

## CHAPTER 6

## EXCAVATIONS ON SITE D IN 2002–3

## INTRODUCTION (FIGS 1–2, 158)

Excavation took place in 2002–3 in advance of an extension of the quarry to the south-east of Enclosures 1–5, which had been excavated between 1987 and 1997. The site (Site D, TL 9570 2240) lay on a south-facing incline, and was bounded by Maldon Road to the south and by Gryme's Dyke South to the east (FIGS 1–2). It measured up to 188 m east–west by 134 m north–south. The Colchester Museums accession number for Site D is 2002.247. The small finds numbers are a continuation of the series used on Site C.

Some charcoal-rich features were discovered in November 2002 when the topsoil over the site was mechanically stripped in readiness for quarrying. A brief archaeological excavation followed in December 2002 when several of the features were investigated and more were discovered (FIG. 158). The features were located between 72 m and 206 m south of Enclosure 5. A geophysical survey took place on the site in March–April 2003 (Black and Black 2003), and excavation of the features resumed in December of that year. Delicately controlled machine-clearance of the surface was also carried out to check for any additional features. This was done in alternating north–south strips, mostly about 4 m in width, so as to cover just over 50 per cent of the site. The fills of the cremation burials and the more convincing pits with pyre-related material were all retained in their entirety to recover finds and obtain samples for environmental analysis. Many of the remaining features were bulk sampled for environmental analysis.

Archaeological monitoring also took place during machine-stripping of topsoil in August 2004 to the south-west of the enclosures. This area (Site E) lay immediately to the west of Site D, 100 m south-west of Enclosure 5, and measured approximately 230 m east–west by up to 117 m north–south. Little of archaeological significance was recorded in this area, although the edges of the silt-filled palaeochannel located on Site C (CF52) were traced over the eastern part of the site.

## THE EXCAVATION (FIG. 158)

Five unstratified worked flints were recovered from Site D, including an early Mesolithic obliquely blunted microlith (SF403, FIG. 168; p. 422). There were no definite man-made prehistoric features pre-dating the Late Iron Age. A few probable natural features were excavated. These are recorded in the archive.

The archaeological features (FIG. 158) are described below in terms of the following four groups:

- a) cremation burials (three examples)
- b) pits with pyre-related debris (four, possibly five examples)
- c) pits with charcoal-rich fill and no cremated bone or pottery or other artefacts (fourteen, possibly fifteen examples)
- d) other features (a boundary ditch, a sand-and-gravel pit, and seven other pits).

Many of the features on the site had been truncated, and presumably an unknown number of shallow ones completely destroyed, both by long-term ploughing and by the machine-stripping of the topsoil in advance of quarrying operations. Any lost features are likely to have belonged to the third of the groups listed above, which, as suggested below, are likely to be of modern origin.

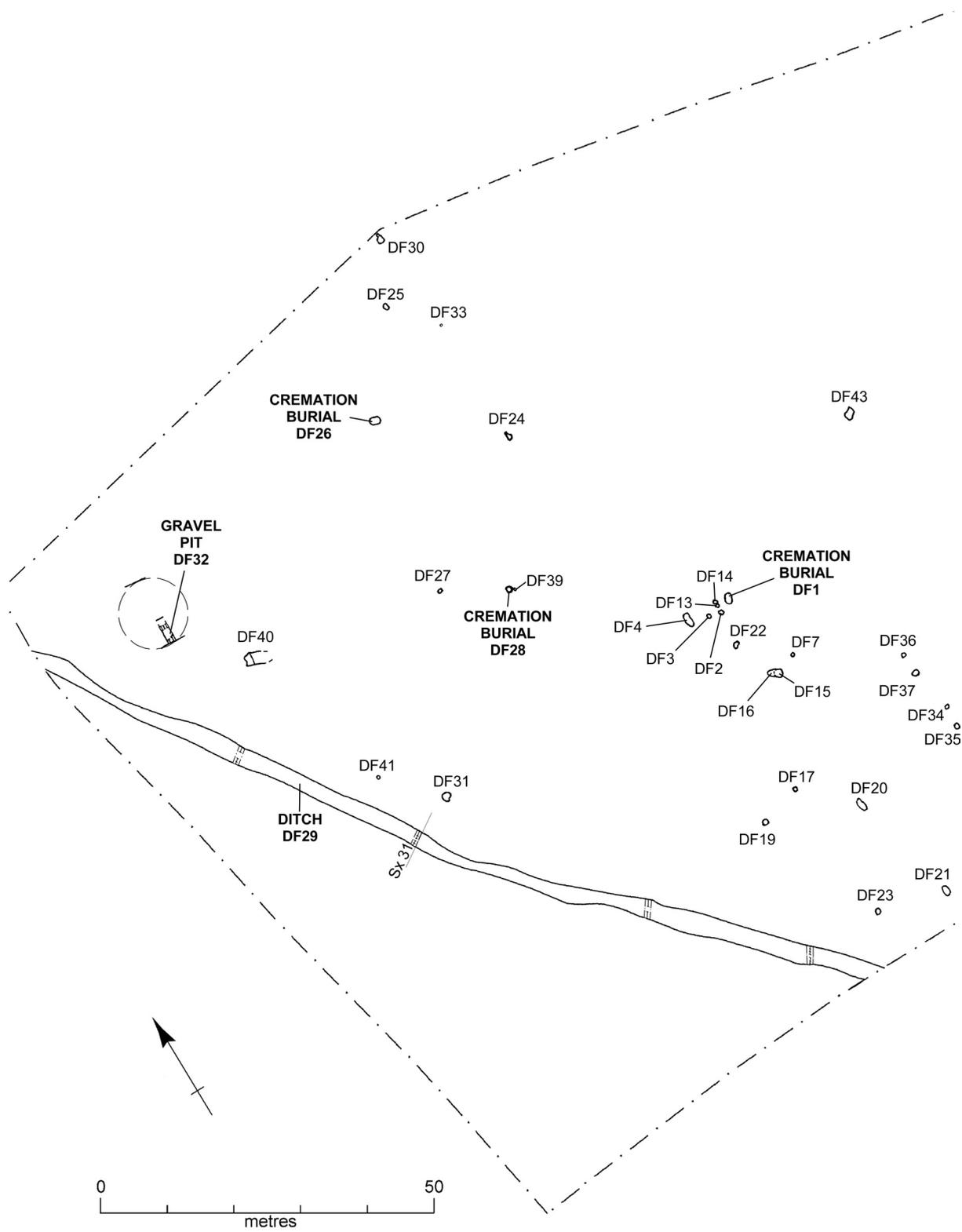


FIG. 158. Site D: plan

### THE CREMATION BURIALS

Of the three definite cremation burials, two were inurned (DF1 and DF26) and one unurned (DF28). This small sample therefore contrasts with the broadly contemporary burials in Enclosures 3, 4 and 5 which were probably all unurned. In one of the inurned burials (DF1), the cremated bone was inside an imported butt-beaker, placed off-centre in the burial pit. In the other (DF26), the bone had been put in a lidded bowl placed centrally in the pit. The unurned burial (DF28) was the most well furnished. In addition to the flagon, it had a butt-beaker, two cups or small carinated bowls, and three brooches, as well as copper-alloy sheet fragments and hobnails. The inclusion of the flagon and the carinated cups, perhaps as a drinking set, is paralleled in other burials, such as the Brooches grave (CF72) in Enclosure 5, which also produced plate brooches. The provision and number of the grave-goods in DF28 may imply a significant element of social differentiation compared to the inurned cremation burials.

Two of the cremation burials (DF1 and DF26) showed no evidence for the breaking or burning of objects prior to burial. However, prior to burial in DF28, one of the pots (DF28.1) was in pieces, another (DF28.4) may have been scorched, and all three brooches (DF28.5-7) seem to have been broken. In addition, there were some heat-affected copper-alloy fragments (SF398 and SF399) in DF28 presumably belonging to the remains of a box which must have been destroyed on the pyre.

Of the three cremation burials, the earliest is probably DF26 (pre-conquest) and the latest is DF28 (probably Claudio-Neronian or later, depending on the date of the plate brooch DF28.5).

#### CREMATION BURIAL DF1 (FIG. 159)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	338.5 g	adult, sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>	DF1.1	imported butt-beaker
<i>Other objects</i>		several iron nail fragments
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

DF1 was a circular pit which was approximately 1.1 m in diameter and 0.16 m deep (FIG. 159). The upper fill of the pit was a charcoal-rich layer, up to 0.08 m thick, and was probably derived from the pyre. This sealed a lower fill of sand and sandy silt loam, up to 0.1 m thick, which was presumably redeposited natural. A butt-beaker (FIG. 159, DF1.1) had been placed upright in a depression 0.23 m deep on the western side of the pit. The beaker contained most of the cremated bone and a few iron nail fragments. A small quantity of cremated bone (6.6 g) was also recovered from the upper and lower fills of the pit. The rim of the beaker was missing, opening up the possibility that bone may have been dragged from inside the beaker during modern ploughing. Samples of the fills and the contents of the beaker provided limited evidence for charred seeds of grasses and grassland plants as well as other plant macrofossils (p. 420). A few fragments of iron nails and chips of iron (probably also from nails) were recovered from an environmental sample (TABLE 72). While the burial and the circular pit appeared to be contemporary, it is possible that the pit was an unconnected pyre-related feature that cut the burial.

The butt-beaker is of form Cam 113. The type was common at Sheepen but rare in the Colchester Roman fortress and early *colonia*. The burial thus probably dates to *c.* A.D. 10–43, although it may be as late as *c.* A.D. 60.

