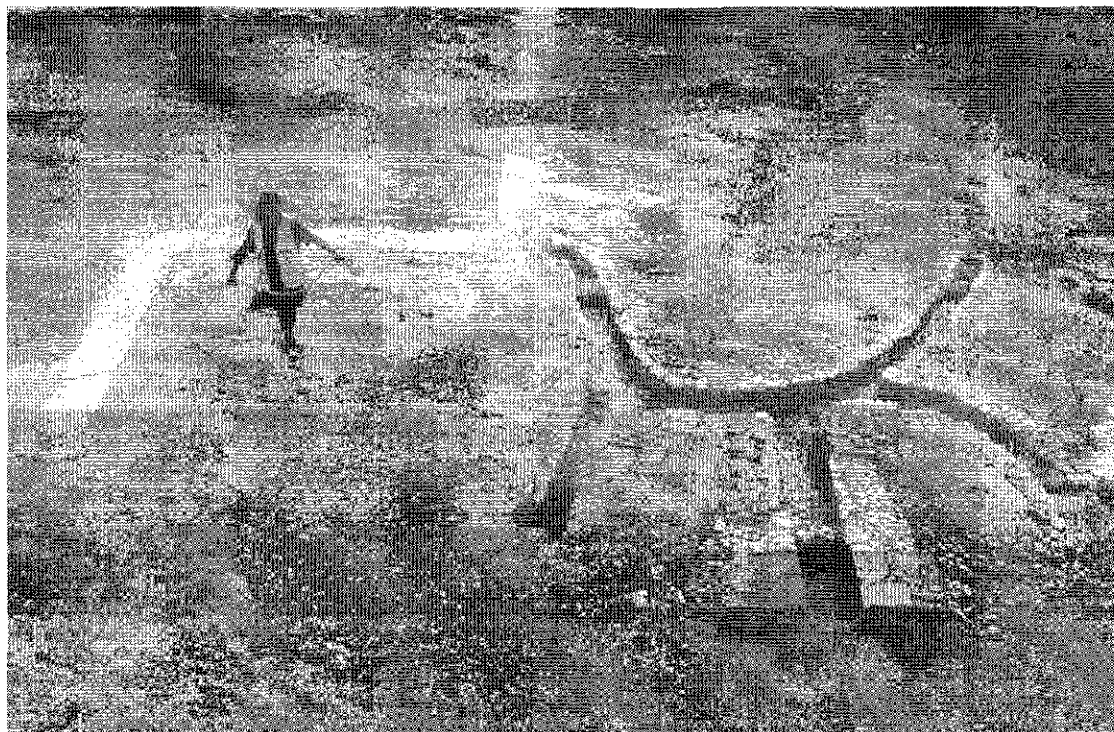


MANOR FARM, MONK SHERBORNE, HAMPSHIRE

**An Interim Report on
archaeological work carried out in 1996**



Prepared by
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3 April, 2001

Specialist reports to follow.

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Summary

During 1996, the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museums Service undertook archaeological work at Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne prior to chalk extraction on the site. A watching brief during February recorded a number of late pre-historic ditches and other features, and also identified an area of Roman building remains. The building remains were subsequently targeted for excavations during July.

The excavations revealed the remains of a building that conformed in plan to the typical Roman winged-corridor house. The north wing of the building had been remodelled and a channel hypocaust inserted into one room, although there was no evidence that it had ever been fired. Although the building was not directly dated, finds from two adjacent pits suggest the building had been in use from the mid-late third century. Close by were traces of a second, possibly ailed, building constructed using substantial rubble packed post-pads. Contained within it was a well-preserved T-shaped channelled corn-dryer that had been subsequently in-filled in the late fourth-century or later. A third sunken masonry-built structure of Roman date was briefly recorded during chalk extraction works.

Traces of Anglo-Saxon activity were also identified on the site that included a timber building that showed evidence for metalworking use. Immediately adjacent a hoard of iron objects was recovered, that was likely to have been associated with this building. Contained within the hoard were an intricately decorated Anglo-Saxon iron wire-inlaid belt buckle and a square belt fitting of mid seventh century date.

Acknowledgements

Winchester Museums Service would like to thank Hampshire County Council for their patience and financial support for the project and also to G B Foot Ltd for their assistance and co-operation throughout the fieldwork, and to Queen's College, Oxford who have kindly donated all the finds to Hampshire County Museums. Also to the fieldwork team of Paul Bright and Steven Strongman who worked in difficult conditions during the watching brief, and to Nick Bishop during the excavations. During the initial post-excavation analysis of the finds, Peter Fairclough worked on the pottery and Paul Bright on the animal bone. Also we are especially indebted to all the volunteers, especially the Basingstoke Archaeology and History Society, without whose efforts during the excavations, the project would not have been completed.

Introduction

This document is intended as an interim report detailing the results of archaeological work carried out in advance of chalk quarrying at Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire. The report details the findings of the work and gives preliminary conclusions concerning the interpretation and dating of the archaeological evidence.

Hampshire County Council funded the work and was supported by G B Foot Ltd, the quarry operator, on behalf of the landowner, Queen's College, Oxford. The project was undertaken by the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museums Service under the direction of Paul McCulloch, assisted by the author, with a team comprising mainly of volunteers. After his departure from the Museums Service in April 1999, it had been understood that Paul would continue with his responsibility for compiling the report. However in late November 2000, since no progress had been possible, it was agreed that the author would take over this task.



Figure 1: Excavation in progress

The site was an extension of a chalk quarry whose planning permission pre-dated PPG 16 and which had an access condition placed upon it. A field visit by staff from Hampshire County Council to the site recovered a quantity of Roman material. This was followed shortly after in February 1996, by a watching brief carried out by the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museums Service during the initial topsoil removal. During this work significant Roman structural remains were identified within the southern half of the proposed area for chalk extraction. As a result, a *Brief* was issued by Hampshire County Archaeologist outlining the need for more detailed archaeological work within this area. Subsequently, the Archaeology Section was commissioned to carry out excavations during a four-week period in July 1996.

The purpose of the excavation was not only to achieve a reasonable level of rescue recording of a site that was to be destroyed, but to offer an opportunity for local society members, and people from the local community to get involved in an archaeological project. Members of the Basingstoke Archaeological Society, students from King Alfred's College, Winchester, and local people all worked at the site.

The archive of the project (and preliminary fieldwalking), including all finds, is currently held by the Winchester Museums Service under site code MS96. It is intended that Hampshire County Museums Service will eventually hold the archive.

The Site and its Setting

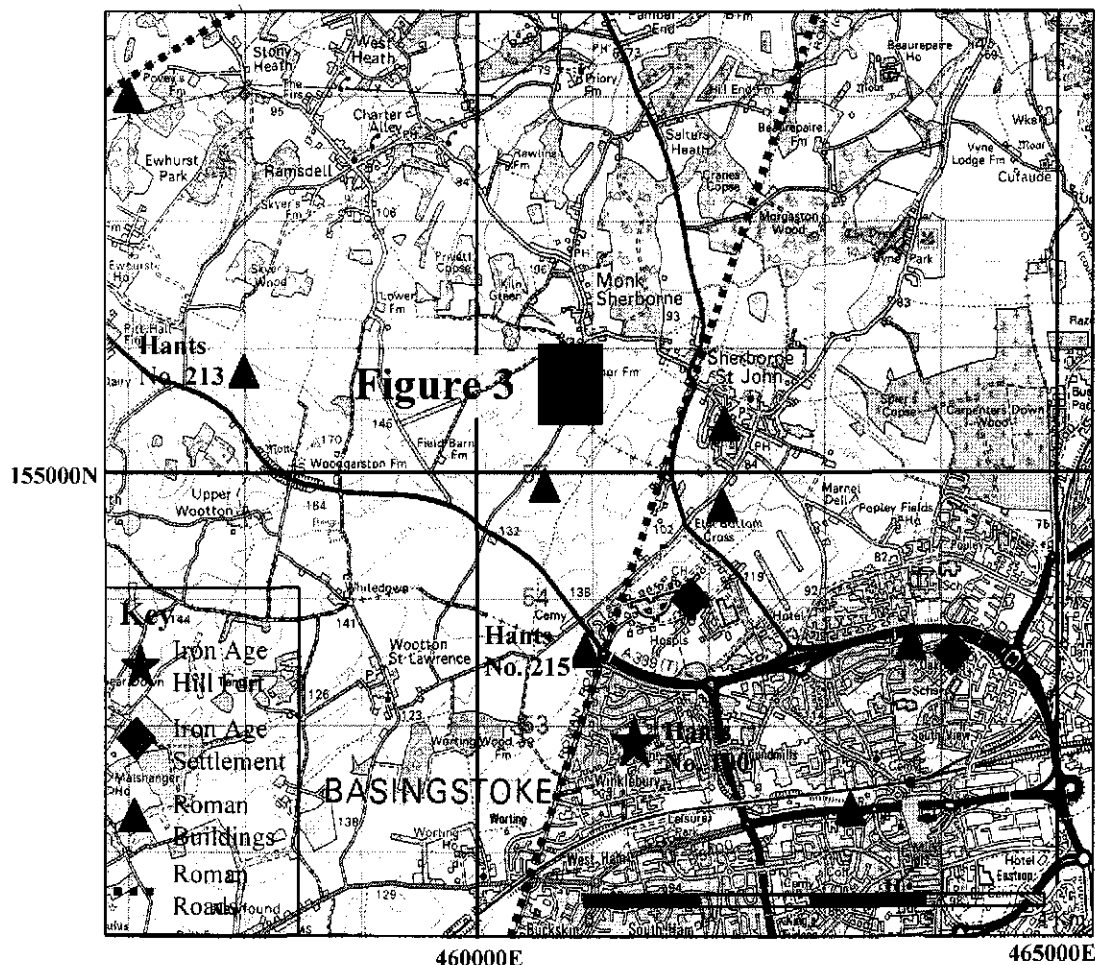


Figure 2: Location of site

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The site (NGR SU 6077 5566) is situated within the confines of Manor Farm, on the southern extent of Monk Sherborne, some 1.6 Kilometres to the north-west of Basingstoke. Prior to the chalk extraction, the site was formally arable land, comprising of two fields and occupies a total area of 3.2 hectares. The geology on the site is Upper Chalk and occupies upland on a slight spur at c.110m OD, that gently slopes away towards the north-east.

There is ample evidence to suggest that the vicinity around the site has been occupied from since well before the Roman period. At Winklebury, 2.5 Kilometres to the south, there is an Iron Age Hill Fort (Hants No. 100) and there is an important plateau fort at Bramley (Hants No. 13), the only of its kind in Hampshire, 6.5 Kilometres to the north-west. There appears to have been an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement on site of the Park Prewet to the south of the site.

The Roman road linking Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), situated 7 kilometres to the north-east, with Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*), lies some 930m to the west of the site. A second road linking Silchester to Old Sarum (*Soruiodunum*) is situated 4.4

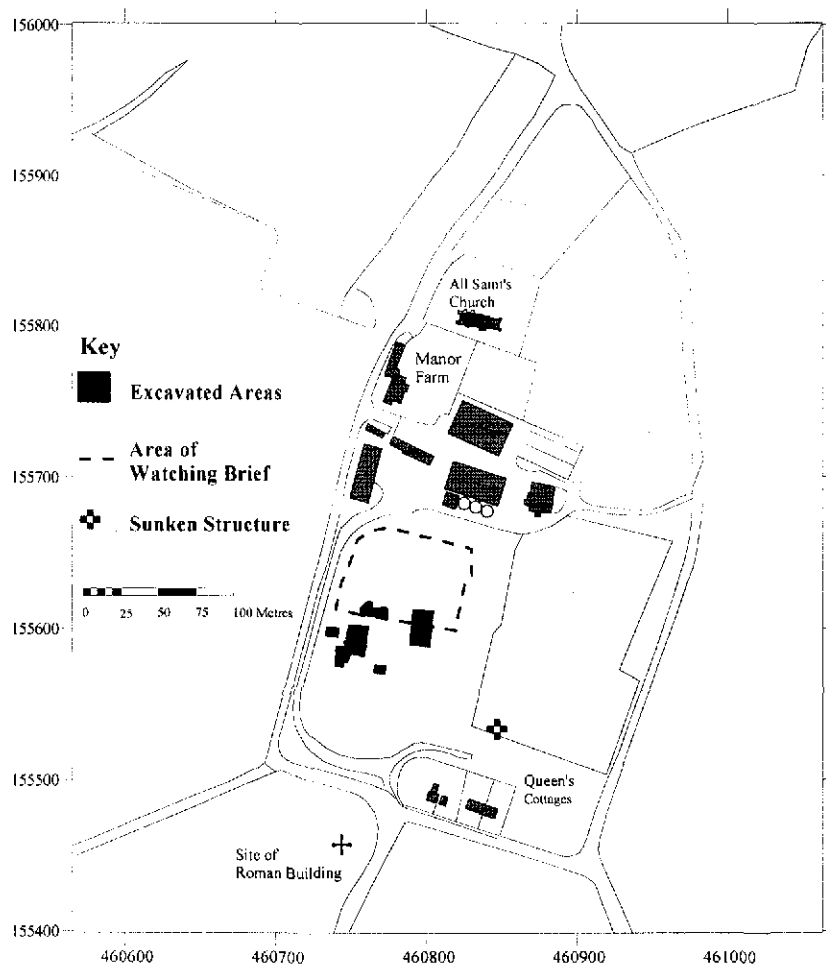


Figure 3: Site location (detail)

kilometres to the north-west. The sites of a possible villa and a settlement (Hants Nos. 213 and 215) are located within the parish of Wootton St. Lawrence, within 2.7 kilometres of the site, the latter abutting the Roman road to Winchester. Other Roman buildings are known within Sherborne St. John, at Meadow House (Hants Treasures 107) and a probable Villa at Elm Bottom (Hants Treasures 106). During earlier chalk extraction immediately to the south of the site, carried out prior to 1943, finds of tiles, wall, plaster and pottery indicate the presence of a building of some substance (Hants SMR No: SU65NW 18).

The village of Monk Sherborne has existed from since at least The Conquest, since it was mentioned in the Domesday Book (*Sireborne*). The existing church, All Saints, is of early 12th century date and has a Norman aisless nave and north door with chevron decoration (Hants SMR SU65NW 11). The church seems to define the southern extent of the existing village and bounds on to the grounds of Manor Farm.

Methodology

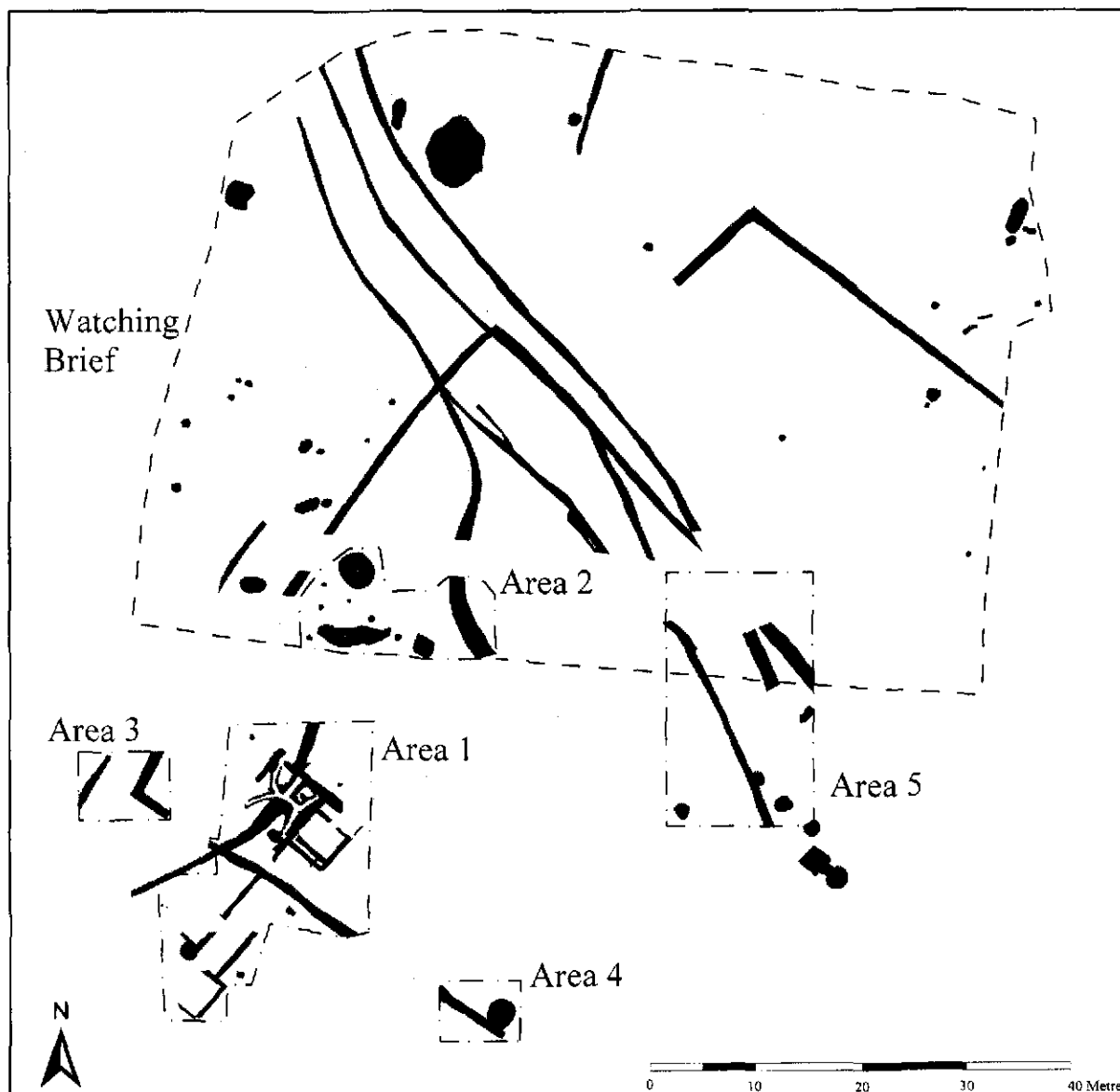


Figure 4: Plan showing all features

The archaeological work carried out by Winchester Museums Service was undertaken in two stages. In February 1996 a watching brief was maintained during the initial topsoil clearance prior to the chalk extraction, although archaeological recording was confined to the north of the site. This was followed in July by archaeological excavations within the southern half of the site within areas 1 to 5 for the reasons set out below.

The Watching Brief

The whole area of the field was stripped of its topsoil revealing the underlying natural chalk, using a 2m wide digger bucket. Approximately 50-mm of the chalk was then removed from the northern area of the field in order to elucidate the extents of any archaeological features that were cut into it. No attempt was made at this stage to

investigate further into the southern half of the field (Phase 2 of the chalk extraction), although an area of tile, apparently designating a Roman building, was noted.

No general hand cleaning of the area was attempted, although the chalk was sufficiently clean to enable the plotting of features at 1:100 over the majority of the area. Each feature was allocated a feature number and in some cases the visible fills recorded on to context sheets. Box sections were excavated across certain features

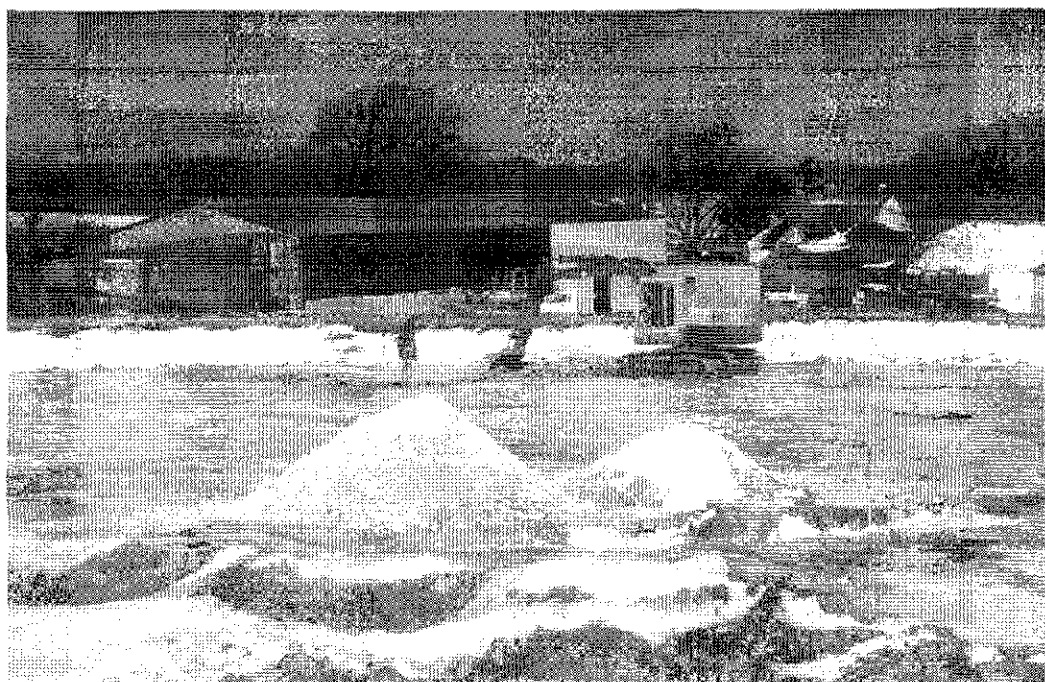


Figure 5: The watching brief

with the mechanical digger bucket, in an attempt to clarify their form and function. The resultant sections were cleaned, photographed and briefly sketched on to the feature sheet. A small quantity of finds was retrieved from several of the features.

