



EXCAVATIONS AT GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX

East Anglian Archaeology

Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report Number 7

Archaeology Section, Essex County Council Planning Dept. 1988

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EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**Excavations at
Great Dunmow,
Essex:
a Romano-British
Small Town
in the
Trinovantian Civitas**

by N.P. Wickenden

with contributions from
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**East Anglian Archaeology
Report No. 41, 1988**

Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report No. 7

**Archaeology Section
Essex County Council**

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY
REPORT NO. 41

Published by
Archaeology Section, Planning Dept,
Essex County Council,
Globe House,
New Street,
Chelmsford,
CM1 1LF
and
Chelmsford Archaeological Trust

in conjunction with
The Scole Archaeological Committee Ltd.

Editor: David Buckley
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Typeset in Plantin by Spire Origination, Norwich
Printed by F. Crowe & Sons, Norwich.

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ISSN 0307 2460

For details of *East Anglian Archaeology*, see last page

This volume is published with the aid of a grant from
the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

Cover Illustration

Cremation 2 *Photo: P.J. Drury*

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Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the landowners, The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Police Authority (Chequers Lane), Link Homes Ltd (the market garden site) and Dunmow Rural District Council (58 New Street) for permission to excavate; to the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment (now, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMC)), Dunmow Parish Council and Essex County Council for providing grants towards excavation and to the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment (now HBMC) for funding the post excavation work. I am grateful to P.J. Drury who directed, and to S.R. Bassett and P. Sewter who supervised the work; the curator of Saffron Walden Museum, Len Pole and his staff, especially Louise Bacon (conservator) and

Sheila Jordain, have been most helpful, granting storage and conservation facilities.

I am also grateful to the many contributors; J. Bayley, O. Bedwin, D. Brown, S.A. Butcher, C.M. Cunningham, B. Ford, C.J. Going, S.J. Greep, M.W.C. Hassall, E. Healey, R.M. Luff, J.G. McDonnell, R. Reece, W.J. Rodwell, L. Sellwood and P. Wilthew. In addition, T. Blagg, C. Burgess, P.J. Drury, V. Evison and M. Owen have provided identifications of artefacts.

The illustrations are by John Callaghan, Paul Drury, Mark Duncan, F.J.H. Gardiner, Susan Holden and Caroline Rochester.

Finally an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to the staff of Chelmsford Archaeological Trust, especially Susan Plaw and Pauline Fuller for typing the text, and its former director, Paul Drury, for his advice and encouragement.

Archaeological Summary

Great Dunmow was a Roman 'small town' which developed along Stane Street. Archaeological investigations within the town began in the late 18th Century. Excavations in 1970-1972 revealed multi-period occupation. A scatter of flint-gritted prehistoric pottery indicates some low-level activity on the site. Roman occupation started in the 1st century AD on apparently virgin ground. The site revealed a rear plot of a property to the north of, and presumably fronting, Stane Street. Several ditch alignments formed the rear boundary line and possibly a minor road or lane within the small town.

A small family cremation cemetery within an enclosure succeeded two possible inhumations, and spanned a century from the later 1st to the later 2nd centuries.

Domestic occupation continued into the 4th century; on the west of the site, however, a late 4th century shrine and adjacent building and pits were identified. Associated with them was a large votive deposit of coins and fragments of jewellery. The shrine was rebuilt at the end of the 4th century, and a little grass-tempered pottery indicates some 5th century occupation. Thereafter the site reverted to agricultural use, apart from an interlude probably in the Middle Saxon period (7-9th centuries) when a structure was built in the silted hollow of a Roman gravel pit. Similar pottery found in watching briefs in the same part of the town indicates a larger and more formal Middle Saxon settlement than might have been expected.

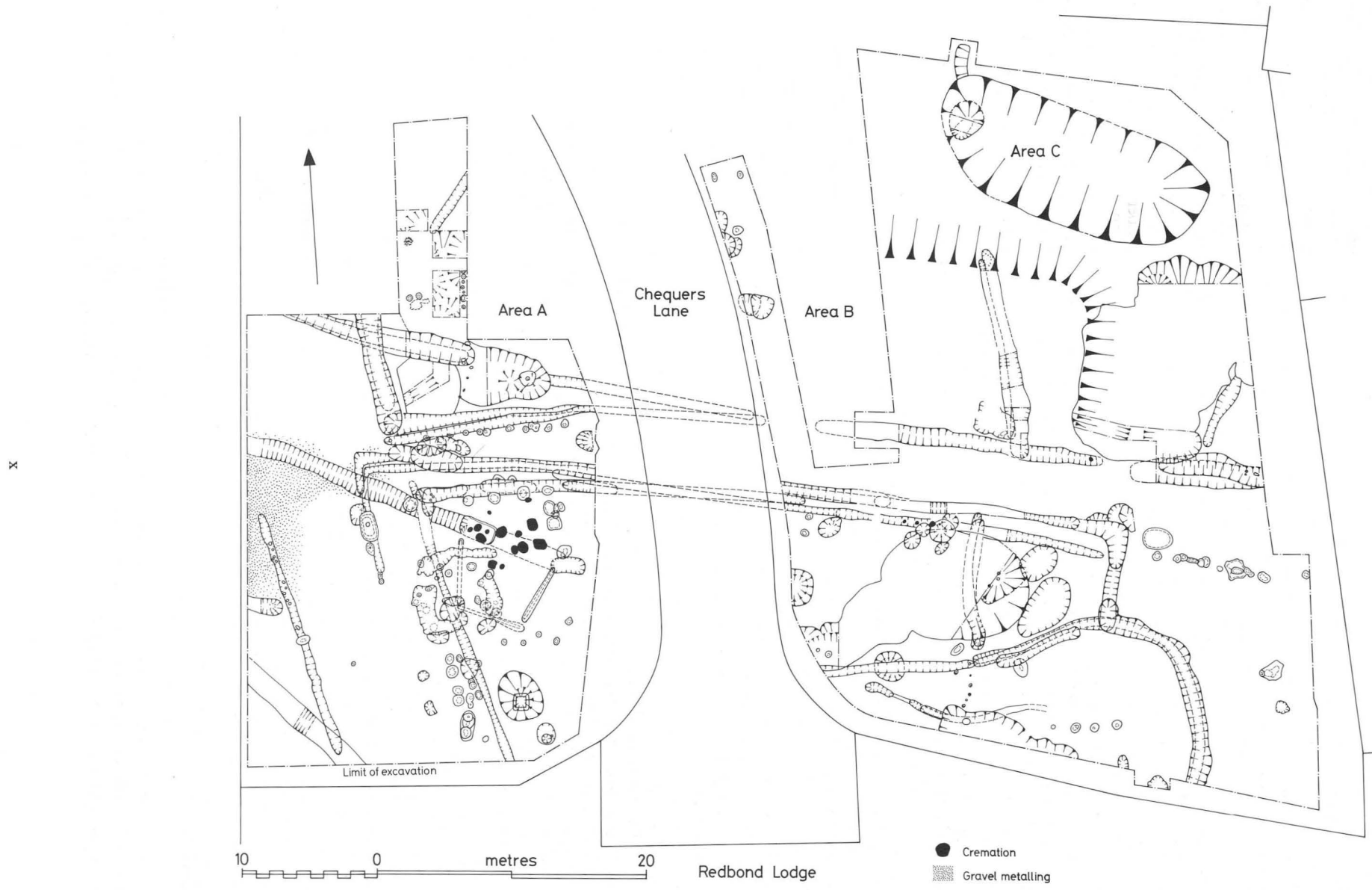


Figure 2 The Chequers Lane Site, showing excavated areas and major features of all periods. Scale 1:400

A. Introduction

I. Introduction

(Fig. 1)

The Roman settlement at Great Dunmow lies at the point where Stane Street (the main road from Colchester westwards towards Braughing and St Albans) is joined on high ground above the crossing of the river Chelmer, by two other routes from London and Chelmsford to the south (Figs 1.B, 60).

Early interest in the town was shown in 1776, when the Rev. W. Drake of Felsted, in a letter to the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, followed Bishop Gibson (incorrectly) in placing *Caesaromagus* at Dunmow, rather than at Chelmsford (Drake 1779). In doing so, Drake mentioned a gold coin of Honorius, picked up in the town, bronzes of Commodus from fields near the church, and a hoard of later 3rd century 'denarii' from an adjoining estate (Drake 1779, 139). Nineteenth century gravel-digging and post-war development in the Highfields area (Fig. 1.B) produced pottery and other artefacts, but, as the *Victoria County History of Essex* observed (1963, 125), no evidence of Roman structures. Similar material found during the construction of Redbond Lodge in 1968 and the extension of Chequers Lane in 1969 renewed public interest in the Roman settlement, and the Essex Archaeological Society was consequently asked by the Department of the Environment to undertake excavation in Westbury House Fields in advance of the development of the remainder of the site (TL 626 219). This was undertaken in three seasons by Mr P.J. Drury: for five weeks in November and December 1970; five weeks in July-August 1971; and in August 1972. A total area of 2450 sqm was mechanically stripped and excavated.

Trial excavations, reported on in the gazetteer (p. 80-85), were also carried out in 1970-71 on land at the rear of 58 New Street in advance of redevelopment with eight old persons flats by Dunmow Rural District Council (TL 628 216); in August 1971 on the site of proposed old persons flatlets in Oakroyd Avenue (TL 633 216) where nothing of interest was found; and in 1972 on a market garden site adjacent to Redbond Lodge (Figs 1.B, 62).

It is clear from the excavation, and past discoveries, that the Roman settlement took the form of a 'small town', one of many in the Trinovantian *civitas* (Fig. 1.A, and extended along both frontages of Stane Street for approximately 500m west of the road junction, covering an area c. 10-12ha in extent. This report is concerned with the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupation on the Chequers Lane site. In addition a gazetteer has been compiled, intended to update the entry in the *Victoria County History* (1963, 125) written by M.R. Hull, and review the current state of knowledge about the history of Great Dunmow, urban and rural, in the Roman period. The excavated finds are deposited in Saffron Walden Museum.





II. Method of Site Recording

During the three seasons of excavation, different methods of recording features and layers were used, involving both separate layer numbers, separate feature numbers, and

features recorded by their grid co-ordinate. A card index was created during post excavation work, which allocated over 1400 catalogue entries (known as Cat nos) to different 'contexts' or 'findspots'. Each discrete feature, *eg.* a pit or ditch, is referred to in this report by one of these numbers (usually the lowest), although several catalogue numbers might be subsumed within it. Thus Slot 23 incorporates Cats 23, 46, 210 and 865. A context index in MF 1.N lists all catalogue numbers, giving their published context number, brief description and phase. Where no Cat number is given in brackets for an object it should be assumed that this is the same as the context number, thus on p. 4, Figure 5, Number 9, Ditch 608, the sherd actually comes from Cat 608.

The area to the west of Chequers Lane was known as Area A; the area to the east being Area B, and the Gravel Pit 857, Area C (Fig. 2). Since field co-ordinates are here omitted, these codes have been used to provide an approximate provenance for some unstratified or subsoil finds (*eg.* coins).

Key to sections

	Brickearth		Silt
	Sand		Gravel and flint
	Chalky boulder clay or chalk		Pot and tile
	Baked chalky boulder clay		Charcoal
	Loam		Clay

Key to plans








	Feature excavated and in use in phase
	Features as above, but smaller, dashed line indicates bottom
	Feature silting up, still evident, though perhaps out of use
	Later feature, included to show disturbed area
	Limit of excavation
	Line of published section (figs. 18, 34)
	Reconstructed line of feature

Figure 3 Key to sections and plans.

III. Site Phasing

Period I	Prehistoric
Period II	1st century AD, post conquest
Period III.1	End 1st century-early 2nd century
Period III.2	2nd century

Period III.3	Late 2nd century-early 3rd century
Period IV.1	1st half 3rd century
Period IV.2	2nd half 3rd century
Period IV.3	Late 3rd century-early 4th century
Period V.1	1st half-mid 4th century
Period V.2	Mid-late 4th century
Period V.3	c. AD 390/400-425
Period VI	? Mid-Saxon, 7th-9th centuries
Period VII	Post Saxon-modern

IV. Abbreviations

General

Cat 138	Catalogue entry 138, based on archival card index. See above.
CMR	<i>Colchester Museum Annual Report</i>
MF 1.A	Section A on Microfiche 1.
VCH	<i>Victoria County History (of Essex)</i>

Coins

CK	R.A.G. Carson, P.V. Hill and J.P.C. Kent, <i>Late Roman Bronze Coinage</i> , part I (London, 1960)
HK	R.A.G. Carson, P.V. Hill and J.P.C. Kent, <i>Late Roman Bronze Coinage</i> , part II (London, 1960)
Mack	R.P. Mack, <i>The Coinage of Ancient Britain</i> , (2nd edition, 1964)
RIC	H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, C.H.V. Sutherland and R.A.G. Carson (eds), <i>Roman Imperial Coinage</i> (London)

Romano-British pottery

In the dating evidence sections at the end of each phase, and in the pottery reports (p. 61-76), numerical

codes have been used to denote specific fabrics, and alphanumeric codes for vessel forms. These relate to a pottery typology devised for central Essex and based on pottery groups from Chelmsford (Going 1987). Fabrics are discussed in relation to two groups of pottery in this report, and numeric codes encountered can be cross-checked on p. 62-70. Those vessel forms which occur in the quantified groups are also described. However, the reader is referred to the typology mentioned above, in which forms are fully discussed with their dating evidence.

Where groups have been quantified (Levels 464, 820 in Gravel Pit 857, and the Shrine; cf. Figs 51-2, Tables 1-2), calculations are based on 'estimated vessel equivalence' (Eve: see Orton 1975, 32).

Samian

CG	Central Gaulish
Dr	Dragendorff
EG	East Gaulish
F	Form
O.857	Oswald type number (1937)
SG	South Gaulish
S and S	Stanfield and Simpson 1958

Gazetteer

BM	British Museum
CHMER	Chelmsford and Essex Museum
COLEM	Colchester and Essex Museum
IA	Iron Age
ND	Not dated
NMR	National Monument Record
RB	Romano-British
S	Saxon
SAFWM	Saffron Walden Museum
SMR	Sites and Monument Records (Essex County Council)

B. The Excavated Features

The natural subsoil on the site is an admixture of brickearth, gravel and sand. As a result, the fills of most features contain some pebbly gravel and brickearth-derived loam, normally dark brown in colour. Only fills differing from this norm are described below. A key to the conventions used in the published sections and plans is given in Figure 3. The sections that appear in Figures 4 and 37 represent a selection from the field drawings, chosen for their stratigraphic importance or intrinsic interest. The remainder of the sections are deposited in the archive.

I. Period I: Prehistoric (Fig. 5)

No definite features can be assigned to the pre-Roman period, despite a thin scatter of small, abraded sherds of flint-gritted pottery, residual in later features (see below). Some periglacial activity, distinguished by leached brickearth, was wrongly interpreted as man-made at the time of excavation (interim report, unpubl.; copy deposited in archive) and is now discounted. Three possible features remain:

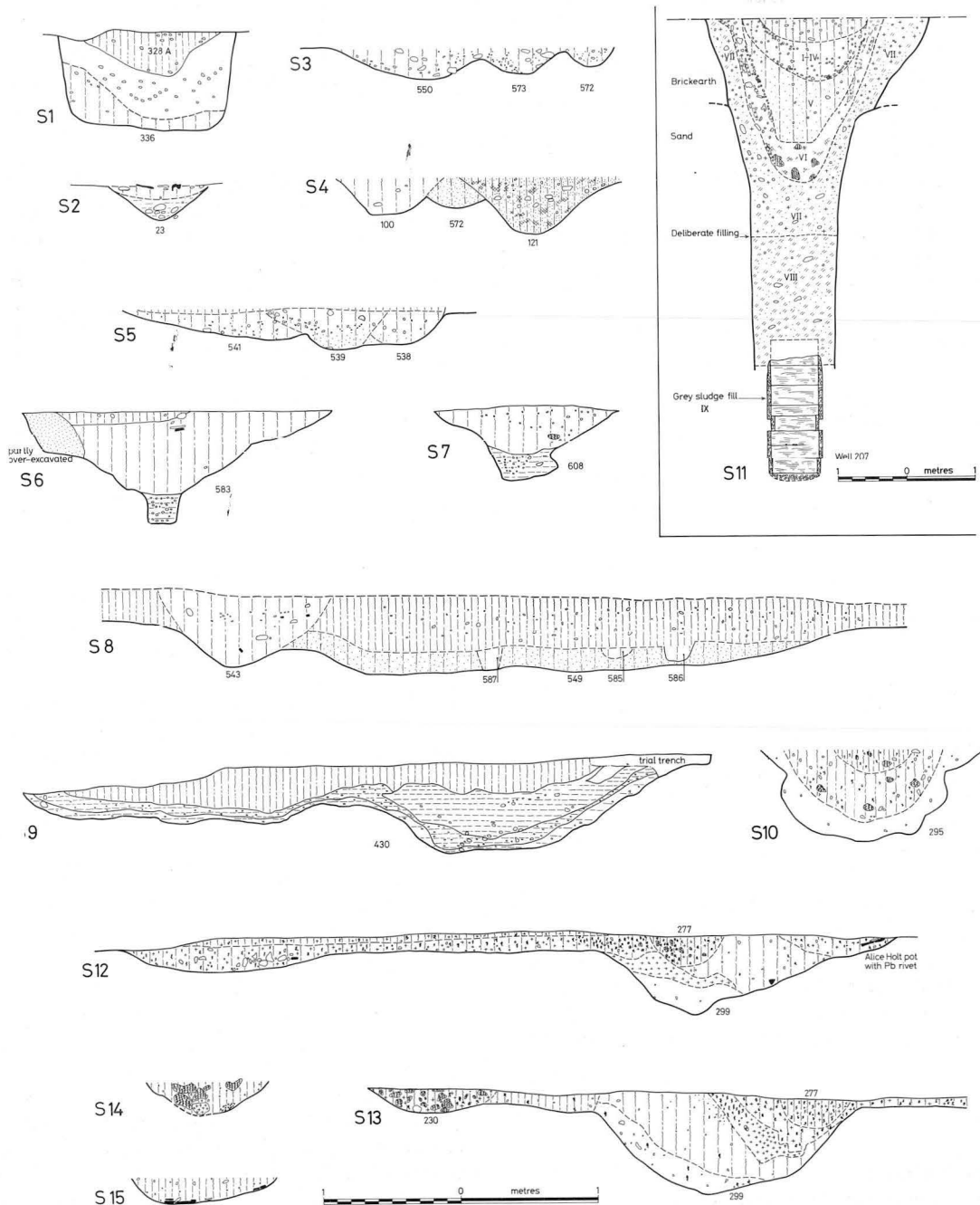


Figure 4 Sections: S1-S15. Scales: S1-10, S12-15 1:50; S11 1:100

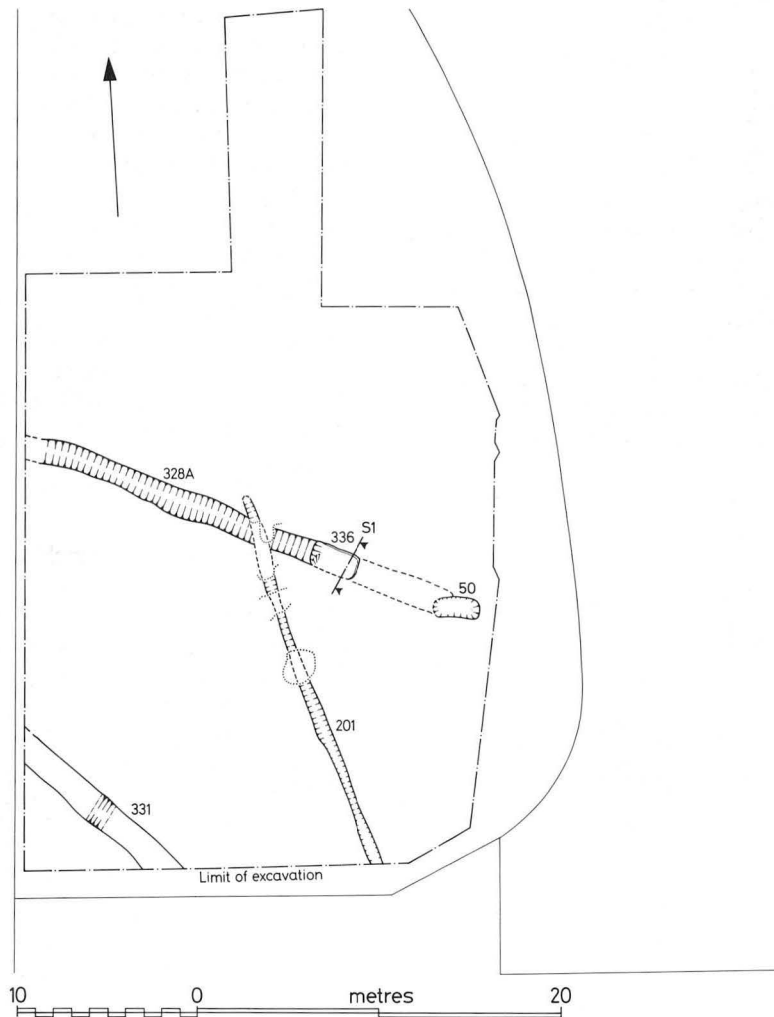


Figure 5 Periods I (stippled) and II (hachured). Scale 1:400

Pit 325

Containing charcoal, burnt clay and 3 prehistoric sherds.

Pit 326

c. 0.12m deep, fill as 325.

Stake-hole 980

Containing two unworked flints.

Very little middle or late pre-Roman Iron Age pottery was found, which would discount a settlement of this date.

A side-looped copper alloy spearhead of the middle Bronze Age was found in the Roman subsoil, Cat 1393 (Fig. 6). It was cast in one with an open socket (80mm long). When found, the blades were abraded and the side loops missing. This is a long-lived type, between the 15th and 11th centuries BC in southern England (Colin Burgess, pers. comm.).

The flint

(Fig. 7)

by Elizabeth Healey

The lithic assemblage recovered during the excavation largely derives from Saxon features. Much of the flint is either battered or has chipped edges due to post-

depositional disturbance (?Saxon); this sometimes makes it difficult to distinguish deliberate retouch from accidental damage. The main types present are listed below and the typological range within each category is discussed in the report. Retouched artefacts are individually described in the catalogue; it should be noted that the terminology does not necessarily carry any functional significance.

Prob. natural	20	
Cores	10	
Struck Nodules	14	
Hammerstones	? 1	(some struck nodules also abraded)
Flakes etc	121	
Arrowhead	1	
Scrapers	6 + ?3	
Knives	1	
Notched	? 2	
Misc. Retouch	14	
Total	193	

Raw materials

Several different 'types' of flint, mainly distinguished by colour, were used. The most common colours are a good quality black flint with cortex (almost 40%) and a lighter grey flint, sometimes mottled, with a thin cortex (also almost 40%). Most of the rest was in the brown-grey range, but artefacts of other flint were found in small numbers (eg.

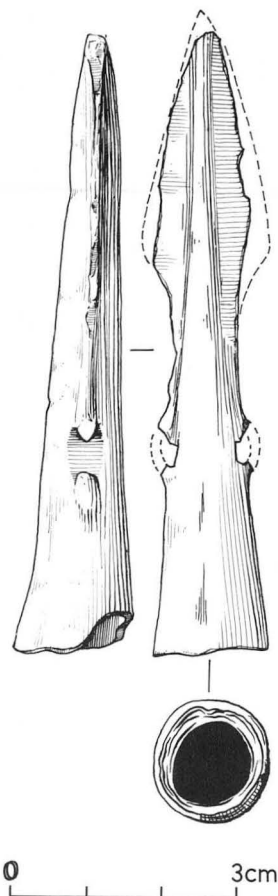


Figure 6 Copper alloy Bronze Age spearhead. Scale 1:1

six pieces of orange-brown flint); only two pieces were unidentifiable through burning or cortication. Some flakes had been struck from previously corticated nodules. A few pieces showed more recent cortication, but on the whole cortication is rare, and probably reflects localised soil conditions. It is likely that all the flint was obtained from the same source which in all probability was boulder clay.

Technology

The classifiable removals (including those which have been retouched) have been subdivided as follows:

Flakes	Blades	Spalls	Chips	Trimming Flakes
94	21	6	2	13

The frequency of various types of striking platforms (recorded on 75% of flakes) is tabulated below:

Cortex	Plain	Linear	Faceted	Shattered
15	71	8	4?	9

The faceted examples are uncertain; they include a scraper (Fig. 7, No. 8), which has been struck from a changed-orientation core, the core face thus providing a striking platform which is faceted by the flake scars. The majority of removals are flakes with wide plain striking platforms, but the blade-like element is not insignificant although only a small proportion of these pieces have linear or shattered striking platforms. This suggests that some of the blade-like pieces do not result from a deliberate blade production technology.

The cores are mainly irregular and unclassifiable; the most regular pieces have been illustrated (Fig. 7, Nos 17, 18). Several struck nodules were recovered. These are irregularly shaped nodules which are often battered and have thermal scars from which only single or random flakes have been removed, with no evidence of striking platforms. It is unlikely therefore that the flaking is accidental because the flakes recorded as deliberate removals have a regular pattern of dorsal scarring and are of reasonably consistent shape and size. It is unlikely therefore that the randomly flaked struck nodules form part of the industry unless they are tried and rejected nodules.

Of the classifiable cores, two are single platform flake cores, three have two platforms at an angle to each other, including Figure 7, Numbers 17 and 18, all of which produce blade-like removals, and a sixth has a keeled edge from which five blade-like flakes had been struck.

Secondary Retouch: 'Retouch' can be caused by various means, including accidental damage through trampling, ploughing, storage *etc.*, or spontaneously whilst knapping, or in use, or by deliberate retouch (Moss 1983, 233ff). There is considerable difficulty in distinguishing accidental damage from deliberate retouch even using the criteria of an edge with a straight section of about 20mm (Moss 1983, 237) and regular touch. Edge-damage was recorded on over 70% of the pieces, including some natural pieces and only the fourteen more probably deliberately retouched pieces are described in the catalogue. These include three pieces (Fig. 7, Nos 14-16), which are too fragmentary to classify.

Arrowhead (Fig. 7, No. 1): This is a well made example, through with a damaged tang, of a barbed and tanged arrowhead of Green's Ballyclare type (1984, 29). One face has shallow invasive flaking all over, and the other semi-invasive serial flaking. It belongs to Green's category of non-fancy arrowheads and as such presumably has the same life expectancy as the smaller Sutton type (Green 1984, table 1) which is present throughout the currency of barbed and tanged arrowheads (*c.* 2500-1500 BC).

Scrapers (Fig. 7, Nos 2-10): These may be described as follows:

End scraper	1: Fig. 7, No. 2
end-and-side scrapers	3: Fig. 7, Nos 5-8
extended end	3: Fig. 7, Nos 3, 4, ?10
on thermal flake	1: Fig. 7, No. 9

Of the certain scrapers all have convex contours and semi-invasive scaled retouch. Of the less classic examples the retouch is abrupt and not very regular. Figure 7, Number 5 appears to have a worn area.

The three scrapers made of good quality flint, and which have semi-invasive scaled retouch, are similar to scrapers identified as characteristic of Early Bronze Age industries (Smith 1965, 107).

Knife (Fig. 7, No. 11): A sub-triangular or leaf-shaped knife has irregular (?damaged), semi-invasive retouch on both sides which converge to form a point. One side is more abruptly retouched than the other and it is made eccentrically to the axis of the flake.

Knives of this type are not closely datable, but occur regularly in Neolithic and Early Bronze Age contexts (Healey 1982, 802-5).

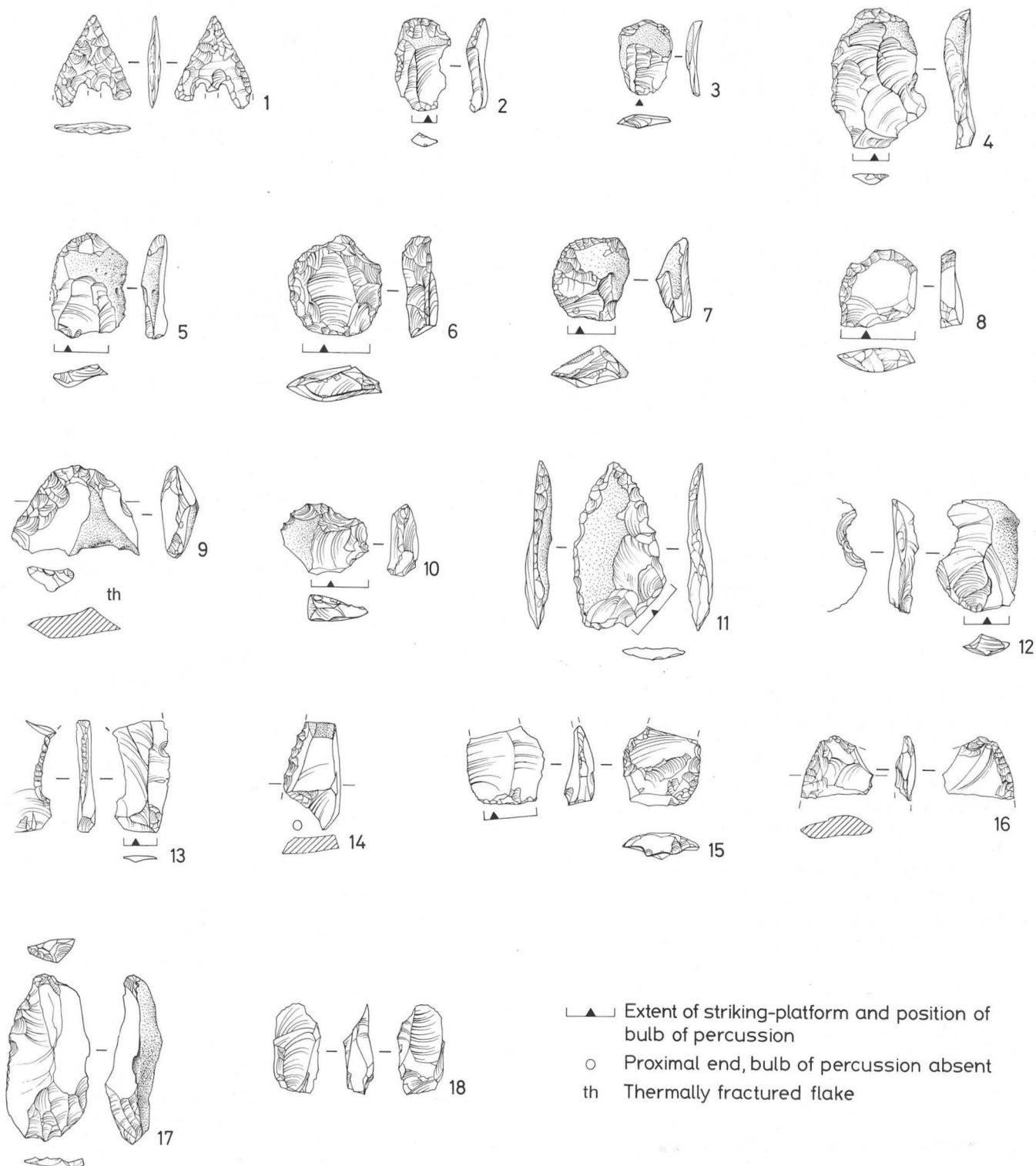


Figure 7 Lithic material. Scale 1:2

Notched pieces (Fig. 7, Nos 12-13): Two pieces with retouch in wide concave arcs were noted. Both have been inversely 'retouched', but neither is unequivocally deliberate.

Conclusions

The flint artefacts were recovered from all levels of excavation and this suggests that most are residual. Because of the nature of the site it is impossible to be certain whether the flint recovered represents the remnants of a once homogeneous industry or is an aggregation of several different industries. Some of the technological features are

at variance with that indicated by tool typology, particularly the blade-like element which is suggestive of a Mesolithic technology. However, no diagnostic pieces were recovered, and it should be noted that this technology does continue into the Neolithic (Pitts and Jacobi 1978). The retouched artefacts all seem to be consistent with an Early Bronze Age tool-kit. They are unlikely to belong to the same activity which generated the flint-gritted pottery of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date (below). Whether any of the artefacts are Saxon products is difficult to determine. Flint artefacts do seem to occur relatively

frequently in Saxon contexts elsewhere (R. Young, pers comm) in similar circumstances, but the evidence for Saxon and other non-prehistoric flint working and use is not conclusive except in certain special circumstances. Two pieces with very crushed edges could be strike-a-lights of this period.

Early prehistoric pottery

(Fig. 8)

by Owen Bedwin

The assemblage consisted of 193 sherds weighing 572 g. All the sherds were small, and about 90% were severely abraded. In many instances, one or both surfaces had eroded away leaving flint filler standing out to about 2mm. Sherd colour varied between reddish-brown and black. A group of twenty-two sherds which came from the New Street site (see p. 84) have been included for completeness.

Diagnostic characteristics were few. There were six rim sherds, one base sherd, four indicating carinated profiles, and four decorated body sherds. There was one worn beaker sherd, residual in the 4th-century Votive Pit 200. Because of the smallness of the sherds (the largest measured 60mm by 40 mm), vessel form was difficult to establish, but the likelihood is that carinated bowls and jars were the commonest types. Fabrics showed little variety, being mainly flint-gritted (73%). The other fabrics were: flint-gritted with a little sand, flint-gritted with a little grog, a hard, sandy fabric, and, from a single sherd, a mixture of sand and what may have been either organic filler or shell, the latter being represented by small holes. On some sherds, where the surfaces have survived well enough, there are indications of rough wiping or smoothing, both externally and internally.

The assemblage is typical of residual material, and given the limited information available from form, fabric or decoration, it is not easy to date precisely. However, it is likely that the bulk of the flint-gritted material belongs to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, *ie.* from the 9th to the 5th centuries BC. The fabrics containing calcined flint as filler (whether on its own or combined with another material) are compatible with this, as are the six rim sherds, the base sherd and three of the carinated sherds.

The diagnostic late Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherds are listed below. A full catalogue appears in MF 1.H.

Illustrated sherds

(Fig. 8)

- No. 1** Upright rim of fine ware vessel with shallow horizontal groove below the rim, and fine fingernail slashing just below that, perhaps just above a carination. Fine, flint-gritted fabric (inclusions up to 2mm across). *Ditches 216/320 (V.2) (Cat 127).*
- No. 2** Poorly made, slightly everted rim from small vessel with ?finger impressions on carination. Fine, flint-gritted fabric. Finger-impressed decoration is known from early Iron Age contexts elsewhere, *eg.* Gun Hill (Drury and Rodwell 1973), though it is more usually found on rims. *Ditch 608 (IV.3).*



Figure 8 Prehistoric pottery. Scale 1:2

(not illustrated)

- No. 3** Body sherd indicating carination of jar or bowl. Fine, flint-gritted fabric with a little sand. *Ditches 216/320 (V.2) (Cat 127).*
- No. 4** Simple flat base of jar or bowl. Fine, flint-gritted fabric. *Gravel Pit 316 LII.(III.3).*
- No. 5** Sherd from carinated vessel. External surface smoothed. Medium flint-gritted fabric (inclusions up to 5mm across). *Ditches 216/320 (V.2) (Cat 319).*
- No. 6** Carinated sherd from thin-walled, fine ware vessel. Fine, flint-gritted fabric. *Unstrat (Cat 328).*
- No. 7** Flat-topped rim from bowl or jar. Medium flint-gritted fabric. *Ditch 328A (II).*
- No. 8** Upright, slightly rounded rim from jar. Medium flint-gritted fabric. *Ditch 328A (II).*
- No. 9** Upright rounded rim from fine ware vessel. Fine, flint-gritted fabric. *Pit 1504 (Cat 1505), Trench 3, 58 New Street.*
- No. 10** Flat-topped rim. Fine, flint-gritted fabric with a little grog. *Pit 1508. Trench 3, 58 New Street.*

II. Period II: 1st century AD, post conquest

(Fig. 5)

Ditch 328A

Dug into the natural subsoil. Along most of its length, it had a spade-cut slot in the bottom, filled with dull orange sandy brickearth, clearly primary weathering. Only a few sections were excavated, and the few finds were nearly all intrusive, but the feature was stratigraphically the earliest in the area.

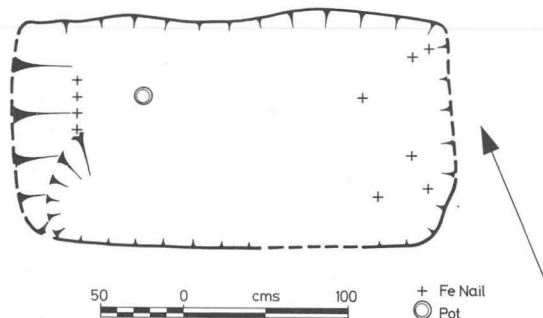


Figure 9 Inhumation 336. Scale 1:40

Feature 336

(Fig. 4. S1,9; Fig. 9)

Cut into the end of 328A, following its alignment, and probably a grave-pit, *c.* 2.74×1.22×0.91 m; filled with a loose grey silty loam, sealed by a clean, pebbly, loose orange brickearth. Eleven iron nails were discovered in the silt, within 0.10m of the bottom, including a row of four, 0.10m apart, probably the only surviving traces of a large wooden box coffin, *c.* 2m in length. The complete nails were 80-118mm long. Many bore wood impressions running perpendicular to the shaft. More than one type of nail seems to have been used, including at least one Manning Type II (1972, 186). More nails belonging to the inhumation may come from the cremations which cut it, along with two rings from Cremation 10 (Fig. 15, No. 50). The only grave-good was a 1st century AD small beaker with mid-body carination (Form H10), in fine hard sandy fabric (34) with brown-grey core and darker grey burnished surfaces.

Feature 50

A second possible grave lay to the east, aligned east-west.

Ditches 201, 331

A narrow ditch, 201, 0.16 m deep, should on stratigraphical grounds belong to this phase, if not earlier, though it was much disturbed by later occupation. It contained a large piece of bonding tile. Ditch 331 is also stratigraphically early; it was 0.66 m deep in the only excavated section.

Dating evidence

For the codes used for Roman pottery, see p. 2.

328A (Ditch) *Misc. Pottery*: Fabric 50, 1 sherd, 1st century AD

336 (Grave) *Misc. Pottery*: Complete beaker H10 (34), 1st century, Fig. 56, No. 52

50 (?Grave) *Misc. Pottery*: Flagon (27), 1st century

201 (Ditch) *Samian*: Scrap SG, Flavian; *Misc. pottery*: Flagon J3 (14); Fabrics 14, 34/35.

331 (Ditch) *Misc. Pottery*: Platters A1.1 (34)×2; Fabrics 34/35, probably 1st century.

III. Period III, Phase 1: End 1st Century-Early 2nd Century (Fig. 10)

Enclosure 23

The shallow timber-slots for a small enclosure, c. 5.5×6.5 m, were located (Fig. 4. S2; 13), the northern ends of the slots coinciding closely with the south-west corners of Graves 336 and 50. The south side of the enclosure followed the alignment of 328A, which is narrower between the two graves than further west, and probably represents a recut as part of the enclosure (Fig. 13, and see below). This is clearly shown in the upper fill of Grave 336 (Fig. 4. S1). A possible westerly butt end of the recut of 328A is also visible in the plan of Grave 336 (Fig. 13). Two of the slots are almost wholly destroyed by the 4th century Shrine 273 (Fig. 2 and below, p. 34-45), though the south-western corner of the enclosure appears to have respected Ditch 201. The enclosure surrounds a small cremation cemetery, superseding the earlier inhumations. The earliest of the fourteen cremations, No. 19, belongs to this phase; and lies within the enclosure. For a discussion, see p. 90.

Ditch 266

Eleven metres to the west of, and parallel to, 201. Its lower fill was a dirty, loamy, pebbly orange clay; its upper fill containing charcoal and fired chalky boulder clay is almost certainly a later Roman sinkage filling.

Pits 240, 289, 316

These appear to be pits for gravel extraction, probably started in this phase. Pit 316 was a large amorphous hollow, the lower 0.50 m filled with a loamy, pebbly orange sand (L. IV).

Ditch 185

In its earliest form, this predates Pit 240, and should therefore belong to this phase. Its line is continued in Area B, to the east of Chequers Lane, as Ditch 583 (also dug as 611), 0.86-1.05 m wide, 0.26-0.30 m deep with an uneven bottom, occasionally with a slot (Fig. 4, S6). Cremation 11 (see Fig. 11) was lying in the bottom, though its relationship is not clear.

Ditch 572

Parallel to 583, 6.5 m to the south and probably associated, with it; 0.48-0.92 m wide and 0.18-0.44 m deep. Its westerly butt end, in Area A, was cut away by later Ditches 100 and 121 (Fig. 4. S4). Both ditches 572 and 583 butt on the same

easterly axis, though a further section of 583 was picked up running into the easternmost limit of excavation.

Slot 627

This was 0.14-0.27 m deep, sloping from south to north.

Dating evidence

For the cremations, see p. 12-23.

23 (Enclosure slots) *Samian*: f18, SG, late Flavian; *Misc. Pottery*: bowl C16.3 (26); Fabric 27

266 (Ditch) *Misc. Pottery*: Fabric 27

240 (Gravel Pit) *Samian*: f31, 37, CG, Antonine, c AD 150+; *Misc. Pottery*: Bowl C4.1/1 (45), Fig. 56, No. 44, Flavian-early 2nd century; bowl B2 (47), c. AD 125+; beaker H20 (26), c. AD 130-170; Jar G17 (45), 1st-early 2nd century. Fabrics 14, 27, 50.

289 (Gravel Pit) *Misc. Pottery*: Fabrics 19, 27, 45, 1st-2nd century.

316 L IV (Gravel Pit) *Misc. Pottery*: bowl (12), stamped, Fig. 54, S5, No. 20 (also from L III), 2nd century; bowl B2 (41), c. AD 125/30+; colander M2 (47); Fabrics 1, 14, 19.

185 (Ditch) *Misc. Pottery*: Fabric 47, 1st-2nd century.

572 (Ditch) *Misc. Pottery*: Jar G9 (47), early 2nd century; fragments ring-necked flagon J3 (31), Neronian-Claudian; Fabrics 3, 14.

583 (Ditch) *Samian*: f72, CG, mid 2nd century; *Misc. Pottery*: Fabrics 14, 19, 27; contained Cremation 11 (2nd century).

627 (Slot) *Misc. Pottery*: Jar G9 (45), later 1st-early 2nd century; Fabrics 27, 45.

IV. Period III, Phase 2: 2nd Century (Fig. 11)

At some stage early in the 2nd century, the main east-west system of parallel ditches was extended. Ditch 100, c. 0.90-1.20 m wide by 0.18-0.30 m deep, but much recut in later phases, continued the line of 572 in Area A (Fig. 4, S4). Ditch 572 itself was silting up in the 2nd century, and three cremations (13-15) were found in its upper fill (Figs 12, 14). Parallel to 100, c. 5.5 m apart, Ditch 146, 0.50 m wide and 0.10-0.18 m deep, with few finds, replaced Ditch 185, and extended the line of Ditch 583 which continued in use in Area B. This was probably recut more than once. The easternmost extension of 583 is reflected in this phase by a series of post-holes, extending the line of Ditch 572. Post-holes 613 and 616/620 were connected by Slot 614.

613 (post-hole) 0.54 m across×0.32 m deep, flat-bottomed;

614 (slot) 0.31 m wide×0.06-0.10 m deep;

616 (post-hole) 0.33 m across×0.30 m deep, double with:

620 (post-hole) 0.30 m across×0.40 m deep;

617 (pit) contained flecks of charcoal;

631 (post-hole) 0.40 m deep, cut by Ditch 610.

All were filled with a dark brown-black silty loam.

The cremation enclosure

(Fig. 13)

The cremation enclosure was extended to the north soon after 100 was dug, to include the corner of land defined by Ditches 201 and 100, whose western butt terminates in a right-angle to meet 201. The eastern boundary slot was extended to meet Ditch 100, but a gap for an entrance gate was left in the middle; the post-hole for this, 215, was excavated, though the extension slot itself was only partially excavated. The additional area contained the remaining thirteen cremations which span the 2nd century and are discussed elsewhere (p. 12-23). Many of them cut the original northern enclosure slot, now clearly no longer in use.

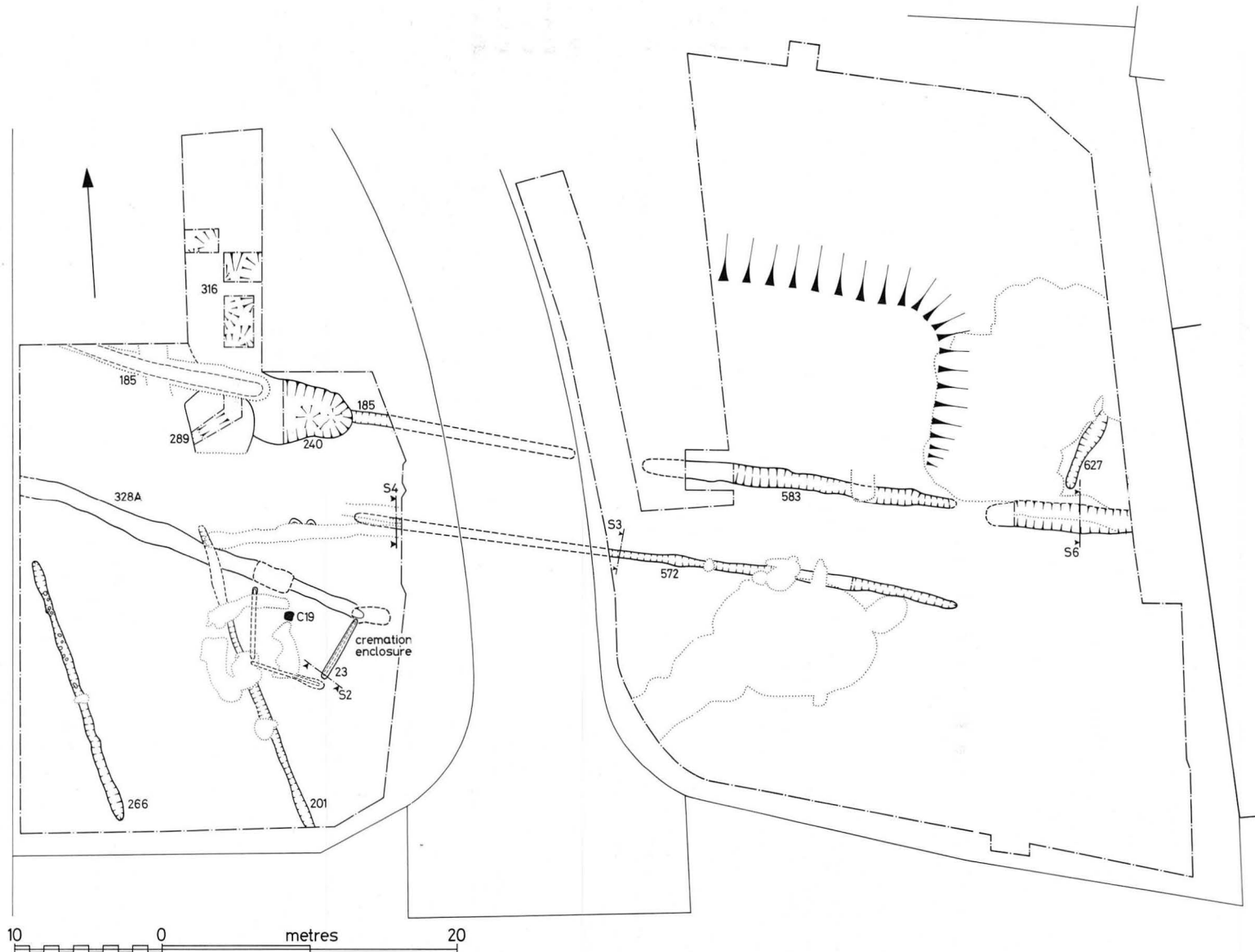


Figure 10 Period III.1. Scale 1:400

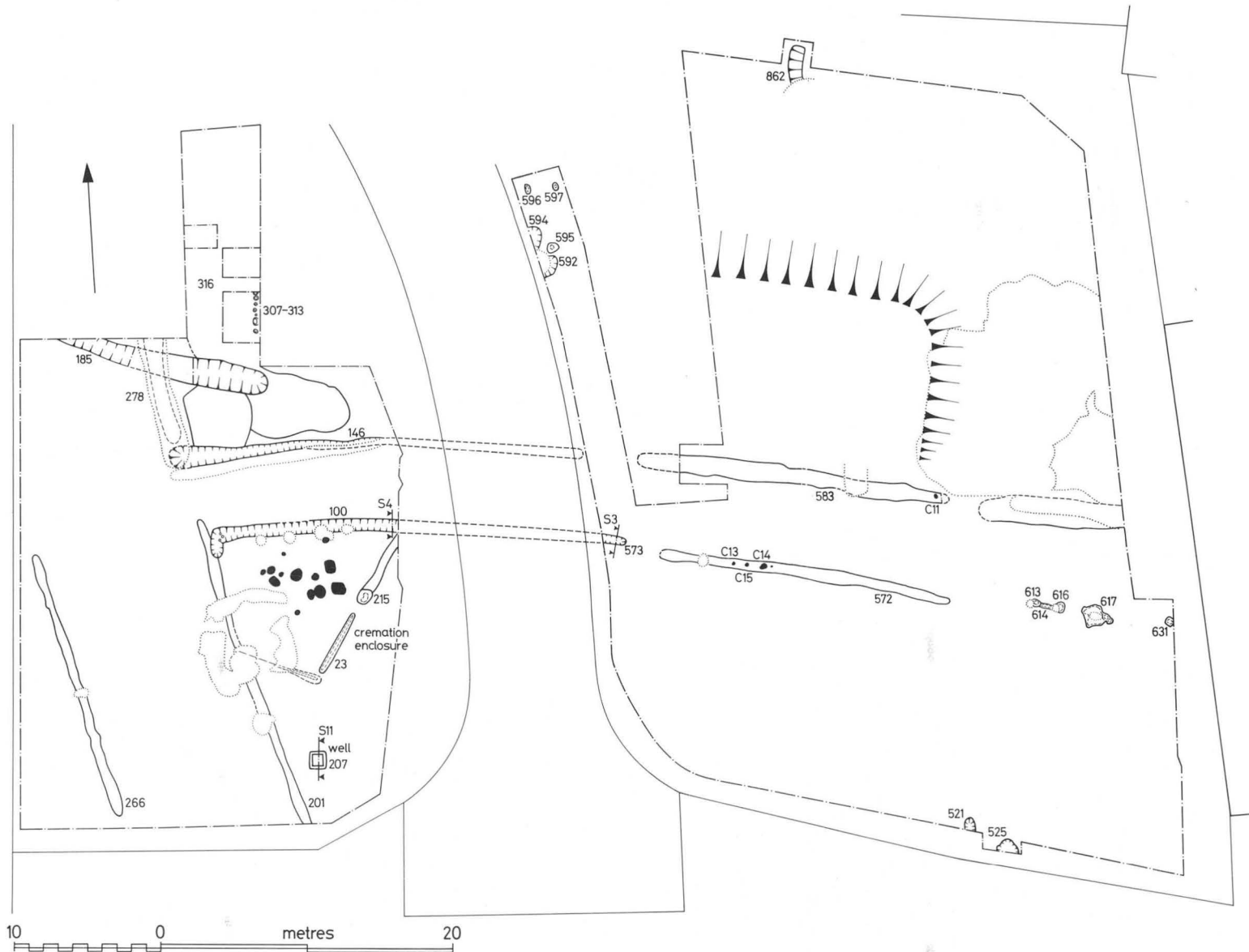


Figure 11 Period III.2. Scale 1:400

Gravel Pits

Gravel Pits 240 and 289 continued to silt up; layer III in Pit 316 was a charcoally pebbly loam, containing much fired clay, cut into which was a line of post-holes, 307-313, 0.17-0.30m deep. The western arm of 185 was recut in its final form, cutting the filled gravel pits.

Well 207

This was probably dug in this phase, c. 6.90m deep, cut through brickearth and iron-bound sand and bottoming on gravel (Fig. 4, S11). It appears to follow the alignment of Ditch 100. The construction shaft was c. 1.25 m square, into which was inserted a caisson, 0.76 m square, made of oak planks, 300×50 mm, dovetailed at the corners. Eight of these survived below the water-table. Dating evidence from its primary use is scant, but suggests that it was already being allowed to fill up with a grey sludge (L IX) in the 2nd century. This sludge was rich in organic remains (not analysed) and included oak boughs, twigs, riven pieces and rotten boards and a possible pine cone, as well as some bonding tile, an iron strip and part of an iron bucket binding. As the timber lining rotted and fell into the sludge, so the original packing of greyish green clay with large flints followed it, mixed with sandy orange brickearth derived from the weathering cone around the top of the well, and this sealed the shaft to a depth of c. 3.60m (Layer VII-VIII).

Other features

A discrete group of features lay immediately east of Chequers Lane:

Pit 592	c. 1.10m wide×0.44m deep, grey slightly sandy, very pebbly fill;
Pit 594	0.30m deep;
Post-hole 595	0.60m across×0.20m deep, cut into loose pea-grit gravel;
Post-holes 596, 597	0.46m and 0.60m across×0.26m and 0.18m deep respectively.

Pit 594 contained a plate brooch in the form of a shoe-sole, enamelled red (Fig. 12, No. 1). Most of the enamel is now missing, but hemispherical depressions in the heel probably held balls of glass representing studs. This is a common type of brooch with a wide distribution in Britain and the Continent in the 2nd century. For a full discussion, see MF 1.D.

Two pits lay to the south in Area B: 521, 0.90×c. 1.00m (end under baulk) and 0.48m deep with near vertical sides and a flat bottom; and 525, partly under baulk, c. 1.20×?1.20m and 0.48m deep. In Area C, a shallow slot, 862, probably belongs to this phase on stratigraphical grounds.

Dating evidence

- 146** (Ditch)
Misc. Pottery: Fabrics 1, post AD 150/60; 3, late 2nd century+.
- 100** (Ditch)
Samian: f33, CG, Hadrianic/Antoine (x2); *Misc. Pottery:* bowl C23 (19), stamped, Fig. 55, No. 26; jar G9 (47), with graffito, Fig. 57, No. 1, 2nd century+.
- 215** (Post-hole)
Misc. Pottery: Fabrics 26, 27.
- 316 LIII** (Gravel Pit)
Samian: f37, CG, several separate vessels, c. AD 140-180 (Fig. 58, Nos 7-8) f18/31, ?EG, akin to good Colchester ware. Hadrianic-early Antonine. *Misc. Pottery:* bowl (12), stamped, Fig. 55, No. 20 (also from 316 LIV); jar G17 (45), Fig. 56, No. 49; lid K4 (26); beaker H20 (?6); bowl B2 (41); mortarium (14), burnt; platter A3 (39).
- 307-313** (Post-holes)
Misc. Pottery: 307 Fabrics 4, 55; 308, Fabric 19
- 572** (Ditch, upper fill)
Samian: f37, CG, Antonine; Ludowici Tg, EG, late Antonine; f37, Argonne ware, Fig. 59, No. 19, 4th century (intrusive).
- 592** (Pit)
Cremations 13-15, Hadrianic-Antoine. *Samian* f33, CG, mid-late 2nd century; f72, plain, CG, mid 2nd century; f38, CG, very worn base, cut down for use as a stopper, Antonine, probably mid-late; *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 14, 27.
- 594** (Pit)
Brooch: Fig. 12, No. 1, 2nd century. *Samian:* f33, CG, Antonine; f37, CG, Hadrianic, Fig. 58, No. 6; *Misc. pottery:* beaker rim (36/37), Flavian-early Antonine; jar G5 (45), 1st-early 2nd century.
- 207 LIX** (Well: primary sludge)
Misc. Pottery: bowl B1 (14), 2nd century; bowl B2 (47) c. AD 125/30+.
- LVIII** (collapsed packing)
Misc. Pottery: Fabric 14, c. AD 125/30+.
- 525** (Pit)
Samian: f31, 33, 38, CG, Antonine; *Misc. pottery:* ?bowl, imitation Drag 37 (10), Fig. 55, No. 19, Trajanic-Hadrianic; bowl B2 (47), post 125/30; jar G19 (47), pre-Flavian-early 2nd century.
- 595** (Post-hole)
Misc. pottery Jar (45), 1st-early 2nd century?. Fig. 56, No. 45.

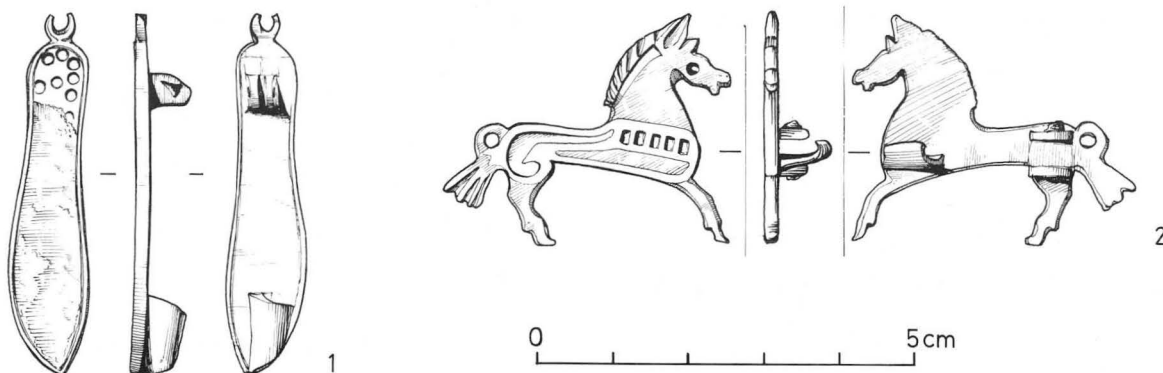


Figure 12 Copper alloy enamelled brooches. Scale 1:1. For colours, see p. 11, 25, MF 1.D

V. The Cremations

(Figs 13-20)

with contributions by B. Ford, C.J. Going, R.M. Luff and W.J. Rodwell

The enclosure cemetery

(Fig. 13)

The majority of cremations were damaged by ploughing. Many were also crushed by later occupation, which introduced intrusive sherds of a much later date. Brief details of cremated bone remains by Dr R. M. Luff are included. The pottery is described by C. J. Going and B. Ford; the samian is described by Dr W. J. Rodwell.

Cremation 1: Late Antonine.

The bottom 0.08m only survives of an oval pit, approximately 0.34 x 0.50 m; badly disturbed by ploughing. Cremated bone partially within vessel (Fig. 16, No. 1), mainly around it in pit (sample only retained; four minute fragments).

Pottery

(Fig. 16)

No. 1 Samian bowl, f31, fragmentary. CG. Late Antonine.

Metalwork

Iron nail, 31 mm long (wood traces).

Cremation 2 (Figs 14; 15, Nos 10-21; 16, Nos 2-9; Pl. I): Late Antonine.

