date, although they cannot be clearly related to any of the phases described above. These unphased, possibly Roman, features are described below; details of all entirely unphased features are held in the project archive.

Ditches in Area A

Ditch 7065 was located in the east of Area A (Fig. 3). The ditch was an irregular S-shape in plan and was 1.5 m wide, 0.9 m deep and V-profiled with steep sides. It was filled with mixed layers of silty clay and gravel, suggesting that it was left to fill naturally over some period of time. No datable material was recovered from the lower ditch fills. Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery, six Roman coarseware sherds, and one sherd of organic-tempered, possibly Saxon, pottery were recovered from the upper fills. The purpose of the eccentric course of the ditch was not established. Observations during the watching-brief failed to identify the ditch to the east or to distinguish any associated features.

Ditch 7064 was 0.4 m wide and 0.2 m deep (Fig. 3). It was U-profiled and filled with a yellowish-brown clayey silt that contained fragments of Bronze Age pottery, one sherd of Roman coarseware, and one sherd of organic-tempered, possibly Saxon pottery. It was aligned north – south and cut across the Phase 2 Roman field ditches 7222 and 7090. It probably represents the truncated remains of a later phase of field boundaries.

Pits in Area B

Two pits, 3305 and 3148, were recorded to the north-west of the Phase 3 enclosures (Fig. 10). Pit 3305 was a broad, shallow feature, 2.3 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep with shallow edges and an

irregular base. It was filled with a primary lens of gravel, 0.1 m thick in a yellowish-brown silty clay matrix sealed below a light grey sandy silt, 0.4 m thick with rare flint gravel inclusion. Burnt flint fragments were also recovered from the feature, which may have had some of the remains from a fire dumped in it.

Pit 3118 was situated in the far north-west of Area B. It was a well-defined circular feature 1.21 m in diameter and 0.28 m deep with rounded edges and a concave base. It was filled with mixed silty clays that sealed a deposit of charcoal and a reddish-brown burnt clay primary deposit. No datable material was recovered from these deposits.

A further eleven probable Roman features were recorded in the east of Area B. Three post-holes, 3072, 3054, and 3020, were recorded 3.5 m to the north of the Phase 2 ditch 3022. All three post-holes were ovoid in plan, and generally 0.65 m long, 0.45 m wide and 0.08 - 0.16 m deep. They were filled with yellowish-brown clayey silts which contained some fragments of fired clay but no datable material.

Two pits were recorded to the south of the post-holes. Pit 3043 was 2.22 m in diameter and 0.14 m deep. Pit 3056 was 3.06 m long, 1.13 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Neither feature contained datable material or could be interpreted with any certainty.

A further group of six small pits, a post-hole, and a hearth were recorded to the south. Pits 3009, 3099, and 3105 were 0.8 - 1.8 m in diameter and generally 0.14 m deep. Pit 3009 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, otherwise they were devoid of datable material and appeared to have been heavily truncated. An isolated post-hole, 3047, without any associated elements, was also recorded, along with the truncated remains of a small pit 3101. Pit 3101 was circular in plan, 0.95 m in diameter, 0.4 m deep, and filled with a dark yellowish-brown silty clay that yielded a sherd of Roman pottery and two sherds of medieval glazed ware. The sixth feature, 3053, was interpreted as the remains of a hearth. This was oval in plan, 1.45 m long, 1.1 m wide, and 0.27 m deep and was made up of a layer of brown silty clay, 0.08 m thick with occasional inclusions of charcoal, sealed by a 0.07 m lens of reddish-brown burnt clay, which was itself covered by a 0.16 m deep layer of burnt flint. No datable material was recovered from any of these layers. Charcoal recovered from the feature was identified as fuel debris (Gale this volume).

Post-Roman and medieval

No features from the excavation could be assigned a post-Roman or medieval date. The only evidence for human activity from this period comprised two sherds of organic-tempered, possibly Saxon, pottery from ditches 7064 and 7065 in Area A, and eight sherds of quartz-tempered medieval pottery, dating from 13th–16th centuries, found scattered across the site. The medieval pottery included a cooking-pot rim found in the top fill of enclosure ditch 3283.

Post-medieval and modern

Post-medieval and modern features comprised two post-medieval field boundaries (Fig. 15, 3127 and 3584) and two modern ceramic field drains in Area B. Small quantities of post-medieval pottery and tile were recovered from these features and from clearance layers across Areas A and B. A number of post-medieval and modern field ditches and small quantities of post-medieval and modern material were also recorded throughout the site during the evaluation.

WORKED FLINT ASSEMBLAGE

by W A Boismier

The excavation produced an assemblage of 1877 pieces of recognisably prehistoric worked flint and three hammerstones. Area A produced a total of 1641 worked flint artefacts and Area B a total of 236 artefacts. Approximately half of the Area A artefacts were recovered from the test pits (51.74%) with the remainder (48.26%) from excavated contexts. In Area B all artefacts were recovered from excavated contexts. All three hammerstones were recovered from the test pits in Area A.

The assemblage is multiperiod in character, with Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age artefacts present within it. The recovery of artefacts from Middle Bronze Age, Roman, and post-medieval features in both areas and from ploughzone contexts in Area A, indicate that the assemblage is primarily residual and not related to the survival of any *in situ* deposits. Table 1 summarises the number of artefacts recovered by context. The residual nature of the excavated assemblage has resulted in its analysis by general context grouping for the two excavated areas of the site.

Condition

Patination ranges from a light transparent waxy film to a heavy grey or greyish-white and was simply recorded as being either present or absent on individual artefacts. In total, 690 pieces (36.76%) show signs of some degree of patination with 1,187 (63.24%) unpatinated.

Post-depositional edge damage and breakage occur on all major classes of artefacts and varies by context and site area. Some 587 pieces (69.14%) recovered from ploughzone test pit contexts in Area A exhibit attribute patterns characteristic of tillage-induced edge damage (Mallouf 1982). Artefacts recovered from feature contexts in Area A are in relatively good condition, with post-depositional edge damage largely restricted to isolated trowel nicks on otherwise undamaged edges. Artefact condition for those recovered from Area B is relatively poor with 164 pieces (69.49%) exhibiting scar patterns characteristic of occupation related post-depositional edge damage. The condition of the assemblage by general context grouping is summarised in Table 2.

To determine whether the apparent patterning in edge damage was real and reflected possible differences in assemblage formation processes or simply a product of varying sample sizes, a series of t-tests for the differences between proportions (Blalock 1979, 232) was carried out between the three general contexts groups. Table 3 presents the results of the tests for edge damaged artefacts. The assemblages from the ploughzone in Area A and feature contexts in Area B, show no statistically significant differences in the proportion of edge damaged artefacts.

Significant differences were found to occur in the proportions of edge damaged artefacts between Area A feature contexts and the two other context groups. The results suggest substantial differences in post-depositional formation processes across the excavated areas of the site. Those responsible for the ploughzone and Area B feature assemblages (eg tillage and occupation related disturbances) producing a greater amount of edge damage than those responsible for the Area A feature assemblage. This is discussed in more detail below.

Evidence for post-depositional fluvial rolling also occurs on a number of artefacts recovered by the excavation. In total, 13 artefacts (0.7%) exhibit some signs of water worn edges.

Raw Material

With the exception of a single piece of probable Portland chert, the assemblage is composed of pieces manufactured from flint. Three potential sources for the flint are indicated by the surviving cortex on 831 pieces: 1, valley gravel; 2, Upper Chalk; and 3, tertiary deposits. Cortical condition on 790 pieces (95%) indicates that valley gravels from the immediate area of the site were the primary source of raw material for all periods of occupation. Some 33 pieces (4%) possess cortex characteristic of Upper Chalk flint. Nearest Upper Chalk sources occur around 10.5 km to the north-west to the north of Sherfield English and 15 km to the north-east around Colden Common. An additional source for this flint also occurs in the form of redeposited nodules occurring in gravel deposits. It is not possible, on the basis of the present collection, to determine which of these sources was systematically exploited during the occupation of the site. Eight pieces (1%) exhibit cortex characteristic of derived flint nodules or pebbles from tertiary deposits. Three potential sources for this flint occur within 5 km of the site: 1, Reading Pebble Beds; 2, London Clay; and 3, Bracklesham Group (Edwards and Freshney 1987). Which, if any, of these sources were preferentially exploited cannot be determined on the basis of the small sample collected by the excavation.

Assemblage Composition

Table 4 presents the major artefact classes of the assemblage recovered by the excavation from the two areas of the site. Various categories of 'waste' make up 97.87% of the assemblage recovered, with the tool component accounting for the remaining 2.13%.

Cores

A total of 85 complete, broken, and burnt cores was recovered by the excavation from the two areas. In Area A, 40 were recovered from ploughzone test pit contexts and 34 from feature contexts. In Area B, 11 were recovered from feature contexts. The 74 cores from Area A consist

of 32 flake cores, 19 blade cores, 15 flake core fragments, four blade core fragments, and one burnt blade core. One blade core also exhibits traces of battering, characteristic of secondary utilisation as a hammerstone. The 11 cores from Area B comprise nine flake cores, one flake core fragment, and one burnt flake core. No blade cores or blade core fragments were recovered from Area B. The flake cores in the assemblage include examples of both unprepared and prepared platform types and comprise 15 single platform, 18 multi-platform, six joint or keeled platform, and 20 unclassifiable core and core fragments possessing flake scars. Blade cores are represented by eight single platform, nine bipolar, three multi-platform, and four unclassifiable cores exhibiting blade scars. Table 5 lists the core types by general context grouping for the two areas.

Core Renewal Flakes

Twelve core renewal flakes were recovered from Area A. No core renewal flakes were recovered from Area B. The 12 pieces consist of six core edges, three core tablets, one core face, and one core face/platform.

Debitage

A total of 1737 artefacts, classifiable as debitage (92.54% of the total number of pieces), was recovered from the two excavation areas. This broad category contains unretouched flakes and blades, undiagnostic struck pieces, and tool manufacturing debris. Area A ploughzone test pit contexts contain 795 pieces, Area A feature contexts 732 pieces, and Area B feature contexts 220 pieces. Flakes account for 70.87% of the total debitage, blades 25.91%, and the remaining class groups 3.22%.

Flakes and Blades

The flakes comprise 964 complete pieces, 167 fragments, and 100 burnt pieces. Unretouched flakes make up 63.92% of the assemblage from Area A and 77.12% of the assemblage from Area B. Blades are defined in this study as flakes whose length is twice their width with those recovered by the excavation being both deliberate blanks of predetermined shape and incidental by-products of core reduction techniques. The blade component consists of 223 complete pieces, 171 fragments, and 56 burnt pieces. Blades account for 25.84% of the assemblage from Area A and 11.02% of the assemblage from Area B.

Flake and blade metric descriptions have been based on a stratified random sample of the contexts containing flint artefacts (Benfer 1975; Torrence 1978). A sample of 83 contexts representing 31% of the total was calculated on the basis of a 3 mm tolerance limit for mean parameter estimates of length and width. Proportional allocation methods (Kish 1953) were employed to ensure an equal partition of the sample among the three general context groups. Individual contexts within the three groups were selected at random from a list and all complete

pieces in selected contexts measured. The procedure produced some 753 complete artefacts for measurement representing 63.44% of the total number occurring in the assemblage. Standard errors of the sample estimates for the respective parameters are given in the tables summarising the results of the analysis.

The sample of 753 complete artefacts comprise 554 flakes (73.57%) and 199 blades (26.43%). Artefacts in the sample were initially divided into primary (dorsal surface fully cortical), secondary (dorsal surface partially cortical), and tertiary (dorsal surface non-cortical) technological classes. As a whole, primary pieces account for 5.18% of the total number of artefacts in the sample, secondary 47.81%, and tertiary 47.01%. Only 256 artefacts in the sample possessed measurable platform angles. Mean platform angle for flakes in this subset is 61° with a range from 40° to 88° , and that for blades is 70° with a range of from 52° to 86° . A further 41 flakes and 128 blades possess small, thin striking platforms and diffuse bulbs characteristic of indirect/soft hammer percussion. For the 554 flakes in the sample, mean length is 27.8 mm and mean width is 23.76 mm, with a range of from 6 mm to 101 mm for flake length and a range of 7 mm to 77 mm for flake width. For the 199 blades, mean length is 37.91 mm, with a range of 12 mm to 77 mm, and mean width is 13.95 mm, with a range of 4 mm to 34 mm. The length-width ratio for the sample as a whole ranges from 0.33 to 5.28 with a mean of 1.65. Tables 6 to 8 summarise the results of the analysis for the three general context groups.

Other Debitage Classes

The composition of the remaining debitage classes recovered from the site is presented in Table 9. Undiagnostic struck pieces account for 89.28% of those recovered, microburins 5.36% and nondescript spalls 5.36%. Undiagnostic pieces comprise 88.64% of the debitage class groups recovered from Area A and 92.0% of those recovered from Area B. Microburins occur only in Area A.

Tools

A total of two utilised and 40 retouched tools were recovered by the excavation from the two areas. The retouched pieces consist of 11 complete, fragmentary and broken microliths, seven scrapers, 13 complete and broken microdenticulates, four borers, one complete and two broken marginally retouched flakes, and two miscellaneous retouched pieces. The microliths were all recovered from Area A. All represent varieties of obliquely blunted points and are not diagnostic of any major chronological subdivisions of the Mesolithic (Mellars 1974). The scrapers include examples of five end, one side, and one denticulate scraper types. Borers include three piercers and one drill bit. A possible fabricator and a denticulate comprise the two miscellaneous retouched pieces. Table 10 summarises the tools recovered by general context grouping for the two excavated areas.

Hammerstones

Three hammerstones were recovered from the test pits in Area A. All three pieces are unmodified, irregularly shaped flint nodules with traces of battering on two or more of their surfaces.

Date

Dates for the assemblage have been established on the basis of broad technological characteristics related to flake shape and termination classes, the occurrence of chronologically diagnostic artefacts and mean length-width ratios. Only those pieces for which shape and termination classes could be unambiguously determined were used, with estimates of length-width ratios for the assemblage derived from the sample of 83 contexts. Table 11 presents the subdivision of the assemblage into shape and termination classes for the three context groups. The relative proportions of shape and termination classes are not indicative of any one chronological period but reflect the mixture of different technologies within individual contexts. Squat flakes, hinge terminations, and flake cores, more characteristic of Neolithic and Bronze Age technologies, co-occur with high frequencies of blades/narrow flakes and diagnostic Mesolithic artefacts. Mean length ratio for Area A ploughzone contexts is 1.35, for Area A feature contexts 1.98, and Area B contexts 1.38. That for Area A feature contexts reflecting the greater number of blades occurring within them. Assemblage composition thus reflects the multiple occupation of the location through successive periods from the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age rather than a range of activities associated with any one occupation.

Discussion

The assemblage recovered by the excavation is residual in character and multiperiod in content, with Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age artefacts present within it. Features containing artefacts were all later in date and no traces of *in situ* contemporaneous occupation surfaces or features were identified by the excavation. The relatively good condition of the assemblage recovered from Area A features reflects the operation of localised post-depositional processes favourable to their preservation within later features. Post-depositional processes most likely responsible are small scale slope processes which move and deposit material downslope under the forces of gravity along the edges of banks and ditch cuts. These processes include agencies such as sheet and rill wash, rain splash, and soil creep. As Allen (1988 and 1992) notes, these processes operate on surfaces both as continuous low energy, small scale events, and infrequent high energy events which transport blocks of soil and any artefacts contained within them, downslope. The joint operation of these small scale slope processes probably accounts for the

formation of a relatively undamaged assemblage in a number of ditch contexts. Assemblage composition and spatial pattern as a result are unlikely to be representative of the range of on-site activities or their spatial organisation, and are more a product of the factors responsible for their preservation.

Agricultural activity at the site from the Bronze Age onwards has sequentially destroyed traces of earlier occupation surfaces and shallow features. An examination of the basal ploughzone contexts from the Area A test pits revealed the presence of tillage-induced bias in artefact size class representation within the assemblage recovered from them. Most of the test pit contexts (75%) were observed to contain artefacts less than 4 cms in size, with only a few containing larger artefacts. This pattern of size class representation reflects the operation of sorting and inversion processes produced by agricultural equipment such as tined cultivators, disc harrows, and mouldboard ploughs. Large artefacts, more characteristic of the range of on-site activities, are generally missing or under-represented in the assemblage recovered from the basal ploughzone as a result of the excavation of the upper ploughzone profile by machine.

Post-depositional processes responsible for Area B assemblage characteristics are much more difficult to identify owing to the relatively long period involved in assemblage formation (Bronze Age to post-medieval). Artefact condition is relatively poor with 69.14% of the assemblage exhibiting isolated scars and linear edge damage characteristic of occupation related post-depositional edge damage. What is suggested by this pattern is that artefacts lay exposed on or near the surface where they were damaged by human and animal trampling and agricultural implements such as hoes and stone or metal plough shares, before their deposition in features. The processes responsible for deposition are most likely those related to the redeposition of artefacts as elements of bank material and their subsequent erosion by small scale slope processes. Numerous other occupation related post-depositional processes (Schiffer 1987) can also be expected to have contributed in some fashion to assemblage formation.

The recovery of temporally diagnostic artefacts and technological characteristics of unretouched pieces, indicate that the date of the assemblage probably extends from the Mesolithic to at least the Early Bronze Age. Typologically, Mesolithic artefacts in the assemblage include microliths and microburins with the technological characteristics of the assemblage indicating a mixture of different technologies. The temporal mixture of different technologies in the assemblage prevents any meaningful comparisons with other datable assemblages in the Lower Test Valley (Healy 1992; Boismier 1993). The chronological diversity of the assemblage, however, does indicate that the prehistoric occupation of the site was long and varied, if intermittent.

PREHISTORIC POTTERY

by Elaine L. Morris

A total of 597 sherds (6983 g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from Areas A and B (Table 12). The collection is dominated by sherds from Middle Bronze Age vessels but a small amount of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age material was also identified. The condition of the pottery varies considerably from small, very abraded sherds to large, conjoining sherds forming significant parts of diagnostic vessels. This variation is indicated by the range of mean sherd sizes presented in Table 14. The majority of the assemblage (477 sherds/6,149g) was recovered from Middle Bronze Age contexts, although a considerable quantity (120 sherds/834g) was recovered as residual material in Roman or later or undated features. Each sherd was examined and recorded as recommended by current guidelines for the analysis of later prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1992), and the details are available by context in the archive.

Fabrics

The most common fabric type found in the collection is one abundantly tempered with crushed, well-sorted, calcined flint, fabric F1. The temper is so consistently well-processed that there are only extremely rare pieces of flint larger than 3 mm across. Fabric F1 was used to make globular urns, barrel urns, and possible bucket urns, and an accessory vessel. The suitability of this fabric for such a variety of Middle Bronze Age vessel types indicates how utilitarian this temper recipe was for pottery manufacture and use in the Nursling area. This fabric uniformity is in contrast to that discussed for the various wares used to make the urns recovered at the Kimpton Bronze Age cremation cemetery near Andover (Dacre and Ellison 1981) and the settlement assemblages from Easton Lane, Winchester (Ellison 1989) and Ashley, near King's Somborne (Neal 1980).

In addition to this very common fabric type, small quantities of two coarser flint-tempered fabrics (F2, F3) were also identified which are likely to have been Middle Bronze Age in date. Two grog-tempered wares were found only as small body sherds and these could be from Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age in date.

A small number of sandy and silty fabrics (Q1-Q3), and fabrics with moderate or sparse flint grits in sandy clay matrices (F4-F6), was found in the collection and the few forms associated with these confirm their Late Bronze–Early Iron Age date. This change from heavily flint-tempered Middle Bronze Age fabrics to Late Bronze–Early Iron Age wares, dominated by sandy fabrics of various types, is well known in Wessex (Barrett 1980; Davies 1981, 97, 104-8, figs. 8 and 13; Morris 1991).

All of the fabrics in this collection are likely to have been locally produced. Without the use of heavy mineral analysis of the clays, it is not possible to determine whether any of the flint-

bearing fabrics is anything but local since there are suitable sources for clay and flint within the immediate area. The uniqueness of the utilitarian fabric (F1) for the manufacture of these Dairy Lane vessels, compared to the variety of fabrics from other Middle Bronze Age sites in Hampshire, such as Ashley (Neal 1980, 133), Easton Lane (Ellison 1989), and Kimpton (Ellison 1981), strongly suggests that pottery from this period was locally manufactured, despite the similarities in decoration found on vessels from these sites. The subtle differences in temper density for barrel urns, and the greater similarities in fabrics for globular urns between Wiltshire and Hampshire Middle Bronze Age fabrics, have been noted (Ellison 1981, 192 and 196, table 13) but it is suggested here that any variation may register on an even more localised scale.

Vesicular fabric

D1 vesicular fabric

a moderate to common amount (10-20%) of irregularly-shaped vesicles measuring ≤ 3 mm across in a clay matrix with rare (1%) rounded iron oxides measuring ≤ 3 mm;

Flint fabrics

F1 heavily flint-tempered fabric

a common to abundant amount (25-40%) of well-sorted, crushed, angular, calcined flint temper, ≤ 3 mm, in a clay matrix containing a rare to sparse amount (1-7%) of naturally-occurring organic matter ≤ 3 mm

F2 coarse flint-tempered fabric

a common to very common amount (20-30%) of moderately sorted, crushed, angular, calcined flint temper, ≤ 5 mm, in a slightly sandy clay matrix with $<10\%$ well-sorted, subrounded to subangular quartz grains, ≤ 0.4 mm across; one sherd also has a rare (2-3%) amount of grog temper, measuring up to 4 mm across

F3 very coarse flint-tempered fabric

a common amount (20-25%) of large, poorly-sorted, angular, calcined flint temper, ≤ 6 mm across, in a slightly sandy clay matrix with $<7\%$ well-sorted, subrounded-rounded and subangular quartz, measuring ≤ 0.3 mm across

F4 moderately flint-tempered, coarse sandy fabric

a coarse, sandy clay matrix, with a moderate to common (15-20%) amount of moderately sorted, subrounded-rounded quartz up to 2 mm across, containing a moderate amount (10%) of poorly-sorted, crushed, angular, calcined flint, ≤ 5 mm across

F5 moderately flint-tempered silty fabric

a silty clay matrix, with c. 10% very well-sorted, rounded-subrounded quartz <0.2 mm and rare to sparse (2-7%) poorly sorted, rounded iron oxides measuring ≤ 3 mm, containing a sparse to moderate amount (7-15%) of poorly-sorted, angular, flint temper, ≤ 4 mm across; this clay matrix is the same as fabric Q2

F6 sparsely flint-gritted fine sandy fabric

a fine sandy clay matrix, with a moderate to common (15-20%) amount of very well-sorted, rounded-subrounded, quartz measuring ≤ 0.3 mm across, containing a sparse amount (5-7%) of moderately sorted angular flint grits, ≤ 2 mm across

Grog-tempered fabrics

G1 grog-tempered fabric

a soft, soapy clay matrix with a laminated structure containing a moderate to common amount (15-20%) of poorly-sorted, angular grog temper, ≤ 4 mm across; there are two firing conditions apparent amongst the grog with both oxidised and unoxidised pieces present

G2 grog-tempered and flint-gritted fabric

a moderate amount (10-15%) of poorly-sorted, angular grog temper, ≤ 3 mm across, and a sparse amount (5-7%) of poorly-sorted, angular calcined flint, ≤ 3 mm, in a fine sandy clay matrix with a sparse to moderate amount (7-10%) of well-sorted, subrounded-rounded quartz, ≤ 0.2 mm across

Sandy and silty fabrics

Q1 sandy fabric with occasional fine flint

a sandy clay matrix, with a common amount (20-25%) of well-sorted subangular-subrounded quartz measuring ≤ 0.5 mm across, containing a rare to sparse amount (1-7%) of moderately-sorted, angular flint grit, ≤ 2 mm across

Q2 silty fabric with iron oxides and clay pellets

a silty clay matrix, with a very common amount (c. 30%) of quartz measuring < 0.2 mm across, containing sparse amounts (3-7%) of naturally-occurring, poorly-sorted, rounded clay pellets and iron oxides measuring ≤ 3 mm across

Q3 silty fabric with flint detritus

a silty clay matrix identical to Q2 described above, with a rare amount (1-2%) of patinated, subrounded-rounded and subangular flint grits measuring ≤ 3 mm

Forms, Decorations and Surface Treatment

At least three and possibly four globular urns (Figs 16, 1; 17, 4, 10, 13), three barrel urns (Fig. 17, 2, 5-6), a possible bucket urn (Fig. 17, 11), and one likely accessory vessel (Fig. 17, 3) of Middle Bronze Age date were identified in the collection. All but one of these were made from fabric F1. One of the globular urns is burnished and decorated with the infilled triangle design commonly found in central Wessex, as at Easton Lane (Ellison 1989, fig. 88, 49-50) and Kimpton (Dacre and Ellison 1981, fig. 15, D/E6) and also bears impressed tool marks around the belly of the vessel between the four horizontally pierced lugs. This urn is not actually a Type 1A urn since the lugs are horizontally as opposed to vertically perforated for this type classification, nor is it actually a Type 1B since the decorations are shallow-tooled not incised. Therefore, it is suggested that an intermediate form, Central Wessex Type 1A/B, be assigned to this vessel to indicate that it has elements of both forms (cf. Ellison 1981, 173-4).

One of the vessels has the concave neck, expanded rim, and row of finger-tip impressions at the shoulder typical of a Central Wessex Type 2B barrel urn (Fig. 17, 5), and another body sherd bears this same motif (Fig. 00, 9). The very small rim fragment from a possible bucket urn (Fig. 17, 11) has been assigned this form due to the similarity to one from Kimpton (Dacre and Ellison, 1981, fig. 18, E29). The finger-tip impressed rim from a possible accessory vessel (Fig. 17, 3) is also similar to examples recovered from the Kimpton cemetery (Dacre and Ellison 1981, fig. 14, D10, D11). In addition, a single body sherd with an applied plain cordon (Fig. 17, 7) was recovered and may date from the Middle Bronze Age due to the type of fabric (F1) used.

One rim sherd (Fig. 17, 8), the only fragment in the vesicular fabric (D1), is such a small piece that the vessel form cannot be determined. It is decorated with a finger-nail impression on the top, outside edge. This is likely to have originated from a later Bronze Age urn or jar.

Late Bronze–Early Iron Age pottery is represented by sherds from two different vessels, one probably from near the shoulder area of a jar decorated with finger-tip impressions (Fig. 17, 14) and two from a burnished, furrowed, carinated bowl which probably had a short neck due to the

profile angle (Fig. 17, 12). If this bowl was short-necked, then occupation dating from about the 8th to early 7th century BC, or the Early All Cannings Cross ceramic phase, may have occurred in this area at that time. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery has been found at several locations in the lower Test Valley over the past 20 years (Rees 1993) and the sherds from Dairy Lane increase the evidence for activity of this period in the area. No pottery which could be dated to the Middle and Late Iron Age was found in this collection.

Evidence of Use

Due to the small piece size and abraded condition of the sherds from Area A, it is not surprising that no visible evidence of use could be positively identified from that group of material. However, the large sherds from parts of vessels recovered from the Middle Bronze Age ditches (3637 and 3657) in Area B did still display evidence of use.

The interior surface of the highly decorated globular urn (Fig. 16, 1) was extremely eroded from the middle of the neck zone all down the interior of the vessel, including the inner base surface, while the exterior of the vessel was unaffected. This evidence of attrition may be interpreted as an indication that this vessel once contained an acidic liquid which etched into the inner surface of the urn, or that the vessel had been severely bruised by stirring (Skibo 1992, 106-10) or both. The use of globular urns to contain liquids would not be unexpected owing to the closed form profile of these vessels. One of the barrel urns (Fig. 17, 5) displayed similar erosion of the internal surface but this time only on the body of the vessel, not on the interior base zone. Therefore, it is more likely that this is evidence of abrasion from stirring and not from an acidic liquid which would have also affected the base zone. The numerous base and body sherds from an unidentified urn (Fig. 17, 4) had quantities of burnt residue, presumably food, on the interior, as did two other body sherds in fabric F1 from Area B. *

Nature of the Middle Bronze Age Assemblage

Despite the small number of sherds recovered from Area A, Middle Bronze Age sherds were found both there and in Area B which suggests that activity from this period took place over a large area. Diagnostic sherds of globular urn and decorated, barrel or bucket urns were recovered in both Area A and B emphasising a uniformity in activity over this large area during the Middle Bronze Age in particular. This contrasts with the occupation at Ashley where only barrel urns and a cylindrical clay weight were recovered from the single prehistoric feature at this Roman settlement site (Neal 1980, figs. 20, 25 and 28, no. 13), although the excavated features from neither site could be considered truly representative of the activity which must have taken place.

At Dairy Lane the variety of vessel types, the evidence of their use, and the form of deposition of these vessels indicate that this collection of Middle Bronze Age pottery is likely to represent part

of a settlement assemblage. The large fragments from three vessels, and the four other smaller parts of vessels (Fig. 17, 1-7) recovered from the fills of nearby ditches 3637 and 3657, are most likely to represent the discard of domestic refuse in a manner which would not necessarily elicit an interpretation of special deposition. It appears as though there was a household midden nearby which was dispersed by dumping into these features. Had there been only whole or half vessels placed at the terminals of these ditches, then a case could have been made for the selection of specific elements of the settlement assemblage for purposeful deposition. But the presence of such a variety of vessel parts and portions, the range of vessel types, the position of the material from ditch 3657 in particular, which appears to have been dumped into the ditch and not placed, and in the absence of other materials which may well have been selected for special deposition, it is only possible to interpret the Middle Bronze Age pottery as evidence for a settlement at or near these features.

The Middle Bronze Age sherds, recovered from later features in both Areas A and B, demonstrate that this settlement may well have been dispersed, or that the later activity distributed the prehistoric deposits which still existed as part of the topsoil and subsoil structure. The use of only one major fabric type to make the vessels implies a close timespan for their manufacture and deposition. This is supported by the limited range amongst the barrel urns in contrast to that demonstrated at the Kimpton cemetery and the differences between the Dairy Lane barrel urns and those from Ashley, approximately 15 km up the Test Valley. The absence of any positively identified barrel urns of South Lodge Type which are later Early Bronze Age in date (Ellison 1981, 173) and the presence of so many globular urns, strongly suggests that the Dairy Lane settlement was contemporary with Phase E (later Middle Bronze Age) at the Kimpton cemetery. The range of barrel urns at Ashley, which includes South Lodge Type barrel urns, is more similar to Phase C (later Early Bronze Age/early Middle Bronze Age) at Kimpton. Therefore, the Dairy Lane occupation took place after that at Ashley. The presence of later Bronze Age sherds, in particular the jar and bowl sherds in sandy fabrics, indicates that this area was favoured for occupation into the early first millennium BC.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATED PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Fig. 16

1. Type 1A/B globular urn; *c.* 25% of vessel present; 53% of 320 mm diameter rim, 11% of 200 mm dia. base; decorated with shallow-tooled, infilled triangles and impressed dots; four opposing lugs; fabric F1; context 3617, ditch 3637, Area B; Pottery Record Number P1.

Fig. 17

2. Barrel urn; 5% of 220 mm dia. rim present; undecorated; F1; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P2.

3. Possible accessory vessel; <5% of rim present; decorated with finger-tip impressions on exterior rim edge; F1; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P3.

4. Urn; 50% of 160 mm dia. base present; at least 200 mm in height; F1; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P4.

5. Type 2B barrel urn; <50% of vessel present; 15% of 360-380 mm dia. rim, 40% of 200-220 mm dia. base; decorated with row of finger-tip impressions at shoulder; F1; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P5.

6. Rim of barrel urn; <5% present; undecorated; F1; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P6.

7. Decorated body sherd; applied plain cordon; F2; context 3247, ditch 3657, Area B; PRN P7.

8. Upright rim from urn or jar; <5% present; decorated with finger-nail impression on exterior rim edge; D1; context 7016, ditch 7064, Area A; PRN P8.

9. Decorated body sherd from urn; decorated with row of finger-tip impressions at shoulder; F1; context 7258, ditch 7222, Area A; PRN P20.

10. Rim sherds of globular urn; <5% present; undecorated; F1; context 7336, ditch 7222, Area A; PRN P23.

11. Rounded rim of possible bucket urn; <5% present; undecorated; F1; context 3245, ditch 3656, Area B; PRN P36.

12. Decorated body sherds from carinated bowl; furrowed decoration; burnished; Q2; context 3341, ditch 3319, Area B; PRN P47.

13. Rim and body sherd from globular urn; <5% of rim present; undecorated; F1; context 3424, ditch 3198, Area B; PRN P62.

14. Decorated body sherd; decorated with finger-tip impression; Q3; context 3625, ditch 3656, Area B; PRN P84.

THE ROMAN AND LATER POTTERY

by R H Seager Smith, with a contribution by Brenda Dickinson.

In total 2004 sherds, 31832g, from phased contexts were examined in detail. Roman pottery forms the largest component of this assemblage, although small quantities of possible Saxon organic-tempered ware, medieval sandy coarseware, post-medieval/modern pottery, and two pieces of possible briquetage were also encountered. The Roman pottery, which includes samian, other imports and amphorae as well as more local coarseware products, represents a restricted date range, from the middle of the 1st century to the end of the first quarter of the 2nd century AD (c. AD 60–130).

The assemblage has been analysed in accordance with the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1991). It was divided into five broad fabric groups on the basis of the predominant inclusion types: grog-tempered wares (Group G), sandy fabrics (Group Q), flint-gritted wares (Group F), micaceous fabrics (Group M), and organic-tempered wares (Group V), in addition to a group of fabrics of known source or type (Group E). These groups were further sub-divided into 24 different fabric types based on the range and coarseness of the inclusions. Each of the fabrics has been assigned a unique fabric code. The following terms are used to describe the quantity of inclusions present : rare — less than 2%; sparse — 3-7%; moderate — 10-15%; common — 20-25%; abundant — 30%+.

The pottery has been quantified using both the number and weight of sherds of each fabric type by context and details of vessel form, size, surface treatment, decoration, and manufacturing technique have been recorded. Details of surface abrasion, residues, and evidence for reuse and repair have also been noted. Pottery fabric totals for each feature are shown in Table 15; similar information on context by context basis can be found in the archive. A site-specific vessel type series has been constructed (Figs 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23, 1-61), although the illustrations are ordered by feature group. Table 17 summarises the vessel forms represented by rim sherds, present in each fabric type.

In general, the condition of the material is good with large sherds enabling many refits to be made. Soil acidity has affected the assemblage and many of the softer fabrics, especially the samian and the fine-grained sandy wares, have suffered considerable post-depositional abrasion. A small proportion of the sherds (c. 1 – 2%) are stained by iron and, in severe cases, have iron oxide deposits adhering to the surface.

Samian

by Brenda Dickinson

Twenty-nine sherds (339 g) of samian were recovered. Numbers and weights by period and phase are presented in Table 15. The numbers of vessels by form and fabric are presented in Table 16. Full details by context are held in the archive. The small collection spans the period *c.* AD 60 to 130.

Of particular interest is the complete Central Gaulish example of so-called 'black samian' (Fig. 24, 58) from the fill of pit 3292 and dated to *c.* AD 110–130. This vessel is in a pale orange, granular fabric, with a black coat. The decoration consists of erotic groups (including Oswald's B, M, and DD and a seated figure to right, (0.966 = Bémont 1977, Tableau VIII, 104, 107, 108, and 81, respectively), apparently alternating with other figures. These include a warrior with a sword (0.194 = Bémont 1977, *loc. cit.*, 27) a Venus (0.290 = Bémont 1977, *loc. cit.*, 31) and a seated, draped figure to left (0.943 = Bémont 1977, *loc. cit.*, 80). Space fillers include a lyre (Rogers U230) and three different masks. Butrio used three of the figure-types but they are all, with one exception (the erotic group Oswald DD), known for Libertius ii, and so he is more likely to have made the vessel. The inside shows clearly where the two separate moulded halves of the jar were joined.

Bémont 1977 = Bémont, *C Moules de gobelets ornées de la Gaule centrale au Musée des Antiquités Nationales Gallia Suppl. XXXIII*

0. = figure-type in Oswald, F, *Index of Figre-Types on Terra Sigillata ("Samian Ware")* Liverpool 1936-7

Rogers = motif in Rogers, G B, *Poteries sigillées de la Gaule centrale. Gallia Suppl. XXVIII* 1974

Other Finewares

Three other fineware fabrics were identified :

Fabric M100 Brown micaceous fineware : moderately hard, fine-grained fabric containing common mica (muscovite) flecks and rare red and black iron oxides, all < 0.25mm, with very rare subangular quartz grains < 0.50mm. Wheelmade. Unoxidised, with a tonal firing effect. Exterior surface smoothed.

Fabric M101 Fine, micaceous greyware : smooth, fine-grained fabric with abundant microscopic quartz/mica < 0.125mm, sparse iron oxides < 0.25mm and very rare white clay pellets < 2mm, sometimes occurring as horizontal streaks through the matrix. Wheelmade. Unoxidised, pale grey in colour but may originally have had dark grey surfaces.

Fabric M102 Mica-dusted ware : moderately hard, medium-grained fabric containing sparse subrounded quartz and rare red iron oxides both < 0.25mm. Fine slurry of golden (biotite) mica coating survives in patches on the surfaces. Wheelmade. Oxidised, bright orange in colour.

Each of these fabrics is represented by sherds from a single vessel. All three fabrics are unprovenanced but are likely to be of British origin, although all the vessel forms are loosely based on Continental prototypes. The brown micaceous ware (Fabric M100) beaker (Fig. 23, 57) is very broadly similar to the long-necked, *vase tronconique* of the Flavian and later periods, produced in the Artois and Picardy regions of northern France (Richardson and Tyres 1984, 136, fig.2, 2 and 3).

The fine micaceous greyware fabric (M101) is represented by a small bag-shaped beaker with panels of comb-applied barbotine dot decoration (Fig. 23, 59). Production of similar vessels is known at a variety of British centres during the 2nd century AD, including Highgate Wood (London), the Upchurch marshes (Kent), the Northampton area and the Oxfordshire potteries (Tyres 1978, 62), based on forms dated from c. AD 70 – 120/140 in the Wetterau area of the Rhineland (Tyres 1978, 96). Mica-dusted wares too, were produced at a variety of centres both in Britain and on the Continent, being most common in the later 1st and early 2nd centuries AD (Marsh 1981, 137). The small cup (Fig. 18, 11) represented here, would appear to be an unusual form but clearly belongs within this well-known ceramic tradition.

The White/Buff wares

Four fabric types were identified :

Fabric Q104 Buff sandy fabric; hard, fine-grained with sparse subrounded quartz and red and black iron oxides < 0.25mm and very rare yellowish clay pellets < 0.5mm. Wheelmade. Oxidised often with a tonal or sandwich firing effect. Exterior surface smoothed.

Fabric Q105 Sandy white ware; fine, moderately hard fabric with a grainy texture. Contains common quartz and sparse iron oxides both < 0.25mm. Wheelmade. Oxidised, white or off-white in colour, occasionally a self-coloured slip survives on exterior surface.

Fabric Q106 Hard, fine-grained fabric with moderate red and black iron oxides < 0.5mm, sparse limestone fragments < 1mm and sparse quartz < 0.5mm. Wheelmade. Oxidised, greenish-cream in colour.

Fabric Q107 Dense, fine-grained fabric with sparse subangular quartz and rare red and black iron oxides both < 0.5mm. Hardness variable. Wheelmade. Oxidised, pale pink to off-white in colour. characteristic horizontal smears of iron oxide visible mostly on the exterior surface. Brown slip on interior surface, exterior smoothed and carefully finished.

