

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

Report No.159

August 1991
(with revisions February 1993)

OLD OSWESTRY HILLFORT, SHROPSHIRE
Site Narrative and Archive assessment of
Excavations by W.J.Varley 1939-1940

by
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By E.G. Hughes.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 1989 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by English Heritage to provide a series of texts and to design the illustrations and layout for six display panels at Old Oswestry hillfort in Shropshire (Buteux and Moss 1988). While undertaking the research for the texts it was suggested that sufficient material existed for a belated publication of the results of excavations undertaken at Old Oswestry by W.J.Varley in 1939 and 1940 in line with English Heritage objectives on the publication of pre-1973 backlog projects (English Heritage 1991, 9-10). English Heritage readily agreed to the suggestion and in March 1990 formally commissioned BUFAU to produce an assessment of the surviving archive together with proposals for completing the project for publication.

Varley outlined the background to the 1939 excavation in an article to the Border Counties Advertiser in July 1974 (Varley 1974a). In this article he stated that the initial stimulus for the work was the statement made by Sir Cyril Fox in 1934 describing Old Oswestry as "...the outstanding work of Early Iron Age type on the Marches of Wales...". This prompted the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and William Ormsby Gore, the third Lord Harlech and owner of the Brogyntyn estate which included Old Oswestry, to arrange for a preliminary excavation in the spring and summer of 1939. Varley (then attached to the University of Liverpool) was asked to supervise the day-to-day running of the excavation assisted by frequent visits from B.H.St.John O'Neill (then Inspector of Monuments). The fieldwork was conducted with the aid of a research grant from the Society of Antiquaries and other forms of assistance from the Brogyntyn estate, and continued until June when Varley transferred his attention to Castle

Hill, Almondbury, Yorkshire. He returned for a brief period in 1940 to complete a trench he had begun near to the western entrance of the hillfort.

In common with most other excavations on hillforts undertaken before the Second World War, the investigation largely involved sectioning the ramparts and ditches. This was intended to provide an insight into the structural development of the defences, which at the time were generally believed to best reflect the history of a hillfort (Cunliffe 1983, 15). However, Varley was also able to investigate two small, but stratigraphically important, areas of the interior.

Following the war Varley took up an invitation to help establish the University of the Gold Coast. This appointment, together with the death of O'Neill, delayed the production of a final report on the excavation. Varley was to do no more work at Old Oswestry until June 1974 when he assisted Arnold Aspinall of the University of Bradford with magnetometer and resistivity surveys on selected parts of the site. It seems clear that he was actively engaged in preparing his material for publication when he died in 1976.

The format of this report is designed to conform to the recommendations outlined by English Heritage in The Management of Archaeology Projects. Section 2 consists of a site narrative providing a brief description of the site and outlining the results of Varley's excavations. Section 3 deals with an assessment of the records and finds. Section 4 summarises the significance of the results to date, outlines a research design, and suggests a programme for completing the project, and publishing the results. Indexes for the site archive are provided in Appendix I and Appendix II. Appendix I lists unpublished

documents, reports, drawings and photographs (referred to in the text with the prefix D) and Appendix II lists correspondence relating to the excavation (referred to in the text with the prefix C). Appendix III reproduces two typescript reports by Elaine Morris, then of the University of Southampton, on the petrology of the prehistoric pottery recovered from the excavations.

2.0 THE SITE NARRATIVE.

2.1 The Site.

Old Oswestry (NGR SJ 296 310) is located in the parish of Selattyn and Gobowen, Shropshire, near its eastern boundary with the parish of Oswestry and about 1.2km north of Oswestry town centre.

Old Oswestry is only one of a number of names that has been given to the site. The traditional Welsh name mentioned by Leland (Itinerary 1540), is Yr Hen Ddinas (The Old Fort or City). Dugdale (Visitation of Shropshire 1665) found the site referred to by the Welsh as Llyn yr hen Dinas (from Llwyn; a small wood or grove). According to Pennant (1779) the site was originally called Caer Ogyrfan after Ogyrfan, who according to the Arthurian legends was the father of Guinevere. Watkin (1920) suggests that the name might have been Caer-y-Gyrddfan (the camp of the field conflict). The Victoria County History of Shropshire (1908) gives the name as Caer Ogran.

The site is situated at an altitude of 160m above OD on a mound of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels, some 30m above the surrounding countryside. The mound was laid on the boulder clay of the Midland plain during the retreat of the Irish Sea ice during the last glaciation. It appears to owe its survival to a protective capping of yellow-brown clay deposited by a local readvance of a small ice sheet. Varley found the composition of the natural to be an extremely varied mixture of clays, sands, gravels and reassorted boulders which, he believed, would have been very difficult for the fort builders to work.

Dugdale found both the ramparts and the plateau summit covered in oak trees in the mid 17th century, although by the late 18th century

Pennant recorded the summit clear of timber. However, the ramparts were still thick with trees and undergrowth during the excavation in 1939, by which time the site had become a game-preserve. They were not cleared until after the site had been taken into the care of the Ministry of Works after the Second World War and today all that remains is rotting stumps. The enclosed summit was apparently deep ploughed during the war (D/G2-1). Since being taken into care it has been used only as pasture for sheep and cattle (Varley 1974a and D/G1-1).

One of the earliest detailed descriptions of the site was made by Hartshorne, in *Salopia Antiqua* (1841), who describes the site as an "oblong parallelogram" with "five lines of circumvallation".

These five major ramparts and their associated ditches have been numbered R1-R5 for convenience, the innermost being R1 and the outermost R5 (Fig. 1). They surround a roughly diamond-shaped and gently domed area of 8.4 hectares, measuring 400m by 210m, with entrances on the east and west sides. The total area covered by the hillfort, including its defences, is 23.94 hectares and measures 570m north-east to south-west and 420m north-west to south-east. The ramparts are better preserved on the north and west sides. On the steeper south-east side they have to some extent merged into a more or less continuous slope with slight breaks along the line of the former ditches.

The innermost rampart (R1) generally has a flat top with a steep outer slope, perhaps reflecting the original Early Iron Age construction which, as will be seen, was built in a box-rampart style with boulder revetment walls. In several places the boulders can be seen protruding through the surface. The surrounding shallow ditch was dug some distance out, perhaps to prevent the outer revetment wall from collapsing into it or because of the general instability of the glacial gravels. Together with the slighter second rampart (R2), the inner rampart completely surrounds the top of the hill except where it is broken by the two entrances, in the eastern and western sides. At both entrances it is turned inwards creating a short passageway into the interior of the fort. The third rampart (R3) surrounds only the western

half of the site, while the two massive, glacis-style outer ramparts (R4 and R5) completely surround the base of the hill.

The entrances are described as having looped ramparts (Varley 1948 and Forde-Johnstone 1976, 236). At the eastern entrance an earthen bank runs across the ends of the four ramparts flanking the south side of the entrance roadway. There is no corresponding bank flanking the north side of the entrance, where the rampart ends run right up to the edge of the entrance trackway.

The western entrance is flanked on both sides by lengthwise ramparts with their ditches on the inner side protecting a sunken entrance roadway. These probably originally extended from the third rampart to the outermost rampart (R5).

To the north and south of the western entrance, between the third and fourth ramparts, are a series of roughly rectangular hollows enclosed within a series of additional glacis-style ramparts, three to the north and two to the south. This arrangement is referred to by Varley as the Western Complex, and is often also referred to as an annex, barbican or hornwork (Hogg 1975, 256). There has been much speculation as to the purpose of the pits, and suggestions have included water tanks (an idea first put forward by Dugdale 1665 and later by Varley), stockpens (Cunliffe 1978, 216), shelters for industrial activity (Varley D/G1-2) and storage pits. Another possibility is that the whole complex was a defensive feature designed to protect the long entrance passage. The hollows may even have simply been quarry pits not worth the bother of backfilling (Hogg 1975, 256-257), although their regular construction renders this hypothesis unlikely.

During the 8th century AD Old Oswestry became incorporated into the line of Wat's Dyke. A short stretch of the dyke is visible on the southwest side of where it butts the outer rampart, and its course has also been traced from the north corner.

Prior to the 1939 excavation very little exploration of the fort appears to have been carried out. The only previously recorded discoveries were reported in Hartshorne's *Salopia Antiqua* as "... a well, a pavement, pieces of warlike armour and a round shield a foot in

diameter". Further details of the shield, which has since been lost, appear in *Vetusta Monumenta* 1789, including an engraving made for the Society of Antiquaries by James Basire in 1763. It has since been established that the shield was of the early 16th century (D/G2-1). Nothing more is known of the other discoveries.

2.2 The Excavation.

Summary

Seven trenches were excavated through the ramparts. The sections were difficult to interpret but provided significant information concerning their structure. A scheme of five chronological phases can be proposed. Extensions of excavation into the interior provided important evidence for at least four huts, along with associated surfaces and features. An interesting assemblage of ceramic and stone artifacts was also recovered. The enigmatic pits of the so-called Western Complex were also sectioned but no clear evidence of date or function was obtained.

Introduction.

The following summary of the stratigraphic and structural history of the site is largely based upon the initial unpublished account prepared by Varley and O'Neill in the early 1950s (D/G3-1), copies of plans and sections possibly intended for publication (D/G3-4-15), a brief account published by Varley in the *Border Counties Advertiser* (Varley 1974b) and comments on Old Oswestry made by Varley in his article on the hillforts of the Welsh Marches in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1948 (Varley 1948). Unfortunately, none of the primary written records made during the excavation have yet been relocated. Consequently, the descriptions of many of the individual features lack detail.

Objectives.

The principal stated objective of the excavation was to establish the stratigraphic succession, or structural sequence, of the earthworks themselves (Varley 1948, 40). In particular, Varley intended to determine whether the earthworks were the result of a single constructional episode or represented several periods of construction.

Method.

The earthworks were sample sectioned by a series of seven hand excavated trenches lettered A to F (Fig. 1). The dimensions of the trenches

suggested by the various plans do not always correspond with those suggested by the section drawings. Therefore, the dimensions given in the following text are only stated in approximate terms.

Trench A was located on the south-east side of the hillfort and was cut through the two innermost ramparts. At this point there appeared to be no third bank leaving a wide gap between the second and fourth ramparts. Therefore, it was thought that this location would provide an opportunity for investigating the inner series of earthworks in isolation. The trench measured approximately 20m x 3m. A subsequent extension of approximately 10m x 8m was made to the north-west end in order to examine the occupational history of a small area of the interior immediately to the rear of the innermost rampart.

Trench B was excavated to determine whether the absence of the third rampart on the south-east side of the hill was real or apparent.

Trench C, again on the south-east side on the fort, examined the outer earthworks and measured approximately 56m x 3m.

Trench D, on the north-west side of the hillfort, was intended to investigate the relationship between the third and fourth ramparts at a point where they appeared to diverge from each other. The trench measured approximately 32m x 3m.

Trench E, measuring 11m x 3m, was located at the point at which the Western Complex appeared to diverge from the third rampart.

Trench F was cut through the hollows on the south side of the western entrance in an attempt to determine the nature and function of these features.

Trench G was cut through the innermost rampart where it formed the southern side of the inturned western entrance. This was subsequently extended to investigate an adjacent area within the fort.

The unstable nature of the natural gravels necessitated the shoring of all the sections, and Varley stressed their heterogeneity, which hampered the identification of both natural and archaeological deposits.

Results.