Shallow pit barely cut into gravel, badly damaged by ploughing. Much cremated bone survived to a depth of 0.07 m, within the confines of a casket, which survived in part only as a dark stain. The samian bowl (Fig. 16, No. 3) originally sat on the casket lid. For a discussion of this as a casket burial, see below (p. 21).

Bone

905 long bone fragments (brown); 71 long bone fragments (blue-black) and 82 skull fragments (brown). A small amount of bone was also found in the main urn (Fig. 16, No. 5).

Pottery

(Fig. 16)

No. 2 Samian bowl, Curle 15 with abraded interior, 'killed' (see p. 22; Fig. 20). CG, c. AD 100-130.

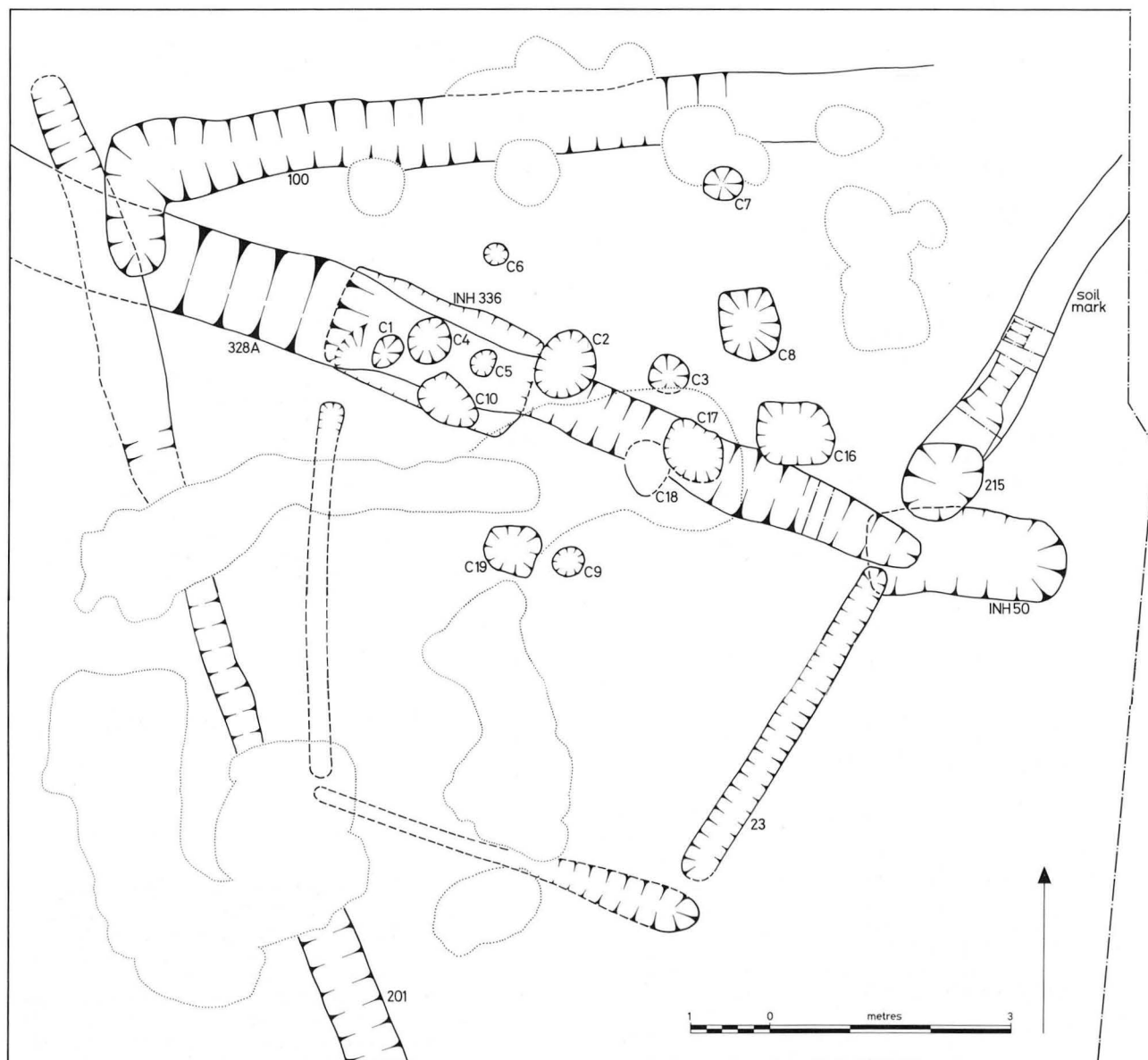


Figure 13 The cremation enclosure

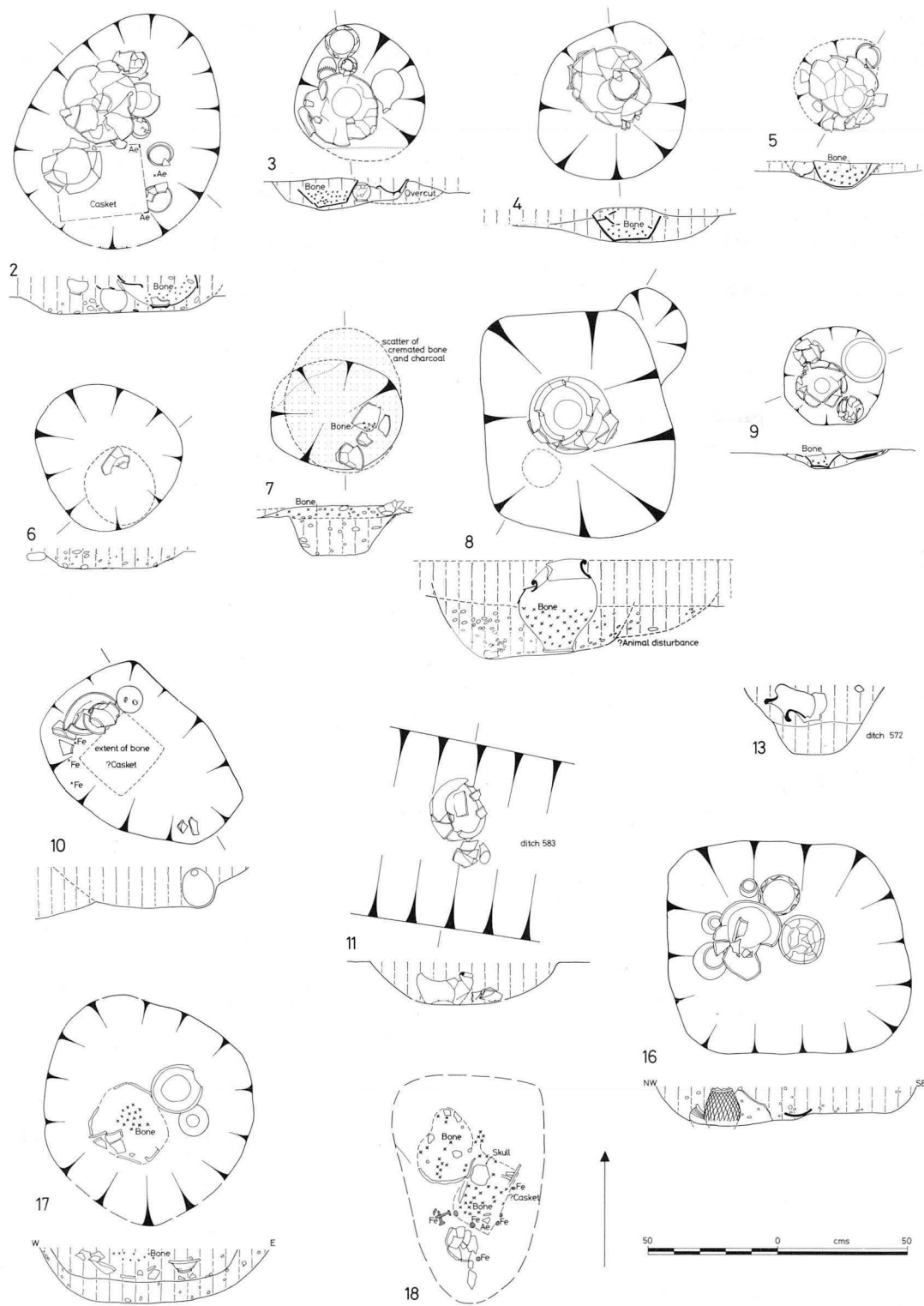


Figure 14 The cremations: plans and sections. Scale 1:25

- No. 3** **Samian bowl**, f31, with heavily abraded interior, poorly impressed and damaged stamp, SE[NILA]M (see Fig. 59B, No. 16). CG, c. AD 145-170.
- No. 4** Small everted rim **jar** (G9). Exterior decoration of vertical burnished lines. Hard sandy fabric, grey/brown core and light grey surfaces. Spalled. (47). c. AD 125/30-160/70.
- No. 5** **'Braughing jar'** (G21). Stabbed and scored decoration on the shoulder. Hard gritty fabric with light grey core and darker grey margins and surfaces. Flame scorched. (36).
- No. 6** Small narrow necked **jar**, rim missing, black burnished surface. Hard sandy grey fabric. 'Killed' (see p. 22). (47).
- No. 7** Roughcast **beaker** with cornice rim, (H20). Decorated two-thirds up its sides with clay particle rough casting. In hard white fabric with dark brown slip. (6). c. AD 130-170.
- No. 8** Carinated **beaker** with burnished exterior. Hard fine grey fabric with black surfaces. (39). c. AD 120-160/75.
- No. 9** Small narrow necked **flagon**, rim and handle missing. The upper two thirds are burnished and a fine cream coloured slip covers the exterior. 'Killed' (see p. 22). Hard sandy fabric with orange core and brown margins, friable where abraded. (14). 2nd century.

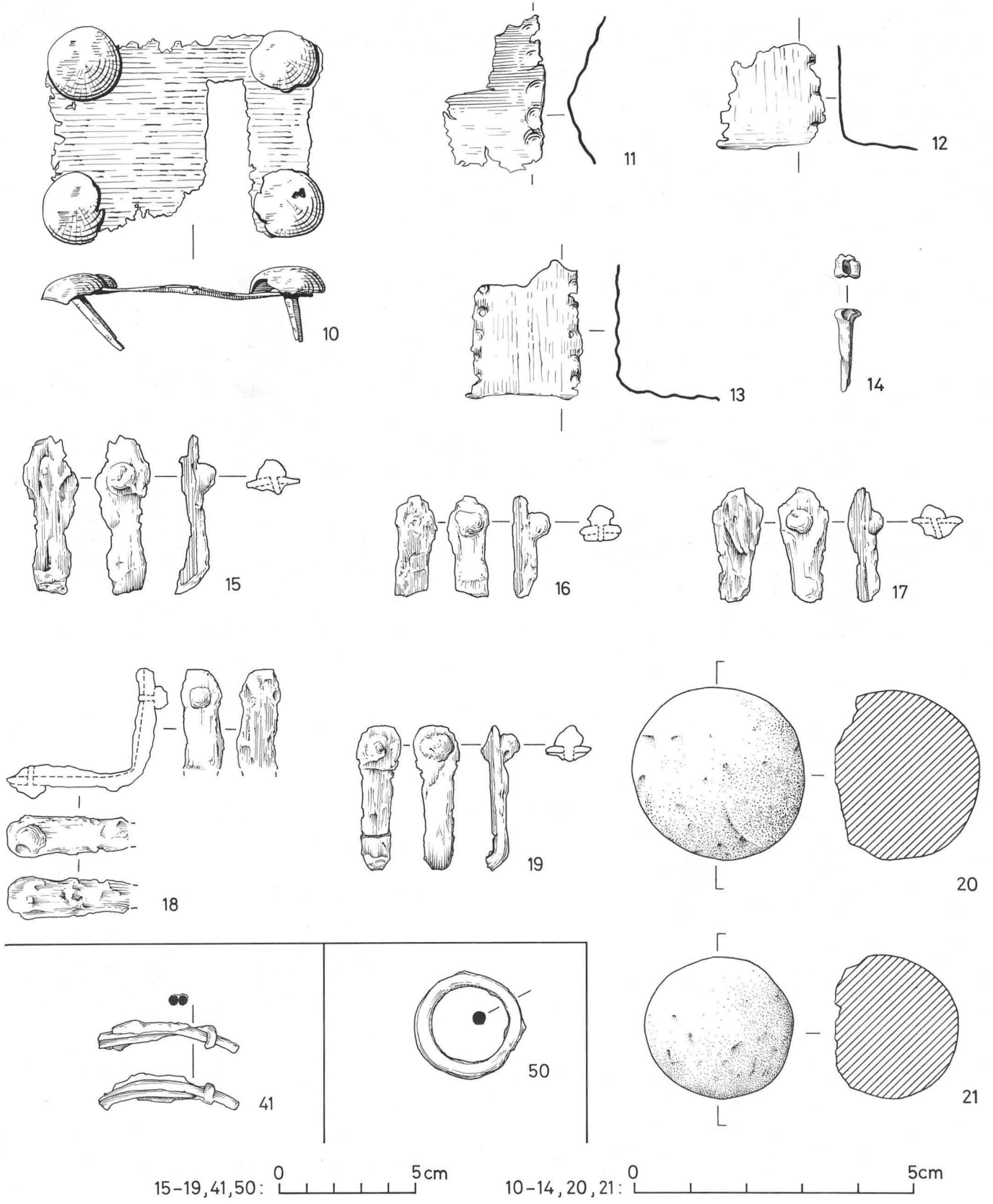


Figure 15 10-19: casket bindings from Cremation 2, Scales 2:1 (10-14), 1:1 (15-19); 20-21: fired clay balls (Cremation 2), Scale 1:1; 41: iron bracelet (Cremation 8), Scale 1:2; 50: iron ring (Cremation 10), Scale 1:2



Plate 1 Cremation 2. Photo: P.J. Drury

Fittings from the casket

(Fig. 15)

No. 10 Rectangular copper alloy **escutcheon**, from casket lock-plate; the lock had presumably been removed prior to deposition. A cut-out slot marks the key-hole. The borders are decorated with a continuous row of repoussé dimples. Each of the four corners still bears its nail *in situ*; these are square-shanked, up to 18 mm in length, with a hollow domed head, c. 13-14 mm in diameter. Wood traces were observed on the interior face at the time of excavation.

Nos 11-13 Copper alloy **corner-plates**, 20 mm wide and decorated with a row of repoussé dimples along each side. The longest surviving length of a side is 50 mm.

No. 14 **Nail** used to attach corner-plates to casket; 16 mm long, made out of a single sheet of copper alloy, rolled to form the shaft and splayed out to form a hollow-centred head. Four complete examples were recovered; a further two, squashed flat, were found *in situ* in small fragments of the fittings.

Nos 15-19 Iron **corner fittings** with small iron dome-headed nails at each terminal; wood survives on the interior faces with the grain running parallel to the length of the fittings. Fig. 15, Nos 15-18 were found in the trampled entranceway (60) to the 4th century shrine (273) which lay partly over the cremation. Fig. 15, No. 19 comprises fragments from both 60 and the cremation itself.

Fired Clay

(Fig. 15)

Nos 20, 21 Two fired clay balls, buff fabric with some vegetable inclusions, and reasonably smooth surfaces. Each have a small fragment knocked off (? to 'kill' them). Use unknown; they are too lightweight to be sling-shots; probably **gaming pieces**, or 'alleys'.

Cremation 3 (Figs. 14; 16, Nos 22-26); Pl. 2): Hadrianic-early Antonine

Shallow pit. The cremated bone was contained in Fig. 16, No. 24.

Bone

800 long bone fragments, partially cremated; 1 long bone fragment from large artiodactyl; 85 skull fragments.

Pottery

(Fig. 16)

No. 22 **Samian bowl**, small f35/36, section missing from rim, 'killed'. CG, Mid-2nd century.

No. 23 Small **jar**. 'killed'. With stabbed decoration on the shoulder in hard fine grey ware with black surfaces. (47). c. AD 100-130/40.

No. 24 Base of a **jar** in soft shell-tempered fabric, with sparse red grog inclusions and orange-black surfaces. (50). c. AD 60-90.

No. 25 Small oval-bodied **beaker** with short everted rim and burnished exterior (H6). Hard fine black fabric with black exterior. (39). c. AD 100-130/40.

No. 26 **Flagon**, neck missing, soft orange fabric with cream-coloured slip. (14). c. AD 70-130.

Metalwork

Iron **nail**, 29 mm long, found inside Fig. 16, No. 26; iron **nail**, 43 mm long (wood traces).

Cremation 4 (Figs 14; 16, Nos 27-9): Early to mid 2nd century

Pit, 0.60×0.50 m, maximum surviving depth 0.15m. Cremated bone deposited in Fig. 16, No. 28. The flagon (Fig. 16, No. 29) was found inside the urn (Fig. 16, No. 28), and the samian bowl (Fig. 16, No. 27) was lying on its side against the urn.

Bone

700 long-bone fragments of white/grey colouration; 1 long bone fragment, c. 24 mm long, white/grey/black with red splotches (?lodged next to a nail); 70 skull fragments.

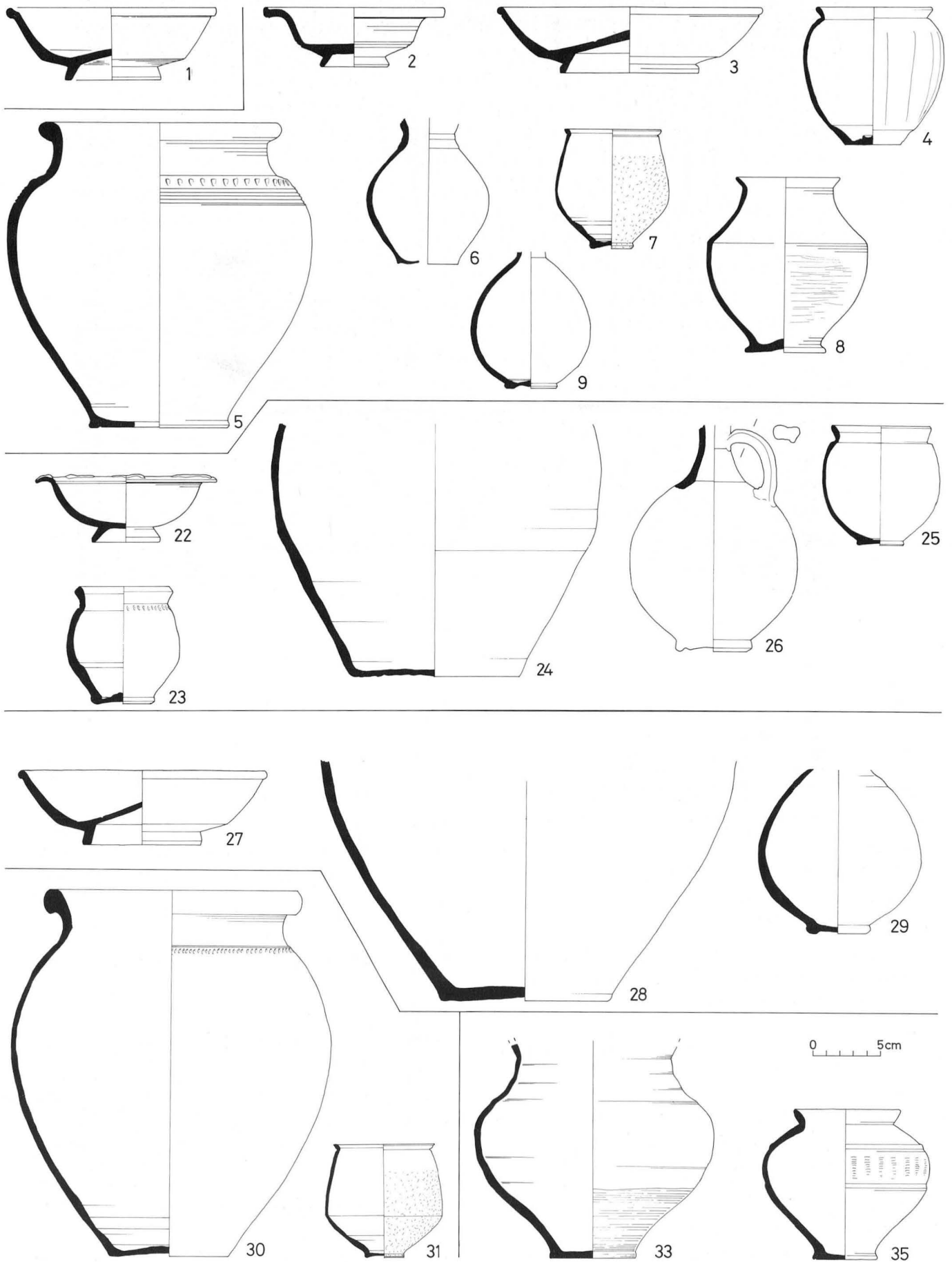


Figure 16 Roman pottery from the Cremations: 1: Cremation 1; 2-9: Cremation 2; 22-26: Cremation 3; 27-29: Cremation 4; 30-31: Cremation 5; 33-35: Cremation 7. Scale 1:4



Plate 2 Cremation 3. Photo: P.J. Drury

Pottery
(Fig. 16)

- No. 27** Samian bowl, £31, stamped MΛ[]IM[(see Fig. 59B, No. 12). CG, Antonine.
- No. 28** Base of a large **storage jar**. Coarse, sandy grey ware with sparse large inclusions and black surface. (44). 2nd century.
- No. 29** Base of a small **flagon**. Hard sandy fabric with light grey core and orange surfaces. The upper two thirds is burnished. Coated with a pale cream slip. (14). ?2nd century.

Coin

Sestertius of Sabina, AD 117-138, RIC 1024.

Metalwork

Two iron **nails**, 44 and 67mm long, the latter clenched.

Cremation 5 (Figs 14; 16, Nos 30-1): Early Antonine
Badly plough-damaged; in fact a basal sherd from
Cremation 6 had been dragged into the grave fill.

Bone

745 Long bone fragments, 101 skull fragments, 3 vertebrae fragments.

Pottery
(Fig. 16)

- No. 30** Large **storage jar**, with stabbing on shoulder (G45). In hard grey fabric. (47).
- No. 31** **Beaker** (H20.2/1). Smooth under rim with rough cast decoration below. Hard orange fabric with brown/black slip. (1). c. AD 130-190.

Metalwork

Six iron **nails**, 19, 36 and 47mm long, and one shaft.

Cremation 6 (Fig. 14): ?Early Antonine.
Pit, dimensions 0.25×0.20m. Considerable plough
damage.

Bone

97 long bone fragments, 10 skull fragments, cow radial carpal.

Pottery

- No. 32** (*not illus*). Base of a **jar** in hard gritty ware with light grey core and dark grey exterior. One fragment of this vessel was found in Cremation 5. (47).

Cremation 7 (Figs 14; 16, Nos 33-5): Flavian-Hadrianic
Very disturbed. No cremated bone or charcoal was present
within the depth of the pit, but was confined to the upper
5cm, along with the pottery. It is possible that this was a
shallow cremation overlying an earlier post-hole.

Bone

113 long bone fragments, 6 white/grey skull fragments, 1 white/grey mandible fragment.

Pottery
(Fig. 16)

- No. 33** Base of a **jar**. Soft grog tempered ware with light grey/brown core with brown/black surfaces. (45). Flavian-Hadrianic.
- No. 34** (*not illus*). Rim of a **jar**. In soft grog tempered ware with light grey core and brown/black burnished surfaces. (45). Contemporary, but ?not a grave good. Flavian-Hadrianic.
- No. 35** **Beaker** with comb impressed decoration on the shoulder. In soft fabric with grog tempering. Light brown/grey core with darker grey/brown surfaces. (45). Flavian-Hadrianic.

Cremation 8 (Figs 14; 15, No. 41; 17, Nos 36-40):
Hadrianic-early Antonine.
Relatively deep pit, disturbed by rabbit action. Fig. 17, No. 40 was broken up and scattered throughout the pit, though its original position is suggested by one large sherd (*in situ*) and by the off-centre position of Fig. 17, No. 39. The

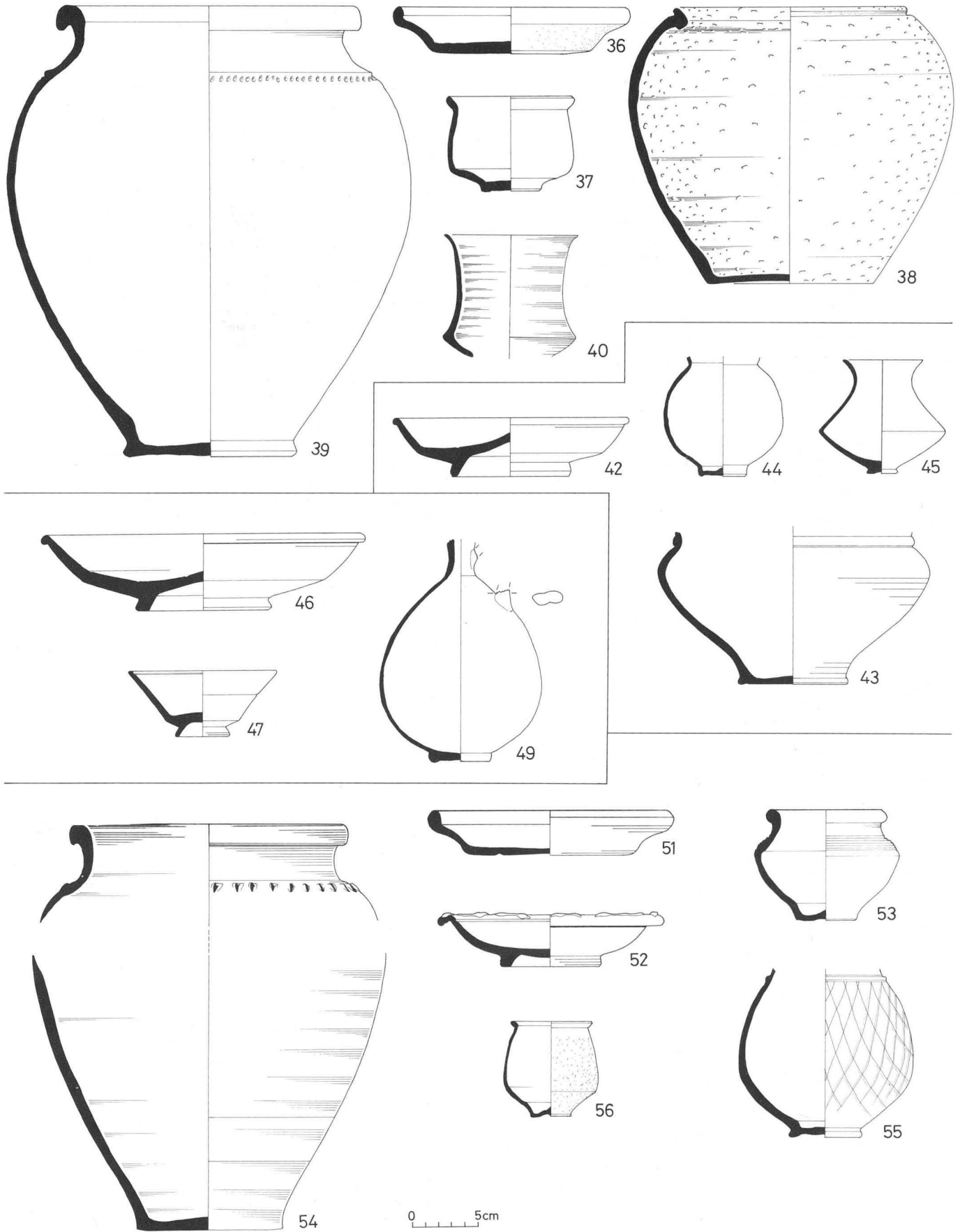


Figure 17 Roman pottery from the cremations: 36-40 Cremation 8; 42-45: Cremation 9; 46-49: Cremation 10; 51-56: Cremation 16. Scale 1:4

platter (Fig. 17, No. 36) was inverted inside the urn (Fig. 17, No. 39), and covered the cremated bone inside.

Bone

511 long bone fragments, 140 skull, 22 pelvis, 31 vertebra, 21 rib, 1 patella, right mandible fragment, blue/black, with molar 3 intact, other molar sockets healed over. This skeleton was only partially cremated and some parts of the body were subjected to more intense heat than others.

Pottery

(Fig. 17)

- No. 36** **Platter** in hard sandy ware. Light brown core with black burnished surfaces. 'Killed'. (47). Flavian-Hadrianic.
- No. 37** Bowl-like **beaker** with everted rim and burnished exterior, originally slipped. In fine soft grey ware. (39). c. AD 110/20-40/50.
- No. 38** Neckless **jar** with an angular, internally beaded rim (G4.1/1). In hard shell-tempered fabric, dark grey core with brown/orange surfaces. (50). c. AD 60-100.
- No. 39** Large **storage jar** with a row of stabbed decoration on the shoulder. (G45). In hard sandy grey ware with grey core and light brown surface. (47).
- No. 40** **Beaker** with sharp mid-body carination, recurved neck and plain out-turned rim (H10). Hard fine grey ware with light grey core and dark grey/brown surfaces. (34). 1st century.

Metalwork

(Fig. 15)

- No. 41** Part of an iron **wire bracelet** with overlapping terminals, one wrapped in a loop around the other, enabling the bracelet to be expanded or contracted; two iron **nail** fragments.

Cremation 9 (Figs 14; 17, Nos 42-5): Hadrianic
Very little of the pit survives, much disturbed by animals.

Bone

230 skull fragments, 110 long bone, 1 vertebra (found inside Fig. 17, No. 43).

Pottery

(Fig. 17)

- No. 42** **Samian bowl**, f18/31. Poorly impressed stamp, reading LITTERAF, (see Fig. 59B, No. 10). 'Killed?' CG, c. AD 125-145.
- No. 43** **Jar** with narrow cordon (G19). Hard sandy grey fabric with pale grey core and darker grey to light brown surfaces. (47). Pre-Flavian to early 2nd century.
- No. 44** Small globular **beaker** with out-turned rim (H6) in fine grey ware with moderate black grog inclusions. Light brown core with darker grey surfaces. (34). Late Flavian-Trajanic.
- No. 45** Small **beaker** with sharp mid-body carination, recurved neck and plain out-turned rim (H10). Hard fine grey ware with light brown-grey core and darker brown-grey surfaces. (34). 1st century.

Cremation 10 (Figs 14; 15, No. 50; 17, Nos 46-9): Mid Antonine.

The cremated bone appears to be lying in a rectangular wooden box, nothing of which survives, set in a pit, with the vessels lying outside the box.

Bone

1123 long bone fragments, 72 skull fragments.

Pottery

(Fig. 17)

- No. 46** **Samian bowl**, f18/31R, illegible stamp, traces of four rivet holes with the remains of a lead dovetail wedge in one hole. CG, c. AD 140-170.
- No. 47** **Samian cup**, f33, stamped PAVLIM. (See Fig. 59B, No. 14). Possibly 'killed'. CG, c. AD 135-165.
- No. 48** (*not illus.*). Base of a **jar** in hard gritty grey fabric with grey core and brown/black to light brown surfaces. (45).
- No. 49** Small globular **flagon** with cream-coloured slip on exterior, rim missing. In soft orange fabric. 'Killed' (Fig. 20). (14). Common in West Essex/Herts in the 2nd century.

Metalwork

(Fig. 15)

- No. 50** Iron **ring**, 28mm internal diameter (one of two found), either from the box, or possibly from inhumation 336 which lay underneath; also two iron **nails**, 58 and 65mm long (wood traces); and an iron **stud**.

Cremation 16 (Figs 14; 17, Nos 51-6): Antonine
Sub-rectangular pit, 0.26m deep. The cremated bone was contained within the urn (Fig. 17, No. 54).

Pottery

(Fig. 17)

- No. 51** **Platter** with 'S' shaped profile, groove on the base and burnished exterior (A2). Hard sandy grey ware, with pale grey core and surfaces. (47). Flavian-Hadrianic.
- No. 52** **Samian bowl**, f36. 'Killed'. CG, c. AD 110-140.
- No. 53** '**Braughing jar**' in miniature (G21) in hard sandy grey ware with grey core and black surfaces. (36).
- No. 54** Large **storage jar**, with slightly hooked rim and stabbing on the shoulder. (G45). Hard sandy grey ware with pink/brown core and grey/black surfaces. (45).
- No. 55** Globular **beaker**, burnished cordon below rim. Rim missing, lattice decoration on body. Hard sandy grey ware with pale grey core and surfaces. (47).
- No. 56** Small roughcast **beaker** (H20). Hard white fabric with red/brown colour coat. (6). Early-mid 2nd century.

Cremation 17 (Figs 14; 18, Nos 57-9): Hadrianic-early Antonine

Circular pit, slightly cutting Cremation 18. The cremated bone was contained in the urn (Fig. 18, No. 59).

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

- No. 57** **Platter** with 'S' shaped profile, groove on the base, rim burnished (A2). 'Killed' (Fig. 20). Hard sandy grey fabric with pink/brown core and grey/black surfaces. (45). Pre-early Flavian.
- No. 58** **Samian dish**, f42. Rosette stamp, (see Fig. 59B, No. 22). Small section missing from the rim. 'Killed' (Fig. 20). CG, Trajanic or Hadrianic.
- No. 59** Large **storage jar**. Hard grog tempered fabric with pink/brown core and black to brown surfaces and moderate black grog inclusions. (44/45).

?Grave good

Loose tooth of a bone comb, possibly intrusive.

Cremation 18 (Figs 14; 18, No. 61): Early 2nd century
Possible wooden casket burial. The cremated bone lay in an approximately rectangular area, with nail fragments (*in situ?*) indicating the shape of the box. Some bone also came from No. 60. The cremation pit was cut by Cremation 17.

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

- No. 60** (*not illus.*). Base of a **jar** in hard sandy grey ware with pinkish/brown core and black to brown surfaces. (45).
- No. 61** Small **beaker** with everted rim. Very fragmentary. Burnished. Hard fine grey ware with pink/brown core and grey/black surfaces. (34). 1st/2nd century.

Metalwork

Crumpled copper alloy **sheet**, attached to burnt lump of lead or lead alloy (?**lock plate**); five iron **nails**, 35, 39, 39, 42, 50mm (wood traces) and seven **nail shafts**.

Cremation 19 (Fig. 18, No. 62): Flavian-early 2nd century
Badly disturbed; the cremated bone was found in a linear pile from east to west, ?in a linen or leather bag. Probably the earliest of the group, and belonging to the first phase of the enclosure.

Bone

562 long bone fragments.

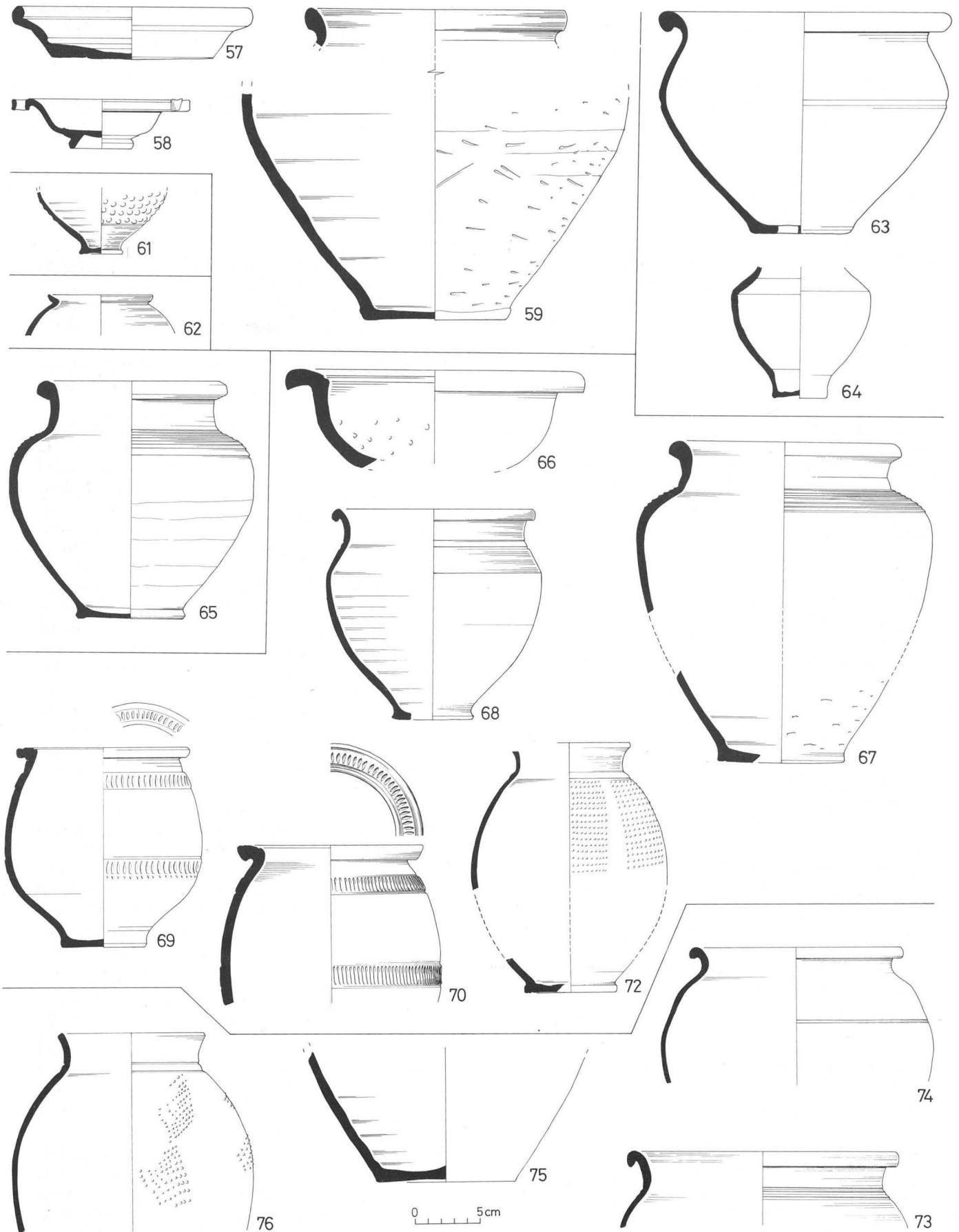


Figure 18 Roman pottery from the cremations: 57-59: Cremation 17; 61: Cremation 18; 62: Cremation 19; 63-4: Cremation 11; 65: Cremation 13; 66- 72: Cremation 14; 73-76: Cremation 15. Scale 1:4

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

No. 62 Small everted rim **beaker** with burnishing on the shoulder and lower walls and barbotine dot decoration on the body (H6). Hard sandy grey fabric with brown core and black surfaces. Possible import. ?Late 1st century-early 2nd century.

For a 1st century jar (G5, 45), found in Shrine 273 and 276, but probably from an earlier cremation in the enclosure, see p. 39.

The other cremations

(For location, see Fig. 11)

Cremation 11 (Figs 14; 18, Nos 63-4): 2nd century
Found lying on its side in the bottom of Ditch 583, with the rim of Fig. 18, No. 63 (incomplete) lying to the west.

Bone

12 fragments including one sizeable rib.

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

No. 63 Carinated **jar** with hooked rim, burnished zone above shoulder. (G23). 'Killed' (Fig. 20). Hard brown/orange fabric with grey-light brown surfaces. (47). 2nd century.

No. 64 Base and lower body of a **beaker** with very steeply carinated shoulder. Burnished above shoulder. Hard sandy grey ware. (36). 2nd century.

Cremation 12: Non-feature.

Cremation 13 (Fig. 18, No. 65): 2nd century
Found lying in the upper fill of Ditch 572, alongside Cremations 14 and 15. There was no sign of an insertion pit, and no cremated bone. Identification doubtful, possibly a ritual deposit.

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

No. 65 'Braughing jar' (G21). In hard sandy grey fabric, grey core with grey/black surfaces. Fractured vertically. (36).

Cremation 14 (Fig. 18, Nos 66-70, 72): Hadrianic-Antonine Group lying in the fill of Ditch 572, cut by Pits 556, 558.

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

No. 66 **Mortarium** with out-curving, rounded rim with an internal ledge, covered with a thin white slip (D1). In hard sandy fabric with grey core and brown/orange margins and brown surfaces. (14). Most common in the 2nd century.

No. 67 'Braughing jar' (G21) in hard sandy fabric with light grey core and mid grey surfaces. (36). 2nd century.

No. 68 **Jar** with recurved profile and hooked rim. In hard sandy fabric with red/brown core and dark grey/black surfaces. (45). Most common in mid-1st to 2nd centuries.

No. 69 Globular **jar**. The outer surface has been smoothed and a cream coloured slip applied overall. Decorated with three bands of rouletting one on the rim and two on the body. In hard sandy fabric with grey core and orange/brown margins. (14). 2nd century.

No. 70 A larger incomplete example of Fig. 18, No. 69.

No. 72 'Poppy beaker' with globular body, everted rim and vertical bands of barbotine dot decoration on the body. (H6). Hard fine sandy grey fabric with dark grey core, pale grey margins and darker grey/black surfaces. (32). 2nd century.

(Fig. 20)

No. 71 Base of a **jar**, showing traces of a pigment. 'Killed'. Hard gritty grey ware. Dark grey core with paler grey surfaces. (47).

Cremation 15 (Fig. 18, Nos 73-6): Hadrianic-Antonine Group set in the upper fill of Ditch 572.

Pottery

(Fig. 18)

No. 73 Rim fragment from a **bowl/jar** with out-curved hooked rim. Hard sandy grey fabric with pink/brown core and black surfaces. (34). Most common in 1st to later 2nd centuries.

No. 74 Oval bodied **jar** with out-turned rim (G24). In hard gritty grey fabric with brown core and grey/brown surfaces. (47).

No. 75 Base of a large **jar**. Hard sandy grey ware, with dark grey core, brown margins and grey surfaces. (47).

No. 76 'Poppy beaker', globular body with everted rim and vertical bands of barbotine dot decoration on the body. (H6). Hard sandy grey ware with pale grey core and slightly darker surfaces. (47). 2nd century.

Discussion

The Casket burials

Cremation 2 must be classified as a casket burial (see Borrill 1981, 304-21), defined 'as a burial where the cremated remains are placed inside a small wooden container, and the remainder of the grave-goods are deposited around the casket in the grave pit'. On the basis of casket burials from Skeleton Green and Puckeridge, Borrill undertook a survey of this phenomenon, and this discussion is largely based on that paper (Borrill 1981).

Casket burials differ from larger box burials, by being normally decorated with copper alloy studs, rings and corner plates, as well as lock-plates with low relief decoration, iron hinges and fittings. Several of these features occur on the Cremation 2 casket at Dunmow, eg. the copper alloy lockplate (Fig. 15, No. 10) and corner-plates (Fig. 15, Nos 11-13), and the iron corner-fittings (Fig. 15, Nos 15-19). These latter fittings in particular are closely paralleled at Skeleton Green (Borrill 1981, fig. 112, g-i; 114, q; 116, a). Indeed all the elements found in Cremation 2 appear on a reconstruction based on Burial XXX at Skeleton Green (Borrill 1981, fig. 122). The Dunmow casket, it is suggested, was probably very similar. Though no actual wood survived, a dark stain, c. 10 mm thick was found, though much disturbed by animals and roots; the position of the cremated bone itself also indicated it had once been contained in a rectangular shape, measuring 335×275 mm; finally the lockplate and one of the copper alloy corner fittings were found *in situ*.

The eastern part of the pit was barren. Is it possible that food, clothing or another organic deposit was placed here and has left no trace? (Borrill 1981, 317, fn 28).

In his summary, Borrill records a distribution of casket burials, which appears to be confined to the south-east of England and East Anglia. It was probably a rite introduced by the Romans soon after the Conquest, and most popular in the Flavian period. Borrill then has a *lacuna* in the Trajanic-Hadrianic period, which the Dunmow Cremation 2 fills, and he ends the series with six Antonine burials at Puckeridge. On the whole, casket burials are notably richer in grave-goods than urned cremations, here borne out by the number of vessels accompanying Cremation 2, and Borrill suggests they represent a social group of higher status.

There is a possibility, no more, that two other cremations at Dunmow were also casket burials. Cremation 18 yielded up to 12 iron nails, some apparently in position, and a crumpled plain sheet of bronze, of the right size for a lock-plate, but without any visible signs of fixing; attached to this was a shapeless lump of lead/pewter, possibly a pre-cremation grave good. In Cremation 10, the burnt bone appeared to lie within a confined rectangle, 255×225 mm in the same manner as Cremation 2,

suggesting the use of some sort of wooden container. Mr Going informs me of a similar occurrence at Stebbing, Essex in a Flavian Cremation (No. 4, Golands Bridge, report in prep.). Also in Cremation 10 were two iron nails and two iron rings, some of which *could* be derived from Inhumation 336, into which the cremation was cut. Finally the incidence of nails in Cremations 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 are seen as either incidental finds (in a heavily occupied area), or as plough scatter, deriving ultimately from Inhumation 336, or Cremations 2, 10 or 18.

The Ceramics by C. J. Going

The nearest well-published funerary assemblage with which the Great Dunmow material may be compared is that from Skeleton Green (Braughing), 23 km to the west (Fig. 19A; Partridge 1981, 245-321). While it is significantly larger than the Dunmow assemblage (Fig. 19B; 160 vessels, as opposed to 65), a number of common features emerge. Both cemeteries are broadly contemporary (early 2nd century to later Antonine), and each has a high proportion of fine ware (*ie.* colour-coat) vessels (26.9% and 35.1%, respectively). By contrast the admittedly slightly later Antonine group from Gravel Pit 857, layers 464 and 820 (see below, Section CII, p. 61-6) contained only 9.8% colour-coats (by EVE), while early-mid 2nd century groups are most unlikely to have a higher proportion. Thus at both sites the figures suggest some effort was made to provide the dead with appropriate funerary offerings. Although a 'second' was found in one of the burials at Braughing (Partridge 1981, cremation XLI, fig. 93.8), there was no evidence at Great Dunmow of the use of defective pots.

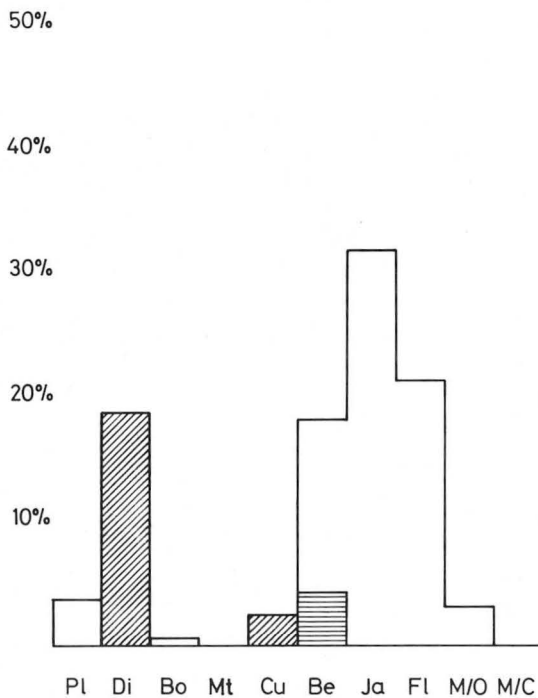
Provision was most commonly made for drinking: 85% of the Braughing cremations, and 73% of the Dunmow ones, contained cups, beakers or flagons. In several cases flagons alone were provided (were cups or beakers of treen also present?), and in absolute terms flagons were much more common at Braughing than Dunmow (21%, and 6%; Fig. 19). The high proportion at Braughing suggests either a greater emphasis on drinking, or perhaps a more wealthy community than that at Dunmow; a view supported by the fact that four of the Braughing burials contained glass vessels, though there were none at Dunmow.

Ritual (Fig. 20) by C. J. Going

Long ago T. C. Lethbridge commented on what appeared to be the deliberate breakage of vessels in the Romano-British cemetery at Guilden Morden, Cambs (Fox and Lethbridge 1924). At that time British parallels for the practice were scant. Since then the *condition* of the pottery accompanying burials has, with few exceptions (*eg.* Fulford 1979), been little studied and this significant feature, while sometimes even recorded on grave-plans (*eg.* Partridge 1981, figs 99, nos. BVII, BXVI-XVII; 101, no. BXLIII; 102, no. BLI, LIX), has seldom been referred to in print (but see now Monaghan 1983, 201).

The communities in Dunmow and Braughing broke vessels before burying them with the dead. Few of the detached sherds seem to have been buried and thus pressure fractures can be ruled out. Perhaps the missing pieces were retained (that sherds represent good fortune is a belief of great antiquity); a less grisly counterpart to the collection of skull fragments for distribution suggested at

A Lamps excluded (2x)



B

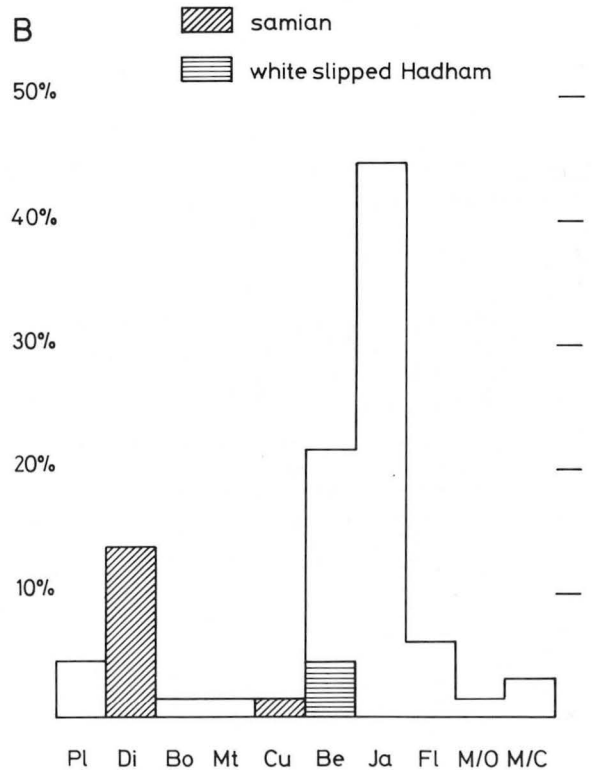


Figure 19 Comparison of pottery assemblages (by vessel class) at the cremation cemeteries at Skeleton Green (A) and Great Dunmow (B).

Legend: Pl: platters Di: dishes Bo: bowls Mt: mortaria Cu: cups Be: beakers Ja: jars Fl: flagons M/o: miscellaneous open forms M/c: miscellaneous closed forms

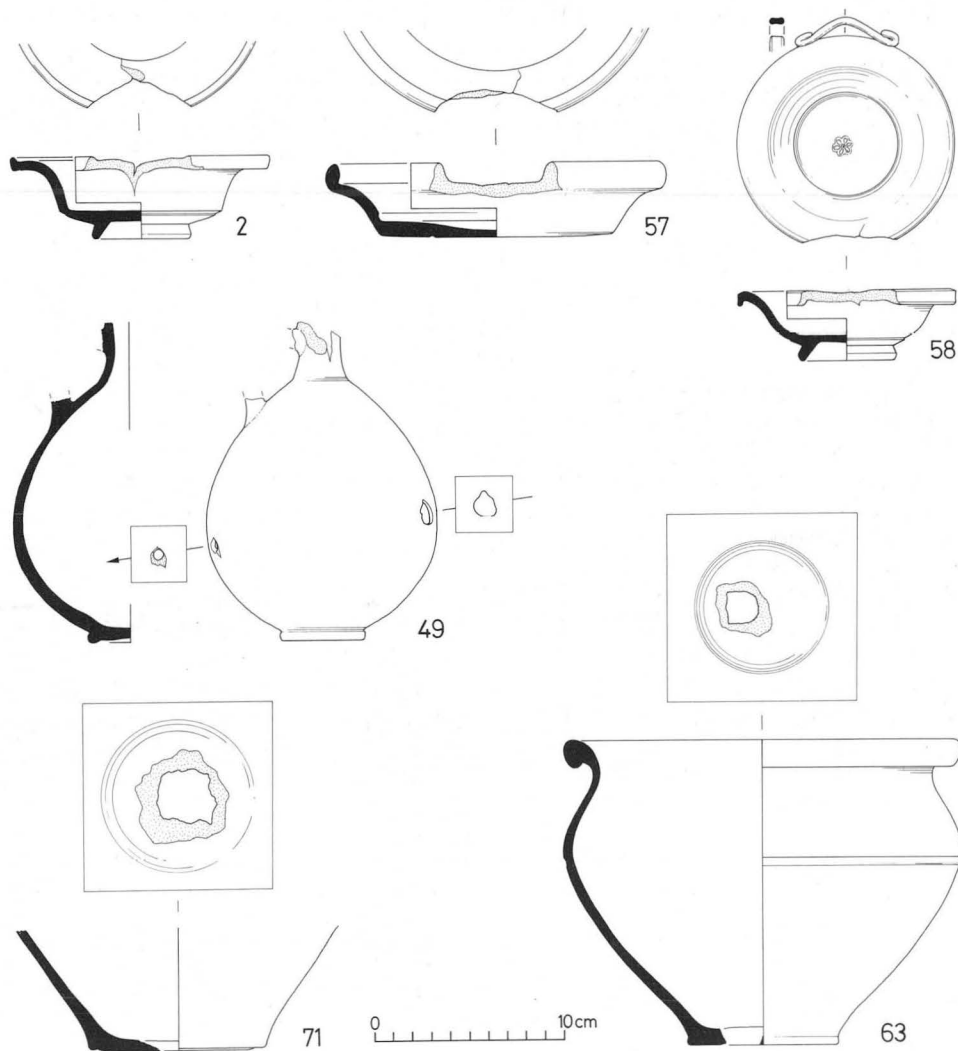


Figure 20 Cremation pottery with deliberate fractures. Scale 1:4

Braughing by Wells (1981, 291). Unfortunately the Dunmow bone is too fragmentary for this point to be settled (although it may occur in a Flavian burial at Stebbing (Going, in prep)). The pottery grave goods were 'killed' in at least three ways: closed forms such as flagons by piercing the body with a pointed implement such as a metal rod (Fig. 20, No. 49); dishes and platters by a blow, which detached segments of the rim (Fig. 20, Nos 2,57-8). More robust vessels, such as the Drag 33, are hard to break in this way. These were spoiled by sawing a 'V' shaped notch in the rim (eg. vessel from Braughing grave BLI: Partridge 1981, fig. 102). Some of the larger vessels may have been 'killed' in another manner. At Dunmow two of the jars had large holes knocked through the base (Fig. 20, Nos 63, 71). Most of the vessels 'killed' are samian: one might suggest it was to discourage grave-robbing; but this is an anachronistic view.

It is not intended to pursue the implications of these practices in detail here, but they are certainly worth further examination. They have Iron Age antecedents in the wrecking of implements intended for burial, and connections with yet more unusual rites of the Roman period: at Snodland (Kent), for example, Jessup noted the destruction of amphorae before burial, and the presence of a deposit on them which might have been caused when a libation was poured over the broken fragments (Jessup

1954, 161). Further examination of old excavation reports, and the careful excavation of cemetery sites, will no doubt add a substantial body of information on the treatment of grave-goods, and shed light on a neglected aspect of funerary ritual.

VI. Period III, Phase 3: End 2nd-early 3rd century (Fig. 21)

The main ditch system

The main east-west system of parallel ditches, as outlined above, continued in use with some alterations. Ditch 572 was replaced by Ditch 550, much recut in later phases; its dimensions in this phase were difficult to ascertain; it was c. 0.80m wide and 0.20-50m deep as excavated.

Looking at the ditch system as a whole, a T-Junction is formed in Area A by Ditches 100 and 146 meeting Ditches 201, 266 and 278. The latter cuts 185, though nothing of it survives from this phase. The interpretation of these ditches is discussed below (p. 90). Two other entrances or through-passages in the ditch system are evident: one immediately to the east of Chequers Lane where Ditch 100 butts as 573, and Ditch 550 does not re-appear west of a

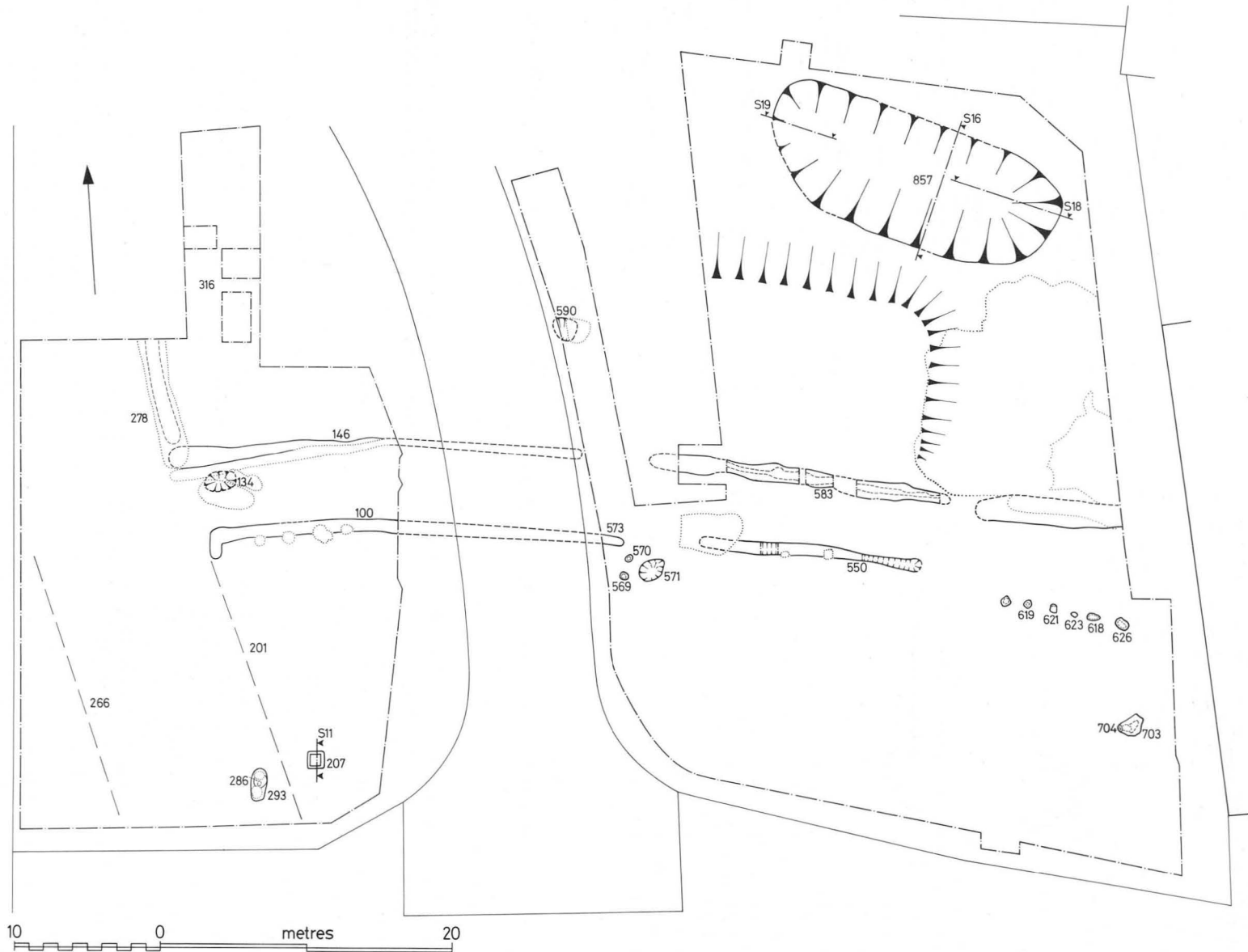


Figure 21 Period III.3. Scale 1:400

later intrusion. The lack of butt ends for 146/583 in the excavated areas suggests the reconstruction in Figure 21, in which gaps are aligned with Ditches 201/278 to the west. The second break occurs as in the preceding phase, where 550 is continued as a line of post-holes replacing those of Period III.2. These are 626, 618, 619, 623 and 621. 618 was cut in 617; 619 was 0.40m deep, flat-bottomed and cut 613; 621 contained an enamelled plate brooch in the shape of a horse, found in a pocket of charcoal at 0.26m depth (Fig. 12, No. 2). A few very similar brooches have been found in Britain, at Water Newton, York, Painswick and Westwood, near Peterborough (For a full report with references, see MF 1.D.). None of this type is known outside Britain. These examples are not well-dated, but should be 2nd century. The enamel, of different coloured greens, lies in a number of separate fields.

