SECTION 1

THE SITE

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

By Michael Fulford

Between 1980 and 1986 excavation beneath the floor and make-ups of the Roman early second-century forum basilica revealed for the first time the Iron Age occupation which preceded the Roman conquest of A.D. 43–4 and the subsequent development of the Roman town of Calleva Atrebatum (Fulford and Timby 2000). The area exposed was relatively limited, only some 1200 m^2, but it did allow a preliminary characterisation of the late Iron Age occupation. There was evidence for both round and rectangular buildings and, significant in terms of possible urban characteristics, for elements of what might be described as a rectilinear street grid, partly metalled, dating from the end of the first century B.C. The material culture was dominated by pottery which included a substantial proportion of imported wares, notably from Central and North Gaul, but with imports, notably amphorae, of Mediterranean and South Spanish origin as well, while there were also important faunal and botanical assemblages. There was considerable evidence for metal-working in precious metals, copper alloy and iron, represented by a wide variety of mould and crucible fragments. Together, these finds assemblages indicated a settlement with regional, southern British, as well as continental connections which most closely resembled other late Iron Age territorial *oppida* or nucleated settlements in south-east England, most notably Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull 1947), Verulamium (Stead and Rigby 1989) and Braughing-Puckeridge (Skeleton Green) (Partridge 1981). The distinctiveness of architecture, layout, material culture and evidence of diet compared with that from other contemporary settlements in the south of England suggested a planted settlement with particularly close ties to northern Gaul (Fulford and Timby 2000, 545–64).

It was argued that the earliest phase (Period 1) of occupation at the forum basilica site dated from *c.* 25 B.C., with the planned layout following from *c.* 15 B.C. (Period 2). A third period was defined, beginning just before the Roman conquest, *c.* A.D. 40 and continuing to *c.* A.D. 50–60, overlapping with the first certain phase of Roman building from the later A.D. 40s (Period 4). The construction of the courtyard building on a north–south/east–west orientation and overlying the Iron Age layout marked the first of three phases of Roman military or public building, the last of which (Period 6) was the construction of the masonry forum basilica of Hadrianic-Antonine date. Although there was evidence from internal pit-digging with which to characterise the late Roman occupation of the basilica (Period 7), there was little in the way of rubbish associated with the building sequence between the end of Period 4 (late first century A.D.) and the late third century.

Since the publication of the forum basilica excavation in *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester* (Fulford and Timby 2000), the results of that work, specifically in relation to the pre-Roman conquest phase, have been integrated into a wider study of Wessex in the first millennium B.C. (Sharples 2010, particularly ch. 3), where the location of Silchester at the border between the chalkland communities to the west and off-chalk areas to the east and south is seen as fundamental to its development (cf. Cunliffe 2012). The distinctive character of the settlement, its plan and constituent rectangular buildings, and the associated finds evidence, particularly of the ceramic and metal-working assemblages, as well as of the faunal remains, are contextualised by Sharples in relation to the later Iron Age of southern England. The artefact assemblages have been the focus of a series of papers by Martin Pitts where comparative analyses of the pottery and brooch assemblages from the late Iron Age and the earliest (Period 3) Roman phases

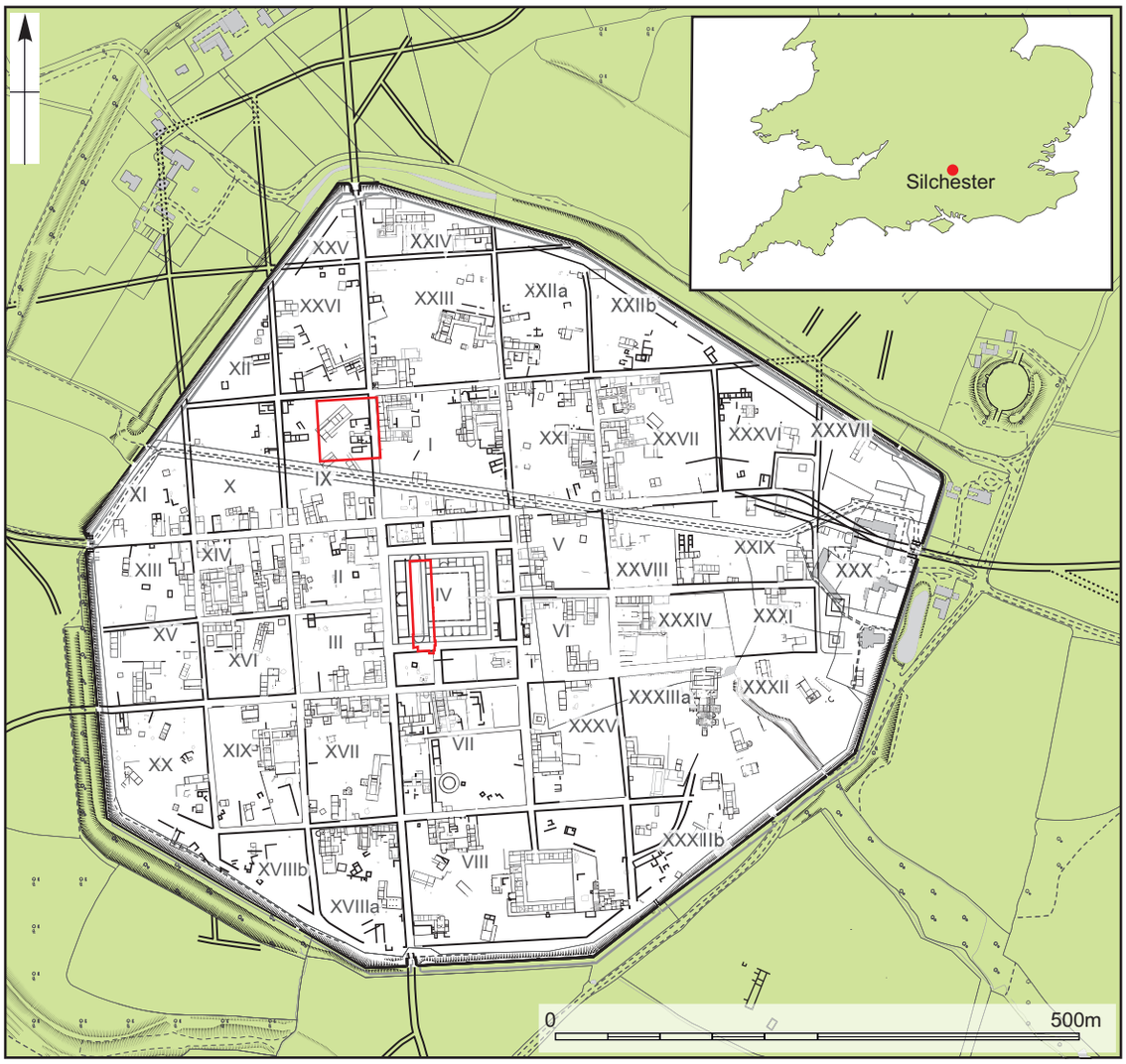

FIG. 1. Location plan. The excavation trenches in Insula IX and the forum basilica are outlined in red (after Creighton with Fry 2016, foldout).

have been undertaken as a contribution towards the characterisation of the beginnings of urban communities in southern Britain (Pitts 2010; 2014; Pitts and Perring 2006).

For others chronology has been an issue with, on the one hand, debate as to what can be attributed to the pre-Roman conquest settlement (Creighton 2006, 64–8; Creighton with Fry 2016, 339–56); on the other, what can be explained by military occupation at the time of the conquest (ibid., 2016, 357–68; Swan 2009, 56–8). As we will see, while the excavation of Insula IX has done much to clarify some of these contested issues, there still remains great difficulty in trying to draw clear lines between what is or is not pre-conquest Iron Age as opposed to post-conquest Roman, or, with regard to the military debate, what is Roman as opposed to British or Callevan military (p. 382).

The excavation in Insula IX (The Town Life Project), begun in 1997, presented the potential to explore a larger area of some 3025 m^2, about 2.5 times the area of the basilica, within the defended core of the *oppidum* (FIG. 6). While this area amounts to about 0.9 per cent of the 32.5 ha enclosed by the Inner Earthwork, when combined with that of the basilica excavation, the total excavated area within the defended core of the Iron Age *oppidum*, at about 0.4 ha, amounts to some 1.2 per cent of the whole. Although it was clear from the earliest seasons that the foundations, pits and wells of the Roman town had penetrated into the underlying natural

FIG. 2. The excavations at Insula IX and the forum basilica revealing the Iron Age lanes (after Creighton with Fry 2016, fig. 11.1).

gravel and destroyed earlier occupation, the Victorian trenching had, fortunately, not reached down to the earliest occupation. Thus, it appeared likely that considerable areas of pre-Roman occupation remained undisturbed and this did indeed prove to be the case when the earliest occupation was gradually revealed over the last seven seasons of fieldwork, from 2008 to 2014. In order to explore the history of the town from beginning to end, one of the reasons for choosing Insula IX was that it was not occupied by large Roman public buildings from which few rubbish deposits might be expected. Rather, the domestic character of the buildings reported by the Victorian excavators in Insula IX lent support to the expectation that there would be more evidence with which to characterise the occupation of the town from its late Iron Age origins to its post-Roman abandonment. This, too, with some qualification with regard to the consistency of rubbish deposition through the Roman period, has also proved to be the case. For the late Iron Age, the two areas excavated within the defended core of Calleva, separated by a distance of only some 150 m, also offered the prospect of comparative spatial analysis of buildings and layout and also of the finds assemblages.

METHODOLOGIES

Between the early 1980s, when the excavation of the forum basilica took place, and the excavation of Insula IX new methodologies, including more rigorous approaches to environmental sampling, have been developed and applied. Particularly relevant for the excavation of Insula IX are the applications of sampling for geochemical and micromorphological analysis (Banerjea, Ch. 23; Cook, Ch. 22), neither of which were used in the excavation of the forum basilica. Samples were also taken experimentally for phytolith analysis and are reported in Chapter 20. Unlike at the forum basilica, insect remains were recovered from both waterlogged wells at Insula IX and are reported in Chapter 16. Both in number and size, samples taken for the recovery of botanical remains by flotation and by wet-sieving for bird, fish and small mammal remains, as well as for cultural materials, including microscopic iron-working residues, have increased substantially since the 1980s with the policy of sampling 'buckets of approximately three litres' (Jones 2000, 506). We do not have a record of all the samples taken at the forum basilica site, but, as an indication, the number of contexts with seeds reported on by Jones only totals 14 for Periods 1 and 2 (ibid., table 103). For the late Iron Age (Period 0) some 670 samples were processed from Insula IX, each, wherever possible, of 40 litres, but probably averaging about 20 litres. Altogether this amounts to over 13,000 litres of soil which were processed by flotation and wet-sieving. Given this volume, absence or scarcity of those kinds of find typically recovered by flotation and wet-sieving, such as fishbone or non-galliform types of bird bone, become significant. Equally this sampling strategy ensured the recovery of many small artefacts, especially ceramics, but also including hobnails, very small fragments of glass and the occasional coin. By contrast, given the smaller number and size of samples from the forum basilica, an absence there of hobnails, for example, cannot be considered significant.

THE PERIODS

The dating of the sequence of occupation in Insula IX remains, with some slight modification, much as it was when established with the publication of 'The Development of an Urban Property' (Clarke *et al.* 2007; cf. Fulford and Clarke 2011, 9). However, with the emergence of the pre-conquest occupation after 2008, a sixth period of occupation, Period 0 was identified. Initially it was assumed that Period 0 coincided with the dating of Periods 1 and 2 (*c.* 25 B.C.–A.D. 40–50) at the forum basilica (Fulford and Timby 2000, 8–37), but, as will be seen in Chapter 2, there is little hard evidence to date the start of occupation at Insula IX before about 10 B.C. This in turn may require re-assessment of the start date of Period 1 at the forum basilica. Although we can break down elements of the Period 0 occupation at Insula IX into three phases, which might be broadly equated with Periods 1–3 at the forum basilica, these cannot be applied across the whole of the excavated area of Insula IX. The main difference between what has been included as pre-Roman occupation of Insula IX compared with the forum basilica is the decision to

FIG. 3. Composite aerial photograph of the trench from the final two seasons, 2013 and 2014, north at the top.

report the Claudio-Neronian (Period 1) occupation (= forum basilica Period 3) in a separate volume. However, as will be seen in Chapter 2, in light of post-excavation analysis, certain pit groups and structures attributed to Period 0, Phase 3 at Insula IX could well belong to the start of the post-conquest, Period 1 occupation. As is discussed further in Chapter 2, the decision to make a division between pre- and post-conquest occupation is somewhat arbitrary and this volume can reasonably be seen as reporting part one of a late Iron Age occupation where the more significant structural break in the Insula IX sequence occurs in the Flavian period. Since occasional reference is made in this volume to later periods of occupation at Insula IX, all are listed below. With post-excavation analysis yet to be completed for Periods 1 and 2, the dates for the end of Period 1/start of Period 2 remain provisional.

Insula IX
Period 0 (*c.* 10 B.C.–*c.* A.D. 45/50)
Period 1 (*c.* A.D. 43–4–*c.* A.D. 80)
Period 2 (*c.* A.D. 80–*c.* A.D. 125–50)
Period 3 (*c.* A.D. 125–50–*c.* A.D. 200)
Period 4 (*c.* A.D. 200–*c.* A.D. 250–300)
Late Roman (*c.* A.D. 300–*c.* A.D. 400–500)

Forum basilica
Periods 1 and 2
Periods 3 and 4

CHAPTER 2

THE EXCAVATION

By Michael Fulford, Amanda Clarke and Nicholas Pankhurst
with a contribution by Lisa Lodwick

INTRODUCTION

To a very large extent there is continuity in the occupation excavated within Roman Insula IX from the earliest settlement evidence of the late Iron Age, our Period 0, through to the end of the pre-Flavian occupation, our Period 1, when there is a break, clear across much of the excavated area, in the sequence. The significant changes which separate the first two periods are the laying out of the north–south street on the east side of the trench and the development of buildings, particularly the predecessors of Period 2 Early Roman Timber Building 8, in the south-east quarter of the trench, on the street frontage (Fulford and Clarke 2009, 8–11; Booth 2010, 399–401, figs 15–16). Whether the east–west street, which provides the northern limit to the trench, is attributable to Period 1 will be discussed in the next volume. For the rest of the trench there appears to be an unbroken developmental sequence from *c.* 10 B.C. through to the 60s or 70s of the first century A.D.

Why then create what seems to be an artificial division between the archaeology of pre- and post-A.D. 43–4? There are two reasons: the sheer volume and complexity of the pre-Flavian archaeology, including that of the late Iron Age, and the direct and indirect evidence for a Roman military intervention at the time of the conquest of southern England which, as far as Calleva is concerned, is likely to have been from the first years, A.D. 43–4. Even if Roman military control was short-lived, it set in train lasting change within the *oppidum*, evidenced first by the laying out of a new street-grid system which overlay that of the Iron Age. In our excavation this is represented by the early (*c.* A.D. 44–9) construction of the north–south street; in the forum basilica excavation by the construction of a major building oriented on the cardinal points and of similar date (Fulford and Timby 2000, 37–44). Both the military phase at Calleva and the Claudio-Neronian occupation will be described, analysed and discussed together in the next, the fourth volume of the Silchester Town Life Project monograph series.

Nevertheless, the lack of many areas within the excavation trench with clear closure of the pre-conquest archaeology presents two significant areas of complexity in relation to the definition of the late Iron Age (Period 0) occupation prior to the Roman conquest of A.D. 43–4, both of which require comment and explanation. One is related to the process of excavation, the second to the difficulty of establishing chronologies on a site where there is no clean, site-wide break between the pre- and post-A.D. 43–4 occupation.

Elements of the late Iron Age, pre-A.D. 43–4 occupation were defined almost exclusively as negative features dug through, or presumed to have been dug through, the soil horizon which sealed the natural, the Silchester Gravels. There are few, if any, surfaces, such as gravel spreads or clay floors, overlying this soil horizon to which a late Iron Age date can be assigned. Systematic recognition of cut features where the fills were almost indistinguishable from the soil through which they were cut was difficult. Only after removal of the overlying soil horizon was it possible to be certain that all features cut into the natural gravels had been identified and then excavated. Nevertheless, other factors, such as excessively wet or dry conditions, mitigated the recognition of these cut features. Moreover, there was no clear, site-wide, stratigraphic break between occupation potentially earlier than the Roman conquest and that which followed and cut features

of the immediate post-conquest period, our Period 1, occupation were also cut through the same soil horizon as the earlier occupation. Where relationships could not be distinguished on the basis of horizontal stratigraphy, relative chronologies could only, potentially, be established from the associated datable material culture. Inevitably, small cut features with few finds have been difficult or impossible to date with confidence.

A further, consistent difficulty throughout was distinguishing between secondary contexts which had slumped into a feature — ditch, pit, post-hole, well — and those which related to the primary cut and its associated fills. Some of the secondary fills were deposited years, perhaps decades, after the initial use or abandonment of a feature, but, through consolidation, contexts had slumped below the level from which the feature had been cut in the first place. This problem arose particularly with the deeper features like wells and pits, which were completely excavated in continuous session, with post-excavation analysis of the associated finds being the only reliable way of distinguishing between primary and secondary fills. For those deeper cut features, such as wells and pits generally, it has been possible to distinguish between primary and secondary contexts and their associated finds assemblages. However, with gullies, post-holes, slots and other lesser cut features it has, for the most part, not been possible to make these distinctions. In many cases material much later than the date of the original cut had been introduced into the fill following the removal or decay of timbers. Thus we find that certain components of structures, which, on the grounds of their other spatial relationships, have been assigned to the late Iron Age period, may have secondary fills which contain material of the later, Claudio-Neronian period.

The excavation of Insula IX began in 1997 and the first feature which proved to be in origin of Iron Age date was the well (8328) sealed beneath the Roman east–west street in the north-west corner of the trench, its upper contexts comprising gravels dumped as part of the construction of the street. Excavation was completed as part of a partial excavation of the street as early as the twelfth season in 2008. More and more of the Iron Age and earliest Roman, pre-Flavian plan emerged over the following six seasons to 2014, with the last archaeology to be completed in the eastern half of the trench in 2013–14, including beneath the two Roman streets which framed the north and east sides of the trench.

Just as there is no clear distinction between pre- and post-Roman conquest archaeology in terms of the stratigraphy, so, too, there are few clear differences in the material culture, where we are almost entirely reliant on the pottery for making the distinction between Period 0 and Period 1 contexts. While there are, of course, distinctive artefacts such as coins and brooches to which a pre-A.D. 43 date can be assigned, these are rare. Indeed, although the excavation has produced several Roman coins which were minted before A.D. 43, none was stratified in a Period 0 context. Pottery, on the other hand, is ubiquitous and abundant. Dr Jane Timby has spot-dated all the contexts excavated since, and including, 2009, which, with Well 8328 excavated in 2008, includes all the pre-Roman conquest occupation and the vast majority of that of Claudio-Neronian, Period 1 date.

It had already been established in the analysis of the pottery present in the earliest phases of the Silchester forum basilica excavation that many of the wares present in the pre-Roman conquest period continued through the Claudio-Neronian period (Timby 2000a). This is particularly true of the commoner coarse wares such as the grog-tempered and flint-tempered (Silchester) wares, sometimes the only pottery to be found in the smaller cut features. On the other hand, early imported Italian or Gaulish sigillata (arretine-type wares) can be more closely dated within the overall timespan of the later first century B.C. and the first half of the first century A.D., specifically as late Augustan, Augusto-Tiberian and Tiberio-Claudian. In the case of other imported wares such as Dressel 1 and other types of amphorae, but also certain Central and North Gaulish wares, chronologies are less closely defined. In some of these cases there can be more confidence over the approximate start dates of their production than of their end. Where these imported wares have been identified and where wares of known later date were absent, a pre-Roman conquest date has been assigned to the relevant context or cut feature. As a result, in the initial phasing of the archaeology of Insula IX and before detailed study was made of the sigillata, it was not possible to go beyond a simple division of pre- or post-conquest, i.e. post the early A.D. 40s, or to assign more refined dates to the individual phases of the pre-conquest Iron Age identified on stratigraphic

grounds. On the basis of the spot-dating there were no grounds for dating occupation any earlier than *c.* 20 B.C., just as was argued for the forum basilica (Fulford and Timby 2000, 12–16; Timby, Ch. 8). This start date is discussed and revised upwards (below, p. 374).

Imports also play a role in distinguishing Claudio-Neronian from late Iron Age contexts and South Gaulish sigillata, when it can be confidently dated to the Claudian or later periods, is obviously helpful, but there is little of it and most of it is plain ware. The presence of certain mortaria and pre-Flavian colour-coated wares, such as Lyon ware, has been taken as indicative of a post-conquest date, but these, also, are not common, and on the Continent their start dates are generally considered to pre-date the 40s. In southern England, however, a distinctive suite of wares, including South Gaulish sigillata, Lyon (and other) colour-coated wares and certain amphorae, notably South Spanish Dressel 20s, as well as imported or possibly regionally produced mortaria and flagons, is particularly associated with the invading Roman army of the 40s and 50s (cf. Pitts 2014). However, because of earlier start dates across the Channel, the possibility of some pre-A.D. 43 importation of these wares into southern England cannot be ruled out.

The lack of certainty over confidently distinguishing between pre- and post-A.D. 43–4 imported wares is mirrored by the uncertain chronology of the locally or regionally produced pottery of southern England. Although we cannot be certain when Alice Holt reduced wares began to be produced — and there is every reason to suppose a pre-A.D. 43 start — in her initial spot-dating Timby judged that a significant rate of deposition was more likely to begin post-conquest. She also thought this to be true of certain southern British fine wares, particularly those in the Abingdon-style or Chichester tradition; they could well begin pre-A.D. 43, but deposition is more likely to be post-conquest. The greater the incidence in number and variety, the more confident can be a post-conquest dating.

After the initial spot-dating of the pottery had identified the probable extent of the pre-conquest archaeology, the detailed analysis of all the finds was undertaken. In the case of the pottery, the incidence and association of both Alice Holt-type wares and the Abingdon-style wares confirmed pre-conquest start dates, but from when is not yet clear (Timby, p. 203). An early first century A.D., probably in the second quarter, rather than a late first century B.C. start seems probable, but, on their own, these wares remain problematic for distinguishing between pre- and post-conquest contexts.

Refining dating within the pre-conquest period relies heavily on the arretine and on brooches with well-defined *termini post quos*. Bird notes (p. 214) the absence of radial-stamping on the arretine from Silchester and elsewhere in Britain which, with the dating assigned to the decorated ware, points to importation of these wares no earlier than *c.* 10 B.C. (later Augusto-Tiberian). Where sherds of this date occur in Insula IX they are as likely to be residual as in-period with only ten pits from eight of the fourteen pit groups producing sherds of arretine no later than 'later Augusto-Tiberian'. Although Central Gaulish wares could have been imported from as early as 25/20 B.C. (Timby, p. 210), there are no contexts where these occur without later material and their trade continued into the early first century A.D. Only the few sherds of Dressel 1 amphora and a couple of brooches have date ranges which end in the later first century B.C., with the implication that they might have arrived at Silchester before 10 B.C. Even the potentially earliest contexts from Insula IX, the primary fills of Ditch 11631, produced a handle from a Dressel 2-4 amphora, also not necessarily earlier than *c.* 10 B.C.

Some of the finds reported by Crummy (Ch. 6; comprehensively listed in Appendix 1) also possibly complicate the question as to when occupation or trade or other contacts with the Continent began. She notes that, while across the Channel certain artefact types are documented from the later first century B.C., this is not necessarily the case in Britain. In particular, she questions whether hobnails and some brooch types could have arrived before the Roman army of conquest in A.D. 43. However, there is no reason to treat these finds differently from other finds, particularly pottery, which have clear pre-A.D. 43 start dates across the Channel and, in the case of the hobnails, these are present in some numbers in contexts which are otherwise clearly pre-conquest in date.

To conclude, there are three significant issues with regard to defining the pre-A.D. 43 archaeology of Insula IX. The first is the impact of slumped fills into cut features accumulating definite post-conquest (Period 1) finds, which has limited the number of pristine pre-conquest contexts; the

second is the difficulty of identifying a clear boundary between pre- and post-conquest (A.D. 43–4) contexts. In this situation it is also possible for smaller negative features such as small pits, post-holes, beam slots and gullies to have been cut in the pre-conquest Iron Age but only have later pottery in their (upper) fills. Third, if we use the date of arretine ware as an indicator, the earliest occupation in Insula IX may date from as late as *c.* 10 B.C. This resonates with Haselgrove's observation (below, p. 84) that over half of the coin losses from Insula IX date to Coin Phase 8 (*c.* A.D. 10–40), whereas, at the forum basilica, coin numbers are highest in Coin Phase 7 (*c.* 20 B.C.–A.D. 10).

LATER NEOLITHIC

Just as there is little artefactual evidence for activity predating the Iron Age at Silchester in Insula IX (Ch. 3), there is little other archaeological evidence. However, a later Neolithic radiocarbon date of 2570–2340 cal B.C. (Barnett, below, p. 318) from a small pit, 16630 (FIG. 4), raises the possibility of a similar date for other pits with similar characteristics and thus a phase of wider tree clearance in the later Neolithic.

Pit 16630 was irregular in plan, measuring 1.85 m by 0.50 m with a depth of 0.70 m. The

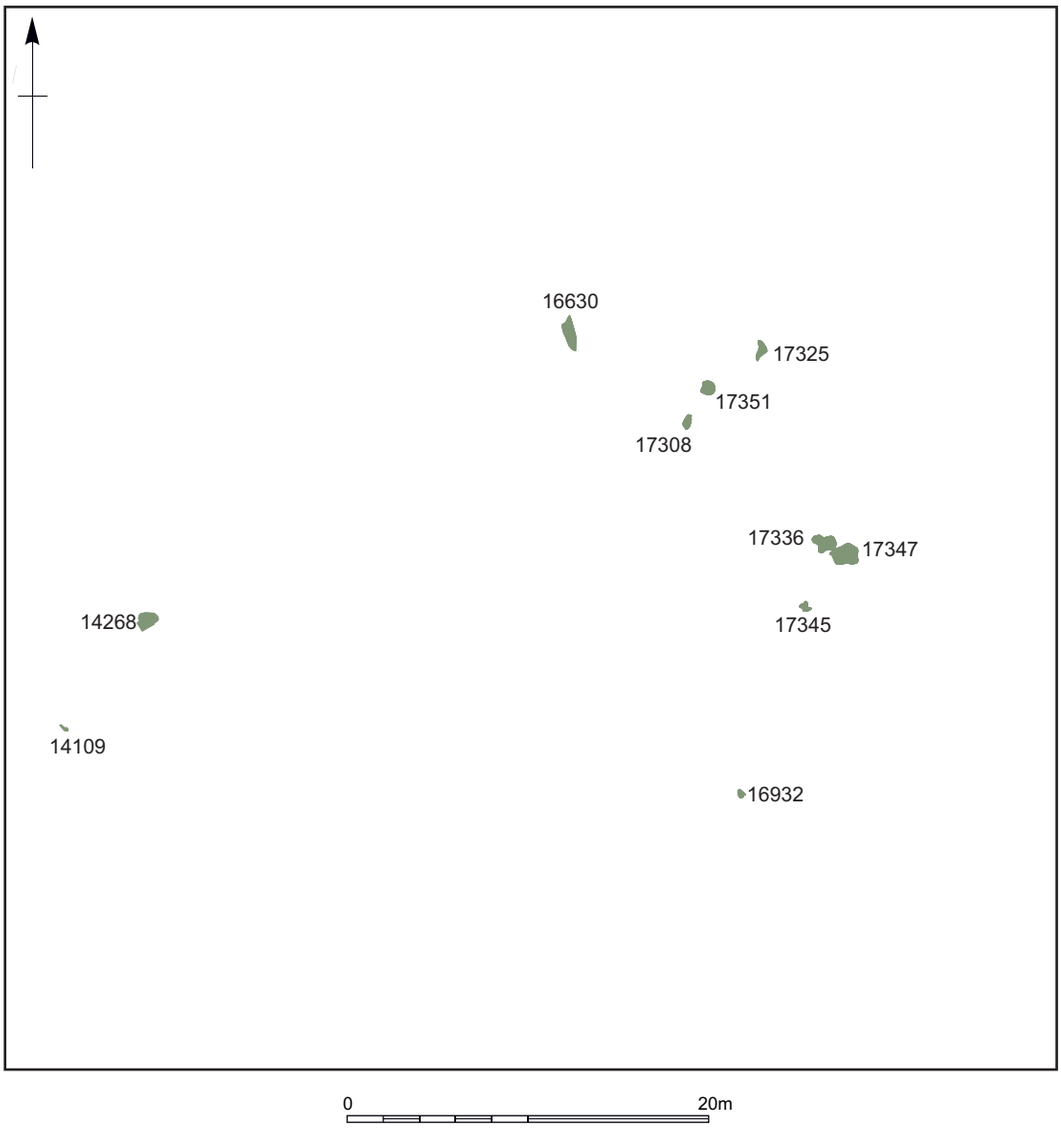

FIG. 4. The distribution of later prehistoric tree-throw pits.

basal fill (15685) was a charcoal-rich silt, sealed by an inclusion-free clay (16631). The date was derived from oak sapwood from a single species assemblage.

A further nine irregularly-shaped hollows were excavated across the trench, with a concentration towards the eastern limit of the trench (FIG. 4). They varied in size with surface dimensions ranging between 0.4 m and 1.8 m and depths of between 0.1 m and 0.7 m. They contained varying concentrations of gravel and charcoal with the only finds recorded from the upper, possibly slumped fill of 14268. These comprised some pottery sherds, fragments of ceramic building material, indicating a Period 1 date, and a copper-alloy ring (SF 7008).