Varley assigned different sequences of numbers to the post holes he identified in Trenches A and G but did not appear to number any other features. In the following narrative the post holes have been renumbered to conform to a single series of numbers for all features. A single series of context numbers has also been given to identifiable layers and fills.

Period 1.

The natural subsoil in the extension to Trench A (Fig. 2) was composed of a compact yellow-clay capping overlying the glacial gravels. This was cut by numerous stone-packed post holes (Fig. 2, Period 1) which clearly predated the first phase of the inner rampart. These included an outer ring of 14 post holes (F1-F14), ranging in diameter from 0.2m (F9) to 0.4m (F11), forming a roughly circular structure some 7m across. A further 25 post holes (F16-F40), varying from 0.1m to 0.5m in diameter, were interpreted as dividing the structure into four unequal segments, converging on a large off-centre post hole 0.6m in diameter (F15). However, at least two phases appear to be represented with two of the internal post holes (F30 and F26) cutting earlier features (F29 and F25 respectively). A hearth on the south side of the hut (F41), 0.8m across, also partially overlay a post hole belonging to the outer ring (F11). A curved linear feature (F42), up to 0.3m wide, was recorded to the north of the outer ring. This was interpreted as a gully or a palisade trench.

A similar association between a series of post holes (F46-F60) and linear gullies (F44 and F45) was recorded in Trench G (Fig. 3, Period 1). The gullies varied in width from 0.15m to 0.6m, and the post holes varied from 0.2m to 0.8m in diameter. The break between the two gullies, approximately 3m wide, may have represented an entrance through an original palisade. To the east of this possible palisade trench a pottery bronze-working crucible was found associated with a hearth (F43).

In both Trenches A and G these early features were sealed by a soil horizon (1000 in Trench A and 1001 in Trench G), interpreted as an ancient land surface.

Period 2.

The first phase of the inner rampart (R1) overlay the deposit (1000) sealing the Period 1 structures in Trench A and consisted of a core of yellow clay (1003) with a boulder base (1002) and boulder revetments to the front (1005) and rear (1006). Where this box-rampart was sectioned, in Trench A, it was 3.5m wide and survived to a height of approximately 0.8m (Fig. 4). It was built on the lip of the natural break of slope with the centre of the encompassing V-shaped ditch (D1) approximately 9m in front of, and 4.9m below, its outer boulder revetment wall. The slope between the rampart and ditch was little more than the natural slope of the hill. The ditch was fairly shallow (c. 0.6m deep) and the low bank (R2, 1009) on its outside was perhaps formed by heaping the excavated earth onto its outer lip to form a 'counterscarp', 2.4m wide. A similar arrangement was identified during the excavation of Trench B.

Together, these earthworks appear to have formed the earliest phase of the defences and were associated with stone-kerbed huts identified in the extensions to Trenches A and G.

In Trench A (Fig. 2, Period 2) the plan of a circular hut, 7.7m in diameter, was recorded immediately behind the rear revetment wall (1006) of the inner rampart. A stone kerb (F61), set into a gully cut into the natural clay, had survived on the south, east and west sides of this hut. Within this kerb was a band of cobbling (F62) up to 1m wide. On the west side of the hut were two large oval post holes (F63 and F64), each 1.3m across and 2.5m apart, presumably either side of an entrance. North of centre was a hearth (F65), 1.1m across.

In Trench G part of a similar hut was recorded overlying the soil (1001) which had developed over the Period 1 occupation (Fig. 3, Periods 2 and 3). The outer wall of this hut was also represented by a stone kerb (F66) which, although only partially excavated, suggested an original diameter of approximately 7.6m. A hearth (F67) was recorded in the approximate centre of the hut. To the west and south of the hut a cobble forecourt (F68) was recorded, which was cut by a series of three post holes (F69-71).

Period 3.

In this period the inner rampart (R1) was enlarged increased by the addition of a layer of gravel and then by a wedge-shaped dump of clay (1004) up to 0.5m thick (Fig. 4). Large boulders which had fallen into the surrounding ditch (?1007) suggested that part of the original boulder revetment wall (F73) had already collapsed before this reconstruction was undertaken. The additional material was also piled up behind the rear boulder revetment wall (F74), increasing the width of the rampart to 5.8m. In Trench A this overlay the south-eastern wall of the Period 2 hut by up to 2.4m (Fig. 2, Period 2). Hearths associated with clay surfaces behind the enlarged rampart suggest subsequent occupation.

In Trench G the enlargement to the inner rampart also appears to have included the addition of the southern inturn of the western entrance, which was similarly constructed of alternate layers of clay and gravel with a boulder revetment wall (F72) to the rear (Fig. 3, Periods 2 and 3). The revetment wall overlay the northern edge of the Period 2 hut (F66) and its associated courtyard (F68), suggesting that the elongated version of the western entrance was not an original feature but was part of a major reorganisation of the hillfort's defences (Fig. 3, Periods 2 and 3). It is possible that the original western entrance was a simple break in the inner rampart.

The reorganisation also involved an increase to the size of the second rampart (R2) by adding a layer of gravel (Fig. 4, 1010) capped with a layer of clay (1011). The surviving height of the enlarged bank in Trench A was approximately 1.2m. In Trench B only the gravel remained of these additions. A second ditch (D2) was also added around the entire circuit of the hillfort.

In addition to these changes to the existing earthworks, a third rampart and ditch (R3 and D3) was constructed around the western half of the circuit. This rampart was sectioned in Trench C and was found to have been constructed in a similar manner and on a similar scale to the enlarged inner ramparts. It was situated on a prepared and levelled surface and consisted of alternating layers of gravel and clay (1012-1017) behind a boulder revetment (F75). The section

through Trench C also suggested the existence of a third ditch (D3) with its own counterscarp on the outer lip, indicating that the western half of the Period 3 hillfort was truly multivallate.

Period 4/5.

Trenches D and E indicated that the third rampart was subsequently massively reconstructed, the enlarged earthwork totally engulfing the original bank together with its ditch and counterscarp (Fig. 4, lower). A boulder core (F77), possibly intended to help stabilize the enlarged rampart, was placed on the inner lip of the former ditch. Dumps of sand and gravel held together with layers of clay (1023-1026) were then heaped over the earlier features creating a rampart 12.8m wide with a surviving height of 2.4m.

The massive outer ramparts (R4 and R5), completely surrounding the base of the hill, and the ramparts of the Western Complex, enclosing the original western entrance, were built in a similar manner. Varley was uncertain in which order these structures were built. The simplest view, he believed, was that the Western Complex was built first (Period 4) and was subsequently modified with a deeper roadway and massive connecting banks during the construction of the outer ramparts (Period 5) (Varley 1974b).

Despite excavating a section through the hollows on the south side of the Western Complex (Trench F), Varley was unable to determine either their function or their relative chronological position. Their existence may have been the reason why the Western Complex was built, and if so would have been contemporary, although he points out that it is equally possible that they were sunk subsequently. At the time of the excavation Varley thought they might have been used for water storage, although other suggestions have been put forward (see above).

Occupation within the fort interior, broadly contemporary with the Period 4/5 defences, is represented in the extension to Trench G by a large circular hut with stone footings (F78), partially overlapping the rear of the intum of the enlarged (Period 3) inner rampart on the south side of the western entrance (Fig. 3, Period 4). The hut was 10.4m in diameter and was divided

into two compartments by an internal partition wall, again represented by the remnants of stone foundations (F79/F80). Several post holes (F81-F87) were incorporated within the wall footings, including one either side of an entrance 2.2m wide through the outer wall on the south side of the hut, and one either side of a doorway 1.3m wide through the partition wall. A fragment of an external wall (F88) was attached to the south-east side of the hut.

2.3 The Geophysical Survey.

The 1974 geophysical survey appears to have been prompted by the identification of numerous potential features on various air photographs of Old Oswestry, most notably those of St. Joseph (D/G6-1). The work was undertaken by a team led by Arnold Aspinall of the University of Bradford. No full report of this work exists and the following outline has been picked out from various items of correspondence by Varley and Aspinall (C/G2 and Varley 1974b) and copies of the plots deposited with the Monuments Inspectorate (English Heritage), (D/G6).

Two methods were employed. Initially, the whole site was scanned using a Plessey flux meter (C/G3-22/7/74). A resistivity survey was also carried out along the long axis of the site from entrance to entrance (D/G6-2 and 4; and Fig. 1, e-x) and over an area of the interior measuring 20m by 20m, 63m to the north of the western entrance (D/G6-3 and 4; and Fig. 1, f).

The flux-meter survey detected numerous magnetic anomalies over the eastern half of the site. An investigation of one of these anomalies located within a hollow visible on the air photograph indicated that its source was an area of iron pan nodules and several items suggesting modern military activity.

Further investigation by Varley disclosed that Old Oswestry had been used for military training exercises during World War One by troops, including Canadians, based at the nearby Park Hall camp (Varley 1974b and C/G3-22/7/74). According to witnesses this training included the excavation of trenches, and training in the use of rifle fire to cover the planting and detonation of explosive canisters which resulted in wide,

shallow craters. This activity together with shrapnel mortar and rifle firing, apparently went on over the whole eastern half of the interior, and possibly extended into the western half. The inevitable result would appear to have been the virtual destruction of the upper archaeological deposits in many areas.

The resistivity survey between the two entrances was, according to Varley, more promising and suggested the presence of genuine hut circles, although he warned that only excavation would establish that they too were not of World War One vintage.

One of the most prominent of the surface features prompted the resistivity survey at Site f. Varley suggested that the resulting rectangular anomaly (D/G6-3) might represent a structure belonging to a late post-Roman occupation, although he also received the suggestion from army experts that it reflect the site of a machine-gun redoubt! (C/G1-7/10/74, C/G3-19/8/74 and C/G2-31/7/74).

Varley suspected that many of the features plotted from the air photographs also belonged to this period of military activity, suggesting that far more than the eastern half of the interior had been disturbed (C/G3-19/8/74).

3.0 ARCHIVE AND FINDS ASSESSMENT

3.1 THE RECORD.

3.1.1 The Paper Archive.

Unfortunately, few of the primary site records appear to have survived. Varley states that the completed drawings, photographs and finds were distributed to various hideouts during the Second World War for safety (D/G3-1, 1). Unfortunately, the hideouts were clearly not safe enough, because the photographs and original drawings were destroyed by a German bomb. However, duplicates of the drawings had been made (D/G3-4-15) and, following Varley's death, were subsequently deposited with the National Archaeological Record by his archaeological executor, Adrian Havercroft. Varley also forwarded copies of his original draft report (D/G3-1) and the results of the 1974 geophysical survey (D/G6) to the Inspectorate of Monuments in 1974 (C/G3-19/8/74). These documents,

together with articles by Varley published in the Border Counties Advertiser (1974a and b) and in the Archaeological Journal (1948), have been used as the main sources for the present report.

In summary the existing record archive contains the following material:

- i) 10 unpublished accounts by various authors containing general site descriptions and records of site visits (Appendix I, Groups 1 and 2).
- ii) The draft report of the excavation results together with copies of 12 site drawings containing information relating to 88 features and 26 contexts; various notes relating to the finds; and reports on the ceramic petrology by Elaine Morris (Appendix I, Group 3).
- iii) Other plans of the earthworks including OS surveys (Appendix I, Group 4).
- iv) A photographic archive containing 10 colour prints and 22 colour slides of the earthworks and lists of numerous air photographs held by the Shropshire sites and monuments record and the National Archaeological Record (Appendix I, Group 5)
- v) 5 drawings relating to the geophysical survey (Appendix I, Group 6).
- vi) 40 items of correspondence relating to the excavations (Appendix II).

