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The Roman small town at Shepton Mallet, Somerset

The Tesco excavation 1996

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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by
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THE ROMAN SMALL TOWN AT SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET: THE TESCO EXCAVATION, 1996

BY PETER ELLIS AND PETER LEACH

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by Peter Ellis and Peter Leach

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The excavations reported on here form part of a major ongoing campaign, by various hands, of excavation, survey, watching brief and salvage recording to chronicle the archaeology of the town. The excavations took place in 1996 on a site forming part of the Mendip Business Park devoted to a Tesco supermarket development, and were carried out by the University of Birmingham Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) under the joint direction of Peter Leach and Peter Ellis (Figs 1 and 2). They were preceded in 1990 by a programme of geophysical survey and evaluation trenches undertaken and directed by Peter Leach (Leach *et al* 1990; Fig 3), and were followed in early 1997 by a watching brief during the construction work undertaken by Peter Ellis. Details of both these pieces of work have been amalgamated with the main excavation results. The opportunity has been taken to publish details of the 1990 evaluation trenches not directly associated with the Tesco site. These, and follow up field work in the Mendip Business Park to the north and east of the Tesco site in 1990, 1992 and 1994, were under the direction of Peter Leach.

The development of a major commercial complex to the east of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in the1990s has led to the recognition of Romano-British remains spread for as much as 4km on either side of the Fosse Way, a route marked today by Fosse Lane. Before the development, fields and farms lay to the east side of Fosse Lane with housing and light industry to the west. The Tesco site was marked on its south side by the embankment for a disused railway line, to the east by still undeveloped fields, and to the north by a new service road. Beyond the service road a warehouse had been constructed since evaluation and excavation work in 1990 and 1992.

Roman remains at Fosse Lane had in fact first been recorded in the 19th century when railway construction had revealed stone buildings to its west, together with numerous finds. The site was thought of as a possible villa. In Shepton Mallet itself, a major Severn Valley ware kiln site was known at the Anglo-Bavarian brewery. It was not until extensive archaeological work in 1990 that the character of Roman occupation was understood. The evidence from excavation, trial trenching and geophysical survey since then has revealed a Romano-British small town on the Fosse Way. The town, equidistant between the Roman towns of Bath and Ilchester, would have lain on the frontier between the pre-Roman Iron Age tribal territories of the Durotriges and the Belgae. Large-scale excavations at the Showerings site, to the south of the Tesco site, revealed ditched and walled enclosures laid out on either side of trackways, within which were buildings, both domestic and agricultural, and areas of industrial activity.

This was seen as lying to the rear of what was assumed to be much denser occupation along the Fosse Way itself. These features were followed by burial plots, including some evidence of Christian inhumations, suggesting that occupation had contracted but still continued close to the road. In the same year as the Showerings excavation, the evaluation of the Mendip Business Park site noted above revealed the presence of nine stone-founded buildings, a road, and compounds defined by walls and ditches, while geophysical survey had pinpointed locations of more intense activity, perhaps industrial in origin.

The Fosse Way was established between *c* 55 and 65 AD linking the south-west through the west Midlands with the north east. To the north of Shepton Mallet a Roman road cuts westward from the Fosse Way to connect with the mining centres on the Mendip Hills, which were established soon after the arrival of the Romans judging by the dates of lead ingots. The Mendip Hills themselves form a line of east-west running higher ground to the north while to the south is the lower ground of the Somerset plain. With the Bristol channel to the west, the plain is surrounded to the south and east by higher ground linking with the Mendips. This higher ground is the site of a number of large developed hillforts presumably associated with settlements in the plain below. In the Roman period the Somerset plain, especially in the area of Ilchester, is presumed to have been highly productive and supported a dense concentration of villas.

In 1990 a magnetometer survey was undertaken on the Tesco site and in the Mendip Business Park to the north. Smaller areas within these areas were additionally examined by a resistivity survey. In both areas no anomalies were recorded toward Fosse Lane but strong signals were then apparent from about 30m east of the road eastward to the survey limits. Large rectangular enclosures were revealed based on two major east-west divisions about 70m apart in the Tesco area. Trial trenching followed. This recorded buildings, a street, ditches, pits, areas of external surfaces and burials (Fig 3). A programme of test pitting was undertaken in 1994 prior to the construction of a warehouse in the Business Park to the north of the Tesco site.

These results informed decisions on the layout of the development and mitigation strategies (Leach 1996). As was the case at other nearby sites, the development plan foresaw the major impact of buildings as lying away from Fosse Lane, the modern route more or less replicating the line of the Roman road, and this meant that the archaeology of the Roman road frontage could be protected. To the rear of the frontage at the Tesco site, Roman archaeology was found to be present across the whole proposed development area either in the trial trenches or appearing as geophysical anomalies. However, the impression was given that a greater density of features was located in the central area with a slight decrease of features to the north and south. The maximum development impact, the store itself and its petrol station, were therefore sited respectively north and south of the central area which was designated for use as a car park with a minimum of disturbance foreseen. The excavation therefore took place within the footprint of the store, its access route, and the petrol station, leaving the frontage on Fosse Lane and the central area protected from development through scheduling as part of the Ancient Monument SM 22803.

The Tesco excavation was therefore focused upon two areas divided by an unexcavated portion but linked to the east. The main areas were designated Areas A and B, Area A to the north and Area B to the south, with the linking strip to the east shared between them. In the event much of the archaeology of Area A remains intact, the modern building level having been raised, while in Area B only the western third has suffered total destruction. As was

noted above, the excavation was followed by a watching brief during groundworks preparatory to the construction of the supermarket.

Excavation methods

On the Tesco site, topsoil and subsoil was stripped by a 360-degree machine under archaeological supervision until the upper archaeological horizons were exposed. Some areas of heavy rubble were also partly removed by machine to allow earlier layers to be sampled. In Area A a post-Roman flood deposit was removed by the machine exposing late Roman levels in places. These were left *in situ* while machine excavation of the colluvium continued. It was then seen that the lower levels were a separate flood deposit from the later Roman period. However, its removal allowed earlier Roman sealed deposits to be examined over a large area. In Area A, sections were cut by machine across a well-defined metalled road and across what appeared to be a major linear ditch.

The areas cleared of topsoil were then divided into a 10m grid based on the OS grid. It was apparent relatively early following the start of cleaning that a larger area of archaeology was available for excavation and recording than could be undertaken given the available resources. It was decided therefore to totally clean alternating 10m transects and distinct features in the intervening uncleaned transects. In the event about two thirds of the surfaces were carefully trowelled. Excavation of the exposed features was then undertaken in an attempt to sample as many as possible of the different types of revealed features. All ditches were sectioned in at least one place, many of the building walls were sectioned as well as most floor surfaces. Hard standings were not dismantled. A road in Area A was sectioned at three points, one as noted above by machine. Finds collected from overall surfaces were separately bagged by 5m square. Extensive environmental sampling was undertaken from ditches, pits, layers sealed under colluvium and from the colluvial deposits themselves.

The widespread areas of intact archaeology exposed by the machine together with the limitations on resources led to the decision to record much of the plan of the area by means of photography rather than on site drawings. Some areas were photographed by quadropod but the bulk of the photographic recording was by means of a wheeled hoist vehicle, a cherry picker. Access to the central areas required that the vehicle was driven onto the site, and the programme of recording was therefore arranged so that the areas to be tracked across were recorded first. This radical approach to the time consuming process of on site drawing had therefore the disadvantage of writing off some areas simply with a photographed record after cleaning. A 1:200 plan of all features was rapidly prepared to provide a working record.

The watching brief was undertaken from the beginning of January to the middle of March 1997. An archaeologist was present on a daily basis initially and thereafter in accordance with the development programme and the resources allocated. Following the excavation the exposed areas were covered by a spread of roadstone, about 0.3m deep, laid onto sheets of material. All subsequent work was undertaken from this surface. The foundation trenches of the supermarket and ancillary structures were thoroughly recorded. Outside Area B, the opportunity was taken to record archaeology revealed by topsoil stripping of two areas to the north and north-west, and in its southward extension by 5m to the foot of the railway embankment. Major service trenches across both sites were recorded, with the exception of an east-west trench cut across the south part of Area A. The cutting of small-scale internal

service and drainage trenches within the supermarket footprint were, unfortunately, not monitored. Recording was hampered by the presence of the overall stone layer.

The underlying natural surface comprised Lias limestone bedrock, bedded almost horizontally and fractured towards the surface. In the south-west corner of Area B this was located directly beneath the topsoil and subsoil, but in most areas it lay beneath a blanket of orange natural clay up to 0.4m deep.

The excavation results emphasised remains of the latest levels of Romano-British settlement, dating to the late 4th or early 5th century. Arising from the excavations of 1990 at the Showerings site, evidence, particularly from burials, suggested settlement continuity or a reuse of areas to the rear of the Fosse Way frontage in the post-Roman period up to the 7th or 8th century. In 1996, the discovery of similar burials may reinforce this hypothesis. Nevertheless, it was also possible to excavate substantial portions of earlier Roman levels, notably some in Area A, which had been later abandoned as a result of flooding and only partly reoccupied.

Post-excavation

The periodisation established for the Showerings site has been used for both areas at the Tesco site, with the exception of an additional post-Roman phase dividing the Showerings Period 5 into Periods 5 and 6. The phasing is as follows:

Period 1 *c* 80 to *c* 150 AD. Boundary ditches, Structure 1, road F101.

Period 2 *c* 150 to *c* 250 AD. Walled areas, Structure 8.

Period 3 *c* 250 to *c* 300 AD. Flooding, colluvium deposits, ditching .

Period 4 *c* 300 to *c* 350 AD. Structures 4, 6, 11, 12.

Period 6 Early post-Roman centuries. Burials.

Period 7 Nineteenth century.

The excavated areas were found to have been divided in the Roman period into plots marked by banks, ditches and, later, walls. These are described here as Compounds and have been allocated a numerical system as Compound 1 etc. Apart from a handful of portable finds comprising prehistoric pottery fragments and flint artefacts located in later layers, there was no evidence of pre-Roman activity. The majority of the finds came from the lengthy process of cleaning the machine cleared levels. These were collected in 5m and 10m squares according to a grid system common to both excavated areas. In the finds reports the small find (SF) number is followed in these cases by the grid reference, which is then roughly located eg SF1, 100/260, east of Structure 12. Where the site text refers to an object the reference is to the catalogue number in the finds report.

The dating evidence is presented at the end of each section following an interpretation of the data outlined initially. Pottery provided the great majority of the datable material although there were a few coins.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Period 1 *c* 80 to *c* 150 AD

Area A

A ditch, F152, was recorded in places together with the remains of an associated bank, F148 (Figs 4 and 30). In the excavated section F152 was 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. It had been cut with a shallow concave profile into clay, the base of the ditch exposing but barely cutting into bedrock (Fig 9). Its associated bank, F148, was marked by yellow clay as a surface feature in places, but was seen in greater detail in a section to the east. Here a red clay layer, 1050, lay beneath a brown clay, 1051, and was revetted on either side by small limestone fragments, making a bank with a surviving width of about 1m. At this section F152 had been removed by a later feature. In the recorded section the ditch was filled with a brown silty clay, 1058, in which a particular concentration of stone was recorded on the side of the bank, F148, as though collapsed from it. A recut was also recorded although not excavated as a different layer. On the line of F152 and to its west was a shallow cut, F160, 0.2m deep and V-sectioned in profile barely penetrating into bedrock. This was not recorded in plan but where seen in section a stone lying on the south side suggested the possibility that F160 was a stone-sided drain. Fills of soft clay and charcoal, 1075, were recorded.

To the north of the suggested ditch line represented by these three sightings, and separated from it by 15m, was a similarly profiled ditch to F152, sectioned in two places as F116 and F166, running on the same alignment. Ditch F166 to the east was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep and had been cut into clay as far as the underlying bedrock which had also been slightly cut into (Fig 9). The resulting profile was steep-sided and flat-based. Its fill of grey clay contained some small fragments of stone. To the west, ditch F116 was 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep. Its sides were here at a more gentle angle but like F166 its flat base was a shallow cut into the rock (Fig 10). This had been filled by a brown silty clay, 1056.

A building, Structure 1, was laid out across the northern of the two ditches but respecting their alignment (Fig 6; Plates 10-13). The building measured 5.8m by at least 10.4m internally with its walls marked by large stones set on the natural clay ground surface and across the Period 1 ditch F166. The east wall, F109, differed from the south and west walls in having faced stones and a rubble core. The south, F108, and west, F107, walls were made up of large horizontally laid closely set stones. A 2.8m wide entranceway lay on the west side with a gatepost socket, F165, sited on its north side. Within the building, its southern end was floored with large flagstones and blocks, F110 (Plate 10), overlying an earlier hearth F143. The paving came to a ragged end possibly forming a distinct area within the building. To the north a possible wall line, F164, was marked by a line of small stones with two slight depressions marked by light grey clay perhaps marking the former position of posts. In the angle made by F164 and the west wall of the building was a pit, F117, containing the broken lower sherds of three pots. A patch of clay, F163, and pottery was also noticed.

On the exterior of the building a stone culvert, F120, had been built as one with the east wall. This had a stone base and sides and was 0.2m deep. To the west was stone cobbling, F112, with varying surfaces suggestive of different uses. Directly to the west of the building a rectangular area, F157, marked by larger stones and distinctive pitching suggested a possible covered area. A second entranceway into the building was indicated by worn threshold stones only partly lying within the excavation. Two stone features were recorded. One was a line of

single large stones, F155, possibly a wall, running northward for a short distance. To its west were three vertically set stones in a line, F158. Yard F112 overlay a spread of clay, F161, with a large quantity of burnt material. This overlay the line of ditch F116/F166 and was not excavated. To its east were further areas of burning, F143 and F163, around a hearth.

A road, F101 (Plates 2-4), was recorded running eastward from the Fosse Way within the area defined by ditches F152 and F166 but on a slightly different alignment. This route was partially retained through subsequent periods. Two major sections were cut across it (Figs 4 and 10; Plate 2) and evidence for the initial road was best defined to the east where later changes were not present or had been removed. Here the road was sited between two ditches within an area 5.4m wide. Its lowest gravel metalling, layer 1030, had been set directly onto the natural clay, the absence of a buried soil suggesting that the road line had been cleared to the clay at the outset. The metalling comprised large stones rather than gravel, generally flat fragments about 0.1m across and grey brown in colour. These lay within a grey-brown clay matrix. The two ditches, F141 and F142, on either side were similar in profile with sloping sides and flat bases, the latter represented by bedrock. F142 to the south was 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep (Plate 4), while F141 was slightly wider at 1.3m and 0.4m deep (Plate 3). F142 ran exactly on the suggested line of the earlier ditch F152 and appears to have removed all evidence for it in the road section cutting.

In the west section the lowest layer, 1052, was again of flat stones set on natural clay with no sign of a buried soil (Fig 10). The stone was in a matrix of brown clay which was thicker than in the section to the east. The stone element was particularly marked to the south where there may have been a kerb. The road width may have been similar to that to the east with a spread of looser stone, 1082, further to the north. The larger size of stones and the higher proportion of clay marked a difference between 1052 and 1030, and this difference was emphasised by the absence of side ditches.

South of the road a ditch, F156, was excavated running north-south toward the road. This had been cut through the clay and then into rock (Fig 9). The ditch was 2.2m wide and 0.5m deep, its profile altering below the level of rock reflecting the way the latter had been quarried. The ditch fill was principally of rubble, with a lower layer, 1086, of dense rubble in orange clay, beneath an upper fill of rubble and clay, 1084. The ditch was traceable northward as far as the road.

The two parallel ditches presumably represented property boundaries to the east of the Fosse Way designated as Compounds 1-3 (Fig 30). In view of the later road it is possible that they also defined an access corridor between properties, ie Compounds 1 and 3 from the Fosse Way out to fields to the east. None of the ditches was cut to any degree into bedrock, and indeed their excavation would seem to have stopped when bedrock was encountered. Whether F160 was associated with F152 was not clear, since the former may have been a stone-lined culvert, slighter in size than F152. If the association suggested by their similar alignment is accepted, then it is possible that water run off from the road, whether on either side of an access corridor or marking a property boundary, was better defined toward the road; the ditches and drains here may have been stone-lined in an area of settlement.

Structure 1 may have had a function as a storage barn for agricultural produce. It is possible that there was an entrance on its east side to match that to the west. The doorpost socket indicates a heavy door. There may have been a paved southern area and a partitioned off northern room. Its alignment suggests that it respected the existing Period 1 ditches and that it

therefore predates the new Period 2 road. Although it would have been set out across Compounds 1 and 2 suggesting that these had been amalgamated, the building nevertheless respected the boundary alignment between Compounds 2 and 3. However this boundary was also swept away when a well-defined formal road layout was set out at a right angle to the Fosse Way. The ditches, F141 and F142, are taken to be contemporary and to mark either side of the road to the east. It is possible that F142 ran westward as far as a junction with ditch F156 and that the latter might define an area of backplots in a realigned Compound 3 to the rear of buildings fronting the Fosse Way. No evidence for F141 west of its record in section was seen on the north side of the road.

Sherds of a late 1st or early 2nd-century date came from the early southern ditches F152 and F160, and early 2nd-century samian and other late 1st/early 2nd-century pottery from bank F148. There was no dating evidence from the northern ditch and thus no *terminus post quem* for Structure 1. The dating evidence from the occupation of the building is described under Period 2. Ditch F142 contained late 1st/early 2nd century pottery. Ditch F156 contained Hadrianic/Antonine samian and pottery of a 2nd-century date. Fragments of a child's shale bracelet, no 4, came from F160.

Area B

Parts of three east-west running boundaries were recorded (Figs 5 and 30). To the north, a bank of red redeposited natural clay, F400 (F336), 1.8m wide, was noted in Trench A in 1990 and in the watching brief. Parallel to it to the south a second clay bank, F210, was recorded in greater detail. This comprised a 1.5m wide and 0.2m high bank of redeposited clay. Further south were the remains of a clay bank, F401 (F215), similar in character to F210 but on a different alignment. This was accompanied immediately to the south by a ditch, F246/F257, cut slightly into bedrock (Fig 17; Plate 8). The latter bank and ditch seem likely to have been associated with a north-south running boundary marked by a bank of clay, F304, with a ditch, F245, to its east. While the bank ran southward beyond the excavation, ditch F245 did not and may well have been physically linked with ditch F246. Like F246, F245 had been cut to the top of bedrock. While F245 was 1m wider than F246, the two ditches had a similar depth of *c* 0.5m. The north-south running boundary terminated short of F210 to the north at a slight eastward turn suggesting an entry and thus contemporaneity with F210. Here, as F320, the ditch was narrower and slightly deeper than F245, perhaps representing the ditch terminal. At the south end of this boundary two gully like features, F305 and F306, were seen in section on the west side of bank F304 (Fig 10).

A lead casket, 180mm square and 150mm deep, containing a cremation had been placed in a small pit, F242 (Plate 26), set into the back of the boundary bank F210. This had a pipe and collar funnel to receive libations, the top of which was apparent following machining. At this surface the pipe was set round by small horizontally-laid stones.

The east-west running boundary banks, F210 and F400, may have had ditches to their north in positions occupied by later ditches or boundary walls. The clay banks of F210 and F401 were absent toward the frontage as was ditch F246. However, as in Area A it would seem likely that the boundary ditches were not cut into the bedrock which was seen to lie just below the topsoil in the west of both areas. The absence of the clay banks must therefore be seen as resulting from later truncation. The boundary to the east comprised a bank with possible gullies to its west changing to a ditch to its east, north of the junction with F246.

Four Compounds, 5, 6, 7 and 10, were defined (Fig 30). The sharp contrast in alignments between F210 and F401 can be interpreted in different ways. It may suggest that Compounds 5 and 6 were the product of a different layout to Compounds 7 and 10. Compound 7 would then represent an anomalous area between two blocks. If Compound 7 is seen in this way then the cremation deposit was perhaps a dedicatory foundation burial to the south of a layout of enclosures to the north. Alternatively Compounds 7 and 10 may originally have been one enclosure with a bank marking the boundary to the rear. Ditches F245 and F246 may then have been added cutting through the rear bank and turning sharply northward.

Pottery from F246/F257 (key group 4) was of late 1st/first half of 2nd century date and included late 1st-century samian. Gullies F305 and F306 were similarly of late 1st/early 2nd-century date. Pottery from early layers (3011, 3015) overlying natural beneath a later building (Structure 6) was 1st-century in date, while material associated with the cremation burial F242 in its lead ossuary, no 1, suggested a 1st or 2nd-century date. Two sherds of decorated samian, no 5, of Neronian or early Flavian date, and no 19, of Flavian date came from 3011. Numbers 13, of Flavian date and 22, dated AD 85-110, came from F305. Later material was present in the primary fill of F245 suggesting a later recutting. Other later material came from banks F304, late 2nd/early 3rd-century pottery, and F336, Hadrianic/Antonine samian, and is likely to represent intrusive material. A copper alloy fitting came from F245. Plant remains were analysed from F245 and F246.

The dating evidence taken together suggests an initial layout which cannot be more closely dated than the later 1st or early 2nd century.

Period 2 - *c* 150 to *c* 250 AD

Area A

The Period 2 road, F101, was defined by stone walls and remetalled in places (Figs 4 and 31). A new road surface, 1013, was seen in the eastern section and in plan to its east comprising pitched flattish stones, between 0.05 and 0.10m across packed round with smaller stones. Wear on the road was marked by the rounded surfaces of the upper stones. The south side of the road was defined by well-built stone walls set on stone footings. To the west, wall F102 was set on a foundation of large stones 0.9m wide (Plate 4). The wall was the same width as its footings and was made of faced stones with a rubble core. At one point on its east side toward the road there was an addition to the wall widening it slightly for a length of 4m, the additional stones slightly oversailing the wall edge and presumably representing an entranceway. Wall F102 came to an end to the east in an area of later disturbance but was continued further on a slightly offset line by wall F103 (Plate 5). This was built along the line of, and replaced, ditch F142. Its wall footing in the east road cutting was just under 1m wide and had been cut into the silted upper fill of the ditch. The foundation comprised stones set flat in a clay matrix. F103 was well built with stones trimmed to form a face on both sides and with the wall core composed of smaller stones. A third wall, F104, running north-south, seems likely to have joined with F102 (Fig 9). Its foundation of large stones laid flat had been cut into the fill of the Period 2 ditch F156. The wall itself had faced stones only on the west side. To its east it was set into a clay bank, F412, of which only a depth of about 0.06m survived and only a width of 0.5m was excavated. The east side of F104 was therefore not

faced, except in one area where the wall widened to 1.2m and where there were large facing stones to the east. This again would have marked an entranceway.

North of the road, further lengths of wall were recorded. To the west in the western road cutting a probable wall line was marked by a foundation of flat stones, F153, 0.9m wide (Fig 10). Further east wall F115 followed the same line. This was set on rubble footings and was 0.76m wide with slightly more substantial facing stones on its south side. Later disturbances severed any relationship with a third section of wall, F119, to its east and slightly offset from the line of F115. F119 was 0.9m wide and was set on a 1m wide foundation of flat stones. The foundation trench was cut into the fills of the Period 1 ditch F141.

To the south of the road was a spread of burnt material, F133, layer 1002. This comprised charcoal, black silty material, lumps of burnt clay and some stone, covering a roughly circular area possibly representing a hollow over the natural clay. This layer was nowhere more than 0.04m thick. The area may have been enclosed to the east by two lengths of wall, F128 and F129. F128 came to a clear end to its south suggesting that there was an entrance way marked with differently aligned sections of wall. Both walls were of faced outer stones with rubble cores. Wall F128 was not excavated but it could be seen that its south end was different in character with pitched stones sloping down to the south. The northern part of wall F129 had been robbed in later activity but its surviving footings showed an east side of well-built courses of flat stone set within a foundation trench. It is possible that these marked a culvert built as one with the wall. At its southern end, F129 turned westward but was only traced for a few metres. Running toward the suggested entranceway between F128 and F129 were rough stone paths, F131 and F132, and areas of pitched stone and less well-defined stone spreads. F131 overlay the burnt area, F133, but may well have been contemporary with activities associated with its deposition.

The wall layouts alongside the road followed existing boundaries judging by the coincidence of walls and Period 2 ditches. Wall F103 was added to walls F102 and F104 underscoring the Period 1 suggestion that the earlier ditch marked the rear of plots associated with properties on the Fosse Way. There seems to have been an entrance between this southern plot and the road. The slightly offset relationship of F115 and F119 may suggest the addition of the latter to the former and hence, as to the south, the presence of a north-south running property boundary from there northward. South of the road there is evidence of a closed yard with an entrance access eastward. Structure 1 continued in use to be abandoned at the end of the period.

Wall F104 contained 2nd-century pottery including Hadrianic/Antonine samian. Pottery from spread F133 (key group 2) gave a date from the samian in the later 2nd century but with the latest 2nd-century diagnostic forms absent. Much of the samian was burnt, but not the other pottery. Pottery dated late 1st/early 2nd century came from wall F103. A copper alloy pin, no 2, came from F131, and a rod fragment, no 49, from F133. A fragment of sheet, no 56, came from a layer south of road F101. An iron shoe cleat came from F133. Two fragments of a shale bracelet, no 3, also came from F133. Grain processing, principally of barley, was indicated by the evidence for a cleaned crop from burnt material in F133.

The dating evidence from Structure 1 is discussed here rather than under Period 1. Pottery from the building (key group 3) was dated to the 2nd century with later pieces from culvert F120 which contained pottery of late 2nd/early 3rd century date. The building clearly continued in use into Period 2. Layer 1019 from yard F112 to its west contained Antonine

samian as well as two fragments of possibly 1st-century glass, nos 3 and 3a, a decorated samian sherd of Trajanic date, no 29, and one of Hadrianic or Antonine date, no 67. Fragments of a millstone, no 1, had been reused in the yard. The areas of burning F143 and F163 contained 2nd-century material with Black Burnished ware present and Hadrianic samian in F163. A quern fragment, no 6, had been reused in floor F110 in Structure 1. Plant remains were analysed from F143.

Area B

The Period 1 boundaries were refurbished (Figs 5 and 31). A wall, F336, was added on the north side of F400 between Compounds 5 and 6. Its footings of small stone rubble were seen in 1990 to have been set within a construction trench and cut into the side of the earlier bank. The lowest drystone courses above ground were recorded in the watching brief in 1997 as set into bank F400 with a ragged edge to the south and a straight face only to the north. It is possible that the wall replaced a Period 1 ditch but this was not recorded. Bank F210 to the south was also revetted with a drystone wall, F244, again on its north side. This had been set directly on the ground surface with only its lower course of horizontally set flat stones surviving. To the north of the footings was a ditch, F258, cut down to, and slightly into, the natural rock (Plate 9). This may well have removed evidence of any Period 1 ditch. Ditch F258 had itself been cut by later features. A lower fill of silty clay with charcoal, 2085, 2086, lay beneath a brown claysoil fill, 2075, 2079. This latter contained stone from wall F244 after its collapse or slighting and is therefore later. A north-south running ditch, F300, seen in the watching brief, divided Compound 7. This had been cut rather deeper into the bedrock than the other Period 1 and 2 boundaries. Only its lower levels were recorded showing a clay silt, 3002.

Silt fills within ditch F246 comprised a clay silt, 2099 and 2100, containing large stones possibly from a collapsed wall, sealed beneath layers of clay soil, 2096, 2097. The infilled ditch was overlain by a wall, F215 (Plate 8), added to bank F401 with its base courses at a sharp angle having subsided into the upper fill of the ditch. Butted against F215 on its south side was a wall, F231, made of flat unmortared slabs to the south, with a better built northern end of stone slabs and a rubble core. The wall was laid directly on the ground surface and across ditch F246. It bounded a cobbled yard, F402 (2017), into which was cut a stone-lined drain, F219. To the east an extensive layer of silty soil, 2092, was recorded. Present in the layer were patches of ash, charcoal and burnt clay together with quantities of pottery and animal bone. The layer formed the upper part of ditch F246 where it deepened over its subsided fills.

Two pits, F207 and F209, were sited in Compound 6. Only the upper 0.05m dark grey claysoil fill of F207, was excavated. F209 was filled with brown clay soil with stone, 3000.

A wall, variously F220 and F229, had been cut into the east side of bank F304 facing eastward and perhaps marking the west side of a new enclosure. To the north, as F229, the wall was 0.95m wide and 0.2m high. Three courses had survived, with the upper two of thinner flatter stones than the lowest course. The wall followed the line of the Period 1 bank northward, terminating at the entranceway curve. To the south, as F220, its construction was more substantial. Here it comprised facing stones with a rubble core set on a foundation of pitched stone. Although no mortar was seen the construction type suggested a mortared wall in contrast to the drystone construction of F229. Ditch F245 was recut. Its lowest fills

comprised clay with flat stone slabs, 2055, 2047, perhaps from a wall, beneath upper clay fills, 2042 and 2049.

A building, Structure 8, was constructed on the east side of the Period 2 wall F220 (Fig 13; Plate 18). Its north wall, F221, had been butted on to wall F220 and was bonded with the east wall, F222. The wall footings of unmortared pitched stone were set in a slight construction trench. Above, the wall proper comprised a maximum of three surviving courses of horizontally laid mortared facing slabs with a rubble core. In the centre of the room a complete greyware jar had been set upright within a steep-sided pit, F252, large enough to accommodate the pot. The lip of the pot was set exactly at the level of natural clay, and both pit and pot had been sealed by a small, rough, unshaped stone slab. The lowest floor level of the building, layer 2026, sealed the slab. This comprised a layer of mortar beneath a mixed layer, 2021, itself sealed by a floor level of stone slabs and rubble with soil and mortar patches, 2010. East of Structure 8, a wall, F282, was butted on to the corner of the building and continued the line of F221 southward. The wall was 1.1m wide and made of unmortared flat slabs.

To the east of Structure 8 were extensive spreads of stone rubble associated with a group of industrial features and other possible structures (Fig 15; Plates 19-21). These were only partly excavated. A hearth, F250, comprised two adjacent rectangular areas of heavily burnt stone blocks and vertically set surrounding stones (Plate 19). Within was a layer of soil, 2054, with ash, burnt clay and charcoal. A second similar structure close by, F249, was marked by a horse-shoe shaped wall of unmortared facing stones (Plate 21). Three courses of these survived and were heavily burnt on their interior. The base of the feature was of burnt clay, possibly the natural clay surface. A large flat burnt slab was set at the mouth of the structure. To the east was a spread, 2094, of large worn cobbles and large flagstones with burnt surfaces. Within F249 was a fill of ashy soil, burnt clay and rubble, 2053. In the entrance and spread out beyond it overlying 2094 was a layer of soil, charcoal and burnt clay, 2093, thinning out away from F249. Layer 2049 and F249 were sealed by an overall deposit of burnt material, burnt stone rubble and dark charcoally soil, 2091. Nearby was an area of massive lias stone blocks, F274, forming a roughly semicircular area. Alongside was a further burnt stone hearth, F269, and a rectangular stone setting, F412, neither of which were excavated. In an evaluation trench in 1990 a further burnt setting was found in which the floor utilized the broken base of a large amphora, F155, held together with lead rivets. Around this setting were further extensive spreads of stone rubble, F154, F157 and F160, the equivalent of layer 2094. These spreads included several fragments of querns and millstones.

As in Area A, ditches and banks were added to or replaced by drystone walls (Fig 31). Compounds 6 and 7 may have been fields and enclosures perhaps used for animals if F211 is interpreted as a water holes, as might be suggested by its sloping sides and revetted face. Compound 10 to the south, however, was used for other purposes with a wall enclosing a cobbled yard. Layer 2092 seems likely to represent a midden deposit. To the east was an extensive layout of new buildings and other features in Compound 8. Structure 8 may have been two-roomed to be paralleled by similar buildings seen on the Showerings site. Of the features to the east the burnt stone settings are likely to represent ovens and kilns. The stone floored area F274 may have been a threshing floor perhaps contained within a roofed structure. The area appears to have been involved in a variety of agriculturally based industrial and processing activities, perhaps including crop threshing, drying, milling, and bread making. Structure 8 seems likely to have been dedicated to a particular function in view of the foundation pot, and this may have been associated with the area to the east.

Pottery from layer 2092 (key group 8) was generally of late 1st/early 2nd century, but included Antonine samian and two samian stamps, no 1, dated 100-120, and no 8, dated *c* 160-190. Layers associated with F249 (key group 6) contained pottery datable to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Structure F250 contained 2nd-century pottery. Layer 2091 contained 2nd-century pottery including Antonine samian; layer 2093 3rd-century pottery, and layer 2094 contained 2nd-century pottery including mid to late Antonine samian and decorated samian, no 50, dated AD 150-190. Layer 2021 in Structure 8 contained 2nd-century pottery, including decorated samian, no 65, of Hadrianic/early Antonine date, and layer 2026 late 1st/early 2nd material. The foundation deposit pot in F252 was dated to the 2nd century. Layer 2012, a possible floor in Structure 8, contained a samian stamp, no 10, dated *c* AD 160-190 and a decorated samian sherd dated AD 100-120, no 40. Of the pits, F207 contained 2nd-century pottery including Hadrianic/Antonine decorated samian, no 68, and F209 late 1st/early 2nd-century pottery. The fills of ditch F258 contained late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery. Layers 2047 and 2055, primary fills of the recut of F245, contained 2nd-century pottery including mid-Antonine samian. Pottery from wall F336 was 2nd-century in date. There was a considerable amount of residual material. Layer 2096 from F246 contained a decorated samian sherd, no 23, dated Flavian/Trajanic. Layer 2017, yard F402, contained decorated samian sherds of Favian/Trajanic date, no 24, and of AD 100-120, no 38. A brooch, no 2, dated late 1st to mid 2nd century, came from yard F402, layer 2017. Fragments of an undated brooch, no 23, came from F258. Plant remains were analysed from layer 2017, F402. A copper alloy bracelet, no 11, came from layer 2026. Plant remains were analysed from F249.

Period 3 *c* 250 to *c* 300 AD

Area A

Extensive flood deposited layers of colluvium were recorded (Figs 4 and 32). North of the road, F101, context 1001 was a grey brown clay with occasional red brown flecks. The layer was generally around 0.2m thick and overlay all the earlier features north of the road including, from west to east, yard surface F112, Structure 1, and the roadside walls F119 and F115. It was also present across the east end of road F101, sealing the Period 2 cobbling. South of the road the same layer had been deposited westward as far as easting 90 and southward to about northing 70. Here it was as much as 0.28m deep over the Period 2 spread F133 and the walls to its east, thinning out southward. It was not present in the areas examined to the south-east.

The western part of the road, F101, was resurfaced and enlarged. A sandy silt, 1043, containing charcoal and a few small stones overlay the Period 2 road (Fig 10). This was in turn intermittently overlain by a layer of stiff brown clay, 1042. A new road surface, 1039, was then laid. This was around 0.14m thick and made up of large stones up to 0.2m across with smaller stones and gravel in their interstices. The west side of the road was marked by a ditch, F118. This was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep with a shallow V-shaped profile reaching as far as the uppermost surface of natural rock. The ditch was traced further east as F145 with a similar profile cut to 0.6m deep. The southern limits of the road were presumably still marked by the Period 2 walls. The north side of the road was particularly well made to the east of the main cutting. Here an area of pitched stone, 1053, the stones carefully selected for size and compactly placed, formed the eastern side running across the top of the northern wall F115

and the south wall of Structure 1, here buried beneath a thin skim of colluvium. There was a drop of around 0.15m from the surface of layer 1053 to the surface of the colluvium further west. To the east there was no evidence for the road. A slight scoop in the Period 2 road in the east section may mark the continuation of F145.

Following the deposition of the colluvium, a ditch, F134, was cut running parallel with the line of the Fosse Way and 120m east of it (Fig 9). Its upper fill could be seen as a surface feature running intermittently for 30m. The ditch was 3m wide where sectioned and had been cut into the limestone bedrock to a total depth of 1m of which 0.9m had involved the removal of rock. The base of the ditch represented the surface of the bedding plane of a limestone layer while the sides were stepped reflecting the way stone had been quarried. The lowest ditch fill 1067 was a light brown clay with charcoal flecks containing some large stones, and this may have been cut by a redefinition of the ditch filled with a layer of clay, 1066, with streaks of orange clay with charcoal and shell inclusions. Both layers were then sealed by a hard lumpy grey clay, 1065, which may have been a dump rather than a gradually accumulated silt, and which lay beneath 1068 a further layer of grey clay. A second recutting was then apparent filled with layers 1062, 1063 and 1064, all mottled grey clay silts, which lay beneath a thick layer of dark grey clay soil with charcoal and stones, 1060, within which was a band of charcoal 1061.

The colluvial deposits would have derived from flooding of an area centred to the east and north of the excavation. An explanation might be that an increased number of roofed buildings and metalled areas in the roadside settlement exacerbated rainwater run off and overtaxed the existing drainage system. Judging from the uniformity and depth of the colluvium it would appear that the area was abandoned. The road itself may not have been. Its western end was resurfaced while the eastern end was not. It is possible that gravels from the eastern end were removed at a later date. Ditch F134, paralleled in Area B, is likely to have been cut to deal with the problem of flooding.

Pottery from the colluvium was dated to the 2nd century including mid to late 2nd-century samian from one layer 1055. A later date, in the early 3rd century, was suggested by pottery from the culvert alongside Structure 1 which was sealed by the colluvium. Pottery from layers 1040, 1042 and 1053 from the road metalling was of 2nd-century date including Hadrianic/Antonine samian from 1042 and 1053. Layer 1055 contained a samian stamp, no 9, dated *c* AD 140-170. Road layer 1053 contained a Hadrianic/Antonine stamp frame, no 13. Layer 1040 contained decorated samian sherds, no 27 of 1st-century date, and no 76 of Antonine date. The evidence all suggests almost entirely residual material from an abandonment of the area, except presumably its road frontage and the street, in the early 3rd century. Pottery of 3rd century date came from the upper fill of F134 (key group 1). An iron shoe cleat was also found in the ditch.

Area B

A large rock-cut pit, F260, was cut into the Period 2 ditch F258 (Figs 5 and 32). It was filled with sandy clay and weathered stone rubble, 2087, beneath orange silty clay with stones, 2082. In Compound 7 two similar pits, F211 and F243 were examined. These had been cut into the south side of bank F210. Both had a vertical drystone revetted edge to the north with a more gently sloping side facing into the compound to the south (Fig 17). F243 cut ditch F300. A base fill of dark silt, 2050, contained rubble to the south and was sealed by a layer of

dark soil, 2041. The rubble may have derived from a possible stone culvert which was suggested by pitched stones surviving at the edge of the pit. The base of F211 was roughly lined with stone. A lower fill of brown clay with angular stones, 2040, lay beneath an upper fill of dark claysoil, 2037. Two elongated pits, F253 and F254 to the south were also excavated. Both were grave-like with steep sides and flat bases, F253 1.5x0.5x0.3m deep and F254 2x0.5x0.3m deep. They were filled with brown claysoil with charcoal and contained large stone blocks.

The north-south running boundary, F304, was augmented by the addition of a stony clay bank, F234/2028, replacing wall F229. This latter may have been slighted, with stone from it filling the upper fills of ditch F245.

To the east an extensive deposit of clay silt, 2030, 2031 and 2062, sealed the Period 2 hearths and stone spreads. This layer of colluvium was *c* 0.1 to 0.15m deep.

To the east a major ditch, F347, was recorded in the watching brief. This was seen to have been cut down into the rock with sloping sides. No complete profile was seen but by putting various sightings together a width of 5m and a depth of at least 1.5m can be suggested. An upper fill of brown clay, 3036, was recorded.

Pit F260 may have been a stone quarry initially partly backfilled and then subsequently silted up. Pits F211 and F243 may have been watering holes for stock perhaps receiving culverted water from the compound. The two similar pits F253 and F254 had been backfilled with rubbish including building stone and charcoal. Their shapes suggest that they were unlikely to have been rubbish pits originally and would have been intended for another purpose, perhaps shaped to fit an object such as a shallow stone trough. The colluvium must indicate flooding problems similar to those seen in Area A. To the east, ditch F347 lay on the same line as F134 in Area A and is likely to represent the same feature. Its character suggests both a boundary and a drainage channel to bring water down from higher parts of the settlement to the south. It formed the back of a new enclosure, Compound 8. Like F134, F347 seems to have been dug after the flooding. It may represent the continuation of a similar and apparently contemporary ditch excavated on the Showerings site (Leach forthcoming, F318). This ran east-west from the road frontage and then turned north on a course which would align it closely with ditch F347.

The latest pottery from layers 2035 and 2028 in bank F234 was uniformly of 2nd-century date, with the latest material mid to late Antonine samian from 2028. For the colluvium layers 2030, 2031 and 2062 (key group 5), the majority of the pottery was of 2nd century date including late Antonine samian, but there was also a BB1 sherd from 2062 of a date later than AD 240. Pit F243 contained late 2nd/early 3rd-century pottery including decorated samian, no 61, dated AD 160-190, and pit F211 contained 3rd-century material. Pit F260 contained 2nd-century pottery including Hadrianic/early Antonine samian. Pit F253 contained 2nd and 3rd-century pottery including a BB1 vessel dated mid 3rd century. Decorated samian sherds, no 62, dated AD 160-190, and no 75, of Antonine date, were also found. Pit F254 contained 3rd-century pottery and a samian stamp, no 7, dated *c* 150-180. Colluvium layer 2030 contained three sherds of decorated samian, no 8, dated AD 70-90, no 17, of Flavian date, and no 30 dated AD 100-120. Layer 2031 contained decorated samian, no 50, dated AD 150-190, which joined with sherds from layer 2094 in Period 2, and no 73, of Antonine date.

Two 4th-century coins, nos 316 and 317, came from 2031, and three coins, nos 325, dated AD 260-8, no 326, dated AD 364-75, and no 323, dated AD 364-78, from 2062. All these are later than the presumed date of the colluvium layers and must be seen as deriving from later occupation.

Two fragments of late 1st/2nd century glass, nos 2 and 15, and a late 1st century glass bangle fragment, no 19, came from F253. From the same feature also came an undated brooch fragment, no 20, a copper alloy bracelet fragment, no 17, a fragment of copper alloy rod, no 34, and a fragment of wire, no 43. A brooch dated later 1st century to 150/75 came from F254. Drain F262 yielded a brooch, no 9, of Iron Age date, and a fragment of copper alloy sheet, no 57, came from F234. A bone pin fragment, no 2, came from F243 and a whetstone, no 11, was found in layer 2030. Plant remains were analysed from F243.

Period 4 ***c* 300 to *c* 350 AD**

Area A

Renewed occupation followed the deposition of colluvium (Figs 4 and 33). To the south of the road a rectangular stone surface or floor, F113, measuring 14.4 by 7m, was constructed over the colluvium and is taken to suggest the site of a building, Structure 2 (Fig 7; Plate 14). The surface was built of pitched stone set on the Period 3 clay, overlain in places by a layer of crushed yellow Doulting stone. Part of the north side of the surface was revetted by edge-set blocks, F403, on a line which was continued to the west, although here an additional stone floor ran to the north. Two entrance features, F404 and F405, may have lain midway on the east and west sides though not opposed. A stone spread, F409, suggested a further entrance to the south of F405. On the west side was a stone with a hollowed out spherical depression perhaps the setting for an upright, F408. The floor character changed to the south where there were areas of pitching. A quernstone fragment, no 4, had been reused in F113.

To the west were two east-west running stone features, presumably walls. F105, to the south of F102 was represented by a 0.7m width of vertically pitched stones. This stopped short of wall F104 from Period 2 suggesting an entrance. F123 was butted against Structure 2. It was 0.45m wide and represented by a linear arrangement of large stones set in an orange brown clay with occasional edge set stones on its south side.

The direction of road F101 was radically altered. Following its former course from the west it now turned sharply northward towards its east end. The turn itself and a distance at least 12m to its west was marked by a new well-built but narrow stone surface, F154, set out on the upper levels of F101. The track was 2.7m wide with both sides marked by large stone blocks. Larger blocks than were used on F101 were also present within the two kerbs, some pitched, with Doulting stone fragments and gravel apparently forced into the interstices. This road layer was 0.3m deep and set directly on the Period 3 colluvium. Its turn northward was marked by the final two kerb stones to the east on the north side which commenced a definite curve northward. The south side of F154 was set alongside ditch F145 from Period 1. The kerb line was a continuation eastward of the edge of F101.

South of Structure 2 were extensive spreads of rubble. The southern end of F113 was unclear. The area was not excavated but the surface evidence suggested that the rubble spreads overlay

the end of the building. Two stone features, F127 and F130 ran northward across the area. F130 was a line of pitched stone 0.35m wide, perhaps associated with entrance F405. F127 was a stone-sided and stone-based culvert with flat slab sloping sides and a flat base. Both may have been culverts. F130 cut F129 from Period 2. To the east, a section of wall, F111, was cleared. This comprised a 1m wide wall course built of outer facing stones with a rubble core, different in style to the Period 3 walls in its size and the small size of the outer facing stones. The area defined by F111 to the east and Structure 2 to the north was not excavated beyond an overall clearance. The possibility exists that structures may have been set here. The burnt base of a sandstone hearth, F159, was recorded.

It would seem to have been the case that the road and its roadside walls was maintained, since Structure 2 appears to have been aligned on it. This latter was added after flooding had been controlled and was set out on the flood deposits. The floor area resembled two similar areas to the south.

There was no dating evidence for the Period 4 features. However pottery suggesting a 3rd and 4th-century date came from the overall cleaning layers as this upper horizon was exposed.

Area B

Toward the road frontage was a robbed wall foundation, F339, running toward a possible pitched stone wall foundation, F341, with the remains of a flagstone floor, F340, to its north (Figs 5 and 33). These incompletely revealed fragments evidently belong to the interior of a stone-founded building, Structure 19. To the south was a rock-cut boundary ditch, F206/F1, coming to a butt end to the east.

To the east of Structure 19, part of a stone-founded building, Structure 18, was exposed, comprising the west end of what may have been a two-celled unit. Parts of a mortared, horizontally laid plinth course survived above at least two courses of pitched drystone foundations marking three bonded walls, F3, F17/ F337 and F18/F338. These enclosed part of a room with a floor of cobbles, mortar and Pennant sandstone chips, F19 (1990). To the south an extensive spread of lightly worn rubble, F4 (1990), contained a well-laid stone flag floor bounded to the south by a semi-circular setting of vertically set stone slabs, F335, enclosing an area 2m x 1.5m. The stones were unburnt.

A rectangular building with stone foundations, Structure 6, was located east of Structure 18, to the north of the area and in evaluation Trench B (Fig 11). This had been set out across the line marked by the Period 1 boundary F336. A core building had an initial addition on its west side to which was added a further block to the north. These later additions are likely to have taken place in Period 5 but are described here. The core building was seen as walls F203/F334, F204 and F332. Wall F203 was a single course of horizontally set mortared stone set on pitched foundations. The foundation trench of the east wall had been cut into layers associated with Structure 17. The wall was bonded with F204 of a similar build. The west wall, F332, was of large mortared facing stones with a rubble core set on pitched footings. A southern room was marked by an internal wall, F333, of flat slabs 0.04m thick. A mortar floor, 3034, survived to the west, overlain by a gravel floor, 3033. These levels were set on clay with no evidence of earlier layers. An added room to the west was marked by walls F201 and F202, both also seen in 1990. For the former the wall was represented by a single course of horizontally laid mortared facing stones with a rubble core, and for the latter by two

courses. F202 had been butted against F204 and F332. Both walls were set on pitched stone foundations, those beneath F201 set in a 0.55m deep foundation trench. A floor level of pitched small lias stones, 3010, was seen beneath a layer, 3009, of soil, mortar and stone. To the north F201 was bonded with a north wall, F33, of similar composition. Against this had been butted a wall, F35, continuing the line of F201 and marking a third addition. This was seen only as the upper foundations of pitched stone with a north wall, F39, similarly marked only by its footings. An internal wall of similar character, F36, was also recorded. Within the two rooms so defined were layers of soil with mortar, stone, and fragments of pennant sandstone.

Beyond the north exterior wall, F39, was a 3m wide cobbled area, F52, bounded to the north by a slight wall footing, F41. This was made of angular rubble with a clear face to the north and with no foundation trench. The cobbled area was at a higher level than wall F41 and layers to the north. To the south of the building an area of pitched stone, 2080, similarly 3m wide, was bounded by a rough line of stone blocks, 2081 to the south. Both these surfaces were butted against the exterior north and south walls. Wall F41 was not recorded in evaluation trench A and presumably related solely to the building

To the south of Structure 6 a spread of stone rubble 2074/F29 (1990) bounded to the south by a rough drystone wall foundation, 2076, F414, defined a roughly rectangular area, Structure 16 (Plate 15). An infant burial, HB6 in grave F259, lay just to its west. Further south, a series of rock-cut pits, F251, F256/F302, F301 and F312, were partly excavated. These had been cut into the rock with steep sides and flat bases. They had been backfilled with tips of stone rubble and debris which included mortar, ash and charcoal and occupation/midden material, 2044, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2060, 2070 and 2073.

Further east, the entrance to Compound 7 was marked by a cobbled access track, F266, flanked by stone culverts. The surface of stone rubble was made up of large stones to a depth of at least 0.3m. On the north side was a line of pitched stone, F280/F321, perhaps marking the base of a culvert. On the other side was a large stone-lined drain, F262, with stone block side walls set on a flagstone base and sealed by massive cap stones (Plate 22). This curved northward at the excavation limit and ran westward for at least 6m west of the line of boundary F234. The track provided an entrance westward into Compound 7 and eastward into Compound 8 as well as northward. The cap stones over F262 thus served to take the weight of traffic turning into Compound 8. On either side of the track were two possible buildings. To the west an area of pitched stone cobbling, F281/F322, associated with culvert base F280, may have marked the location of a building complex, Structure 17. Levels associated with this, layers 3012-5, were seen to contain Pennant stone fragments and mortar suggesting a stone building. To the east on the further side of the track were two parallel lines of large Doulting stone padstones, F267 and F368, suggesting the supports for the south and north walls of a timber-framed building, Structure 15, fronting onto the access track.

In Compound 8, Structure 11 comprised a rectangular platform made up of closely packed small stones, some yellow, F268/F78 (1990) with a small semicircular protrusion to the north, and a square setting of four large post pits, F238-F241, continuing the alignment of the platform to the south (Fig 14). These rectangular pits had vertically-set stone slabs marking their sides with pitched stone packing within. No evidence survived of the post pipes. To the west, two areas of large sandstone blocks, F227 and F237, were recorded. East of F268 was what appeared to be a ditch, F79, judging by its dark upper fill. Between Structure 11 and the access track F266 was an area of crushed limestone gravel set in mortar forming a yard

F278/F76 (1990). A large pit, F226/F330, over 2m wide and 1m deep, was cut to the north of the cobbling. Further south were the partly exposed remains of a second platform, Structure 12, on the same alignment as Structure 11 (Fig 15). This comprised the greater part of a large rectangular platform of fragmented Doulting stone set on pitched limestone blocks, F228, covering an area of at least 14.2 x 6.2m. Along the north side was a shallow gully, F311. A concentration of stone on its east side in the southernmost part excavated, suggested the position of an entrance.

To the east of these buildings were further hard standings set out on the alluvial deposit overlying the Period 2 hard standings. The Period 3 ditch, F347, was infilled or silted and replaced by a ditch, F230, sited parallel to it and a few metres to its east. Like F347, this was a major feature, over 4m wide and 1.5m deep with a broad flat base cutting into bedrock. Traces of a drystone wall boundary, F85, were observed on its west side in the 1990 evaluation. To the east of F230 two east-west running ditches, F348 and F349, were recorded in the watching brief. These were 1m and 2m wide respectively and *c* 0.5m deep. This might suggest that to the east were open fields at this time.

The double ditch line of F347 and F230 was not paralleled in Area A, although a ditch to the east of F134 may well not have been recognised. It may be that F134 can be equated with F230, both having a similar profile, in which case F134 may have been a recutting of an earlier ditch the equivalent of F347.

Buildings were therefore suggested toward the road frontage but could not be adequately defined. The stone setting F335 may have been a threshing floor and indicate a low status building on the frontage. Structure 6 to the east was better understood. This may initially have been a two-celled structure which was then expanded to the west and north. Its northern extension cut across the boundary between Compounds 5 and 6. It may have been the case, as its slight width suggests, that Compound 6 was never more than a subdivision of a larger compound. If on the other hand the expansion of Structure 6 was as radical a disruption of a long standing boundary as it appears, then it can be seen in the context of developments to the south on the Showerings site where the 1990 Structure 9 was constructed across a former track. Structure 6 itself seems to have been surrounded by a well-defined surface and it is possible this may have been the floor of a verandah. The east wall of the building was aligned with boundary wall F104 in Area A. The additions on its west side seem likely to indicate that the building was given a more impressive façade where it faced the Fosse Way frontage.

The elements making up Structure 11 suggest a timber-framed building, at least 13 x 5m in area and aligned approximately north-south, with a hardstanding floor to the north and a raised floor or two-storey unit to the south. The two areas of stone to the west may have been post pads associated with a corridor or extension in that direction. The ill-defined ditch, F79, may mark an eaves drip gully. Structure 12 may also have been the site of a timber-framed building. Both buildings and Structure 2, or at least their floor areas, were so similar as to seem likely to have served the same function. There were differences. The layout of Structure 2 in Area A suggested possible internal features and floors as well as the position of possible entrances. Structure 11 may have had a granary attached, raised above ground level on four posts marked by stone settings. The floor of Structure 12 was more uniform than the others. Despite this it would seem that all three functioned as storage barns all having spacious working surfaces nearby. It is possible that Structures 11 and 12 were attached by a verandah or covered walkway marked by F227 and F237, and it is possible that all also had a domestic component.

The upper fill of ditch F245, 2042, contained late 3rd/early 4th-century pottery. Pottery from beneath Structure 12 was 2nd-century in date and included Hadrianic/Antonine samian. Pottery from F330 was 3rd-century in date and from F335 was 2nd-century in date including late Antonine samian. Ditch F206 contained 3rd-century pottery, and pottery from boundary wall F247 and layer 2058 was of similar date. Pottery from pits F251 and F256 (key group 9) was dated to the 3rd century and included BB1 dated later than AD 225. Pit F301 contained late 1st/2nd-century pottery. For Structure 16, layer 2074 contained 2nd-century pottery and layer 2076, wall F415, late 3rd/4th century pottery. Layer 2080 to the south of Structure 6 contained 2nd-century pottery. Decorated samian dated AD 100-120 came from 2076, Structure 16. Ditch F230 contained late second and 3rd-century pottery including late Antonine samian and a BB1 sherd dated later than AD 225. Amongst earlier material was a sherd of decorated samian, no 6, dated AD 70-85. An iron object, no 11, also came from F230 and a quern stone, no 3, was set in the surface above it.

A different picture was provided by the coin evidence. Coin no 314, dated AD 330-340, came from layer 2058 beneath Structure 7 and two coins, nos 321 and 327, of the same date came from pit F251. Layer 2074 from Structure 16 contained a coin, no 383, dated AD 337-40.

A fragment of copper alloy plate, no 40, came from F225. Fragments of copper alloy, nos 44, 47 and 48, came from F335. A fragment of late 1st/2nd century glass, no 18, came from layer 2057. A fragment of painted wall plaster, no 2, came from F225.

Period 5 *c* 350 to *c* 400 AD

Area A

Structure 2 was maintained through the 4th century as was the road F101 (Figs 4 and 34). To the east of the main excavated area, the construction of a stone building, Structure 4, suggested the establishment of a further compound, Compound 4, although its eastern limits were not found. The building had at least two rooms and was a minimum 14m long by 5.8m wide externally (Fig 8). The walls were of coursed, mortar-bonded stone with facing stones and cores of small rubble. A south room measured 7 x 4.8m internally and was divided by a stone wall from a north room which lay partly outside the excavated area. A layer of dark soil with stone, 1026, may have formed the floor of the southern room. There was a doorway at the west end of the partition wall. Outside the building to its west was a stone culvert, F168, draining to the north. Further east, Structure 10 was marked by two walls meeting at a right angle and possibly representing part of another stone building. The west wall, F140, survived best. It was built in a similar fashion to F111 with small outer stones marking a wide wall principally represented by its rubble core. F410 was butted against F140 and was made of a rough linear arrangement of large stone blocks with no rubble core.

