



The Fenland Project, Number 7:
Excavations in Peterborough and
the Lower Welland Valley 1960–69

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**The Fenland Project
Number 7:
Excavations in
Peterborough and the
Lower Welland Valley
1960–1969**

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3rd century AD burial from Plant's Farm, Maxey

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At Barnack (Chapter 5) thanks are due to the farmer, Mr B.W. Aldwinckle for permission to excavate; to Dr P. Strange and Mike Ponsford who supervised the work; and to Michael Lister the assistant supervisor. Thanks are also due to those who assisted in the preparation of this report: to Fiona Cameron for her report on the coarse pottery; to Brian Hartley for his report on the samian pottery; to Dr D.B. Harden for his report on the glass fragments; to Dr R. Butler for identifying the coins; to Bernard Denston for his report on the human skeletal material; to Bob Alvey for his report on the cereal grains and weed seeds; to R. Neves and G. Clayton for identifying the geological origin of the coal specimen.

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Thanks must also go to Rupert Brakspeare who did much of the initial work for the report on Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4).

The illustrations in this volume are by: Rupert Brakspeare (Figs 18, 56-68 and 93-4 (after C.M. Mahany)); Fiona Cameron (Figs 88-9); Marion Cox (Figs 7-12); Jane Downes (Figs 15, 22, 70, 99); Kenneth Fennell (Figs 44-53); Charles French (Figs 19-21, 69, 96-8); David Gurney (Fig. 23); Barrie Hartwell (Fig. 1); Caspar Johnson (Figs 26, 27, 30, 32-5, 37, 38, 40); Jeffrey May (Figs 13, 41-4); Janet Neve (Figs 1, 14, 16, 17, 54, 55, 71, 95, 100); Robert Powell (Fig. 92); Gavin Simpson (Figs 2, 24, 28, 45, 79, 81-6); Vivienne Swann (Figs 3-6); David Taylor (Figs 2, 25, 29, 31, 36, 39, 79-85, 91, 89, 90); and Sue Walston (Figs 7-10). The excavation photographs are by Gavin Simpson.

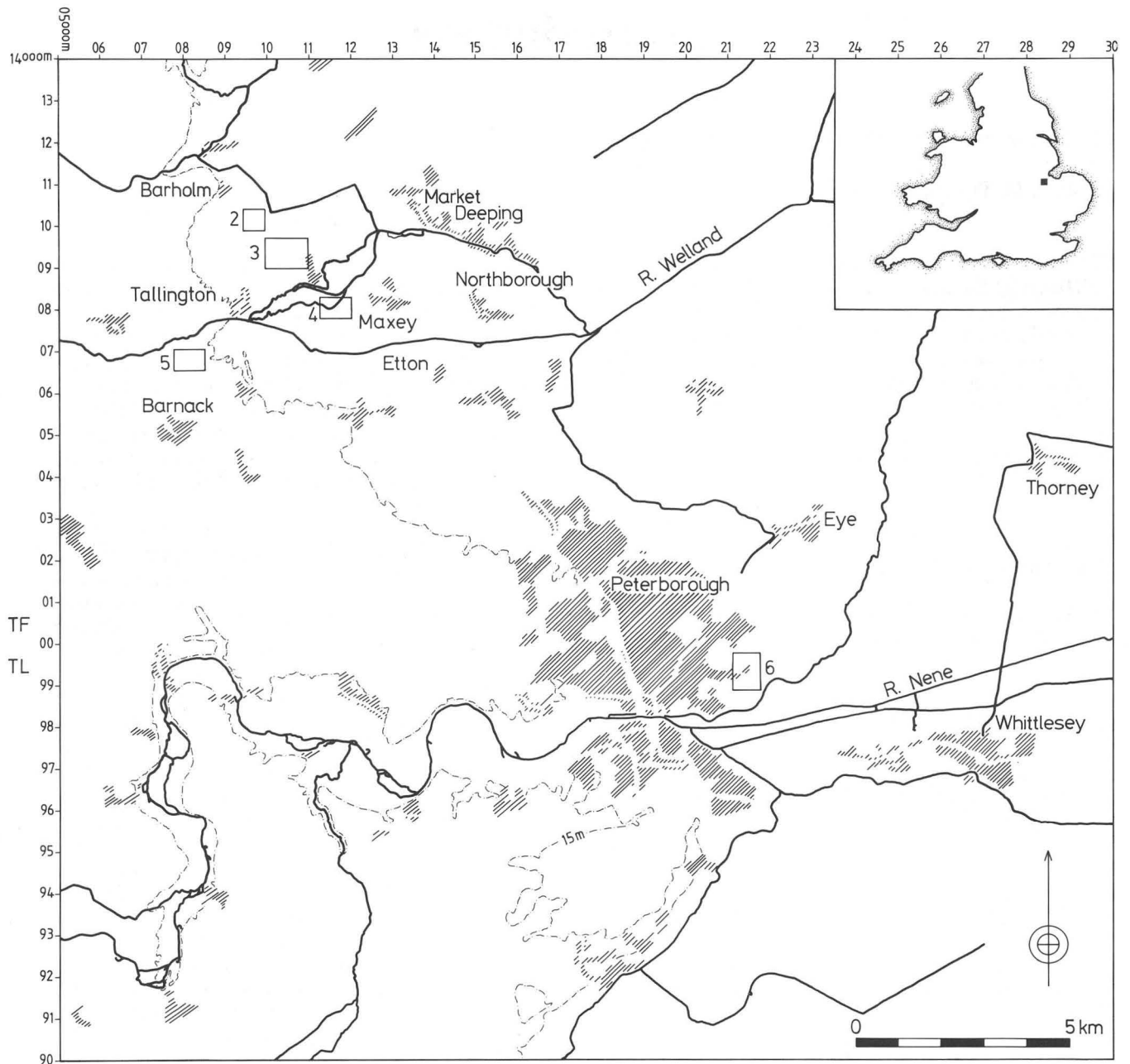


Figure 1 Map of the Fen-edge in the Peterborough region, showing location of principal sites mentioned in the text: 2, Barholm. (Chapter 2); 3, Tallington (Chapter 3); 4, Maxey (Chapter 4); 5, Barnack (Chapter 5); 6, Fengate (Chapter 6). Scale 1: 150,000. Based on Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map (1974) with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved

1. Introduction

I. A History of the Excavations in this Volume

(Fig. 1)

by F.M.M. Pryor and W.G. Simpson

The excavation reports in this volume took place in the 1960s under the auspices of the Welland Valley Research Committee and the Nene Valley Research Committee. A detailed account of the W.V.R.C.'s history may be found in Chapter 1 of the recently published volume on Welland Valley archaeology (M. Taylor in Pryor and French 1985). That account includes a full bibliography, plus a map (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 8). For purposes of cross-reference, the sites described in this volume are listed in that report (table 2) thus:

<i>This volume</i>	<i>Pryor and French (1985) table 2</i>
Barholm, Lincs.: Chapter 2 (Fig. 1, No. 2)	Site 12
Tallington, Lincs.: Chapter 3 (Fig. 1, No. 3)	Site 2
Maxey, Cambs.: Chapter 4 (Fig. 1, No. 4)	Site 11
Barnack, Cambs.: Chapter 5 (Fig. 1, No. 5)	Site 8

Put briefly, research into the archaeology of the Welland gravels arose as a direct result of the publication, in 1960, of the Royal Commission's assessment of gravel crop-mark sites, *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960). This paid particular attention to the Welland valley, for it was recognised that the problem was here more immediate, and better documented and understood than elsewhere in the country (at the time). The Council for British Archaeology, together with local workers, had been instrumental some years earlier in setting up the Welland Valley Research Committee, whose members included professional and local amateur archaeologists, plus representatives of local authorities and gravel quarry companies.

A number of sites revealed by air photography east of Tallington village, north of the Welland, and around Maxey village, south of the river, were of particular concern to the Committee, as all were more or less immediately threatened by quarrying. They included pit-alignments and ring-ditches at Tallington, on which Dr K.R. Fennell, then Secretary of the Committee, carried out excavations in 1958-9, and a small rectangular enclosure in field OS 29, where he excavated in 1960. The following year, gravel extraction began at the south end of that field, and Mrs M.U. Jones examined a Saxon pit (Chapter 3, Part II, Pit 1) and part of a double pit-alignment on behalf of the (then) Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (M.P.B.W.).

These and other rescue excavations in the Welland valley, though important for revealing the interest and variety of monuments being lost, could not be extensive enough to answer many of the problems posed. The Committee, under its Chairman, M.W. Barley, therefore set about organising such a programme. A public appeal

for funds was launched and the M.P.B.W and the Pilgrim Trust agreed to provide the greater part of the financial backing needed for three years of excavation and research in the area. In April 1962 one of the writers (WGS) was appointed to direct the work on behalf of the Committee and the continuation of excavations on threatened sites in the Maxey (Chapter 4) and Tallington (Chapter 3) areas was the clear priority. The history of subsequent work in the Maxey area is fully covered in chapters 1 and 3 of the recent Welland publication (Pryor and French 1985).

The latter years of the 1960s saw the end of the Welland Valley Research Committee's main programme of excavation, but not, unfortunately, the end of gravel extraction which continued with renewed intensity, largely as a result of the expansion of Greater Peterborough. The resultant destruction of archaeological sites has still to be properly assessed, as watching-briefs could only be kept on rare occasions, but it was probably very severe. Two examples of what took place should suffice to indicate the scale of the problem. Adrian Challands' brief account of his 1971 Maxey watching-brief, discussed in Pryor and French 1985 (p. 14) mentions seven ring-ditches, at least one of which was double. One of the present authors (FP) visited the site while work was in progress and was forcibly struck both by the general 'cleanness' and homogeneity of the ring-ditch fills which contrasted very starkly against the white natural gravel, and by the rarity of other, non-funerary, features in the vicinity. Doubtless the 'cleanness' (by this is meant an absence of pottery, bone and other debris) and the rarity of settlement features in the immediate vicinity both indicate that the barrow cemetery was placed outside, or away from contemporary settlement.

The author was also able to arrange a smaller salvage project at Maxey, five years later (Powell 1977). This monument was a very damaged multiple ring-ditch and stake-circle, reminiscent, in some respects of Simpson's (1976) Tallington Site 16. Again, it was 'clean', but this was most probably the result of earthmoving (the site was investigated at the gravel company's 'ballast level', as discussed recently by Crowther (in Pryor and French 1985, 316). The latter Maxey ring-ditch was almost certainly accompanied by others which were seen, briefly, by the present author immediately before he arranged Powell's excavation. In the intervening day, however, the stripped ballast surface was graded flat, to make a haul road, and all features were obliterated.

In sum, the history of archaeological research in the Welland Valley is one of increasing activity, with one large and potentially very serious period of inactivity in the early and middle 1970s, when the expansion of Greater Peterborough placed great demands on the available sources of aggregates. The appearance of this volume marks the successful conclusion of the original

Welland Valley Research Committee's programme of research-orientated rescue excavation. This early work laid the foundations upon which the more recent research of the Welland Valley Project (summarised in Pryor and French 1985), the Fenland Archaeological Trust and the larger Fenland Project has been based. We hope that this volume gives some indication that those foundations are solid and of lasting quality.

The present volume also includes a report (Chapter 6) on an excavation in Peterborough, just south of the Welland Valley. Work at Fengate Site 11 was directed in 1968 by Christine Mahany on behalf of the Nene Valley Research Committee (N.V.R.C.), which at the time had absorbed, or amalgamated with, the old Welland Valley Research Committee; it is therefore entirely appropriate that this work should appear in this volume. For purposes of record it should be noted here that other members of the N.V.R.C. carried out very small excavations at Fengate at this period in order to respond to specific, urgent threats. One of the present authors (FP) has discussed the results of these excavations with those concerned and has found nothing that might be thought worth publishing in full. Circumstances at the time dictated that the scale of the excavations was too small; the data recovered was accordingly not significant. It should be added, as an historical note, that the experience gained in these very small-scale excavations at Fengate by members of the N.V.R.C., convinced the Committee that a larger scale, more concerted, effort was required. The result was the N.V.R.C./Royal Ontario Museum collaboration of 1971-78. This volume therefore also marks the final publication of work at Fengate.

II. Notes on Recent Archaeological Research in the Region

Introductory note

These brief notes are published to provide modern contexts for the older excavations reported below; they do not attempt to be comprehensive in any respect.

Prehistoric

by Francis Pryor

The latest excavation reported in this volume took place in 1969, since when the area has seen an enormous increase in fieldwork, and, latterly, in synthesis. In general terms, attention has tended to move from dry to wetter landscapes, especially those of the Fen and Fen-edge.

The earliest period covered in this report is the Neolithic (Chapter 2), and here important work is still in progress. Especially relevant are Peter Chowne's excavations at Tattershall Thorpe, in north Lincolnshire (Chowne 1981; Chowne forthcoming); which has produced much Neolithic material including Grooved Ware which is associated with settlement features, such as pits and house plans (Chowne, pers. comm.). Other studies that have touched on the Neolithic of Lincolnshire include those of Julie Gardiner (1984) and Rosamund Cleal (1984). Further south, work of the Fenland Survey is summarised in the annual *Fenland Research* (from 1982, continuing); this includes interim

accounts of Neolithic sites such as Etton and Haddenham. A full interim account of work at Etton up to and including the season of 1984 has recently been published (Pryor *et al.* 1985); the season of 1986 produced unexpected results that have also been briefly discussed in interim form (Pryor 1987). Finally, the report on work by the recent Welland Valley Project (Pryor and French 1985) includes detailed accounts of work in the area; it also contains a synopsis of the highly important Orton Meadows barrows (Pryor and French 1985, 234; O'Neill 1980/81).

The excavation at Fengate Site 11, directed by C. Mahany in 1969 (Chapter 6) gains added interest in the light of subsequent research (Pryor 1974; 1978; 1980; 1984). The enclosure in question does not follow the alignment of the well-known second millennium BC enclosure system and there are strong stratigraphic grounds to believe that it may have been constructed considerably earlier. In this report we link it with the Padholme Road earlier Neolithic 'house' (Pryor 1974), but suggest a non-domestic function. Finally, Fengate has witnessed a resumption of archaeological activity with the discovery and subsequent continuing excavation of the large Late Bronze Age timber platform settlement at Flag Fen (Pryor *et al.* 1986).

Turning to later periods, the Iron Age reports of this volume generally confirm Gavin Simpson's earlier (1966) observations, and in the case of Maxey, Plant's Farm (Chapter 4), the site may be correlated directly with Phases 7-9 of the recent Maxey East Field excavation (Pryor and French 1985, 88-113). Similarly, Simpson's excavations at Barnack (Chapter 5) may be correlated with recent work between Barnack and Bainton (Pryor and French 1985, 265-97). The excavations by Mrs Jones and by Gavin Simpson at Tallington (Chapter 3) include a later Iron Age enclosure that may be compared with that at Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4). The excavations at Tallington also included part of a double pit-alignment, which is still believed to be unique in Britain.

Pit-alignments form an important part of this volume (Chapter 3) and it is perhaps appropriate to consider them more fully at this point. The best overall review of the subject is still that in *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960, 28-31). Generally speaking they are of later Bronze or Iron Age date, although those excavated by Miket in the Milfield basin, Northumberland, produced quantities of Grooved Ware (Miket 1981). The Milfield pits featured a stepped ramp arrangement which the excavator interpreted as being part of the provision for large posts (estimated diameter 0.65 m); this interpretation has, however, been challenged by Barber (1985). In this regard the Milfield pits can probably best be paralleled by, for example, the large post-pits of Meldon Bridge (Burgess 1976) which, incidentally, provides a possible functional parallel for the Tallington double pit-alignment. The pits at both Meldon Bridge and Milfield, however, are distinctively and repeatedly stepped in profile, and this is generally rare in the larger pit-alignments of the Nene and Welland valleys. On the other hand, distinctive large stone post-packing arrangements are less straightforward to identify in gravel soils; moreover in areas subject to periodic water-table fluctuations soil colour differences generally tend to 'wash-out'. Conditions would have to be right, but it would not come as an absolute surprise to discover that

some of the Welland/Nene larger alignment pits were treated in this way. Jackson (D.A., 1974, 24) has shown that some of the smaller pits at Briar Hill may have held posts or stakes, but these do not seem to be truly comparable with the Neolithic examples cited above.

The pit-alignments of the Nene valley have been comprehensively discussed by Dennis Jackson (1974) who came to the conclusion that they formed land divisions or land boundaries and that upcast, whether in the form of mounds or banks, was not an important part of their function. The land division hypothesis gains added support from the observation (Jackson, D.A., 1974, appendix 2 for full references) that many pit-alignments continue on alignments already defined by linear ditches. A good example of this is provided by a possible southern extension of the pit alignment at Plant's Farm, Maxey, which includes a length of linear ditch (see below) and, at Tallington, a short pit-alignment continues the line of a double-ditched droveway or track (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7, nos 40 and 42). Work in the area subsequent to Jackson's 1974 synthesis is summarised in the *Fengate Fourth Report* (Pryor 1984, 232–40). Another alignment on Briar Hill, Northampton, is published in the causewayed enclosure report (Bamford 1985, 49–50).

Most of the Nene and Welland pit-alignments are of Iron Age date and no *bona fide* Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age examples are known in the area. The inclusion of the second Briar Hill alignment under the general heading of 'Possibly Neolithic', seems unwarranted. It is probably Iron Age (on the evidence cited in the report itself). The Tallington alignment of this report is securely dated to the Late Bronze Age and it must, therefore be one of the earliest in the region. If, as seems reasonable, the pit-alignment can be directly associated with linear ditches that formed land boundaries or divisions, then the layout of the landscape discussed by Simpson (1966) may well have demonstrably early origins. The possible significance of pit alignments will be further discussed in Chapter 7.

Romano-British

by D.A. Gurney

The character of Romano-British settlement in the Welland valley has recently been summarised and discussed (Pryor and Gurney in Pryor and French 1985, 307–10). That discussion took little account of the excavations reported here, as during the preparation of that volume (which includes the excavations of the Romano-British settlement in the East Field at Maxey in 1979–1981 and the Barnack pipeline site in 1981), few details of Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4) or the Barnack aisled buildings (Chapter 5) were available. The broad conclusions of the 1979–1981 excavations by the Welland Valley Project have, however, been upheld by the excavations described here.

Plant's Farm, Maxey and the aisled buildings at Barnack were excavated in 1964–5. After 1965, there was little subsequent excavation or study of Romano-British settlements in the vicinity until 1979, apart from Adrian Challands' survey of the villa at Helpston and the excavation of a nearby lime-kiln (Challands 1975; 1976). Elsewhere on the Fen-edge and in the Fens, the late 1950s and early 1960s had also seen a number of important

excavations. These included Charles Green's excavations on the site where the cache of priestly headgear known as the Wilton 'crown and diadems' had been found (Hockwold cum Wilton, Norfolk, 1957), and the excavation of the Fen Causeway and a salt-production site at Denver, Norfolk, in 1960 (Gurney 1986). In 1962 and 1964, Ernest Greenfield excavated a 4th-century villa and bath-house on the Norfolk Fen-edge at Feltwell (Gurney 1986). While in the Welland valley the main threat to archaeological sites was that of gravel extraction, in Norfolk, a band of the Fen-edge from Denver Sluice to Hockwold cum Wilton was destroyed by the construction of the Cut-off Channel.

Apart from the excavations at Denver and Feltwell, there was little excavation of the minor settlements that must have been present along the line of the Channel, with the exception of Salway's excavations at Grange Farm, Hockwold cum Wilton (Salway 1967). It is particularly unfortunate that the opportunity to examine a long stretch of the Fen-edge was missed, although the sites that were excavated do provide us with much information about the richness and diversity of the Norfolk Fen-edge.

In 1961, Ernest Greenfield also excavated a salt-production site at Holbeach St John, Lincolnshire, in the silt Fen some eight miles north-west of Wisbech (Gurney forthcoming). Until 1961 this site survived as earthworks, and while the threats of gravel extraction or drainage works were met elsewhere with, for the time, an appropriate archaeological response, many well-preserved Romano-British sites in the Fens must have disappeared without investigation. Fortunately, Dr Timothy Potter, in the period 1958–1964, examined a number of sites in the central Fenland (farmsteads at Coldham and Stonea, the village and fort at Grandford and the Fen Causeway at Estover and Flaggrass), providing us with a valuable record of these sites before plough damage (Potter 1981).

Returning to the Welland valley, by 1966 when Gavin Simpson's paper 'Romano-British settlement on the Welland Gravels' was published (Simpson 1966), a number of ditched enclosures of Late Iron Age or early Roman date had been excavated at Maxey and Tallington. The Helpston villa was also known, and the Barnack aisled building had recently been excavated. Apart from these buildings outside the hinterland of *Durobrivae* (for the villas in the Nene valley see Wild, J.P. 1978), in the Welland valley there seem to be few, if any, buildings other than the timber round houses of the rural farmsteads, and subsequent research and excavation has done little to change this picture.

The Helpston winged corridor villa was a 'large and palatial establishment at the height of its prosperity' (Challands 1975, 22), that is, during the 3rd and 4th centuries, a period during which greater material prosperity is to be seen, albeit somewhat tenuously, on the rural settlements. The Helpston villa, first partly excavated by E.T. Artis in the early 19th century, lies some 4 km south of Maxey and 1 km east of King Street, a major Roman road, and it surely looks more towards *Durobrivae* than the Welland valley to the north.

No such buildings are known in the Maxey area, although the recovery of a stone column fragment from the East Field in 1979–81 (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 118) might hint at the presence of an equally grand

building. If it exists, it lies beyond the excavated areas and has yet to be located by aerial photography or surface finds, and it is of course possible that the column fragment derives from a building well beyond the Maxey area. If one or more buildings on this scale were to be found in the Maxey area, these will be important sites in our understanding of settlement in the Welland valley, and will lead to a radical re-think of the nature of later Roman settlement. At the present time, this differs little in its structures and fields from both early Roman and Late Iron Age settlements known from excavation.

The successive aisled buildings at Barnack (Chapter 5) have been dated to the mid- to late-3rd century and the 4th century. A second building of this type is known from aerial photography at Barholm some 5 km north of the Barnack site, and surface finds suggest an early 4th-century date (Simpson 1966, 23). John Peter Wild, in summarising the evidence for Romano-British settlement in the lower Nene valley, has described the aisled building as the 'standard architectural unit of the Nene valley in the 3rd and 4th centuries' (Wild 1974, 158) and examples in the Nene valley are certainly not lacking.

In the Welland valley however, the picture is very different, and here the aisled building remains, apparently, uncommon. As Gavin Simpson's report (Chapter 5) demonstrates, the buildings at Barnack seem essentially to have been for industrial use with evidence for iron-working, and recent excavation continues to indicate that this was a small-scale industry on virtually every local farmstead. At Barnack there was also an H-shaped corn-drier or malting kiln, and a T-shaped corn-drier was also found at Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4). In the Nene valley, two of the aisled barns at Orton Hall Farm excavated by the Nene Valley Research Committee had internal corn-driers (Mackreth 1978, fig. 64; Mackreth forthcoming a), and clearly these buildings might have fulfilled a wide range of agricultural or industrial purposes. Naturally enough, the industrial activities associated with such buildings are by far the easiest to recognise and define.

The excavations at Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4) examined a series of Romano-British settlements from the 1st to the 4th century. The earliest Roman phase (Phase 3) is comparable to Phases 6/7 on the East Field of the 1979–1981 excavations (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 166), although only a few linear features were exposed and there were no signs of house ring-gullies. Indeed, at Plant's Farm, structures appear to be absent from all Romano-British phases. This is perhaps surprising when it is recalled that as many as eight ring-gullies were found on the East Field (Pryor and French 1985, figs 166 and 167). The density of domestic occupation debris at Plant's Farm, particularly in the later Roman period, is clear evidence for domestic occupation around the excavated area if not actually on it, but the evidence for dwellings is entirely lacking.

The excavations at Barnack and Plant's Farm both included inhumation burials. The 1979–81 Maxey excavations produced eight inhumations, six just west of the main Phase 8 settlement focus (late 1st to late 2nd century AD) and two inserted into the Phase 2 (Later Neolithic) mound (structure 14) of the henge monument complex. The recent excavations perhaps hint at slightly more organised disposal of the deceased than has hitherto been apparent, with a small 'cemetery' adjacent to the

settlement nucleus, and 'barrow' burials, albeit within an earlier mound. Given the number of prehistoric mounds that may have still been dotted around the Romano-British landscape in the Welland valley, there would probably have been ample opportunities for this mode of burial.

Compared to the Fen-edge elsewhere, it is perhaps surprising that, to date, there is little evidence of religious practice. There was a curious timber structure in the East Field at Maxey (Pryor and French 1985, figs 63 and 69). This may have been a simple rural shrine, although finds of a religious nature were apparently totally absent from both this site and Plant's Farm. Fragments of a ritual crown were found at Deeping St James in 1965 (Whitwell 1966, 43), and it would not be surprising to find one or more rich religious sites among the rural farmsteads of the Welland valley. In south-west Norfolk, the Fen-edge along the peat-filled valley of the Little Ouse has two such sites at Leylands Farm (Gurney 1986) and Sawbench (unpublished), Hockwold cum Wilton. It is a feature of this particular area that only the temple sites appear to produce coin finds in any numbers, in stark contrast to the smaller settlements and even the villas which produce few if any.

In considering the coins (only five) from the East Field at Maxey, Reece (in Pryor and French 1985, 164) has drawn attention to the 'sporadic loss of irrelevant objects, rather than a sample of normal coin-loss, and hence coin-use' and has questioned the relevance of coins to the practical economy of the site. It is clearly important here, and elsewhere, both on the Fen-edge and in the Fens, to examine the relationships between, and the economies of, those sites which produce coins in any numbers and those that do not.

The report on Plant's Farm (Chapter 4), brings to a conclusion for the present, an examination of Romano-British settlement in the lower Welland valley which has been in progress, somewhat sporadically, from 1962 to 1981. Excavation and research have been discontinuous and varied in their approaches to the subject, but it is fair to say that we now have a reasonable understanding of the Romano-British farmsteads in this area. This we can contrast with other sites in the area, particularly the Cat's Water subsite at Fengate (in a much wetter situation and predominantly engaged in cattle ranching; Pryor 1984), and the principal excavations of the Nene Valley Research Committee. These include Monument 97 at Orton Longueville (three ditched rectangular yards occupied from the Late Iron Age to c. AD 140; Dallas 1975; Mackreth forthcoming b), Orton Hall Farm (a complex of early Roman enclosures replaced in the 3rd century by aisled buildings around a yard; Mackreth 1978 and forthcoming a) and Werrington (a series of enclosures from the Late Iron Age to the later Roman period; Mackreth and O'Neill 1980).

Elsewhere in the Fens, important excavations have taken place at Stonea and Haddenham (see *Fenland Research* 1982 onwards), and fieldwork in Borough Fen c. 7 km east of Maxey, by David Hall, has located a small Romano-British settlement on the very edge of the Romano-British Fen (see Pryor and French 1985, fig. 204, site BoF 1). One of the present writers (DG) has fieldwalked the site, and the pottery recovered suggests that the site was occupied by at least the middle of the 2nd century AD until the early or mid-3rd century. Sherds of

Roman pottery were also recovered from the site of a barrow 2 km to the south-south-west (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 204, site BoF 10d), on what must have been an 'island' in the Roman Fen, the edge of which was some 600 m to the west. The sherds came from the uppermost fill of the ditch, and are dated late 1st to early 2nd century.

As Francis Pryor has noted above, the attention of prehistorians has tended to move from dry to wetter landscapes. At the Romano-British site at Stonea, the British Museum excavations directed by Dr T. Potter have examined two huge pits, up to 3.5 m deep and waterlogged. Apart from the environmental evidence that these will provide, the spectacular finds include writing tablets, parts of a bucket, and iron bucket handle, four metres of what may have been scaffolding planks

and a complete wooden spade, still with its metal-edged blade (*Fenland Research* 2, 13). It seems likely that there may be a number of Fenland sites with contemporary waterlogged remains, even when parts of these sites are apparently 'dry'.

The results of the systematic fieldwork by the Field Officers of the Fenland Survey, recording soils, watercourses, earthworks, the Roman Fen-edge and the distribution of settlements, will provide in due course a picture of the Roman Fens and Fen-edge which will suggest important avenues for future research and excavation. The area due east of Maxey has been surveyed by David Hall (including the parishes of Borough Fen, Eye and Thorney) and the results have recently been published (Hall 1987).

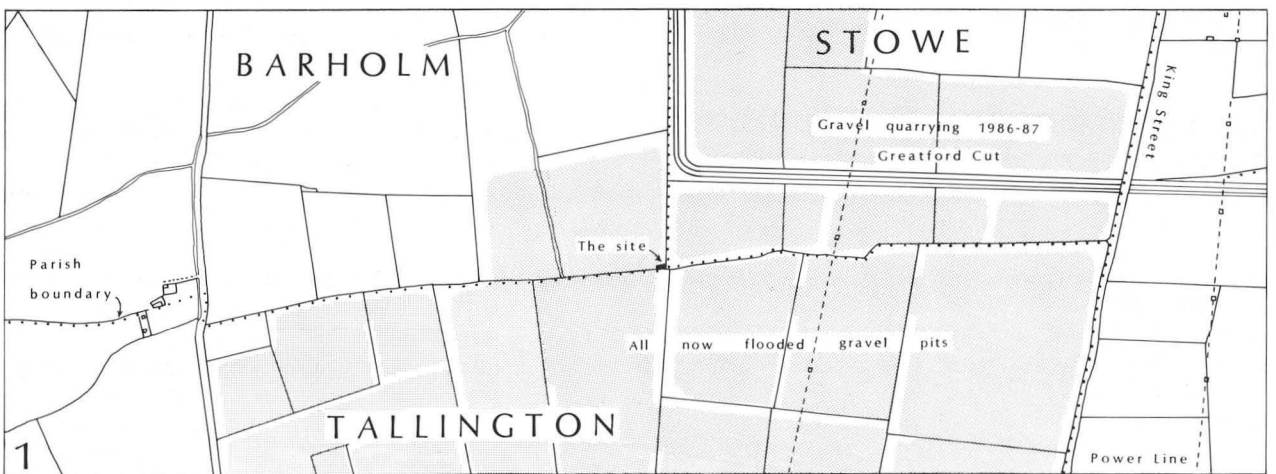
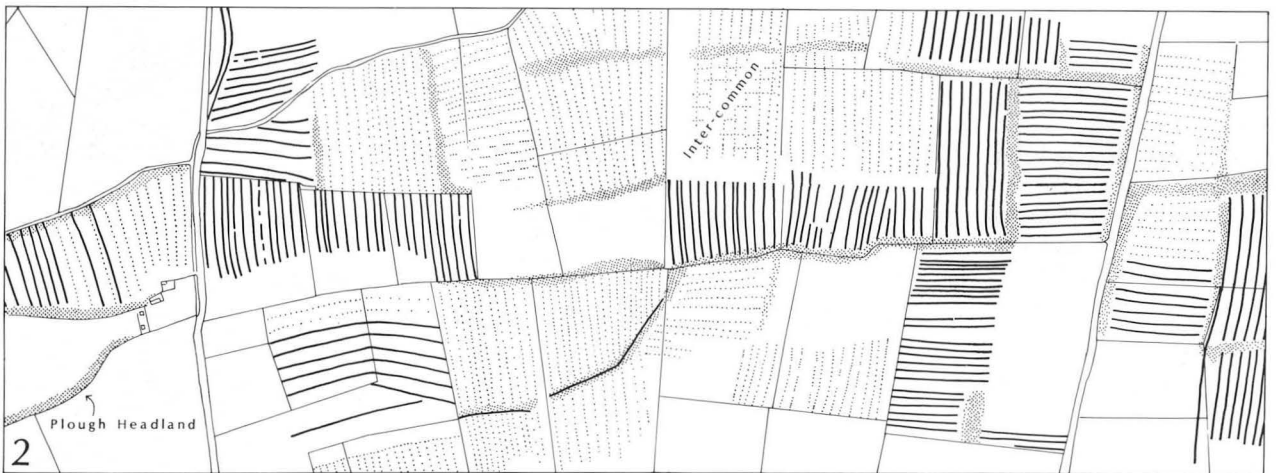
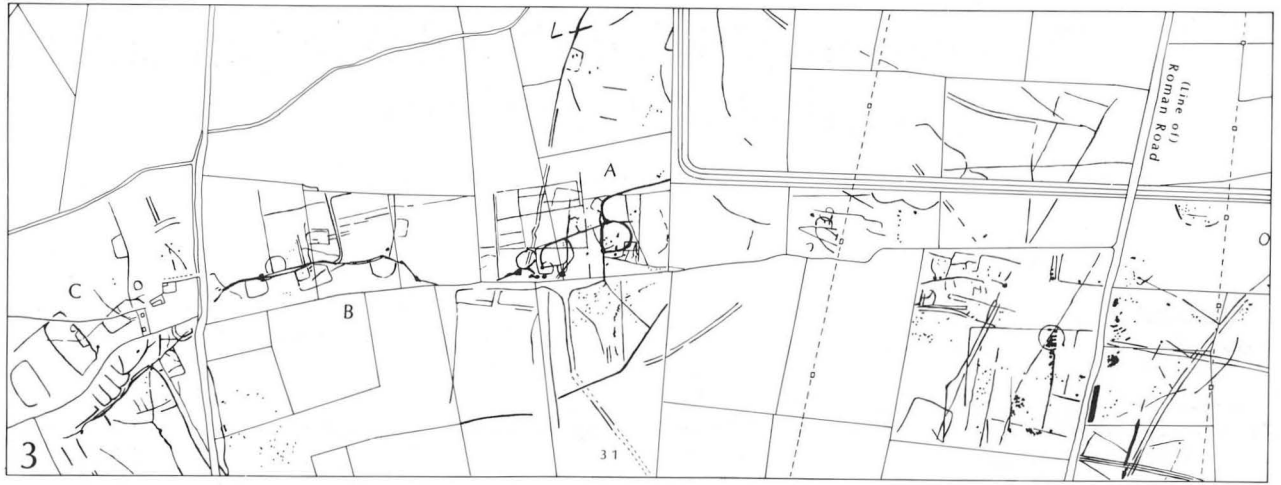


Figure 2 Barholm, Lincs: location of the Barholm site showing its relationship to the modern landscape (1), to the crop-marks of medieval open field agriculture (2) and of Roman and Prehistoric settlement (3); for location see Figure 1. Scale 1:15,000

2. The Excavation of a Late Neolithic Settlement at Barholm, Lincolnshire

by W.G. Simpson

I. Introduction

(Figs 1-3)

The site was discovered during stripping in preparation for gravel quarrying by Dow-Mac Products (Tallington) Ltd, in July 1965. It lies in the extreme south-east corner of Barholm parish (Figs 1, 2.1, map ref. TF 101 102) in field OS 10. The excavations, in August and September 1965, were directed by the writer on behalf of the Welland Valley Research Committee of the Council for British Archaeology and were supervised by Vivienne Swan.

The site lay in the south-east corner of the field and the gravel company commenced their operations by removing topsoil from a strip measuring 7.92-8.84 m wide, alongside the drain which forms the eastern boundary of the field. Removal of the ploughsoil and underlying orange-brown subsoil, which together averaged about 0.46 m in depth, exposed the gravel surface. At this level the outlines of three pits (Fig. 3, Nos 1-3) and part of another (No. 4), as well as the line of a ditch (D2) running east-west, could be seen. Examination of the surface of Pit 4 produced fragments of Grooved Ware and Beaker pottery, animal bones, charcoal and pot boilers. These finds and slight indications of more pits on air photographs suggested the possibility of a Late Neolithic settlement.

II. The Excavations

(Figs 3-6; Pls I-V)

The excavation was carried out in two phases. First the gravel surface already stripped was cleared of loose gravel and soil to the extent shown on Figure 3 without revealing additional features. At the same time, the area immediately to the west was cleared of topsoil by hand. This initial clearance was defined approximately by the ditch (D2) to the north, and the plough furrows (Y1) to the west. The hollow (8) to the west of Pit 4 and the five post-holes thus revealed confirmed that the clearance of a more extensive area would be worthwhile. A dragline excavator was used to strip ploughsoil from a larger area to the west.

The subsequent excavations revealed five phases of activity on the site. The three latest of these were of an agricultural nature and the two earliest were of domestic occupation. The periods of activity may be summarized, in chronological order, as follows:

1. 'Working hollows', post-holes and over twenty pits of Late Neolithic date.
2. Three pits and some post-holes of Early Iron-Age date.
3. Two Romano-British boundary ditches and plough furrows possibly contemporary with them.
4. A plough headland and two 'furrows' of probable medieval open field cultivation.

5. A plough headland and two 'furrows' of late medieval/early modern open field cultivation.



Plate I Barholm: The east end of the site showing Pits 1 and 4 with the 'working hollow' (8) and Romano-British boundary ditch (D2) beyond. Scale in feet

The area available for excavation measured approximately 33.5 m by 13 m. The central part had clearly been used in the Late Neolithic period, as was demonstrated by the 'working hollows', pits and post-holes found. Unfortunately, full investigation of the settlement was not possible, for even if time had allowed, further extension of the excavation to the east was limited by the open drain, and immediately to the north the quarry operators had made a large dump of topsoil. The stripping of the soil cover and surface gravel at the east end of the site by the quarry operators must have destroyed all but the most deeply dug features. Moreover, ploughing, probably in Roman times, had churned up the Late Neolithic ground surface. Much of this became apparent during the initial clearance of the east end of the site by hand, so that, when the western part was stripped by machinery, soil was removed to within a few centimetres of the natural orange-brown subsoil, at which level the outlines of the various features were clearly defined.

LATE NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT
 BARHOLM

1965

*Post Neolithic feature numbers
 are underlined.*

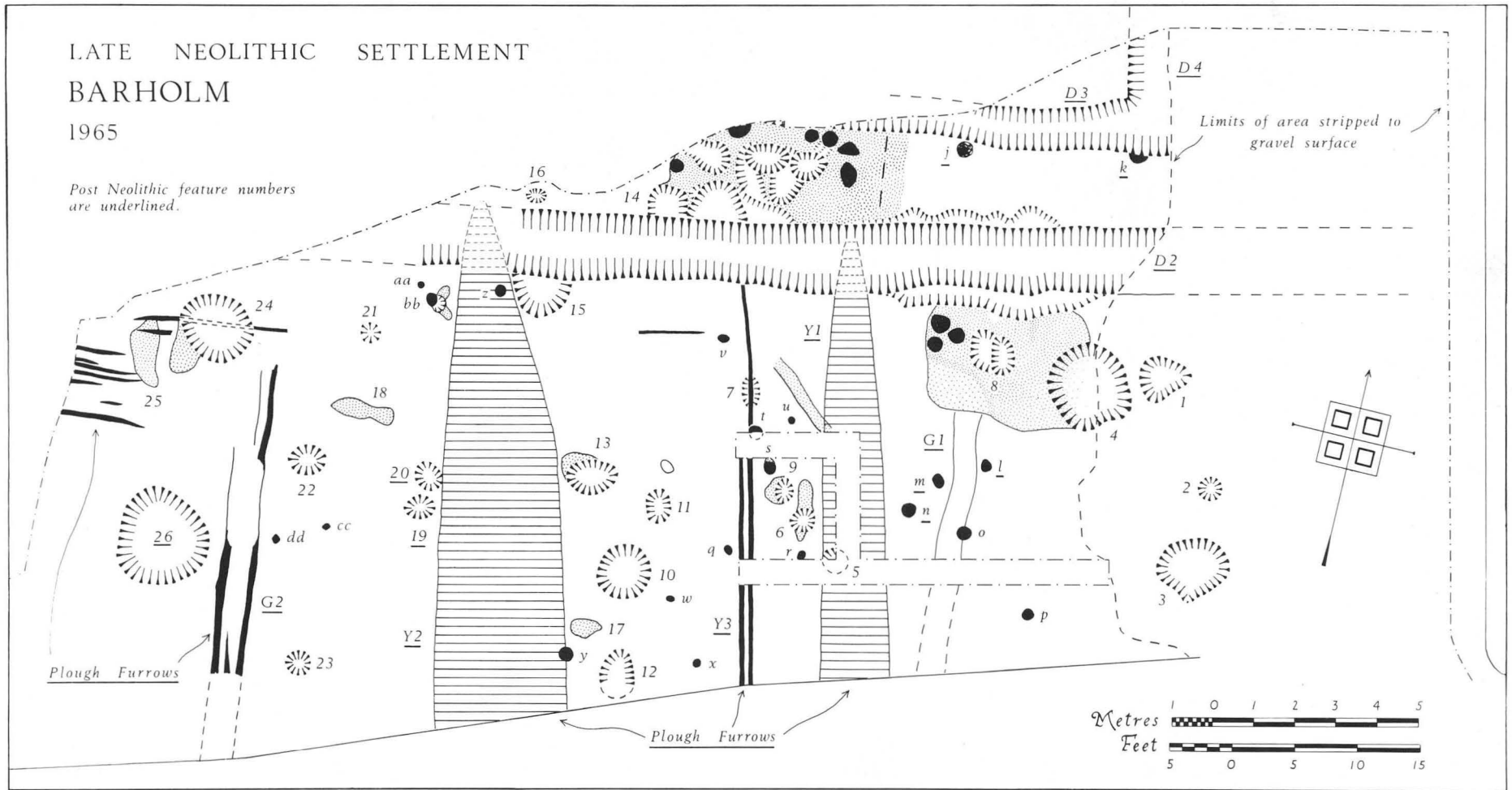


Figure 3 Barholm: General plan of the excavations; for location see Figure 2. Scale 1:150

The Late Neolithic settlement

Editor's note: With the exception of Pit 4, none of the feature fills described below have been assigned layer numbers. Those described for Pit 4 are not labelled on the site drawings (Fig. 6, Section K-L).

The 'working hollows' and Pit 4 (Figs 3-6)

The excavations uncovered two sub-rectangular or oval areas where the orange-brown subsoil had been removed to the level of the gravel surface, or a little below it. Unfortunately both were disturbed by later features.

Hollow 8: Sub-rectangular. Max. dimensions *c.* 4.0 × 2.8 m. Max. depth 80-150 mm below gravel surface. Overlay Pit 4 (Fig. 5, Section I-J and G-H; Pl. I).

Fill: Light brown, darker towards east with increasing charcoal.

Finds: Seven sherds Grooved Ware (Fig. 11, Nos 17-23); three flint implements (Fig. 7; No. 9; Fig. 8, No. 13; Fig. 9, No. 38) and seven flakes. Fragment of Group VII axe (Fig. 10, No. 1). A rim sherd (Fig. 12, No. 21) found on the stripped surface of Feature 4/8 on the day the site was discovered was later found to join with sherds found in the central part of the 'hollow'.

At the centre of the 'hollow' were two shallow pits, the westernmost of which (A) measured *c.* 0.96 × 0.56 m and up to 0.20 m deep. It contained few finds apart from some small fragments of bone and specks of charcoal. The eastern pit (B) was up to 0.40 m deep and measured 1.10 × 0.61 m. It cut Pit A and contained numerous pot boilers, animal bones, charcoal and a few flint flakes.

In the north-west corner of Hollow 8 were three pits or post-holes (un-numbered on Fig. 3; Fig. 4, see below). Sub-rectangular. Max. diam. 2.05 m, Max. depth 1.22 m. The bottom of the pit was *c.* 0-150 mm below the water-table at the time of excavation (Fig. 5, Section K-L).

Pit 4:

Fill: 1. Dark with occupation debris especially in top fill (1a). 2. Greyish clay with gravel merging downwards into dark organic clay with much charcoal. A sample of this material was taken for pollen analysis (Section III, below). 3. At the bottom of the pit were alternating layers of clean sand and gravel with little occupation debris. Thick layer of charcoal overlying the lowest gravel layer gave radiocarbon date of 2355 ± 130 bc (UB-457).

Finds: Daub fragments, charcoal, animal bone, pottery and flint, mostly from Layer 1.

The northern working hollow 14:

Partly destroyed by later features (Fig. 4; Pl. II). Precise eastern limit uncertain. Surviving extent measured 2.38 m N-S by *c.* 5.5 m E-W. Similar in character to Hollow 8 (see Figs 3 and 4) with shallow depressions varying in depth from 0.15-0.46 m. The two deepest were Pit 28, 0.43 m, and Pit 30, 0.38 m deep (Pl. II).

Fill: Clean light brown soil and a little gravel.

Finds: Some charcoal, animal bones and pot boilers. Pit 30 contained most finds including sherds of Grooved Ware (Fig. 11, No. 37; Fig. 12, No. 36), an end scraper (Fig. 7, No. 3) and a small serrated blade (Fig. 8, No. 22).

On the north side of the hollow were a number of post-holes (Fig. 4, No. 14, a-f; see below).

The pits

(Figs 3 and 5; Pls III-V)

About twenty pits, gullies or shallow depressions of Neolithic date were identified. About half of them were fairly small and shallow and few produced finds in any quantity. Although all features were excavated, because of the shortage of time available a full record was made only of these latter pits. Only those pits producing significant finds are described and illustrated here (Fig. 5).



Plate II Barholm: View from the west of 'working hollow' (14) showing sections across Pit 27 and Pit 30/33. Scale in feet

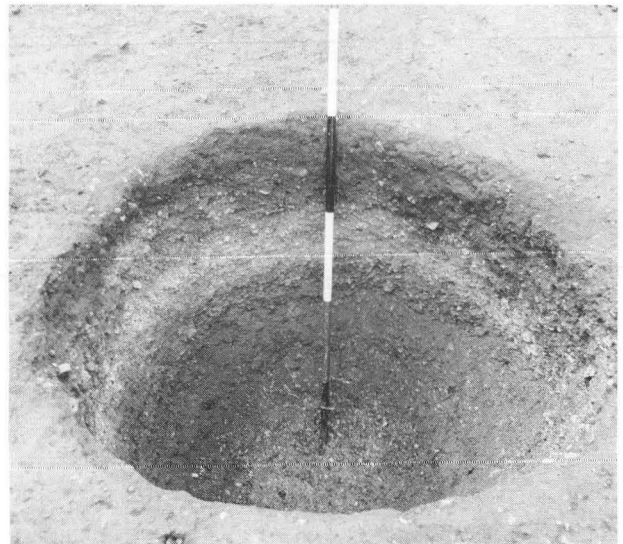


Plate III Barholm: View from the east of Pit 10 completely excavated. Scale in feet

Pit 1: Pear-shaped, 1.11 × 1.27 m, 0.46 m deep. In section (Fig. 5) an estimate is given of the profile of the upper part of the pit lost in stripping.

Fill: (lower) light brown, some gravel; (upper) dark grey-brown loam.

Finds: Grooved Ware (Fig. 11, Nos 1-4), flint (Fig. 8, Nos 15 and 18; Fig. 9, Nos 26, 27), animal bones including a complete antler pick, pot boilers and charcoal.

The pit was very close to Pit 4 but their chronological relationship could not be determined due to the nature of the excavation.

Pit 3: Irregular, 1.8 × 1.5 m, 0.51 m deep

Fill: similar to Pit 1.

Finds: animal bones, charcoal, pot boilers, two flint flakes, daub and a small plain sherd of pottery (not illustrated).

BARHOLM

NEOLITHIC WORKING AREAS

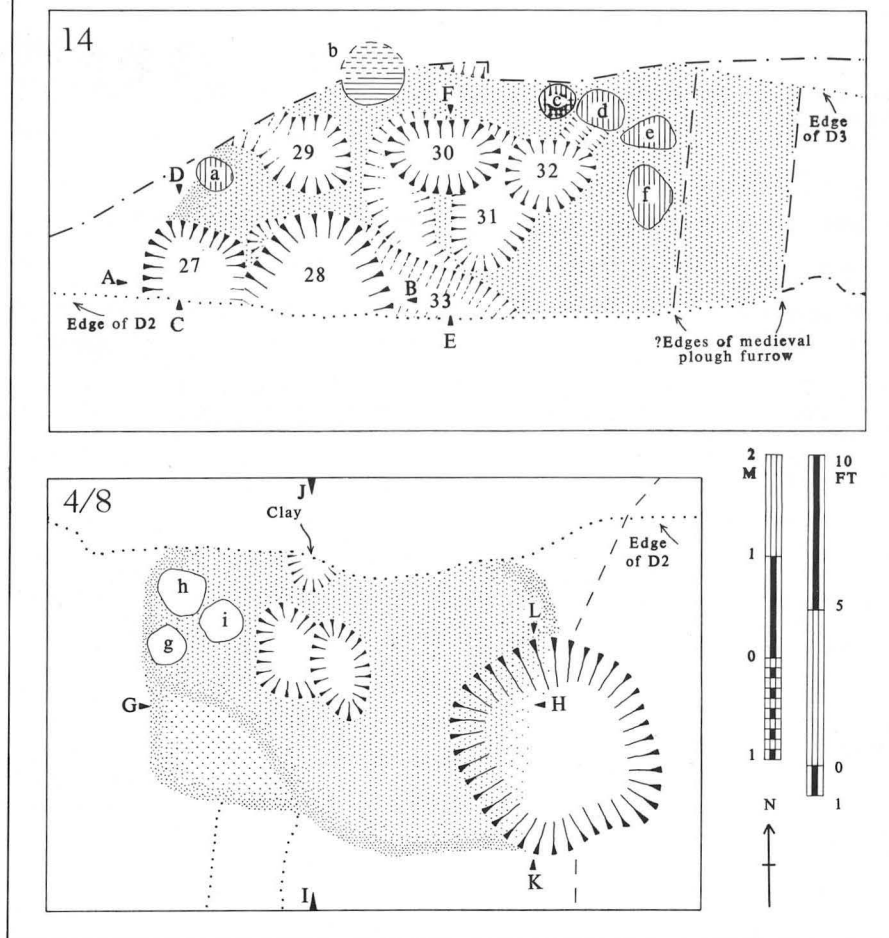


Figure 4 Barholm: plan of Neolithic 'working hollows' (4/8 and 14). Scale 1:75

- Pit 10:** (Pl. III) Large, sub-circular, 1.32 m diam., 1.07 m deep.
Fill: (lower) much sand and gravel, patches of clay with (above) clean orange-brown soil infilled from the north edge; (upper) layers of darker soil with much occupation debris. Final fill of sterile light brown soil of uniform thickness (c.23 cm).
Finds: Grooved Ware (Fig. 11, Nos 24–33), a rim of Mortlake Ware (Fig. 12, No. 44), flint flakes, animal bones and fragments of fired clay.
- Pit 13:** Irregular oval, 1.27 × 0.86 m with a shallow extension on west side. Max. depth 0.51 m.
Fill: (lower) light brown with a little gravel on sides and bottom; (upper) darker brown with charcoal occupation debris
Finds: (lower fill) large deposit of Grooved Ware against lower east side (Pl. III; Fig. 12, Nos 34, 35) representing parts of two vessels; (upper fill) animal bones, fragments of fired clay, flint scraper (Fig. 7, No. 2) and charcoal giving radiocarbon date of 2305 ± 135 bc (UB-548).

Two further pits (not illustrated) contained a significant number of finds. Pit 23 contained a large quantity of pottery, mostly from a single vessel (Fig. 12, No. 38) Other finds included flints, animal bones, charcoal and a few fragments of fired clay. Pit 24 contained charcoal, pot boilers, fired clay fragments, a large number of animal bones, twenty-six flint flakes, two serrated blades (Fig. 8,



Plate IV Barholm: View from the north-west of Pit 13 showing the concentration of Grooved Ware sherds at the bottom. Scale in inches

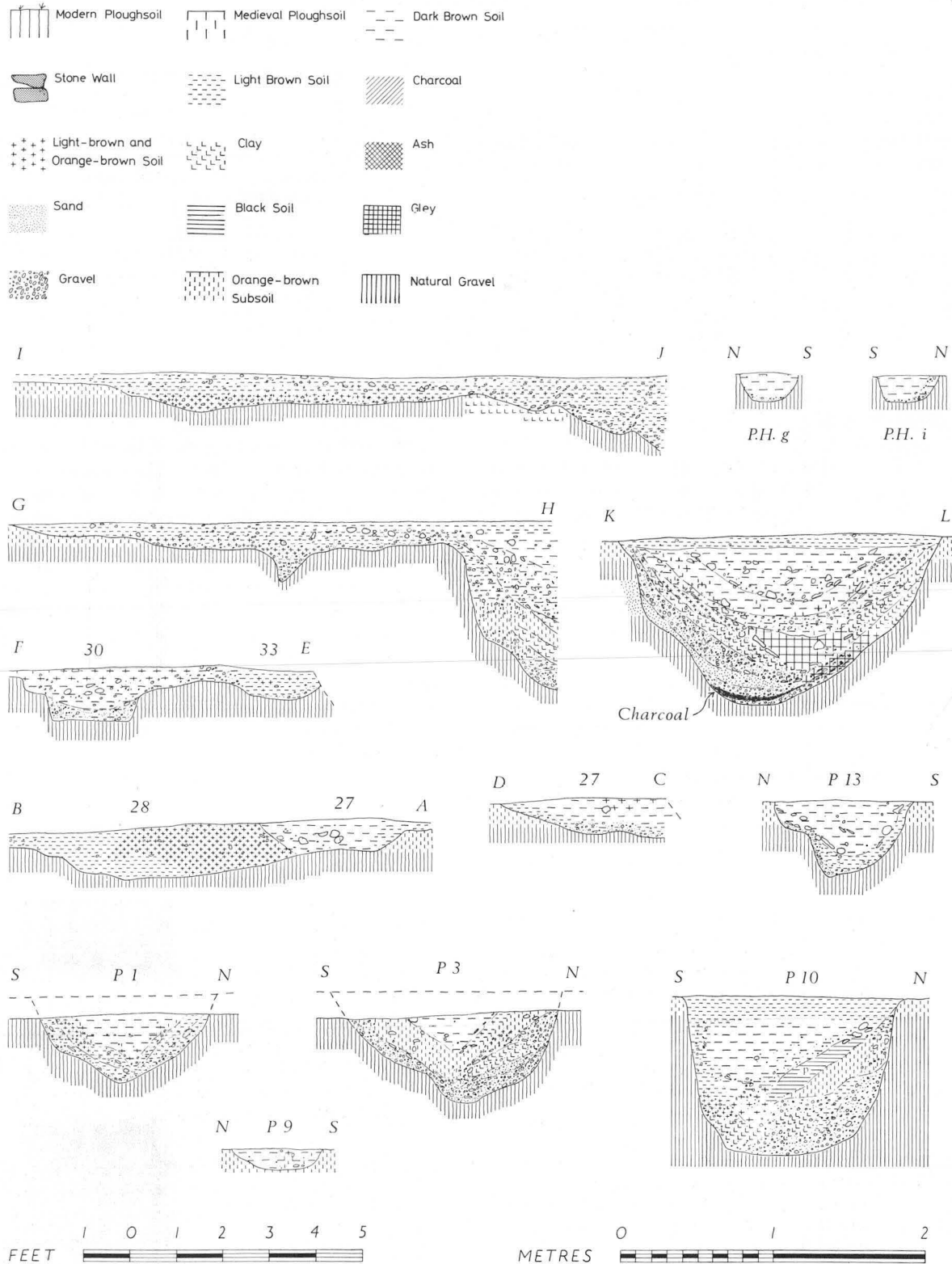


Figure 5 Barholm: Selected sections (Scale 1:40) and conventions used in the Barholm and Barnack section drawings

Nos 23, 24), two scrapers (Fig. 7, No. 10; Fig. 8, No. 14), a flint adze fragment (Fig. 10, No. 39), a broken bone tool (Fig. 10, No. 4), a fragment of a Group VII axe, and pottery (Fig. 12, Nos 40–2).

The post-holes
(Figs 3 and 4)

Post-holes of three periods (Neolithic, Iron Age, and Roman) were identified on the site. Although it was possible to assign some of them to one or other of these periods it was not possible in every case.

Post-holes a and c–f (Fig. 4) were assigned a Neolithic date. Post-hole a was c.0.20 m deep and measured 0.30 × 0.30 m. Post-hole e was of similar dimensions but c, d and f were only a few centimetres deep. Post-hole b was larger (0.61 m diam.) but less than 80 mm deep. It probably related to post-hole j as both contained limestone packing. Their spacing and alignment on the south edge of Ditch 3 suggested that post-hole k belongs with them and that they were of Roman date. They perhaps held supports for a fence.

Post-holes g–i and n contained Iron Age pottery. Post-holes m and l, close by, were probably of the same date.

It is very probable that a number of post-holes between this group and that to the west (q–v) had been destroyed by the medieval plough furrow Y1 (Fig. 3). Certainly the alignment of pits and/or post-holes P5, r, P9, s, t, v, as well as post-hole u and the shallow trench just to the east of it were suggestive of some sort of Neolithic structure, even though its precise form could not be determined.

None of the other post-holes shown on Figure 3 produced any dating evidence and are too scattered to be given any structural significance.

The Iron Age pits
(Figs 3 and 6)

Three pits produced finds of Iron Age date: Pits 19, 20 and 26.

Pit 26: Sub-circular, c.2.3 m diam., 0.91 m deep with a flat bottom and straight, steeply sloping, sides (Fig. 6).

Fill: (lower) mostly yellow clay becoming dark grey towards centre below gravel mixed with much charcoal merging into (upper) dark brown loam below gravel-free brown soil.

Finds: occupation debris of the same general character as that found in the Neolithic pits, including many potsherds (Fig. 13, Nos 50–4), pieces of rectangular loomweights (Fig. 13, No. 55) and other lumps of fired clay, a few animal bones, much charcoal and some pot boilers.

A sample of the dark grey clay from the bottom of the pit was submitted for pollen analysis (Section III, below).

The ditches and plough furrows
(Figs 2 and 3; Pls I and V)

The latest features on the site were the boundary ditches and the plough furrows. Ditches D2 and D3–4 seemed to mark the boundaries of three fields; one to the south of D2 and two others to the north-west of D3–D4 and to the north-east of D2–D4. It has already been suggested above that there was a fence along the southern edge of D3 but whether the remaining space between D2 and D3 was occupied by a bank or a hedge, or both, is not clear. It would seem to be too narrow for a trackway. Since the major objective of the excavations was to examine the Late Neolithic settlement, only a short stretch of the south side of D2 adjacent to Hollow 8 was excavated (Pl. I). This produced Romano-British pottery including Nene Valley Colour-Coated sherds and, from just below the surface of the ditch fill, a small fragment of Form 27, Central Gaulish samian of Hadrianic-Antonine date

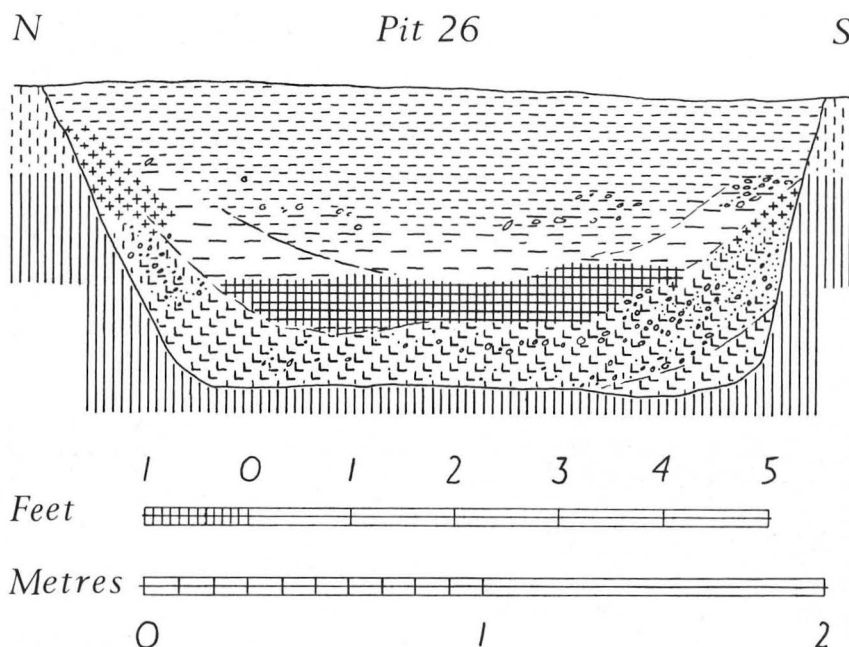


Figure 6 Barholm: Section through Pit 26. Scale 1:20

Context	Flakes	Scrapers	Serrated Blades	Edge- retouched flakes	Transverse Arrowheads	Projectile Point	Denticulated Flake	Piercer	Adze Fragment	Stone axe fragments	Totals
Pit 1	16	1	1	2							20
Pit 3	2	—									2
Pit 4	95	8	2	2	3		1				111
Hollow 8	7	2						1		1	11
Pit 6	10		1	1							12
Pit 9	3										3
Pit 10	11										11
Pit 11	1										1
Pit 13	2	1									3
Hollow 14/27	7		1								8
Hollow 14/30	17	1	1								19
Pit 23	3	1									4
Pit 24	26	2	2						1	1	32
Post Neolithic	15	1		1	2	1					20
Totals	215 (84%)	17 (6%)	8	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	257

Table 1 Barholm: Distribution of flint and stone artefacts

(identification by B.R. Hartley) and a coin of Constantine (AD 305–21; identification by Dr R. Butler). These finds suggest that it had become silted up by the late 4th century.

Plough furrows of two, or perhaps three, distinct phases of agricultural activity were recognised. The most recent were the Y furrows (Fig. 3, Y1–3). These terminated on or just beyond the line of D2 and were associated with a plough headland which covered the whole site (Fig. 2.2). It was visible as a low bank running east-west and extending in width from approximately just beyond D3 in the north to just south of the modern hedgeline which marked the parish boundary and the southern limit of the excavations (Fig. 2.2).

The two G 'furrow' groupings (Fig. 3, G1 and G2) seem to belong to an older phase of cultivation and lie on an almost exact north-south alignment. The only possible dating evidence was a sherd of Romano-British colour-coated pottery from the section of G1 cutting the top of Hollow 8. The rim of an Iron Age vessel (Fig. 13, No. 56) came from a little further to the south.

A third area of ploughing was identified in the extreme north-west corner of the excavation, with furrows running east-west (Pl. V). These furrows were



Plate V Barholm: View of the north-west corner of the site showing pre-medieval plough furrows running east-west, and Pit 25 (top right). Scale one foot and six inches

buried well beneath the substantial overburden of the medieval plough headland and cut across Neolithic features 24 and 25.

The ploughing phases are discussed in more detail on Microfiche (A.4–6).

III. The Finds

(Figs 7–13)

Flint

(Figs 7–10; Table 1)

by F.M.M. Pryor

Two hundred and fifty-five struck flints were recorded. These came from features of all periods but not from the ploughsoil which was removed by machine. No sieving was carried out on the site and so this group of artefacts must be considered as an incomplete collection. The distribution of flints is recorded in Table 1.

Forty classifiable tool-forms were recorded, of which 41% were scrapers. The only flint supplies available locally were in the fluvio-glacial gravels of the river valleys and Fen-edge, and it seems that they were the principal sources of raw materials for the flint implements recovered (Pryor 1978, 142; Moore and Williams 1975, 23). Only one possible core was identified.

Scrapers (Figs 7 and 8, Nos 1–17)

Seventeen scrapers, plus one side-scraper with a serrated edge (Fig. 8, No. 18), were recovered. End-scrapers are the most common type but most of the scrapers are made on flakes rather than blades. Nos 12 and 17 may have been worked down from larger artefacts and No. 14 exhibits the removal of several large flakes from the ventral surface. Nos 12, 15 and 17 are burnt. Eight of the scrapers came from Pit 4.

Serrated blades (Figs 8 and 9; Nos 18–25)

Implements of this group are made on blades, one or both (Nos 20, 21 and 24) edges of which have been 'nicked' to give a fine saw edge with usually seven to nine teeth per centimetre. The serrated edges of Nos 20–2 are markedly concave; blade No. 22 is broken. The serrated edge of No. 25 seems to have been reworked on at least one occasion.

Retouched flakes (Fig. 9, Nos 26–30)

Flakes and blades having light secondary retouch along one or two edges but which cannot be placed in any formal category totalled six. Transverse arrowheads (Fig. 9, Nos 31–5) identified by Stephen Green. Two examples of chisel arrowheads of Clark's Class C (Clark, J.G.D., 1934) are recorded. Nos 31 and 33 came from Pit 4. No. 34 is possibly a broken example of a Class D arrowhead from Y2, and No. 35 may also be a broken example of the same type with some reworking. No. 32 is an

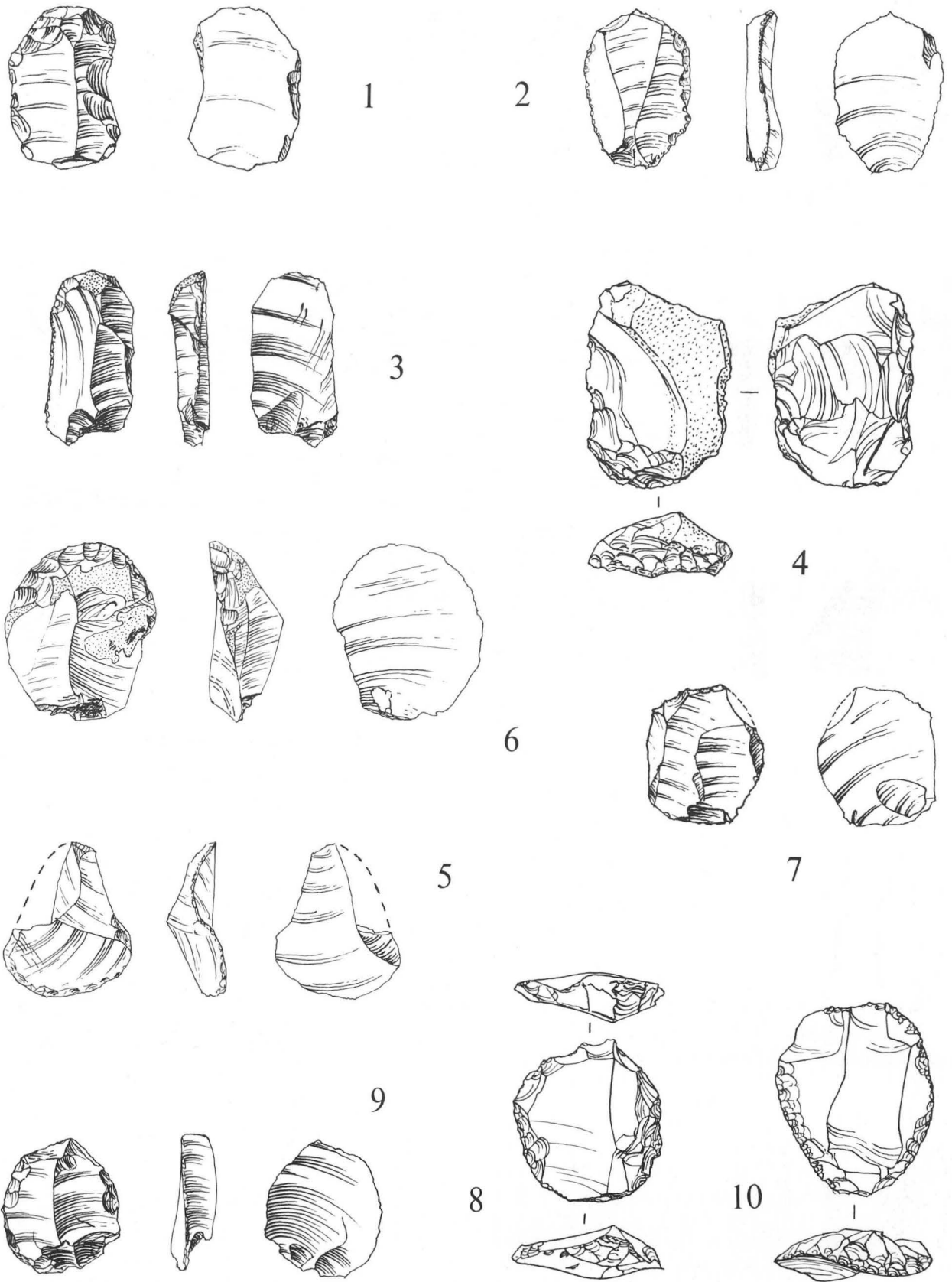


Figure 7 Barholm: Flint scrapers. Scale 2:3.

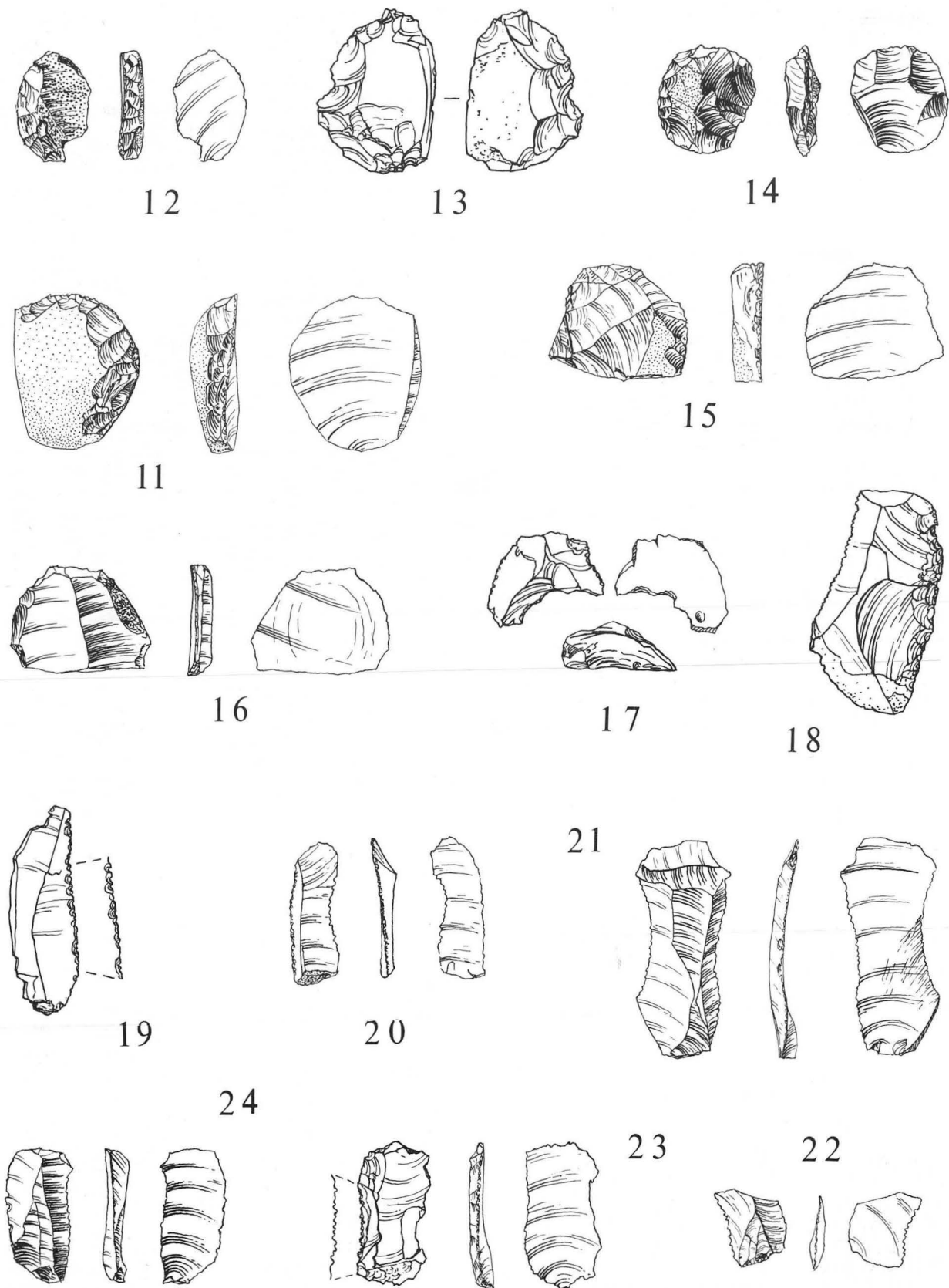


Figure 8 Barholm: Flint scrapers, (Nos 11-17) and serrated flakes (Nos 18-24). Scale 2:3

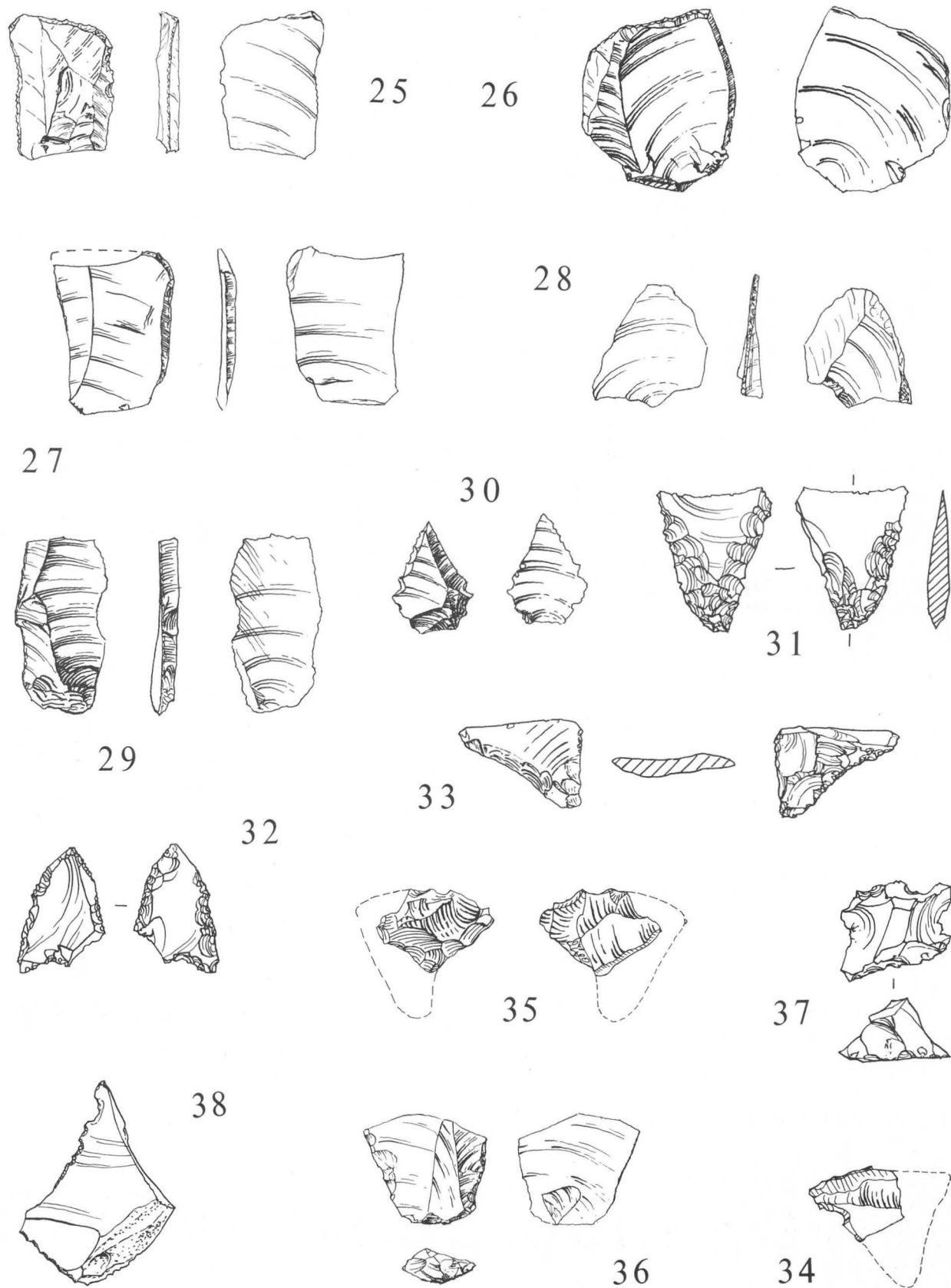


Figure 9 Barholm: Flint serrated flake (No. 25); retouched flakes (Nos 26-30; transverse arrowheads (Nos 31-5); projectile point (No. 36); denticulated flake (No. 37); piercer (No. 38). Scale 2:3

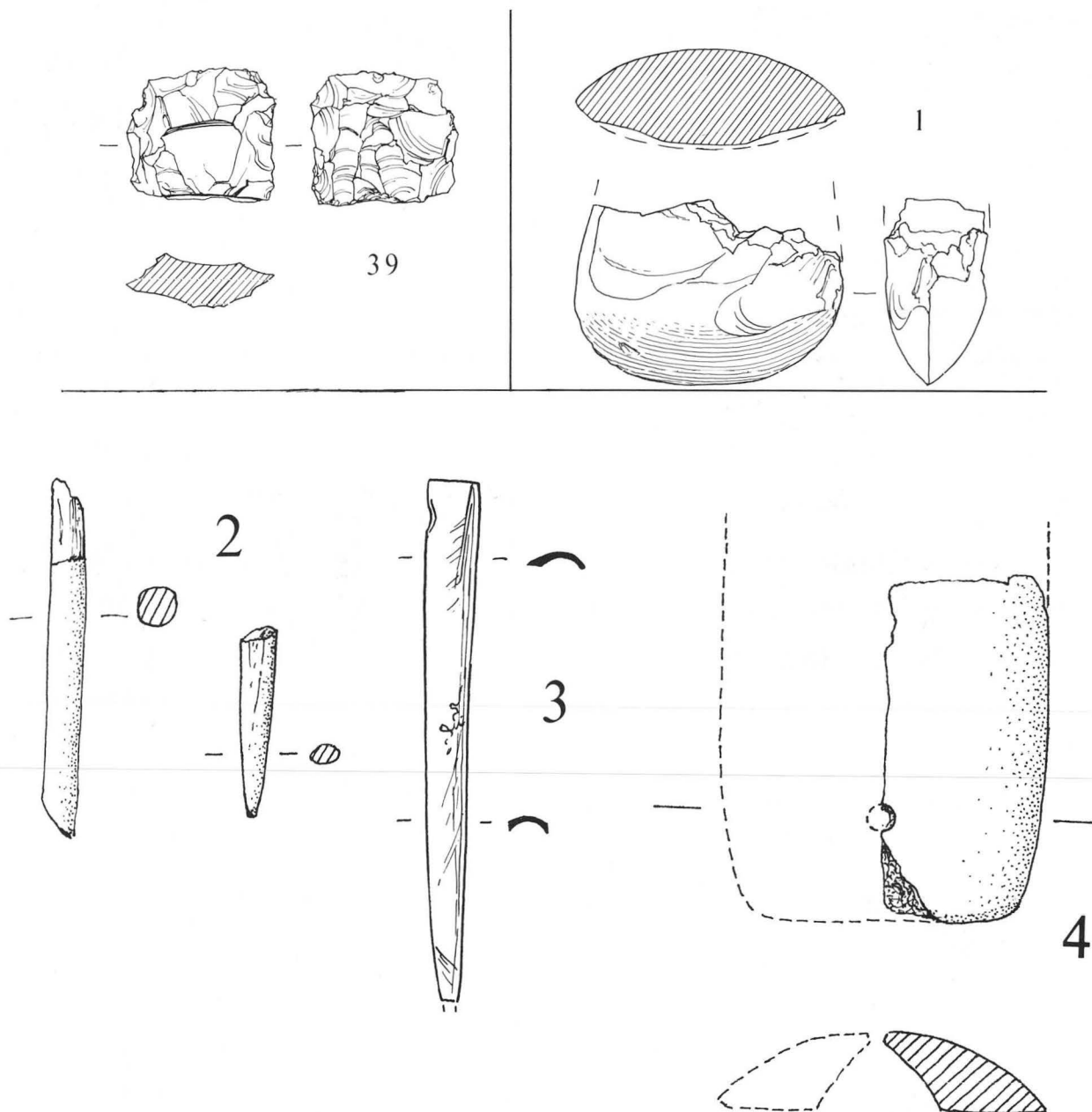


Figure 10 Barholm: Flint axe fragment (No. 39); Group VII stone axe blade (No. 1); bone pin shafts (Nos 2 and 3); perforated bone (No. 4). Scale 1:2 (Nos 39 and 1), 1:1 (Nos 2-4)

oblique form of Clark's Class G. It came from one of the plough furrows overlying Pits 24 and 25.

?Projectile point (Fig. 9, No. 36)

The lower half of a broad leaf-shaped blade with faceted striking platform and secondary working on either edge. Possibly part of a point of a type found at Hurst Fen (Briscoe 1954, fig. 7, top right).

Denticulated flake (Fig. 9, No. 37)

A pyramidal flake with gouging flakes removed to make deep notches at the base, similar to many examples at Fengate (Pryor 1980). Possibly a worked-out core.

Piercer (Fig. 9, No. 38)

A simple flake with secondary working and marks of use near the point. *Hollow 8.*

Flaked adze (Fig. 10, No. 39)

The butt-end of a flaked flint adze. *Pit 24.*

Stone objects

(Fig. 10)

Stone axes (Fig. 10, No. 1) identified by F.W. Shotton

Two fragments of stone axe were found, both of Group VII. The larger fragment, which is illustrated (Fig. 10, No. 1) is the blade of a large polished axe from 75 mm below the surface of Hollow 8. The other, found in Pit 24, is a small flake with secondary working.

Bone objects

(Fig. 10)

Pins (Fig. 10, Nos 2 and 3)

2. Two pieces of oval to circular cross-section probably from same pin. *Pit 4.*
3. Made from a small, thin-walled bone such as the metapodial of a young sheep, using a flint saw. There is a slight notch cut at the head. The point is broken. *Pit 4.*

Perforated bone (Fig. 10, No. 4)

- Part of the end of an implement probably made from a split long-bone. Cut end and edges smoothed; surface polished. V-shaped perforation through the cellular structure of interior and bone-wall near the end. *Pit 24.*

Pottery

Late Neolithic

(Figs 11 and 12; Table 2)

A total of 237 sherds of Neolithic pottery was recovered from the excavations. Of these at least 144 can be classified as Grooved Ware, three as Beaker or related ware and three as Peterborough or related ware. Of the remaining eighty-seven sherds, most are probably undecorated Grooved Ware. However, they are generally small and featureless and they have therefore not been assigned to any of the recognised Neolithic pottery traditions. Examination of all the pottery under a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) distinguished four main fabric groups:

- A1** *Shell-gritted.* The shell fragments range in length from c. 10 mm in coarsely tempered sherds to c. 1 mm in the finely tempered sherds. Towards the lower end of the size range it could only be assumed that the calcareous fragments were shell since visual examination was not alone sufficient to make the identification certain. However, all of a small number of selected samples reacted to hydrochloric acid.
- A2** *Vesicular.* Usually black 'open' or loose textured fabric with surfaces and section pitted with holes, some filled with soft, decaying calcareous material.

The distinction between A1 and A2 appears to be simply that in the former the shell-grit is intact while in the latter it has largely, or entirely dissolved. This is probably due to acid in the soil.

