

## CHAPTER 2

# THE EXCAVATION

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### INTRODUCTION

We have retained the chronology established in the publication of ‘The Development of an Urban Property’ [= ‘House 1’] (Clarke *et al.* 2007) which defined four periods prior to the beginning of the late Roman sequence from *c.* A.D. 250/300, which is described and discussed in *Life and Labour* (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 18–19; 249–52):

Period 1: *c.* A.D. 40–50 – *c.* A.D. 70–80

Period 2: *c.* A.D. 70–80 – *c.* A.D. 125–150

Period 3: *c.* A.D. 125–150 – *c.* A.D. 200

Period 4: *c.* A.D. 200 – *c.* A.D. 250 [– *c.* A.D. 300]

Here we are reporting the occupation of Periods 3 and 4 only. The periods are defined on the basis of major structural changes on the ‘House 1’ site, a succession of buildings aligned north-east/south-west which occupied the larger part of the excavated area. The masonry building as first recorded and labelled ‘House 1’ in the excavation of Insula IX 1893–4 (Fox 1895) in fact proved to incorporate the remains of two earlier masonry buildings, our Masonry Buildings (MB) 1 and 2, which are assigned to our Period 3. With Mid-Roman Timber Building (MRTB) 1, these three structures replaced two timber buildings (ERTB 2–3), themselves attributed to our Period 2 of the later first and early second century (Clarke *et al.* 2007, p2\_ertb2.htm; p2\_ertb3.htm) (FIGS 5–6). There is evidence to suggest that ERTB 1 continued in use through Period 3. Period 4 saw the replacement of the Period 3 buildings with a single structure, our Masonry Building (MB) 3. The excavations are now (2008–9) showing that the Period 2 buildings underlying ‘House 1’ and their associated occupation represent major change over the underlying, pre-Flavian (Period 1) occupation and thus represent the first of three successive building phases occupying the same plot. Were the excavation of the Period 2 occupation completed, it and Periods 3 and 4 would make a logical grouping for publication, mirroring the focus of the *Internet Archaeology* report (Clarke *et al.* 2007). As it is, the complexity and quality of survival of Period 2 warrants publication in its own right.

Except for the occupation overlying the end of the Period 2 buildings in the south-east corner of the excavation area, these clear divisions in the sequence of buildings were not so neatly reflected in the stratigraphic sequence across the whole excavation area. Victorian excavation methodology had effectively isolated the stratigraphy inside the walls of the two periods of masonry buildings from that beyond. Thus, the establishment of trench-wide Periods 3 and 4 involved the identification of stratigraphy, with associated minor structures and negative features such as pits and wells, which shared a date-range contemporary with that of the successive phases of buildings. Inevitably it has not been possible to associate stratigraphy with each of Periods 3 and 4 across the entire excavation area. In establishing phasing across the excavation trench, first the dating of the fills of all significant pits and wells was established and this allowed these types of negative feature to be divided between Periods 3 and 4. Similarly an extensive area of complex stratigraphy which occupied the area to the south and south-east of the masonry buildings was also divided, but with no clear or absolute division, between contexts dated to

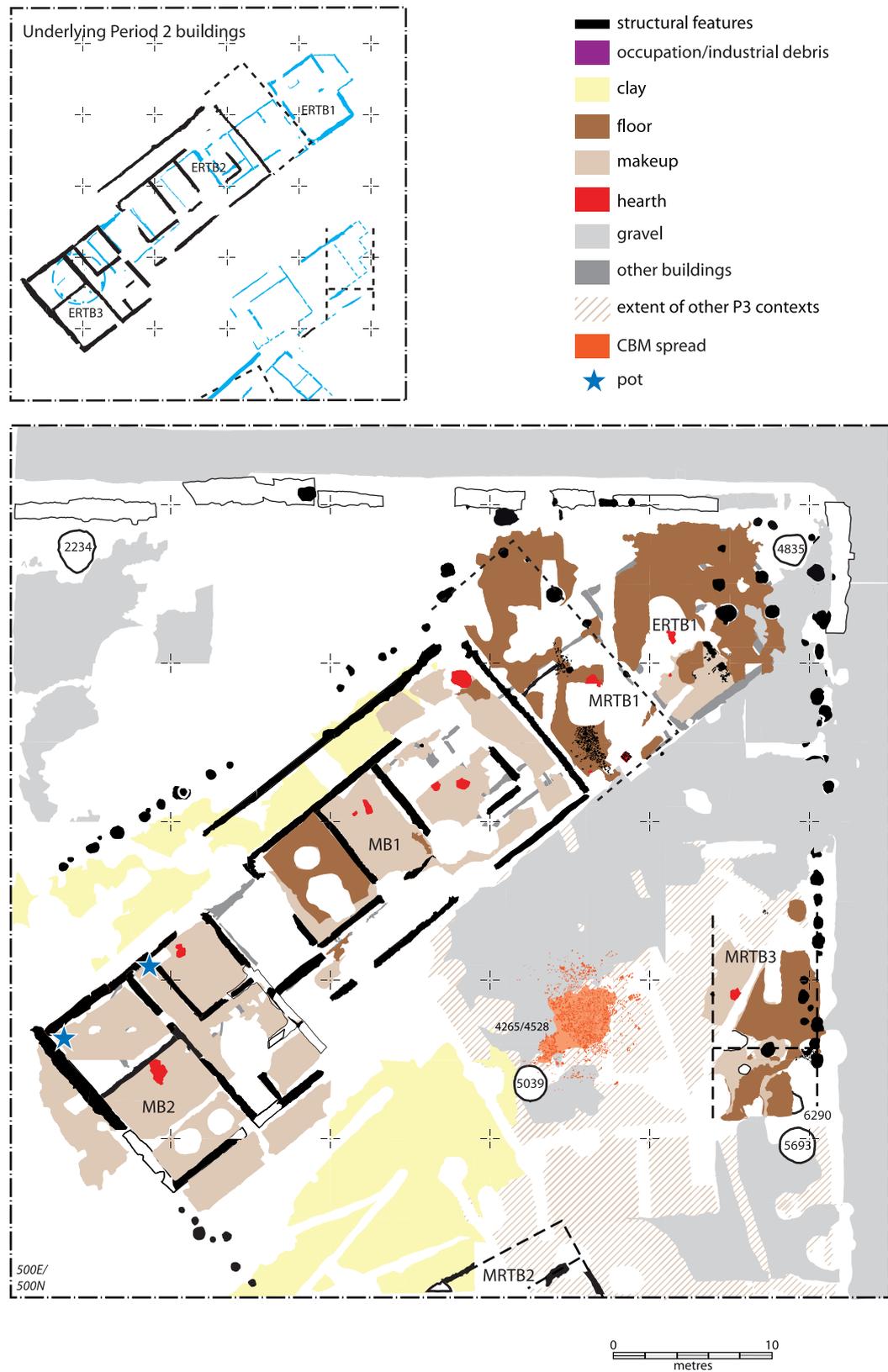


FIG. 5. Period 3: Masonry Buildings 1 and 2, Mid-Roman Timber Buildings 1–3, residual Early Roman Timber Building 1 and associated occupation, *c.* A.D. 125/50–*c.* A.D. 200; and (in inset plan) the underlying timber buildings of Period 2 shown in blue.



FIG. 6. Aerial view of the excavation of Insula IX from the south-west in 2002 showing MB 1 and MB 2 and associated occupation. Remains of late Roman pits and Victorian trenching are also visible.

Period 3 and those of Period 4. If the demolition of the Period 3 masonry buildings marked a clear, but probably brief break in occupation, this is not evident in the occupation represented by layers, pits and wells across the rest of the excavated area. With the exception of one Period 3 well in the north-west of the excavation trench, there was a lack of a clear second- and third-century occupational sequence both to the north-west and the south-west of 'House 1'. This report therefore concentrates on the second- and third-century occupation sequence and associated, possible structures to the south and east of 'House 1' and also, in Period 3, the structures between the north-east-facing wall of MB 1 and the intersection of the east-west and north-south streets.

#### **PROPERTY BOUNDARIES (Object 500066) (FIGS 5 and 29–30)**

An important question concerning the distribution of space across the insula and, more especially, the excavated area is the extent to which property boundaries can be defined around the actual buildings. In fact there are clear alignments of post-holes, for the most part flint-packed, running along the edges of the streets, particularly the eastern end of the east-west street and the majority of the length of the north-south street. More importantly, perhaps, there is evidence of a line of post-holes running almost parallel with the north-west-facing sides of the Periods 3 and 4 masonry buildings which then turns north to meet the post-holes towards the eastern end of the east-west street. These arrangements suggest the possibility of the excavation area containing the eastern end of a trapezoidal plot which extended west towards the north-west corner of the insula. One feature of this plot was that its northern boundary along the edge of the east-west street is only additionally defined by irregularly-placed posts parallel with the street.

A second plot, and one which embraces the larger area of the excavation, was that which contained the Period 3 and 4 houses. Its boundaries are clear on the northern and eastern sides

in Period 3, but how far south did this property extend? While the flint-packed post-pits end at the point where large wells have been cut alongside the north–south street frontage, there is no evidence of a comparable return line of post-holes, running east–west or north-east/south-west (i.e. parallel with the houses) across the southern half of the excavation area. Does this mean that the southern boundary runs beyond the southern edge of the excavated area, and that all the occupation to the south and east of the Periods 3 and 4 buildings within the excavation trench is associated with the one property? The western boundary of the property is clear in Period 4 and is formed by a line of post-holes which extrapolates south-eastwards the line of the west wall of both Masonry Buildings 2 and 3 and runs up to the southern edge of the excavation trench (FIGS 29–30). It implies a third property extending to the south-west of the houses and then beyond the excavated area to the west and south. The direction of the western boundary south-east suggests that the southern boundary of the property associated with our houses does indeed lie beyond the southern limit of the excavation trench, perhaps extending up to the north-east corner of House 2 excavated in 1893 (FIG. 2). Assuming contemporaneity of House 2 with our Period 3 buildings and projecting its north-facing elevation to the north-east, we note that it coincides with the remains of our possible MRTB 2 (below, p. 33). Further extrapolation north-east takes us to the well 5693 and the slumped fills of 6290. This hypothetical line might mark the southern boundary of our ‘House 1’ property in Period 3, but there is no independent evidence, such as posts, to support it. So, while the lack of hard evidence for a southern boundary encourages us to suppose that the entirety of the area excavated to the south of the Period 3 and 4 ‘House 1’ buildings belonged to them, we cannot be certain, particularly in the case of the south-eastern corner, until future excavation reveals evidence of a boundary. In this respect it is important to note that a line of small post-holes runs east–west from the north–south street to the south-east corner of Masonry Building 1/Masonry Building 3 (FIG. 29). If this was a major boundary it would suggest that the south-east-facing walls of the Periods 3 and 4 masonry buildings also represented the boundary of the property as a whole, though this seems unlikely, since the area occupied by the buildings and the property as a whole would then be one and the same. Other possibilities are that this boundary divided off the north-east corner of the insula to contain animals, or that it was sub-let, or that it was divided off as a completely independent entity from the rest of the property which contained the Period 3 and 4 houses. Precisely when this boundary was erected is not clear.

To conclude: the excavation trench embraces almost the entirety of one property which includes our succession of town-houses, as well as part of at least two other properties, one to the north of ‘House 1’ extending westwards to the north-west corner of the insula, the other extending to the south and west of the ‘House 1’ plot.

In presenting the second- and third-century archaeology of our excavation of Insula IX we give primacy to the built structures and then the occupation and activity to the south/south-east, all of which, as we have seen, may be associated with our buildings. Finally, for Period 3 only, we report the occupation to the north of the buildings, which, we believe, formed the rear part of a larger property which definitely extended west beyond the limits of our excavated area to front on to the north-west corner of the insula. There is no evidence to report of second- and third-century occupation associated with the property running beyond the excavation trench to the south-west.

### PERIOD 3 (FIGS 5 and 7)

#### SUMMARY

The ‘House 1’ property in Period 3 included a row of two masonry buildings and one new timber building (MB 1–2; MRTB 1) aligned north-east/south-west and resting on the combined footprint of the two Period 2 timber buildings (ERTB 2–3). It appears that ERTB 1 was retained into Period 3. To the south-east there is evidence for occupation along the north–south street, and spreading westwards across the excavated area, associated with a possible, but not certain, built structure, MRTB 3. There is evidence for one deep pit, probably a well, 5693, adjacent



FIG. 7. Aerial view of MB 1 and 2 from the south-west in 2002. Remains of ERTB 1 and hearth 1433 visible to the north-east (top of photo). Late Roman pits and wells and Victorian trenching are also visible.

to the north–south street, which was filled by the mid-second century, and a further pit, 5039, which cut through the remains of one of the underlying Period 2 timber buildings, and was also filled by the mid-second century. A second possible timber building, MRTB 2, extended south beyond the limits of the excavation trench. In the northern part of the excavated area, the postulated backyard of a property occupying the north-west of the insula, there is evidence of a single well, 2234, of this date.

#### MASONRY BUILDING 1 (Object 50018) (FIGS 8–9)

Masonry Building 1 overlay the principal (town-house) building (ERTB 2) of Period 2 (Clarke *et al.* 2007, p.2\_ertb2.htm). It was immediately adjacent to Mid-Roman Timber Building 1 to

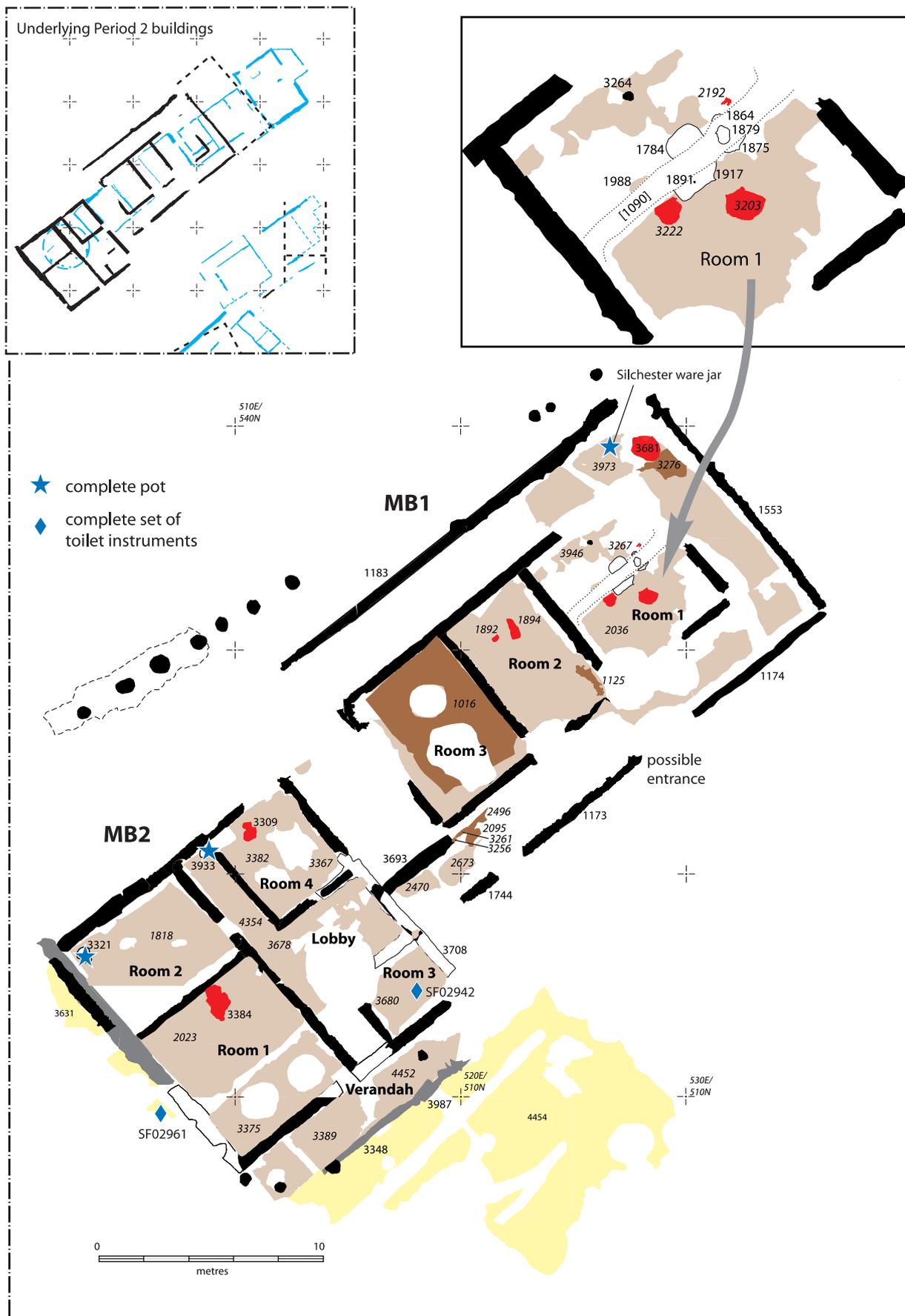


FIG. 8. Period 3: Masonry Buildings 1 and 2 with detailed plan of MB 1, Room 1. The relationship with the underlying Period 2 buildings is shown in inset plan. For explanatory key, see FIG. 5. The findspots of the votive pots and complete sets of toilet instruments associated with MB 2 are indicated, as is the location of the large Silchester ware jar in MB 1.



