

Oram's Arbour

**Oram's Arbour
The Iron Age enclosure at Winchester
Volume 1: Investigations 1950-99**

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Cover design and illustration by Mark Barden depicting
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Editor's notes

During the 1970s and 1980s most archaeological investigation in and around Winchester was undertaken by the Archaeology Section of Winchester Museums Service. Much of this work was located in the western and northern suburbs of the city, thus providing opportunities for the investigation of parts of the Orams Arbour Iron Age enclosure described in this volume. The more detailed circumstances of this work, carried out mainly in advance of redevelopment, are set out in the Preface (Chapter 1) and in the introduction to each site (Chapter 2).

The majority of the excavations described in this volume that relate to prehistoric activity in Winchester took place between 1974 and 1986. The associated

post-excavation work was carried out mainly in the early 1990s. Most of the text was also compiled at that time. Some 10–12 years later that original text has been reviewed for this volume, and where possible updated to take account of later research. More recent excavations in the area (1999–2004) are only mentioned for completeness, as the new information will be published in a separate companion volume.

The excavations, subsequent post-excavation analyses, and specialist studies were funded in the main by Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, and English Heritage (or its predecessors). This volume is funded by Winchester City Council and English Heritage.

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Thanks are due to Ann Ellison (now Woodward) for her advice on the middle Bronze Age pottery and for carrying out identifications of the forms based on her 1975 type series. (It should be noted that the sherd she identified as a Type 2B bucket urn (Fig 28.6) has been discussed here as a type 2B barrel urn, on account of its shell temper) (Calkin 1962, 29).

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The authors also acknowledge the continued support advice and encouragement given by English Heritage staff over the years, especially Roger Thomas, Gill Andrews, Stephen Trow, Brian Kerr, and Rob Perrin.

Drawing conventions

The following conventions are used in all the plans and sections in the volume:

	Loam		Chalk		Limit of controlled excavations
	Silt (sections)		Metalled Surface		Limit of watching brief/salvage excavations
	Silt/Loam		Flint		Section line
	Silt (plans)		Later Intrusion		Conjectured structural alignments
	Clay		Postholes		
			Gullies		
			Stakeholes		

Summary

That Winchester was an important Roman, late Saxon and medieval town is well known. Less well known is that the Roman town was preceded in the same strategic location by a large Iron Age settlement. Christopher Hawkes initially postulated the possibility of such a pre-Roman origin for Winchester in 1930. It is, however, a long series of excavations and observations from the mid-1950s almost to the present day that have allowed this report to be prepared and the current thesis to be developed.

The settlement known as the Oram's Arbour enclosure, covering an area of about 20 ha, was first established on the western slopes of the Itchen valley sometime during the middle Iron Age. Although the evidence is difficult to interpret, it appears that the enclosure was in serious decline (if not already disused) by the late Iron Age.

Although including summary evidence from all relevant excavations and observations from 1950 to 1999, the report focuses on the work carried out on a number of sites in the Oram's Arbour enclosure by

Winchester Museums Service (Archaeology Section) between 1973 and 1986. The circumstances of these investigations together with the main discoveries are outlined on a site-by-site basis in Chapter 1. The main Iron Age structural features excavated on each site are detailed in Chapter 2. The principal artefact groups and some environmental information are reported and discussed in Chapter 3.

A gazetteer outlining all prehistoric discoveries in the Oram's Arbour area, up to the present day, is presented in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5 a brief survey of the nature of prehistoric activity in the area is outlined, while the main section of the chapter draws together all the Iron Age evidence in a discussion about the nature, role, and purpose of the Oram's Arbour enclosure. It is postulated that the enclosure was a strategically located centre for regional exchange and communications. Finally there is a brief survey of the impact and influence that the enclosure had upon the subsequent development of the Roman and later town.

Résumé

On sait bien que Winchester était une importante ville à l'époque romaine, à la fin de l'époque saxonne et à l'époque médiévale. Par contre, il est moins connu que la ville romaine a été précédée, au même emplacement stratégique, d'un grand peuplement durant l'âge de fer. A l'origine, Christopher Hawkes avait postulé la possibilité d'une telle origine préromaine pour Winchester dès 1930. Toutefois, l'élaboration de ce rapport et le développement de la thèse actuelle n'ont été possibles qu'à la suite d'une longue série de fouilles et d'observations, du milieu des années 50 jusqu'à presque l'heure actuelle.

Le peuplement connu sous le nom de l'enceinte d'Oram's Arbour, couvrant une superficie d'environ 20 hectares, fut établi en premier lieu vers le milieu de l'âge de fer, sur le versant occidental de la vallée de la rivière Itchen. Bien que les indices soient difficiles à interpréter, il semble que cette enceinte était fondamentalement en déclin, sinon déjà abandonnée à la fin de l'âge de fer.

Bien que ce rapport contienne le résumé des indices extraits de toutes les fouilles et observations pertinentes entre 1950 et 1999, il se concentre sur les travaux effectués dans plusieurs sites de l'enceinte d'Oram's Arbour entre 1973 et 1986 par Winchester Museums Service – Archaeology Section [Service des

Musées de Winchester – Section Archéologie]. Une esquisse des circonstances dans lesquelles ont eu lieu ces enquêtes, ainsi que des principales découvertes, site par site, se trouve dans le Chapitre 1. Les détails sur les principaux indices structurels de l'âge de fer découverts dans chaque site se trouvent dans le Chapitre 2. Le compte-rendu et l'examen des principaux ensembles d'objets fabriqués, ainsi que certaines informations liées à l'environnement, se trouvent dans le Chapitre 3.

Un index traçant les grandes lignes de toutes les découvertes préhistoriques aux alentours d'Oram's Arbour, jusqu'à l'heure actuelle, est présenté dans le Chapitre 4. Dans le Chapitre 5, une brève vue d'ensemble de la nature des activités préhistoriques dans la région est esquissée. Néanmoins, la partie principale du chapitre regroupe tous les indices de l'âge de fer dans une discussion concernant le nature, le rôle et le but de l'enceinte d'Oram's Arbour. Il apparaît que l'enceinte était un centre stratégiquement bien placé pour les communications et les échanges régionaux. Finalement, on trouve une brève vue générale concernant l'effet et l'influence que l'enceinte a eu sur le développement ultérieur de la ville à l'époque romaine et ultérieurement.

Zusammenfassung

Daß Winchester eine wichtige römische, spätsächsische und mittelalterliche Stadt war, ist gut bekannt.

Weniger bekannt ist, daß die römische Stadt an demselben strategischen Standort eine große Siedlung aus der Eisenzeit zum Vorläufer hatte. Christopher Hawkes hatte im Jahre 1930 als Erster die Möglichkeit der Existenz einer Prä-römischen Siedlung angedeutet. Erst eine Reihe von Ausgrabungen und Beobachtungen ab Mitte der fünfziger Jahre bis zur Gegenwart haben diesen Bericht ermöglicht und haben zur Entwicklung der aktuellen These geführt.

Die Siedlung, die als Oram's Arbour Einfriedung bekannt ist, erstreckt sich über eine Fläche von 20 Hektar und wurde ursprünglich irgendwann in der mittleren Eisenzeit an den westlichen Hängen des Flußtals des Itchen gegründet. Obwohl die Beweise schwer zu interpretieren sind, vermutet man, daß die

Einfriedung, wenn nicht schon völlig aufgegeben, sich am Ende der Eisenzeit zumindest in einem Zustand erheblichen Verfalls befand.

Obwohl die Schlüsselergebnisse von allen wesentlichen Ausgrabungen und Beobachtungen aus den Jahren 1950 bis 1999 hinzugezogen wurden, konzentriert sich dieser Bericht auf Ausgrabungen an verschiedenen Standorten innerhalb der Oram's Arbour Einfriedung, die von der Archäologieabteilung des Winchester Museums Service in den Jahren 1973 bis 1986 durchgeführt wurden. Im ersten Kapitel werden die Umstände dieser Untersuchungen zusammen mit den wichtigsten Entdeckungen, auf Standortbasis behandelt. Die wichtigsten aus der Eisenzeit stammenden Strukturen, die an jedem dieser Standorte freigelegt wurden, werden im zweiten Kapitel detailliert behandelt. Über die wichtigsten

Artefakt Gruppen, und paläoökologische Informationen wird im dritten Kapitel berichtet und diskutiert.

Ein Verzeichnis aller bisher zu Tage gebrachten prähistorischen Funde aus dem Gebiet des Oram's Arbour wird im vierten Kapitel präsentiert. Im fünften Kapitel wird die Vielfalt der prähistorischen Aktivitäten in diesem Gebiet kurz zusammengefasst. Der Hauptteil dieses Kapitels fasst allerdings die gesamten

Eisenzeitlichen Beweismaterialien zusammen, indem die Eigenschaft, Rolle und Zweck der Oram's Arbour Einfriedung diskutiert wird. Es wird davon ausgegangen, daß die Einfriedung ein strategisch angelegtes Zentrum für regionalen Austausch und Kommunikation war. Abschließend wird ein kurzer Überblick gegeben über die Auswirkung und Einfluss die die Einfriedung auf die darauffolgende römische und spätere Stadtentwicklung hatte.

1 Introduction

Preface

This volume is one in a series of publications that will report on aspects of archaeological investigations carried out in Winchester mainly since 1972. As the large-scale programme of excavations directed by Martin Biddle for the Winchester Excavations Committee was completed in the previous year, the efforts of the Committee through the work of its Research Unit became fully concentrated on preparing reports for publication.

Since the continuing destruction of the buried remains of the city's past was recognised to be a serious problem, however, a Rescue Archaeologist – one of the first such posts in the country – was appointed on the establishment of Winchester City Museums, but seconded to the Research Unit Director. This arrangement enabled a full-time response to sites threatened by development to be maintained within the framework of existing knowledge and advancing research.

Despite core support from the Winchester City Council, substantial excavation grants from the Department of the Environment, Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, and help-in-kind from Hampshire County Council, mainly on road schemes, it soon became clear that resources were not available to respond to every development threat. Watching briefs were maintained on many sites, but controlled excavation had to be much more selective. After 1973 a policy for the selection of sites for excavation was developed. This was strongly influenced by the plans then being put forward for a partial ring road, affecting important sites to the north and west of the city's defences, and housing schemes for the eastern suburb and the Hyde area. At the same time, conservation was the watchword in the city centre: such new development as received consent was quite small in scale.

Practical considerations were thus a major determinant of the policy that stressed suburban excavation in the period 1973–80 at Winchester. So too was the academic need to 'balance the sample' of previous work, however, which had focused largely on key sites within the city, and the feeling that certain types of new information might be gained more cost-effectively from extra-mural areas at this stage of our understanding. Martin Biddle has summarised the results of this policy: whereas 80% of the 1961–71 programme was undertaken within the city walls, more than 90% of excavation between 1974 and 1980 was carried out in the suburbs (Biddle 1983, 103).

Changes in the organisation of local government implemented in April 1974 further modified the base from which Winchester archaeology operated. The new District Council agreed to provide an archaeological service for its largely rural area of 64,350ha (159,000 acres), in addition to that already provided for the

ancient city at its core. An initial survey of the potential of Winchester District (Schadla-Hall 1977) led to the establishment of a sites and monuments record for the area, investigation of key sites threatened by development, and a continuing commitment to the management of the archaeological resources of the District.

Initial publication proposals reflected the pattern of this work, with volumes planned to gather together new information on each of the extra-mural areas of the city, or from District projects. Neither of the two publication series already established for Winchester seemed a particularly appropriate vehicle for these new reports. Winchester Excavations 1949–60 was clearly designed to describe the work of a particular era, though a continuation of the title to cover later work was proposed at one stage (Collis 1978). Similarly Winchester Studies takes as its basis Martin Biddle's excavations of 1961–71. The thorough research planned as part of this project and its finite time-scale also made significant new additions difficult to accommodate.

The Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the DoE funded some initial post-excavation work, which was organised on the basis of western suburb and northern suburb sites. In 1986 their successor body, English Heritage, sought to develop with the Archaeology Section of Winchester Museums Service a firm programme for all post-1971 Winchester sites funded from government sources. The first phase involved completion of site archives, assessment of the potential for analysis, and the drafting of proposals for publication.

As this work progressed, it was realised that some more recent developer-funded sites were important to the interpretation of the results of the state-funded programme. English Heritage agreed that relevant information from such sites should be included. Table 1 shows all the sites in the Winchester Museum Service/English Heritage publication project.

At the completion of the two-year assessment phase, ten publication proposals, in addition to the nearly complete Western Suburb project, were submitted by the Archaeology Section. Nine of these were agreed during 1989; a final decision on the tenth (late Roman pottery) has been deferred. Early in 1990 English Heritage recommended that the prehistoric sections of the Western Suburb publication, which included most of the recent evidence for the Oram's Arbour Iron Age enclosure, be formed into a separate publication. The remainder of the Western Suburb sections would be integrated into the other ten proposed publications, as appropriate.

This eleventh proposal was agreed and English Heritage again accepted that some developer-funded site information should be included. While containing all prehistoric discoveries from recent excavations on the western side of Winchester, the report that follows

2 Oram's Arbour

Table 1 List of proposed Winchester Museums Service/English Heritage publications

	Title of publication
1	The cemeteries of Roman Winchester
2	The town defences of Winchester
3	The suburbs of Roman Winchester
4	The environment and economy of Roman Winchester
5	Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery from Winchester
6	The small finds from recent excavations in Winchester
7	The Saxon and medieval suburbs of Winchester
8	Hyde Abbey, Winchester
9	The hospital of St John, Winchester
10	Food, craft, and status in Saxon and medieval Winchester
11	Oram's Arbour: the Iron Age enclosure at Winchester
12	Archaeological archive summary

is focused on the large Oram's Arbour Iron Age enclosure (Fig 1 and Plate 1).

A further development of the restructured programme resulted from the recognition that complete sequences for multi-period sites would not be published. While reference to the site archives was regarded as a partial solution to this problem, an outline of what these contained was also felt necessary. Publication of a site-by-site summary of each of the 133 archives was therefore proposed.

Following consideration of the need for an introductory overview to these summaries, and details of the structure and format of the volume, English Heritage gave approval in 1996. A final title for this volume has yet to be agreed, but *Archaeological Archive Summaries: 1* is used as a working description.

Brief details of the proposed publications are shown in Table 1.

Figure 1 (opposite) Location plans: A Winchester and Hampshire in southern Britain; B the Winchester area; C Oram's Arbour and St Catharine's Hill in relation to the Roman town defences; D the tufa island

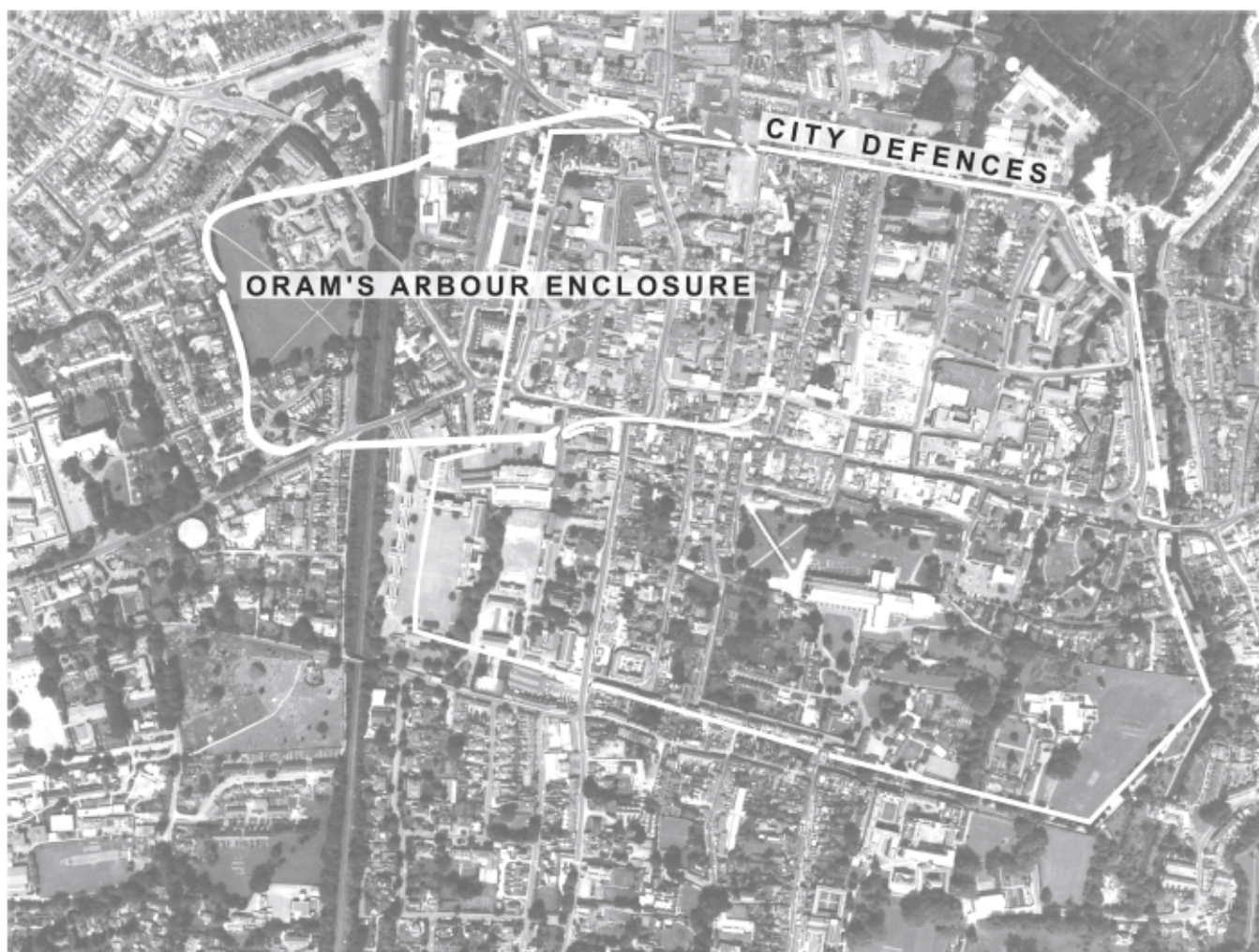
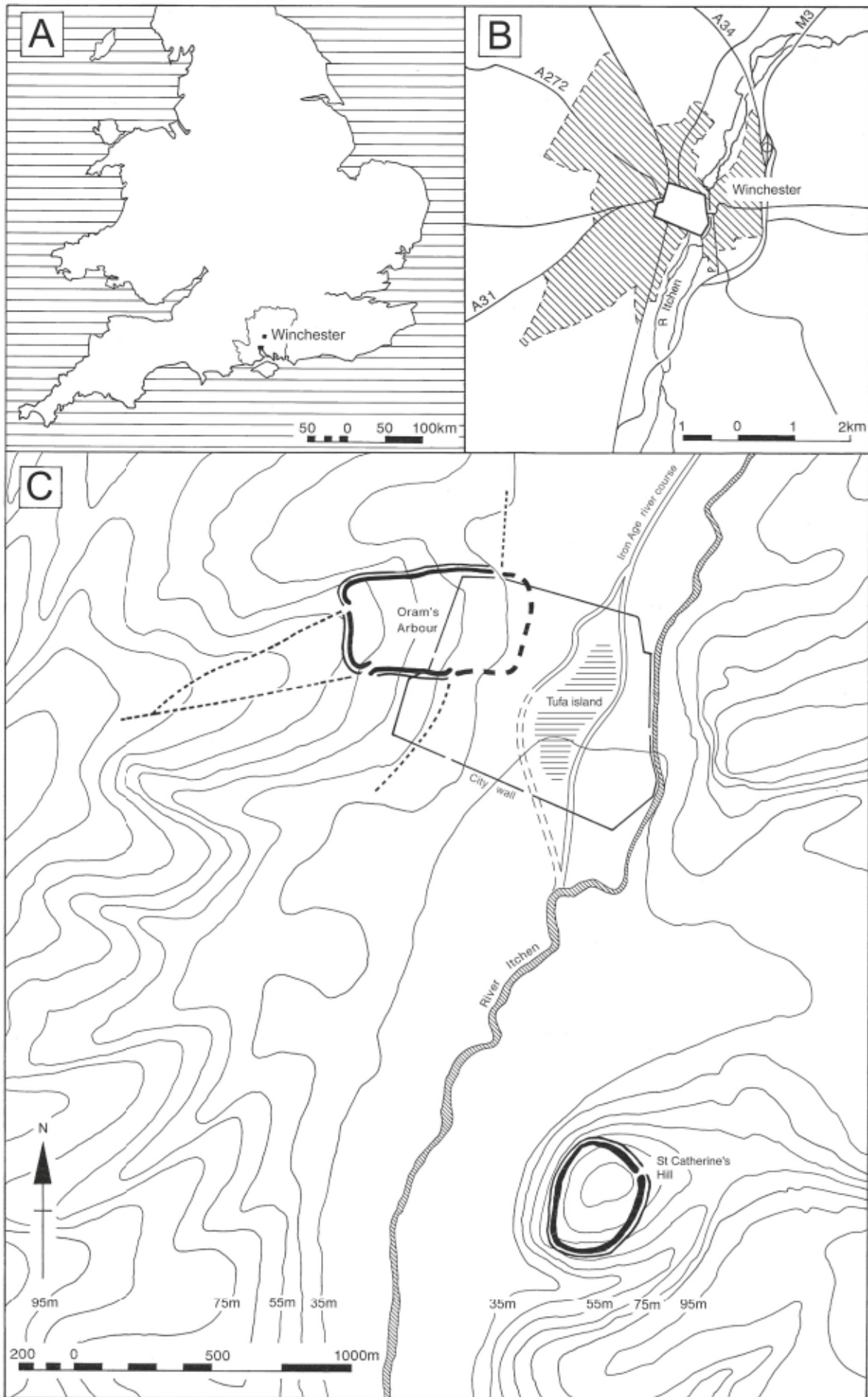


Plate 1 Vertical view of modern Winchester showing the line of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch and the Roman town defences. (© Aerofims Ltd)



The Oram's Arbour enclosure

The recognition and identification of the Oram's Arbour Iron Age enclosure, so named from the large open space that now covers its western side, has come about as the result of archaeological investigations. Almost no traces of the defensive ditch and associated bank survive in the modern urban landscape and no indications of internal structures and features are visible, as they lie buried beneath later deposits. It follows that the Iron Age and earlier prehistoric archaeology described here has been quite badly damaged and disturbed by later activity. Furthermore the evidence has in the main been recovered from the relatively small trenches that are often typical of urban archaeology rather than from large-scale open-area excavation.

The gradual realisation that Roman Winchester had an Iron Age predecessor has been summarised by Qualmann (1993, 66–74). Located on the lower terrace of the western slope of St Paul's Hill, the enclosure was defined on its northern, western, and southern sides by a V-shaped ditch about 4m deep and 7m wide fronted by a rampart *c.* 8.5m wide. No certain trace of the eastern side has been identified, but it is unlikely to have extended further east than modern Parchment Street, beyond which lay the pre-Roman flood plain of the River Itchen. There is some evidence that the main channel of the river lay somewhat to the west of its present course during the prehistoric period (Qualmann 1993, 75) and this and the floodplain may have been a sufficient barrier to negate the need for a ditch. Deposits possibly representing the slighted rampart have been identified, however, in various parts of the presumed eastern circuit (Cunliffe 1964, 22–3). As reconstructed an area covering about 20ha was enclosed.

The enclosure occupies two geological zones divided north–south roughly along the line of the later western Roman defences. To the east is the clay-capped gravel infilling to the periglacial river terraces that dropped down to the Itchen floodplain. To the west is degraded bedrock chalk. Undisturbed soils at Carfax (see Chapter 2, p 31) suggests that a thin clay deposit capped the chalk to the west, but in all other sample areas this had been removed by agricultural or other processes.

Despite so many years of investigation, the date at which the enclosure was constructed is still uncertain, as there are few direct stratigraphic relationships between the ditch and other deposits. Ceramics from the ditch merely date its disuse in the main. The presence in the primary fills of saucerpan pottery, however, suggests a middle Iron Age date for the initial construction. The function of the enclosure is also uncertain, but it is positioned to dominate the western approach routes to a ford of the Itchen thought to lie on or near the line of the present High Street. The 'island' of chalk brash or tufa in the centre of the flood plain makes this a good crossing point.

Quantities of late Iron Age pottery have been recovered from some parts of the ditch fill, suggesting

some activity during that period, while pre-Flavian Roman settlement has been found in its south-eastern corner (Cunliffe 1964, 23). The enclosure need not have become completely defunct until about AD 70, however, when the construction of the Roman town effectively cut it in half.

Thereafter the western part of the circuit may have continued to perform a defensive function in the early Roman period and was used as a cemetery in later Roman times. In this western half the bank and ditch continued as a feature of the landscape until the 12th century, perhaps defining the limit of the western suburb of the late Saxon and early medieval town.

The sites in this report

The archaeological evidence reported in this publication has come from fifteen sites investigated under varying conditions between 1973 and 1986. This section describes the background circumstances of each of the relevant sites and outlines the information reported in more detail in Chapter 2. Brief details of the periods represented, including those not included in this publication, are provided. The location of the sites is shown in Figure 2.

Most of the sites described below were investigated as part of a planned response to the Winchester Traffic Plan three-quarters ring road. Though only relatively small parts of this scheme were eventually constructed, large areas of land were acquired and cleared.

During the 1970s road construction was seen as a very real and imminent threat to Winchester archaeology. This threat was met by a combined response from city, county, and DoE, who together made possible a rolling programme of excavations.

Alongside this planned programme of rescue investigation, the Archaeology Section maintained watching briefs on a number of sites during this period. Some of these provided valuable information for the understanding of prehistoric settlement.

By 1981 the preparation of a fieldwork policy document for Winchester provided a new basis for site prioritisation (Winchester City Council 1981). The most recent excavations included in this volume were undertaken in direct response to this policy framework.

Most fieldwork was carried out by the Archaeology Section of Winchester Museums Service. Core staff and backup services were provided by Winchester City Council for all projects; specific mention of the City Council indicates additional project funding from this source. Staff from the Winchester Research Unit carried out the early watching briefs, while the Winchester Schools Archaeological Society helped with excavations at Crowder Terrace and Victoria Road. The Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group provided valuable assistance on most sites and with the processing of finds.

All archives are held by the Winchester Museums Service and can be consulted by reference to the site codes (Table 2).

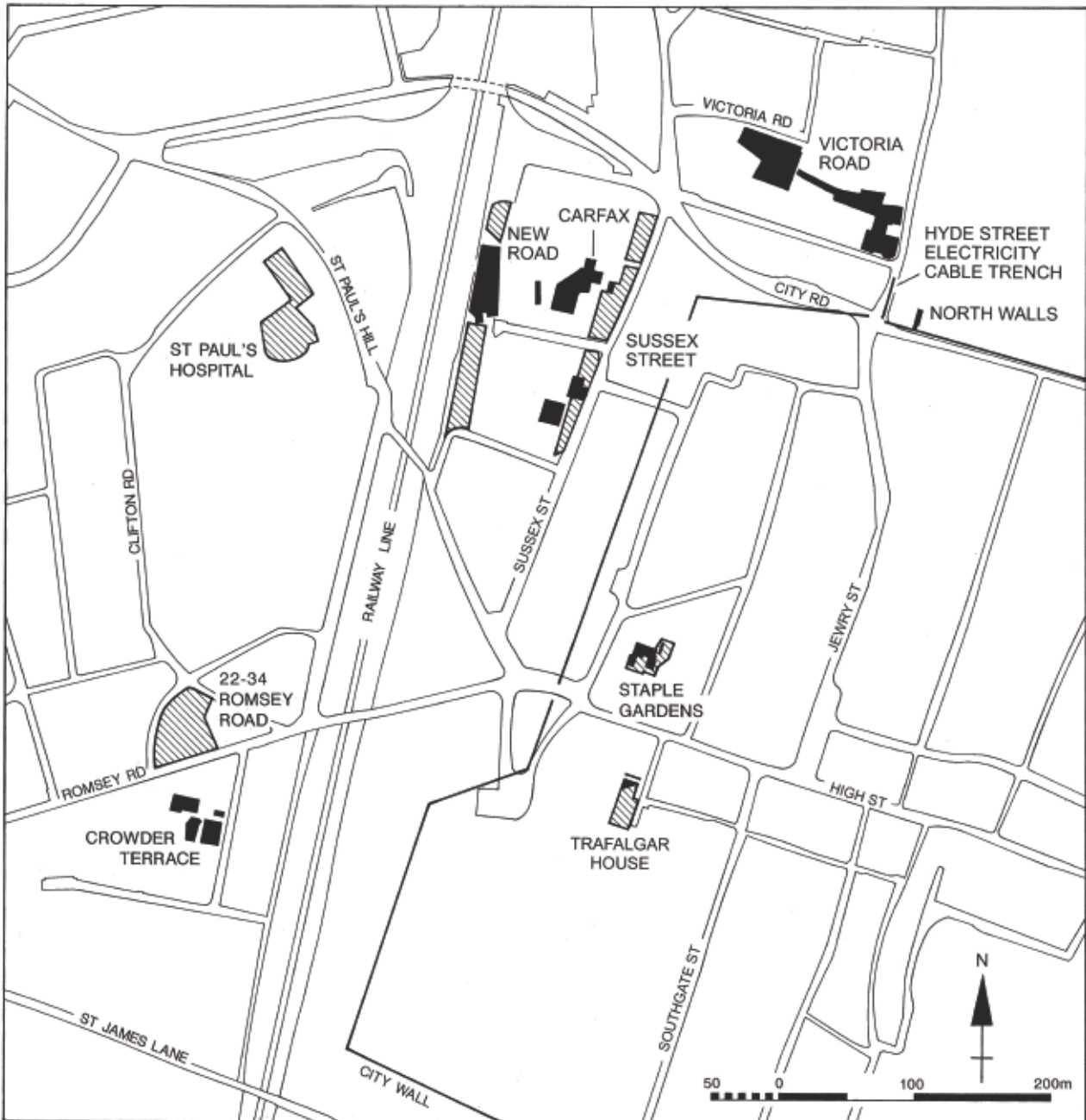


Figure 2 Plan showing the position of all sites in the report (excavated areas shown black and observed areas shown hatched)

Staple Gardens (SG84)

This area between High Street and Cross Street, just to west of Staple Gardens, was identified in the 1981 policy document (Winchester City Council 1981) as having important potential for the study of both the Oram's Arbour Iron Age settlement and medieval urban tenement development

Following plans put forward in 1983 for the construction of offices, shops, and houses and a trial excavation that confirmed the quality and complexity of the deposits, full excavation was carried out between February 1984 and February 1985. From October to December 1985 a further area to the north and east was examined, mainly to investigate a zone of human

burial revealed in the last stages of the main excavation. Here it was only possible to excavate a limited trench through the pre-Roman deposits to the level of natural.

The excavations revealed substantial Roman, late Saxon (including an extensive cemetery), and medieval remains. The evidence of the later prehistoric period from the site is described here

Trafalgar House (TH74)

A limited salvage excavation was carried out over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of February 1974 in order to investigate an apparent discrepancy in the alignment of the Oram's Arbour ditch. In the Assize Courts

Table 2 Sites included in the report

Site name	Site code	Date of investigation	Type	Reasons for investigation	Responsible body	Area of investigation/ area of pre-Roman	Periods represented
Staple Gardens	SG	Feb 85-Mar 86 Oct-Dec 86	ex	construction of houses and offices	WMS MSC	575/230m ²	Iron Age structures Roman occupation Saxon cemetery Saxon/medieval street Saxon/medieval/post-medieval buildings pits
Trafalgar House	TH	Jan 74 Feb 74	wb ex	service trench office construction	WRU WMS	12/8m ² 33/10m ²	Iron Age ditch Saxon building medieval pits
Crowder Terrace	CT	Jan-Mar 74 1975 Aug-Sept 76	ex	road construction (houses, car park)	WMS WSAS	564/310m ²	Beaker pits prehistoric lynchets/soils Roman pits, field boundary Saxon/medieval pits, property boundaries medieval Jewish cemetery
22-34 Romsey Road	22-34RR	Feb 77	wb	construction of flats	WMS	2000/1000m ²	Iron Age ditch Roman burials ?Saxon/medieval/post-medieval pits medieval property boundary
St Paul's Hospital	SPHO75	Dec 75-Feb 76	wb	hospital construction and car park	WMS	1920/100m ²	Iron Age ditch Saxon soils medieval suburban defences
New Road (now Station Road)	NR	Mar-Nov 74 Feb 77	ex	road construction	WMS	725/120m ²	Middle Bronze Age postholes Iron Age ditch Roman burials Saxon/medieval pits, property boundaries post-medieval cultivation features
New Road (Trench IV)	NR Tr IV	May 77	wb	road construction	WMS	834/73m ²	Iron Age pit Saxon/medieval pits, property boundaries
Carfax	CF85	Jun 85-Feb 86 Sep-Oct 86	ex	house construction (County Record Office)	WMS	625/500m ²	Iron Age soils, structures, ditch Roman ?earthwork, road, burials, quarries Saxon/medieval ditch fills, pit medieval/post-medieval structures
Sussex Street 1976	SXS76	Nov 74-Jan 75 Apr 76	ev ex	road construction	WMS	183/85m ²	Iron Age activity Roman ploughsoils Saxon/medieval pits medieval property boundary
Sussex Street (Trench XIV)	SXS Tr XIV	Nov 76	ex	road construction	WMS	12/12m ²	Iron age ditch Roman and later ditch fill medieval/postmedieval pits. ?structures

Table 2 (cont.) Sites included in the report

Site name	Site code	Date of investigation	Type	Reasons for investigation	Responsible body	Area of investigation/ area of pre-Roman	Periods represented
Sussex Street 1979	SXS79	Apr 76 Mar-Aug 79	ev ex	road construction house construction	WMS	255/26m ²	Iron Age activity Roman ploughsoils Saxon/medieval buildings, pits, property boundaries
Victoria Road (western area)	VR (Ir IV-VI)	Jun 72-Feb 76 Mar 76	ex	road construction (sheltered housing)	WMS WSAS	985/74m ²	prehistoric flintwork Roman road, roadside shops/workshops Roman cemetery Saxon/medieval property boundaries medieval building, chalk quarry
Victoria Road (Hyde Street area)	VR (Ir X-XVI)	Mar 73-Dec 75 May 77-Dec 79	ex	road construction (sheltered housing)	WMS	1120/680m ²	Beaker ?burial "Iron Age trackway, occupation" "Early Roman road, cemetery" Later Roman domestic buildings Saxon/medieval properties post-medieval pits
Hyde Street Electricity Cable Trench	HYS73ECT	Aug-73	wb	new electricity cable	WRU	20/1m ²	?Iron Age ditch Roman street surface medieval gate and ditch
North Walls	NHW97	Oct-Nov 79	ev	road construction (not implemented)	WMS	30/21m ²	Iron Age soils, ?ditch Roman town defences, ditch fill Saxon/medieval ditch post-medieval garden features

Notes:

The dates of investigation shown are continuous periods of work unless separated by semi-colons, when discrete campaigns are indicated.

The abbreviations for types of investigation are ex = excavation, wb = watching brief, ev = evaluation.

The reason for the initial site work is followed by information in brackets where subsequent activity has differed from original plans.

The abbreviations used for responsible body are WMS = Winchester Museum Service; WRU = Winchester Research Unit; WSAS = Winchester Schools Archaeological Society.

The area column shows the total area investigated, followed by the area of pre-Roman archaeology recorded. The latter figure excludes parts of the site not investigated to pre-Roman levels and areas where later disturbances removed early deposits.

yard the ditch ran east–west (Biddle 1975). A service trench observed by Winchester Research Unit staff in January, however, 3m north of Trafalgar House running west from Trafalgar Street, had suggested a north-east to south-west alignment for the ditch.

The work confirmed a change of alignment, suggesting either a return to form either part the eastern side of the enclosure or an in-turned entrance. Valuable information about late Iron Age and early Roman phases of ditch filling was also recovered. Adjacent early medieval building remains were briefly investigated.

Crowder Terrace (CT74)

This site was investigated as part of the planned response to the construction of the three-quarters ring road. Exposure of apparent archaeological features after the demolition of a terrace of Victorian houses led to excavation of the southern part of the site between January and March 1974. Excavation of an adjacent area to the north followed throughout much of 1975. Work was completed during August and September 1976.

The earliest features were dated by Beaker pottery. These were superseded by traces of an Iron Age field system. Later remains included an early Roman field boundary, later Roman pits, medieval suburban property boundaries, pits, and wells, together with graves from part of Winchester's medieval Jewish cemetery.

22–34 Romsey Road (22–34RR77)

A watching brief was maintained on this site, 300m west of the Westgate, for three weeks during groundwork for the construction of flats. At this time the south-west corner of the Oram's Arbour defences was thought to lie just to the east (Biddle 1975, fig 1). These observations showed, however, that the Iron Age enclosure ditch crossed the site from north-west to south-east.

During the course of the considerable bulk excavation to the rear (north) of the site of the demolished houses, temporary standing sections were left. Archaeological recording took the form of cleaning and recording these and salvaging material from adjacent features. Although only very limited controlled excavation was undertaken, an outline plan of the ditch was made and several sections were drawn.

The limited salvage excavation also identified Roman burials in the fill of the ditch and a number of pits and possible property boundaries of the medieval period.

St Paul's Hospital (SPHO75)

The Iron Age enclosure ditch was identified in two parallel service trenches in a watching brief during car park construction in mid-December 1975. Three small

soakaway pits also produced evidence of the 12th-century suburban defensive bank.

New Road (NR74)

Between November 1974 and October 1975, in response to preparations for Stage 1 of the three-quarters ring road, excavations were carried out along the line of the proposed new road (now Station Road). In February 1977 a small additional area was opened to the south to clarify some of the results from the main excavation.

Previous discoveries in 1955 (Collis 1978, 245–8) and 1964 (Biddle 1965, 231–3) showed that the new road would cut across the line of the Iron Age defensive ditch, and so a section 9m wide was excavated across it. After several recuts, the partly filled ditch was used as an inhumation cemetery in the late Roman period and did not fully silt up until the 12th century. The site also produced evidence for middle Bronze Age activity, early medieval pits, suburban property boundaries of the 12th to 14th century, and post-medieval horticulture.

New Road (NR Trench IV)

A service trench 1m in width was dug down the centre of the road line (NR, above) was recorded during a watching brief in 1977. Features identified in the sides of this trench were traced in plan, but no general cleaning of the area proved possible.

Pits and property boundaries of late Saxon and medieval date were the main discoveries, but a single pit containing several rotary quernstones of middle Iron Age date (see Figs 32–4) was also recorded.

Carfax (CF85)

This site was identified in the 1981 policy document (Winchester City Council 1981) as having similar potential to the New Road (NR, above) and Ashley Terrace (Biddle 1965) sites to the west and the Sussex Street site (SXS Trench XIV, below) to the east. The main excavation was carried out between June 1985 and February 1986, with a further extension to the north to clarify the sequence in this area, in September and October 1986. Further investigations adjoining the northern extension took place between December 1990 and February 1991 (CF90), when development plans were changed from residential to office use.

Considerable evidence for prehistoric activity was identified. In the Roman period, the Iron Age ditch was retained in modified form and partly used for inhumation burial, while a road ran parallel to the northern side of the defences. Information about the development of the late Saxon and early medieval western suburb, including part of Henry II's hawking mews, was also recorded. There were no prehistoric features on the CF90 site.

Sussex Street 1976 (SXS76)

Investigations at Sussex Street began as part of the response to proposals for ring-road construction. Trial trenching in November 1974 finally led to excavation between January and April 1976. The best survival of archaeological deposits seemed to occur in an area just south of the corner of Sussex Street and Gladstone Street. The unexpected discovery of a massive chalk layer sealing both the Roman and prehistoric archaeology meant that these deposits could only be sampled (85 of 183m²) in the time available.

The excavation uncovered Iron Age features of occupation inside the enclosure and ploughsoils from the Roman period. The massive chalk layer believed to represent upcast from the Anglo-Saxon town defensive ditches was cut by a number of 9th- to 13th-century pits.

Sussex Street (SXS Trench XIV)

Archaeological monitoring of road widening on the western side of Sussex Street in late 1976 and early 1977 revealed the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch on the site of the former 63 Sussex Street. The ditch was exposed for a length of 18m and planned, while a section 2m wide was excavated by hand over a two-week period in February 1977. Due to mechanical levelling of the area, the upper deposits were seen in section only.

A standing section on the western side of Trench XIV was cleaned and recorded, while some possible pre-Roman deposits were identified by comparison with better-dated layers to the north (in the Oram's Arbour ditch section) and to the south (at SXS76).

Sussex Street 1979 (SXS 1979)

Trial investigations in 1976 to the south of the SXS76 site (above) showed that virtually all archaeological deposits had been removed along the Sussex Street frontage by 19th-century house construction, but that very good preservation characterised the former back gardens. The latter area (formerly 49–57 Sussex Street) was excavated between March and August 1979. Financial constraints exacerbated by the unexpected complexity of the late Saxon and medieval sequence meant that stratified pre-Roman deposits could only be excavated in about 10% of the area.

Like SXS76 (above) the site produced evidence of Iron Age occupation and Roman ploughsoils. The late Saxon and medieval periods were represented by property boundaries, structural features, and pits and included an undercrofted building of 13th- to 14th-century date.

Victoria Road (VR72–80)

This site comprised two large areas of excavation and a linking trench, which were seen as parts of a single

response to the proposed construction of a major new road. The western area was adjacent to Victoria Road and to the north of Swan Lane; the eastern area was closer to Hyde Street.

The main excavation of the western (Victoria Road) area took place between June 1972 and the end of February 1976. Additional work in the existing trenches to sample pre-Roman deposits containing worked flint occurred in March 1976.

Just outside the North Gate the site also provided extensive information about the Roman road to Cirencester, roadside buildings, and an adjacent later Roman cemetery. Some evidence for the development of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval suburbs was also recorded.

Following trial investigation in the eastern (Hyde Street) area, full excavation took place from 1973 to the end of 1975. Work was halted due to uncertainties over the proposed ring-road programme, but was taken up again in 1977 when new development proposals threatened an area along Swan Lane. This work was completed by the end of 1979.

The main early feature recorded was a prehistoric hollow way. Its period of use cannot be precisely dated, but it truncated a small pit of Beaker date and was beginning to silt up in the early Roman period. To the west a series of Iron Age features were identified, including pits and gullies running parallel to the hollow way.

While the Roman road to Cirencester, which crossed the western part of the site, replaced the hollow way in the 1st century AD as a major route, the latter continued to provide access for a new cemetery. This consisted of both cremation and inhumation graves of the 1st, 2nd, and early 3rd centuries AD. In the late Roman period domestic structures were built over much of the area of the earlier cemetery. No certain evidence for activity in the period between the 5th and the 9th century was recovered, but the establishment of Hyde Street in the late Saxon period led to renewed occupation. Detailed archaeological evidence for the development of three tenements from the later 10th to the 15th century was found.

The linking trench excavated last at Easter 1980 sampled an area across the Roman road to Cirencester.

Hyde Street electricity cable trench (HYS73ECT and NG73)

In August 1973 a trench 30m long was cut for the insertion of a new electricity main at the southern end of Hyde Street (HYS73ECT). This trench was a continuation of one recorded immediately to the south, below the Hyde Street/North Walls road junction in January 1973 (NG73). Interpretation of the observed stratigraphy (carried out by Winchester Research Unit) was assisted by a survey of the adjacent property boundary wall and associated features.

In addition to possible evidence of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch, important information about the Roman and medieval city defences was gained. The

discoveries eventually led to further evaluation of parts of the northern defences (NHW79, next).

North Walls (NHW79)

Though much of the proposed three-quarters ring road had been modified or abandoned by 1979, the draft Winchester Town Centre plan still favoured widening North Walls. Previous work (HYS73ECT, above) had shown the survival of important elements of the northern defences of the town in this area.

Two trenches were excavated between the beginning of September and the third week of November 1979. The southern side of a substantial feature, thought to be the Iron Age enclosure ditch, was partly excavated. A general layer containing middle Iron Age pottery, two phases of Roman town ramparts, and an early medieval defensive ditch were also identified.

The area was scheduled under Ancient Monuments legislation in December 1989 (part of Hants No 247),

though the surviving structures below the Hyde Street roadway (HYS73ECT, above) are not included.

Sites excavated after 1986

Intensive watching brief and recording carried out at St Paul's Hospital in 1998 (SPH98) identified the line of the Iron Age enclosure ditch on a slightly different alignment to that postulated previously (SPHO75). More recently substantial additional information about the character of the enclosure and its internal features has come from investigations in the Oram's Arbour park. These were run jointly by Winchester Museums Service and King Alfred's College, Winchester, as Community Archaeology / student training excavations in 2000 and 2001 (AY 42 and AY 46; Thorpe and Whinney 2001; Matthews and Teague 2002). The results of this work are briefly described in the gazetteer (Chapter 4) and full publication will follow. Post-excavation assessments are in progress at the time of writing.

2 The sites

Introduction

The circumstances under which the sites were recorded are described in Chapter 1. In this chapter all prehistoric deposits and features discovered during the excavations are described in some detail. The data are presented on a site-by-site basis.

Post-excavation analyses of these sites was carried out using the WARS methodology (Qualmann and Scobie 1985), initially by grouping contexts or features or both when they could be shown to be stratigraphically contemporary. These groups of contexts, called phases, are the blocks from which the understanding of the development of the site through time is built and on which the wider interpretations of the site are based. Each phase has been allocated a number, in the same way as contexts and features are during excavation. The sites are mainly discussed using phase numbers, which in turn also form useful lead-ins to the site archives.

Roman numerals designate different trenches on the same site; context numbers are reported as recorded on site; feature numbers are preceded by F.

The stratigraphic phasing has been given a chronological dimension by taking into account the dating of the finds, mainly pottery. As many deposits produced little material, however, even where they were well stratified, the dating evidence is often quite poor.

Staple Gardens (SG84)

The site lies inside the town defences, approximately 70m north-east of the Roman and medieval West Gate (Figs 2 and 3). It is located in the southern part of the Oram's Arbour enclosure, about 70m north of the probable entrance excavated at Trafalgar House. The natural deposits of reddish orange-brown clay overlying decayed valley-side chalk were encountered at a height of about 53m OD. The site had been truncated in the early Roman period and only the lower portions of the pre-Roman features had survived. Pre-Roman levels were overlain by about 3m of stratified deposits.

Trench I was the main excavation and Trench V the extension carried out to investigate the late Saxon cemetery (Fig 3). Prehistoric archaeology was recorded in both trenches and this report is confined to these deposits.

Some difficulty was encountered during the phasing of the pre-Roman deposits excavated on the site. This arose from the stated relationships between the excavated features and the general layer 1585. The phase 3 gullies (middle Iron Age) and some of the larger features were found cutting the surface of 1585, but most of the smaller features were only found after its removal. A quantity of Roman material was found within 1585, however, suggesting that it was partly

disturbed. The phase descriptions below have been based on a combination of the relationships between the features and the ceramic evidence.