Structure 4 may be interpreted as a farm building, perhaps a byre. It might have had a domestic element with a family living in part of the building or in an upper floor. The similar walls F111 and F140 - the latter from Structure 10 - may mark a yard around the building, perhaps with lean-to structures on the further side of F140. Further to the west timber-framed buildings and stone-surfaced yards may have been present although not securely defined.

Third-century pottery, dated later than AD 225, came from layer 1026 in Structure 4.

Area B

Late buildings were also found to the south (Figs 5 and 34). The Period 4 pits in Compound 7 were sealed beneath a further stone-founded building, Structure 7 (Fig 12). This comprised three walls, F216, F217 and F232, of horizontally-laid mortared plinth courses surviving in places above unmortared pitched foundations. These were generally in shallow foundation trenches with one pitched course, except over the pits where they had been set in trenches cut deeply into the fills of the underlying pits. Walls F216 and F217 were bonded together. The junction between F232 and F216 was not clear, suggesting that the walls had been set directly on the surface at this point without a foundation trench. The building was divided by an interior wall, F218, again with pitched stone footings. The northern room contained rake out layers, 2025, from a possible hearth against the east wall. A rough dirt and stone surface, 2024, floored the southern room overlying an area of burning, 2029. To the west of Structure 7, a burnt, stony, clay floor, 2043, was overlain by dark soil and mortar, 2022. Overlying layers contained burnt daub perhaps indicating a timber and daub annexe building.

To the west and north of Structure 7, unexcavated rubble layers and possible postholes, F283 and F416-F418, may indicate timber-framed buildings. To the east, Structure 14 was marked by a rectangular setting of post pits and pottery vessel deposits, F284. North of Structure 14 a large, sub-circular, dry-stone lined pit, F225, was cut almost 2m into clay and bedrock (Plate 23). An elongated rubble spread, F279, to its west, may represent remains of a structure. To the north of F225 a pit, F285/F313, also penetrated to bedrock.

In Compound 6, a stone coffin with a Doulting stone lid, F208, had been set in a slight pit (Plate 24). It contained the skeleton of a child, HB5 (Plate 25).

The boundary separating Compounds 7 and 8 was refurbished with a clay bank, 2027, set on the Period 4 bank, F234, into which were set an alignment of large Doulting stone blocks, F247, presumably as the base for a drystone wall. To the south was a short length of wall footing or stone plinth, F265, on the same alignment. The boundary terminated to the north, as in previous periods, where the access track, F266, linking Compounds 6, 7 and 8 was still maintained.

To the east of the maintained Structure 11, was a broad band of rough cobbling, F272, crossing the excavated area from north to south and marking a trackway. This overlay ditch F230. Material incorporated within it included several portions of mill and quernstones, the latter possibly obtained from the Period 2 and 4 industrial areas behind Structure 8. The track was crossed by a stone-lined culvert, F273, with branches on the west side deriving from Structure 11. Set into the top of the infilled ditch F230 were the remains of an oven with an elongated, stone-lined chamber, F264, and a circular stokehole, F263, to the south. The Period 3 ditch, F230, had been replaced by a ditch to its east, F236. This was 2m wide and less than 1m deep, with the remains of a drystone boundary wall, F162, along its western edge.

Beyond this boundary was a building, Structure 13, defined by part of a rectilinear setting of pitched stone cobbles, F372, and a north-south alignment of wall foundation, F270, perhaps marking the west part of a timber-framed building, aligned approximately east-west. Nearby were the remains of an elongated, rectangular stone hearth, F271. To the north was a

substantial stone-founded building, Structure 9, comprising a two-roomed building defined by a horizontal plinth course of mortared stone set upon pitched stone foundations (Fig 16; Plates 16 & 17). The east, F369, north, F277, west, F275, and south, F371, walls were bonded together. An internal partition wall, F370, marked a smaller southern room. The room had a cobbled interior floor cut by a stone-lined posthole, and by a possible culvert, F374, alongside the north wall. The north room had a bench, F276, butted against the west wall, with a wide entrance to its south. The room had a floor of stony soil, 2098, with a square hearth. A culvert, F373, crossed the room from east to west. Outside to the south and west was an extensive yard of stone cobbling and rubble, F372.

On the south side of Compound 7, Structure 7 had therefore been built across a number of infilled pits. The contents of the latter suggest a building had stood nearby which was now replaced by the new building. This was the same width as the core Structure 6 building and would seem likely to have been another two-celled structure. Its stone walls were set on bedrock in places but in deep foundation trenches over the pits, suggesting a stone-walled building to eaves height. It may have been two storied. A pentice timber-framed building may have lain to the west. The stone coffin F208 is likely to represent a late Roman burial. This may be a burial associated with Structure 6 or with a family from one of the more sophisticated buildings on the west of the road.

The pottery dating evidence underlined the extent of residuality after 200-300 years of occupation at the Fosse Lane site. Ditch F236 contained 2nd and 3rd-century pottery including Hadrianic/early Antonine samian. Layer 2095 associated with F264 contained 2nd century pottery including Hadrianic samian. For Structure 7, pottery from layers 2024, 2025 and 2029 (key group 7) was dated to the 3rd-century with some 4th-century sherds. Wall F232 from the building contained 3rd-century pottery, wall F216, late 2nd/early 3rd century pottery including samian later than AD 160, wall F218, 2nd-century, and wall F217, 3rd-century material. Pottery from layer 2043 was of late 2nd/early 3rd century date and included decorated samian nos 39, dated AD 100-120, and 55, dated AD 130-160. Layer 2098 in Structure 9 contained late 3rd/4th century pottery. A samian stamp, no 4, dated *c* AD 135-160 came from pit F208 holding the stone coffin. A decorated samian sherd, no 11, dated AD 75-95, came from wall F217.

The coin evidence was clearer. Layer 2029 within Structure 7 yielded three coins, no 299 dated AD 305-7, no 307, dated AD 367-75, and no 300, 4th-century. The overlying floor level, 2024, yielded coin 371, dated AD 364-78. Layer 2022 west of Structure 7 contained coin 303, dated AD 388-402. F264 contained a coin, no 417, dated AD 364-78. From floor 2098 in Structure 9 came three coins, no 424 dated AD 260-80, no 423 dated AD 350-60, and no 425, undated.

Fragments of a wire bracelet, no 21, came from layer 2098 of Structure 9, a silver ring from layer 2029 of Structure 7, an iron pin shank from grave pit F208, a shoe cleat from layer 2025 of Structure 7 and a 2nd-century brooch, no 5, from layer 2022 west of Structure 7. Layer 2025 from Structure 7, contained a fragment of a rotary quern, no 5, while in layer 2029, also from Structure 7, were three fragments of building stone, no 13. A whetstone, no 12, came from 2095, the rakeout layer from F264. The child's coffin, nos 15 and 16, was of local Doulting stone. Plant remains from F236 were analysed.

Coins from the Period 4 features beneath Structure 7 provide a *terminus post quem* for the building of AD 330-40. Its reflooring can be dated later than AD 367-75. The coin of AD 388-402 may well therefore have been lost when the building was in use. The other structures cannot be as closely dated. The coin evidence might suggest that Structure 9 was from Period 4 continuing into the later 4th century.

Period 6 Early post-Roman centuries

Areas A and B

In Area A, two graves, F122 and F150, were cut into the Period 4 and 5 stone floor, F113, of Structure 2 (Figs 4 and 35). F122 was aligned north-south with the adult burial placed with its head to the south (Plate 27). F150 was aligned east-west with the head of the adult burial to the west (Plate 28). In Compound 7, Area B, a group of three burials, two intercutting, were set close together on a north-south alignment. All three were adults, the deepest grave F255 (HB3), cut by grave F235/F27 (1990)(HB1) (Plate 29) with grave F248 (HB2) nearby. A badly disturbed adult burial, 2077 (HB4) had been cut into the Period 5B track F272, close to the drain F273.

A complex of ditches in Area A was associated with the earlier road, F101 (fig 10) and its Period 5 addition F154. To the west ditch F144 ran almost centrally down F101. This was a shallow V-shaped cut which may have been a stone lined-culvert and was traced for 15m from the west. Ditch F147 to the east was not replicated in the west section. It ran down the side of the Period 5 road F154 and then swung northward to respect its turn. Despite this it appeared to have removed F154 further north. It had been recut on three occasions. A third ditch, F146, also not seen to the west, was cut deeply into F154, followed its turn to the north, and then, after a zig-zag, retook its former alignment to continue to the east. A further ditch, F149, was cut across the stone surface F113. All these features were filled with uniform dark soil.

In Area B, a substantial ditch, F224/F308/F75 (1990) drained from south to north, with a feeder ditch, F223, joining it to the south. The ditches cut Structure 8. The ditch fills, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2020, all comprised a dark soil.

The burials found in Areas A and B were more infrequent and scattered than those found on the Showerings site. The only possible cemetery group was in Area B where the intercutting graves suggest some pressure on space. A large area directly north and east of the burials had been removed in later activity and other burials may have lain there. All except one were aligned north-south as were the majority of the Showerings groups. These burials, like their counterparts at the Showerings site, may well be placed in post-Roman centuries.

It would seem likely that the evidence in Area A derived from different episodes of activity. While F144 may have been associated with road F101 and an early cutting of F147 with F154, the later recutting of F147 and F146 were clearly from a time when the road was out of use. Similarly F149 would belong to a post occupation phase. The two burials may have been associated with a settlement on the road frontage, but at a time when the yards and buildings to the rear were no longer in use and their existence had dropped from memory.

The dating evidence was of no help in understanding the sequences in either area. In Area A, F144 contained late 2nd/early 3rd-century pottery and F146 and F147 only 2nd-century material. Ditch F149 contained late 3rd and 4th-century pottery. The Area B ditches, F223 and F224, yielded much late 3rd/4th-century pottery. Grave F150 contained late 3rd/4th century pottery. Graves F235 and F248 both contained 2nd-century pottery and grave F255 3rd-century pottery. A decorated samian sherd, dated AD 135-170, came from F235.

From the fills of ditch F223 came eight coins, nos 243, 254, and 287, dated AD 270-90, no 289, dated AD 321, nos 251, 252, and 286, dated AD 330-340, and finally no 244 dated AD 388-402. Ditch F224 yielded coin no 240, AD 270-4, and nos 265 and 284, AD 270-90. Coin 295, dated AD 270-90, came from F235. Coin 318, dated AD 270-90, came from F255. Grave F150 contained a fragment of an iron stylus, no 3, and 15 hobnails. A number of other objects came from F223 and F224. A fragment from a copper alloy vessel, no 35, a rod fragment, no 50, and a brooch, no 3, dated 1st-2nd century, came from F223. A fragment of possibly 2nd-century glass, no 5, a brooch fragment, no 16, a bone pin fragment, no 1, and a fragment of painted wall plaster, no 1, came from F224. Finally a quern stone fragment came from rubble within Structure 7.

The contents of the two Area B ditches suggested the former presence of a rich cultivation soil formed across the Roman settlement which had subsequently silted into the ditches. The ditches and the soil can be given a *terminus post quem* by the coin of AD 388-402 from F223. The actual date of the ditches and their subsequent fills could be much later.

Period 7 Medieval and post-medieval

In both areas stone robbing is likely to have taken place, with subsequent plough damage. This was most apparent in Area B where the top of the Period 5 wall F247 had been scored by the plough. More recent activity was apparent alongside the railway embankment which had been provided with a deep ditch, F329, at its base. A large rock cut pit, F213, incompletely excavated, was sited near the embankment and might have been dug for water. Further north was a large stone-filled hollow, F214/F28 (1990), perhaps a quarry. This latter may have removed burials from Period 6.

Pit F213 contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stems as well as late Roman material including a 3rd-century coin, no 256, and three 4th-century coins, nos 236, 237, and 246, and a glass gaming counter, no 27.

THE FINDS

Flint *Lynne Bevan*

Thirty eight items of humanly-worked flint were recovered comprising three cores, two retouched blades, eight scrapers, and 25 flakes. The raw material was of a generally good quality with the brown, compacted cortex characteristic of flint from secondary deposits, such as river gravels. It was beige and light to medium grey in colour with a high incidence of white recortication. Pebble flint is often of unpredictable quality, and a number of hinge fractures, common when working poor quality flint, were apparent among the flakes and cores. The three cores in the collection had been worked beyond the point of apparent usefulness which is another indication that good quality flint was at a premium. The core, blade, scraper and flint find spots gave no indication of any activity focus and were evenly spread between areas A and B.

While none of the flints were chronologically diagnostic, a generally later prehistoric date during the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age seems most probable, based upon the broad, squat shape of most of the flakes. The presence of eight scrapers in the collection is suggestive of habitation foci within the vicinity of the site, but the generally low incidence of flint tools, cores and flakes is not indicative of occupation of any longevity. Instead, this small collection appears to represent a low density and episodic usage of the landscape throughout later prehistory.

The coins *Stephen Minnitt*

A total of 298 coins were found of which 296 were Roman (Table 1). Forty seven derive from excavated contexts, the remainder are unstratified. Coins marked * were identified by Simon Esmonde-Cleary. In view of the detailed analysis of coins found during earlier work at Fosse Lane (Esmonde-Cleary forthcoming) little comment will be made on the 1996 assemblage. Suffice it to say that the general pattern of coins found in 1996 is closely comparable to the earlier finds and continues the trend of a predominance of coins of 4th-century date. The occurrence of the Republican denarius should not be considered as particularly significant as such pieces were current into the 3rd century. Unless stated otherwise in the context column the coins are unstratified.

The assemblage includes an abnormally high proportion of unidentifiable coins. In spite of careful and individual cleaning of the coins by Mark Davis, Keeper-Conservation, Somerset County Museums Service, surface corrosion (patina), and therefore detail, failed to adhere to the coins. Whilst in part this may be due to soil conditions a significant factor was probably the post-excavation treatment of the coins. Each was individually wrapped in tissue, perhaps while it was still damp, and placed in a polythene bag shortly after excavation. This and a delay of two years prior to cleaning may well have had an adverse effect on the stability of the surface corrosion.

Table 1: Coin list

Reign	Reverse	Date	Context	Ref	S.F. No.
D. Silanus, denarius	Victory in biga	91BC		Crawford 337/3	19
Probably copy of Claudian as, though of unusual style			F 101		512
Vespasian, dup.	illegible	69-79			43
Hadrian, sest. Fort Red	Pont Max Tr Pot Cos SC	117		RIC 541a	192
Hadrian, sest.	Pont Max Tr Pot Cos III SC	119-122		RIC 561a	157
Hadrian?, sest.		117-138?			182
Antoninus Pius, dup.	Libertas	138-161		as RIC 950	382
Faustina I, sest.	Aeternitas	141+			89
Faustina I, sest.	Aeternitas	141+			231
Marcus Aurelius, sest.	illegible	161-180			365
Lucilla, denarius SW room	Iuoni Lucinae	164-169	3010 structure 6	RIC 770	513
C1-C2 as or dup.	illegible				366
C1-C2 as or dup.	illegible				368
Gallienus	Conservat Pietat	260-268		RIC 171a	438
Gallienus	Dianae Cons Aug	260-268	2062	as RIC 176	325*
Gallienus	Iovi Propugnatori	260-268		RIC 214	179
Gallienus	Aetern Aug	260-268		RIC 465a	591
Gallienus	Pax Aug	260-268		RIC 575	413
Claudius II	illegible	268-270			102
Claudius II	illegible	268-270			234
Claudius II, divo	Consecratio, altar	c.270		as RIC 259	261
Tacitus	Salus Aug	265-266	2041	RIC 57	311*
Victorinus	Aequitas Aug	268-270		RIC 40	169
Victorinus	Pietas Aug	268-270		as RIC 58	271
Victorinus	Pax Aug	268-270		as RIC 118	266
Victorinus	illegible	268-270			226
Victorinus	illegible	268-270			270
Tetricus I	Fides Militum	270-274			354
Tetricus I	Hilaritas Augg	270-273		as RIC 79	87
Tetricus I	Laetitia Augg	270-274		RIC 87/88	454
Tetricus I	Pietas Augg	270-273		RIC 108	80
Tetricus I	Salus Aug	270-273		as RIC 121	273

Tetricus I	Spes Aug	270-274	2006, F224	as RIC 130	240*
Tetricus I	Salus?	270-274			582
Tetricus I	illegible	270-274	2098		424*
Tetricus II	Salus Aug	270-274		RIC 266	391
Tetricus II	Pax Aug	270-274		RIC 247/248	351
Tetricus II	illegible	270-273			475
Radiate	Comes Aug	260-280			28
Radiate	Aequitas	260-280			185
Radiate		260-280			65
Radiate		260-280			215
Radiate		260-280			235
Radiate		260-280			430
Radiate		260-280			431
Radiate		260-280			448
Radiate		260-280			580
Claudius II, copy	Consecratio, altar	270-290			170
Claudius II, copy	Consecratio, altar	270-290	2009		284*
Claudius II, copy	Consecratio, altar	270-290			285
Claudius II, copy	Consecratio, altar	270-290	2034		295*
Victorinus copy	Invictus	270-290		copy as RIC 112	10
Victorinus copy	Pax	270-290			176
Victorinus copy	illegible	270-290			376
Tetricus I copy	Laetitia	270-290	2020	copy as RIC 86	287*
Tetricus I copy	Pax	270-273			61
Barbarous radiate	Pax	270-290			105
Barbarous radiate	Victory	270-290	2006, F224		243*
Barbarous radiate	Salus	270-290	2005, F223		254*
Barbarous radiate	Salus	270-290			370
Barbarous radiate	Pax	270-290	2068		318*
Barbarous radiate	Pietas?	270-290			573
Barbarous radiate		270-290			18
Barbarous radiate		270-290			37
Barbarous radiate		270-290			183
Barbarous radiate		270-290	2004, F213		256*
Barbarous radiate		270-290	2009, F224		265*
Barbarous radiate		270-290			337
Barbarous radiate		270-290			472

Barbarous radiate		270-290			546
Barbarous radiate		270-290			590
Carausius	Provid Aug	287-293		RIC 356	228
Carausius	illegible	287-293			455
Maximian, follis but obv legend: MAXIMIANVS NOB C	Genio Populi Romani	305-307	2029	RIC VI Trier 642a	299*
Licinius	Genio Pop Rom	310-312		RIC VI London,209c	180
Constantine I	Victoriae Laetae Princ Perp	319		RIC VII London, 209	200
Constantine I	Victoriae Laetae Princ Perp	319		RIC VII Trier, 213	46
Constantine I	Beata Tranquillitas	321		RIC VII Trier, 303	162
Constantine I	Beata Tranquillitas	321	2020	RIC VII Trier, 305	289*
Crispus	Beata Tranquillitas	321		RIC VII Trier, 308	160
Crispus	Beata Tranquillitas	321-323			76
Constantine II	Beata Tranqlitas	323-324		RIC VII London, 287199	
Constantine I	Providentiae Caes	324-326			138
Constantine II	Gloria Exercitus 2 stds	330-335		as LRBC I, 49	248
Constantine II	Gloria Exercitus 2 stds	330-337		as LRBC I, 49	131
Constantine II	Gloria Exercitus 2 stds	330-335			149
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 2 stds	330-335			167
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 2 stds	330-335	2060	as LRBC I, 48	327*
Urbs Roma	Wolf and twins	330-335		LRBC I, 51	433
Urbs Roma	Wolf and twins	330-335		LRBC I, 51	577
Urbs Roma	wolf and twins	330-335		as LRBC I, 51	25
Urbs Roma	Wolf and twins	330-335		as LRBC I, 51	322
Urbs Roma copy	Wolf and twins	330-348	2058	copy as LRBC I, 51	314*
Urbs Roma copy	Wolf and twins	330-348		copy as LRBC I, 51	198
Constantinopolis	Victory on prow	330-335		LRBC I, 71	216
Constantinopolis	Victory on prow	330-335	2063	LRBC I, 86	320*
Constantinopolis	Victory on prow	330-335			142
Constantinopolis	Victory on prow	330-335		LRBC I, 185	377
Constaninopolis	Victory on prow	330-335		LRBCI, 191	410
Constantinopolis	Victory on prow	330-335		LRBC I,201	541
Constantinopolis copy	Victory on prow	330-348	2005, F223	copy as LRBC I, 52	252*
Constantinopolis copy	Victory on prow	330-348	2020, F223	copy as LRBC I, 52	286*
Constantinopolis copy	Victory on prow	330-348	1036, F122	copy as LRBC I, 52	401*
Constantinopolis copy	Victory on prow	330-348		copy as LRBC I, 52	568

Constantinopolis copy	Victory on prow	330-348		copy as LRBC I, 52	165
Constantine II	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-337		LRBC I, 93	392
Constantine II	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-337	2074		383*
Constans	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	337-341	2060	LRBC I, 131	321*
Constantius II	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-337		LRBC I, 94	117
Constantius II	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	337-341		LRBC I, 252	439
Theodora	Pietas Romana	337-341		as LRBC I, 105	272
Theodora	Pietas Romana	337-341		as LRBC I,120	55
Helena	Pax Publica	337-341		LRBC I, 112	171
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-341	3014	as LRBC I, 87	511
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-341			94
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-341		as LRBC I, 139	219
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-341		As LRBC I, 107	594
House of Constantine	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-341		as LRBC I, 100	589
Constans, copy	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-348			59
H. of Constantine copy	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-348		copy as LRBC I, 87	437
H of Constantine copy	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-348	2001		114
H. of Constantine copy	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-348			474
H of Constantine copy SW room	Gloria Exercitus 1 std	335-348	3010 structure 6		515
Constantius II	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		LRBC I, 455	447
Constantius II	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			51
Constantius II	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			567
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		LRBC I, 140a	257
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		as LRBC I, 140	473
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		as LRBC I, 148	153
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		as LRBC I, 158	196
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		LRBC I, 267	73
Constans	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			348
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			52
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-8			178
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			54
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		as LRBC I, 145	545a
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348		as LRBC I, 158	372
House of Constantine	Victoriaeddauggqnn	347-348			77
Constans	Fel Temp Reparatio, phoenix	346-350			576
House of Constantine	Fel Temp Reparatio, phoenix	346-350			214

Magnentius/Decentius fragment,	Felicitas Reipublice	350		as Bastien 21	363
Magnentius	Gloria Romanorum	350		as Bastien 33	574
Magnentius	Victoriae dd aug et cae	351-352			50
Magnentius?		350-353			14
Constantius II	Fel Temp Reparatio (FH)	353-355		RIC 189	432
Constantius II	Fel Temp Reparatio (FH)	350-355			205
Falling horseman copy		350-360	2004, F213	copy as LRBC II, 25	246*
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	305*
Falling horseman copy		350-360	2004	copy as LRBC II, 25	236*
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	38
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	47
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	109
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	134
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	136
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	173
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	206
Falling horseman copy SE room		350-360	3013 structure 6	copy as LRBC II, 25	516
Falling horseman copy		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	534
Falling horseman copy overstruck on Gloria Exercitus two standards		350-360		copy as LRBC II, 25	66
Falling horseman copy overstruck on Gloria Exercitus		350-360	2098	copy as LRBC II, 25	423*
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 78	350
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 94	49
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 279	64
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	364-375	2062	as LRBC II, 279	326*
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		LRBC II, 296	75
Valentinian I	Gloria Romanorum	367-375		LRBC II, 321	429
Valentinian I	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 96	145
Valentinian I	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 96	212
Valens	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 92	565
Valens	Gloria Romanorum	364-378	2095	as LRBC II, 282	417*
Valens	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 478	222
Valens	Gloria Romanorum	364-378			249
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 97	56
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 97	152
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 97	349
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 97	359

Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	364-367		LRBC II, 277	127
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	367-375		LRBC II, 303	207
Valens	Securitas Reipublicae	367-378		LRBC II, 528	132
Valens	illegible	364-378			545
Gratian	Gloria Romanorum	367-375		LRBC II, 339	133
Gratian	Gloria Romanorum?	364-378			369
Gratian	Gloria Novi Saeculi	367-375		as LRBC II, 503	223
Gratian	Gloria Novi Saeculi	367-375		as LTBC II,503	224
Gratian	Gloria Novi Saeculi	367-375	2029	as LRBC II, 503	300*
Gratian	Gloria Novi Saeculi	367-375		as LRBC II, 517	450
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378	2001	as LRBC II, 78	113
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 78	137
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 92	213
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378	2004	as LRBC II, 92	237*
House of Valentinian	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 96	147
House of Valentinian	Concordia Auggg	378-383	2029	as LRBC II, 269	307*
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 275	592
House of Valentinian	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378	2062	as LRBC II, 276	323*
House of Valentinian	Gloria Romanorum	364-378		as LRBC II, 279	168
House of Valentinian	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 280	361
House of Valentnian	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378	2024	as LRBC II, 280	371*
House of Valentinian	Securitas Reipublicae	364-378		as LRBC II, 481	453
House of Valentinian		364-378			218
House of Valentinian?		364-378?			188
Arcadius	Victoria Auggg	388-402		as LRBC II, 164	158
Arcadius	Victoria Auggg	388-402	2022	LRBC II, 392	303*
Arcadius	illegible	388-402			440
Arcadius	illegible	388-402	3013		510
House of Theodosius	Salus Reipublicae	388-402		as LRBC II, 796	154
House of Theodosius	Salus Reipublicae	388-402	2005, F223	as LRBC II, 1105	244*
House of Theodosius	Victoria Auggg	388-402	2005, F223		251*
House of Theodosius	Victoria Auggg	388-402		as LRBC II, 389	62
House of Theodosius	Victoria Auggg	388-402		as LRBC II,389	63
House of Theodosius	Victoria Auggg	388-402			393
House of Theodosius	Victoria Auggg	388-402			533
House of Theodosius	illegible	388-402			575

Twenty one illegible 3rd to 4th-century coins were recorded. SF nos, 78, 217, 352, 353, 355, 362, 364, 367, 428, ?281, 443, 452, 456, 514 (found in layer 3010 structure 6 SW room), 531, 532, 542, 543, 544, 569 and 593

Thirty three illegible 4th-century coins were recorded. SF nos 40, 58, 85, 90, 139, 177, 181, 191, 193, 232, 279, 317* (from layer 2031),426, 427, 441, 444, 445, 446, 449, 470, 517 (layer 3013, Structure 6, SE room), 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 566, 570, 571, 572, 579 and 581

Six illegible 3rd to 4th-century copy coins were recorded. SF nos 82, 97, 209, 269, 414, 418

Three illegible 4th-century copy coins were recorded. SF nos 34, 57 and 135

Twenty one 4th-century copies were recorded. SF nos 116, 123, 156, 161, 184, 186, 190, 204, 208, 210, 220, 221, 230, 247, 316* (from layer 2031), 360, 373, 415* (from F104), 457, 471 and 583

Finally two post-Roman coins were recorded: one a French Jeton, late C14-early C15; Mitchiner 489; SF 578; and a C19- C20 halfpenny, SF 547

Roman small finds *Lynne Bevan*

Introduction

The small finds collection is described below by material rather than by function, given the relatively small number of objects. Analysis of the assemblage as a whole allows some trends and patterns to be identified. Relatively few fixtures and fittings were present, although a fragment of shale inlay from furniture or a tray (Fig 18.9), may indicate that luxury goods were either present or being made on or in the vicinity of the site. The wall plaster suggests the existence of at least one well-decorated room in a relatively sophisticated building. The small tool assemblage - three chisels, a wedge, two ox goads and a bucket handle - is much as one would expect from an agricultural cum industrial community. The three styli together perhaps suggest the record keeping associated with the corralling and selling of cattle on site, as has been mooted to have occurred at sites such as Barnsley Park, Hambledon, and Rocester, Staffordshire (Ferris and Cooper 1996, 149). The relatively large number of items of jewellery - particularly the 10 pins and 16 bracelets - may be of some particular significance as has been suggested for the larger but similarly-biased assemblages from Uley, Lydney Park and Great Witcombe (Bevan 1998, 86, 88-9), while the inscribed silver ring strikes a poignant chord even today. The lead ossuary is a relatively rare find on a Romano-British site, and its presence adds another example of an unusual burial rite being practised in Roman Shepton.

Copper alloy objects Fig 18

1 Pin, broken. The globular head was covered with close-set radiating diagonally- incised grooves and the neck was delineated by approximately ten horizontal bands. This is similar to a pin head from a post-Roman posthole at Lion Walk, Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 31.499, 30-31). SF 166, 110/255, east of Structure 12. Fig 18.1

2 (not illustrated) Pin, complete, with a small spherical head, a common type of pin which was used throughout the Roman period (Cool 1990, fig 1.5, 151-2). SF 30, F131.

3-7 (not illustrated) Pin fragments: 3, SF 357, 60/305, Structure 6; 4, SF 411, 130/340, Structure 5; 5, SF 115, 75/295, Compound 7; 6 SF 91, 80/265, Compound 8; 7 SF 95, 80/280, Compound 8.

8 Bracelet fragment, D-shaped section, broken at both ends, with intricate decoration in the form of a thick raised area of deep grooves and horizontally-hatched vertical bands at the front of the armlet which narrows at the shoulder where it is decorated with a vertically-hatched horizontal band. SF 381, 125/335, Structure 9. Fig 18.2

9 Bracelet fragments, D-shaped section with decoration consisting of diagonal grooves which give way to vertical grooves at one broken end SF 378. Fig 18.3

10 Bracelet of double-stranded twisted wire with a D-shaped section broken at both ends. SF 39, 110/375, east of Structure 2. Fig 18.4

11 (not illustrated) Bracelet with three ring and dot motifs at one end and an incised line along each edge. SF 290, layer 2026, Structure 8.

12 (not illustrated) Bracelet fragment, rectangular-sectioned with decoration in the form of a continuous wave motif enclosed by bands, broken at both ends. SF 159, 100/290, Compound 8.

13 (not illustrated) Bracelet fragment, flat with a cut-out crenellated edge, and a perforated terminal at the unbroken end. SF 194, 125/260, east of ditch F236.

14 (not illustrated) Bracelet fragment, flat with a cut-out crenellated edge. SF 163, 110/255, Compound 8.

15 (not illustrated) ?Wire bracelet. Hooked fragment with square-shaped section and traces of incised diagonal striped decoration on upper face. SF 128, 75/300, Structure 17.

16 (not illustrated) ?Bracelet fragment. Strip with traces of diagonal and linear decoration. SF 586, unprovenanced.

17 (not illustrated) ?Bracelet fragment, curved strip. SF 332, pit F253.

18 (not illustrated) Bracelet fragment, traces of incised designs on outside face. SF 93, 60/405, west of Structure 1.

19 (not illustrated) Finger ring, broken curved fragment widening at shoulder. SF 412, 130/340, Structure 9.

20 (not illustrated) Ear-ring pendant. Small segment of wire formed into a rod with chainlink loops at either end, probably a pendant from an ear-ring which once held a glass bead. A pair of similarly-sized chainlink ear-ring pendants with dark blue beads *in situ* was found in a 4th-century context in Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 53.1797). SF 3, 70/390, road F101.

21 (not illustrated) ?Wire bracelet. Two strands of twisted wire. SF 425, layer 2098, Structure 9.

22 (not illustrated) Hooked object, broken, with oval area decorated with circular motif. SF 155, 100/255, east of Structure 12.

23 (not illustrated) Bracelet or necklace hook. SF 523, Compound 7.

24 (not illustrated) Tweezers with flared blades, one broken. SF 141, 100/270, Structure 11.

25 Horse harness. Long, hexagonal stud with a raised oval boss with deep median groove. Two disc-headed shanks protrude from the reverse. This type of stud, which was probably used as horse harness, has been found on many Roman sites (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 3.870, 3.871, 237). SF 104, 55/310, Structure 6. Fig 18.5

26 Plate, diamond shaped with raised, split panels at each end and a flat central area with four decorative pierced holes. The reverse has two studs for the attachment of the plate to a strap. SF 110, Structure 6. Fig 18.6

27 Mount, shield-shaped, leaded copper alloy, decorated with three deep grooves. SF 529; unprovenanced. Fig 18.7

28 (not illustrated) Stud, circular rosette shape, crudely decorated with a series of irregular incised lines around the outer circumference, and traces of iron from a central attachment, now corroded. A number of similar studs recovered from 1st-century contexts at Colchester were used as military belt and apron fittings (Crummy 1983, fig 151:4204, 4205). SF 211, 135/295, east of F236.

29 (not illustrated) Small ring, leaded copper alloy, D-shaped section, probably from clothing or horse harness. SF 118, Structure 6.

30 (not illustrated) Ring fragment, square section. unprovenanced.

31 (not illustrated) Ring fragment, D-shaped section. SF 4, 65/385, south of road F101.

32 (not illustrated) Stud, oval, possibly from a small box or item of furniture. SF 16, 60/400, west of Structure 1.

33 (not illustrated) Strip, rectangular with uneven ends and three incised lines, rectangular-sectioned. SF 526, unprovenanced.

34 (not illustrated) Rod, broken, square-sectioned. SF 336, pit F253.

35 (not illustrated) ?Vessel fragment. Plate with grooved slightly raised edge. SF 239, ditch F223.

36 (not illustrated) ?Box or furniture fitting. Circular pierced terminal. SF 313, ditch F245.

37 (not illustrated) Terminal, rounded end decorated with four lines of incised dots, leaded copper alloy. SF 587, unprovenanced.

38 (not illustrated) Fitting. Tapering curved object, leaded copper alloy. SF 521, beneath Structure 7.

39 (not illustrated) Ferrule divided into three bead-shaped segments by two grooves. SF 588, unprovenanced.

40 (not illustrated) Plate fragment, rectangular, broken, one straight end, serrated edges. SF 298, pit F225.

41-4 (not illustrated) Wire fragments. 41 SF 585, unprovenanced; 42 SF 144, 105/280, east of Structure 11; 43 SF 335, pit F253; 44 SF 524, pit F335.

45-51 (not illustrated) Rod and strip fragments. 45 SF 201, 115/280, east of Structure 12; 46 SF 262, 140/290, east of F236; 47 and 48 SF 522, F335; 49 SF 26, F133; 50 SF 291, ditch F223; 51 SF 324, unprovenanced.

52-8 (not illustrated) Sheet fragments. 52 SF 29, 85/375, Structure 2; 53 SF 125, 95/260, Structure 12; 54 SF 53, 120/365, Structure 4; 55 SF 274, 145/290, east of F236; 56 SF 344, layer 1028; 57 SF 305, bank F234; 58 70/390, road F101.

Silver ring Roger Tomlin

Fragment of a silver ring, broken at the shoulder with an intact bezel, originally *c* 22mm in diameter. An inscription which reads 'ME I MOR', probably *memor*, 'mindful', is enclosed within the round bezel which measures 8mm in diameter. There is an incised roundel below the legend, which corresponds to the two roundels on each shoulder of the bezel. *Memor* is a cognomen, and even a cult-title of Minerva at a shrine in North Italy (cf ILS 2603, a votive brought back from Britain), but here it is probably an adjective understood by the donor of the ring, presumably, and by its wearer: either *(sis) memor (mei),* 'Remember me', or *(sum) memor (tui),* 'I remember you'. The latter is perhaps to be preferred, in view of the rings inscribed MEMINI TVI (CIL xiii 10024. 71(b) and (c), 'I remember you'), and MEMINI TVI MEMINI ET AMO (*ibid*, 72, cf 73, 'I remember you; I remember and I love (you)'). SF 296; layer 2029, floor Structure 7.

Iron objects (none illustrated)

1 Part of a buckle. SF 111, Area B.

2 Pin shank. SF 345, grave F208.

3 Fragment from a stylus with a broad-based eraser, broken across shank and very corroded. SF 341, grave F150.

4 Fragment from a stylus with a broad-based eraser, broken across shank and very corroded. SF 108, 80/270, north of Structure 8.

5 Stylus with a rounded eraser, very corroded. Unprovenenaced.

6 Chisel, similar to a possible Iron Age example from Hod Hill, Dorset (Manning 1985, plate 11:B43, 24). 75/265, Structure 8.

7 Chisel or punch, similar in size and shape to a mid 1st-century example from Hod Hill, Dorset (Manning 1985, Plate 5:A23, 10). SF 151, 110/270, east of Structure 11.

8 Chisel or punch, similar in size and shape to another mid 1st-century example from Hod Hill, Dorset (Manning 1985, Plate 5:A25, 10). SF 143, 105/255, east of Structure 12.

9 ?Wedge. 120/365, Structure 4.

10 Bucket handle terminal consisting of a looped circular-sectioned length of iron rod, similar in style to an Iron Age or mid-first century example from Hod Hill in Dorset (Manning 1985, Plate 47:P14, 103). SF 419, 80/375, west of Structure 2.

11 Conical object attached to a circular disc of copper alloy. SF 276, ditch F230.

A total of six shoe cleats were found: SF 315, 2025, Structure 7; F133; south of F101; Ditch F134; Structure 2 and unprovenanced. Thirty hobnails were recovered. A total of 15 came from grave F150 with the remainder as surface finds, ten of which came from the areas east of Structure 12, and one each from Structures 1, 2, and 4, road F101 and east of F236 in Area B. Two ox goads were found as surface finds in the area of Structures 4 and 10. A number of miscellaneous items were also found comprising a length of iron rod with a looped end, a hook, two staples, three rings, seven fragments of rod and wire, twenty-one fragments of plate and over 300 nails.

Lead objects (none illustrated)

The total weight of the lead objects was just under 4kg.

1 Lead ossuary, circular drum-shaped container, originally equipped with a domed top and central spout which survives as a complete base and a number of small fragments from the sides, top and spout which were severely degraded beyond reconstruction. This small, undecorated ossuary with its integral spout is an example of a 'pipe burial', a Roman burial custom known from Italy and the Rhineland and elsewhere (for discussion see Philpott 1991, 28), involving the pouring of libations down a channel protruding above ground level into a coffin or ossuary. The channel was made from various materials, which had usually been re-used or adapted, such as two vertical *imbrices* leading into a tile cist at St Pancras, Chichester (Down and Rule 1971, grave 323), and the re-used amphora spouts from Osola Sacra, Ostia which would also have been visible as grave markers (Calza and Becatti 1977, 69). At Falerone in Italy, a vertical lead pipe was attached to a small stone sarcophagus containing a cremation-burial and various grave goods (Wheeler 1929, 4).

In Britain, a pipe burial involving a lead pipe is known from Creffield Road, Colchester (Wheeler 1929, 4), and a lead pipe which probably fulfilled a similar function was found with a cremation at Mancetter, Warwickshire (Booth 1982, 134-6). The closest parallel is from Caerleon (Wheeler 1929), where a slightly larger drum-shaped 'canister' decorated with three reel-patterned bands and with a lead

pipe attached to the centre of its lid was found in a stone-lined cist. The pipe had originally protruded beyond the cist and above the former land surface. The burial of the canister, which contained the cremated remains of a mature male, was Hadrianic or later.

Philpott has suggested that pipe burials resulted from 'a strong desire... (that) the dead should have direct contact with the living and that perhaps such libations were seen to nourish the dead in a particularly vivid way' (Phillpot 1991, 28). The act of libation might also have been viewed as a placatory or appeasing gesture towards the spirits of the deceased, perhaps combined with a desire for guidance or the bestowal of good fortune from the other world.

The distribution of ossuaries was concentrated in the main military and urban centres, and the occurrence of ossuaries on relatively rural sites such as this example is rare and 'may indicate an adoption of the ossuarium by high-status romanised natives or the burial of immigrants on their estates' (Phillpott 1991, 28). The large quantities of jewellery recovered from the site would certainly support the presence of high-status individuals, the majority of whom were probably members of the local, Romanised population. Seen in this context, the adoption of a specifically Roman burial practice is less surprising.

Base diam 190mm, th 3mm, wt of fragments 1188gm. SF 380, F242.

2 Caulking. T-shaped fragment of caulking made from a thick, rounded core of lead fused with folded sheet. 60/285, Structure 14.

3 ?Weight. Roughly conical object. SF 394, unprovenanced.

4 Pipe collar. Collar with furled edge, diam 105mm. SF 33, unprovenanced.

5-6 Circular objects, one with central perforation, both unprovenanced.

7 Rounded fragment with flattened base. unprovenanced.

A total of 10 pot cramps were found, five still attached to fragments of pottery, two Black Burnished ware vessels, two sandy reduced coarseware vessels, a Samian vessel and a greyware vessel. The located items came from east of F236 (5), Structure 9, east of Structure 7, east of Structure 11, and east of Structure 12.

A total of 13 lead offcuts were found as surface finds, with provenanced items coming from Compound 6 (2), Structures 4, 6, 11 and 17, road F101, and east of F236. Numerous small waste globules from lead working were found.

Worked bone (not illustrated)

1 Pointed pin fragment. SF 253, F224.

2 Pointed pin fragment. SF 306, F243.

Shale Fig 18

There is no evidence from this or the Showerings excavation for the on site manufacture of shale items. It is, however, possible that no 1 (Fig 18.9) may have been manufactured or modified on site. The source of the shale is likely to have been Kimmeridge from which shale was exploited at a number of contemporary sites in Purbeck (Sunter and Woodward 1987). The standard of preservation of the items was generally good apart from some delamination at the edges of no 1, which might have been damaged and subsequently discarded during the manufacturing process.

1 Flat fragment of shale. Two motifs are visible on its upper surface; a single spiral and an 'S'- shape, both enclosing incised dots. A fragment has been cut from the upper surface The spiralform decoration is reminiscent of motifs on later Iron Age pottery, in contrast to the more formalised and repetitive decoration seen upon published examples of trays from other Roman sites such as Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 75:2022, 2023, 69 and 71), Silchester (Lawson 1975, figs 11.87-9, 12.90), and similar fragments described as 'plaques' and 'tablets' from Norden near Corfe Castle, Dorset (Thomas 1987, figs 19 and 20.18-22, 30-35). However, similar motifs combined with more regular panels of intricate geometric banding have been identified on an almost complete tray or 'trencher' found in a cremation burial from Grange Road, Winchester which had vessels, a spoon and knives, and two pork joints on it (Biddle 1967, fig 6.233). Although Thomas has suggested that such items might also have been use for other purposes including 'wall plaques' and 'small table tops' (Thomas 1987, 33), that the Winchester object was used as a tray appears beyond doubt. The dating evidence suggests a general 1st to 2nd-century date for these items (Biddle 1967, 248-59; Thomas 1987, 35), which might reflect a fashion in tableware and serving etiquette. The cut-out section on the decorated face of this fragment might indicate that shale-working was carried out on the site. SF 6, 85/405, Structure 1. Fig 18.9.

2 Spindlewhorl, elliptical section. Fig 18.8

3 Two joining oval-section, lathe-turned fragments from a large bracelet. The item has three grooves on the exterior and a slightly raised bevel on the inside, which might have been designed to hold the bracelet to the upper arm, perhaps over clothing. The armlet is an exceptionally large piece with an internal diameter of 120mm; similarly-sized armlets have been recorded at Norden (Thomas 1987, 30) where internal raised bevels were also recorded. SF 27 and SF 31; F133. Fig 18.10

4 (not illustrated) Three joining fragments from a child's bracelet with a D-shaped section. F160.

Wall plaster (not illustrated)

Four fragments of wall plaster were recovered, all of which had retained traces of pigment. The pigments ranged in colour from dark red to light pink. As no traces of painted decoration were visible, the fragments appear to have originated from plain painted borders rather than from decorated panels.

1 Fragment with red/brown paint. SF 518, F224.

2 Fragment with bright pink paint. SF 563, F225.

3 Fragment with traces of pale pink paint. SF 24, 60/310, Structures 6 and 17.

4 Fragment with traces of pink paint. SF 84, 80/260, Structure 8.

The brooches *Donald Mackreth*

Where a brooch in the present assemblage is also represented in the first report (Leach and Evans, forthcoming), the reader is referred to the discussion there, the conclusion only being repeated here. All the brooches are made from copper alloy, with the exception of two fragmentary brooches of iron (nos. 22 and 23)

Colchester Derivatives

Brooches 1-3 have or had their springs mounted in the Polden Hill manner: the axis bar through the spring is mounted in a pierced plate at the end of each wing, the chord being held either by a rearward-facing hook or passing through a pierced crest on the head of the bow.

1 Each wing has a relieved beaded ridge separated by a wide flute. The bow has a beaded pseudo hook dying away in the V formed by two more beaded ridges. On each side of the head of the bow is a plain additional moulding. The foot has a slight projection and the catch-plate a small triangular piercing. SF 41, surface find area B.

Of the same family as Brooches 7 and 8 in the first report, the conclusion there was that the date-range of the Polden Hill version of the general family ran from *c* AD 65 to about 125, and that those dating to perhaps as late as AD 125 may well have been survivors in use.

2 The head is missing. In the panel on the upper bow, which is outlined by a groove, is the trace of at least one cell, and perhaps of three. Beneath the panel is a slight waist, then two lenticular bosses above a median arris. The bow tapers to a narrow projecting foot. The catch-plate is solid. SF 281, layer 2017.

The family to which this brooch belongs has both the Polden Hill spring system, as this example would have had, as well as hinged pins. Discussed under Brooches 12-15 in the first report, the date-range for those with Polden Hill spring systems is mainly later 1st to mid 2nd century.

3 The wings are plain. The bow has a very short additional moulding on each side, and a relieved ridge down the upper part stopping at a marked cross-flute with a

raised border top and bottom. The rest of the bow is plain and ends in a small projecting foot. The catch-plate is solid. SF 258, F223.

Although not a member of a specific group, the additional mouldings and the ornament in the middle of the bow show affinities with the brooches which have passed in review and a date-range of *c* AD 75-125/50 is likely.

Brooches 4 - 7 have hinged pins.

4 In two parts and badly corroded, the surviving wing is plain and only the upper bow survives. This has a flat back, a moulding apparently on each side of the head and a broad one down the middle. SF 130, 105/255, east of Structure 12

There is little to go on and a general date running from the later 1st century to about AD 175 may be suggested.

5 Each wing has a sunken moulding at its end. On the head of the bow is a tab with a circular depression. The bow has a step down each side of the upper part and a projecting foot. Between the lower end of the stepped part are two lozenges each with a central cell for enamel, now missing, and a bordering groove. On each side between the lozenges is a small 'gablet'. The catch-plate is solid. SF 301, layer 2022

Of the same family as 44-8 in the first report, more specifically 46-7, the dating arrived at there has not improved since the writing of that report: later 1st to AD 200 by which time any in use were survivors as manufacturing had ceased as near as can be assessed for all Colchester Derivatives by *c* AD 175.

6 Each wing has two reels. The bow has a wide top but rapidly tapers to a thin foot marked by two projections. On the top of the bow is a single short ridge dying away into the V formed by a pair of others meeting in a point below. The catch-plate is solid. SF 330, pit F254

Very like Brooches 25-6 in the first report, this example probably dates from the later 1st century to AD 150/75.

Unclassified

7 There is a ridge running across the head of the bow and the plain wings. The bow is very broad at the top tapering to a wide foot which projects boldly under a step. The profile is distorted, but once had an almost flat area above the main face which has a deep groove on each side and a small central ridge at the very top. SF 81, 55/305, Structure 6

In very broad terms, the overall proportions are like those of Brooches 34-8 of the first report, but none there is obviously of the same decorative type. However, the conclusion reached is almost certainly applicable here: there are no grounds for a 1st-century date, nor any evidence that any should be expected in the 3rd.

Trumpet

8 The pin is hinged, the axis bar being housed in a narrow projection behind the bottom of the trumpet head. There are the remains of a cast-on loop on a tall pedestal having two grooves. The trumpet head is very broad and shallow at the top, with a deep sweep on each side to a width less than that of the lower bow. The knop is of the usual petalled form with a single ridge top and bottom and all moulded on the front of the bow. The lower bow is broad, has a median arris and tapers slightly to the triple moulded foot. SF 140, 100/275, Structure 11

Although few appear to come from the same moulds, there is a family likeness which, when coupled with the distribution, which lies in the counties from Hampshire to Somerset, points to a distinct variety. However, none is dated and only a general range lying in the 2nd century can be suggested, there is little in the design to suggest that it could have started in the 1st century.

Strip

9 The head of the bow is rolled under to house the axis bar of the hinged pin. There is effectively no head-plate, but one is defined roughly by the projecting arcs housing the eyes which are made up of a dot and circle. The lower bow with the catch-plate is missing. The bow as it survives has a broad flute down each side and a groove down the middle across which lies a line of horizontal lines. SF 409, F262

An almost exact parallel occurs in the first report, Brooch 82, except that has a rolled over head and was better related to the Alesia - Hod Hill sequence. Here the associations, when married to the patently non-continental way of conveying the impression of there being a bead-row, are entirely with the Strip and, as such, is an example of that type deriving from members of the pre-Aucissa sequence. The determining feature is the presence of eyes. No Aucissa proper has these and it is clear that the general family had abandoned them well before the conquest. This brooch may have survived in use as late as that, but hardly beyond.

Fragments

10 The lower bow and catch-plate of a brooch of unknown type. Probably before AD 250. SF 530, unprovenanced

11 Complete pin and bilateral spring of five coils probably once mounted between a pair of pierced lugs. Second century. SF 175, 125/255, east of F236

12 Hinged pin. SF 20, unprovenanced

13 Hinged pin. SF 525, unprovenanced

14 The end of a pin possibly from a brooch. SF 268, 60/280, area of Structure 14

15 Hinged pin. SF 238, 130/275, east of F236

16 Hinged pin. SF 245, F224

17 The lower bow and catch-plate of a brooch of unknown type. Probably before AD 250. SF 1, 60/395, road F101

18 Spring fragment. SF 242, 130/275, east of F263

19 Penannular brooch with out-turned terminal end. SF 22, 95/375, east of Structure 2

20 Spring fragment. SF 332, F253

21 Hinged pin. SF 416, 130/340, Structure 9

22 Iron strip brooch with hinged pin. SF 70, 35/315, Compound 6

23 Hinged pin and strip from iron brooch. SF 375, F258

The glass *Birgitta Hoffmann*

A total of 117 Roman glass fragments was found. The fragments can be divided by type as follows:

Cast	Monochrome	Colourless	Greenish	Bluegreen	Bottle	Window glass	Objects
1	4	11	28	33	19	12	9

The material derives mainly from the 1st and 2nd centuries and the late Roman period, with diagnostic finds from the later 2nd and early 3rd centuries (cylindrical beakers etc) being absent. None of the material is of particularly high quality.

Pillar-moulded bowls, like no 1 (Fig 19.1) are an extremely common find on 1st-century settlement sites. They can be found, for example, amongst the finds from the military works depot at Longthorpe (Dannell and Wild 1987, 51) and at Kingsholm (Cool and Price 1985, 45 nos 4-9), both of which were occupied in the (Claudio-)Neronian period, as well as in most southern British towns eg Silchester (Price 1984, 117, nos 1 and 2). At Vindolanda, however, which starts in *c* AD 85, none were found amongst the nearly 4000 glass fragments from the *vicus* (Hoffmann forthcoming). Three further examples of deep-blue pillar-moulded bowls are known from the 1990 Shepton Mallett excavations (Price and Cottam forthcoming, nos 1-3a).

Two parallels are known for no 3 (Fig 19.3), a dark brown fragment from Dorchester, Greyhound Yard (Cool and Price 1993, fig 84.23) and a blue/green fragment from Usk (Price 1995, fig 44.68). In both cases the original shape of the vessel can not be reconstructed, but the strong colour might point to a 1st-century date. The high percentage of brown or strong yellow/brown glass in the assemblages from both the 1996/7 (3 fragments) and 1990 sites (5 fragments) is remarkable, and appears to outweigh any other strong colour from the site.

Number 4 (Fig 19.4) comes from a globular flask with wheel-cut lines. This type of bottle is particularly common in the later 3rd and 4th centuries. However, the narrow neck with its very late starting funnel seem to make the vessel more likely to belong to an earlier tradition (Cool and Price 1995, 149, fig 9.3). Decorated flasks of this type are unusual in Britain, but examples are known from Libya (Price 1985, 78; 99, no 50, fig 6.4), Kisselbach/Hunsrück (dated to the end of the 1st century (Hopstätter 1942)), Köln-Severinskloster (dated to *c* AD 200) and Luxemburger Straße (Fremersdorf 1984, 42, no 107), and from Ladenburg (Hoffmann 1996, 162, kat no L99-100).

Number 5 (Fig 19.5) might be part of one of the 2nd-century drinking vessels with linear cut lines, although not enough survives to be certain. These vessels are known in a number of different shapes and can have either pad bases or pushed-in base-rings, with other base types occurring more occasionally (Cool and Price 1995, 79-82).

Handles like nos 6 (Fig 19.6), 7 and 8 and the brown rim no 2 (Fig 19.2) are most likely to have come from long-necked conical (or less likely globular) jugs. These occur in a variety of colours, with blue/green being by far the most common (Cool and Price 1995, 120-3) and range in date from the late Flavian period (Cool and Price 1995, 122) to about AD 150-170 (Price 1980, 66, fig 15.6 and 7; Price 1987, 204, fig 3.20; Price and Cottam 1994, 225, fig 104.9 and 10). The handles found represent probably three different vessels and another four were recovered from the 1990 site. Such a high number of vessels of this type should come as no surprise as they are a common find on sites of the later 1st and 2nd centuries, with examples known from Colchester, Verulamium, Gloucester (Cool and Price 1995, 123), Carlisle, 19 examples (Price 1990, 174; Cool and Price 1991, 166; Price and Cottam, forthcoming 240) and Vindolanda, at least 17 examples (Hoffmann forthcoming).

Indented vessels, cups, bowls and flasks were in use from the 1st to the 4th century, although too little survives of no 9 to allow any statement as to the original shape of the vessel. The same holds true for no 11 (Fig 19.7), whose inturned rim is most likely to have come from a globular or indented jar. These vessels were fairly common in the 1st and 2nd centuries in Britain (Cool and Price 1995, 112), although the diameter of this example, at *c* 100 mm, makes it one of the larger examples of the type.

Number 10 belongs to a globular bath flask with 'dolphin handles', which is a frequent shape on sites from the 1st to the 3rd century (Cool and Price 1995, 156).

Bottles, probably four-sided (although other shapes do occur), are represented by nos 15-18. Bottles are usually easily identifiable by their characteristic thick-walled fragments. They form a major percentage of any late 1st and 2nd-century assemblage and the 19 fragments found in 1996/7 are quite in keeping with the 30 found on the 1990 site. These vessels were mainly used for storage purposes and occur in many different sizes (ranging in capacity from *c* 0.2 to several litres). Number 18 probably comes from one of the smaller bottle types. Number 17 is a small fragment of one of the base marks that are typical of these vessels, in this case circles, for which a wide range of combinations are known. Such bottles date mainly from the mid 1st to the 2nd or early 3rd centuries although they can occasionally be found in 4th-century assemblages (Cool and Price 1995, 184).

Fourth-century glass is represented by nos 12 and 13. These curved rims are typical of a number of late Roman conical and hemispherical vessels, although too little survives here to identify the original types. Similar rims can be found in most late Romano-British assemblages as at Silchester (Price 1984, 118, no 3). Thirteen conical beakers with this rim type were found on the 1990 site, and a further 30 specimens have been listed from elsewhere in the region, for example from Bath, Cirencester, Ilchester, Dorchester and the rural sites of Frocester Court and Catsgore (Cottam and Price forthcoming, nos 28-31; 33; 35-6; 29-41 and 42-45c).

The other certainly late Roman type is the greenish vessel with fire-rounded rim, no. 14 (Fig 19.8) and three other similar such rim fragments were found in 1990 (Cottam and Price forthcoming nos 38-40). Similar vessels have been dated elsewhere to the second half of the 4th to the early 5th century, with the most famous examples coming from the glass hoard at Burgh Castle (Harden 1983, 82-3, nos 85-9, fig 37).