The Excavated Areas

Excavations within the Phase 2 chalk extraction area initially targeted the area of the Roman building identified during the watching brief (Area 1, Figure 4). Area 2 focused upon an area of burnt flint and two pits that were also identified during the watching brief. Areas 3 and 4 were designed to elucidate the line of a ditch that cut through the Roman building and area 5 was principally cleaned in order to establish the nature of a group of rubble filled features. With the exception of F137, no excavation of features took place in Area 5.

All areas were cleaned by hand, excavated and recorded using the systems of the Archaeology Section, Winchester Museums Service. Plans were drawn at a scale 1:20 and the measured sections at 1:10. All finds and samples were removed from site after labelling with the site code and appropriate context numbers. Sensitive finds were treated in the first instance in accordance with the manual *First Aid for Finds*.

Post-Excavation and Report Methodology

Immediately after the end of the fieldwork all records checked for consistency, and cross-referenced so that a context database could be compiled. All finds were washed and catalogued in accordance with the systems of the Archaeology Section. Sensitive finds were sent to a conservator for appropriate treatment, and the samples were wet sieved.

All finds and environmental samples were assessed on their potential for further analysis and research, in accordance with MAP2.

For the reasons stated in the introduction above, no attempt was made to compile a structural report until December 2000. The first stage involved digitising of site drawings using GGP and Didger, which aided analysis and interpretation of the site, and formed the basis for the drawings produced in this report.

Pre-Roman

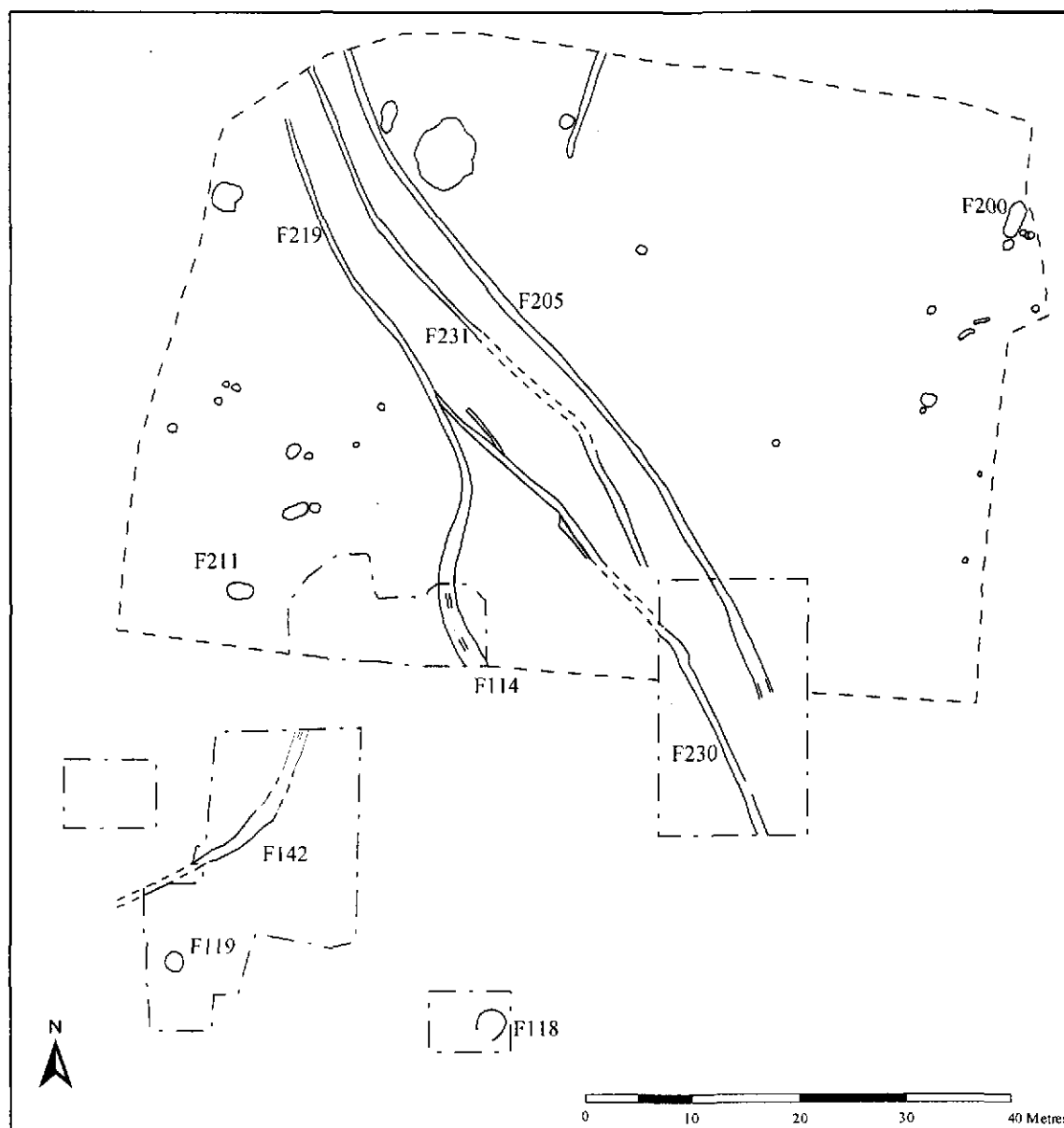


Figure 6: Plan of pre-Roman features

The Pits

Two pits (F118 and F119) of Iron Age date were identified within the excavated areas; both situated towards the southern extent of the site. A third pit (F211) recorded within the area of the watching brief would have also been tentatively assigned as Iron Age in date.

Pit F119

Pit F119, cut by the chalk footings of Roman building 1 (F141), was approximately circular in plan and measured 1.8m across and 1.0m deep and had sides that were concave towards the base, thus typifying a 'bee-hive' profile. The primary fill of the pit (572) comprised loose weathered chalk rubble that was perhaps derived from

erosion of the pits sides and therefore indicating that it had remained open for an appreciable period of time. Contained within it were several fragments of Middle Iron Age Saucepan pottery and piece of worked flint. This was overlaid with deliberate dumps of yellowish brown clay (654), and dark grey soil (571) that contained a

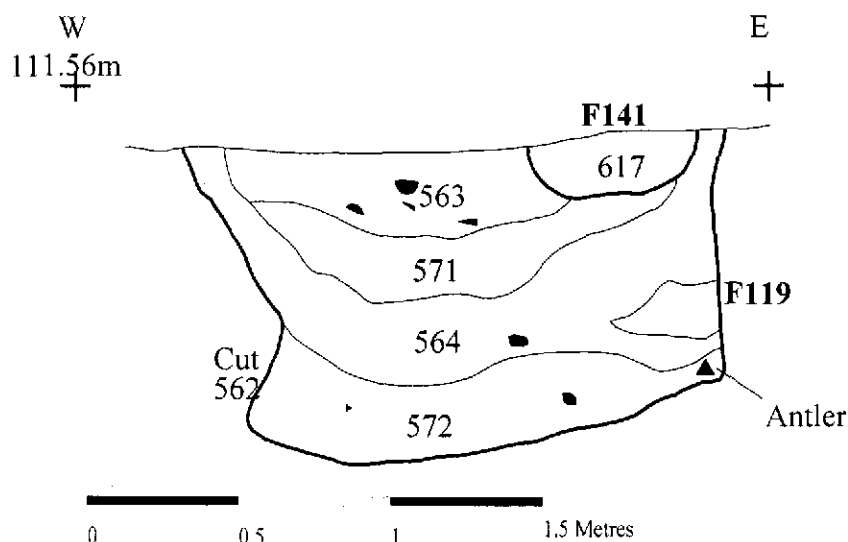


Figure 7: Section through pit F119, also showing the wall footing of Roman Building 1 (F141)

quantity of burnt flint (300g). The latest fill (653) comprised of clean dark grey silty clay.

Pit F118

Pit F118, cut by post (?) - Roman ditch F115 was near circular in plan and measured 2.6m across and had concave sides towards a flat base, 1.50m in depth. The earliest

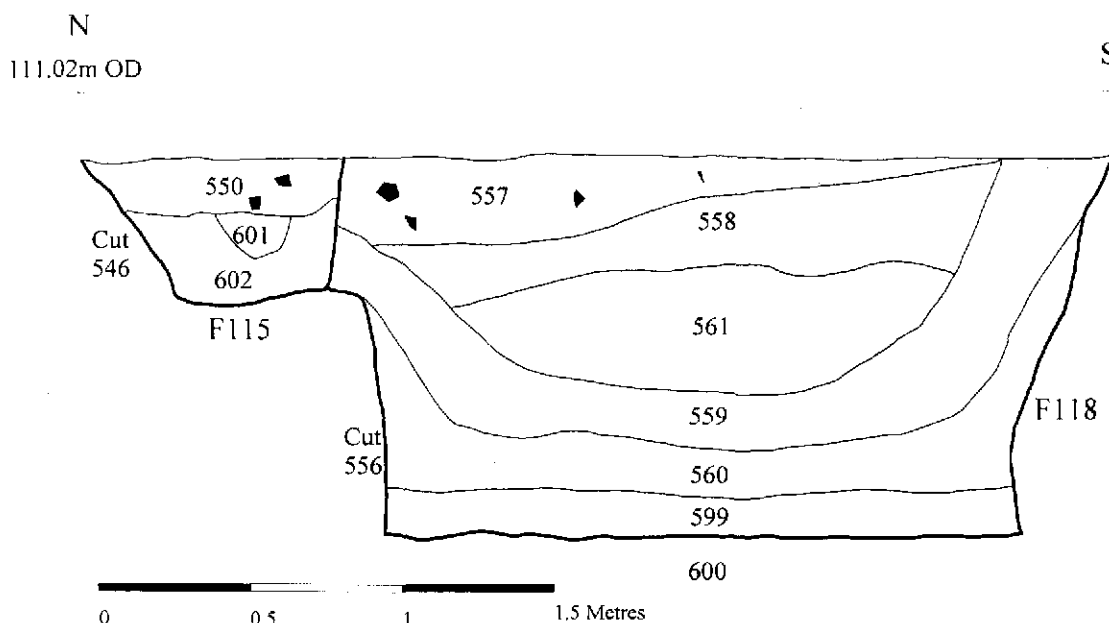


Figure 8: Section through pit F118

fill (600) comprised loose degraded chalk that probably derived from weathering of the pit's sides. Overlying this were several episodes of deliberate dumping of chalk rubble and yellowish/brown clay (559 and below). The latter fills comprised of dark brown loamy soils that contained an appreciable quantity of burnt flint (1.3 Kg) and slag fragments. Dating evidence was recovered from its latest fill only (557), and consisted of Iron Age (Late?) flint-tempered; sandy and grog-tempered wares.

Pit F211

This was observed in the southern extent of the area of the watching brief and was mechanically sectioned. The pit was roughly oval on plan, approximately 2m across, 1.07m deep and showed a characteristic 'bee-hive' concave profile on one side. Three fills were recorded, the secondary of which contained a quantity of burnt flint. No finds were recovered.

The Ditches

Two curvilinear ditches (F114 and F142) of probable pre-Roman date fell within the confines of the excavated areas, although several others were plotted during the watching brief.

Ditch F114

This ditch was first plotted during the watching brief as F229 and ran at an approximate north-west to south-east direction for a distance of at least 54m. Two excavated sections across it revealed a V-shaped profile, up to 1.8m across and 1.0m in depth, and with a narrow slot at its base, and with three distinct episodes of infilling. To the north, within the area of the watching brief, the ditch narrowed to 500-

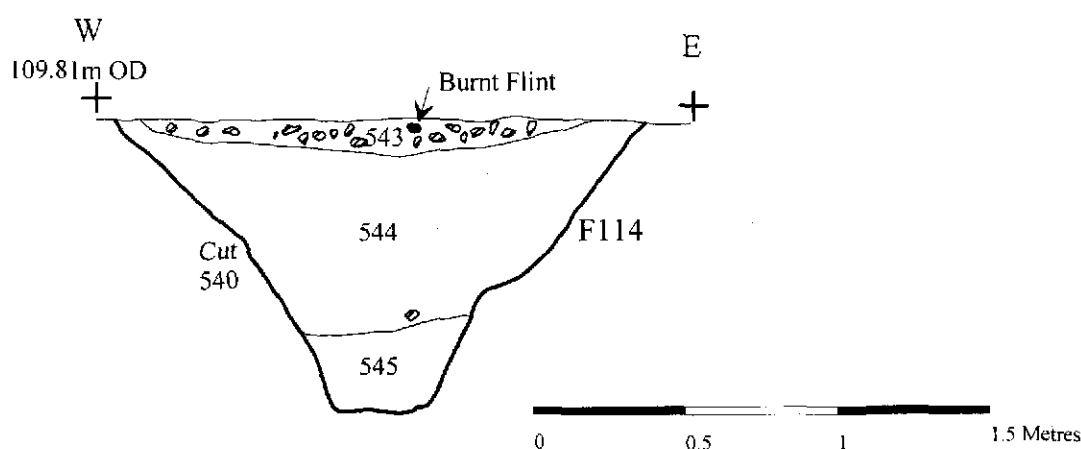


Figure 9: Section through ditch F114

mm in width and appeared to terminate. Its primary fill comprised loose chalk (545), likely to have derived from the weathering of its sides. The secondary fill (544) was a homogeneous and compact mid brown silty clay, perhaps representing rapid infilling. The tertiary fill (543) was a dark grey silty clay that contained burnt flints and fragments of slag, and the base of a Middle Iron Age Saucepan pot with sway and dot decoration.

Ditch F142

This ditch was overlain by and therefore predated the construction of Roman Building 1 and ran in approximately north-east to south-west direction for at least 21m. It may have terminated to the north or turned off sharply since no evidence for it was found within the area of the watching brief. A section excavated across it revealed an apparent single episode of filling of dark grey chalk loam, although no record was made of its profile and depth. No finds were recovered.

Other ditches

Within the watching brief area, were three parallel and slightly curvilinear ditches (F205, F230 and F231) that appear to be relate to ditches F114 and F219. All three ditches were between 500-900-mm in width. A machine excavated trench dug across the line of ditch F205 revealed a V-shaped profile and a depth of 540-mm. This ditch appears to had three episodes of filling, an primary fill of weathered chalk, a secondary fill of orange/brown clay and an upper fill of dark brown clayey loam. No dating evidence or other artefacts were recovered from any of these ditches, although the lack of any mention of tile fragments in the records would appear to suggest a pre-Roman date.

Roman

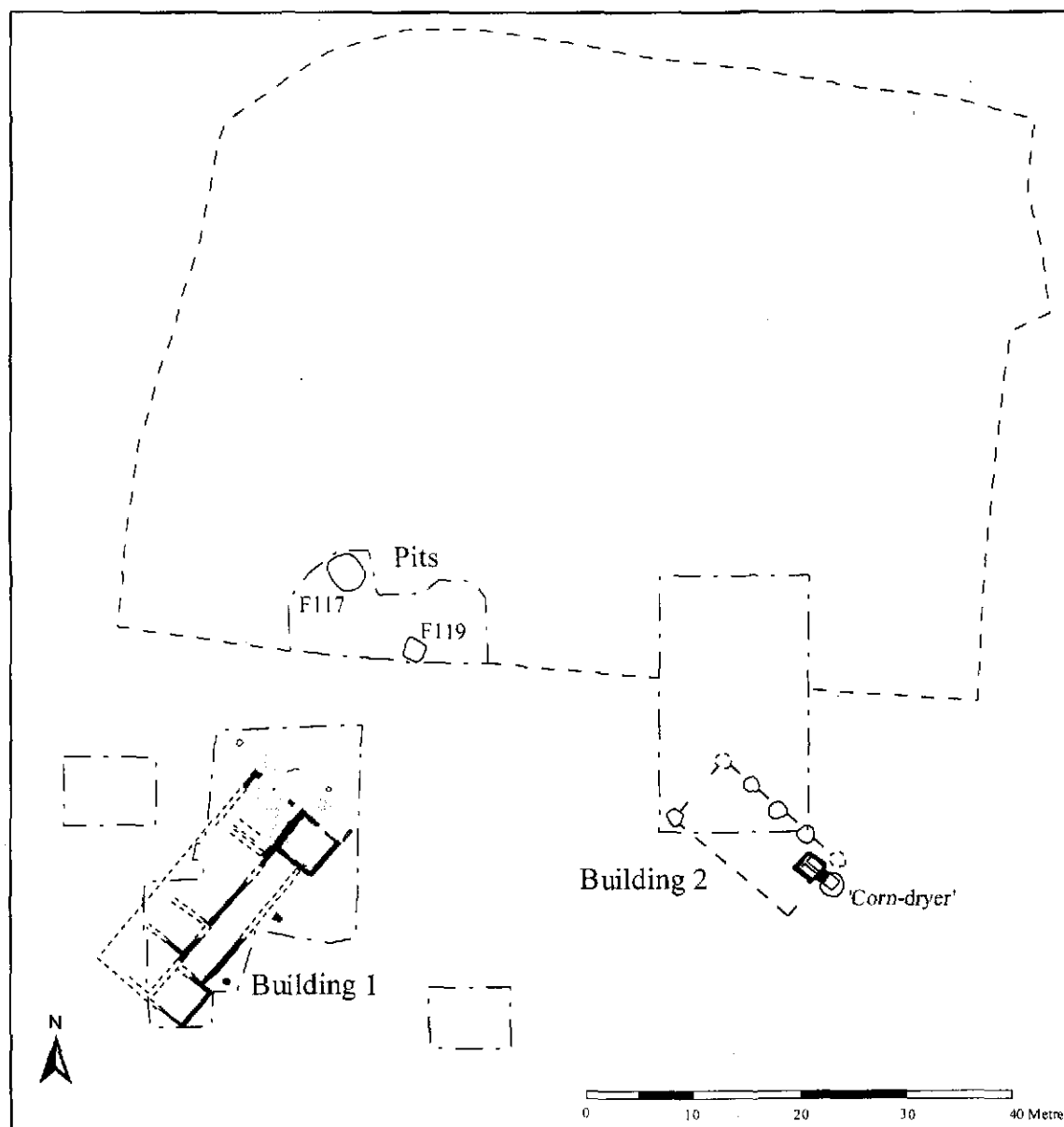


Figure 10: Plan of Roman features

Building 1

Much of the building had been extensively damaged, presumably as a result of later plough action. Consequently all that survived were the base of its shallow wall foundations, that were often discontinuous, and towards the south-west, had been completely destroyed. Even where these foundations survived, since they mainly comprised rammed chalk, it was often difficult to ascertain their extents against the surrounding natural chalk.

Phase 1

In plan, the building closely resembled the typical twin-winged Roman house, with the protruding wings on its south-eastern side. What evidence survives suggests a

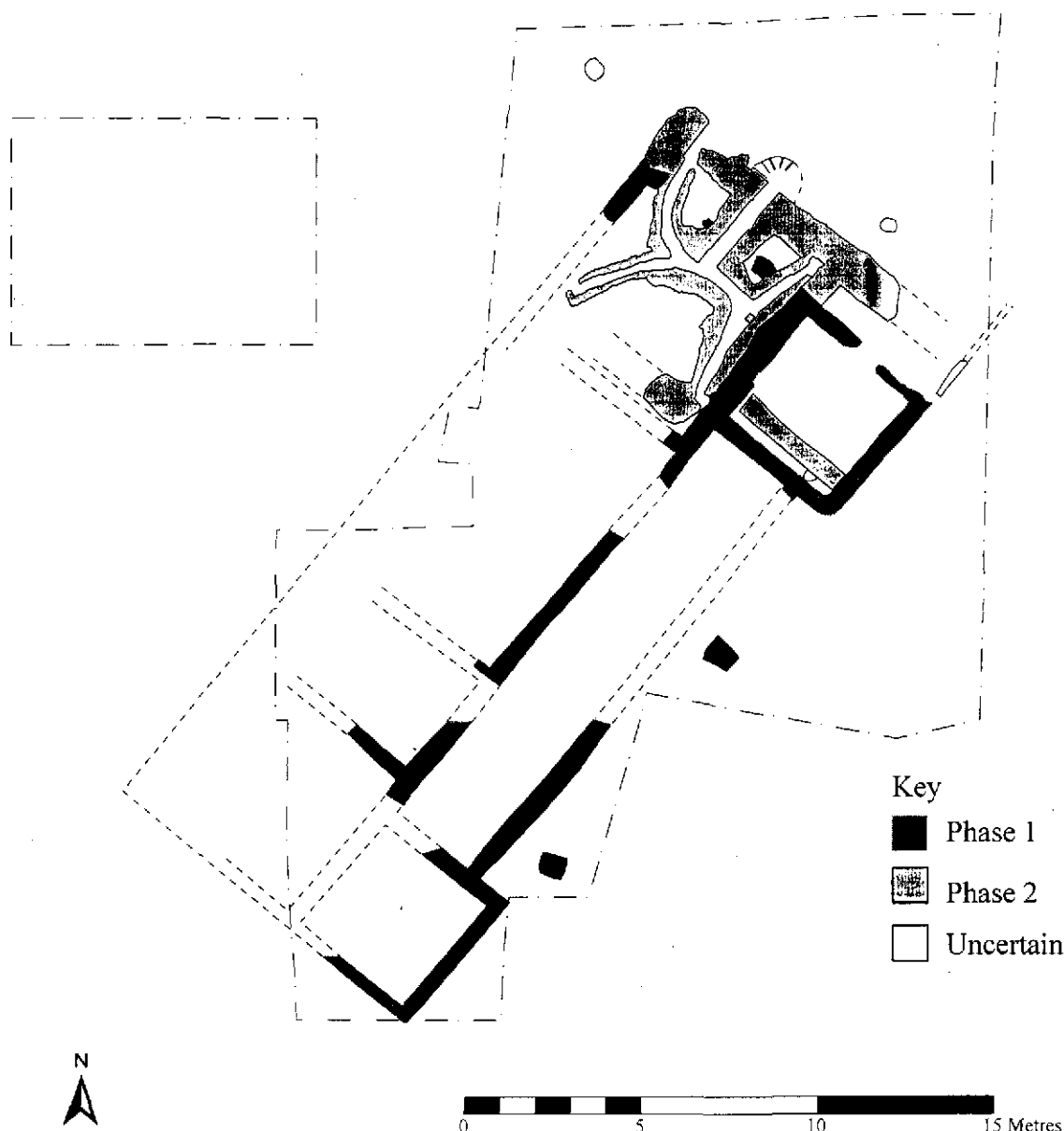


Figure 11: Plan of Building 1

symmetrical arrangement with a corridor linking the two wings, flanked by at least four rooms on the west. The building measured a total of 23.0m across and may have been 10.7m in width if the symmetry on its northern wing is repeated on the south wing. The room within the north wing measured close to 3.7m square, which was also apparently mirrored in the south wing, on the opposite end of the 2.5m wide corridor. There is less certainty about the dimensions of the rooms flanking the west side of the corridor, although the northernmost room may have measured 5.6m by 5.2m, again this was probably mirrored in the southernmost room.