The buff/white wares represent 9.3% of the total number of sherds recovered. The majority of sherds are likely to be from flagon forms, fulfilling a role as serving, or temporary storage vessels for liquids.

At least two vessels are represented amongst the buff sandy ware sherds (Fabric Q104). The majority of sherds in this fabric are abraded body sherds of uncertain form with a distinctive orange/yellow-buff firing. A second vessel, a pulley-wheel mouth flagon (Fig. 20, 24), was recovered from enclosure ditch 3335. Similar vessels are known from a variety of sites (Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl.LXI, 143.12; Going 1987, fig.16, J2.2; Bidwell 1979, fig.61, 31 and fig.65, 139; Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 241, type 416) dated from the Claudian period until at least the early 2nd century AD but the fabric is unprovenanced.

Only one featured sherd, a rim from a beaker or small jar, (Fig. 18, 10) was noted among the white sandy ware sherds (Fabric Q105). The sherd is too small to allow the precise identification of vessel form but it represents the only non-flagon type to be noted among the buff/white ware sherds. It is similar to the 1st century butt beakers which originated in north-west Gaul but which were copied widely in other parts of the Empire, including Britain. This vessel may be imported (Mark Wood pers. com.) but the form was also made at Colchester from Tiberian to Neronian times (Hawkes and Hull 1947, Cam 113) and at other British centres. At Fishbourne, the majority of examples occur in Period 1 (terminal date of *c.* AD 75/80) deposits (Cunliffe 1971, 186, fig.88, 59).

The Fabric Q106 strap handle (not illustrated) is probably also from a flagon. The fabric is similar to that used for at least some of the Hartley Group I and II mortaria which were produced *c.* AD 65–150 somewhere in north-east France or Britain, probably Kent (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 281). Little is known about the production of either the mortaria or the flagons but both require supplies of pale-firing, iron-poor clays and a relatively large kiln space for firing (mortaria being large, heavy vessels while flagons cannot be stacked inside each other and so consume a lot of kiln space) and are thus ideal kiln partners. Both mortaria and flagons were produced at Corfe Mullen, Dorset (Calkin 1935) and at the Brockley Hill, Hertfordshire during the 1st to 2nd centuries AD (Castle 1972).

Fabric Q107 may represent the product of the 1st century AD kilns at Corfe Mullen in Dorset (Calkin 1935). The ring-necked flagon (Fig. 22, 45) is perhaps the most typical and widely distributed product of this kiln. However, similar internally slipped ring-necked flagons, also in white/cream 'pipe-clay' fabric, have been identified at a number of sites, including Cirencester (Rigby 1982, 156, fabric 21) and Exeter (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 139, fabric 405) and are considered to be imports, possibly from Lezoux. The Corfe Mullen kiln has a central date of *c.* AD 50–60, with extreme limits a decade or so either side of this range (Calkin, 1935, 54) and a similar range is suggested for the possible Lezoux fabric (Rigby 1982; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991). At least four vessels in this fabric are represented at Dairy Lane. The splayed rim of the flagon from pit 3291 (Fig. 22, 45) is better paralleled by the Corfe Mullen examples (Calkin 1935, fig.5, class A) than by

the possible Lezoux vessels from Exeter which have more vertical rims (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, fig.49) but the presence of both red and 'black' samian from Lezoux do indicate trading links with this area and thus the possibility that at least some of these sherds are imports cannot be excluded. A second flagon from pit 3291 is likely to belong to a similar form, although the rim and neck of this vessel are missing.

The Coarsewares

Three of the major fabric groups; the sandy wares, grog-tempered wares, and flint-gritted wares, are represented. These groups have been further subdivided into nine fabric types based on the range of inclusions and grain size, although each fabric may contain the products of more than one source. The correlation between fabric types and vessel form is shown in Table 17.

Fabric Q100 Wheelmade, dark grey sandy ware; fine to medium grained fabric, of variable hardness containing moderate to common subrounded quartz and rare iron oxides both < 0.5mm. Wheelmade. Generally unoxidised. Generally dark brownish-grey with a lighter grey or, sometimes, a reddish-brown core.

Fabric Q101 Light grey sandy ware; fine to medium grained fabric, of variable hardness containing sparse to moderate quartz < 0.5mm, rare to sparse iron oxides < 1mm and/or, especially in the finest examples, moderate to common mica or microscopic quartz < 0.125mm. Wheelmade. Unoxidised, generally mid to light grey in colour, occasionally with slightly darker surfaces.

Fabric Q102 Highly variable fabric group comprising small or abraded sherds. Contains sparse to abundant quartz and rare iron oxides, both < 0.5mm; voids originally containing carbonised organic material < 0.5mm occasionally present. Predominantly unoxidised but oxidised examples also occur. Manufacturing technology uncertain as sherds are abraded but probably includes both handmade and wheelmade vessels.

Fabric Q108 Coarse sandy greyware; hard, moderately coarse-grained, 'gritty' fabric with common quartz, 0.5-1.5mm, and sparse iron oxides < 0.5mm. Predominantly unoxidised with rarer oxidised examples. Both hand- and wheel-made sherds probably included.

Fabric G100 Fine grog-tempered ware; moderately hard fabric characterised by sparse to common grog inclusions < 1.5 mm. A range of other inclusions, comprising crushed flint, iron oxides, carbonised organic material, quartz and microscopic quartz/mica, also < 1.5mm and occurring in variable quantities, may be present. Generally unoxidised although both oxidised and variably fired sherds also occur. Handmade.

Fabric G101 Coarse grog-tempered ware; hard fabric characterised by sparse to moderate grog inclusions > 1.5mm in a matrix containing moderate to common quartz < 0.25mm and iron oxides < 1mm, although occasionally almost sand-free sherds were noted. A range of other inclusions, including mica, crushed flint and carbonised organic material may also be present. Predominantly oxidised with some variably fired examples. Handmade.

Fabric F100 Fine flint, quartz and grog tempered ware; moderately hard fabric with rare to sparse crushed flint and sparse to moderate grog both < 2mm in a fine-grained matrix containing abundant rounded quartz < 0.25mm and rare iron oxides < 0.5mm. Voids representing, and fragments of, carbonised organic material < 1mm, also present in some sherds. Handmade. Generally unoxidised, dark brownish-grey in colour.

Fabric F101 Fine flint and quartz tempered ware; moderately hard fabric containing sparse to moderate crushed flint < 1mm, moderate subrounded quartz < 0.5mm, rare iron oxides < 0.5 and very rare voids or fragments of carbonised organic material. Handmade. Generally unoxidised although a few oxidised examples also occur.

Fabric F102 Coarse flint and sand tempered ware; hard fabric containing common quartz < 0.25mm, moderate crushed angular flint < 4mm and sparse voids or fragments of carbonised organic material < 3mm. Handmade. Unoxidised; grey core with grey-brown margins and dark grey surfaces.

The coarseware assemblage is generally handmade, although some of the sandy greyware vessels (especially Fabrics Q100 and Q101) were produced on a wheel. The grog-tempered wares dominate the coarsewares and the assemblage as a whole, representing 59.8% of the total number of sherds recovered; the sandy wares and the flint-tempered fabrics accounting for 18.3% and 6.5% respectively. All the sherds of coarse flint and sand tempered ware (Fabric F102) are derived from a single vessel (Fig. 21, 34). All the fine flint and quartz tempered (Fabric F101) sherds are featureless body sherds and it is possible that at least some are of Middle Bronze Age date, although of distinctly different appearance to those positively assigned to this period (see Morris above).

The majority of these wares are probably of local manufacture (within 10–15 km of the site). However, Alice Holt greywares may be included amongst the sandy fabrics identified, indicated by the carinated bowls with a bifurcated rim (Figs 21, 32; 23, 50), a form known to have been produced in the Alice Holt area c. AD 60 to the mid 2nd century (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig.16, class 5) as well as at a variety of other centres, including Continental sources. Up to 30% of the greyware from Winnall Down, near Winchester (Hawkes 1985, 69) and 22% of the total assemblage weight from East Horton Farm near Fair Oak (Jenkins 1990) were identified as Alice Holt products. A fabric containing coarse sand and much grog was also used by the Alice Holt potters up to the mid 3rd century AD (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18, fabric G). Other early Roman greyware producing kilns are known at Shedfield (20km distant) and Rowlands Castle (40km distant) (Swan 1984, map 18).

The coarseware vessel forms are dominated by a variety of bead-rim jars (Figs 18, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8; 19, 13, 15, 16; 21, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34; 23, 51, and 54) which occur in all three of the major fabric groups (Table 17). At least one variant of this form has small ear-shaped handles (Fig. 18, 1). The bead-rim jars can be broadly divided into three size ranges; those with an internal rim diameter of less than 100 mm (Type 2), 110 mm – 130 mm (Type 7) and 130 mm plus (Type 9). Bead rim jars occur in all assemblages of similar date in the area (Cotton and Gathercole 1958; Wood, in prep.; Cunliffe 1971, 212, fig. 102, 166; Hawkes 1985, figs. 57 and 58; 1987, figs. 25, 27 and 28; 1989, 96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936, fig. 7, 13-29; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, figs. 26 and 27; Jenkins 1990, fig. 5).

Large storage jars with upright or slightly everted rims (Figs 19, 18; 20, 22; 21, 27 respectively) are also well-represented, invariably occurring in the coarse grog-tempered ware (Fabric G101). Most common amongst the other jar forms are a range of upright, or very slightly everted, necked jars (Figs 18, 9; 20, 19, 21, 23; 23, 46, 48 and 49) also well-parallelled at other sites in the area (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 70, type BER1 and 75 type JN1; Cunliffe 1971, 212, type 161; Neal 1980, 12, 18, 19, 21, 31, 33, 36, 43, 44, and 46; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936, fig. 7, 31-42; Hawkes 1985, fig. 57, 90, 95, 96, 98 and 104; Hawkes 1987 fig. 25, 73, fig. 26, 87, 88, 90, 91, 100, and 103). The remaining jar forms (Figs 19, 14, 17; 20, 20; 22, 36, 38; 23, 52) comprise a range of 'Romanised' forms, each represented by only one or two examples, and occur most frequently in the sandy fabrics (Table 17). One vessel (Fig. 22, 43), while almost certainly a British product, is broadly based on the long-necked *vase tronconique* from northern France (cf. Fig. 23, 57; Richardson and Tyres 1984, 136, fig. 2, 2 and 3). Other examples, also in local fabrics, occur at Easton Lane near Winchester (Hawkes 1989, fig. 93, 31) and in a Vespaianic group (c. AD 70-80) at Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole, 1958, 93, fig. 19, 14). The majority of forms are well-parallelled in the area but the wide and narrow-mouthed jars with straight, sloping shoulders, no necks and slightly flared rims (Figs 20, 20; 22, 36; 23, 52) appear to be more localised types.

The bowl and dish forms also occur most frequently in the sandy and fine grog-tempered wares (Table 17). These vessels too comprise a range of 'native' forms, characterised by bead rims (Figs 18, 5; 22, 37, 42; 23, 56) and a more disparate group of 'Romanised' forms (Figs 21, 26, 32; 22, 44; 23, 47, 50). The presence of other, probably fairly elaborate 'native' bowl forms is indicated by the presence of two pedestal bases (Figs 21, 35; 23, 53) in grog- and flint-tempered fabrics. Sherds from a shallow, straight-sided bowl or dish (Fig. 23, 60) and an incipient flanged bowl/dish (Fig. 23, 61) from an area of soil layer, represent the only forms that need date from after the first quarter of the 2nd century AD. Lids (Figs 18, 7; 19, 12; 21, 31; 22, 39, 40 and 55) occur in both the sandy greyware and grog-tempered fabrics. Sherds from a handled jug (Fig. 22, 41), in an oxidised, fine grog-tempered fabric, were found in pit 3291.

Very little decoration occurs amongst the coarseware assemblage, although soil acidity and surface abrasion may have affected the survival of this. In addition to the illustrated vessels (Figs 18, 4; 22, 42, 44), the only decoration noted were burnished line motifs on body sherds from a small jar from pit 3292 and a sherd from near the base of a jar/bowl with a vertical applied strip found in enclosure ditch 3335. The majority of vessels are roughly finished, with smoothed or wiped surfaces. Some attempts have been made at burnishing but rarely to an even finish or a high gloss, although again soil conditions may also have affected the survival of this.

Six of the coarseware vessels have from one to five perforations drilled through the base after firing. Four are illustrated (Figs 18, 4, 5; 19, 15, 16), the remaining two comprise the base of a small jar in Fabric Q101 from pit 3292 and a featureless sherd, probably part of a base, in fine grog tempered ware from enclosure ditch 3283. In addition, a body sherd in fine, grog-tempered ware with at least two roughly circular holes inserted into the vessel wall after firing was found in pit 3516. Such perforated vessels first appear in the Middle Iron Age becoming increasingly common in the latest pre-Roman Iron Age and earliest Roman periods across wide areas of southern England. The deliberate perforation of vessel after firing clearly indicates some dramatic alteration in the way in which the vessels were used during their lifespan; previous discussion has suggested their use in the production of cheese (Harding 1974, 88) but more recent programmes of residue analysis (Heron, forthcoming) cast doubt on this view. Also indicative of the reuse of ceramics is a sherd, probably deliberately trimmed, with a partially drilled central perforation. The sherd was found in pit 3291 and was probably abandoned during the manufacture of a weight or spindle whorl.

The Amphorae

Two amphora types were recognised, both of Spanish origin. Nineteen sherds, representing at least two vessels, occur in Catalonian fabrics from north-east Spain (Fabric E256). Seventeen sherds, including a strap handle (Fig. 21, 25) from pit 3566, are probably derived from a Dressel 28 amphora (Keay and Jones 1982), or one of a range of minority types produced in the same area (Remesal-Rodriguez and Revila-Calvo 1991, 400-402). Dressel 28 vessels were used in the transportation of wine or fish products and date from the late Augustan period to the second half of the 2nd century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 151). The range of minority types date from the Flavian period onwards.

At least one Dressel 20 amphora (Fabric E256), which contained olive oil from southern Spanish province of *Baetica*, is represented by body sherds. These vessels had an average capacity of 66 litres (Sealey, 1985) and were widely transported across the western provinces of the Roman Empire from the 1st to at least the early 3rd century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136). Dressel 20 are perhaps the most common amphora type to have reached Roman Britain but only diagnostic sherds and stamped fragments can be more precisely dated.

Discussion

In general terms, the Dairy Lane assemblage is broadly comparable with the material recovered from the earliest stratified groups at Bitterne Manor, dated from *c.* AD 70 – 120 (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, figs. 19 - 21), and by the Period 1 pottery (terminal date of *c.* AD 75/80) from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 175 - 217). Some of the forms present can be paralleled by vessels from the Fishbourne Period 2 contexts (*c.* AD 100 - 200) (Cunliffe 1971, 216 - 242), although in general, this group contains more 'Romanised' forms such as everted rim jars, flat-flanged bowls/dishes, and shallow, straight-sided dishes, which become common after *c.* AD 120, and 2nd century AD imported finewares that are not present at Dairy Lane. The Dairy Lane material is also comparable with assemblages from rural sites of similar date in the area (Hawkes 1985, 69-76; 1987, 27-33 and 1989, 94-96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, 135-139; Jenkins 1990) and the early Roman material recently recovered from Bitterne Manor (Wood, in prep.). However, none of these assemblages show the same reliance on grog-tempered wares seen at Dairy Lane but are predominantly composed of sandy and flint-gritted fabrics with grog-tempered wares forming only a minority component, mainly used for large storage jars. The large jar forms are apparently comparatively rare at both Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole 1958) and Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971), possibly reflecting functional and/or status differences between the assemblages.

The absence of Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) at Dairy Lane is probably indicative of the chronology of the assemblage which would appear not to extend much beyond *c.* AD 120. It occurs at both Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, fig.22, 3) and at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, fig.74, 2 and 3) only from *c.* AD 120 onwards. BB1 sherds have, however, been identified at Ashley, a rural site located *c.* 15 km to the north and just to the east of the river Test (Neal 1980, 139), where the other coarsewares are comparable with those from Dairy Lane. Mortaria are present at both Bitterne Manor and Fishbourne by *c.* AD 75, but do not occur at Dairy Lane or any of the rural sites in the area (Hawkes 1987, 27-33 and 1989, 94-96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, 135-139; Jenkins 1990) with the exception of Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, fig. 58, 127). This probably reflects functional and/or status differences between the assemblages; mortaria being highly specialised, 'Romanised' vessels, completely outside the native pre-Roman Iron Age ceramic tradition in Britain and indicative of the adoption of Continental methods of food-preparation.

The location of the site at Dairy Lane, with direct access to cross-Channel trade via a navigable waterway, highlights this site as being an ideal findspot for many of the rarer Continental imports. As might be expected given the nature of these sites, both the Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole

1958; Wood in prep.) and Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971) assemblages contain a wide range of both imported wares and local copies of imported prototypes. In contrast, no imported wares are reported from Ashley (Neal 1980, 135-139) and only small quantities of the more common amphora fabrics and samian were recovered from the other rural sites in the area (Stuart and Birkbeck 1936; Hawkes 1985, 1987, 1989; Jenkins 1990). Some access to imported wares from Spain, southern and central France, including some, such as the Lezoux colour coated ware (Fig. 24, 58) of exceptionally high quality, is apparent from the Dairy Lane assemblage but the range and quantity of imports is not as extensive or wide reaching as might be anticipated. Imported colour-coated finewares and the Gallo-Belgic wares, including Terra Nigra, which occur *c.* AD 70 – 120 at Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 91 - 98, figs. 19-21) are not present at Dairy Lane. This assemblage was examined for the more unusual Continental imports by Mark Wood but none were identified and only a small number of British copies of Continental prototypes occur (Fig. 22, 43, 57, 59). It seems likely, then, that the inhabitants of Dairy Lane, evidenced by the 1993 excavations, utilised the advantage of easily navigable waterways and relatively close proximity to sites such as Bitterne Manor to obtain some of the imported wares unavailable, or less easily so, further inland but did not have access to the entire range of imports and were not themselves directly involved in cross-Channel trade.

Briquetage

Two small fragments of probable briquetage (Fabric E91) were recovered from ditches 7065 and 7226 in Area A. Both fragments have the predominantly oxidised but variably fired appearance characteristic of salt-production containers (Elaine Morris pers. com.) but are otherwise featureless. Both occur with small quantities of other early Roman body sherds and are likely to be of similar date to the rest of the assemblage.

Fabric E91 Variably fired, poorly-prepared, fine-grained clay containing common subrounded quartz < 0.25mm, sparse iron oxides < 1mm and rare grog inclusions < 2mm. Handmade. Predominantly oxidised; generally reddish-brown in colour with dark grey and yellow-brown patches.

Possible Saxon Pottery

Two very small sherds, each with only one surviving surface, of a dark grey organic-tempered ware were found in the Area A ditches 7064 and 7065. Both sherds have been tentatively assigned to an early to middle Saxon (*c.* AD 5th – 7th century) date on the basis of the organic temper which is a characteristic feature of ceramics belonging to this period. Small quantities of both Roman and prehistoric pottery of Middle or Late Bronze Age date were, however, also recovered from these features.

Fabric V400 Soft to moderately hard, fine-grained fabric with sparse to moderate voids and carbonised material < 6mm, indicating the presence of organic tempering and common quartz < 0.25mm. Handmade. Unoxidised; dark grey in colour.

Medieval

Eight sherds, 51g, were recovered from the phased features in Areas A and B (Table 15). All the sherds are in a coarse, quartz-tempered fabric probably of local origin. The majority are body sherds; one is glazed and probably from a jug form. A cooking-pot rim was found in the top fill of enclosure ditch 3283. The material dates from the 13th – 16th centuries AD. No medieval features were recognised during the excavation and it is likely that these sherds represent 'background noise' from medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

Post-medieval/Modern

Two sherds were found (Table 13); both white-ware 'china' fragments of 19th or 20th century date.

List of Illustrated Sherds

Figure 18

1. Small bead rim jar with applied 'ear-shaped' handle (Type 1). Fabric Q100. Ditch 3579, context 3403.
2. Small, high-shouldered bead rim jar (Type 2). Fabric G100. Ditch 3579, context 3357.
3. 'Proto-bead rim jar (Type 3); oxidised. Fabric G100. Ditch 3579, context 3357.
4. Medium-sized, bead rim jar (Type 7); finger-tipped decoration and at least 2 post-firing perforations in base. Fabric F100. Ditch 3124, context 3249.
5. Bead rim bowl/jar (Type 8); 3 holes inserted into base after firing. Fabric G100. Ditch 3124, context 3183.
6. Medium-sized bead rim jar (Type 7). Fabric G100. Ditch 3124, context 3183.
7. Lid (Type 6). Fabric G100. Ditch 3124, context 3183.
8. Medium-sized bead rim jar (Type 7). Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3283, contexts 3375, 3337 and 3379.
9. Upright, necked jar (Type 5). Fabric G100. Enclosure ditch 3282, context 3408.
10. Beaker rim (Type 10). Fabric Q105. Enclosure ditch 3282, context 3408.
11. Bead rim cup or small bowl, with cordon below rim. Fabric M102. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3316.

Figure 19

12. Lid (Type 6). Fabric G100. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
13. Large bead rim jar (Type 9) or, just possibly, a bowl/jar (Type 8) form. Fabric G100. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
14. Small jar with a short neck and a slightly everted bead rim (Type 14). Fabric Q102. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
15. Medium-sized bead rim jar (Type 7); single large post-firing perforation. Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
16. Medium-sized bead rim jar (Type 7); 3 post-firing perforation in base. Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
17. Sharply-shouldered jar with an inturned bead rim (Type 13). Fabric Q101. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3318.
18. Slightly everted rim from a large storage jar, very slightly lid-seated (Type 15). Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3319, context 3339.

Figure 20

19. Upright necked jar (Type 5). Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3323.
20. Wide-mouthed jar with a straight, sloping shoulder and a plain, slightly flaring rim (Type 16). Fabric G100. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3323.
21. Upright necked jar (Type 5). Fabric G100. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3323.
22. Very large storage jar (Type 18); oxidised and highly abraded. Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3331.
23. Upright necked jar (Type 5); oxidised. Fabric G101. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3331.
24. Flagon with a 'pulley-wheel' mouth (Type 17). Fabric Q104. Enclosure ditch 3335, context 3331.

Figure 21

25. Strap handle from Catalonian amphora, probably Dr. 28. Fabric E262. Pit 3566, context 3567.
26. Rim from large, thick-walled, straight-sided bowl/dish (Type 19). Fabric G100. Pit 3420, context 3421.
27. Upright rim from a very large jar (Type 21); predominantly oxidised. Fabric G101. Pit 3516, context 3517.
28. Large bead rim jar (Type 9). Fabric G101. Pit 3516, contexts 3517 and 3526.
29. Large bead rim jar (Type 9). Fabric G100. Pit 3516, context 3517.
30. Small, bead rim jar (Type 2). Fabric G100. Pit 3516, context 3517.
31. Lid (Type 6). Fabric Q108. Pit 3516, context 3517.
32. Carinated bowl with flat rim (Type 20). Fabric Q108. Pit 3516, context 3517.
33. 'Proto-' bead rim jar (Type 3); oxidised. Fabric G100. Pit 3516, context 3519.
34. Large bead rim jar (Type 9). Fabric F102. Pit 3241, context 3242.
35. Pedestal base. Fabric F100. Pit 3241, context 3242.

Figure 22

36. Jar with a sloping shoulder and a flared, lid-seated rim (Type 29). Fabric Q102. Pit 3291, context 3402.
37. Bowl with an internal rilled rim (Type 22). Fabric Q100. Pit 3291, context 3308.
38. Inverted-pear shaped jar (Type 23); probably slipped. Fabric Q101. Pit 3291, context 3308.
39. Lid (Type 6). Fabric G101. Pit 3291, context 3350.
40. Lid (Type 6). Fabric G101. Pit 3291, context 3350.
41. Jug with at least one handle and a plain, upright rim (Type 27); oxidised. Fabric G100. Pit 3291, context 3350.
42. High-shouldered bowl with bead rim (Type 26); burnished line decoration on exterior, interior burnished. Fabric G100. Pit 3291, contexts 3350 and 3401.
43. Jar with a long sloping shoulder and a flared rim (Type 24). Pit Q101. Pit 3291, context 3350.
44. Cordoned bowl with rouletted decoration (Type 25); oxidised. Fabric Q101. Pit 3291, context 3350.
45. Ring-necked flagon (Type 28). Fabric Q107. Pit 3291, context 3350.

Figure 23

46. Upright necked jar (Type 5). Fabric G100. Pit 3292, context 3309.
47. Shallow dish or platter (Type 30). Fabric G100. Pit 3292, context 3309.
48. Upright necked jar (Type 5). Fabric Q101. Pit 3292, context 3309.
49. Upright necked jar (Type 5). Fabric Q101. Pit 3292, contexts 3309 and 3327.
50. Carinated bowl with bifurcated rim (Type 20). Fabric Q101. Pit 3292, context 3327.
51. Large bead rim jar (Type 9). Fabric G100. Pit 3292, context 3327.
52. Narrow-mouthed jar with sharply flaring rim (Type 31). Fabric G101. Pit 3292, context 3327.
53. Pedestal base. Fabric G101. Pit 3292, context 3327.
54. Large bead rim jar (Type 9). Fabric G100. Pit 3292, context 3383.
55. Lid (Type 6). Fabric Q108. Pit 3292, context 3383.
56. Round-bodied bead rim bowl (Type 32). Fabric Q100. Pit 3292, contexts 3327, 3383, 3384 and 3385.
57. Carinated beaker with a long, sloping shoulder and a small wedge-shaped base (Type 11). Fabric M100. Pit 3292, contexts 3309, 3327, 3383, 3384 and 3385.
59. Beaker with a cornice rim and panels of comb-applied barbotine dot decoration (Type 35). Fabric M101. Soil layer 3480.
60. Shallow, straight-sided dish, 'dog-dish' (Type 33); oxidised. Fabric Q102. Soil layer 3628.
61. Incipient flanged bowl or dish (Type 34). Fabric Q102. Soil layer 3628.

Figure 24

58. Beaker (Drag.66) with moulded decoration. Fabric E128. Pit 3292, 3385.

Vessel Type Series

For all fabrics, excluding the samian and amphora. The correlation between fabrics and vessel forms are shown in Table 0.

- Type 1 High-shouldered jar with a 'pulled' bead rim and at least one ear-shaped handle situated on the shoulder of the vessel. Fig.18, 1.
- Type 2 Small, high-shouldered jar or beaker with a bead rim; interior rim diameter of less than 100mm. Occur in all assemblages of similar date in the area (Cotton and Gathercole 1958; Wood, in prep.; Cunliffe 1971, 212, fig.102, 166; Hawkes 1985, figs. 57 and 58; 1987, figs.25, 27 and 28; 1989, 96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936, fig.7, 13-29; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, figs.26 and 27; WA 1989, unpub. client report, fig.5). Fig.18, 2 and Fig. 21, 30.
- Type 3 Shouldered jar with a plain, unelaborated but slightly inturned rim ('proto-bead'). Comparable with the incurving saucepans found in Phases 2 (Middle Iron Age) and 3 (Late Iron Age/Early Roman) at Micheldever Wood, (Hawkes 1987, fig.21, 10; fig.22, 18 and 22; fig.23, 27; fig.24, 41) and at Easton Lane (Hawkes 1989, fig.93, 29), near Winchester. Fig.18, 3 and Fig. 21, 33.
- Type 4 Bead rim fragment - for sherds too small and/or abraded to be further assigned to type. Not illustrated.
- Type 5 A range of jars with upright or very slightly everted necks; rim terminal can be plain or slightly beaded. Comparable with range of vessels from Ashley (Neal 1980, 12, 18, 19, 21, 31, 33, 36, 43, 44 and 46), Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 70, type BER1 and 75 type JN1), Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 212, type 161) and the M3 sites (Stuart and Birbeck 1936, fig.7, 31-42; Hawkes 1985, fig.57, 90, 95, 96, 98 and 104; Hawkes 1987 fig.25, 73, fig.26, 87, 88, 90, 91, 100 and 103). Fig.18, 9; Fig. 20, 19, 21 and 23; Fig. 23, 46 and 48
- Type 6 Lids, or possibly shallow bowls. Similar forms occur at East Horton Farm near Fair Oak (WA 1989 unpub. client report, fig. 5, 8) and at Easton Lane (Hawkes 1989, fig.93, 37 and 38) but not at the other sites along the line of the M3 motorway (Hawkes 1985, 1987; Stuart and Birbeck 1936) or at Ahsley (Neal 1980). Fig.18, 6; Fig. 19, 12; Fig. 21, 31; Fig. 22, 39 and 40; Fig. 23, 55.
- Type 7 Medium-sized bead rim jars - interior rim diameter from 100-130mm. Generally have a fairly high shoulder, a rounded profile and a flat base. Occur in all assemblages of similar date in the area (Cotton and Gathercole 1958; Wood, in prep.; Cunliffe 1971, 212, fig.102, 166; Hawkes 1985, figs. 57 and 58; 1987, figs.25, 27 and 28; 1989, 96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936, fig.7, 13-29; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, figs.26 and 27; WA 1989, unpub. client report, fig.5). Fig.18, 4, 6 and 8; Fig. 19, 15 and 16.
- Type 8 Bead rim bowl/jar, defined as vessels whose height is more than one-third of, but not greater, than the maximum rim diameter. Can only be positively identified when a total profile is preserved but large rim diameter coupled with fairly thin vessel walls, might point to a bowl rather than jar form. Fig.18, 5.
- Type 9 Large bead rim jar; interior rim diameter greater than 130mm. Usually fairly thick-walled. Occur in all assemblages of similar date in the area (Cotton and Gathercole 1958; Wood, in prep.; Cunliffe 1971, 212, fig.102, 166; Hawkes 1985, figs. 57 and 58; 1987, figs.25, 27 and 28; 1989, 96; Stuart and Birkbeck 1936, fig.7, 13-29; Seager Smith in prep.; Neal 1980, figs.26 and 27; WA 1989, unpub. client report, fig.5). Fig.19, 13; Fig. 21, 28, 29 and 34; Fig. 23, 51 and 54.
- Type 10 Beaker with thickened lip internally stepped. Probably from a butt beaker (Hawkes and Hull 1947, Cam.113), a form which originated in north-west Europe but copied widely in other parts of the Empire, including Colchester from Claudian to Neronian times. Examples in a hard fired cream or white ware occur in Period 1 deposits at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 186, fig.88, 59). Similar vessel from a group dated c. AD 100-200 from Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, fig.21, 3). This vessel may well be an imported example (M. Wood pers. comm). Fig.18, 10.
- Type 11 Sharply carinated beaker with a long sloping shoulder and a small flared rim; small, wedge-shaped base, recessed underneath. Broadly comparable with the long-necked examples of the *vase*

- tronconique* produced in the Flavian and later periods in the Artois and Picardy regions of northern France (Richardson and Tyres, 1984, 136, fig.2, 2 and 3), and possibly copied from them. Similar vessels occur in Period 1 and 2 deposits at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 190, fig.89, 69). Fig.23, 57.
- Type 12 Slightly beaded rim of a small cup or bowl with a cordon on the exterior surface just beneath the rim. Fig.18, 11.
- Type 13 High-shouldered jar with an inturned bead rim; 'inverted pear' -shaped profile, flat base. Thin-walled and carefully produced. Rim fragment, probably from a similar vessel occurs at Ashley (Neal 1980, fig.26, 29). Fig.19, 17.
- Type 14 Small shouldered jar with a short neck and a slightly everted bead rim. Similar early Roman vessel known from Micheldever Wood, near Winchester (Hawkes 1987, fig.25, 74). Fig.19, 14.
- Type 15 Large jar with a plain, slightly everted rim; inner surface of rim very slightly lid-seated. Broadly similar to some of the late 1st to early 2nd century AD Alice Holt storage jars (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig.21, 9.4 and 9.7). Fig.19, 18.
- Type 16 Large, wide-mouthed jar with a straight, sloping shoulder and a plain, upright or slightly flared rim, no neck. Fig.20, 20.
- Type 17 Flagon with 'pulley-wheel' mouth; the rim is prominently flared with two mouldings of equal size. Claudian examples are known at *Camulodunum* (Hawkes and Hull 1947, Pl. LIX, 143.12), pre to early Flavian examples at *Caesaromagus* (Going 1987, fig.16, J2.2) and in c. post AD 75 to early 2nd century levels at Exeter (Bidwell 1979, fig.61, 31 and fig.65, 139). Fig.20, 24.
- Type 18 Very large, globular-bodied storage jar; upright neck, a flat-topped, square rim and a flat base. Fig.20, 22.
- Type 19 Large, thick-walled bowl with very slightly curved sides and faint exterior beading of the rim. Fig.21, 26.
- Type 20 Carinated open bowls with flat or bifurcated rims. Similar to the 'Atrebatian' bowls commonly found in Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey and known to have been produced by the Alice Holt industry from c. AD 60 into the mid 2nd century (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, class 5), as well as at a variety of other centres including Continental sources. Fig.21, 32 and Fig. 23, 50.
- Type 21 Unelaborated, slightly everted rim of a very large storage jar. Fig.21, 27.
- Type 22 Bowl with an inturned, rilled rim; carefully finished with light burnishing on both surfaces. A range of vessels from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 222, fig.108, 222-228), dated from the late 1st to early 2nd century AD includes one vessel very similar to the Nursling example (*ibid*, fig.108, 225.1). Fig.22, 37.
- Type 23 Necked jar with a rounded, well-defined shoulder. an upright neck, a slightly everted rim and a wedge-shaped base, recessed underneath. Horizontal groove on shoulder contains traces of slip. Paralleled by vessels from Fishbourne which occur in Period 1 and 2 deposits but are thought not to out-last the 1st century AD (Cunliffe 1971, 214, fig.103, 181). Fig.22, 38.
- Type 24 Jar with a rounded shoulder, a long sloping shoulder and a flared rim. Larger and less precise than the Type 11 beaker but probably base on similar Continental prototypes. Similar vessels are known at Easton Lane near Winchester (Hawkes 1989, fig.93, 31) and at Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 93, fig.19, 14). Fig.22, 43.
- Type 25 Cordoned bowl with rouletted decoration between the cordons; short, upright neck and everted rim. Fig.22, 44.
- Type 26 High-shouldered bowl with inturned bead rim; burnished line decoration on the exterior surface. Similar vessels, one with burnished line decoration were found at Shedfield (Holmes 1989, 35, fig.6, 1 and 2) and others occur at Chichester (Down and Rule 1971, fig. 5.12, 43 and fig.5.20, 26c). Fig.22, 42.
- Type 27 Jug with at least one plain strap handle attached to rim and shoulder of the vessel; unelaborated rim; globular profile. Fig.22, 41.
- Type 28 Globular-bodied ring-necked flagon; footring base. Probably from Corfe Mullen, Dorset (Calkin 1935) but just possibly imported from Lezoux (Rigby 1982, 156, fabric 21; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 139, fabric 405). Examples from Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, fig.19, 5) Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, type 109, fig.94) and Winnal Down, near Winchester (Hawkes 1985, fig.58, 123). Fig.22, 45.

- Type 29 Large, heavy jar with a high, sloping shoulder and a flaring, lid-seated rim; no neck. Fig.22, 36.
- Type 30 Shallow dish or platter with a slight bead rim; probably a British copy of a Gallo-Belgic form. Fig.23, 47.
- Type 31 Narrow-mouthed jar with a straight, sloping shoulder and a plain, upright or slightly flared rim, no neck. Similar to Type 16 but neck is much more constricted. Fig.23, 52.
- Type 32 Round-bodied, open bowl with a bead rim and a flat base; light burnish on exterior surface. Similar bowls occur at Ashley (Neal 1980, fig.26, 24 and 32). Fig.23, 56.
- Type 33 Shallow, straight-sided dish with a flat base; commonly known as a 'dog-dish'. This form was developed by the Dorset Black Burnished ware industry during the late 1st to 2nd century AD, only becoming common from the late 2nd century AD onwards (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 233). The form was widely copied at almost every centre producing pottery from the mid 2nd century AD onwards. A similar vessel, also in an imitation Black Burnished ware sandy fabric occurs at Ashley (Neal 1980, fig.27, 63). Fig.23, 60.
- Type 34 Flat-flanged bowl/dish with a wide groove on the upper surface of the rim; 'incipient flanged bowl/dish'. Another form probably copied from the Black Burnished ware industry where the form develops c. AD 120, continuing into the 3rd century (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 235). Fig.23, 61.
- Type 35 Bag-shaped beaker with a grooved, corniced rim and a small wedge-shaped base; decoration comprising incised grooves and pannels of comb-applied barbotine dots occur around the center of the vessel. Fig.23, 59.

COPPER ALLOY

by R H Seager Smith

Only one copper alloy object, a plate brooch with enamel decoration (Fig. 25, 1), was found in a soil layer. The brooch is in poor condition, the perimeter is incomplete but sufficient survives to indicate that it was originally oval in shape. The face of the brooch has a raised central piece, also oval, filled with disintegrated enamel, which is surrounded by a ring of alternating blocks of blue, yellow, red, and white enamel. The pin is missing, although the bases of the pin attachment and catch plate are visible. Some traces of a white metal coating survive on the upper surface of the brooch.

Up to ten enamelled brooches of various shapes are known from the Nursling area and are now housed in Southampton City Museum, although no precise parallels for the Dairy Lane brooch occur. The date range of enamelled plate brooches is generally centred on the 2nd century AD (Crummy 1983, 15-17) but the best parallels for this brooch are those with an itaglio in the raised centre (Hull 1968, 54; Boon 1957 and 1959, 85; Evans 1974, fig. 7, 11). On the basis of the 'barbarous' itaglios, these brooches are considered to belong to the late Roman period, possibly the 4th century AD (Boon 1959, 85). It is probable then, that this brooch is not directly related to the activity in this location, represented by the excavated features, but represents a considerably later casual loss in the area. It is interesting to note that the soil layer from which the brooch was recovered also contained the only pottery that need be later than the mid 2nd century AD (Fig. 23, 60 and 61).

IRONWORK

by R H Seager Smith

Thirty-six iron fragments were recovered from the phased contexts of Areas A and B. Three objects were identified, the remainder comprising 29 nails or nail fragments and four unidentified lumps of ferrous metal or corrosion products. Generally, the iron fragments are in very poor condition, being heavily corroded or degraded due to soil acidity. The number and type of fragments recovered from each of the phased contexts are listed in Table 19 and details contained in the archive.

Two of the objects, both flat strips with a rectangular cross-section and subrectangular perforations, are probably horseshoe fragments. Both were found in the post-medieval field boundary ditch 3127 and are probably of a similar date.

An iron bucket handle (Fig. 25, 2) and fragments of mineral replaced wood from, or associated with, the bucket were found in pit 3420. The bucket handle is a semi-circular rod of varying cross-section, with a central, shallow U-sectioned grip and hooked ends. The ends span a distance of 28 mm, indicating the approximate diameter of the bucket. Such bucket handles are known from the middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400 BC onwards), and are comparatively common during the Romano-British period, across much of Britain and the Continent (Manning 1985, 102). This example is closely paralleled by a handle from London (*ibid*, pl. 47, P17) and broadly similar handles occur on sites in the south, such as Danebury, Hampshire (Sellwood 1984, fig. 7.23, 2.165-2.172), Hod Hill, Dorset (Manning 1985, pl. 47, P20), Bokerly Dyke, Wiltshire (Pitt-Rivers 1892, 106, pl. CLXXVI, 8), and Richborough, Kent (Bushe-Fox 1949, 155, pl. LXII, 344). This item is not intrinsically dateable, iron bucket handles remaining virtually the same until replaced by the aluminium and plastic versions of the 19th and 20th centuries. However, pottery from this feature (including Fig. 21, 26) is of later 1st to early 2nd century AD date and there is every reason to suppose that the handle is of a similar date.