It is hoped that further records and documents may be obtained during the course of the remainder of the project.

3.1.2 The Stratigraphic and Structural Value of the Site.

The suggested sequence for the defences is primarily based on the draft report (D/G3-1), the section drawings (D/G3 - 10-13) and the phase plans (D/G3 - 14-15). Although these records lack detail and occasional inconsistencies are encountered (in particular with regard to dimensions) they provide valuable information relating to the development of the earthwork defences and provide substantial evidence for periodic redefence. It is unfortunate that primary written and photographic records have not yet been recovered. These would undoubtedly have clarified and sharpened the detail of this sequence and would have provided an important stratigraphic check on the interpretation given in

the draft report and phase plans. However, the section drawings suggest that this interpretation was based on solid stratigraphic evidence.

The archive provides little additional information concerning the nature of the pits associated with the Western Complex. The trench through the pits on the south side of the western entrance (Trench F) failed to provide any evidence as to their function or date. No section drawing or primary record of this trench appears to have survived.

Although the area of the extensions to Trenches A and G represented a very small sample of the interior of the fort, they provided well stratified sequences which could be closely related to the development of the defences and can be compared with sequences recovered during excavations of other hillforts in the Welsh Marches. Once again, the surviving record suffers from a shortage of primary data. However, the plans of these two areas (D/G3 - 5-9) indicate that the suggested sequence was, again, founded on good stratigraphic evidence.

It is apparent that a considerable area of the interior of the fort has been affected by the military activity during the First World War. It is probable that this may explain much of the disturbance to the upper levels in the extensions to Trenches A and G. It is apparent from the comments by Varley (Varley 1974b) that many of the finds from these levels must now be considered unstratified. However, it is clear from the good structural survival within these trenches, that considerable stratigraphic potential remains. This may be true particularly for the western half of the interior which appears to have been less affected by the military training exercises.

3.2 THE FINDS.

Fortunately, the majority of the small number of finds from the excavation have survived and were donated by Varley to the National Museum of Wales in 1974 (C/G1). These are listed in the Guide Catalogue of the Early Iron Age Collections (Savory 1976b, 76-77).

3.2.1 Quantity, context and descriptive summary.

Pottery.

A total of 23 sherds were recovered from the excavation. These were lettered A - T by Varley. They were subsequently donated to the National Museum of Wales and are listed in the Guide Catalogue (*op. cit.*, 76: Accession No. 74.36 H/3 - 24).

The prehistoric pottery was examined by Elaine Morris in 1980 who identified and described 15 prehistoric sherds. The work was undertaken as part of a research project on the coarse Iron Age ceramic material referred to as VCP (Gelling and Stanford 1965, 77-91). The sherds are listed along with their museum accession number in Table 1 which has been adapted from a table by Morris. Morris also produced two typescript reports which appear in full in Appendix III. Four of the sherds including one of VCP were thin sectioned. A full description of their fabrics (Fabric Types 1, 2 and 3, and VCP) appear in Morris' reports.

Of the eight non-prehistoric sherds the majority would appear to be Roman although no positive identification has yet been made. They are listed in Table 2. The majority were associated with the stoned-walled huts of Period 4, although Varley subsequently states that this context may have been considerably disturbed (Varley 1974b). One sherd came from the upper silting of the section (Trench G) across the western entrance (D/G1-3, 16 and D/G2-3, 24).

Savory originally thought sherds M and N (a hard, wheel-turned grey ware) to be Merovingian French Dark Age import ware ('E' ware), (C/G1-18/9/74 and C/G1-2/10/74). This view was supported by John Lewis (C/G1-18/9/74) who compared the texture with the pottery of this class from Dinas Powis. This hypothesis was subsequently rejected by Charles Thomas (C/G1-24/10/74) and by Philip Rahtz (C/G1-7/3/75).

Table 1 Prehistoric Pottery

NMW Accession Number	Varley Code	Trench/Period	Thin Section Code	Fabric	Form	Weight
74.36 H/3	O	G/2	-	grey sandy fabric with oxidized red haematite coating-inner and outer surfaces.	rim from a furrowed carinated vessel; well-finished product	16.0g
74.36 H/4	Od	G/2	-	black sandy fabric; burnished and polished but no haematite coating.	body-sherd from a furrowed and carinated vessel. Well-finished product	16.0
74.36 H/5	O	A/2	-	red/brown/grey sandy fabric with a small patch of haematite coating	body-sherd from a grooved and carinated vessel	30.0g
74.36 H/6	Ob	G/2	-	brown-grey sandy fabric with no haematite coating and irregular firing	body-sherd - grooved carinated vessel - very poorly made vessel.	35.0g
74.36 H/7	F	G/4	OA	VCP	rim	
74.36 H/8	R	G/4	-	VCP	body-base junction	
74.36 H/9	A	A/4	-	VCP	rim	
74.36 H/10	B	A/4	-	fine smooth fabric with fine angular inclusions of rock Not sampled because sherd too small.	rim with finger-nail impressions on top edge of rim	4.0g
74.36 H/11	C	A/4		Fabric 1	rim - decorated with finger tipping on shoulder	9.0g
74.36 H/12	D	A/4		VCP	rim	
74.36 H/13	E	A/4	-	Fabric 1	rim - see 74.36 H/11	10.0g
74.36 H/14	P	?A/?4	OX	Fabric 1	rim - see 74.36 H/11	34.0g
74.36 H/15	T	K/?	-	Fabric 3	rim	16.0g
74.36 H/17	Q	G/4	OZ	Fabric 3	base	34.0g
74.36 H/21	H	A/4	OY	Fabric 2	body	23.0g

Table 2 Non-Prehistoric Pottery

NMW Accession Number	Varley Code	Trench/Period	Suggested Date	Form
74.36 H/16	S	G/4	Roman	rim
74.36 H/18	K	G/4	Roman	body
74.36 H/19	J	G/4	Roman/Med.	body
74.36 H/20	I	G/4	Roman	body
74.36 H/22	L	A/4	Roman	base
74.36 H/23	G	A/4	Roman	rim
74.36 H/24a	M	G/4	Roman	rim
74.36 H/24b	N	G/4	Roman	base

Stone objects.

Four of the stone artefacts from Old Oswestry were examined in 1974 by the late Professor Shotton of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Birmingham. The following descriptions include extracts from his comments made during correspondence with Varley in 1974 and 1975. Together with a small slickstone, they were subsequently donated to the National Museum of Wales and several are listed in the Guide Catalogue of the Early Iron Age Collections (Savory 1976b, 76-77).

i) Stone axe (NMW Accession No. 74.37 H/1).

Context - Unstratified: recovered from disturbed 'crater' (Site K).

Dimensions - Length 104mm, width 56mm, thickness 32mm.

Description - Polished with some pecking on chopping edge and rounded butt end. Composed of a fine-grained rhyolitic or dacitic tuff. Source difficult to localise. However, Shotton pointed out a similarity with a Group XX axe, found at Wychenford, Worcestershire, originally from Charnwood Forest, and one from Salford Priors, Warwickshire (C/G4-23/8/74).

Reference - Mck Clough 1988, 203: 58c.

ii) Whetstone (NMW Accession No. 74.37 H/3).

Context - Recovered from near hearth of Period 2 stone-kerbed hut in Trench A (F65).

Dimensions - Length 133mm, width 52mm, thickness 18mm.

Description - Grey, sub-rectangular stone. Shotton considered it to be a possible hone of indurated siltstone. Several possible sources but probably arrived in the locality through the intervention of a glacier (C/G4-23/8/74).

iii) Whetstone (NMW Accession No. 74.36 H/1).

Context - Unknown.

Dimensions - Length 240mm, width 60mm, thickness 31mm.

Description - Large, elongated grey stone. Shotton suggested that it is a possible hone of medium greywacke and that splitting has taken place along the bedding plane. It may have entered the area through ice-action but has

since been water worn. The nearest source would be the Denbighshire moors (C/G4-7/10/74).

iv) Whetstone/stone wedge (NMW Accession No. 75.6 H).

Context - Unknown.

Dimensions - Length 135mm, width 56mm, thickness 32mm.

Description - sub-rectangular grey stone with damage at one end. Composed of a highly tourmalinised fine gritstone. Shotton suggested that it was selected from Irish Sea glacial drift possibly originating from small patches of tourmalinised rock associated with the Scottish granites. Originally thought to have been an axe or a whetstone. However, Shotton pointed out that only one face looks sufficiently polished to have had much, if any, use as a hone. He suggested that the concavity of the smashed end indicates that it had been hammered rather than used as a hammer, and that it may have been used as a wood splitter (C/G4-3/3/75 and C/G4-n.d.).

Reference - Mck Clough 1988, 203: 57c.

v) Whetstone/slickstone (NMW Accession No. 74.36 H/2).

Context - Unknown.

Dimensions - Length 97mm, width 25mm, thickness 12mm.

Description - small, elongated reddish stone. Shotton considered it to be most closely matched in the Red Longmyndian. If so he believed that it was unlikely to have been found in the glacial drift locally because the direction of transport would be wrong, and so he considered it possible that it had been traded (C/G4-7/10/74).

vi) Also listed amongst the records (D/G3-2) are 12 flint flakes and a flint scraper (?from V-shaped ditch leading from Trench A - ?F42). Their current location is at present unknown.

Other Finds.

i) Pottery Crucible (NMW Accession No. 74.37H/2; Savory 1976b, Fig.34).

Context - from below the hearth (F43) associated with the early (Period 1) circular

post hole hut in Trench G (Varley D/G2-3, 25 and 1974b). N.B. in the latter reference Varley states that the crucible was found on top of the hearth.

Dimensions - external diameter 41 mm and height 40mm.

Description - pottery bronze casting crucible. Circular with ovoid vertical section. Single lateral pourer and one ear for manipulation. Analysis conducted by the University of Bradford indicated traces of zinc and arsenic as well as copper and tin (Varley 1974b and C/G1-11/4/74). Savory suggests that the crucible indicates the probable local manufacture of small bronze dress-fasteners and other ornaments (Savory 1976, 22). He also notes the use of copper-zinc alloys for some of the Tal-y-llyn metalwork (*op. cit.*, 48), suggesting the use of ores from North Wales. Unfortunately, the only record of the original analysis is an item of correspondence from Arnold Aspinall to Adrian Havercroft in 1981 (C/G6-11/2/82) and Aspinall (pers. comm.) has recently questioned the reliance of the result, in particular the significance of the presence of zinc.

References - Varley 1974b; Savory 1976b, 22 ad 48.

- ii) Roman tile (NMW Accession No. 74.36H/26).

Context - from upper silting (1027) of third ditch (D3) in Trench C (Varley 1974b).

Description - fragment of roof tile. Varley suggests that it was from the military kilns at Holt, Denbighshire (D/G2-3, 24). Boon (C/G1-22/10/74) describes it as from a box-tile possibly from a hypocaust or vault.

- iii) Also listed amongst the records (D/G3-2) are an antler axe hammer, an antler tine, 4 boar's tusks and a perforated chalk bead. Their current whereabouts is unknown.

3.2.2 Value of material.

The finds from Old Oswestry form a small but important collection of artefacts.