**DF1.1** FIG. 159. D1. Butt-beaker Cam 113 in fabric BPW. The vessel is almost complete, although the rim is missing and the upper part of the vessel is more fragmented. Approximately 100 sherds and fragments. Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

DF1. From an environmental sample. a) Six iron nail shank fragments. Lengths 9, 11, 15, 15 (clenched), 16 and 21 mm. b) Four small iron fragments. Lengths 6, 9, 9 and 9 mm.

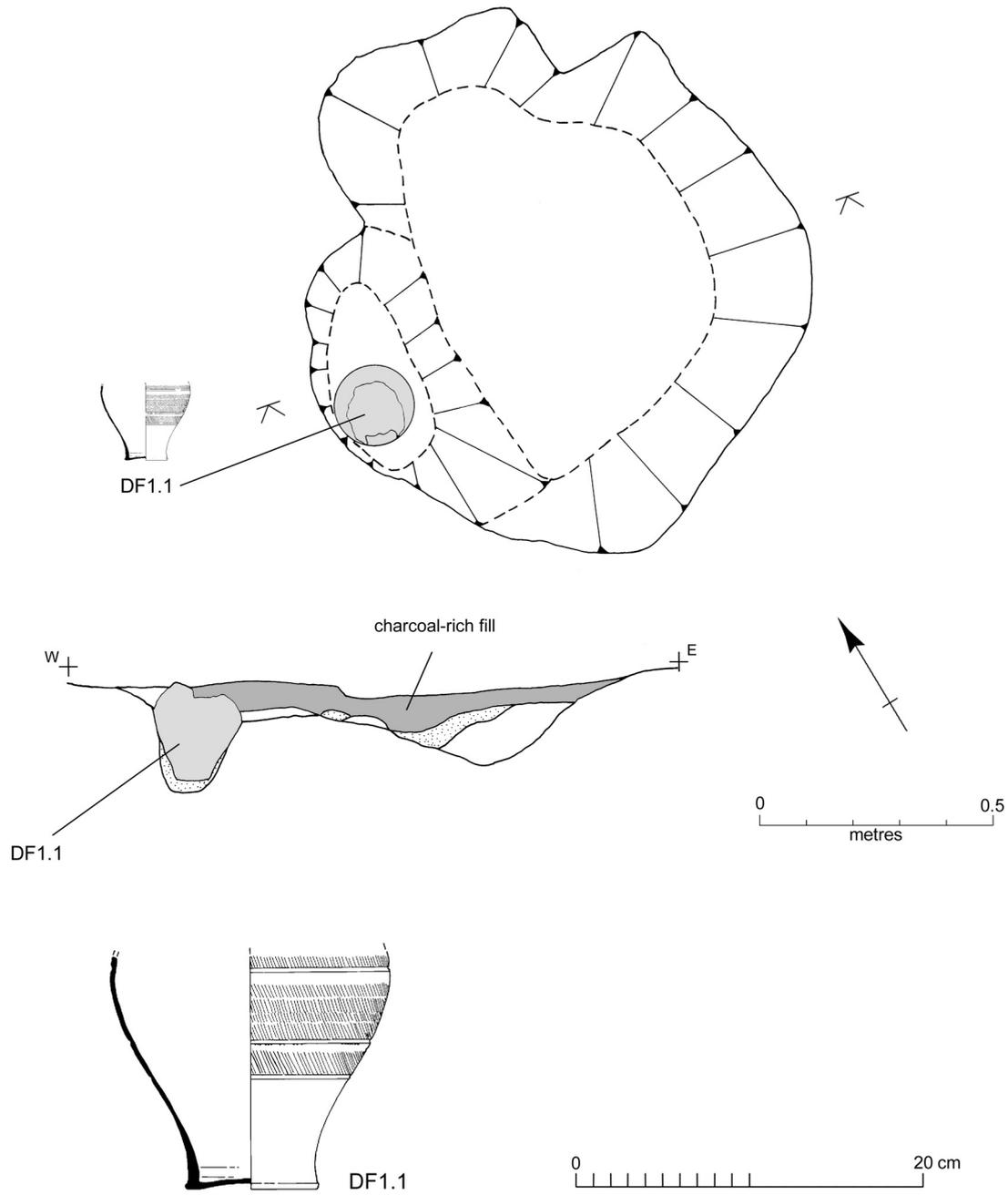


FIG. 159. Cremation burial DF1: plan and section (scale 1:15) and pottery vessel DF1.1 (scale 1:4)

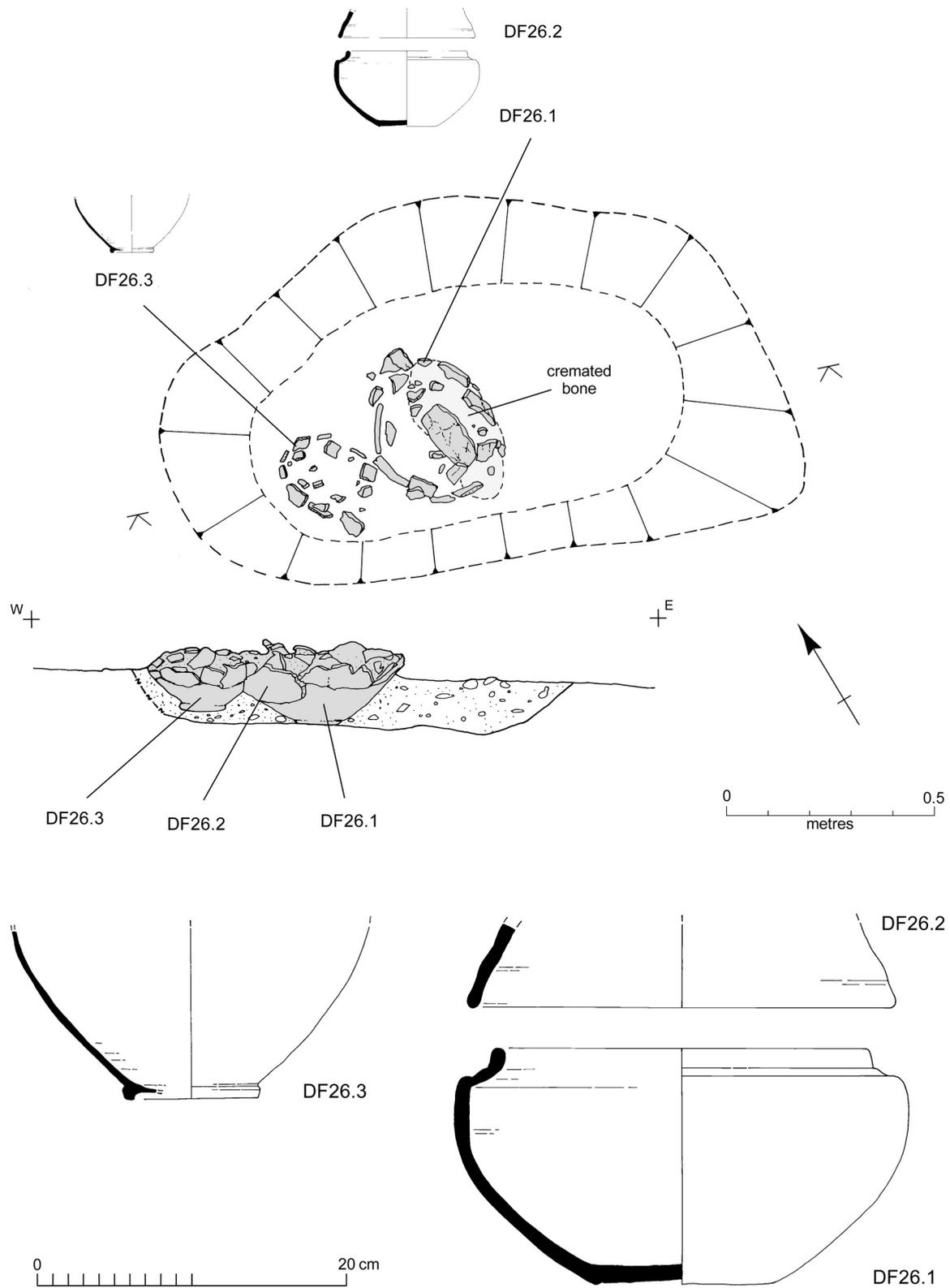


FIG. 160. Cremation burial DF26: plan and section (scale 1:15) and pottery vessels DF26.1–3 (scale 1:4).

## CREMATION BURIAL DF26 (FIG. 160)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	38.1 g	age and sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>	DF26.1	local grog-tempered bowl
	DF26.2	local grog-tempered lid
	DF26.3	imported flagon
<i>Other objects</i>		none
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

The fill of the pit, which survived up to 0.2 m deep, consisted of sand and gravel and did not contain significant amounts of charcoal. The cremated bone was contained in a lidded bowl (DF26.1 and DF26.2) which had been placed upright towards the centre of an oval-shaped pit (FIG. 160). The lid and the rim of the bowl had been very badly damaged by later ploughing and/or machining. The quantity of cremated bone found in the bowl was small, but unaffected by later disturbances. The lid is tall and matches the bowl in shape and fabric (grog-tempered ware). An imported North Gaulish flagon (FIG. 160, DF26.3) had been placed upright adjacent to the bowl on the western side of the pit. The upper part of this vessel had also been badly affected by ploughing and/or machining.

The bowl is of form Cam 253 and has a number of parallels from Sheepen (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 281). The imported flagon is also almost certainly of pre-conquest date. The two vessels thus indicate that the burial probably belonged to the earlier 1st century A.D.