Examination of the four fragments of ferrous metal/corrosion by the staff of the Conservation Centre, Salisbury, Wiltshire indicated the possible presence of highly degraded metal objects within the two largest fragments, although the nature of these could not be determined. Fragments of mineral replaced wood embedded within the ferrous metal/corrosion pieces were also noted and are reported on below.

Mineral replaced wood
by Rowena Gale

The fragments of wood were embedded in lumps of ferrous metal/corrosion and were soft and poorly preserved. The grain of the wood was clearly visible macroscopically but, at high magnification, the cellular structure had degenerated. Some anatomical features were present on the transverse surface but none were observed in the longitudinal orientations (tangential and radial).

Diagnostic features present on the transverse surface include broad rays (probably multiseriate) and wide solitary vessels probably in a ring porous arrangement. These features are consistent with those of *Quercus* sp. (oak), but it is unreliable to make a positive identification based on these features alone.

STONE

by R H Seager Smith

The worked stone objects recovered during the excavations comprise fragments from two upper rotary quern stones of Lodsworth Greensand and two small, possible saddle quern fragments, one of an unprovenanced Greensand and one of sarsen. Brief catalogue-style descriptions of these objects are given below and full details can be found in the archive.

Although both saddle quern fragments from these excavations are very small and, therefore, only tentatively identified, the complete unprovenanced sandstone saddle quern found during the archaeological evaluation of the site (Oxford Archaeology Unit 1992) indicates the possibility of such stones occurring in the excavation. The continued use of saddle querns alongside rotary querns well into the later Iron Age and early Roman periods is now well attested on sites in Hampshire (Brown 1984, 418). Greensand and sarsen are also the most common rock types used for the querns found in southern Hampshire, dominating the quern assemblage throughout the occupation of the hillfort at Danebury (Brown 1984, 415; Laws 1991, 396), their popularity continuing into the early Roman period (Jecock 1985, 78; Fasham *et al.* 1989, 107). Greensand occurs in a broad arc to the north of the Wessex chalklands, on the Isle of Wight and into the Weald of Sussex and Kent. The Lodsworth quarry (Peacock 1987) is likely to be just one of a greater number of enterprise exploiting this resource. Sarsen is available in north Wiltshire.

In addition to the worked stone objects, two fragments of natural heathstone were found in Early Roman phase 3 post-hole 3492 and soil layer 3515. Two pieces of unworked Greensand, probably from the Lodsworth quarry, were found in pit 3516. It is possible that these fragments represent internal fragments from a broken quern. Further details can be found in the archive.

Catalogue

1. Upper rotary quern stone with smoothed, well-worn grinding surface. Lodsworth Greensand. 43% of 300 mm diameter survives; 54 mm thick at outer edge. Unphased soil layer 3282, SF. 8518.
2. Upper rotary quern stone; grinding surface is comparatively un-worn with rough, concentric grooves. Lodsworth Greensand. No measurable dimensions survive. Pit 3291.
3. Possible saddle quern fragment; part of one smoothed, slightly dished surface survives. Sarsen. No measurable dimensions. Enclosure ditch 3283.
4. Possible saddle quern fragment; part of one very smooth surface survives. Unprovenanced Greensand. No measurable dimensions. Enclosure ditch 3283.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

by R H Seager Smith

A total of 72 pieces, 2148 g, of ceramic building material was retained from phased contexts, all fragments of definite post-medieval or modern date being discarded after initial processing. The majority of retained fragments are small and featureless with no preserved surfaces. However, seven *tegula* fragments, two pieces of *imbrex*, and one piece of a Roman brick were recognised and, on the basis of fabric, it is likely that the majority of other pieces are also of Roman date. Full details of the assemblage from each context can be found in the archive.

A brief comparison of the fragments recovered from the fillings of pits and ditches indicates that slightly fewer, larger pieces came from pits (30 pieces, 1042 g) while a larger number of smaller fragments were found in the ditches (41 pieces, 1102g). However, these differences are too small to be considered significant.

Although no evidence for structures was encountered during these excavations, the presence of ceramic building material may imply the presence of substantial structures with tiled roofs in the immediate vicinity. However, the transportation of ceramic building fragments as hardcore during the Roman period is comparatively well-known, especially out of the towns to their rural hinterlands and this possibility cannot be excluded.

CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

by Pat Hinton

Plant macrofossils were extracted by standard Wessex Archaeology methods and were sorted by stereo microscope at x7 - x40 magnification. The results are presented by sample and by period in Table 20. A further eight samples contained only starchy material, probably including cereals. These samples are not included in Table 20 but are referred to, where appropriate, in the following text. Full details of all samples are held in the project archive.

Although plant macrofossils are sparse all but one of the samples include fragments which appear to be burnt plant material. These fragments are shapeless but have the characteristic texture of charred starchy substances and they may well include cereals. The few recognisable cereal grains and weed seeds are mostly poorly preserved making identification difficult and several seeds remain unidentified.

Middle Bronze Age

Two samples from the Middle Bronze Age ditch 3657 include some evidence of cereals and one also has a probable field weed seed, in addition to hazel. A further sample from this ditch and one sample from ditch 3637 contained only starchy material.

Early Roman period

Samples from the Phase 1 ditch 3579 contained only amorphous starchy fragments.

The Phase 2 and 3 samples produced a little more evidence. Glumed wheats, emmer or spelt, (*Triticum dicoccum* or *T. spelta*) are present and, in addition, free-threshing bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) is a probability. Hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) also occurs in Phase 3 of this period, and oats (*Avena* sp.) in both Phases. Apart from the hazel the other seeds are those of typical field weeds.

Summary

The results for all periods, although restricted, show the commonly recorded cereals and accompanying weeds of the times. The oats, which cannot be closely identified, may have been present merely as weeds of the times. The oats, which cannot be closely identified, may have been present merely as weeds and chess (*Bromus secalinus*) is often found with spelt. There is, however, a possibility that both these species could have been acceptable parts of a crop. The evidence, therefore, provides little information about the origin or the treatment of the cultivated cereals.

The paucity of material from the Phase 2 Early Roman ditch 7222 in Area A means interpretation is difficult but it does seem to differ in character from early Roman features in Area B. The root and stem fragments might indicate up-rooting, or perhaps the burning of turf. The identified seeds are those of low-growing, more or less procumbent, plants of open grassy or waste places, or of cultivated land.

CHARCOAL

by Rowena Gale

Charcoal associated with ditches and pits from the Middle Bronze Age and early Roman periods was examined and identified for environmental and anthropological implications.

Materials and methods

The fragments were examined using a x20 hand-lens and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed on the transverse surface. Representative fragments were prepared for detailed examination by fracturing to expose clean, flat surfaces in the transverse, tangential longitudinal and radial longitudinal planes. These were supported in sand and examined using a light-transmitting microscope at magnifications of up to x400. The structure was matched to authenticated reference material.

Results and discussion

The fragments of charcoal were generally rather small and, although the samples usually contained some pieces measuring <2 mm in the transverse section, these were often knotty or in poor condition. Many fragments were contaminated with a reddish deposit which had permeated into the cells and obscured cell wall structure.

The tabulated results are shown in Table 20. The genera/families identified included: *Betula* (birch), *Corylus* (hazel), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Quercus* (oak), *Prunus* (blackthorn, cherry), member/s of the Pomoideae, a subfamily of the Rosaceae, (*Malus*, apple; *Crataegus*, hawthorn; *Pyrus*, pear; *Sorbus*, rowan, whitebeam, wild service), and Salicaceae *Salix*, willow; *Populus*, (poplar).

Although charcoal samples were relatively sparse throughout the site, fragments were retrieved from contexts spanning the Middle Bronze Age, and early Roman periods. Charcoal associated with settlements or man-made features can usually be considered anthropomorphic in origin. But what its function was or how it arose is often difficult to determine. For example, accumulations of charcoal in ditches marking field boundaries may have originated from land clearance for agriculture, potash spread over the field, debris from hearths (domestic or industrial) or other

activities. The high proportion of stem wood present in these samples suggested that the bulk of the wood (charcoal) was from trees growing in the locality, since it is unlikely that quantities of such material would have been transported far.

Table 20 shows that oak, hazel, and *Prunus* occurred fairly consistently in the samples from the Middle Bronze Age and early Roman periods, whereas ash, member/s of the Pomoideae and willow/poplar were less common. Birch was identified from a single fragment in the early Roman Phase 3 enclosure ditch 3283 and it is possible that few birch trees grew in the area. Birch wood is relatively strong and has many artefactual uses but makes a poor fuel, unless carbonised.

Environmental evidence

Oak was present in most samples and in larger quantities than other species in almost all contexts. Interestingly, many of the oak fragments appeared to have originated from slow-grown trees (indicated on the transverse surface of the charcoal by very narrow growth rings [see Table 21]). This phenomenon occurred in charcoal from early Roman contexts and, although this may have been coincidental, it may, perhaps, infer that soil, rather than climatic, conditions were responsible.

Woodland trees including oak, ash, and cherry frequently form mixed woodland on various types of soil but particularly on clay or clay overlying Chalk. Birch, however, is an indicator of acidic, often poor soil (often growing with oak) and heathland. Evidently mixed woodlands existed locally, although the dominant species, influenced by the soil types, may have varied. Woodland margins may have been colonised by small trees and shrubs such as hawthorns or other members of the Pomoideae (see above), many of which are common in secondary woodland. Blackthorn, often anatomically indistinguishable from cherry (as in this instance) but certainly more common throughout southern Britain, probably grew locally in marginal woodland or open/scrubby areas. Hawthorn and blackthorn are spiny and have been used traditionally, for boundary hedges and to deter livestock. The field boundaries here may have been defined by thorn hedges (although there is no evidence to support this), while the ditches may have been damp enough to encourage the growth of clumps of shrubby willows. The banks of nearby streams of damp, low-lying ground may have been a more likely source of the willow/poplar. Hazel forms a natural understorey (often with oak) or grows in open areas/glades (where it will fruit) and may have grown in either situation at Dairy Lane. There was insufficient information to assess changes in woody vegetation.

Artefactual uses

It is clearly difficult to interpret the origins of the charcoal. Its presence in ditches suggests, perhaps, a natural accumulation of discarded debris but where it occurs in pit fills it is more likely to represent dumped materials, such as expended fuel.

Charcoal from three early Roman pits and a possible Roman hearth was examined (Table 20). Oak predominated in these samples of probable fuel, especially in pit 3291, indicating the specific utilisation of this wood, which has a high thermal capacity. Stem wood proliferated and may have been gathered from coppices and mixed with uncoppiced wood from other species but the size and quantity of the charcoal fragments available from these samples were inadequate as evidence for coppicing. The sample from pit 3631 included stems from slow-grown oak, suggesting that these were more likely to have been gathered from uncoppiced trees.

The charcoal from early Roman enclosure ditch 3319 consisted of oak stem and heartwood and fragments of stem from ash, *Prunus* and willow or poplar. Ash and oak appeared to be dominant. Three well developed ash buds (one terminal) were of particular interest since they indicated that the stems had been gathered either in late summer or during dormancy, ie autumn, winter or early spring.

ANIMAL BONE

By M J Allen

Sixty-nine fragments (42 g) of unidentified burnt animal bone were recovered from early Roman Phase 3 pits 3516 and 3631 and one post-hole. Small quantities of unburnt animal bone were recovered from ploughsoil contexts. The survival of only minute quantities of burnt bone from pre-modern contexts results from the acidic soil conditions.

DISCUSSION

By Roland J C Smith

The Mesolithic and Neolithic Worked Flint Assemblage

The excavations at Dairy Lane, Nursling, have produced some evidence for earlier prehistoric activity and this consists of quantities of residual worked flint of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age date. The potential for *in situ* deposits of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age date, as suggested by the evaluation, was unfortunately not realised. The material, however, adds to the growing number of findspots of earlier prehistoric material from the Lower Test Valley (between Romsey and Redbridge) and its tributaries. These sites and findspots include the recently recorded putative Late Mesolithic 'structures' at Bowman's Farm (Green 1991), Mesolithic flint at Grove Place (Wymer 1977, 117) and Home Farm, Ower (Ford 1993), Neolithic flint from Nursling Gravel pit, Nutfield Farm, Aldermoor, and Fernyhurst, Rownhams (information from Sites and Monuments Record), and a Beaker from a shallow pit at Franconia Drive, Nursling Industrial Estate (Beamish and Hearne 1995). These sites and findspots are beginning to establish the relative abundance of evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the Lower Test Valley.

The majority of these sites, including Dairy Lane, Nursling, are located on the gravel terraces adjacent to and above the River Test and its tributaries. Such locations, on well-drained soils above but close to the floodplain, are likely to have been preferred from the Mesolithic period onwards. The river provided water, fish and fowl and a means of communication and transport. The woodland and undergrowth on the floodplain margins provided fuel, shelter and cover for wild animals, and the gravels of the river terrace and floodplain provided an important source of raw material for the manufacture of flint tools. A recent peat sequence from the Lower Test Valley at Testwood has indicated an environment in the Middle Mesolithic (c. 6,000–5,000 BC) of pine, hazel, oak and elm woodland on the drier soils of the valley margins, with wet fen with willow the dominant shrub on the floodplain (Allen and Scaife forthcoming). The peat sequence also identified phases of vegetation change and alluviation as a result of intermittent and localised Mesolithic activity, and probably typified by the activities represented by the collection of residual worked flint at Dairy Lane. Widespread but sporadic activity may also be suggested for the Neolithic period, although the limited nature and scale of many of the investigations that have produced material of this period makes meaningful interpretation impossible at present.

Interpretation is also hindered by the present absence of contemporary subsoil deposits and the residual character and unsystematic collection of some of the findspots of earlier prehistoric material. The excavations in the Nursling area have demonstrated that agriculture and settlement

on the gravel terraces from at least the Middle Bronze Age onwards (see below), have probably ensured that *in situ* evidence for Mesolithic or Neolithic deposits is rarely likely to survive. This probably also applies to many other areas of the gravel terraces in the Lower Test Valley. The putative Late Mesolithic 'structures' at Bowman's Farm are currently an exception; their survival being a result of the low intensity of recent agriculture (Green 1991).

The Bronze Age Activity

The earliest subsoil archaeological deposits from Dairy Lane comprise three ditches containing pottery of Middle Bronze Age date. The ditches probably represent field boundaries. Other similar ditches have been recorded elsewhere in the Nursling area and suggest widespread, if intermittent and incoherent, fields across the gravel terrace at this time. Traces of certain or possible Bronze Age field ditches have been recorded at Nursling Gravel Quarry (Rees 1993, 24), Manor Farm Stables (Cooper 1984, 30) and Franconia Drive (Beamish and Hearne 1995). These ditches were invariably shallow, linear ditches, generally no more than 0.5 m deep, similar to those at Dairy Lane, and contained pottery, worked flint, and unworked burnt flint. One of the ditches at Nursling Gravel Quarry was recorded 'merely as a stain' (Rees 1993, 21) and many other such ditches may not have survived to the present day.

The construction and use of the fields at Dairy Lane is placed in the Middle Bronze Age on the basis of the large, conjoining sherds of globular urn and barrel urn recovered from the base of the field ditches. The radiocarbon determination of 2695 ± 65 BP (910-807 cal. BC - AA-14701) from charcoal from the fills of one of the ditches places the infilling of the ditch possibly hundreds of years later than is suggested by the pottery. This might be explained by the long use and slow infilling of the ditch or, more likely, by the contamination of the deposit by later (Late Bronze Age) charcoal.

The ditches in the Nursling area suggest widespread use of the gravel terrace during the later Bronze Age. The very limited environmental evidence from the ditches at Dairy Lane and from the other ditches provides little evidence to determine the local environment and the nature of agricultural activity. The charred plant remains from Dairy Lane suggest limited arable activity and cereal production. The charcoal represents hazel, oak and blackthorn or cherry which are likely to have grown locally and are typical species of mixed woodland, with the blackthorn possibly suggesting hedgerows.

The quantity of large sherds of pottery from the Middle Bronze Age ditches at Dairy Lane suggests contemporaneous settlement lay close to these ditches and was set within the fields. The wide distribution of Bronze Age pottery in later features across the Dairy Lane site may indicate a

dispersed settlement or widespread occupation across the gravel terrace. There is little evidence with which to reconstruct the nature or economy of the settlement. No evidence for any buildings was recorded. The pottery comprised a limited number of locally produced urns and there were no associated artefacts. A complete sandstone saddle quern was recovered from the topsoil of the site and, apart from worked flint, is the only other possible Bronze Age find from Dairy Lane. Evidence for Middle Bronze Age occupation elsewhere in the Lower Test Valley, including a hoard of palstaves from Nursling Industrial Estate, is presented by Rees (1993, 43), to which can be added the Dairy Lane urns and at least one pit containing Middle Bronze Age pottery at Franconia Drive (Beamish and Hearne 1995).

Evidence for activity at Dairy Lane into the early first millennium BC is indicated by the recovery of sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery as residual material in later deposits and the presence of charcoal with a radiocarbon determination of 2695 ± 65 BP (910-807 cal. BC - AA-14701) from ditch 3657. This evidence adds to that reported on by Rees for the Lower Test Valley (Rees 1993) and confirms the widespread distribution of material of this date in the Nursling area.

The Early Roman Field System and Settlement Enclosure

There is no evidence for activity at Dairy Lane from the early first millennium BC to the 1st century AD.

The next phase of activity at Dairy Lane occurred in the early Roman period and was represented by the establishment of a ditched field system and an associated settlement. Three broad phases of early Roman activity are suggested on stratigraphic evidence, although the ceramic evidence suggests these phases are indistinguishable and all the features are probably broadly contemporary within a seventy year period spanning AD 60 – 130. The following description has, therefore, been proposed as a reasonable sequence of events for the excavated deposits, although it is recognised that many features could be moved within the sequence.

The earliest phase of Roman activity (Phase 1) was represented by a curvilinear ditch and one pit which was rapidly superseded by the laying out of a regular ditched field system (Phase 2). This field system cuts across the long abandoned Bronze Age field ditches. While the field system continued in use, a rectangular ditched enclosure, with at least three phases, was set within the field system (Phase 3). Within the enclosure was a number of pits and post-holes filled with settlement debris.

The Early Roman field system

The field system provides the first evidence for a coherent system of Roman fields on the gravel terraces of the Lower Test Valley. Other field ditches of certain Roman date have rarely been recorded, although at least one was recently identified at Franconia Drive (Beamish and Hearne 1995). The fields at Dairy Lane cover an area of at least four hectares and comprised a series of rectilinear plots defined by shallow discontinuous ditches. The ditched field system is typical of others of comparable early Roman date in southern Hampshire and located both on tertiary sands and gravels, such as at East Horton Farm, Fair Oak (Jenkins 1990) 14 km to the east and on the Chalk downland such as at Ashley, near Stockbridge (Neal 1980, 141) 15 km to the north. The frequent recovery of Roman finds in the Nursling area (Fig. 2, information from Sites and Monuments Record) and elsewhere in the Lower Test Valley suggests that there was widespread agricultural use of the gravel terraces in the Roman period, as has also recently been demonstrated for the Avon Valley (Light *et al.*, 1992, 73). The Dairy Lane excavations have demonstrated that some of this activity was taking place within an established field system.

Some evidence for the local environment and agricultural economy of the field system can be established from the plant remains recovered from the field ditches and from features associated with the contemporary early Roman settlement. Charred plant remains were generally sparse and poorly preserved, although there is evidence for the cultivation of free threshing wheats and emmer or spelt, as well as hulled barley and oats. The small quantities of cereal remains may indicate a low level of arable activity within the fields, which were used predominantly for pasture. Charcoal of hawthorn and blackthorn were recovered and may suggest that some field boundaries within the field system were hedged and this provides some supportive evidence for a predominantly pastoral economy. Unfortunately, there is no evidence for animal husbandry because of the very poor survival of bone. Mixed woodland, including oak, ash, and cherry, typical of clay soils, existed locally and willow or poplar is indicative of damp, low-lying ground, as might be expected from the floodplain of the River Test.

The Early Roman Settlement

At Dairy Lane, the field ditches were constructed and used in the period AD 60 – 130 and were contemporary with settlement features in the south of the site. The stratigraphically earliest phase of settlement was represented by at least one rubbish pit, containing predominantly sherds of amphorae, and located within the field system but otherwise unenclosed. Other pits and post-holes that can not be stratigraphically related to the field system may also belong to an early, unenclosed, phase of settlement. The quantities of Roman pottery from the stratigraphically early ditch 3579 and from field ditch 3124 suggests the early phase of settlement was centred towards the south-west of the excavation and probably extending beyond the south and outside of the excavation area.

This phase of unenclosed settlement was replaced by a settlement set within a ditched enclosure in the south of the excavation and extending beyond and outside the south edge of the excavation. At least three phases of enclosure ditch were represented. The initial two phases (Fig. 10, 3335 and 3319) were represented by ditches comparable in size and alignment to the ditches of the broadly contemporaneous field system into which the enclosure was set. The use of these two shallow ditches as settlement enclosures, however, is suggested by the relatively large quantity of unabraded pottery recovered from their fills.

The final phase of enclosure was represented by a more substantial, continuous, ditch enclosing at least 0.4 ha. Entrance to the enclosure was presumably gained through the south of the enclosure. This adds some weight to the view that the earliest phases of settlement at Dairy Lane were centred on or beyond the south of the excavation area. A watching brief undertaken in December 1993 on behalf of Hampshire County Council on the south side of Dairy Lane (Fig. 1) did not locate, however, any Roman features. The south side of the enclosure and any associated settlement may, therefore, lie under Dairy Lane.

A number of pits and post-holes was recorded within the enclosures. Their distribution was sporadic and no plans of buildings could be reconstructed from the few post-holes that were identified. The low density of features within the enclosure was confirmed by the careful hand-cleaning of at least 75% of the enclosure interior, although shallower features may have been ploughed out. The range of features and the material recovered from them and from the ditches suggest that the enclosure was associated with domestic occupation. The pits were primarily used for rubbish disposal, although the deeper examples, such as pits 3291 and 3631, may have originally served as wells. The enclosure ditches probably also served as *ad hoc* locations for rubbish disposal.

The acidic soil conditions have influenced the survival of some categories of material, for example animal bone is almost completely absent and the ironwork is in very poor condition. Pottery was the principal material recovered from the pits and enclosure ditches. This material comprised predominantly locally made 'native' coarsewares, dominated by bead rim jars and large storage jars. A moderate quantity and range of British and imported fine wares, including samian, Corfe Mullen ware, and amphorae was recovered, although four of the five finewares present may be represented by no more than a single vessel each (Seager Smith this report). The finewares do, however, include an exceptionally fine and rare colour coated beaker (Fig. 24, 58).

The quantity and range of other stratified material was restricted, comprising an iron bucket handle, 26 iron nails, one fragment of rotary quern, two fragments of saddle quern, and 72

fragments of ceramic building material. No agricultural tools, metalworking tools and debris, personal objects, clay weights, spindle whorls, and fittings, such as locks and keys, were recovered. The low quantity of iron nails and ceramic building material and absence of fired clay and daub provides further evidence that few buildings, if any, were present within that part of the enclosure examined during the excavation, although slight timber and thatched buildings set on sleeper beams may have occurred of which no trace has now survived.

Environmental sampling from the pits and the enclosure ditches produced a low level of charred material but produced some evidence for wheat, barley and oats and small quantities of oak charcoal typical of fuel ash. This material is consistent with small-scale and non-intensive domestic activities, such as for cooking and domestic fires and hearths, and it does not suggest that intensive agricultural activities, such as grain processing, were taking place within the settlement area. These agricultural activities may have been taking place elsewhere within the settlement or grain may have been brought to the site already processed. More likely, however, is that the contemporaneous field system around the settlement was one predominantly for pasture rather than arable use for which there is some limited evidence (as described above). Unfortunately, the absence of animal bone from the excavation does not allow the animal husbandry and exploitation aspects of the settlement's economy to be reconstructed.

In summary, despite the possibility that shallow features have been ploughed out and the biased artefact assemblage, the impression is of a settlement enclosure under-used and never fully occupied. The apparent re-establishment of the enclosure on at least three occasions is not entirely consistent with this view but might be explained if the two earliest enclosure phases were represented by no more than field ditches used as *ad hoc* boundaries to the settlement area. The sporadic activity associated with the enclosure was principally associated with a low level of domestic use.

Probably not much later than AD 130, occupation of the settlement and use of the field system ended. Roman material post-dating AD 130 was limited to unstratified sherds of pottery from two vessels and a copper alloy brooch of possibly 4th century date from the south-west of the settlement enclosure and may represent the remnants of a midden deposit in the long-since abandoned settlement enclosure.

The Roman Settlement of Nursling

The identification of an early Roman settlement at Dairy Lane is particularly interesting because of its location close to the recorded Roman settlement of Nursling, the postulated site of *ONNA*, a settlement recorded in the Ravenna Cosmography (Richmond *et al.*, 1949, 43). The identification of the Nursling settlement is based on a number of observations and finds made during the 19th century. The published accounts of these discoveries are summarised by Haverfield in the *Victoria County History* (1900, 311). Unfortunately, many of the finds remain poorly provenanced, despite recent efforts by members of the Nursling and Rownhams History Society and staff of the Southampton City Museum Service, who house the majority of the material, to trace the precise findspots of some of the discoveries (A. Russel pers. comm.). It is clear, however, that the principal discoveries were made 'on some gravel slightly raised above the banks of the Test. They occur close to the line of railway, where gravel has been broken for ballasting the line' (Wake Smart 1881, 296).

The principal 19th century discoveries were made no more than 500 m from the early Roman settlement enclosure and field system recorded at Dairy Lane (Fig. 2). Crawford's plan of the 'Old Ballast Pit' places its north-east limit less than 100 m from the Dairy Lane enclosure (1948, fig. 1), and, on this basis, the two are considered components of a single settlement. If this observation is correct, the results of the Dairy Lane excavation are particularly important because of the very limited areas now remaining in this area that have not been disturbed by the railway, gravel quarrying or the construction of Nursling Industrial Estate (Keevil 1993; Wessex Archaeology 1993, fig. SOTON 1).

Limited comparison of the date and range of material recovered from the Nursling Roman settlement and from Dairy Lane was undertaken by scanning the finds assemblage from the Nursling settlement held by Southampton City Museums Service and reconciling this information with the published accounts of the 19th century. The collection of material held by the Museum is a biased sample of predominantly high quality and well-preserved objects, although some broad statements can be made.

The 19th century discoveries span the Roman period from the 1st to 4th centuries AD. The pottery includes forms and fabrics similar to and contemporary with those recorded at Dairy Lane. The quality and the condition of the material is particularly high, with, in many cases, little sign of abrasion or corrosion as occurs on most of the material from Dairy Lane. The pottery includes Southern and Central Gaulish samian and includes 'black ware, embossed like the Samian with an ornamental design...consisting of groups of male and female figures, engaged in the worship of some favourite divinity, but in a manner that forbids a more particular description'

(Wake Smart 1885, 186). This may represent another vessel similar to the colour coated beaker from Dairy Lane (Fig. 24, 58). The collection includes 3rd and 4th century pottery, such as Oxford and New Forest wares, and a fine collection of metalwork, including many brooches probably of late 1st to 3rd century date, in a particularly high quality of preservation. Objects of particularly high quality include an ornamental weight, now in the British Museum and 'a bronze figure of a stag, supporting a candlestick' (VCH 1900, 311).

This superficial comparison of material suggests that the features at Dairy Lane were part of a widespread early Roman settlement extending across the gravel terrace towards the floodplain of the River Test. The Dairy Lane enclosure probably represents the easternmost limit of the early Roman settlement. The apparent higher quality of preservation of early Roman material in the west of the settlement may suggest that the principal area of occupation was situated in this area or may only reflect differential site conditions and post-depositional processes. By the mid-2nd century, the focus of settlement had shifted permanently to the west towards the River Test where occupation continued at least into the 4th century. The nature of the Roman settlement in the west and in the vicinity of the railway line remains unclear, with the only features recorded from this area comprising three wells, of which two were stone-lined, an oven or grain drier, and a number of pits (VCH 1900, 311).

The early Roman settlement at Nursling and its relationship to the late 1st to early 2nd century occupation of the Southampton area

The identification of at least a small part of the Nursling Roman settlement at Dairy Lane is of some interest because of the potential importance of the settlement as a whole. The Nursling Roman settlement has been described as a 'ford, settlement and port' (Crawford 1913, 38) because of its location at the lowest ford of the River Test, which is tidal to this point. The settlement is also situated on a gravel spur projecting out into the floodplain of the Test and towards the opposite bank at Testwood House. The pre-Roman importance of this gravel spur and possible river crossing is suggested by the, now destroyed, promontory fort and earthwork enclosure, 'The Walls', (Crawford 1913, 36; Crawford 1948, 8) which were also sited on this gravel spur (Fig. 2).

The topographic location of the Nursling Roman settlement shares some similarities with those of the Roman settlement at Bitterne Manor, previously generally referred to as *Clausentum* (Cotton and Gathercole 1958). Both lie on major rivers, which are tidal to the point of each settlement and provide navigable waterways inland from Southampton Water and The Solent (Fig. 26). Bitterne Manor lies on a pronounced promontory into the River Itchen. The settlement was linked to *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester), the cantonal capital and principal town of the region, by a road, although its exact line near to Bitterne Manor and the location of a ford across the River Itchen remain unclear (Margary 1955, route 42b; Morton 1992, 24; Crockett forthcoming). The

settlement probably served primarily as a supply base and outpost for *Venta Belgarum* (Morton 1992, 24). Occupation at Bitterne Manor is attested from *c.* AD 70 (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 14), although a Claudian foundation has been suggested (Morton 1992, 24). Between AD 70 – 120 the occupation comprised a series of pits, hearths, and timber buildings defended by a bank and ditch across the neck of the promontory.

Roman Nursling was probably situated at the lowest ford of the River Test and an important crossing point. The settlement was also linked to *Venta Belgarum* by a road (Crawford 1948, 10; Margary 1955, route 422; Ryder 1994) which can be traced in part through Rownhams to Otterbourne Park Wood (Fig. 26). No certain trace of this road presently survives in Nursling, although Crawford recorded a section of it close to Adanac Farm (1948, 10). Crawford was unable to discover where the Roman road crossed the River Test, where it was probably linked to a Roman road to Lepe and a crossing point to the Isle of Wight (Margary 1955, route 423; Stagg 1984; Smith and Cox 1986) and possibly to a road leading into the New Forest (Margary 1955, route 422).

The topographic evidence can be used to suggest that the Nursling settlement may have been important as a possible port, trading centre, and market. The excavation of at least a small proportion of the early Roman phase (*c.* AD 60 – 130) of the Nursling settlement at Dairy Lane provides an opportunity to establish if there is any supportive evidence for these suggestions. A comparison of the early Roman finds assemblage from Dairy Lane can be made from that from the early phases of Bitterne Manor (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, Periods II and III (AD 70 – 120) and with those from small early Roman rural settlements at Ashley, near Stockbridge, (Neal 1980), Winnall Down, Winchester, (Fasham 1985, Phase 6), and East Horton Farm, Fair Oak (Jenkins 1990). All these rural settlements are represented by a series of ditched enclosures, some of which enclose settlement features, and have occupation that spans the mid-1st to early 2nd century AD.

Comparison of the pottery assemblages from these five sites is made by Seager Smith in this report. She concludes that although the 'inhabitants of Dairy Lane...utilised the advantage of easily navigable waterways and relatively close proximity to sites such as Bitterne Manor to obtain some of the imported wares unavailable, or less easily so, further inland, but did not have access to the entire range of imports and were not themselves directly involved in cross-Channel trade'.

The early Roman pottery assemblage from Bitterne Manor contains a wide range of both imported wares and local copies of imported prototypes. There were few other categories of material recovered from early Roman contexts at Bitterne Manor, although the recorded

discovery of riverside structures in 1883 and the discovery of two pigs of lead in the river in 1918, have been used to indicate that Bitterne Manor was 'a port with riverside wharves' (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 14-5). Other finds categories from Ashley, Winnall Down, and East Horton Farm are more utilitarian and mundane and include small numbers, and often single examples, of personal ornaments, agricultural implements, querns, weights, spindlewhorls, and metalworking debris. The small number and low quantity of material from these rural sites has been used to demonstrate the relative poverty of the associated settlements (Neal 1980, 142; Fasham 1985, 142). This same interpretation may be applied to the Dairy Lane settlement where the range and quality of other material is even more restricted. There is also an absence at Dairy Lane of any finds that might be used to indicate trade and commerce such as weights, counters, and coinage.

In summary, the excavations at Dairy Lane have provided some evidence that at least this part of the early Roman settlement at Nursling was represented by a small rural community, involved predominantly in a pastoral farming economy, with some arable, within an organised field system. The settlement was ideally situated to exploit the lighter, well-drained soils of the gravel terrace and the more clayey, damp meadow and woodland margins of the floodplain of the River Test. This farming settlement was probably one of a number of similar Roman settlements exploiting the gravel terrace and overlooking the River Test (Fig. 26). Similar possible settlements have been suggested for collections of material recovered at Hillyfields (Crawford 1948, 12), Redbridge (information from District Sites and Monuments Record), Millbrook, Freemantle, and Four Post Hill (Holdsworth 1984, 333). Collectively this evidence suggests a series of small farms existing in close proximity with widespread agricultural exploitation of the gravel terraces and brickearth of the Lower Test Valley during the Roman period.

The excavations at Dairy Lane, however, do not preclude that there was a significant change in the function and status of the Roman settlement at Nursling in the later Roman period. The present evidence for such changes is inferred only from the limited but impressive, unpublished collection of material recovered during the 19th century. If there was a change in status, it cannot presently be determined what the reasons for this might have been: whether it was linked to the emergence of the New Forest potteries and Nursling's location on the possible route of deliveries from the New Forest to Bitterne Manor and *Venta Belgarum* (Fulford 1975, 120; Swann 1984, map 18) or on later Roman developments at Bitterne Manor and *Venta Belgarum*. Reappraisal of the sequence at Bitterne Manor has indicated that there was building works and occupation in the late 3rd and 4th century AD (King 1989), where previously a gap in occupation had been proposed (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, 8). At Winchester, the 2nd and 3rd centuries witnessed the construction of lavish and elaborate houses and the town appears to have been at its most wealthy and successful (Collis 1978, 7).

It is unfortunate that little, if any, of the area of late Roman Nursling may now survive undisturbed and which might have yielded clues as to the nature of later Roman settlement. It may yet be possible, with thorough research and reappraisal of the collection of unpublished material from Nursling found in the 19th century, to provide at least some evidence to address these questions in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project has been entirely funded by Tesco plc, and particular thanks are due to Mr A. Mace, Projects Co-ordinator and Financial Controller. The project was co-ordinated through Kyle Stewart Design Services, and the co-operation of Mr Gordon Higham and Mr Peter Jordan is acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Roland J.C. Smith. The fieldwork was directed by Neil J. Adam and supervised by Vaughan Birbeck, Kevin Ritchie, and Melanie Gauden, with on-site finds work by Hugh Beamish. Individual contributions to this publication report are acknowledged in the text. Lorraine Mepham, Finds and Archives Manager, and Michael J. Allen, Environmental Manager, co-ordinated the preparation of relevant sections of this report. The illustrations were prepared by Julian Cross and Paul Pearce. The co-ordination of the preparation of the publication was undertaken by Julie Gardiner, Reports Manager, and Melanie Gauden.

The collaborative role of Hampshire County Council, and in particular of Rosemary Braithwaite, during the course of the project is acknowledged. The support and interest of the Nursling and Rownhams History Group, and in particular of Mr Keith Dawe, is also acknowledged.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, M.J., 1988, 'Archaeological and environmental aspects of colluviation in south-east England', in Groenman-van Waateringe, W. and Robinson, M. (eds), *Man-made Soils*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep., Oxford, 410, 67-92.
- , 1992, 'Analysing the landscape: a geographical approach to archaeological problems', in Schofield, J. (ed.), *Interpreting Artefact Scatters*, Oxbow, Oxford, 39-57.
- and Scaife, R.G., forthcoming, 'Testwood Lakes, Netley Marsh, Hampshire: an Early Holocene pollen sequence'
- Barrett, J., 1980, 'The pottery of the later Bronze Age in lowland England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 46, 297-319.
- Beamish, H., and Hearne, C.M., 1995 'Watching Brief Observations (including a Wessex/Middle Rhine Beaker) at Franconia Drive, Nursling - 1992' *Proc Hants Field Club Archaeol Soc* 50, 35-42
- Benfer, R.A., 1975, 'Sampling and Classification', in Mueller, J. (ed.), *Sampling in Archaeology*, Tuscon, University of Arizona Press, 227-47.
- Bidwell, P.T., 1979, *The Legionary Bath-house, Basilica and Forum at Exeter*, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 1.
- Blalock, H.M., 1979, *Social Statistics*, London
- Boismier, W.A., 1993, 'The worked flint from context 320, Bell Street, Romsey', in Rees, H., 1993, 38-9
- Boon, G.C., 1957, *Roman Silchester*, London
- , 1959, 'The latest objects from Silchester', *Medieval Archaeol.* 3, 79-88.
- Brown, L., 1984, 'Objects of Stone', in Cunliffe, B.W., 1984, *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire. Vol. 2. The excavations, 1979-1988: the finds*, CBA Res. Rep. 73, London
- Bushe-Fox, J.P., 1949, *Fourth Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent* Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London, 16, Oxford
- Čalkin, J.B., 1935, 'An early Romano-British kiln at Corfe Mullen, Dorset', *Antiq. Journ.* 15, 42-5
- Castle, 1972, Brockley Hertfordshire, see pot report
- Collis, J., 1978, *Winchester Excavations Volume II: 1949-1960*, City of Winchester

- Cooper, S., 1984, 'Nursling 1984', in *Pots and Papers: the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group*, No. 2, 29-33.
- Cotton, M.A. and Gathercole, P.W., 1958, *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton, 1951-1954*, London.
- Course, E., 1977, 'Southampton Canal Tunnel' *Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* 33, 73-8.
- Crawford, O.G.S., 1913, 'Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon Nursling', *Papers and Proc. Hants Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* Vol. VI Supplement.
- , 1948, *A Short History of Nursling*, privately published
- Crockett, A., forthcoming, 'Excavations at Montefiore New Halls of Residence, Swaythling, Southampton, 1992', *Proc. Hants. Field Club Archaeol. Soc.*
- Crummy, N., 1983, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 2, Colchester.
- Cunliffe, B.W., 1971, *Excavations at Fishbourne, 1961 - 1969: Vol. 2, The Finds*, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London, 27, Leeds.
- Dacre, M. and Ellison, A., 1981, 'A Bronze Age urn cemetery at Kimpton, Hampshire', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 47, 147-203.
- Davies, S.M., 1981, 'Excavations at Old Down Farm, Andover, Part II: prehistoric and Roman', *Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* 37, 81-163.
- Down, A. and Rule, M., 1971, *Chichester Excavations 1*, Chichester
- Edwards, R.A. and Freshney, E.C., 1987, 'Geology of the country around Southampton', *Mem. Brit. Geol. Survey*, Sheet 315.
- Ellison, A., 1981, 'The Middle Bronze Age Pottery (Deverel-Rimbury and Post-Deverel-Rimbury)', in Dacre, M. and Ellison, A., 1981, 173-83.
- Ellison, A.B., 1989, 'The Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery', in Fasham *et al.*, 1989, 83-91.
- Evans, K.J., 1974, 'Excavations on a Romano-British site, Wigganholt, 1964', *Sussex Archaeol. Coll.* 112, 97-151.
- Fasham, P.J., 1985, *The Prehistoric Settlement at Winnall Down, Winchester*, Hampshire Fld. Club Monog 2.
- Farwell, D.F. and Whinney, R.J.B., 1989, *The Archaeological Site at Easton Lane, Winchester*, Hampshire Fld Club Monog. 6.