Although precise contexts for all the pottery sherds cannot be determined several do come from well-stratified contexts. These include the

fragments from furrowed and carinated bowls (NMW Accession No. 74.36H/3-6), which were associated with the hearths (F65 and F67) of the Period 2 huts with stone kerbs from Trenches A and G (Varley 1974b and D/G2-3, 24). Sherd O (NMW Accession No. 74.36H/5), apparently consisting of 4 fragments, appears to have come from the stone kerbed hut (F61) in Trench A (D/G3-3). These huts are associated with the initial building of the innermost rampart (D/G1-3, 16). The similarity between these sherds and the pottery from All Cannings Cross prompted Savory to suggest that they are an indication of commercial contacts between the northern Marches and Wessex, via the Cotswold area (Savory 1976a, 261 and 1976b, 21).

The Period 4 stone-walled huts in Trenches A and G were associated with mixed assemblages containing fragments identified by Elaine Morris as VCP, Early Iron Age and Roman. Varley states that these contexts may have been considerably disturbed (1974b). He is presumably referring to the World War One military activity which might account for the mixed nature of the assemblage.

Savory suggested that one of these sherds (T: 74.36H/15) had a flattened internally projecting rim similar to those on shouldered jars of LBA-Iron Age A, eg from Rainsborough Camp, the east Midlands, Mount Farm, Dorchester and elsewhere in the Oxford region. Harding (Iron Age in the Upper Thames Basin) suggests that the internally projecting rim reflects the influence of metal cauldrons (C/G1-18/9/74). However, Morris suggests (Appendix 3, part 2) that neither this sherd nor that of a base in the same fabric, which Savory considered later Iron Age (Q: 74.36 H/17), display attributes which are highly diagnostic of either period.

All three of the fabric types discussed by Morris (Appendix 3, part 2) come from the disturbed upper levels in Trenches A and G. However, she suggests that they are all probably of local manufacture and may represent early Iron Age occupation prior to the introduction of non-local Malvernian pottery into the area. She believes the absence, at Old Oswestry, of Malvernian pottery of middle and later Iron Age date may be significant.

The recovery of Roman pottery and tile from the upper silting of the ditches (D/G1-3, 16 and D/G2-3, 24) would appear to suggest a pre-Roman abandonment of the hillfort (Varley 1974b).

The excavated context of the pottery bronze working crucible is of crucial importance in attempting to date the earliest occupation of the site and for understanding the nature of the activities that were undertaken. In particular it has important implications for an understanding of local metal working.

The stone objects from Old Oswestry also form a small but important collection. In particular, although the stone axe is from a residual context, it is a useful addition to the list of axes from Shropshire produced by Shotton and others (Mck Clough 1988). Together with the flintwork it might suggest that Old Oswestry was a centre of importance during the Neolithic, although there is no stratigraphic or structural evidence of this date.

4.0 FURTHER ANALYSIS

4.1 Discussion and Summary of Results.

Since the excavation at Old Oswestry a considerable amount of work has been undertaken on the hillforts of east Wales and the Marches, most notably by Stanford at Croft Ambrey (1974), Midsummer Hill (1981) and Credenhill Camp (1974); Savory at Dinorben (1971); Chris Musson at the Breiddin (1972 and 1976); and Graeme Guilbert at Moel y Gaer (1976). Following a preliminary scan of the literature the following discussion attempts to relate the different periods of activity identified at Old Oswestry to these and other sites in the region.

In general terms the rampart sequence at Old Oswestry tends to conform to changes observed in hillfort defences elsewhere in the Marches. There is a general tendency for palisade defences to be replaced by box-ramparts which are in turn replaced by dump ramparts, and for single ramparts to be replaced by bivallate and multivallate defences (Savory 1976a, 258 and Cunliffe 1978, 243).

Period 1: Late Bronze Age.

The earliest structural features identified at Old Oswestry were the post-ring round huts and palisade trenches belonging to Period 1, although the stone axe and flintwork suggests earlier activity. The similarity between these features and dated examples from other sites in the area suggests that this phase of activity at Old Oswestry belongs to the Late Bronze Age.

It is possible that the palisade trenches form part of the perimeter of a pre-rampart defended enclosure. Features 44 and 45 (Trench G), with their apparent entrance, appear to correspond to the line of the later inner rampart. Varley makes a comparison between these trenches and those at Castle Ditches, Eddisbury in Cheshire, which also pre-date the main hillfort defences (Varley 1951, 52). Another site with an early timber palisade is Twyn-y-gaer, Monmouthshire (Probert 1976). In many cases these are perhaps more properly referred to as fences rather than palisades, perhaps designed to delimit the settlement rather than to serve a serious defensive function (Probert pers.comm.). Finds and radiocarbon determinations associated with an early palisade at the Breiddin, Powys, suggest an eighth or ninth-century date (Musson 1976).

At Old Oswestry the palisades were associated with circular post-ring huts. At Moel y Gaer charcoal from the hearth of a similar hut associated with a surrounding palisade has been dated to the ninth century B.C. (Guilbert 1976, 317). The entrance to the huts at Moel y Gaer was normally marked by a slightly wider gap in the post-ring associated with a rectangular porch. Although no evidence for a porch was recorded at Old Oswestry, the slightly wider gap between features 6 and 7 in the Trench A hut possibly indicates the former position of an entrance. It is also conceivable that the gully recorded to the north-west of the hut (F42) may form part of the bedding trench for the actual hut wall rather than for a surrounding palisade.

The only find from the Period 1 occupation was the pottery bronze-working crucible from the hearth (F43) of one of the huts, suggesting the small-scale manufacture of bronze objects.

Period 2: Early Iron Age

The Period 2 box-rampart at Old Oswestry would appear to have a number of parallels in the central and north Marches. Savory describes a true "box" rampart as having timber lacing, with or without timber uprights, masked by dry-stone revetment walls (Savory 1976a, 259) such as those at Caynham Camp; Castle Ditches, Eddisbury (Phase 3); Maiden Castle, Bickerton (Varley 1936) and the Phase 2 rampart at Dinorben. Although no traces of timber lacing were detected, the inner rampart of the bivallate Period 2 defences at Old Oswestry would appear to be comparable with these structures. At Dinorben radiocarbon dates from charcoal from the destruction of the timber-laced rampart would suggest a sixth or fifth century date for its construction and use (Savory 1976a, 245)

A sixth-century date for this phase of activity is also suggested at Old Oswestry by the association of Early Iron Age pottery (the furrowed, carinated bowl fragments from the stone kerbed huts).

If the 'counterscarp' at Old Oswestry is accepted as a rampart, the Period 2 defences could be regarded as bivallate. Other forts in the area with apparently early multiple defences include the Wrekin (Kenyon 1942), Dinorben (Gardner and Savory 1964), Ffridd Faldwen (O'Neil 1942, 42) and the Breiddin (O'Neil 1937).

It is difficult to find parallels in the region for the stone kerbed huts of Period 2. At Moel y Gaer the early post-ring huts appear to have been replaced by stake-wall huts and four-posters associated with an elaborate timber-laced rampart built within the line of the former palisade. Similar circular huts with wattle and daub walls set into shallow foundation trenches (with sixth-century dates) were identified at the Breiddin (Musson 1976, 298). Once again, these contrast with those excavated at Old Oswestry, although they were associated with a similar rampart with stone revetments, which had replaced the earlier palisade.

Period 3

The chronological relationship between the provision of the inturned entrances and the

additions to the Period 2 defences at Old Oswestry is not clear. However, both alterations were clearly made after the abandonment of the stone-kerbed huts recorded in Trenches A and G, and before the construction of the circular stone-walled huts.

Inturned entrances occur at numerous other hillforts in the region, a number of which were provided with guard-chambers at their inner end, including Titterstone Clee (O'Neil 1934) and the Wrekin (Kenyon 1942). Although no evidence for guard chambers has been identified at Old Oswestry, the provision of an entrance corridor is likely to have been a considerable defensive improvement on the earlier, presumably simple single-portal, entrance.

The enlargement of the inner rampart incorporated a sloping bank behind the inner stone revetment similar to those added to the timber box-ramparts of Hollingbury style in the south of England (Cunliffe 1978, 245).

Period 4: Middle Iron Age

The final phase of rampart construction at Old Oswestry is represented by the glacis-style dump ramparts with a continuous slope from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the rampart. This style of rampart became widespread in the south and east in the third century or soon after, although the evidence from Croft Ambrey suggests that dump-constructed ramparts may have been in use in the Welsh borderland from the fifth or sixth centuries. Other sites in the Marches which adopted glacis-style ramparts include the Wrekin and Dinorben.

Stanford observes that Old Oswestry is the most northerly example of developed multivallation of the form that occurs between Shropshire and Dorset. He argues that the apparent need to hold the enemy at such a distance might be a response to the developed use of the sling, as suggested by Wheeler for Maiden Castle (Stanford 1980, 87). However, at Old Oswestry Hogg points out that the outer ramparts would have made the inner ones redundant because of the resulting restrictions on visibility, although he also warns against necessarily carrying modern ideas of defence into the past (Hogg 1975, 256). It is possible that the final appearance of Old

Oswestry with its multiple ramparts and complex western entrance was as much the result of social considerations, such as prestige, as defensive ones.

The suggestion made by Cunliffe that the later circumvallation would have provided an area of protected pasture (Cunliffe 1978, 214) seems unlikely given the small size of the area and the steep slope between the inner and outer ramparts on the south-east side of the site.

It is difficult to find immediate parallels to the stone-founded circular huts overlying the inner rampart, and which would appear to relate to the late rampart phase. They perhaps have most in common with the stone-walled huts within the hillforts of north-west Wales, such as Tre'r Ceiri and Garn Bodian (Hogg 1962). From the existing excavation record it is difficult to determine the quantity of collapsed stone removed from the area of the hut walls, which might have given an indication of their original height. Varley compared them with the stone huts from Eddisbury (Varley 1948, 64), which were associated with stick-impressed daub (Varley 1951, 57). He originally thought that both the Eddisbury and the Old Oswestry huts belonged to the Dark Ages on the basis of the associated coarse pottery. This material, referred to as VCP (Very Coarse Pottery), is now considered to be Iron Age in date (Gelling and Stanford 1965 and Stanford 1980, 108).

Post-Prehistoric Activity

Although the suspected sherd of E ware has been discounted, the possibility of a late Roman or post-Roman date for some phases of activity on the hill-top will need to be carefully considered. Varley suggests that the Roman pottery and tile recovered from the upper silting of the ditches indicates that the site may have become abandoned by the time of the Roman occupation (Varley 1974b). However, this material also suggests Roman activity in the area.

In the 8th century Old Oswestry was incorporated into the line of Wat's Dyke, and may have been one of a number of fortifications included along its length from Maesbury to Basingwerk (Hill 1977, 33). Hill suggests that

these forts, at an average distance apart of five and a quarter miles, may have figured prominently in a defensive line designed to protect the Mercian frontier areas against small groups of raiders.

The final military use of Old Oswestry was as a training ground during the First World War.

4.2 Further Work: Objectives and Method

In order to prepare the existing archive for publication a number of tasks still need to be completed.

It is hoped that a continued search for archive material will produce further original excavation records, which should help clarify a number of outstanding stratigraphic and structural problems. In particular a number of the archaeological contexts lack full written descriptions. It may be necessary to revise the plans and sections for the final report and to produce a diagram to summarise the suggested phasing of the ramparts. Several additional figures will also be necessary, including those sections which have not been reproduced for this report. A further review of the literature is also required in order to fully place Old Oswestry in the wider context of Iron Age settlement in the Welsh Marches, in particular a continued morphological comparison between the structures at Old Oswestry and other regional examples.