PERIOD 0 (*c.* 10 B.C.–*c.* A.D. 43–4): ESTABLISHING THE SEQUENCE

FIG. 5 presents a plan of all cut features to which a pre-A.D. 43 date has been assigned. What is immediately striking is the orientation of the vast majority of post-hole, gully and slot alignments — north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west — and, in the case of sub-divisions of the space defined by the two arms of enclosing Trackways 1 and 2, the rectilinearity of the

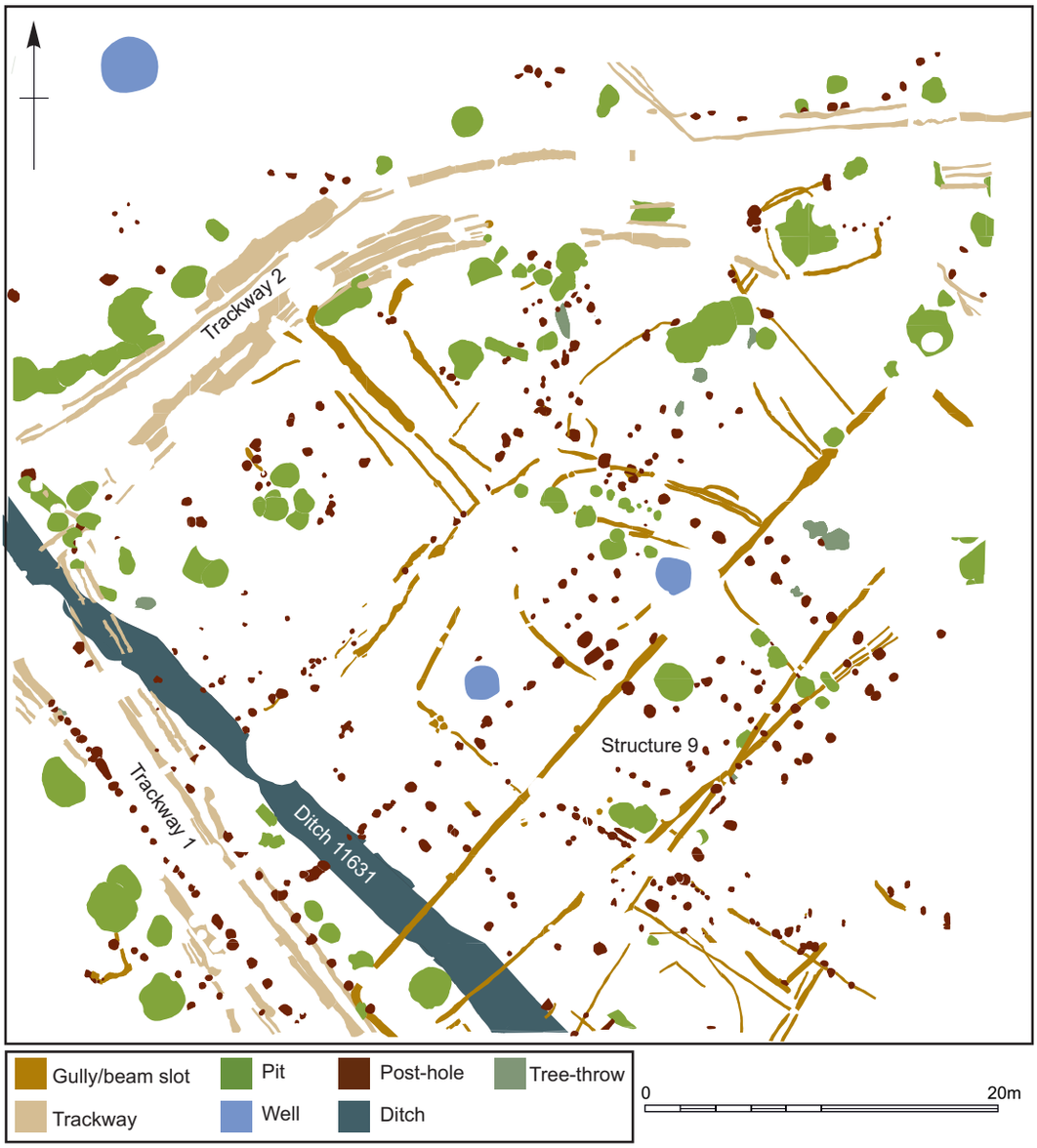

FIG. 5. Period 0: all negative features.

arrangements. While there may be few perfect right angles evident in the overall layout, there are, by contrast, no completely circular groupings of post-holes or beam slots. At best one or two structures might be described as sub-circular.

In helping to establish the sequence and development of the pre-conquest occupation, an important cut feature is a V-profiled ditch (cut 11631) oriented north-west/south-east in the western half of the trench. While there are undoubted earlier prehistoric features, such as isolated small pits or post-holes, among which is the tree-throw Pit 16630 with a late Neolithic radiocarbon date (pp. 11–12), as well as isolated late Iron Age pits and post-holes, Ditch 11631 is our earliest significant late Iron Age feature, which divides the excavated area into two, the larger extending to its east (FIG. 7). This ditch, whose filling took place after *c.* 10 B.C., is partly overlain by the course of Trackway 1, defined initially by continuous parallel slots, and running slightly obliquely to the line of the ditch, but still on a north-west/south-east alignment. At right angles to it, but then curving away to the east at a distance from the junction is Trackway 2, also defined initially by continuous parallel slots. That the slots which define Trackway 1 do not cut across the line of Trackway 2 indicates their contemporaneity, part, perhaps, of a wider division of space across the larger area to be settled. It should be noted that Trackway 1 aligns with the northern of the two metalled streets identified beneath the forum basilica in the 1980s (Fulford and Timby 2000, fig. 6, 26–9; Creighton with Fry 2016, fig. 11.1). The evidence from Insula IX thus gives further credence to the idea of an extensive planning of Calleva at this time (Fulford and Timby 2000, 545–7) (FIG. 6). A cluster of pits (Group 2), which Timby (p. 186) considers to be among the earliest of the Period 0 pit groups, contemporary with the main fill of Ditch 11631, underlies the junction of the two trackways, strengthening the case for their attribution to Period 0 (FIG. 7, below, p. 20). Trackway 2 also serves to define a third plot or compound in the north-west of the excavated area. Between them the two trackways appear to act as the points of origin of a number of structures — post-hole alignments, possible buildings and slots, set out more or less at right angles to them. In particular, at the southern end of Trackway 1, the beam slots associated with Structure 9 (p. 23) and the post-holes of its successor, Structure 10 (p. 30), are later than the ditch, which had largely filled by the time the former was constructed. These relationships therefore serve to define the following sequence: Ditch 11631 and Pit Group 2 at its northern end (Phase 1), followed by Trackways 1 and 2 and Structure 9 (Phase 2); then Structure 10 (Phase 3). Careful cleaning of the surfaces of both trackways revealed no evidence of underlying occupation other than Pit Group 2. This suggests that little time elapsed between the excavation and initial filling of Ditch 11631 and the setting out of both trackways.

Although the evidence for them accounts for only a proportion of all the excavated features assigned to Period 0, we thus propose three late Iron Age phases before the Roman conquest of A.D. 43–4. However, for the great majority of our excavated features, the groups of pits and the structures between the trackways and the larger structures to the south of the excavated area, Structures 9 and 10, and any features that can clearly be associated with them, it is not possible to be confident of particular associations with either of or both Phases 2 and 3. Only the internal evidence of the finds themselves can help resolve the dating of these features and place them towards either the beginning or end of the pre-conquest occupation which, altogether, only spans some 50 years. The study of the pottery is helpful in this respect and Timby (below, p. 204) suggests a tentative distinction between an earlier and a later grouping of pit clusters.

While there is a reasonably secure *terminus post quem* of *c.* 10 B.C. for the start of the occupation, it is more difficult to be confident how long after Ditch 11631 (Phase 1) was cut and began to silt, the trackways were laid out and Building 9 constructed (Phase 2). Equally it is hard to gauge how long Building 9 stood before it was replaced (Phase 3). Nevertheless, Insula IX Period 0, Phases 1–2 correspond approximately with Periods 1 and 2 at the forum basilica. Phase 3 (i.e. Structure 10) we see as broadly corresponding with the beginning of Period 3 (A.D. 40–60) at the forum basilica (Fulford and Timby 2000, 8–37).

PERIOD 0: ESTABLISHING BUILDINGS

Defining the footprints of individual buildings within the excavated area has been very

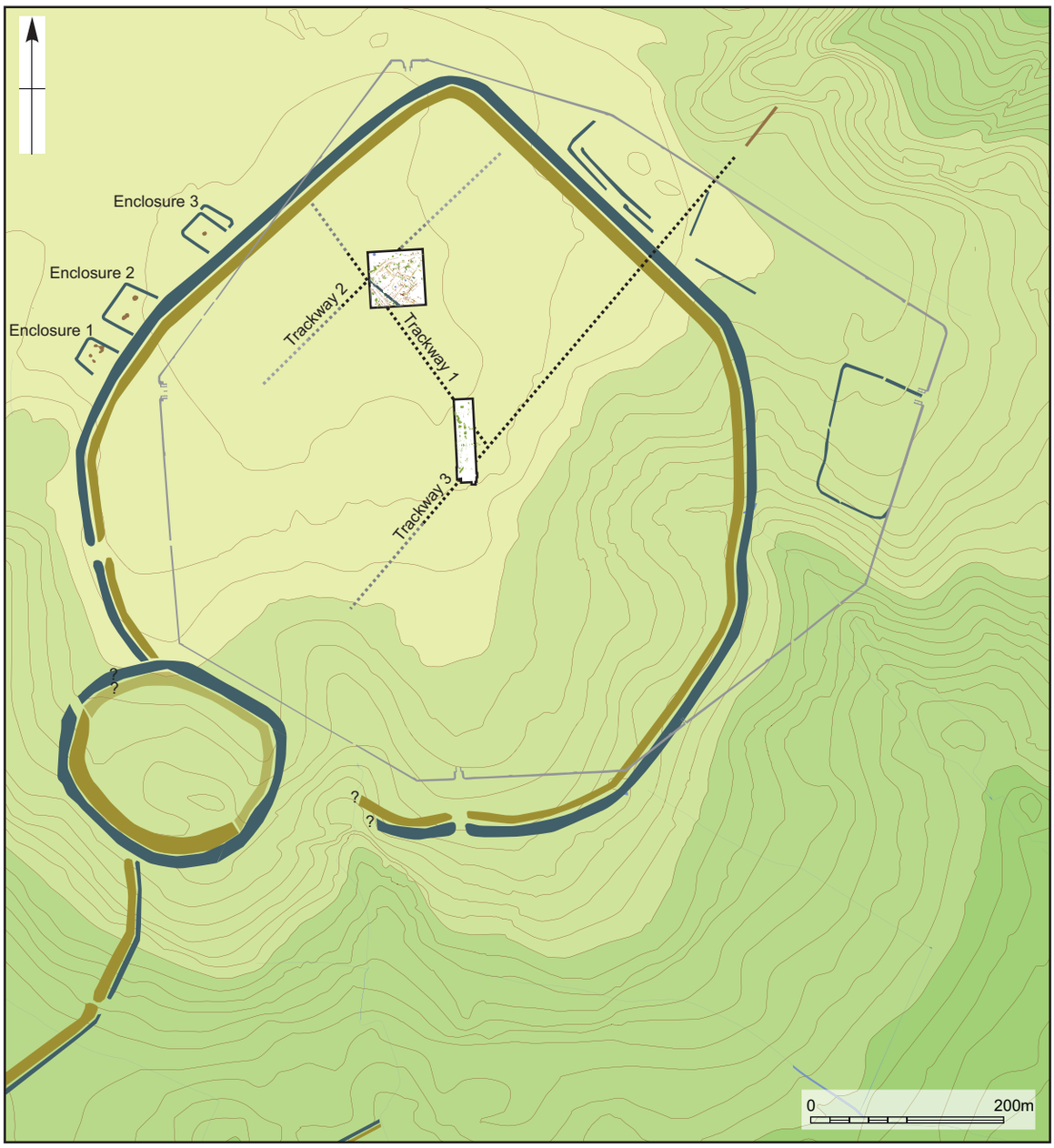

FIG. 6. Organisation of the Iron Age settlement: the evidence from Insula IX and the forum basilica in relation to earthworks (after Creighton with Fry 2016, fig. 13.1).

problematic and all those that have been proposed can be challenged for one reason or another. Incompleteness of plan through destruction by later interventions is the commonest issue, followed by inconsistency in the character (post-hole or beam slot), the dimensions and the spacing of the individual components of the structure in question. In the case of the larger structures which we have proposed as 'halls', our problems of definition are compounded by the lack of close parallels, both from within late Iron Age Britain and from the later Iron Age of the near-Continent of northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands. However, rectangular buildings of comparable scale to those proposed at Calleva can be paralleled in north-west Europe without difficulty (Bradley *et al.* 2016, 264–85). All our possible buildings of late Iron Age, Period 0 date are rectangular or sub-rectangular in plan.

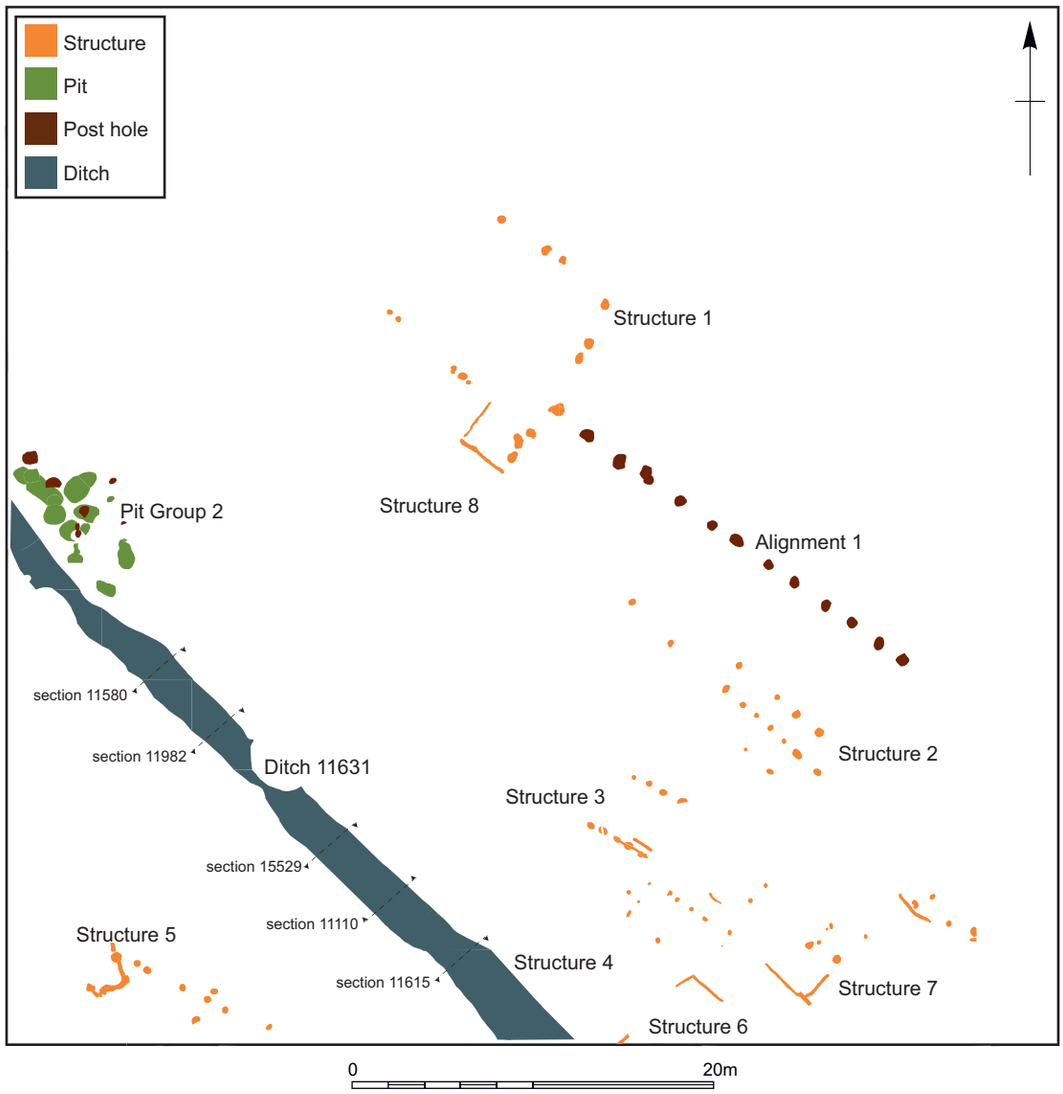

FIG. 7. Plan of Phase 1 (*c.* 10 B.C. to *c.* A.D. 10–20): Ditch 11631, Structures 1–8, Alignment 1 and Pit Group 2.

PHASE 1 (*c.* 10 B.C.–*c.* A.D. 10/20) (FIG. 7)

According to the stratigraphic record, the features and structures described in this Phase 1 section represent the earliest of the pre-conquest Iron Age occupation. However, each set of features is spatially distinct and so we cannot therefore be certain whether any or all are contemporary, or whether any pre- or post-date Ditch 11631.

Ditch 11631 (Object 500456) (FIGS 7 and 8)

We have established that Ditch 11631 and the adjacent cluster of pits (Group 2) are among the earliest cut features, at least in the western half of the trench. In fact, the cutting of this ditch is the first major event of the late Iron Age occupation recorded in Insula IX and its north-west/south-east orientation influences the layout of later trackways and structures until the Roman conquest and the construction of the north–south street.

Some 40 m of Ditch 11631 were excavated within the trench in multiple sections, each with a different cut number (FIG. 8). With a V-profile it was cut into gravel to a depth of 0.69 m, with a width at the ground level from which it was cut of *c.* 1.9 m. There are indications of an

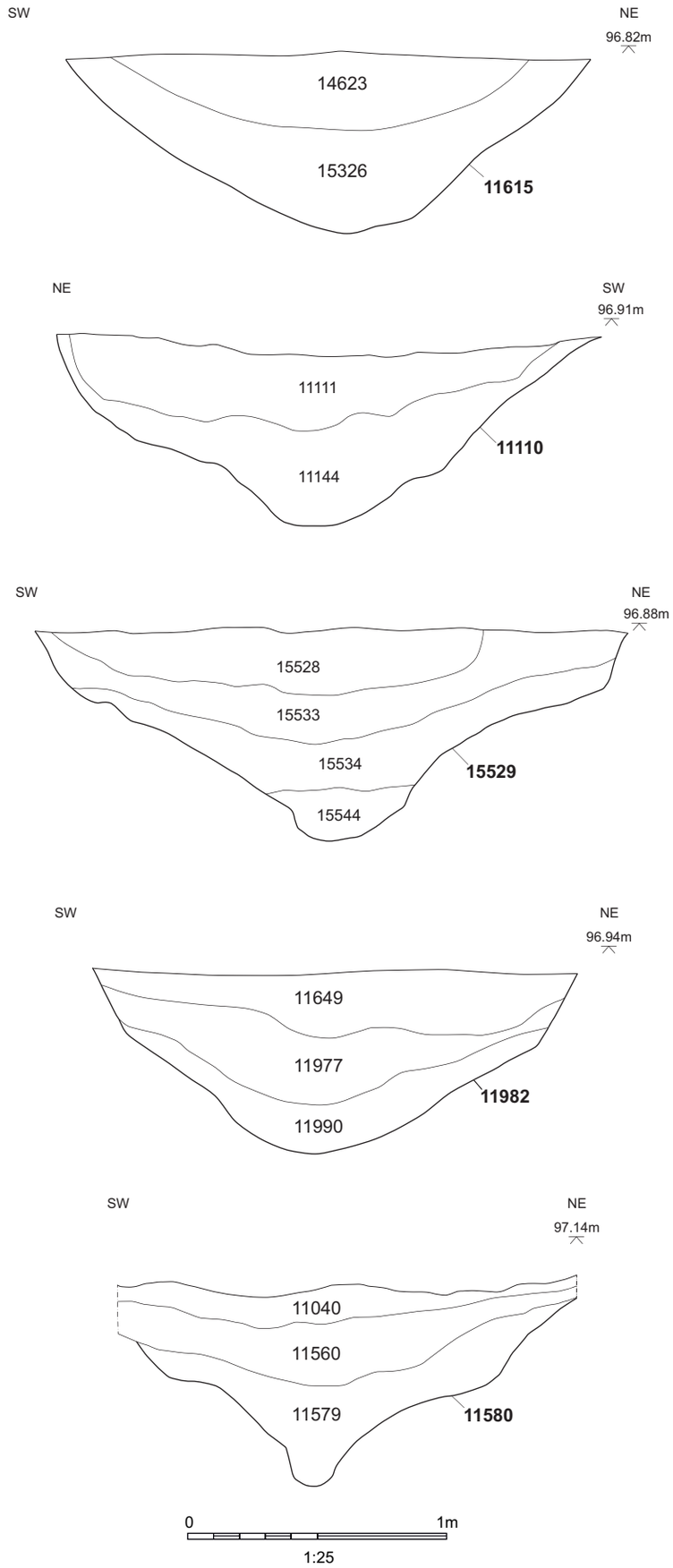

FIG. 8. Profiles of Ditch 11631.

'ankle-breaker' cut at the base of the ditch. The upper, secondary fill was of a loamy, charcoal-rich soil; the lower, primary fill was much more gravelly. Although the upper fill (11111) was excavated as a single context, the micromorphological analysis shows a more complex sequence of five separate fill events, including periods of both rapid, probably deliberate, infill and gentler sedimentation (Banerjea, below, p. 360). Finds are dominated by pottery, followed by animal bone. A small assemblage of small finds includes the earliest datable object from the excavation: a copper-alloy, Boss-on-bow brooch dating from 60–25/20 B.C. (Crummy, below, p. 116). Allen reports iron-making debris in the form of slag basins from both primary and secondary fills and a pellet of cuprous fuel-ash slag suggestive of copper or copper-alloy working from upper context 11111 (pp. 244, 247).

Ingrem comments on the high frequency of cattle bone from the ditch, also a feature of the adjacent Pit Group 2, suggesting that butchery may have taken place nearby (p. 273). Lodwick notes the incidence of barley and spelt grains and associated processing waste (p. 303). Along with Pit Groups 4 and 8, the ditch was a focus of deposition of charred plant remains (p. 308).

Timby notes that the primary and secondary fills of the ditch are dominated by grog-tempered wares, a distinguishing characteristic of the earliest assemblages from the forum basilica excavation and suggesting that filling of the ditch began no earlier than *c.* 20 B.C. (below, pp. 169, 202). However, as anticipated above, the presence of a Dressel 2–4 amphora handle in the small assemblage from the primary fill could argue for a date for it as late as 10 B.C. This would place its initial excavation a little later than Period 1 (dated from *c.* 25 B.C.) at the forum basilica (Fulford and Timby 2000, 12–14). In material which would otherwise be regarded by Timby as 'early' in terms of pre-conquest assemblages, the secondary and top fills also contain some South Gaulish samian of Tiberio-Claudian date, as well as a few clearly intrusive second-century sherds. Crummy also remarks on the incidence of hobnails from primary and secondary ditch fills, some of the latter probably post-conquest in date (p. 116). While the latter might be linked to later cuts, such as post-holes, not recognised during the excavation, the other 'later' material might suggest that the ditch, other than where it was sealed by Trackway 1, was still being filled in the A.D. 20s and 30s and that the two phases of gentler sedimentation observed by Banerjea may have happened over a number of years.

Other structures

Described below are several structures made up of alignments of post-holes. Some may represent the remains of buildings, others sub-divisions of space within the excavated area. The principal reasons for assigning them to Phase 1 are their stratigraphic context, which places them among the earliest features, and their shared orientation with Ditch 11631. However, it could be argued that the latter merely provides a *terminus post quem* and is coincidental since the north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west orientations remain a characteristic of the occupation through to the second century A.D. It should also be noted that some individual elements within these structures contain Claudio-Neronian sherds. This we interpret as a result of either later and intrusive activity, or later material filling the hollows created by the consolidation of earlier fills. They only provide a *terminus ante quem* for the date of the original constructions.

Alignment 1 (Object 500550) (FIG. 9)

Located to the north-east of Ditch 11631 are a series of post-hole alignments, some of which may represent the remains of buildings. Despite no direct stratigraphic link between Ditch 11631 and these alignments, their shared north-west/south-east orientation suggests contemporaneity.

Alignment 1 comprised a series of substantial post-holes extending over 23.9 m at a distance of 24 m from Ditch 11631. The post-holes ranged in diameter from 0.53 m to 0.80 m and in depth from 0.29 m to 0.56 m.

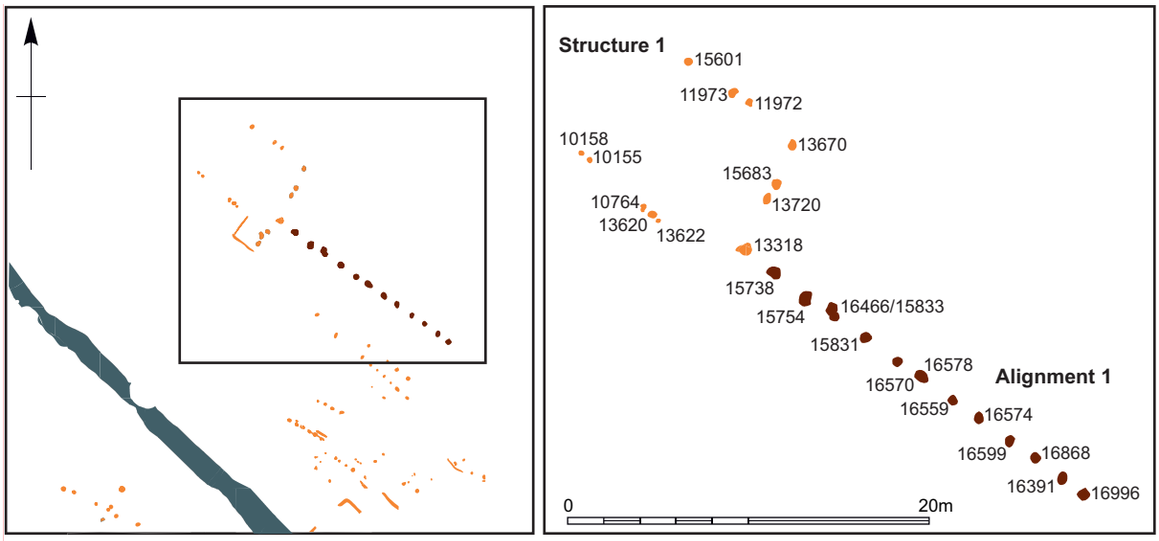

FIG. 9. Location and plan of Alignment 1 and Structure 1.

Structure 1 (Object 500550) (FIG. 9)

Structure 1 was located at the north-west end of Alignment 1. It comprised three rows of posts and enclosed an area of 9.9 m by 7.6 m. The post-holes averaged 0.20 m to 0.50 m in diameter and 0.20 m to 0.66 m in depth. Truncation by later pitting had removed any evidence of a fourth, north-west side to the building.

Structure 2 (Object 500550) (FIG. 10)

Almost parallel with and lying 5.20 m to the south of the southern end of Alignment 1 are parallel rows of post-holes that possibly formed a rectangular structure measuring 7.35 m by 2.35 m. The post-holes varied in diameter between 0.20 m and 0.78 m, suggesting posts averaging 0.30 m in diameter, and in depth between 0.12 m and 0.26 m. A further two, less substantial post-holes, measuring 0.18 m to 0.29 m in diameter and 0.10 m to 0.13 m in depth, are located 1.70 m to the south-west and may be connected with the structure.

Structures 3–5 (Object 500335) (FIG. 10)

To the south of Structure 2 are further alignments of post-holes and slots which may represent the remains of up to three more rectangular buildings. Their orientation is identical or very close to that of Ditch 11631 and this is the principal reason for assigning them to the same phase as the ditch. Equally, there is no reason why one or all of these structures could not pre-date Ditch 11631.

First, Structure 3, where parallel rows of post-holes suggest that we have the remains of a small rectangular building, measuring 5.3 m by 3.7 m, underlying Building 9 (and contained within its footprint) (FIG. 12). The post-holes vary in diameter between 0.21 m and 0.50 m, suggesting posts no more than *c.* 0.20 m in diameter, with depths of between 0.06 m and 0.25 m. There is no trace of end walls to this structure.

Another small rectangular, post-built structure, Structure 4, can be proposed immediately adjacent to Structure 3. It measured *c.* 5.30 m by 3.06 m, its post-holes varying in diameter between 0.12 m and 0.38 m, suggesting posts no more than *c.* 0.30 m in diameter, with depths of between 0.03 m and 0.42 m. The southern wall was less well-defined, consisting of shallower posts than those of the northern wall. The south-eastern extent was lost to truncation by Period 1 pitting and the foundation trench for the Period 2 chalk-and-flint Wall 14537.

Structure 5 was located some 9.50 m to the south of Ditch 11631 and was represented by one

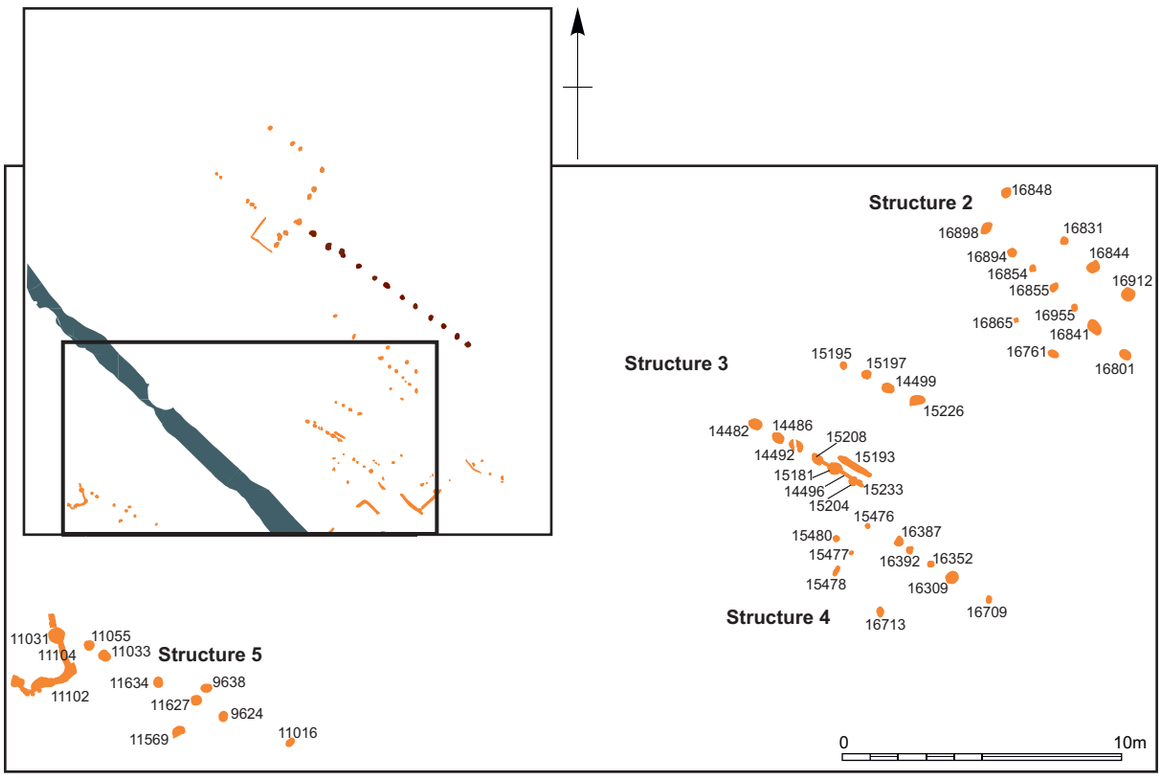

FIG. 10. Location and plan of Structures 2–5.

side only, defined by a series of north-west/south-east-aligned post-holes extending over 5.80 m in length. Its post-holes measured between 0.40 m and 0.58 m in diameter with depths between 0.11 m and 0.36 m. The orientation is very similar to that of Structures 3 and 4.

To the west of Structure 5 were a series of irregular trenches that possibly formed an earlier building occupying the same footprint as the post-built structure. Gullies 11102 and 11104 defined a possible north-west/south-east-aligned, sub-rectangular structure measuring 2.60 m by 2.14 m.

Structures 6–8 (Object 500559) (FIG. 11)

To the south of Structure 4 are two arrangements — severely truncated — of paired, shallow gullies, each at right angles to the other, which possibly define sub-rectangular Structures 6 and 7 with beam-slot foundations (FIG. 7).