- Ford, S., 1993, 'Ower — Home Farm', in *Archaeology in Hampshire*, Hampshire County Council, 24
- Fulford, M.G., 1975, *New Forest Roman Pottery*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 17, Oxford
- Going, C.J., 1987, *The Mansio and Other Sites in the South-eastern Sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman Pottery*, CBA Res. Rep. 62; Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 3.2, London
- Green, F., 1991, 'Mesolithic Structures in the Test Valley: Bowman's Farm', *PAST*, No. 11, 1-2.
- Harding, D.W., 1974, *The Iron Age in Lowland Britain*, London.
- Hawkes, C.F.C. and Hull, M.R., 1947, *Camulodunum*, Rep. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London 14, London.
- Hawkes, J.W., 1985, 'The Roman Pottery', in Fasham, P.J., 1985, 69-76.
- , 1987, 'The Pottery', in Fasham, P.J., *A Banjo Enclosure in Micheldever Wood, Hampshire*, Hampshire Fld Club Monog. 5, 27-33.
- , 1989, 'Later Prehistoric Pottery', in Fasham, P.J. *et al.* 1989, 91-9
- Hearne, C.M., 1992, 'Nursling — Franconia Drive, Nursling Industrial Estate' in *Archaeology in Hampshire 1992*, Hampshire County Council, 40.
- Healy, F., 1992, 'Assessment of the struck flint from Bowman's Farm, Romsey Extra, Hampshire', unpublished assessment report.
- Heron, C., forthcoming, 'Residue analysis of perforated vessels from the later prehistoric period in southern Britain', in Smith, R.J.C., 'Survey and excavation along the route of the southern Dorchester by-Pass 1986-87', *Wessex Archaeology Monog.*
- Holbrook, N. and Bidwell, P.T., 1991, *Roman Finds From Exeter*, Exeter Archaeological Reports 4, Exeter.
- Holdsworth, P.E., 1984, 'Saxon Southampton', in Haslam, J. (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Towns in Southern England*
- Holmes, A.G., 1989, 'A Romano-British site at Shedfield, Hants', *Proc. Hampshire Fld Club and Archaeol. Soc.* 45, 25-41.
- Hull, M.R., 1968, 'The Nor'nour Brooches', *Archaeol Journ.* 124, 28-64.
- Jecock, H.M., 1985, 'The Querns', in Fasham, P.J. *et al.*, 1985, 77-80.
- Jenkins, A.V.C., 1990, 'East Horton Farm', *Wessex Archaeology unpubl. report*, No. 31614

- Keay, S.J. and Jones, L., 1982, 'Differentiation of early Imperial amphora production in Hispanic Tarraconensis', in Freestone, I., Johns, C. and Potter, T. (eds), *Current Research in Ceramics: Thin Section Studies*, British Museum Occ. Paper, 32, London, 45–61.
- Keevil, G., 1993, 'Nursling — Industrial Estate Phase 2B', in *Archaeology in Hampshire*, Hampshire County Council, 47.
- King, A., 1989, 'Roman Bitterne in the Third and Fourth Centuries', *Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol. Soc. Section Newslet* 11, 19–26.
- Kish, L., 1953, 'Selection of the sample', in Festingex, L. and Katz, L. (eds), *Research Methods in Behavioural Sciences*, New York, 175–239.
- Laws, K., 1991, 'Objects of Stone', in Cunliffe, B.W. and Poole, C., 1991, *Danebury: an Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire. Vol. 5. The Excavations 1979–1988: the finds*, CBA Res. Rep. 73, London.
- Light, A., Schofield, J. and Shennan, S.J., 1992, *The Avon Valley Survey: A Study in Settlement History*
- Lyne, M.A.B. and Jefferies, R.S., 1979, *The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman Pottery Industry*, CBA Res. Rep. 30, London
- Mallouf, R.J., 1982, 'An analysis of plow-damaged chert artefacts: the Brookeen Creek Cache (41 HI86), Hill County, Texas', *Journal of Field Archaeology* 9, 79–98.
- Manning, W.H., 1985, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*, London
- Margary, I.D., 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain: Vol. 1. South of the Foss Way – Bristol Channel*
- Marsh, G., 1981, 'Early second century fine wares in the London area', in Arthur, P. and Marsh, G. (eds), *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 57, 119–224, Oxford
- Mellars, P., 1974, 'The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic', in Renfrew, C. (ed.), *British Prehistory* London, 39–99
- Morris, E.L., 1991, *Finds Processing*, unpublished Wessex Archaeology Guidelines No. 3, Salisbury
- , 1991, 'Ceramic analysis and the pottery from Potterne: a summary', in Middleton, A. and Freestone, I. (eds), *Recent Developments in Ceramic Petrology*, British Museum Occ. Pap. 81, 277–87.
- Morton, A.D. (ed.), 1992, *Excavations at Hamwic Volume 1*, CBA Res. Rep., No. 84.
- Neal, D.S., 1980, 'Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman settlement sites at Little Somborne and Ashley, Hampshire', *Proc. Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol. Soc.* 36, 91–143

- Oxford Archaeological Unit 1992, 'Land at Phase 4, Nursling Industrial Estate, Nursling, Hampshire SU 365161. Archaeological evaluation 1992', unpubl. manuscript
- Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group, 1992, *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, PCRG, Occ. Pap. 2, Oxford.
- Peacock, D.P.S., 1987, 'Iron Age and Roman Quern Production at Lodsworth, West Sussex', *Antiq. Journ.* 67, 61–85.
- and Williams, D.F., 1986, *Amphorae and the Roman Economy*, London
- Pitt-Rivers, A.H.L., 1892, *Excavations in Cranbourne Chase, III*, privately printed
- Rees, H., 1993, 'Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Settlement in the lower Test Valley', *Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* 49, 19–46.
- Remesal-Rodriguez, J. and Revilla-Calvo, V., 1991, 'Weinamphoren aus Hispania Citerior und Gallia Narbonensis in Deutschland und Holland', *Fundberichte aus Baden-Wurtemberg*, band 16, 389–439.
- Richmond, I.A., Crawford, O.G.S. and Williams, I., 1949, 'The British Section of the Ravenna Cosmography', *Archaeologia* XCIII.
- Richardson, B. and Tyres, P.A., 1984, 'North Gaulish Pottery in Britain', *Britannia* 15, 133, 142.
- Rigby, V., 1982, 'The coarse pottery', in Watcher, J. and McWhirr, A., *Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester*, Cirencester Excavations 1, 153–200
- Ryder, M., 1994, 'Ditches, dykes and droves: a preliminary report on the history of Lord's Wood, Southampton', *Hampshire Fld Club Newsletter* 21, 30–36.
- Schiffer, M.B., 1987, *Formation Processes of the Archaeological Record*, Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press.
- Seager Smith, R.H., and Davies, S.M., 1993, 'Roman Pottery', in Woodward, P.J., Davies, S.M. and Graham, A.H., 1993, *Excavations at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester 1981–4*, Dorset Natur. Hist. and Archaeol. Soc. Monog. 12, 202–89.
- Sealey, P.R., 1985, *Amphoras from the 1970 Excavations at Colchester Sheepen*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 142.
- Sellwood, L., 1984, 'Objects of Iron', in Cunliffe, B.W., *Danebury; an Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire; Vol. 2. the Excavations 1969–1978: the Finds*, 346–71.
- Simpson, G., 1957, 'Metallic black slip vases from Central Gaul with applied and moulded decoration', *Antiq. Jour.* 37, 29–42.
- Skibo, J.M., 1992, *Pottery Function: a Use-Alteration Perspective*, Plenum Press, New York *

- Smith, R.J.C. and Allen, M.J., 1993, 'Netley Marsh – Testwood Lakes', in *Archaeology in Hampshire*, Hampshire County Council, 38.
- , and Cox, P.W., 1986, *The Past in the Pipeline: Archaeology of the Esso Midline*
- Stagg, D., 1984, 'The Supposed Roman Road to Lepe', Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol. Soc. New Forset Section Report No. 22, 4–5.
- Stuart, J.D.M. and Birkbeck, J.M., 1936, 'A Celtic village on Twyford Down — excavated 1933–1934', *Proc. Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol. Soc.*, 188–212
- Swan, V.G., 1984, *The Roman Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, Royal Comm. on Hist. Monog. Supp. Ser. 5.
- Torrance, R., 1978, 'Chipping away at some misconceptions about sampling lithic assemblages', in Cherry, J.F., Gamble, C. and Shennan, S. (eds), *Sampling in Contemporary British Archaeology*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep., Oxford, 373–98
- Tyres, P., 1978, 'The Poppy-head beakers of Britain and their relationship to the barbotine-decorated vessels of the Rhineland and Switzerland', in Arthur, P. and Marsh, G., (eds), *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 57, 61–108, Oxford
- VCH, 1900, Victoria County History
- Wake Smart, W., 1881, 'Roman Remains found at Nursling, Hants', *Jour. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.* XXXVII, 296–300.
- , 1885, 'Further notes on Nursling and on other Roman stations and roads in the New Forset', *Jour. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.* XLI, 182–7.
- Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section, The Museums and Galleries Commission, London
- Wessex Archaeology, 1993, 'The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project' unpublished report
- Wymer, J.J. (ed.), 1977, *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales*, CBA Research Report No. 22

Table 1: Worked flint recovered by context

Context	Area A	Area B	Total
Middle Bronze Age	-	6	6
Early Roman	728	93	821
Post-medieval	-	13	13
Unphased	64	124	188
Ploughzone	849	-	849
Total	1,641	236	1,877

Table 2: Worked flint assemblage condition

	Edge Damaged	%	Not Edge Damaged	%	Total
Area A: Test Pits	587	69.14	262	30.86	849
Area A: Features	221	27.90	571	72.10	792
Area B: Features	164	69.49	72	30.51	236
Total	972		905		1,877

Table 3: Results of the difference of proportions test for edge-damaged artefacts

	Area A Test Pits	Area A Features	Area B Features
Area A Test Pits	-		
Area A Features	16.696*	-	
Area B Features	0.103	13.86*	-

* Significant at the .05 and .01 levels

Table 4: Assemblage Composition

Artefact Class	Area A: test pits					Area A: excavated contexts					Area B: excavated contexts				
	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%
Cores	28	11	1	40	4.71	23	8	3	34	4.29	9	1	1	11	4.66
Core Renewal Flake	4	-	-	4	0.47	8	-	-	8	1.01	-	-	-	-	-
Flake	494	102	16	612	72.08	309	47	81	437	55.18	161	18	3	182	77.12
Blade	72	74	16	162	19.08	134	88	40	262	33.08	17	9	-	26	11.02
Undiagnostic	18	-	-	18	2.12	18	-	3	21	2.65	11	-	-	11	4.66
Other	3	-	-	3	0.35	2	-	-	2	0.25	1	-	-	1	0.42
Utilised	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.25	1	-	-	1	0.42
Retouched	9	1	-	10	1.18	20	5	1	26	-	4	-	-	4	1.69
Total	628	188	33	849		516	148	128	792		193	28	4	236	

Table 5 Cores types recovered by the excavation

a) Flake Cores

Artefact Class	Area A: test pits			Area A: excavated contexts			Area B: excavated contexts		
	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Complete	Broken	Burnt
Single platform	9	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-
Multiple platform	9	1	-	4	-	1	3	1	-
Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	1
Unclassifiable	4	5	-	4	7	-	-	-	-
Total	22	7	-	10	8	-	9	1	1

b) Blade Cores

Artefact Class	Area A: test pits			Area A: excavated contexts			Area B: excavated contexts		
	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Complete	Broken	Burnt
Single platform	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bipolar	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unclassifiable	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	4	-	13	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6 Area A test pits: sample characteristics

	Flakes			Blades			
	Platform Angle	Length	Width	Platform Angle	Length	Width	L - W
Sample Size	102	256	256	5	36	36	292
Mean	58.8	24.6	22.47	70.4	35.42	13.64	1.35
Standard Deviation	11.13	10.35	9.20	9.94	13.12	5.62	0.65
Standard Error	1.10	0.647	0.575	4.44	2.19	0.94	0.038
Minimum	40	6	7	58	12	4	0.33
Maximum	82	101	77	84	69	26	4.25
Range	38	95	70	26	57	22	3.92

Table 7: Area A Features: Sample characteristics

	Flakes			Blades			L - W
	Platform Angle	Length	Width	Platform Angle	Length	Width	
Sample Size	69	200	200	17	147	147	347
Mean	64.90	30.63	24.03	71.76	38.59	13.92	1.98
Standard Deviation	8.74	12.72	10.14	7.99	12.87	5.01	0.94
Standard Error	1.052	0.90	0.717	1.94	1.062	0.413	0.05
Minimum	42	9	7	52	14	5	0.33
Maximum	88	66	62	86	77	34	4.25
Range	46	57	55	34	63	29	3.92

Table 8: Area B Features : Sample characteristics

	Flakes			Blades			L - W
	Platform Angle	Length	Width	Platform Angle	Length	Width	
Sample Size	57	98	98	6	16	16	114
Mean	60.21	30.40	26.58	66.33	37.38	15.0	1.38
Standard Deviation	9.01	10.32	8.21	10.23	9.87	3.83	0.59
Standard Error	1.19	1.042	0.829	4.18	2.47	0.957	0.05
Minimum	40	12	9	56	14	7	0.56
Maximum	76	59	52	82	53	23	3.6
Range	36	47	43	26	39	16	3.04

Table 9: Miscellaneous debitage

	Area A: test pits				Area A: excavated contexts				Area B: excavated contexts			
	Complete	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Burnt	Total	%
Microburin	1	-	1	4.76	2	-	2	8.69	-	-	-	-
Nondescript spall	2	-	2	9.52	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	8.33
Undiagnostic struck pieces	18	-	18	85.71	18	3	21	91.30	11	-	11	91.67
Total	21	-	21		20	3	23		12	-	12	

Table 10: Tool classes recovered by the excavation

Artefact Class	Area A - test pits					Area A - excavated contexts					Area B - excavated contexts				
	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%	Complete	Broken	Burnt	Total	%
Microolith	4	-	-	4	30.0	4	2	1	7	26.92	-	-	-	-	-
Scraper	2	-	-	2	20.0	4	-	-	4	15.38	1	-	-	1	25.0
Microdenticulate	2	1	-	3	30.0	8	1	-	9	34.61	1	-	-	1	25.0
Borer	1	-	-	1	10.0	2	-	-	2	7.69	1	-	-	1	25.0
Marginal retouch	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	11.54	-	-	-	-	-
Other retouch	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3.85	1	-	-	1	25.0
Utilised	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2		-	-	-	-	-

Table 11: Flake shape and termination classes

Artefact Class	Area A - Tests Pits		Area A Excavated Contexts		Area B Excavated Contexts	
	Complete	%	Complete	%	Complete	%
Blades/narrow flakes	181	31.98	261	58.92	80	39.26
Proportional flakes	270	47.70	121	27.31	85	41.67
Squat flakes	115	20.32	60	13.54	38	18.63
Irregular flakes	-	-	1	0.23	1	0.49
Total	566		443		204	

a) flake shape classes

	Area A - Tests Pits		Area A Excavated Contexts		Area B Excavated Contexts	
	Complete	%	Complete	%	Complete	%
Hinge	166	38.60	127	31.91	55	37.41
Step	25	5.81	39	9.79	12	8.16
Normal	98	22.79	136	34.17	34	23.13
Other	141	32.79	96	24.12	46	31.29
Total	430		398		147	

b) flake shape and termination classes

Table 12: Quantification of the prehistoric pottery by fabric type for Areas A and B

AREA A

Fabric	No.	Wt. (g)	Percentage of this assemblage by number
D1	1	1	3.3
F1	22	116	73.3
F2	1	2	3.3
F4	1	2	3.3
G1	1	2	3.3
Q1	2	2	6.7
Q3	2	3	6.7
TOTAL	30	128	99.9

AREA B

Fabric	No.	Wt. (g)	Percentage of this assemblage by number
F1	517	6508	91.2
F2	21	180	3.7
F3	2	10	0.3
F4	8	56	1.4
F5	9	55	1.6
F6	1	9	0.2
G1	2	13	0.3
G2	1	7	0.2
Q1	1	4	0.2
Q2	3	8	0.5
Q3	2	5	0.3
TOTAL	567	6855	99.9

Table 13: Quantification of prehistoric pottery by period and feature

Area A

Feature	Fabric	No.	Wt.	Fig. No.
Natural features and deposits				
treehole 7142	Q1	1	1	
Early Roman - Phase 2 ditched field system				
ditch 7063	F1	1	4	
ditch 7090	F1	2	3	
ditch 7222	F1	8	90	Fig. 00, 9-10
	Q3	1	2	
Unphased - possibly Roman				
ditch 7064	D1	1	1	Fig. 00, 8
	F4	1	2	
	Q1	1	1	
	Q3	1	1	
ditch 7065	F1	1	1	
	F1	2	4	
	G1	1	2	
Unphased ploughsoil subsoil				
	F1	8	14	
	F2	1	2	

Area B

Feature	Fab.	No.	Wt.	Fig. No.
Middle Bronze Age				
ditch 3637	F1	242	2095	Fig. 00, 1
ditch 3657	F1	234	4052	Fig. 00, 2-6
	F2	1	2	Fig. 00, 7
Early Roman - Phase 1 features pre-dating the phase 2 ditched field system				
ditch 3579	F4	1	10	
	F5	1	2	
	F1	1	7	
	F4	5	35	
	G1	1	8	
Early Roman - Phase 2 ditched field system				
ditch 3006	F3	1	1	
ditch 3124	F1	1	5	
ditch 3198	F1	5	194	Fig. 00, 13
	F2	8	62	
	F3	1	9	
	Q1	1	4	
	Q2	1	2	
ditch 3272	F2	3	37	
ditch 3656	F1	2	15	Fig. 00, 11
	F4	1	9	
	Q3	1	3	Fig. 00, 14

Early Roman - Phase 3 the enclosure and settlement features

ditch 3319	F1	4	17
	F2	1	7
	F6	1	9
	G1	1	5
	Q2	2	6
ditch 3335	F1	1	16
ditch 3283	F5	1	10
	G2	1	7
pit 3534	F5	3	26
pit 3631	F2	2	35
pit 3632	F1	1	1
post hole 3462	F5	1	9

Fig. 00, 12

Unphased - possibly Roman

post hole 3072	F2	4	12
----------------	----	---	----

Post Medieval and Modern

ditch 3127	F1	3	8
	F5	1	4
ditch 3584	F4	1	2
	F5	1	2

Unphased

feature 3614	F1	5	11
clearance	F1	6	20
	F2	1	3
ploughosil	F5	1	2
subsoil	F1	1	29
	F1	8	19
	F2	1	22

Table 14: Mean sherd size variation

Area A	4.3 g
Area B	12.1 g
Area B (Bronze Age features only)	12.9 g
Area B (excluding Bronze Age features)	7.8 g
Areas A & B	11.7 g

Ditches:

Feature	Coarsewares										Buffwares					Flintwares				Amphora			Med	P-m					
	Q	Q	Q	Q	G	F	F	F	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	E	M	M	E			E	E	Brq	Sax	
Middle Bronze Age																													
ditch 3637																												1/2	
Early Roman - Phase 1																													
ditch 3579	31/136	8/44	16/45	5/37	63/279	21/217	3/28		1/6	1/4								1/2											
Early Roman - Phase 2																													
ditch 3198			1/1			1/2	1/7																						
ditch 3124		4/6	2/5		115/1122	37/273	50/294		1/11									4/28											
ditch 3022			9/26		1/2		1/1																				2/6		
ditch 3006			2/2			2/3																							
Early Roman - Phase 3																													
ditch 3335	2/24		1/13	1/4	47/755	241/7876	3/25	2/5	6/114									2/46											
ditch 3319		32/245	6/32	4/8	12/271	101/1621	2/26		27/25									1/4									2/2		
ditch 3283	1/3		17/44	2/6	48/321	47/539	3/10	2/9	1/2	1/5								2/12									1/27		
Unphased - possibly Roman																													
ditch 7064																													
ditch 7065			4/15		8/30	1/9		2/7																	1/4				
Post-medieval																													
ditch 3127						1/5																					2/12	1/15	
Unphased																													
ditch 3117			1/2																										
ditch 3412			1/8																										
ditch 7226							1/7																		1/1				
Total																													
No.	34	44	60	13	294	452	63	6	36	2								10								2	6	2	
Wt (g)	163	295	193	62	2780	1054	391	21	158	9								92							5	2	45	17	

Table 16: Samian by form and fabric

From (Dr.)	Southern Gaulish	Central Gaulish	TOTAL
15/17	1	-	1
15/17(?)	1	-	1
15/17R or 18R	1	-	1
Ritt. 12 or Curle 11	1	-	1
Curle 11(?)	-	1	1
18	3	-	3
18R	1	-	1
18/31	-	4	4
18/31 or 31	-	2	2
27	1	-	1
27g	1	-	1
29	1	-	1
31	-	1	1
33	-	2	2
68	-	1	1

Table 17: Correlation of the Romano-British Vessel Forms and Fabrics (excluding samian)

Minimum number of examples shown

Form	Coarsewares :								Buff wares :			Finewares :			Totals
	Q 100	Q 101	Q 102	Q 108	G 100	G 101	F 100	F 102	Q 104	Q 105	Q 107	M 100	M 101	M 102	
Bead rim jars :															
1		1													1
2					6										6
3					3	1									4
4			3		4	1	1								9
7		1			5	4	1								11
9	1				6	3		1							11
Other jar forms :															
5		5	1	1	7	5									19
13		1													1
14			1				1								2
16					1										1
23		1													1
24		1													1
29			1												1
31						1									1
Storage jars :															
15						3									3
18						3									3
21						1									1
Bowls and dishes :															
8					1										1
12													1		1
19					2										2
20		3		1											4
22	1														1
25		1													1
26					2										2
30					1										1
32	1														1
33			1												1
34			1												1
Flagons and jugs :															
17								1							1
27					1										1
28										1					1
Misc. forms :															
6		1		2	5	1									9
10									1						1
11											1				1
35												1	1		1

Table 18: Romano-British Vessel Forms by Major Feature Type

Form	Pits	Ditches	Misc. features	Total
Bead rim jars :				
1		1		1
2	3	3		6
3	2	2		4
4	6	3		9
7	4	7		11
9	8	3		11
Other jar forms :				
5	10	7	2	19
13		1		1
14		2		2
16		1		1
23	1			1
24	1			1
29	1			1
31	1			1
Storage jars :				
15	2	1		3
18	2	1		3
21	1			1
Bowls and dishes :				
8		1		1
12		1		1
19	2			2
20	4			4
22	1			1
25	1			1
26	2			2
30	1			1
32	1			1
33			1	1
34			1	1
Flagons and jugs :				
17		1		1
27	1			1
28	1			1
Misc. forms :				
6	6	3		9
10		1		1
11	1			1
35			1	1
Total	63	39	5	107

Table 19: Summary of ironwork by feature and by phase

Feature and Phase	Context	Nails/nail frags.	Unidentified fragments	Objects
Early Roman - Phase 1		-	-	-
Ditch 3006	3007	1	-	-
"	3008	1	-	-
Ditch 3124	3410	1	-	-
Ditch 7063	7034	1	-	-
Early Roman - Phase 3		-	-	-
Enclosure Ditch 3283	3409	1	-	-
"	3414	1	-	-
Enclosure Ditch 3319	3341	1	-	-
Enclosure Ditch 3335	3321	4	-	-
"	3331	1	-	-
Pit 3291	3308	2	-	-
"	3350	1	-	-
Pit 3292	3309	10	1	-
Pit 3420	3421	-	-	1 bucket handle (Fig. 00, 2)
Pit 3516	3517	1	-	-
Pit 3534	3535	-	1	-
Unphased - possibly Roman		-	-	-
Ditch 7065	7091	-	1	-
Post-medieval		-	-	-
Ditch 3127	3131	-	-	1 horseshoe
"	3167	-	-	1 horseshoe
"	3436	-	1	-
Unphased		-	-	-
Feature 3381	3382	1	-	-
Post hole 3577	3578	2	-	-
TOTAL		29	4	3

Table 20: Plant remains

Period	Middle Bronze Age		Early Roman - Phase 2				Early Roman - Phase 3						Unphased - possibly Roman				
	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Enc.	Enc.	Enc.	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Hearth
Feature	3657	3657	7222	7222	3006	3198	3335	3319	3283	3291	3292	3420	3631	3631	3043	3305	3053
Context	3247	3582	7258	7333	3016	3605	3331	3593	3562	3345	3385	3421	3648	3645	3044	3304	3036
Sample no.	8028	8019	6120	6124	8011	8020	8002	8037	8034	8016	8018	8022	8040	8041	8005	8047	8006
Sample volume (litres)	30	12	15	10	15	15	10	15	15	3	10	15	15	10	15	30	12
<i>Triticum dicoccum / spelta</i>																	
- spikelet fork					1											1	1
- grain													1				
- glume bases									4		5						
(emmer or spelt wheat)																	
<i>Triticum cf spelta</i> - glume bases					1										2		
(spelt wheat)																	
<i>Triticum cf aestivum</i> s.l. (bread wheat)															3		
<i>Triticum spelta/aestivum</i> s.l.												1					1
(spelt bread or wheat)																	
<i>Triticum cf dicoccum</i> Schubl.																	
- grain	1																
- glume base	1	1															
(emmer wheat)																	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (undifferentiated wheat)	2						1				1	1			4	1+fr	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. (hulled barley)											1	1					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (oat)					1												
- grain									1								
cf <i>Avena</i> sp (cf oat)																	
- grain									1								
- awn fragments									2								
<i>Cerealia</i> indet. (indeterminate cereals)	3								+	+	1	1	1		3		+
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	1			2												3	
nut shell fragments (hazel)																	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. (vetch or vetchling)															1		
<i>Bromus cf secalinus</i> L.											1	3		1	4+fr		
(chess, rye brome)																	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma/hirsuta</i> (smooth/hairy tare)	1																
<i>Trifolium campestre</i> Schreber				2													
cf <i>T. campestre</i>				1													
(hop trefoil)																	
<i>Veronica cf serpyllifolia</i> L.				1													
(thyme-leaved speedwell)																	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L. (field madder)				1													
<i>Stellaria cf media</i> (L.) Villars (chickweed)											1						
<i>Gallium aparine</i> L. (cleavers)											2						
<i>Vicia cf hirsuta</i> (L.) Gray (hairy tare)																	
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip											1						
(scentless mayweed)																	
Unidentified seeds			2	4					2				1				
Stem fragments				5	1				6								
Root fragments			1	4		1											
cf Root bud			1														1
Rhizome fragments				2				1									
Starchy Material (probably includes cereals)	+++	+	++	+	+++	+	+	+	+	++	+++	+	+	+	+++	+++	++

Table 21: The genera/families identified from 14 samples of charcoal.

The number of fragments identified is indicated.

Abbreviations: Pomoid = Pomoideae; Salic = Salicaceae; s = stem; S = sapwood; H = heartwood; * fragments with very narrow growth rings suggesting slow growth.

	Context	Sample	Genus identified						
			<i>Betula</i>	<i>Corylus</i>	<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>Quercus</i>	Pomoid	<i>Prunus</i>	Salic
Middle Bronze Age:									
Ditch 3657	3247	8028	-	3	-	5	1	1	-
	3582	8029	-	<i>cf</i> β	-	2s	-	2	-
Early Roman - Phase 1									
Ditch 3579	3373	8013	-	2s	3s	20s+H*	-	2	-
	3403	8054	-	<i>cf</i> l	-	-	-	2	1
Early Roman - Phase 2									
Ditch 3656	3565	8039	-	1s	-	2*	-	-	-
	3625	8025	-	-	-	4H*	-	-	-
Ditch 7222	7333	6124	-	-	-	3s+S	-	-	-
Early Roman - Phase 3									
Enclosure ditch 3319	3593	8037	-	-	-	4s+H*	-	-	-
	3318	8001	-	-	20s	9s+H	-	1s	1s
Enclosure ditch 3283	3670	8035	1	-	-	-	-	21	-
Pit 3291	3345	8016	-	-	-	24s	-	-	-
Pit 3420	3421	8022	-	2	-	17s+S	<i>cf</i> β	-	-
Pit 3631	3648	8040	-	-	-	8s*	1	2	-
Unphased - possibly Roman									
Hearth 3053	3036	8006	-	5	-	12s	-	2	2

Note: Sample 8001 - context 3318 included 3 well developed *Fraxinus* buds.

Sample 8039 - context 3565 included 1 fragment of stem from a herbaceous dicotyledon.

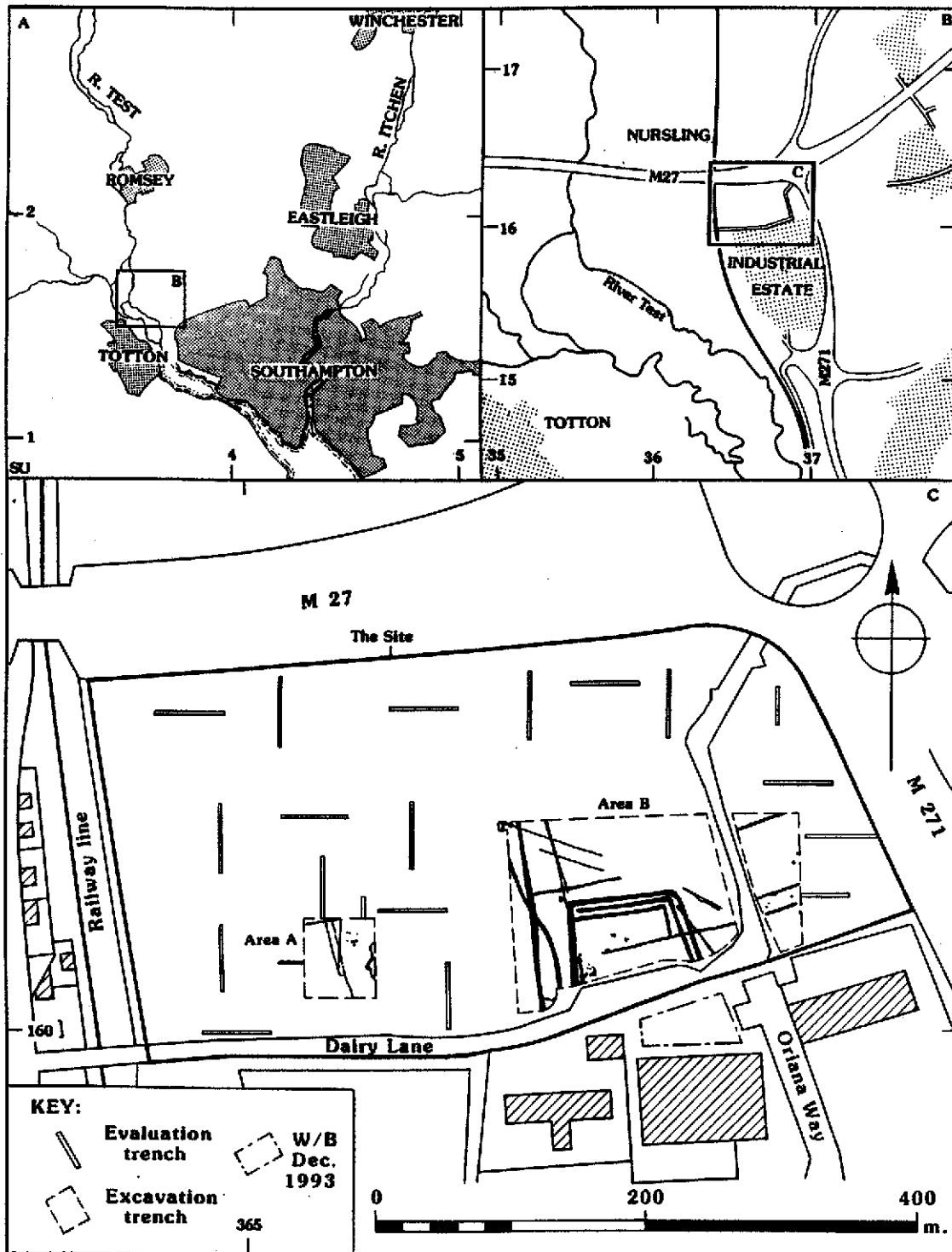


Fig.1.

Fig. 1: Site location

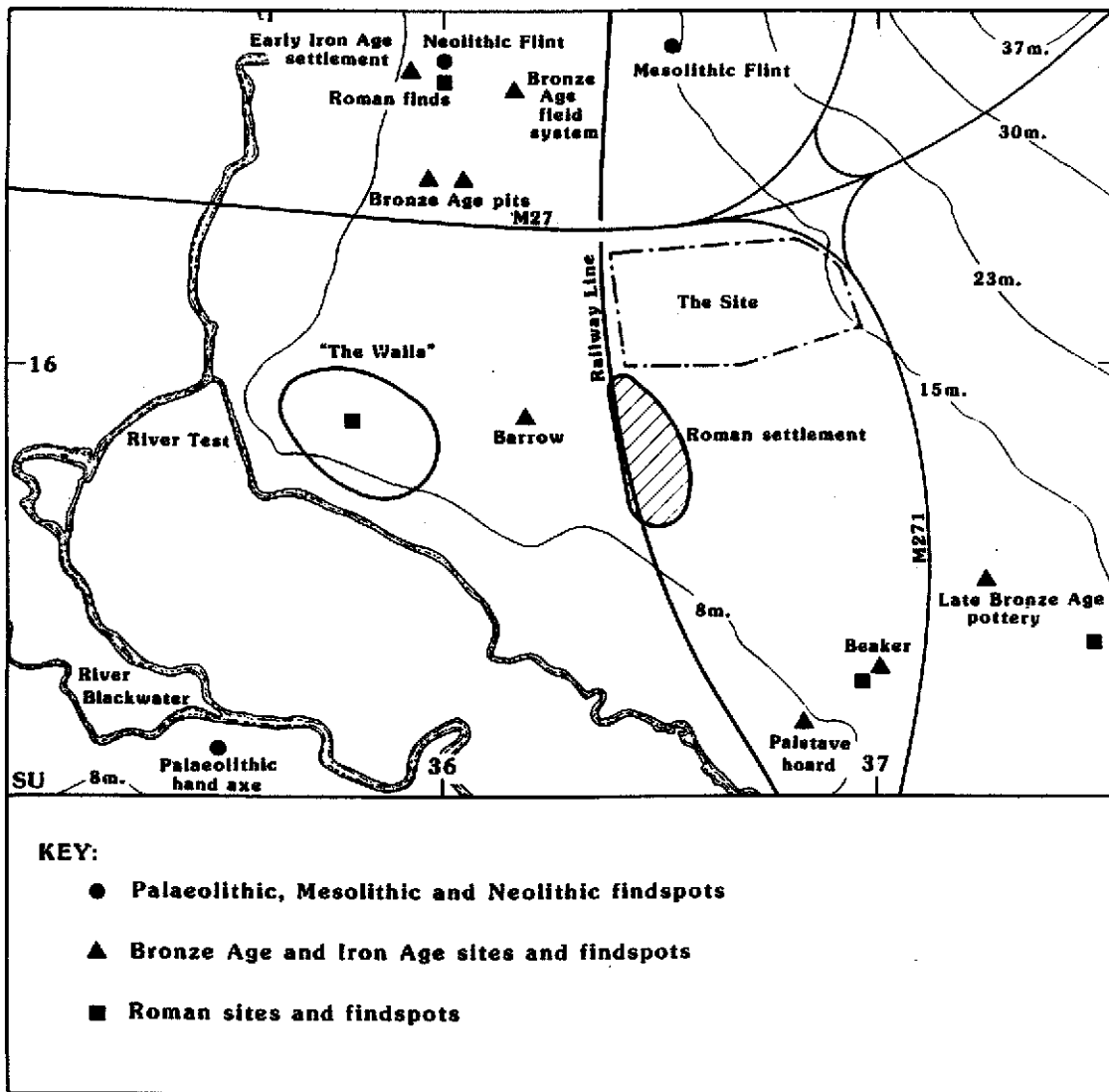


Fig.2.

Fig. 2: Site location and principal archaeological sites and findspots in the Nursling area

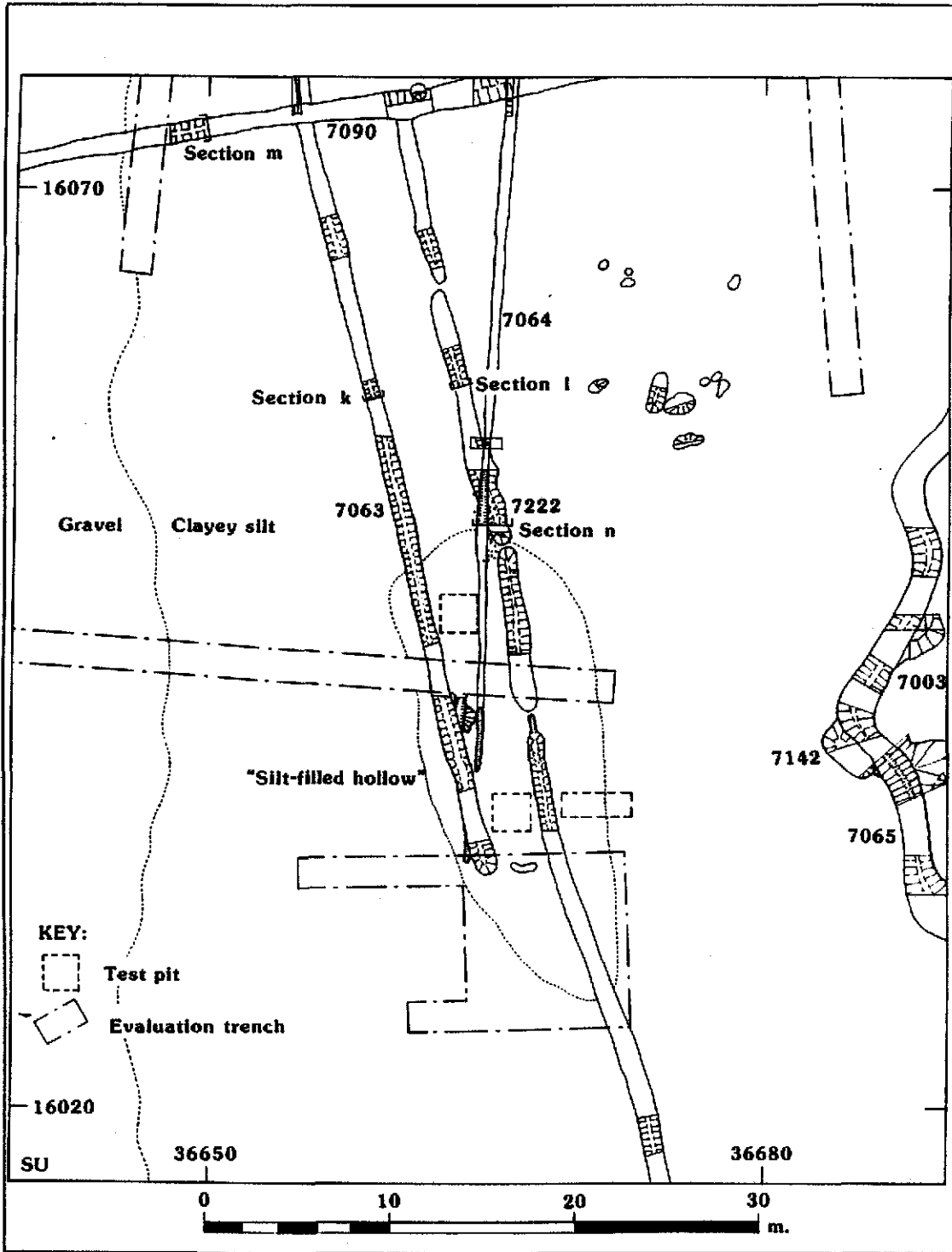


Fig.3.