- B1** *Fine sandy ware.* A fine-textured fabric containing rounded quartz grains and small calcareous (not shell) and ironstone inclusions.
- B2** *Fine ware.* As B1 but an even finer-textured fabric with very few inclusions.
- C** *Crushed flint and quartz tempered ware.* The inclusions are up to 5 mm diam.
- D** *Grog-tempered ware.*

Table 2 shows the distribution of pottery on the site and summarizes the fabric types of all sherds and the decorative elements used on the Grooved Ware. The pottery will be described by context in the order set out in Table 2. The Grooved Ware and undecorated sherds are described first followed by the Beaker and Peterborough related wares. Numbers in italics indicate unillustrated sherds.

Grooved Ware and undecorated sherds

Pit 1 (Fig. 11)

- A1. Reddish-brown externally, purplish-brown internally. *Decoration:* two parallel horizontal grooves.
- A1. Black throughout. *Decoration:* two parallel, shallow, horizontal grooves and indications of two others.
- Base, A1. Reddish-brown internally, black externally. *Decoration:* finger-tip impressions internally.
- Base, B1 with some finely crushed shell. Black throughout.

Pit 4 (Fig. 11)

- Rim with internal step bevel, A1. Orange-brown externally, grey-brown internally. *Decoration:* external oblique groove. *Depth* 0.66 m.
- Base angle, A1. Pink externally, black internally. *Depth* 0.585 m.
- Rim with internal groove, A1. Orange-brown surfaces and black core. *Decoration:* slight external groove. *Depth* 0.46 m.
- Rim with slight internal step bevel, A1. Orange-brown externally, grey-brown internally. *Depth* 0.435 m.
- Rim, A1. Black throughout. *Decoration:* A groove externally, ridges internally with lightly impressed marks. *Depth* 0.435 m.
- Rim, A1. Pinkish-brown externally, mottled grey internally. *Depth* 0.40 m.
- A1. Orange-brown externally, dark grey internally. *Decoration:* finger-pinched external surface. *Depth* 0.40 m.
- Rim, ?A2. Black throughout. *Decoration:* single horizontal groove externally, ridges with line of stab impressions internally. *Depth* 0.40 m.
- Rim, A1. Purplish-brown externally, black internally. *Decoration:* horizontal ridge with traces of oblique grooves below externally, horizontal grooves and ridges internally. *Depth* 0.375 m.
- A1. Orange-brown externally, grey internally. *Decoration:* horizontal and oblique grooves externally. *Depth* 0.375 m.
- A1. Pinkish-buff externally, black internally. *Decoration:* two horizontal grooves externally with oblique impressed marks below. *Depth* 0.25 m.
- A1. Orange-brown externally, black internally. *Decoration:* horizontal and oblique grooves externally. *Depth* 0.125 m.
- a. Also twelve small sherds decorated with simple horizontal grooving.

Hollow 8 (Fig. 11)

- Rim, A2. Black throughout. *Decoration:* traces of single groove externally, applied strip with impressions in a wavy line internally. *Depth* 0.10 m.

Context	Total nos. sherds	Grooved ware sherds	Undecorated sherds	Peterborough sherds	cf. Beaker sherds											Stab and drag	Whipped cord	Rusticated
						A1	A2	B1	B2	C	D	Grooves	Impressed	Incised	Cordons			
Pit 1	11	4	7			7	3			1		2	2					
Pit 3	1		1								1							
Pit 4	55	31	20	1		45	6	3		1		12	8	14				1?
Hollow 8	11	7	1		3	5	1	3			1	6	4		2			
Pit 10	45	31	13	1		40	1	1	1		2	20	4			1		
Pit 13	28	21	7			28						11			12		1	
Hollow 14/30	7	4	3			5					2	4	3					
Pit 15	1			1						1			1					
Pit 23	68	35	33			68						31	35					
Pit 24	13	11	2			7	5				1	9	3	1				
Totals	236	144	86	3	3	205	13	10	1	3	7	95	60	14	14	1	1	1?

Table 2 Barholm: Late Neolithic Pottery



Figure 11 Barholm: Grooved Ware. Scale 1:3

18. Rim, A1. Orange-brown throughout. *Decoration*: stab impressions below internal step rim level. *Depth* 0.50 m.
19. A1/2. Dark grey externally, otherwise black throughout. *Decoration*: shallow grooves with parallel ridges, one with vertical fingernail impressions externally. *Surface*.
20. A1. Black throughout, brown patch on external surface. *Decoration*: two horizontal cordons or ridges and grooves externally. *Surface*.
21. Five conjoining sherds, rim and wall of bowl, D. Reddish-brown externally, brown internally. *Decoration*: horizontally and vertically set fingernail impressions externally, shallow groove below rim internally. *Rim sherd from surface of Pit 4, see text*.
22. Rim, A1/2. Black throughout. *Decoration*: horizontal ridges or cordons and grooves externally, horizontal grooves and ridges internally (*cf.* No. 20 above).
23. A1. Purplish-brown surfaces. *Decoration*: parallel horizontal grooves and ridges with shallow impressions internally and externally.
- Pit 10 (Fig. 11)
24. Rim, A1. Pinkish-orange throughout. *Decoration*: parallel horizontal grooves and ridges externally and internally.
25. Eight conjoining sherds, A1. Orange, purplish-brown and grey externally, purplish-brown to grey internally. *Decoration*: horizontal and oblique grooving; groove-outlined triangles and lozenges filled with stab and drag impressions externally.
26. Rim, A1. Dark brown externally, black internally. *Decoration*: narrow grooves externally, wide shallow groove internally with vertical impressions just below rim.
27. Rim, A1. Black throughout. *Decoration*: grooves and ridges, one bearing oval impressions (*cf.* No. 9 above).

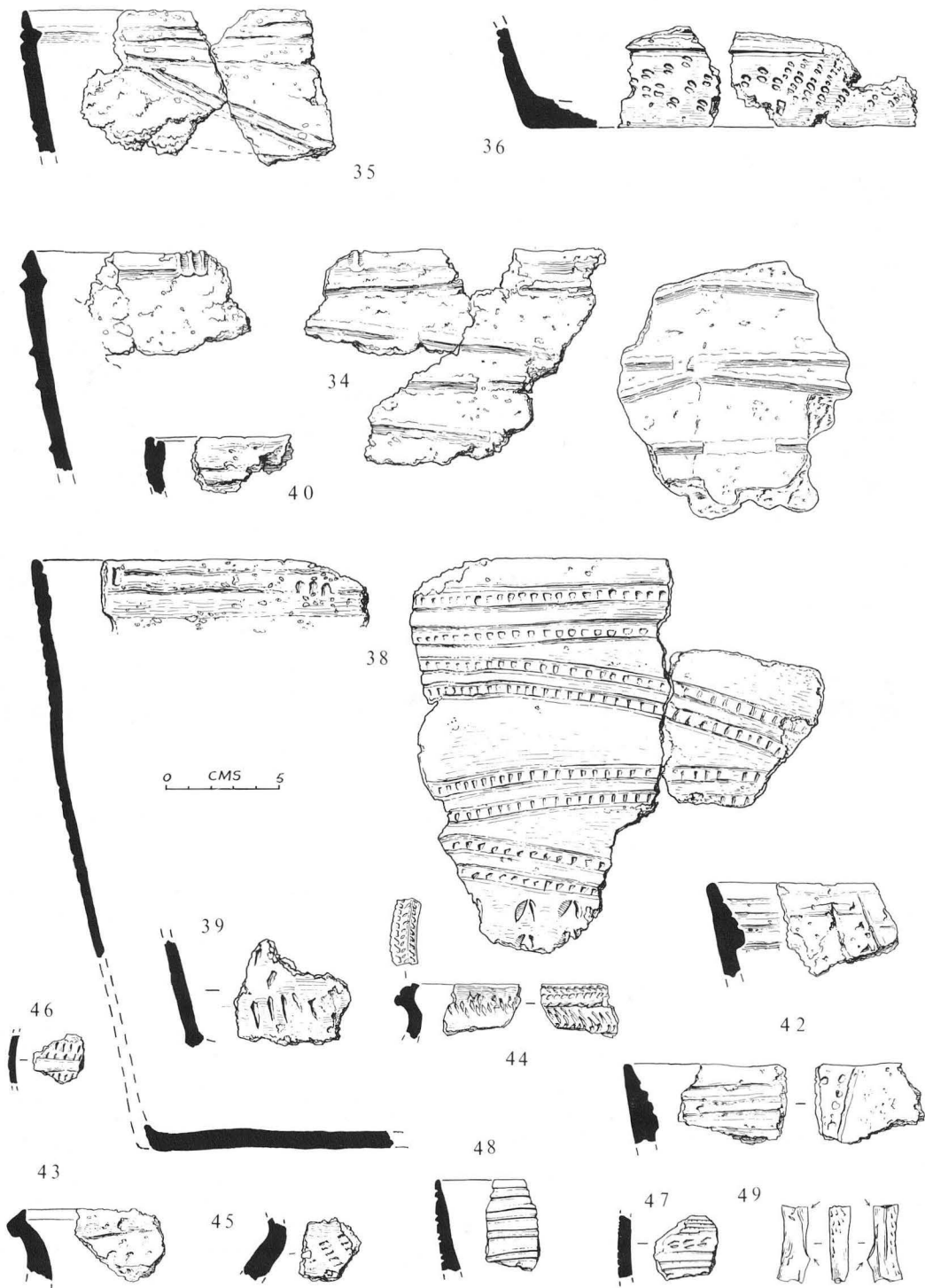


Figure 12 Barholm: Grooved Ware (Nos 34-42); Peterborough and related Ware (Nos 43-5); Beaker and related ware (Nos 46-9). Scale 1:3

28. Rim, A1. Buff externally, black internally. *Decoration*: parallel horizontal grooves externally, step bevel/groove internally.
29. Rim, A1. Grey with carbonaceous accretions externally, black internally. *Decoration*: horizontal grooves on rim-bevel and externally. Perforation, apparently drilled.
30. Rim, A1/2. Black internally, dark brown externally. *Decoration*: shallow grooves just below rim internally.
31. A1. Orange externally, orange-brown internally. *Decoration*: oval impressions and grooved lines; ladder pattern.
32. A1/D. Orange surfaces and black core. *Decoration*: groove with oblique oval impressions externally and grooves and ridges internally.
33. Fabric A1. Purplish-brown externally, black internally. *Decoration*: horizontal grooves.
- Pit 13 (Fig. 12)**
34. Twelve sherds from a splay-sided pot, A1. Brown externally, black internally. *Decoration*: converging cordons applied to external surface; plastic ornament applied across rim and divided into strips by whipped cord impressions; internal cordon/step bevel.
35. Eleven sherds from a splay-sided vessel, A1. Brick-red, brown and black. *Decoration*: double grooved lines forming triangular or chevron ornament beneath three horizontal grooves below rim externally. Step bevel/cordon on internal rim.
- Hollow 14/30 (Fig. 12)**
36. Three base sherds, two conjoining, A1/D. Buff to brick-red externally, black internally. *Decoration*: oval impressions arranged in oblique lines beneath two horizontal grooves externally.

37. A1. Black, but lighter external surface with carbonaceous accretions. *Decoration*: shallow horizontal grooves externally.

Pit 23 (Fig. 12)

38. Twelve conjoining sherds and two conjoining base sherds from a total of about sixty belonging to a flat-based splay-sided vessel, A1. Black through buff to brick-red externally, black internally. *Decoration*: 'double ladder pattern' externally (oval impressions between parallel grooves, these arranged in paired converging lines above finger-pinched impressions arranged in vertical lines). Double horizontal grooving on internal rim with grouped triple oval impressions at intervals.
39. Base angle, A1. Grey externally, black internally. *Decoration*: vertical/oblique stab and drag-impressions.

Pit 24 (Fig. 12)

40. Rim, A1. Pinkish-brown surfaces, black core. *Decoration*: shallow horizontal grooves externally, deep groove along top of rim.
41. A1. Black with orange-brown external surface. *Decoration*: 'Ladder pattern' – oblique incisions between parallel incised lines (cf. No. 38 above).
- 42 a, b. Rim, A2, probably from the same vessel. Black or black with brown external surfaces. *Decoration*: oblique shallow grooves with stab impressions externally, parallel horizontal grooves and ridges internally.

Peterborough and related ware (Fig. 12)

43. Rim, A2. Black with brown external surface. No decoration but the form of the vessel would seem to be related to Mortlake style (cf. No. 44). Single grain impression, possibly wheat (identified by R. Alvey). *Pit 4, depth 0.40 m*.
44. Rim of Mortlake bowl, B2. Orange-brown surfaces and dense black core. *Decoration*: bird-bone impressions on rim; oblique incisions and bird-bone impressions externally, oblique incisions internally. *Pit 10*.
45. Mortlake Ware, C. Black with purplish-brown external surface. *Decoration*: bird-bone impressions arranged in oblique lines. *Pit 15*.

Beaker and related wares (Fig. 12)

46. B1, thin and hard. Black with brown external surface. *Decoration*: triangles or lozenges defined by incised lines and filled with stab impressions. *Hollow 8, depth 0.23 m*.
47. B1, hard. Buff to grey surfaces and black core. *Decoration*: four comb-impressed lines at top; stab impressions; three incised or comb impressed lines; stab impressions. *Hollow 8, depth 0.125 m*.
48. Rim, B1, hard. Black throughout. *Decoration*: paired, horizontal incised lines externally. *Hollow 8, depth 0.20 m*.
49. Fragment of decorated fired clay, B1. Length 33 mm, width 8–14 mm. Both ends broken and two-thirds of the length of one side (between the arrows, Fig. 12) appears to have been fixed to another piece. The opposite side is decorated with stab impressions which extend round onto one face which also bears two shallow vertical grooves. It is difficult to see it as part of a handle. It seems more likely that it was part of a vessel-support or the upper part of the leg of an animal figurine. *Pit 10*.

Discussion

It will be noted from Table 2 that 218 sherds representing 92.0% of the total are in shell-gritted fabric (A1 or A2). The Grooved Ware is almost exclusively in this fabric and the Beaker and Peterborough related sherds are almost exclusively in other fabrics. The majority of the undecorated sherds are also in shell-gritted fabric and those in other fabrics could as well belong to other pottery traditions as to Grooved Ware.

Shell-gritted fabrics are common in the Fenland area from Neolithic times through into the medieval period. The factors governing the selection of tempering material by primitive potters is an aspect of pottery technology which needs further study. However, the persistence of

shell-tempered fabrics in the Welland Valley and their early beginning, as shown by the Grooved Ware, must indicate that this material was regarded as particularly suitable. Three sources are possible: freshwater, marine, or fossil shells. The latter would be readily available 4 km to the west of Barholm as a constituent part of the Jurassic limestones or of the Upper Estuarine series of clays (*Memoirs of the Geological Survey* 1894). However, the only pottery from this area which has been examined by a conchological expert was found to contain recent shell of marine origin (Addyman and Fennell 1964, 51). Recent work at Maxey, however, suggests that fossil shell was also used (Cooper 1985). Mildenhall-style Middle Neolithic pottery from the Etton causewayed enclosure is generally shell-tempered (Pryor and Kinnes 1982).

Grooved Ware with shell-tempering has come from widely dispersed inland sites in, for example, Yorkshire (Manby 1974, 66n, 78, 110), the Chilterns (Mathews 1976), Wessex (Cunnington 1929, 75), and from nearby Fengate, Peterborough, where, however, shell tempering does not seem to be as common as at Barholm (Pryor 1978, 69). Two of the Yorkshire sites (Manby 1974, 110) yielded a variety of marine shells but shell-grit, identified as oyster, seems to be used only rarely in Grooved Ware from the county. Durrington Walls, Woodhenge and at least two other Grooved Ware sites in Wessex (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, 265) yielded marine shells but analysis of the shell content of the pottery gave conflicting results as to its origin (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, 409; Cunnington 1929, 75). In the Chilterns it has been suggested that the shells of freshwater mussel were used as tempering material in Grooved Ware (Mathews 1976, 9).

The Grooved Ware from the site shows features of the Clacton and Woodlands styles as defined by Wainwright and Longworth (1971, 238). The Woodlands style features are most apparent on the pottery from Pits 13 and 23. Nearly all the sherds from the latter (Fig. 12, No. 38) come from a vessel with 'ladder pattern' decoration. Inside, just below the rim, are groups of triple-oval impressions reminiscent of the groups of strips of clay applied across the rim found on Woodlands style vessels (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, fig. 91, 240). The same feature occurs on a vessel from Pit 13 (Fig. 12, No. 34), but it is unusual because the clay applied across the rim is divided into strips by whipped cord impressions which are said to be particularly characteristic of the Durrington style (Wainwright and Longworth 1971). The body decoration of plain converging cordons with applied 'knots' at the intersections on the exterior of the vessel is however typical of the Woodlands style and may be compared with pottery from Honington, Suffolk (Fell 1952), Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire (Warren *et al.* 1936), and Flamborough and East Reservoir, Site 3, Rudston, Yorkshire (Manby 1974, figs 6.2 and 30.1).

The pottery from these two Yorkshire sites, like that from Pit 13 also includes pieces with decoration in the Clacton style (Manby 1974). The body sherd (Fig. 11, No. 25) from Pit 10, with incised triangles and lozenges filled with stab and drag ornament, and the rim sherd (Fig. 11, No. 17) from Hollow 8, with the complex internal decoration, are also characteristic of the style (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, fig. 89; Longworth *et al.* 1971, pl. 37). The base sherd with finger-tip

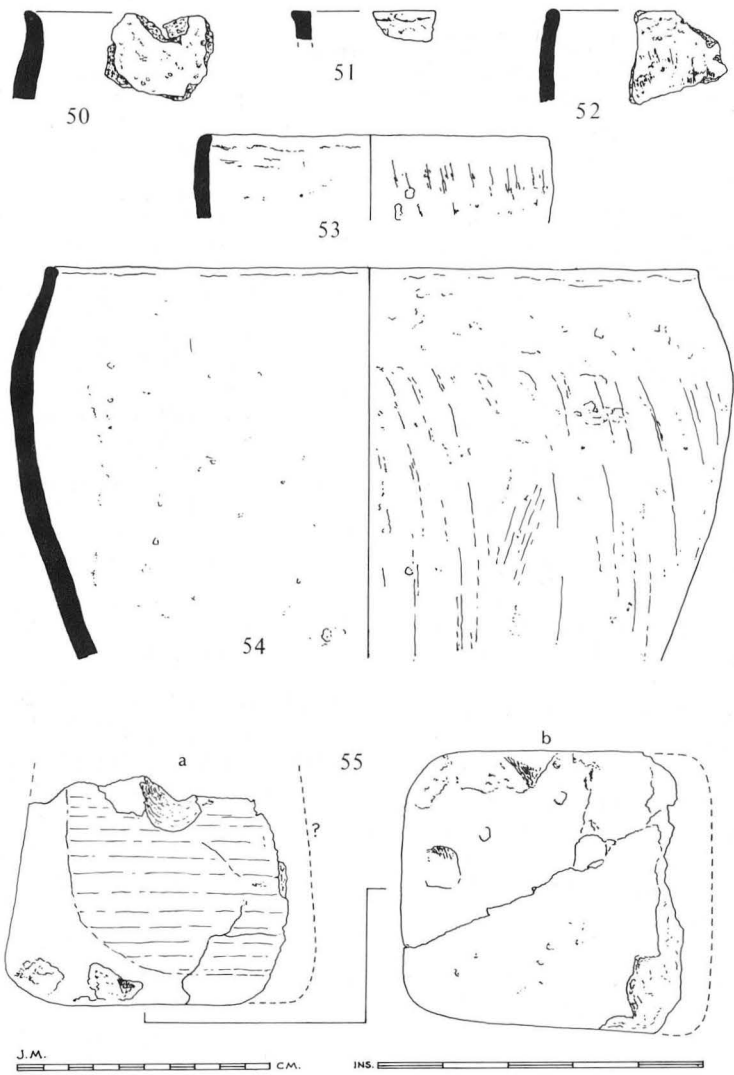


Figure 13 Barholm: Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery (Nos 50-4, 56-60); clay weight fragment (No. 55). Scale 1:3

impressions internally (Fig. 11, No. 3) from Pit 1 and the internal decoration of rims from Pits 4 and 24 (Fig. 11, Nos 9 and 12; Fig. 12, No. 42) and from Hollow 8 (Fig. 11, Nos 17–18 and 21–3) also have close parallels at Clacton (Longworth *et al.* 1971, pl. 34 and fig. 2) and at Pishobury, Hertfordshire (Piggott 1954, fig. 57). The base sherds from Hollow 14/30 (Fig. 12, No. 36) may also be best related to the Clacton style (Longworth *et al.* 1971, pl. 34–6). Comparison of the Barholm Grooved Ware with that from Fengate, Peterborough and other sites in the vicinity has been published by Pryor (1978, 94) who notes the lack of similarities in fabric, form or decoration between Barholm and Fengate.

The Woodlands and Clacton style pottery from Pit 13 was associated with charcoal which has been radiocarbon dated to 2305 ± 135 bc (UB-458). Charcoal from the bottom of Pit 4 gave a very similar date of 2355 ± 130 bc (UB-457).

Grooved Ware sherds from the latter pit are mostly small and, apart from those discussed above, lack well defined features. A number of sherds from this pit and Hollow 8 call for comment however. The plain, everted rim sherd (Fig. 12, No. 43) is reminiscent in its form but not its fabric to Peterborough Ware of the Mortlake style as represented by the rim from Pit 10 (Fig. 12, No. 44).

The Beaker or related sherds stand out from the Grooved Ware because of their fine, hard fabric. The decoration on No. 46 (Fig. 12) is comparable to that on some of Clarke's Southern Beakers as, for example, the Final Southern Beaker (S4) from Hilgay, Norfolk (Clarke, D.L. 1970, 989). A similarly decorated piece comes from Risby Warren, Lincolnshire (Riley 1957). The decoration of comb-impressed lines and fine stab decoration on No. 47 (Fig. 12) however seems to have a wider distribution, for example, that from Keir Belhelvie, Aberdeen, and Dorchester, Oxon. (Clarke, D.L., 1970). However the best parallels are among the All Over Corded beakers; Brantham Hall, Suffolk (Clarke, D.L. 1970, no. 107) seems to provide a close parallel at least in the manner of decoration, if not the form.

Pit 1 and Hollow 8 also produced sherds reminiscent of Beaker pottery. The bowl (Fig. 11, No. 21) from Hollow 8 has been assigned to the Grooved Ware tradition largely on account of the form, but it stands out from the rest of the pottery because of the fabric and decoration. Fingernail impressions, though frequently found as a decorative element on Grooved Ware, seem to be used more commonly on beakers either in conjunction with other elements or as the sole all-over decoration (Clarke, D.L. 1970; Fox 1923, 26). The finely made base sherds from Pit 1 (Fig. 11, No. 4) may belong to a Beaker rather than a Grooved Ware vessel.

Later Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery

(Fig 13)

by Jeffrey May

Small quantities of pottery, fired clay fragments and a clay weight were found in a number of features scattered over the site (Fig. 13; in Pits 20 and 26, G1 and Ditch 2; and post-holes g, h, i and n). The majority belongs probably to the later Bronze Age or the earliest phase of the Iron Age; a few sherds belong to the early or mid-1st century AD.

Pit 26

50. Rim from jar; coarse, rough, hand-made. Dark grey-black throughout. Filler mainly eroded, leaving small, sparse pits up to 2 mm across. Rim top everted and slightly bevelled inside.
51. Rim of jar; hard, hand-made. Orange-brown externally, black core, brown internally. Fine sparse filler, mainly eroded, leaving pits up to 1.5 mm across. Rim top carefully modelled, with flat top, sharp edges, and slightly lipped outside.
52. Rim of jar; hard, coarse, hand-made. Reddish-brown externally, dark grey-black core, buff-black internally. Sparse rather coarse filler, up to 3 mm across. Traces of rough vertical striations externally.
53. Rim of jar, and also another non-joining sherd from the same vessel; hard, hand-made. Grey-brown throughout. Filler on drawn sherd sparse, up to 2 mm across, although in second sherd more liberal and up to 5 mm across. Rim quite carefully modelled, and slightly flattened. Oblique striations externally.
54. Nine joining sherds, together with others, from large, coarse, hand-made jar. Grey-buff-orange-brown surfaces, grey core. Fairly liberal, finely crushed shell filler, although some up to 5 mm across. Rim angle uncertain; top thin and slightly flattened. Body has light, rough, nearly vertical brushing outside.

Eighty-one other sherds, mainly from coarse jars with shell or occasionally quartz filler. All are hand-made, and probably include sherds from the illustrated vessels. The following are of particular interest:

- a. Two sherds, fine, smooth, 5–6 mm thick. Dark grey-brown externally and core, dull orange-brown internally.
- b. Sherd from a vessel with rounded profile, very thin (4 mm), hard, gritty-textured. Dark grey core and brick red surfaces. Shallow horizontal groove. This sherd seems out of keeping with the rest of the later Bronze Age pottery from Barholm.
- c. Seven sherds of fine ware, including sherds from at least three vessels with extremely thin walls (2.5–5.0 mm) in relation to the large size of the vessel suggested by the curvature. One of these vessels was in a fine, hard, dark grey ware, with liberal filler eroded to leave pits up to 4 mm across. The second had a dark grey core, brick red sub-surface with dark grey-brown surfaces and sparse filler eroded to leave pits up to 2 mm across. The third was grey ware with grey-brown inner surface and sparse shell filler to 2 mm across.

Fired clay

55. Fragment of rectangular or pyramidal clay weight in soft brick-red ware with large stone inclusions up to 18 mm across. An area of differential firing is shown by shading on side (a); also to be seen is part of a perforation. (b) illustrates the base of the weight.
- d. Two other small fragments of fired clay or daub.

G1 medieval furrow

56. Rim of jar; rough, coarse, hand-made. Red-brown externally, black core, buff internally. Sparse filler eroded, leaving pits up to 4 mm across. Light, oblique striations on shoulder.

Ditch 2

- e. Small sherd; coarse, hand-made, similar to wares from Pit 26.

Post-hole n

- f. Small sherd from side of coarse, hand-made jar, similar to wares from Pit 26.

Post-hole i

57. Rim of jar; hard, fine. Red-brown throughout. Fairly liberal, finely-crushed shell filler, up to 1 mm across. Rim carefully modelled, with flat top and fairly sharp edges.
- g. Four other sherds from coarse, hand-made vessels.

Post-hole h

58. Small sherd; hand-made. Dark grey-black throughout. Sparse filler, mainly eroded, leaving pits up to 1 mm across. *Decoration*: Trace of probably geometric incised decoration, possibly hatched triangle or similar, above groove.

Post-hole g

59. Three joining sherds from bowl or cover; thin, hard, roughly made. Dark grey-brown throughout. Liberal finely-crushed stone filler up to 1 mm across.

h. Five other sherds from hand-made vessels.

Pit 20

60. Twenty small sherds from carinated bowl; fine, hard, wheel-made. Grey core, reddish-brown sub-surfaces and grey-brown surfaces. Fine sparse filler, mainly eroded, leaving pits up to 1 mm across.

i. Small sherd of worn hand-made pottery with two shallow grooves; grey-black core, reddish surfaces. Filler eroded, leaving pits up to 2 mm across. Probably Iron Age.

Discussion

The hand-made pottery from Pit 26, G1 and Ditch 2, and from post-holes g, h, i, and n, seems fairly homogeneous, except possibly for the body sherd from Pit 26 (b). The collection can perhaps be regarded as a more-or-less contemporary assemblage. The quantity is small and not closely datable. The material shows little trace of the characteristics normally associated with the various stages in the development of La Tène pottery in eastern England, such as sharply angular profiles or deep scoring.

The pottery is often very roughly made, yet quite large vessels can have very thin walls of, sometimes, not more than 3 mm. Fine wares are present, although represented by nothing more than body sherds, and the illustrations do scant justice to this aspect of the ceramic range. These fine wares are very thin walled, sparsely filled, and are hard to the touch. One sherd (No. 58) may have had geometric incised decoration. The coarse wares are often very rough with, usually, shell filler and only rarely other minerals. Among the forms, carefully modelled and flattened rims are conspicuous (Nos 51, 53, and 57). Several sherds bear rough, light striations, evidently part of the finishing process. These are quite unlike the deeper twig brushing or scoring familiar on many later vessels of the La Tène Iron Age in the East Midlands, although they could well represent the beginning of this tradition.

On balance, the assemblage might be attributed to a period earlier than the arrival, probably in the 5th century BC, of La Tène influence in the region. A number of characteristics are shared with the larger groups of probably later Bronze Age pottery from nearby Maxey (Simpson 1981), and from Washingborough near Lincoln, loosely associated with an Urnfield-type cheekpiece (Coles *et al.* 1979; May 1976, fig. 61). Light striations are also to be seen on a vessel from Brigg, South Humberside, loosely associated with a Late Bronze Age pin and spearhead (May 1976, fig. 62). Farther afield, similar pottery is known from Corby, Northants. (D. Jackson, pers. comm.) and Kettleburgh, Suffolk (O'Connor 1975, fig. 64). At Totternhoe, Beds., comparable pottery was associated with a vase-headed pin of Urnfield derivation (Hawkes 1940).

A date for this pottery within the first half of the 1st millennium BC seems likely, although better evidence is necessary before certainty can be achieved.

Vessel No. 60 from Pit 20 is in a form common in the Late La Tène period in the East Midlands. Comparable examples can be seen, for instance, at Dragonby, Lincs. (May 1970, fig. 9.30), Irchester, Northants. (Hall and Nickerson 1967, fig. 10.33), or at Moulton Park near Northampton (Williams and Maynard 1974, nos 112-20). The fabric, however, can be compared with the pottery from Phase 4 at Dragonby, probably dating to the Claudio-Neronian period, and it seems likely that this piece belongs to the mid-1st century AD.

Zoological and botanical evidence

The mammalian bones

(Tables 3; 4-5, Microfiche)

by Mary Harman

All the bones were examined. Though few of them are complete, they are in good condition and most of the pieces were identifiable. All the bones from each feature are listed in Table 3. The age of the animals at death was assessed from the state of tooth eruption and of epiphyseal fusion, using the criteria published by Silver (1963), and based on his 'old ages' rather than modern ones.

Late Neolithic Features

Pit	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Dog	Horse	Other
1	19		5	1		Red deer: 1
3	7		1			
4	90	26	54	1		Red deer: 3, Fox: 3 Cat: 1, Human: 1.
6	18	1	4			
H. 8	19	3	22	3	3	Red deer: 2, Brown bear: 1.
9			6	1		
10	71	3	17			Red deer: 2
12	4					
13	21		3			
H.14	5	1	21			
23	5	4	3			
24	50	3	15	1		Red deer: 1, Beaver 2.

Iron Age Features

	Cattle	Sheep	Pig
PH.h(8)		1	1
Pit 26	17	14	1
PH. 0		26	

(part skeleton)

Table 3: Barholm: Total number of bones from each species present in different features

Late Neolithic features

The majority of the bones are from Late Neolithic features. Table 3 shows clearly that the total number of bones from the site is quite small though it should be borne in mind that no sieving was undertaken. While most of the pits are similar in their composition osteologically, a large proportion of the bones being derived from cattle, followed by pig and sheep in order of popularity, Pits 4, 9, and 23 and Hollows 8 and 14 do not conform to the general pattern. Pits 4 and 23 contain a greater proportion of sheep bones than any of the other pits, in which sheep form an insignificant contribution. Pit 23 contains a very small total number of bones, but Pit 4 contains more than any other feature on the site. In Hollows 8 and 14, and Pit 9 are interesting in that pig bones are more important numerically than cattle.

There are no cattle bones from very young animals but two mandibles are from animals aged 6–9 months, and there are some bones with epiphyses not fused from animals of less than three years. The total number of immature jaws and bones is forty-seven, and most of the jaws are from animals aged four years or more, with a full adult dentition in wear. The above is true also of sheep; one mandible is from an animal aged between 1½ and 2½ years, but nearly all the bones have their epiphyses fused. Pit 9 contains three very small pig bones, possibly from one neonatal piglet, but most of the bones are of reasonable size and are mature. There are a total of thirty-two immature jaws and bones. Most of the jaws are from animals which died at an age of less than three years, suggesting that they were allowed to attain full size and, in most cases, skeletal maturity, but were not kept long. There are only eight examples of truly mature jaws or isolated worn third molars, of which three probably belong to wild animals.

Table 4 (Microfiche) shows the number of bones found from different animals in all late Neolithic pits except for Pit 4, which is shown in Table 5 (Microfiche). These show that meat bones, from the body of the animal rather than the less edible extremities, are well represented. They suggest that there was not much movement of parts of carcasses, and that when animals were slaughtered or died, most of the beast was used within the settlement and particular parts were not traded elsewhere.

Wild animals are scantily represented. Red deer are represented by several pieces of large antlers and also by bones, suggesting that the animals were available in the area. The fox, cat and beaver remains may be incidental, from animals killed for their pelts or in defence of a pastoral economy. The meat, particularly of the beaver, would not necessarily have been wasted. None of the dog remains are of a size which suggests that they might be from wolves. Of particular note here is part of the right scapula of a brown bear, a species which only became extinct in Britain after the Roman occupation, but which scarcely occurs in post-glacial archaeological deposits. Another bone is known from Ratfyn Barrow 85, near Amesbury, Wiltshire (Jackson, J.W., 1935).

An analysis of animal bones recorded in association with Grooved Ware up to c. 1970 is given in Wainwright and Longworth (1971), for a more recent discussion and implications see Bradley 1984, chap. 3.

Human bone:

Pit 4 contained part of the shaft of an adult or sub-adult femur.

Iron Age features

Table 3 also shows the bones found in three Iron Age features. Few in number, they suggest a decline in the importance of pig and a rise in the importance of sheep, which would be consistent with other lowland sites of the same period, but the group is too small to be conclusive. Post-hole o contained part of a sheep skeleton: parts of the skull and jaws, seventeen vertebrae, parts of the left radius, pelvis, left tibia and both metatarsals, all probably derived from the same adult horned beast.

Analysis of the Pollen

(Table 6, Microfiche),
by Dr J.R. Pilcher

Sample 1: Pit 4, Layer 2cii

This sample had poor preservation of pollen and was heavily contaminated with charcoal. Of the samples submitted from Welland Valley sites, it had the second highest tree-pollen percentage (29%), and little cereal-type pollen. A high plantain pollen percentage suggests some agricultural activity, and if the low cereal pollen percentage relative to the other Welland Valley sites is reliable, this would suggest pastoral rather than arable agriculture. There is nothing inconsistent with the archaeologically ascribed late Neolithic date.

Sample 2: Pit 26 (bottom)

Preservation was reasonable. The tree pollen was only 14% of the total, but included some oak, pine and ash. The most interesting feature of this sample is the abundance of cereal-type pollen, which accounts for some 8% of the total. Gramineae pollen grains greater than 40 micron have been taken as cereal type. Although most of the cereal size pollen grains were badly preserved, five grains were isolated from the sample, cleaned and mounted on a separate slide. The dot pattern seen in phase contrast pictures of the surface texture of the grains was most like that of *Secale cereale* (rye). Rye does not appear in the archaeological record in Britain until the Iron Age, perhaps first as a weed (Dimbleby 1978; Godwin 1975), and was not grown in quantity until the Anglo-Saxon period (Turner in Simmons and Tooley 1981, 266). Where it was possible to tell the original shape of the grain, the cereal-type pollen from the sample tended to be elongated and to have the sub-terminal pore characteristic of *Secale*. It is usual to find such high percentages of cereal pollen in or very close to crop fields so that it may be suggested that rye may have been grown at or very close to the excavated site at Barholm at the time this pit was open. On the other hand, such high percentages/numbers could also result from incorporation of material derived from domestic activity occurring much closer to the open pit, such as crop processing or from faecal material, animal feed or floor coverings. Also interesting is the abundant pollen of weeds of cultivated ground, in particular *Chenopodiaceae*. Species of this genus are common weeds of cereal crops today (particularly *Chenopodium album*) and Helbaek (1959) describes their use as a food plant in Iron Age times.

IV. Discussion and Conclusions

The Barholm site is a rare example of a Grooved Ware settlement almost uncontaminated by other Neolithic material, although it was possible to excavate only a fraction of the probable total area.

Sub-soil features consist of pits and post-holes. The post-holes do not display any coherent patterning though there is a rough alignment formed by Post-holes r, s, t, v, and Pits 5, 6, 9, and 7 (Fig. 3). The pits are of a variety of sizes and shapes and though they are tightly clustered, there are no indications of function.

The two largest features (8 and 14) were called 'working hollows' for want of any specific indication of their purpose. They are notable for their extreme shallowness in relation to their surface area which would have made them unsuitable for any kind of storage function. Structures similar to Hollow 14 may be recognised in the 'depressions' at Hazard Hill, Devon (Houlder 1963) and perhaps the largest of the pits at Pamphill, Dorset (Field *et al.* 1964). In both cases plain Neolithic bowl pottery was found in association. Oval depressions up to 0.46 m deep and surrounded by stake-holes, but otherwise similar to Hollow 8, have been found at Easton Down, Wiltshire, associated with Beaker pottery (Stone 1933, 227), and at Honington, Suffolk, associated with Grooved Ware (Fell 1952). A rectangular depression of slightly greater dimensions than the Barholm example was the focus of an area of settlement associated with Peterborough Ware at Ecton, Northants. (Moore and Williams 1975, fig. 3, 16). Recently, excavation of a small barrow cemetery at Trelystan in mid-Wales revealed a primary Grooved Ware settlement which included two bow-sided square houses with square central hearths, floors at ground surface level and walls defined by regularly spaced stake-holes enclosing an area of about 16 m² (Britnell 1981).

The fill of the eastern pit (B) of Hollow 8 suggests that it may have been a hearth and the adjacent pit (A), comparatively devoid of finds, is a consistently recurring feature in this position in Late Neolithic houses on the continent (Simpson, D.D.A. 1971, 148, fig. 29). Certainly, to judge from the pot boilers, charcoal and fire-hardened clay associated with both the Barholm working areas, cooking must have been carried on here. Similar structures to these are implied by the 'pit-dwellings' and 'cooking holes or earth ovens' found at the Grooved Ware site at Clacton, Essex (Longworth *et al.* 1971, 94; Warren *et al.* 1936). It seems possible, therefore, that Hollow 8 represents a hut floor, though there are no clear indications of the walls.

Pit 4, at the east end of Hollow 8 must have been largely filled by the time the latter was constructed. It is the largest and deepest pit on the site and also contained the most and greatest variety of finds. It was deep enough to touch the modern watertable and its original function may have been a well or water-hole before it began to be filled with rubbish. The radiocarbon date from charcoal near the bottom of the pit suggests that this process had already started by the latter part of the 3rd millennium bc. Confirmation of this early date is provided by another from Pit 13 (see above). These dates are not significantly earlier than the mean of the two earliest radiocarbon dates (c. 2250 bc) obtained from one of the houses at Trelystan,

Powys which was associated with Grooved Ware, probably of the Durrington style (Britnell 1981, 184).

The animal bones and the pollen samples both suggest a primarily pastoral economy based on cattle farming with pig also of some importance and a few ovicaprids. The quantity of deer bones indicates that hunting was a supplementary source of meat and, no doubt, their hides and antlers were valued raw materials. Other wild animals, though sparsely represented, do include an interesting variety such as horse down to smaller animals such as beaver, cat and fox which were killed, perhaps, for their fur. The main domesticates seem to have been killed and butchered on or near the site. There is no evidence that meat joints were being brought in.

The relative importance of pig breeding as compared with cattle-ovicaprid farming would be partly related to the density of woodland and consequent availability of grassland. The pollen diagram indicates at least 30% tree cover for the gravels in the vicinity of Barholm in the Late Neolithic, with hazel and alder predominating. The evidence from Barholm certainly points towards a predominantly domestic character for the Late Neolithic activity carried out at the site. Three of the pits stand out, however, in terms of their content and deserve some extra consideration.

Pits 4, 10 and 23 contained much larger quantities of Grooved Ware than any of the other features excavated and Pit 4 also contained the greatest quantity of flint. This included three transverse arrowheads, eight of seventeen scrapers and a serrated blade. In addition, the faunal assemblage included the only human bone from Late Neolithic features on the site and other finds included some daub, a fragment of Peterborough Ware and two bone pins. The pit therefore included a far wider range of implement types and a greater range of materials than any other feature. Hollow 8, which partly overlies the pit, further produced a fragment of stone axe and a brown bear scapula. There is evidence here of a non-random element to the deposition of material in Pit 4 and there seems to have been some deliberate selection of artefacts (see Bradley 1984, chap. 3, for a recent discussion of Grooved Ware pits).

Pits 10 and 23 both included Woodlands style Grooved Ware and the most complex pottery designs were found on sherds in Pit 10 which may suggest that these features, too, were not randomly filled with rubbish.

Crop-mark evidence in the Barholm area

(Fig. 2)

The archaeological evidence of later prehistoric and more recent activity revealed in the excavation is complemented by extensive crop-mark evidence, particularly to the west of the site (Fig. 2.3; RAF 1959; Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs). Most of the area along the boundary between Tallington and Barholm with Stowe parishes was not included in the survey *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960) and its archaeological potential was only recognised following the discovery of the site here reported. A search of the air photographic cover for the area has revealed many crop-marks and demonstrated the great interest of much that has been lost by gravel quarrying.

To the west of the site three major groups of crop-marks (Fig. 2.3, A, B, and C) can be identified along the

line of a boundary ditch. Immediately north-west of the excavations was a D-shaped enclosure about 55 m square with major linear ditches leading off from its south-west and north-west corners. The northern ditch swings eastwards after a short distance and there is a small enclosure about 20 × 25 m attached to the outer curve. Where the major ditches meet the corners of the D-shaped enclosure there are large pits or sock wells such as have been found on the excavation of similar enclosures elsewhere in the Welland Valley. Within the enclosure large individual pits and groups of small pits can be identified. In the south-east and partly overlying the enclosure ditch are a number of overlapping and small rectilinear enclosures.

The D-shaped enclosure is at or near the end of a long, sinuous boundary ditch which extends westwards for a least 1½ km. It has a number of rectilinear enclosures attached at B and C, mostly on its southern side (Fig. 2.3). Two oval or sub-rectangular enclosures measuring about 40 × 35 m and 60 × 50 m were situated only 65 m west of the D-shaped enclosure. There are about half a dozen large pits just south of them and beyond are boundary ditches and a ditched trackway going away to the south-east. Leading off from the main boundary ditch and the western of the pair of enclosures is a double-ditched boundary or perhaps a trackway with a rectangular enclosure, 45 × 30 m, attached to its east side about half a kilometre to the north. To the west there are other linear ditches going north from the main boundary ditch at B and C and at least two of them have rectangular enclosures of similar size attached.

There is another complex of rectilinear enclosures (Fig. 2.3, C; R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7, nos 1 and 2) immediately west of the modern road between Tallington and Barholm villages. Some of the enclosures are discrete whilst others are in groups. Some are attached to the main boundary ditch and others are a little distance away from it. A ditched track goes away in a south-easterly direction. Clearly this enclosure complex like that at A and another (B) mid-way between them were major settlements. These crop-marks are the earliest that can be recognised in the area covered by Figure 1. Similar boundary ditches, with rectilinear enclosures attached have been identified and excavated elsewhere in the Welland Valley and further afield also (see Chapter 3). They seem to have been laid out in the Later Bronze and Early Iron Ages, but the boundary ditches often show signs of frequent recutting, indicating a long period of use, and the rectilinear enclosures were probably added at different times.

The three large enclosures (A) at the east end of the Barholm boundary in fact look to be earlier than the major linear ditches associated with them. The Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pits and post-holes found in the excavation were clearly just on the edge of a settlement but whether they should be associated with that in and around the D-shaped enclosure or with what would seem to be an unenclosed settlement, represented by a rash of pits to the south-west of the excavations, is not clear. The latter may mark the main area of the Neolithic settlement.

Air photographs also show evidence of much early settlement along the Roman road, later known as King Street, on the eastern edge of Tallington parish. The field in the north-eastern corner of the parish was the northern

part of Pollard's Quarry and something of the density and character of the crop-marks here and on the unquarried east side of the road can be seen from Figure 2.3. Chance finds and limited excavations here produced evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation, as well as considerable Roman activity (Peacock 1962; also below, Chapter 5).

Some idea of the composition of the vegetation cover of the surrounding landscape in the mid-1st millennium bc is provided by pollen analysis of a sample from the bottom of Pit 26. It shows 14% total tree pollen. Analysis of a sample from an early Roman pit at Pollard's Gravel Quarry beside King Street, about 1 km to the south-east, showed only 7% total tree pollen (Dimbleby in Simpson 1966). Samples of airborne pollen taken by Dr Pilcher (pers. comm.) in the area in 1967 had 21.5% total tree pollen on average.

Unfortunately these results cannot be accepted uncritically nor be compared directly with each other, for man's influence on the plant community will have changed with time according to the amount of coppicing and other forms of woodland management practised. These activities could have influenced the percentage of tree/shrub pollen rain without actually reducing the numbers represented on the landscape. At the Bronze Age-Early Iron Age transition, abundant pollens of weeds of cultivated ground and also of cereals show that crops were being grown on, or very close to, the Barholm site. Dr Pilcher's detailed analysis of the cereal pollen has shown that one of these crops was rye, a very early example of its cultivation in the British Isles, although recently it has appeared in a mid-late Iron Age context in Hampshire (Monk and Fasham 1980, 326).

Away from King Street, along the northern boundary of Tallington parish, there is not much definite evidence of Roman settlement although it is probable that intensive fieldwalking would have been productive. On air photographs just west of the D-shaped enclosure (Fig. 2.3, A) the pattern of crop-marks already described appears to be overlaid by a rectangular grid of small ditched enclosures covering an area c. 180 × 190 m. Ditched trackways going off to the south may also be part of the same system. There are some indications that it also extends over the area of the D-shaped enclosure and its associated linear ditches right up to the boundary between Barholm and Stowe parishes. A ditch which passes immediately south of the enclosure goes towards the south-east corner of the modern field (OS 10). This would seem to be the ditch containing Roman material (D2 – with D3?) which was found along the north side of the excavation (see Fig. 3). The ditch (D4), running northwards from it, is not visible on air photographs but seemed to be contemporary. This geometrical layout of small ditches defining small enclosures is reminiscent of that to the west of the Romano-British aisled buildings at the possible villa site at Barnack, Cambs. (see below, Chapter 5).

The most ubiquitous type of crop-mark visible over the fields of the parishes of Tallington, Barholm with Stowe, as elsewhere on the Welland gravels (Simpson 1981), are the 'furrows' defining the long narrow cultivation strips or selions of the medieval open field system. These and their associated plough headlands have been mapped separately (Fig. 2.2) so that their relationship to the prehistoric sites and to the modern

landscape can be seen. They were all laid out in a north to south or an east to west direction. There is, however, quite a lot of variation in the width of the strips and also the clarity with which they appear on air photographs (see Microfiche, A.4-6).

It can safely be assumed that the open field pattern evolved over much of the millennium up to the parliamentary enclosure of the parishes c. 1805-10, so that all the strips shown in Figure 2.2 were never in use at the same time. In the excavation, three periods of cultivation were identified, of which the last two were ridge and furrow agriculture. The later 'furrows' were wider and deeper either because they had been ploughed over a longer period than the earlier or because they were ploughed with better ploughs and plough teams. It is these 'furrows' which show up clearest on the air photographs.

The boundary between the parishes of Tallington and Barholm follows the medieval plough headland

which follows the line of the prehistoric and (at the east end) Roman boundary ditches closely enough to leave no doubt that it has been a significant territorial boundary for nearly two millennia. The boundary between the parishes of Tallington and Stowe also follows medieval plough headlands which indicates that it also is of some antiquity although there are no crop-marks to suggest a pre-medieval origin. The eastern boundary of Barholm parish may have been determined by the Roman ditch (D4), the south end of which was identified in the excavations. The eastern boundaries of both Tallington and Stowe follow the line of the Roman road, King Street. The enclosure award for Barholm (1804) shows that there was common land between it and Stowe parish (Fig. 2.2). Even so it appears from air photographs to have been cultivated in strips and even cross-ploughed. As intercommoning immediately before enclosure however it would have provided pasture for the animal stocks of the two parishes.

3. A Double Pit-Alignment and other Features at Field OS 29, Tallington, Lincolnshire

by C.A.I. French, D.A. Gurney, F.M.M. Pryor and W.G. Simpson

I. Introduction

The parish of Tallington lies on gravels of geologically recent deposition immediately west of the Fens and north of the R. Welland, which here forms the southern boundary of the county of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1, 3).

Commercial gravel quarrying during the 1940s and 1950s threatened a number of sites revealed by air photography east of Tallington village, north of the Welland and around Maxey village. These sites included at least five pit-alignments (R.C.H.M. 1960, 30), ring-ditches and enclosures (Fennell 1960; 1961), and several excavations were undertaken by the Welland Valley Research Committee (above, Chapter 1) during the early 1960s.

II. The Crop-mark Evidence and Location of the Excavations

(Figs 14 and 24; Pl. VI)

by F.M.M. Pryor, W.G. Simpson and M.U. Jones

The area covered by the northern half of Figure 14 and by Figure 24 and Plate VI contains an abundance of crop-marks. This area was subject to detailed analysis in *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7). The numbers given in the text which follows are those used in that survey. Figures 14 and 24 are updated versions of the relevant parts of the R.C.H.M. survey in the light of the excavations and further study of air photographic evidence (R.A.F. 1959, Pl. VI).

In Section III of this Chapter the excavation of part of one of the pit-alignments shown on Figure 14 (1), by Mrs M.U. Jones, is discussed. On present evidence, this alignment would seem to be unique, being double over the south part of its known length. It is centred on TF 103 090, is aligned approximately north-south and is known to extend for a distance of at least 760 m. When illustrated in *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7, nos 36 and 44), it was thought to have been laid out in two lengths. It is now clear, however, that the two pit-alignments are part of the same monument. Today, that part of it which was to the north of the A16 Stamford-Spalding road has been entirely destroyed by gravel working.

Part IV of this Chapter deals with excavations by Gavin Simpson on another section of the same pit-alignment, to the north in Field OS 29 (Fig. 14, 2; Fig. 24), and of an Iron Age enclosure (37), which is probably contemporary, or associated, with the alignment (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7, no. 37).

The other principal monuments in the area are three ring-ditches (Fig. 24, Nos 34, 38 and 39); a second, larger, rectangular enclosure (Fig. 24, No. 35; Pl. VI) which measured c. 150 × 100 m and had an entrance on the east side; and a roadway, defined by its side ditches (Fig. 24, No. 48; Pl. VI).

The road (48) can be traced eastwards on air photographs past another enclosure (Fig. 24; 49; Pl. VI) to a point where it is crossed by a north-to-south roadway just west of King Street. South of this crossing another small rectilinear enclosure (53) can be seen on air photographs. In the field to the north is another (51) which was destroyed in the course of gravel quarrying in 1963 but a sump with waterlogged filling was excavated in the corner of its ditch, and a report on the results is included here (Section IV, environmental evidence). Beyond the crossing the roadway (48) appears on air photographs to continue eastwards for about another 150 m to 'King Street' which follows, across the Welland Valley, the course of the Roman road between Water Newton and Lincoln. A little further north other roadways to east and west of 'King Street' apparently join it (Fig. 2.3 and Peacock 1962). The traces of these, and other roadways in the Tallington-Maxey area, around the Welland crossing, and of probable settlement sites associated with them have been plotted from air photographs (Fig. 54). The archaeological evidence for the date of the Maxey complex has now been published (Simpson 1981; Simpson 1985; Pryor and French 1985; Chapter 4). The Tallington and West Deeping complex covers a much greater area and the sites are more numerous. There is comparatively little firm dating evidence and that is largely contained in this report.

The most ubiquitous of all crop-marks showing on air photographs of the Welland gravels are groups of parallel lines spaced at intervals of about 15 m which mark the divisions between the ridged strips of the medieval open fields (Simpson 1981, fig. 2). These are bounded by banks or headlands of accumulated ploughsoil. Those which cross the sites shown on Figure 24 are stippled on that map.

III. Excavations at Tallington, 1961

Introduction

The excavations took place under the direction of Mrs M.U. Jones, in field OS 29 (GR TF 105 091), between May 25th and June 24th, 1961. The general location of the site is shown in Figure 1 (No. 3).

The Excavations

(Figs 14–21; Pls VII–IX)

by C.A.I. French and F.M.M. Pryor

An area of c. 300 × 150 ft (c. 100 × 50 m) was stripped by (towed) Caterpillar scraper under contract for Messrs DowMac, who used this field to sell gravel 'as raised'. The area shown (Fig. 14, 1; 15) was the third to be destroyed, but the first to be adequately excavated (although K.R. Fennell was able to attempt a salvage excavation of R.C.H.M. (1960, fig. 7) feature 37;

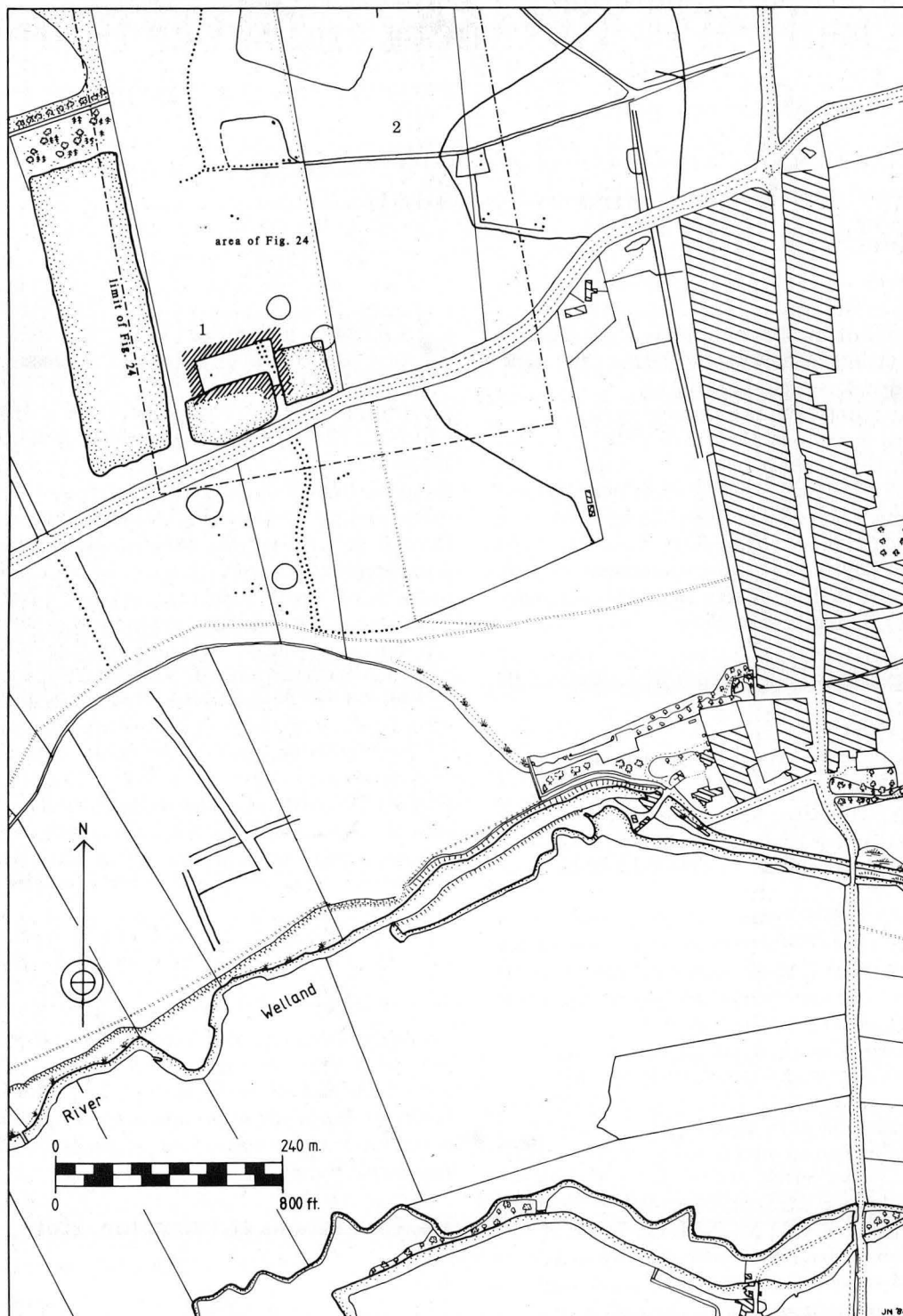


Figure 14 Map of the Tallington/West Deeping area (for location see Figure 1) showing principal crop-marks and location of 1961 (No. 1) and 1963-4 (No. 2) excavations. Extent of gravel pits (stippled borders), as in 1961. Scale c.1:7000

this feature was later excavated by Simpson, see below). No features were visible on existing air photographs of the area under immediate threat; the land immediately north and slightly east of the then existing pit ('lagoon' in the archive notes; Fig. 14). However, once the topsoil had been removed, a double pit-alignment was revealed (Pl. VII), together with an isolated pit to the west (Fig. 15). The pit-alignment was overlain by one of the large plough

headlands (see Fig. 24) that are characteristic of the Welland Valley (R.C.H.M. 1960, 32, 'ridges').

The initial task of defining soil-marks on the stripped surface was made the harder by the lapse of some two months since scraping; this was also a period of dry weather which tended to bleach-out soil colour differences. The alignment pits had been over-scraped and both gravel and topsoil had been spilled over the



Plate VI Tallington R.A.F. vertical air photograph, taken in 1959, showing the crop-marks beside King Street immediately east of field OS 29. *Crown copyright/M.O.D. reproduced with the permission of the Controller of H.M.S.O. (V58/R.A.F./2980 26 Jun 59)*

surface. This thick spillage accounts for the non-excavation of pits 23-5. A number of possible post-holes were confirmed as solution pipes, after a site visit by Dr

Ford of Leicester University Dept of Geology (similar phenomena were also observed at Maxey; pers. obs.). Soon after the start of excavation, gravel quarrying

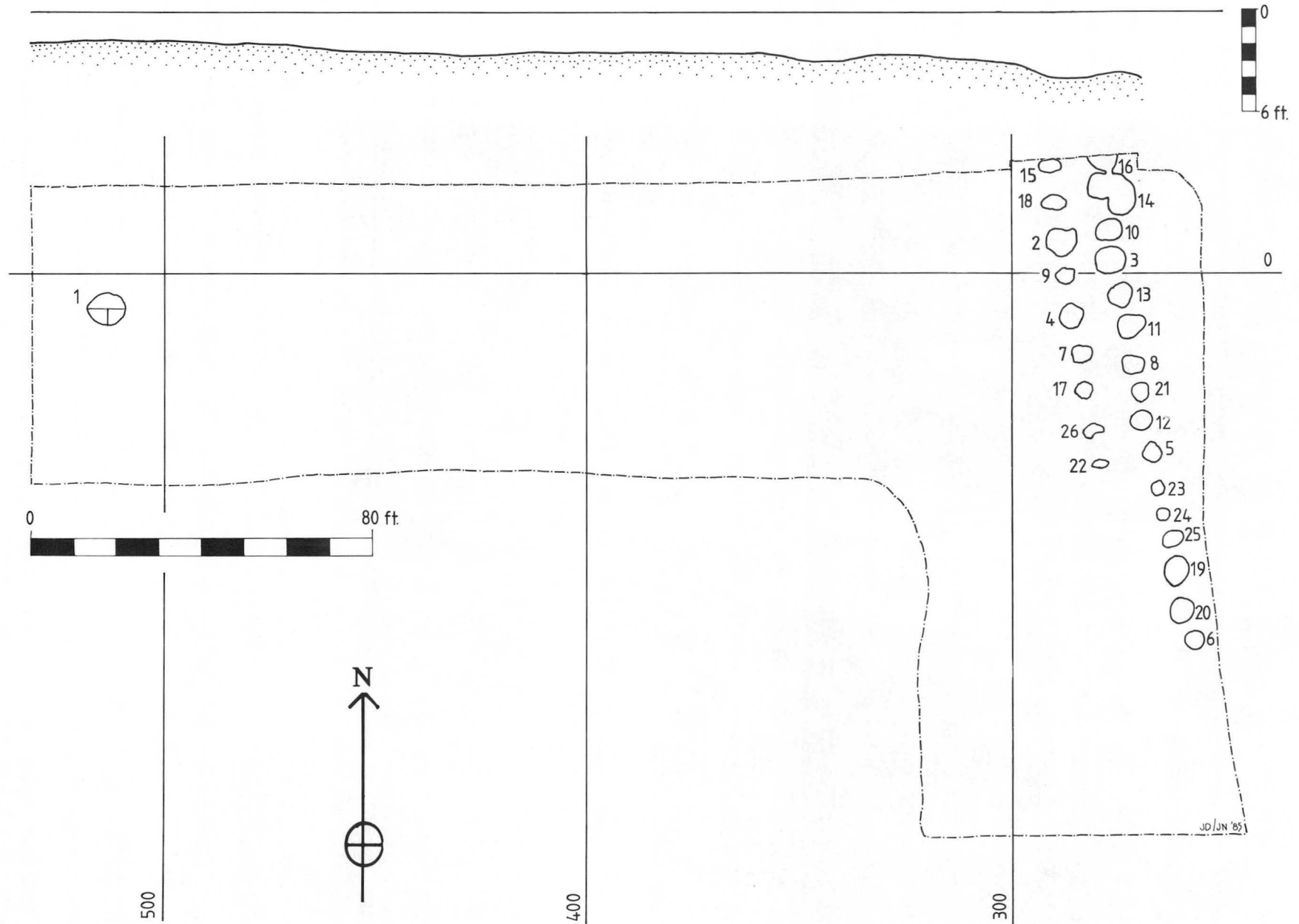


Figure 15 Tallington 1961: Outline plan of the 1961 excavations, showing site grid (in feet) and feature numbers.
Note: surface of north edge of excavation drawn in profile (top). Scale 1:400

began, but the pit foreman, Mr H.H. Stokes, was most co-operative and arranged for work to avoid the archaeological features.

Excavation was undertaken by ten volunteers from Sleaford and from Stamford School, arranged through Dr K.R. Fennell. Dr Fennell also provided air photographs and maps, and had the levels taken on site.



Plate VII Tallington 1961: General view of the pit-alignment after excavation, looking south

The double pit-alignment

(Figs 15–23: Pl. VII; Table 7, Microfiche)

Layout and arrangement

Twenty-five pits, arranged in a double row running north to south, were revealed after removal of the topsoil. The eastern row extended considerably further to the south within the excavated area than the western row (Fig. 15). Opposing pits were not clearly aligned although the gap between the rows was fairly consistent (8–9 ft or c. 2 m).

The contrasting character of the east and west pits was very marked. The west pits were shallow: c. 1ft (0.30 m) deep, c. 4ft (1.2 m) across, and squarish in plan (Figs 16 and 17). The east pits, by contrast, were much larger; up to 2ft 6in (c. 0.75 m) deep, 7 ft (c. 2.1 m) across, and roughly circular.

Sections and stratigraphy

(Figs 19–20, Pls VIII and IX)

Note: The section drawings (Figs 19 and 20) use the conventions employed, later, by W.G. Simpson (e.g. Fig. 26). The field drawings were in outline only, but there are descriptions (Microfiche, A.9–B.3) and many (excellent) photographs by Mr W.T. Jones; this information was used by the recent Welland Valley Project's soil scientist, Dr C.A.I. French, to reconstruct the drawings. Simpson's conventions were used to facilitate comparison between the two excavations.

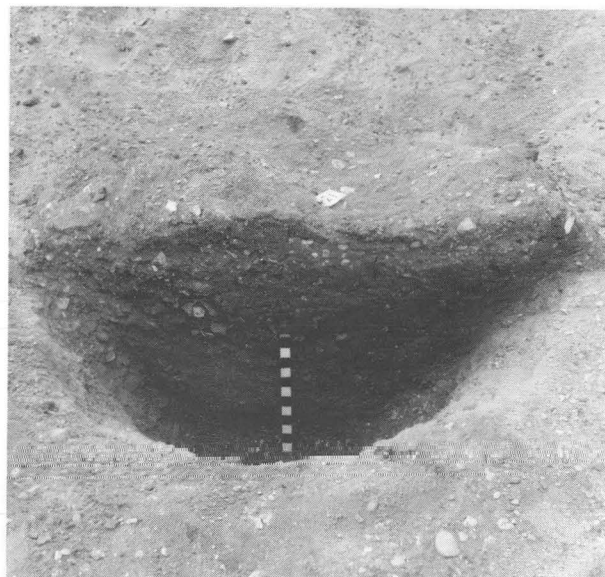


Plate VIII Tallington 1961: Pit 21, north facing section

The interpretation of pit-alignments is still in some doubt, and explanatory hypotheses must depend to a great extent on excavated information. Especially important in this regard is the role played by recutting, maintenance and back-filling. These, however, are matters that can only be decided by a close examination of individual pit stratigraphy and infilling history. Much important new knowledge on these matters was obtained during the recent Welland Valley Project, as a result of Dr French's micromorphological and other soil studies (Pryor and French 1985; French 1983). Accordingly, we have attempted to re-examine, and in some cases to reinterpret, the Tallington 1961 pits with recent experience in mind.

The filling descriptions (Microfiche A.9–B.3) are in two parts: Mrs Jones' textural description (*Description*, followed by Dr French's interpretive notes (*Interpretation*). A summary is included below and a selection of pits are illustrated (Fig. 19). The remainder are on Microfiche (Fig. 20). Plates VIII and IX show Pits 21 and 12 under excavation.

The pit fills were not always easy to interpret but most suggested largely natural silting with some evidence for partial deliberate backfill. Pit 10 (Fig. 19) seemed to have been deliberately backfilled from the south whilst the fill of Pit 19 suggested backfilling over a buried soil. Pit 14 was a double pit (Fig. 17; Fig. 19, top left), the first of which seems to have been deliberately backfilled whilst the second silted naturally. Pit 6 (Fig. 19, top right) indicated waterlogging in the primary silts.

Four pits (5, 15, 18 and 20) seemed to have been naturally filled throughout their depths.

Dimensions

(Table 7, Microfiche)

The dimensions given in Table 7 (Microfiche) are of the features as excavated. It should be recalled, however, that topsoil removal was of very variable quality and that preservation of the archaeological features was accordingly inconsistent. All measurements are in metres.

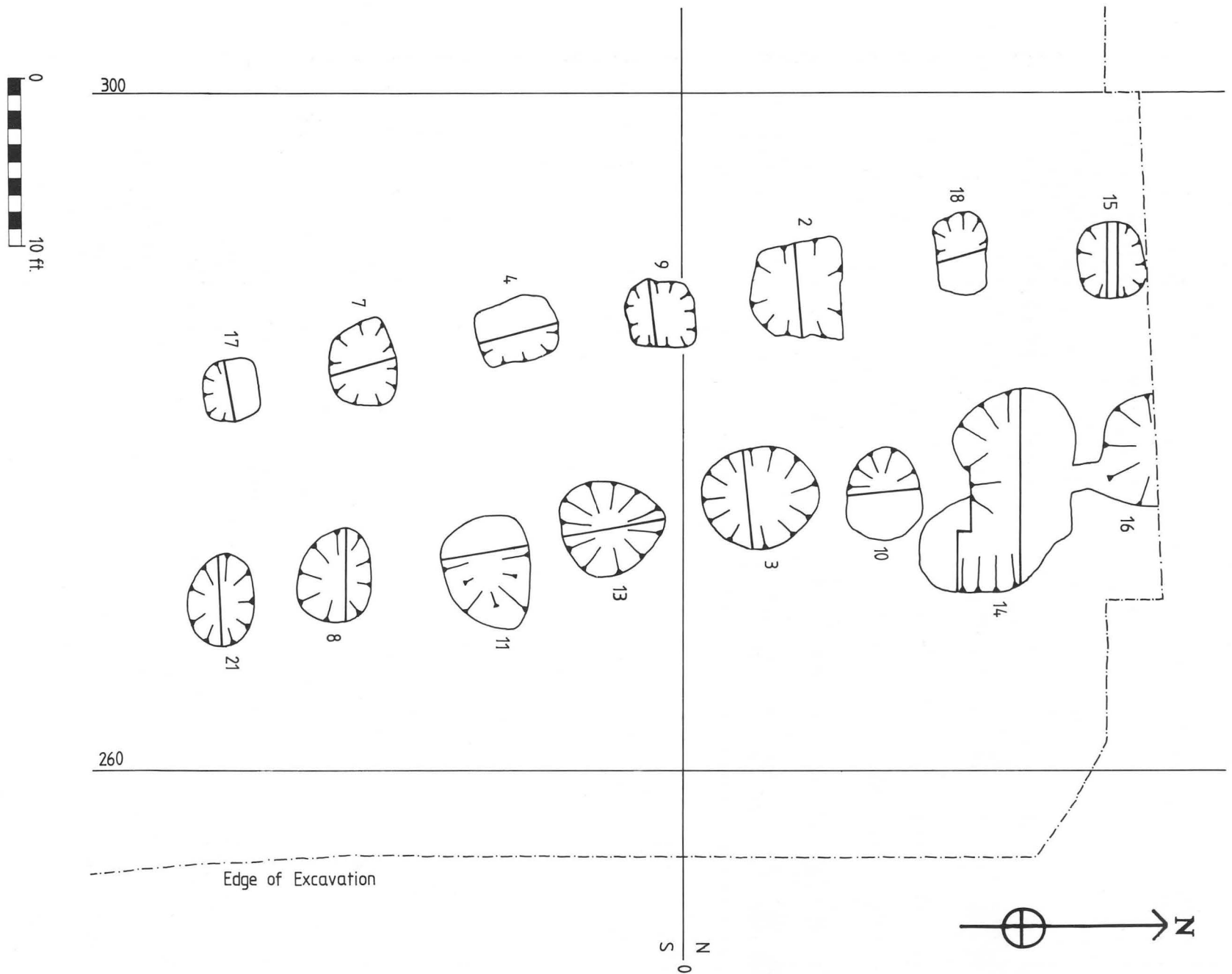


Figure 16 Tallington 1961: Plan of double pit-alignment, northern area; for location see Figure 15. Scale 1:100

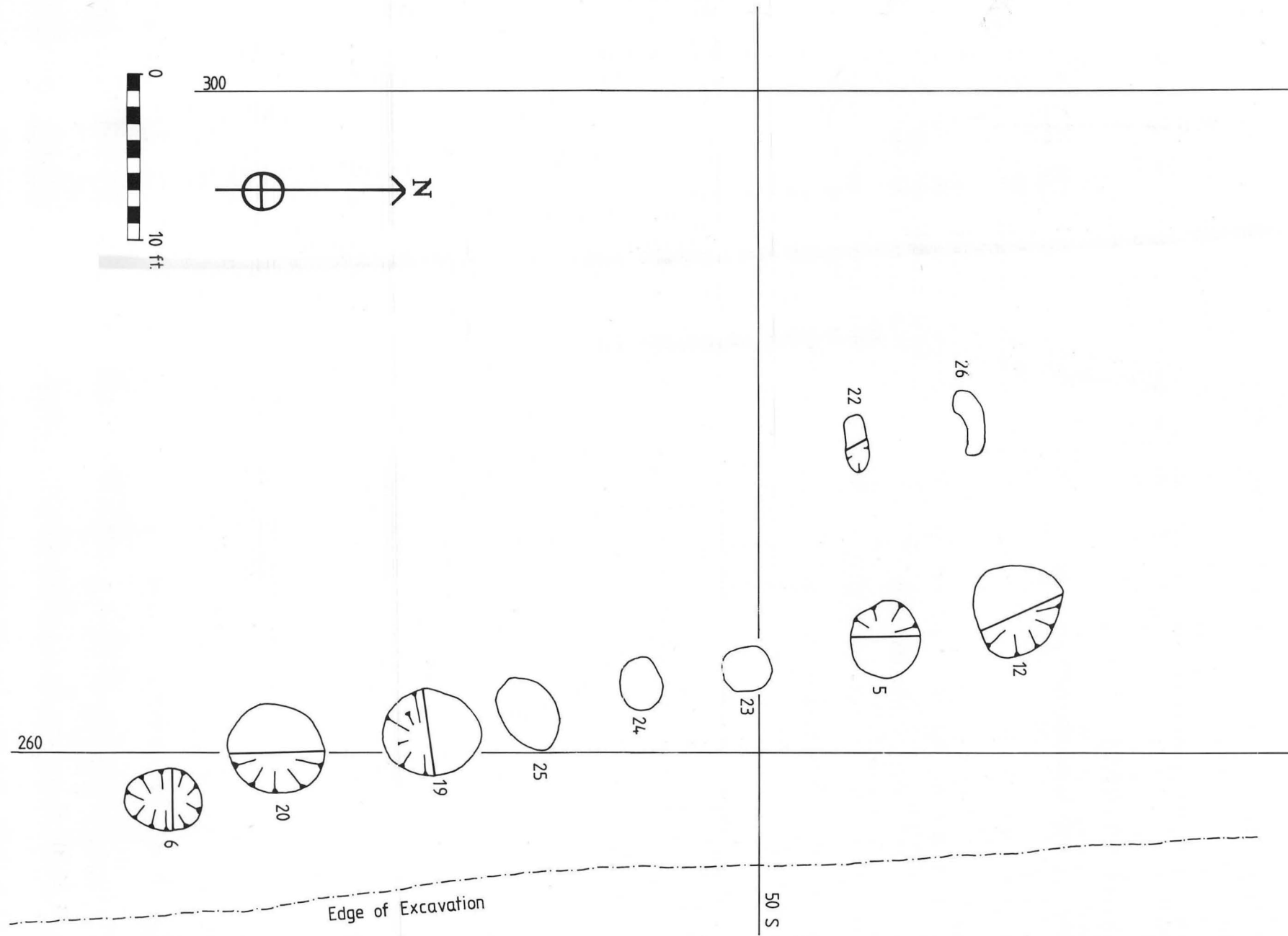


Figure 17 Tallington 1961: Plan of double pit-alignment, southern area; for location see Figure 15. Scale 1:100

Isolated pit 1
(Figs 15 and 21)

Description

This feature was located c. 67 m west of the double pit-alignment. It was sub-oval in plan, measuring 9 ft 6 in (c. 2.7 m) long, by 7 ft 6 in (c. 2.3 m) wide, by at least 4 ft (c. 1.2 m) deep. It was not excavated below the water table (Fig. 21).

The section revealed the following layers:

- Layer 1:* gravelly fill plus earth.
- Layer 2:* gravelly fill plus more earth.
- Layer 3:* 'dirty' gravel — probably collapsed side.
- Layer 4:* sandy (?slip).
- Layer 5:* sandy gravel.
- Layer 6:* clayey fill and iron stained.
- Layer 7:* reduced (CAIF) clayey fill.
- Layer 8:* much charcoal and daub; also a few pieces of raw clay.
- Layer 9:* gravely brown earth containing many charcoal and daub flecks.

Discussion

Finds (see below) included burnt clay 'daub' and sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. The original use of this large pit is difficult to determine, but the debris found within it suggests that settlement was nearby, and that, accordingly, it may have been dug either to obtain water or gravel, or, indeed, both.

The excavators were unable to penetrate below the water table, where a wooden, or similar, lining, might have been found (see for example Pryor 1974, figs 18 and 19; May 1970, pl. XXXIa). Dr French suggests that three possible recuts can be distinguished:

1st. cut: layers 1 (west), 2 and 3.

2nd. cut: layer 7 with layers 1 (east), 4 and 5.

3rd. cut: layers 6 and 9.

The finds

Pottery from the pit-alignment,

(Fig. 22; Tables 8 and 9, Microfiche)

by F.M.M. Pryor

At least five fabrics could be distinguished on macroscopic examination, but these are variable and the number could well be somewhat larger.

- Fabric 1* Much finely-crushed shell, often dissolved-out on the surface to leave lenticular voids; some larger, irregularly-shaped, vacuoles suggest the addition of chopped vegetable temper. Firing is generally poor and the fabric is soft, but with a finely-finished exterior surface. Usually used for finer wares.
- Fabric 2* Similar to Fabric 1 as regards ware quality, but shell absent and fine sand added; fewer vacuoles suggest that only little vegetable matter was added.
- Fabric 3* Much finely-crushed shell (up to 1.0 mm); poorly-fired, soft and surfaces oxidised, but core dark.
- Fabric 4* Friable and poorly fired, reduced (black) throughout. Probably tempered with coarsely-crushed shell and chopped vegetable.
- Fabric 5* Medium-hard, evenly fired, with interior and core reduced. Sand and sub-rounded (?grit) inclusions and large (c. 2.0 mm) red/brown grogs; also large, scattered vacuoles (?vegetable).

Pottery from the pit-alignment is summarised in Table 8 (Microfiche). Table 9 (Microfiche) gives the

	Modern ploughsoil		Sand
	Medieval ploughsoil		Gley
	Orange-brown and brown soil mixed		Gravel
	Dark brown soil		Concreted gravel
	Light brown soil		Natural gravel
	Black soil		Orange-brown subsoil
	Clay		Charcoal
	Silt		Pieces of 'raw' clay

Figure 18 Tallington 1961: Key to section conventions

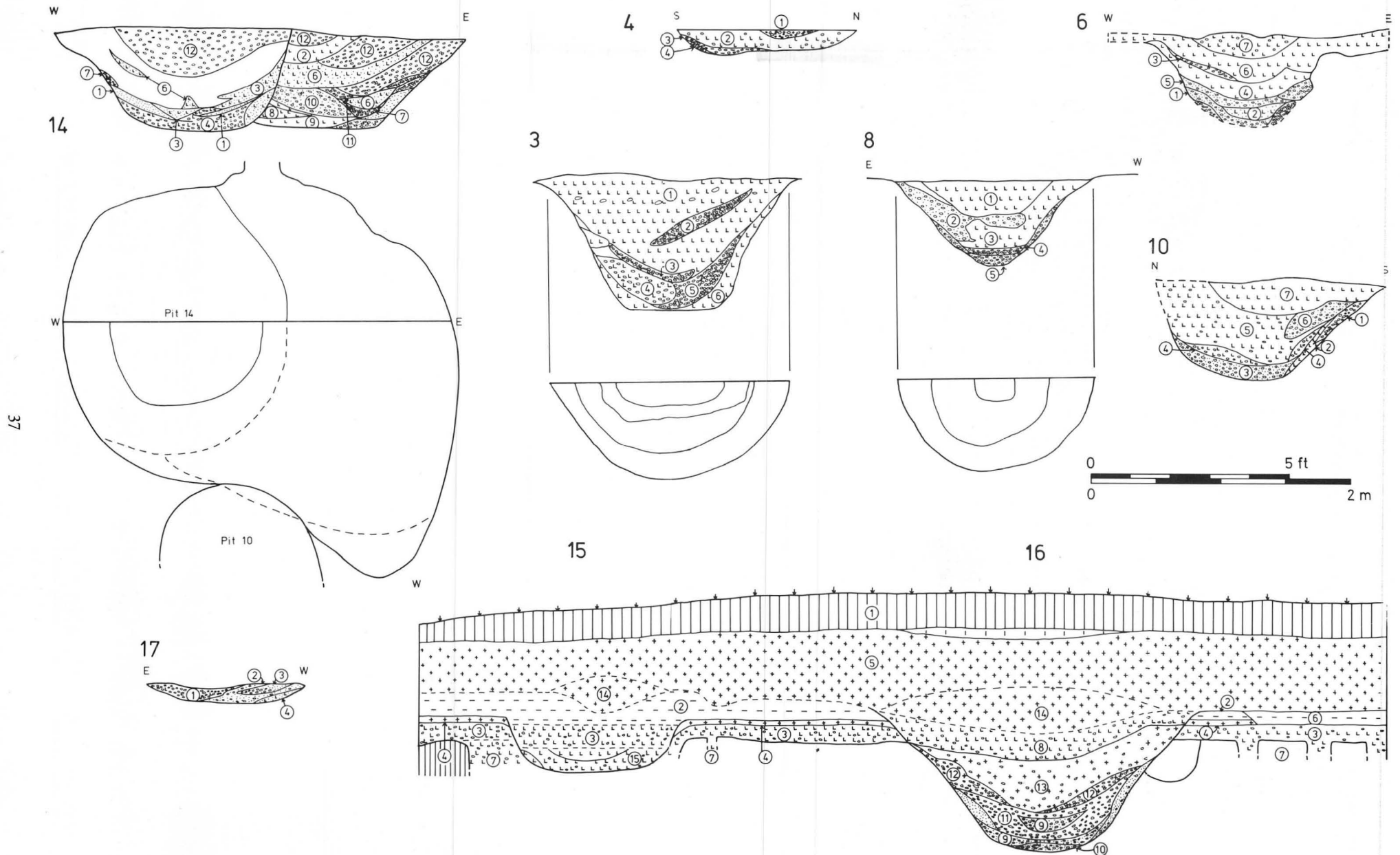


Figure 19 Tallington 1961: Sections through pit-alignment pits. Scale 1:40

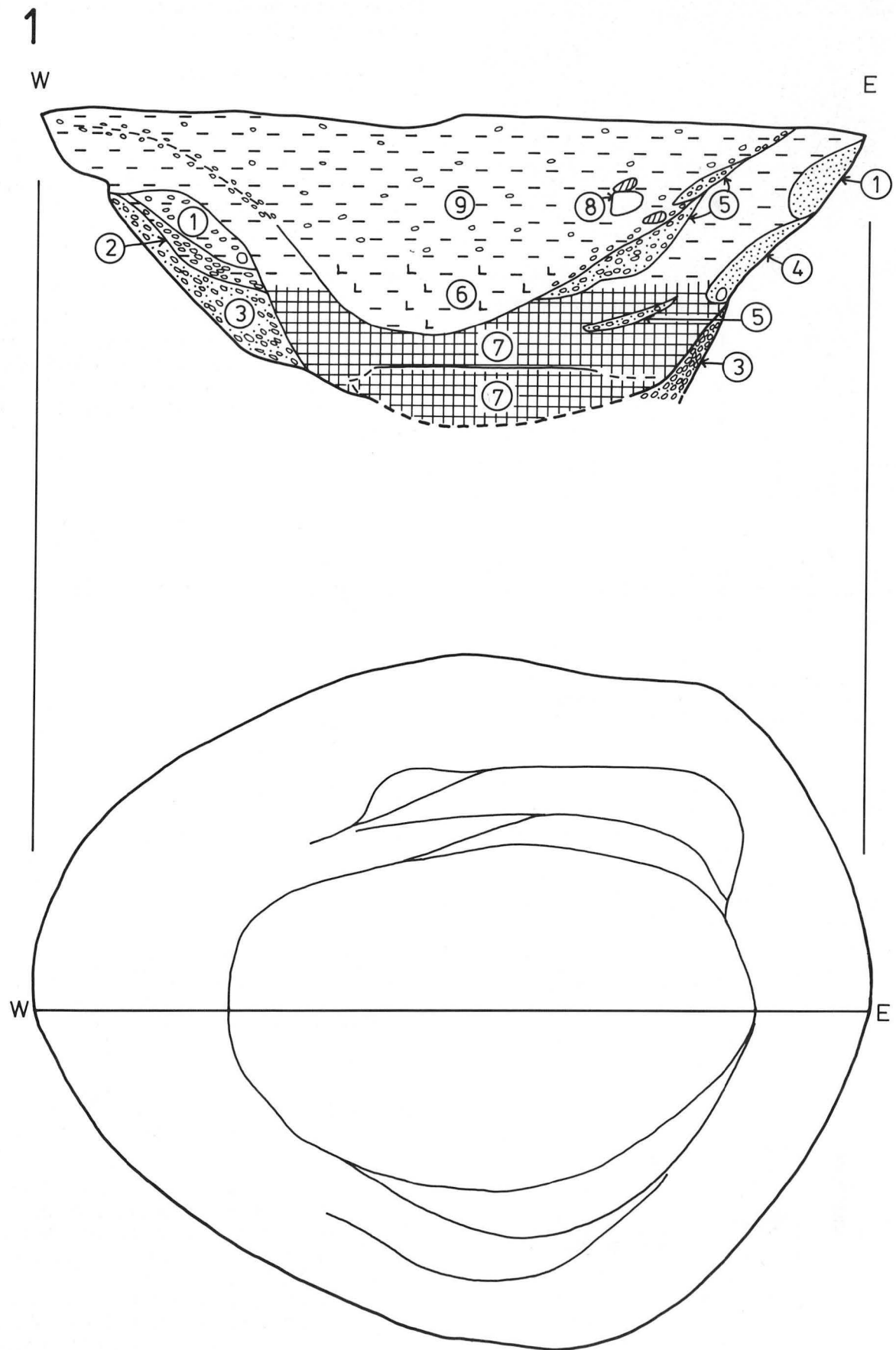


Figure 21 Tallington 1961: Section through Anglo-Saxon Pit 1. Scale c.1:20



Plate IX Tallington 1961: Pit 12, east facing section
quantity of pottery from each pit. Three sherds have diagnostic forms and these are described below. Contexts are given after descriptions, numbers in *italic* refer to unillustrated sherds.