Poorly dated features

Phase 0

Phase 0 consists of a general layer (1585) and 25 undated features (Fig 4). Layer 1585 was a pale orange-brown silty clay with few flints that sealed the natural deposits. Although contaminated by later Roman material, it is almost certainly pre-Roman in origin. Given this problem, these deposits are best interpreted as predating the 2nd century AD.

F516 was a shallow stakehole about 0.08m by 0.06m by 0.1m deep with a pointed base filled by a grey-brown clayey loam with charcoal and chalk flecking (1335) cutting 1585.

F622 was a shallow scoop similar to those allocated to Phase 2a about 0.8m by 0.6m by 0.3m deep. The base of the scoop was filled with red-brown clay with large flints (1541) overlain by dark brown clayey silt (1533).

F648 was a shallow, steep-sided posthole about 0.14m in diameter by 0.1m deep filled with grey-brown silty loam with chalk flecks and flints (1603).

F653 was a shallow stakehole about 0.13m by 0.09m by 0.07m deep filled with brown loam (1609).

F654 was a stakehole about 0.08m in diameter by 0.08m deep filled with dark brown silty loam (1610).

F655 was a small stakehole about 0.2m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with brown silt (1611).

F656 was a stakehole about 0.16m in diameter by 0.09m deep filled with brown silt (1612).

F663 was a shallow posthole about 0.26m in diameter by 0.18m deep filled with a grey-brown silt (1622).

F668 was a posthole about 0.2m in diameter by 0.2m deep filled with brown silty loam with flint fragments (1627).

F690 was a stakehole about 0.25m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with grey-brown loamy silt (1651), cutting 1585.

F694 was a small posthole about 0.28m in diameter (depth not recorded) filled with dark brown silt (1655).

F696 was a small stakehole about 0.2m in diameter by 0.12m deep filled with red-brown silty loam (1657).

F698 was a small posthole about 0.2m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with red-brown clayey loam (1659).

F701 was a small posthole about 0.28m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with grey-brown loamy silt (1662).

F704 was a small posthole about 0.22m in diameter by 0.12m deep filled with grey-brown loamy silt (1665).

F705 was a stakehole about 0.12m in diameter by 0.08m deep filled with brown loam (1666).

F708 was a stakehole about 0.14m in diameter by 0.09m deep filled with grey-brown silty loam (1671).

F710 was a small posthole about 0.24m in diameter by 0.11m deep filled with brown silty loam (1672).

F717 was an oval posthole about 0.22m by 0.17m by 0.2m deep filled with grey clay (1687).

F729 was a small stake/posthole about 0.2m in diameter by 0.2m deep filled with brown silt (1706).

Late Bronze Age

Phase 1

The earliest recognised activity, dated to the late Bronze Age, consisted of a single pit (F697) found cutting the natural (Fig 4) and sealed by layer 1585 (see Chapter 3, p 56)

F697 was circular in plan, about 0.38m in diameter and about 0.06m deep, with a V-shaped slot at the base a further 0.08m deep suggesting that its original use was as a posthole. The fill was light brown silty clay with few inclusions (1658).

Early Iron Age

Phase 2

Early Iron Age activity on the site was represented by hearth F724, probably used for the parching of grain, and an isolated posthole F729 (Fig 4). Both cut 1585 and were sealed by Roman deposits.

F724 was a hearth partly removed by a later feature but was about 1.46m north-south, less than 1.1m east-west, and 0.15m deep. The base of the pit was heavily burnt (1702) and supported a charcoal and silt layer (1700). The north side had

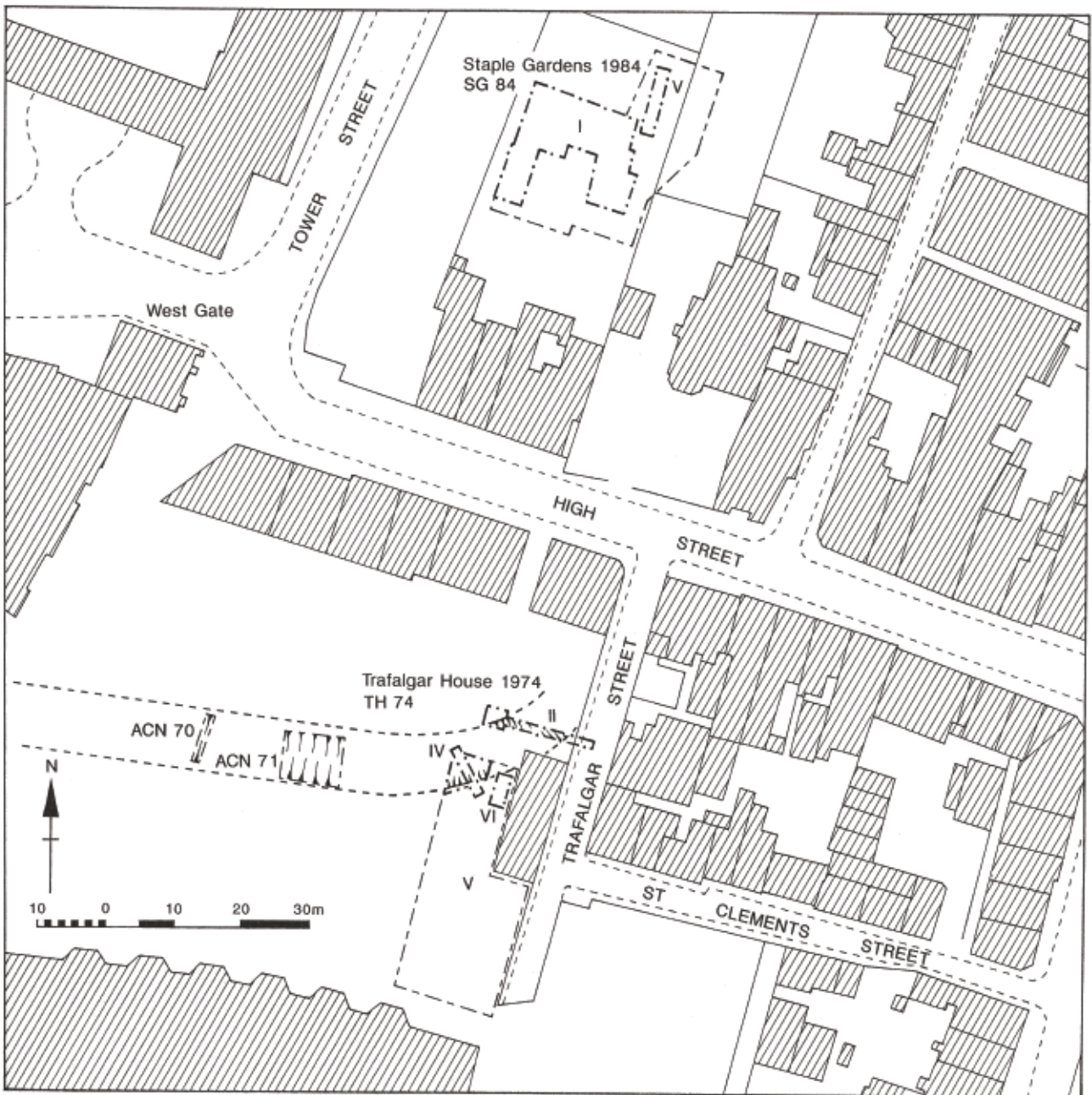


Figure 3 Plan of Staple Gardens and Trafalgar House area showing the line of the enclosure ditch (ACN70 - see Chapter 4, site 36; ACN71 - see Chapter 4, site 37)

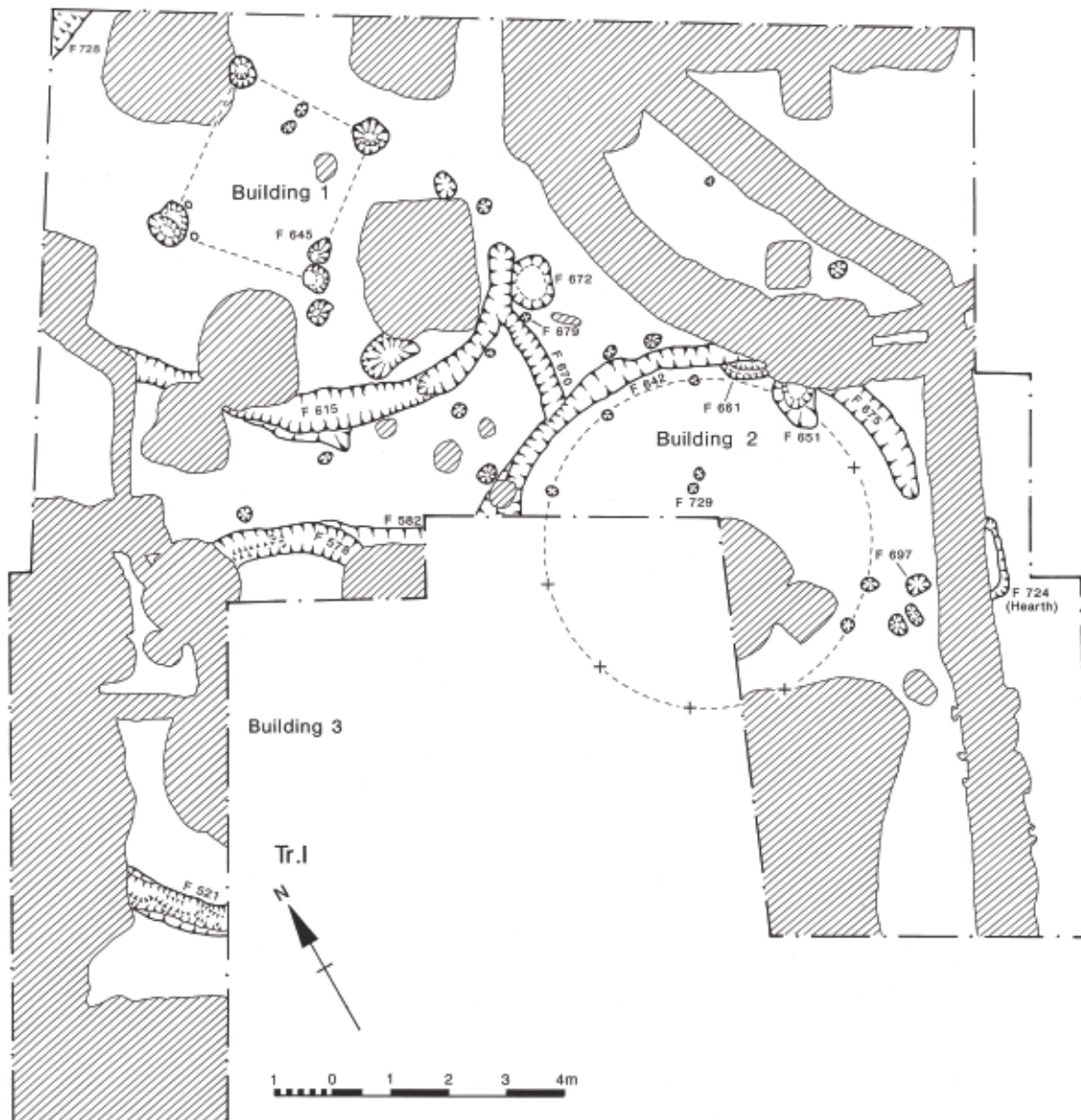


Figure 4 Staple Gardens: plan of early and middle Iron Age features

a series of shallow steps that were respected by the fills that had accumulated after the disuse of the hearth (1701). The pit eventually silted up with dark brown silty loam (1699) and red-brown silty loam (1697). Charred plant remains derived from the basal fills suggest that it was utilised as a grain oven. F729 was a posthole positioned about 5m north-west of hearth F724. It was circular in plan with near-vertical sides to a rounded base about 0.2m in diameter by 0.2m deep and filled with mid-brown silt (1706).

Middle Iron Age

Phase 2a

Phase 2a consists of three shallow pits or scoops (F651, F661, and F672) cutting 1585 and cut in turn by elements of the middle Iron Age buildings (Phase 3; Fig 4 and Plate 2). No material was recovered from these features which can be considered to be of middle Iron

Age or earlier date. F622 (Phase 0), of a similar character and fill, may be associated, but is also undated.

F651 was partly removed by a later feature, but appeared to be circular in plan, greater than about 0.64m in diameter, and 0.3m deep, with steep sides to a flat base and was filled with dark brown clayey loam (1607).

F661 was greater than 0.4m in diameter and 0.4m deep with near-vertical sides to a flat base and filled with dark brown silt with no inclusions (1620).

F672 was oval in plan, about 0.9m by 0.74m by 0.19m deep, with sloping sides to a rounded base and filled with dark brown silty loam (1628).

Phase 3

The features assigned to this phase consist of a complex of interconnected curvilinear drainage gullies (F578,



Plate 2 Staple Gardens: middle Iron Age gullies and postholes (looking south-east).

F582, F615, F617, F622, F642, F675, F670, and F728; Fig 4). All shared a common type of fill. The gullies partly enclosed three areas (Areas 1–3).

Within Area 1 was a four-post structure (Building 1) and a small pit (F645) which contained a cess-like deposit that produced the remains of salt-water fish, eels, and mineralised seeds. Within Area 2 was a possible circular, stake-built structure or pen (Building 2).

All features allocated to this phase cut 1585 or the Phase 2a features. The gully defining Area 2 was cut by the Phases 4 and 5 buildings.

Area 1 and Building 1

Area 1 was defined by gully F615 (= F669) and a similar feature (F728) in the north-east corner of the site (Fig 4). These formed the north, west, and south sides of an enclosed area with a maximum width of about 8m. No evidence of a northern side was found and it is probable that the area was open to the east.

Building 1 was a four-post structure about 2.75m square consisting of postholes F644, F646, F649, and F652 (Fig 4). All had stepped profiles. F649 contained a postpipe about 0.2m in diameter with a flat base (1604). No stratigraphic relationships had survived, but the central position of the structure in relation to the gully suggests that they were contemporary. Also in the area were a small pit or posthole F645 and a stakehole F647

that have been assigned to this phase on ceramic evidence.

Area 2 and Building 2

Gully F642 defined Area 2 on the northern and western sides (Fig 4). Later truncation may have removed any evidence of a gully to the south and east. The projected line of the surviving gully indicates a diameter of about 6.5m. Like Area 1, however, it may have been only partly enclosed and irregular in plan.

Building 2 consisted of five shallow postholes (F704, F707, F711, F720, and F721) that formed a circular structure about 5.6m in diameter (Fig 4). No datable material was recovered, but the close relationship between the postholes and gully F642 suggests that they were contemporary. Postholes F704, F707, and F711 were positioned about 1.6m apart and F721 continued this spacing. The largest posthole (F720) was also on the projected diameter. As it did not continue the regular spacing, however, it may mark the site of a door post.

Area 3

Due to later disturbances in this part of the site, this area was only partly excavated. Area 3 was defined by

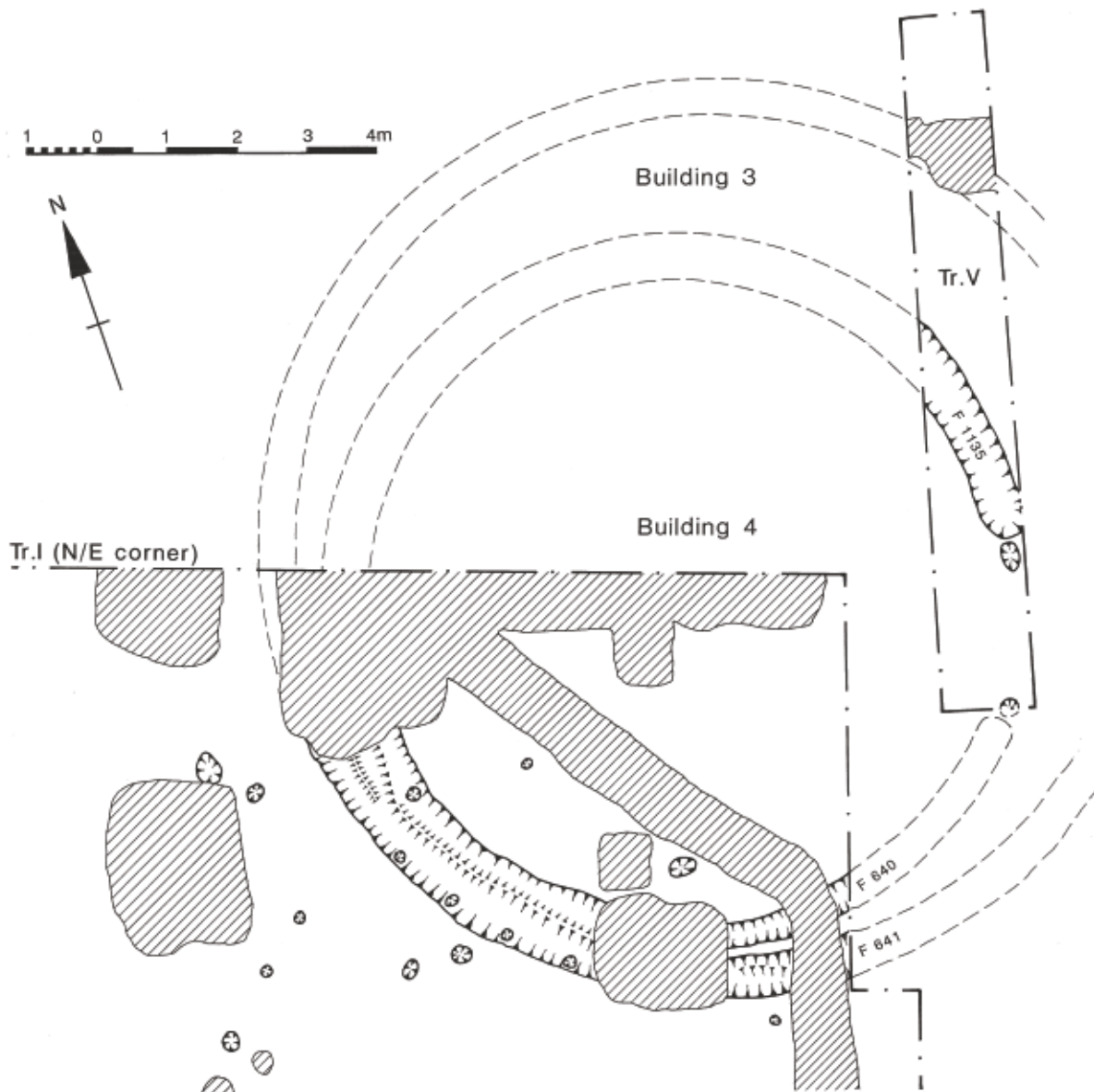


Figure 5 Staple Gardens: plan of late Iron Age structures (houses?)

gullies F521 and F578 that may have formed part of an oval enclosure. No structural evidence was found.

F521 was about 0.4m wide with rounded sides to a base about 0.12m deep and filled with dark brown silty clay (1354).

F578 was about 0.4–0.6m wide with irregular sides to a rounded base about 0.14–0.23m deep and filled with dark brown silty loam (1462).

F615 varied in width between about 0.2m and 0.5m with shallow sloping sides to a rounded base about 0.07–0.1m deep.

F642 was between about 0.5m and 0.7m wide with a depth of about 0.08–0.12m deep and was filled with dark brown silty loam (1595).

F644 was about 0.4m in diameter by about 0.4m deep filled with grey-brown silty loam (1599).

F645 was about 0.4m in diameter by 0.21m deep filled with brown silty clay with flints and charcoal flecking (1600).

F646 was about 0.47m in diameter by about 0.35m deep filled with grey-brown silty clay (1601).

F647 was a shallow stakehole about 0.18m in diameter by

0.06m deep filled with grey-brown loam with chalk flecks and flints (1602).

F649 was about 0.4m in diameter by about 0.4m deep filled with a light grey-brown silty loam (1605), with a circular postpipe about 0.2m in diameter centrally positioned and filled with grey silt (1604).

F652 was about 0.7m in diameter by 0.34m deep filled with mid-brown clayey loam (1608).

F669 was about 0.19m deep, with a basal fill of a reddish-brown silty clay (1536) probably derived from the weathering of the sides. The bulk of the fill was dark brown silty loam (1534).

F704 was circular in plan, about 0.2m in diameter with sloping sides to a rounded base about 0.07m deep.

F707 was 0.14m in diameter with sloping sides to a rounded base about 0.06m deep.

F711 was circular in plan, about 0.17m in diameter with sloping sides to a rounded base 0.12m deep.

F720 was circular in plan, about 0.28m in diameter with sloping sides to a flat base about 0.11m deep.

F721 was about 0.12m in diameter with sloping sides to a flat base about 0.06m deep.



Plate 3 Trafalgar House: east-facing section across the enclosure ditch.

(F704, F707, F711, F720, and F721 were all filled with dark brown silty loam.)

F728 was similar in character and fill to F615/F669, but was highly contaminated.

Late Iron Age

Late Iron Age activity on the site (Fig 5) was represented by a circular structure, Building 3 in Phase 4, which was later replaced by a smaller circular structure, Building 4 in Phase 5.

Phase 4

Building 3

Building 3 consisted of a shallow curvilinear slot (F641) forming a structure with a projected diameter of about 12m. Within the lower fill were stakeholes F657, F658, F659, and F660, positioned about 1m apart.

Phase 5

Building 4

Building 4 consisted of a shallow curvilinear slot F640/F1135 with a projected diameter of about 9m. This cut Building 3 and was truncated by early Roman levelling. It would appear to be a rebuild of Building 3 but on a smaller scale. No structural elements were recognised save a single stakehole (F662) that cut the base of slot F640. The entrance into the building was on

the south-east and was marked by a rounded terminal and a pair of postholes (F1144 and F1155).

F640 was a slot about 0.4–0.6m in width with a shallow U-shaped profile about 0.2m deep filled with grey-brown loamy silt with occasional flints (1593).

F641, a curvilinear slot, had a shallow U-shaped profile that varied in width between 0.6m and 0.75m and was 0.12–0.29m in depth. The lower fill of the gully was orange-brown silty clay (1597), a redeposited natural that contained stakeholes F657, F658, F659, and F660. The upper fill was dark brown silty loam with charcoal (1596 and 1594).

F657 was a stakehole about 0.12m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with dark brown silty loam.

F658 was a stakehole about 0.08m in diameter by 0.12m deep filled with dark brown silty loam.

F659 was a stakehole about 0.1m in diameter by 0.12m deep filled with dark brown silty loam.

F660 was a stakehole about 0.12m in diameter by 0.10m deep filled with dark brown silty loam.

F1135 (= F640) was about 0.6m wide with near-vertical sides and about 0.5m deep to a rounded base and filled with dark brown silty loam with small angular flints and chalk flecking (2531).

F1144 was a posthole 0.40m by 0.25m by 0.47m deep filled with clean, dark brown silty loam (2547).

F1155 was only partly exposed in plan and not excavated. It was greater than 0.25m by 0.15m by 0.45m deep and filled with dark brown silty loam.

Trafalgar House (TH 74)

This site lies on the southern circuit of the enclosure defences, approximately 70m east of the Roman and medieval Westgate (Figs 2 and 3). The natural deposits of orange-brown clay with flints capping bedrock chalk lay at about 51m OD.

Trench II was a service trench in which a major ditch was identified. It was up to 9.5m wide on a north-east to south-west alignment, in contrast to that previously recorded about 20m to the east at Assize Courts North (ACN 70 and 71, Biddle 1975, fig 2). Trench V confirmed this alignment; following confirmation Trench IV was excavated across it under controlled conditions. No prehistoric archaeology was recorded in Trench VI (Fig 6).

The change of alignment is thought to reflect the in-turned ditch of an entrance into the enclosure. The upper fills of the ditch represent the slighted Iron Age rampart that was levelled as part of the establishment of the Roman town in about AD 70 (Biddle 1975, 99).

Middle Iron Age

Phase 1

The earliest evidence of occupation consisted of the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch. Phase 1 comprises the ditch (F12) and the earliest deposits within it (Fig 7 and Plate 3). The ditch survived to a maximum width of at least 7m and to a truncated depth of 3.7m. The character of the earliest deposits within the ditch reflects the fact

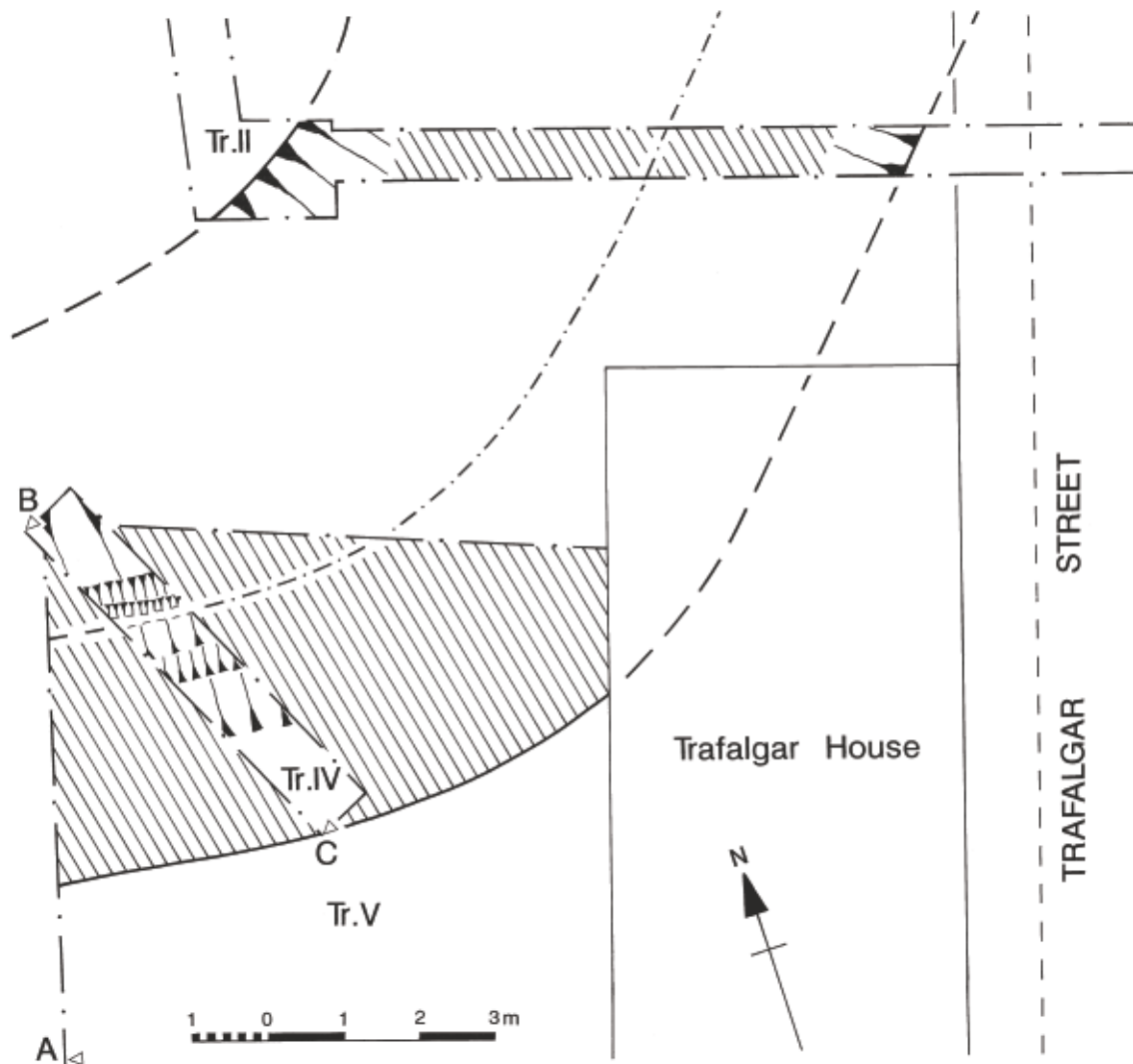


Figure 6 Trafalgar House: plan showing trench locations

that it was cut through a gravel and clay deposit which caps the natural chalk of the valley side in this area.

The earliest deposit found in the ditch (59) was reddish clay with large flints and organic staining, overlain by cleaner orange-red clay with charcoal (57), the latter mainly on the southern ditch face. Both were overlain by 56, a deposit very similar to 59.

Late Iron Age

Phase 2

Phase 2 consists of a single deposit (55), a gritty grey loam with charcoal and flints. It was up to 0.25m deep in the centre of the ditch and extended about one-third the way up the southern (or outer) edge of the ditch.

Phase 3

Sealing the Phase 2 deposits was a brownish-orange clay with large flints (54) about 0.3m deep that extended

about halfway up the southern edge of the ditch. This was the earliest deposit to be directly related to a possible recut.

From the base to a point about 1.35m above it, the side of the ditch showed an angle of about 55°. The upper portion had a shallower angle of about 25°. Mainly because of the oblique angle of the section, it is uncertain whether this variation was an original feature perhaps related to the turning of the ditch or was a later recut or modification. In either case it was in existence by the late Iron Age period.

Phase 4

Sealing the Phase 3 ditch fills was a group of deposits (51, 52, and 53) that formed a build-up 0.65m deep in the middle of the ditch and extended about two-thirds of the way up the southern side of the ditch.

A dark grey loam with charcoal (51) produced evidence of metal working (see p 68). On the southern lip of the ditch was a similar but lighter grey loam (53).



Figure 7 Trafalgar House: section through the enclosure ditch

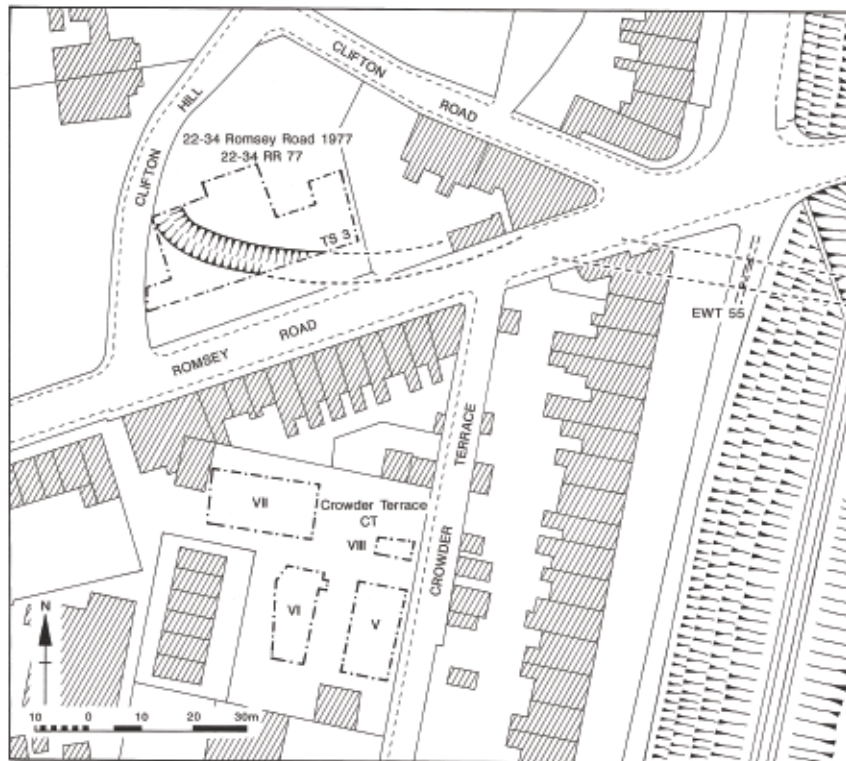


Figure 8 Plan of Crowder Terrace and Romsey Road area

Sealing both of these was a greenish sandy deposit with small flints (52).

Late Iron Age/early Roman

Phase 5

Sealing the Phase 4 ditch fills were two deposits (48 and 49) that were closer in colour to the early Roman layers that sealed them than to the soils below. Only late Iron Age pottery was recovered from them, however. Together they had a maximum depth of just less than 0.3m.

Context 48 was an orange-brown clay with small flints, while 49 was an orange-brown clay with small flints composed of several thin layers.

Early Roman

Phases 6–9

Sealing Phase 5 were deposits of clean orange-brown clay with gravel, similar to the natural deposits in the area, mixed with a loamy clay. These completely filled the remaining depth of the ditch. Similar material has been traced westwards over a distance of about 100m to the point where the Oram's Arbour ditch crosses the 1st-century town defences (Biddle 1970, 279).

At Trafalgar House the character of these upper fills and the tip-lines within them suggest that they were deposited from the north-west side and derived from the slighting of the rampart. This event probably

preceded the construction of the Roman town defences in the late 1st century.

Crowder Terrace (CT74)

The site lay some 30–60m south of the south-west corner of the Oram's Arbour enclosure and about 270m south-west of the Roman and medieval Westgate (Fig 8). The natural of truncated chalk bedrock, with occasional pockets of clay with flints, sloped from about 78m OD to the west to 74m OD to the east. As survival of prehistoric features was surprisingly good on this exposed sloping site, some slight vertical stratigraphy still remained.

This report is confined to the prehistoric archaeology of the site, but Roman features are mentioned where they impinge on its interpretation.

Beaker

Phases 1–3

The earliest activity recorded on the site was represented by the two features F42 and F43 (Phases 1 and 2) found in Trench VI and dated to the Beaker period on ceramic evidence (Fig 9).

F42 was circular in plan, 0.5m in diameter and 0.25m deep (Fig 9). It was cut to the east by the demolition of the 19th-century terrace of houses on the Crowder Terrace frontage. The base of the pit was filled with light grey-brown clay loam 136. The upper fill (135) was a dark orange-brown

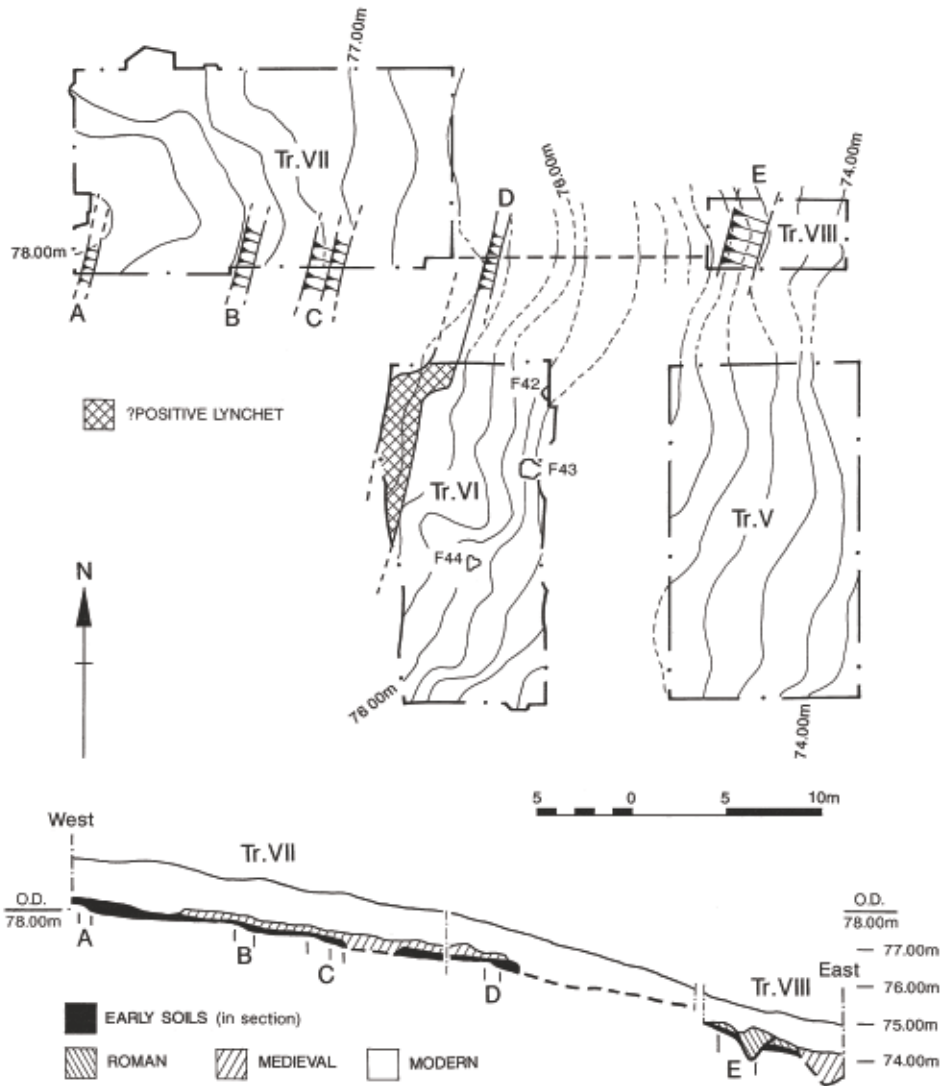


Figure 9 Crowder Terrace: plan and section of all pre-Roman features

clay characteristic of the soils of this period. Ten sherds of Beaker pottery (see Fig 29, 2) were recorded from 135. Both fills contained charcoal.

F43 was roughly circular in plan, 1m in diameter and 0.25m deep (Fig 9) and filled with a dark orange-brown clay with charcoal (137) and large flints, very similar to 135 in F42. Eight sherds of Beaker or Beaker-related pottery were recovered (see Fig 29, 3). A sample from 135 (S20) produced both floral and faunal remains.

A number of shallow scoops and features and a few general layers have been grouped together on the basis of their distinctive orange-brown clay content (Phase 3). Where relationships existed, this group always postdated the periglacial features on the site and was overlain by the grey-brown soils of Phase 4.

Some of the features in Phase 3 may in fact be purely natural pockets of clay with flints. At least one (F41) was certainly man-made, though its date cannot be proven. The phase has been subdivided (A-C) in descending order of certainty with which features can be ascribed a human origin.

Phase 3A

Hearth F44, located 5.9m south-west of F43 in Trench VI, was an irregular burnt patch measuring about 0.4m by 0.65m by 0.02-0.03m deep and filled with 138, an orange clay very similar to 135 (F42) and 137 (F43), but reddened by burning. A sample (S23) produced no material for analysis.

Phase 3B

Those features and general layers that are somewhat redder in colour than those of Phase 1 and 2, but often with more loam content, are included here.

F54 was a small, well-defined pit at the west section of Trench VI.

F55 was a shallow feature 1m to the south-east of F54.

A general layer (112) was seen in the west section and a similar deposit was recorded in much of the centre of the trench as 120 (F56) and also along the south section of Trench VII as 302 (F87).

Phase 3C

Those features filled with fairly clean red-brown clays that are possibly man-made are included in this group.

Three were recorded in Trench V: F26, a shallow round patch; F27, oval and deeper than F26; and F49, a larger, more irregular patch.

In Trench VI, the five features identified were all in the northern part of the trench. F100, F101, and F103 were all roughly round, though of differing depths and diameters. F99 and F102 were more irregular in both plan and depth and are unlikely to be man-made. The layers filling these features are all described as clays, with no mention of 'loam' or 'soil'.

Early Iron Age

Phase 4

Evidence of early Iron Age activity recovered from the site (Fig 9) consists mainly of a series of shallow ridges in the natural chalk representing the remains of a field system associated with tilled soils and two postholes (F58 and F98). The deposits included in this period are browner in colour and include better-developed soils than those assigned to Phase 3. Where relationships exist, these always overlie the Phase 3 features and deposits.

The site had a gentle slope of about 1 in 10 on the surface of the chalk down from west to east. Running across the slope were a series of slight ridges in the surface of the natural chalk (Lynchets A–E). These varied between about 0.15–0.25m in height and were more pronounced on their eastern, downhill side.

Only Lynchet D showed any evidence for the composition of the positive lynchet. It had a maximum thickness of about 0.25m, consisting of red-brown clayey loam and flints (111). This was overlain by a browner soil with much flint and chalk (119) capped by an even flintier horizon (324), possibly stones gathered from the adjacent fields (Bowen 1970, 15). The survival of Lynchet D as a positive feature here appears to be due to a slight hollow in the natural slope of the area. Though not seen in plan, the line of this feature can be suggested (Fig 9). It must have run roughly north-south at the north section of Trench VI, returned west just within the trench, and then run south again along the west section. The suggested line of Lynchet D could represent one of Bowen's 'staggered angles' (1970, 24) – the overlap of fields on the downhill side so as to allow ease of access by means of a side ramp from one level to another.

The putative field between Lynchets A and B was 7.6m wide and that between C and D about 7m wide. These are fairly narrow fields, but are just within the lower end of the known range of 'Celtic' fields.

The space between Lynchets B and C was under 4m, probably too narrow for a field, and, therefore, may represent a trackway, perhaps inserted into a pre-existing field system. Much of the section between D and E was disturbed by later activity and so it is not certain whether the width of about 12m represents a single field.

Lynchet E showed that the system continued at least to the eastern, downhill limit of the site. It is also worth noting that an early Roman field boundary ditch was cut at the base and probably along the line of Lynchet E, though only after a considerable soil build-up had occurred.

Several soil deposits that perhaps represented the bases of tilled soils associated with the field system were recorded. In Trench V a thin patch of brown soil (0.05m thick) with much chalk (F19, 27) covered an area 5m by at least 1.2m. The western edge of this deposit appeared to reflect the projected line of the base of Lynchet E. To the east of this was an irregularly shaped patch of yellow-brown soil (F50, 37) that extended along the southern edge of the trench for at least 2m. It deepened to about 0.3m at the section and clearly extended further south. In the southern section of Trench VII was a deposit of reddish brown soil (303) that extended between and partly sealed Lynchets A to D. To the east, partly sealing Lynchet E, was a chalky, browner soil (164) about 0.13m thick that extended to the eastern limit of the site.

To the east of Lynchet E were two deposits (328 and 329) that may have been associated with the field system. Layer 328 was a chalky greyish-yellow loam and a similar browner layer (329) was of roughly similar date.

No direct evidence of plough scoring was recognised. The section, however, shows that the surface of the natural chalk was coarser and more broken at the western, uphill part of each field, where the soil cover was probably thinnest.

Despite the fact that all five Lynchets were sealed by soil deposits of pre-Roman date, only Lynchet D survived as a positive feature. Two possible reasons for this can be suggested. Either soil spill has resulted in an almost even spread of soil, in the absence of any substantial barrier on the field edge (Bowen 1970, 17–19), or a subsequent period of pre-Roman arable use has occurred, overrunning previous field boundaries and presumably establishing new field limits which cannot now be identified. This latter interpretation is supported by the apparent continuation of the line of Lynchet E by an early Roman boundary ditch (F45, Phase 6) after a considerable soil build-up had occurred.

Also included in this phase are two possible postholes recorded in Trench VIII: F58 was square in plan (0.24m on each side) and in the middle of the trench; F98 was about 0.25m in diameter and was seen in the south section. Both survived to a depth of 0.1m or slightly less. The alignment of these two features roughly parallels that of the later ditch about 2m to the west.

Middle and late Iron Age

Phase 5

No deposits can be definitely assigned to the middle or later Iron Age. A series of general, undated soil deposits that sealed the Phase 4 soils and were cut by a field boundary by the end of the 1st century AD (Phases 6 and 7) can be tentatively ascribed to Phase 5.



Plate 4 22–34 Romsey Road: south-facing section across the enclosure ditch

The boundary ditch appears to represent a redefinition of the Phase 4 Lynchet E and it is, therefore, suggested that the fields identified here are likely to have remained in use, albeit in an altered form, throughout the middle and late Iron Age periods.

Phase 5 consists of a series of general soil layers that had a characteristic brown colour with a slight reddish tinge and could have begun to accumulate in the middle to late Iron Age. In Trench VI was a general layer of clean reddish-brown loam (110) that sealed the Phase 4 lynchets. In Trench VIII was a similar soil (162) that sealed a chalkier soil (163). These formed a build-up to a maximum of 0.45m to the south. In Trench VII two layers (185 and 301) survived in the southern part of the trench.

22–34 Romsey Road (22–34RR77)

This site lies at the south-west corner of the Oram's Arbour enclosure, about 280m west of the Roman and medieval Westgate (Fig 8). The natural deposits consisted of truncated bedrock chalk at about 79m OD that dropped sharply to the south into the hollow way of Romsey Road.

This report describes the character of the deposits in the Oram's Arbour ditch that predate its use as a late Roman cemetery. During the course of mechanical clearance, standing sections TS1, TS2, and TS3 were recorded.

Middle Iron Age

The Oram's Arbour ditch

It was possible to record the line of the ditch (F13) across most of the area of Trench I. At the northern limit of the site, the ditch appeared to run north-west to south-east, almost at right-angles to the present-day Romsey Road. It curved through 115° as it crossed the trench and intersected the southern limit of observation TS 3 on an east-west alignment. Modern terracing and the foundations of Victorian buildings made it impossible to record the ditch between TS 3 and Romsey Road. The maximum surviving width observed was about 6.3m (Fig 10).

The fullest recorded section through the ditch was at the northern limit of the site, where the ditch showed a regular V-shaped profile. The base of the ditch was recorded at several points and was found to be roughly level along most of its length (75.5m OD). At the eastern limit of the site, however, from a point about 1.5m west of TS 3, the base of the ditch was cut about 2.5m deeper (about 73.1m OD). This slope is much greater than the natural hill slope, here about 1:11, and suggests either that the ditch was deliberately deepened or that it maintained a constant depth as it sloped into a pre-existing feature.

