



Important archaeological discoveries made during the construction of the A259 Rustington Bypass, 1990

by David Rudling &
Oliver Gilkes

THE FINDS

POTTERY RECOVERED DURING THE WATCHING BRIEF

By Oliver Gilkes

Site 7

Finds from the ditch terminal (Fig. 2, Site 7a)

1. Body sherd of a wheel-thrown vessel in a dark grey-black highly micaceous 'transitional' Late Iron Age fabric. The surface is decorated with a series of nicks. A conjoining sherd was found in the feature to the north of the ditch, see below, No. 7.

2. Small bowl with a slightly flaring simple rim in a dark grey-black sand-tempered 'transitional' Late Iron Age fabric.

3. Jar with an everted rim in a dark grey-black sand-tempered 'transitional' Late Iron Age fabric.

4. Jar with a slightly outturned rim in a dark grey-black sand-tempered 'transitional' Late Iron Age fabric.

5. Narrow shouldered hand-built jar with a simple rim, decorated with three burnished lines just above the shoulder. The fabric is a dark grey-black very fine sand-tempered paste with inclusions of fine golden mica.

Feature to the north of the ditch (not shown on Fig. 2)

6. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Hand-built jar, with a simple rim in a dark grey-black flint-tempered fabric.

7. Body sherd of a wheel-thrown vessel in a grey brown-black highly micaceous sand-tempered fabric. The surface is decorated with a series of nicks made with the point of the thumb. A conjoining sherd was found in the ditch terminal, (see above, No. 5). Although these sherds are unparalleled in terms of decoration, the wheel-thrown, sand-tempered fabrics from this and other features seem to be related to Late Iron Age ceramics from elsewhere on the West Sussex Coastal Plain (Hamilton 1985, 220–28).

Feature to the south-west of the ditch terminal (Fig. 2, Site 7b)

8. NOT ILLUSTRATED. High-shouldered wheel-thrown jar in a sandy grey fabric. This is a 'Southern Atrebat' form (Cunliffe 1978, 100 & fig. A3.2). The mid-grey reduced fabric of this sherd indicates the utilization of a highly controlled firing technology. This suggests the later Iron Age as the earliest possible production date. Other pottery from this feature is of the grey-black sand-tempered type as found in other features

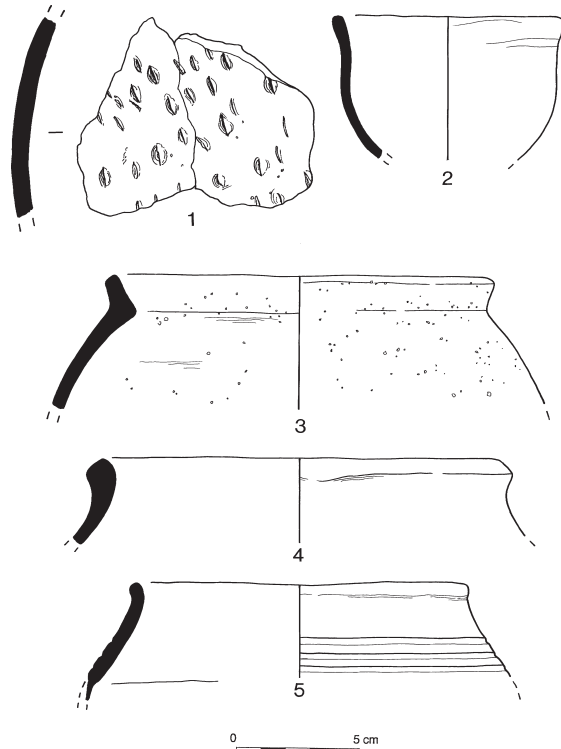


Fig. 3. Rustington Bypass, Site 7: pottery.

on Site 7.

Site 8 (Fig. 2)

9. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Hand-built jar with a simple rim in a dark grey-black sand-tempered fabric with smoothing marks on the exterior.

10. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Rim of a hand-built bowl in a flint-tempered fabric, with a brown exterior and grey interior.

FINDS OF STONE AND METAL RECOVERED FROM SITE 7

WHETSTONE

by Oliver Gilkes

Whetstone, in a siliceous sandstone, probably a glacial erratic of roughly rectangular cross-section. The upper and lower surfaces are well smoothed. The end is broken (Fig. 14:4).



Table 1. Flintwork from Site 4.

Type of Flintwork	Total
Hard-hammer-struck flakes	11
Soft-hammer-struck flakes	4
Axe-thinning flakes	2
Flake/blade fragments	2
Bladelet fragment	1
Retouched hard-hammer-struck flakes	6
End scrapers	6
Side scrapers	3
Notched flake	1
Polished axe fragment	1
Total	37

Table 2. Flintwork from Site 6.

Context	I/1	II/1	II/2	II/9	II/17	II/25	Total
Flakes	4	9	12	1	2		28
Axe-thinning flake			1				1
Fragments			3			1	4
End scrapers		2	1				3
Notched flake			1				1
Retouched piece			1				1
Adze/pick	1						1
Hammerstone			1				1
Total	5	11	20	1	2	1	40

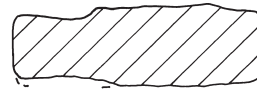
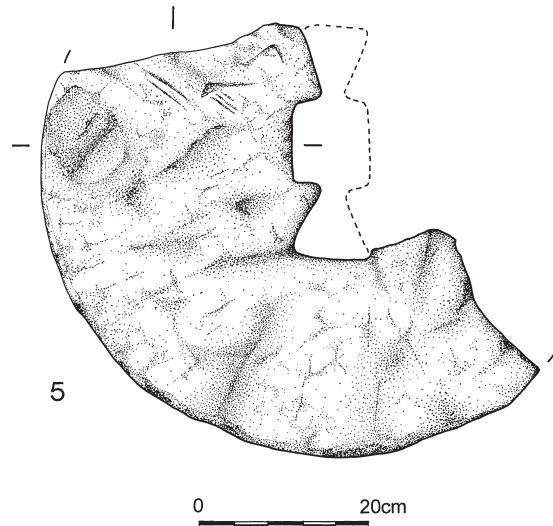


Fig. 13. Rustington Bypass, Site 6: millstone.



METALWORK By Luke Barber

Perforated lead weight or spindle whorl with domed upper surface and an 11 mm diameter central hole. Overall diameter c. 33 mm. The edges on one side have been lost (Fig. 16:12).

THE POTTERY FROM SITE 6 By Luke Barber
Considering the small area investigated, the site yielded a very large quantity of Romano-British pottery, most of which was unstratified and made quantification unnecessary. In order to provide a date range for the site and to give an indication of the range of forms and fabrics present, the pottery was sorted by visual examination with a hand-lens into nine general fabric groups (see text). By far the most common were the sandy grey wares, though red-orange/brown-orange, buff, and black sandy wares were also well represented. Although these variations were divided into separate groups, there was much merging. It is likely that this is the result of varying firing conditions as, once colour is discounted, these sandy wares tended to form one homogeneous group. A selection of the pottery sherds are illustrated (Figs 8–10) and described (see Catalogue: below).

Catalogue (Figs 8–10)

Area II, Contexts 1 and 2

1. Jar in red-orange sandy ware. Coarse sand temper (Group 2).
2. Jar in brown-grey sandy ware. Some inclusions of larger, milky quartz (Group 1).
3. Jar in light grey/buff sandy ware (Group 1).