(Fig. 22)

1. Neck of large slack-shouldered jar, Fabric 5. Externally, 10R 3/3, internally and core black, external surface grass-brushed. A common Late Bronze Age form with distinctively treated exterior surface. Best local parallel Maxey OS 124, site J, pit 4 (May 1981, fig. 9 no. 10, *etc.*). *Pot 9, Pit 6.*
2. Rim with simple, slightly flattened top above vertical neck and slight, weak shoulder, Fabric 2. Dark grey throughout. Compare Maxey OS 124 (May 1981, fig. 9, no. 6, *etc.*). *Pot 11, Pit 13.*
3. Rim of large jar, Fabric 4. Black throughout. Damaged, but compare Maxey OS 124 (May 1981, fig 9, nos 2, 3, 16, *etc.*). *Pot 13, Pit 13.*

The pottery, despite its fragmentary, often weathered and damaged state, is surprisingly diagnostic and stylistically homogeneous. The finer wares, (*e.g.* Fig. 22, No. 2), are particularly distinctive. The fabrics are softer, more variable in texture and often better (smoother) finished on the exterior than, for example, the material from the Maxey Plant's Farm pit-alignment which is definitely Iron Age in date (below, Chapter 4) and probably later, rather than earlier Iron Age, at that. Good local parallels outside Tallington are provided by Maxey Field OS 124, site J, pits 1, 3 and 4 (Simpson 1981).

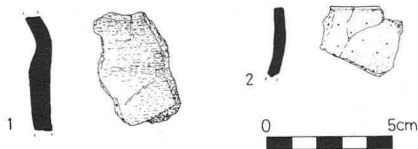


Figure 22 Tallington 1961: pottery from the pit-alignment. Scale 1:3

Further parallels for the present assemblage are cited at greater length by Jeffrey May, below.

Fired clay from the pit-alignment,

by F.M.M. Pryor

The fired clay consists of a few very incomplete scraps, much of which could well be eroded pottery. Only one piece (*archive*: Daub 4) from Pit 9 which is well-fired, hard, oxidised, and has no macroscopically visible added inclusions is plainly non-ceramic. It probably originally formed part of a hearth or oven and weighs 15 g.

Pottery from Pit 1, (Fig. 23)

by David Gurney

Twenty-two sherds of pottery were recovered from this pit, mostly from the south-west quadrant, and scattered throughout the fill from the surface to a depth of *c.* 0.90 m. Sherds of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon date are present in this collection, the former clearly being residual.

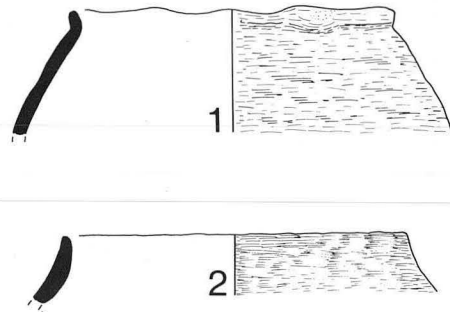


Figure 23 Tallington 1961: Anglo-Saxon pottery from Pit 1. Scale 1:3

Romano-British

- a. Two sherds. Both very small, Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware. Orangi fabrics and brown colour coats suggest that they probably come from the same vessel, possibly of 4th-century date. Residual. *Depth c. 240 mm.*

Anglo-Saxon

Twenty sherds were recovered. The largest has maximum dimensions of *c.* 8 × 8 cm, and there are two pairs of joining sherds. Three fabrics can be distinguished:

- Fabric 1* Soft, rough fabric, with moderate, ill-sorted white calcareous inclusions up to 2 mm, and sparse rounded quartz. Black in colour, with reddish-brown smoothed external surface.
- Fabric 2* Hard, rough fabric, heavily loaded with rounded quartz up to 1 mm, and with sparse mica and distinctive dull-red rounded iron ore grains. Variable firing conditions have produced a range of core and surface colouration, from dark grey throughout, to dark grey core and orangy-brown surfaces, to orangy-brown throughout.

Fabric 3 Soft, rough fabric, with inclusions as Fabric 2, but also with sparse white calcareous inclusions up to 2 mm. Black throughout, with a shiny laminated surface.

(Fig. 23)

- b. Two undecorated body sherds, Fabric 1.
- c. Fifteen undecorated body sherds, Fabric 2.
- 1. Rim of globular vessel, rounded, slightly everted, Fabric 2.
- 2. Two joining rim sherds, Fabric 3.

All sherds are hand-made and undecorated. The commonest fabric (2) is visually similar to fabrics in Leicestershire (P. Williams, pers. comm.), and bears some resemblance to the Group 1 assemblage at Maxey (Addyman and Fennell 1964, fig. 12, no. 3; fig. 13, nos 20–1).

The small collection of Anglo-Saxon pottery from Pit 1 presumably derives from a domestic assemblage. Given the size of the group, and the absence of diagnostic features, close dating is impossible, beyond a general date in the early or middle Saxon period.

Fired clay from Pit 1,

by D.A. Gurney

Two hundred and seven pieces of fired clay 'daub', weighing *c.* 3.5 kg, were recovered from Pit 1. Most pieces have unfaced irregular surfaces, but seven pieces bear single wattle impressions varying in width from 24–39 mm. One piece has an irregular impression of two smaller wattles, parallel and 3 mm apart, and each 18 mm wide.

The pieces of daub have been fired evenly in open oxidising conditions, and there are no pieces with dark or black surfaces, flame-scorching or surface vitrification. The colour of the 'daub' is red throughout, and the fabric is soft with abundant rounded quartz up to 1 mm, and sparse mica. It is possible that the clay source from which these were made was the same as that used for the pottery.

The 'daub' gives no clear indication of its origin, but it is, presumably, from a wattle-and-daub wall of a structure in a nearby settlement.

The mammalian bone

(Tables 10 and 11, Microfiche)

by R.T. Jones

The only available information about the bone from the excavation was a species list which has been rearranged in the form of two tables, Table 10 showing species from the pit alignment and Table 11 those from the Anglo-Saxon Pit 1, both in Microfiche.

IV. Excavations at Tallington, 1963–4

(Figs 24–53; Pls X–XXI; Appendix)

by W.G. Simpson and Jeffrey May

Introduction

The excavations took place under the direction of W.G. Simpson, in Field OS 29, between April 1963 and May 1964. The location of the site in relation to that excavated by Jones (Section III, above) is shown on Figures 14 and 24. The principal features discussed below are clearly visible on a 1959 (R.A.F.) aerial photograph (Pl. X).

The excavations

(Figs 25–40; Pls XI–XXI)

Stripping of the topsoil from the northern and western parts of the field ready for gravel quarrying had already been completed before the start of excavations. Stripping was carried out using a dragline excavator but, unfortunately, these operations coincided with the thaw after one of the severest winters of the century, and the whole area was churned up into a quagmire with the loss of many smaller features. The area of Site 37, which was regarded as of particular interest, was stripped by dragline excavator in drier conditions of early summer. Unfortunately it was not possible to complete the removal of topsoil from the whole of the enclosure in this way because of the danger from overhead power lines. Instead, a tracked bulldozer with bucket attachment was used on its eastern side, which tended to sink into larger archaeological features and compact the stripped surfaces.

The pit-alignment (36) and the roadway ditches (48)

(Figs 25–7; Pls XI–XIII; Tables 12 and 13)

The numbering of the pit-alignment pits starts at a point 59 m north of the roadway (48) at the southern edge of the quarry. In this distance there were twenty-seven pits in the alignment. Its intersection with the roadway was also cleared so that a total of thirty-six pits were revealed (Figs 24 and 25; Pl. XI). The individual pits seemed to vary quite considerably in size and shape. Those between the roadway ditches were particularly remarkable, not only because two or three of them were dug into a complex of earlier pits, but because they followed a slightly erratic westerly course and were of greater size than those to the north and south. However, all the pits were of similar depth and circular or oval in plan (Figs 25 and 26). The oval pits consistently had their longer axis east-to-west. Pits of square or rectangular outline like those excavated at the north end of a pit alignment at Plant's Farm, Maxey (Chapter 4) were not encountered here.

A total of thirteen pits were excavated in the alignment (PA 20–3, and PA27–35 inclusive). Some of the pits were broad and flat-bottomed (PA20, Fig. 26) while others had a more gently rounded (PA27, Fig. 26) or even funnel-shaped profile (PA23, Fig. 26). Tables 12 and 13 summarize the measurable characteristics of the alignment to north and south of, and between, the roadway ditches respectively. Measurements were taken from the *cleaned* surface which, in places, may have been below the level of the natural gravel surface.

Although the pits were of varying size and profile, the fills were generally similar. The lower fill, often silty or gleyed at the base, generally consisted of brown soil mixed or interleaved with sand and gravel, becoming a lighter brown and less gravelly towards the top of the pit. Four pits between the ditches of the roadway (PA30–3) were dug into an area disturbed by earlier pits (P7–12). From one of the latter (P10) came two sherds of hand-made pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age type (Cat. No. 6). Their limits were defined, so far as was possible, on the plan but, in the vicinity of PA32–3, it was very difficult to define their extent since it seemed pits had been dug into and backfilled with clean gravel. The area between the roadway ditches had suffered particularly from disturbance by lorry traffic in the soil stripping operations, and it is possible that water or mud

TALLINGTON
SITES 34-39, 45, 47-50

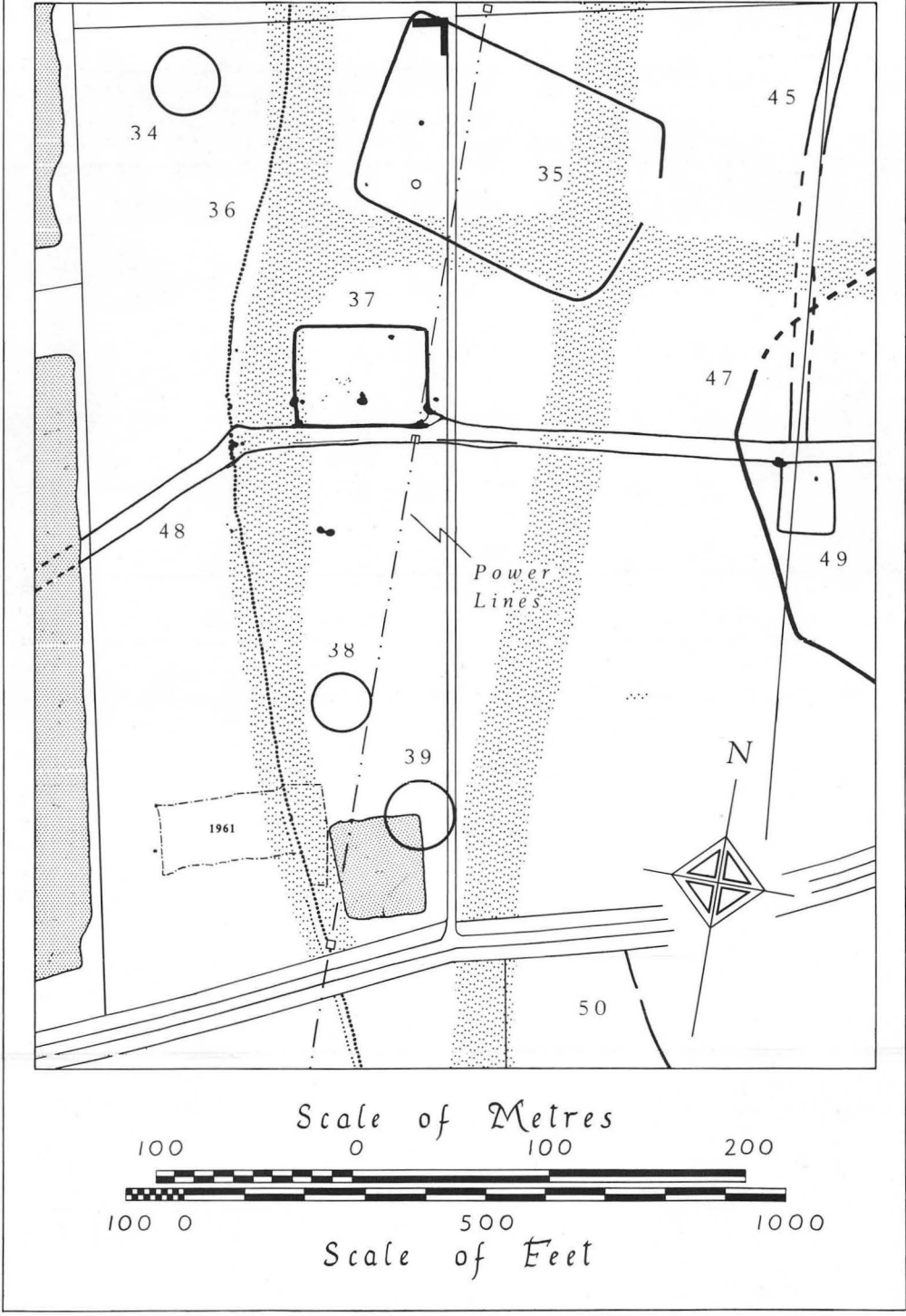


Figure 24 Tallington 1963-4: Plan of the site and environs. Scale 1:3500

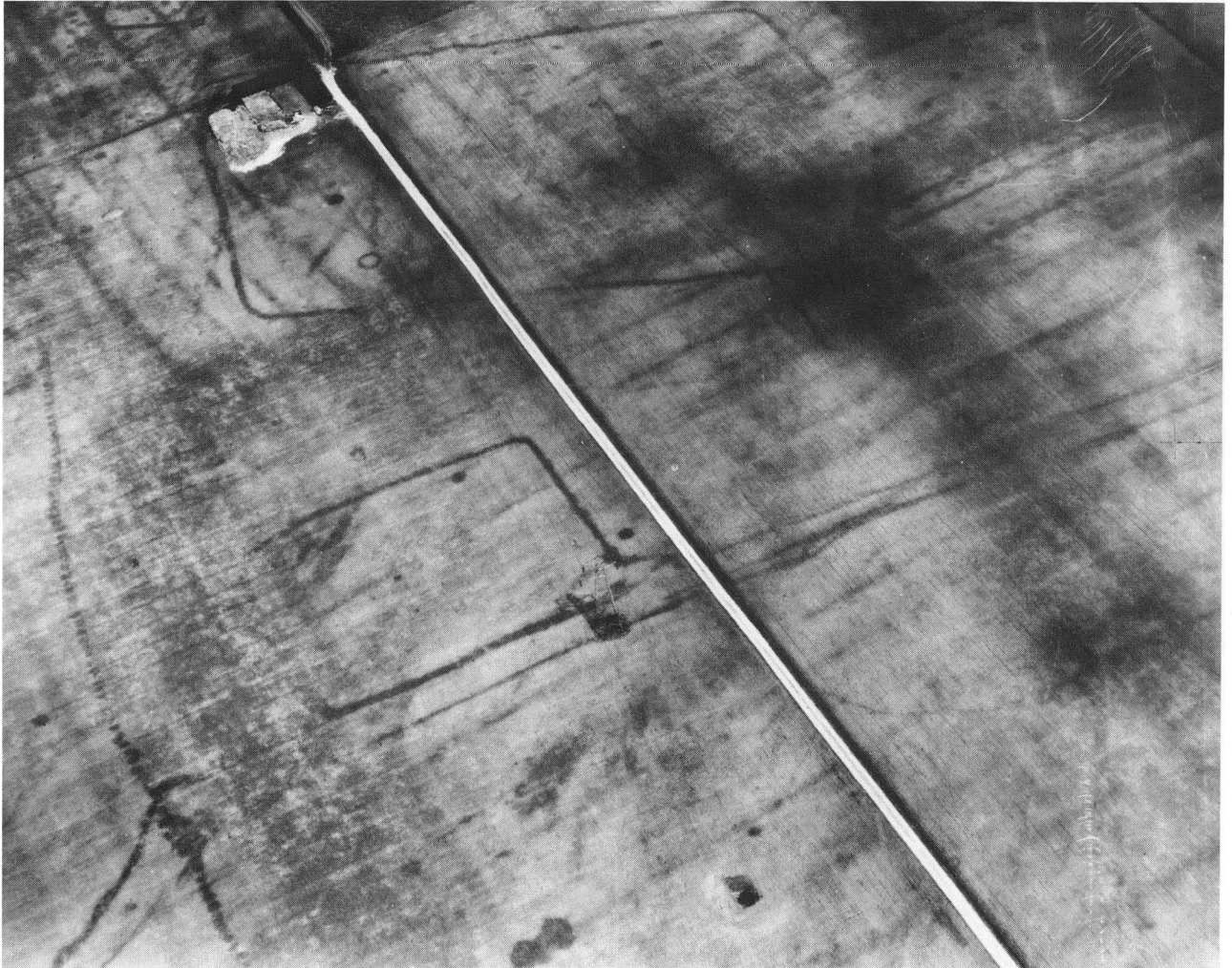


Plate X Tallington 1963-4: Oblique air photograph from the south-west showing the pit-alignment, the two enclosures (35 and 37) and the road ditches. *Crown copyright/M.O.D. reproduced with permission of Controller of H.M.S.O. (DA 55)*

percolation into the gravels due to these operations was mistaken for ancient activity.

Apart from a few sherds of Late Bronze Age type pottery (from PA4, 29 and 30; Cat. Nos 1-5) and animal bones (from PA20 and 29-31) other artefacts were scarce, consisting only of two pot boilers from PA20 and charcoal fragments from PA20 and 21. Snail shells of the species *Cepaea*, however, were quite common in the upper fillings of PA20-29. The only finds worth singling out are the greater part of the skull of a small horse at a depth of 0.48 m in PA31 and a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 41, 2, now unfortunately lost) from the top fill of PA4.

Some of the potsherds were well down in the fillings of the pit-alignment pits (e.g. Cat. No. 5) and suggest a date no earlier than the Later Bronze Age for construction. A chance discovery, after the excavations had been completed, seemed to confirm this conclusion. In 1965 when the whole field had been quarried except for part of the north end, another length of pit-alignment was uncovered just west of Enclosure 35, in the course of renewed quarrying. Not much of the pits' fillings survived but one had waterlogged organic material at the bottom which included the stump of a post, 100 mm in diameter, in a vertical position in the gravel. This yielded a radiocarbon date of 485 ± 135 bc (UB 452). A sample was also taken for pollen analysis (see below) indicating a comparatively treeless landscape. This picture accords

with that given by analysis of pollen samples associated with other mid-1st millennium bc radiocarbon dates from the Welland Valley.

Further south in the area of the original excavation of the alignment, three of its pits (PA20, 22 and 23) were cut by later pits (P5 and P6). The majority of the pottery from both pits is of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age type (Fig. 41, Nos 7-25). However, a few sherds which may be Saxon are included among the finds. Unfortunately, at some stage of the post-excavation work, sherds collected over the freshly stripped surface of the pits in 1962 were combined with those found during their excavation the following year. The everted rim of a 12th century AD cooking pot was certainly among the former group (Fig. 41, No. 25) as were some of the sherds from the lower part of a Saxon vessel (Fig. 41, No. 16). It seems likely that these sherds and others possibly of Saxon date were

Characteristic	Average	Range between	and
Diam. circular pits	1.78	1.32	2.35
Dimensions, oval pits	1.89×1.52	1.62×1.28	2.44×1.93
Min. depth (6 pits)	0.76	0.71	0.88
Distance between pits	0.69	0.30	1.07

Table 12 Tallington 1963-4: Measurable characteristics of the pit-alignment north and south of the roadway

incorporated in the accumulated fossil ploughsoil or medieval plough furrows at the base of the headland (Fig. 24).

Detailed investigation of the relationship between the roadway (48) and the pit-alignment was concentrated on its north ditch (D3), since there was less modern disturbance here, but a similar relationship was apparent between the south ditch (D5) and the pit-alignment (Pl. XIII). D5, west of the pit-alignment, was recut at least twice (Fig. 25 and 26, bottom right). The smallest of the three cuts (i), lying to the south-west of the main ditch, cut PA 35. The relationship between the other two cuts (ii and iii) and PA34 was not so clear. A section across the ditch 1.5 m east of the alignment shows at least two phases (Fig. 26, bottom right, D5, iv and v). A section across the north ditch in a similar position shows evidence of three phases (Fig. 26, section D3 i-iii). A small part of the original cut (i), with dark soil and gravel filling, survives at the left (north) of the section but the greater part has been removed in later recutting. The fill of the earliest of these recuts (ii) survives in part as a triangle of sand and gravel downwash against the south side of the ditch, while the final cut (iii) follows a middle course between the two earlier cuts.

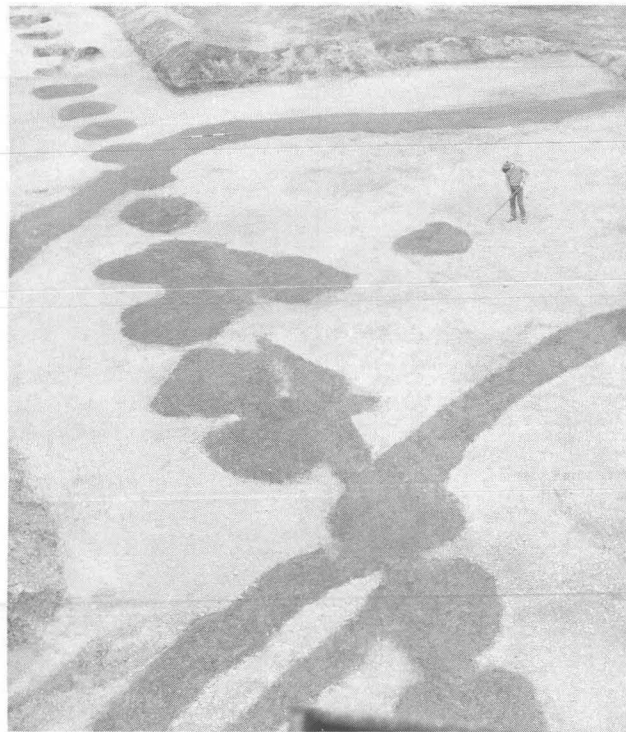


Plate XI Tallington 1963-4: The intersection of the roadway ditches and the pit-alignment; view from the south-west after stripping to the gravel surface

Ditch D3 intersected PA27 and 28 (Fig. 25). It was, however, difficult to deduce much about the chronological relationship between the ditch and Pit 27 (Fig. 26, centre left) from the section. PA28, however, was severely truncated by D3 (Fig. 26) and the lower part of cutting V cut through its fill. Excavation of all the archaeological deposits revealed the butt-ends of the ditch (i) and its recuts (ii and iii) on the east side of the pit (Fig. 25). A bodysherd of wheel-turned pottery was

found at a depth of 380 mm in the ditch, together with a sherd of handmade Ancaster-Breedon type scored ware (Cat. Nos 27 and 28). From the very top of the ditch fill, in the vicinity of its intersection with the pit-alignment, came two joining fragments of a decorated samian bowl dating to *c.* AD 75-90 (Fig. 41, No. 29) and a sherd from a wheel-turned vessel conjoining with No. 27 (Cat. No. 28).

Characteristic	Average	Range between	and
Dimensions	2.61 × 2.21	2.44 × 2.13	2.74 × 2.44
Min. depth	0.84	0.69	0.93

Table 13 Tallington 1963-4: Measurable characteristics of the pit-alignment between the roadway ditches (5 pits)



Plate XII Tallington 1963-4: Pits 20-23 of the pit-alignment after excavation showing the relationship of P5 (top) and P6 (centre) to the alignment

The roadway ditches (48) and the rectangular enclosure (37) (Figs 24, 27-40; Pls XIV-XXI)

The rectangular enclosure (37) measured 67.5 × 50.7 m between its ditch-centres with an entrance at the south-east corner (Fig. 28). The north ditch of the roadway (D3) was visible on air photographs and, on excavation, merged with the ditch (D4) defining the rectangular enclosure at its south-west corner (Pl. XIV). The south roadway ditch (D5) ran roughly parallel at a distance of 7-9 m. Fennell (1960) cut one trench across the south ditch of the enclosure just west of its entrance and another (Appendix, Figs 47 and 48, Microfiche) a little further west across the same ditch and the south roadway ditch.

In the former trench, the enclosure ditch was broad (2.74 m) in comparison to its depth (0.68 m), while in the latter it was of similar depth but only 2 m wide. Neither ditch seemed to have been recut. In the later excavations however, in two trenches (X and XI) there was some

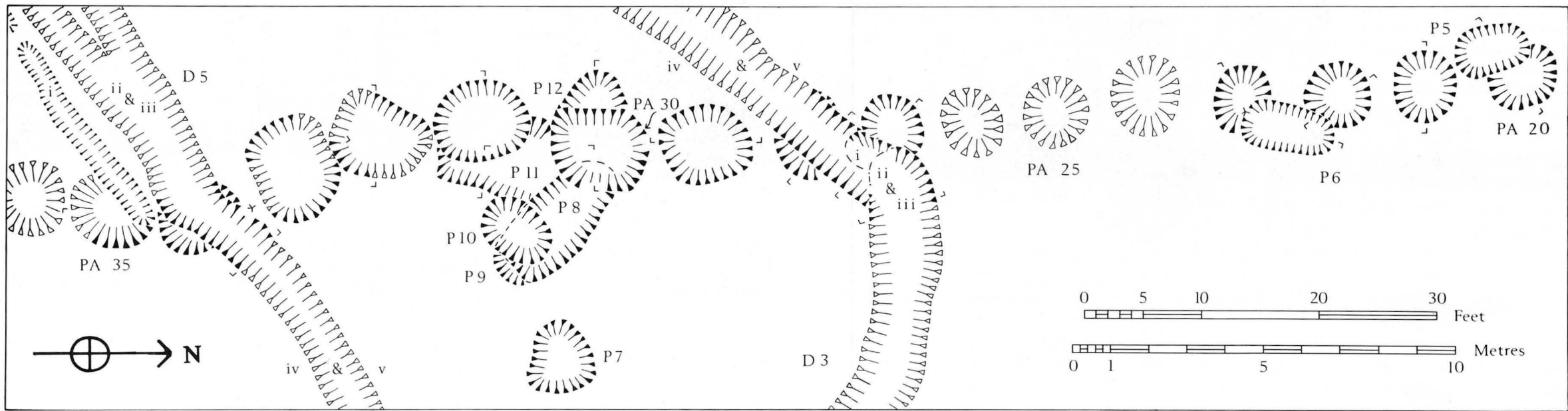


Figure 25 Tallington 1963-4: Plan of the intersection of the roadway ditches (D3 and D5) and the pit-alignment (36). Scale 1:150

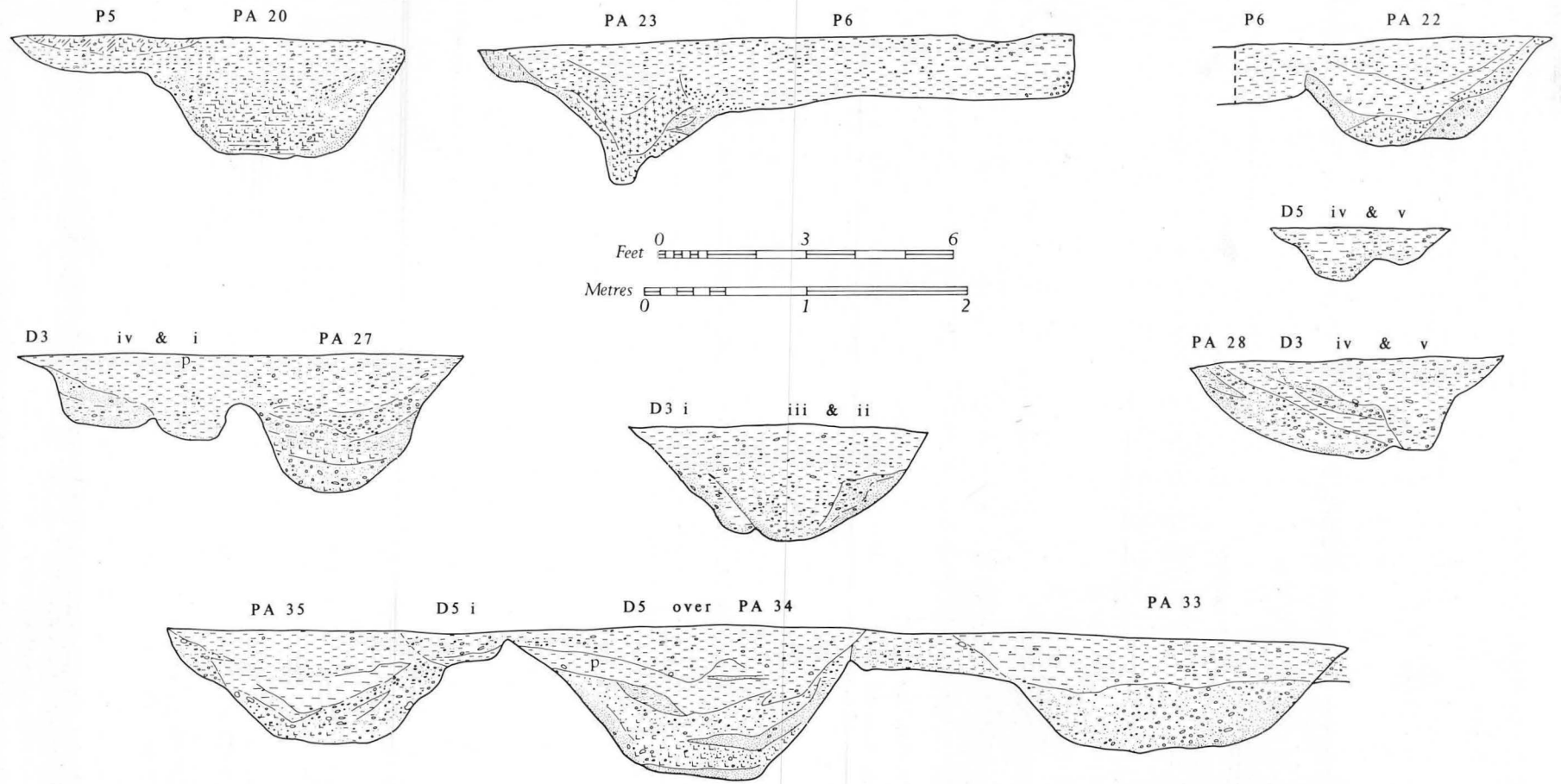


Figure 26 Tallington 1963-4: Sections through pit-alignment pits, for key see Figure 18. Scale 1:40

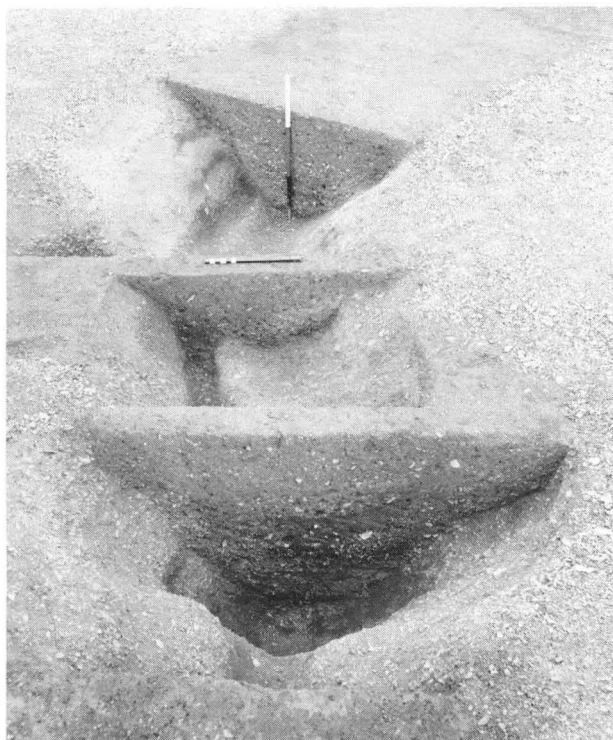


Plate XIII Tallington 1963-4: View from the south-west along the northern road ditch (D3) showing its relationship to the pit-alignment pits PA28 (foreground) and PA27 (left)

evidence for least two phases in D4 on the south side (Fig. 30). This could be seen most clearly in Trench XI just east of the south-west corner, where the enclosure ditch cut through the sand and gravel fill of a narrow v-shaped ditch (Fig. 30; Pl. XIV). Its profile must in fact have originally been similar to that revealed for the road ditches just west of the enclosure in Trench IX. They were just over a metre wide at the top but narrow and v-shaped at the bottom. The outer slopes of the ditches were steeply rising but the inner slopes more gentle (Fig. 30, D5 section; see also Fennell 1960). It was assumed, therefore, that the earlier ditch revealed in Trench XI was the original north ditch of the roadway (D3).

Two phases were also suggested in Trench X which cut across the south-west angle of the enclosure ditch. Here the relationship between the two ditches was not quite so clear. The presence of the road ditch (D3) is clear enough (Fig. 30, bottom). The fill was of fairly clean sand and gravel with coarser gravel and soil against the south side, giving way to brown soil with gravel, from which came two sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (Nos 36 and 37). A relatively stone-free layer *c.* 0.15 m deep overlay the ditch centre, thinning out towards the south edge but becoming deeper over a sump in the angle of D4, where it was 0.45–0.60 m deep. At the base of this soil, over D3, were found a fibula of Langton Down type (Fig. 41, No. 40) and two samian sherds, one stamped, of the mid-late 1st century AD date.

The west side of the enclosure had, to some extent, been protected from the effects of modern deep-ploughing by the medieval headland. Although the 'furrows' dividing the strips of the medieval fields cut across the west ditch of the enclosure and into the road surface, the area between them had suffered less damage

and small patches of gravelled road surface survived, as well as a curious straight-sided, flat-bottomed trench (T4; Figs 28 and 29), 0.30 m wide by 0.30 m deep, which was followed eastwards for about 35 m before it ran out. It lay approximately parallel to the road ditch and about a metre inside it. It was filled with clean brown soil and produced six small sherds of Iron Age pottery (Cat. No. 130).

The entrance into the enclosure was examined both by Fennell, who excavated the features on the north side (Appendix, Figs 49–52, Microfiche), and the present writer, who excavated the features on the south side. Figure 31 is an amalgamated plan of both excavations.

The enclosure ditch ended in substantial pits or sumps on either side of the entrance. From the sump at the northern ditch extremity a 2 m wide ditch, 0.68 m deep, led off to the south-east. After about 4.7 m, this ditch turned almost due east and became the north roadway ditch (D3) – the short north/south-easterly length running up to the north side of the enclosure entrance is therefore referred to as D3 (extension) or D3x; (Fig. 31).

Fennell sectioned this ditch at its north end (Appendix, Fig. 49, upper; Fig. 51, sections R–S, Microfiche). In the easternmost of his sections, the ditch had a clear W-profile, suggesting perhaps that it had been recut. In the cutting immediately to the west however, the ditch profile had become U-shaped, 1.75 m wide and about 0.70 m deep. It did not actually run directly into the sump but ended about 2 m from it (Appendix, Fig. 49, lower, Microfiche). The sump was 1.20–1.25 m deep and rectilinear at the bottom, aligned north-east-south-west, the latter being the deepest part. It had sloping sides and, from the termination of D3x, a narrow channel ran down into the south-east corner. Fennell considered that the sump had been extended at least once and this area, 0.37–0.60 m deep between the two features, was perhaps the extension to which he was referring.

Finds from the north side of the entrance included animal bones (now lost) and sherds of hand-made



Plate XIV Tallington 1963-4: Trench excavated across the south side of the enclosure (37) showing the road ditch and the enclosure ditch (foreground)

TALLINGTON
SITE 37; EARLY IRON AGE FARM

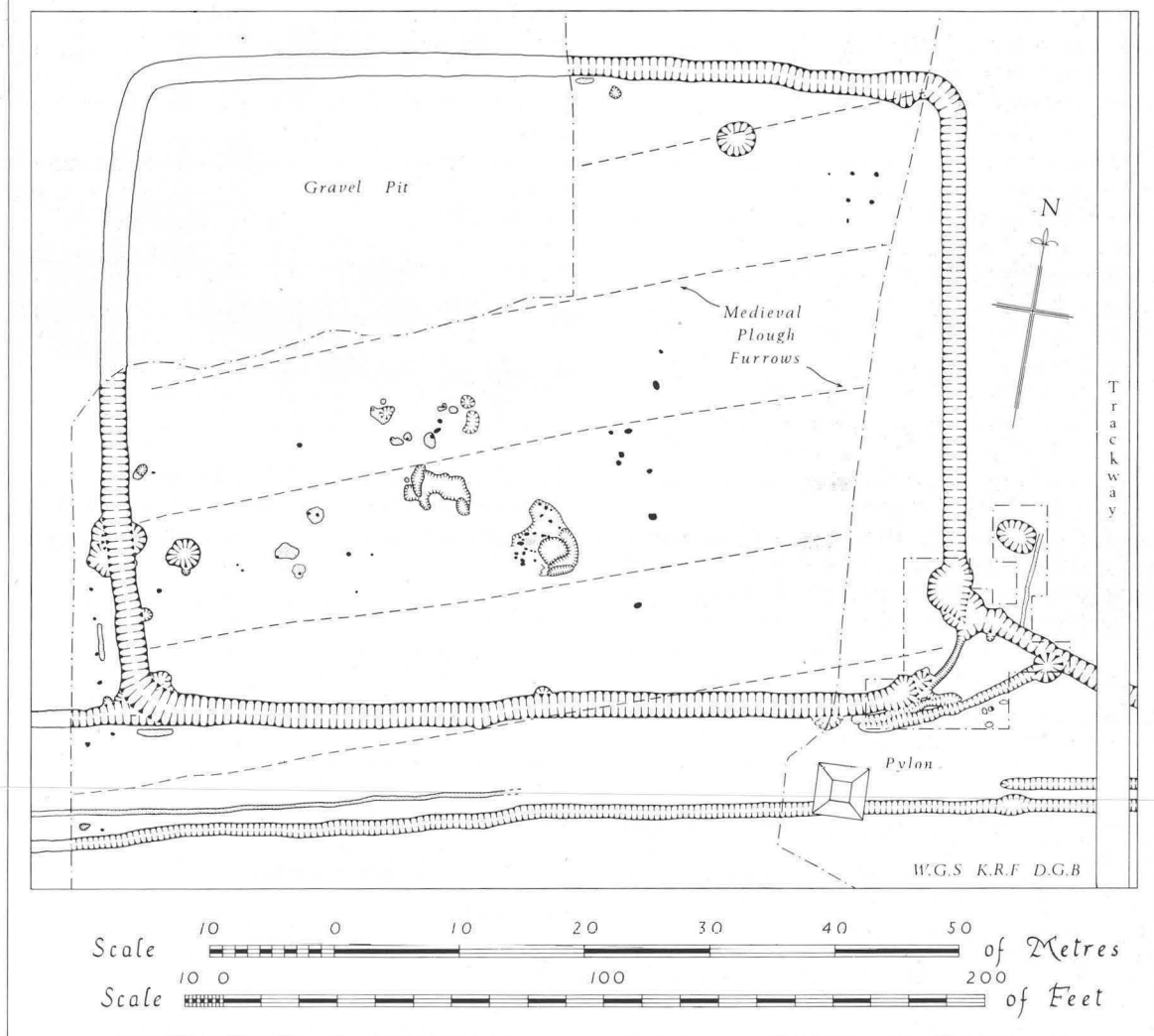


Figure 28 Tallington 1963-4: Plan of the small enclosure (37). Scale 1:600

pottery. The pottery from Fennell's excavations is in the Lincoln Museum but unfortunately it is not now possible to identify the trench or feature from which any individual piece came. However, most seem to come from vessels of Ancaster-Breedon type of Middle Iron Age date (Fig. 44, Nos 135-7).

On the south side of the entrance there was a more complex arrangement of ditches (Fig. 31). At the west limit of the excavation there were two adjacent or overlapping ditches.

The larger, northern ditch (D4) defined the enclosure and terminated in the sump (Pl. XV), while the southern one (D3) had the V-profile and gently rising southern slope characteristic of the roadway ditch. But here, in contrast to what has been described further west, the latter seemed to be later than the former.

In section (Fig. 32, Section A-B) the enclosure ditch (D4) was flat bottomed and c. 1 m deep, with a fill of brown soil mixed with gravel, thinning with depth. D3 was separated from D4 at the base by a narrow ridge and seems to have been cut whilst D4 was only partially filled.

A layer of fine gravel suggested that both ditches silted from the north side.

Further to the east, the character of both ditches changed. D4 widened out from c. 2.1 m into a sump c. 2.5 m across, and deepened from c. 1-1.5 m below the surface of the natural soil. The bottom of the sump was a flat, oval area measuring 1.6 m north to south by 1 m east to west (Pl. XV). The lower part was filled predominantly with sand and gravel deposits which became increasingly intermixed and, in the upper regions, gave way to a fairly clean brown soil (Fig. 33, Section C-D, Microfiche).

Finds came mostly between 0.50-1.5 m deep and consisted predominantly of domestic rubbish such as potsherds, (Fig. 42, Nos 89-92), animal bones, and pot boilers.

D3 also became wider and separated out into three smaller ditches (Fig. 31; Fig. 32, Section G-H). Of these, the most northerly (D7) skirted round the edge of the sump, crossed the entrance gap and terminated between the end of D3x and the sump on the north side. The central ditch (D3), of rather angular U-shaped profile, 0.60 m wide and 0.46 m deep, terminated just to the east

of the southern sump whilst the southern ditch (D6) continued across the entrance gap to end in a third sump mid-way along D3x (Pl. XV). D6 and D7 were both U-shaped and filled with clean gravel and brown soil (Fig. 33, Microfiche). At their mid-points the western ditch measured 0.60 m wide and 0.23 m deep and the eastern ditch 0.86 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

The earliest of the ditches at the south side of the enclosure would seem to have been that of the road (D3). At Section A-B (Fig. 32), the enclosure ditch (D4) seemed to be cut by the road ditch though the stratigraphy and layout here is complex. Elsewhere, for instance, in Trench XI, the enclosure ditch is clearly the later feature. The line of D3 was broken originally, perhaps, for a gate or entrance into fields beyond, and its western termination survived undisturbed between the later two small ditches which cross the entrance gap of the enclosure. The sumps on either side of the entrance may have been original features of the enclosure or, there was some indication at the south-west terminal, a result of later ditch (re)cutting.

The two small ditches crossing the entrance were both associated with the enclosure and, as their outletting to the sumps makes clear, were intended to drain off surface water to keep the passage dry in wet weather. If filled with brushwood (*cf.* Pryor 1984, pl. 16) and/or covered over with boards they would have provided no hindrance to traffic. The south-easterly one (D6) probably continued to serve this purpose, since it was evidently recut after the south-western sump had largely filled up.



Plate XV Tallington 1963-4: The south side of the entrance into the enclosure showing the ditches from the west after excavation

A number of smaller features were found in the vicinity of the entrance, both inside and outside the enclosure; also a large pit of doubtful significance. This latter, situated outside the enclosure in the angle between its east ditch and D3x, was examined by Dr Fennell, who concluded that it was probably modern (Fennell 1960).

Just south of D6 at the enclosure entrance, a group of four shallow depressions, possibly post-holes, though

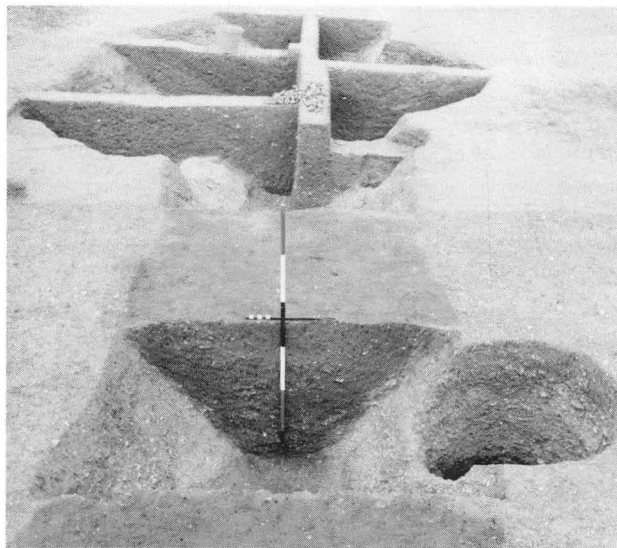


Plate XVI Tallington 1963-4: Section across the ditch of the enclosure on its west side with P10 immediately to the east (right) and, beyond, the complex of sock-wells (P8, P13)

two contained fragments of calcined bone and charcoal (Fig. 31, a and b; Fig. 33, Microfiche), were recorded. Fennell further recorded an arc of six post-holes just inside the entrance immediately west of the north sump (Appendix, Fig. 49, upper, Microfiche) and there was a shallow gully or channel and one further post-hole to the south-east of it. It may have been part of a hut-circle but unfortunately it was not further examined in the present excavations.

Fennell also cut a section across the enclosure ditch on the north side and three sections at the north-east corner (Appendix, Fig. 47, Microfiche). The ditch at these places was of open U- or V-profile, 1.70-1.90 m wide and 0.60 m deep from the gravel surface. The sections at the corner all showed a fairly complex stratification in the ditch filling. A common feature was a



Plate XVII Tallington 1963-4: Section across P8 where it was crossed by the enclosure ditch (D4), from the north-east (see Figure 29)

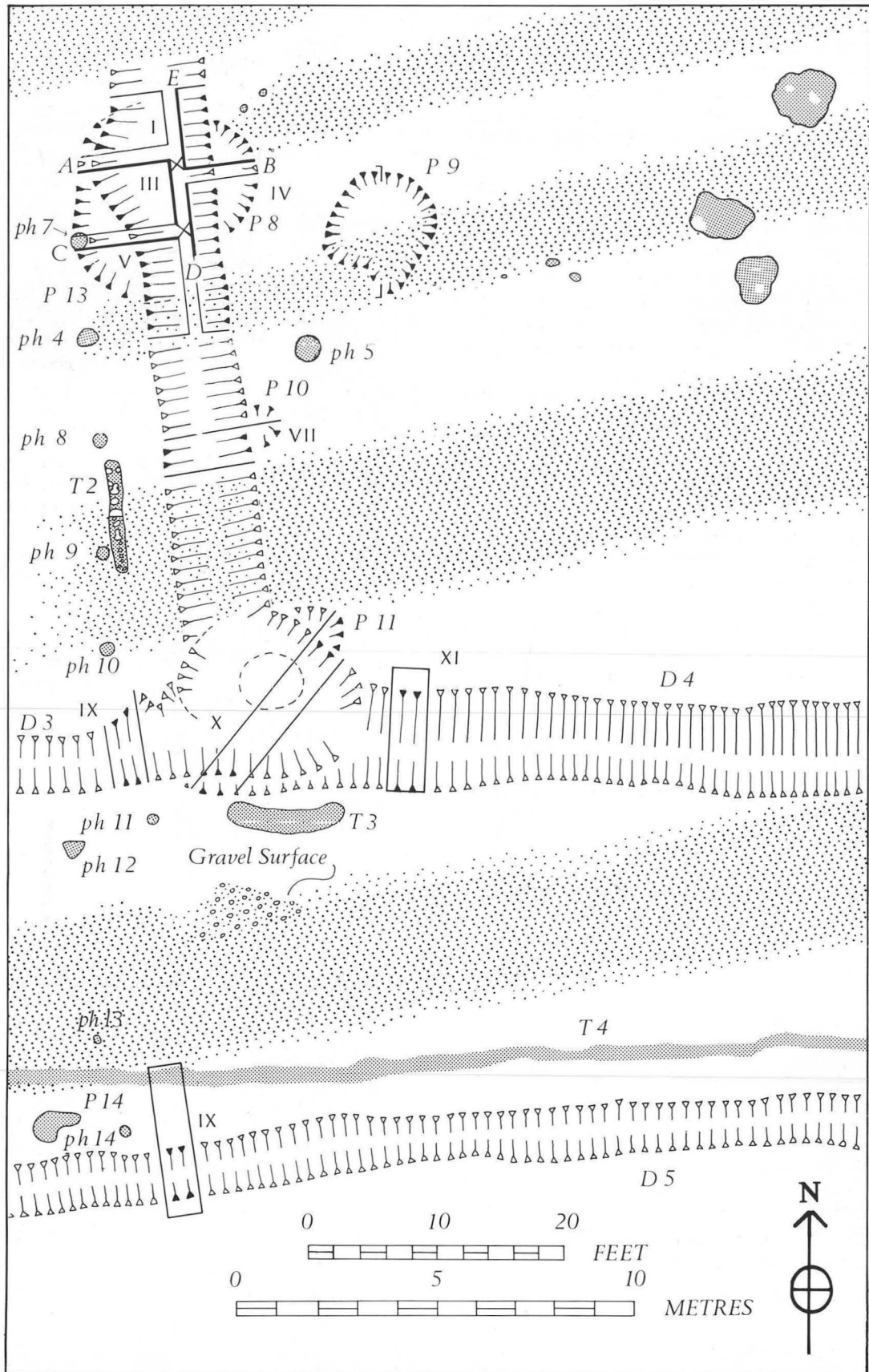


Figure 29 Tallington 1963-4: Detailed plan of the south-west corner of the enclosure and the roadway ditches. Scale 1:150

dark 'very stony' (meaning presumably, much gravel) soil at or near the top of the ditch. The stratification in general, and this level in particular, had a very pronounced tilt towards the outer edge of the ditch and was evidently the basis for Fennell's thinking that the ditch had had an external bank at this point (Fennell 1960). There was no other clear evidence for a bank. Substantial sherds from a plain, hand-made globular pot with a well-formed flat base in smooth, soapy-finished, shell-gritted fabric, were recorded as coming from this part of the ditch (Fennell 1960, ?no. 135) and was noted as being similar to material recovered from a nearby pit-alignment (Site 9) in earlier excavations (Fennell 1961).

Two lengths of the west ditch of the enclosure were also excavated in 1963 (Fig. 28). Here the ditch could be related stratigraphically to a number of pits. The ditch itself (D4) here had a fairly typical profile with sloping sides 2 m wide at the top and a flat or gently rounded bottom, 1 m deep from the subsoil surface (Fig. 32; Pl. XVI). The bottom of the ditch contained a rather coarse gravel mixed with grey silt-like material becoming sandy towards the sides. Above this primary silting was dark brown soil mixed with a little gravel. On the surface of this layer was found the skull of a dog (see below, Table 14). The upper levels were of brown soil with decreasing quantities of gravel towards the surface. The only finds were a few animal bones, a stone with an abraded or rubbed surface, and six sherds of hand-made pottery (Cat. No. 88).

The adjoining pit (P10) was approximately cylindrical in shape, c. 1 m in diameter and 1.4 m deep, which was about the top of the water table (Fig. 29; Fig. 34). Its almost vertical sides were slightly undercut in the bottom 0.30 m but otherwise showed little evidence of weathering. The lower fill consisted of coarse sand, gravel and dark grey clayey bands. The rounded profile of the natural gravel on the west side of the pit towards its

junction in a peak against the side of the enclosure ditch (Fig. 34) suggested that both features may have been open together and that much of the gravel in the bottom of the pit may have been due to the collapse of the narrow upper wall between them. The general character of the upper fill was brown soil with varying amounts of gravel, with two bands of clean dark soil. The only finds were three pot boilers, a few animal bones, charcoal fragments, and nine potsherds (Cat. Nos 107-109) from vessels of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age type.

About 3 m to the north was a complex of at least two large pits (P8 and P13) on either side and on the line of the enclosure ditch (D4). The stratigraphic relationships of these various features were very difficult to determine and, although it was fairly clear that D4 was later than P13, it is probable that P8 was not much earlier than the ditch.

The area was excavated (Fig. 29) leaving a north-south baulk (E-D) along the centre of the ditch-line with a single baulk (B-X) at right angles to it across the east side of P8 and another (A-X) across its west side and that of P13 (C-X; Pl. XVI). Sections along these baulks are illustrated (Figs 34; 35, Microfiche). Sections E-D and X-X were taken on either side of the north-south baulk. In the former (Fig. 34), it can be seen that below the bottom of the ditch (D4), at about 0.90 m, the lower filling of P8 remained undisturbed. It consisted of sand and gravel with bands and pockets of grey clay or gley. On the west face of the baulk (X-X; Fig. 35, Microfiche), the top of the pit filling seemed to be marked by a localised spread of large-grade gravel about 1 m long containing a number of potsherds. Over this was a level of dark soil about 150 mm thick containing plentiful charcoal; also animal bones, pot boilers, and much pottery (Cat. Nos 68-78). This level appeared only in the west face of the section and could be seen also in section B-X extending almost to the west edge of the pit at a slope

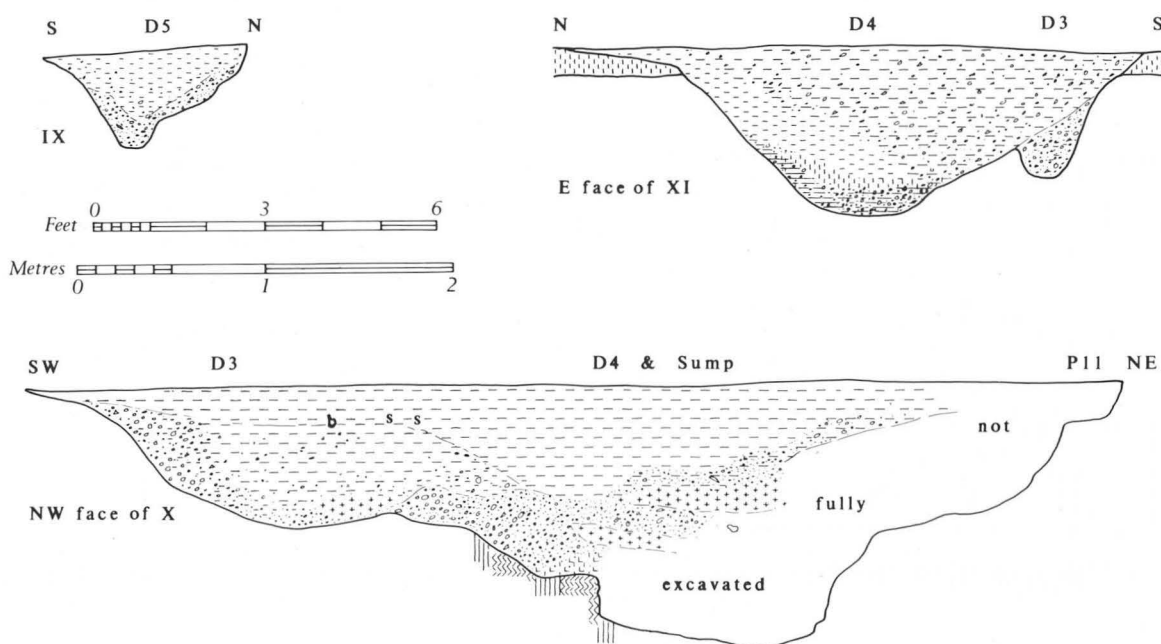


Figure 30 Tallington 1963-4: Sections through the enclosure ditches (D4, D5 and the sump) at the south-east corner. Scale 1:40

of about 25°. The distribution of this fill suggested that it had been deposited from a north-westerly direction, while the angle of slope suggested that, at the north end of the pit complex at least, P8 was only partially filled and the ditch was not cut through any deep accumulation of deposits.

The section across the north end of the pit complex (A-X-B; Pl. XVII) showed that the lower fill was largely natural. The upper sides of the pit seemed to have suffered severe weathering with sand, gravel and silt-like materials accumulating around the basal angle. These deposits would always have been waterlogged to some degree, at least towards the centre of the pit where the interleaving bands are best seen in section E-D (Fig. 34). Clearly the pit had not been quickly filled.

Pollen samples were taken from section X-X just above the natural gravel (Sample 3), and just below the spread of large grade gravel at the level of the bottom of D4, 45 cm higher up the section (Sample 2). Sample 3 corresponded well with samples from the pit-alignment (see above, Section III, and below), indicating open countryside with weeds of cultivation. Sample 2 showed a marked increase in tree pollen and few open country species.

To the south-west of P8 the enclosure ditch cut across another large pit (P13), originally about 3 m in diameter and 1.2 m deep, with a maximum depth of 1.4 m. It had steeper, less weathered sides (on the west) than

P8 and seemed to have been largely filled by the time the enclosure ditch was constructed (Fig. 34, section C-X). In other respects it was very similar to P8 but no direct stratigraphic evidence of the chronological relationship between the two was observed.

Features within the enclosure

- Pit 7:** 4 m north P8. 0.80 m diam., 0.67 m deep.
Fill: Clean brown soil above dirty gravel.
Finds: Scattered fragments of charcoal, baked clay, pottery (Cat. No. 93) and a flint flake from the upper fill.
- Pit 9:**
Fill: Similar to P8.
Finds: Pot boilers, animal bone, Late Bronze Age pottery (inc. Cat. Nos 100, 101).
- Pits 15-20:** Group of shallow pits and post-holes north of the 'working hollow' (see below). 0.30-0.37 m deep (Fig. 36, Microfiche).
Fill: Brown loam
Finds: Some pottery (Cat. Nos 113-115), pot boilers and animal bone. P19a contained the greater part of an ox skull.

'Working hollow' 1

(Figs 37; 38, Microfiche)

Situated in the south-central part of the enclosure. It was roughly pear-shaped and measured 6.1 m from north to south and 5.3 m from east to west. Its ground plan can be divided into two roughly equal areas of distinctly different character, on either side of line C-D (Fig. 37;

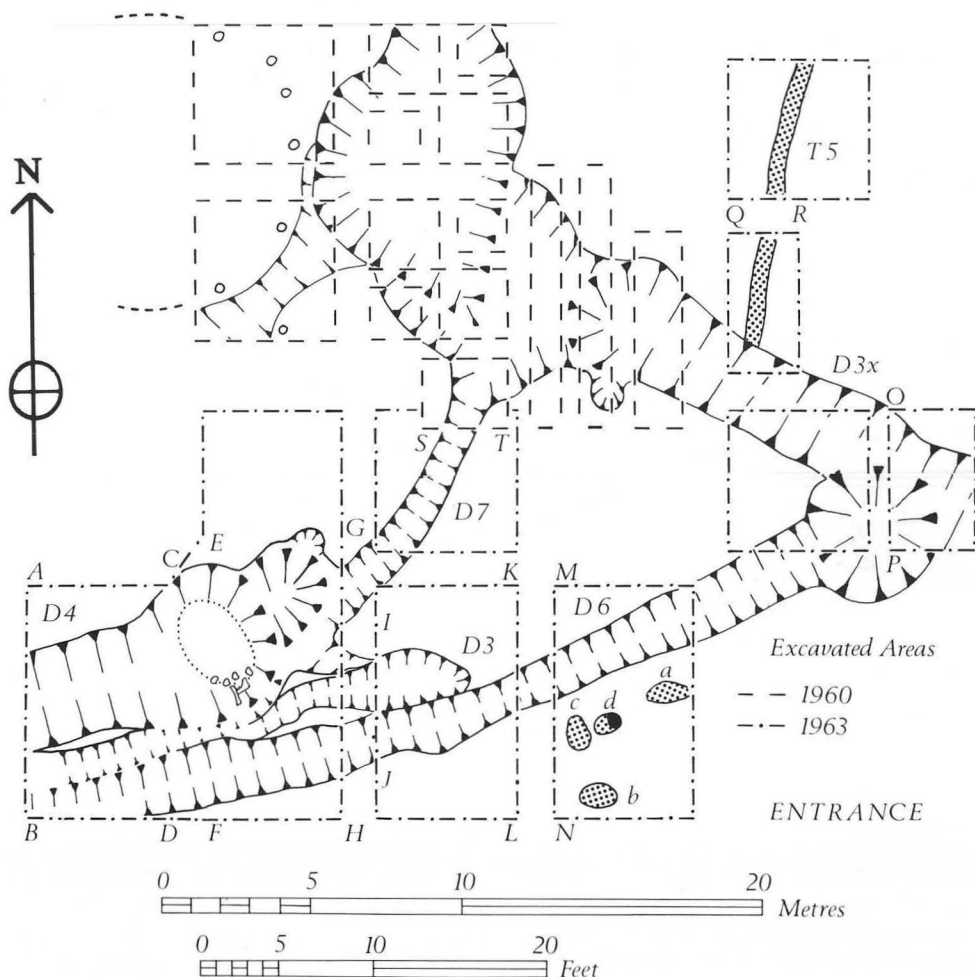


Figure 31 Tallington 1963-4: Detailed plan of the entrance into the enclosure (37). Scale 1:250

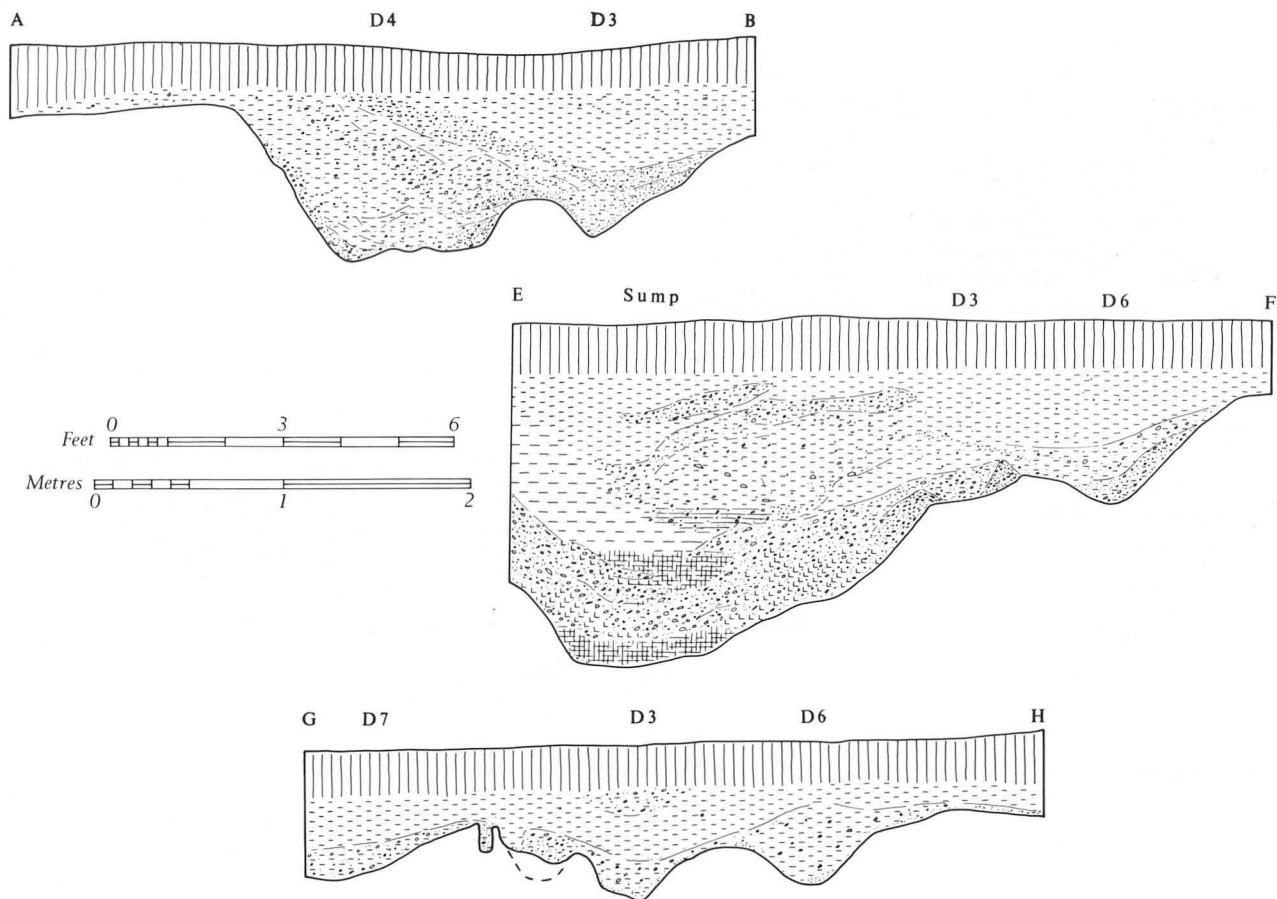


Figure 32 Tallington 1963-4: Sections through the features at the entrance to the enclosure. Scale 1:40

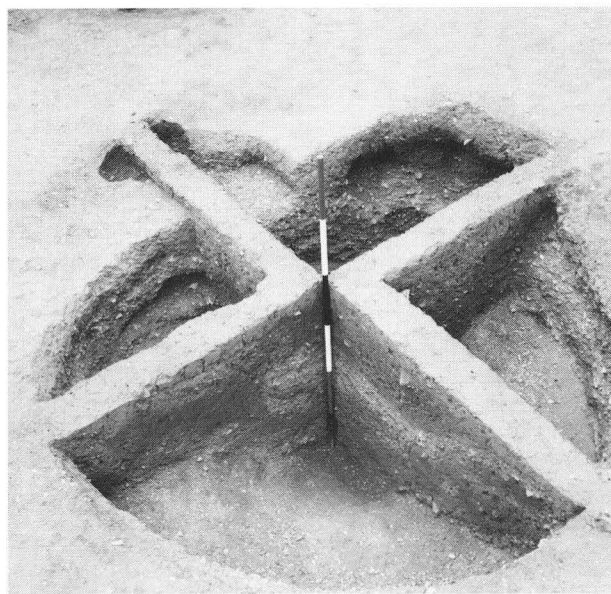


Plate XVIII Tallington 1963-4: Pit 9, showing excavated quadrants, from the north-east

Pl. XIX). In the south-east corner were the deepest features which had been hollowed out of the gravel surface. They can be sub-divided into a central hollow of sub-rectangular or oval outline of dish-shaped profile about 3 m across and 0.38 m deep (Fig. 38, Microfiche, Hollow 1, Section A-B), and two ditch-like features on

the south and east sides. The main ditch was L-shaped and about 0.80 m wide on the east side, slightly deeper than the adjacent hollow. On the south side there was an outer, slightly deeper (0.28 m) ditch which may have been secondary.

The west side of the feature (Pl. XX) was a gently rising plateau scooped a few centimetres into the gravel surface on the north side and sloping up to the subsoil surface on the south-west. This platform was the site of various timber structures. In the triangular area to the north were three lines of post-holes running east to west (Fig. 37, a-c, d-f, g-k, Type 1). It was separated from the south-west corner by the post line g-k which, together with a fourth line (m-p), formed a U-shaped enclosure around an oval pit measuring 1.5 × 1 m, with a post-hole at either end of it (q and r). It had a gentle southern slope down to a trench 0.55 m wide by 0.25 m deep (Fig. 37, vertical lines). The south-west side of the feature was defined by another line of three post-holes (s-u) and beyond were a pair of double post-holes (Fig. 37, Type 2). In addition, there were other possible post-holes, often less well defined, some of which may have been natural solution pipes, which seemed to be ancillary to the primary (Type 1) series. The most significant of these appears to be the line (Fig. 37, 6-10) running obliquely between lines d-f and g-k (post-holes g and e). There were also two groups of triple post-holes (3-5), one of which (13-15) lay outside the hollow to the west.

It is clear that there were two principal centres of activity. To the east the actual 'hollows' area was apparently open to the weather and the focus of activity

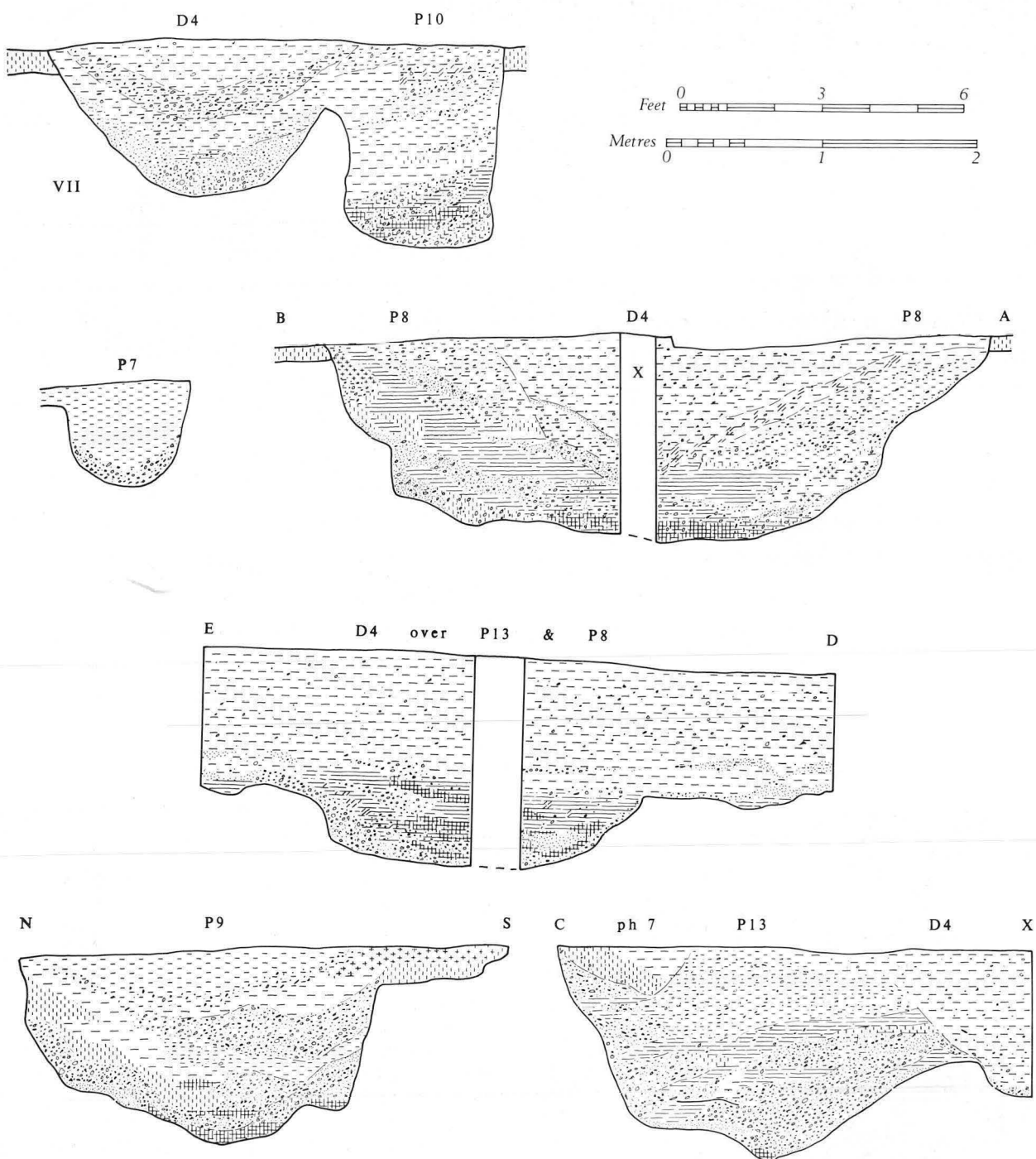


Figure 34 Tallington 1963-4: Sections through pits and enclosure ditch near the S.E. corner. Scale 1:40

was clearly the oval/sub-rectangular hollow. The exact nature of the timber structures on the gravel platform to the west is not immediately clear, but the pit enclosed by the post-holes g-p would seem to have been the focus of activity here.

Finds from the 'working hollow' were animal bones, charcoal, a large number of pot-boilers, some pieces of shelly limestone, stone fragments (possibly from querns) and pottery fragments. The pottery is mostly Early-Middle Iron Age, including Ancaster-Breedon Ware. In

general the density of finds appears to be related to the depth of deposit, so that most came from the 'hollow' and its surrounding ditches which probably became the receptacles for rubbish accumulated in the period of final use. There was, however, some evidence in the distribution of animal bones for a concentration around the pit (A) to the west of the 'hollow' and a general absence of them in the area to the north of it. The animal bones from the enclosure were mostly cattle (see below), including some bones with butchery marks.



Plate XIX Tallington 1963-4: 'Working Hollow' 1 from the south after excavation



Plate XX Tallington 1963-4: 'Working Hollow' 1 from the west

About 4 m to the north-west was a smaller sub-rectangular 'working hollow' (2) similar but less complex (Figs 28; 39, Microfiche). It measured 5.4 m from east to west and varied in width from 1.2–1.9 m. Like the larger hollow, it was excavated into the surface of the gravel to give a level, free-draining surface. A shallow elongated pit was located at its west end and a deeper oval pit at its south-east corner. About 1 m north of the latter was an arc of three post-holes in the floor of the hollow which could have supported a screen.

The finds from 'Working Hollow' 2 were similar to those from Hollow 1 but not so plentiful. The animal bones occurred mostly in the middle of the hollow and towards its west end, particularly in the west pit which also contained eight potsherds and some pot-boilers. There was a much greater concentration of pot-boilers and burnt stones in and around the pit at the south-east corner and also nine potsherds close to it.

Elsewhere in the enclosure, a number of simple post-hole arrangements were found. The most interesting was a four-post arrangement just over 2 m square with possible buttressing posts at its western corners (Figs 28; 48, Microfiche), located in the north-east corner of the enclosure. To the east of the 'working hollows' was a line of post-holes, interrupted by two medieval plough furrows, extending from north to south over a distance of about 20 m with another small group of post-holes immediately to the west (Fig. 28). Finally within the enclosure, an almost complete loomweight and part of another were found, together with a piece of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (Nos 132–4) on what was presumably the old ground surface preserved beneath the eastern edge of the plough headland, some 16 m north of Pit 9. These finds may indicate that there were other structures in the north-west corner of the enclosure destroyed by the gravel quarry. Air photographs certainly seem to show disturbance of the subsoil/gravel surface here beneath the later ploughsoil.

Later features

A line of post-holes (4, 7–12) and adjacent slot trenches (T2 and T3) were recorded just west of the south-west corner of the enclosure (Figs 29; 35, Microfiche). Excavation revealed that the slot-trench T2 had served to hold the bases of a line of small posts or stakes (Pl. XXI). Since the natural soil cover of the gravel was well preserved here beneath the medieval plough headland it was clear that this was an isolated feature and not part of a series of similar slots along the post-line 7–12. It was interpreted as a repair or later addition (?to block an original opening) to a post and hurdle fence or wall along this line. Post-hole 7 was the most northerly recorded but it is possible that the line continued further north beyond P8. The southern termination (?or corner) was at post-holes 11/12. It is possible that T3 was also part of the structure and that what survived of it represented the south-east corner of a building set against the levelled bank and infilled ditch (D4) of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosure.

The relationship of post-hole 7 and post-holes 10–12 to the enclosure (D4) and driveway (D3) ditches respectively indicated that the timber structure was later. The idea that it was part of a building receives some support from comparisons with structure A at Maxey Saxon settlement, which had corner buttresses



Plate XXI Tallington 1963-4: Timber palisade or wall (post-holes 8-12, T2) along the west side of the western ditch enclosure

constructed in this way, and also with structure D, which seems to have had wattle and clay walls which were, in places, constructed in short lengths or panels (Fennell and Addyman 1964). Unfortunately, it was not possible to investigate the hypothesis of the westward extension of the structure as the soil cover had already been removed from the gravel by the quarry operators.

An Anglo-Saxon presence in the vicinity was indicated by the pit excavated by Jones to the south-west (see Section III, above) and also by sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery along the line of the pit-alignment immediately west of the enclosure. Of more particular significance was the discovery of a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (No. 67) in the top fill of the enclosure ditch (D4) in the area over P8/13 but whether it was associated with this structure or with post-Roman agriculture was not established.

Enclosure 35 and Enclosure Complex 51 (Figs 24; 45, Microfiche)

A description of this crop-mark site and associated features is given in Microfiche (B.14–C.3)

The finds

by Jeffrey May

Note: Numbers in italics refer to unillustrated artefacts.

Site 36: Pit-alignment and features relevant to its date

Pit 4 (Fig. 41)

- Two small sherds, hand-made. One with red-brown surfaces and grey-black core, the other with red-brown exterior and grey-black internally and core. Shell filler up to 2 mm, some eroded. Late Bronze Age–Iron Age. ?*Upper fill.*
- Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead. The arrowhead is now missing, but an outline drawing survives in the excavation archive. It appears to be of Green Low Type i (Green, H.S. 1980, 140) and this example falls within the normal area of distribution of the type. They are most often found in Beaker contexts, particularly associated with Southern Beakers.



Figure 37 Tallington 1963-4: Plan of 'Working Hollow' 1. Scale 1:40

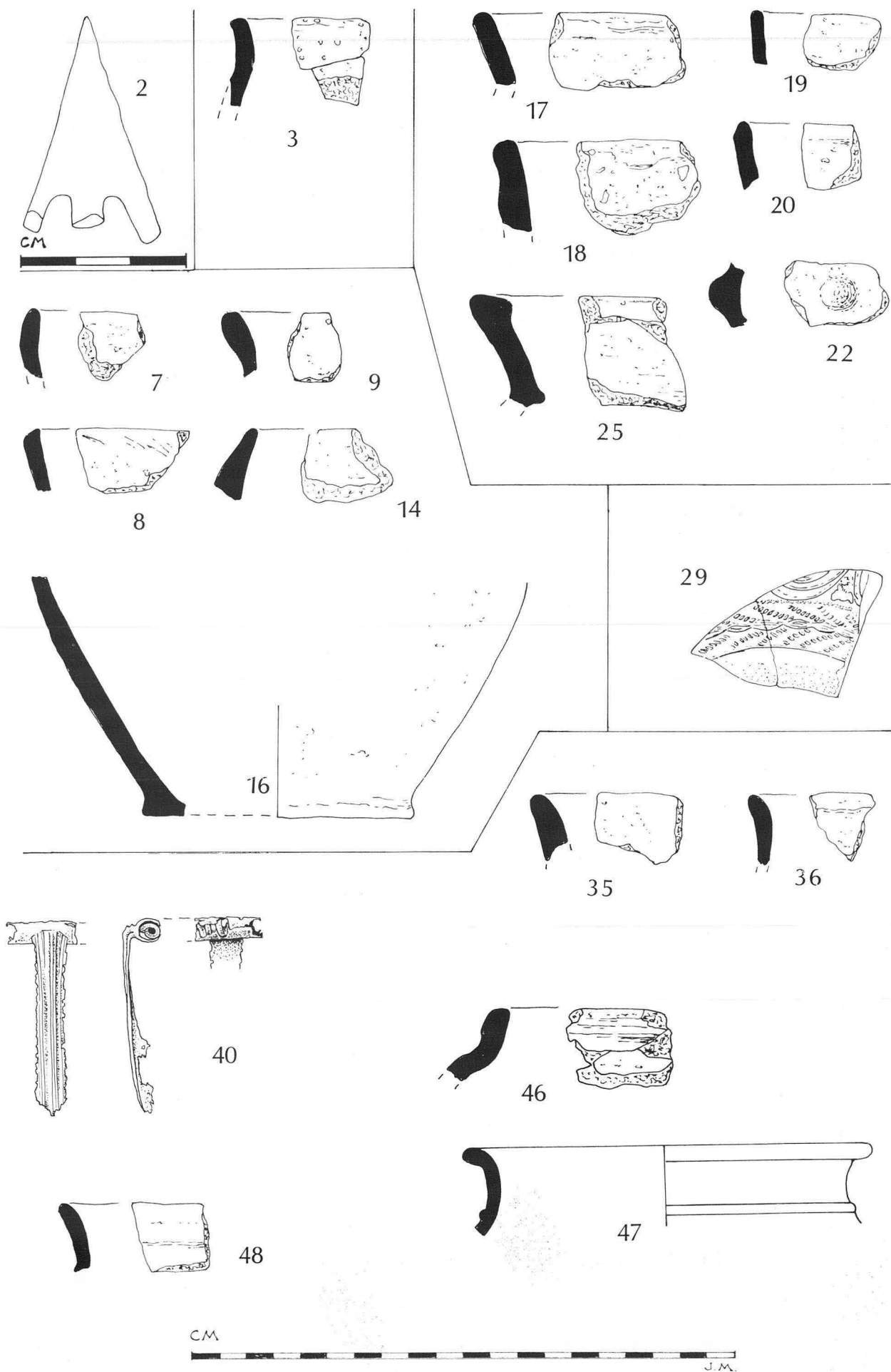


Figure 41 Tallington 1963-4: Finds from the pit-alignment and the roadway and enclosure ditches. Flint; Late Bronze Age-Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon, Romano-British pottery; and copper alloy brooch. Arranged by context (see Catalogue). Scale 1:2

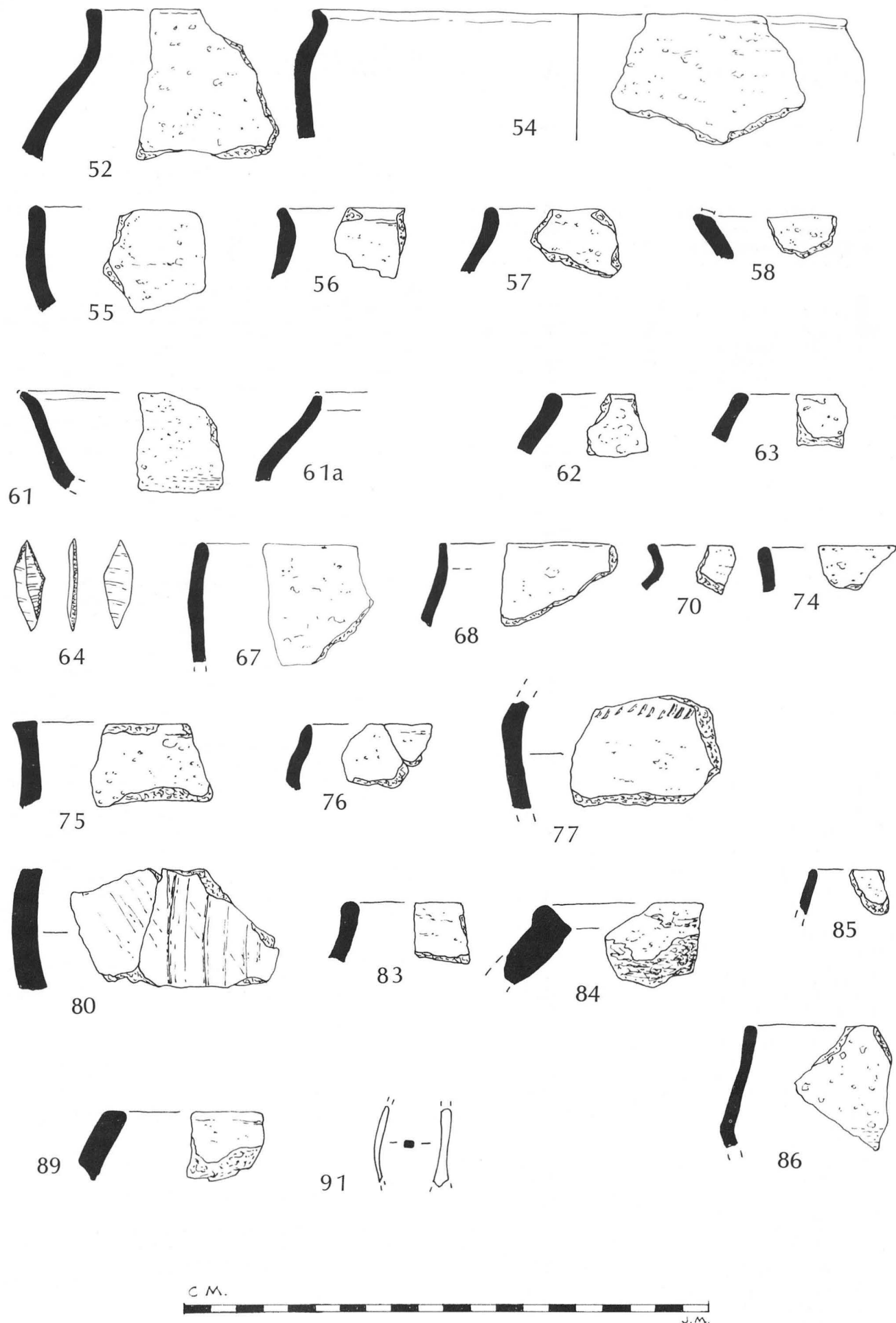


Figure 42 Tallington 1963-4: Finds from the roadway and enclosure ditches. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery and Mesolithic flint. Arranged by context (see Catalogue). Scale 1:2

Pit 29 (Fig. 41)

3. Rim of large jar, slightly out-turned and flattened; thin (6 mm), rough, hand-made. Red-brown externally, dark grey internally. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depth 0.35 m.*
4. Two sherds from similar vessels, hand-made. Shell-filled. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depths 0.05 m and 0.38 m.*

Pit 30 (Fig. 41)

5. Two sherds, hand-made. Brown surfaces and core now somewhat obscured by consolidant; extremely friable. Shell filler up to 4 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depths of 0.55 m and 0.63 m*, the latter close to the bottom of the pit in a layer of mixed stiff grey clay and gravel.