Each wall foundation measured between 450-500-mm in width and comprised of compacted chalk, surviving in a shallow trench. Where these walls crossed over Iron Age pit F119, this trench survived to a depth of 200-mm in depth, although elsewhere its surviving depth was much shallower and in many places diminished to almost nothing. At the extreme north end of the building the chalk footing was overlain by a thin spread of deep yellow/buff mortar (612-616) that contained frequent small chalk

flecks and flint grit. This may have represented the surviving vestiges of the basal spread of mortar that bonded the chalk foundation with the overlying wall fabric.

Horizontal levels survived in the east room of the north wing only and were represented by a very thin spread of very compacted building rubble (639). Contained within it were fragments of *Opus Signinum*, fragments of tile, all within grey mortar rubble. Its rather mixed nature is suggestive of construction debris rather than flooring material, although it could have acted as a floor base. This deposit appears to predate the construction of wall 618, and therefore may be assigned to this phase of the building.



Figure 12: Roman Building 1 looking south

Two (unexcavated) masonry pads were situated externally 1.1m to the east of the corridor. Each was roughly rectangular plan, 600-700-mm across and filled with mortared flint rubble. They may have supported columns or posts that perhaps formed a veranda linking the two wings of the building.

Phase 2

The north wing of the building underwent a substantial modification that in effect represented a rebuild. It is not clear from the surviving evidence if this represented a remodelling of the existing building, or the construction of a new building of a much-

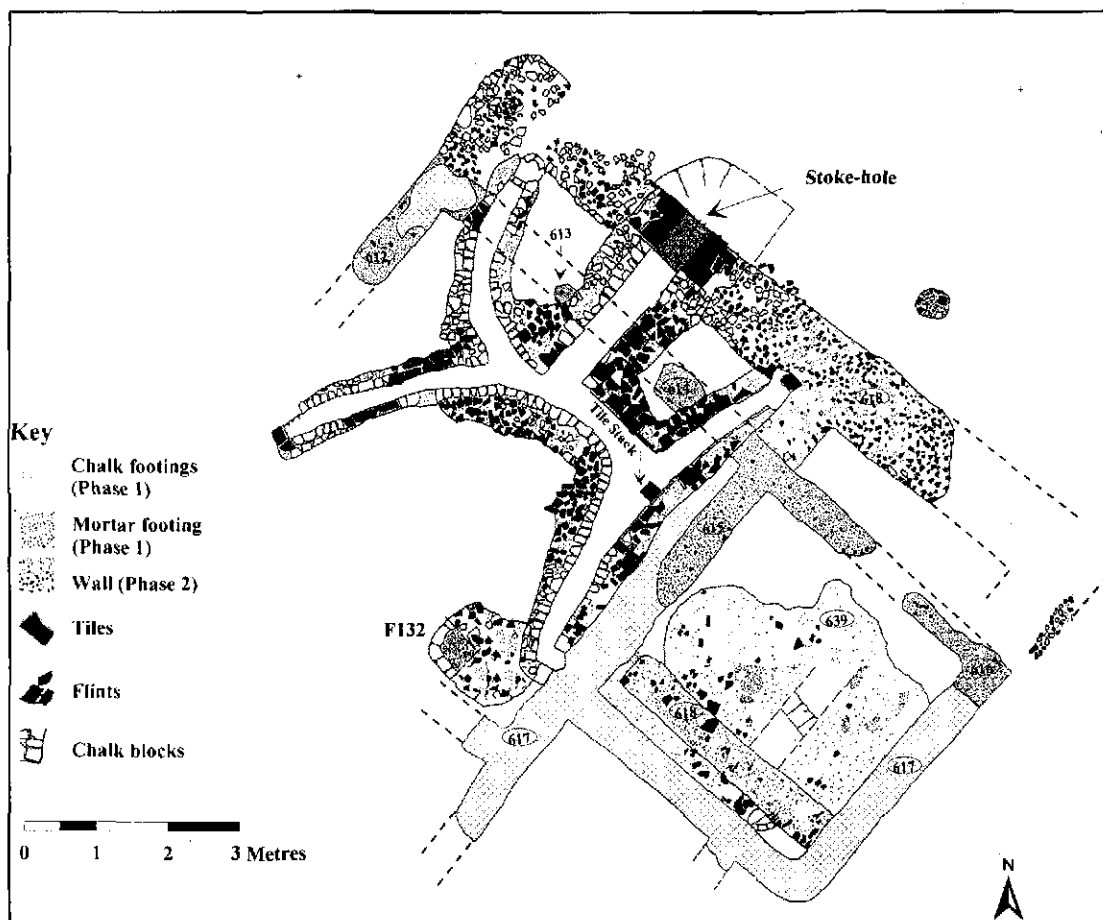


Figure 13: Detail of the north wing of Building 1

reduced size. The wing however maintained its two-room layout, but with the addition of a channelled hypocaust in the western room.

What is apparent is that the north wall of the wing had been entirely rebuilt on a line located some 700-800-mm further to the north. Apart where described below, the new wall footings survived at a very shallow depth and only on the previously exterior ground to the north of the pre-existing wing, perhaps because elsewhere they utilised the footings of the earlier walls. A deeper-founded stub of masonry located on the south-east corner of the west room (F132) may have formed part of its south wall. The west wall appeared to mirror the earlier wall, and similarly a small stub of surviving masonry at the extreme east suggests that the east wall also mirrored the earlier wall. The walls were of a single build, constructed with chalky mortar bonding flint and chalk rubble with occasional fragments of tile. Only the very base of its footing survived, which in places measured c.1.1m in width, although the internal wall adjoining the two rooms was narrower at 780-mm.

The hypocausted room probably measured 5.0m square, based upon the outlet positions of the hypocaust channels described below. The hypocaust comprised of an

inlet channel that ran perpendicular through the north wall to an approximate central point, from which it branched out to meet each corner of the room. The channels were constructed with mortared chalk and flint rubble with tile fragments, and faced with squared off chalk blocks. There was a brick stringer course on the third of the surviving four courses, that survived to a height of 250-mm in places. The inlet channel measured 460-mm in width, wider than the other channels that measured between 200-300-mm in width. There was no surviving indication that the terminals of the four branches met rising box flue tiles at the corners of the walls, although their positions were implied by the open ends of the channels. Where the inlet channel passed through the north wall of the room, its walls were constructed entirely of stacked and mortared re-used *pila* and *tegula* tiles. A single stack of mortared tiles located centrally close to the outer wall of the west channel may have functioned as additional support for the overlying floor.

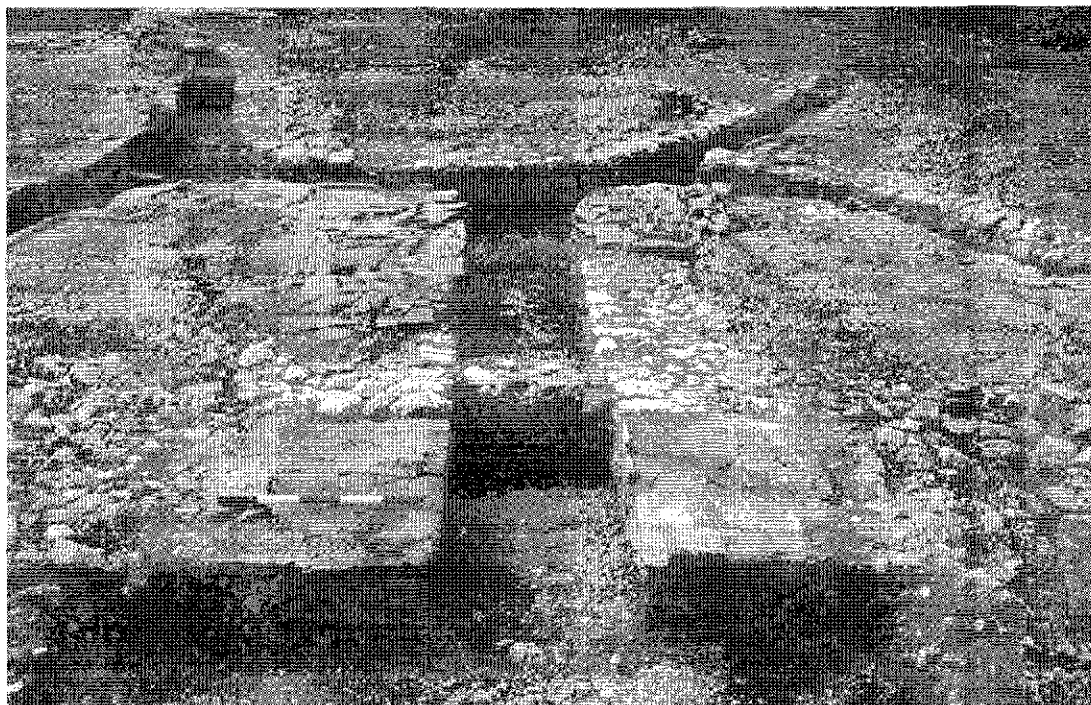


Figure 14: Detail of Hypocaust looking south showing stokehole

There was no evidence that the hypocaust was ever fired since there was no indication of any scorching on the channel walls or for any charred debris within them. A small gently sloping pit (F130) was arched around the entrance of the inlet channel, seemingly a stoking pit, similarly showed no evidence for use. The channels (and the 'stoking pit') were all filled with a homogeneous and compacted grey chalky loam (606) that contained only occasional flecks of charcoal. The coarse components comprised of fragments of *tegula*, *pila* and *imbrex* tiles that were confined to the top of the in-fill. Several sherds of undiagnostic Roman greyware pottery were recovered.

As indicated above, the east and west walls of east room appeared to have corresponded with those of the earlier building. The south wall survived better than the other walls of the later building, the ends of which butted up to inner edges of the earlier east and west walls, giving the dimensions of the room to be 4.0m by 3.5m. Although this wall was not fully recorded, it was 550-mm in width and apparently

built free standing, with mainly mortared flint rubble. No internal deposits or other associated features survived in the room.

The Pits

Located some 15-16m to the north-east of the Roman Building 1 were two pits.

Pit F117

Pit F117 was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 3.5m across and up to 3.1 metres in width. It was 2.65m in depth with straight and regular sides that were convex near its top, and had a flat base. Nine distinct episodes of filling were recorded, all of which showed marked slumping towards the centre of the pit. The earliest fill (579) comprised of a thick deposit of dirty chalk rubble that appears to have derived from

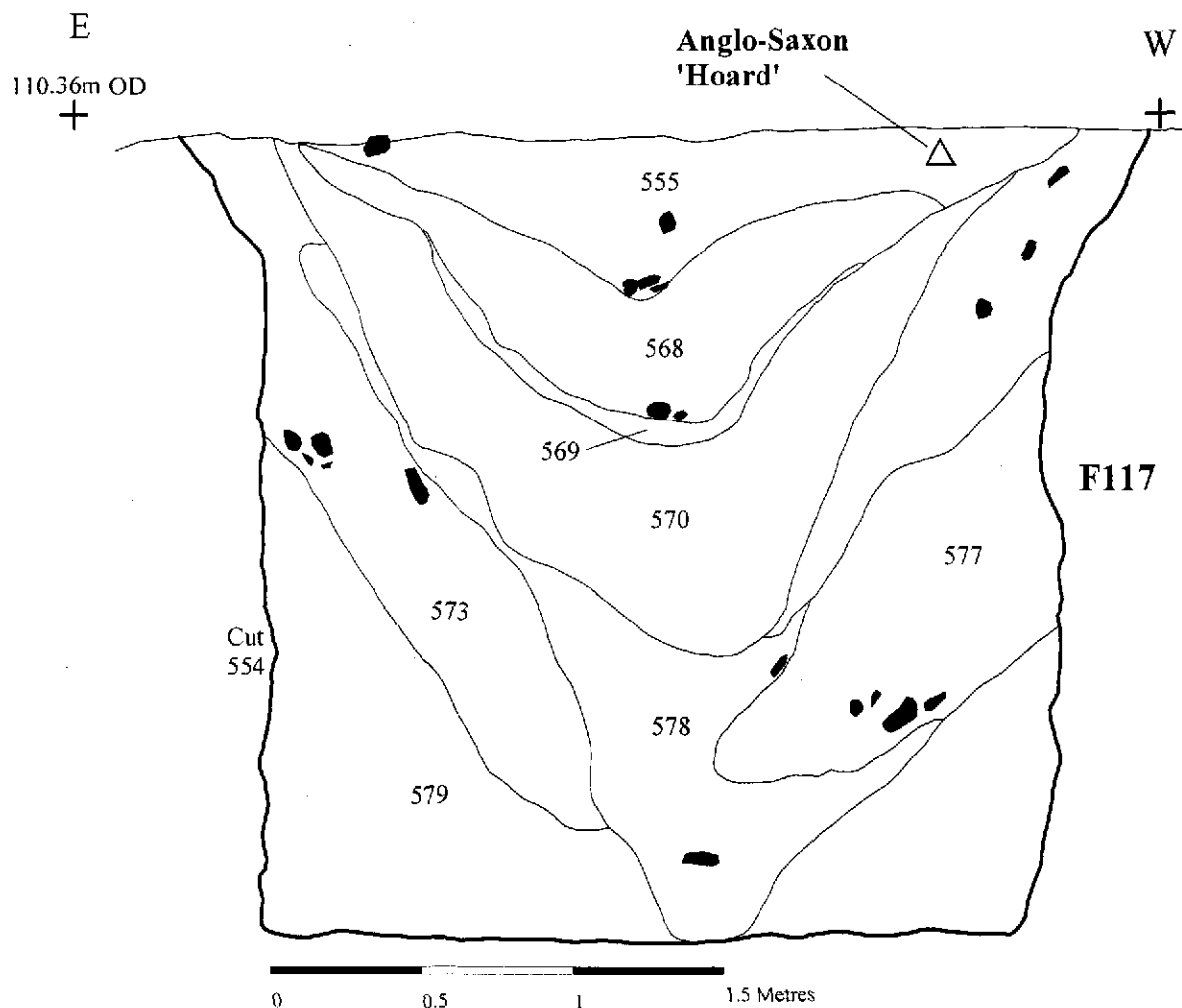


Figure 15: Section through pit F117

weathering of the sides of the pit. The substantial nature of this deposit would seem to suggest that the pit was allowed to remain open for an appreciable period of time. Subsequently deliberate in-filling took place, comprising dumps of clay and chalk (573 and 577) that contained large fragments of roofing tile and flint rubble. This material appears to be incorporated within an episode of in filling of a clean mid grey-brown silt (578) that was recorded as a possible cess-like material. The later fills of the pit were characterised by their clean dark brown loamy nature, apart from 569

which appears to have been a deliberate dump of mortar and tile rubble. Some if not all of this latest stage of in-filling may have derived from the dishing of horizontal deposits that would have originally overlain the pit.

The pit contained a large well-preserved assemblage of late third to early fourth century pottery throughout. Large fragments of Saucepan pots were recovered from 570 suggesting that it was derived from the disturbance of an Middle Iron Age levels elsewhere on the site. Other finds included a London minted coin of Crispus (AD321-2), painted plaster fragments and sherds of green and blue glass vessels. The Anglo-Saxon iron 'hoard' recovered from the top of the latest fill of the pit is discussed below.

Pit F121

The smaller pit, F121, was sub-square in plan and measured 1.8m across and 2.16m in depth, with near vertical sides to a flat base. Its basal fill (603) contained a thick homogenous deposit of mid-dark brown silt, up to 750-mm in depth, which contained a high level of cess-like material. The later levels of the pit appear to represent backfilling and comprised of two similar deposits (575 and 576) of dark grey/brown

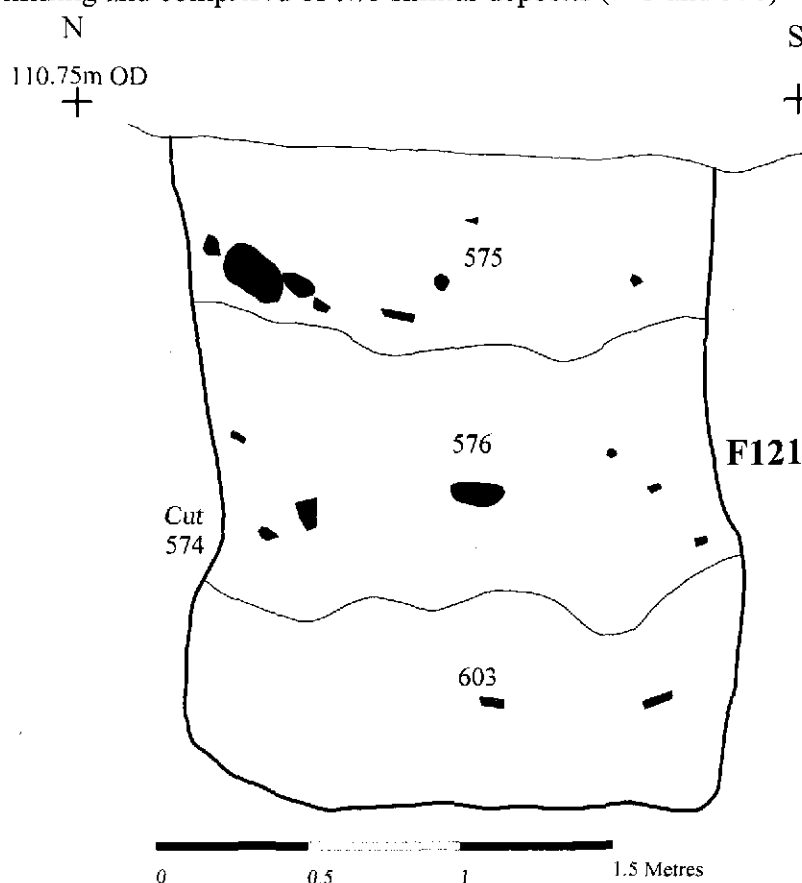


Figure 16: Section through pit F121

silty loams containing large fragments of ceramic roofing tiles and some large nodules of flints.

The pit contained a significant quantity of late third to early fourth century pottery throughout. Also recovered (from 576) was coin of Postumus (AD260-69) and part of a shale flat vessel- tray or dish.

Building 2

Located 30m to the east of Building 1 were a series of regularly spaced pits that appeared to form part of a substantial rectangular timber building. Four of these pits lay within the recorded area, although a fifth, although not planned, is clearly discernible from a photograph of the corn-dryer (Figure 20). Each pit was approximately circular in plan, measuring 1.4-1.6m across and was filled with closely packed flint and chalk rubble and occasional tile fragments. Only one pit, F137, was sectioned and found to be 550-mm in depth and with a rounded base, with no post-pipe evident. No other dating evidence was found.

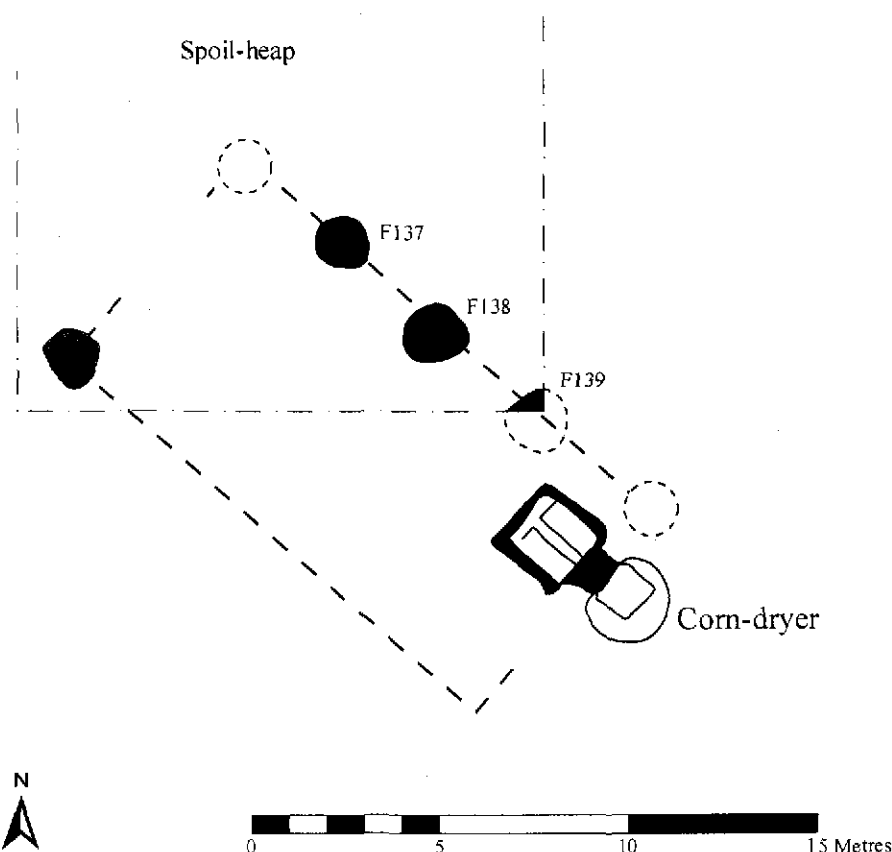


Figure 17: Plan of Building 2

The compact nature of the in-fill of the pits and lack of post-pipes would suggest that they could have represented pads that supported substantial up-right timber posts or columns. Their configuration suggests they formed two equally spaced lines of at least 5 pits, spaced equally apart at 3.5m, giving a total length of at least 14.0m, the two lines of which are separated by a distance of 7.0m (measured from the central point of each pit). Their size would suggest they could have easily supported substantial load bearing uprights, most likely roofing supporting columns, and if so, were probably located internally within an ailed building (see Discussion below). If this were the case, then the outer walls of the building would not be required to be load bearing and could therefore have been constructed on sill-beams, since no evidence for such walls was found within the investigated area.