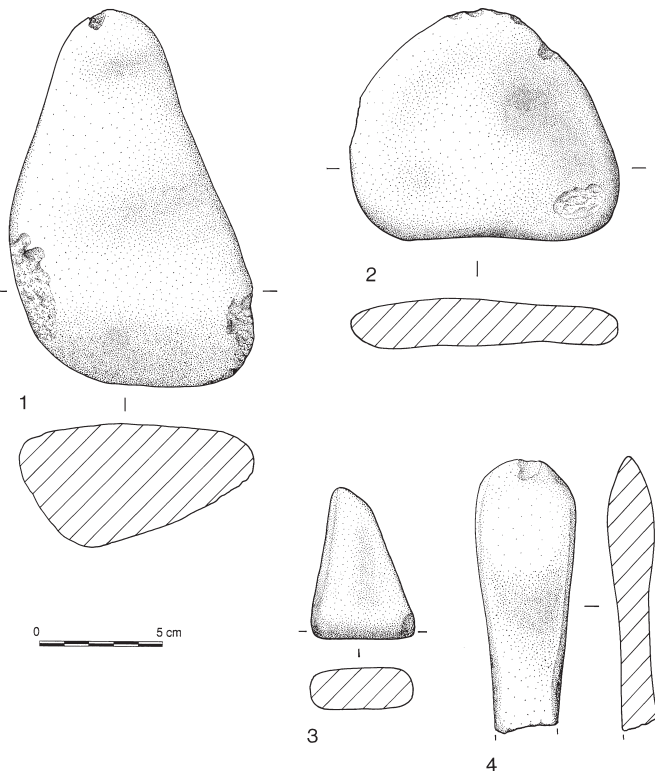


Fig. 14. Rustington Bypass, Sites 6 & 7: stone objects.