Pit 10 (Fig. 41)

6. Two joining sherds from rounded shoulder of jar or bowl, hand-made. Brown, with smooth surfaces and fine shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depth 0.12 m.*

Pit 5 (Fig. 41)

- 7-9, 10-12. Six small rim sherds, hand-made. Dark grey or black, some with grey-brown exterior. Profuse fine shell filler with occasional lumps up to 5 mm; Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
13. Seven sherds, some joining; base and wall of jar, hand-made. Red-brown externally, grey-black internally. Profuse coarse shell-filler up to 6 mm. Grass or chaff marks on base, similar to some Anglo-Saxon domestic wares (*cf.* Dorchester-on-Thames, May 1977; or south-western Dark Age pottery). Probably Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
14. Rim from large jar, hand-made. Brick-red externally, brown skin on brick-red internally, brown core. Profuse shell filler up to 2 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
15. 115 sherds of hand-made ware of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type, including two with traces of scoring.
16. Thirty-two sherds, wall and base, hard, gritty, hand-made. Brown-black throughout. Profuse fine stone ?filler. Anglo-Saxon.

Pit 6 (Fig. 41)

17. Rim of jar, hand-made. Red-brown externally, brown internally and core. Profuse shell filler up to 5 mm. Rim slightly lipped. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
18. Rim of jar, hand-made. Red-brown externally, brown internally and core. Profuse shell filler up to 6 mm. Rim slightly thickened. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
19. Rim, thin, hand-made. Black throughout. Stone and shell filler up to 2 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
20. Rim, hand-made. Black throughout. Stone filler, mainly fine, but one fragment 6 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
21. Base and lower wall of large jar, hand-made. Red-brown throughout. Profuse shell filler up to 4 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
22. Sherd, hand-made. Dark grey-black, brownish externally. Profuse fine shell filler; small circular boss. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
23. Seventy-five sherds, hand-made. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character.
24. Eight joining sherds from rounded jar. Grey-black, reddish externally. Fabric hard with sparse fine sandy filler. Anglo-Saxon.
25. Rim of jar. Brown throughout. Fine shell filler; similar to later Bronze Age fabrics, but 12th century AD form (C. Dallas).

Ditch 3 (Fig. 41)

26. Six small sherds, probably from one vessel, hand-made. Red-brown externally and dark grey internally. Fine shell filler up to 1 mm; thin wall (5 mm). Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
27. Sherd from large jar, hand-made. Red-brown externally, grey-black core and internally. Fine shell filler up to 1 mm. Thick wall (13 mm) with irregular scoring on exterior. Perhaps Ancaster-Breedon type scored ware. Middle Iron Age. *Depth 0.38 m.*
28. Two joining sherds, wheel-thrown. Brown externally, brick-red internally and core. Trace of horizontal groove on exterior and fine shell filler. Early Romano-British. One sherd from top of ditch, *depth of 0.025 m overlying Pit 27, other depth 0.38 m with No. 27, close to bottom of ditch, overlying Pit 28.*

29. Decorated samian, two joining sherds. South Gaulish Form 37. *Top filling near pit-alignment. c. AD 75-90.*

Ditch 3/Ditch 4, Pottery from the tops of the ditches at the south-west corner of the enclosure. (Fig. 41)

30. Rim, hand-made. Black, red-brown externally. Sparse filler of small particles now eroded. Also another sherd from the same vessel. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. Immediately west of south-west corner of *Enclosure 37.*
31. Base and wall, hand-made. Eroded filler (remaining fragments suggest shell). Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
32. Three other sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
33. Sherd of large jar. Grey-black with red-brown surfaces. Shell filler. Ancaster-Breedon style scoring. Middle Iron Age.
34. Three sherds from jar, wheel-thrown. Calcite-filled.
35. Rim, hand-made. Black, red-brown externally. Sparse filler of small particles now eroded. Also another sherd perhaps from the same vessel. *Both from lower topsoil.*

Ditch 3; cutting X (Fig. 41)

36. Rim from jar, hand-made. Red-brown and brown. Sparse shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depth 0.51 m.*
37. Two other sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depths 0.25 m and 0.50 m.*
38. Base of samian vessel, form Drag. 29 stamped O[F] NIG[RI] (NIGER of La Graufesenque, *c.* AD 55-70). *Depth 0.15 m.*
39. Plain samian sherd, form uncertain; South Gaulish, 1st century AD. *Depth 0.15 m.*
40. Copper alloy brooch. Langton Down type, mid-1st century AD. *Depth 0.15 m.*

Ditch 3/4; Cutting XI

41. Sherd of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age ware. *Depth 0.33 m.*
42. Sherd. Orange-brown throughout. Perhaps abraded Romano-British. *Depth 0.76 m.*

Ditch 3/4; mid-way along south side (Fig. 41)

43. Two conjoining base sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character; also two bodysherds similar. *Depth 0.76 m.*
44. Two sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character. *Depth 0.36 m.*
45. Sixteen sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character. *Top surface of ditch fill.*
46. Rim of jar, coarse, hand-made. Reddish-brown, dark grey externally. Coarse shell filler up to 4 mm. Rim out-turned with a slight bead and neck hollow below. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Top edge of ditch.*
47. Rim of bowl, hard, wheel-thrown. Grey throughout. Neck cordon and out-turned rim top. Early Romano-British. *Top of ditch.*

Ditch 5, near pit-alignment (Fig. 41)

48. Rim of jar, hard, gritty, hand-made. Black externally and core, brick-red below the interior of the rim. Sparse mica filler. Anglo-Saxon. *Surface of fill just east of the pit-alignment.*

Ditch 5; Cutting IX

49. Small sherd, coarse, hand-made. Shell-filled. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type. *Top fill.*
50. Small sherd, thin, fine, abraded. Grey throughout. ?Romano-British. *Top fill of ditch.*

Site 37: Rectangular Enclosure, Pits and Other Features**Enclosure ditch, west side, over Pits 8-13****Cutting I (north-west)**

51. Twenty-five sherds. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character.

Cutting III (mid-west). Unstratified. (Fig. 42)

52. Rim from large jar with rounded shoulder of about 380 mm girth, hand-made. Dark grey core with red-brown surfaces. Profuse shell filler up to 4 mm. Rim upright and flattened on top. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
53. Small rim, perhaps from the same vessel as No. 52.
54. Rim from large jar or bowl, very rough, hand-made. Light-brown externally and black internally. Pebble filler up to

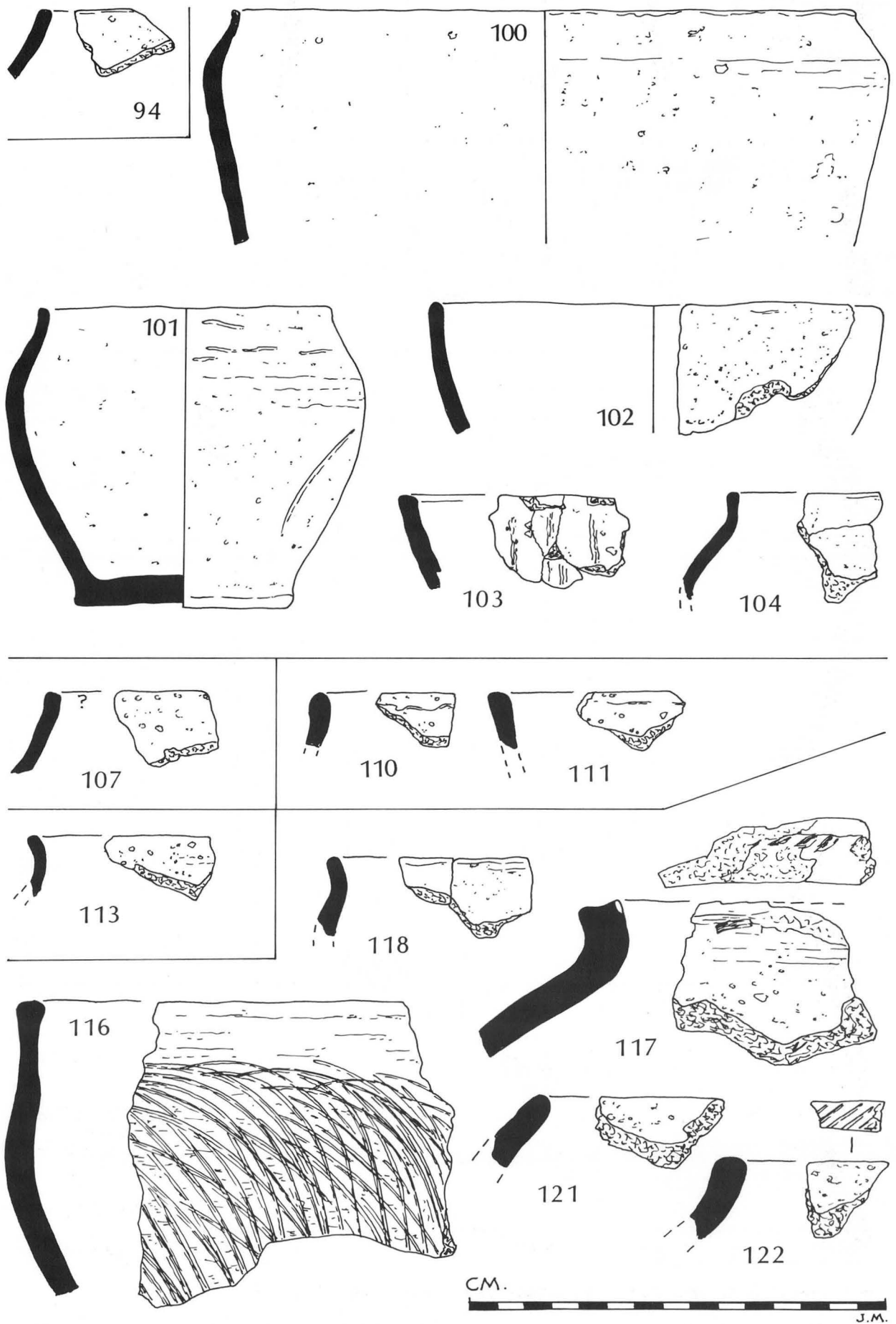


Figure 43 Tallington 1963-4: Finds from the pits and 'Working Hollow' 1. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age and Middle Iron Age pottery arranged by context (see Catalogue). Scale 1:2

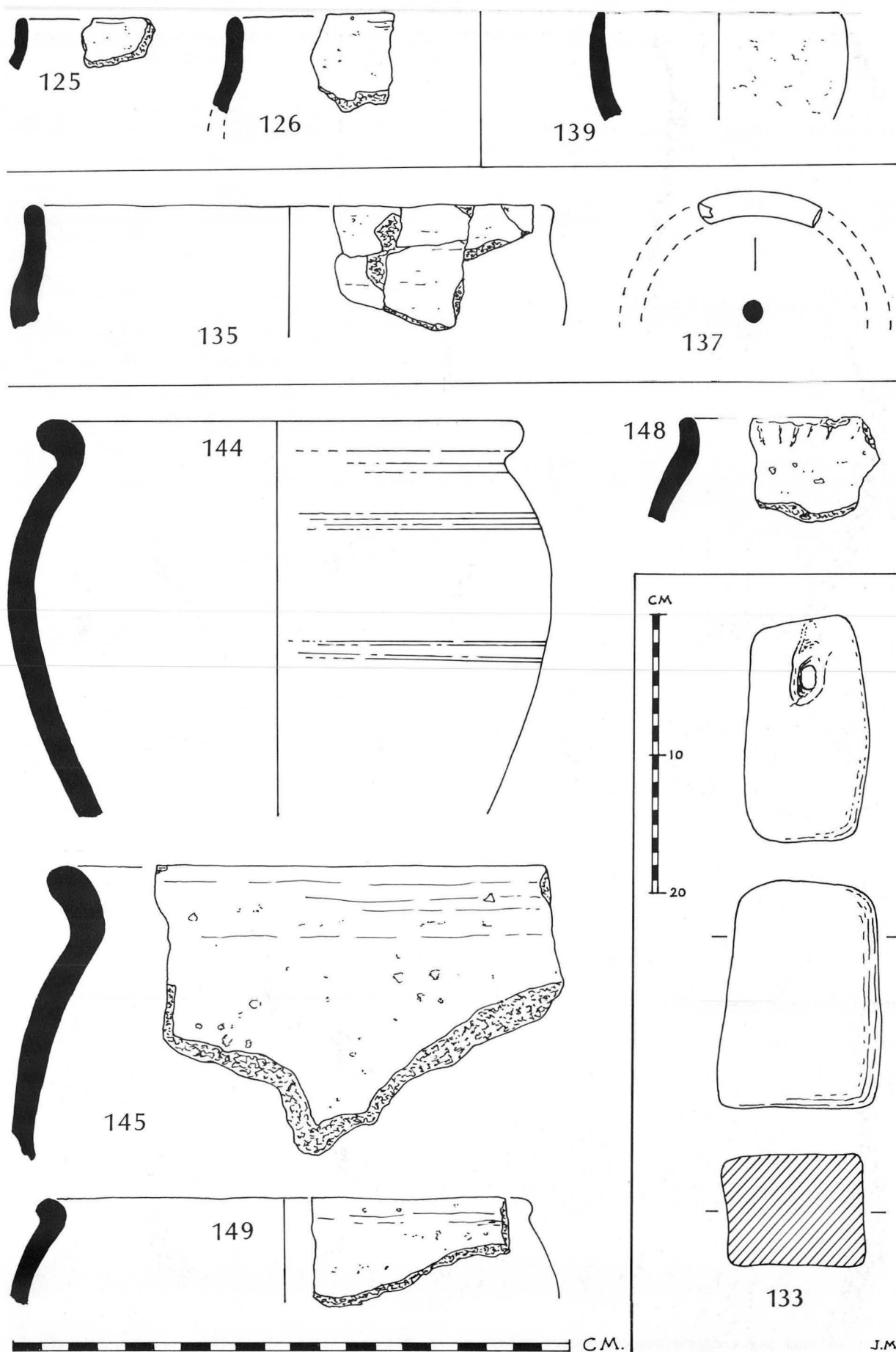


Figure 44 Tallington 1963-4: Finds from minor features, from KR Fennell's excavations and Enclosures 35 and 51. Early Neolithic, Late Bronze Age-Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Romano-British pottery; Loomweight (No. 133); and shale armlet (No. 137). Arranged by context (see Catalogue). Scale 1:2

3 mm. Rim top slightly lipped with internal bevel. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.

55. Rim, similar to No. 54, but top rounded. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
56. Rim, hand-made. Dark grey core, brown surfaces. Sparse fine shell filler. Similar to No. 36. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
57. Rim, rough, hand-made. Dark grey core, orange-brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
58. Rim or lid, hand-made. Black externally and core, brown internally. Filler mainly eroded leaving pitted surfaces. Apparently an internal bevel to rim, but worn down where indicated. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
59. Small rim sherd, hand-made; wall 10 mm thick. Dark grey core, orange-brown surfaces. Profuse shell filler up to 5 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
60. 127 sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Cutting III; top fill of Ditch 4 (depth 0.30–0.60 m). (Fig. 42)

61. Sherd, probably from rim of carinated bowl, out-turned, tapered and with internal bevel. The vessel was alternatively considered as a jar (62a), but this is less likely. Brown surface, although reddish beneath at top of rim. Profuse shell filler up to 3 mm *cf.* Maxey (May in Simpson 1981, 51, fig. 9.1). Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
62. Small rim sherd from jar, coarse, hand-made, slightly thickened and rounded. Reddish-brown throughout. Shell filler up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
63. Small rim sherd from jar, hand-made, slightly incurving and flattened. Black throughout. Shell and stone filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
64. Flint blade. Brown, translucent, unpatinated flint, with secondary working. ?Mesolithic. *Depth 0.30 m.*
65. Flint scraper. Grey-black unpatinated flint, roughly knapped, with secondary working around one side. *Depth 0.51 m.*
66. Twenty-six sherds including three base fragments. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
67. Rim of jar, thin, hard, gritty, hand-made. Black core, black-brown surfaces. Fine stone filler up to 2 mm and mica. Anglo-Saxon. *Post-hole 7 or medieval plough disturbance.*

Cutting III; charcoal-filled layer (Fig. 42)

68. Rim of large jar, hand-made, remarkably thin, fine, hard, smooth ware although roughly potted. Dark grey core and brown-grey surfaces. Rim neatly flattened on top with finely marked internal bevel. Sparse stone and shell filler, mostly fine, but some up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
69. Rim from same or similar vessel as No. 54. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
70. Rim, thin-walled, carefully shaped, hand-made. Grey core and reddish-brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 2 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
- 71–3 Rims similar to No. 68, with flattened tops, but slightly thicker coarser shell-filled ware. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
74. Rim, rounded at the top. Dark grey throughout. Shell filler up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
75. Rim of large coarse jar with slightly expanded and flattened top. Grey core, orange-brown surfaces. Profuse shell filler up to 2 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
76. Rim of jar, hand-made, finely tapered at top, wall thin (5 mm). Grey core, red-brown surfaces. Fine shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
77. Sherd from slightly angular shoulder of large jar, coarse, hand-made. Brown externally, grey internally and core. Shell and stone filler up to 3 mm. Row of finger-nail impressions on shoulder. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
78. Seventy body sherds including two base fragments. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.

Cutting IV (east side) (Fig. 42)

79. Rim of jar, hand-made, upright and rounded at top. Grey-black core, brown surfaces. Sparse fine shell filler. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
80. Two joining sherds of large jar, hard, hand-made. Dark grey core, brown, orange-buff and grey surfaces. Very sparse

fine stone filler. Interior surface has fine horizontal smoothing marks, exterior has vertical shallow spaced grooves done by spatula or finger, each about 7 mm wide. Iron Age.

81. Nineteen sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

82. Four small fragments of fired clay, perhaps daub or loomweight.

Cutting V (south-west) (Fig. 42)

83. Rim of jar, hand-made, upright, rounded and thickened, with slight neck hollow. Grey core, orange-brown internally, brown externally. Fine sparse shell filler up to 1 mm, together with occasional larger stone fragments. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
84. Rim of large jar, coarse, thick (10 mm or more), hand-made. Rim inward curving with rough bead and internal bevel. Grey-black core and internally, grey or reddish externally. Profuse shell filler up to 6 mm. Iron Age.
85. Rim, upright and rounded from small jar with thin wall (4 mm), coarse, hand-made. Grey-black core with brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 3 mm, although external surfaces well smoothed. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
86. Rim, large, thin walled (4 mm near the rim, although some surface erosion), rough, coarse, hand-made, rim flattened; shoulder angle. The vessel was probably an angular jar rather than a carinated bowl. Grey-black internally, red-brown externally. Profuse shell filler up to 6 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
87. Seventeen sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Enclosure Ditch (D4) west side; Cutting VII

88. Six sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Enclosure Ditch (D4) entrance at south-east corner (Fig. 42)

89. Rim of jar, hand-made. Rim incurved and flattened. Grey-black core, brown and black surfaces. Shell filler up to 4 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. *Depth 0.57 m.*
90. Small rim sherd. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
91. Copper alloy bar, broken at both ends; surviving length 30 mm. Slightly curving, rectangular section for most of length; one end flattened and expanded. Possibly Late Bronze Age-Iron Age owing to its depth in the ditch. Similar pieces occur occasionally in Late Bronze Age contexts, *eg.* Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks. (Britten 1968, 208; fig. 11, no. 18). South edge of D4. *Depth 0.73 m*
92. Thirty-two sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type, including two joining sherds from the base of a coarse, heavy jar.

Features within and beneath the south-west corner of Enclosure Ditch 4

Pit 7

93. Six sherds, hand-made. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Pit 8 (Fig. 43)

94. Rim of large jar, *cf.* No. 86, thin walled (5 mm), hand-made. Rim upright with flattened top. Brown throughout. Fine shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age.
95. Base and wall. Brown core, red-brown externally. Profuse shell filler up to 4 mm. Wide shallow tool marks *cf.* No. 80 but softer. Iron Age.
96. Four sherds of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.
97. Two fragments of ?daub, one with ?wattle impression.
98. Fragment of roughly modelled fired clay, grey and reddish-brown, relatively light in weight and perhaps filled with finely chopped grass or chaff, now burnt out. The piece is somewhat similar to saltern briquetage, and was perhaps from a salt-drying kiln.
99. Two large and three small fragments (*cf.* No. 98), perhaps saltern debris. Also fourteen heavier fragments of fired clay without chaff, perhaps daub or loomweight.

Pit 9 (Fig. 43)

100. Rim and shoulder of wide-mouthed jar or bowl, roughly-made. Wall up to 7 mm thick at shoulder, but tapers to a thin slightly lipped rim. Brown core, red-brown externally below shoulder. Profuse coarse shell filler up to 5 mm. Late Bronze Age.
101. Thirty or more joining sherds, and others, from small jar, coarse, rough, hand-made, *cf.* No. 100. Rim finely tapered,

shoulder rounded and base slightly pinched out. Red-brown and brown internally, darker grey and brown externally with grey core. Shell filler up to 5 mm. Late Bronze Age.

102. Rim from rounded bowl, rough, hand-made. Dark grey internally and core, brown externally. Profuse shell filler up to 5 mm. Late Bronze Age.
103. Rim from very large jar or open bowl, rough hand-made. If from a jar, the rim may have been out-turned; the rim top is internally bevelled and approximately 300 mm in diameter. Brown throughout. Shell filler up to 2 mm. Rough vertical finger-marks. Late Bronze Age.
104. Rim and shoulder of large jar, fine, hand-made, carefully modelled. Rim upright and flattened; shoulder angle. Brown throughout, smoothed externally. Sparse fine shell filler, generally less than 1 mm. Late Bronze Age.
105. Six sherds, some joining, from the bases of between two and four jars, rough. Brown or red-brown. Shell filler. Two bases are markedly pinched out. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
106. Sixty-three other sherds, hand-made, some joining, of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Pit 10 (Fig. 43)

107. Rim from large thin-walled (4–5 mm) jar, hand-made. Rim upright (*cf.* No. 86) but top more rounded. Dark grey throughout. Filler eroded leaving vesicular surfaces. Late Bronze Age.
108. Sherd from jar, hand-made. Grey core and internally, red-brown externally. Sparse fine shell filler, generally less than 1 mm. Light scoring on surface, *cf.* vessel from Brigg, Lincs. (May 1976, fig. 62.2). Late Bronze Age.
109. Seven sherds, some coarse, thick-walled, and shell-filled; others fine, thin walled and smooth, hand-made. All of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age character.

Pit 13 (Fig. 43)

110. Rim of jar, hand-made. Rim rounded and roughly lipped. Grey core, brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
111. Rim of jar, hand-made. Rim flattened and slightly lipped. Grey core, brown or reddish-brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 2 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
112. Two sherds from round shouldered vessels. One near-complete base, 65 mm in diameter. Thirty-eight other sherds of hand-made shell-filled wares of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age type.

Pits 15–20, 'working hollows' and other features in the centre of the enclosure

Pit 15 (Fig. 43)

113. Rim of large jar, hand-made. Rim top upright and slightly flattened. Dark grey-brown throughout. Profuse shell filler up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
114. About fifteen sherds, hand-made, mostly very small. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.

Pit 16

115. Five sherds, hand-made. Shell-filled. Iron Age character. One piece of fired clay, perhaps from an oven, or daub.

'Working hollow' 1 (Fig. 43)

116. Six joining sherds of large jar, coarse, hard hand-made. Brown-black internally, core and rim top, brick-red externally below shoulder. Sparse shell filler up to 9 mm. Rim top flattened, scoring on and below the shoulder. Ancaster-Breedon Ware, Middle Iron Age.
117. Rim of large jar, coarse, hand-made. Brown core, brown on brick-red internally, brick-red and brown externally. Profuse shell filler up to 5 mm. Oblique cuts on top edge of rim. If the angle is shown correctly the girth of the vessel must have been enormous. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
118. Rim of jar, rough, hand-made. Black throughout. Fine shell filler largely eroded. Iron Age.
119. Rim of jar, hand-made. Rim slightly flattened and expanded. Similar to No. 116, possibly from the same vessel. Black throughout. Fine shell filler (although one fragment 7 mm). Iron Age.
120. Rim similar to No. 116, possibly from the same vessel. Iron Age.

121. Rim of jar, hand-made. Rim top rounded. Brown core, red-brown internally, dark grey externally. Shell filler up to 3 mm. Iron Age.
122. Rim of jar, hand-made. Dark grey throughout. Sparse eroded filler. Rim top thickened and has incised cable decoration. Iron Age.
123. One hundred and twelve other sherds from walls of hand-made jars. Ninety-two are undecorated, twenty have scoring of Ancaster-Breedon type. The wares include some with profuse coarse shell fillers, but in general, there is less shell filling than in the pottery from Ditch 4. The sherds are generally thicker walled than those from Ditch 4, with many around 9–10mm. Mainly Middle Iron Age.
124. Fragment of sandstone quern, type uncertain.

'Working hollow' 2 (Fig. 44)

125. Rim of jar, thin-walled and finely potted, hand-made. Rim upright and rounded. Grey-black internally and core, red-brown externally. Sparse fine shell filler up to 1 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
126. Rim of jar, hard, hand-made. Rim upright and rounded. *cf.* Ancaster Quarry (May, forthcoming). Black throughout. Sparse shell filler. Middle Iron Age.
127. Base of thick-walled jar, hand-made. Grey core, brown or red-brown surfaces. Sparse shell filler. The sherd is light, resembling crucible or saltern pottery but although there is some erosion of the filler, there is no trace of burnt out chaff, as in the clay fragments Nos 98–99 above.
128. Two other sherds, hand-made, one with broad vertical finger smoothing. Iron Age.

Post-hole 34

129. Three or more joining sherds from rounded shoulder of very large jar, hand-made. Black core, brown or red-brown surfaces. Shell filler up to 5 mm. Faint vertical scoring. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.

Feature T4

130. Six very small sherds of Iron Age type hand-made pottery, one with scoring.

Feature T6

131. Three sherds, hand-made. Red-brown and brown. Profuse shell filler up to 5 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.

From the old ground surface 16.4 m north of Pit 9 (Fig. 44)

132. Base of large jar, hand-made. Black internally and core, reddish-buff externally. Filler eroded leaving holes up to 3 mm. Late Bronze Age-Iron Age.
133. Loomweight, sub-rectangular and nearly complete; oval hole.
134. Loomweight, sub-rectangular lower part; lower edge of hole survives.

Rectangular or sub-rectangular weights, usually interpreted as loomweights, are known from sites of the Late Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age, and in general, seem to pre-date the triangular loomweights of the later Iron Age. The Tallington weights compare with other Midland examples, as at Willington, Derbyshire (Elsdon in Wheeler, H. 1979, for most recent discussion).

From K R Fennell's 1960 excavations

The finds cannot now be attributed to the trenches or particular features from which they came.

(Fig. 44)

135. Rim and shoulder, hand-made. Dark grey or brown-grey throughout. Profuse fine shell filler up to 2 mm. Exterior burnished. The form and fabric compares with the rim of the footring bowl from Ancaster (May 1976, fig. 69.7) although the vessel is apparently larger and the rim more upright. A few other sherds from the same vessel may be included in No. 136 below.
136. Sixty-one sherds, including five small rim sherds, from hand-made vessels. Brown, grey or orange-brown. Usually profuse fine shell filler. Several sherds are from round shouldered bowls or jars with smooth or burnished exterior surfaces. *cf.* No. 135 above. Two sherds have single shallow grooves *c.* 4 mm wide, *cf.* No. 80 above, and perhaps two others have light brush marks.

There is a marked absence of the thin-walled, roughly-

potted jars or the delicate, upright, flat-topped rims thought to be of the later Bronze Age. Although none of sherds has the deep scoring of the Ancaster-Breedon type, in general the pottery seems likely to be of the Middle Iron Age.

137. Shale armet fragment. Cross-section rounded and slightly oval, with turning marks and faceting on the inner side. Internal diameter originally about 80 mm.

Such armlets or bracelets are to be found at sites certainly or probably of the later Bronze Age or earliest Iron Age, but they also appear in contexts as late as the Romano-British period. Early examples from the English Midlands are known from Mam Tor, Derbyshire (Coombs and Thompson 1979, 44 and fig. 28, 4-6), later examples are recorded at Fengate, Cat's Water (Pryor 1984, 161 and 196, figs. 115.1 and 136.1).

From the ring-ditch in the south-west corner of Site 35 (Fig. 44)

138. Loomweight fragment, with part of hole. No outer surface survives.
139. Thirteen or more joining sherds from a small rounded bowl, soft, crumbly, rough, hand-made. Black throughout. Fine stone filler up to 1 mm. The vessel could be Neolithic, although the form is not recorded at Fengate among the earlier Neolithic pottery (Pryor 1974, 9).

Finds from medieval plough furrows

140. One small sherd of Romano-British grey ware.
141. Iron penannular ring, 60 mm in diameter, perhaps part of horse harness or agricultural equipment.
142. Four iron nails.
143. One small fragment of copper alloy, from surface over 'Working Hollow' 1.

Site 51 enclosure complex (Fig. 44)

144. Complete upper portion of jar, wheel-thrown. Grey core, patchy grey-black and orange-brown surfaces. Profuse coarse shell filler up to 8 mm. Rough shoulder and girth grooves. Romano-British. *Bottom of sump.*
145. Rim of large jar, coarse, wheel-thrown, rim diameter 400-430 mm. Grey core, grey-black and red-brown surfaces. Profuse coarse shell filler up to 6 mm. Romano-British. *Brown soil near top of sump.*
146. Nine sherds of coarse Iron Age hand-made pottery; one sherd of coarse wheel-thrown pottery; two fragments of clay ?loomweights of unidentifiable form. From all levels of the sump.

Unstratified sherds from spoil heaps adjacent to the sump (Fig. 44)

147. Ten sherds of coarse hand-made pottery, including one with deep Ancaster-Breedon type scoring. Iron Age.
148. Rim of jar, coarse, hand-made. Grey core, brown internally, red-brown externally with black surface skin. Iron Age.
149. Rim from bead-rim jar, hand-made. Black throughout. Profuse shell filler up to 4 mm. Iron Age.
150. Piece of burnt flint.

Discussion

In general, most of the pottery from Sites 36 and 37 compares both in form and in fabric with that from Maxey OS 124 (Simpson 1981), less than 3 km to the south-east. The only feature to produce a substantial quantity of other material was Working hollow 1, which contained an important group of pottery of Ancaster-Breedon type, thought to belong to the Middle Iron Age.

Other datable finds included a Mesolithic flint, small amounts of Romano-British pottery and metalwork, a small but noteworthy quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and a few sherds of medieval pottery.

The pit-alignment (Site 36)

Pit-alignment pits 4, 29, 30 and Pit 10 to the east of the alignment, produced pottery comparable with that from Maxey OS 124, thought to be later Bronze Age, together with a large barbed and tanged arrowhead of earlier Bronze Age type. Although the quantity of pottery is small, some sherds are recorded from depths of more than 300 mm in the pits, and could belong to the early

phases of silting or infilling.

Pits 5 and 6, which cut the pit-alignment, produced larger quantities of later Bronze Age pottery, supporting an early date for the alignment itself. Anglo-Saxon pottery came from both pits, however, although it is not possible to say at what depth. It may be noted that no Anglo-Saxon pottery came from the pit-alignment pits themselves. It is probably significant that although there is Romano-British occupation debris in the vicinity, none was found in Pits 5 and 6, which might have been the case if they had been dug in the Anglo-Saxon period. It seems likely that Pits 5 and 6 are of later Bronze Age date.

The pottery from Ditch 3, which also cut the pit-alignment, is likewise of later Bronze Age character, apart from a few sherds of Romano-British pottery recorded from the upper filling.

On balance, a date in the later Bronze Age seems most likely for the pit-alignment, although this cannot be regarded as certain.

Site 37: rectangular enclosure

A considerable quantity of later Bronze Age pottery came from Enclosure Ditch 4, together with contemporary daub or loomweight fragments, and possible saltern debris, a Mesolithic flint and a Langton Down brooch of the 1st century AD. A group of pits (7-13) near the south-western corner of the enclosure ditch, also produced later Bronze Age pottery. A particularly important group, which included a sherd of carinated bowl of Maxey type, came from Pit 9. It seems likely that the enclosure belongs to the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

The group of pits near the centre of the enclosure produced very little pottery, while nearby 'working hollows' contained pottery of Ancaster-Breedon type, dating probably to the Middle Iron Age, c. 5th-2nd centuries BC. The group from Working Hollow 1 contrasts clearly with the pottery from the rest of the site. A few sherds of Romano-British wares, late 1st-century samian and a Langton Down brooch, also of 1st-century date, are also recorded.

Zoological and botanical evidence

The mammalian bones (Table 14; Microfiche) by Mary Harman

The site yielded only a small quantity of bone, most of which was in reasonable condition, broken but quite sound: some had been preserved during excavation by an application of PVA. Most of the pieces were identifiable and were listed. The majority of the bones were regarded as belonging to the Early Iron Age; but Pit 13 was of an earlier period. The lists are summarised in Table 14, further details appear on Microfiche (C.4-5).

There is an obvious preponderance of cattle bones, and though sheep appear to have been quite important numerically, they would have yielded far less meat than the cattle.

Most of the cattle bones were from animals of full size though there were two mandibles from calves approaching the end of their first year, and a few other bones, though large, had unfused epiphyses. Several of the sheep mandibles still had the deciduous molars and some of the postcranial bones were also from young animals. The pig remains were derived from both juvenile and mature animals. All the horse remains were

	Cattle		Sheep		Pig		Horse	
	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R
Skull		2	1					
Maxilla	1	2			1			
Mandible	5	6	3	6	1	3	1	1
Tooth		18		17		9		4
Vertebra		2						1
Rib		1						
Scapula	1	4		1	1	1		1
Humerus	1	2	2	1	2			1
Radius	7	5	2	3	1	1		
Metacarpal		1	3	1				
Pelvis	1	4						1
Femur	3	1	3				1	
Tibia	2	3	5	5		1	2	1
Astragalus	1	1						
Calcaneum					1			
Metatarsal	1	2	1	1			2	
Phalanx 1	1		2					2
Phalanx 2		1						
Phalanx 3		2						
Total*		63		37		13		13

*Total excludes teeth, vertebrae and ribs + Dog: part cranium, L mandible, metapodial. Vole? mandible
Human: femur L shaft, tibia L shaft, neonatal.

Table 14 Tallington 1963-4: Bones from Ditch 4, Pits 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15, and 'Working-Hollows' 1 and 2

from mature animals. All the animals were fairly small; the horse remains suggest they were from animals of small pony size.

Butchery marks occur in three cattle bones, on one femoral head and on two metatarsal shafts, just below the proximal end, but the total number of bones is too small for any further useful comment.

Human Bone, (Table 14)

by Mary Harman

Two human infant bones (left femur, left tibia) were recovered from 'Working hollow' 2

Analysis of pollen samples (Table 15)

by J.R. Pilcher

Sample 1: base of a pit of the pit-alignment, west of Site 35. The preservation in this sample was poor with nearly 20% of the pollen unidentifiable. The tree-pollen percentage is low and the percentage of *Liguliflorae* group of *Compositae* (dandelion type) is high. The total tree-pollen percentage is very low (9.3%) in comparison with the modern pollen samples taken in the Welland Valley in 1967, which had an average tree-pollen percentage of 21.5%. The general appearance of the landscape must have been considerably more open than at present and the total pollen assemblage suggests pastoral farmland.

Sample 2: Pit 8, 42 cm above the natural gravel (Fig. 35, Microfiche, section X-X (E)).

As well as having the highest total tree-pollen percentage of the Welland Valley samples studied, this sample has high values for oak and elm pollen and is the only sample to contain birch pollen. Cereal pollen is absent and plantain pollen forms less than 1% of the total. By comparison with modern pollen counts it is suggested that this spectrum represents either a large clearing in a wooded area or a parkland situation. The absence of cereal pollen and the general low level of 'weed' pollen suggests little agricultural activity in the immediate vicinity. On the basis of the pollen content and comparison with other Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age samples including Samples 1 and 3 from this site, it is suggested that this sample could be much earlier than Iron Age. The archaeological evidence ascribes a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date to the pit from which the sample was taken, but it is possible that the pit contained

material from an earlier deposit.

Sample	1	2	3
<i>Betula</i>	0	7.0	0
<i>Pinus</i>	0	0	+
<i>Ulmus</i>	0	1.5	0
<i>Quercus</i>	0	4.5	1.0
<i>Alnus</i>	3.7	15.0	4.5
<i>Salix</i>	+	0	0
<i>Corylus</i>	4.6	11.5	4.0
Total tree pollen	9.3	39.5	10.0
<i>Graminaea</i>	26.0	8.5	39.0
Cereal type	+	0	+
<i>Cyperaceae</i>	+	0	+
<i>Plantago</i>	6.6	+	14.5
<i>Rumex</i>	0	0	+
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>	4.0	1.0	+
<i>Umbelliferae</i>	+	+	0
<i>Papilionaceae</i>	+	+	1.0
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>	+	1.0	3.5
<i>Rosaceae</i>	+	2.0	1.0
<i>Compositae - Tubuliflorae</i>	+	1.0	2.5
<i>Compositae - Liguliflorae</i>	24.6	43.0	10.0
<i>Cruciferae</i>	4.0	0	3.0
Damaged and unidentifiable	18.6	3.0	14.0

+ indicates pollen present at less than 1%

Table 15 Tallington 1963-4: Pollen counts

Sample 3: Pit 8 immediately above natural gravel (Fig. 35, Microfiche, section X-X (A)).

This sample has a low tree-pollen percentage, a high percentage of plantain pollen and abundant pollen of other weeds, especially *Liguliflorae* group of *Compositae* (dandelion type). The spectrum is characteristic of very open countryside with intensive pastoral farming. Except for the proportions of some of the weeds, the spectrum is similar to that of Sample 1.

V. Discussion and Conclusions

The monuments of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age described above are, in chronological order, the pit-alignment, the droveway, the rectangular enclosure(s) and the 'working hollows' within them.

The pit-alignment

In Gavin Simpson's excavations, the pit-alignment was of a single row of pits crossed by the ditches of roadway 48 (Fig. 24), and associated with a small, rectangular enclosure (37). Further south, in the area excavated by Mrs Jones, the alignment consisted of a double row of

pits. This is a most unusual arrangement since by far and away the majority of pit-alignments in Britain are of single rows of pits.

This pit-alignment is also unusual in that the majority of excavated pit-alignments are of Iron Age date. However, the early (Late Bronze Age) date of the present monument seems in little doubt. Indeed, it should be pointed out that the pottery from both excavations was studied separately and independently and both studies agreed on its Bronze Age attribution. It might be argued that sherds from within the filling of a feature can provide no more than a *terminus post quem* for its actual use, but the condition and quantity of the material from Simpson's excavations (see above, Section IV) argue against so conservative a view.

The pottery from Jones' excavations was less well preserved, but both collections are clearly of the same broad, Late Bronze Age, type. The forms and fabrics clearly antedate the well-known and diagnostic Early Iron Age wares, as seen at Vicarage Farm, Fengate and elsewhere (Pryor 1984, group 1). On the other hand, none of the characteristically Bronze Age forms and fabrics found, for example, at Flag Fen (Pryor *et al.* 1986) are present at Tallington.

The interpretation of pit-alignments has been the subject of much speculation and debate (R.C.H.M. 1960; Jackson, D.A. 1974; Barber 1985). It seems generally agreed, however, that they defined boundaries and consideration of the evidence has usually led to suggestions either that the pits were dug to hold fence posts or to provide material for a bank (Miket 1981; Jackson, D.A. 1974). The base of a post was found at Tallington, apparently in a pit of the alignment. The radiocarbon date obtained from the post, if calibrated at 2-sigma limits (745–205 BC), would not necessarily be at variance with the evidence of any of the hand-made prehistoric pottery from the alignment (Baillie and Pilcher 1983). The pollen evidence too is compatible with a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. Although construction of the alignment seems most likely to have taken place in the Late Bronze Age, the true age of the post could well be much later.

The possibility that there were banks on both sides of the alignment is suggested by the location of the two later pits, P5 and P6. Though on opposite sides of the alignment, they occupy similar positions in relation to it. A similar boundary of slightly later date may have existed at Maxey. Here excavations revealed a linear ditch of W-profile which it was suggested may have been embanked on either side (Simpson 1985).

That some pit-alignments were boundaries defined by banks is surely demonstrated by the deep ditches which were later cut along or beside them as, for example, the pit-alignments at Maxey and Catholme, Staffs. (Chap. 4; Losko-Bradley, pers. comm.). On parts of the North Yorkshire Moors which had not been cultivated in recent times, Mortimer was still able to see, at the end of the last century, single and double pit-alignments marked by shallow depressions in the ground and sometimes with banks alongside them (Mortimer 1895). In some instances the pits could be seen to increase in length until they became interrupted ditches and eventually linear ditches. Also, it has been recognised in recent years that a number of boundary pit-alignments

still survive in Scotland with their accompanying banks (MacInnes 1982, 75–8).

A bank at least has the advantage that it would have greater permanence than a fence. Fences or linear earthworks were the only practical means of constructing effective boundaries rapidly in a landscape such as the Welland gravels where stone is not readily available. A bank of minimal dimensions became more effective in course of time with a hedgerow growing on it. Such a boundary would have been required particularly by pastoralists in a situation where an abandoned landscape was being recolonised or where a radical reorganisation of the system of land tenure was being introduced. Such may have been the reasons for the extensive earthwork boundaries at Tallington.

The alignment pits excavated by Simpson seemed to fall into two groups; those on either side of the roadway ditches with those cut by them (PA1–28 and 34–36) and those between the roadway ditches (PA29–33; Fig. 24). The latter were remarkable for their rather larger size and clear westward deviation from the more or less straight line followed by the smaller pits to the north. It is however possible, on the evidence of plan alone, that the pits to north and south of the roadway also followed slightly different alignments. Unfortunately, too few pits were excavated and planned to the south of the roadway to be absolutely certain.

Marked changes in direction of groups of pits within an alignment have been noted elsewhere. A pit-alignment at Gretton, Northants. had six consecutive pits which were offset 0.67 m from its centre line (Jackson, D.A. 1974). Other lesser displacements in the alignment were also noted and were attributed to the use of different gangs engaged in the construction. Such a method of working would require that the proposed course be marked out, and a shallow ditch found beside pits at the north end of the alignment was probably part of such a feature. A similar 'marker' ditch was found along another, nearby, pit-alignment (Fennell 1961).

The most likely explanation for the eccentricities of PA29–33, is that they were dug to block a gap in the alignment, since the presence of the roadway ditches must indicate that such a gap existed there at sometime during its history. Unfortunately, there is little information as to when this was done. The pits (P7–12) dug previously, perhaps as quarries for flint nodules and soon back-filled, only produced two sherds from a vessel of Late Bronze or Early Iron Age type (Cat. No. 6). The few sherds from the pits themselves (PA29 and 30, Cat. Nos 3–5) were of the same type and not significantly different from those found in primary (PA4, Cat. Nos 1–2) and secondary (P5 and 6, Cat. Nos 7–15 and 18–24) contexts along the pit-alignment to the north.

The relationship between the alignment and the roadway ditches is, however, more informative. It can be seen even on the air photographs (Pl. X) that the north ditch of the roadway (D3) approaches a different pit of the alignment on the east side (PA27) than it does on the west side (PA28) and was not cut straight across it. The excavations confirmed this as the successive cuts of D3 were found to terminate on its east side. Similarly, D5 was found to be of very different character on plan west of the alignment than east of it, and at least one cut (D5(i)) does not go beyond it. The ditches were therefore dug up

to the pit-alignment boundary on either side and very probably to an existing gap in that boundary.

Pit-alignments are principally phenomena of gravel-based soils and, therefore, occur most frequently in river valleys. They are obviously impractical and thus infrequent on rock-based soils. Elsewhere, as on the chalk, there were ditched linear earthworks and, in upland areas, linear stone dykes, such as the reaves of Dartmoor. The latter divide the landscape into large blocks or territories settled by Bronze Age communities but smaller units associated with individual settlements can also be recognised. They seem to have been constructed within a fairly short period of time and they have survived because they are on or near marginal land which has been largely uncultivated (Fleming 1978; 1983). Like the Devon reaves, the pit-alignments bear witness to communal effort in their construction and maintenance but, unlike them, they and other boundary works on the Welland gravels are phenomena of a landscape which seems to have been in continuous and intensive occupation at least since Bronze Age times.

In the palimpsest of crop-marks, pit-alignments are easily recognisable. It seems likely that they are all broadly of Iron Age date (Late Bronze Age to early Romano-British). The bulk of the evidence from the country as a whole favours this suggestion and there is, as yet, little conclusive evidence for their construction earlier or later. Extensive systems of pit-alignments are, therefore, likely to be broadly contemporary and can sometimes, like reaves, give important socio-economic information about land tenure and the size of individual estates (Simpson 1966, 18).

At Tallington, however, the difficulty lies in determining whether the double pit-alignment is indeed 'double' (*i.e.* a driveway) or represents at least two phases of a single pit-alignment. The problems of distinguishing double ditches of different periods from true double-ditched droves or trackways have been considered at some length in a recent publication (Pryor and French 1985, 240) and caution is always necessary but, in the case of Tallington, the general layout of the two parallel pit-alignments must surely argue in favour of their contemporaneity.

Later prehistoric settlement in the Tallington area

It seems that Late Bronze Age/Iron Age settlements in the Welland Valley were sometimes enclosed, as the Tallington examples reported here, and sometimes not (*e.g.* Simpson 1981, site J). The ditched and embanked enclosure would have served to prevent animals wandering off the fields into the settlement. At Tallington only the sump excavated in the angle of the early Roman enclosure ditch (Site 51) contained deposits which were sufficiently waterlogged for their preservation. They contained thorny twigs of the sloe/hawthorn type. Those of which the wood was identified were of *Prunus*. Oak was also represented by acorns and acorn-cups. This could indicate scrub which developed naturally on the site but more probably represents a hedge topping an enclosure bank.

Both types of settlement are found elsewhere in the Midlands, as for example at Willington in the Trent Valley, where the early Iron Age phase of settlement seems to have been unenclosed but was succeeded by enclosed settlements of Later Iron Age and Roman date (Wheeler, H. 1979). Similarly, in the Upper Thames

basin, where both enclosed and unenclosed Late Bronze Age settlements have been investigated on the Kennet gravels at Aldermaston Wharfe and Knight's Farm, Burghfield, (Bradley *et al.* 1980). The enclosed Tallington settlement (37) had much in common with those of Middle Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date on the chalk downlands of Sussex and Wessex, such as South Lodge Camp (Barrett and Bradley 1980, 190-1) and Bishopstone (Bell 1977). Many of these settlements were, like Tallington, small and of short duration. Each unit comprised a large circular dwelling hut, one or two subsidiary huts, wells or ponds and storage structures, and was occupied by a family group who practised mixed agriculture in the area around the settlement. However, pits for storage of grain, which are found in many of these settlements probably have a distribution which is rather restricted to those areas with low water tables and porous bed-rocks. They are probably not to be expected on the gravel-based soils of river valleys.

Modern methods of data retrieval and experimental archaeology can give greater information about the function(s) of pits and their potential for food storage. At Tallington, Pits 7 and 10 would appear, on the criterion only of size and shape, to be possible storage pits. But P10 had the water table near its base and the gleying of its basal levels show that wet or damp conditions must have always prevailed. Its vertical sides and unweathered profile suggest that it might have been a well, possibly with a wicker lining. Other large pits in the area (P9 and P13; Fennell's Pits 1 and 2) and also sumps dug at various points in the enclosure ditch could have served the same purpose. Large pits or 'sock-wells' of this kind have been found also at Barholm (Chapter 2, Pit 4) and Maxey (Pryor and French 1985; Biek 1964) in the Welland Valley and at Fengate (Pryor 1978; 1980; 1983) in Neolithic to Middle Saxon contexts. Romano-British and Saxon examples at Maxey had slight timber revetment or wicker linings around the base (Chapter 4) but mostly they seem to have been unrevetted and so probably required frequent deepening and clearance.

All the evidence at Tallington suggests occupation during Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age but the pottery in the wells is not later than Early Iron Age. This suggests that they were in use for quite short periods (Biek 1964), unlike Fengate where some seem to have remained in use for a considerable time (Pryor 1983). The group along the western ditch may have been dug and used in succession (P9 - P10 - P8/13).

There was a group of what, for want of a better term, were called 'working hollows' in the centre/south-west part of Enclosure 37. 'Working Hollow' 3 and 'Hollow' 2 were clusters of shallow pits and post-holes. The cluster 2 was united by its situation in a shallow scoop or hollow in the subsoil. Its fill was rubbish which may have accumulated around it during its use and been shovelled in to level up the ground when it was abandoned. The suggestion that 'Working Hollow' 3 was earlier than 'Hollow' 2 receives some support from the associated pottery. 'Working Hollow' 1 contained Early as well as Middle Iron Age pottery. Arguments against the 'working hollow' hypothesis are well-known. Indeed, one researcher has recently suggested that most were primarily no more than quarries (Knight 1984, 113); post-depositional enlargement of existing sub-soil features is also a possibility (Pryor 1984, 114), and tree root disturbance cannot be discounted (Kooi 1974). However,

at least one of the Tallington 'working hollows' seemed to the excavator to have had pattern and purpose in its planning.

Reassessment of all the evidence recently has suggested that the traditional interpretation of four post structures as bases of granaries or food-stores is most likely (Gent 1983). They are found in settlements from Middle Bronze Age to early Romano-British times. That only one was found in the Tallington enclosure must mean either that its occupation was very short or that few foodstuffs of the kind customarily stored in these structures were grown or that other means of storage were practised.

Penannular eaves-drip gullies defining the positions of circular huts of Iron Age to early Romano-British date have been excavated at three locations in the lower Welland Valley (Peacock 1962; Pryor 1983; Pryor and French 1985; and Chapter 4). However, no such structure was found associated with the settlements reported here. Two circular features could have been small huts. The arc of six post-holes and the short length of gully to the north-west of the entrance into the enclosure may have defined the east side of a hut about 5.5 m in diameter of single post-ring construction.

The ring-gully in the south-west corner of the large enclosure (35) was also about 5.5 m in diameter (Fig. 45, Microfiche). If it is interpreted as the foundation trench for the wall of a hut, the absence of a gap for the entrance might be explained if it had been rebuilt at least once with a different orientation, as the somewhat random distribution of stake-holes might suggest.

Small ring-gullies of Late Iron Age/early Roman date have been found by Pryor at Cat's Water, Fengate (Pryor 1983, structures 23–25) and at Maxey (Pryor and French 1985, structures 11 and 24) and interpreted as drainage ditches round stack-stands for hay. Certainly similar enclosures were used for this purpose in recent times in north Britain where examples up to 10 m in diameter have been recorded (R.C.H.M. 1970). Comparable features thought to be Bronze Age in date have been found in Britain (Lomas 1962; Woodward *et al.* 1985) and on the continent (Buurman 1979) but biological evidence of their function will survive only rarely on archaeological sites (Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 126).

Finally, the sub-rectangular loomweights from Tallington and other sites of similar date in the Welland Valley (Simpson 1981) are of a type with a wide distribution in Britain. They are firmly associated with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and radiocarbon dates in the first half of the 1st millennium bc, clearly spanning the gap between Bronze Age 'bun-shaped' weights and the Later Iron Age triangular examples (Elsdon 1979).

The later development of the landscape

The roadway ditches (48) which were sectioned in the excavation can be traced on air photographs eastwards almost to (the Roman road) King Street and there is no indication that they continued beyond it. This is all that can be said of the relationship between the two roads. Others, on either side of King Street, appear from the air photographs to show a similar relationship. In two instances, pairs of roadway ditches were traced in the surface of the natural gravel to within a few metres of the line of the Roman road and must have joined it although, presumably, the actual point of connection was severed by its present side ditches (Peacock 1962). In interim

reports on the Tallington excavations the writer put too much emphasis on this evidence (Simpson 1966). Since then however, more sites of the first half of the 1st millennium bc have been excavated in southern and eastern England. Pottery of this period can be recognised and its relationship to Scored Ware and other Later Iron Age wares of the region is better understood. It is now clear that settlements in the area of OS 29 began in the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age and continued at least into the Middle Iron Age. Pottery which might be expected to be contemporary with the construction of the Roman road occurs only in the upper fillings of the roadway and enclosure ditches, and this conclusion raises a number of questions.

The previously published map of the distribution of rectangular enclosures, driveways and pit-alignments beside the Welland in the vicinity of the King Street crossing (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7), though requiring few alterations or additions to the archaeological evidence presented, needs care in its interpretation. The fact that a roadway joins King Street is no guarantee of its Roman (or later) date. Some of the enclosures north of the river were assumed to have been occupied in the Roman period largely because of their apparent contemporaneity with such roadways without any supporting evidence from fieldwalking.

Many areas of crop-marks to the west of King Street have now been destroyed by gravel quarries but in the north-west and to the east of King Street it would still be possible to obtain new evidence by fieldwalking and by excavation to give a more refined picture of the development of the landscape here. It is possible that King Street, at least as it approaches the Welland crossing is of prehistoric origin and only Roman by adoption, but without further work it is impossible to be sure. The concentration of settlement around the crossing point which the plotting of crop-marks reveals is to be expected, and work by Peacock (1962) in the gravel quarries beside King Street gave evidence of later Roman settlement immediately to the west of it.

It seems best in the light of present knowledge, therefore, to regard the pattern of settlement revealed by air photography beside King Street and north of the river as a palimpsest which developed mainly between the Late Bronze Age and early Romano-British times.

Finally, slight traces of Anglo-Saxon activity in the area should be noted. In Mrs Jones' excavations, Pit 1 proved to be of Anglo-Saxon date and showed some evidence for recutting. The pottery from this pit (Fig. 23) suggests that it was derived from a domestic assemblage. Anglo-Saxon pottery was also found along the western edge of the plough headland (Cat. No. 16, 24–5, 48) where it follows the course of the pit-alignment and on its eastern edge (Cat. No. 67) where it overlay the possible site of a timber building against the west side of the prehistoric enclosure (37).

Appendix: Excavations by K.R. Fennell (Figs 46–53, Microfiche)

In the preceding excavation report, mention was made in several places to work carried out in Tallington field OS 29 by K.R. Fennell in 1960 (Fennell 1960; 1961). That work included some excavation of features associated with Enclosure 37. A series of plans and sections were produced relating to these excavations and a selection of these are included, for comparison, in Microfiche (Figs 46–53).

4. Excavations at Plant's Farm, Maxey, Cambridgeshire

by D.A. Gurney, J. Neve and F.M.M. Pryor

I. Introduction

(Figs 1 and 54; Pl. XXII)

The site lies approximately 1500 ft (500 m) west of Maxey Church at the west end of field OS7 (OS Grid ref. TF 115 080, for general location see Fig. 1, No. 4) and is part of a series of crop-marks which covered the whole of Maxey Parish and beyond (Fig. 54), many of which have now been destroyed by quarrying. From aerial photographs (Pl. XXII) the following features could be seen at Plant's Farm (Fig. 54, PF):

1. a ring-ditch, presumably a Bronze Age burial mound (diam. 90 ft, (27 m)) now ploughed flat;
2. a boundary ditch (approximately 200 ft, (60 m) now visible) running east-west;
3. a pit-alignment of probable Iron Age date (Pryor and French 1985, chapter 3) running north-south for a distance of approximately 300 ft (90 m) continuing south of the road;
4. at least three overlapping rectangular enclosures. The largest, which measured approximately 300 × 400 ft (90 × 120 m) and had the pit-alignment for its eastern boundary, was probably contemporary with it. The other two measuring c. 200 × 150 ft (60 × 45 m), and 200 × 145 ft (60 × 43.5 m) were believed to be of Roman date;
5. a ditched driveway leading from the north-west corner of the churchyard for a distance of c. 1000 ft (330 m) to the north-east corner of the enclosures.

The area just north-west of the crossroads by Maxey Church was examined during the laying of watermains in February 1963 and 'Roman pottery of the second half of the second century AD was found in the south ditch of the driveway' (Hartley, quoted from site daybook I; Fig. 54; R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 6 sites 17 and 18, pl. 4a). Excavations were carried out by W.G. Simpson between late April and October 1964 on behalf of the Welland Valley Research Committee (for further discussion see Chapter 1; and Taylor, in Pryor and French 1985, 9-15).

A grid was marked out over the area selected for excavation using the south edge of the field as a baseline. The layout of the grid is demonstrated in Figure 55. Excavations were carried out to investigate the pit-alignment, and the relationship between the three overlapping enclosures, together with a portion of the interior (Fig. 56). The activity on the site has been broadly assigned to four phases with some sub-phases in the last two periods:

- Phase 1 Iron Age, 4th-1st century BC;
Phase 2 Late Iron Age, 1st century BC-AD;
Phase 3 early Romano-British, mid-late 1st century AD;
Phase 4 later Romano-British, early 3rd-early 4th century AD.

The features were phased by the pottery assemblages (see Pryor and Gurney below), and all sub-phases assigned by stratigraphic relationships.

II. The Excavations

(Figs 56-69; Pls XXII and XXIII)

by J. Neve

Introduction

The discussion that follows is based on site notebooks, conversations with the excavator and examination of slides and photographs (*e.g.* Pl. XXII). The excavations could not be completed, owing to pressure of time and other rescue commitments elsewhere in the region. That is why certain key feature relationships could not be examined, and why the sections and plans are less complete than the excavator originally intended. Despite these drawbacks, the data recovered from the excavations are of a sufficient quality to allow a fairly detailed reconstruction and synthesis. The discussion is arranged by Phase and the evidence for dating the various episodes discussed in Section III, below.

Phase 1

(Fig. 57; Pl. XXIII; Table 16, Microfiche)

This phase consisted of a pit-alignment running north-south along the east side of the large, possibly Iron Age, enclosure and the Phase 2 rectangular enclosure. A total of fifteen pits covering a distance of 175 ft (43 m) were distinguished within the area of the Phase 2 enclosure, and of these eight were wholly or partially excavated.

The pits were roughly sub-rectangular in plan, with slightly rounded corners and 'diameters' ranging from 8 ft (2.4 m) to 4 ft 4 in (1.3 m) — average 7 ft 6 in (2.2 m), and depths of between 3 ft 9 in (1.15 m) and 2 ft 5 in (0.65 m) — average 2 ft 9 in (0.75 m). They appeared to be fairly regularly spaced, between 1 ft 6 in (0.45 m) and 3 ft 6 in (1.07 m) apart — average 3 ft (0.90 m). Details of pit dimensions are given in Table 16 (Microfiche).

The most northerly pit, PA12, was cut by the Phase 2 Ditch 8 (*archive D24*). It was, however, much disturbed by later features. Pit PA13 did not appear to have been disturbed by later activity, but was bounded to the north and west by Ditch 5 (Phase 4.2) and, to the east, by Pit 18 (Phase 2; Pl. XXIII). Pit PA3 to the south of PA13, was disturbed in its north-west corner by an area of laid stones, and on the west by the small gully G3. The final pit to be excavated in the north-east corner of the site was PA7, which was similar to PA3 but slightly smaller. There had been some slight disturbance, as gully G6 cut through the lip of the pit on its northern side.

Approximately half the area of PA14, which was about 25 ft (7.5 m) south of PA7, was excavated. It appeared to be of similar shape and size to the other alignment pits.

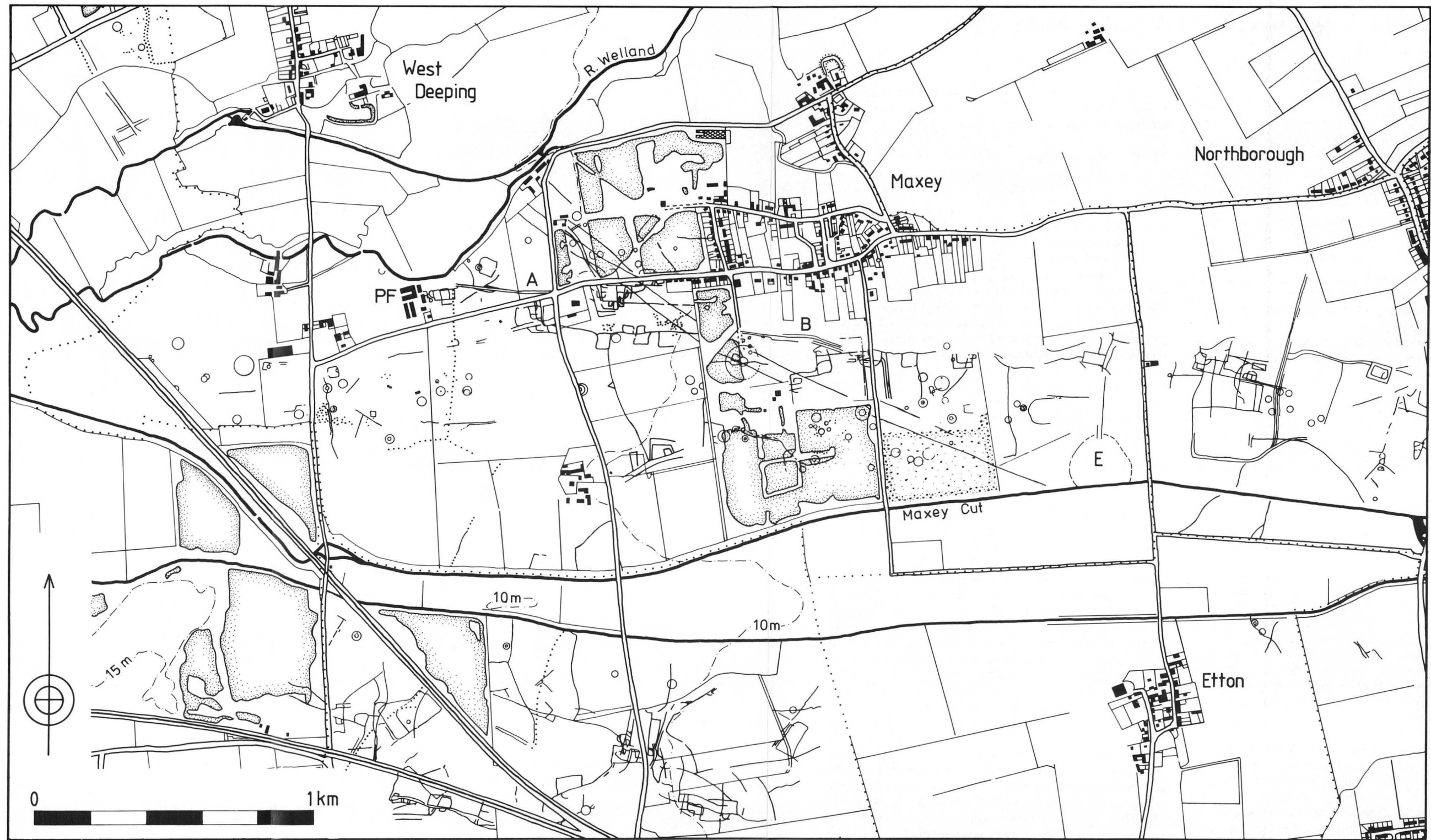


Figure 54 Maxey, Plant's Farm: map of Maxey crop-marks (after R.C.H.M. 1960). PF: Plant's Farm; A-B: course of Roman road; E: Etton causewayed enclosure. Scale 1:150,000

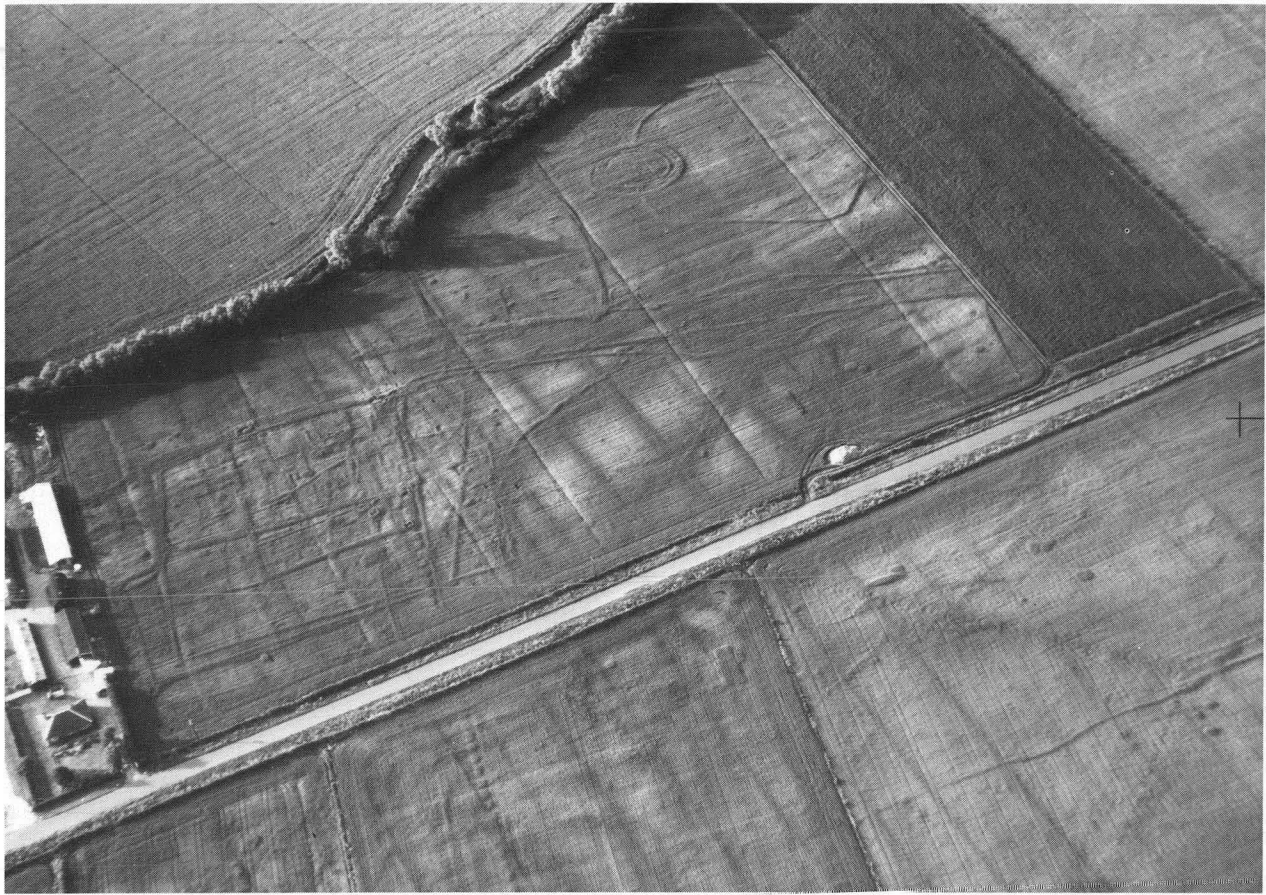


Plate XXII Maxey, Plant's Farm: Aerial photograph showing the pit-alignment and enclosure complex at Plant's Farm Cambridge University Collection: copyright reserved (AOL 41)

About 20 ft (6.0 m) further south (Figs 56 and 57), a series of trenches uncovered three more pits of the pit-alignment, all of which had been greatly disturbed by later activity. The most northerly of the three, PA22, was cut by the Phase 3.3 north-south running ditch, D22. In this area, interest seems to have been concentrated on the ditch itself, and little was mentioned of the pit. However, in plan it would appear to have been of similar shape and size to the other pits. Site records suggest it was deeper than the ditch, which had a depth of 0.45 m at this point, but no precise measurement is given. To the south of this, PA20 was also greatly disturbed. It was cut by ditch 22, and also by a T-shaped corn drying kiln to the east and the oven to the west (both Phase 4). This pit appeared to have been the smallest of those excavated. PA19 seems to have been rather different in character, being more elongated than the rest and deeper (3m). However, it is possible that the later activity obscured the true pit edge on the east and west sides.

Phase 2 (Fig. 58)

This phase appeared to have consisted of five features: a rectangular enclosure ditch, D8 (*archive* D21, D24, D29) with a possible entranceway two-thirds of the way along the north side and a slightly rounded north-east corner; a large pit, P18, which was cut into the rounded north-east corner of D8; a ditch, D19 running from the edge of P18 in a north-east direction; an eaves-drip gully D58 (*archive* D65, D68) located in the centre of the ditched enclosure with an eastern entrance; and, to the south-east of the

eaves-drip gully, also in the interior, a grave with an infant burial, Pit 25.

The enclosure ditch, D8 measured c. 200 ft (60 m) roughly north-south, and 150 ft (45 m) east-west. It was roughly v-shaped and measured 8–9 ft (2.4–2.7m) wide and c. 3 ft (0.98 m) deep but, on the eastern side in the area of the Phase 4 corn dryer was only 6 ft 9 in (2 m) wide and 3 ft 5 in (1.02 m) deep. It was disturbed in many areas along its length and, in turn, cut the pit-alignment at both its north-east and south-east corners (Fig. 56). The ditch appeared to have an entrance approximately 12 ft (3.6 m) wide, 40 ft (12 m) from the north-west corner of the enclosure, but no excavation was carried out in that area to establish this.

Pit 18 was a large waterlogged feature cut into the north-east corner of the enclosure ditch with an east-west diameter of over 14 ft (4.2 m) and a depth of 5 ft 2 in (1.55 m). This was actually a part of the enclosure ditch and seems to have been acting as a sump for it. Samples for pollen analysis were taken from the waterlogged layer (see Section III, below). Ditch 19, cut into the eastern side of P18, appeared to be running in a north-east direction away from the enclosure. It was approximately 6 ft (1.8 m) wide and 2 ft 8 in (0.80 m) deep and Pit 18 appears to have been acting as a sump for this ditch also.

Two interior features also appeared to be of Iron Age date. An eaves-drip gully of a round house, D58, was situated just to the south of the centre of the enclosure. It was cut by the later features. It had a diameter of approximately 44 ft (13.5 m) and although no measurements are available, the gully seems from the

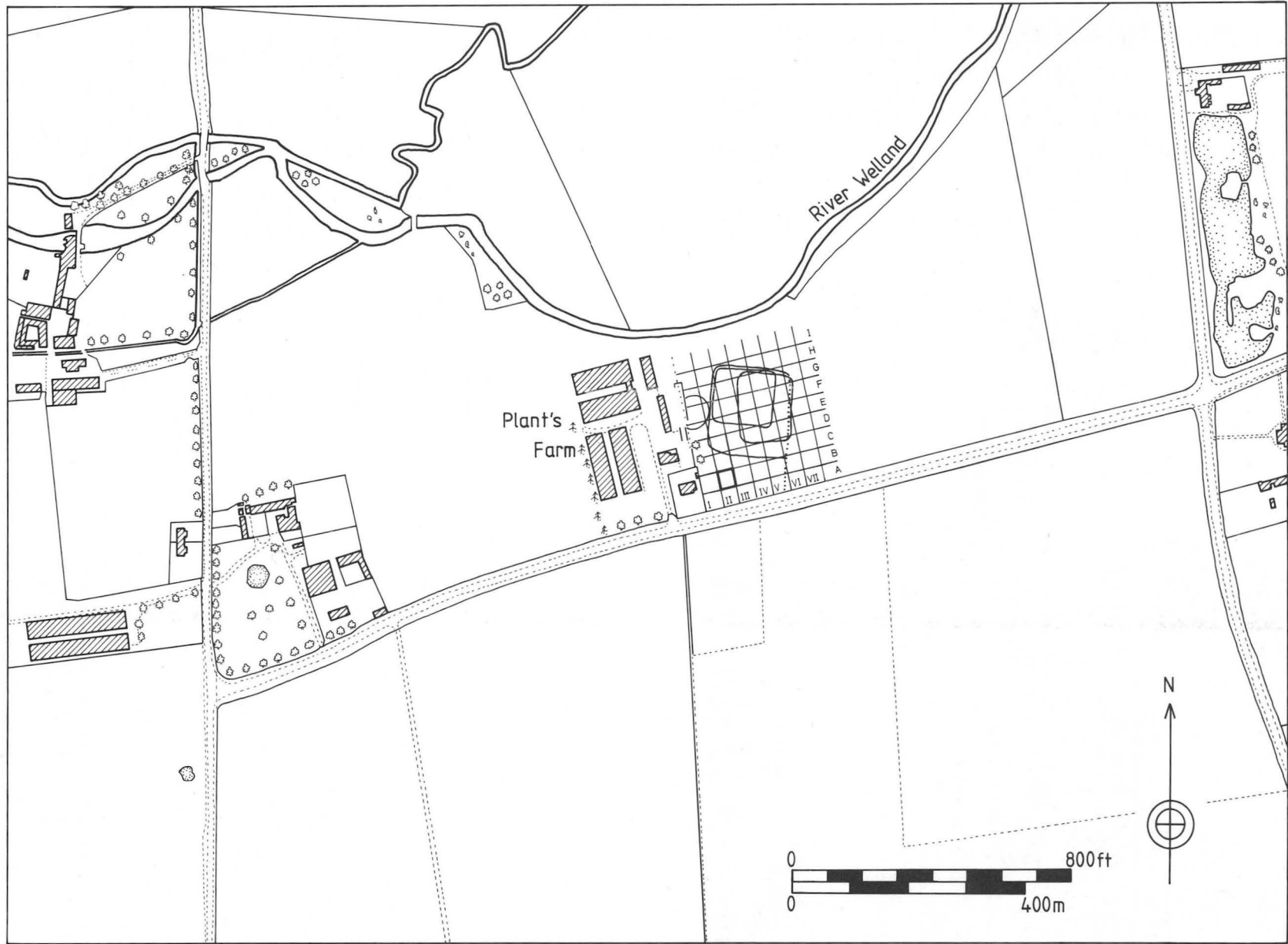


Figure 55 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Map showing site location and position of grid. For location see Figure 1. Scale 1:10,000



Plate XXIII Maxey, Plant's Farm: General view of the north eastern area of the excavations with pit-alignment pits 7, 3 (with figure), 13, and 21 (top right)

plan to have been *c.* 1 ft 6 in (0.45 m) wide. It had an entranceway on the east side *c.* 12 ft (3.6 m) wide. About 25 ft (7.5 m) to the south-east was the 'infant burial', Pit 25. The remains were in a shallow (depth not recorded) oval pit, approximately 3 ft (0.90 m) by 2 ft (0.60 m) in diameter, aligned roughly north-south. The contents are discussed in Section III, below.

Phase 3

(Figs 56 and 60)

Phase 3, dating from mid-late 1st century-early 2nd century AD could, on ceramic and stratigraphic evidence, be sub-divided into three phases (see Gurney below). Phase 3.1 consisted of ditches D14(i) and D16(i), gully G4, and ditch D28. The second phase (3.2) consisted of an enclosure ditch, D16(ii), along with D20; Phase 3.3 was identified by the recut ditches D16(iii) and D14(ii), together with ditches D22 and D17 and pits P6 and P16. There were also four features which could broadly be assigned to this phase: ditches D39 and D54; and pits P4 and P17. As the areas opened up were relatively small and the information on the excavated features scarce, it is difficult to draw definite conclusions. However, all the information available has been drawn on in the discussion that follows.

In this period, all the Phase 2 features appear to have gone out of use. A new ditch, possibly a boundary ditch, was cut immediately east of, and parallel to, the Phase 2 ditch, D8. This ditch, D14(i) was at least 115 ft (34.5 m) long and the northern end appeared to be swinging away in a north-easterly direction, perhaps following the course of the Phase 2 ditch, D19. It was approximately 2 ft (0.60 m) wide and 1 ft (0.30 m) deep. About 46 ft (13.8 m) west of the south end of D14(i) was the north-south running ditch D16(i). It is difficult to establish the relationship of this with the possible later recuts 16(ii) and (iii). Excavation showed a small length of ditch approximately 38 ft (12.2 m) long with the north end running into ditches D16(ii) and (iii) and continuing south away from the excavated areas. A length of gully, G4, *c.* 28 ft (8.2 m) long, 1 ft 8 in (0.50 m) wide and 9 in (0.27 m) deep, running north-south, was cut by Phase 3.2

and Phase 4 features. Ditch D28 was only 3 ft (0.90 m) east of the Phase 2 enclosure ditch and ran parallel to it, but was much smaller. A length of 12 ft (3.6 m) was excavated and the ditch continued north outside the excavated area.

Phase 3.2 was marked by the appearance of a new enclosure ditch, D16(ii) (*archive* D52 and 43) and ditch D20. From crop-mark evidence, D16(ii) was of sub-rectangular form but with its longest axis running east-west rather than north-south. Only the area of the enclosure contained within the Phase 2 ditch was investigated (*i.e.* the eastern half of the Phase 3.2 enclosure) and within this, the northern section of the ditch was approximately 100 ft (30 m) long, the eastern side, *c.* 145 ft (43.5 m) and the south section *c.* 90 ft (27 m). Very little information is given about its size. The only recorded measurements, from the area by the Phase 3.3 pit P6, are that it was 5 ft (1.5 m) wide and approximately 3 ft (0.90 m) deep. It was cut by many later features. The enclosure appeared to have two entranceways in its eastern section, one in the eastern side and one to the north although, again, neither was excavated. The latter seems to have been in much the same position as the Phase 2 entrance, lying *c.* 52 ft (15.6 m) from the north-east corner of the enclosure. It was *c.* 13 ft (3.9 m) wide. The eastern entrance was *c.* 48 ft (14.4 m) from the south-east corner of the enclosure and was believed to be *c.* 15 ft (4.5 m) wide.

The final phase of Phase 3 saw the recutting of ditches D14(i) and the south and south-east sides of the enclosure D16(ii), together with the digging of ditches D22, D17 and pits P6 and P16. The recut D14(i) was wider and longer than its predecessor, continuing to run south beyond the termination of D14(i) for at least another 25 ft (7.5 m). It was *c.* 7 ft (2.1 m) wide and 1 ft 6 in (0.45 m) deep. Ditch D22 ran parallel to this feature, 10 ft (3 m) further west. It was 4 ft 8 in (3.85 m) wide and 2 ft (0.60 m) deep. The recut ditch D16(iii) (*archive* D43) is difficult to interpret, owing to the small area excavated, but it appeared to be roughly following the line of D16(ii), although veering slightly to the east just below the south end of the east entrance.

There were also four features assigned to the general Phase 3 period: pit P4, (diam. 8 ft (2.4 m), depth 4 ft (1.2 m)) had more or less vertical sides; Pit 17 (diam. 3 ft (0.90 m), depth 3 ft (0.90 m)); Ditch D54, which was at least 26 ft (7.8 m) long and continued northwards and which cut, and was very similar in character to, D58 (Phase 2), though there is no more information about it; and Ditch D39, at least 44 ft (13.2 m) long, 2 ft (0.60 m) wide, and 1 ft 6 in (0.45 m) deep, which was cut by later features.