Elaine Morris has agreed to rework her reports on the prehistoric pottery with an updated discussion relating the material to recent research on local Iron Age ceramics. The Roman pottery needs to be identified and described. This will be undertaken by Jane Evans (Finds Officer, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit). A full descriptive report on the pottery crucible needs to be produced. In the light of comments by Arnold Aspinall it is proposed that a re-analysis of the metallic residue within the crucible is required. Several of the artefacts still need to be located and described, and it is hoped that further information regarding their whereabouts can be obtained during the continuing archive search. Staff at the National Museum of Wales have agreed to produce illustrations of the important finds.

4.3 Publication Synopsis

"Excavations by W.J. Varley at Old Oswestry Hillfort 1939-1940"
by E.G. Hughes.

Introduction:

The circumstances of excavation and the final report, previous work at Old Oswestry, the landscape setting (2 000 words, 2 Figures).

The Excavation and Geophysical Survey:
Objectives and Method

Results

- Period 1: Late Bronze Age
- Period 2: Early Iron Age
- Period 3: Enlargement of ramparts

Period 4: Middle Iron Age
Post-Prehistoric activity

Finds

Prehistoric pottery: E. Morris (Trust for Wessex Archaeology)

Roman pottery: J. Evans (BUFAU)

Stone objects: E.G. Hughes

Pottery crucible: Ancient Monuments Laboratory

(12 000 words, 15 Figures)

Discussion:

Morphological comparison of structures at Old Oswestry and other regional hillforts; consideration of the dating evidence; evidence for craft activities; general conclusions.
(3 000 words, 2 Figures)

4.4 Work Programme (see also Cascade Diagram (Table 3))

Week 1

- i) Continued search for archive material (E.G.Hughes 4 days)
- ii) Coordination with specialists and National Museum of Wales (E.G.Hughes 1 day)

Week 2

- i) Preparation of specialist reports
 - a) Prehistoric Pottery (Elaine Morris with D. Williams and A. Middleton)
 - b) Roman and Medieval pottery (J.Evans 2 days)
 - c) Stone implements (E.G.Hughes 1 day)
 - d) Pottery crucible (Ancient Monuments Laboratory)

Week 3-5

- i) Drafting illustrations 1-6 and 10-11 (E.G.Hughes 2 days)
- ii) Preparation of illustrations 1-6 and 10-11 (M. Breedon 12 days)
- iii) Preparation of illustrations 7-9 (A.Daley 5 days)

Week 6 and 7

- i) Library and SMR research for final report (E.G.Hughes 3 days)
- ii) Preparation of first draft of final report (E.G.Hughes 4 days)

Week 8

- i) Editing of first draft (A.Woodward 1 day)
- ii) Amendments to first draft (E.G. Hughes 1 day)

Week 9

- i) Final editing of report (A.Woodward 1 day)
- ii) Final amendments (E.G.Hughes 1 day)

Week 10

- i) Liaison with I.A.M. and publishers to publication (E.Hooper 2.5 days)
- ii) Arrangements for copying and final deposition of archive (E.Hooper 1 day)

Table 3

CASCADE DIAGRAM

Task	Week of Project										Name of Personnel Involved
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Administration	<----->										
Archive Search	4										G.Hughes
Management					2						S.Buteux
Secretarial					2						A.Humphries
Co-ord					1						G.Hughes
Specialist	<--->										
Reports											
Prehist. Pottery		*									E.Morris
Roman Pottery		2									J.Evans
Stone		1									G.Hughes
Crucible		*									A.M.L.
Illustration	<----->										
Drafts			2								G.Hughes
Plans and Sections			4	4	4						M.Breedon
Finds				*	*						A.Daley
Final Report	<----->										
Research					3						G.Hughes
Writing and Ammendments						4	1	1			G.Hughes
Editing							1	1			A.Woodward
Publication										2.5	E.Hooper
Archive Deposition										1	E.Hooper

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Numerous individuals have assisted in the tracking down of documents and records during the course of this archive assessment. In particular I would like to thank Arnold Aspinall (Bradford University), Richard Brewer (National Museum of Wales), Douglas Bridger, Aubrey Burl, Gill Chitty (English Heritage), Andrew Foxon (Hull Museums and Art Galleries), Adrian Havercroft (Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust), Sarah Lunt (English Heritage), Alun Probert, Penny Ward (Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record), Valerie Valentine (National

Archaeological Record) and staff at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Birmingham.

Particular thanks to Simon Buteux for managing the project and for commenting on an earlier draft of this report. It was his suggestion that initiated the project.

The illustrations were drawn by David Dungworth from the original drawings by W.J. Varley.

This report was edited by Ann Woodward and produced by Liz Hooper.

4.5 Estimate of Costs

For Financial Year 1992-1993

Staff Costs

E.G.Hughes (Author)	1053
E.Morris (Prehistoric Pottery)	420
J.Evans (Roman/Medieval Pottery)	89
M.Breedon (Illustrator)	590
T.Daley (Illustrator, NMW)	330
S.Buteux (Manager)	202
E.Hooper (Publications Officer)	343
A.Woodward (Editor)	216
A.Humphries (Secretary)	106
<u>Sub-total</u>	<u>3349</u>

Expenses

Office Costs	100
Drawing Materials	40
Travel/Vehicle Hire	60
Photography	75
Sub Total	375
University Overheads	953
<u>Total</u>	<u>4677</u>

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APPENDIX I: OLD OSWESTRY UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS INDEX.

- Group 1 - Records of Site Visits.
- Group 2 - General Site Descriptions.
- Group 3 - Excavation Records.
- Group 4 - Plans, Maps and other Drawings.
- Group 5 - Photographs.
- Group 6 - Geophysical survey records.

Abbreviations:

- HBMC - Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission
- Sh. SMR - Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record
- NAR - National Archaeological Record
- NMW - National Museum of Wales
- RCHM - Royal Commission on Historical Monuments
- O.S. - Ordnance Survey

ARCH.NO.	AUTHOR	DATE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
D/G1-1	HBMC	1986	Old Oswestry Hillfort: field notes 7 Aug. 1986. HBMC 17 PICII(1T)786.	HBMC
D/G1-2	Tyler A.	1981	Site Visit Form, Shropshire SMR., 6/3/81.	Sh.SMR.
D/G1-3	?	1958	'Professor Varley's visit to Old Oswestry', Offa Antiquarian Society Report, 1956-58, 15-16.	Sh.SMR
D/G2-1	?G.G.	1958	'Old Oswestry', Offa Antiquarian Soc. Rep. 1956-8, 7-10.	Sh.SMR
D/G2-2	Guilbert G.	n.d.	Old Oswestry: from itinerary of the 1977 field meeting of the Hillfort Study Group.	Sh. SMR
D/G2-3	?	1958	'Old Oswestry - Lecture presented by W.J. Varley', Offa Antiquarian Society Report, 1956-58, 23-24.	Sh.SMR
D/G2-4	N.A.R.	1979	Online Report.	N.A.R.
D/G2-5	Tyler A.	1981	Old Oswestry/Hen Ddinas SA 351: Sh. SMR record card, 16/3/81.	Sh.SMR
D/G2-6	Tyler A.	1981	Old Oswestry, notes prepared for Oswestry Tourist Office (with plan), April 1981.	Sh.SMR
D/G2-7	RCHM	n.d.	Entry on Old Oswestry in NAR Catalogue of Excavations.	N.A.R.
D/G3-1	Varley and O'Neill.	n.d.	Excavations at Old Oswestry, typescript draft.	HBMC
D/G3-2	?	n.d.	List of finds from Old Oswestry.	N.A.R.
D/G3-3	?	n.d.	Notes on sherd O: 'All Cannings Cross sherd'.	N.A.R.
D/G3-4	Varley W.	1939	General Plan Showing location of trenches.	N.A.R.
D/G3-5	Varley W.	1939	Site A Plan: Period 1.	N.A.R.
D/G3-6	Varley W.	1939	Site A Plan: Period 3.	N.A.R.
D/G3-7	Varley W.	1939	Site G Plan: Period 1.	N.A.R.
D/G3-8	Varley W.	1939	Site G Plan: Period 2.	N.A.R.

D/G3-9	Varley W.	1939	Site G Plan: Period 3.	N.A.R.
D/G3-10	Varley W.	1939	Site A Section.	N.A.R.
D/G3-11	Varley W.	1939	Site C Section.	N.A.R.
D/G3-12	Varley W.	1939	Site D Sections: Periods 3 and 5.	N.A.R.
D/G3-13	Varley W.	1939	Site E Sections: Periods 3 and 5.	N.A.R.
D/G3-14	Varley W.	1939	Phase Plan: Periods 2 and 3.	N.A.R.
D/G3-15	Varley W.	1939	Phase Plan: Periods 4 and 5.	N.A.R.
D/G3-16	?	n.d.	Comment on stone axe.	N.M.W.
D/G3-17	?	n.d.	Comment on whetstone.	N.M.W.
D/G3-18	Morris E.	1980	Report on Coarse Pottery from Old Oswestry Hillfort.	N.M.W.
D/G3-19	Morris E.	1980	Petrological Report for the Prehistoric Pottery from Old Oswestry Hillfort in Shropshire.	N.M.W.
<hr/>				
D/G4-1	O.S.	?	Plan of Old Oswestry.	Sh. SMR
D/G4-2	HBMC	1990	Scheduling maplet: 1:10000.	Sh. SMR
D/G4-3	O.S.	?	1:1000 map.	
<hr/>				
D/G5-1	Sh.SMR	1990	List of A/Ps of Old Oswestry held by Sh. SMR.	Sh. SMR
D/G5-2	Livock G.E.	?	A/P of Old Oswestry.	Sh. SMR
D/G5-3	NAR	?	List of A/Ps of Old Oswestry held by NAR.	NAR
<hr/>				
D/G6-1	Aspinall A.	1974	Plan showing plot of features on A/Ps.	HBMC
D/G6-2	Aspinall A.	1974	The resistivity profile.	HBMC
D/G6-3	Aspinall A.	1974	Dot-density plot of resistivity survey.	HBMC
D/G6-4	Aspinall A.	1974	Plan showing location of Site F.	HBMC
<hr/>				

APPENDIX II: OLD OSWESTRY CORRESPONDENCE INDEX.