The large bangle fragment 19 (Fig 19.10) belongs to Kilbride-Jones' Class I (Kilbride-Jones 1937-1938, 367-72; Stevenson 1956, 208, 218; Stevenson 1976). The applied foil over a usually bluegreen body is characteristic, as is the piece's rather 'heavy' character. Close parallels have been found at Traprain Law, the Roman fort of Camelon (Kilbride-Jones 1937-8, fig 1), the native promontory fort of Mains of Ethie, Angus (Wilson 1980, 121) and other sites in Southern Scotland. The southernmost piece known previously comes from the Roman fort at Vindolanda, however, where it was found in a probably residual early 3rd-century context (Hoffmann forthcoming), so its presence in Somerset is somewhat surprising. In view of the finds from Traprain Law, Kilbride-Jones dates this type to the late 1st century (Kilbride-Jones 1937-1938, 367-72).

Beads of the same type as no 20 (Fig 19.11) were dated by Guido (1978, 96) to the 3rd and 4th centuries, but more recent finds from Vindolanda (Hoffmann forthcoming) and Strageath (Price 1989, 197, 202, fig 102,7) appear to belong to the 2nd century. Although never found in large quantities, examples can be found all over Britain and similar finds from the same region are known from Cirencester, Bradley Hill, Lufton and Mendip (Guido 1978).

Bluegreen segmental beads (nos. 21-23; Figs 19.12 and 19.13) appear to be particularly common on later Roman sites, eg Portchester and Lympne (Guido 1978, 201), with a 3rd-century example now known from Vindolanda (Hoffmann

forthcoming). Other examples come from Colliton Park/Dorchester, Cadbury Castle, Hengistbury Head, Camerton and Ham Hill (Guido 1978, 200).

Bluegreen annular beads like no 24 tend to be found on Roman rather than Iron Age sites but there is currently no more precise dating for the type. Other examples are listed by Guido under her group 6iib (Guido 1978, 66, 143-5).

Number 25 is part of Guido's Group 7v (Guido 1978, 172). This type is quite common in the region, with examples known from Dorchester, Somerleigh, Sydling, Cirencester, Silchester, Amesbury, Meare, Glastonbury and Ham Hill (Guido 1978, 152-5). There is also an earlier find from Shepton Mallet.

Numbers 26-27 are plain glass gaming counters, which are a common find on Roman sites of all periods. They are usually associated with board games, although other uses, such as accounting and calculation have occasionally been cited (Price 1995, 129). Black appears to be the most common colour on most sites, usually far outweighing all other colours, including white.

The window glass from the site reflects both broad types known from Britain. The bluegreen cast fragments (nos 28 and 29) represent the matt/glossy variety that can be found on Roman sites from the later 1st century, whilst the greenish, thin variety (nos 30-42), which is probably made by blowing a large cylinder and then cutting it open, only came into use in the later Roman period (Harden 1961). The latter material is likely to be associated with the stone buildings of Period 5.

In summary, the glass recovered gave a reasonable overview of the glass used in everyday contexts in a settlement of the later 1st and first half of the 2nd century, with, from the evidence of the glass, re-occupation in the 4th century. The present assemblage fits well with the material recovered in 1990 and the only unusual fragment is the Type I glass bangle which, in view of its otherwise mainly southern Scottish distribution, has to be counted as an import.

Catalogue of Roman glass (Fig 19)

Cast glass

1 Rim fragment, bluegreen; one rib; no bubbles; no weathering. RD: too small to measure: dims: 21 x 40 Th: 4 EVE: 0.4. SF 174, 110/280, east of Structure 11. Fig 19.1

Blown glass

Brown

2 Rim fragment, brown; rim folded out, up and in; no bubbles; no weathering. D: 30 mm PH: 6 Th: 3 EVE: 0.14. SF 636, F253. Fig 19.2

3 Body fragment, dark brown; folded out tube out of body, definitely not base ring; no bubbles; no weathering. D: 120 H: 6 mm Th: 2 EVE: ? SF 505, layer 1019. Fig 19.3

Also: 3a (not illustrated) Dark brown body fragment, from globular vessel; small bubbles; no weathering. Dims: 25 x 47 Th: 2. SF 506, layer 1019.

Greenish

4 Nineteen fragments (some joining), greenish; neck, body and base of globular flask with two horizontal linear-cut lines, and two further ones on the lower body; flat base; bubbles; no weathering. PH(neck): 64 W(neck): 16 PH(body): 33 D(base): *c.*45 EVE: 0.6. SF 11, 75/405, Structure 1. Fig 19.4

5 Body fragment with linear cut lines; greenish; ?cylindrical vessel; no bubbles; no weathering. Dims: 21 x 30 Th: 2 EVE: 0.2? SF 255, F224. Fig 19.5

Bluegreen

6 Handle fragment with central rib; bluegreen; elongated bubbles; no weathering. W(handle): 22-24 PH: 42 Th: 5 EVE: 0.14. SF 629, 105/385, east of Structure 2. Fig 19.6

7 (not illustrated) Lower handle attachment, bluegreen; handle with central rib, drawn out over body and pinched; elongated bubbles; no weathering. W(ext): 43 PH: 36 TH: 7 EVE: 0.14. SF 72, 50/275, east of Structure 7.

8 (not illustrated) Handle fragment and lower attachment, bluegreen, handle with central rib, drawn out and pinched over the body; elongated bubbles, greenish striations; no weathering. W(handle): 27-34 PH: 67 TH: 5 EVE: 0.17. SF 476, 125/255 east of F236.

Perhaps from similar vessel: 8a One body fragment, bluegreen. one straight rib; no bubbles; no weathering. Dims: 18 x 24 Th: 1. SF 509, 75/285, north of Structure 8.

9 (not illustrated) Body fragment, bluegreen with indent; bluegreen glass with little bubbles; no weathering. Dims: 11 x 18 Th: 1 EVE: 0.14. SF 630, 110/255, east of Structure 12.

10 (not illustrated) Handle fragment and shoulder of globular bath flask; handle trails along shoulder, neck and loops from the rim back onto shoulder and back onto the rim; bluegreen; bubbles; no weathering. H(ext): 34 Th: 5 EVE: 0.17. SF 98, 95/255, Structure 12.

11 Two joining rim fragments, bluegreen, rim rolled inwards, many bubbles and greenish striations, no weathering. D: 100 H(ext): 24 Th: 1. SF103, 85/290, Compound 7, and SF 489, 75/290, Compound 7. Fig 19.7

Late Roman glass

12 (not illustrated) Rim fragment, bluegreen/colourless; curved rim, cracked off and left uneven; many small bubbles; no weathering. D: 80 H(ext): 18 Th: 1 EVE: 0.2-0.4. SF 282, 125/270, east of F236.

13 (not illustrated) Rim fragment. Greenish; rim slightly turned out, and cracked off straight; small bubbles; no weathering. D: 80 PH: 12 Th: 2 EVE: 0.2. SF 508, 110/290, east of Structure 11.

14 Rim fragment, greenish; rim fire-rounded; slightly outturned; body ?globular; many bubbles, no weathering. D: 85 H(ext): 21 Th: 1 EVE: 0.4. SF 68, 120/345, Structure 9.

Bottles

15 Rim fragment, colourless; small bubbles; matt surface; rim folded out, up and in and flattened on top. D: 45 H(ext): 7 EVE: 0.17?. SF 636, F253.

16 (not illustrated) Rim fragment, bluegreen; rim folded out, up and in; many bubbles; no weathering. D: 52 H(ext): 21 Th: 5 EVE: 0.28. SF 5, 115/365, Structure 4.

17 (not illustrated) Base of straight-sided bottle, bluegreen; small bubbles; dull surface; base design: one circle; not cast. Dims: 13 x 21 Th: 5 EVE: 0.14. SF 599, 105/360, west of Structure 4.

18 (not illustrated) Reeded handle fragment, bluegreen; many elongated bubbles, greenish striations; no weathering. W(handle): 35 mm H(to turn): 33 Th: 2 EVE: 0.14. SF 596, pit F256.

Glass objects

Bangle

19 Bangle fragment (60 degrees); greenish glass with three uninterrupted and three interrupted opaque yellow trails on the outside. D(inner): 60 H: 18 Th: 13. SF 331, pit F253. Fig 19.10

Beads

20 Fragment, dark blue; rectangular bead with facets at the edges; weathered. PH: 10 Dims(ext): 6x7 D(inner): *c.* 3. SF 9, 110/360, Structure 4. Fig 19.11

21 (not illustrated) Bluegreen translucent wound segmental bead, one segment and part of a second surviving; many small bubbles, no weathering. PH: 5 D(max): 3 D(inner): 1. SF 241, 140/295, east of F236.

22 Bluegreen, translucent wound segmental bead, three segments; small bubbles; no weathering. H: 17 D(max): 5 D(inner): 1. SF 328 145/295, east of F236. Fig 19.12

23 Bluegreen opaque wound segmental bead, four segments surviving; small bubbles; no weathering. H: 14 D(max): 4 D(inner): 1. SF 202, 125/295, east of F236. Fig 19.13

24 (not illustrated) Ring bead fragment; bluegreen; opaque; many bubbles, wound, matt surface. D: 22 H: 9 D(inner): 5. SF 92 110/285, east of Structure 11.

25 (not illustrated) Bluegreen, opaque globular glass bead; small bubbles; no weathering. H: 4 mm D(max): 4-5 D(inner): 1. SF 283, 145/285, east of F236.

Gaming counters (not illustrated)

26 Black, complete; weathered. D: 15 H: 7. SF 112, 60/310, Structure 6.

27 White, splintered; weathered. D: 14 H: 5. SF 250, pit F213.

Window glass (not illustrated)

Matt/glossy

28 Edge fragment, bluegreen. Dims: 18 x 29 Th: 8. SF 483, 95/290, Structure 11.

29 Fragment, bluegreen. Dims: 12 x 26 Th: 4. SF 636, pit F253.

Blown

30 One fragment. SF 598, 100/365, west of Structure 4.
31 One fragment. SF 405, 85/405, east of Structure 1.
32 One fragment. SF 485, 130/275, east of F236.
33 One fragment. SF 487, 60/285, Compound 7.
34 One fragment. SF 488, 60/290, Compound 7.
35 One fragment. SF 494, 30/290, Compound 7.
36 One fragment. SF 520, unprovenanced.
37 One fragment. SF 598, 100/365, area of F134.
38 One fragment. SF 601, 75/410, area of Structure 1.
39 One fragment. SF 603, 100/365, area of F134.
40 One fragment, grozed edge. SF 604, 85/405, east of Structure 1.
41 One fragment. SF 622, 40/305, Compound 7.
42 One fragment. SF 637, 70/310, area of Structure 17.

Additional glass beads Lynne Bevan

Four further glass beads were recorded. (not illustrated)

43 Opaque, tubular green bead, a type of bead common in Britain from about the 1st century onwards (Guido 1978, fig 37.5). SF 44, 90/380, area of Structure 2

44 Well-formed, segmented bead of blue-green glass similar to nos 21-23. F224

45-6 Melon beads made of turquoise faience, one of which was incomplete. Melon beads are usually found in 1st and 2nd-century contexts (Guido 1978, 100). SF 23, Area A and unprovenanced.

The Roman pottery *Annette Hancocks*

with contributions by Gillian Braithwaite, Brenda Dickinson, Kay Hartley, Joanna Mills and Roger Tomlin

Introduction and methods

A total of 20,267 sherds of pottery was recovered. The material derived from buildings, pits, ditches and general overall spreads with an appreciable proportion coming from overall hand clearance following machining. With the exception of the latter material, the pottery was initially scanned for general spot dating; this was undertaken by Jane Evans. The pottery from the initial surface cleaning was not dated but a rapid check for any new forms was made. All the samian from whatever source was recorded. A selection of the pottery from key groups representing good stratigraphic sequences was recorded in detail. This amounted to a total of 4065 sherds, 20% of the stratified material (Table 2). All the pottery examined was generally in the form of small abraded sherds.

The key groups were well-stratified, well-dated groups with 3, 5 and 7 closely associated with buildings 1, 7 and 11. The pottery was recorded by context, and fully quantified by count, weight and rim EVE, using the existing Field Archaeology Unit Roman pottery recording system. Fabrics, form types and vessel classes were recorded using the existing type fabric and form series (Evans forthcoming), and these descriptions will not be repeated here. New forms recognised were integrated into the established form series and catalogued in greater detail, along with information concerning production, such as potters' stamps and wasters, decorative motifs, post-deposition abrasion, use (sooting and/or residues) and reuse or repair (repair holes, lead rivets and counters). Cross joins and joins were noted where possible. The data are tabulated to show the fabrics present by period (Table 3) and then by key group (Table 4). The pottery is illustrated by key context group.

The key groups

Group 1 Ditch F134 (contexts 1059, 1064 and 1066)

A total of 30 sherds representing a minimum of 3 vessels was recovered. Seven fabrics were identified, with sandy micaceous ware and fine micaceous sandy ware dominant. The material was generally very fragmentary and poorly abraded. A single sherd was recovered from 1066 and three sherds from 1064. No diagnostic forms were recognised with the exception of a Black Burnished ware dish (D5.11) of 3rd-century date from layer 1059, the uppermost fill.

Table 2: Romano-British pottery: fabric, sources and quantities in assemblage

Fabric Name	Qty	% Qty	Wt (g)	% Wt (g)	Rim EVE	% Rim EVE
BBC	403	10	2930	8	423	4
SANDBRF	356	9	1823	5	341	4
SANDMC	264	6	2440	7	141	1
SANDRC	452	11	3927	11	571	6
SANDRF	357	9	2454	7	418	4
SANDRGC	30	1	1336	4	-	-
SANDRL	11	<1	129	<1	27	<1
SANDRM	165	1	2255	6	179	2
SVOXGR	35	1	300	1	120	1
TOTAL REDUCED WARES	2073	49	17594	49	2220	22
SVOXG	262	6	1377	4	182	2
SVOXGM	42	1	384	1	27	<1
SVOXGCC (R)	10	<1	89	<1	-	-
TOTAL S.V.WARE	314	7	1850	5	209	2
MISCCR	40	1	421	1	107	1
MISCCW	2	<1	6	<1	20	<1
SANDOX	82	2	566	2	57	<1
SANDOXF	51	1	316	1	34	<1
SANDOXG	4	<1	45	<1	-	-
SANDOXCCW	10	<1	37	<1	-	-
TOTAL OXIDISED WARES	189	5	1391	4	218	2
TOTAL REGIONAL	**2576**	**61**	**20835**	**58**	**2647**	**26**
BB1	1197	30	9090	25	668	7
SAVNAK	84	2	4465	12	10	<1
TOTAL OTHER WARES	1281	32	13555	37	678	7
OXFW	3	<1	130	<1	22	<1
OXFCCW	4	<1	57	<1	-	-
OXFCCR	1	<1	1	<1	-	-
TOTAL OXFORD WARE	8	<1	188	1	22	<1
LNVCC	2	<1	1	<1	-	-
MORTCCW	2	<1	74	<1	-	-
TOTAL TRADED WARES	**1293**	**32**	**13818**	**39**	**700**	**7**
TOTAL SAMIAN	158	4	926	2	30	<1
DRES20	15	<1	1163	3	21	<1
GIMPORT	1	<1	93	<1	15	<1
IMPORT	2	<1	10	<1	20	<1
TOTAL IMPORTED	**176**	**4**	**2192**	**6**	**86**	**1**
CGW	1	<1	27	<1	-	-
CREAM1	1	<1	7	<1	-	-
PM	3	<1	11	<1	-	-
PREHISTORIC	15	<1	54	<1	11	<1
TOTAL UNKNOWN SOURCE	20	<1	99	<1	11	<1
TOTAL	**4065**	**100**	**36944**	**100**	**3444**	**34**
POTTERY						

Table 3: Summary of Fabrics by Period (Key Groups only)

FABRIC NAME	P2 QTY	P2 WT (g)	P2 % RIM	P2 AV WT	P3 QTY	P3 WT (g)	P3 % RIM	P3 AV WT	P4 QTY	P4 WT (g)	P4 % RIM	P4 AV WT	P5 QTY	P5 WT (g)	P5 % RIM	P5 AV WT
SANDRF	101	618	191	6	1	35	0	35	246	1754	227	7	9	47	0	5
SANDBRF	129	513	76	4	2	61	15	30	197	1139	210	6	28	110	40	4
SANDRM	14	383	46	27	8	140	25	18	131	1616	108	12	12	116	0	10
SANDMC	107	1100	58	10	41	454	48	11	99	731	35	7	17	155	0	9
SANDRC	157	1305	195	8	48	590	36	12	225	1824	301	8	22	208	39	9
BBC	124	665	163	5	13	356	56	27	232	1619	145	7	34	290	59	8
SVOXGR	22	145	0	7	8	61	0	8	1	15	0	15	4	79	67	20
SANDRL	1	9	0	9	4	56	0	14	5	47	27	9	1	17	0	17
SANDRGC	5	119	0	24	0	0	0	0	25	1217	0	49	0	0	0	0
SVOXG	116	424	28	4	27	364	42	13	115	568	102	5	4	21	10	5
SVOXGM	35	345	13	10	4	12	0	3	2	22	14	11	1	5	0	5
SANDOXF	12	66	0	6	0	0	0	0	33	224	34	7	6	26	0	4
SANDOX	3	11	7	4	39	90	0	2	38	459	50	12	2	6	0	3
SANDOXCCW	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	8	9	29	0	3	0	0	0	0
SANDOXG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	45	0	11	0	0	0	0
SVOXGCC(R)	3	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	83	0	12	0	0	0	0
MISCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	20	3	0	0	0	0
MISCCR	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	39	418	107	11	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REGIONAL	**830**	**5712**	**830**	**7**	**196**	**2227**	**222**	**11**	**1410**	**11816**	**1380**	**8**	**140**	**1080**	**215**	**8**
BB1	412	2328	165	6	69	563	80	8	648	5716	366	9	67	478	57	7
SAVNAK	13	444	0	34	57	3542	10	62	13	473	0	36	1	6	0	6
OXFW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	82	15	82	2	48	7	24
OXFCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
OXFCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	57	0	14	0	0	0	0
LNVCC	2	1	0	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORTCCW	2	74	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL TRADED	**429**	**2847**	**165**	**7**	**126**	**4105**	**90**	**33**	**666**	**6328**	**381**	**10**	**71**	**533**	**64**	**8**
PM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	0	4	0	0	0	0
CGW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	0	27
CREAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	7	0	0	0	0
PREHISTORIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	54	11	4	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UNKNOWN SOURCE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**19**	**72**	**11**	**4**	**1**	**27**	**0**	**27**
SAMSG	4	14	10	4	1	3	0	3	5	8	0	2	1	1	5	1
SAMCG	87	629	39	7	3	39	0	13	54	229	10	15	1	3	0	3
DR20	1	131	21	131	0	0	0	0	14	1032	0	74	0	0	0	0
TOTAL IMPORTED	**92**	**774**	**70**	**8**	**4**	**42**	**0**	**10**	**73**	**1269**	**10**	**17**	**2**	**4**	**5**	**2**
TOTAL POTTERY	**1351**	**9333**	**1065**	**7**	**326**	**6374**	**312**	**20**	**2168**	**19485**	**1782**	**9**	**214**	**1644**	**284**	**8**

Table 4: Summary of Fabrics by Key Group

FABRIC NAME	KEY GROUP 1				KEY GROUP 2				KEY GROUP 3				KEY GROUP 4			
	QTY	WT (g)	% RIM	AV WT	QTY	WT (g)	% RIM	AV WT	QTY	WT (g)	% RIM	AV WT	QTY	WT (g)	% RIM	AV WT
SANDRF	1	1	0	1	5	30	9	6	38	96	35	2	57	491	147	9
SANDBRF	1	2	0	2	10	68	0	7	68	173	11	2	27	91	24	3
SANDRM	1	5	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	275	25	23
SANDMC	12	214	10	18	67	804	30	12	14	59	7	4	37	249	21	7
SANDRC	8	76	0	10	20	353	18	18	141	1088	118	8	18	203	19	11
BBC	0	0	0	0	49	184	24	4	69	587	127	8	11	175	24	16
SVOXGR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	206	53	7	0	0	0	0
SANDRL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	28	0	7	0	0	0	0
SANDRGC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	119	0	24
SVOXG	1	12	0	12	8	31	0	4	90	225	0	2	26	177	28	7
SVOXGM	0	0	0	0	32	302	8	9	7	55	5	8	0	0	0	0
SANDOXF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	25	0	6	6	41	0	7
SANDOX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	74	0	2	2	3	0	2
SANDOXCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANDOXG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SVOXGCC(R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	2	0	0	0	0
MISCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3
TOTAL REGIONAL	**24**	**310**	**19**	**13**	**191**	**1772**	**89**	**9**	**506**	**2622**	**356**	**5**	**202**	**1245**	**288**	**6**
BB1	6	42	5	7	39	239	8	6	340	1550	81	4	72	779	110	11
SAVNAK	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	20	9	226	0	25	3	198	0	66
OXFW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OXFCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OXFCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LNVCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	<1	0	0	0	0
MORTCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	74	0	37
TOTAL TRADED	**6**	**42**	**5**	**7**	**40**	**259**	**8**	**6**	**351**	**1776**	**81**	**5**	**77**	**1051**	**110**	**14**
PM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CGW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CREAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PREHISTORIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL UNKNOWN SOURCE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
SAMSG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	10	4
SAMCG	0	0	0	0	61	544	34	9	21	80	0	4	5	5	5	1
DR20	0	0	0	0	1	131	21	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL IMPORTED	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**62**	**675**	**54**	**11**	**21**	**80**	**0**	**4**	**9**	**19**	**15**	**2**
TOTAL POTTERY	**30**	**352**	**24**	**12**	**293**	**2706**	**151**	**9**	**878**	**4478**	**437**	**5**	**288**	**2315**	**413**	**8**

Table 4a : Summary of Fabrics by Key Group continued

	KEY GROUP 5				KEY GROUP 6				KEY GROUP 7				KEY GROUP 8				KEY GROUP 9			
FABRIC NAME	**QTY**	**WT (g)**	**% RIM**	**AV WT**	**QTY**	**WT (g)**	**% RIM**	**AV WT**	**QTY**	**WT (g)**	**% RIM**	**AV WT**	**QTY**	**WT (g)**	**% RIM**	**AV WT**	**QTY**	**WT (g)**	**% RIM**	**AV WT**
SANDRF	136	830	159	6	66	468	42	7	18	101	0	6	0	0	0	0	35	402	26	12
SANDBRF	157	896	174	6	12	64	0	5	32	126	40	4	2	61	15	30	22	116	26	5
SANDRM	25	232	48	9	6	20	17	3	39	326	6	8	8	140	25	18	73	1154	37	16
SANDMC	56	478	16	8	32	198	19	6	17	155	0	9	18	228	38	13	11	55	0	5
SANDRC	171	1305	204	8	29	339	30	12	30	221	39	7	17	153	36	9	16	140	67	9
BBC	195	1207	108	6	3	14	0	5	62	626	73	10	7	60	25	9	6	62	23	10
SVOXGR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	0	15
SANDRL	2	18	6	9	0	0	0	0	4	46	21	12	1	37	0	37	0	0	0	0
SANDRGC	24	1204	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	13
SVOXG	81	388	61	5	22	97	25	4	7	32	10	5	18	343	42	19	8	57	0	7
SVOXGM	2	22	14	11	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANDOXF	21	95	23	4	1	1	0	1	8	44	0	6	0	0	0	0	9	120	11	13
SANDOX	14	48	5	4	0	0	0	0	14	216	0	15	3	16	0	5	12	201	45	17
SANDOXCCW	7	22	0	3	2	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	8	0	0	0	0
SANDOXG	4	45	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SVOXGCC(R)	5	33	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	50	0	25
MISCCW	1	2	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	4
MISCCR	30	364	83	12	3	16	15	5	6	38	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REGIONAL	**931**	**7189**	**921**	**8**	**176**	**1224**	**148**	**7**	**238**	**1936**	**198**	**8**	**75**	**1046**	**181**	**14**	**197**	**2389**	**235**	**12**
BBI	234	1633	109	7	129	1109	85	9	168	1276	53	8	23	274	41	12	182	2113	166	12
SAVNAK	9	329	0	36	0	0	0	0	2	27	0	14	57	3542	10	62	3	123	0	41
OXFW	1	82	15	82	0	0	0	0	2	48	7	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OXFCCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OXFCCW	4	57	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LNVCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORTCCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL TRADED	**248**	**2101**	**124**	**8**	**129**	**1109**	**85**	**9**	**173**	**1352**	**60**	**8**	**80**	**3816**	**51**	**48**	**185**	**2236**	**166**	**12**
PM	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CGW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CREAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	7
PREHISTORIC	5	37	11	7	9	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	7
TOTAL UNKNOWN SOURCE	**7**	**42**	**11**	**6**	**9**	**10**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**33**	**0**	**16**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**14**	**0**	**7**
SAMSG	5	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	1	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
SAMCG	38	145	5	4	5	20	0	4	3	5	0	2	3	39	0	13	9	62	5	7
DR20	13	973	0	75	1	59	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL IMPORTED	**56**	**1126**	**5**	**20**	**6**	**79**	**0**	**13**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**42**	**0**	**10**	**9**	**62**	**5**	**7**
TOTAL POTTERY	**1242**	**10458**	**1061**	**8**	**320**	**2422**	**233**	**8**	**417**	**3327**	**263**	**8**	**159**	**4904**	**232**	**31**	**393**	**4701**	**406**	**12**

Table 5: Romano-British pottery: average sherd weights from selected groups

Period	Key Group	Construct (Context group)	AVSW
2	1	Ditch	4
2	3	Floor	5
2	3	Hearth	4
2	4	Ditch	10
3	1	Ditch	13
3	3	Culvert	10
3	3	Pit	5
3	8	Midden	31
4	6	Floor	8
4	6	Floor	7
4	6	Oven	8
4	7	Floor	9
4	9	Hearth	13
4	9	Pit	12
4	9	Pit	12

Group 2 Spread F133 (context 1002)

A total of 293 sherds from a minimum of 36 vessels was identified. Eleven fabrics were recognised, the most dominant ones being fine micaceous sandy ware and samian. All of the material was of 2nd-century date. With the exception of two unburnt samian sherds from Les Martres-de-Veyre, the bulk of the samian was very heavily burnt, a factor which made identification and close dating of fabrics difficult. None of the other fabrics identified was burnt. The samian included Hadrianic-early Antonine forms (Dr 37, Dr 36, Dr 18/31R, Dr 33), as well as later ones such as Dr 31 and Curle 23, but none of the latest second century samian forms were present (Fig 21.6). The pottery was generally very fragmentary. Two new forms were illustrated (Fig 20.1 and 2). These comprised a Severn Valley ware mortarium stamp (M-) and a 'Belgic'-derived platter (P1.12) in a reduced fine micaceous sandy ware. Forms previously recognised include a single Black Burnished ware bowl (B22.21), a coarse reduced ware bowl and dish (B23.11 and D1.11), sandy reduced coarsewares (B16.21, F6.32, J6.21, JC3.42 and JC4.22), a sandy micaceous coarseware jar (J5.51), a Shepton Mallet Severn Valley mortarium (M1.12) and a Dressel 20 amphora rim. The majority of the material has a utilitarian function associated with food preparation and storage. The only fineware recognised was the samian, some of which was residual. The pottery may have been deposited in rubbish used to make up the ground level.

Group 4 Ditches F246 (contexts 2046, 2096, 2097, 2099 and 2100) and F257 (context 2071)

A total of 288 sherds was recovered from the two ditch fills suggesting a date in the late 1st or early 2nd century. Several previously identified forms were recorded. A total of 53 minimum vessels was observed in 15 different fabrics. Nine sherds of samian representing eight vessels were identified. Amongst the forms recognised was a Dr 37 of Flavian/Trajanic date, with early 2nd-century material possibly no later than the mid 2nd century. The wide range of forms and fabrics recorded was generally of a utilitarian function.

F246 (2046) - The upper fill of the boundary ditch contained 84 sherds of 2nd-century date, in 12 different fabrics. Although the sherds are very fragmentary a range of early forms was recognised. At least twelve minimum vessels were identified, with diagnostic rim forms including a Black Burnished ware dish (D5.12), a reduced sandy fineware bowl (B17.11), three samian forms (Dr 37, Dr 18/18/31 and Dr 30). A new flagon form (F9.11) for Fosse Lane, in a reduced sandy micaceous fabric, was recognised (Fig 20.6).

F246 III (2096) - This is the upper fill of the ditch and comprised 64 sherds, representing 10 different fabrics and 15 minimum vessels. No new diagnostic material was recognised, although a variety of previously published forms confirm the residual nature of some of the ceramics within the deposit. Forms identified include Severn Valley ware bowl, beaker and tankard forms (B10.24, BK2.61 and T1.12), Black Burnished ware cooking pot forms (JC3.22, JC3.23 and JC3.31) and lid form (L1.21), sandy reduced fineware bowls (B23.41 and B20.11), sandy reduced coarseware dish (D4.11), sandy reduced micaceous ware wide-mouthed jars (JW3.11 and JW5.21) and samian Dr 37 and Dr 18/18/31 forms.

F246 III (2097) - A total of 68 sherds were recovered from the lower fill. The date range for the material was late 1st/early 2nd century. A total of 12 minimum vessels was recognised in at least nine fabrics. The samian was of Flavian/Trajanic date. Diagnostic material consisted of Black Burnished ware cooking pot and dish forms (JC3.11, JC4.11 and D5.11), sandy reduced coarseware lid (L2.11), sandy reduced fineware bowl, dish and wide-mouthed jar forms (B13.11, D6.41, JW2.23 and JW5.11).

F246 III (2099) - A single sherd of sandy reduced fine greyware was recovered from the lowest fill of this feature. No diagnostic material was recognised.

F246 IV (2100) - A total of four sherds of pottery was recovered from this fill. Three different fabrics were identified, although no dating evidence survived.

F257 (2071) - Thirteen fabrics were present in the single fill of this ditch. A total of 67 sherds was represented. All the samian was of Hadrianic/Antonine date. Several diagnostic forms were observed in a range of fabrics, although no new forms were recognised. Dateable material comprised a Severn Valley ware tankard (T1.14), a Black Burnished ware dish (D6.11), a reduced sandy fineware bowl (B23.31), reduced coarseware wide-mouthed bowl (JW2.31), a reduced blue grey, medium to coarse 'pimply' micaceous ware beaker (BK3.41), a reduced sandy micaceous jar (J5.51) and a Dr 35. At least 14 vessels were recognised.

Group 3 Structure 1

A total of 878 sherds was recorded dating to the 2nd century.

Yard F112 (context 1019) - A total of 623 sherds was recovered with 12 different fabrics identified, dominated by Black Burnished ware and sandy reduced coarseware. Forty six vessels were represented consisting of functional wares such as Black Burnished ware and reduced greyware cooking pots, fine sandy greyware beakers, including a face pot fragment (Fig 20.3), reduced coarse greyware dishes (D1.14; Fig 20.4), occasional Severn Valley mortaria, and samian cups (Dr 33s) and bowls (Dr 37s). A total of 20 sherds of samian representing 16 vessels was recognised. The material was mainly of Antonine date, with the latest form being a Walters 79. An earlier Les Martres-de-Veyre vessel was present.

Shallow pit, F163 (context 1079) - Two fabrics were recognised, a single oxidised Severn Valley ware sherd and three sherds of Black Burnished ware, one of which was a jar type. No samian or other diagnostic material was recovered.

Pit F117 (context 1018) - A total of 51 sherds was identified in three fabrics, sandy reduced coarseware, sandy reduced micaceous ware and sandy oxidised ware. These are all early fabrics but no diagnostic dateable forms were observed.

Culvert F120 (context 1016) - Eighty eight sherds were recorded in eight different fabrics dated to the later 2nd/early 3rd century. The majority of sherds comprised oxidised Severn Valley ware, Black Burnished ware and locally produced coarse and fine greywares. Only two vessels were represented, a Black Burnished ware cooking pot form (JC3.13) and a reduced coarse greyware bowl (B4.21).

Burnt area F143 (context 1022) - A total of 64 sherds was recorded in four fabrics - oxidised Severn valley ware, reduced sandy fine and coarsewares and Black Burnished ware. No diagnostic material was present.

Burnt area F162 (context 1025) - Forty eight sherds were recovered. A Dr 35 samian sherd of possible Hadrianic date was present, Six further fabrics were observed including oxidised Severn Valley ware, Black Burnished ware, reduced sandy greywares, sandy micaceous greyware and sandy oxidised wares. At least five vessels were represented of which one was a Black Burnished ware dish (D5.11) and another a new bowl form in a sandy micaceous greyware (Fig 20.5).

Overall very little diagnostic and dateable material survives from Structure 1. A date in the late 2nd/early 3rd century seems likely for its abandonment, with occupation through the 2nd century. The building itself could well have been used in the preparation and storage of foodstuffs, given the presence and dominance of coarsewares over finewares. The majority of the forms recognised have a utilitarian function, with vessels such as mortaria, Severn Valley ware bowls and Black Burnished ware dishes and storage jars associated with food preparation and storage.

Group 5 Colluvium layers from Area B (contexts 2030, 2031, 2062)

A total of 1242 sherds were recovered comprising 177 sherds from 2030, 956 sherds from 2031 and 110 sherds from 2062. An overall total of 43 sherds of samian representing 32 vessels was recorded.

Layer 2030 - A total of 177 sherds in 14 different fabrics representing 25 vessels was recognised. A 2nd-century date was suggested by a Black Burnished ware bowl (B23.31) and lid (L1.21). Also present were a sandy reduced fineware bowl (B21.11), a sandy reduced fineware dish (D6.11), sandy reduced micaceous ware beaker, jar and wide-mouthed jar (BK3.12, J10.15 and JW2.22), miscellaneous colour coat beaker (BK4.22), some Dressel 20 amphorae sherds and five possible late Iron Age body sherds. The samian from this layer was Flavian and early 2nd-century material, again perhaps no later than the mid-second century. At least three Dr 37s was observed and a Dr 18/18/31.

Layer 2031 - A total of 956 sherds was recovered. Nineteen different fabrics were present, representing a minimum of 85 vessels. Severn Valley ware forms identified include bowl (B21.21), beaker (BK3.75) and tankard (T2.12) types. In Black Burnished ware were bowl (B22.21 and B24.12), beaker (BK2.11), dish (D3.11), cooking pot (JC3.23), wide-mouthed jar (JW1.11) and lid types (L1.21). In reduced sandy greyware were a bowl (B21.11), beakers (BK3.41 and BK3.81) and a lid (L6.11); and in reduced black, fine sandy ware were bowls (B20.21 and B22.23), a jar (J14.21) and a wide-mouthed jar (JW2.21). Sandy reduced coarseware forms were a bowl (B22.23), a beaker (BK3.21), a flagon (F5.11), jars (J14.31 and J8.21), a cooking pot (JC3.41) and wide-mouthed jars (JW2.21 and JW3.11). Also present were a sandy reduced micaceous ware bowl (B22.22) and reduced colour coat beakers (BK3.12 and BK3.65). The samian was exclusively Antonine in date with the latest vessels (joins 2094) dated AD 150-190, a Dr 37 bowl (Fig 21.4). Other samian forms identified included Dr 31 and Dr 18/31 or 31 types. Some Dressel 20 amphorae sherds were present.

Two 4th-century coins were found which must be viewed as intrusive.

Layer 2062 - A much smaller quantity of pottery was recovered from this layer. Twelve fabrics were identified representing a total of 110 sherds. At least 16 minimum vessels were recognised. A single new diagnostic rim form was identified from the group, a reduced black, fine sandy ware lid (L4.12, Fig 20.7). The only other dateable piece recovered was a Black Burnished ware cooking pot (JC3.23). The samian comprised four sherds of Dr 31, probably exclusively Antonine in date.

As with layer 2031 the pottery evidence was contradicted by the presence of three 4th-century coins.

Leaving aside the coin evidence the pottery suggest a 2nd-century date for the three colluvium layers.

Group 6 Oven F249 (2053, 2091, 2093, 2094)

A total of 53 sherds was recovered from the fill (2053) and rakeout (2093) of the oven, with a further 180 sherds recorded from the yard or building floor surface 2094 associated with F249 and from layer 2091 nearby. Seven sherds came from 2053. A single vessel was recognised in a Black Burnished ware bowl form (B22.21). The only other fabric recovered was a Severn Valley ware sherd. Forty six sherds came from layer 2093 and comprised six fabrics, including Black Burnished ware (D5.12), reduced black, fine sandy ware, sandy reduced coarsewares, sandy micaceous wares, sandy oxidised finewares and some prehistoric material. The material was dateable to the 3rd century. At least four vessels were present.

The pottery from layer 2094 comprised 8 different fabrics and ten minimum vessels. Severn Valley ware forms included bowl and tankard forms (B9.13 and T2.12). Black Burnished ware was in jar forms (J1.21 and JC3.23), and reduced fine micaceous sandy ware in a bowl form (B20.14). A Dr 37 form dated AD 150-190 was present (Fig 21.4), and five sherds from three Hadrianic and Antonine vessels including 3 sherds joining with 2031.

The pottery from the stone rubble platform to the east of F228 (2091) was very heavily abraded and fragmentary in nature. A total of 10 different fabrics was identified and at least 11 vessels. Very little diagnostic material was recovered, although samian forms Dr 33 and Dr 30 were observed, both of Hadrianic/Antonine date.

Group 7 Structure 7 (2024, 2025, 2029)

Three contexts were associated with this structure. A total of 417 sherds was recovered, representing a minimum of 37 vessels.

From the floor within Structure 7 (2024), a total of 33 sherds, representing at least 1 vessel, was recovered and dated to the 3rd century. Generally the material was poorly abraded and small in size. Only six fabrics were identified, none providing any diagnostic material, although Black Burnished ware and sandy oxidised wares were present.

Layer 2025 represented a rubble deposit in Structure 7. A total of 208 sherds was represented in 15 different fabrics and making 25 minimum vessels, dating to the late 3rd/4th century. Much residual second-century material was recognised, including Savernake ware, Severn Valley ware and samian. No new forms were observed. Diagnostic wares present included Black Burnished ware bowls, dishes and cooking pot forms (B24.11, B24.13, D5.11, JC4.11 and JC3.23); coarse greyware copies of BB1 forms such as dish (D5.11) and cooking pot forms (JC3.23, JC4.11 and JC4.21); sandy reduced coarseware beakers, jars and lids (BK3.81, J9.31 and L3.11); Oxfordshire fine white mortarium (M2.71) and four very small sherds of samian of mixed date.

Layer 2029 represented burning in Structure 7. A total of 176 sherds was identified, in 11 different fabrics and 11 minimum vessels. The layer comprised mainly material dating to the early 3rd century. Little diagnostic material was recovered, with the exception of a Black Burnished ware dish (D5.11) and cooking pot (JC3.31), and a coarse reduced sandy greyware dish copy (D5.11). A much later date was suggested by three 4th-century coins.

Group 8 Midden (2092)

The layer contained 159 sherds in 10 different fabrics of late 1st/early 2nd century date with a minimum 22 vessels present. Diagnostic forms include Severn Valley ware bowls (B3.11, B7.11 and B9.13), Black Burnished ware dish and cooking pot forms (D1.11 and JC3.23 and JC3.31), reduced coarse greyware BB1 copies of cooking pots (JC3.13, JC3.23 and JC3.31), a reduced fine micaceous sandy ware tankard (T1.11), sandy reduced coarseware beaker and jar (BK3.21 and J6.21), a reduced blue grey medium sandy ware bowl and flagon (B22.22 and F5.11), brown/buff to grey, medium to coarse 'pimply' micaceous ware bowls and wide-mouthed jar (B13.11, B22.22 and JW2.22), and samian comprising two small sherds and two stamped Dr 33 bases (stamps Fig 22.1 and 22.8) of mixed dates from first through the second centuries.

Group 9 Pits F251 (2060) and F256 (2056, 2057, 2070 and 2073) and hearth F250 (2054)

The fill of F251 contained over 264 sherds of pottery from a minimum of 21 vessels in 11 different fabrics. The assemblage dated to the 3rd century and included diagnostic material in the form of Black Burnished ware bowls (B23.11 and B23.31), a dish (D5.11), a jar (J10.41) and cooking pots (JC3.24 and JC3.31). Other forms recognised include sandy reduced coarseware Beaker forms (BK3.21 and BK3.81) and three small sherds of samian including fragments of Dr 37 and Dr 31 forms of Hadrianic-Antonine date. Two 4th-century coins demonstrated that all the pottery was residual.

A total of 116 sherds was recovered from F256.

The upper fill, 2056, contained 24 sherds representing at least two vessels with eight 8 different fabrics. No new forms were observed, with the only diagnostic material comprising two Black Burnished ware cooking pot forms of 3rd-century date (JC3.23 and JC4.21). In addition, a single sherd of samian (Dr 43/Curle 21) of late 2nd-century date was present.

Layer 2057 contained 31 sherds in 10 fabrics representing at least nine vessels. Black Burnished was the most common fabric represented. Diagnostic material consisted of several forms including a dish (D5.11), bowl (B23.11) and cooking pots (JC3.23 and JC3.31). Additionally a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was identified.

Layer 2070 contained 38 sherds in 6 fabrics representing at least five vessels. The material was of late 2nd/early 3rd date. Very little dateable material survived, with the exception of a Black Burnished ware bowl (B23.11) and a sandy reduced fineware jar (J10.32). A good dateable piece of samian was a Dr 37 bowl fragment (Fig 21.3) dating to AD 150-80 and a Dr 18/31R or 31R.

The lowest fill (2073) provided very little dateable material from 23 sherds. A single minimum vessel was represented, although six different fabrics were observed. The only diagnostic form was a Black Burnished ware dish (D5.11) of 3rd-century date.

A total of 13 sherds was recovered from F250. The pottery consisted of small and very abraded sherds. Very little dateable material was observed, although two fragments of Dr 18/31 and Dr 30/37 samian of Hadrianic-Antonine date formed part of the assemblage.

Illustrated sherds (Fig 20)

1 Mortarium (M); see comments by K Hartley; M- SVOXG, 8%. Layer 1002, F133, Period 2, KG2

2 Platter with Gallo-Belgic derivation; P1.12 SANDRF, 9%. Layer 1002, F133, Period 2, KG2

3 Decorated sherd, facepot fragment; SANDRF. Layer 1019, Period 2, KG3

4 Dish with flanged rim; D1.14 SANDRC, 31%. Layer 1019, Period 2, KG3

5 BB1-type bowl; conical bowl with flat grooved and flanged rims; B23.42 SANDMC, 7%. Layer 1025, F162, Period 2, KG3

6 Flagon with bifurated rim; F9.11 SANDMC, 10%. Layer 2046, F246, Period 2, KG4

7 Lid with internal groove; L4.12 SANDBRF, 11%. Layer 2062, Period 4, KG5

8 Bag-shaped beaker; BK3.42 SVOXGR, 16%. Layer 3003, F301, Period 5

9 Bag-shaped beaker; BK3.44 SVOXGR, 30%. Layer 3003, F301, Period 5

10 Bag-shaped beaker; BK3.45 SVOXGR, 21%. Layer 3003, F301, Period 5

11 Bowl with rim overhanging internally flanged bowl (segmental); B2.22 SANDBRF, 25%. Layer 1021, F142, Period 2

12 Bowl with rim overhanging internally flanged bowl (segmental); B23.43 BBC, 19%. Layer 2037, F211, Period 3

13 Dish, for graffito see Tomlin below; D- SANDBRF, 7%. Layer 2048, F217, Period 4

14 Dish with plain rim and increasingly splayed rim; D4.12 SVOXG, 16%. Layer 1001, Period 4

15 Jar with near triangular rim, ?waster; J6.21 SANDRC. Layer 3003, F301, Period 5

16 Globular jar with inturned rim and external lid seating; J16.12 SANDRM, 12%. Layer 3000, F209, Period 2

17 Jar with splayed rim of near equal girth, obtuse cross-hatch burnish surmounted by a groove; for graffito see Tomlin below, JC4.11 BB1, 19%. Layer 2019, F225, Period 5

18 Mortarium; M5.31 GIMPORT, 15%; Antonine (Hartley 1991, fig 84, C51). Layer 1037, F150, Period 6

19 Platter, Gallo-Belgic derivation; P3.11 SANDBRF, 10%. Layer 1049, F134, Period 4

20 Platter, Gallo-Belgic derivation; P4.11 SANDBRF, 10%. Layer 2017, Period 2

21 Platter, Gallo-Belgic derivation; P5.11 SANDBRF, 6%. Layer 2017, Period 2

22 Tankard; T4.11 IMPORT. Layer 2020, F223, Period 6

23 Decorated body sherd, facepot fragment; Gillian Braithwaite comments that this type is not easily paralleled by West Country military examples. It is very late in date. SVOXGR. Layer 3003, F301, Period 5

24 Decorated body sherd. Layer 2082, F260, Period 4

25 Decorated body sherd; (T-) IMPORT. Layer 2004, F213, Period 7

26 Small cup; MS7.11 SANDOX, 7%. Layer 2017, Period 2

Mortarium Kay Hartley

Two joining sherds from the bead and upper part of the flange of a mortarium (Fig 20.1). The bead and upper surface of the flange are blackish grey, almost certainly the result of overfiring, though the vessel may have been a second rather than a waster. The inside fabric and inner surface are 'cocoa' brown (Munsell 10RS/4), and slightly rough to the touch. No obvious slip survives but the brown stains in and near the stamp may be the remains of a discoloured red-brown slip. The fabric is fine-textured and the moderate, tiny and small quartz and slag inclusions are barely visible at less than x20 magnification. Two quartz trituration grits survive.

The left-facing stamp is fragmentary, but enough survives to show that it is from an unrecorded die; other stamps from the same die should be identifiable. The large bead, the fabric, the type of stamp and the provenance leaves no doubt that it is a product of the Shepton Mallet pottery workshops, which were active within the period AD 100-140, perhaps early in the century.

Samian: decorated wares Joanna Mills

Sherds representing some 86 or 87 vessels are tabulated and described in the catalogue below. There will inevitably have been a few rim and base sherds within the remaining unrecorded material, so that the total number of decorated vessels is probably slightly higher. The decorated wares date from the Neronian period through to the late Antonine. Although there are no apparent gaps in the supply of these vessel types only three of Hadrianic date were recorded from a total of 65 closely-dated vessels. Many of the sherds are small and with fragments of decoration surviving.

Of the 28 decorated vessels from Southern Gaul, 26 are probably from La Graufesenque. One is a late 1st or early 2nd-century Dr 37 from Montans (Fig 21.1), the source of the other, a Neronian Dr 29, was not identified. The decorated wares include seven Dr 29s (SG), one Dr 29 or 37 (SG); four Dr 30s (SG 1, CG 3); 67 or 68 Dr 37s (SG, 18; Les Martres 15, CG Lezoux 35 or 36), one Dr 67 (SG) and one Dr 64 (CG). The latter, although not unusual, is a less common form (Fig 21.5) and is probably the work of Libertus. The discrepancy in the numbers of Central Gaulish Dr 37s results from the possibility that two of the sherds may be from the same vessel.

Catalogue (Fig 21)

The catalogue is presented in approximate date of manufacture order.

1 Dr 29, SG. Base with fragment only of lower zone of straight gadroons; AD55-70. 120/260

2 Dr 29, SG*. Small body sherd with two small leaves from a scroll design extant. The fabric is almost certainly not from La Graufesenque* although its source is not identified; Neronian. 80/295

3 Dr 29, SG. Edge of lower zone of decoration fan-shaped plant only remains. Similar plants occur on bowls from La Graufesenque stamped by Germanus (his earlier work, not using his own moulds); Late Neronian and early Flavian type; AD60-75. 120/260

4 Dr 29, SG. Carination of bowl with winding scroll in upper zone and zonal decoration below with inhabited medallions. Small spirals used as infills in both upper and lower designs; AD60-75. 130/340

5 Dr 29, SG. Foot ring fragment; Neronian or early Flavian. Layer 3011

6 Dr 29, SG. Fragment of plain band and bead rows from carination; AD70-85. Layer 2011

7 Dr 37, SG. Basal wreath only; AD70-90. 75/285

8 Dr 37, SG. Body sherd in the style of Germanus with ovolo with corded tongue with rosette terminal; no border below, with only fragments of decoration extant; AD70-90. Layer 2030

9 Dr 37, SG. Lower part of decoration with a wreath of S-shaped gadroons with wavy line below and a basal wreath of bifid leaves; AD70-90. 125/265

10 Dr 29, SG. Fragment of plain band with large bead row either side and a scrap of ?winding scroll; Early-mid Flavian. 75/280

11 Dr 37, SG. Body sherd with fragments of two double-bordered medallions or festoons and a long, triangular leaf; AD75-95. Layer 2048

12 Dr 37, SG. Ovolo with trident tongue and wavy line below. M Crestio regularly used a version where the trident is blurred as in this example; *c* AD75-100. 80/270

13 Dr 37, SG. Body sherd with fragment of zoned decoration comprising panel infilled with diagonal wavy lines to leave triangular zone inhabited by a lion running to right (similar to 0.1400); Flavian. Layer 3007

14 Dr 37, SG. Fragment of decoration, too small to identify; Flavian. 50/300

15 Dr 67, SG. Fragment from top of moulded decoration; Flavian. 100/375

16 Dr 30, SG. Fragment of decoration, too small to identify; Flavian. 35/320

17 Dr 37, SG. Fragment of medallion only; Flavian. Layer 2030

18 Dr 37, SG. Body sherd with fragment of spiral with central rosette; Flavian. 75/280

19 Dr 37, SG. Fragment of lower edge of decorated zone; Flavian. Layer 3011

20 Dr 37, SG (overfired). Fragment of decoration with wavy line border; Flavian. 90/400

21 Dr 37, SG. Small body sherd with fragment of trifid-tongued ovolo; AD85-110. 105/386 (layer 1001)

22 Dr 37, ?SG. Ovolo with trifid tongue, similar if not identical to ovolo of Mecator. Plain, single bordered medallion below contains a trilobed motif which appears on an unpublished stamped bowl from Leicester (Brenda Dickinson pers. com.); AD 85-110. Layer 3007

23 Dr 37, SG. Trident-tongued ovolo with bead row below. Fragment of animal body below; Flavian-Trajanic. Layer 2096

24 Dr 37, SG. Trident-tongued ovolo; Flavian-Trajanic. Layer 2017

25 Dr 37, SG. Blurred ovolo only; Flavian-Trajanic. 55/275

26 Dr 37, SG. Fragment of moulded decoration; Flavian or Trajanic. u/s

27 Dr 29 or 37, SG. Body sherd with horizontal bead row fragment; 1st century. Layer 1040

28 Dr 37, SG (Montans) Body sherd with dog (with collar) running left, similar to motifs used in Central Gaul eg 0.1980, 0.1989A. Bowls made at Montans sometimes have a similar dog running to the right. The fabric is very pale with occasional large (<1mm) red/brown ?iron inclusions and is not a fabric used by the later Montans potters and so is unlikely to be later than the very early second century (Brenda Dickinson pers comm).