Phase 4

(Fig. 61)

As with Phase 3, this phase could be sub-divided into three periods, along with a number of unsub-phased features. Phase 4.1 consisted of ditches D2, D5(i), D10, D15, D25(i), D42, D45, D51, D53(i), and D57; Phase 4.2 consisted of ditches D1(ii), D5, D10, D18, D38, D40(i), D41(i) and (ii), and pits P11 and P28; while features D1(i), D4, D7, D25(ii), D40(ii), D53(ii), G5, G7, P9, P10, P29 and the road were assigned to Phase 4.3. The unassigned Phase 4 features were D8(i), P1, P15, P23, P24, the grave, the corn drying kiln, and the oven respectively. Again, the small areas and lack of

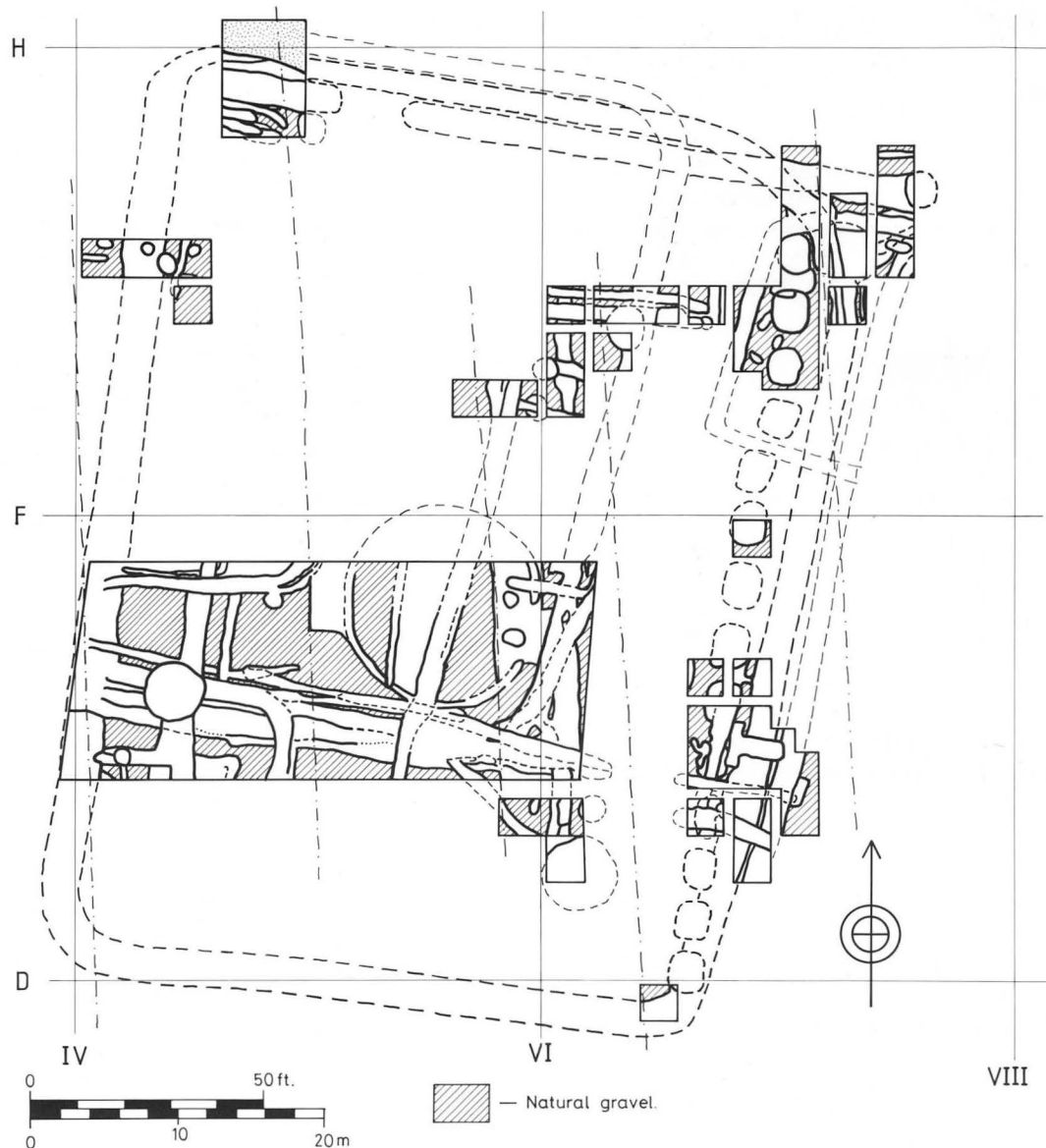


Figure 56 Maxey, Plant's Farm: General plan of the excavations. Scale 1:500

information has made interpretation very difficult, especially as this would appear to have been the period of most activity within the interior.

Phase 4.1 is marked by the appearance of new ditches, as the Phase 3 ditch D16(ii) and (iii) had gone out of use. In the north-west corner of the Phase 2 enclosure, ditch D2, running roughly east-west, was dug and recut at least three times during this period (see Figs 64 and 67), each recut moving further north. However, its function is uncertain as such a small length was excavated. Ditch D42, running north-south, had a surviving length in the excavated area of 20 ft (6 m), a width of 3 ft (0.90 m) and a depth of 1 ft (0.30 m). In the same area were three other Phase 4.1 ditches, all running approximately east-west. The most southerly of these, D45 was approximately 2 ft 6 in (0.75 m) wide and 1 ft 6 in (0.45 m) deep. It ran east-west for a distance of 32 ft (9.6 m) and then turned a right-angle at its eastern end. To the north, D51 (*archive* D60) ran for a distance of *c.* 108 ft (34.2 m) in the excavated area and continued to the east. It was approximately 4 ft (1.2 m) wide and 3 ft 6 in (1.05 m) deep. Another small area of sub-phase 1 ditch, D57, was located 25 ft (7.5 m) to the

north. It was *c.* 2 ft (0.60 m) wide and 3 ft 3 in (0.98 m) deep. Ditches D42, D51 and D57 may have interconnected, forming three sides of a rectangular enclosure but any such intersection was obscured by later features.

In Phase 4.2 many of the earlier Phase 4.1 features appear to have been recut, including D5, D10 and, possibly, D2 (Fig. 61). New features included Pit 11, which was 4 ft 9 in (1.47 m) in diameter and 3 ft 2 in (0.95 m) deep; and ditch D18 *c.* 18 ft (5.4 m) to the east of the recut(?) D51, *i.e.* D41(i). D18 is approximately the same size as D41(i) and the two would seem to form an enclosure ditch, possibly with an entrance. Alternatively, it could have formed one continuous boundary. Approximately 70 ft (21 m) from its eastern end, a ditch (D41(ii)) similar in character ran south from D41(i) and was almost certainly part of the same ditch system. To the north of D41(i) was D40(i), which was possibly a recut of D57. Its width was *c.* 1 ft (0.30 m), although it was obscured by the later recut D40(ii), and it was 1 ft 5 in (0.42 m) deep.

The final phase was marked by the appearance of a

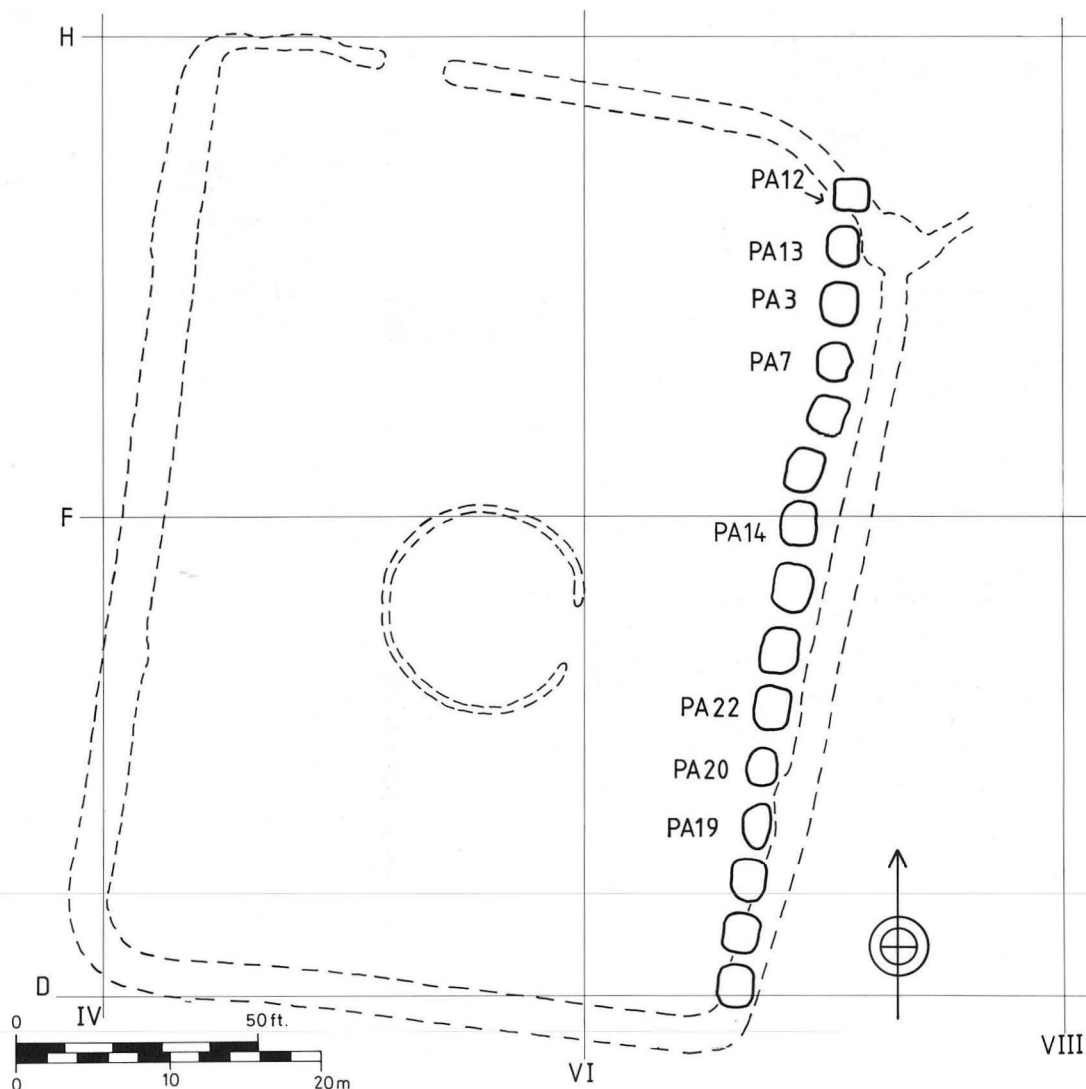


Figure 57 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan of Phase 1 features (the pit-alignment). Scale 1:500

new east-west ditch along the north edge of the earlier enclosure ditches D8 and D16(ii), known as D1(i) in the west and D4 in the east. On the west, D1(i) had a known length of 40 ft (12 m) and continued running west. At its eastern end there may have been an entranceway 14 ft (4.2 m) wide, in much the same position as the possible entrances of Phases 2 and 3, but no excavation to establish this was undertaken. In the west, D1(i) was 7 ft (2.1 m) wide and 3 ft 3 in (0.98 m) deep, and at the north-east corner, D4 was 7 ft (2.1 m) wide and c. 3 ft (0.90 m) deep. Later within the same period, two pits were cut into the north side of ditch D1(i), first P10 and then P9 which cut both the ditch and P10. These were, in turn, overlain by part of the roadway described in the introduction, probably a later phase, which links Plant's Farm with, among other sites, Maxey East Field, where it lay to the north of the 1981 excavations (Pryor and French, 1985). Pit 29 was situated at the intersection of D41(i) and D38 and was 13 ft (3.9 m) in diameter and 5 ft (1.5 m) deep.

There were also a number of unassigned features including D8(i) and P1. The former was cut into the larger Phase 2 enclosure ditch D8, and was narrow and shallow (no other information was available), while Pit 1 was a shallow (7 in, 0.21 m) oval (3 × 5 ft, 0.90 × 1.5 m) pit with three stake-holes at the bottom and a number of

others around. P1 and the stakeholes contained limestone lumps and slag from metalworking. P15 and P23 were also assigned to Phase 4.

Lying along the east side of D23, 6 ft (1.8 m) north of D18, was the grave of a female (see Section III, below; Cover Plate; Fig. 62). It measured c. 12 ft (4 m) north-south and 4 ft 4 in (1.3 m) east-west, with a slight enlarging at the south end where the butt end of the Phase 3 ditch (D20) was located. The bottom sloped from north to south, the south end being as deep as the adjacent Ditch, D21 (2 ft 2 in, 0.65 m). The body was accompanied by a small, virtually complete, colour-coated beaker (Cat. No. 139, Fig. 78), placed behind the head. Although the grave was large enough to have held a coffin, the excavator felt that this was unlikely, due to the small number of nails, but the grave may have had a wooden lid.

In the same area, approximately 5 ft (1.5 m) north-west of the grave and 12 ft (4 m) north of D18, was a T-shaped corn drying kiln of typical late Roman type, and 4 ft (1.2 m) further west, an oven (Fig. 63). The kiln was orientated approximately east-west with the T-bar on the western end. There was a stakehole at the eastern end. The kiln was constructed of limestone and yellow clay, except in the south area of the T-bar where only clay

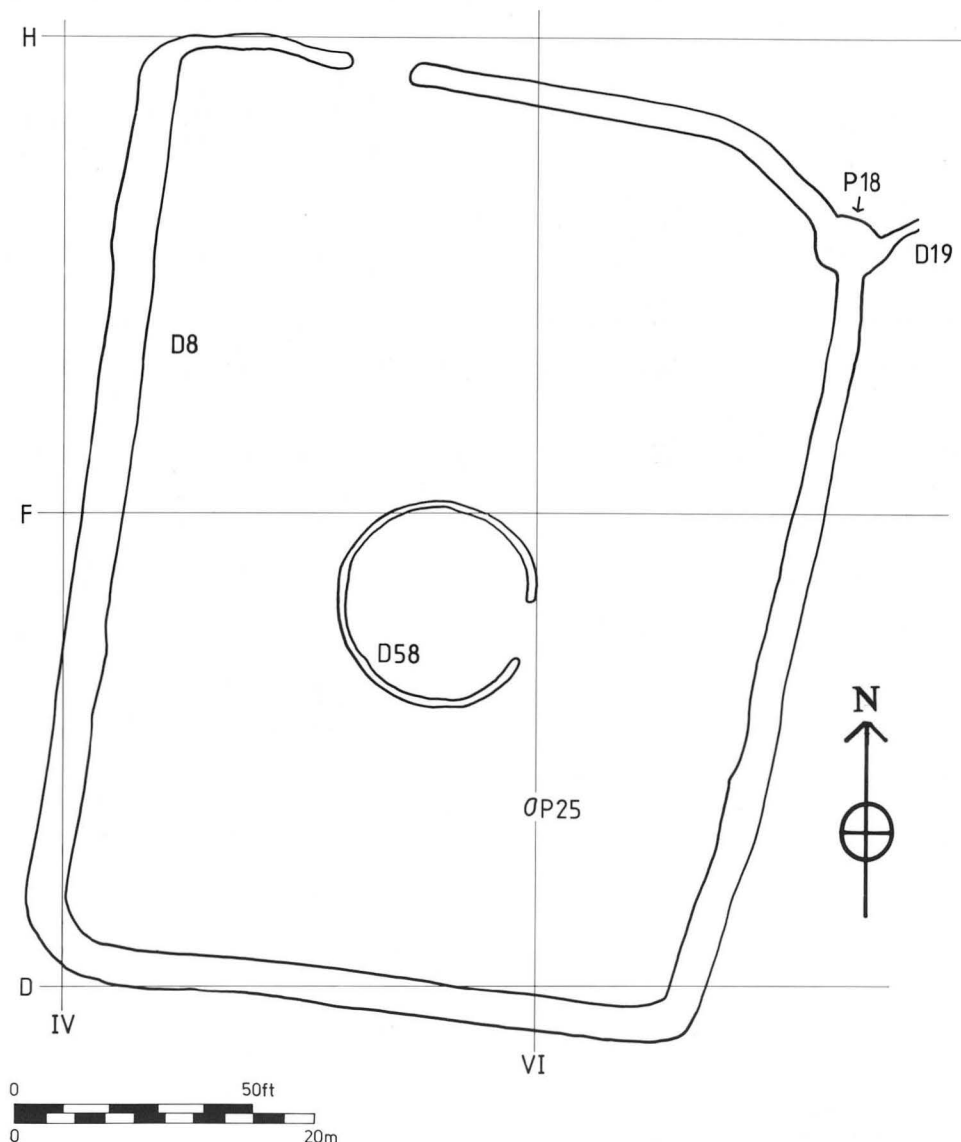


Figure 58 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan of Phase 2 features. Scale 1:500

and gravel, possibly a natural mix, was employed. The stonework was also typical, especially in the north arm of the T-bar where the facing was all in limestone; elsewhere it was mainly in clay. The stones were not all square-cut, some were cut triangularly and set alternately. Their average size was 10 in (0.25 m) to 1 ft 2 in (0.35 m) along the edges. Some of the stones were four sided with two dressed edges (there was not much deliberate dressing, as the natural breaks in the stone seem to have been used as much as possible). In the stokehole were three pieces of fossiliferous slag which probably formed a shovelling and stoking platform. The kiln was clay-bound throughout; the outer edge had no stonework showing.

The oven to the west of the kiln overlying the west edge of Ditch 22 (Phase 3), was aligned approximately north-east-south-west and built of limestone, the stones of which were built into the natural orange-brown subsoil (on the west) and into the upper fill of PA 20 and D22 (on the east). The overall length of the oven and stokehole was 5 ft 8 in (1.7 m). The oven itself was made up of three courses of stone, each one set further back than the course below. Some of the stones were quite substantial, a typical size being 9 × 7 × 6 in (0.22 × 0.17 × 0.15 m), the

gaps between them being filled with a mixture of soil and fired clay. Both this and the lack of clay facing on the stonework suggests that the oven did not generate very high temperatures, although the faces of some stones were fire-hardened or reddened. The floor of the oven comprised the upper fill of PA20 and did not show much sign of heating. The fill of the oven and the stokehole was soil, charcoal, and patches of fired clay. There were some large blocks of stone; presumably fallen walling. The eastern edge of the stokehole was lined with small 'Collywestons', and it was approximately the same depth as the oven. Immediately west of the oven flue was a shallow gully 1 ft (0.30 m) wide and 6 in (0.15 m) deep, which joined it at right angles, and another shallow gully at the north end of the stoke-pit; these were probably for the bellows.

The sections by C.A.I. French (Figs 64-9; Microfiche)

Note: for conventions used in the section drawings see Figure 18 and for section locations see Figures 64 and 65. The layer descriptions are quoted directly from the site notebooks, with further interpretations by Dr C.A.I. French.

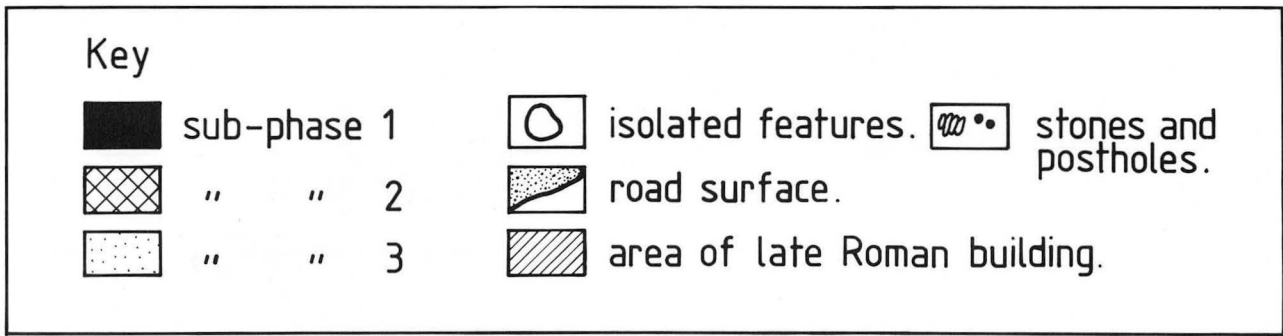


Figure 59 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Phasing conventions used in Figs 60 and 61

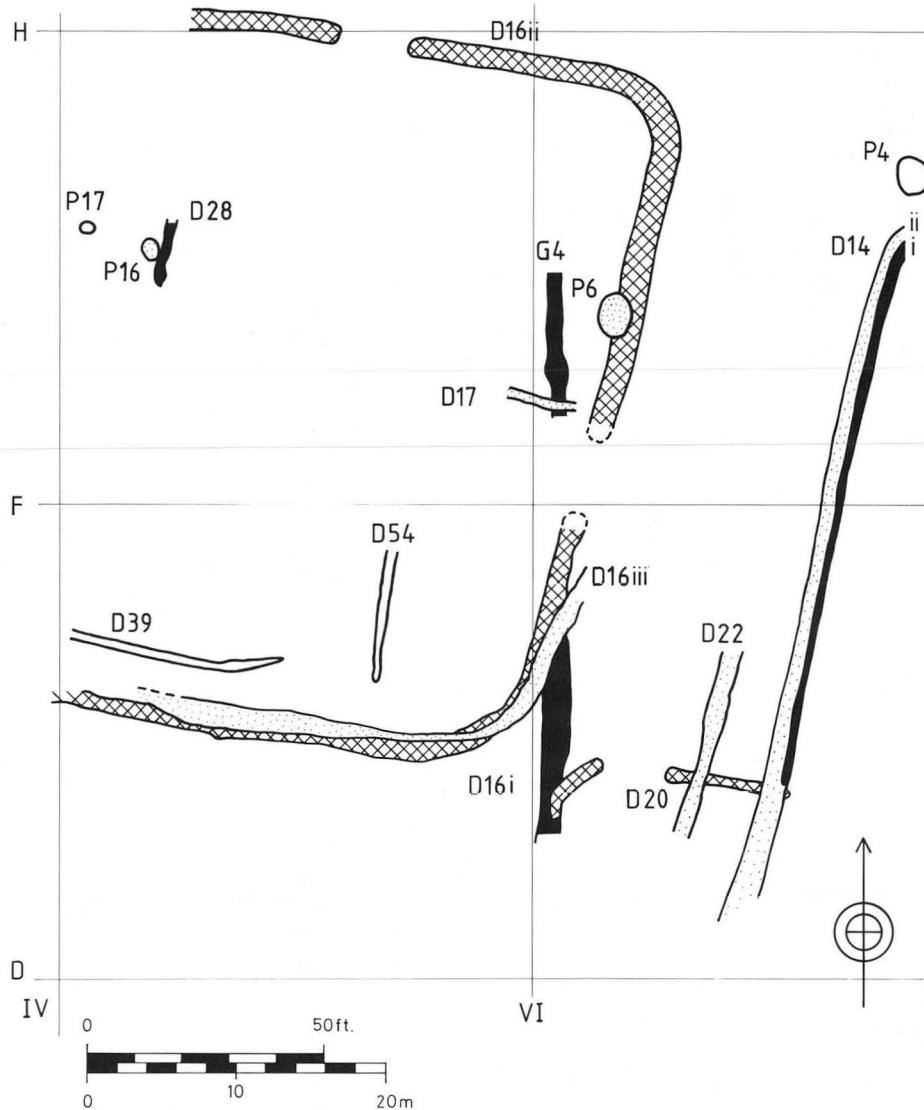


Figure 60 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan of Phase 3 features. For key to conventions see Figure 59. Scale 1:500

A selection of sections are illustrated in text (Figs 66 and 67), others, and full descriptions, occur in Microfiche (D.2-E.2).

The sections generally indicate natural silting within the majority of features, of all phases, with occasional layers of possible backfilling (e.g. Sections 5, 9, 12, 18). Of the pit-alignment pits, only PA13 (Section 1) may have been backfilled and there seems to have been some backfilling amongst the complex of small ditches in the north-west corner of the enclosure (Sections 17, 18).

It seems likely, from the illustrations, that most of the infills consisted of loamy sands and sandy loams, grading to loam occasionally, with varying admixtures of gravel. The hard/solid lines between layers probably represent merging boundaries over 2-5 cm, with layer differences often based on soil colours rather than textures. The dotted lines between layers or features represent indistinct soil/layer changes. The subsoil is natural terrace sand/gravel throughout, with occasional

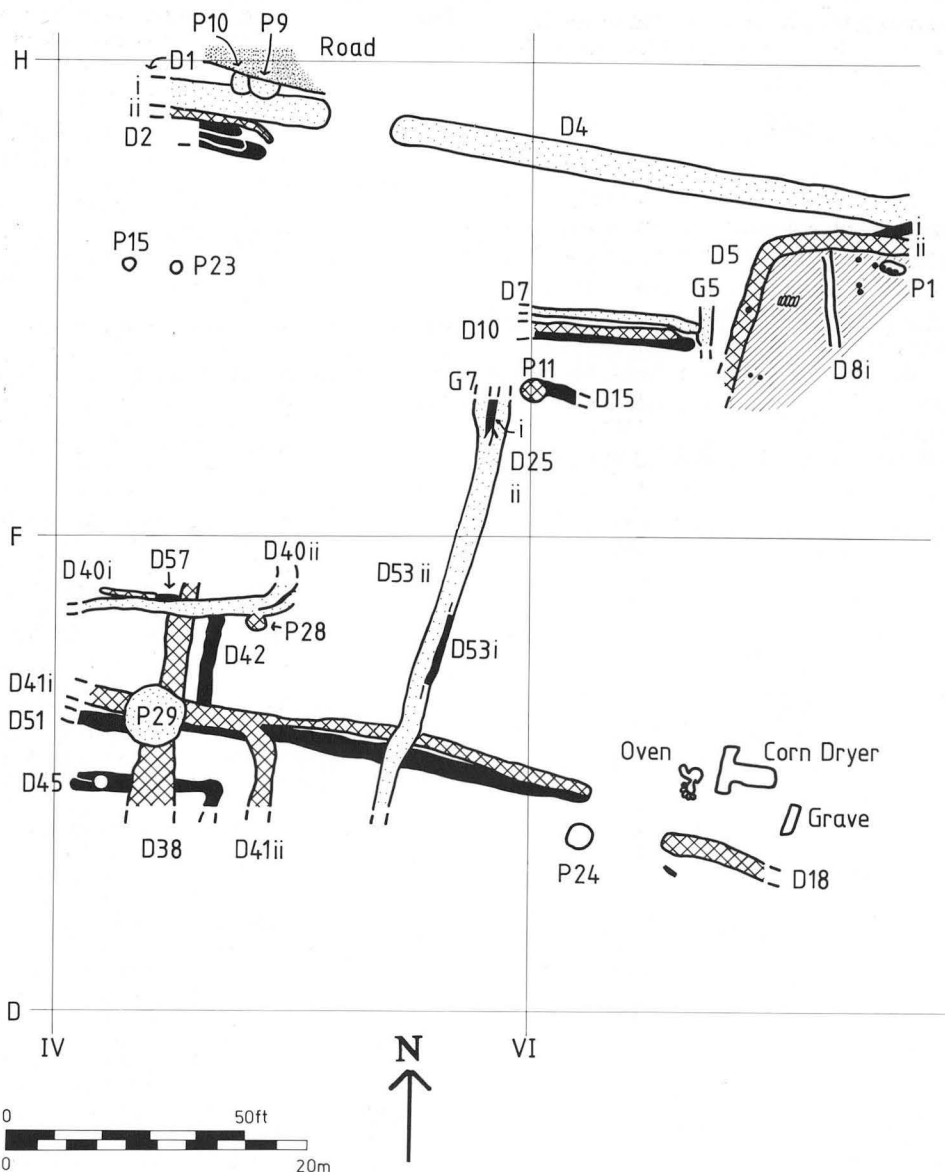


Figure 61 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan of Phase 4 features. For key to conventions see Figure 59. Scale 1:500

patches of 'clay' (more likely grey silt patches). The excavator's indication of oxidized layers/zones is indicative of many features having once been seasonally wet, if not waterlogged. However the presence of gleyed layers in the middle of sections would seem to be a physical impossibility, though it is possible that they may indicate localised 'puddling' of water.

III. The Finds

Flint

(not illustrated)

by F.M.M. Pryor

Twenty flint implements and by-products were recovered from a variety of contexts: the field surface, medieval furrows, and pits and ditches (mainly Phases 3 and 4). None seem to have been found in pits of the alignment. The collection is, therefore, largely residual or unstratified and does not require full exposition. It comprises twelve flakes (waste and 'utilised' —

uncertainty due to plough-damage), two short-end scrapers, two double-ended scrapers, a small disc scraper, a scraper fragment, a retouched flake fragment and the remnant of a single platform core. Most of the flakes were blade-like and the group, as a whole, seemed more Neolithic than otherwise

It is, perhaps slightly surprising to find so many blade-like flakes in so random a sample, given the known 2nd millennium bc 'background noise' (the thin scatter of flintwork that characterises the lower Welland valley (Pryor and French 1985)). Perhaps Plant's Farm is on the periphery of a Neolithic settlement area.

The prehistoric pottery

(Fig. 70)

by F.M.M. Pryor

Introduction

The pottery from Plant's Farm falls into two distinct groups: pit-alignment and subsequent settlement. Each

is treated separately below. The sub-division of the Iron Age into very broad Early, Middle and Late categories follows Collis' (1977, 6-7) general criteria.

Pottery from the pit-alignment (Phase 1)

Most of the pottery from the pit-alignment should, in theory, derive from closed contexts. Accordingly, it is treated in greater detail than that from settlement features, described below. The only obvious exception to the 'closed' rule is the assemblage from the intersection of D8 (*archive* D24) and PA12; here there seems to be a degree of intermingling. With the exception of a few 'scored' bodysherds, all diagnostic pieces have been illustrated. Fabrics are all charged with crushed shell and closely resemble those from Maxey East and West Fields (Pryor and French 1985, fabrics 1A and 1B). Fabric 1a has larger shell inclusions (up to 6 mm across); Fabric 1b has crushed shell (smaller than 2 mm); Fabric 2 has little or no finely crushed shell and is charged with sand.

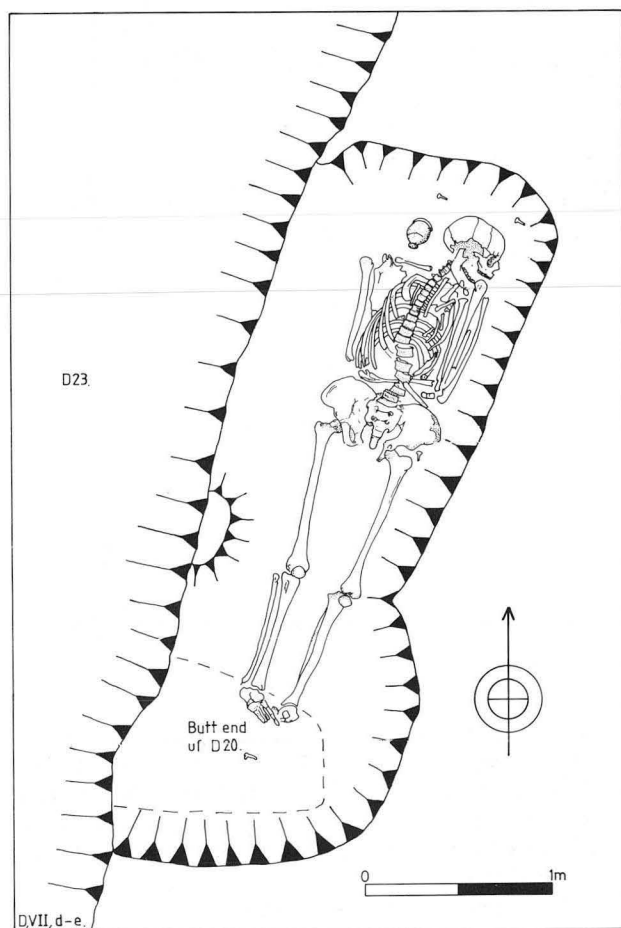


Figure 62 Maxey Plant's Farm: Phase 4 grave at butt-end of Ditch 20. Scale 1:40

PA3: Nine sherds, weight 70 g, (average weight 7.8 g). Typical mid/late Iron Age group, including three scored wall sherds. Fabrics heavily charged with crushed shell; cores are dark and interior surfaces reduced. At least seven separate vessels are represented. One rimsherd (Fig. 70, No. 1) is illustrated; this vessel features a high shoulder, steep neck and simple rim. This form could possibly be slightly earlier than the rest of the sherds, but its hard, well-fired fabric suggests a mid/late Iron Age date, *cf.*, for example, Twywell, Northants. (Jackson, D.A., 1975, fig. 24, no. 20, *etc.*).

PA7:

Thirty-six sherds, weight 290 g (average weight 8.1 g). Sherds are generally small and weathered, coarse-textured and heavily charged with crushed shell; the fabrics are hard and well-fired and probably Iron Age. One body sherd has external 'scoring'. One rimsherd (Fig. 70, No. 2) is in a finer fabric than the rest of the assemblage and could possibly be Early Iron Age. This sherd is very weathered and probably residual. The second sherd is also weathered and has traces of light punctate decoration externally. Again, probably residual, but also Early Iron Age. Two other, undiagnostic, simple rimsherds were also found.

PA12/Ditch 8
(*archive* D24):

D8 (Phase 2) cut
PA12.

The pottery described here comes from that intersection and includes material from both features. There are twelve sherds, weight 173 g (average weight 14.4 g). The sherds are slightly larger than others from the alignment and this may well reflect their dual origin (sherds from settlement ditches are generally larger than those from the pit-alignment). As elsewhere in the pit-alignment, however, the sherds are generally hard, well-fired and almost invariably shell-gritted. The assemblage produced no 'scored' sherds; one or two plain bodysherds are very hard and most probably derive from the Phase 2 ditch. There was one small, but diagnostic, probably Middle Iron Age, rim.

PA13:

Forty-two sherds, weight 380 g (average weight 9.05 g). Despite the fact that there are no diagnostic nor 'scored' sherds, this is the least heterogeneous assemblage of the alignment. All but three sherds (total wt 20 g), are from a single slack-shouldered jar of probable Middle Iron Age type; *cf.* Twywell (Jackson, D.A., 1975, fig 22, nos 33, 34, 42, *etc.*). This jar is in a coarse, shell-gritted fabric with dark interior surface and core; the external surface colour: 10R 6/3. The remaining three sherds come from a finer vessel, in a black fabric with finely-crushed shell temper and well smoothed surfaces.

PA14:

Thirteen sherds, weight 135 g (average weight 10.4 g). A more heterogeneous and higher quality group than PA13. At least eight-ten vessels are represented. Many sherds are weathered and very fragmentary. The illustrated rimsherd (Fig. 70, No. 4) is of Early or Middle Iron Age type, and is notably softer than the remainder of the assemblage which seem very 'late', perhaps as late as 1st Century AD (Phase 2). Some degree of (intrusive) contamination is indicated; alternatively the illustrated rimsherd is residual.

PA19:

Five bodysherds, weight 25 g (average weight 20 g). The sherds are all weathered, shell-gritted and undiagnostic, probably Iron Age; possibly from five separate vessels. One sherd possibly 'scored'.

PA20:

Three sherds, weight 60 g (average weight 20 g). One scrap and two diagnostic sherds: a base of a slightly splayed jar, but over-fired and 'bloated' in appearance, with a distinctive clinker-like texture (too distorted to draw, but probably *not* a crucible). The rim (Fig. 70, No. 5) is of very unusual form: heavily flattened, when the clay was still very wet; the fabric is very hard and includes well-crushed shell. Generally an atypical group; probably later Iron Age.

PA22:

Two weathered scraps (weight 3 g). Possibly Iron Age.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery (Fig. 70)

1. Upper part of hollow-necked jar; hard, well-fired, Fabric 1b. Externally 10YR 5/4; internally 10R 6/2; core dark. *No pot no. PA3.*
2. Rim of small bowl or jar; weathered; hard, Fabric 1b. Rim simple, flattened. Dark grey throughout. *Pot no. 6. PA7.*
3. Rim of open bowl/jar; very weathered; soft; Fabric 1b/2. Colour 10R 5/3 throughout. Weathered shell but with sand. Light punctate impressions on rim ext. *Pot no. 15. PA7.*
4. Rim of vertical-sided or slightly flared bowl/jar (angle uncertain); smooth surfaces, hard, well-fired, Fabric 1b. Simple rim, lightly flattened. Black throughout. *Pot no. 4. PA14.*

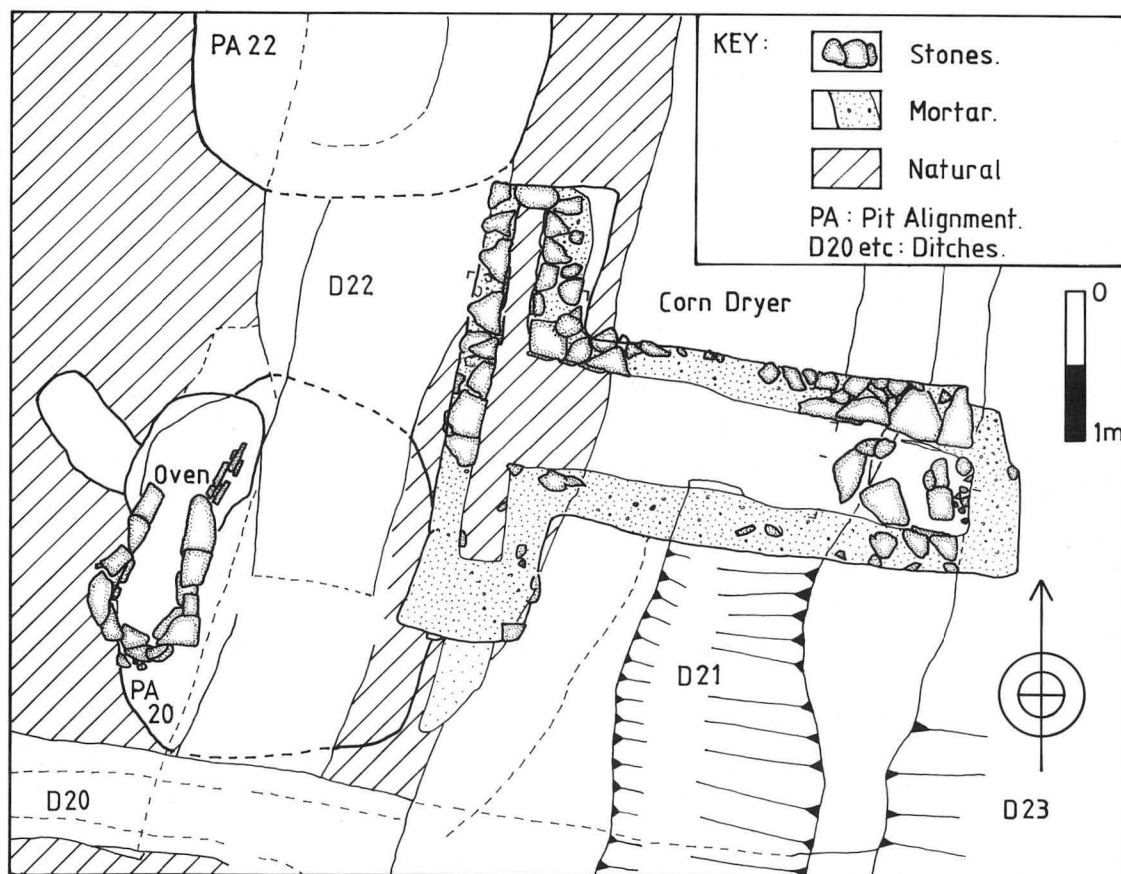


Figure 63 Maxey Plant's Farm: Plan of Phase 4 corn dryer and oven. Scale 1:50

5. Rim of unusually, hooked, form, flattened heavily when clay still pliable; hard, well-fired, Fabric 1b. Colour 10YR 5/8 throughout. Pot no. 2. PA20.

Discussion

Although the various pit groups are in theory 'closed', at least two of the eight examined showed signs of contamination by later material (PA12/D8 and PA14). These two apart, the sherd material was generally small in size and weathered. In this respect it resembles 'secondary refuse', or redeposited material. The principal exception to this was PA13, where the pottery is fresh, if fragile and, moreover, nearly all derives from a single vessel. It can be stated with some confidence that the assemblage is of Iron-Age date, and the absence of wheel-made sherds, or hand-made copies, is indicative of a date prior to the 1st century BC. The absence of beaded rims, external dragged combed decoration and globular forms also tends to support an earlier attribution. On the other hand, the few finer wares are heavily charged with shell, are sandy in texture and well-fired; these are not the types of fabric one would expect to encounter in an Early Iron Age assemblage, where the finer fabrics are particularly diagnostic (*cf.* Fengate Group 1, Pryor 1984, 139–53). Moreover, as a group, it is notably better-fired and formally very different from the Late Bronze Age pottery from the Tallington pit-alignment discussed in Chapter 3.

The few positively identifiable sherds (Fig. 70, Nos 1–5) would not be out of place in Middle Iron Age contexts at, for example, Twywell, Northants. (Jackson, D.A., 1975) or Padholme Road, Fengate (Pryor 1974). A date somewhere between the 1st/2nd and 4th centuries

BC might be expected, on formal and decorative ('scoring') grounds, but the hardness of the fabrics suggests that the group probably belongs to the latter part of the period.

Prehistoric pottery from features of Phases 2–4

Most of the features of the two Roman phases (3 and 4) produced coarse, shell-tempered, undiagnostic bodysherds which are probably residual from Iron Age contexts. Had recovery methods been suitable it would have been instructive to quantify this residuality, but in the event this has not been attempted. Accordingly, with the exception of a single unusual, but diagnostic, Middle Iron Age residual sherd from the Phase 3 ditch D39 (Fig. 70, No. 10), attention has been confined to features which have not produced Romano-British pottery, or which probably antedate Phase 3, on stratigraphic grounds.

- Pit 18** (Phase 1 or 2): This pit was located immediately east of PA 13, which it seems clearly to respect. The area was one of considerable ancient activity with many intercutting features, so certainty is impossible, but an Iron-Age date is indicated. The twenty-one sherds weigh 590 g (average weight 28.1 g) and are generally fresh and in good condition (this argues against them being residual). Most sherds are shell-tempered, with coarse inclusions and are notably softer than material from *bona fide* Phase 2 contexts. Apart from pits of the Phase 1 alignment, Pit 18 would appear to be the nearest approximation to a closed Iron Age context on site. Especially significant are a few sherds of the local equivalent of Harding's (1972, 101) 'smooth dark ware' (*cf.* Pryor 1974, fig. 21, no. 1). Other diagnostic sherds include two from a 'scored' jar

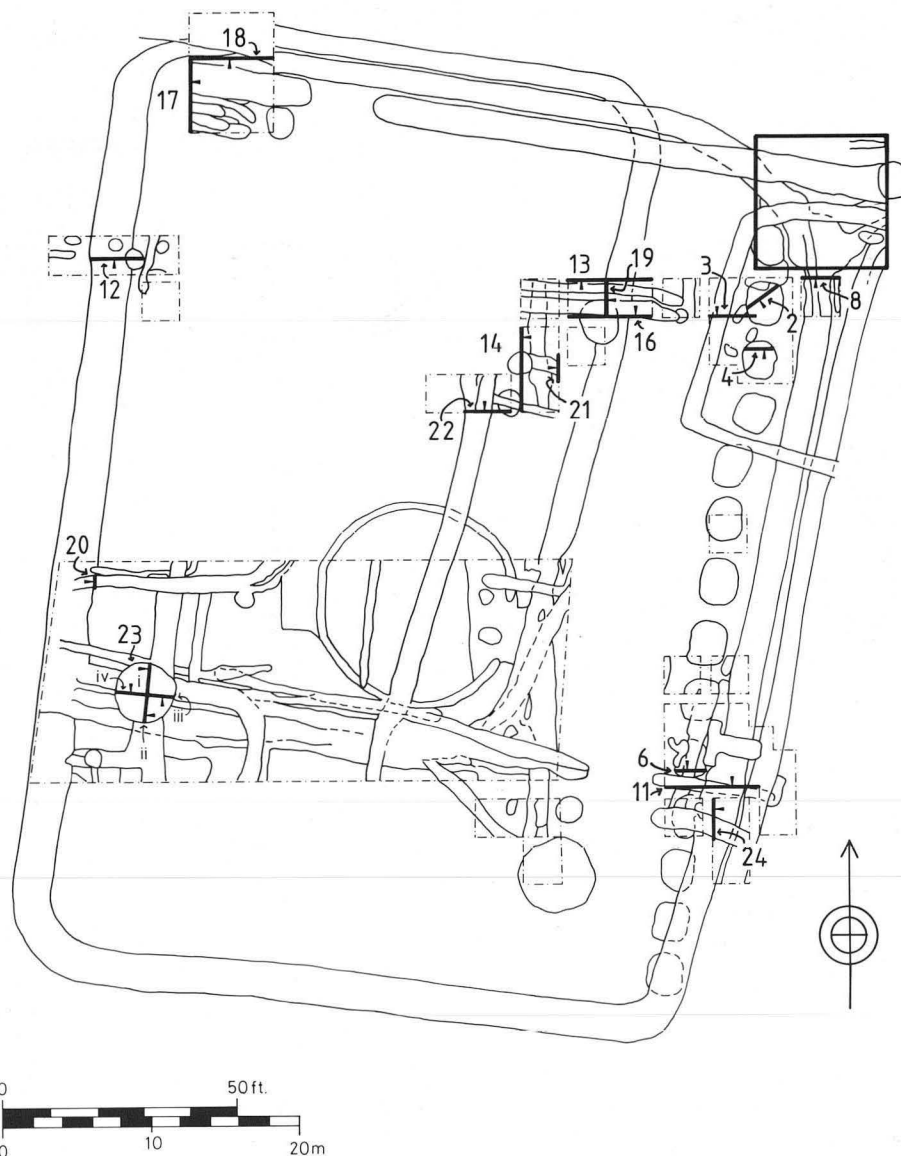


Figure 64 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan showing location of sections 2-4, 6, 8, 11-14, 16-24. Scale 1:80

(Fig. 70, No. 6), one of which came from a nearby ditch (archive D19, possibly Phase 2, but only visible in section, therefore not shown on the phase plan). Two base sherds (Fig. 70, Nos 7 and 8) are scored and of probable Middle Iron -Age date.

Pit 25 (Phase 2 grave with infant burial): This pit produced a single, fresh, rimsherd weighing 95 g (Fig. 70, No. 9). The vessel is very hard and well-fired in Fabric 1b. Late Iron Age/early Roman, in native tradition.

Ditch 21 (Phase 2, main enclosure ditch, archive D8, D24, D29): Nineteen sherds, weighing 335 g (average weight 17.6 g). All are in shell-tempered fabrics which are hard and well-fired. Diagnostic forms include two base-sherds of splay-sided jars with characteristic pinched-out exteriors (e.g. Pryor 1974, fig. 21, nos. 4-7, 14, etc.). This is a common Middle Iron Age form in the east midlands. Another diagnostic Iron Age form is a simple flat-topped rimsherd of a slack-shouldered jar (cf. Pryor 1974, fig. 21, no. 17). Two 'scored' body sherds also suggest a Middle Iron-Age date.

Ditch 58 (archive D65, D67: eaves-drip gully of round house): one plain bodysherd, weight 5 g; small, but fresh; probably Iron Age.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery

(Fig. 70)

6. Rim of a large necked jar; hard, Fabric 1a. Externally and internally dark grey, core paler. Scoring on exterior, as high as the shoulder. Middle Iron Age, of well-known form (cf. Jackson, D.A., 1975, fig. 23, nos 7, 10, 14, 20 etc.). *Pot 2, Pit 18; no pot no D19.*
7. Base of steep-sided open ?jar; hard, well-fired, Fabric 1a. Externally 10YR 5/2, internally and core dark grey/black. Light scoring on exterior, executed in short, oblique strokes, stopping short c. 10 mm from the base. *No pot no. Pit 18.*
8. Base of steep-sided or slightly splayed jar; harder than No. 7, Fabric 1a. Externally 10R 5/6, mottled, internally and core dark grey/black. Scoring similar to No. 7, but lightly smoothed-over. *No pot no. Pit 18.*
9. Rim of globular jar; very hard, smoothed surfaces, Fabric 1b. Lightly everted, simple rim. Externally 10R 3/1, internally and core 10R 5/6. Similar to Wakerly Group 2 jars (Jackson and Ambrose 1978, fig. 36). *No pot no. Pit 25.*
10. Abraded rim of convex-sided bowl/jar; hard and well-fired, Fabric 1a. Simple lightly everted rim. Colour 10T 6/3 throughout. Incised decoration of cross hatching and vertical lines. Unusual pattern, possibly related to Iron Age scored wares. *Residual in Phase 3 ditch D39.*

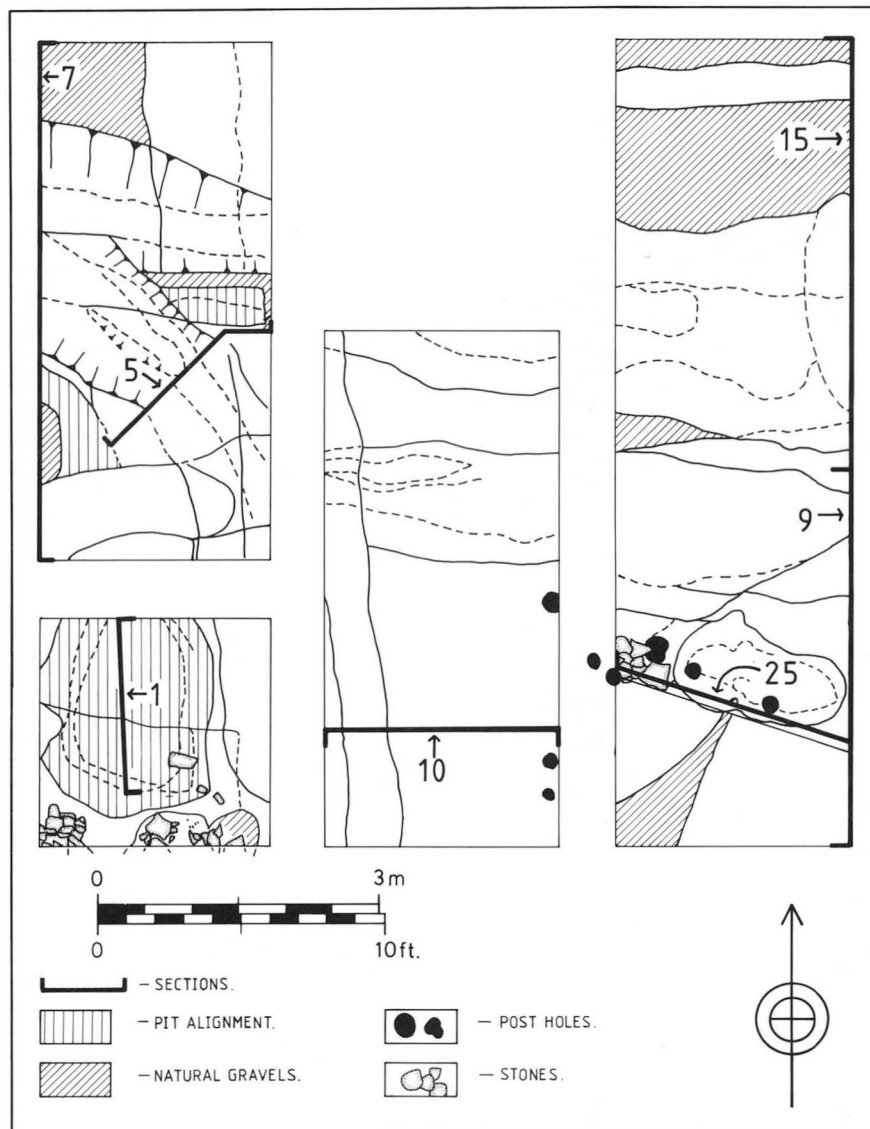


Figure 65 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Plan showing location of sections 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 25. Scale 1:500

Discussion

The assemblage is not large, but it is reasonably distinctive and closely resembles material from Maxey East and West Fields (Pryor and French 1985), phase 6 (and perhaps phase 7). It is hard to be certain, but the Phase 2 collection is slightly better fired and there are perhaps fewer 'scored' bodysherds. 'Scored' sherds are also uncommon as residual pieces in later contexts, and if we assume that this material is largely residual from Phase 2 (rather than Phase 1), then this provides some indirect support for a slightly later attribution. The excavator's notes and sections suggest that the pits of the alignment had become infilled (see above) by the time the main Phase 2 enclosure ditch was dug. It is hard to say how long this process would take, but several decades, perhaps even a century or so, are probably indicated. Further, the fact that the main enclosure ditch failed to respect the pit-alignment, supports the view that the latter features had largely vanished by Phase 2. Pottery

from Phase 2 is therefore probably best dated to the later Iron Age, perhaps the 1st centuries BC/AD. For what it is worth, this date would broadly agree with Maxey East and West Fields phases 6 and 7.

The absence of wheel-thrown Iron Age pottery from Phase 2 contexts is not altogether surprising, bearing in mind the small size of the collection and the fact that one or two wheel-made sherds in sandy Iron Age fabrics (similar to Maxey East and West Fields, fabric 2 [Pryor and French 1985] have been found in later (Phases 3 and 4) features.

The worked bone (Fig. 71, Microfiche)

by Mary Harman

Six pieces of worked bone were recovered. These included two pin fragments and a sheep metatarsal with a drilled hole in the anterior surface. The pieces are described and illustrated on Microfiche (E.3-4).

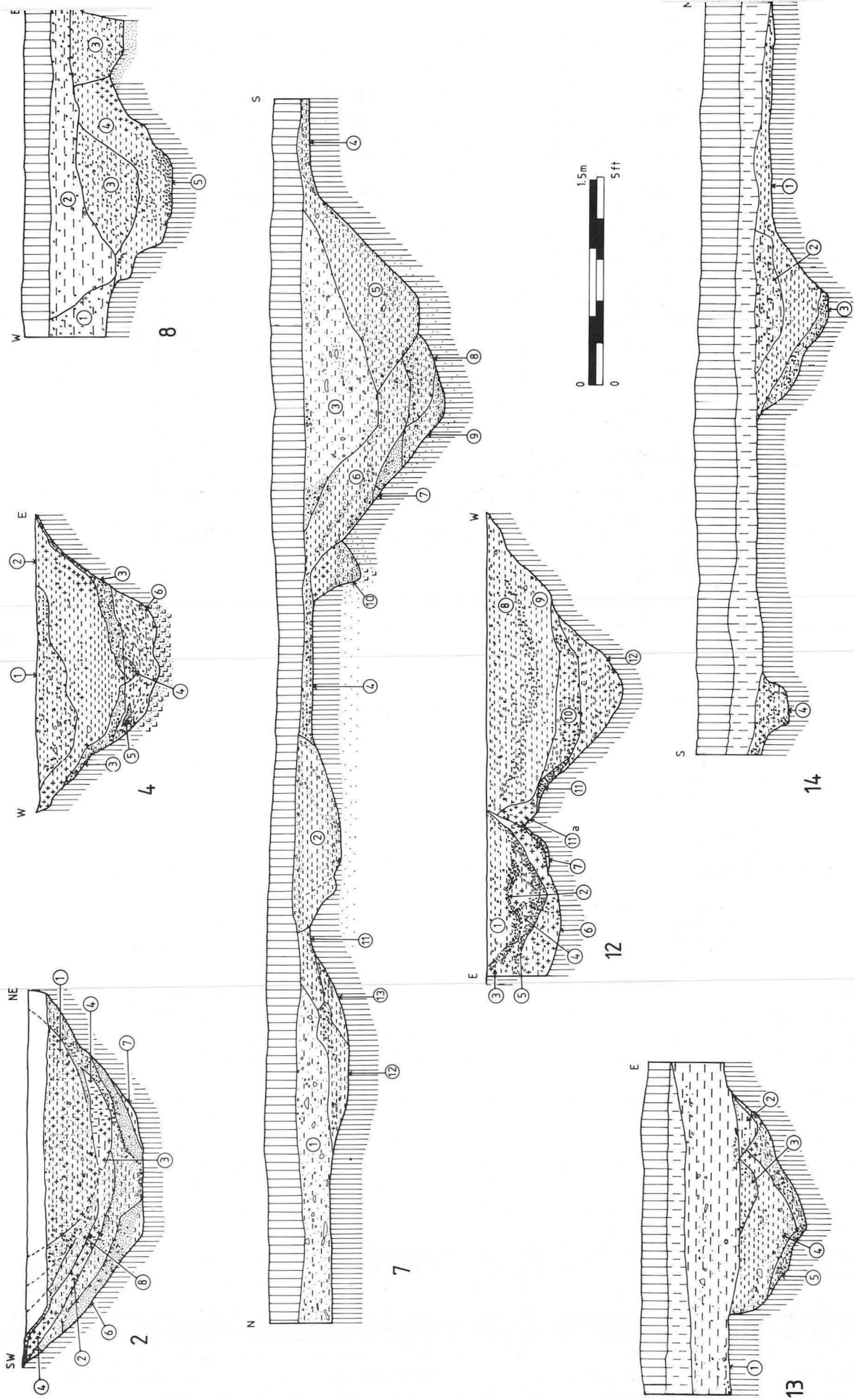


Figure 66 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Sections 2, 4, 7, 8, 12-14 (for locations see Figs 60 and 61). Scale 1:40

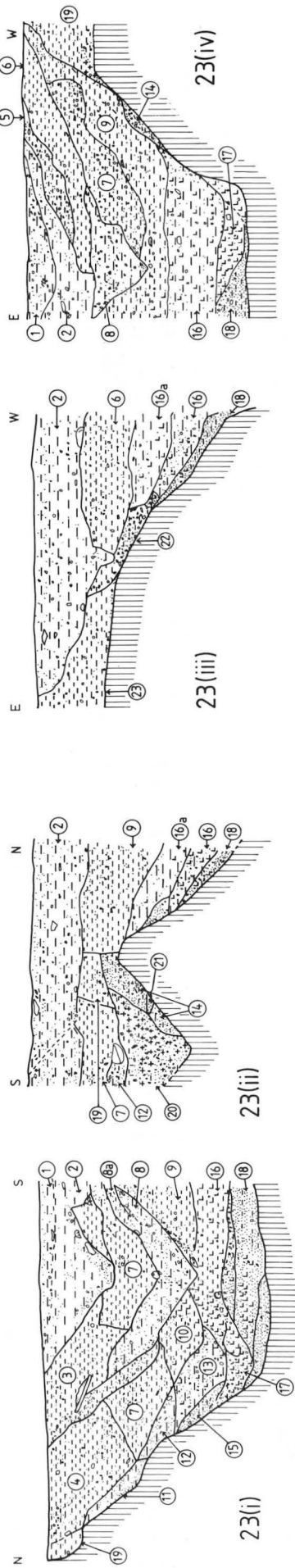
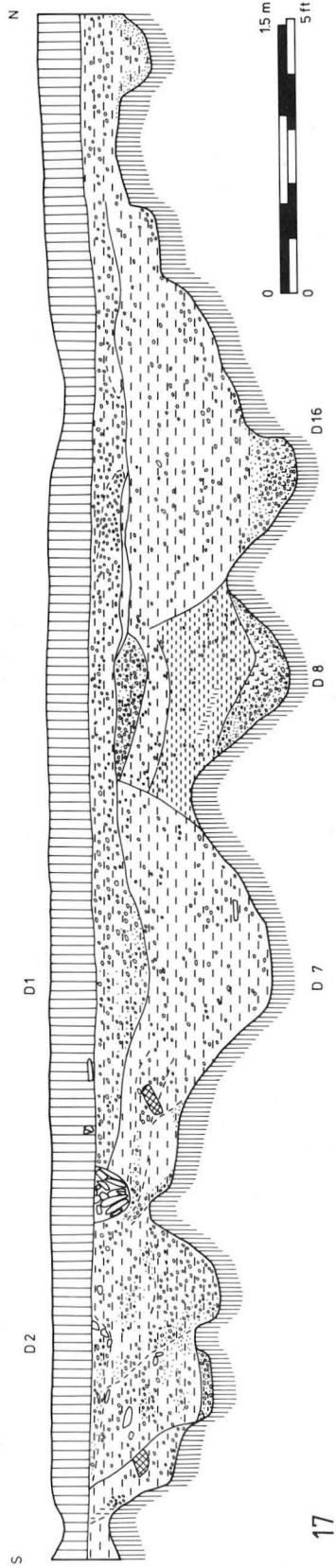


Figure 67 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Sections 17, 23(i-iv) (for locations see Figs 60 and 61). Scale 1:40

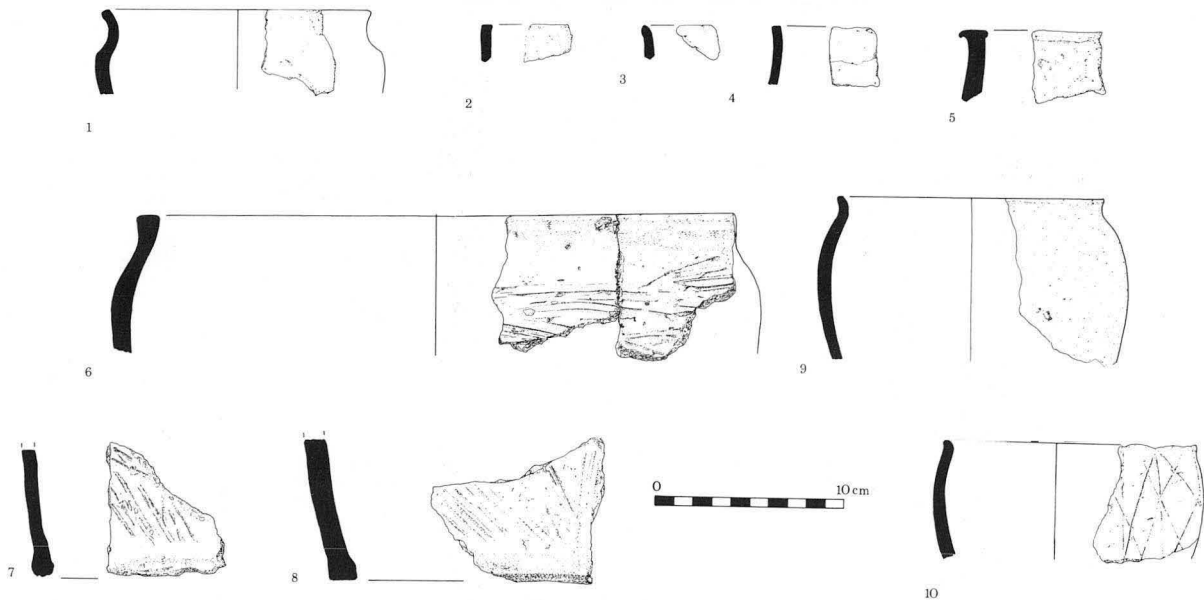


Figure 70 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Iron Age pottery. Scale 1:4

Romano-British and post-medieval artefacts

(Figs 72 and 73)

by D.A. Gurney

Introduction

Many of the small finds from the excavations are missing, and are known only from the excavator's notes and from drawings made soon after the excavation (redrawn for publication).

Apart from the coins, objects which are missing and for which there are no notes or sketches have not been included. Finds are catalogued by material, and within each section by phase and sub-phase where possible. In the report on the glass, vessel glass is catalogued first. Apart from Nos 34–6, all the artefacts are Romano-British. Numbers in *italic* indicate unillustrated objects.

Coins

Fourteen coins were recovered (Cat. Nos 1–14) five from the topsoil, one from a feature of uncertain phase, and eight from features belonging to Phase 4 (provenances on Microfiche, E.4). Since the excavations, the coins have been stolen from Peterborough Museum, and they do not appear to have been identified before the theft.

The low number of coins recovered from Romano-British sites at Maxey, both at Plant's Farm and elsewhere, is worthy of comment. The excavation of a substantial Romano-British settlement nearby (Pryor and French 1985) produced only five coins. At that site, retrieval methods included barrow-searching, dry-sieving, and the use of metal detectors to recover metal artefacts from the topsoil.

Reece (1985) has questioned the relevance of coinage to the practical economy of the site excavated in 1979–81 (Pryor and French 1985), and his observations are equally applicable here. It should also be noted that abnormally small coin assemblages are a feature of Fen-edge sites elsewhere. In Norfolk, the villa and bath-house at Little Oulsham Drove, Feltwell, produced only a single coin, and excavations beside the Fen Causeway at Denver, only five. Other substantial Romano-British sites on the

Norfolk Fen-edge produce either very few coins, or often none at all, and the only sites which have larger assemblages seem to be the temple sites such as Leylands Farm and Sawbench, Hockwold cum Wilton, perhaps associated with periodic fairs, markets and trading activities in the *temenoi* (for further discussion of the coins from Denver, Feltwell and Hockwold cum Wilton, see reports by John Davies in Gurney 1986).

What is clear is that sites like those at Maxey saw little circulation of coin during the Roman period, and that coinage cannot have been important in the economy of these sites. The non-use of coin also means that the absence of coins in particular periods cannot be taken as an indication of breaks in occupation. The nature of the relationship between coinless sites (or sites with abnormally small assemblages) and coin-using sites requires further investigation.

Objects of copper alloy

(Fig. 72)

15. Colchester brooch. Six coiled spring, pin missing. Only stubs of wings survive. The illustration is not good enough to determine what the section of the front represents. Profile nearly straight, sharp bend at head. Lower part and catch-plate missing.

The drawing disguises all but the gross form of the brooch. The line down the front may mean that there had been a raised wavy line, less probably a bead-row, down the centre. There is no reason to think that this brooch is late in the sequence of Colchesters, and the profile may suggest that it belongs to the earlier part, as the high 'kick' at the top of the head of the bow could reflect the same feature found in continental brooches of the Augustan-Tiberian period. The relatively short hook may be a better reflection of an early date. The suggested date-range is *c.* AD1–25, but the item could have survived in use to at least AD 40.

A very similar brooch was found at Maxey, OS 124 (Simpson 1981, fig. 7, no. 5; Olivier 1981). *Ditch 16 (Phase 3.1)*.

16. Nail-cleaner. Shaft slightly waisted, slightly bent above. Part of suspension loop missing. Possibly from a toilet set with No. 17, below. *Pit 6 (Phase 3.3)*.

17. Tweezers. Blades slightly flared with incised marginal grooves. Ends of blades curve in like pincers (see above, No. 16). *Pit 6 (Phase 3.3)*.

18. Pin. Slightly bent, tip missing. Head terminates in small shank to which a decorative bead in another material (?glass) would originally have been attached. Below head, two horizontal grooves

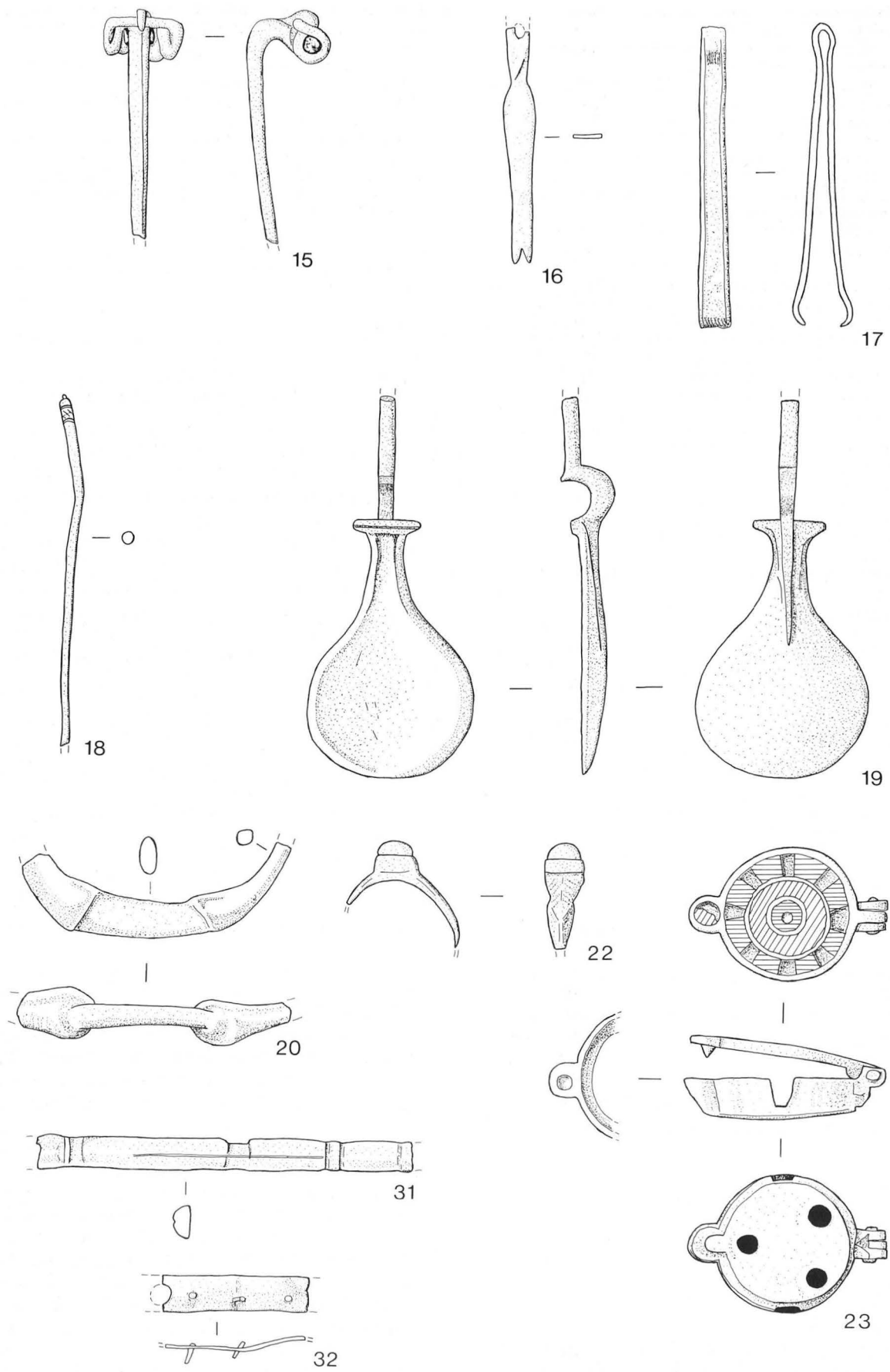


Figure 72 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British small finds: Copper alloy. Scale 1:2

with faint incised lattice decoration between (cf. Crummy 1983, fig. 29, no. 486). *Ditch 39 (Phase 3.3)*.

19. Spoon. Tinned or silvered surface. Most of handle missing. Handle offset from bowl. *Ditch 10 (Phase 4.1)*.
20. Terret-ring fragment; cast, considerably worn. Oval-sectioned attachment bar set between two stops. Ornamental portion missing; simple attachment bar and size suggest small, simple 'ribbed' terret of first half 1st century AD. Residual. *Pit 28 (Phase 4.2)*.
21. Circular-section rod, curved round at both ends. Terminals missing. Possibly a handle. *Ditch 5 (Phase 4.2)*.
22. Finger-ring. Decorative moulding on each side of bezel, which is filled with green glass. *Ditch 4 (Phase 4.3)*.
23. Round enamelled seal-box. Walled base, flat hinged lid held between two lugs on base and secured by a rivet. Sides of base have opposed slant-sided cut-outs; three circular perforations through base arranged in a triangle. Opposite hinge on base is solid conical projection with small circular depression on upper surface, matched by flat circular projection on lid. Small locating pin on underside. Surface of lid has *champlevé* enamel decoration; inner circle blue around central reserved dot, middle circle red, outer circle alternating segments of blue and red enamels (missing). Roundel on projection decorated with red enamel.
The method of use of seal-boxes is illustrated by R.E.M. Wheeler (1930, fig. 33). For similar seal-boxes see Rae and Rae (1974) fig. 141, no. 4, and Goodburn (1984) fig. 13, nos. 99–100. See also Bateson (1981), 49 and fig. 7c, no. 2. *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.
24. Scrap. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.
25. Fragment of square-sectioned rod. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.
26. Fragment of thin strip. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.
27. Fragment of brooch spring. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.
28. Strip fragment, rectangular section. *Ditch 4 (Phase 4.3)*.
29. Corroded fragment, possibly from D-sectioned bracelet. *Ditch 40 (Phase 4.3)*.
30. Two fragments of folded thin sheet. *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.
31. Bracelet fragment. Very worn with D-shaped section. Probably part of multiple-unit bracelet, with decorative zones separated by pairs of transverse grooves. Surviving portion has central longitudinal groove; slight indications of ring and dot stamped decoration on either side of this. *Topsoil in Grid EV*.
32. Strip of sheet metal, broken at both ends. Three small perforations, two containing rivets. Part of a fourth larger perforation at one end. Possibly a box-fitting. *Topsoil in Grid FIV*.
33. Fragment of thin flat sheet. *Topsoil in Grid FVI*.
34. Plain ring. Post-medieval. *Topsoil in Grid FVI*.
35. Pin. Post-medieval. *Topsoil*.
36. Ink-well lid, 17th or 18th century (identified by Sue Margeson). *Topsoil in Grid FVI*.

Objects of iron (Fig. 73)

None of the objects of iron, apart from nails, were available for study. More than one hundred nails are probably represented in the surviving collection of ferrous material, but all are very badly corroded and fragmentary. Of the other objects not seen, the notes and drawings rarely provide enough information to be certain either of date or identification. For this reason, only objects which are probably of Romano-British date have been catalogued, although it is clear that the catalogued finds are far from representative of the total number of ferrous objects from the site as a whole.

37. Lock-plate. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.
38. Double-spiked loop. *Ditch 4 (Phase 4.3)*.
39. Fragment of ?hippo-sandal. *Ditch 4 (Phase 4.3)*.

Objects of Glass (Fig. 73)

by H.E.M. Cool

Vessel glass

41. Rim of pillar moulded bowl. Dark yellow/brown. Part of one rib. Interior lightly wheel-polished, exterior fire-polished, interior and exterior of rim wheel-polished. *Ditch 2 (Phase 4.1)*.
42. Five lower body and base fragments of bowl. Colourless; occasional small bubbles; dulled surfaces. Wide lower body; flat base; part of circular trail with pontil scar on underside of base. Diam. of base trail c. 25 mm; dimensions (largest) 30 × 12 mm. *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.

43. Base fragment of jug or bowl. Blue/green; small bubbles; strain crack. Solid pushed-in base ring; slightly concave base. Side grooved. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)*.

Also four blue/green undecorated body fragments. *Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)* and *Ditch 54 (Phase 3.3)*.

44. Flat body fragment from blue/green prismatic bottle, broken at angle. *Pit 15 (Phase 4)*.
45. Two body fragments of blue/green cylindrical bottle with vertical scratch marks. *Ditch 39 (Phase 3.3)* and *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.
46. Rim fragment of flask. Pale green; many small to large bubbles. Rim out-turned horizontally, edge rolled in; cylindrical neck. 'In cobbling' (Phase 4).

Bead

47. Segmented, translucent green; wound and crimped; two segments. *Ditch 40 (Phase 4.3)*.

Window glass

48. Fragment cast, matt/glossy, blue/green, window glass. *Pit 1 (Phase 4)*.
49. Fragment pale green, colourless, blown, double glossy, window glass with one fire-rounded edge. *Ditch 41 (Phase 4.2)*.

The excavations produced fifteen fragments of vessel glass from a minimum of six vessels (Nos 41–6), a glass bead (No. 47) and two fragments of window glass (Nos 48 and 49). This material ranges in date from the mid-1st to the 4th centuries and some fragments (for example Nos 41, 42 and 45) are obviously residual in the contexts in which they were found.

The earliest vessel is the dark yellow/brown pillar moulded bowl (No. 41). Such strong coloured monochrome pillar moulded bowls were produced in the early and mid-1st century AD and had probably gone out of production by the last quarter of the century (Berger 1960, 18). Dark yellow/brown examples are not uncommon on Romano-British sites; for example, fragments were found at *Camulodunum* in Claudio-Neronian contexts (Harden, D.B. 1947, no. 66), at Fishbourne in contexts with a *terminus ante quem* of AD 75 (Harden and Price 1971, nos 21 and 21a), and at Chichester in a pre-Flavian layer (Charlesworth 1981, fig. 15.1/7).

The five colourless fragments (No. 42) come from a cylindrical bowl of Isings (1955) Form 85 such as the complete example found at Airlie, Angus (Charlesworth 1959, pl. 1/4). This was the commonest drinking cup form in the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries and was widespread throughout Britain, the Rhineland and north Gaul.

It is not possible to identify the precise forms of the vessels represented by Nos 43 and 46. Solid pushed-in base rings like No. 43 and cylindrical necks with rolled rims like No. 46 were used on a variety of jugs and bowls, and of jugs and flasks respectively throughout the Roman period. The colours of these two fragments, however, do give an indication of when the most likely period of production was. Blue/green glass was the preferred type of glass for everyday tablewares and containers from the 1st–3rd centuries; in the 4th century its use declined markedly and pale green bubbly glass replaced it. This would suggest that No. 43 is most likely to have been made in the 1st–3rd centuries, while No. 46 is probably of 4th-century date.

Two blue/green bottles are also represented. No. 44 is an example of a prismatic bottle of Isings Form 50 and is most likely to have come from a square bottle, while No. 45 comes from a cylindrical bottle of Isings Form 51. Square bottles were extremely common and were in use in the second half of the 1st, the 2nd, and possibly the early 3rd centuries. Cylindrical bottles had a much shorter period of production being limited to the Flavian and Trajanic periods (Boon 1969, 95; Price forthcoming) and are consequently less numerous.

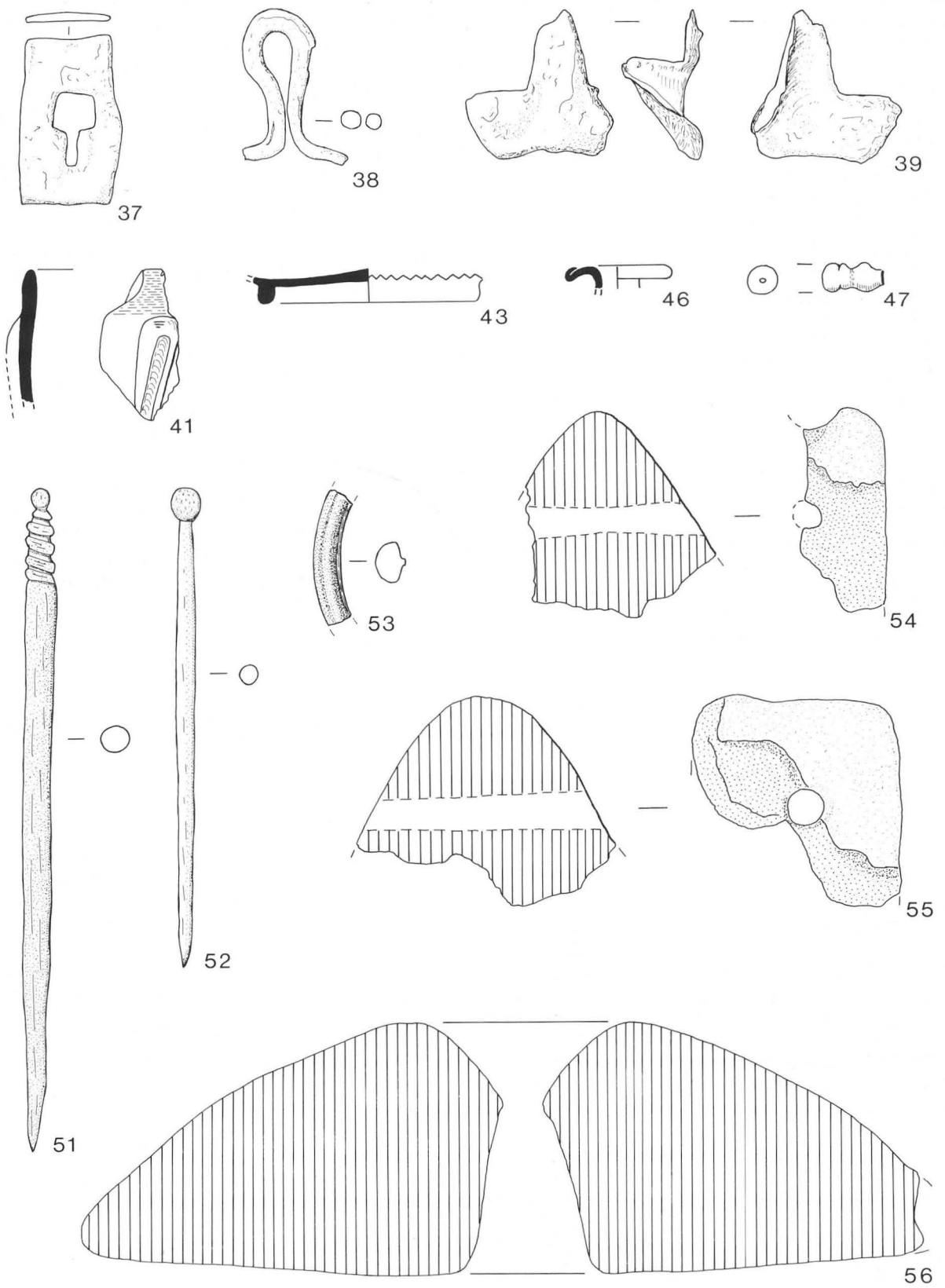


Figure 73 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British small finds: *Iron* (Nos 37-9); *glass* (Nos 41, 43, 46); *bone* (Nos 51, 52); *shale* (No. 53); *fired clay* (Nos 54, 55); *stone* (No. 56). Scale 1:2

Segmented beads such as the green example No. 47 occur in 2nd-century contexts but are most common in the late Roman period (Guido 1978, 92). Cast matt/glossy window glass like No. 48 was in use from the 1st-3rd centuries; blown window glass like No. 49 was predominantly in use in the 4th century.

Objects of bone (Fig. 73)

50. Pin shaft fragment. *Ditch 51 (Phase 4.1)*.
 51. Pin with simple rounded head above hand-carved spiral groove of four turns. Plain tapering shaft, highly polished. Possibly an imitation of Crummy Type 5 (1983, 24) of 4th-century date. *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.
 52. Pin with spherical head and slight swelling of shaft. 3rd or 4th century (Crummy 1983, Type 3). *Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)*.

Object of shale (Fig. 73)

53. Fragment of plain bracelet, D-shaped section. In turning the internal surface from each side, a slight projecting ridge has been left in the middle. *Ditch 45 (Phase 4.1)*.

Objects of fired clay (Fig. 73)

54. Corner fragment of triangular loomweight with perforation and external groove around angle. *Ditch 16 (Phase 3.1)*.
 55. Corner fragment of a triangular loomweight with perforation. *Ditch 16 (Phase 3.1)*.

Object of stone (Fig. 73)

56. Hertfordshire Conglomerate ('Puddingstone') quern upper-stone. Querns of this type are dated between 50 BC and AD 150. The distribution is principally confined to Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex (Rudge 1965). *Ditch 31 (Phase uncertain)*.

The Romano-British pottery

by D.A. Gurney, with contributions by Brenda Dickinson, B.R. Hartley, Kay Hartley, D.P.S. Peacock, and Graham Webster

Introduction

Approximately 87 kg of pottery were recovered from the two phases of Romano-British occupation. Phase 3 is dated from the mid-1st century AD to the mid-2nd century, and Phase 4 is dated from the mid-3rd to the mid-4th century. Phase 4 accounted for approximately 71% by weight of the Romano-British pottery assemblage, and Phase 3 12%. Unassigned features contained 2% by weight, and the topsoil 15%.

Given the methods of excavation and standard of on-site recording, it was decided that the primary value of the pottery lay in phasing the various features of the Romano-British settlement. Once this aim had been realised, selected groups of pottery from the early and late Roman phases were selected for publication. From Phase 3, two groups were chosen, Ditch 43 and Pit 26, which combined account for approximately 68% by weight of the Phase 3 assemblage, while from Phase 4, Ditch 1 and Pit 29 account for approximately 52% by weight of the later Roman pottery.