The 'Corn-Dryer'

Apparently located within Building 2, was a masonry-built structure closely resembling a typical T-shaped corn-dryer. It comprised two distinct elements, a stone-

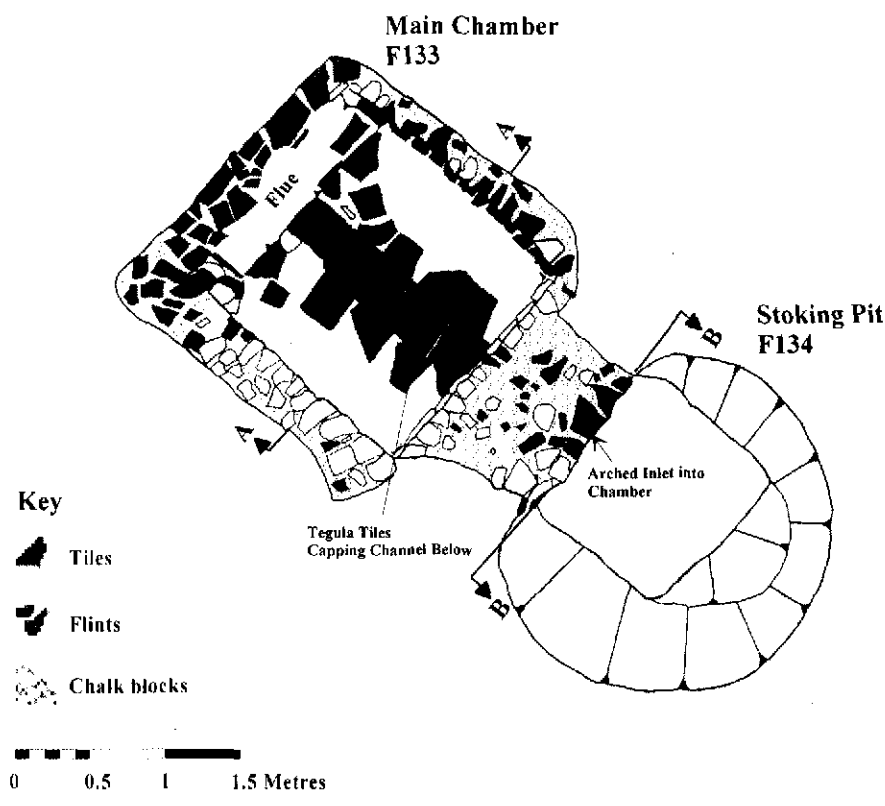


Figure 18: Plan of the 'corn-dryer'

lined pit (or main chamber) containing the T-shaped channel and an adjoining 'stoking' pit, both linked by an arched masonry lined chamber/channel.

The Main Chamber (F133)

The pit for construction of the main chamber (623) was almost square in plan and measured a maximum of 2.25m across and was 0.52m in depth. The trench for construction of the channel measured about 1.1m across and was cut to a depth of 650-mm into the base of the pit.

The sides of the pit were lined with 4 regular courses of large roughly squared chalk blocks and flint nodules 350-400mm in width, bonded with brown clay. On the west side (flue), the lining continued down to the base of the channel, and here was composed entirely of chalk, with up to 12 well-defined courses. Overlying the west wall of the chamber was single course of tiles that partially covered the flue, some of which were found to have slumped down the outer face. The walls of the channel comprised of 4 regular courses of roughly shaped chalk blocks and occasional large flints, bonded by mid/light brown clay (657). The second course consisted of a string-course of horizontal tiles. The bottom course had been scorched towards the stoke hole. The main channel had been capped by re-used *tegula* tiles (641) that had

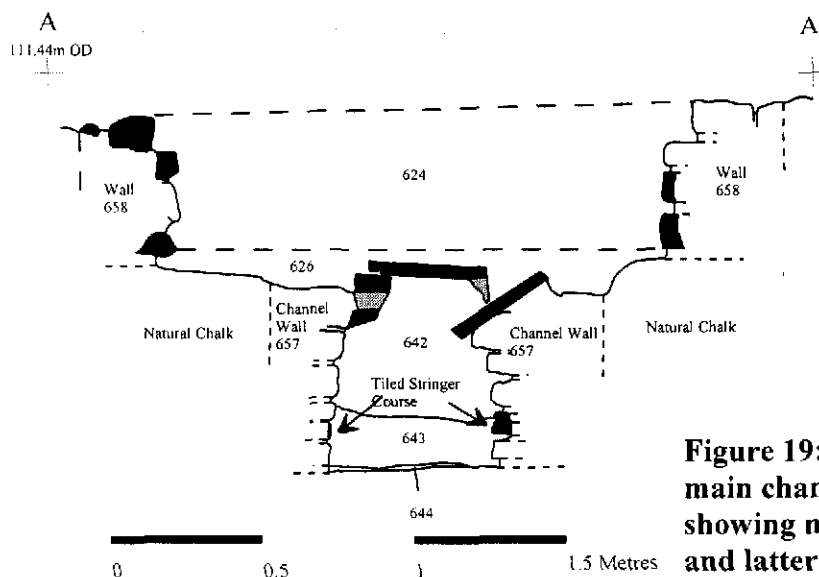


Figure 19: Profile A-A across the main chamber of the 'corn-dryer' showing method of construction and latter filling

slumped and fractured along its length, presumably as a result of the weight of the later in-filling of the chamber above it. The tiles were bonded to the walls of the channel by hard brown clay. Similar clay (626) to that bonding the tiles also covered the top of the tiles.

The main channel had been completely filled in three distinct episodes. The earliest (644) comprised of a thin discontinuous charcoal deposit that became thicker towards the stoke hole, presumably derived from firing of the stoking chamber. Overlying was a loose orange/brown clay/mortar rubble (643) that contained frequent large tile

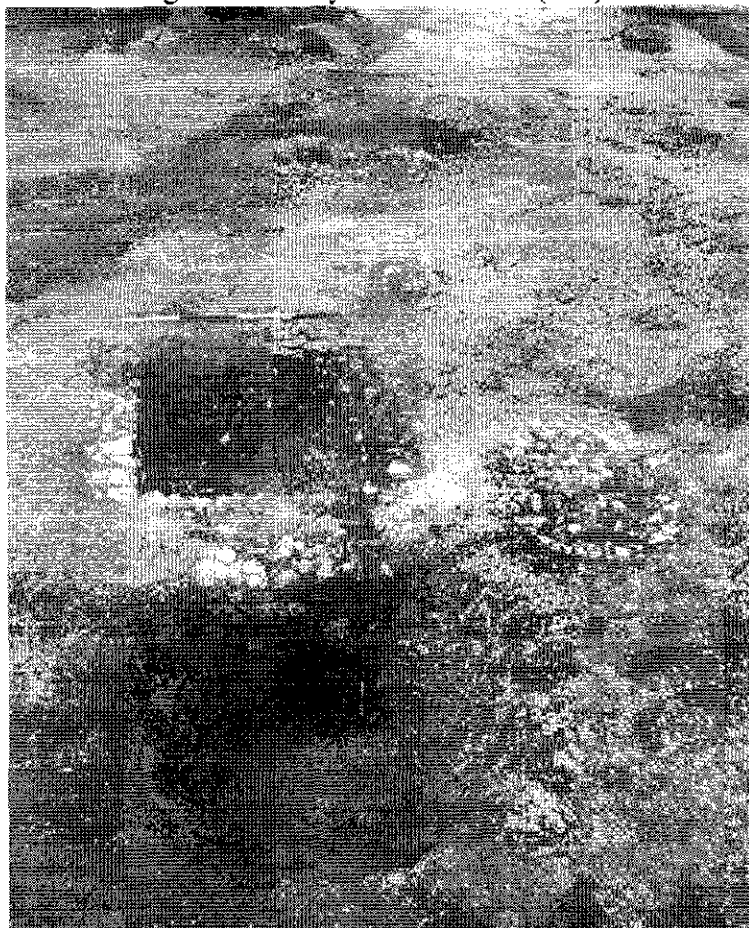


Figure 20: The corn-dryer looking north-west showing rubble-filled post-pads of Building 2

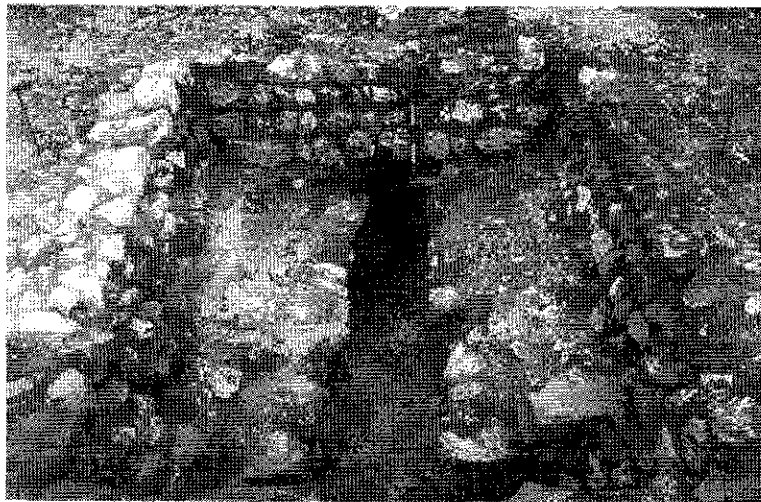


Figure 21: Detail of the corn-dryer chamber after removal of the tile capping

fragments and chalk and flint rubble, probably derived from the erosion of the channel walls after the corn-dryer had ceased to function. The latest fill (642), 500-mm thick, comprised of a homogeneous well-wormed loose dark-grey brown loam that containing no coarse components. Sherds of Late Roman pottery, including fragments of a Oxford red colour coat bowl was recovered from 642 and 643.

The main chamber was apparently deliberately in-filled immediately after disuse with homogeneous dark grey soil (624) that contained many large flint nodules and chalk fragments, as well as a significant quantity of domestic rubbish. The pottery, of which there was an appreciable quantity, is late Roman, possibly mid-late 4th century.

The Stoking Pit (F134)

The stoking pit was oval in plan measuring 2.4m by 1.8m and 1.2m in depth, and arched around the stoking chamber. Its sides sloped in at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and had a possible step or foothold on its far side, away from the chamber. The stoking chamber on its north-west side was constructed with large horizontal tegula and pila tile fragments that formed an arc, bonded into the main fabric of the

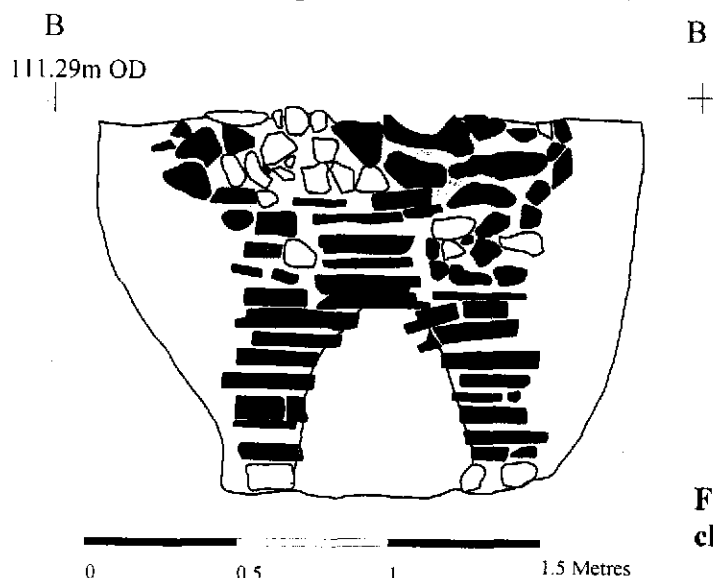


Figure 22: Profile B-B of stoking chamber of the corn-dryer

channel construction. The exposed face of the tiles and their bonding of hard clay had been scorched and blackened by intense heat.

The basal fill of the stoking pit comprised of a thick deposit of charcoal rich, although otherwise clean, dark brown silty loam (629) that had completely clogged the entrance of the chamber. The charcoal content of the soil increased markedly towards and within the entrance of the chamber, clearly indicating that it was derived from the firing of the pit. Overlying this deposit and completely filling the pit was a dump of mid grey-brown silty loam (628) that contained frequent large flints, coarse chalk rubble and much rubbish including frequent fragments of tiles. Its homogeneous nature suggests that it had been deposited rapidly into the pit. As with the in-filling the main chamber, a significant amount of mid-late Roman pottery was recovered. In addition, from 628 a sherd of possible early Anglo-Saxon hand-made pottery recovered.

The Sunken Structure

During chalk extraction within the field to the east of the excavated area, a large feature was observed cutting into the chalk on the south face of the quarry, opposite Queen's cottages (NGR SU 6085 5553). This feature was cleaned and a brief record made and a sketch profile drawn.

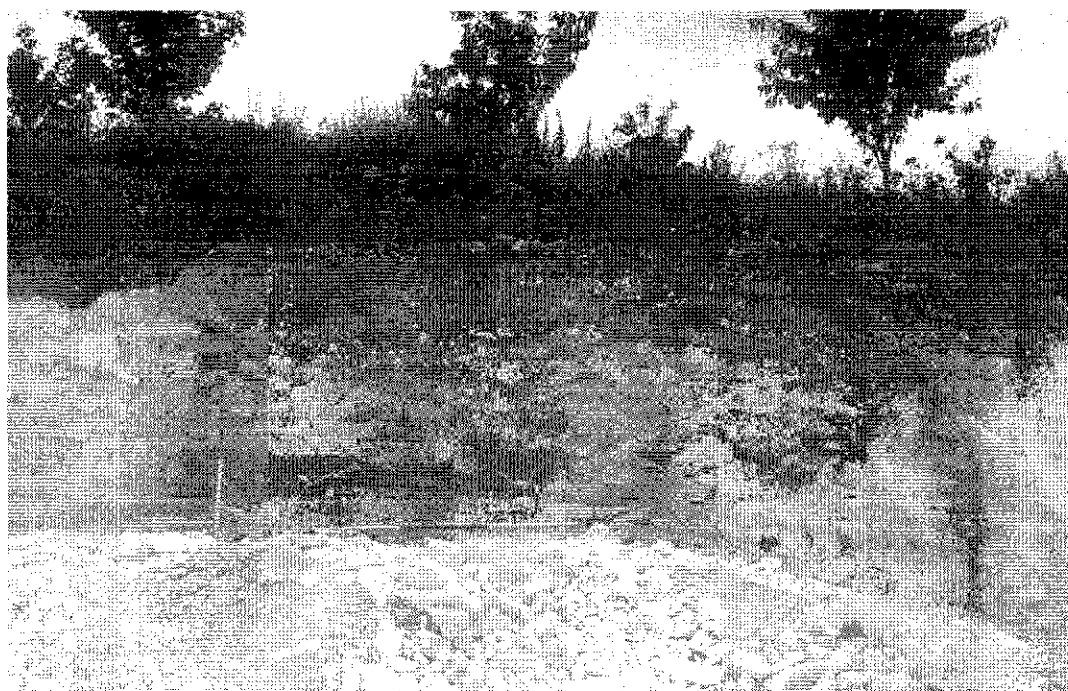


Figure 23: The sunken structure exposed on the side of the chalk extraction pit

The feature was cut approximately 1.55m into the chalk and measured at least 4.7m across. It had been largely destroyed in plan by the quarry since it did extend any further than about 500-mm into its side. It was lined with a wall (constructed with chalk blocks?) on its east side that visible for a height of 4 courses. Its south face was lined with mortared chalk rubble (633) apparently representing the masonry core for the lining of the south-side of the pit. There was no indication for any facing, although this could have been removed by the quarry or by earlier robbing.

At the base of the pit, and apparently abutting the sides of the masonry lining, was a thick deposit of charcoal rich silt (634) that had become compacted towards its base (635). The large amount of charcoal present and the scorched nature of the underlying chalk would suggest that the structure had been subject to intense heat and burning. Overlying were soil and rubble deposits (631/632) that were presumably deposited after the structure had gone out of use. Subsequently a small pit or ditch (F136) was cut through this in-fill. Several sherds of late-Roman grey ware were recovered from charcoal 634.

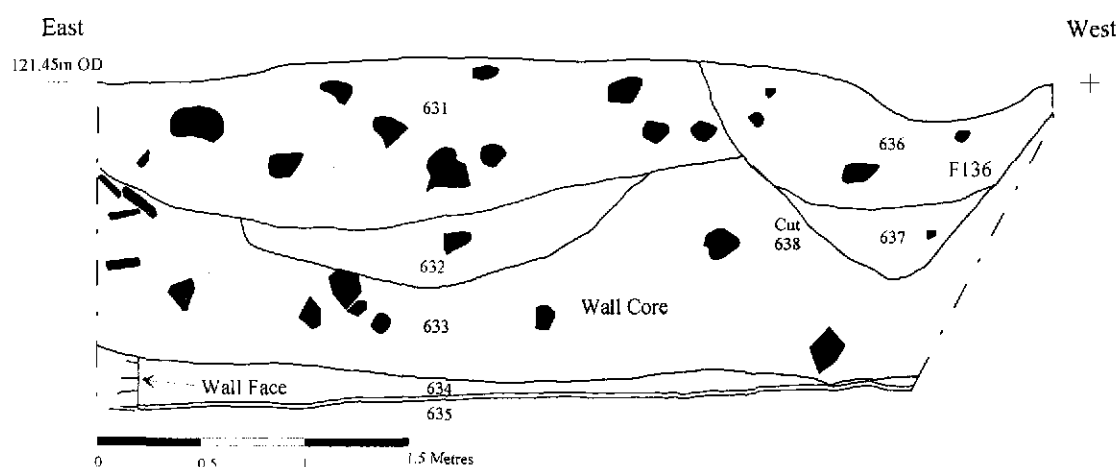


Figure 24: Profile through the sunken structure

Post-Roman

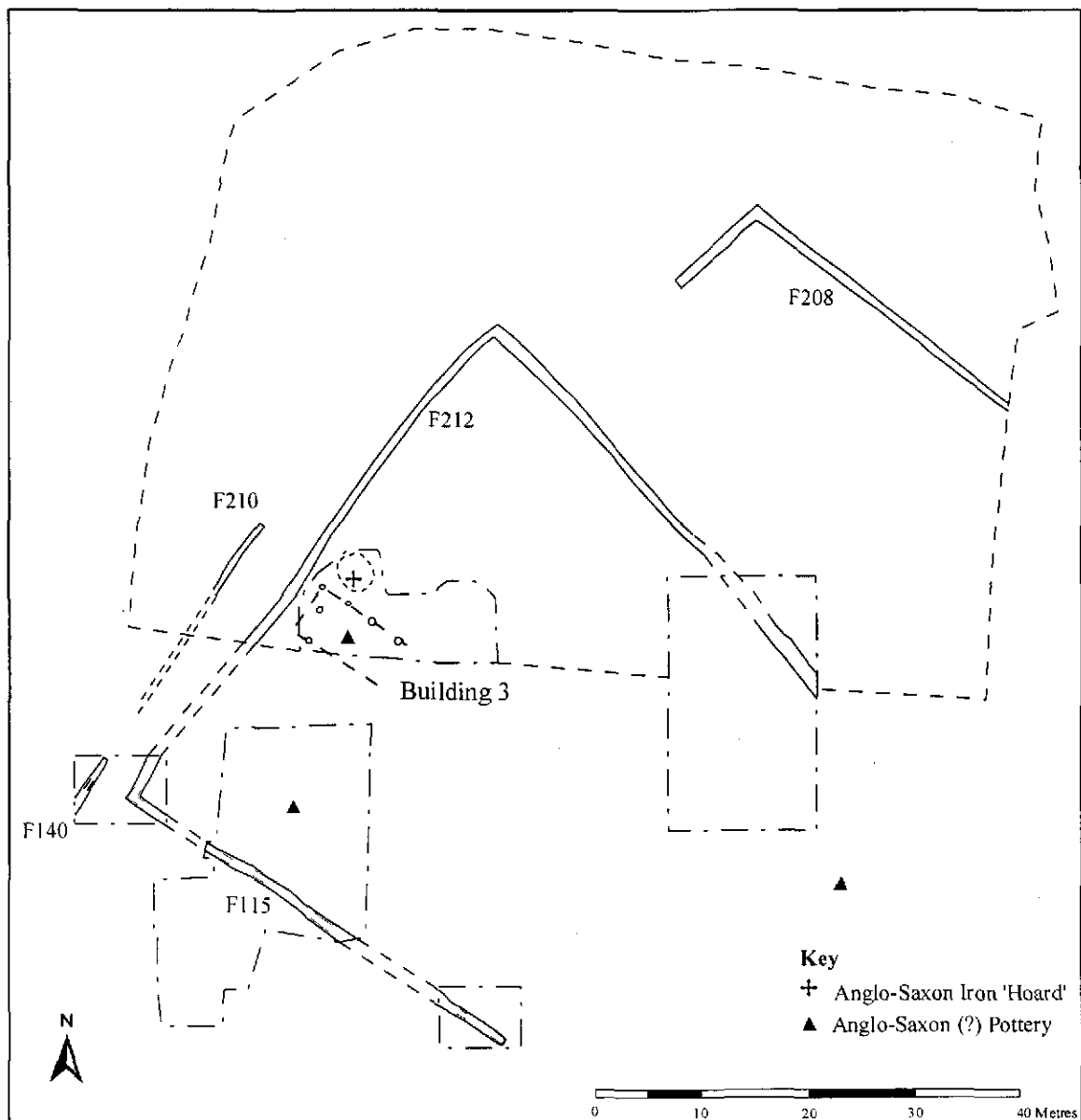


Figure 25: Plan of post Roman features

Building 3

Situated some 12m to the north-east of the Building 1 were a group of postholes that may have formed part of a rectangular timber structure, although not all lay within the excavated area. The postholes appeared to have enclosed a small pocket of natural periglacial clay that overlay the chalk on this part of the site, which was perhaps utilised as a floor. A straight line of four equally spaced post-holes (F122-24, 126) appears to have defined the north wall of this structure, giving it a length of at least 8.7m. This line ran perpendicular to the east side of enclosure ditch F115/etc, and lack of postholes adjacent to its west side suggests that it may have also delimited its extent. Posthole F128 may possibly have defined the southern extent of the structure, if so suggesting a width of 4.9m. A sixth post-hole (F125) could have been situated internally within the structure. The postholes varied from between 450-700-mm in