Structure 6 was located directly to the south of Structure 4 and measured 3.40 m by 3.56 m, with slots between 0.14 m and 0.16 m in width and 0.06 m and 0.14 m in depth. Structure 7 lay 2.60 m to the north-east of Structure 6, with slots between 2.0 m and 3.10 m in length, 0.14 m and 0.10 m in width, and 0.10 m and 0.09 m in depth. A number of shallow post-holes and a shallow scoop-like feature located directly to the north may have defined further elements associated with this possible building, while, to the east, a cluster of posts and a single curvilinear gully (16419) perhaps also formed elements of Structure 7 or a further, poorly defined structure.

An alternative interpretation of Structures 6 and 7 is that they formed a single, north-east/south-west-aligned structure comprising at least two small rooms divided by a corridor, giving a total length of the surviving remains of 13.30 m and a width of 5.80 m.

Structure 8 was located 29 m to the north of Structures 6 and 7 and adjacent to Structure 1 and post-hole Alignment 1 (FIG. 7). Its slots measured between 2.41 m and 2.61 m in length and 0.16 m and 0.30 m in width, with depths between 0.10 m and 0.16 m.

Crummy (below, pp. 137–8) summarises the small finds from the above structures, noting the

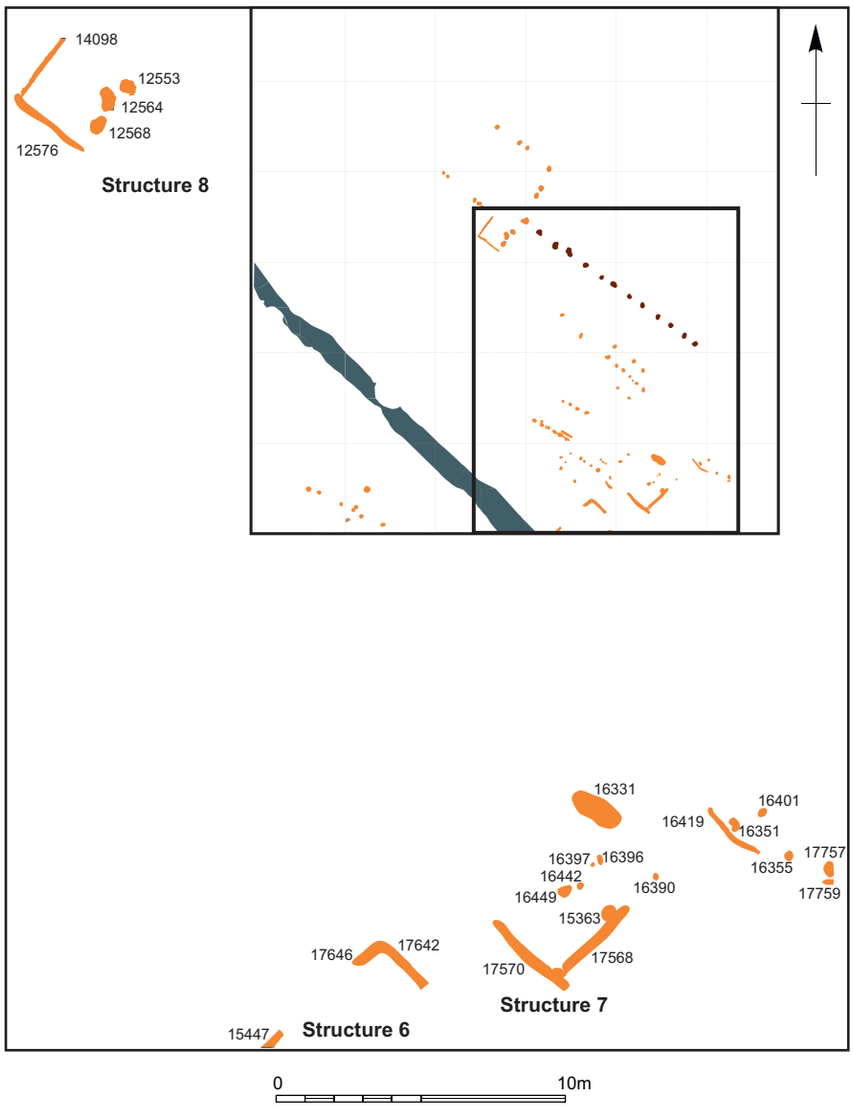

FIG. 11 Location and plan of Structures 6–8.

widespread incidence of hobnails, mostly from sieved samples, a few of which were also associated with Period 1, Claudio-Neronian pottery sherds. As noted, the excavated fills of the features concerned are subsequent to the dismantling and removal of the posts of the original structures.

PHASE 2 (*c.* A.D. 10–20–*c.* A.D. 40)

The second phase of the late Iron Age occupation sees the setting out of trackways and the construction of a major hall-like building (Structure 9) and associated enclosures. The trackways continued in use through the pre-conquest, pre-Flavian Period 1 and their orientation, and that of Structure 9, is reflected in the north-east/south-west orientation of the first phase of the House 1 sequence of the late first/early second century (Period 2; Clarke *et al.* 2007). By this time the trackways had ceased to function as such, but their role as property boundaries continued until the late third century (Fulford *et al.* 2006; Fulford and Clarke 2011).

Trackways 1 and 2 (Objects 500548 and 500549) (FIG. 12)

Aligned north-west/south-east and partly overlying Ditch 11631, Trackway 1 was flanked on

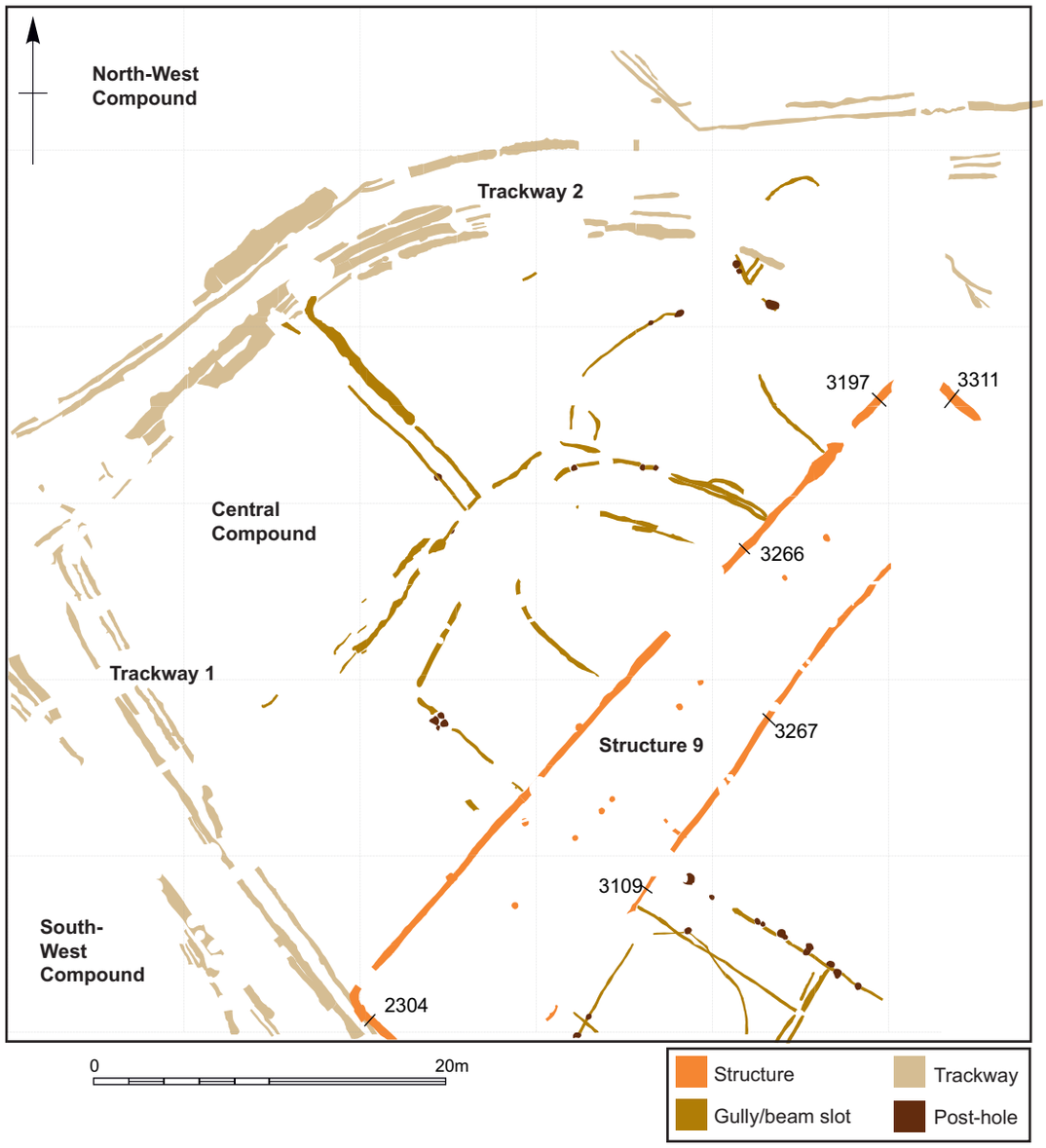

FIG. 12. Plan of Phase 2 (*c.* A.D. 10–20 to *c.* A.D. 40): trackways, Structure 9 and dependent enclosures.

both sides by fences set initially in continuous shallow (*c.* 0.4 m deep) trenches, averaging 0.30 m in width and 2.80 m to 5.18 m apart, with evidence of up to four phases of re-cutting. The dating evidence is not refined enough to identify the pairing of fence lines at any one time. Thus, while the minimal width of the trackway was 2.8 m, and the maximum 5.18 m, it is likely that the working width lay somewhere in between. Later, and particularly associated with Period 1, the fence lines were defined by individual post-settings. They were cut by numerous later features, particularly those on the western side, which were heavily truncated by the foundation trenches of Period 3 Masonry Building 2.

Trackway 2 was laid out in the north-west quarter of the trench, initially running in a north-east direction at right angles to Trackway 1. At a distance of 24 m from the junction it bends to take an easterly direction. This trackway overlay Pit Group 2 close to its junction with Trackway 1. Like the latter it was flanked by shallow gullies and shallow trenches to support fences which give it a width of between 1.5 m and 3.8 m, though the working width is likely to be closer to the latter figure. The gullies and trenches became discontinuous and harder to define in the north-

east quarter of the trench, particularly on its southern side. On the north side there is evidence of a gap with a shallow slot indicating a spur leading off to the north-west, with Trackway 2 continuing to the east. There is also a possibility that the trackway divides beyond that point with one track turning to the south-east, the other continuing due east.

The surface of the trackways is that of the natural gravel with no evidence of any further surfacing or metalling. There are, however, gravel surfaces of Period 1 date which sealed the trackway ditches, indicating post-conquest continuity of Trackways 1 and 2.

Crummy discusses the small finds from features associated with Trackways 1 and 2 (below, pp. 119–21), noting that they include brooches generally regarded as post-conquest as well as others which range in date into the post-conquest period. Period 1, Claudio-Neronian pottery was also present in several of the contexts. Together, this evidence serves to underscore the continuity of use of the trackways and their flanking fences into the post-conquest period.

Not surprisingly, given the continuity of their use through to at least the late first century A.D., it has proved difficult to distinguish a clear pre-conquest phase in the layout of the trackways. Ditch 11631 begins to intersect with the course of Trackway 1 towards the northern limit of its excavated extent, but it cannot be said to underlie the trackway, though the opposite is the case with Trackway 2 (FIG. 5). However, with the setting out of Trackway 1, Ditch 11631 became functionally redundant, although a significant length remained open and continued to receive rubbish for some time afterwards. Thus, although the abandonment of Ditch 11631 provides a *terminus post quem* for Trackway 1, the material filling it does not necessarily help in pinning down a date for it. Timby discusses the issues around the dating (below, pp. 172 and 203), suggesting that material was still being deposited in the secondary fills of the ditch well into the Tiberian period, while Crummy notes a brooch from these contexts which probably dates *c.* A.D. 10–40 (SF 6170; p. 119, FIG. 69.17). In assessing the dating, we should not overlook either the lack of evidence of occupation beneath both trackways, especially Trackway 1, or the relationship between Trackway 1 and Structure 9 which butts up against it (below, p. 23). However, Trackway 2 partly overlies Pit Group 2, whose pottery assemblage is seen to be closely comparable with those from the secondary fills of Ditch 11631 and therefore, in Timby's analysis, relatively early, equating with Deru's (1996) Horizon III (5/1 B.C.–A.D. 15/20) (below, Timby p. 204). What all of this suggests is that the origin of Trackway 1, closely followed by Trackway 2, probably dates to around the time of the secondary filling of Ditch 11631, which we would put around the first decade or two of the first century A.D. This is later than the date suggested for the laying out of what were described as 'streets' in the forum basilica excavation, the start of Period 2 from *c.* 15 B.C. (Fulford and Timby 2000, 12–14).

The Compounds (FIG. 12)

It can be seen that the setting out of Trackways 1 and 2 divided the excavated area into three enclosures or compounds, two of which are only represented by fragments, that to the north-west (The North-West Compound) and that to the south-west (The South-West Compound). The third (The Central Compound) — and most extensively investigated within the excavated area — lies to the east. However, it remains unclear what proportion of this central compound the excavated area represents. There is no convincing evidence of trackways to define an eastern or southern boundary, but, given that Trackways 1 and 2 became fossilised as property boundaries by the late first century A.D., it is conceivable that the southern wall of the hall, Structure 9, coincided with the southern boundary of the Iron Age compound. Its alignment closely corresponds with that of the wall and path which separated Period 2 Early Roman Timber Building 6 from ERTBs 7 and 8 (Booth 2010, 399–401, figs 15–16; Fulford and Clarke 2009, 8–11). However, it is equally possible to envisage the sub-division of a larger Iron Age compound in the early Roman period.

The Central Compound

To the east and south of the two trackways the main compound contains one large hall-like building, Structure 9, aligned north-east/south-west at right angles to and abutting Trackway 1

(FIG. 12). Attached to its northern side are the remains of two phases of enclosure. Although the relationship is not clear-cut, it is presumed that the truncated oval (Enclosure 1) is the earlier (FIG. 17). The second, presumed later, though both could have functioned together, is more rectilinear in plan with evidence of openings off it to the north and the west (Enclosure 2). Between these enclosures and the two trackways shallow trenches define a further four enclosures (FIG. 18). An extension south-west of the north-west-facing boundary of Enclosure 2 to Trackway 1 defines Enclosure 3, while two parallel trenches run at right angles from the same north-west-facing boundary of Enclosure 2 to Trackway 2, to define two further enclosures (4 and 5). Enclosure 6 occupies the space between Enclosure 5 and Structure 9.

Structure 9 (Object 500334) (FIGS 13–14)

At right angles to the line of Trackway 1 are the foundation trenches for a large building which we have interpreted as a hall. First encountered in 2010 towards its western end, the structure was excavated each season, as the exposure of the natural, the Silchester Gravels, gradually extended eastwards, up to and including 2014 when its northern end was located, giving it a total length of *c.* 47.5 m. At its west end the northern wall-trench, 11133, can be seen to run over the course of a largely filled Ditch 11631 and then curve round to create the end of the building. While the northern side and both ends of the building are clearly defined by a well-cut, continuous (except where cut by later features), vertical-sided construction trench, measuring 0.4 m in width and up to 0.5 m in depth, the southern side is more problematic. Here a slighter and less well-cut wall-trench, its inner face vertical, its outer face sloping inwards, also continuous except where cut by later features, and measuring some 0.35 m in width and 0.25 m in depth, was defined. It gives a width to the building of between 6.5 and 8.7 m. The course of this much slighter southern wall also partly coincides with a construction trench which we

FIG. 13. View along the length of the hall, Structure 9, from the south-west.

FIG. 14. Plan of Structure 9. The miniature dog burial in 12746 is shown in green.

associate with the later hall, Structure 10 (below, p. 30). The difference in the quality of the cuts of the construction trenches making up the north and south sides caused us to hesitate over the structure's interpretation. Frustratingly, the returns of the two ends of the building to confirm their relationship with the line of the south wall lie just outside the excavated area. Nevertheless, it is difficult to interpret this slighter construction trench in any other way than as representing the southern wall of the building. Neither trench gave any indication of the nature of the timbers they contained, whether posts or planks, or a mix of both, perhaps set in a horizontal beam, or of their density and distribution sufficient to allow an assessment of their capacity to support the roof of the structure. A row of eight widely-spaced post-holes, averaging 0.30 m in diameter and 0.20 m in depth, was traced over 27.4 m, positioned roughly midway between the flanking trenches. These may have helped to support the roof.

No associated floor surfaces or occupation deposits survived to help characterise the purpose of the building. Crummy notes a domestic context for the counter and spindlewhorl found in the post-demolition fills of the foundation trenches of the structure (below, p. 122). Also, within the footprint of the building were three pits (part of Pit Group 3, below, p. 54): two inter-cutting towards the centre of the building (14658/15384) and a third (12696) towards its south-west end (FIG. 42). Although we cannot be certain whether these pits were contemporary with the life of the building, or, given the presence of Period 1 pottery in upper fills, with its successor, Structure 10, on the grounds of probability, this seems likely, particularly if the building had a life of thirty years or more. Finds commented on by Crummy include two brooches, fragments of a mirror, which can be dated no earlier than *c.* A.D. 25–50, and two spindlewhorls, all of which reinforce the domestic character commented on above (below, p. 128 and p. 54, for Pit Group 3). The mirror may also be seen as evidence of high status, a point reinforced by the high percentage (approximately 20 per cent by sherd count) of Gallo-Belgic ware and the high proportion of beakers and other table wares from the Pit Group 3 assemblage as a whole. The latter is also notable for the relatively large number of fragments of briquetage (Timby, below, p. 233).

Buried in the northern construction trench of the building at its south-western end were the remains of a small (24 cm at the shoulder) adult dog, one of a type of miniature breed, a rare

FIG. 15. The miniature dog burial during excavation. The scale in the photograph is 25 cm long.

find in late Iron Age Britain and perhaps, therefore, indicative of high status (FIGS 14–15; Clark, below, p. 274). While the evidence does not allow us to distinguish a grave dug at the time of construction as opposed to the time of demolition, we favour the former. We also assume that the dog was deliberately sacrificed as part of the ritual associated with the construction. A long bone from the skeleton is dated to 110 cal B.C.–cal A.D. 60 (Barnett, below, p. 347).

The finds from the construction trenches of the structure are from fills subsequent to its demolition and the removal of timbers. Together they provide a *terminus ante quem* for the date of construction and life of the building. Crummy discusses the small collection of finds from these features which include a copper-alloy ribbon-bow brooch dating from *c.* A.D. 10 and a copper-alloy Aucissa brooch which, though the type first appears on the Continent towards the end of the first century B.C., in Britain is usually associated with the army of conquest. Though pre-conquest importation cannot be ruled out, Crummy considers that it brings the date of the assemblage towards the end of Insula IX Period 0 or the very beginning of Period 1.

For a *terminus post quem* for the construction we can look at the relationship with Trackway 1 and to the dating of the secondary fills of Ditch 11631 whose pottery assemblage, as we have seen (above, p. 217), largely dates to the turn of the first century B.C. and the first century A.D., but which also continued to accumulate some material 'well into the Tiberian period' (below, Timby, p. 203). Although we cannot be certain which came first, it seems logical that the construction took place after the setting out of the trackways which marked out some or all of the enclosed space of the *oppidum*. Together the two strands of evidence point to a *terminus post quem* for the hall's construction around the beginning of the first century A.D. With its high proportion of Silchester ware, Timby assigns Pit Group 3 as a whole to her later, Tiberian or Tiberio-Claudian collection of pit groups and this would fit with episodes in the life of a building which lasted from the early years of the first century A.D. to the late 30s or early 40s (below, p. 187). It is possible that its demolition was only brought about by the construction of the Roman north–south street, which overlies its northern end. This would give it an end date in the mid-A.D. 40s.

Although we do not have the evidence from either end of the building to link the north and south wall-trenches with certainty, the one very different in character to the other, we have interpreted the remains as a hall building and of high status. However, we do need to be alert to other possibilities. One alternative could see the northern and the two end wall-trenches as elements of a substantial palisaded enclosure where what we favour as the southern wall of the hall served as one side of a further fenced area within the larger entity, part-represented by the north wall. However, this interpretation adds complexity and creates a barrier dividing the activities and structures of the northern part of the main compound from those to the south.

Though large rectangular timber buildings can be paralleled in the Iron Age of north-west Europe with examples of longhouses from the north European plain reaching 30 m or more in length (Bradley *et al.* 2016, 264–78), our Structure 9 has no close parallel in late Iron Age Britain. The nearest, perhaps, is a 'boat-shaped' structure, measuring *c.* 26 m by 8 m and comprising a nave and one aisle, from Camulodunum, dated to the period of the Roman conquest. Rodwell argued that it was of 'a native-type of construction' and not a Roman military building (Rodwell 1978, 34–5; Hawkes and Hull 1947, 90, Site A1). He also described other 'medium to large rectangular buildings' of late Iron Age date, two of which, at Canterbury and Wickford, Essex, respectively, are represented in part by continuous construction trenches, and are thus similar to what we have recorded of our Structure 9 (Rodwell 1978, 32–4, fig. 3). The Wickford building was 15 m long, but of unknown width, with rounded corners, while the Canterbury structure was >13 m by 7 m in width and slightly 'boat-shaped' in plan (Frere *et al.* 1987, 45–54, fig. 14). None of these possible parallels come close to the scale of Structure 9, which is almost twice the length of the Camulodunum structure and a little over three times the length of the Wickford building. While the rounded corners find parallels, it is the length (47.5 m) of Structure 9 which sets it apart from other buildings of early first-century A.D. date in Britain and on the Continent. Margaret Mathews' reconstructions give an impression of how the building might have appeared in the early first century A.D. (FIG. 16).

FIG. 16. Reconstructions of Structure 9. View from the north-west (top) and to the north-west (below). (*By Margaret Mathews*)

Enclosures to the north of Structure 9

Enclosures 1 and 2 (Object 500551) (FIG. 17)

Attached to the north wall of Structure 9 are the shallow slots of two enclosures. The earlier, Enclosure 1, comprises a shallow, discontinuous, curving slot (16529, 16526, 16534, 16494, 16560, 16567 and 16561), averaging 0.30 m in width and 0.14 m in depth, and representing a truncated oval in plan. It contained Well 13965 (below, p. 45, FIG. 29) and Pit Group 6 (below, p. 58), where the pits cluster along the eastern side of the enclosure (FIG. 44).

Enclosure 2 apparently springs from the re-cut northern side of Enclosure 1; a slot (16583/16452) trends north-west for 12.65 m before turning at an angle to run parallel with the north wall of Structure 9 for 15.2 m to create the north side of the enclosure. From the middle of the north side of Structure 9 two further slots (16684 and 16456) trend north-west towards Trackway 2. Leaving a gap for an entrance to Enclosure 3, the western side is defined by slot 15175/14465/14371 which joins Structure 9. A further slot (15776) defines a funnel entrance into Enclosure 2, which contained Well 10421 (below, p. 44, FIG. 29). Like the slots of Enclosure

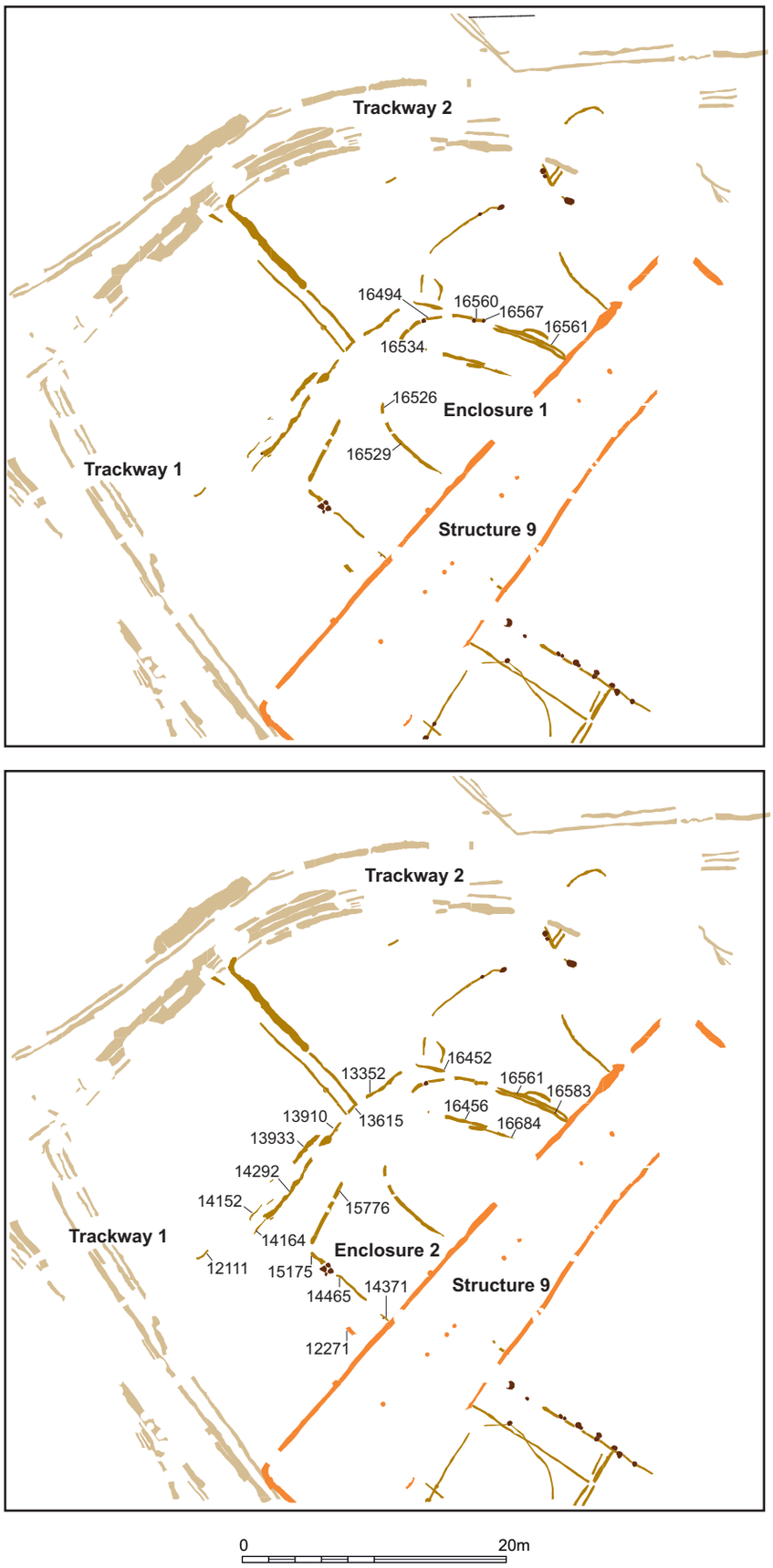

FIG. 17. Plan of Enclosure 1 (above) and Enclosure 2 (below).

1, those of Enclosure 2 also measure 0.30 m in width and 0.15 m in depth. The shallowness of the slots of both enclosures suggests comparatively slight fences, but sufficient to control and pen stock, their presumed purpose.

This is perhaps reflected in the very few finds from these enclosures; the only find of note is an annular glass bead with a yellow trail (Crummy, below, p. 123).

Enclosures 3 to 6 (Objects 500548, 500549 and 500551) (FIG. 18)

Enclosure 3 is defined by the northern wall of Structure 9, the fence alongside Trackway 1, the western boundary of Enclosure 2 and a fence, represented by Slot 12111, which divides it from Enclosure 4 to the north.

The open area between Enclosures 1 to 3 and Trackway 2 to the north is divided by two parallel slots 13582/16628 and 12412/13328, 0.90 m apart, and averaging 0.20 m wide and 0.15 m deep, to create Enclosures 4 and 5. Enclosure 6 occupies a wedge-shaped area between Enclosure 5 and Structure 9, to the north-east of Enclosures 1 and 2, with Slot 15689 dividing it from Enclosure 5 and Slot 17319 from the open area to the north-east.

To the east of Enclosure 6 is a further possible enclosure, defined to the north by the weakly-

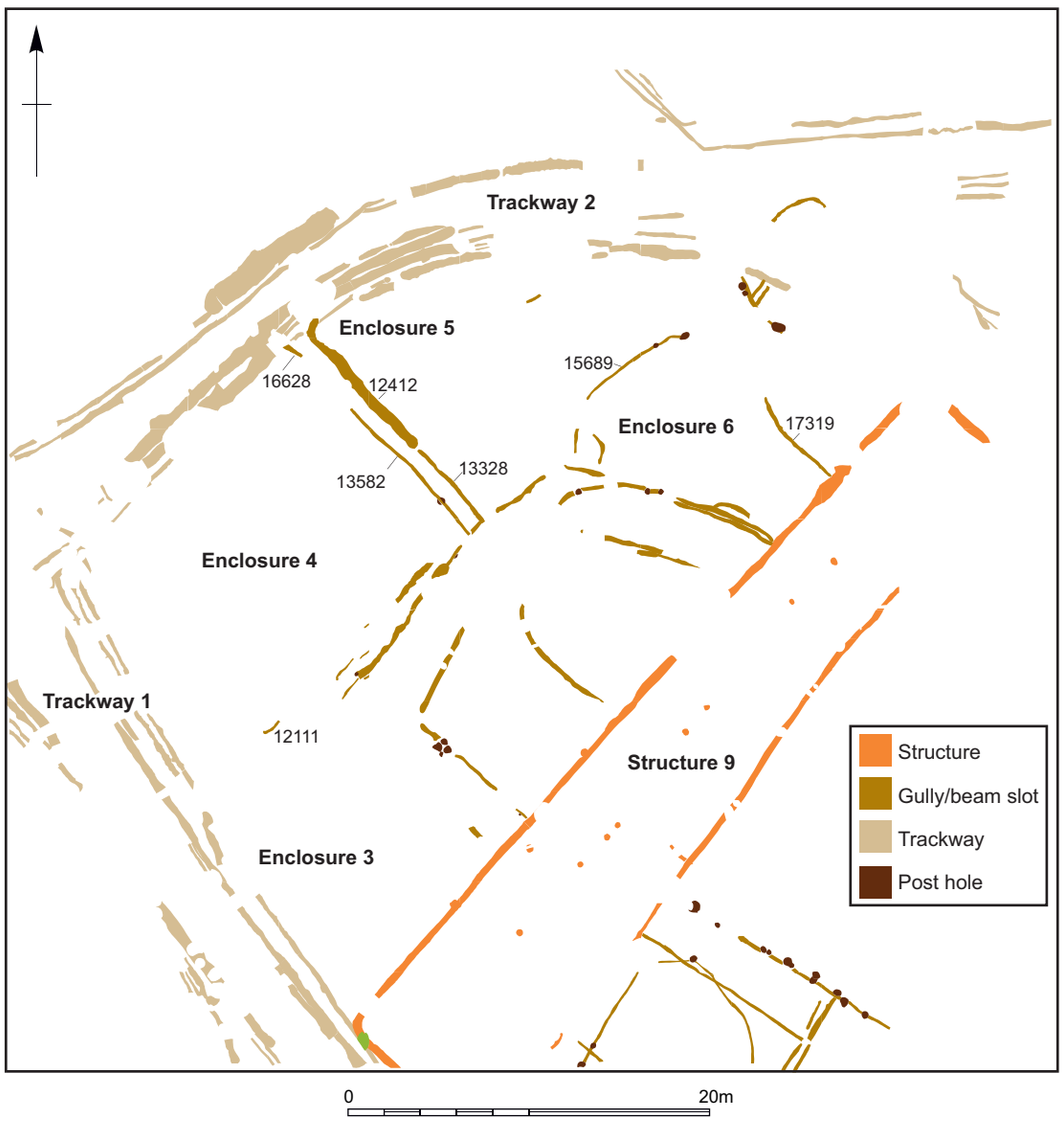

FIG. 18. Plan of Enclosures 3–6.