On stratigraphic and pottery evidence, Phase 3 could be divided into three sub-phases (see Section II, above). To re-iterate, these were:

- Phase 3.1: ?Pre-Flavian
 Phase 3.2: Flavian
 Phase 3.3: ?Late 1st-mid to late 2nd century

Most of the pottery belongs to Phase 3.3, there is generally little material of earlier 1st-century date (*cf.* Maxey; Gurney 1985, 147). Much of the samian appears to have been in use in the later part of sub-phase 3.3, though most comes from features of Phase 4 date where it is certainly residual.

Phase 4 has also been divided into three sub-phases. Dating of these sub-phases is also difficult, as many of the features were probably recut, and there must be a high percentage of residual material in them. Within features, the pottery was not recorded by layer or depth, and it is therefore probable that the groups of pottery recorded only by feature number contain material deriving from both primary and later fills. On the combined evidence of the pottery and the stratigraphic relationships of Phase 4 features, the following dates are tentatively suggested for the three sub-phases:-

- Phase 4.1: mid- to late-3rd century
 Phase 4.2: late 3rd-early 4th century
 Phase 4.3: early to mid-4th century

The catalogued pottery is divided into the specialist wares (samian, mortaria, amphorae) and the other pottery. In specialist reports, all the sherds from the site have been catalogued. A number of sherds from other features have been catalogued, in addition to the four selected groups. These consist of forms not present in the latter.

Samian

(Fig. 74, No. 17)

by B.R. Hartley and Brenda Dickinson

Phase 3.3

1. Fragment from a large (?rouletted) dish, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. *Ditch 54*.
2. Footring fragment, from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Trajanic. *Ditch 39*.
3. Form 18/31, fragment and flake, Central Gaulish. Probably Hadrianic. *Ditch 39*.
4. Form Curle 23, Central Gaulish. Almost complete, eight-petalled rosette in middle of base. Hadrianic or early Antonine. *Ditch 54*.
5. Footring fragment (unworn), Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine. *Ditch 22*.
6. Form 36, East Gaulish (perhaps Argonne Ware). Antonine or later. *Ditch 23 (?intrusive)*.

Phase 4.1

7. Two fragments of Form 36 variant, East Gaulish. Late 2nd or, more probably, 3rd century. *Ditch 2*.
8. Dish fragment, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 2*.
9. Form 18/31 or 31, burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine. *Ditch 51*.

Phase 4.2

10. Three scraps, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 5*.
11. Form 31, East Gaulish. Late 2nd or 3rd century. *Ditch 5*.
12. Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 5*.
13. Scrap, Central Gaulish. Probably Antonine. *Ditch 6*.
14. Form 33, burnt on outside, Central or East Gaulish. External groove below lip and another, either in centre or at base of wall. Mid- or late Antonine. *Ditch 38*.

Phase 4.3

15. Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 1*.
16. Form 38 or 44 rim, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 1*.
17. Form 37, style of Cettus of Les Martres-de-Veyre. Surviving panel contains a Neptune (Dechelette 14 variant). Tendril across border ends in his common leaf (Rogers 1974, J144), and decoration also includes his S-motif. For this potter's date see Hartley 1972, 34. *c.* AD 135-160. *Ditch 1*.
18. Flake, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 1*.

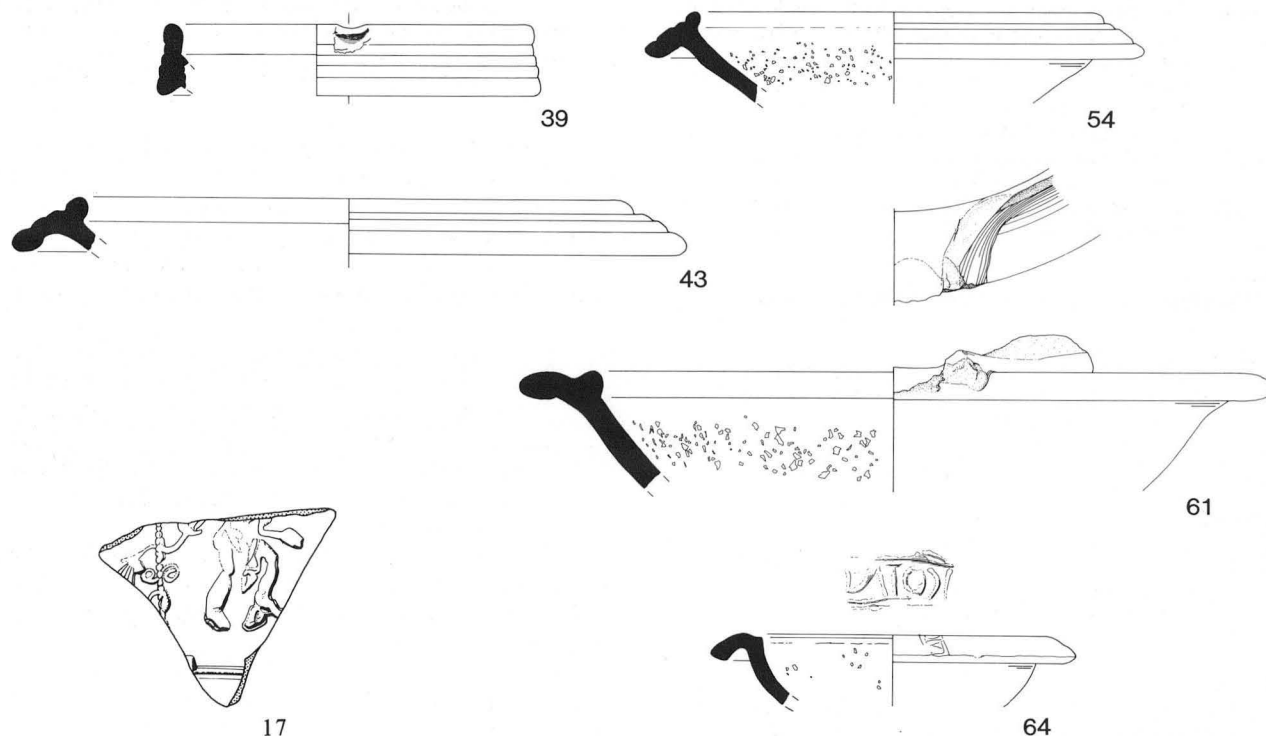


Figure 74 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Samian, Scale 1:1 and mortaria, Scale 1:4

19. Form 79 or Ludowici Tg, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late Antonine. *Ditch 4*.
20. Form 27, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic. *Ditch 7*.
21. Form 38 flange, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Ditch 7*.
22. Form 45 collar. Central Gaulish. c. AD 170–200. *Pit 29*.
23. ?Form Ludowici Tb, etc., East Gaulish. Late 2nd or 3rd century. *Pit 29*.
24. Three joining fragments, Form 31, stamped DOVIICVS, by Do(v)eccus i of Lezoux (Die 11e). Circle on base close to stamp, as on Form 31R, but this dish like Form 31s from Pudding Pan Rock. Small circles not uncommon on Do(v)eccus's unrouletted dishes. Fabric pale, with dull, brown glaze. The stamp occurs at Chester-le-Street, Wallsend, Housesteads (2) and Malton c. AD 165–200. *Pit 29*.
25. Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine. *Pit 29*.
26. Three fragments and three flakes from dish, Form Curle 23, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Pit 29*.
27. Two flakes, probably from same vessel, East Gaulish. Antonine or later. *Gulley 5*.

Phase 4; sub-phase not assigned

28. Form 31, burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine. 'Under road'.

Unassigned

29. Cup fragment, burnt, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine. *Ditch 19*.
30. Two fragments from gritted samian mortarium, Central Gaulish. Late Antonine. *Ditch 46*.

Topsoil

31. ?Form 40, East Gaulish. Probably Argonne Ware. Antonine or later. *Grid FIV*.
32. Flake, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine. *Grid FVI*.
33. Form 38 flange. Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Grid FVI*.

Comment

Small amounts of samian seem to have reached this site from the late 1st century to the Hadrianic period. Thereafter, the quantities increased and the greatest use

of samian was probably in the second half of the Antonine period, lasting down to the end of the 2nd century and decreasing in the 3rd century, as supplies to Britain decreased in general. This small collection includes only one sherd of decorated ware, an unusually small proportion of the whole.

Mortaria

(Fig. 74)

by Kay Hartley

The mortaria fabrics

Fabric 1: Castor-Stibbington area of the lower Nene Valley. Hard, off-white fabric, occasionally pink or grey core. Little fine, red-brown and quartz temper; often a brownish-buff slip. Trituration: black slaggy material; occasionally, some haematite.

Fabric 2: Lower Nene Valley. Hard, pale orange-brown fabric. Quartz and probably some slaggy inclusions. Trituration: as Fabric 1.

Fabric 3: Lower Nene Valley. As Fabric 1, but finer textured. Red-brown or dark brown colour-coat. Trituration: sometimes finely fragmented and closely packed.

Fabric 4: Mancetter-Hartshill, Warks. Usually distinctively, fine-textured, creamy white fabric, often fired to very hard texture in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Sometimes described as pipeclay but often has a little fine quartz and occasional red-brown temper or dark slag-like inclusions. Normally self-coloured but surface sometimes fired to pale buff and may occasionally appear to have a pale buff slip. Trituration: before c. AD 135/140 often contains a lot of quartz and may be entirely quartz; after that date, abundant blackish to dark brown and/or red-brown grog, though the occasional quartz grit may appear.

Fabric 5: Oxford potteries (Dorchester, Cowley, Sandford, Baldon etc; Young, 1977). Fine-textured, orange-brown fabric sometimes with grey core; thin white or cream slip. Trituration: distinctive mixed pink, brownish and transparent quartz.

- Fabric 6:** *Verulamium* region (Brockley Hill, Radlett and *Verulamium*). Granular fabric, usually greyish-cream but can be brownish, sometimes pink core; texture obtained by addition of abundant well-sorted, tiny quartz grit, probably with a little flint and, occasionally, red-brown material. Trituration: flint, quartz and a little red-brown material.
- Fabric 7:** East Midlands. Hard; creamy white fabric with a little quartz and red-brown temper. Trituration: red-brown haematite.
- Fabric 8:** Herts./Beds. area. Similar to Fabric 6 but harder, with fewer and less well-sorted inclusions.

Phase 2

34. Incomplete rim. Fabric 6; 2nd century. *Ditch 21* (intrusive).

Phase 3.3

35. Base, burnt. Fabric 8; Probably 2nd century. *Ditch 39*.
36. Base. Fabric 7; AD 100–250. 2nd century more likely. *Ditch 54*.

Phase 4.1

37. Body sherd, burnt. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 10*.

Phase 4.2

38. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 38*.
39. Rim; reeded, almost wall-sided; spout made by thumb or finger depression. Fabric 1; AD 250–400. *Ditch 41*.
40. Base. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 41*.
41. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 230–400+. *Ditch 59*.

Phase 4.3

42. Rim; reeded with upstanding bead. Fabric 1; AD 200–350. *Ditch 1*.
43. Complete rim profile; reeded hammerhead. Fabric 1; AD 200–350. *Ditch 1*.
44. Base. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 1*.
45. Base. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 1*.
46. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 1*.
47. Rim; Young, 1977, form WC7. Fabric 5; AD 240–400. *Ditch 1*.
48. Base. Fabric 5; AD 240–400. *Ditch 1*.
49. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 4*.
50. Rim; reeded hammerhead, slightly concave. Fabric 1; Probably 3rd century. *Ditch 7*.
51. Body sherd. Fabric 3; AD 250–400. *Ditch 40*.
52. Base. Fabric 2; AD 200–400. *Ditch 40* or *Ditch 44*.
53. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 47*.
54. Four joining sherds; reeded hammerhead. Fabric 1; AD 200–350. *Pit 29*.
55. Rim; reeded hammerhead, slightly concave. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Pit 29*.
56. Two joining body sherds. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Pit 29*.

Phase 4; sub-phase not assigned

57. Complete rim profile; reeded hammerhead. Fabric 1; Probably 3rd century. *Ditch 53*.
58. Base. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Ditch 53*.

Topsoil

59. Six joining sherds and one flange fragment; reeded, near wall-sided. Fabric 1; AD 250–400. *Grid EV*.
60. Flake. ?Fabric 3; AD 250–400. *Grid FVI*.
61. Rim; bead broken and turned out over flange to form spout. Very close to Johnson 1983, fig. 44, no. 236. Fabric 1; Probably AD 300–400. *Grid FIV*.
62. Two joining sherds; reeded hammerhead. Fabric 1; probably 3rd century. *Grids FVI, FVII*.
63. Body sherd. Fabric 1; AD 200–400. *Grid GVII*.
64. Complete rim profile with stamp; heavily burnt Fabric 4. This stamp, [COTAS], retrograde, is from one of at least seven dies used by Icotasgus, who worked in the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries in Warwickshire. His stamps have now been found at the following sites: in Scotland: Ardoch, Balmuildy, Castlecary, Newstead, and Rough Castle; in England and Wales: Aldborough, Ambleside, Ancaster, Cardurnock (2), Chesters Museum, Cirencester, Corbridge (4), High Cross (3), Horncastle (Lincs), Leicester (14), Lincoln (2), Little Chester, *Manduessedum* (many), Manchester, *Margidunum*, Maxey (Cams), North Collingham, Ratcliffe-on-Soar (Notts), Ribchester, Rocester (3), Rossington Bridge, Shenstone (Staffs), Stanground South, Stanton Low (Bucks), Templeborough, Tallington (Lincs), Tripontium, Usk, Wall, Wilderspool (4), Winterton, Wroxeter and York (1 and 4 likely to be from York).

Icotasgus has a typical distribution for a Mancetter potter working in the Antonine period. Many of his mortaria show pre-Antonine characteristics in the rim-forms and the trituration grit used, and a date of c. AD 130–160 would fit his work well. *Residual, Grid GVII*.

At least sixteen mortaria are represented; three or four are 2nd century, one probably 4th century, at least three 3rd century, and eight others 3rd/4th century. The very small sample suggests that the heaviest occupation was in the period after AD 250 with earlier occupation, perhaps lighter, dating back to at least the 2nd century. The pattern of supplies at various periods is what one would expect in this area; the later mortaria came from local sources in the lower Nene Valley, with the exception of one mortarium from the major potteries at Oxford. The 2nd-century mortaria were obtained in small numbers from various sources, some probably fairly local; one is from the major potteries at Mancetter-Hartshill in Warwickshire, and one is from the *Verulamium* region.

This sample compares very closely with the eleven or twelve mortaria from a nearby site (Hartley, K.F. 1985), both in the sources and in the relative proportions belonging to each period.

Amphorae (not illustrated)

by D.P.S. Peacock

Phase 3

65. Rim of Spanish globular amphora in pinkish-buff sandy fabric. Form suggests a 2nd- or 3rd-century date. *Pit 4*.

Phase 4.1

66. Two body sherds in soft pale buff fabric, some micaceous sand, particularly on surfaces. Form uncertain, but possibilities include Dressel 28/30 or a South Spanish variety. *Ditch 10*.

Phase 4.3

67. Body sherd of globular amphora in fine grey/buff fabric. *Pit 29*.

Other pottery

(Figs 75–8)

Notes on the types and wares

For the early Roman pottery from Phase 3 features, no overall classification of the wares is attempted, as only a relatively small number of vessels is represented. Instead, the fabric of each vessel is individually described in the catalogue. For the later Roman pottery, all the sherds could be allocated to one of six easily-distinguished wares:-

Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware (NVCC): the fabric is hard and smooth, with an irregular fracture at x20. The core colour varies from white through buff or pink to pale orange. Inclusions are generally moderate quartz with sparse mica and black and red iron ore. Colour-coats vary from shades of red to dark grey or brown. In the 4th century there is a tendency towards more orangy or grey fabrics, with darker overfired colour-coats, frequently with a 'metallic' lustre. This ware is made from the local Jurassic clays of the Nene Valley. The earliest known kilns are of the late 2nd/early 3rd century, but the start of the industry is probably c. AD 130–140.

Nene Valley Grey Ware (NVGW): the fabric is hard and smooth, with an irregular fracture at x20. Inclusions are moderate quartz and sparse black iron ore. In firing, the ware has been reduced or part-reduced, giving an off-white to light grey core with a fumed grey or dark grey surface.

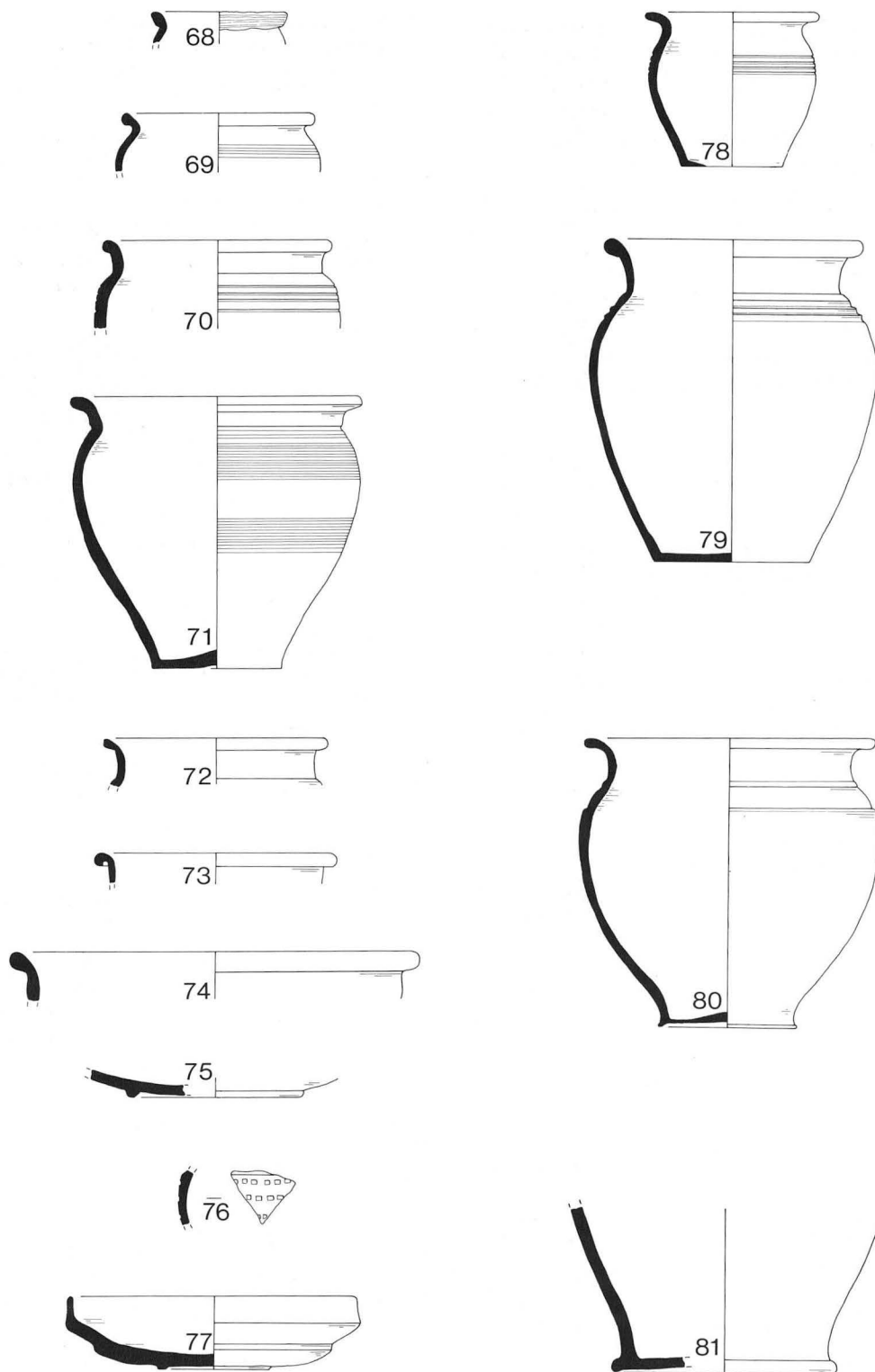


Figure 75 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British pottery. Scale 1:4

The earliest deposits with this ware are dated to the second quarter of the 2nd century (Orton Hall Farm, Normangate Field, Monument 97, and Chesterton). Forms are essentially utilitarian and conservative, and once the basic range of forms was established, there was probably little evolution. In the late 3rd century, the remaining NVGW forms are replaced by NVCC versions. This ware was made from the same local Jurassic clays as NVCC.

Both these wares, NVCC and NVGW, are catalogued and discussed in Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980 (abbreviated in the following catalogue to RPNV).

Self-coloured wares: apart from mortaria, flagons, jars and bowls were produced in the Nene Valley kilns, and the range of forms was probably wider. The fabrics of the miniature flask, No. 130, and candlestick, No. 149, suggest

that they are Nene Valley products. Stibbington was a major producer of self-coloured wares from the 2nd to the 4th century. Many of the forms produced have painted decoration, sometimes being applied to the vessel during rotation, as on No. 131. It is possible that the use of painted decoration in the lower Nene Valley industry found its inspiration in the traditions of potters working in the upper Nene Valley (Woods 1970; Woods and Hastings 1984).

Black Burnished Ware 1(BB1): for this see Williams, 1977. Five sherds of this ware were found in Pit 29, and one is illustrated (No. 132). In the Nene Valley BB1 occurs in deposits dating from the late 3rd to the mid-4th century.

Hadham Red Colour-Coated Ware: this ware was produced at kilns in the neighbourhood of Much Hadham, near Braughing, Herts. The fabric is slightly sandy and red or light red in colour (2.5YR 5/6, 6/6), with a red or light orange colour-coat. The external surface often has a distinctive strongly-burnished finish. For this ware see Orton (1977, 37) and Harden and Green (1978, 170). A few sherds of this ware were noted in groups of Phase 4 date, and like BB1, it occurs in the Nene Valley in 4th-century deposits, although it is rarely if ever well-represented.

Calcite-gritted wares: these wares were produced locally, although only a single (Trajanic) kiln is known, at Water Newton. There is little apparent typological development of the forms produced, although a wider range does seem to emerge in the 4th century with the decline of the NVGW industry. As far as the fabrics are concerned, there appears to be a trend towards harder and more evenly fired fabrics after the early 2nd century, but this cannot be used as a reliable indicator of date.

Catalogue (Figs 75–8)

Ditch 16iii (Phase 3.3)

68. Small jar. Hard, hand-made, calcite-gritted. Red (2.5YR 5/6) throughout. Moderate, ill-sorted inclusions up to 8 mm. Faint irregular horizontal grooves on the rim.
69. Small jar. Hard, calcite-gritted. Red (2.5YR 5/6) with dark grey core and surfaces (10YR 3/1). Moderate inclusions up to 1 mm. Faint horizontal grooving on the shoulder.
70. Jar. Three joining sherds. Hard, calcite-gritted. Greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) throughout. Sooting on external surface. Moderate, ill-sorted inclusions up to 3 mm. Four incised horizontal grooves on the shoulder.
71. Jar. Twenty-three joining sherds. Hard, slightly gritty fabric. Grey core (10YR 5/1), yellowish-red margins (5YR 5/6), greyish-brown internally (10YR 5/2), very dark grey externally (10YR 3/1). Inclusions of moderate rounded quartz up to 1 mm, moderate ill-sorted chalk inclusions up to 3 mm and sparse mica. Two zones of horizontal combing.
72. Jar. Hard, slightly gritty fabric. Very dark grey core (10YR 3/1), grey surfaces (10YR 5/1). Moderate, rounded quartz inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica.
73. Jar or bowl. Hard, smooth fabric. Light reddish-brown core (5YR 6/4), black surfaces. Moderate, rounded quartz and chalk inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica.
74. Wide-mouthed jar or bowl. Hard, smooth grey fabric (2.5YR N5/). Inclusions as No. 73.
75. Base of dish with footstand. Hard, smooth. Grey (10YR 5/1) throughout. Inclusions as No. 73.

76. ?Jar. Hard, gritty fabric. Grey (10YR 5/1) with light grey margins and surfaces (10YR 6/1). Moderate, rounded quartz inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica. Notched decoration (cf. Friendship-Taylor 1979, fig. 43, no. 182) AD 60-80.
77. Platter or dish with potter's mark. Twenty-one joining sherds. Hard fabric. Dark grey core (5YR 4/1), yellowish-red margins (5YR 5/6), smooth black burnished surfaces. Sparse rounded quartz inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica. Within a faintly incised circle in the centre of the interior is a fragmentary illiterate stamp of repeated angled lines and dots (*not illustrated*). Similar stamps, form and fabric are known from Baldock, Hertfordshire (Valery Rigby, pers. comm.).

See also Mortarium No. 49.

Pit 6 (Phase 3.3)

78. Small squat jar. Twelve joining sherds. Hard, calcite-gritted. Red (10YR 5/6) throughout. Abundant, ill-sorted inclusions up to 8 mm. Four incised horizontal grooves on the shoulder.
79. Jar. Thirty-seven joining sherds. Hard, calcite-gritted. Grey inner core (10YR 5/1), brown external margin and surface (10YR 5/3), reddish-yellow internal margin and surface (5YR 6/6). Some sooting on rim and shoulder. Moderate, ill-sorted inclusions up to 8 mm. Three incised horizontal grooves on the shoulder.
80. Wide-mouthed jar. Fifty-six joining sherds. Very hard, gritty fabric. Reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) with grey inner core and margins (5YR 5/1), pale brown external surface (5YR 6/3) and reddish-yellow internal surface (5YR 6/6). Moderate, rounded quartz up to 1 mm and sparse mica.
81. Jar base and lower body. Two joining sherds. Very hard, gritty fabric. Light grey/grey (10YR 6/1) throughout. Moderate, rounded quartz inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica.

Comment

The combined pottery from features of Phase 3 date (all sub-phases) accounts for only 12% by weight of the total assemblage. The two catalogued groups from Ditch 16iii and Pit 6 contained no less than 68% by weight of the Phase 3 assemblage. Both groups almost certainly date from early in sub-phase 3.3, probably the late 1st century. Many of the vessels are in calcite-gritted wares, or in hard, often gritty, reduced fabrics which may have come from the Upper Nene Valley. Also from this period is the imitation Gallo-Belgic platter with an illiterate stamp (No. 77), which should date to the second half of the 1st century AD. Apart from this platter, and dish No. 75, all the remaining vessels are jars of various sizes, often decorated with incised horizontal grooving on the shoulder, although notched decoration is also present on a single vessel (No. 76).

Ditch 1 (Phase 4.3)

Nene Valley Colour-Coated Wares

82. Beaker. Off-white with reddish-brown colour-coat.
83. Folded 'scale' beaker. Funnel neck. Orange, black external and reddish brown internal colour-coat. Underslip applied scale decoration. (RPNV 38–9)
84. Four non-joining sherds from medium-sized beaker, cornice rim. Dark chocolate colour-coat, dull red internally on cream fabric. Thick barbotine decoration.

Dr Graham Webster writes:

The beaker depicts a number of enigmatic scenes of which only fragments of three survive. One, (*a*), near the top of the vessel shows a female, with an elaborate coiled hairstyle to which is attached long plumes, with a bare breast, and who appears to be holding a garland on a staff, which bears a similarity to the *caduceus* of Mercury, but a female would not be carrying this object. There is a striking parallel in the way the nose of the female has been depicted with that of a bearded man from Lincoln (Walters 1908, no. 2480, not illus.).

The second, (*b*) is equally difficult to interpret; a man seems to have an animal mask under his right arm and holds part of it, the skin falling in front of him. On the left is the left arm of a *bestiarius* to which is attached a decorated buckle based on the Greek *pelta*; the lower part of the arm has the protective binding

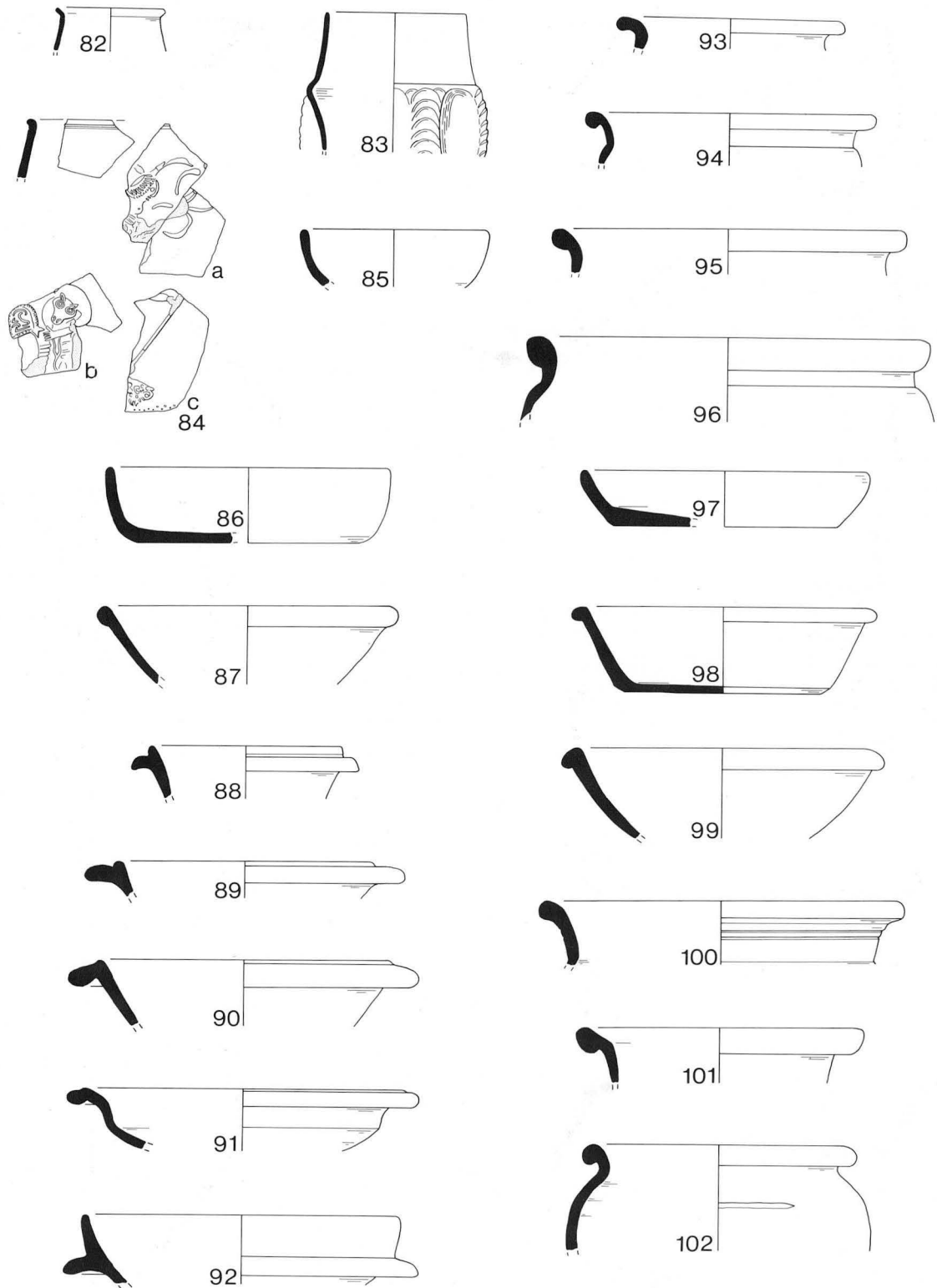


Figure 76 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British pottery, *Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware* (Nos 82-96); *Nene Valley Grey Ware*, (Nos 97-100); *Calcite-gritted Ware*, (Nos 101, 102). Scale 1:4

usual for these men. This is evidently part of a *venatio* scene in which animals were let free to be hunted and killed for the enjoyment of the populace.

There were many variations of this basic theme, as the Colchester vessels demonstrate. These include man and animal masks in a grove (Hull 1963, fig. 53, no. 13) and dwarves dressed as *cucullati* (Hull 1963, fig. 53, no. 8), probably to provide an element of comedy.

The third fragment (c), is the most difficult to understand. An arm and hand hold a spear which is being driven into a

creature on the ground, of which survives only a strange head on a thin neck. Whether this is a face up or face down is not certain; there are features which could be described as an eye, an ear, or possibly mouth and hair. This does not resemble any particular animal, real or mythical. Dragons are not unknown in La Tène metalwork in Britain (Stead 1984), but this seems remote for 3rd-century pottery and an alternative solution is that it is a Celtic copy of a creature of classical mythology. It could well have been the *hydra* being slain by Hercules, who was widely recognised in Roman Britain as a salvation diety, especially at the time of

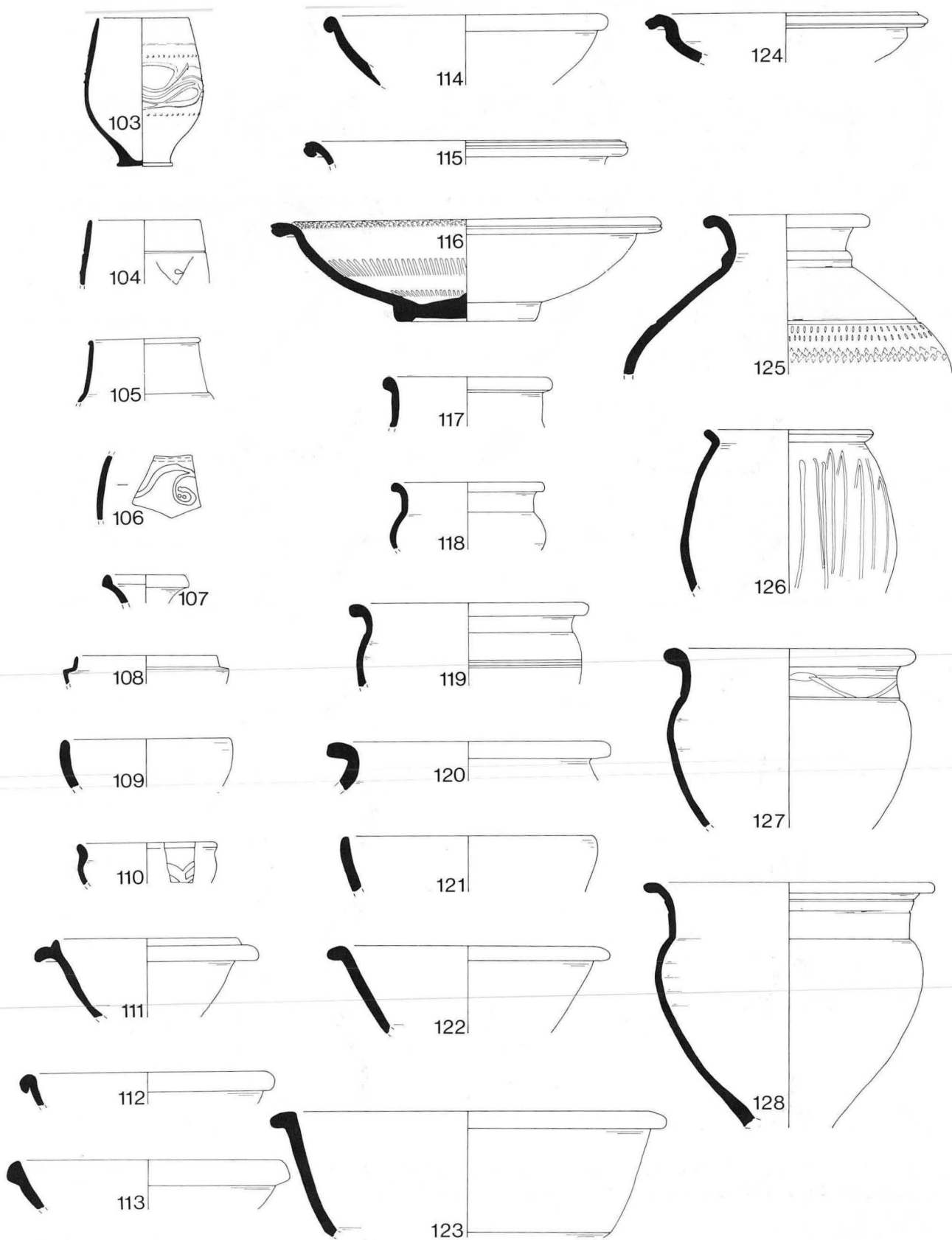


Figure 77 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British pottery, *Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware* (Nos 103-20); *Nene Valley Grey Ware* (Nos 121-8). Scale 1:4

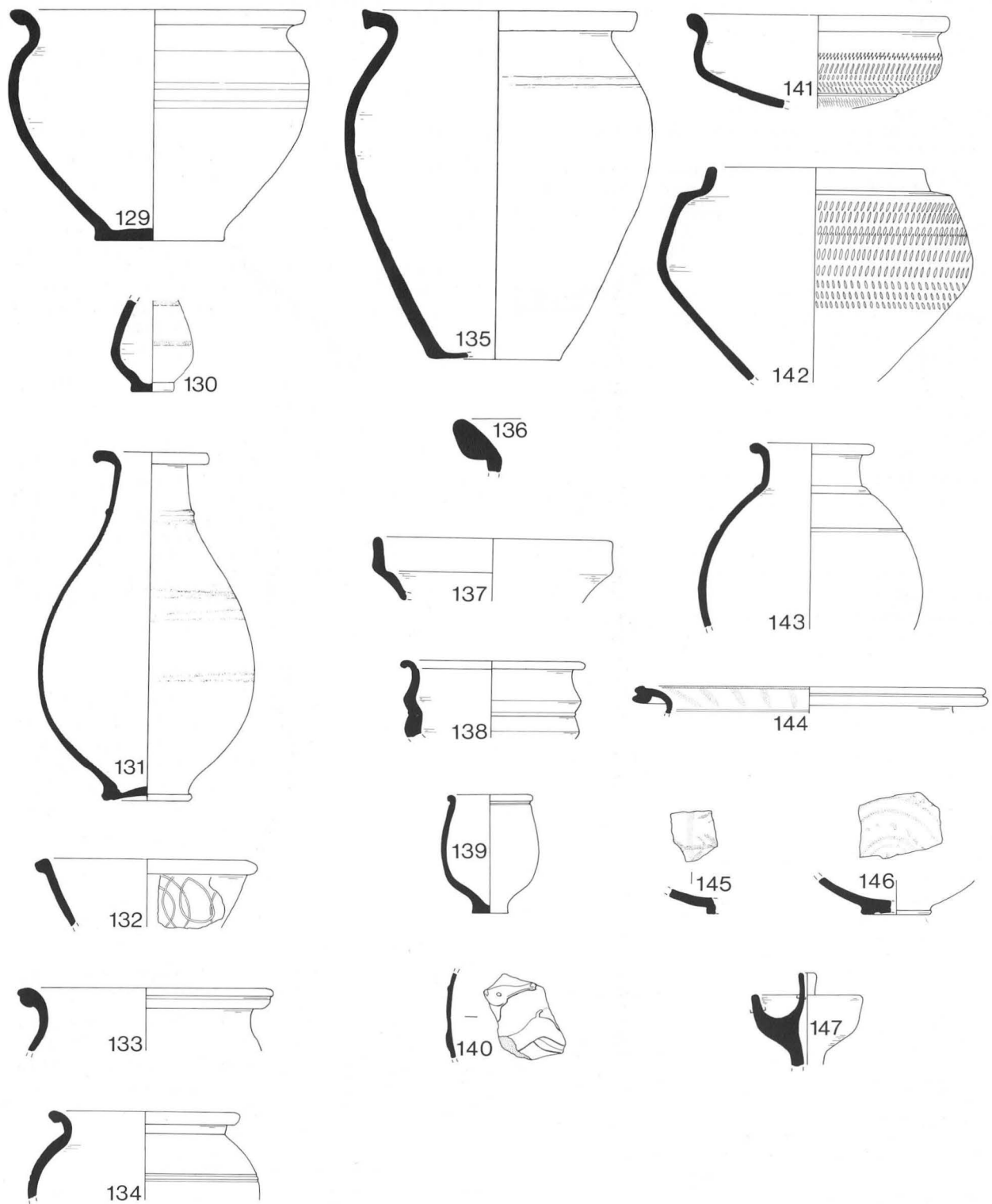


Figure 78 Maxey, Plant's Farm: Romano-British pottery, *Nene Valley Grey Ware* (No. 129); *Self-Coloured Ware* (Nos 130, 131); *Black Burnished Ware* (No. 132); *Calcite-Gritted Ware* (Nos 133-6); *Other pottery* (Nos 137-47). Scale 1:4

- Commodus, who identified himself with the god. This would also fit well with the early 3rd-century date of the vessel.
85. Dish. Grey, dark brown colour-coat. RPNV 87.
 86. Dish. Off-white, dark reddish-brown colour-coat. RPNV 87.
 87. Bowl. Off-white, reddish-brown colour-coat.
 88. Flanged bowl. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. RPNV 79.
 89. Flanged bowl. White, orangy-brown colour-coat. RPNV 79.
 90. Flanged bowl. Orange, reddish-brown colour-coat. RPNV 79.
91. Bowl imitating samian Form 36. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. RPNV 81.
 92. Flanged bowl imitating samian Form 38. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. RPNV 83.
 93. Jar. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat.
 94. Jar. Off-white, dark brown colour-coat.
 95. Jar. Off-white, reddish-brown colour-coat.
 96. Jar. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. Six sherds.

Nene Valley Grey Ware

97. Dish. Two sherds. RPNV 19.
98. Dish. Chamfered base. Eight sherds. RPNV 17.
99. Bowl.
100. Jar. RPNV 10.

Calcite-gritted Wares

101. Jar. Hard, well-fired. Red internally, dark grey externally. Moderate inclusions up to 4 mm.
102. Jar, two sherds. Hard, well-fired. Dark-grey throughout. Moderate inclusions up to 2 mm. Grooved around part of the shoulder.

See also samian Nos 1-4 and mortaria Nos 34-8.

Comment

Folded scale beakers (No. 83) probably start in the second quarter of the 3rd century, and last until the early 4th century. The period of the production of Hunt Cups and other figured beakers, depicting gladiatorial scenes, deities, erotic designs and phallic designs appears to have been during the first half of the 3rd century. Such vessels were probably a regular part of the output, although are rare in comparison with other forms of barbotine decoration. The figured beaker (No. 84), with its enigmatic depictions, probably dates to the early 3rd century, but may possibly have been a treasured possession with a longer survival than other vessels. The three colour-coated plain dishes (Nos 85-7), the flanged bowls (Nos 88-90), the imitation samian Form 36 bowl (No. 91) and the jars (Nos. 93-6) are all forms previously made in Nene Valley Grey Ware, and the period in which these were replaced by their colour-coated counterparts is during the later 3rd century. For an example of the range of vessels during this period, see Stibbington Kiln W (Wild 1974, fig. 8).

There is a high percentage of colour-coated vessels in this group, and it probably contains vessels dating from the early 3rd to early 4th century.

Pit 29 (Phase 4.3)

Nene Valley Colour-Coated Wares

103. Decorated beaker. Nine joining sherds. Plain rim. Off-white, very dark grey colour-coat. Underslip barbotine decoration.
104. Decorated beaker. Plain rim. Off-white, light red colour-coat. Underslip barbotine decoration. Horizontal groove below the rim.
105. Beaker. Bead rim. Orange, very dark grey colour-coat.
106. Beaker. White, brown colour-coat. Scroll and solid circle white painted decoration over colour-coat. RPNV 48.
107. Flagon. Off-white, red colour-coat.
108. 'Castor Box'. Orange, dark brown colour-coat. No rouletting. RPNV 89.
109. Small dish. Off-white, very dark greyish-brown colour-coat. RPNV 87.
110. Small bowl. White, reddish-brown colour-coat. Overslip painted decoration of white arcs. RPNV 85.
111. Flanged bowl. Orange, very dark greyish-brown colour-coat. RPNV 79.
112. Bowl. Pink, very dark grey colour-coat.
113. Bowl. Orange, weak red colour-coat.
114. Bowl. Off-white, weak red colour-coat.
115. Bowl, imitating samian Form 36. Two joining sherds. Orange, reddish-brown colour-coat. RPNV 81.
116. Bowl, imitating samian Form 36. Twenty joining sherds. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. Rouletted decoration on rim and in two bands around interior. RPNV 81.
117. Jar. Orange, dark reddish-brown colour-coat.
118. Jar. White, light red colour-coat.
119. Jar. Orange, very dark grey colour-coat. Two faintly incised horizontal grooves. RPNV 75.
120. Jar. Orange, weak red colour-coat.

Nene Valley Grey Ware

121. Plain dish. RPNV 19.

122. Dish. Rounded rim. RPNV 17.
123. Dish. Chamfered base. RPNV 17.
124. Dish, imitating samian Form 36.
125. Narrow-mouthed jar. Two joining sherds. Rouletted decoration. For a similar form see Hadman and Upex (1975, fig. 7, no. 11).
126. Jar. Three joining sherds. Irregular near-vertical burnished lines.
127. Wide-mouthed jar. Burnished wavy line on neck.
128. Wide-mouthed jar. Twenty-one joining sherds.
129. Wide-mouthed jar. Twelve joining sherds.

Self-Coloured Wares

130. Miniature flask, 'incense vessel' or 'unguent jar'. Off-white. Two red painted horizontal bands. For a similar vessel from Maxey see Gurney (1985, fig. 92, no. 260).
131. Narrow-mouthed jar. Very pale brown to yellow. Yellowish-red painted horizontal bands. Illustrated in RPNV (no. 95) and currently on display in Peterborough Museum.

Black Burnished Ware 1

132. Bowl. Lattice of intersecting arcs, common on bowls and dishes where there is a limited area available for decoration.

Calcite-gritted Wares

133. Jar with grooved rim. Hard, well-fired. Brown core, red margins and surfaces. Moderate inclusions up to 2 mm.
134. Jar. Hard, well-fired. Black with red internal surface. Moderate inclusions up to 3 mm. Two horizontal grooves on the shoulder.
135. Jar. Twenty-one joining sherds. Black with yellowish-red margins and surfaces. Moderate inclusions up to 3 mm. Two horizontal grooves on the shoulder.
136. Storage jar. Hard, well-fired. Brown with red margins and surfaces. Abundant, ill-sorted inclusions up to 6 mm. See also samian Nos 24-8, mortaria Nos 55-7, and amphora No. 67.

Comment

The pottery as a whole from Pit 29 appears to date from the late third to the early fourth century, and the latter date seems the most probable for the date of deposition. The NVCC beakers and barbotine decoration (Nos 103-4) probably come from the final period of the use of barbotine, perhaps in the mid- to late third century, decoration from the late third century tending to be simple painted decoration over the colour-coat (as on No. 106). As has been noted above in Ditch 1, a number of vessels are replacements of forms previously made in NVGW (Nos 109, 111, 115 and 116), and probably date to the late third century.

The Castor box, No. 108, is a small neat and angular example, and may be residual. By the late third century the form tends to be larger and develops a smoother, less angular profile. Similar beakers to No. 103 were produced at Sibson, Kiln B in the mid-third century (Hartley 1972, fig. 4, no. 2) The painted arc decoration on No. 110 is a style of decoration which appears to have been virtually confined to this form alone.

Pottery from other features (Phases 3 and 4)

137. Platter or dish. Two joining sherds; Hard. Black throughout. Moderate, rounded quartz inclusions up to 1 mm and sparse mica. For another platter see No. 77 above. *Pit 6 (Phase 3.3)*.
138. Small girth-beaker, body bulging above and below the constriction. Hard, dark grey core, brown surfaces. Sparse inclusions of quartz, mica, red iron ore and white calcareous lumps. *Ditch 16 (Phase 3.1)*.
139. Small beaker, cornice-type rim. NVCC. Off-white, dark grey colour-coat. Complete except for approx. half of rim and part of body on one side of vessel (missing portion probably a single sherd). *Grave (Phase 4) (see Fig 62)*.
140. Hunt Cup. NVCC. Light grey, reddish-brown colour-coat. Two-tiered barbotine decoration. RPNV 26-7. *Topsoil, Grid GIV*.
141. Bowl. Two joining sherds. NVCC. White, reddish-brown colour-coat. Rouletted decoration. RPNV 86. *Topsoil, Grid EV*.

142. Castor Box. Sixteen joining sherds. NVCC. Off-white, reddish-brown colour-coat. Rouletted decoration. Compare with No. 108. RPNV 89. *Ditch 47 (Phase 4.3)*.
143. Narrow-mouthed jar or flagon. Twenty-three joining sherds. NVGW (cf. Hadman and Upex 1975, fig. 7, no. 11; Hayes 1984, fig. 127, no. 11). *Ditch 51 (Phase 4.1)*.
144. Bowl, possibly imitating samian Form 36. Self-coloured ware. White, orange painted decoration. RPNV 98. *Ditch 6 (Phase 4.2)*.
145. Bowl base. Self-coloured ware. Off-white, dark brown painted decoration. For similar decoration see RPNV 98. *Topsoil, Grid FVI*.
146. Bowl. Self-coloured ware. Pink, red painted decoration. *Ditch 53 (Phase 4)*.
147. Candlestick, partly restored. NVGW. For other candlesticks see Gillam (1957, nos. 345–6); Wheeler, R.E.M. (1930, fig. 13); Fulford (1975a, fig. 186, no. 105.6); Fulford (1975b, fig. 24, type 96). *Ditch 10 (Phase 4.1)*.

Discussion

What is most immediately apparent is that, as might be expected, the bulk of the pottery reaching the site is of local production. Given the proximity of the grey- and colour-coated ware potteries of the lower Nene Valley, this need occasion no surprise, and the same has been noted for another site nearby (Gurney 1985). The calcite-gritted wares, too, are almost certainly of local origin, although to date, there is little actual evidence of its production, with only a single kiln site known (at Water Newton).

The local origin of the assemblage is best illustrated by an analysis of the pottery from Pit 29, assigned to Phase 4.3, a period during which the amount of pottery reaching the site seems to have been at its peak. Pit 29 provided a sample of pottery weighing more than 18 kg, representing a minimum vessel population (calculated from the rim sherds) of 106. The local wares, Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware, Nene Valley Grey Ware and calcite-gritted wares account for 37%, 34% and 25% respectively of the minimum vessel population (totalling 96%), while the remaining 4% is made up by self-coloured wares (2%), which are also probably from the Nene Valley potteries, and the only 'imported' ware, Black Burnished 1, also 2%. Looking at other Phase 4 features, the only other 'imported' ware is Hadham Red Colour-Coated Ware, represented by a few body sherds. Oxford Wares appear to be absent. Both Black Burnished 1 and Hadham Wares occur on 4th-century sites in the area, but they are never well-represented.

As far as the specialist wares are concerned, the small amount of samian from the site includes only a single decorated sherd, an unusually small proportion of the whole. The pattern of supply to this site seems broadly comparable to that at the nearby site excavated in 1979–81, with the greater proportion of the vessels being made during the second and third quarters of the 2nd century; at the latter site however, while the range of forms was limited, more expensive decorated bowls were not lacking (Wild, F. 1985).

A similar, if not closer, match can be seen in the mortaria, and the vessels here compare very closely with those recovered in 1979–81 (Hartley, K.R. 1985). The 2nd-century mortaria come from a number of sources, but none of these are unusual for the area, while the later mortaria come from the Nene Valley, with a single vessel from the Oxford potteries.

Sherds of three amphorae were also found; amphorae did not appear to be represented in the pottery from the excavations of 1979–81.

Broadly speaking, the phasing of the site considered here follows that of the nearby site excavated between 1979 and 1981. The ceramic assemblages deriving from both sites also seem similar, with the earliest Roman occupation poorly represented in ceramic terms. The pottery from Phases 3.1 and 3.2 at Plant's Farm consist of calcite-gritted vessels, fragmentary and few in number, and it is only in Phase 3.3, from the later 1st century, that the pottery can be adequately illustrated and described. The assemblage consists of a number of calcite-gritted jars of various sizes, frequently with grooving on the shoulder; other reduced ware jars, perhaps from the upper Nene Valley; and an imitation Gallo-Belgic platter with an illiterate stamp. Phase 4 at Plant's Farm (1979–81 site phase 9) is the period of occupation from which the bulk of the pottery derives, and it is clear that substantial quantities of pottery were only reaching the site in the later Roman period, perhaps from the late 3rd century. The 3rd century, to judge from both Maxey sites, seems to be a period during which occupation was somewhat thinner than in preceding or subsequent times, consistent with the well-documented episode of freshwater flooding in the Fens which inevitably must have had far-reaching effects on settlement along the Fen margins. Maxey does not seem to have been directly affected, but the lower-lying settlements may well have been abandoned in favour of higher land.

During Phase 4 (1979–81 site phase 9), probably starting in the late 3rd century, there is clearly a resumption of settlement, and this seems to be on a grander and more prosperous scale. A feature of phase 9 date on the 1979–81 site contained a fragment of a turned stone column (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 118), suggesting the presence nearby of a stone building, although this must have been beyond the limits of the excavated area. The pottery on that site also seems to reflect a greater degree of material prosperity, and forms not present in earlier phases such as decorated beakers were recovered from phase 9 features. It appears that the same can be said of the Phase 4 pottery from Plant's Farm, and while most of the forms represented are typical products of the Nene Valley potteries, there are two items which call for special comment. The first is a rare candlestick (No. 147) in Nene Valley Grey Ware. The second is the figured beaker (No. 84) of early 3rd-century date, depicting a *venatio* scene. Even in a relatively prosperous phase at Maxey, this elaborate vessel must have been a treasured possession.

Zoological and botanical evidence

Human remains

by C.B. Denston, with Mary Harman

Two skeletons and a small number of other bones were found. The skeletons, along with the fragmentary remains of another burial, and part of a skull, were submitted for examination at the Duckworth Laboratory of Physical Anthropology, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, at the University of Cambridge. Fuller descriptions are provided on Microfiche (E.5–7).

Skeleton 1

The bone from the skeleton in the Phase 4 grave at the butt end of Ditch

20 (lying alongside Ditch 14) was in a moderately good state of preservation. It was cleaned, and broken bones repaired as far as possible. The cranium needed the most attention. The standard biometric measurements have been taken wherever possible, and are recorded on the laboratory information sheets, which are available for study in the archives.

Sex: Female
Age: 20-25 years
Stature: c. 1.56 m
Pathology: None

Skeleton 2

The second skeleton came from the (Phase 2) Pit 25 and the remains were in a fairly good state of preservation, though certain bones of the cranium were distorted, possibly due to *post mortem* earth pressure. The bones examined were those of an infant and included a skull, all the long bones of the arms and legs, clavicles, pelvic bones, scapulae, vertebrae, ribs, and some of the smaller bones of the hands and feet.

Sex: ?
Age: 0-2 months
Pathology: None

Skeleton 3

The fragmentary remains of another infant burial were found in Ditch 42 (Phase 4.1). They consisted of a cranium and a mandible, and the postcranial remains were of ribs, vertebrae, a scapula, a clavicle, a radius, and a humerus.

Sex: ?
Age: 0-6 months
Pathology: Occipital bone of cranium, indications of osteitis.

Other bone

Remains consisting only of a portion of a cranium were found in Ditch 53(ii) (Phase 4.3). The portion was a complete temporal bone from the left side of the cranium. The smallness of the mastoid process of the temporal bone suggested the possibility that it came from a female. The age at death of the individual could not easily be determined; the bone could have belonged to a young adult or sub-adult.

In addition to these, a few bones were found amongst the animal bones. Most of them were considered from their size to be from neonatal infants, and probably represent burials disturbed in antiquity:

Phase 2

Ditch 17: Left ulna and right tibia of a neonatal infant
Ditch 30: Ulna? shaft fragment from an adult

Phase 4

Ditch 3: Left femur distal end, from an adult.
Ditch 5: Tibia shaft fragment from a neonatal infant.
Ditch 6: Rib and the proximal half of a left tibia from a neonatal infant.
Ditch 10: Right femur shaft from a neonatal infant
Ditch 38: Rib, left tibia proximal half, and right tibia shaft from a neonatal infant.

Mammalian and bird bones

(Tables 17 and 18; Table 19, Microfiche)

by Mary Harman

All recovered bone was examined and most could be identified. Most of the bone came from features of Romano-British date but the residuality of Iron Age pottery on the site (at least 50%) suggests that much of the bone may also be residual. All parts of the body are represented but small bones, such as carpals and phalanges, vertebrae and skull fragments are under-represented, probably as a result of the recovery methods employed. The sample is, therefore, likely to be biased but, even so, there is no clear evidence for the selection of particular cuts or joints and it seems likely that animals were killed and butchered locally.

Few bones were recovered from features of Phase 3 date, those recovered from features of Phase 2 and 4 are listed in Tables 17 and 18. All the major domesticates are represented. Cattle and sheep/goat bones heavily outnumber those of pig and horse in both phases whilst there is a higher percentage of cattle bones than ovicaprid bones in Phase 4. Interestingly, horse bones outnumber those of pig. In Phase 4, nearly one quarter of cattle mandibles indicate death at about 6 months of age, a feature not seen in the Phase 2 mandibles (Table 19, Microfiche). In both phases over half the mandibles were from animals which survived to about 5 years, or more. Similarly, over half of the sheep/goat mandibles in both phases were from animals of 3-4 years. A wider span of

	Cattle			Sheep			Pig			Horse		
	L	R		L	R		L	R		L	R	
Skull	7	4	2	1	2		1	1			1	
Maxilla	1			1			2	2		1	1	
Mandible	13	1	13	8	8		1	2		1		
Tooth		27			29			6			12	
Vertebra		14			2			1			2	
Rib		14			16							
Scapula	4		8	2	3		2			2	1	
Humerus	9		7	1	6		2	1		2	3	
Radius + Ulna	7	1	5	10	2	9					1	
Metacarpal	6	6	3	1	7	5						
Pelvis	7	1	3	3	2	2	2			5		
Femur	1	3	1	2	10	2	2	1		1	1	
Tibia	7		4	11	5	10				1		
Astragalus	4		1				1			1	2	
Calcaneum	4		1								2	
Scapho-cuboid	1											
Metatarsal	6	2		6	8	3	2	1	1	4	1	
Phalanx 1	2		1	2		2		1			1	
Phalanx 2											2	
Phalanx 3	1		1									
Total		148			132			24			36	
(excluding T, V, R)		49%			43%			8%			10%	
		44%			39%			7%				

Also:

Dog: Most of one (Pit 26)
Skull: R temporal, mandible: 2 R, tooth: 1, vertebra: 1, rib: 4, radius: R, ulna: L, R, metatarsal: 3L
Phalanx 1: R
Red Deer:
Fowl: 1
Corvid (? jackdaw) : 1
Quail: 1 (*Coturnix coturnix*)

Table 17 Plant's Farm, Maxey: Total numbers of bones from different species identified in Phase 2

	Cattle			Sheep			Pig			Horse		
	L	R	R	L	R	R	L	R	L	R	R	
	3 nearly whole											
Skull	15	14	13	2	4	4	4		4	1	1	1
Maxilla	5		3	4		5		1				
Mandible	31	3	28	18	3	17	8		6	3	1	5
Tooth		71			63			18			19	
Vertebra		68			10			4			9	
Rib		67			54			3			1	
Scapula	25	4	19	4	2	5	2	1	3	2		5
Humerus	13	3	8	9	2	10	3		2	1		7
Radius + Ulna	15	2	16	16	6	13	1	2	1	5		6
Metacarpal	4	5	4	5	12	4	2		2	1	3	
Pelvis	17	3	8	6	2	12	1		1	5		2
Femur	13	13	12	2	25	2		3		2		
Tibia	15	5	9	16	11	16	3		1	3		3
Astragalus	4		4			3			1			3
Calcaneum	4		7	2			2		1	2		2
Scapho-cuboid	1		1							1		
Metatarsal	10	12	9	7	22	1	2			3	1	2
Phalanx 1	4		7	2			1		1		11	
Phalanx 2	7		8									
Phalanx 3			1									2
<i>Total</i>	407			274			59			84		
(excluding T, V, R)	55%			37%			8%			10%		
	49%			33%			7%					

Also:

Dog: Most of one (Ditch 23) Part of one (Ditch 18) Skull: 1, parts 3, maxilla: L, R, mandible: 4L, 4R, tooth: 3, vertebra: 2, rib: 1, humerus: R, radius: pair, 3L, R, 1, metacarpal: 4L, R, femur: L, tibia: L, metatarsal: L, R, phalanx: 1

Cat: Mandible: L, R, rib: 1, scapula: L, humerus: 2L, R, ulna: R, radius: L, R, metacarpal: 1, pelvis: L, femur: L, R, tibia: R, metatarsal: R.

Dog/Fox: tibia: L

Red Deer: Tibia: L, metatarsal: L, 2.

Fowl: 13

Goose: 6

Duck cf. mallard: 3

Dove sp.: 1

Raven: 3 (*Corvus corax*)

: 4

Crane: 4 (*Grus grus*)

Table 18 Plant's Farm, Maxey: Total numbers of bones from different species identified in Phase 4

ages was indicated by the pig mandibles, though very few piglet bones were recorded. The effects of both recovery methods and the differential preservation of fragile bones should be borne in mind here, however.

A variety of other animals are represented, including dog, cat, red deer, goose, duck, fowl and other birds. A fuller report on the animal bones appears in Microfiche (E.7-12).

Other zoological and botanical evidence (Table 20)

Sample	9
<i>Quercus</i>	1.5
<i>Salix</i>	+
<i>Alnus</i>	2.5
<i>Corylus</i>	1.5
Total tree pollen	6.0
<i>Graminaea</i>	34.0
Cereals	2.5
<i>Plantago</i>	11.0
<i>Rumex</i> (dock, sorrel etc.)	1.5
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>	4.5
<i>Umbelliferae</i>	+
<i>Caryophyllacae</i>	+
<i>Rosaceae</i>	1.0
<i>Compositae</i> — <i>Liguliflorae</i>	24.0
<i>Compositae</i> — <i>Tubuliflorae</i>	1.5
Damaged and unidentifiable	11.5

‘+’ indicates pollen present at less than 1%

Table 20 Plant's Farm, Maxey: Pollen counts

A number of oyster shells (*Ostrea edulis*) were recovered from Pit 29 (identified by H.P. Sherwood). A soil sample taken from the stokehole of the Romano-British corn drier (archive DVI-EVI/v-q-z-v/FB) produced 120 spikelet parts of wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and one wild oat seed (identified by R.C. Avery). Forty-six examples of the mollusc *Caciliodes acicula* were also recorded.

Pollen samples from Iron Age Pit 18 (archive GVII/f-g/FI) contained very low percentages of tree pollen (6%, Table 20), the lowest of any sample examined from the Welland Valley. Some cereal pollen and pasture-type weeds were also present (identified by J.R. Pilcher).

IV. Discussion

By F.M.M. Pryor and D.A. Gurney

The small Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead at Plant's Farm, Maxey has many points in common with that excavated in 1979-81 at East Field, Maxey (Pryor and French 1985). The correlation of the various phases of the two sites has been discussed in detail under the prehistoric and Romano-British pottery above, and will not be repeated here. Suffice it to note, however, that no significant Iron Age or Roman phase is absent at either site, and both show evidence for severely reduced activity, if not actual abandonment, in the 3rd century AD. It would not be unreasonable to conclude that, just as in the modern village, the two farming families would

have known each other well, may have been closely related, but would undoubtedly have been linked by a complex history of marriage.

The two farms are joined by a ditched road or well-established trackway which more-or-less follows the longitudinal (E–W) axis of Maxey ‘island’. The Maxey East Field yard and field ditches are laid out roughly at right-angles to it. Similarly, the yard ditches of the present site have a closely similar orientation which runs broadly north-south at right-angles to the edge of the island, as defined by the floodplains of two courses of the braided Welland river system. This layout makes excellent, practical, sense: parcels of land can thereby include seasonally flooded pastures, drier ‘skirtland’ and flood-free agricultural land higher up, on the light gravel soils of the ‘island’ proper (Ellison and Harriss 1972). The farms at Plant’s Farm and Maxey East Field are on such ground, although the latter was somewhat wetter than the former. Not surprisingly the roadway follows the higher land.

The orientation of the landscape, first clearly visible in Iron Age times, was continued in the medieval period, as best witnessed today by the massive plough headlands which are such an impressive feature of the region (Chapter 3, Fig. 24; Hall, in Pryor and French 1985). By way of contrast, the orientation of the Neolithic landscape, as evidenced by the Maxey Cursus (and now also by the newly discovered Etton Cursus), seems to disregard the axis of the ‘island’. This surely reflects the fact that the ‘island’ had still to be defined with any precision at that period. Latest radiocarbon dates from the Peterborough Fens suggest that the Fen Clay was a later Neolithic, even earlier Bronze Age phenomenon, and these successive episodes of marine transgression must have played an important part in increasing the region’s general wetness. Prior to that, the orientation of the landscape need not have taken the presence of the Fen into account. A closely similar, but earlier, state of affairs may possibly be seen at Site 11, Fengate (Chapter 6).

We will discuss the status of the site shortly, but it remains to consider the relationship of the pit-alignment to the subsequent Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead. Stratigraphically there can be no doubt that the latter post-date the former. However, the orientation

of the yard ditches clearly follows that of the pits, and it is surely significant that the pits run along one *side* of the farmstead, and not anywhere else. To the south, the (N–S) pit-alignment joins an east-west alignment which is probably associated with two discontinuous lengths of pit-alignment running NE–SW from the Maxey Cut; the most southerly of the latter includes a length of linear ditch (Fig. 54). In short, there can be little doubt that the pit-alignment forms part of a larger, organised landscape. Stratigraphically, too, it must be an early component of that landscape.

It is perhaps pushing the evidence too far, but it might be suggested that the earlier divisions of the landscape were specially important as they were to outline the overall shape of subsequent holdings. It has been suggested that something similar might have happened at Fengate in an, admittedly, much earlier period, where the rectilinear enclosures were separated by double ditched droves. Here it was thought that the droveways could have been an early feature of the landscape (Pryor 1980). Perhaps the Maxey pit-alignment is dividing the ‘island’ into at least two significant units of land, the division of which is marked in a special way. Whatever the psychological merits of so strange a mode of partition, it is very apparent that pit-alignments were difficult to maintain open, which is undoubtedly why they were discontinued, even filled-in, close to the working farm discussed in this report, and why a length of ditch was employed near the Maxey Cut, where the land is wet and very poorly drained.

In conclusion, the pottery assemblage from Plant’s Farm reinforces the picture gained in the 1979–81 excavations (Maxey East Field) of a series of ‘native’ settlements of relatively low status. Pottery, in the later Roman period at least, is abundant, but is almost exclusively from the potteries of the lower Nene Valley, with very few ‘imported’ wares. There is little sign here of the prosperity of the sites around *Durobrivae*. For the area, sites like those at Maxey probably represent the ‘norm’ of rural settlement, close to or at the bottom of the economic and social order. Nonetheless, these ‘native’ farmsteads are of crucial importance to any study of Romano-British settlement in the region.

5. The Excavation of Romano-British Aisled Buildings at Barnack, Cambridgeshire

by W.G. Simpson

I. Introduction

(Fig. 79; Pl. XXIV)

The excavations were undertaken by the writer on behalf of the Welland Valley Research Committee from August 1964 to April 1965. In the parish of Barnack, Cambs. (Fig. 1, No. 5; TF 081 066), at an average height of 15 m OD, air photographs show what was clearly an area of very dense settlement of various periods on the river gravels immediately south of pastureland, over a former channel of the River Welland (Fig. 79; Pl. XXIV).

The most common crop-marks in this area are the deeply cut, parallel lines, of the medieval open fields, and their accompanying plough headlands (Simpson 1981, 36–8). In the Barnack area, these seem to be less common than elsewhere in the region and it was hoped that the archaeological record would be better preserved here than in other areas where medieval cultivation has caused extensive damage to earlier features. Recent ploughing had generally not been to a greater depth than 0.15–0.20 m to avoid hitting and disturbing the considerable amount of stone below that depth.

The site selected for excavation shows up on air photographs (Pl. XXIV and Fig. 79, A) as two short parallel lines of pits and was clearly not, in this instance, part of a pit-alignment boundary, but a substantial timber building of a type represented by another example to the north of the river at Barholm, Lincs (Simpson 1966, 23, pl. 4). Fieldwork in the western part of the field, which shows the densest concentration of crop-marks, revealed Romano-British pottery turned up by the plough. In one area (Fig. 79, approximately at B) limestone and pieces of painted wall plaster suggested a building of some substance. Both buildings were situated among small rectangular, ditched enclosures mostly measuring not more than 30–45 m, with which they were probably contemporary. They probably represent the paddocks, closes or pens associated with a Romano-British farmstead.

Scattered among them on the air photographs are large, irregular dark crop-marks of substantial pits. Smaller pits are concentrated particularly in the extreme north-west part of the crop-marks. About 200 m east of these crop-marks, David Wilson has noted traces of another building (Fig. 79, C; Wilson 1974). This has the appearance of a typical Roman military-type granary measuring about 18 m by 11 m and shows on air photographs as ten parallel lines which presumably indicate sill beam slots. To the south of all these, traces of settlement can be seen the lines of two irregularly cut ditches defining an east-west trackway (Fig. 79, D) which was certainly in use in Roman times.

These traces of settlement, most likely of Roman origin were clearly superimposed on a landscape whose principal features belong to an earlier period. A large ring-ditch, at the centre of Figure 79, is *c.* 40 m in

diameter and comparable to the Early Bronze Age burial mound excavated at Tallington, 1½ miles to the north-east (Simpson 1976). The close proximity of this and other burial monuments to the Neolithic cursus (Fig. 79, E) is a relationship repeated at Maxey and elsewhere (Hedges and Buckley 1981; Pryor and French 1985). Also probably of this broad date is a pit-circle, *c.* 20 m in diameter, similar to, but rather larger than those already excavated beside the cursus at Maxey (Fig. 79, F; Simpson 1985). It appears to be made up of about twenty-four individual pits.

Most of the remaining crop-mark features in this area are linear ditches which, excavations elsewhere in the Welland Valley suggest, are most likely to be boundary works constructed from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (Simpson 1985). They evidently had a long life, for the air photographs show plentiful evidence of their having been recut and realigned at different times. The long ditch-lines running north-south must be boundaries defining the east and west limits of properties stretching southwards from the riverside meadows. Apart from the ditched trackway already mentioned, there are only two major ditch-lines running east-west. At G on Figure 79 there are crop-marks of a substantial double ditch which may follow the edge of the old river channel and may have been a flood-defence system. Something similar has been investigated at Maxey (see Chapter 4). The other east-west ditch-line, with a series of rectangular enclosures appended, lay at the south of the area (Fig. 79, H-H-H). Such features were also clearly boundary works and have been recorded and excavated at Maxey, Barholm and elsewhere (Simpson 1985; Chapter 2). Most of the north-south ditches certainly extended beyond the ditch-line H-H-H but their full extent has not been determined.

II. The Excavations

(Figs 80–86; Pls XXV–XXVII)

A magnetometer survey was carried out over the site by M. Tite in March 1964. Although this gave no clear indication of the building(s), four areas which gave high readings could be identified with features visible as crop-marks on air photographs to the north and west of it (Fig. 80, Microfiche). With this information a grid of 50 ft (*c.* 15 m) squares was set out over the site and its immediate vicinity and was subdivided into 10 ft (3 m) squares. The fence along the railway track was used as the baseline. During the initial stages excavation proceeded within the confines of this grid and a series of 8 ft (2.4 m) square trenches with 2 ft (0.6 m) wide baulks between them were opened up across the site from north to south. In the later stages of the work, as the extent of the building(s) and associated features became clear, larger areas were

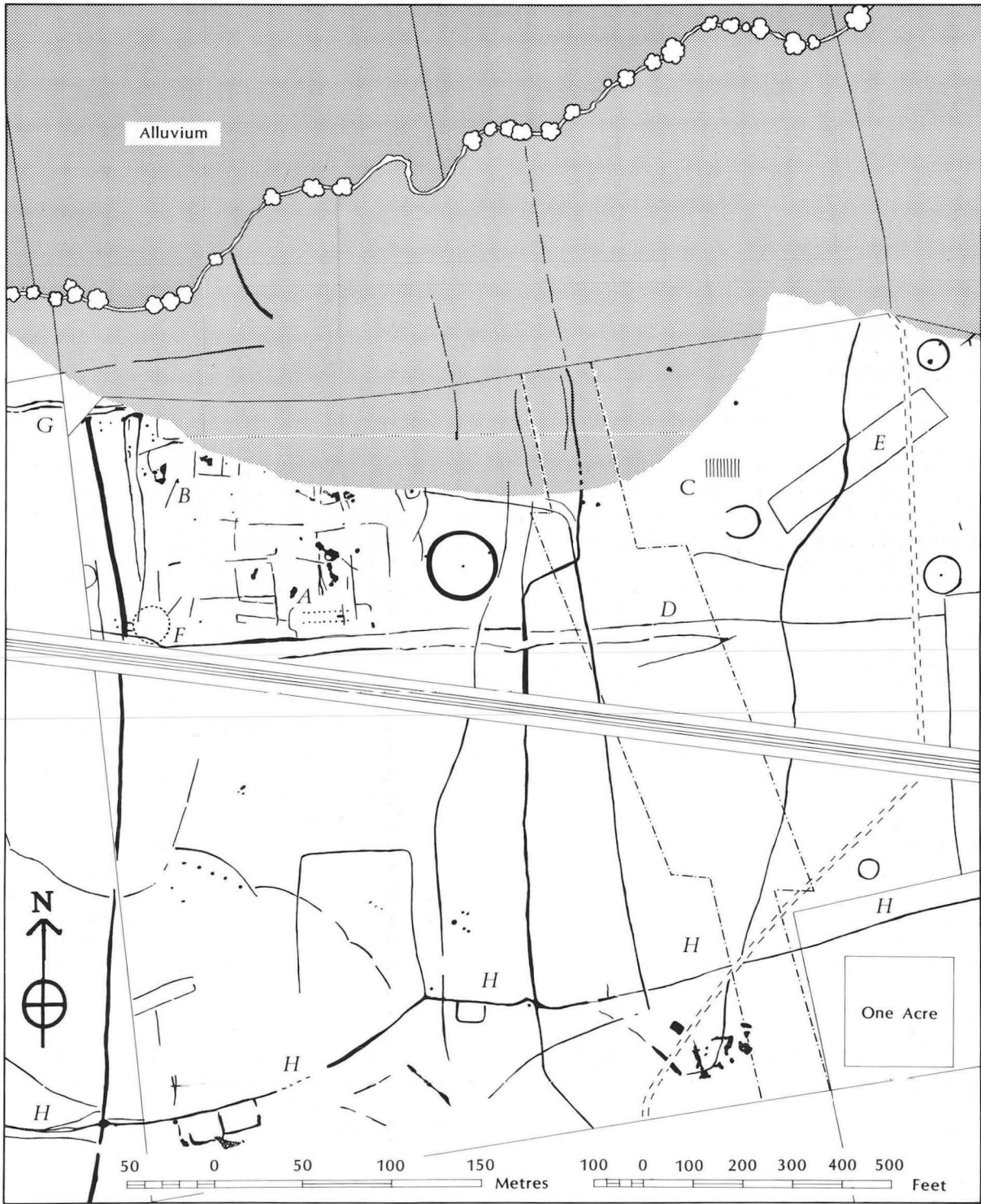


Figure 79 Barnack: Map of crop-marks, also showing the area investigated by the Welland Valley Project in 1981 (Pryor and French 1985, chapter 4) (based on aerial photographs in the Cambridge University Collection, Ref: K17.u.154; VJ 53, 57 and 58). Scale 1:3500.



Plate XXIV Barnack: Oblique air photograph from the east of the Barnack aisled building and other crop-marks in the vicinity. *Cambridge University Collection: copyright reserved (VJ 57)*

opened up. The first trenches were set out to include an area of comparatively high magnetometer readings which, it was estimated, lay at approximately the centre of the building(s), in the area of P5 (Fig. 82).

The features excavated on the site can be assigned to three broad phases, on stratigraphic and pottery evidence:

- Period Ia: Late 2nd-mid 3rd century; pits and ditches
- Period Ib: Late mid-late 3rd century; aisled building 1
- Period II: Late 3rd-4th century; aisled building; oven and corn drier.

Period Ia: Late 2nd-mid 3rd century
(Figs 81, 83, 84)

Apart from a few sherds of samian pottery and a single sherd of London-type Ware made in, or near, the Nene Valley, there was no evidence of activity on the site much before the mid-late 2nd century AD. The earliest features were Ditch 5 (D5) and the grave, which was cut into its fill (Fig. 81). Pit 4 (P4), D4, and the earliest phase of the road ditch (D12), to the south of the later building, were probably also dug before the mid-3rd century. The dating of P4 and D5 was dependent on their relationship to other features as neither contained datable finds. The fill of D5 was cut through by the grave and the fills of both were cut by D2 and post-pit H (Figs 81-3).

The grave was approximately rectangular and measured 1.52 m × 0.61 m and c. 1 m deep. It had a

mixed filling of light-brown soil, sand and gravel. The body seemed to have been buried rather unceremoniously for the skeleton occupied only the northern two-thirds of the grave with the skull in the north-west corner, hunched up with the hands up to the face. It was the skeleton of a woman of at least fifty years who suffered from osteo-arthritis (Pl. XXV; Section III, below). There was no evidence of a coffin and the only associated object was a plain copper alloy ring (Fig. 87, No. 20) on the third finger of the left hand. There may also have been other graves in the vicinity as bones from one or more very young infants were recovered from the adjacent post-pit G and the east end of D9 (Fig. 82).

The ditch, D5, was about 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep and filled with a light-brown soil containing little gravel but no limestone. Limestone was introduced for building on the Welland gravels no earlier than the Roman period and is, therefore, not to be expected in any quantity in the earliest pits and ditches of a Romano-British settlement. On the south side of the later P5, D4 had much the same dimensions and similar fill. It contained pottery of the late 2nd or early 3rd century. These two ditches, though probably contemporary, do not align exactly and it is probable that, like the later D8 and D11, they butted up to each other in the area destroyed by P5.

The small amount of pottery from D7 and the similarity of its fill to D4 and D5 suggests that they were all roughly contemporary. The ditches were not quite parallel and D7 was of variable width, on average 1.2 m,

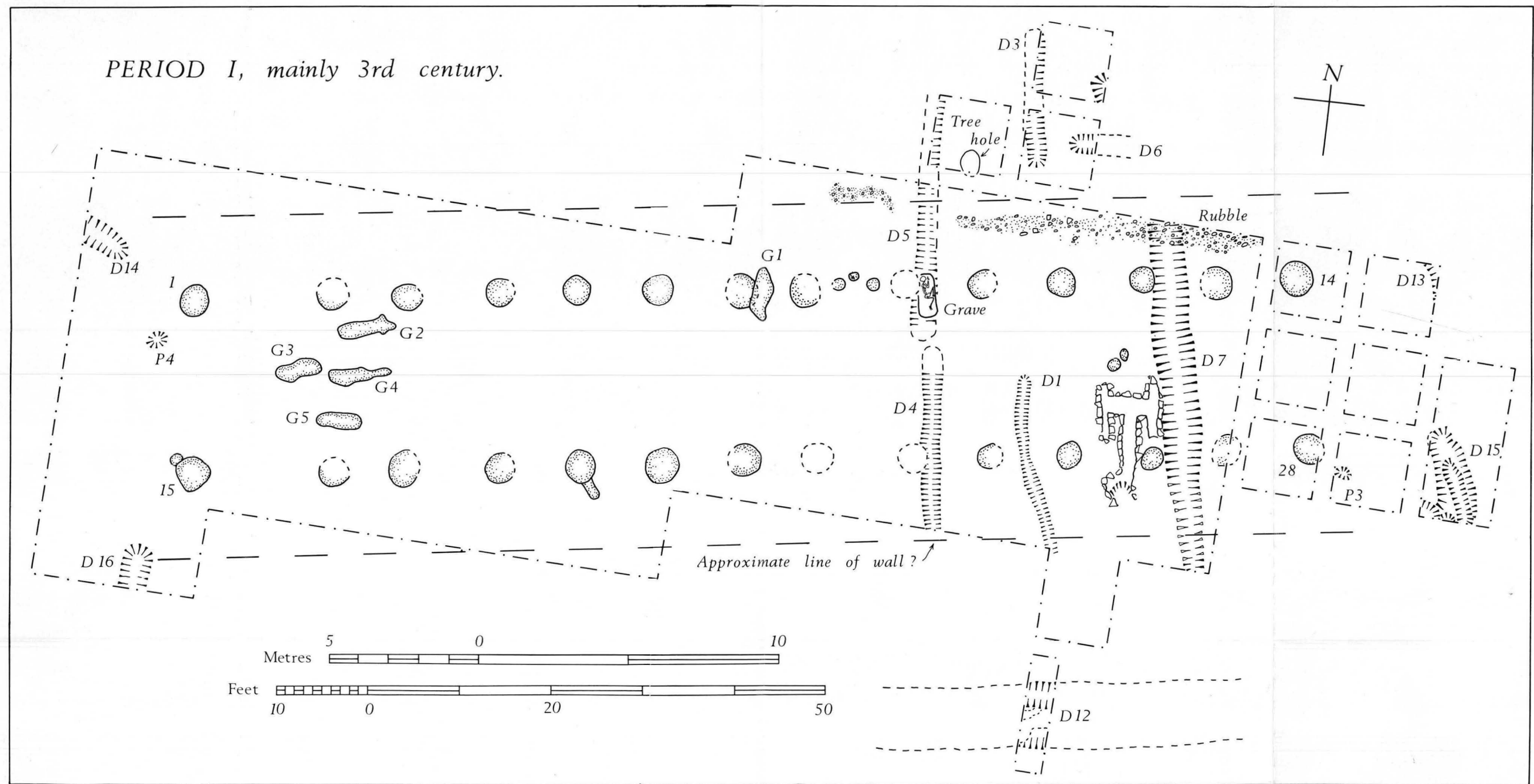


Figure 81 Barnack: Plan of Period I features. Scale 1:150

PERIOD II, 4th century.