FIG. 9. Period 3: view of foundations of MB 1 from the south-east after excavation of floor make-ups in Rooms 2 and 3; late Roman pits on east-west alignment in the foreground; traces of burning visible in Room 1 to the right (north-east). The scales are 2.0m long.

the north-east and no more than 4.0m distant from Masonry Building 2 to the south-west. It was of a row-plan type well known in Roman Britain (cf. Perring 2002, 64–5; Smith 1997, 46–64), comprising three rooms and surrounded by a corridor on at least three sides. With the exception of one, or, possibly, two limited areas, none of the original floors survived, the excavated surfaces being associated with make-ups. The surviving wall foundations of the core rooms of this house, some 0.5m in width and 0.3m in depth, were constructed of coursed flint with carefully knapped outer faces to create a more or less even, external surface to the walls. They and their associated, partly robbed-out, foundation trenches defined three rooms. This building was cut into by several late Roman pits (Objects 117 and 118) (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 37–40).

Room 1 to the north-east measured 7.0 by 7.0m, but was divided by a later intrusion, 1090, originally thought to be Victorian, but now re-interpreted as a wall inserted into the Period 4 building. Room 1 contained a gravel floor (3946/3267), topped by clay (2036/1988). Around the centre of the room is a group of three features, all of them shallow pits (1891/1917/1784 and 1875/1864/1879). Adjacent to these are two areas of burnt clay, one larger (3203), the other smaller (2192), and both interpreted as small hearths. A third feature was a shallow pit (3222), filled with ash and fragments of burnt ceramic tile and also interpreted as the remains of a hearth. All these features were set into the clay and gravel floor. Post-hole 3264 cut through gravel spread 3946 and may have been inserted for an internal structure of some kind. Lengths of wall foundation had been robbed out in the north-east and south-west corners prior to the construction of the successor, MB 3, house. An intrusive coin dating to A.D. 364–378 was excavated from one of the floor contexts of Room 1 (SF 01476). These gravel and clay surfaces overlay clay make-up (4111) which sealed ERTB 2 and contained the articulated foot bones of a roe deer, which might be interpreted as a foundation deposit (Ingrem 2007; below, Ch. 13).

The central room (Room 2) measured 7.0 by 4.0m with the vestigial remains of a tessellated floor (1125), probably the border to a mosaic, surviving in the east corner. The tesserae were of tile cubes, each with dimensions of *c.* 0.03m. Elsewhere the surface of the floor was a mixture of fine gravel with traces of mortar (4576, 3299, 1126), above layers of yellow clay (3659, 3288, 1912). On the northern side of the room there were patches of reddened, fire-hardened clay

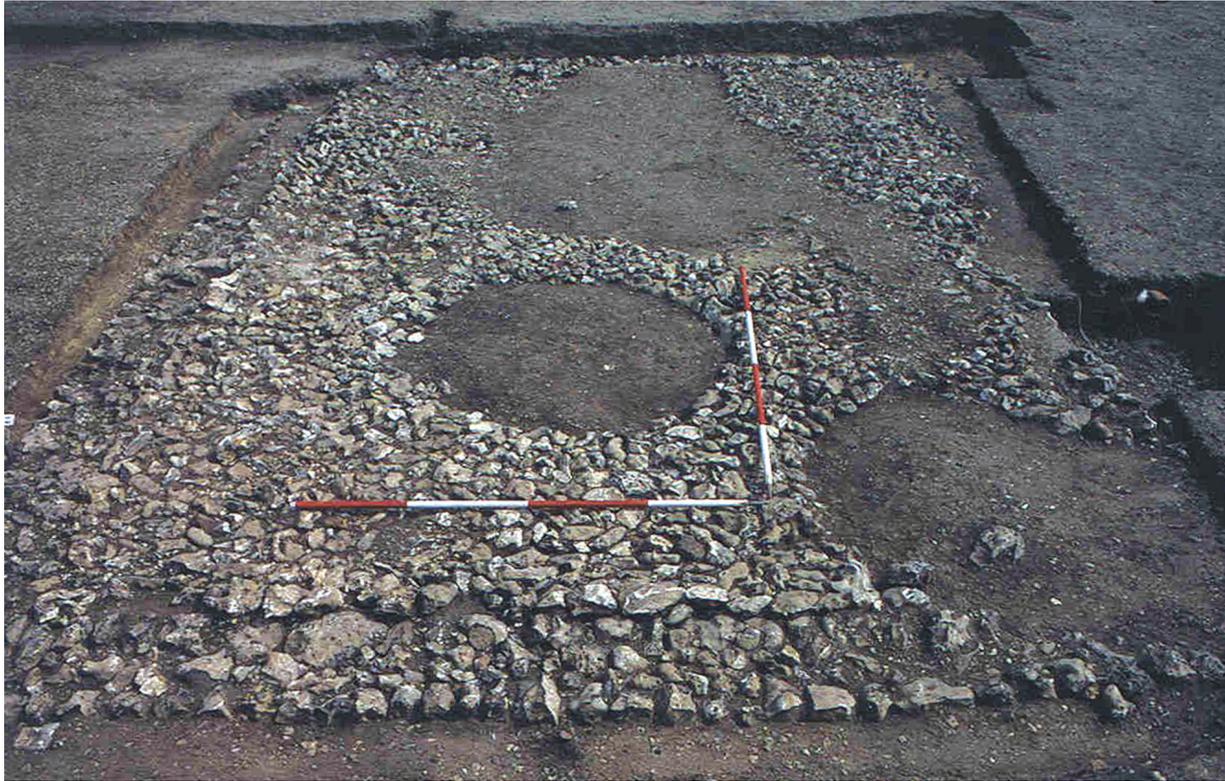


FIG. 10. Period 3: wall footings and nodular flint foundations of Room 3 of MB 1 cut by late Roman pits (excavated in 1893); view to south-east in 1997. The scales are each 2.0m in length.

(1892, 1894). Elevated concentrations of copper and strontium are recorded from this room (Cook, below, Ch. 3).

The third room (Room 3) measured 7.0 by 5.0m and was floored with nodular flint (1016) pressed into gravel and yellow clay (1905/3247) (FIG. 10). Towards the centre these had subsided into the fill of an underlying well which pre-dates the Period 2 ERTB 2. Whether the laying of the cobbles reflected an awareness of the need to counteract subsidence, or whether they related to a particular, intended function of the room is unclear. Together the three rooms provided an internal space of 112 square metres. There was no evidence of any thresholds to indicate how the rooms were accessed.

### Corridor

Yellow clay, which had been employed in the foundations of the three rooms, also extended at the same level beyond to the outer walls which defined the corridor with a width of up to 3.0m on three sides. This clay also extended beyond the building along its north-west-facing side. The same, outer walls (1744, 1173, 1174, 1553, 1183) continued to serve the Period 4 town-house (MB 3) (below, pp. 35–9). It is not clear whether their surviving remains represented the original construction or a re-build of Period 4. They measured 0.44m in width with a depth of 0.2m, but their construction was of poorer quality than that of the walls of Rooms 1–3. Although in most cases the excavated foundations had two courses, these were quite roughly laid, with no evidence of the knapping to produce flush edges visible elsewhere in the walls of the core of the building. There was no clear evidence for an entry into the corridor from outside, but it is likely to have been around the middle of the south-east-facing elevation, perhaps opposite Room 2.

Whether the corridor continued around the south-west end of the house is not clear owing to the extent of late disturbance of this area (see below, Relationship, p. 21). There are traces of tile-tessellated and *opus signinum* flooring (2496, 3261, 2095, 2470, 3256, 2673), extending south-

westwards along the south-east-facing corridor. However, at the southern end of this corridor, and appearing to block it, is a linear spread (3693) of ceramic tile on clay. It may have supported a wall, but its function is otherwise not clear. Apart from these remains, there was no further evidence with which to reconstruct the corridor and its floor, but, on the south-east-facing side it may have been open as a verandah. The north-east-facing corridor areas were covered with a mix of gravels, clay and silty sands, including one area of crushed ceramic building material reminiscent of a floor surface (3276), and a hearth (3681). If we assume that the corridor had originally been floored with a more durable surface, the hearth must belong late in the life of the building. An area of silting was also recorded in the south-east-facing corridor (1717, 1718, 1719).

The hearth 3681 is circular in plan, measuring 0.94m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. It contained several nails and a small quantity of hammerscale (Tootell, Ch. 11). In addition geochemical analysis of the associated soils gave high concentrations of strontium, copper, lead and zinc, as well as phosphorus (Cook, Ch. 3), probably indicating the working of copper alloys. Contexts associated with this hearth also produced measurable concentrations of gold, silver and tin (p. 59). Apart from being later than the underlying clay make-up, there is no independent evidence of date apart from a coin of Vespasian (A.D. 69–79) (SF 02740) from the corridor levelling-deposit (3989) and the remains of a large, flint-tempered, Silchester ware storage jar (SF 02377, p. 165, FIG. 76, No. 27) in later contexts 3259 and 3973, used here, secondarily perhaps, as a *clibanus* for cooking and/or, given its proximity to hearth 3681, a quenching vessel. This large jar lay on its side, the *in-situ* internal surface blackened (showing that it had been used on its side) and the surviving interior filled with sherds from its final collapse (FIGS 11–13). The latter showed no further, internal blackening which suggests the vessel functioned on its side in the latter part of its life. At the time of the construction of the house, Silchester ware had not been made for more than 50 years. Given that the corridor continued to be used in the Period 4 house, it is possible that the vessel belongs to this phase. In this case it may have been between one and two hundred years old at the time of its final breakage.



FIG. 11. Period 3: collapsed remains of Silchester ware storage jar in north-west-facing corridor of MB 1; remains of rim showing (left) and base (right) (= FIG. 76, No. 27). The scales are each 0.5m in length.



FIG. 12. Period 3: Silchester ware storage jar after excavation of collapsed body; remains of rim (left) and of base (right); note blackening of internal surface (= FIG. 76, No. 27). The scale is 0.5m long.



FIG. 13. Period 3: Silchester ware storage jar SF 2377 (= FIG. 76, No. 27) reconstructed. Height: 0.60m.

## Finds

Given the lack of contexts associated with the occupation of the house and the uncertainty of the division between Period 3 and Period 4 occupation, it is difficult to distinguish finds which might be contemporary with the use of the building. Nevertheless, there are no metalwork finds of note from this phase and much of the glass and pottery is residual, but a flagon base with multiple, post-firing piercings (Timby 2007) and the remains of the large, flint-tempered storage jar, certainly associated with the life of the house, should be noted. Among the animal bone Ingrem (2007) notes the possibility that the three fragments of dog recovered from a clay make-up may belong to a single animal. Foetal/neonatal piglet bone was also recovered from a similar context. The roe deer foot bones from the levelling deposit sealing Period 2 ERTB 2 may represent a foundation deposit associated with construction of our Period 3 house.

## Function of town-house MB 1

With its evidence of status represented by the traces of a tessellated floor, this building is interpreted as a small town-house. The central room, thus floored, probably served as the principal reception room of the house. Whether adjacent Room 1 to the north-east served as a workshop throughout its life is unclear; there is no evidence of a floor surface subsequently robbed out. Equally uncertain is the purpose of the third room and its distinctive, flint flooring. It is possible that potential subsidence into the underlying well was recognised at the outset and that this construction, with a mortared surface now lost, was to counteract its effects. Like Room 1, traces of tessellated flooring from the south-east-facing corridor provide the only clue as to whether the floors were originally finished with a laid surface of some kind. Apart from the presumed, secondary use of the corridor with the storage jar on its side acting as a possible cooking hearth, there is no clear evidence for a kitchen, although hearths were identified in Rooms 1 and 2 and in the corridor. It is possible that the kitchen function was provided by the adjacent MRTB 1 or the retained ERTB 1 (below, p. 22). Equally, it is not clear which room or rooms served as sleeping quarters.

None of the evidence for the *use* of the house can be independently or closely dated and, as there were no new floors or surfaces which could be associated with the successor, Period 4, MB 3 house, the make-ups associated with the Period 3 house merely provide a *terminus post quem* for the activities which took place upon them. Some of the evidence, therefore, may belong with the Period 4 house.

In addition to the hearths, or possible hearths, mentioned above in Room 1, we have also noted the evidence of heavy burning of the clay in the north-east corridor, which geochemical analysis indicated had probably been the location of copper alloy working (Cook *et al.* 2005; below, Ch. 3). Chapter 3 also reports wider evidence for the concentrations of metals in the areas of Rooms 1 and 2 and the adjacent corridor (including the presence of gold, silver and tin). Small quantities of hammerscale associated with hearth 3681 indicate some iron smithing (Tootell, below, Ch. 11).

## Chronology

Both the samian and the coarse pottery suggest a Hadrianic *terminus post quem* of A.D. 125/150 with some intrusive coarse ware sherds dating as late as the third century (Timby 2007).

## MASONRY BUILDING 2 (Object 50019) (FIGS 8 and 14)

Some 4.0m to the south-west of the surviving end-wall of MB 1, Masonry Building 2 (MB 2), square in plan and comprising four rooms with linking cross-corridor and possible entrance-hall space, was constructed on the same north-east/south-west orientation. No evidence survived of a threshold to indicate the entry point to the house. The outer wall contained the entirety of the underlying, Period 2, circular structure and, it has been suggested, replaced a timber-built, rectangular predecessor (Clarke *et al.* 2007, p2\_ertb3.htm). Like MB 1, its foundations, which



FIG. 14. Period 3: remains of MB 2 with its partly robbed foundations, from the south-east. The scales are each 2.0m in length.

had been extensively robbed prior to the construction of the successor, Period 4, house, were of coursed and knapped flint, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.35m in depth. The foundations of the south-west wall were deeper, perhaps to compensate for subsidence into an underlying pit or well, a potential problem perhaps evident at the time of construction.