**DF26.1 and DF26.2** FIG. 160. D41, also a few sherds from D43; DF26.2: D43, and a few sherds from D41. Deep lid-seated bowl with in-bent rim flattened for tall bead-rimmed lid. Cam 253 bowl (DF26.1) and lid (DF26.2) in fabric GTW. Most of bowl including all of base and probably all of body, although only about 50% of bowl shoulder/rim identified. Much of lower part of lid (rim approximately 60–70% identified). Upper part of lid missing. Bowl approximately 40 sherds and 60 small sherds. Lid approximately 40 sherds and small sherds. Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

**DF26.3** FIG. 160. D42. Flagon in fabric WPW. All of base and some body sherds. Upper part of vessel missing. Approximately 100 sherds including base and body sherds with some fragments. Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

## CREMATION BURIAL DF28 (FIGS 161-3)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	61.1 g	age and sex unknown	
<i>Pottery</i>	DF28.1	imported butt-beaker	
	DF28.2	buff ware flagon, possibly imported	
	DF28.3	small local carinated bowl	
	DF28.4	small local carinated bowl	
	<i>Other objects</i>	DF28.5	copper-alloy plate brooch
		DF28.6	copper-alloy penannular brooch
		DF28.7	copper-alloy penannular brooch
		DF28.8	copper-alloy sheet fragments and fragments of mineralised oak (?box)
		DF28.9	single fragment of a glass vessel (not an unguent bottle)
		DF28.10	3 hobnails from a pair of sandals or shoes, plus a copper-alloy shank and two iron nail fragments (parts of <b>DF28.8?</b> )
<i>Residual finds</i>		small bowl sherd/fragment of ?shale	

The cremated bone lay mostly in a small cluster on the floor in the south-western part of the pit (FIG. 161). A few fragments were also found to the south of the cluster, scattered in an extensive charcoal-rich lens which covered much of the floor of the pit. The bone was closely associated with rim and body sherds from a Cam 113 butt-beaker (FIG. 163, DF28.1) which had been broken in antiquity. A few of these sherds appeared to seal the bone. The base and more body sherds from the beaker lay fragmented on the floor to the north of the bone.

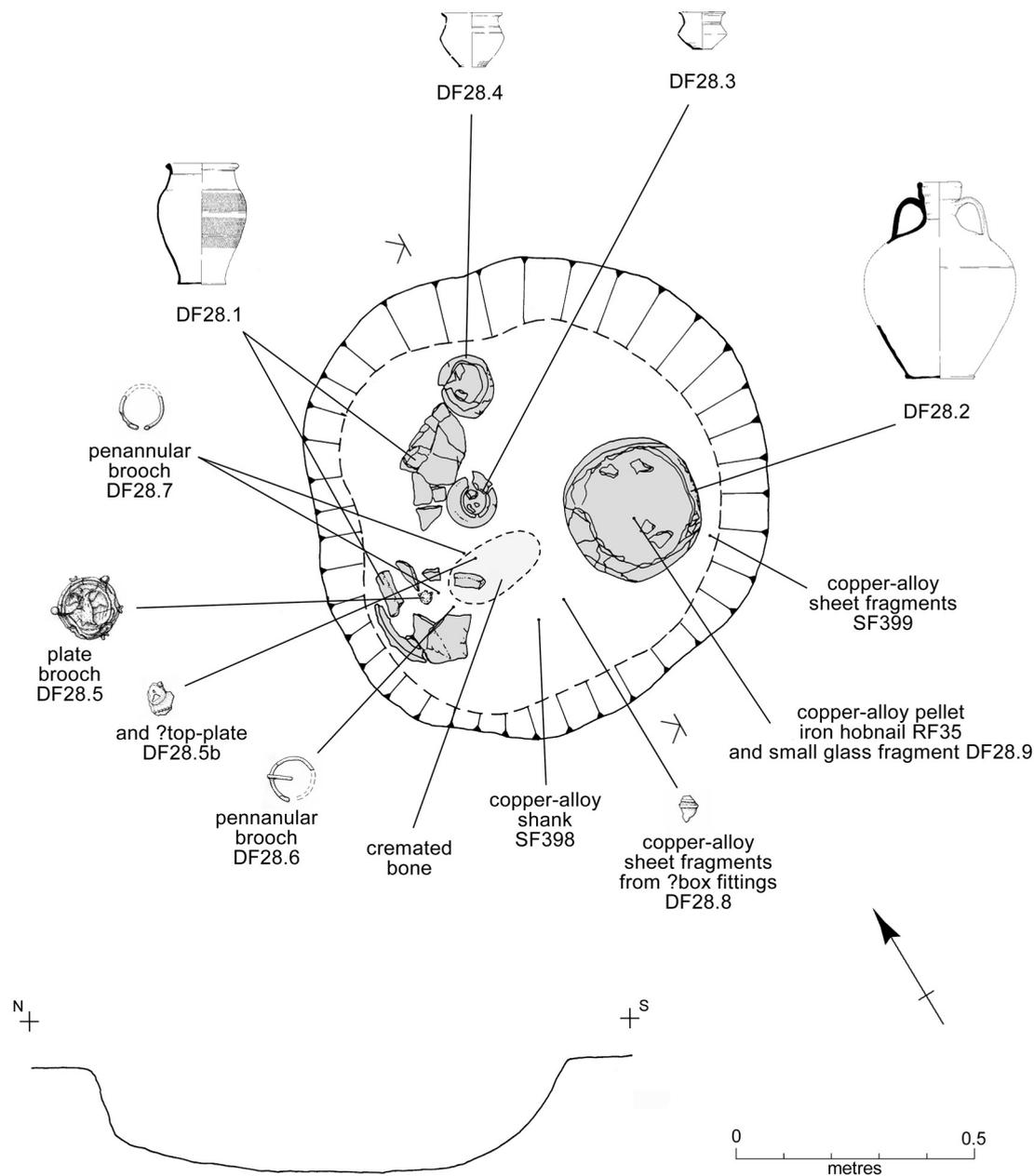


FIG. 161. Cremation burial DF28: plan and profile (scale 1:15)

A two-handled flagon (FIG. 163, DF28.2) of form Cam 170 (variant) lay in the south-east corner of the pit, tipped slightly on its side. It had probably been complete when put in the pit, but the upper part had been damaged by ploughing and/or machining. Two small carinated bowls of form Cam 212-217 had been placed upright and probably intact in the pit. One (FIG. 163, DF28.3) lay slightly north-west of centre, and the other (FIG. 163, DF28.4) was 0.11 m away, close to the northern edge of the pit; DF28.4 may have been burnt. Both bowls sealed sherds from the beaker.

The burial pit was roughly circular, up to 1 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep. The thin dark charcoal-rich layer on the bottom of the feature was probably derived from the pyre. It appeared to seal or envelop most of the objects on the floor of the pit, with the possible exception of the flagon (FIGS 161-2).

Among the broken butt-beaker sherds close to the cremated bone in the south-west corner of the pit were a copper-alloy plate brooch (FIG. 163, DF28.5) and two copper-alloy penannular brooches (FIG. 163, DF28.6-7). A small fragment of copper-alloy sheet with a rivet (FIG. 163,



FIG. 162. Cremation burial DF28

DF28.5b) from the same area was probably part of the top-plate of the brooch DF28.5. All three brooches appear to have been broken or damaged in antiquity, but were unburnt. A ?bowl fragment possibly of shale also lay among the butt-beaker sherds. Being only a single, very small sherd, it must be residual or intrusive.

A small fragment of heat-affected copper-alloy (SF402), an iron hobnail (RF35), and a small piece of a colourless glass vessel (but not an unguent bottle) (DF28.9) were recovered from the soil filling the remains of the flagon. They are not likely to have been deliberately buried in the pot, but were in the soil when it fell into it.

Several fragments of copper-alloy sheet (one only illustrated, FIG. 163, DF28.8), probably from box fittings, were recovered from the pit-fill to the west of the flagon. These were associated with some small fragments of mineralised oak. Also from this area were another small heat-affected copper-alloy fragment (SF398) and an iron nail fragment (SF397b). Another iron nail fragment (D55) was found near DF28.4 at the northern end of the pit. Two heat-affected copper-alloy sheet fragments (SF399) came from the edge of the pit adjacent to the flagon. All this material may belong to the same ?box.

Two, possibly three, iron hobnails (DF28.10) were recovered from environmental samples. One of the hobnails (RF35) was in the fill of the flagon DF28.2 (as already mentioned), another (RF29) was in the charcoal-rich lower fill of the pit, and a third (a ?hobnail: RF31) was in the vicinity of the sherds of the broken butt-beaker DF28.1. They parallel the hobnails excavated at the Handford House site in Colchester in 2003, where their presence in a large proportion