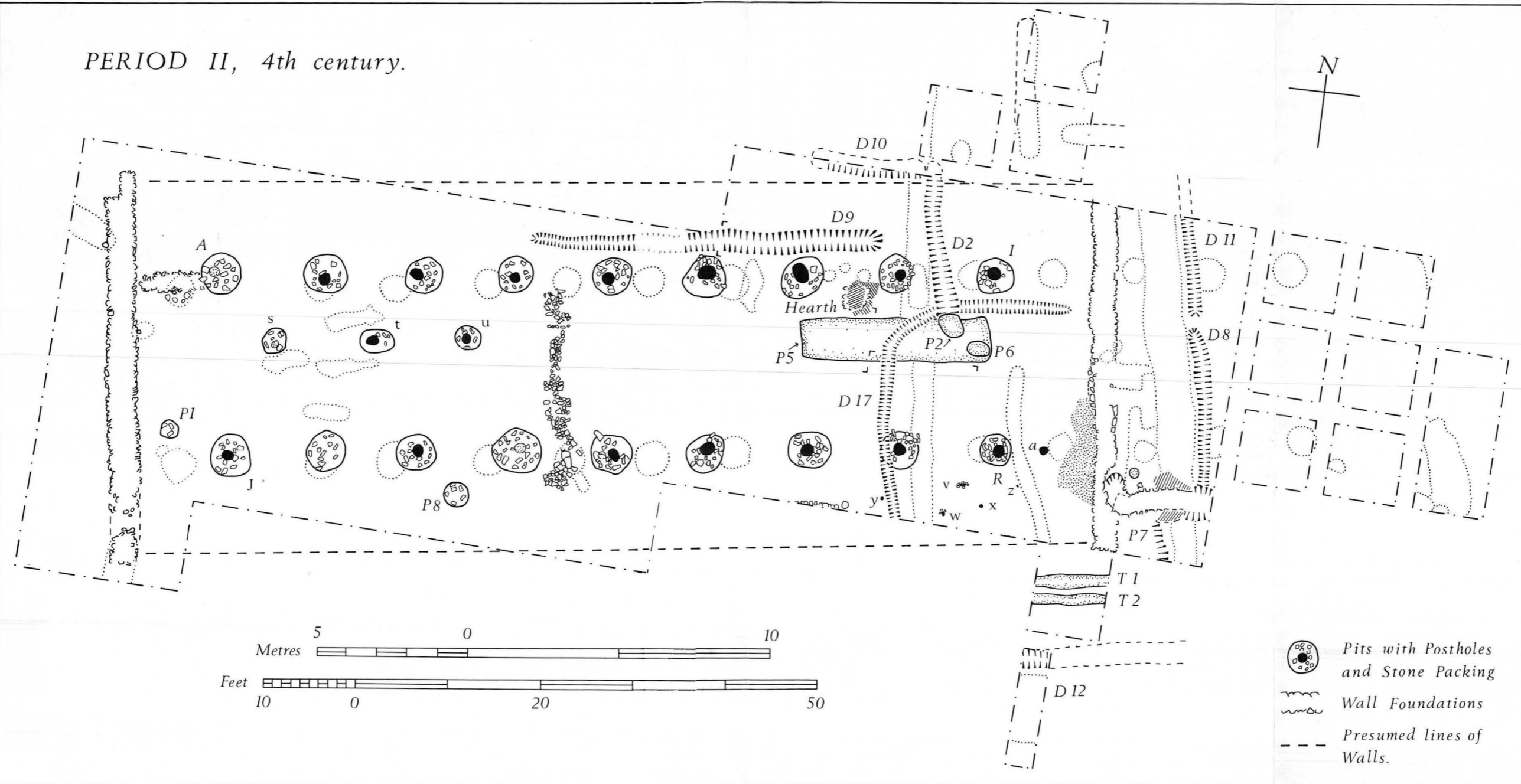


Figure 82 Barnack: Plan of Period II features. Scale 1:150



Plate XXV Barnack: View from the south of the grave cut into the bottom of Ditch 5 and a section across the later Post-pit H, to the west

and 0.6 m deep. It seems unlikely that they defined the course of a droveway or lane. The roadway ditch (D12), sectioned south of the building (Fig. 81) had a maximum width of 3.05 m and was up to 0.6 m deep. It seems to have been recut a number of times (Fig. 85). Pottery from the lowest level suggests that the road ditch was first dug at about the time of the first construction of the aisled building, or a little earlier.

Period Ib: mid-late 3rd century

(Figs 81, 83, 84)

It was in this period that the first aisled building was erected. The principal evidence for it was the two parallel rows of fourteen pits which held the arcade posts. They were usually roughly circular *c.* 0.85 m in diameter and *c.* 0.38 m deep below the surface of the orange-brown subsoil. Their fills were generally a light-brown soil with some gravel and pieces of limestone, presumably post-packing (Fig. 83). No certain trace was found of a post in any of the pits and they had clearly been removed and not been left to rot, or sawn off at ground level. These pits were cut by a later series of post-pits which still contained traces of their posts and which were evidence of the later rebuilding of the original.

The earliest aisled building (Fig. 81) would have been 40–43 m long and over 10 m wide. It is represented by thirteen pairs of post-holes. A pair is 'missing' where it has been completely removed by a pair of the later building. There was no certain trace of the outer walls of the building. However, to the north of PH9–14 was an ill-defined and slightly curving layer of clay, gravel and stone ('rubble' on Fig. 81) which may represent collapsed wall material. It overlay D7 and contained late 2nd-early 3rd-century pottery. It was cut by D2 and D11 (Fig. 82) which

contained 4th-century pottery. At either end of the double line of post-holes, two ditches approached at oblique angles from the north and south (D14, D16, D13, D15). These features contained a little pottery of 3rd or late 2nd-3rd-century date but their relationship with the building, if any, could not be determined. Terminals of two small ditches (D3 and D6), just to the north of the building also produced 3rd-century pottery (Nene Valley Grey Ware).

A group of three small post-holes lying between PH8 and PH9 of the north arcade (Fig. 81) were also assigned to this phase. The westernmost was cut by post-pit G of the second aisled building whilst the eastern one was covered by a later hearth (Fig. 82).

Period II: Late 3rd-4th century

(Figs 82, 84, 85; Pls XXVI–XXXV)

The aisled building was replaced by a shorter version *c.* 32.5 m in length with nine pairs of post-holes, most of which cut those of the earlier building (Fig. 82). The feet of the arcade posts had mostly decayed *in situ* and their average diameter was 0.4 m (0.35–0.48 m). They were mostly of roughly circular cross-section suggesting that they held squared timbers or complete trunks, except for posts F and G, which were of D-shaped cross-section, suggesting the use of a split, halved trunk of a very large tree. All were very well set up in roughly circular, steep-sided pits which averaged 1.3 m diameter (1.07–1.52 m). All post-holes contained limestone fragments and some larger blocks, 0.30 m or more square. These were used as post-packing (Pls XXVI; XXVII). The post-pipes generally had a filling of grey/black soil of rather dusty consistency (Pl. XXVI) and it is thought that, with the exception of one or two at the west end of the building, which may have been totally removed (post K and

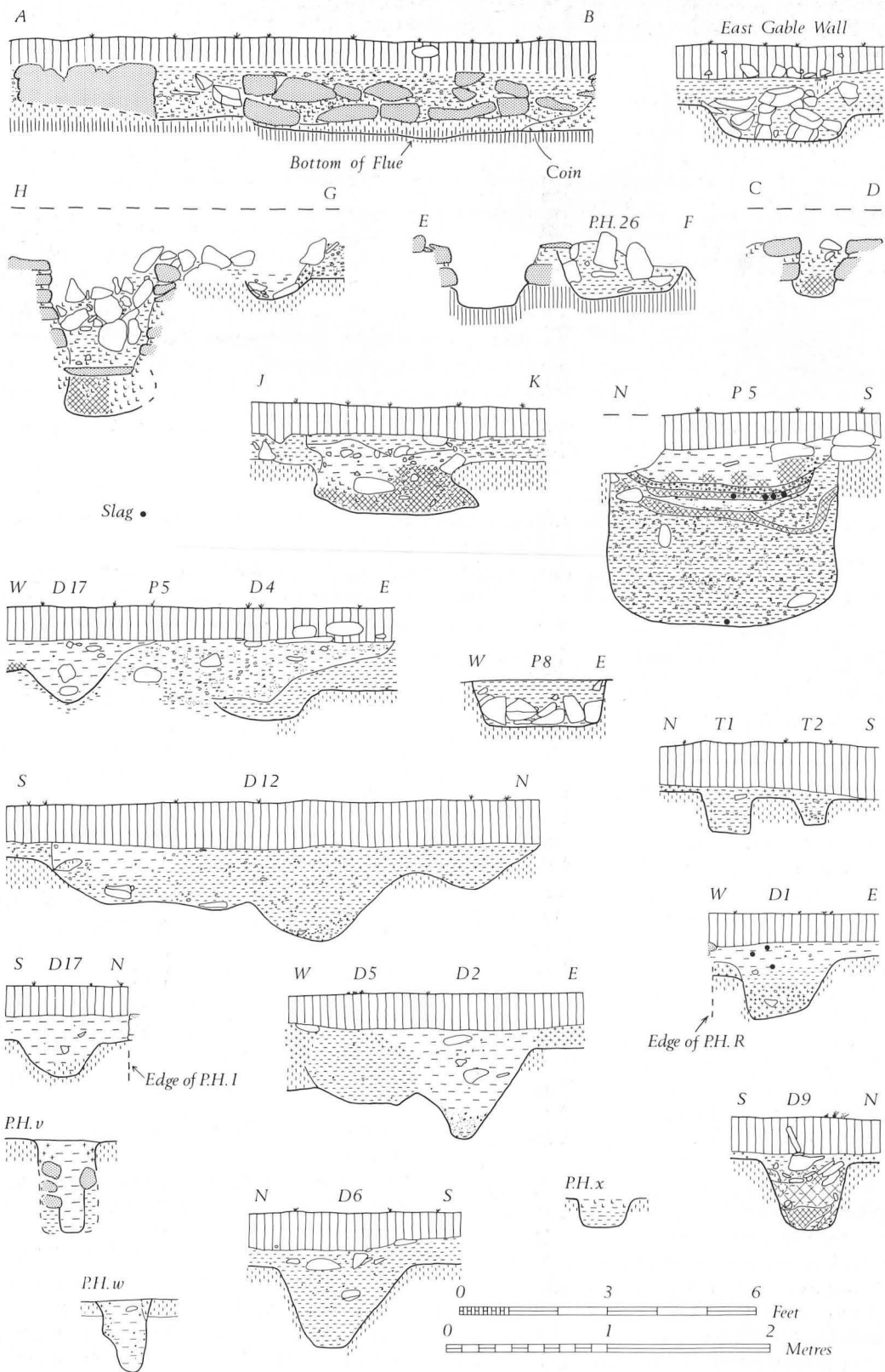


Figure 83 Barnack: Sections through post-pits of the first aisled building, for soil conventions see Figure 18. Scale 1:40



Plate XXVI Barnack: The filling of Post-hole P excavated to show the levelling-up stones at its foot and the close stone packing around it

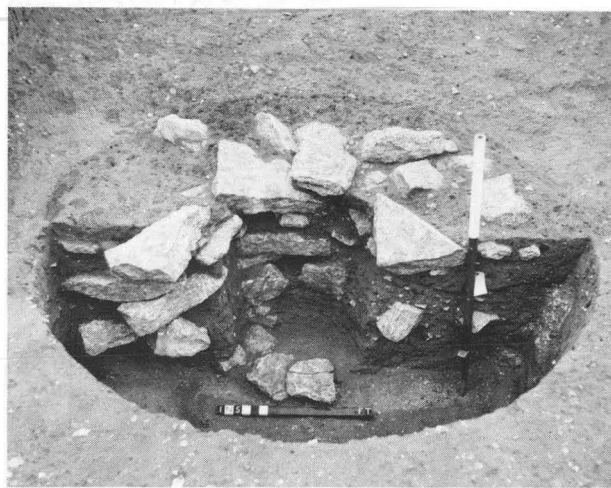


Plate XXVII Barnack: Section across Post-pit P

perhaps A and M also) the posts were sawn off at ground level.

A few of the remaining stumps had had stones piled on top of them (Pl. XXVIII). Post-hole F had fragments of the greater part of a large storage jar in its top fill. When reassembled they made up a vessel over 520 mm high and, around its shoulder, roughly circular holes 20–30 mm in diameter had been chipped out (Fig. 89, No. 24; cf. Morley Hewitt 1971, pl. 25). Sections through Period Ib and IIa post-holes of the aisled buildings are presented in Figure 83.

In addition to the arcade posts there were two other groups of post-holes which must have belonged to subsidiary structures inside the building. At the west end three post-pits (s, t, and u; Figs 82, 83 and Pl. XXIX) were found in the nave spaced a little over 3 m apart and slightly off-centre. These were either oval (t) measuring 0.75 × 1.07 m and 0.61 m deep, or roughly circular (s and u), 0.83 m in diameter and not more than 0.30 m deep. Remains of posts 0.3–0.4 m in diameter were found in post-pits t and u.

The second group of rather smaller post-holes were in the south-east corner of the building (v–z and a) and contained posts c. 0.15–0.20 m in diameter. Posts v and w were carefully packed round with stones and a, it should be noted, continued the line of the southern arcade posts.

Rather more evidence of the walls of the second aisled building survived than for its predecessor. The gable walls remained as foundations of pitched limestone rubble in shallow trenches. The east gable foundation was slightly narrower than that of the west gable (0.91 m and 1.07 m respectively; Pls XXX; XXXIV). Only one period of construction could be identified. The sudden narrowing of the northern end of the western foundation should be noted, however. There was no evidence for the construction of the walls that stood on these foundations.

Within the building itself a similar stone foundation, averaging 0.75 m wide, extended across the nave from between posts D and E, and M and N (Fig. 82). Its line was less regular than the gable foundations but it had presumably supported a partition wall. Another short length of stone foundation of similar character extended

east from the western wall foundation to post-hole A (Pl. XXX).

Of the side walls of the building, no certain trace was found. The extent of the roofed area is probably reliably indicated by the gable-wall foundations, terminations of which were found at the north-west, south-west and south-east corners. This assumption would allow a width for each aisle exactly half the width of the nave.

Some of the post-pits contained only residual material of late 2nd or 3rd century which is most likely to have been derived from the earlier deposits disturbed in the rebuilding. Five post-holes contained pottery and coins of mid-3rd – 4th-century date. The socket of post N contained a coin of AD 222–235 and that of post F coins dating to AD 287–293 (depth 0.63 m) and AD 364–378 (depth 0.58 m). A sherd, probably from a Nene Valley Colour Coated bowl of late-4th- or early-5th-century date from the socket of post H was the latest stratified find from the site. The small amount of pottery from the gable wall foundations was all of late 2nd- to 3rd-century date. This must be considered residual. The evidence, therefore, indicates a 4th-century date for the construction and use of the second aisled building.

Features associated with metalworking (Fig. 84)

The site produced considerable evidence for metalworking. The earliest features associated with this activity may have been the series of gullies or hearths located at the west end of the aisled building (G2–5; Figs 81 and 84). The date of these features is open to question but a similar feature, further to the east (G1) cut the fill of post-pit 7, of the first building (Fig. 84), and included a sherd of colour-coated pottery. The western group gave the appearance of a contemporary group. Similar features, termed 'channel hearths' have been identified on Romano-British ironworking sites in Northamptonshire (Jackson and Ambrose 1978, 165; Jackson, D.A. 1979). It is suggested that they may have been used for pre-heating or roasting iron before smelting. A few pieces of iron ore were found scattered on the site and there were possible fragments of iron slag in G1 and G3.

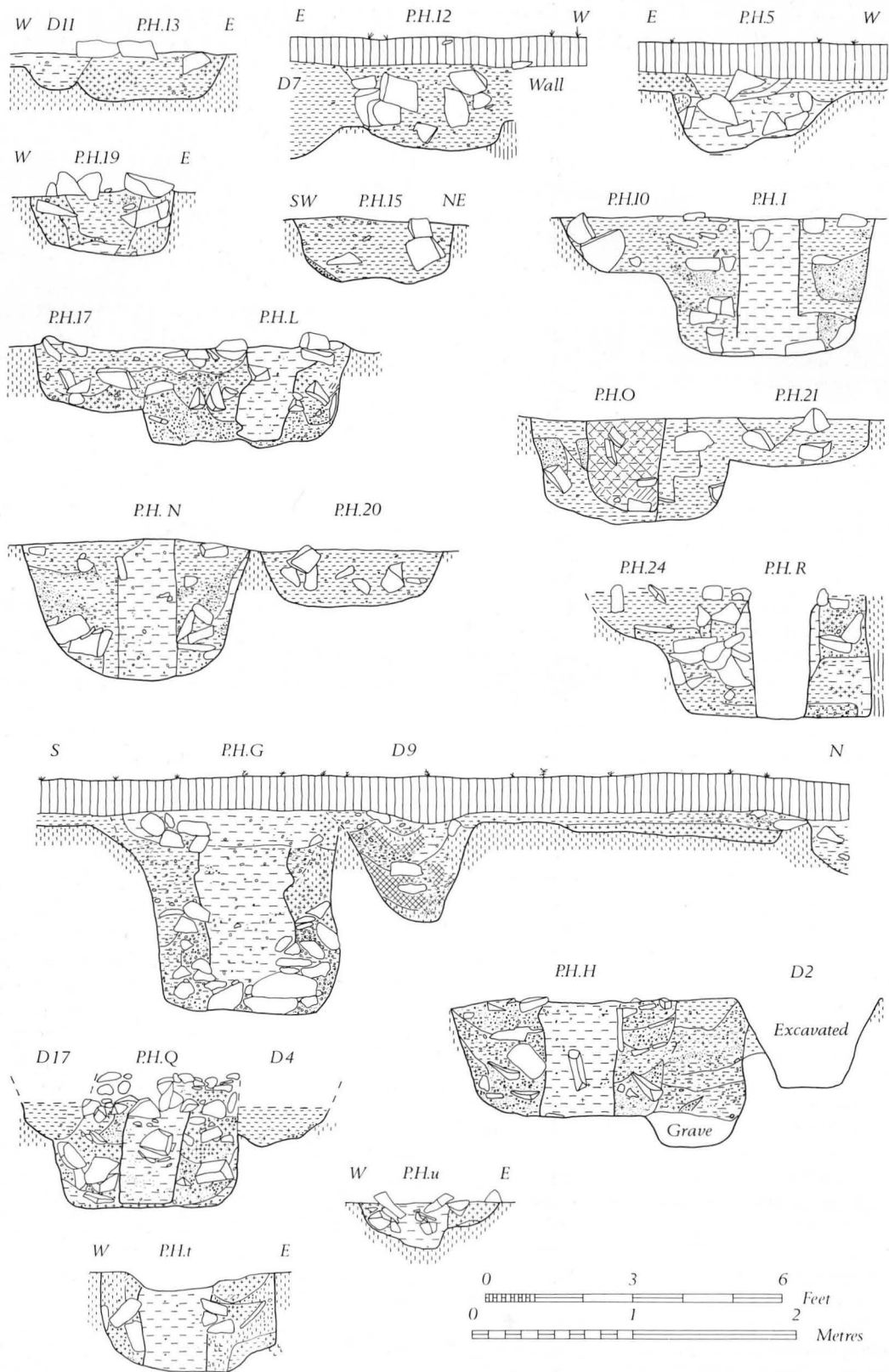


Figure 84 Barnack: The channel hearths and bowl furnaces; plans and sections. Scale 1:40

Metalworking debris was found in the fillings of post-pits C-G, L, N-P, R, S and T of the second aisled building, with concentrations particularly in D and R. Its main distribution was roughly along the line of D9 and then from its east end across to post-pit R and ditch D1; also in D12. Dark brown soil in the upper fill of post-pit R was indistinguishable from that in the top and over D1 (Fig. 85, west-east section). Both features contained much metalworking debris, associated with late 3rd–4th-century pottery. It is probable that the ditch was filled at the time of the construction of the new building, in the process of levelling up its floor.

Pit P5 was a long, rectangular, trough-like feature, 6.30 × 1.50 m in extent and c. 1 m deep. It had vertical sides which showed little evidence of weathering (Fig. 85; Pl. XXXI). The lower fill was relatively clean brown soil and gravel with occasional limestone fragments. The upper fill, by contrast, included large quantities of ash and a slag. At the east end was what appeared to be a small bowl furnace (P6; Fig. 84; Pl. XXXII). P6 was oval, measuring 0.65 × 0.50 × 0.30 m. The 'rim' of this feature was defined by fire-reddened clay which did not extend down the sides. The lower 0.23 m of the fill was almost entirely charcoal with a few flat stones placed on top of it and a lens of fired clay, c. 30 mm thick, at its centre. The upper fill was mostly ash. The ash spread filling the top of these features extended north to ditch D9.

The ditch D9 ran east-west to the north of the northern row of posts (Fig. 82). It was c. 12 m long and 0.76 m wide at the east end, tapering to 0.40 m in the west. The depth was 0.84–0.40 m east to west. Within the ditch there seemed to be two clear layers of ash. The lower layer was yellowish-grey, similar in colour and texture to that found in the channel-flue kiln (see below). The upper layer continued the spread from P5. The sides, bottom and surface around this ditch were all fire-reddened as were some of the adjacent post-holes.

The upper ash layer was mixed with abundant animal bone and pottery. In fact the whole area of ash spread between P5, post-pit G and D9 seems to have functioned as a midden, which was possibly levelled over this area of the building after it had been abandoned. Pottery from these features dated the deposit to the 4th century though it was mixed with earlier material including a little Antonine samian and Nene Valley Grey Ware of probable 3rd-century date (Fig. 89, Nos 20 and 21).

There were a lot of stones over D9 and the post-pits (7–9 and F–H) immediately adjacent to its east end (Pl. XXXIX). They included Collyweston flags which may have originally covered the floor in this part of the building but had subsided into the ditch filling. Just to the south, between post-pits G and H, was a slightly raised platform measuring about 1 m square of stone bonded in fired clay with Collywestons on top also set in fired clay. This was originally interpreted as a hearth and a possible origin of some of the grey ash which was in contact with its edges but did not underlie it, but in view of the evidence for metalworking may have been a standing for an anvil.

Of considerable interest too is the finding of a piece of coal in post-hole v and the association of a few pieces of it with metalworking residues in D1 and D9. Analysis of a sample from D1 indicated a possible origin some 50 miles away in the south Derbyshire/Leicestershire coalfield, in

the region of Swadlincote and Ashby (Section III, below). Coal has also been found in Romano-British contexts at Maxey (Chapter 4).

The corn-drying kilns

(Fig. 86; Pls XXXIV, XXXV)

At the east end of the later aisled building two corn-drying kilns, probably of different periods, were found (Fig. 86; Pls XXXIV and XXXV). One was of H-plan and the other of L-plan or 'channel-flue' type. The H-kiln was probably the earliest and may have been earlier than the second aisled building, though dating evidence is imprecise. It seemed to be later than the filling of post-pit 26 (Fig. 85, Section E–F) and there was no metalworking debris associated with it. It produced only five sherds of pottery which, could all be of the 3rd century, and a coin dating to after AD 270 (Section III) came from the clay bonding at the base of the wall lining the main flue (Fig. 85, Section A–B).

The kilns were built in pits cut into the subsoil and their flues were of limestone rubble laid in courses against the earth and bonded with clay. Some of the stones of the H-kiln at the north end, particularly those facing the platform A–D (Fig. 86) had been hammer-dressed (Pl. XXXIV). The side flues of this kiln were two courses high and about 0.27 m wide and 0.31 m deep. The cross-flue (east-west) was about 0.38 m deep and 0.55 m wide, narrowing to about 0.40 m at the bottom. The floors of the flues were natural gravel and 70–150 mm below the lowest courses of their walls, presumably as a result of the removal of natural gravel during frequent cleaning operations. The south end of the main flue (Fig. 86, near B) was floored with rough cobbles and to the south of them was a pit about 0.23 m deep, filled with dark earth and pieces of limestone. This must have been the stokehole for the coursed walling did not continue to the south of the cobbling.

The filling of both the side flues consisted of carbonized material, clay and soil and in the main flues mostly of black, red and yellow fired clay. A piece of Collyweston flag was found in the filling of the main flue and of the western side flue. The latter piece, from near the top of the flue, had clearly been subjected to heat and was overlaid by a large piece of fired clay. Samples of the fillings of the eastern side-flue and the main flue were submitted to R. Alvey of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham for analysis. He reported that the quantity of carbonised material was small, suggesting regular cleaning of the flue. However he was able to identify quite a number of cereal grains of which spelt (*Triticum spelta*) were the most common, and hulled, six-rowed barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and club (*Triticum compactum*) or bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum L.*) occurred in much smaller quantities, but in approximately equal proportions. A few seeds of wild oats (*Avena sp.*) were also identified together with seeds of about seven other common weed species (Section III).

The channel-flue kiln had an overall length of about 3.7 m (Fig. 86). Its depth was uneven as was its width. It became wider towards the stokehole and its walls were slightly battered so that it was 0.64–0.71 m at the top and 0.35–0.64 m at the bottom. It was butted onto the stokehole of the H-kiln (Pl. XXXV). The south wall of the channel flue was three to four courses high and rested on natural gravel at the same level as the cobbling at the



Plate XXVIII Barnack: View from the south of the outline of Post-pit P as first revealed below the ploughsoil showing its covering 'cairn' of stones

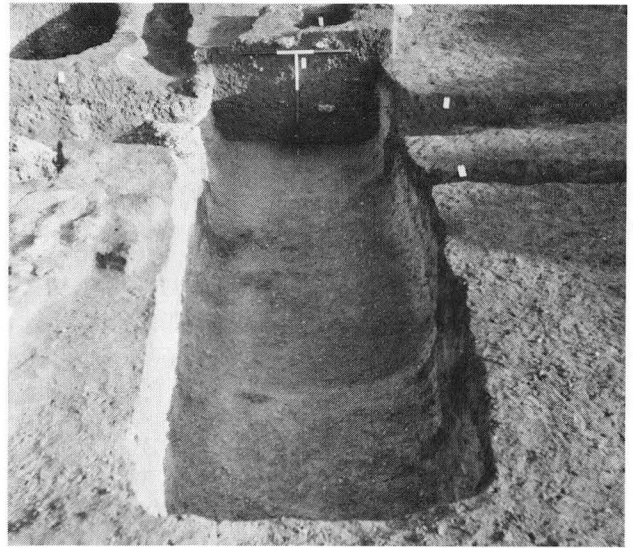


Plate XXXI Barnack: View from the west of Pit 5 showing a cross-section of its filling at its east end

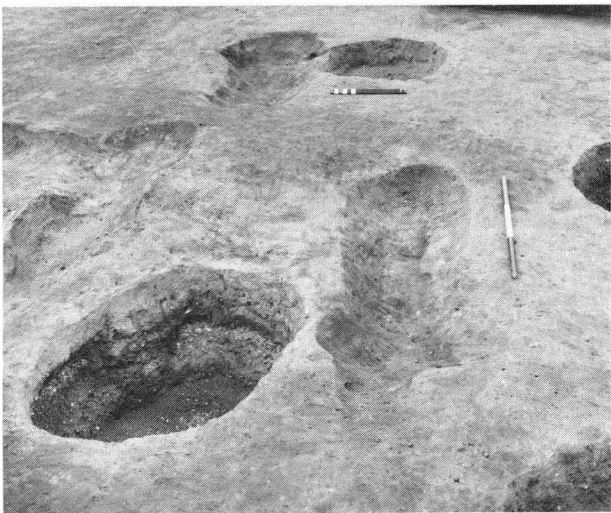


Plate XXIX Barnack: View from the east of the channel hearths G2-G4 adjacent to Post-pits s (background) and t (left foreground)

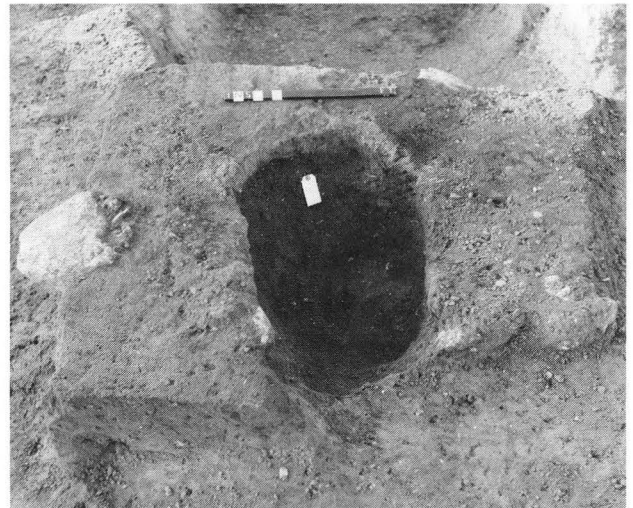


Plate XXXII Barnack: View from the east of the bowl furnace (Pit 10) cut into the filling of Pit 5 at its east end



Plate XXX Barnack: View of the footings of the west gable wall of the later aisled building (Period II) from the north



Plate XXXIII Barnack: View from the west of the stones, including Collywestons, over D9 (left) and along the line of the Post-pits 7, F and G (right)

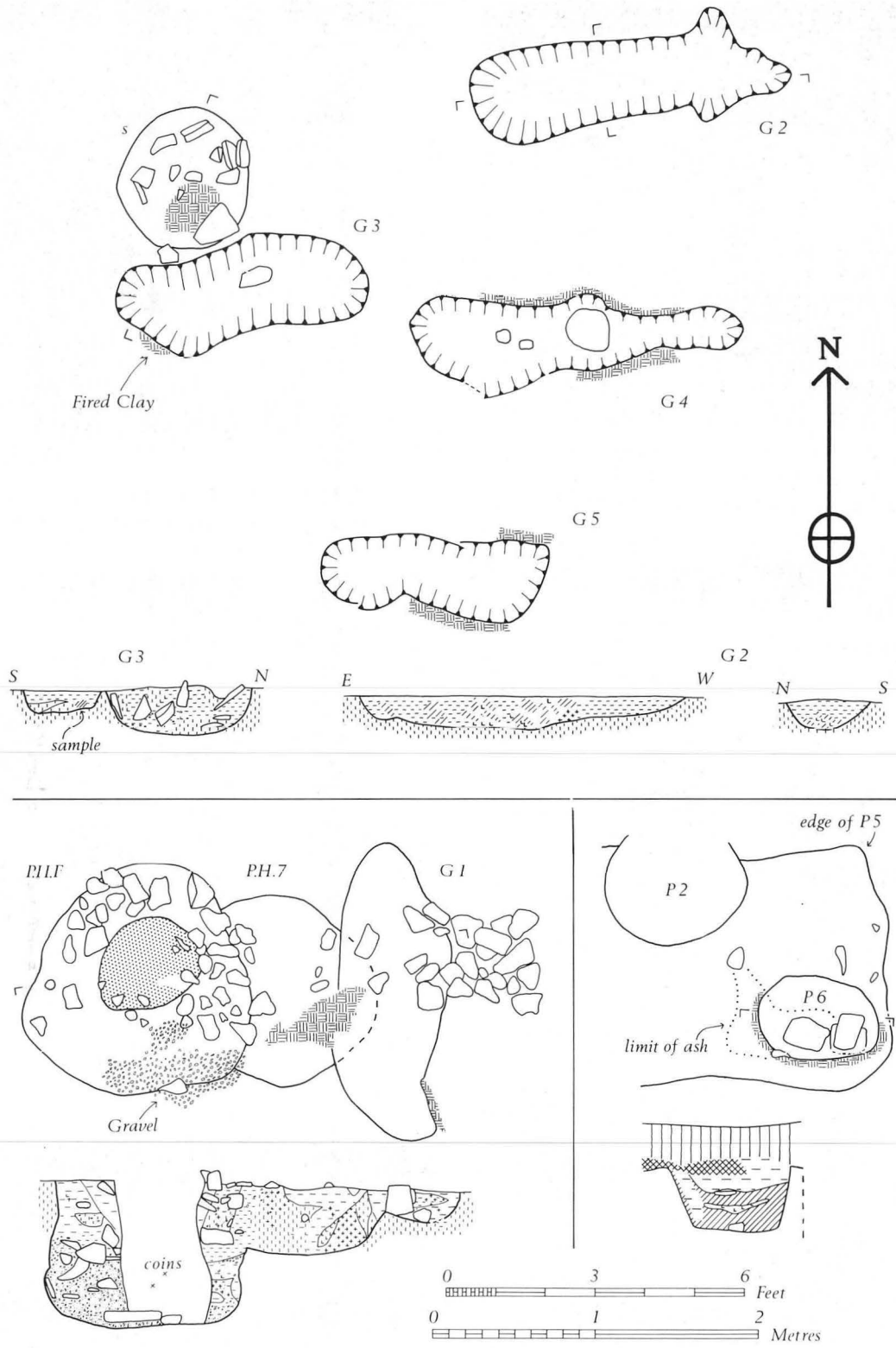


Figure 85 Barnack: Sections through post-pits of the second aisled building and kilns, pits and ditches of Period II. For soil conventions see Figure 18. Scale 1:40

BARNACK CORN-DRYING KILNS

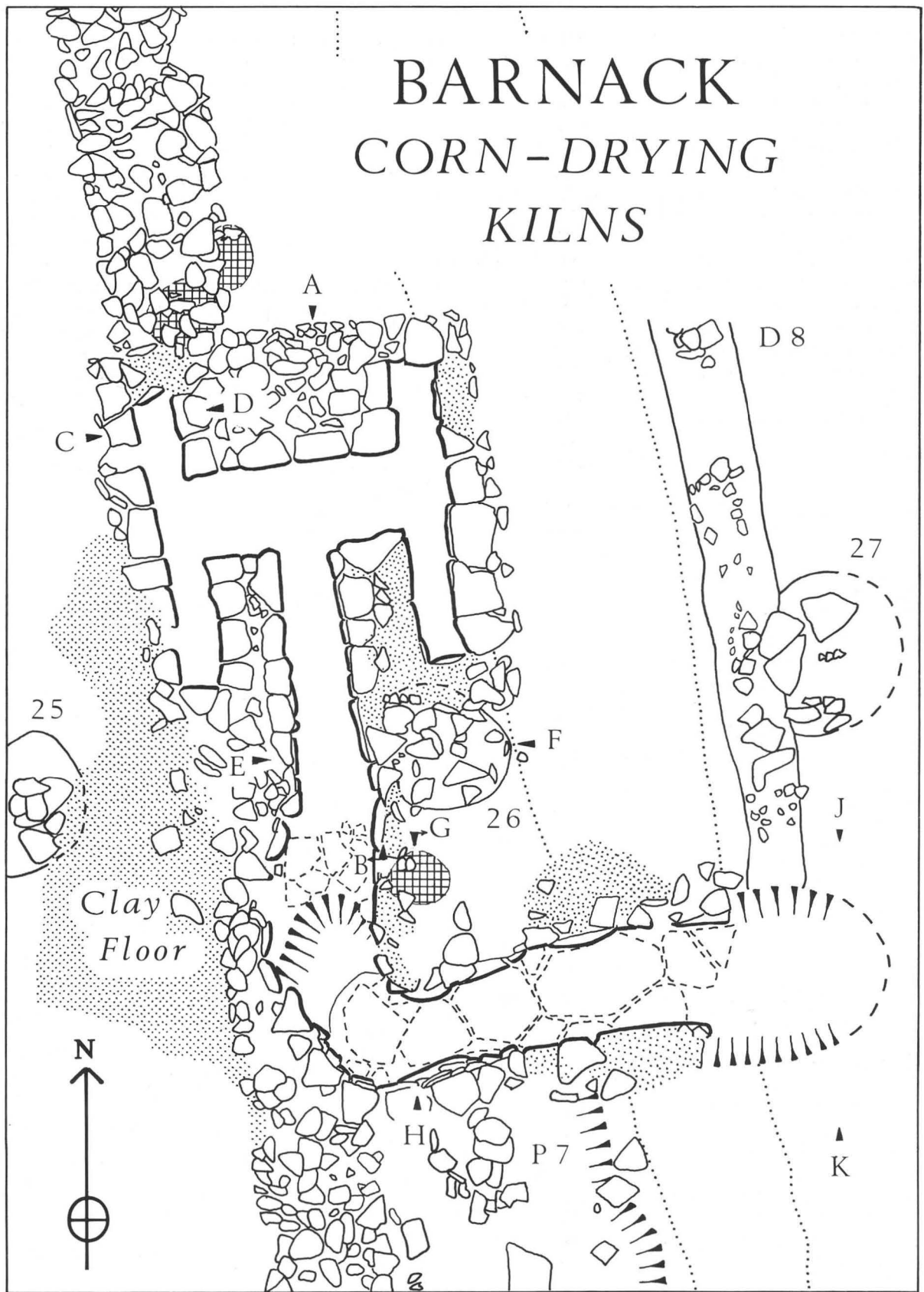


Figure 86 Barnack: Plan of the corn/malt drying kilns. Scale 1:40

mouth of the H-kiln flue, c. 1 m below the modern surface. The flue was constructed in exactly the same way as the H-kiln except that the face of the north wall was rendered with clay and, at the stokehole end, both walls were faced with large limestone slabs set on edge. The flagged floor sloped up gently so that it was about 0.30 m higher at this end. Above the flags, the lower fill was a mixture of fired clay, brown soil and ash (Fig. 85, Section H-G), giving way to a tumble of limestone rubble and frequent animal bones above (Section III). Below the flags there was carbonized material up to 0.25 m deep in places. It is probable that the flue was originally without a floor but that one was inserted later. This would prevent it from becoming deeper due to erosion by the great heat and frequent cleaning, as had happened in the H-kiln.

The stokehole was a single elongated pit 0.83 m wide and 0.30 m deep. Its lower fill was a fine grey ash containing small patches of clay, charcoal and carbonized grain (Fig. 85, Section J-K). Here the natural subsoil had become undercut. The ash merged into dark brown, stony soil above. The subsoil was scorched to a purple-red colour and clay at the mouth of the flue had become well-fired. To the north of the stokehole, D8 cut through a patch of fired clay and also contained fired clay in its filling at its south end, indicating contemporaneity of the two features.

About midway between the channel flue and post-pit 26 was a post-hole (at point G on Fig. 86), 0.38 m in diameter and 0.13 m deep. It may have been matched by a post-setting at the opposite side of the flue (just east of point H) and together they may have supported some superstructure connected with the kiln.

Samples of carbonized material from above and below the stone floor of the flue were identified as spelt, hulled, six-row barley, club or breadwheat and oats (Section III). Spelt was, again, the most common. There were also seeds of a number of weed species commonly associated with cereal crops.

The channel-flue contained pottery of 4th-century date and some metalworking debris.

Other features (Fig. 82)

Two or three other small ditches were found at the east end of the building. D17 was a narrow curving ditch which cut through the top fill of post-pit Q and through the ashy fill at the top of P5, before turning eastwards to end just short of the eastern wall foundation (Fig. 82). Pottery from it dated to the late 3rd or, more probably, 4th century (Fig. 88, Nos 12 and 13). It was cut, just to the north of P5, by D2, which was only about 5 m long and ran northwards to meet D10, another ditch of about the same size and length, approximately at right angles. This, in turn, cut through the fillings of D5 and D17. Both ditches contained 4th-century pottery (Fig. 88, Nos 18 and 19). Late 3rd or 4th-century pottery was also recovered from P8, to the south of the southern row of posts (Fig. 88, Nos 3 and 4).

Outside the east end of the building, two small ditches (D8 and D11) ran approximately parallel to the gable wall and along the eastern edge of D7 which had, by this time, presumably mostly filled up. There was a little metalworking debris in D11.

The ditch defining the north side of the droveway was open still in the 4th century. It contained

metalworking debris in its upper fill and some of the latest pottery from the site (Fig. 88, No. 5). Between it and the building were two narrow, straight-sided, parallel trenches, the northern of which (T1) measured c. 0.25 × 0.25 m and the southern one (T2) c. 0.18 × 0.18 m. The relationship between T1 and D1 is not entirely clear. It was thought that these features joined but it seems more likely, in view of their very different cross-sections, that D1 merely abutted on T1. Their dimensions and vertical sides make it more likely that they held squared horizontal timbers, perhaps to support successive fence lines (Fig. 85, north-south section). A very similar feature was found alongside a ditched droveway of Iron-Age date at Tallington, Lincs. (see Chapter 3). It seems unlikely that they mark the line of the south wall of the aisled building for nothing comparable was noted to the north of it and the aisles would have been so wide that their proportions to the nave would have been four to three rather than two to one for which, as shown above, there was some evidence. All these features contained 4th-century pottery.

III. The Finds

Coins

The coins from the site received preliminary identification by Dr R. Butler before cleaning and conservation. Unfortunately they were all stolen before fuller descriptions could be made of them.

Small finds

(Fig. 87)

with glass identifications by D.B. Harden

Very few small finds are worthy of discussion. Figures in *italic* refer to unillustrated artefacts.

1. Flint flake, grey, unpatinated, with secondary working on both faces. Possibly part of a chisel arrowhead. *Surface, c. 100 m east of the excavations.*
2. Small flint disc scraper, grey. *Ploughsoil over post-pit 6.*
3. Flint arrowhead, tanged or barbed and tanged, unpatinated grey/brown. Barbs and possibly tip broken in antiquity. *Socket of post-hole G.*
4. A small fragment of limestone statuary carved in the round, depicting a hand holding an indeterminate object. Possibly from a cult figure. *Socket of post-hole J.*
5. Iron nail, Manning (1972) type 2. Length: 145 mm. *Ashy layer, Ditch 9.*
6. Iron nail or tack with discoidal head, two fragments. *Unstratified.*
7. Iron joiner's dog. Length: 50 mm. One spike broken, other bent. Manning (1984) lists comparable examples from Romano-British contexts. *Socket of post-hole I.*
8. Iron nail, T-shaped head. Tip broken. The type, with arms too short for a T-clamp, is relatively rare. *Ditch 2.*
9. Loop-headed iron spike. Length: 58 mm. *Post-hole v.*
10. Tang and part of blade of iron knife. Associated with animal bones. *Stoke-hole of channel-flue kiln.*
11. Broken blade and part of tang of iron knife. *Unstratified, north-west of post-hole I.*
12. Convex iron disc. Diam: 64 mm. Probably a mirror (Lloyd-Morgan 1981). *Pit 8.*
13. Small rectangular iron plate with a chisel-like end. Length: 30 mm. *Fill of channel-flue kiln.*
14. Axe-headed bone pin. Length: 90 mm. For the significance of miniature axes as ritual objects see Green, M. (1985). *Midden deposit in area of post-holes F-G.*
15. Bone pin, conical head defined by double groove. Tip broken. *Ashy fill of Ditch 9.*
16. Another similar. *Unstratified, just north of post-pit 12.*
17. Handle made from part of shaft of long bone. The two conjoining fragments have surface polish through use and their ends have been smoothed off. Length: 100 mm. *Ditch 2.*



Plate XXXIV Barnack: View from the south along the east gable wall footings showing the H-shaped corn drying kiln fully excavated



Plate XXXV Barnack: View from the east along the flue of the channel-flue kiln

18. Part of copper-alloy rod with spatulate end, possibly the head of a pin or a toilet implement. *Charnel hearth G5.*
19. Copper-alloy strip lace-tag, edges folded in. Post-Roman. Length: 25 mm. *No context*
20. Plain copper-alloy ring. Diam. 22 mm. *Third finger of left hand of skeleton in grave P9 (Period I).*
21. Bracelet fragment, sheet copper-alloy. Decorated with pairs of punched dots arranged in rough herringbone design. *Modern ploughsoil north-west of Ditch 15.*
22. Half of a bead in pale, lime-green glass. *Above west gable wall foundation.*
23. Glass fragment from side of thick, bluish-green, prismatic bottle. *Midden area north-west of Pit 5 along post-line F-G.*
24. Glass fragments from a similar bottle to No. 23. *Ashy fill, east end of Ditch 9.*
25. Glass fragment from shoulder of thick, bluish-green cylindrical bottle. *Socket of post-hole I.*

The glass fragments (Nos 23-5) are likely to date from the later 1st-early 2nd century. Such bottles are extremely common on all Romano-British sites, even ones where there is no apparent occupation in the 1st-3rd centuries.

The Romano-British coarse pottery

(Figs 88 and 89; Table 21)

by Fiona Cameron, with a contribution by W.G. Simpson

Most of the pottery from Barnack comes from the Nene Valley kilns, as is usually the case for sites in such close proximity to Peterborough. Since the Nene Valley Pottery Guide was published (RPNV; Howe *et al.* 1980), the chronology has been considerably refined by the research at the Nene Valley Research Committee's field centre. Much of the chronology used in this report therefore depends on information provided by Rob Perrin on current ideas on dating, and on comparisons with the pottery from Chesterton, a site just to the east of Peterborough, which has good independent dating evidence but whose publication is as yet forthcoming. One major problem with the dating of Nene Valley pottery, which also exists in many other areas, is that there are a number of very long-lived types. In particular certain forms which begin in the later 2nd century AD are apparently still being produced throughout the 3rd century. The ubiquitous shell-gritted jars, which span all the periods of Nene Valley production, have their own problems of chronology and have only been used here for dating purposes in the absence of any other diagnostic pottery.

The only imported continental pottery from the site is the samian ware, of which there is only a small amount. The apparent absence of Rhenish or Central Gaulish Colour-Coated Wares and of amphorae may be due to the fact that this is very much an agricultural establishment, as much as to the fact that the period when such imports were common in Roman Britain may have passed before the first building was erected on this site.

Similarly, the absence of the Horningsea Ware jars which are such a common feature of Roman sites in the Fenland, may indicate that the inhabitants felt no real need to look further afield than Peterborough for their supplies of pottery. The virtual absence of Oxford Colour-Coated Wares from the site would support this suggestion. The fact that only a single possible sherd of London-type Ware, made in or near the Nene Valley in the second quarter of the 2nd century, is present, is

Wares	% by count	% by weight
1. All Periods		
Nene Valley Colour-Coated	34.9	25.3
Nene Valley Grey	28.7	28.5
Shell-gritted	26.4	36.6
Flagons	0.5	0.5
Mortaria	0.9	2.7
Other Oxidised	1.0	0.05
Other Reduced	7.5	5.7
2. Phase I		
Nene Valley Colour-Coated	21.4	8.9
Nene Valley Grey	20.2	8.2
Shell-gritted	45.2	75.3
Flagons	0.6	0.4
Mortaria	0.6	0.4
Other Oxidised	1.8	0.7
Other Reduced	10.1	5.9
3. Phase II		
Nene Valley Colour-Coated	34.4	29.0
Nene Valley Grey	31.4	27.8
Shell-gritted	25.3	40.0
Flagons	0.5	0.6
Mortaria	0.9	4.0
Other Oxidised	0.7	0.3
Other Reduced	6.7	6.3

Table 21 Barnack: Romano-British coarse pottery

probably an indication that occupation of the site did not start until the later 2nd century. The scarcity of flagons, other than Nene Valley Colour-Coated ones, is reflected in the pottery assemblages from the Fenland sites.

The proportions of the various wares for the whole site are given in Table 21 (a).

Phase Ia (D4, D5, D7 and D12)

Very little pottery was recorded in features of this phase. Nene Valley Colour Coated (NVCC) and Nene Valley Grey Wares (NVGW) from D4 and D7 suggest a date in the late 2nd-3rd centuries. A single sherd of Antonine samian comes from D4. One sherd of a Much Hadham Ware flanged bowl from D4 is probably intrusive.

Phase Ib (D3, D6, D13, D14, D15, PH1-28)

Few of the pits in the first aisled building contained any diagnostic sherds and some contained no pottery at all, but the presence of both NVCC and NVGW gives a general date of later 2nd-3rd centuries. This date is confirmed but not, unfortunately, made any more precise by three jar rims. PH13 contained a small wide-mouthed jar in NVGW (RPNV, fig. 1, no.4), PH14 contained a grey ware jar (Fig. 88, No. 1), and PH19 contained a larger wide-mouthed NVGW jar (Fig. 88, No. 2) with burnished decoration on the neck (*cf.* RPNV fig.1 no.10).

Ditch 13 contained sherds from a tall, indented NVCC beaker of funnel-neck type (*cf.* RPNV fig. 4, no. 43) of mid-late 3rd-century date and a Castor box-lid of early-mid 3rd-century type (*cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 89). The adjacent ditch D15 contained mostly sherds of shell-gritted pottery and NVGW which are late 2nd-3rd century. At the opposite end of the building, D14 contained three sherds of NVGW of which a jar finds close parallel at Chesterton and dates to the 3rd century.

The pottery from Phase Ib seems, therefore, to belong to about the middle of the 3rd century, and that of Phase Ia to the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The relative percentages of the various wares present in this phase are given in Table 21 (b).

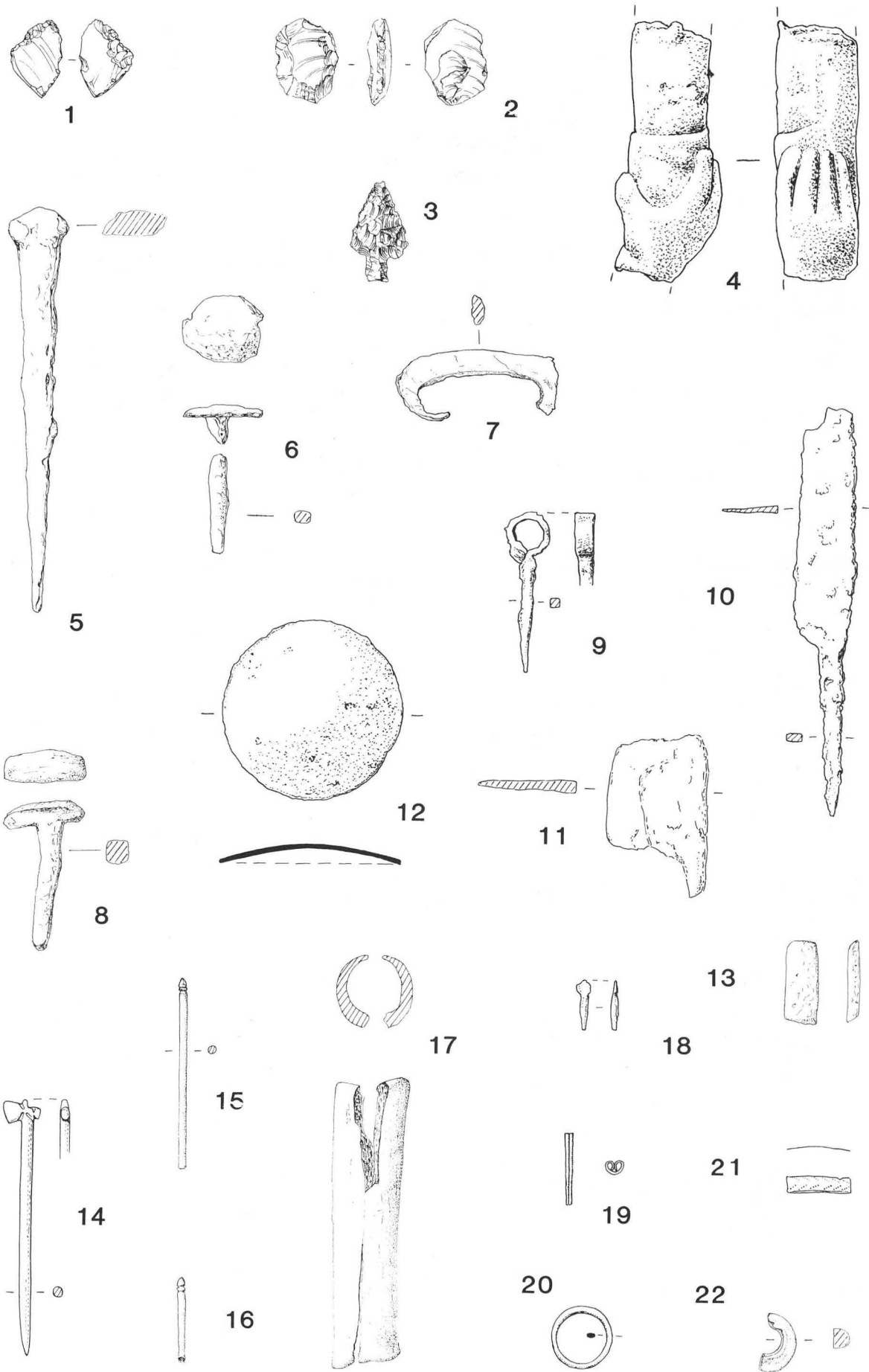


Figure 87 Barnack: Small finds. *Flint* (Nos 1-3); *stone* (No. 4); *iron* (Nos 5-130; *bone* (Nos 14-17); *copper alloy* (Nos 18-21); *glass* (No. 22). Scale 1:2

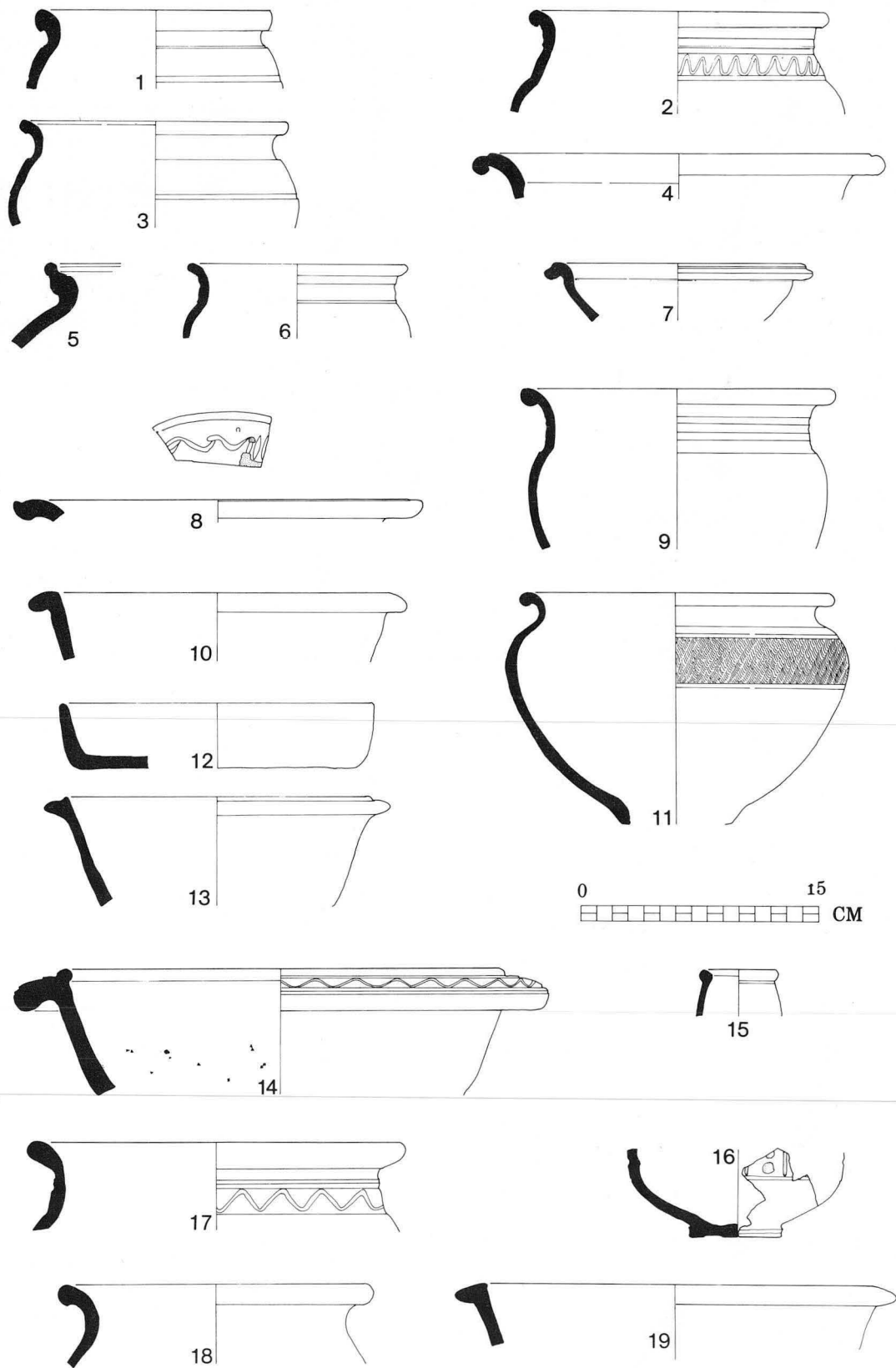


Figure 88 Barnack: Romano-British pottery. Scale 1:4

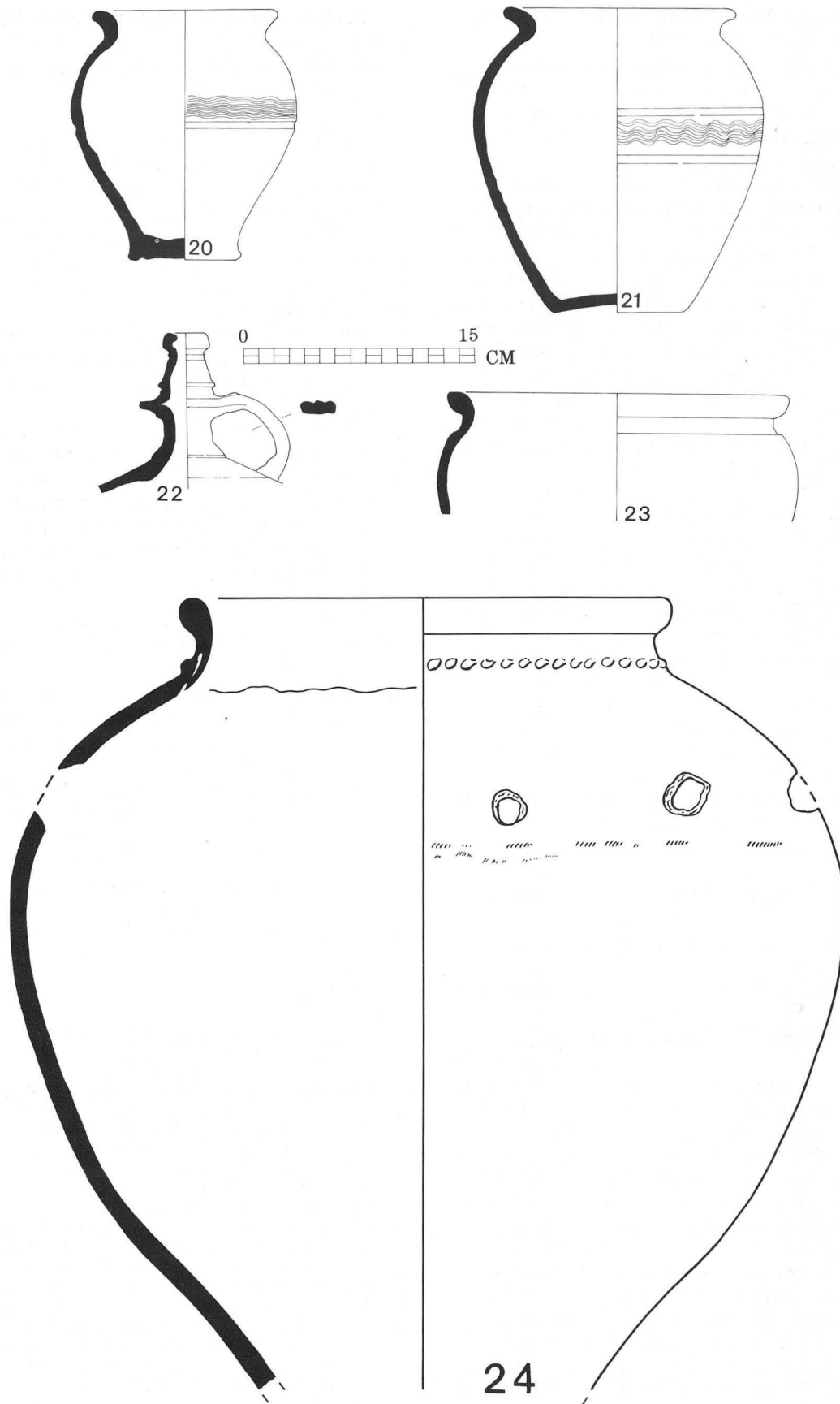


Figure 89 Barnack: Romano-British. Scale 1:4

Phase IIa (D1, D2, D8, D9, D10, D11, D12, D17, P2, T1, T2, PH.A-R, channel-flue kiln)

As a general rule, the actual pits of the second aisled building tend to contain most of the residual pottery, presumably because their excavation disturbed layers belonging to Phase I, while the sockets contained the later types which are most likely to give a date for this phase of the site.

The best dating evidence comes from the socket of Pit N, which contained a coin of mid-3rd century date as well as several NVCC vessels of 4th-century date. These included a small jar (Fig. 88, No. 6; *cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 77) and a dish of imitation samian type (Fig. 88, No. 7; *cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 81). There were also fragments of a flanged bowl, a flagon and two jar rims in NVCC ware. The socket of Pit F contained coins of the late 3rd to mid-4th centuries as well as shell-gritted jar rims of probable 4th-century types. The socket of Pit O contained a NVCC dish with white painted decoration on the rim (Fig. 88, No. 8), again of the imitation samian type (RPNV fig. 7, no. 81).

The socket of Pit H, however, contained a sherd which appears to be from a NVCC bowl of type 78 (RPNV fig. 7), which is dated to the late 4th or early 5th century and may, therefore, be intrusive. Further NVCC flanged bowls occurred in the socket of Pit P and in Pit E (*cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 79). Pits D, J, Q, R and T also contained late 3rd-4th century pottery, while Pits B, C, G, I, K and L contained only residual late 2nd or 3rd century sherds. The small amount of pottery from the gable wall foundations is of late 2nd- to 3rd-century date, but since it seems from the archaeological evidence that they belong to the same phase as the post-pits, this pottery must be residual.

Ditch 1 contained a certain amount of residual pottery as well as some sherds of 4th-century Nene Valley types, including a dish with white painted decoration on the rim (*cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 81). Ditch 8 however, contained a fragment of a Nene Valley mortarium with a reeded rim (*cf.* RPNV fig. 8, no. 102) as well as a shell-gritted jar of probable 4th-century type. Ditch 9 contained a number of sherds from NVCC Ware jars (*cf.* RPNV fig. 7, nos 75-77 and fig. 6, no. 70) and flagons (*cf.* RPNV fig. 6, nos 63-8) which tend to be 4th-century types. There is also a NVCC dish (Fig. 88, No. 10) and an unusual pedestal foot, both of which are probably 4th century in date. There is also a good deal of residual NVGW, including a jar (Fig. 88, No. 11) of late 2nd- or 3rd-century type (*cf.* RPNV fig. 1, nos 9, 10).

The pottery from D11 included sherds from a NVCC jar and a shell-gritted jar which probably date to the 4th century, as well as a certain amount of residual NVGW. The upper fill of D12 contained an Oxford Ware bowl of type 84.1 (Young 1977) with white painted decoration (AD350-400+) as well as sherds of NVCC jars and beakers with white overslip decoration. There was also a lid-seated jar (Fig. 88, No. 5) which may be related to those found at Lincoln (Darling 1977, fig. 6, 111-22) and to the late-Roman types common in the East Midlands (Todd 1968) and, therefore, also 4th century. Ditch 17 contained very little NVGW but did contain several sherds of NVCC flagons and jars as well as a dish (Fig. 88, No. 12) of Nene Valley type 87 (RPNV fig. 7) and a flanged bowl (Fig. 88, No. 13) of Nene Valley type 79 (RPNV fig. 7), all of which date to the later 3rd or, more probably, the 4th century.

Pottery from the intersection between D17 and D2 included a NVGW jar of 3rd-century type (Fig. 88, No. 17) which is presumably residual, as well as part of a bowl in Hadham Ware (Fig. 88, No. 16) which is probably 4th century in date.

Pit 5 had 4th-century pottery in all of its layers and should therefore belong to this phase. The diagnostic sherds included part of a rouletted NVCC flagon (*cf.* RPNV fig. 6, nos 63, 66-8), and a NVCC pie-dish.

Pit 8 contained sherds of 4th-century date in NVCC Ware and these included a jar rim (Fig. 88, No. 3) and part of a dish (Fig. 88, No. 4) imitating samian form 36 (RPNV fig. 7, no. 81).

There are only two sherds from P2, one of which is NVGW and therefore probably residual and the other is from a narrow-mouthed jar in grey ware which may be 4th century in date.

The pottery from D2 includes sherds from NVCC jars and a flanged bowl as well as a shell-gritted jar rim (Fig. 88, No. 18), all of which seem to date to the 4th century. There is, in addition, a narrow-mouthed grey jar with a slightly inturned rim and a frilled cordon round the neck which may be East Midlands Burnished Ware or closely related and is therefore also likely to belong to the 4th century.

Ditch 10 contained the rim of a NVCC jar of type 76 and a flanged bowl of type 79 (RPNV fig. 7) as well as a pie-dish, also in NVCC Ware (Fig. 88, No. 19), all of which are 4th century in date. The channel-flue kiln contained a plain NVCC flanged bowl (*cf.* RPNV fig. 7, no. 79) and another with white painted decoration on the rim, in its upper ashy layer, and a sherd in its lower ashy layer which appears to come from a NVCC flagon with rouletted decoration (*cf.* RPNV fig. 6, nos 63-8). It seems clear then that this kiln belongs definitely to the 4th century. The pottery evidence, therefore, seems to put the date of Phase II firmly into the 4th century.

The relative percentages of the various wares present in this phase are given in Table 21 (c).

Catalogue

(Figs 88 and 89)

1. Jar. Fine, sandy. Dark grey throughout. *Post-pit 14*.
2. Jar. NVGW. with burnished decoration on neck. *Post-pit 19*.
3. Jar. NVCC. Buff, dark brown colour-coat. *Pit 8*.
4. Dish. NVCC. Cream, dark brown colour-coat. *Pit 8*.
5. Lid-seated jar. Cream core, grey surfaces. *Ditch 12i*.
6. Jar. NVCC. Buff, orange-red colour-coat. *Pit N*.
7. Bowl. NVCC. Pale orange, red-brown colour-coat. *Pit N*.
8. Dish. NVCC. Cream, dark brown colour-coat. White painted decoration on rim. *Pit O*.
9. Jar. NVGW. Burnished lines on neck. *Ditch 3*.
10. Dish. NVCC. Orange, red-brown colour-coat. *Ditch 9*.
11. Jar. NVGW. Rouletted decoration on shoulder. *Ditch 9*.
12. Dish. NVCC. Cream, red-brown colour-coat. *Ditch 17*.
13. Flanged bowl. NVCC. Orange, red-brown colour-coat. *Ditch 17*.
14. Mortarium. Buff throughout. A few black ironstone grits. *Ditch 9*.
15. Beaker. NVCC. Orange, brown colour-coat. *Ditch 17*.
16. Bowl. Hadham Ware, sandy. Orange throughout. Burnished surfaces and impressed decoration. *Intersection of Ditches 2 and 17*.
17. Jar. NVGW. Burnished decoration on neck. *Intersection of Ditches 2 and 17*.
18. Jar. Pale brown throughout. Shell-gritted. *Ditch 2*.
19. Bowl. NVCC. Cream, pale orange-brown colour-coat. *Ditch 10*.
20. Jar. NVGW. Combed decoration on body. *Midden deposit north-west of Pit 5*.
21. Jar. NVGW. Combed decoration on body. *Midden deposit north-west of Pit 5*.

22. Flagon. NVCC. White, dark brown colour-coat. *Surface, Ditch 16.*
23. Jar. NVCC. White, brown-colour coat. *Surface of midden deposit north-west of Pit 5.*
24. Rimsherds and many conjoining body sherds of large storage jar. Dark grey core, buff/orange-brown surfaces. Shell-gritted. Body of vessel coil-built, rim wheel-thrown. Narrow, applied, frilled band immediately below rim. Around shoulder, impressions of thick twine of vegetable fibre (probably intended to give support while the clay drying out). Series of holes (20-30 mm diam.) picked out around shoulder post-firing. *Top of post-socket F.*

Comment by W.G. Simpson: A storage jar of about the same capacity was found at Rockbourne Roman villa (Sussex) which had numerous (presumably secondary) perforations through its walls (Morley Hewitt 1971). The excavator described it as a beehive but the suggestion has not received support (Crane 1983). It also bears a superficial resemblance to a doormouse fattener (Graham 1978). Neither of these explanations suit the Barnack vessel as the perforations are too large and wrongly distributed.

Sherds of similar storage jars were fairly common over the site, particularly from the midden. Evidently they had other secondary uses for some sherds showed evidence of having been sawn.

Samian

(Fig. 90)

by B.R. Hartley

Just over twenty sherds of samian ware were found and most of them were of Antonine date or later and probably residual. At least half the collection consisted of small sherds or chips. Only two pieces are illustrated (Fig. 90). The majority of the samian sherds (thirteen) were distributed along a line approximately between post-pits E-H, and between it and Pit 5 to the east end of the latter. This suggests that most of the material had been consigned to the midden which seems to have been levelled over this part of the site and/or had come from an area of earlier settlement to the north or north-west of the aisled building.

Catalogue

(Fig. 90)

Figures in *italics* refer to unillustrated sherds.

Midden area north-west of Pit 5 along post-line F-G

1. Form 33 base, Central Gaulish. Stamp *SEXTI MA* (Die IXb). The site evidence for Sextus as a whole suggests late Antonine activity.
2. Form 37 rim, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
3. Curle 23, Central Gaulish. Probably Hadrianic.
4. Bowl, heavily worn inside, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
5. Form 33 rim, Central Gaulish. Antonine.

Post-sockets F and G

6. Scrap, East Gaulish. Antonine or later (F).
7. Scrap, Central Gaulish. Antonine (G).

Gravelly soil fill of Pit 5

8. ?Form 37, scrap with ovolo. Early 2nd century.
9. Two conjoining fragments, Form 27, South Gaulish. Flavian-Trajanic.
10. Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine.

Ditch 17

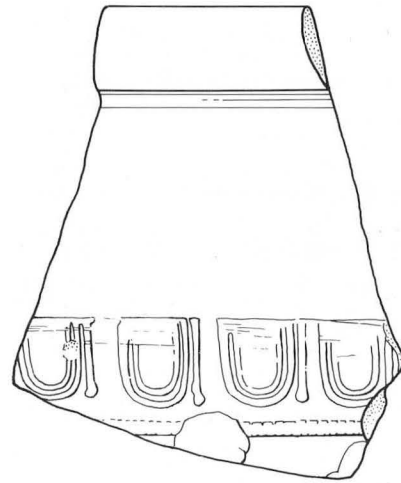
11. Scrap, ?South Gaulish. 1st century. *Over Pit 5.*
12. Form 27 rim, South Gaulish. Flavian. *Intersection of Ditches 2 and 17.*
13. ?Form 42, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic. *Ditch 2.*

From elsewhere on the site

14. Form 37 rim with ovolo, used by *PATERNVS* and his associates, c. AD 160-190. *Post-socket L.*
15. Form 31 rim, Central Gaulish. Antonine. *Surface, post-pit M.*
16. Form 31 rim, ?East Gaulish. Antonine. *Surface, post-pit M.*
17. Form 35/36 rim, very thick and clumsy, East Gaulish. Late 2nd or early 3rd century. *Unstratified, near post-pit N.*
18. Fragment of footring, probably Central Gaulish. Antonine.

SEXTI MA

1



2

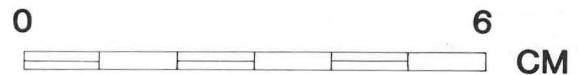


Figure 90 Barnack: Romano-British pottery: samian stamp (No. 1) and samian sherd (No. 2). Scale 1:1

Zoological and botanical evidence

The human remains

by C.B. Denston

Human remains from the grave (P9) were all in a very good state of preservation. A full report is included in *Microfiche (E.14-G.2)*.

Sex: Female
 Age: 50+
 Stature: c. 1.59 m
 Pathology: Osteo-arthritic, particularly in vertebral column and long bones. Signs of fracture of one ulna and nasal bone. Most of the teeth seem to have been lost *ante-mortem* and there is an abscess cavity above the upper right lateral incisor.

In addition several human bones, all from very young infants, were recovered from three features:

Post-socket G: part temporal and petrous temporal
 Post-pit G: rib, femur shaft
 Ditch 9: skull vault fragment

These are probably derived from one or more disturbed burials.

Mammalian and bird bones

(Table 22)

by Mary Harman

All the bone was examined; they were well preserved and though most were fragmentary, the majority of the pieces were identifiable. Few of the features contained any quantity of bone, though several of them included interesting deposits.

The total numbers of bones found in each deposit, excluding loose teeth and ribs, are shown in Table 22.

Date	Feature	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Other	Bones of Interest
Late 2nd-3rd C	D4/5	2	1			
Late 2nd-3rd C	D7	26 (16)	1		Horse 1	
Early-mid 3rd C	D12	3 (1)				
3rd C	D14	2	1			
3rd C	D15	6 (2)	1	1	Horse 2; Dog 1	Cattle skull; part piglet
3rd C	D6	2	1	1		
3rd C	D3	4	2			
Early 4th C	D1	24 (3)	5		Horse 1; Deer? 3; Hare/ Rabbit 1	Cattle, part left ankle and foot (7 bones)
Early 4th C	Post-pits A-R, s-u	1	1	1	Dove sp. 1	
4th C	Post-sockets A-R, s-u	3	8	1		
4th C	D9	18 (6)	6	1		Cattle skull
4th C	D11	1	1			Cattle skull
4th C	D2/17	29 (3)	8	3	Horse 3; Dog 4	Calf head and feet (5 bones)
Mid-4th C	Channel kiln	51 (18)	11	2	Horse 3	
Mid-late 4th C	D10	4	1			
<i>Totals</i>		176 (49)	48	10	Horse 10; Dog 5	

Table 22 Barnack: Animal bone

The numbers of cattle vertebrae included in the total figures are shown in brackets, and bones of particular interest are noted. Nearly all the bones are from mature animals.

The bones are derived from a variety of features, the majority of 4th-century date. The number of bones in any feature is too small to draw any conclusions concerning economy, though it appears that cattle were more numerous than sheep, while pig and horse were kept in smaller numbers, as occurs on many other sites of this period.

The number of cattle vertebrae is remarkably high compared with the number of other bones. The vertebrae come from all parts of the spinal column, including a complete neck and part of an ox tail.

The remains of a calf in Ditch 17 are of interest: it seems likely that the skull fragments and pairs of metacarpals and metatarsals were all from the same animal, which was represented by these bones only, and was not more than a few months old. The metatarsals both had cuts on the anterior surface at the proximal end, and the right also has one or two on the distal condyles. It seems possible that having removed the phalanges, the creature was skinned and the skull and upper feet discarded, the rest of the body perhaps being eaten. A broken iron knife was found closely associated with these bones (Fig. 87, 10).

Coal from Ditch 1

(Table 23, Microfiche)

by R. Neves and G. Clayton

The source of archaeological coal may be identified by its type and from its palynological assemblage which can be matched against a reference collection of specimens from surface outcrops of known age and locality (Table 23, Microfiche). These indicate that the coal was obtained from the lower coal measures (Upper Westphalian A), the nearest seam of which is the Little Woodfield or Main Coad Rider in the South Derbyshire coalfield.

One other piece of coal came from the same feature; also single pieces from post-hole v and from yellow-grey ash in the west end of Ditch 9. These were not analysed. Coal has also been found in Romano-British contexts at

Maxey but it was not possible to identify its source (see Chapter 4).

Cereal grains and weed seeds

(Table 24)

by R.C. Alvey, with identifications by C. Dickson

Samples of carbonised material were submitted for examination from the following contexts:

- Sample A: North-eastern arm of the H-kiln.
- Sample B: Channel-flue kiln, above the stone flagging.
- Sample C: Channel-flue kiln, below the stone flagging.
- Sample D: Channel hearth G2.
- Sample E: Base of post-socket O.
- Sample F: Old ground surface at the eastern end of the first aisled building.

The largest deposits of carbonised grain were Samples B and C and F. Although the latter was not from a sealed and securely dated context there seems no reason to doubt that it is of Romano-British date. The relative scarcity of material from the H-kiln suggests that it was cleaned out more frequently than the later kiln. There was also very little material from the channel hearth, G2 and certainly insufficient to suggest that these hearths were used for the processing of cereals. Probably, as with the socket of post-hole O, they reached their context fortuitously.

Most of the cereal grains had had the starch burnt out of them and were badly broken up due to their becoming overheated in the kiln. Hence it was difficult to find more than a small number from any of the samples that could be measured. Samples C, E and F produced evidence in the form of embryos, and slight scarring of some of the grains showed that germination had started. This suggests the possibility that the kilns were being used for the making of malt.

Table 24 gives the quantities of cereal grains and seeds of cereal grasses and weeds; also snail shells contained in each sample. The dimensions of cereal grains which were sufficiently well preserved to be measured are in the site archive. The snail shells post-date the contexts in which they were found and are of a type which burrow down into soft underground places.

	A	B*	C	D	E	F
Cereals						
T. spelta — grains	42	385	527	5?	1	112?
— spikelets (complete)			22		9	7
— spikelets (parts)	2		1239			397
Hordeum sp.	1	15	6		7	4
T. compactum/aestivum, L.	4	27				
Cereal shoots			20		3	9
Cereal grasses and weeds						
Bromus	9		87		1	22
Avena sp.			46		1	23
Gramineae		1				
Rumex sp.	4		P		3	P
Chenopodium, cf. Album	5				2	
Atriplex hastata/patula	2		P			P
Veronica hederifolia		1				
Polygonium convolvulus L.			P			P
Vicia			P			P
Unidentified	8				2	
Snails						
Cecilicides acicula (Müller)	30		14	2		6
Pupilla muscorum (Line)		1				

* this sample consists entirely of cereal grains and seeds picked out from the carbonised deposit *in situ*.
P indicates the presence of various cereal grasses and weeds in samples C and F.

Table 24 Barnack: Cereals, weeds and snails

IV. Discussion

The structure of the buildings

(Fig. 91)

The first building was marked only by its post-pits. There was no clear evidence of side or gable walls. Romano-British buildings with this ground plan are not uncommon: examples include Landswade, Exning (I), Suffolk (Taylor 1960) and Denton (I), Lincs. (Smith, J.T. 1964), of 2nd-3rd-century date. On the evidence of their later plans, the first buildings at Barnack, Landswade and Denton (Fig. 91, A, B, and D) probably had aisles half the width of their naves; a relationship common to over half of all Romano-British aisled buildings (Morris 1979, 64). The Barnack building was very much the longest of the three and comparable in this respect to those at Winterton, Humberside, which are among the longest known (Goodburn 1978).

The setting out of the post-pits of the first Barnack aisled building is very regular. The two rows run parallel and each post could have been set in its post-pit so that it was at a uniform distance from its opposite number across the nave. Such methodical planning seems to be a general feature of the Romano-British aisled buildings in Morris's corpus (Morris 1979, figs 35-41; Fig. 91). The spacing of the posts along each row is also fairly regular, except at the west end where the last two posts are set at almost twice the usual distance from their nearest neighbours. A similar situation can be observed at Wakerley (west end) and Denton (both ends). It is possible that, in each of these cases, raking shores were used to buttress one or both ends of the building, though there is no direct evidence for this. Another possibility would be the existence of a porch; Roman granaries invariably had their main doors at the ends.

The first Barnack building was perhaps found to be too large and, more significantly, may have lacked stability, for the pits holding the arcade posts hardly cut into the gravel and were so shallow that they did not show up as crop-marks on air photographs, as do the deeper

post-pits of the later building. Besides being shorter, the later building was more strongly constructed than its predecessor. The deeper post-holes would have made for greater vertical stability and thick gable walls of cob or stone could have been used to prevent lateral movement (racking) by holding the ends of arcade plates. A hipped roof, which has been suggested for this type of building (Wild, J.P. 1974, 158) would have had the same effect (Charles 1981, 8). As the arcade posts had been cut down rather than dug out, it can be seen (Fig. 82) that their positions actually conformed very closely to the regular lay-out postulated on the evidence of the post-pits alone for the earlier building.

The stronger construction of the later building would have allowed a heavier roof covering than its predecessor. Fragments of local Collyweston slates were found on the site but none were shaped or pierced for hanging. A tile roof seems unlikely also, although fragments of *tegulae* and *imbrices* had a fairly general distribution over the site. The weight of the tiles required would have been over 40 tons and it is doubtful if the timber frame would have been adequate to support it (Gentry 1976). So a roof of thatch or shingles seems most likely for both buildings.

Few features of either building can be unequivocally attributed to domestic use. There seems to have been some sub-division of one end of the later building, a feature which occurs at other sites (Morris 1979; Smith, J.T. 1964). The west end of the nave was sub-divided along its axis by three posts (s, r and u) which were probably contemporary with the wall footing dividing off the four western bays (Fig. 81).

Industrial aspects of the buildings

The evidence for the use of fire in the 'channel hearths'(G1-5) in the west end of the building was not very great but was clear enough in the burning and reddening of the clayey soil around their edges and also in the charcoal scatters in their fillings. Such hearths have been found quite often associated with agricultural

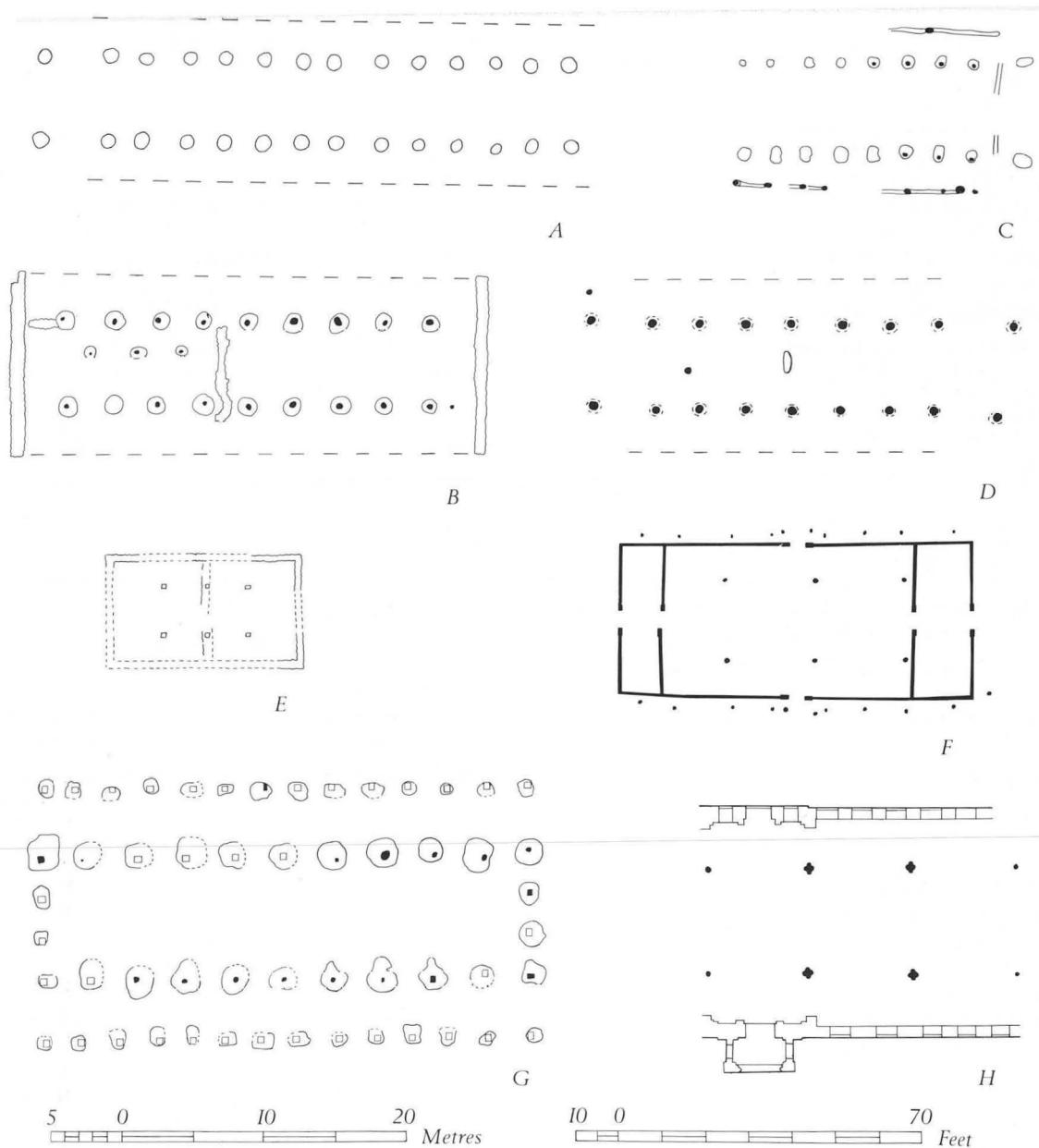


Figure 91 Barnack: Comparative plans of Romano-British and medieval aisled buildings: A (Barnack); B(Landswade); C (Wakerley); D (Denton)

buildings and industrial activity. The closest parallels seem to be at Bulwick and Wakerley, Northants and in the courtyard of the Roman villa of Rockbourne, Hants (Jackson and Ambrose 1978; Jackson, D.A., 1979; Morley Hewitt 1971; R.C.H.M. 1983). At Bulwick, their association seems to have been particularly with ironworking but at Wakerley there was also much evidence of agricultural activity, including two aisled buildings and corn or malt-drying kilns. Similar structures occurred also at Winterton where no evidence of metalworking was found (Stead, 1976). Those at Rockbourne were clearly used in succession and are described as cooking hearths.