The building was bisected by a corridor, just over 1.0m wide, on a north-west/south-east orientation. On its south-western side were two reception rooms, the larger (Room 1) measuring 6.0 by 7.0m, the smaller (Room 2) 6.0 by 5.0m. The latter produced a foundation deposit consisting of an almost complete (but fragmented at the time of excavation), small Silchester ware jar (SF 2039) from cut 3321, which was buried in the north-west corner of the room. A second foundation deposit, comprising a complete Alice Holt bead-rim jar (SF 2549) from cut 3933, was buried at the northern end of the corridor (FIG. 15) (Timby 2007, and below, p. 165, FIG. 76, Nos 30–1)). The Silchester ware jar would certainly have been residual by the early to mid-second century, while the Alice Holt jar was close to the end of its production life. These dates raise the possibility that the pots relate to the previous ERTB 3 (see discussion in Clarke *et al.* 2007, p2\_ertb3.htm). However, we have noted the much older Silchester ware storage jar used during the life of MB 1 and a further foundation deposit consisting of two Alice Holt jars, one a bead-rimmed vessel identical to that described above, was recorded from beneath Period 3 MRTB 1 (below, p. 165).

On the north-east-facing side of the building were two smaller rooms, one in the south-east corner (Room 3), measuring 3.0 by 3.5m, the other in the north-west corner (Room 4), measuring 5.0 by 4.0m. Between these two rooms was a lobby area, opening into the corridor. While this may have served as an entrance-hall with the main door of the house opening onto MB 1, it is also possible that the corridor had doors opening out at each end.

Neither traces of thresholds nor of original flooring survived in any of the rooms. The exposed make-ups consisted of yellow clay 1818 (Room 2), 2023/3375 (Room 1), 3680 (Room 3),



FIG. 15. Period 3: complete Alice Holt bead-rim jar SF 2549 (= FIG. 76, No. 31) in the foundations of MB 2. The scale is 0.2m long.

3382 (Room 4) and clay and gravel in the corridor (4354, 3678). In two rooms, close to their respective north-west walls, were patches of burnt clay suggestive of fireplaces or hearths: 3384 in Room 1 and 3309 in Room 4.

The stratigraphy associated with the exterior of the building outside the south-east-facing wall suggests the existence of a verandah, which closely follows the positions of the post-pads which we associate with ERTB 3 (Clarke *et al.* 2007, p2\_ertb3.htm). These post-pads were subsequently covered by an extensive clay spread 4454 which acted as the construction level for MB 2. The verandah consisted of a shallow, rectangular cut (3345, 4460) which cut through 4454. It was *c.* 10m in length, *c.* 2m wide and up to 0.2m deep, and extended parallel with the south-east-facing walls of the house. This cut was filled with gravel (3389, 4452) and was edged on its south-east-facing side with a narrow beam-slot or possible 'drip gully' (3987, 3348).

#### **The relationship between the houses (MB 1 and 2)**

The facing end-walls of the two houses are only 4.0m apart. They cut the walls of Room 6 of the predecessor, Period 2, ERTB 2, which contained (non-functionally) re-used pieces of Bath limestone and evidence of a threshold in the centre of its south-east-facing side (Hayward 2007). These characteristics set this room apart from all the others of ERTB 2 and raise the question as to whether it had a special function which was in some way respected by the separate construction of the two successor houses, MB 1 and 2. If the corridor had returned around the south-west-facing side of MB 1 (and there is no trace of this), it would have left a gap of 1.0m between it and the adjacent end-wall of MB 2. This makes little sense. What then happened in

the space between the two houses? One possibility is that the entire space was covered over with the roof of MB 1 continuing south-westwards supported by a combination of a continued outer, south-east-facing, corridor wall and the opposing walls of Room 3 of MB 1 and Room 4 of MB 2. This leaves the question of the outer corridor wall on the north-west-facing side of MB 1, since a linear spread of tile and flint (3693), measuring 3.5m in length and 0.75m in width and lying on a spread of clay oriented north-east/south-west, may be part of the wall foundation for a short length of wall linking Room 3 of MB 1 and the lobby of MB 2. However, it is slightly offset from the corner of Room 3 of MB 1 and it butts against the lobby of MB 2 where an entrance might be expected. Nevertheless it is difficult to resolve the end of MB 1 unless it was joined in some way to MB 2.

### Finds

The recovery of two complete sets of toilet instruments (SF 02942; 02961) (for location see FIG. 8), which are rare as site finds, has suggested to Nina Crummy (2007) that their incorporation, like the burial of the two complete pots, in the make-ups of the building was deliberate and possibly votive in intent. With other finds it is difficult to isolate material which might have been contemporary with either the construction or the use of the building. However, among the animal bone, Ingrem (2007) notes the relatively high proportion of cattle from this house. Tootell notes the presence of very small quantities of iron-working slags, particularly from make-up 3367 in the corner of Room 4 (below, Ch. 11).

### Function of town-house MB 2

Interpretation of function is hampered by the lack of surviving floor surfaces as well as more specific evidence of function, but it is suggested that the larger rooms, 1 and 2, served as reception rooms. Room 4 may have been a bedroom, while the smallest, and most isolated, room, 3, beside the entrance lobby might have provided accommodation for household slave(s). As with MB 1, there is no evidence for a dedicated kitchen space, and that function may have been served by MRTB 1 and retained ERTB 1 (below). While the foundations are more modest than those of MB 1, they were still capable of supporting an upper storey. However, given the overall dimensions of the house, it is unlikely that the roof was of single span, but rather divided, perhaps along the line of the corridor.

### Chronology

The latest samian is Hadrianic/early Antonine, giving a *terminus post quem* of c. A.D. 125–150, but there is little second-century coarse ware.

### MID-ROMAN TIMBER BUILDING 1 (MRTB 1) (FORMERLY ERTB 4) (Object 500078) (FIGS 16–17)

Between the north-east end of 'House 1' and the intersection of the north–south and east–west streets there is evidence of timber building extending over the north-east end of Period 2 ERTB 2 and the footprint of the Period 2 ERTB 1. When the development of buildings constituting 'House 1' was reported in *Internet Archaeology* (Clarke *et al.* 2007), the evidence was interpreted as the remains of a single timber building, ERTB 4. However, unlike its predecessor, no beam-slots had definitely been identified for the Period 3 building, whose existence was postulated on the spread of distinctive clay surfaces and the presence of hearths. The apparent size of the building coupled with the lack of structural evidence presented problems of reconstruction. How did the building work? Now we can introduce new evidence where the extent and character of the building is further informed by the results of geochemical, micromorphological and phytolith analyses (Cook, Banerjea, below, Chs 3–4).

Altogether the surfaces we have related to structure(s) define an area approximately trapezoidal in plan and extending over some 285 square metres. Two clear edges are defined, one to the

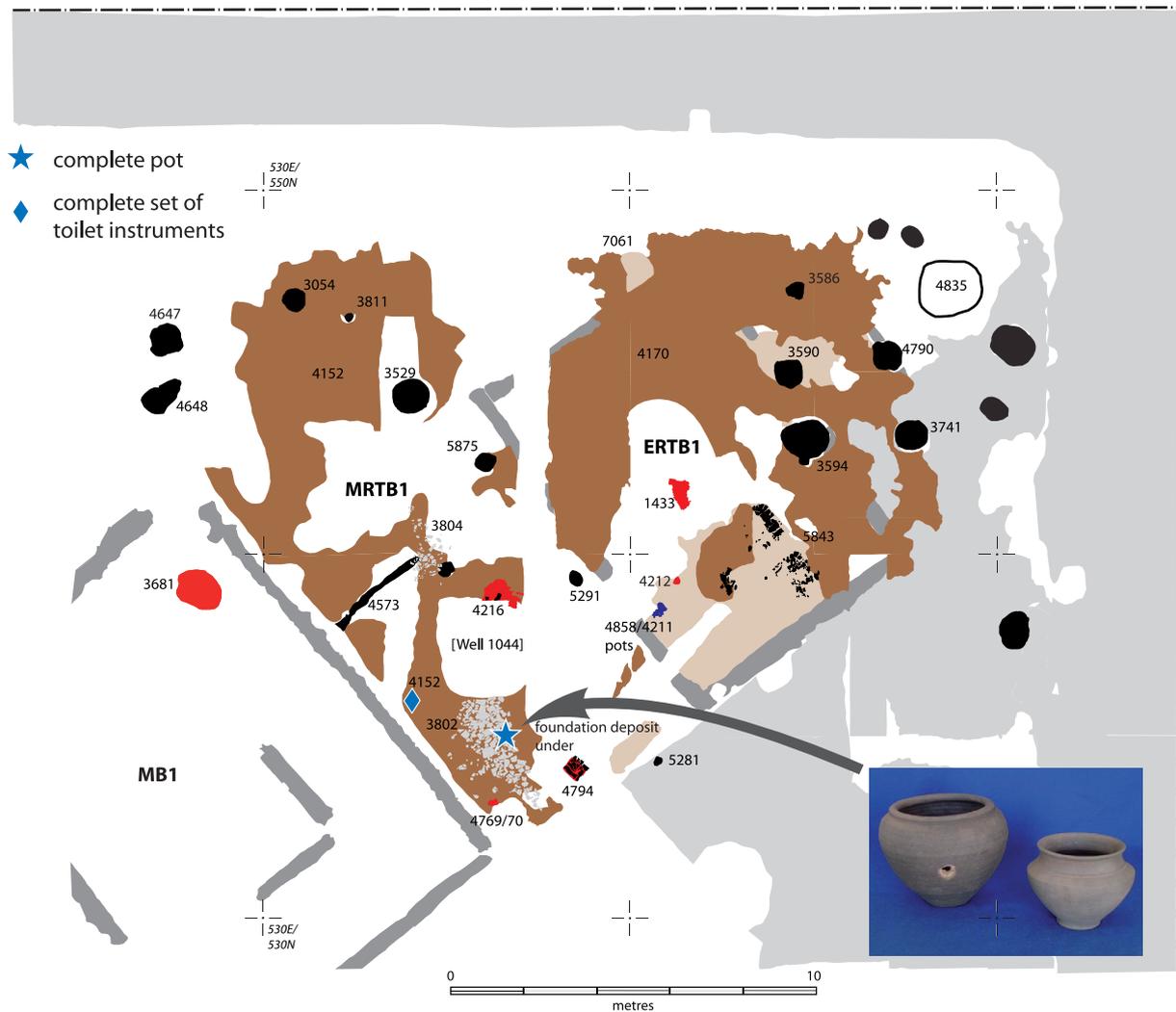


FIG. 16. Period 3: Mid-Roman Timber Building 1 and residual Early Roman Timber Building 1, and associated occupation in the north-east corner of the insula. For explanatory key see FIG. 5. The location of the two complete Alice Holt jars, SFs 3095 and 3096, is shown.

south-west, hard against the end-wall of MB 1, and one to the south-east against the line of the gravel deposits of an external lane or yard area (Object 500094). To the north and east the edges of the surfaces are irregular, finally limited by the streets and side-ditches. One major feature, the hearth 1433, appears to have been retained from the Period 2 building ERTB 1.

In determining the extent and character of the Period 3 timber building here two contemporary, locationally distinct and extensive spreads of clay, 4152 and 4170, provide the clues. Clay 4152 infilled the gap between MB 1 and the site of the earlier, Period 2, building, ERTB 1. It contained a foundation deposit of two complete Alice Holt pottery jars, one of which was deliberately pierced, buried within it (FIG. 18) (Timby, below, Ch. 8, FIG. 76, Nos 28–9). Micromorphology suggests that this clay was a floor surface. Micromorphology of clay 4170, on the other hand, suggests that this spread of clay, located to the north of clay 4152, consisted of trample tracked in and out of a building, and it displayed the characteristics of an external surface (Banerjee, below, Ch. 4). The junction of these two spreads of clay was marked by a line of post-holes extending south-east to north-west (5291, 5875, 3529, 3811, 3054) and possibly turning west to meet with substantial post-hole 4648. This would define an area of *c.* 12 by 5m for the building, with its south-eastern extent marked by a hard line of gravel and a single post-hole, 5281. This building, which we now describe as Mid-Roman Timber Building 1 (see further below), was



FIG. 17. Period 3: aerial view of Period 2–3 ERTB 1 retained into Period 3 and associated hearth 1433; view from south-west. The scales are each 2.0m in length.

divided into two, approximately equal halves by a beam-slot (4573), *c.* 0.3m in width, which was located running north-east some 3.0m from the south-west limit of 4152. MRTB 1 contained a hearth (4216), which consisted of layers of gravel and clay, interspersed with tile settings, and was cut by the late Roman well, 1044. It did not produce evidence of the same, sustained use as retained hearth 1433 (below, p. 25). Hearth 4216 was centrally located in the area to the south-east of beam-slot 4573/4556. In the southern corner of the south-east of MRTB 1 was a burnt clay spread (4769/4770) and a further hearth (4794) consisting of two broken tiles, which had been located by the Victorian excavators.



FIG. 18. (a) The rims of two complete Alice Holt pots (SFs 3095; 3096) buried in the make-up associated with the construction of MB 1/MRTB 1 (for location, see FIG. 16); (b) the two vessels in the course of excavation (= FIG. 76, Nos 28–9). The scale in each photo is 0.5m long.



FIG. 19. Period 2–3 ERTB 1: four fire-cracked tiles representing the surface of hearth 1433, from the south. The scales are, respectively, 0.5m and 1.0m long.

To the north-east of MRTB 1 was located spread 4170. The edges of this clay spread were ephemeral to the north-east and north-west, but bounded by the hard line of gravels to the south-east which ran up to the wall of ERTB 1. At right angles to this conjectured boundary was a line of fragmented tiles (5843), some 0.25–0.5m in width and extending 3.0m to the north-west. This could have served as the foundation for a cill-beam. Clay 4170 may have been the surface of a partly external area where animals tracked in and out of old ERTB 1. It is possible that the final stages of hearth 1433 (FIG. 19) continued in use in this area, possibly under a temporary cover as represented by cill-beam 5843, if not within the remains of the decaying ERTB 1. There is also some evidence for other small hearths in this semi-external area, for example burnt clay spread 4212. A cluster of post-holes (3741, 4790, 3586, 3590, 3594) in the northern corner in the area around cess-pit 4835 may be associated with a further structure here.

We should also note the rough surfacing, or hard standing, made up of fragmented tile (3802, 3804) running between the beam-slot 4573/4556 and the projected, south-west corner of the building. This possible path, which pre-dates the construction of MB 3, may relate to the demolition of MRTB 1. We should also recall that the deposits (4750, 4868) around the major hearth 1433 in this area, and extending to the south-west of it, were severely truncated by Victorian trenching in 1893. However, the remains of two pottery vessels (4858, 4211) were found lying on their sides within MRTB 1, in the area between hearths 1433 (4750) and 4212, one of Silchester ware, the other a grog-tempered storage jar.