Fig. 3: Area A - plan of all archaeological features

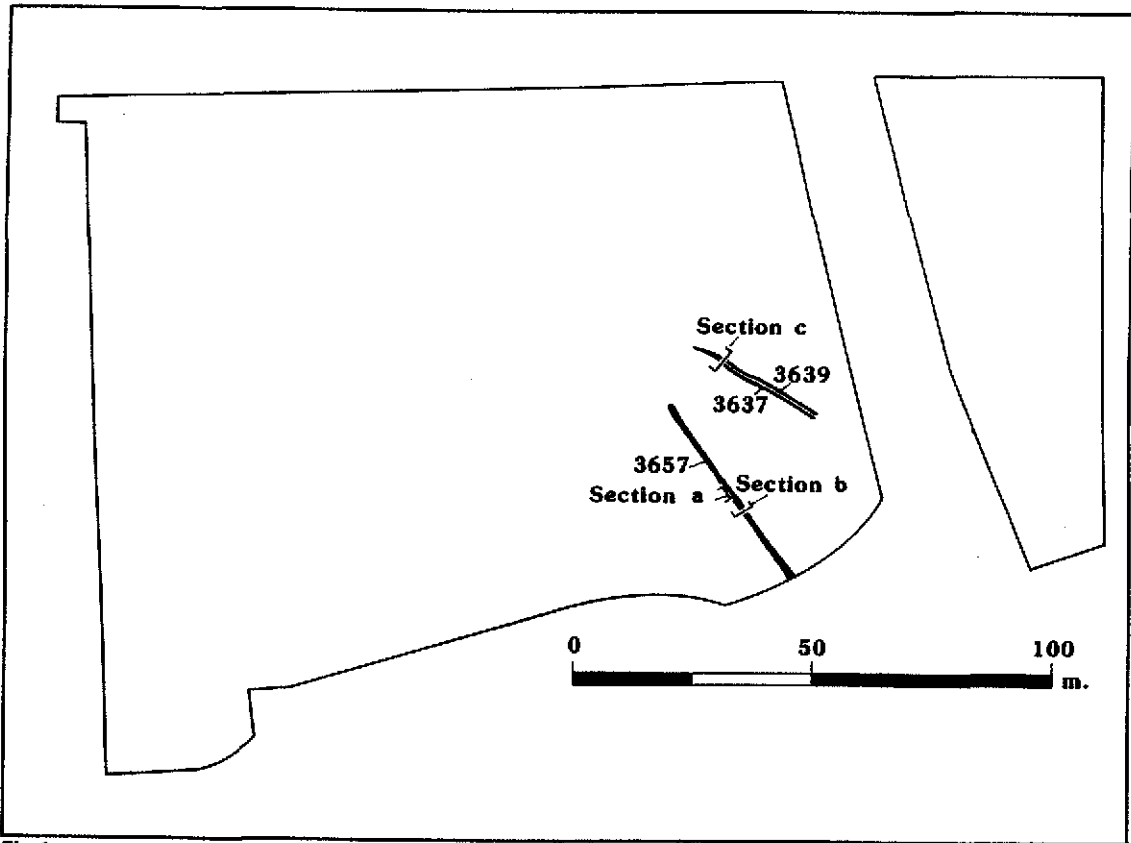


Fig.4.

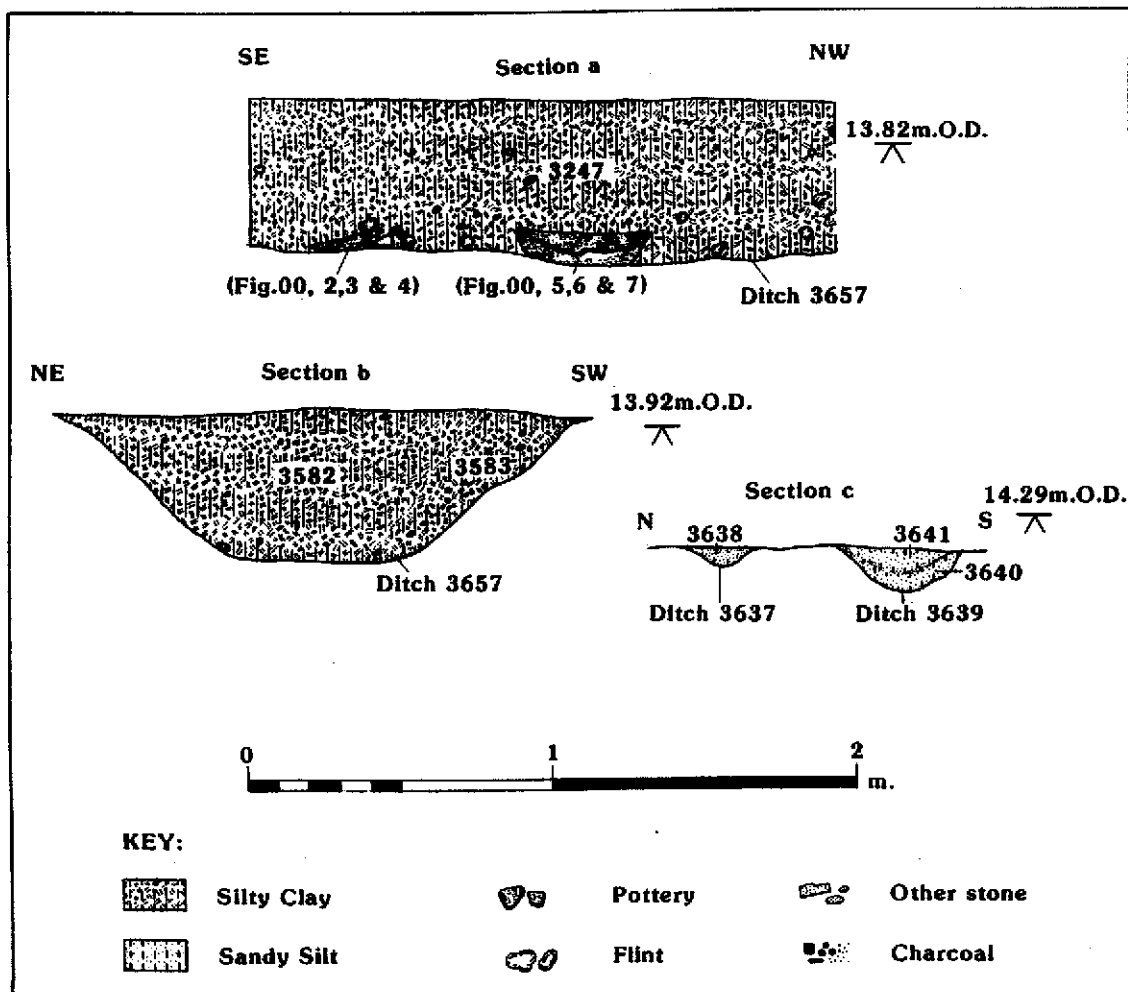


Fig.5.

Fig. 5: Area B - Middle Bronze Age: ditch sections

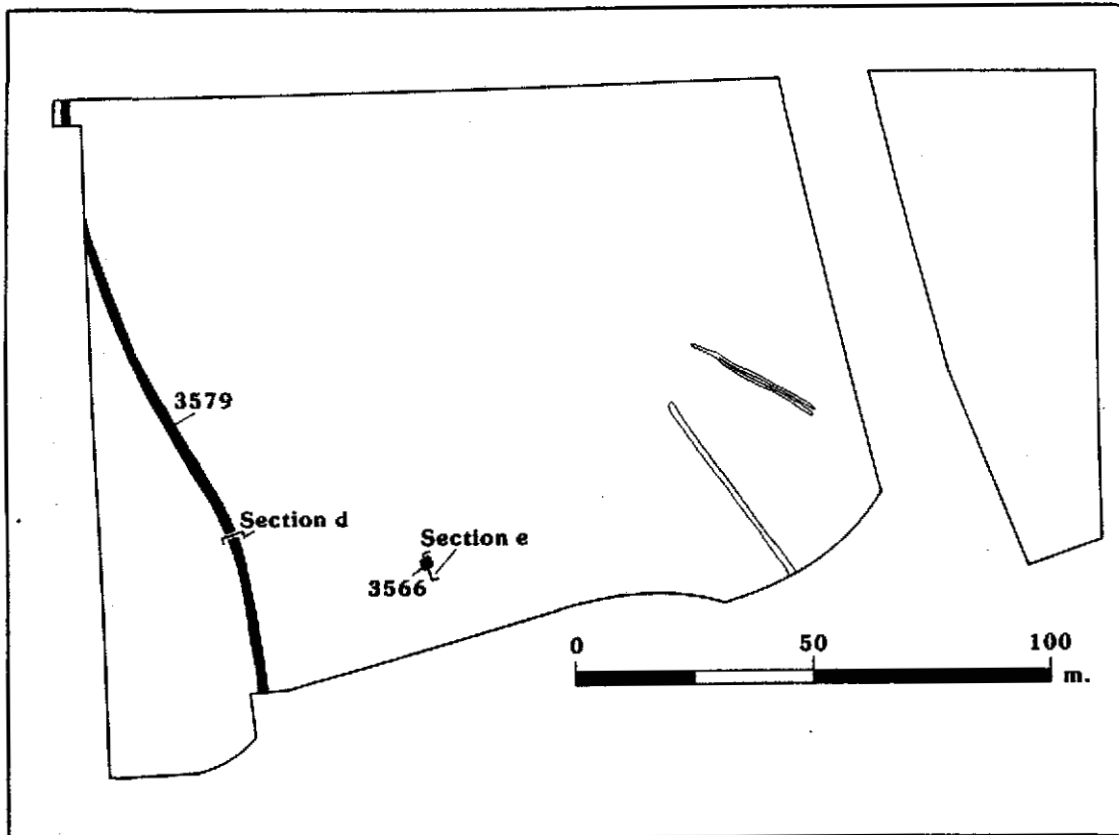


Fig. 6: Area B - Early Roman Phase 1: plan of features

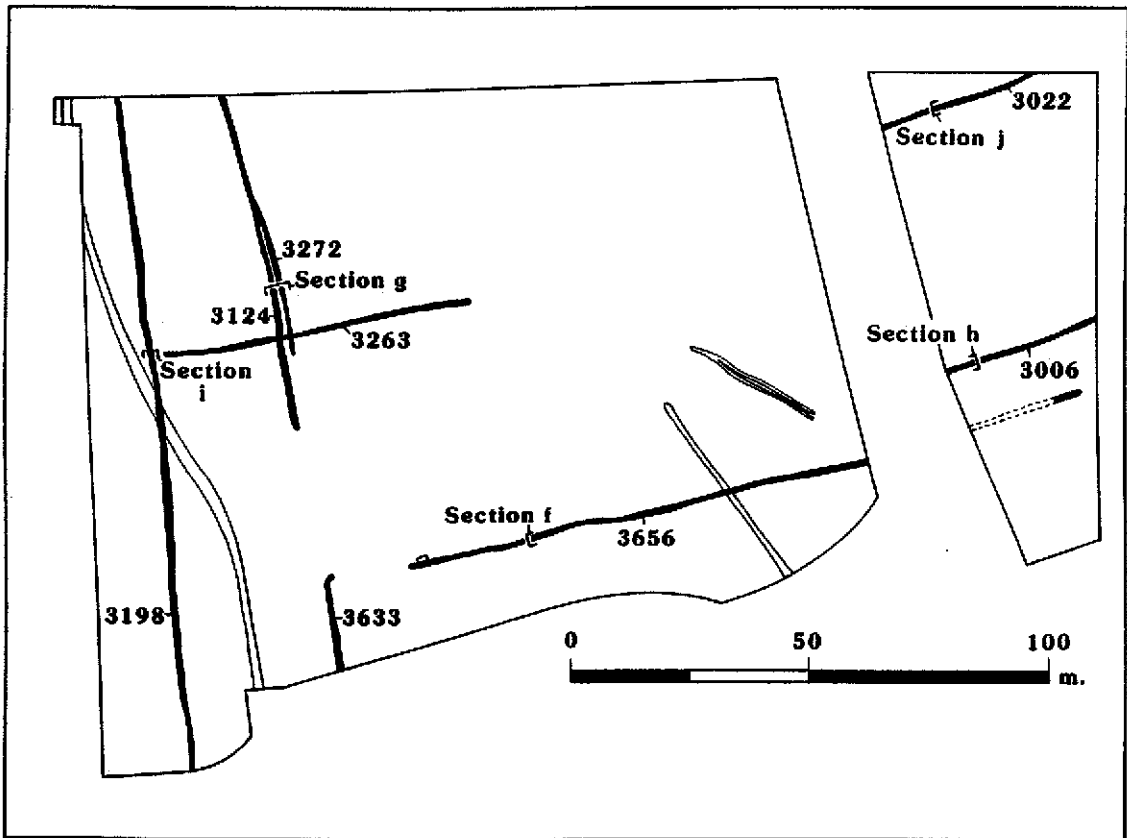


Fig.7.

Fig. 7: Area B - Early Roman Phase 2: plan of the ditched field system

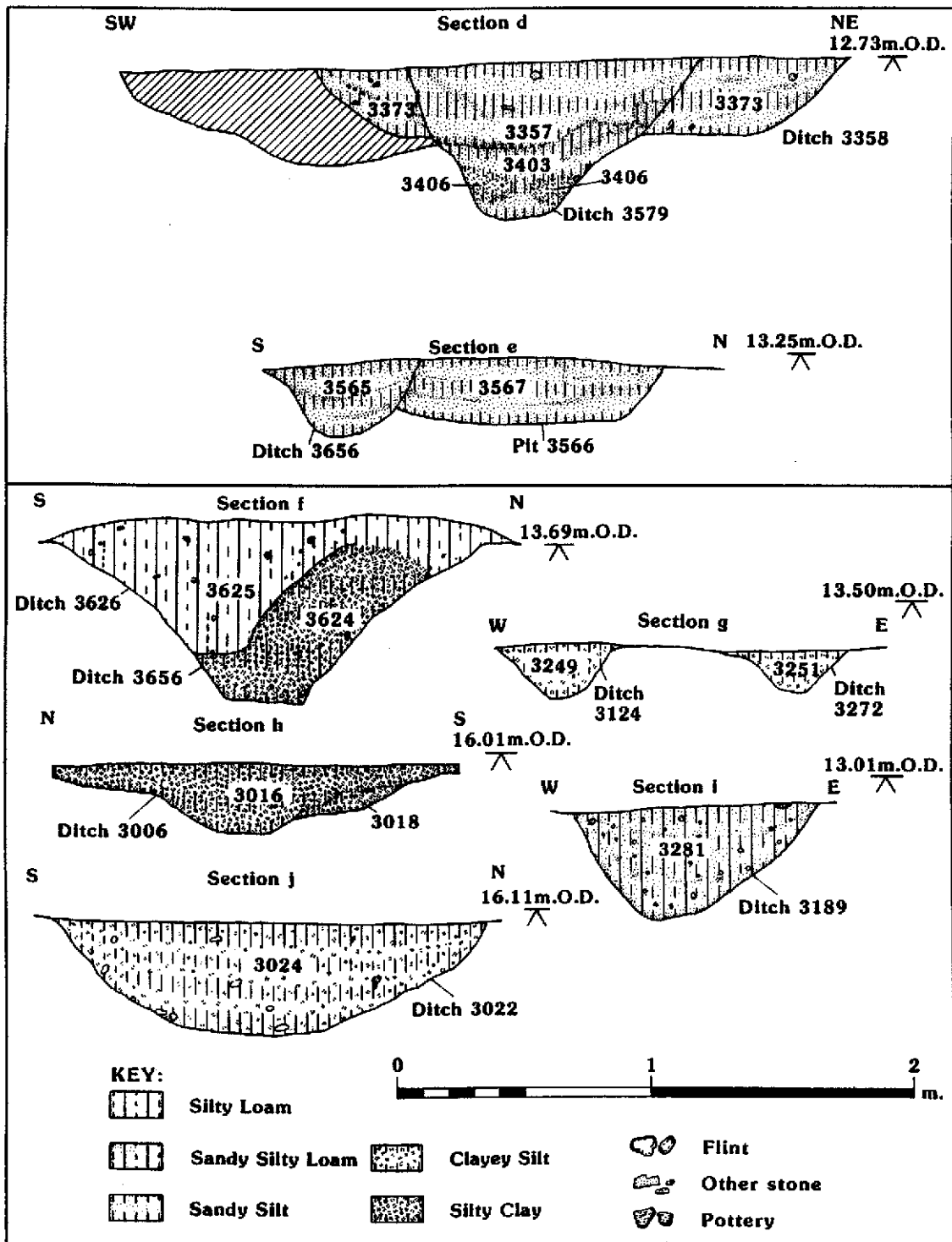


Fig. 8.

Fig. 8: Area B - Early Roman Phase 1 and 2: ditch and pit sections

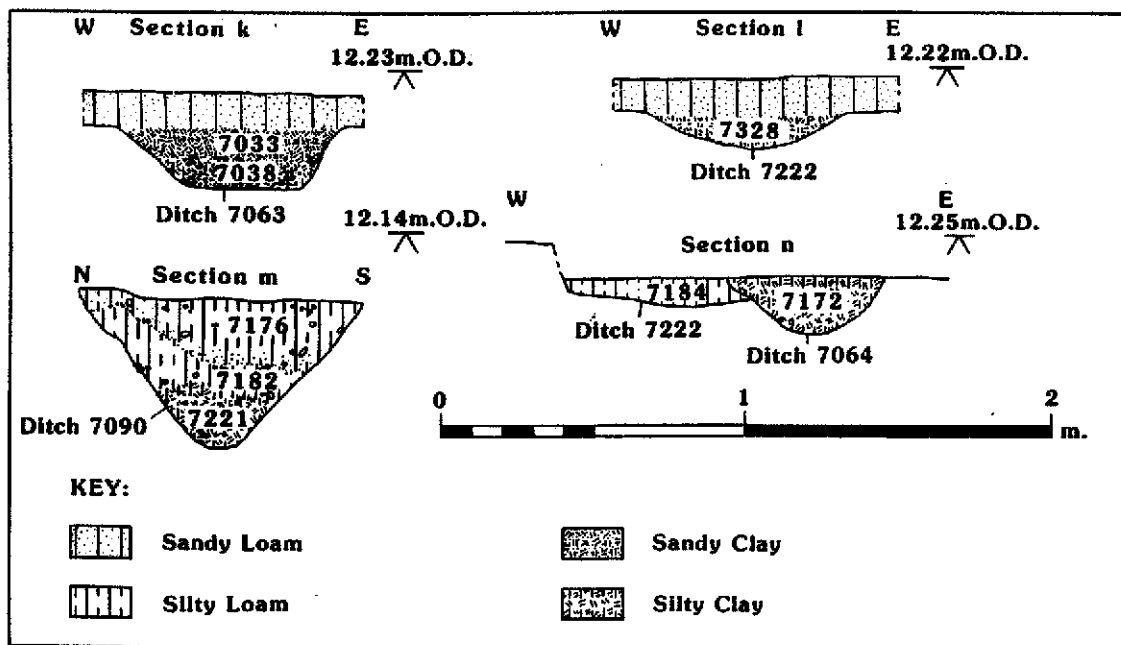


Fig.9.

Fig. 9: Area A - Early Roman Phase 2: ditch sections

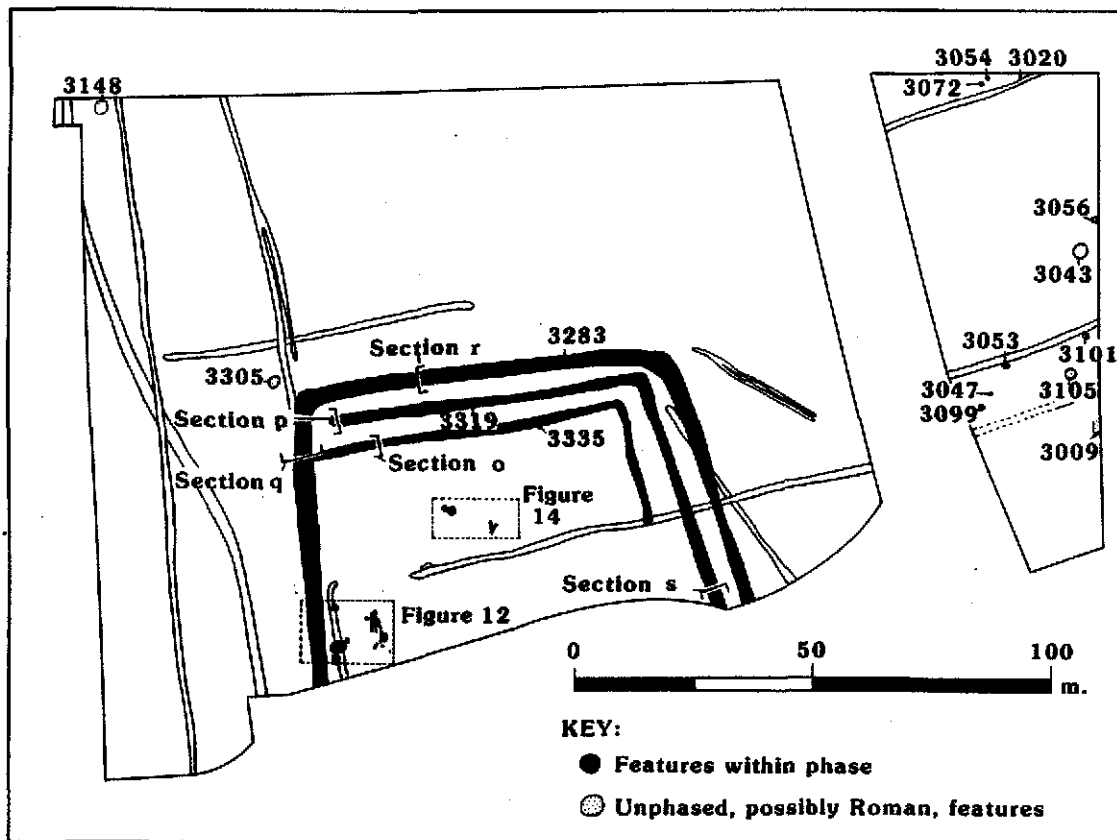


Fig.10.

Fig. 10: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan of enclosure and settlement features and unphased, possibly Roman features

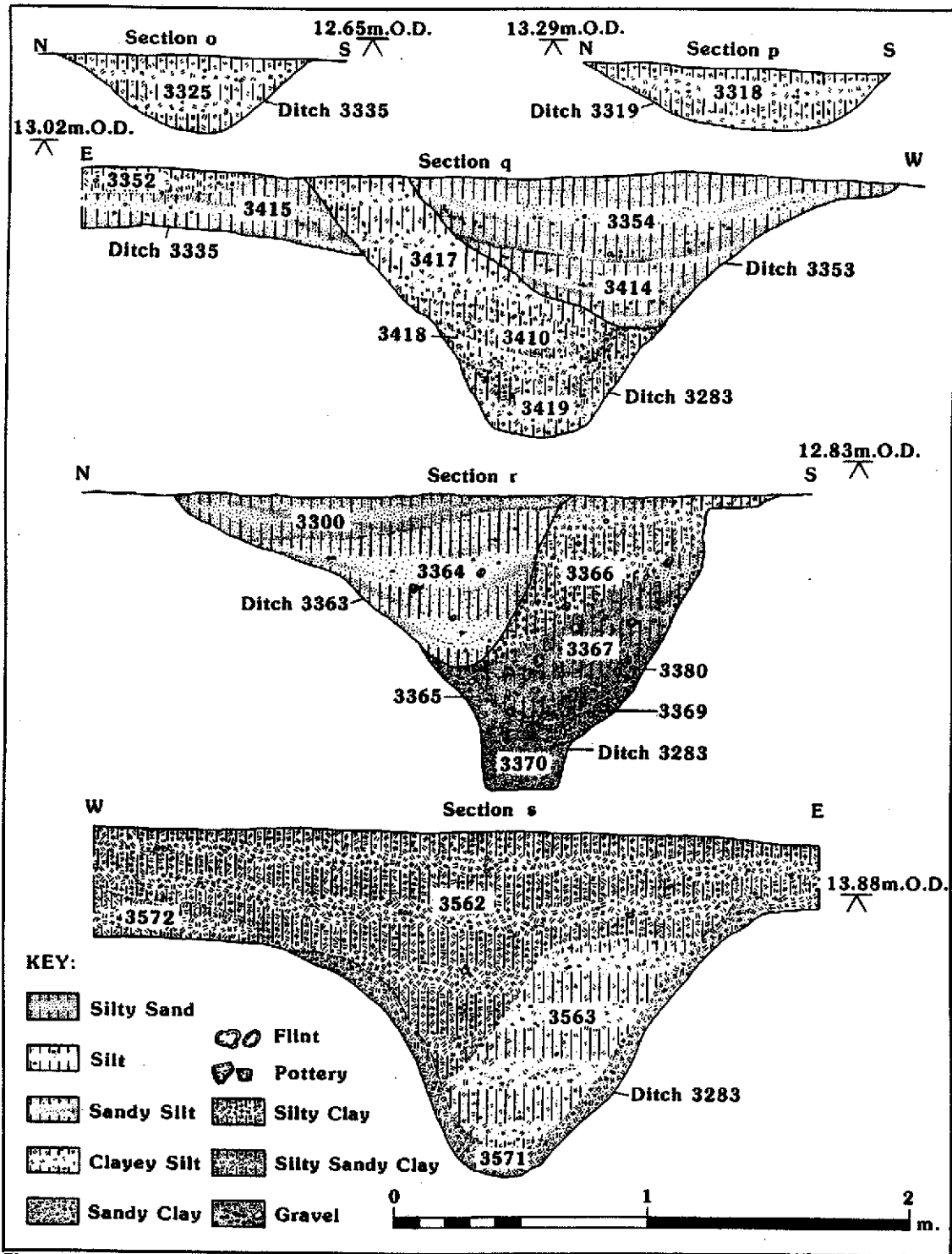


Fig.11.

Fig. 11: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: enclosure ditch sections

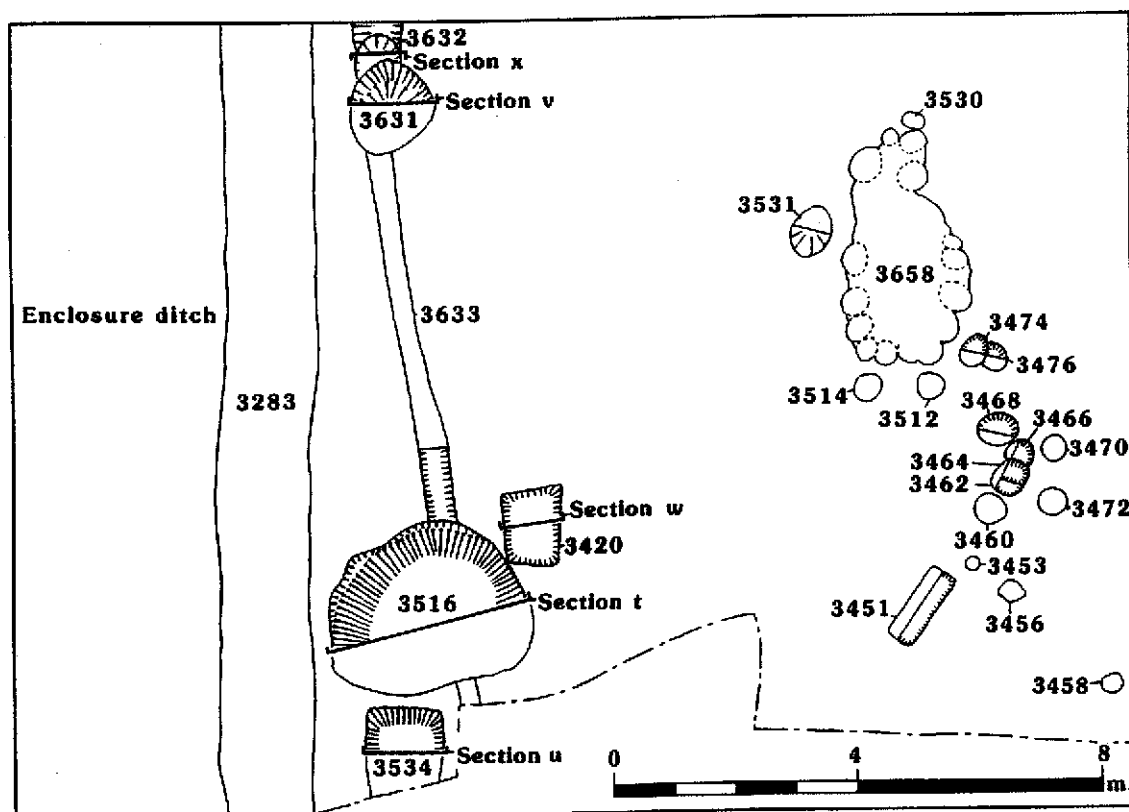


Fig.12.

Fig. 12: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan of features in the south-west of the enclosure

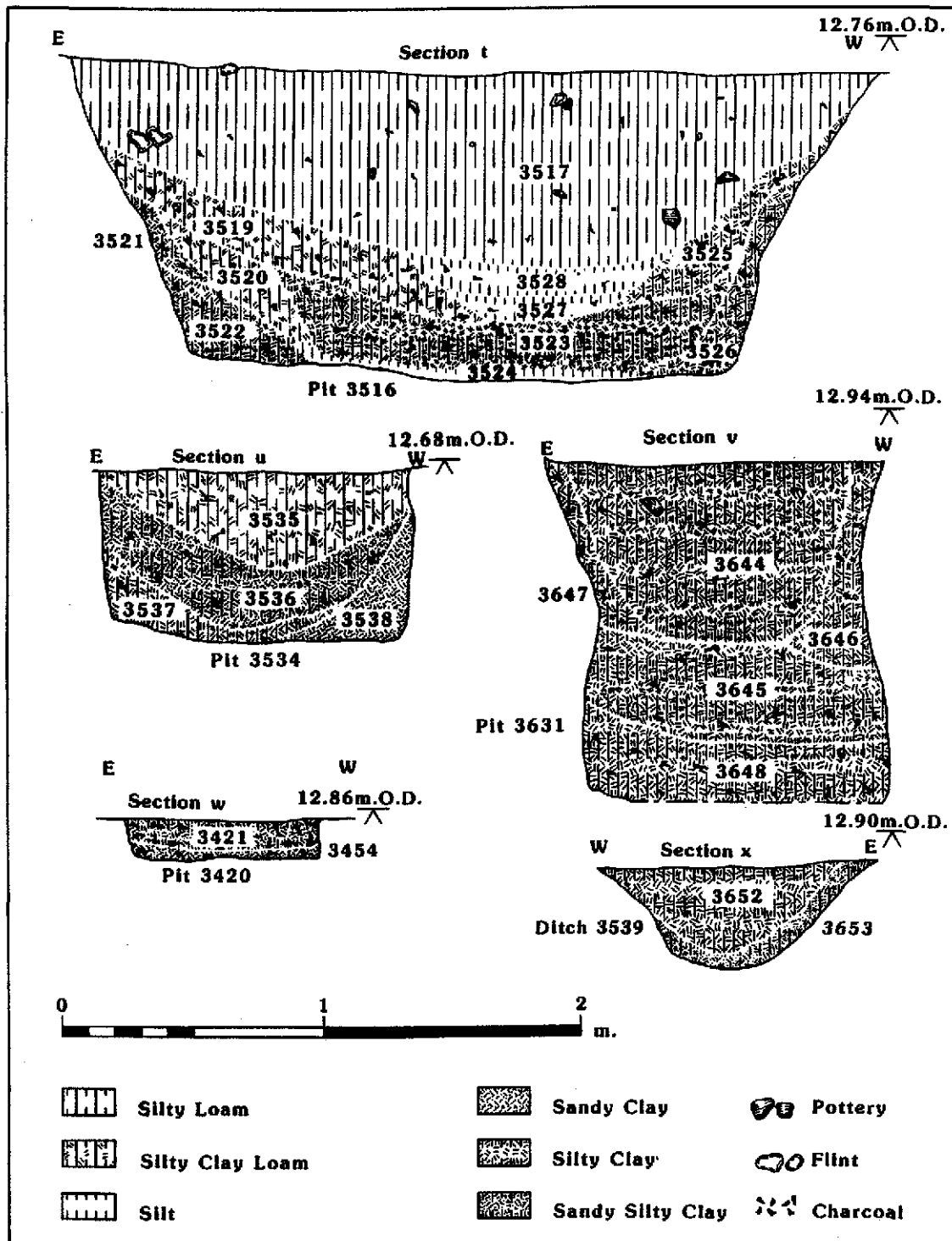


Fig.13.

Fig. 13: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: sections of pits features in the south-west of the enclosure

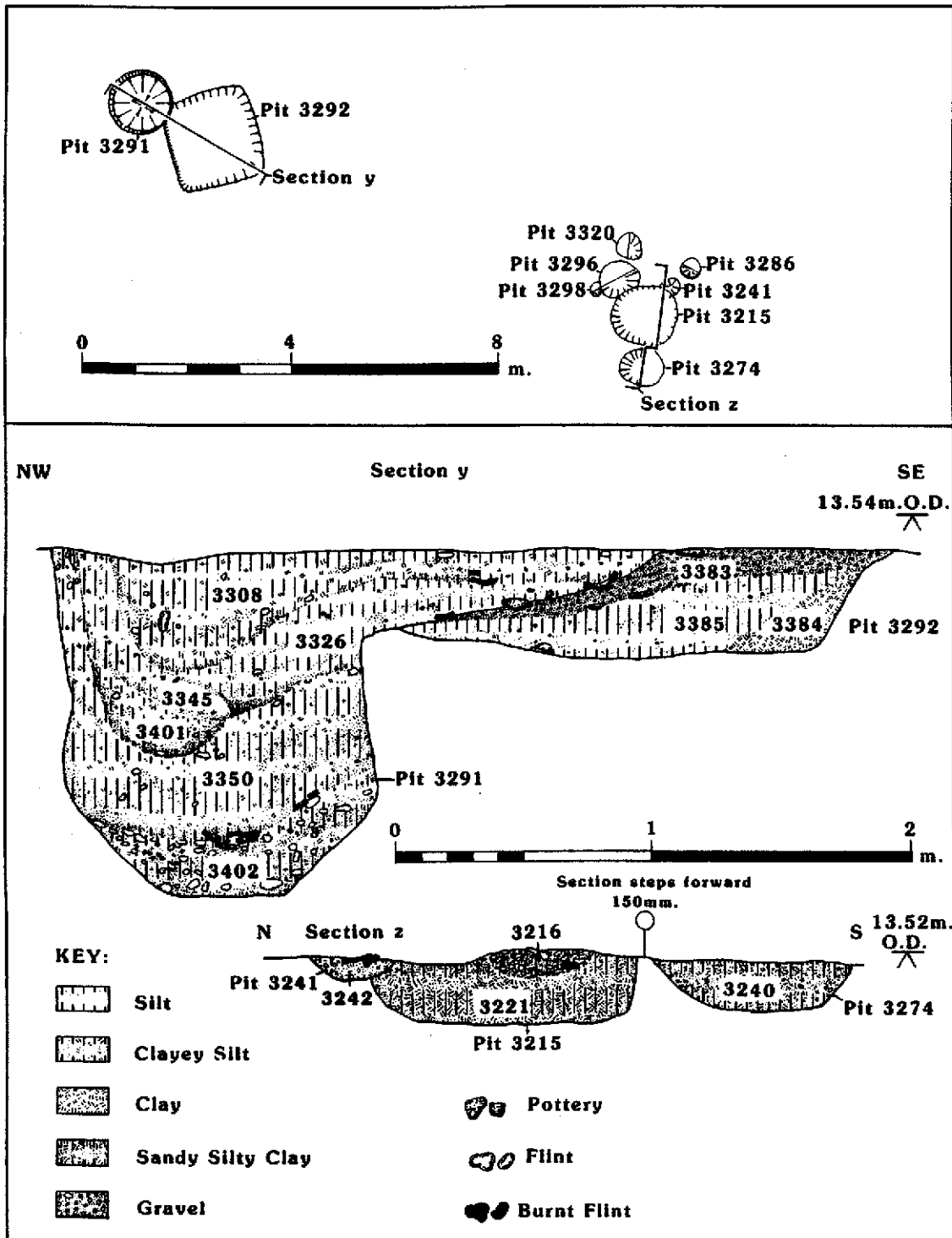


Fig.14.