Another sherd of similar fabric was recovered from 80/395 and may derive from the same vessel; Trajanic. 75/395

29 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Fragment of ovolo; Trajanic. Layer 1019

30 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Rim sherd with ovolo Rogers B44 with wavy line (Rogers A24) below. Potter of the Rosette; AD100-120. Layer 2030

31 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Body sherd with ovolo Rogers B28. Probably Potter X-2 or X-3; AD100-120. 105/360

32 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Body sherd with fragment of ovolo Rogers B37 with wavy line below. Fragment of rosette Rogers C280 and fragment of ?Perseus (0.234); Potter X-4 (Igocatus); AD100-120. 105/360

33 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Rim with ovolo Rogers B29; Potter X-4 (Igocatus); AD100-120. 115/275

34 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Body sherd, ovolo double impressed and not identifiable, wavy line below with tail of seahorse only surviving. The seahorse is probably that used by Potter X-12 (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl 40, 462); AD100-120. 125/260

35 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Fragment with rosette Rogers C292 and wavy line above (or below); Potter X-12; AD100-120. 75/275

36 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Fragment with horizontal bead row and festoon Rogers F8. Probably Potter X13 or X14. AD100-120. 90/270

37 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Small body sherd, extant decoration comprises the junction of Rogers motif F74 with another, possibly J169, rather than a festoon or medallion with leafy border. The base of a ? trifid leaf sits at the junction; AD100-120. Layer 2076

38 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre) (Fig 21.2). Fragment of ovolo with bead row below; Ovolo overlaps; AD100-120. 2017

39 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Small sherd with blurred ovolo; AD100-120. Layer 2043

40 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Chip with fragment of blurred ovolo; AD100-120. Layer 2012

41 Dr 37, CG (?Les Martres-de-Veyre). Scrap of moulded decoration; ?AD100-120. 110/285

42 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre) (Fig 21.2). Seven sherds from the same vessel, not all joining. The ovolo is that of Libertus (Rogers B214) with a poorly executed bead row below. The bowl is sloppily finished as is often the case at Les Martres-de-Veyre. The bowl is decorated with Ulysses in his ship, a variant of O.982A; sherds with fragments of three of

these were recovered. The decoration is infilled with a variety of nautical motifs including turtles (0.2156 variant), fish (0.2417), and tritons or sea horses (not in Oswald). A bead row towards the lower edge of the decoration represents the sea, below which, on the sherd where this element of the design survives, swim fish. This same combination of motifs can be seen on an unstamped bowl from London, although seahorses replace fish in the lower zone on that bowl (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl 53, 626); AD115-130. Layer 2017 and 60/275

43 Dr 37, CG (Les Martres-de-Veyre) (Fig 22.3). See also stamps below. Body sherd with seahorse facing right similar to that on an unstamped bowl from London (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl 53, 626). Fragment of a possible stamp]O or O[at edge of sherd (stamp report no.3). The slip is damaged and the sherd is of incomplete thickness and worn, however, the curvature of the sherd, the depth and detail of the moulding as well as the fabric suggest that this may be a fragment of the Libertus bowl (see 2017 etc. above); ?AD115-30. 75/285

44 Dr 37, CG. Lowest part of panelled decoration of large double-bordered medallions with vertical bead rows between, these having terminal rings and flanked by astragalus Rogers R12. The two figures within the medallions are Abundance 0.802 and Bacchus 0.571. To the right is caryatid 0.1199. The work of Divixtus; all these elements can be seen on stamped bowls of his (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl 115, 3 and pl 116, 8) from Silchester and Coventry, and Carlisle and Leicester respectively; AD140-175. u/s 4

45 Dr 37, CG (KG9; Fig 21.3). Body sherd with ovolo Rogers B135 and corded border A36 below. The extant decoration comprises a plain festoon with 'seahorse' 0.52A. In the style of Ivstus; AD150-180. Layer 2070

46 Dr 37, CG. Base and lower part of decoration only comprising vertical borders Rogers A10, stands Rogers Q84, and the legs of figure 0.569 but without the cup. Possibly the work of Illixo, who used the figure (with the cup) and the borders. The bowl retains a lead rivet from a repair to the base. The lowest part of the interior is heavily worn with no slip remaining; AD150-180. 55/285

47 Dr 37, CG. Fragment with ovolo Rogers B145 used by Cinnamus, Carantinus and Illixio; AD150-180. u/s 3

48 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd, heavily burnt. Ovolo fragment probably Rogers B143, with bead row below. Figure within plain double bordered medallion is dancer 0.348 with broken hand; Cinnamus; AD150-180. 85/285

49 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with fragment of panelled decoration with vertical bead row and figure of Venus at an altar 0.322 to the right. Probably Cinnamus; AD150-180. Layer 1001

50 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd from bowl in the style of Albucius. With dog running to left (possibly a small version of O.1984) and leaf tips in the ground, Rogers J145, but the edge only; AD150-180. 125/265

51 Dr 37, CG (KG 5 and 6; Fig 21.4). Two groups of joining sherds from the same vessel with ovolo Rogers B105 with blurred bead row below. The bowl is decorated with a freestyle design of wild animals, dogs and horses, with and without riders. The figures used include a variant of horseman 0.246, horse 0.1911, and bear 0.1589. Above the bear are two very poorly impressed leaf-tip fillers. This could be the work of either Paternaus or Albacus, however the leaf-tips may be those of Albacus (compare with bowls from Corbridge and London, Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl 123, 33, 35, 38, 41 and 42); AD150-190. Layers 2031 and 2094

52 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with ovolo Rogers B20; Secundus i; AD125-140. 110/270

53 Dr 64, CG (Fig 21.5). Rim fragment with two parallel grooves at top of decoration. Of the three figures two are complete and identifiable, cupid 0.422 and kneeling stag 0.1752; both were used by Butrio. The discus (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, fig 12.4) used by Libertus appears below and to each side of the cherub. The stag and discus can be seen together on an unstamped form 64 beaker from London (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, fig 52, 613) which is attributed to Libertus. There is no evidence for Butrio using the discus, suggesting that this may be the work of Libertus; Hadrianic, 80/395

54 Dr 37, CG (Fig 22.2). Stamp in plain area below decoration (stamp no 2); AD125-150. 60/265

55 Dr 37, CG. A bowl with the distinctive buds of the Cerialis ii - Cinnamus ii group (Rogers J178), here in very clear impressions and so probably indicating an early product of the potter. Other figures include Venus (0.286), winged centaur (0.735A); bear (0.1609) with head squashed (?by a thumb). The striated divider and row of circles below both used by this group; AD135-150. 115/380

56 Dr 37, CG. Rim sherd with ovolo Rogers B108 with wavy line A23 below. Maccius and Maccarirra used the ovolo; AD130-160. Layer 2043

57 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with ovolo Rogers B47 (or a variant of it) and a small rosette Rogers C120. The lack of a border below the ovolo is paralleled at Lincoln on a bowl in the style of Tetturo (pers comm Brenda Dickinson); AD130-160. 85/270

58 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with ovolo B144 with bead row below. Cerialis ii/Cinnamus ii; AD135-170. Layer 2068

59 Dr 37 CG. Joining body sherds with ovolo Rogers B144 with bead row below. Moulding poor. Extant decoration comprises figure in arcade between vertical bead rows; Cinnamus/Cerialis group; AD135-170. 60/285

60 Dr 37, CG. Joining body sherds with ovolo Rogers B144, with small bead row below. Part only of panelled design extant comprising vertical bead row, open ring and fragment of motif 0.234 (Perseus). Cerialis ii/Cinnamus ii group; AD135-170. 105/365

61 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with upper part of decoration comprising ovolo Rogers B107 with bead row below. Decoration is panelled with only the head of Pan 0.709 extant. Paternus; AD150-190. 50/405

62 Dr 30, CG. The decoration is panelled with bead rows dividing. The surviving elements include shell Rogers U.76 in a plain double-bordered medallion and a column including vase? Rogers T16, Q59 and astralagus R18. Almost certainly the work of Doeccus; AD160-190. Layer 2050

63 Dr 37, CG. Lower part of design with single line delimiting the decorated zone. The extant decoration comprises the lower legs and feet, probably of Venus 0.278 and, to the left, fragments of a winding scroll of two plain lines terminating with acorn Rogers U.87. Both the Venus and the acorn appear on sherds from Corbridge (Stanfield and Simpson 1990 pl 125, 8 and pl 126, 16 respectively). The Venus has a damaged left foot as, from the illustration, the Corbridge example appears to have. The scroll is similar to the Corbridge example and may be seen, although in reverse, on a sherd from Dorchester (Pengelly, 1982, fig.33, 38); Iullinus style; *c* AD160-190. Layer 2066

64 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with ovolo (Stanfield and Simpson 1990 fig 44.2), rosette Rogers C274 and beaded ring E58; Style of Doeccus; AD160-190. 75/280

65 Dr 37, CG. Scrap of decoration, rosette Rogers C144. Probably Paternus; AD160-195 (pers comm Brenda Dickinson). 55/275

66 Dr 37, CG. Chip with fragment of rosette-tongued ovolo and wavy line below; Hadrianic-early Antonine. 75/275

67 Dr 37, CG (burnt). Incomplete ovolo with corded tongue; Hadrianic or early Antonine. Layer 2021

68 Dr 37, CG (heavily burnt) KG 2 (Fig 21.6). A substantial portion of a panelled bowl with ovolo Rogers B17 with large bead row (?A2) below, and panels divided with bead rows. The panels alternate between large human figures and a festoon inhabited by a cockerel with another motif (missing) below. Figures include Bacchus 0.566, Venus 0.278, Cock 0.2348 (or variation) and a small figure similar to 0.658B. Attribution is difficult, the ovolo is probably that of Paternus iv (pers comm Brenda Dickinson), however his repertoire of figures is not yet know; Probably Hadrianic or early Antonine. Layer 1002

69 Dr 37, CG. Two sherds, not joining but likely to be from the same vessel. Fragment of panelled decoration with vertical bead row and small fragment of a human figure (unidentified); Hadrianic or Antonine. Layer 1019

70 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with fragment of inhabited scroll, motif too fragmentary to identify; Hadrianic-Antonine. Layer 2003

71 Dr 30 or 37 CG. Scrap with decoration; Hadrianic or Antonine. 50/300

72 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with small fragment of ovolo; Hadrianic or Antonine. 70/410

73 Dr 30 or 37, CG. Decorated fragment. Hadrianic or Antonine. 75/405

74 Dr 30 or 37, CG. Decorated fragment (ext surface only); Hadrianic or Antonine. 75/405

75 Dr 37, CG. Fragment of lower edge of decorated zone; Antonine. Layer 2031

76 Dr 37, CG. Fragment of decoration; Antonine. Layer 2031

77 Dr 30, CG. Body sherd with fragment of stag running to left with the antler tines pointing upwards. No exact parallel in Oswald; Antonine. Layer 2066

78 Dr 30 or 37 CG. Body sherd with vertical bead row and ?foot of human figure to left; Antonine. Layer 1040

79 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with ovolo ?B17; Antonine. 55/405

80 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with most of external surface missing. No identifiable decoration survives; Antonine. 55/405

81 Dr 37, CG. Fragment only, with single bordered medallion; Antonine. 115/260

82 ?Dr 30, CG. Two chips, probably Dr 30; Antonine. 50/315

83 Dr 37, CG. Lower part of decoration with vertical bead row with ring at terminal; standing Bacchus to the left (0.566); Antonine. 70/400

84 Dr 37, CG. Fragment of panelled decoration with vertical bead row and part of figure, possibly Venus (similar to 0.279); Antonine. 75/400

85 Dr 37, CG. Fragment of panelled decoration with vertical bead row and leg of standing figure, probably Perseus (0.234) to the right; Antonine. 90/385

86 Dr 37, CG. Chip with fragment of decoration; Antonine. 90/385

87 Dr 37, CG. Body sherd with upper part of decoration. There is no ovolo on this bowl. The only figure is a cupid 0.440; Mid-late Antonine. 75/405

Potters' stamps Brenda Dickinson

Each entry gives: excavation number, potter (i, ii, where homonyms are involved), die, form, reading, published example (if any), pottery of origin, date.
Superscript (a), (b) and (c) indicate:

(a) A stamp attested at the pottery in question.
(b) Not attested at the pottery in question, but other stamps of the potter known from there.
(c) Assigned to the pottery on the evidence of fabric, distribution, etc.
Ligatured letters are underlined

Catalogue of Stamps (Fig 22)

1 Dagomarus 3b 33a [DAGOMA]RVSFV (final letter uncertain) Les Martres-de-Veyre[a]. Dagomarus worked at Les Martres under Trajan and at Lezoux in the Hadrianic period. There are many vessels with this stamp in Les Martres fabric in the London Second Fire groups. *c* AD 100-120. Layer 2092, KG8

2 Gratus ii la 37 (stamped upside down below the decoration, after moulding) [GR]ATI.M Lezoux[b]. This appears on a bowl from York with a mould-stamp of Quintilianus i (Stanfield and Simpson 1990, pl. 68, 7). It occurs also in the Rhineland, where the import of Central Gaulish ware seems to have ceased around the middle of the second century, and at South Shields. *c.* AD 125-150. 60/265

3 Libertus ii 6a 37 O[FLIBERTI] (Dechelette 1904, 282, no 110, 39). The presence of Libertus wasters at Lezoux is evidence that he worked there, but this bowl is in one of the fabrics in the range produced at Les Martres-de-Veyre, and so will have been from a mould traded there, or brought from Lezoux. Dating evidence for this potter is slight, but his limited distribution and his use of non-standard fabrics suggest that he was rather earlier than the main body of Hadrianic potters working at Lezoux. The similarities between his style of decoration and that of Butrio suggest Trajanic-Hadrianic date. Layer 2017

4 Mettius 1a' 18/31R METTI.MA Lezoux[c]. This is from a broken die which originally had ends to the frame. It occurs at Mumrills and Newstead, while a stamp from a different die is known from the Saalburg Erdkastell (before AD 139). *c* AD135-160. Layer 2072

5 Osbimanus-Cadgatis 2a 33 OSBIMΛCΛ Lezoux[a]. This stamp records a partnership, or joint venture, of two potters, whose names are extrapolated from a stamp on which they are more complete. It was used only on cups, mainly of form 33, but with one example on form 46. Both potters worked independently at some stage in their careers. Their separate ranges of forms, which include 18/31R, 31R, 79 and Ludowici Tx, suggest activity *c* AD 150-180. 50/390

6 Pateratus 5a PATIIRATV Lezoux[b]. This stamp is known from Birdoswald, Chesterholm and Corbridge, and has been noted once on form 18/31R. Pateratus's use of other dies on forms 18/31, 27 and 81, combined with the site evidence, suggests a range *c* AD 135-165; see also graffito. 85/300

7. Paterclinus 4a 18/31R or 31R [PΛTER]CLINI (Juhasz 1935, 207). A stamp noted on Hadrian's Wall and at hinterland forts recommissioned *c* AD 160; it has been noted on form 79 or Ludowici Tg. This evidence suggests mid to late-Antonine activity, but his use of other dies on form 27 may mean that he was active by the middle of the second century. *c* AD 150-180. Layer 2067

8 Severus vi 3d 33 SIIVIIRIM. Lezoux[b]. There is no internal dating for this stamp, but the potter's output includes plain forms made at Lezoux in the later second century, such as 31R, 79 and 80, and decorated ware which belongs stylistically to the same period. Vessels stamped with some of his other dies occur at northern forts recommissioned *c* AD 160 - *c* AD 160-190. Layer 2092, KG8

9 Suobnedo 2b 31 SVO[BNE]DOF (Dickinson 1990, fig 183. 41) Lezoux[b]. This is only the second example noted on a dish of a stamp more normally used on cups of form 33. Dating evidence of Suobnedo is sparse, but he is known to have made form 79/80, and so Antonine activity is certain. *c* AD 140-170. Layer 1055

10 Tituro 5A 31 [TITVR]ONIS (Dannell 1971, 315, 92) Lezoux[a]. One of the less-common stamps of a potter working in the mid- to late-Antonine period. Stamps from his other ides occur in the Wroxeter Gutter find of the early 160s, on Hadrian's Wall and on some of the later 2nd-century forms, such as 31R, 79 and 80. *c* AD 160-190. Layer 2012

11]CI (?) on form 33, burnt, Central Gaulish. Antonine. 95/265

12 S [or SX [on form 31, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine. 80/305

13 (not illustrated) Frame only form 18/31. Central Gaulish. Hadrianic/early Antonine. ?Layer 1053

Graffiti was recognised on four sherds (see below), two of which are samian. This includes a deeply scored 'X' on the underside of a stamped vessel no 6 (DR36 and DR 1 and 2).

Graffiti Roger Tomlin

1 Rim sherd of a black burnished ware jar with splayed rim, found with material of the late 3rd/4th century. Coarsely incised after firing: two vertical strokes close together, now incomplete, and a third, also incomplete, overlying more or less horizontal scoring. This could be read as [...N]I +, the genitive case-ending of a personal name followed by a mark of identification, but not enough survives for certainty. Layer 2019 (Fig 20.17)

2 Base sherd of a buff jar dated to the 3rd century. Scored underneath after firing: two parallel lines intersecting with a broad line at right angles. Not a letter, but a mark of identification. Layer 2048 (Fig 20.13)

3 Base sherd of a Drag. 33 cup stamped PATIIRATV (Lezoux), scratched after firing within the foot-ring: '+'. A mark of identification. 85/300

4 Rim sherd, probably of a Drag. 31 bowl (ex catalogue), scratched after firing with four incomplete letters just below the carination. Only the tops of them survive, so the reading is not certain, but possibly: [...]MPRO[...]. This could be part of the name *Sempronius*, but it must be emphasised that with these irregular capitals being incomplete, the reading is in doubt. 85/390

Discussion Annette Hancocks

Dating by Annette Hancocks and Joanna Mills

Dating of the pottery as a whole was inhibited by its fragmentary nature, whilst using the dating evidence was rendered less sure by the residual character of the majority of the assemblage. Nevertheless good quality dating evidence was found deriving principally from the samian and amphorae but also from Black Burnished ware forms. The samian gave the best evidence for 1st and 2nd-century activity. Samian reached the site from the mid-1st century throughout the exporting period and into the 3rd century. The usual peaks and troughs within the assemblage are apparent with the bulk of the material being of mid to late Antonine date. The quantity of Neronian and early Flavian material is not great and may indicate that activity on the site did not really begin until the 70s. For the 1990 collection Brenda Dickinson observed that within the Southern Gaulish decorated wares the ratio of Dr 29:Dr 37 is about 1:3 and concluded that activity on the site may have started as late as the mid-80s. The same ratio occurs in this assemblage.

The range of forms present is fairly standard (15/17, 15/31, 18, 18/31, 18/31R, 27, 29, 30, 31, 31R, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 67/72, 64, 79, 79R, 80, Curle 15 and Curle ?21). There appear to be more Dr 33 cups than Dr 27 and more Dr 31/31R than Dr 18/31-18/31R bowls, but this was not quantified. The Dr 64 beaker and several globular jars (including plain examples, one with moulded and one with cut-glass decoration) are the less common forms, but are not unexpected in an 'urban' context.

A small quantity of pre-Flavian material was identified, although the majority of the Southern Gaulish material is Flavian or later. The latest vessel from Southern Gaul is from Montans and probably no later than the early 2nd century. Other early 2nd-century products are from Les Martres-de-Veyre and include some fine decorated bowls and plain forms including at least one form 15/17. The bulk of the assemblage is from Lezoux, with the greater proportion of this material probably dating to the mid and later Antonine period. Some of the latest vessels to reach the site are from Eastern Gaul and include forms 45, 32 and 36, although there are probably only a handful of these vessels. No decorated or stamped vessels from Eastern Gaul were identified. At least one vessel of 3rd-century date was noted. In general terms the trends observed here agree with those observed for the material excavated in 1990 on the Showerings site, although later forms (45, 79R, 80) which were absent in that earlier assemblage were noted here.

Trade

Some 35% of the stratified pottery was supplied by non-local producers (Tables 2-4). Of this imported material, BB1 was the only traded ware reaching the site in any quantity (30% by count) with all the other sources represented by much smaller quantities. At the Showerings site the proportion of BB1 in the assemblage as a whole was 37% (Evans forthcoming) and at Cannards Grave 41% (Mepham forthcoming), and the figures from both sites contrast markedly with the representation of BB1 at Ilchester of 50-60% (Leach 1982, 142-3) and at Catsgore of 70% (Leech 1982, 159; Leach 1984, 25). This fall off in the proportion of BB1 is thought to reflect Durotrigan ethnicity and to be explained by Shepton Mallet's location at

a civitas boundary (Evans forthcoming). By mapping these distributions, Allen and Fulford (1996) have also suggested that the main route taken by the BB1 supply trains from Ilchester was down river to the Severn rather than north up the Fosse Way, and it may be that the distribution of BB1 owes as much to the choice of communications routes as to the preference of the inhabitants of a civitas.

The analysis of the 1990 assemblage showed that Severn Valley wares formed a surprisingly low proportion of the collection. Not only should the fall off in BB1 be offset by an increase in Severn Valley ware to fit the theory that the pottery is an indication of civitas groups, but Shepton Mallet as a producer of Seven Valley ware should have had high local use. However, the 1996 pottery gave a similar figure, 9%, for the proportion of Severn Valley ware to the 4% recorded in 1990 (Evans forthcoming). There was a sharp difference in the dominance of reduced over oxidised wares at both sites in a comparison with sites to the north in the Severn Valley ware heartland. In the 1996 collection, greywares (including BB1 and Savernake ware) represented 82% as opposed to oxidised wares which represent only 5% by count. Evans has suggested that in ceramic terms Shepton Mallet can be best paralleled by sites north of the Mendips from the Chew Valley to Bath. An interesting link with sites across the Bristol Channel in Wales was also noted.

Study of the form/fabric occurrence in the 1996 collection and the proportion of different vessel classes in different fabrics showed that BB1 jars and bowls occurred in roughly equal proportions, while tankards occurred in Shepton Mallet Severn Valley ware along with the occasional bowl form. There was an obvious lack of locally-produced forms in the assemblage. From this it can be inferred that the locally-produced products were traded further afield, whilst there was a heavy reliance on the marketing of BB1/local BBC for utilitarian forms. The assemblage from Cannards Grave had a higher proportion of BB1 that at the Showerings site, but this was made up of a limited range of utilitarian forms (Mepham forthcoming). The pottery as a whole suggested that the local inhabitants' access to pottery from non-local sources was rather restricted. The dominant supply of BB1 appeared to have been unaffected by changes in the later centuries. This is reflected in the continued reliance on BB1 pottery as opposed to the New Forest and Oxfordshire products of the 3rd and 4th centuries. Even within the earlier phases of occupation early local products such as Savernake ware from Wiltshire did not prevail in any noticeable quantity. There were no New Forest products and only a small quantity of Oxfordshire products in the key group assemblages. As was usually the case in the Province, imported wares were dominated by Central Gaulish samian and a small quantity of amphorae.

Status/function

Overall several forms were present through the life of the settlement including bowls (B20s), jars, jar/cook pots, beakers and the occasional dish and tankard form. The extent of residuality makes it difficult to assess the chronological significance in the forms present. With the exception of the Central Gaulish samian, very little fineware material was recovered from the key groups. This may be an indication that the area excavated in 1996 was of a lower level of status to that excavated in 1990 or may simply reflect the type of contexts chosen. In general, looking at the Showerings and Tesco material together, a general lower status can be suggested than in comparison to the civitas capital at Ilchester, but both collections were of markedly higher status than at Cannards Grave. Within the

material looked at in detail in 1996, few New Forest and Oxfordshire region fine wares were found. The only late finewares were two sherds of possibly residual Gaulish glazed wares. This contrasts with the slight increase of fine ware proportions seen in 1990 in the later periods (Evans forthcoming). The range of forms at the Tesco site also seems smaller than at the Showerings site. Analysis of vessel class demonstrated the high proportion of jar forms compared to other forms such as bowls and dishes, and this was particularly the case from Period 4 onwards. This high proportion is likely to reflect a limited range of forms.

Generally the samian trends observed in 1996 agreed with those presented by Brenda Dickinson for material excavated in 1990 and was comparable with the assemblage from Ilchester (Leach 1982 and 1994). All the samian from Area A was of Central Gaulish origin (predominantly Lezoux or Les Martres de Veyre), whilst within Area B, particularly F247, a small amount of South Gaulish samian was observed. The overall majority of samian recovered from this area was of Central Gaulish origin. Nearly all the decorated samian was from Southern Gaul (La Graufesenque).

Taphonomy

Variations in sherd size in different groups allows consideration of the level of residuality and of different kinds of artefact deposition around the site (Table 5). In Period 2, assemblages with larger mean sherd weights were found in ditch deposits (10g and 13g) than in material from Structure 1 (5g and 4g). These latter are likely to have been the remnants of secondary rubbish which had then been incorporated in floor surfaces. The average weight of sherds from F133 of 6g indicates that the material had been redeposited in the spread. In contrast the average sherd weight of 38g for material from F163 within Structure 1 suggest that the pots may have been deliberately placed there. In Period 3 the mean average sherd weight of pottery from ditches is slightly higher at 13g than in earlier phases but must nevertheless reflect its arrival in the ditch after deposition elsewhere. Material recovered from the midden F247 is significantly heavier (31g) and may represent a primary rubbish deposit. The Period 4 material had weights of 8g from a floor, 13 and 8g from hearths and ovens and 12g from a pit, all suggesting secondary deposition.

A few pieces of coarseware and samian, particularly bowls, demonstrated evidence of prolonged use, with lead rivets *in situ* or drilled holes for rivets apparent. The same was true in the 1990 collection with the proportion of material so treated higher than at Ilchester (Evans forthcoming). While the pottery in general was in a fragmentary and abraded condition, much of the samian was relatively unabraded although some was heavily burnt. The condition of the pottery in general is likely to be an indication of the degree of disturbance on site through time with material being re-excavated to be redeposited in the range of below ground intrusions observed. The condition of the samian presumably reflects its durability and its loss and burial in the earlier centuries of occupation.

The worked stone *Fiona Roe*

Objects

The objects reported on here amount to several pieces from a small millstone, six quern fragments, two whetstones, a rubber and a small dish or mortar. Only three of these finds are from stratified contexts. However the materials utilised, and particularly the Mendip Old Red Sandstone, all had long periods of use so that exact phasing for them may not be of any great significance. Although no stone artefacts were recorded in contexts earlier than the late 2nd century, the likelihood is that some could have been current earlier than this. A delay may often have occurred between the period of use of a stone object and its final burial as discarded rubbish, since pieces of stone left lying on the ground surface would often survive well when abandoned to the elements.

Millstone

Fragments of a small millstone, no 1, made from Upper Greensand, were reused as cobbling in the open yard F112. Roman millstones appear to come in two size ranges. Many were up to a metre or more in diameter, while a smaller group varies from between 540 and 630mm in diameter (King 1988). This, and a second millstone from the 1990 excavation, fit within the smaller size range, with diameters of *c.* 580mm for the Tesco site object and 540mm for a complete lower stone from the 1990 excavations. The pieces of Upper Greensand are now weathered, but it can be seen that the grinding surface was coarsely grooved. Three further unstratified greensand fragments, no 2, may belong to the same millstone. The greensand probably came from the Pen Pits, a quarrying area some eleven miles (17.7km) from the site (Pitt Rivers 1884, 6). Greensand from the Pen Pits was used quite frequently for querns on Roman sites in the area (Roe forthcoming a), despite the nearby availability of Mendip Old Red Sandstone. At present further examples of Roman millstones utilising this particular variety of greensand are not known, though more might be expected. Greensand, though unspecified, was used for Roman millstones at Halstock, Dorset (Lucas 1993, 96, nos. 4 - 6), and at Figheldean, Wilts (Mepham 1993, 36).

Querns

Old Red Sandstone from the Mendips was the most frequently used corn-grinding material at Fosse Lane, as might be expected with a good source for stone at Beacon Hill only 2.25 miles (3.8 km) from the site (Green and Welch 1955, 13; Leach 1993, 139). There are four querns of probable Beacon Hill sandstone from the 1996 excavations, and another six of Old Red Sandstone from the 1990 excavations, these latter examples dating from Period 2 (middle second century to middle third century). The 1996 finds of querns do not appear in the archaeological record until the third century (Period 4). One, no 8, which is unstratified, is a complete lower stone of the Roman disc type, 430mm in diameter and weighing 20.8kg. This weight, for a comparatively slim disc quern, suggests that anything larger, such as the millstone with a diameter of 580mm, no 1, would have needed mechanical means for turning the upper stone.

The remaining pieces are all from the undated late or post-Roman period. Bath stone, which was conveniently available up the Fosse Way, from about 16 miles (25.7km) away, was used for a column, no 14, which, with a diameter of about 170mm, was fairly slender. Bath stone was also used for an altar from the 1990 excavations, and seems to have been employed generally in the area for any stonework needing detailed shaping. At King's Weston, for instance, the villa was entered through a portico with six columns of Bath stone (Branigan 1969, 19), and the same stone was also used for architectural features at Camerton (Wedlake, 1958, 49) and at Gatcombe (Horwell 1977, 103).

The final item to be discussed is a stone coffin, used for the burial of a small child, nos 15 and 16. A second coffin, made from local Downside stone, was found in the 1990 excavations (Leach forthcoming). The lid of the child's coffin is made from Doulting stone, which in places outcrops adjacent to the Downside stone. In general these Roman coffins tend to occur in areas of suitable stone (Woodward 1993, 227), and particularly where Jurassic limestones were available, so that finds from Fosse Lane fit well into the known pattern.

Discussion

Sites in and around the Mendips were well provided, within a dozen miles or so, both with good local grinding stone and with building stone, and this assemblage from Fosse Lane shows how the local rocks were put to good use. However, the inhabitants of the small town were not deterred from using imported materials as and when the opportunity arose. The evidence from the 1996 excavations is in some ways misleading, since although the 1996 whetstones and the small mortar are made of local stone, the 1990 excavations produced six well travelled whetstones and a mortar of Kentish Rag, and also another mortar of Purbeck marble. The Bath freestone was probably used on many Somerset sites for shaped or carved architectural details, so its use at Shepton Mallet is of no surprise, but the presence of a quern of Upper Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean is less easy to explain. One possibility is the link with the exportation of Severn Valley Wares, as part of the widespread trading opportunities that were available during the Roman period.

Catalogue

1 Part of small millstone, diam *c.* 580mm, th. *c.* 66-73.5mm, now weathered; grinding surface was coarsely grooved, other surface pecked to shape; three large fitting pieces. Upper Greensand, probably from the Pen Pits. SF 386, F112

2 Three fragments probably of the same millstone. Upper Greensand, probably from the Pen Pits. SF 406 and SF 407, Area B, SF 408, Area A

3 Fragment upper stone rotary quern, Roman disc type, diam *c.* 410mm, th. at rim 48.5mm, pecked neatly to shape, traces of grooving on grinding surface. Mendip Old Red Sandstone conglomerate, probably from Beacon hill. SF 404, ditch F230

One quern fragment, no 5, is made unexpectedly of Upper Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean/Wye Valley area, about 38 miles (61km) from the site. The fragment was part of a quern of Roman disc type from an undated context, the rubble from Room 2 in Structure 7, which suggests that it may not have been in use before the late fourth century. Imported Old Red Sandstone could not exactly have been needed at Fosse Lane, so its presence is something of an enigma.

The sixth quern fragment, no 6, is made from an altogether different type of stone, a silicified Jurassic sandstone or roach from the Harptree Beds. This is a sandstone with casts of fossil shells, and the gaps where they have eroded out would have provided a good grinding surface. The nearest source for this type of stone is at Oakhill (Green and Welch 1955, 109), just off the Fosse Way, a short distance from Beacon Hill, and so only 2.5 miles (4km) from the site. The quern itself is a somewhat thick beehive type with affinities to Iron Age varieties of quern, and this typology is reflected in the other finds made from the same sandstone. Beehive querns utilising the Harptree Beds roach occurred at both the Meare and Glastonbury Lake villages (Roe 1995, 166) and there were also a number of similar finds from Iron Age (Middle Cadbury) contexts at South Cadbury (Roe forthcoming b). The fragment came from yard F110.

Whetstones

Both of the whetstones, nos 11 and 12, apparently result from the casual use of broken slabs of building stone. They are made from Old Red Sandstone, but a dark red, micaceous variety, different from any used for querns, and with a separate source, probably Prior's Hill above Wells (Green and Welch 1955, 13), where there are old quarries some five miles (8km) from the site. Another six Old Red Sandstone whetstones came from the 1990 excavations (Roe forthcoming a).

Other stone artefacts

Mendip Old Red Sandstone was also used for a small rubber/hammerstone, no 9. A small dish or mortar, no 10, only some 110-120mm in diameter, was made from another material that was available close to the site, shelly limestone from Doulting. More recent quarries in the Doulting stone are sited some 2.1 miles (3.4km) from Fosse Lane. The same stone was also used for details on Roman buildings at Fosse Lane (Leach and Evansforthcoming), and also for a child's coffin, nos 15 and 16. The small vessel probably represents the contingent use of a spare piece of building stone.

Building stone

It was possible to use stone extensively for building at Fosse Lane, as good materials were available either on or within a few miles of the site, and the local Lias in particular was utilised in various capacities. None of the catalogued items, as it happens, is dated earlier than the fourth century. By then (period 5), there is some evidence, no 13, for the use of ashlar masonry, made from the local Jurassic limestone which was brought in from around 2-3 miles (3.2-4.8km) south east of the site.

4 Half lower stone of rotary quern, diam *c.* 355mm th. at edge 36mm, in centre 77.5mm; pecked grinding surface. Mendip Old Red Sandstone conglomerate, probably from Beacon hill, SF 385, F113, Structure 2

5 Fragment of rotary quern, Roman disc type, probably upper stone; top surface and edge are pecked to shape, th. at edge 43mm. Upper Old Red sandstone from Forest of Dean. SF 293, layer 2025, Structure 7 destruction

6 Half lower stone of rotary quern, diam *c.* 370mm, max th. at edge 74mm in centre 110mm, grinding surface worn smooth, trace of socket for spindle. Jurassic sandstone or 'roach' from the Harptree Beds. SF 402, F110

7 Half upper stone of small rotary quern, diam *c.* 365mm, max th. 60.5mm; fairly smooth grinding surface, now weathered, trace of slot in side for handle. Mendip Old Red Sandstone, pebbly sandstone probably from Beacon hill. SF 403, Area B

8 Complete lower stone large rotary quern, Roman disc type, diam *c.* 430x445mm, th. at rim 48mm; grinding surface mostly worn smooth, underside more roughly shaped, central hole. Mendip Old Red Sandstone conglomerate, probably from Beacon hill. SF 405, surface find Area B

9 Small rubber/hammerstone, utilising pebble, 78x54x25mm. Mendip Old Red sandstone. SF 119, surface find Building 6

10 Fragment from small dish or mortar; diam *c.* 110-112mm, depth 45mm. Doulting stone. SF 121, surface find Building 6

11 Whetstone, utilising rectangular slab of sandstone, wear on one flat surface; iron stained, 100x66x20mm. Dark red micaceous Mendip Old Red Sandstone, could be from Prior's hill. SF 302, layer 2030, under F228

12 Whetstone, utilising broken triangular slab, worn smooth on four surfaces; 126x96x31mm. Dark red micaceous Mendip Old Red Sandstone, could be from Prior's hill. SF 304, 2095, rakeout from F264

13 Three large worked fragments, burnt; two fitting, with flat surface, the third with a flat surface and a carved area; re-used building stone? Oolitic limestone, coarser grained than no 14 and with some large pieces of shell; local Jurassic. SF 292, layer 2029, in Structure 7

14 Two fragments from column, diam *c.* 170mm. Oolitic limestone with a few shell fragments; Bath stone. SF 120, Structure 6 demolition

15 Coffin lid fragment, th. 98mm. Shelly limestone, Doulting. SF342, grave F208

16 Stone box coffin. SF 342, grave F208.

In addition a further fragment of rotary quern, SF 122, was found in Building 7 destruction. This was not seen by the author.

The charred plant remains *Julie Jones*

Introduction and methods

Extensive environmental sampling was carried out as part of the excavation with samples recovered from ditches, pits and other features associated with activities in the settlement. Most of the samples were 30 litres and these were flotation sieved to a 250 micron float and 500 micron residue and allowed to dry. Thirty-two flots which contained charred plant macrofossils and charcoal were assessed by Vanessa Straker (Leach and Ellis 1996). In view of the low concentration of material in most of the samples it was recommended that only ten were analysed further. These were examined under a low-powered microscope. Preservation was variable with much of the cereal grain being in poor condition, in contrast to the chaff and weed seeds which were generally well preserved. The results are shown in Table 6. Plant nomenclature and habitat information follows Stace (1991) and cereal grain and chaff determinations are based on Jacomet (1987).

Results

Area A

From spread F133, context 1002 (sample ES14)

Substantial quantities of barley grain were recovered, including tail grain (smaller than 5mm) with some examples well enough preserved to confirm the presence of hulled barley. Only 8 wheat grains were present with a few silicified wheat/barley awns and a single charred oat awn. Weed seeds were also limited to a few grasses, sedges and docks.

From ditch F134, context 1061 (sample ES29)

Cereal remains were more frequent with 53 wheat and 11 barley grains with accompanying wheat glume bases and spikelet forks. Oat grains were more frequent but no accompanying chaff was recovered to confirm whether this would have been the domesticated variety or whether the oat was present as a crop weed. Other weed seeds include a similar assemblage of arable weeds with the addition of scentless mayweed. The *Brassica/Sinapis* seed may be a crop weed but could also represent the cultivation of plants of the cabbage family such as mustard, rape or cole. Hazelnut fragments from this deposit may represent food debris or could have been collected with firewood. There were over 300 fragments of charcoal of identifiable size (greater than 2mm overall dimensions) recovered from this sample, some of which may have been hazel.

From burnt area F143, context 1022, within Structure 1 (sample ES4)

This sample only contained 8 wheat grains and a single barley grain. No chaff was present and the weed assemblage was of a similar composition to the previous samples.

Table 6: Charred plant macrofossils: occurrence

		PHASE 2				PHASE 3		PHASE 4	PHASE 5			HABITAT
	Context No	1002	2041	2046	2047	1022	1061	2017	2038	2053	2650	
	Sample No	ES14	ES9	ES6	ES11	ES4	ES29	ES7	ES23	ES2	ES10	
	Flot size (ml)	42	70	28	25	150	550	45	40	23		
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS												
Cereals												
Grain												
Triticum sp	Wheat	8	11	4	11	7	28	13	2	5	4	
c.f *Triticum* sp			7	5			15					
Triticum sp (tail grain)			1			1	10		2			
Hordeum sp	Barley	180	6	2	2	1	6			1		
Hordeum sp (hulled)		45	2				1					
Hordeum sp (tail grain)		12										
Hordeum sp (hulled/tail grain)		6										
c.f. *Hordeum* sp			4	3		2	4					
Avena sp	Oat	13	3		1		13		3		2	
c.f. *Avena* sp							6					
Cereal indet		28	9	6	6	4	33	5	6		3	
	Total	**292**	**43**	**20**	**20**	**15**	**116**	**18**	**13**	**6**	**9**	
Chaff												
Triticum spelta (glume base)	Wheat		19		2		36		7		13	
Triticum sp (glume base)			49	9	11		57	3	16	3	25	
Triticum sp (spikelet fork)			5	2			10		2		5	
Triticum sp (rachis internode base)							1					
Triticum/Hordeum sp (awns - silicified)	Wheat/Barley	few	2									
Avena sp (awn)		1	1						1			
Cereal sprout (coleoptile)										1	2	
	Total	1	76	11	13	0	104	3	26	4	45	

	Context No Sample No	1002 ES14	2041 ES9	2046 ES6	2047 ES11	1022 ES4	1061 ES29	2017 ES7	2038 ES23	2053 ES2	2650 ES10	HABITAT
Weeds												
RANUNCULACEAE												
Ranunculus spp (inside of)	Buttercup					5				7		DG
Ranunculus flammula L.	Lesser Spearwort		1				1					M
POLYGONACEAE												
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love	Black-bindweed		1				12					CD
Rumex sp	Dock	3	2	19	4	2	4	4	1	3	1	DG
BRASSICACEAE												
Brassica/Sinapis spp	Mustard/Rape/Cole						1					CD#
FABACEAE												
Lathyrus/Vicia spp	Vetch			1	1							DG
Lathyrus/Vicia/Pisum spp	Vetch/Pea					4						DG#
Trifolium/Medicago spp	Clover/Medick	1		1	1	3		1		4	1	CDG
Vicia c.f. *tetrasperma* (L.)Schreber	Smooth Tare			2								G
APICACEAE												
Apium graveolens L.	Wild Celery	1										ws
PLANTAGINACEAE												
Plantago lanceolata L.	Ribwort Plantain	2	3			1		2	1	2	1	G
SCROPHULARIACEAE												
Odontites/Euphrasia spp	Bartsia/Eyebright			1		3				1		CD
RUBIACEAE												
Galium aparine L.	Cleavers			2				2				CHSo
ASTERACEAE												
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking Chamomile					1						CDd
Centaurea sp	Knapweed			2								DG
Leucanthemum vulgare Lam	Oxeye Daisy					1						G-rich soils
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.)Schultz. Bip	Scentless mayweed						1					CD

	Context No Sample No	1002 ES14	2041 ES9	2046 ES6	2047 ES11	1022 ES4	1061 ES29	2017 ES7	2038 ES23	2053 ES2	2650 ES10	HABITAT
JUNCACEAE												
Juncus sp	Rush					1						GMRw
POACEAE												
Bromus racemosus hordaceus/secalinus	Smooth/soft/rye Brome		4	1	1				1	1	2	DG/DG/CD
Cynosurus cristatus L.	Crested Dog's-tail										1	G
Danthonia decumbens (L.)DC	Heath-grass	1										Ew sandy/peaty
Poa/Phleum spp	Meadow-grass/ Cat's-tail	1	2	6	1	2				3		G
Poaceae indet	Grass	3	1	8	8	1	2	4	6	5	1	G
Indet		2				2	1					
	Total	**16**	**16**	**44**	**18**	**26**	**54**	**13**	**9**	**31**	**8**	
OTHER REMAINS												
Buds						3	1					
Charcoal (fragments >2mm)		<20	100+	50+	<40	<200	300+	50+	<50	<10	50+	

Habitats.
C: Cultivated/Arable. D: Disturbed. E: Heath/Moor. G: Grassland. H:Hedgerow. M: Marsh.
R: Rivers/streams. S: Scrub. W: Woodland.
d: dry soils. n: nitrogen rich soils. o: open habitats. w: wet soils.
#: cultivated plant/of economic importance

Area B

From spread of pottery and burnt material, context 2017 (sample ES7)

This sample produced a few wheat grains with 3 glume bases and a low concentration of weed seeds.

From ditch F236, context 2038 (sample ES23)

This contained 4 wheat grains, wheat glume bases and spikelet forks, 3 oat grains and 9 weed seeds, mostly grasses.

From pit F243, context 2050 (sample ES10)

Numbers of grains were low but chaff included spelt and wheat glume bases with 2 cereal sprouts. Seeds were limited to single examples of arable weeds with one hazel nut fragment.

From pit F243, context 2041 (sample ES9)

Limited numbers of both wheat and barley grains with a few oats were present. Glume bases of *Triticum spelta* confirmed the presence of spelt wheat but most of the glumes and spikelet forks were too abraded to identify further. A range of weed seeds was recovered, including some typical arable weeds such as orache, black bindweed and brome.

From ditches F245, context 2047, and F246, context 2046 (samples ES6 and ES11)

Both ditch fills produced a few examples of wheat, barley, a single oat grain and some wheat chaff. Slightly higher numbers of seeds included arable weeds such as dock, orache, bartsia/eyebright, cleavers, stinking chamomile as well as some species which are also typical of grassy places. These include clover/medick, vetches and grasses.

From oven F249, context 2053 (sample ES2)

This sample contained limited cereal and weed remains.

Discussion

The range of cultivated plants and their associated weed assemblages recovered throughout the different phases of activity at Fosse Lane are very similar, with both wheat and barley grains present throughout, wheat on the whole being predominant.

The single exception is from Phase 2 where 243 barley grains and only 8 wheat grains were found amongst the spread of burnt clay associated with F133. No cereal chaff was found with the grains in this sample apart from a few silicified wheat/barley awns and a single oat awn. There were also very few weed seeds. This is therefore likely to represent the remains of a cleaned crop which had become burnt. None of the grains showed signs of sprouting, although a few detached cereal sprouts were recovered from other samples.

On the whole the cereal grain was poorly preserved with much of the surface layers lost through burning and many grains were encrusted with sediment. Although all the wheat was identified as *Triticum* sp, many of the wheat grains were of the straight parallel sided form, typical of spelt wheat and the presence of spelt glume bases confirms the presence of this crop. Some grains had a more rounded dorsal surface with steeply angled embryo characteristic of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), although no free-threshing wheat chaff was recovered. *Triticum spelta* is the wheat most commonly found in the Romano-British period. The chaff recovered represents the debris from the threshing of spelt, which does not have free-threshing grains and would have required parching to render the glumes brittle to free the grain.

The soils around Shepton Mallet are shallow well drained brashy calcareous clayey soils over limestone with some deeper calcareous clayey soils. Much of the land use today is cereals and short term grassland with stock rearing and dairying. The environs of the Romano-British settlement would therefore have been suitable for local cultivation. Spelt, which is the most commonly occurring crop recovered here, is a hardy cereal, ideal for winter sowing, which thrives on heavy soils. Weeds of autumn-sown grain crops (the Secaletea) such as wheat, germinate in the autumn and grow rapidly in the spring along with the crop and are then harvested with the cereals. This group of weeds includes examples recovered in many of the samples, including stinking chamomile, cleavers and some species of vetch. Stinking chamomile also suggests tillage of heavier soils. Other weeds found include black bindweed, and scentless mayweed. The oats could also have occurred as weeds, as it was not possible to tell whether these were the domesticated or wild variety, as no oat chaff, necessary to confirm this, was found. The brome is also likely to have occurred as an arable weed but may have been collected and utilised with the crop. It has been described as a famine food by some authors. Jones (1981) remarks that even in this century in Denmark, seeds of brome were collected and ground to flour as a famine food when the rye crop failed.

The fact that fine chaff and weed seeds have been recovered from the Roman town does suggest that the crops were being brought into the town partly processed, the spelt wheat perhaps in spikelet form, with the final cleaning and removal of grain from chaff taking place in the settlement. However, apart from the find of cleaned barley from F133, charred crop and weed remains are scarce suggesting that if any large-scale processing was taking place in the settlement, this was in a different part of the town.

There are a number of other Romano-British sites where plant macrofossil analysis has been carried out in the local region. Six samples were recovered following the excavations at Fosse Lane in 1990 (Straker 1994). These contained a similar range of

cultivated and wild plants to those recovered in 1996. In the different phases examined in 1990 both wheat and barley grains were present with spelt glume bases and spikelet forks confirming the presence of spelt. Only a limited weed assemblage was however recovered. A burnt layer beneath a floor in a late 2nd/3rd century building and a hearth inside a 3rd-century building were the most productive deposits. The hearth was composed of 70% cereal chaff, mostly spelt spikelet forks and glume bases, with 21% grain, largely wheat and only 9% weeds and was interpreted as cereal chaff being used as tinder. Deposits of chaff are frequently interpreted as fuel and have been recorded locally at Roman sites at Catsgore (Hillman 1982) and Kenn Moor (Jones *et al* forthcoming) from corn drying ovens. The layer under the floor (6044) was composed of 69% grain, most probably spelt, with 29% largely spelt glumes and only 2% weeds. It is not known how the layer of burnt grain became incorporated into the floor deposit, although this building is interpreted as a barn, but there was no evidence that it had burnt down.

Other Romano-British sites in the locality include Catsgore (Hillman 1982), three sites at Ilchester (Murphy 1982) as well as more recent excavations at Ilchester (Stevens forthcoming). From the latter, a rich assemblage of charred plant remains dominated by grains and chaff of spelt, with only sparse barley and free-threshing wheat was recovered. A range of arable weeds from a number of habitats indicate the cultivation of a range of soil types. Stevens also suggests the cereals were stored at different times either fully or partly processed for use by individual households in the Roman town.

The animal bone *Umberto Albarella and Andy Hammon*

Introduction and methods

The excavated material would seem to represent a typical Roman urban assemblage. Cattle dominate, followed by sheep and then pig. Horse, dog and domestic chicken were present, but appeared in low numbers. Fragmentation and butchery suggest that most bones derive from food refuse. Due to its small size it was considered inconvenient to divide the assemblage into seven chronological groups. Consequently, Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4, and Phases 5 and 6 have been grouped together. These will be referred to as 'Earlier Roman'and 'Later Roman/Saxon' respectively. Phase 7 has not been considered because it was likely to be affected by residuality and contamination problems. The majority of animal bone was recovered by hand collection during the excavation. No bulk sieving specifically for the recovery of animal bone was undertaken. A very small amount of animal bone came from samples taken for flotation. The quantity of animal bone recovered from the samples was very small and prior to the assessment it had been incorporated into the hand-collected material. Consequently, the hand and sieve collected material had to be treated as a single assemblage. The samples taken for fine sieving and flotation varied between 20-30 litres, unless the context from which they derived was smaller.

In such cases the whole context was sampled. The coarse residue was washed over an approximately 2 mm mesh.

The presence of residual material cannot be estimated from the animal bone alone; a figure of about 40% was suggested by the pottery analysis for the later group. The later Roman/Saxon material has, therefore, to be treated with caution. Dogs had gnawed 53% of the 'countable' post-cranial skeletal elements. This would suggest that a fairly high proportion of the animal bones recovered from Fosse Lane may not result from primary deposition, but secondary deposition caused by scavenging dogs. Consequently spatial analyses need to be treated with caution, although some groups, such as the concentration of cattle mandibles in ditch F236, context 2039, seem unaffected.

In general bone preservation (cortical integrity) was fairly good with little exfoliation. However, some contexts were not so well preserved, with poor cortical integrity and extensive abrasion. There was little variation in colour and it followed no discernible pattern. The animal bones were heavily fragmented and this is indicative of material deriving from butchery and kitchen waste.

The mammal bones were recorded following a modified version of the method described in Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994). This system considers a selected suite of anatomical elements as 'countable'; it does not include every bone fragment that is identifiable. Mandibular fragments were considered to be ageable when there were two teeth present with recognizable wear. All pig measurements follow the definitions of Payne and Bull (1988) and measurements for all species follow Davis (1992).

The differentiation of sheep and goat was attempted on the following elements: deciduous lower premolars (dP3 and dP4); humerus; metacarpal; tibia; astragalus; calcaneum; and metatarsal. The criteria defined by Boessneck (1969) were used for all elements except the teeth (Payne 1985) and the tibia (Kratochvil 1969). The Chicken/Guinea Fowl/Pheasant (*Gallus/Numida/Phasianus*) distinction was attempted on the following elements: articular end of the scapula, shaft of the carpometacarpus, proximal end of the femur and shaft of the tarsometatarsus. Mandibular teeth, both *in situ* and loose, were aged using wear patterns. The system recommended by Grant (1982) was used for cattle and pig, whereas the wear of sheep/goat teeth was recorded according to Payne (1973; 1987).

Occurrence and frequency of species

The following mammal and bird species were identified: Cattle (*Bos taurus*), Sheep (*Ovis aries*), Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), Pig (*Sus scrofa*), Equid (*Equus sp.*), Dog (*Canis familiaris*), Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Domestic Chicken (*Gallus gallus*), Chicken/Guinea Fowl/Pheasant (*Gallus/Numida/Phasianus*) and Rook/Crow (*Corvus frugilegus/corone*). Two bird bones have been provisionally identified as the distal radius of a large corvid, most likely a Raven (*Corvus corax*) (context 2009) and the proximal radius of a Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) or a related species (context 2050). No small mammals or fish bones were recovered, but their absence may be

due to a recovery bias. As is well known the bones of these small animals can easily be overlooked during excavation. In 1990 no fish bone and only one specimen of a small mammal - this was a Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) - were found (Pinter Bellows forthcoming).

Most of the caprine remains could not be identified at species level and had to be recorded as sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*). However, it may be inferred that the majority was in fact sheep (*Ovis aries*), as 29 specimens belonged to this species and none could be identified as goat (*Capra hircus*) - including horn-cores (Tables 7 and 8). However, goat must have been present on site as 9 goat specimens - compared to 56 sheep and 218 sheep/goat - were recorded from the 1990 excavations (Pinter-Bellows forthcoming). Goat, although at its commonest in the Romano-British period, is never well represented in British assemblages (Albarella and Davis 1996; Dobney *et al* undated).

Table 7: Animal bone: numbers of animal bone and teeth (NISP including hand and sieve collection)

Species	Earlier Roman	Later Roman/Saxon	Total
Cattle (Bos taurus)	319	147	466
Sheep/Goat (Ovis/Caprid)	173	55	228
Sheep (Ovis aries)	22	7	29
Pig (Sus scrofa)	36	25	61
Dog (Canis familiaris)	7	6	13
Equid (Equus sp.)	10	11	21
Red Deer (Cervus elaphus)	1	0	1
Chicken (Gallus gallus)	1	1	2
Chicken/Guinea Fowl/Pheasant (Gallus/Numida/Phasianus)	3	1	4
Rook/Crow (Corvus frugilegus/corone)	0	1	1
Total	572	254	826

* includes both hand and sieve collected specimens

Table 8: Animal bone numbers (NISP) and percentages of the three major domesticates

	Earlier Roman		Later Roman/Saxon		Total
Species	N	%	N	%	
Cattle (Bos taurus)	319	60	147	63	466
Sheep (Ovis aries)*	195	36	62	27	257
Pig (Sus scrofa)	22	4	25	10	47
Total	536		234		770

* combines both Sheep/Goat (Ovis/Caprid) and Sheep (Ovis aries)

Four different methods were employed to quantify the relative importance of species present (Fig 23).

1. NISP: Number of identified specimens. A simple count of 'counted' bone fragments by skeletal element and the total number of fragments per species.

2. MNI: Minimum number of individuals. The most frequently occurring element denotes the MNI for that species. MNI was calculated as follows: incisors and phalanges divided by 8; deciduous and permanent premolars by 6; $M_{1/2}$ by 4; all other elements by 2, except metapodials. The metacarpal and the metatarsal were calculated in the following way: metacarpal (MC1 + MC2/2 + MC1/2 + MP2/4)/2; metatarsal (MT1 + MT2/2 + MT1/2 + MP2/4)/2.

3. Harcourt: Live weight ratios based on Harcourt (1979), calculated on the meat contribution of sheep and goats being equal to 1, pigs being equal to 1.5 and cattle being equal to 10.

4. Manching: Live weight ratios based on the mid-point values taken from the Manching data set by Dobney *et al* (nd). Cattle live weight was considered to be 275 kg, sheep live weight 37.5 kg and pig live weight 85 kg. Therefore, 7.3 sheep equals a single cow and 2.3 sheep equal 1 pig.

All four methods were applied to cattle and sheep, whereas horse, pig and all other mammal and birds species were quantified using NISP only (due to their lower frequency). All four methods clearly demonstrate that cattle were the most abundant species and economically the most important animal, followed by sheep and then pig. The frequency of the main taxa in the Earlier Roman and Later Roman/Saxon periods is similar, although sheep seems slightly less common in the later period. The pattern described above occurs using all the methods with the exception of MNI for Later Roman/Saxon. This shows cattle and sheep to be present in equal numbers, which probably results from the small size of the assemblage.

Unsurprisingly, the live weight estimations show cattle to have occurred in far greater proportions for both periods. According to this system the contribution of beef to the meat supply would range between 84% and 94% per cent, that of mutton between 4% and 12% and of pork between 1% and 4% (Fig 23). The predominance of cattle is quite common for a Romano-British assemblage and falls within the range of 59% cattle to 32% sheep expected on non-military Romanised sites (King 1984). The results discussed above are very similar to those from the earlier excavation at Fosse Lane, although in that assemblage sheep were the most numerous species using NISP (Pinter-Bellows forthcoming).

Skeletal representation and butchery

Skeletal representation has only been considered in detail for cattle and sheep, due to the small number of bones of all other species. In Figure 24 each cattle and sheep skeletal element has been shown as a percentage of the most commonly occurring element (according to MNI). Proportions of butchered bone and the type of butchery have been summarized in Figure 25. For both species and periods a similar pattern appears. This pattern generally reflects the taphonomic processes affecting the assemblage at Fosse Lane. Certain bones are more durable than others, therefore

dense bones, such as the calcaneum and astragalus, survive better than less compact and late fusing bones, such as the two ends of the femur and the proximal humerus. For a similar reason teeth also survive well. Brain (1981) summarizes the post-depositional destruction of skeletal elements and the Fosse Lane cattle and sheep generally adhere to this pattern. In addition, the recovery bias favouring the larger bones will also lead to some elements being under represented. The skeletal representation of cattle and sheep at Fosse Lane does not indicate any specialized activities, such as, for example, bone/horn working on a commercial scale, and can entirely be explained on the basis of recovery and taphonomic effects.

Maltby (1981) has noted that the type of butchery in cattle for the Roman period varies depending on the nature of the site. Rural sites have prevalence for cut bone, whereas urban sites have a prevalence for chopped bone. At Fosse Lane (for both Earlier and Later Roman/Saxon) the butchery on post-cranial elements was divided as 69% chopped and 31% cut. As noted above, the high level of fragmentation is typical of kitchen and butchery waste. The fair number of butchery marks found on the bones also confirms this (Fig 25).

The deposit in ditch F236 (context 2039), dated to the Earlier Roman, contained 12 cattle mandibles and relatively large quantities of loose teeth. Five of the 12 mandibles had been chopped. These may derive from primary butchery waste, therefore suggesting that the primary dismemberment of freshly slaughtered animals may have been carried out on site. Three horse bones showed butchery evidence, 3 cut and 1 chop marked. All occur on the lower limb bones (2 first phalanges and 1 metatarsal) from context 2010. Skinning probably caused the cut marks. The first phalanx (context 2010) displaying both cut and chop marks is more difficult to interpret. The chop could have been made for a variety of reasons, including a rather crude way to separate the hide and the consumption of horse marrow either for dogs or people. Despite the assemblage being rather small, the skeletal representation (Fig 24) and butchery (Fig 25) is informative. Most body parts from the main domesticates were represented; this would suggest that animals were being butchered on site.

Age at death

The small numbers of ageable mandibles has meant that it has only been possible to construct a survivorship/mortality curve for the Earlier Roman cattle (Fig 26). The fusion data generally support the pattern suggested by the ageable mandibles.

The Earlier Roman period saw the majority of cattle being kept till they were adult. This would suggest that they were primarily used for secondary products, such as dairy or traction. Animals would only being slaughtered once they had stopped producing milk or they would have become too weak to pull the plough. The fact that Roman written sources, such as Columella and Varro, hardly mention cow milk but at the same time emphasize the importance of sheep and goat dairy products (White 1970) probably suggests that cattle were mainly used as draught animals. The lack of very young individuals – normally associated with milk exploitation (Payne 1973; Legge 1981) – seems to support this suggestion.

Because of the small size of this assemblage only very general information may be obtained from the sheep ageing data. Sheep, for both periods, were kept to at least 1 year and up to 8 years (Payne's stages D-H) before being slaughtered. Consequently, it is not known whether they were primarily utilized for milk, meat, wool or a combination. Only 3 very young 'countable' post-cranial elements were recorded, although they were not young enough to indicate on-site breeding.

Only very few pig mandibles were present but fusion data suggest that two thirds of the post-cranial 'countable' pig bone was either unfused or fusing (7 of 11 elements). This would suggest that the majority of individuals were being killed while either immature or sub-adult. This is the optimum age for slaughter - the pig would have almost reached its maximum weight by this age.

The number of cattle mandibles from the Earlier Roman period has allowed a comparison with other Roman sites (Fig 27). The Fosse Lane survivorship curve is comparable with other sites at Lincoln (1st-3rd centuries), Exeter (1st-3rd centuries), and Tanner Row, York (1st-3rd centuries) up to the sub-adult age stage. At which point it decreases slightly, falling just below the other curves. This may tentatively suggest a higher reliance on beef than at the other sites.

Morphology and size

Little metric data was collected from the Fosse Lane animal bones. This is due to the small size of the assemblage and the high degree of fragmentation. As a result it has not been possible to chart the changes in size and morphology over time and a greater emphasis has been placed on an inter-site comparison. Maltby (1981) states that the greatest lateral length (GLI) of the astragalus is the most commonly taken measurement in Roman cattle assemblages. Unfortunately, the Fosse Lane assemblage only produced 3 measurements (from both periods). Although it has not been possible to calculate a mean based on so few measurements, it is possible to demonstrate that all are within the range suggested by the other sites (Table 9). Pinter-Bellows (forthcoming) uses the distal breadth (Bd) of the sheep tibia to make an inter-site comparison. Again, it has not been possible to calculate a mean for this Fosse Lane assemblage (only 5 measurable specimens from both periods), but all are within the range suggested by the other sites (Table 9). Thus, all that can be said of the Fosse Lane cattle and sheep is that they were of a similar size to animals from other Roman sites.

Mandibular third molar's (M_3) were the only element from the second Fosse Lane assemblage to occur frequently enough to allow a reliable comparison (Fig 28). Length and width were compared to specimens from sites on Ermine St in Cambridgeshire (Albarella 1998) and from Dodder Hill (Davis 1988). Albarella (1998) concluded that, taking into account regional and chronological variation, the greater size of the Ermine St specimens may be attributed to larger imported continental cattle making a greater contribution to the local genotype. The Fosse Lane specimens show greater variation, but are generally similar to the Dodder Hill

cattle. This, therefore, supports Pinter-Bellows'(forthcoming) hypothesis that the Fosse Lane cattle were of a relatively small size.