4. Necked jar in fine off-white sandy ware. Soft fabric (Group 6). Normandy. Peacock & Williams (1986) Class 55. 2nd century.
5. Large ovoid beaker(?) with out-turned rim. Very fine cream fabric with some sand and grog (Group 6). Incised slash decoration around shoulder. Similar form and decoration to Fishbourne Type 66.9 (Cunliffe 1971). Later 1st to early 2nd century(?).
6. Necked jar in medium to coarse sandy ware (Group 1). Light grey core with brown-grey surfaces.
7. Everted rim jar in light orange-brown fine to medium sandy ware. (Group 2). Some grey inclusions up to c. 1.5 mm.
8. Everted rim jar in light grey medium sandy ware (Group 1).
9. Jar with out-turned rim in black, coarse flint-tempered ware. (Group 7). Iron Age?.
10. Everted rim jar in off-white fine to medium sandy ware. (Group 5) Internal incised line.
11. Everted rim jar in fine to medium sandy ware with very occasional grog inclusions (up to 3 mm) (Group 4). Indistinct red-brown core with black surfaces. Batch mark incised on shoulder. Cf. Fishbourne Type 313. Possibly from Rowlands Castle. (?)2nd to 3rd century.
12. Everted rim jar in off-white/pinkish medium sandy ware with off-white exterior surface (Group 5). Batch mark on shoulder. Type as No. 11.
13. Everted rim jar in fine to medium grey sandy ware with very occasional small chalk inclusions (Group 1).
14. Everted rim jar with incised lines on body. Light brown-orange core with light buff surfaces. Fine to coarse sandy ware. (Group 3). Cf. Fishbourne Type 327. 2nd century.
15. Carinated bowl with everted rim in light buff fine to medium sandy ware (Group 3). Internal surface medium brown. Similar form to: Fishbourne Type 209.5. (?)2nd century.
16. Bowl with everted rim. Red-brown medium sandy ware with light orange-brown surfaces (Group 2). Incised lines on rim and body.
17. Bowl with everted rim in light grey fine to medium sandy ware with medium grey-brown surfaces (Group 1). Exterior surface roughly burnished, including faint burnished lines. Type as No. 15. 2nd century.
18. Bowl in dull red medium sandy ware with orange-brown surfaces (Group 2). Ridged rim.
19. Strainer base in light grey sandy ware with dark grey surfaces (Group 1). Narrow holes, pierced from the base up.
20. Decorated body sherd in pink-orange medium to coarse sandy ware (Group 2). Deeply incised line decoration.
21. Rim and handle of furrowed-rim amphora. Fine red-orange fabric (Group 6). Internal black residue. Probably from Normandy. Peacock & Williams (1986) Class 55. 2nd century.
22. Small bowl with everted rim and burnished line decoration. Black fine sandy ware with odd flint inclusions up to c. 2.3 mm (Group 4).
23. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Form as No. 22. Light grey fine to medium sandy ware with occasional larger inclusions of flint up to c. 1.5 mm. Surfaces vary from light grey to light brown-orange (Group 1/2). Similar burnished lines to No. 22, but slanted opposite way.
24. Base sherd in medium grey sandy ware with dark grey/black surfaces. (Group 1). Incised line decoration on base underside and lower body.
25. Bowl with everted rim in medium grey-brown sandy ware. (Group 2).
26. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Form as No 22. Orange-red fine to medium sandy ware with occasional flint and grog inclusions up to c. 2 mm (Group 2).
27. Cup imitating Samian Form 33. Dull orange, fine to medium sandy ware with odd grey inclusions (Group 2). Cf. Fishbourne Type 260. (?)2nd century.
28. Carinated cup or funnel(?) in light grey medium sandy ware. (Group 1). Black deposits internally.
29. Dish/bowl with internally hollowed rim. Medium grey sandy ware with black surfaces. (Group 4). Rim roughly burnished.
30. Lid with plain lip. Light grey core with orange-brown margins and black surfaces. Fine to medium sandy ware with some grog inclusions up to c. 2 mm (Group 4).
31. Lid with simple lip. Intermittent light grey core with thick orange-brown margins and buff surfaces. Sparse fine to medium sandy ware (Group 3).
32. Dish with simple rim in buff sandy ware (Group 3).
33. Dish with simple rim and burnished lattice decoration. Black fine to medium sandy ware with all-over burnish (Group 4).
34. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Form and fabric as No. 33, but with no burnishing (Group 4).
35. Shallow bowl with thick horizontal rim. Grey/black core with grey-brown inner and grey to black outer surfaces. Fine to medium sandy ware, with some burnishing on rim (Group 1/4).
36. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Form as No. 35. Dark grey medium sandy ware with orange-brown surfaces (Group 2).
37. Shallow bowl in fine orange-brown sandy ware with black surfaces. Odd flint and grog inclusions (Group 4). Exterior roughly burnished.
38. Shallow bowl in medium sandy ware. Light grey core with thick dull orange margins and light to dark grey surfaces.



(Group 1). Cf. Fishbourne Type 217.4.

39. Shallow bowl in light to medium grey sandy ware. Occasional small grog inclusions (Group 1).

40. Dish/bowl with simple thickened rim. Thin intermittent grey core with dull orange-red surfaces. Fine to medium sandy ware (Group 2).

41. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Form as No. 40. Light grey to buff sandy ware (Group 3).

42. Jar with simple bead rim. Light grey sandy ware with black exterior surface. (Group 4). Cf. Fishbourne Type 166. 1st century.

43. As No. 42 but well-defined shoulder. Medium grey sandy ware with buff-brown surfaces. Some milky quartz inclusions (Group 3).

44. As No. 42. Dull brown-orange fine to medium sandy ware (Group 2).

45. As No. 42. Dull brown-orange fine to medium sandy ware (Group 2).

46. Beaker in fine sandy grey ware with light grey to buff surfaces. Horizontal incised lines on body (Group 6).

47. Plain barrel-shaped beaker. Light grey very fine sandy fabric with black surfaces. Horizontal incised lines on body (Group 6). Cf. Fishbourne Type 262. 2nd to early 3rd century.

48. Girth beaker in fine sandy buff ware with grey exterior surfaces in places. Horizontal lines and cordon on body (Group 6). Cf. Fishbourne Type 63.