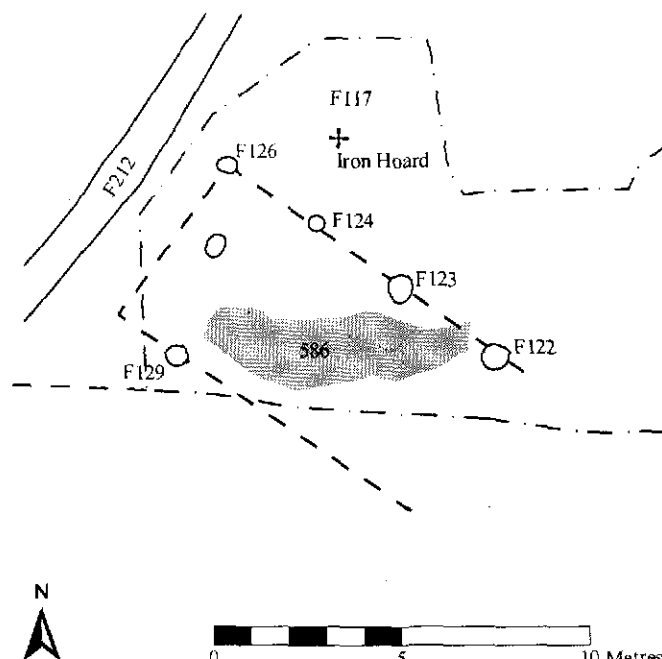


Figure 26: Plan of Building 3

diameter and from 60-200-mm in depth. Only posthole F123 showed evidence for a post-pipe since there was large flints placed around its edge.

Overlying the pre-glacial clay was a spread of heavily burnt flints and charcoal (586) up to 80-mm in depth. The flints had probably been burnt *in-situ* since the surface of the underlying clay had been burnt red due to considerable heat. This process appears to have been derived from metalworking since fragments of slag were recovered from within 586, and from several of the postholes of the structure.

Postholes F124 and F125 contained sherds of Roman grey ware, and a handmade sherd of sandy/organic fabric, tentatively identified as early Anglo-Saxon, was recovered from spread 586.

The Anglo-Saxon 'Hoard'

Recovered from within the top 200-300-mm part of Roman pit F117 (555, Figure 15) were an iron wire-inlaid belt buckle and a square belt fitting. During initial X-ray

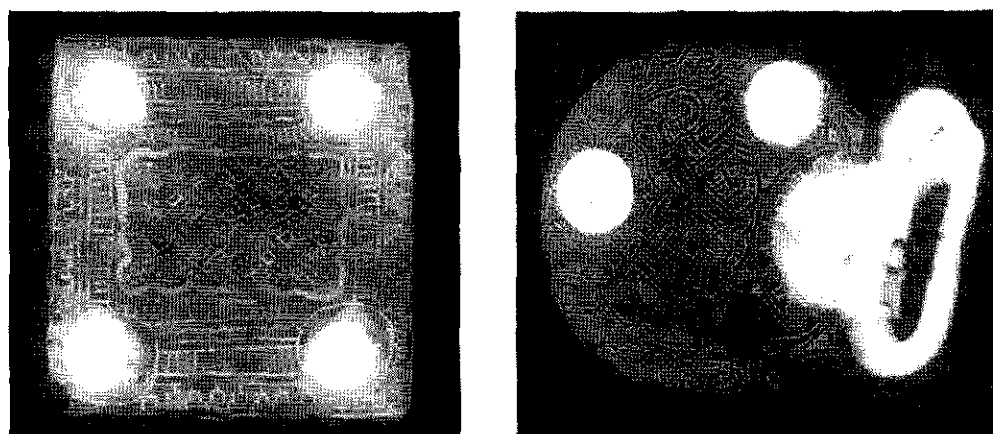


Figure 19: The Anglo-Saxon belt Square belt fitting and buckle

analysis and a subsequent report (see below), these were identified as Anglo-Saxon in origin and represent rare examples of intricately decorated metalwork, probable dating to the first half of the seventh century. The differences in workmanship and design of the two objects suggest that they were not made as a matching suite. Also recovered from the top of the pit, from within 555, were a number of other iron objects including 2 boot plates, patterned plate fragments, fittings and nails.

It seems clear that these objects are closely associated, although whether they were together in a deliberately dug pit or thrown into the top of a surviving hollow was not determined during their excavation. The close proximity to metal working activity within Building 3 suggests that these objects were likely to have been deposited together as founders hoard, presumably intended for later use.

The Enclosure Ditch (F115/212)

Cutting across the central part of Building 1 was a rectilinear ditch that formed part of a rectangular enclosure that measured 54.5m across and by at least 45.0m. Three sides of the enclosure lay within the recorded area and the ditch terminated at its east end of its southern side. It is unclear whether this marked an entrance or whether that the enclosure was open-ended on its east side.

Within the excavated areas, the ditch was sectioned in six places including at the terminus and on the south-west corner of the enclosure. Within the watching brief area, machine excavated sections were carried out on the north and west sides of the enclosure. The ditch was found to have a U-shaped profile with steep regular sides and in width from 800mm to 1.1m, and in depth from 420-690-mm. Its primary fill comprised of a compact and very chalky brown silt that containing Roman tile fragments. Its secondary fill comprised of compact pale brown silty clay with a high chalk content that contained appreciable quantities of Roman tile fragments, and flint nodules, some with mortar adhering to them. The abundance of Roman building material in the ditch was not confined to the area where the ditch had cut through the Roman building. Appreciable quantities of Roman tile fragments were also recorded within the top fill of the ditch, well away from the building close to the north-west corner of the enclosure. A small amount of late Roman pottery was recovered from two of the excavated sections that were mostly small and abraded fragments.

Other Features

Only one other feature on the site could be assigned to the Roman period (or later) with any confidence. Ditch F208 seems to have formed part a second enclosure, immediately north-east of enclosure F115/212. Machine excavated sections across it revealed that it had a similar profile, measuring some 870-mm across and 330-mm in depth. Appreciable quantities of Roman tile fragments were also noted within its fill of dark brown clayey-loam.

Other possible Roman or later features comprise of a discontinuous ditch (F140/210) that ran approximately parallel to the west of enclosure F115/212. Within the north-west part of the watching brief area was a sub-rectangular pit (F213). Although unexcavated, late Roman pottery and tile fragments were recovered from within its fill.

Discussion

From the small amount of pottery recovered, evidence for some activity on the site has been found dating back as early as the Bronze Age. This period marked the beginning of the extensive use of land, in the form of settlements, enclosures and field systems, particularly on the downland valleys, rivers and coastal plains of southern Britain. Although no features of Bronze Age date were positively identified, it is possible that some of the unexcavated features within the watching brief area could be of this period. The Middle Iron Age pottery from F114 was found near the surface of ditch F114, and may feasibly post-date its cutting by some considerable period. Certainly by the Middle Iron Age there was some form of settlement on site that is likely to be associated with agriculture, as testified by the presence of the 'bee-hive' pits, normally interpreted as grain storage pits. The pottery used in this settlement is of St. Catherine's Hill-Worthy Down style, whose distribution is centred on Hampshire, and is currently dated to the fourth to second centuries BC (Cunliffe 1991, 81). Occupation on or close to the site seems to have continued into the Late Iron Age by a community using local wares similar those at found Brighton Hill South (Hatch Warren) and Winklebury.

The lack of ceramic evidence for occupation on the site during the first two centuries of Roman rule suggests a hiatus until the reestablishment of a settlement on the site during the third and fourth centuries. This may have been purely a local situation, especially given the small and piecemeal nature of the excavations. What is clear is that by the second half of the third century or early fourth century buildings were erected on the site that probably formed part of a farmstead or villa. It is conceivable, from their arrangement, that the house (Building 1) and the timber building (Building 2) enclosed a central courtyard. If this the case, then the arrangement closely resembles the layout found at the Sparsholt villa near Winchester and other courtyard villas in the region (Johnston 1978, Figure 25), in which the courtyard was surrounded by a wall, possibly to retain livestock. A narrow stub of wall surviving immediately to the north-east of the north wing of Building 1 (see Figure 13) may have been an remnant of such a wall. The extents of this enclosed courtyard is unknown, although it is likely to be symmetrically flanked by a number of building serving various purposes, others of which may have been sited beyond the limits of the investigated area. Given its position, the sunken structure could have feasibly flanked its north side, although this would have made the courtyard in excess of 100m across.

In its original phase, the plan of Building 1 conforms to the archetypal winged corridor house, although rather small in size. The poor survival of the building of this phase renders any detailed description of its structural layout and function of the house impossible. What can be said is that in its earliest state at least, the building was not furnished with the typical luxury fittings such as under floor heating or a bath suite, although evidence from the nearby pits does suggested that its walls were adorned with painted plaster at some point. The similarities with the villa building at Sparsholt are again noted in plan and size, although there is closer resemblance with an early fourth-century Roman townhouse that was excavated at The Brooks in Winchester (Zant 1993, Figure 85). The Winchester building however was much more substantial with rammed chalk wall footings in excess of 2.2m in width that suggested a wholly masonry built house (Zant 1993, 105). The much narrower and shallow wall

footings of the Monk Sherborne house are unlikely to have supported anything more than a half-timbered structure or even simply acted as sleeper or dwarf walls.

The remodelling of the north-wing of Building 1 seems to represent an attempt to provide greater comfort for the occupiers of the house. Again there are close parallels

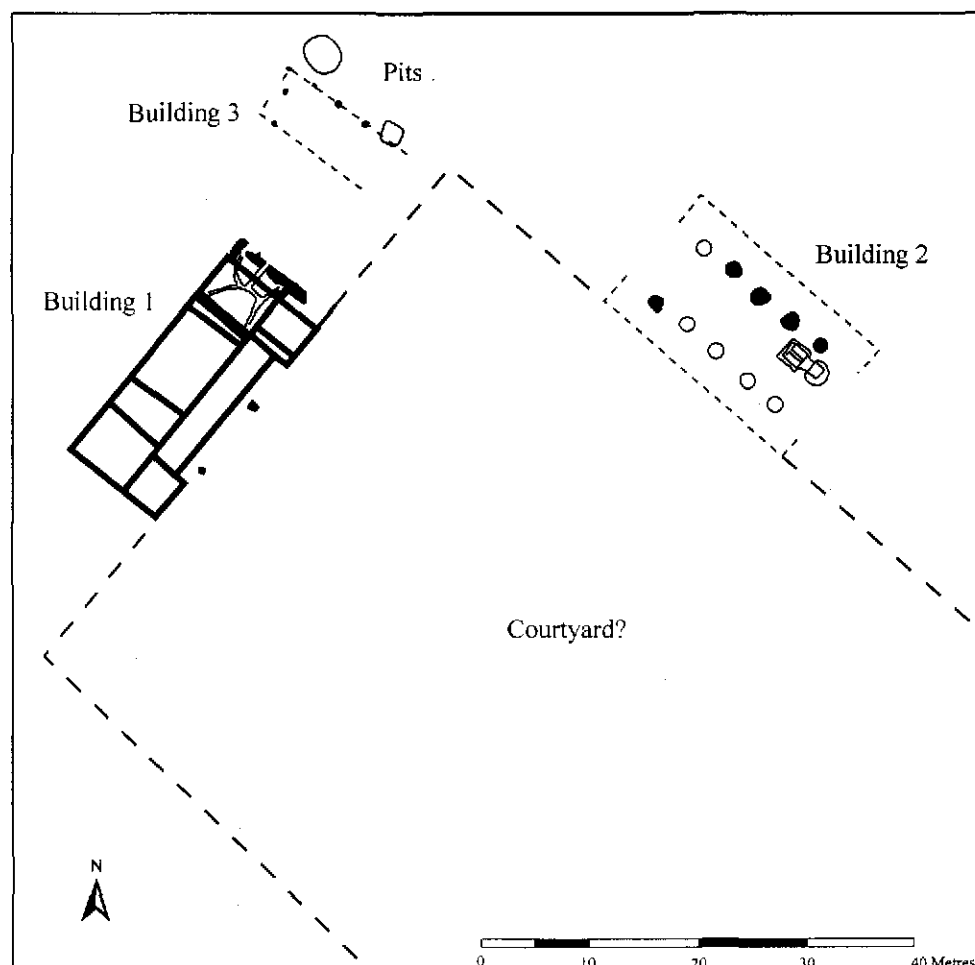


Figure 28: Suggested arrangement of Roman buildings

to the Winchester townhouse in the design of the channelled hypocaust that occur in both buildings. The Winchester example has four channel arms radiating from the centre towards the corners of the room, although here the stokehole was located on the corner of the room. In order to prevent fire damage, the walls of the hypocausted room would have had to have been wholly masonry built and this is reflected in the appreciably more substantial nature of their foundations. Whether this remodelling was ever completed is a matter of some debate, especially given the poor survival of the evidence. It does appear, for whatever reason, that the hypocaust was never fired up. Given the compact and consolidated nature of the in-fill of the channels, this could suggest that the hypocaust may have simply been abandoned and re-floored over.

Evidence gained from the Roman pits, that are almost certainly contemporary, does give some more insight into the date and the nature of the villa and its inhabitants. The pits, at least one of which was used as a latrine, were located outside the courtyard enclosure and a short distance down wind from the house. The rich assemblage of pottery and the coin evidence suggests that the occupation of the villa did not begin

before c.260AD and continued well into the fourth century. If the rubbish deposited into the corn dryer after its disuse was derived from the occupation of the house, then occupation could have feasibly have further continued into the latter part of the century and perhaps beyond. Certainly the findings of glass vessel fragments the Kimmeridge shale tray, as well as possibly the more elaborate pottery types present does suggest indicate the inhabitants enjoyed some measure of comfort.

Research into corn-dryers (Morris, 1979) shows that the Monk Sherborne example is a typical of the simple T-shaped furnace type, and is uncommonly well preserved. In particular it closely resembles those found at the agricultural settlement at Durrington, Wiltshire and at Rockbourne Down in Hampshire. Generally the typical corn dryer contains a stoking area, a fireplace, flues, and a drying floor. These essential components are clearly discernible in the Monk Sherborne example, although there is less certainty on the configuration of the drying floor. Two possible floor reconstruction possibilities are discussed by Morris (1979, 12-15), the classic two-floor type; and a floor of over the main flue, then hot air deflected from the back of the cross flue into the main chamber. It seems that the latter interpretation is applicable here since there was there is evidence that the cross flue was at least partially covered. The hard clay (626, Figure 19) that bonded and sealed the capping tiles for the main channel probably acted as the floor. This would have also retained much of the intensity of the heat, distributing it in a more controlled manner, and therefore preventing the roasting of the grain on the floor above. The lack of charcoal and scotching within the main channel, away from the stoking pit, would suggest that the temperature within the main chamber was kept at a moderate level.

It is probable that most corn dryers were within structures, either houses, barns or purpose built (Morris, 9). This seems to have been the case at Monk Sherborne especially since the exposed nature of its siting would have made it susceptible to the rather changeable British climate. The exact function of this structure is uncertain, although given the substantial nature of its post pads, it must have been a building of some substance. Given the size of the its post pads and its regular plan, it closely resembles that of an typical ailed building. If so, then the width of the nave is 7.0m, which is within the range of 5-7m for majority of Roman aisled buildings in Britain that are especially prevalent in the east Midlands and Hampshire. It's length of 14.0m is exactly double the width, again within the range of 2:3 and 2:5 for 74% of known examples (Morris, 64). No evidence for the outer wall of this structure was found, although this could have been missed since this area of the site was not investigated in detail, or if they constructed on wooden sills, would not have survived at all. Such buildings were used for agricultural purposes, such as for stock, storage, drying and possibly threshing, but may have also functioned as living quarters to the workers on the villa.

It has been suggested (McCulloch 1996) that the sunken structure formed part of a second corn-dyer, on account of the thick deposit of charcoal deposited on its floor. If so it was clearly constructed differently and much larger than the corn-dryer excavated within Building 2. However the depth of its 'floor', cut at least 1.55m into the chalk, seems somewhat excessive for the use of this structure as a corn-dryer. Another more plausible interpretation perhaps is that it formed part of a masonry-lined cellar or more speculatively a bath. However since nothing of this structure

survived in plan, further comment must remain pointless, although as noted above, it would have faced onto the south side of the villa courtyard.

It is tempting from the evidence to suggest that occupation on the site of the villa continued well into the post-Roman period, but whether this was a continuous process is a matter of debate. Certainly, the hoard of metal work containing the Frankish belt fittings and the scatter of apparent Anglo-Saxon pottery is strong evidence in support for occupation on the site at some point during this period. The close proximity of the Anglo-Saxon hoard to Building 3, with its evidence of metalworking implies that some form of occupation that incorporated industrial activity was occurring on the site during this period. It is significant that the building was positioned perpendicular and *apparently* against and respecting the line of the courtyard wall of the villa. If this is the case, then it implies that the courtyard, if not some of the structures arranged around it were still standing when this building was constructed. Such a scenario has been documented elsewhere, for example at Orton Hall Farm, Peterborough (Mackreth, 2009-23) where there was a 5th-6th century structure (building h), of similar dimensions to the building found at Monk Sherborne. This structure, and other Anglo-Saxon features that were found, was similarly arranged around and respected the buildings and courtyard of a Roman farmstead or villa. Here it was suggested that they may have originally formed an element of planned Roman settlement of barbarian groups within an already fully developed landscape. However by the time the enclosure ditch F115/212 was dug, Building 1 must have been completely levelled, although it is feasible it post-dates this latest activity altogether. The incomplete nature of the excavation, particularly around the area of the courtyard of the villa at Monk Sherborne can only make further comment on the nature and extent of this occupation highly speculative.

The Finds Assessment

Helen Rees

Note: This assessment was mostly completed by the end of 1997, before the full structural report had been compiled. In the interim (to February 2001), some of its recommendations have been carried out. For more detail, see the table below and the appendices to this report.

Specialist input to the assessment in the form of identifications and/ or written text is by Kathy Ayres, Justine Bayley, Paul Bright, Kate Clark, Geoff Denford, Sonja Marini and Helen Rees. Conservation was by Bob Holmes and Andrew Wilson.

Type	Conserve/ X-Ray	Assessment	Data Collection/ Viewing/ Notes	Report
Pottery	-	Y	Y	
Iron Belt Fittings	Y	Y	Y	Y
Iron Belt Fs XRF	-	Y	Y	Y
Iron Nails	Y	Y		
Other Iron Objects	Y	Y		
Corrosion Rep Wood	Y	Y		
Copper Alloy Objects	N	Y		
Coins	N	Y	Y	
Glass	-	Y		
Bone Objects	-	Y		
Slag	-	Y	Y	
Shale Object	N	Y	Y	
Other Stone	-	Y		
Ceramic Bm	-	Y		
Plaster/ Mortar/ Op Sig	-	Y		
Building Stone	-	Y		
Oyster	-	Y		
Samples	-	Y		
Animal Bone	-	Y		

Notes

- probably needs incorporating with main site text rather than separately published report.
- [REDACTED] Action needed

1. The Pottery

The earliest prehistoric material appears to be small and abraded fragments of what might once have been a domestic beaker or a collared urn, which were unstratified. Also unstratified is a small amount of possibly middle- or late Bronze Age material: as this is flint-tempered like the later, Iron Age pottery and very badly abraded, it has been identified only tentatively.

The Iron Age pottery, some of which was stratified, consists mostly of flint-tempered St Catherine's Hill/ Worthy Down middle Iron Age types, and fine sandy wares (one vessel decorated at the base with tooled swags and dots). There is also a smaller amount of late Iron Age grog tempered ware and a few sherds of briquetage. This material is similar to that recovered from other sites near Basingstoke, such as Brighton Hill South (Hatch Warren) and Winklebury.