Only limited areas were excavated to the base of the ditch. The deposits described below predate the earliest of a series of burials dated to the late Roman period



Figure 10 22-34 Romsey Road: plan showing the line of the enclosure ditch

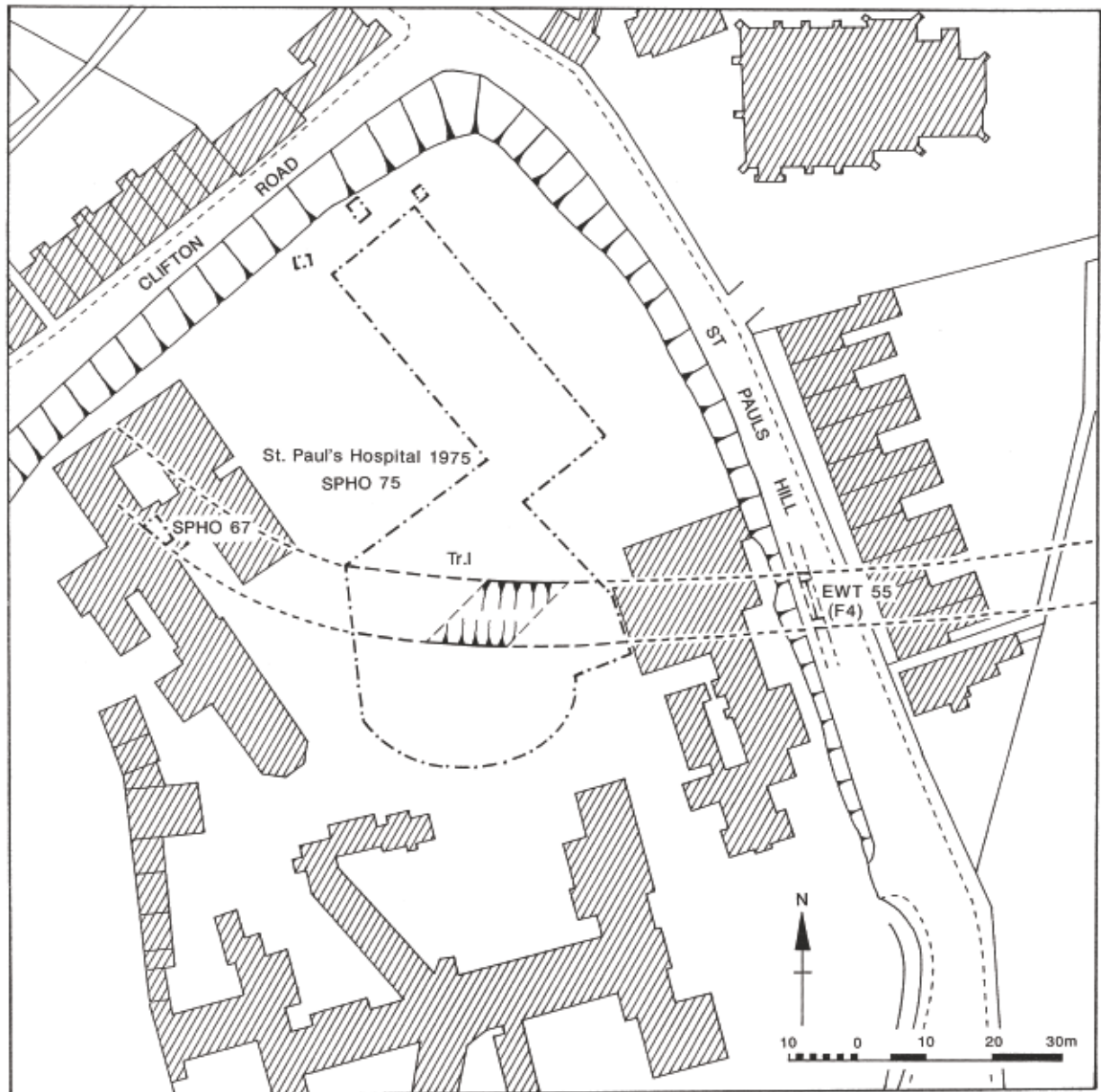


Figure 11 Plan of St Paul's Hospital area showing the line of the enclosure ditch

(Qualmann forthcoming). None of the pre-cemetery deposits produced artefactual material and they can, therefore, only be broadly dated as ranging from middle Iron Age to early Roman (Plate 4).

In the northern section the earliest deposit filling the ditch was a layer of frost-shattered chalk and flints 1.3m deep (29) that probably represents the erosion products from the weathering of the exposed ditch sides. This was overlain by a deposit of light brown clay 0.7m deep, with decayed chalk and chalk fragments (28), that in turn was cut by the earliest of the Roman graves (F14 and F15) found in this part of the site.

The earliest deposit in TS 3 was a thin layer of light brown clay (49) overlain by frost-shattered chalk (48 and 49) that was sealed by medium to light brown clay deposits with chalk (47 and 46). These latter had been

truncated by mechanical excavation, but survived to a maximum depth of 0.65m.

St Paul's Hospital (SPHO75)

In December 1975 observations were undertaken during the construction of a new car park in the grounds of St Paul's Hospital (Figs 2 and 11). An irregularly shaped area about 40m by 40m (Trench I) west of York Ward was stripped to an average depth of 0.7m (about 71m OD). Natural chalk was observed only in a small patch near the centre of the excavation

The line of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch, apparently surviving to a width of about 9m, was revealed by piecemeal deeper excavation and by observations in the sides of service trenches.

Middle Iron Age

The Oram's Arbour Ditch

The line of the ditch F1 was found to run east-west. Elsewhere in Trench I its extent could only be roughly recorded, although enough was seen to indicate that the ditch was consistently about 9m wide. The maximum depth of fill layers observed was 0.5m, but nowhere on the site was a complete section cut through the ditch.

The alignment of the ditch recorded here continues that observed about 20m to the east in a service trench excavated outside 8 St Paul's Hill (Biddle 1965, 231-3) and again about 35m to the east in the side of the railway cutting (Biddle 1966, 310-11).

Approximately 40m to the north-east of the site, a feature interpreted at the time as the southern edge of the ditch was observed during the construction of the well for a lift shaft in 'B Block' of St Paul's Hospital sometime prior to 1967 (see Chapter 4, site 34). At the time this suggested that the ditch angled northwards to form a slight salient before turning southwards along the line of the present Clifton Road.

More recently extensive watching briefs and limited excavations in the St Paul's Hospital area have identified the enclosure ditch with more certainty than was possible in 1975 (see Chapter 4, sites 70 and 71). The current line of the enclosure ditch is shown on Figure 35 below.

New Road area (NR74, NR Trench IV, and NS71)

This report describes the prehistoric archaeology of the site in detail and summarises the Roman deposits in the ditch. Features observed in NR Trench IV and at NS71 that represented occupation within the enclosure in this area are also discussed. The natural deposits were decayed chalk with closely spaced striations filled with clay with flints, presumably periglacial features, at a height of 62m OD to the south to 61m OD to the north.

New Road (NR74)

The site lay some 160m west of the north-west corner of the Roman and medieval town defences (Figs 2 and 12), on a gentle slope down to the Fulflood valley to the north. At the southern limit of the site, a length of the Oram's Arbour ditch 16m in extent, part of the northern side of the enclosure, was planned and a fragment 9m long was fully excavated under controlled conditions. The site had been truncated by post-medieval cultivation and it was only in a limited area to the south of the ditch (Trench III) that a pre-Roman layer had survived. To the north of the ditch (Trench II) the truncation had removed all deposits to the level of the natural so that only negatively cut features survived.

Middle Bronze Age

Phase 1

Middle Bronze Age activity on the site consisted of a group of three inter-cutting postholes (F60, F61, and F54; Fig 13). F60 and F61 were of similar character and fill, whereas F54 contained a fill with more soil content, but was otherwise similar.

F60 was stratigraphically the earliest. It was roughly circular in plan, about 0.7m in diameter by 0.35m deep and filled with a very chalky light brown soil (90 and 91).

F61 cut the western edge of F60 and was circular in plan, about 0.35m in diameter by 0.3m deep and filled with a chalky light brown soil (92).

F54 cut the eastern edge of F60. It was oval in plan, about 0.5m by 0.6m by 0.3m deep and filled with a brown soil with some chalk flecking (84).

During excavation F61 was initially thought to be part of F60. Layer 92 thus includes only those finds recovered from the northern half of F61; any from the southern half have been recorded as deriving from F60, 90/91. The latter two layers result from recording duplication; no distinction was noticed on site to warrant two context numbers.

Early Iron Age

Phase 2

In Trench III (Fig 14) the early Iron Age deposits consisted of an undated pit (F416) sealed by a general layer (609 = 432) that probably represented the base of a developed soil. This layer was absent in the area north of the ditch and its survival here was probably due to the protection offered by the later Oram's Arbour defensive bank.

F416 was oval in plan, about 1m by 0.8m by 0.1m deep, and filled with light grey soil with chalk and decayed chalk (610). No finds were recovered, but this was certainly a man-made feature and is tentatively placed in this phase. Layer 609 was a loose reddish silty soil with chalk and decayed chalk about 0.1-0.12m deep. A similar deposit (432) was recorded in the western section of the trench through the Iron Age ditch but could not be dated.

Though numbered separately, 609 and the general layer over it (608) were subsequently considered 'virtually the same layer' in site records. Reassessment shows, however, that 609 was a chalkier, coarser, less well-developed soil than 608. This distinction is also borne out by the pottery: 609 contained only Iron Age material, while 608 included mostly medieval sherds.

Middle Iron Age

Phase 3

Phase 3 represents the construction of the Oram's Arbour ditch (F371) and the earliest deposits filling it

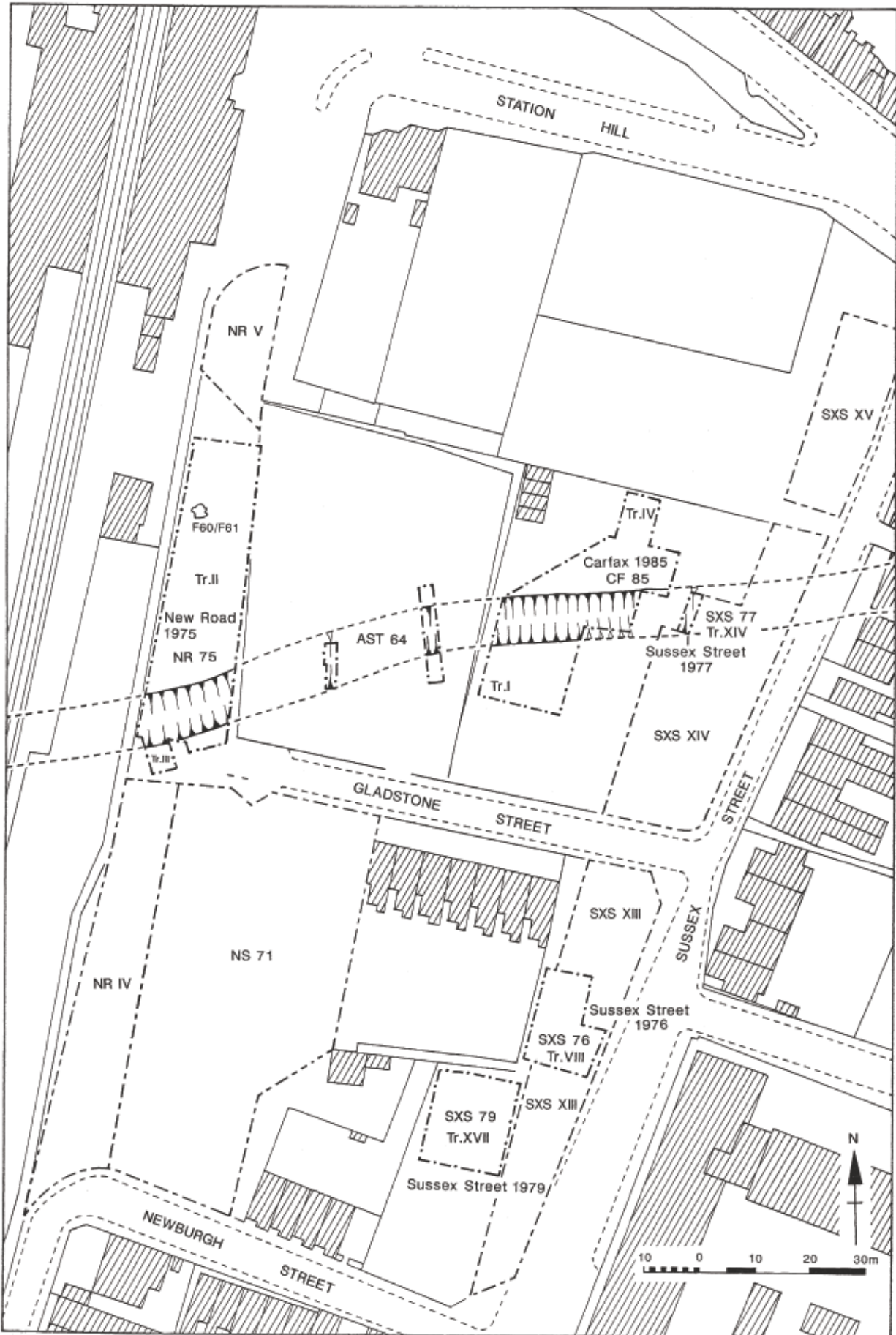


Figure 12 Plan of New Road, Carfax, and Sussex Street area showing the line of the enclosure ditch

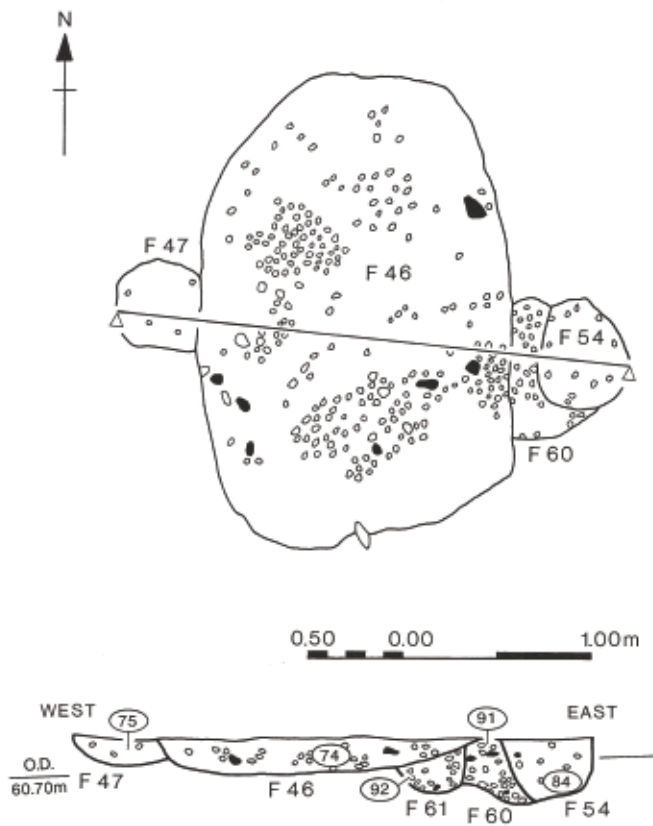


Figure 13 New Road: plan and section of middle Bronze Age features

(Figs 14 and 15). The ditch, part of the northern section of the defences, ran slightly north of east and south of west. It had a V-shaped profile with a maximum width of 9m. At least two phases of recutting or cleansing have been identified and the excavated profile was almost certainly the result of heavy weathering (Plate 5). The ditch profile was further altered by the cutting of a medieval ditch along its southern edge and Roman quarrying on the northern edge.

At the base of the ditch was a small, flat-bottomed slot, 0.2–0.5m wide. About mid-way along the excavated section the base of the ditch showed a significant change of alignment. There was also an increase in depth to the east, so that the depth of the ditch varied between 3.5m to the west and 3.8m to the east. These discrepancies may mark the junction of two construction segments, but it should also be noted that the deeper eastern portion had already been partly filled with a chalk and flint rubble deposit (570) before the western segment was cut.

The earliest deposits filled the ditch to a depth of between 0.6m to the west and about 1m to the east. The difference is largely accounted for by the deeper eastern slot described above.

The primary ditch fills, generally composed of chalk and flint rubble with some brown soil (576 and 579), were probably derived from the erosion of the chalk-cut ditch sides. Within these fills were two deposits of reddish-brown soil (568 and 580) that lay on the base and partly up the southern side of the ditch. These may represent material from construction of the



Plate 5 New Road: east-facing section across the enclosure ditch

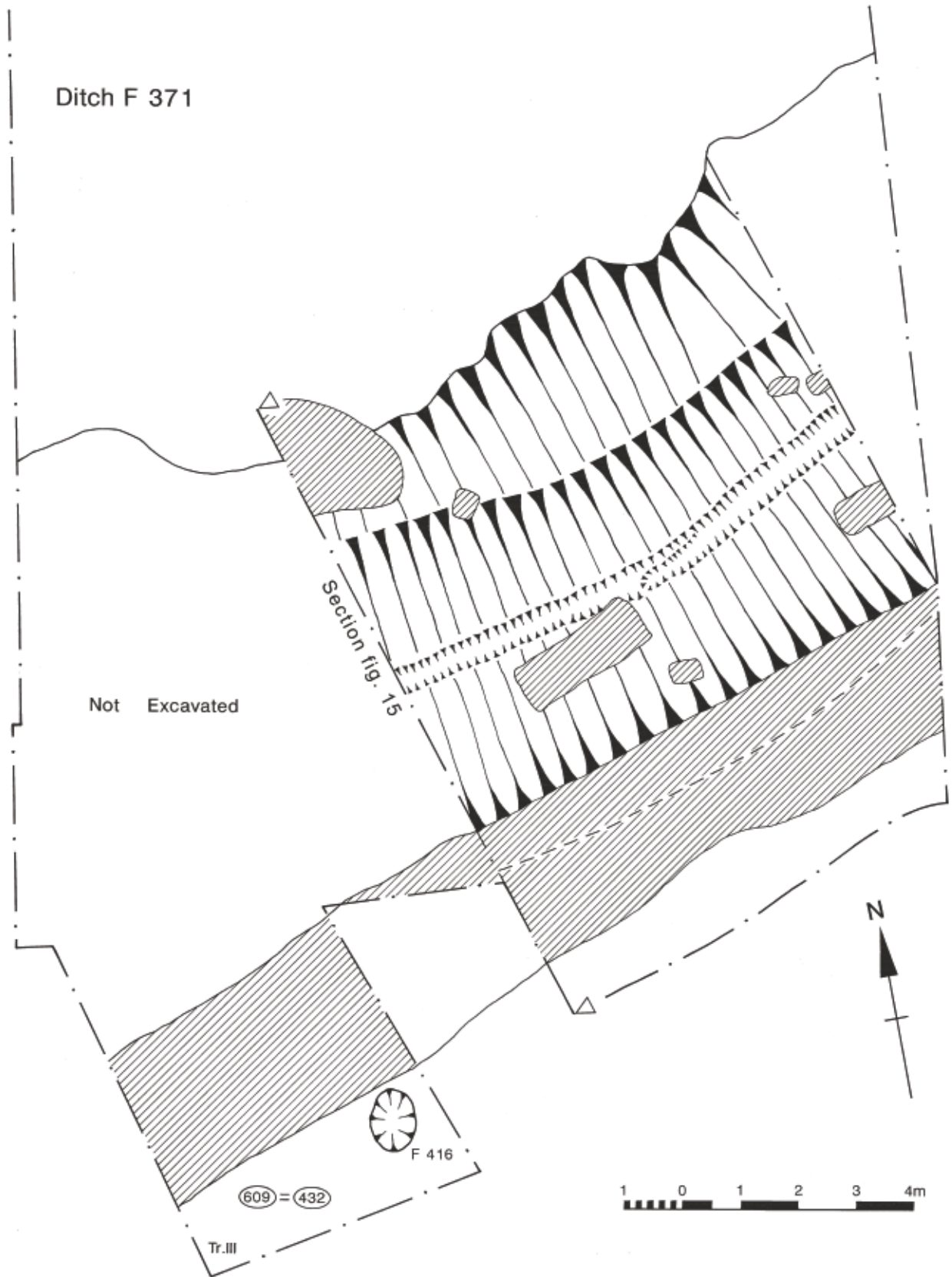


Figure 14 New Road: plan of the excavated enclosure ditch

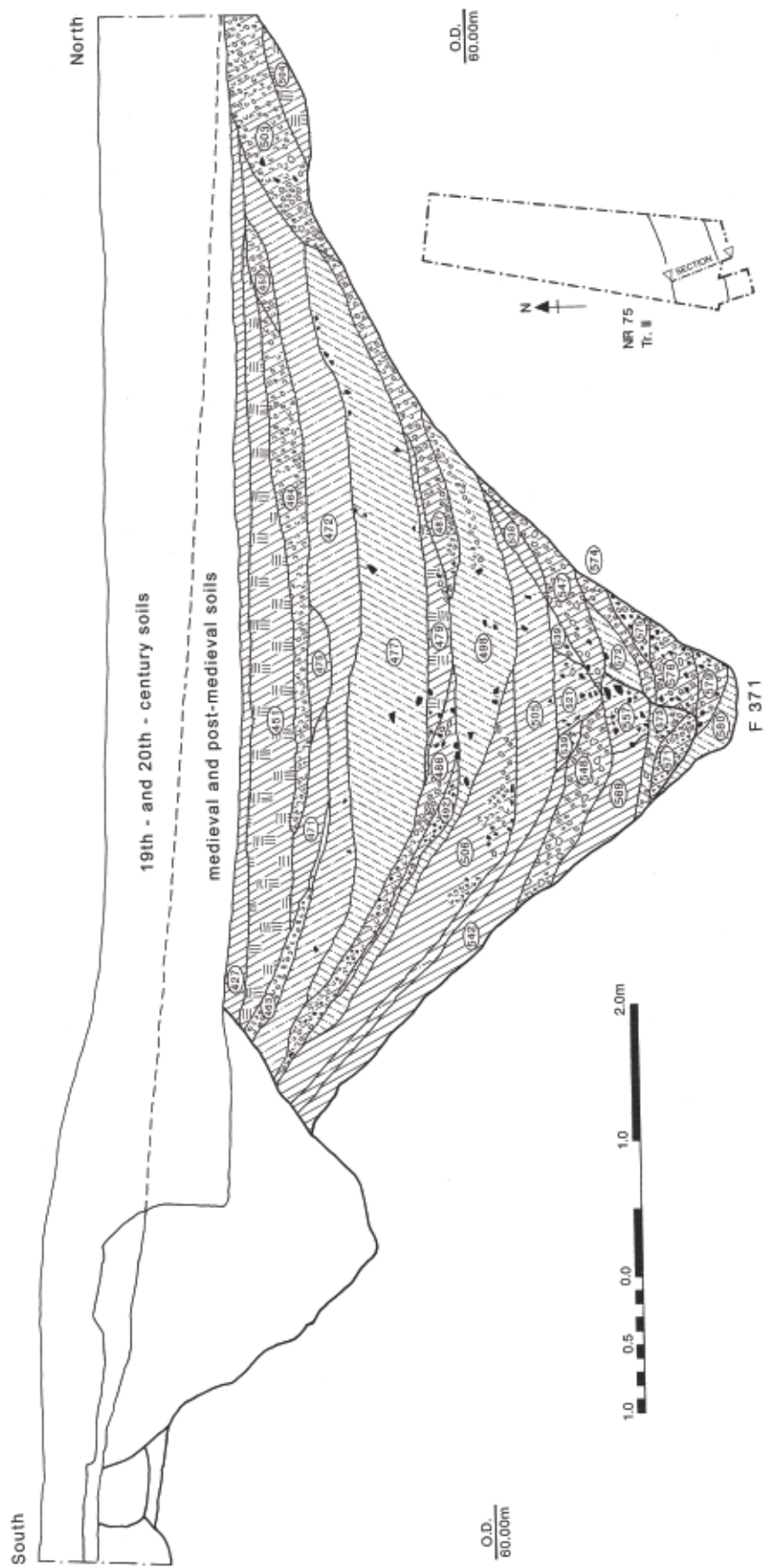


Figure 15 New Road: section across the enclosure ditch

defensive bank that had slipped into the ditch or turf that had collapsed from its eroded sides.

Phase 4

The ditch fills assigned to this Phase (574, 572, and 575) contained more fragmented, frost-shattered chalk than those of Phase 3. They appear to represent a continuation of the Phase 3 silting, but may reflect erosion at a slower rate. Most of these soils were removed by a later recut (Phase 5) that appears to have been cut at an oblique angle across the ditch. Phase 4 deposits, therefore, only survived on the northern side of the ditch towards the west and on the south side to the east. They probably formed a build-up in excess of 0.45m, but were truncated by a recutting of the ditch in the early Roman period (Phase 11).

Phase 5

Phase 5 represents a partial recut or cleansing of the ditch. The line of this new cut appears to have ignored the change in angle seen in the original (Phase 3) ditch cut, although by this time it had probably been masked by the Phases 3 and 4 ditch silts. Due to the later truncation, the recut had a maximum surviving width of 1.2m and a depth of 0.7m.

Phase 6

Phase 6 represents the silting of the Phase 5 recut or ditch cleaning. The deposits at the base contained a high concentration of chalk rubble and flints, but in general these had a greater silt content than those of Phases 3 and 4.

At the base of the recut was a fill of loose grey silt with many flints (571). This was sealed by light grey to light grey-brown silts (556 and 573). The highest surviving deposit consisted of a light grey to grey-brown silt with chalk flecking (569). Fill 569 produced a near-complete Iron Age saucepan pot (see Fig 29, 31).

Phase 7 Activity outside the Oram's Arbour enclosure

Two postholes (F117 and F122) were excavated near the middle Bronze Age features (Phase 1) about 32m to the north of the Oram's Arbour ditch and, therefore, outside the enclosure. They are dated to the Iron Age on the basis of a few small sherds of pottery.

F117 measured 0.36m by 0.14m in plan and was 0.36m deep. It was filled with reddish-brown chalky soil (160). F122 measured about 0.53m by 0.34m in plan and 0.5m deep. It was filled with a similar soil to F117, but with more decayed chalk and some lighter-coloured soil (165).

Phase 8 Activity inside the Oram's Arbour enclosure

Two pits and a gully of Iron Age date were recorded during construction work to the south of the main New Road excavation and, therefore, inside the Oram's Arbour enclosure. At NS71 these included a pit (F5) and a gully (F8) of Iron Age date. A single feature of Iron Age date (F419) was identified in the area recorded as NR Trench IV (Fig 12). This pit was notable for the number of quernstone fragments it contained (see Figs 32–4).

NS71 F5 was probably rectangular in plan, but only one corner extended into the observed area. It was 0.6m deep, filled with a mixture of chalk and loam and was located about 25m south of the Oram's Arbour ditch.

NS71 F8 was a V-shaped gully, 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. It apparently ran north-west to south-east and was filled with loam and chalk. F8 was located about 48m south of the Oram's Arbour ditch.

Trench IV F419, a roughly circular pit about 2m in diameter, was located about 35m south of the Oram's Arbour ditch. Though fully excavated, its depth was not recorded. It was filled with 613, brown soil with many flints, animal bones, and quernstone fragments.

Early Roman

By the early Roman period the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch had filled to a level of about 1m at the west and to about 1.3m to the east. There was little evidence of late Iron Age occupation in the area, but the upper fills of the Phase 5 recut may have been deposited during this period. The subsequent deposits are briefly described below.

Phase 9

Phase 9 consists of light grey chalky silt (552) and a gully-like feature, possibly representing a partial recut, that ran along the centre of the partly filled ditch. This was filled with a grey soil with large flints and chalk lumps (551 = 557).

Phase 10

A further recutting of the ditch has been tentatively identified and can be seen in section to truncate Phase 4, 5, and 6 deposits 572, 569, and 557 respectively. A slight bulging of the northern side of the ditch at a corresponding level may be associated. There is an absence of ceramic material from the ditch from the 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD and it is probable that this or the Phase 6 recutting occurred during the later part of that period.

Late Roman

The earliest phase of burials to occur in the ditch cut the deposits truncated by this recut and were sealed by soil

deposits 547 and 548. The subsequent fills of the ditch were generally dark grey to brown soils with relatively little chalk and were best preserved in the western area of the ditch. Such a silting pattern might result if the cleansing of the ditch was incomplete and had left a skin of earlier ditch fills adhering to the sides that had subsequently eroded to the base of the recut.

Carfax 1985 (CF85)

The site bounded by Sussex Street to the east and Gladstone Street to the south was approximately 80m west of the north-west corner of the Roman and medieval town defences (Figs 2 and 12). It provided an opportunity to examine part of the defensive circuit of the Oram's Arbour enclosure and the adjacent areas. This report describes the pre-Roman features and deposits uncovered during the excavations. It also includes the early Roman deposits in the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch prior to its use as a cemetery in the later part of the third century.

The natural deposits to the south of the ditch at a height of 57.5m OD were a degraded chalk bedrock with closely spaced periglacial striations filled with orange-brown silty clay and large flints. Along the eastern side of the trench, the chalk was overlain by a natural orange-brown silty clay with few inclusions, similar to the natural deposits often found on the lower slopes of St Paul's Hill. To the north of the ditch at 55m OD the periglacial features were absent – they had either been removed by the Phase 5 ploughing or earlier erosion on the upper slopes of the Fulflood valley.

For recording purposes, the site was divided into three trenches: Trench I to the south of the ditch in the area of the presumed rampart; Trench II – the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch itself; and Trench III outside the enclosure to the north of the ditch. Due to the differential survival of deposits, the three trenches were phased separately using a provisional phase structure (PPH). Following post-excavation analysis, the provisional phases were grouped into the final phases shown below.

Due to the lack of a good stratigraphic sequence to the south of the ditch, undated features have been assigned to Phase 0. Some of these have been grouped with dated features on structural grounds primarily in relation to the extent of the presumed earthen defensive bank of the enclosure (below, Phase 3 The area of the rampart).

Phase 0 – undated features

Phase 0 consists of 22 undated features located south of the ditch in Trench I (Fig 16). All cut either the natural deposits or the Phase 1 developed soils. Nine of these were postholes filled with mid- to dark orange-brown silty loam characteristic of the prehistoric and early Roman features found on the site.

A possible key to the phasing of these features is their

relationships to the area occupied by the rampart associated with the Oram's Arbour enclosure. Although little of the rampart has survived, its character and extent can be suggested. It can be argued that the rampart survived as a significant feature until the 13th to 14th century and, therefore, many of the features of Phase 0 must either predate the rampart or postdate its levelling.

Postholes F119, F160, and F163 were located in the area of the presumed middle Iron Age defensive bank and probably should be assigned to a pre-enclosure phase.

Postholes F130, F131, F133, F134, and F137 probably formed part of a rectangular timber structure about 3m by 2.2m also located in the area of the presumed rampart. The postholes were similar in plan, their fills ranging between grey-brown and dark-brown in colour. Posthole F137 was positioned off-centre on the northern side of the structure and appears to have been an integral part of the structure and not a later repair. It is possible that it formed part of a doorway, but the absence of a corresponding posthole may argue against this.

The dating of this structure is difficult. F130 produced sixteen sherds of early Iron Age pottery that appeared to come from the same vessel. F131 produced a single sherd dated to the middle Iron Age, suggesting that the structure was of this period or later. If the structure was of the middle Iron Age period, it presumably preceded the enclosure defences. Some or all of the pottery may, however, be residual and the structure may possibly even postdate the 13th/14th centuries. In the absence of firm stratigraphic or dating evidence, its date must remain uncertain.

F119 was a posthole 0.54m in diameter by 0.27m deep filled with chalk rubble in pale orange-brown silty loam (759).

F160 was a posthole 0.33m in diameter by 0.44m deep filled with dark orange-brown silty clay (979).

F119 and F160 were cut by a pit dated to the late Saxon period.

F163 was a posthole 0.35m in diameter by 0.15m deep cut by the wall foundations of a 13th- to 14th- century building. It was filled with dark orange-brown loam (934).

F130 was a posthole about 0.3m in diameter by 0.12m deep, with a flat base. It was filled with mid- to grey-brown loam (612).

F131 was a posthole 0.25m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with a mid-brown loam (614).

F133 was a posthole 0.3m in diameter by 0.25m deep filled with dark brown loam (714).

F134 was a posthole 0.28m in diameter by about 0.2m deep filled with mid-grey-brown silty loam (621).

F137 was a posthole 0.25m in diameter by 0.15m deep filled with mid-brown silty loam (1179).

Early Iron Age

The earliest activity on the site has been dated to the early Iron Age. This consisted of a general layer (Phase 1), the remains of a ditched enclosure to the south of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch, and a group of fenced enclosures (Phase 2) to the north. Further evidence for occupation is also provided by the amount of residual pottery of this period from the site.



Figure 16 Carfax: plan of all pre-Roman features

Phase 1

Sealing the natural deposits was a layer of dark orange-brown silty clay (758 = 983), about 0.07m in

depth. This survived in two areas (Fig 16) but elsewhere had been removed by late medieval or post-medieval gardening activity. Where relationships survived, all features cut this deposit. The upper portion of the layer contained small angular flints, charcoal flecking, and a small amount of highly

abraded pottery of early Iron Age date. No true interface between this and the silty clay natural below could, however, be recognised.

Phase 2

Cutting the Phase 1 soils (983) in Trench I were two shallow gullies F153 and F161 that had similar profiles and basal fills (Fig 16). They probably formed part of the same feature, although the relationship between them had been destroyed by a modern service trench. The area to the east was about 0.06m below the general level of the natural and, although no plough scoring was observed, it is possible that the gullies represent a field boundary.

At the projected junction of gullies F153 and F161 was an oval feature (F162) that may represent a tree-root disturbance. The fills (981 and 984) merged with the natural periglacial deposits and no true cut could be distinguished.

Cutting the natural chalk in Trench III were four lines of postholes and stakeholes that formed part of four fenced enclosures (Enclosures 1–4). All the features were filled with chalk rubble in light grey silt. None of the postholes produced datable material but elements of the fence lines were sealed by soils dated to the middle Iron Age period (Phase 5). The alignment of these fence lines broadly reflected those of the Phase 2 gullies to the south, but ran contrary to those established by the Phase 3 middle Iron Age Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch and later activities on the site.

Enclosure 1

The postholes that defined Enclosure 1 were well preserved and many contained remains of flat-bottomed postpipes. No evidence was found to suggest that the northern fence line continued to the west. Within Enclosure 1 were two postholes (F583 and F584) about 0.5m apart; these contained circular postpipes that tapered to a point at the base. Adjacent were two stakeholes (F595 and F587). To the west of Enclosure 1 was a dense scatter of fourteen stakeholes that were planned, but no context or feature numbers were issued.

Enclosure 1 was defined by a north-north-east-south-south-west line of postholes consisting of F506, F512, F503, and F506 and a north-north-west-south-south-east return formed by postholes F585, F586, F587, F588, F582, and F596. Postholes F506, F512, F586A, and F582 contained circular flat-based postpipes but no post packing was used. F585 was a double posthole that preserved two circular postpipes. All were sealed below the Phase 5 ploughsoils.

Enclosure 2

This enclosure was 7.5m wide and had been heavily truncated by a late Roman hollow way, but the position

of posthole F594 suggested that the western fence line of Enclosure 1 continued to the north. Within this area was a posthole (F589) and five stakeholes – F571, F575, F576, F581, and F581.

Enclosures 3 and 4

Enclosures 3 and 4 were defined by two lines of stakeholes sealed by early Roman ploughsoils. The area was less severely truncated than Enclosure 2 and so the stakeholes suggest a less substantial construction for these fences. Within Enclosure 4 were a group of stake holes – F574, F578, and F580.

F153 was a gully aligned north-east to south-west. It was greater than 1.2m in length, 0.38m wide, and 0.26m deep, with steeply sloping sides to a flat base. The base of the gully was filled with a mid-orange-brown silty loam with few inclusions (839). The upper fill was a chalk rubble within an orange-brown silty loam matrix (835).

F161 was a gully aligned south-east to north-west to form an angle of about 110° with F153. The gully was traced over a distance of 2m and had a similar profile to F153, but was shallower (about 0.16m). It contained a single fill (1138) similar to the basal fill of gully F153.

F162 was recorded as sealed by the Phase 1 layer 983 but the position of this feature in relation to the Phase 2 gullies may be significant.

Enclosures 3 and 4 were 7.5m to the north of Enclosure 1. They were defined by a north-north-west-south-south-east line of five stakeholes – F566, F567, F568, F569, and F570. Extending north-north-east from F569 was a line of stakeholes – F572, F579, and F577, broadly reflecting the alignment established by the western fence line of Enclosure 1.

Middle Iron Age

During the middle Iron Age, the construction of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch and the associated earthen rampart to the south took place (Trench II, Phase 3). To the south, inside the enclosure, occupation deposits were found (Phase 4). To the north of the enclosure ditch (Trench III) evidence of agricultural activity was recorded (Phase 5).

Phase 3 The ditch

The Oram's Arbour defensive ditch (F317) crossed the site from east to west (Figs 16 and 17). A total length of about 29m was observed and a section 7m long at the western end of the site was fully excavated under controlled conditions. The ditch was V-shaped in profile and 3.6m to 3.8m in depth. It had a flat-bottomed slot at the base that varied in width between 0.3m and 0.7m. Later quarrying on the north side of the ditch had altered the profile, but the projected angles of the sides indicate an original width of between about 7.2m and 7.8m (Plate 6).

The earliest fills in the ditch produced material dated

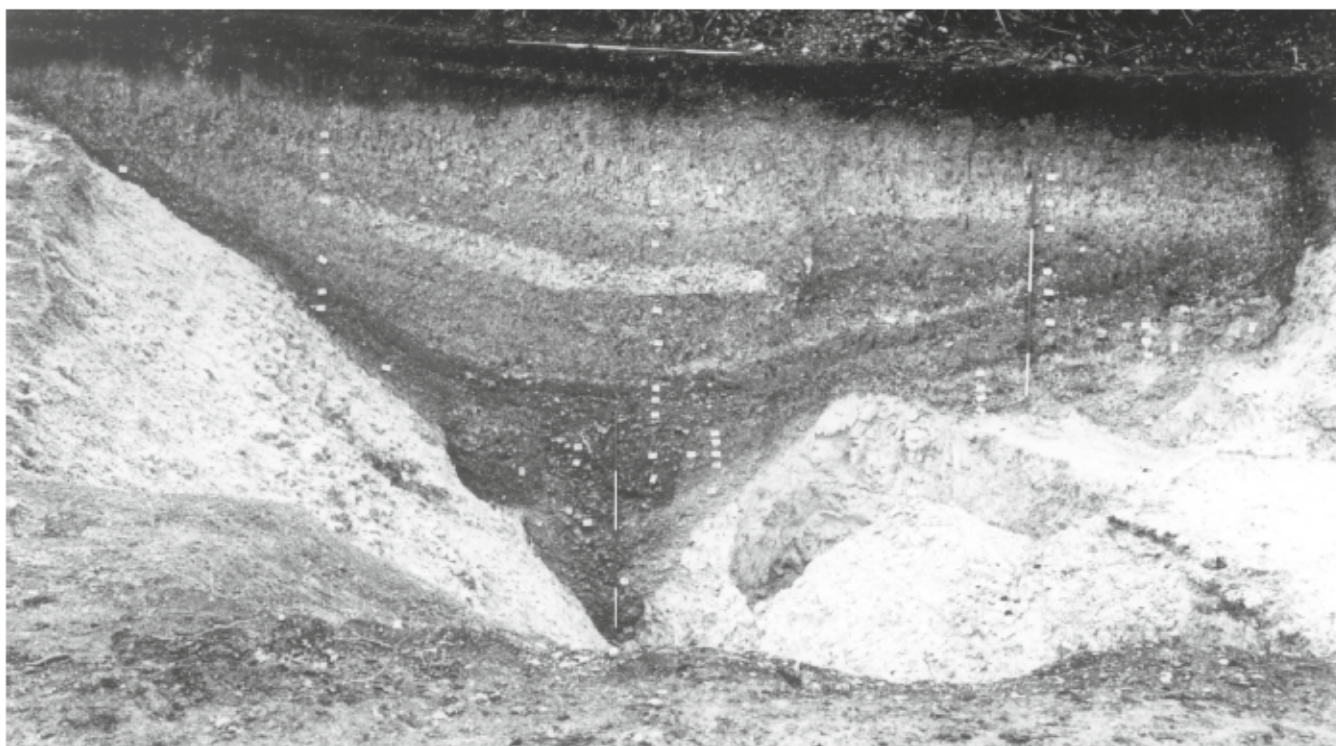


Plate 6 Carfax: east-facing section across the enclosure ditch

to the Roman period (Phases 9 and 10) suggesting that the ditch had been thoroughly cleaned or recut: the precise date of this activity is unknown. At New Road, about 50m to the west, at least two episodes of cleansing were identified – the earliest was undated but probably pre-Roman and the latest was late 2nd or early 3rd century (above).

The upcast from these cleaning episodes formed a bank of frost-shattered chalk and silts along the north side of the ditch (see Fig 20). The make-up of the bank suggests at least four episodes of cleansing separated by turf lines (see Phase 8 below).

The excavated profile, therefore, probably represents the ditch in a heavily weathered state. The section through the ditch (Fig 17) shows several distinct changes of angle in the ditch sides, each becoming less steep towards the top. Less weathering would presumably have occurred at the base of the ditch. Above the cleaning slot the exterior face had an angle of slope about 50° from vertical; the interior face showed an angle of about 53°. If this represents the approximate angle of the original profile, it would suggest a very steep-sided ditch about 3.6m deep with a minimum width of about 5.4m.

Phase 3 The area of the rampart

Only one deposit, of compacted chalk with flints (625), can be tentatively identified as part of the enclosure rampart or its subsequent erosion (Fig 16). This was about 0.1m in depth and partly sealed the Phase 1 soil 983; it was truncated by late medieval or post-medieval gardening activity.

There are some indications as to the character and extent of the rampart. The Phase 1–2 deposit probably owed its survival to the protection offered by the rampart. The absence of structural features related to the rampart would indicate a dump or glacial style of construction, presumably built with the material derived from the digging of the ditch. The extent of a contemporary internal surface (929), south of rampart material 625, implies that the width of the rampart, including the area of a berm, was about 8m.

The influence of the rampart on later activity on the site may be seen by the position of later features. A possible fence line, consisting of a posthole of the late Saxon period or later (F157), and Phase 0 postholes F113, F121, F158, F170, and F165 ran about 9m south of and parallel to the ditch. By the 13th or 14th century, a building that fully occupied the suggested area of the bank was constructed. By this date the enclosure ditch had silted to form a slight hollow infilled with chalk rubble and clay deposits 770, 771, 773, and 774 probably derived from the levelling of the remnants of the rampart (Fig 17).

Phase 4 Activities within the Oram's Arbour enclosure

Phase 4 represents occupation deposits inside the enclosure at the southern end of the site. To the rear of the presumed rampart and sealing the Phase 1 layer 983 was a build-up of an orange-brown silty loam that supported a surface of small angular flints with fragments of burnt clay and fire-cracked flints (929). The northern edge of this deposit was indistinct but appeared to respect the southern limit of the presumed

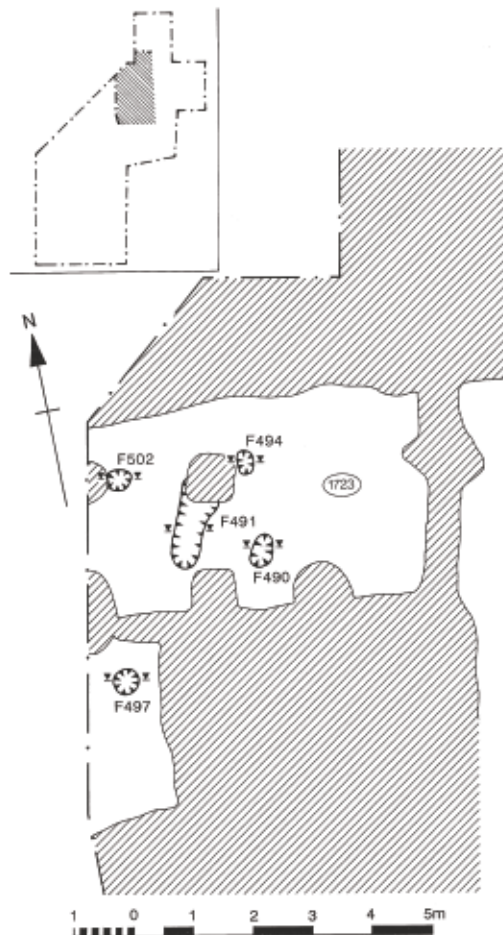


Figure 18 Carfax: plan of phase 6 features

rampart material. The inclusions within the deposit were possibly derived from the hearth pit F108.

F108 was 0.9m east-west, in excess of 1.4m north-south, and 0.36m deep. The base of the pit had been altered by heat. Lining the base was mid-brown clayey loam with patches of burnt clay (678), below a light brown silty loam (677) sealed by dark red-brown, burnt silty loam (676 = 616). All deposits contained charcoal and fire-cracked flints.

Phase 5 Activities outside the Oram's Arbour enclosure

To the north of the enclosure ditch and separated from it by a verge of undisturbed natural clay (F501) was a ploughsoil (1723) that was preserved below the upcast from the cleansing of the ditch (Phase 8) but otherwise removed by later activity. This sealed the Phase 2 postholes and was cut by elements of a possible building (Phase 6).

F501 was about 1.1m wide and stood about 0.25m high. The upper surface had been partly altered by plough scoring (1404 and 1407). The ploughsoil (1723) was a mid- to dark brown silty loam about 0.25m deep, which contained chalk flecking and small angular flints. It was excavated in four spits and was found to be homogeneous in texture and content throughout, the

inclusions often fragmented and at pitched angles. On the surface of the natural chalk at the base of the deposit were plough marks that ran parallel with the ditch.

The dating of this deposit is difficult, as most of the material was fragmentary and highly abraded. Most of the pottery recovered was early Iron Age and probably residual. It is possible that the Oram's Arbour ditch here follows the line of an earlier field boundary, but if so, the ploughing appears to have continued into the middle Iron Age. The paucity of featured sherds of middle Iron Age date may perhaps be explained by the separation of the area from occupation within the enclosure by the defences and also by the distance from any of the known entrances.

Phase 6

Cutting the Phase 5 ploughsoils were postholes F490, F494, F497, and F502 and a shallow north-south slot (F491) with a large rectangular posthole at its northern end (Fig 18). Due to the extent of later disturbances in the area these features are incompletely understood.

F490 was a posthole, 0.5m by 0.3 by 0.1m deep, filled with mid-grey clay loam with charcoal flecking (1335).

F494 was circular in plan, 0.3m in diameter by 0.08m deep, filled with mid-brown silt with chalk (1343).

F497 was a posthole, 0.4m by 0.34m by 0.12m deep, filled with dark grey-brown silt with charcoal flecking (1406).

F502 was 0.4m by 0.32m by 0.8m deep and filled with mid-brown silty clay with chalk (1411).

F491 was an irregularly shaped feature 1.1m by 0.7m by 0.25m deep, with steeply sloping sides to a flat base. The southern terminal was rounded and the northern end was removed by a later feature. It was filled with mid-brown clay loam with flint and chalk (1337).

Phase 7

Sealing the Phase 5 ploughsoils and the Phase 6 features was a thin soil build-up of clean light to mid-brown silt (1586 = 1722) thought to represent a developed turf. This suggests that the ploughing of the earlier phases had ceased, possibly in association with the Phase 6 activity, and that the area was either abandoned or used as pasture. From this deposit came two small sherds of Roman greyware thought to be intrusive.

Phase 8

Sealing the Phase 7 developed soil was a bank of frost-shattered chalk and silts probably derived from the cleansing of the ditch. At the eastern limit of the site, where the bank was best preserved, it was in excess of about 4m in width and over 1.3m in height (Fig 19). It could be traced from the eastern limit of the site over a distance of about 24m to the west beyond which point it had been removed by late medieval or post-medieval gardening activity.