49. Small jar in very fine orange fabric with matt black colour coat. No temper visible (Group 8). Probably 2nd century.

50. Small-necked jar with everted rim. Light grey fine sandy ware with medium grey-brown surfaces (Group 1).

51. Decorated body sherd in light grey medium sandy ware with orange-brown surfaces (Group 2). Simple incised line decoration.

52. Decorated body sherd in powdery orange-red fine fabric; no temper visible. Shallow incised wave decoration (Group 8).

53. Decorated body sherd in light grey fine to medium sandy ware. Two rows of incised zig-zag lines (Group 1).

54. *Mortaria*-type bowl in off-white/cream fine to medium sandy ware. Some grog inclusions (Group 5).

55. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Flanged body sherd from *mortarium*. Light grey fine laminar core with orange surfaces. No temper visible (Group 8). Rounded grits average c. 1.2 mm and vary in colour from clear to yellow and red-brown.

56. Flagon in dull orange medium sandy ware. Uneven rim (Group 2).

57. Flagon in very fine cream/off-white ware with intermittent orange-pink core. Odd grey inclusions (Group 8).

58. Base sherd in medium grey sandy ware with dark grey to black exterior surface (Group 1).

59. Base or lid handle in light to medium grey sandy ware. (Group 1). Traces of black residue on inside.

60. Base sherd in light grey fine sandy ware with light grey-brown exterior surfaces (Group 1).

61. Decorated body sherd from jar in light pink to grey-buff sandy ware. Incised line and stabbed dot decoration on shoulder (Group 1).

Area II, Context 9: fill of Context 8 (ditch)

62. Jar with thickened, flaring rim in sandy grey ware. Slight grooves on rim interior (Group 1).

63. Everted rim jar in medium-sandy grey ware. Internal surface light grey, external surface black (Group 1).

64. Necked jar with out-turned rim in medium-sandy grey ware with a brown-grey external surface. Traces of soot on exterior (Group 1).

65. Everted rim jar in light grey sandy ware with light brown-grey surfaces (Group 1). Batch mark on shoulder and extensive external sooting. Possibly Rowlands Castle. Cf. Fishbourne Type 311. (?) 2nd-3rd century.

66. Everted rim jar in orange-red medium-sandy ware with traces of light grey slip(?) on external surface (Group 2).

67. Bowl with out-turned rim in light grey sandy ware with medium grey surfaces. A few larger flint inclusions (Group 1). Soot on exterior.

68. Jar with out-turned rim in light grey sandy ware with orange-brown margins and black surfaces (Group 4). Rough external burnishing.

69. Jar with simple bead rim in light grey sandy ware. (Group 1). Cf. Fishbourne Type 166. 1st century.

70. Shallow bowl in light grey sandy ware with orange-brown surfaces (Group 2). Some milky quartz inclusions. Cf. Fishbourne Type 217. 2nd century.

71. Shallow bowl with dull orange to light cream-grey core with dull orange surfaces. Medium-sandy ware (Group 2). 2nd century.

72. Bowl with simple thickened rim. Medium-grey sandy ware with dull orange surface (Group 2).

73. Lid with upturned lip. Light- to medium-grey sandy ware with light- to dark-grey outer and dark-grey to black inner surfaces. Cf. Fishbourne Type 196.

74. Lid with upturned lip. Light- to medium-grey sandy ware with dark grey/black surfaces (Group 1). Cf. as No. 73.



75. Beaker with simple rim. Light grey/cream core with black surfaces. Very fine fabric with some clear quartz inclusions up to 1 mm (Group 6).

76. Beaker with barbotine decoration. Cream/off-white fine to medium sandy ware (Group 5). Groups of barbotine dots, some of which are in very low relief. (?) 2nd century.

77. Flagon base in very fine fabric with some grog inclusions. Light pinkish/off-white interior with light brown-orange exterior surface (Group 8).