ARCH.NO./ DATE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT	FORMAT (T/S-Typscript; M/S-Manuscript)
(Group 1 Correspondence between Varley and National Museum of Wales.)				
C/G1-11/4/74	Savory	Varley	Comments on pottery crucible for bronze casting and request for Old Oswestry material as permanent accession	T/S
C/G1-21/5/74	Savory	Varley	Cambrian Arch. Assoc. visit to Old Oswestry.	T/S
C/G1-5/9/74	Savory	Varley	Receipt of axe-head and whetstone.	T/S
C/G1-13/9/74	Varley	Savory	Comments accompanying donation of O.O. pottery	T/S
C/G1-18/9/74	Savory	Varley	Comments on pottery from Old Oswestry; sherds A-T. Anticipating Old Oswestry C14 date from Harwell, plus comment from J.M.Lewis on gritty grey cooking sherds from O.O.	T/S
C/G1-2/10/74	Savory	Varley	Acknowledgement of All Cannings Cross fragments and a tile, and further comments on "E" ware sherds	T/S
C/G1-6/10/74	Varley	Savory	On "E" ware and on permission to deposit finds	T/S
C/G1-7/10/74	Varley	Savory	Comment on geophysical survey - possible post-Roman structure.	T/S
C/G1-8/10/74	Savory	Varley	Comments on possible Post-Roman structure at O.O..	T/S
C/G1-12/10/74	Varley	Savory	On "E" ware sherds - Charles Thomas	T/S
C/G1-14/10/74	Varley	Savory	Shotton's comments accompanying donation of whetstones	T/S
C/G1-18/10/74	Savory	Varley	Acknowledgement of two whetstone fragments. Possible import ware sherds ("E" ware) sent to Prof. Thomas.	T/S
C/G1-22/10/74	Boon	Varley	Comments on Roman fragments from O.O.	M/S
C/G1-24/10/74	Savory	Varley	On comment by Thomas on "E" ware.	T/S
C/G1-28/10/74	Varley	Savory	Acknowledgement of CT's letter on O.O.sherds	T/S
C/G1-28/10/74	Varley	Boon	Thanking him for comments	T/S
C/G1-6/11/74	Jones	Varley	Acknowledgement by N.M.W. of receipt of O.O. material (listed).	T/S
C/G1-11/11/74	Jones	Varley	Acknowledgement by N.M.W. of receipt of O.O. material (listed).	T/S
C/G1-19/12/74	Varley	Savory	Newcastle conference and phasing of site	T/S
C/G1-30/12/74	Savory	Varley	Newcastle conference and continuing saga of debated sherds	T/S
C/G1-24/2/75	Savory	Varley	Yet more comments on "E" ware. Suggests Rahtz and possibly Webster or Barker.	T/S
C/G1-7/3/75	Savory	Varley	On rejection of Dark Age suggestion for sherds M and N.	T/S
(Group 2 Correspondence between Varley and University of Bradford.)				
C/G2-31/7/74	?Aspinall	Varley	Comments on resistivity survey at O.O.	M/S
C/G2-6/8/74	Pocock	Varley	Comments on plot of resistivity survey and AP.	T/S

(Group 3 Correspondence between Varley and A.M. Inspectorate)

C/G3-1/7/74	Gilyard-Beer	Varley	On O.O.	T/S
C/G3-22/7/74	Varley	Gilyard-Beer	Comments on geophysical surveys and use of O.O. during W.W.I.	T/S
C/G3-25/7/74	Gilyard-Beer	Varley	Acknowledgement of Varley's letter on O.O.	M/S
C/G3-19/8/74	Varley	Gilyard-Beer	Accompanying records relating to O.O. including geophysical surveys, newspaper articles and original draft report.	T/S

(Group 4 Correspondence between Varley and Prof. Shotton, University of Birmingham.)

C/G4-9/8/74	Shotton	Varley	Request to analyse stone axe from O.O.	T/S
C/G4-23/8/74	Shotton	Varley	Comments on possible hone and stone axe from O.O.	T/S
C/G4-7/10/74	Shotton	Varley	Comments on stone ?hones from O.O. and ?Eddisbury.	M/S
C/G4-9/1/75	Varley	Shotton	on axe-cum-whetstone from O.O.	T/S
C/G4-3/3/75	Shotton	Varley	Comment on axe-cum-whetstone from O.O.	M/S
C/G4-n.d.	Varley	Shotton	Reply to comment on above	T/S

(Group 5 Correspondence from AM Inspectorate following Varley's death.)

C/G5-1/10/76	Phillips	Varley	Request for report on resistivity survey	T/S
C/G5-4/10/76	M.Varley	Phillips	Explains death of Varley. Suggests Aspinal or Havercroft	M/S
C/G5-13/10/76	Phillips	Havercroft	Proposal to complete Varley's report	T/S
C/G5-13/10/77	West	Havercroft	Enquiry about Old Oswestry material	T/S
C/G5-28/11/78	West	Butcher	Proposal to employ an RA for Varley material	T/S
C/G5-29/11/78	Butcher	Robertson-Mackay	On West's proposal	M/S
C/G5-30/11/78	Robertson-Mackay	Cook	On West's proposal	M/S

(Group 6 Miscellaneous)

C/G6-12/11/?	Drummond	? (RCHM)	On location of Varley records	M/S
C/G6-30/12/80	Long	Tyler	List of material on Old Oswestry in the NMR	M/S
C/G6-11/2/82	Aspinall	Havercroft	On pottery crucible	T/S

APPENDIX III

[The following report on the coarse pottery (VCP) from Old Oswestry was dated 16/5/80 by Elaine Morris. The subsequent report on the remaining prehistoric pottery was dated 13/12/80.]

Petrology Report for the Coarse Iron Age Ceramic Material from Old Oswestry, Shropshire (SJ 295310).

By Elaine Morris

Four sherds of VCP (Gelling and Stanford 1965, 77-91) were found in the collection of material from Old Oswestry (Savory 1976, 76). These pieces, three rims and one base which weigh 90 gms. together, belong to the third phase of activity on this site (Hogg 1975, 255-7). The finds from the earlier phases, which are still in the collection, include an unusual crucible, fragments from three or four different haematited, furrowed, carinated bowls, as well as three rim sherds from the same vessel made with dolerite-tempered fabric. This dolerite fabric jar is a slack shouldered, situla form vessel, decorated with finger tipping, which is probably early Iron age in date. There are also several other sherds including a rim and base of an uncertain fabric which may be early Bronze age material. Only the VCP material was sampled for thin-section analysis. (It might prove worthwhile to section the dolerite-tempered material and the other coarse fabric pottery to compare them with the earliest pot from the Breiddin hillfort).

Macroscopic Definition

The four pieces of VCP remaining in the collection are made of an oxidized, iron-rich, stony-tempered coarse fabric. The stones are sparse to moderate in number, and very angular in shape. They range in size from about 0.5mm to 5.0mm. There are three types of rocks included in this tempering: 1) dark, dull, and very hard; 2) white, glittering, and very hard; 3) dark red, granular, and moderately hard. There is also a moderate amount of sand in the matrix. These sherds come from coarsely potted, handmade vessels and range from 1.0-2.0cm thick. The small rim fragments are plain and slightly flaring in form. One has a flattened top edge. The base is flat, and approximately 10-12cm in diameter.

Microscopic Definition

A single sherd of the VCP was sampled for sectioning and petrological analysis. In this

section, the anisotropic clay matrix contains a 15% concentration of very angular, igneous and sedimentary rock fragments, from 0.2-4.0mm across. The most frequent rock is a devitrified rhyolite which is heavily masked with opaque iron oxides. This is a fine-grained, acid igneous rock. The second rock type is a single piece of orthoclase feldspar with faint graphic texture which is 0.5mm long. This fragment probably originated from a granophyre. The third rock type is a small fragment of micaceous siltstone, 0.4mm long. The clay matrix, which is slightly micaceous, contains a 5-10% concentration of quartz grains. They are sub-angular to sub-rounded in shape and measure from 0.2mm or less in size. Because the igneous and sedimentary rocks are so very angular and rather larger than this background of quartz sand, it is most likely that they are crushed tempering material added to a rather sandy clay.

Fabric Source and Parallels

This unusual, mixed assemblage of igneous and sedimentary rocks probably originates from a glacial drift deposit. The closest possible source is in the Shropshire-Cheshire Basin where Eskdale granites, Ennerdale granophyres, and Borrowdale or Stockdale rhyolite are found in combination with Ribblesdale silt/sandstones (Edwards and Trotter, 1954, 71), as part of the Irish Sea Drift derived from Scotland and the Lake District (Hains and Horton, 1969, 90).

Old Oswestry, itself, lies in an area of keuper sandstone, Bunter pebble beds, and keuper marl of the Triassic period (Hains and Horton, 1969, 63-72), with Welsh drift deposits (Edwards and Trotter, 1954, Fig. 24). Therefore it seems unlikely that the source for the rock inclusions in the VCP is local to the site. The Cheshire-Shropshire Basin drift deposits provide the most reasonable and closest possible source. (Local sources for this report are confined to an area of 15km radius.)

Identical parallels for this fabric, with its unusual inclusions, have been found in quantity at the Breidden, Dinorben, Moel Hiraddug, and the Berth, as well as at Pen Dinas-Llanaber, Pant-y-Saer, Braich-y-ddinas, Cefn Carnedd, Twyn-Llechfaen, Twyn-y-Gaer, Croft Ambrey, Burrow Hill, Credenhill, and Dinedor. Therefore a source in the Shropshire-Cheshire basin would not be unexpected.

It is possible that this VCP is another type of briquetage (Riehm, 1961, 181-91) used to dry and transport salt from inland brine springs, or

the coast, to settlement sites. This coarse, heavy, undecorated pottery may well have been transported for what it contained, and not for itself. Salt springs have been exploited at Middlewich, Cheshire from the first century A.D. onwards (Bestwick, 1975, 66-7).

Whatever the function of this material, its presence at Old Oswestry confirms its occupation during the middle-later phases of the Iron Age. This site can now be placed within the trading and social spheres of the Welsh Marches and North Wales.

Petrological Report for the Prehistoric Pottery from Old Oswestry Hillfort in Shropshire (SJ 295 310).

By Elaine Morris

Eleven sherds of prehistoric pottery were identified in the collection of material from Old Oswestry (Varley 1948, 41-66; Savory 1976, 76). Three sherds of the prehistoric pottery were selected for thin-sectioning and are described in detail below. None of the sherds from the furrowed bowls were selected since the pottery is made from sandy fabrics which would need larger samples for heavy mineral analysis in addition to thin-sectioning. There were no pieces of fired clay/daub in the collection.

The site of Old Oswestry is located on a thin esker deposit and lies in an area of Carboniferous Ruabon Marl, Coal measures, Sandstones and Limestones with Triassic deposits of sandstones and marls, Silurian mudstones, Ordovician shales, and sills of ash, dolerite and keratophyre.

There are no examples of Middle/Later Iron Age Malvernian-type pottery in the collection.

Pottery Fabric 1 - Mixed, Northern Drift-Tempered Boulder Clay Fabric

Only one vessel seemed to be made from this clay and tempering combination. It is a high-shouldered, situla-shaped vessel with a slightly everted rim. There are finger-tipped impressions as decoration on the shoulder. This type of vessel and style of decoration is generally considered to be representative of earlier Iron

Age occupation dated at southern and eastern sites in Britain to about the sixth century (Cunliffe, 1975, 33-35; A3:13,14; A4:3; and A5:1,6,11,13).

Macroscopic Definition

This fabric and the inclusions look remarkably like an unoxidized version of the Stony-tempered VCP (see sample OA-74.36H/7). Luckily, the pottery is a pale grey colour all over (Munsell 7.5YR 6/2) and much thinner-walled than the VCP - 0.8mm versus 1.1mm). The pottery is handmade and hard-fired. Its surfaces are quite rough and unburnished. There is a common or frequent amount of very angular rock inclusions: large dark grey dull rocks, measuring up to 0.8mm across; smaller opaque white inclusions; and some large glittering flakes of mica. The clay matrix also contains a sparse to moderate amount of quartz.