There was no clear sealing layer over the Period 3 occupation, but spreads of silty gravel and occupation material continued to develop over the remains of the building. It remains possible, therefore, that there was continuation of use into Period 4. Much of the material associated with

the earliest phases of the late Roman occupation contained high proportions of third-century pottery (Fulford *et al.* 2006).

### Finds

Metalwork finds included both brooches and toilet instruments. Among the former, and contemporary with the occupation of the building, are a pennanular brooch (SF 02877) and two western, T-shaped brooches (SF 02985, 03256), while a complete toilet-set (SF 02079) from the clay sealing the remains of ERTB 1 and 2 is interpreted as a votive deposit. Other copper-alloy finds include a nail-cleaner, two tweezers, one possibly deposited as a votive, and a long-handled toilet spoon (Crummy 2007; and below, Ch. 6, FIG. 54, Nos 1–12). Given that the building and the area occupied by ERTB 1 contained occupation layers, the incidence of finds is greater than in the adjacent town-houses, which are largely represented by foundations and make-up layers. Among the ironwork, for example, there were almost 8kg of nails, representing about 70 per cent of all the nails from the Period 3 houses (Williams 2007). The glass assemblage, however, seems both relatively and absolutely very large, representing some 276 vessels, of which bottles (57) are the commonest form (D. Allen 2007; below, Ch. 7, Appendix 3). The pottery (the largest assemblage from the Period 3 houses) comprises a full range of material, including amphorae and table wares. Continental imports account for 8.3 per cent of the assemblage (Timby 2007). Among the animal bone the presence of several dog bones from a single context suggests the burial of a partial skeleton, while foetal/neonatal pig is also present. Contexts associated with this building include most of the examples of ‘other taxa’ recorded from this period as well as the principal domesticates (Ingrem 2007).

Although amounting to less than 1kg in weight, MRTB 1 and former ERTB 1 produced the largest quantity of slag of all the Period 3 buildings. This included a slag basin and other fragments of smelting slag, as well as a small amount of hammerscale, suggestive of iron forging, which was recovered from context 3532 (Tootell, below, Ch. 11).

### Interpretation and function of the building

MRTB 1 is constructed in the space between MB 1 and the Period 2 building ERTB 1, and it uses the north-eastern (corridor) wall of MB 1 as its south-west-facing wall. It has a clay floor, a central partition and a small hearth, 4216. Its north-east wall consists of a line of wooden posts, suggesting that MRTB 1 was a small, single-storey, wooden lean-to against the end, corridor-wall of MB 1. To the north-east of MRTB 1 was another clay-surfaced area which contained the remains of the major hearth, 1433, which may still have been in use through Period 3. If this was the case, some kind of cover for it might have been expected. The proposed cill-beam 5843 might have provided the basis for this. However, the fact that MRTB 1 neatly occupies the space between the masonry town-house and the position of the Period 2 ERTB 1 implies that the latter was probably still standing, at least at the start of the period. The micromorphology suggests that, if this building continued in use, it became quite dilapidated, open to the weather and used for keeping animals. That ERTB 1 continued in domestic occupation for a while is also indicated by cess-pit 4835 situated right in the angle between the two streets, but respecting the footprint of the building. The pottery from this pit suggests that it was filled and therefore abandoned by about the middle of the second century. Formerly, as noted above, we have referred to the whole area to the north-east of MB 1 as ERTB 4, following the interpretation set out in Clarke *et al.* (2007). In fact, in the light of the new evidence set out here and in Chs 3 and 4, there is no case to support the existence of such a building and it would be more appropriate, as we have seen, to term the new building set between MB 1 and Period 2 ERTB 1 as Mid-Roman Timber Building 1 (MRTB 1).

The two, tiled hearths are a conspicuous feature of the building or buildings, one associated with clay spread 4152 (4216), the other with clay spread 4170 (and the final phase of 1433). Such hearths are not represented in either MB 1 or MB 2. Assuming all three buildings are connected, it can be suggested that MRTB 1 and, initially at least, ERTB 1 acted as a service

building for one or both of the two adjacent town-houses where, for example, food and liquids were stored, prepared and cooked. The slag basin and hammerscale also suggest that there was a small amount of iron-making and iron-working, again perhaps on a scale only to serve domestic needs. The presence of domestic animals, indicated both by the foetal/neonatal pig remains and the micromorphology, suggests that the decaying ERTB 1 also served to accommodate animals. The development of the probable cooking-hearth (3681) in MB 1 may have coincided with the giving over of ERTB 1 to the accommodation of animals. Altogether these strands of evidence point to a multi-functional rather than specialised use for the building(s), or for MRTB 1 and the remaining space at the north-east corner of the insula formerly occupied by ERTB 1. Geochemically there is little to distinguish between the two spaces, but there are strong contrasts from the two combined with the results obtained from MB 1 and 2 (Cook, below, p. 56). Perversely, although sited at the junction of two streets close to the centre of the town, a potentially commercially advantageous position, the posts which flank the edge of the streets imply restricted, rather than open traffic, between the building and the streets. Indeed the cess-pit 4835 (below), situated right in the angle between the two streets and, presumably, at the rear of the building(s), suggests that MRTB 1 looked southwards, away from the streets and into the insula.

Although we are suggesting that the occupants of the building were subservient to those of the adjacent town-houses, the range and quantity of material culture and animal remains do not suggest poverty, unless the building accumulated material discarded (some perhaps only damaged) from the adjacent two houses. The question of the status of the occupants is brought into sharp focus by the relatively high proportion of imported pottery (15.6 per cent) from the assemblage in the cess-pit 4835 (Timby, below, Ch. 8). Perhaps the area occupied by the decayed or abandoned ERTB 1 was used as a midden by the two houses.

### Chronology

In addition to the two, late first/early second-century, Alice Holt jars, a samian potter's stamp (SF 03164), dated to *c.* A.D. 100–120, was incorporated into the clay spread 4152. The latter also sealed the large cess-pit 5251/5354 which contained a pottery assemblage of late first/early second-century date. A further samian potter's stamp (SF 03079), of *c.* A.D. 120–145, was also recovered from the floors within the building (Timby 2007; below, Ch. 8).

The latest pottery from the occupation of the building includes samian and coarse wares of mid- or late Antonine date. A few contexts contain material which may date into the third century.

### Pit 4835 (Object 500028) (FIGS 16 and 21)

A sub-rectangular, vertical-sided pit was cut into the angle between the two streets in the north-east corner of the insula adjacent to the former, Period 2, ERTB 1. It measured *c.* 2.0 by 2.0m with a depth of 1.75m. Above a basal layer of yellow clay (5923), the primary fills (5891, 5873, 5867), interspersed with a sealing layer of gravel (5886), were up to 1.0m in depth, black, organic-rich with much charcoal and contained a small quantity of pottery and animal bone, with less material in the gravel. The pit was sealed with a thick (0.5m deep) sealing layer of yellow clay (5821). The pottery assemblage includes some 15 per cent of continental imports including Central Gaulish samian of Hadrianic and Hadrianic-Antonine date, the latest dated material from the pit (Timby, below, Ch. 8). An almost complete grey ware dish was recovered from the lower fills (FIG. 76, No. 26), as well as the bases of two small grey ware jars (FIG. 20). Parts of two joiner's dogs were also recovered (Crummy, below, Ch. 6). Among the animal bones, cattle, in contrast with the finds from MRTB 1 and former ERTB 1, are the most numerous taxa. Remains of a dog skull were recovered from one of the basal fills. With its sealing layer of clay this pit is interpreted as the cess-pit contemporary with the early life of the MRTB 1 and the latter days of ERTB 1.



FIG. 20. Pit 4835 showing the bases of two grey ware jars resting on the bottom. The scale is 0.5m long.

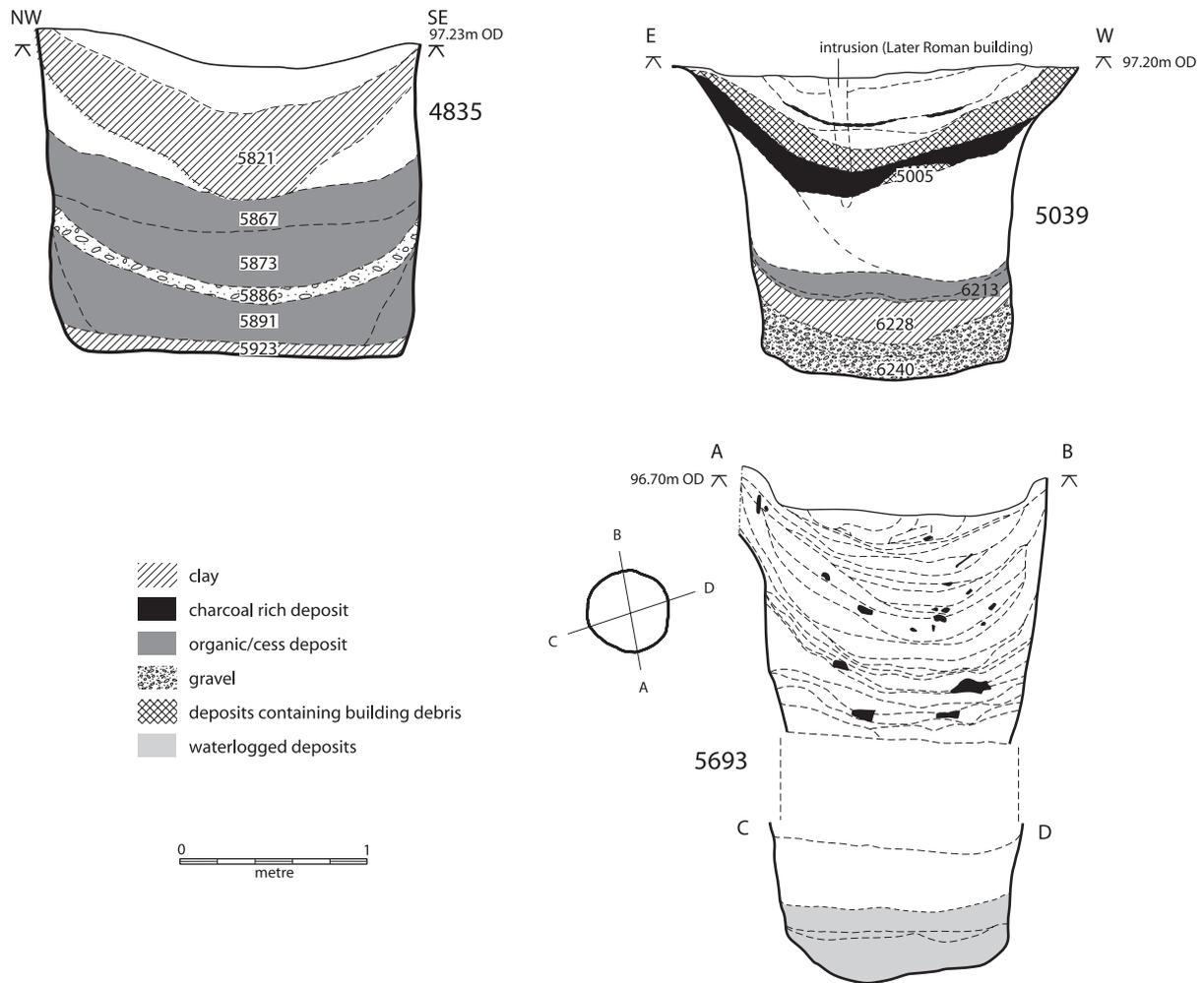


FIG. 21. Period 3: profiles of pits 4835 and 5039 and well 5693.

## OCCUPATION TO THE SOUTH OF MB 1–2 AND MRTB 1: PITS AND WELLS (FIG. 22)

In addition to the spreads of occupation assigned to Period 3, extending southwards from the buildings described above, there was a single pit (5039) which was cut into one of the Period 2 buildings on the south-east of the excavated area and two wells, one of which was completely excavated (5693). Only the upper fills were excavated of the other (6290) as these contained slumped fills contemporary with the Period 3 occupation.

**Pit 5039 (Object 500017) (FIGS 21 and 23)**

Pit 5039 was circular in plan with a diameter of *c.* 2.0m at the top and *c.* 1.3m at the base, and



FIG. 22. Period 3: occupation south of Masonry Buildings 1 and 2 including Mid-Roman Timber Buildings 2 and 3, pit 5039, well 5693, and the tile dump. For explanatory key see FIG. 5.



FIG. 23. Period 3 pit 5039: (a) half-section of pit in course of excavation; (b) remains of large grey ware jar resting on the base of the pit. The scale is 0.2m long.

with a depth of 1.65m. It was filled with a series of deposits, for the most part horizontally laid, and none with a thickness greater than *c.* 0.2m. A clay layer (6228), laid towards the base of the pit, may have served to seal primary contents of cess. The basal layer (6240) contained the lower part of a large jar, while the upper fills contained more building material, including a dump of decayed wall-plaster from 5005. Over 200 ferrous, hammerscale flakes were recovered from samples taken from the lower fills 6213 and 6228. The pit contained a range of pottery, including a number of sherds of Gallic amphora, which accounted for about 6 per cent of the assemblage (by count), while imported material as a whole amounted to 10 per cent (by count) of the assemblage. The latest material is samian of Hadrianic date, suggesting that the pit was filled before the mid-second century (Timby, below, Ch. 8). Among the faunal remains, caprines (31 per cent) are the most numerous of the main domesticates, while other taxa account for almost a quarter of the assemblage. There were no significant small finds from this pit.

Though no mineralised plant remains were recovered, this pit is interpreted as having been dug as a cess-pit in the first instance. It is not clear to what building it relates and it is conspicuous as the only pit of its kind south of ERMB 1–2 and MRTB 1/ERTB 1 in Period 3. It also provides a clear *terminus ante quem* for the demolition of the underlying Period 2 building(s).

#### Well 5693 (Object 500035) (FIGS 21 and 24)

This well was dug close to the north–south street. It was sub-rectangular in plan at the surface with dimensions of *c.* 1.5m. It was dug with near-vertical sides to a depth of *c.* 2.5m below the Roman ground surface and was more circular in plan towards the base with a diameter at the bottom of 1.2m. The basal fills showed evidence of water-logging. Except for the latter which measured up to 0.3m in thickness, the remainder rarely exceeded 0.1m in depth. The character of the numerous contexts of clayey or sandy silts filling the well implies a long period of accumulation.



FIG. 24. Period 3 well 5693: half-section. The horizontal scale is 1.0m long; the vertical scale is 2.0m long.

Pottery includes a range of continental imports accounting for 11 per cent of the assemblage by count, as well as regional imports amounting to some 4 per cent of the group. A decorated Central Gaulish Dr 37 from a middle fill provides a *terminus post quem* of c. A.D. 125–150 (Bird, below, Ch. 8, No. D2). In addition to fragments of a mirror, this well produced two joiner's dogs (Crummy, below, Ch. 6). Among the animal bone are the remains of two dogs from the basal fills of the well, one with evidence of skinning (Clark, below, Ch. 14).