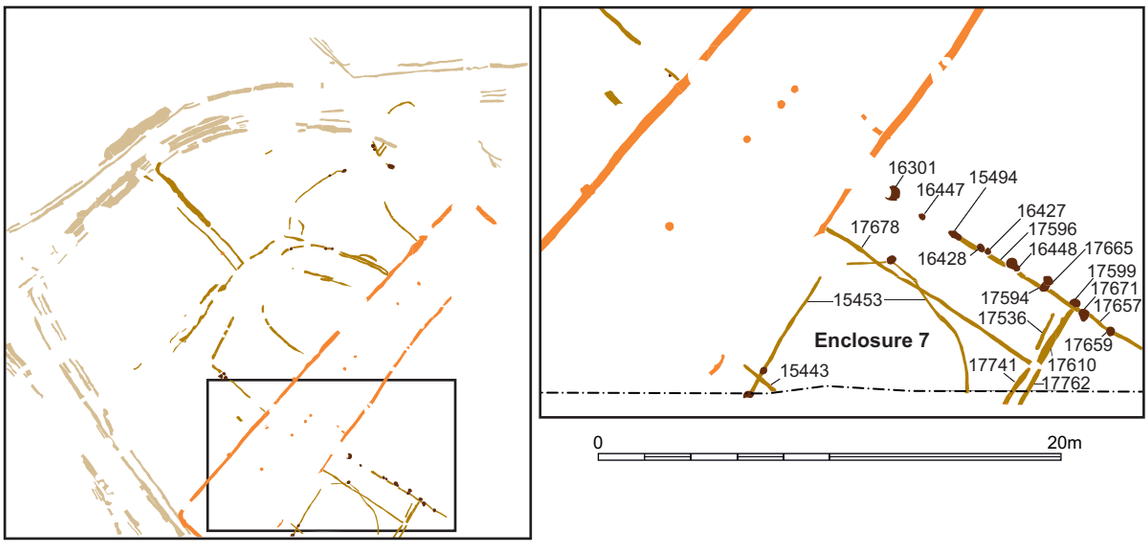

FIG. 19. Location and plan of Enclosure 7 and related features.

defined southern boundary of the projected continuation of Trackway 2, and to the south by the end of Structure 9. Although Enclosures 3 to 6 all follow the creation of Enclosures 1 and 2, they do not replace them and all six enclosures appear to function together.

Enclosure to the south of Structure 9

Enclosure 7 (Object 500544) (FIG. 19)

Enclosure 7 was defined by a shallow discontinuous slot, 15453, 0.10 m wide and 0.05 m deep, that extended north-east, parallel with the southern wall of Structure 9, from the southern edge of the excavated area before curving to the east to form a D-shaped enclosure, similar to Enclosure 1 on the north side of Structure 9. A break of 1.2 m on the north side may represent an entrance.

Slot 15453 may also have truncated one of two parallel slots (15443 and 17678), 0.20 m wide and 0.10 m deep and 6.80 m apart, on the north side. Slot 17678 is parallel with Slots 17596/17657 that were truncated by post-holes averaging 0.50 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth, and together with Slots 17741, 17762, 17536 and 17610, may have defined further enclosures or buildings south of Structure 9 (Object 500562).

PHASE 3 (*c.* A.D. 35–*c.* A.D. 45/50)

The complexities over the dating of the Period 0 negative features and the relationships between them are such that it is only possible to identify with some confidence a coherent third, pre-conquest phase comprising a new post-built hall, Structure 10, partly constructed over the footprint of Structure 9. We have also defined three enclosures (8–10) to the north of Structure 10, replacing Enclosures 1 to 6 of Phase 2 (FIG. 20). Elsewhere the structures and pits attributed to Period 0 are more broadly assigned to Phases 2–3, exceptionally to Phase 1.

Structure 10 (Object 500419) (FIGS 20–21)

Overlying the footprint of Structure 9 is a second, post-built hall which measured at least 22.50 m by 12.60 m. The post-holes measured between 0.29 m and 0.75 m in diameter with depths ranging from 0.06 m to 0.40 m. Several contained post-pipes, where timbers of 0.15 m diameter had rotted *in situ*. An enclosed area comprising perpendicular slots and post-holes extended the property a further 11.20 m to the north-east and a post alignment, averaging 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m deep, extended for 13.50 m from the north-east edge of Structure 10 to the limit

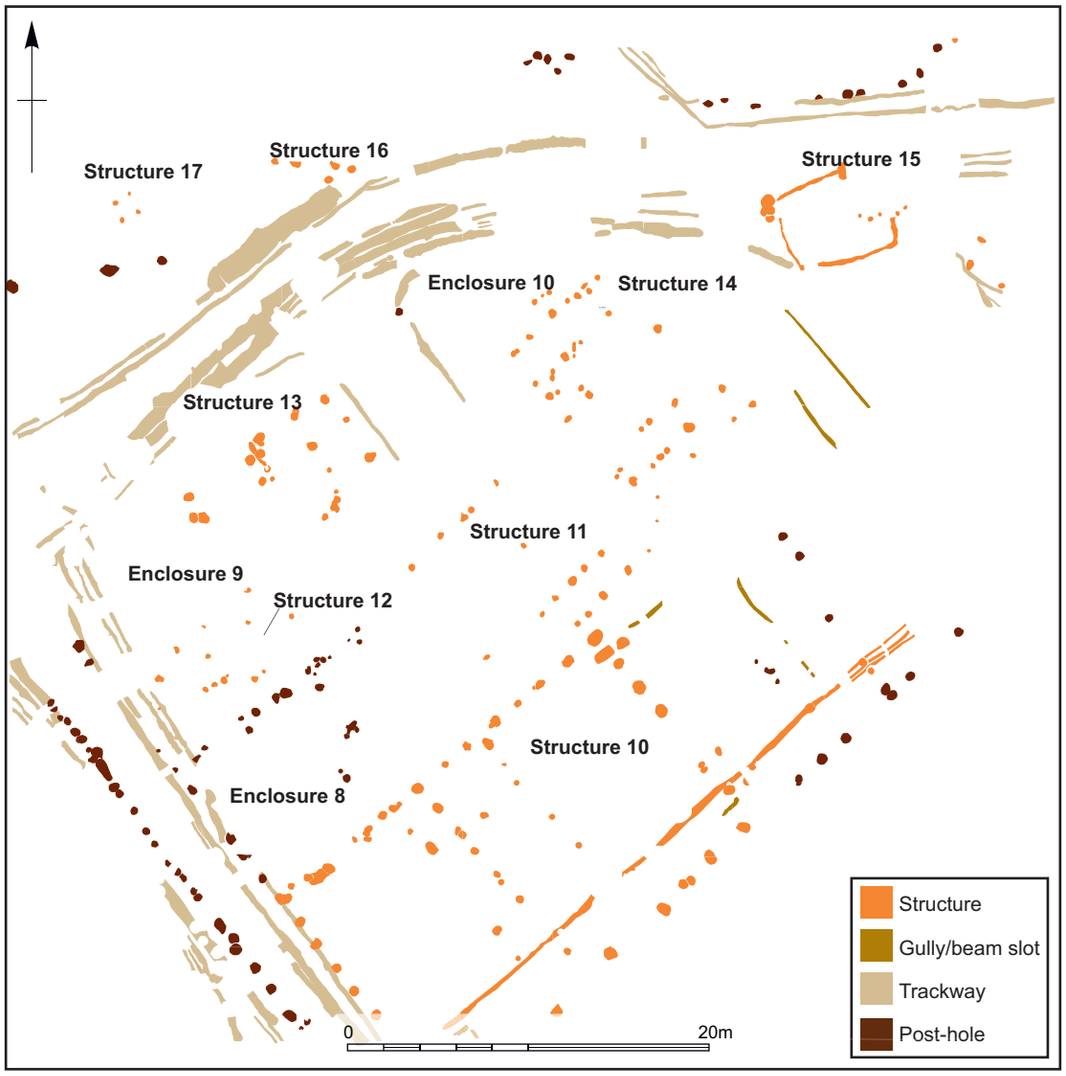

FIG. 20. Plan of Phase 3 (*c.* A.D. 35 to *c.* A.D. 45/50): Enclosures 8–10 and Structures 10–17.

of excavation. This alignment mirrors the arrangement to the north-west of the building, along the northern frontage of Trackway 1 (see below, FIG. 22). Parallel to the southern wall of the structure was a trench measuring 0.50 m wide and 0.20 m deep. It extended from the northern edge of Trackway 1 for 34.70 m (12703, 12822, 15482, 14494, 16000), then split into three narrow slots for the final 5.80 m (16000, 16951, 16992). The relationship of this trench with the building was not clear, yet it possibly defined a rebuilding of the southern wall and elaboration of the enclosure to the north-east.

Unlike Structure 9 with its continuous construction trenches, Structure 10 was largely built with free-standing posts. The plan comprised two large chambers more or less symmetrical about a central cross-passage. There appears to be a further subdivision of the southern chamber with the provision of a lobby next to the central passage. Although doorways at each end of the cross-passage are not obvious, in other respects the plan resembles the 'maisons-étables' (house-stables) or longhouses or byre houses of northern Belgium and the southern Netherlands (Bradley *et al.* 2016, 276–8; Mathiot 2011, 365–7; 2012, 20–3). However, we do not have any evidence with which to distinguish between the functions of the two main rooms of the building. No parallels of similar date have yet been found in Britain and the plan does not provide a good antecedent for the generality of later Roman hall houses or hall-type strip buildings or, indeed, of row houses (Perring 2002, 55–60; Smith 1997, 23–64).

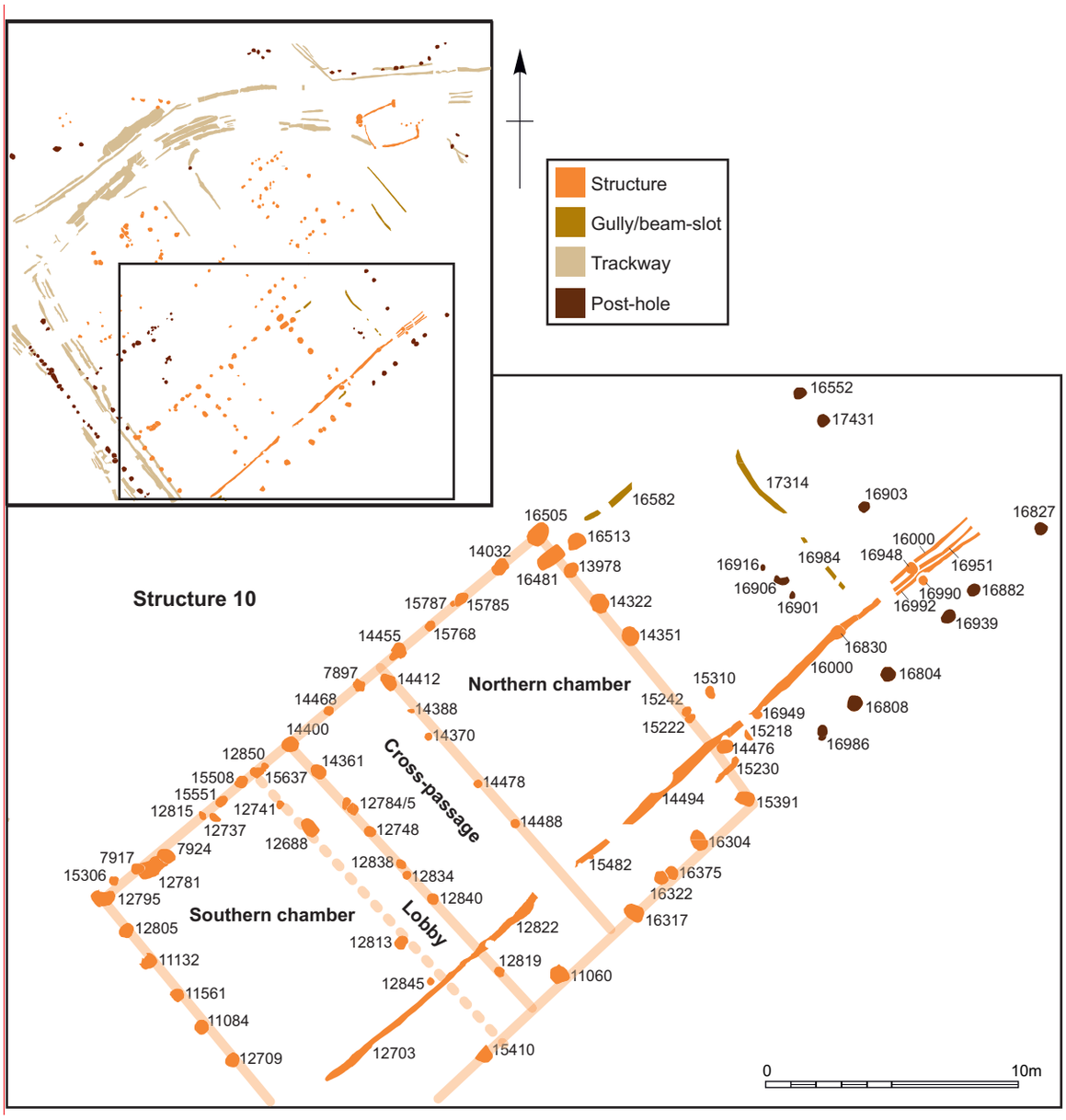

FIG. 21. Plan of Structure 10.

In addition to hobnails, Crummy notes a very dark blue glass counter, probably pre-conquest in date, and a conquest-period, copper-alloy Nauheim Derivative brooch from post-holes (below, p. 123).

The demolition of Structure 9 provides the *terminus post quem* for the construction of Structure 10 and the finds from the fill of the construction trenches suggested to Crummy (below, p. 122) a date for them close to the conquest. This would be consistent with a life for Structure 9 which, on the basis of the date of some of the pottery from the secondary fills of Ditch 11631, part of which underlies the building, could have run 'well into the Tiberian period' (Timby, below, p. 203). The finds from the post-holes of Structure 10 are also from fills which post-date the demolition and therefore only provide a *terminus ante quem* for the construction. From several post-holes, there is Claudio-Neronian pottery, and, from context 11042 (Post-hole 11060), sherds of Neronian and Neronian-Flavian samian, including a South Gaulish potter's stamp dated to A.D. 70–90 (SF 5898).

Altogether these various strands of evidence point to the construction of Structure 10 no

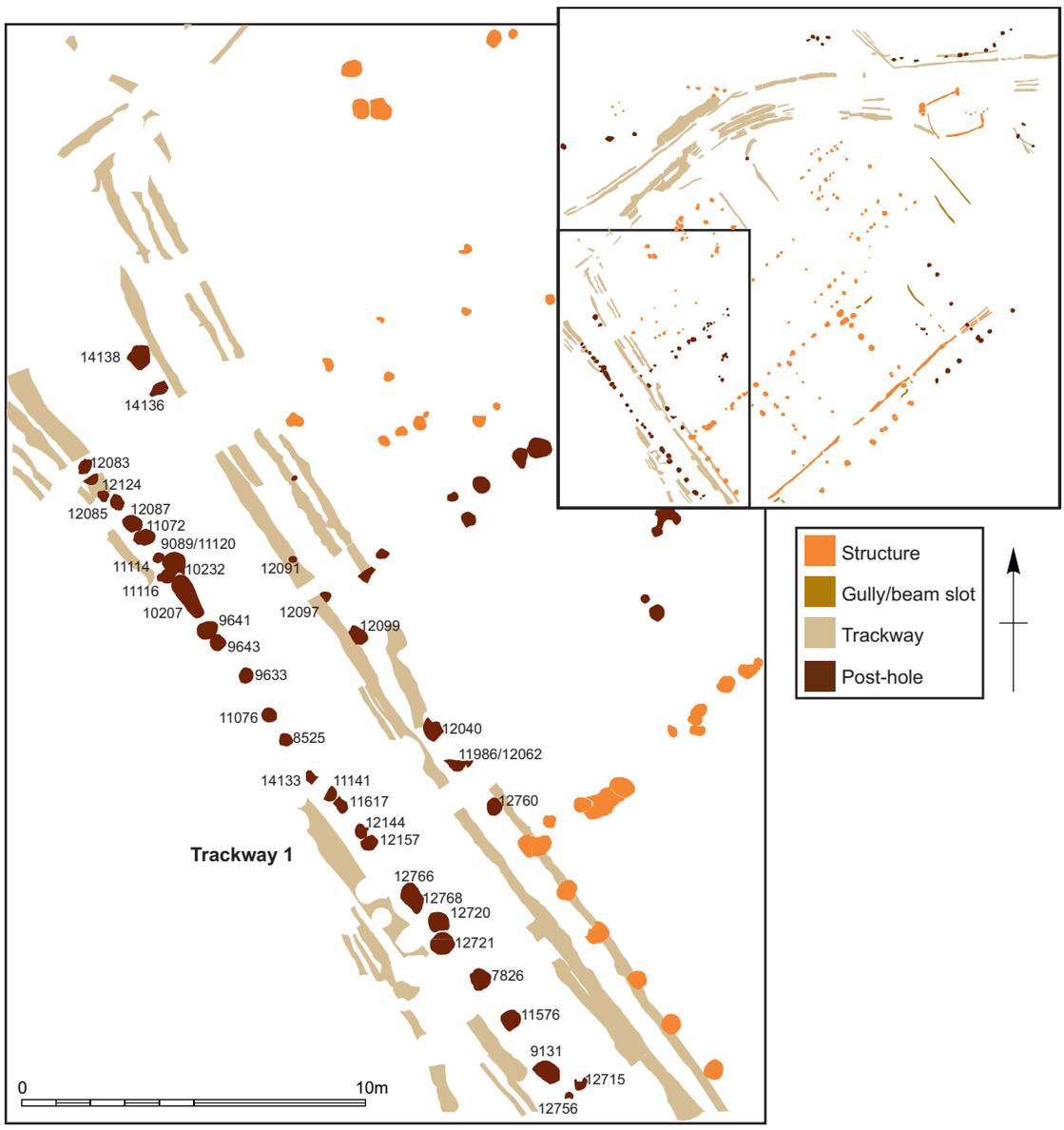

FIG. 22. Plan of modifications to Trackway 1.

earlier than the A.D. 30s, and perhaps as late as the mid-A.D. 40s, when the construction of the Roman north–south street provides an ultimate *terminus ante quem* for the end of the life of Structure 9 (above, p. 26). In either scenario, whether built immediate pre- or post-conquest, its life continued through to at least the mid-A.D. 40s.

Trackway 1: modifications (Object 500552) (FIG. 22)

The south-western end wall of Structure 10 also served as the boundary of Trackway 1. Further post-holes extended the line of the end wall 17.70 m to the north-west towards the junction with Trackway 2. Post-holes replaced the original fence line along the opposite, west side of Trackway 1 over a length of 23.37 m, giving it a width of 3.20 m.

Crummy (below, p. 119) notes the strong tenor of finds of Claudio-Neronian date from the negative features associated with the trackways. As has been commented on above (p. 20), the trackways continued in use through the pre-Flavian period.

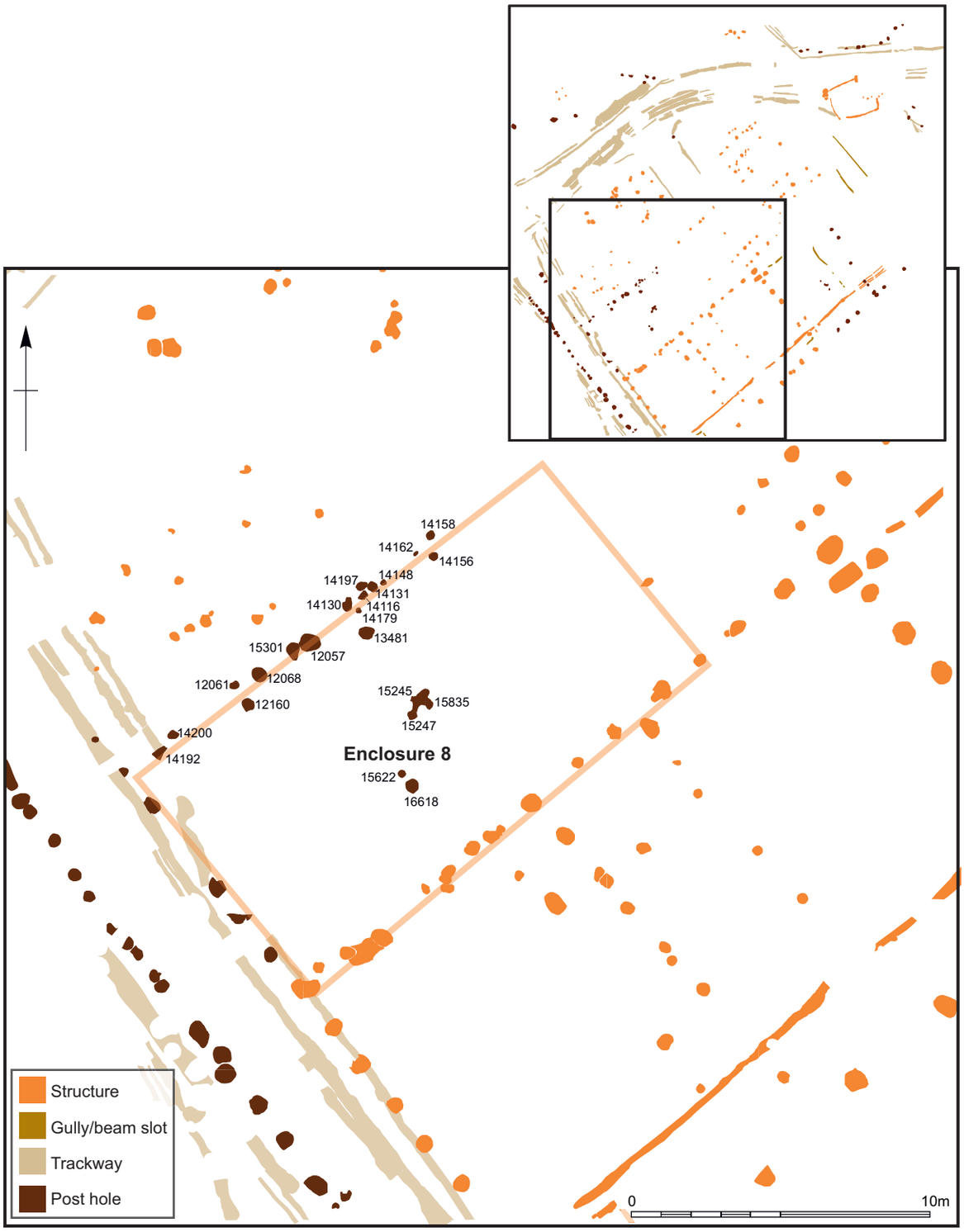

FIG. 23. Location and plan of Enclosure 8.

Enclosure 8 (Objects 500419 and 500552) (FIG. 23)

A discontinuous line of post-holes, averaging 0.30 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth, ran parallel with the north-west-facing wall of Structure 10 and defined the boundary of a possible rectangular enclosure (8), measuring 20 m by 8 m, whose north-east-facing boundary was

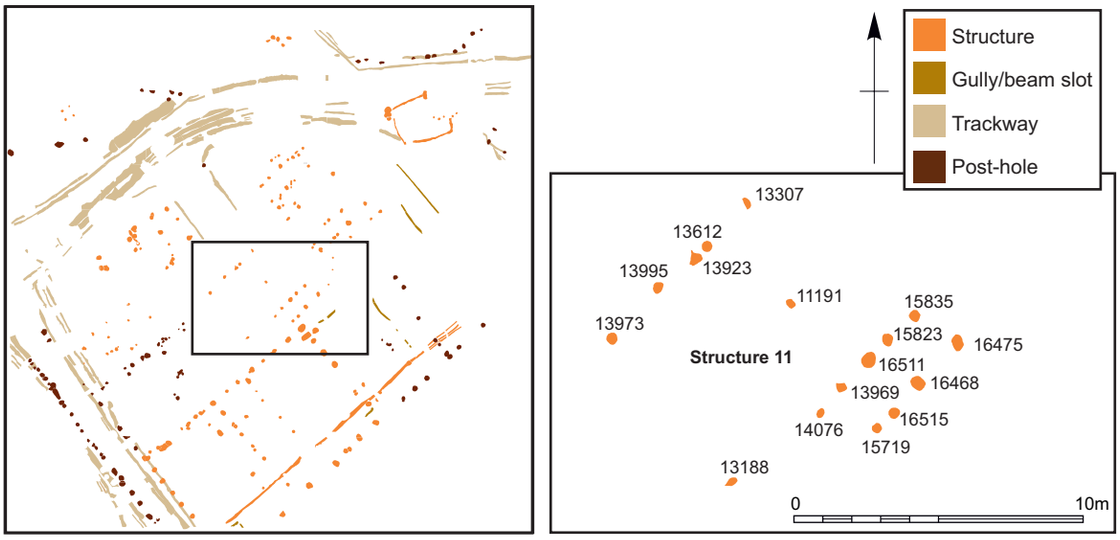

FIG. 24. Location and plan of Structure 11.

also part of Structure 11 and co-terminus with the end wall of Structure 10. Post-holes 16618, 15622, 15245, 15247 and 15251 were located centrally to the enclosed space, possibly defining a structure or a sub-division of the enclosure.

Structure 11 (Object 500558) (FIG. 24)

A group, including three parallel rows, of post-holes, averaging 0.45 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth, suggests the possibility of a rectangular building measuring at least 8.5 m in length by *c.* 9 m, including a narrow corridor at its southern end, at the eastern end of Enclosure 8. One small find, hobnail SF 7770, was recovered from Post-hole 15823.

Enclosure 9 (Objects 500549 and 500607) (FIG. 25)

Enclosure 9 occupied the remaining space, approximately 19.20 by 15.50 m, between Enclosure 8 and Trackway 2 and was separated from Enclosure 10 by a spur, 4.57 m wide, comprising Slots 13575, 13569, 10763 and 10788, which links with Trackway 2.

Structure 12 (Object 500555) (FIG. 25)

Two parallel rows of posts, averaging 0.30 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth, outline a possible rectangular building measuring 6.2 m by 3 m close to the boundary between Enclosures 8 and 9. The possibility of destruction by fire was suggested by the post in 14214 which appeared to have been burnt *in situ* and adjacent Post-hole 11643 which contained lenses of burnt and unburnt clay. Post-hole 14239 contained a pierced fragment of Silchester ware (SF 7002).

Structure 13 (Object 500555) (FIG. 25)

Structure 13 is represented by a group of post-holes located diagonally opposite Structure 12 in the north-east corner of Enclosure 9. One or more structures may be represented: one (13.1) possibly of 13 posts, 5.80 m by 5.15 m, the other (13.2) of five posts, measuring 4.86 m by 2.15 m, or a single structure embracing both of the above and measuring 10.7 m by 6.2 m. The post-holes averaged 0.4 m in diameter and 0.3 m in depth and were sealed by clay deposits probably relating to a Period 1 structure. The post-holes produced an iron awl or needle (SF 7481), hobnails (SF 6749 and 6761) and a fragment of copper-alloy sheet (SF 6355).

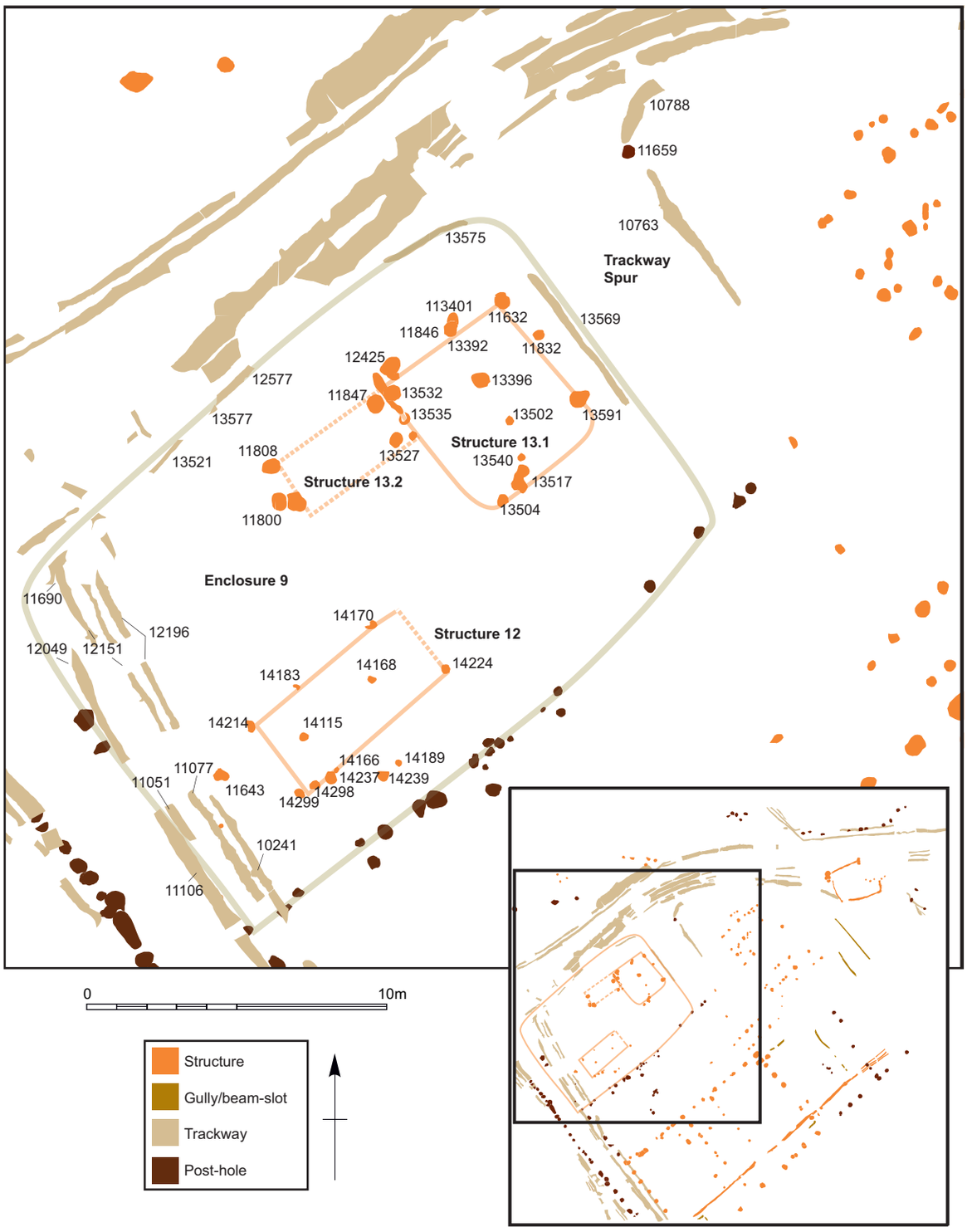

FIG. 25. Plan of Enclosure 9, Structures 12, 13.1 and 13.2.