At Barnack their use was ambiguous as both carbonized grain and metalworking residues were found in small quantities. Clearly they had been kept well cleaned or were little used and the charcoal scattered in their fillings provides the best clue to their function.

Channel-hearth G2 had small scoops, like ears, on either side at its east (narrow) end. These could have been to allow the nozzles of bellows better access into hot charcoals filling the channel. Such hearths, either open or covered over with turves, could be used for a variety of purposes, including the roasting or baking of food or for iron working.

Both the stone-built kilns at the east end of the building were associated with the processing of cereals, primarily wheat. As there are indications that some of the grain had begun to germinate one of their uses may have been for malt-making. Similar evidence has come from a number of Romano-British sites in recent years (Hillman 1982; Morris 1979, 5-22).

Unfortunately not enough is known about the superstructures of these kilns. It is assumed that the flues of the H-kiln would have been covered by a square drying floor made, perhaps, of stone and clay and the L-kiln by a

rectangular one. There was no trace of double-layered flooring such as was evident at Atworth (Goodchild 1944). Any grain that slipped through gaps in the floor would have soon become carbonized in the intense heat generated from the fireplace. Where reconstructions have been attempted, a hood or chimney over the floor or at the end of the main flue has sometimes been suggested. The L-kiln could have had a stone chimney of one build with the gable wall or a clay and wattle structure built against the wall, supported by posts on the east side at G and H (Fig. 86). Most corn-driers seem to have been inside buildings and possibly this one was enclosed in a light timber-framed structure (Morris 1979).

The channel hearths and the bowl furnace were clearly fuelled by charcoal but the ash in and around D9 and over P5, and in the stone-built kilns also, was obviously derived from something more combustible, perhaps brushwood or straw, though no charcoal or cereal grains were noted in the ash deposits of D9. Good quality coal will also burn away to a fine ash. Not many pieces of it were found, however, and as it had to come some distance it was probably only available infrequently as an alternative to charcoal. It could not have been used for extracting iron from the ore in a bloomery, but could have been used in a smithing hearth under oxidising conditions where the iron would not absorb its sulphur (Tylecote 1962). At Elmswell, Yorks., slag from hammered blooms was found in grey ash in a bowl hearth with coal nearby (Corder 1938).

The most likely explanation of the purpose of P5 is that it was a quarry for iron nodules. Metal residues were found in it and the ash in its upper levels indicate its contemporaneity with metalworking. Other large pits to the north of the aisled building may have had the same origin. To the north of P5 the foundation of heavy flags bound with clay between posts G and H may have been the base for an anvil. The small bowl furnace in the south-east corner of the filling of P5 was probably a smithing hearth rather than a bloomery. No metal residues are recorded from it. It must have been contemporary with D17 which separates the south-east corner from the rest of the building and perhaps enclosed a special metalworking area at a late stage of its history.

The function of the long, tapering ditch (D9) is not clear. Similar features occurred at Winterton (buildings A and B) where they were assumed to have performed some agricultural function (Stead 1976). Barnack D9 contained large quantities of ash and there was clear evidence of burning around the ditch edges. The upper layer of ash was mixed with slag and abundant animal bone and pottery and seems to represent a midden deposit spread over the area between the ditch and Pit 5 (see Section II, above). It seems most likely that hot ash was shovelled or levelled into the ditch, causing scorching of the rim and gravel surface adjacent to the ditch, but its original function remains unknown.

Aisled buildings in the Roman countryside

The type of building investigated at Barnack has recently

been the subject of a detailed analysis in the wider context of agricultural buildings in Roman Britain (Morris 1979). Since 1964, when the site was excavated, the number of examples known has substantially increased, both through aerial photography and archaeological excavations. Some sites have produced evidence of up to four such buildings, often representing a number of construction periods. Their distribution is mainly in lowland England, south-east of a line between the estuaries of the Severn and the Humber, with particular concentrations in the east Midlands and Cambridgeshire and in Hampshire. They may be broadly divided into two categories: those which seem to have served simply as barns or agricultural workshops; and others which contained quite extensive residential accommodation, often with well-appointed rooms or even a bath-suite added. Even in the latter type of building, part of the aisled interior was often retained, perhaps for an agricultural purpose or as a 'hall' for communal functions. Between these two extremes were numerous buildings where a clear priority of the agricultural use over the residential, or *vice versa* is not apparent. Where excavations have been sufficiently extensive the one class of building can often be seen to evolve from, or develop into, the other.

The Barnack buildings have no structural features to indicate that they were ever residential and there are few finds which were clearly of a domestic character. Those that there are could all have been introduced in rubbish for disposal. Both buildings, it seems, were fairly typical examples of the agricultural type of aisled building. Comparable buildings have been found in eastern England at, for example, Winterton, Lincs, and Orton Longueville, Cambs. At Winterton they were part of a complex of buildings, both residential and agricultural, which probably formed the centre of a villa estate (Stead 1976). At Orton, however, they were among buildings grouped round yards which seemed to be all agricultural or industrial in function (Mackreth 1978; forthcoming a). Both sites were, as at Barnack, associated with long ditches marking boundaries or trackways and others defining rectilinear enclosures which were probably fields, paddocks or closes. At Winterton, Roger Goodburn has estimated on the basis of extensive excavation and aerial survey that the linear features associated with the estate buildings covered an area of about 25 hectares. Only about 10% of the total actually show up on air photographs (Goodburn 1978).

It is assumed that the Barnack aisled buildings lay close to a group of buildings similar to, though perhaps smaller than, those at Orton or Winterton. The farm lay on the edge of the gravel terrace overlooking well-watered pastures on alluvium deposited by the River Welland. Wide linear ditches can be seen on air photographs to extend southwards from the alluvium towards the limestone uplands. These have been discussed in Chapter 4, above. As elsewhere in Roman Britain, the indications in the Barnack region are that a mixed farming economy was practiced in a well-ordered farm landscape.

6. Excavations at Site 11, Fengate, Peterborough, 1969

by F.M.M. Pryor

Author's note

The site number (11) in the title of this paper refers to the Royal Commission inventory of sites and monuments in the Peterborough area (R.C.H.M. 1969, fig. 1), made prior to the expansion of Peterborough New Town. The threat to the site was imminent and delay could not be brooked, and it is very much to the excavator's (Christine Mahany) credit that it has since proved possible to offer a number of new interpretations, suggested by discoveries made during the subsequent, and much larger, Fengate project. The brief report that follows also owes much to Ian and Barbara Kinnes who took part in the original excavation.

The excavation took place in 1969 and it would consequently be inadvisable to attempt a fully detailed report. I have therefore decided, in order to facilitate comparisons, to write the report as if it were part of the subsequent Fengate project, and have taken the liberty in places to modify and adapt the excavator's notes and descriptions to accord with the terminology and conventions used in the Fengate Reports (Pryor, 1974; 1978; 1980; 1984). None of the alterations are too drastic, as comparison with the original notebooks will attest. I have been aided in this by Dr Charles French, the Fengate Project's soils scientist, who was also intimately familiar with the deposits concerned. The main adaptation was to the section drawings which have been reinterpreted by Dr French. The original layer boundaries have, of course, been retained, but the texture, as drawn, follows later practice which has been fully described and defined by Dr French (in Pryor 1980, appendix 3). The original soil descriptions have been retained in the sections descriptions on Microfiche (F.5-7).

The need to bring the Site 11 descriptions and nomenclature into line with the later Fengate Project becomes apparent once it is appreciated that the excavations in the Newark Road sub-site (Pryor 1980) took place a very few metres to the east; soil conditions at the two sites were very closely comparable indeed. We are, therefore, more than usually confident that the description offered here is reasonable and accurate. Finally, in the text that follows, references to the two site notebooks are prefixed by the term *archive*. All finds and field notes existing at the time of writing are housed in Peterborough Museum.

I. Introduction

(Figs 1, 92 and 93)

Fengate Site 11 consisted of a rectilinear ditched enclosure, and other features, aligned NW-SE and centred on OSGR TL 213 993. Figure 92 shows the site (D) in relation to the principal relevant sites of the later

Fengate Project. The site has already been discussed, in interim form, by its excavator (Mahany 1969), and it has subsequently been destroyed by factory development. The site was excavated in a series of trenches, the locations of which are shown in Figure 93.

Surface geology and geomorphology

The site is situated on the Third Terrace gravels of the river Nene, at a height of *c.* 4.5 m OD. The gravels are capped by *c.* 0.20-0.30 m of sandy loam (*archive* layer 4) which was encountered on all sub-sites of the later Fengate Project (with the exception of the Cornbrash areas of Vicarage Farm). This layer represents a relict soil of probable post-Pleistocene age. Generally-speaking it caps features of Neolithic and earlier date, but is also earlier than them (*i.e.* it was a long-lived, growing and developing palaeosol); later features, especially clay-filled pits and ditches of Roman and Iron Age date, show through it.

The sandy loam layer was capped, in turn, by the modern ploughsoil which includes a substantial alluvial component. The alluvium in the topsoil in this part of Fengate was probably first deposited in the 3rd Century AD, and thereafter.

II. The Excavations

(Figs 92-100; Table 25)

The features revealed in the excavations have been assigned numbers, which appear on the plans and in the running text. The site was recorded, however, using a trench and layer system. A concordance list of the two has been drawn up in Table 25 (Microfiche).

Principal features

The enclosure ditch

(Figs 93-7)

The enclosure ditch (Fig. 93) measured 50 × 30 m and was, on average 3 m wide; the depth varied somewhat, but 0.70 m (from the base of the overlying sandy loam layer (layer 4) was typical. It is hard to be certain, but the evidence for recutting is not convincing: the ditch had a regular, even, profile, with no obvious steps in its sides and the bottom was not ridged (for examples of repeatedly recut ditches in the nearby Newark Road sub-site see Pryor 1980, figs 42 and 43). The layers revealed in the sections generally progress from coarse, near the bottom, to fine, in a consistent pattern (Figs 96 and 97). The excavator was able to provide some black-and-white photographs, and although detail is not always clear, the filling of the ditch appears relatively homogeneous. Dr French concurs with the view that the ditch does not show evidence for recutting.

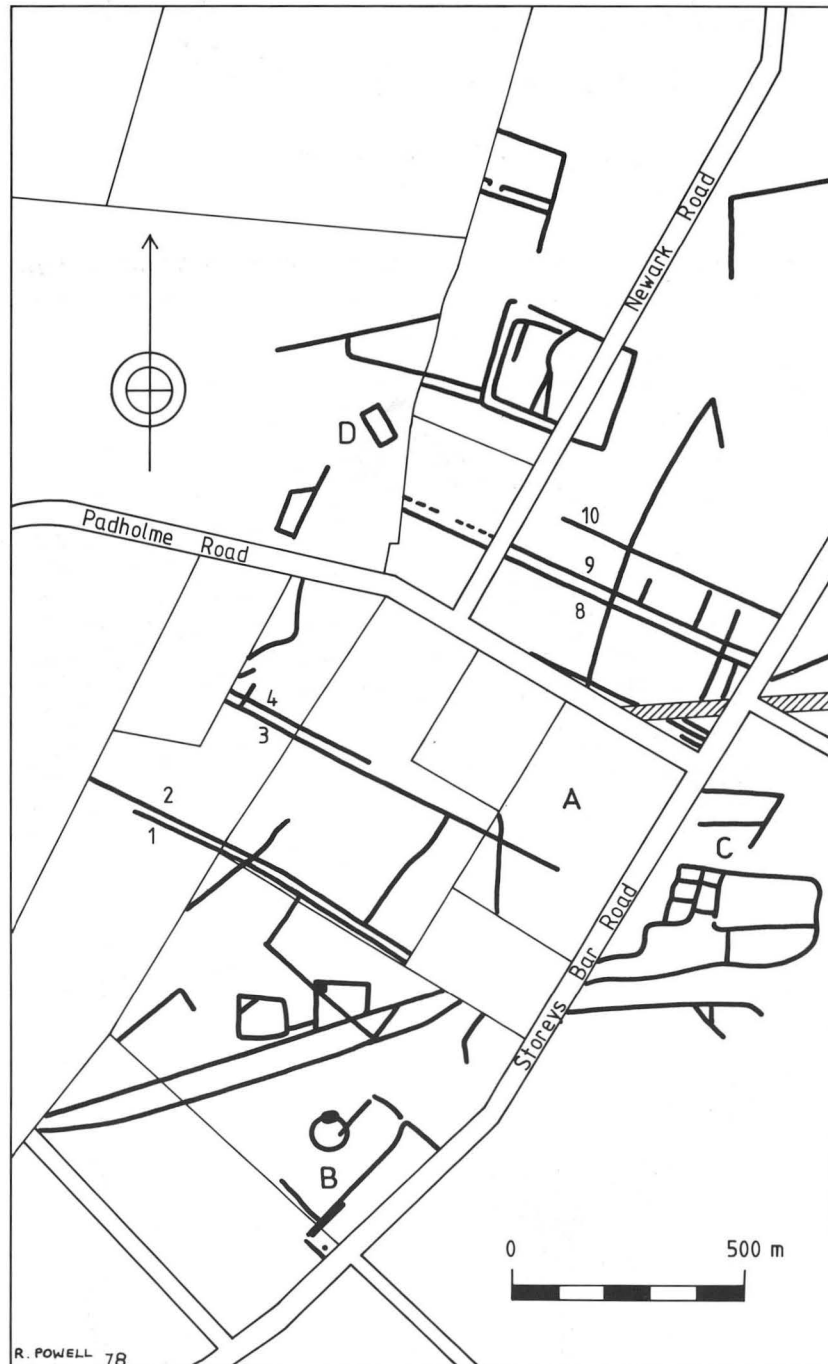


Figure 92 Fengate, Site 11: Simplified plan of crop-marks showing (1-10) 2nd millennium BC ditches, and location of Neolithic house (A), Storey's Bar Road Grooved Ware settlement (B), Neolithic multiple burial (C) and Site 11 (D). Scale 1:15,000

The hearths
(Fig. 94)

Two hearths (Features 2 and 3) were cut into the tertiary (highest) filling of the enclosure ditch. They consisted of patches of burnt stones, silty matrix and fired clay with charcoal. Feature 2 appears to have been associated with a small group of pits and/or post-holes (F26-8); F3, likewise, was associated with the shallow pits, F29 and F30. To the south-east feature 4 was another hearth. It was closely comparable with, if slightly smaller than, F2 and F3. Its positioning suggests that it might have some connection with the post-holes of the so-called 'bridge'

(discussed below). Feature 2 produced sherds of undecorated Beaker pottery.

Features of the interior
(Figs 94 and 95)

Apart from a few isolated features that cannot usefully be commented on, the main group of features within the enclosure are those of area VII (Fig. 93). The final plan, reproduced here as Figure 94, shows a group of pits, post-and stake-holes, and gullies, comprising Features 5-25. This plan clearly resulted from the rationalising of a mass of indistinct features encountered in the field. It should

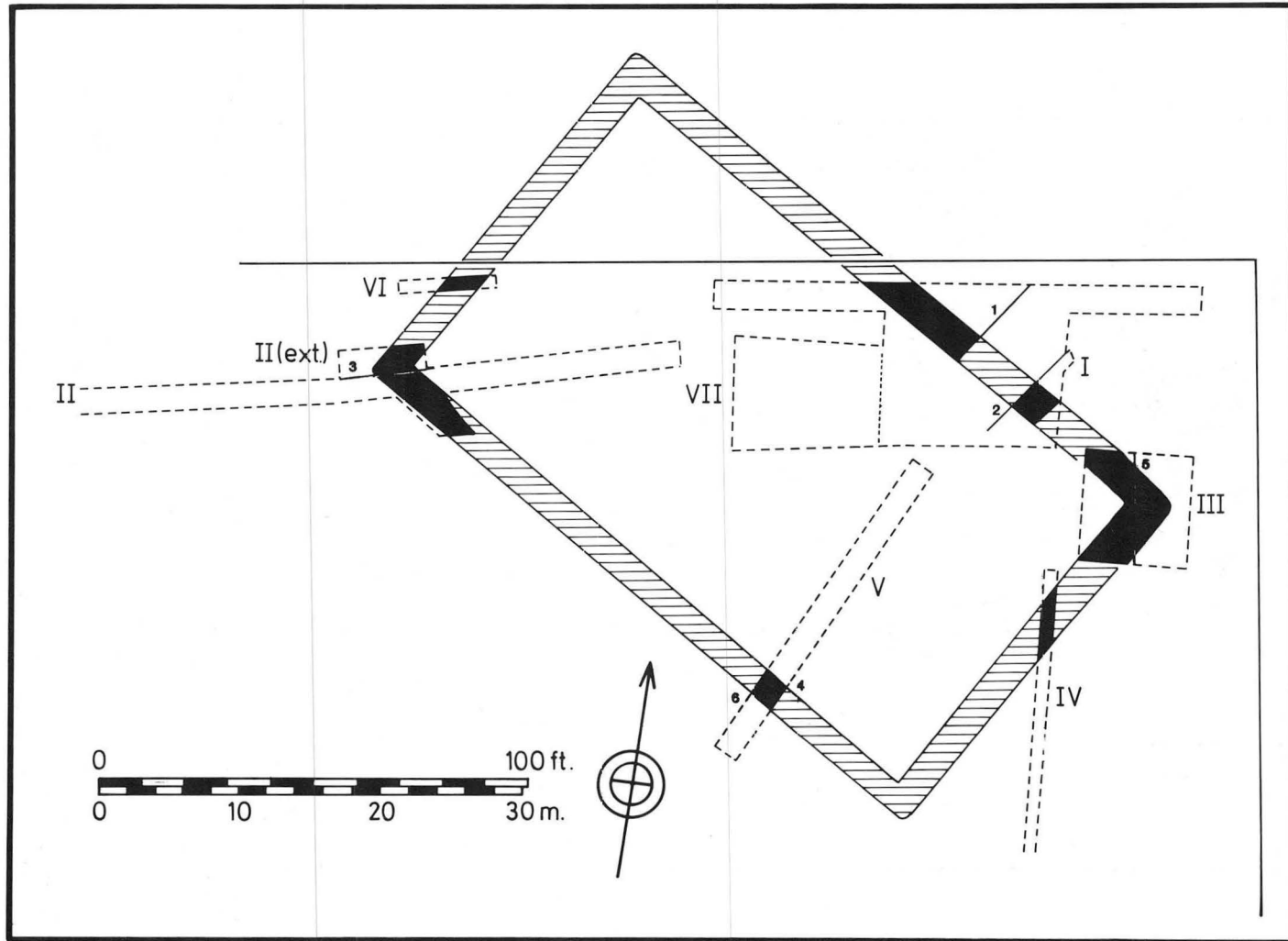


Figure 93 Fengate, Site 11: Plan of the enclosure ditch, showing location of trenches and illustrated sections. Scale 1:500

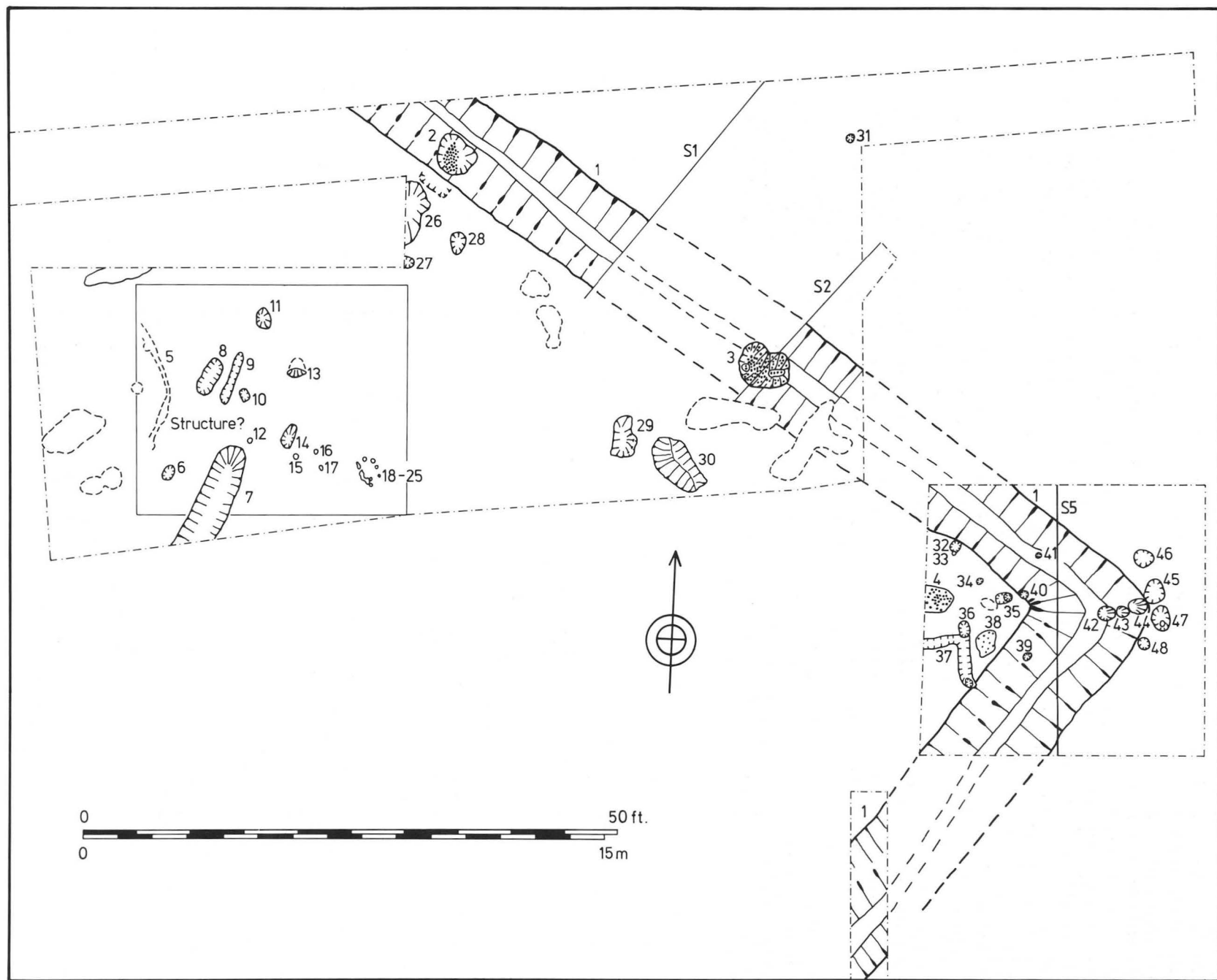


Figure 94 Fengate, Site 11: Plan of east corner of enclosure (Trenches I, III and IV). Scale 1:150

be added here, in fairness to the original excavators, that the 'natural' sub-soil at Fengate was frost-cracked and criss-crossed with periglacial features, solution hollows, tree collapse holes and animal burrows. It was, at times, extremely difficult to interpret.

The final plan makes little sense as it stands; however, the site notebook for Trench VII contained a sketch of these features that is (with the advantage of hindsight and later experience) at once extremely clear. The sketch is (exactly) reproduced here as Figure 95. The various features have been traced without modification, except for the use of a slightly heavier line to emphasise the outline of gullies and wall-slots of a probable round building. The features in question are to the left-hand-side of Figure 95; to the extreme left are two slightly curving features separated by a narrow gap. The sharply lobate plan of these two gullies suggests their original use as a wall-slot. The entrance, it is true, is narrow, but at least a metre separates the two main sets of post-holes, and this would be wide enough for an entranceway. Outside, and nearly concentric with the possible wall-slot, are located two curving gullies separated by a gap which line-up (more-or-less) with the proposed entranceway in the wall-slot. It is suggested that these two outer features are eaves-drip gullies. The internal composition of the northern length of the eaves-drip gully is unusual, but many of the round buildings at Cat's Water (Pryor 1984) had gullies of this width, and in some

cases (*e.g.* Pryor 1984, fig. 77), the gully was both irregular and disturbed. It is interesting to note that the shallow pits and other features outside the proposed building seem to align themselves on the entranceway (Fig. 95).

The notebook sketch is drawn to scale and suggests that the eaves-drip gully had an (outer) diameter of perhaps 12 m; the wall-slot is harder to assess, but would probably have measured some 9 m in diameter. These measurements fall well within the range of round buildings from Fengate (Pryor 1985, 125-7). The interpretation suggested here is nowhere mentioned in the notebook, which must surely lend objectivity to the sketch it includes. Finally, if the interpretation offered here is accepted, the building would have had an entranceway which faced eastwards. The nearby Newark Road round house (Pryor 1980, figs 35 and 36) faced eastwards, too, and was linked, by a small curving gully, into a ditch of the 2nd millennium bc enclosure system. Ditch 10 of that system, if produced to the north-west, would pass close by the proposed Site 11 round building's western side, tangentially, in precisely the same way as the more completely excavated example in Newark Road. Furthermore, the central hearth (F3) of the three described above is directly opposite the proposed building's entranceway, and an association seems most probable. The dating of the building is discussed in Part IV, below.

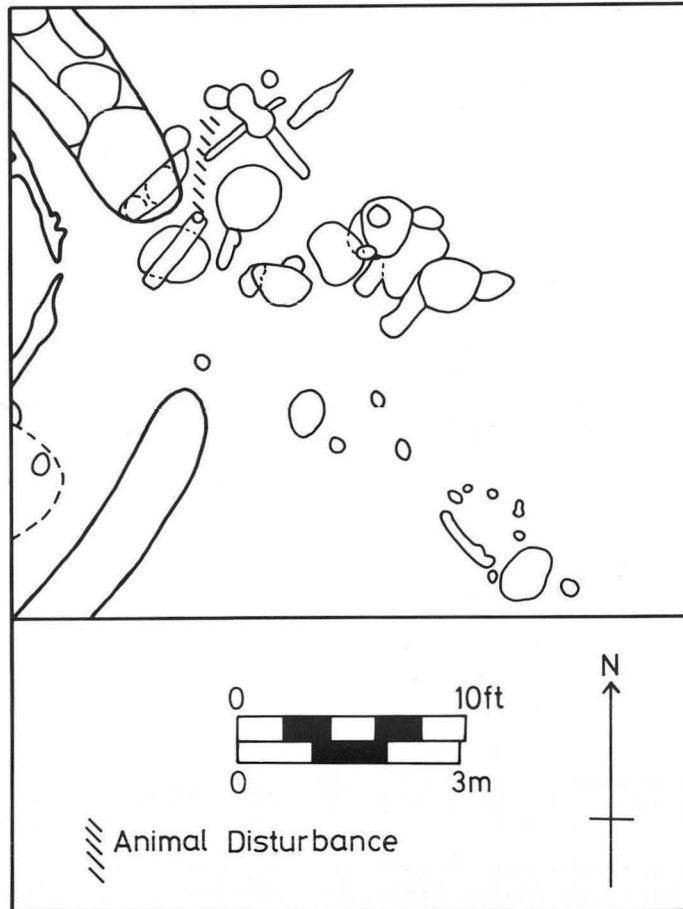


Figure 95 Fengate, Site 11: Plan of the interior structure, taken from the site notebook. Scale 1:100



Figure 96 Fengate, Site 11: Key to section conventions

The 'bridge'

(Figs 93 and 94)

The features comprising the 'bridge', at the eastern corner of the enclosure in Trench III, according to the site notebook, are F34, F39, F40, F42, F44 and F45 (plus two others that cannot be found in plan). For the purposes of this discussion we will refer to the 'bridge' as being composed of features 32-5, 39-47. The notebook suggests that the 'bridge' (referred to simply as a 'timber structure') was 'possibly associated with occupation layer III 16 which was at the same stratigraphic level'. This layer is illustrated in a sketched section and it lies at the very top of the ditch, in the tertiary filling. The notebook suggests that the hearth (F4) is later than the 'bridge', but the argument is not convincing. The post-hole F42 (*Archive*: III layer 41), for example is described as being '? below layer 17 and cutting layer 25'. Layer 25 is part of the higher ditch filling and is undoubtedly tertiary in the enclosure ditch filling sequence. Feature 43, immediately east of F42, is described as cutting layer 40 (post-packing) which, in turn, is also cutting the tertiary ditch filling, layer 25. On simple stratigraphic grounds, therefore the timber 'bridge' cannot possibly be contemporary with the initial use of the enclosure ditch.

The layout (such as it is) of features comprising the 'bridge' does not respect the enclosure ditch: a rough east-west row of post-holes (F35, F40, F42-44) meets a rough north-south row (F45-48). If this arrangement makes sense at all, it is in the context of the inverted L-shaped gully (F37) and the hearth (F4), on which the east-west row of posts appears to be aligned. The general east-west and north-south tendency would accord well with the layout of the possible round house, and (by implication) with the 2nd millennium BC ditched enclosure system, although this is probably stretching the rather slight evidence too far. In all events, there seems no good reason to suppose that the features of Trench III are radically different in date from those of Trenches I and VII.

The 'bridge' hypothesis was tentatively advanced (Mahany 1969) on the assumption that the post-holes and the enclosure ditch were contemporary; however, even if that were the case (and this seems highly improbable), then it makes little practical sense to erect a bridge across a corner, where the ditch is at its widest.

The sections

(Figs 97 and 98)

Sections are illustrated in Figures 97 and 98. Descriptions, taken from the site notebooks, with comments by the present writer are provided on Microfiche (F.5-7).

III. The Finds

Flint

(Fig. 99; Tables 26 and 27 (Microfiche), 28)

Flints from the enclosure ditch

The enclosure ditch (all layers) produced seventeen flints which may be categorised as follows (percentages have not been calculated, owing to the small size of the assemblage):

Implements:

Utilised flakes	2
Retouched flakes	2
Scraper, side	1
Serrated flake	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>

By-products:

Waste flakes	10
Core, single platform (Clark A1)	1

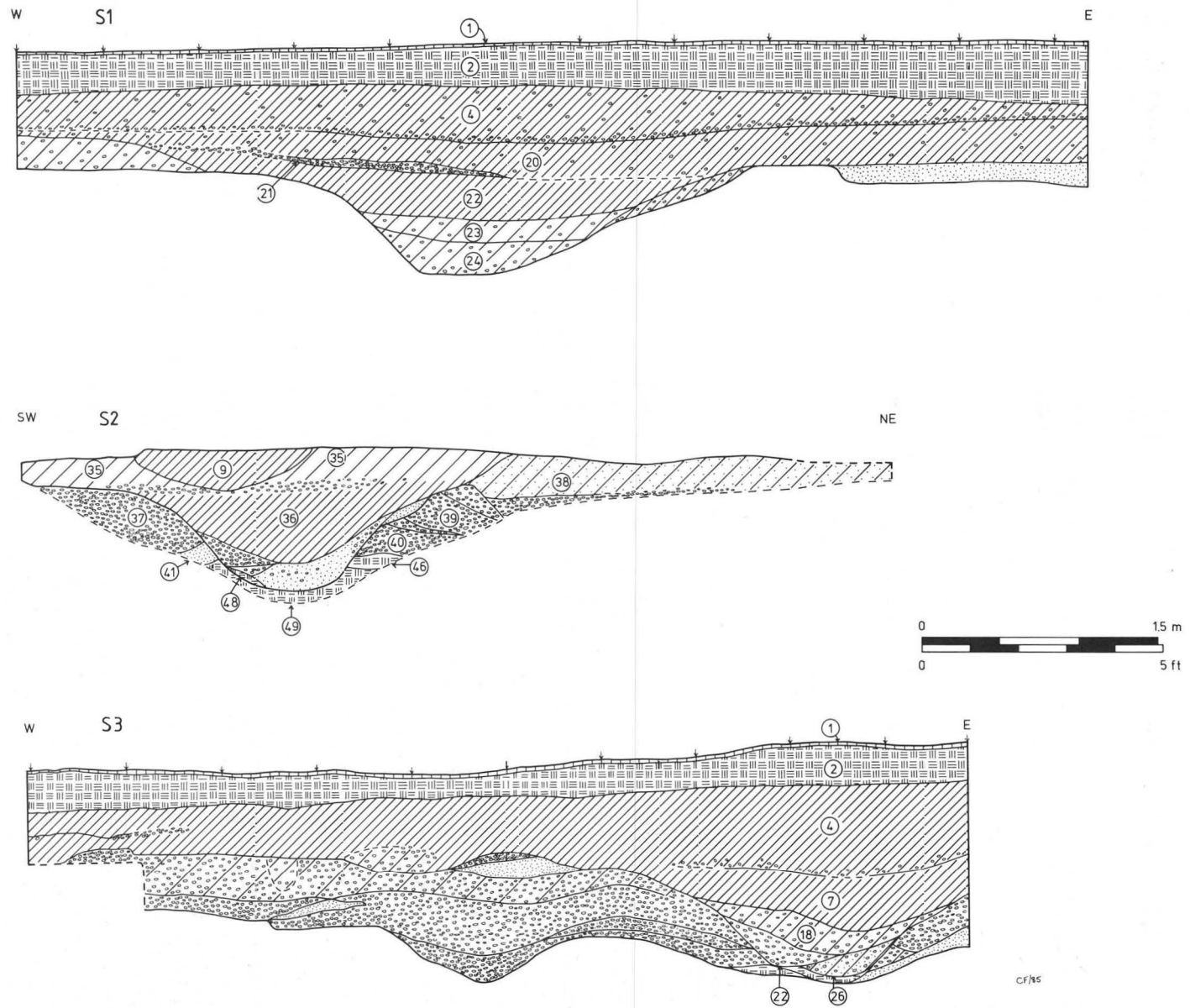


Figure 97 Fengate, Site 11: Sections through enclosure ditch. Scale 1:40

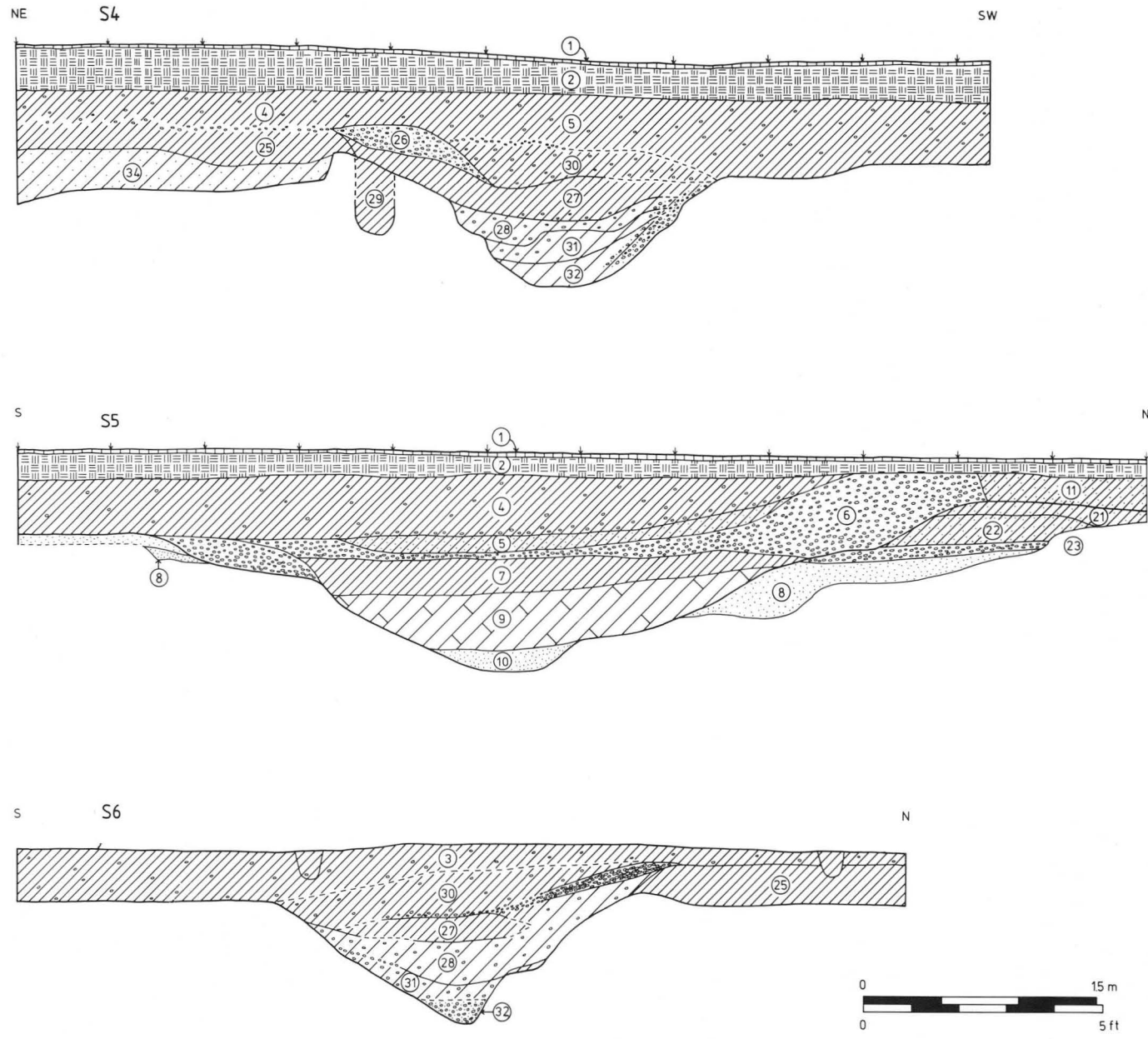


Figure 98 Fengate, Site II: Sections through enclosure ditch. Scale 1:40

The dimensions of all flint flakes (including retouched flakes where the length and breadth have not been affected) are given in Tables 26 and 27 (Microfiche). Breadth/length ratios are calculated in Table 28 (top).

Flints from the other features

The remaining features found on the site are undoubtedly of various periods, but the majority would seem to post-date the enclosure. It was not thought advisable to attempt to sub-divide this group any further, but its heterogeneous composition should be borne in mind. The remaining features produced seventy-six flints which may be categorised as follows:

Implements (34.2% of total):

Utilised flakes	18	(69.3%)
Retouched flakes	2	(77%)
Scraper, 'thumbnail'	1	(38%)
Leaf arrowhead	1	(38%)
Denticulates	2	(77%)
Retouched irregular workshop waste	2	(77%)
<i>Total</i>		<i>26</i>

By-products (65.8% of total):

Waste flakes	35	(70%)
Irregular workshop waste	6	(60%)
Core, three platforms (Clark C)	1	(20%)
Core, bashed	5	(10%)
Mesolithic blade core	2	(40%)
Core rejuvenation flake (platform)	1	(20%)
<i>Total</i>		<i>50</i>

The dimensions of all flint flakes (including retouched flakes where the length and breadth have not been affected) are given in Tables 26 and 27 (Microfiche). Breadth/length ratios are calculated in Table 28 (bottom).

Catalogue of illustrated flints

(Fig. 99)

1. Retouched utilised blade; invasive retouch on ventral face to give waist effect. Dark brown. *Flint No. 25. Enclosure ditch (Trench II, layer 18).*
2. Utilised blade, broken at distal end. Dark brown. *Flint No. 22. Enclosure ditch (Trench II, layer 7).*
3. Utilised blade. Nodule flint. *No number. Enclosure ditch (Trench III, layer 14).*
4. Large fragment of single platform blade core. ?Nodular flint. Prepared striking platform. *Flint No. 14. Enclosure ditch (Trench I, layer 24).*
5. Leaf arrowhead. Pale brown. *Flint No. 1. Topsoil (Trench I, layer 2).*
6. 'Thumbnail' scraper of probable Bronze Age type. Dark pebble. *Flint No. 6. Silt layer covering whole site (Trench I, layer 4).*
7. Denticulate fashioned from fragment of bashed core; utilised. Dark pebble. *No number. silt overlying whole site (Trench III, layer 4).*
8. Bashed core with undetached Hertzian cone fracture; two platforms. Pale brown pebble. *No number. Silt overlying whole site (Trench III, layer 4).*

Discussion

The flint collection is small, but its character seems clear enough. The flints from the enclosure ditch are generally blade-based and are of earlier Neolithic type. The broken

blade (Fig. 99, No. 2) is a worn, broken serrated flake with traces of diffuse lustre on its ventral surface. The core fragment is of diagnostic earlier Neolithic type. In general the flints from the enclosure ditch are fresh and residual items do not appear to be present. Although small, the assemblage from the ditch compares well with that from the earlier Neolithic house of the Padholme Road subsite.

The collection of flints from the remaining features contains a substantial residual component, as the presence of two Mesolithic blade cores attests. The leaf arrowhead from the topsoil is of similar size and form to that from the earlier Neolithic multiple burial of the Cat's Water sub-site (Green in Pryor 1984). Although the numbers are small, the length/breadth ratios of flakes (Table 28) suggest a preference for shorter, squatter material. Similarly the five crude, bashed cores (*e.g.* Fig. 99, No. 8) were clearly not employed to manufacture blades. The denticulates (*e.g.* Fig. 99, No. 7) are also entirely typical of Fengate 2nd millennium BC practice. Taken as a whole, the non-enclosure ditch collection would be entirely at home within, for example, the Newark Road sub-site collection (Pryor 1980, figs 64-9).

	0.5- 1:5	1.5- 2:5	2.5- 3:5	3.5- 4:5	4.5- 5:5	5.5 +	Total
Enclosure ditch							
Waste flakes	—	1	2	4	—	1	8
Utilised flakes	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
Retouched flakes	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
<i>Totals</i>	—	2	3	5	—	2	12
All other features							
Waste flakes	—	2	1	3	3	14	23
Utilised flakes	—	—	—	5	1	1	7
Retouched flakes	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
<i>Totals</i>	—	2	2	8	4	15	31

Table 28 Fengate, site 11: Breadth/length ratios of flint flakes

The pottery

(Fig. 99)

The topsoil produced a few sherds of Romano-British coarse wares, including Nene Valley Grey and Colour-Coated Wares. These are common in the area and are of no special significance. A weathered sherd of wheel-thrown Iron Age pottery was also found. The ubiquitous silty layer (4) (the palaeosol discussed above) that covered the whole site below the topsoil, produced weathered scraps of pottery that would not be out of place in the assemblages from the second millennium ditches of the later Fengate Project.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery

(Fig. 99)

1. Grooved Ware. Soft. Externally and core 10R 5/6, mottled; internally 10R 6/2; very weathered surfaces, weight 23 g. Includes dissolved-out shell. Decoration impressed (possibly with a shell, as at Storey's Bar Road; *e.g.* Pryor 1978, fig 38, no. 30), possibly zig-zag or herringbone. *Pot No. 31. Trench I, layer 4, overlying the enclosure ditch.*

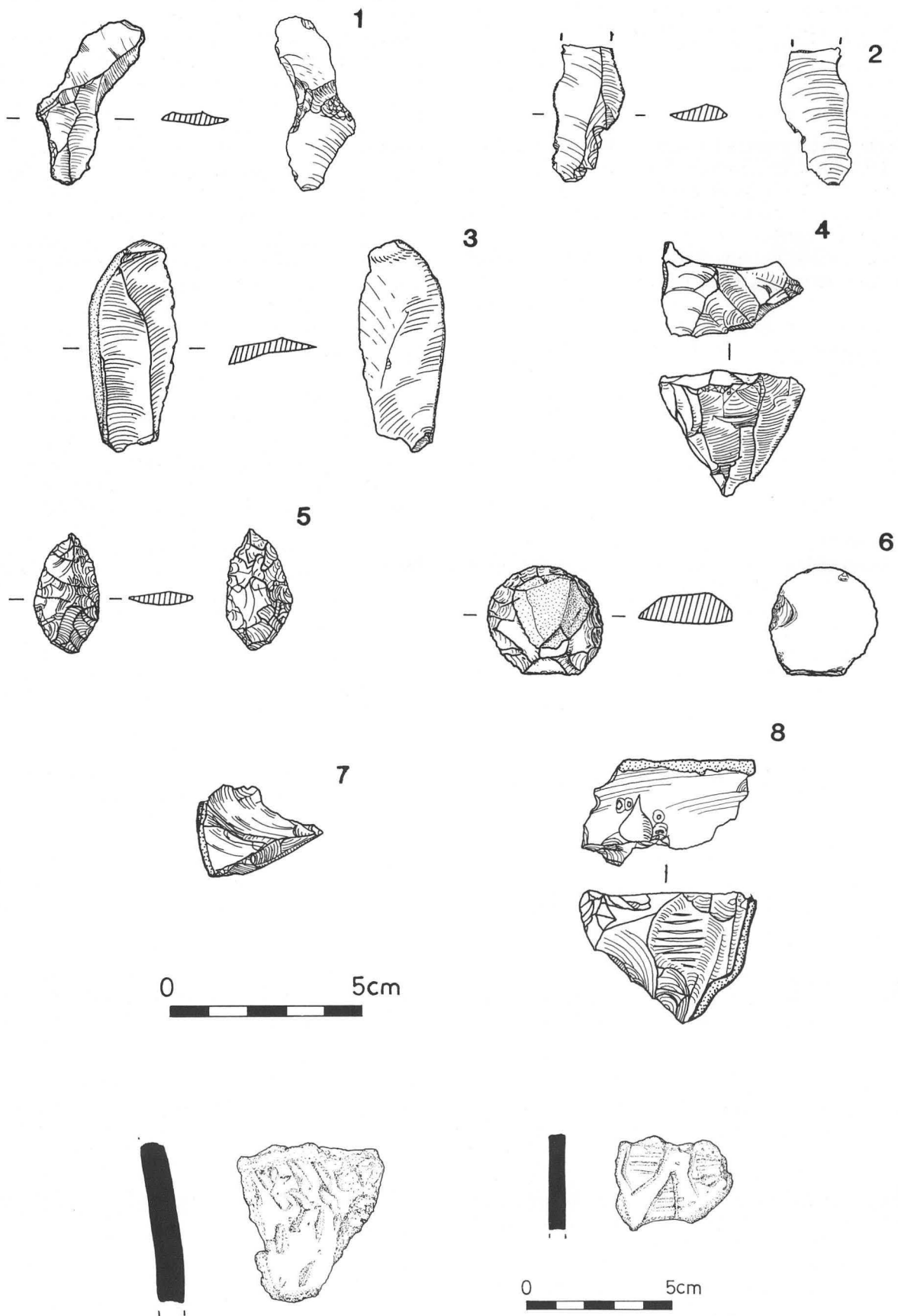


Figure 99 Fengate, Site 11: Flint, scale 2:3 and pottery, scale 1:3

2. Beaker, soft. Externally very red (10R 4/6); internally and core black/dark grey, weight 11 g. Comb-impressed decoration of filled floating panels. For best local (Fengate) parallels see Clarke (1970 figs. 857–9). Dating: Clarke (1970), S2; Lanting and van der Waals (1972), Step 6. *Pot No. 7. Trench I, layer 20 (tertiary filling of enclosure ditch).*

Discussion

A single, very weathered, sherd of Grooved Ware was found in layer 4, directly above the enclosure ditch (Fig. 99, No. 1). The surfaces are lost, but the impressed decoration recalls Storey's Bar Road practice (*e.g.* Pryor 1978, fig. 40, nos 4, 20, *etc.*).

Beaker pottery was, apparently, more abundant than the single illustrated sherd (Fig. 99, No. 2) might imply (see Part IV, below). The hearth above the ditch (F2) yielded thirteen sherds weighing, in total, 38 g. This pottery, however, is undecorated, weathered and in very poor condition. The illustrated sherd is of late type (S2 or Step 6) and came from layer 20 of trench I ('brown iron stained silt'; enclosure ditch top fill; see Fig. 96, top). Its condition does not suggest that it had lain on the surface for long and it probably dates the deposit it was found in.

IV. Discussion

Chronology

The site appears to have had two distinct periods of use, separated by an interval of perhaps half a millennium, or more. We will treat each in turn.

Phase 1: the rectangular enclosure

A *terminus ante quem* for the enclosure ditch is provided by two hearths (Fig. 94), F2 and F3, which had been cut into the uppermost (tertiary) ditch filling. One of the hearths (F2) contained weathered sherds, most probably of plain Beaker ware. The uppermost, tertiary, layer (Fig. 96, upper, layer 20) of the ditch produced a relatively fresh sherd of late Beaker (Clarke S2; Lanting and van der Waals, Step 6). It is, of course, extremely difficult to estimate how long a given feature took to fill-in, but the Etton causewayed enclosure ditch (a feature of broadly comparable size and cut into similar loose gravel) was producing Beaker material from its tertiary levels. Its primary levels produced Middle Neolithic pottery. The flint assemblage, although small, is of earlier Neolithic character, and includes a number of diagnostic items. Taken as a whole, the flints from the Fengate enclosure ditch would not be out of place at Etton (R. Middleton, pers. comm.).

The artefactual evidence suggests an early date for the enclosure and its alignment tends to support this. It is aligned north-west — south-east and clearly does not respect the arrangement of the main 2nd millennium BC ditched fields and enclosures (Fig. 92). This apparently 'skew' layout is, however, entirely consistent with that of the Padholme Road house (Fig. 92, A; Pryor 1974, fig. 5). It would also seem that the two structures are approximately aligned on each other; this could of course be coincidental, but it is nonetheless most striking. The Padholme Road house is dated by a radiocarbon sample taken from a corner post: 2445 ± 50 bc (GaK-4197). This date would accord well with the available evidence for the enclosure of Site 11.

Phase 2: the Beaker settlement

The second main phase of the site is represented by the

possible round house and the other two groups of features: the three hearths and the so-called 'bridge'. Reasons for considering all three broadly contemporary are given in Part I, above. Clearly, one cannot be certain, but a number of other, non-spatial, arguments support the notion of contemporaneity. Firstly, the flint industry from the internal features, the hearths and the 'bridge' is consistent in its broadly Bronze Age composition, apart, that is, from one or two residual items, such as Mesolithic blade cores and a handful of flints (*e.g.* the leaf arrowhead) that probably originated in the earlier Neolithic (enclosure) use of the site. Second, the notebooks record that all features appear to have been sealed beneath 'layer 4', the capping silty loam beneath the ploughsoil. This layer is discussed above, but experience has shown that features that post-date the 2nd millennium BC enclosure system, very often show through it; this clearly was not the case at Site 11. Third, none of the features contained appreciable quantities of the stiff alluvial clay that was found in Iron Age and later ditch fillings in the recent Fengate Project. Fourth, although the topsoil contained a few weathered sherds of Roman pottery, *bona fide* Iron Age pottery was absent from the site. Again, experience has shown that Iron Age features at Fengate are often rich in pottery.

These arguments are, it must be admitted, mainly negative and can be taken to suggest that the features being discussed are pre-Iron Age in date. On the other hand, the rarity of finds was a positive aspect of all features of the 2nd millennium enclosure system at Fengate. Indeed, the Newark Road, Fourth Drove and Cat's Water 2nd millennium BC houses and associated outbuildings were notably free from finds. One sherd of Grooved Ware was found in 'layer 4' overlying the enclosure ditch in Trench I; it was weathered and its presence need occasion little surprise, given the presence of the Storey's Bar Road subsite to the south-east. The flintwork from Storey's Bar Road (Pryor 1978) was distinctively different from that discussed here.

It seems reasonable to suggest, therefore, that the possible round building and the hearths were contemporary. If this is indeed the case, then the possible round building of Site 11 is associated with Beaker pottery and would have formed part of the main enclosure system, perhaps in the same way as the less precisely-dated building on the Newark Road sub-site. The 2nd millennium BC settlement pattern was characterised by small farmsteads scattered at intervals around the field system. For the most part, they show little evidence for rebuilding or modification and the material remains they yield are, in general, slight. Site 11 is entirely typical and can be added to the existing inventory of such settlements in the area with some confidence. The 2nd millennium settlements of the Newark Road, Fourth Drove and Cat's Water sub-sites (Pryor 1980) cannot be dated with any greater precision; they are, broadly speaking post-Neolithic but pre-Late Bronze Age. The pottery from Site 11, however, allows us to date one of these settlements with greater precision.

The Beaker/Early Bronze Age date for the hearths and their (probably) associated round building is supported by the plain probable Beaker sherds from F2, overlying the ditch; further, a relatively unweathered late Beaker decorated sherd was found in the highest tertiary ditch deposit (see Part II, above). This evidence is

supported, as we shall see, by material that is no longer available for study.

Miss Mahany (1969, 156) refers to Beaker pottery in the interim report: 'from one of the overlying hearths were several sherds of crushed Beaker pottery, and more were found in a pebbly silt which overlay the whole site.' The plain sherds from F2 might be those referred to, but Dr Kinnes, who was a site supervisor at the time, distinctly remembers that one hearth produced many sherds of 'late' type (*e.g.* S2: floating panels/lozenges, *etc.*), from at least two vessels (Kinnes, pers. comm.). These appear to have been lost or mislaid, as they do not appear in the finds' register. These circumstances are discussed in order to support the close dating of the Beaker-period hearths, which otherwise might be thought to rest on rather slight evidence.

The enclosure and the earlier Neolithic landscape

The excavation of Site 11 has shown that the enclosure was probably not a settlement feature. If the hearths, interior features and the 'bridge' can be demonstrated to post-date it, then the non-linear features that one would normally associate with occupation are absent (although they might lie outside the areas excavated). There is no contemporary pottery, nor fired clay, and the flint collection is very small. The flints from the enclosure ditch are fresh and relatively unabraded; the ditch filling seems to have accumulated naturally and there are no grounds to suppose that it was recut or maintained open in a consistent manner, as was seen, for example, at Newark Road. Moreover the severely rectangular layout of the ditch demands that it was laid-out in a single operation.

The evidence for banks is slight, but consistent, especially in Trench V (Fig. 98, Section 4), layer 25; (Section 6), gravel lens between layers 27 and 30). The section along the north side of Trench I (Fig. 98 (Section 4), layer 21) shows a clear gravel lens in the tertiary ditch deposits; similarly, there is a thin spread of gravel, probably slipping in from the interior, between layers 4 and 7 in Trench II (Fig. 97, Section 3). These gravel slips are from contexts late in the ditch's infilling and most probably represent slow collapse of the original (internal) bank, perhaps across an intervening berm. The evidence is admittedly thin, but it is quite consistent; one would certainly not expect to find gravel lenses in these slowly accumulating tertiary contexts unless they derived from an eroding feature nearby. Doubtless the process was hastened by human and animal activity associated with the contemporary Beaker settlement.

It is now appropriate to consider the original role of this singular monument.

The role of the Site 11 enclosure

by I.A. Kinnes

In terms of overall size, and especially the relative proportions of length and width, the Fengate enclosure has no proven parallels in the insular Neolithic. Since Pryor has shown a compelling argument for a 3rd millennium date, we must reconcile ourselves to this context for further assessment.

McInnes (1971, fig. 21) has already drawn comparisons with the enigmatic Sonning (Berks.) enclosure which might be dated by sparse finds of

Peterborough style sherds (Slade 1964). Both could be seen as aggrandised versions of quadrangular structures at sites such as Barford C (Warks.), Dorchester I (Oxon) and Windmill Hill (Wilts) (Oswald, 1969; Atkinson, et. al., 1951; Smith I.F., 1965), none certainly domestic but all likely to be of 3rd-millennium date and perhaps to be linked to mortuary processes. Neither Sonning nor Fengate had evidence for any form of entrance and this presumably precludes any utilitarian function: stock enclosure being a standard suggestion for sites lacking in other traces of domestic activity. It would, therefore, seem inappropriate to pursue analogies with ditched or palisaded components of broader enclosure systems seen, for example, in Grooved Ware contexts at Fengate and Hunstanton, Norfolk (Pryor, 1978; Healy and Kinnes forthcoming).

We can therefore turn to the other obvious format within the parameters set by an elongate monument; that commonly described as long mortuary enclosure. This assigned function depends upon a single perception of identity with long barrows; Atkinson's placement of Normanton Down (Wilts.; Vatcher 1961) by analogy with Wor Barrow (Wilts.) and his own excavation at Dorchester. This assumption has yet to be proven or disproven, but Loveday's (forthcoming) synthesis should provide reasonable taxonomic grounds for viewing such monuments within a gradation from long barrow to cursus. Excavated examples are few and unproductive although the dating evidence provided by rare sherds, and a single radiocarbon date would seem to confirm a 3rd-millennium attribution: Dorchester VIII (Atkinson et. al., 1951), Normanton Down (Vatcher 1961), Charlecote (Warks.; Ford pers. comm.), *etc.* The rectangular format at Radley (Oxon), with mid-3rd millennium BC grave and radiocarbon dates, is apparently linked and does provide a mortuary component.

A caution on the uniform dating of all such crop-marks — and information still largely depends on this source (Loveday and Petchey 1982) — is provided by the Caldecotte (Bucks.) example, conclusively shown as Late Iron Age in date (Petchey 1983). That underlying the Inchtuthil fort (Tayside; Pitts and Joseph 1985) had not been dated by artefacts or radiocarbon and well exemplifies the current dilemma. Recently Buckley *et al.* (1988) have drawn together the evidence for similar rectilinear enclosures in East Anglia, during their discussion of the Rivenhall, Essex, site. They concluded that 'in almost every case the Essex enclosures are adjacent to other forms of enclosure ... of Neolithic date and in some instances they can be seen to form part of ... ceremonial monuments', (Buckley *et al.* 1988, 89).

Normally the group has a length-width ratio of 3:1, a ditch surround (or palisaded in the excavated and dated Douglasmuir example; Kendrick, pers. comm.) and an internal bank. Fengate conforms in the respect of rectangularity, apparent date and lack of obvious function, but would otherwise seem exceptional. Whatever its message and import for the British Neolithic as evidence accrues, for the present we can only accommodate it within ritual or ceremonial terms, and this would seem to be the case also for its context within the local landscape history to which the Fenland Project is bringing an increasingly close definition and understanding.

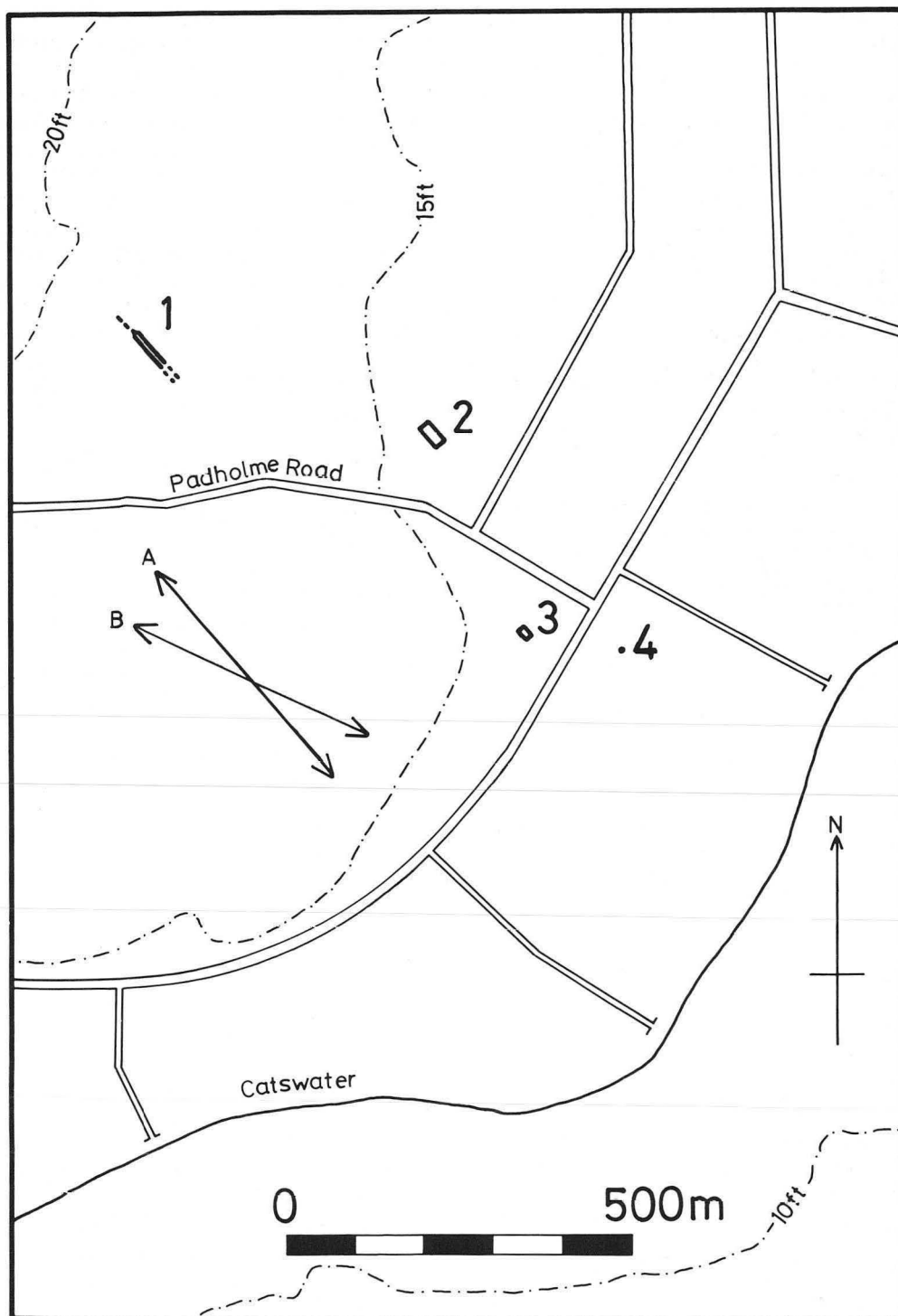


Figure 100 Fengate, Site II: Map showing location and orientation of probable earlier Neolithic monuments (1, Vicarage Farm linear ditches; 2, Site II; 3, Padholme Road sub-site house; 4, Cat's Water sub-site multiple burial). The two principal prehistoric landscape orientations are shown by the crossed arrows (A, earlier Neolithic orientation; B, second millennium BC orientation). Scale 1:10,000.

Site II and the changing orientation of the Neolithic landscape at Fengate

(Fig. 100)

Ian Kinnes has suggested that the enclosure's role could have been funerary or ceremonial. The Padholme Road house shares the same orientation and alignment as the Site II enclosure (Fig. 100), and there are also good grounds to believe that the two sites are broadly

contemporary, and of earlier Neolithic date (perhaps, if the single radiocarbon date from the house is to be relied-on, somewhere around 3000 BC). The house is small and it is possible that the surviving structural evidence is incomplete. Its known plan would accord well, for example, with the recently discovered Neolithic building at Lismore Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire (unpub.).

Laying aside the question of its completeness, the Padholme Road structure produced more than ten times the quantity of flints found at Site 11, together with pottery, daub, a jet bead and a Group VI axe fragment. Its apparently domestic character might seem in little doubt, and has not been contested, but its alignment on the enclosure must be more than mere coincidence and must also reflect on the building's status.

The finds seem to be of more than usually high quality, but the rarity of *bona fide* earlier Neolithic houses in lowland England makes the definition of 'normal' difficult. The large flake of Group VI axe is unlikely to be the result of casual damage during use and might be seen to have points in common with the deliberate, 'ritual' destruction at Etton (*e.g.* Pryor 1987). The jet bead was complete when 'lost', and at least one fragment of pottery (Pryor 1974, fig. 6, 1) could be construed as a 'placed' deposit of symbolic significance.

Again, there is a danger in attempting to re-excavate a site from memory, but the Padholme Road house was dug with meticulous care and small flint flakes and spalls were notably absent; instead we found a number of relatively large, complete implements. Animal bone, too, was absent (and its non-survival cannot be attributed to post-depositional factors, as the Cat's Water Neolithic pit-grave neo-natal bones survived quite well). The fired clay 'daub' might well have resulted from the deliberate burning of a mortuary house, or similar structure, as witnessed at the Maxey oval barrow (Pryor and French 1985, 196) or at the Haddenham long barrow (M. Taylor, pers. comm.). However, whether it was a funerary monument or a domestic house (or a combination of the two), the juxtaposition of the Padholme Road structure with Site 11 surely indicates that settlement and ceremony were not always clearly differentiated.

The Neolithic multiple burial on Cat's Water, where one of the individuals had been killed by a leaf arrow (Pryor 1976; 1985, 19–27) included disarticulated bones, but it is not on the alignment of the enclosure and, given the uncertainty of the available dating evidence, it is quite possible that the two sites are unconnected. However, if the bones were exposed locally, then the enclosure would (as Kinnes has pointed out) provide a suitable place for so doing. In this regard it is interesting to recall that there is some evidence to suggest that the oval barrow at Maxey may also have been used for the storing or exposure of bones or bodies at an early stage in its history (Pryor and French 1985, 233–4).

We have already mentioned the three principal sites or features of the earlier Neolithic period at Fengate: the Site 11 enclosure, the Padholme Road house and the Cat's Water multiple burial. It is not always remembered, however, that the Vicarage Farm subsite, to the north-west, included two parallel ditches which passed through an area of dense Iron Age occupation, but which produced very few finds (including a flake from Group VI polished stone axe; Pryor 1985, fig. 5, features 14 and 17). It is quite possible that these features, which are orientated north-east — south-west, precisely the same as the Site 11 enclosure, are also of earlier Neolithic date. It should be noted, however, that they do not share the same alignment (if extended to the south-east, the ditches would pass some 250 m to the south). The orientation is, however, significantly different from that of the 2nd millennium BC ditches and droves (Fig. 100).

A guessed estimate would suggest that the Fengate Project excavated perhaps 5%, by area, of the surviving archaeology of the Fengate Fen-edge. That small sample revealed three, and possibly four features of earlier Neolithic date, of which three (the present site, the house and the Vicarage Farm ditches) were substantial. It is difficult to imagine this kind of site density in a forested setting. Recent work at Etton and Maxey has demonstrated that the lower Welland valley landscape was substantially deforested by the Middle Neolithic (Pryor and French 1985; Pryor *et al.* 1985), and there now seems to be no good reason to suppose that this did not also apply further south, in the lower Nene Valley. Studies of the buried soils of the Orton Meadows barrows, in the Nene floodplain immediately upstream of Peterborough, should prove particularly instructive in this regard (Pryor and French 1985, 234, with refs.).

If the cumulative evidence from Fengate suggests a largely cleared landscape, the common north-west — south-east orientation of the earlier Neolithic sites and features surely also suggests that that landscape was organised (Fig 100). We have seen how the orientation of the Newark Road round house entranceway resulted from its location within an enclosure of a larger ditched system — and the same principle probably applies in the present case. The division of the landscape may have been by ditches (as at Vicarage Farm), but hedges, or other less archaeologically-visible means might also have been employed.

Finally, if our speculation on the earlier Neolithic landscape of Fengate is at all correct, it is tempting to wonder why the orientation was altered (Fig. 100, from A to B) in the late 3rd millennium, when the main, 2nd millennium BC, system was being laid out. There may well have been an hiatus between the two episodes of land-use, but this cannot be definitely established as yet. It is perhaps worth noting that the later Neolithic does see widespread retrenchment (and forest regeneration) in many parts of Britain (Bradley 1978a; 1978b, 106) and it is just possible that the changed landscape orientation at Fengate is a result of this process; the initial north-west — south-east landscape was laid out without regard to the Fen, the edge of which would have been significantly further east at this time (*i.e.* just prior to the main episodes of Fen Clay deposition). There then follows the period of retrenchment, which coincides with the deposition of Fen Clay and a general rise in ground water levels. By the onset of the 2nd millennium, the Fen-edge is significantly closer to Fengate and the landscape is newly laid-out in the familiar pattern, that takes account of the different categories of land-use potential: from very wet to flood-free (Pryor 1980, 182–6). It must be admitted that the evidence for the earlier Neolithic landscape orientation is slight, but it is, nonetheless there and cannot be ignored. It is, moreover, most probable that we will never find earlier Neolithic landscapes preserved in the lowland zone in large, easily recognisable, patterns. Ours is indeed one of Bradley's (1978b) 'Antique Fragments', but it includes all the elements one would expect of a landscape: settlement, ceremony and land division; these elements are spread across the modern landscape, covering an area of at least 850 × 350 m. As fragments go, it is quite substantial — and very antique.

7. Concluding Remarks

I. Introduction

By F.M.M. Pryor

This chapter is not intended to be a discussion of the 'state of the art' as regards Welland Valley studies; for that, or something approaching it, the reader is referred to publications of more recently conducted research (*e.g.* Pryor and French 1985; Pryor *et al.* 1985). A number of broader issues were, however, raised by the excavations discussed in this volume and it is appropriate to consider them together, in one place.

First, Dr Charles French will briefly review the significance of the pollen evidence presented in this volume, in the light of more recent research. This will be followed by a short discussion of the possible significance of pit-alignments in the region. The final words of this volume will be given over to its principal contributor, Gavin Simpson, who will assess the landscape implications of his research in the region, and the chapter concludes with a short case-study illustrating the threat posed to archaeology by the continued extraction of gravel.

It is perhaps appropriate to end on such a note, nearly thirty years after the publication of *A Matter of Time* (R.C.H.M. 1960), the report that instigated most recent research. Sadly, destruction continues unabated. Sadly too, the Welland Valley gravel pit operators have not yet (1987) seen fit, or been forced, to follow the examples of companies working in the Thames valley and elsewhere, where archaeology is part of the County structure plan and companies are compelled to provide financial support for archaeological work in order to obtain planning permission for their operations. This lamentable failure to meet currently accepted standards of cultural resource management should surely soon be noted by the relevant county Planning authorities — or must we witness another thirty years of unchecked archaeological destruction?

II. A Note on Pollen Analyses

By C.A.I. French

The pollen record for the Late Neolithic period at Barholm (Chapter 2, Pit 4) suggests a substantially cleared landscape with pastoral farming probably predominating. The only other pollen analysis from a Neolithic site in the lower Welland valley comes from the causewayed enclosure at Etton. Here, the enclosure is set in a largely deforested landscape but with an extensive, adjacent fen to the east, and there is a strong indication that cereal cultivation or crop-processing occurred nearby (Scaife in Pryor *et al.* 1985, 289–92). Soil micromorphological evidence from the Late Neolithic Maxey henge site is also suggestive of limited agricultural (arable) disturbance in a cleared landscape (Pryor and French 1985, 206–14).

The pollen record from the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age contexts at Tallington (Chapter 3, Site 37) suggests pastoral farmland in a very open landscape. In slight contrast, pollen evidence from another site at Tallington

excavated by Peacock (1962) suggested some arable cultivation set against a background predominantly of grassland but with some woodland (Dimbleby in Pryor and French 1985, 8–9). Pilcher (this volume) suggests that the pollen record from one of the Tallington Site 37 contexts (sample 2, Pit 8) is suggestive of an earlier date due to the very high tree pollen count. It is not now necessary to evoke such an explanation, rather the range in tree pollen values during this period (9%–39.5%) probably represents the variation in the remaining tree cover in the river valley, from stands of trees, to 'parkland', to occasional individual trees, as is found today in the lower Welland valley.

At Maxey, the pollen from an Iron Age pit context indicates the most open landscape recorded to date. Again a pastoral landscape predominates with some evidence of cereal cultivation. At Barholm (Pit 26) there was similar evidence, plus the tentative identification of rye. A similar environment was also recorded from a late-Roman context, at Tallington (West Deeping) Site 51, by Dimbleby (in Simpson 1966). In addition, at the Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead site at Maxey, the botanical evidence suggests that primary processing of cereal crops did not occur on site (Green in Pryor and French 1985, 224–32). Indeed the faunal evidence indicates a broadly complimentary picture with a modest scale of livestock husbandry based on sheep (Halstead in Pryor and French 1985, 219–24).

In conclusion, the lower Welland Valley landscape has been substantially open since Neolithic times, and has become increasingly open since then, especially in the Iron Age and Roman periods. This undoubtedly facilitated the intensive use of the river terrace and floodplain for ceremonial monuments and settlement from the Neolithic period onwards. Plants suggestive of pastoralism predominate throughout, but there is some evidence of cereal cultivation in all periods, although possibly to a lesser extent in the vicinity of Tallington Site 37 during the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age.

III. Pit-Alignments in the Welland Valley: a Possible Explanation

By F.M.M. Pryor

The discussion that follows is only intended to be of relevance to the Welland Valley. The starting-point for this brief discussion is the universally acknowledged observation that pit-alignments are decidedly 'odd', when viewed as a type of monument with a straightforward function. The same might also be said of another class of monument defined by a discontinuous feature, namely, causewayed enclosures. Clearly the two types of monument are very dissimilar in their date, function and general layout, but they are both *unambiguously* discontinuous. It is this aspect of their arrangement that might repay closer examination.

The most recent discussion of the Etton causewayed enclosure came to the conclusion that 'the ditches were dug in segments because that was the way Middle Neolithic communities wanted them to be dug.' (Pryor *et*

al. 1985, 307). People at that time, just as in the Iron Age, were perfectly capable of digging a linear ditch, but for reasons of their own they decided not to. If we accept the reasonable thesis advanced in this report (Chapters 3 and 4) that Welland Valley pit-alignments were indeed forms of land division, then we have still not answered the more important question behind the selection of so strange a means of achieving this straightforward enough end.

The literature includes many references to the possibility that the discontinuous pits were accompanied by a continuous (*i.e.* linear) bank (*e.g.* Barber 1985), but none is wholly convincing; indeed, the same has been argued for causewayed enclosures, with same lack of conviction. The argument falls down because it makes a functional plea (the provision of a continuous boundary — the bank) for manifestly unfunctional behaviour, the digging of an evenly-spaced carefully-aligned, series of regular pits. It is surely stretching credulity too far to suggest that these are merely quarry pits.

It is suggested instead that pit-alignments in the Welland Valley were deliberately dug to look *different*. They were important land divisions for whatever reason. In some cases, for example Tallington and Maxey (both this volume) they occur early in the local history of the developing parcelled-up 1st millennium BC landscape; as such, they may represent the generally agreed major divisions of the landscape — perhaps the equivalents of the Dartmoor boundary reeves or the Fengate principal droveways. Indeed, the layout of pit-alignments around Tallington (Chapter 3; R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 7) is very reminiscent indeed of 2nd millennium BC Fengate (Pryor 1980, fig. 4). Their unusual appearance and the practical problems associated with their continued maintenance would have reinforced the significance of their role.

Clearly these ideas cannot readily be supported by direct field evidence, but the notion has something to commend it. We should however beware of making the simple assumption that these features are necessarily early in the development of a given landscape history, or that they fulfilled a single function. This clearly is not the case. It is merely suggested that pit-alignments marked *important* landscape divisions. Some of these may well have been the result of long-running and often-adjudicated tenurial disputes where the settlement of each dispute was marked in a distinctive fashion that could be appreciated by all members of the community as being both important and binding. Perhaps the pit alignments north of Bainton are an example of this type of use (R.C.H.M. 1960, fig. 8). Whatever its merits, this explanation does at least take into account the deliberately peculiar nature of this particular form of land division.

IV. Aspects of Land-use and Landscape Development in the Lower Welland Valley and the Surrounding Region

By W.G. Simpson

The excavations in field OS 29, Tallington (Chapter 3) revealed the principal features of a landscape created in the Later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Apart from one or two flint implements which hinted at man's presence in the area as early as Mesolithic times, there was no artefactual evidence of earlier settlement. Yet the aerial photographic coverage of crop-marks and the mapping of

those in the Tallington area (R.C.H.M. 1960) show a scattered distribution of ring-ditches which are likely to be ploughed-out round barrows of the Bronze Age (Case 1963). There are three in OS 29. In other areas it has been shown that burial monuments of this period were often set up on land formerly cultivated, sometimes to the point of exhaustion and often on the margins of the land holdings (Dimpleby 1962; Burgess 1980). Pollen studies of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date from north and south of the River Welland show that the area was relatively open at this time (see French, Section II, above).

In Maxey parish there is a larger corpus of evidence on settlement and land-use, not only from air photographs but also from fieldwalking and excavation, from which to draw conclusions about the development of settlement in the region as a whole.

A settlement similar to that at Tallington (Enclosure 37) was excavated by the writer at Maxey (R.C.H.M. 1960, figs 6 and 17; this volume, Chapter 4). The earliest indications of extensive occupation on this site were associated with a pit-alignment, at right angles to the river, and a boundary or flood protection ditch along the river bank. It was suggested that the river and pit-alignment formed the northern and eastern boundaries of an Early Iron Age estate of about 57 hectares (140 acres). In the south-west angle of the two earthworks was a small rectangular enclosure of similar size and date to that excavated at Tallington. Not much was learnt about its interior, however, for this settlement had been intensively occupied throughout much of the Iron Age and Roman periods. It was connected by a ditched droveway to another extensive area of crop-marks around Maxey church. Limited excavation by A. Warhurst (R.C.H.M. 1960, figs 6 and 44, 14), fieldwalking and air photographs suggest that these two settlements had a long and intensive occupation. For this reason they are rather exceptional, as later prehistoric settlements excavated elsewhere in the Maxey area had a shorter life span and were confined to rather smaller areas. They all lay to the south of the present village.

A scatter of pits containing Late Bronze or Early Iron Age pottery and domestic rubbish may have been part of an unenclosed settlement contemporary or overlapping with that at Tallington (Simpson 1981, site J). About 700 m to the north was an area of mid to Late Iron Age occupation associated with two rectangular enclosures (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 166, phase 5.2; Simpson 1985, fig. 168, phase v). These adjoined the north side of a boundary ditch which ran west towards the area of Maxey church. The evidence of occupation included a circular hut, a clay oven and much domestic rubbish and evidence of metalworking. Not far away to the east was a small Roman settlement of late 1st- to late 2nd centuries AD which consisted of at least four houses with sheds and outbuildings in small ditched yards. In an isolated position just to the south was a possible Romano-Celtic temple (Pryor and French 1985, fig. 167, phase 8). Also in occupation at this time was a small rectangular ditched enclosure about 900 m to the south-west (Simpson 1981, site K). It was situated in the north-east angle of the T-junction of two ditched droveways. Not much of the interior was investigated but pits, post-holes and a gully were identified and metalworking debris and domestic rubbish of the late 1st century BC to the early-mid 2nd century AD were found in the filling of the enclosure ditch.

The archaeologically definable characteristics of late prehistoric-early Roman settlements at Maxey seem therefore to indicate considerable variety. There are settlements which were unenclosed; others within enclosures (usually rectangular), and areas of unenclosed settlement in which rectangular enclosures were an element. Many of the settlements seem to have been quite short-lived. Two exceptions were the settlements in the area of Maxey church (R.C.H.M. 1960, figs 6 and 44) and to the north-west of it (R.C.H.M. 1960, site 17; Chapter 4).

It is possible, however, that the brief existence of some settlements in a particular location may be more apparent than real. There is increasing evidence from prehistoric and early medieval landscapes of the periodic re-location of settlements within defined territorial limits. Because the farmhouse and outbuildings were razed to the ground periodically and new ones built elsewhere it does not necessarily mean that the estate did not continue to prosper. Sometimes the new settlement was built alongside or close to the old. Repetition of this practice of always siting the new settlement to the same side of its predecessor can give rise to the phenomenon of 'settlement drift' (Harding 1974a). Site 17 at Maxey may be a Romano-British to early medieval example of such a trend in a westerly direction. Unfortunately there is a modern farm (OSGR TF 115 079) immediately to the west of the dense crop-marks which seem to mark the core of the later prehistoric and early Romano-British settlement. But much of this area and also the field to the west of the modern farm had extensive scatters of 3rd and 4th century AD pottery. Assuming that late Roman settlement continued under the present farm then its total area would exceed 8 hectares (20 acres) and it would extend to the edge of the medieval hamlet of Lolham beside King Street (R.C.H.M. 1960, pls 4a; 6a and b).

The field (now quarried for gravel) between the church and the present village was the site of Middle (with some evidence of earlier) Saxon settlement (Addyman and Fennell 1964). Here again continuity of occupation cannot be proven but there is no doubt of the north-easterly 'drift' in the chronology of settlement from the area around the church towards the centre of the present village between late Roman times and the Middle Ages. This does not, of course, necessarily mean that settlement did not continue also in the vicinity of the church for some considerable time.

The solution of problems of the development and continuity of settlement on the Welland Gravels from prehistoric through to historic times will require the investigation and correlation of many diverse sources of

evidence: archaeological, documentary and topographic. It will require that the boundary works which defined the territories, estates and smallholdings in which the settlements were situated, are investigated archaeologically as thoroughly as the settlements themselves.

Without selective and, perhaps, extensive excavation there can be no certainty about the chronology and longevity of individual features which could have continued to serve as boundaries for many centuries after original ditches were filled. Recognition that prehistoric and Roman land divisions determined the lay-out of medieval and recent landscapes is still quite new (Fowler and Taylor 1978) and the full extent and significance of it is not yet fully realised by prehistorians. A number of instances of the continuation of major earthwork boundaries have now been found on the Welland Gravels. The examples given in this volume of medieval plough headlands overlying a pit alignment and linear crop-marks at Tallington and Barholm are similar to the Late Iron Age boundary ditch excavated at Maxey (Simpson 1985, phase v). This was completely filled by the mid-late 2nd century AD yet its bank must have survived for many centuries after and became known in the Middle Ages as the Bar Dik which gave its name to one of the open fields (Perrott 1980) and formed a boundary between furlongs in that field until their enclosure in the early 19th century.

V. Gravel Extraction and Archaeology: a Comment

By W.G. Simpson

Over the past thirty years or so all Tallington parish north of the A16 Stamford-Market Deeping road and east of the road to Barholm has been quarried for gravel (Fig. 2.1); an area of about 172 hectares (425 acres). In addition gravel has been taken from 8.5 hectares (21 acres) of land in the south-east corner of Barholm parish and quarrying is currently in progress on a broad front in the southern part of the former parish of Stowe where a further 30 hectares (75 acres) of land to the south of the site of the deserted medieval village has either already gone or will have done so by the end of the year (1987). Most of the thickest and most profitable gravel deposits have been used up and as the quarrying moves away from the course of the river into thinner and less economic deposits so the rate of destruction quickens, intensifying the threat to the many surviving archaeological sites and monuments.

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