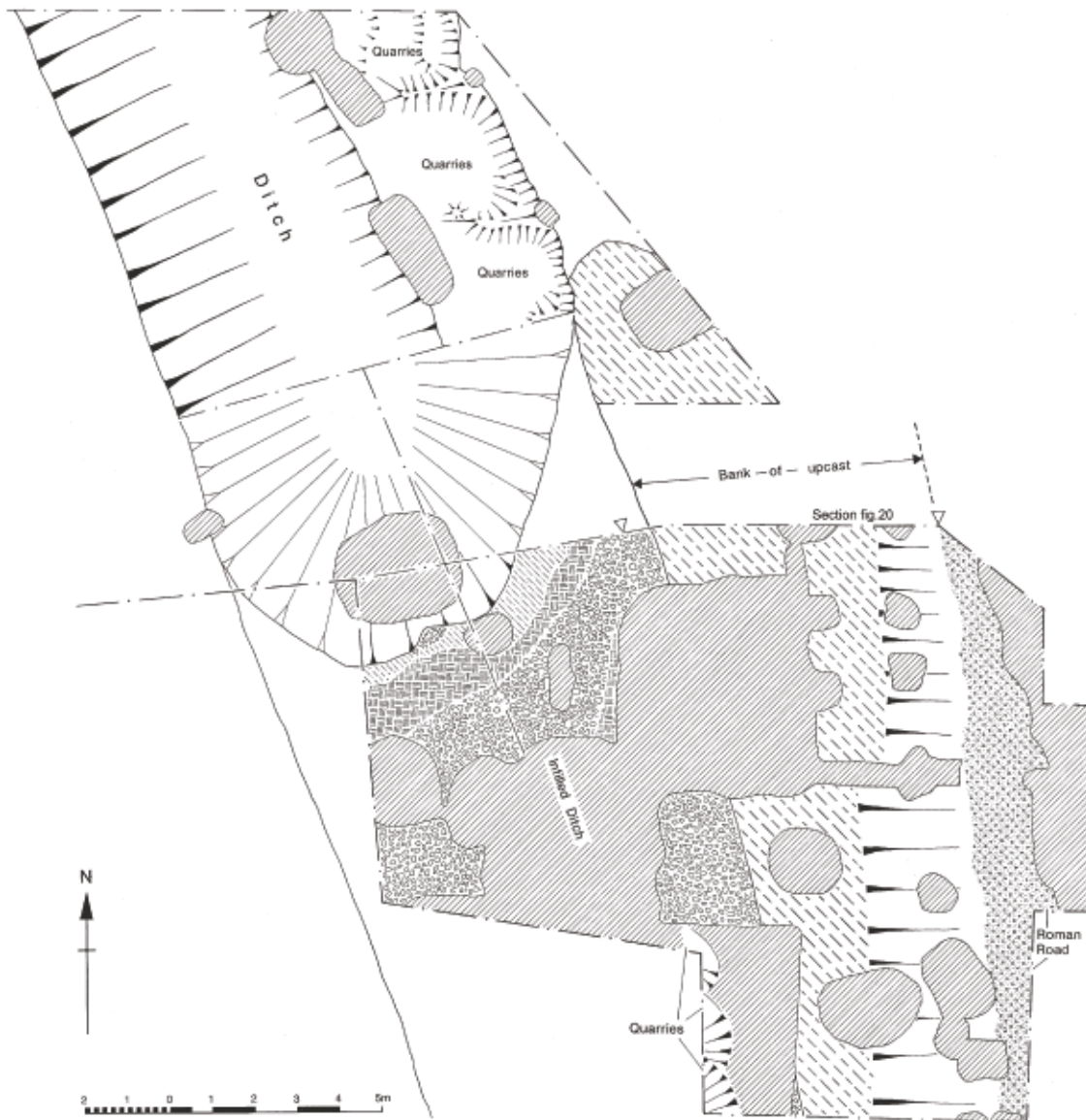


Figure 19 Carfax: plan of the banks and quarries

The section through the bank (Fig 20) shows as many as four episodes of ditch cleansing separated by a thin layers of silt. In general the chalk within the bank was more coarse towards the base with a greater soil content in the upper deposits. The thin layers of clean silt probably represent turf lines, indicating that a period of time had elapsed between episodes of ditch cleansing. The subsequent deposits of chalk, 1667 and above, were of different character and contained orange-brown clays, probably derived from the spillage and erosion deposits from the infilling of the ditch (see Phase 13, below).

As the earliest deposits within the ditch are dated to the Roman period, it is most likely that the bulk of the make-up of the bank represents ditch silts of pre-Roman date. No datable material was recovered from the bank and it is not possible to ascertain when the earliest episode of ditch cleansing occurred.

At New Road (above) a recut of middle Iron Age date was identified. It appears that the ditch was periodically cleaned of its erosion deposits during its defensive use.

The first episode of upcast was represented by chalk

rubble in mid- to dark brown clay loam (1676) below coarse chalk rubble (1675). This was sealed by a thin deposit of silty loam (1674a), through which the chalk of 1675 protruded. Above the silt was a single deposit of mixed coarse and fine chalk rubble in pale brown silt (1674) sealed by a second and more distinct turf line (1673a) about 0.02m in depth. The third episode of ditch cleaning consisted of chalk rubble of medium coarseness (1673) below a fine frost-shattered chalk in mid- to pale brown silt (1672). This was sealed by a third layer of silt (1669a) about 0.04m in depth. The fourth episode of upcast was represented by a mixture of frost-shattered and decayed chalk in mid-brown silt (1669).

Roman

Only the early Roman deposits that accumulated in the ditch until its use as a cemetery in the later 3rd century are described here (Fig 17).

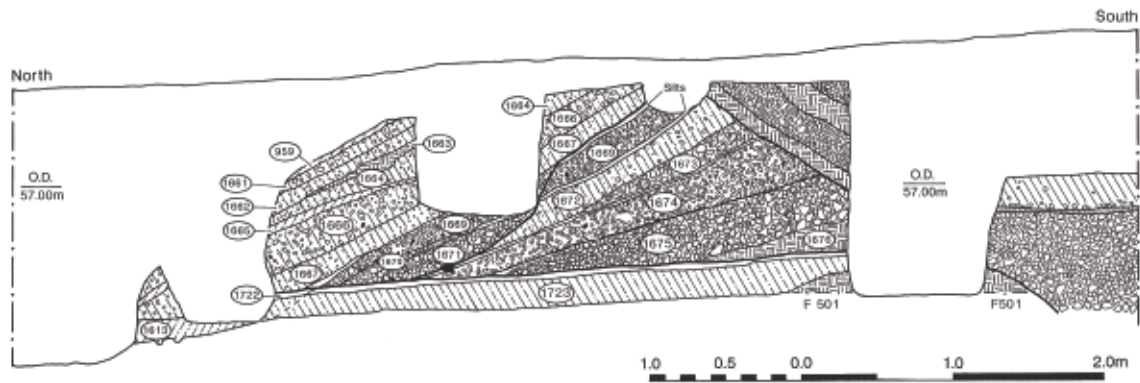


Figure 20 Carfax: section across the ditch upcast

Phase 9

Filling the base of the ditch was a thin deposit of dark brown silt (1489) that possibly represents the wash of topsoils from the disturbed edges of the ditch after cleansing. Sealing this was a clean frost-shattered chalk (1488) that resulted in a build-up of about 0.6m in depth.

Phase 10

Above the primary silts the ditch fills contained a much higher proportion of soils. Sealing 1488 was a frost-shattered chalk deposit in light brown silt (1487). Above this and concentrated at the base of the ditch along its central access was a coarse chalk rubble with flints (1486). This was followed by a build-up of light brown silty loam with a large proportion of frost-shattered chalk that partly sealed the sides of the ditch. By the end of this phase the ditch silts had accumulated to a depth of about 1.2m. The subsequent fills were primarily silty loams.

Phase 11

Cutting the north side of the ditch and the Phase 8 bank of upcast were a large number of intercutting quarries (F356, F365, F366, F367, F369, F400, F498, F499, F500, and F354; Fig 19). These were sealed by the Phase 12 ditch silts to the west and by the Phase 13 deliberate infilling of the ditch and all are considered part of the same phase.

The northern edges of the quarries were nearly vertical down to a common flat base about 1.6m below the surface of the natural chalk. The bases of these features levelled out about 0.2m above a dense bedding of flint nodules, indicating that the recovery of flints was not the primary function of the quarrying. In this area the material being quarried was a highly degraded chalk sealed by about 0.4m of undisturbed orange-brown clay. A possible use for this material could be for marling or the production of cob for construction purposes.

Phase 12

Sealing the Phase 10 ditch silts and Phase 11 quarries was a fill layer of mid- to light brown silty loam (1444; Fig 17). The Phase 10 and 12 ditch silts filled the ditch to a depth of about 1.5m. Sealing this deposit at the eastern end of the ditch was the deliberate infill of Phase 13.

Phase 13

Phase 13 represents the deliberate infilling of the eastern end of the ditch with laminated chinks and clays sealing the Phase 12 deposits. The infilling was truncated to the level of the natural deposits to the south and to the level of the top of the Phase 8 bank of upcast to the south. The surviving deposits suggest that this bank was almost certainly an upstanding feature at this time. The coarse chalky material excavated above the bank of upcast, 1669 and above (Fig 20), may represent erosion deposits from this feature. The infilling can be broadly dated to the late 2nd – to early 3rd century AD. No features were found on the site to indicate the source of the material for the infilling. The close proximity of this area to the town defences might suggest that the material was derived from the renewed defence of the town in the 2nd to 3rd century.

Sussex Street 1976 (SXS76) and Sussex Street Trench XIV (SXS Trench XIV)

The report describes the limited area inside the Oram's Arbour enclosure that was excavated under controlled conditions (Trench VIII) and the section 2m wide excavated through the enclosure ditch to the north (Trench XIV; Plate 7). The results of cleaning and recording the western standing section of Trench XIV (also representing activity within the enclosure) are included. Only the prehistoric deposits are described.

The trenches were located west of and adjacent to the north-west side of the Roman and medieval town defences. Natural deposits were of bedrock chalk at



Plate 7 *Sussex Street: Iron Age features in Trench VIII (looking west)*

61.5m OD to the south in Trench VIII and dropped to 55m OD in Trench XIV to the north.

Phase 1

Phase 1 consists of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch (F106) and the earliest deposits filling it (Fig 21). The ditch showed a weathered V-profile with a flat-bottomed slot 0.3m wide at the base (Plate 8). The surviving width was less than 6m over the planned length of 18m due to the truncation caused by mechanical excavation. In the western section of Trench XIV a maximum width of about 7.3m was recorded where upper levels had survived. The maximum surviving depth was 2.7m.

The earliest deposit within the ditch F106 was red-brown silty soil (516), over which a much chalkier deposit (515) accumulated. This was succeeded by dark red-brown soil (514) on the southern (or inner) face of the ditch. These deposits resulted in the ditch filling to a depth of between 0.45m to the east and as much as 0.6m to the west. The absence of much frost-shattered chalk in the layers makes it difficult to call them primary silts particularly in light of the recutting or cleansing of the ditch identified at the Carfax (Phase 3) and New Road (Phase 4) sites to the west. There are similarities with the NR Phase 3 deposits 568 and 580, which were seen as material washed from the adjacent Iron Age bank construction (p 27).

Phase 1 deposits were sealed by layers dated to the Roman period.

Phase 2 Activity inside the Oram's Arbour enclosure

Only a limited area of Trench VIII was excavated to the level of the pre-Roman deposits (Fig 22). The earliest activity, dated to the middle Iron Age, consisted of a curvilinear gully F64 and a shallow scoop F65. These features were located 50–60m south of the northern side of the enclosure. A possible gully (F128) and associated deposits were recorded in the western section of Trench XIV, 20m inside the defences.

In 1962–3 ground clearance in the area of Trench XIV (then 61 Sussex Street and 17 Gladstone Street) exposed a north–south section which showed a layer of chalk over a sharply dipping layer of black gravel. The location of this feature, probably the northern lip of an east–west ditch, is such that it could represent the eastern extension of F128. Though no finds were recovered, it was interpreted at the time as of Iron Age date, as was a nearby posthole which produced a single Iron Age sherd (Chapter 4, site 22).

F64, a curvilinear gully 0.40m–0.45m wide and 0.2m deep, cut the natural chalk. It was filled with dark grey-brown silt with many small flints (333); 4.6m of the gully extended from the east section, near the northern edge of Trench VIII. No structural features were recorded within the gully or in the immediate area, but the plan suggests that it may represent

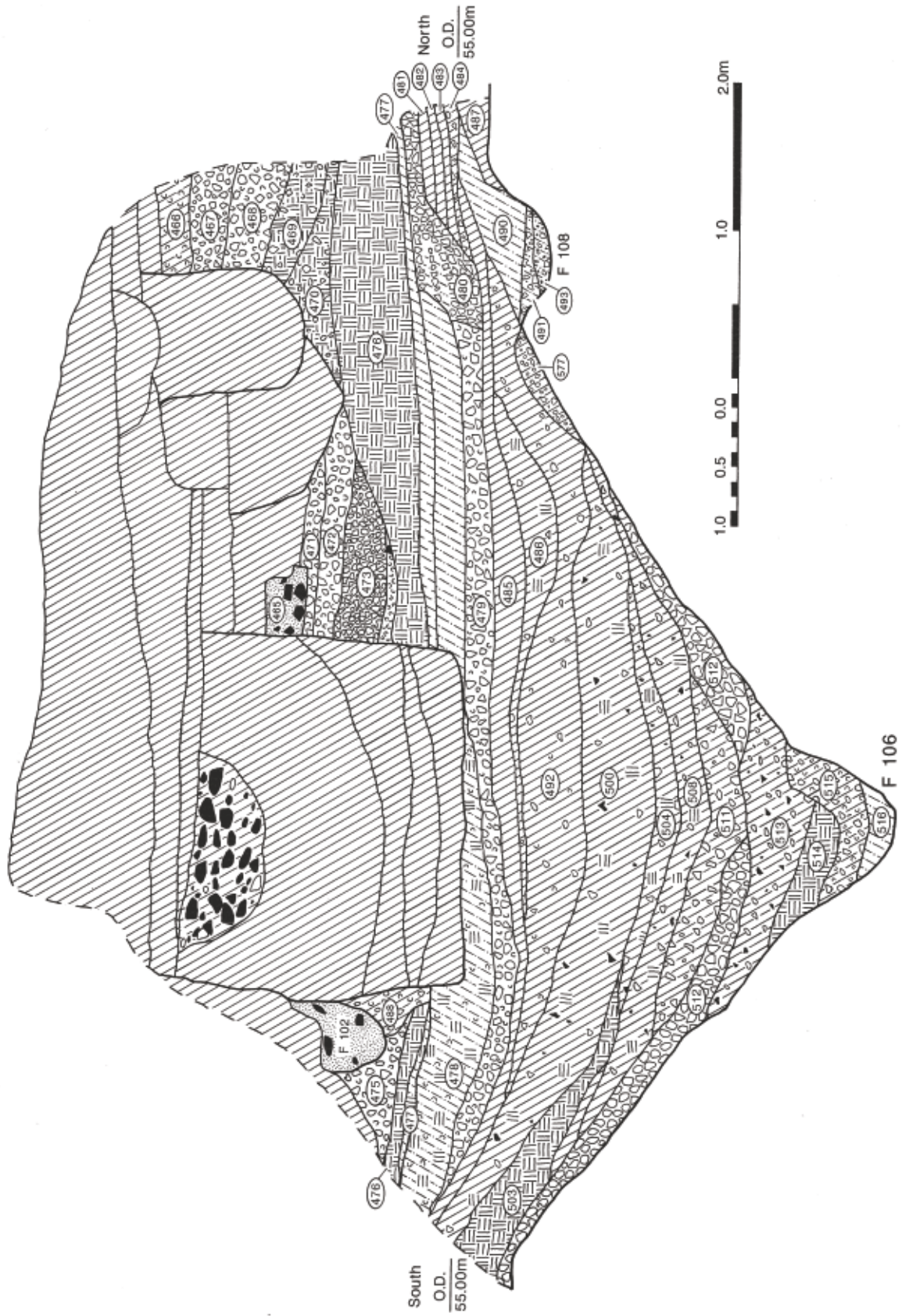


Figure 21 Sussex Street: section across the enclosure ditch

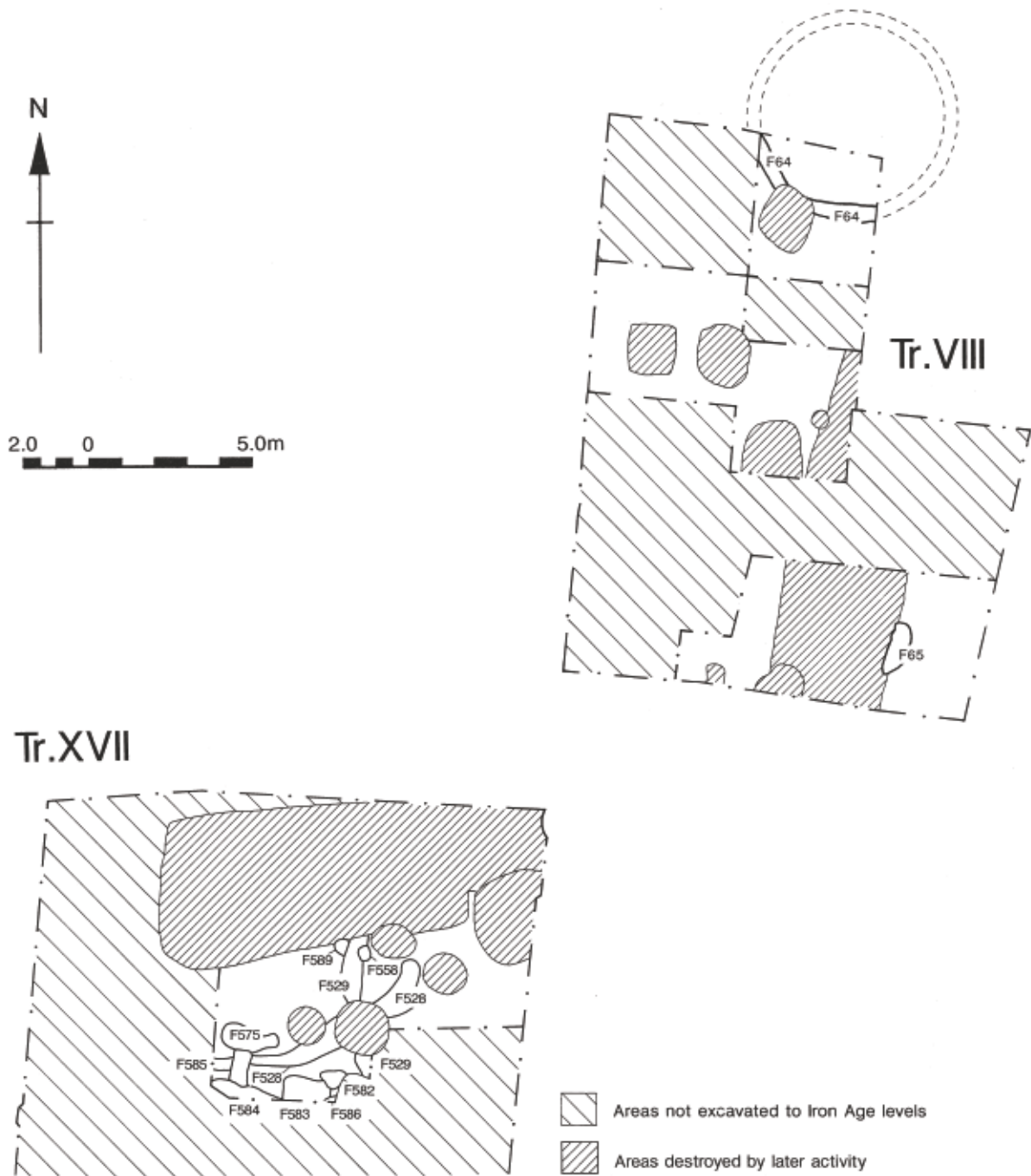


Figure 22 Sussex Street: plan of Iron Age features in Trenches VIII and XVII

the remains of a small round structure with a projected diameter of about 6m.

F65 was 12m south of F64. It was oval in plan (1.6m by 0.6m, depth not recorded) and filled with dark brown soil (338). This feature produced no datable material but was sealed by a deposit dated to the early Roman period (Phase 3).

F128, a gully and associated deposits 376, 377, and 383 were recorded in the west section of Trench XIV. By comparison with deposits in Trench VIII, these are interpreted as dating to the middle Iron Age. Stratigraphically the earliest was a possible gully (F128) about 1.6m wide by 0.45m deep; the true alignment and extent of this feature is unknown, as it had been largely removed by the mechanical excavation. It was filled with an orange-brown clay (377). To the north was a layer of medium-dark grey-brown clay with chalk inclusions (383). Slumping into F128, but extending to the north to form

a general layer, was a very dark brown soil with many flints and charcoal (378).

Sussex Street 1979 (SXS79)

Like Sussex Street 1976 (SXS76), this trench was located immediately to the west of the Roman and medieval town defences (Fig 12). The excavations sampled an area within the northern part of the Iron Age enclosure. The natural deposits were at 59.5m OD and were overlain by Roman ploughsoil. In this report only prehistoric deposits are described.



Plate 8 Sussex Street: east-facing section across the enclosure ditch

Middle Iron Age

Phases 1–6 describe a stratified sequence of early/middle and middle Iron Age activity (Fig 23). It should be noted that only part of Trench XVII was excavated to Roman and pre-Roman levels. It is not known whether this level of preservation is typical of the area, though less well-preserved evidence was encountered just to the north on the Sussex Street 1976 site (Trench VIII).

Phases 1–6 deposits and intercutting features were truncated and sealed by soils dated to the early Roman period.

Phases 1 and 2

Phases 1 and 2 consist of a pit (F583) and two postholes (F558 and F589) cutting the orange-brown chalky clay natural. These were regarded on stratigraphic grounds as the earliest features on the site, though the amount of pottery from them is very small.

Phase 3

Phase 3 consists of a general build-up (0.1m thick) of red-brown soil with burnt flints (1302) that overlay the Phase 1 Iron Age pit F583. A similar deposit (1317) is tentatively included in the phase.

Phase 4

Phase 4 consists of a large postpit (F575) and a shallow gully (F590) extending towards the south. Both features cut Phase 3 layer 1317. No relationship between the features was recorded but they are thought to be broadly contemporary. Gully F590 was cut by the Phase 5 gullies F528/F585 and F584. Both F590 and F575 were sealed by deposits of early Roman date.

Phase 5

Phase 5 consists of a series of curvilinear gully segments (528, F584, F585), a possible gully (F586), and a posthole (F582). These features cut the Phase 3 soil 1302 or the Phase 4 gully F590 and were sealed by 1201, of the early Roman period (Phase 7).

Phase 6

Cutting Phase 2 deposit 1257 and sealed by the early Roman soil 1201 (Phase 7) was a segment of a curving gully (F529). Its stratigraphic position is, therefore, similar though possibly earlier than the features in Phase 5. F529 would clearly have intersected F528 and the two are therefore not strictly contemporary. The precise relationship between the two gullies had, however, been destroyed by later pitting.

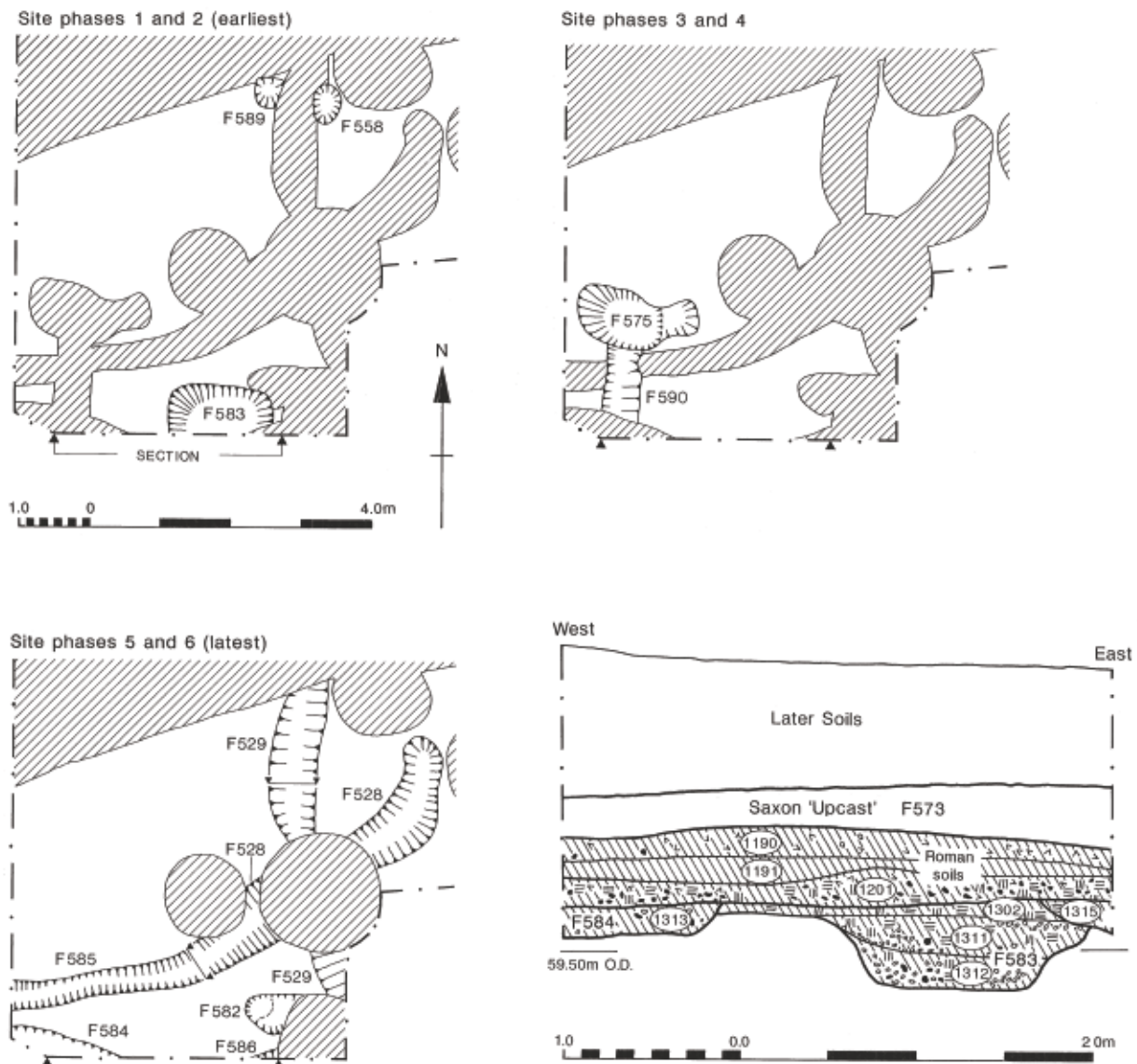


Figure 23 Sussex Street: plans and section of all Iron Age features

F583 was a pit measuring about 1.50m east-west by at least 0.8m north-south and was 0.4m deep. The base of the pit was filled with grey clay 1312 with decayed chalk and burnt flint inclusions. The upper fill (1311) was browner in colour. The pit was sealed by 1302, a general soil deposit (Phase 3).

F558 and F589 were postholes about 0.8m apart and 2m north of pit F583. F588 was oval in plan (about 0.54m by 0.4m and 0.3m deep) filled with a dark grey soil with some red-brown clay (1257). F589 was roughly 0.4m square and 0.3m deep and filled with dark brown soil with charcoal and burnt flint (1329). Both postholes were cut by the middle Iron Age gully F529 (Phase 6).

F575 was about 1.7m by 0.9m in plan aligned east-west, with a central pit about 0.6m in diameter by 0.75m deep. The fill (1301) contained a large number of flints in brown soil suggesting that this deposit originally formed a post packing. No differentiation in the fill was observed and it is possible that the original form of the feature had been altered by later activity.

F590 was recorded in plan only and no context numbers were issued. It was cut by F528/F585 and its absence from the southern section suggests that it was also cut by F584.

F528 was a curvilinear gully about 6.4m in length and aligned east-west with rounded terminals.

F585 was a gully, almost certainly associated with F528, whose line it continued to the west. F585 was filled with silt (1314) similar to F528 (1200) although it produced no burnt material.

F528 varied in width between 0.5m and 0.8m and was 0.4m deep with steep sloping sides and a flat base that may represent a cleaning slot. The fill of the gully contained dark brown silty soil (1199) with patches of daub and unburnt clay. The upper fill was dark brown soil (1197) with many small burnt flints. In the western part of the gully was dark brown soil (1200) that included some burnt flints, chalk, and charcoal.

F582 was an oval feature, probably a posthole, 0.6m by 0.75m and 0.3m deep. It was filled with dark grey soil with patches of brown clay, much chalk, and flints (1310).

The two features F584 and F586 extended only slightly from the trench edges and are not fully understood. They may be broadly contemporary with gully F528.

F584A, a gully in the south-west corner of the area, was greater than 1.6m in length with a slight curve to the south. It

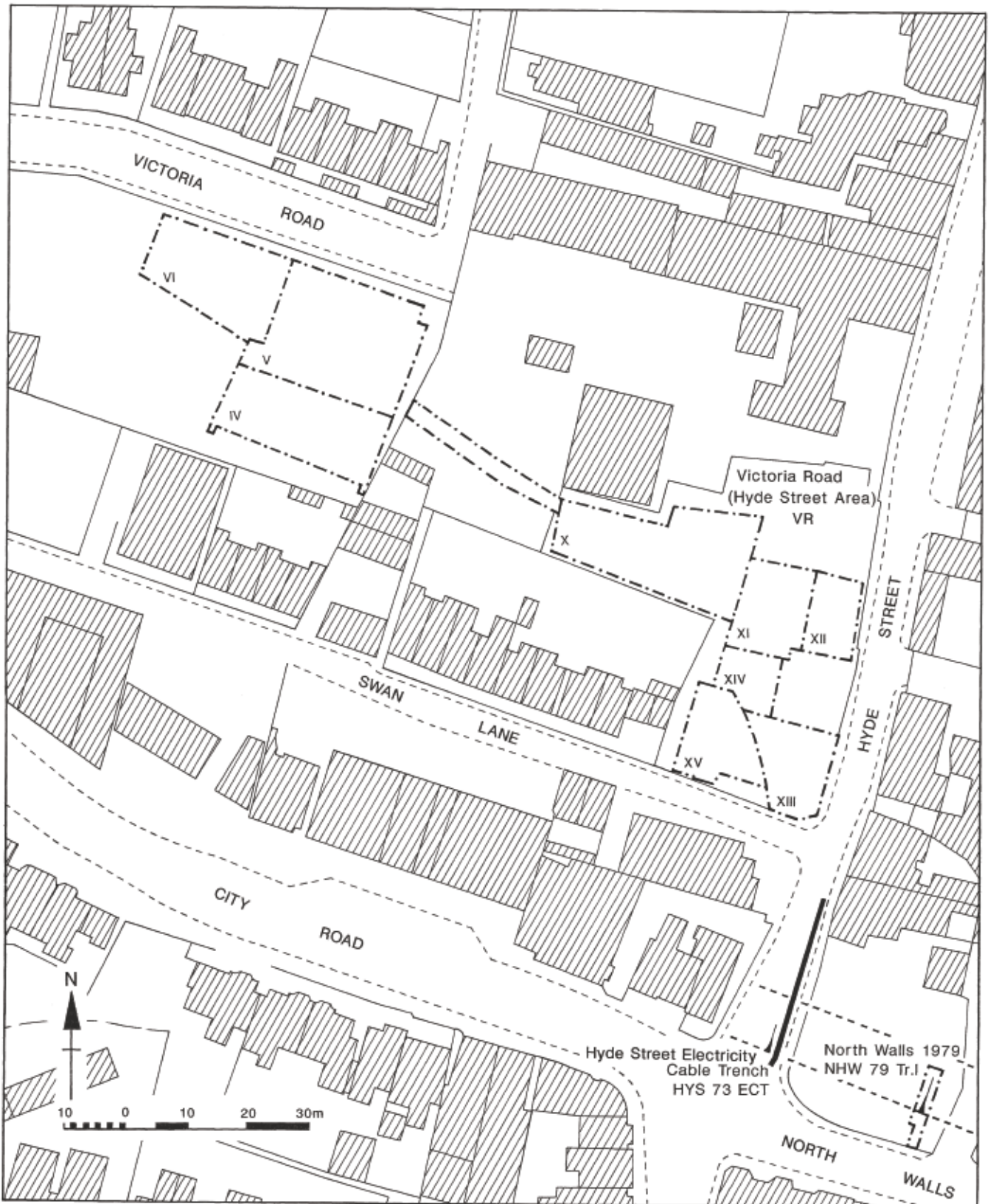


Figure 24 Plan of Victoria Road and Northgate area

had near-vertical sides down to a flat base and was filled with brown soil (1313). F586 was just south of F584 and extended beyond the southern section. Its curving edge suggests another posthole like F582 or another gully like F528. It was filled with dark grey soil (1315).

F529 was a gully 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep, with a nearly flat bottom. The base of the gully was filled for the most part with dark brown soil with chalk, burnt flints, and charcoal (1198). Dark brown soil (1316) was recorded as filling the southernmost part of the feature.

Victoria Road (VR72-80)

The site was located in the northern suburb about 75m to the north of the Roman and medieval North Gate and just outside the projected line of the Oram's Arbour enclosure (Fig 24). The ground surface slopes gently to the north down to the Fulflood valley. The natural deposits in the area were decayed chalk overlain in places by orange-brown clay with small flints at a height of around 42.5m OD.

The pre-Roman deposits were heavily disturbed by later activity and in many places they only survived in isolated patches. This report describes the prehistoric deposits, which are often poorly dated, and summarises the earliest Roman phases where they impinge on the prehistoric archaeology.

Natural and early soils

Phases 1-15

Phases 1-12 represent natural deposits and periglacial features across the site. These consisted mainly of orange/orange-red clays and decayed chalks with shallow scoops and depressions. The extent of later activity across the site and the large number of features cut into these deposits suggests that the artefactual material from these deposits is intrusive.

A series of isolated soil deposits were identified. Where relationships occurred, they were cut by the earliest features (Phases 13-15; Fig 25). These varied between orange-red to orange-brown in colour but had a greater soil content than the Phase 1-12 natural deposits. They contained a varying amount of charcoal flecking, fire-cracked and small angular flints, and the occasional larger flint nodules.

In Trench XIV was a red-brown clayey soil 3866 composed largely of natural clay that may have been redeposited, perhaps as late as the early Roman period. Otherwise the deposits assigned to these phases (1575, 1581, 2656, 3866, 3867, and 4287) can only be broadly referred to as pre-Roman in date

Beaker

The earliest datable activity recognised on the site belongs to the Beaker period (Fig 25). F863 cut the natural and was truncated by a later hollow way. It was a shallow, oval depression about 0.6m by 0.46m (depth not recorded) filled by orange clay with flint, chalk, and some charcoal flecking (3433). It contained a fragmented but near-complete Beaker vessel that belongs to the 'Developed Southern (British) Beaker group (Clarke 1970, 210ff, see p 54). The sample (1295) produced no evidence of cremated or unburnt bone. The Beaker vessel was found at a depth of about 0.35m below the general level of natural and has been interpreted as a burial (see p 53).

Early Iron Age

Two deposits in Trench V (532 and 534) have been dated to the early Iron Age. Both layers are described as orange-brown clays with flints and produced large quantities of struck flints. The deposits overlaid a more clayey deposit with a higher density of flints (535) that probably represents a natural deposit.

Three sample areas totalling 50m² were excavated in horizontal spits about 0.15m deep. The bulk of the struck flints came from the uppermost spit.

In Trench XV two inter-cutting features, a pit F1150 and a short length of a possible gully F1152 were excavated (Phase 17). These cut natural deposits and were sealed by Phase 22 layer 4340. F1152 had been mostly removed by the Phase 45 ditch F1134.

F1150 was oval in plan, about 1.5m by 0.7m by 0.43m deep, and was filled with chalky soil with patches of red clay and fire-cracked flints (4343). Probably cutting F1150 was a possible gully (F1152) about 0.2m wide and filled with light grey-brown soil with much chalk and flint (4355).

Two further features in Trench XV, pits F1140 (4296 and 4297) and F1141 cut the natural deposits and were sealed by Roman soils (Phase 18). F1140 produced pottery of early Iron Age date and both contained burnt flints.

F1140 was an oval-shaped feature about 1.4m by 0.7m with irregular sides and base (depth not recorded). It was filled with dark brown soil, with a large amount of chalk flecking (4298), sealed by a chalky brown soil (4297). The uppermost fill was a dark red-brown soil (4296).

Cutting F1140 was pit F1141. This was of an irregular oval plan about 1.6m by 1.5m (depth not recorded). The base of the feature was filled with a mixture of chalk rubble and decayed chalk in a grey-brown soil (4304) sealed by cleaner brown silty soil with few chalk flecks (4303).

To the east of the Phase 18 features, sealing the natural and cut by the Phase 20 pit F1138, was an isolated soil of grey clay loam with some chalk and flints (4305; Phase 19).

Middle Iron Age to early Roman

Gullies and associated features

A series of north-south gullies occupied the western part of the site from the middle Iron Age to the early Roman Period (Fig 25). The earlier gullies (F1138, F1153 = F1154, and F1145 = F1149) were dated to the middle Iron Age on ceramic grounds. The later gullies (F1134 = F513 = F944 = F952 and F1144) began to be used for burial around AD 70. They must, therefore, have been constructed and in use during the late Iron Age or very early Roman period.

Gully F1138 (Phase 20) was the earliest of a series of north-south gullies that ran across the site. It was probably part of a gully F1153 (= F1154) but was isolated from it by a later feature. F1153 was found cutting the Phase 19 soil build-up (4305) and was posi-

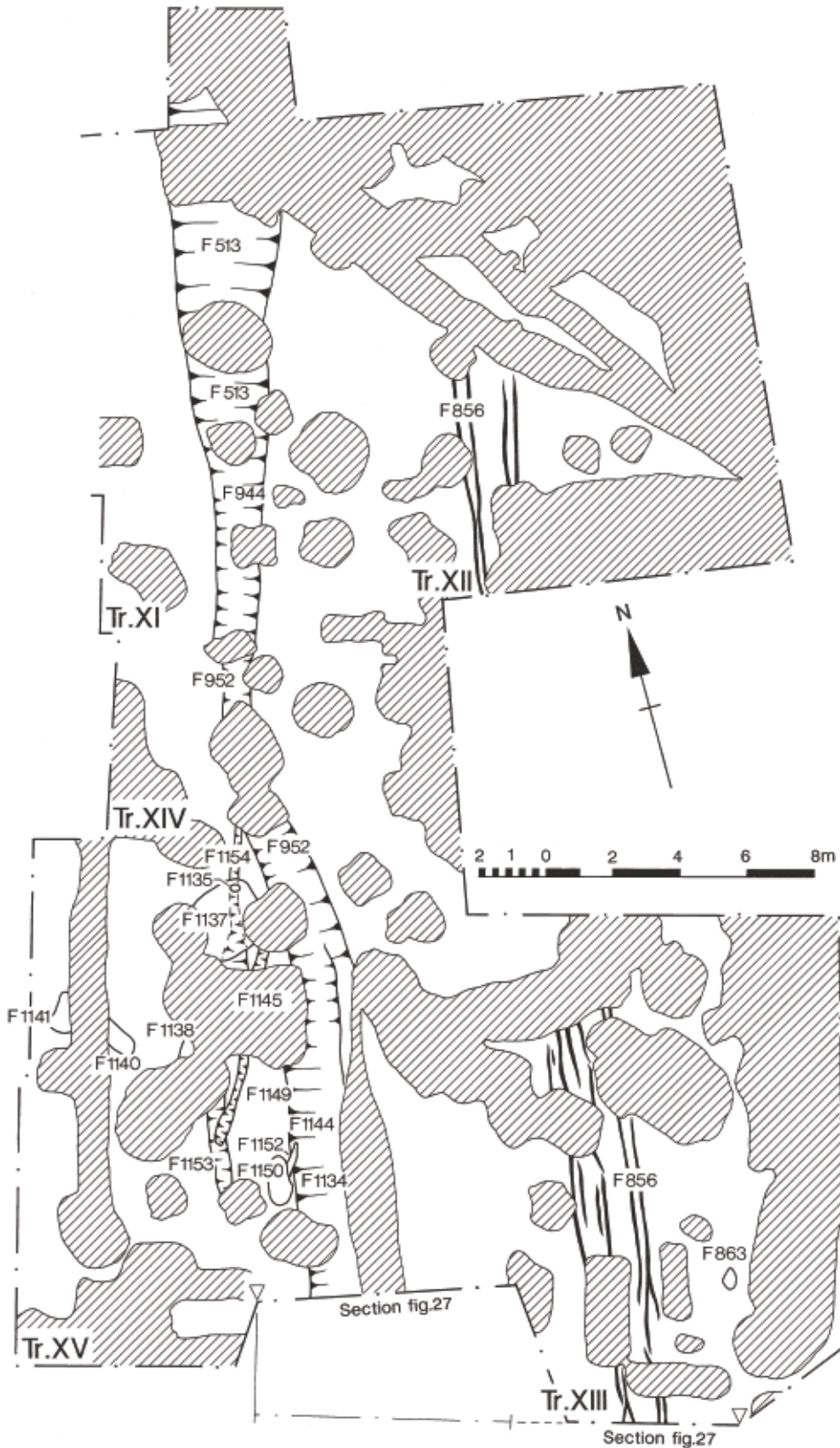


Figure 25 Victoria Road: plan of all pre-Roman features

tioned about 10m west of and parallel to the hollow way F705 (Phases 27–29).

Cutting the Phase 20 gully F1153 was gully F1145 (= F1149) filled with 4384. This was the second of the north–south gullies to cross this area of the site and ran

roughly parallel with the Phase 27–29 hollow way about 9m to the east. Phases 22 and 23 represent a series of stratified soil deposits that sealed features broadly dated to the middle Iron Age period. Sealing the southern terminal of the Phase 21 gully F1145 was a soil



Plate 9 Victoria Road: the Iron Age hollow way, with wheel ruts just discernible (looking south)

build-up of dark red-brown soil with occasional chalk and charcoal flecking (4340). This was the only stratified deposit on the site to produce material of middle Iron Age date.

F1153 (Phase 20), a gully, was traced over a distance of 6m. Its southern terminal was removed by a later feature and to the north its line was later followed by the Phase 45 ditch F1134. It varied in width between about 0.1m and 0.25m and had a shallow, rounded base. It was filled with brown clayey soil (4356).

F1138 (Phase 20) was a shallow feature that cut Phase 15 (4287) and was subsequently sealed by Phase 23 (4280). It had been mostly removed by later pits and isolated from the gully F1153.

The line of the southern edge of F1138 and its angle of cut suggest that they formed part of the same feature. The base of

the feature was filled with light grey-brown clayey soil (4294) sealed by light brown clayey soil (4293). The uppermost fill was light grey-brown clayey soil containing small flints and chalk flecking (4284) that produced four body sherds of chaff-tempered ware, seemingly of the same vessel, dated to the early middle Iron Age (p 63).

F1145 (Phase 21) could be traced over a distance of about 3m and had a rounded southern terminal. The northern portion had been removed by the Phase 45 ditch F1134. The gully varied in width between about 0.1–0.25m with a rounded base about 0.1m deep. It was filled with a compacted brown clayey soil with chalk, flint, and charcoal inclusions (4328 = 4384). The southern terminal was sealed by the Phase 22 layer 4340.

The other Phase 22 and 23 deposits include a small patch of loose grey soil (4341) that partly sealed 4340. It filled a shallow oval depression about 0.85m by 0.5m and produced a worked flint flake (SF9915). Possibly contemporary with 4340 were two light brown soil deposits with chalk and flints (4325

and 4280). Layer 4325 sealed the northern part of the Phase 21 gully F1145 and 4325 sealed the Phase 20 pit F1138. Both were sealed by Roman soils.

Cutting the Phase 23 soil 4280 was pit F1137 (Phase 24) that was partly removed by a later feature (Fig 25). F1137 was oval in plan and was greater than 1.25m north-south by 1m east-west, with sloping sides to an irregular base about 0.6m deep. The base of the feature was filled with very chalky light grey-brown soil with flints (4292). This was sealed by a thin deposit of light brown clayey soil with some flints (4283 = 4307) with an upper fill of a chalky light brown silty soil with flints (4281) cut by Phase 25 posthole F1135.

Cutting the Phase 24 pit F1137 was the posthole F1135 (Phase 25) that was sealed by Roman soils. F1135 was oval in plan, about 0.42m by 0.3m, with a stepped profile about 0.4m deep and filled with grey-brown soil with a large number of flints (4282) probably representing a flint packing.

Sealing the Phase 22 soils 4340 and 4341 and the Phase 24 and 25 features was a general layer of grey-brown soil with many flints (4270 = 4334, Phase 26) that was subsequently cut by the Phase 45 ditch F1334.

Cutting Phase 22 4340 was ditch F1134 (= F513, F944, and F952) that probably represents the re-establishment of the Phase 20 and 21 gullies. This was about 5m to the west of and parallel to the hollow way; it was probably contemporary with the later phases of its use. The ditch was 3.3m wide towards the north end of the site. This decreased to 0.9m near the centre of the site and then increased to 1.1m at the southern limit. The profile of the ditch varied along its length from a broad, shallow V shape to vertical sided with a flat base.

The hollow way

Running roughly parallel to the gullies and 5–10m to the east was a north-south hollow way F856. Because of the nature of the formation of this feature, no dating material was recovered from its earliest phases, but the relationship between it and the gullies suggests a middle Iron Age origin. All the surviving fills of the hollow way related to its later Roman use and infilling.

Phases 27–29 represent the hollow way F856 (= F705 = F925) and associated wheel ruts. The line of the hollow way was most pronounced at the southern end of the site where the ground rises more sharply. It had a consistent width of about 5m and at the southern limit had gently sloping sides to a level base about 0.62m below the general eastward-sloping level of the natural. At the base were a series of parallel wheel ruts (Phase 28) almost certainly associated with its prehistoric use (Plate 9). The depth of wear suggests that it was in use over a considerable period of time (Figs 25 and 26).

In the early Roman period the hollow way had two phases of metalling. It was replaced in the 1st century AD by the Roman road from Winchester to Silchester.

The Northgate area

Possible evidence for the line of the Oram's Arbour defences has come from three sites near the Northgate, at the intersection of Hyde Street and North Walls (Fig 24). It is beyond the scope of this volume to describe in detail the results of observation of the 1955 Telephone

Cable Trench (Chapter 4, 14, below). The 1973 Hyde Street electricity cable trench and the 1979 excavation in North Walls are described below.

Hyde Street electricity cable trench 1973 (HYS73ECT)

In August 1973 a trench was cut along the eastern side of Hyde Street. Near the intersection with North Walls, the earliest archaeological deposits cut through natural gravels and chalk at a depth of about 1.6m below the road surface and sloped at an angle of 45° down to the north. Though no specific dating evidence was recovered, the Winchester Research Unit staff who undertook recording suggested this 'dip' represented the southern lip of the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch on stratigraphic and topographical grounds.