Enclosure 10 (Objects 500549, 500607 and 500610) (FIG. 26)

Enclosure 10 replaced Phase 2 Enclosures 5 and 6. It extended to Trackway 2 to the north and to the south, to the north end of Structure 10. Slot 17327 may have served as its eastern boundary.

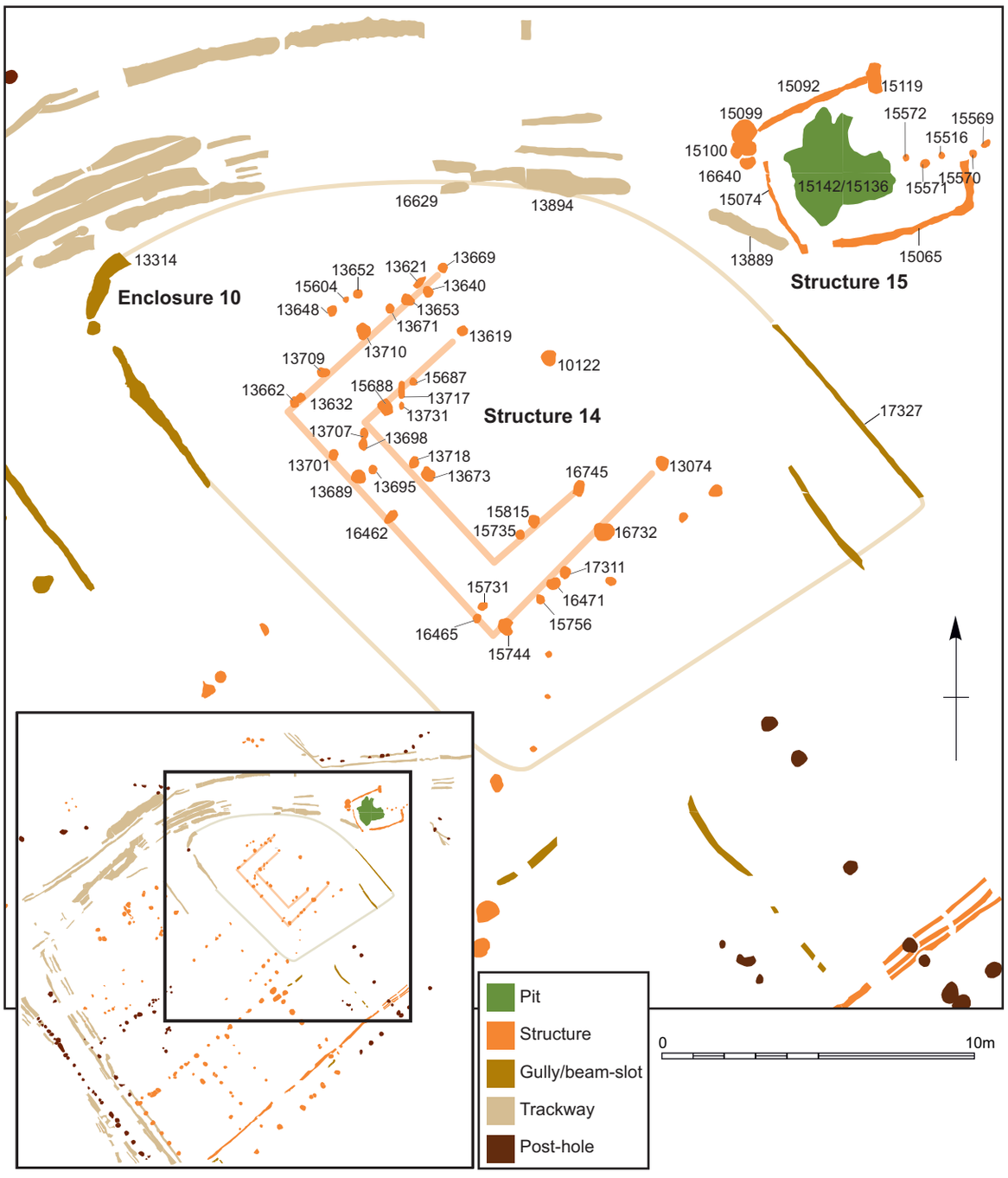

FIG. 26. Plan of Enclosure 10 and Structures 14 and 15.

Structure 14 (Object 500556) (FIGS 26–27)

A structure resembling in plan and dimensions the possible Iron Age temples at Heathrow and Danebury is proposed here (Grimes *et al.* 1993, 335–8; Cunliffe 1984a, 84–5). A rectangular structure, measuring 5.8 m by 4.8 m, is enclosed by a larger, rectangular structure, *c.* 10 m by 8 m, truncated by pitting of Period 1 and later on its north-east side. Both structures are represented by post-holes of similar size, measuring 0.30 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth. Finds include iron nails, a single fragment of probable post-conquest glass from Post-hole 13709 and some fragments of Roman ceramic building material which were recovered from wet-sieved samples.

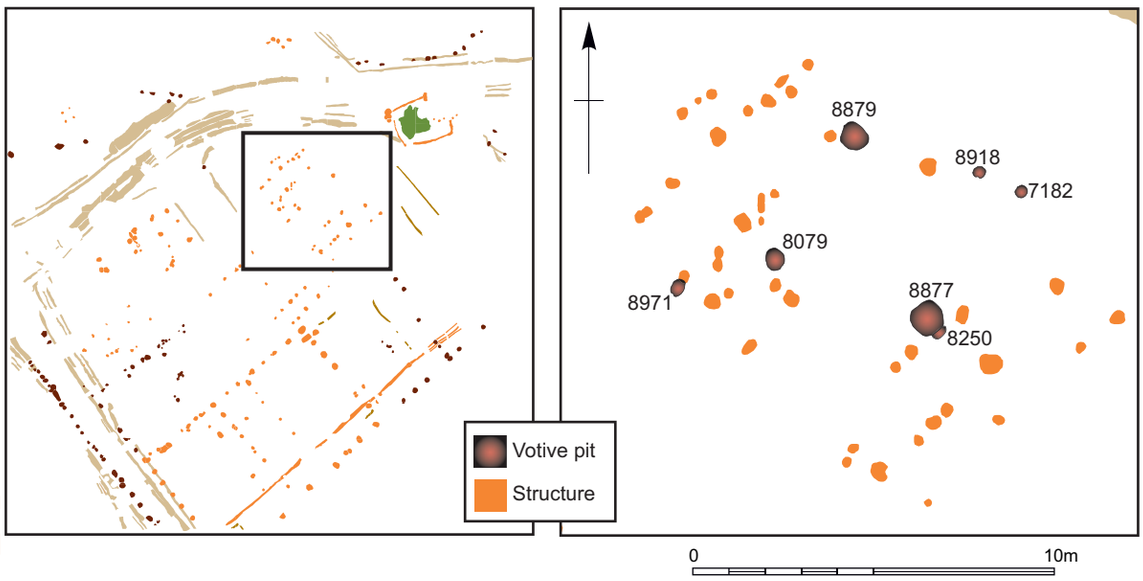

FIG. 27. Plan of votive pits associated with Structure 14.

Post-hole 13074 yielded *tegula*, *imbrex* and brick, possibly derived from slumped upper fills. Despite the presence of post-conquest material in some post-holes we propose a late, i.e. Phase 3, Period 0 date for the origin of this structure. Around and above this structure several small pits of Period 1 date were recorded which contained the charred remains of animals, notably sheep (FIG. 27). These are interpreted as the remains of animal sacrifices and, though later than the primary build, reinforce our interpretation here. These pits and their contents will be reported in the next volume of the Silchester Town Life Project. Together, however, they suggest continuity of use of, and respect for, Structure 14 into the post-conquest period.

Structure 15 (Object 500484) (FIG. 26)

Structure 15 was located outside and to the east of Enclosure 10 and was defined by a rectangular arrangement of shallow beam slots and associated post-holes. It overlies and blocks the projected course of Trackway 2. It is oriented north-east/south-west and comprises construction trenches 15074, 15092 and 15065, which average 0.10 m in width and 0.15 m in depth and enclose an area of 5.6 m by 4.5 m. Though the structure was truncated by later pitting on its east side, the remains of a possible porch are indicated by Post-holes 15569 and 15570. A group of post-holes at the north-west corner of the building may also be associated with it. The structure completely encloses the probably contemporary Pit Group 10 (below, p. 62). Several iron nails were recovered from the fills of the beam slots as well as a fragment of *opus signinum*, intrusive from the overlying Period 2 building.

The North-West Compound

The North-West Compound is located to the north of Trackway 2.

Alignments 2 to 4 (Object 500563) (FIG. 28)

Several groups of post-holes, either in linear arrangements or in a cluster, were recorded north of Trackway 2. The presence of ferrous slag, including a small quantity of hammerscale, from the westernmost group, Alignment 2, suggests iron-working in the vicinity. The slightly curving Alignment 4 is the most coherent of these and may form part of an enclosure continuing to the north of the excavated area.

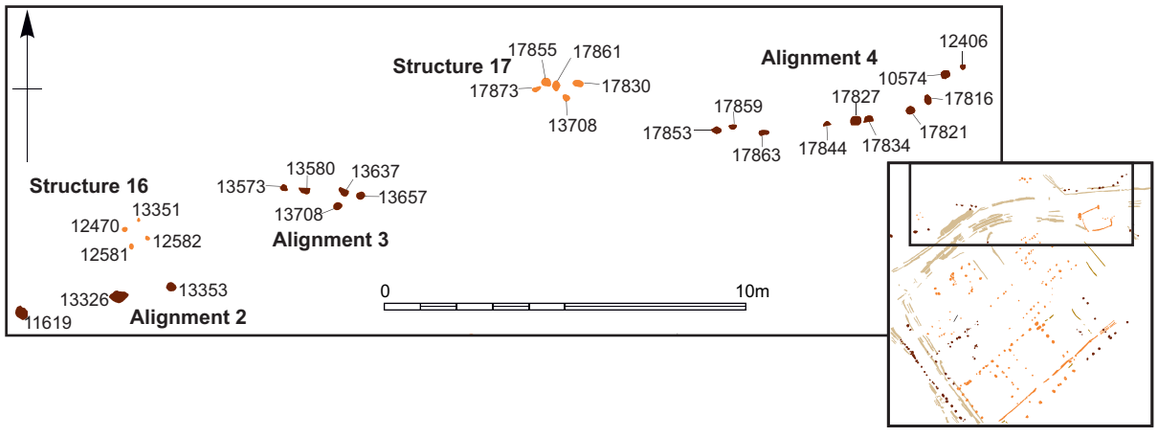

FIG. 28. Location and plan of Alignments 2–4 and Structures 16 and 17.

Structure 16 (Object 500563) (FIG. 28)

Structure 16 is a square, four-post structure measuring 1.5 m by 1.5 m, giving an area of 2.25 m^2, with post-holes 0.30 m in diameter and 0.20 m in depth. It resembles in plan similar four-post structures of Iron Age date which have been interpreted as granaries, e.g. at Danebury (Poole 1984a).

Structure 17 (Object 500563) (FIG. 28)

Structure 17 comprises a cluster of post-holes, averaging 0.30 m in diameter and 0.10 m in depth, close to the northern limit of the excavated area and perhaps part of a larger structure extending further northwards.

The Wells (FIG. 29)

There were only two convincing wells (8328 and 10421), and one possible well (13965), from the whole of the excavated area in Period 0. None was dug to a great depth, only a little over 3 m below the contemporary ground surface, to the water table at the junction of the Silchester Gravels and the underlying clays. Both 8328 in the North-West Compound and 10421 in the Central Compound were open long enough for organic material to accumulate and be preserved in the lowest fills. It is doubtful whether, with the possible exception of 8328, any of them, except in times of heavy rainfall, could have contained sufficient water for intensive extraction at any one time. In the case of 8328, the sump, which was dug below the water table into the underlying clay, would have contained a small reservoir of water. Even though it contained no waterlogged material, a third pit, 13965, distinctively deep (2.8 m) compared with other pits in the Central Compound, has been included as a well here. No trace of a lining for any of the wells was recovered and the lack of any lining is a likely explanation for the rapid infilling and abandonment of 13965. However, if a lining (perhaps of wattle) did not reach the water table, it would not have survived.

Of the two wells with waterlogged fills, 8328 is clearly the later and Tiberio-Claudian in date. The fills of Wells 10421 and 13965 are of a similar, Tiberian age, though the latter, as a possible failed attempt, may actually have been dug before the former. Two pits, 8580 and 11026, in Pit Group 14, were initially thought to have been wells but they belong to this group of generally larger pits dug parallel to Trackway 1 in the South-West Compound.

Well 8328 (Object 500158) (FIGS 29–32)

The well was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of 3.60 m, which, at a depth of 1.70 m below the surface of the natural gravel, narrowed to a 1.47 m wide shaft for a further 2.0 m to a final depth of 3.70 m. The basal fill (9680) was a blue-grey clay that had formed in standing water,

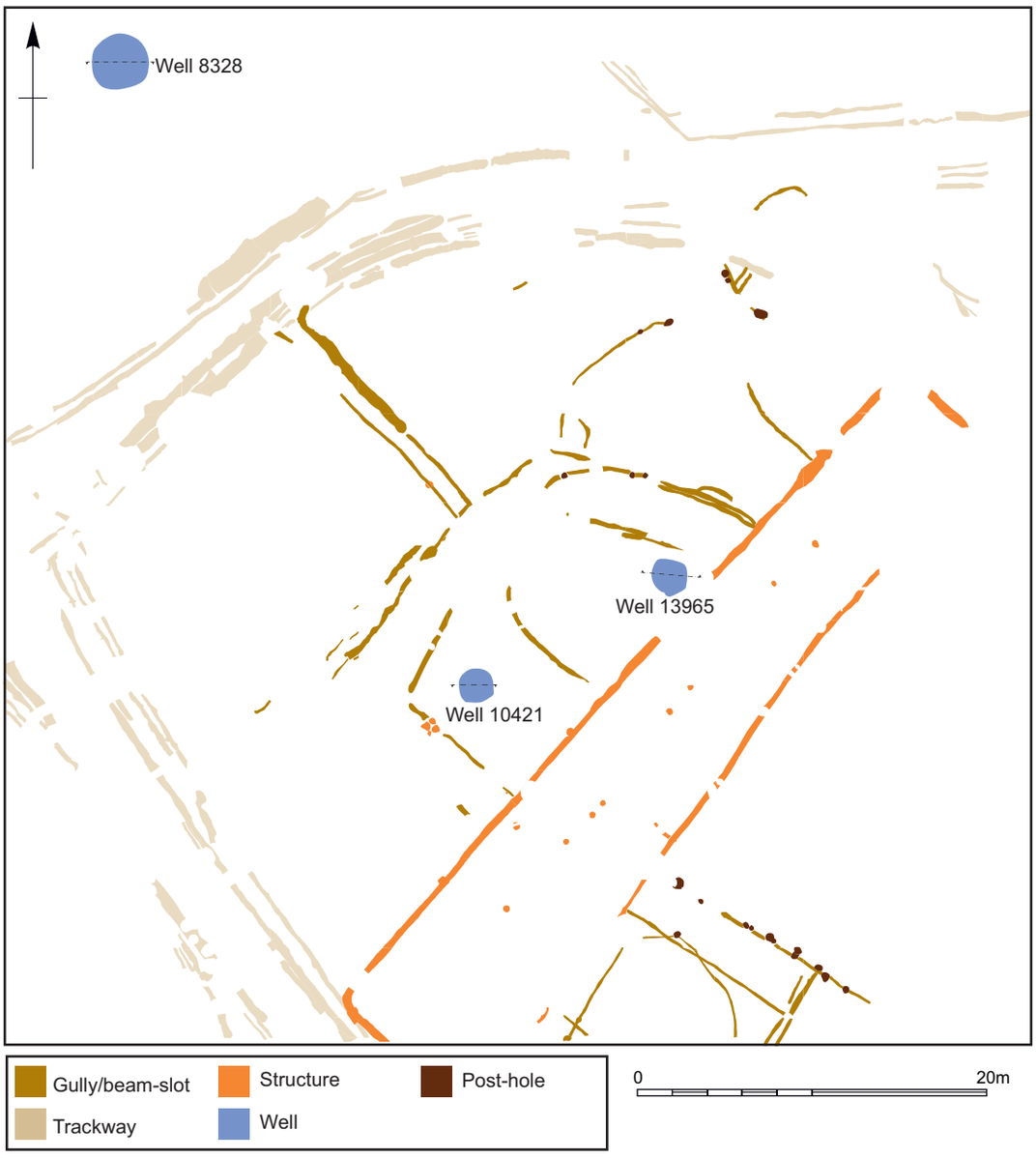

FIG. 29. Location of the Period 0 wells.

preserving fragments of (unidentified) unworked wood, yet yielding no evidence for a timber or wattle lining. Deposit 9663 sealed the basal fill and contained a substantial concentration of organic material. A cluster of five complete or semi-complete pottery vessels was also recovered from 9663 (FIG. 32; Timby, below p. 174, FIG. 87.204–8). These comprised a complete flared-rim, cordoned jar (SF 5440); a damaged, yet substantially complete, everted-rim Silchester ware jar (SF 5441); an early Alice Holt wheel-made, necked bowl (SF 5443) that had suffered significant surface damage and had been pierced twice towards the base of the vessel; a small wheel-finished, grog-tempered, necked jar (SF 5445) that showed signs of scorching, and with a maple leaf (identified by M. Robinson) adhering to its surface; and substantial sherds belonging to the fifth vessel, a single Silchester ware vessel (SF 5446 and SF 5447). This group of pots clustered at a depth of 94.00 m AOD indicating that they were probably deposited at the same time. It seems likely that this deposit was made during the life of the well, as part of the ritual associated with its use and/or commissioning. The contexts above 9663 can be related to the abandonment of the feature as a well and the beginning of its filling as a rubbish pit.

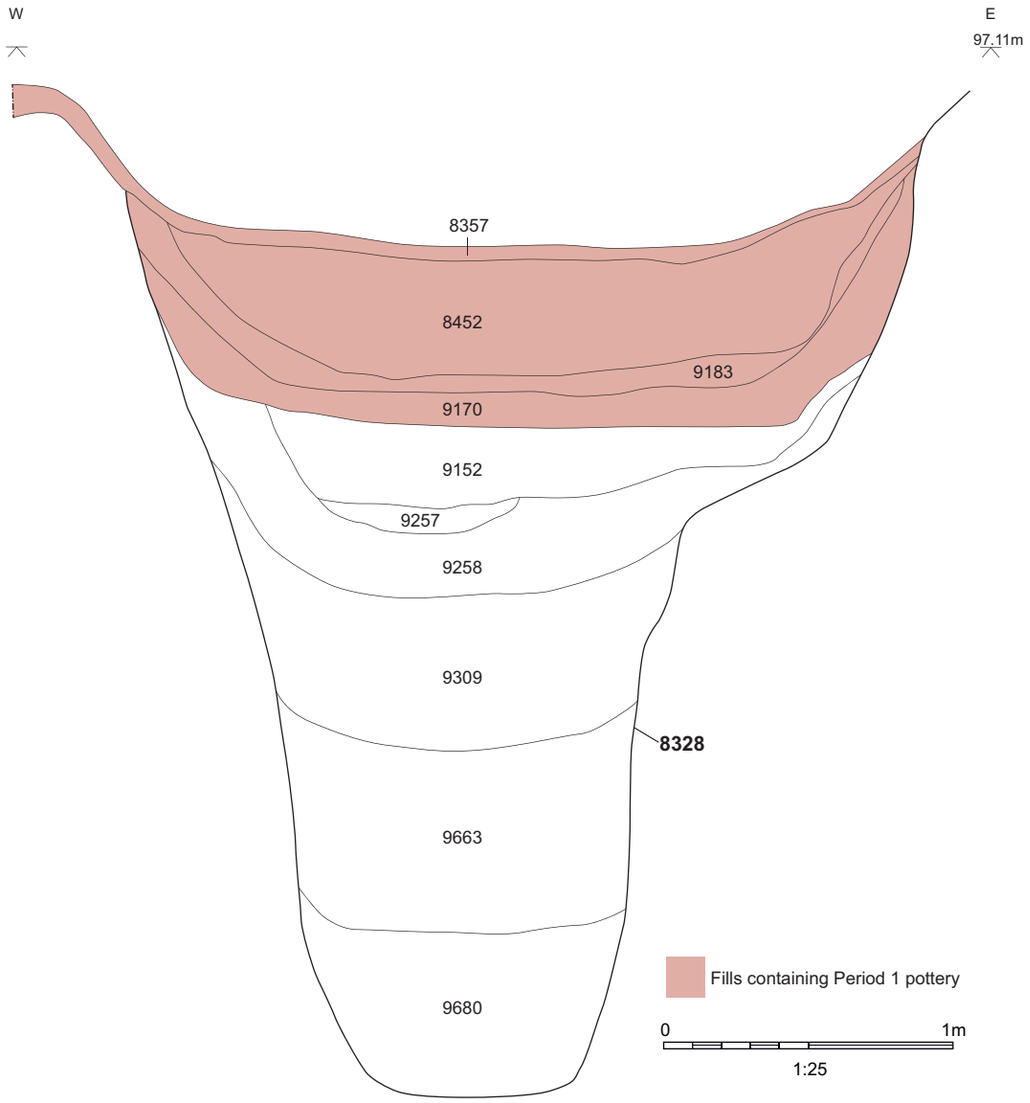

FIG. 30. Profile of Well 8328. Contexts highlighted in pink are Period 1 slumping into the top of the well.

As the initial backfills were deposited below the water table, there was excellent preservation of organic matter. Deposit 9309 contained straw, grass, leaves and wood deriving largely from the dumping of animal dung from a nearby stable or byre (for the insect remains, see Robinson, below, p. 278; for the pollen, see Brown, below, p. 327; for the waterlogged plant remains, see Lodwick, below, p. 287). A further small, pierced, coarse ware jar (SF 5427) was located towards the eastern edge of the deposit.

Context 9152 contained a fragment of waterlogged worked oak, possibly a stave with a radial surface (SF 5343). Gravel, clay and charcoal-rich fill 9170 possibly formed an initial capping deposit before slumping allowed for further filling of the abandoned well. This comprised deposits 9183, 8452 and 8357 derived from the slumping of material of Period 1 date and associated with levelling of the area prior to the construction of a beam-slot-founded structure to be described in Volume 4. This structure and associated occupation were sealed by the laying down of the gravel foundation of the Period 1/2 east–west street.

Timby's assessment of the pottery assemblage (below, p. 174) is that, particularly on the basis of the absence of grog-tempered ware and the high proportion of Silchester ware, it is Tiberio-Claudian in date and later than the wells in the Central Compound. Other finds from the well

FIG. 31. Well 8328 under excavation.

FIG. 32. Two vessels (SFs 5440 and 5441) *in situ* in Well 8328.

are few in number but include a nail shank fragment (SF 5457) from primary fill 9680, eight fragments of rotary quern and a piece of leather from the base of upper slumped context 9258. Since conditions at this point were not suitable for the preservation of Iron Age cured leather, Crummy (below, p. 123) argues that this piece must derive from tanned leather and therefore be either post-conquest or a pre-conquest import.

The environmental evidence from plant and seeds remains, including phytoliths, as well as insects and pollen suggests that much of this material derived from the bedding, fodder and dung of large herbivores, horses rather than cattle, and crop-processing, while insects associated with structural timbers and indoor habitats were also present (Barnett below, p. 317; Brown, below, Ch. 19; Elliott, below, Ch. 20; Lodwick, below, pp. 287–90 and Robinson, below, pp. 278–81). The geochemistry contains elevated phosphorus, copper, zinc and strontium, all also indicative of animal, human and food waste disposal (Cook, below, p. 355). The assemblage also included evidence of imported foodstuffs, notably celery, coriander and dill. Flax capsules and spelt wheat were also present.

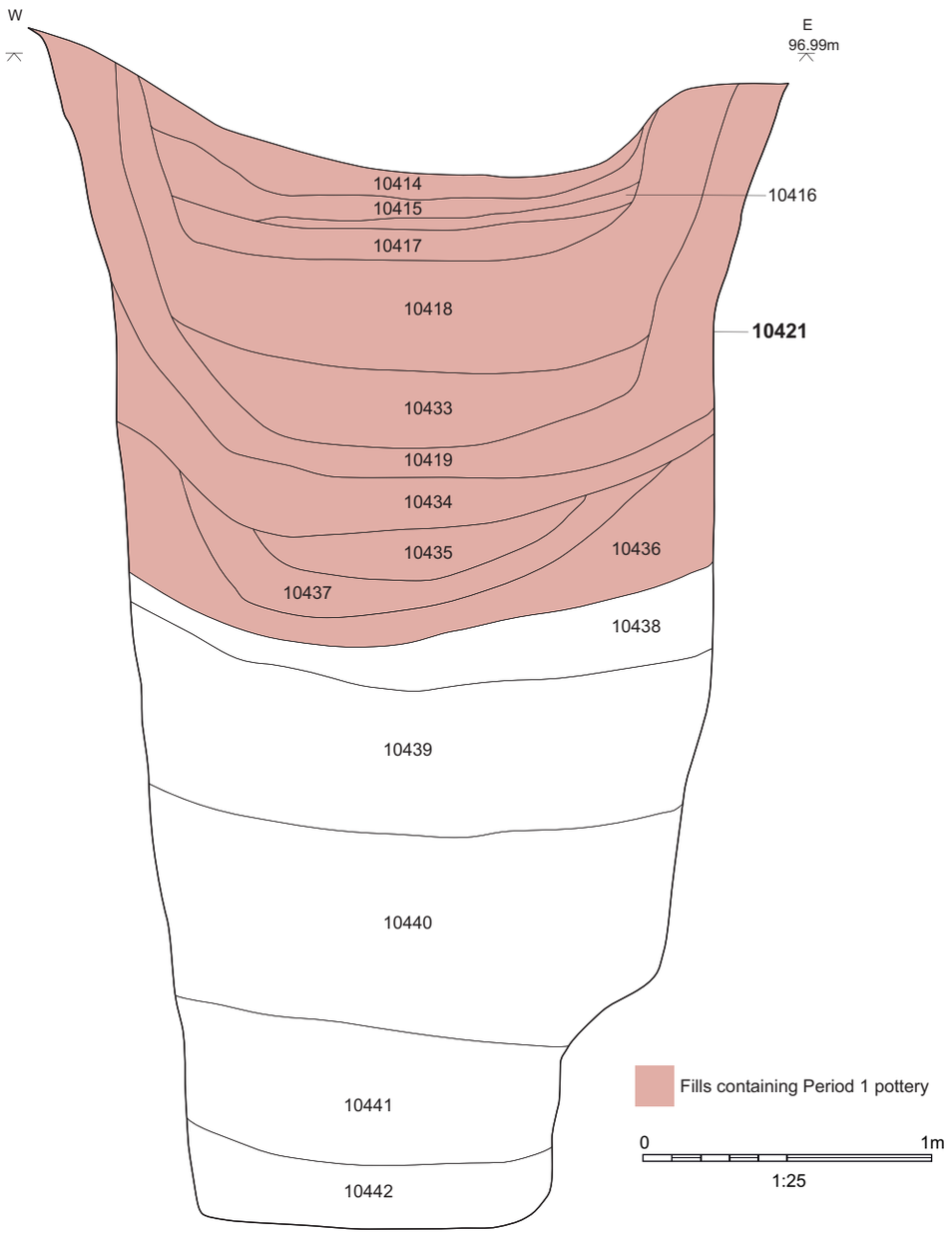

FIG. 33. Profile of Well 10421. Contexts highlighted in pink are Period 1 slumping into the top of the well.

Ingrem (below, p. 263) notes that the animal remains from the well are dominated by cattle. Bone from a possible single dog skull was recovered from the primary fills (p. 268).

Well 10421 (Object 500561) (FIGS 33–34)

Well 10421 was located in Enclosure 2, 4.4 m north of Structure 9. It had a diameter of 2.0 m and a depth, when fully excavated, of 3.0 m from the surface of the natural gravel. Waterlogging of the basal fill (10442) ensured the preservation of organic material, including numerous fragments of unworked wood, but with no evidence of a lining of any kind (Barnett, below, p. 317; Lodwick, below, p. 288). The context above (10441) also contained organic material and several semi-complete pottery vessels, including a butt beaker, a necked jar (SF 5714, SF 5715), and the greater part of a large Silchester ware jar (SF 5713 and SF 5725), the latter with evidence of piercing (Timby, below, p. 80, FIG. 89.234, 236–7). This deposit is comparable with the vessels deposited in Well 8328 and is seen as part of the ritual to ensure a continuing flow of water, rather than to close it as a source of water. While the fill immediately above (10440) had significant gravel content, perhaps derived from the collapse of the sides of the well, the silty clay contexts above that (10438, 10439) contained quantities of domestic rubbish, including one of the few wall-sided mortaria (FIG. 89.238) from the whole excavation, perhaps derived from the occupation of Structure 9. As the initial fills subsided, the well continued to be used for the disposal of rubbish and the contexts which accumulated in the upper half of the well contained post-conquest, Period 1 material.

FIG. 34. Well 10421 under excavation.

Apart from a small assemblage of metal finds which includes iron nails, Crummy notes a bone gouge, highly polished from use (SF 5665), typical of middle and late Iron Age sites in southern Britain, and Allen catalogues a fragment of 'coin mould' (p. 249, SF 5668). In addition to her detailed commentary on the pottery, Timby observes that the Period 0 pottery assemblage from the well is comparable as a whole to her earlier group of pit groups, and probably therefore Tiberian in date (p. 204).

The environmental evidence includes imported foodstuffs including celery, coriander and olive, the latter with a radiocarbon date of 100 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 60 (Barnett, below, p. 347; Lodwick, below, p. 289). Ingrem notes the high frequency of sheep, similar to Well 13965 (below), and the remains of dog skull (pp. 267, 268). The insect assemblage suggests the nearby presence of grazing animals associated with heavily grazed ground (Robinson, below, p. 281). Micromorphology of a sample from a middle context of the well, at the interface of Period 0 and Period 1 fills, established that it contained kitchen waste and herbivore dung (Banerjea, below, p. 365). The waterlogged wood and charcoal are reported on by Barnett (below, pp. 316–17).

Further radiocarbon dates from waterlogged twig wood give dates of 100 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 60 and 120 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 30 (Barnett, below, p. 347).