#### Pit (well) 6290 (Object 701)

This pit — almost certainly originally dug as a well, or resulting from a succession of inter-cutting wells — has not yet been completely excavated. It is included in this report as its slumped, upper fills contained pottery the latest of which dates to c. A.D. 125–150, with one possibly later sherd. Like 5693, it is located close to the north–south street. At the surface it measures c. 1.4 by 1.25m in plan and it has been excavated to a depth of c. 1.5m below the contemporary Roman ground surface. The pit/well into which these deposits are slumping is obviously earlier than Period 3, and the slumped deposits should be considered as part of a major dumping and levelling episode in preparation for the Period 3 buildings sited here. These slumps are part of an effort to level up the uneven ground here, rather than consisting of later floors which have collapsed inwards. They consist of numerous clay deposits interleaved with silts, occupation material, gravel and domestic rubbish, including a significant dump (c. 1kg) of oysters in 5698 (Williams and Somerville below, Ch. 15). An important find from the same context was a complete, but very worn and broken, Brockley Hill mortarium of MATUGENUS, who operated between c. A.D. 90 and 120/5 (FIG. 77, No. 36). The uppermost fills consisted of levelling deposits of yellow-brown clay. Among the pottery, continental imports account for 8 per cent (by count) of the assemblage, while regional imports amount to c. 10 per cent (Timby, below, Ch. 8). Among a small number of small finds was a bone tube which may have formed part of a syrx or pan-pipes (Crummy, below, Ch. 6, FIG. 56, No. 27).

**The occupation south of MB 1–2 and MRTB 1: other contexts (Object 701) (FIG. 22)**

Following the demolition of the Period 2 buildings in the south-east of the excavation trench the area was covered with gravel spreads and a very large dump of ceramic building material, mainly comprised of *imbrices* and *tegulae* (4265/4528) (Warry, below, Ch. 10) (FIG. 25). The latter may have derived from the demolition of the Period 2 buildings, and, as Warry observes, the mix of types of *tegulae* would imply they derived from more than one roof. We illustrate here sherds of a Libertus cup from this occupation (FIG. 26).



FIG. 25. Period 3 tile dump (Object 701, context 4265); view to south-west. The scales are 2.0m in length.



FIG. 26. Period 3 occupation: sherds of Libertus cup (= FIG. 74, D41).

## MID-ROMAN TIMBER BUILDING 2 (FIG. 22)

Sealing the gravels and the dump of building material was an extensive lower silt horizon. Two beam-slots close to the southern edge of the excavation trench (FIG. 22) cut through the clay construction levels for MB 2. Parallel with beam-slot 4507, and oriented north-east/south-west, was a second slot, 3482, while a third, 3485, ran at right angles on a north-west/south-east alignment. The first two elements may have defined an outer corridor of a building which otherwise extended beyond the excavation area to the south-east. Together, these building fragments indicate a further period of construction in timber on the pre-street, north-east/south-west alignment around the mid-second century. Later than 4507 was the burial of a neonate (Lewis, below, Ch. 12). The neonate burial is set into a small pit 4466 which cuts through the beam-slot 4507. It is impossible to determine the date of this burial beyond noting that it cuts through the small building represented by beam-slot 4507.

To the north of MB 2 and overlying the lower silts was a spread of clay deposits which, in turn, was sealed by a further horizon of upper silts.

## MID-ROMAN TIMBER BUILDING 3 (FIG. 22)

The latest Period 3 occupation in this area is represented by clay floors, post-holes and hearths alongside the north-south street, contemporary with the silts and gravels just described. As FIG. 22 shows, this occupation extends about 20m north from the well 5693 and about 8.0m west of the north-south street. From the evidence available it is not possible to define with any certainty or clarity an individual building or buildings within this area, though, on the grounds of the surface area of the contexts in question, it is possible to suggest either one, *c.* 20 by 8m, timber building, or two, each measuring *c.* 10 by 8m, and constructed parallel with the north-south street. Plausibly, we have a building with two phases, an earlier phase consisting of a clay floor (4303) and a substantial post-hole (5180) marking the northern limit of a small building, *c.* 5m square, located to the north of well 5693. This phase of occupation is then covered by a spread of clay (4264), perhaps to counteract slump into the Period 2 wells/pits below. A second phase of occupation then begins, consisting of clay floor (3432 and 3120), a re-instated post-hole (3885/5180), and further post-holes including 4046 with possible wall stub 3497. This area contained a hearth (2751) and small spreads of charcoal which may suggest some industrial activity. The new area of occupation extends the early building northwards to encompass an area *c.* 12m north-south by 5m east-west.

In summary, apart from the fragments of beam-slots relating to a building (MRTB 2) or buildings extending beyond the southern edge of the excavation trench, the only possible structures are those aligned with the north-south street and dating to the late second century. If we are right to interpret these contexts as the remains of buildings, they are the first within the excavation trench to be aligned with the Roman street grid. At least their east sides are parallel with the street, though there is a lack of definition of edge to the west and north. There are no pits or wells to associate with certainty with their occupation; those reported above having been filled no later than the mid-second century.

## THE NORTHERN PROPERTY (FIG. 5)

The northern part of the excavated area is interpreted as the backyard of a building occupying the north-west corner of the insula. It is trapezoidal in plan, with evidence of fencing running alongside the east-west street which meets with the fencing described above which separated it from the larger property comprising MB 1 and 2.

Within this area there is only one cut feature which belongs to Period 3; this is the well 2234.

## Well 2234 (Object 41016) (FIG. 27)

Well 2234 was located in the north-west corner of the excavation trench, adjacent to the east-west

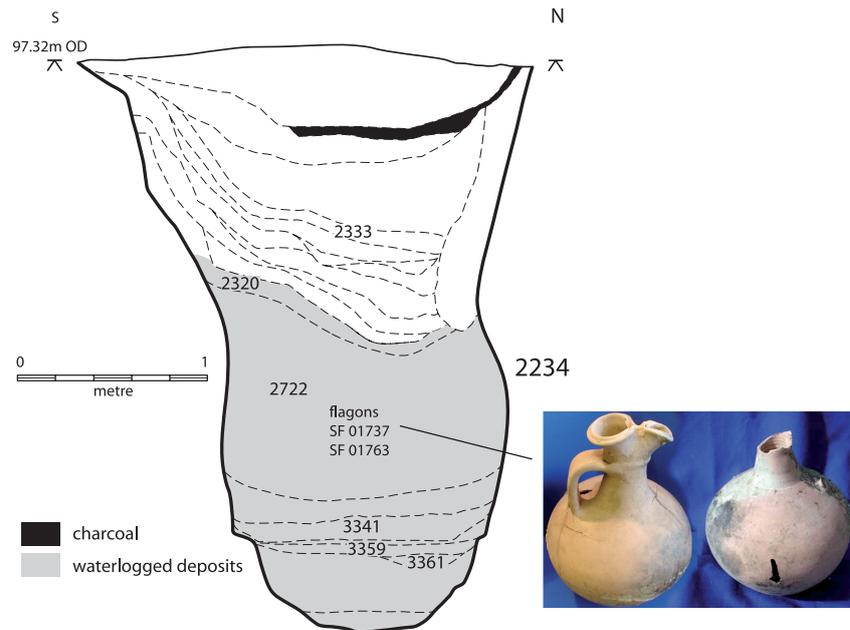


FIG. 27. Period 3: profiles of well 2234 to the north of 'House 1', showing the findspots of the two Verulamium-region flagons SFs 01737 and 01763 (= FIG. 75, Nos 20–1)

street. It was roughly circular in plan with a diameter at the surface of *c.* 2.0m, narrowing to 1.2m at the base. It was *c.* 3.0m deep from the contemporary Roman ground surface. The basal fills of sand and gravel, *c.* 0.4m in depth, were largely sterile, but did contain some pottery and small fragments of wood, possibly derived from a wickerwork lining. Contexts associated with the main use-period of the well occupy the sequence between *c.* 1.6 and 2.1m in depth, from context 3361 and above to context 2722. Finds were more prolific, with a quantity of ceramic building material, from 3359; waterlogged plant remains were also recovered. One, almost complete, double-handed flagon was recovered from 3341 at a depth of *c.* 2.0m (FIG. 75, No. 19), while a further two, almost complete flagons were recovered a little higher up, from gravel fill 2722 (FIGS 28; 75, Nos 20–1). All were from the Verulamium region potteries. Timby (below, Ch. 8) comments that a minimum number of ten flagons was associated with the lower fills. Although context 2320 at a depth of 1.6m contained further waterlogged material, it seems to be the point



FIG. 28. Period 3 well 2234: Verulamium-region ware flagon with pierced body (= FIG. 75, No. 20). The scale is 0.2m long.

from which use of the well as a source of water was abandoned and the pit accumulated rubbish. In particular, this deposit contained a significant quantity of animal bone, predominantly (and unusually for this period) cattle. Subsequent layers of gravel were interspersed with clay deposits. Above context 2333, above a depth of 1.0m, the upper fills contained some fourth-century material as well as residual, early Roman sherds.

Dating the use of this well is difficult. The flagon from the earliest context is not common and is dated provisionally to the later first/early second century. Similar dates are attached to the other two flagons, while material associated with the mid-depth use-contexts is assigned to the early second century (Timby, below, Ch. 8). It would appear that the well fell out of use *c.* A.D. 125, at the end of our Period 2, the start of Period 3. Consolidation of slumping fills continued into the fourth century. Overall the quantities of material from this feature were not great and there were few small finds (Crummy, below, Ch. 6)

## PERIOD 4 (FIG. 29)

### SUMMARY

The two town-houses, MB 1 and MB 2, were demolished and replaced with a single building, MB 3. There is no evidence to suggest the continuation in use of the Period 3 buildings in the north-east corner of the insula, MRTB 1 and ERTB 1. MRTB 2 and 3 were demolished and replaced with two, equally insubstantial, new timber buildings, MRTB 4 and 5, both of which were constructed on the line of the north-south street. Two successive wells (5735 and 1750) were sunk to the north of the southern building, MRTB 4, and a further four pits (2434, 2601, 3406 and 3102) were dug to its west. Other than cultivated soils and gravel spreads, there is no definable Period 4 occupation associated with the northern property.

### MASONRY BUILDING 3 (Object 50046) (FIGS 30-31)

With the possible exception of the external, south-west, end wall and the internal walls separating Room 1 from Room 2 and the adjacent corridor, where the foundations survived, Masonry Building 2 was demolished to ground level and the remaining foundations, both of internal rooms and external walls, were extensively robbed out. This allowed the construction of a single, large house, which, in effect, represented an extension south-westwards of the footprint of MB 1. The only significant changes to the latter were the demolition and robbing of the foundations of the internal walls separating Room 1 from the corridor (1535). As we have seen above, these alterations may have taken place before the demolition of MB 2. To create the new building the north-west-facing wall (1015) of the internal wall line of MB 1 and the south-east-facing, outer wall of the corridor/verandah (1174) were both extended, cutting across the wall lines of the earlier MB 2. The new walls were also constructed of flint, their foundation trenches measuring 0.52m in width with a depth of 0.15m. A third element of the new building was a further, parallel wall, which extended the line of the south-east-facing, internal wall of MB 1. This was a shallower and wider structure, some 0.74m in width and 0.12m in depth, which re-used tile as well as flint in the foundations. The only outer wall-line to be retained was that at the south-west end. This showed indications of subsidence, particularly towards the northern end, and was almost certainly rebuilt. There was no certain evidence for the continuation south-westwards of the north-west-facing corridor/verandah of MB 1. A shallow trench (1257) which continued the line for a further 10.0m was found not to contain any flints when re-excavated in 1997-8. It is lightly shaded on the plan of Insula IX of 1893-4, which suggests that the Victorians found no flints either (Fox 1895, pl. xlv). Indeed it is possible that this extension was a creation of the excavators following the line of the outer wall 1183/1664. Altogether, measuring 36m in length by a maximum of 11m in width, the surface area of the new house amounted to some 396 square metres.

Apart from a continuous passage, probably a verandah rather than a closed corridor, running along the south-east-facing side of the house, the north-east-facing side and part of the north-

- structural features
- occupation/industrial debris
- construction deposits
- floor
- floor makeups
- hearth
- gravel
- earlier buildings
- extent of other P3 contexts

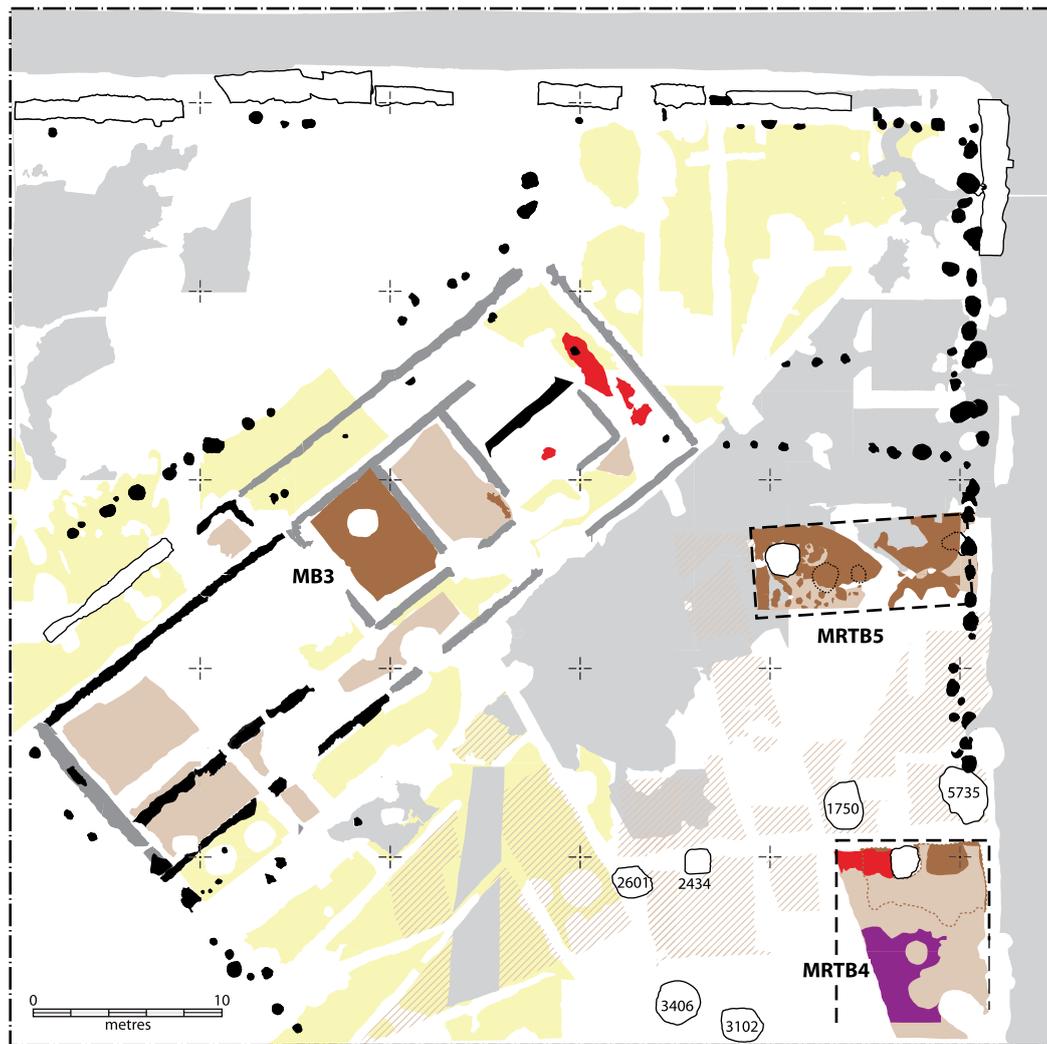


FIG. 29. Period 4: Masonry Building 3, associated Mid-Roman Timber Buildings 4 and 5 and associated occupation, *c.* A.D. 200–*c.* A.D. 250/300.

west-facing side, the principal new element of the house was a large room (Room 4) to the south-west on the site of MB 2, measuring some 18m by 7m. Although we have noted that the foundations of the walls separating Room 1 from Room 2 and the adjacent corridor were not robbed out, it is highly unlikely that they were retained in MB 3 as they make little sense in terms of the plan of the new house. At the opposite end of the latter was the large, working space, perhaps already created by the demolition of the internal walls of Room 1. There is evidence for



FIG. 30. Period 4: Masonry Building 3 and adjacent occupation and post alignments. For explanatory key see FIG. 29.