Table 9: Animal bone: comparison of cattle and sheep measurements from selected Romano-British sites

Cattle astragalus (GLl)

Site	Number	Mean (tenths of mm)	Range (tenths of mm)
Carlisle, 73/74-100/105[1]	16	571	528-641
Corstopitum, Roman	9	580	530-630
Fosse Lane, Roman[2]	18	582	500-625
Exeter, 300-400	18	583	543-620
West Stow, Roman[3]	4	608	597-630
Baylham House, 100-200	10	613	560-658
Alcester, Late Roman	30	614	539-679
Shakenoak, Late Roman	454	616	530-720
Winnall Down, Early Roman	16	616	561-684

Sheep and sheep/goat tibia (Bd)

Site	Number	Mean (tenths of mm)	Range (tenths of mm)
Carlisle, 73/74-100/105[1]	31	226	206-248
Balksbury 1973, Roman	7	228	210-273
Frocester Court, 100-300	12	228	200-250
Exeter, 55-100	21	231	213-292
Fosse Lane, Roman[2]	11	232	210-249
Exeter 100-300	30	233	214-259
Alcester, 100-200	9	236	211-260
Exeter, 300-400	15	239	223-270
Winnall Down	8	239	219-256
Frocester Court, Late Roman	13	240	230-270
Shakenoak, Late Roman	26	245	220-280
Baylham House, 100-200	22	245	216-288
Alcester, Late Roman	59	255	212-294
West Stow, Roman[3]	9	256	221-274

1. Stallibrass (1991)
2. Pinter-Bellows (Forthcoming)
3. All others Maltby (1981)

Summary and conclusions

Because of the small nature of this assemblage it has only provided general information regarding the economy and activities of the Fosse Lane inhabitants. In general the Fosse Lane assemblage would seem to be very similar to that from the Showerings site (Pinter-Bellows forthcoming). However, due to its small size it does

not provide much additional evidence to support the earlier conclusions. Preservation
varied, but the majority of bones were not badly abraded or exfoliated. This would suggest that bones were deposited reasonably quickly. However, as suggested by the high level of scavenger gnawing, most bones may derive from secondary deposition. Cattle dominate this assemblage, regardless of which method was used to quantify species abundance (MNI, NISP, Harcourt's live weight ratios and the Manching live weight ratios). This differs slightly from the relative species abundance at the Showerings site (Pinter Bellows forthcoming), which has a greater number of sheep. It was concluded that this may suggest that Fosse Lane was not a heavily romanised site (*ibid*). The findings of the second Fosse Lane assemblage seem to suggest that this may have not necessarily been the case. Throughout prehistoric and Roman periods it was more normal for cattle to be raised on low ground and sheep to be raised on higher ground (Grant 1984). One reason for this is that sheep in low-lying areas were prone to infestations of liver fluke (Dobney *et al* nd).

The human skeletons *Stephanie Pinter-Bellows*

Summary

A total of 10 individuals were recovered. The majority of the skeletons were found in two groupings. Stature and the relatively low rate of pathologies shows this to be a healthy population sample.

Material and methods

A total of 8 inhumations, together with a very small amount of human bone from other contexts, was recovered from the site. Two of the contexts with human bone contained articulating foetal bones which could be shown by age and skeletal elements not to be part of the recognised inhumations and were counted in the total number of individuals. The skeletons were found in two groupings and a few isolated burials. These burials are only a small part of the community which existed at the time, a larger percentage were excavated in 1990. It must be kept in mind throughout this report that the relatively small number of skeletons means that the description of the individual skeletons does not necessarily accurately reflect the mortality conditions which prevailed generally during this period.

An inventory was made of the bones and teeth from each skeleton. Standard metric and non-metric data was recorded; information on sexing and ageing characteristics was collected; and bone and dental pathologies was noted.

The demographic characteristics of each skeleton were established following the criteria and procedures presented in Bass (1971), Brothwell (1981), Phenice (1969), and Stewart (1979). Priority for gender determination was given to innominate morphology. Cranium morphology was also used and, whenever possible, supplemented by univariate measurements of the femur and humerus head, the

glenoid fossa of the scapula, the maximum length of the talus, and other robusticity indicators. Morphological traits of the pelvis and cranium from skeletal series of known sex are reported generally to be around 95% accurate (Krogman 1962); univariate measurements range from 80 to 90% accuracy (Buikstra and Mielke 1985; Dittrick and Suchey 1986; Steele 1976). Sexing was only attempted for adult skeletons (a term used here to indicate those above the age of approximately 20 years).

Subadult age was determined through dental development (Logan and Kronfeld as presented in Downer, 1975) diaphysis lengths (Scheuer *et al* 1980, Workshop of European Anthropologists, 1980) and epiphyseal union (Krogman, 1962; Brothwell, 1981). Adult age was evaluated using the recommendations of the Workshop of European Anthropologists (1980) for pelvis and cranium, Suchey *et al* (unpub) also for pubic symphysis metamorphosis, auricular surface metamorphosis by Lovejoy *et al.* (1985) and dental attrition (Miles 1962, Brothwell 1981). A range of possible ages was first established, using all indicators applicable and then a final best estimate of age was determined by the smallest range of agreement among the indicators. The adults here have been separated into three groups, Young adults (20-29.9), Middle-aged adults (30-49.9), and Old adults (50+). As children's maturation is considered to be a more regular process than the degeneration of the adults', the subadults have been divided into more age categories: Foetal - Birth, Birth 0.9 years, 1-4.9, 5-9.9, 10-14.9, 15-19.9. One other category is also used, Adults age unknown.

Measurements were taken following descriptions in Bass (1971) and Brothwell (1981). Stature was calculated following Trotter (1970). Cranial non-metric variants were recorded as described by Buikstra (1976) and the post-cranial non-metric variants following Finnegan (1978). Pathological conditions were evaluated through gross anatomical observation and radiographic examination. Criteria for probable diagnosis stemmed from Steinbock (1976), Ortner and Putschar (1981), and Rogers *et al* (1987). Coding for dental pathologies followed Hillson (1979).

Condition and taphonomy

The preservation of the majority of the skeletal material was good (Table 10). Preservation was scored as good, fair or poor on the basis of a visual inspection of the remains. Sixty percent were in good condition, 40% fair and none in poor condition.

The degree of completeness varied. Forty percent were over 80% complete, but 30% has less than a fifth of the skeleton present (Table 10). The less complete skeletons are more often found in the shallow graves and those disturbed by ploughing. Both preservation and completeness are very similar to that observed for the skeletons from the 1990 excavations.

Sex and age

Of the 6 adult inhumations, 5 had characteristics allowing the sex to be determined. Metric standards developed during analysis of the 1990 Showerings skeletal analysis (Pinter-Bellows forthcoming) were used for univariate measurements of the femur

and humerus head, the glenoid fossa of the scapula, and the maximum length of the talus.

Table 10: Human bone: condition and degree of completeness of skeletons

Completeness	Condition			Total
	Good	Fair	Poor	
<20%	2	1	-	3
20-40%	-	-	-	0
40-60%	-	1	-	1
60-80%	2	-	-	2
80%+	2	2	-	4
Total	6	4	0	10

Table 11: Human bone: demography for Shepton Mallet

Age	Unknown Sex	Males	Females	Total
Fetal - Birth	3			3
Birth -.9	1			1
1-4.9				
5-9.9				
10-14.9				
15-19.9				
Young adults (20-29.9)			1	1
Middle-aged adults (30-49.9)		3	1	4
Old adults (50+)				
Adults age unknown	1			1
Total	5	3	2	10

Table 12 Human bone: stature, means and ranges

Sex	N	Measurements	
<u>Tescos (1996)</u>			
Female	10	162 cm (5' 4") and 159 cm. (5' 2")	
Male	2	174 cm (5' 7") and 180 cm (5' 8")	
Sex	N	Mean	Range
<u>Showerings (1990)</u>			
Female	10	162 cm (5' 4")	157 cm (5' 2") – 168 cm (5'6")
Male	12	171 cm (5' 7")	162 cm (5'4") – 178 cm (5' 9")

*N is the number of individuals for which the elements were observable

Two skeletons were diagnosed as female and three as male (Table 11). This fairly even gender ratio was also seen in the 1990 excavation. It is generally assumed that cemeteries with an even sex distribution are likely to be those where a representative selection of the whole adult population was buried, probably in family groups. This certainly appears to be the case archaeologically and osteologically at Fosse Lane.

In turning to the age profile of this small group (Table 11), 40% of the individuals are subadults (those individuals approximately under the age of 20 years). This figure is around that which would be expected in a representative population sample. Three of the four subadults recovered are late foetal or neonate. It was not possible from the skeletal evidence to determine whether they were stillborn or died in the immediate post-natal period. The other subadult died within the first year of life. In a larger grouping of skeletons where statistical chance figures less heavily into the age of death, the skeletons of several older children would have been expected. The adult age distribution shows that the greatest percentage of aged adults were in the middle-aged category (four out of the five adults which could be aged). This is a quite common distribution.

Stature

The four adults whose stature could be calculated fit comfortably within the distribution from the 1990 excavation (Table 12). Developmental stress (which can affect stature) does not seem to have been a problem for Fosse Lane with the mean statures for both males and females equal to the tallest means of the other population samples (Pinter-Bellows 1990). This similarity of stature shows that the subadults experienced no more overall stress during development than the subadults from other sites examined.

Skeletal and dental malformations and anomalies

There is one minor skeletal anomaly which was noted. The dens epiphysis of the 2nd cervical vertebra never fused to the body of the dens in the middle-aged male (HB 8) leading to a pseudarthosis (a supernumerary articulation). This appears to have caused little trouble for the individual, the articulation on the 1st cervical vertebra is just slightly larger and on two planes, and while slightly rough does not show much osteophyte development.

Pathology

Dental Disease

For the six adults, 4 maxillae and 4 mandibles survive, with all tooth positions available for study. Only one of these four individuals, a middle-aged male (HB 8), shows evidence of ante-mortem tooth loss. Two individuals have caries, a middle-aged female (HB 1) with four and a middle-aged male (HB 8) with five. Caries are formed when sugars in the presence of harmless bacteria ferment and the resultant

plaque has a pH low enough to demineralise enamel, cement, and dentine. In the male one of these caries has resulted in a point abscess, a local circumscribed area of infection (osteomyelitis).

Two individuals, a middle-aged female (HB 1) and a middle-aged male (HB 7) have dental calculus. Dental calculus may be considered as a mineralized dental plaque. It takes the form of a concretion on the teeth consisting mainly of calcium salts and, in life, organic material in which flourishes numerous bacteria; it is associated with poor oral hygiene. Periodontal disease is perhaps the best skeletal indicator of general oral hygiene (Manchester 1984, 34). It involves inflammatory pitting of the alveolar margins and the progressive alveolar resorption resulting in exposure of tooth root. Two individuals show evidence of this, a young adult female (HB 2) and a middle-aged male (HB 7).

Enamel hypoplasia is an area with a deficiency of enamel of a developmental origin in a tooth. The area affected is usually a band or a line of pitting. It occurs during acute severe stress and has a non-specific aetiology. It is associated with general systemic disorder and nutritional deficiency. There are also some forms of enamel hypoplasia which are hereditary or occur through trauma to the tooth; in order to identify and discount these types, in this study enamel hypoplasia was only counted if at least two teeth from different classes were affected. It was noted on permanent teeth of both of the females (HB 1 and HB 2).

Metabolic and nutritional disease

One individual, an infant whose tooth eruption/calcification was of a 9 month old ± 3 months (HB 5), has porotic hyperostosis. It is presented as a response to chronic anaemia (Moseley 1974). This anaemia can be caused by a number of factors, such as physiological susceptibility, poor nutrition or parasitic infestation. In this individual, the associated anaemia would probably be iron deficiency in childhood probably caused by malnutrition and infections; an iron inadequacy can also be exacerbated by high lead intake. The anaemic state stimulates a proliferative reaction of the marrow in an attempt to make good its deficiency. The marrow space enlarges at the expense of the outer layer of bone. This becomes thin and porous and the marrow cells extend through it. The subsequent deposition of new bone upon these cells has given rise to the classic 'hair-on-end' appearance of the outer table in this individual of the frontal, parietals and occipital. The outer surface of the long bones is also raised and very porotic. In this individual the chronic anaemia has lead to a 'failure to thrive' (obviously followed by death) as while the dental age of this individual is estimated at approximately nine months, measurements of the long bones gives a developmental age of a 40 week ± 2 week old foetus.

An aetiologically related condition, cribra orbitalia, has been observed of the trabecular type in a middle-aged male (HB 7). Cribra orbitalia is an increase of the diploic bone in the orbital roofs resulting in an increase in the thickness of the orbital plate and sieve-like lesions or pits appearing in the thin cortical bone layer of the orbital roofs. It is usually considered to be due to anaemia in young childhood, and not to develop in response to anaemia in adulthood (Stuart-Macadam 1985, 398); so

this individual survived the early anaemia, malnutrition and infections which killed the infant.

Infection and inflammation

The majority of infections affect the soft tissues of the body, and many, from influenza and measles to meningitis and pneumonia, run their course too rapidly for the infection process to spread to the bones. Bone lesions are, therefore, going to represent the chronic infections, which are more likely to involve a bacteria than a virus, viral infections being resolved more rapidly. The Fosse Lane individuals show only evidence of non-specific infections, inflammatory in nature, for which the pathogenic agent is unknown. Lesions which are superficial and appear to involve only the fibrous covering of the bone (the periosteum) are termed periostitis. Periostitis is recognised as a deposition of irregular new bone upon the outer surface of a bone. It is usually thin and localised in area, but can be thicker and cover a bone more extensively.

Three individuals exhibit periostitis. One young adult female (HB 2) has unhealed periostitis in a line 21mm long by 9 mm wide perpendicular to the spine on both sides of the body of the left scapula. The sternal end of ten ribs, both left and right have porous new bone on the external surface. Two middle-aged males have healed periostitis on the lower leg; one (HB 7) on the left tibia and fibula and one (HB 8) on the left fibula. Periostitis, in the absence of general pathology, has been noted in association with repeated and minor trauma to the lower legs (Manchester 1984), chronic venous insufficiency (Resnick and Niwayama 1988) and tropical ulcers with soft tissue infection (Molleson 1993).

Trauma

Trauma may affect soft tissue, bone, or both. For trauma to the bone, fractures, there is direct evidence (as discussed below). However, the majority of injuries are sustained by the soft tissues. Evidence for these injuries is indirect and depends on the severity of the damage to the soft tissues adjacent to the bone.

There are four individuals who have injuries to their entheses or syndesmoses. The osseous sites of tendons, which attach the muscles to the bone, and ligaments, which attach near particular joints and limit movement, entheses and syndesmoses respectively, can have alterations occur in the fibres. Disruption of the fibre bundles that are anchored to the underlying bone can cause hyperostotic (bone growth) or osteolytic changes (bone loss) to that area of the bone. They are often degenerative in nature and are "common in older individuals" (Resnick and Niwayama 1981, 1297). If the individual in which the lesion occurs is young and robust and disease is not suggested as the causative agent, then direct and work-related trauma or loading stresses may be explored.

The middle-aged female (HB 1) has 1 mm high enthesophytes (extra bone) on the proximal hand phalanges where the flexor digitorum superficialis attach. This is seen on the proximal and medial phalanges of the right but not the left hand on a middle-

aged male (HB 1). The young adult female (HB 2) has enthesophytes on the left and right humeri on the distal, anterior surface where the brachialis attaches and on the proximal posterior surface of the right fibula where the tibialis posterior attaches. She also has a small roughened circumscribed enthesolithic lesion (area of bone loss) on the left femur on the distal posterior where the medial head of the gastrocnemius attaches. The adult of unknown sex and age (HB 4) has an enthesophyte on the right ulna on the proximal end where the anconeus attaches; a middle-aged male (HB 8) has an enthesophyte for the small muscle of the left ulna.

Another pathology thought to sometimes originate from stress to soft tissue, in this case the intervertebral discs, is Schmorl's node. While its aetiology is not completely understood, it is believed that if the disc located between the vertebrae is subject to too much strain it may rupture. The bubble of escaped material then presses against the body of the adjacent vertebra, which gradually yields to the pressure, allowing a small cavity to be formed in its body. Schmorl's nodes provide evidence of torsional and compressional injuries that have occurred as a result of the sudden application of loading stresses if they are not degenerative or related to various diseases (Resnick and Niwayama 1981, 1404). One middle-aged male (HB 3) exhibits these nodes on five mid to lower thoracic vertebrae.

The one bone fracture found was probably accidental (using criteria from Manchester 1983, 58). A middle-aged male (HB 3) has a healed, simple, closed oblique fracture to the tip of the medial malleolus of the left tibia with less than 5 mm of proximal-anterior displacement; and a simple, closed oblique fracture of the distal articular end of the left fibula with slight displacement.

Neoplastic Disease

Neoplasma or new growth may be classified as malignant or benign. No cases of malignant neoplasms have been found in this sample. There is one case of a benign neoplasm. An osteoma is bone cells in a circumscribed areas, normally in the periosteum, which grow more than the surrounding tissue. The cells eventually mature and the osteoma is not progressive. They are small hemispherical hard projections which are usually about the size of a pea. They are usually symptomless and are not considered to be of clinical significance. A middle-aged male (HB 8) has one on the proximal right thumb phalange, just distal of midway on the medial side of the shaft.

Conclusions

The sample gives a look at what appears to be two family groups and a few others from part of a small community. These individuals were relatively healthy. The adult skeletons are of medium height with mean statures for the males close to the means for other Roman populations in Britain and the females slightly taller than the means of many. There are not a high number of osseous pathologies.

DISCUSSION

Structural elements

Boundaries

Boundaries were maintained through at least 300 years. Most ran from the Fosse Way roughly at right angles to the road defining back plots to the rear of activity on the road frontage. Banks were recognisable as lines of red/orange clay resting on natural rock and clay, and this may well have been a buried soil beneath bank material that, in some cases, had not survived, rather than the bank structure itself. If the latter was the case then clay thrown up from ditch digging cannot have been sufficient and most of the bank material must have been brought in from clay pits nearby. It would seem more likely that the pure clays seen as base bank layers were the buried soil and that the banks themselves were composed of more mixed deposits. Through time it might well be the case that the original ground surface on either side of the banks would have been removed leaving that beneath the banks at a detached and higher level. At excavation this would then be revealed, as was the case, as well-defined linear deposits. It must be suggested that in the cases where red/orange clay only was seen that what was present was not the bank but the remains of the layer beneath it.

The best surviving bank, F234, lay between Compounds 7 and 8. In the section cut across it (Fig 17), the base layer of red clay looked more like a buried soil than the bottom of a bank that chance had reduced almost to nothing. Above the base layer were deposits of clay and stone fronted by a wall to the east, a length of kerbing to the west, and topped with what looked like the base course of a wall, F247. The dating evidence gave a neat progression with late 1st-century pottery in the buried soil, 2nd-century in the layer above and 3rd-century for the layer beneath F247. Although this may not have been a genuine reflection of the process of construction, on the face of it the process would seem to be one of dumps of material added to the bank from time to time. The slightness of scale, even allowing for slumping and degradation, would suggest that the walls played a more important part in defining the boundary.

Walls were added to banks and replaced ditches across the excavations. These were just under 1m wide and for the most part well made. It must be suspected that many were above the height of a person and might be seen more in terms of 18th and 19th-century urban contexts as garden and property boundary walls than as the field boundary walls built no higher than would be necessary to control stock. The remains of the walls alongside the street F101, for example, seem too well made to represent the base of a three foot high wall. These walls, however, were clearly superior to anything to the south.

Most of the banks seen were accompanied by ditches. Two types of ditch were recognisable. The first, the ones accompanying the banks, barely penetrated into the bedrock while the second, the ones running north-south to the east of the settlement were deeply rock cut. Because the former were concerned apparently only with ditching the natural clay, they all disappeared where bedrock rose towards the road frontage, although the boundaries themselves are likely to have continued westward to the road. There was in fact no evidence that the latter, the deeper ditches, had banks alongside them. Instead walls seem to have been sited on their west side, a particularly wide wall footing, F111, being present in the north. Even if banks are argued to have been totally removed there are no clearly defined locations

for them. Stone from these ditches is likely therefore to have been used for walls, and may indeed be the source of the boundary walls. The succession of ditches in Area B may reflect pressure on space in Compound 8.

The settlement's boundaries were thus initially banks and ditches, then well built and perhaps high walls. At one point in the life of the settlement beyond a substantial wall to the east of the settlement would have been a deep cut ditch. Later the wall collapsed and the ditch silted up allowing activities to spread across its line. No evidence was seen that any walls became part of buildings with the exception of Structure 8. Nor were timber structures butted against the walls suggested by any surface collections of flooring materials or disposition of finds. The boundary walls seem to have been freestanding.

Compounds

The basic layout defined by the boundaries was a series of holdings running back from the Fosse Way. These were not regular. Including the Showerings data, eight compounds can be suggested between street F101 and the obliquely angled road at the south end of the Showerings site. The first directly south of F101 may have been only 20m wide, a southern boundary suggested by the geophysical survey. The next would be 40m wide between this and F400, then Compounds 6 and 7, 25 and 20m wide respectively. To the south the next compound may have been 60m wide since the layout at the north end of the Showerings site suggests that Structure 9 there lies within the same holding as Structure 8 on the Tesco site. Thereafter two further compounds of 35 and 60m width can be suggested with a final 50m wide enclosure in the angle formed by the southern track and the Fosse Way.

The compounds ran back to strongly marked eastern boundaries. One was recorded in Area A as ditch F156 and later wall F104 and was also noted in the geophysical survey running south to the north-east corner of Structure 6. This boundary therefore was common to the first two enclosures and may also have continued on a similar line across Compound 7 as F301. Further back a second strong north-south running boundary was seen in the geophysical survey continuing the line of wall F130 southward. This would have run as far as the north-east corner of Compound 7 and then have been continued southward between Compounds 7 and 8 to a southernmost appearance on the Showerings site as the west wall of Structure IX. A further ditch line was seen in excavation, the two great rock cut ditches in Areas A and B and in the geophysical survey, and this, it is suggested, was the same feature as that running east from the road, cutting Structure 7 and then turning northward on the Showerings site. One final boundary was seen only in the geophysical survey apparently just to the east of Structure 9.

Buildings

The earliest building, Structure 1, is suggested to have been a timber-framed building with base plates set on roughly placed walls of large stones (Table 13). The plan was not a regular rectangle and the rounded corners, misalignment of the west side either side of the entrance, and varying wall widths hint at Iron Age influences. The wide entrance suggested it functioned as a barn but its interior foundation deposit and the domestic pottery associated with the building indicate that it may also have been inhabited. The building lay alongside a later road and would thus have occupied a position closely articulated with the

communications system. Outside the building to its west were floors belonging to pentice structures with a yard beyond.

Table 13: Lifespan of main buildings and features

Tesco site

	AD 50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
Structure 1		----------	----------					
Structure 2					----------	----------	----------	
Structure 4						?----------	----------	
Structure 6						----------	----------	
Structure 7							----------	
Structure 8			----------	----------				
Structure 9						----------	----------	
Structure 10						----------	----------	
Structure 11					----------	----------	----------	
Structure 12					----------	----------	----------	
Flooding				-----				
Road F101		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	
F134				----				

Showerings site

	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
F138		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	
F318				-----				
Structure I						----------	----------	
Structure VII			----------	----------				
Structure VIII						----------	----------	
Structure IX					----------	----------	----------	
Structure X				------				
Structure XI			----------	----------				
Road F7		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------		
Struct A and B						----------	----------	

The next building, Structure 8, differed from the later stone buildings in having made use of an existing boundary wall. A foundation pot burial centrally placed showed the building to have been dedicated in some way at the outset suggesting a predetermined function. It may have faced east onto a yard.

Of the three later structures 2, 11, and 12 seen as similar floor areas, Structures 2 and 12 had the same width of 7m - a normal building width. Structure 11 on the other hand was about 4m wide as was the four-post structure to its south and must be seen as serving a slightly different function. All three were aligned side on to the great ditch F134/F347 or F230 to their east. These buildings, it must be assumed, were, like Structure 1, essentially concerned with storage as is implied by their strong floors. Structure 12 was built across the yard to the east of

Structure 8 and was not aligned onto it, perhaps indicating that Structure 8 had by then been demolished. The floor plans of these structures are comparable to A and B on the Showerings site. They are similar to a building excavated at Scole (Rogerson 1977).

A further four buildings were of stone and readily recognisable as of a classic two or three room type. One of these, Structure 7, was not constructed until the second half of the 4th century. The others could not be closely dated although Structures 4 and 9 can be argued to represent a 4th-century eastward expansion of the settlement. They are all widely separated from each other and seem to be associated each with a single compound, or, in the case of Structure 6, to straddle two. Structure 6 was the highest quality building excavated, with a suite of rooms, carefully-laid floors and some evidence of plastered walls. It appears initially to have been a long narrow building, not dissimilar to Structure 4, which was then provided with further rooms against one long side. This may well have been a façade of some kind added on the side facing the Fosse Way to give the building a more imposing appearance. Structure 7 may also have been primarily domestic, although its interior was poorly preserved and it may have shared this function with small-scale agricultural or industrial processing activities. Structures 9 and 4 are somewhat similar and may have been used in a similar fashion to rural peasant dwellings, with part of the building a byre used for animals.

Other stone structures

A variety of other stone structures was excavated. Ovens were marked by their burnt sides and areas of raked out charge. There were also stone-floored and stone-sided areas which may have been storage bins. Threshing floors were perhaps represented by the areas of heavy stone slabs. The largest of these was a semicircle of stone walling, F274, in Compound 8, found within an area of ovens and kilns. This may have had an industrial function, although other functions, such as a dovecote, are possible.

Tracks

In Area A a major side street was constructed in Period 2 and then maintained throughout the Roman period. This differed from those found in 1990 in the quality of its construction, the regularity of its layout and its maintenance over a long period of time. The street would not have been out of place in an urban setting. In a less well-defined form it was picked up in trial trenching 180m to the east of Fosse Lane. In the later Roman period, the road turned to the north about 100m east of the Fosse Way. This may be an indication that land to the east was then used for a different purpose and that the road was consequently diverted. The track, F266, in Area B was locally well-defined and drained in the small area examined. It seems, however, merely to have been a point of access between several compounds. To its east, the site of the infilled early drainage ditch, F347, in Area B may later have been used as a trackway running north-south, presumably connecting a focus of activity north of Compound 8 with the compounds related to the courtyard building excavated in 1990. This track was crossed by a carefully-laid system of culverts.

Pits

A small number of pits were excavated. There may have been more but the impression given was that pitting was uncommon. None could be securely identified as intended for rubbish. Two seem to have been used for watering animals in Compound 7 and two others may have held troughs. The large stone-line pit F225 in the same compound may also have been intended for watering stock. Two pits in compound 6 appear to have been early. Only one pit, F226, was seen in Compound 8.

Some rubbish was disposed of in middens with spreads of burnt and waste material recorded in both areas. These seemed, however, to be associated with nearby structures and it was clear that material from buildings on Fosse Way was not dumped or disposed of in the back plots.

Phasing the structural elements

The first occupation at the Tesco site was suggested, by the samian, to lie in the later 1st century. The profile and proportions of the early samian differed little between the Tesco and the Showerings site and prompted a suggested start date in the 80s. However, a possible development southward of the town can be suggested by a phasing of the provision of the compounds and this must suggest that the presence of early samian should not be seen as an indication of a uniform overall start date.

The earliest features found were the two parallel ditches of Period 1 from Area A (Fig 30). These define an area less than 20m wide perhaps running back over 100m from the Fosse Way. They are markedly out of line with the boundaries to the south, none of which from excavations in 1990 and 1996 or from geophysical survey are comparable. They may simply mark a track or droveway heading eastward, presumably through defined enclosures, or they may mark back plots behind the initial house sites along the Fosse Way. Geophysical survey results to the north have revealed a large enclosure on a comparable alignment lying 30m to the north. This measured 40m east-west by at least 40m north-south and may well be associated. Excavation across the enclosure in 1990 revealed its north side beneath silt levels then identified as post-Roman but, following these excavations, more likely to be equated with the Period 3 colluvium deposits. The evidence might be read as suggesting a dominant early feature set back from the Fosse Way perhaps served by a trackway between the two Area A ditches. It is however more likely that the enclosure layout was dictated by a dominant layout closer to the Fosse Way. If this were the case then the two excavated ditches may mark the line of the land allotments alongside the Fosse Way to the north, perhaps extending as far as the river crossing. The Showerings excavation did note a wall foundation on the same alignment beneath Structure VII. This was not securely identified as a compound boundary.

The line of the two ditches influenced the layout of Structure 1 even though it was set out across one of them. However the alignment was then abandoned and replaced by that of road F101. This must be seen as representing work organised and financed by the town administration. The very fact that it cuts across existing layouts would support this but its structure and size must suggest an imposition. No street of similar quality has been recorded elsewhere in the town.

Compounds to the south respect the street, suggesting that they were laid out after its construction. Within the excavation it can be seen that this layout ended on the south side of

Compound 6. This boundary was marked on its further side by a presumably dedicatory cremation burial perhaps marking the southern end of the town when deposited, although the boundary ditch lay on its north not south side. The south side of Compound 7 then apparently replicated the layout revealed in 1990 on the Showerings site and the compound can therefore be seen either as the first of a new block of holdings to the south or as an anomalous area subsequently infilled.

All these events, the layout to the north, the street, the layout south of the street, and then the layout south of Compound 7 down to the diagonal track running across the Showerings site, can be set in a time frame within Period 1, from AD 80 to AD 150.

In some areas of the settlement there was evidence for a breakdown in the water management system and even some abandonment of earlier occupied zones. This was most apparent over much of Area A, where extensive flood deposits sealed Structure 1 and parts of the road at the beginning of the 3rd century (Fig 32). These deposits suggest increased run off, probably from roofs, streets and other impervious surfaces within the expanding earlier settlement. Although the dating evidence is not wholly in agreement, the colluvium deposits in Areas A and B have been seen as contemporary. There would seem little doubt that parts of Area A were abandoned, but the same need not have been the case in Area B where the colluvium could simply represent a season's deposit. Combining F318 from the Showerings site with the great ditches F347 and F134 seen in the Tesco excavations suggests that the town's *ordo* insisted on a solution to the problem despite the ditch cutting across existing proerties on the Showerings site. Whatever the extent of this decline in the 3rd century, the temporarily flooded areas were reclaimed for use by the 4th century (Figs 33 and 34).

Can the north-south running boundaries be phased? It cannot be proven but it must be thought highly likely that the further eastward the boundary lies the later it is likely to be. The rock-cut ditch running across both sites is the best evidence since this can be dated to the later 3rd century on both sites. Wall F104 and ditch F156 beneath it in Area A may well have run across to Area B and formed the east side of Structure 6 at a later date. Structure 4 and Structures 11 and 12 in Compound 8 were later than the colluvium deposit dated to the early 3rd century in Area A and so later than Structure 8. Neither followed the earlier alignment of F246 but were laid out to respect the eastern boundary. Structure 2 was similarly aligned at right angles to the street and parallel with the ditch line. Although inadequately dated and examined the buildings to the east, Structures 4, 9 and 10, may well represent late Roman expansion eastward and have been so considered in the structural text.

The buildings indicate changes though time (Table 13). Throughout the lifespan of the town it must be assumed that there were buildings on the street frontage, none of which are known. It is interesting to note that apparently domestic buildings start to appear in the later Roman period set back from the road - Structures 6 and 7 on the Tesco site and Structures I and IX on the Showerings site. Of these, Structures 6 at Tesco and IX at Showerings were added to and enlarged through time. Both interrupt the previous layout, Structure 6 crossing a boundary perhaps of over 200 years standing and Structure IX a track of similar age. Later 3rd and 4th-century activity on the Tesco site seemed to be particularly focused to the east in Compounds 8 and 9. It is possible that Structures 6 and IX mark the houses of successful families who had made money from shops on the frontage. These may then have been leased out or run by junior family members while the former shopkeeper developed a more luxurious and better appointed home away from the street. It is also possible that the street frontage businesses and their dependent compounds and side roads were abandoned, the new houses set in open

spaces back from the road. Whatever the explanation, it is clear that on the Tesco site beyond Structure 6 to its east was an intensely occupied area. A track here ran north-south, aligned to former boundary ditches. The three possible timber-framed buildings, Structures 2, 11 and 12 were all set out on the same alignment respecting the road, suggesting that here too the east-west boundaries were losing their importance while zones defined north south began to dominate.

Analysis of the coin profile up to but not including the Tesco finds (Esmonde Cleary forthcoming) suggested that the Shepton Mallet site flourished in the later Roman period. There seems no reason to dispute this although there was clearly widespread occupation from the late 1st century witnessed in part by residual pottery occurring in later features.

Turning then to the period of burial, dated on the Showering site to a lengthy period of three or four centuries, their existence need not imply that they were placed after occupation had ended. Some of the burials are clearly Roman in style, the infant coffin burial at the Tesco site and the lead coffined burials at the Showerings site. Others too, such as that with hobnail boots, F150, in Area A, also have Roman affinities. While some may have been in cemeteries beside still occupied areas, such as the enclosure south of Structure I on the Showerings site, the infant coffin burial at the Tesco site is more likely to have been placed in an open space to the rear of properties on the frontage. The Showerings burials too can be seen as sited at the limit of the town. An alternative explanation for the burials on the Tesco site and for those along the ditch sides on the Showerings site is that they emanated from households on the opposite side of the road.

Function of compounds

An agricultural function for some of the compounds as settlement infields is likely. In some areas stock would have been kept at certain times of year, some perhaps in transit to be marketed elsewhere. Dunging of the compounds may also have encouraged periodic market garden type cultivation. The occurrence of water holes in Compound 7 emphasises the potential importance of livestock. There was also significant evidence of other activities. Two areas of burning recorded in Area A could signify crop processing in Period 2. Later, Compound 8 in Area B was devoted to industrial activity, with a number of kiln or oven features recorded in Periods 4 and 5. These may also have been corn dryers, while associated stone floors may have been those of large barn-like structures. Such evidence is witness to the use of these compounds to the rear of the Fosse Way frontage as sites for storage and processing of agricultural produce from the town's hinterland.

As has been noted above, in the later Roman period the functions of some of the compounds changed. The position of Structure 6, laid out across two compounds, is the best indication of their altered use as the setting for domestic buildings. Some compounds may thus have become private gardens subordinate to a dwelling. The 1990 excavation suggested that some new compounds were laid out across earlier arrangements and that important buildings and the ground around them may have become detached from the settlement, becoming more self-sufficient units.

The status of the settlement

The southern end of the Showerings site, the presumed limit of the settlement, lies 800m south of where the Fosse Way crosses the river Sheppey, which must surely be the site of any activity initiating the settlement. Despite the samian evidence the Showerings site may not have been properly expanded onto until the 2nd century. The Cannards Grave site, 400m to the south, came later in the early to mid 2nd century so some kind of expansion can be envisaged. An explanation of the presumed uniformity of occupation date might lie in seeing each compound as relating to a single family unit. The compounds average 40m in width across the excavated areas and this would mean 20 compounds to the east of the road from the river crossing to the south end of the Showerings site. Assuming the same number on the west side of the road it is possible to suggest that a total of 40 families were relocated, or relocated themselves, in the early Roman period to earn a living servicing traffic on the road, supplying the new towns of Bath and Ilchester to north and south, and forming a controlled collection point for farms from the hinterland. These may have been allocated by a single owner to tenants or may have been individually owned. In either case the evidence may suggest some official allotment, for example to retired soldiers.

There is little difference in compound sizes between those at Shepton Mallet and those at Catsgore (Leech 1982) or in the southern suburbs of Ilchester (Leach 1982). There is clearly a difference in the numbers of compounds involved but that apart there may be much in common between all these sites in terms of the road frontage buildings and the dependent compounds. What is different at Shepton Mallet is the development of the area to the rear of the frontage buildings. It may have been the case that this was unconnected with the ownership of the compounds toward the road. The industrial compound, Compound 8, at Shepton Mallet in particular looks to have been an imposition on earlier landuse.

In the Shepton Mallet area, different pottery styles in the Iron Age suggest that the tribal groups, so far as they can be reconstructed, could be distinguished by their pottery use. The pottery has been suggested to indicate the location of the pre-Roman tribal frontier and the civitas boundary. The fall off of BB1 may indeed mark ceramically an ethnic difference. A connection is also suggested by the pottery with the Mendip and Chew Valley settlements to the north and west, with, possibly, some connections across the Bristol Channel with south Wales. It may be possible to define the connections and hinterland of the Shepton Mallet settlement more closely. In the medieval period the agricultural and economic interdependency of lowland and upland on both sides of the Mendip plateau can be demonstrated by the documentary evidence (Neale 1976). It is increasingly the case that medieval dispositions should be assumed to reflect those in the pre-Roman Iron Age with evidence of discontinuity rather than continuity to be sought. The early medieval arrangements in the Shepton Mallet area suggest a central place at Shepton Mallet itself with upland and lowland territories mutually dependent. Some kind of transhumance was practised. The Iron Age practice may similarly have been to make use of summer grazing on the hills, together with summer cultivation of the lowland fields, which themselves had benefited from the overwintering of stock. The insertion into this system of the Roman road and taxation system might well have given an impetus to roadside settlements such as that at Shepton Mallet but it would, it can be argued, have been in addition to a longstanding practice linking high and low ground. The increased exploitation of the Mendip mines by the Romans would have added a mining population needing supplying, in addition to the town populations on the Fosse Way.

The function of the Fosse Lane settlement would thus have been to take farming surpluses produced by an age old practice, one that was to continue into the medieval period, and to integrate them into the Roman system by bringing them physically to the road network. These would also have been places to process and store foodstuffs and to undertake small scale working of iron and lead. It may be that at the settlement some administrative functions were undertaken and a central place developed to emerge later into the documented history of the area.

Fosse Lane settlement in its Romano-British context

At the present state of knowledge it seems that the Fosse Lane settlement did not have defences. It seems too that any kind of street grid was lacking and, although the archaeology at the river crossing is unknown, it seems that there was no large focal building or market area. Well appointed town houses are not common in small towns in the Province but there is some evidence for large establishments at Fosse Lane with two large buildings known on the west of the road, one a 19th-century finding and the other nearby more recent. Pottery production, of specialised Severn Valley ware forms, took place nearby, and the settlement must have had some connection with servicing the Mendip silver and lead mines. Within its local context the settlement would clearly have been inferior to Bath and Ilchester to north and south. Ilchester certainly had defences and Bath probably. Ilchester may have had buildings associated with the *cursus publicus* while Bath had baths and a temple, the former under construction in the 70s. The Charterhouse site on Mendip was equally early. Camerton on the Fosse Way to the north had an Iron Age precursor. There, there were villa-like buildings on site and, as at Fosse Lane, wide spaced buildings within large holdings. The site may have been dependent on a single farm. Although the Fosse Lane site seems to differ in many respects, both it and Camerton are equally spaced between Bath and Ilchester.

The origin of the settlement appears to have been unconnected with the military although further discoveries may well change this view. An Iron Age site abandoned before the Late Iron Age is known at Cannards Grave. A second Iron Age site is known to the west at Field Farm. Iron Age pottery has been recovered from the excavations and there are Iron Age affinities in the early period archaeology. The more general analysis of the prehistory of the area would suggest some kind of Iron Age focus in the Shepton Mallet area. Nevertheless there can be little doubt that this was an entirely new settlement of a new kind. It seems to have been established from the beginning over the length of road frontage it was to occupy through successive centuries. The start date in the 80s must have a connection with the early known dates for Bath and Charterhouse. It also seems to have flourished solely for economic and industrial reasons with no evidence of an official, religious or cultural focus - although this may still be found. There are some elements on site suggesting some central administrative control - the road F101 and the large ditch - but most of the archaeology suggests an organic development around individual holdings. The layout is paralleled by the linear or ribbon development noted by Burnham and Wacher (1990) as one of their types.

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APPENDIX

Occurrence of Regional forms by fabric

Regional grey wares

SANDRF: Bowls B13.11, B17.11, B20.14x2, B21.11x3, B23.31, B23.41; Beakers BK3.41, BK3.81x2; Dishes D6.41; Jars J10.32; Wide mouthed jars JW2.23, JW5.11 x2; Lids L6.11; Platters P1.12.

SANDBRF: Bowls B2.22, B20.11, B20.21x2, B22.23; Beakers BK3.21, BK3.41; Dishes D6.11x3; Jars J14.21; Wide mouth jars JW2.21; Lids L4.12; Platters P3.11, P4.11, P5.11; Tankard T.11.

SANDRM: Bowls B22.22x2; Beakers BK3.12, BK3.41; Flagons F5.11; Jars J10.15, J16.12; Wide mouth jars JW2.22, JW2.31, JW3.11.

SANDMC: Bowls B13.11, B22.22, B23.42; Flagons F9.11; Jars 5.51x2; Wide mouthed jars JW2.22, JW5.21.

SANDRC: Bowls B16.21, B22.23x2; Beaker BK3.21x4, BK3.81x2; Dishes D1.13, D1.14, D4.11, D9.22x3; Flagons F5.11, F6.32; Jars J6.21x2, J8.21, J9.31, J14.31; Jars/cook pots JC3.41, JC3.42x2, JC4.22; Wide mouth jars JW2.21, JW2.31, JW3.11; Lids L3.11.

BBC: Bowls B4.21, B23.11, B23.43; Dishes D1.11, D5.11x3; Jars J9.12x2; Jars/cook pots JC3.11, JC3.13, JC3.23x6, JC3.31, JC4.11x3, JC4.21; Lids L2.11.

Severn Valley wares

SVOXG: Bowls B3.11, B7.11, B9.13x2, B10.24, B21.21; Beakers BK2.61, BK3.75; Dishes D4.12, D9.14; Tankard T1.12, T1.14, T2.12x3.

SVOXGR: Beakers BK3.42, BK3.44, BK3.45; Flagons F6.32

SVOXGM: Mortaria M1.12, M2.21.

Miscellaneous red wares

SANDOX: Wide mouth jars JW32.31; Miscellaneous MS7.11

MISCCR: Beakers BK3.12, BK3.65x2, BK4.22.

Oxfordshire wares

OXFW: Mortaria M2.71.

Black Burnished ware category 1

BB1: Bowls B22.21x3, B23.11x3, B23.31x2, B24.11, B24.12x1, B24.13; Beakers BK2.11; Dishes D1.11, D3.11, D5.11x10, D5.12x2, D6.11; Jars J1.21, J10.41; Jars/cook pots JC3.11x2, JC3.13x2, JC3.22, JC3.23x8, JC3.24x2, JC3.31x6, JC4.11x3, JC4.21

Abbreviations

Dr	-	Dragendorf
O.	-	Oswald, 1936
Rogers	-	Rogers, 1974
S&S	-	Stanfield and Simpson, 1990
SG	-	Southern Gaulish
CG	-	Central

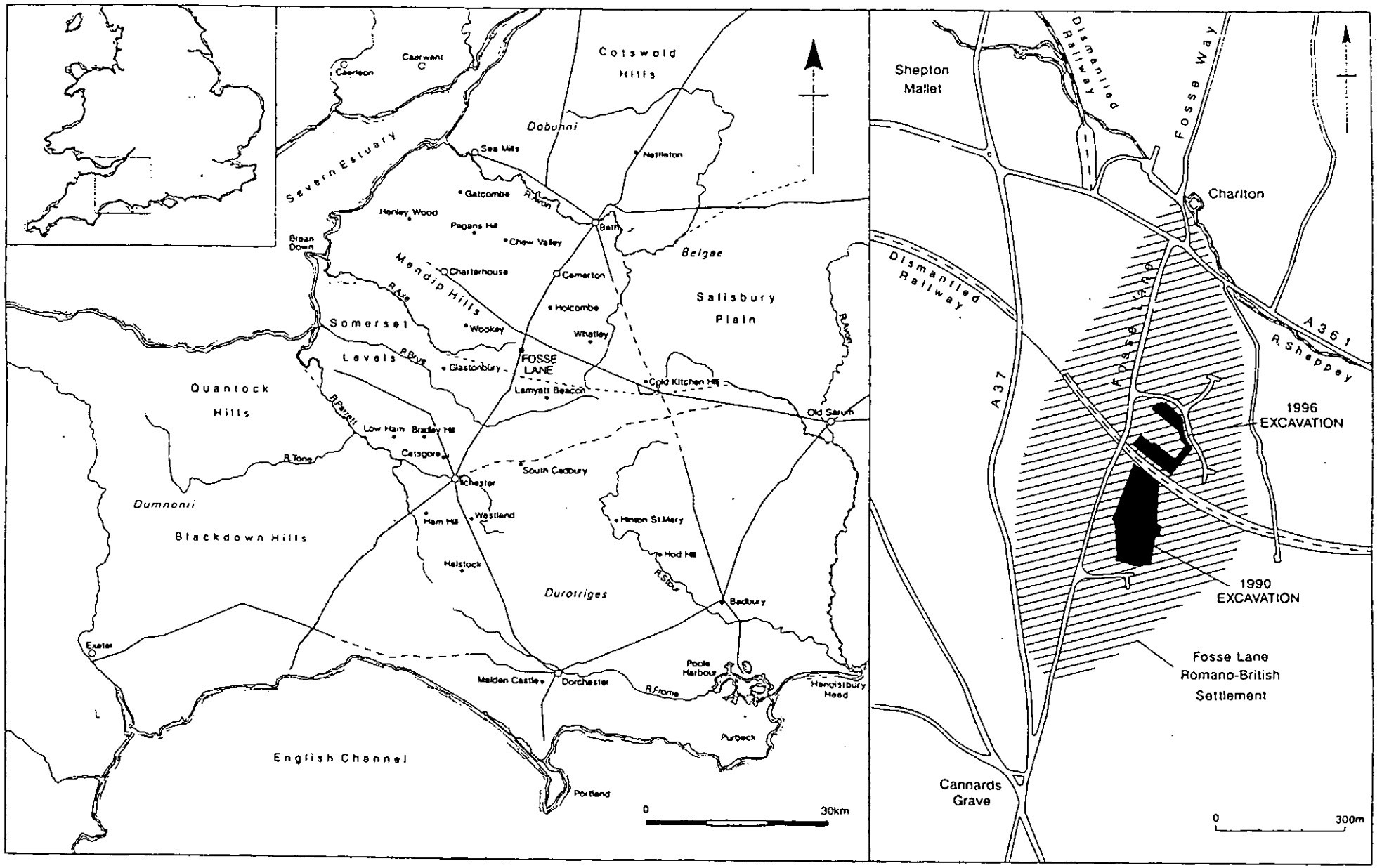

Caerleon
Caerwent
Severn Estuary
Cotswold Hills
Dobunni
Sea Mills
Nettleton
Gatcombe
R.Avon
Henley Wood
Pagans Hill
Chew Valley
Bath
Brean Down
Belgae
Charterhouse
Cameron
Mendip Hills
R.Axe
Holcombe
Salisbury Plain
Somerset
Wookey
Whatley
R.Nadder
Levels
R.Brue
Glastonbury
FOSSE LANE
Lamyatt Beacon
Cold Kitchen Hill
Quantock Hills
R.Parrett
Low Ham
Bradley Hill
Old Sarum
R.Yeo
Catsgore
South Cadbury
Ilchester
Dumnonii
Ham Hill
Westland
Hinton St.Mary
Blackdown Hills
Hod Hill
Halstock
R.Stour
Durotriges
Badbury
Exeter
Poole Harbour
Malden Castle
Dorchester
R.Frome
Hengistbury Head
Purbeck
English Channel
Portland
0
30km
Shepton Mallet
Dismantled Railway
Fosse Way
Charlton
A361
R.Sheppey
A37
1996 EXCAVATION
1990 EXCAVATION
Fosse Lane Romano-British Settlement
Cannards Grave
0
300m

Fig 1

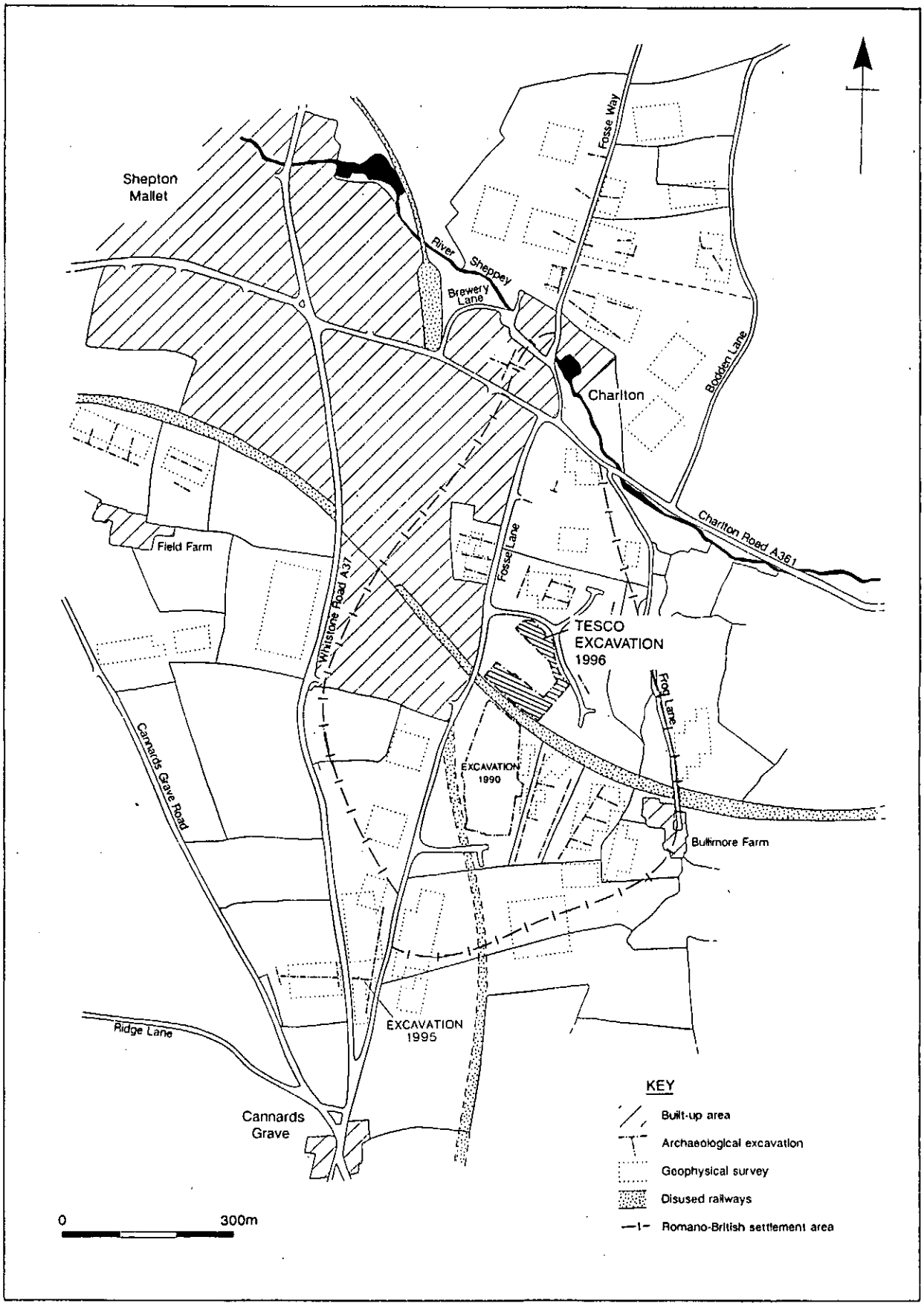

Shepton Mallet
River Sheppey
Brewery Lane
Fosse Way
Charlton
Bodden Lane
Charlton Road A361
Field Farm
Fossel Lane
Whitstone Road A37
TESCO EXCAVATION 1996
Frog Lane
Cannards Grave Road
EXCAVATION 1990
Bullmore Farm
Ridge Lane
EXCAVATION 1995
Cannards Grave
0
300m
KEY
Built-up area
Archaeological excavation
Geophysical survey
Disused railways
Romano-British settlement area

Fig 2

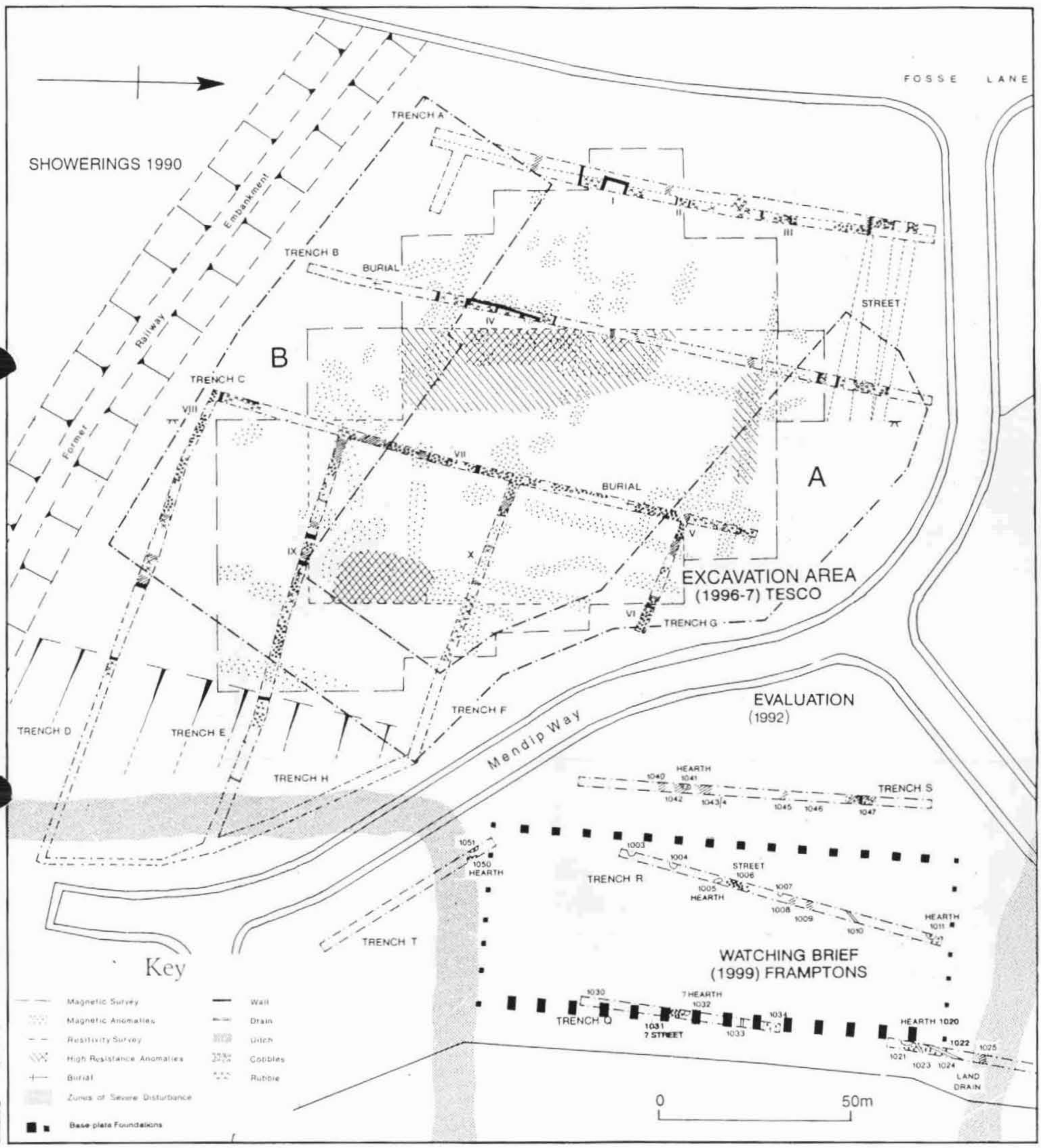

SHOWERINGS 1990
FOSSE LANE
TRENCH A
TRENCH B
BURIAL
STREET
Embankment
Railway
Former
B
A
TRENCH C
VIII
VII
BURIAL
IX
X
V
VI
TRENCH G
EXCAVATION AREA
(1996-7) TESCO
TRENCH D
TRENCH E
TRENCH F
TRENCH H
Mendip Way
EVALUATION
(1992)
HEARTH
1040
1041
1042
1043/4
1045
1046
1047
TRENCH S
1051
1050
HEARTH
1003
1004
STREET
1006
TRENCH R
1005
HEARTH
1007
1008
1009
1010
HEARTH
1011
TRENCH T
WATCHING BRIEF
(1999) FRAMPTONS
1030
TRENCH Q
7 HEARTH
1032
1031
7 STREET
1033
1034
HEARTH 1020
1022
1025
1021
1023
1024
LAND
DRAIN
0
50m
Key
Magnetic Survey
Magnetic Anomalies
Resitivity Survey
High Resistance Anomalies
Burial
Zones of Severe Disturbance
Base plate Foundations
Wall
Drain
Ditch
Cobbles
Rubble