Gravel Pit 316

Continued to silt up throughout this phase. Layer II sealed Post-holes 307-313 (Period III.2), and comprised a dirty yellow-orange sand, mixed with loam and pebbles. It contained much pottery of this and later date.

Well 207

A rubbish layer (VII) accumulated in the upper shaft of Well 207 in this phase, and consisted of weathered brickearth and gravel, washed in from the edges, mixed with flints and chalky boulder clay, pottery, clay lump (building block) and tile (Fig. 4, S11).

The remaining features are a scatter of pits and post-holes across the site.

Area A

Pit 134: much cut by later Ditches 135, 264, 235;

Post-pit 293: with a fill containing charcoal, fired clay and chalky boulder clay, into which was set Post-hole 286.

Area B

Pit 590: shallow pit, 0.30m deep, mostly cut away by 591;

Post-holes 569, 570: a pair, 0.50 and 0.54m across×0.19 and 0.16m deep respectively, filled with a grey very pebbly gravelly loam, adjacent to

Pit 571: a storage pit, c. 2×1.50m and 0.45m deep. The upper fill comprised a black, slightly pebbly loam with decayed organic matter, ?wickerwork lining, and finds included a complete beaker, crushed *in situ*;

Pit 703: 0.43m deep with a post-hole in its western corner, 704, 0.34m deep.

Area C

Gravel Pit 857: c. 21.25×9.5 m, and c. 2.00m deep, and bottomed on natural brickearth. The edges were most difficult to define, as the lower fills of the pit tended to merge imperceptibly with

the natural brickearth. The primary fill (L849; Fig. 37, S16, S18) was an almost sterile weathered brickearth-derived silty clay, above which accumulated L442, a weathered gravelly brickearth.

Dating evidence

- 550** (Ditch) *Samian:* f33, CG, Hadrianic or Antonine; scrap EG. *Misc. pottery:* Bowl (14), Fig. 58, No. 22.
- 573** (Butt end) *Samian:* f37, CG, ALB[VCIIVS] c. AD 150-180, Fig. 59B, No. 16.
- 316 LII** (Gravel Pit silt) *Samian:* f37, CG, Hadrianic (as L III); f33, CG, Antonine, probably late; ?f31, probably Argonne ware, 3rd century. *Misc. pottery:* jar G9 (47), post c. AD 125; mortarium D3 (26); bowl B2 (41), c. AD 125+; C16 (45), Fig. 56, No. 42, ?2nd century; Fabrics 14, 19, 55. A later 2nd century group, some intrusive pottery, eg. Fabric 51, and much residual 1st-2nd century Pottery.
- 621** (Pit) *Horse brooch:*, Fig. 12, No. 2, 2nd century. *Samian:* f36, CG, Antonine. *Misc. pottery:* Fabric 37.
- 293** (Pit) *Misc. pottery:* Bowl B2 (41), c. AD 125/30+; Fabric 14.
- 571** (Pit) *Samian:* f31, 31R, CG, Antonine; f38, CG, Antonine (burnt). *Misc. pottery:* beaker, Fig. 55, No. 1 (1), c. AD 150-180; jar G5 (47), 2nd century, Fabric 14.
- 590** (Pit) *Samian:* f36, CG, Hadrianic; *Misc. pottery:* folded beaker (47), c. AD 175+; Fabrics 14, 11/12.
- 207 VII** (Well) *Samian:* f37, CG, Antonine, rim and ovolo used by Albucius, c. AD 150-180. *Misc. pottery:* bowl B2 (47), c. AD 125+; jar G9 (47), c. AD 125-160/70; bowl, similar to (14), 2nd century; Fabrics 19, 50.

VII. Period IV, Phase 1: First half 3rd century

(Fig. 22)

The ditch system, 100/550 and 146/583 continued in use. Ditch 278 to the west was recut (*ie.* in its excavated form).

Area A

Gravel Pit 316

Continued to silt up. Its upper fill, LI, contained much residual pottery of the 1st and 2nd centuries, as well as pottery of the early-middle 3rd century, and it is possible that the stratigraphy was disturbed in Roman times. There is a possible hiatus (on pottery evidence) in the later 3rd century, but layer I was still accumulating pottery in the 4th century.

Well 207

The filling (Fig. 4, S11) was subsiding at this time, as the lower silts consolidated, and layers VI and V built up. Layer VI contained much burnt and unburnt chalky boulder clay, mixed with sandy orange clay, whilst LV was a dark, dirty greenish loamy sand with pebbles. A group of post-holes lay around the well: 249, 0.30m deep, with charcoal, fired clay and chalky boulder clay; 211 and 247, 0.50m and 0.28m deep, cut into the period III.3 Pit 293, thus replacing Post 286; 212, 0.28m deep; 287, containing some charcoal; and 301, 0.40m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom.

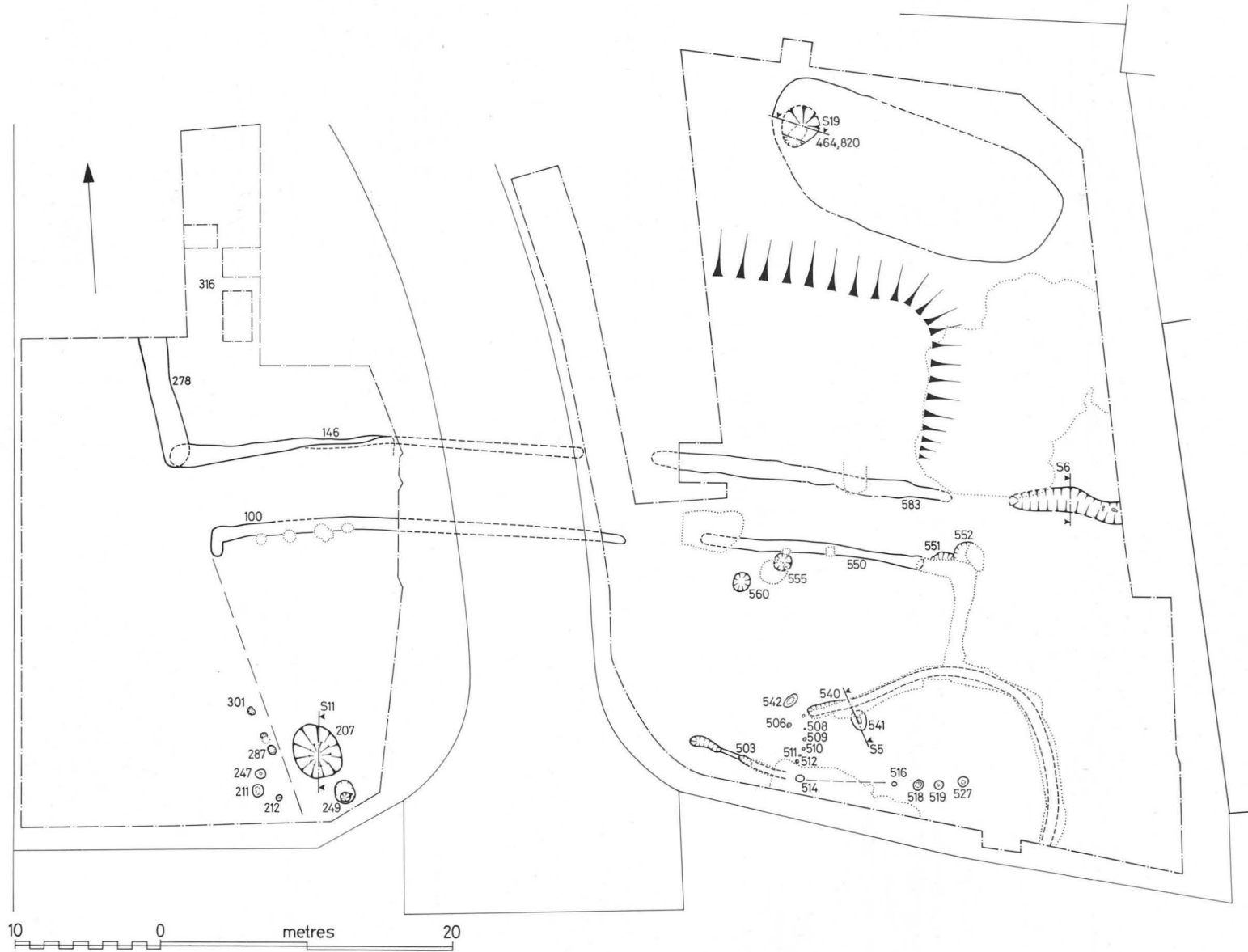


Figure 22 Period IV.1. Scale 1:400

Area B

Ditch 540

A curved enclosure ditch, 540, was dug, of which a length of only 3 m survived later recutting.

Partition fencing

A possible partition fence is represented by Post-holes 514, 516, 518 (with four nodules of flint packing, around the ghost of a post, with fired clay and charcoal in its fill), 519, and 527. Their depths ranged from 0.10m to 0.36m. Others may have been lost in the digging of a later gravel pit, 513, but the line was continued further west by a segmented gully, 503, 0.58m wide×0.08m deep, containing some large flint nodules, possibly packing for posts. The gap between the end of Ditch 540 and Post-hole 514 was closed by a line of stake-holes, 508-512, 0.12-0.20m across×0.04-0.25m deep. Possible associated features are Stake-hole 506; Pit 541, 0.28m deep, cut by Gully 539 (Fig. 4, S5), which introduced some later pottery; and Pit 542, 0.21 m deep.

Pits 555, 560, 551, 552

Four circular storage pits were dug in this phase: 555, cut by 556, 0.50 m deep; 560, 0.70m deep; 551, 0.40m deep, containing a beaker crushed *in situ*, and cut by 552, 0.20m deep, itself cut away by later Pit 553. Pits 551 and 552 were also cut by a later extension of Ditch 550.

Area C

Gravel Pit 857

A hollow in the western end of Gravel Pit 857 was partly infilled with a series of lenses of dirty loamy brickearth (Fig. 37, S19), tipped in from the west and containing contemporary groups of Roman pottery. These have been quantified (p. 61-6), and are dateable between c. AD 190 and AD 240 (Layers 460, 464, 820).

Dating evidence

- 207** (Well) L VI *Misc. pottery*: bowl B2/4 (41); Fabric 4.
L V. *Samian*: Antonine; *Misc. pottery*: c. AD 125/30-3rd century.
- 316** (Gravel Pit) L I *Samian*: f31, 33, 38, Antonine, burnt black; f38, late Antonine, stamped TITVS, Fig. 59B, No.18; f37, CG, Antonine, style of Cinnamus; many residual sherds from late 1st to late 2nd century (eg. Fig. 55, No. 25).
Misc. pottery: Fabric 1.
- 249** (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4.
- 211** (Post-hole) *Samian*: ?EG, late 2nd century; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 14.
- 287** (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 14.
- 301** (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: dishes, B2-3 (47), late Antonine+; folded beaker (47), early 3rd century; Fabrics 2, 4, probably early-mid 3rd century.
- 540** (Ditch) *Misc. pottery*: bowl B5 (47), c. AD 230/50+; Jar (14), Fig. 55, No. 24; Jar (45), Fig. 56, No. 39.
Misc. pottery: Fabric 4.
- 503** (Gully) *Misc. pottery*: bowl B2 (47), c. AD 125/30+.
- 506** (Stake-hole) *Samian*: f31, CG, Hadrianic-Antonine; *Misc. pottery*: bowl B2 (41), c. AD 125/30+.
- 542** (Pit) *Samian*: CG crumbs, 2nd century; *Misc. pottery*: beaker, ?H28, hunt cup, 1; Fabrics 14, 26, 36.
- 555** (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Beaker H41 (2), Fig. 55, No. 4, 3rd to early 4th century.
- 560** (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 4.
- 551** (Pit) For quantified groups from layers 460, 464 and 820, see p. 61-6.
- 552** (Pit)
- 857** (Gravel Pit)

VIII. Period IV, Phase 2: Mid-late 3rd century

(Fig. 23)

Area A

Ditch 135

Ditch 135 replaced Ditch 146, dug on a slightly different alignment, 0.50- 0.80m wide and 0.28-0.45m deep.

Ditch 100

Also recut in three segments, either simply those lengths which had silted up most, or to replace the entire ditch.

Well 207

Continued to silt up as the fills subsided. The uppermost levels contain finds of the later 3rd and 4th centuries (see p. 32).

The remaining features in Area A were:

Hollow 235; Post-hole 305; a series of stake-holes, mainly devoid of finds, c. 0.14-0.42m in diameter×0.10-0.20m deep; and Post-hole 85, 0.50m deep, with vertical sides and a flat bottom, cut by later Pit 83.

Area B

The parallel ditch system was probably still in evidence. The curving ditch to the south was recut as 538 and a c. 8.5m length of this survived, though cut by later Slot 539; it was 0.64-0.90m wide, 0.26-0.30m deep with near vertical sides, a flat bottom and a dirty yellow pebbly sandy fill, below a black silty loam.

Gravel Pits 549, 602

Two large gravel extraction pits were dug, 549 (Fig. 4, S8) and 602 (Fig. 4, S9). Neither was fully excavated; Gravel Pit 549 reached a maximum depth of 0.44 m; its lower layer was a dirty yellow sandy soil. Finds accumulated from the middle 3rd century, and throughout the 4th century. Gravel Pit 602 was dug to a depth of 0.64 m, when the gravel subsoil changed to natural sand. Three fills were distinguished; a deep fill of dirty brickearth; a main fill of very gravelly dark loam and an upper fill of very dark brown humus-like silt. It too was left to silt up throughout the 4th century.

Pits 504, 568, 553, 604

As in previous phases, a number of storage pits were dug in the southern half of Area B: Pit 504, 2.10m in diameter, cut 1m into the gravel was filled with a wedge of brickearth, possibly a collapsed lining, and subsequent tip lines of chalk lumps and gravel in a dark brown pebbly matrix. Finds included much animal bone and pottery, some fired clay, stone and ironwork, including the hobnails from a decayed leather shoe. The pit was cut by Gully 505.

Pit 568, 1.10m deep, had also been used as a rubbish dump after its use as a storage pit ended, and contained much pottery and bone, including a little cremated bone, in a black sandy matrix.

Two other pits were shallower, and their interpretation as storage pits is less reliable. Pit 553 cut the earlier pit 552, and was c. 2.00 m in diameter×0.24m deep. Pit 604 was 0.30m deep with an uneven bottom.

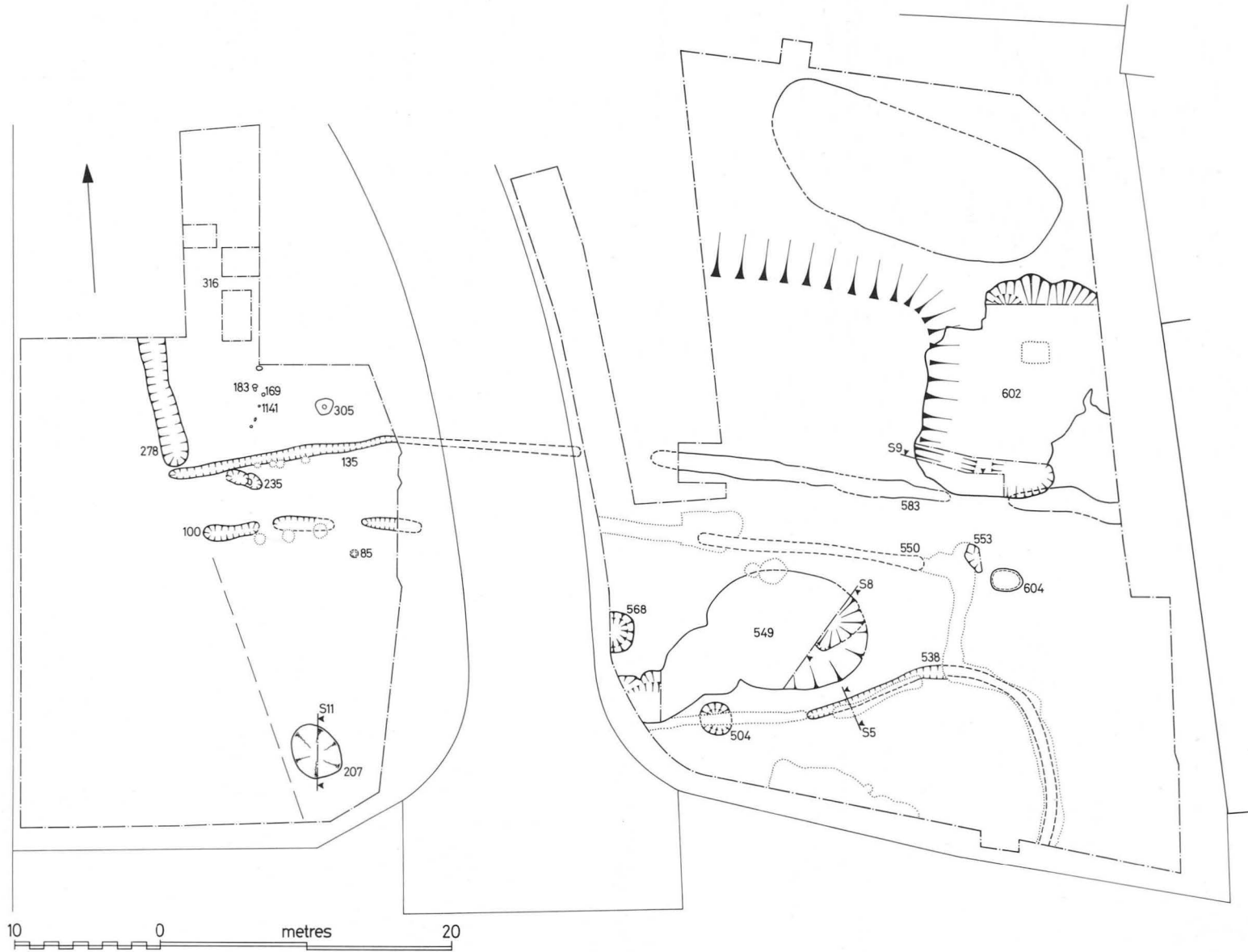


Figure 23 Period IV.2. Scale 1:400

Dating evidence

- 135 (Ditch) *Samian*: f33, CG, 2nd century; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 1, 2, 4, 14.
- 100 (Ditch recut) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4.
- 235 (Hollow) *Coin*: Tetricus I, 270-273, RIC 100; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4.
- 183 (Stake-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Bowl B5 (47), c. AD 230/50+.
- 1141 (Stake-hole) *Coin*: Tetricus I, AD 270-273. Double struck. Two obverses.
- 85 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4.
- 207 (Well) Layer III *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 4.
- 538 (Ditch) *Samian*: EG, 2nd-3rd centuries; *Misc. pottery*: Dish B6 (47), c. AD 250+; folded beaker H (47), probably 3rd century; flagon J11 (2); Fabrics 1, 4.
- 549 (Gravel Pit) *Samian*: f33, EG, 2nd-3rd century; *Misc. pottery*: Bowl B5 (47), c. AD 230/50+; Fabrics 2, 4, 14, 26. Mid 3rd century+.
- 602 (Gravel Pit) *Samian*: 2nd century; *Misc. pottery*: Bowl B5 (47), c. AD 230/50+; Fabrics 4.
- 504 (Pit) *Samian*: f79, CG, late 2nd century; f37, CG, stamped PATERNVS (Fig. 59B, No. 13), c. AD 150-190; *Misc. pottery*: bowl B5 (47), c. AD 230/50+; bowl B6 (47) mid 2nd century+; bowl/jar E5 (36), mid 3rd to mid 4th century; mortarium D14 (24), c. AD 260-360; jar (45), Fig. 56, No. 50; folded beakers (2, 47); Fabrics 1, 2, 4, 48.
- 568 (Pit) *Samian*: ?f79, 2nd century; *Misc. pottery*: bowls B5 (36, 39, 47), c. AD 230/50+; bowl E2 (47), later 3rd century+; folded beakers H (36, 47), c. AD 200-250, Fig. 56, No. 41; beaker H (39), 3rd century, Fig. 56, No. 46. Fabrics 2, 4, 14.
- 553 (Pit) *Samian*: f31, EG, late 2nd-early 3rd century. *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 4.
- 604 (Pit) *Coin*: Marcus Aurelius, AD 161-180 as RIC 960; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 1, 4.

IX. Period IV, Phase 3: End 3rd-early 4th century

(Fig. 24)

Area A

Ditch 135 Replaced by a line of twelve post-holes, mostly sterile, two of which, 261 and 269, are double, suggesting possible recutting.

Ditch 100

Went out of use, and apparently replaced by a line of larger post-holes, 88, 99, 101, 107 and 279.

Pit 88

A post removal pit, 0.45m deep; the post had been dug out from the north-east and rocked, though some original flint packing remained *in situ*. The fill contained briquetage and charcoal.

Post-hole 279

0.32 m deep, with flint packing.

Pits 99, 101, 107

Pits 99 (0.30m deep), 101 (0.38m deep) and 107 (0.24m deep) all cut Ditch 100. All three also were filled with much animal bone, including horncores.

Post-hole 90

0.20m deep, containing animal bone.

Pit 83

Cut earlier Pit 85, and was 0.18m deep.

Area B

Gravel Pits 549, 602, 513

Gravel Pits 549 and 602 were silting up, and Gravel Pit 513 was dug, reaching a maximum depth of only 0.18m before bottoming on brickearth.

The square enclosure

The main development was the creation of a small roughly square enclosure, c. 10m square, defined by 543 (Fig. 4, S8), not fully excavated, but which cut through Gravel Pit 549; 539, a 6.5m length recut of Ditch 538, c. 0.55-0.70m wide and 0.18-0.23m deep; Ditch 550; and an entrance on the eastern side formed by new butt ends of 550 and 537.

Hollows 547 and 548, in the centre of this small enclosure, were only 0.10-15m deep. They were worn into the natural sand and filled with black silty loam, largely barren, and were possibly caused by animals (?pigs) contained in what appears to have been a pen.

Ditch 608

The curved enclosure was recut in its final excavated form: 0.52-0.63 m deep, filled with a light brown humus mixed with yellow, with a spade-cut slot along its bottom (Fig. 4, S7). It was further extended to the west by Gully 505, with an eastern butt opposite the south-west corner of the small square enclosure. The western limit of 505 lay under Chequers Lane. It was 0.60-62m wide and 0.20-34m deep with a square, flat-bottomed profile.

Slot 640

Was dug, much disturbed by later 4th century and modern features.

Dating evidence

- 262 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 51, c. AD 360/70+, probably intrusive.
- 259 (Post-hole) *Coin*: Constans, 345-348, HK 140(a), (on surface).
- 88 (Post-pit) *Misc. pottery*: Mortarium (24), c. AD 260-360; folded beaker (2).
- 90 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 48.
- 99 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 4.
- 101 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: folded beaker (47); Fabric 19.
- 107 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 19.
- 513 (Gravel Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4; mortarium (25) mid 3rd century+.
- 547 (Hollow) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4, 14.
- 543 (Ditch) *Samian*: EG, 3rd century; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 1, 2, 4.
- 539 (Ditch) *Samian*: crumbs EG, 3rd century; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 1, 2, 4, post c. AD 280.
- 608 (Ditch) *Coins*: Barbarous Radiate, AD 270-90, reverse illegible; House of Constantine, AD 330-345, copy as HK48 (upper fill); *Misc. pottery*: Mortarium (25), mid 3rd century+; Fabrics 1, 2, 4, 14.
- 537 (Ditch) *Samian*: EG, 3rd century; *Misc. pottery*: bowl B6 (47), post c. AD 260; Fabrics 2, 4, 14.

X. Period V, Phase 1: First half 4th century

(Fig. 25)

Area A

Ditches 216, 320

The ditch system was replaced by a single Ditch 216, recut later in the 4th century; its shape over the eastern 13m is therefore destroyed, but survives to the west where it turns a corner and returns south for 8.5 m, following the early

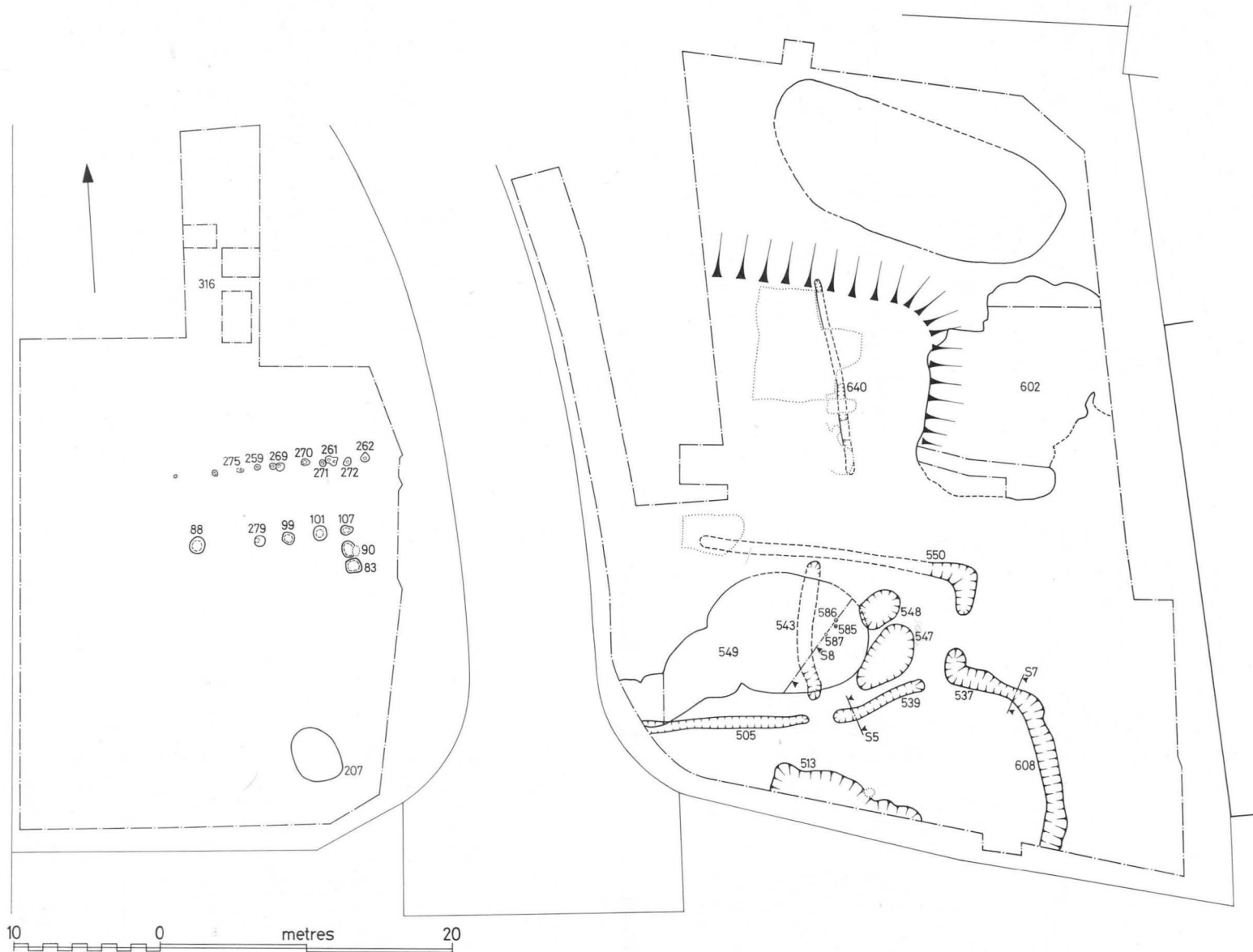


Figure 24 Period IV.3. Scale 1:400

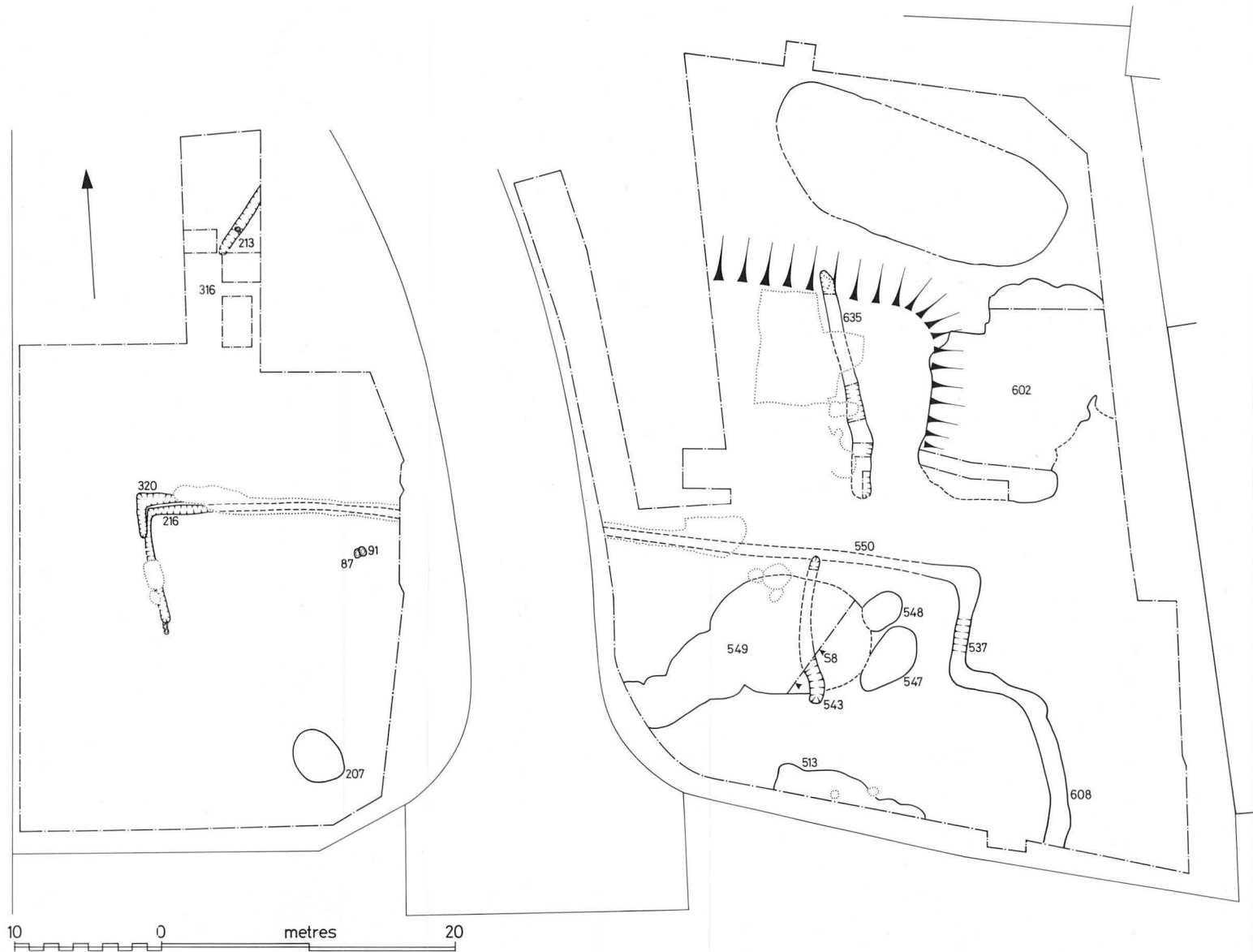


Figure 25 Period V.1. Scale 1:400

Roman (Phase III, 182) alignment of Ditches 201 and 278. The corner is reinforced on the outside with a second ditch, 320, slightly cutting Ditch 216 on the southern return; its easterly butt is lost in a recut. The ditches silted up through the 4th century, and contained fired clay and charcoal.

Pits 87, 91

Cut Pit 90, and were 0.70 and 0.30m across, by 0.35 and 0.25m deep respectively.

Slot 213

0.20m deep with a post-hole in the bottom, cutting it, 0.35m deep.

Area B

The small animal enclosure

Went out of use, though 543 was recut and the two butt ends of the eastern entrance were joined up so that Ditch 537 formed a continuous ditch with 550 and 608.

Slot 635

Cut Slot 640.

Gravel pit 602

Continued to accumulate 4th century rubbish.

Dating evidence

- 216 (Ditch) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 4, 51 (later silting).
320 (Ditch) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 51 (later silting).
213 (Slot) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 4, 14, ?43.
635 (Slot) *Misc. pottery:* Fabric 4.

XI. Period V, Phases 2-3: Mid 4th century-c. AD 425

(Figs 26-7)

It is not always clear to which phase in Period V some features belong. The majority contain late shell-tempered pottery (51) and were thus accumulating rubbish post c. AD 360/70. The division into two phases has been made to relate to the chronology of Shrine 273, and features such as Ditch 121, Pits 295 and 322, where there is a clear stratigraphical relationship. The shrine itself is dealt with separately below.

Earlier features which contain later Roman finds in their upper silts include:

- 207 **LI-II** (Well) *Coins:* Barbarous Radiates, 270-290, reverse Virtus and illegible; Gallienus, 260-268, RIC 210; Carausius, 286-293, as RIC 878? *Misc pottery:* Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 24, 43, 51; *Glass:* cone beaker rim, c. AD 400, in L I at 0.10m depth (Fig. 34, No. 21).
- 316 **L I-II** (Gravel Pit) *Coin:* 3rd-4th century, illegible. *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 25, 43, 48, 51.
- 216 (Ditch) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 4, 51.
320 (Ditch) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 3, 4, 51.
513 (Gravel Pit) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 4, 25, 51.
549 (Gravel Pit) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 4, 43, 51.
430 (Gravel Pit) *Coins:* Valentinian 1, 364-375, CK 501; House of Theodosius, 388-402, As CK 162; *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 3, 4, 43.
550 (Ditch) *Coin:* Theodosius I, 388-395, CK 565; *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 48, 51.

Period V, Phase 2: Mid-late 4th century (Features other than Shrine 273)

(Fig. 26)

Area A

Ditch 216

The main northern length of Ditch 216 was recut as 121 (Fig. 4, S4), which also cut the corner Ditch 320. The new ditch was c. 0.98-1.20m wide, by 0.36-0.48m deep with near vertical sides and a flat bottom with a bottom slot surviving in places, 0.30-0.34m wide×0.15-0.18m deep. The ditch contained much animal bone and horncores. Its western butt coincides with the entrance to the gravel-floored Building 276 (see below). Pit 322, 0.32m deep, cut Ditch 216 (and was in turn cut by later Pit 295).

Post-holes 202-5, 246, 297

Post-holes 202-5 and 246, 0.08-0.14m deep, to the south of Shrine 273, possibly formed part of a fence line; 203 was filled with a soft dirty yellow clay, and had a flint packing. Post-hole 297, isolated to the west, was 0.40m deep.

Pit 296

Contained some fired clay flecks and much late 4th century pottery.

Other features

In the northern extension were the tenuous remains of some sort of structure, comprising a circular post-pad, 318, made of large flints and stones with lumps of fired chalky boulder clay; a length of collapsed walling, 292, composed of chalky boulder clay lumps and charcoal; and two post-holes, 314 (0.45m in diameter) and 315, 0.30m across, filled with fired clay and charcoal in a black pebbly loam matrix. Also associated with this was the uppermost fill of Gravel Pit 316, LI, which accumulated a great deal of rubbish.

Area B

Ditch 550

The final cut of Ditch 550 was silting up.

Pits 591, 593

Pit 591, 1.50m across×0.32m deep, cut Pit 590; and Pit 593, 1.70m in diameter, cut Pit 592.

Hollow 607

An amorphous feature whose fill contained some charcoal and daub lumps; there was some evidence for some post-settings in its bottom.

Post-hole 566, 567 and Post-pit 667

Post-hole 566, 0.36m x 0.18m deep, had four large stones as packing, including two quern fragments; and Post-hole 567, adjacent to it, was also stone packed. Post-pit 667 was 0.50m deep.

Other features

Feature 556, 2.00×1.60m and 0.46-0.60m deep, was probably a storage pit and contained storage-jar sherds; it cut the early Ditch 572 and Pit 555. Contiguous with 556

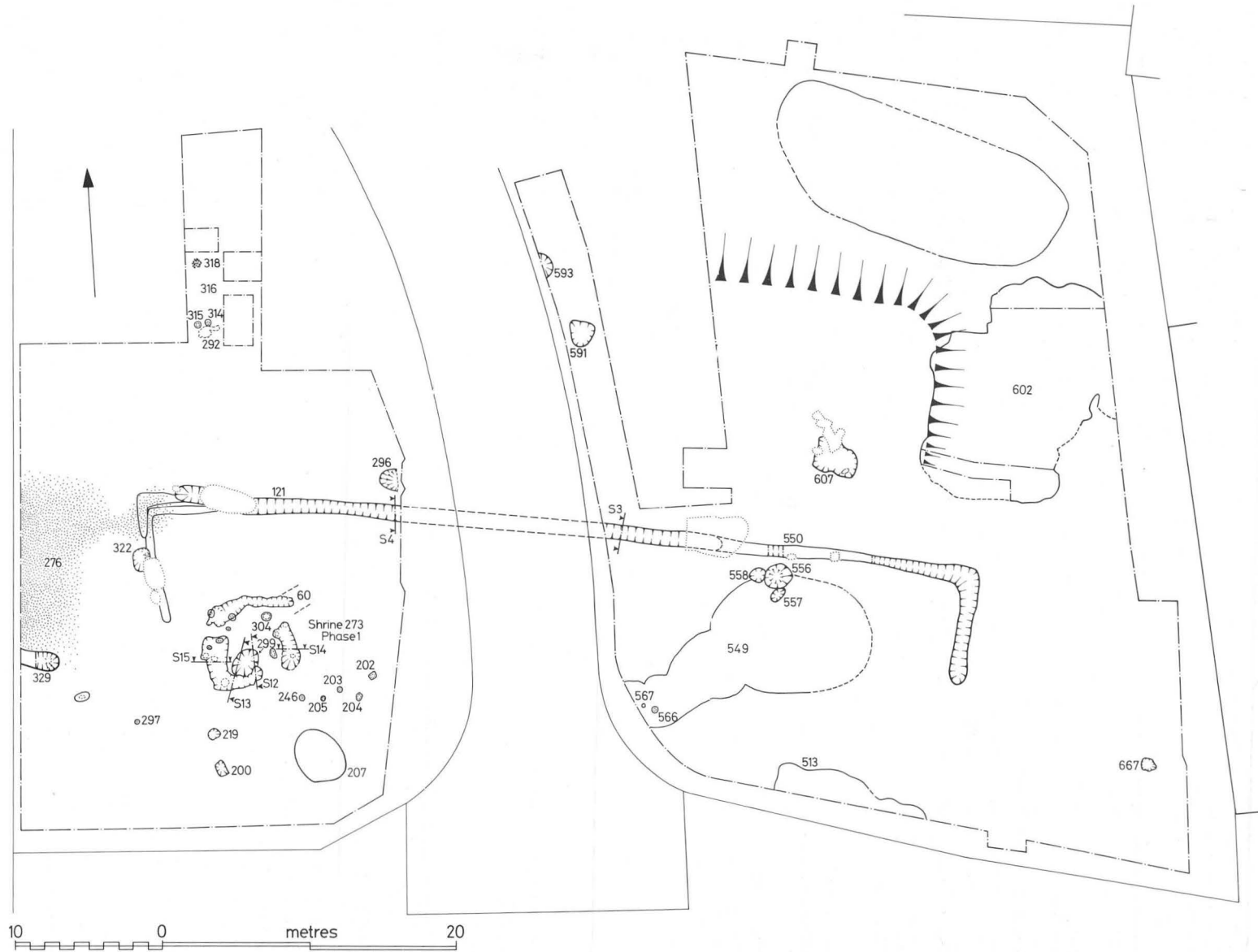


Figure 26 Period V.2. Scale 1:400

were two smaller pits: 557, 0.60m in diameter×0.30 m deep; and 558, 0.90m across×0.26m deep, which also cut Ditch 572.

Dating evidence

- 121 (Ditch) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 3, 4 (Fig. 55, No. 11) 25, 51; jar (Fig. 56, No. 53).
 322 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 51.
 296 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 48, 51.
 203 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 4.
 246 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 51.
 607 (Hollow) *Coin*: Constantine I, 325-326, RIC 7 (Trier) 461; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 51.
 667 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 51.
 591 (Pit) *Samian*: EG, burnt, riveted; *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 8/9, 12 (stamped, Fig. 57, Nos 4-5), 51.
 593 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 51.
 567 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 2 (Fig. 55, No. 3), 3.
 557 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 51.
 556 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4, 51, and much residual pottery.
 558 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabric 51.

Period V, Phase 3: c. AD 390-425 (Features other than Shrine 273)
 (Fig. 27)

Area A

Pit 264

Stratigraphically later than Ditches 121 and 216/320. It contained some chalk lumps, and 4th-century pottery.

Dating evidence

- 264 (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 4, 48.

Shrine 273 (Phase 1)

(Fig. 28)

Around 350-360 AD an approximately square building was constructed, with surface built walls, probably of turf and timber, which have left no traces. It is defined by its floor surface, the preservation of which, in contrast to the contemporary levels around it, suggests that it was originally a little below ground level. The entrance probably lay to the north-east, in what must have been a ramped approach where a trample of late pottery had crushed earlier cremations. The building was at least 6.75×6.60m internally, since a slight hollow, up to 0.20m deep, developed in the floor during the use of the building, around the inside of the wall (Fig. 4, S12-15). This can be seen as the result of constant sweeping, or as the setting for furniture. If, for instance, there were benches placed around the edge, the hollow might result from the constant wear of people's feet, or even knees.

In the south-west corner, Pit 299 was dug, c. 0.50m deep (Fig. 4, S12-13). It is possible that this held the large Alice Holt storage jars (see Fig. 54), made secure in the pit with a packing of almost clean orange brickearth (273 L III). Towards the end of this phase of the building, perhaps c. AD 390, one of these jars was broken, taken out and mended with lead rivets. A dribble of lead from this

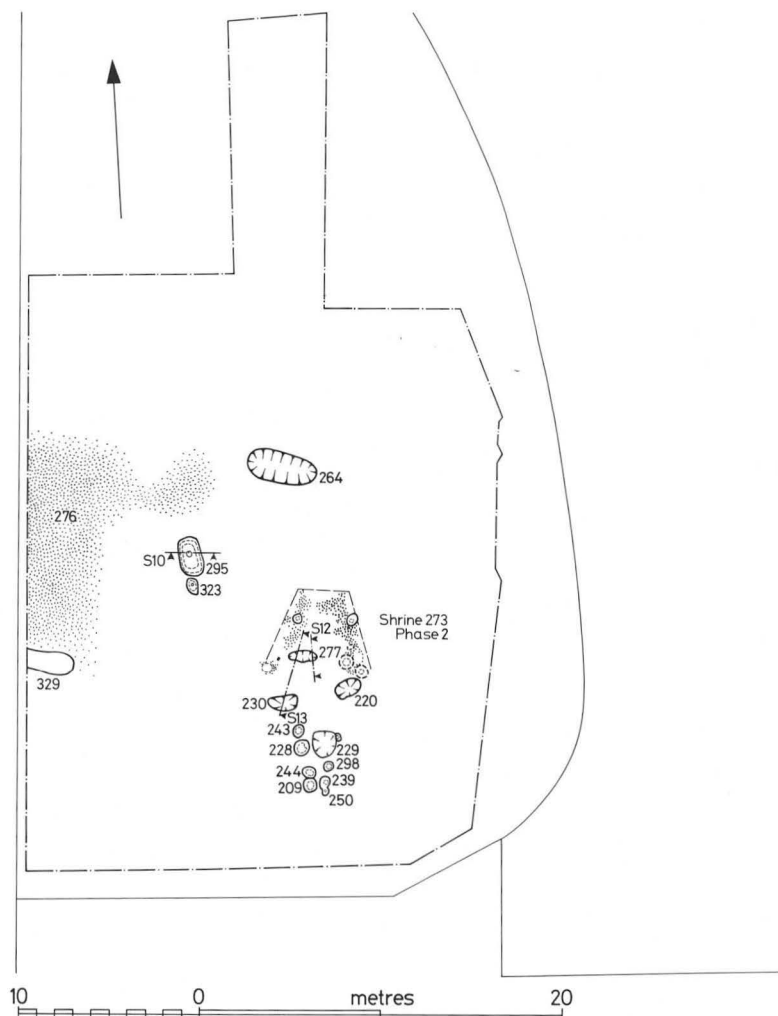


Figure 27 Period V.3. Scale 1:400

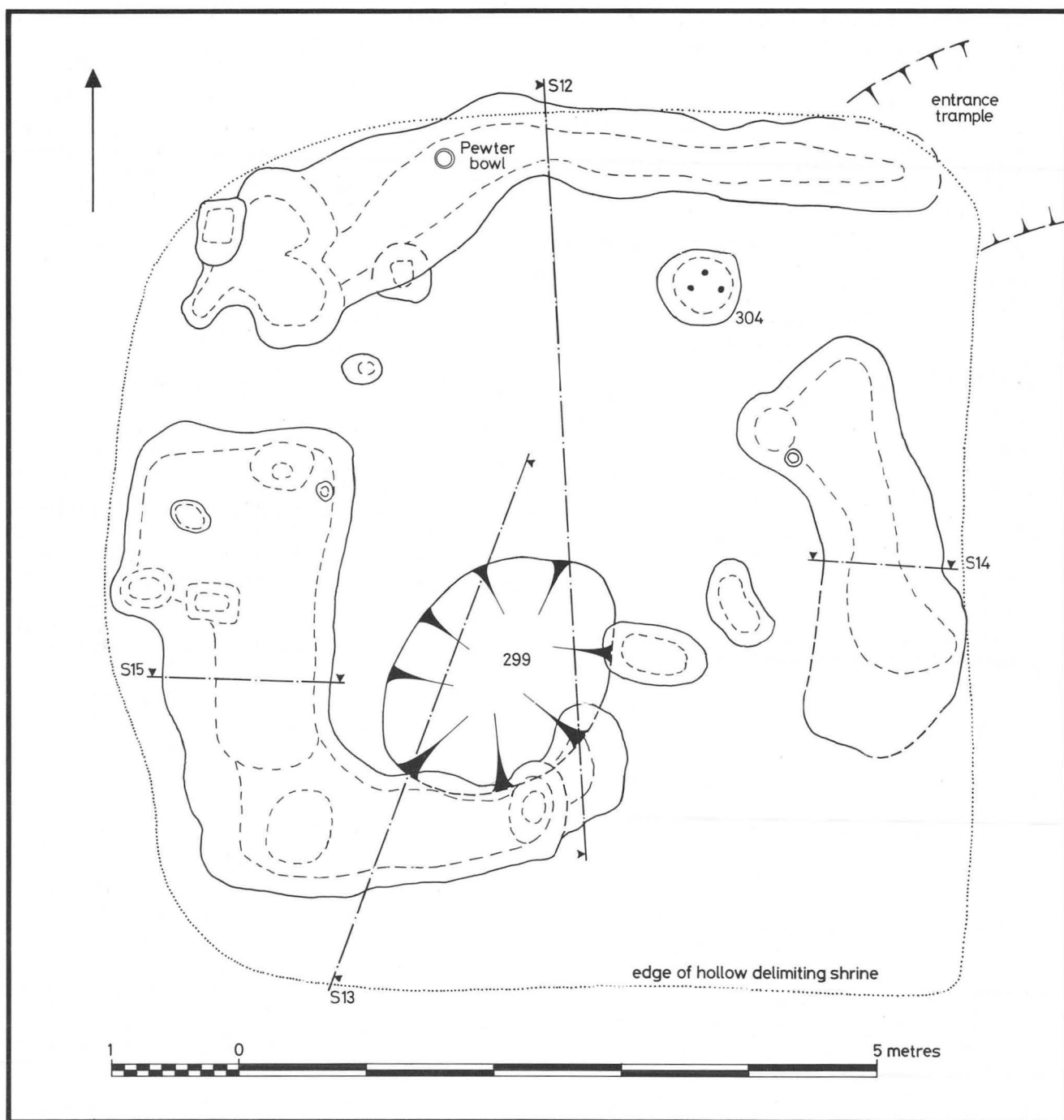


Figure 28 Shrine 273: Phase 1. Scale 1:50

operation was found in the loamy lower filling of 299, along with some sherds of late shell-tempered pottery which probably fell in when the pots were replaced in their brickearth packing. The floor of the building consisted mainly of burnt and unburnt chalky boulder clay, probably daub from a much earlier structure (273 LII), since similar material was found in earlier features (see p. 25).

Over a period of about thirty years, the hollows in the Shrine accumulated much dark loam and finds, including late shell-tempered wares, Oxfordshire red colour-coated pottery, a pewter bowl and seventeen coins, ranging from the House of Constantine (350-60) to the House of Theodosius and Arcadius (388-402).

Dating evidence

(For an analysis of the pottery from the shrine phase 1, see p. 66-71)
299, also dug as **273 L IV-III** (Pit) *Misc. pottery*: Fabrics 2, 4, 43, 51.

Hollows of shrine
273 II (Shrine floor)

Misc. pottery: Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 43, 51.
Misc. pottery: Fabrics 2, 3, 4.

The votive pits and their finds

(Figs 26, 29-30)

with contributions by C. J. Going and B. Ford (pottery), D. Brown (pewter), S. Greep (bone comb) and R. Reece (coins)

Three votive pits are associated with this phase; 200, 219 and 304. All appear to be contemporary with, or slightly earlier than, the foundation of the shrine.

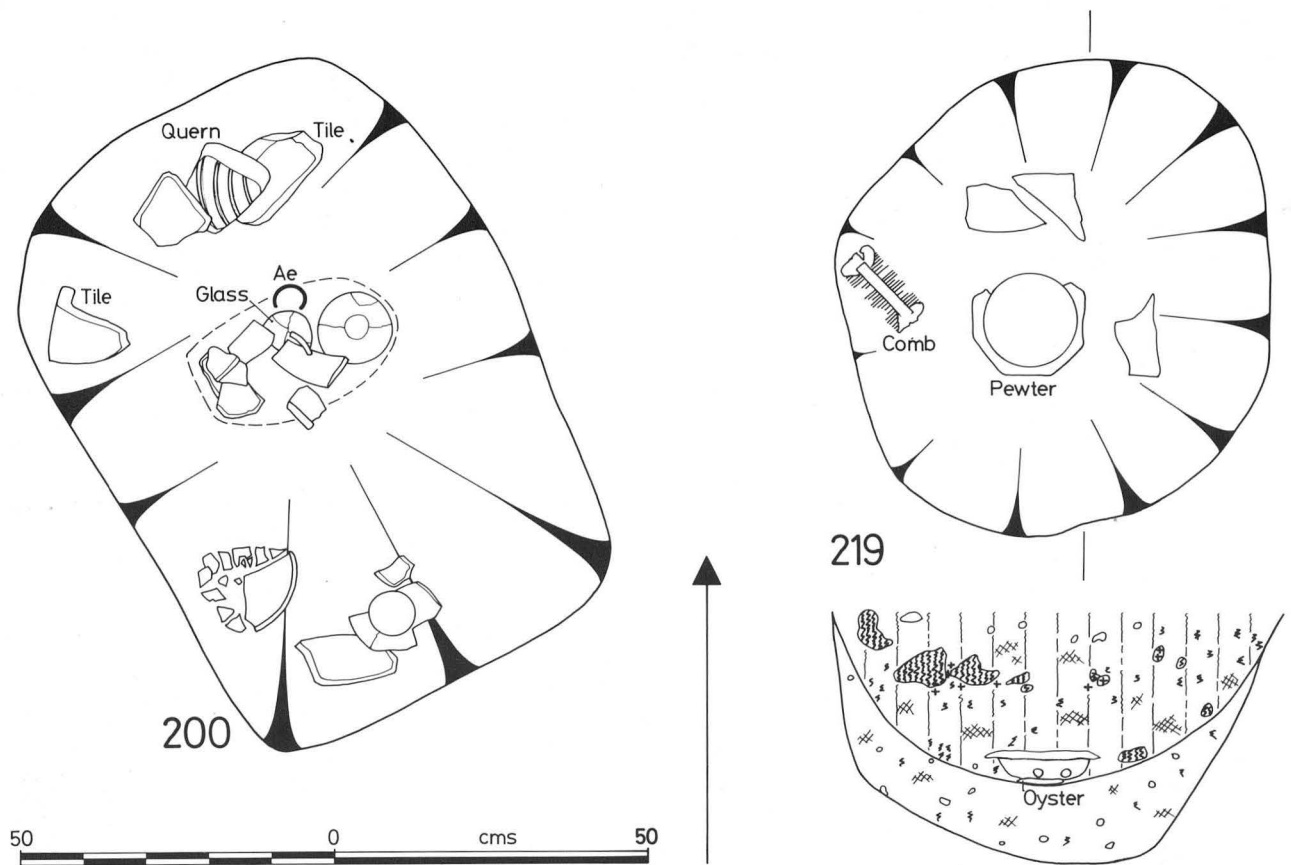


Figure 29 Votive Pits 200 and 219

Pit 304 (Figs 26, 28)

This was sealed beneath the entrance to the building, and two of its votive pots can be dated to post AD 350. The pit was 0.32m deep with three stake-holes in the bottom, a possible setting for a tripod?. Its fill comprised a mixture of fired and unfired chalky boulder clay, dark brown loam, orange brickearth, charcoal and a few oyster shells. The pottery dish and jar had been broken up and spread around randomly. Sealed by stone setting 303 (see p. 41).

Pottery (Fig. 30)

- No. 1 Plain rim **dish** with heavily burnished exterior and base (B1). In hard sandy fabric with grey core and grey/black surfaces (47). 3rd century+.
- No. 2 Small everted-rim **jar**. The exterior is burnished and covered with an orange/brown slip. Hard sandy fabric with grey core and orange surfaces. Reminiscent of early Hadham fabric (4), c. AD 350+.
- No. 3 Base of a **jar** with burnished exterior. Hard fine sandy orange fabric (4), c. AD 350+.

Pit 200 (Figs 26, 29-30)

South of the shrine, this was sub-rectangular, 0.26m deep. It contained five coins, three of which form a most unusual cluster of the Two Victories type of AD 345-8. The presence of these three coins, and the absence of the earlier (AD 330-341) and later (copies of AD 350-5) issues which are always well represented on most sites, suggest that they should be taken seriously as a closed group lost or buried between AD 345 and 355. The fragments of late shell-tempered pottery (51) might be regarded as intrusive.

Coins

Barbarous Radiate	270-290 Rev: Sacrificial Implements
-	4th cent Copy ae 4
2× Constans	345-348 HK 138, 160
Constantius II	345-348 HK 147

Pottery (Fig. 30)

- No. 4 (*not illus.*). Samian rim fragment, f31, certainly Colchester ware; it matches precisely that illustrated in Hull 1963, fig. 45.8. Date range c. AD 160-200, probably in the earlier part of the range.
- No. 5 Fragments of an hemispherical flanged **bowl** (C8). In hard sandy orange fabric (4). Burnt. Later 4th century.
- No. 6 Bead rim **bowl** with out-swelling walls decorated with a band of rouletting on either side of the carination (C25). Young's type 68 (1977, 162, fig. 61). In fine sandy orange fabric with deep red/brown colour-coat (3). Later 4th century.
- No. 7 **Bowl** with rounded profile and bead rim. Decorated with a band of alternating crosses with diagonal grooves; and bosses. A single groove outlines the decorative zone. Roberts' type A13 (1982, 30-31, pl. 7). The exterior is burnished and covered with a dark grey slip. Hard sandy fabric with brown core, light grey margins and dark grey surfaces. 'Romano-Saxon' ware (36). 4th century. For a discussion of 'Romano-Saxon' pottery from Great Dunmow, see p. 71.
- No. 8 (*not illus.*). Base of a large **storage jar**. In hard coarse granular grey fabric with large inclusions (44).
- No. 9 (*not illus.*). Fragments from an ovoid **beaker**. The exterior is covered with a fine orange slip. In hard sandy ware with light grey core and interior and orange exterior surface. (4), c. AD 270-400.
- No. 10 Pedestal-based **beaker** with raised cordon on the shoulder, rim missing. Similar in shape to Roberts' type D14.1 (1982, 104-5, pl. 34). The exterior is burnished overall and partly covered with a fine grey slip. In sandy fabric with pale grey core and mid-grey surfaces (36). Later 4th century.
- No. 11 (*not illus.*). Fragments from a closed vessel. In hard shell-tempered fabric with dark grey core and brown margins and surfaces (51). c. AD 360-400.

Finds (Fig. 30)

- No. 12 Copper alloy **circlet of plain wire**, tapering towards the terminals, each of which overlaps and is wound twice around the loop of the bracelet, to provide an expanding fastening; probably worn by a child. For close parallels, see Clarke 1979, G 256, 239 (Lankhills); N. Crummy 1983, fig. 41, no. 1601; Frere 1972, fig. 32.35 (*Verulamium*, later 4th century); Wedlake 1958, fig. 57.43. Clearly a late Roman type.