Microscopic Definition

In thin section, this anisotropic clay matrix contains large angular fragments of orthoclase feldspar, granite (microgranite) and quartz/feldspar rock. Although there are far more feldspars than quartz proportionately, these coarse-grained igneous inclusions probably originated from granite. The ferromagnesian minerals accompanying the granitic fragments are biotite mica and magnetite. The rock inclusions measure from 0.3-2.5mm across generally. There is one

rock fragment which displays a perthitic texture of albite/potash feldspar intergrowth. The very angular, larger dark rocks are devitrified rhyolites. They measure from 0.6-7.0mm across and can be porphyritic and masked with iron oxides. These rhyolites appear macroscopically to be as frequent in number as the granitic fragments. In addition to these large inclusions, there is a background concentration of sub-angular quartz grains: 5-10% fine quartz (0.1mm or less); 1-5% medium-sized grains (0.1-0.2mm); and 1-5% large quartz (0.1-0.4mm). Iron oxides are also present. This sandy clay is probably tempered with the large angular rocks. All of these inclusions are fresh and unaltered. There are no examples of granophyres, or micaceous siltstones as are found in the VCP.

Sources

This fabric type is probably composed of a boulder clay with added rock inclusions. It is difficult to be certain if these rocks are to be considered as crushed and added as tempering material or whether they are naturally included rock rubble from glacial activity, however the former is most likely. One possible indicator of the tempering activity is that there are only large angular pieces of the igneous rocks and not a gradual grading of weathered rounded and altered rocks. To the best of my knowledge, no one has recorded or observed and analysed naturally occurring rock fragments which are either found near their parent outcrop or found in clays; nor has anyone observed potter's using fresh rocks for tempering, and then analysed the range of inclusions in the final product.

Nevertheless, there are a variety of possible sources which could have been exploited to produce the clay and inclusion combination in the fabric type. The most likely sources are the glacial drift deposits of boulder clay containing Northern erratics which are common in the north-west side of the plain east of Old Oswestry (Wedd, *et al.*, 1929, 160). The range of inclusions in this fabric type precludes any mixing of the Northern ice sheets with the Welsh ice-sheet a commonly observed phenomenon in the area (*Ibid.*, 161). If this pottery is produced locally, then the most likely source would be a boulder

clay of the Lower glacial Drift (*Ibid.*, 162). Eskdale granites are common in the glacial drifts covering the Carboniferous and Triassic tracts in the Oswestry area but details of other igneous rocks of northern origins are generally lacking (*Ibid.*, 168-172).

Pottery Fabric 2 - Granite and Boulder Clay Fabric

There is only one large body sherd of this fabric type in the collection (74.36H/21-hearth 3). It is undecorated and comes from a handmade vessel.

Macroscopic Definition

This fabric type is hard-fired and ranges in colour from light brown on the surface (Munsell 7.5YR 6/4) to black in the core area. It is a slightly sandy fabric which contains numerous, very large angular glittering white and grey inclusions, which measure from 0.1-5.00m.

Microscopic Definition

In thin section, this rather micaceous iron-rich anisotropic fabric contains a 20-30% concentration of angular fragments of granitic rock of various sizes and in various stages of alteration and weathering. These are pieces of sericitized orthoclase feldspar (2.5mm), orthoclase feldspar/quartz rock with biotite, muscovite or epidote (0.1-1.0mm), altered rocks with very altered amphiboles (1.0-2.0mm), and one piece of microcline. Many of the rocks are extremely altered and weathered. The inclusions are not from freshly crushed unexposed rocks but may well be accumulations of all sizes in clay deposits near a weathering rock outcrop.

In addition to the angular granitic inclusions, there is a sparse amount of sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz: 5% fine quartz; 10% medium-sized quartz; and 1-5% large quartz grains.

Sources

Again, the closest possible source in the area for this granitic fabric comes from the glacial drift. The gravelly sand which covers the sides of Selattyn Hill, 5km from Old Oswestry, contains granite pebbles of Eskdale type (Lake District origin) and rests directly upon red Northern boulder clay (Wedd, *et al.*, 1929, 168).

Pottery Fabric 3 - Shelly Limestone and Calcite Fabric

Two sherds of pottery from different vessels were made in this calcareous fabric: one rim which is unoxidized and black in colour and one flat base which is oxidized to an orange fabric (Munsell 2.5YR 6/8; 5YR 6/8 externally; grey core) (74.36H/15 and 17 respectively). Savory (1976, 76) considered the rim to be early Iron Age in date but the base to be later Iron Age. Unfortunately neither of these sherds display attributes which are highly diagnostic of either period. A fabric sample from the base sherd was examined petrologically.

Macroscopic Definition

This sherd is a well-fired fragment that is oxidized on the surfaces but has an unoxidized core. There is a sparse to common amount of shell fragments and rare pieces of calcite as tempering which are visible on the surfaces. These inclusions measure up to 2.5mm across, and appear as thin and flat or large, angular and broad pieces of white calcareous material (positive reaction to 10%HC1).

Microscopic Definition

In thin section, this anisotropic clay matrix contains a 30-40% concentration of angular limestone fragments. The majority of limestone fragments are grainy, recrystallized limestones with occasional veins of calcite, free calcite, or rare pieces displaying pelecypod (fresh water lamellibranch) structure. These shelly pieces range from 0.05-2.0mm in length and are probably crushed tempering added to the clay matrix.

This matrix is iron-rich and contains a sparse amount (less than 5% concentration) of sub-angular quartz grains (maximum size: 0.4mm).

Sources

A precise source for this shelly limestone pottery fabric is impossible to determine without a detailed examination of fossil thin-sections in geological collection archives. However, several possible sources exist in the area most notably in the Carboniferous Limestone which is found within 5km from Old Oswestry (Wedd, *et al.*, 1929, 88-113).

General Discussion

Although the stratification of the pottery and VCP from Old Oswestry is uncertain, the possibility exists that this material represents early Iron Age occupation prior to the introduction of non-local Malvernian pottery into the area. The three pottery fabric types discussed here are all probably of local manufacture. The only decorated pieces (including 74.36H/10) are typical of early Iron Age styles. Decorated and undecorated Malvernian pottery of middle and later Iron Age date were used at other sites in the area, particularly at the Berth in Shropshire, and the Breiddin in Powys. The absence of this distinctive pottery at Old Oswestry could be very significant, especially since the early pottery forms have been recovered and kept. If this phenomenon is true then it suggests that stony-tempered VCP may well occur at settlement sites in Cheshire, Shropshire and north Wales prior to the appearance of Malvernian pottery.

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OLD OSWESTRY

General Plan showing Excavated Trenches

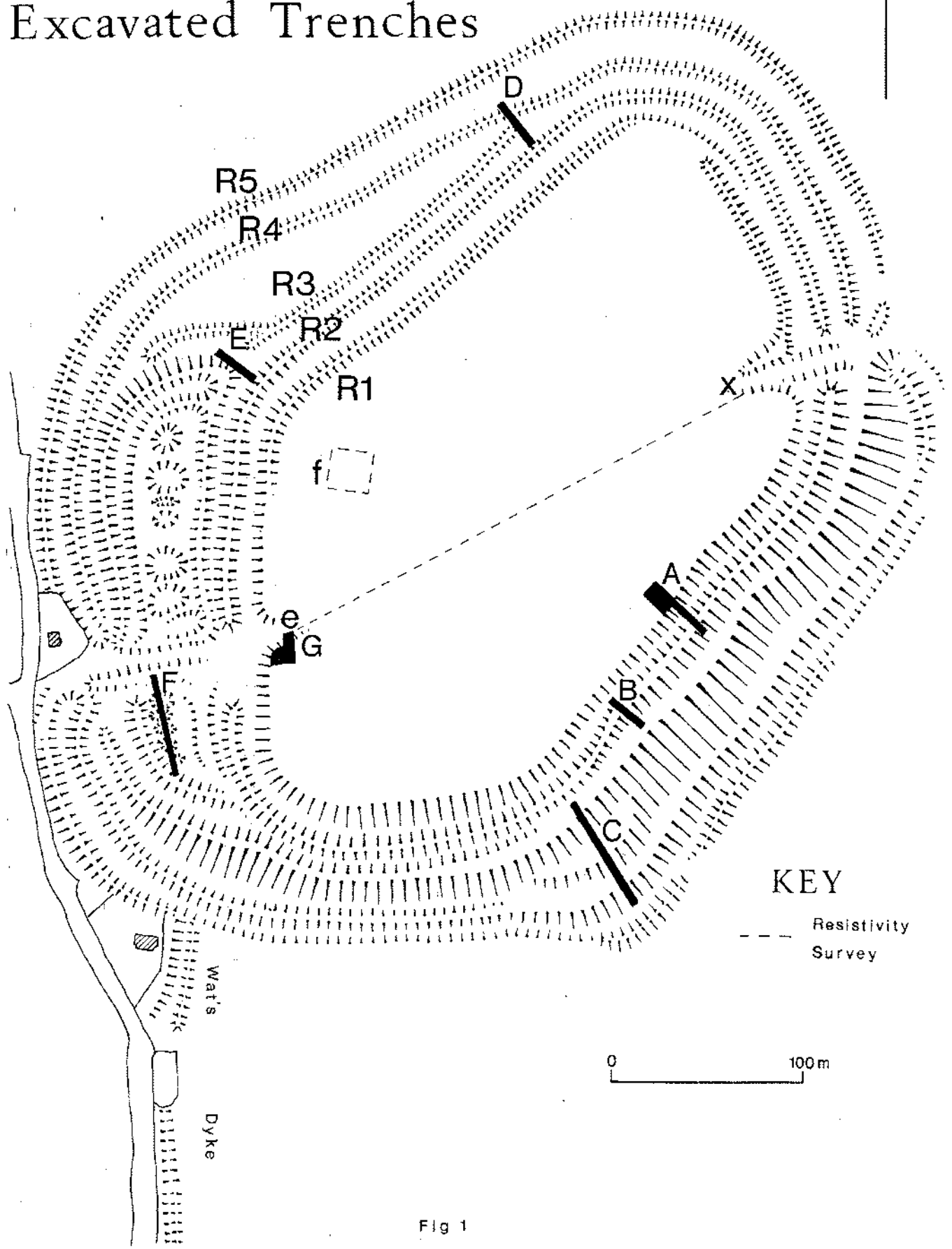
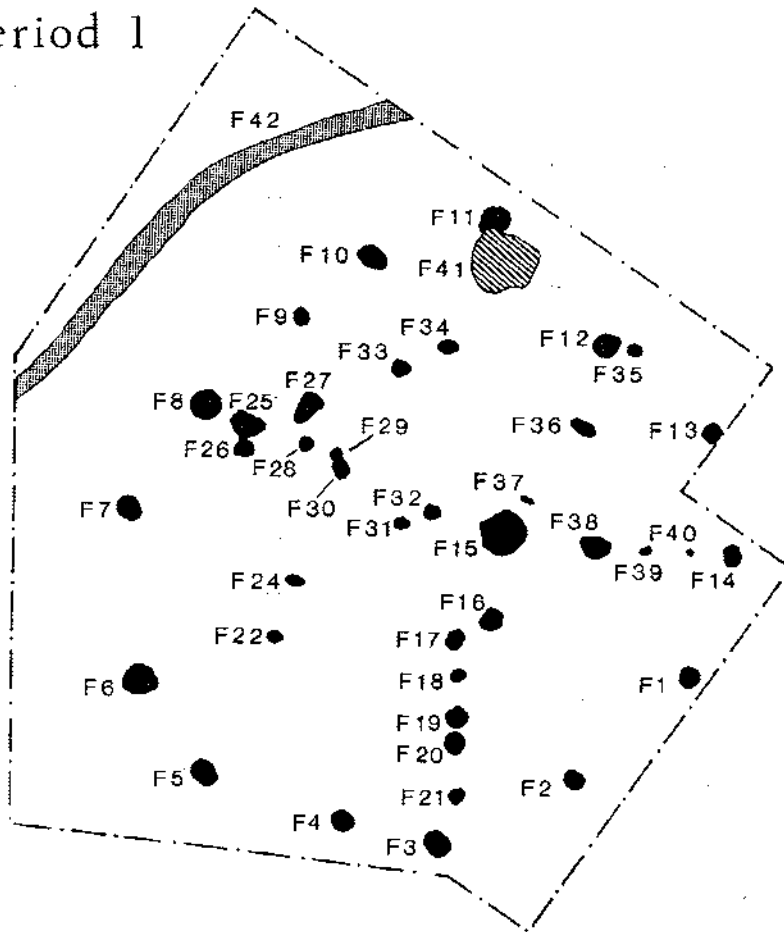