The datable Roman pottery is all c. 270AD or later and includes some relatively large, well preserved closed groups. There appear to be two ceramic phases (c. 270-330/50AD and c. 350/70-400AD+). In general, the assemblage is fairly comparable to that from Neatham, but it is notable for much higher quantities of BB1 (South-East Dorset Black Burnished Ware, Category 1) in the late third and early fourth centuries. This pattern has been noted amongst other sites near Basingstoke by J. Allen and M. Fulford (Britannia 27, 1996).

There is also a very small amount of handmade pottery, which may be of Anglo-Saxon date.

The value of the material is in adding to the sample already known from the Basingstoke area. The Roman assemblage in particular is large enough to be treated statistically and will clarify pottery trade and distribution. It is therefore recommended that all of the material be described in publication, and that the larger Roman assemblages be presented quantitatively as key groups. Material comparable in hand specimen will need to be sought in order to establish the identification of the possible Anglo-Saxon sherds.

2. The Special Finds

a. The Anglo-Saxon belt fittings

These are a wire-inlaid belt buckle and square belt fitting recovered from the upper fill of F117 along with other, less remarkable iron objects. Preliminary examination suggests that the objects date to the later part of the sixth century or the earlier part of the seventh, and are of continental origin. The two pieces were not made as a matching set. This and the presence of the other objects suggest that the assemblage was an Anglo-Saxon founders hoard.

Both objects deserve special attention, not only because of the rarity of such metalwork from Anglo-Saxon England, but also for their intricate decoration. Scientific analysis (x-ray Fluorescence) to investigate further the means of their manufacture is also recommended.

b. Iron nails

These comprise about 50 hobnails (from footwear) and about 100 structural nails. It is recommended that the site distribution of this material be checked: it may be profitable to treat it quantitatively if there are particular concentrations. Mineral-replaced wood on some of the structural nails may be identifiable and serve to clarify woodland management practices in the 1st millennium AD.

c. Other special finds

There are about ten objects of iron, three of copper alloy, three coins, fragments of glass, two bone objects, a shale object and two items of stone. Included are part of an armlet, a hairpin, a hone and a quern of Niedermendig lava. The glass represents four separate vessels. Two of the coins are issues of Crispus (of 321-2) and Postumus (of 260-69), whilst the third (less legible) is dated c. 270-290. The shale object is from a tray, or possibly part of a tabletop of the sort that sat on three zoomorphic legs. The decoration, a large incised circle with a centrally placed dot is slightly unusual and perhaps represents the central motif in a circular form.

Although the numbers are small, they are sufficient to shed light on some aspects of everyday life on the site. Like the pottery, they also add to the sample from the Basingstoke area and from Hampshire generally. It is recommended therefore that the objects be described in publication in the traditional way, as catalogue entries.

3. The Smithing waste

This consists of hearth lining, smithing slag and hearth bottoms. The bright colours visible in some fragments may be from the use of sand in the iron smithing process. One piece is rather dense and heavy, but is insufficient by itself to suggest smelting.

It is recommended that the site distribution be checked, especially in the light of the location of the Anglo-Saxon belt fittings (above). For publication, the total weight (about 6.9kg) should be quoted. Comments on the character and distribution of the material are perhaps best incorporated with the site description rather than published as a separate specialist report.

4. Building materials

a. Ceramic building materials

These comprise mainly roofing tile, with some bricks and hypocaust tile. They were taken mostly from the capping of the corn dryer, but some were removed from the hypocaust fabric of Roman Building 1.

As only a sample was kept, quantification may be of little value. However, research and reporting on the types present will illuminate methods of construction on the site and fabric analysis may clarify trade links between this site and others.

b. Other building materials

These comprise five pieces of plaster, four coloured, a little mortar and opus signinum, a number of Purbeck limestone roofing tiles, a few dressed chalk blocks, two tile tesserae and a few pieces of micaceous sandstone veneer. As this contributes a little to the understanding of Roman building methods on the site, the material is probably warrants brief description in publication. Depending on its site distribution, it may be more appropriate to include this in the structural analysis, rather than as a separate specialist report.

5. The Environmental evidence

a. Oyster shell

The presence of this small amount of material requires a brief mention in publication.

b. Soil samples

Soil samples were taken from a possible cremation burial (F107), two Roman pits (F117 and F121), from the fill of the stokehole to the corn drier F134 and the base of the channel within it F133, and from the fill of a possible second corn drier observed in the side of the quarry (⁶³⁴). Evidence of the natural and man-made environment recovered includes cess (especially from the pits), charcoal, seeds and snails. As no human bone was recovered from F107, the initial identification of its function seems to have been mistaken. Animal remains from the samples are mostly tiny fragments of large bones rather than complete small bones.

The amount of material may be too small to warrant quantified analysis, either in an attempt to further illuminate the functions of the individual features or to clarify changes in the environment and the use to which it was put through time. It is recommended however that this be checked by the relevant specialists: a listing of the species present and/or a comment on their significance may in any case be appropriate.

6. The Assessment of the Animal Bone

Kathy Ayres and Kate Clark

May 1999

This report considers the animal bone recovered from the excavations at Manor Farm, Monk Sherborne, near Basingstoke. The excavations were carried out by Winchester Museums Archaeology Section in July 1995, to investigate a Roman building, which has since been identified as a winged corridor villa. A number of prehistoric features were also excavated.

The bones were assessed in May 1999, with the examination of all bone fragments from all contexts. The total number of identified and unidentified bones for each context was recorded, as was the presence of butchered, gnawed and burnt bone. The presence of ageing and sexing information was also recorded.

A total of 1811 bone fragments were recorded, dated to Iron Age and Roman features. The Majority of the fragments were recorded from Roman features, with a small quantity recovered from features dated to the Iron Age (table 1).

Table 1

<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Period</i>		
	<i>Iron Age</i>	<i>Iron Age/Roman</i>	<i>Roman</i>
Ditch	46	19	14
Layer	0	0	0
Pit	148	0	1561
Posthole	23	0	0
Total	217	19	1575
% identifiable	18	84	48

Condition of the bone

The condition of the bone was assessed and graded on a scale of 1 to 5 for each context. Bone graded as 1 was in excellent condition with little or no post-depositional damage, and that graded as 5 could be identified only as 'bone'. Table 2 shows the number of contexts in each period with the condition of the bone graded. The majority of the bone was in very good condition, with traces of butchery and gnawing being retained.

Table 2

<i>Period</i>	<i>Condition</i>				
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Iron Age	1	4	-	-	-
Iron Age/Roman	-	1	-	-	-
Roman	7	9	1	1	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>

Table 3

<i>Species</i>	<i>Period</i>		
	<i>Iron Age</i>	<i>Iron Age/Roman</i>	<i>Roman</i>
Cattle	50	100	45
Sheep/goat	30	0	31
Pig	15	0	4
Horse	0	0	6
Dog	0	0	4
Cat	0	0	5
Red deer	3	0	0
Dom. Fowl	0	0	4
Other bird	3	0	1
Amphibian	0	0	1

Iron Age and Iron Age/Roman

A total of 217 bone fragments were retrieved from five features dated to the Iron Age, only 40 of which (18%) could be identified to species. Table 3 shows the relative abundance of identified species by percentage. Fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bone were identified, with 3 fragments of red deer antler, and 3 bird bones. One of the antler fragments had been worked and was also charred. One feature (pit 104) was dated to Iron Age/Roman period. It contained 19 fragments of bone, 16 of which were identified as cattle skull fragments.

Roman

Species representation

Over 1500 fragments of bone were recovered from features dated to the Roman period, just under half of which (762) could be identified to species. The partial skeletons are not included in the fragment counts. The majority of the bone was retrieved from 4 pits, with a small quantity of bone from a ditch. Cattle remains were the most frequent, with sheep/goat being the second most common. Other domestic species present were horse, dog, cat and domestic fowl. Two red deer antlers were recorded in this period, and a small quantity of bones from birds other than domestic

fowl. Four amphibian bones were recorded and identified as frog or toad. These came from pit 121 and were most probably intrusive.

General comments

Ageing and sexing information could be obtained from the bones. Mandibles of cattle, sheep/goat and pig were available for ageing in a number of contexts, and fusion information was also retained on bones of these species. Two pig canines were available for sexing, and two domestic fowl tarsometatarsi complete with spurs were recorded.

The good condition of the bones also meant that butchery evidence was retained, as were gnawing marks. A number of bones of the main domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) were complete enough for measurements to be taken.

Two pathological bones were identified in the assemblage – a sheep metacarpal and a sheep jaw, both from pit 121.

The bones recovered from the Roman pits exhibited some interesting characteristics, with skulls, partial skeletons and neonates being recorded. Fragments of cattle skulls, and cattle horncores were recorded from contexts within pits 117, 121, 133 and 135. Two part dog skeletons were also recovered from pit 117. One of these was a proportion of an adult dog, from a small brachycephalic animal. The other was the partial skeleton of a neonate. The 38 cat bones from feature 121 also appear to be from one individual. There were also a quantity of neonate bones from other species recovered from pits 117 and 121. These included lambs, piglets and fragments of other puppies.

Discussion

Animal bone reports have been published from a number of urban and rural sites in Hampshire, but at present there are few reports from villas. However, the higher frequency of cattle than sheep and pig bones at Monk Sherbourne is reflected at most types of sites of the period. Two villa sites, Braishfield (Maltby, 1979) and Twyford (Chaplin & Atkinson, ND) both had higher percentages of cattle than other domesticates, but the samples from both sites were small. The nearby sites of Cowdery's Down (Maltby, 1982) also had a predominance of cattle bone. King (1978) in his survey of Roman sites of Britain, also observed a trend of increasing proportions of cattle being recorded on sites of the Roman period, than on Iron Age sites. Other species recorded at Monk Sherbourne were also seen on these, and other, Roman sites (King, 1978; Maltby, 1981).

Recommendations

- 1) No further analysis is recommended for the small quantities of material from the Iron Age features.
- 2) The Roman material holds potential in many respects. The fusion and dental evidence available for cattle, sheep and pig can be studied in more detail to provide age structures for these species in the assemblage, and the good condition

of the bone means that butchery data can be explored further, and measurements taken.

- 3) The presence of neonates, skulls and partial skeletons in the Roman pits is worth investigating further.
- 4) The dog skeleton from context 578 was in very good condition, and if the dating can be refined, the material and pathological data will be useful in contributing to the current understanding of Romano-British dogs.
- 5) The small number of animal bone assemblages from villa sites in the region highlights the contribution the analysis of the bones from Monk Sherbourne can make to this area.

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Appendix A:

The wire-inlaid Buckle and Belt fitting

Sonja Marini

The Buckle

Width of loop 56 mm, Length of loop 26 mm, Width of plate 69 mm, Length of plate 73mm, Thickness of plate ca. 2.5 mm, Total height of rivets and plate ca. 9.5 mm, Total weight of buckle and plate 139.96 g; Accession No. HMCMS A.1998.19

Attached to the oval, iron loop is a sub-circular iron plate with originally three rivets. The tongue has a curved tip and an approximately round shield. Loop, tongue and plate are decorated with inlaid silver wires and areas of silver plating. The plate is attached to the loop by two protruding iron strips bent around the hinge bar. Due to corrosion, it is not now possible to tell, whether it ever contained a back plate, or whether the strips were directly attached to the belt. The remaining two dome-headed rivets consist of an iron core with copper alloy cap and on the back of the plate remainders of the iron rivet-stumps are still visible.

The decorative scheme combines geometric motifs with zoomorphic and non-zoomorphic interlace. Around the outer face of the buckle loop run two sets of non-zoomorphic two-strand interlace, whereas the upper face carries a honeycomb pattern. The tongue is inlaid with transverse wires and a frieze of T-shaped cells on the plate forms a frame for the tongue shield. The latter is decorated by two beaked snake-like animals, each of which is intertwined with itself. This contrasts with the interlace cable, which runs along the edge of the plate and which has a beaked snakehead at either end. One head is still largely covered by one of the rivets. The central field of the plate contains a complex interlace pattern, which, too, is partly concealed by one of the rivets. Close examination showed that at least some of the wires are ribbon twisted (cf. Hawkes 1981, Fig. 3.2). Apart from the empty space, where the third rivet would have sat, remaining free areas have been filled with silver sheeting cut to shape.

Buckles of such a form were rare in Anglo-Saxon England, and usually made from copper alloy (Avent 1972; Avent 1976). Wire inlaid buckles with plate, dating to the later sixth and seventh centuries are generally scarce and seem restricted to Kent. Examples from Finglesham, Updown/Eastry III (Hawkes 1981) and St. Peter's Tip, Broadstairs can be quoted (L. Webster, pers comm.). Decoration normally consists of geometric inlay, which often imitates garnet cloisonné (Hawkes 1981, 56). Zoomorphic interlace, such as on the Monk Sherbourne buckle, is not unknown elsewhere, however, as it also appears on a triangular buckle plate with two inlaid, intertwined snakes from St. Peter's Tip grave 42 and on the famous buckle from Eccles (Speake 1980, 58-9).

The motif of the beaked snake also decorates Continental belt fittings, grave stones and even coffins. The interpretation of its meaning ranges from purely decorative to apotropaic and from protective to harmful (Krause 1991, 146, note 16, Figs. 86b, 88; Hawkes 1997, 323-6). Several varieties of buckles with round plates and monochrome

wire-inlay became fashionable widely on the Continent in the late sixth century and lasted through the first half of the seventh (Koch 1967, maps 13 and 14; Giesler 1983, 524-5; Nieveler & Siegmund 1999, 6). They could be combined with a counterplate and a small back plate to a three-piece suite, or just be worn with a back plate in a two-piece set (Ament 1976, 102). No good parallels to the ornament on our buckle can be cited. It seems, however, that it is closest to Frankish and Burgundian examples, as the honey-comb cloisonné on the loop is a motif neither current on similar Alamanic nor Rhenish suites (Martin 1991, 101; Nieveler & Siegmund 1999, 6). The copper alloy rivets can be paralleled at Finglesham Gr. 25 (Hawkes 1981, 53, Fig. 3.4-1,2,3,4) and also in northern France and Belgium, for example on buckles from Nouvion-en-Pontieu, Dép. Somme, Gr. 26 (Piton 1985), Surice and Wancennes (Trenteseau 1966, 111 no. 207, 119 no. 234).

A date in the first half of the seventh century is appropriate for this buckle. Its decoration is dominated by interlace rather than geometric motifs and the characteristic early mushroom-shaped cells are completely absent (cf. Giesler 1983, 524). The dome-headed rivets with notched edges imitate and filigree collars frequently found on metalwork of that period. Examples are the buckles from Ford, Laverstock, Wiltshire (Musty 1964), Dover Buckland Gr. 8 (Evison 1987) and Tostock, Suffolk (West 1988, Fig. 128.10). Rivets with crimped border, such as on the Monk Sherborne buckle occur in Finglesham grave 25 and Updown/Eastry III grave 24 (Hawkes 1981, Figs. 3.2 – 1,2,4, 3.4-2). Additionally, the honeycomb cells on the loop are a pattern that also occurs on two composite garnet brooches from Faversham, Kent and Milton North Field nr. Abingdon, Oxfordshire, which have been dated to the late third decade of the seventh century (Avent 1975, 63, Pls. 73, 74).

The Fitting

Width 47.5 mm, Length 49 mm, Thickness 3 mm, Total height of rivets, rivet shanks and plate ca. 15.5 mm, Weight 51.22 g; Accession No. HMCMS A.1998.19.1

In the same complex of metal objects, an almost square iron fitting with four rivets and silver wire inlay was found. An outer border of T-shaped cells is followed by an inner hachured band and an irregular wavy line. The middle of the design is taken by a framed panel of narrow ribbon-interlace filled with dots. The dome-headed iron rivets are inlaid with wire strips running downwards from the top. At the utmost, three strips can be determined now on any one rivet, but their layout and further wire traces suggest that originally there were more of them. The rivets have looped iron shanks, three of which are still extant.

The back plate from Finglesham grave 25 is similar to this fitting, as it contains a central panel of spotted interlace, too. The framing borders and rivets are rather different, however. The interlace on a buckle from the Rhineland is even closer, as it also runs in four strands and is bounded by a scalloped line and hachuring inside a zigzag line. It is not possible to trace the context from which this piece came, but due to well-dated parallels, it belongs to the end of the sixth or first quarter of the seventh centuries (Gottschalk 1991, 243-4).

Although a fitting of this form would originally have accompanied the buckle, these two pieces were not made as a matching suite. The only inlay-motif they both have in

common are the T-shaped cells. The broad ladder-bands of the interlace on the buckle do not compare well with the more ribbon-like spotted interlace on the fitting. The quality of workmanship is better with the buckle. Close examination showed that on the fitting sometimes the wires overlap and that the width of the wires is less even than on the buckle. Lastly, the rivets on both pieces are not only made from different materials, but also follow different constructive principles. It is not possible any more to determine the exact relationship in which the buckle and fitting were deposited and we can therefore not be sure that they were not used as a suite, anyway. There is little doubt, however, that both buckle and fitting were not produced in Anglo-Saxon England itself, but imported from the other side of the Channel, most probably from Francia.

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Appendix B: List of Special Finds

SF No	Feature	Context	Material	Comments
1		539	cual	three strand twisted
2		539	fe	x 5
3		539	fe	x 4
4		539	fe	
5	F117	555	cual	Crispus, 321-2, London
6	F117	555	fe	3 pieces patterned fe plate
7	F117	555	fe	
8	F117	555	fe	box fitting or boot plate?
9	F117	555	fe	
10	F117	555	fe	belt/ strap end
11	F117	555	fe	frag
12	F117	555	fe	discarded- natural
13	F117	555	fe/ cual/ ag	6th-7th C
14	F117	555	fe	x 8
15	F117	555	fe	
16	F117	568	fe	x 16
17	F117	568	fe	x 2
18	F117	568	glass	x 2, blue green decayed chips
19	F117	568	glass	x 2, blue green
20		U/S	Glass	light green
21	F117	555	fe	
22		U/S	fe	
23	F121	576	cual	Postumus, 260-69
24		U/S	cual	270s-280s
25	F121	576	fe	x 5
26	F117	570	fe	
27	F117	573	fe	x 3
28	F121	576	fe	x 5
29	F121	603	cual	
30	F117	569	fe	
31	F121	603	fe	x 15
32	F121	603	ceramic	spindlewhorl?
33	F117	555	fe	x 2
34	F117	570	fe	x 3
35	F121	576	fe	x 2
36	F121	603	bone	
37	F117	569	fe	
38		539	fe	
39	F117	569	fe	
40	F117	578	fe	
41	F121	576	bone	headless
42	F117	570	fe	
43	F117	555	fe	
44	F121	603	fe	

SF No	Feature	Context	Material	Comments
45	F121	603	fe	
46	F117	578	fe	x 3
47	F117	573	fe	x 3
48	F117	578	fe	x 2
49	F117	569	fe	
50	F133	625	fe	x 3
51	F130	606	fe	
52	F133	624	cual/ ag	
53	F130	606	cual	
54		539	ceramic	x 2
55	F115	550	fe	
56	F117	578	fe	x 24
57	F117	555	fe	
58	F117	578	fe	x 4
59	F117	578	fe	x 3
60	F117	573	fe	x 3
61	F121	575	fe	x 7
62		539	fe	
63	F134	629	fe	
64	F117	570	fe	x 2
65	F117	577	fe	
66	F117	570	plaster	painted
67	F133	642	fe	
68	F117	555	glass	light green
69	F117	555	fe	
70	F117	555	fe	
71	F117	573	flint	more likely natural
72	F134	628	fe	x 3
73		629	fe	
74	F117	577	fe	
75		539	fe	x 3
76		513	fe	
77	F133	642	fe	
78	F134	628	fe	
79	F117	573	plaster	painted
80	F117	573	plaster	painted
81	F117	578	plaster	
82	F117	578	plaster	
83	F117	578	plaster	painted
84	F115	603	plaster	painted
121	F121	576	shale	flat vessel- tray or dish

Appendix C: Pottery Database

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
522	BRQ2	108	1	6							
522	GWCE	108	1	10							COULD BE IRON AGE "ALICE HOLT"
537	OXM		1	32							
539	F1	LAYR	1	3							BASE? WITH FLINT UNDERSIDE? LBA?
539	GW	LAYR	1	18	AH1		8	12.5			
539	GW	LAYR	1	40	AH1		10	12.5			
539	GW	LAYR	1	16	AH1		10	10			
539	GW	LAYR	1	3	AH1						
539	GW	LAYR	1	3	AH1B		5	10			OR AH8
539	GW	LAYR	1	114	AH1C		11	15			
539	GW	LAYR	1	30	AH3B						
539	GW	LAYR	1	8	AH3B					575, 576	
539	GW	LAYR	1	35	AH4		9	8			
539	GW	LAYR	1	8	AH5D?		7	10			
539	GW	LAYR	13	62							
539	M1	LAYR	3	32	HM1		12	5			
539	NFST	LAYR	6	62	NF27		1.5	35			EARLY TYPE 270-340
539	OXCC	LAYR	1	2							
539	Q2	LAYR	1	5							
539	SMCG	LAYR	1	4	27						DOMI, RETROGRADE: DOMIUS LES MARTRES DE VEYRES, 100-110
541	Q1		1	7							

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
543	F1	114	1	9							BASE
543	F2	114	1	22							
543	G1	114	2	6							
543	Q1	114	1	15	HM2						BURNISHED OVERALL
543	Q1	114	2	13					TPASD		BURNISHED OVERALL, BASE OF SAUCEPAN POT OR SIMILAR
543	Q1	114	11	48							
543	Q2	114	4	42							
550	BB1	115	1	5							
550	FWW	115	1	2							
550	GRT	115	1	8	EVJ						
550	GW	115	8	42							
550	GWTL	115	2	27							
550	SMCG	115	1	3							
551	BB1	115	1	6	EVJ						
551	GRT	115	2	64							
551	GW	115	1	16					C,ACL		
555	BB1	117	2	42	EVJO		6.5	16			
555	BB1	117	4	112	FRB		10	31	BIA		
555	BB1	117	1	4					ACL		
555	BB1	117	12	96							
555	F1	117	1	7							
555	F2	117	4	12							
555	G1	117	1	6	HM3						
555	G1	117	1	3							
555	GRT	117	2	40	EVJ		7	12.5			