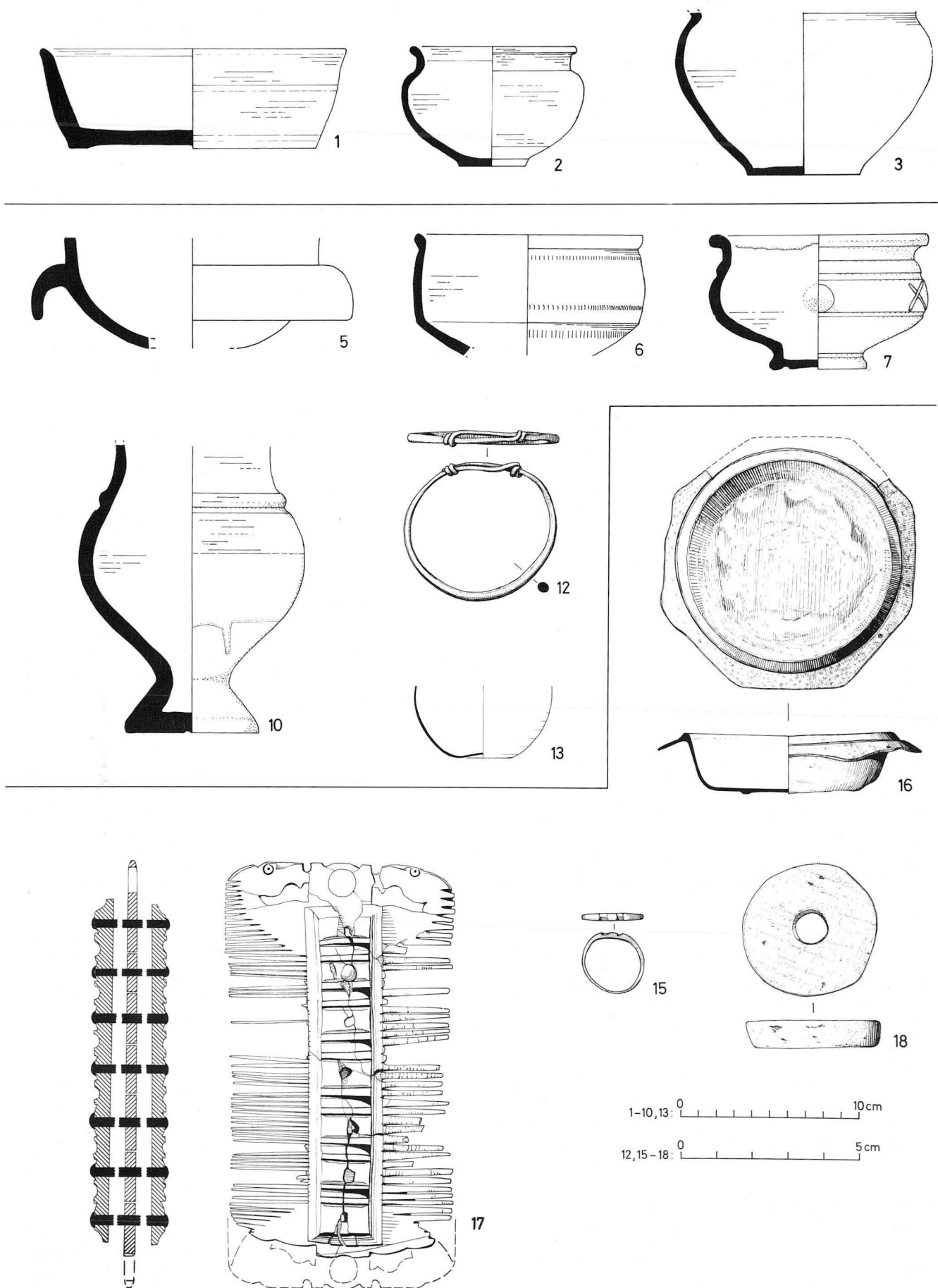


Figure 30 Finds from the votive pits: 1-3: Pit 304, scale 1:3; 5-13: Pit 200, scales 1:3 (5-10), 2:3 (12), 1:2 (13); 15-18: Pit 219, scale 2:3.

- No. 13** Bulbous body of glass **flask** with slight omphalos base; light green, bubbly. Later 4th century, cf. examples from Lankhills (Harden 1979, 212, fig. 27.VI, p. 217) and Burgh Castle (Harden 1983, fig. 37, 79-80).
- No. 14** (*not illus.*). Fragment of upper **quern stone** of Millstone Grit with well-finished smooth convex upper surface and bearing a row of parallel diagonal grooves on the lower surface, 55 mm thick.

Pit 219 (Figs 26, 29-30)

Also south of the shrine, with two fills: the upper, LI, was black loam with charcoal, fired chalky boulder clay and some oyster shell. It contained 2 coins, a copper alloy finger-ring (Fig. 30, No. 15) and seven iron hob-nails. In the centre, set upright and resting on the lower fill was a pewter dish (Fig. 30, No. 16) with a bone comb (Fig. 30, No. 17) lying to the west. The lower fill, LII, was a fairly clean, soft orange brickearth with some charcoal and fired clay, an oyster shell and some bone fragments. A spindle whorl (Fig. 30, No. 18) lay c. 12 mm below the pewter dish. There were a further six coins; all eight are copies of the Fallen Horseman (CK 25) reverse struck in 350-5, and therefore dated 350-60. The absence of earlier issues (330-48), and of issues of the House of Valentinian (364-78), and the presence of eight similar coins in one group suggests that this pit was filled between 355 and 365.

Pottery (not illustrated)

Fabrics 2, 4, 25, 51.

Finds (Fig. 30)

- No. 15** **Finger-ring** of copper alloy. The metal is almost worn through opposite the bezel, which is decorated simply with two grooves. Crummy 1983, no. 1768. *Internal diam.*: 16 mm.
- No. 16** **Flanged pewter bowl**, by David Brown *Internal diam.*: 115 mm. *Depth*: 33 mm. Octagonal flanged rim, part of which is missing (ancient damage). Cast in one in a stone mould and polished on a lathe. The surface here does not preserve the polish lines, but two scars are visible on the footring, which are two of the three points where the spikes on the face-plate of the lathe penetrated the metal, and had subsequently to be stopped up; vertical lines on the inner edge of the bowl, giving a fine milled effect, are probably due to vibration of the tool during lathe turning. The bowl and rim has subsided slightly since manufacture.

This vessel shape, with or without pedestal (those pieces with pedestals all started like this), is quite common, and many hoards contain similar examples, for instance at Bath (Cunliffe 1969, 66-8); Appleford (Brown 1973, 188-9.7); Icklingham (B.M. 44.2-23, 7-8; B.M. 53.4-11, 1-2; Ipswich Mus. R 1936 244.15). Pewter is difficult to date with certainty. Most pieces come from late hoards but there are some, significant, finds from 2nd and 3rd-century deposits showing that manufacturing was not confined to the end of the Roman period. This shape, however, is not before the fourth century, and this piece is likely to be of that date. It is, almost certainly, a copy of silverware.

For a second pewter bowl, from the shrine foundation trench, see Fig. 34, No. 13.

- No. 17** **Bone comb**, by S. J. Greep

Double-sided composite comb, 111 mm long with one side of coarse teeth and one of fine. It consists of seven antler plates¹ held by a similar number of iron rivets passed through a connection plate² 96 mm long, on either side of the comb. The teeth are worn and numbers of fine and coarse teeth, as well as one of the ends, lost.

The ends are of tapering section, thickest at the centre. The surviving end has rounded corners and a pair of 'U'- and 'V'-shaped nicks. A zoomorphic effect is produced by single ring and dots placed towards the upper and lower edges in front of cut-out sections. A single round hole 8 mm diameter, for suspension, is placed centrally, immediately in front of the connection plate. The connection plate has a two-tiered, stepped, cross-section. It is decorated with alternate concave and convex sections, the iron rivets being placed through the convex areas.

The comb fits well into the series of late Roman double-sided composite combs. These show a considerable degree of variation³ and although the combination of decoration on the ends and connection plates of the Great Dunmow comb cannot be paralleled in association, individual elements can be matched on other combs of the period. The 'straight' ends with rounded corners and only a small series of 'nicks' as decoration are difficult to parallel. This simple decoration with cut-outs behind is found, however, on a comb from Woodhall, Yorkshire (Manby 1965, fig. 2, no. 7) although the cut-outs are larger than on the Great Dunmow comb. The small ring and dot and cut-out decoration is seen on a well-published, but rather irregular, comb from Beadlam, Yorkshire (Stead 1971, fig. 5, no. 4) but the cut-outs and ends are rather differently shaped. The large central perforation found on the end of the Great Dunmow comb is unusual. Although a number of Romano-British combs have smaller perforations in a central position these are typically in groups rather than singly as on a comb from Great Chesterford (unpubl.; Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Acc. No. 48.868). Larger perforations are found on a number of comb ends but in pairs or triplets as at Lankhills (Galloway 1979, fig. 31, nos 323 and 479). The cross-section of the connection plate is well within the range of late Roman examples, the 'stepped' effect being typical of this period (Galloway 1979, fig. 31). Its decoration is closely matched by that on a comb from Colchester (N. Crummy 1983, fig. 59, no. 1857, dated c. AD 350-450) and to a lesser extent by one from York (Home 1924, facing p. 179).

Though not paralleled exactly, the individual features of the comb fall well within the range of late Roman combs. The overall rectangular proportions and 2:1 ratio of length to width is a typical feature of combs of this period and the estimated 74 fine and 43 coarse teeth is well within the variations recorded elsewhere⁴. The wide variations shown in detail on these combs may be a result of products being 'made to order' from pre-manufactured blanks (Galloway 1979, 247-8; Galloway and Newcomer 1981, 85-9).

The late date of the Great Dunmow comb is well paralleled elsewhere as at Lankhills where 'twelve of the thirteen graves where they occurred dated from after c. AD 365' (Galloway 1979, 247). Its relative completeness is unusual, however, since such combs are rarely found intact outside funerary contexts.

A single tooth of a bone comb was recorded in Cremation 17 (p. 19).

- No. 18** **Spindle whorl**, 37 mm in diameter, with a central hole 8.5 mm across. It is smooth and well-formed from a sherd of orange fabric, 7 mm thick, micaceous but with no visible inclusions. This is probably from a 3rd-4th century pot from the Much Hadham kilns (Fabric 4).

Notes

1. Although combs are often described as being manufactured in bone, antler is the material most commonly utilised; for the possible reasons see MacGregor and Currey 1983.
2. For the descriptive terms used in this note see Galloway 1977.
3. Compare, for example, the range of combs from Lankhills (Galloway 1979).
4. I have recorded examples of late Roman combs with between 36-58 coarse and 53-76 fine teeth per side. The relative proportions of teeth on combs are more typically recorded in terms of teeth per 10 mm. The figures for the Great Dunmow comb of 4 per 10 mm of coarse and 8 per 10 mm of fine teeth are well within the range recorded for other combs of the period.

The gravel-floored building 276, and its finds (Figs 26-7, 31-2)

To the west of the shrine and clearly associated with it, was another building, for which the only surviving evidence is its gravel floor, 276. This seals various features, including the corner of the double Ditch 216/320, which contains sherds of shell-tempered pottery in its fill. Thus 276 should post-date AD 360. It was probably contemporary with the Shrine Phase I. The black loam, LI, lying over 276, contained fifty-seven coins from Barbarous Radiates (270-290) to Honorius (392-402); many fragments of copper alloy ribbon-strip bracelets and other articles of

jewellery; and two flame-rounded rims of glass beakers, dated to *c.* AD 400. All lie within the confines of the building, as defined by the gravel floor, and must be regarded as votive objects. A further seventeen coins, ranging from Urbs Roma (330-5) to Honorius (392-402) come from the subsoil clearance levels over the same area. One possible timber slot marking the southern edge of the building was found (329). Its fill, which contained a coin of Valentinian I, consisted of dirty loamy yellow brickearth above a loose leached brickearth. Elsewhere on the site this has been interpreted as periglacial activity; there is no direct connection between it and the gravel floor which tends to merge with a natural gravel lens in the subsoil two metres to the north.

Pit 295 (Fig. 4, S10)

Cut Pit 322 and Ditch 320, and must be regarded as being associated with the building, since it also contained (Figs 31-2) two copper alloy bracelet fragments, a late glass vessel rim, as well as late pottery. Alongside it was Post-hole 323.

The greater part of a very abraded 1st century grog-and sand-tempered lid-seated jar (G5, 45) was found in 276 LI. Its base and some rim sherds were found in 273 LI; it would appear to have been dug up during Period V.2-3, probably out of an earlier cremation, and redeposited in the late loam levels.

Dating evidence

- 329 (?Timber slot) *Coin:* Valentinian I, 364-375, CK 967.
 295 (Pit) *Coin:* House of Constantine, 350-360, Copy as CK 25; *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 2, 3, 4 (Fig. 55, Nos. 8, 13), 51; *Glass:* bowl rim, Fig. 32, No. 24.
 323 (Post-hole) *Misc. pottery:* Fabrics 4, 30, 51; Nene Valley parchment, jar, Fig. 55, No. 33.

Layer I over 276

There was no proper terminus for this level, which merged into the subsoil. It contained coins to Honorius (see below), and two glass beaker rims datable to *c.* AD 400, and thus was certainly still accumulating during the Shrine Phase 2 (p. 41) and perhaps beyond. In view of the almost pulverised state of the pottery, most, if not all of it was residual, and probably decades old, when it was deposited. The forms and fabrics, which include Nene Valley, Oxford and Hadham colour-coats, as well as Alice Holt and late shell-tempered pottery, are identical with the Shrine Phase 1 deposit quantified below (see p. 66-71).

The finds

The coins (L I over Gravel Floor 276)

—	—	Fragment
3 × Barbarous Radiate	270-290	Reverse illegible
2 × —	3rd-4th cent	Illegible
—	4th cent	Illegible ae 4
2 × —	4th cent	Illegible minim
3 × —	4th cent	Illegible
Urbs Roma	330-335	HK 190
2 × Helena	337-341	HK 112, HK 128
Constans	337-341	HK 133
House of Constantine	330-345	Copy as HK88
4 × House of Constantine	350-360	Copy as CK 25
5 × Valentinian I	364-375	As CK 96, as CK 317, CK 478, as CK 1323, CK 1408
2 × House of Valentinian	364-378	As CK 275 (one cut down)
6 × Valens	364-378	CK 282, CK 483, CK 510, CK 528 × 2, CK 987
2 × Gratian	367-375	CK 517, CK 529 (Baulk I, 276 II, III)

Gratian	367-378	CK 1013
Gratian	380-383	CK 371
Valentinian II	375-378	As CK 541 (Baulk I, 276 II, III)
Valentinian II	383-392	CK 789
2 × Magnus Maximus	387-388	As CK 560
Theodosius I	388-395	As CK 163
House of Theodosius	388-402	Reverse illegible
7 × House of Theodosius	388-402	As CK 162 (one from Baulk I, 276 II, III)
4 × House of Theodosius	388-402	As CK 796 (one from Baulk I, 276 II, III)
Arcadius	388-402	As CK 164
Honorius	392-402	As CK 572
Total	57	

Objects of copper alloy

(Fig. 31)

No. 1. Bronze stud, by S. A. Butcher and J. Bayley.

A circular stud of heavily leaded bronze, *diam.*: 20 mm, decorated with two rings of enamel round a central spot which may once have contained enamel. The rings are divided by metal ridges but the blocks of enamel within them are juxtaposed. The enamel in the outer ring consisted of ten alternating broad and narrow blocks. The narrow blocks were probably clear pale turquoise (almost colourless) while the larger blocks now appear dark but are too decayed to describe any more exactly. The inner ring is made up of eight alternating broad and narrow blocks. The broad ones were probably orange on the surface although the lower layers seem to have been clear green. The colour of the narrow blocks cannot be determined. There is a central shank projecting 4mm at the back. The edge of the disc is slightly notched. *Subsoil clearance over 276 (Cat. 1145).*

Many studs of this type have been found in Britain and on the continent. A close parallel from Pannonia is illustrated by Ibolya Sellye (1939, 66 and pl. VI, 10) and she notes numerous other examples from the province (Sellye 1939, 65, no. 30). They are also common in the Rhineland. A smaller version with only one ring of enamel found at Barburgh Mill (Breeze 1974, fig.8, no.41 and p. 162) was thought to belong to a group manufactured in north Britain. The style of decoration (*ie.* concentric rings of juxtaposed enamel) is also found on disc brooches and a date in the second half of the 2nd century seems likely.

No. 2 Tinned spoon shank, twisted for two-thirds of its length, and plain for the remaining 40mm; square in section. Very good condition with an even dull green patina and much plating surviving. *From Gravel Floor 276.*

The shaft is very similar to an example from Camerton (Wedlake 1958, fig 60.85) in a context dated 180-350 AD, and Lydney Park (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 19.93).

No. 3 Nail cleaner, 67mm long, with rolled end for suspension. The shaft is abraded, but there are signs of transverse grooving. *276 L I.*

No. 4 Pin, with dark bluish-green glass head, wound around shaft. *276 L I.*

No. 5 Chain of five figure-of-eight links. *276 L I.*

No. 6 Very fine chain consisting of a coiled link attached to a single, two doubles, a single, a double and another single; this arrangement is identical to one from Chelmsford (Wickenden, in Drury forthcoming, fig. 65.79). *276 L I.*

No. 7 Strip bracelet fragment decorated with punched dots in alternating vertical and diagonal lines. *276 L I.* A second fragment was also found.

No. 8 Small fragment of bracelet decorated with pairs of deep nicked faceting, creating a series of blocks, each filled by punched ring-and-dot. Very similar to an example from *Verulamium* (Frere 1972, fig. 32.33); see also Clarke 1979, fig. 37.110; Crummy 1983, fig. 44.1703-4. The eye terminal was discovered still clipped over the stud of the other terminal which is possibly of iron. *276 L I.*

No. 9 Length of bracelet decorated with a row of punched dots (Clarke 1979, type D1a). *276 L I.*

No. 10 Complete bracelet, bent out of shape; decorated with continuous punched ring-and-dot. For an exact parallel from Lydney, see Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 17, type E. *276 L I.*

No. 11 Elaborately decorated strip bracelet. The centre piece comprises two large ring-and-dots bordered on one side by herringbone and on the other by a central row of dots flanked by alternating dots and X's. One end tapers to an incomplete

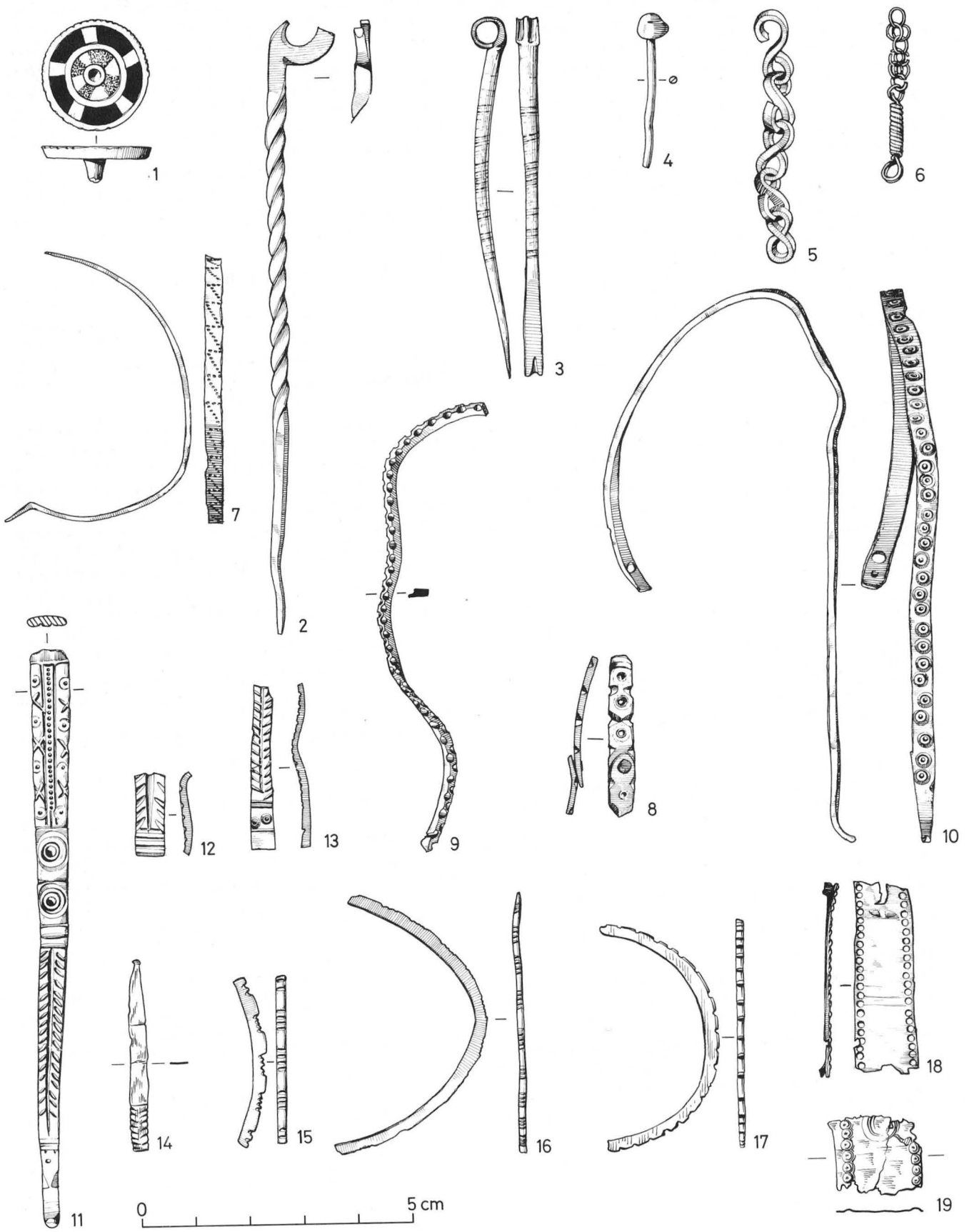


Figure 31 Copper alloy objects from Building 276 and Pit 295. Scale 1:1

hooked terminal; the other end of the fragment has been bent round into a ring, *c* 15 mm in diameter. For parallels from Lankhills and Lydney see Clarke 1979, fig. 37.525; Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 17, type D. 276 L I.

- No. 12** Short fragment of **strip bracelet** with herringbone and vertical ribbing. 276 L I.
- No. 13** Fragment of **strip bracelet** with herringbone and punched eye decoration. *Subsoil over 276 (Cat. 1166).*
- No. 14** **Bracelet** fragment with zone of crude herringbone decoration. *Pit 295.*
- No. 15** Short section of **bracelet** with crenellated edge, and toothing between the crenellations. A common 4th-century type: see Wheeler and Wheeler 1932, fig. 17.58 (Lydney); Clarke 1979, fig. 37.568 (Lankhills); Cool 1982, fig. 10.14 (Rochester); Crummy 1983, fig. 43.1659 (Colchester). 276 L I.
- No. 16** As No. 15, but much worn down. 276 L I.
- No. 17** Half extant 'cogged' **bracelet** (Clarke 1979, type D1d), narrowest side to wrist; the upper edge is decorated with V-shaped nicks. *Diam.: c. 40mm. Pit 295.*
- No. 18** **Binding strip**, 11mm wide, with a row of repoussé dots along each edge. 276 L I.
- No. 19** As No. 18, but with a repoussé circle in the centre. *Baulk (Cat. 111).*

(Not illustrated)

Sheet fragments, small lengths **wire bracelets**.

Iron

(Fig. 32)

- No. 20** Bar with loop terminal, ending in a dropped flat strip. ?**latch-lifter**. 276 L I.

(Not illustrated)

Nails.

Glass

(Fig. 32)

- Nos 21-2** Flame-rounded everted rims of **cone beakers**, see p. 44. 276 L I.
- No. 23** As Nos 21-2. *Subsoil over 276 (Cat. 1355).*
- No. 24** Rim of **bowl**, *c.* AD 400. *Pit 295.*
- No. 25** **Bead**, cylindrical in section; probably one of a series knocked off from a drawn out tubular rod. *Length: 2mm, diam.: 5mm. Opaque green. Baulk (Cat. 111).*

Fired clay

(Not illustrated)

- No. 26** Half worn **spindle whorl**, 32mm diameter, with central hole, 8mm across; fine micaceous orange fabric, grey core, possibly oxidised Hadham Ware (Fabric 4). 276 L I.

The Shrine 273 (Phase 2) and all shrine finds

(Figs 33-4)

In the decade 390-400, the structure was rebuilt. This involved pulling the storage jars out of Pit 299 (Fig. 4, S12-13). In doing so, some sherds fell back into the pit and were sealed by the collapsed packing, 273 L III. The remaining sherds were scattered widely, many being thrown into the hollows. On the same site, a crude platform, 303, of flint with some tile and chalky boulder clay was placed, sealing the hollows on the north and eastern sides. The eastern line of this new structure

consisted of four posts, 0.13-0.18m deep, held in the flint packing, terminating in Pit 220. This was 0.22m deep with sloping sides and filled with black loam, charcoal and fired clay; it contained a fragment of a late glass bowl rim (Fig. 34, No. 23), dated *c.* AD 400, as well as sherds of late shell-tempered ware and the Alice Holt jars. The western edge of the platform comprised post-holes, 0.08-0.16m deep, a possible post pad of a large piece of Alice Holt storage jar (Fig. 54, Nos 21-2) and terminating in Pit 230, which cut the hollow of Phase I (Fig. 4, S13), and also contained Alice Holt fragments, and much fired clay. Pit 277, cut into both the earlier floor and Pit 299, is also associated with Phase II (Fig. 4, S12-13).

To the south and in the middle of the gap between 220 and 230 is a double row of post-holes. These are aligned on the shrine and must be part of the Phase II arrangement; indeed, many are stone- and flint-packed: 209, 0.23m deep, with a packing of large flints; 244 with a packing of light brown and orange clay; 228, with large flints and stones packed in a dirty orange clay, and the setting for two or three posts, containing fired clay and charcoal; 243; 239, with a pebbly packing and a few flecks of fired clay; 250, 0.19m deep and contiguous with it, formed a pair with 209, and 298, 0.20m deep. 229 was possibly over-excavated and confused with the underlying ditch, 201, but appears to have been a shallow depression, 0.15m deep, filled with a dump of burnt material, charcoal, clay and chalk lumps.

Within and over the Phase II structure accumulated a dark loamy fill, 273 L I, which contained residual sherds of Oxfordshire red colour-coat, late shell-tempered ware and the Alice Holt jars; twenty-one coins from Victorinus (268-70) to the House of Theodosius and Arcadius (388-402); and a small group of sand- and grass-tempered Early Saxon sherds (see p. 45 and Fig. 35). This second phase can be dated *c.* 400-425.

The presence of land snails in Pit 299, 277 and in 273 LI might be taken as further evidence of what was essentially a crude building, open to the elements, with a presumed superstructure of timber and turf.

Included in the finds catalogue (below) is a group of copper alloy objects from the subsoil in Area A, which are probably to be seen as votive. None are further than 12m from the shrine. The group contains five finger-rings (one from Redbond Lodge), an important addition to the votive assemblage.

Dating evidence

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 303 (Stone setting) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics 4, 51. |
| 220 (Pit) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics 2, 3, 43, 51; <i>Glass:</i> bowl rim Fig. 34, No. 23. |
| 230 (Pit) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics 2, 3, 43, 47. |
| 273 LI (Shrine subsoil) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Saxon (p. 45; Fig. 35); Fabrics 2, 3, 4, 43, 51 (see p. 66-71). |
| 209 (Post-hole) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics 4, 43, 51. |
| 229 (Ash dump) | <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric 43. |
| 298 (Post-hole) | <i>Coin:</i> House of Theodosius, 388-402, as CK 162. |

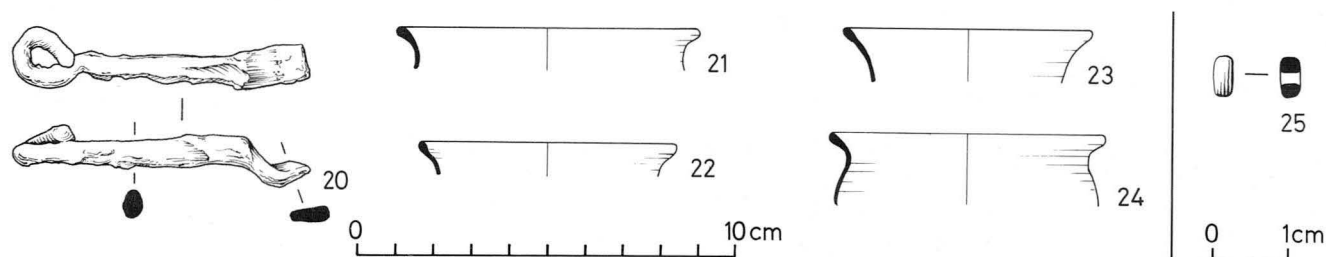


Figure 32 Iron and glass objects from Building 276 and Pit 295. Scales 1:2 (20-24), 1:1 (25)

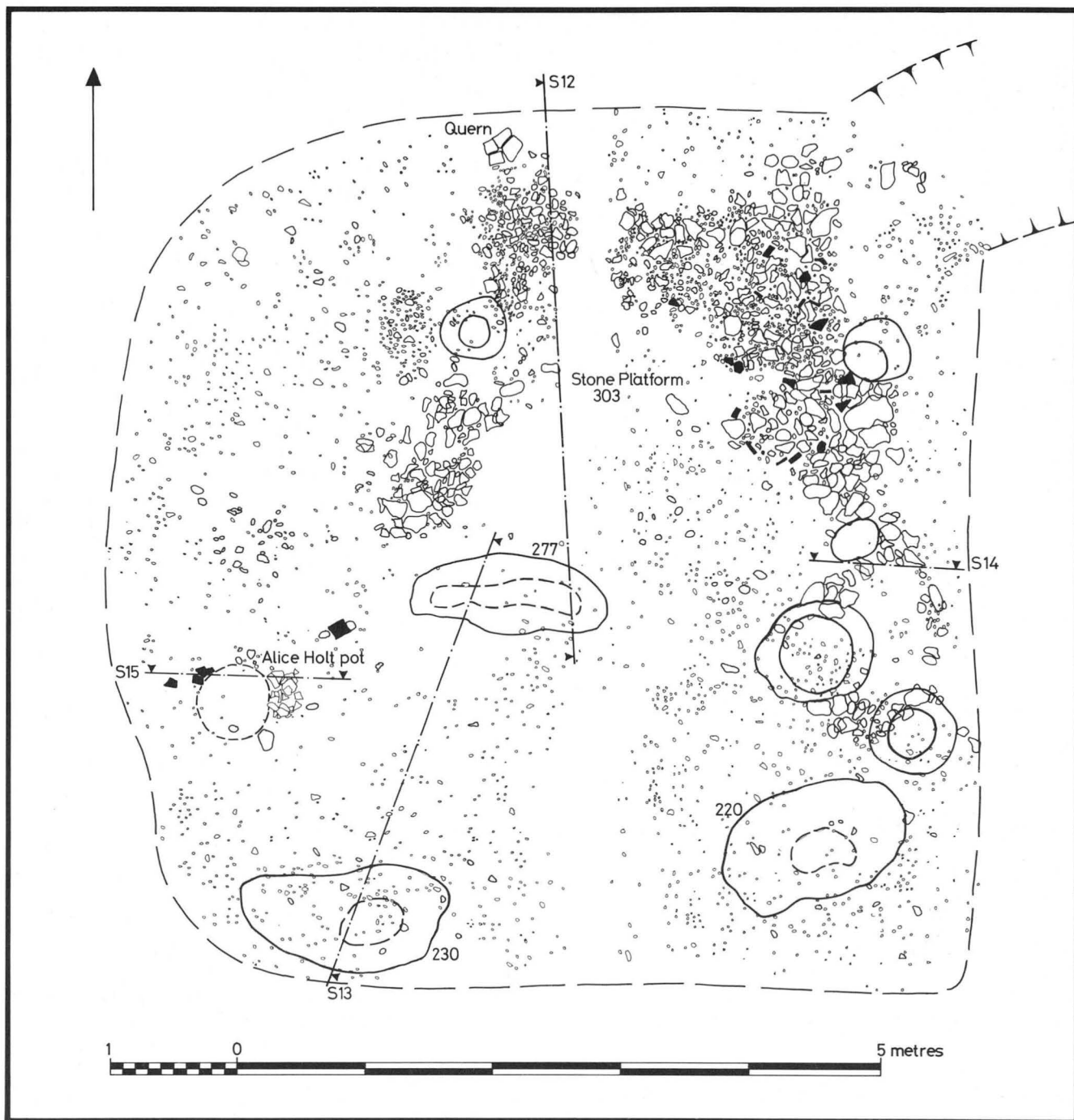


Figure 33 Shrine 273: Phase 2. Scale 1:50

The finds from Shrine 273 (Phases 1 and 2)

The coins

Level II, 273

House of Theodosius 388-402 As CK 796

The hollow Components (Cat numbers are given in brackets)
 2 × — 3rd-4th cent Illegible (224, 227)
 — 4th cent Copy minim (231)
 — 4th cent Illegible (245)
 House of Constantine 330-345 Copy as HK 48 (1056)
 4 × House of Constantine 350-360 Copy as CK 25 (218)
 Valentinian I 364-375 As CK 317 (218)

2 × House of Valentinian 364-378 As CK 96, (227)
 As CK 275 (1058)
 Valentinian II 383-387 CK 1091 (218)
 Theodosius I 388-395 As CK 797 (218)
 Arcadius 388-402 CK 164 (248)
 2 × House of Theodosius 388-402 As CK 162, (1045)
 As CK 796 (218)

Level I, 273

— 3rd-4th cent Illegible minim
 Urbs Roma 330-335 Copy as HK 51
 Gratian 367-375 As CK 503

Stone Platform 303

House of Theodosius 388-402 As CK 796

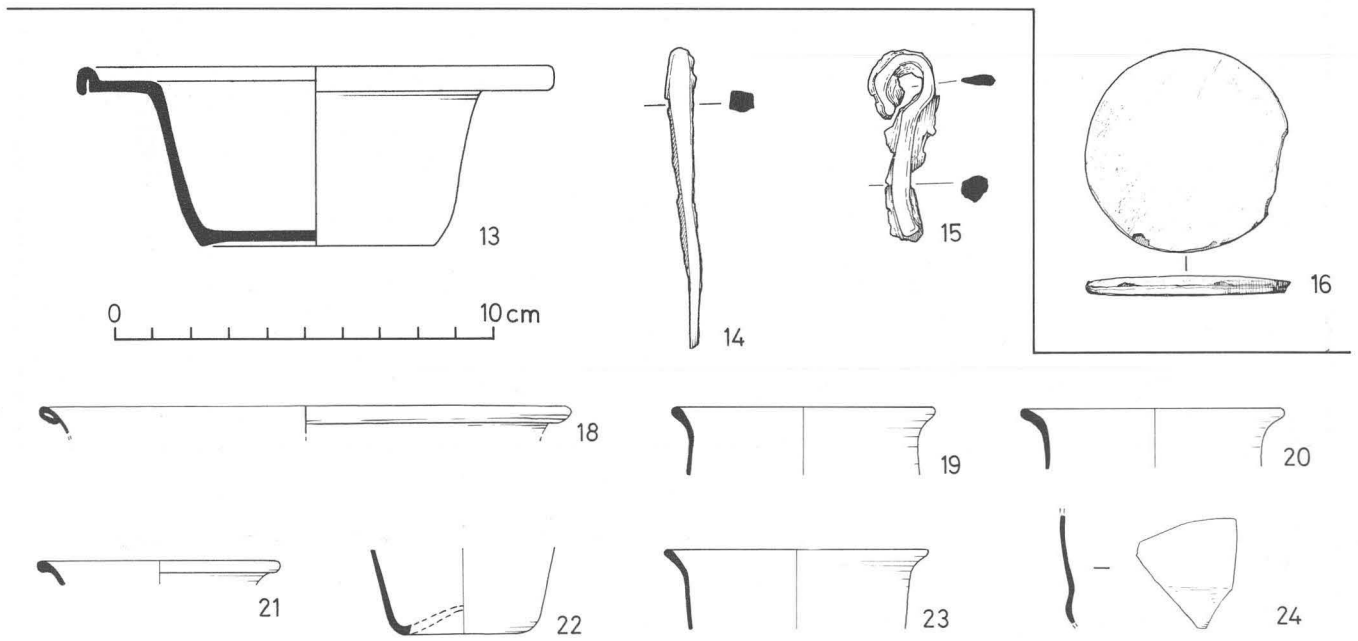
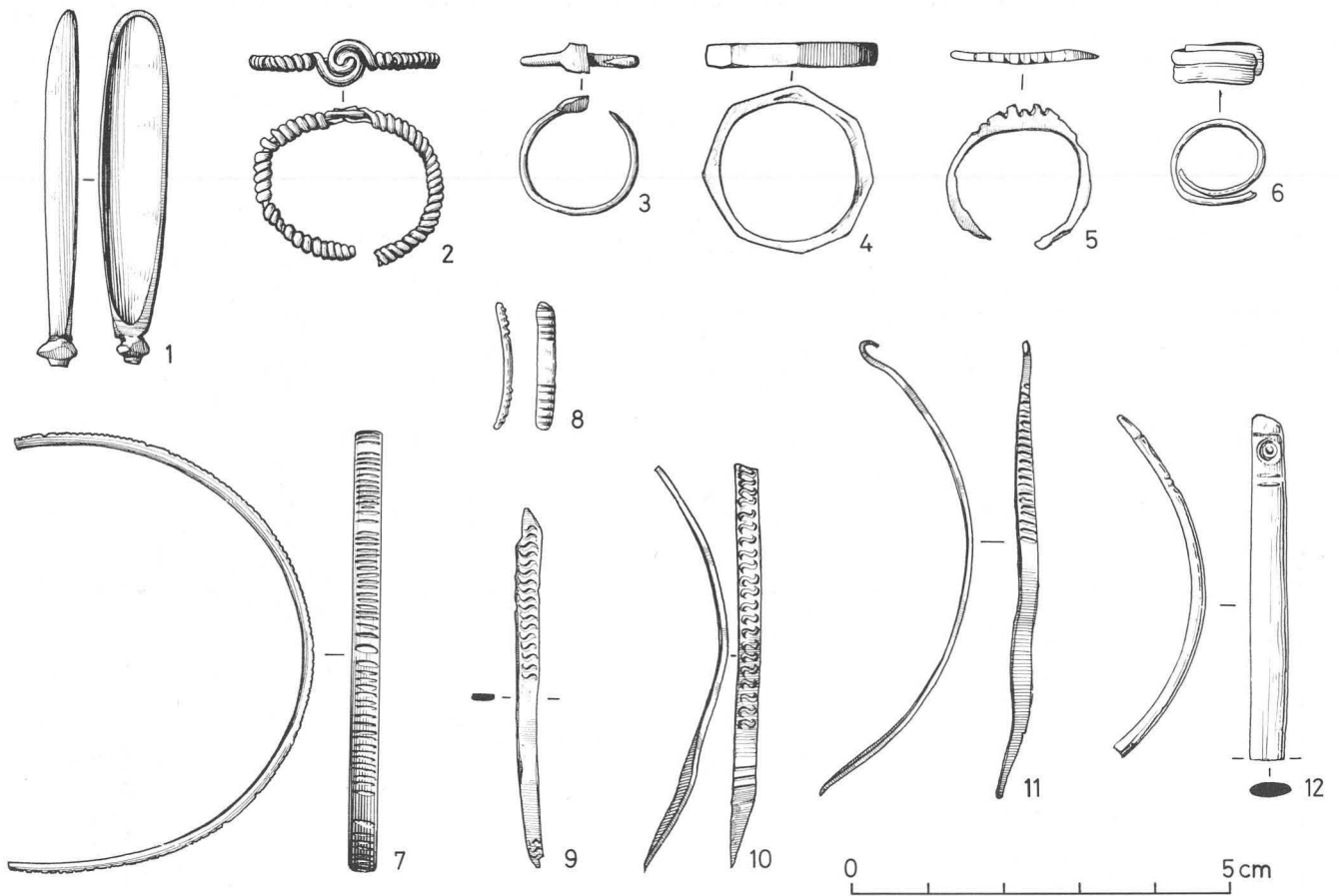


Figure 34 Finds from Shrine 273, and associated features: 1-12: copper alloy, scale 1:1; 13: pewter, scale 1:2; 14-15: iron, scale 1:2; 16: bone, scale 1:1; 18-24: glass, scale 1:2

Objects of copper alloy

(Fig. 34)

No. 1 Bowl of cosmetic spoon. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1147).*

No. 2 **Finger-ring**, intricately worked. *Internal diam.: 20×16 mm.* It consists of two halves, each comprising a single wire core with the second wire coiled tightly around it. The expanded coiled decoration in the centre forms the junction of the two halves, so that the first wire in the former becomes the second wire in the latter, and *vice versa*. The wiring is broken opposite the

junction, and it is clearly missing a terminal or, less probably, a second junction at that point. For parallels from Rudston and Silchester, see Stead 1980, fig. 63.28; Boon 1974, fig. 18.6. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*

No. 3 Small abraded **finger-ring**, probably for a child. One terminal survives and is simply flattened and splayed. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1167).*

No. 4 **Finger-ring** with eight external facets (*cf.* Goodburn 1984, fig. 10.62). Polygonal rings are more often found in more precious

- metals, eg. silver (Goodburn 1984, fig. 4.5); for one in a white metal, see Crummy 1983, fig. 51.1788. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1161).*
- No. 5** **Finger-ring**, worn completely through opposite the bezel which consists of a number of grooves. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1144).*
- No. 6.** Fragment of ribbon **strip bracelet**, decorated with a central groove, rolled into a ring, perhaps intended as a finger-ring for a child. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1150).*
- No. 7** **Bracelet**, decorated with continuous transverse grooving. *Diam.: c. 55 mm. Shrine Hollow 252.*
- No. 8** Short length of **bracelet**, with two zones of transverse grooving. *Shrine Hollow 218.*
- No. 9** Broken fragment of **strip bracelet**, decorated with parts of two punched zones of S's; most similar to a broken ring from Shakenoak (Brodrick *et al.* 1978, fig. 40.236). See also an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 44.1700). *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 82).*
- No. 10** Fragment of **strip bracelet** punched with continuous row of reversed S's. There are three vertical grooves where it tapers to a narrow hook terminal, of which the stub survives. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1171).*
- No. 11** Fragment of **strip bracelet** with zone of continuous vertical lines at hook terminal, which survives intact. *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1165).*
- No. 12** Fragment of **bracelet**, elliptical in section; plain except for a deeply punched ring-and-dot, bordered by very faint, worn pairs of vertical lines. *Subsoil Area A (Cat 1164).*

(Not illustrated)

Fragment plain **finger-ring**, *subsoil over 273 (Cat 1148)*; small **punch** or headless **nail**, sub-circular section, *Hollow 218*; **wire** fragment, ?**pin** or **needle shank**, *subsoil over 273 (Cat 21)*; **tweezers**, *subsoil, Area A (Cat 1147)*; misc. **sheeting** and fragments.

Pewter

(Fig. 34)

- No. 13** Plain flanged **dish**; totally corroded, drawn *in situ*; much distorted. Its identification as pewter (2/3 tin, 1/3 lead) was confirmed by X-ray fluorescence (AML 822860). *Placed upright on bottom of Hollow 253.*

Iron

(Fig. 34)

- No. 14** Square-sectioned **spike**. *Shrine Hollow 237.*
- No. 15** Small curving **bar** with loop terminal, much corroded. *Shrine Hollow 218.*

(Not illustrated)

Stylus in three fragments, originally 156 mm long, with traces of an inlaid decorative zone below a splayed triangular, flat head, *entrance trample (Cat 60)*; **nails**, including six with wood impressions, *Stone Platform 303.*

Bone

(Fig. 34)

- No. 16** **Gaming counter**, 22 mm in diameter, polished, slightly convex surface. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1382).*

Glass

(Fig. 34)

- No. 17** (Not illus.). Base of **bottle** or **flask** with slight omphalos, dark olive green. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1345).*
- No. 18** Folded rim of **bowl**, dark yellow-green. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1347).*
- No. 19** Flame-rounded everted rim of the **cone-beaker** type, bubbly light olive-green metal. See below. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1343).*
- Nos 20-1** As No. 19. No. 20, *Subsoil, Area A (Cat 1361)*; No. 21, *Well 207 L I.*
- No. 22** Kicked base of **cone beaker**, c. AD 400. *Subsoil over 273 (Cat 1346).*

There is little doubt that flame-rounded rims, as Nos. 19-21, replace the characteristic knocked-off rim of the standard late Roman cylindrical/truncated cone beaker (Islings 1957, form 106 b-c) in the last quarter of the 4th century; they further continue into the post-Roman period on other drinking vessel forms. The classic group of late Roman cups and beakers with similar flame-rounded, everted rims comes from Burgh Castle (Harden 1983, 81-8, fig. 37, pl. XII), which Harden now believes to have been deposited in the first quarter of the 5th century. Other similar fragments are known from Essex: Chelmsford (Charlesworth in Drury forthcoming, fig. 75.15); Heybridge (Harden in Drury and Wickenden 1982, fig. 12.24; Wickenden 1987, fig. 12.51-2); Ivy Chimneys, Witham (Allen in prep.).

- No. 23** Rim of **bowl**, c. AD 400. *Pit 220.*

- No. 24** Sherd of indented **beaker**, approaching base; light olive-green bubbly. *Shrine Hollow 218.*

Stone

- No. 25** (Not illus.). Fragment of ?re-used **lower stone** of Rhenish lava, c. 0.25 m thick, with worn grooving pattern on the upper face of concentric circles round the edge and inner set of opposing diagonals. *Diam.: c. 0.46 m.* The underside is heavily decorated. *Shrine Hollow 233.*
- No. 26** (Not illus., see p. 60, No. 9). Large fragment of Millstone Grit **quern**, 18-25 mm thick; part of off-centre hole surviving, probably part of its turning mechanism; *diam.: c. 0.46 m.* Both faces are smooth and worn concave; subsequently broken into 4 fragments. *Shrine Hollow 253.*
- No. 27** (illustrated as Fig. 48, No. 15) **Whetstone**, pinkish grey micaceous sandstone. *Shrine Hollow 233.*

A Summary of the votive coins

by Richard Reece

Coins directly associated with Shrine 273 are either firmly dated to 350-402 or, in four cases, are uncertain within the 4th century. Only one legible coin pre-dates 350, and that only by a few years. The coins in the subsoil of the shrine area (not listed separately) have a wider spread; from Marcus Aurelius to 402, and include more material from before 350 than the shrine itself. The coins directly associated with Building 276 include three Barbarous Radiates and five coins of the House of Constantine 330-48, but their main concentration begins in the 350's and continues through the House of Valentinian to the House of Theodosius and 402. The coins from the clearing levels over 276 are more uniformly spread out from 270 to 402. This is also true for the rest of the general finds from Area A.

The two Votive Pits 200 and 219 show a move to high coin loss around 350 or 350-60, and the coins directly associated with the shrine and Building 276 agree with high coin loss from 360 to 402. Building 276 may have a slight priority in use for the coins do suggest a beginning in the 350's, but any difference in starting date could not be more than ten years. Coin loss on the site certainly changes around 350 for the number of coins lost after 360 is far greater than the representation of earlier issues would predict. The major jump seems to come with the issues of 345-8, just the issues present in Pit 200.

One point that needs careful handling is the interpretation of this change in coin loss. If we assume that throughout the Roman period coin loss is directly and constantly related to the activity on the site, then activity on the site must increase around 345-8. But the use and loss of coins might be a fashion which changes and might bear no direct or constant relationship to activity on the site. In this second case the activity might be constant and the coin loss might measure the extent to which the people on the site related to a Roman form of coin use. This second alternative is unlikely to be popular but it needs to be kept in mind. In general, coin use in Britain seems to become widespread after 260 (Reece 1972) and this has been interpreted as a change in economic life. If economic life became thus Romanized only after two centuries of occupation it would not be at all surprising if more private parts of life such as religion became Romanized in coin use and buildings somewhat later. Coin loss on religious sites is unusually high in the 2nd half of the 4th century (Reece 1980), but this may be the Romanization of an already thriving activity rather than a new departure of the 340's.

The Early Saxon pottery

Eight sherds of handmade Saxon pottery were found in the subsoil layers above the Shrine 273. All are in a local brickearth fabric (**1B**; see Drury and Wickenden 1982, 13), tempered with *added* dense organic particles, perhaps chopped grass, and some sand and crushed flint. They are well-fired and grey-brown. All are undecorated.

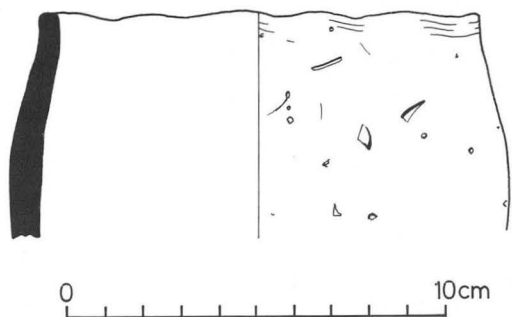


Figure 35 Early Saxon pottery, from the subsoil over Shrine 273. Scale 1:2

Fig. 35 Jar, upright rim, light brown-grey. Subsoil over shrine (Cat 48).

Catalogue

Cat No	Sherd No	Weight (gms)
25 (Subsoil)	2	15
40 (Subsoil)	1	5
48 (Subsoil)	3	50 (including Fig. 35, and one small rim fragment).
76 (Subsoil)	1	45
199 (Clearing)	1	5
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 120

Whilst the form and fabric is undiagnostic of any particular century within the Saxon period, their stratigraphical relationship in the subsoil over the shrine 273, suggests a date in the early 5th century. The possibility must nevertheless remain that they are later, and contemporary with the assemblage found in the upper fills of Gravel Pit 857 (See below).

XII. Period VI: The ?Middle Saxon Period, 7th-9th Centuries

(Fig. 36)

After a hiatus of a century or more, the hollow still extant above the Roman fills in Gravel Pit 857 was utilised for some form of sunken-floored building. This probably involved digging into the Roman silts a little way and piling the spoil up around the outside of the hollow. By doing this the late 4th century accumulation was disturbed and was redeposited through weathering in this phase. This also accounts for some Saxon pottery occurring in the Roman levels (*ie.* L 442, 485, 459). It is not possible to reconstruct the structure to any great extent; a row of small post-holes in the south-west corner, 340-343, 481, 491, 1430, terminating in a slot probably indicates some form of timber and turf wall. The angle of the post-pipes indicated that the posts inclined inwards. Along the southern side are a sharp ledge, probably plank-lined to have retained its shape, and two post-holes, set in from the side by approximately 1m. Elsewhere the evidence is more tenuous and affected by plough damage, though there was probably a ramp access from the east. A flint pad lying directly on

top of the undisturbed lower Roman levels in the centre of the hollow perhaps supported a post holding up the roof, or possibly supported a raised wooden floor. The only evidence in favour of the latter possibility is the fact that the lowest fill attributed to the Saxon cut of the pit is a light brown-grey silt (L 450), fairly pebble-free, with some charcoal flecking, which might be interpreted as a build-up of material falling between raised floor-boards. Immediately below L 450, in the centre of the hollow, was a black sludge, L 451, representing possibly the trample caused during the construction of the building (Fig. 37, S16-18).

The overall impression of the structure is a fairly crude, *ad hoc* building with walls of turf and timber; a scatter of Roman tile and building stone in the fill levels might also indicate a scavenging of building materials, re-used and incorporated in the structure. Indeed the presence of seven large iron staples (see Fig. 39, No 6) suggests the robbing of a nearby masonry structure. Four of these came from Post-hole 949, and one from Post-hole 444, both filled with L 443; one came from L 443 itself; the seventh came from L 450. These were either re-used in the Saxon structure (see for instance a stone fragment with suitable drilled holes, p. 60, No.16), or were collected for re-forging.

The subsequent levels (Fig. 37, S16-18) which accumulated in the hollow, L 437, 438, 466, mainly consisted of brown loamy and silty brickearth with varying amounts of gravel and pebble, and interleaving lenses (L 448) of charcoal, and contained a large quantity of Saxon pottery, and a polychrome bead (Fig. 39, No. 7). These fills consisted mainly of erosion material from the weathering of the sides and upcast bank. At what stage these accumulated is difficult to suggest. The large amount of Saxon pottery in them should indicate occupation levels, or derivation thereof, yet what of the suggested raised floor, and the iron masonry staples (if used in the structure at all) in the lower levels? Layers 437 and 466 probably represent the silting process following the dismantling or abandonment of the building. Indeed the lenses of charcoal may hint at some destruction by fire, if they are not to be interpreted as fuel ash scatter. Post-hole 838, part of the structure, was filled with L 448.

The Middle Saxon pottery

(Fig. 38)

Five hundred and twenty-six sherds (4.815 kg) of handmade Saxon pottery were recovered from the upper levels of the gravel pit. Of this total 210 sherds (2.635 kg) come from one large storage jar (Fig. 38, No. 1). Of the rest, a maximum of thirty-six vessels is represented. Three sherds (Fig. 38, Nos 2-4) have holes pierced before firing and are probably colanders; seven sherds had traces of burnishing; apart from these ten, however, the sherds are plain and undecorated.

The pottery was quantified by fabric and form within individual contexts. Four fabrics were present (after Drury and Wickenden 1982):

Fabric 1B Local brickearth tempered with *added* dense organic particles *eg.* chopped grass. The brickearth can naturally contain some sand and organic matter. Normally well-fired, grey-brown, though some buff oxidised pieces occur. This fabric accounts for 87.6% of the total.

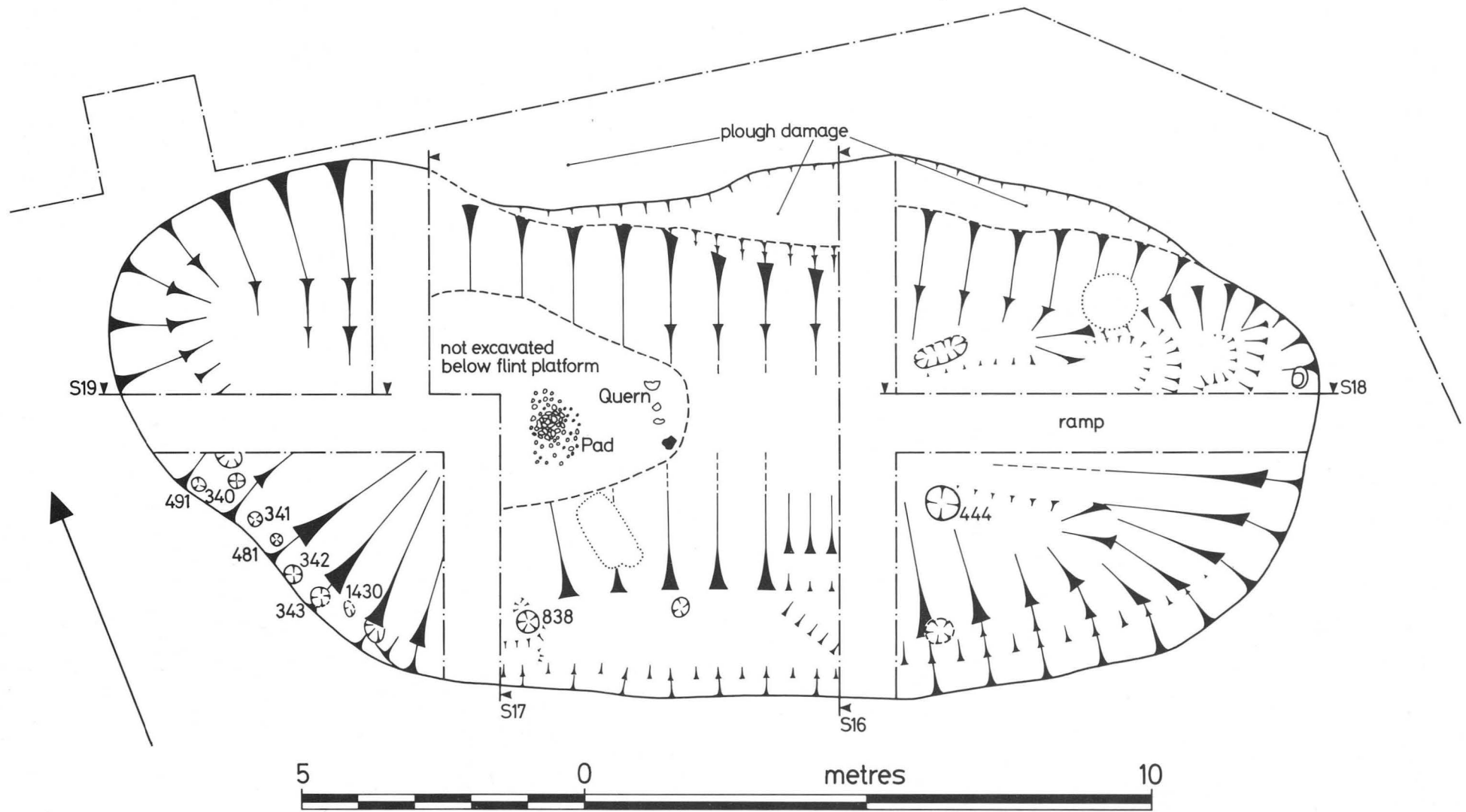


Figure 36 Period VI: the Saxon structure. Scale 1:100

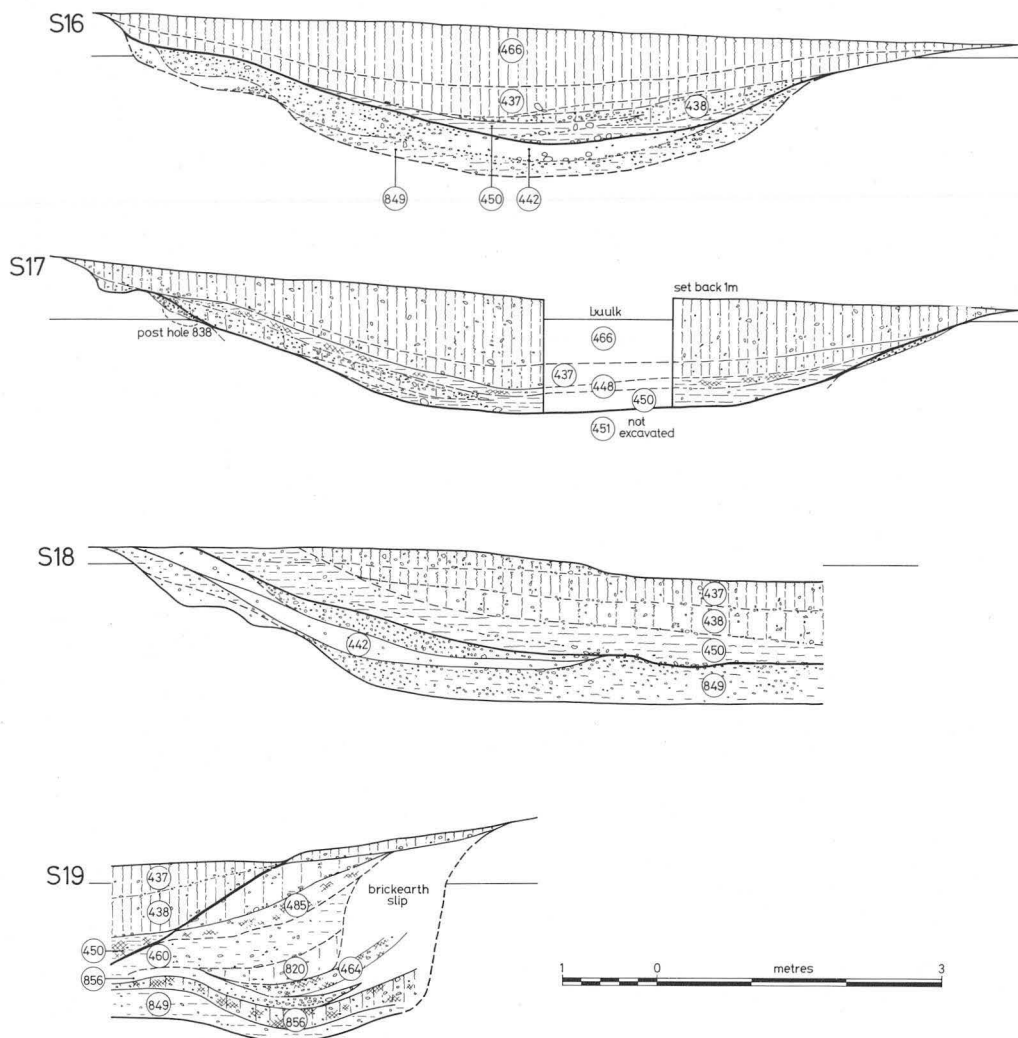


Figure 37 Gravel Pit sections S16-19, showing mid Saxon levels. Scale 1:80

- Fabric 1C** As Fabric 1B, but containing equal amounts of organic material and sand.
- Fabric 2** Plain local brickearth with no added tempering.
- Fabric 3** Similar to Fabric 2, except that it has moderate to abundant sand tempering. It is not always clear whether this is natural (*ie.* a sandier clay or added).