Fig 1

TRENCH A Extension

Period 1



KEY

- Posthole
- Stones
- - - Kerb Stones
- ▨ Hearth
- ▨ Gully

Period 2

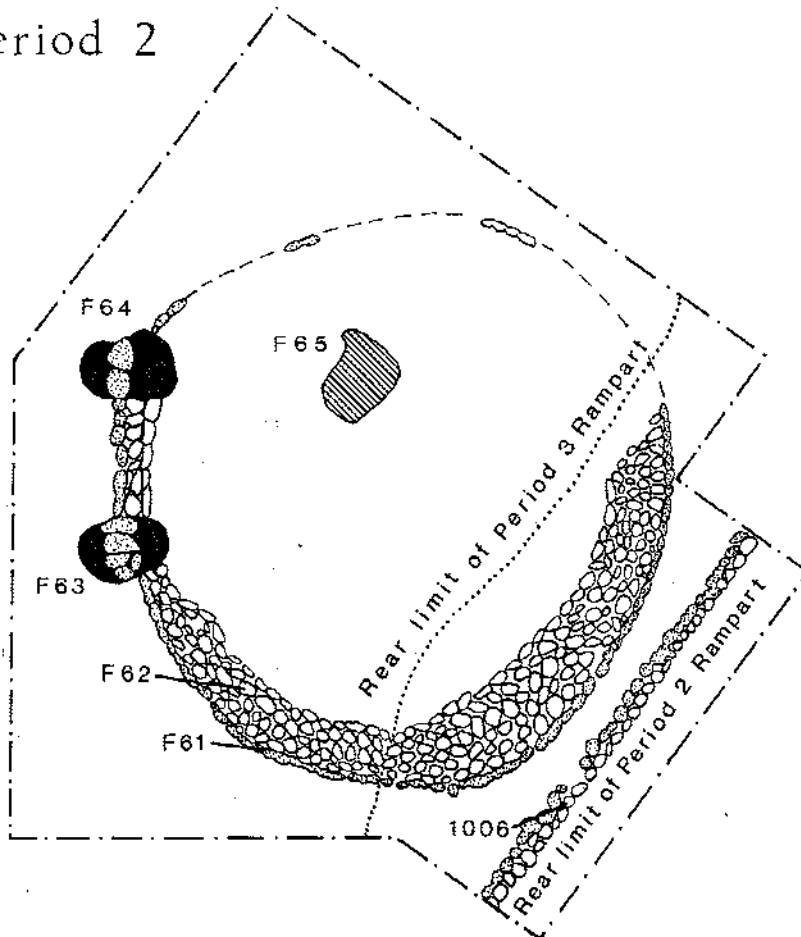


Fig 2

TRENCH G

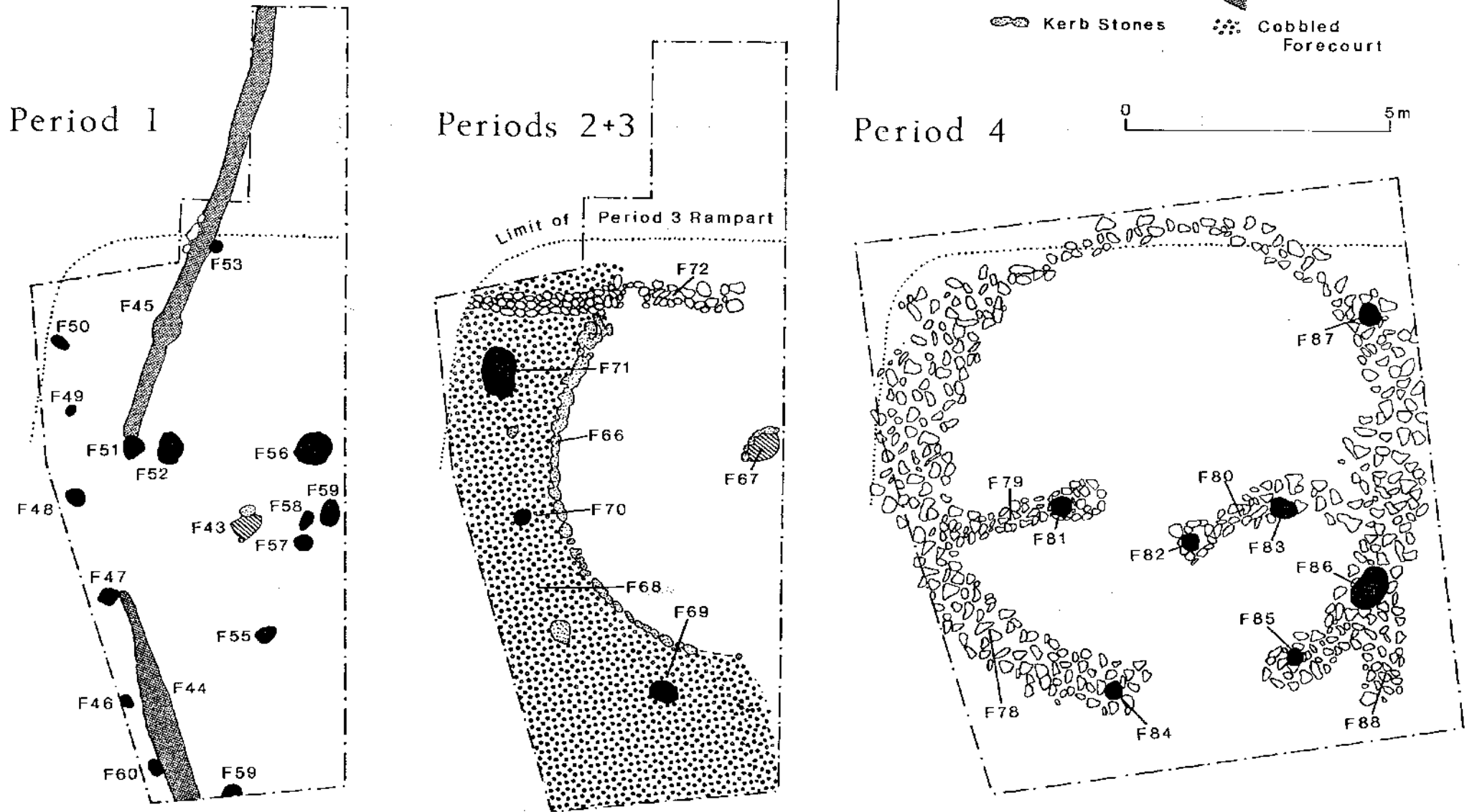


Fig 3

OLD OSWESTRY North-East Facing Sections

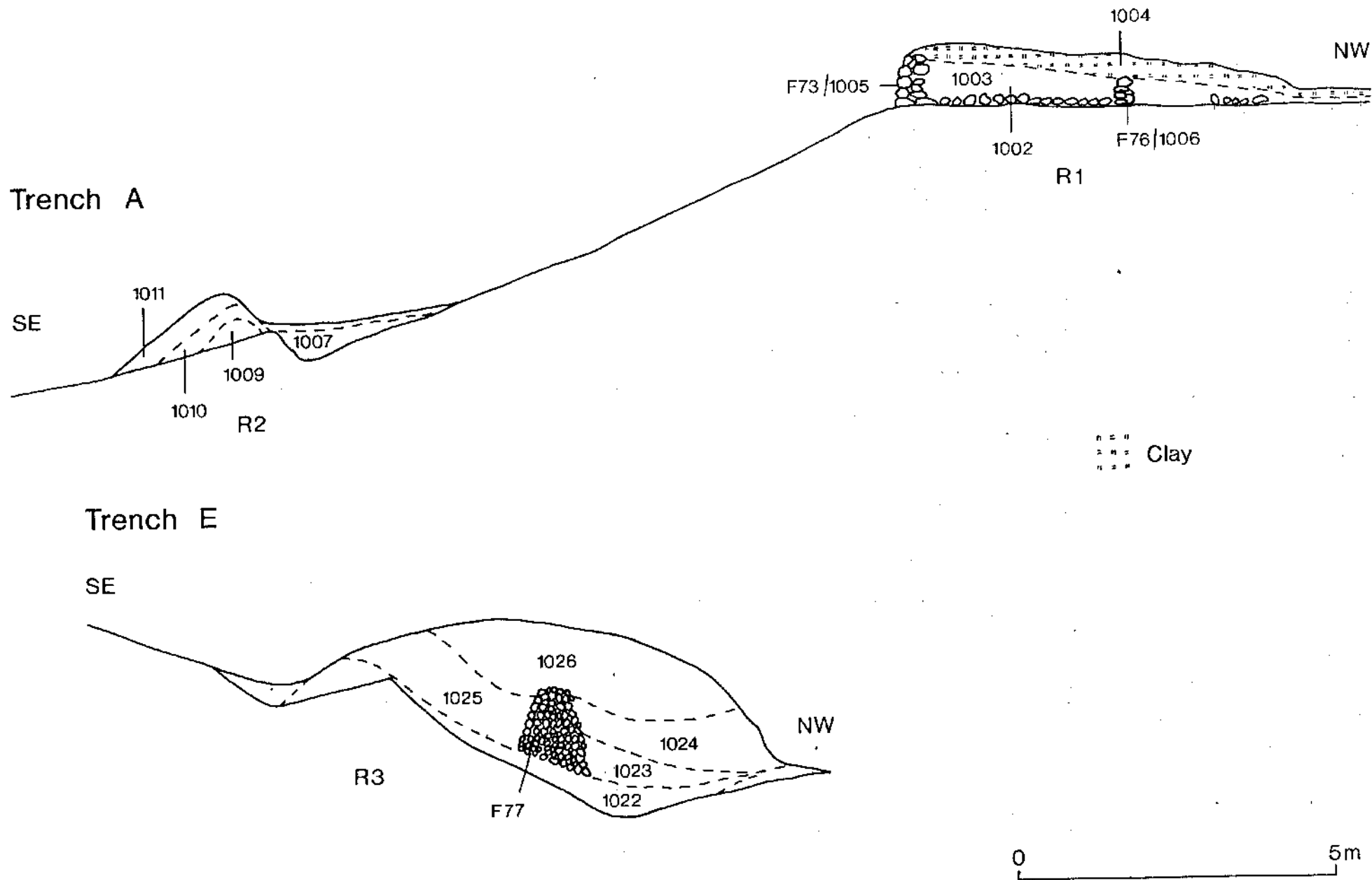


Fig 4