No record of the character of natural or its height was recorded

North Walls 1979 (NHW79)

The natural deposits of bedrock chalk were overlain by orange-brown clay at 43m OD.

Trench I was a north-south trench 13m long located about 22m east of Hyde Street. It was excavated to assess the survival of archaeological remains related to the city's northern defences (Fig 24). In the northern half of the trench, the southern side of a large ditch of two main periods was identified (Fig 27) and excavated to a depth of 2.2m. The later ditch (F7) was cut entirely within the fills of the earlier ditch F13 which, therefore, survived to the south. Immediately above the lowest point excavated in this ditch was slight evidence of an earlier but undated recut. The ceramic evidence suggests that F13 had largely silted up by the end of the 3rd century AD. In total extent the ditch is estimated to have been 3.5m deep and 9m wide, though no great certainty can be attached to such dimensions. F13 is interpreted as representing the Oram's Arbour ditch.

In the eastern half of Trench I, evidence for two phases of the Roman town defences was recorded. The earlier of these (F12) is represented by the remains of an earthwork bank tentatively dated to about AD 75 that sealed a dark brown to reddish-brown soil deposit (40, 39, 80, and 81), 0.25m thick containing middle Iron Age pottery.

A similar deposit in a similar stratigraphic position was recorded in North Walls 1979 Trench II (216 and 221) about 35m to the east. No direct relationship between these soils and the F13 ditch was observed. If F13 represents the Oram's Arbour Iron Age defences, however, these deposits in Trench II should either form part of the defensive bank of the enclosure or predate such a feature. The layers were provisionally interpreted as ploughsoils on site, a suggestion supported by the survival of both north-south and east-west plough scars in the underlying natural clay. This suggestion seems the most likely interpreta-

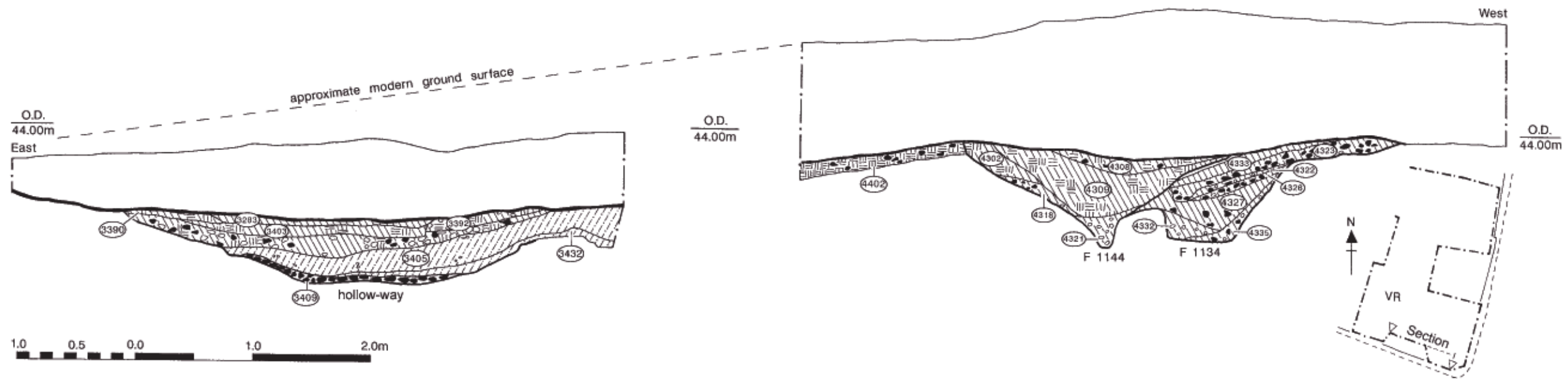


Figure 26 Victoria Road: section across the Iron Age hollow way and gullies (all fills of the hollow way relate to its later usage and infilling)

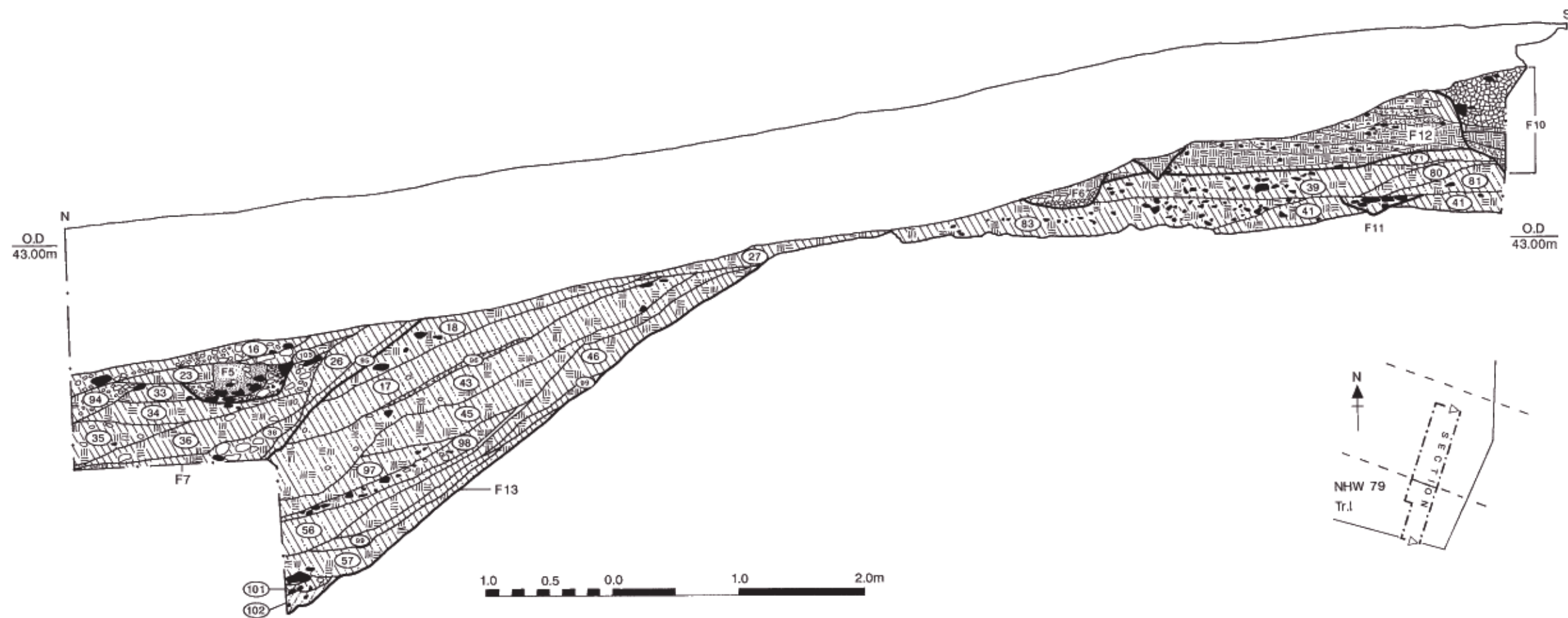


Figure 27 North Walls: section across part of the enclosure ditch F13

tion, despite the presence of some Roman material which may have been trodden into the surface of the soil during rampart construction.

To summarise, in the Northgate area the southern edge of the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch has been tentatively identified at three locations. This demon-

strates that its line was roughly parallel to and about 7m north of the line of the later north wall of the city. Evidence for middle Iron Age ploughing and occupation, apparently predating the construction of the Oram's Arbour defences, was gained from North Walls 1979 Trenches I and II.

3 Finds and environmental evidence

Pottery

Introduction

The excavations produced about 19kg of Beaker, middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury, late Bronze Age, and Iron Age pottery. The earlier prehistoric assemblages were small (together representing only around 13% by weight of the total) but relatively little disturbed and are published here in full. A more selective approach has been employed in the case of the Iron Age material, as nearly half occurred residually in Roman and post-Roman contexts and the stratified material comprised rather small and spatially dispersed groups.

The study of the Beaker and Bronze Age material was carried out some years ago. The discussion sections on these earlier pottery groups are now rather dated, however, and could be open to alternative, later explanation.

Interpretation of the Iron Age material is heavily reliant on the evidence of better stratified ceramic sequences from elsewhere in Hampshire, particularly Old Down Farm (Davies 1981) and Danebury (Cunliffe 1984, 1991, and 1995) in the upper Test Valley and the Winnall Down/ Easton Lane settlement complex some 2km to the east of Oram's Arbour (Hawkes 1985 and 1989).

The pottery was sorted into fabrics based on the size and frequency of inclusions. Examples of some sandy Iron Age fabrics were submitted for petrological analysis in order to confirm the presence of glauconite, a mineral not strictly local to the chalk on which Oram's Arbour is situated (Williams, archive). A sherd of briquetage (treated here with the pottery since it is a ceramic container, albeit of a rather specialised kind) was also thin-sectioned (Morris, archive).

The pottery from each context was quantified by number and weight of sherds according to its fabric, form, decoration, and surface treatment. Although publication of quantified data has been restricted, a full record including most of the residual material exists in the archive.

The bulk of the data collection and preparation of

reports was carried out by C Matthews. K Holmes was responsible for the work on the Iron Age pottery from the Carfax and Staple Gardens sites, while R Ball prepared the report on the Staple Gardens late Bronze Age pottery. The present report incorporates and combines information from separate texts prepared for the material from each excavation.

Beaker pottery by C Matthews

Two pits at Crowder Terrace produced a small assemblage of Beaker and Beaker-related pottery (p 19), while a nearly complete but fragmentary Beaker was recovered from a shallow truncated depression cut into natural at Victoria Road (p 45).

This material does not quite represent the full range of Beaker pottery from recent excavations in Winchester: a residual Beaker sherd with combed decoration came from excavations at Oram's Arbour (Biddle forthcoming) and most of a late Beaker was retrieved from Hyde Street in the northern suburb (Qualmann forthcoming). In addition the two Beakers from one or possibly two inhumations discovered in the late 19th century at Mews Lane, just to the south of Crowder Terrace, may be of relevance to the present discussion (Chapter 4, site 3).

Characterisation

The following fabrics were defined (Table 3 and Fig 28):

BA Common, medium, transparent sands 0.2mm with common iron oxides, occasional grogs and scattered flint grits 0.3–3mm, mostly calcined, although some would appear to have been crushed. The fabric has a reddish-brown exterior surface, with lighter grey interior surface and reduced dark grey core. Form: Beaker fine ware. Decoration: comb impressed. Victoria Road, F856 (F863); (Fig 28, 1).

BAA Clayey matrix with a few tiny waterworn sands around 0.1mm, containing occasional fragments of calcined flint 0.5–6mm and occasional lumps of iron oxide. The fabric is generally oxidised buff to reddish orange, sometimes with a

Table 3 Quantity and provenance of pottery of the Beaker period

Site	Feature	Fabric	Number	Weight	Comment
Victoria Road	856	BA	122	176	Fig 28, no. 1
Crowder Terrace	42	BAA	8	62	Fig 28, no. 2
		BAB	2	13	body, undecorated
	43	BAA	3	3	rim, undecorated
		BAD	4	48	Fig 28, no. 3
		BAE	1	5	body, undecorated

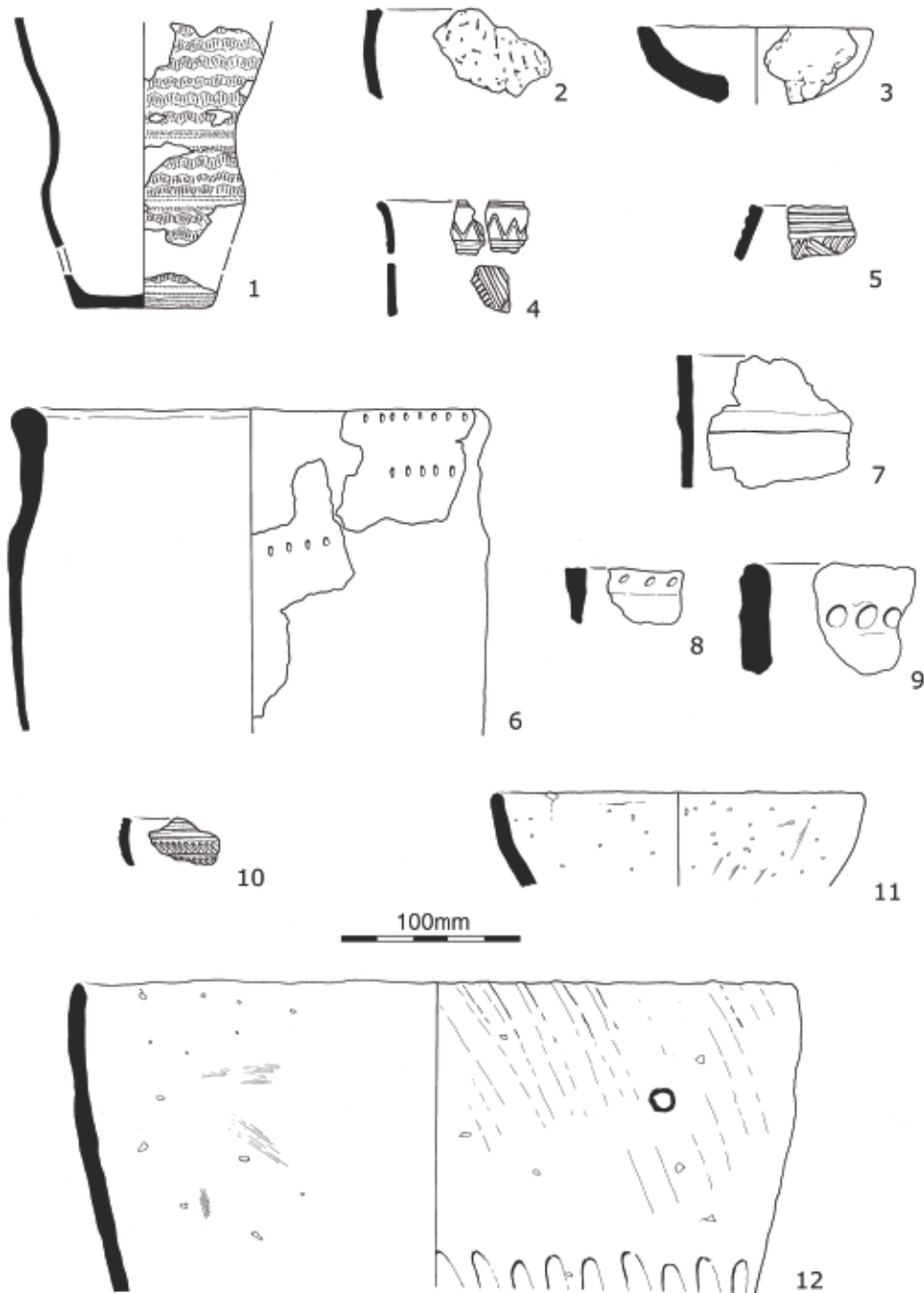


Figure 28 Bronze Age pottery

black core. Form: Beaker fine and secondary ware. Decoration: rusticated, fingernail impressed, and comb impressed. Crowder Terrace, F42 (Fig 28, 2).

BAB With abundant grog tempering 0.2–1mm and occasional small flint grits around 2mm set in a clayey matrix. The fabric is generally oxidised with a black core. Form: Beaker. Decoration: none surviving.

BAD Clayey matrix with tiny transparent sands containing some grog around 1–2mm and occasional small flints 1mm. The surface exhibits occasional grass marks. The fabric is oxidised throughout. Form: crude thumb pot. Decoration: none. Crowder Terrace, F43 (Fig 28, 3).

BAE Clayey matrix with abundant small shell fragments up to 1mm long and occasional small flint 1mm. The fabric has oxidised surfaces with a black core. Form: none surviving. Decoration: none surviving.

Discussion

The Crowder Terrace material comprises fine wares (the comb-impressed sherd), secondary wares (the fingernail-impressed and plain sherds) and the thumb pot. These characteristics and the absence from the assemblage of complete vessels suggest a domestic function (Clarke 1970, 258–9). By contrast the fine Beaker from Victoria Road is nearly complete (Fig 28, 1) and the assemblage lacks secondary or heavy-duty wares. This may indicate that the context from which the vessel was recovered was funerary in nature (ibid) and that other evidence had been removed when the feature was truncated in antiquity. Domestic wares are

Table 4 Quantity and provenance of middle Bronze Age pottery

Fabric	F54		F60		F61		Total	
	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
BZU	6	13	10	31	-	-	16	44
BZT	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2
BZZ	-	-	1	6	-	-	1	6
BZY	45	113	16	169	3	7	64	289
BXA	10	32	31	556	-	-	41	588
BZV	-	-	3	46	3	46	6	92
BZW	-	-	1	42	-	-	1	42
							130	1063

difficult to date and the group from Crowder Terrace is no exception, due to the paucity of diagnostic fine-wares. It is possible that the undecorated, shell-tempered sherd (fabric BAE) is late Neolithic, as shell-tempered wares of this date are recorded in the region at Old Down Farm, Andover (Davies 1981, 96), and at Durrington Walls (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, 55). At Easton Lane, Winchester, however, shell-tempered fabrics occurred in periods from the early Neolithic to the middle Bronze Age, demonstrating that fabric alone may be an insecure guide to dating (Ellison 1989, 83 and 87).

On the basis of pottery typology and associations, supplemented to some extent by radiocarbon dating, Case has defined three phases of Beaker activity – early, middle and late – in Britain and Ireland (1977). Fingernail-impressed decoration is found on secondary wares associated with fine wares in both the early Beaker (eg Bradley 1970) and the middle Beaker (Clarke 1970) phases. By the late Beaker phase, plastic finger-pinched rustication was predominant and fingernail-impressed decoration rare (op cit, 258–9). Thus a middle Beaker date is tentatively suggested for the Crowder Terrace material.

The close proximity of the burials from Mews Lane to Crowder Terrace suggests that the two could be viewed as one site comprising both funerary and domestic elements. Such association of burial and settlement is known elsewhere, eg at the better-preserved early and middle Beaker site of Belle Tout in Sussex (Bradley 1970). The Beakers from Mews Lane were of Clarke's Wessex Middle Rhine and Barbed Wire groups (Clarke 1970, 70, note 4, 308, and nos 222 and 223) and can thus be dated more securely to the middle Beaker phase, from somewhat before the opening of the third millennium BC to its end.

The tall, long-necked form, the entirely comb-impressed decoration employing simple motifs with more complex, filled geometric patterns, and the position of the decoration filling the neck with zones on the belly allows ascription of the Victoria Road Beaker to Clarke's Developed Southern (British) group (1970). This group would belong in Case's late Beaker phase dating from the end of the third millennium BC (1977, 82–3).

Middle Bronze Age pottery by C Matthews

Introduction

Fragments of at least nine Deverel-Rimbury vessels were recovered from three small pits at New Road and two other sherds of middle Bronze Age pottery occurred residually in later features. One of the pits (F60) was cut by the remaining two (F54 and F61), but the relationship between F60 and F61 was not observed initially and finds from the two features were mixed. Since almost all of the vessels present were shared between the earlier feature and the two later ones, the material has been discussed here as a single group.

The assemblage comprised barrel and globular urns, with what are probably bucket urns represented by bodysherds and base sherds only. Stylistically most of the material can be ascribed to the Central Wessex regional assemblage, but the group also includes a little pottery in the South Downs and Sussex Coastal Plain style (Ellison 1975, 1978, and 1980a).

Characterisation

The following fabrics were defined (Table 4):

BZU Globular urns containing abundant crushed flint usually 0.1–0.6mm, occasionally up to 1mm, this fabric is slightly oxidised dark brown with burnished surface.

BZT Globular urns with dense, fine sands less than 0.1mm and abundant fine grains of mica. The fabric is slightly oxidised dark brown throughout.

BZZ Globular urns containing abundant calcined flint 0.1–1mm. This fabric is reduced black throughout.

BZY Barrel urns with common, calcined and crushed flint 1–4mm and common shell fragments 1mm set in a clayey matrix, either reduced throughout or oxidised buff on the surfaces with a dark core.

BXA Bucket urns with dense transparent quartz around 0.2mm and common crushed flints 1–2mm.

BZV Bucket urns with abundant flint 0.5–2mm.

BZW Bucket urns containing some calcined flint around 2mm set in a clayey matrix.

The following Central Wessex types were present (Fig 28):

Table 5 Staple Gardens: quantity of late Bronze Age pottery from F697

Fabric	Sherd no.	Sherd wt
BF	2	40
BFA	33	257
BFG	1	32
BFL	1	33
BFS	10	493
total	47	855

Type 1 globular urn

1A Globular urn with vertically perforated lugs and shallow tooled geometric decoration at and above the belly. Calkin's (1962) type 1 globular urn.

BZU Sherds with faint, shallow tooled zigzag pattern on the neck defined by at least two incised horizontal lines below and with shallow tooled opposed filled triangles forming a 'diaper' pattern on the body. NR F54 and F60 (Fig 28, 4).

BZU Rim sherd with at least three horizontally incised lines and shallow tooled opposed filled triangles forming a 'diaper' pattern below. NR F60 (Fig. 28, 5)

BZU Sherd with shallow tooled horizontal lines and no visible decoration below (not illustrated).

Type 2 barrel urn

2B Tall, straight-sided urn with slightly concave expanded rim and at least two rows of fingertip impressions, one just below the rim and one on the shoulder.

BZY Rim and bodysherds with three rows of fingernail impressions. NR F54, F60, and F61 (Fig 28, 6).

2C Tall, plain, straight-sided urn with slightly concave neck.

BZY NR F54, F6, and F61 (Fig 28, 7).

BZY Residual (Fig 28, 8).

Type 3 bucket urn

3B Urn with straight out-turned sides and a row of finger impressions a short distance below the rim.

BXA Sherd with a row of finger impressions. Residual (Fig 28, 9).

BZV Base sherds probably from a bucket urn. NR F60 and F61 (not illustrated).

BZW Base sherds probably from a bucket urn. NR F60 (not illustrated).

Type 7 globular jar with bar handles and incised geometric decoration

Two sherds were of South Downs and Sussex Coastal Plain type.

BZZ Vessel with diagonal strokes between horizontal lines and traces of opposed filled triangles below. The former decorative motif can be paralleled at Plumpton Plain, Highdown Hill, and Itford Hill (Ellison 1980a, fig 11). NR F60 (Fig 28, 10).

BZT NR F60 (not illustrated).

Discussion

The question of exchange between regions may be addressed through examination of the distribution of pottery styles and by characterisation of fabrics in order to determine source of production. On the grounds of fabric alone, any suggestion that the globular urns from New Road were specialist products must remain unproven, since flint and sand tempering (here, fabrics BZU, BZT, and BZZ) is widely available throughout southern England. It has been argued, however, that style zones observed among the globular urns of southern England represent the distribution of one kind of specialist product in a complex system of overlapping exchange networks (Ellison 1980b).

The two New Road globular urns of Ellison's South Downs and Sussex Coastal Plain group represent the most westerly known occurrence of Sussex globular urn types. Moreover Ellison (1980b, 130–2) has shown that decorated globular urns have complementary regional distributions that almost never overlap as central Wessex and Sussex types do at New Road and that such rare overlaps are confined to large defended enclosures. This may indicate that an important Deverel-Rimbury settlement, controlling the movement of goods between adjacent fine-ware distribution areas, was located in the Winchester area (Ellison 1980b, 132). A function of this kind has been claimed for the large middle Bronze Age site at Winnall Down/Easton Lane, although the settlement there was undefended (Fasham *et al* 1989, 147–8).

As the bucket urns from New Road contain coarse flint tempering (fabrics BXA, BZV, and BZW), by analogy with the results of the characterisation carried out on Bronze Age pottery from Cranborne Chase, it can be suggested that they were made locally (Barrett *et al* 1978). Ellison's model would also predict a fairly local source for the bucket urns (1980b, 129–30). As shell is not commonly found in the surface of the Upper Chalk in the Winchester area, however, the barrel urns are unlikely to be locally made unless the shell tempering (here, fabric BZY) is of recent rather than fossil origin.

Abundant shell in prehistoric pottery is usually naturally occurring rather than deliberately added (Ian Freestone *pers comm*). Shell occurs routinely in the clays, silts, sands, and limestones of the Jurassic system, which is exposed along the Dorset coast between Lyme Regis and Swanage, and in, for example, the Bracklesham beds of Dorset and the Hampshire Basin (Melville and Freshney 1982, 7–61 and 100–4). A source of manufacture in the Bournemouth area of Dorset, where a concentration in the distribution of barrel urns has been observed (Calkin

1962, 23), would, therefore, be compatible with the evidence.

Alternatively shells might initially have been imported from the coast to a more local production site for the food they contained and later used as a tempering agent. There is, however, no other evidence from Winchester for the importation of seafood such as oysters in the prehistoric period. Moreover petrological analysis of a group of middle Bronze Age urns from the more recently excavated site at Winnall Allotments, near Winchester (Harrison 1991) has shown that their shell tempering is of Jurassic origin (Williams, archive). Further work on this fabric and its distribution is necessary in order to resolve the question of its source, although shelly fabrics are difficult to characterise, even under the petrological microscope (David Williams pers comm).

Late Bronze Age pottery by R Ball

Characterisation

A small group of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the fill of a posthole or small pit (F697) at Staple Gardens. The following fabrics were defined (Table 5):

BF With calcined flint temper 0.5–3mm, common sands 0.1mm, and sparse iron oxides. The fabric has a dark grey reduced core with oxidised orange surfaces. It is usually wiped on its internal surface.

BFA With common calcined flint temper 0.5mm, occasional large (up to 4mm) flint, common fine (0.1mm) sands, and occasional large (up to 4mm) quartz. Sparse iron oxides and rare chaff are also present. The fabric is variably fired, but predominantly oxidised and is usually internally wiped with external finger smearing. Bodysherds from a coarse jar form and one plain rim sherd occurred in this fabric. A cereal grain impression was also present on one sherd.

BFG Tempered with scattered calcined flint grits 0.5mm and occasional large flint (up to 3mm). Also containing dense sands 0.1mm, with occasional chaff and sparse iron oxides. The fabric is variably fired and was used for the manufacture of the wide-mouthed form with plain rim and internal wiping (Fig 28, 11).

BFL Containing dense calcined flint temper 0.5–7mm, dense sands 0.1mm, and sparse iron oxides, this fabric has a grey reduced core with oxidised yellowish orange surfaces. The external surface is smoothed or wiped.

BFS Heavily tempered with calcined flints 0.5–4mm and containing dense sands 0.2mm and sparse iron oxides, this fabric is slightly variably fired, but largely reduced. A large thin-walled jar with plain rim, vertical finger wiping on the outer surface, with some wiping on the inner surface, and a perforated suspension hole was present (Fig 28, 12).

Discussion

The pottery is typical of the plainware tradition of the later Bronze Age of southern and eastern England, dating roughly from the 10th to the 8th centuries BC (Barrett 1980). The wiped furrow marks on the thin-walled jar are particularly characteristic of the forms of this period (eg Ellison 1989, 91; Davies 1981, 97). The

two illustrated vessels from Staple Gardens (Fig 28, 11 and 12) can be defined in Barrett's typological scheme as a Class III coarse bowl (no. 11) and a class I coarse jar (no. 12; 1980, 302–3).

Closer to Winchester, comparable forms can be seen from Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, 61 and in particular, fig 51, 1 and 9). As at Staple Gardens, the entire group was flint tempered and undecorated.

Iron Age Pottery by K Holmes, C Matthews, and H Rees

Introduction

Apart from Romsey Road, St Paul's Hospital, and Trafalgar House, all of the sites on the circuit of the Oram's Arbour enclosure produced early and middle Iron Age pottery. Material of these periods also occurred at Staple Gardens, in the interior of the enclosure, and outside it at Crowder Terrace and Victoria Road.

Late Iron Age material was confined to Staple Gardens and the infill of the enclosure ditch at Trafalgar House (F12).

In the main stratified assemblages were small, merely providing a *terminus post quem* for the deposits from which they were retrieved. A high proportion of the material occurred residually in Roman and post-Roman contexts. Evidence on which to group the material into tightly defined 'ceramic phases' (Cunliffe 1984) is, therefore, unreliable or lacking.

Nevertheless a fairly full characterisation of the material (including illustrations – Figs 29–31) is given in this report, so that general comparisons with better-stratified pottery from other sites in the Winchester area may be made. Ceramic phasing is also discussed more fully, as it has a bearing on the dating given in the structural report. Deposits selected for fully quantified presentation are limited to the middle and late Iron Age groups from Staple Gardens and the late Iron Age assemblage from Trafalgar House (see Tables 11–13).

Characterisation

The Iron Age fabrics from Oram's Arbour fall into five broad groups: sandy, flint-tempered; slightly organic or 'chaff-tempered'; grog-tempered; calcareous; and briquetage. Variations within these groups based on the size and frequency of the inclusions are listed and characterised in Tables 6–10. More general information on each variation is given below. Some of the variations defined initially have been combined for the purposes of this report and a full correlation list is given in the archive.

Difficulties were encountered in defining the full range of Iron Age fabrics due to high residuality. This report includes only those fabrics that could be dated by typology or which occurred in stratified Iron Age contexts.

All fabrics are handmade unless otherwise stated. Forms potentially of late Iron Age date that occurred in Roman contexts only are not illustrated, but are listed.

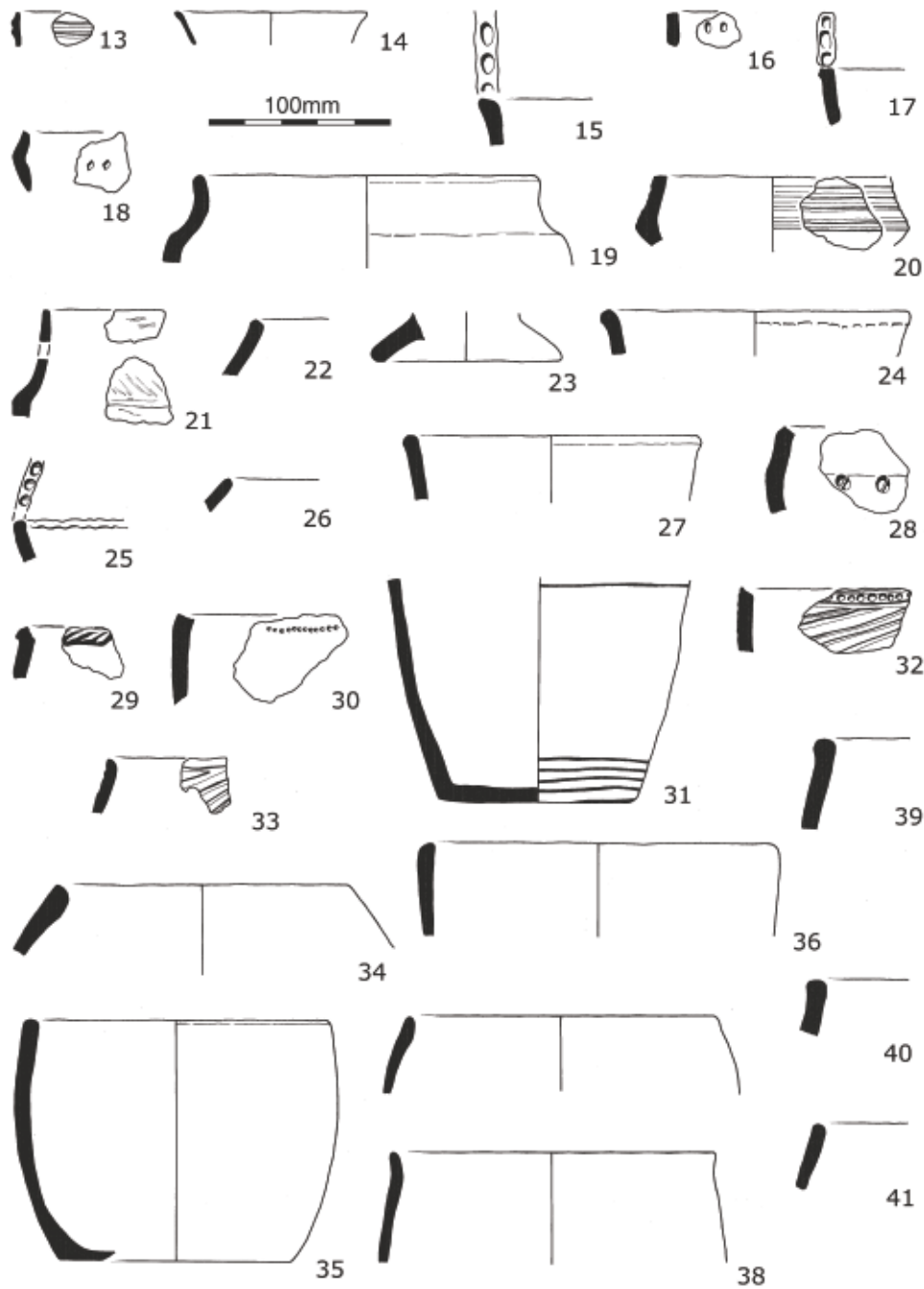


Figure 29 Early and middle Iron Age pottery

Sandy fabrics (Table 6)

Sherds in fabrics ISI and ISO were submitted for petrological analysis and found to contain glauconite (Williams, archive).

ISA Usually with oxidised surfaces; Form: furrowed bowl; Decoration: impressed.

ISD Reduced soft fabric; Form: furrowed or cordoned bowl (Fig 29, 13).

ISE With red-slipped surface; Form: furrowed bowl.

ISF Form: uncertain.

ISG Very rare fabric: Form: uncertain.

ISH Sometimes with oxidised surface; Decoration: finger impressed.

ISI Reduced and usually burnished; Form: saucepan pot, pedestal base (Fig 29, 22-3; Fig 30, 42).

ISJ Often with oxidised surface; Form: ovoid jar with bead rim (Fig 30, 51).

ISL Sometimes burnished; Form: bowl; Decoration: with groove and impressed dot motifs (Fig 30, 43).

ISM Usually with oxidised surface; Form: carinated jar, furrowed bowl (Fig 29, 19-20 and 24).

ISN Very rare fabric; Form: uncertain.

ISO Reduced, may be wiped or burnished; Form: finger-impressed jar (Fig 29, 25).

ISP Often burnished; Form: uncertain.

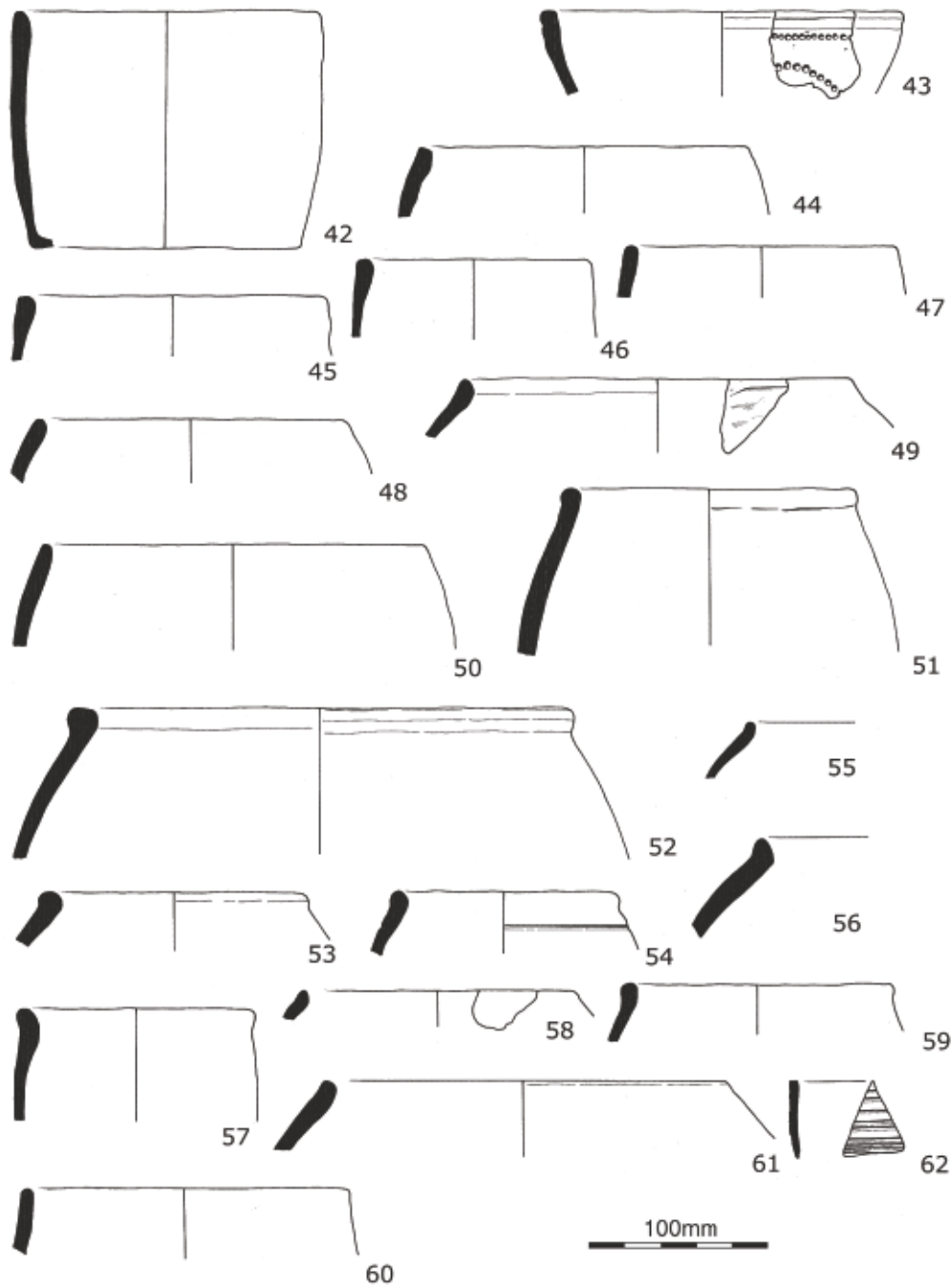


Figure 30 Middle and late Iron Age pottery

ISQ Very rare fabric; Form: uncertain.
ISU Wheelthrown, may be burnished; Form: shouldered jar.
ISV Wheelthrown, sometimes has a burnished zone near the rim; Form: bead-rimmed jar; Decoration: tooled lines (Fig 30, 63; Fig 31, 64)

Flint-tempered fabrics (Table 7)

IAG Form: plain rim; Decoration: finger impressed.
IFA Usually reduced, but may be oxidised, usually burnished; Form: saucepan pot, ovoid jar with bead rim, bead-

rimmed jar, everted rim jar; Decoration: burnished tooled lines and motifs below the rim and sometimes above the base, sometimes combined with impressed dots apparently in imitation of stitching, occasionally cordoned (Fig 29, 31-5; Fig 30, 44-7 and 52-56; Fig 31, 65-72).
IFB Often reduced dark grey with partially oxidised dark red surfaces; Form: plain and finger-impressed carinated jar (Fig 29, 14-16).
IFD Usually burnished; Form: saucepan pot (Fig 29, 26-7; Fig 30, 48).
IFE Usually with oxidised surface; Form: finger-impressed carinated jar; Decoration: twisted cordon (Fig 29, 17 and 28-30).

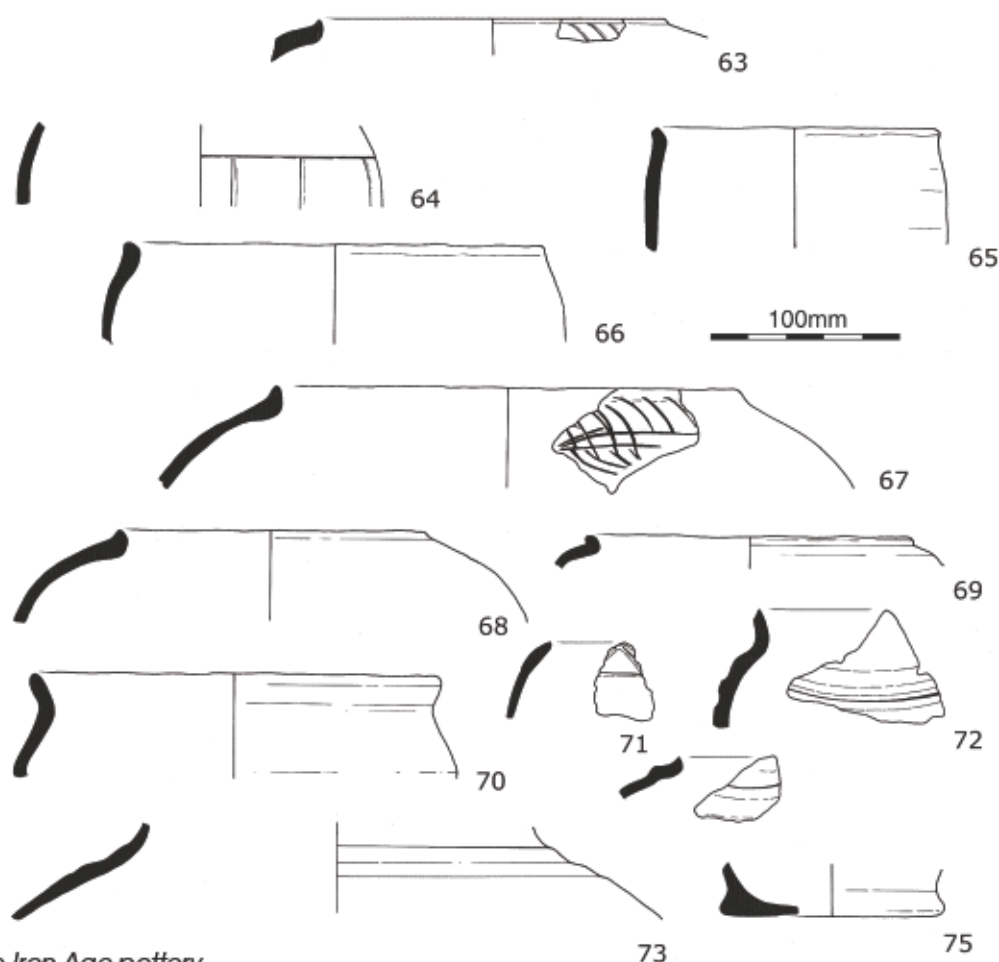


Figure 31 Late Iron Age pottery

- IFH Very rare fabric; Form: uncertain.
- IFI Often with oxidised surface; Form: finger-impressed carinated jar (Fig 29, 18).
- IFJ Usually with oxidised surface, wiped with grass; Form: uncertain.
- IFK Usually burnished; Form: ovoid jar with bead rim (Fig 30, 57).
- IFL Form: saucepan pot (Fig 30, 58).
- IFM Usually burnished; Form: ovoid jar with upright rim (Fig 30, 59).
- IFN Oxidised; Form: bead-rimmed storage jar.
- IFO Usually oxidised surfaces with reduced core; Form: bead-rimmed storage jar.
- IFS very rare fabric; Form: uncertain.

Chaff-tempered fabrics (Table 8)

Sherds in fabrics ICB, ICC, and ICE were submitted for petrological analysis. All were found to contain glauconite, with the exception of one of the three sherds in fabric ICC. Only one of the six 'chaff-tempered' sherds (in fabric ICB) contained organic material in the fracture as opposed to on the surface (Williams, archive).

- ICA Generally reduced, sometimes burnished; Form: saucepan pot (Fig 29, 36-7).
- ICB Often oxidised; Form: saucepan pot (Fig 30, 49).
- ICC Often burnished; Form: saucepan pot, ovoid jar with bead rim (Fig 29, 38-9; Fig 30, 50 and 60-1).

- ICD Often burnished; Form: saucepan pot, ovoid jar with bead rim (Fig 29, 40-1).
- ICE Usually reduced and burnished; Form: uncertain.
- ICO With wiped surface; Form: carinated jar (Fig 29, 21).

Grog-tempered fabrics (Table 9)

- IOA Reduced, sometimes burnished; Form: shouldered bead-rimmed jar.
- IOE Grey core with burnished brown external surfaces; Form: narrow-necked jar, expanded base; Decoration: cordoned and/or grooved (Fig 30, 62; Fig 31, 73-75).

Calcareous fabrics (Table 9)

- IHA Generally reduced, with smoothed surface; Form: bead-rimmed jar; Decoration: burnished and/or tooled lines.
- IQA Surfaces usually untreated; Form: uncertain.

Brickage (Table 10)

Petrological analysis of a sherd in fabric IBS was undertaken by Elaine Morris, in an attempt to define the (presumably coastal) source of manufacture of this material more closely (report in archive). The results were inconclusive due to the smallness of the sample

Table 6 Summary of inclusions in Iron Age sandy fabrics

Fabric	Sand			Flint			Other
	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	
ISA	x(d)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ISD	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
ISE	-	x(d)	-	x(s)	-	-	-
ISF	-	x	-	-	x(o)	-	-
ISG	x	-	-	-	x(o)	-	-
ISH	-	x	-	-	-	x(o)	chalk(o)
ISI	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
ISJ	x(d)	-	-	x(s)	-	x(o)	-
ISL	-	x(d)	x(o)	-	-	x(c)	-
ISM	-	x	-	-	x(f)	x(f)	-
ISO	-	x(d)	-	-	-	-	chaff(o)
ISP	-	x	-	-	x(s)	-	chaff(o)
ISQ	x	-	-	-	x(f)	-	chaff(o)
ISU	-	x(d)	-	-	-	-	-
ISV	-	x(d)	x(d)	-	-	x(s)	black grains (s)

c - common; d - dense; f - few/sparse; o - occasional; s - scattered; x - present.

Table 7 Summary of inclusions in Iron Age flint-tempered fabrics

Fabric	Flint			Sand			Other
	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	
IAG	x(c)	-	x(o)	x(s)	x(s)	-	chalk, chaff(o)
IFA	-	x(a)	-	-	-	-	-
IFB	x(c)	-	x(f)	-	-	x(c)	-
IFD	-	x(c)	-	-	x(c)	-	-
IFE	x(c)	-	-	x(d)	-	-	-
IFH	-	x(c)	-	x(c)	-	-	-
IFI	x(a)	-	x(f)	-	-	-	-
IFJ	x(c)	x(f)	-	x(c)	-	-	-
IFK	x(c)	x(o)	-	-	-	x(c)	-
IFL	x(c)	x(o)	-	-	x(c)	-	-
IFM	-	x(c)	-	-	x(c)	-	-
IFN	-	x(c)	-	x(s)	-	-	-
IFO	-	-	x(c)	-	x(c)	-	-
IFS	-	x(c)	-	x(c)	-	-	grog (o)

c - common; d - dense; f - few/sparse; o - occasional; s - scattered; x - present.