Fig 3

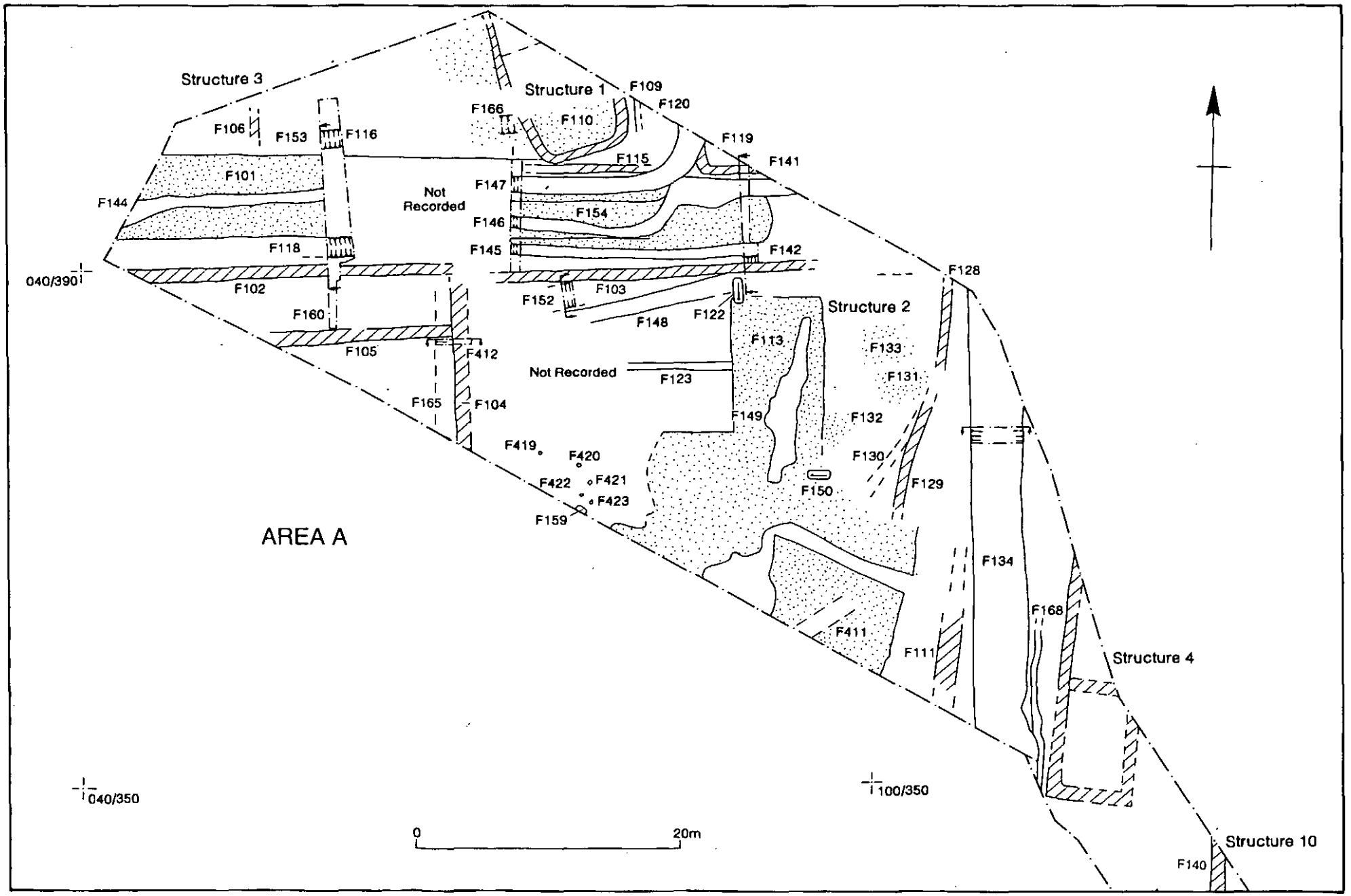

Structure 3
Structure 1
F109
F120
F166
F110
F106
F153
F116
F119
F141
F115
F101
F147
Not Recorded
F144
F154
F146
F118
F145
F142
040/390
F102
F103
F128
F152
F148
F122
Structure 2
F160
F113
F133
F105
F412
Not Recorded
F123
F131
F165
F104
F149
F132
F419
F420
F130
F422
F421
F129
F150
F423
F159
AREA A
F134
F168
F411
F111
Structure 4
040/350
100/350
0
20m
Structure 10
F140

Fig 4

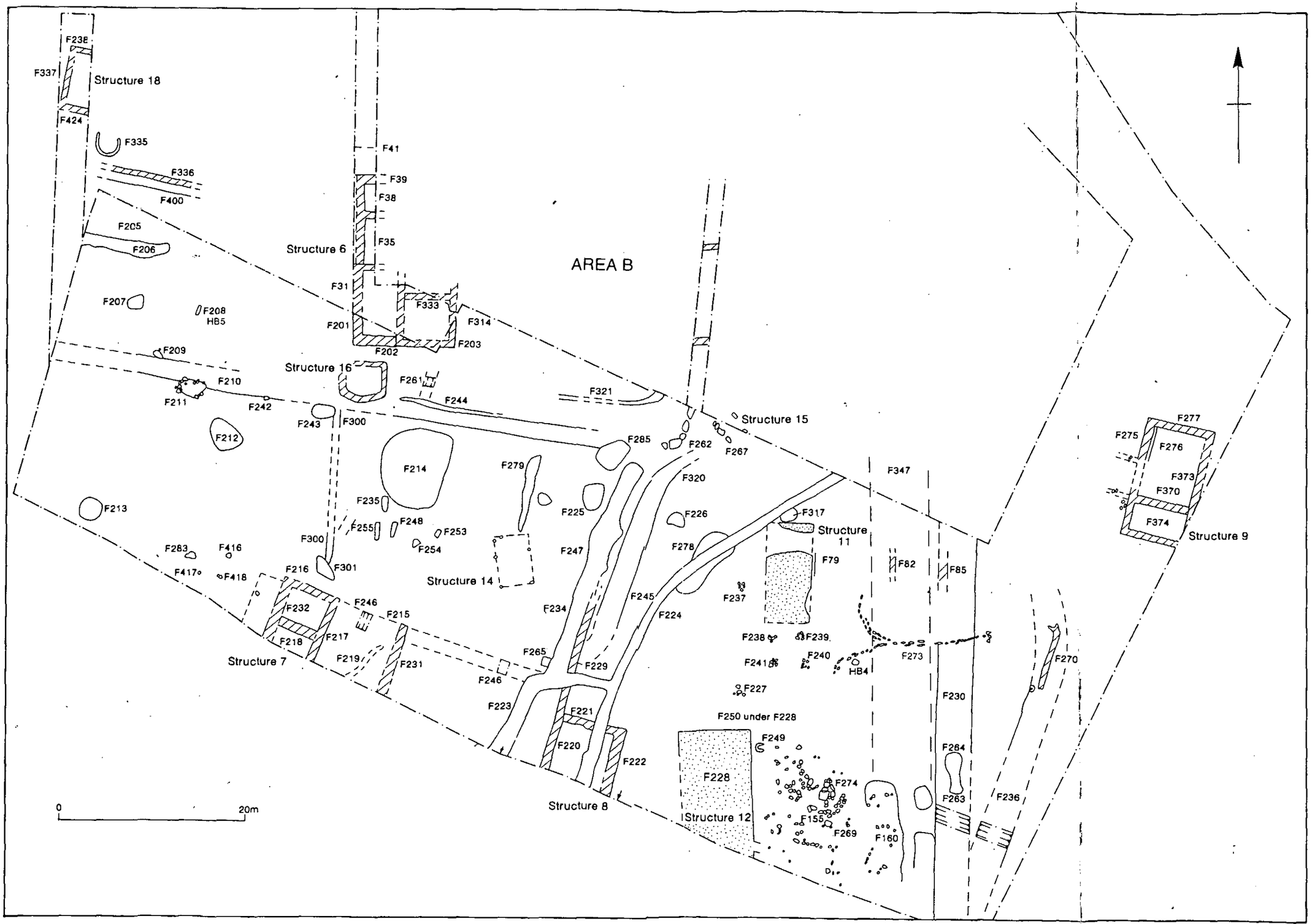

F238
F337
Structure 18
F424
F335
F336
F400
F205
F206
F207
F208
HB5
F209
F210
F211
F212
F213
F41
F39
F38
F35
F31
F201
F202
F203
F333
F314
Structure 6
AREA B
Structure 16
F261
F244
F321
F242
F243
F300
F214
F235
F255
F248
F253
F254
F279
F285
F262
F267
Structure 15
F320
F347
F225
F226
F317
Structure 11
F247
F278
F79
F82
F85
F237
F234
F245
F224
F238
F239
F240
F241
HB4
F273
F227
F230
F265
F229
F246
F223
F221
F220
F222
F250 under F228
F249
F228
F274
F264
F263
F236
F270
Structure 12
F155
F269
F160
Structure 8
Structure 7
Structure 14
F263
F416
F417
F418
F216
F301
F232
F246
F215
F218
F217
F219
F231
F277
F275
F276
F373
F370
F374
Structure 9
0
20m

Fig 5

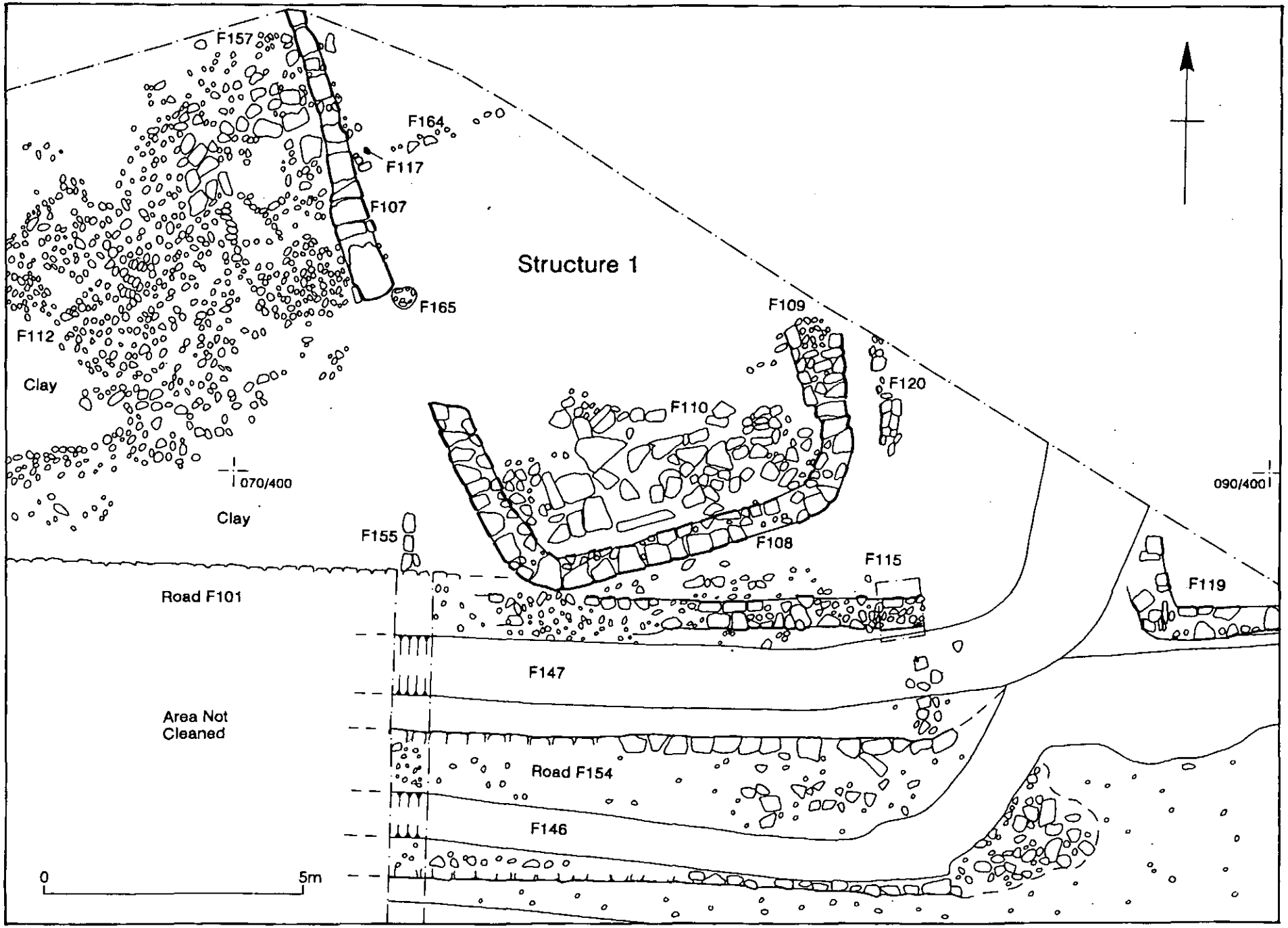

F157
F164
F117
F107
Structure 1
F165
F109
F112
F120
Clay
F110
070/400
090/400
Clay
F155
F108
F115
F119
Road F101
F147
Area Not
Cleaned
Road F154
F146
0
5m

Fig 6

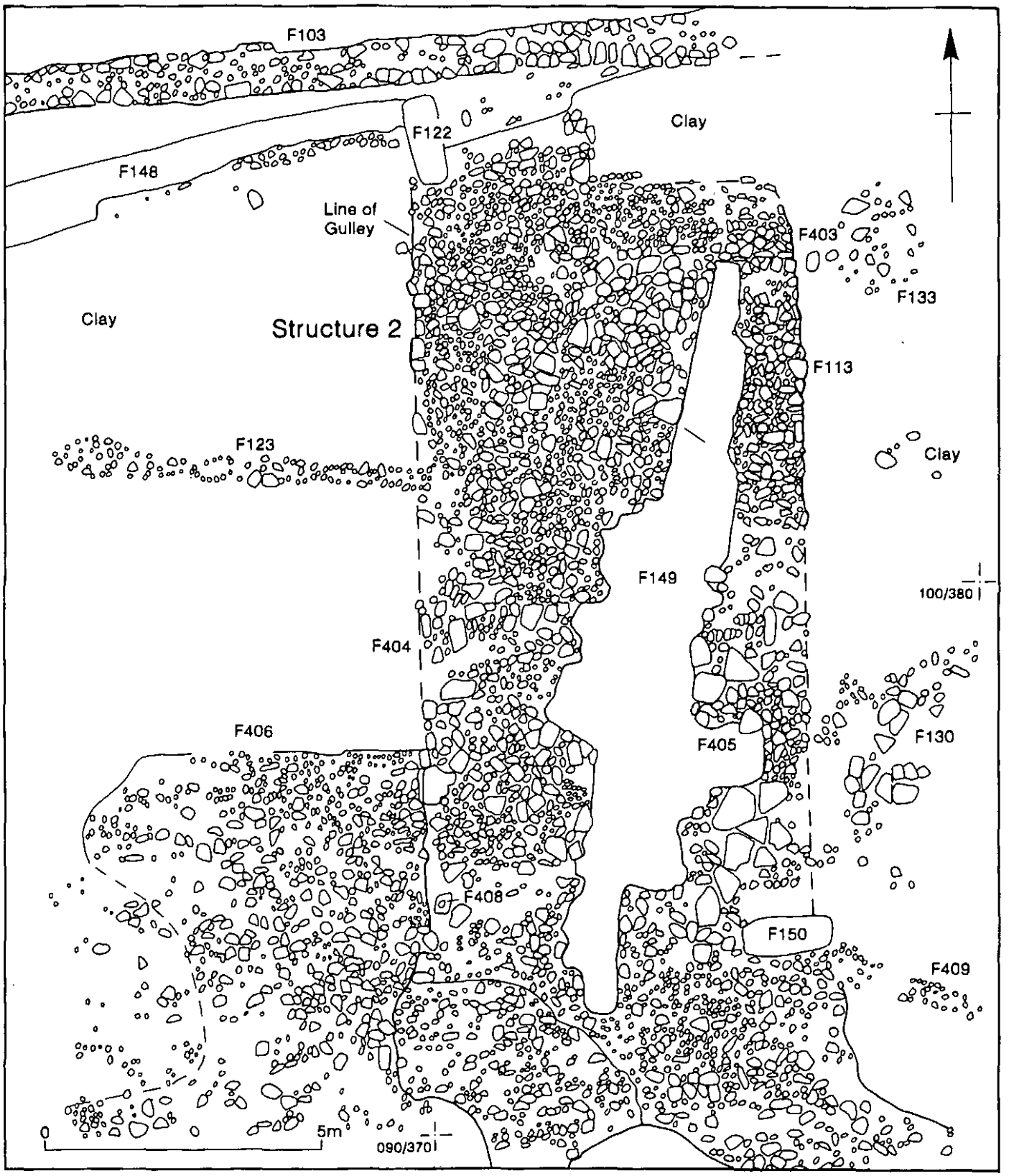

F103
F122
Clay
F148
Line of Gulley
F403
F133
Clay
Structure 2
F113
F123
Clay
F149
100/380
F404
F406
F405
F130
F408
F150
F409
0
5m
090/370

Fig 7

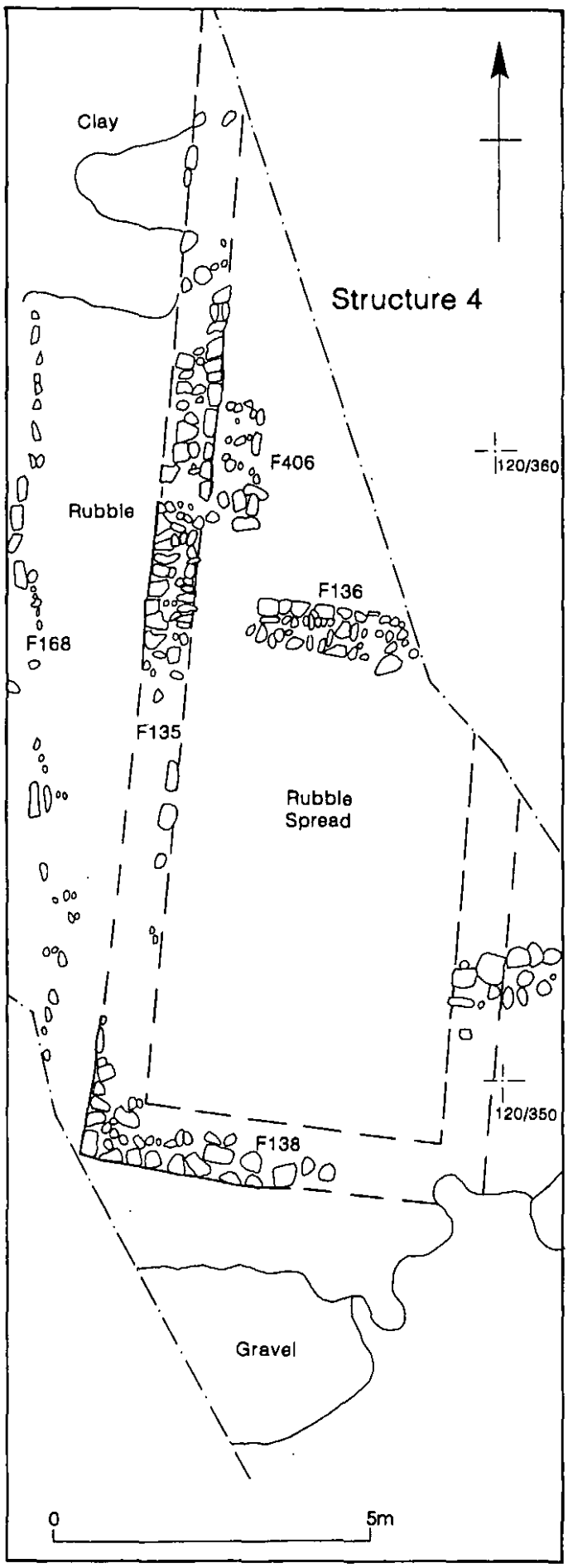

Clay
Structure 4
F406
120/360
Rubble
F136
F168
F135
Rubble
Spread
120/350
F138
Gravel
0
5m

Fig 8

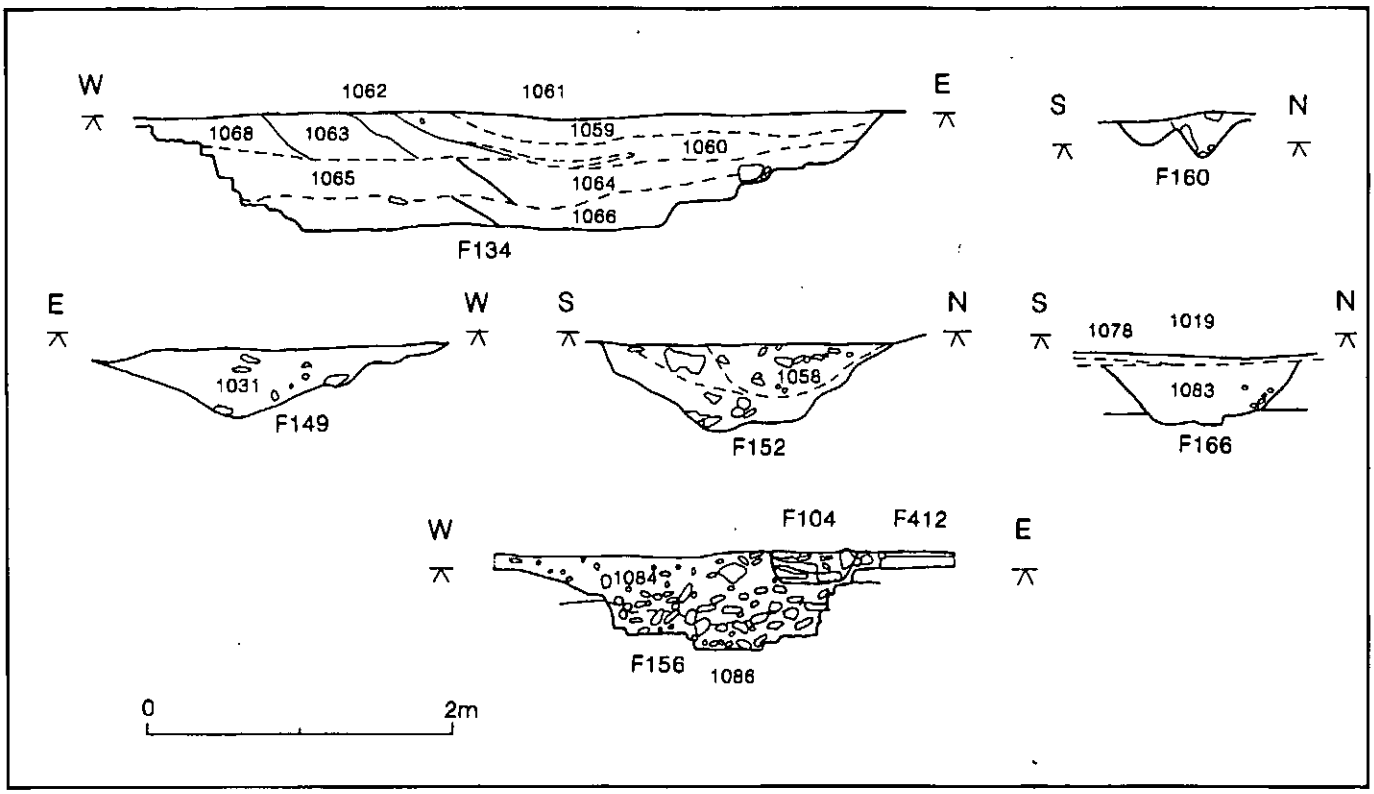

W
E
1062
1061
1068
1063
1059
1060
1065
1064
1066
F134
S
N
F160
E
W
1031
F149
S
N
1058
F152
S
N
1078
1019
1083
F166
W
E
F104
F412
1084
F156
1086
0
2m

Fig 9

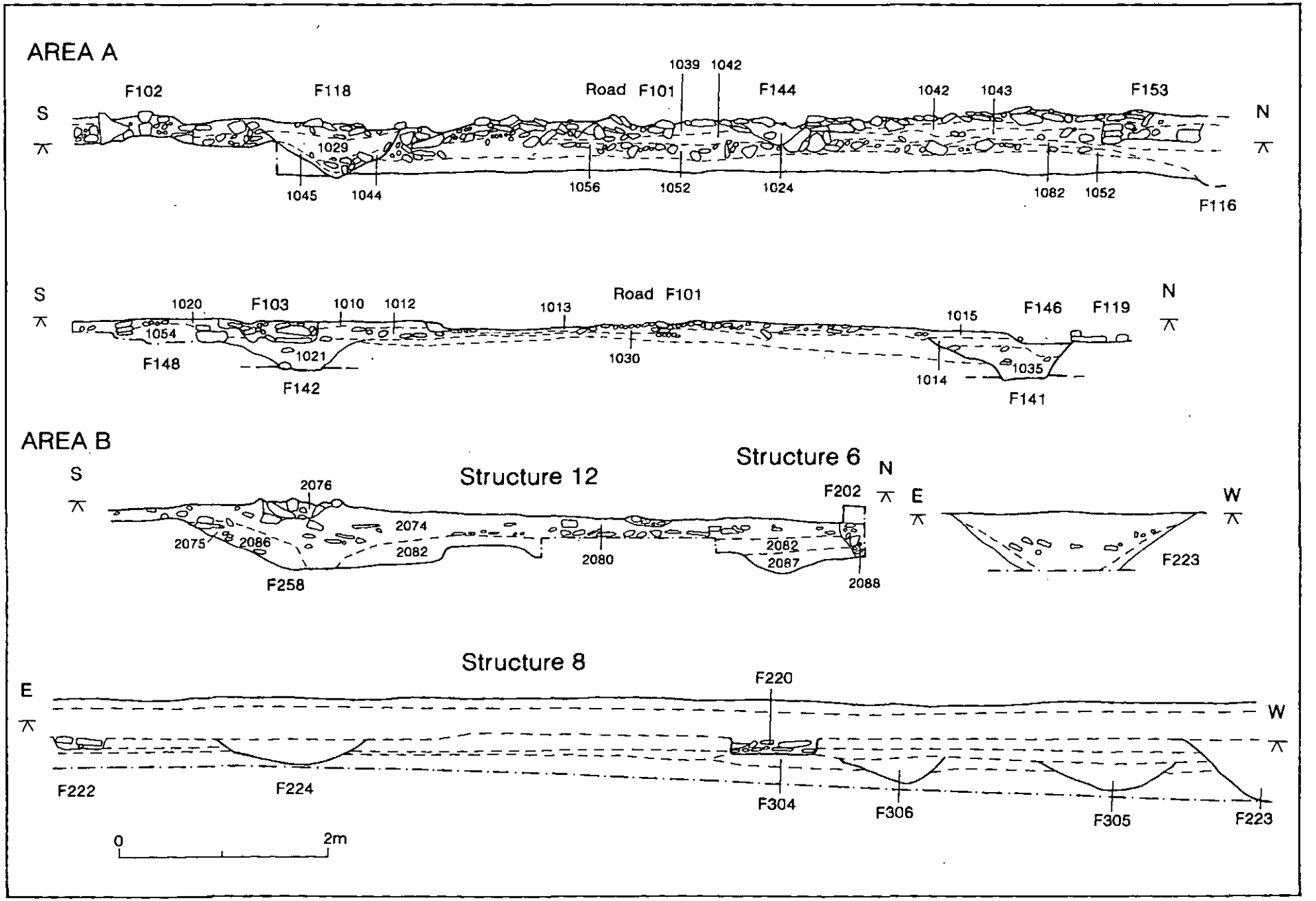

AREA A
F102
F118
Road F101
F144
F153
S
N
1039 1042
1042 1043
1029
1045 1044
1056 1052 1024
1082 1052
F116
S
N
1020 F103 1010 1012
1013
Road F101
1015 F146 F119
1054
F148
1021
F142
1030
1014
1035
F141
AREA B
Structure 12
Structure 6
S
N
E
W
2076
F202
2074
2075 2086
2082
2080
2082
2087
F258
2088
F223
Structure 8
E
W
F220
F222
F224
F304
F306
F305
F223
0
2m

Fig 10

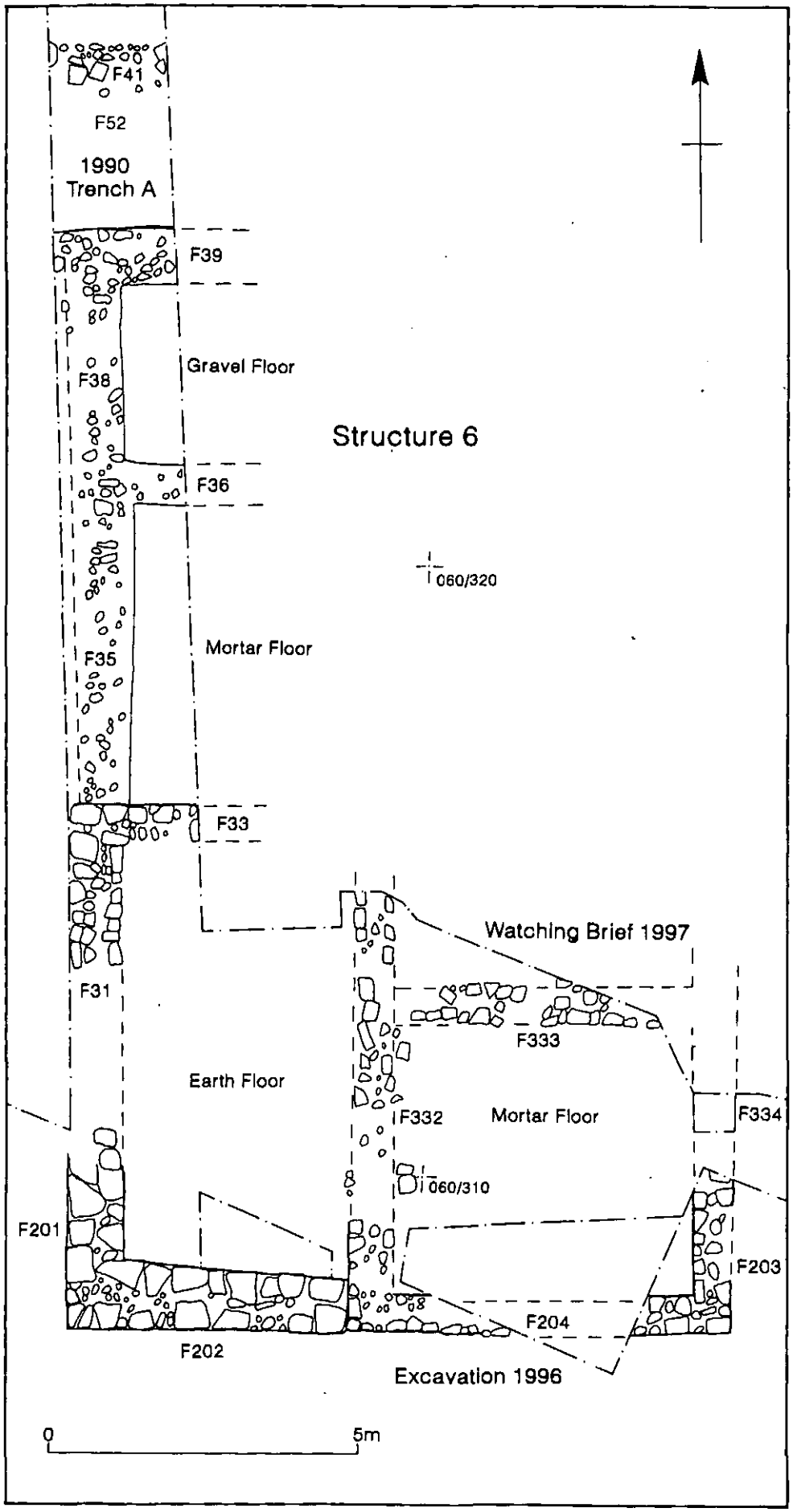

F41
F52
1990
Trench A
F39
Gravel Floor
F38
Structure 6
F36
060/320
Mortar Floor
F35
F33
Watching Brief 1997
F31
F333
Earth Floor
F332
Mortar Floor
F334
060/310
F201
F203
F204
F202
Excavation 1996
0
5m

Fig 11

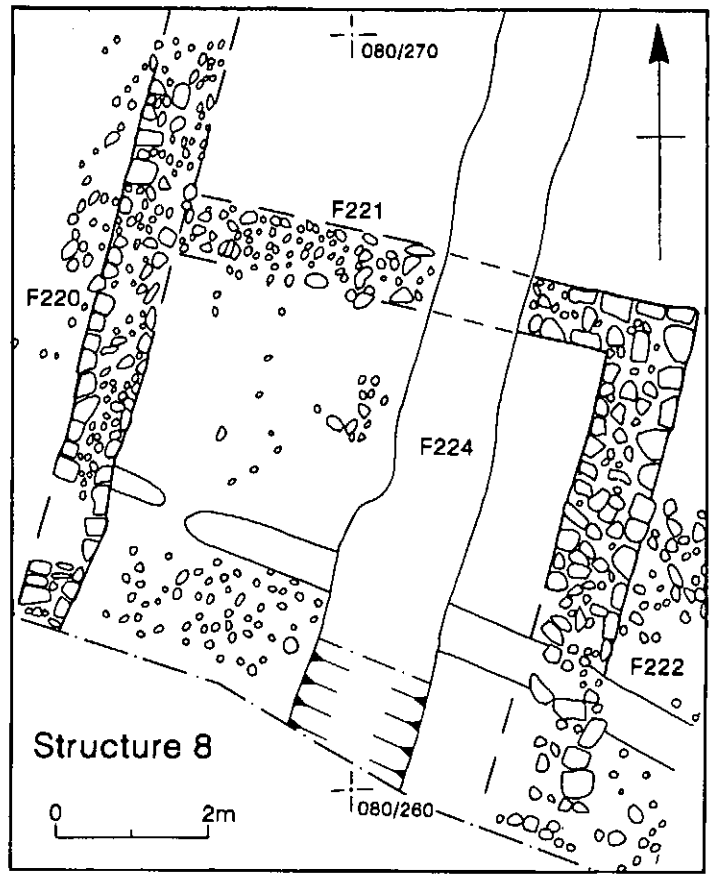


Fig 13

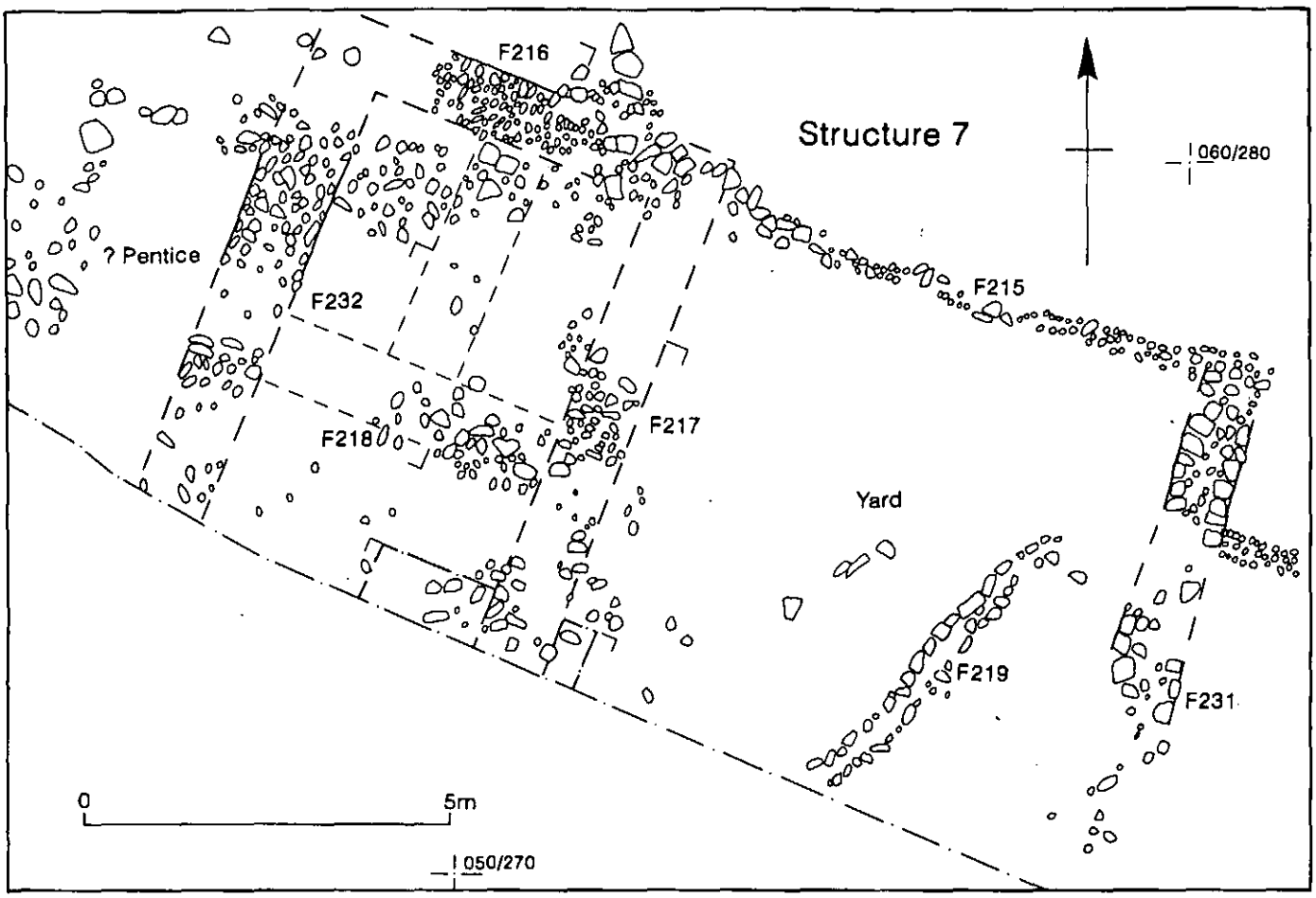

F216
Structure 7
060/280
? Pentice
F232
F215
F218
F217
Yard
F219
F231
0
5m
050/270

Fig 12

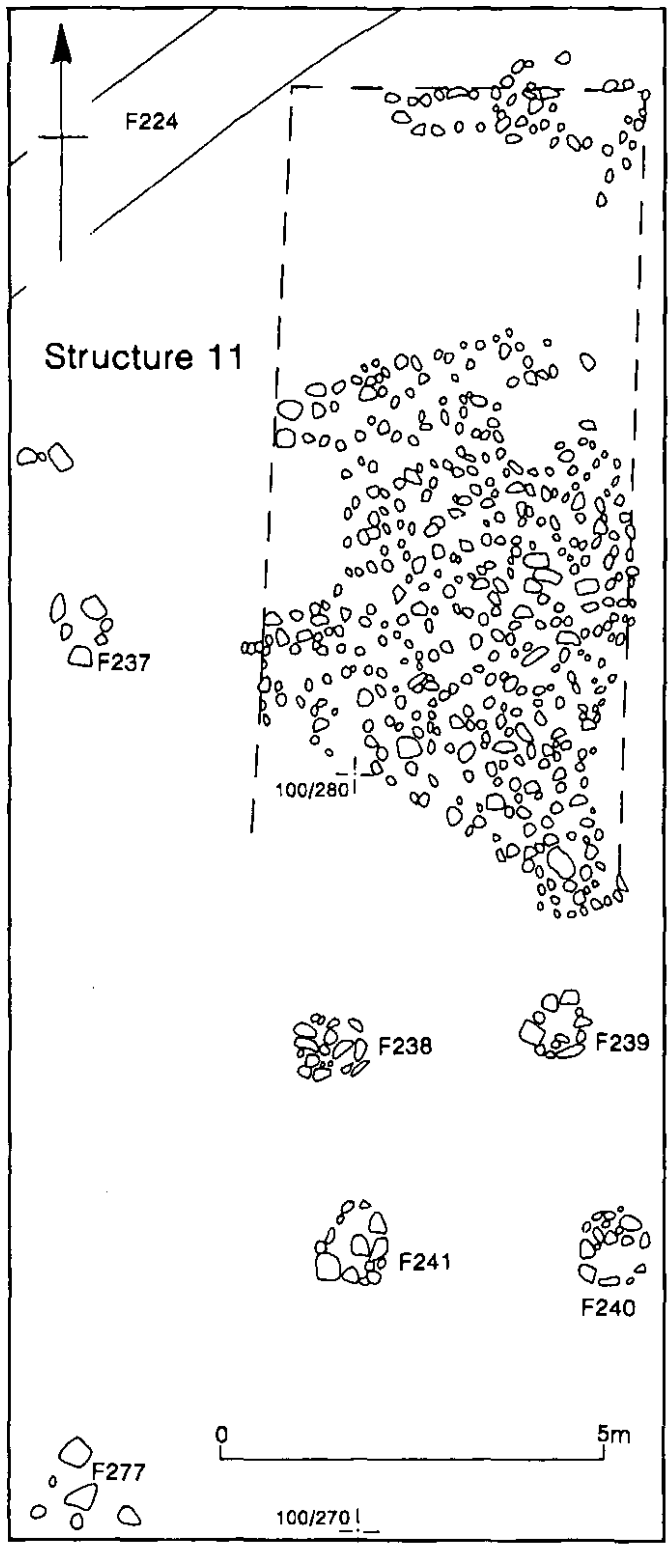

F224
Structure 11
F237
100/280
F238
F239
F241
F240
0
5m
F277
100/270

Fig 14

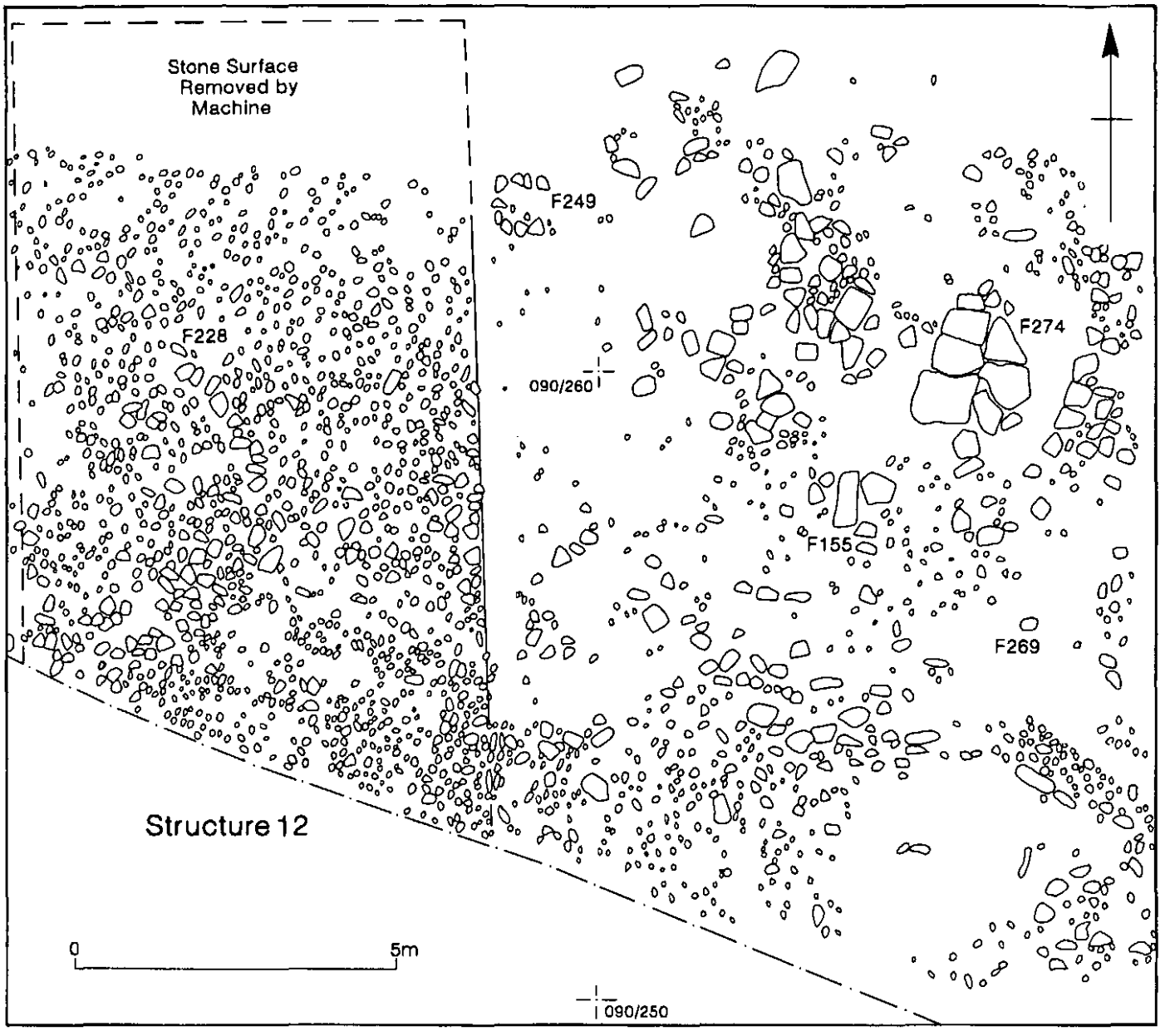

Stone Surface
Removed by
Machine
F249
F228
F274
090/260
F155
F269
Structure 12
0
5m
090/250

Fig 15

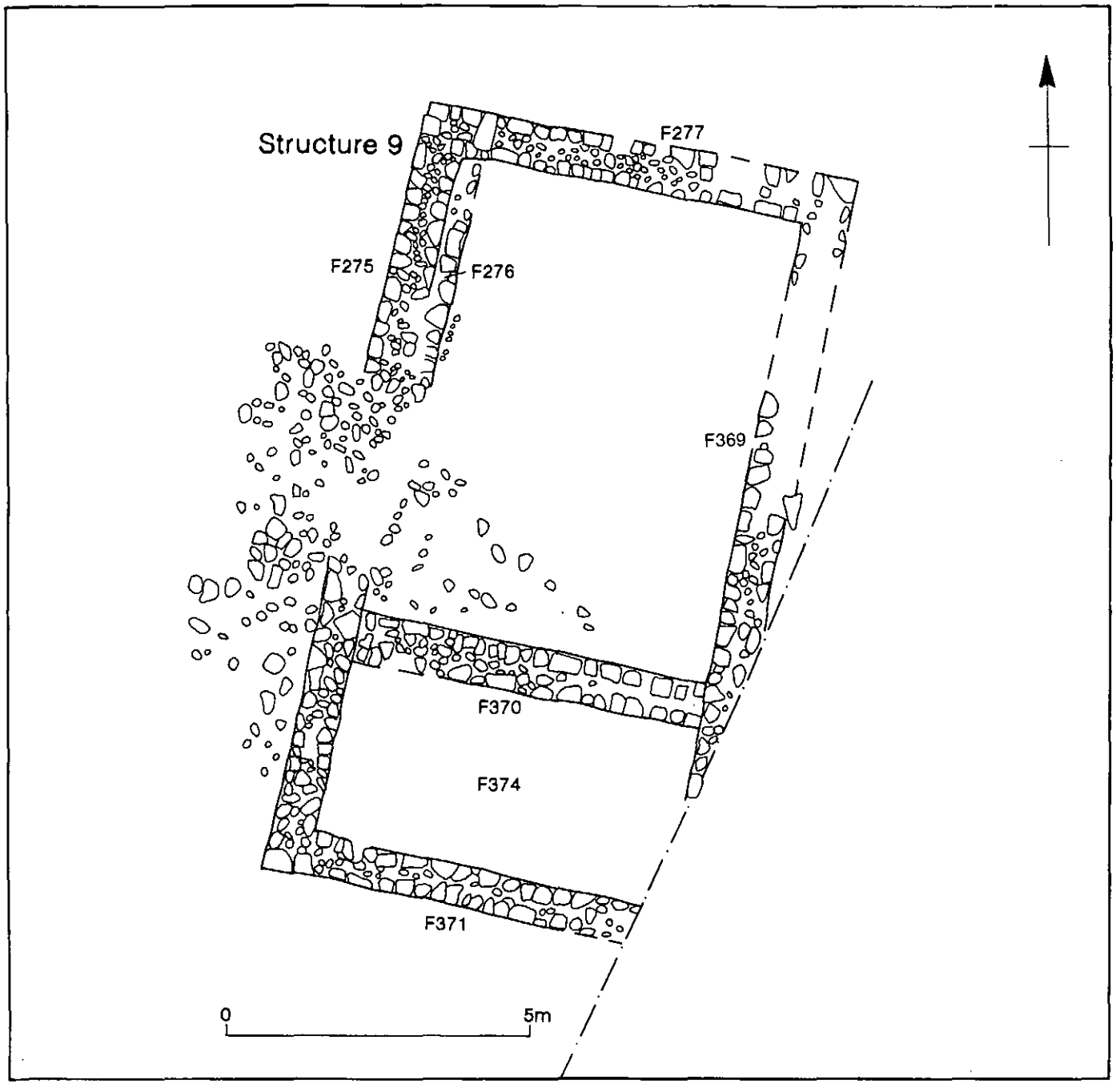


Fig 16

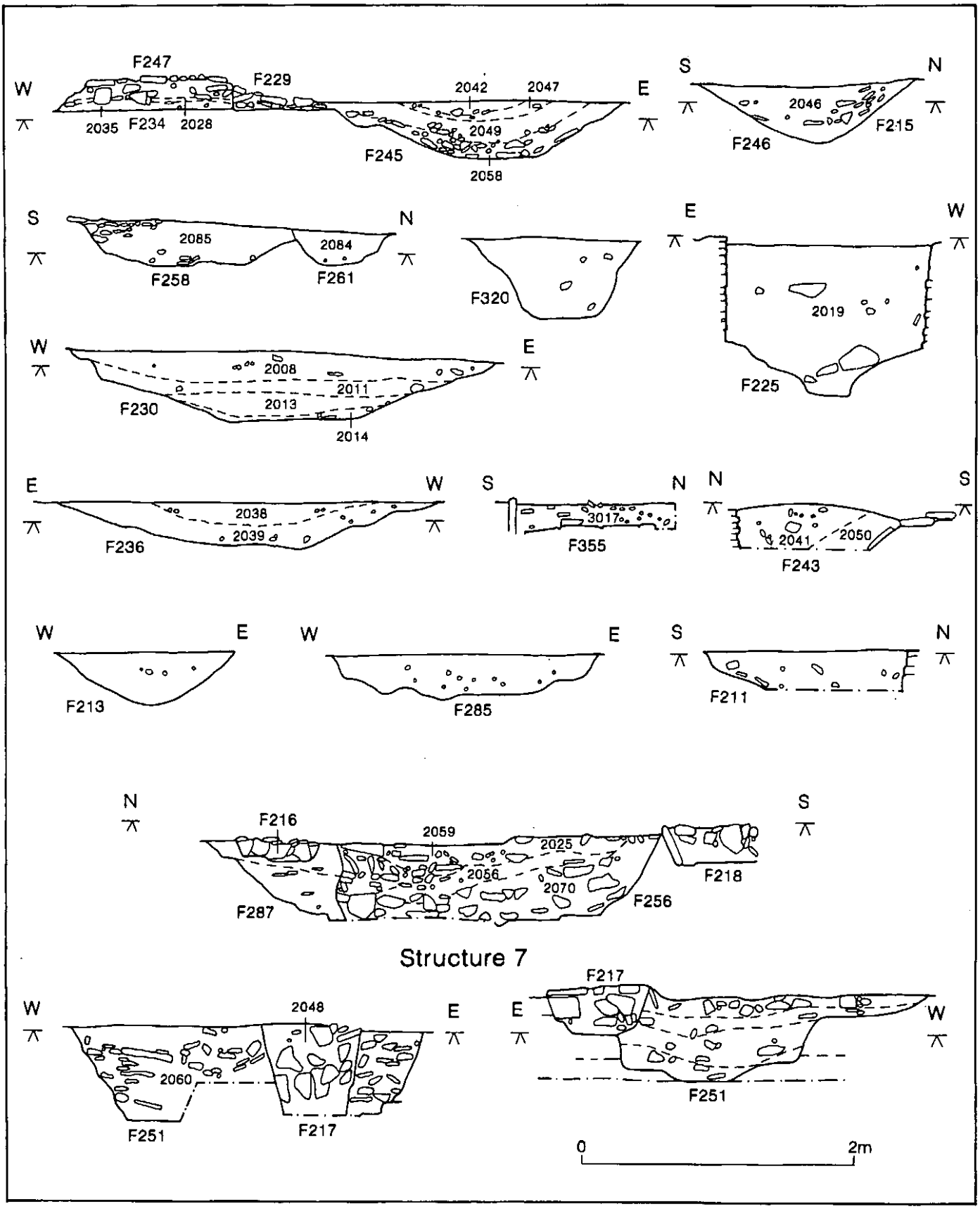

F247
W
F229
2042
2047
E
2035
F234
2028
2049
F245
2058
S
N
2046
F215
F246
S
N
2085
2084
F258
F261
F320
E
W
2019
F225
W
E
2008
2011
F230
2013
2014
E
W
2038
2039
F236
S
N
3017
F355
N
S
2041
2050
F243
W
E
F213
W
E
F285
S
N
F211
N
S
F216
2059
2025
2056
2070
F218
F287
F256
Structure 7
W
E
2048
2060
F251
F217
E
W
F217
F251
0
2m