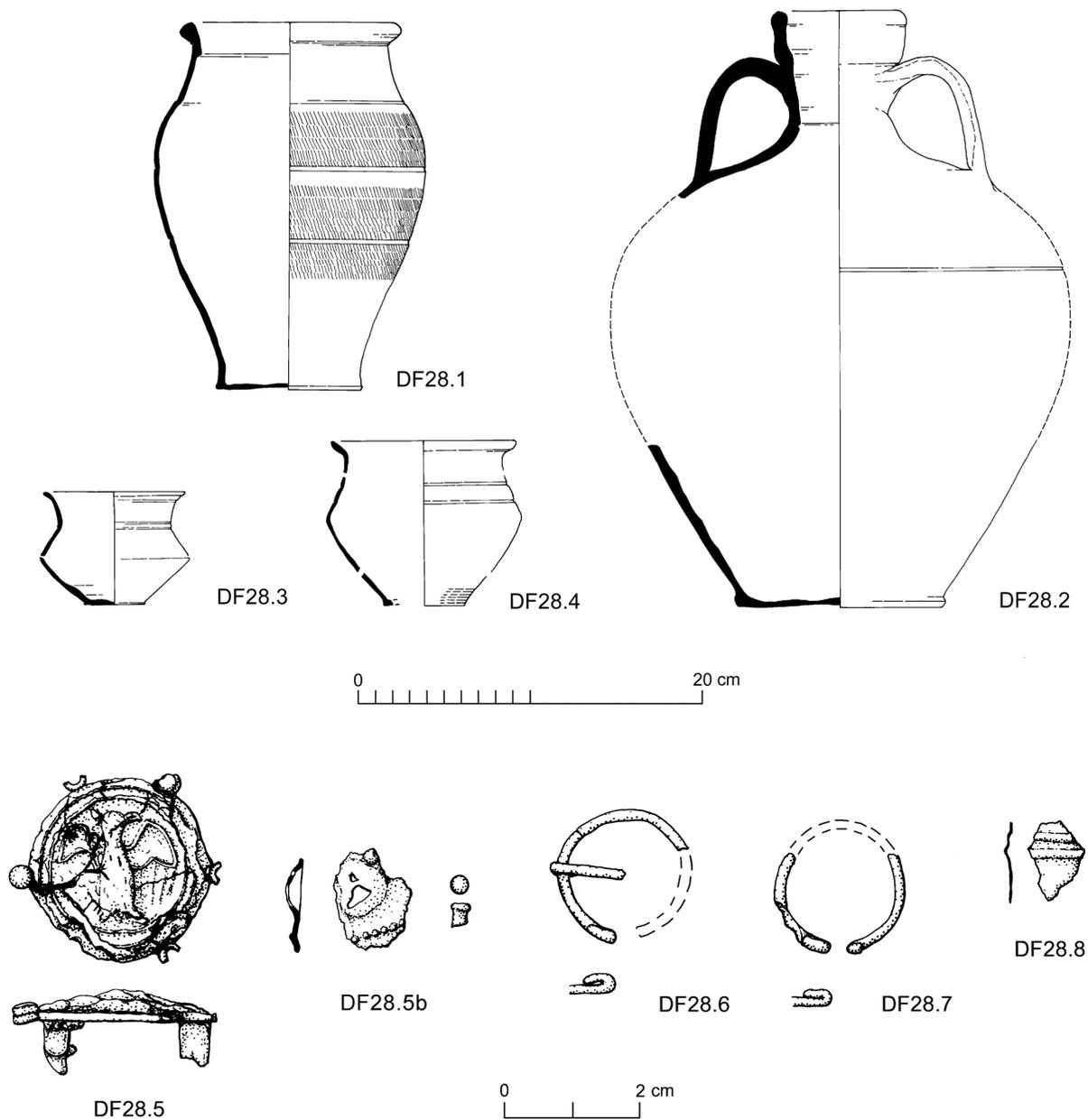


FIG. 163. Cremation burial DF28: pottery vessels DF28.1–4 (scale 1:4), copper-alloy brooches DF28.5–7, and moulded sheet DF28.8 (scale 1:1)

of the burials and pyre-sites suggests that most of the dead were wearing nailed shoes or sandals when cremated (Orr 2006).

The plate brooch (FIG. 163, DF28.5) is unusual; the technique of manufacture is similar to that used on pre-conquest spring-cover brooches, although on those the solder is much more thinly applied (*e.g.* Feugère 1985, 293, Type 20c). Almost certainly an import, the method of manufacture allies it to the group with a top-plate bearing designs based on triskeles, human faces, animals, and copies of Hadrianic coin reverse types (Hattatt and Webster 1985), although none of these have peripheral lugs. Although many of these brooches are 2nd century in date, a few belong to the 1st century, notably one with a ?griffin design from Santon (Fox 1958, pl. 37b). The repoussé-decorated top-plate of the Stanway brooch is missing, but the design, an eagle with outstretched wings, is visible in the solder. A small fragment of the top-plate, showing part of a beaded frame, was recovered from an environmental sample.

The penannular brooches (FIG. 163, DF28.6–7) are small copper-alloy examples of Fowler's Type D2 (1960, 152), with the terminal turned back on top of the ring and constricted at the

midpoint. The form is British and occurs in contexts dated from the 1st to 4th centuries. Examples from pre-conquest or immediately post-conquest contexts have been found at Sheepen, Maiden Castle, Bagendon, Hod Hill, and, in iron, at Dragonby (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 327, nos 6–8; Wheeler 1943, fig. 86, 8; Hull 1961, 184, nos 63–9; Brailsford 1962, nos E11–16; Olivier 1996, fig. 11.13, 152). There are no examples from the King Harry Lane cemetery.

Although most of the vessels are primarily associated with the Late Iron Age, the flagon, possibly an import, is probably post-conquest and dates the burial to the early post-conquest Claudio–Neronian period. A post-conquest date is also indicated by the inclusion of hobnails. The presence of the unusual plate brooch and particularly the small glass fragment could suggest a slightly later date.

**DF28.1** FIG. 163. D49, also D55, D59. Butt-beaker Cam 113 in fabric BPW. All of rim, most or all of main body, approximately 60% of base identified. Slightly degraded surfaces and edges. Approximately 114+ medium to small sherds and crumbs. Condition at deposition: broken in antiquity, possibly complete.

**DF28.2** FIG. 163. D48, also D49, D64. *Lagena* Cam 170 variant in a fabric which is a coarse version of North Gaulish Flagon ware (NOG WH) and possibly an import. Almost all of the vessel, all of the base present, although only part of the rim identified. Approximately 200 sherds varying from medium to large fragments. Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

**DF28.3** FIG. 163. D54, also D67. Small carinated bowl Cam 212–217 in fabric RCW. Part (55%) of the rim (in small pieces). All of the base, and probably all or most of body. Burnished. Some degraded surfaces and sherd edges. 36 sherds and 28 fragments. Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

**DF28.4** FIG. 163 D55, also D4. Small carinated bowl Cam 212–217 in fabric RCW. Much of the vessel present but only part of the rim (approximately 30%) and base (approximately 20%). Burnished. Some sherds are discoloured brownish-red with outer surfaces degraded: they may have been burnt. 30 sherds and approximately 42 fragments (179 g). Condition at deposition: presumed complete.

**DF28.5** FIG. 163. SF396. D47. Discoid plate brooch; only the top of the pin remains, hinged on an iron rivet between close-set lugs. The body of the brooch consisted of a copper-alloy back-plate with a repoussé-decorated top-plate attached by a thick layer of lead-/tin-based solder. The top-plate is now missing, but parts may have been recovered elsewhere (*see* DF28.5b and DF28.8). The solder retains the image of an eagle with outstretched wings. Six lugs were originally spaced equidistantly around the circumference, but only one now survives intact; it has a bone cap. Diameter (excluding peripheral lugs) 26 mm.

**DF28.5b** FIG. 163. SF409. D59. From an environmental sample. 1) Thin copper-alloy repoussé-decorated sheet fragment, part of the top-plate of brooch DF28.5. Maximum dimensions 15 by 12 mm. 2) Tiny dome-headed rivet or stud, end of shank missing. Diameter 3 mm, length 4 mm.

**DF28.6** FIG. 163. SF400. D58. Fragment, in two pieces, of a small copper-alloy penannular brooch of Fowler's Type D2, one of a pair with DF28.7. The surviving terminal is turned up and back to lie along the top of the hoop and has a slight central constriction. The hoop is of round section and plain. Part of the pin remains, also round in section. Internal diameter 14 mm; hoop diameter 2 mm.

**DF28.7** FIG. 163. SF401/408. D62/59. From an environmental sample. Two terminal fragments from a small copper-alloy penannular brooch of Fowler's Type D2, one of a pair with DF28.6. The hoop is of round section and plain; the central section is missing, as is the pin. On SF401 (D62) the terminal has a central constriction that gives it a zoomorphic appearance. The end of the terminal of SF408 (D59) is missing. Internal diameter 14 mm; hoop diameter 2 mm.

**DF28.8** FIG. 163. SF397. D50. ?Box

a) Several fragments of thin copper-alloy sheet, the largest measuring 15 by 11 mm. Only one is illustrated. It has two parallel narrow mouldings while the rest are plain. Most are probably from box fittings, but some may be part of the top-plate of brooch DF28.5.

Other parts of DF28.8?

b) Iron nail shank fragment. Length 23 mm.

c) SF398. D51. Fragment of a heat-affected copper-alloy ?shank. Length 16 mm.

d) SF399. D56. Two fragments of heat-affected copper-alloy sheet. Weight 0.2 g.

e) SF402. D65. Pellet of heat-affected copper alloy, with associated pieces of charcoal. Weight 0.3 g.

f) D55. Iron nail. Length 43 mm.

**DF28.9** Not illustrated. D64. From an environmental sample of the fill of flagon. A chip from a glass body fragment retaining no original surfaces. It probably derived from a decolourised vessel. Decolourised vessels start appearing in the 60s although they do not become at all common until the end of the century (*CAR* 8, table 1.4). It will not have come from an unguent bottle. Colourless glass was used for high-quality tablewares at this period. Dimensions 9 × 6 mm, wall thickness 0.5–1 mm.

**DF28.10** Not illustrated.

- a) RF29. D45. From an environmental sample. Iron hobnail. Length 14 mm, incomplete.
- b) RF35. D64. From an environmental sample. Iron hobnail. Length 16 mm.
- c) RF31. D59. From an environmental sample. Thin iron nail shank fragment, probably from a hobnail. Length 7 mm.