Table 8 Summary of inclusions in Iron Age chaff-tempered fabrics

Fabric	Chaff	Flint			Sand			Other
		Fine	Medium	Coarse	Fine	Medium	Coarse	
ICA	c	-	x(o)	-	-	x(c)	-	grog(s)
ICB	c	-	-	-	x(d)	-	-	grog(s)
ICC	c	-	-	-	-	x(c)	-	-
ICD	c	x(c)	-	-	x(d)	-	-	-
ICE	c	-	-	-	-	x(c)	-	chalk(o)
ICO	c	-	x(s)	-	-	x(f)	-	-

c - common; d - dense; f - few/sparse; o - occasional; s - scattered; x - present.

Table 9 Summary of inclusions in grog-tempered and calcareous fabrics

Fabric	Temper	Fine	Medium	Coarse	Other
IOA	grog	x(a)	-	-	-
IOE	grog	-	x(a)	-	fine sand
IHA	chalk	x(a)	-	-	flint, shell(o)
IQA	shell	-	x(a)	x(a)	-

a - abundant; c - common; f - few/sparse; o - occasional; s - scattered; x - present.

Table 10 Summary of inclusions in briquetage fabrics

Fabric	Chaff	Sand			Other
		Fine	Medium	Coarse	
IBR	c	-	-	x(s)	-
IBS	c	x(s)	-	-	shell(s)

c - common; s - scattered; x - present.

size and the limited level of comparative analysis that could be carried out.

IBR Reduced core with oxidised surfaces; very porous texture.

IBS As IBR.

Iron Age pottery illustrations

Figure 29

Victoria Road. Early Iron Age pottery residual in Roman and post-Roman contexts.

13 Cordoned bodysherd, possibly from a scratched cordoned bowl, fabric ISD.

14 Fine, plain out-turned rim, fabric IFB.

15 Out-turned rim from a coarse jar with fingertip impressions, fabric IFB.

16 Bodysherd with fingertip impressions, fabric IFB.

17 Rim from a coarse jar with fingertip impressions, fabric IFE.

18 Bodysherd from a carinated jar with fingertip impressions, fabric IFI.

Staple Gardens. Early Iron Age pottery residual in Roman and post-Roman contexts.

19 Carinated jar, fabric ISM.

20 Furrowed bowl, fabric ISM.

21 Carinated jar, fabric ICD.

Carfax. Early and middle Iron Age pottery from middle Iron Age phase 5 ploughsoil 1723.

22 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ISI.

23 Pedestal base, fabric ISI.

24 Plain out-turned rim, fabric ISM.

25 Out-turned rim from a coarse jar with fingertip impressions, fabric ISO.

26 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric IFD.

27 Straight sided saucepan pot, fabric IFD.

28 Bodysherd from a carinated jar with fingertip impressions, fabric IFD.

29 Bodysherd with twisted cordon decoration, fabric IFE.

30 Bodysherd from a carinated jar with impressed decoration, fabric IFE.

Stratified and residual middle Iron Age pottery from various sites.

31 Saucepan pot with tooled decoration, fabric IFA. New Road middle Iron Age phase 6 silting of the defensive ditch F371 (569).

32 Bodysherd with tooled and stamped decoration, fabric IFA. New Road middle Iron Age phase 6 silting of the defensive ditch F371 (577).

33 Incurving saucepan pot with tooled decoration, fabric IFA. Staple Gardens, residual.

34 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric IFA. Carfax middle Iron Age phase 4 hearth F108.

35 Saucepan pot, fabric IFA. Victoria Road, middle Iron Age phases 22 and 23 soil build-up 4340.

36 Saucepan pot, fabric ICA, context as 35.

37 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ICA. Staple Gardens, residual.

38 Incurving saucepan pot with slightly out-turned rim, fabric ICC. Sussex Street (1976, VIII) middle Iron Age phase gully F528.

39 Ovoid jar with slightly beaded rim, fabric ICC. Staple Gardens, residual.

40 Ovoid jar with slightly beaded rim, fabric ICD. Staple Gardens, residual.

41 Saucepan pot, fabric ICD. Staple Gardens, residual.

Figure 30

Staple Gardens. Stratified middle Iron Age pottery from phase 3.

42 Straight-sided saucepan pot, fabric ISI. Gully F670.

43 Bowl with tooled and stamped decoration, fabric ISL. Posthole F644.

44 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric IFA. Posthole F679.

45 Saucepan pot, fabric IFA. Gully F521.

46 Fabric and form as 45. Gully F615.

47 Fabric and form as 45. Gully F642.

48 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric IFD. Gully F642.

- 49 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ICB. Gully F521.
50 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ICC. Gully F670.

Staple Gardens. Stratified late Iron Age pottery from phases 4 and 5.

- 51 Ovoid jar with bead rim, fabric ISJ. Phase 5 gully F640.
52 Bead-rimmed jar, fabric IFA. Phase 5 gully F640.
53–56 Bead-rimmed jars, fabric IFA. Phase 4 gully F641.
57 Ovoid jar with bead rim, fabric IFK. Phase 5 gully F640.
58 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric IFL. Phase 4 gully F641.
59 Ovoid jar with upright rim, fabric IFM. Phase 5 gully F640.
60 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ICC. Phase 4 gully F641.
61 Incurving saucepan pot, fabric ICC. Phase 5 gully F640.
62 Bodysherd with grooved decoration, fabric IOE. Phase 5 gully F640.

Figure 31

Trafalgar House. Stratified late Iron Age pottery from the fill of the defensive ditch F12.

- 63 Bead-rimmed jar with tooled decoration, fabric ISV. Phase 3 fill 54.
64 Bodysherd with tooled decoration, fabric ISV. Phase 4 fill 52.
65 Saucepan pot with beaded rim, fabric IFA. Phase 3 fill 54.
66 Ovoid jar with bead rim, fabric IFA. Phase 4 fill 51.
67 Bead-rimmed jar with tooled decoration, fabric IFA. Phase 3 fill 54.
68–9 Bead-rimmed jars, fabric IFA. Phase 4 fill 51.
70 Shouldered jar with everted rim, fabric IFA. Phase 4 fill 51.
71 Bodysherd, probably from a bead-rimmed jar, fabric IFA. Phase 4 fill 51.
72 Bodysherd with cordoned decoration, perhaps from a narrow-necked everted-rim jar, fabric IFA. Phase 4 fill 51.
73 Form as 72, fabric IOE. Phase 4 fill 52.
74 Bodysherd with cordoned decoration, fabric IOE. Phase 4 fill 51.
75 Expanded base, fabric IOE. Phase 4 fill 52.

Dating

With the publication of the prehistoric elements of the settlement at Old Down Farm, Andover, a complete ceramic sequence from the 8th century BC (or possibly even earlier) to the close of the Iron Age has been available for comparison with other sites in Hampshire (Davies 1981). More recently this information has been augmented by the Danebury ceramic sequence. Occupation appears to have been continuous there from the 5th century BC, although the chronological scheme based on pottery typology allows for earlier ceramic phases (Cunliffe 1984 and 1995, 13–18).

Some of the subtleties apparent in the ceramic phasing of Old Down Farm and Danebury are lacking at Oram's Arbour. Within the early Iron Age, it has proven difficult to distinguish the earlier, furrowed-bowl phase (Danebury cps 1–2; Old Down Farm phase 3) from the later, scratched cordoned-bowl phase (Danebury cp 3; Old Down Farm phase 4). The rounded bowls and simple barrel and jar forms defining cps 4 and 5 at Danebury and numerous in phase 4 at Old Down Farm are very rare.

On the basis of stratified associations of pottery types, it is arguable that the Iron Age enclosure was occupied during the plain saucepan-pot phase (Danebury cp 6; Old Down Farm phase 4/5) but isolating this phase as a separate entity is difficult (see below). The decorated saucepan-pot phase (Danebury cp 7; Old Down Farm phase 5) and subsequent late Iron age phases (Danebury cps 8–9; Old Down Farm phase 6) are better represented.

The high degree of residuality and the small size of individual assemblages at Oram's Arbour may mask nuances of the ceramic sequence. Even at Winnall Down/Easton Lane, however, with a far larger sample of better stratified Iron Age pottery, bowl and jar forms characteristic of Danebury cps 4 and 5 were absent (Hawkes 1985 and 1989, 92, especially fig 89) although scratched cordoned bowls were present, as in Old Down Farm phase 4. It is possible, therefore, that the Winchester area was sparsely occupied during the later part of the early Iron Age and the earlier part of the middle Iron Age (but see below p 86).

To date the prehistoric structures excavated at Oram's Arbour, the material has been divided into three broad groups – early, middle, and late – based loosely on pottery evidence from other sites in Hampshire. These groups do not necessarily represent continuous occupation. The early phase is represented by components of Barrett's late Bronze Age or early Iron Age decorated assemblage (1980), ie fine wares with oxidised or red-slipped surfaces (Barrett's classes II and IV; here, sandy fabrics ISA, ISD, possibly ISM; flint-tempered fabric IFB) and coarse wares with finger-impressed decoration (Barrett's classes I and III; here, sandy fabrics ISH and ISO; flint-tempered fabrics IAG, IFB, IFE, IFI, and IFJ; chaff-tempered fabric ICO). Scratched cordoned bowls have not been identified with certainty, but this apparent absence may be due to poor preservation (see fabric ISD).

The middle phase is characterised by fabrics in which the earliest forms to occur are saucepan pots (sandy fabrics ISI, ISL, and ISJ; flint-tempered fabrics IFA, IFD, IFK, IFL, and IFM; chaff-tempered fabrics ICA, ICB, ICC, and ICD). Flint-tempered fabric IFA, which was used for the manufacture of vessels in the St Catharine's Hill/Worthy Down style (Cunliffe 1978, 46, and 1984, 254–6) is particularly distinctive of this phase.

In the late phase, the stratigraphically earliest appearance of grog-tempered wares (fabrics IOA and IOE) and wheelthrown sandy fabrics (fabrics ISU and ISV) is witnessed.

Discussion

While it would be unwise to speculate overmuch on the predominance of certain fabrics over others in individual early Iron Age assemblages, in general there seems to have been a distinct preference for flint tempering amongst the coarse wares of this period (fabrics IAG, IFB, IFE, IFI, and IFJ). Clearer evidence of

this preference has been recovered from other sites in the Winchester area like Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, 61–3) and Easton Lane (Ross 1982). This contrasts strongly with sites in the upper Test Valley such as Old Down Farm, where sandy fabrics predominated throughout the whole of the Iron Age period (Davies 1981). By contrast the early Iron Age pottery from Winklebury, near Basingstoke, differs less markedly from Winchester in this respect (Smith 1977, 83–106). This may indicate differing sources of supply. If much of the pottery were locally made, contrasts in the composition of assemblages between areas may merely reflect local preferences.

Flint appears to have been used most commonly as temper throughout southern England during the later Bronze Age period, however, giving way to other materials during the transition to the Iron Age (eg Wainwright 1969, 36–46; Needham and Longley 1980, 413). It is possible, therefore, that the contrast between the Winchester and Andover sites is attributable to conservatism in locally made wares from the Winchester area (see also Hawkes 1989, 92). This rather than a chronological gap could account for the absence of Danebury cp 4–5 forms, especially as the existence of these cps as representative of a separate chronological span at Danebury has been questioned (Brown 1995). If they do exist, they are of rather short duration (Cunliffe 1995, 18).

By means of petrological analysis, the mineral glauconite has been recognised in sandy fabrics of all Iron Age periods throughout Hampshire (see eg Cunliffe 1984, 245–6; Hawkes 1985, 60–1; Smith 1977, 89; Wandibba 1981, 92–3; Morris 1995). Since this mineral does not occur naturally on the chalk downlands, its presence in pottery fabrics recovered from sites on chalk has sometimes been taken as an indication of exchange or trade.

It is uncertain whether these fabrics represent a single specialised industry, as glauconite is a common mineral in deposits surrounding the chalk downlands, particularly the Upper Greensand (Williams, archive). Since a common source in Wiltshire has been argued on stylistic grounds for middle to late Iron Age glauconitic sandy wares from Danebury (Cunliffe 1984, 245–6), it is possible that the early Iron Age glauconitic sandy wares also originated there.

At Oram's Arbour the bulk of the glauconitic fabrics (fabrics ICB, ICE, ISI, and ISO and some sherds in fabric ICC) occur in saucepan and related forms, although two earlier sherds (fabrics ISI and ISO) were also present (unfortunately in a ploughsoil containing an Iron Age assemblage of mixed date from Carfax – see Chapter 2, p 36). In general the sandy fabrics ISI and the chaff-tempered fabrics ICA, ICB, ICC, ICD, and ICE seem to equate broadly with fabrics B1 and B3 at middle Iron Age Easton Lane (Hawkes 1989). As these pots are invariably plain, although they are made in a distinctive way (*ibid.*, 94), there is no particular decorative style zone within the saucepan-pot continuum by which to classify them. Thus it is impossible to suggest sources of manufacture based on distribution and also impossible to know how far the same sources are represented in the early Iron Age and the late Iron Age (Morris 1995, 243).

If the glauconitic sandy wares found in Winchester were of Wiltshire origin, this could also account for contrasts between the quantities of fabric types from different areas of Hampshire. Old Down Farm is nearer than Winchester to the putative source of manufacture and might be expected to have received a higher proportion of the products of the industry. The nearest Upper Greensand outcrop to Winchester is, however, some 15km to the east, near Petersfield. Further as the glauconite appears scattered throughout the fabric of the Winchester samples (Williams, archive) rather than in abundant quantities, the source of the raw clay could have been the Reading Beds, about 8km to the south (Morris 1995, 242, fabric Q2 and its variants).

The presence of decorated saucepan pots, particularly in flint-tempered fabric IFA, indicates that occupation at Oram's Arbour centred on the decorated-saucepan phase of the middle Iron Age (Danebury, cp 7). Whether individual flint-tempered middle Iron Age fabrics such as IFA were made strictly for local consumption or represent specialist industries is difficult to demonstrate on the basis of fabric alone. The distinctive St Catharine's Hill/Worthy Down style, however, in which fabric IFA occurs and the wide distribution of this style throughout Hampshire (Cunliffe 1978, 46, and 1984, 254–6) argues in favour of specialist production. Recent elemental analysis of a limited number of samples from Hampshire (Winchester area, Basingstoke area, Andover area, Danebury, Southampton, and Romsey) failed to detect any significant site-based differences (Vince 2003), perhaps suggesting a shared source of manufacture. The fabric is more common at Oram's Arbour and in Winchester generally (Hawkes 1985, 62–7) than in middle Iron Age phase 5 at Old Down Farm (Davies 1981, 123–4), which may indicate that Winchester is closer to that source.

Flint-gritted fabrics IFA, IFD, IFK, IFL, IFM, IFN, and IFS are also very numerous in late Iron Age assemblages. These may be a continuation of the St Catharine's Hill/Worthy Down tradition, perhaps from the same production centre, but showing less care in clay preparation and finishing. The flint temper is generally less well sorted and the decorative technique of shallow tooled lines is continued, but with less precision. In general the bead-rimmed and everted-rim forms of the late Iron Age seem to represent a development from the middle Iron Age incurved saucepans. The late Iron Age fabrics show a greater range of tempering agents than those in the middle Iron Age. Often the same form is produced in several different fabrics. For example, bead-rimmed jars occur in sandy (fabric ISV), flint-tempered (fabrics IFA, IFN, and IFO), chalk-tempered (fabric IHA) and grog-tempered (fabric IOA) wares, as if to experiment with temper. The sources of manufacture of fabrics introduced during the late Iron Age period are uncertain, although Alice Holt is a possibility. Similar forms and fabrics were produced there in the early Roman period and pottery dated to the period before AD 60 was recovered from waste dump AH5, suggesting small-scale local production (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 20). A late Iron Age or Claudian kiln has also been excavated at Binstead, a short distance to the

Table 11 Staple Gardens: quantity of Iron Age pottery from phase 3

Group	Fabric	No.	Wt	Total for group	
				No.	Wt
sand	ISI	23	333	30	374
	ISL	2	31		
	ISM	5	10		
flint	IFA	22	324	25	349
	IFB	1	1		
	IFD	1	13		
	IFJ	1	11		
chaff	ICB	2	28	16	262
	ICC	13	199		
	ICE	1	35		
			total	71	985

The sample is probably biased towards sandy fabrics by the presence of a large number of sherds from one vessel.

Table 12 Staple Gardens: quantity of Iron Age pottery from phases 4 and 5

Group	Fabric	No.	Wt	Total for group	
				No.	Wt
sand	ISI	9	36	12	211
	ISJ	3	175		
flint	IFA	48	989	58	1125
	IFD	1	10		
	IFK	4	62		
	IFL	3	46		
	IFM	1	14		
	IFS	1	4		
	chaff	ICB	8		
ICC		9	124		
ICD		1	7		
ICE		1	37		
grog	IOE	5	26	5	26
calcareous	IQA	7	46	7	46
Roman	-	1	10	1	10
			total	102	1641

The assemblages from the two inter-cutting features F640 and F641 have been grouped together as the cross-context joins demonstrate that much of the material from the earlier feature is residual in the later one.

west of Alice Holt (Lyne 1981, 9). Alice Holt pottery has been recognised in late Iron Age deposits at Danebury (Brown 1991, 285) and Silchester (Timby 2000, 307)

Since fossil shell is uncommon on chalk, the shell-tempered fabric IQA may also be an example of a 'traded' ware, as is the briquetage. The importance of this latter material, used for transportation of salt from manufacturing sites on the coast, has been recognised at a variety of locations throughout Hampshire in the last twenty years or so (Morris 1985, 76; Oliver and Applin 1978, 66; Poole 1984b, 426-30; Smith 1977, 88). Some of the Oram's Arbour material differs from that recovered from Winnall Down in containing shell (fabric IBS), which suggests differing sources of

supply. Winchester is only around 25 km from sites on Southampton Water and the Solent where saltworking debris has been recorded (Bradley 1975). Further petrological characterisation with a view to the precise identification of coastal sources of salt supply and how these might have changed throughout the Iron Age period is now overdue (Morris, archive).

Apart from typological changes in the flint-tempered fabrics and a decline in the quantity of hand-made sandy and chaff-tempered wares, the only significant difference between the late Iron Age assemblage from Staple Gardens and its middle Iron Age predecessor is the presence of a small amount of grog-tempered pottery (fabric IOA; Tables 11 and 12). By contrast, the

Table 13 Trafalgar House: quantity of Iron Age pottery from phases 2-5 of the enclosure ditch F12

Group	Fabric	No.	Wt	Total for group	
				No.	Wt
sand	ISU	6	101		
	ISV	5	61	11	162
flint	IFA	60	1736		
	IFK	7	82		
	IFM	15	281	82	2099
grog	IOA	1	10		
	IOE	3	155	4	165
calcareous	IHA	2	28		
	IQA	2	36	4	64
briquetage	IBR	9	69		
	IBS	5	29	14	98
			total	115	2588

Trafalgar House group includes wheelthrown sandy wares (fabrics ISU, ISV; Table 13) in addition to grog-tempered wares (fabrics IOA and IOE). This may indicate that the Trafalgar House material is slightly later than that from Staple Gardens.

The presence of both late Iron Age assemblages contradicts an earlier suggestion that there was a complete gap in the settlement sequence in Winchester from the end of the middle Iron Age saucepan-pot phase until the late Neronian or early Flavian period (Collis 1970, 256). The late Iron Age pottery from the section of the ditch excavated at Trafalgar House is similar to that recovered from the section at Assize Courts North (Biddle 1975). It seems reasonable to assume that the unexcavated 20m of ditch between the two sites also contains late Iron Age material and this would represent a considerable amount of rubbish disposal by the resident community.

Stone by C Matthews and S Mounsey

Stone artefacts were relatively rare. At New Road pit F419 (phase 8) produced several rotary quernstones and fragments. Apart from this the assemblage comprised two fragments of glauconitic sandstone (probably from quernstones), a small piece of Selbourne malmstone recovered from contexts of phases 4 and 5 at Staple Gardens, and a small chip of glauconitic sandstone from the defensive ditch F371 (phase 6 fill 573) at New Road.

Two lower quernstones and six upper quernstones were recovered from the pit at New Road, together with several more fragments (Figs 32-4). This ratio of lower to upper stones is paralleled at Gussage All Saints, where eleven of the former as compared to 47 of the latter were found (Buckley 1979, 89). It may be that the upper stones required more frequent replacement than the lower.

The upper stones were probably all of the same type,

though the incomplete nature of some of the fragments means that the position of the handle has to be inferred. They have a conical grinding surface with a basin-shaped hopper and a handle slot cut into the flat top. These characteristics are inconsistent with the typology for pre-Roman quernstones established by Curwen (1937, 140-3), but compare well with material from middle Iron Age phases at Winnall Down (Jecock 1985, 77-80, type A). As stated by Jecock (1985, 78), precise details of the profile and form can vary. In the New Road group this is particularly noticeable in the form of the hopper (nos 3 and 9). One example (no. 7) has a small rounded hole in one side, but it is too shallow to have been used as an alternative arrangement to the slot, which is on the flat surface of the quern. The quern should, therefore, be classified as Jecock's type A, since in type C, Curwen's 'Wessex' type (1937, 142), the handle is inserted in the side of the upper stone. In fact, no quernstones of 'Wessex' type have been found in or around Winchester, with the possible exception of one from Twyford Down (Stuart and Birkbeck 1935, 206, fig 9.7). This classification is uncertain, however, as no indication of its handle socket is shown, despite the object's identification as a 'Wessex' type by Curwen (1937, 141, fig 9).

The raw material used for the manufacture of the New Road quernstones identified by David Peacock is glauconitic sandstone of a type found in the Midhurst area of West Sussex. Subsequent work has led to the discovery of the location of the quarry at Lodsworth (Peacock 1987). It is likely that this is the source of the New Road quernstones, since such material was also present at Winnall Down and at Owslebury, although this has not been checked (Peacock 1987, 77).

Catalogue (Figs 32-4)

1 Part of a lower rotary stone, diameter 310mm, thickness 85mm.

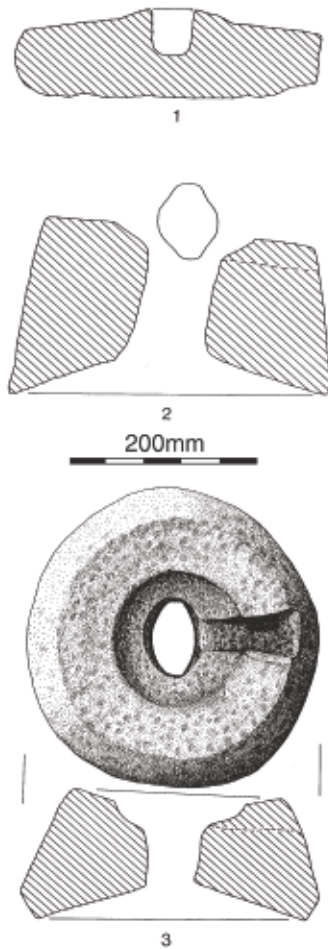


Figure 32 Iron Age quernstones from New Road

- 2 Incomplete upper rotary stone, diameter 335mm, thickness 175mm. Jecock type A.
 - 3 Almost complete upper rotary stone, diameter 320mm, thickness 130mm. Jecock type A.
 - 4 Incomplete upper rotary stone, diameter approximately 310mm, thickness 160mm. Probably Jecock type A.
 - 5 Incomplete upper rotary stone, diameter approximately 360mm, thickness 160mm. Probably Jecock type A.
 - 6 Incomplete upper rotary stone, diameter 320mm, thickness 140mm. Probably Jecock type A.
 - 7 Incomplete upper rotary stone, diameter 320mm, thickness 145mm. Jecock type A.
 - 8 Almost complete lower rotary stone, diameter 320mm, thickness 170mm.
 - 9 Part of an upper rotary stone, diameter approximately 280mm, thickness 120mm. Jecock type A.
- Six fragments from three upper rotary stones and two fragments, one definitely and one possibly from lower rotary stones, are not illustrated.

Flint

This summary has been prepared from an assessment report by Julian Richards.

A rapid assessment of the prehistoric flintwork retrieved from sites associated with the Oram's Arbour enclosure revealed that very few pieces were of sufficiently diagnostic form to be closely datable and that

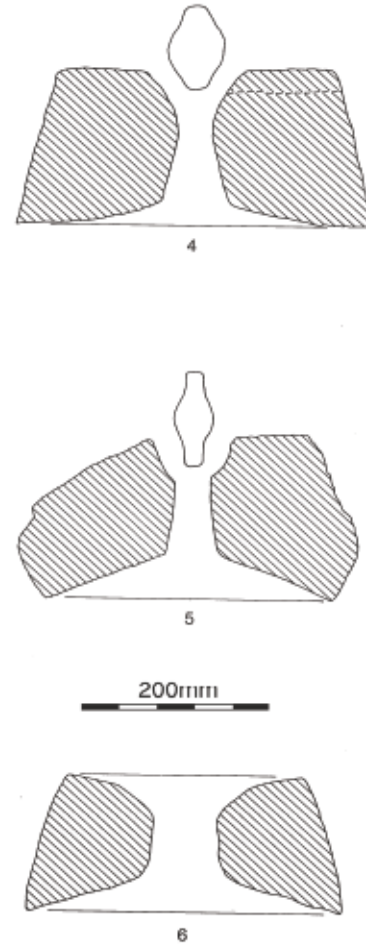


Figure 33 Iron Age quernstones from New Road

none of these were stratified. There were substantial groups of material from Victoria Road and Carfax, which contained surprisingly few tools. These suggest not very much earlier Neolithic activity (reinforced by low blade numbers) with slightly more evidence for later Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age occupation (quantification in archive).

Flakes are well represented, with a marked absence of cores. Many pieces recorded as cores may in fact be small nodules trimmed for walling purposes. It is possible that on-site selection was biased towards certain more recognisable elements of what could be regarded as representative flint assemblage. Since every effort was made during excavation to retain all flint apart from obvious nodules, however, the likelihood that none of the material was recovered from its primary context may account for the bias.

The raw material appears in all cases to be chalk flint, some of very poor quality.

Coins by R Goodburn

This report was first written in 1984 and has been recently revised.

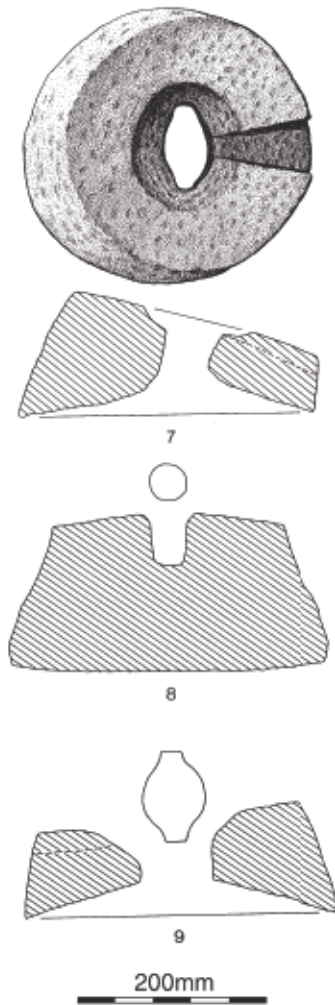


Figure 34 Iron Age quernstones from New Road

Iron Age

There are a small number of pre-Roman Iron Age coins from excavations in Winchester. Neither the Durotrigan stater nor the minim are unexpected in Atrebatian territory close to the eastern borderlands of the Durotriges. If it is an issue of Verica, the minim's date would be c AD 10–42. References are to Mack 1953.

Catalogue

1 Durotriges: Uninscribed A (Mack 317; VA Durotrigan E, 1235–1)
 Victoria Road sf VR7117. Fill of Iron Age ditch F944 (Trench XI, 1269).
 AR Weight 4.98g. Slightly worn.

A good example of the sole Durotrigan silver stater derived from the British A (Mack 28; VA Atrebatian A, 200–1) gold stater.

There seem to be only half-a-dozen or so Durotrigan coins from Winchester, most of bronze. This number might suggest rather slight contacts between the Atrebates and their western neighbours; but the small number of finds might reflect chance circumstances of

excavation and the picture may well change as time passes.

2 Silver minim

Victoria Road sf VR 1028. Late 1st- to early 2nd-century soil layer (Trench V, 372). AR Weight 0.33g. Somewhat worn and corroded.

Obverse: Uncertain? figure at centre with possible letters C O . . . around edge.

Reverse: Uncertain? figure at centre. Four pellets show at edge.

Despite traces of greenish corrosion, this coin is of silver. Similar corrosion was visible on silver minims from Owslebury, Hants. The designs are not clear, and the size (diameter 8–9 mm) makes identification more difficult. There are no obviously comparable Continental types. The size, weight, metal, and what can be seen of the elements of the design suggest that this may be a minim of Verica (cf Mack 116–17 (VA 480–1, 564–1), Mack 119–20 (VA 482–1, 483–1), Mack 120A–E (VA 484–1, 510–1, 511–1, 552–1), Mack 132 (VA 551–1), especially Mack 120B (VA 510–1)) or Tincommius (Mack 118; VA 383–1). Other similar coins are of Epaticcus (Mack 264; VA 585–1); Crab (Mack 372; VA 1286–1) and A? or Verica (Mack 316; VA 561–1).

It seems that these tiny silver coins stand in place of bronze as the smallest unit in some areas. Coins of these types are fairly rare so far, perhaps because they are so hard to spot on the ground. There are specimens from the Winchester area and from Winchester itself has come a Mack 120; VA 483–1 (Phillipson 1964, 56).

3 Unidentified Celtic bronze

Victoria Road sf VR 5629. Mid to late 2nd-century soil layer (Trench XII, 2583).

AR Weight 2.13g.

Although extremely corroded and broken there seems no doubt that this concavo-convex bronze, c 17–20 mm in diameter and c 2–3 mm thick is a Celtic coin. There are signs of a pattern on the obverse and on the reverse there is also a possible letter T or F near the edge.

Roman

There are three Roman coins predating AD 43: one (allegedly 180–120 BC) from Victoria Road, which is missing, one (29–27 BC) from Magdalen Almshouses and one (31 BC) from Staple Gardens. They are all residual in Romano-British contexts. Fuller descriptions may be found in Crummy *et al* (forthcoming).

A La Tène II brooch by N Crummy

There is only one pre-Roman brooch from this group of sites (Fig 35).

Victoria Road. Sf VR 790. Trench V unstratified. Well-preserved brooch, complete except for the pin. Length 62mm. The bow is decorated with a line of small sub-square punch marks. The wrapped attachment is grooved to give the impression that the foot was triple-wound around the bow.

As on a brooch from Hod Hill, Dorset, the area created by the returned tail has been filled in somewhat, beginning the transition to a perforated catch plate (Brailsford 1962, fig 10, C99; Hull and Hawkes 1987, pl S3, 5646).

This brooch is of Hull and Hawkes' Type 3c (1987, 179), Feugère's Type 3b1b (1985, 180), and Riha's Type 1.4 (1979, Taf 79). It is a continentally made La Tène II one-piece brooch belonging within the La Tène III period. Such brooches continued to be manufactured until at least the middle years of the 1st century. A distinctive feature is the wrapped attachment which fixes the returned foot to the bow, on this example grooved three times to give the impression that the foot itself was triple-wound around the bow. Just over twenty of these brooches are listed by Hull and Hawkes as found in Britain (1987, 180–2). Two are completely unprovenanced, and others lack contextual information. Few of the remainder are well stratified, but they are clearly divided between sites with both Iron Age and Roman occupation – Silchester, Hod Hill, Stockton in Wiltshire, Sheepen (the Iron Age/early Roman industrial area of Camulodunum), Verulamium, and Roman sites with little or no known evidence for pre-conquest activity, Richborough, the City of London, Cirencester, Caistor-by-Norwich, Dorchester in Dorset, Weston-under-Penyard in Herefordshire, and Chester. Stratified examples are the Verulamium brooch, which came from a natural surface beneath dumped soil dating to the mid-1st century (Wheeler and Wheeler 1936, 115–16, 203), while one of the two from Cirencester was found beneath the rampart of the Roman town (Rennie 1957, 213–4). Two out of the three brooches from Richborough came from contexts deposited well after the conquest (Henderson 1949, 107, no. 1, dated to before c AD 85; no. 2, dated pre-Flavian to Flavian). The three unstratified brooches from London might be presumed to be later than c AD 50 (eg Bird 1994), though there is a little evidence for Iron Age occupation in the area of the City (Merriman 1987, 324, especially note 35).

Continental evidence is more substantial. At Augst these brooches first appear in the late Augustan to Tiberian period. They are most numerous in contexts dated to the Claudian period and the middle years of the 1st century. A few appear in 2nd- and even 2nd- to 3rd-century deposits, though they are almost certainly residual, as may be some of those dated to the later part of the 1st century (Riha 1979, 56–9). It has been suggested that the high numbers of these brooches on central Rhineland sites (6% of the assemblage at Vindonissa, 4.3% at Augst) indicate that they were an exclusively military form, but evidence from graves in the area, where they occur with spindlewhorls, shows that they were used by females and so cannot be assigned exclusively to any one gender or social group (Riha 1979, 57). In southern Gaul they appear to be evidence of Romanised society, being more frequently found on villas and urban sites than in the oppida (Feugère 1985, 198). As they occur there no earlier than the late Augustan period, a manufacturing span between the reigns of Tiberius and Vespasian has been proposed (Feugère 1985, 196–7).

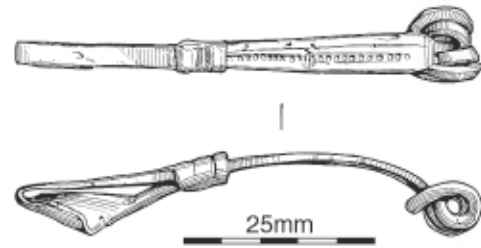


Figure 35 The La Tène II brooch from Victoria Road

Despite the strong evidence of the type's popularity on the continent in the Claudian period, the absence of Type 3c brooches from early military and colonial sites in Britain, such as Kingsholm, Usk, and Colchester, suggests that this was not a brooch favoured by the invading legions. The low number and wide distribution of examples suggests rather a slow trickle of imports over several decades. Perhaps pre-conquest Type 3cs, such as that from Verulamium, are evidence of not very successful attempts to gain a share of the British market at a time of fierce competition from other simple types, in particular the Colchester brooch, a stronger and, therefore, more economic form altogether. Post-conquest Type 3cs, however, seem likely to have arrived among the personal effects of incomers from areas of the Empire where the form had found favour. This could account for the Chester and Weston-under-Penyard brooches and for the six from Richborough and London. These represent over a quarter of the total from Britain, for both ports were important entry points into the new province for travellers from the Rhineland and north-west Gaul.

The presence of this Type 3c brooch at Oram's Arbour is, therefore, open to interpretation. It may be pre-Roman and evidence of trade with the continent or it may be evidence of post-conquest Roman occupation, military or civilian. On balance a pre-conquest date seems likely, with the brooch representing evidence of an attempt to establish a market for the form in central southern Britain, for which the brooches from Silchester, Stockton, and Hod Hill are perhaps testament to limited success.

Metalworking residues by J Bayley

Late Iron Age contexts in the fill of the enclosure ditch at Trafalgar House (F12) produced evidence of non-ferrous metal melting. The finds included a crucible fragment, solidified blobs and dribbles of molten metal, slaggy lumps containing much copper, and fragments of sheet metal. Qualitative analysis by X-ray fluorescence showed that all of the metal was bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. Copper alone was detected on the crucible fragment.

In addition the samples contained a few small pieces of fuel ash slag, formed when a silicate material such as clay is heated to high temperatures in contact with the

Table 14 Staple Gardens: species represented in Iron Age phases

Species	Phases			Total
	3	4	5	
cattle	21	22	14	57
sheep/goat*	28	32	7	67
pig	4	12	3	19
horse	2	5	3	10
dog	1	3	–	4
large mammal	11	17	4	32
sheep sized mammal	17	29	–	46
unidentified mammal	1	6	–	7
total	85	126	31	242
*sheep	4	12	2	18

ash in a fire. This can (but need not) be associated with metalworking.

Animal bone

Like the pottery, there was a sufficiently large sample of animal bone from sites associated with the Oram's Arbour enclosure to warrant publication of selected data, but not enough to draw many firm conclusions concerning the management of the environment in prehistory.

Reports were commissioned in two stages. Jenny Coy's report for the most part deals qualitatively with prehistoric material from the western suburbs of the town, as the sample was too small to justify detailed presentation of quantified data. A separate report on the somewhat larger sample from Staple Gardens was undertaken by Mark Maltby and his report includes more quantification. In this volume, the separate integrity of each report has been maintained. It is hoped that this approach will nevertheless allow the reader to compare and contrast the evidence with that of similar sites nearby and from the Hampshire chalklands generally.

Assemblages from prehistoric contexts at Carfax and at Victoria Road were too small to warrant publication. Assessment reports are held in archive at Winchester City Museums Service and quantified data collected during the preparation of published texts at the Faunal Remains Unit, University of Southampton. It should be noted that Mark Maltby's report on the animal bones from Roman contexts at Staple Gardens, to which he refers in his discussion of the bones from Winnall Down/Easton Lane (1989, 129–131), will be published elsewhere.

Staple Gardens by M Maltby

Introduction

This was a small sample of 242 fragments, most of which was recovered from middle Iron Age contexts in

phase 3 and late Iron Age contexts in phase 4. All of the bones discussed in this report were retrieved by hand.

The domestic species cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse, and dog were identified but no bones of wild mammals were present (Table 14). Fragments of the domestic mammals cattle and sheep/goat were dominant amongst the identifiable portion of the assemblage. Horse bones were relatively frequent.

The nature of the sample

Before the relative importance of these species in the diet can be discussed, an analysis of the types of bone present has to be made, in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the nature of the sample. Data concerning the numbers and types of the different skeletal elements present in the assemblage have been used in conjunction with evidence of canid gnawing to assess retrieval standards and preservation of bones (Tables 15–17).

In the context of rescue excavations, assessment of retrieval bias is particularly important. At Staple Gardens the small bones of all species were under-represented. Phalanges, carpals, tarsals, and loose teeth in particular were poorly represented (Table 15). A combination of retrieval and preservation factors affect the degree to which fragments can be identified to species. Here the proportion of unidentified fragments is low at 35%, despite abundant evidence of canid gnawing (Table 17). It is likely, therefore, that the sample is biased towards the larger mammals, particularly cattle. Pig, sheep/goat, and especially bird and fish are likely to be under-represented. Indeed fish bones were recovered from soil samples. The bones were extremely well preserved apart from the high percentage of gnawed fragments (Table 17). Thirty-six bones bore evidence of partial destruction by gnawing. This represents 24% of the fragments identified to species (excluding loose teeth).

It is thought that the vast majority of gnawing marks were caused by dogs, although pigs and other animals can also cause such damage. All of the principal species

Table 15 Staple Gardens: elements represented in Iron Age phases

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Large mammal	Sheep-sized mammal	Unidentified mammal
skull frag	2	18	4	1	1	-	9	1
mandible	4	12	2	-	2	-	-	-
hyoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
loose teeth	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
scapula	7	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
humerus	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
radius	2	10	2	1	-	-	-	-
ulna	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
os coxae	5	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
femur	5	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
tibia	5	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
carpal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
calcaneus	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
astragalus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
metacarpal	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
metatarsal	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
lat metapod	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1st phalanx	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd phalanx	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd phalanx	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
rib	1	1	-	-	-	18	24	-
cervical vert	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
thoracic vert	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
lumbar vert	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
sacrum	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
unid vert	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
longbone frag	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	2
unid frag	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	4
total	57	67	19	10	4	32	46	7

Table 16 Staple Gardens: parts of major limb bones represented in Iron Age phases

	Cattle				Sheep/goat				Pig			
	p	d	s	x	p	d	s	x	p	d	s	x
scapula	-	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
humerus	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
radius	2	1	-	-	3	2	8	-	1	-	-	1
femur	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-
tibia	1	2	3	-	4	2	4	-	-	1	-	-
metacarpal	2	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
metatarsal	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-

p - proximal; d - distal; s - shaft; x - epiphysis

were affected, but the incidence of gnawing was generally greater on cattle fragments than on those of sheep/goat. This was probably partly due to the fact that the assemblage contained a comparatively large number of sheep skull fragments, which do not usually bear gnawing marks.

Such a high incidence of gnawing suggests that scavenging by dogs must have totally destroyed a large proportion of the bones from which the assemblage derived. Certain bones and parts of bones are affected more than others. This depends both on their sturdiness and possibly on the selection of the more

**Table 17 Staple Gardens:
gnawing in Iron Age phases**

Species	No.	%
cattle	16	30
sheep/goat	11	17
pig	4	21
horse	2	-
dog	-	-
large mammal	1	-
sheep-sized mammal	1	-
unidentified mammal	1	-
total	36	

% - percentage of total fragments of species, excluding loose teeth

**Table 18 Staple Gardens:
cattle epiphyseal fusion data in Iron Age phases**

	unfused	fusing	fused
<i>early fusing</i>			
scapula distal	-	-	3
humerus distal	-	-	2
radius proximal	-	-	2
<i>later fusing</i>			
tibia distal	1	-	1
metacarpus distal	1	-	1
metatarsus distal	-	-	1
<i>late fusing</i>			
radius distal	-	-	1
femur proximal	1	1	1
femur distal	-	1	-

nutritious parts of the skeleton on the part of the dog. Thus the sturdier skeletal elements, such as the shafts of the metapodia, tibiae and radii, loose teeth, and mandibles tend to survive better than the limb bone articulations and the more fragile elements, such as vertebrae, scapulae, femora, and phalanges. In terms of species representation, it is likely that the pig and sheep/goat assemblages suffered more than those of cattle. This accounts for the majority of the discrepancies in element representation in the sample of the major species, particularly in the sheep/goat and pig samples (Table 15).

In addition proximal articulations of radii and metapodia survived better than their later fusing distal counterparts (Table 18). This suggests that later fusing and more fragile articulations survived less well than early fusing or denser articulations, supplying additional evidence of intensive scavenging by dogs.

Once carcasses are dismembered, there is no guarantee that the different bones will be deposited in the same place. Discrete concentrations of certain

bones are not uncommon on Roman urban and military sites. On a smaller scale, studies of some Iron Age faunal assemblages have indicated that differential disposal of skeletal elements in different parts of a settlement may often have taken place. The assemblage from Staple Gardens were, however, unfortunately too small to be of much use in this type of analysis.

Species representation, age, and size

It has been demonstrated that retrieval standards probably biased the sample in favour of cattle and that the abundant evidence for canid scavenging attests that a substantial proportion of the assemblage had been disturbed and destroyed by dogs. These factors may have altered the relative abundance of bones represented for each species. It should also be borne in mind that differential disposal of carcasses may have taken place, although this cannot be demonstrated conclusively. Nevertheless a few comments may be made.

Counting the number fragments of cattle and horse only, horse provided a relatively large proportion of such bones at 15%. This pattern is consistent with that recorded for the nearby site at Winnall Down/Easton Lane, where a similar percentage of horse was present in Iron Age phases (Maltby 1989, 130) and many Iron Age sites in southern England have produced a relatively large number of horse fragments in comparison to cattle (Maltby, 1987).

Not all fragments of sheep and goat can be distinguished from each other. Where possible, however, such bones were identified to species and only sheep was definitely represented (Table 14). Again this compares well with Winnall Down/Easton Lane, where negligible quantities identifiable as goat were recovered from middle Iron Age phases (Maltby 1985, 106, and 1989, 125-7).

It is much more difficult to compare the cattle and sheep/goat assemblages due to the various biases discussed above. Sheep/goat fragments outnumber those of cattle but whether this is an accurate reflection of the assemblage from the settlement is unclear. If tibia fragments only are taken into account (this may reduce the effect of sample bias), sheep/goat represent 62% of the total for cattle and sheep taken together, a figure comparable to that from Winnall Down/Easton Lane (Maltby 1989, 129). Since the total number of fragments from Staple Gardens is only thirteen (Table 15), however, the sample cannot be regarded as reliable.

It is perhaps easier to compare the pig and sheep/goat assemblages because the species will be closer in size. Similarly there is less evidence that their carcasses were treated differently than was the case with cattle. In this small sample, pig provided 22% of the total number of sheep/goat and pig fragments, suggesting that it formed a relatively insignificant part of the diet. This probably reflects the extensive clearance of woodland cover by the Iron Age period, which is attested by

the molluscan evidence both here and at Winnall Down/ Easton Lane (Maltby 1989, 129).

Bones of other mammals were comparatively rare. A few bones of dog were recovered – a humerus with knife cuts near the distal articulation from the fill of phase 4 gully 641 attests that dog meat was occasionally eaten in the Iron Age.

Ageing data should ideally rely mainly on the analysis of tooth eruption and wear in the mandibles. Evidence of epiphyseal fusion is thought to be a less reliable guide to mortality patterns because of taphonomic and other analytical problems. Unfortunately only two cattle mandibles bore evidence of completion of their tooth eruption sequence and probably belonged to animals over five years old.

The results of analysis of epiphyseal fusion indicate that few bones of calves were represented (or had survived). The sample is probably too small to provide evidence either for or against a major kill-off of immature animals (Table 18). It should also be borne in mind that the number of unfused epiphyses is likely to be under-represented because of their greater susceptibility to destruction by scavengers.

The sheep/goat mandibles provided a somewhat larger sample for analysis (Table 19). No lambs under a year old were present and most mandibles were at stages 4–6. These would belong to animals ranging from twelve months possibly up to 72 months old. Few mandibles belonged to very old sheep (stage 7). This contrasts with Owslebury, where around 7–11% of the mandibles of sheep from Iron Age and Romano-British phases were at this stage (Maltby, 1987).

The low numbers of young animals are perhaps worthy of note. Animals of this age have been found abundantly in pits from contemporary chalkland sites in Hampshire, eg at Danebury (Grant 1984) and Winnall Down (Maltby 1985). Mandibles of older sheep, however, particularly those at stages 4–5 have been found more commonly in deposits other than pits, eg at Owslebury (Maltby 1987) and at Winnall Down (Maltby 1982, 89). It should be noted that no pits were present at Staple Gardens.

The epiphyseal fusion data broadly support the evidence obtained from the tooth eruption data (Table 20). Relatively few of the late fusing articulations had fused, suggesting that the majority of the sheep present were not very old animals. Similarly comparatively few bones of young lambs were present.

The deposits produced few measurable bones and these fell within the ranges of measurable bones from larger Iron Age samples in Hampshire.

Butchery

The lack of surface erosion facilitated the observation of butchery marks on many of the bones. The incidence of butchery marks on cattle and large mammal fragments slightly exceeded that of sheep/goat, pig, and dog (Table 21), but the difference was more marked in terms of numbers of fragments (Tables 22–23). The cattle bones with the highest frequency of marks were

Table 19 Staple Gardens: wear stages of sheep/goat mandibles in Iron Age phases

Stage	No.
1: deciduous 4th premolar (d4) not in wear	–
2: d4 in wear: 1st premolar (M1) not in wear	–
3: M1 in wear: 2nd molar (M2) not in wear	3
4: M2 in wear: 3rd molar (M3) not in wear	5
5: M3 in wear: M1 not in heavy wear	1
6: M1 in heavy wear	1
7: M1 and M2 in heavy wear	–
total	10

Assessment of wear in sheep mandibles follows Deniz and Payne, 1982, 163.