Well 13965 (Object 500560) (FIG. 35)

Well 13965 was located in Enclosure 1, 4.0 m to the north of Structure 2. With a diameter at the surface of *c.* 2.5 m, at a depth of *c.* 2.0 m it narrowed to a shaft of *c.* 1.5 m diameter, which continued down to a depth of 3.2 m. Although the water table was reached, no organic finds, including of any lining, were preserved. The high gravel content of the lower fills suggests

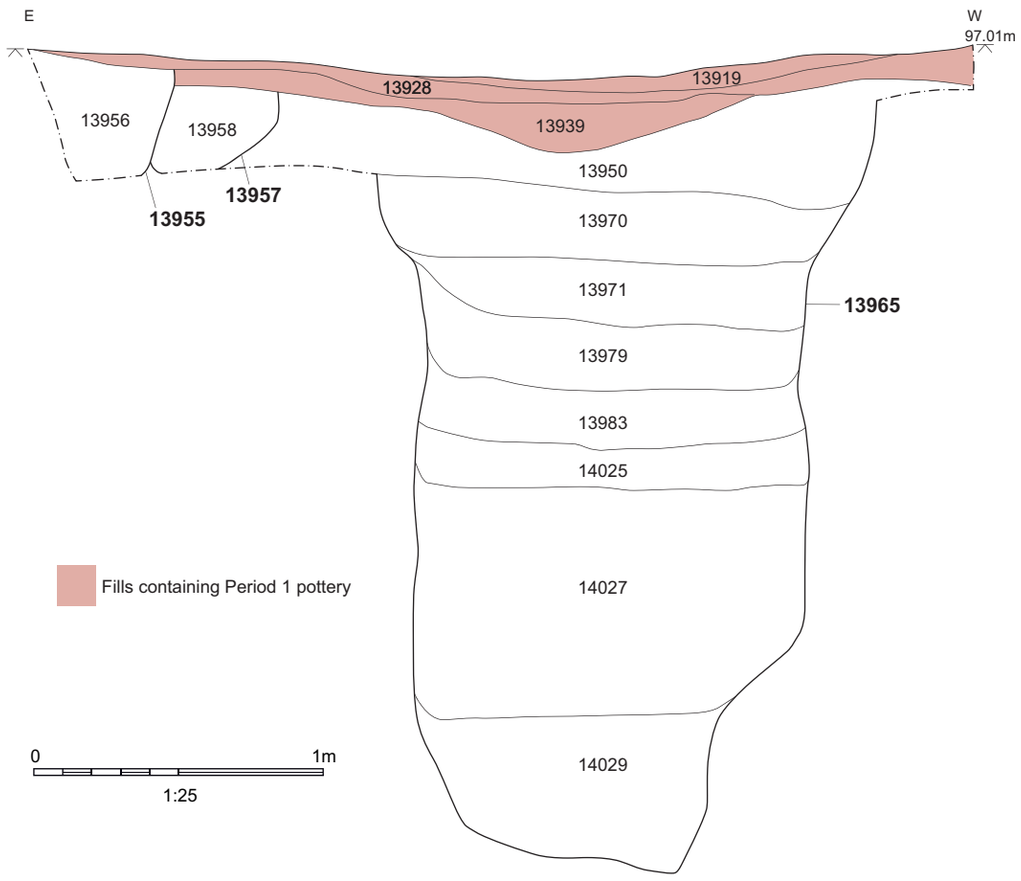

FIG. 35. Profile of Well 13965. Contexts highlighted in pink are Period 1 slumping into the top of the well.

rapid infilling, perhaps from a combination of collapsing sides and deliberate backfilling, as the horizontal layering would suggest. As the fills subsided, rubbish continued to be deposited in Period 1 from context 13939 upwards.

Finds of note from this well include a Langton Down brooch from lower fill 14027, the only example of about 27 from Insula IX to be stratified in Period 0 (Crummy, below, p. 124). In eastern England this is clearly a pre-conquest type and a Tiberian date for this example seems likely. A fragment of Lodsworth quern (SF 7118) was recovered from the same context (Durham, below, p. 462). Timby (below, pp. 181 and 204) comments that the pottery assemblage is small with a low average sherd weight, but that it compares with those from her early group of pits and with Well 10421 above. Similarly, Ingrem (below, p. 267) notes that the high frequency of sheep is comparable to the representation in Well 10421 (above).

The Late Iron Age Pit Groups (FIG. 36)

The late Iron Age pits are distributed in loose clusters across the whole of the excavated area (FIG. 36) and each cluster is described in turn according to which of the three compounds — North-West, Central and South-West — it is located in. Pit groups in the Central Compound

FIG. 36. The distribution of the late Iron Age pit groups.

FIG. 37. Distribution of pits with Period 1 material in their upper (slumped) fills.

are arranged from west to east. Although it has not proved possible to tease out sequences in any of the groups, it is assumed that the clustering reflects a degree of successive pit digging over a number of years related to the activities and occupation linked to a particular building or defined area.

Two characteristics of the pits are striking, their small size, particularly in the Central Compound, and the extent to which their slumped primary, Period 0 fills allowed for later, Period 1 material to accumulate within the hollows thus created (FIG. 37). This, perhaps, emphasises how close to the Roman conquest much of the pit digging took place, with few pits filled more than a generation, i.e. about 25 years, beforehand, and a proportion perhaps created in the years around the time of the invasion. The small size, indicated by their shallow depth and generally small surface dimensions, raises the question of their purpose (Lodwick, below). With a very few exceptions, only pits in the groups (1 and 14) lining the edge of the trackways in the North-West and South-West Compounds appear consistently larger than those in the Central Compound. It is among these that the latest pits, dating to around or immediately after the Roman conquest of A.D. 43–4, are to be found. This is comparable with the situation at the forum basilica where pits were also found to border the streets or trackways, continuing to be dug and filled into the post-conquest period, Period 3 at that site (Fulford and Timby 2000, fig. 7).

Pit volumes and characteristics By Lisa Lodwick

The substantial number of pits excavated within Insula IX are striking for their relatively small dimensions and shallow bowl-shape cross-sections. This stands in stark contrast to Iron Age beehive storage pits, found at settlements across central-southern Britain (Gent 1983), especially at hillforts and pit cluster settlements (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 274–8). The volumes of the late Iron Age pits in Insula IX have been calculated on the basis of their width and depth ($V=\pi r^2h$) (h=depth, r=radius), although variation in the width of pits at different heights and erosion during the use of the pit mean this is an estimated value (Table 1). Considering the average and range of volumes by pit group, it is apparent that there is variation across the insula in pit capacity. The largest pits are found in Pit Group 14, alongside Trackway 1, where the average pit volume is 3.98 m^3 and Pit 10410 had the highest volume at 7.43 m^3. Pits with large volumes were also present in Pit Groups 1, 9, 10 and 11, with average pit volumes per pit group over 1 m^3. These pit groups are all located in the north-east and the north-west of the excavated area (FIG. 37).

The presence of relatively large individual pits, such as Pit 10410, should not deflect attention from the fact that the pits at Silchester are very different from those at a typical Iron Age settlement or hillfort in central-southern Britain. To take Danebury as an example of the range of pit types recorded — beehive, cylindrical, sub-rectangular and conical — only the latter is present at Insula IX (Whittle 1984). Silchester lacks any beehive pits with overhanging sides. Beehive pits are considered to have functioned as storage pits, primarily for grain. An hermetically sealed environment could be produced in these pits, preserving cereal grain for several years (Reynolds 1974; Van der Veen and Jones 2006). Beyond the shape of the pits, their capacity also marks the Silchester pit groups as very different to those excavated at Danebury (FIG. 38). At Silchester, 74 per cent of pits have a volume below 1 m^3. Only 18 per cent of pits at Danebury are of comparable size. The highest proportion of pits at Danebury are between 1 and 2 m^3, with around 10 per cent of pits also falling into the 2–3, 3–4 and 4–5 m^3 categories. The largest pit at Silchester was 7.43 m^3. In contrast, beehive pits at Danebury ranged from 7 to 15 m^3 in capacity.

The differing geologies at Silchester (gravel terrace) and Danebury (chalk) account for some of this variation. As evidenced by the numerous well shafts, constructing deep features is difficult in unstable gravel. However, the stark contrast in pit shape and size clearly shows that the primary function of the Danebury pits, storage (Whittle 1984, 132–7), was not the primary function of the Silchester pits. In agreement with the lack of dense deposits of charred cereal grain from Insula IX (Lodwick, Ch. 15), and the absence of four-post structures (with the exception of Structure 16), this pattern indicates that Insula IX was not involved in the surplus production of large quantities of cereals (Bakels 1996).

TABLE 1. PIT VOLUME CALCULATIONS BY PIT GROUP

Pit Group No.	No. of pits	Average volume/m^3	Range of volumes/m^3
1	16	1.17	0.03–4.95
2	10	0.23	0.01–0.53
3	15	0.55	0.03–2.5
4	7	0.55	0.13–0.98
5	2	0.74	0.59–0.99
6	6	0.63	0.18–1.06
7	3	0.85	0.29–1.88
8	12	0.53	0.12–1.33
9	7	2.09	0.32–5.09
10	2	2.64	0.05–5.23
11	7	1.12	0.02–5.54
12	5	0.39	0.2–0.49
14	4	3.98	0.89–7.43

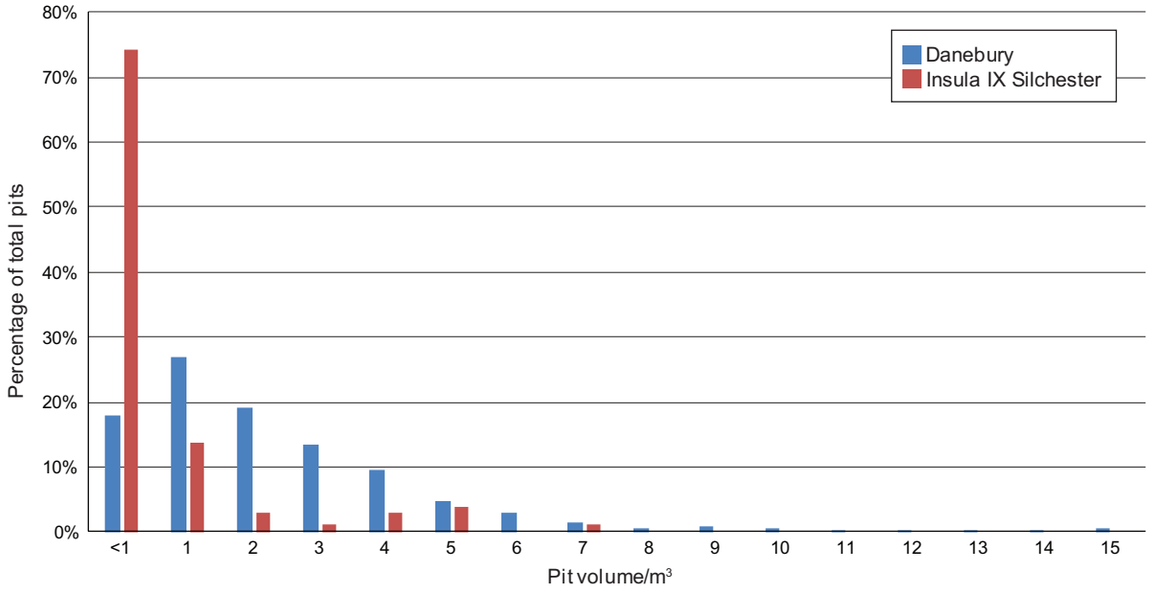

FIG. 38. The volumes of pits at Danebury (Whittle 1984 data, all ceramic phases) and Silchester.

Concluding remarks on pit function

It seems unlikely that any of the pits were intended to be used for grain storage and, if disposal of rubbish, including latrine waste (as is indicated only for Pit 12462 in Pit Group 1), was their intended primary function, this was rarely on an intensive scale, itself perhaps indicative of small numbers of inhabitants and non-intensive consumption of meat (small quantities of animal bones), pottery and other material culture.

The descriptions of individual pits and pit groups are enhanced, where relevant, with summaries of more detailed analyses of the artefacts, particularly of small finds and pottery from Crummy's and Timby's chapters, and of the environmental evidence, particularly from Barnett's (charcoal and wood), Ingrem's (animal bone) and Lodwick's (charred and waterlogged plant remains) chapters, also Allen on iron-making and other high-temperature activities and Banerjea on micromorphology.

Dating

Other than radiocarbon dating, pottery, because of its relative abundance, is the only material which offers the possibility of distinguishing different phases of activity. Timby (below, p. 204) suggests that a high proportion of grog-tempered ware compared with the flint-tempered Silchester ware indicates a relatively earlier date. On that basis she suggests that Pit Groups 2, 4, 9, 10 and 11 are earlier than the rest and contemporary with Wells 10421 and 13965. Of this early group she singles out Pit Group 2, with the highest percentage of grog-tempered ware (34 per cent), as possibly the earliest. Its assemblage compares well with that from the secondary fill of Ditch 11631, which it respects. A relatively early date is consistent with its relationship with overlying Trackway 2.

For the most part the pits were filled with loamy gravels, flecked with charcoal. In the descriptions below, only particular fills, such as those with dense charcoal or lenses of clay, including where Period 1 floor surfaces have slumped into the pit in question, attract comment.

The North-West Compound

Pit Group 1 (Object 500541) (FIGS 39–40)

This pit group includes some pits (12462, 10738 and 10746) with depths in excess of 1.0 m, all

of which had substantial quantities of post-conquest, Period 1 finds from their upper fills. This group of pits can be compared with the deep (>1.0 m) pits in Pit Group 14 flanking Trackway 1 in the South-West Compound. The similarly deep pit, 7643, with substantial quantities of Tiberio-Claudian pottery, probably also belongs to Pit Group 1. Ingrem's analysis (pp. 263, 267) of the animal bone from these larger pits identifies a very low frequency of caprines but a high incidence of cattle bone, where there are high frequencies of feet and a relative scarcity of major limbs, representing the remains of primary butchery waste. A relatively large number of quern fragments was also recovered from this pit group (Durham, below, p. 231). Further comments on the finds and environmental evidence from individual pits are made below.

Western sub-group

Intercutting Pits 12462, 10738, 9347, 11665, 12550, 12547 and 10746 are located close to the western and northern limit of excavation and directly to the north of Trackway 2, forming a north-east/south-west alignment extending over 8.0 m in length. The intercutting pits were sub-rectangular in plan, measuring between 0.5 m and 1.5 m in plan and between 0.25 m and 0.60 m in depth. Pit 11665 yielded a post-conquest copper-alloy Nauheim Derivative brooch (SF 6046). Evidence for metal-working in the form of fragments of furnace-lining was recovered from Pit 10738, which also produced Period 1 pottery from its upper fills, a slag basin from each of Pits 11665 and 11746 and a small quantity of hammerscale from Pit 12547 (Allen, Ch. 13). Three pits provided more information: 12462, 10746 and 7643.

The westernmost pit, 12462, measured 2.5 m in plan and 1.2 m in depth and extended beyond the limit of excavation. The basal fill (12461) contained mineral concretions indicating a possible primary function as a cess-pit. Although no mineralised plant remains were recovered from this

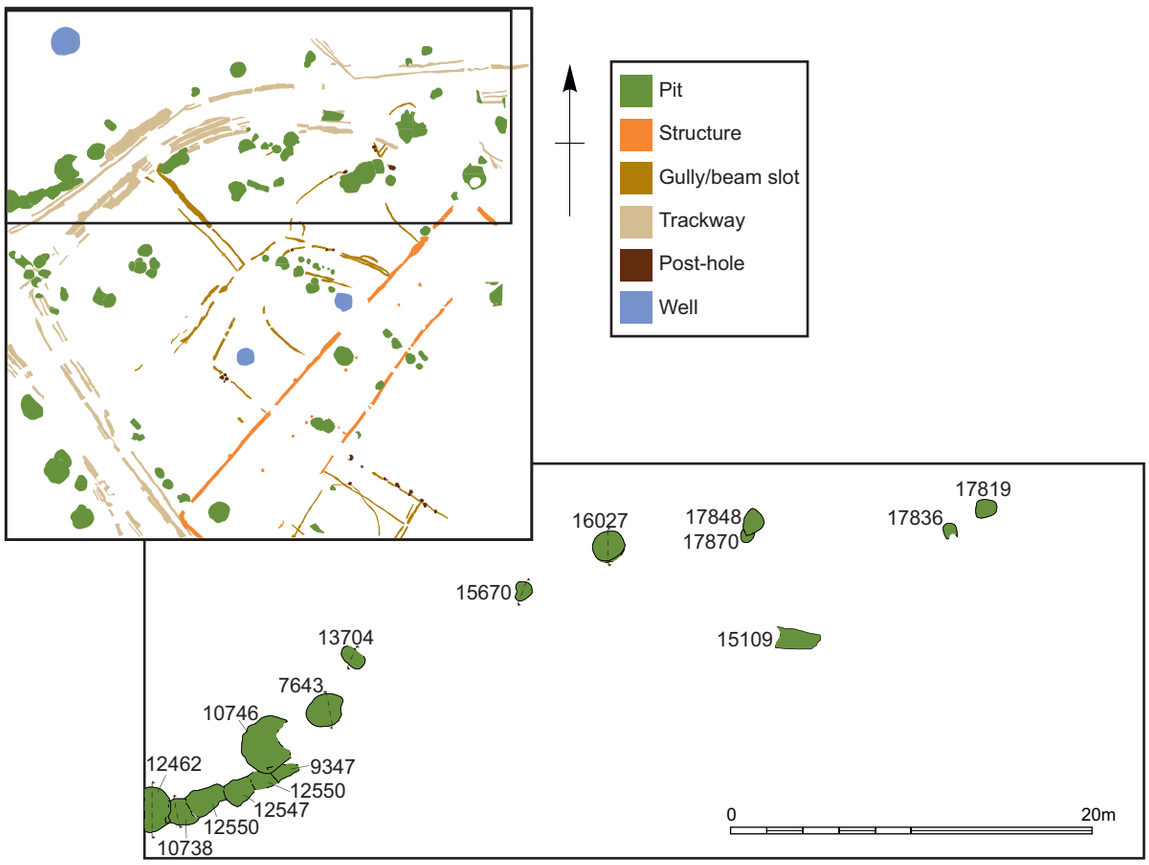

FIG. 39. Location and plan of Pit Group 1.

pit, Lodwick (p. 296) notes the presence of bone splinters as a likely indicator of faecal material. The pit yielded the largest assemblage of pottery (over 14 kg, 1,374 sherds; Timby, below, p. 181), while the small finds included a copper-alloy Colchester type brooch (SF 6498) dating to *c.* A.D. 10–40/50 from the primary fill as well as several iron finds, including hobnails (SF 6493 and 6512; Crummy, below, p. 126). Plant remains from this pit included flax and some barley and spelt grains (Lodwick, below, p. 295), while charcoal from the primary fills comprised 85 per cent oak (Barnett, p. 318). Allen notes the occurrence of a small quantity of hammerscale (p. 246). Gravel-rich deposit 12444 sealed this basal fill, and, as the lower fills consolidated and subsided, the subsequent sequence comprised deposits with pottery of Period 1 date.

Pit 10746 was located 4.60 m to the east of 12462 and measured 3.20 m by 1.70 m in plan with a depth of 1.05 m. It was truncated on its eastern edge by late Roman Well 1300. As with Pit 12462, a sequence of Period 1 deposits sealed the lower fills of this feature as they consolidated and slumped. It contained a large assemblage of pottery (Timby, below, p. 181) and while the

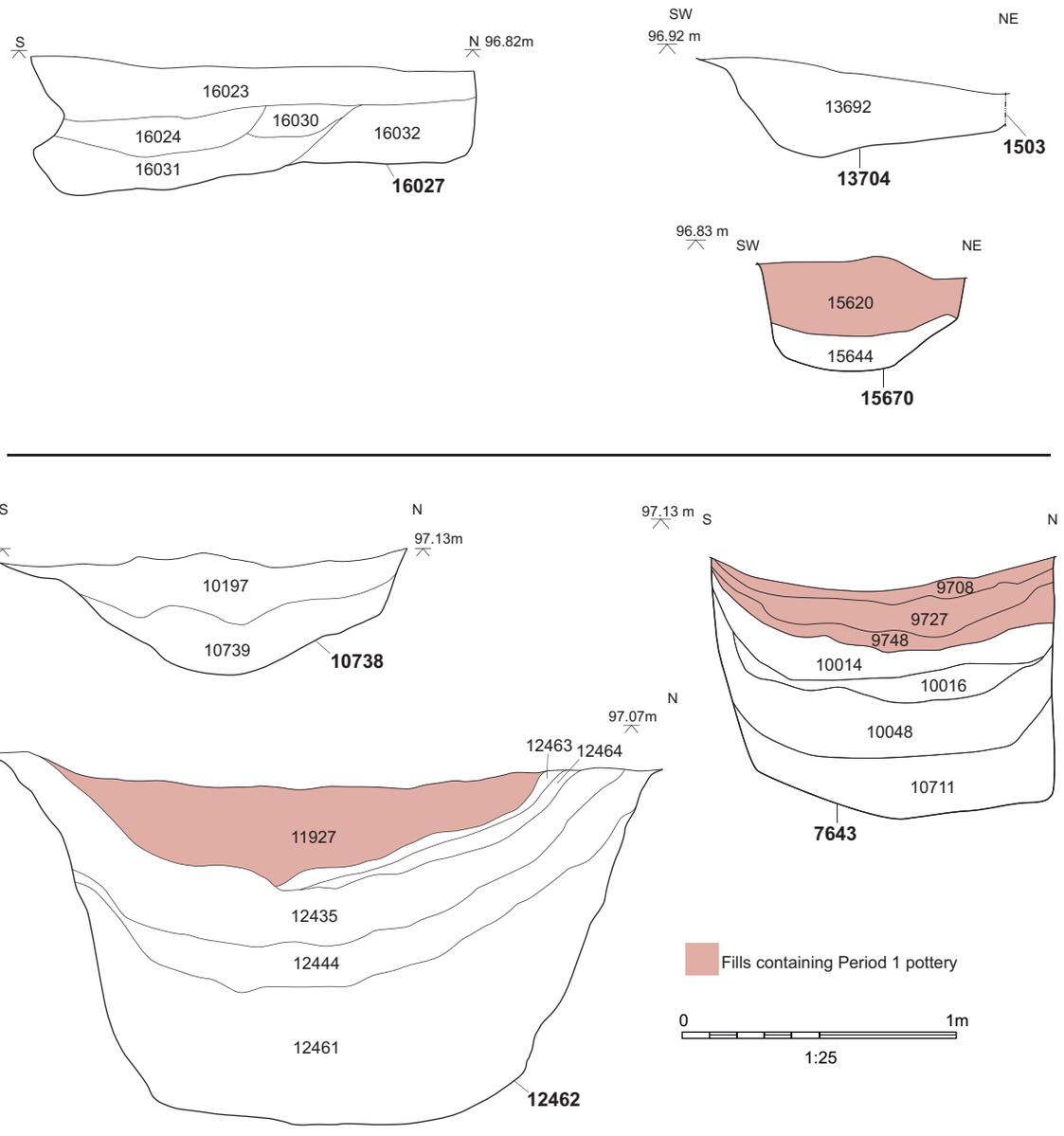

FIG. 40. Profiles of pits in Pit Group 1, eastern (above) and western (below) sub-groups.

primary fill included a Colchester brooch (SF 6035) (*c.* A.D. 10–40/50) (Crummy, below, p. 124), the upper fills included a fine intaglio of Minerva (SF 6019) (Henig, below, p. 126, FIG. 73).

Pit 7643 measured 2.36 m by 1.74 m in plan with a depth of 1.37 m and contained 12 fills. The pottery included sherds of Tiberio-Claudian and pre-Flavian samian from the lowest fills, thus indicating a date around the conquest period (Timby, below, p. 183).

This sub-group of pits is quite different in character to those making up the eastern group of Pit Group 1 pits. Although no clear evidence for structures was recovered to the north of this western cluster, it is tempting to view these pits as a distinct grouping, probably associated with a property which backed on to Trackway 2, whose associated features share a similar geochemistry with the pits reported here (Cook, below, p. 355). A similar grouping or alignment of pits (Pit Group 14) was revealed to the west of Trackway 1 in the South-West Compound (below, p. 66).

Eastern sub-group

Pits 13704 and 15670, measuring, respectively, 1.25 m and 0.97 m in diameter and 0.30 m and 0.22 m in depth, yielded very few finds; Crummy (p. 127) notes hobnails from 15670 whose upper fill contained Period 1 pottery including South Gaulish samian.

Pit 16027 measured 1.79 m in diameter with a depth of 0.51 m. Its fills contained pottery and small fragments of ferrous slag and fired clay. Sherds from this pit join with sherds from Pit 11763 in Pit Group 9.

Pit 17870, measuring 0.73 m in diameter and 0.26 m in depth, contained no finds. It was cut by Pit 17848, 1.35 m in diameter and 0.46 m in depth, its fills containing pottery, fragments of coin mould (SF 7838), Lodsworth quern (SF 7844) and a fragment of jet black glass frit, possible evidence of bead-making (Allen, p. 247), and slag.

Pit 17836, 0.94 m in diameter and 0.18 m in depth, contained no datable material from its single charcoal-rich fill, while Pit 17819, 1.10 m in diameter and 0.20 m in depth, also contained a single charcoal-rich fill from which small amounts of pottery and animal bone were recovered.

The Central Compound

Pit Group 2 (Object 500190) (FIG. 41)

Pit Group 2 formed a tight cluster of ten pits alongside the northern end of Ditch 11631, as excavated. The cluster partly underlies and therefore predates the establishment of Trackway 2, but respects Ditch 11631 with which it is probably contemporary. This is supported by the pottery, which, on the basis of the high percentage of grog-tempered ware and the overall similarity of the assemblage with that from the secondary fills of Ditch 11631, Timby (p. 204) sees as, potentially, the earliest pit group. In fact very few pits contained Period 1 contamination and a Tiberian, early first-century A.D. date is suggested, perhaps *c.* A.D. 10–30. In plan, dimensions ranged between 0.81 m and 1.25 m with depths varying between 0.05 m and 0.56 m. Charcoal-rich fills were recorded from Pits 10770 and 11701, while clay lenses were noted in Pit 11668. Period 1 pottery was noted from the upper fills of 11670.

Several shallow post-holes (FIG. 41), measuring between 0.25 m and 0.80 m in diameter and between 0.04 m and 0.44 m in depth, were interspersed with the pits. These cuts did not clearly define a structure but probably formed elements of boundary fences associated with the eastern edge of Ditch 11631.

A small assemblage of metalwork finds was recovered from only three of the pits (Crummy, below, p. 127) including a fragment of a copper-alloy brooch, dated *c.* A.D. 10–40/50, and a pyramidal-headed copper-alloy furniture nail, usually found in post-conquest contexts, from Pit 10770, and a (probably imported) iron stylus dating from the early first century A.D. and a hobnail from Pit 11701.

The pottery assemblage was also small. Only four pits had assemblages in excess of 100 sherds and the average sherd weight was only 8.6 g (Timby, p. 186, FIG. 92.95–103). Ingrem (pp. 263 267) notes the high frequency of cattle and the very low frequency of caprines and pig from

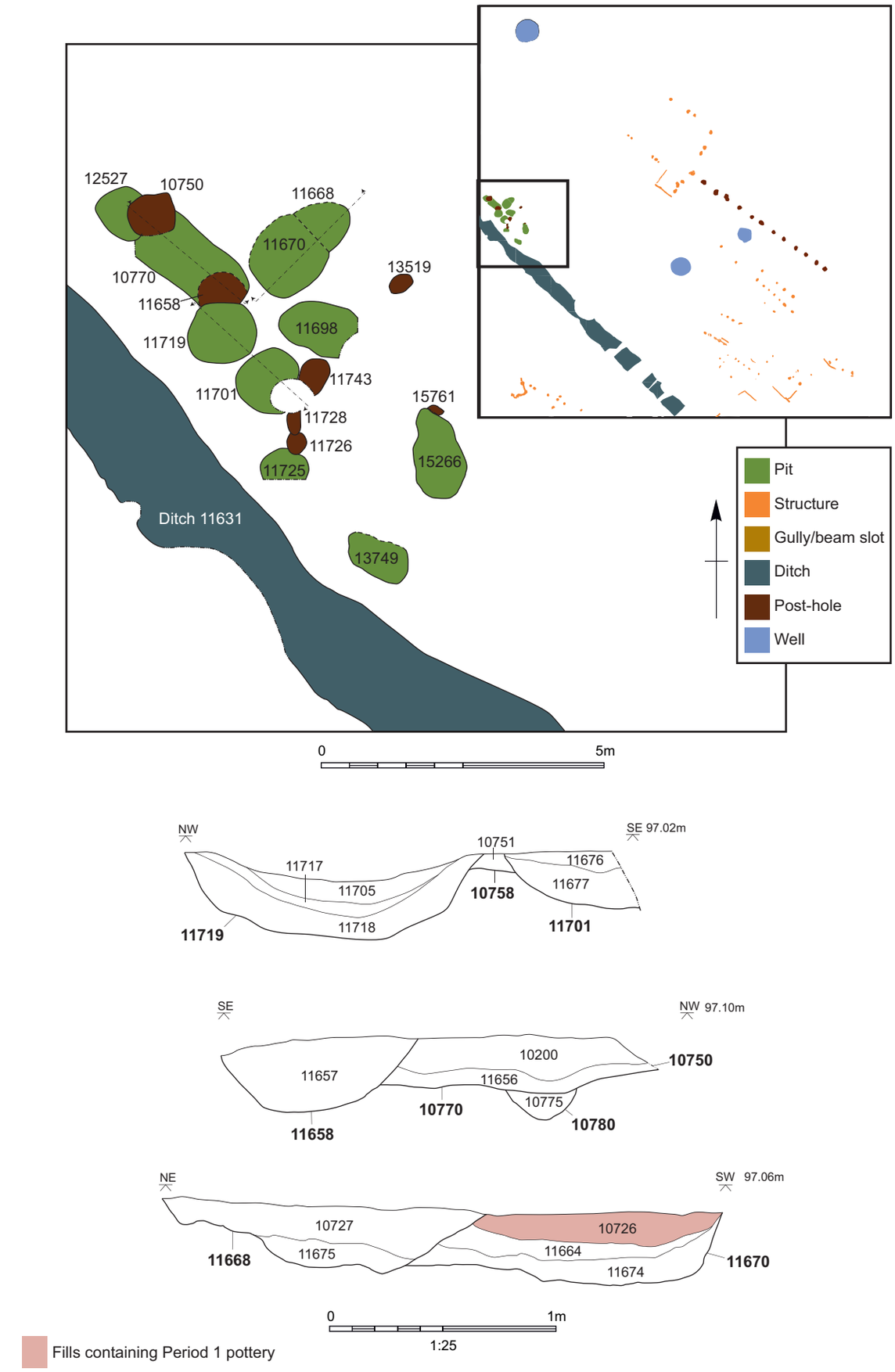

FIG. 41. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Group 2.

this group and compares the representation of cattle with the frequency in the adjacent Ditch 11631. Lodwick (p. 296) records the presence of spelt wheat and barley crop remains including processing waste. The charcoal assemblage from Pit 15266 is dominated by oak (89 per cent), the roundwood suggesting the use of coppiced oak (Barnett, below, p. 318).

Of interest are the slag basins (furnace bottoms) from Pit 11701 and proto-blooms derived from iron-smelting from Pits 11698 and 11701; the latter also produced a small quantity of hammerscale (Allen, pp. 242, 246). Although the overall quantities are small, these residues represent the greatest concentration of iron-making debris from Insula IX, Period 0. The geochemistry does not reveal particularly high concentrations of any metal, though two contexts gave relatively elevated zinc and copper. Otherwise levels of these elements from this pit group are comparable to those from Pit Group 1 and Well 8328. Analysis of samples from post-holes associated with this pit group show comparable results with no particular concentrations of metals, the levels of zinc and strontium being comparable with those in Ditch 11631 and Trackway 2 (Cook, below, pp. 353, 356).