### PITS WITH PYRE-RELATED DEBRIS (FIGS 158, 164, 166)

The five features identified as being pits with pyre-related debris (FIGS 158, 164 and 166, DF2, DF3, DF7, DF13/DF14 and DF25) all had charcoal-rich fills and contained fragments of cremated bone. Two of them included broken and/or heat-affected objects, thus securely identifying them as good examples of pyre-related features like those found further north on the main Stanway site (particularly CF7). These are DF7 which contained a heat-affected brooch and DF3 which included a flagon that had been broken and subjected to intense heat before burial. The cremated bone fragments from DF3 may have derived from at least two individuals (p. 419), a fact which would appear to support its interpretation as a pit with pyre-related debris rather than a cremation burial. Two of the remaining pits are regarded as being pyre-related on the basis of their fill and the presence of artefacts: pit DF13/14 included hobnails from a pair of shoes or sandals, and pit DF2 a coin of Vespasian. The fifth pit (DF25) has little to place it in this category other than its charcoal-rich fill and the presence of a very small amount of cremated bone. It could conceivably belong to our next group, *i.e.* 'pits with charcoal-rich fill and no cremated bone or pottery or other artefacts', if the bone was residual or not human. (The bone is described as 'probably human' in the osteology report; p. 419.)

The integrity of the category of 'pits with pyre-related debris' is supported by the distribution of its members. All occur in the vicinity of the cremation burial DF1 apart from DF25, which, as already explained, may not belong to the group in the first place.

Of the four pits which can be dated, all are interpreted as being post-conquest. DF2 was no earlier than early Flavian, DF3 was no earlier than Claudio-Neronian, and DF7 was not before the early Flavian period.

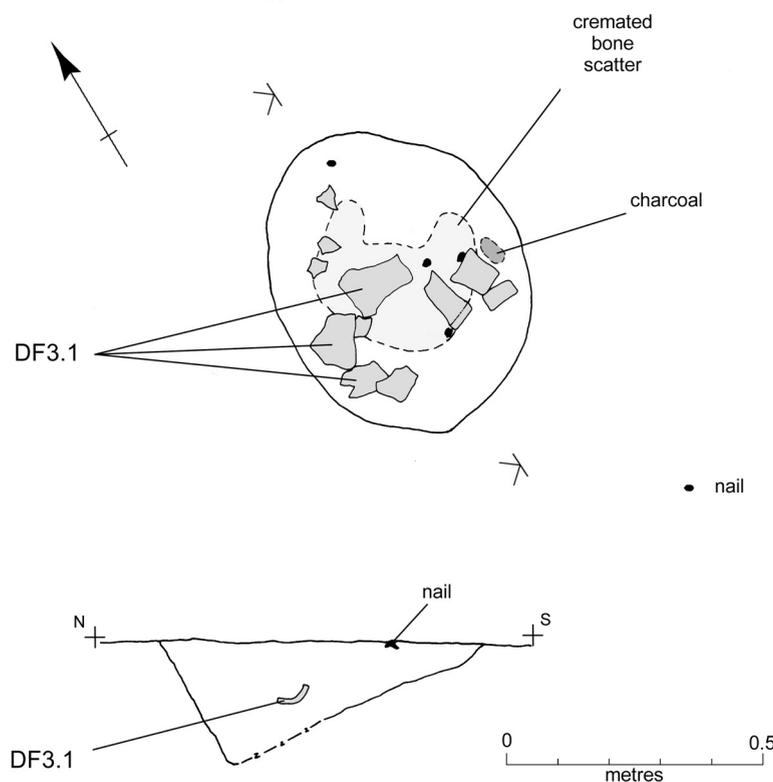


FIG. 164. Pit with pyre debris DF3: plan and section (scale 1:15)

## DF2 (FIGS 158, 166)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	7.1 g	age and sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>	none	
<i>Other objects</i>	DF2.1	copper-alloy coin of Vespasian, plus several iron nail fragments and a small piece of burnt daub
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

Pit DF2 was a shallow feature, 1.2 m north–south by up to 0.8 m east–west, with a small oval depression, 0.65 m east–west by 0.45 m north–south and 0.17 m deep, at its southern end (FIGS 158, 166). The cremated bone was scattered in the charcoal-rich upper fill, mainly towards the southern end. A coin of Vespasian (DF2.1) also came from this layer at the southern end at a depth of 0.05 m (FIG. 166). Several iron nail fragments were scattered throughout the fill. The sandy lower fill is likely to have been redeposited natural. Undulations in the bottom of the feature were probably due to animal and/or root disturbance. The coin is clear evidence for the funerary use of the site as late as the early Flavian period.

**DF2.1** SF394. D6. Worn copper-alloy *as* of Vespasian, reverse eagle on globe; RIC 747. Diameter 28 mm, weight 8.92 g. Date: A.D. 69–79.

D8. Two nails with most of the shank missing, and three nail shank fragments. Lengths 18, 30, 28, 29 and 30 mm.

D16. From environmental sample. Small fragment of burnt daub. Weight 0.2 g.

## DF3 (FIGS 158, 164)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	151.1 g	possibly a minimum of two individuals, one adult and one juvenile
<i>Pottery</i>	DF3.1	local ring-necked flagon
<i>Other objects</i>		several iron nail fragments and small pieces of heat-affected copper alloy
<i>Residual finds</i>		small pot sherd in soft brown sandy fabric
<i>Animal bone</i>		one unidentified fragment

The cremated bone was scattered in the charcoal-rich fill of a small oval pit (FIGS 158, 164), along with the fragmentary, partial remains of a ring-necked flagon (DF3.1) which had been broken elsewhere in antiquity. The bone is of particular interest because, unusually, it possibly represents the remains of at least two individuals (p. 419). The flagon is of form Cam 154/155 and is Claudio–Neronian in date. Some of the sherds had been burnt, presumably on or near the pyre. Also recovered were several iron nail fragments, two small dribbles of resolidified copper alloy (RF8c and RF13), a pellet of heat-affected copper alloy (SF410), and a small residual pot sherd.

**DF3.1** Not illustrated. D4, also sherds from D15, D18. Ring-neck flagon Cam 154/155 in buff fabric, fabric DJ(D). Four-rib handle and probably four-ring neck. Vessel fragmented. All parts of pot represented including all of rim, but only part of base, and probably much of body missing. A few sherds discoloured grey on exterior, probably burnt. Approximately 100 sherds and fragments (304 g).

Condition at deposition: broken, partial.

SF410. D15. From environmental sample. Pellet of resolidified copper alloy. Weight 0.01 g.

RF5. D15. From environmental sample. Eight iron nail shank fragments. Lengths 9, 12, 13, 14, 14, 16, 17 and 18 mm.

RF8. D18. From environmental sample. a) Two incomplete iron nails, a detached nail head, and seven nail shank fragments. Lengths 17, 28, 10, 10, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 25 mm. b) Many tiny iron fragments and flecks. c) Small dribble of copper alloy. Weight 0.2 g.

RF13. D23. From environmental sample. Thin iron nail or pin shank with a dribble of copper alloy attached. Length 15 mm.

RF41. D2. From environmental sample. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 22 mm.

D18. Four incomplete iron nails, and three nail shank fragments. Lengths 12, 15, 17, 18, 26, 30 and 32 mm.

## DF7 (FIGS 158, 165–6)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	197.9 g	age and sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>		none
<i>Other objects</i>	DF7.1	copper-alloy trumpet brooch, plus several iron nail fragments and a small piece of pale green glass
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

The pit DF7 was small and circular, and measured 0.56 m across and 0.14 m in depth. The cremated bone was scattered in the charcoal-rich fill, mainly in compact lenses of charcoal which occurred within it (FIGS 158, 166). A copper-alloy trumpet brooch (FIG. 165, DF7.1) lay at a depth of 0.1 m towards the centre of the pit. It had been slightly deformed by heat. Also scattered in the fill were several incomplete nail fragments and a small piece of pale green glass. The glass fragment was not affected by heat and therefore is unlikely to have been part of a vessel which was placed on the pyre. Several undulations in the bottom of the feature were probably due to animal and/or root disturbance.

The brooch is a small and distinctive example of the type, which is of British origin. The calyx-like mouldings are unusual. The vegetal mouldings on the majority of trumpet brooches are based on the acanthus and point in towards the button, rather than upwards to the bow and downwards to the foot, as here. There are a few brooches with similar mouldings from military sites such as Chester, Caerleon, Holt, Caerwent and Caernarvon (Hull forthcoming, Type 154). None are, however, a close parallel to this brooch, being in general much larger and having a plain foot. A brooch from Wanborough and two from London are perhaps the closest in size and the form of the mouldings, but all lack a headloop and the buttons, footknobs and feet are all plain (Hattatt 1985, fig. 45, 435, 437; Butcher 2001, fig. 24, 110).

The brooch provides the best indication of date for the pit. Trumpet brooches are not common in this region, being mainly found in the west and the north. A brooch with mouldings of this quality is likely to be either pre-Flavian or early Flavian in date.

**DF7.1** FIG. 165. SF393. D5. Copper-alloy trumpet brooch, in two pieces. Most of the pin is missing and the headloop and the edge of the catchplate are damaged. The whole brooch, particularly at the back, is slightly deformed by heat. The spring is fitted into the hollow behind the trumpet head. The headloop has dropped to point forward over the top of the bow, but would originally have stood upright; it would have held a chain linking this brooch to a second one. The bow is short and plain and rises from a calyx-like moulding above the button, which is prominent and ribbed. The foot issues from a second calyx moulding below the button. It has a central rib flanked by recessed triangles that would have held niello or enamel. There is a rounded vegetal moulding above the footknob, which is ribbed to match the button. Length 41 mm.