Table 20 Staple Gardens: sheep/goat epiphyseal fusion data from Iron Age phases

	Unfused	Fusing	Fused
<i>early fusing</i>			
scapula distal	1	–	–
humerus distal	–	–	–
radius proximal	1	–	2
<i>later fusing</i>			
tibia distal	–	–	2
metatarsus distal	–	–	1
<i>late fusing</i>			
radius distal	2	–	–
femur proximal	1	–	–
tibia proximal	2	–	2

Table 21 Staple Gardens: incidence of butchery marks in Iron Age phases

Species	Incidence
cattle	14
sheep/goat	6
pig	6
horse	2
dog	1
large mammal	3
total	32

the upper limb bones, reflecting the fact that these bones and the vertebrae are the major meat-bearing elements (Table 22).

Most of the marks on the cattle bones were from knife cuts, although a few were made with a chopper or an axe. Seven limb-bone fragments had cuts associated with disarticulation of various joints, while cuts associated with the filleting of meat from the bone were found on four fragments. Such cuts are typical of the type commonly found on Iron Age cattle from

Table 22 Staple Gardens: cattle and large mammal fragments with butchery marks from Iron Age phases

	Cattle	Large mammal
hyoid	1	-
scapula	1	-
humerus	3	-
os coxae	2	-
femur	1	-
tibia	1	-
carpal	1	-
calcaneus	1	-
astragalus	1	-
metacarpal	1	-
rib	-	-
sacrum	1	-
unid frag	-	1
total	14	3
% butchered	26	19

Hampshire (Maltby 1981a and 1987) and elsewhere in southern England (Wilson 1978).

Like the cattle, all of the sheep/goat and pig butchery marks were knife cuts, as were those found on horse (two fragments). A humerus of a dog had knife cuts near the distal epiphyses made during the disarticulation of the forelimb.

Conclusions

Although the faunal sample from Staple Gardens was not particularly large, it does provide an addition to the evidence for the exploitation of animals in the Iron Age in central Hampshire. In particular it shows similarities in species representation, butchery practices, and the size of animals to other Iron Age assemblages in the area. Although the assemblage contrasted with others from the region in the age of its sheep, this may be the result of the lack of pits in this sample.

Sites in the western suburbs by J Coy

Animal bones were present in sieved samples from early and middle Bronze Age contexts at Crowder Terrace and New Road. The amount of material was, however, disappointingly small, a situation that also prevailed for material recovered by hand from early Iron Age contexts in the western suburbs. Only three bones, representing cattle (from phase 1 pit F42 and from phase 4 lynchet 52 at Crowder Terrace) and pig (also from pit F42 at Crowder Terrace) were identifiable to species. The remainder of the material was merely ascribable to small ('sheep-sized') or large ('cattle-sized') ungulate categories.

The sample was larger for the middle Iron Age,

Table 23 Staple Gardens: sheep/goat and pig fragments with butchery marks from Iron Age phases

	Sheep/goat	Pig
skull frag	-	1
scapula	-	1
radius	-	1
femur	1	1
tibia	2	1
metacarpal	1	-
lumbar vert	2	-
sacrum	-	1
total	6	6

although not large enough to merit detailed quantification in this report. Material was recovered from the primary fills of the defensive ditch at New Road (F371, phases 3-6) and from small pits and gullies in the interior of the enclosure at New Road and at Sussex Street.

The 75 fragments from the enclosure ditch included finds of dog that were probably from the same male partial skeleton. The remaining finds were overwhelmingly identifiable to species, mainly those of cattle and horse, making it likely that this ditch material is representative of typical food remains.

Such a small sample is unlikely, however, to yield reliable species ratios. Sixteen fragments were from meat-bearing bones, but 27 were from extremities, ie head and foot fragments. Apart from a sheep skull chopped axially, many bones showed extensive knife cuts for removal of meat. There was some evidence of canid gnawing (seven bones) and erosion (thirteen bones), which may indicate a mixed origin for this material and that some of it had been lying around the settlement before disposal.

The few measurements available for the major domesticates fitted Wessex middle Iron Age ranges. The small horse from fill 561 had an estimated withers height of 1260-1300mm (twelve to thirteen hands).

Ageing data was scarce and inconclusive. The only ageable horse (from fill 569) was around 18-19 years. Two cattle bones that fuse at two to three and a half years in modern animals were still unfused. The second molar of one sheep mandible and the third molar of another were just coming into wear. Some sheep vertebral epiphyses were also unfused. The animals represented were thus all mature but not ancient.

In the interior of the enclosure, animal bones were recovered from two pits (NS71 phase 8, F5 and F419), from curving gullies (NR Trench IV phase 5, F528, and phase 6, F529) and a postpit (SXS79 phase 4, F575). Cattle, pig, and horse occurred in all assemblages, but the other major domesticate, sheep/goat, was absent from the postpit at Sussex Street. Pit F5 at NS71 also produced domestic fowl. All parts of the skeleton were present. The vast majority of the bones from pit F419 were of cattle or were 'cattle sized'. Cattle also predominated in postpit F575.

Table 24 *Tragalgar House: elements represented in deposits from phase 2-5*

	Horse	Cattle	Sheep*	Pig	Cattle-sized	Sheep-sized	Dog	Totals
cranium	-	5	1	2	1	6	1	16
maxilla	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
mandible	-	4	3	1	-	-	1	9
vertebra	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	7
rib	-	-	-	1	8	6	-	15
scapula	-	3	2	4	5	1	-	15
humerus	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
radius	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	7
ulna	-	1	2	4	-	0	0	7
pelvis	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
femur	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	4
tibia	1	3	7	2	2	-	-	15
fibula	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
metapodial	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	7
loose teeth	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
other	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
totals	8	29	21	18	22	15	2	115

* Includes figures for sheep or goat

With the exception of the material from postpit F575, erosion and gnawing was quite common and two bones from pit F419 were charred. Such signs are characteristic of settlement waste in the Iron Age and may indicate that bones have been redeposited or were from several sources. Only twelve of the 38 bones from the gullies at Sussex Street were identifiable to species. The remaining assemblages were better preserved but relatively small.

Ageing data were scarce but a pig maxilla from pit F419 showed the second molar coming into wear (around eighteen months in the wild boar), and several fragments of mandible came from two horses around 14–16 years old (also pit F419).

The few measurements available were consistent with the ranges for middle Iron Age animals elsewhere in Wessex. Some of the bones from pit F419 were from typical small Iron Age cattle with withers heights of 1000–1070mm (Von Den Driesch and Boessneck 1974) and small horns of less than 100mm core length (Armitage and Clutton Brock 1976). A horse metatarsus from the same feature was comparable in size and slenderness with that of a Shetland pony. Such small horses have been found elsewhere in the Iron Age (Maltby 1981b, 192).

Abundant evidence of butchery was manifested by knife cuts on bones of the major domesticates. One of the horse mandibles from pit F419 showed medial butchery, probably for tongue removal. An os coxa of sheep from pit F5 at New Road was chopped, a technique more commonly used in the Roman period.

The assemblage recovered from the late Iron Age fill of the enclosure ditch at Tragalgar House (phases 2–5, F12) is the earliest western suburb collection to warrant tabulation (Table 24). The main species represented

were cattle, sheep, and pig, although horse and dog were also present. There was no positive evidence for goat.

Measurements were consistent with the Iron Age ranges for Wessex, except that a sheep scapula with a minimum neck width of 18.5mm was rather large (fill 51). Withers heights of 1060mm and 1120mm were calculated from two cattle metatarsals (also fill 51). A sheep tibia gave a withers height of 570mm (fill 52) and a horse metacarpus one of 1230mm or twelve hands (fill 55).

There were no phalanges, carpals, or tarsals in this collection. This could be the result of retrieval bias or evidence that the material had been moved and redeposited. As the only nasal bone and caudal vertebra retrieved were from a sieved sample and sieving was not extensively carried out (less than 1% of fill 51), it is not possible to rule out retrieval bias.

Redeposited bones might be expected to show a high degree of erosion and gnawing by dogs, if they had been lying around on the surface for any length of time. Certainly thirteen fragments (11%) were gnawed but only five (4%) showed any noticeable erosion. On the contrary four fragments (3%) showed an 'ivoried' texture which might suggest that they were swiftly and deeply buried. Around 30% of the bones were measurable – a fair indication of their preservation and quite good for an Iron Age ditch sample. A number of bones from this deposit had been in contact with 'cess'.

The sample was too small to be conclusive, but it seems likely, then, that the material was of mixed origin. There is no real evidence, however, that it was from elsewhere and deliberately used to backfill the ditch.

Fish bone from Staple Gardens

by S Hamilton-Dyer

A sample taken from phase 3 posthole F645 contained a small quantity of fish remains. Much of the material was small fragments including parts of fin rays and it has not been possible to identify these to species. Identifiable material included three vertebrae of common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), one vertebra of herring (*Clupea harengus*), and a tooth and dermal denticle of a ray (*Raja* sp). There were also vertebrae of extremely small fish, perhaps incidental catches or gut contents of other fish which have not been further identified. A number of scale fragments were also present, including one probably of herring.

Although the sample is very small, it is interesting to note that sea fish (herring and ray) are present. These demonstrate contact with coastal areas, the nearest of which is Southampton Water. The eels were probably caught locally. The small quantity and restricted species list is typical of Iron Age sites in southern Britain, eg Danebury (Grant 1984, 531) and Easton Lane (Maltby 1989, 130). The low numbers are sometimes the result of poor preservation and lack of adequate sampling strategy. This is not the case here. The total of six identifiable fish bones from a single sample is relatively good, since the mammal bone comprised only 242 fragments.

Plant remains

Introduction

Soil samples were collected on archaeological or qualitative criteria and subjected to manual flotation using hydrogen peroxide to disaggregate the sample where necessary. Flots were collected in a 300-micron sieve and the resulting plant assemblages identified using a low-power binocular microscope. Like the animal bones, two separate reports on the plant remains have been prepared during the course of the project. Frank Green's text deals with a rather small and uninformative sample from sites in the western suburbs of the town, while the report for the rather larger and slightly more numerous assemblages from Staple Gardens is by Brian Biddle.

Plant remains were either lacking in samples taken from Victoria Road and Carfax or were too poorly preserved to merit publication.

Staple Gardens by B Biddle

Throughout the phases of occupation investigated, the plant remains recovered consist of small quantities of the seeds of food plants and of plants that grow on disturbed ground.

Charred seeds were recovered from three fills of the early Iron Age phase 2 hearth F724 (Table 25). The upper fills contained seeds from disturbed ground habitats and some cereal (barley) caryopses. These may

have originated as general debris from the site or as refuse from the cleaning of cereals. It is also possible that some of the material comes from mixing with the lower fill. The basal fill of the feature contained a similar flora of disturbed ground or arable weed plants together with a much larger quantity of cereal grains, predominantly barley.

Also present was a large quantity of cereal chaff. Most of this consisted of glume bases, but four rachis internodes were also present. Four of the glume bases were of emmer wheat and the remaining four of spelt wheat, suggesting the presence of a mixed wheat crop or a succession of different wheat crops.

Only four grains of wheat were, however, present in the sample. This suggests that the feature was used to parch barley prior to threshing, as the grains of hulled cereals such as barley, emmer, and spelt are easier to remove from their glumes if they are dried first (Hillman 1984). The deposit of wheat threshing waste is more likely to have been used as fuel for the fire than to have been left from processing a previous crop.

Samples from the fills of three middle Iron Age phase 3 postholes were studied. Two of these produced small quantities of charred material, probably originating from the burning of household refuse. With the exception of a single grain of spelt wheat, all of the seeds came from disturbed ground species and could have been growing on the site.

The remaining sample from F645 produced a mixture of charred and mineralised remains (Table 26). The fill had been described as cassy and full of fish bones, both of which can provide the phosphate salts required for this type of preservation to occur. Unlike some other cassy deposits examined by the author, only eight of the mineralised seeds are likely to have originated in human faecal material – mustard (*brassica* sp), wild strawberry (*fragaria vesca*) and apple (*malus sylvestris*). Other seeds that may have originated from faecal material are those of St John's Wort (*hypericum* sp) and the wormwood (*artemesia* sp) as both plants have been used medicinally.

The remaining mineralised seeds are probably from the plants that were growing near the feature when it was in use. The charred seeds consist of a small amount of cereal grains, including bread wheat, which is rarely found in large quantities before this period (Green 1981a), with ruderals and some possible arable weeds. These most probably represent household refuse rather than any crop-processing activity.

Sites in the western suburbs by F Green

Plant remains were recovered from Beaker and from middle Iron Age phases, but samples taken from middle Bronze Age and early Iron Age contexts failed to produce any material. Samples from the fills of the defensive ditch at New Road were initially examined by Peter Murphy, while other material was studied by the author.

The entire contents (3000ml) of the sample from Beaker period pit F42 at Crowder Terrace were pro-

Table 25 Staple Gardens: plant remains from early Iron Age hearth F724

Taxa	Synonym	Deposits	
		1697	1699
CORYLACEAE			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	1f	-
POLYGONACEAE			
<i>Polygonum cf. Lapthifolium</i> L.	pale persicaria	-	2f
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> L.	broad-leafed dock	-	2+1f
CHENOPODIACEAE			
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	fat hen	-	10+41f
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	goosefoot	1	-
CARYOPHYLLACEAE			
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill.	chickweed	1	4
<i>Cerastium</i> sp.	mouse-ear	1	-
CRUCIFERAE			
<i>cf. Raphanus</i> sp.		1	1
UMBELLIFERAE			
<i>cf. Umbelliferae</i> sp*		1	-
RUBIACEAE			
<i>Galium palustre</i> L.	marsh bedstraw	1	4
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	cleavers	-	3
CAPRIFOLIACEAE			
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L**	elder	f	-
COMPOSITAE			
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L.	groundsel	-	1
JUNCACEAE			
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	rush	2	-
GRAMINEAE			
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		3	2+1f
<i>cf. B. secalinus</i> L. or <i>B. mollis</i> L.			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	6-row barley	3+2f	9+5f
Cereal sp. indet.		1+3f	-
<i>Gramineae</i> sp.	grass	-	5+1f

* the only mineralised seed; ** probable contaminant; f - fragments

cessed (Table 27) and seven poorly preserved cereal grains, one of which was possibly wheat (*Triticum* sp), were recovered. Cereals have been recorded on sites of this period in the region, but the general lack of species remains in Winchester and the immediate neighbourhood is unfortunate in not providing a means of comparison.

Hazelnut fragments (*Corylus avellana*) were also present in this context. It has been suggested that the abundance of nut fragments from sites of the late Mesolithic to the late Bronze Age and the near-absence of fragments from Iron Age contexts may have important implications for land management and availability of resources (Jones 1980, 62). In this connection it is worth noting that, since the nearby site at Easton Lane produced a quantity of hazelnuts from late Neolithic and early Bronze Age contexts (Carruthers

1989, 133), it is possible that coppicing was a widely established practice even at this early date.

Deposits of the middle Iron Age period were only slightly more informative of past agricultural activities and refuse disposal than those of the earlier periods. The information available for the defensive ditch derives from New Road (F371, phases 3 and 6, Table 28). The very low density of cereal remains suggests little in the way of domestic activity involving plants. Such low densities in naturally accumulating deposits can be interpreted as 'background noise' rather than as deliberately discarded organic refuse.

Plant remains were also recovered from two gullies at Sussex Street (F528 and F529) and a posthole (F122) at New Road. The New Road feature produced the cotyledon of a single species of legume and some evidence for six-row hulled barley. The gullies con-

Table 26 Staple Gardens: plant remains from middle Iron Age posthole F645

Taxa	Synonym	
DRYOPTERIS		
fern (cf <i>Dryopteris</i> sp)	fern (frond)	1f m
URTICACEAE		
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L	stinging nettle	12m
POLYGONACEAE		
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> Murr	sharp dock	1c
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leafed dock	11m
CHENOPODIACEAE		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L	fat hen	1c
CRUCIFERAE		
cf <i>brassica</i> sp		5m
ROSACEAE		
cf <i>Fragaria vesca</i> L	wild strawberry	2m
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	apple	1m
LEGUMINOSAE		
<i>Vicia</i> sp (cf <i>V. hirsuta</i> (L) S F Gray)	cf hairy tare	1c
HYPERICACEAE		
<i>Hypericum</i> sp	St Johns Wort	2m
UMBELLIFERAE		
<i>Umbelliferae</i> sp		1f m
RUBIACEAE		
<i>Galium</i> sp (cf <i>G. palustre</i> L)	cf marsh bedstraw	2c
CAPRIFOLIACEAE		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	6m
COMPOSITAE		
<i>Artemisia</i> sp (cf <i>A. absinthum</i> L)	cf wormwood	3m
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L	groundsel	1m
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L	nipplewort	1m
<i>Compositae</i> sp		2m
GRAMINEAE		
<i>Bromus</i> sp (cf <i>B. secalinus</i> L or <i>B. mollis</i> L)		1m
<i>Triticum spelta</i>	spelt wheat	5+1f
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	bread wheat	6c
<i>Hordeum</i> sp (cf <i>H. vulgare</i> L)	cf/. 6-row barley	1c
<i>Avena</i> sp	(wild) oat	2f m
Cereal sp indet		11fc
<i>Gramineae</i> sp	grass	1+2fc

c - charred preservation; m - mineralised preservation; f - fragments

tained a sparse range of plant remains (Table 29). Small quantities of cereals, predominantly spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) – a hulled six-row form – were recorded. Oats (possibly a cultivated form) were also present, although there were only two grains.

Although sparse, the evidence does compare well with that of other middle Iron Age plant assemblages from Hampshire, eg Old Down Farm (Green 1981b,

131–2) and Winnall Down (Monk and Fasham 1980; Monk 1985). In most cases spelt wheat seems to predominate over emmer at this time.

The remainder of the material comprises ruderal species commonly encountered in samples of all periods from the city, although the presence of *Myosotis* sp and *Carex* sp preserved by charring is somewhat unusual. This may indicate that the flora at Sussex Street was atypical or that plants had been imported to the site.

Table 27 Crowder Terrace:
plant remains from deposits of the Beaker period

Taxa	Synonym	No.
CHENOPODIACEAE		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L		3c
CORYLACEAE		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L	hazelnut	25cf
GRAMINEAE		
<i>Triticum</i> sp	wheat	1c
cereal sp		6c

c - carbonised, f - fragments

Table 28 New Road:
plant remains from the enclosure ditch

Taxa	Synonym	Deposits	
		569	165
PAPILIONACEAE			
<i>Vicia/Pisum</i> sp		-	1c
GRAMINEAE			
<i>Triticum cf spelta</i>	spelt wheat	1c	-
<i>Triticum</i> sp	wheat		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L	barley (6-row) hulled	-	1c
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	barley	1c	-
cereal sp		-	3c

c - carbonised

Table 29 Sussex Street: plant remains from middle Iron Age deposits

Taxa	Synonym	Feature		
		528	528	529
		1197	1200	1198
CHENOPODIACEAE				
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp		-	1c	1c
PAPILIONACEAE				
<i>cf Medicago</i> sp		2c	-	-
BORAGINACEAE				
<i>Myosotis</i> sp		1c	-	-
RUBIACEAE				
<i>Galium</i> sp	goosegrass	2c	-	-
COMPOSITAE				
<i>Centaurea</i> sp		2c	-	-
CYPERACEAE				
<i>Carex</i> sp	sedge	1c	-	-
GRAMINEAE				
<i>Triticum cf spelta</i> L (seeds)	spelt wheat	-	-	2c
<i>Triticum cf spelta</i> L (glume bases)	spelt wheat	2c	-	6c
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L	barley (6-row) hulled	1c	-	5c
<i>Avena cf sativa</i> L	oat	1c	1c	-
cereal sp		1c	-	2c
<i>Gramineae</i> sp	grasses			1c
unidentified sp		10	-	8

c - carbonised

Land molluscs by K D Thomas

A series of soil samples was collected by Carole Keepax from a column in the main west section of the ditch at New Road (F371). Each sample occupied a volume of around 1 litre.

Six samples were from fills believed to be of middle Iron Age date (CK1, stratigraphically the earliest, CK 6, the latest). With one exception (CK6), these yielded rather impoverished assemblages of land snails (Table 30).

It has been argued elsewhere (Thomas 1982) that assemblages of molluscs from ditch contexts can be used to interpret the local environmental setting of a site, provided that alternative explanations regarding the effect of the localised ditch microhabitat can be dismissed. Even though all of these samples were derived from a ditch, which would have had its own peculiar microclimate and vegetation, the assemblage of snails from the lowermost sample (CK1) is dominated by open-country and other ecologically compatible species. This would indicate that the hill-

Table 30 New Road: mollusca from the enclosure ditch F371

	CK1	CK2	CK3	CK4	CK5	CK6
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Mueller)	-	-	-	-	-	6
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp	-	-	-	-	2	25
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	8	+	-	-	10	92
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Mueller)	16	3	-	-	8	247
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	3	-	-	-	2	17
<i>Vallonia</i> sp	-	-	-	-	-	8
<i>Ena obscura</i> (Mueller)	-	-	-	-	-	5
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Mueller)	1	-	-	-	7	27
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Mueller)	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Stroem)	-	-	-	-	-	9
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	2	-	-	-	4	5
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp	-	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	2	-	-	-	2	30
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)	18	1	1	-	11	159
<i>Cepaea</i> sp	1	-	-	-	+	1
totals	52	4	1	0	46	636
numbers of taxa	9	3	1	0	9	15

slope enclosure was constructed in an open landscape with little or no woodland in the near vicinity. The assemblage from CK1 indicates an open environment across which shade-loving species were slow to migrate – and hence were slow to colonise the ditch. In contrast samples CK5 and especially CK6 contain numerous individuals of species that are shade-loving (Tables 30 and 31), although open-country species are still strongly represented. This indicates that the local environment in the catchment of the ditch remained substantially open.

In general these assemblages indicate a grassland environment in the vicinity of the ditch. The rather depauperate assemblages in samples CK2, CK3, and CK4 probably resulted from the dilution effect of rapid weathering of sediments into the ditch.

General observations

A few general observations concerning the finds are pertinent.

It should be noted that the suggestion from the flintwork that the site of the later enclosure was only sparsely occupied during the earlier Neolithic period is in keeping with the general lack of early Neolithic remains in Hampshire (for a summary and discussion of the possible reasons for this, see Fasham *et al* 1989, 142).

Later Bronze Age artefact distributions or 'style zones' and their possible social and economic significance have been much discussed in print (eg Ellison

1980b; Rowlands 1980). It has also been suggested that the later Bronze Age settlements around Winchester were vital participants in the regional exchange networks of Wessex (Fasham *et al* 1989, 147). Slight corroborative evidence for this has been supplied by the presence of a Sussex-style globular urn and shell-tempered barrel urns at New Road. The fact that the shell in the latter material is probably not local to the chalk downlands of Hampshire suggests that (at least on some occasions) actual pottery vessels were exchanged, as opposed to ideas for their manufacture. The observed pottery distributions could partially represent exploitation of clay resources close to the consumer sites by travelling specialist craftsmen. In this case, however, it appears that it was the finished product that travelled.

There is more evidence for exchange during the Iron Age. The presence of sea fish indicates at least occasional exploitation of coastal resources for food. That quernstones probably manufactured at Lodsworth were in use at Oram's Arbour occasions no surprise, as they are common in the Winchester area generally and especially in the middle Iron Age (Peacock 1987).

The quantity of briquetage is at first sight negligible. Recent work by Elaine Morris (1994, 384-7) has, however, shown that such small amounts may assume an increased significance, if considered in relation to the complete vessel assemblage from a site. Thus although the actual quantity of briquetage from Danebury is large (Poole 1984b, 426), its 'salt index', calculated as the ratio of the weight of briquetage to pottery expressed as a percentage, is comparable to that of

Table 31 New Road: frequencies of ecological groups among mollusca from the enclosure ditch F371

Sample	A		B		C	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
CK1	55.8	4	36.5	2	7.7	3
CK2	75	2	25	1	-	-
CK3	100	1	-	-	-	-
CK4	-	-	-	-	-	-
CK5	47.8	4	28.3	3	23.9	2
CK6	61.6	5	29.8	3	8.6	7

A - open-country taxa; B - catholic taxa; C - shade-loving taxa; %: percentage frequency in the assemblage; N: number of taxa.

other sites in Hampshire. Morris has also noted larger values for the middle to late Iron Age as compared to the early to middle Iron Age.

The salt index for Oram's Arbour would appear to conform to this pattern as it is extremely high (0.024) during the late Iron Age period. Before perhaps leaping to the conclusion that Oram's Arbour functioned as a redistribution centre for salt, however, it should be noted that the value for Oram's Arbour may be distorted by the small size of the late Iron Age vessel assemblage as a whole.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the suggestion that some types of Iron Age pottery were manufactured for very local consumption, whereas others were the objects of regional exchange, is a valid one for Hampshire (Ellison 1980b, 136; Morris 1991, 27-8). This should not be regarded as invalidating the 'style zone' approach to pottery distribution (Cunliffe 1978, 46, and 1984, 254-6), but as conferring upon it a slightly different emphasis (eg Barrett 1980, 303).

It has been suggested that some of the pottery from the Oram's Arbour site may have been supplied from two (or more) regional industries - at least one producing glauconitic sandy wares and the other flint-tempered wares in the St Catharine's Hill/Worthy Down style. Accurate definition of the fabrics is difficult, both microscopically and in hand specimen (Morris 1991, 19-20, Group Q, and Morris 1995), but there is now scope for mass testing of samples both of pottery and of clays.

Oram's Arbour has also produced some evidence for production of artefacts as well as their exchange and use, since metalworking debris was recovered from the ditch at Trafalgar House. It is difficult to judge if this represents normal Iron Age activity of the type encountered at Danebury (Poole 1984a, 406) and at Winnall Down (Bayley 1985, 81; 92-3; Tylecote 1985, 93) or whether it occurred as a result of changes in the economy of the settlement due to increased contact with the Roman empire at the end of the Iron Age. The pottery dating is compatible with the latter view and the near lack of finished metal objects from the site as a whole is also puzzling unless metalworking is viewed as a late activity.

The paucity of the finds assemblages is probably linked to the general absence of large grain-storage pits, as these are usually the most prolific features on

Wessex chalkland sites. Not only have such features long been regarded as having a specialised function during their use (Reynolds 1974), but it has been suggested that material used to backfill them may have been especially selected rather than randomly deposited as rubbish (Hill 1989, 20-1, Poole 1995). Two pits excavated in 2001-2 (Matthews and Teague 2002, 6) produced deposits of this kind. They have not been considered as part of this present sample as they are outside the scope of the English Heritage assessment and funding.

There are, however, two possible special deposits that should be mentioned here. The saucepan pot (Fig 29, 31) from one of the earlier fills of the enclosure ditch at New Road could have been placed there deliberately. At Danebury partial pots like this one are amongst the most commonly identified special deposits (Poole 1995). At the time of excavation, it was thought possible that the New Road vessel could have been removed by erosion from the fill of a feature cut by the ditch. In 2002, however (Matthews and Teague 2002; Chapter 4, site 74), a partial pot of identical form and fabric, although smaller size, was found in the gully of an Iron Age roundhouse. In this case, it is less likely that the vessel would have eroded from anywhere else or entered the feature by accident.

The quernstones from NR Trench IV, F419, were recorded as associated with a quantity of flint and it seems possible that this might qualify as one of Poole's stone piles (1995, 262). Unfortunately the conditions under which this part of the site was recorded meant that no detailed plans or sections of this feature were made.

Much of the environmental evidence is in keeping with what is known of other sites in the Winchester area. Thus the evidence of the molluscan remains confirms the existence of an open grassland environment during the Iron Age (Allen 1989, 140), and that of the plant remains, the predominance of barley and spelt over emmer at this time (Monk 1985, 115). The presence of a hearth for parching grain at Staple Gardens and of the quernstones demonstrates that some crop processing was carried out on the site (although it should be noted that the two are not considered to have been contemporary). Animal husbandry also appears to have conformed fairly closely with practices elsewhere, as far as can be judged from

such a small sample. There seems to have been a slightly greater emphasis on cattle and horse at New Road than at Staple Gardens. This could be the result of differential disposal of carcasses, as the New Road site is situated closer to the boundary of the settlement than is Staple Gardens (see eg Maltby 1985, 105). The

absence of neonatal lambs at Staple Gardens may merely reflect the small size of the sample, but the fact that such animals usually occur in large grain-storage pits, possibly as special deposits (Hill 1989, 20–1), has again highlighted the absence of these features in this sample.

4 Gazetteer of prehistoric activity in the Oram's Arbour area

Introduction

This chapter provides a summary, in gazetteer form, of the evidence for prehistoric activity in the area of the Oram's Arbour Iron Age enclosure on the western side of Winchester. A list of the main discoveries is presented below, ordered by date of discovery. The gazetteer numbers correspond to those on Figure 36.

This list is not exhaustive as, for the most part, only discoveries that include evidence for actual features or activity of pre-Roman date are included. Finds of artefactual material not associated with a contemporary archaeological context have largely been excluded, as have those of uncertain provenance.

In order to provide a balanced view of the level of activity in and around the Iron Age enclosure, negative evidence from recent excavations where relevant levels have been investigated has also been listed. Evidence for the pre-Roman topography of the western side of the Itchen valley provides clues to the eastern extent of the Oram's Arbour enclosure and has, therefore, also been included.

The information in this gazetteer derives from four main sources:

- published accounts in books, journals, newsletters and other printed sources;
- Winchester Museums Service records (abbreviated WMS, followed by the relevant reference);
- Winchester Research Unit records (abbreviated WRU, followed by the appropriate reference);
- Archaeology Section archives, indicated by a site code shown in bold.

Some of these sites are reported in detail in this volume. All sources and archives can be consulted at Winchester Museums Service. The data are also available in digital form, as entries in the Winchester Urban Archaeology Database (UAD).

It is intended that a gazetteer of prehistoric finds from the whole of the Winchester area will be published in Winchester Studies 3, part 1 (Biddle forthcoming). This will include unassociated chance finds and also a fuller discussion of the circumstances of some of the discoveries.

The gazetteer

1 In 1885 five burials were found on the site of the Star Inn during rebuilding as the Talbot Hotel (now Talbot House) at the corner of Staple Gardens and High Street (Hampshire Chronicle 13.6.1885). They were interpreted as being of early

Bronze Age date because of the association with a perforated whetstone (Hawkes *et al* 1930, 180–1). Subsequent consideration has led to the suggestion that the burials were of Iron Age date (Hawkes 1973).

2 During widening of the railway cutting south of Winchester Station in the 1880s, six large pits recognised were thought to be of Iron Age date (Warren 1897). It is likely though not certain that they were located within the Oram's Arbour enclosure.

3 A grave containing a crouched skeleton (or skeletons) and two Beakers was found during construction of a school in Mews Lane in 1892 (Jacob 1892; Collis 1978, 161). The Beaker vessels belong to the 'Barbed Wire' and 'Wessex/Middle Rhine' groups (Clarke 1970).

4 Evidence for an Iron Age hut was recorded during extension of the County Council offices at Castle Yard in 1930–1 (Ward-Evans 1931; WMS Ward-Evans papers). It is likely though not certain that this was located outside the Oram's Arbour defences. Photographs of the site show what may be part of the Oram's Arbour ditch just north of the Roman town wall (WMS PWCM6643–63).

5 In 1939 postholes associated with pottery of the 1st century BC were observed in the area south of the Jewry Street Library (Hampshire Observer 15.7.1939).

6 Observations during the 1954 rebuilding of Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society premises at 82 Hyde Street revealed a pit (F27) containing a large sarsen sealing a fragment of middle Bronze Age bucket urn (Collis 1978, 121).

7 In 1954, excavation in the forecourt of Radley House, 100m south of the site of the South Gate in St Cross Road, produced late Iron Age pottery. Some of this came from two large hollows in the natural subsoil that also included late Roman ceramics, but are interpreted as possibly earlier features which silted up slowly (Collis 1978, 15)

In 1955 the Easton Water Main Trench revealed features of Iron Age date in St Paul's Hill (8 below), Clifton Terrace (9–11 below), and St James Terrace (12 below).

8 A ditch 4.2m wide (F4) was recorded opposite 8 St Paul's Hill and interpreted as the northern ditch of the Iron Age enclosure (Collis 1978, 245 and 250).

9 A pit 1.4m wide and 0.73m deep with saucepan pots (F8) was seen in Clifton Terrace about 56m south of the Upper High Street bridge (Collis 1978, 250).

10 About 31m further south from F8 (9 above), an Iron Age pit 1m deep and 0.9m wide (F10) was observed. Later finds were present, but thought to be contamination (Collis 1978, 251).

11 A larger pit (F11) about 2m wide and 0.85m deep was seen 17m south of F10 (10 above). It contained late Iron Age pottery and some later material regarded as contamination (Collis 1978, 251).

12 About 7m south of Romsey Road in St James Terrace, an east–west ditch (F24) almost 6m wide at the top was revealed. It was interpreted as the southern ditch of the Oram's Arbour enclosure (Collis 1978, 245, fig 108, 255).

13 Archaeological investigation culminating in 1955 produced residual middle Bronze Age pottery and inter-cutting Iron Age gullies, postholes, and shallow pits from the

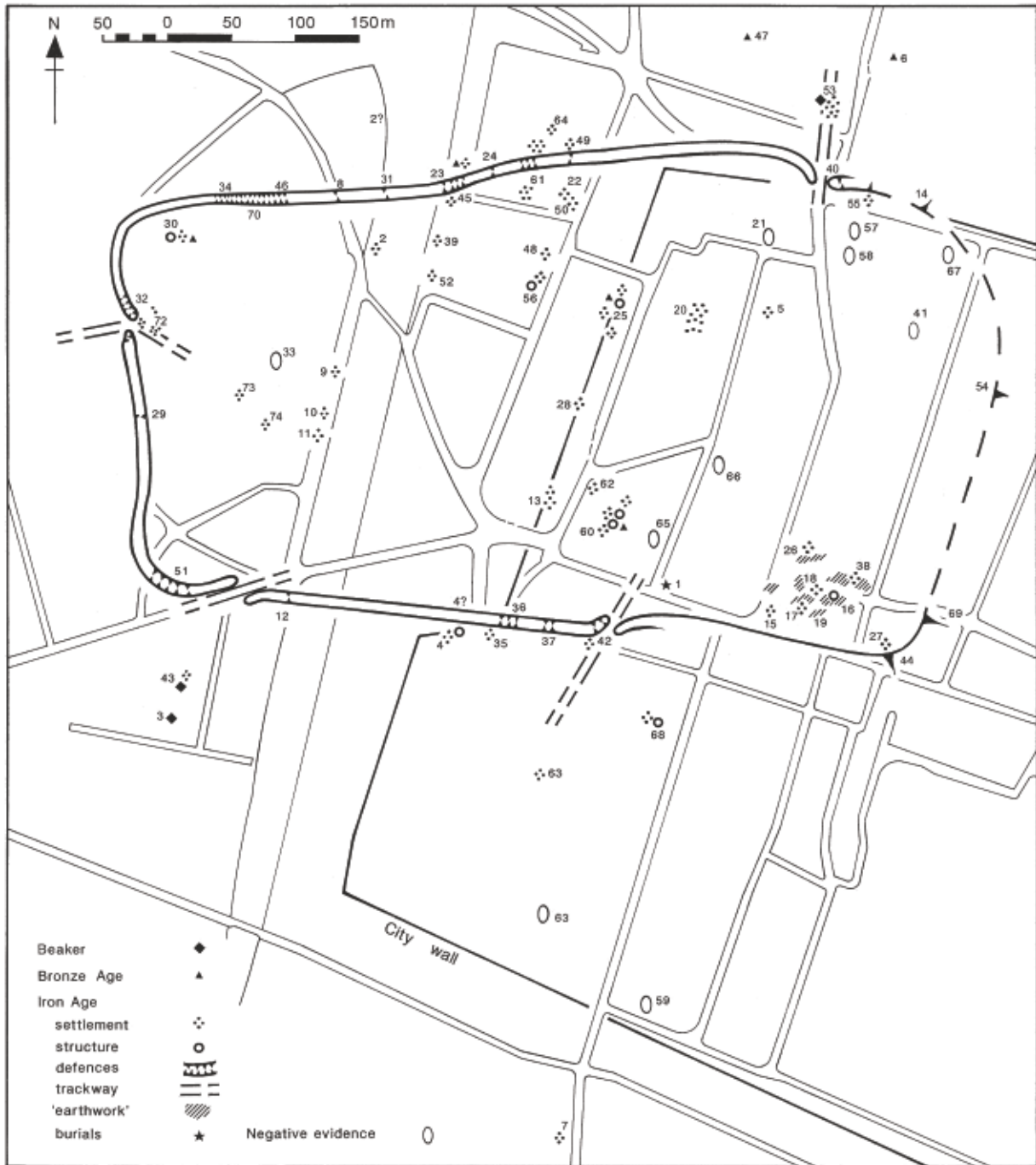


Figure 36 Plan showing locations of all pre-Roman evidence

site of County Council Offices (Queen Elizabeth II Court) in Tower Street. The site was said to have been occupied over a considerable period of time, but lay on the fringe of settlement proper, as no structures were identified (Cunliffe 1964, 7; Collis 1978, 197–245).

14 Observations of a telephone cable trench along North Walls during 1955 revealed deposits interpreted as part of the defensive ramparts of the Roman town. At a point about 50m east of the corner of Hyde Street, the level of natural was seen to dip to the west (WMS file TCT55). This may represent the lip of the Oram's Arbour ditch as it curves to the south.

15 During widening of Jewry Street in 1956, a hearth containing early Iron Age pottery was recorded on part of the site of the George Hotel (Cunliffe 1964, 33).

16 In 1956 the northern part of the Royal Oak garden was excavated prior to the widening of St George's Street. A gravelled surface interpreted as an Iron Age floor was recorded. It was sealed by an 'earthwork' consisting of thick layers of ash and burnt flint and orange-brown clay, overlain by a thinner deposit of clean gravel. This deposit has subsequently been recorded on adjacent sites (17, 19, 26, and 38 below). It was sealed by timber buildings of Claudian date and was interpreted either as part of the Oram's Arbour ramparts or early Roman levelling associated with military occupation (Cunliffe 1964, 22–3 and 56).

17 In 1957 construction of part of Barclay's Bank fronting the widened St George's Street revealed an Iron Age gully sealed by the 'earthwork' (16 above; Cunliffe 1964, 35).

18 An Iron Age gully was excavated on the site of Kingdon's Workshop prior to the widening of St George's Street in 1957 (Cunliffe 1964, 40).

19 Further evidence for the 'earthwork' (16 above) was recorded during construction of an extension to Kingdon's shop in 1960 (Cunliffe 1964, 37).

20 'Light occupation' of Iron Age date was identified during excavations culminating in 1960 in advance of construction of offices for the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society, towards the north end of Staple Gardens. A number of shallow pits or postholes were recorded, but no complete structures were found (Cunliffe 1964, 163-4).

21 Excavations in 1960 on the site of Frederick Place in Tower Street revealed no evidence of pre-Roman activity (Collis 1978, 165).

22 A ditch and posthole of Iron Age date were recorded in 1962-3 on the site of 61 Sussex Street (WMS ARCH1481).

23 The northern lip of a large feature interpreted as part of the northern ditch of the Oram's Arbour enclosure was recorded in 1964 in an electricity cable trench to the north of Gladstone Street (WMS History file ECT64; Biddle 1965, 231).

24 As a result of the previous discovery (23 above) two sections through the Oram's Arbour ditch were excavated on the site of 2-7 Ashley Terrace in 1964 (Biddle 1965, 231-3).

25 Pits, postholes, and gullies of Iron Age date were excavated on part of the site in Tower Street intended for Hampshire County Council offices (Ashburton Court) in 1964. A four-post structure, possibly a shrine, and two middle Bronze Age cremations were also identified (Biddle 1965, 233-5).

26 Excavation of trenches across the northern half of the site of 46-8 Jewry Street (now 2-8 St George's Street) in 1964 and subsequent observation of construction work revealed Iron Age ditches and traces of the 'earthwork' mentioned previously (16 above; WMS History file JSR64; Biddle 1965, 239).

27 A watching brief was maintained during the reconstruction of the National Provincial Bank (now National Westminster Bank, 105 High Street) in 1964. The 'old ground surface' produced middle Iron Age pottery, while a gully and a posthole were thought to be of pre-Roman date (Collis forthcoming).

28 During construction of Hampshire County Council offices (Ashburton Court) in Tower Street in 1965, two small pits or postholes and a gully of Iron Age date were observed (Collis 1978, 186).

29 In 1965 Trench I of the Oram's Arbour excavation sectioned the western site of the Iron Age enclosure ditch (Biddle 1966, 310).

30 Trenches II and III of the 1965 Oram's Arbour excavation produced postholes of possible late Bronze Age date and Iron Age gullies and postholes interpreted as evidence for one or more circular huts (Biddle 1966, 310). Residual Beaker pottery was also recovered (Barclay pers comm).

31 Prior to 1966 the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch was apparently observed on the west side of the railway cutting opposite Gladstone Street (Biddle 1966, 310).

32 The line of the western defences (Trench V) and an in-turned entrance to the Iron Age enclosure were examined in 1966-7. Two middle Iron Age postholes were partly truncated by a hollow way that later carried a minor Roman road (Biddle 1967, 254-5, and 1968, 251).

33 A small trench (IV) in the interior of the enclosure excavated in 1966 revealed no evidence of pre-Roman activity (Biddle 1967, 254-5).

34 During construction of a lift shaft at St Paul's Hospital in 1967, the southern lip of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch was apparently seen (Clark 1967).

35 During 1969 excavations in Castle Yard, the lip of the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch and an Iron Age gully outside the enclosure to the south were recorded (Biddle 1970, 279-80, plate XXXVIIIb).

36 In 1970 observations of construction work to the east of Castle Yard revealed two sections through the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch (Biddle 1970, 280, and Biddle 1975, fig. 2).

37 A fragment of the Oram's Arbour ditch 9m long was excavated in the area of the courtyard north of the new Crown Courts in 1971. The ditch here was 7m wide and about 3.5m deep (Biddle 1975, 98-100, fig 2).

38 Redevelopment of the site of no. 1 St Peter's Street in 1971 revealed an Iron Age pit and ditch and further evidence of the 'earthwork' (15 above; WRU SNB319; WMS History file 1 St Peter Street).

39 A pit, or possible quarry, of Iron Age date was recorded during construction on the site of Newburgh House in 1971 (WRU Site Note Book 319).

40 In 1973 an electricity cable trench was cut north-south along the eastern side of Hyde Street, near the junction with North Walls. The lip of a feature, thought possibly to represent the Oram's Arbour ditch, was recorded (p 48).

41 No evidence for prehistoric activity was recovered during a watching brief maintained on the west side of St Peter's Street in 1973 (SPSNC73). Some limited information about the pre-Roman ground surface was, however, recovered.

42 The upper part of a large feature was observed in a service trench on the west side of Trafalgar Street in 1974. Subsequent excavation prior to the construction of County Council offices to the south behind Trafalgar House showed the Oram's Arbour ditch angling to the north-east. This is interpreted as either an in-turned entrance (Biddle 1975, 98, fig 2) or the eastern side of the enclosure. Evidence for late Iron Age bronze working was also recovered (p 16).

43 During the 1974 excavations at Crowder Terrace, small pits dated by Beaker pottery were recorded. Parts of a field system, thought to be of Iron Age date, were also identified (pp 19-22).

44 During the early part of 1975, a watching brief was maintained during renewal of a gas main along the High Street and a trial investigation undertaken in the basement of no. 107 High Street. In combination these two projects indicate a steep slope of deposits from west to east. It has been suggested that the edge of a natural valley-side terrace may have been enhanced to form the eastern side of the Oram's Arbour enclosure (Qualmann forthcoming; 54 and 69 below).

45 A section of the Oram's Arbour ditch 9m in length was excavated at the New Road (now Station Road) site in 1975. Early Iron Age soils and a shallow pit of pre-Roman date were recorded within the enclosure. Some evidence for pre-Roman burial was identified. Three small pits or postholes of middle Bronze Age date were recorded in the area to the north, outside the enclosure defences (p 25).

46 Construction of a new car park at St Paul's Hospital in 1975 led to the identification of the Oram's Arbour ditch across an area measuring about 40m east-west (p 24; see also 70 below).

47 Apparently stratified deposits including flint-working waste were excavated in Trench V of the Victoria Road excavation in 1976 (p 45).

48 In Trench VIII of the Sussex Street excavations, a gully and a shallow pit of Iron Age date were recorded in 1976 (p 39).

49 Prior to the widening of Sussex Street late in 1976, a small section through the Oram's Arbour defensive ditch was excavated (Trench XIV). Some evidence for possible pre-Roman activity outside the enclosure to the north was also indicated (p 38).

50 During widening of Sussex Street late in 1976, at least one feature of Iron Age date was recorded in Trench XIV (p 39). This could be the same feature, possibly a ditch, as that observed in 1962-3 (22 above).

51 Construction work on the site of 22-34 Romsey Road in 1977 revealed the south-western corner of the Oram's Arbour

enclosure ditch. Consideration of the level of the ditch bottom suggests that a pre-existing hollow way may have run roughly on the line of modern Romsey Road (p 22).

52 During construction of Station Road in 1977 south of the New Road excavation (45 above) at least one Iron Age pit was recorded.

53 A small pit containing Beaker pottery, a pre-Roman hollow way, and evidence for Iron Age occupation were recorded in Trenches X–XVI of the Victoria Road (Hyde Street area) excavation, mainly between 1977 and 1979 (p 45ff).

54 Observation of construction work on the site of 20b St Peter's Street in 1978 revealed a steep slope in natural deposits which may reflect the edge of a valley-side terrace, possibly enhanced to form the eastern limit of the Oram's Arbour enclosure (20BSP578;44 above; 69 below).

55 Trial investigation on the line of the northern defences of the later town at North Walls in 1979 revealed the lip of a major ditch apparently filled in the early Roman period and thought to represent the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch (p 48). Evidence for Iron Age ploughing was found sealed below the early Roman ramparts in both Trenches I and II.

56 A stratified sequence of Iron Age activity was recorded in Trench XVII of the Sussex Street excavations in 1979. Pits, postholes, and curving gullies – the latter possibly representing structures – were identified in the small area investigated (p 41).

57 Excavations in 1984 in the yard east of the Crown Hotel on the corner of Jewry Street and North Walls (JCH84) revealed no evidence for pre-Roman activity.

58 No pre-Roman evidence was recovered during 1984 excavations on the site of Canister House, 27 Jewry Street, prior to redevelopment (27JS84).

59 The 1984 excavations on the site of Henley's Garage, at the north-west corner of St Thomas Street and St Swithun's Street, provided no evidence for pre-Roman occupation (HG84).