FIG. 31. Period 4: MB 3 viewed from the south-west in 2001 with foundations of Period 3 MB 2 also visible. The scales are 2.0m in length.

a shallow foundation trench (1090), running north-east/south-west and approximately dividing the new space into two equal halves. During excavation this was interpreted as a Victorian trench. However, its central location does suggest that this may well have been a structural element, presumably containing posts to hold up the roof, whose supports would otherwise have needed to span the full (11m) width of the building. Remains of one hearth to the east of 1090 (1802) and burnt areas (1544, 3231) in the original corridor space at the north-east end provide evidence for the continuation of metalworking in this part of the house. In particular, elevated concentrations of copper, zinc, lead, strontium and phosphorus are recorded from 1544, as well as from 3259, which overlies Period 3 hearth 3681 (Cook, below, Ch. 3). Elemental concentrations of gold and silver from 3259 suggest the possibility of the cupellation of precious metals as well as the working of copper alloy (Cook *et al.* 2005; below, Ch. 3) and iron (Tootell, below, Ch. 11). This end area of the house was roughly floored with clay spreads (2018/1047).

In the case of Rooms 2 and 3 (FIG. 32) we have no evidence to suggest that the flooring was different to what it was at the end of the life of MB 1, which is described above. Equally, there is no evidence when the floors were reduced to the state in which they were found in 1893 and 1997 and we must remain open to the possibility that this took place during the life of MB 3. No floor surfaces survived in the new Room 4, potentially the principal reception room of the house, other than of gravel. This might indicate original flooring of mortar, *opus signinum*, or of mosaic. Loose tesserae of dolomite cementstone, which might indicate a plain tessellated or even a mosaic floor, were found in association with 1757 at the south-west end of the building (Hayward 2007a; below, Ch. 9). Waste from the production of tesserae of this material was found in a number of contexts associated with MRTB 5 to the east of MB 3. Slag, including slag basins indicative of smelting, was recovered from make-up layers associated with Room 4.

Further evidence of alterations to the house is provided by a row of post-holes, equally spaced at 2m intervals, which ran the length of the north-west-facing corridor. These may have served both to help support the roof of the corridor and, possibly, to subdivide the internal space. Such interpretations may also account for the two post-holes in the north-east-facing end-corridor



FIG. 32. Period 4: MB 3. View to the north-west across the middle of the house (Rooms 2 and 3) cut by late Roman pits. The scales are, respectively, 1.0m (foreground) and 2.0m (centre) in length.

of the house. A further group of post-holes was recorded around the middle of the south-east-facing corridor (1947, 1949 and 2693).

No evidence survived to indicate the locations of doorways or thresholds. However, a gravelled path leading towards the middle of the south-east-facing elevation of the house suggests the approximate position of one external door (FIG. 33).

There is some evidence for the robbing of part of the south-east aisle-wall with the digging of a number of shallow, linear trenches (1911, 1777, 3920, 1753, 1241) at a later date.

### Finds

The majority of glass and metal finds associated with the building appear to be residual from the first and second century (D. Allen 2007; below, Ch. 7; Crummy 2007; below, Ch. 6). Although the pottery assemblage is also dominated by residual material, there is an appreciable quantity of mid-to-late Antonine samian and later second- to third-century coarse wares (Timby 2007; below, Ch. 8). Material dating from the late third and fourth centuries derives from contexts which should be re-assigned to the late Roman occupation of the insula, after the demolition of the house in the second half of the third century. Two fragments of crucible are noted (J. Allen, below, Ch. 11).

Although there is a strong probability of a high residual element in the bone assemblage, the partial skeleton of an immature sheep, a group of small dog bones deriving from a partial skeleton, and the presence of foetal/neonatal caprine bones are probably contemporary with either construction or occupation of the building (Ingrem 2007; below, Ch. 13).

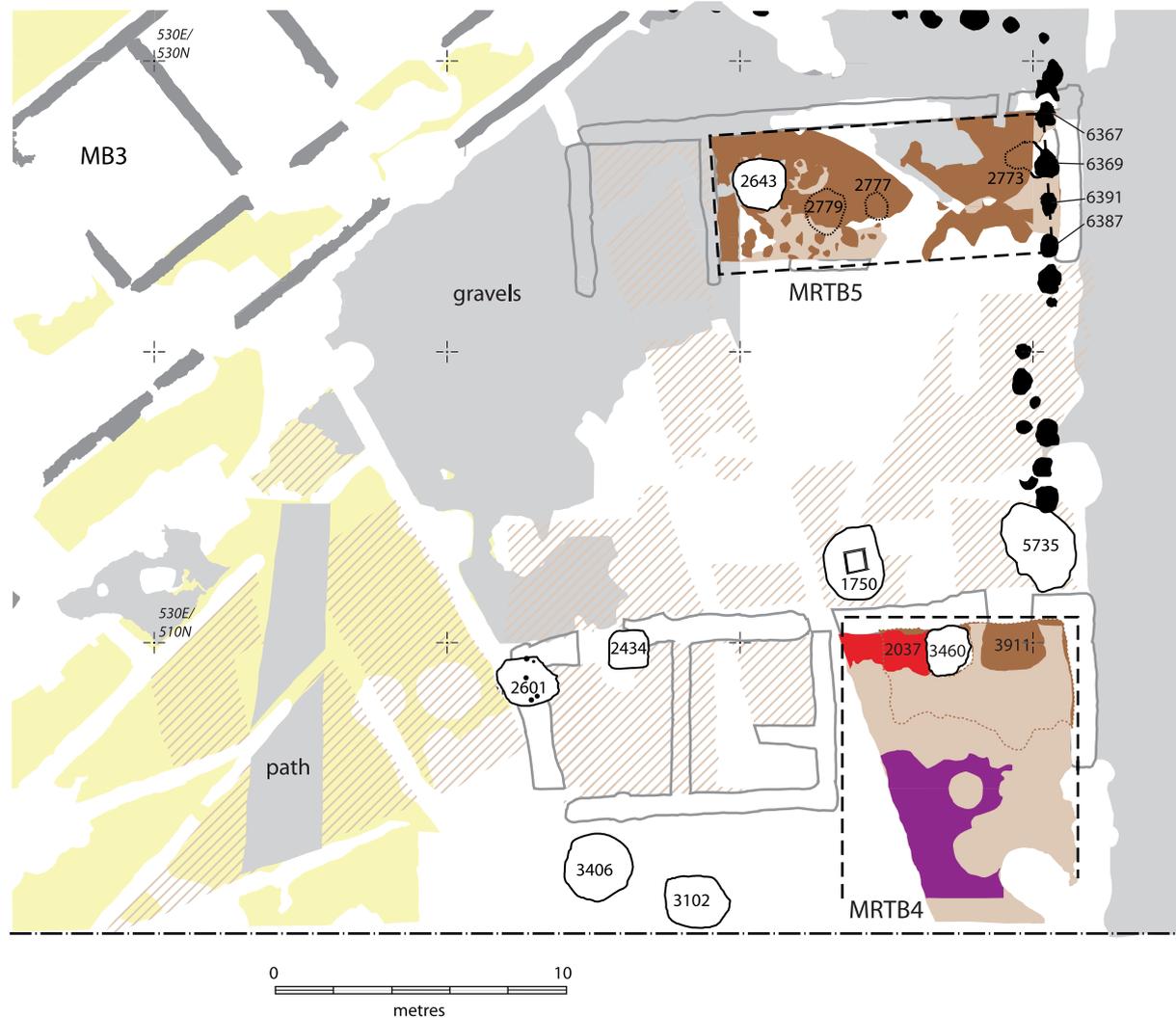


FIG. 33. Period 4: Mid-Roman Timber Building 4 (with outline footprint of fourth-century Late Roman Building 1) and Building 5 (with outline footprint of Late Roman Building 5), and associated occupation, including wells 1750 and 5735 and pits 2434, 2601, 3102 and 3406. For key see FIG. 29.

### Function of the building

With the exception of the burnt areas in 'Room 1' at the north-east end of the building and the associated geochemical evidence which indicates the continuation of metalworking from Period 3, there is little evidence with which to determine the function and status of the building. The house is one of the larger buildings in *Calleva* and so was presumably of considerable status. The latter was reflected in the continuous verandah along the south-east-facing elevation and the size of the possible reception Room 4. The plan recalls that of Perring's hall-type strip buildings, though in our case the hall is linked not to a strip building but to a row-type house (MB 1) (2002, 56–9, fig. 11). Unfortunately, there are no midden deposits which we can confidently associate with the building and thereby allow us to develop a fuller picture of occupation and status.

### Chronology

Since the construction of the new walls of the Period 4 house involved cutting into the make-ups associated with the preceding period, there is little substantive evidence for the date of the construction of the new house. On the evidence of the latest pottery from Period 3, construction appears to date to around A.D. 200. We can be clearer, however, of the date of abandonment

and demolition. Despite some superficial contexts with late Roman coins and/or pottery, which should be re-assigned to the late Roman occupation, the foundations of the house are cut by a number of pits, the earliest of which have contents which are datable to about the second half of the third century (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 14).

THE OCCUPATION SOUTH OF MASONRY BUILDING 3: PITS AND WELLS (Object 500017) (FIGS 33–34)

There are six, substantial, cut features associated with the Period 4 occupation. All are located in relatively close proximity to each other in the south-east corner of the excavation trench and

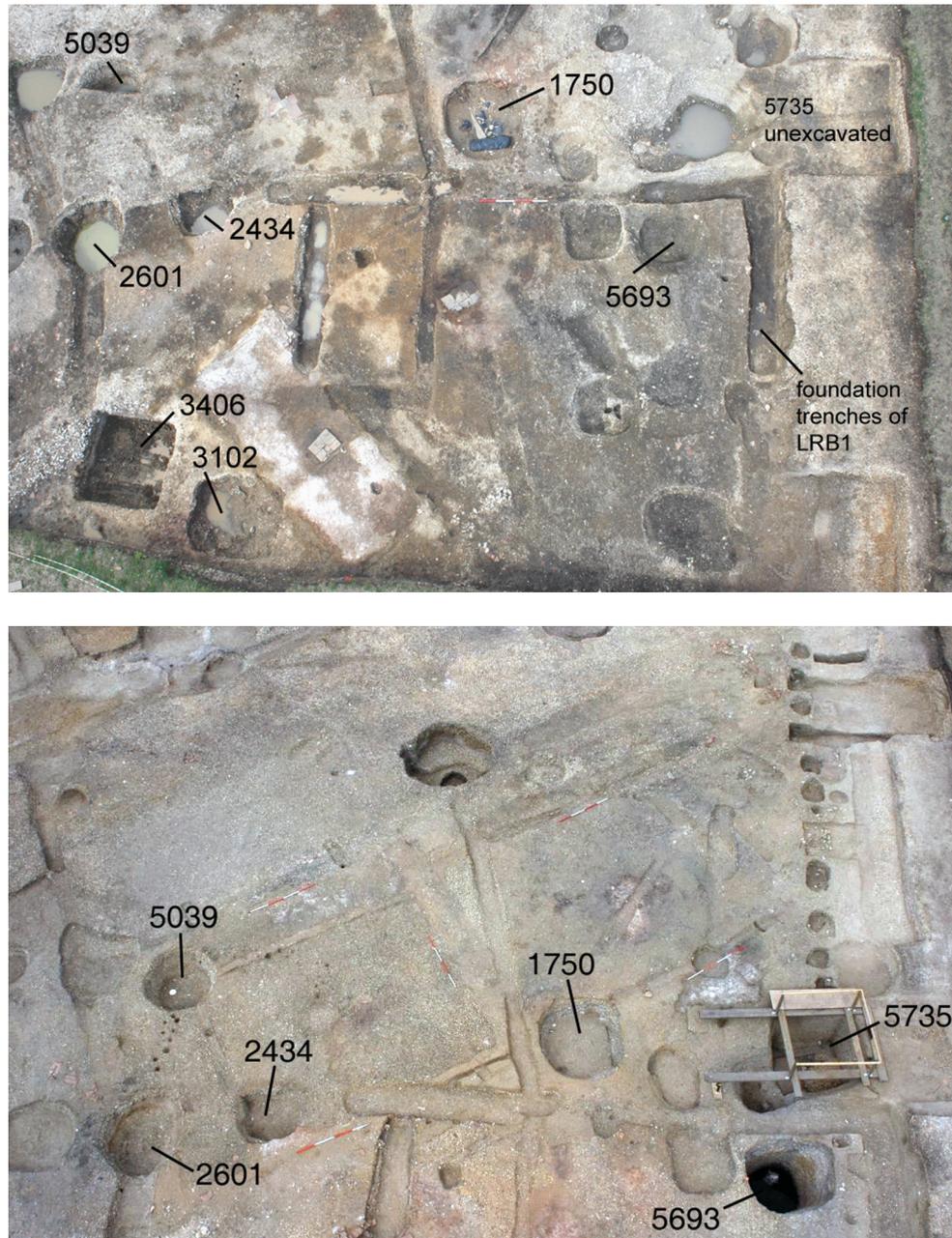


FIG. 34. Views of the south-eastern corner of the excavation trench: (a) showing location of Periods 3 and 4 pits and wells, and the excavated foundation trenches of Late Roman Building 1; (b) similar to (a), but at later stage of excavation showing wells 5693 and 5735 under excavation and post-holes flanking north-south street; some of the foundation trenches of Late Roman Building 1 are visible at the bottom of the photo. The scales in both photos are all 2.0m in length.

are probably to be associated with a predecessor to Late Roman Building 1 (below, p. 51). Two (1750 and 5735) definitely served as wells, two might have had this function (3102, 3406), while the remaining two were almost certainly dug as cess- or rubbish pits from the outset. Although the two adjacent pits 3102 and 3406 were of a comparable depth to others which more certainly served as wells, they only just reached the modern water-table and neither had evidence of waterlogged deposits.

Dating evidence from these pits and wells suggests a sequence for their fills. The earliest cut and subsequent fills would appear to be those associated with well 5735, followed by 1750 (of which only the earliest contexts were undisturbed), 2601 and 3102. The last seems earlier than its neighbour 3406 and the latest pit is 2434.