RF4. D14. From environmental sample. a) Iron nail, incomplete, and nail shank fragment. Lengths 18 and 14 mm. b) Small iron fragment, possibly from a nail head. Length 10 mm.

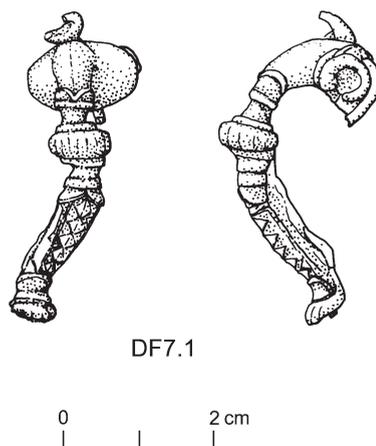


FIG. 165. Pit with pyre debris DF7: copper-alloy brooch DF7.1 (scale 1:1)

RF7. D17. From environmental sample. Two iron nails, both incomplete, and five nail shank fragments, one with an amorphous mass of corrosion attached. Lengths 11, 21, 7, 9, 14, 26 and 28 mm.

D17. From environmental sample. Small glass body fragment. Pale green. It does not appear to be obviously heat affected, so was probably not placed on the pyre. It is too small to say what it came from, but this colour was used for unguent bottles occasionally. It is not a colour that is chronologically sensitive like the colourless piece from DF28. Dimensions 7 × 4 mm, wall thickness 1 mm.

#### DF13 AND DF14 (FIGS 158, 166)

##### DF13

<i>Cremated bone</i>	30.4 g	juvenile, sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>		none
<i>Other objects</i>	DF13.1	ten iron hobnails representing a pair of sandals or shoes a small piece of burnt daub
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

##### DF14

<i>Cremated bone</i>	1.4 g	age and sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>		none
<i>Other objects</i>		none
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

Pits DF13 and DF14 had evidence of animal and/or root disturbance. They were only 0.3 m apart and were probably the truncated remains of a single larger pyre-related feature (FIGS 158, 166). Pit DF13 was a shallow scoop, 0.3 m across and 0.06 m deep, with a reddish-brown, charcoal-rich fill. Throughout its fill the pit contained fragments of cremated bone, at least ten iron hobnails, a small piece of burnt daub, and some burnt stones. Pit DF14 was 0.5 m across and 0.16 m deep. It had a reddish-brown fill, which contained lenses of charcoal, fragments of cremated bone, and burnt stones.

The hobnails from DF13 are the remains of at least one pair of shoes or sandals (DF13.1) that were burnt on the pyre. They suggest a post-conquest date for the feature.

**DF13.1** RF17. D28. From environmental sample. Ten iron hobnails, some represented by the head only. Length of best preserved 14 mm.

D28. DF13. From environmental sample. Small fragment of burnt daub. Weight 0.3 g.

#### DF25 (FIGS 158, 166)

<i>Cremated bone</i>	2.2 g	age and sex unknown
<i>Pottery</i>		none
<i>Other objects</i>		none
<i>Residual finds</i>		none

DF25 was a small, oval-shaped pit, 0.55 m across and 0.29 m deep. It contained a small quantity of cremated bone, and had a dark reddish-brown, charcoal-rich fill with burnt stones.

### **PITS WITH CHARCOAL-RICH FILL BUT NO CREMATED BONE, POTTERY OR OTHER ARTEFACTS (FIGS 158, 166)**

Fourteen features across the site are categorised as pits with fills rich in reddish-brown burnt material and charcoal but where no cremated bone was recovered and unequivocal pyre-related debris, such as broken or burnt sherds or fragments of other artefacts, was absent. They were mostly small, circular or oval features (FIG. 158). Charred plant macrofossils were identified in a few of them (pp. 420-2), but there were no finds apart from a small fragment of undatable iron nail in DF22. Two of the group (DF17 and DF20) had burnt sides indicating that fires had been lit in them. None can be dated. If they really had been pits with pyre-related debris, then

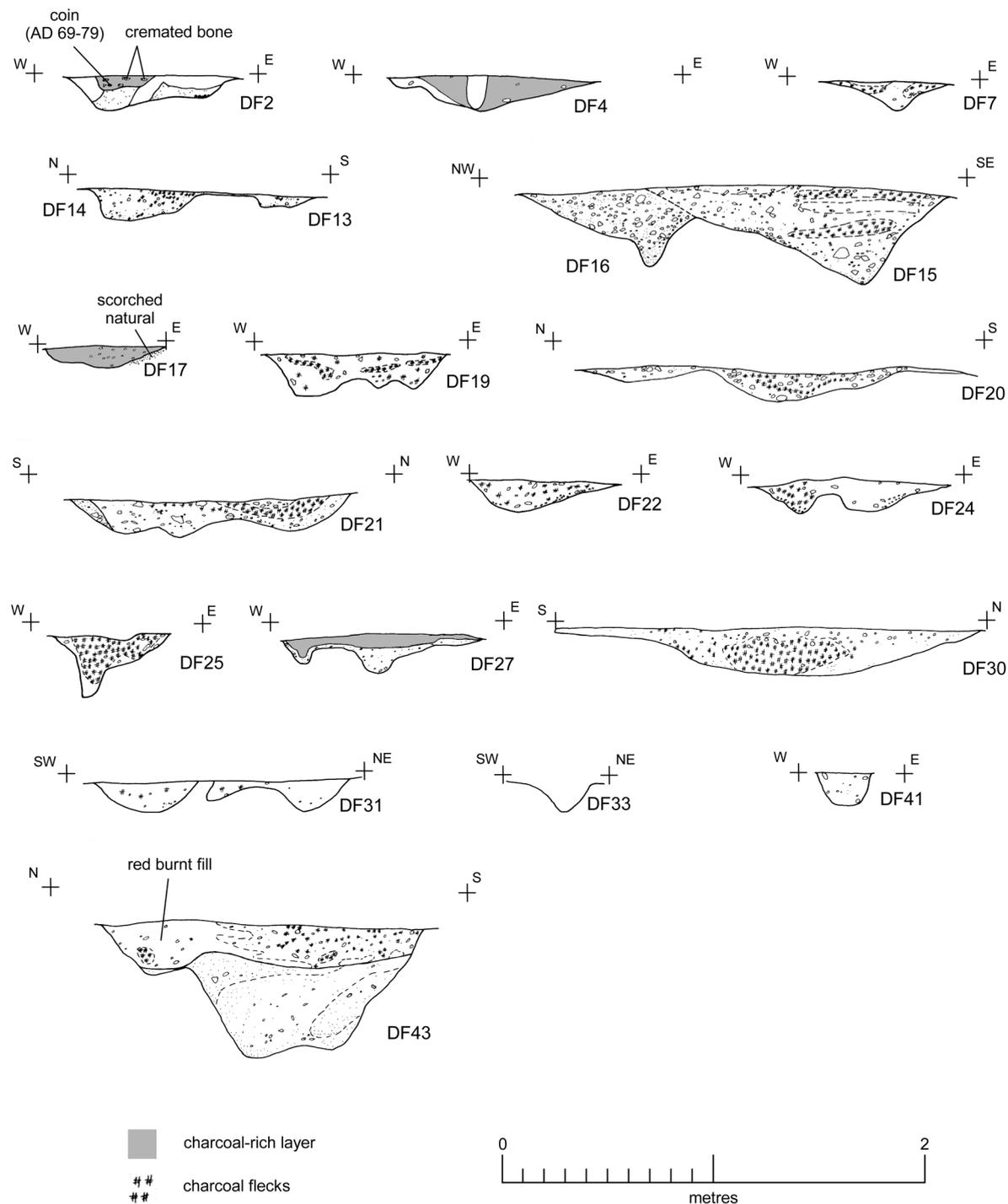


FIG. 166. Area D: pit sections and profiles (scale 1:30)

it seems odd there were so many of them compared to the number of cremation burials recognised in the area. A preferable explanation for the pits in this group is that they represent the remains of shallow-rooted trees which were pulled over in relatively recent times and their roots burnt *in situ*.

The pit DF22 is problematic. It was the only feature in the group to produce a find (a nail fragment), and the amount of charcoal in its fill was relatively low compared with the others, so that it may belong to the group of pits with pyre-related debris. This is perhaps reinforced by its location, close to cremation burial DF1 and other pits with pyre-related debris. (Similarly, DF4 and DF15/16 may also belong to this group.)

#### DF4

The pit DF4 was roughly rectangular in shape and was 2.2 m long, 1.0 m wide and 0.2 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). The main fill was rich in charcoal, although no cremated bone or other finds were recovered from it. A series of small undulations in the sides and bottom of the feature were probably the result of animal and/or root activity. Immediately to the north and west of the pit were several thin spreads of charcoal, which were probably redeposited from the feature during machine-stripping.

#### DF15/16

DF15/16 was an oval-shaped feature, 2 m long and up to 0.46 m deep, with a burnt, reddish-brown fill (FIGS 158, 166). It contained lenses of charcoal, particularly in the southern part of the fill (DF15). Burnt stones were also present, but no other finds. Two scoops in the bottom of the feature and slight differences in the fill possibly indicate that it had two phases whereby DF15 cut DF16.

#### DF17

DF17 was a small pit, 0.55 m across and 0.12 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a black charcoal-rich fill, but no finds. The natural sand and gravel on the bottom of the feature was scorched.

#### DF19

DF19 was a small pit, 0.8 m across and 0.2 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a reddish-brown fill with some burnt stones. There were lenses of charcoal towards the bottom of the feature, which in places appeared to be lightly scorched. Undulations at the bottom of the feature were probably due to animal and/or root disturbance.