78. Base sherd in medium-grey fine sandy ware with grey-brown inner and black outer surfaces (Group 1).

79. Decorated body sherd in light-grey fine to medium sandy ware with medium-grey surfaces. Incised acute lattice decoration in band around shoulder (Group 1).

80. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Decorated body sherd in light-grey sandy ware with red-brown surfaces. Incised, obtuse lattice decoration in band around shoulder (Group 2).

81. Flagon with flanged rim. Fine off-white/cream sparse sandy ware (Group 6).

82. Candle-holder(?), irregularly produced, possibly adapted from an amphora stopper. Light-grey core with light-orange-brown surfaces. Fine fabric with sparse fine sand and grog inclusions (Group 6). Rough exterior surface; possibly where it has been whittled down to size.

The Samian Ware (incorporating comments by Catherine Johns)

See main text for general discussion. Although most of the Samian was recovered from disturbed Contexts 1 and 2 in Area II, one small stratified group was also located:

Area II Context 9: fill of Context 8 (ditch)

1. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Decorated bowl, Dr. 37. Trajanic-Hadrianic c. 120 AD central Gaul; probably from Lezoux. Decoration includes figures of Diana with bow, and dancing girl, separated by wavy line borders. Stanfield & Simpson (1958) Medetus-Ranto style (29; 353).

2. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Dr. 33 cup. Central Gaul. Later 2nd century.

3. NOT ILLUSTRATED. Dr. 18/31 bowl. Central Gaul. 2nd century.

OTHER STONE OBJECTS FROM SITE 6 By Oliver Gilkes
See main text.

Catalogue

1. Context 1. 152 × 90 × 49 mm. Slight pecking on the wider end of this stone suggests that it may have also served as a hammerstone (A1608).

2. Context 1. 111 × 96 × 17 mm. An almost flat, heart-shaped stone (A1622).

3. Context 1. 63 × 49 × 21 mm. A triangular shaped stone with

well smoothed and rounded edges (A1621).

THE LEAD OBJECTS FROM SITE 6 By Luke Barber
See main text for general discussion.

Catalogue (Fig. 16)

1. Perforated lead weight or spindle whorl. A disc-shaped weight/spindle whorl with a wide raised band running around the outside edge on both sides. A narrower raised band runs around the 6 mm diameter central hole, again on both sides. Overall diameter: 30 mm.

2. Roughly rectangular lead strip with fixing holes at either end, crudely cut from 2 mm lead sheet. Two parallel recessed marks are present on one side. This object could be a weight.

3. Tapering 'D'-sectioned weight with suspension hole at the narrow end. Crudely cast with an uneven flat underside.

4. Small disc with central hole. Possibly a weight or gaming counter. Crudely cast, with a 2 mm diameter hole punched through from one side causing a small raised rim around the hole on the other side.

5. Extremely crude perforated weight cast in a disc form. It appears that the original casting did not have enough lead, for more lead seems to have been added to make up the weight after the original casting had cooled; the result is that the two castings did not properly fuse together. The unevenness of the disc suggests it is unlikely to be a spindle whorl.

6–9. Four pottery repairs were found. Numbers 6 and 9 (No. 9 is not illustrated) still contain sherds from the pots (both being an orange sandy ware). The exterior is formed by a 'D'-sectioned rectangular bar. This has two round sectioned fixing pins coming off at right angles (through the vessel wall), joined by a crudely cast lead lump (on the interior surface of the vessel). No. 8 is similar, though missing a pin and the interior crude casting. No. 7 is also of similar form, but has a well-cast bar joining the fixing pins on the interior, instead of the crude lead-fixing found on Nos 6 and 9. The interior bar is longer than the exterior one.

10. Flattened 'D'-sectioned weight with 4 mm diameter suspension hole. Area II, Context 2.

11. Part of an oval shaped 1 mm sheet with complete fixing hole, 5 mm in diameter, at one end. The remains of another nine fixing holes are spaced around the edge of the sheet. These appear to have been broken possibly when the sheet was prised off whatever it was fixed to. One end is broken so the full shape cannot be ascertained. It is possible that it formed a repair to a wooden container such as a bucket. Area II, Context 7.