**Well 5735 (Object 500037) (FIG. 35)**

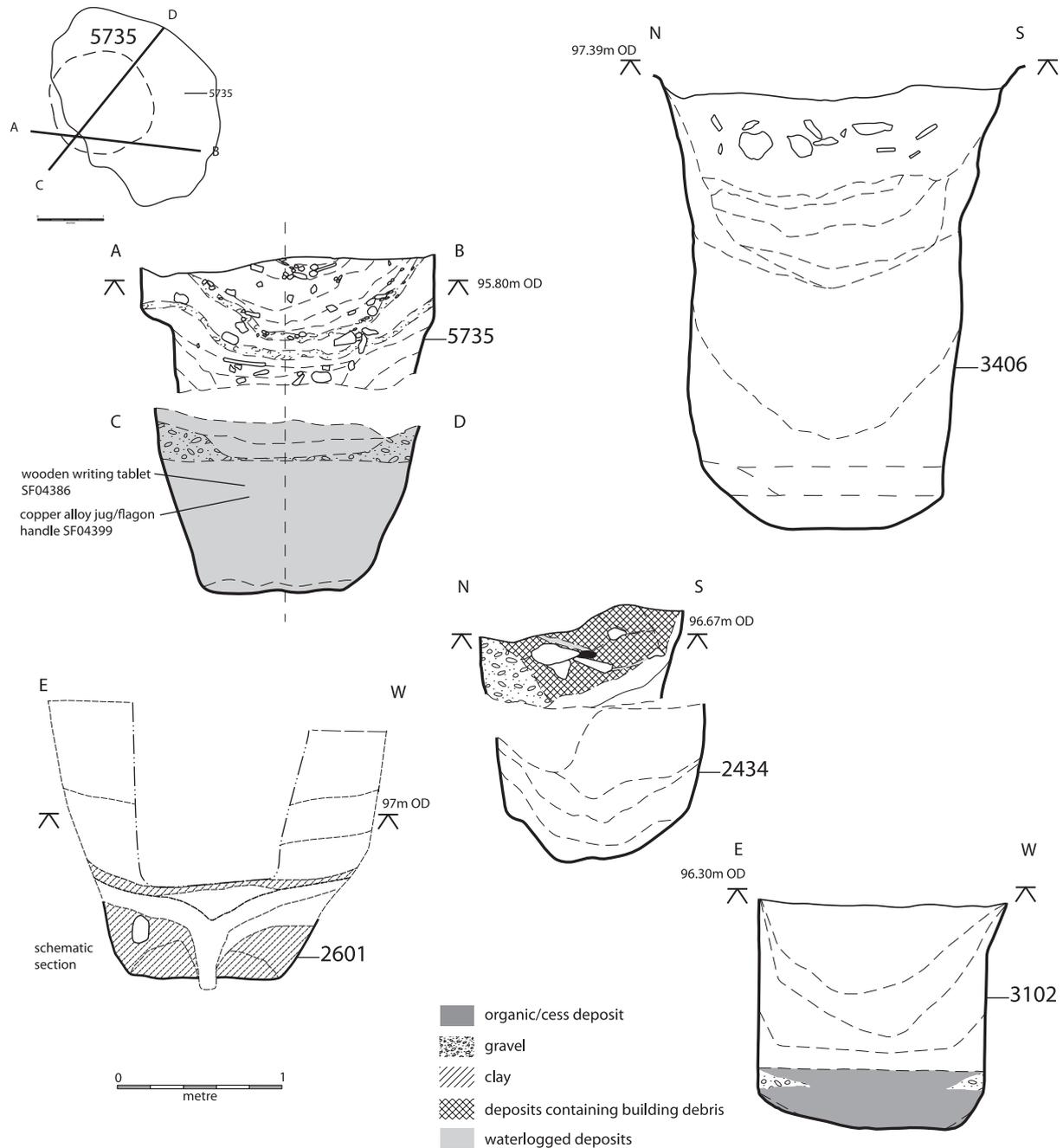


FIG. 35. Period 4: profiles of associated pits 2434, 2601, 3102 and 3406 and well 5735.

Situated adjacent to the north–south street and beneath the foundations of Late Roman Building 1, well 5735 was succeeded chronologically by well 1750, located some 4m to the west. It was roughly circular in plan at the surface with a diameter of *c.* 1.65m, narrowing towards the base which had a diameter of 1.0m. The cut for this well, which had a depth of *c.* 2.1m, was defined at a low point relative to the contemporary Roman ground surface. The original depth would have been over 2m. The lower fills of gravel (6436) had a depth of 0.8m and were waterlogged. In addition to fragments of wood (but no surviving well lining) and plant remains, which included leaf fragments of box and holly (Robinson, below, Ch. 16), this context also contained a single-leaf writing-tablet of maple (FIG. 36) (Watson, below, p. 116, FIG. 60, No. 64) and part of a bucket handle. A further remarkable find from the lowest fills was the handle of a copper-alloy foot-handle jug (*Fusshenkelkrug*) (FIG. 37) (Crummy, below, Ch. 6, FIG. 60, No. 65). The well appears to have been filled with a succession of deposits of gravel and soil, each rarely more than 0.1m in thickness, with the upper layers containing relatively more soil, charcoal, ceramic building material, animal bone, pottery (with joining sherds from different layers), and other finds.

Among the pottery from the lowest contexts was a sherd of a South-East Dorset BB1 jar decorated with oblique lattice and dated to the early third century (p. 179). Further, possible, early third-century material from these lower contexts was found alongside pottery of mid to late Antonine date. Pottery more certainly attributed to the third century, two thirds (66 per cent)



FIG. 36. Writing-tablet of maple wood from well 5735 (FIG. 60, No. 64).



FIG. 37. Copper-alloy handle of a *Fusshenkelkrug* from well 5735 (FIG. 60, No. 65).

of which was Dorset BB1, came from the upper contexts. From the well as a whole Dorset BB1 accounted for almost a quarter (23 per cent) of the pottery assemblage. In terms of function the assemblage includes a high proportion, almost one third (31 per cent), of vessels associated with drinking (beakers, cups and flagons) (Timby, below, Ch. 8).

Of the faunal remains from this well, cattle account for half of the sample, with dog, red deer, hare, rodent and goose all also represented (Ingrem, below, Ch. 13).

If the well was first dug at the beginning of the third century, it probably fell out of use before the end of the first quarter of that century when well 1750 was constructed.

#### Well 1750 (Object 500020) (FIGS 38–41)

This well was first excavated in 1893 when it was described as being ‘of the usual timbered construction’ (Fox 1895, 442). It was sealed beneath the foundations of Late Roman Building 1. The well pit measured *c.* 1.2 by 1.35m in plan at the surface and was dug to a depth of *c.* 4.8m below the Roman ground surface. At the base it contained a square lining of oak constructed within a sub-rectangular pit *c.* 1.3m square. The internal plan dimensions of the lining were *c.* 650 by 700mm and the structure survived to a height of 0.6m (two tiers of boards) above the oak base-plate. The latter comprised four, interlocking oak beams, each measuring *c.* 1.0 to 1.2m in length and 140 by 100mm in cross-section, above which rested the lining itself. While the



FIG. 38. The oak lining of well 1750 in the course of excavation. The scale is 0.5m long.

base-plate was left *in situ*, the surviving boards of the lining were lifted and recorded (FIG. 40). Attached securely to each other with mortise-and-tenon jointing, each of the four boards of the lowest tier measured *c.* 730 or 760mm by 260mm with a thickness of *c.* 50mm. Four struts, each *c.* 50 by 20mm in cross-section, cut diagonally into adjacent pairs of planks across each of the four corners, provided further strengthening at each tier of the lining. Only two, relatively poorly preserved planks with traces of the corner bracing survived of the upper tier. The western board of the upper tier had scored on its inside surface three vertical lines, perhaps representing the number III (FIG. 40).

Although excavated in 1893, the lowest fills, with a depth of 0.7m, were undisturbed and produced a small collection of pottery as well as faunal and waterlogged plant remains (Robinson, below, Ch. 16). The pottery included sherds of black-slipped Moselle ware of late second/early third-century date, while the faunal assemblage was dominated by the remains of birds, accounting for almost half of the group (43 per cent). From the base of the cut (2767) for the well came twelve raven bones, including pairs of certain bones, several dog bones, including three articulating cervical vertebrae and a tibia with a well-healed fracture, and a tibia of a red deer (Ingrem, below, Ch. 13).

Although the timbers were examined by Dan Miles (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory) with a view to obtaining the dates of the felling of the wood, the growth rings could not be matched to master sequences. Subsequently, several radiocarbon determinations were obtained from one of the timbers from which it was deduced that the date of the outer ring of the sample should be 202–240 cal AD (Galimberti *et al.* 2004, 920–1). A date for the construction of the well in the first half of the third century fits with the postulated date for the abandonment of the neighbouring well 5735. A *terminus ante quem* for the abandonment of well 1750 is provided

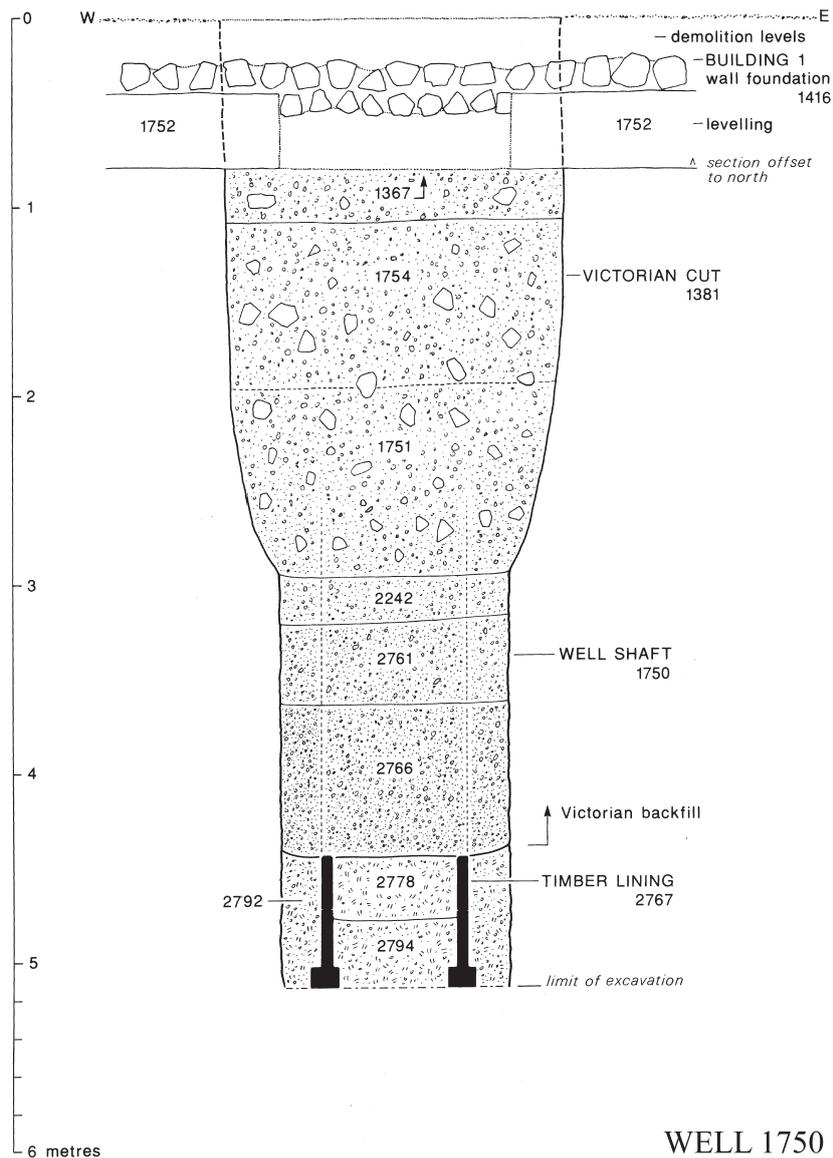


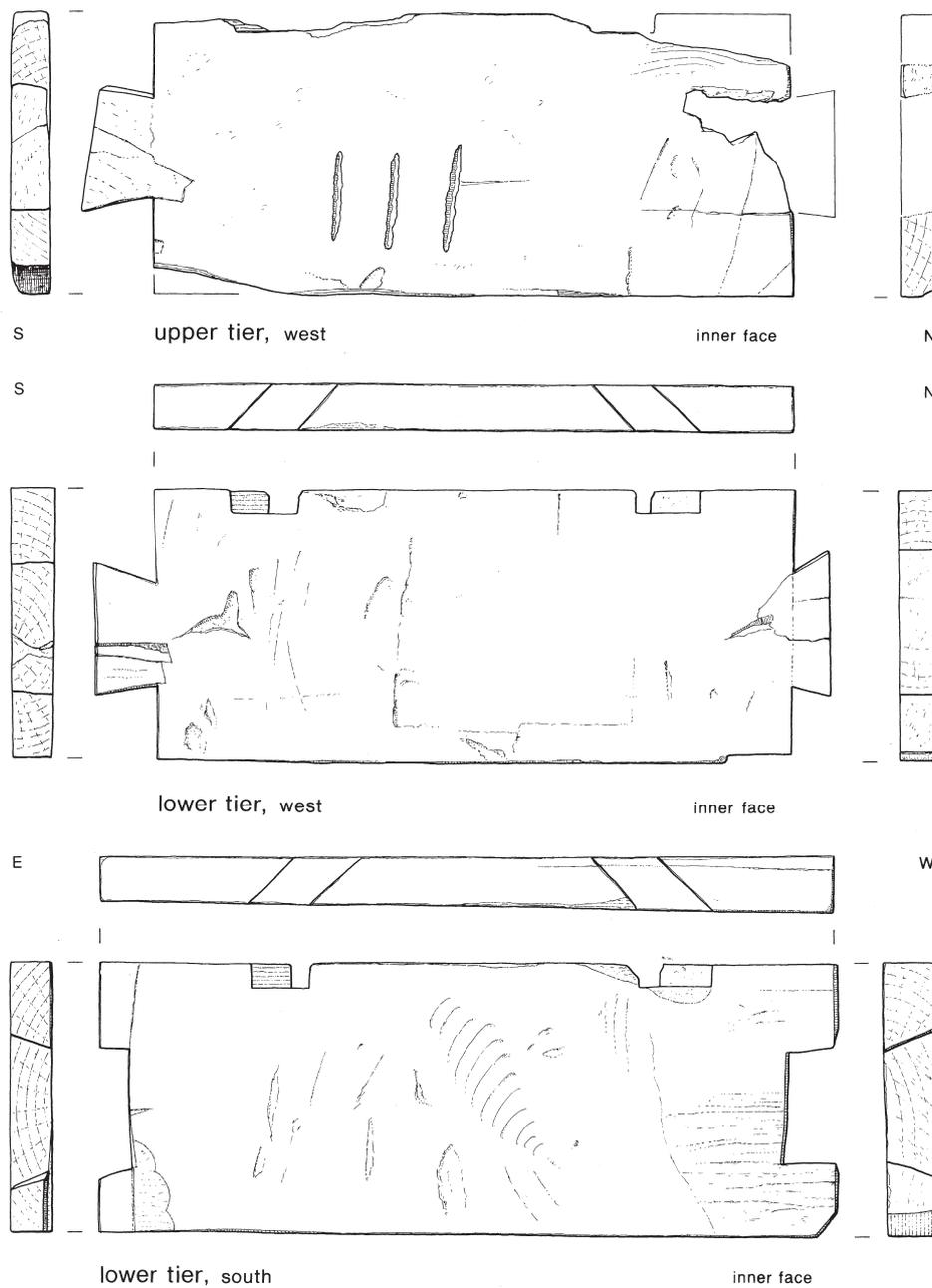
FIG. 39. Period 4: profile of well 1750. (Drawn by B. Williams)

by the construction of Late Roman Building 1 for which there is a *terminus post quem* of A.D. 287–293 provided by a coin of Carausius from the adjacent pit 2434 (below, and Fulford *et al.* 2006, 18–19).