#### DF20

DF20 was a shallow pit, 1.8 m long and 0.14 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a reddish-brown fill with lenses of charcoal and some burnt stones. The natural sand and gravel on the bottom of the feature was scorched.

#### DF21

DF21 was an oval-shaped pit, 1.35 m long and 0.15 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a reddish-brown fill with charcoal-rich lenses and some burnt gravels.

#### DF22

DF22 was a small pit, 1 m long by 0.7 m wide and 0.15 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a reddish-brown fill with charcoal flecks, and contained an iron nail fragment.

RF23. D36. From environmental sample. Iron nail shank fragment, bent double at one end. Length 16 mm.

#### DF24

DF24 was an irregularly shaped feature, 1.5 m long by 0.8 m wide and 0.17 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It consisted of several shallow north-south linear scoops. The fill was reddish-brown and contained lenses of charcoal, especially along the western side, as well as burnt stones. No other finds were recovered, but it was possibly a pyre-site and the scoops were perhaps under-pyre flues.

#### DF27

DF27 was a small oval-shaped pit which was 0.9 m long and up to 0.2 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a black charcoal-rich fill with burnt stones. Undulations at the bottom of the feature were probably due to animal and/or root disturbance.

**DF30**

DF30 was a shallow, oval pit at the northern edge of the site (FIG. 158). It had been badly disturbed by machining and ploughing. The pit was 1.5 m long and 0.23 m deep, and had a dark brown fill with burnt stones and abundant charcoal flecks (FIG. 166).

**DF31**

DF31 was an irregularly shaped feature, 1.2 m across and 0.15 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). It had a dark reddish-brown fill with abundant charcoal flecks. A curved scoop formed the western side of the feature and suggested DF31 may have been a pyre-site. Some undulations at the bottom of the feature were probably due to animal and/or root disturbance.

**DF33**

DF33 was a small pit, 0.3 m across and 0.13 m deep, with a dark charcoal-rich fill (FIGS 158, 166).

**DF41**

DF41 was a small pit, 0.3 m across and 0.15 m deep, with a dark brown charcoal-rich fill (FIGS 158, 166).

**DF43**

Pit DF43 was 1.5 m across and 0.65 m deep (FIGS 158, 166). The lower fill was yellowish-brown sand. The upper fill was 0.25 m thick and consisted of burnt material. The latter was mainly reddish-brown in colour with patches of charcoal and burnt stones, but by the northern edge it was red. The upper fill was either a recut or (more likely) pyre-related material dumped in the top of a sand-filled pit.

**OTHER FEATURES** (FIGS 158, 167)

An undated ditch (DF29) extended for 135 m from north-west to south-east across the western side of the site (FIG. 158). It was sectioned in four places and was up to 3 m wide and 0.7 m deep (FIG. 167). Only two small undiagnostic fragments of burnt daub (6.4 g) were recovered from its fill. The ditch was traced on aerial photographs for at least another 250 m to the north-west. There appeared to be a possible entrance 100 m north-west of the site.

In the north-west corner of the site, there was a large undated pit (FIG. 167, DF32), some 10 m east of the ditch DF29. The pit measured about 10.5 m north-south, although the position of the eastern and western edges was not established by excavation. Where sectioned, it was 1.1 m deep and had a ledge along the southern side. The pit was probably dug for the extraction of sand and gravel. This and several other possible quarry pits further to the west (plan in archive) are visible on aerial photographs.

Approximately 10 m to the south of BF32 was a large undated pit (FIG. 167, DF40), 1.9 m north-south and 0.52 m deep, with several charcoal-enriched lenses in the fill. It measured at least 3.0 m east-west, although the position of the eastern edge of the feature was not established.

The remaining undated features consist of: a small pit (FIG. 167, DF23), 0.22 m deep, at the southern end of the site; a north-south line of four small pits or post-holes (FIG. 167, DF34-37), 0.13-0.25 m deep, in the south-eastern part of the site; and a small pit or post-hole (FIG. 167, DF39), 0.15 m deep, immediately to the south-east of DF28.

Two small, unstratified fragments of Roman tile, including a probable piece of box-flue tile, were found in the north-east corner of the site, but there were no other indications of a building.

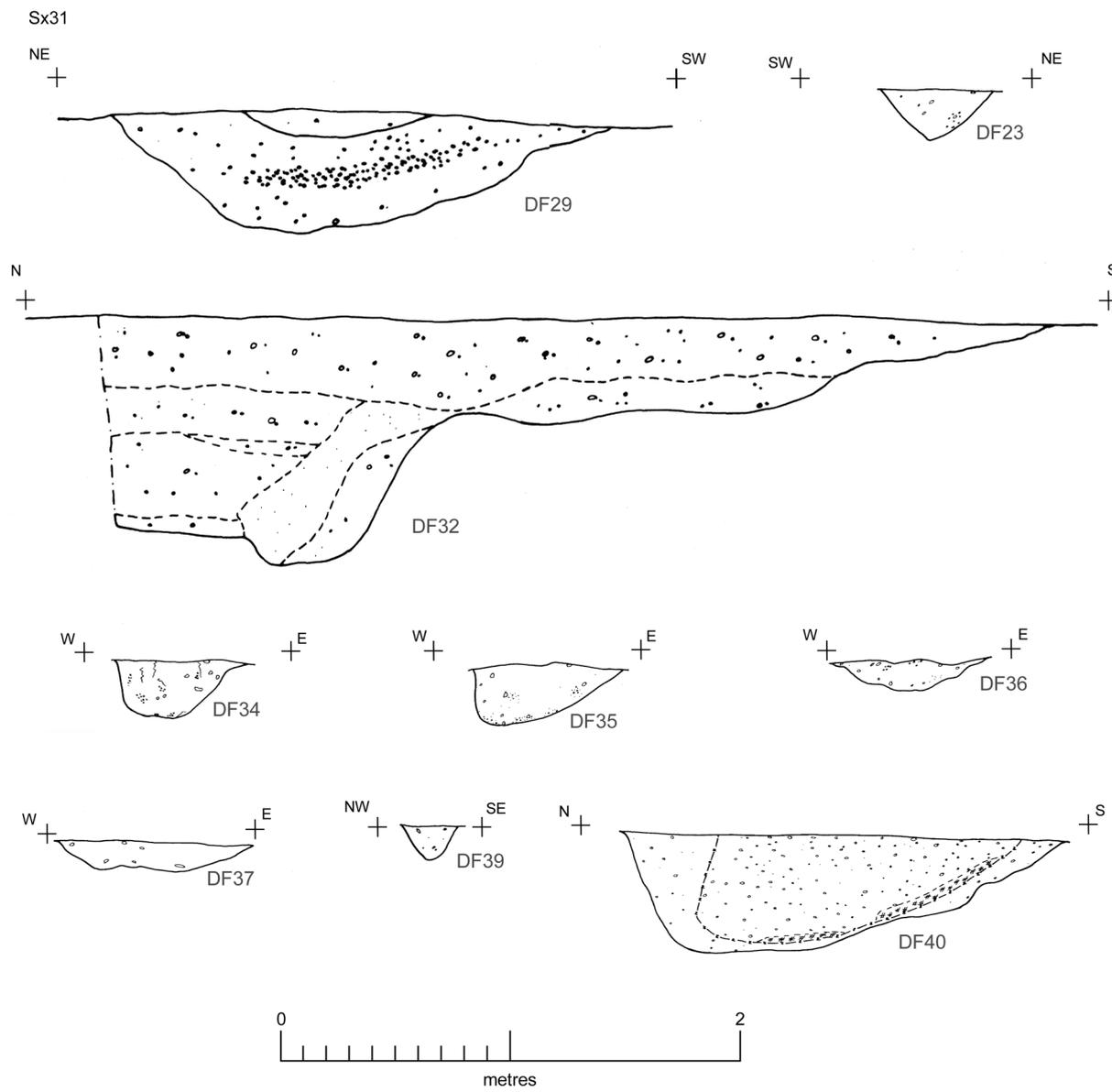


FIG. 167. Site D: ditch DF29 section and pit sections and profiles (scale 1:30)

## SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

### DISCUSSION OF THE LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY FROM SITE D

By Stephen Benfield and Valery Rigby

The eight pots from three cremation burials and one pit with pyre-related material on Site D can be dated generally to the Late Iron Age and early Roman (pre-Flavian) period. One burial (DF26) is probably of Late Iron Age date, and one possibly so (DF1). DF26 contained a Late Iron Age lidded bowl (Cam 253; FIG. 160, DF26.1–2) and a North Gaulish flagon of unknown form (fabric WPW) which is probably a pre-conquest import (FIG. 160, DF26.3), while DF1 contained a single Cam 113 butt-beaker (FIG. 159, DF1.1). However, the other burial (DF28) and the pit (DF3) are certainly post-conquest as they contain flagon forms of Claudian date or later (FIG. 163, DF28.2; not illustrated, DF3.1).

Imported North Gaulish wares are well represented with three, possibly four, pots. As well as one flagon (FIG. 160, DF26.3), there are two Cam 113 butt-beakers (FIG. 159, DF1.1 and FIG. 163, DF28.1) in fabric BPW, and possibly a two-handled flagon (FIG. 163, DF28.2) is also an import. The form Cam 113 is common at Sheepen but rare in assemblages from the fortress/early *colonia* (CAR 10, 472). The inclusion of the form Cam 113 among these burials is striking as it is completely absent from the burials and chambers within the enclosures. However, it does occur among the assemblages from the enclosure ditches and pyre-sites (p. 288). There are also other links with the pottery from the enclosure ditches (rather than the burials) both in the presence of the flagon form Cam 154/155 and the fabric RCW.