Fig 17

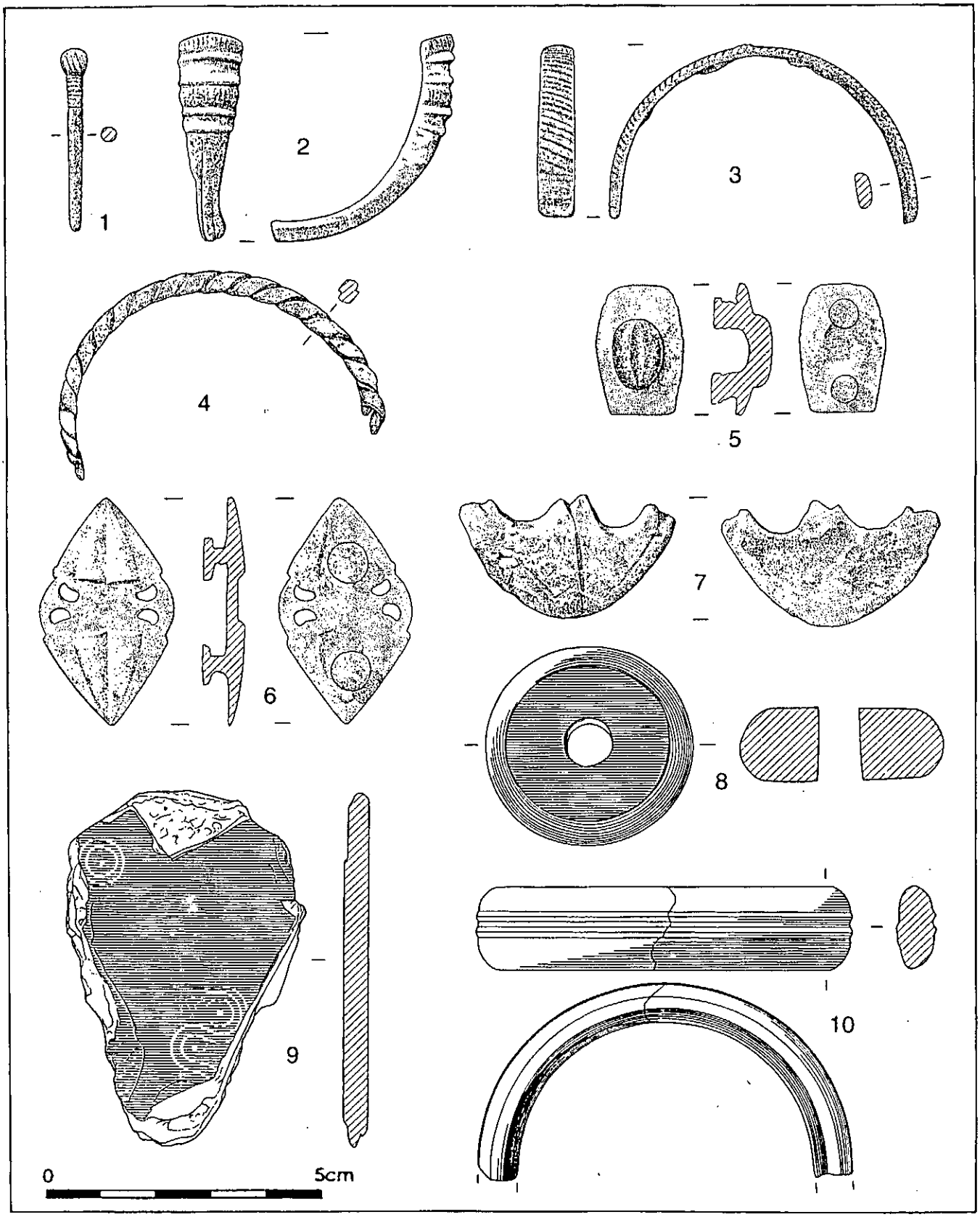


Fig 18

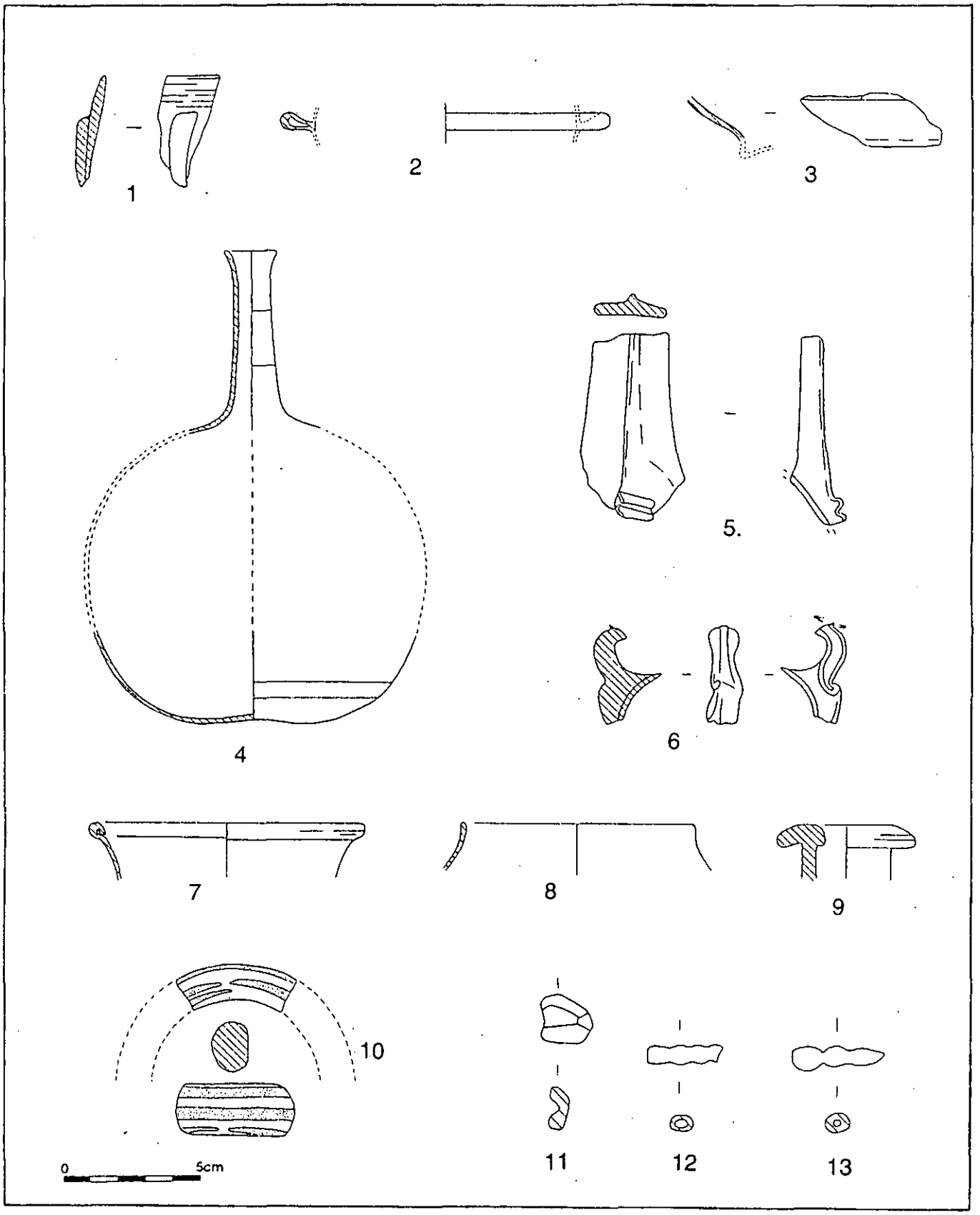


Fig 19

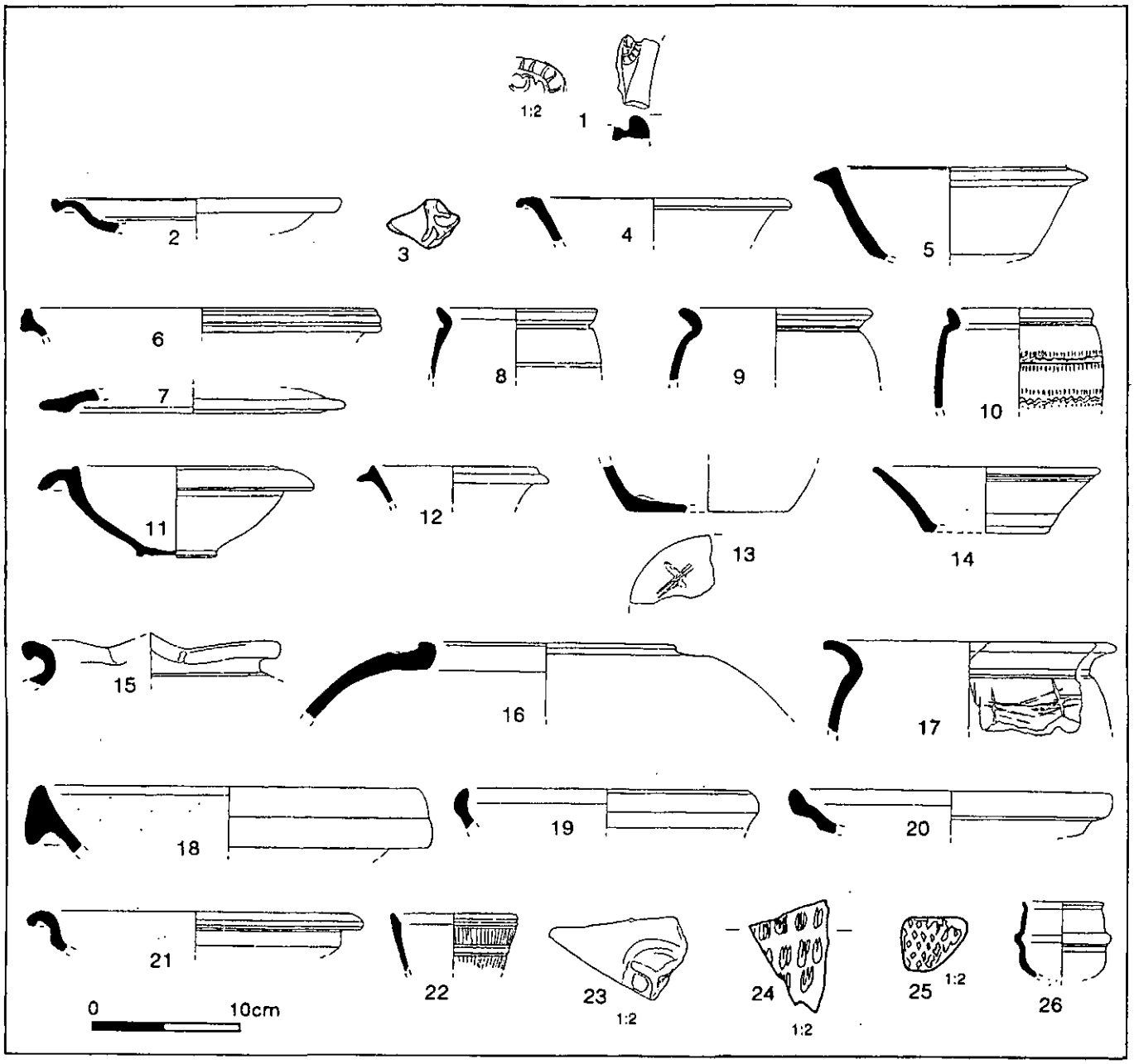

1:2
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
1:2
24
1:2
25
1:2
26
0
10cm

Fig 20

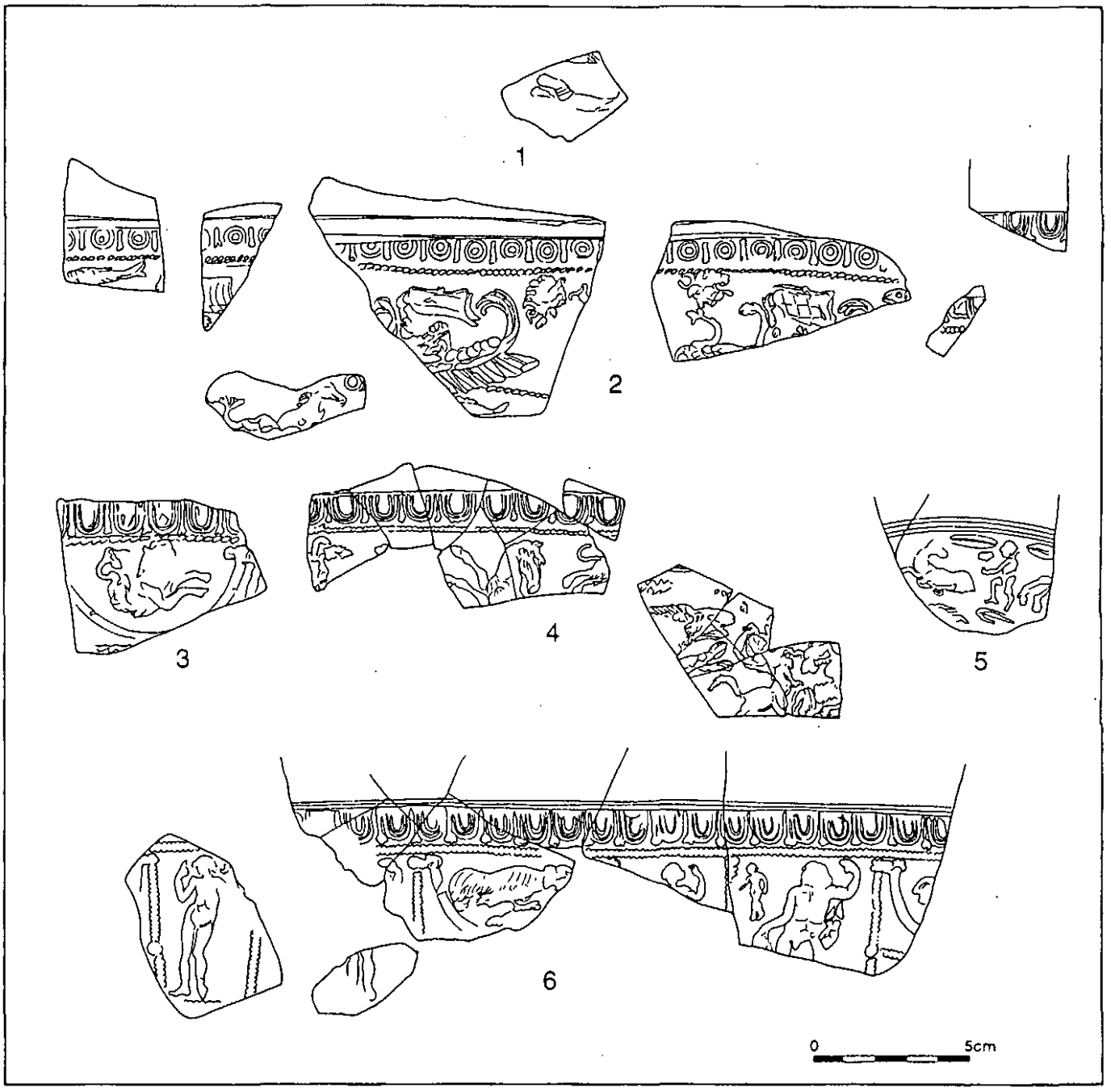


Fig 21

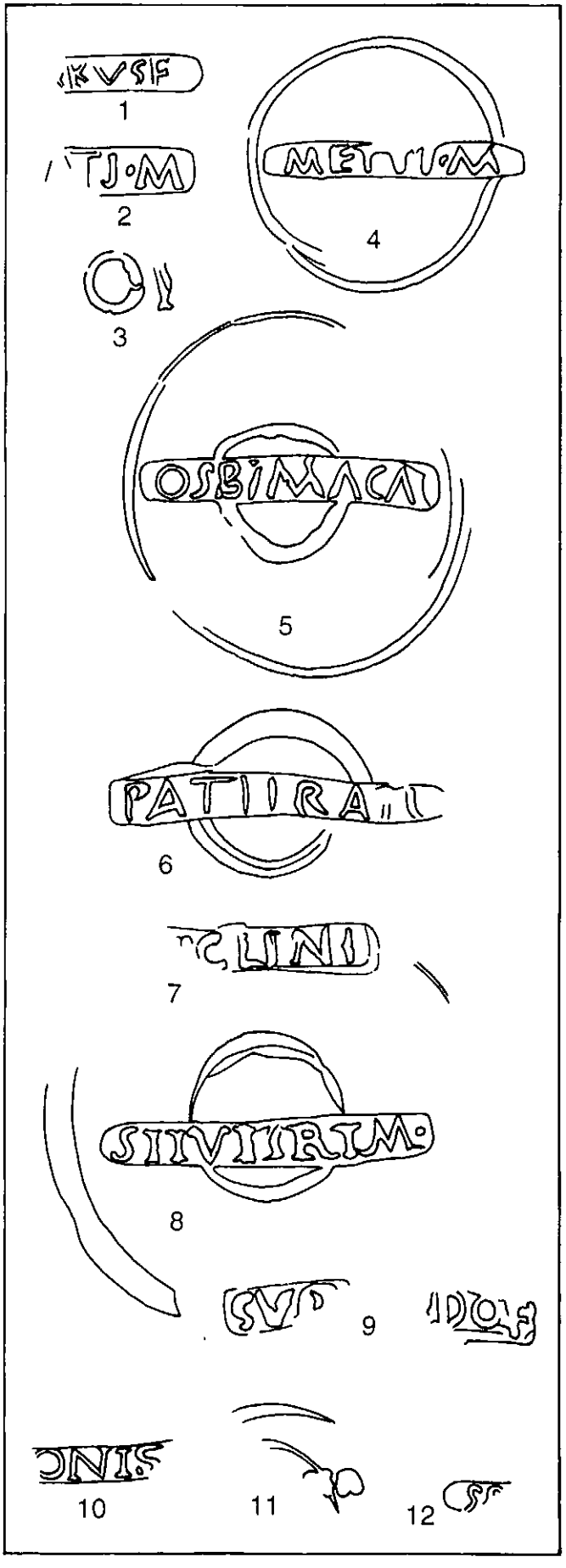
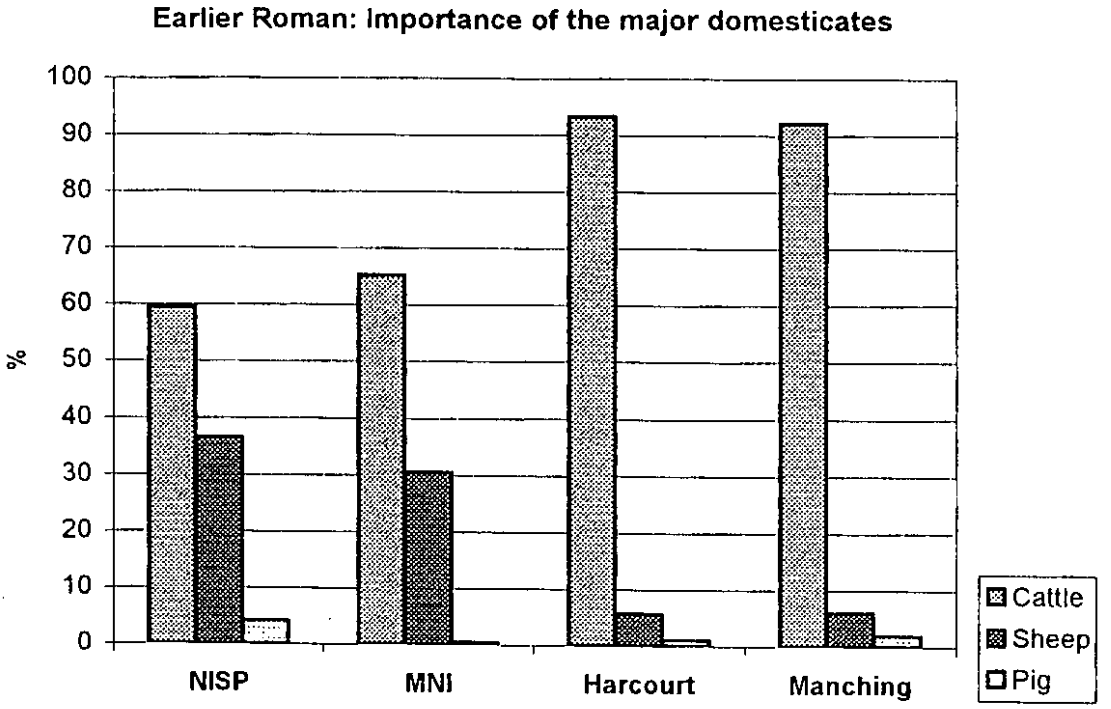
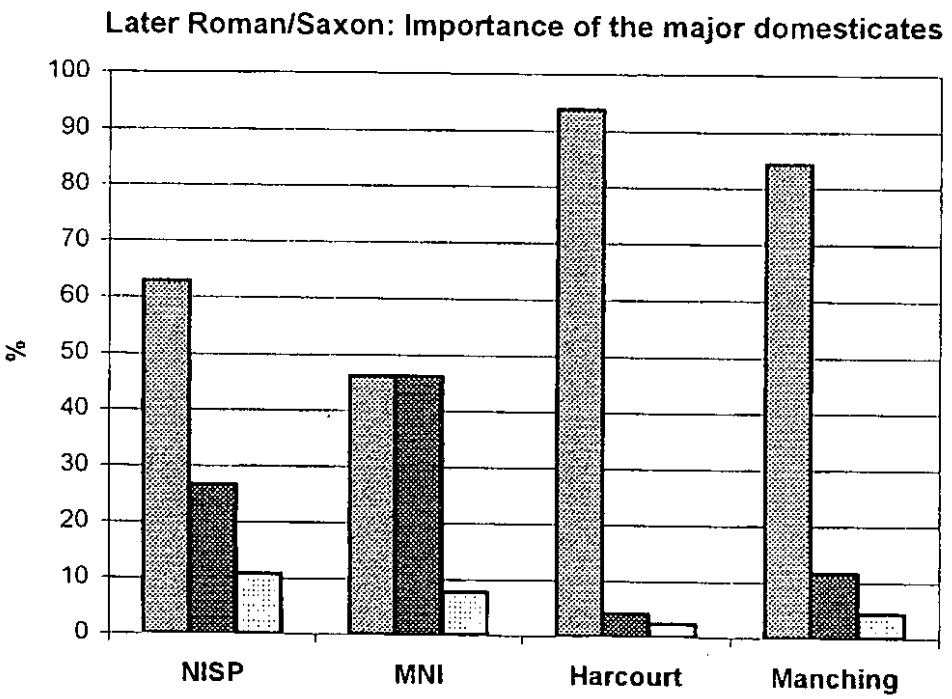


Fig 22





Harcourt (1979) Manching (Dobney et al. Undated)

Relative importance of the main domesticates

Fig.23

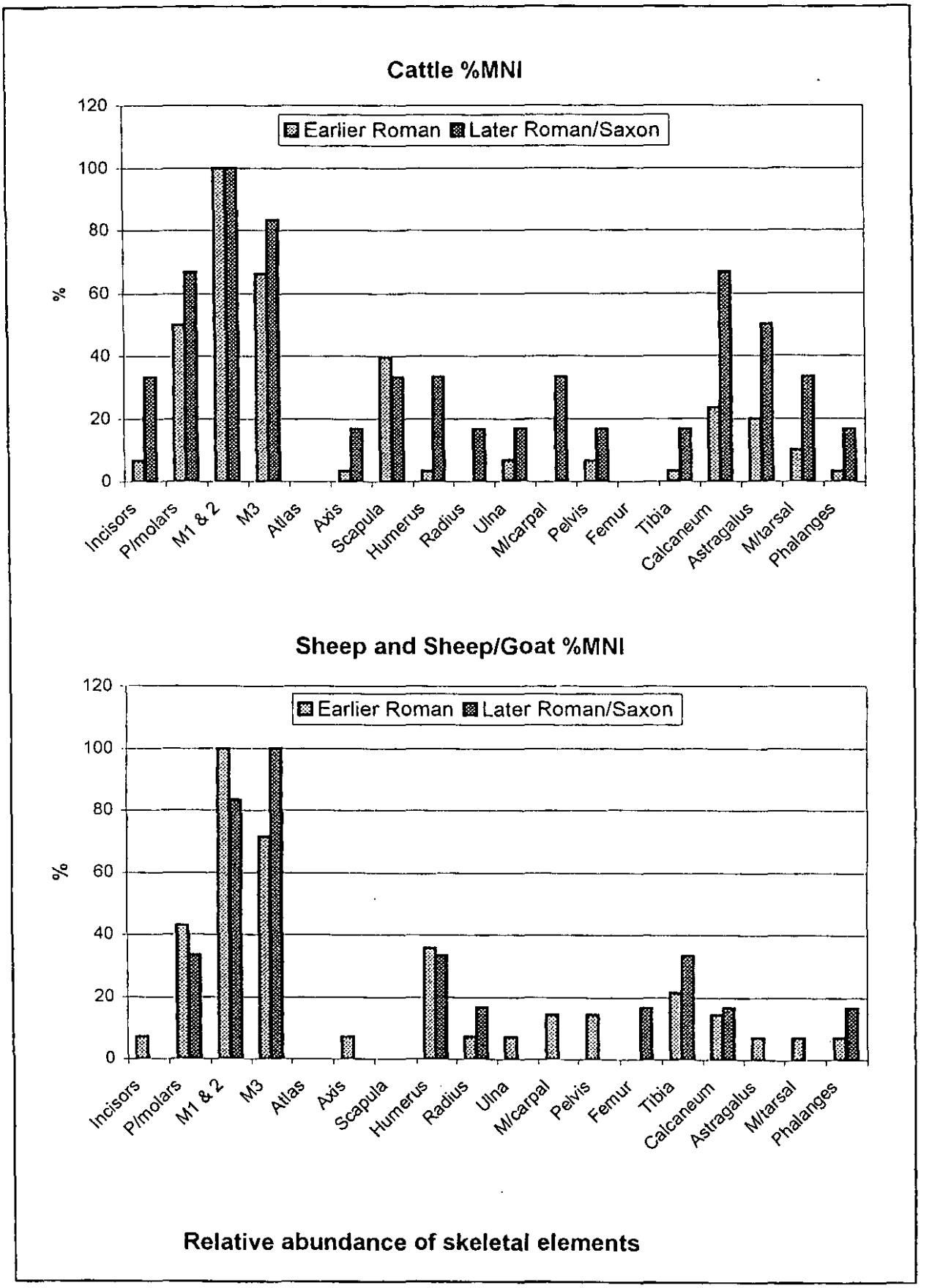
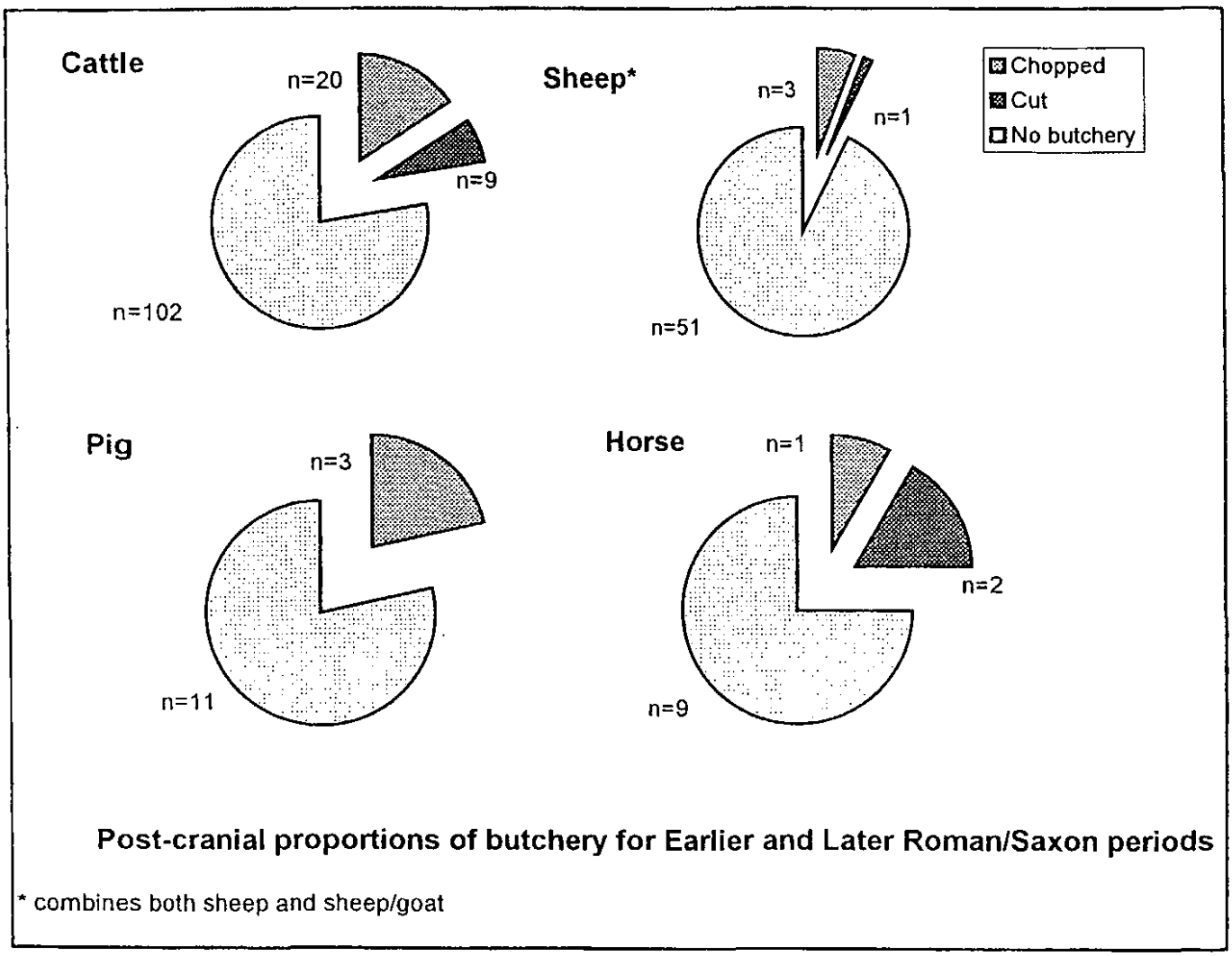

Cattle %MNI
Earlier Roman
Later Roman/Saxon
%
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Incisors
P/molars
M1 & 2
M3
Atlas
Axis
Scapula
Humerus
Radius
Ulna
M/carpal
Pelvis
Femur
Tibia
Calcaneum
Astragalus
M/tarsal
Phalanges
Sheep and Sheep/Goat %MNI
Earlier Roman
Later Roman/Saxon
%
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Incisors
P/molars
M1 & 2
M3
Atlas
Axis
Scapula
Humerus
Radius
Ulna
M/carpal
Pelvis
Femur
Tibia
Calcaneum
Astragalus
M/tarsal
Phalanges
Relative abundance of skeletal elements

Fig.24



Post-cranial proportions of butchery for Earlier and Later Roman/Saxon periods

* combines both sheep and sheep/goat

Fig.25

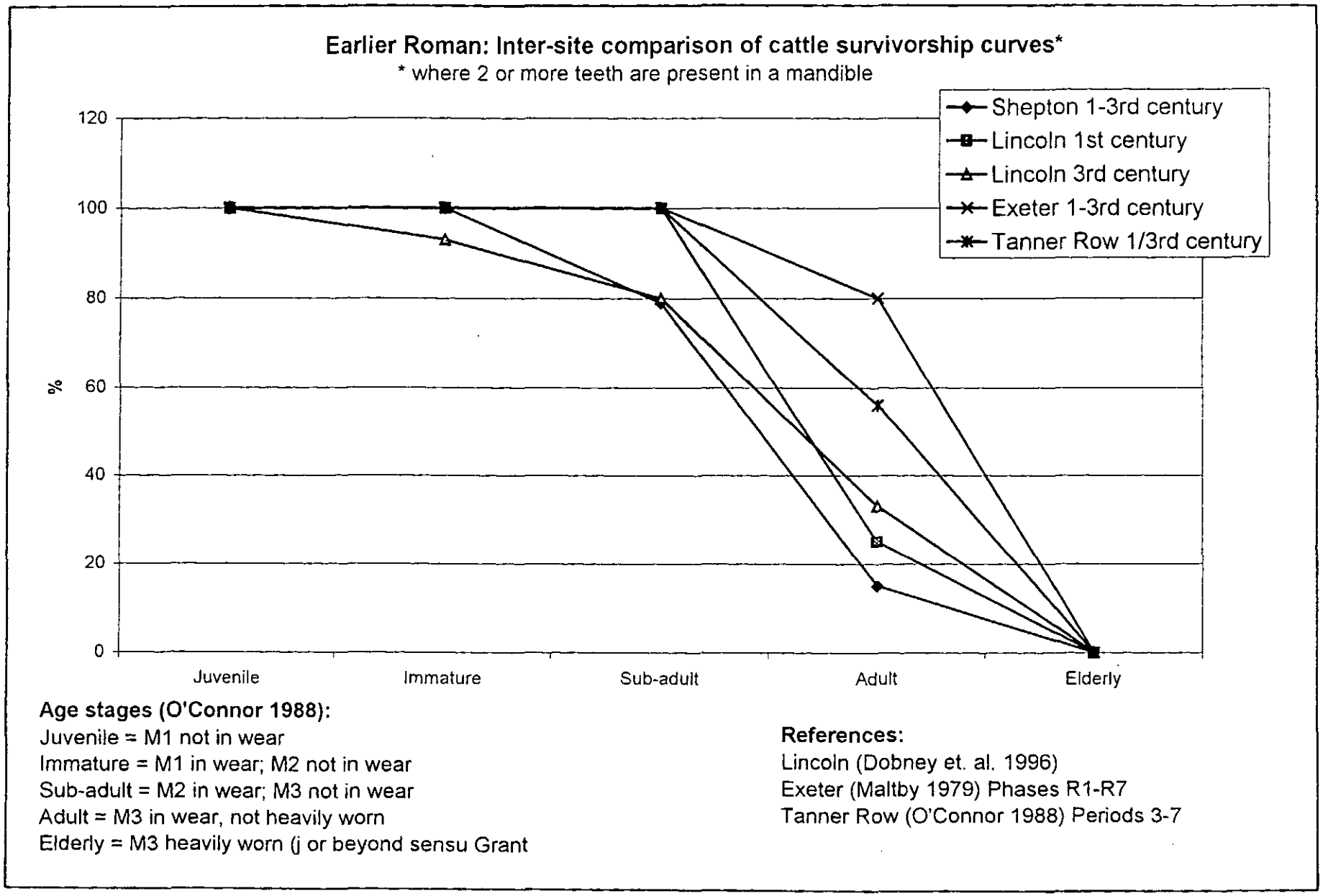

Earlier Roman: Inter-site comparison of cattle survivorship curves*
* where 2 or more teeth are present in a mandible
Shepton 1-3rd century
Lincoln 1st century
Lincoln 3rd century
Exeter 1-3rd century
Tanner Row 1/3rd century
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
%
Juvenile
Immature
Sub-adult
Adult
Elderly
Age stages (O'Connor 1988):
Juvenile = M1 not in wear
Immature = M1 in wear; M2 not in wear
Sub-adult = M2 in wear; M3 not in wear
Adult = M3 in wear, not heavily worn
Elderly = M3 heavily worn (j or beyond sensu Grant
References:
Lincoln (Dobney et. al. 1996)
Exeter (Maltby 1979) Phases R1-R7
Tanner Row (O'Connor 1988) Periods 3-7

Fig.27

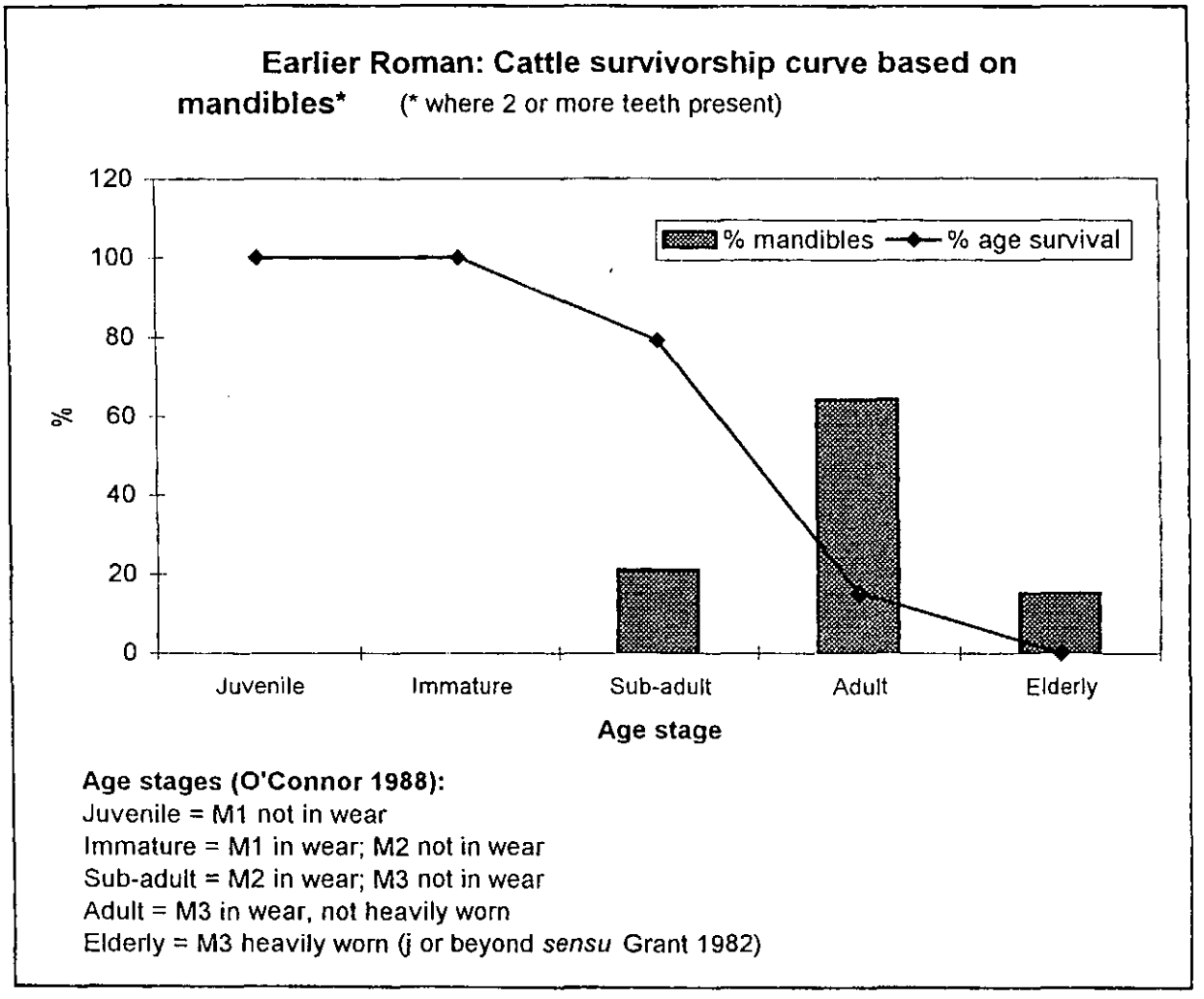

Earlier Roman: Cattle survivorship curve based on mandibles*
(* where 2 or more teeth present)
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
%
% mandibles
% age survival
Juvenile
Immature
Sub-adult
Adult
Elderly
Age stage
Age stages (O'Connor 1988):
Juvenile = M1 not in wear
Immature = M1 in wear; M2 not in wear
Sub-adult = M2 in wear; M3 not in wear
Adult = M3 in wear, not heavily worn
Elderly = M3 heavily worn (j or beyond sensu Grant 1982)

Fig.26

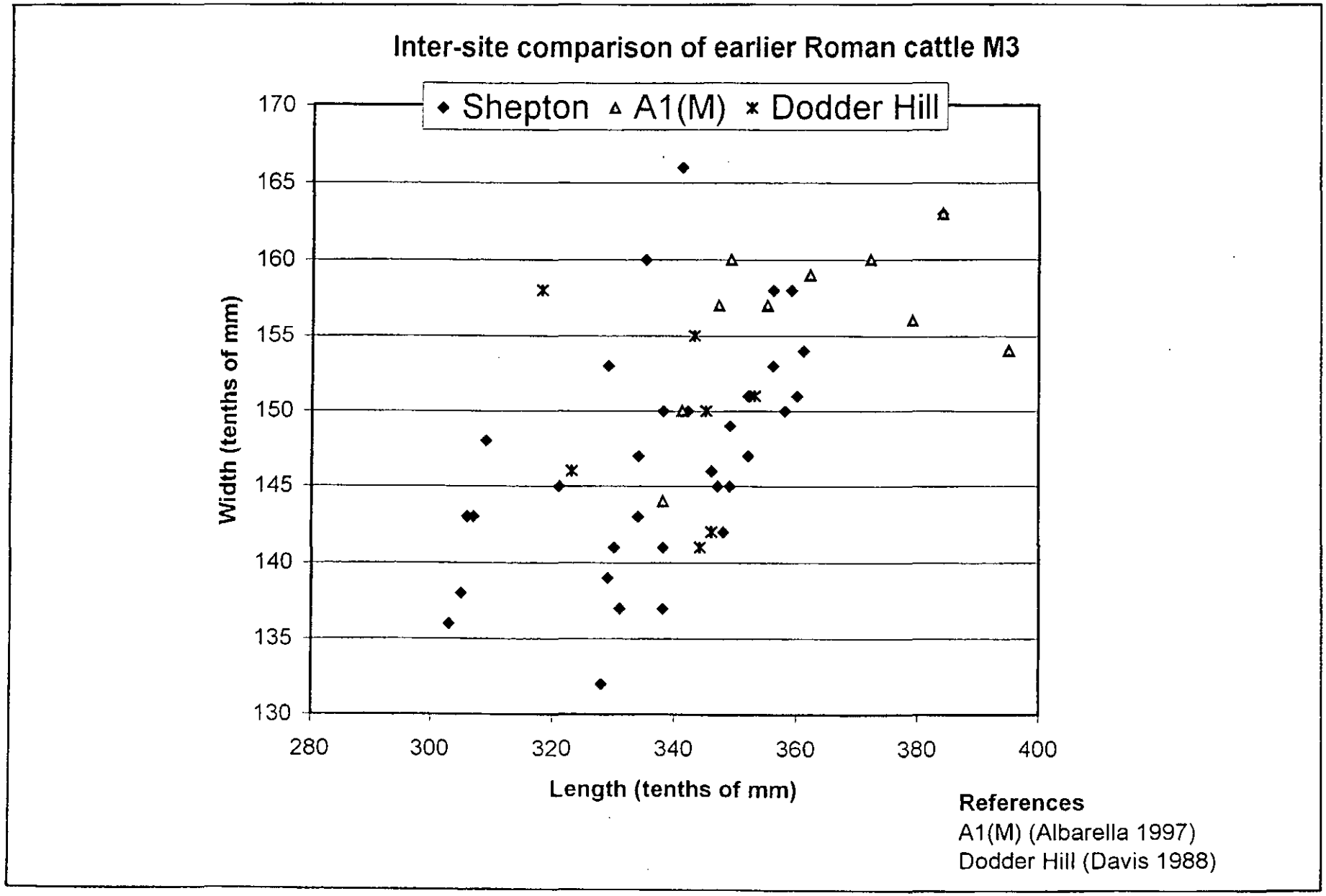

Inter-site comparison of earlier Roman cattle M3
Shepton
A1(M)
Dodder Hill
Width (tenths of mm)
170
165
160
155
150
145
140
135
130
280
300
320
340
360
380
400
Length (tenths of mm)
References
A1(M) (Albarella 1997)
Dodder Hill (Davis 1988)

Fig.28

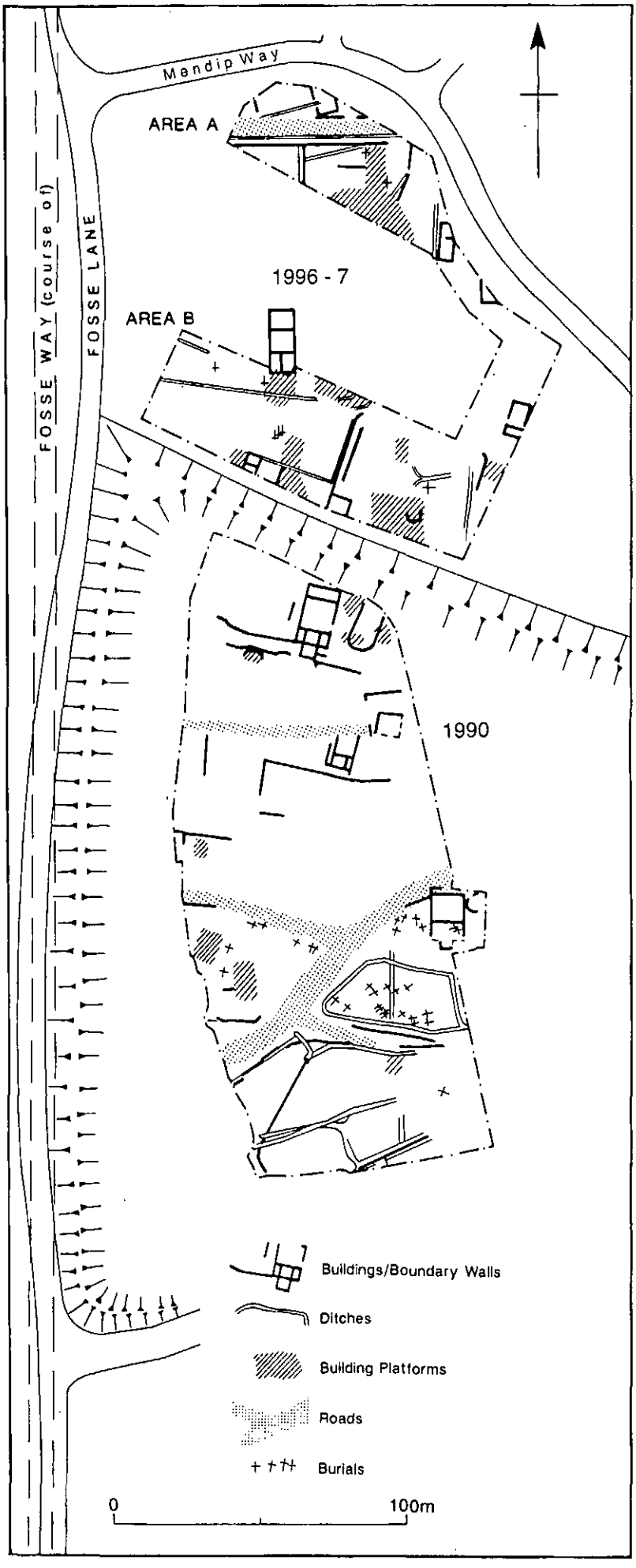

Mendip Way
AREA A
1996 - 7
AREA B
FOSSE WAY (course of)
FOSSE LANE
1990
Buildings/Boundary Walls
Ditches
Building Platforms
Roads
Burials
0
100m

Fig 29

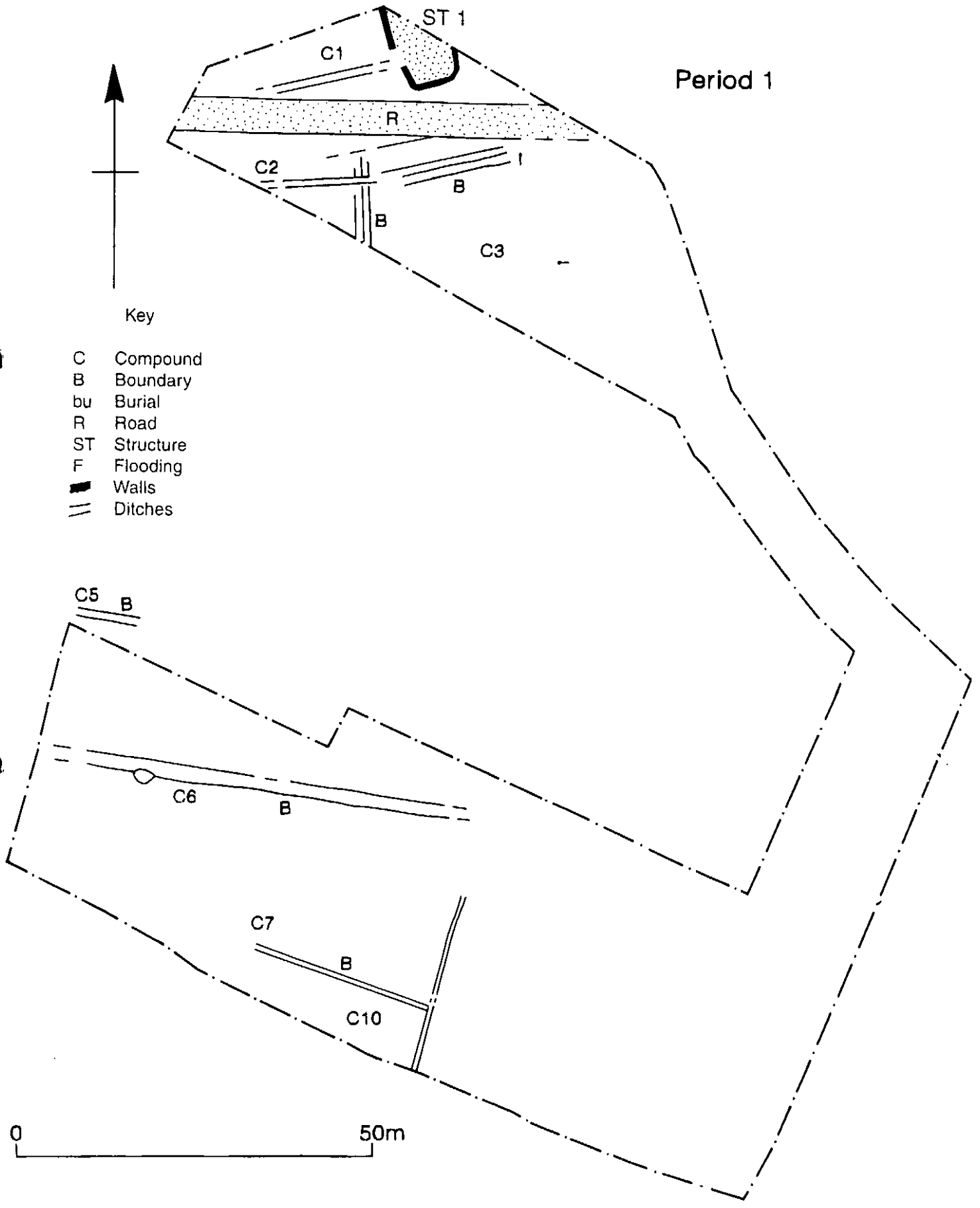

Period 1
ST 1
C1
R
C2
B
B
C3
Key
C Compound
B Boundary
bu Burial
R Road
ST Structure
F Flooding
Walls
Ditches
C5
B
C6
B
C7
B
C10
0
50m