#### Pit 2434 (Object 500031) (FIG. 35)

This pit was almost square, measuring 1.25 by 1.3m in plan, with vertical sides, a flattish base and a depth below the contemporary ground surface of *c.* 1.6m. The lowest fills included some mineralised plant remains (Robinson, below, Ch. 16) which suggest the pit was originally intended for cess. While the lower fills were of dark soil and gravel, the uppermost fill (2602) consisted of quantities of stone (flint), ceramic building material and clayey mortar dumped prior to the construction of Late Roman Building 1 whose foundations overlay the pit. This context also included an unworn coin of Carausius (A.D. 287–293) (SF 01612).

Among the finds (Crummy, below, Ch. 6) were three objects consistent with a late third-century date for the fill: a green glass, hexagonal bead, a bone hairpin with a globular head, and



WELL 1750 *Timber lining* 0 100 500 mm

FIG. 40. Period 4 well 1750: individual oak planks of timber lining. (*Drawn by B. Williams*)

a shale armlet with cable decoration. There were also the blade of a small saw and the remains of the sole of a shoe or a pair of soles. The glass included an almost complete, but fragmented example of a 'Mercury' bottle, a rare find in Britain (D. Allen, below, Ch. 7, FIG. 69, No. 74). The small assemblage of pottery included South-East Dorset BB1, Oxfordshire and New Forest wares dating to the second half of the third century (Timby, below, Ch. 8) and in which there is a high proportion (26 per cent) of drinking vessels (cups, mugs and beakers). Associated with the faunal assemblage, amongst which cattle predominate, there are significant proportions of wild

WELL 1750

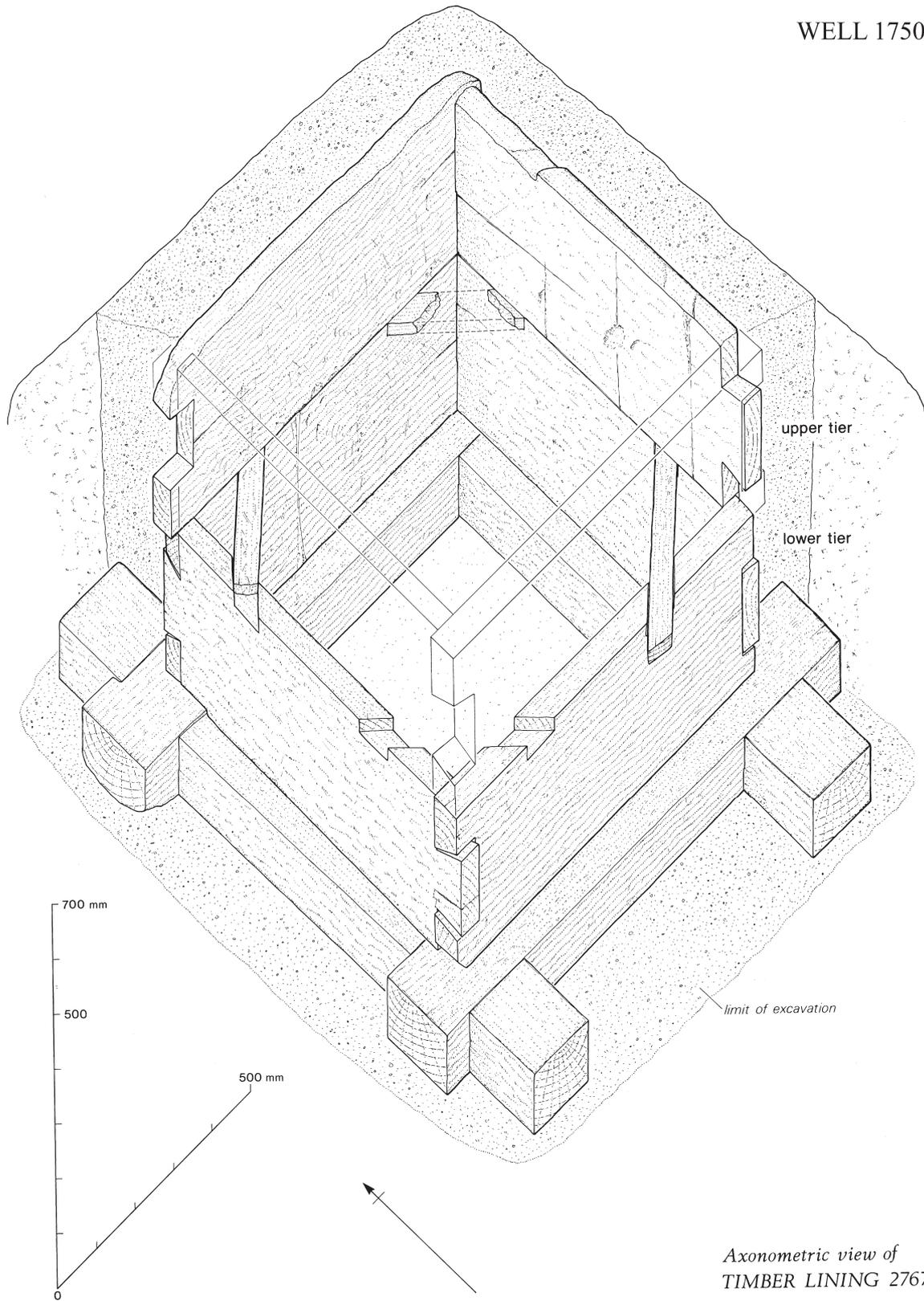


FIG. 41. Period 4 well 1750: isometric reconstruction of timber lining. (Drawn by B. Williams)

animals and birds other than galliform. These include three pieces of red deer antler and two partial badger skeletons (Ingrem, below, Ch. 13). There were also the remains of at least three dogs (Clark, below, Ch. 14).

**Pit 2601** (Object 500032) (FIGS 35, 42–43)

This pit was sub-circular, measuring *c.* 2.2 by *c.* 1.65m in plan, with steeply sloping sides, a flat base and a depth below the contemporary Roman ground surface of *c.* 1.6m. It had been bisected by the foundation trench of the west wall of Late Roman Building 1. The basal layer (2781) of the pit was of clay into which numerous, small diameter, post-holes of uncertain function had been cut. Although no mineralised plant remains were recovered, it is assumed that this was primarily intended for cess. The primary and secondary fills were largely of dark soil and gravel, but there was no evidence of consolidating fills as with pit 2434.

The majority of the finds derive from the upper layers, among which there are several cross-joins between sherds from different contexts, suggesting rapid infill of the pit. The latest material from the relatively small assemblage of pottery includes Oxfordshire and South-East Dorset BB1 wares dating from after the mid-third century. Jars predominate in the assemblage and drinking vessels are not significantly represented (Timby, below, Ch. 8). The most outstanding find from the pit was a complete iron folding-knife or razor with an ivory handle in the form of two coupling dogs (FIG. 43) (Crummy, below, Ch. 6, FIG. 59, No. 56). This was associated with the remains of the partial skeleton of a young (24–36 weeks) dog which was probably deposited as a complete carcase. It was placed on the right side in a tightly curled up position with the muzzle tucked against the tarsal joints (Clark, below, Ch. 14). The possible ritual connotations of these associated finds are discussed further by Crummy and Eckardt (below, Chs 6 and 18). The remains of further dogs were also recovered from the same context, 2622. Of the other animal



FIG. 42. Period 4 pit 2601 in course of excavation. The scale is 1.0m long.



FIG. 43(a & b). Ivory-handled folding-knife or razor from pit 2601 (FIG. 59, No. 56).

and bird bones reported from this pit the occurrence of five raven bones probably deserves note (Ingrem, below, Ch. 13).

**Pit/well 3102 (Object 500034) (FIG. 35)**

This pit or well was subcircular in plan, measuring *c.* 2 by 1.8m in diameter at the surface and *c.* 1.4m towards the base. It had near-vertical sides, a flat base and a depth below the contemporary Roman ground surface of *c.* 2.75m. It was adjacent to pit/well 3406. The uppermost fill of this feature contained the foundations of a fourth-century mortared flint wall and is reported in Fulford *et al.* (2006, 37). Above primary fills of gravel, there was some evidence for a cess-like deposit (4040), although no mineralised plant remains were recovered from it. Finds occurred with increasing frequency in subsequent fills from 4030 and above. The pit was sealed with brown silty clay and gravel (3820), then a final capping of clayey gravel (3127) before contexts associated with the construction of the wall in the fourth century.

The majority of the finds were of pottery and animal bone, with very few individually accessioned artefacts: Crummy notes the occurrence of a pair of joiner's dogs and a rake prong (Ch. 6). A small unguent flask with a hole drilled through the side was recorded from 4030 (FIG. 81, No. 106). With the majority of the pottery from 3127 and below of Antonine/late Antonine date, the latest pottery appears to be South-East Dorset BB1 and of late second/early third-century date (Timby, below, Ch. 8). New Forest ware sherds dating from the later third century occurred in the capping layer 3127. Cattle remains dominate the animal bone assemblage with only a slight representation of wild species and birds.

#### **Pit/well 3406 (Object 500033) (FIG. 35)**

This pit or well was almost circular in plan, measuring *c.* 2.0m in diameter at the surface and *c.* 1.65m towards the base. It had vertical sides, a flattish base and a depth below the contemporary ground surface of *c.* 2.8m. Although the well reached the modern water-table, no waterlogged finds were recovered from it. It was adjacent to pit/well 3102. The primary fills of slumped gravel, up to *c.* 1.5m from the base, contained few finds, but at a depth of *c.* 1.3m, from context 4044 and above, they were abundant. A third-century date, perhaps towards the middle of the century, for this and the middle fills is suggested by the typology and relative abundance of the South-East Dorset BB1 and other associated wares, particularly Oxfordshire ware (Timby, below, Ch. 8). Context 4044 also contained a complete Nene Valley colour-coated box-lid, most of a South-East Dorset BB1 jar and substantial parts of other jars (FIG. 81, Nos 93–102). The upper contexts of the well, particularly 3829 and 3821, contained quantities of ceramic building material and flints, presumably to consolidate the fill. Among these contexts were a few sherds of late third/fourth-century Hampshire grog-tempered pottery and the rim of a Spanish Almagro 50 amphora normally dated to the fourth century (below, p. 176, FIG. 81, No. 100).

The accessioned finds include some items of status: a silver-in-glass bead and a short length of gold wire threaded through a beryl (Crummy, below, Ch. 6, FIGS 59–60, Nos 57–63). There are also fragments of two shale vessels, bone hairpins, evidence for the disposal of footwear throughout the fill, and two probable bone tools of uncertain purpose. As with the adjacent pit 3102, cattle, including the remains of a partial skull, dominate the animal bone assemblage. Foetal dog and pig bone was present and there was a substantial representation of galliform bone (14 per cent) (Ingrem, below, Ch. 13). The remains of two further dogs are documented (Clark, below, Ch. 14).

#### **THE OCCUPATION TO THE SOUTH OF MASONRY BUILDING 3: OTHER CONTEXTS (Object 700) (FIG. 33)**

##### **Mid-Roman Timber Building 4**

In general terms the contexts and groups of contexts discussed below which, collectively, make up Object 700 are stratigraphically later than those described above as Object 701. Although the evidence is slight, the possibility of one, or two timber-framed buildings adjacent to, and parallel with the north–south street was discussed above (p. 33). In association with this succeeding, third-century phase, the evidence for structures is a little stronger. It has already been suggested above that the concentration of pits and wells in the south-east corner of the excavation trench reflects the existence of a building in close proximity. The existence of a hearth (2037), consisting of a spread of burnt clay, sandstone and chalk flints with a central area of burnt tiles measuring 3m east–west and 1.5m north–south, adds weight to this. Associated with it is occupation comprising clay floor 3911 and an overlying spread of occupation debris extending over an area of *c.* 10m (north–south) by 8m (east–west), parallel with, and adjacent to the north–south street, and immediately to the south of wells 1750 and 5735. Hearth 2037 was cut through by the foundation trench for the walls of Late Roman Building 1 and was located immediately to the west of sub-rectangular pit 3460, which had straight sides and measured 1.53m north–south and 1.76m east–west. It was over 1m deep. The fills of this pit contained some industrial waste and

its close proximity to hearth 2037 suggests that these two features were closely associated. The northern and eastern limits of this occupation are truncated by the foundation trenches of Late Roman Building 1, the west by a Victorian trench. The southern edge seems to coincide with the edge of the excavation trench. If these spreads do coincide with the footprint of a building, for which no structural evidence in the form of beam-slots or post-holes survives, they do not entirely coincide with the footprint of Late Roman Building 1 whose outline is shown on FIGS 33–34 (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 18–26) (cf. the northern building, below). The position of the pits to the west perhaps marks the limits of an associated backyard of the building. Our Period 4 structure becomes Mid-Roman Timber Building 4.

#### Mid-Roman Timber Building 5

Thirteen metres to the north of the southern occupation, a rectangular area of gravel and mortar surfaces, measuring *c.* 12m by 4.5m, aligned east–west and fronting on the north–south street, seems to represent the ground-plan of a second, timber-framed building. In terms of its plan and extent this lies immediately beneath the footprint of the main room of Late Roman Building 5 and may be regarded as a direct predecessor (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 26–8) (FIG. 33). There are, however, no traces of associated beam-slots or post-holes, except on the eastern side fronting the street where four post-holes (6367, etc.) are recorded. Within the footprint of the proposed building there was evidence of a patchy surface and four, small, shallow pits interleaved with occupation deposits. The first, 2777, was sub-circular in plan, measuring *c.* 1.05m by 0.82m and with a depth of *c.* 0.1m. It contained a quantity of waste from the manufacture of Kimmeridge dolomite cementstone tesserae (Hayward, below, Ch. 9). Dolomite cementstone was the material of the commonest tesserae found in association with MB 3 (above, p. 38). Pit 2779, a close neighbour of pit 2777, was also sub-circular in plan with a diameter of *c.* 1.3m and a depth of 0.15m and was filled with dark soil with lenses of clay. Located immediately to the west of pit 2779 was a third pit (2643), measuring 1.7m east–west by 1.75m north–south, and with a depth of 0.25m. Nails, fragments of glass and dolomite cementstone tesserae were recovered from this pit. A fourth pit, 2769/2773, located in the eastern end of the proposed building, measured 1.3m square, with a depth of 0.2m. The surfaces within this structure were composed of gravels and clay silts and, like the shallow pits described above, contained nails and fragments of glass.

Of the other occupation to the west of our possible Period 4 buildings, represented by spreads of gravel and soils, we should particularly note the gravel path, *c.* 3.0m in width, which was traced running northwards from the southern edge of the excavation trench towards the Period 4 Masonry Building 3 (FIG. 33). This met a more extensive gravelled surface outside the south-east-facing frontage of MB 3. The area between these proposed Period 4 buildings and MB 3 was composed of spreads of compacted gravels, forming yards, hard-standings and small paths.

The latest Period 4 contexts in the area to the south of MB 3 comprise make-ups associated, in particular, with the construction of Late Roman Building 1 and reported as Phase 1 in *Life and Labour* (Fulford *et al.* 2006, 18–19). These contexts included a range of occupational material, including a quantity of iron-smelting and iron-forging slags (Tootell, below, Ch. 11).