Pit Group 3 (Object 500492) (FIG. 42)

Pit Group 3 was located in Enclosure 3 on the western edge of the Central Compound and comprised three sub-groups. First, Pits 11131, 11135 and 11619, and 15274, 12015 and 12179, which were aligned in a row parallel with the fence bordering the eastern side of Trackway 1 and to the north of Structure 9. Second, Pits 12696, 14658, 15384 and 16839, located within the footprint of Structure 9. Although there is no stratigraphic reason to associate them with the life of the building, this remains a possibility (above, p. 25). Third, Pits 15414, 16439 and 15429, which were located south of Structure 9 and towards the southern limit of excavation, formed a north-east–south-west alignment that extends for 18.29 m. Finally, Pit 16852 cut the southern wall of Structure 9.

Period 1 pottery was recovered from the upper fills of Pits 11135, 12696, 14658 and 15274, and ceramic building material from the upper fills of Pits 11619 and 15414.

Pits north of Structure 9

Pit 11131 is located adjacent to the northern wall of Structure 9 and was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.45 m by 1.00 m with a depth of 0.40 m. Deposit 11117 yielded several iron hobnails. There are pottery sherd joins with Pit 15384 (Timby, p. 189) to the north-east. A radiocarbon date of 100 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 60 was obtained from wood charcoal from this pit (p. 347).

Pit 11135 is located 1.04 m to the north-west of 11131 and measured 1.15 m by 1.14 m with a depth of 0.28 m. While the primary fill (11142) contained no finds, the upper fill (11118), resulting from the consolidation of the lower, contained pottery of Period 1 date.

Pit 11619, measuring 0.05 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth, is located 0.30 m to the north-west of 11135. Primary deposit 11621 yielded a single sherd of grog-tempered pottery, while the small ceramic assemblage from upper deposit 11143 included possibly intrusive ceramic building material.

Pits 15274, 12179 and 12015 formed a discrete cluster 3 m to the north-west of Pit 11619. These pits measured 0.63 m to 1.70 m in plan with shallow depths ranging between 0.09 m and 0.20 m.

Pit 12179, the northernmost in Group 3, was sub-rectangular in plan, its longer sides paralleling the alignment of the trackway to the west. It measured 1.70 m by 1.50 m with a depth of 0.20 m. The fills differed significantly from those of other pits in the group. Deposits 12138 and 12139 comprised scorched sandy clays indicative of either *in-situ* burning or discrete dumping of hearth material. Within Pit 12179, Stake-hole 12199 cut the clay deposits and was sealed by the charcoal-rich uppermost fill (12117). This deposit possibly also derived from *in-situ* burning, with a slag basin (Allen, p. 243) and charred plant remains including spelt and barley grains and spelt-processing waste (Lodwick, below, p. 296). The highest concentration of briquetage in this group was recovered from Pit 12179 (Timby, below, p. 233).

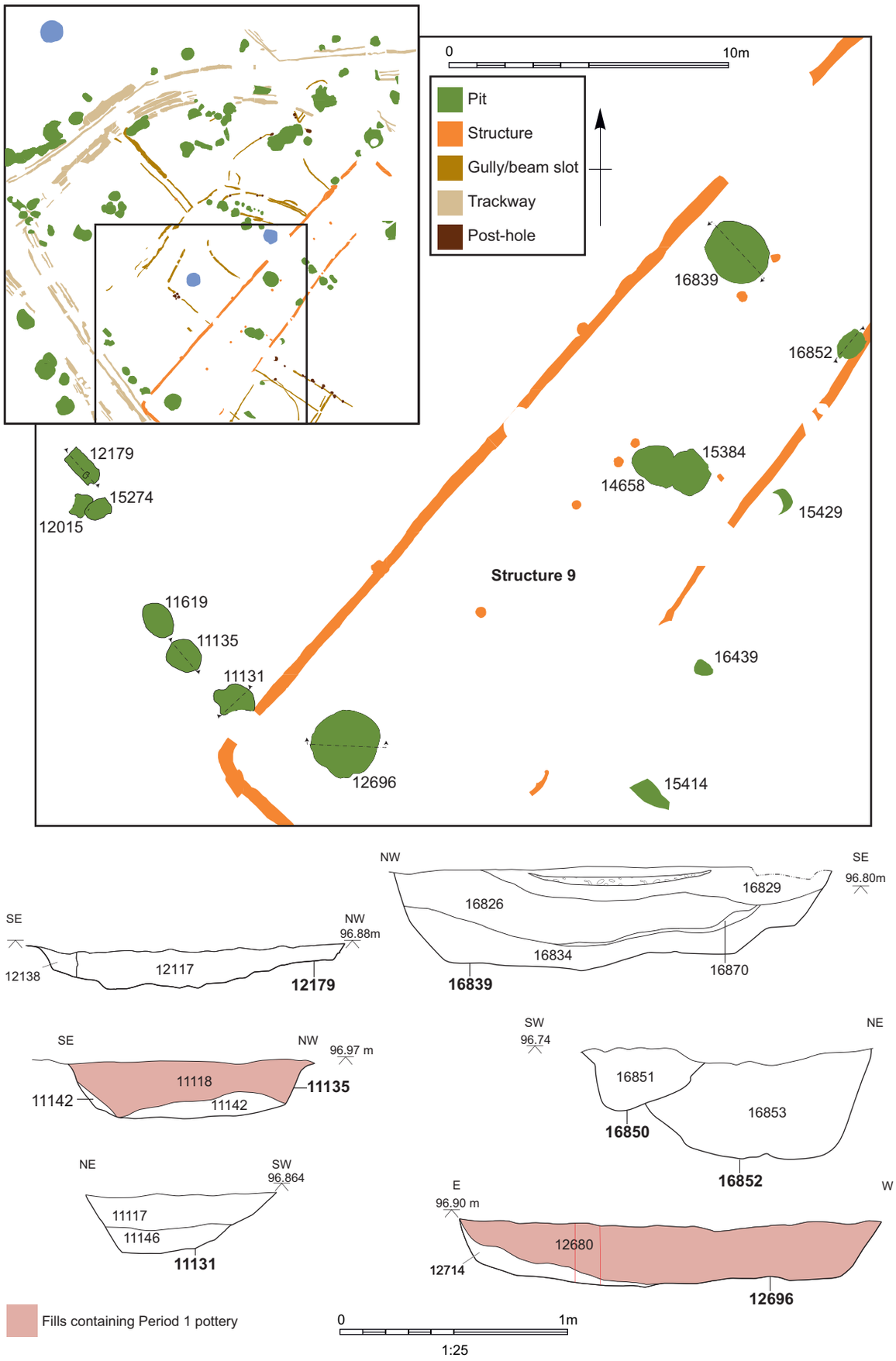

FIG. 42. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Group 3.

Pits within the footprint of Structure 9

Pit 12696 was approximately circular in plan, measuring 2.0 m by 2.5 m, with a depth of 0.39 m. The basal fill 12714 was charcoal-rich. The upper fills contained Period 1 pottery. Small finds include a fragment of spindlewhorl (SF 6446), a fragment of a possible copper-alloy brooch (SF 6439), an iron brooch (SF 6461) and a hobnail (SF 7376; Crummy, below, p. 128). Lodwick reports an instance of *Pisum sativum*/*Vicia faba* (garden pea/broad bean) from this pit (p. 297). Wood charcoal from this pit was dated 100 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 60 (p. 347).

Pit 15384 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.46 m by 1.64 m with a depth of 0.64 m, and was cut by Pit 14658. Its upper fills contained Period 1 pottery. There are sherd joins between Pits 15384 and 11131 (above).

Pit 14658 cut the western edge of Pit 15384 and was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.45 m by 1.25 m with a depth of 0.29 m. Small finds include a possible spindlewhorl (SF 7380) and copper-alloy mirror fragments (SF 7348; Crummy, below, p. 128). Of all the pits in the group, this pit also contained the largest assemblage of pottery, 307 sherds (Timby, below, p. 187). A radiocarbon date of 120 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 50 was obtained from charred peas from this pit (p. 347).

Pit 16839 was located 6.15 m to the north of Pits 14658/15384, and measured 2.40 m by 2.0 m with a depth of 0.57 m. A complete Silchester ware vessel (SF 7752) came from upper fill 16826 (FIG. 92.49).

Pits to the south of Structure 9

Pit 15414, which was the southernmost in this grouping, measured 0.76 m by 0.46 m with a depth of 0.18 m. Small fragments of possibly intrusive ceramic building material and an iron bar (SF 7842) were recovered from this pit.

Pit 16439 measured 0.58 m by 0.40 m with a depth of 0.37 m and contained a single charcoal-rich fill from which no finds were recovered. Pit 15429 measured 2.20 m by 0.40 m with a depth of 0.56 m. It contained a single fill and was truncated to the west by Period 1 Pit 15426.

Pit 16852 measured 1.05 m by 0.84 m with a depth of 0.35 m and was truncated by the southern construction trench of Structure 9. It contained a pierced grog-tempered pottery base (SF 7785).

Commenting on the finds from the group as a whole, Crummy reports on the small assemblage of small finds, which were mostly from just two pits (12696 and 14658) (above in relation to Structure 9, p. 25 and below, p. 128). Timby notes that only six pits from Pit Group 3 produced in excess of 100 sherds, with the largest assemblage of 307 sherds being from Pit 14658 (pp. 187–9, FIG. 92.35–49). There is a strong presence of imported fine wares and a notable presence of fragments of briquetage in the group as a whole (p. 233).

Ingrem records a high frequency of pig and bone extremities (limbs and feet) and a very low incidence of cattle from this group (pp. 263, 267). Barley and spelt grains and spelt-processing waste are once again well represented (Lodwick, p. 297) and the charcoal assemblages are again dominated by oak (Barnett, p. 318). The high frequency of pig and the high representation of imported table ware, together perhaps indicative of feasting, (as well as the copper-alloy mirror) may well relate to the perceived high status and the life of the occupants of Structure 9.

As noted above, radiocarbon dates were obtained for three pits: 120 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 50 from the pea in Pit 14658; and 100 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 60 from Pits 11131 and 12696. However, on the basis of the pottery and the relatively high ratio of Silchester ware to grog-tempered ware, Timby assigns this group to her later group of pit groups, though the representation of fine wares, where Gallo-Belgic wares account for just under 20 per cent of the assemblage, nevertheless indicates a pre-conquest, perhaps later Tiberian date for the group (p. 205), consistent with the estimated chronology of Structure 9.

Pit Group 4 (Object 500547) (FIG. 43)

The pits of Group 4 are tightly clustered in the middle of Enclosure 4. The consolidation of the fills of these sub-circular pits allowed Period 1 occupation deposits, in some cases overlying the clay lenses of Period 1 floor surfaces, to subside into and seal them.

Pit 11673 was the northernmost of the group, measuring 1.70 m by 1.40 m with a depth of

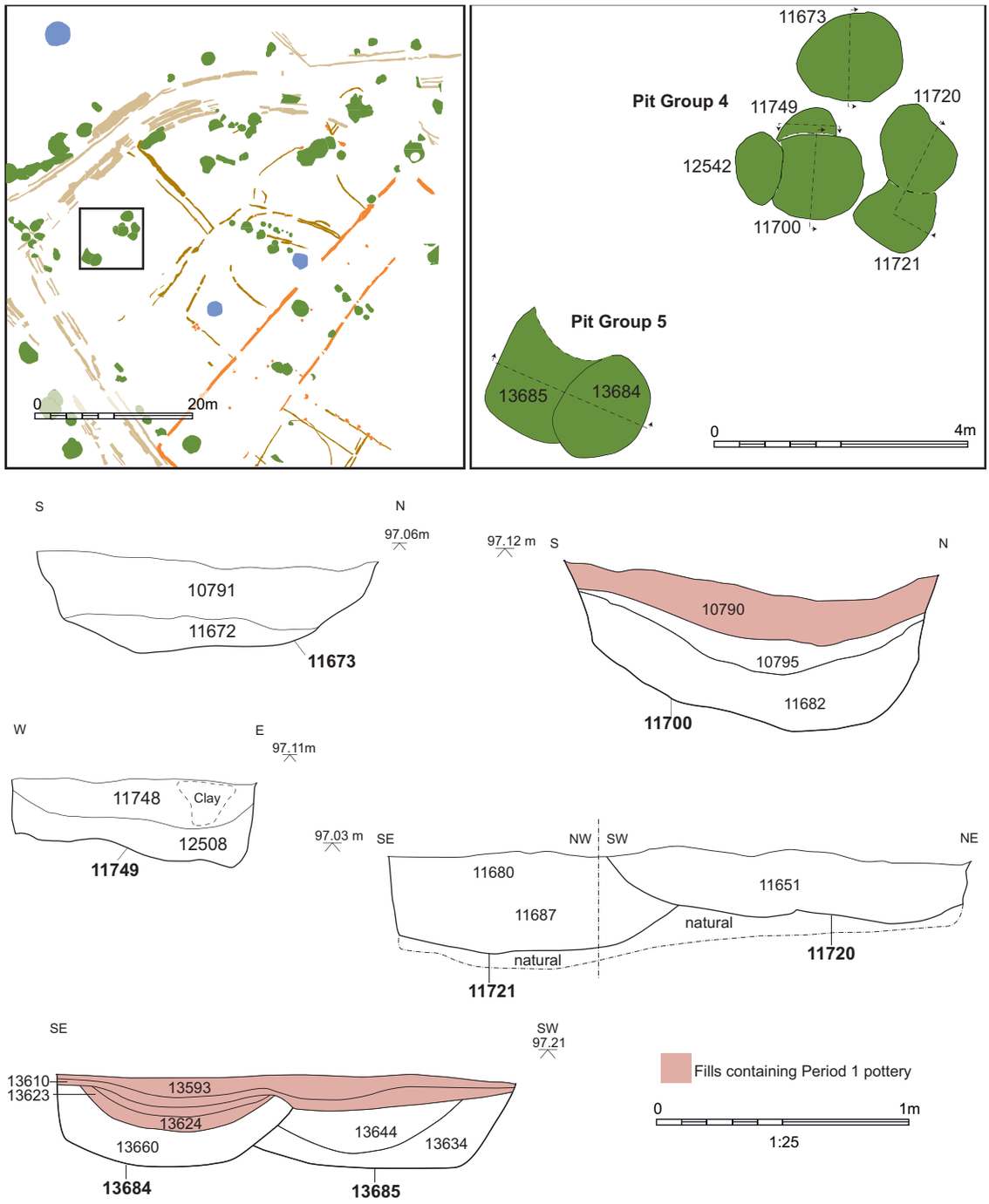

FIG. 43. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Groups 4 and 5.

0.38 m. Small finds include one iron and one copper-alloy brooch (SFs 6099 and 6183), an iron ring (SF 6161) and a possible iron cleaver-handle (SF 6164). Fragments of three spindlewhorls and quernstones were also recovered from this pit.

Pit 11749 was cut by 11700 which, in turn, was cut by 12542. Surface dimensions measured, respectively, 0.9 m, 2.0 m and 1.1 m, with corresponding depths of 0.35 m, 0.46 m and 0.65 m. Banerjea reports on the micromorphology (p. 366), noting that the fill has characteristics consistent with dumped, domestic, discard material. An iron needle (SF 6238) and fired clay (SFs 6213 from Period 1 slump and 6144) were recovered from Pit 11700.

Pit 11720, measuring 1.20 m by 1.20 m with a depth of 0.25 m, cut 11721, measuring 1.30 m by 1.0 m with a depth of 0.40 m, which contained two iron brooches (SFs 6219 and 6221) and briquetage (SF 6248).

The majority of the small finds came from Pit 11673. The Colchester and *Drahtfibel*-type brooches from 11673 and 11721 are all assigned to the first half of the first century A.D. (Crummy, below, p. 128). Timby (below, pp. 189–90, FIG. 93.162–168) assigned the pottery assemblage to her early group of pits on the basis of the high representation of grog-tempered ware, equal to that of Silchester ware. Although there is a high incidence of Italian or provincial sigillata, the group as a whole is dominated by jars.

Lodwick noted the relatively high average density of plant remains in this group, particularly from Pit 11721 (below, p. 297). The high density is comparable with that found in Ditch 11631 and Pit Group 8 (p. 308). Barley and spelt grains as well as spelt-processing waste are well represented. Ingrem notes a high frequency of cattle from this group (p. 263). Barnett (below, p. 319) reports on the charcoal, mostly small roundwood oak, and also from Pit 11721, while Banerjea reports on the micromorphology from Pit 11749, noting, among other characteristics, its rapid infill (below, p. 370).

Pit Group 5 (Object 500525) (FIG. 43)

Pit Group 5 comprises two intercutting pits in Enclosure 4: 13684, measuring 1.33 m by 1.20 m with a depth of 0.45 m, which cut 13685, measuring 1.77 m by 1.40 m with a depth of 0.40 m. The very small finds assemblage included fragments of folded lead sheet (SF 7038; Allen, p. 247) and copper sheet (SF 7039) from Pit 13685. The pottery included a high proportion of jars and of Silchester ware which, with the slightly higher ratio of *terra nigra* to *terra rubra*, places it among Timby's later pit groups (p. 205). Ingrem notes the high frequency of caprines, but in a very small assemblage of animal bone (p. 267).

Pit Group 6 (Object 500539) (FIG. 44)

Pit Group 6 is spread in linear fashion along and inside the northern boundary of Enclosures 1 and 2, adjacent to Well 13965. It comprises, perhaps, three elements: a row of smaller pits (15829 to 17320) flanking three larger pits (14081, 16477 and 16488), the latter interspersed with three more smaller pits (14099, 16487 and 16575). The row of pits, 15829 to 17320, averaged 0.6 m in diameter and 0.4 m in depth. An iron staple or joiner's dog (SF 7768) was recovered from Pit 16575. Of the larger pits, 14081 measured 1.6 m by 1.3 m with a depth of 0.6 m. The Period 1 upper fill contained a spindlewhorl (SF 7336), a copper-alloy mount (SF 7351) and an iron brooch (SF 7370); the lower a hobnail (SF 7387). Pit 16477 measured 1.75 m by 1.40 m with a depth of 0.58 m, and Pit 16488, measured 1.50 m by 1.20 m with a depth of 0.75 m. Both Pits 14081 and 16488 contained Period 1 pottery in their upper fills.

The great majority of the small finds came from Pit 14081 (Crummy, below, p. 130) and these confirm the post-conquest date for the upper fill. Timby (p. 192), notes the small size of the pottery assemblage which is dominated by Silchester ware (storage jars), placing it among her later group of pit groups.

Lodwick reports on the plant remains (barley- and spelt-processing waste) (p. 297), while Barnett comments on the charcoal assemblage where oak roundwood is well represented in an otherwise oak-dominated assemblage (p. 319).

Pit Group 7 (Object 500546) (FIG. 45)

Pit Group 7 is located in the north-west corner of Enclosure 5, adjacent to Trackway 2. Pits 12447 and 12448, each measuring, respectively, 1.20 m by 1.0 m and 1.30 m by 1.30 m, both 0.30 m deep, were cut by 11732, which measured 1.40 m by 0.76 m, with a depth of 0.54 m, and contained iron nails in its primary fill. A fragment of iron wire (SF 6479) was recovered from Pit 12447 and a spindlewhorl (SF 6108) from Pit 11732.

The small find and pottery assemblages are both small, with the vast majority of the pottery

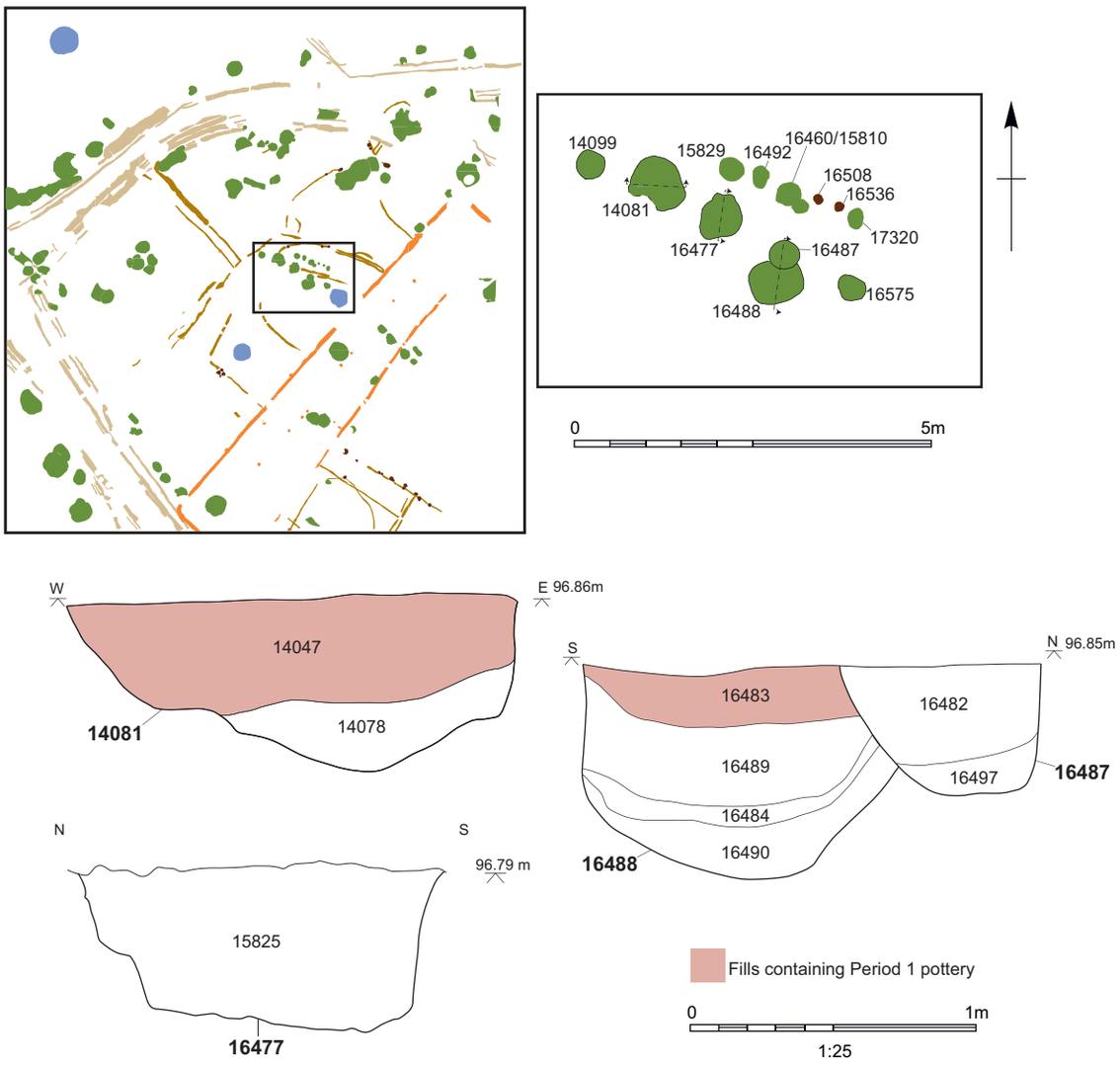

FIG. 44. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Group 6.

being recovered from Pit 11732. Silchester ware and jars dominate the assemblage which also includes an Augustan Central Gaulish platter (Timby, below, pp. 192–3). Although the high percentage of Silchester ware could be an indicator of a late date, Timby notes the quantity of *terra rubra* and absence of *terra nigra* and sigillatas, criteria which could suggest a relatively early date.

Ingrem notes the high frequency of cattle (p. 263), while Lodwick notes a low density of plant remains (p. 297).

Pit Group 8 (Object 500524) (FIG. 45)

Pit Group 8 is located in the north-west of Enclosure 5, between Structure 14 and the boundary ditches of Trackway 2. It comprises ten substantial features, only two (11694 and 15681) of which produced assemblages of pottery in excess of 100 sherds.

Pit 10178 measured 2.3 m by 2.0 m with a depth of 0.35 m and contained an iron strip (SF 5952), sheet and hobnail from the primary fill.

Pit 15681 measured 2 m by 1 m with a depth of 0.4 m and its single fill contained some Period 1 and later pottery, possibly intrusive from late Roman Pit 1438 which cut its southern edge. This pit also contained copper-alloy sheeting (SF 7584) and a possible pierced Silchester ware sherd (SF 7639).

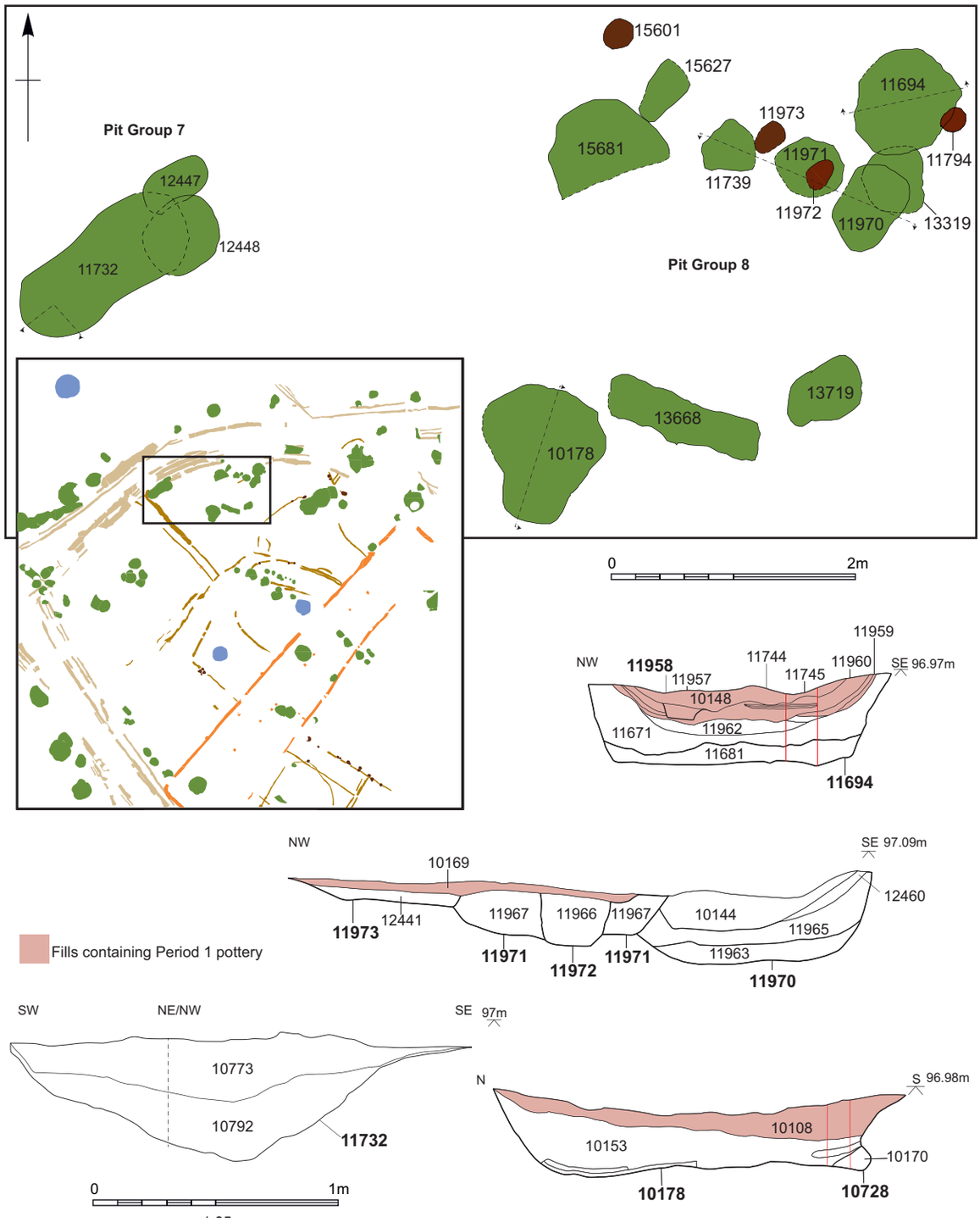

FIG. 45. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Groups 7 and 8.

Pit 11694, which measured 1.85 m by 1.70 m with a depth of 0.40 m, contained a colander sherd in an Alice Holt fabric (SF 6178). Banerjea reports on the micromorphology (pp. 366–8), noting characteristics consistent with dumped, domestic, discard material. Allen comments on two pieces of opaque to semi-translucent glass, possible evidence of bead-making (p. 247).

Pit 13668 was rectangular in plan, measuring 2.63 m by 0.77 m with a depth of 0.25 m. This pit was initially interpreted as a grave yet the single fill (13627) yielded no human remains.

Pit 13719 was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 1.36 m by 0.90 m with a depth of 0.26 m. It was filled with a single silt fill (13694).

Pit 13319 was located 0.70 m to the north of Pit 16630 (FIG. 4) and contained a series of dump deposits containing nails, daub and possibly intrusive fragments of ceramic building material.

Pit 11970, which truncated the southern edge of 13319, measured 1.28 m by 0.99 m with a depth of 0.48 m and contained three fills that yielded only five small sherds of Silchester ware and unidentified iron fragments (SFs 6488 and 6489) and a hobnail (SF 7364) from the primary fill.

Pit 11971 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.04 m wide and 0.22 m deep. It contained a single fill (11967) that contained a charred clay lens indicating a probable slumped floor surface associated with Period 1 occupation.

Pit 11739 was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.87 m by 0.85 m with a depth of 0.48 m. The single charcoal-rich silt fill (11693) yielded few finds.

Pit 15627 was the northernmost in this grouping and measured 0.75 m by 0.50 m with a depth of 0.30 m. A single hobnail (SF 7547) was also recovered from this pit.

Finally, Post-holes 11794, 11972, 11973 and 15601 averaged 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m deep, and defined a possible alignment or structure associated with the pits of Group 8.

Crummy notes the very small assemblage of small finds from this group (below, p. 131). Most of the pottery derives from only two pits, 11694 and 15681 (Timby, below, pp. 193–4, FIG. 94). The small assemblage overall has a higher ratio of *terra nigra* to *terra rubra* and includes Abingdon-type butt beaker sherds, two factors which would put the group among the later pits (p. 205).

Ingrem notes the high frequency of sheep and lack of pig in an otherwise small assemblage of animal bone (p. 267). Lodwick reports the plant remains from two pits, noting spelt grains and associated processing waste (below, p. 297).

Pit Group 9 (Object 500540) (FIGS 46–47)

Pit Group 9 is located along the northern edge of Enclosure 6 and extends to the north-eastern limit of the excavation. Pit 16546, measuring 3.02 m by 1.89 m with a depth of 0.85 m, contained a prehistoric flint arrowhead (SF 7728) and a fragment of iron brooch (SF 7750). Sherds from this pit link with sherds from Pit 15109. Pit 16546 was cut by Pit 11763, which measured 2.55 m by 2.35 m, with a depth of 0.96 m, and contained fragments of quernstone, a pierced Silchester ware sherd (SF 6223) and sherds linking it with Pit 16027 in Pit Group 1. It also contained an iron plaque in its upper fill which might be from an *ad hoc* armour repair (Crummy, p. 131). It cut or was cut by 11764, which measured 1.63 m by 1.45 m, with a depth of 0.75 m, and contained a clay fill (11758); 11764 also produced fragments of quernstone (SF 7663) and joining sherds linking it with Pits 11763 and 17317. Pit 15109, 2.57 m by 1.13 m and 0.66 m in depth, was located towards the southern edge of Trackway 2, sharing the east–west alignment of the trackway ditches. The upper fills were rich in charcoal with deposit 15088 yielding a loomweight fragment (SF 7071) and the uppermost fill (15069) containing briquetage fragments (SF 7882). Pit 15112 was located 8.80 m to the north-east of Pit 11764 and measured 1.45 m by 1.25 m with a depth of 0.49 m. Period 1 pottery was recovered from the upper fill 15082 and a single hobnail (SF 7029) from 15093. Pit 10468, 1.4 m in diameter and 0.9 m in depth, marks the eastern limit of the group, located beneath the junction of the Roman north–south and east–west streets. Its fill produced a coin mould fragment (SF 6124) and fragments of fired clay.