Fig. 14: Area B - Early Roman Phase 3: plan and sections of features in the centre of the enclosure

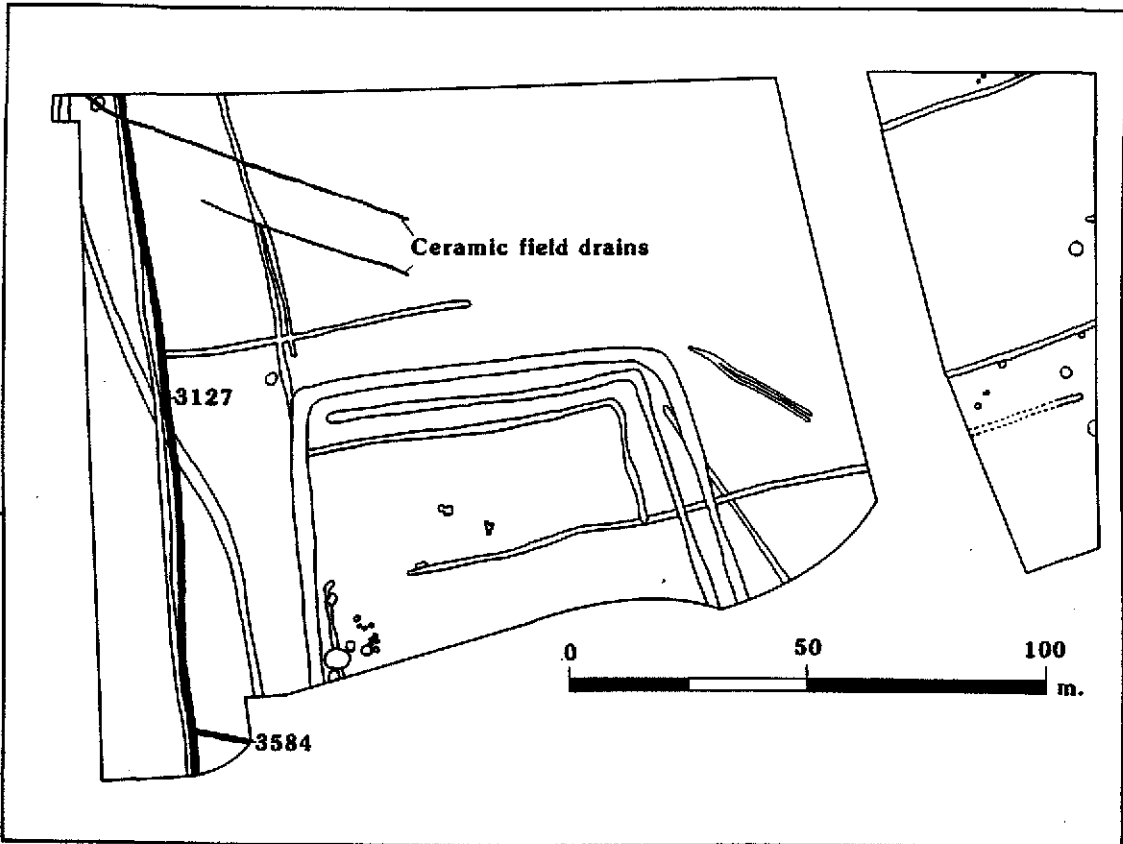


Fig. 15: Area B - Post-medieval: plan of features

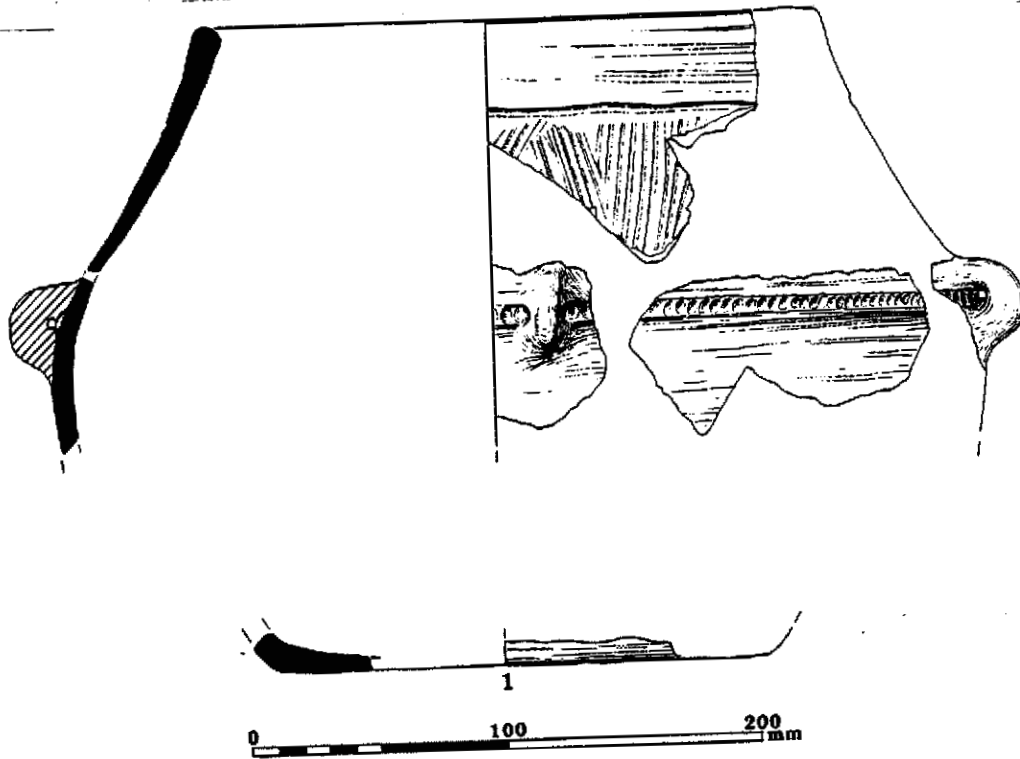


Fig. 16: Bronze Age pottery (P1)

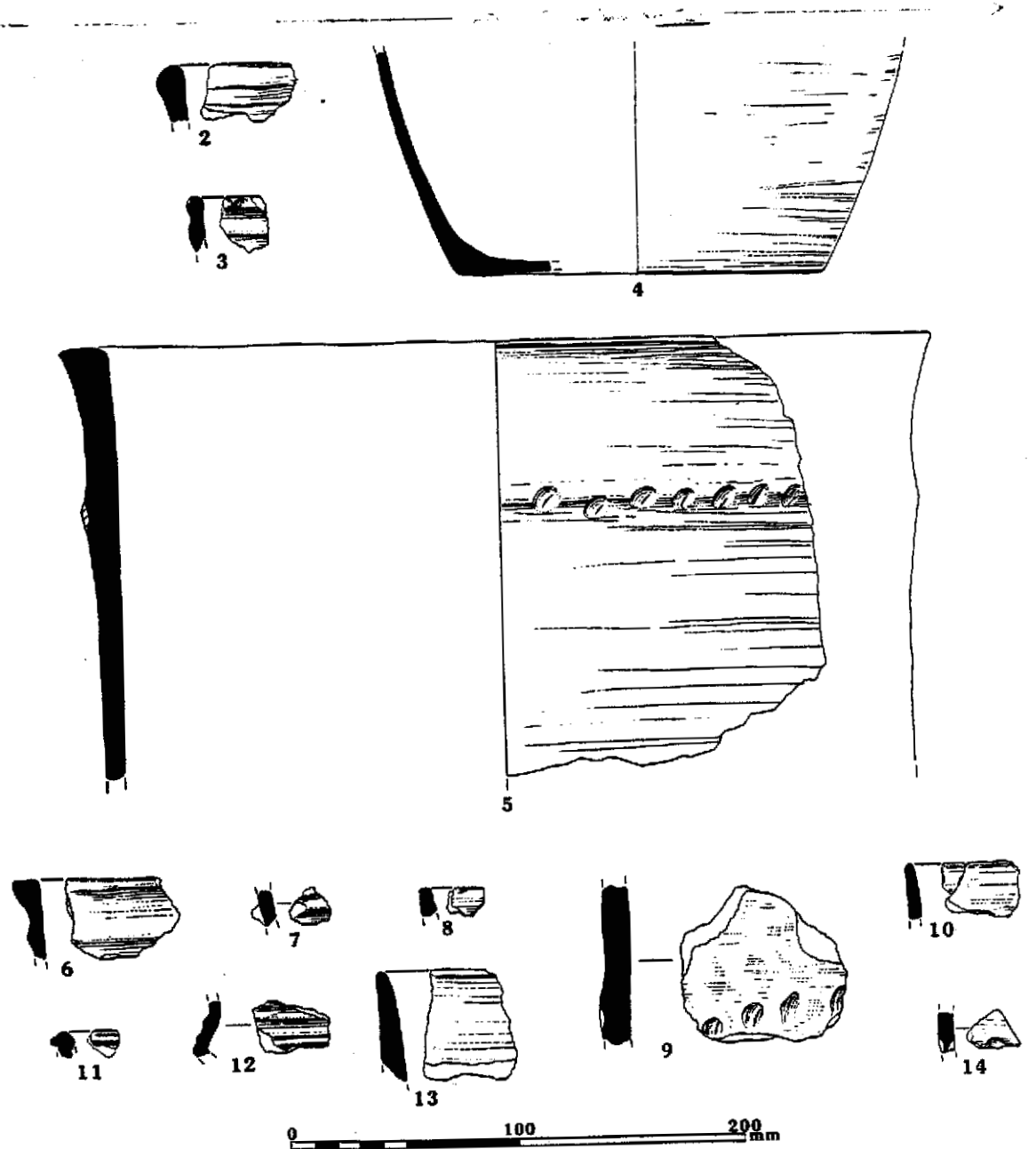


Fig. 17: Bronze Age pottery (P2-P14)

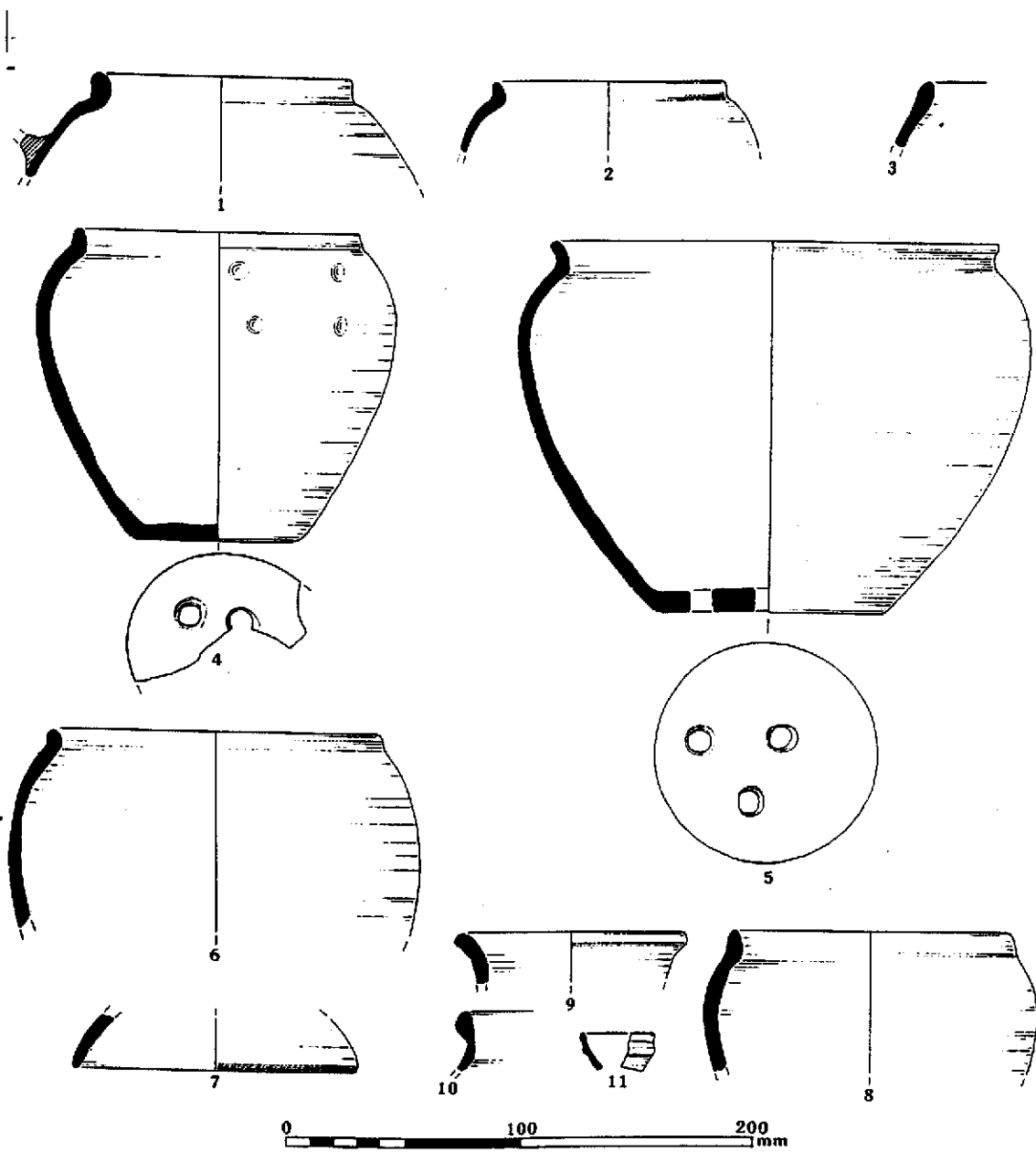


Fig. 18: Roman pottery (1-11)

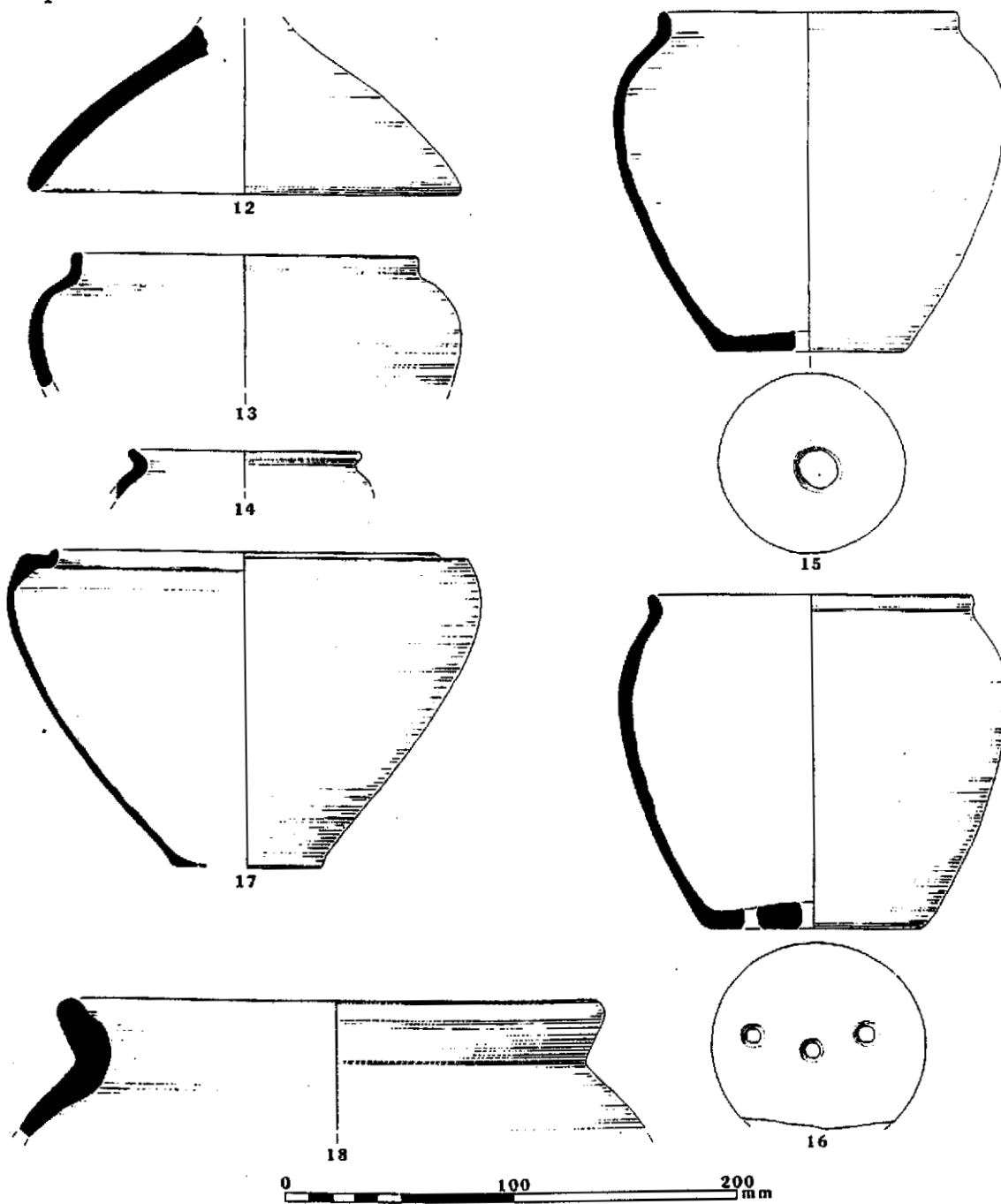


Fig. 19: Roman pottery (12-18)

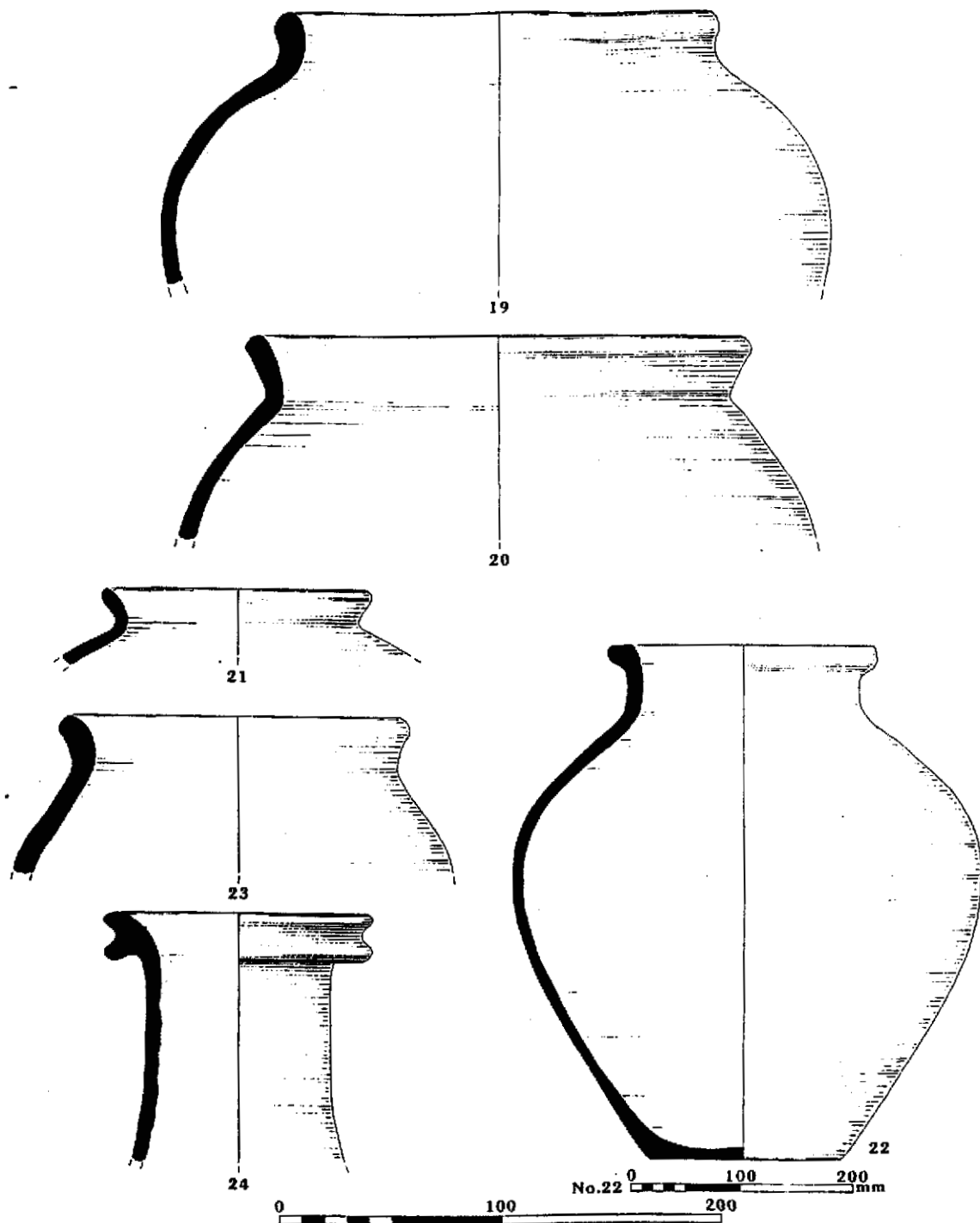


Fig. 20: Roman pottery (19-24)

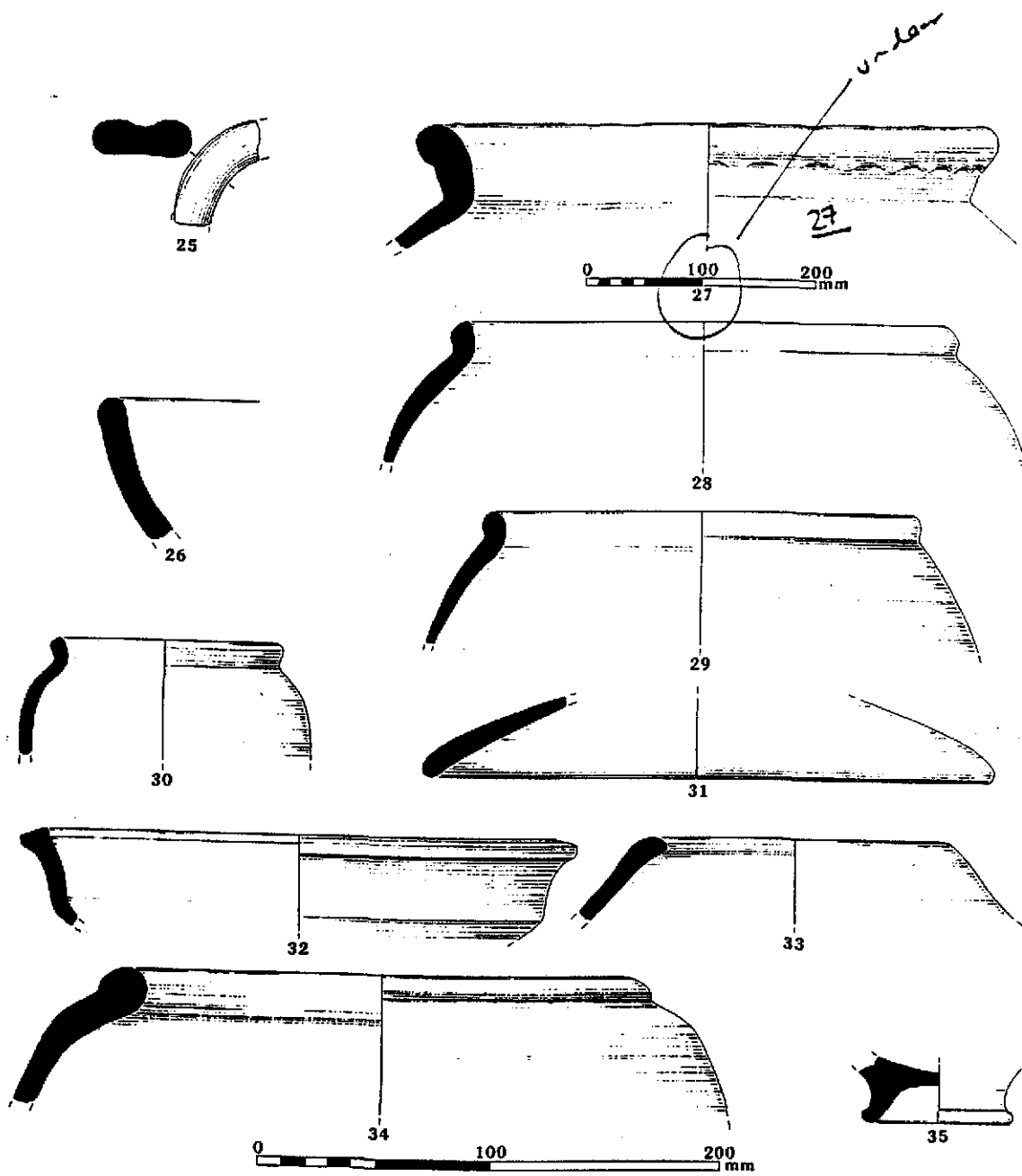


Fig. 21: Roman pottery (25-35)

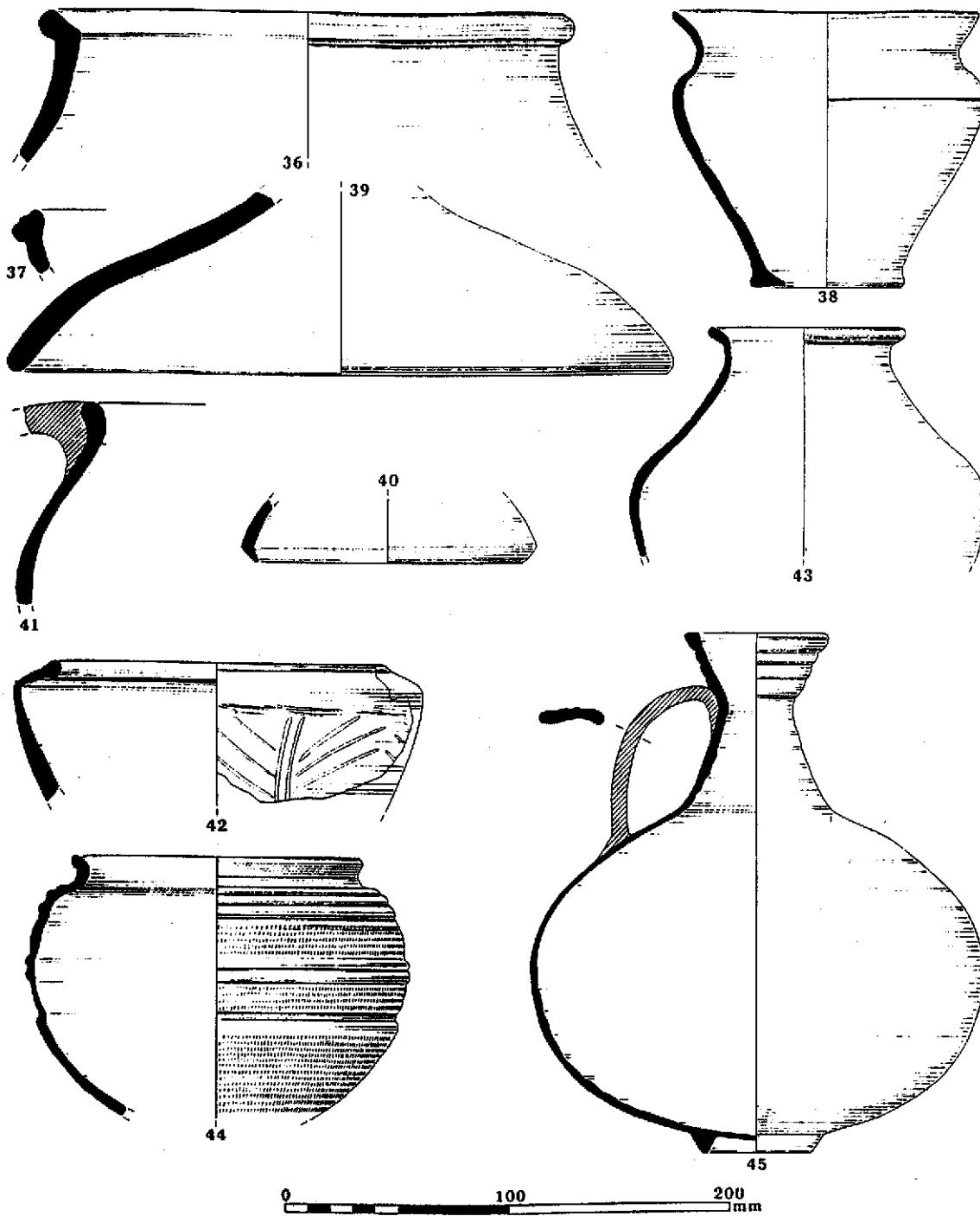


Fig. 22: Roman pottery (36-45)

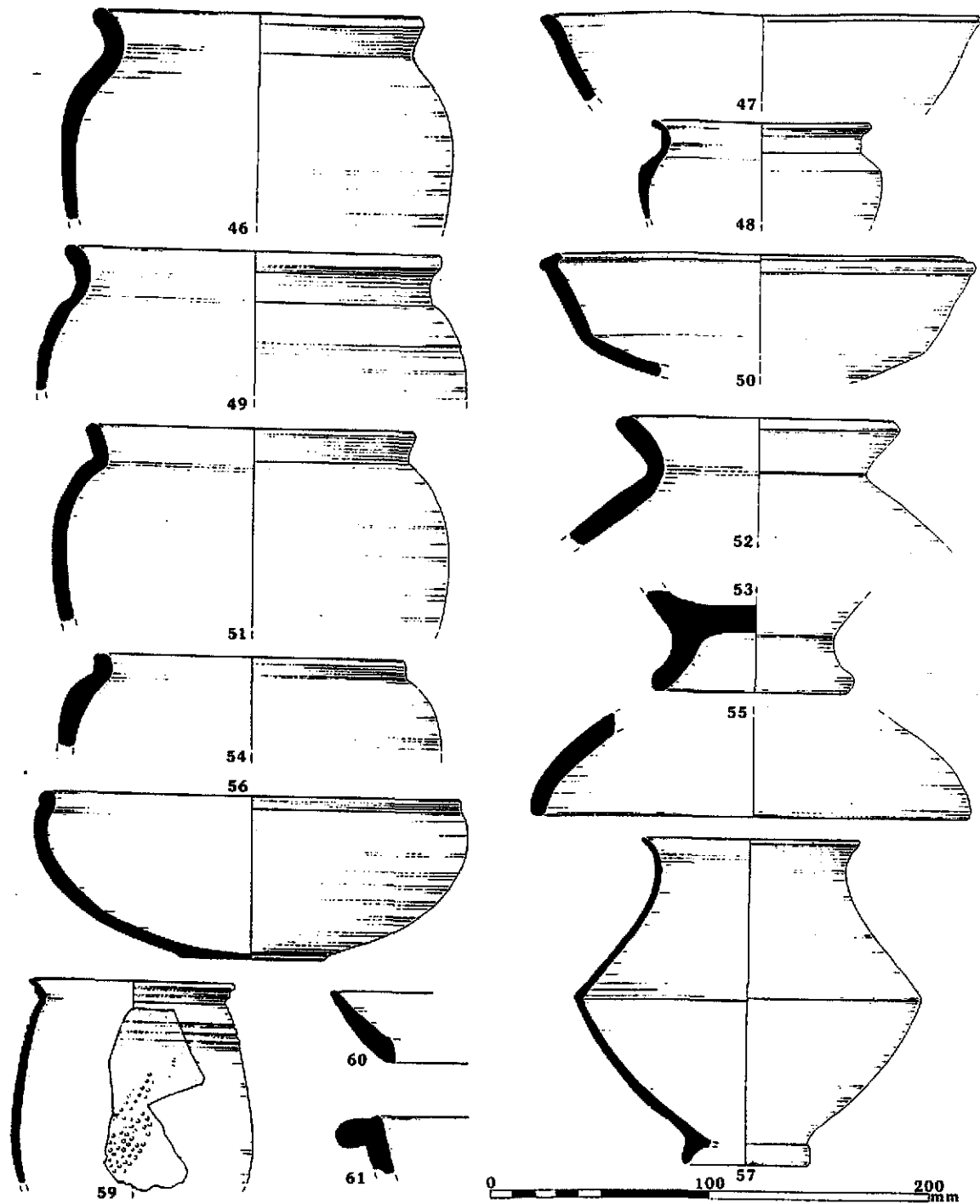


Fig. 23: Roman pottery (46-61)

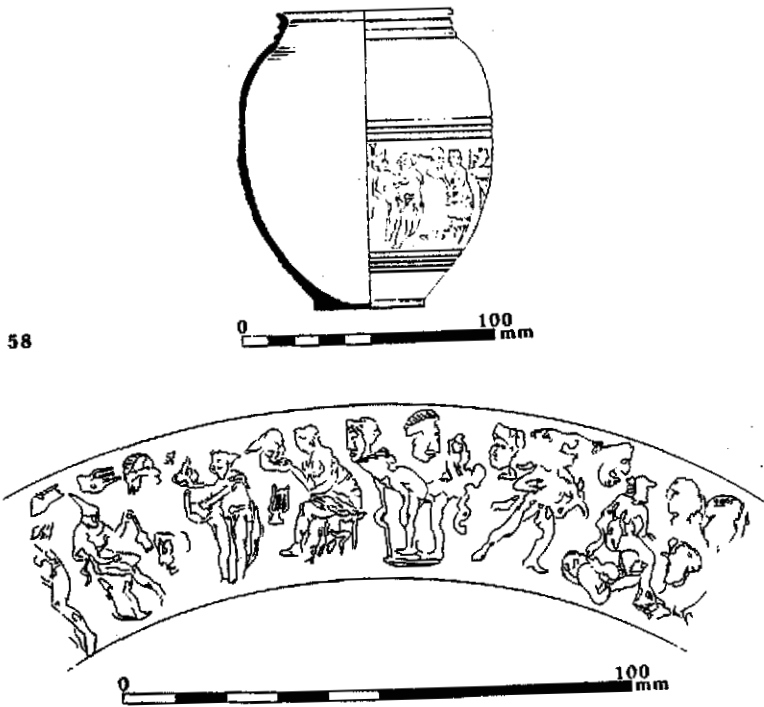


Fig. 24: Roman pottery (58)

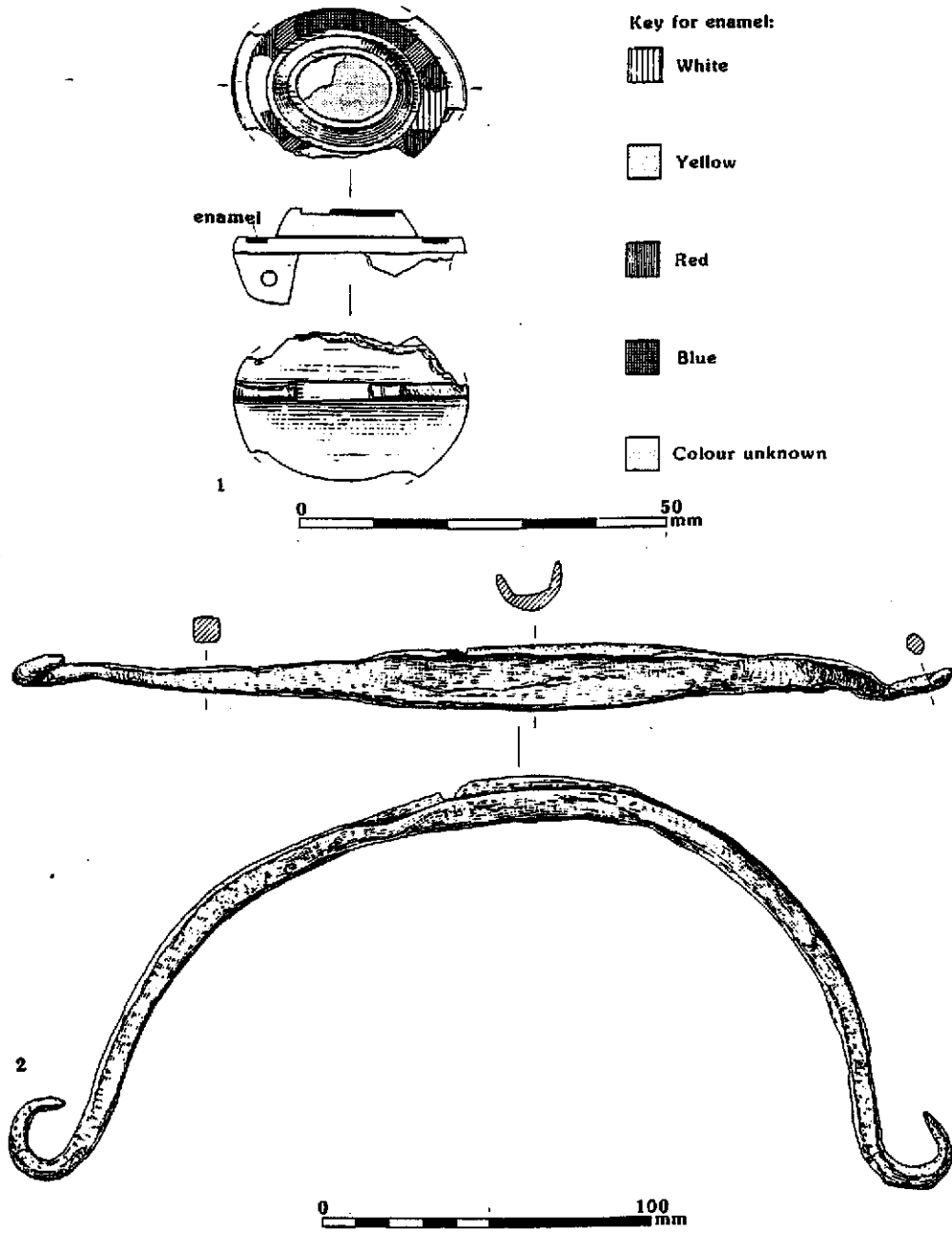


Fig. 25: Metalwork: copper alloy (1) and iron (2)

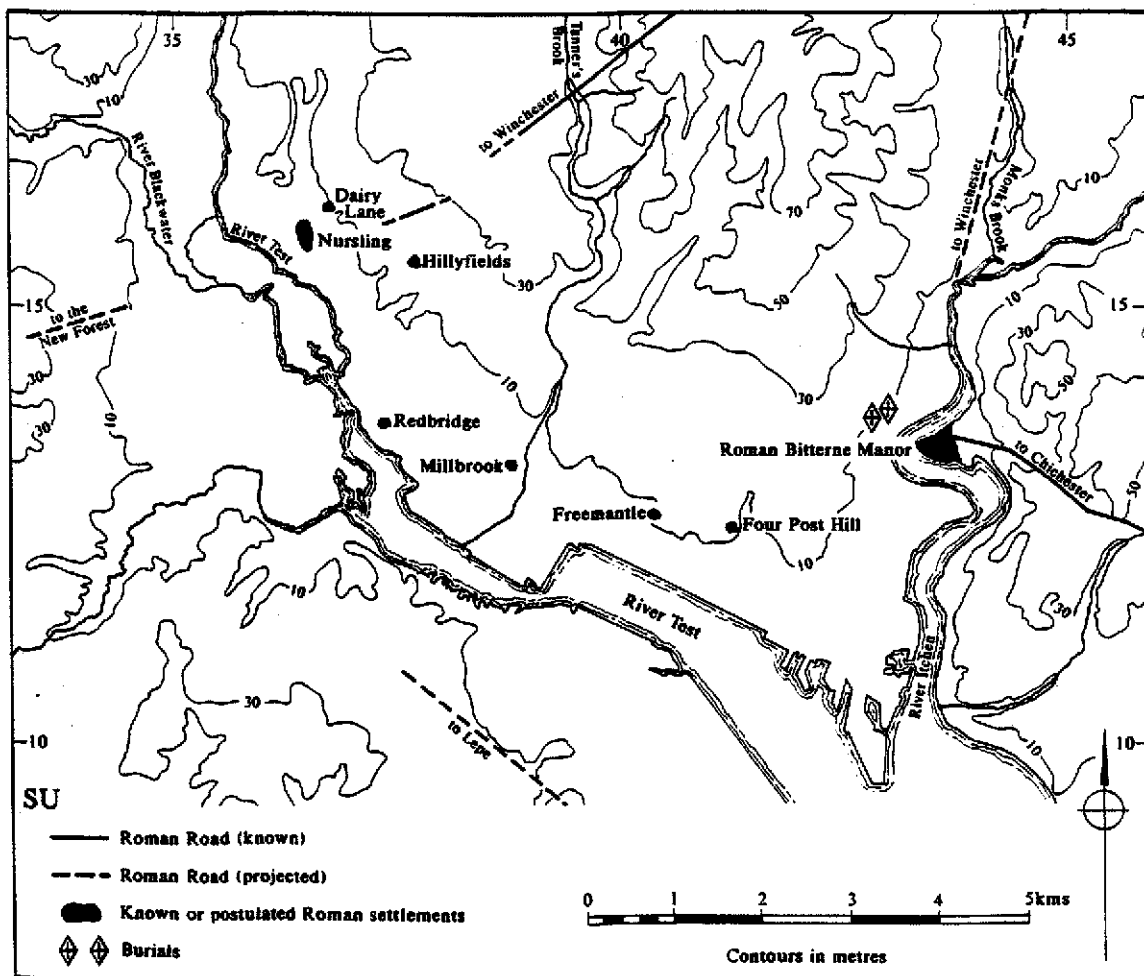
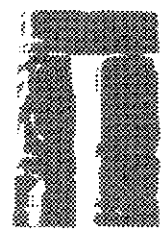
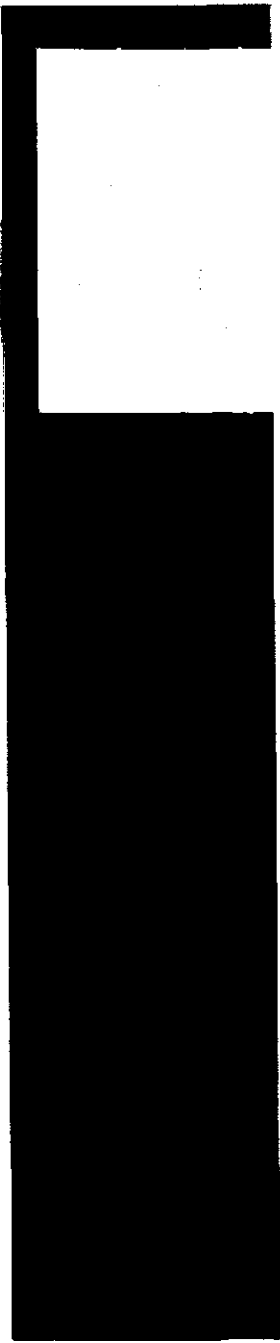


Fig. 26: Principal known and suspected Roman sites in the Southampton area



THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Telephone: Salisbury (0722) 326867 Facsimile: (0722) 337562
(Registered Charity No. 287786)



Wessex
Archæology



③

EXCAVATIONS AT NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE

**Assessment Report on the Results of the Archaeological
Excavations (March to June 1993) including Proposals for
Post-excavation Analysis and Publication**

DRAFT

**Wessex Archaeology references:
Project No. 36192
Site Code W584**

Prepared on behalf of:

**Tesco
Dairyglen House
PO Box 40
116 Crossbrook Street
Cheshunt
Waltham Cross
HERTFORDSHIRE EN8 8JT**

**Wessex Archaeology
August 1993**

© copyright Trust for Wessex Archaeology Limited 1993
all rights reserved

EXCAVATIONS AT NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE

Assessment Report on the Results of the Archaeological Excavations (March to June 1993) including Proposals for Post-excavation Analysis and Publication

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
2 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS	6
2.1 Area A	6
2.1.1 <i>The test pits</i>	6
2.1.2 <i>Subsoil features</i>	6
2.1.3 <i>Mesolithic material from subsoil features</i>	7
2.1.4 <i>Interpretation</i>	7
2.2 Area B - Prehistoric	7
2.2.1 <i>Excavation methodology</i>	7
2.2.2 <i>The results</i>	7
2.3 Area B - Roman and later periods	8
2.3.1 <i>Excavation methodology</i>	8
2.3.2 <i>The results</i>	8
2.4 The excavation archive	9
3 THE FINDS EVIDENCE	10
3.1 Metalwork	10
3.1.1 <i>Copper alloy</i>	10
3.1.2 <i>Ironwork</i>	10
3.1.3 <i>Metalworking slag</i>	10
3.2 Worked flint	10
3.2.1 <i>Area A</i>	10
3.2.2 <i>Area B</i>	11
3.3 Unworked burnt flint	11
3.4 Pottery	11
3.4.1 <i>Area A</i>	12
3.4.2 <i>Area B</i>	13
3.5 Worked and burnt stone	14
3.6 Ceramic building material	15
3.7 Clay pipe	15
3.8 Glass	15
3.9 Fired clay material	15

4	THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	16
4.1	The sampling strategy	16
4.2	Assessment	16
4.3	Plant remains and charcoal	16
4.3.1	<i>Results</i>	17
4.4	Animal bone	18
4.5	Absolute dating (by radiocarbon determinations)	18
5	STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND OBJECTIVES	20
5.1	Reappraisal of the original project aims	20
5.1.1	<i>Mesolithic</i>	20
5.1.2	<i>Prehistoric</i>	21
5.1.3	<i>Late Iron Age/Roman</i>	23
5.2	Revised project aims	25
5.2.1	<i>Mesolithic</i>	25
5.2.2	<i>Other Prehistoric</i>	25
5.2.3	<i>Roman</i>	26
5.3	Objectives	26
6	METHOD STATEMENT	27
6.1	Post-excavation methodology	27
6.1.1	<i>The structural evidence</i>	27
6.1.2	<i>The finds analysis</i>	27
6.1.3	<i>The environmental analysis</i>	30
6.1.4	<i>Report preparation</i>	30
6.2	Proposed report synopsis	32
7	TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME	33
7.1	Task list	33
7.2	Personnel	35
7.3	The Gantt chart	36
8	REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	37
8.1	References	37
8.2	Acknowledgements	37

Summary

During spring and summer 1993 Wessex Archaeology undertook the excavation of 2.7 ha. of land adjacent to Dairy Lane, Nursling, Southampton (SU 3660 1615). The excavations were commissioned by Tesco and were undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in advance of the proposed development of the site.