It can also be noted that, overall, the selection of grave goods among the Site D burials is predominantly associated with the consumption or provision of liquids (wine/beer) rather than food. This is represented by flagons and beakers, with flagons or beakers occurring in all three of the definite cremation burials, whereas there are no platters. Moreover, the two bowls in DF28 (FIG. 163, DF28.3–4) are small and were probably used as cups.

The choice of ceramics included with the cremation burials from Site D is typical of the cremation rite of the Late Iron Age and early Romano-British period in southern Britain, while the high number of imports in the burials in the enclosures make them appear similar to vessel grave groups found in northern France, Holland and Germany. This is not intended to imply that the enclosure burials are those of incomers, but rather that social considerations place them apart from the general south-east British population, of whom those buried on Site D are a typical group.

### THE CREMATED BONE FROM SITE D

By S. A. Mays

The cremated bone from Site D comprises material from three cremation burials and six pits containing pyre debris. All bone was highly comminuted, limiting the information which could be gained from it. In many cases, no fragments could be identified to specific elements, although all contexts contained bone which was definitely or probably human.

Each of the burials contained very much less bone than would be obtained from cremation of an adult corpse (2 kg). In all instances, recovered bone was neutral white in colour, suggesting thorough firing at temperatures in excess of about 940°C (Shipman *et al.* 1984).

The colour of the bone from the pits resembled that from the three burials. This may suggest similar firing for remains from all contexts or that more incompletely burnt fragments may not have survived under the soil conditions at Stanway. It was tentatively suggested that material from one of the pits (DF3) may have derived from at least two individuals.

*Context* **DF1** (D1, D3, D11, D12, D19). Urned cremation burial.

*Material*

<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>fragment size (mm)</i>		<i>approximate fragment count</i>
	<i>mean</i>	<i>maximum</i>	
338.5	9	45	2100

*Included in identified elements.* Fragments of skull, tibia and radius.

All fragments certainly or probably human.

*Colour* Neutral white

*Sex* Unknown

*Age* Adult

*Context* **DF2** (D7, D16). Pit with pyre-related material. 7.1 g of burnt bone. Some fragments certainly human, the rest probably human.

*Context* **DF3** (D2, D4, D15, D18, D23). Pit with pyre-related material.

*Material*

<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>fragment size (mm)</i>		<i>approximate fragment count</i>
	<i>mean</i>	<i>maximum</i>	
151.1	6	25	650

*Included in identified elements.* Fragments of skull.

Some fragments certainly human, most of the rest are probably human except for one fragment which appears to be animal bone.

*Colour* Neutral white

*Sex* Unknown

*Age* On the basis of variations in the thickness of cranial vault fragments, there may be a minimum of two individuals, one adult and one juvenile.

*Context* **DF7** (D4, D17). Pit with pyre-related material.

*Material*

<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>fragment size (mm)</i>		<i>approximate fragment count</i>
	<i>mean</i>	<i>maximum</i>	
197.9	8	35	650

*Included in identified elements.* Fragments of skull and pelvic bones.

Some fragments certainly human, the rest probably human.

*Colour* Neutral white

*Sex* Unknown

*Age* Unknown

*Context* **DF13**. Pit with pyre-related debris.

*Material*

<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>fragment size (mm)</i>		<i>approximate fragment count</i>
	<i>mean</i>	<i>maximum</i>	
30.4	6	20	350

Some fragments certainly human, the rest probably human.

*Sex* Unknown.

*Age* Some skull fragments from a juvenile individual were identifiable.

*Context* **DF14**. Pit with pyre-related material. 1.4 g burnt bone. All fragments probably human.

*Context* **DF25**. Pit with pyre-related material. 2.2 g burnt bone. All fragments probably human.

*Context* **DF26** (D41, D63). Urned cremation burial.

*Material*

<i>weight (g)</i>	<i>fragment size (mm)</i>		<i>approximate fragment count</i>
	<i>mean</i>	<i>maximum</i>	
38.1	4	15	500

*Included in identified elements.* Fragments of skull.

All fragments probably human.

Colour Neutral white  
Sex Unknown  
Age Unknown

Context **DF28** (D55, D59). Unurned cremation burial.

Material.

weight (g)	fragment size (mm)		approximate fragment count
	mean	maximum	
61.1	9	30	550

All fragments probably human

Colour Neutral white  
Sex Unknown  
Age Unknown

### THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM SITE D (TABLES 72–3)

By Val Fryer

Forty-four samples from 21 pits excavated on Site D were submitted for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages. The samples (or sub-samples thereof in the case of those over 50 litres in size) were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to  $\times 16$ , and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in TABLES 72–3 and in the archive. Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens, and the material is categorised as follows: herbs, tree/shrub macrofossils, other plant macrofossils, and other materials. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Insufficient macrofossils were recovered for quantitative analysis. The density of material within the assemblages is expressed in the tables as follows:  $\times$  = 1–10 specimens,  $\times\times$  = 10–100 specimens, and  $\times\times\times$  = 100+ specimens. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds were recorded throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1 mm-mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Fragments of burnt bone and other artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Although charcoal fragments and pieces of charred root/stem were abundant throughout, other plant macrofossils were exceedingly rare. The few seeds recovered were all very poorly preserved, with most being puffed, distorted and fragmented.

Seeds of grasses and grassland plants were recorded as single specimens from only six samples (2, 5, 9, 30, 38, and 40). Taxa noted included medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were noted in Samples 5, 25 and 33. Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate culm nodes, fruit stone fragments, seeds and tubers.

The majority of the black porous and tarry residues are probably derived from either the cremation processes or the combustion of organic materials at very high temperatures. However, some pieces had a more industrial appearance and, along with the coal fragments,\* these may be waste products from the use of steam implements on the land in recent times. Other materials included small fragments of burnt bone, burnt stone and globules of vitrified material.

#### CONCLUSIONS (TABLES 72–3)

Of the 44 samples processed, 29 contain only charcoal, pieces of charred root/stem and occasional other remains. These have not been tabulated but are listed in the site archive.

Although charcoal fragments are abundant in all sixteen samples taken from the cremation burial deposits, only eight assemblages contain rare additional plant remains, the most notable of which are the charred tuber fragments. These, along with the pieces of charred root/stem and grassland herb seeds, are almost certainly derived from either dried plant material used as



kindling or fuel for the cremations, or from material burnt *in situ* beneath the pyres. The assemblages from the pits DF3, DF7 and DF30 were sufficiently similar to the cremation burial deposits to suggest a common source. Individual seeds, pieces of nutshell, fruit-stone fragments or culm nodes are also present in a further four samples (TABLES 72–3), but the assemblages in which they occur are too small to be conclusively interpreted.

In summary, wood and/or charcoal appear to have been the principal fuels used for the Stanway cremations. However, the poor condition of the few surviving macrofossils may indicate that combustion occurred at a sufficiently high temperature to destroy a high proportion of any additional materials which may have originally been incorporated within the pyres. It would appear that dried grasses and grassland herbs, some of which were pulled up by the roots, might have been used as either kindling or a supplementary fuel source.

\*Editor's note. Fragments of coal were also found in environmental samples from the Middle Iron Age pits at Stanway (p. 384). No fragments were noted on site in any of the archaeological contexts. This absence indicates that the coal which does occur in those contexts must all be in tiny pieces and must have been washed down from above through channels left in the soil by worms and decayed roots.

### THE WORKED FLINT FROM SITE D (FIG. 168; TABLE 74)

By Hazel Martingell

Five worked flints were recovered from the Site D excavations. They were all from unstratified contexts, but are probably not far from their original sites. They consist of an obliquely blunted microlith (FIG. 168; TABLE 74), a retouched blade, a core-scraper, and two flakes.

The most interesting piece is the obliquely blunted microlith (Jacobi Class 1B, fig. 11). These artefacts are type fossils for the early Mesolithic. They are projectile points and not common in Essex. Only seven locations in Essex with early Mesolithic microliths were known of in 1996 (Jacobi 1996): Hullbridge; Dawes Heath, Thundersley; Chelmsford site V; White Colne; High Beech, Epping; Pledgdon; and Little Clacton. It is possible that the retouched blade could also be Mesolithic. The core-scraper is a much rougher piece and is most likely to be later prehistoric in date. The two flakes are waste pieces and not datable.

The recovery of the early Mesolithic microlith is of special interest. It suggests the presence of hunter-gatherers in the Roman river valley some time during the 8th millennium B.C., and is a significant addition to the evidence.

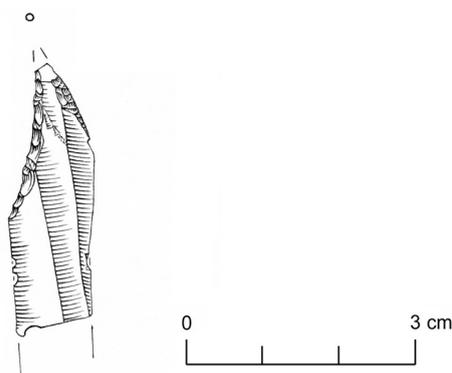


FIG. 168. Site D: early Mesolithic microlith (scale 1:1)

TABLE 74: THE WORKED FLINT FROM SITE D

SF403	D26	Unstratified	1 microlith. Early Mesolithic type, obliquely blunted long blade.
SF404	D26	Unstratified	1 flake, tertiary.
SF405	D26	Unstratified	1 flake, secondary, slight patination, hinged termination.
SF406	D26	Unstratified	1 retouched blade, secondary, retouch on left edge, slightly patinated.
SF407	D26	Unstratified	1 core scraper, secondary, thick section.