Fig 30

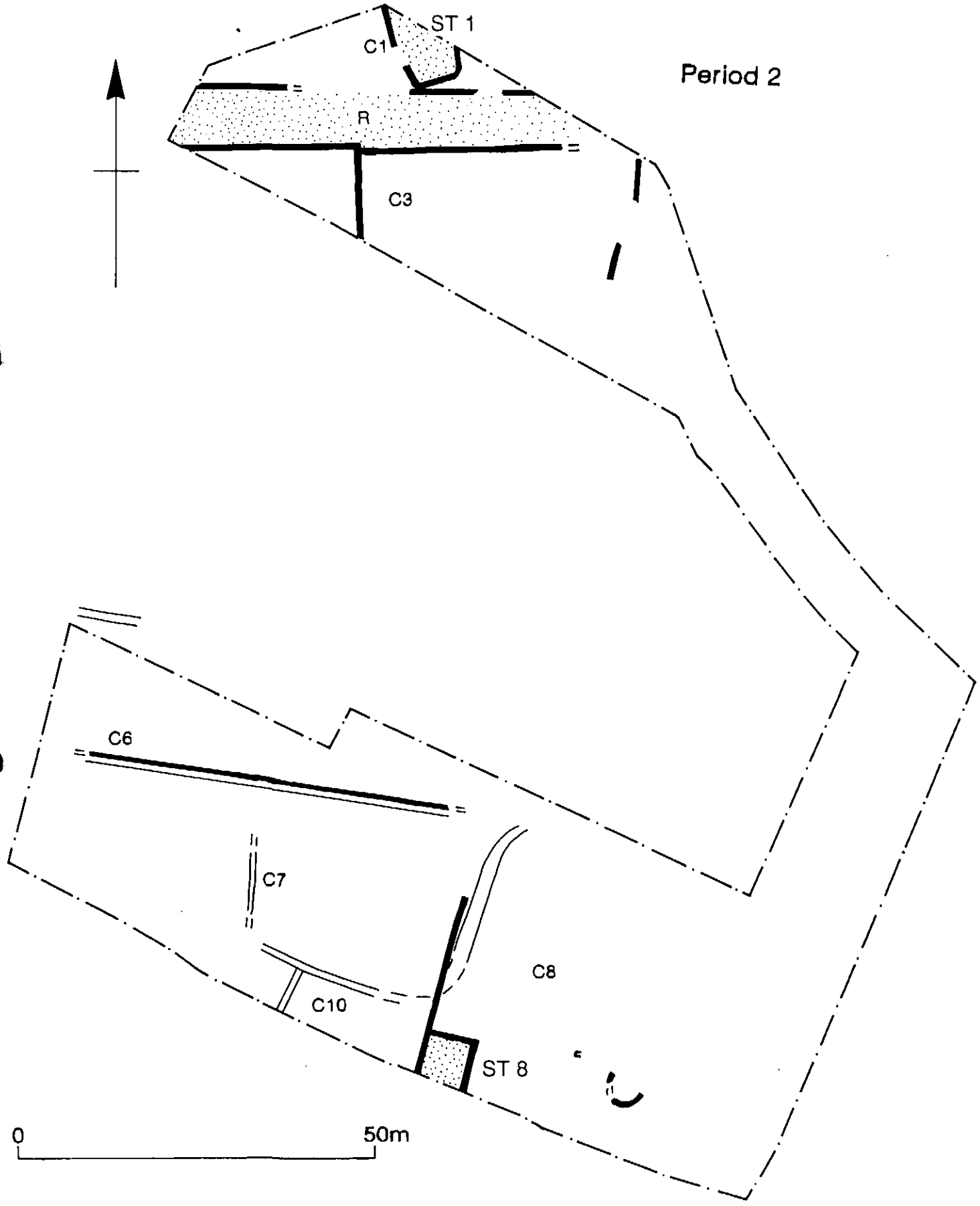


Fig 31

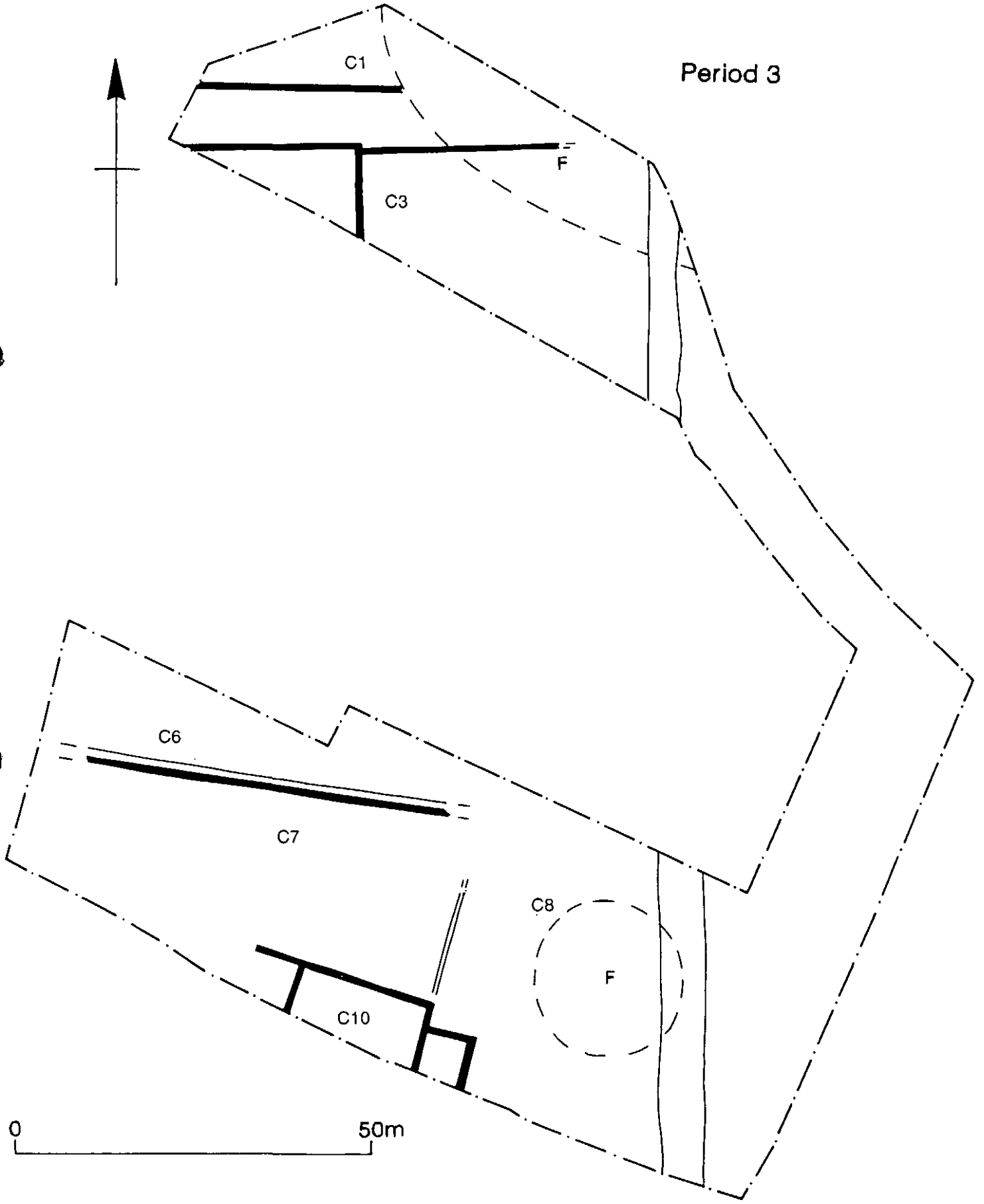


Fig 32

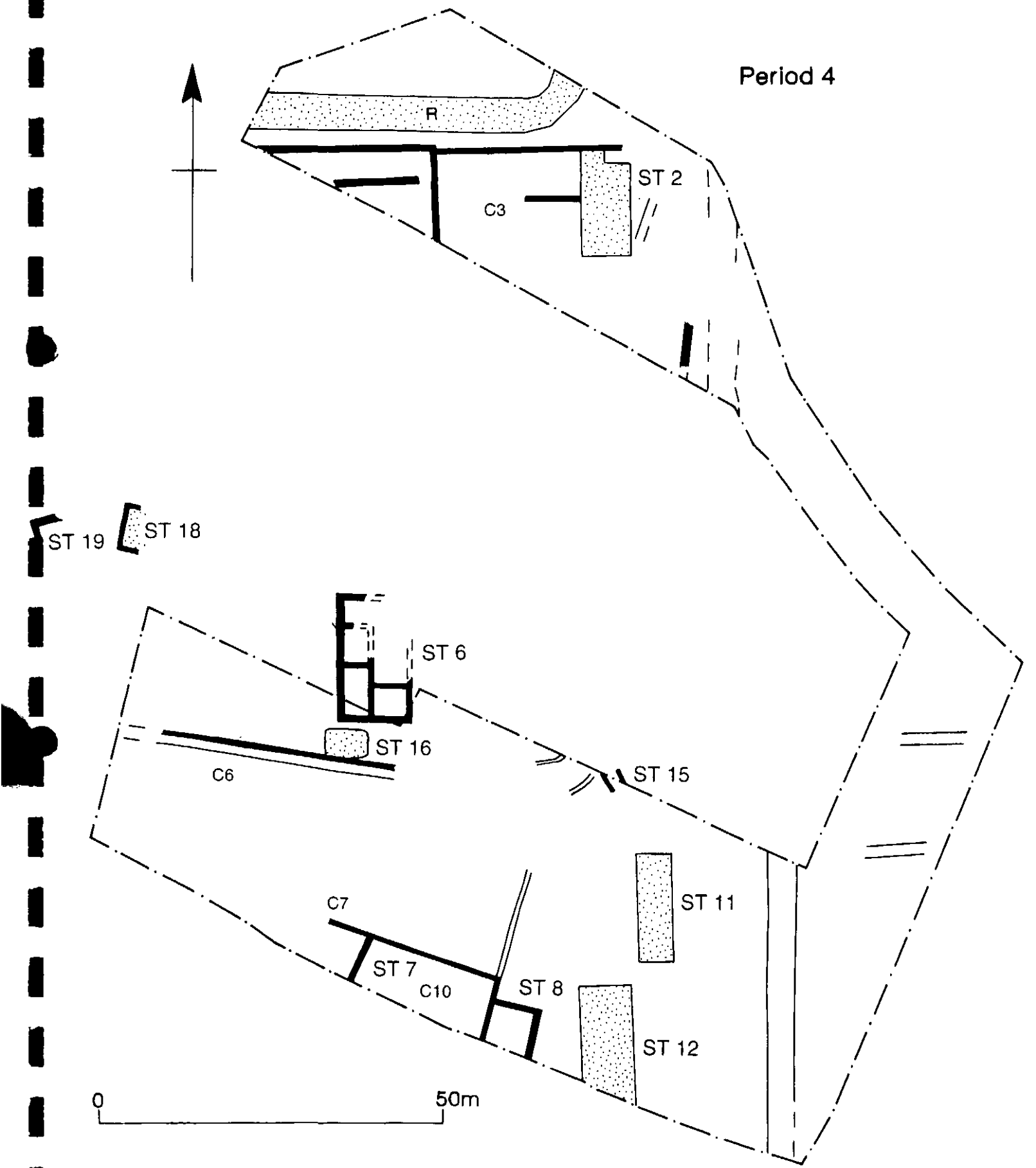

Period 4
R
ST 2
C3
ST 19
ST 18
ST 6
ST 16
C6
ST 15
C7
ST 11
ST 7
C10
ST 8
ST 12
0
50m

Fig 33

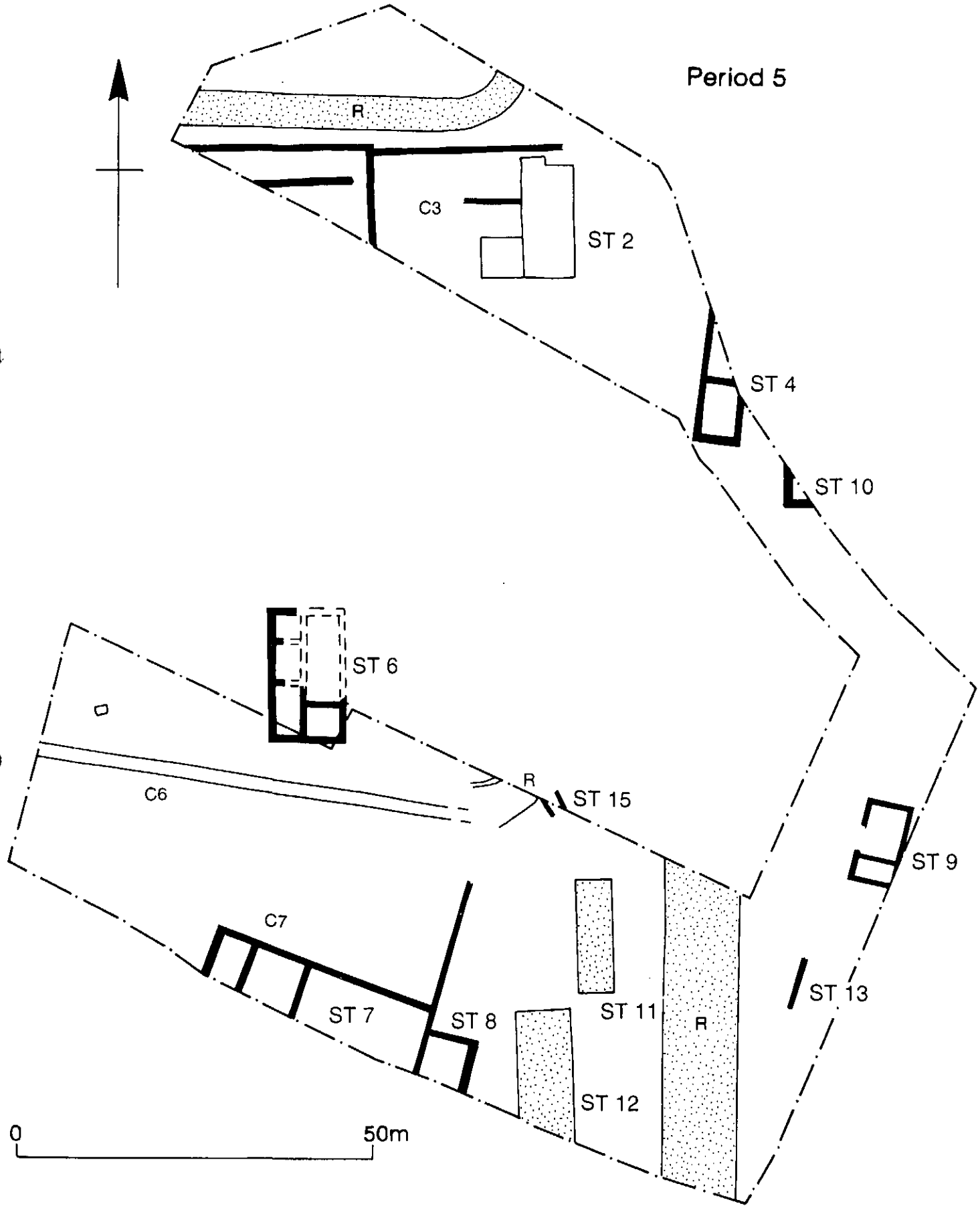

Period 5
R
C3
ST 2
ST 4
ST 10
ST 6
D
C6
R
ST 15
ST 9
C7
ST 7
ST 8
ST 11
R
ST 13
ST 12
0
50m

Fig 34

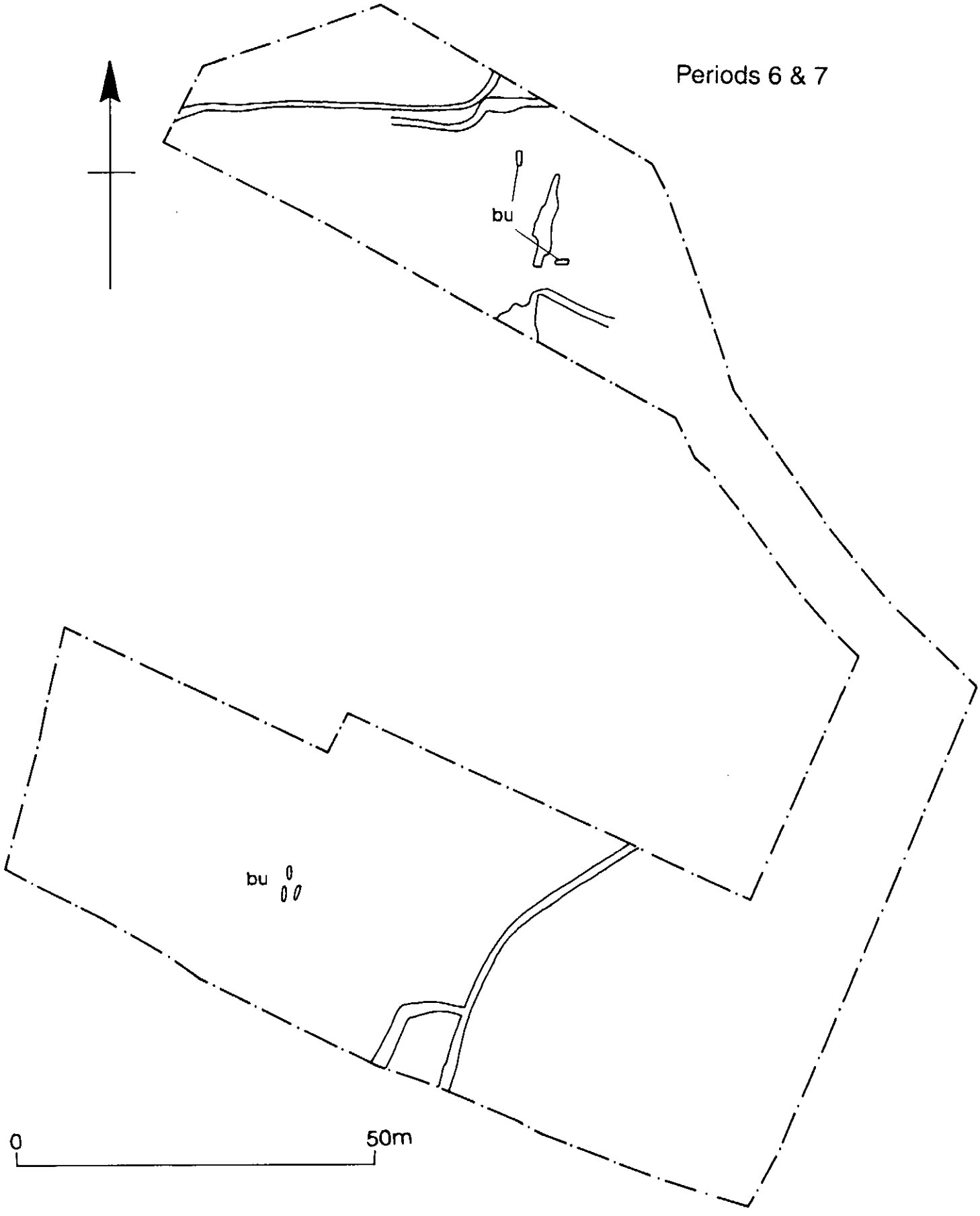


Fig 35

Plate 1: General view of the excavations (Area A to right); from east.

Plate 2: Upper surface of road F101 and north-south section, Area A; from east.

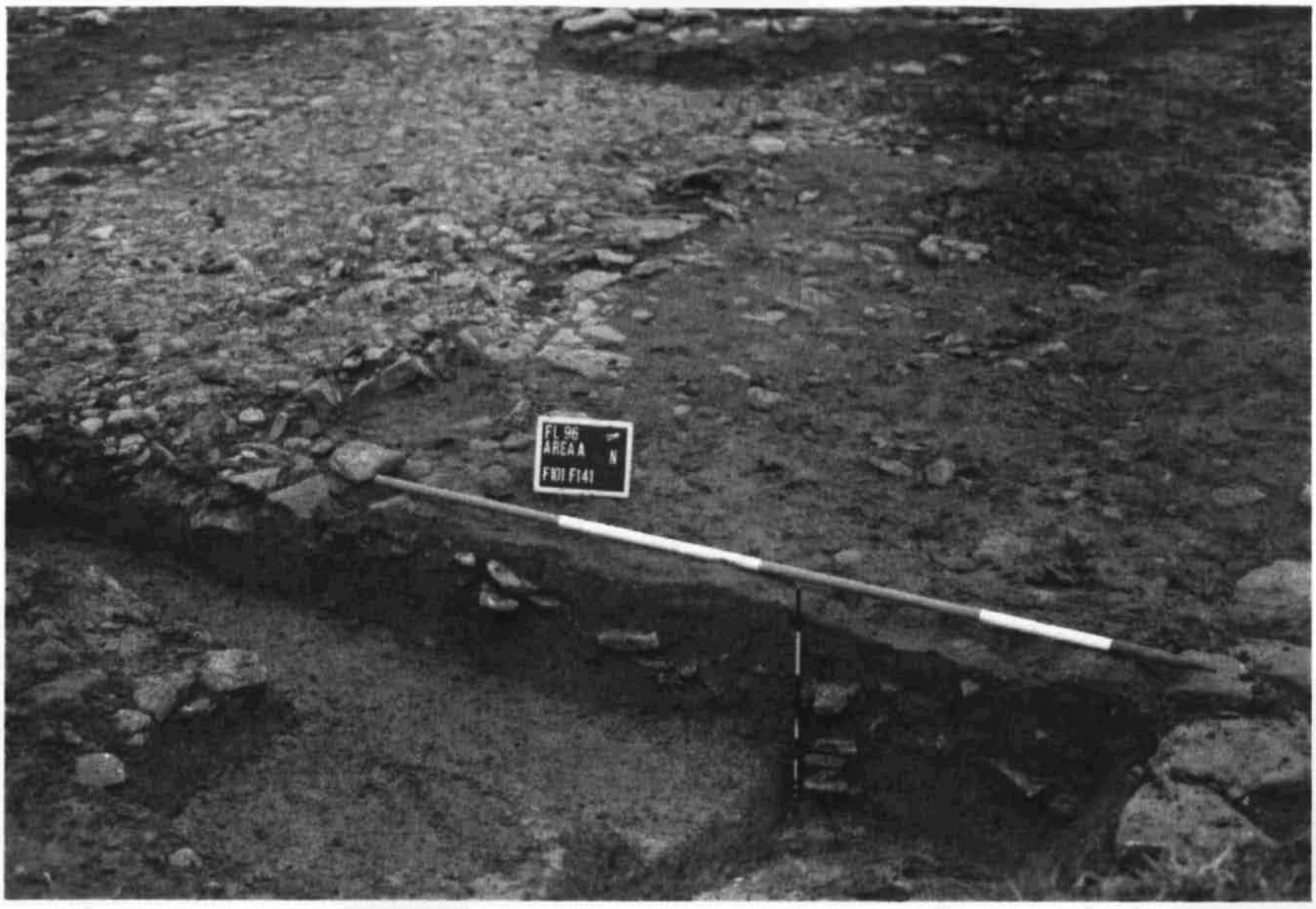


Plate 3: North side of road F101 and ditch F141, Area A; from east.

Plate 4: South side of road F101, ditch F142 and boundary wall F102, Area A; from southeast.

Plate 5: Boundary wall F103 (Period 2), Area A; from west.

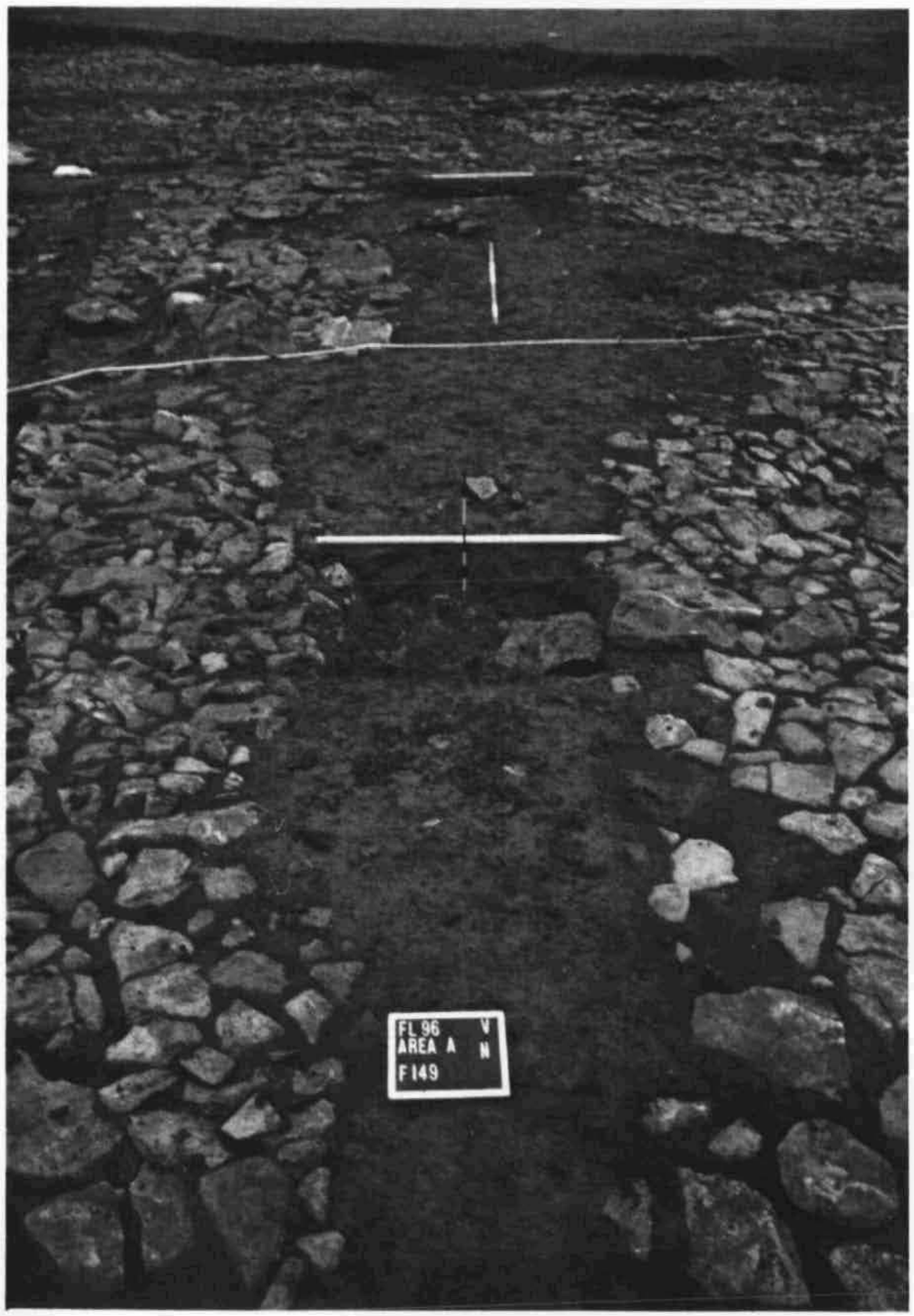


Plate 6: Ditch F149 (Period 6) cutting Structure 2, Area A; from north.

Plate 7: Ditches F145, F146 and F147 cutting road surfaces F101/F154, Area A; from southeast.

Plate 8: Boundary wall F215 (Period 2) collapsed into ditch F246 (Period 1), Area B; from east.

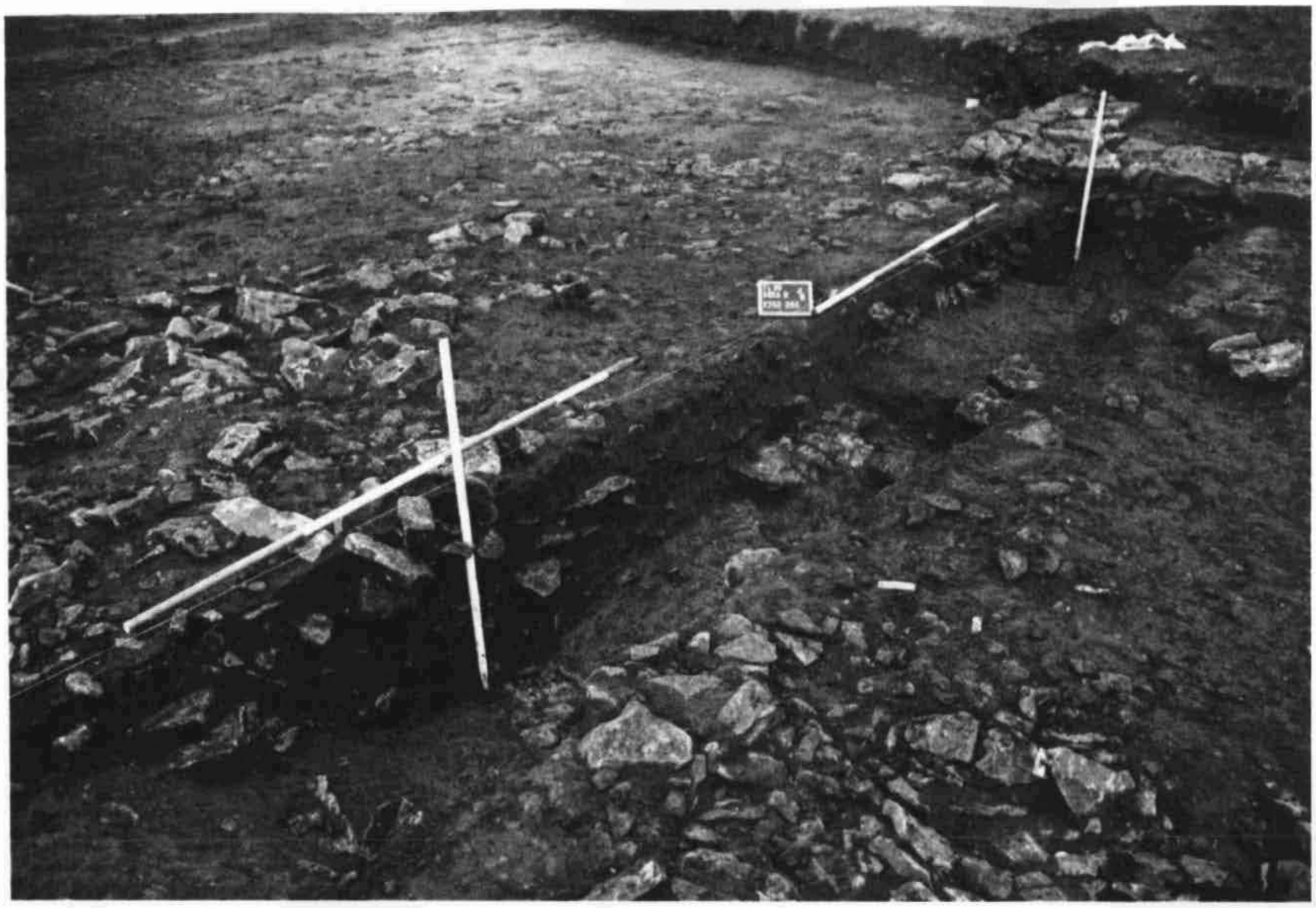


Plate 9: Section across boundary bank F210 (Period 1) and ditch F258 (Period 2) towards Structure 6 (top right, Periods 4-5), Area B; from southeast.

Plate 10: Structure 1 (Periods 1-2), Area A; from west.

Plate 11: Structure 1, road F101 surfaces and ditches, Area A; vertical.

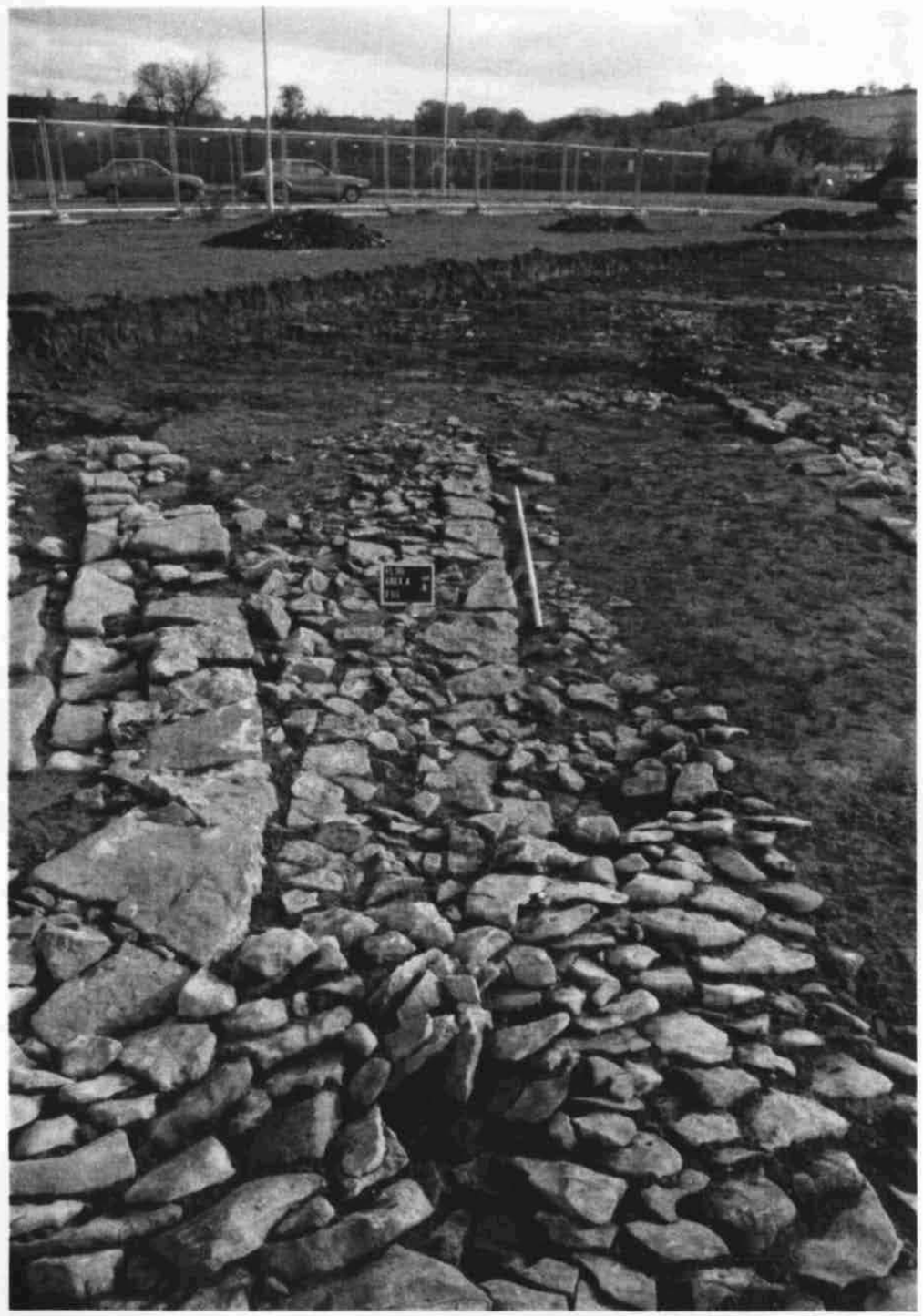


Plate 12: Structure 1 (Periods 1-2), Area A; from west.

Plate 13: Structure 1 (Periods1-2), Area A; from west.

Plate 14: Structure 2 (Period 4) and locality, Area A; general overhead view from south.

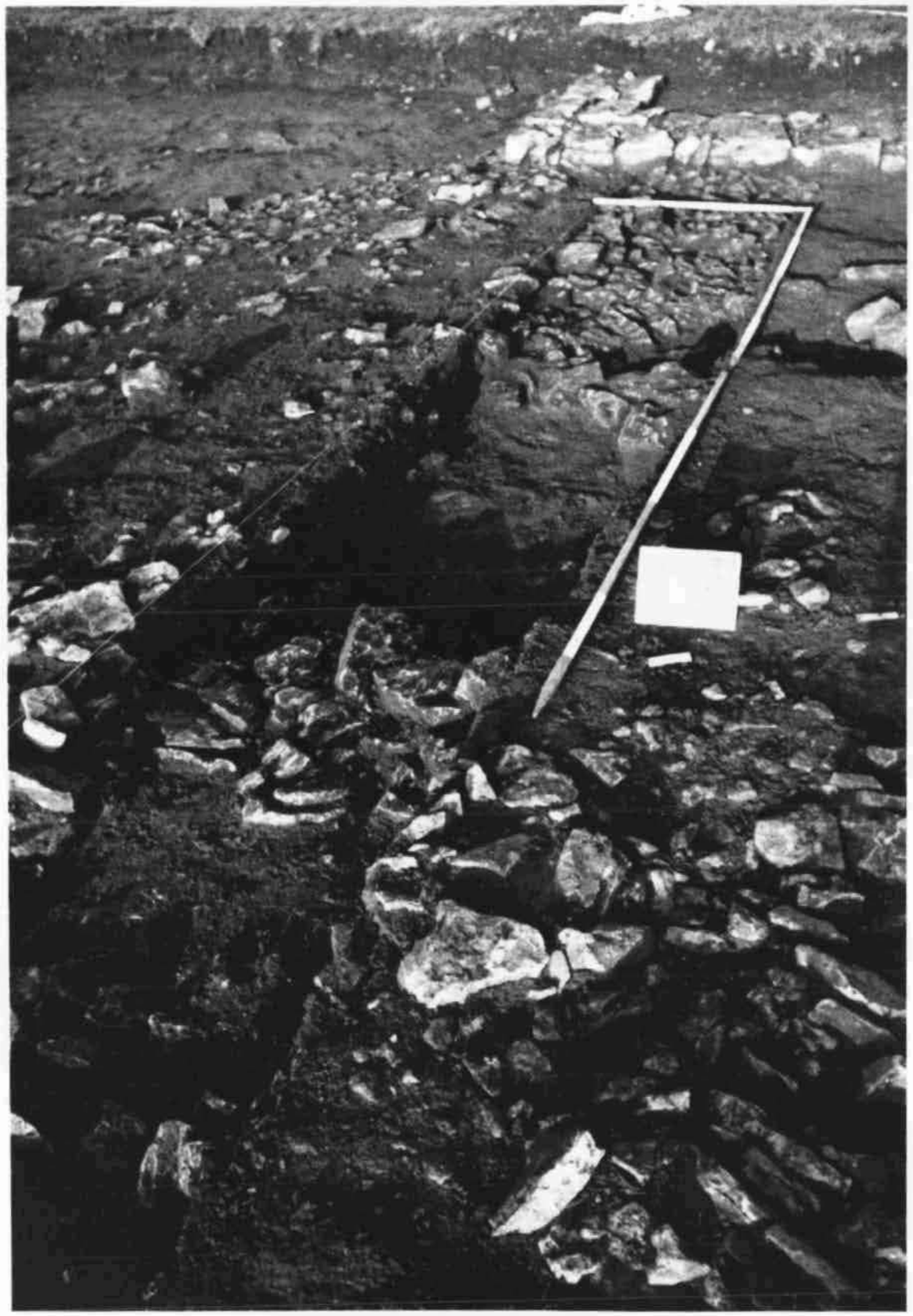


Plate 15: South corner of Structure 6 and, foreground,
platform cobbles from Structure 16 (Period 4), Area B; from south.

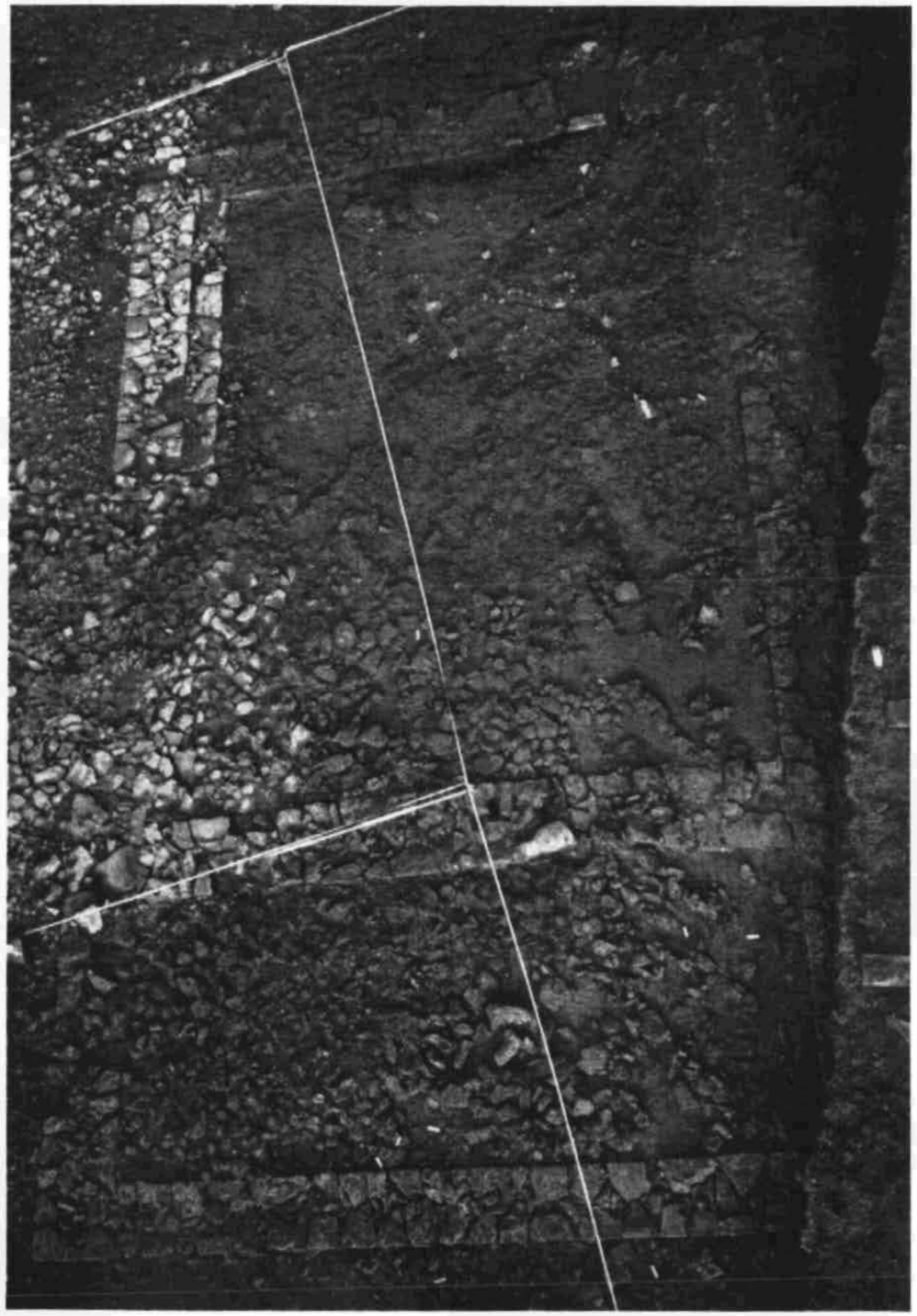


Plate 16: Structure 9 (Period 5), Area B; overhead view from south.

Plate 17: Structure 9 (Period 5), Area B; from southeast.

Plate 18: Structure 8 (Period 2), Area B; overhead view from southwest.

Plate 19: Ovens F250 and F249 (Period 2) with Structure 12 platform (Period 4) at top right, Area B; from northwest.

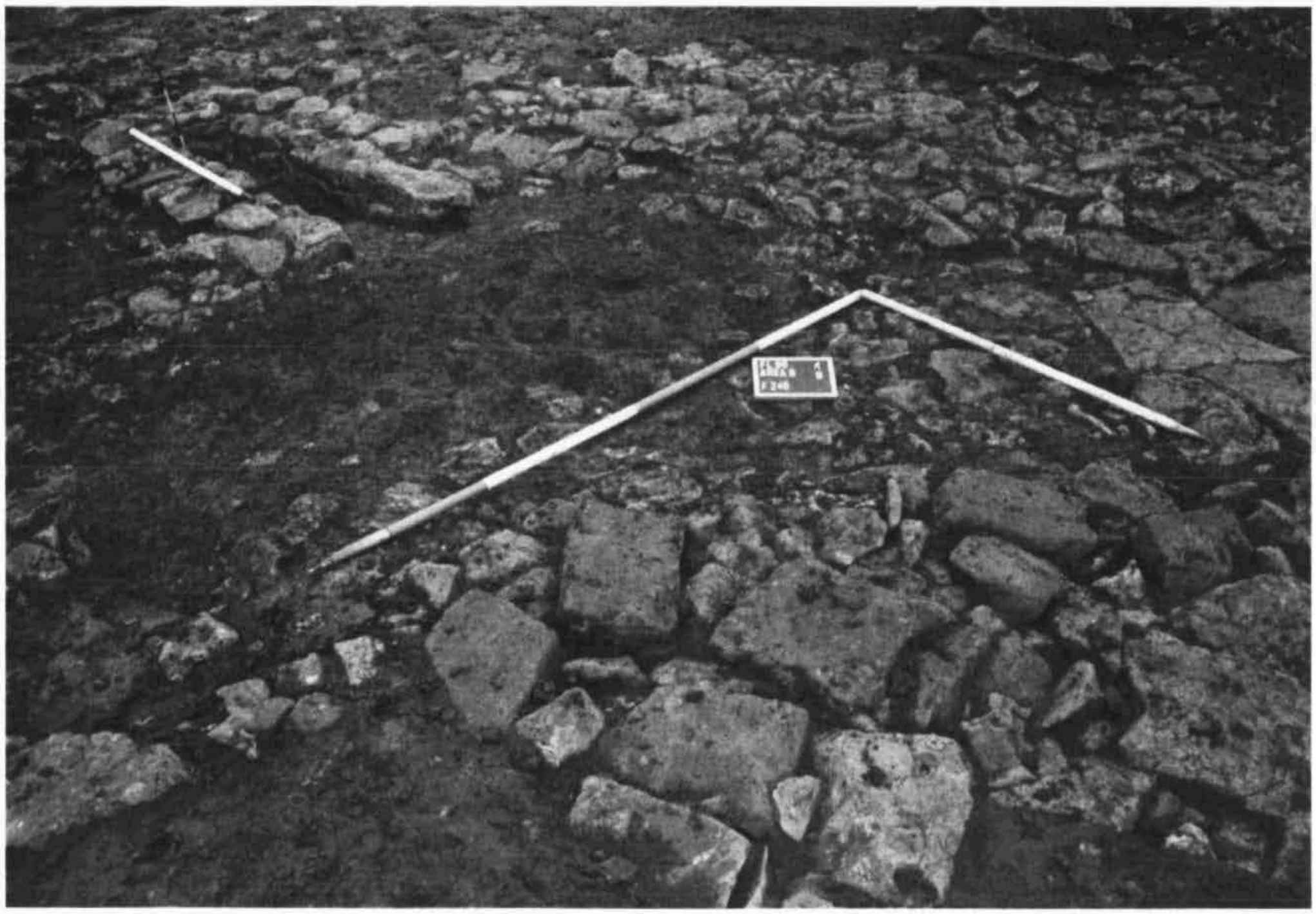


Plate 20: Oven F249, rakeout 2093 and stone rubble surfaces (Period 2), Area B; from south.

Plate 21: Oven F249 (Period 2), Area B; from west.

Plate 22: Drain F262 (Period 4), Area B; from west.

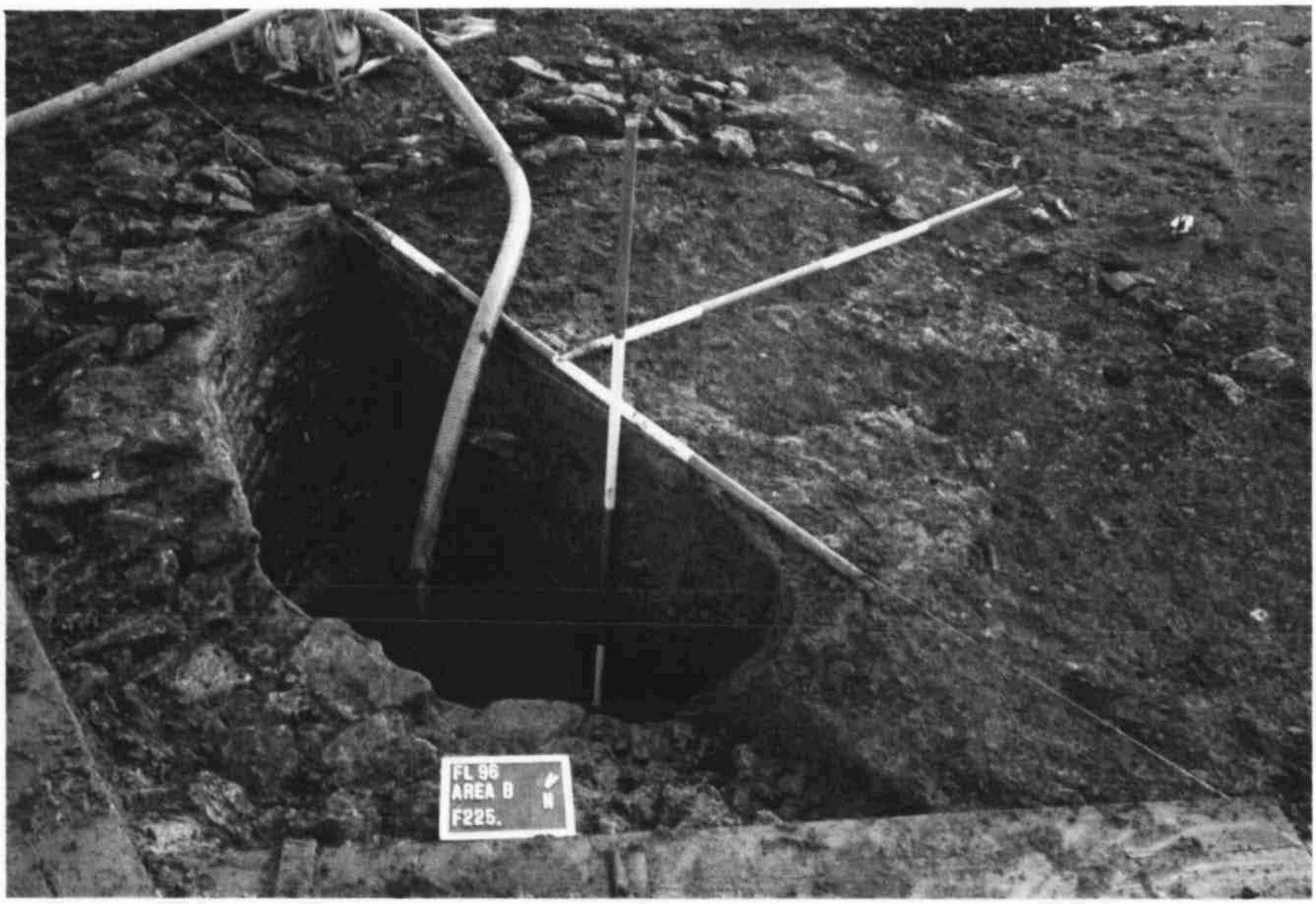


Plate 23: Stone lined well or cistern F225 (Period 5) under excavation, Area B; from northwest.

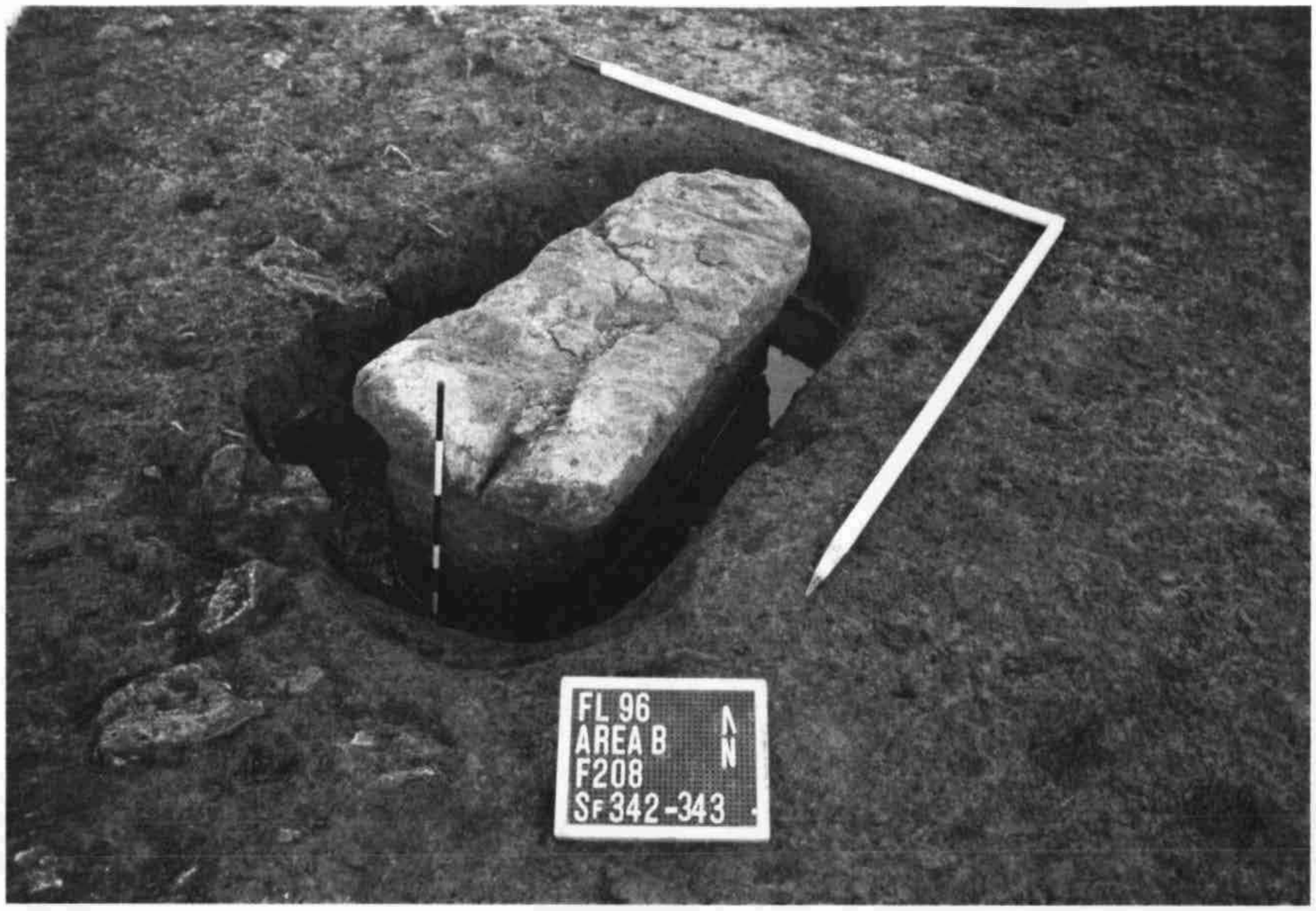


Plate 24: Stone coffin (SF342-343) in grave F208 (Period 5), Area B; from south.

Plate 25: Infant burial HB5 in stone coffin (SF343) and grave F208 (Period 5), Area B; from south.

Plate 26: Base of lead ossuary (SF380) *in situ* within cist F242 (Period 1), Area B; from north.

Plate 27: Burial HB8 in grave F122 (Period 6), cutting Structure 2, Area A; from north.

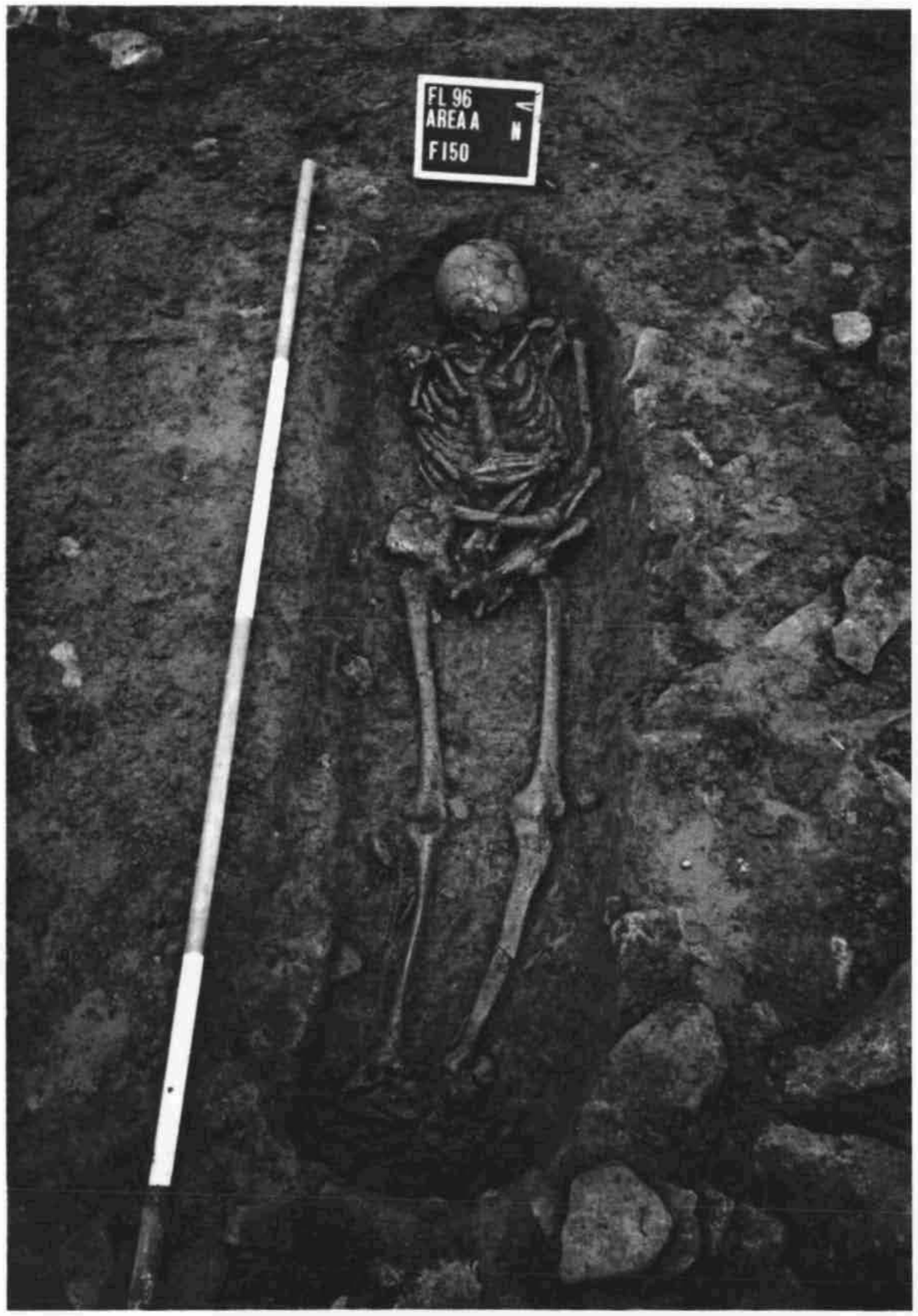


Plate 28: Burial HB7 in grave F150 (Period 6), Area A; from west.

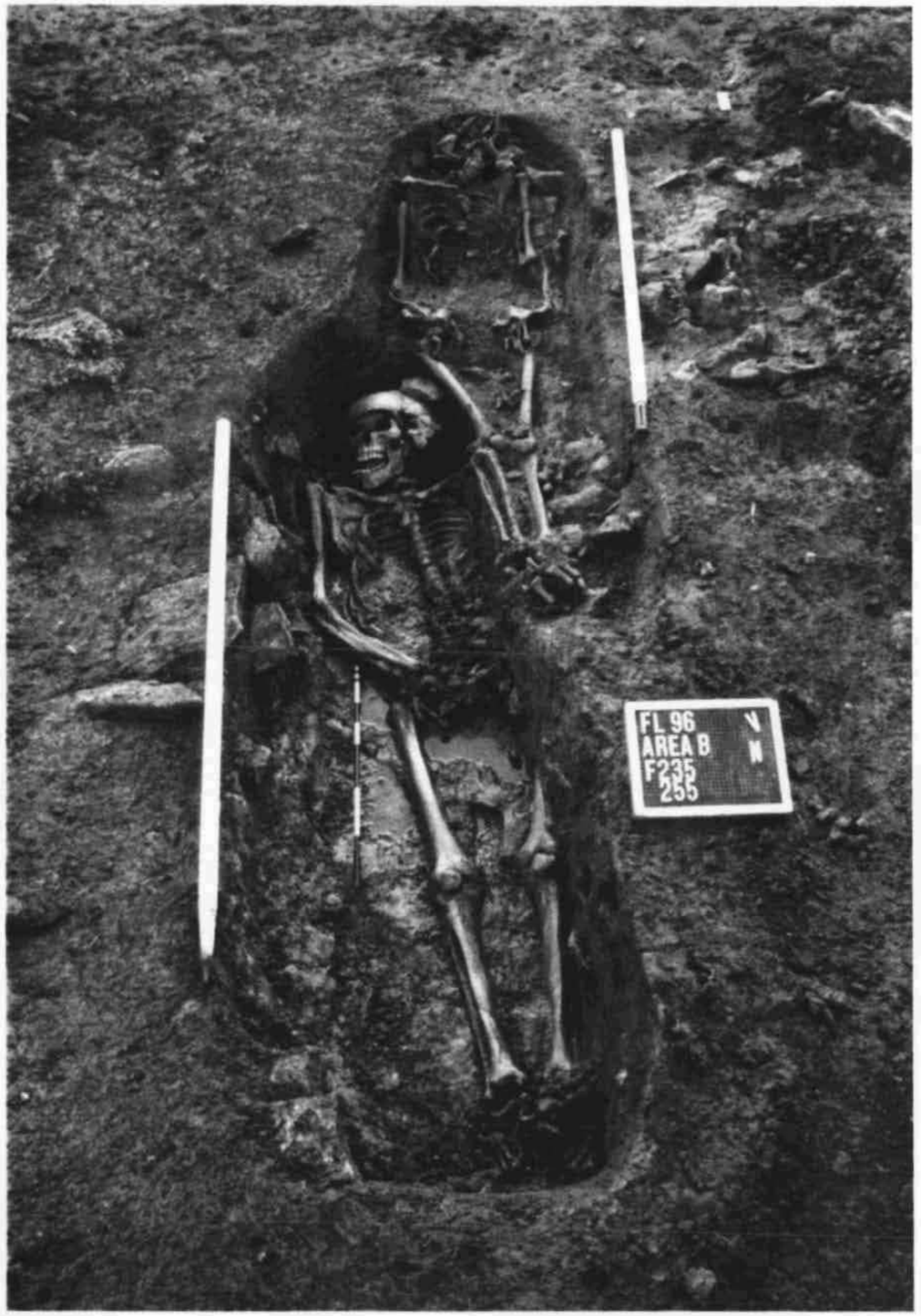


Plate 29: Burials HB1 in grave F235 and HB3 in grave F255 (Period 6), Area B; from north.

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