Forms

- B 51 A** Shallow bowl with plain, rounded or inturned rims (Fig. 38, No. 16).
- B 52** Deep Bowl.
- C 50 A, B** Plain bag-shaped pots with upright or everted rounded rims, ranging in diameter from 70mm to 200mm, with an average of 120mm. These account for 78.6% of all recognisable vessel types.
- C 53** Colander with holes pierced before firing (Fig. 38, Nos 2-3).
- C 54** Large shoulderless storage jar with everted rim (Fig. 38, No. 1). 39.5% of all sherds from the assemblage belong to this jar. This example is very much larger than what seems to be a standard Saxon size (*cf.* Hurst 1976, fig. 7.3.4. and 7.11.10).

Base Form A Vessels with a plain, flat base (Fig. 38, No. 17).

Catalogue of illustrated pottery (Fig. 38)

Form C 54

No. 1 Very large **storage jar**, Fabric 1B. Hard, grey-brown; abraded internally towards the base, which is missing. *For the contexts in which it was found, see Table 11 (MF 1.L).*

Form C 53

- No. 2a** Plain, upright rim of **colander bowl**, Fabric 1C. Oxidised buff. Layer 437 (Cat 447).
- No. 2b** ?Base of **colander**, as No. 2a. L448.
- No. 3** Small fragment of **colander bowl**; plain, upright rim with part of one hole. Fabric 1B. Dark brown, abraded. (Cat 800).

Form C 50 A

- No. 4** Thick abraded **jar** with everted rim, dark grey. Fabric 3 (Cat 800).
- No. 5** Everted rim of a **jar**, dark grey-brown. Fabric 1B. L 448. (Cat 844).
- No. 6** As No. 5. Layers 438, 437, 435 (Cats 449, 468, 803, 807).
- No. 7** **Jar** with small everted rim, traces of burnishing on the interior. Brown-black. Fabric 1B. L 448 (Cat 844).
- No. 8** Everted rim of **jar**, black, burnished on inside. Fabric 1B. L 435 (Cat 445).
- No. 9** Everted rim of **jar**, brown. Fabric 1B. (Cat 800)
- No. 10** As No. 7. Smooth, burnished lightly overall. Layers 437, 438, 448 (Cats 447, 449, 800, 844).
- No. 11** **Jar** with small everted rim and reverse S-shaped profile. Much vegetable tempering, light brown-black. Fabric 1B. L 437 (Cat 456).

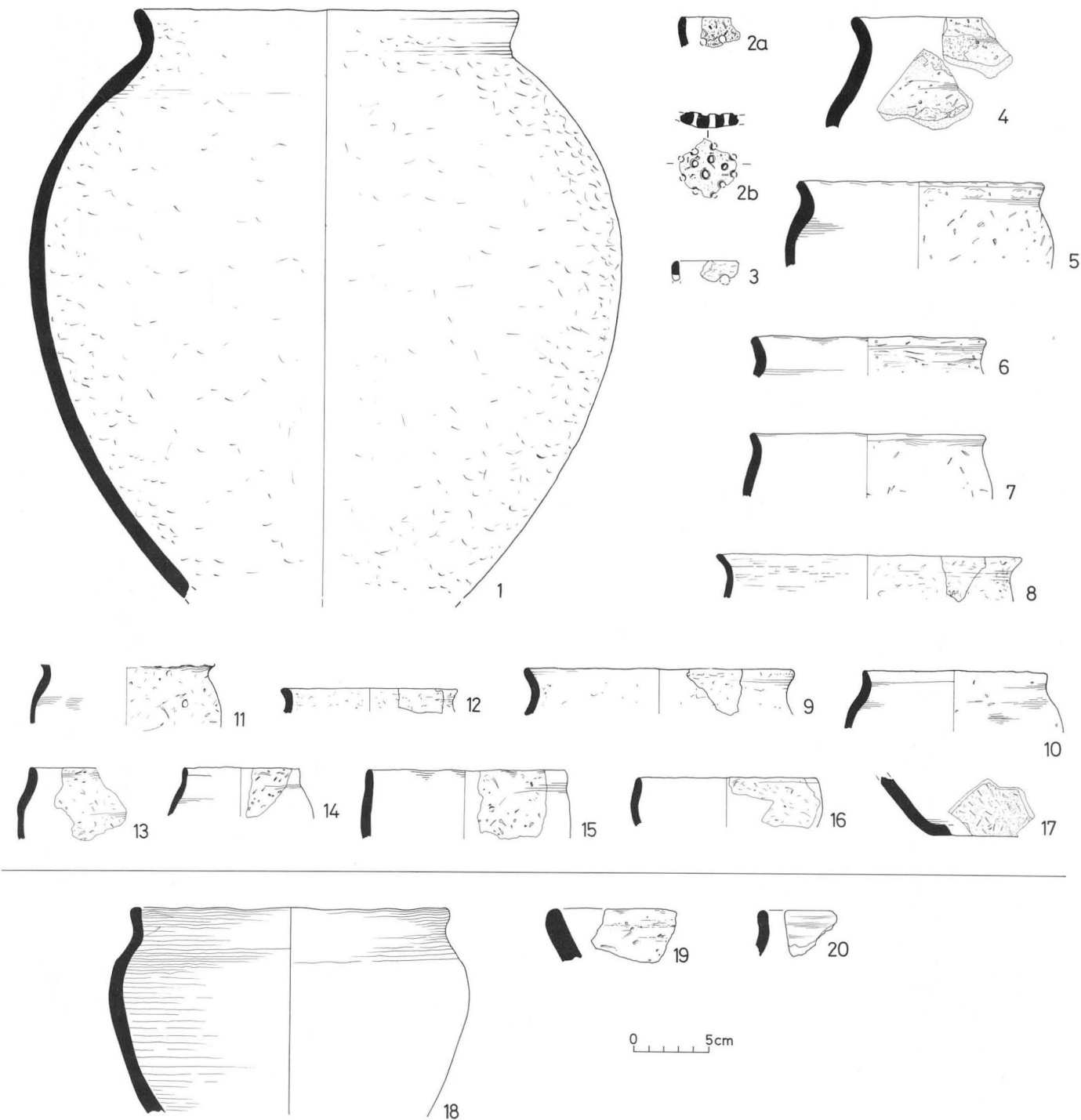


Figure 38 Saxon pottery: 1-17: Chequers Lane; 18: New Street; 19-20: Market Garden. Scale 1:4

- No. 12** Everted rim of **jar**, dark brown. Fabric **1B**. L 437 (Cat 456).
No. 13 **Jar** with inturned, upright rim, dark grey-brown. Fabric **1B**. L 448.
Form C 50 B
No. 14 Small **jar**, upright rim. Oxidised orange. Fabric **1C**. L 448 (Cat 806).
Form B 52
No. 15 Deep **bowl**, plain rim, smooth. Fabric **1B**. L 437 (Cat 447).
Form B 51 A
No. 16 Small, shallow **bowl**, curving wall and inturned plain rim. Weathered, much vegetable inclusion, dark brown. Fabric **1C**. L 448 (Cats 800, 844).
Base Form A
No. 17 Plain flat base, dark brown, sooting internally. Fabric **1B**. L 437 (Cat 813).

Discussion and dating

No separate dating evidence is available to put these sherds in their chronological context. There is no decoration, save for a handful of burnished sherds, to help with dating or identifying the users of the pottery; but this total lack of decoration, combined with the distinctive, hard grey, vegetable tempered fabric, and the plain, handmade, bag-shaped forms, are all characteristic features of Middle Saxon pottery of the 7th to 9th centuries in Essex (see Fig. 65 and gazetteer of sites, MFI.K). A mid-7th-century date is suggested by Bradwell-on-Sea (Rodwell 1976, 236) and Wicken Bonhunt (Wade 1980, 98). Ipswich Ware also



Figure 39 Finds from the Saxon layers in the Gravel Pit 857. 1-4: copper alloy, scale 1:1; 5-6: iron, scale 1:2; 7, 9, 10: glass beads, scale 1:1; 8: clay bead, scale 1:1; 11: glass, scale 1:2; 12: stone, scale 1:1

occurs at Asheldham (Drury and Rodwell 1978, 137, 146). The growing number of sites producing this pottery, including Mucking in 7th-century *grubenhäuser* (H. Hamerow, pers. comm.), has provided no reason yet for abandoning this mid-7th-century date, after which there is a hiatus in the pottery until the appearance of Saxo-Norman, principally Thetford Wares (Cunningham 1982b, 360), except at sites like Wicken Bonhunt, which are wholly exceptional.

For a jar from 36, New Street, probably of the same date, see Figure 38, No. 18, as well as sherds from the nearby Market Garden site (Fig. 38, Nos 19-20). For eight sherds, found over Shrine 273, and allocated to the early 5th century, see p. 45 (Fig. 35).

The other finds

(Fig. 39)

The following were found in the Saxon layers of Gravel Pit 857 and are illustrated as one group, though clearly finds of both Roman and Saxon date are represented.

The coins

			Layer
Elagabalus	218-222	Silver denarius RIC 107	448
Barbarous Radiate	270-290	reverse Sacrificial Implements	438
2 × Barbarous Radiate	270-290	reverse Sacrificial Implements	438
2 × Barbarous Radiate	270-290	reverse Virtus, Pax	485
—	4th century	illegible Ae 4	as L 436
—	4th century	illegible	459
Urbs Roma	330-335	HK 65	Cat 1133, Subsoil
House of Constantine Constans	330-345 345-348	Copy as HK 48 As HK 138	448 Cat 1126, Subsoil
House of Constantine Valens	350-360 364-378	Copy as CK 25 As CK 516	454 Cat 1127, Subsoil
Gratian	378-383	CK 552	453
2 × House of Theodosius	388-402	As CK 162	437, 816
Arcadius	388-402	As CK 164	459

Objects of copper alloy (Fig. 39)

- No. 1** **Finger-ring**, very delicate with overlapping, flattened terminals, decorated with light grooving. *L 474 (Cat. 1406).*
- No. 2** **Pin**, head and part of shaft. *L 460 (Cat. 1408).*
- No. 3** **Buckle tongue**, now bent out of shape. Two side projections at the top must be pivots which fitted in the buckle; above these, the tongue ends in a bifurcated point. *L 451 (Cat. 1404).*
- No. 4** Heavy **strip bracelet**, D-shaped in section, decorated with two continuous horizontal grooves, also X's and diagonal grooving on the taper to a terminal, not surviving. As *L 436 (Cat. 804).*

(Not illustrated)

Figure-of-eight **link**, *L 485 (Cat. 1407)*; small decorative **rivet**, *L 485 (Cat. 805)*; **ferrule**, *L 448 (Cat. 1402)*; cut-out **sheeting** fragment, *L 448 (Cat. 844)*; pierced **sheeting**, as *L 435 (Cat. 445).*

Objects of iron (Fig. 39)

- No. 5** **Socketed spearhead**, probably with a mid-rib, though badly corroded. Its date is uncertain; whilst of a Roman type, it remains feasible that it is Saxon. *Length: 194 mm. L 442*

No. 6 Large masonry staple. *L 443 (Cat. 949).*

A further five similar staples came from the same layer and one from 450. All are uniform in measurement, c. 135 × 65 mm, allowing for the effects of corrosion and conservation (see p. 58, Nos 49-54).

See also: Fig. 43, No. 3, **Chisel** (*L 462*); Fig. 44, No. 26, **spike** with loop terminal (*L 461*); Fig. 45, No. 45, small **nail**, folded over head, *subsoil (Cat. 492)*; Fig. 45, No. 57, **small tool** (*L 459*); not illus., **ring binding** (*L 453*).

Objects of glass (Fig. 39)

- No. 7** Fragment of an **Anglo-Saxon polychrome bead**, translucent bluish-green, decorated with a spiral of alternate layers of yellow, blue, green and white. *Diam.: c. 35 mm, thickness: 22 mm. Subsoil (Cat. 1379).*
- No. 8** Cylindrical **bead**, pale green frit. 14 × 6 mm, irregular thread hole; *diam.: 1.5-3 mm. ?Saxon. L 448 (Cat. 844).*
- No. 9** Half 'doughnut' **bead**, translucent bluish-green. Very irregular shape. *Diam.: 17 mm. L 488 (Cat. 844).*
- No. 10** Half a short, oblate **bead**, translucent light green; a pinhead tube forms a decorative band. *L 448 (Cat. 1379).*
- No. 11** Kicked base of **bowl or beaker** c. AD 400. *Subsoil (Cat. 1371).*
- A third of all glass fragments found in the excavations came from the Saxon, or subsoil, layers of Gravel Pit 857; all are small residual pieces; for some which are illustrated see Fig. 47. One possible explanation is that they were collected deliberately for cullet.

Objects of stone (Fig. 39)

- No. 12** **Weight**, of coarse granular sandstone. The stone has become smoothed with use and has been tied around the middle, forming two grooves, one deeper than the other. *L 448.*
- No. 13** (*Fig. 48, No. 1*) Puddingstone **quern** fragment. *448 (Cat. 1439).*

(Not illustrated) but see p. 60-1

- No. 14** Abraded lump of white, crumbly, fossiliferous limestone bearing two **drilled circular holes** and a third ill-defined impression. *L 438 (Cat. 458).*

- Nos 15-16** Fragments of Rhenish Lava **quern upper stone**. *L 854, 487.*

Pottery

The following Roman fabrics were represented: **2, 3, 4, 25, 43, 48, 51, 55** (large piece of Dressel 20 amphora with rim and stamped handle, Fig. 57, No. 6).

XIII. Period VII: Medieval to Modern

(Figs 40-1)

After the brief period of Saxon occupation, the site reverted to agricultural usage. Features include Ditch 610, running north-south along the eastern limit of excavation; modern gravel digging; a dog and a pony burial (634, 603), covered with lime; various pits and post-holes, including a fence line in Area A; and a Home Guard ammunition dump (721).

Dating evidence

610 (Ditch) Pottery: China, stonewares, tin-glazed earthenware, Staffordshire-type slip ware. Probably 18th century+. **Ceramic building material:** Peg tile, hip tile, 17th-century brick (lowest layer), worn paviers, 18th-century gault pavior (layer 1). **Glass:** wine bottle fragments from the mid-17th- to late-18th-centuries. **Clay pipe:** early 18th-century bowl with foot and stamped WH; stems.

Those post-Saxon objects worthy of illustration appear on Figure 41 and include a copper alloy medieval scabbard chape for a knife-dagger (No. 1). A descriptive catalogue for this appears in MF 1.M.



Figure 40 Period VII, showing contours after removal of topsoil. Scale 1:400

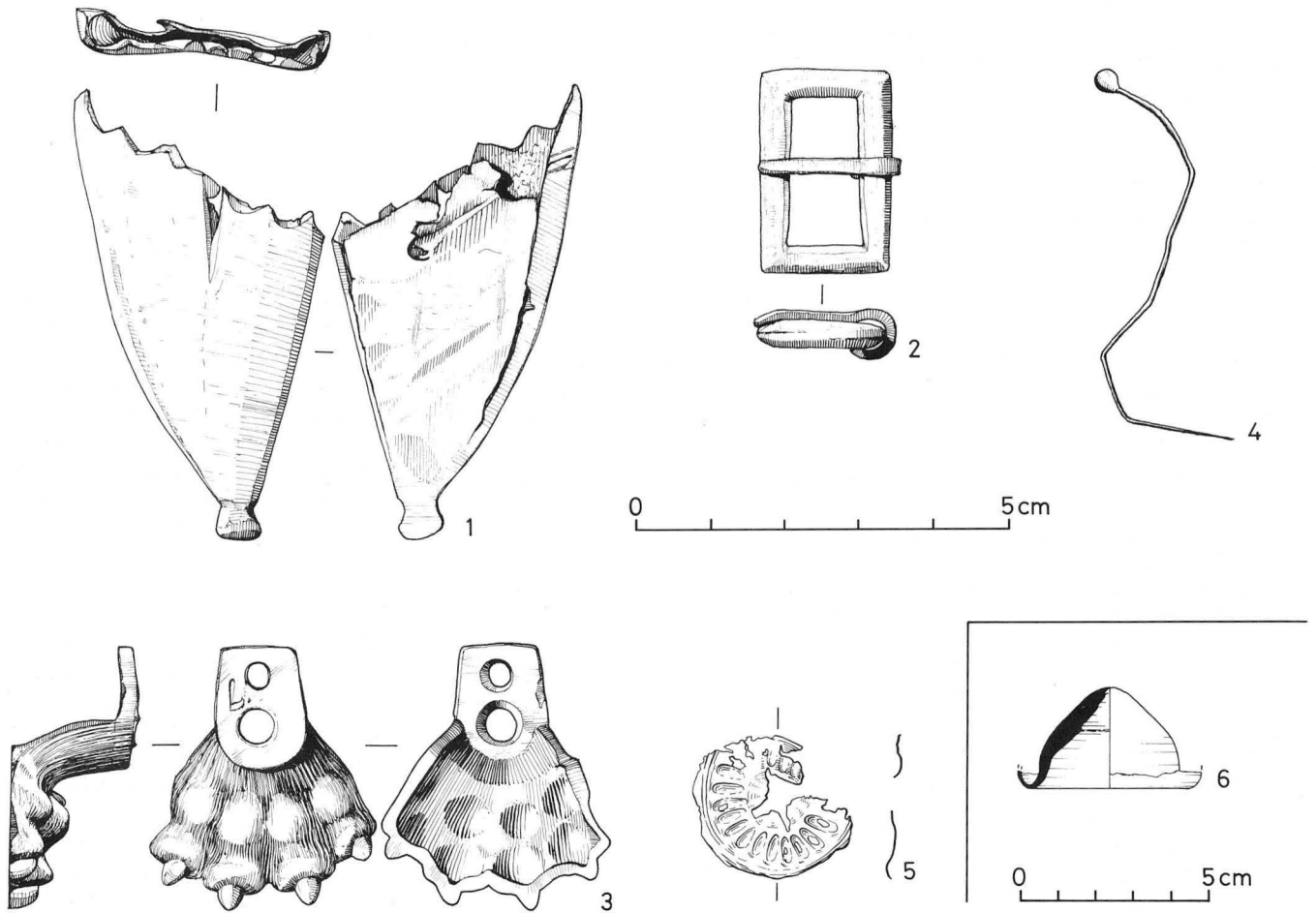


Figure 41 Medieval and later finds: 1-5: copper alloy, scale 1:1; 6: glass, Scale 1:2

C. Domestic Life and Industry in Dunmow

I. The Non-Ceramic Finds

Introduction

The finds suggest a very typical small Roman settlement at Great Dunmow, comprising, for the most part, artisans and farmers living quite modestly. Imported finds from the Continent are few: the samian assemblage is small, abraded and highly residual, suggesting that samian pottery was not common and subsequently highly prized. There is one abraded fragment of a pipe-clay figurine from Gaul. The glass assemblage likewise is small and only common bottles and table wares are present. There is a scatter of pieces of Rhenish lava querns, commonly found on Roman sites in Essex, alongside the Millstone Grit querns of the Midlands, and the more local Puddingstones.

Finds imported from within the province include pottery (discussed below, p. 66); building materials such as Welsh and Wealden sandstone, Kentish ragstone and carstone; some metalwork, such as the two enamelled plate brooches (Fig. 12); and a small amount of lead, which must have come originally from the Mendips or North Wales. The overall picture, however, is hardly that of a cosmopolitan community; rather one that looked to its own to provide its needs.

The late 4th-century shrine is clearly responsible for the greater part of the coin collection and copper alloy artefacts, especially the bracelets and finger-rings. When this votive material is removed as a separate entity, the remaining finds (below) become far less imposing: little more than fifty coins, and a small group of studs, hair-pins (copper alloy and bone), bracelet and sheeting fragments. The only brooches are the two enamelled plate examples, already referred to, and an iron pennanular (Fig. 45, No. 67).

Two fragments of crucible were found (Gravel Pit 857, L 459 (Cat 818); Ditch 135). In both the elements copper, zinc, lead and tin were detected implying their use in melting a leaded gunmetal copper alloy (MF 1.F). A background scatter of smithing slag, and the presence of some smelting slag, is enough to indicate that some ironworking took place close to the areas excavated (MF 1.G) although no directly associated features were found. A locally mined iron pan was probably used. The ironwork is instrumental in indicating the range of trades which existed in the town. It is a large assemblage, but for the most part comprises nails and unidentifiable scraps. The most important piece is the woolcomb fragment (Fig. 43, No. 14), which would have been used to pluck out wool from the Roman breed of sheep, similar to the Soay. The wool industry was particularly important in East Anglia. Two fragments of loomweights of the triangular Iron Age type, were also found.

The animal bone did not survive well in the acidic soil, but sheep/goat accounted for 26.8% of the assemblage in the 2nd century, declining to 14% in the 4th century. Cattle was the dominant species throughout the Roman and Saxon periods, with an increase in the 4th century, noted elsewhere (MF 1.I; Luff 1982, 138). Pig never accounted for more than 4.3% of the assemblage.

Other items connected with agriculture and trade include an ox-goad (Fig. 43, No. 15), a file (very badly corroded); and a socketed pick (Fig. 43, No. 2). Domestic objects include a bucket handle from Well 207; a twisted ?ladle handle, terminating in a flesh-hook; a complete stylus (Fig. 44, No. 17); various knives and half a pair of shears with a twisted shank (Fig. 43, No. 12). Finally three pieces of briquetage were recorded. The presence of salt manufacturing debris on inland sites was noted by Rodwell (1979, 172), and may be incidental, as salt lick for cattle.

Building materials

(see complete report in MF 1.A)

No structural stonework was encountered *in situ*. Enough remains as a rubble scatter (sandstone, limestone, chalk, flint, greensand, septaria, ragstone, chert, millstone grit and erratics) to indicate the presence of masonry building in the small town, though not on the excavated site. Note, for instance, the presence of a piece of limestone with drilled holes, and seven iron cramps from Gravel Pit 857. However, there is no window glass, and no *tesserae*, *opus signinum* or wall-plaster present, suggesting that the quality and finish of construction was not high, unlike Chelmsford (Drury forthcoming) or Heybridge (Wickenden 1987). The overall scatter of flint and chalky boulder clay, much burnt, and the presence of probable clay lump building blocks in Well 207, suggests the local mode of construction. The blocks were at least 115mm square; their use in military construction has been noted at Colchester (Crummy 1984, 22). We have seen how Shrine 273 was a very unsophisticated structure, probably using wood and turf as the main building materials. Finally, there is a consistent scatter of tile (*tegulae*, *imbrices*, bonding tile, and box-flue tile) on the site, both spatially and temporally, from Period III.1 onwards (eg. Slot 23, Ditch 266), indicating their use somewhere in the town from the 2nd century.

Objects of copper alloy

(Fig. 42)

- No. 1 **Tweezers**, cf. Crummy 1983, type 1879. *Subsoil* (Cat 1147).
- No. 2 **Figure-of-eight link**. L 437 in *Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 1407).
- No. 3 **Small decorative rivet** with a boss which would have stood in relief above the material through which it was riveted; this was probably leather, 2.5 to 3mm thick, the distance apart of the two plates. L 437 in *Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 805).
- No. 4 **Nail**, 41 mm in length, with nicking around the circumference of the flat head; the shaft is square in section. *Gravel Pit 316 L II* (Cat 226).
- No. 5 **Corroded nail or pin** head with part of a circular shaft. *Ditch 503*.
- No. 6 **Stud** with large flat disc-shaped head and a short, square-sectioned shank. *Subsoil* (Cat 1155).
- No. 7 **Square-sectioned bar**, bent into a hook shape. *Ditch 185* (Cat 263).
- No. 8 **Small ferrule or tag end**. L 448 in *Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 1402).
- No. 9 **Small piece of sheeting** cut into a rough circle with a rectangular slot cut out of it. L 448 in *Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 844).
- No. 10 **Thin piece of sheeting**, pierced in the centre of each end; dimensions 30×10×0.5mm. One end has been cut in an apsidal fashion. Possibly a middle Saxon fitting, or a scale of *lorica squamata*. For a similar fragment from Chelmsford, see

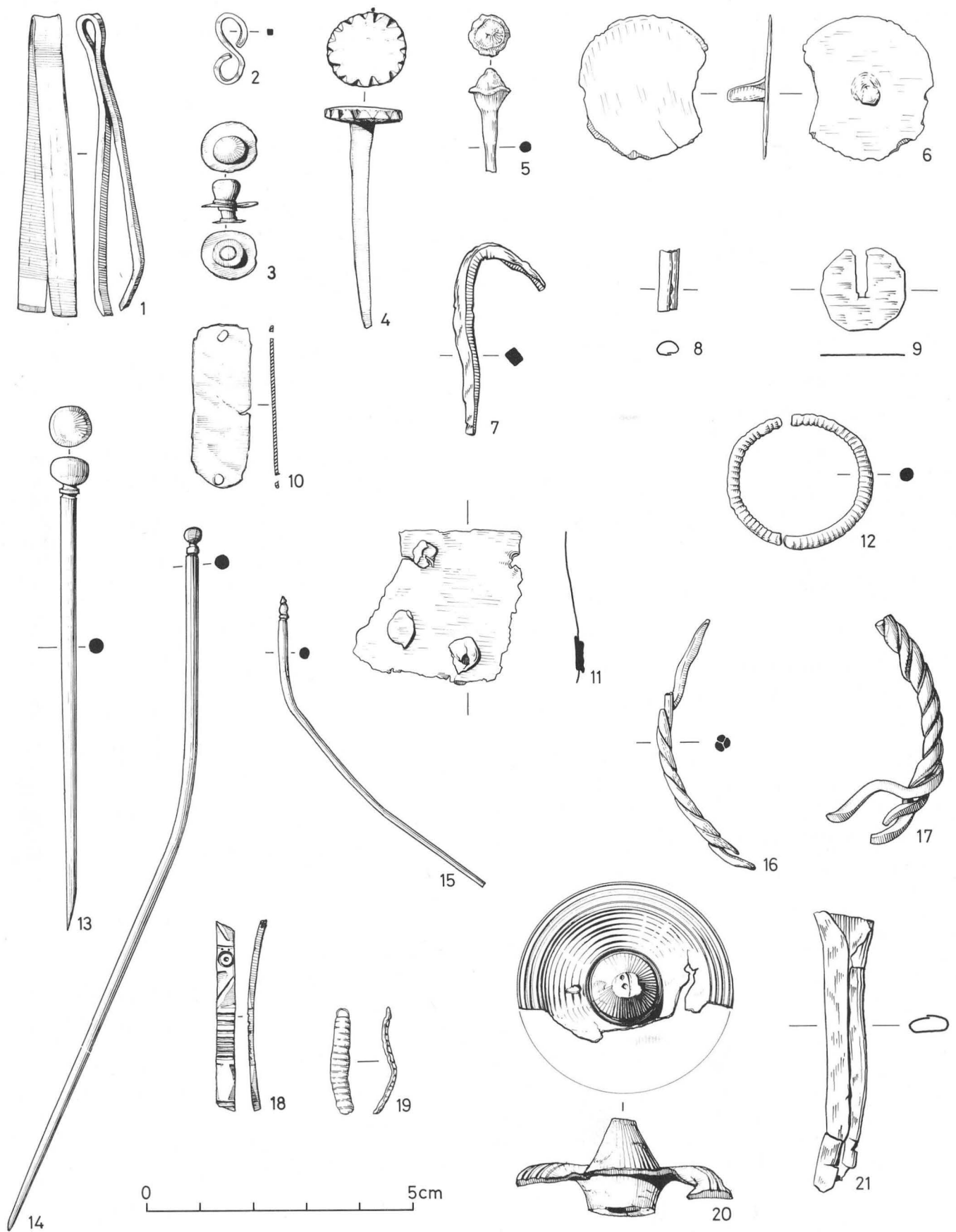


Figure 42 Objects of copper alloy. Scale 1:1

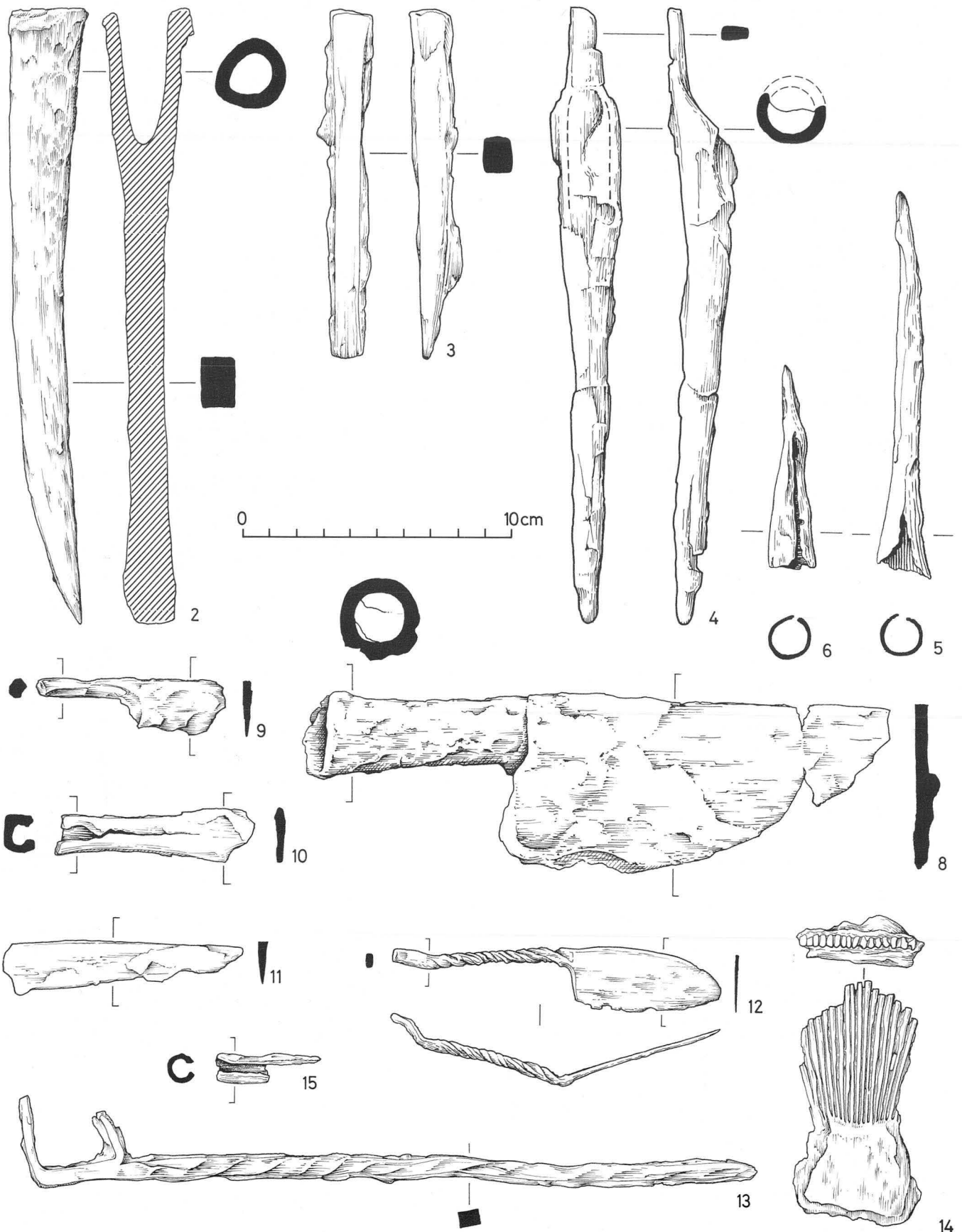


Figure 43 Objects of iron, 2-6, 8-15. Scale 1:2

- Wickenden in Drury forthcoming, fig. 65.82. As *L 435* in *Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 445).
- No. 11** Small fragment with three **rivets**, now crushed flat, of the same type as Fig. 15, No. 14, and part of a fourth rivet-hole. *Subsoil* (Cat 822).
- No. 12** **Ring**, in two parts, with continuous light ribbing, giving the illusion of being made of closely twisted wire. *Gravel Pit 316 L I*.
- No. 13** **Pin**, 88mm in length; the head consists of a flattened knob above two grooves. For a similar example, see Frere 1972, fig. 34.60. *Gravel Pit 316*.
- No. 14** Complete **pin**, 138mm long (when straight) with multifaceted head with two grooves below. *Pit 556*.
- No. 15** **Pin** with moulded head. *Gravel Pit 316 L I*. Similar pins also come from the same layer and Cat 1385.
- Nos 16-17** Fragments of **bracelets** made by twisting three cables. This was the commonest form of a bracelet from Roman Britain (Clarke 1979, type A2). **16**, *Gravel Pit 513*; **17**, *Well 207 L II*.
- No. 18** **Bracelet** fragment with ribbed vertical lines and central festoon with ring-and-dot, compare Clarke 1979, fig. 37.525. *Gravel Pit 316 L I*.
- No. 19** Short length of **bracelet**, continuous vertical lines. *Ditch 266*.
- No. 20** Fragmentary circular attachment with concentric grooving around the rim and a prominent raised central boss, conical in shape with a flattened apex. There is a small hole, 2×1 mm, pierced through the face of the disc, possibly made by a small nail or rivet when attached. The underside is plain with a raised central cylindrical socket, filled with ?lead.
- The piece is probably a **decorative knob** from an item of wooden furniture, although it is possible that it was a terminal from a large knife handle. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 21** Fragment of **sheeting** with sides bent round to meet in the centre, forming a hollow object, possible a **handle**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*

Objects of iron

The majority of the iron at Great Dunmow comprised corroded scraps; nails, including four of Manning's Type II (1972); hobnails; bar, strip and strap fragments. The assemblage has suffered from a decade without treatment. Approximately one third (198) of all the items were X-rayed, and forty-two of that number were investigated further and/or conserved by Miss Louise Bacon and the staff at Saffron Walden Museum. The general accession numbers for the group are SAFWM 1982.134/1-99, 135/1-101, 1980.187/2- 5, 1981.27/1-5. Complete lists are deposited with the archive. This catalogue includes pieces which are published in the main report.

(Fig. 43)

- No. 1** (Fig. 39, No. 5). **Socketed spearhead**, probably with a mid-rib, though badly corroded. *Length: 194mm. L 442 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 2** **Socketed pick** (see Partridge 1977, fig. 8, 17). *Gravel Pit 240*.
- No. 3** ?**Chisel**. Square-sectioned bar, tapering to flat blade. *L 462 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 4** **Tanged spike**, much corroded and broken. The tang is incomplete; the spike itself has a tapering circular section, and is solid for the lower part of its length; but appears to be hollow and open-ended where it joins the tang. Unfortunately the corrosion is particularly bad in this area, and neither the X-ray nor conservation could clarify the matter. Function unknown, unless it is a ferrule with the 'tang' acting as an extended side strengthener, or a socketed candlestick tapering into a spike (cf. Manning 1972, 178 and fig. 65.60). *L 848 in Gravel Pit 857* (Cat 851).
- No. 5** **Socketed point**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 6** As No. 5, but smaller. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 7** (Not illus.). **File**, badly corroded and laminated. Only the bottom of the deeper cuts along the edges survive on X-ray. See Manning 1976, 24, fig. 14.53. *Post-hole 307*.
- No. 8** **Socketed cleaver**. *Well 207*.
- No. 9** Small **tanged knife**, incomplete. *Ditch 121*.
- No. 10** Small **socketed knife**, blade incomplete. *Ditch 572*.
- No. 11** Blade of **knife**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 12** One blade and twisted shank of a **pair of shears**. *Subsoil* (Cat 1216).

- No. 13** Twisted **shank**, possibly **handle of a ladle**, similar to one from Kelvedon (K. Rodwell 1988, fig. 59.81). The two-pronged terminal, now bent, was used as a flesh-hook. *Subsoil* (Cat 1294).
- No. 14** **Woolcomb** with sixteen teeth surviving to a length of 53mm (Pl. III). The teeth all splay outwards symmetrically from the plate which holds them, and thus seems to be of a different type to that published by Manning (1966, 1972) and Wild (1982), whose distribution map must be updated to include woolcombs in Chelmsford (Wickenden forthcoming) and Harlow (Bartlett forthcoming). *L 820 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 15** **Ox-goad**. *Subsoil* (Cat 978).

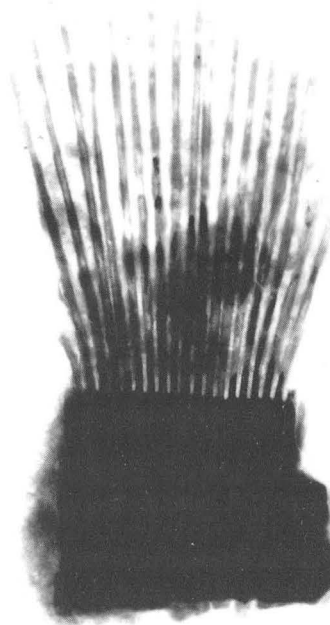


Plate III X-Radiograph of iron woolcomb. Scale 1:1 (Figure 43.14). *Photo: Saffron Walden Museum*

(Fig. 44)

- No. 16** **Clasp**, similar to that on a modern dog lead; consisting of a loop terminal for the leather strap, the remains of a thin strip spring rivetted on to the shank by two silver studs, and a hook terminal in which the end of the spring would have rested. An all over thin veneer of silver sheeting survives in places (identified during conservation). Age uncertain. *Subsoil* (Cat 96).
- No. 17** Complete **stylus**, 145mm long, with plain, wedge-shaped head. *Gravel Pit 316 L III*.
- A second stylus, in three corroded fragments, originally 156 mm long, with a zone of ?inlaid copper in a zig-zag pattern below a splayed triangular, flat head, came from 60. For a range of iron styli, see Manning 1976, 34-5, figs 10, 21.
- No. 18** Square **buckle** with revolving cylinder, probably post medieval and for use on a harness. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 19** Short **pin**. *Gravel Pit 316 L IV*. A second pin, round in section, 37mm long, came from Pit 504.
- No. 20** (Fig. 34, No. 14) Square-sectioned **spike**. *Shrine Hollow 237*.
- No. 21** Complete **tumbler-lock slide key**. *Pit 525*.
- No. 22** Terminal of **key**. *Gravel Pit 316 L IV*.
- No. 23** **Plate** with part of a cut-out; possibly a **lock-plate**. *Gravel Pit 316 L I*.
- No. 24** (Fig. 32, No. 20). **Bar** with loop terminal, ending in a dropped flat strip. ?**Latch-lifter**. *276 L I*.
- No. 25** Flat **bar** with loop terminal, functional end broken. *Subsoil* (Cat 187).
- No. 26** **Spike**, for driving into wood or masonry, with loop terminal. *L 461 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 27** (Fig. 34, No. 15). Small curving **bar** fragment with loop terminal, corroded. *Shrine Hollow 218*.
- No. 28** Large perforated terminal and stub of ?shaft at right angles. *Ditch 121*.
- No. 29** **Hinge strap** with open loop terminals, attached to one of which is an elongated link. *Subsoil* (Cat 1252).
- No. 30** Double-armed **hinge** with two nails which would have acted as pivots. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*

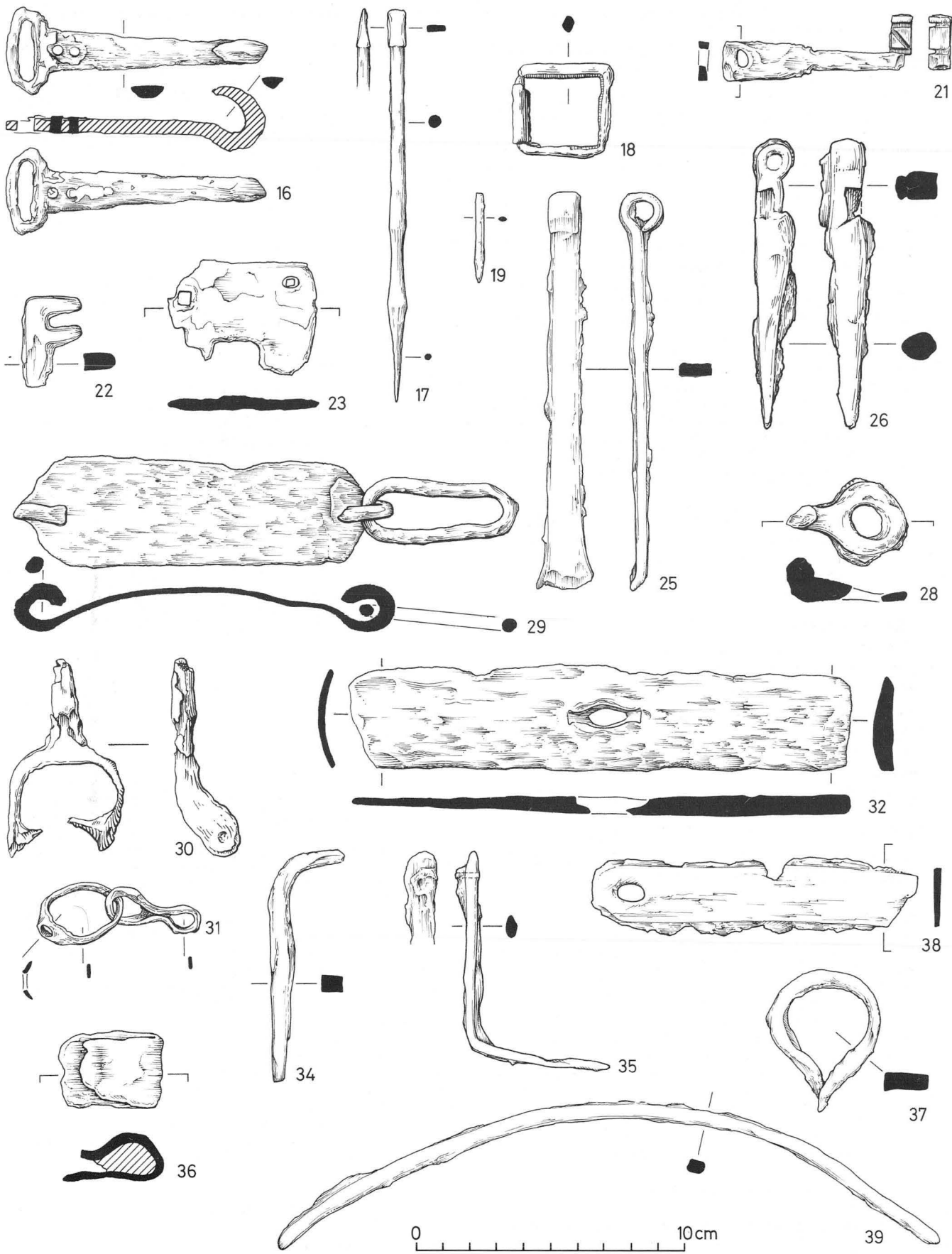


Figure 44 Objects of iron, 16-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 28-32, 34-39. Scale 1:2

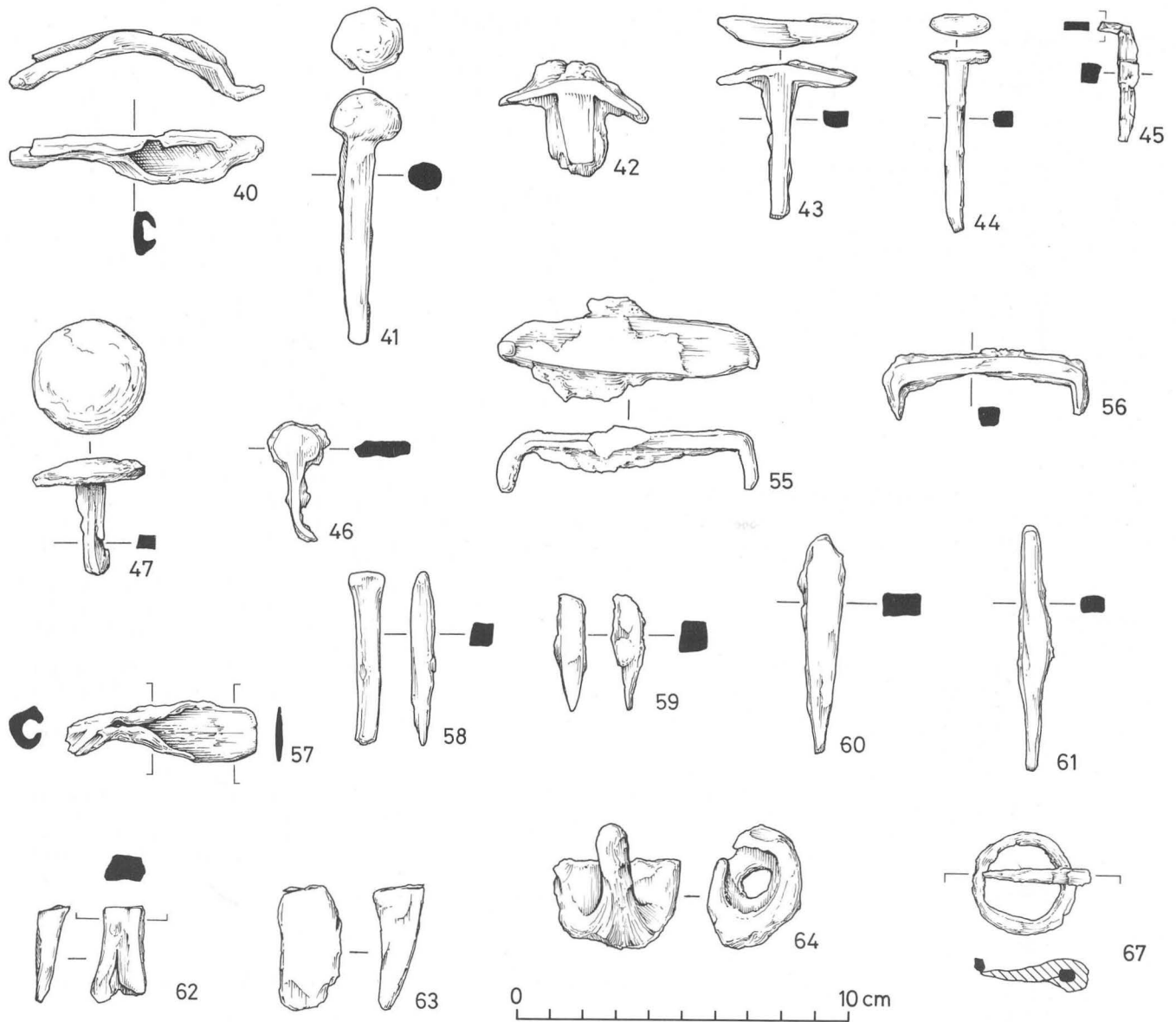


Figure 45 Objects of iron, 40-7, 55-64, 67. Scale 1:2

- No. 31** Oval **swivel** with expanded convex fixture, perforated to receive a shank with a concave terminal, allowing the loop to swivel through 360°. A figure-of-eight link is attached, and the loop worn at the point of contact. *Slot 505.*
- No. 32** Wide flat **strip** with a gently rounded upper face and pierced by a sub-oval hole, recessed in its upper face. See Fig. 45, No. 44, for a possible complementary nail type. *Pit 553.*
- No. 33** (Not illus.). **Ring binding**; surfaces badly laminated. *Internal diam.: 32mm. L 453 in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 34** **L-shaped bar**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 35** **Corner binding**, possibly with a nail through one terminal. For a similar object, see Manning 1984, fig. 45.168. *Slot 505.*
- No. 36** Folded over and broken terminal of **strap**. *Subsoil.*
- No. 37** Onion-shaped **loop** or **binding**. *Pit 568.*
- No. 38** **Bucket handle mount**, broken in three pieces. The perforated terminal, revealed on X-ray, would have stood above the bucket rim to hold the handle (see Manning 1972, fig. 66.54). *Gravel Pit 430 (Cat 609).*
- No. 39** Curving **bucket handle**, lacking both terminals. *Well 207.* Three fragments of heavily concreted strap, possibly from a bucket binding, also came from the well.

(Fig. 45)

No. 40. **Handle**, formed by hammering a strip to form a rod, except for a short length where the edges only are raised, thus forming a wider grip for carrying. *Subsoil (Cat 1218).*

- No. 41** **Nail** with heavy domed head. *Subsoil (Cat 119).*
- No. 42** T-headed **nail**, see Manning 1974, fig. 74.511. *Gravel Pit 430 (Cat 602).*
- No. 43** T-headed **nail**. *Subsoil (Cat 1255).*
- No. 44** **Nail** with small T-shaped head. This would fit the perforation in Fig. 44, No. 32 perfectly. *Ditch 537.*
- No. 45** Small **nail** with folded over head. Uncommon type, see Manning 1974; fig. 74.487. *Subsoil over Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 492).*
- No. 46** **Fiddlekey nail**. *Pit 593.*
- No. 47** **Nail** with large round head. *Subsoil (Cat 1023).* A similar nail came from the subsoil (*Cat 1194*).
- No. 48** (Fig. 39, No. 6). Large **dog** used to fix together masonry or wooden beams. External measurements (after conservation): *Length of cross bar: 115mm, length of arm: 45mm. Post-hole 949 in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 49** (Not illus.). As No. 48 heavily concreted. *Measurements: c. 150×63mm. Post-hole 949, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 50** (Not illus.). As No. 48. *Measurements: c. 140×70mm. Post-hole 444, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 51** (Not illus.). As No. 48. *Measurements: c. 135×65mm (badly concreted). L443, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 52** (Not illus.). As No. 48. *Measurements: c. 130×53mm (concreted). L 450, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 53** (Not illus.). As No. 48. *Measurements: c. 138×53mm (concreted). Post-hole 949, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 54** (Not illus.). As No. 48. *Measurements: c. 140×60mm badly concreted and laminated. Post-hole 949, in Gravel Pit 857. All*

seven dogs came from Gravel Pit 857, and are uniform in measurement, allowing for the effects of corrosion and conservation.

- No. 55 **Cleat**. *Pit 556*.
 No. 56 **Staple**. *Subsoil (Cat 1183)*.
 No. 57 ?**Tool** with crudely formed socket. *L 459 in Gravel Pit 857*.
 No. 58 Small **tool** with splayed end. ?**chisel**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
 No. 59 ?**Bit head**, probably incomplete. *Subsoil (Cat 1212)*.
 No. 60 ?**Tanged bit**, or possibly **artillery bolt head**; corroded. *Subsoil (Cat 1226)*.
 No. 61 ?**Tanged auger**. *Subsoil (Cat 28)*.
 No. 62 Small **wedge** or **tool** with apparently forked end. *Subsoil (Cat 1219)*.
 No. 63 Small **wedge**. *Subsoil (Cat 1229)*.
 No. 64 **Hook**, ?part of **hinge**. *Subsoil (Cat 119)*.
 No. 65 (*Not illus.*). Split spiked **loop**, cf. Manning 1972, fig. 68.90-4. *Subsoil (Cat 1200)*.
 No. 66 (*Not illus.*) Oval **ring**. *Ditch 610*. A second came from the subsoil (Cat 1268).
 No. 67 **Annular brooch**, complete with pin. *Subsoil (Cat 1287)*.

Lead fragments

Six contexts yielded eight fragments of lead, mainly blobs and drips. None are illustrable. Lead was also used to rivet together broken sherds of an Alice Holt storage jar (Fig. 54, No. 22).

Objects of Bone

(Fig. 46)

- No. 1 Complete **pin**, length: 78 mm, bulbous head and slightly swollen-waisted shaft. Crummy Type 3 (1979). *Pit 504*.
 No. 2 **Pin** fragment with large bulbous head and part of shaft with six surviving reels; the fourth from the top is more prominent than the others. *Pit 549*.
 No. 3 **Pin**, 68 mm surviving length with two transverse grooves beneath a small conical head. Crummy's Type 2, postulated life span c. 50-200/50 (N. Crummy 1983, 21). *Pit 568*.
 A similar pin fragment came from Pit 560.

(*Not illustrated*)

Swollen-waisted shaft (60 mm long surviving).

Fired clay

(*Not illustrated*)

'Sausage', L-shaped. Use unknown. *Shrine Hollow Cat 227*.

Two possible fragments of Iron Age triangular **loomweight**, hard red compact fabric with large flint inclusions, *Gravel Pit 316 LI (Cat 194); subsoil (Cat 167)*.

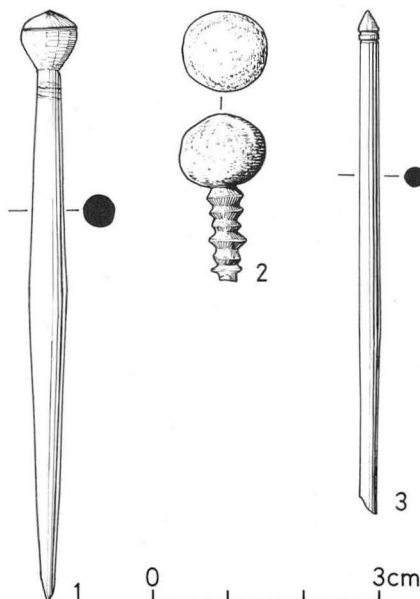


Figure 46 Objects of bone. Scale 1:1

Pipe clay

(*Not illustrated*)

A fragment of pipe clay with a moulded smooth surface, 25×25 mm, was found in Slot 213. Examined by Mr F. Jenkins, but too small to be recognisable, probably from a figurine.

Objects of glass

(Fig. 47)

Eighty-seven fragments of glass were recorded, mostly small indeterminate pieces of blown vessels and mould-blown prismatic bottles, in a 'natural' blue-green metal, though colourless pieces were also present. There was no window-glass of either moulded or blown type. The most interesting pieces are Nos 19-24, a late group of vessels, which should date to c. AD 400.

- No. 1 Fragment of base of mould-blown **prismatic bottle**, natural blue-green, with part of circular motif. Mid 1st-2nd century AD. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 806)*.
 No. 2 (*Not illus.*). Part of multi-ribbed **bottle handle**, light green. *Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 483)*.
 No. 3 Rim of **flask**, light natural blue. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 844)*.
 No. 4 Rim of **flask** and part of folded multi-ribbed **handle**, dark natural blue-green. *58 New Street (Tr Cl, Topsoil; Cat 1513)*.
 No. 5 **Strap handle** of **jar** with two raised edge ribs, natural blue-green. *L 451 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 484)*.
 No. 6 Shoulder of **bottle** and lower part of **strap handle**, natural blue. Many small bubbles. *L 459 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 858)*.
 No. 7 (*Not illus.*). Base of **bottle** or **flask** with slight omphalos, dark olive-green. *Subsoil over Shrine 273 (Cat 1345)*.
 No. 8 Beaded rim of **bowl**, natural blue. *Pit 549*.
 No. 9 Rim of small **bowl**, everted and flame-rounded, dark natural blue. *Subsoil (Cat 1374)*.
 No. 10 Everted rim of wide-mouthed **bowl** with self-coloured trail, many small pinhead bubbles, light natural green. *Subsoil (Cat 1360)*.
 No. 11 Flame-rounded everted rim of **beaker** with marvered trailing, opaque light natural green. *Subsoil (Cat 1373)*.
 No. 12 (*Not illus.*) Rounded everted rim of **beaker**, marvered. (*Cat 840*).
 No. 13 Folded rim of **bowl**, natural blue-green. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 844)*.
 No. 14 (*Fig. 34, No. 18*). Folded rim of **bowl**, dark yellow-green. *Subsoil over shrine (Cat 1347)*.
 No. 15 Thick base of **bowl** with folded ring, natural blue-green. *L 437 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 813)*.
 No. 16 Small sherd of vessel with bottom of an applied rib, colourless. *Well 207 L I*.
 No. 17 (*Not illus.*). Thin vessel sherd, lightly ribbed, very light green. *Baulk 276 (Cat 29)*.
 No. 18 Fragment of ribbed **stirring rod** (Isings 1957, form 79). Natural blue-green. *L 459 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 1376)*.
 Nos 19-24 Flame-rounded everted rims of the **cone beaker** type, bubbly light olive green metal. For a discussion of the type, see p. 44.
 19-20 (*Fig. 32, Nos 21-2*). 276 L I.
 21 (*Fig. 32, No. 23*). Subsoil over 276 (Cat 1355).
 22 (*Fig. 34, No. 19*). Subsoil over Shrine 273 (Cat 1343).
 23 (*Fig. 34, No. 20*). Subsoil (Area A) (Cat 1361).
 24 (*Fig. 34, No. 21*). Well 207 L I.
 No. 25 (*Fig. 34, No. 22*). Kicked base of **cone beaker** c. AD 400. *Subsoil over Shrine 273 (Cat 1346)*.
 No. 26 (*Fig. 39, No. 10*) Kicked base of **bowl** or **beaker** c. AD 400. *Subsoil, over Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 1371)*.
 No. 27. (*Fig. 32, No. 24*) Rim of **bowl**, c. AD 400. *Pit 295*.
 No. 28 (*Fig. 34, No. 23*) Rim of **bowl**, c. AD 400. *Pit 220*.
 No. 29 (*Fig. 34, No. 24*) Sherd of indented **beaker**, approaching base; light olive green, bubbly. *Shrine Hollow 218*.

(*Not illustrated*)

Three sherds in an olive-green bubbly metal, probably from vessels similar to Nos 19-29. *Subsoil over Shrine Entrance 60 (Cat 1191); subsoil over Shrine 273 (Cat 1350); subsoil (Cat 1368)*.