The excavations produced a variety of evidence for activity on the site from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval and modern period. The principal archaeological results date to the Mesolithic (8,000-4,000 BC), Middle Bronze Age (1,800-1,000 BC) and Roman (AD 43-410) periods.

The Mesolithic activity is represented by a collection of pieces of worked flint, the only evidence that survives of a small community of hunter-gatherers exploiting the fishing and plant resources of the Lower Test Valley. Much of the Mesolithic worked flint was recovered from later prehistoric ditches. These ditches have protected the worked flint from disturbance and damage. Some of the flint is, therefore, in good condition where it might otherwise have only survived as damaged material in the modern ploughsoil.

The Middle Bronze Age activity is represented by a number of field ditches. At least four Bronze Age urns were recovered and indicate that contemporary settlements were not far away. Pottery of this date is frequently found in Bronze Age cemetery sites; its discovery at this site in association with non-funerary deposits is of special interest and value.

The most important discovery was the investigation of part of a substantial Roman settlement consisting of enclosures, buildings, pits and a well. The settlement was established shortly after the Roman conquest of Britain in AD 43 and was occupied to around the middle of the 2nd century AD. The excavation of Roman ditches and pits produced an interesting and unusual collection of Roman pottery, including many imported vessels from France and Spain and suggesting the site had trading links, via the River Test, with the continent. The settlement is almost certainly part of a larger settlement complex identified in the 19th century in fields adjacent to the site.

The excavation results achieved many of the original aims of the project. This assessment report sets out the preliminary results, revises the project aims in the light of those results and presents proposals for post-excavation work and the production of a publication report. It is proposed that the excavation results are prepared for publication as an article in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society* and that, ultimately, the excavation archive is deposited in the Hampshire County Museum Service in Winchester.

EXCAVATIONS AT NURSLING, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE

Assessment Report on the Results of the Archaeological Excavations (March to June 1993) including Proposals for Post-excavation Analysis and Publication

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

During spring and summer 1993 Wessex Archaeology undertook the excavation of 2.7 ha. of land adjacent to Dairy Lane, Nursling, Southampton (SU 3660 1615). The excavations were commissioned by Tesco and were undertaken as a component of a programme of archaeological work required by Hampshire County Council to secure the implementation of a planning condition in advance of the proposed construction of distribution warehousing at the site.

Previously the proposed development area, totalling c. 13.5 ha., had been subjected to an archaeological evaluation by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU). Machine-trenching of a 2% sample of the proposed development area revealed evidence for Mesolithic, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity at the site. In response to the archaeological content of the proposed development area, the Oxford Archaeological Unit prepared a project design detailing a programme of work for archaeological investigation, recording, post-excavation analysis and publication for the site. This project design was agreed with Hampshire County Council and has formed the basis of all Wessex Archaeology's subsequent archaeological work on the project.

With the completion of the excavations at the site, this assessment report has been prepared as the next stage of work required by the detailed project design. This assessment report outlines the preliminary results of the excavations and presents proposals for post-excavation analysis and report production. The assessment was achieved by the cross-checking and ordering of the project archive; the preparation of preliminary site matrices and phases, supported by the spot-dating of pottery from excavated contexts; the scanning of all other categories of artefacts and the processing of selected soil samples.

Further fieldwork, a watching brief during construction, is required at the site, although the programme for this stage of work is currently undetermined. Provision has been allowed within the strategies, resources and programme detailed below to cater for the results of the watching brief.

For consistency, the format of this assessment report follows that used for the detailed project design: namely that each section presents information in chronological order and mirroring the three broad periods of activity at the site i.e. Mesolithic, Prehistoric, and Late Iron Age/Roman.

2 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

2.1 Area A

The archaeological evaluation identified a concentration of Mesolithic (8,000-4,000 BC) worked flint in the west of the proposed development area (Area A). The collection of worked flint was recovered from trenches cut through a shallow silt filled hollow and most of the flint artefacts were located at the base of the topsoil. The excavation methodology set out in the project design was proposed in view of the nature and location of the Mesolithic flint assemblage. This proposed strategy was broadly followed by Wessex Archaeology during the excavation, although some minor revisions were agreed with Hampshire County Council in view of the nature of the results during the course of the excavation.

2.1.1 *The test pits*

After the re-excavation of the evaluation trenches, eighteen 0.25 metre square test pits were hand-excavated within an area of 0.3 ha. Once the total depth of topsoil and sub-soils had been established, all the topsoil, except for the lowest 0.05-0.1 m, was machine-stripped. Eighty 4 metre square test pits were set out on a grid basis. Each test pit was hand-excavated in 0.05 m spits to the top of the sub-soil. All artefacts were recovered and a random 10% sample of each spit was dry sieved through 10 mm meshes.

Preliminary assessment of the worked flint from the test pits indicated that it was a plough-damaged assemblage of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Less than 20% of the struck flint was of Mesolithic date. The test pits also contained a small assemblage of abraded Roman and medieval pottery and large quantities of modern material. The assemblage suggests that the basal topsoil is a plough pan, produced by the shoe of a mouldboard plough. No spatial distributions were discerned, although two highly localised concentrations of undamaged Mesolithic struck flint were noted. In view of the test pit results, all remaining topsoil was stripped by machine and all subsoil features were cleaned, hand-excavated, recorded and, where appropriate, sampled.

2.1.2 *Subsoil features*

The major subsoil features were five linear ditches of various dimensions. All ditch intersections were examined and in total 10-45% of each ditch by length was excavated. Little secure dating evidence was recovered from any ditch, although stratigraphic and artefactual evidence suggests two were of Bronze Age date and three were Roman or later. All these ditches are interpreted as field boundaries.

A number of stake holes and post holes were found in and around one ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from them, and no structure was discerned from their positioning, although they may represent some kind of revetting or fencing associated with the adjacent ditch. In addition to these features and the ditches, several small animal burrows and tree throws were recorded.

The silt filled hollow identified during the evaluation was examined by three hand-excavated test pits. These showed that the silt filled hollow was a thin layer of silt, possibly deposited by flooding. It ✓ neither contained nor sealed any vestiges of Mesolithic activity.

2.1.3 *Mesolithic material from subsoil features*

The Bronze Age ditches contained large quantities of struck flint, a large proportion of which is of Mesolithic date. Much of this material is in good condition, and, therefore, although redeposited, has not been significantly ~~reworked~~. The fills of both ditches were dry sieved through 10 mm meshes and ✓ were sampled for sieving at 5 mm and 2 mm. ↘

2.1.4 *Interpretation*

The Bronze Age ditches were cut through *in situ* Mesolithic deposits. Mesolithic flint has spilled into the base of the ditches where it has been sealed and protected from subsequent disturbance and damage. Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity, represented by the redeposited struck flint recovered from the topsoil, was either of low intensity or was sufficiently localised to cause little or no disturbance to Mesolithic deposits. Subsequent agricultural activity from the Bronze Age onwards, has disturbed and destroyed any *in situ* Mesolithic deposits that might otherwise have survived. The Mesolithic material from the excavations, therefore, comprises either redeposited material in good ✓ condition from later subsoil features or plough-damaged material within the topsoil.

2.2 **Area B - Prehistoric**

2.2.1 *Excavation methodology*

The archaeological evaluation identified a number of post-holes and gullies to the east of Dairy Lane (Area B). Worked flint from these features was of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date. Residual prehistoric flint and pottery to the west of Dairy Lane suggested the possibility of further features of this period in this area of the site.

The excavation methodology was set out in the detailed project design. An area of c. 2.4 ha. either side of Dairy Lane was stripped of topsoil to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine under archaeological supervision. The resulting surface was cleaned, planned, recorded and sample excavated ✓ in accordance with the requirements of the project design.

2.2.2 *The results*

Three linear ditches of Middle Bronze Age date (1,800-1,000 BC) were recorded in Area B. All are interpreted as field boundaries, although the quantity and quality of pottery from their fills suggests that a contemporary settlement site was not far away. Two other Bronze Age field boundary ditches were identified in Area A (see 2.1.2 above).

Other possible prehistoric features include a curvilinear ditch and a series of shallow pits to the east of Dairy Lane. Residual prehistoric pottery and worked flint was recovered from later features in both Areas A and B.

The potential for settlement features of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date suggested by the results of the evaluation was not realised during the excavation.

2.3 Area B - Roman and later features

2.3.1 Excavation methodology

The archaeological evaluation identified an area of Iron Age and Roman settlement consisting of a series of ditches and some post-holes accompanied by pottery of Late Iron Age and Roman date. The excavation methodology for this area (Area B) followed that described above for the prehistoric features (see 2.2.1 above).

2.3.2 The results

Features of this period fall into two broad phases on stratigraphic evidence, although both phases fall within the Early Roman period (AD 70-130). The Late Iron Age phase recorded during the evaluation was not realised either as subsoil features or as residual material in later features

Early Roman features - Phase 1

This phase is represented by a rectilinear, ditched field system, comprised of at least seven, shallow ditches, covering most of Area B. At least two of the Roman ditches recorded in Area A (see 2.1.2 above) are probably components of the same field system.

A number of undated pits and hollows were recorded within the ditched fields to the east of Dairy Lane. Preliminary evidence from environmental samples (see 4.3.1.6 below) suggests that some of these features may also be of Roman date.

Early Roman features - Phase 2

Subsequent to the laying out of the ditched field system, a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure was set within the field system. The enclosure was 0.4 ha. in area and was sub-divided by a series of internal parallel ditches. The quantity and quality of pottery recovered from the enclosure and internal ditches indicates that the enclosure defined an area of settlement.

This preliminary interpretation was supported by the identification of at least eleven pits, several post holes and a well within the enclosure. All these features contained a rich and well-preserved pottery assemblage. Other material, with the exception of a few iron objects and pieces of worked stone, was notably absent, although soil conditions have mitigated against the survival of some categories of

material especially animal bone. The enclosure was not occupied beyond the middle of the second century AD and material of later Roman date was absent from the excavation.

Post-Roman features and material

A small collection of possible Saxon pottery and a larger collection of medieval pottery was recovered in Areas A and B from the topsoil and clearance layers. Subsoil features later than early Roman in date were restricted to one post-medieval field ditch and modern land drains.

2.4 The excavation archive

The existing site archive (as at August 1993) is currently held in the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Salisbury (site code reference W584). The archive consists of the following:

- Written record: 106 test pit records
 1,579 context records
 1,317 level records
 58 object records
- Graphics record: A1 Drawing sheets: 88 Drawings on 86 sheets
 A3 Drawing Sheets: 50 sheets
 A4 Drawing sheets: 218 sheets
- Photographic record: 34 Monochrome films
 34 Colour Slide
- Environmental samples: 59 environmental record samples
 126 artefact sample records

3 THE FINDS EVIDENCE

This section details each category of material recovered, including reference to the quantity, provenance, range, variety, and condition. The total number/weight of finds recovered is set out in Table 1. All the finds were washed, dried, counted and weighed as appropriate for the material type, and are currently boxed in suitable stable cardboard or plastic lidded containers in accordance with guidelines prepared by UKIC (Walker 1990) and Wessex Archaeology (Morris 1992a and b). The environmental evidence, including the animal bone fragments, is discussed in Section 4.

3.1 Metalwork

The range of metalwork includes both copper alloy and iron objects. Metalwork generally is in very poor condition being heavily corroded, or degraded, due to the soil acidity.

3.1.1 *Copper alloy*

One copper alloy object was recovered from an unphased layer in Area B. It is a Roman composite enamelled brooch consisting of a copper alloy frame within which a stone intaglio gem was inset. The inset stone has become dislodged from the frame and both parts are in poor condition.

3.1.2 *Ironwork*

Forty-six pieces of iron were recovered; all fragments have been x-radiographed and are in a temporarily stable condition. Most fragments consist of nails or nail heads and shanks (32), with three plain and two perforated strips, one broken knife blade fragment, one rod, a simple ring and five undiagnostic pieces. There is one complete, but broken, bucket handle from an Early Roman pit. Mineralised fragments of the wooden bucket secured by this handle were also recovered. The majority of nails were recovered either from Early Roman features in Area B or from test pits in Area A.

3.1.3 *Metalworking slag*

Two slag-like pieces were x-radiographed. Both are lumps of unstratified and undated slag, one from a test pit in Area A and one from a clearance layer east of Dairy Lane in Area B.

3.2 Worked flint

3.2.1 *Area A*

Area A produced 1,658 pieces of worked flint, recovered from the test pits and subsoil features. Approximately half of the assemblage was recovered from the test pits (49.40%), i.e. the topsoil, with the remainder (50.60%) recovered from subsoil features. The assemblage is multiperiod in character with Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts present.

Artefact condition varies by recovery context. The majority of artefacts recovered from the test pits (78.75%) exhibit tillage-induced edge damage. Artefacts recovered from subsoil features, however, are in relatively good condition with post-depositional edge damage largely restricted to isolated trowel nicks on otherwise undamaged edges. Patina for the assemblage ranges from a light transparent waxy film to a heavy greyish-white on individual pieces. The recovery of artefacts from features dated to the Bronze Age and Roman periods indicates that the assemblage is primarily redeposited and not related to the survival of any *in situ* deposits. Table 2 summarises the number and categories of artefacts recovered by context with Table 3 that for their condition.

3.2.2 Area B

Area B produced 251 pieces of worked flint recovered from a number of excavated features. This assemblage is multiperiod in character and contains Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts. Mesolithic artefacts comprise 18% of the assemblage with the remaining 82% composed of flakes, flake cores and other artefact categories which can be assigned on technological grounds to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

Artefact condition is relatively poor with 53% of the assemblage exhibiting post-depositional edge damage. Patina for the assemblage is similar to that for Area A and ranges from a light transparent waxy film to a heavy greyish-white. As with Area A the recovery of artefacts from later features indicates that this assemblage is also largely redeposited. Table 2 summarises the number and categories of worked flint recovered from Area B and Table 3 summarises their general condition. ^{but better than test pits in A.}

3.3 Unworked burnt flint

The quantities of unworked burnt flint recovered from Areas A and B are presented in Table 1. All unworked burnt flint was counted, weighed, recorded and discarded on site.

The majority of unworked burnt flint from Area A was recovered from test pits. The unworked burnt flint from Area B was concentrated in clearance layers to the west of Dairy Lane and subsoil features; the latter also contained either prehistoric worked flint or pottery, or no dating evidence. Therefore, it is possible that the much of the unworked burnt flint was associated with Bronze Age activity.

3.4 Pottery

The assemblage includes material of Middle Bronze Age (1800-1100 BC) to post-medieval/modern date although the majority of sherds belong to the early Roman (mid-late 1st to early 2nd century AD) period. A single sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery was also identified.

3.4.1 Area A

A total of 340 sherds (1421 g) was recovered. The assemblage consists of 57 sherds of prehistoric date, 158 Roman sherds, a maximum of nine possible Saxon sherds, 63 sherds of medieval date and 53 sherds belonging to the post-medieval/modern period. The condition of this assemblage is poor, the mean sherd weight is only 4.2 g, and almost all the prehistoric, Roman and possible Saxon sherds have suffered severe surface abrasion.

Prehistoric

Twenty-eight prehistoric sherds were found in test-pits while the remaining 29 were found in subsoil features. All are of flint or flint and sand-tempered fabrics. The majority are very small and highly abraded; few have surviving surfaces although the material from the subsoil features is in slightly better condition. One sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age fine, grog-tempered type was recognised but the majority are of Middle Bronze Age date and are comparable to the semi-complete vessels from Area B (see 3.4.2). These include a single large sherd with finger-tip decoration from one of the Bronze Age ditches. Several sherds, also severely abraded so that no surfaces survive, in a harsh-textured sand and sparse flint-gritted fabric may be of Late Bronze Age date.

Roman

Sherds of Roman date form the bulk of the assemblage from Area A. No finewares, either imported or Romano-British, or amphora are present. No featured sherds were recognised amongst the coarsewares, which consist of sandy, fine grog with sand and various grog-tempered fabrics. The fabrics are directly comparable with those from the larger, more complete assemblage from Area B (see 3.4.2. below), and, therefore, are likely to be of early Roman (mid/late 1st - early/mid 2nd century AD) date. Almost all the sherds are small and severely abraded, resulting in considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the sandy coarseware fabrics of Roman and medieval date.

Saxon

Nine small, very abraded sherds of a dark grey, organic-tempered fabric are tentatively identified as being of early to middle Saxon (c. AD 5th - 7th century) date. Five of the sherds were found in the test-pits while the remaining four were recovered from the fillings of subsoil features. Seven of the sherds were found in contexts which also contained prehistoric pottery of Middle or Late Bronze Age date. It is possible therefore that these fragments are of similar prehistoric date, but derive from fired clay objects as all the pottery of this date is flint-tempered.

Medieval

Sixty-three sherds are of medieval date (c. AD late 12/13th - 16th century). Few featured sherds are present, although small fragments from cooking-pots, at least one example with a lid-seated rim, and a shallow open dish were recognised in addition to several sandy glazed ware sherds, probably from jug forms.

Post-medieval/Modern

Fifty-three sherds dating from the 18th - 20th century were recovered from the test-pits.

3.4.2 Area B

Prehistoric

Parts of four Middle Bronze Age urns, one globular urn and three barrel urns, were recovered from two ditches. These vessels are distinguished by the moderately well-processed, medium-size, calcined and crushed flint fragments used as temper. The globular urn has four pierced lug handles around the girth of the vessel and is also decorated with impressed marks from a wedge-shaped tool along the girth. Between these impressed marks and the neck/rim zone, there is a geometric pattern consisting of a shallow-tooled pattern of horizontal and chevron grooves. The more chunky, bucket urns with thickened flat-topped rims are slightly coarser within the fabric range and have thicker vessel walls. One also displays a horizontal row of finger-tip impressions around the upper vessel area and one has an external raised cordon below the rim edge. Two of the bucket urns have evidence of use as cooking vessels. All of these urns are similar in type to examples found as part of the Kimpton Bronze Age cremation cemetery, near Andover (Dacre and Ellison 1981), although the Nursling examples appear to have resulted from settlement rather than funerary activity.

Roman

The Roman pottery from Area B forms the largest component of the total assemblage recovered. In total, 1,832 Roman sherds were found, including 29 sherds of samian, 141 sherds of other imported and Romano-British 'finewares' and 20 pieces of amphora. A preliminary scan of this material suggests a restricted date range, from the middle of the 1st century to the end of the 1st quarter of the 2nd century AD (*c.* AD 70-125). In general the condition of the Roman material is good, with large sherds enabling many refits to be made. Soil acidity has, however, affected the material and many of the softer fabrics, especially the samian and some of the fine-grained sandy wares, show considerable surface abrasion.

There are four fabric groups amongst the coarsewares: grog-tempered, finer grog and sand tempered, sandy, and a sand with flint tempered fabric. The potential to sub-divide further these groups into individual fabric types is readily apparent and may be chronologically significant. It is possible, given the location of the site, that unusual Continental imports, perhaps from Brittany and other areas of the Atlantic seaboard are present amongst the coarsewares. Jar forms are dominated by medium-sized bead-rim jars with large storage jars and a variety of other jar forms occurring in lesser numbers. Lid, open bowls and dishes as well as a small number of imitation Gallo-Belgic platter forms were also noted. Only two truly 2nd century forms were recognised, an everted rim jar and a flat-flanged bowl/dish sherd which was found during initial site cleaning after machine stripping.

Imports from Continental Europe include amphora, samian, and one unusual black colour-coated beaker with moulded decoration. Some of these imported vessels need to be investigated to determine the parts of Europe from which they originated. The location of the Nursling site with direct access

to cross-Channel trade via a navigable waterway highlights it as an ideal findspot for many of the rarer Continental imports. A white ring-necked flagon and sherds from at least two other flagons were also recovered. These may be British copies of Continental forms.

In general terms the Nursling assemblage is broadly comparable with the material recovered from the early stratified groups at Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, figs.19, 20 and 21), dated from *c.* AD 70-120 and by the Period 1 pottery (terminal date of *c.* AD 75/80) from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 175-217). Another probable chronological indicator is the absence of Dorset Black Burnished ware which occurs at both Bitterne and at Fishbourne from *c.* AD 120 onwards (Cotton and Gathercole 1958, fig.22, 3; Cunliffe 1971, fig.74, 2 and 3). The preliminary scan also hints at some differences in the composition of the assemblages from the first and second phase early Roman features. The first phase Roman features appear to contain predominantly grog-tempered wares, generally bead rim jar/bowl forms, while the majority of imported wares, fineware copies and the more 'exotic' coarseware vessel forms tend to occur in the second phase Roman features. The 'Romanised' sandy grey ware fabrics also occur more commonly in these second phase Roman groups.

Saxon

Two possible Saxon sherds, both in the same organic tempered fabric as those from Area A, and similarly severely abraded, were recognised. Both were found in clearance layers and may also represent fired clay objects, possibly of prehistoric date.

Medieval

Twenty-two medieval sherds were recovered, mostly of local origin, although a flat-topped rim sherd of Dorset quartz-tempered ware was recognised. This material ranges from the 13th-16th century in date. Seventeen of the medieval sherds were found during clearance after initial machine stripping. The remaining sherds were recovered from the upper fills of earlier features.

Post-medieval/Modern

Eleven sherds of 18th -20th century AD date were recovered, including red and buff earthenwares of various types such as those from the Verwood kilns in the New Forest, salt-glazed stoneware, and whiteware "china". The sherds was recovered from a field drain, clearance layers, or from the upper fillings of Roman features.

3.5 Worked and burnt stone

Nine pieces of worked stone were recovered from Area B. These comprise one complete and two fragments of saddle quernstone, two pieces of possible rotary quernstone, two pieces of possible rotary quern, and two pieces of local heathstone (iron-rich sandstone), one of which is burnt and the other possibly worked.

The rotary and the possible rotary querns fragments are made from Greensand from the Lodsworth quarry, West Sussex. The remaining pieces of worked stone are probably derived from local sources including an iron-rich sandstone, sarsen, and a Greensand-type rock. The saddle quern fragments were recovered from prehistoric and Early Roman features and the rotary querns from Early Roman features or clearance layers.

3.6 Ceramic building material

Twenty-five pieces of Roman brick and tile were recovered from the test pits in Area A. These fragments are too small to determine from which type of tile or size of brick they originated. All other (71 pieces) consisted of post-medieval and modern fragments of brick and peg roofing tile. Two fragments of roofing tile may be medieval in date.

The majority of ceramic building material (106 pieces) from Area B consisted of fragments of Roman roofing tile, either *imbrex* or *tegula*, and possible box or flue tiles. This material was recovered from clearance layers, or early Roman pits and ditches. The remainder consisted of post-medieval and modern brick and tile (37 pieces), and a possible medieval tile, recovered from post-medieval features.

3.7 Clay pipe

Fragments of three clay pipe stems were found in the test pits in Area A. None are decorated or bear any makers' marks.

3.8 Glass

The test pits in Area A produced 40 pieces of 19th-20th century glass, including both window and vessel glass. The nine pieces of glass from Area B are also of this date.

3.9 Fired clay material

A very small collection of fragments of fired clay material was recovered in Area B. These pieces do not represent any diagnostic objects. They were recovered in association with Roman pottery and ceramic building material.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

4.1 The sampling strategy

A total of 59 bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and charcoal. Soil sampling followed the requirements set out in the detailed project design. Bulk soil samples of 10 litres or 30 litres were taken from suitable Roman or prehistoric features respectively. Stakeholes and post-holes were not routinely sampled, although soil samples were collected from a selection of these features. Bulk soil samples of up to 50 litres were programmed to be taken from sealed Mesolithic features, but no suitable features were found. Similarly sampling of sealed Mesolithic contexts for pollen, using soil monoliths or detailed spot sampling, was not required. In addition the natural acidic ground soil conditions were not conducive to the preservation of marine shells, land and fresh-water snails or animal bone. None of these categories, with the exception of minute quantities of animal bone, were preserved.

4.2 Assessment

For assessment purposes 46% of the soil samples (i.e. 27) were processed. The remaining 32 samples are stored temporarily and will be dealt with appropriately following the recommendations/ proposals of this assessment. The aims of the palaeo-environmental assessment is to provide an indication of the presence, quantity and diversity of plant remains and charcoal and make statements of their quality, significance and palaeo-environmental potential within the context of both the excavated archaeological remains and of local and regional knowledge. A statement is presented for each category of palaeo-environmental material with reference to the quality of preservation, range, variety and local archaeological context.

4.3 Plant remains and charcoal

Twenty-seven bulk samples were processed by standard Wessex Archaeology flotation methods with the flot being retained on sieves of 0.5 mm mesh aperture and the residues to 1 mm. The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the semi-quantitative presence of charcoal, grain, chaff and weed seeds recorded and presented in Table 4. Limited species identifications were made by Michael Allen and Sarah Wyles. Charcoal greater than 5.6 mm was recorded from the flots and residues. Comments on the palaeo-environmental potential and significance are based on this tabulated data. The residues have not been systematically examined, except for the 5.6 mm fraction, which has been sorted and the residue recorded and discarded. Where analysis is recommended they will require sorting and extraction prior to analysis. Rapid scanning of the residues did not reveal mineralised or iron impregnated material and thus although the flot does not represent the entire plant remain assemblage, it is likely to be representative.

4.3.1 Results

Carbonised remains of grain, chaff, weed seeds and charcoal were recovered (Table 4) although, generally, only low quantities of carbonised material was present. Weed seeds were commonly recorded but in at

least nine of the flots these were noted as possibly modern as they were in abnormally good condition and still contained their intact *testa*.

Confirmation of whether these are modern (uncarbonised) was not made as this is a destructive process and should await analysis and identification prior to destructive confirmation. The collective combination of grain, chaff and weed seeds is important as the grain indicates the cereals cultivated, the chaff suggests the processing of harvested crops rather than sacks of grain being bought from market, and weed seeds can be used to indicate the nature of the local environment, the soil types cultivated and the time of year of the harvest.

Charcoal greater than 5.6 mm was present in most samples and fragments were large enough for identification purposes. However, the quantity from any single sample is probably not great enough for radiocarbon determinations (see section 4.6), but their use to identified utilised timbers and tree species is important.

Prehistoric - two samples were taken from a Bronze Age ditch in Area A, both samples were assessed. No grain or chaff was recovered in either sample. Small quantities of weed seeds, a fragment of hazelnut and charcoal were present. The carbonised hazelnut fragment is coincidental with the recovery of Mesolithic flints but may, like the flints (see 3.2.1 above), be redeposited.

Six samples were taken from three Middle Bronze Age ditches in Area B, one of which was assessed. This sample produced a poor carbonised assemblage with no grain or chaff. Weed seeds and charcoal were present.

Unphased possibly prehistoric - a curvilinear ditch in the west of area B is unphased. Seven samples were taken and two were assessed. The presence of grain, albeit in low quantities, is significant. This is, however, countered by the absence of chaff and weed seeds. Charcoal is present in significant quantities.

Early Roman 1 - samples from this phase are mainly restricted to ditches in Area B, but were taken along the length of the ditches to examine the spatial distribution of the remains as well as the economic and environmental potential. The aim of the assessment was, therefore, both to provide basic palaeo-environmental data, and to indicate areas of activity from the spatial and abundance distribution of charred remains within ditches. A total of 13 samples were taken, five of which were assessed.

The ditches produced little grain and chaff, but grain was recorded in low numbers. Weed seeds and charcoal were present in varying quantities along the ditches. A single vessel fill was assessed and contained little significant material with the exception of identifiable charcoal.

Early Roman 2 - a series of samples was taken from a mixture of different feature types and spatially distributed across the site. Twenty-five samples were taken of which 11 were assessed, with aims similar to those stated for the Early Roman Phase I.

Ditches produced poor quantities of grain, but weed seeds and charcoal were present and very little chaff was observed. In contrast, five samples from pits produced relatively high quantities of carbonised material and also included grain, chaff and weed seeds. Most of the grain observed appears to be *Triticum* spp. (wheat) with chaff, including rachis fragments and glume-bases. The weed seeds were predominantly

Chenopodium spp. (goose-foot family), *Gallium* spp. (bedstraws and cleavers), and cf. *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (brambles/blackberries etc.). A single vessel fill was assessed but the only carbonised material recovered was charcoal.

Unphased probably Roman - a number of features in area B east of Dairy lane are unphased but are probably Roman. Six samples from a range of feature types were taken and assessed. These samples produced the highest concentration of grain and other carbonised plant material despite being away from the supposed centre of occupation.

The assessed sample from a pit produced a high quantity of grain and this was accompanied by chaff and weed seeds. As in the Early Roman phase II, the cereals were *Triticum* spp. (wheat) and chaff includes both rachis and glume-base fragments. The wheat seems to be bread wheat which supports the suggestion of this feature being of Roman origin. These plant remains are significant in that information about crop cultivation, cereal processing and farming can be obtained. Although some of the weed seeds may be modern, *Chenopodium* spp. and *Gallium* spp. were predominant. The remaining features produced a relatively high quantity of charcoal but little in the way of other carbonised material.

4.4 Animal bone

Seventy-five fragments (87g) of animal bone were recovered of which six pieces (45g) were unburnt and 69 pieces (42g) were burnt. The unburnt pieces were recovered from the test pits in Area A and all the burnt animal bone was recovered from early Roman features in Area B. The survival of only minute quantities of burnt bone from Roman or earlier features results from the acidic soil conditions.

4.5 Absolute dating (by radiocarbon determinations)

The archaeological phases of the excavation from which the recovery of absolute dates would be desirable are the Mesolithic and Middle Bronze Age. There is no necessity to provide absolute dates for the Roman phasing as ceramic and artefactual evidence will provide a sufficiently accurate chronological framework.

The Mesolithic worked flint was recovered as redeposited material in later features and, therefore, no suitable sealed contexts were recovered and no suitable material exists to date. Soil samples were recovered from one ditch which contained a well sealed assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery. The samples produced limited quantities of charcoal (Table 4, sample 8019), insufficient for a standard radiocarbon determination. Further spot samples from the primary fill elsewhere along the same ditch however, should provide sufficient charcoal to enable a radiocarbon submission.

5.1 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Reappraisal of the original project aims

5.1.1 *Mesolithic*

The original project design identified the site as possessing considerable potential for providing substantive data regarding the character of Mesolithic settlement and landuse within the lower Test Valley. Eight aims concerned with the nature of Mesolithic occupation were set out in the design for the excavation:

- 1) to establish the similarity or differences with contemporary activity in the Test Valley;
- 2) to expand and compare the contemporary assemblage composition and technology;
- 3) to identify non-local resources for indications of extent of exploitation of resources or contact with other areas;
- 4) to seek to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions and utilisation of natural resources;
- 5) to establish whether the site is a 'home base' or 'hunting base';
- 6) to identify the types of activity undertaken on the site and establish the spatial relationship of the activities;
- 7) to determine the date of activity by absolute means;
- 8) to establish whether the activity was a single period or was of more than one distinct phases.

Six of these aims (1, 2, 3, 5 to 7 and 8) are directly related to the quality and context of the worked flint assemblage recovered from the site. Only those aims related to the characterisation of technology and raw material sources (2, 3 and 8) have been achieved by the excavation. Reasons for the general failure of the excavation to acquire data to meet the remaining aims centre around the nature of the deposits and the excavation strategy specified in the project design. These factors may be summarised as follows:

The redeposited nature of the assemblage and biased class group representation: subsoil features containing artefacts were all of later date and no traces of *in situ* contemporary occupation surfaces or features were identified. The relatively good condition of the assemblage reflects the operation of localised post-depositional processes favourable to its preservation within later features. The assemblage composition and spatial pattern may not, therefore, be representative of the range of on site activities or their spatial organisation but are more likely to be a product of the factors responsible for their preservation.

The worked flint assemblage from the test pits revealed the presence of tillage-induced bias in artefact size class representation. Most test pits contained artefacts less than 40 mm in size with only a few containing larger artefacts. This pattern of size class representation is likely to reflect the operation of sorting and inversion processes produced by some types of agricultural equipment. Large artefacts, more characteristic of a range of on site activities, are generally missing or under-represented in the assemblage recovered from the test pits.

when was this
decision made?
- did test pitting
clarify where test
artefacts were?

The removal of the upper ploughsoil profile by machine: agricultural activity from the Bronze Age onwards, has destroyed traces of Mesolithic occupation surfaces and shallow features. The evidence for on site activities and their spatial organisation that survives would, therefore, primarily occur in the form of ploughsoil artefact distributions. The excavation of the upper ploughsoil profile by machine as specified in the project design is likely, therefore, to have removed much of the surviving evidence of spatial organisation and removed most of the artefact population on which estimates of assemblage composition and site function are made.

Despite these limitations of the database, the worked flint assemblage has the potential to contribute towards the understanding of the technological characteristics of the assemblage and the clarification of the nature of raw material exploitation. Comparison of dated components of the assemblage to other dated assemblages within the lower Test Valley will be achievable. The assemblage also has the potential, through a comparative analysis of artefacts from different contexts, to assist in the identification of traces on artefacts diagnostic of some of the post-depositional processes responsible for assemblage formation.

Microstone analysis?

Project aims 4 and 7 relate to the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains from *in situ* Mesolithic deposits or other appropriate deposits. No such suitable contexts were identified during the excavation and these project aims are, therefore, not achievable.

5.1.2 Prehistoric

The project design identified the site as possessing potential for providing data regarding the character of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age settlement and landuse within the lower Test Valley. The design set out 10 aims for the excavation concerning the nature of later prehistoric occupation:

- 1) dating by absolute means;
- 2) defining the extent of prehistoric activity and determining whether the site had one or more focal points;
- 3) determining the nature of the activity and spatial relationships of activities;
- 4) estimating the population and seeking any indications of social organisation;
- 5) recovering information on agricultural and subsistence practices;
- 6) recovering ceramics to assist in pottery chronology;
- 7) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- 8) identifying non-local resources for indications of trade patterns or exploitation of differing geological areas;
- 9) comparing the type and size of settlement and associated agricultural/subsistence practices with later sites in the area;
- 10) comparing the type of occupation with chalkland sites in Wessex, in particular with respect to social/economic factors and agricultural/subsistence practices.

Although the excavation failed to realise the full potential for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation, the recovery of deposits, artefacts and palaeo-environmental remains primarily of Middle

Bronze Age date permits the project aims to be reviewed and an assessment of the extent to which they were fulfilled.

The majority of the project aims have been achieved although on a reduced scale to that originally anticipated. The primary limitations of the database are the redeposited nature of some of the pottery and worked flint of Neolithic and Bronze Age date; the limited number of securely dated Bronze Age deposits; their wide distribution across the site and the low quantities of other categories of material recovered.

Four of the aims, 2, 3, 8 and 10, relate to the quality and context of the worked flint assemblage. Of these only those related to the characterisation of raw material sources have the potential to be achieved by the data recovered from the site. The reasons for the failure of the excavation to meet the remaining aims are the same as those described for the Mesolithic period and centre around the redeposited nature of the assemblage and the removal of the upper ploughsoil profile by machine. A spatial analysis of the artefacts recovered from the later site phases has the potential to identify different activity foci within the site which will assist in the understanding of the character and nature of the prehistoric, including Mesolithic, occupation.

The prehistoric pottery assemblage has the potential to achieve or partially achieve aims 2, 3, 6, 8 and 10. The pottery evidence is dominated by the Middle Bronze Age urns from two ditches. In addition to redeposited artefacts of Neolithic date, the assemblage of prehistoric artefacts provides indicators of activity from c. 3000-1000 BC. The absence of any occupation indicators for the period between the Mesolithic and Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age provides information regarding changes in the nature of prehistoric activity at this time. Most important is the preservation of the Middle Bronze Age urns and the information they provide about the social and economic activities which took place in the Lower Test Valley and the relationships of the occupants at Nursling to those elsewhere in the area. These non-funerary deposits of pottery vessels are significant due to the general paucity of settlement material in the Middle Bronze Age, a period which is presently dominated by cemetery evidence. The ceramic assemblage, however, is too small to consider spatial distribution of activities across the site or to consider the estimation of population and indicators of social organisation.