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
555	GRT	117	1	39	FRB		8	10			
555	GRT	117	1	32	FRB		6	10			
555	GRT	117	1	13	FRB		9	5			
555	GRT	117	1	17	LID						
555	GRT	117	1	11	SSD		9	7.5			
555	GRT	117	7	134							
555	GW	117	1	60	AH1		10	15			
555	GW	117	1	20	AH1		10	7.5			
555	GW	117	1	26	AH1		9	10			
555	GW	117	1	15	AH1						
555	GW	117	1	20	AH1		9	8			
555	GW	117	2	12	AH3A						
555	GW	117	1	16	AH5A		12	7			
555	GW	117	2	12	AH5B						
555	GW	117	1	6	AH5C						
555	GW	117	4	144	AH6A		10	28			
555	GW	117	4	59	AH6A						
555	GW	117	1	8	AH7						
555	GW	117	83	694							
555	GWCE	117	1	4	AH1						
555	GWCE	117	2	12							
555	GWTL	117	1	7	AH3C						
555	GWTL	117	5	41							
555	NFCC	117	1	2	BKR		1.5	20			
555	NFCC	117	1	21	NF41						300+?
555	NFCC	117	1	4							

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
555	NFM	117	1	66	NF104		12	10			300+
555	NFST	117	1	2							
555	OXCC	117	1	12	BKR						
555	OXCC	117	1	20	OXC97		9	5.5			
555	OXCC	117	1	6							
555	OXM	117	1	56							
555	XPW	117	2	30	XP24		11	10			
555	SVNK	117	1	168	STJ		15	12.5			
557	BRQ1	118	5	13							
557	BRQ2	118	1	3							
557	F1	118	1	9							
557	F2	118	1	10					DL		COLLARED URN? OR OTHER EARLY BRONZE AGE
557	F2	118	1	4							
557	G1	118	1	6	HM5						
557	G1	118	1	18	HM6						
557	G1	118	1	7	HM7						
557	G1	118	9	42							
557	Q2	118	3	12							
557	Q3	118	1	33							
557	Q4	118	1	3	HM4						
557	Q4	118	4	21							
558	GW	118	1	20							
564	Q1	119	2	17	HM8						
564	Q1	119	26	46							SOME BURNISHED, GENERALLY VERY BAD

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
564	Q2	119	3	63	HM9		8	13			CONDITION, SOME ?Q2 ALL OVER BURNISH, INTERNAL & EXTERNAL
564	Q2	119	3	33							ONE WITH ALL OVER BURNISH EXTERNAL
568	BB1	117	1	12	SSD						
568	BB1	117	1	11							
568	BB1	117	1	3							
568	F1	117	1	6							OXIDISED, SLIGHTLY SANDY ?NOT MIA
568	F2	117	1	9							
568	GRT	117	1	16							
568	GW	117	1	14	AH1						
568	GW	117	1	14	AH5B		9	10			
568	GW	117	1	10	AH5B		12	5			
568	GW	117	1	23	AH5B		10	10			
568	GW	117	2	16	AH5C						
568	GW	117	1	11	AH6A		9	6			
568	GW	117	1	38	AH8		2.5	100			
568	GW	117	1	97	STJ				CWSB		AS IN AH1C OR 4
568	GW	117	2	70	STJ						BASE
568	GW	117	46	302							
568	GW	117	1	10							
568	NFCC	117	1	2			2.5	12.5			
568	NFST	117	1	20	BKR						
568	OXCC	117	1	6							
568	XPW	117	1	8	XP24						BODYSHERD ONLY

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
568	OXWC	117	1	2	OXWC3						BODYSHERD ONLY
568	QI	117	5	50							
569	BB1	117	2	74	SSD		10	15			
569	GRT	117	1	8	SSD						
569	GW	117	2	15	AH1						
569	GW	117	1	5	AH5B						
569	GW	117	1	8	AH6A						
569	GW	117	20	165							
569	GWTL	117	1	18							
570	BB1	117	1	2	EVJ						
570	BB1	117	11	256	FRB		9	51	BIA		
570	BB1	117	3	27					OBL		
570	BB1	117	3	27							
570	F1	117	1	17	HM10						ALL OVER BURNISH
570	F1	117	2	122					BTL		
570	F1	117	5	128							
570	F1	117	4	124							
570	F1	117	6	86							
570	F1	117	4	32							
570	F1	117	1	6							
570	F1	117	4	54							
570	GAU4	117	1	121							
570	GRT	117	1	32	LID		12	11	BTL		
570	GRT	117	1	7					BTL		
570	GW	117	2	16	AH1						
570	GW	117	1	28	AH5B		8	10			

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
570	GW	117	1	31	AH5C		8	15			
570	GW	117	1	19	AH5C		8	10			
570	GW	117	5	155	AH6A						
570	GW	117	1	10					OBL		
570	GW	117	21	216							
570	GWCE	117	1	35							
570	GWTL	117	3	42							
570	NFCC	117	1	56	BKR						
570	NFCC	117	1	4							
570	OXCC	117	1	40	BWL						BASE
570	SMCG	117	1	16							
570	STJ1	117	1	6							
572	F1	119	1	8							
572	Q2	119	5	74							
572	Q3	119	1	18							ALL OVER BURNISH INTERNAL, FORM LIKE HM9 (BODY-SHERD)
573	BB1	117	2	13							
573	EGBC	117	2	8							
573	F1	117	12	133							
573	GRT	117	2	14							
573	GW	117	3	26	AH3B		10	7.5			
573	GW	117	13	152							
573	GW	117	19	206							
573	NFCC	117	1	1							
573	OXCC?	117	1	60	BWL						BADLY BURNT, FABRIC UNCERTAIN

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
573	SMCG	117	1	12							
573	SVNK	117	1	8							
574	Q2	117	1	5							ALL OVER BURNISH
574	Q3	117	1	11							
575	EPON	121	2	9							
575	F1	121	1	6					BTL		
575	GW	121	2	20	AH1						
575	GW	121	3	21	AH3B		7	7.5		539, 576	
575	GW	121	1	45	AH3C		6	30			
575	GW	121	3	93	AH5B		7	20	NOTCHES		
575	GW	121	1	43	AH6A		8.5	12			
575	GW	121	8	100							
575	GWTL	121	1	22	AH3C						
575	GWTL	121	3	65							
575	GWV	121	1	5					BRBTD		
575	SVNK	121	1	14							
576	BB1	121	1	18	FRB		11	6.5			
576	BB1	121	1	9							
576	EPON	121	2	14							INCLUDES TINY BEAD RIM FROM DRAG 31 COPY OR SIMILAR
576	GRT	121	2	58	FRB		11	16			
576	GW	121	1	18	AH3A		10	10			
576	GW	121	34	505	AH3B		6.5	67	BHL	603	SQUAT LIKE 3B.12, DECORATION LIKE 3B.8
576	GW	121	3	22	AH3B		7	6		537, 575	
576	GW	121	1	66	STJ						AS IN AH1C OR 4

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
576	GW	121	1	4					C		OXIDISED, ?FABRIC
576	GW	121	5	60							
576	GWTL	121	1	10							
576	RDBK	121	1	12							BASE ONLY
576	SMCG	121	1	16	18/31						LES MARTRES?
576	SVNK	121	1	138	STJ		15	10			
577	BB1	117	57	1265	EVJU		9.5	59	OBL		
577	F1	117	2	7	HM10						
577	F1	117	2	6							
577	GW	117	1	94	AH10						
577	GW	117	3	27							
577	GWTL	117	1	7							
577	OXCC	117	1	7	OXC97						WALL SHERD ONLY
577	STJ1	117	1	94							
577	SVNK	117	1	50							
578	BB1	117	20	515	EVJO		7	75	OBL		
578	BB1	117	27	415	FRB		8	92	BIA		
578	BB1	117	1	11					OBL		
578	BB1	117	2	20							
578	BB1	117	1	24		RIDG					
578	EGBC	117	16	82	SY49		4	85	RL		
578	F1	117	2	10							
578	G1	117	2	18							
578	GW	117	1	94	AH1C						
578	GW	117	2	27	AH3A		9	13			
578	GW	117	1	25	AH5B		8	7.5			

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
578	GW	117	1	10	AH6A						
578	GW	117	1	74	STJ						AS IN AHIC OR 4
578	GW	117	1	9					C.ACL		
578	GW	117	17	233							
578	GW/TIL	117	2	15							
578	NFCC	117	5	44	NF45		4.5	10			300-40
578	OXCC	117	2	42	OXC44		10	10			
578	OXM	117	1	144	OXM18		14	10			
578	O2	117	1	2							
578	SMCG	117	1	32	18/31						LES MARTRES?
578	SMCG	117	1	14							
578	STJ1	117	2	188	STJ		16.5	8			
578	STJ2	117	2	473	STJ		13	32			
579	F1	117	1	28							
579	G1	117	1	38					BTL		
585	O2	123	1	2							
586	Q1		1	30	HM11		10	4		587	
587	Q1		1	30	HM11		10	6		586	
588	F1	125	1	2	HM4						
588	F1	125	4	11							
588	G1	125	1	24	HM12		10	7.5			
588	GW	125	4	32							
588	OXID	125	2	4							VERY BAD CONDITION, COULD BE ANYTHING!
588	Q1	125	2	14							
588	O2	125	5	66							

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
588	Q4	125	1	24							
603	BB1	121	6	666	FRB		9.5	85	BIA		
603	F1	121	1	10	HM10						
603	F1	121	1	10							
603	GRT	121	2	40							
603	GW	121	13	153	AH3B		6.5	33	BHL	576	SQUAT LIKE 3B.12, DECORATION LIKE 3B.8
603	GW	121	1	4	AH7						VARIATION MOST LIKE 7.6
603	GW	121	1	101	STJ				BWL		AS IN AHIC OR 4
603	GW	121	1	12					CL		
603	GW	121	1	12					OBL		
603	GW	121	1	15					SQU		
603	GW	121	13	136							
603	NFST	121	1	40	NF27						
603	OXB	121	2	54							
603	OXCC	121	1	58	BKR						
603	OXCC	121	2	80	OXCS1		5.5	15			
603	Q1	121	2	2							BURNT, FABRIC UNCERTAIN
603	SMCG	121	1	9	33						
606	BB1	130	1	4							
606	GW	130	1	8							
624	BB1	133	1	32							
624	EPON?	133	2	9							RING FOOT, BADLY ABRADED
624	GRT	133	5	36	EVJ		6.5	13			
624	GW	133	1	39	AH1		10	8			

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
624	GW	133	13	224	AH3B		6	77.5			SQUAT LIKE 3B.12
624	GW	133	2	30	AH3B		9	17.5			
624	GW	133	1	29	AH5B						
624	GW	133	22	660	AH5B		10	100			INTERNAL SLIP NEARLY WORN OFF, WELL USED BEFORE BREAKAGE
624	GW	133	12	255							
624	GWTL	133	11	185	AH3C		5	47			
624	GWTL	133	1	12	AH3C		7	12.5			
624	GWTL	133	2	74							
624	NFCC	133	1	5							
625	G1	133	3	38							
625	GW	133	1	4							
628	BB1	133	1	2							
628	GRT	133	1	56	EVJ		7	20			
628	M1	133	1	23							
628	GRT	134	7	96							
628	GW	134	1	16	AH1		7	18			
628	GW	134	3	37	AH1						
628	GW	134	1	16	AH1		7	13			
628	GW	134	1	36	AH1A		6	20			SIMILAR TO VARIANT 1A.16
628	GW	134	1	17	AH5C						
628	GW	134	1	27	AH6A						SIMILAR TO VARIANT 6A.12 BUT NO DECORATION
628	GW	134	50	644							
628	OXCC	134	1	3	OXCC71						300+

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
628	OXCC	134	2	32	OXC97		11	7.5			
628	XPW	134	1	38	XP24		11	8			
628	XPW	134	1	14	XP24						
629	GRT	134	4	150	FRB		9	46.5			
629	GRT	134	1	28	SSD		8	12.5	BHL		
629	GRT	134	6	93							
629	GW	134	3	27	AH1						
629	GW	134	1	242	AH1C		11	27			
629	GW	134	4	387	AH5B		11	63			A.H. 1A.13 OR 96N.
629	GW	134	5	175					SQU		DEC ON BODY RATHER THAN BASE
629	GW	134	73	812							
629	GWCE	134	1	2	AH3B		4	7.5			
629	GWCE	134	1	15							
629	OXCC	134	2	24	OXC97						
633	GW	135	1	24	AH6A		8	10			CONVEX SIDED
634	GW		1	132	AH5B		14	15	BHL, BTL		DEC LIKE 5B10
634	GW		4	197							
634	PORD		1	8							
642	BB1		2	9					OBL		
642	GW		1	10					SWBS		
642	GW		7	76							
643	GRT	133	3	148	FRB		10	20			
643	GW	133	1	19	AH1						
643	GW	133	1	128	AH5B		9	18			
643	GW	133	20	450							

Context	Fabric	Feature	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Type	Handles	Radius (mm)	% Rim	Decoration	Fits	Comments
643	GWCE	133	1	46	AH3A		13	5			
643	GWTL	133	1	30							
643	OXCC	133	1	46							RING FOOT
656	BB1		1	4							
656	GW		8	68							
656	GWTL		1	11	AH3C						

Appendix D

Guide to the database and pottery pattern book

1. Fabric, quick reference

- BB1 Roman. South East Dorset Black Burnished Ware, Category 1.
- BRQ1 Iron Age. Briquetage with chalk/ limestone inclusions. Small sherds in quite bad condition.
- BRQ2 Iron Age. Briquetage with no limestone inclusions (needs checking). Small sherds in quite bad condition.
- EGBC Roman. East Gaulish Black Colour Coated Ware, "Moselkeramik".
- EPON Roman. Céramique à l'éponge.
- F1 Iron Age (?and Bronze Age). Handmade, usually reduced firing with abundant flint. Featured sherds are in the St Catharine's Hill/ Worthy Down style. There is a possibility that there is some very badly abraded middle- or late Bronze Age material incorporated.
- F2 Handmade oxidised fabric, poorly mixed, rolls of clay visible in the break. Sparse to moderate poorly sorted, poorly distributed large flint. One sherd decorated with incised intermittent line- ?early Bronze Age, domestic beaker or urn (for example, a collared urn). Small sherds in very bad condition.
- FWW Roman. Fine white fabric, tiny abraded sherd- no further identification possible.
- G1 Late Iron Age. Grog tempered ware. Small sherds in quite bad condition (check for more complete published examples).
- GAU4 Roman. Gauloise 4 amphora (Pélichet 47).
- GRT Roman. Wessex grog tempered ware (late Roman).
- GW Roman. Alice Holt/ Farnham, "normal" recipe with fairly fine sand.
- GWCE Roman. Alice Holt/ Farnham, "early" recipe with fine to medium coloured sand (visible as greensand).
- GWTIL Roman. Alice Holt/ Farnham, "late" recipe, hard fired, pale grey, with greensand inclusions sticking up from surface.
- GWV Roman. Fine grey ware with black slip and barbotine dot decoration.
- M1 Iron Age, or just possibly ??Saxon. Similar to F1, but more vesicular due to loss of organic material during firing. Form just about ok for Iron Age, firing a bit odd (pale brown). Check literature for parallels. Nothing from Cowdery's Down stands out.
- NFCC Roman. New Forest red/ brown colour coated.
- NFM Roman. New Forest white-fired mortarium.
- NFST Roman. New Forest red/ brown colour coated fired up to stoneware quality.
- AXB Roman. Oxfordshire burnt white ware.
- OXCC Roman. Oxfordshire red/ brown colour coated.
- OXID Roman. Catch-all category for unidentified oxidised wares (two tiny sherds in very poor condition).
- OXM Roman. Oxfordshire white-fired mortarium.
- OPW Roman. Oxfordshire parchment ware.
- OWC Roman. Oxfordshire white colour coated red ware.
- PORD Roman. "Portchester D"- similar to GWTIL but white fired.
- Q1 Iron Age. Fine sandy fabric with sparse organic material, brown inclusions and occasional large quartz.
- Q2 Iron Age. Similar to Q1 but slightly coarser sand. May be the same as Q1.

- Q3 Iron Age. Medium to coarse sand with sparse large rounded flint. There may be no *significant* difference between Q3 and Q2.
- Q4 Iron Age. Medium to coarse sand with moderate angular flint.
- RDBK Roman. Ring and dot beaker fabric.
- SMCG Central Gaulish samian ware (Les Martres and Lezoux, the former distinguished as such in the comments field).
- STJ1 Roman. Grog tempered storage jar fabric, oxidised slightly sandy with large grog. May just look different because burnt. Overlaps with GRT. Needs checking.
- STJ2 Roman. Fine sandy fabric with large flint in storage jar forms. Possibly Alice Holt, needs checking.
- SVNK Roman. Grog tempered grey ware similar in appearance to Savernake ware- (dark coloured inclusions)- probably just a variant of GRT. Needs checking.

2. Type

Very uncertainly identified forms were recorded in the comments field.

- 18/31 Samian form 18/31.
- 27 Samian form 27.
- 33 Samian form 33.
- AH1 Alice Holt class 1. Catch-all category for Alice Holt/ Farnham everted jars with very little of the profile surviving. Very few certain cordoned jars recorded.
- AH1A Alice Holt class 1A. Cordoned and necked jar.
- AH1B Alice Holt class 1B. Flask (or in this case possibly a flagon, class 8).
- AH1C Alice Holt class 1C. Large cordoned storage jar. See also STJ.
- AH3A Alice Holt class 3A. Flat rimmed jar.
- AH3B Alice Holt class 3B. Everted or cavetto rimmed jar. See also EVJ.
- AH3C Alice Holt class 3C. Triangular or hook rimmed jar.
- AH4 Alice Holt class 4. Bead rimmed jar. Only large storage vessels recorded. See also STJ.
- AH5A Alice Holt class 5A. Flat or triangular rimmed bowl.
- AH5B Alice Holt class 5B. Beaded and flanged bowl. See also FRB.
- AH5C Alice Holt class 5C. Strainer.
- AH5D Alice Holt class 5D. Deep decorated bowl (not certainly identified).
- AH6A Alice Holt class 6A. Straight or convex sided dish. See also SSD.
- AH7 Alice Holt class 7. Lid. See also LID.
- AH8 Alice Holt class 8. Flagon.
- AH10 Alice Holt class 10. Cable rimmed storage jar.
- BKR Beaker, precise form uncertain.
- BWL Bowl, precise form uncertain.
- EVJ Everted or cavetto rimmed jar. Used for this form in BB1 where the relationship between the body and the rim diameter (date sensitive) did not survive. Used also for all everted jars in fabric GRT. See also AH3B.
- EVJO BB1 everted or cavetto rimmed jar with rim diameter greater than body diameter.
- EVJU BB1 everted or cavetto rimmed jar with rim diameter less than body diameter.
- FRB BB1 and GRT flanged bowl. See also AH5B.
- HM1 Handmade jar or bowl with plain inturned rim and rounded body, the rim slightly pinched up at the top, see sketch.
- HM2 Handmade straight sided saucepan pot with bead rim, see sketch.
- HM3 Handmade/ slow turned cordoned beaker or small jar with outturned rim, see sketch.

HM4	Handmade saucepan pot, tiny sherds, details of form uncertain.
HM5	Handmade/ slow turned jar with everted rim, tiny sherd, details of form uncertain.
HM6	Handmade/ slow turned vessel of butt-beaker derived form, see sketch.
HM7	Handmade/ slow turned dish or platter with internal cordon, base only, see sketch.
HM8	Handmade jar with long outturned rim, see sketch.
HM9	Handmade jar with rounded body and plain upright rim, giving a reverse S-shaped profile, see sketch.
HM10	As HM1 but with less pinched rim, see sketch
HM11	Handmade jar or bowl with rounded body, inturned neck and outturned bead rim, see sketch.
HM12	Handmade/ slow turned large jar with upright rim, see sketch.
LID	Lid (plain rim in fabric GRT). See also AH7.
NF27	New Forest type 27. Indented beaker with tall straight body.
NF41	New Forest type 41. Globular beaker with white painted decoration.
NF45	New Forest type 45. Bag beaker with rouletting on the body.
NF104	New Forest type 104. Mortarium with a bent down rilled flange.
OXC44	Oxfordshire type C44. Red colour coated shallow bowl with slightly hooked rim.
OXC51	Oxfordshire type C51. Red colour coated flanged bowl.
OXC71	Oxfordshire type C71. Red colour coated full bellied bowl with double bead rim.
OXC97	Oxfordshire type C97. Red colour coated wall sided mortarium.
OXM18	Oxfordshire type M18. White mortarium with upstanding rim, wide flat flange hooked and closed under at the tip.
OXP24	Oxfordshire type P24. Parchment ware wall sided bowl moulded at rim and carination.
OXWC3	Oxfordshire type WC3. White colour coated red ware bowl as OXP24.
SSD	Plain rimmed dish. See also AH6A.
STJ	Storage (large) jar.
SY49	Central and East Gaulish black colour coated group 49. Carafe.

3. Handles

RIDG Ridged strap handle with more or less subrectangular section.

4. Decoration

This field was used to record decoration if it is not included in the description of the type. Surface treatment in Roman fabrics was not recorded as it is implicit in the full fabric description. All over burnish in the prehistoric pottery was recorded in the comments field.