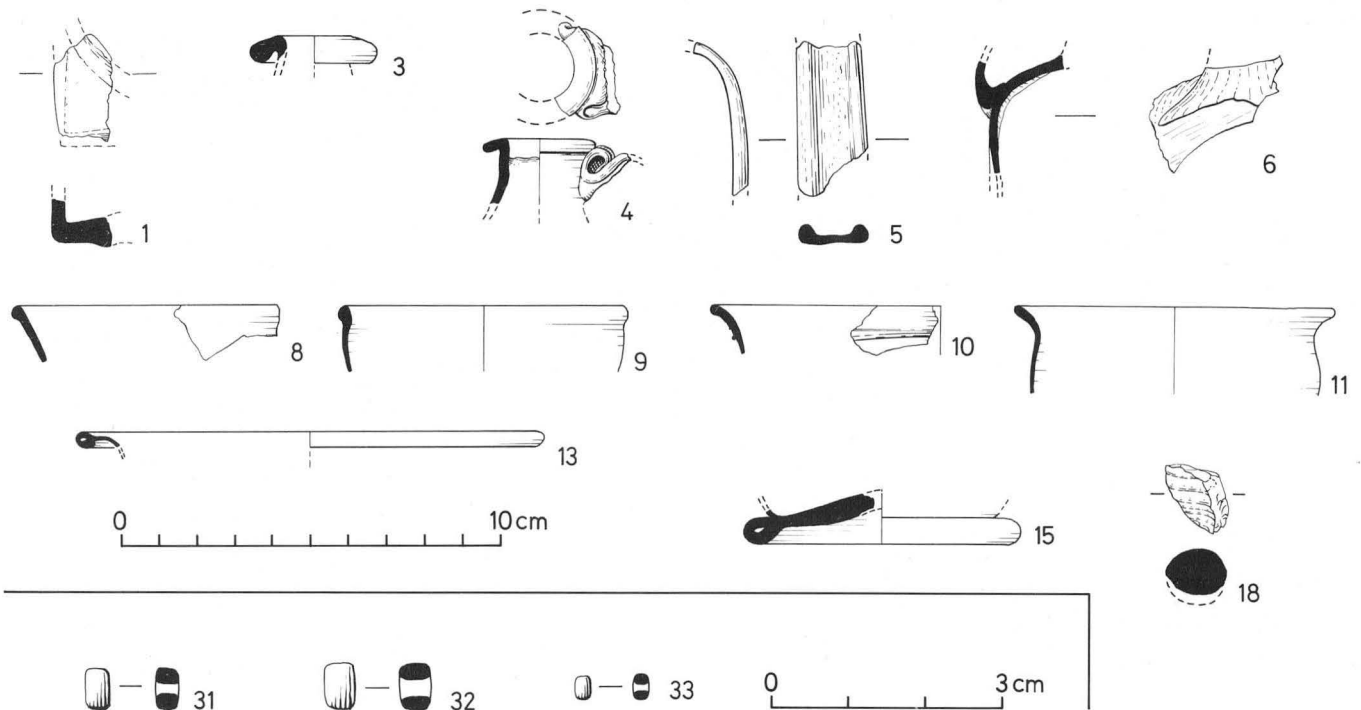


Figure 47 Objects of glass. Scale 1:2

The assemblage is reproduced here in its complete form. Those vessels from Shrine 273 or Gravel-floored Building 276 also appear in the relevant sections. See also a glass flask from Votive Pit 200 (Fig. 30, No. 13).

Beads (Fig. 47)

- No. 31** Cylindrical in section; probably one of a series knocked off from a drawn out tubular rod. 3mm wide, opaque green. *Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 1377)*.
- No. 32** Cylindrical, irregular shape. Length: 4mm, diam.: 5 mm; opaque green. *Ditch 320*.
- No. 33** Minute bead, opaque turquoise; 2×3mm. *Subsoil (Cat 1380)*.

Objects of Stone

(Fig. 48)

- No. 1** Half an **upper stone** of a Puddingstone **quern**. 125 mm high at centre with central feed-shute, c. 55 mm across narrowing to 25 mm, and a complete blind hole on one side, intended for a wooden handle, by which means the stone could be rotated on an iron spindle fixed in the centre of the lower stone. A groove running around the quern at the same height as the handle hole would have held an iron band (see Buckley and Major 1983, 76). For an interim report on its regional distribution, see Rudge 1965, 247-9. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 1439)*.
- Nos 2-7** Rhenish lava **quern**:
2-4 (*Illus. No. 4 only*). Parts of **upper stones** with characteristic raised edge on upper surface, and tooling on side and both surfaces. The grinding surface is worn, though the radiating toolmarks are still visible. **2**, *L 854 in Gravel Pit 857*; **3**, *L 487 in Gravel Pit 857*; **4**, *Subsoil (Cat 1431)*.
- 5** Small section of **upper stone** with raised edge and tooling, as Nos 3-4. There is a deep groove on the upper surface at the kerf of the raised edge, presumably part of the hole intended for the turning handle. *Subsoil (Cat 165)*.
- 6** (*Not illus.*) **Quern stone**, probably upper but without a raised edge on the upper surface. Tool marks survive on the edge and there is a 30 mm deep hole in the grinding surface. *Well 207 L I*.
- 7** (*p. 44, No. 25*). Fragment of re-used **lower stone** of Rhenish lava, c. 0.25 m thick, with a worn grooving pattern on the upper face of concentric circles round the edge and

- inner set of opposing diagonals. *Diam.*: c. 0.46 m. The underside is heavily excoriated. *Shrine Hollow 233*.
- No. 8** Large part of **lower quern** of Millstone Grit, possibly imitating the characteristic lava quern form with central hole for pivot, *diam.*: c. 23 mm, and narrow radial grooving on the grinding surface. The lower surface is rough and untreated. *Gravel Pit 240 (Cat 1432)*.
- No. 9** (*Not illus.*; *p. 44, No. 26*) Large fragment of Millstone Grit **quern**, 18-25 mm thick; part of off-centre hole surviving, probably part of its turning mechanism; *diam.*: c. 0.46 m. Both faces are smooth and worn concave; subsequently broken into 4 fragments. *Shrine Hollow 253*.
- No. 10** (*Not illus.*) Fragment of Purbeck marble, polished on both faces, varying in thickness from 7-9 mm; possibly from a **mortar**. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 11** Abraded sandstone **whetstone**. *Site Clearance (Cat 1199)*.
- No. 12** **Whetstone**, fine-grained pinkish grey micaceous sandstone. *Gravel Pit 430*.
- Nos 13-14** **Whetstones**, coarse-grained calcareous sandstone with sponge spicules, from the Lower Greensand of the Weald. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 15** (*p. 44, No. 27*). **Whetstone**, pinkish grey micaceous sandstone. *Shrine Hollow 233*.
- No. 16** (*Not illus.*) Enigmatic, abraded lump of white, crumbly, fossiliferous Jurassic limestone, with parts of two circular holes (drilled), c. 15 mm and 20 mm in diameter and at least 50 mm deep; a third hollow is larger but is poorly defined. Mr T. Blagg has examined the piece, but is inconclusive: it is not part of an architectural feature, in the decorative sense; nor is it a stone suitable for detailed carving. Perhaps the circular holes held the iron masonry staples, several of which were found in the area. *L 438 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 458)*.

II. Romano-British pottery

by C. J. Going and B. Ford

Introduction

While the assemblage from Great Dunmow was substantial (c. 300 kg) the site had been subjected to severe post-Roman agricultural activity. In addition, burrowing animals had disturbed some features to a considerable depth. Many of the features were therefore truncated or otherwise damaged, and contained intrusive material. Thus while the

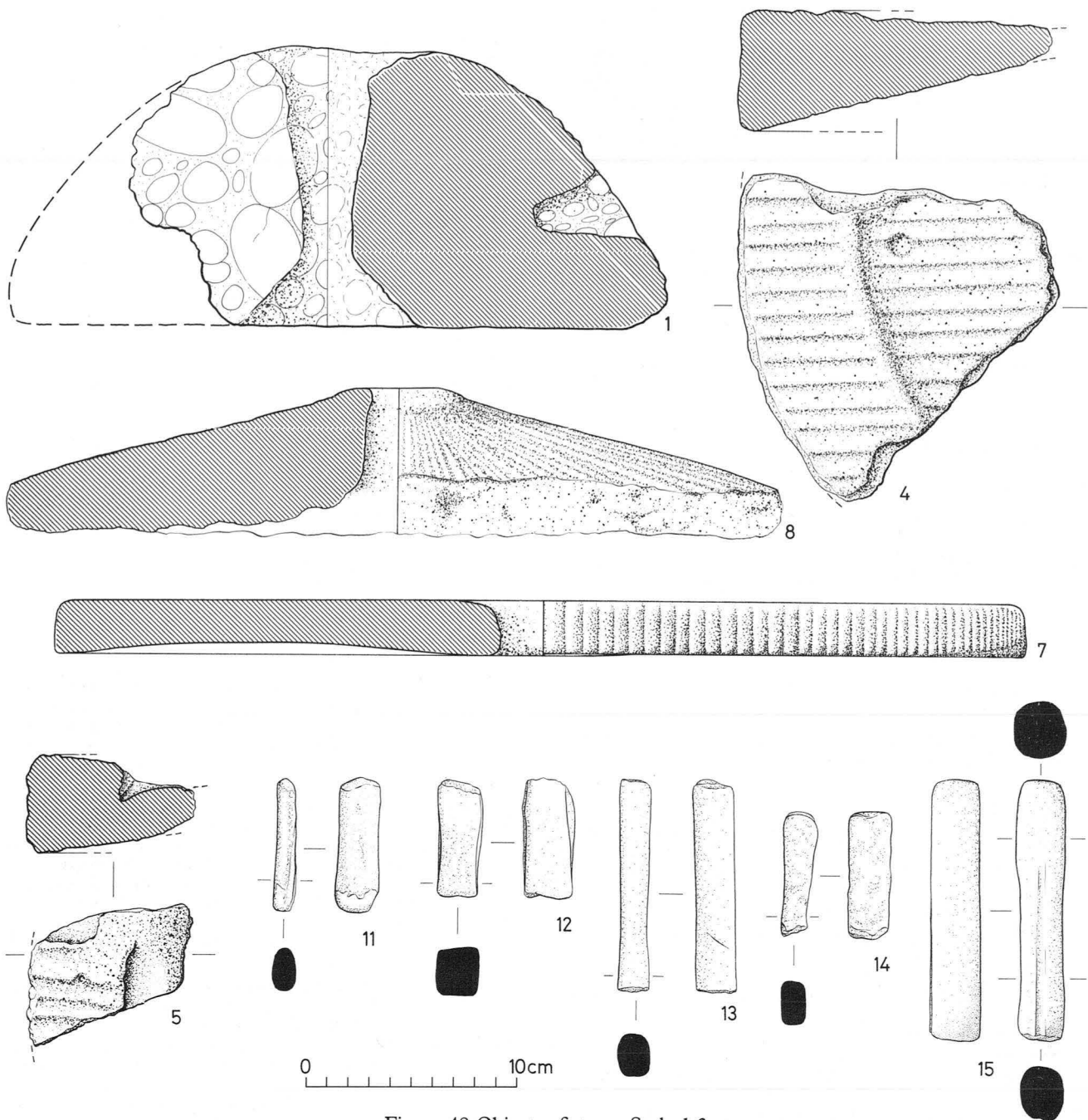


Figure 48 Objects of stone. Scale 1:3

whole assemblage was examined for phasing and dating purposes, a task made difficult for the above reasons, it was decided that only three groups merited detailed publication. These comprise the cemetery assemblage dealt with above (p. 12-21); a substantial group from the Gravel Pit 857 (L 464/820), and a small but interesting assemblage from the late Roman levels associated with the shrine. Selected pottery of intrinsic interest is also presented below.

The group from Gravel Pit 857 (L 464, 820): c. AD 190-240.

(Figs 49-50, 51a, 52a; Table 1)

A considerable quantity of pottery (21 kg, 21 Eve), was found in the lower levels of the clay-filled gravel pit. The bulk was derived from L 464 and 820, while the overlying clay spread (L 460) contained much joining material. The

status of the latter level is in some doubt as a few sherds of later 3rd and 4th-century pottery were found in it. More seriously, animal activity has led to the contamination of L 464 and 820, and some considerably later pottery was intruded, *eg.* a ?New Forest beaker and a Hadham ware *cantharus* (see below, Fig. 55, Nos 14, 18). However this material was quite distinct, and the absence of common types of a later Roman date, *eg.* incipient or fully flange-rimmed dishes (Types B5-6), distinctively late forms of the 'Braughing jar' (Type G21) with wide-splayed rims (*eg.* M. Wilson 1972, fig. 137.1238-9), and the absence of later 3rd century fabrics such as 'Rettendon ware' (48) suggests that the bulk of the pottery forms a coherent assemblage.

Dating

A number of features about this group place it late in the 2nd century or the first half of the 3rd century, *eg.* the plain-rimmed beaker in sandy grey ware (Fig. 50, No. 55),

and also the folded beakers (Fig. 50, Nos 56-8), which while comparatively early in the series, suggest a very late 2nd-, or possibly an early 3rd-century date. The dishes are almost without exception undecorated, and their rim-forms suggest a late Antonine or later date. Equally important, the class did not contain, as noted above, any incipient or flange-rimmed types which suggests a date prior to *c.* AD 230-40. The bulk of the material, therefore, probably belongs to the bracket *c.* AD 190-230/40. Included in the discussion and illustrations are some vessels from L 460 which appear to belong to the same date bracket. These were not quantified, and are denoted in the text, and are numbered in brackets in the figures.

		Wt (kg)	% Wt	Eve	% Eve
Colchester Colour-Coat	(1)	0.345	1.58	1.09	4.97
Nene Valley Colour-Coat	(2)	0.260	1.19	0.64	2.93
Hadham Oxidised Red Ware	(4)	0.280	1.28	1.24	5.65
Samian		0.235	1.07	0.37	1.68
?Local mica-dusted wares	(12)	0.045	0.20	0.22	1.00
Hadham White-Slipped Wares	(14)	0.020	0.09	—	—
Miscellaneous oxidised	(21)	0.205	0.93	—	—
Colchester buff wares	(27)	0.270	1.23	0.13	0.59
?North Kent grey wares	(32)	0.045	0.20	0.10	0.45
Romanising grey wares	(34/45)	1.935	8.86	3.58	16.32
Hadham grey wares	(36)	1.110	5.08	1.90	8.66
Black-Burnished 2	(41)	0.335	1.53	0.90	4.10
Storage jar fabrics	(44)	4.995	22.87	1.05	4.78
Miscellaneous grey	(39/47)	11.575	53.01	10.71	48.83
?S. Essex shell-tempered	(50)	0.010	0.04	—	—
S. Spanish Amphorae	(55)	0.170	0.77	—	—
<i>Total:</i>		<i>21.835</i>	<i>99.93</i>	<i>21.93</i>	<i>99.96</i>

Table 1 Group L 464/820.

The fabrics

Colchester Colour-Coat (1)⁵ (Fig. 49, Nos 1-3)
0.345 kg; 4.97% Eve

The commonest colour-coated fabric present in the group. Forms are restricted to cornice-rimmed 'bag-shaped' beakers, either with roughcasting (Fig. 49, No. 1), left plain (see Nene Valley Colour-Coat, below) or rouletted (Fig. 49, No. 2). As at Rivenhall villa, plain-rimmed forms of the bag-shaped type, or cornice rim types 3-4, dated by Anderson to post *c.* AD 190, are absent, as are sherds with underslip barbotine decoration, also a late 2nd-century feature. However, the presence of a plain-rimmed beaker (Fig. 50, No. 56) suggests that the deposition of this group may post-date this horizon, and that the absence of these forms in colour-coated fabrics is connected with flagging output rather than being a strict chronological indicator.

Nene Valley Colour-Coat (2) (Fig. 49, No. 4)
260 g; 2.93% Eve

A single vessel only was present. This was also a bag-shaped beaker. (Sherds from this vessel also in L 460). The form is not particularly common in the Nene Valley, where it is presently dated to the late 2nd century (Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 5.46). Elsewhere in Essex Nene Valley Colour-Coat is an essentially 3rd-century introduction; at Chelmsford first occurring, for example, in contexts accumulating in the middle decades of the century (Going

1987, ceramic phase 5). This vessel is thus of interest as it is both typologically quite early and one of the earliest Essex finds of the fabric.

Hadham oxidised red wares (4) (Fig. 49, No. 5)
280g; 5.65% Eve

Although the least common of the Hadham fabrics observed in L 464/820, the fabric included, interestingly, a bag-shaped cornice-rimmed beaker of probable late 2nd-century date, *c.* AD 160-80/90. Remarkably little is known of the early products of the industry, and although Rodwell has suggested that the kilns were the source of many of the stamped decorated wares of his 'London-Essex' group on fabric and distributional grounds (Rodwell 1978c, 234-45), little later 2nd-century material from the vicinity of the kilns has been published. Thus it is useful to see that one of the commoner 2nd-century beaker types was probably made there. It should be noted here that sherds of an unusual Hadham form, a *cantharus*, were found in L 820. Such parallels as there are suggest it is 4th century. It is accordingly considered below (Fig. 55, No. 14).

?Local 'mica-dusted' wares (12) (not illustrated)
45g

Single rim sherd and an unidentifiable body sherd, the former from a small beaker with a recurved, everted rim, reminiscent of Marsh type 22 (Marsh 1978, fig. 6.10). Probably 1st century.

White-slipped Hadham oxidised wares (14) (Fig. 49, Nos 6-8)
20g; 22% Eve

Layers 464/820 produced only four fragmentary sherds, but the overlying L 460 contained illustrable fragments of three vessels, a bowl (Fig. 49, No. 6) and two necked jars (Fig. 49, Nos 7-8), all of probable 2nd-century date. White slipped Hadham products, mainly flagons, are well represented at Great Dunmow, particularly in the cemetery (see above, Cremations 2, 3, 4; Fig. 16, Nos 9, 26, 29), but as yet little is known of the form range (but *cf.* Fig. 55, Nos 21-25). However, this group contains a jar in a grey ware fabric (see below, Fig. 49, No. 29) quite closely paralleled by a vessel in white slipped fabric, from Cremation 14 (Fig. 18, Nos 69-70).

Miscellaneous oxidised wares (21) (not illustrated)
205g

A small, mostly very fragmentary assemblage. Forms noted include bowls, beakers and uncertain closed forms, probably flagons. Like the grey ware group, the origins of the fabric type are disparate and probably include Hadham, Colchester, and the *Verulamium* region, although no definite Brockley Hill/*Verulamium* products were identified in levels 464/820.

Colchester buff wares (27) (Fig. 49, No. 9)
270g; 0.59% Eve

The fabric is represented by a single mortarium, a rim sherd from a *Cam* 498. Hull dates the form from the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries (Hull 1963, 190). However, mortaria were notably scarce in this deposit. At Rivenhall they were absent from the contemporary group 1A (8 Eves), and they were uncommon at Chelmsford. This may be a reflection of supply difficulties as the Colchester industry faltered.

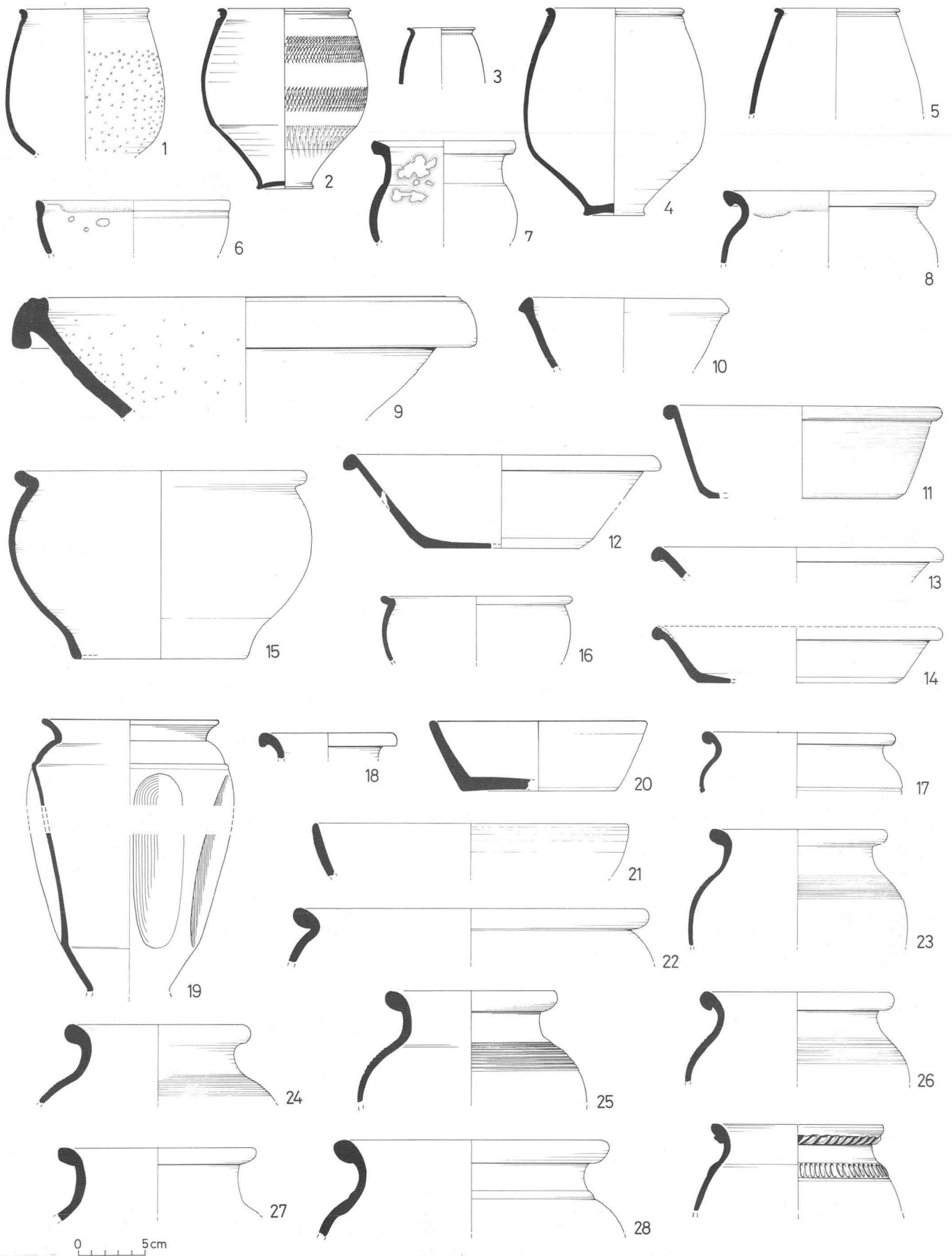


Figure 49 Roman pottery from Group 464/820; 1-29. Scale 1:4

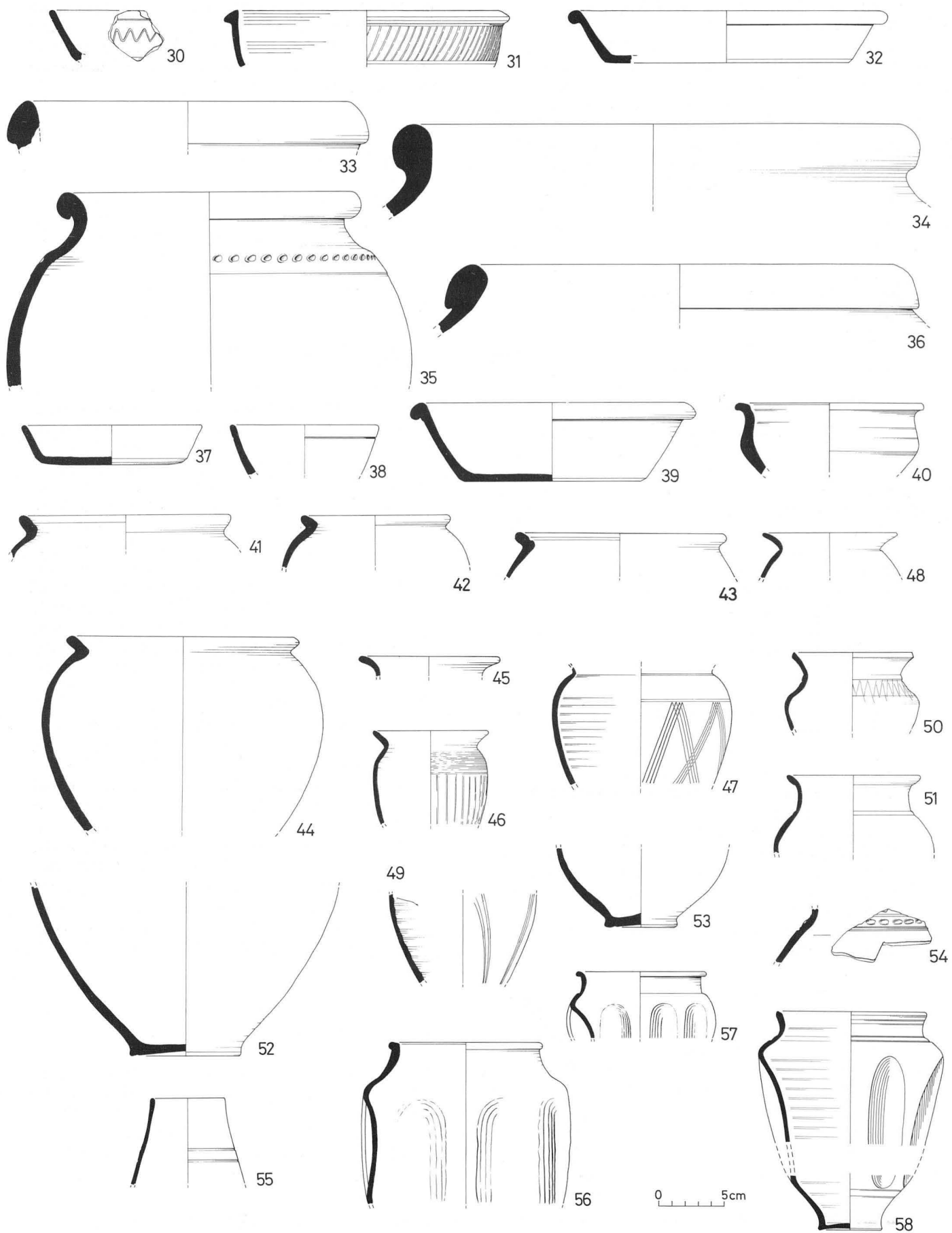


Figure 50 Roman pottery from Group 464/820, 30-58. Scale 1:4

?North Kent grey wares (32) (not illustrated)

20g; 0.45% Eve

A very small group, mainly assigned to the north Kent region in default of good evidence for their manufacture in the locality. The Highgate industry does not appear to have supplied significant quantities of pottery into even central West Essex; however poppyhead beakers in a similar fabric with a thin creamy or off-white slip identified at Harlow may be from the Hadham potteries, which appear to have had early links with Highgate (Rodwell 1978c, 243). The Dunmow examples, however, are not very similar to this fabric.

Romanising grey wares (34/45) (Fig. 49, Nos 10-19)

1.935 kg; 16.32% Eve

A substantial proportion of the assemblage was in this fabric, which is attributed in the Chelmsford pottery report to the Colchester/Ardleigh region (34/45) on typological and distributional grounds (Going 1987, 7). Since then work on Chelmsford site D has produced evidence that a similar fabric was made there (Rodwell 1982, 65 'Kiln III'; Going, in Wickenden forthcoming). This, and the similarity of Chelmsford Fabric 35 which is common in the West Essex-East Herts region and almost certainly made at Hadham, suggest its manufacture was widespread. Early examples have grog-tempering, which, like the tendency to use shell-tempering in south Essex, appears to die out in the late 1st century. The fabric would seem to be a post-conquest continuation of the grog-tempered wares recently exhaustively described by Thompson (1982). Forms include plain and bead-rimmed dishes, also ledge rimmed bowl-jars and jars, and folded beakers.

Grey wares of Hadham origin (36) (Fig. 49, Nos 20-29)

1.110 kg; 8.66% Eve

After sandy grey wares (see below) the commonest grey ware group. The figure is certainly an under-estimate as typologically indistinct sherds are undoubtedly included in the former group. The commonest form is the so-called 'Braughing jar' (Fig. 49, Nos 23-7 and see above, p. 13), which originated in the pre-conquest period (Thompson 1982, 272-81, type C7-1), and remained ubiquitous in the West Essex-East Hertfordshire region until the end of the Roman period. Its prevalence at Dunmow is in sharp contrast to Chelmsford, where it is very rare (Going 1987, section II, type G21). The general lack of this type in the latter region suggests Hadham supplied little in the way of coarse wares to central-east Essex, and that initially at least, and like pottery from Colchester, supply into Essex was concentrated along Stane Street (Margary 32). Other forms present include a distinctive neckless jar with a split, frilled rim, with incised decoration on the upper body (Fig. 49, No. 29), strongly reminiscent of the vessels from Cremation 14 (Fig. 18, Nos 69-70).

Black-Burnished 2 (41) (Fig. 50, Nos 30-2)

335g; 4.10% Eve

In the main restricted to bead and plain-rimmed dishes, burnished overall. Two dishes are decorated with burnished-line ornament which is characteristic of Kentish BB2 products of the early-mid Antonine period (Pollard, pers. comm.). Figure 50, No. 31 also has the typical, early,

triangular-sectioned rim. The remainder are left plain, and have the rounded rim which is more typical of the later 2nd and early 3rd centuries (Fig. 50, No. 32). The origin of these vessels is a matter of some dispute. A Thames-side source is, on balance, the most likely.

Storage jar fabrics (44) (Fig. 50, Nos 33-6)

4.995 kg; 4.78% Eve

Like sandy grey wares, a group rather than a distinct fabric. It is, however, virtually impossible to characterise them and they are likely to be from a variety of local sources. The rims are rounded or slightly undercut, and entirely characteristic of the period.

Miscellaneous grey wares (39/47) (Fig. 50, Nos 37-58)

11.575 kg; 48.83% Eve

The commonest fabric group, derived from a variety of sources, probably mostly local. Open forms include bead- and plain-rimmed dishes, usually with an overall burnish. These are in many ways reminiscent of South Essex BB2 products, and if undecorated, probably late Antonine or later (see under Black Burnished Ware). As noted above, the lack of incipient or fully-flanged dish forms is an important chronological indicator, and suggests the bulk of the group was deposited before c. AD 240. The beaker class is unusually well represented; types noted include the H27 (Fig. 50, No. 55; a Colchester product?), and a range of folded forms (Fig. 50, Nos 56-8). These were probably introduced in the late or immediately post-Antonine periods, but are most commonly seen in groups of the early 3rd century. The rim forms suggest a date bracket of c. AD 215-230/40, while the unusual Fig. 50, No. 58 is perhaps earlier (?late 2nd century).

For the most part jars comprise variants of the ledge-rimmed type G5 which is common throughout Essex, particularly in the southern part of the country (Fig. 50, Nos 41-4). Other jar types include neckless and necked variants of hooked and rolled rim forms. Interestingly the *Cam* 268 is rare, as is bowl-jar type E5, which is common in central and southern Essex. The scarcity of the *Cam* 268 suggests that few of the grey-wares were traded from Colchester, where it is very common. However, the absence of the E5 is slightly more surprising in view of the presence of the ledge-rimmed jars unless these are from a centre such as Hadham, where there is some evidence of their manufacture (B. Barr, pers. comm.).

?South Essex shell-tempered wares (50) (not illustrated)

10g

This fabric is found in small quantities on central and north Essex sites, but is prolific, and probably originates, at a number of Thames-side sites such as Mucking and Gun Hill. A single sherd only was found, a ledge-rimmed jar rim. Undoubtedly residual in a context of this date.

South Spanish Amphorae (55) (not illustrated)

170g

Amphorae are uncommon site finds on most Essex sites, and the bulk are fragments from oil jars of type Dressel 20, as here.

Discussion: Pottery supply to Dunmow, c. AD 180-230

(Figs 51a, 52a)

As noted in the dating evidence section this group may be assigned to a late 2nd-early 3rd-century date, and is therefore comparable with pottery of ceramic phases 4-5 at Chelmsford, Rivenhall group 1A (Going forthcoming a) and the group from Pit 597 from Wickford (Going forthcoming b).

Some interesting points emerge from comparisons between these groups. However, such an exercise must be carried out with extreme caution as data is very scarce. The fine wares (*ie.*, colour-coats) constitute 15.23% of the group, as opposed to 12.62% at Chelmsford, and 22.3% at Rivenhall. The proportion of samian however, is substantially lower at Dunmow; 1.6%, as opposed to 9.6% at Chelmsford, and 8.2% at Rivenhall. This is what one might expect from a small roadside settlement, a 'small town', and a wealthy villa site, respectively. (However, see Going forthcoming b for an unusual contemporary assemblage (Pit 597) from Wickford, with 22% samian.) Locational factors may play a substantial part in the sources of the colour-coats, of which the bulk (37.1%) are derived from the Hadham industry, 18 km to the west, while Colchester, 32 km to the east, accounts for 32.6%. This is substantially higher than the proportion of Colchester Colour-Coat at Chelmsford (9.88% of the total of Ceramic Phase 5; admittedly slightly later in date). Generally Colchester colour-coated products are better represented in north than central or south Essex. Rodwell has observed the same phenomenon with Colchester samian, which does not appear to have been traded much to south or central Essex beyond Kelvedon (Rodwell 1982, 49 and below, p. 77). Of the coarse wares the largest group are the grey wares (48.83%). A substantial proportion of these may be from Hadham, although sherds are only assigned to that fabric group when there are typological grounds for doing so. The general impression given by the vessel forms in the group, however, suggests that a south or central Essex origin for a significant proportion of this fabric group is unlikely. For example, the ubiquitous bowl-jar of type E5 is absent, and a local, rather than a south Essex, provenance is possible for the few ledge-rimmed jars in the assemblage. Vessels assigned to the BB2 fabric group are more likely to have been made in South Essex. The proportion (4.10%) seems high, and may be in some way connected with trade from or via Colchester.

The Late Group from the Shrine

(Figs 51b, 52b, 53-54; Table 2)

The votive pits and other contexts of the first shrine phase contained a small group (9.93 kg; 7.83 Eve), which may be dated on coin and stratigraphic evidence to post *c.* AD 350. There is a general lack of residual material in this group (*eg.* samian), although some overlying shrine levels contained large fragments of vessels probably derived from the cemetery (see p. 39). While there were many crosslinks between the assemblage of the first shrine and later phases this material was not quantified. The second phase appears to have begun *c.* AD 390 (see above, p. 41), but the lack of contemporary material (all the sherds were abraded), suggests that by the inception of this later phase pottery supply to this part of the site had all but ceased. The Phase 1 assemblage is therefore the latest discrete collection of

pottery from the site. However, interesting pieces of late Roman pottery from these later levels have been illustrated and described below.

		Wt (kg)	% Wt	Eve	% Eve
Colchester Colour-Coat	(1)	0.020	0.20	—	—
Nene Valley Colour-Coat	(2)	0.595	5.99	1.27	16.21
Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat	(3)	0.325	3.27	0.67	8.55
Hadham Red Colour-Coat	(4)	1.680	16.91	1.88	24.01
Lower Rhineland fabric 1	(6)	0.000	0.00	—	—
Samian		0.005	0.05	—	—
Oxfordshire white-slipped red	(13)	0.045	0.45	—	—
Hadham red/grey	(14)	0.015	0.15	0.06	0.76
Nene Valley 'self-coloured'	(24)	0.030	0.30	—	—
Oxfordshire white wares	(25)	0.010	0.10	—	—
Colchester buff wares	(27)	0.015	0.15	—	—
Romanising grey wares	(34/45)	0.160	1.61	0.11	1.40
Black-surfaced Hadham grey	(35)	0.210	2.11	0.28	3.57
Hadham grey wares	(36)	0.170	1.71	0.15	1.91
Alice Holt wares	(43)	1.305	13.14	—	—
Storage jar fabrics	(44)	2.795	28.14	0.11	1.40
Misc grey wares	(39/47)	1.275	12.83	1.42	18.13
'Rettendon' wares	(48)	0.550	0.55	0.23	2.93
Late shell-tempered	(51)	1.180	11.88	1.65	21.07
S. Spanish Amphorae	(55)	0.035	0.35	—	—
<i>Total:</i>		<i>9.825</i>	<i>99.89</i>	<i>7.83</i>	<i>99.94</i>

Table 2 Shrine 273

The fabrics

Colchester Colour-Coat (1) (not illustrated)

20g

The assemblage produced only one vessel, a very abraded but complete bag-shaped beaker base. Residual. While there is some evidence of later Roman manufacture at Colchester (*eg.* Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat from the flue of kiln 25 (Going 1984, 49) there is nothing to suggest it was distributed much beyond the Colonia itself.

Nene Valley Colour-Coat (2) (Fig. 53, Nos 1-2)

595g; 16.21% Eve

While the assemblage of Nene Valley products was substantial, most of it was almost pulverised. No dishes were noted, but of the bowl forms there was a characteristic late Roman type (Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 7.85; Fig. 53, No. 1 here). Surprisingly, no 'castor box' fragments were found. Jar types included a necked form resembling Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 7.75-6. Of the beaker types there was a plain-rimmed sherd, possibly residual, of a form resembling Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 4.42-3. Later 'pentice-moulded' forms are represented by a rim sherd with the rounded profile of Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 5.57. There was also a body sherd of a second vessel probably of this form. The flagon class included a well-preserved vessel with all-over rouletted decoration resembling Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 6.66; Fig. 53, No. 2 here. The condition of this vessel and the fact that small sherds from it were widely scattered in most of these late contexts strongly suggests that like the Alice Holt vessels (see below), it had been deposited in a largely intact state in a 'votive' pit.

Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat (3) (Fig. 53, Nos 3-4)

325g; 8.55% Eve

The majority of the identifiable Oxfordshire types were in the bowl class. Young's (1977) forms C51, 52, 61, 68, 75, 81 and C97-100 were all represented. Save for a single

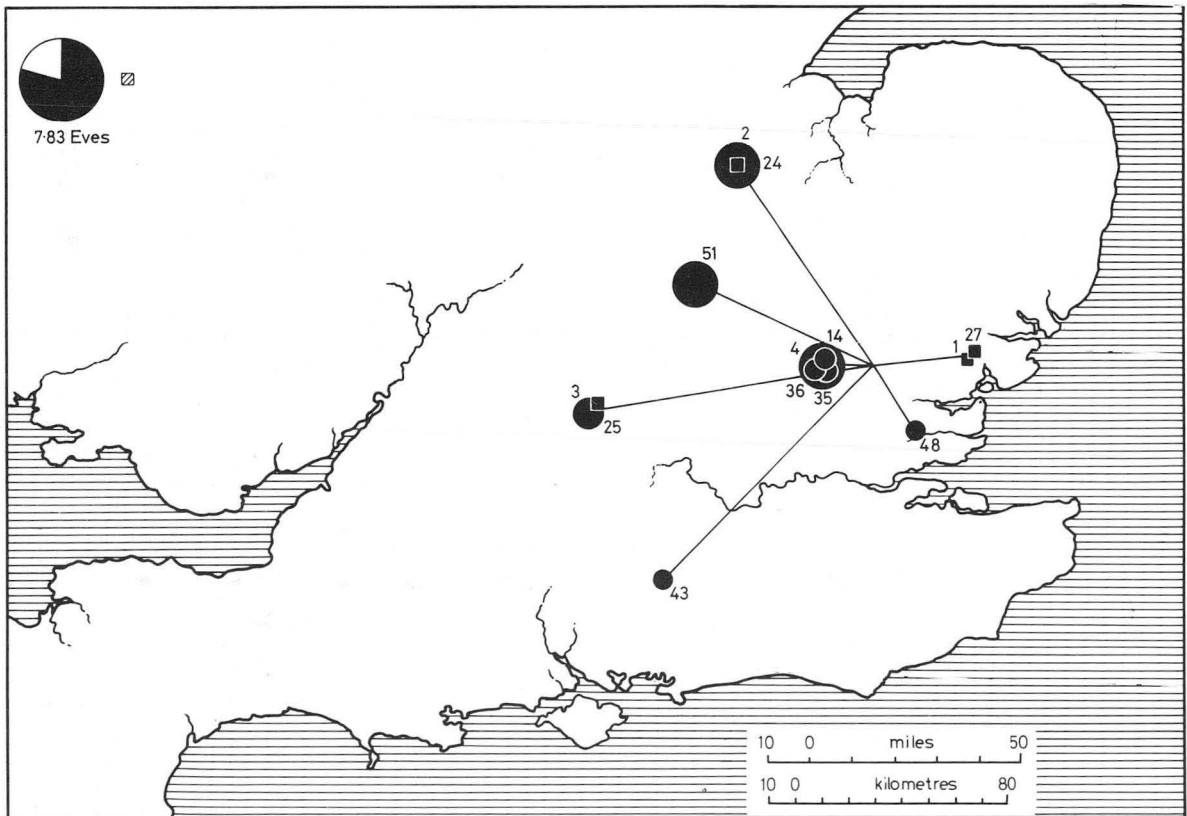
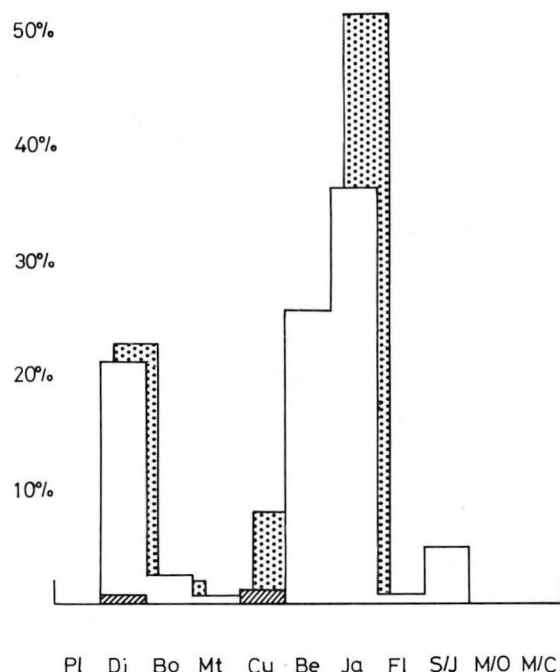


Figure 51 Roman pottery supply (*top*): c. AD 190-240; (*bottom*): c. AD 360-400+

Vessel Classes:

Group 464/820 c.AD180–220

(Rivenhall included for comparative purposes)



Shrine Group c.AD350–400

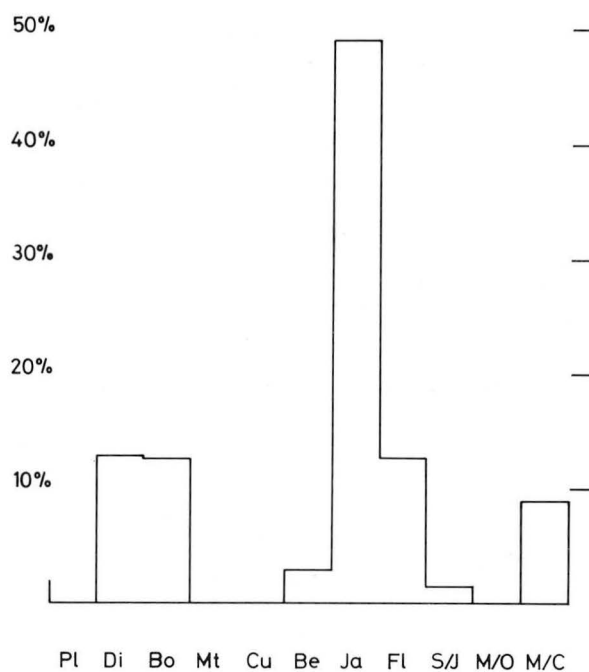


Figure 52 Incidence of vessel classes, (left): Groups 464/820, (right): Shrine 273

For legend see p. 22

probable pentice moulded sherd, no beakers were recognised, nor, curiously, were any stamp-decorated sherds. One vessel (the C81) had evidence of rivet repairs (see also the Alice Holt storage jars, below).

Hadham oxidised red wares (4) (Fig. 53, Nos 5-13)

1.680 kg; 24.01% Eve

Most of the Hadham ware sherds were in a fragmentary state. The lack of a published type series makes brief descriptions of the forms difficult. Open forms include fragments of plain-rimmed dishes, while flange-rimmed forms were represented by a single sherd with a characteristically delicately-thrown rim (compare Fig. 53, No. 6 with Hull 1963, fig. 105). Other open forms include a carinated bowl of Chelmsford form C10 (Going 1987, fig. 2). The rim of this vessel (Fig. 53, No. 7) is decorated with frilling, and other examples of the form from the Hadham potteries may be stamped or decorated with concentric ring stamps or chevrons and dimples in 'Romano-Saxon' style (Roberts 1982, 142, pl. 50.X37). A distinctive bowl type is the slack-profiled bead-rimmed vessel decorated with faint rouletting (Fig. 53, No. 8). There was also an imitation f38. Fragments of small bowl-jars (undecorated, but similar in form to Roberts type A13 (1982); see Fig. 30, No. 2 here: from Votive Pit 304) were also evident. Jar types included the commoner necked, angular rimmed forms (Fig. 53, Nos 9-11), and also the 'Romano-Saxon' jar which is Roberts type C14.3 (Roberts 1982, 74 and pl. 22). No specific beaker types were identifiable, and the only probable flagon types were represented by body or base sherds.

Lower Rhineland Fabric 1 (6) (not illustrated)

Single sherd only, from a roughcast bag-shaped beaker. Residual.

White-slipped Oxfordshire red wares (13) (not illustrated)

45g
A single vessel was represented by a basal sherd of a mortarium, probably of Young type WC7 (Young 1977, fig. 37).

White-slipped Hadham wares (14) (not illustrated)

15g; 0.76% Eve
Two sherds only were found; a rim and a body sherd of a closed form in a reduced fabric. The substantial quantity of oxidised wares (4) make the comparative rarity of Hadham white-slipped products slightly surprising. It is probable, however, that as with Oxfordshire, this fabric formed only a minor component of the industry's late Roman output.

Nene Valley 'self-coloured' wares (24) (not illustrated)

30g
A body sherd only was found, from a mortarium probably of Chelmsford type D14 (Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 8.102-3). Perhaps residual in a context of this date.

Oxfordshire white wares (25) (not illustrated)

10g
Single sherd only, from an uncertain form (probably M22).

Colchester buff wares (27) (not illustrated)

15g
A very abraded body sherd from an uncertain form. Residual.

Romanising grey wares (34/45) (not illustrated)

160g; 1.40% Eve
A small group, mainly comprising small body sherds of uncertain closed forms. The origins of this group are

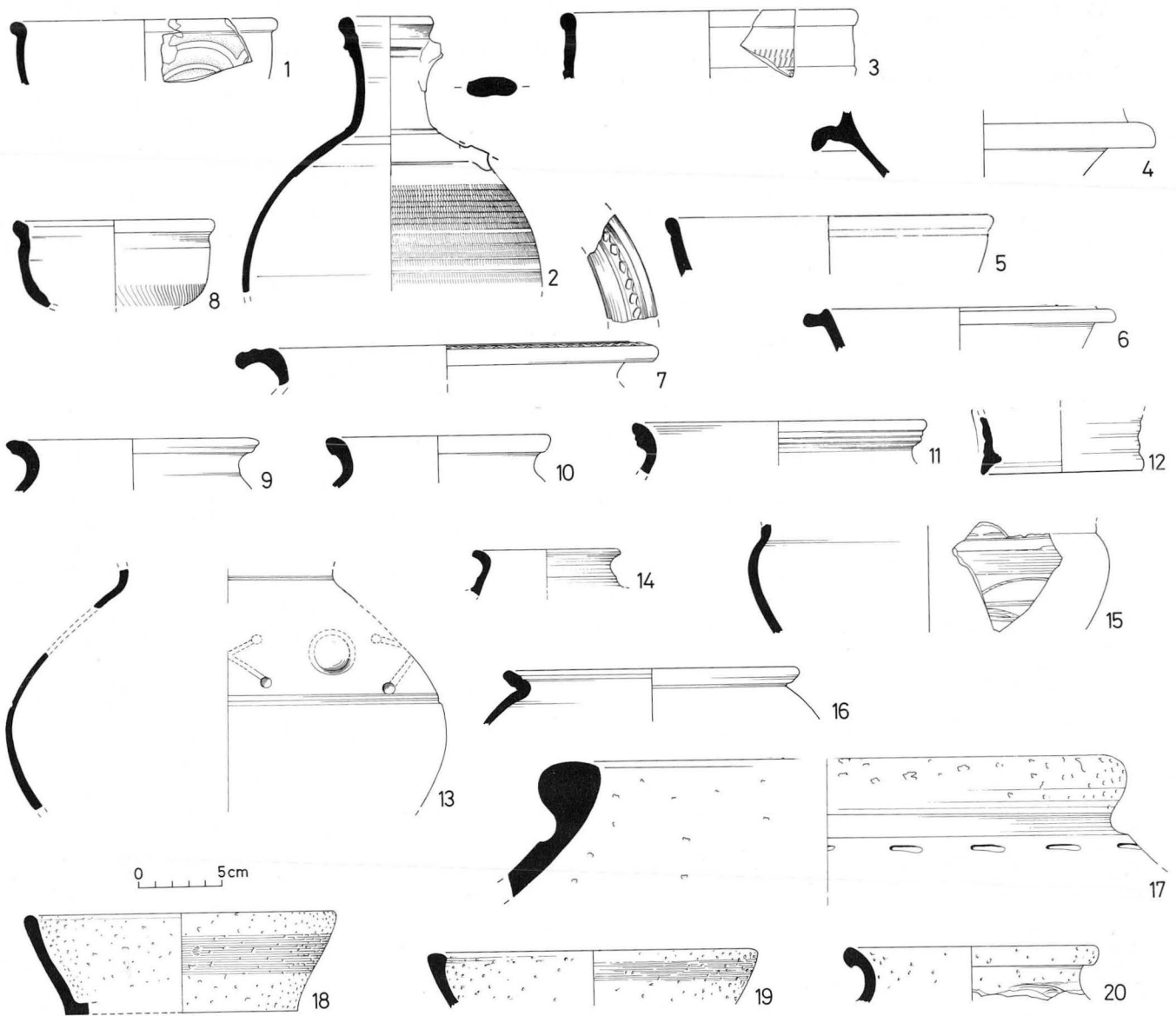


Figure 53 Roman pottery from Shrine 273, 1-20. Scale 1:4

probably quite disparate (see discussion of the ware in Group L 464/820, above), but probably includes Hadham.

Black-surfaced Hadham grey wares (35) (not illustrated)

210g; 3.57% Eve

A number of sherds of open forms, most commonly plain and flange-rimmed dishes are assigned to this fabric, which is probably from the Hadham kilns. It appears to have been commonly used in the manufacture of certain 'Romano-Saxon' decorated forms (eg. Roberts 1982), although none came from this group.

Hadham grey wares (36) (Fig. 53, Nos 14-15)

170g; 1.91% Eve

A number of sherds exhibit typological features characteristic of late Hadham products. Forms include plain-rimmed dishes and the occasional rilled shoulder sherd of a Braughing jar (G21). Illustrated is a narrow-necked jar in a rather granular grey ware with a grey black slip.

Alice Holt wares (43) (Fig. 54, Nos 21-2)

1.305 kg

Substantial fragments of two storage jars of Lyne and Jefferies (1979) type IC6, and parts of a third with burnished 'swags' were recovered from the shrine levels; it is thought that they had originally been partly buried, probably intact, in Pit 299 for votive or storage purposes (see p. 34). The drawings are based on material from most of the shrine and later levels. Alice Holt wares, while rare, are nevertheless quite widely distributed in Essex from the mid-4th century onwards (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 48). One vessel at least (Fig. 54, No. 22) had been extensively repaired with lead rivets in antiquity.

'Storage jar' fabrics (44) (Fig. 53, No. 17)

2.795 kg; 1.40% Eve

A number of body sherds were found; also two rims of the characteristic late-Roman 'golf-club' rimmed form (eg. Cotton 1958, fig. 94.4-5). This form appears to be diagnostic of late Roman assemblages in north Essex (although it is not isolated from the general run of *Cam 273* jars in Hull's typology). It is absent from Chelmsford.

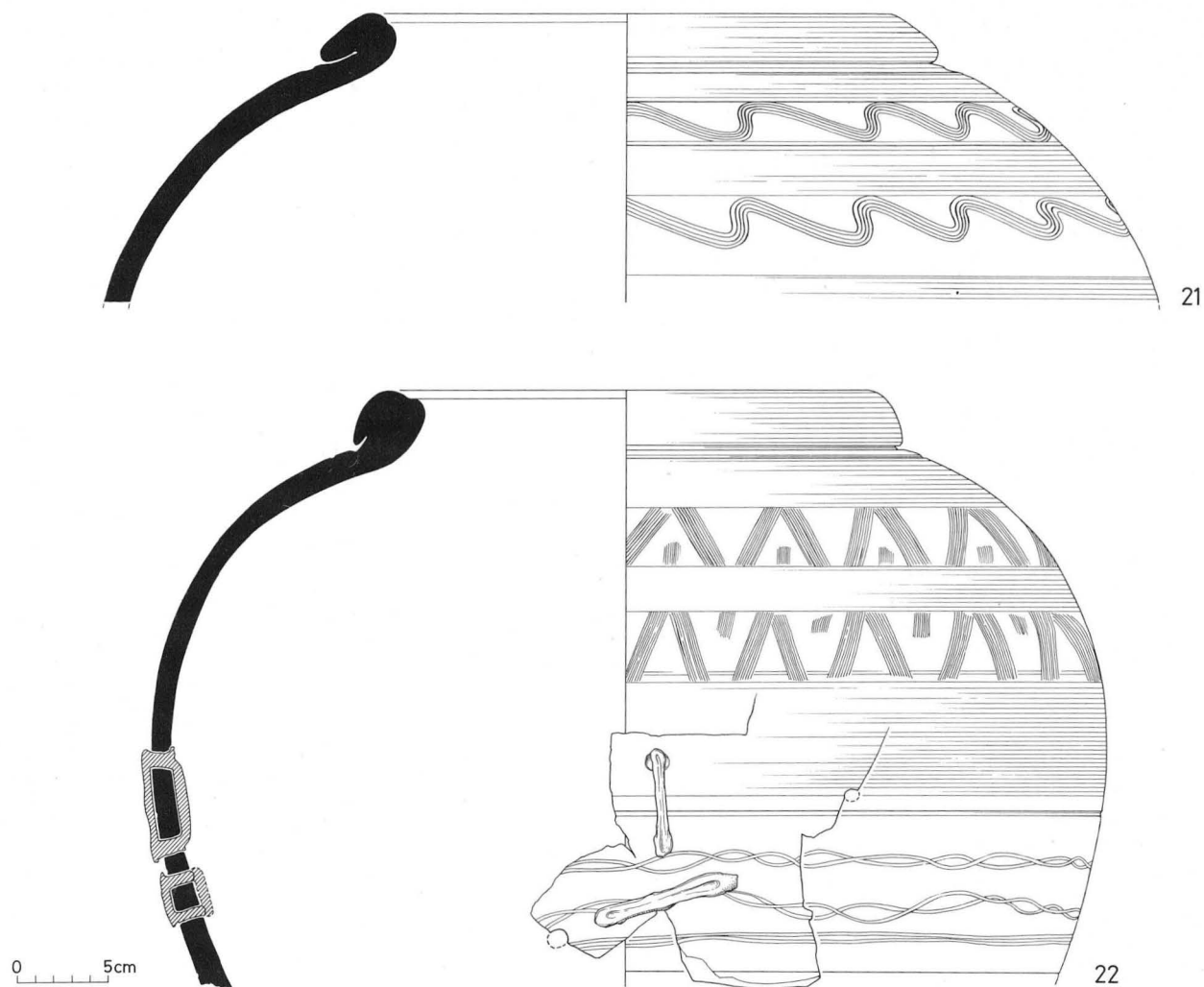


Figure 54 Roman pottery from Shrine 273, 21-2. Scale 1:4

Miscellaneous grey wares (39/47) (Fig. 53, No. 16)

1.275 kg; 18.13% Eve

The grey ware group, while fairly substantial, is nevertheless meagre in quantity when compared with contemporary groups from central and south Essex. Despite this sherds of vessels of most classes are represented, although most are from plain and flange-rimmed dishes, and necked jars of various types. The *Cam* 268 is absent, which suggests that the form, while rare in Group L 464/820 (see above, p. 65) did not last much beyond the mid-4th century.

'Rettendon' wares (48) (not illustrated)

55g; 2.93% Eve

A few sherds, all from necked jar forms, were found in the shrine levels. Dunmow lies on the periphery of this industry's catchment area, but despite this, and the fact that there is little evidence of continued production into the later 4th century, it is probable that these sherds originated in central Essex.

Late 'shell-tempered' wares (51) (Fig. 53, Nos 18-20)

1.180 kg; 21.07% Eve

A substantial group of wares, mostly comprising necked jars with out-turned, slightly angular or undercut rims and rilled shoulders. Also present were fragments of at least two plain-rimmed dishes (Sanders 1973, fig. 3, forms 7-8). The

fabric ranges in colour from dirty beige through orange to black. While the orange-fired sherds appear to be more characteristic of the shell-tempered wares from the Nene Valley region it is probable that vessels from a number of different sources are involved here.

South Spanish Amphora (55) (not illustrated)

35g

Fragment of a ?Dressel 20. Residual.

Discussion: Pottery supply to Great Dunmow, c. AD 360-400 +

(Fig. 51b)

While this assemblage is comparatively small (7.83 Eve) it is broadly comparable, at least in terms of origin if not proportions, with the groups of Chelmsford ceramic phase 8 (Going 1987, fig. 59). The proportion of colour-coated fabrics is remarkably high (48.77%, as opposed to 20.3% at Chelmsford). However this figure has been inflated both by the inclusion of a complete flagon rim in Nene Valley Colour-Coat (Fig. 53, No. 2), and the high incidence of Hadham oxidised red wares' which are hardly 'colour-coats', but coarse wares with, at best, a perfunctory slip coating. Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat is on the high side when compared with Chelmsford (8.55% compared with 3%), which is surprising in view of the proximity of the

Hadham kilns. It suggests Stane Street was a major trade artery to Colchester and East Anglia at this date. The Nene Valley wares are considerably more prominent than in Chelmsford (16.21% as opposed to 3.55%), but most of this difference is accounted for by the flagon referred to above.

Of the coarse wares, Hadham products form a roughly similar proportion to Chelmsford (5.48% to 6.34%), but it is probable that a greater proportion of the grey-ware fabric group (34/45; 47) derives from this source than at Chelmsford. Grey wares generally form a diminishing proportion of late 4th-century groups as one moves away from the Thames, from c. 60% in a late group at Wickford (Well 1, Groups D-H and C; Going forthcoming b) to c. 29% at Chelmsford, and at Dunmow, 17.11%. By contrast the amount of late shell-tempered pottery diminishes towards the Thames, from 21.07% at Dunmow, to 16.57% at Chelmsford, and 10.77% at Heybridge. At Wickford, c. 20 km south of Chelmsford, it is barely present (< 1.0%). Wares in the Rettendon tradition (48), total 2.93% at Dunmow. While they are located at Rettendon in Figure 51b, Dunmow is rather peripheral to their main distribution (Going 1987, fig. 43) and it is possible they derive from more local kilns. Certainly the general variety of the fabric makes a single centre unlikely.