The large (1,505 sherds) pottery assemblage includes several so far unique to Silchester vessels, while multiple sherds from the same vessels from different pits suggest their broad contemporaneity (Timby, below, pp. 194–5, FIG. 95). Fine wares account for a relatively high proportion of the assemblage, 10.3 per cent by sherd count. With good representation of *terra rubra* and other North Gaulish fine wares and a high percentage of grog-tempered ware, Timby places these pits among her early groups. However, a sherd of pre-Flavian South Gaulish samian and a sherd of *terra nigra*, possibly of Cam. Form 16, could push their final filling towards the mid-first century A.D.

Pigs' feet, perhaps related to the processing of pig skins, are particularly frequent in this group with articulating metatarsals from Pit 17317, which also produced the only fishbone, possibly

FIG. 46. Location and plan of Pit Groups 9 and 10.

trout (Ingrem, below, pp. 267, 268). Lodwick records very low quantities of charred plant remains (p. 297).

Pit Group 10 (Object 500484) (FIGS 46–47)

Pit Group 10 is contained within or adjacent to the footprint of Structure 15 and may well relate to its use and eventual abandonment. It includes Pit 15136, measuring 1.10 m by 0.30 m with a depth of 0.24 m and heavily truncated by Pit 15142/15128, which was roughly 3.65 m square with irregular edges and a depth of 0.5 m. It seems to have been rapidly filled with interleaving deposits of charcoal-rich soil and gravel; deposit 15130 included lenses of clay, perhaps derived from the flooring of the associated structure, while the uppermost fills contained most of the finds, which included a coin-mould fragment (SF 7571), a grog-tempered colander base sherd (SF 7507) and a fragment of *lorica segmentata* (SF 7031) from upper fill 15072 as well as some pre-Flavian South Gaulish samian pottery.

Crummy argues that the *lorica segmentata* strap fitting from the top fill of Pit 15142/15128 is post-conquest in date (below, p. 131). Timby's analysis of the pottery (below, pp. 195–8, FIG. 96) suggests that, on the basis of the preponderance of Central Gaulish fine wares over Gallo-Belgic material and the high percentage of grog-tempered ware, these pits belong to her early group. However, there is, as we have seen, a small amount of post-conquest material from the top fill of 15142/15128.

The environmental evidence for this pit group is of some interest. The high frequency of cattle and pig heads and the scarcity of major limbs may be evidence of nearby butchery (Ingrem,

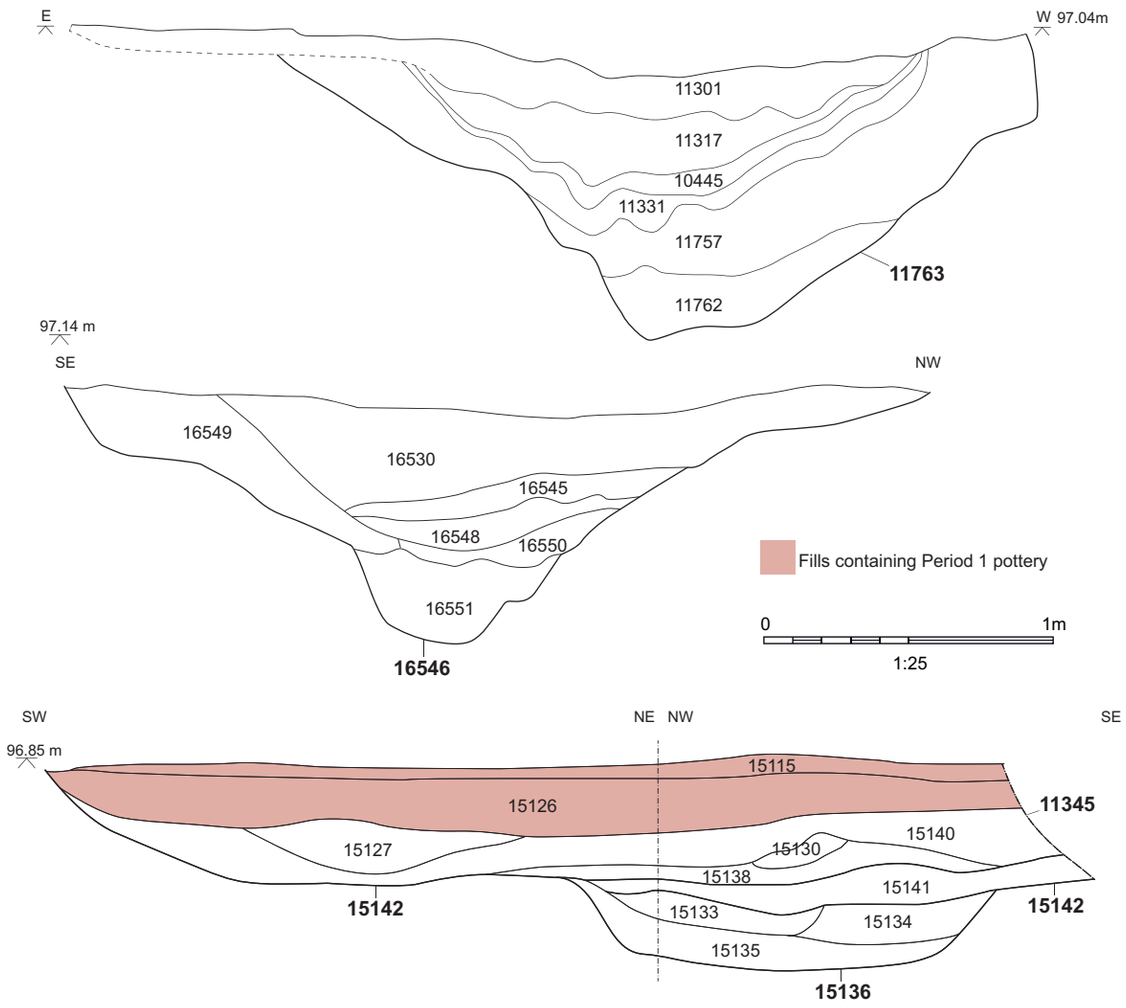

FIG. 47. Profiles of Pit Groups 9 and 10.

pp. 263, 267), while the charred plant remains (Lodwick, below, p. 297) exhibit a relatively high density, including flax seeds, barley and spelt grain and its associated processing waste. Finally, the charcoal (Barnett, below, p. 319) from the largest sample (15140) includes four taxa rarely or not found in other analysed samples (spindle, beech, dogwood and a member of the Fabaceae).

Pit Group 11 (Object 500542) (FIG. 48)

Pit Group 11 is a loose linear arrangement of seven pits extending along and beyond the northern wall-trench of Structure 9 into the north-east corner of the excavated area. Pit 11446 at the southern end measuresd 1.2 m by 1 m with a depth of 0.6 m and appears to pre-date Structure 9. It contained briquetage and baked clay fragments (SFs 6256 and 6257). Pit 17339, measuring 0.68 m in diameter with a depth of 0.16 m, is located at the north end of Structure 9 and adjacent to Pit 16688 which was partly sealed by the Period 1 north–south street. Measuring 2.98 m by 2.66 m with a depth of 0.90 m, Pit 16688 contained the only small finds from this group, including a spindlewhorl (SF 7881), a possible ceramic stopper (SF 7780), a conquest-period Nauheim Derivative brooch (SF 7798; Crummy, p. 132) and Period 1 pottery from context 16577. Immediately to its north is the small Pit 16038 which measures 1.32 m by 0.94 m with a depth of 0.23 m.

Further beyond the end of Structure 9 is Pit 17824, measuring 1.90 m by 1.45 m with a depth

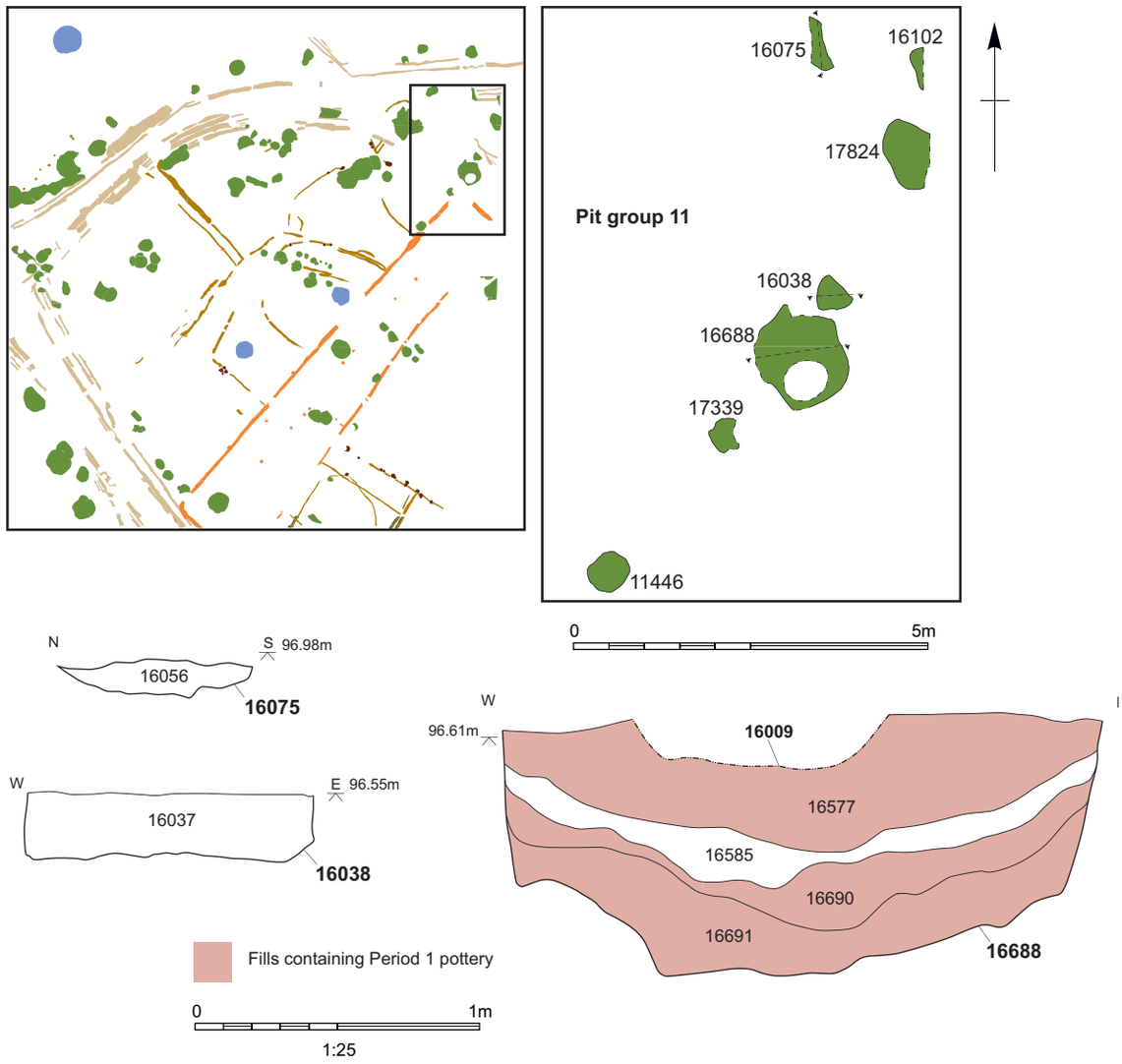

FIG. 48. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Group 11.

of 0.59 m and sealed by the gravels of the Period 1 north–south street. Also sealed by the street are Pits 16075 and 16102, the former truncated by gullies possibly connected with Trackway 2, the latter right at the edge of the excavation trench and only partly excavated.

The pottery assemblage is relatively small with only one pit (11446) producing more than a 100 sherds (Timby, pp. 198–9, FIG. 97). Storage jars in Silchester ware account for 60 per cent of the assemblage by eve. On the basis of the high ratio of Central Gaulish to Gallo-Belgic wares and the relatively high percentage of grog-tempered wares, Timby assigns the pits to her early group. She also notes a particular concentration of briquetage (p. 233). The assemblage also includes a fragment of a stamped, decorated Italian chalice of Augustan–early Tiberian date (Bird, below, p. 219).

Lodwick notes a low density of charred plant remains, which include crop-processing waste and a possible seed of celery (p. 298).

Pit Group 12 (Object 500557) (FIG. 49)

Pit Group 12 is located at the northern end of Structure 10 and comprises a linear sub-group of four pits, 16857, 16926, 16908 and 16930, and, immediately adjacent to the latter two, Pit

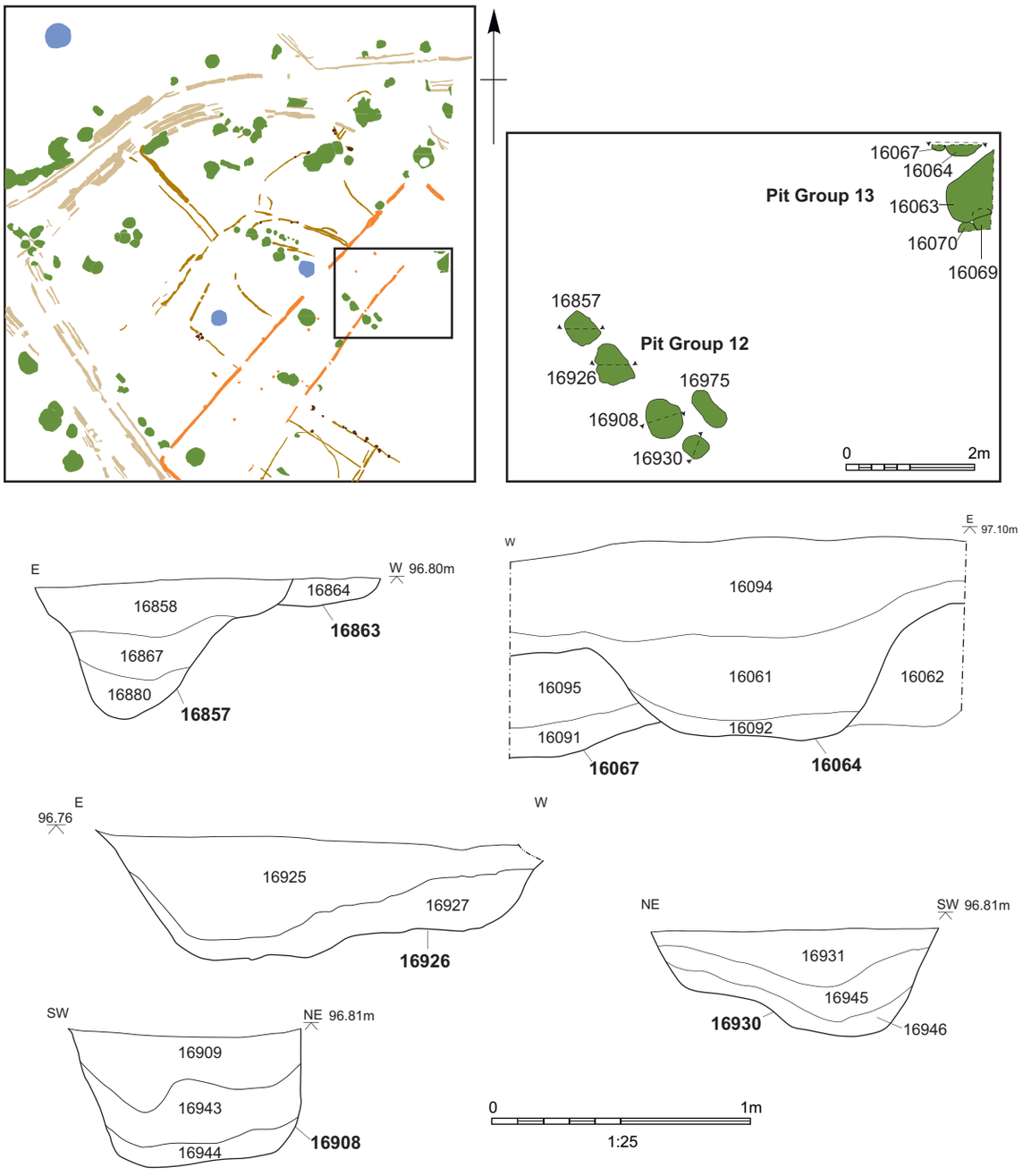

FIG. 49. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Groups 12 and 13.

16975. It is difficult to say whether these pits are associated with Structure 10 or pre-date it. Pits 16857 and 16926 also lie within the footprint of Structure 9.

The linear group of four pits averaged 1.2 m in diameter with an average depth of 0.5 m, while adjacent Pit 16975 measured 1.10 m by 0.60 m with a depth of 0.32 m, and contained Period 1 material from the single fill, including a Claudio-Neronian samian Drag. 24/25.

The small pottery assemblage of 104 sherds contains a notable amount of amphora sherds, a third of the assemblage by weight (Timby, p. 199). While Pit 16975 is probably post-conquest, Pit 16926 containing Augusto-Tiberian sigillata and Gallo-Belgic wares is relatively early. Ingrem notes the above average frequency of pig from this group (p. 267). No other environmental material is reported from this pit group.

Pit Group 13 (Object 500543) (FIG. 49)

Pit Group 13 is sealed by the Period 1 north–south street and is located at the eastern edge of the excavation where an exploratory trench was dug through the street. It contains one substantial pit, 16063, oriented north-east/south-west, which measured 1.52 m by 0.66 m with a depth of 0.66 m. The single fill contained no finds. To north and south are located shallow Pits 16064, 16067, 16070 and 16069, averaging 0.6 m in diameter and 0.3 m in depth. No small finds were recovered from this pit group; nor has any environmental material attracted any comment.

The South-West Compound

Pit Group 14 (Object 500554) (FIGS 50–51)

Pit Group 14 comprises four pits and lines the western side of Trackway 1 in the south-west corner of the excavation trench. One deeper pit, possibly intended to be a well, 11026, completes the group at its southern end.

Pit 11026 is at the southern end of Pit Group 14, close to the edge of the excavated area (FIG. 51). It measures *c.* 2.5 m in diameter with a depth of 2.8 m. Although the basal fills were below the water table, there was no trace of preserved organic material and few finds altogether, the implication being that the feature did not stay open for long. The lowest clay, gravel and charcoal-rich fills (12891, 12893) produced only a few sherds of Silchester ware and grog-tempered ware. Above this, lenses of sand, silt and gravel probably represent the erosion of the sides of the well before a sequence of rubbish deposits filled the upper half of the remaining pit. Upper fill 11581 was sealed by a series of slumping gravel-rich soils similar in character to the cultivated soils encountered across the trench as a whole. Radiocarbon dates of 50 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 80 and 120 cal B.C.–A.D. cal 30 were obtained from the basal and second fill of the pit (below, p. 347).

The small group of small finds (Crummy, below, p. 134) includes a counter or small dish from the recycled base of a small Silchester ware vessel (SF 6354) from low down in the fill and Lodsworth greensand quernstone fragments (SFs 6112, 6224 and 7660; Durham, p. 231). Of note are a crucible fragment with traces of both copper and lead, and iron-making debris in the form of a slag basin from a primary fill and a small quantity of hammerscale from upper fill 11568 (Allen, pp. 246, 247).

The charred plant remains, mostly from the upper, Period 1 fills, contained barley and spelt grains and associated processing waste (Lodwick, p. 298), while the charcoal contained a very high percentage (96 per cent) of oak from the upper fills (Barnett, p. 319).

Pit 9606 is next to 11026. It measured 1.74 m by 1.55 m with a depth of 0.96 m and contained charcoal-rich fills. The micromorphology (Banerjea, pp. 365–9) suggests rapid and intensive infill of the pit with kitchen waste over a short period of time. This is supported by the geochemistry which shows elevated levels of zinc (but not phosphorus) (Cook, below, p. 356). Lower fill 9128 produced an iron leather-working awl (SF 5635) and an iron brooch (SF 5653) (Crummy, below, p. 134). A sherd of Claudio-Neronian samian, Drag. 29, was recovered from the uppermost fill (9605).

Pit 10237, measuring 1.3 m in diameter with a depth of 0.4 m, was truncated by Pit 8580, which measured 3.2 m by 3.1 m with a depth of 1.4 m. Its lower fill, 9592, contained Roman ceramic building material and a Neronian-Flavian samian potter's stamp, while the upper fills also included significant quantities of pottery of Periods 1 and 2. The only find from a Period 0 fill in this pit is a possible unfinished iron brooch (SF 5478) from a basal context (Crummy, p. 133). The remaining finds are associated with the Period 1 upper fills and include studs (SF 5610) and a hook (SF 5606) possibly associated with leather ware, possible copper-alloy metal-working debris (SFs 5664, 5666), a fragment of a Durotrigan type iron brooch, an iron finger-ring (SF 5650), hobnails (SFs 5686, 5797), a fragment of an imported, clear glass bead (SF 5696) and a fragment of a bone hinge unit (SF 5655). Durham comments on the quern fragments (p. 231), while Allen notes fragments of fuel-ash slag with large patches of green corrosion suggestive of copper- or copper-alloy-working (p. 246). Cook reports on the geochemistry, noting elevated levels of phosphorus, copper, zinc and strontium, all indicative of mixed food, animal and human waste disposal (p. 355).

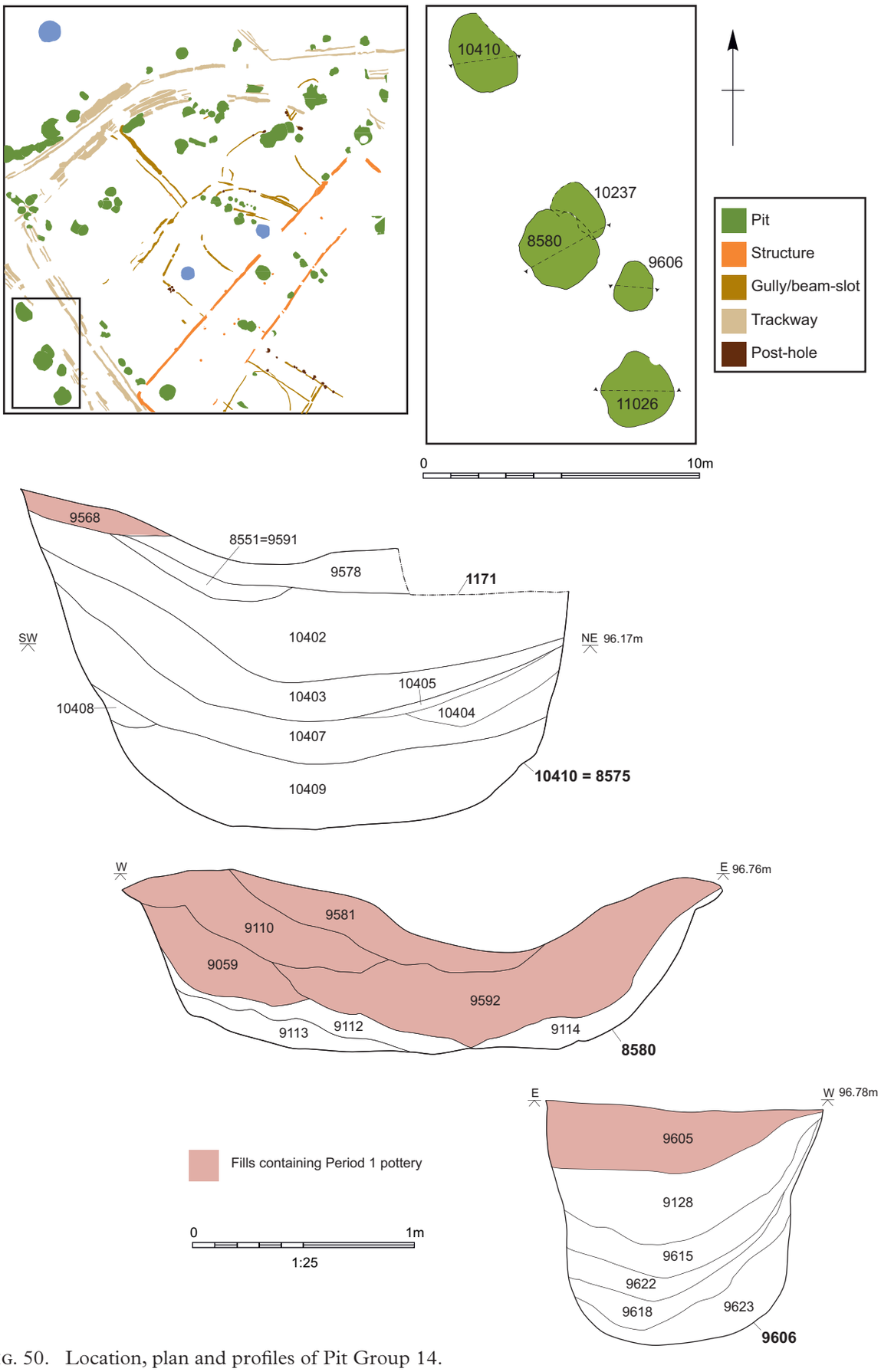

FIG. 50. Location, plan and profiles of Pit Group 14.

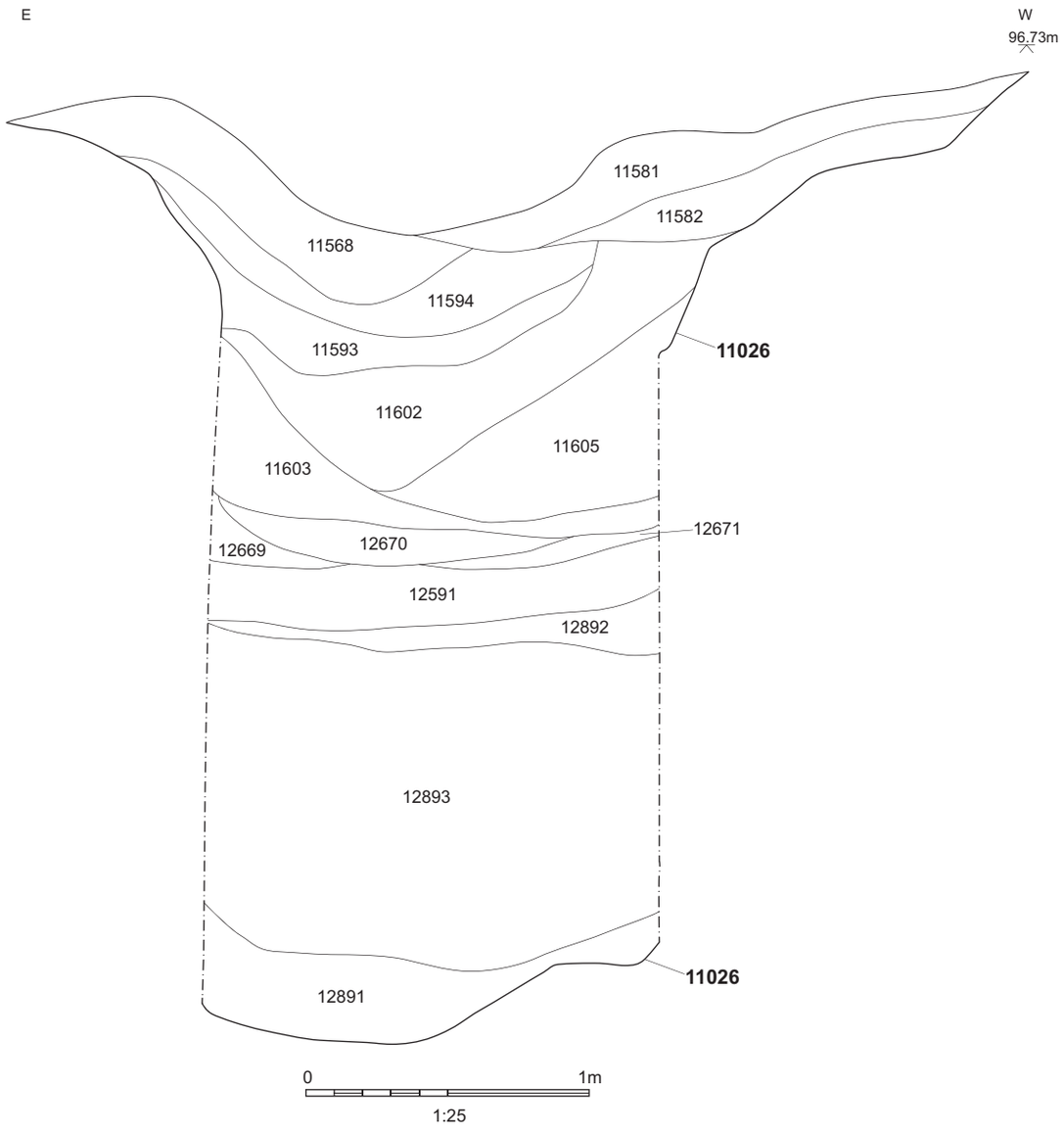

FIG. 51. Profile of Pit 11026.

The pottery from Pit 8580 accounts for just over half (54 per cent) of the entire assemblage from Pit Group 14, with three other pits yielding in excess of 100 sherds (Timby, below, pp. 199–202, FIG. 98). The majority of the fills of 8580 are of Period 1 date with several samian sherds of Neronian date and a stamp of Crestus i of Neronian-Flavian (*c.* A.D. 65–90) date from lower fill 9592, which also contained over 1 kg of Roman ceramic building material and slag basins derived from iron-making (Allen, p. 243). Articulating cattle, sheep and dog bones were recovered from the basal fill (9592) of 8580 (Ingrem, pp. 263, 265, 268), which also produced the only bone of a wild bird (a wader) from Period 0 (p. 268).

Finally, to the north, Pit 10410, measuring 2.9 m by 2.2 m with a depth of 1.4 m, was truncated by the Period 3 foundation trench 1171 of House 1. The micromorphology (Banerjea, pp. 366–8) suggests rapid infill of the pit with domestic waste over a short period of time. It contained an iron punch (SF 5461; Crummy, p. 134). Two sherds of Augusto-Tiberian sigillata occurred in 10409 (Bird, p. 157); the upper fills contained Period 1 pottery.

This group of pits shares certain characteristics, particularly a greater average depth than the pits in the Central Compound, with some of those in the western sub-group of Pit Group 1,

bordering Trackway 2 in the North-West Compound (p. 49). All but one pit (10237) is 1–1.4 m in depth, while the pit possibly intended to be a well, 11026, is 2.8 m in depth. Also comparable is the volume of finds which are probably of Period 1 date, particularly from Pit 8580. Timby places these pits among her later group, noting the greater incidence (by weight) of *terra nigra* over *terra rubra*, though much of the evidence of pottery and small finds derives from 8580 (p. 199), which has post-conquest material from low down in its fills. It cannot be ruled out that all the pits in this group are post-conquest, but with fills containing some residual pre-Roman material.