Palaeo-environmental evidence from the Middle Bronze Age features is poor and the potential for achieving project aims 5, 7, 9 and 10 is low. The absence of grain and chaff from assessed samples reduces the potential for examining the nature of the farming economy, although the presence of charcoal and weed seeds has the potential to examine the nature of the local contemporary environment, and provide the basis for examining environmental changes and developments adjacent to the floodplain and the human impact on the environmental resource in later (Roman) periods. The charcoal recovered from the assessed sample indicates that there should be sufficient to obtain a radiocarbon determination (Aim 1). The restricted occurrence and spatial distribution of the prehistoric features will not allow information on spatial distributions of activities from the environmental remains.

5.1.3 *Late Iron Age/Roman*

The evaluation established the potential for Iron Age and Roman settlement remains within the site area. The project design set out seven aims for the excavation for this phase of activity.

- 1) understanding the character and nature of the occupation of this part of a presumed much / larger settlement
- 2) establishing the date of the commencement and end of the occupation and if occupation was continuous
- 3) obtaining evidence of the economy of the site and any changes over time particularly at the time of the Roman Conquest
- 4) recovering artefacts to establish trade patterns which would indicate the social position of the site
- 5) comparing the river valley settlement with Hampshire chalkland sites for differences and similarities
- 6) comparing the Iron Age element with the earlier prehistoric elements to achieve prehistoric aim 9)
- 7) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to place the site in its local environment

The majority of the project aims were achieved and the excavation of the Roman site phases has produced a database of higher quality than might have been anticipated from the evaluation results. All of aims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 can be fully achieved and aims 4 and 5 can be expanded. Aims that were not achieved, namely the second part of aim 3 and aim 6, result only from the absence of an Iron Age phase.

The Roman phase produced a range of archaeological features comprising part of an early Roman settlement site. The stratigraphic associations, spatial distribution, and intensive and extensive sampling of these features will allow the character, chronology and interpretation of the excavation sequence to be established. These excavated features represent a sample of unknown size of a more extensive settlement complex to the south and south-east. The structural data is supported by a well-preserved pottery assemblage, which is chronologically restricted and uncontaminated by redeposited Roman material. This, in combination with the site stratigraphy, will provide accurate dating of the commencement, duration and end of occupation.

The pottery assemblage contains an unusually high number and range of imported fine and coarseware vessels and a variety of functional forms, characteristics more typically associated with assemblages recovered from urban contexts than rural settlement sites. The assemblage has the potential to provide data on the economy of the site, external trading links, site function and status. The date and character of the pottery assemblage makes comparisons with pottery of similar date from other sites in the vicinity of primary importance in achieving these aims. Suitable assemblages might include urban sites and ports, such as those from Bitterne (Cotton and Gathercole 1958) and other more recent excavations within the city of Southampton, Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971), Chichester and Winchester; rural sites from the Hampshire chalklands such as Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, 69-76), Micheldever Wood (Hawkes 1987, 27-33) and Twyford Down (Stuart and

Birkbeck 1936 and recent excavations by WA) as well as small rural sites like those at Ashley (Neal 1980) and East Horton Farm near Fair Oak (WA 1989, unpub. client report).

The low quantity and range of other categories of Roman material, such as metalwork, ceramic building material, and worked stone, is notable and has implications for site function, economy and status. The absence of high quality objects of other categories of material compared to the quality of the pottery assemblage needs to be reconciled. This has added importance in view of the discovery of a high number and quality of objects of metalwork, from the presumed same settlement site to the south-east. It should be noted that comparison of the finds assemblage from the present excavations with those recovered from the Nursling Roman settlement identified in the 1800s is achievable and desirable, although beyond the scope of this project work.

The characteristics of the pottery assemblage can be compared to the palaeo-environmental evidence. The recovery of plant remains from Roman contexts has the potential to provide information on local farming, cultivation, processing and harvesting. Evidence for the local agricultural economy of the settlement will be reconciled with the other evidence for the status of the settlement, including the possibility that the site represents a port or trading centre and that agricultural produce was being imported or being prepared for export. Due to the restricted time depth of the Roman features, there is limited scope to examine changes in the local agricultural economy over time.

Identifiable charcoal is present in the Roman phases and will enable the tree species to be identified. This will provide an indication of structural timbers and utilised wood, the species selected for firewood, and the range of tree species which will help determine the nature of the floodplain environment. Changes in the floodplain environment within the Roman period and between the Roman and prehistoric periods should be attainable.

No aims were established in the project design for features and materials post-dating the Roman occupation of the site. The small number of post-medieval features and small quantities of possibly Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery and other material that were recovered, therefore, have no potential to meet the stated aims of the fieldwork. The possible Saxon pottery is of local importance by virtue of its rarity and all the material does have a low potential to assist in establishing the post-Roman history of the site.

5.2 Revised project aims

5.2.1 *Mesolithic*

The redeposited nature of the Mesolithic worked flint assemblage recovered and the absence of contemporary palaeo-environmental data from Area A have required a substantial revision and reduction of the aims achievable. The revised aims for this period are:

- Aim 1)** to establish the nature of activity within the limitations of the database ✓
- Aim 2)** to establish the relative date of activity ✓
- Aim 3)** to establish the technological characterisation of the assemblage as a whole and the comparison of dated components to similarly dated assemblages within the lower Test Valley ✓
- Aim 4)** to characterise the sources of the raw materials for indications of the exploitation of different geological areas and/or exchange networks. ✓
- Aim 5)** to identify the post-depositional processes responsible for assemblage formation and the characterisation of their traces left on artefacts ✓

5.2.2 *Other Prehistoric*

The revised project aims are more modest than those originally proposed in view of the reduced quality, quantity and distribution of evidence for prehistoric activity from the site. The revised aims for this period are as follows:

- Aim 6)** to date by absolute means and by ceramic evidence the chronology of the Middle Bronze Age features ✓
- Aim 7)** to determine the nature and extent of prehistoric activities across the site ✓
- Aim 8)** to establish through palaeo-environmental remains the local environmental conditions and the farming economy during the Middle Bronze Age and to compare this data with other contemporary chalkland and other sites in Wessex
- Aim 9)** to determine the nature and characteristics of the worked flint and ceramic assemblages and to compare the dated components to similarly dated assemblages from chalkland sites in Wessex ✓
- Aim 10)** to characterise the raw material sources for indications of the exploitation of different geological areas and/or exchange and trade networks ✓

5.2.3 Roman

The revised project aims mirror those presented by the original project design although the quality of the results allow the aims to be expanded.

Aim 11) to understand the character and nature of the occupation of this part of a larger settlement

Aim 12) to establish the date of the commencement and end of the occupation and if the occupation was continuous ✓

Aim 13) to obtain evidence of the trading and agricultural economy of the site and any changes within the early Roman period ✓

Aim 14) to analyse artefacts and ecofacts to establish trade patterns which would indicate the social position and function of the site ✓

Aim 15) to compare the river valley settlement with other coastal sites, chalkland sites and rural settlements to establish similarities and differences ✓

Aim 16) to recover palaeo-environmental remains to establish the local site environment

2
REMOVED FROM
PROJECT

5.3 Objectives

The objectives of the post-excavation stage of the project are as follows:

- to produce an integrated and synthesised report on the results of the excavation for dissemination via an academic article in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, through the analysis of the primary excavation data to the appropriate level of detail to meet the project aims outlined in para. 5.2 above, and
- to create a fully ordered and indexed research archive of a sufficient standard to be deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service, Winchester

6 METHOD STATEMENT

6.1 Post-excavation methodology

The following methods are proposed as those necessary to achieve these stated objectives. As required by the original project design, each proposed method, where appropriate, is explicitly linked to the achievement of the research aims outlined in para. 5.2. Each method has also been allocated a unique task reference. The staff and man-days required to achieve each task is presented in Section 7.1 and a Gantt chart, presenting the task sequence required to complete the post-excavation and publication programme is presented in Section 7.3.

6.1.1 *The structural evidence*

Task 1 Microfiching of the site archive

The field and assessment archive will be security copied on to microfiche and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record prior to the commencement of the post-excavation analyses. Some ordering, cleaning and indexing of the archive will be required prior to microfiching.

Task 2, Aims 1-16 Stratigraphic analysis

The preparation of preliminary phasing and contextual data for the site will be critical for all subsequent site, artefact and ecofact analyses. This will involve the preparation of matrices for each site area and this data will be combined with spot-dating of the pottery from each context to establish preliminary site phases supported by preliminary phase plans. This stage of work will provide the basic framework around which the finds and environmental analyses can be undertaken.

The preliminary site phasing will ultimately be reviewed and revised in the light of the finds and environmental analyses. This will enable an interpretative report text and illustrations to be prepared outlining the principal site developments by chronological period (see Task 19).

6.1.2 *The finds analysis*

Task 3, Aims 11, 14 and 15 Copper alloy

The copper alloy brooch will be described and illustrated after careful cleaning and conservation, will be compared to that from published collections in southern Britain and northwest Europe. Conservation work will include consolidation to prevent further loss of enamel, removal of soil and corrosion products, stabilisation, repair lacquering to protect during any further handling procedures, and packaging for long-term storage.

Task 4, Aim 11, 14, and 15 Ironwork

The iron nails will be quantified and summarised by table. The Roman bucket handle will be x-radiograph, cleaned, stabilised to prevent further corrosion, lacquered to prevent damage during handling, and packaged for long-term curation. After conservation work, the object will be described and illustrated and similar types of handle will be sought to determine whether this object is a common site find in southern England during the Roman period or whether it is special. The wood adhering to the corrosion product of the bucket handle will be identified to species.

Task 5, Aims 1-5, 7 and 9 Worked flint

The assemblage will be analysed to Data Levels 4-5. (Data Levels refers to guidelines prepared by Wessex Archaeology for the processing and analysis of artefact assemblages. A summary of the guidelines is presented at the rear of this document and further information is available on request.) The worked flint will be quantitatively described and analysed. A detailed attribute analysis (metric description) will be carried out, which will aim to record technological and trace attributes on individual artefacts. These will be related to deposit characteristics and other artefact categories, and comparisons made with other assemblages within the area. Descriptive statistics, contingency table analysis and rank correlation will be employed. The bulk sampling strategies employed for artefact recovery will also be reviewed. A text report with supporting data quantified and presented graphically will be prepared.

Task 6, Aims 5 and 7 Worked flint spatial analysis

A detailed quantitative analysis will be carried out to assess the spatial patterning of artefacts at the intra-site scale. This will be related to archaeological features and site phases, and will attempt to assess changes in the character of site occupation between phases. Isopleth (contour) mapping and isometric wire frame surfaces of artefact frequencies, contingency table analysis and rank correlation methods will be employed. Excavation strategies as they relate to the recovery of spatial information will also be reviewed. A report with supporting quantitative data tabulated and presented graphically will be prepared.

Task 7, Aims 1, 5 and 7 Unworked burnt flint

The potential to use the occurrence, density and mean piece size of unworked burnt flint to enhance the investigation of the Mesolithic and general prehistoric activity at this location can be accomplished by computer-generated spatial distribution plots of the burnt flint by feature for both Areas A and B. A total of six maps will be produced to assist in this analysis.

Task 8, Aims 6, 7, 9 and 10 Prehistoric pottery

The collection will be analysed to Data Levels 4-5 and the data quantitatively described. This will provide the basis upon which to determine the date of the pottery and the similarities and differences between this material and assemblages from elsewhere. The diagnostic characteristics of this material will be presented in report form. The distribution, and the nature of these locations, of the pottery

types and their associations with types of worked flint will be addressed to assist in an understanding of the deposition and re-deposition processes which account for their preservation.

Task 9, Aims 11-15 Roman pottery

The poor condition of the Roman pottery from the test pits in Area A is typical of assemblages predominantly recovered from the ploughsoil. No further analysis is proposed for this material .

The early Roman assemblage from Area B and stratified material from Area A will be analysed to Data levels 4 - 5. The data will be presented in a quantified format and a full text report on the fabrics, forms, surface treatments and decoration, based on a site-specific type series, will be prepared. This will provide the basis for further refinement of the dating of the collection as well as broader comparisons of intra-site variability in assemblage composition and function, methods of production, and trade and exchange links with other assemblages from the area.

Illustrated material will be selected on the basis of key groups or examples representative of ceramic phasing, with additional sherds selected to illustrate any elements of the type series not included in these groups.

Specialist examination of the Area B assemblage ^{how much is f} may be undertaken to establish the range, nature and dating of possible Continental imports. The identification and publication of these little-known trading links, is also recommended. Specialist input in the form of petrological analysis through thin section identification of up to c. 20 vessels, most probably the coarsewares, may also be appropriate to clarify sources and to characterise these imported wares. Such decisions will await further analysis of the assemblage.

Task 10 Possible Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

Confirmation of the identification of the Saxon pottery will be sought during analysis of the prehistoric and Roman pottery. Comparison of the material with other sites, for example Saxon Southampton will be sought. Otherwise no further work will be undertaken on this material.

Task 11, Aims 7, 10, 11 and 13 Worked stone

Each object will be catalogued to include geological source, form type, and size. The source for the different stone types will be determined by petrological analysis, if necessary. A report will be prepared which discusses the differences between the prehistoric quern types and the Roman quern types, both in terms of form and sources. None of the pieces will be illustrated.

Task 12, Aims 11 and 15 Ceramic building material

The Roman ceramic building material from Areas A and B will be classified by fabric and form and compared to similar material from the Roman settlement at Bitterne, Southampton and other rural settlement sites. The quantity of ceramic building material in relation to the quantity of pottery from each phase of activity will help to assess the frequency of clay roofed buildings at this location within the Nursling Roman settlement versus that at Bitterne and other rural sites of similar date such as

Chichester and Winchester. Spatial distribution will assist in determining whether clay roofed buildings occurred in one or more areas of the site. This degree of analysis is commensurate with Data Levels 4 and 5. No illustrations will be undertaken. No further work is proposed for the medieval, post-medieval and modern ceramic building material.

Metalworking evidence, clay pipe, glass and fired clay

No further work will be undertaken on these unstratified materials.

6.1.3 *The environmental analysis*

Task 13 Sample processing

Standard Wessex Archaeology methods will be used in processing and identifying the environmental data. The initial processes will involve the processing of all samples to ensure that they are in a stable and archiveable form. This will enable further rapid assessment and selection of specific samples for the analysis programmes outlined below. Extraction and sorting of all selected samples will be undertaken to extract identifiable plant remains and charcoal to be analysed.

Task 14, Aim 7, 8, 11 and 13-16 Plant remains

Analysis will be at two levels; a programme of quantification of grain from all samples to indicate areas designated for specific activities or tasks and to provide information on the spatial use of the site. The second is detailed analysis of selected samples (see Table 5) to identify all plant remains.

Task 15, Aims 6, 8 and 16 Charcoal

Charcoal identification of selected samples (Table 5). Following identification, samples from the Middle Bronze Age and as yet unphased prehistoric ditches will be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Task 17 Burnt animal bone

Material from stratified contexts identified to species and tabulated. No further work is proposed.

6.1.4 *Report preparation*

The above tasks contribute towards the completion of a publication report on the results of the archaeological project. The proposed format and synopsis for the publication report is presented in section 6.3. The principal elements involved in the completion of a publication report that are not included in the detailed proposals set out above (section 6.2) are as follows:

- **Task 18** the preparation of an introduction to the project, the background to the site and its archaeology and accompanying figures

- **Task 19** the preparation of an interpretative site description and illustrations, outlining the principal site developments by chronological period
- **Task 22** the preparation of a discussion and synthesis and accompanying figures, drawing on the results and conclusions of the individual structural, finds and environmental reports and any additional background research. The discussion should especially reflect the degree to which the revised project aims have been achieved
- **Tasks 24-28** the preparation of the discussion and synthesis will represent the last element in the production of a draft publication report. At this stage the Wessex Archaeology's Reports Manager will oversee the final production stages required to publication. This will include internal editing of the draft report, circulation to external referees, the co-ordination of comments and the implementation of final revisions, the submission of the report for publication and proof reading prior to publication
- **Task 29** the post-excavation analyses will generate additional archive material which will be added to the research archive in due course. On completion of the full project programme, the archive will be ordered and indexed for ultimate deposition with the Hampshire County Museum Service. As required by the original project design, Wessex Archaeology has been in contact with the Keeper of Archaeology and the requirements and conditions of deposition have been established.
- **Task 30** during the course of the post-excavation programme, overall project supervision and monitoring will be undertaken by a Project Manager. The Project Manager assumes overall responsibility for the organisation, implementation and execution of the project specification. Other key staff are also delegated supervisory roles within the project as well as having a direct input into the analyses and report. These staff include the Finds and Archives Manager, Environmental Manager and Reports Manager. In order to maintain overall quality standards the progress of the project will be monitored by an Assistant Director.

6.2 Proposed report synopsis

It is currently proposed to submit the final report manuscript for publication in the *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*. The proposed format of the report is outlined below. Precise details of section headings, word lengths and illustration titles have not been attempted as it is recognised that the processes of analysis outlined in this document may produce additional and unforeseen information that will necessitate some revision to the content and layout of the final report.

Section heading	Subsection headings	Page length (c. 800 words max.)	Figures & plates (page or part-page)
Summary		¼ page	
Introduction	Project background	1 page	1
	Archaeological background	1 page	1
	Excavation methods	1 page	
Site description by period	Mesolithic	1 page	1
	Neolithic and Early Bronze Age	¼ page	
	Middle Bronze Age	1 page	2
	Early Roman	4-6 pages	4-5
	Post-Roman activities at the site	½ page	
The finds	Flint, worked, unworked, and burnt	4-6 pages	1
	Prehistoric pottery	1 pages	1
	Roman pottery	6-8 pages	3-4
	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery	¼ page	
	Metalwork	¼ page	1
	Worked stone	½ page	
	Ceramic building material	¼ page	
Environmental evidence	Plant remains	1½ pages	
	Charcoal	1 page	
Discussion	Mesolithic and later prehistoric activity, landuse and environment and comparanda with local and regional data	1-2 pages	1
	The early Roman field system and enclosures, their setting and uses and comparanda with local and regional data	2-4 pages	2
	Landuses after the end of Roman occupation and comparanda with local and regional data	½ page	
The project archive		½ page	
Bibliography		2 pages	
Acknowledgements		¼ page	
		31-40	18-20
Final report length c. 40-50 pages			

7 TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

7.1 Task list

The following table lists the main tasks involved in achieving the project objectives and states the personnel and time in days required to achieve each task. Proposed personnel and their qualifications are listed in section 7.2 and a Gantt chart indicating the proposed sequence of tasks required to complete the project is presented in section 7.3.

TASK	AIMS	PERSONNEL	DURATION
Stratigraphic analysis			
1. Archive ordering and microfiching prior to analyses		Project Officer 1 Supervisor Finds and Archives Manager	3 days 1 day ¼ day
2. Stratigraphic analysis	1-16	Project Officer 1 Supervisor	7 days 3 days
Finds analysis			
3. Copper alloy	11, 14, 15	Project Officer 2 Conservator	1 day 1 day
4. Ironwork	11, 14, 15	Project Officer 2 Conservator Archaeo-botanist	1 day 3 days ¼ day
5. Worked flint	1-5, 7, 9	Project Officer 3	15 days
6. Worked flint spatial analysis	5, 7	Project Officer 3	15 days
7. Unworked burnt flint	1, 5, 7	Project Officer 3	2 days
8. Prehistoric pottery	6, 7, 9, 10	Finds and Archives Manager	3 days
9. Roman pottery	11-15	Project Officer 2 Specialist - samian Specialist - other imports Petrological analysis specialist	22 days 1 day 1 day 3 days
10. Saxon and medieval pottery		Project Officer 2	1 day
11. Worked stone	7, 10, 11, 13	Finds and Archives Manager Petrologist	1 day ½ day
12. Ceramic building material	11, 15	Project Officer 2	2 days
Environmental analysis			
13. Sample processing		Environmental Technician	15 days
14. Plant remains	7, 8, 11, 13-16	Specialist	8 days
15. Charcoal	6, 8, 16	Specialist	5 days
16. Radiocarbon determinations		Specialists	n/a
17. Burnt animal bone		Environmental Manager	¼ day

.....continued over

...Task List continued

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION
Publication Report Preparation and Archiving		
18. Introduction and background	Project Officer 1 Project Manager	3 days 2 days
19. Structural reports	Project Officer 1 Supervisor	20 days 5 days
20. Editing of finds reports	Finds and Archives Manager	2 days
21. Editing of environmental reports	Environmental Manager	2 days
22. Discussion and synthesis	Project Officer 1 Project Manager	15 days 10 days
23. Illustrations	Drawing Office	35 days
24. Internal editing	Reports Manager	2 days
25. External refereeing	Academic referees County Archaeological Officer ✓	n/a n/a
26. Final revisions	Project Officer 1 Reports Manager	10 days 2 days
27. Proof reading	Project Officer 1 Reports Manager	2 days 1 day
28. Publication	n/a	n/a
29. Final archive preparation and deposition	Supervisor Finds and Archives Manager	2 days ¼ day
30. Project management, liaison and project meetings	Assistant Director Project Manager Finds and Archives Manager Environmental Manager Reports Manager Other staff within proposed allocations	3 days 10 days 2 days 5 days 3 days

7.2 Personnel

The following Wessex Archaeology staff and nominated specialists are currently proposed to undertake the post-excavation analysis, report production and archive deposition.

Nominated Wessex Archaeology Personnel

Assistant Director	- Susan M Davies BA, FSA, MIFA
Project Manager	- Roland Smith BA, AIFA
Finds and Archives Manager	- Elaine Morris PhD, MIFA
Environmental Manager	- Michael J Allen BSc, MIFA
Reports Manager	- Julie Gardiner PhD, FSA, MIFA
Project Officer 1	- Neil Adam BA, AIFA
Project Officer 2	- Rachael Seager Smith BA
Project Officer 3	- William Boismier BA, MA, MPhil, MIFA
Supervisor	- Vaughan Birbeck BSc, PIFA
Environmental Technician	- Sarah Wyles BA

Nominated External Specialist Personnel

Conservator	- Conservation Consortium, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Service
Specialist samian	- Brenda Dickinson, 6 Parkland Terrace, Leeds
Specialist other imports	- Mark Wood, University of Reading
Petrological analysis	- Dr D Williams, University of Southampton
Petrologist	- Professor D Peacock, University of Southampton
Specialist plant remains	- Pat Hinton
Specialist charcoal	- Rowena Gale
Radiocarbon determinations	- Scottish Universities Research Reactor
Academic Referees	- Dr Clive Gamble, University of Southampton - Professor M G Fulford, University of Reading

8 REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 References

- Cotton, M A. and Gathercole, P W. 1958 *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton, 1951 - 1954*, London.
- Cunliffe, B W. 1971 *Excavations at Fishbourne, 1961 - 1969: Vol. 2 The Finds*, Rept. Res. Comm. Soc. Antiq. London, 27, Leeds.
- Dacre, M, and Ellison, A, 1981 "A Bronze Age urn cemetery at Kimpton, Hampshire" *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 47, 147-204
- Hawkes, J W., 1985 'The Roman Pottery', in PJ Fasham, *The Prehistoric Settlement at Winnall Down, Winchester*, Hampshire Field Club Monograph no. 2, 69 - 76.
- Hawkes, J W., 1987 "The Pottery", in PJ. Fasham, *A Banjo Enclosure in Micheldever Wood, Hampshire*, Hamps. Field Club monograph no. 5, 27 - 33.
- Morris, E. L. 1992a *Data Levels Guidelines*, Wessex Archaeology Guidelines No. 2, Salisbury.
- Morris, E. L. 1992b *Finds Processing*, Wessex Archaeology Guidelines No. 3, Salisbury.
- Neal, DS., 1980 "Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement sites at Little Somborne and Ashley, Hampshire", *Proc. Hants. Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* 36, 91 - 143.
- Stuart, JDM. and Birkbeck, JM., 1936 "A Celtic village on Twyford Down - excavated 1933 - 1934", *Proc. Hants. Field Club Archaeol. Soc.* , 188 - 212.
- Walker, K. 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, UKIC Archaeology Section, The Museums and Galleries Commission, London.
- Wessex Archaeology 1989 'W188 East Horton Farm, Hampshire', unpublished client report, Salisbury.

8.2 Acknowledgements

The project has been entirely funded by Tesco, and particular thanks are due to Mr A Mace, Projects Co-ordinator and Financial Controller. The project was co-ordinated through Kyle Stewart Design Services, and the co-operation of Mr Gordon Higham and Mr Peter Jordan is acknowledged.

The fieldwork was managed for Wessex Archaeology by R J C Smith, directed by N J Adam and supervised by V Birbeck, K Ritchie and M Gauden, with finds work by H Beamish. This assessment report has been compiled by R J C Smith, M J Allen, E L Morris, W Boismier and R H Seager Smith.

The collaborative role of Hampshire County Council during the course of the project is acknowledged.

TABLE 1 Summary of all excavated finds by area (weight in grammes)

Material	Area A		Area B		Site Total	
	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight
Metalwork:						
copper alloy	-	-	1	-	1	-
iron	14	-	32	-	46	-
slag	1	16	1	28	2	44
Worked Flint	1,638	-	251	-	1,889	-
Burnt Flint	2,729	38,216	8,715	121,457	11,444	159,673
Pottery: Total	340	1,420	2,431	35,385	2,771	36,805
prehistoric	57	-	566	-	623	
Roman	158	-	1,832	-	1,990	
Saxon	9	-	2	-	11	
medieval	63	-	21	-	84	
post-medieval/modern	53	-	10	-	63	
Worked Stone	-	-	9	>2 kg.	9	>2 kg.
Ceramic Building Material:						
Roman	25	295	106	3,219	131	3,514
medieval	2	60	1	22	3	88
post-medieval/modern	71	741	37	3,278	108	4,019
Clay Pipe	3	6	-	-	3	6
Glass	40	202	9	452	49	654
Fired Clay	-	-	26	132	26	132

TABLE 2 Worked flint: artefacts recovered from excavated contexts Area A and B

	AREA A				AREA B
	Test pits	Bronze Age	Roman	Misc. features	All contexts
FLAKE	492	200	50	41	156
FLAKE FRAG	72	40	4	-	20
BURNT FLAKE	14	54	1	-	5
BLADE	99	174	15	20	30
BLADE FRAG	64	96	3	11	11
BURNT BLADE	13	52	1	-	1
FLAKE CORE	21	12	2	-	6
FLAKE CORE FRAG	5	3	-	-	1
BURNT FLAKE CORE	1	-	-	-	1
BLADE CORE	6	5	1	3	1
BLADE CORE FRAG	4	1	-	-	-
BURNT BLADE CORE	1	-	-	-	-
CORE RENEWAL FLAKE	3	10	1	1	1
BURNT CORE RENEWAL FLAKE	2	-	-	-	-
CORE SHATTER	3	11	4	1	13
BURNT CORE SHATTER	2	-	-	-	-
UNDIAGNOSTIC	13	1	-	-	-
MISC. DEBITAGE	1	-	-	-	1
MICROLITH	4	6	1	-	-
SCRAPER	1	2	-	-	1
OTHER TOOL	1	5	-	-	2
HAMMERSTONE	4	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	819	678	79	62	251

TABLE 3 Worked flint: assemblage condition Area A and B

	Unpatinated	Patinated	Edge Damage	Rolled
Area A: Test pits	448	371	645	5
Bronze Age features	417	261	89	1
Roman features	42	37	24	1
Misc. features	49	33	28	4
TOTAL	956	702	786	11
Area B: TOTAL	151	100	133	-

TABLE 4

Assessment data of the carbonised plant and charcoal material

Sample	Feature	Flot size (ml)	grain	chaff	weed seeds	Flot Charcoal >5.6 mm	Residue Charcoal >5.6 mm
Area A - Prehistoric							
6120	Ditch 7222	25	-	-	C	C	-
6124	Ditch 7222	25	-	-	C	C	-
Area B - Middle Bronze Age							
8019	Ditch 3657	25	-	-	C	B	-
Area B - Unphased possibly Prehistoric							
8013	Ditch 3579	15	C	-	C	C	10
8012	Ditch 3579	15	-	-	C	C	7
Area B - Roman I							
8008	Ditch 3022	25	-	-	A	-	-
8011	Ditch 3006	25	-	-	A	C	1
8020	Ditch 3198	40	-	-	B	-	-
8026	Ditch 3656	10	-	-	C	-	-
8025	Ditch 3656	15	C	-	C	B	-
8000	Vessel 8517	15	-	-	-	A	-
Area B - Roman II							
8002	Ditch 3335	15	C	-	C	C	-
8003	Ditch 3283	5	-	-	B	C	-
8004	Ditch 3283	5	-	-	C	-	-
8014	Ditch 3283	5	-	-	-	-	-
8015	Ditch 3283	5	-	-	-	-	-
8016	Pit 3291	25	-	C	-	A	-
8017	Pit 3291	10	C	-	C	-	-
8018	Pit 3292	15	A	-	B	-	-
8022	Pit 3420	40	C	-	B	A	6
8024	Pit 3516	25	-	-	C	A	-
8001	Vessel 8522	25	-	-	-	A	32
Area B - Unphased probably Roman							
8005	Pit 3043	25	A	C	C	C	-
8009	Posthole 3099	25	-	-	B	C	-
8010	Posthole 3009	20	C	-	-	B	-
8006	Posthole 3053	25	C	-	B	C	9
8007	Posthole 3053	20	-	-	B	C	1

Key to table

- = no material observed C = 1-5 examples B = 6-10 examples A = >10 examples

Charcoal from >5.6 mm residue recorded by actual fragment number

NOTE Posthole = postholes and hearths and small pits

TABLE 5 Samples proposed for plant remains and charcoal

Feature	samples assessed	samples not processed	analysis target (i.e. to extract)	to process
Area A - Prehistoric				
Ditch 7222	6120		[P] = 0 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Ditch 7222	6124		[P] = 0 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Area B - Middle Bronze Age				
Ditch 3657	8019	8028, 8029, 8030	[P] = 4 [C] = 3 T = 4	3
Ditch 3639	-	8031	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 2	
Ditch 3637	-	8032		
Area B - Unphased - probably prehistoric				
Ditch 3579	8013	8051	[P] = 2 [C] = 1 T = 2	1
Ditch 3579	8012	8053, 8054	[P] = 2 [C] = 1 T = 3	2
Ditch 3579	-	8055, 8056	[P] = 1 [C] = 0 T = 1	2
Area B - Roman I				
Ditch 3022	8008	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 0 T = 0	0
Ditch 3124	-	8048		
Ditch 3124	-	8049, 8050	[P] = 1 [C] = 2 T = 4	4
Ditch 3198	-	8052		
Ditch 3198	8020	-		
Ditch 3656	-	8027		
Ditch 3656	-	8038, 8039	[P] = 2 [C] = 2 T = 4	3
Ditch 3656	8026	-		
Ditch 3656	8025	-		
Pit 3305	-	8047	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 1	1
Vessel 8517	8000	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Area B - Roman II				
Ditch 3283	-	8035, 8036		
Ditch 3283	8014	-	[P] = 2 [C] = 2 T = 4	4
Ditch 3283	8003, 8004	-		
Ditch 3283	-	8033, 8034		
Ditch 3335	8002	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 0 T = 1	1
Ditch 3335	-	8058		
Ditch 3283	8015	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 0 T = 0	0
Ditch 3319	-	8037	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 4	2
Ditch 3319	-	8057		
?well 3291	8016, 8017	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 2	0
Pit 3292	8018	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 0 T = 1	0
Pit 3516	8024	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Pit 3420	8022	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Pit 3534	-	8040, 8043, 8044	[P] = 2 [C] = 1 T = 2	3
Pit 3631	-	8040, 8041, 8045, 8046	[P] = 2 [C] = 1 T = 2	4
Vessel 8522	8001	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Area B - Unphased probably Roman				
Ditch 3006	8011	-	[P] = 0 [C] = 0 T = 0	0
Pit 3043	8005	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 1	0
Posthole 3099	8009, 8010	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 2	0
Posthole 3053	8006, 8007	-	[P] = 1 [C] = 1 T = 2	0
Total	27	32	[P]=23 [C]=25 T=39	32

[P] = Plant remains [C] = Charcoal T = Target

Summary

The creation of the *Data Levels Guidelines* formalizes the kinds of processing and analysis which Wessex Archaeology has been conducting for the past ten years. It provides a structure for finds work. It is to be used as part of the finds assessment and report production procedures. Figure 1 presents a flow diagram indicating how these procedures are conducted and how the Data Levels develop. Copies of the recording forms mentioned are included at the end of this document.

§ Data Level 1

Record presence; do not collect. This level can be used in fieldwalking if experienced personnel are participating. It is a level of recording which could be used to enhance information about an area which has been well-documented archaeologically. The present state of knowledge precludes the use of this level, except in rare instances where a sample of the material can be retained to confirm observations in the field.

§ Data Level 2

This is the basic finds records: for bulk finds, this is the *Context Finds Record*; for objects, this includes the seven mandatory fields of the *Object Record* (see *WA Guideline No. 3*). This level is the minimum requirement in order to provide quantified data about each material type by context or by collection unit. For excavated artefacts, preparation of the *Finds Index by Material (Category)*, which lists and quantifies each material type by context and summarizes the information, is necessary. This can be done by entering all the Context Finds and Object Records onto a computer database, or can be calculated manually. Include all material recovered from samples selected for artefact analysis, and artefacts recovered from environmental samples if required.

§ Data Level 3

Spot-date for general date range of the material and scan to assess the nature and quality of the material, using the *Scanning* and *Spot-dating sheets* or those specifically targeted for particular materials such as the *Ceramic building materials* and *Stone or Clay pipe spot-dating and scanning sheets*. The scan may include an assessment as to whether the material is representative of primary deposition or mainly redeposited material, activity areas, or evidence for a building. Give the reasons for date range, such as specific types of pottery or metalwork. Determine if a selection of the material type is necessary or whether the full collection is to be analysed. Prepare a series of questions to be asked of the material type and the analytical methods to be implemented. The general dating and quantification information from Data Level 3 can be used to assist in the preparation of evaluation or watching brief reports, and provide information for SMR work.

§ Data Level 4

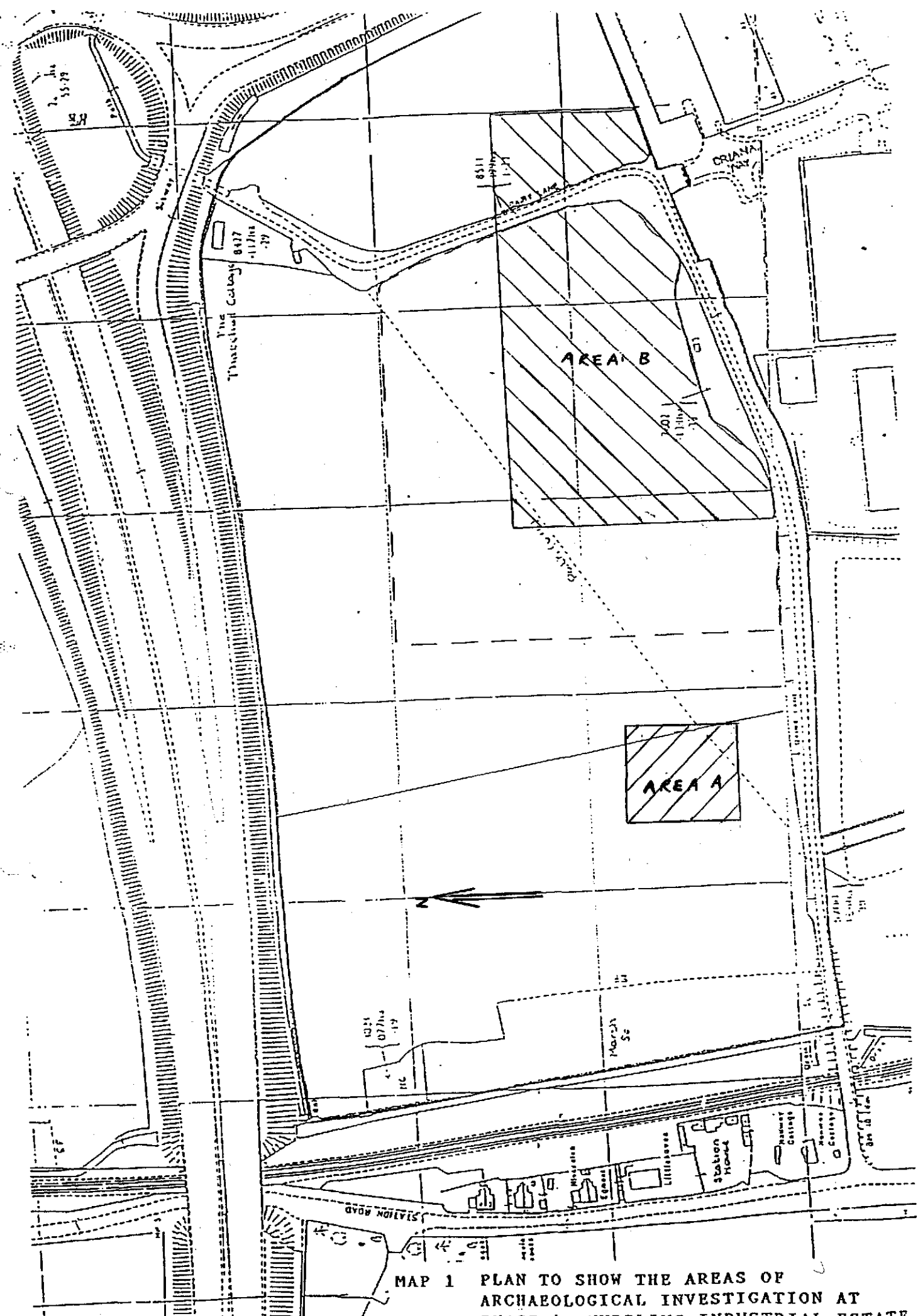
This is the first analytical stage (eg. for pottery, this is *fabric analysis*; for ceramic building materials — analysis of the *general diagnostic pieces*; for iron — differentiation between *distinctive objects* other than nails, with nails either quantified or quantified by general type and discarded and distinctive objects including coffin nails retained for Data Level 5 analysis). For selected material types and certain deposits, this stage of work is enough to provide a great deal of information from a limited amount of work.

§ *Data Level 5*

This is the second analytical stage (*eg.* for pottery, this is the analysis and recording of *forms, surface finishes, decoration, manufacturing techniques, evidence of use and cross-context joins, etc.*; for ceramic building materials — *fabric analysis* of the diagnostic and undiagnostic fragments; for iron — analysis of *distinctive objects*). This is the level of analysis traditionally achieved in most excavation reports.

§ *Data Level 6*

This consists of *scientific and other detailed research*, as well as *regional analyses* with support sought from outside bodies such as the period societies, universities, English Heritage and the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the British Museum, the Oxford Research Laboratory for the History of Art and Archaeology, the British Academy (Research Grants and Fund for Applied Science in Archaeology), and the Science and Engineering Research Council. Encourage specialists interested in particular research topics which may need a body of data for the application and testing of techniques.



MAP 1 PLAN TO SHOW THE AREAS OF
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT
 [illegible] SUPPLYING INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Telephone: Salisbury (0722) 326867 Facsimile: (0722) 337562
(Registered Charity No. 287786)