More distant coarse ware sources include Alice Holt, which is generally rare in north Essex, and of the white wares, Nene Valley mortaria. There is some evidence to suggest that the latter fabric was no longer in production after the mid-4th century. Absent from the group was BB1 (6.78% at Chelmsford), which seems to appear in significant quantities in Essex after the mid 4th century; probably as a result of the loss of northern outlets at about this date. It is unlikely that its producers were able to make much headway in the face of competition from the Hadham kilns.

Forms (Fig. 52b)

The open classes comprise 25.15% of the assemblage, and are divided almost equally into dishes and bowls. Of the former, plain-rimmed types predominate, with the occasional flange-rimmed. Also present were a few rim sherds of a dish form with a slack small beading, a characteristic Hadham form which may be diagnostic of later 4th century groups (*cf.* Figs 53, No. 5; 55 No. 5, from the shrine upper levels, with the Verulamium Theatre Deposit: Geddes 1977, fig. 16.4-7). Rare in Essex are the late shell-tempered plain-rimmed dishes, Fig. 53, Nos 18-19. Bowl forms comprised a number of necked Oxfordshire types, and from both Oxfordshire and Hadham, vessels imitating the f38 (*eg.* Fig. 53, No. 4). Other types included the carinated C10 (Fig. 53, No. 7) from Hadham. Mortaria were all but absent, save a (probably residual) Oxfordshire M22 rim, and a body sherd, also probably residual, of type D14 from the Nene Valley. There were fragments of Oxfordshire footing types. Beakers were also rare (2.80%). The rims and identifiable sherds were all from pectice moulded forms. Also rare were flagons; only a few sherds of possible flagons were noted; with the exception of large numbers of body sherds of Figure 53, No. 2.

Jar forms comprised the largest class (49.04%). Most were necked vessels with out-turned rims. The *Cam* 268 was very sparsely represented; and was probably residual at this date (Going 1987, XII.3). Generally lacking were ledge-rimmed forms, which are characteristic of

central/southern Essex, and everted rimmed forms (in, *eg.*, BB1). Of the storage jars the late 'golf club' rimmed form was the most evident (Fig. 53, No. 17). This form is characteristically north Essex, and seems to be late. None were noted at Chelmsford, but they are evident in Colchester (see above, p. 65), although Hull did not distinguish them from the general *Cam* 273 series. From Alice Holt, as noted above, came the most distinctive storage jar forms.

Pottery of intrinsic interest

(Figs 55-6)

Colchester Colour-Coat (1)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 1 Small bag-shaped **beaker** with cornice rim and restricted base. Smooth burnished surfaces. In hard pale orange/brown fabric with brown colour-coat. c. AD 150-180. Period III.3. *Pit* 571.

Nene Valley Colour-Coat (2)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 2 **Jar** with bifid rim. Thick white sandy ware with brown to grey colour coat (Howe *et al.* 1981, 22, fig. 6.70). Late 4th century. Period V+. *Subsoil* (Cat 95).
- No. 3 Uncertain closed form, with rouletted decoration and white painted trails and blobs. Thick white sandy ware with brown to dark grey colour coat. Late 4th century Period V.2+. *Post-hole* 567 (Cat 967).
- No. 4 **Beaker** with tapering neck and pointed bead rim. Slip trailed decoration on the body (H 41). In hard buff sandy fabric with brown to grey colour coat. 3rd to early-4th century (after Howe *et al.* 1981, fig. 5.49). Period IV.1. *Pit* 551.

Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat (3)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 5 Fragment from a **bowl** stamped with a row of demi-rosettes. Late 4th century. *Clearing over shrine* (Cat 954).

Hadham oxidised red wares (4)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 6 Bead rim **dish** (B2). Covered with an orange/brown slip. Hard sandy fabric with light grey core and orange margins. Flavian-mid 3rd century. Period VI. *L 845 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 7 **Bowl** with internally beaded rim in hard sandy brown/orange fabric. Flavian-mid 3rd century. Period V.2+. *Ditches* 216, 320 (Cat 47).
- No. 8 Small plain rimmed **dish** in hard sandy brown/orange fabric. Flavian-mid 3rd century. Period V.2-3. *Pit* 295.
- No. 9 **Bowl** with out-turned rim and cordon on the shoulder below which is a band of low bosses and partly obscured concentric circles. Published as Roberts type A22.2 (Roberts 1982, 48). The exterior and rim are burnished and covered with a fine orange slip. In hard sandy fabric with grey core, orange/red margins and bright orange surfaces. 4th century. Period VI. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857*.

Roberts published details of 41 Romano-Saxon sherds from Great Dunmow (1982). Apart from at Hadham itself, this total is matched at Chelmsford (also 41 pieces) and outstripped only at Ware. At that time, none of the contexts in which the pottery was found had been dated, but now that the site assemblage as a whole has been examined, it is perhaps useful to review the dating evidence of the Dunmow Romano-Saxon material.

The earliest stratified pieces are from levels which began to accumulate during Period IV.2, but were still being added to during Periods V.2-3 (*ie.*, well after the mid 4th century). These are Roberts' types A1.4, A3.8, C38.8 and X20.7 (all from components of Gravel Pit 549). Four are stratified in Period V.2-3 levels (Roberts types A10.2, A38.8, C14.3 and X20.8). The remaining 33 pieces derive from post-Roman (Periods VI-VII) levels, also from the lower and upper subsoils, and general clearance levels. There is therefore no definite evidence that any of these pieces pre-dates c. AD 360. This is in contrast to Robert's observation that at Braintree the earliest 'closely stratified' pieces (his A5.6 and A16.1) occur in levels dated c. AD 260-300 (Roberts 1982, 151). Careful reading of the original

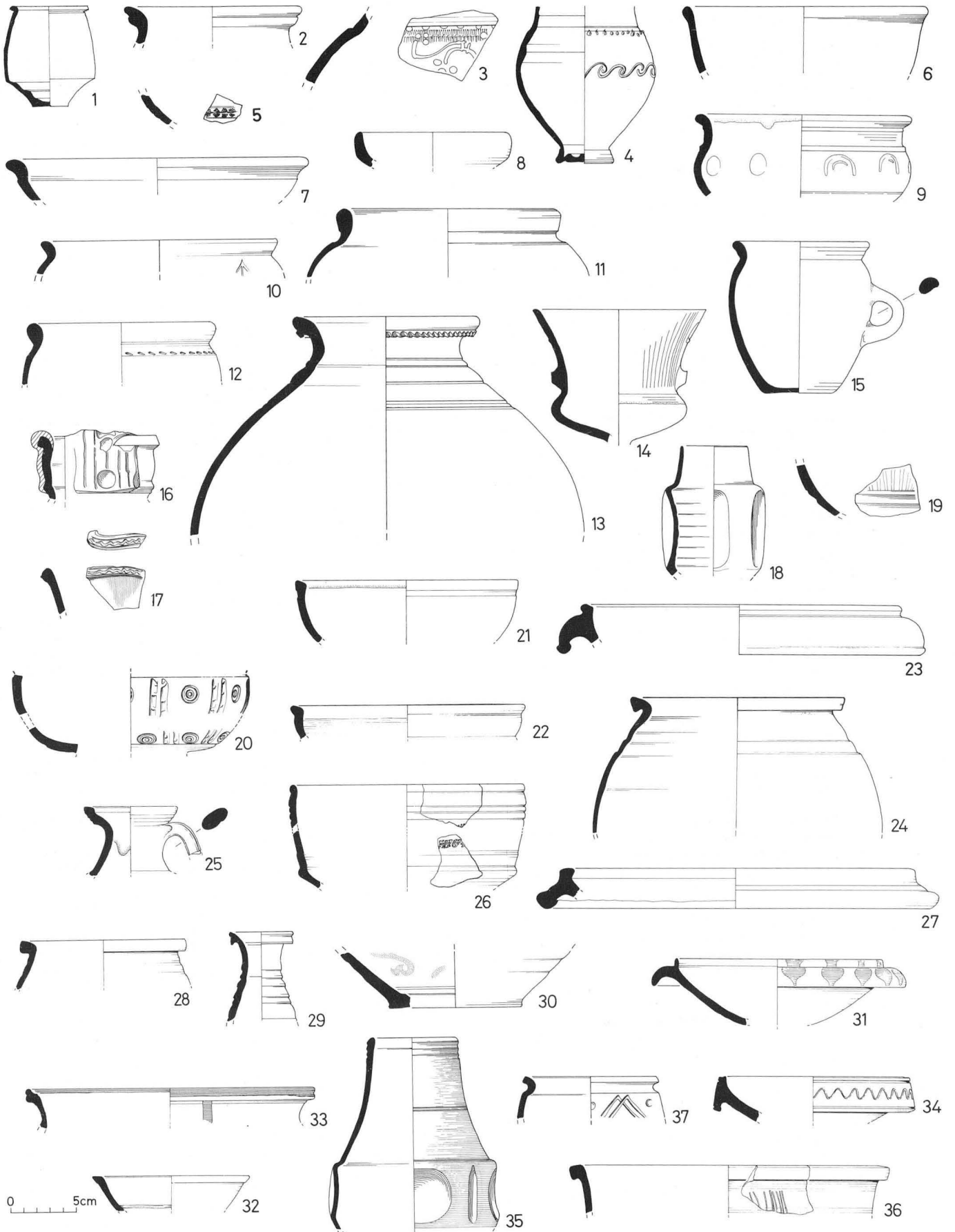


Figure 55 Roman pottery of intrinsic interest, 1-37, Scale 1:4

report reveals that the contexts in which these pieces occurred, despite the impression given to the contrary, continued in use until around the mid-4th century, (Drury 1976, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 49, 52) and therefore cannot be pressed into service in support of an early date. The remaining dating evidence for *pre* mid-4th century pieces is meagre, and mainly rests on the occurrence of pieces in Building 1 at Caistor by Yarmouth. The relevant sherds come from an old excavation by Mr E. Greenfield, and the dates should be treated with caution. For the moment, a date of post c. AD 350 for the majority, if not all the pieces of the East Anglian group should be preferred, a date which agrees with the first widespread occurrence of Hadham wares; to which Roberts ascribes the bulk of the Romano-Saxon pieces in the region.

Catalogue of Romano-Saxon pieces (Roberts' types are in bold; contexts and periods follow in brackets).

A1.4 (549, IV.2-V.2/3), **A1.5** (421, subsoil), **A1.6** (996, upper subsoil), **A3.8** (918, IV.2-V.2/3), **A3.10** (421, subsoil), **A3.11** (800, VI), **A3.12** (445, VI), **A3.13** (993, lower subsoil), **A3.14** (997, upper subsoil), **A4.5** (998, upper subsoil), **A5.4** (484, VI), **A5.5** (992, lower subsoil), **A8.2** (433, subsoil), **A8.4** (433, subsoil), **A9.1** (445, VI), **A10.1** (433, subsoil), **A10.2** (67, V.2/3), **A14.10** (964, subsoil), **A19.10** (119, lower subsoil), **A19.11** (994, subsoil), **A19.12** (173, subsoil), **A19.13** (171, subsoil), **A19.14** (L 495, subsoil in Gravel Pit 857), **A19.15** (L 495, as above), **A19.20** (150, subsoil), **A22.2** (844, VI), **A32.3** (421, subsoil), **A38.8** (60, V.2/3), **B20.1** (187, subsoil), **C14.3** (1024, V.2/3), **C20.10** (120, lower subsoil), **C38.8** (971, IV.2-V.2/3), **D38.2** (unstrat), **X20.6** (433, subsoil), **X20.7** (971, IV.2-V.2/3), **X20.8** (199, V.3), **X22.1** (112, subsoil), **X22.3** (41, subsoil), **X22.7** (995, general clearing).

- No. 10** Everted rim **jar**, graffito below rim (below, p. 79, No. 5). 4th century. Period IV.2-V.2/3. *Gravel Pit 549*.
- No. 11** **Jar** with flattened bead rim. Exterior burnishing. 4th century. Period V.2. *Ditch 121 (Cat 122)*.
- No. 12** Small **jar** with rounded rim and stabbed decoration on shoulder. Soft sandy fabric with grey core and bright orange surfaces. 4th century. Period IV.3-V.1. *Ditch 537*.
- No. 13** Large narrow-necked **jar** with frilled decoration on rim. Very thin orange slip. 4th century. Period V.2-3. *Pit 295*.
- No. 14** Part of a two-handled **cantharus** with plain rim and bulbous body. A very rare form probably imitating the samian *Ludowici* III. In hard sandy orange fabric with orange slip over part of the exterior. A similar example from Colchester (COLEM 1915.3325) was 'found in cutting a new road near St John's Abbey gateway' (May 1930, 156, no. 261, pl. 58, 261). A form parallel, without the pedestal base, is in York Museum (York Museum Catalogue p. 83, pl. 20, no. 2). Late 4th century. Periods V.3-VI. *Post-hole 244 and L 459, 820 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 15** Everted rim **tankard** with single handle. Exterior burnishing. In hard sandy orange fabric with orange to grey surfaces. 4th century? *Unstrat from Major J.G.S. Brinson's collection (Cat 1015)*.
- No. 16** Neck and rim of a large **face flagon**, face missing. Small non-functional strap handle applied to the neck (*cf.* Johnson 1983, 92, fig. 39, 46 a-c). Covered with a very thin orange slip. Hard sandy orange fabric. Late 4th century. *Clearing over ditches (Cat 124)*.
- No. 17** Rim fragment of a **trefoil-mouthed flagon** (J11) with beaded lip and 'dog-tooth' decoration on the rim, vertical burnishing on neck. The exterior is covered with a fine orange slip. Hard sandy fabric with grey core and orange margins. 4th century. Period VI. *L 845 in Gravel Pit 857*.

?New Forest Colour-Coat (not present at Chelmsford)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 18** **Folded beaker** with a straight body and plain rim. Very hard fired colour coated fabric with light grey core, dark grey surfaces and brown colour coat. Fulford type 27 (Fulford 1975, 51-2, fig. 12). Late 4th century. Period VI. *L 451, 459, 816 in Gravel Pit 857*.

South-East English Lead-Glazed Ware (10)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 19** Sherd from a **bowl**, imitation Dr ?37, Arthur type 7 (Arthur 1978, 305, fig. 8.3). Covered with a light yellow/olive green glaze. Hard sandy fabric with brown/grey core and orange margins. Trajanic-Hadrianic. Period III.2. *Pit 525*.

Local mica-dusted wares (12)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 20** Hemispherical **bowl** decorated with two bands of alternating block and 'ring-and-dot' stamps (Fig. 57, Nos 4-5). This vessel has no exact parallels in any of the early 2nd-century fine ware industries making mica dusted wares, while its decorative scheme is reminiscent of a Romano-Saxon vessel from Harlow (Roberts 1982, pl. 17, A40.2). It may be of a similar date to this piece. Period III.1-2. *Gravel Pit 316 L IV, L III, and Pit 591 (V.2)*.

Hadham white-slipped wares (14)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 21** Hemispherical **bowl** in hard sandy orange fabric with white/grey slip on the exterior. ?2nd century. Period IV.3. *Ditch 539*.
- No. 22** **Imitation Dr 29/37** with a pale cream slip on the exterior. In hard sandy fabric with grey core, orange margins and surfaces. ?2nd century. Period III.3-V.2/3. *Ditch 550 (Cat 931)*.
- No. 23** **Mortarium** with out-curving rounded rim with bead on top. (D3), covered with a cream slip. In hard brown/red fabric with cream slip, c. AD 100-160. Period VI. *L 450 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 846)*.
- No. 24** Everted-rim **jar** with offsets on the shoulder. Covered with a buff coloured slip. Hard sandy fabric with black to orange core and surfaces. ?2nd century. Period IV.1. *Slot 503*.
- No. 25** **Ring-necked flagon** with a widely flared rim with weak mouldings (J3). Fine cream slip on exterior. Hard sandy fabric with grey core and orange/brown margins and surfaces. Antonine. *Gravel Pit 316 (Cat 217)*.

Early Hadham oxidised red wares (19)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 26** **Bowl** with fine beaded rim, tapering side walls to a low carination (C23). Traces of two block stamps. Die uncertain, possibly Rodwell's Group 2C (Rodwell 1978c, 238-41). In hard fine sandy fabric with buff core and orange/brown margins. London/Essex stamped wares. Late Flavian-Trajanic. Period III.2-IV.2. *Ditch 100 (Cat 284)*.

Brockley Hill Wares (26)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 27** **Mortarium** with internal bead rim and slightly drooping flange. In hard granular buff fabric. Antonine. *Unstrat., Area A (Cat 400)*.
- No. 28** **Jar** with angular rim in hard finely granulated buff fabric, blackened on rim. Antonine. *Subsoil (Cat 187)*.
- No. 29** **Unguentarium** (Q1.2) in hard granular fabric with grey core and salmon pink surfaces. 1st century. *L 443 in Gravel Pit 857*.

Oxfordshire 'parchment' wares (30)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 30** Base of a shallow **bowl**. The interior is painted with patterns in red paint (Young 1977, 86, fig. 26 P15.1). In hard sandy ware with pinky/buff core and buff margins. 4th century. *Subsoil (Cat 119)*.

Nene Valley 'parchment' wares (not present at Chelmsford)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 31** Plain-rimmed flange **bowl** with brown painted decoration on the flange (C7). In hard sandy buff fabric. 4th century. *Subsoil (Cat 120)*.
- No. 32** Small triangular-rimmed **bowl** with groove below the rim. Brown painted line decoration on the rim and interior. 4th century. Period IV.2. *Pit 504 (Cat 407)*.
- No. 33** Neck of a **jar** with grooved rim in hard pinky buff fabric with brown slip on rim. 4th century. Period V.2-3. *Post-hole 323*.

Mancetter/Hartshill wares (not present at Chelmsford)

(Fig. 55)

- No. 34** Small wall-sided **mortarium**. The flange is decorated with two grooves with a wavy line between. In sandy fabric with orange core and buff/pale orange margins and surfaces. ?2nd/3rd century. Period VI. *L 450 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 846)*.

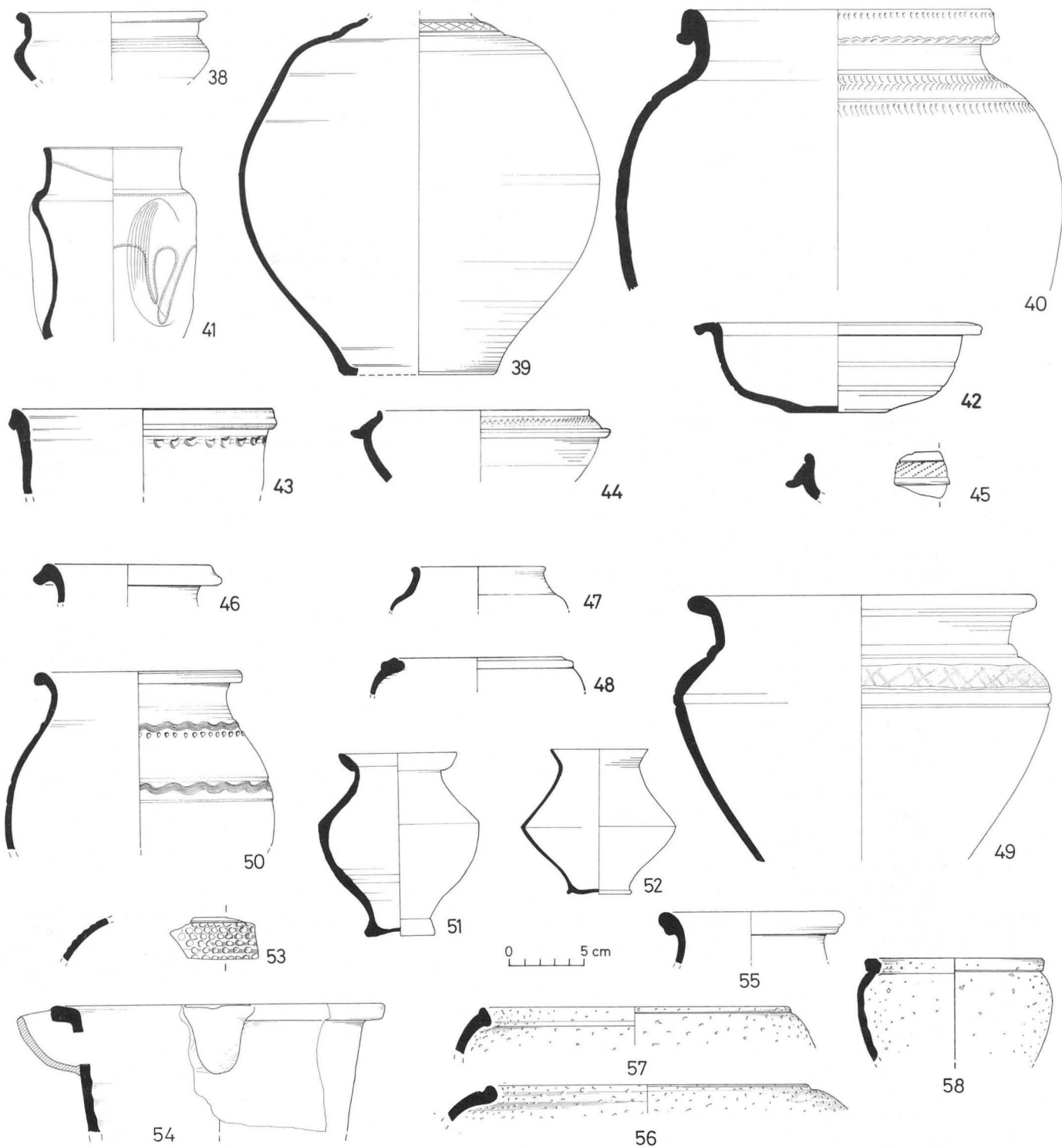


Figure 56 Roman pottery of intrinsic interest, 38-58, Scale 1:4

Hadham Black-Surfaced Ware (35)

(Fig. 55)

No. 35 **Beaker** with tall tapering neck and low body decorated with faceted oval folds alternating with narrow grooving (H39). Highly burnished on the exterior in hard sandy fabric with light grey core and darker grey inner surface and black exterior. 4th century. Both form and fabric are closely paralleled at Burgh Castle (Johnson 1983). Period IV.2-V.2/3. *Gravel Pit 430 (Cat 606)*.

Rim sherd of a second from Cat 53 (*not illus.*).

Hadham grey ware (36)

(Fig. 55 and 56)

No. 36 **Bowl** with angular rim. Rim burnished. Vertical scratched lines below rim. In sandy grey ware with dark grey surfaces. Period III.1-IV.2. *Ditch 583 (Cat 611)*.

No. 37 Rim of a small **jar** with double chevron with single dimples in the upper triangles (Roberts 1982, 23, pl. 5.5). In hard sandy ware with pale grey core and darker surfaces. 4th century. *Subsoil (Cat 15)*.

No. 38 Small carinated, bead-rimmed **bowl** with grooving on the shoulder. Hard sandy ware with pale grey/brown core and light grey surfaces. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*

- No. 39 Large narrow-necked **jar** with a zone of lattice decoration below the rim. Externally burnished. Hard sandy grey ware with dark grey core, orange/brown margins and grey surfaces. 2nd century. Period IV.1. *Slot 503*.
- No. 40 Large **storage jar** with stabbed and pinched decoration on the rim and stabbed decoration on the shoulder. A similar example is known from Great Chesterford (Toller forthcoming). In hard sandy gritty grey ware. Period VI. *Layer 450 in 857*.
- No. 41 Plain-rimmed **beaker** with elongated body folds. The exterior is burnished and covered with a fine grey slip to half way down the folds. In hard sandy ware with light grey core and mid-grey surfaces. Period IV.2. *Pit 568*.

Miscellaneous grey wares (34, 39, 47)

(Fig. 56)

- No. 42 Carinated **bowl** with straight flat-topped rim and two grooves on the body (C16). Hard sandy grey ware. *Gravel Pit 316 (Cat 226)*.
- No. 43 Uncertain open form with folded rim with stabbed decoration below. Hard sandy ware with pale grey core and mid grey surfaces. Late 3rd-4th centuries. *Subsoil (Cat 15)*.
- No. 44 **Bowl** with drooping pointed flange, decorated with stabbing (C4). Burnished on exterior below flange. In hard sandy dark grey fabric with black surfaces. Flavian to early 2nd century. Period III.1-2. *Gravel Pit 240*.
- No. 45 **Bowl** with drooping pointed flange, decorated with stabbing (C4). Fine sandy ware with pale grey core and surfaces. Flavian to early 2nd century. Period IV.2. *Pit 504*.
- No. 46 Narrow necked, flange rim **jar** in hard grog-tempered fabric with grey core, brown margins and black surfaces. 1st-early 2nd century? Period III.2. *Post-hole 595 (Cat 636)*.
- No. 47 **Beaker** with short tapering neck and beaded rim, exterior burnishing and dark grey slip. In fine hard sandy grey ware. 3rd century. Period IV.2. *Pit 568*.
- No. 48 Ledge-rimmed neckless **jar** with unusual rim (G5). Hard sandy fabric with pink core and brown to black surfaces. 1st/early 2nd century. *Subsoil (Cat 21)*.
- No. 49 **Jar** with beaded rim, concave neck and wide cordon decorated with burnished latticing (G17). In hard sandy grey ware. 1st/early 2nd century. *Gravel Pit 316 (Cat 226)*.
- No. 50 **Jar** with out-turned neck and bead rim. Decorated with rows of combed wavy line decoration below the neck and on the body. Exterior burnishing. Hard sandy ware with brown core and grey surfaces. Period IV.2. *Pit 504*.
- No. 51 **Beaker** with high carination and everted rim. In hard sandy fabric with dark grey core and mid grey surfaces. Early to mid 2nd century. Period III.2-V.2/3. *Well 207*.
- No. 52 **Beaker** (H10) with a mid body carination and an everted, plain rim. Hard sandy grey-black fabric (34). 1st Century. Period II. *Inhumation 336*.
- No. 53 Fragment of an uncertain closed form with impressed scale-like decoration. Hard sandy ware with pale grey core and darker grey surfaces. Period VI. *L 459 in Gravel Pit 857*.
- No. 54 Large fragment of an open form, sooted externally, with a square-topped, canted rim. A single circular perforation below is protected by a 'cup-like' projection, probably a flame-guard. The vessel resembles a variant of *Cam 390* (Hull 1963, fig. 107, p. 190). Probably 2nd century. Period III.3. *Gravel Pit 857, primary fill (Cat 857)*.

Hadham White-Slipped Grey Ware (not present at Chelmsford)

(Fig. 56)

- No. 55 Narrow-necked **jar** with bifid rim, the exterior is covered with a cream slip. In hard sandy grey fabric. ?Late 3rd-4th centuries. Period V.2. *Ditch 121*.

?South Essex shell-tempered ware (50)

(Fig. 56)

- No. 56 Neckless bead rim **jar** (G1.1) in hard coarse shell-tempered fabric with black core and surfaces. Pre-Flavian-Flavian. *Redbond Lodge, unstrat.*
- No. 57 Neckless bead rim **jar** (G1.1) in hard coarse shell-tempered fabric with grey core and black to red/brown surfaces. Pre-Flavian-Flavian. *Subsoil (Cat 15)*.
- No. 58 Neckless bead rim **jar** (G1.1) in hard coarse shell-tempered fabric with grey core and black to red/brown surfaces. Pre-Flavian-Flavian. Period VI. *L 448 in Gravel Pit 857*.

The graffiti

(Fig. 57)

by C.J. Going and M.W.C. Hassall

- No. 1 47 (G9) Post-firing graffito cut in capitals on the shoulder reads QVI.IITVS[.] RIIMVS.IC.IIBMIIRAVIT for *Quietus Remus (hic) emperavit* ('Quietus Remus ordered this (pot)', taking (hic) as a mistake for hoc). Remus (of the Remi) as a cognomen occurs not infrequently in Gaul. Here it may be either Quietus' second name or an ethnic (see Wright and Hassall 1972, 356, no. 24 for a fuller discussion with references). Period III.2. *Ditch 100*.

(Not illustrated)

- No. 2 47 (E5) Post firing graffito 'X'. Period IV.2. *Storage Pit 504*.
- No. 3 47 (D) Post firing on neck 'X'. Period IV.2-V.2/3. *Gravel Pit 549*.
- No. 4 4 (VC) Post firing on base 'X'. For vessel see Fig. 55, No. 10. Period V.2. *Ditch intersection 216/320*.
- No. 5 4 (D) Post firing on sherd 'X'. Period IV.2-V.2/3. For vessel see Fig. 55, No. 10. *Gravel Pit 549*.

Addendum:

In June 1985 C.J. Going found a base sherd of a grey ware dish, probably 4th century in date, at 44 New Street. It is lightly inscribed with a post-firing graffito]NTIA[Probably from a name like INNOCE]NTIA or VALE]NTIA[NVS. (M. Hassall, pers. comm.) *Present location*: with householder (S.E. Richards).

The stamps

by C.J. Going

Mortarium stamp (27)

- Fig. 57, No. 2 A single example only was found, a herringbone stamp resembling Hull 1963, fig. 60.37, but not certainly from that die. The form is *Cam 497*. Probably c. AD 160-210. *L 459 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 818)*.

Roller stamp (47)

- Fig. 57, No. 3 A single complete roller could be reconstructed. On a grey ware closed form, probably of Colchester origin. Probably late 2nd-early 3rd centuries. *Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 446)*.

For a discussion of these stamps see below.

Stamps on a mica-dusted bowl (12)

- Fig. 57, Nos 4-5 Ring stamp, and block stamp. No parallels have been noted. Probably Flavian-Trajanic. *Gravel Pit 316 L III, IV (Cats 190, 197) and Pit 591 (Cat 832)*.

For a description of the vessel, see Fig. 55, No. 20.

London-Essex Wares (19)

(not illustrated)

Block stamp on an imitation f30 of Rodwell's 'London-Essex' type. (Rodwell 1978c). Die uncertain, but perhaps Rodwell 1978c, fig. 7.5-6, group 2C. For the vessel, see Fig. 55, No. 26. *Ditch 100 (Cat 284)*.

Amphora stamp (55)

- Fig. 57, No. 6 Amphora stamp on the handle of a Dressel 20 in south Spanish fabric. The much-worn die appears to read ONE2. Perhaps the same die as Callender 1965, fig. 12.19, an unprovenanced stamp in the Black Gate museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (Callender 1965, 198). An example from Rome reads ONES (C XV.3059b), while C XV. 3059a, also from Rome, gives a fuller representation of the name: ON-ESIMI. *L 451 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 484)*.

Stamps on Roman-Saxon pottery

(Not illustrated)

The Romano-Saxon pottery found in the excavations has been published by Roberts (1982), and therefore is not described here. See above, (p. 71) for the dating evidence.

R.V. I T V S R I M V C I C I B M I I R A V I

0 5cm

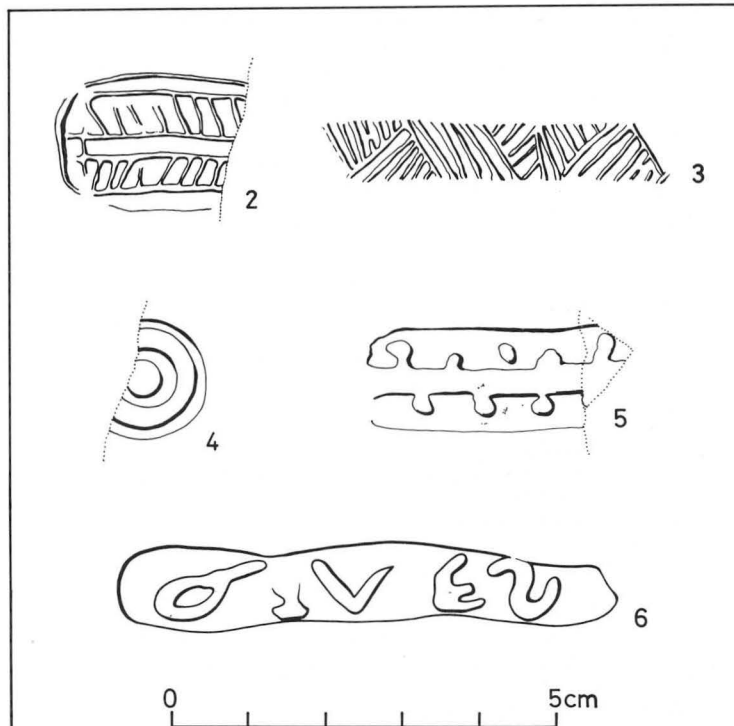
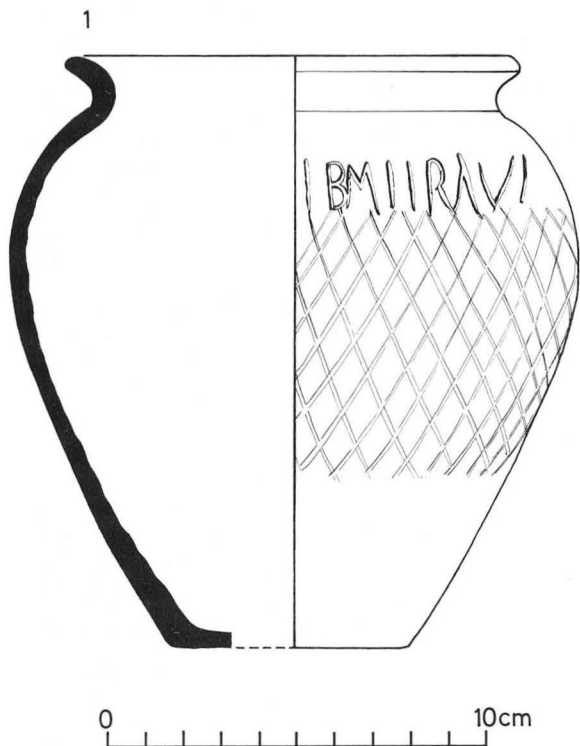


Figure 57 (1) Graffiti and (2-6) stamps. Scale 1:1, except the jar, 1:2

The roller-stamped pottery

by B.A. Ford

There are twenty-six roller-stamped sherds, all residual in late 3rd and 4th century or later contexts. Within these two distinctive types were noted: 'Chevron' type (21 examples), formed by a series of interlocking triangles; and 'free style' (1 example), formed by a number of randomly crossed lines.

All the sherds are small and in only one case was it possible to define the extent and design of the individual roller (Fig. 57, No. 3). There are, however, a number of possible die links, all in the chevron style. Two examples have a very deeply incised roller (Cat 121). Two very small sherds show very distinctive oblique chevrons. There are also four sherds which are possibly all from the same vessel (Cats 15, 24, and 121 (x 2)).

A minimum of twenty-three vessels are represented, including jars and a folded beaker. There are no rims present.

All the sherds are in sandy grey ware (47) except one, a folded beaker (Cat 24) in Romanizing grey ware (45). While a major source of grey wares at Dunmow is the Much Hadham region, no roller-stamped sherds have been definitely attributed to this production area. Three sherds were thin-sectioned (Cats 15, 537 and 538). All exhibited

very similar matrices which have links with fabrics produced at Colchester, possibly at kilns 27-28. (Hull 1963, 162-74; Ford in prep.).

III. Samian Ware

by W.J. Rodwell

Although there are nearly 600 sherds in this collection, the great majority are small, abraded and clearly residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. Rather unusually, the decorated wares comprise some of the larger and better preserved fragments: it may be that several mid- and late 2nd-century bowls survived in use into the later Roman period and have, therefore, a partial relevance to the deposits in which they were found.

The earliest samian from the site comprises a few scraps of South Gaulish ware, all in poor condition. Two or three of these may be pre- Flavian, as is the sherd of a fine form 29 from the High Stile School site (Fig. 58, No. 1). The earliest Central Gaulish wares, from Les Martres de Veyre, are also thinly represented, but from the Hadrianic period to the end of the 2nd century there is a fairly even spread of material. It is noticeable that the specifically late-Antonine forms do not dominate this collection, as they do on some other Essex sites.

Equally noticeable is the low proportion of East Gaulish ware from Dunmow. On coastal sites in the county it has been observed that up to 30% of the Antonine samian may be of East Gaulish origin (eg. Heybridge; Wickenden 1987), but this figure falls sharply on inland collections. Thus at Dunmow East Gaulish products account for less than 10% of the Antonine samian.

Three vessels, forms 18/31, 33 and 37R, are certainly of Colchester sigillata, providing further confirmation of the previously observed tendency for Colchester ware to appear on sites close to the Roman road between Colchester and Braughing. This was clearly one of the inland routes by which pottery was distributed to West Essex and Hertfordshire. Two sherds of a dish in hard, orange fabric probably originate in the Argonne in the 3rd century (found in Gravel Pit 316, L II). Also of Argonne ware is a small fragment of a rouletted bowl of form 37, of 4th-century date (Fig. 58, No. 19). These provide additional useful points on the distribution map of both plain and decorated wares from the later sigillata industry.

Decorated Ware

(Figs 58-9)

Abbreviations used: 0. for Oswald 1937; S and S for Stanfield and Simpson 1958.

(Fig. 58)

- No. 1 Form 29.** SG. Part of lower zone showing a running scroll with large leaves and neat tendril bindings. c. AD 55-70. *High Stile School site: private possession.*
- No. 2 Form 37.** SG. Seated cupid holding wreaths or rings, with birds above, not illustrated by Oswald. Under a wreathed arcade in the edge of a standing figure. c. AD 90-110. *High Stile School: private possession.*
- No. 3 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. Sherd of a panelled bowl with part of a standing figure and several S-scrolls, characteristic of the work of Cettus of Les Martres de Veyre (cf S and S 1958, pl. 143.47, 48). c. AD 110-130. *L 437 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 468).*
- No. 4 Form 37.** CG. Part of a woodland scene, comprising a tree, tufts of grass and leaf tips. This is in the style attributed to Sacer at Les Martres de Veyre (cf. Terrisse 1968, pl. XLVI, nos 384, 407 and 1047). c. AD 125-140. *Redbond Lodge: private possession.*
- No. 5 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. Rim and ovolo in the characteristic style of the X^o Potter (cf. S and S 1958, fig. 18.2). c. AD 125-150. *Unstrat.*
- No. 6 Form 37.** CG. Four abraded sherds of a bowl divided into a multiplicity of panels by small bead rows, including a St Andrew's Cross. The smaller panels are filled with medallions, rings and a sphinx (smaller than 0.857), and the longer ones contain figures of Andromeda (0.1142), Vulcan with tongs (0.66) and an unidentified fragment. The style is consistent with that of Attianus, and the ovolo appears to be his no. 1. c. AD 130-150. *Pit 594, Gravel Pit L 316 I (Cats 188, 837, 594).*
- No. 7 Form 37.** CG. Several sherds from a small panelled bowl with an unworn footing; slight burning on some sherds, and mended in antiquity with lead rivets and straps. In the zone between the decoration and the footing are the faintest traces of a cursive mould signature: this is almost entirely rubbed away, but the letter 'M' and part of another character can possibly be discerned. The bowl is panelled, with alternating cocks and pigmies in the lower part, and single-bordered festoons (containing a nude man), double bordered medallions and the standing figure of Venus above. The field is filled with astragali, rings and leaf-tips. The figure-types are only approximately matched by Oswald. Cock to the left falls between 0.2360 and 2361; cock to the right is smaller than 0.2348; pigmy with dagger and shield approximates to 0.693; the nude man is slightly larger than 0.688; and the common figure of Venus is 0.286. The elements of the decoration can all be matched in work of the Cinnamus-Cerialis group, and the mould signature could be the retrograde one used by Cinnamus (cf. S and S 1958, pl. 162.57). The ovolo is no. 3 used by the Cinnamus group. c. AD 140-170. *Gravel Pit 316, L III (Cat 190).*
- No. 8 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. Sherd of a bowl somewhat similar to D7, showing standing figure of a draped man, 0.905, a pigmy

with sword and shield and a small medallion containing a bird. Style of Cinnamus. c. AD 150-180. *Gravel Pit 316 L III (Cat 190).*

- No. 9 Form 37.** CG. Lower part of a large panelled bowl showing figures of Vulcan (0.66, but without tongs), Neptune (0.13), and a fallen warrior with shield (0.207A) being attacked by a bear (0.1627). There is also a mask similar to 0.1214, but smaller, and a pigmy with sword and shield placed horizontally in a single bordered festoon, below a boar (0.1666). The pigmy is not in Oswald, but is generally related to 0.693. These figures, and the vine scroll, are all paralleled in the products of the Cinnamus workshop; so too is the semi-freestyle arrangement within the large panel on the right (cf. S and S 1958, pl. 163.71). For a pigmy lying beneath a boar, see S and S, pl. 158.19; and for a boar in a large festoon see S and S, pl. 159.33. The ovolo is Cinnamus' no. 3. c. AD 150-180. *Subsoil, and Gravel Pit 316 L I (Cats 187, 198).*
- No. 10 Form 37.** CG. Freestyle bowl with Cinnamus' ovolo no. 3, his large bear (not figured by Oswald, but generally similar to 0.1631), dog (0.1980) and another unidentified animal entering from the right. c. AD 150-180. *Redbond Lodge: private possession.*
- No. 11 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. Fragment of a large freestyle bowl, showing a stag (0.1720), boar (0.1666) and possibly a bear. Common product of Cinnamus, with his ovolo no. 1 (for the type cf. S and S 1958, pl. 163.66). c. AD 150-180. *High Stile School: private possession.*
- No. 12 Form 37.** CG. Sherd of a freestyle bowl, with a large lion (0.1497J) and part of a panther (0.1518) facing right. The field is filled with leaf-tips. For the general scheme, see a bowl attributed to Cinnamus found at Lezoux (S and S 1958, pl. 163.71). The damaged ovolo appears to be his no. 3. c. AD 150-180. *Subsoil, Area A.*

(Fig. 59)

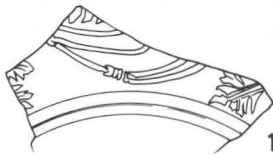
- No. 13 Form 37.** CG. Rim of a large bowl. Double-bordered ovolo with a corded tongue having the tip bent slightly to the left. The ovolo partly overlies a plain guide-line which is typical of the work of Pugnus of Lezoux (cf. S and S, 1958, pl. 154.14, 16). He also used festoons which exceed a semi-circle, as here. This contains a goat (smaller than 0.1836) within a small medallion. c. AD 160-190. *Subsoil, Area B.*
- No. 14 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. Fragment with similar ovolo to No. 13, and small medallion below. *Pit 99.*
- No. 15 Form 37.** CG. Sherd with part of the retrograde mould stamp PATRNI, Paternus of Lezoux, die 7a. The pattern is a running scroll with large vine leaves (cf. S and S 1958, pl. 107.30). The ovolo is a smaller version of Paternus' no. 5 (S and S, fig. 30). c. AD 160-190. *Pit 504 (Cat 881).*
- No. 16 Form 37.** CG. Fragment of a freestyle bowl by Albuscius of Lezoux; stamped in the mould ALB[VCI], die 6h. The ovolo is his no. 1. The sea-horse is not illustrated by Oswald, but is a longer reverse type of 0.48A. It appears, however, on a marine freestyle bowl from Corbridge (S and S 1958, pl. 121.8). c. AD 150-180. *Ditch 573.*
- No. 17 (Not illus.). Form 37.** CG. The ovolo of another similar bowl to D17. *L 487 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 808).*
- No. 18 Form 37.** EG. Abraded fragment of a large bowl in the style and fabric of Rheinzabern ware. The ovolo is Ricken 1948, taf. 263.42. Below is a large, single-bordered medallion containing a hare (0.2118) next to a dividing motif of simple trifid form. The design is paralleled on work attributed to the styles of Julius I and Lupus (Ricken 1948, taf. 160.3F, 9, 12). c. AD 170-220. *L 488, in Gravel Pit 857.*
- No. 19 Form 37.** Argonne ware. Small sherd including part of the plain rim-band and uppermost zone of plain notched rouletting. There is a similarly decorated vessel from Heybridge (Fitch Coll., Colchester Museum; Wickenden 1987, 57, no. 33). 4th century. *Ditch 572 (Cat 926).*

Samian Stamps

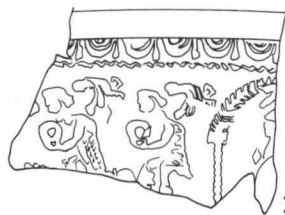
(Fig. 59)

Details of the dies and dates of manufacture have kindly been supplied by Mr B.R. Hartley. The superscript letters attached to the factory names indicate the following:

- This die attested at the pottery named
- Other dies of the same man attested at the pottery
- Assigned to the pottery on fabric and distribution.



1



2



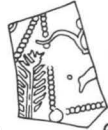
4



6a



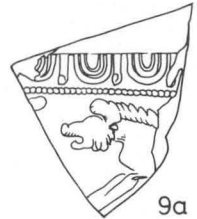
6b



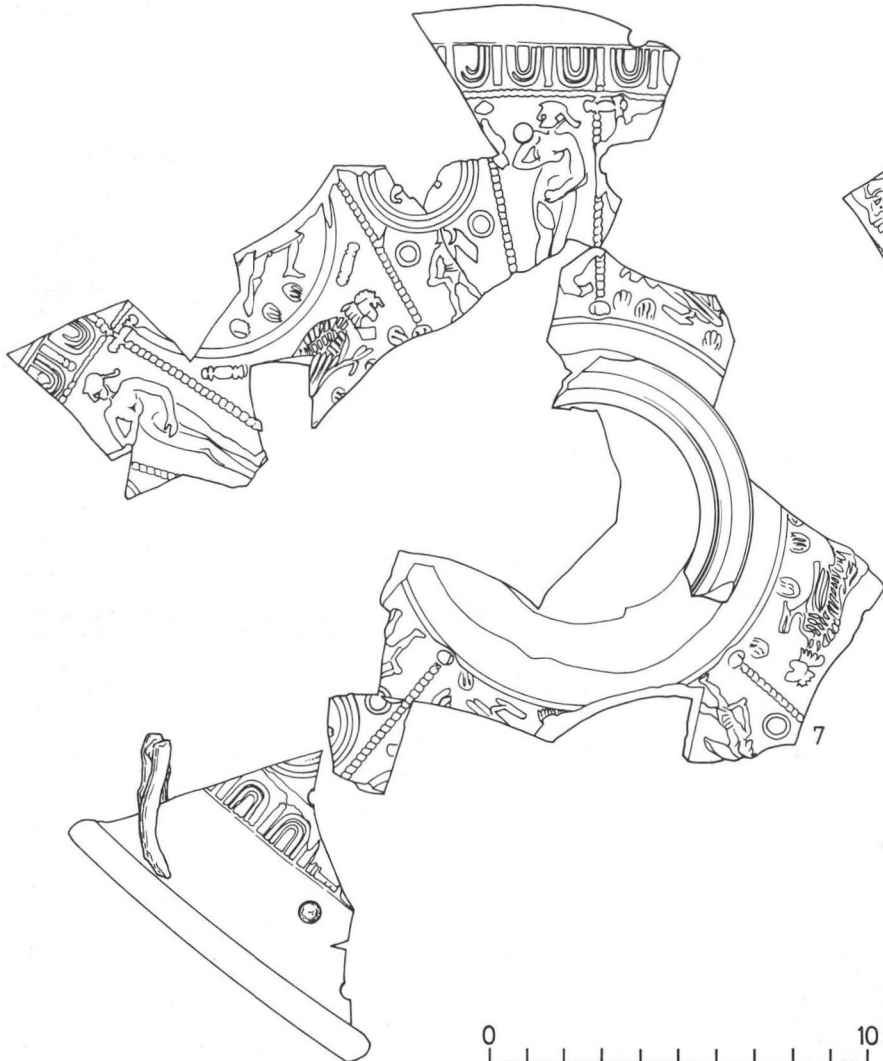
6d



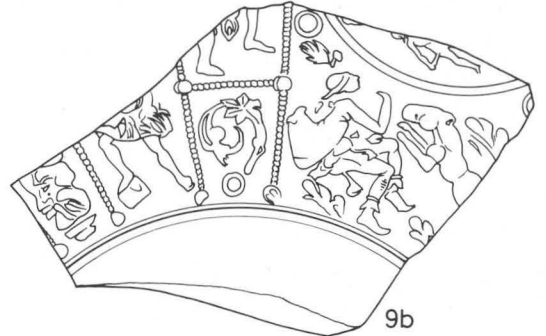
6c



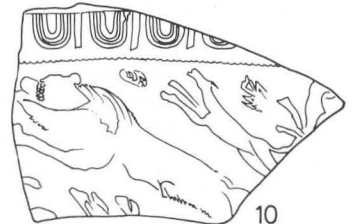
9a



7



9b



10



12



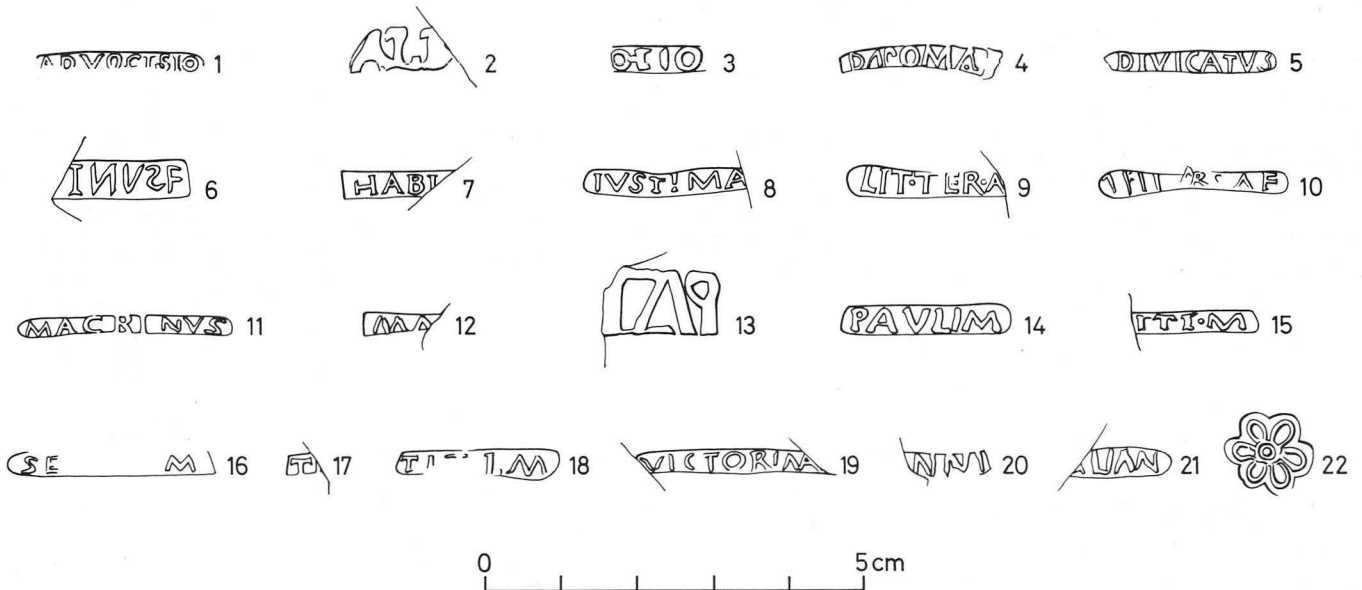
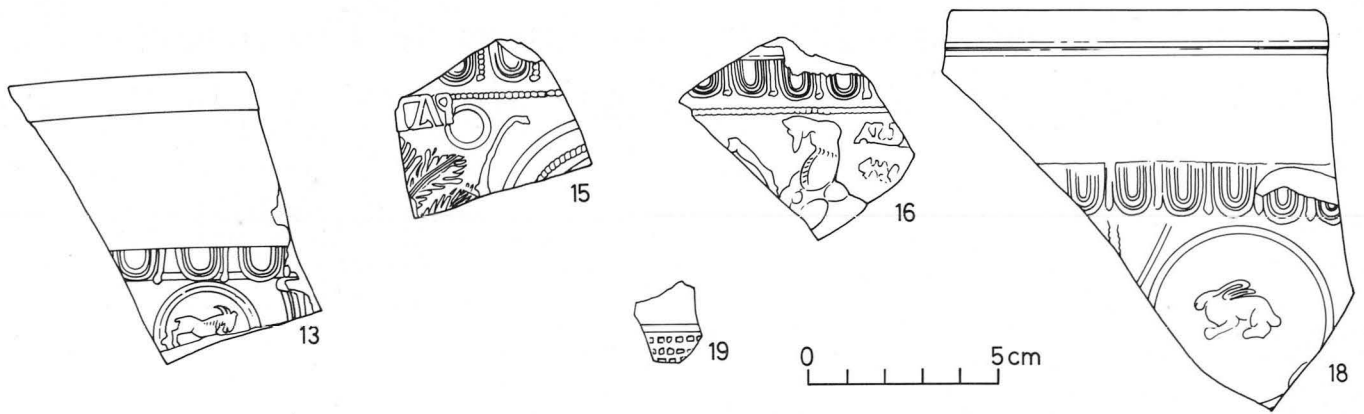


Figure 59 (A): decorated samian, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19. Scale 1:2; (B): samian stamps. Scale 1:1

(Fig. 59)

- No. 1** Advocisus Die 1a, f33 base, badly abraded. Stamped ADVOCISIO. Lezoux^a, c. AD 160-190. *Shrine Hollow 232*.
- No. 2** Albucius ii Die 6h, f37. Stamped in decoration, ALB[VCI]. Lezoux^a, c. AD 150-180. For the decoration see Fig. 59, No. 16. *Ditch 573*.
- No. 3** Cotio Die 1a', f33. Chip from centre of base. Stamped COTIO[:C]. La Graufesenque^a, Flavian. In *Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 816)*.
- No. 4** Dagomarus Die 13a, f18/31. Three-quarters complete. Repaired with lead dovetail rivets. Stamped DAGOMA Les Martres-de-Veyre^c and Lezoux^a, c. AD 115-135. In private possession, seen via P.J. Drury, November 1970. Possibly from a disturbed burial. *High Stile School*.
- No. 5** Divicatus Die 3d, f31R, centre of base. Stamped DIVICATVS. Lezoux^b, c. AD 140-165. *Gravel Pit 316, L I*.
- No. 6** Florentinus Die 5a, f79R. Centre of base. Stamped [FLORENT]I[AN]Z[F]. Rheinzbabern^a, late 2nd century or (less probably) early 3rd century. *High Stile School, 1970*.
- No. 7** Habilis Incomplete die 1, f79 or Tg, half base. Stamped HABI[LISF]. Lezoux^b, c. AD 150-180. In private possession, seen via P.J. Drury, November 1970. *Redbond Lodge*.
- No. 8** Iustus ii Die 2c, f79 or Tg, part base. Stamped IVSTIMA. Lezoux^a, c. AD 160-190. Seen in 1970. *Redbond Lodge*.
- No. 9** Littera i Die 1b, f33, part base. Stamped LIT.TERA[F]. Lezoux^b, c. AD 130-150. *Subsoil, Area A*.
- No. 10** Littera i Die 1a, f18/31, complete vessel with little wear on footring. Stamped LITTERAF, double impression. Lezoux^a, c. AD 125-145. For the vessel, see Fig. 17, No. 42. *Cremation 9*.
- No. 11** Macrinus iii Die 7b, f31R, base and part of wall. Stamped MACRINVS. Lezoux^a, c. AD 160-180. *L 464 in Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 860)*.
- No. 12** Ma.... f31, half complete vessel. Stamped MA[IM] Central Gaulish, Antonine. Potter not identified. For the vessel, see Fig. 16, No. 27. *Cremation 4*.
- No. 13** Paternus v Die 7a, f37. Stamped in the decoration, [I]YΛY. Lezoux^a, c. AD 160-195. For the decoration see Fig. 59, No. 16. *Pit 504 (Cat 881)*.
- No. 14** Paulus iv Die 5a, f33, nearly complete. Stamped PAVLIM. Lezoux^a, c. AD 135-165. For the vessel, see Fig. 17, No. 17. *Cremation 10*.
- No. 15** Reditus Die 3c, f31, centre of base. Stamped [RED]ITIM Lezoux^c, c. AD 150-175. *Unstrat., 1971*.
- No. 16** Senila Die 1a, f31, near complete. Stamped SE[NILA]M. Lezoux^c, c. AD 145-170. For the vessel, see Fig. 16, No. 3. *Cremation 2*.
- No. 17** Tiberius ii Die 1c, f18/31, chip of base. Stamped TI[BERI]M. Lezoux^b, c. AD 155-175. *Unstrat., 1972*.
- No. 18** Titus iii Die 8b, f38, worn base with slight traces of burning. Stamped TITIM Lezoux^a, c. AD 140-170. *Gravel Pit L I 316 (Cat 191)*.
- No. 19** Victor ii Die 1a, f18/31, centre of base. Stamped VICTORIM Lezoux^c, Hadrianic to Antonine. *Gravel Pit 857 (Cat 461)*.
- No. 20** Unidentified stamp on f31, centre of base, slightly burnt. Stamped]NNI. East Gaulish, mid or late Antonine. This may be a stamp of one of the Saturnini, but the die cannot be matched. *Pit 87*.
- No. 21** Unidentified stamp on f33, half base. Stamped LIAN. Probably South Gaulish, 1st century.
- No. 22** Rosette stamp on f42, complete except for one strap handle. Central Gaulish, probably from Les-Martres-de-Veyre, Trajanic or Hadrianic. Die not matched. For the vessel, see Fig. 18, No. 58. *Cremation 17*.

D. An Archaeological Gazetteer of Dunmow

by C.J. Going

I. Introduction

This section lists all *located* finds of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon material known to date. Sources consulted include sheet 33 of the 1923 Edition of the 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map preserved in the Colchester and Essex Museum, annotated by Rex Hull; also a typescript of the *Victoria County History Gazetteer of Roman Essex*, compiled by Hull (VCH 1963), once owned and annotated by Major J.G.S. Brinson. This contains references to prehistoric finds (p. 100-2) but apart from Iron Age discoveries, these are not mentioned here. Other sources include maps annotated by P.J. Drury at the time of the excavations published here, and information given to the writer more recently from private sources. The Essex County Council Planning Department Sites and Monuments Record provided other information. Entry numbers refer to the sites marked on Figures 60 and 61. After the site name, the period of the find is indicated thus: (IA), Iron Age; (RB), Roman; (S), Saxon; (ND), undated. At the end of each entry the location of the finds is given (if known), using the Museum code and accession number where appropriate. The owners of chance finds are also recorded, where known.