THE IRON OBJECTS FROM SITE 6 By Luke Barber

See main text for general discussion. A small selection of diagnostic pieces is described below; the rest have also been catalogued, and this listing forms part of the archive.

Catalogue (Fig. 17)

1. Part of a broad-bladed knife blade with part of the iron ferrule/tang intact. Area II, Context 2.



M8

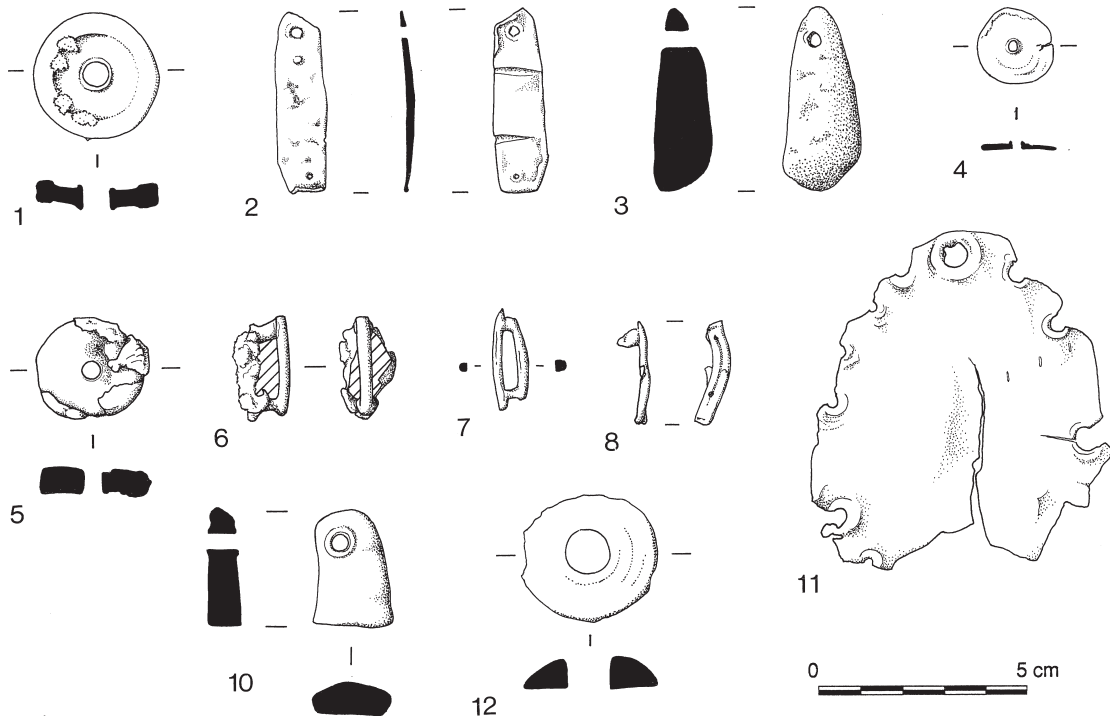


Fig. 16. Rustington Bypass, Sites 6 and 7: lead objects.