60 Excavations in 1985–6 at Staple Gardens (to the rear of 80–1 High Street) revealed a Bronze Age pit, an early Iron Age hearth, a complex of middle Iron Age gullies and structures, and two late Iron Age roundhouses (pp 12–16).

61 In 1985–6 excavation was undertaken to the south-west of the Carfax Hotel site, on the corner of Sussex Street and Station Hill, prior to proposed construction of houses. Early Iron Age enclosures and a length of the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch 21m in extent were exposed (pp 31–8).

62 Excavations prior to construction of offices for Hampshire County Council near the corner of Tower Street and Cross Street in 1988 revealed postholes associated with a shallow gully of middle Iron Age date (TS88).

63 Evaluation of the site of the Lower Barracks was undertaken in 1989. Trench II provided evidence for inter-cutting gullies of late Iron Age date. No pre-Roman activity was identified in the other main trenches (III and VI) to the south (LB89).

64 Investigation immediately north of that previously undertaken at Carfax (59 above) was carried out in 1989 prior to construction of a new County Record Office. Evidence for early Iron Age activity was recorded (CF89).

65 No evidence for pre-Roman occupation was identified during excavations in the grounds of Walcote Chambers, High Street, or on the adjacent site of 1–3 Staple Gardens in 1989 (SG89).

66 Excavation immediately south of 27 Staple Gardens in 1989 revealed no evidence of pre-Roman activity (SGD89).

67 Investigation on the site of the former Cannon Cinema in North Walls prior to redevelopment in 1989 provided no evidence for pre-Roman activity (NHW89).

68 Remains of a late Iron Age roundhouse were excavated to the rear (west) of the Southgate Hotel, Southgate Street, in 1990 (SHO90).

69 Controlled excavation on the site of 2 Parchment Street in 1990 was limited to post-Roman deposits. Observation of subsequent piling revealed deep, silty deposits, possibly representing a nearby water channel (PST90). In combination with other observations in the High Street and St Peter's Street (44 and 54 above), this evidence assists interpretation of the eastern side of the Oram's Arbour enclosure.

70 During redevelopment of the St Paul's Hospital site for housing in 1999, the Oram's Arbour enclosure ditch was observed running some 53m across the site. Machine-cut sections revealed it to be 5m wide and over 4m deep. These observations resulted in the realignment of the position of the enclosure ditch somewhat further south than previously suggest by earlier observations (34 above).

In 2001–2 Winchester Museums Service and King Alfred's College, Winchester, collaborated to investigate some new areas of the western part of the Oram's Arbour enclosure. These excavations are summarised below (71–74). They will be reported in more detail in a separate volume provisionally entitled *Oram's Arbour Winchester: Volume 2: Investigations 2001–2*.

71 A section was cut across the line of the Oram's Arbour ditch towards the north-west corner of the enclosure by King Alfred's College students in 2001 as part of a training excavation. The ditch was 11m wide and 4.6m deep, with a flat-bottomed base about 1m wide (Thorpe and Whinney 2001).

72 Also in 2001 an area adjacent to the western entrance of the enclosure, previously examined by Biddle (32 above) was reopened and extended by King Alfred's College students. As well as confirming the earlier discoveries, remains of Middle Iron Age pits, a ring gully, and postpits were uncovered (Thorpe and Whinney 2001).

73 Again in 2001 a small area inside the enclosure was examined by students from King Alfred's College. Further middle Iron Age remains were found.

74 In 2001–2 Winchester Museums Service Community Archaeology project examined an area adjacent to 73. The remains of a middle Iron Age house were completely excavated, together with grain-storage pits containing special or ritual deposits and other associated features (Thorpe and Whinney 2001; Matthews and Teague 2002)

5 Summary and discussion

Neolithic and Bronze Age

The flint assemblage, the bulk of which was recovered from Victoria Road and Carfax, suggests that occupation of the area near the site of the later Oram's Arbour enclosure was slight during the earlier Neolithic period. This is in keeping with the general paucity of early Neolithic remains in Hampshire (Fasham *et al* 1989, 142).

The flintwork suggests a slight increase in activity during the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods. This is reinforced by the recovery of Beaker pottery from features of a possibly funerary nature at Victoria Road and Mews Lane (Chapter 4, site 3) and from domestic contexts at Crowder Terrace. Further Beaker material occurred residually at the 1965 Oram's Arbour excavation (Chapter 4, site 29). The perforated whetstone found on the site of the Star Inn on the High Street (Chapter 4, site 1), though associated with later burials, is another hint of early Bronze Age activity.

After the early Bronze Age, sporadic occupation appears to have continued. Middle Bronze Age material was recovered from a group of inter-cutting postholes at New Road, while two cremations, one of which appears to have been associated with a Deverel-Rimbury urn, were excavated at Tower Street (Chapter 4, site 25). Late Bronze Age activity is evidenced by a single pit at Staple Gardens and residual material from Lankhills, some 550m to the north of the Oram's Arbour enclosure (Barclay 1979, 237).

The earlier prehistoric sites are best regarded as fragments of past landscapes, each discovery adding a little to the gradually accumulating body of evidence for activity in the Winchester area during the relevant periods. The siting of the later town and the resulting lack of opportunity for archaeological investigation of large open areas may explain the lack of cohesive evidence for settlement. It is equally possible, however, that the main foci, to which our sites are peripheral, were located elsewhere.

Complementary sites have been identified on the eastern side of the river Itchen at Winnall Down and Easton Lane, where evidence of occupation from the late Neolithic onwards is abundant (Fasham 1985; Fasham *et al* 1989). At Winnall Allotments, a middle and late Bronze Age settlement has been partially excavated (Harrison 1991).

The western side of the valley cannot, however, be completely discounted. The lack of knowledge of the settlement pattern there may be more a result of the siting of modern development than genuine lack of prehistoric archaeology. Indeed neither scenario precludes the other, as it is likely that the number and

location of settlement foci varied at different times (Fasham *et al* 1989, 153). For example the close proximity of Mews Lane and Crowder Terrace hints that Beaker settlement in the western part of the town may once have been more intensive than the extant record implies.

Early Iron Age

During the early Iron Age, more permanent settlement is suggested by an apparently more concentrated scatter of features and deposits over the east-facing slope of St Paul's Hill. Residual early Iron Age material has also been recovered from many sites in the western and northern suburbs of the town and was present as far north as Lankhills (Barclay 1979, 237).

The character of the early Iron Age features (field systems at Crowder Terrace, stock enclosures at Carfax, ploughsoils at North Walls and New Road, and the grain-parching hearth at Staple Gardens) suggests peripheral or outlying areas of a settlement or settlements, for which no specific focus or centre is known at present. The distribution and density of these features may indicate a location toward the northern part of St Paul's Hill, possibly overlooking the Fulflood valley.

Middle Iron Age: the Oram's Arbour enclosure

Introduction

During the middle Iron Age, an area of about 20ha was enclosed by a ditch and bank of defensive proportions. The enclosed area is comparable in size to the hillforts of Maiden Castle or Hod Hill and, as such, must have been one of the major defended sites in the south of England.

Some of the ensuing discussions about the enclosure have already been summarised and published (Whinney 1994). The data and arguments are set out here in full, however, and include the most up-to-date information.

Location

The Oram's Arbour enclosure was sited on the western side of the Itchen valley at a point where two opposing spurs of chalk downland, St Paul's Hill to the west and St Giles' Hill to the east, encroach into the valley bottom causing a significant narrowing of the flood plain. Coincident with this narrowing was a raised island or low knoll in the flood plain itself, forming a favourable

position for a crossing point – probably a ford – of the river. To the north and south of this island, the marshy flood plain was wide enough to form a broad barrier to all east–west movement in the area. The ford was approached by an east–west route across the downland ridges and a north–south route along the western bank of the river. As a consequence the ford and the enclosure may have developed into a focus of communications for much of southern Hampshire.

Dating

The date of the construction of the enclosure is difficult to establish. That it postdated the early Iron Age occupation of the area is suggested by stratigraphic relationships recorded at Carfax (Chapter 2, pp 31–3). There fence lines and gullies forming structures on a different alignment to that of the defences were either actually cut by the enclosure ditch or lay in the area once occupied by the enclosure rampart. One of these structures produced a little early Iron Age pottery, while the others were sealed by a ploughsoil containing a mixed early and middle Iron Age assemblage. Since this ploughsoil was located outside the enclosure and respected the line of the ditch, it seems reasonable to suppose that the two were contemporary and that the enclosure ditch was excavated and the bank built during the middle Iron Age period.

Datable material from the primary fills of the ditch is also scarce, as all the recently excavated sections showed evidence of recuts or cleansing, in direct contrast to the section excavated at Assize Courts North (Chapter 4, site 37). At New Road a near-complete profile of a saucepan pot was recovered from the earliest surviving recut. If as seems possible this partial pot was deliberately placed there (p 27), it provides good relative dating evidence for the re-cutting of the ditch. Radiocarbon dating for similar ceramic phases from Danebury (6 or 7), however, suggests a broad date range between 310 and 50 BC (Cunliffe 1995, 18). Indeed within this wide time span, it is possible to postulate an earlier (albeit still middle Iron Age) phase of occupation prior to the creation of the enclosure itself.

The date of the disuse of Oram's Arbour is also rather equivocal, but the evidence suggests that it was disused at least in part by the late Iron Age. The ditch at Trafalgar House and Assize Courts North (Chapter 4, site 37) had partially silted up by this date, indicating that the defences were no longer being maintained. Late Iron Age occupation has also been located both inside and outside the enclosure to the north at Staple Gardens (p 16) and to the south at Lower Barracks, Southgate Hotel, and Radley House (Chapter 4, sites 63, 68, and 7).

There is the possibility that the 'earthwork' recorded at St George's Street was really the remains of the middle Iron Age enclosure rampart (Chapter 4, sites 16, 17, 19, 26, and 38). The latest material from this context, sealed by Claudian timber buildings, was also comparable to the pottery from Trafalgar House (Cunliffe

1964, 54–6). This suggests that at least the south-eastern corner of the enclosure was slighted at around the time of the Roman conquest.

At Trafalgar House and Assize Courts North (Chapter 4, site 37), deposits above the late Iron Age silting of the ditch have been interpreted as deriving from large-scale levelling of the enclosure ditch and bank during the construction of the first Roman town defences in the late Neronian or early Flavian period (Biddle 1972, 99 and 110–12). From this time onwards, the original plan of the enclosure was lost and its eastern half was obliterated by the new Roman town. To the west, however, the enclosure ditch continued to be maintained, suggesting that this part of the circuit was adapted for other purposes during the Roman period and later.

In summary the enclosure was built in all likelihood in the middle Iron Age, but this could have been at any time between the late 4th century BC and the mid 1st century BC. The ditch was actively maintained during this period, but was allowed to silt up at least in places in late Iron Age times. The enclosure bank may have been slighted in the south-east corner at the time of the Roman conquest, but this slighting need not have been more than a localised one. The western half of the enclosure circuit continued as a feature of the landscape, while the ditch was maintained during the Roman period, after the eastern half had been destroyed by the construction of the Roman town *c* AD 70.

Defences

The defences have been traced on the north, south, and west sides of the enclosure, but the eastern limits have not been definitely identified (Fig 36). Observations at HYS73ECT (Chapter 4, site 40) and evaluation at HYS79 (Chapter 4, site 55) suggest that the enclosure continued eastwards from Hyde Street, turning south along the line observed in TCT55 (Chapter 4, site 14) towards St Peter's Street.

Middle Iron Age material has been recovered just to the east of St Peter's Street suggesting that the enclosure may have extended up to a gravel terrace on this line. Watching briefs at 20b St Peter's Street (Chapter 4, site 52), 2 St Peter's Street (Chapter 4, site 27), and the High Street Gas Main (Chapter 4, site 44), together with small-scale excavation in the basement of 107 High Street, all suggest a substantial natural slope. In such circumstances, neither ditch nor rampart may have been required on the eastern side, as the marshy conditions of the flood plain might have provided ample protection.

The enclosure circuit has been definitely located over a length of about 1125m. If the enclosure extended to a line just east of St Peter's Street as suggested above, the total length of the defensive circuit was about 1650m enclosing an area of some 20 ha. The digging of a continuous ditch would have required the excavation of some 40,500m³ of spoil – a considerable expenditure of effort and resources.

The excavated sections across the ditch revealed an

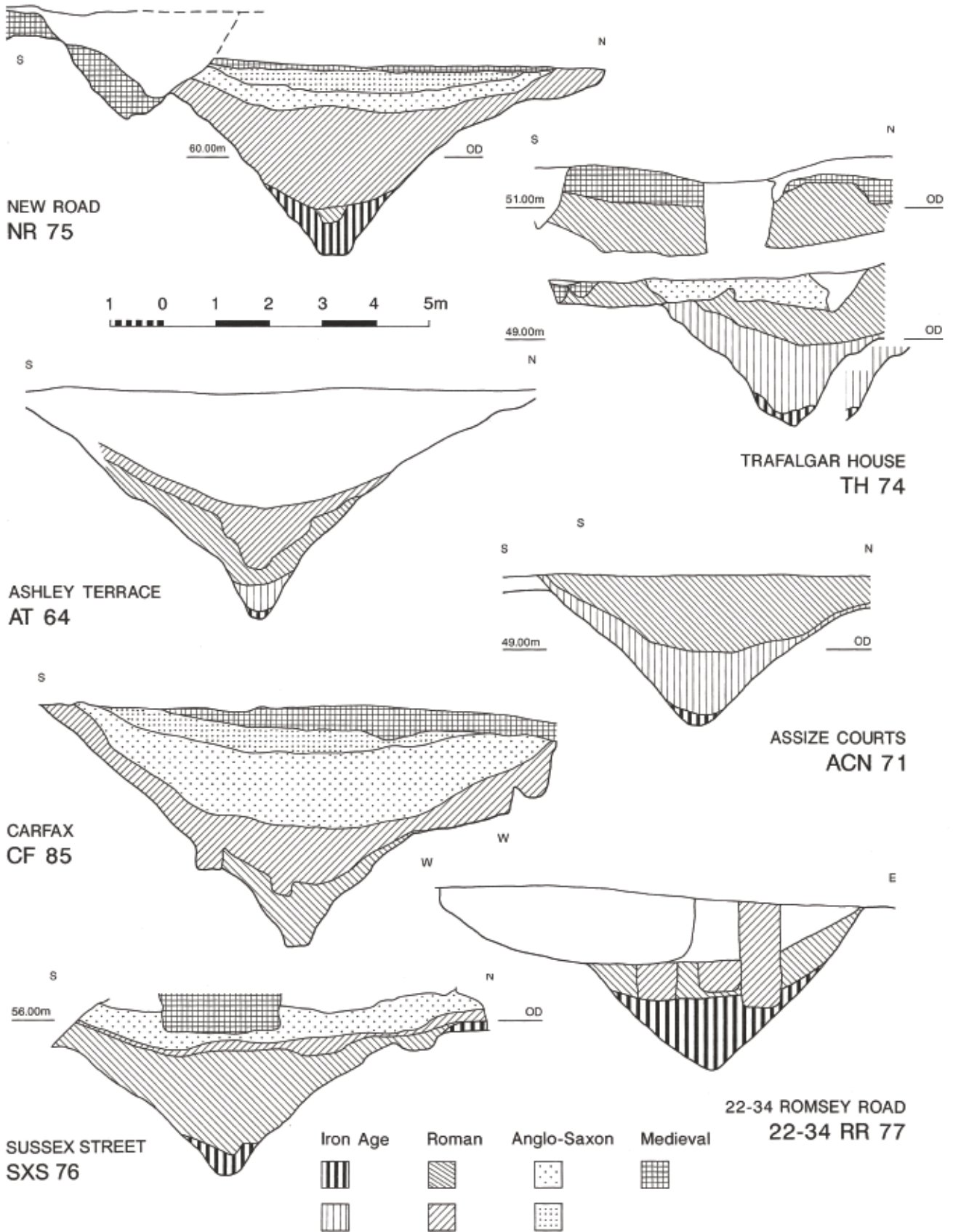


Figure 37 Schematic comparative sections across the enclosure ditch

original V-shaped profile much altered by later recuts, cleaning, and quarrying. Where it had not been truncated, the ditch was usually 3.5–4m deep, although a depth of 4.8m was recorded during the 1966–7 excavations (Chapter 4, site 29). The original width was apparently between 7m and 7.5m, although the weathered profile is usually 9–10m wide (Fig 37).

Nothing of the associated rampart survives in the modern landscape. Some indication of its character was recovered from the Carfax site, however, where a strip of land about 8m wide from the inner lip of the ditch was devoid of any features from the middle Iron Age to the early medieval period. This negative evidence suggests that the bank was in existence in some form for a considerable time in this area.

Near the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, at St George's Street, the 'earthwork' of superimposed layers of redeposited turf, earthy gravel, and clean orange gravelly clay survived to a height of about 1.8m. These layers sealed pre-Roman deposits and were themselves overlain by Claudian timber buildings (Chapter 4, site 16). It may be that this 'earthwork' represents a survival of the enclosure rampart either *in situ* or in a slighted state, although this interpretation was not favoured in the published account (Cunliffe 1964, 21–2).

As no structural components of the rampart – timbers or stone walls for instance – have been identified, it is assumed to have been of glacial or simple dump construction.

Entrances and approach routes

Several entrances into the enclosure are known or postulated. Only the western entrance has been investigated in any detail (Chapter 4, sites 32 and 72). The enclosure ditch was here interrupted by a causeway of natural chalk about 8m wide. The northern arm of the ditch turned inward before terminating, whereas the southern arm maintained its north–south alignment before coming to an abrupt end. A track that had formed a hollow way 0.6m deep passed through the entrance; this was flanked by and partly truncated shallow pits of middle Iron Age date. These pits may represent remains of the revetment of the rampart. The greater part of the rampart and any possible gate structure lay outside the area of the excavation.

The hollow way recorded at Victoria Road (Chapter 4, site 53) was probably part of a long-distance prehistoric trackway along the west bank of the river Itchen. The hollow way would have reached the enclosure at or near the later North Gate, suggesting an earlier entrance was positioned here.

The excavations at Trafalgar House located the easternmost point on the southern side of the enclosure so far recognised. The sharp inturning of the ditch here suggests that either it turned north to form the eastern side of the enclosure or that it was related to an entrance to the enclosure. To the north, however, excavations at Staple Gardens SG84, SG89, and SGD 89 (Chapter 4, sites 60, 65, and 66) did not reveal any

evidence of the eastern side of the enclosure. The tentative identification of the enclosure ditch on the northern side of the circuit at NHW79 (Chapter 4, site 40) suggests that the enclosure defences extended further to the east and that the in-turned ditch at Trafalgar House in fact represents an entrance. The in-turned ditch here is similar to (although more pronounced than) the western entrance at Oram's Arbour.

A further entrance may have been located near the south-western corner of the enclosure at a point where a hollow way, later the Roman road from Winchester to Old Sarum, crossed the line of the enclosure defences. There are indications that the hollow way was contemporary with or earlier than the enclosure. The watching brief at 22–34 Romsey Road revealed that the ditch turned sharply to the east as it approached the hollow way. Sections across the ditch showed that its base maintained a constant level (about 75.45m–75.5m OD) until it turned to run parallel with the hollow way, when the base of the ditch dropped about 2.3m over a distance of 7.5m. This change in depth was far greater than that of the natural slope. There appears to be no reason for the sudden increase in depth, other than that the ditch had either entered or was respecting a pre-existing hollow way.

No definite evidence for an entrance into the eastern side of the enclosure has been recovered. It is presumed that the route from the Itchen crossing would have led to any such entrance. Assuming the Iron Age ford was in the same location as its Roman successor and taking into account some topographical evidence suggesting something of a hollow way in the area (Graham Scobie pers comm), it seems possible that there may have been an entrance in the south-east corner of the enclosure.

Internal occupation

Less than 3% (about 4852m²) of the interior of the enclosure has been excavated under controlled conditions. Approximately a third of this excavated area produced no evidence of pre-Roman activity, save the occasional residual pottery sherd. Based on such a small sample, the following interpretation of the interior organisation and associated activities must be considered tentative.

Where present, middle Iron Age occupation was represented by shallow ditches, drainage gullies, post-holes, and shallow scoops, but at many sites insufficient areas were available to provide a coherent plan. At Staple Gardens middle Iron Age occupation consisted of a four-post structure and a possible stake-built circular building or pen partly surrounded by drainage gullies. A further middle Iron Age roundhouse was excavated at Tower Street (Chapter 4, site 25). On both these sites, the remains may represent no more than a single phase of middle Iron Age occupation. At Westgate Car Park (Chapter 4, site 13) and the Sussex Street sites (pp 38–44), middle Iron Age occupation was represented by several phases of inter-cutting ditches, gullies, and postholes, suggesting a longer period of

use. Middle Iron Age occupation deposits were also recovered from the Carfax and New Road sites, immediately to the rear of the rampart. More recent excavations in 2001–2 at Oram's Arbour Park located further remains of circular structures and for the first time grain-storage pits inside the enclosure (Chapter 4, site 74).

The total cultural assemblage is small, a factor that is probably linked to the absence of storage pits in this particular sample (although pits have been found on more recent excavations) and what survives is probably best considered as residual occupation detritus. As a result direct evidence of the range of activities carried out within the enclosure is limited.

The presence of ploughsoils immediately outside the enclosure and at least two four-post structures, together with the quernstones and the pits from the recent investigations (Chapter 4, site 74), suggests that cultivation, processing, and storage of grain was carried out on or near the site.

There is also some slight evidence of differential distribution of finds. In this context the concentration of quernstones in a single feature at New Road, the partial pot from the enclosure ditch at New Road, and the suggestion that the bones of larger animals were disposed of in the enclosure ditch (p 72) may be cited. Whether these concentrations relate to everyday activities or to propitiatory behaviour (or indeed whether any distinction should be made between the two) is unclear (Cunliffe 1995, 73–88).

In any event the limited evidence suggests that the nature of the internal occupation was quite normal in the context of other Iron Age sites in the area.

Summary

The enclosure was constructed in the middle Iron Age, some time between the late 4th century BC and the mid-1st century BC. It did not necessarily go out of use completely until *c* AD 70. The bank and ditch enclosed about 20ha and represent a major outlay of labour.

Four entrances, in the south-west, west, north, and south, have been located or are implied by approach routes. A fifth entrance at the south-east corner of the enclosure linked to the river crossing is also implied.

Evidence for internal occupation is limited, but more than one phase of activity was recorded on some sites. Evidence for the nature of this activity is also limited, but it appears to conform to what is known from other contemporary sites in Hampshire.

Late Iron Age

The ditch at Trafalgar house and Assize Courts North (Chapter 4, site 37) had partially silted up by the late Iron Age. This silting may represent localised rubbish disposal near the entrance, but it is equally possible that the ditch circuit was no longer actively maintained. Deposits of this period in the western part of the ditch circuit may have been removed by recutting or

cleansing in the Roman period, as at Carfax and New Road,

Evidence of late Iron Age activity was recovered from the southern part of the enclosure at Staple Gardens, where two superimposed roundhouses were found, and from the ditch fills at Trafalgar House. The pottery assemblage from Staple Gardens may predate the assemblage from the ditch at Trafalgar House.

There is a little evidence for the production of metal artefacts, since bronze-working debris was recovered from the fill of the ditch at Trafalgar House. This kind of evidence is frequently found throughout the Iron Age period in Wessex (Poole 1984b, 406; Bayley 1985, 93; Tylecote 1985, 81, 92–3). The dating evidence here would also permit the interpretation that metalworking occurred as a result of increasing contact with the Roman Empire towards the end of the Iron Age.

Otherwise late Iron Age activity with the enclosure is conspicuous by its absence. Late Iron Age material recovered from the Cathedral Green excavations (Biddle 1968, 269) suggests some form of occupation, perhaps on the island in the flood plain itself. Excavations in the Lower Barracks, outside the enclosure to the south (Chapter 4, site 63), produced a greater concentration of late Iron Age material and residual late Iron Age pottery was found at Southgate Hotel and Radley House (Chapter 4, sites 68 and 7).

During the late Iron Age period in general, it appears that the density of occupation inside the enclosure decreased and the focus of the settlement apparently shifted south. The reasons for the shift are far from certain, but it is possible this move reflects a change in the position of the crossing over the Itchen.

Oram's Arbour enclosure: role and function

It is evident from the foregoing description and discussion of the middle Iron Age enclosure that the surviving evidence, except perhaps for that pertaining to the enclosure ditch itself, is generally rather limited. Because of this, it is not possible to be very certain about the character and extent of middle Iron Age occupation and activity. Equal uncertainty, therefore, exists in postulating a *raison d'être* for the construction of the enclosure. The following observations may, however, be pertinent.

Strategic location

The valley-side location, elements of the plan, and the command of a major ford and crossroads all suggest that the Oram's Arbour enclosure was quite distinct from the hillforts and other enclosed settlements of Iron Age Wessex. For the reasons already indicated, this uniqueness cannot at present be fully explained. It is perhaps the physical location of the enclosure rather than the character of the interior occupation that provides the best clues as to its function.

The enclosure defences utilised various elements of

the natural landscape to their best advantage. The marshy conditions of the flood plain provided a natural line of defence to the east and for the lower flanks of the enclosure. The northern defences followed a sinuous line along the break in slope down to the Fulflood valley. The western defences were located immediately below a similar break in slope, but nevertheless commanded the gently rising ground to the west. The southern line of defence was flanked by a narrow band of open ground before dropping steeply to the south.

This siting of the enclosure was such as to compel users of all known routes approaching the area to either enter the enclosure or pass immediately below the southern defences. North–south traffic would of necessity have used the entrances at North Gate and Trafalgar House. Traffic from the west and south-west used either the eastern entrance at Oram's Arbour Park or the entrance in the south-west corner. Either route led eventually to the ford across the Itchen. This implies that the defences not only enclosed the junction of the east–west and north–south routes, but also controlled the western approaches to the ford. Similarly all traffic crossing from the eastern bank of the river would have been compelled to pass through or very near the enclosure.

It seems certain that these routes were a major consideration in the siting of the enclosure during the middle Iron Age period. From what is known of the spatial relationships between the defences and late Iron Age occupation phases within the enclosure, however, it is difficult to assess whether this situation persisted until the close of the Iron Age.

Contact, distribution, and exchange

Despite the overall paucity of the middle Iron Age artefactual assemblage described above, there is some evidence for contact over a wider area of central Wessex. The significance of the presence of sea fish, briquetage, and of imported quernstones has already been discussed (p 79). Similarly the arguments and questions concerning the distribution and exchange of pottery have also been detailed (pp 62–5 and 80)

The limited evidence for exchange between groups using the Oram's Arbour enclosure and others seems to conform quite closely with that from other sites in Hampshire. The presence of sea fish is slightly unusual, but this may be the result of preservation and of sampling strategy rather than a genuine reflection of past human behaviour. If the sample of briquetage and pottery were larger, the high 'salt index' might be taken as evidence of redistribution, but this cannot be demonstrated at present. It should be noted for the future, however, that the distribution of briquetage throughout inland Hampshire suggests quite substantial contact with the coast, although the nature of middle and late Iron Age settlement in the nearest of these areas, around the Solent, is virtually unknown.

Chronology

The key to a greater understanding of the development of Iron Age Winchester and of its relationships with other nearby sites is chronological precision, a requirement highlighted 20 years ago (Biddle 1983, 107–9). Although the quantity of material that can supply relative dating is small at Winchester, a basic outline seems clear. Following an apparent pause or hiatus in activity on the site after the early Iron Age, occupation or activity of some kind began again in the middle Iron Age. The present evidence does not allow us to determine whether the enclosure defences were built at the same time or whether they were constructed at a later (although still middle Iron Age) date. Neither does it allow a distinction between a plain saucepan phase and a decorated saucepan phase (Danebury ceramic phases 6 or 7; Cunliffe 1984, 233–4), as decorated pottery may be randomly absent in the small assemblages from Oram's Arbour.

Occupation continued into the late Iron Age, although there may have been a shift of focus slightly to the south at that time. While such a shift could imply that the enclosure was abandoned and the circuit had fallen into disuse, it may merely mean that its defensive capabilities were less needed at this time.

The recovery of significant quantities of ceramics on many Wessex sites has led to the identification of a series of ceramic groups or phases, which in turn has resulted in a generalised overall chronology for central Hampshire (Cunliffe and Poole 1991). According to this series, the Oram's Arbour enclosure was occupied at the same time as the unenclosed middle Iron Age settlement at Winnall Down/Easton Lane and was contemporary with the construction and occupation of the hillfort on St Catherine's Hill. The proximity of Oram's Arbour to this 'typical' middle Iron Age hillfort – St Catherine's Hill is only 2km to the south-east – has been commented upon many times (Hawkes *et al* 1930, 5–6; Cunliffe 1964, 4–6; Hawkes 1976; Collis 1978, 6; Biddle 1983, 106–9).

Until recently there has been a tendency to assume that the ceramic phases were of roughly equal duration. The radiocarbon results from Danebury suggest that this was not the case, however, as the later of the middle Iron Age phases (cp 7, at about 210 years) lasted as long as or longer than all of the preceding phases – cps 3, 4, 5, and 6 – at about 200 years (Cunliffe 1995, 18). This means that Oram's Arbour may only be partially contemporary with St Catherine's Hill or one defensive enclosure could have been constructed more than 200 years before the other. To achieve greater chronological precision, it will be necessary to use techniques other than radiocarbon dating, although where suitable samples (eg for dendrochronology) might be found is unclear.

A model

Despite the uncertainty over dating discussed above, it is possible to speculate in a more general way on the

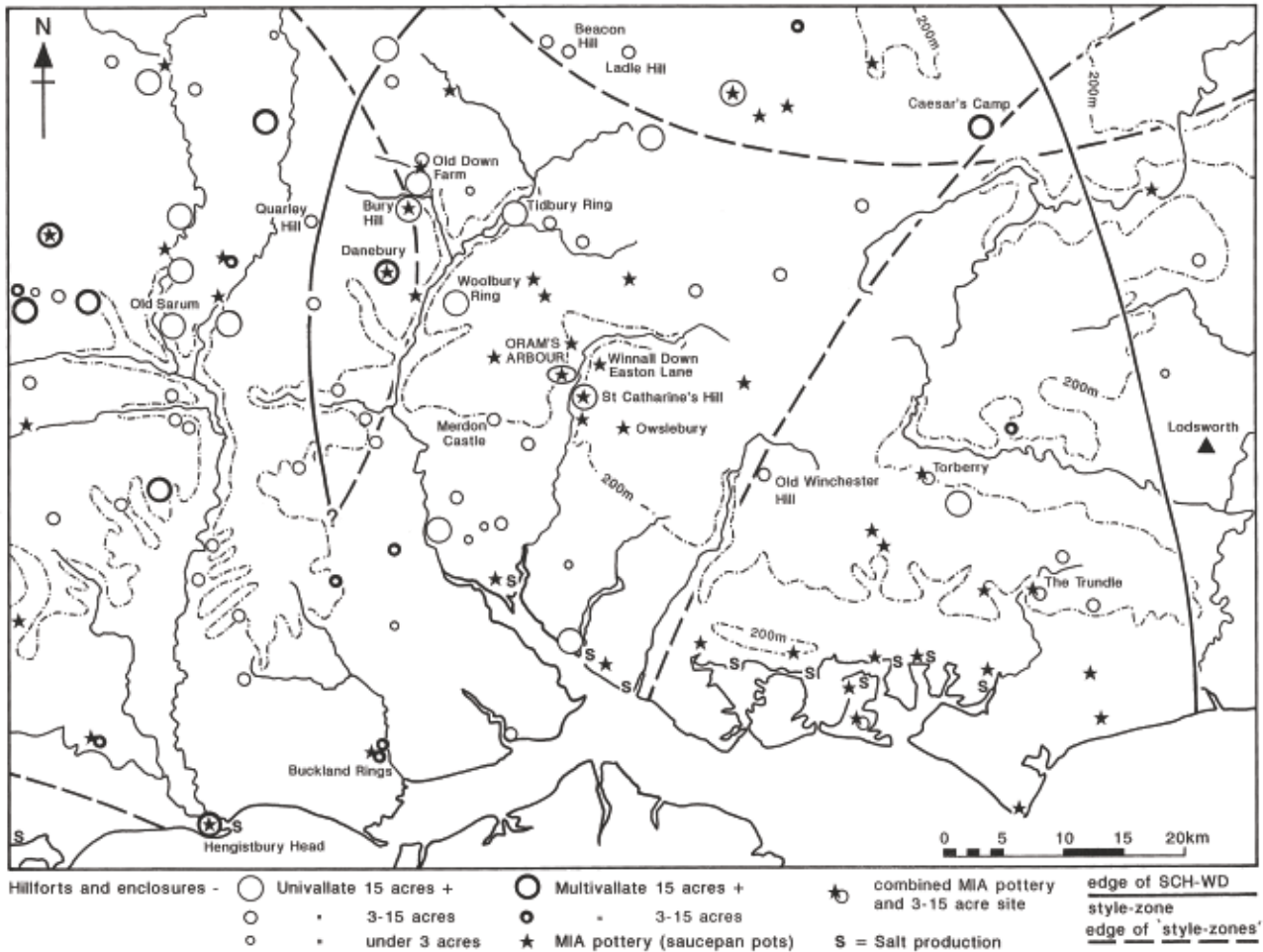


Figure 38 Plan showing Oram's Arbour in its regional context

role and function of the enclosure and to develop at least a model that offers a current explanation for its siting and function.

It is possible to envisage a scenario which places St Catherine's Hill in the centre of the St Catherine's Hill/Worthy Down ceramic style zone, with Danebury, Beacon Hill, and Old Winchester Hill at the overlap points with other style zones (Cunliffe 1984, 257). These and other hillforts probably performed similar, multi-purpose defensive and socio-economic roles, some from the early Iron Age onwards (Fig 38).

It could be argued that the Oram's Arbour enclosure, apparently unique in the region, was a new creation built by the inhabitants of the style zone in the later middle Iron Age in a more accessible valley-side location. The new enclosure in the geographic (and possibly socio-economic) centre of the style zone may have exploited the increasingly profitable trade routes that were developing as a result of contact with the Romanised continent. The enclosure dominates at least one important north-south route from the coast up the Itchen valley and into the heart of the country and is thus in an ideal situation to exploit any movement of goods and people.

As already noted, there is some evidence for external trade and movement of people into and from the

enclosure, although much of this only signifies normal interaction and exchange between people and settlements in Hampshire rather than on a wider geographical scale. There was contact with the coast, shown by the presence of briquetage and sea fish, but the size of the sample does not permit any assessment of the scale of that contact. The possibility that the flint-tempered saucepan pots of the St Catherine's Hill/Worthy Down style were the subject of exchange (p 63) suggests the Winchester area, the centre of the style zone, as the site of these household industries (cf Peacock 1982, 80ff). Much more work needs to be carried out on this subject before a clearer picture can emerge.

Biddle (1983, 108) has noted, however, the concentration of both native and exotic coin finds which, together with the small but growing number of Dressel 1 amphorae from the immediate area (Owslebury, Berwick Field, and Winchester itself), could be cited as pointing to a wider series of national and international contacts. Moreover the recent discovery of the 'Winchester Treasure', a hoard of gold objects, some showing unique evidence of Mediterranean craftsmanship (Hobbs 2003, 63), could be taken as evidence of contact with the higher echelons of Roman society in the early to mid-1st century BC.

To use Darvill's model (1987, 173), the enclosure lies

in the 'periphery zone' between the 'core zone' of south-east England and the 'outer zone' of the south-west and west. Cunliffe (1995, 100–1) sees the Atlantic trade as a major cause of social reorientation in central southern England in the period 100 BC–10 BC. In developing this theme further, he places the Oram's Arbour enclosure in a small group of similar sites from south-eastern England which he terms 'enclosed oppida' (Cunliffe 1991, 367–8). These were constructed during the period c 120–60 BC (in Hampshire, within ceramic phase 7) at locations specifically chosen for their strategic economic rather than defensive positions, ie at the junction of major land routes with river crossings (Cunliffe 1991, 544–5). Clearly the model developed here is very similar to Cunliffe's.

It is suggested, then, that the Oram's Arbour enclosure was built at a later date than St Catherine's Hill towards the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 1st century BC to take advantage of changing economic circumstances. One other question concerning the relationship between the two sites should perhaps be mentioned, although it cannot be definitively answered. It may be envisaged that the enclosure was built by and maintained on behalf of the entire St Catherine's Hill/Worthy Down community and that the sites functioned in tandem to the benefit of that community. It is equally possible, however, that Oram's Arbour represents a rival focus to St Catherine's Hill and that there was tension, as there seems to have been between Danebury and Bury Hill II (Cunliffe 1995, 100–1). Perhaps the strict regime of cleaning and maintenance of the ditch is a manifestation of such tension. In addition, although strategic considerations seem to have been uppermost in the choice of the location of the enclosure, it does seem almost intrusively close to the hillfort.

Evidence for activity in the late pre-Roman Iron Age is gradually increasing and appears to focus – if that is the right word – in the southern part of the enclosure and outside it to the south. The strategic advantages enjoyed by the site and the trade routes already in place may have allowed maintenance of contact with or even absorption into the 'core zone' in the period from 50 BC onwards. That the enclosure defences were not so rigorously maintained at this time might suggest that peace and prosperity reigned in a period of reduced tension.

To summarise, it is possible to make a case for the Oram's Arbour enclosure functioning not primarily in the same multi-purpose way as a hillfort like St Catherine's Hill or Danebury, but more as a focus of exchange and communications (and possibly ceremony) for the area of central Hampshire. By virtue of its dominant but accessible location, local, regional, national, and perhaps even international traffic was almost forced to pass through the enclosure, thereby contributing to the success and wealth of the local community as a whole and perhaps sowing the seeds for the development of Winchester as a socio-economic centre in later times.

Such a model must, for the present, remain just that, for in the absence of a greater body of evidence, it is not

possible to be certain of the status or importance of the enclosure. The Danebury project has shown just how much excavation and research is needed before interpretation can be data-led, rather than just being an 'easy polemic based on selected anecdotes' (Cunliffe 1995, 103).

Oram's Arbour and the later development of Winchester

The later history of the enclosure and its influence on the development of Winchester is only briefly described here. A more detailed description will appear in further reports on the Roman and medieval suburbs (Fig 39).

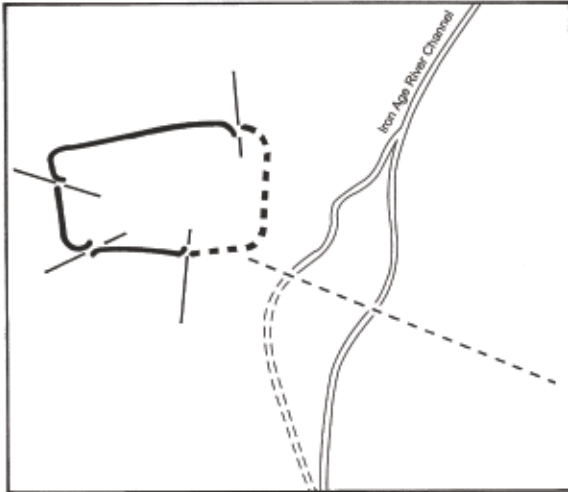
At the time of the Roman conquest, the regional importance of the site seems to have been recognised and the ford across the Itchen continued to act as a focus for the long-distance Roman roads in the area. Initially the Oram's Arbour defences must have survived as a major feature in the landscape, but by the end of the 1st century a Roman town – later to become Venta Belgarum – was established over the eastern part of the Iron Age enclosure. The western part of the enclosure developed into the western suburb of the town.

Two phases of slighting of the eastern parts of the enclosure defences have been tentatively identified. The first related to the earliest Roman occupation recovered in Winchester at St George's Street (Chapter 4, site 15). The site lay near the south-western corner of the Iron Age enclosure immediately inside the projected southern defences. The pre-Roman ground surface was sealed by the 'earthwork' of redeposited turf, earthy gravel, and clean orange gravel. This 'earthwork' survived to a height of up to 1.8m and was overlain by timber buildings of Claudian date. Given the assumed proximity of the Oram's Arbour defences, this 'earthwork' may represent the truncated or spread remains of the Iron Age ramparts.

There are further indications of an early slighting of the Iron Age defences in this area. The Claudian buildings extended up to the line of the main east-west street of the later Roman town. This street ran at an oblique angle across the putative south-east corner of the Iron Age defences, indicating infilling of this portion of the enclosure ditch prior to the establishment of the street. The Claudian date of the material excavated from the site led to the tentative suggestion that the initial slighting of the defences in this area occurred either before or during the Conquest period (Cunliffe 1964, 23), although the remainder of the circuit apparently survived this episode.

A second phase of slighting of the enclosure defences occurred in the Flavian period and was apparently related to construction of the first Roman earthwork. The northern defences of the Roman town followed those of the Iron Age enclosure; indeed the site of an earlier entrance became the site of the Roman North Gate. Elsewhere though and especially on the southern side of the enclosure, the defences were levelled and

Iron Age



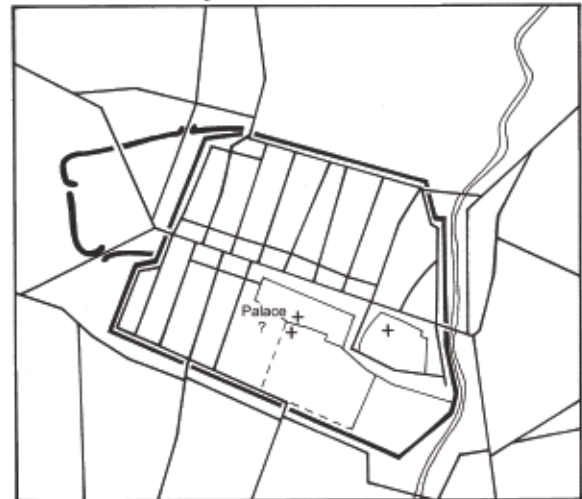
Roman



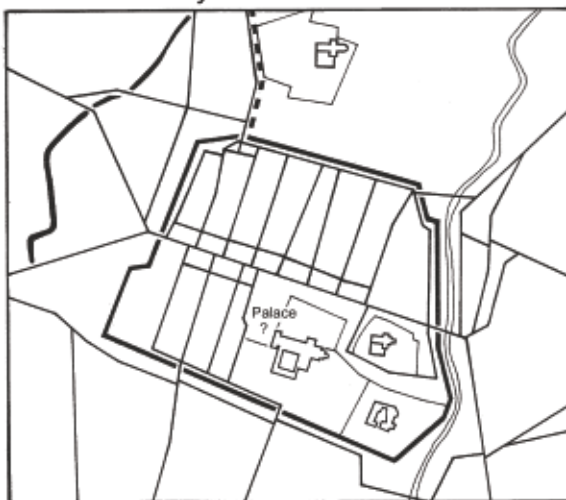
5th-9th Century



10th Century



12th Century



14th Century

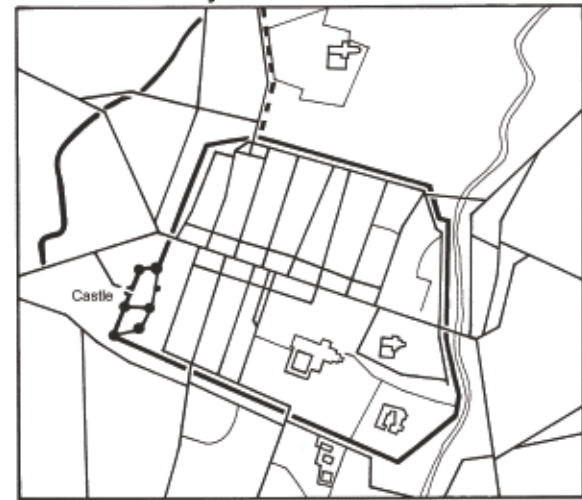


Figure 39 Plans to show the influence of Oram's Arbour on the later development of Winchester

appear to have had no further influence in the development of the town.

The infilling of the southern enclosure ditch has been traced from Trafalgar House west to Castle Yard, where it was overlain by the earliest earthen ramparts of the Roman town defences (Chapter 4, sites 35, 36, 37, and 42).

The area of the enclosure outside the western Roman defences developed into the western suburb of the town. Recuts or cleaning of the enclosure ditch at Carfax and New Road indicate that it was initially well maintained. From the mid-2nd to 3rd century, however, where it approached the north-western corner of the town defences the ditch was infilled with clay and chalk rubble. The upper part of this deposit was truncated, but its character suggests that it was a deliberate construction and was almost certainly an up-standing earthwork. The dating of this feature suggests that it was associated with the strengthening of the town defences in the 2nd to 3rd century and perhaps formed part of an out-turned entrance into the enclosure associated with an extra-mural street along the line of modern Sussex Street. During the later Roman period the enclosure ditch and probably the bank were utilised as a linear cemetery. No evidence of Roman occupation other than ploughsoils has, however, been recovered from recent excavations in the western area of the enclosure.

With the collapse of the Roman administration early in the 5th century, urban occupation appears to have ceased. The ford across the Itchen ensured the continued use of the immediate area, although direct evidence of occupation in the sub-Roman period has proved elusive. Perhaps as early as the 7th century, the South Gate of the Roman town was blocked first by a ditch and later by a masonry wall (Biddle 1975, 109–19). The North Gate may have also been blocked during this period (Biddle 1976, 261). The blocking of the gates

diverted all traffic from the western side of the valley and forced it to enter the enclosure before passing through the town's west gate. The contemporary ditch fills suggest a long period of stability with little silting. Although no evidence of recutting of the ditch at this time has been identified, the defences were still of a substantial nature and it is possible that the enclosure acted as an outer ring of defence or a bulwark.

During Alfred's reorganisation of Wessex in the late 9th century, the city's defences were refurbished and the north and south gates were probably rebuilt. The population of Winchester rapidly grew and soon spread into the remaining area of the Oram's Arbour enclosure to form the western suburb. Late Saxon occupation has been identified along the three main streets within the enclosure – the modern Romsey Road, Upper High Street, and Sussex Street. By this period, however, the ditch was no more than a slight hollow and probably served to define rather than defend the suburb.

Due to the growth of the suburbs outside the northern and southern gates, probably towards the end of the 11th century, the suburban defences were re-established on a new alignment. As part of this work, the western Oram's Arbour ditch was recut and extended to enclose the city's northern suburb. At Carfax, where the defences went out of use, the ditch was deliberately filled with chalk rubble, perhaps derived from the levelling of the ramparts. It is not known how this rearrangement affected the southern line of the enclosure ditch. It may have been recut or abandoned as part of a new defensive arrangement extended to enclose the southern suburb.

In the 1830s the construction of the South Western Railway cut a broad swathe through the western part of the enclosure. With the rapid increase in Winchester's population in the late 19th century, the boundaries of the historic suburbs were buried, and now lie below the modern city.

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