II. Gazetteer

(Figs 61-2, 64)

1. Churchend TL 628 229 (?IA)

Cropmarks of three square-ditched enclosures measuring c. 10m square, and a ring-ditch photographed by the National Monuments Record in 1976 (6223/1/93-4 1976: for a plan, see Eddy 1980, fig. 14). Possibly square-ditched barrows. While these are characteristic of the Arras culture of E. Yorkshire (Stead 1965), similar-sized examples have been noted in Essex at, for instance, Mucking (see Whimster 1981, 126-8, for discussion).
Essex SMR: (TL 62.63)

2. High Fields TL 625 217 (RB)

In January 1936, during construction of High Fields housing estate, a builder, Mr T.E. Harris found one or more cremation burials.

The finds were donated to the Colchester and Essex Museum. They included 'the most part of a T.S. bowl form 31, stamp illegible and glaze gone. The lower halves of two grey urns which contained bones. Fragments of pottery, including two native rims of very large store-vessels, similar to those found at Shoebury, Colchester and Braintree, and another of Roman fabric, rim of a grey-black bowl of first century date and of a platter of 2nd century date. Also a fragment of a box flue-tile' (CMR 1937, 15). The pottery was 'buried about 2 ft below the surface' (VCH 1963, 125). There is some confusion about the exact provenance of this find. Hull stated that the discoveries were made 'in the large field west of the church' (VCH 1963, 125). The map reference given is that of St Marys Church, Churchend. The large field to the west of it is still

(1986) under agriculture. But the annotated map in COLEM records 'Roman burial urns', found in 1935-6, at TL 624 216. The Ordnance Survey April 1963 version of the 1:2500 map incorporates the find spot given on this map. This field, however, was undeveloped until the 1960s. Mr T. Harris, nephew of T.E. Harris, confirms that his uncle built a few houses to the north of the marked find spot (in High Fields) in the 1930s. This site was then a large field west of the *Congregational* Church in the town. This is certainly the find spot (TL 625 217), and makes clear that a cemetery once existed in this area. It may have extended up as far as the Roman road itself (for this evidence, see Site 8).

Finds: COLEM 192.36.

Information: Mr T. Harris.

3. Churchend TL 627 228 (RB)

Glass unguentarium found in c. 1980 on the surface of field west of the church, to the west of the crop-mark enclosures above (Site 1). Probably from a burial of Romano-British date.

Find: Private possession (Mr R. Ulph).

4. Churchend TL 625 229 (IA, RB)

Sherds of post conquest pottery were found by Dr W.J. Rodwell in flowerbeds on the south side of the churchyard. The church itself contains fragments of Roman brick (Rodwell 1976, 245).

Finds: Chelmsford Archaeological Trust. To go to SAFWM.

The Rev. W. Drake saw (in c. 1761) two or three first brass coins of Commodus, found in the fields near the church. These may have come from an as yet imprecisely located site to the north east of the church which has been visited on several recent occasions by 'treasure hunters'. Details of finds are scarce and not wholly reliable, but they include Iron Age and Roman coins (including a Siliqua of Honorius). Tile and pottery were also found. The description suggests a small settlement or other holding with one or more tiled buildings.

Finds: Private possession.

Information: Mr R. Bartlett.

5. North Street TL 628 221 (RB-S?)

Skeletons reported discovered during building work in the vicinity of Don's Coach works. While undated, these may be part of a late- or post-Roman cemetery on the north east fringes of the settlement.

Finds: Probably not retrieved.

Information: Miss T. Beveridge.

6. Threaders Green TL 623 219 (RB)

Finds of '3rd century' pottery discovered during the digging of the foundations of a house in 1939 were with J.G.S. Brinson in 1963 (VCH 1963, 125). Hull's annotations on the 1923 map suggest the houses were 1/3, 5/7, High Stile.

Finds: Location unknown.

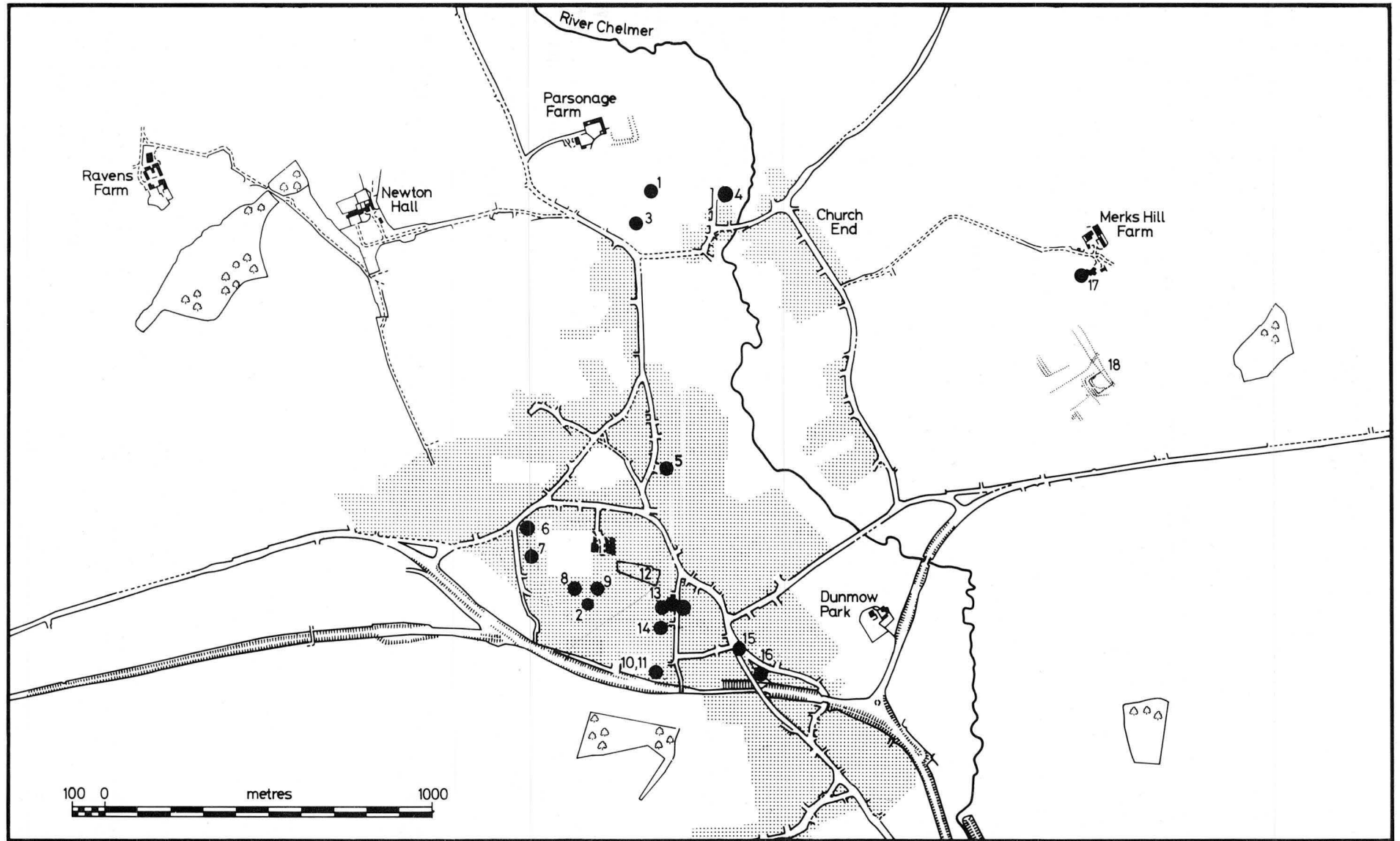


Figure 60 Great Dunmow and its environs, showing sites listed in the gazetteer (based on Ordnance Survey map: *Crown Copyright reserved*)

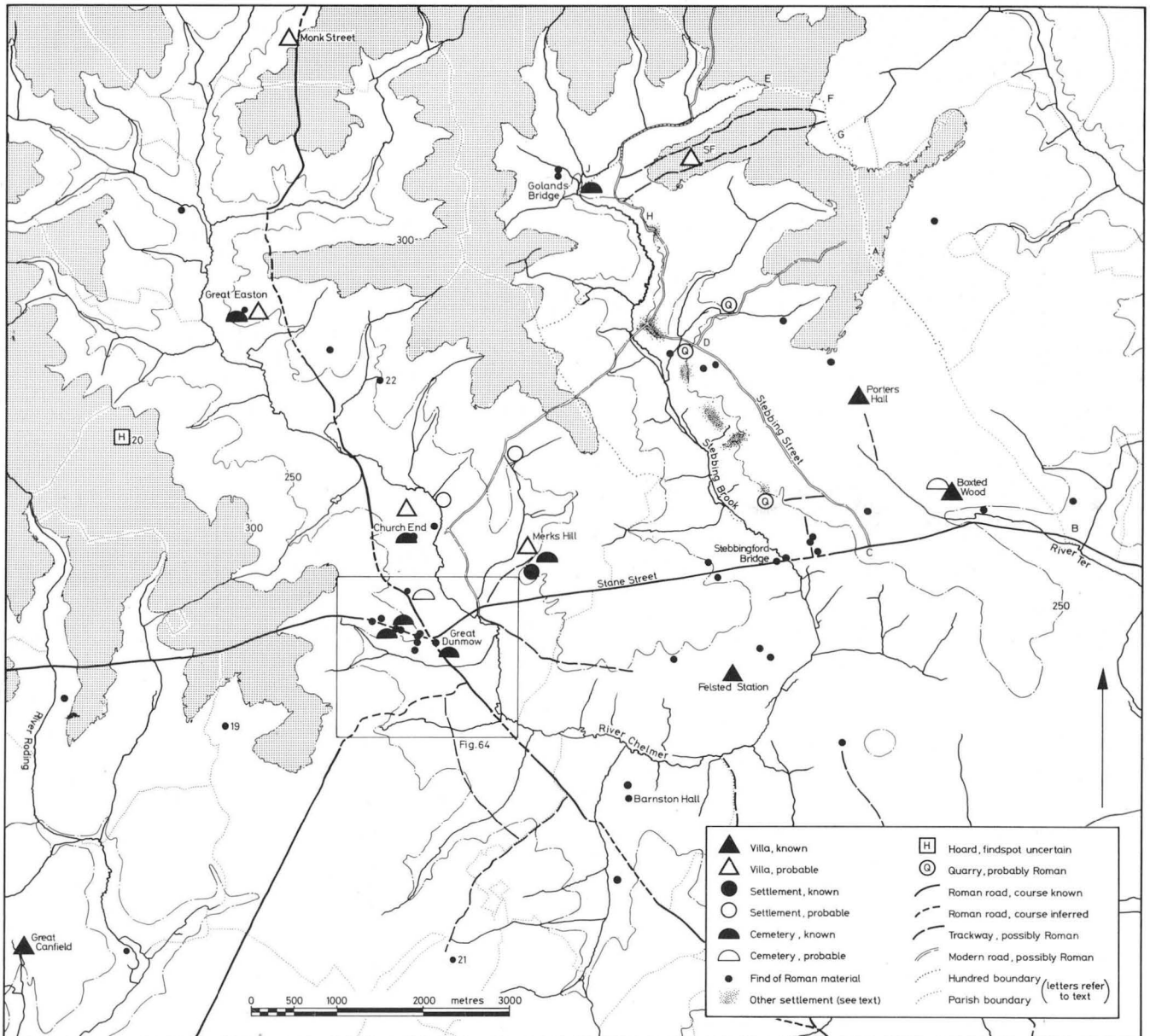


Figure 61 The Roman countryside around Dunmow (based on Ordnance Survey Map: *Crown Copyright reserved*)

7. High Stile Church of England Primary School TL 623 218 (RB)

Building for an extension to Dunmow C of E primary school produced 'large quantities' of Roman pottery and some coins (Couchman 1976, 160). Some samian ware has been incorporated into W. J. Rodwell's report (p. 76-9; Fig. 58, Nos 1-2, 11; Fig. 59B, Nos 4,6). One of these (Fig. 59B, No. 4) is a substantially complete f 18/31, perhaps from a burial.

Finds: SAFWM 1976. 46. 1-7 (material retrieved by Essex County Council). The coins are in private possession.

The late Pierre Ritter reported discovering a fired clay structure (a kiln?) containing Roman pottery during earlier construction work on the same site. The finds were apparently once kept in the school, but cannot now be traced. The pottery may be among material Mrs Ritter donated to Saffron Walden Museum (via Chelmsford Archaeological Trust), which included fragments of iron slag and ore. The presence of both metalworking and ?kiln

products suggests an industrial area existed here. *Information:* the late Mrs Ritter.

8. 13 High Fields TL 624 218 (RB)

Sherds of Romano-British pottery reported from the rear garden of this house, which lies within the bounds of the Roman settlement. It is possible that a cinerary urn was also found here.

Finds: with householder (Mr Donald Banks).

9. 33 High Fields TL 625 217 (RB)

Abraded pottery including roughcast colour-coat sherd (?Colchester), and miscellaneous grey wares. Also a small fragment of fuel ash slag. All found in garden soil. *Information:* from householder (Mrs Smith).

10. New Street fields TL 627 215 (RB)

Removal of topsoil by landowner (Mr P. Brazier) revealed a 'hard-packed' ground surface and Roman pottery in association. To the southern, downhill side of the site was

a 'depression filled by light brown silty loam from which a few sherds of Roman pottery had been recovered'. A section of the loam and gravel at this point revealed three apparent surfaces in the gravel.

The whole area has been much affected by gravel extraction and industrial construction in the 19th century (Couchman 1976, 160).

Finds: Location unknown.

11. New Street fields TL 627 215 (RB)

The probable location of substantial quantities of Roman pottery, glass, metal found 'in pits...3'-9' from the surface 'in a gravel pit at the S end of the town'. Almost certainly within the bounds of the settlement (VCH 1963, 125).

Finds: Location unknown.

12. Market Garden Site, adjacent to Redbond Lodge

TL 627 218 (IA, RB, S) (Figs 1B, 62)

by N.P. Wickenden

Trial excavations in June 1972 were undertaken on the site of a former market garden between Redbond Lodge and New Street. The work was supervised by P.J. Drury. Three trenches were dug by machine (Fig. 62). For the prehistoric pottery, see p. 7 and MF 1.H. Further middle Saxon pottery was also found (see below). The site has subsequently been developed as a housing estate by Countryside Properties PLC.

Trench 1 (Fig. 62)

Comprised for the most part the filling of a gravel pit (1500), which contained Iron Age and Roman pottery

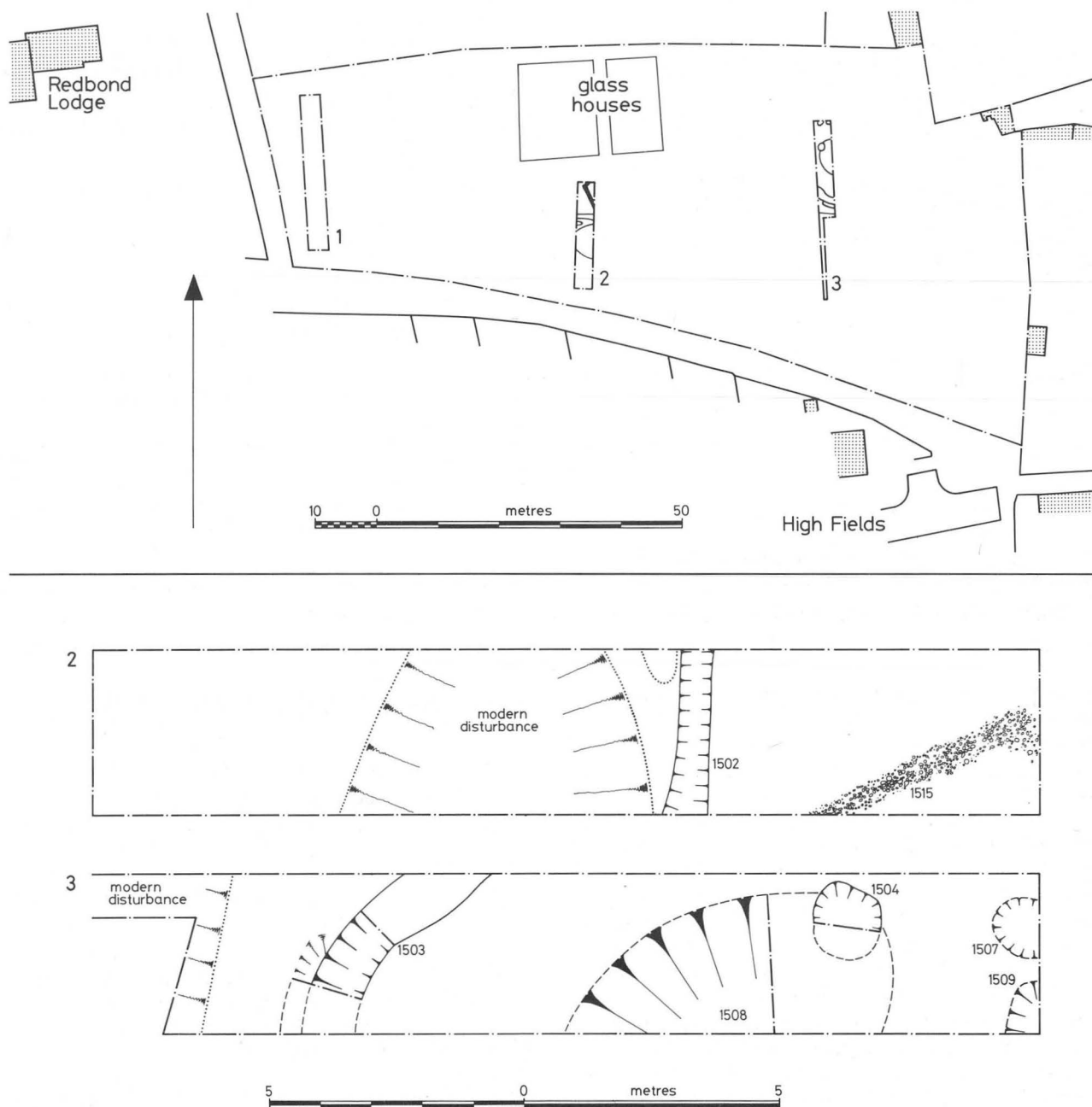


Figure 62 The Market Garden site, adjacent to Redbond Lodge, showing the position of the trenches, and excavated features in Trenches 2 and 3

including Colchester, Nene Valley and Hadham Colour-Coated Wares. In addition it contained three coins and a military fitting (Fig. 63).

Coins

identified by Richard Reece and Lyn Sellwood
Bronze coin of Cunobelin, Mack No. 253. Weight 1.413 gm (Pl. IV).
Obv: bearded head of Jupiter Ammon facing right with legend CVNO.
Rev: crouched lion facing right (beneath a tree, according to Mack) above a tablet inscribed CAM.
Constantine I, AD 310-317, RIC 7 London 10
House of Valentinian, 364-378, *Rev:* Gloria Romanorum, LRBC II 338/9.

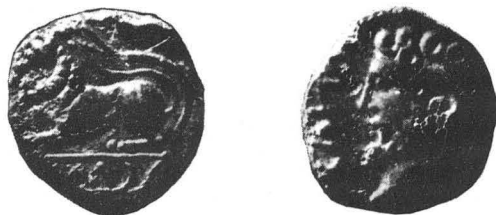


Plate IV Bronze coin of Cunobelin. Scale 2:1.
Photo: Oxford University Index of Celtic Coins

Military fitting

(Fig. 63)

Abraded military belt stiffener, leaded gunmetal, decorated with inlaid niello (AML 822856). Similar pieces come from Chichester (Down 1978, fig.10.34, 67-8) and Colchester (N. Crummy 1983, fig. 144.4181). I am grateful to Paul Wilthew (A.M. Lab.) for analysing the metal. (Cat 1500).

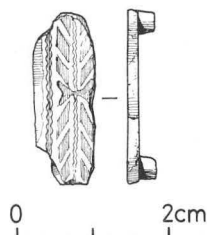


Figure 63 Market Garden site: the copper alloy military fitting. Scale 1:1

Trench 2 (Fig. 62)

Disturbed by extensive post-medieval gravel-digging, but contained a shallow gully, 1502, with a dark grey-brown silty fill which included a small group of eight Saxon sherds (see below); and one cill wall and corner of a structure of Roman date made of flint pebbles (1515). The subsoil (1501) contained pottery of the 1st and 4th centuries.

Eight sherds of ?mid-Saxon date were found. All are plain and undecorated. Fig. 38, No. 19 is the thick abraded rim of a large bowl in a grog-and-vegetable tempered fabric. Fig. 38, No. 20 is an everted rim of a jar in a fine black fabric, burnished on the rim and exterior. The remaining sherds have some sand tempering and include a small rim similar to Fig.38, No.20, and an oxidised sherd with a thickened mid-body slack carination. Though there is nothing to indicate a date, an association with the bowl from 36 New Street (see above, Fig. 38, No. 18) and the material from Chequers Lane (Fig. 38) seems likely.

Trench 3 (Fig. 62)

Contained a shallow curving gully, 1503, with a brown pebbly leached fill in which was found an early Iron Age

sherd; a storage pit, 1504, with a lower brickearth-derived fill (1505) and an upper dark brown pebbly loam. It contained fragments of copper alloy and iron, and pottery including an Early Iron Age rim, Colchester Colour-Coat, and grey ware bead-rimmed dishes giving a *terminus post quem* of c. AD 125/40; there were two smaller hollows 1507 (containing South Gaulish samian) and 1509 (containing a LPRIA sherd). The area was also disturbed by brickearth and gravel pits, both Roman and modern. One of these, 1508, contained prehistoric pottery, South Gaulish samian, and sherds of Colchester buff and ?South Essex shell-tempered pottery, suggesting a 1st century date.

The importance of these trenches lies in the high proportion of 1st century pottery, when compared to the Chequers Lane site; the coin of Cunobelin and the undoubted 1st century military bronze supports the argument that the New Street site lies close to the earliest Roman occupation, possibly military.

13. 9, 36, 44 New Street TL 628 217 (RB, S)

These houses lie on the projected line of Stane Street towards the eastern end of the 'small town'. Finds from there and other houses in the immediate vicinity probably derive from features and structures which formed the street frontage.

9 New Street (RB)

Some 3 kg of Romano-British pottery (including fragments of a CG, f37 samian bowl) found during renovation and extension work in the summer of 1985.

Finds: With Chelmsford Archaeological Trust. To go to SAFWM.

36 New Street (RB,S)

Flooring repairs and digging for an extension in c. February/May 1981 produced approximately 5 kg of Romano-British pottery of 1st-4th-century date. In addition, substantial portions of a Middle Saxon bowl were found (see Fig. 38, No. 18 and below).

Finds: With the householder (Mrs A. Howard). The Saxon bowl (see below) was donated to SAFWM.

Note by N.P. Wickenden

Fig. 38, No. 18 Large portion of wide-mouthed bowl with slightly everted, uneven rim (*diam.*: 80mm, EVE 0.67). Handmade; hard, grey fine fabric (2) with few visible inclusions of sand or vegetable matter, found naturally in the brickearth, and not deliberately added. Burnished overall internally to a dark brown colour, and over the rim down to the shoulder, externally, where the colour is an orange-brown. Otherwise undecorated.

While the form is not particularly diagnostic, the fabric, and comparison with the assemblage from Chequers Lane (Fig. 38, Nos 1-17) suggests that it is probably mid-Saxon, and should be dated to the 7-9th centuries AD. See also a group of eight sherds from the Market Garden site, adjacent to Redbond Lodge (Fig. 38, Nos 19-20).

Find: SAFWM 1984.94.

44 New Street (RB)

About 1 kg of Romano-British pottery found in the rear garden. Pottery includes a ?4th century vessel with a graffito (see p. 75).

Finds: With householder (Miss S.E. Richards).

14. 58 New Street TL 628 216 (RB) by

N.P. Wickenden

Several restricted machine trenches were cut in 1970-1971 by Mr P.J. Drury on land at the rear of 58 New Street in advance of redevelopment for eight old persons flats by Dunmow Rural District Council. The site lies to the south

of Stane Street, within the Romano-British settlement area, though finds were few, and late material was conspicuously absent. The subsoil was disturbed by small scale gravel extraction, some probably Roman, though much was demonstrably post-medieval. Finds included the rim and handle of a glass flask (Fig. 47, No. 4), from Trench C1 topsoil (Cat 1513). A plan of the site is deposited with the archive.

15. Station Road/A130 junction TL 630 215 (RB)

Road works at junction of the A130 and Station Road in January 1975 produced sherds of Roman pottery and a copper alloy 'boss'.

Finds: SAFWM 1975.69-70.

Information: the late Mr C.F. Tebbutt, via SAFWM.

16. Station Yard TL 631 214 (RB)

Pots and traces of cremation burials discovered either during the work on the approach to the railway station or in the station yard, noted by J.G.S. Brinson. Two vessels can be traced in Chelmsford Museum: an oval-bodied jar with a small hole in the side, spalled externally; and a miniature closed form with an upright rim, 'found inverted'. A label in this vessel states that the two were not found together. The position of these finds, peripheral to the main settlement and close to the Roman road to Chelmsford, is typical of Roman cemeteries. It is difficult, however, to give a precise provenance for these finds.

Finds: CHMER B18622-3.

17. Merks Hill TL 640 227 (RB)

Probable grave group discovered during gravel digging in 1760; it comprised 'nearly a dozen small urns ... the largest being of pint size and three of the smallest equal to a small teacup'. One was thumbed and decorated with cross-hatching. They were in a regular 'and ... quadrilateral arrangement in a layer of black earth and among rubbish of building, together with a few coins, among which is a Trajan and an Antoninus Pius, and some pieces of brass and iron'. Other finds, made at various times, include an iron spearhead, 7 inches long (W.H. Stracy); an 'amphora' (G. Barnard); and 'Roman English' coins (Mr Blyth). The Ordnance Survey record 'Roman coins and an urn' [a burial?] found just SW of the buildings on Merks Hill but give no date. Fragments of samian and copper alloy small finds are in the British Museum. Part of an amphora was exhibited to the Essex Archaeological Society in 1867. This

may be the vessel reported as being seen by J.G.S. Brinson post-c. 1948 (VCH 1963, 125; VCH MS 100-2).

Finds: Location unknown, also BM: 1892.9 1/1740-50.

18. Merks Hill TL 640 224 (IA-RB?)

Extensive cropmarks including linear features and an enclosure c. 40 m square, with rounded corners, divided into western and eastern halves. Photographed in 1977 (CJG), also published by Priddy (1984, 153, fig. 21). Faint traces of annular ditches within the western half may be round-house foundation trenches. Clearly the finds at Merks Hill, above, taken with the cropmark evidence, suggest a farmstead or villa, with possible IA origins, in the immediate vicinity.

19. Newlands Farm TL 605 216 (RB), see Fig. 61

Find of a squat Colchester buff flagon, neck and handle missing, with a ?horse jawbone during ditching work in c. 1970.

Finds: The flagon is in private possession (Mr R. Hayzer).

20. Little Easton No NGR known (RB), see Fig. 61

'Some years' before 1761 'a large parcel of Roman denarii' was discovered 'in a part of (Lord Maynards) estate which joins to the town of Dunmowe'. The majority appear to have been issues of Gallienus, while others were issues of Tetricus, Posthumus and Victorinus (Drake 1779, 139). A hoard of *denarii* of this date range would be most unusual; it seems more likely that the coins were *antoniniani* (J.A. Davies, pers. comm.).

Finds: Location unknown.

21. Bishops Green TL 631 178 (RB), see Fig. 61

Quern, and an object described as the 'head of a standard' (most probably an axle finial), exhibited to the Essex Archaeological Society in 1867 (VCH 1963, 125).

Find: Location unknown.

22. Bigods Hall TL 623 247 (RB), see Fig. 61

Copper alloy 'snake' bracelet of mid- or later 4th-century date found in plough soil when marshy ground round a spring was drained and taken into cultivation c. 1976. No other finds made. Fieldwalking by the writer in Autumn 1987 revealed a scatter of pottery, tile *tesserae*, *tegula* and *imbrex* fragments, suggesting a building or buildings stood nearby.

Finds: Private possession (Mr J. Robinson).

E. The Countryside Around Great Dunmow

by C.J. Going

I. Introduction

The hinterland of the Romano-British 'small town' largely coincides with the region studied by the writer as the background of an undergraduate dissertation. This covered Dunmow and its adjoining parishes, but centered on Stebbing. This section is an interim report of a study which continues.

Sites referred to in the text are followed by their parish names in brackets, thus: (FD) Felsted; (GD) Great Dunmow; (LD) Little Dunmow; (St) Stebbing.

With the notable exception of Little Waltham (Drury 1978), recorded sites with 'pre-Belgic' Iron Age pottery in this region of Essex are sparse (Drury 1976, 121; Drury and Rodwell 1980, fig. 21). However, fragments of LBA-EIA pottery were found in collections of ceramics from Romano-British sites at Boxted Wood (St) and Felsted Station (LD), and abraded fragments of flint-gritted Iron Age pottery were also found in the grave-fill of one of the Flavian cremations at Golands Bridge (St: Goodburn 1978, 452), in the nearby stream, and at Blake House farm, Rayne parish (Fig. 61). In addition, a thin scatter of LBA-EIA pottery was found in the excavations at Chequers Lane (see above, p. 7). These finds suggest Iron Age settlement in the area may have been fairly common, but since surface traces are usually limited to sherds of friable, low-fired pottery which are easily destroyed by frost and ploughing, field-walking seldom produces significant quantities. It is interesting to note that the finds from Boxted Wood and Blake House Farm are from an area of medium boulder-clay, which suggests that exploitation of the heavier soils of the region had begun by the Middle Iron Age.

Finds of the late pre-Roman Iron Age are more widespread, but are again mostly derived from sites first identified by Roman finds. Boxted Wood, Porters Hall, (both St), and Felsted Station have all produced conquest period pottery; at the two latter in contemporary features. So it is likely that these two villas originated as Iron Age farmsteads, and equally probable that other villas in the area developed at a similar date. Near Merks Hill (GD: see Gazetteer, Site 18), what may be the forerunner of the suggested nearby villa can be seen; this comprises cropmarks of a square enclosure with a central division, in the western half of which faint traces of ?annular gullies are visible. Additional settlement evidence comes from funerary finds: the complete pedestal urn found at Barnston Hall (Thompson 1982, 606) is probably from a burial, although no bones were seen at the time, while an undoubted cremation burial in a near-complete Dressel 1B amphora found 'while ploughing the land' near Lindsell Church (Fox 1923, 101; Going, in prep.) suggests another settlement, as does a similar find from Great Canfield (in Saffron Walden Museum). At Churchend, Dunmow, three square-ditched enclosures are probably examples of a class of late Iron Age burials more common in the Yorkshire wolds (Gazetteer, Site 1; Eddy 1980, 77-9 and fig. 14).

By comparison with earlier periods, post-Conquest settlement evidence is abundant. There are ten known or probable villas in the Dunmow district. Debris of buildings including hypocaust tile fragments, and tile tesserae, have been found at Porters Hall, Boxted Wood, Felsted station, Great Canfield (VCH 1963, 61, 126, 183), and probably Monk Street, (Thaxted, D. Saunders Ms Notebook, 42) while a burial found 'among rubbish of building' at Merks Hill suggests another (VCH 1963, 125; Gazetteer, Site 16). A second villa in Dunmow parish is evidenced by the scatter of building debris at Bigods Hall (Gazetteer, Site 22). Evidence of a further three is mainly derived from funerary discoveries: at Great Easton a 'burial vault' (a small tile tomb?) was found in 'Roses pit' (VCH 1963, 127). An enclosed cemetery at Golands Bridge, Stebbing, and place-name evidence, suggests a third villa in this parish (see below), while the possible cemetery at Churchend, Dunmow (above and VCH 1963, 125), approximately 1 km from the main settlement, together with 1st-century pottery from the churchyard (Rodwell 1976, 245) and other finds nearby, suggests a villa or farmstead either to the north-east of the church, or in the vicinity of the Parsonage (TL 626 231). Smaller scatters of debris at Stebbingford, near the villa site at Boxted Wood (VCH 1963), and at Bouchiers Farm (LD: VCH 1963, 126), also imply settlements, perhaps subordinate holdings on larger villa estates. While such small settlements may have been fairly common, the thin overall scatter of isolated coins and sherds found throughout the area (eg. at Bardfield Saling: Rodwell 1976, 244; and generally in Fig. 61), may indicate only the former presence of arable land manured with domestic detritus. Two finds suggest votive deposits: the vessel and ?horse jawbone from Newlands Farm (Gazetteer, Site 19), and a later-4th century bracelet from a spring near Bigods Hall (Gazetteer, Site 22).

II. The Landscape

(Fig. 61)

While there are some gaps, the spacing of these known or likely villas, at least to the north and east of Dunmow, seems systematic. As noted above, the one nearest to Dunmow probably lay in the vicinity of Churchend, c. 1 km north-east of the town, while the remainder are strung at 2-3 km intervals along the valley slopes of the Chelmer, and of its tributary, Stebbing brook, or on the intervening boulder-clay plateau. This pattern is similar to that observed in the Chilterns by Branigan and by Neal in the Bulbourne valley, Herts (Branigan 1973, 129-59; Neal 1977, 1 and fig. 1). It is probably typical of the rural settlement of the *civitates* in the London region. If one adds to the total of villa sites the many smaller holdings which must have existed, the picture which emerges is of an ordered landscape with a settlement pattern and intensity, which, while not as dense as that claimed in the vicinity of Saffron Walden (Williamson 1984), compares quite closely

with the results of studies carried out elsewhere in the county, most notably in the Braintree and Kelvedon areas (Rodwell 1978a, fig. 11.5).

The fairly regular spacing of the villas suggests it might be possible to locate land boundaries connected with them, or the land which they farmed. Several attempts have been made to estimate estate sizes on such evidence as local topography and soil types, granary capacity, and accommodation for plough-teams (eg. Bignor, Applebaum 1975; Wendens Ambo, Essex, Halstead 1982). While this type of combined approach may give quite accurate results (a debatable point), such varied categories of data are seldom available and here only a topographical approach is possible.

III. The Settlement Pattern in Stebbing Parish

(Fig. 61)

The villas at Porters Hall and Boxted Wood are set roughly centrally in a trapezoidal tract of land c. 600 ha in area (Fig. 61, A-D). The sinuous eastern edge of this parcel comprises Uttlesford hundred and Stebbing parish boundaries (Fig. 61, A-B), while to the south it is bounded by the Dunmow-Colchester road (Margary 1967, road 32; Fig. 61, B-C). Stebbing Street, a ridgeway of comparable, if not greater antiquity, encloses the area to the west (Fig. 61, C-D), while to the north a lane completes the tract (Fig. 61, D-A). It is probable that Stebbing brook, with its water meadows and with sufficient motive power to drive a mill, formed the western boundary (rather than Stebbing Street), thus enclosing an area of c. 700 ha, and giving each villa a holding of c. 350 ha; a figure approaching those estimated elsewhere in the province for medium sized estates (eg. Ditchley, c. 355 ha: Hoskins 1977, 31). While it is possible to suggest other reasons for its shape and layout, the general impression given by this land parcel is that it once formed two contiguous units with centres on its long axis, in close proximity to the actual locations of the two villas. This is unlikely to be coincidental. Interestingly, there is no obvious trace of a boundary between the two holdings; which one might expect if the survival of the other boundaries is accepted. Perhaps significantly, there is some evidence that Porters Hall had a specialised, industrial aspect in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Dunnett 1975, 107, 133); a feature which one might expect to meet in the context of an enlarged estate or later foundation. In the former case the original boundary line separating the two villas may well have been lost.

In the north of Stebbing parish, the east-west trending ridge bounded by Lindsell and Bardfield parishes has the hall-marks of another estate (Fig. 61, E-J); evidence from the early-Roman cemetery on its western tip shows that part of it was arable prior to the Flavian period (p. 000). Unfortunately the villa connected with this wealthy cemetery remains unlocated. But here it is place-name evidence which is significant. Until the 16th century a field in the centre of the ridge was called *Saemannesfeld*, or *Saemannes Hoo* (Reaney 1935, 459; Fig. 61, 'SF'). This strongly argues the ridge formed a mid- or late-Saxon estate. The *-feld* suffix, Taylor has argued elsewhere, probably refers to ancient arable; in this context, quite probably Roman (Taylor 1975). The adjacent field to the west of *Saemannesfeld* is known as *Amberley* (inf. J. Ellis), one of a class of place names independently argued by

Morris and Applebaum to be pre-English (Morris 1973, 101; Applebaum 1975, 131-2). While it is surely pressing the point too far to suggest, as they do, that the *Amberley* might be linked with Ambrosius Aurelianus, it hints at the possibility of a late- or early post-Roman estate which survived into the mid- or late- Saxon period. The area of the ridge, c. 220 ha, although smaller than the postulated estates at Porters Hall and Boxted Wood, probably marks the core of a more extensive holding.

The boundaries suggested here are put forward as the possible limits of the original estates. They certainly altered and became more complex as time passed, but in aggregate the three areas (c. 47% of the parish) are probably fairly accurate approximations of their size at an early stage of their development.

In addition to this managed land, much of which was probably arable, other parts of the parish, notably tracts of sand and gravel, were perhaps exploited for non-agricultural purposes, as at Chequers Lane (Areas B and C). Cropmarks of a ditched trackway running WSW from Stebbing Street in the direction of the present-day gravel pits at TL 673 238 have been photographed by the National Monuments Record (NMR TL 6723/2/150 SF714), and a second trackway, which survived in part into the 19th century, ran from near the quarries almost to Margary road 32, and meets it, when projected, at nearly 90° (NMR TL 6723/1/148 SF714). At Stebbingford observation of modern (1976) roadworks showed that the Roman road was built on a substantial ballast and timber foundation (P.J. Drury, pers comm.). The nearby quarry (marked 'Q' on Fig. 61), is the most convenient source of ballast for the stretch of road between TL 653 223 and TL 703 228; a distance of c. 5 km. More direct evidence of extraction comes from the old gravel pits alongside Stebbing Street at TL 659 251, where a 'hearth' and Roman pottery was found at a depth of c. 2m. Hard pan has been found in the immediate vicinity and the site could have been the source of some of the iron worked at Porters Hall (C. Salter, pers comm.).

Finds from three of the villas (Porters Hall, Boxted Wood and Felsted Station), are currently being studied by the writer. At each, the pottery and coin evidence suggest a lengthy period of occupation. While Porters Hall and Boxted Wood produced conquest period material, the bulk, however, dates to after c. AD 120/30. Unfortunately the excavations produced very little data on the construction dates for the main buildings of the villa complexes, but at Boxted Wood the find of a roller-stamped flue-tile of Lowther's Group 1 (W Chevron; die 4); also known from Ridgewell (Lowther 1948, 7; Rodwell 1978b), suggests some building work in the Antonine period (Black 1985, 366). This ties in with what little is known about the main impetus of villa construction in Essex; although there were some Flavian-Trajanic forerunners, this now seems to have been Hadrianic or early Antonine (see, for instance, Rodwell and Rodwell 1986, 33).

As noted above there was a considerable industrial element at some stage in the life of the Porters Hall villa. The excavator found 'lines' of buildings which he identified as 'workshops' (Campen, n.d.). The floors of these yielded a substantial assemblage of metalworking tools. In addition 'huge dumps of soot' (?fuel ash), and c. 12-13 'furnaces' were found nearby (Campen, n.d.). While the complex is not closely dated, coins of 2nd- and 3rd-century date were found 'on the workshop floors'. At some time during this period some of the buildings were

destroyed by fire, but they appear to have been rebuilt, and used until the end of the Roman era. While metalworking debris is a common site find, production on the scale implied here is much more substantial than that required for an average villa. It suggests either production on a commercial basis (Dunnett 1975, 107, 133; Cleere 1978, 130-1), or a specialised role in the context of an enlarged estate. The most likely context for the latter is the later-Roman period, a time for which there is otherwise little data from any of the sites despite the fact that, at all three villas, coins, Oxfordshire Red Colour-Coat and 'late' shell-tempered pottery attest to their continued use after *c.* AD 370.

At Rivenhall villa, occupation into the 5th century and beyond has been claimed (Rodwell and Rodwell 1986, 68-75), and there is little reason to doubt that the settlement history of these villas was any different. But in this context the pattern of post-Roman settlement in Stebbing parish (isolated hamlets on spurs of gravel overlooking the Stebbing brook as indicated by stippling on Fig. 61) is worthy of comment, for it has two possible explanations. It

is superficially similar to the earlier prehistoric (*ie.* Neolithic and, perhaps, Bronze Age) settlement pattern (as evidenced by flint scatters recorded by the present author), and explicable if it is postulated that there had been an almost complete regeneration of secondary woodland in the post-Roman period, following a substantial population decline. Recent palaeobotanical evidence from Chelmsford by-pass shows no large-scale woodland regeneration occurred in this part of central Essex (Murphy, unpubl.). It is unlikely that regeneration on a major scale occurred in the vicinity of Great Dunmow. Had it done so, even primary artificial landscape features would be lost. As we have seen, there is evidence that this is not the case; also, there is a hint that one estate at least survived intact into the Middle Saxon period. The pattern is more likely to be the product of continual occupation, with new settlements developing on the periphery of the larger estates, which survived as agricultural units into later Saxon times, despite the decay and abandonment of their original, Roman, centres.

F. Conclusions

I. Prehistoric Occupation

The meagre evidence for the prehistoric occupation of the excavated site (a thin scatter of flint-gritted pottery, flints and a Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead) is consistent with that from other sites in the town and environs and indicates widespread occupation from at least the Early Bronze Age, though on a very small scale. The earlier emphasis, to judge by the flint arrowhead and copper alloy spearhead, may have been on hunting, which would be consistent with the site's location on the top of a high spur. The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, however, seems more likely to be the result of manuring fields; the lack of middle and late Iron Age pottery may point to a reversion to pasture. There was virtually no evidence of occupation in the Conquest period at the Chequers Lane site though the Cunobelin coin and military bronze from the Market Garden site (p. 84) might suggest a military presence further east. The junction of the roads leading from Colchester to Braughing and from Chelmsford and London, near to a crossing of the river Chelmer (see Fig. 64), would certainly be a candidate for a small fort established after the revolt of Boudica in AD 60-1, as part of a network of strategically-placed forts maintaining a watchful military presence.

II. The Roman Town

Taking the evidence given in the Gazetteer of findspots of Roman artefacts from the rest of Dunmow, we can reconstruct the Roman small town as developing along Stane Street, west of the road junction, on a prominent ridge above the crossing of the River Chelmer. It was in order to follow this ridge which presumably caused the deviation in the route of Stane Street. The area of occupation covered 10-12 ha. Interestingly the cross-roads junction itself was not the focal point of the town, as one might have expected. This also appears to have been the case at Braintree (Drury 1976, 124) and at Braughing, which is similar to Dunmow in many ways, save for its pre-Roman urban centre (Partridge 1981, fig. 89). There were cemeteries on the periphery of the settlement and an outlying small villa at Church End. Several villas are known in the vicinity, as C.J. Going notes (p. 86), which both supplied the town with surplus agricultural produce, and benefited from the artisans who worked there, and who were, indeed, the very *raison d'être* for the town.

The excavations, 1970-72

There are three main alignments of early Roman features at Chequers Lane. The earliest of these comprises the 1st-century Ditch 328A (Fig. 5) cutting obliquely across the site from WNW to ESE, cut into which was an inhumation, also 1st century in date, with slight evidence for a second to the south.

The second alignment was first established by Ditch 201, which cut Ditch 328A. Around the end of the 1st century AD, a parallel ditch, 266, was dug and 201 was extended by 278, after a 4 m gap (Figs 10-11). Whilst these ditches are shallow and apparently fairly short-lived, some

vestige of them, perhaps a hedge, remained on the landscape, since the alignment is repeated in the 4th century (if this is not co-incidence) in the westerly return of Ditches 216/320 (Fig. 25). Indeed it is probable that this second alignment is a planned minor road, unmetalled, parallel to the main road, some 200m to the east, leading north-west to Great Chesterford.

The third alignment runs for at least 67m in an east-west direction across the Chequers Lane site. First established in the early 2nd century, it was long-lived and recut several times, but consists mainly of a pair of parallel shallow ditches, c. 5.5-6.5m apart (Fig. 10). In places, these are replaced by lines of post-holes (Figs 11 and 21). The pair of ditches are parallel to Stane Street, c. 120m to the south, and probably form the rear boundary line of a property fronting the main road, possibly even a planned minor road within the small town (Fig. 64, also Fig. 1B). It might then appear that Dunmow was laid out formally to the extent of establishing a network of minor roads parallel to the major routes. The evidence is for this occurring at the end of Period III.1, and probably in the Hadrianic period. This is outlined below, but conforms remarkably closely to evidence for major Hadrianic planning of other small towns in the *Civitas*, eg. Chelmsford (Drury forthcoming) and Heybridge (Wickenden 1987).

The cremation cemetery (Area A)

(Fig. 13)

All three alignments play an important role in the small enclosed cremation cemetery in Area A. The original enclosure was laid out in Period III.1 (Fig. 10), aligned on, and incorporating, Ditch 328A (Alignment 1). It must be seen as a continuation of an already extant burial ground containing Inhumation 336, also dug into 328A, and possibly 50. Only the burial practice changes. Cremation 19, dated Flavian to early 2nd century, is inside this early enclosure, and on its alignment, and must thus be considered as contemporary. Other contemporary cremations have probably been lost in the occupation of the 4th-century Shrine 273. One such possible example was a 1st-century jar, found redeposited in 273 and 276 (p. 39).

In the early 2nd century (Period III.2, Fig. 11), the enclosure was extended on the north and west, using Ditches 100 and 201 as two of its sides, so that the cemetery was now trapezoidal in shape, nestling in the corner junction of Alignments 2 and 3. By now, Ditch 328A was redundant, and the main group of the fourteen cremations lie over and to the north of this; the Antonine cremations, eg. 6, 8 and 16, are aligned on Ditch 100, rather than 328A (Fig. 13). The cremation cemetery at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981, 246-8, figs 5, 90), in use at the same time, also had an enclosure, which was twice extended, and similarly incorporated a ditch into its limits, though the Skeleton Green cemetery is larger and more regimented.

The fourteen cremations at Dunmow evenly span the century from the Flavian/Hadrianic to the late-Antonine periods, and should clearly be regarded as a small family burial group. These are frequently encountered in the backlands of tenurial plots around the fringes of many small towns in Essex, for instance Braintree (Drury 1976,

126); Wickford (in prep.); Heybridge (Wickenden 1987); Chelmsford Site T (Drury forthcoming) and Kelvedon (K. Rodwell 1988), where a family cemetery of sixty inhumations and thirty-five cremations spans the later 1st to 4th centuries. At Kelvedon, on an estimate of one burial every 3.5 years, a family group of ten to twelve was calculated (see K. Rodwell 1988). At Dunmow, if we include the two inhumations and four outlying cremations, we have twenty burials over *c.* 100 years, *ie.* one every five years, that is a family group of 6 to eight people.

A second cremation cemetery is postulated in or near the Station Yard, based on past finds (see Gazetteer, Site 16). This would be on the periphery of the Roman settlement, and thus wholly in keeping with Roman custom. A possible third, associated with ?ditched barrows, lay *c.* 1 km outside the town at Church End, where sporadic finds would indicate a separate settlement (Gazetteer, Sites 1, 3-4). A fourth is suggested by notes recording the discovery of urns in 1935-36 in a field, now Highfields housing estate (Site 2). Finally, skeletons reported to the north-east of the town (Gazetteer, Site 5) might indicate the site of a late- or post-Roman cemetery. If this were so, and it includes both Roman and Saxon graves, it would be one of a genre of inhumations that is increasingly being recognised in Essex; examples are known at Prittlewell, Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden (Bassett 1982, 9-11), Colchester (Crummy 1981, 23), Kelvedon (K. Rodwell 1988) and Heybridge (Drury and Wickenden 1982, 30).

Domestic evidence

Area B, to the east of Chequers Lane, is domestic in nature, containing few finds other than pottery, but instead included a number of small enclosures, presumably for stock, attached at the rear of the main property boundary. There are also a number of storage pits and larger, shallow quarry pits for gravel, sand and clay. In Area A, on the other hand, activity was more varied and nearer to the immediate focus of occupation; whilst no domestic building was positively identified, there are signs, in the form of clay lump and chalky boulder clay (some burnt), tile and other building materials, of a nearby timber and clay house, perhaps resting on stone rubble footings, as found at 58 New Street. This would be in similar fashion to other small towns in Essex (Rodwell 1975), in which wholly masonry structures are very rare. Area A also includes Well 207, aligned on Ditch 100 (Alignment 3), and produced the majority of the small finds and coins, even allowing for the shrine votive group.

The coin evidence

by Richard Reece

The general run of the site-finds, apart from the clusters, extends from Vespasian to 402 but there is not uniform coverage. Domitian, Trajan and Hadrian are absent, while there is a cluster of coins from *c.* AD 140 to *c.* 180. The few regular radiates are less common than the Barbarous Radiates, and this suggests that coin supply to the site rose sometime after 275, rather than the more common date of *c.* AD 260. The remarkable small laureate coin of Maximian I (Cat 1065) certainly shows that coins were entering the site around 300. This coin is, so far as I know, unique as a site-find in Britain, and possibly beyond. It was the smallest, and rarest, of three denominations struck after Diocletian's reform of 294 and it is very useful to have this evidence that the denomination was widely distributed and

lost with other coins. After 300 there is a gap until about 330, but coins of this period are not common so that this may not be a true absence. The series from 330 onwards is continuous until the end of the 4th century. Just as coins of the 3rd century, and even the 2nd, are found in the general accumulation above and around the late structures, so coins from the use of these structures must have been lost more generally round the site.

Shrine 273 and gravel-floored building 276 (Figs 26-8)

Whilst the coin and jewellery loss, and the three votive pits overwhelmingly identify this as a religious complex, it is more difficult to find parallels in the published literature, or talk meaningfully of its significance. Indeed, the lack of a building plan, at least in its first phase (Fig. 28), given the interpretation of the features in 273 as wear hollows rather than construction trenches, leads one to wonder if there was a proper 'structure' at all, or whether we are not dealing with a natural shrine, such as a grove (Rodwell 1980b, 233, type 7). If we do assume a structure, the walls of which have left no trace (perfectly possible), then it may be called a local cult centre (Rodwell 1980 b, type 5) to which the term 'shrine' may be applied ('a simple shed-like structure, which appears to be too humble for the more impressive word - 'temple', Rodwell 1980 b, 212). Rodwell goes on to suggest that 'the function of this group was to provide communal places for religious activities and *fairs* [my italics, see below] for a sector of a tribal area, for a *pagus*. Professor Rivet has suggested that we may be able to identify *pagus*-deities such as Abandinus at Godmanchester and Viridios at Ancaster (1975, 112-3). Both of these were located in 'small towns', but could still have served an essentially rural population'. One could tentatively put forward a similar interpretation for the shrine at Dunmow, though its deity cannot even be guessed. Its form, given the shape of the wear-hollows which derive possibly from the use of benches around the inside of the walls (see, for instance, Drury 1980, fig. 3.8.26) would be almost square with a probable entrance in the north-east corner. Its original interpretation as a two-celled building can now be discounted (Rodwell 1980 c, 566; Wilson 1973, 304).

The gravel-floored Building 276 is also of unknown construction, unless 329 is a wall-slot. The shape of the gravel floor is that of a rectangular building, *c.* 13 m long by at least 4 m wide, with a porch-like entrance at the north-east corner, 6×4 m. The distribution of the finds might suggest a two-celled building, similar to Drury's type C (1980, fig. 3.2). Richard Reece would see the coins, directly associated above the gravel floor, as contemporary with Shrine 273; both having a high coin loss from 360-402. Building 276 may have a slight priority in use for the coins do suggest a beginning in the 350's, but any difference in starting date could not be more than ten years. Whether 276 continued in use alongside Phase 2 of 273 is impossible to say, since the latest coins, of the House of Theodosius, were in use in both phases. Neither is the purpose of 276 clear, nor the difference in function between it and 273. The high incidence of coins and jewellery finds, associated with 276, is distinctive.

A similarly high proportion of coins to pottery sherds associated with a gravel surface has recently been noted on the site of a late-Roman cemetery on the hill overlooking the Roman town of *Verulamium*. The cemetery was probably the resting place of Alban, the Christian martyr,

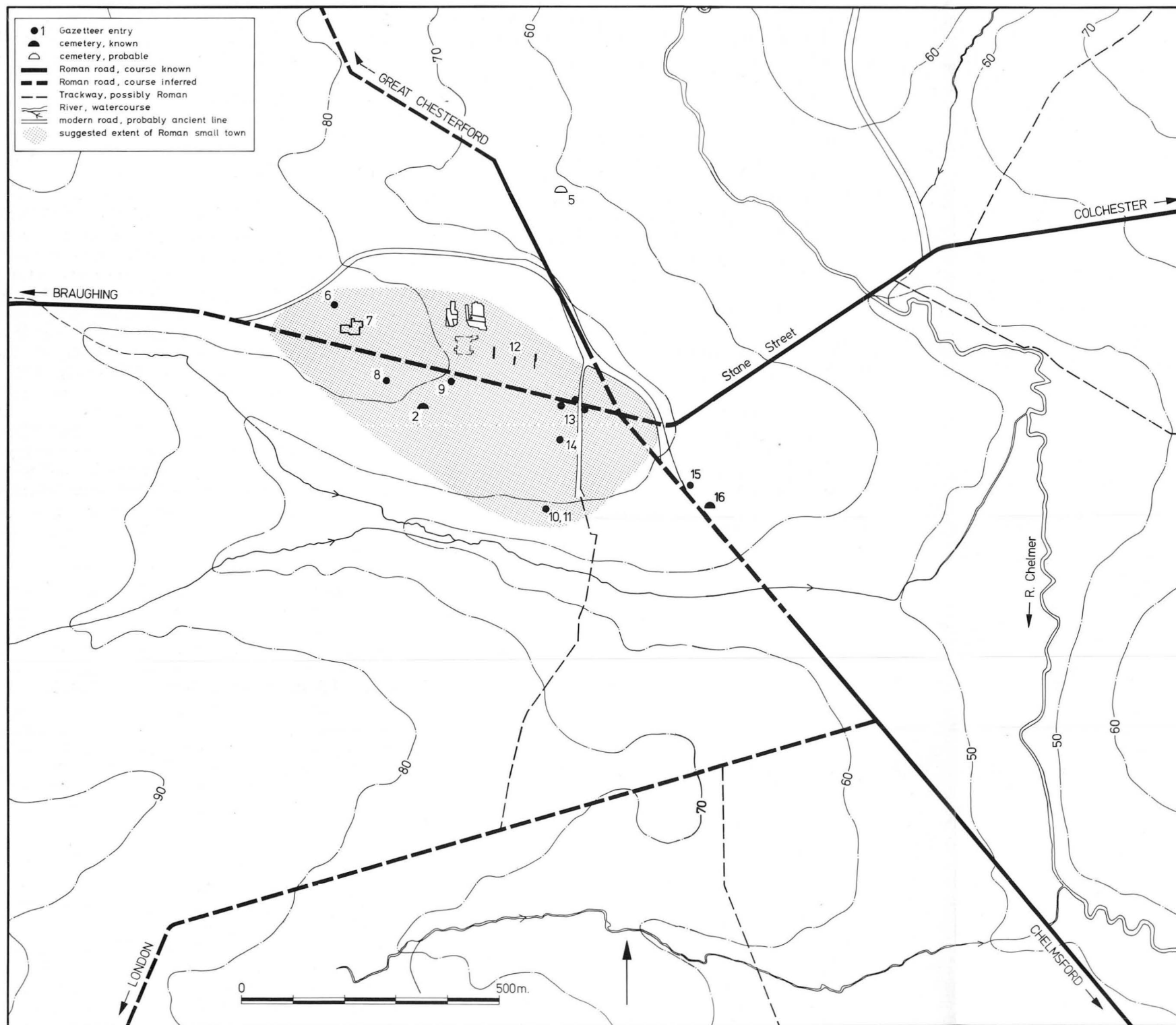


Figure 64 Reconstruction of the Roman topography, showing the extent of the settlement (toned), gazetteer findspots, and the Roman road and track system. The High Street and New Street are shown in outline (based on Ordnance Survey maps: *Crown Copyright reserved*)

and attracted a cult worship which eventually led to the construction of a Minster on the site and the desertion of the Roman town in favour of the extra-mural new settlement. The gravel surface has been interpreted as a fairground, used during religious celebrations dedicated to Alban, and where much small change and trinkets, but relatively little other domestic rubbish, would have been lost (Biddle and Kjølbye-Biddle in prep.). It is tempting to see the gravel surface, 276, at Dunmow in the same general light, being adjacent to a shrine and on the site of an earlier cremation cemetery.

The second phase of Shrine 273, lasting into the 5th century, is equally rustic, though its form is a little less obscure. Lying partly over the hollows, a flint platform was laid, trapezoidal in shape, and incorporating a number of posts in its two arms, which ended in two larger, free-standing posts. In front of this (open) side was another structure, perpendicular to it, of four double posts, whose significance is unknown. The form is that of Drury's Type 1A (1980, fig. 3.2) in his typology of Iron Age rectangular religious buildings, though he makes it clear (Drury 1980, 59) that all types were present in the Roman period. A three-sided screen of similar form, for instance, was found in the *cella* of the late Roman Romano-Celtic temple at Pagans Hill (Rodwell 1980b, 224, 227). A similar trapezoidal stone raft incorporating posts was excavated on the site of a religious complex at Chelmsford, but no dating evidence was recovered (Drury 1972, fig. 4, F16).

This second phase, marked by the removal of the Alice Holt storage jars from their setting in Pit 299 and subsequent scatter over the site, and the construction of the second shrine on a flint raft, finds a remarkable parallel at West Hill, Uley; there, soon after AD 380, pagan votive material was cleared out from the pagan temple and spread

evenly over its demolished remains. Following this clearance, a stone, and several timber structures were erected, including a possible apsidal-ended church (Structure VII), (Ellison 1980, 310-19, figs 15.3, 4).

Ellison dates these buildings to the post-Theodosian phase, and grass-tempered pottery extends their survival at least into the 5th century. She concludes that the 'deliberate clearance and apparent desecration of the pagan Roman temple, followed by the foundations of a small but substantial stone structure of the Theodosian period or later, strongly indicates the impact of Christianity' (1980, 318). Whilst the evidence at Dunmow is not sufficient to impose a similar interpretation, many of the similarities between the two sites are striking.

III. Post-Roman Activity

After the shrine went out of use, probably *c.* AD 425, based on early Saxon grass-tempered pottery in the overlying subsoil (p. 45), the site reverted to agricultural use, apart from a phase in the middle Saxon period when there was occupation over a considerable portion of the Roman town to the north of Stane Street, evidenced by finds of pottery from Chequers Lane, the Market Garden site and 36 New Street. The form and extent of this middle Saxon settlement in Dunmow requires further work. The total loss of Stane Street through the town area, and the subsequent consolidation of a circuitous road to the north (High Street) may even suggest the post Roman road being diverted around (earthen) town defences, possibly Roman, but certainly still evident (? and in use) in the middle Saxon period. The medieval town lay further to the east, and is not included within the scope of this report.

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Compiled by J.A. Davies

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