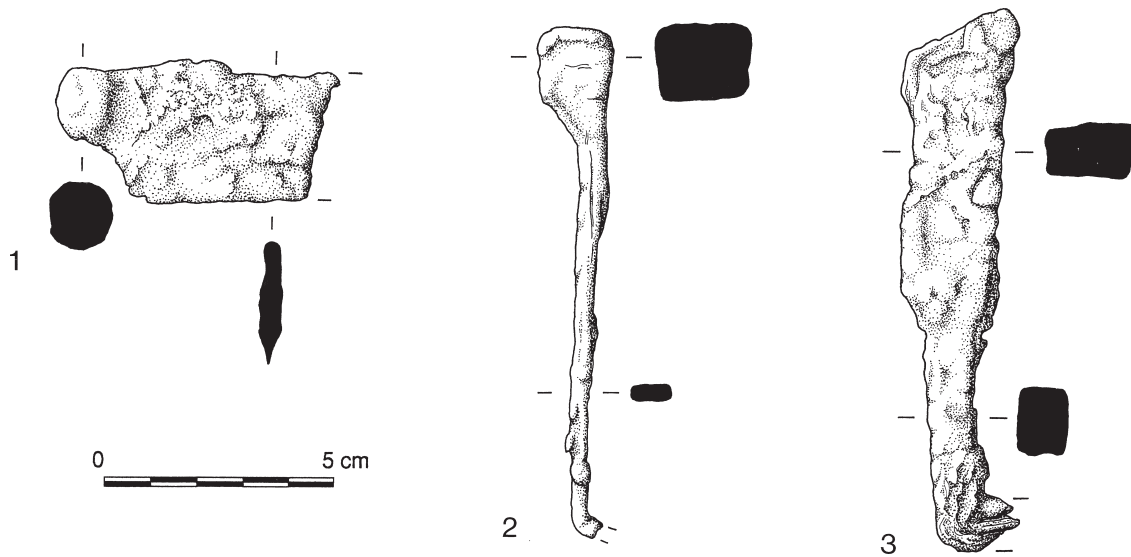


Fig. 17. Rustington Bypass, Site 6: iron objects.



M10

context (1), suggesting possible mixing of material in the ditch fill. The charred grains of barley and oats might be debris resulting from stubble-burning of adjacent crop fields in the recent past (note harvest mouse and field vole in the same sample in Context 1). All the remaining taxa are of animals or plants that lived near, or in, the ditch at various times during its in-fill, and are therefore potential indicators of local, and possibly extra-local, environments.

Low numbers of biological remains in spit sample 3 from Context 1 down to spit sample 1 from Context 4 probably indicate the relatively rapid in-fill of the ditch during the period of time covered by these samples.

The samples from spit 3 Context 4 down to the bottom of the ditch probably best represent the local environment during the functional life of the ditch, although the biological assemblages recovered are not large, so detailed environmental interpretations are not warranted. The land snail assemblages (Table 3) are dominated by shade-loving or relatively catholic species, suggesting locally shaded or

moist conditions in and around the ditch. The lack of truly open-country species, except for *Vallonia excentrica*, in these assemblages is interesting, suggesting that the assemblages were derived wholly from the immediate habitat of the ditch, and possibly from any dense vegetation growing along its edges. The freshwater and amphibious molluscs (Table 4), along with frog and water vole (Table 5), suggest that the ditch had standing or running water in it for at least some periods in the year, although the rather depauperate assemblage of aquatic molluscs suggests that the ditch was not permanently wet. Some of the animal bones and teeth from these lowest samples were coated with the bright blue mineral vivianite, which typically forms in anaerobic organic-rich (more accurately, phosphate-rich) deposits. The ditch might have served a drainage function during wet periods or seasons. The possible use of the land surrounding the ditch as seasonal pasture, hay meadows, or for cereal crops, can only be conjectured from the bioarchaeological remains.

REFERENCES

- Cunliffe, B.** 1971. *Excavations at Fishbourne 1961–1969*, vol. 2: *The Finds*. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London **27**.
— — 1978. *Iron Age Communities in Britain*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge.
- Hamilton, S.** 1985. Iron Age pottery, in O. Bedwin & R. Holgate, *Excavations at Copse Farm, Oving, West Sussex*, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* **51**, 220–28.
- Peacock, D. P. S. & Williams, D. F.** 1986. *Amphorae, and the Roman Economy*. London: Longman.
- Stanfield, J. A. & Simpson, G.** 1958. *Central Gaulish Potters*. London: Oxford University Press.