BHL	Burnished horizontal lines
BHL, BTL	Burnished horizontal and vertical lines
BIA	Burnished intersecting arcs
BRBTD	Barbotine dots
BTL	Burnished vertical lines
BWL	Burnished wavy line(s)
C	Cordon
C, ACL	Cordon with burnished acute lattice
CL	Combed lattice
CWSB	Combed decoration and white slipped band

DL	Intermittent incised line
NOTCHES	Notches
OBL	Burnished obtuse lattice
RL	Rouletting
SQU	Burnished squiggly lines
SWBS band	Stabbed decoration defined between two grooves and white slipped
TPSAD	Tooled pendant arcs defining stabbed dots, see sketch

Fabric/ form/ decoration correlation and bibliography

?Early prehistoric

Fabric F2

?*Bodysherds*, with decoration DL, possibly from a beaker or an early Bronze Age urn (compare, for example, Ellison 1989, 88-9)

Later prehistoric

Fabrics BRQ1 and BRQ2 (compare, for example, Morris 1985, Rees 1995a)

No featured sherds

Fabric F1 (in the St Catharine's Hill-Worthy Down style- Cunliffe 1991, 81; Rees 1995b, 35, fabric 1)

Rims, Type HM4, Type HM10, Type HM10 with all over burnished surface

?*Base sherd*, ?with flint on underside, ?late Bronze Age

Body- or base sherds, Decoration BTL.

Fabric G1 (compare Thompson 1982; Rees 1995b, 35, fabric 7)

Rims and diagnostic sherds, Types HM3, HM5, HM6, HM7 and HM12

Undiagnostic sherds, Decoration BTL

Fabric Q1 (compare Rees 1995b, 35, fabrics 2 and 3; Rees 1995c, 64)

Rims, Type HM2 with overall burnished external surface, Type HM8, Type HM11

Base sherds, from a saucepan pot or similar with Decoration TPASD

Body- and base sherds, with overall burnished external surface

Fabric Q2 (ibid.)

Rims, Type HM9 with overall internal and external burnish

Body- and base sherds, with overall burnished external surface

Fabric Q3 (ibid.)

Bodysherd, with overall burnished internal surface, possibly similar form to Type HM9

Fabric Q4 (compare Rees 1995b, 35, fabric 4)

No featured sherds

Roman coarse wares

Fabric BB1 (Gillam 1976; Williams 1977)

Near complete profiles, Type EVJO with Decoration OBL, Type EVJU with Decoration OBL, Type FRB, Type FRB with Decoration BIA, Type SSD
Rims, Type EVJ, Type EVJO
Handle, Type RIDG, compare Greyhound Yard Type 202 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 240)
Body- or base sherds, Decoration ACL and OBL.

Fabric GRT (compare, for example Fulford 1975a, 286-92; Tomber and Dore 1998, 139)
Near complete/ good profiles, Type EVJ, Type FRB, Type LID, Type LID with Decoration BTL, Type SSD, Type SSD with Decoration BHL
Body- or base sherds, Decoration BTL

Fabric GW (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18, 34-51; Millett 1986, 76, Main Fabric (b), 77-81)
Near complete profiles, Type AH3B (variant 3B.12), Type AH3B (variant 3B.12) with Decoration BHL, Type AH5B, Type AH5B with Decoration BHL, BTL (variant 5B.10), Type AH5B with Decoration NOTCHES, Type AH6A
Rims, Type AH1, Type AH1A (variant 1A.16), Type AH1B or Type AH8, Type AH1C, Type AH3A, Type AH3B, Type AH3C, Type AH4, Type AH5A, Type AH5B, Type AH5C, ?Type AH5D, Type AH6A, Type AH7, Type AH7 (variant AH7.6), Type AH8, Type AH10
Body- and base sherds, Type AH5C, Type STJ, Type STJ with Decoration BWL, Type STJ with Decoration CWSB, Decoration C; C, ACL; CL; OBL; SQU; SWBS

Fabric GWCE (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18, 20-33; Millett 1986, 76, Early Fabric (a), 77-81)
Rims, Type AH1, Type AH3A, Type AH3B

Fabric GWTL ((Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18, 45; Millett 1986, 76, Tilford Fabric (c), 77-81)
Rims, Type AH3C

Fabric GWV
Bodysherd, Decoration BRBTD

Fabric PORD (Fulford 1975a, 299, 301; Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18, 34-51; Millett 1986, 76, Tilford Fabric (c), 77-81)
Bodysherd, with characteristic rilling

Roman fine wares and mortaria

Fabric EGBC (Richardson 1986, Symonds 1992)
Near complete profile, Type SY49 with Decoration RL

Fabric EPON (Fulford 1977)
Rim, possibly from a copy of samian form 31
Base, a ring foot

Fabric FWW
No featured sherds

Fabric NFCC (Fulford 1975b, 25, fabric 1a, 43-62)

Diagnostic sherds, Types NF41, NF45

Undiagnostic sherds, Type BKR

Fabric NFM (Fulford 1975b, 26, fabric 2a, 70-8)

Rim, Type NF104

Fabric NFST (Fulford 1975b, 25, fabric 1a, 43-62)

Diagnostic sherds, Type NF27

Undiagnostic sherds, Type BKR

Fabric OXB (Young 1977, 113)

No featured sherds

Fabric OXCC (Young 1977, 123, 148-176)

Diagnostic sherds, Type OXC44, Type OXC51, Type OXC71, Type OXC97

Fabric OXID

No featured sherds

Fabric OXM (Young 1977, 56, 68-79)

Rim, Type OXM18

Fabric OXPW (Young 1977, 81, 84-91)

Rims, Type OXP24

Fabric OXWC (Young 1977, 117, 120-122)

Bodysherd, Type OXWC3

Fabric RDBK (Richardson *et al* 1994, 142-5)

No featured sherds (base only)

Roman amphorae

Fabric GAU4 (Peacock and Williams 1986, 142-3)

No featured sherds

Uncertain date (prehistoric? or Saxon?)

Fabric M1

Rims, Type HM1

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Appendix E

The Environmental Assessment

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1. Methodology

During excavation in 1996 the following general biological samples of soil were taken from the following contexts:

Feature number	Context number	Description
107	521	Fill of Cremation
107	526	Fill of Cremation
117	578	Fill of Pit
121	603	Fill of Pit
133	644	Fill of Corn-dryer Channel
134	629	Fill of Corn-dryer Stoke-hole
135	634	Fill of Sunken Structure

The samples were processed by wet sieving. Flots and residues were then dried, bagged and stored. The flots and residues were then passed to Southern Archaeological Services Ltd for assessment. The flots and residues were fully sorted under low magnification, and all identifiable artefacts and ecofacts removed and placed in separate categories. Identification within the categories was taken as far as reasonably possible, although in some instances. E.g. the cereal remains, further identification of fragments may be possible.

It appears that the samples from contexts 521 and 526 were taken from the same deposit (526), so the artefacts and ecofacts from them were amalgamated.

2. Results

The results are set out below.

Quantities are given as fragment counts. Weights are in grammes.

Nomenclature of botanical taxa follows Clapham, Tutin and Warburg, 1962.

Nomenclature of molluscan taxa follows Kerney and Cameron, 1979.

Table 1. Results from samples, excluding plant and snail remains.

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
521/526	Stone	Burnt flint	58	18	

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
	Ceramics	Burnt clay	52	8	Some fragments are possibly abraded pottery
	Animal	Bird bone	3	<1	All very small
		Arthropod	22	<1	Inc. 1 almost complete beetle; rest are fly larvae
	Other	Magnetic material	□	18	Burnt clay and small stones
578	Ceramics	CBM	27	4	1 spall, rest small
	Slag	Glass slag	2	<1	Identification uncertain
	Metal	Iron objects	2	<1	
	Animal	Mammal	c.450	19	Inc. epiphyses
		Amphibian	2	<1	Identification tentative
		Fish	c.190	1	Inc. vertebra
		Arthropod	9	<1	5 centipede, 1 woodlouse, 3 fly larvae
		Cess	□	224	
603	Animal	Mammal	c. 52	8	Inc. epiphyses
		Bird	4	1	Identification tentative
		Fish	c. 81	1	
		Arthropod	4	<1	Inc, 3 woodlouse
		Cess	34	18	All fragments flattened
629	Stone	Burnt flint	5	6	
		Limestone	6	30	Inc. 1 faced?
	Ceramic	Pottery	19	33	Inc. 2 rims. Mostly greywares.
		CBM	18	26	Inc. ?box tile?
	Slag	Iron slag	1	4	Identification uncertain
		Magnetised material	□	14	Burnt stone and clay

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
	Metal	Iron objects	26	18	Small nails?
		Iron objects	21	6	Uncertain
	Plant	Charcoal	5	4	Roundwood, sp. indet.
	Animal	Mammal bone	33	7	Some lightly burnt
629		Fish	1	<1	Thornback ray scale
		Arthropod	7	<1	Inc. 1 beetle, several puparia
		Cess	2	1	
634	Animal	Large mammal	7	<1	All burnt, 1 calcined
		Small mammal	2	<1	Not burnt
		Arthropod	11	<1	Fly larvae
	Other	Magnetised material	□	10	
644	Plant	Charcoal	29	4	All lumpwood
	Animal	Bird	2	<1	Possibly a small passerine
		Arthropod	2	<1	Unidentified

3. Discussion, excluding plant and snail results

3.1 The following discussion reviews the results by context, and by broad categories within each context. Plant and snail remains are considered separately.

3.2 Context 521/526

When excavated, this was believed to be a human cremation. However, the absence of human bone suggests that it is not. Evidence of burning was found (burnt flint, burnt clay, and abundant magnetised soil and stone), but the frequency of charcoal was low. This may indicate that the charcoal was removed after the burning event.

3.3 Context 578

This context has been interpreted to be the fill of a pit filled in the late 3rd century or early fourth century AD.

Inorganics

The presence of brick or tile fragments, possible glass slag and iron objects, all in small quantities suggest that the fill was derived partly from non-domestic waste, and that some degree of industrial, craft or constructional activity may have been occurring nearby.

Organics

The organics derived from the cess, and were mainly preserved by mineralisation. It is probable that more small ecofacts could be extracted by dissecting the cess, but the reward is unlikely to justify the effort. The abundant bone consisted of small bone and small fragments of larger bones, mainly of mammal (including at least one young individual), with significant numbers of fish. It is possible that further work on this assemblage may yield interesting results. The arthropod assemblage is typical of that found in cess pits of almost any period.

3.4 *Context 603*

This is a fill of another pit, filled, and is dated to the same period as context 578. No inorganic artefacts were present.

Organics

Again preservation was by mineralisation, and the assemblage as a whole is typical of a cess pit fill. The broad mix of bone present differs from that in 578, with fish more frequent than mammal bone. The quantities of cess are lower, and the all the cess fragments were flattened. It is not clear whether the flattening occurred during or soon after deposition, or during processing of the sample. It is possible that it results from the siever pressing the material through the sieve.

3.5 *Context 629*

When excavated, this was believed to be from the stoke-hole of a Roman corn-drier, later filled in the 4th century. This is supported by the environmental results.

Inorganics

There is evidence here for burning (burnt flint, magnetised stone and soil), and possible iron working (iron slag, identification uncertain). The large number of iron objects are interpreted as small nails, though their function is obscure, and further work on these may be rewarding. They may well derive from wood recycled as fuel for the corn-drier. The ceramics assemblage consisted greywares and ceramic building material. The latter includes one fragment of tile with linear markings, similar to those on Roman box flue tiles.

Organics

Two types of preservation are present, mineralisation (small quantities *Lathyrus* seeds and small fragments of cess), and charring (large quantities of cereals, see below). This is consistent with a 'change of use' from a corn-drier to a rubbish/cess pit. The low frequency of mineralised remains suggests a short-term use for rubbish/cess disposal, following a longer-term or more intensive use as the stoke-hole of a corn-drier. The fuel may have included roundwood (*vide* the charcoal), reused timber (*vide* the iron objects), and fine-sieved residues from cereal processing, see below. Without further analysis, it is not possible to state whether the insect remains are from pests of cereals, or from species associated with cess pits.

The assemblage of terrestrial molluscs is too small to permit detailed analysis. However, a few general points may be made. *Ceciloides acicula* and *Vertigo pygmaea* are both species of open habitats, but the former is a burrowing species and the presence of several transparent (recently dead) shells strongly suggests it is intrusive.

The mammal bone is not identifiable to genus, but is lightly burnt, consistent with cooking.

The single scale of thornback ray indicates some sort of contact with fisheries operating off the coast.

The presence of the tip of a green moss shoot suggests that some degree of contamination may have taken place, most probably since excavation.

Overall

The overall assemblage is consistent the deposit being derived from a corn-drier re-used as rubbish/cess pit.

3.6 Context 634

This is a deposit from a second corn-drier, which was only 'salvage-recorded'.

Inorganics

A moderate amount of magnetised soil and stone is evidence of burning, though the absence of large fragments of burnt clay or burnt flint suggests the burning event occurred elsewhere, rather than *in situ*.

Organics

The small fragments of large mammal bone were all burnt, but the small mammal bone was not. It is possible that a small mammal burrowed into the deposit, and died. The fly larvae may therefore be associated with this later activity.

3.7 Context 644

This deposit is from the base of the channel of the better recorded corn-drier.

Organics

The charcoal was all lumpwood, which is usually the fuel of a long-term or high-temperature fire; roundwood is more typical of tinder. The bone and arthropod assemblages are too small for comment.

Table 2. Plant remains.

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
521/526	Non-cereal seed	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp	14	-	
		<i>Trifolium</i> sp	1	-	
		<i>Mentha</i> sp	1	-	
		<i>Anthemis</i> cf <i>cotula</i>	2	-	
		<i>Poa</i> sp	4	-	
		Sp indet	2	-	
	Cereal	cf <i>Triticum spelta</i>	2	<1	Glume bases

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
	Other	Silicified grass fragments	□	2	Mainly of leaf blades and flowering stems
		Moss growing tip	1	<1	
578	Non-cereal seed	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp	13	-	Buttercup/crowfoot
		<i>Vicia sativa</i>	4	-	Common vetch
		<i>Vicia</i> sp	7	-	Vetch
		<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	17	-	Blackberry
		<i>Rosa</i> sp	4	-	
578		<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	39	-	Blackthorn/Sloe
		<i>Prunus</i> sp	48	-	Probably Blackthorn/Sloe
		<i>Gallium aparine</i>	2	-	Bedstraw
		<i>Luzula luzuloides</i>	1	-	White wood-rush
		<i>Luzula</i> sp	10	-	Wood-rush
		cf <i>Cynosurus</i> sp	1	-	Dogstail
	Cereal	<i>Triticum</i> sp	1	-	Wheat grains
	Other	Wood	c. 300	6	All very small and undiagnostic
603	Non-cereal seed	<i>Prunus</i> cf <i>avium</i>	53	2	Wild cherry
		cf <i>Sonchus</i> sp	1	-	Thistle
		Sp indet	1	-	
	Other	Mineralised grass fragments	227	3	Mainly flowering stems, with nodes; a few leaf blades
629	Non-cereal seed	<i>Lotus</i> sp	2	-	Birdsfoot-trefoil
		<i>Lathyrus</i> sp	12	-	Vetchling
		<i>Polygonum</i> sp	2	-	Knotgrass
		Sp indet	4	-	
	Cereal	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	2	-	Barley grains
		Sp indet	1	-	Grain fragment
	Other	Moss growing tips	4	-	
634	Non-cereal seed	cf <i>Silene</i> sp	1	-	Campion
		<i>Corylus avellana</i> frags	10	-	Hazel nut
		cf <i>Poa</i> sp	1	-	Meadow-grass
		Sp indet	2	-	
	Cereal	Sp indet	7	-	Glume base fragments
		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	5	-	Spelt wheat
		cf <i>Triticum</i> sp	4	-	Wheat
		<i>Hordeum</i>	8	-	Barley grains.

Context	Category	Name	Count	Weight	Comments
		<i>vulgare</i>			3 'sprouted'
		cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp	19	-	Barley grains
		cf <i>Avena</i> sp	1	-	Oat grains
		Sp indet	7	-	
	Other	Mineralised grass fragment	1	-	Leaf blade
644	Non-cereal seed	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp	2	-	Buttercup/crowfoot
		<i>Hypericum</i> cf <i>perfoliatum</i>	1	-	Peforated St Johns Wort
644		<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	2	-	Corn cockle
		<i>Chenopodium</i> sp	2	-	Goosefoot
		<i>Pisum sativum</i>	2	-	Pea
		<i>Polygonum</i> sp	1	-	Knotgrass
		<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	5	-	Ribwort
		<i>Anthemis</i> cf <i>cotula</i>	4	-	Chamomile
		<i>Scirpus</i> sp	4	-	Club-rush
		<i>Lolium</i> sp	25	-	Rye-grass
		Sp indet	2	-	
	Cereal	<i>Triticum spelta</i>	711	-	Glume bases
		cf <i>Triticum</i> sp	301	-	Glume base fragments
		<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	32	-	Glume bases
		cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp	14	-	Glume base fragments
		Sp indet	370	-	Glume base fragments
		<i>Triticum spelta</i>	132	-	Spelt wheat grains, 4 'sprouted'
		cf <i>Triticum</i> sp	12	-	Spelt wheat grains
		<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	26	-	Barley grains
		cf <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	26	-	Barley grains, 10 'sprouted'
		<i>Avena sativa</i>	2	-	Oat grains

Table 3. Snails

Context	Name	Count	Comments
521/526	<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	44	Blind snail, adults
	<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	77	Blind snail, juveniles
	<i>Pyramidula rupestris</i>	1	Rock snail
	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	3	Rounded snail
	Sp indet	1	
578	cf <i>Helicidae</i>	56 fragments	

Context	Name	Count	Comments
629	<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	14	Blind snail
	<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	2	Whorl snail
	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	1	Rounded snail
	Immature/sp indet	27	
634	<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>	6	Garlic snail, not burnt
	<i>O. sp</i>	2	Not burnt
	<i>Aegopinella sp</i>	3	Smooth snail, burnt
	<i>Cochliopa lubrica</i>	1	Slippery snail
	Fragments and sp indet	6	
644	<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	2	Blind snail
	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	4	Rounded snail
	<i>Carychium cf tridentatum</i>	4	Herald snail
	<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	11	Dwarf snail
	cf Helicidae	6	
	Sp indet	3	

4. Discussion and conclusions of plant and snail results

4.1 The plant and snail results are discussed below. The main interest centres on the cereal remains, which were all carbonised.

4.2 The green moss growing tips from contexts 521/526 and 629 may have grown either on the exposed surface following stripping of the site, or in the sample bags following sample gathering. If the former, this may indicate a degree of contamination of the samples. However, the absence any other obviously Modern material means any contamination is slight.

4.3 The pits

Context 521/526

The non-cereal seeds are all from taxa strongly suggestive of arable or disturbed ground, and not a cereal crop. The silicified grass fragments were not identifiable to species. The snail taxa, while including the probably intrusive *Ceciloides acicula*, is also suggestive of open habitats. The whole assemblage may be interpreted as dry (or dried?) grass used as tinder.

Contexts 578 and 603

The list of taxa from these pits includes many which may be thought of as hedgerow or ditch-side species, some of which may have grown in or near the pits. The assemblage is dominated by mineralised *Prunus*, specifically *P. spinosa* and *P. avium*. These are respectively Blackthorn or Sloe and Wild plum, both of which may be found in hedges. The snail assemblage is not informative.

The presence of large amounts of mineralised grass fragments in a cess pit (feature 121) suggests it had a sanitary function, although this has not been formally

demonstrated. The high proportion of stem fragments, which are hard, to leaf fragments, which are soft, suggests differential preservation.

4.4 The corn-dryers

Contexts 629, 634 and 644

With the exception of *Pisum* (Pea), all the non-cereal seeds may be regarded as weeds of arable land, some from cropped fields and some from fallow, and certainly rather damp in places. The snail assemblage does not contradict this view; that from context 634 confirms animal disturbance of the burnt deposits. The *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) fragments may all derive from a single nut.

The cereal remains vary widely between the samples. The stokehole of the better-recorded corn-drier contains few grains and no chaff, whereas the base of the channel contained significant amounts of both. Van der Veen (1989) reviews the evidence of charred cereal remains from 21 reports of excavations of Roman-period grain-driers. The ratio of wheat grain to glume fragments (c.1:7) is consistent with the use of fine-sieved residues (Hillman, 1981) as fuel, or at least tinder. The ratio of barley grain to glume fragments (c.1:1) is more consistent with drying of barley spikelets to facilitate winnowing. In both cereals a small proportion of grains were sprouted; in all cases the germination had not proceeded far enough to be classified as malting, and the proportion of sprouted grains is small. The sprouting may therefore best be viewed as evidence of a partly spoiled crop. Although the barley assemblage is too small to allow certainty that the two cereals were processed differently, this does support the notion of corn-driers being used for more than one purpose.

The cereal remains from the less well-recorded corn-drier are fewer, and the frequency of barley is greater than that of wheat. However, the proportion of grain to glume fragments (c.1:5 for all cereals combined) is also consistent with the use of fine-sieved residues as fuel.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Summary

The results of the environmental archaeology programme may be summarised thus:

- A. Context 521 was not a cremation burial. Although evidence of burning was found, this was probably not *in situ*.
- B. The pit fills 578 and 603 contained material typical of rubbish/cess pits found at villa sites. Little dietary information was retrieved, but the plant and snail remains suggest a nearby hedgerow.
- C. The corn-driers contained material indicative of the use fine-sieved residues of winnowing together with recycled timber for fuel, and possibly for drying a barley crop. The base of the channel (context 644) had been re-used as a cess-pit.

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