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Excavations on a possible Roman villa and earlier activity at land off Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh

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The site, lying on former farmland, was investigated by trial trenching on three occasions in 2002, and by area excavation, in advance of housing development, in 2004–5. Struck flints provide slight evidence of Mesolithic or Neolithic activity, and an isolated later Bronze Age barrel urn, probably a funerary deposit, is of interest. The main occupation began in the immediate pre-conquest period, and the earliest features are ring or penannular ditches, probably associated with buildings, which go out of use in the mid–late 1st century AD. Later structures were more substantial, with rectilinear stone foundations identified in the trial trenches. These were interpreted as probably part of a villa complex, and what seemed to be the core of it was excluded from the development area. The excavation areas were, therefore, towards the edge of the main settlement area, and revealed primarily ditches belonging to enclosures or paddocks, as well as some pits, waterholes or wells, and postholes of uncertain purpose. This activity began in the mid–late 1st century AD, and ceased in the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD. The first villa-like buildings at nearby Rapsley were not seen until c *AD 200–20, and the possibility is considered that it then replaced the site at Wyphurst as the chief centre in this area.*

Introduction

Proposals by Osborne Homes in partnership with Waverley Borough Council and New Downland Housing Association to develop an area of land to the north of Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh (TQ 0612 3991; figs 1 and 2) for social housing, led the Principal Archaeologist's office, Surrey County Council, to recommend that an archaeological investigation of the site should take place prior to determination of planning permission.

The resulting trial trench evaluation (fig 3, trenches 1–12 and fig 4; Dover 2002a), which took place between 10 and 14 January 2002, concluded that the proposed development would 'disturb a late 1st/ early 2nd century farming settlement, possibly a villa complex, (with possible earlier phases) in an area of Surrey that has not produced much evidence of the Romano-British period'. These results prompted Waverley Borough Council to seek to determine the archaeological status of a further area of land at the site, and a second evaluation was undertaken between 4 and 6 March 2002; further features of similar, and earlier origin were discovered by this work (fig 3, trenches 13–24 and fig 4; Dover 2002b). Subsequent discussions concluded that a Preservation Strategy Area A (fig 3) should not be disturbed except to the extent that it was necessary to do so in order to maintain the viability of the housing scheme. Area A included the densest concentration of Roman features indicated by the evaluation, which included wall foundations belonging to more than one building, and it seemed most likely that this contained the nucleus of the contemporary settlement. The amended development plan that followed focused principally on ground where evaluation had identified either no or only dispersed archaeological features, but included an area where no previous evaluation had taken place. The investigation of this area by a third evaluation revealed no further archaeological remains (fig 3, trenches 25–30; Dover 2002c).

A revised development plan, taking account of the archaeological considerations noted, was submitted to Waverley Borough Council who granted planning permission subject to the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological work. This led to the excavation of Sites 1 (fig 5) and 2 (fig 6) between 9 November and 16 December 2004, and 6 and 27 January 2005.

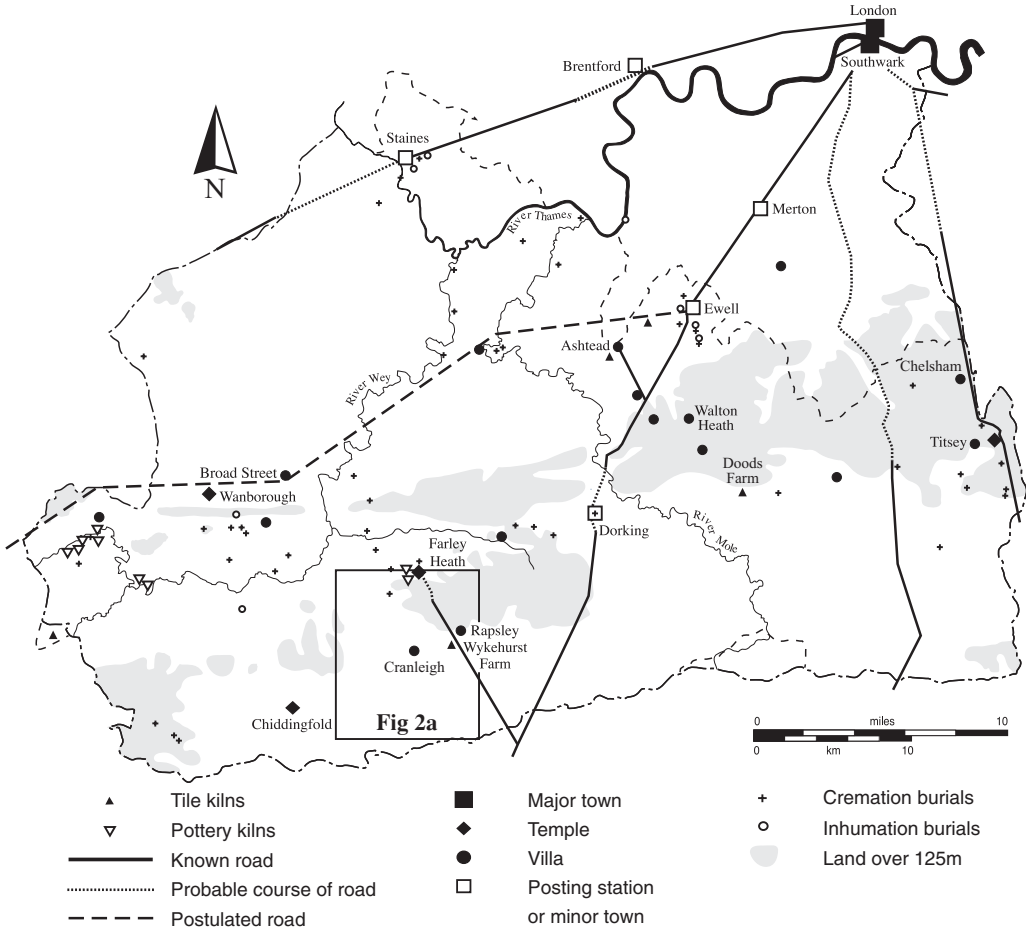

Fig 1 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: location of the site in the context of a map of the principal archaeological features of Roman Surrey (based on Bird 1987, fig 7.7, with additions). The classification of Chiddingfold as a temple follows the suggestion of Bird (2002), but the earlier identification as a villa remains a possibility.

All elements of the archaeological fieldwork were undertaken by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and were commissioned by Osborne Homes on behalf of Downland Housing Association. The evaluations were directed by Mark Dover and the excavation by Graham Hayman. The archive is held by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Surrey History Centre, Woking, pending identification of a suitable repository.

Notes on this report

The trial trench features lying within each subsequent excavation area are noted below with the later discoveries as part of the overall site assemblage, and some of those within Preservation Strategy Area A are mentioned in the *Discussion* (below); these features are recognisable by their context numbers which are always below 200. A brief summary for each trench that was outside the subsequent excavation areas and produced positive results is given under *Trial trench features* (below).

While most of the archaeology discovered would appear to belong to the 1st or 2nd century AD, the nature of the dating evidence recovered is such that a large number of features could not be securely placed within this period (many, for example, are only loosely datable as being

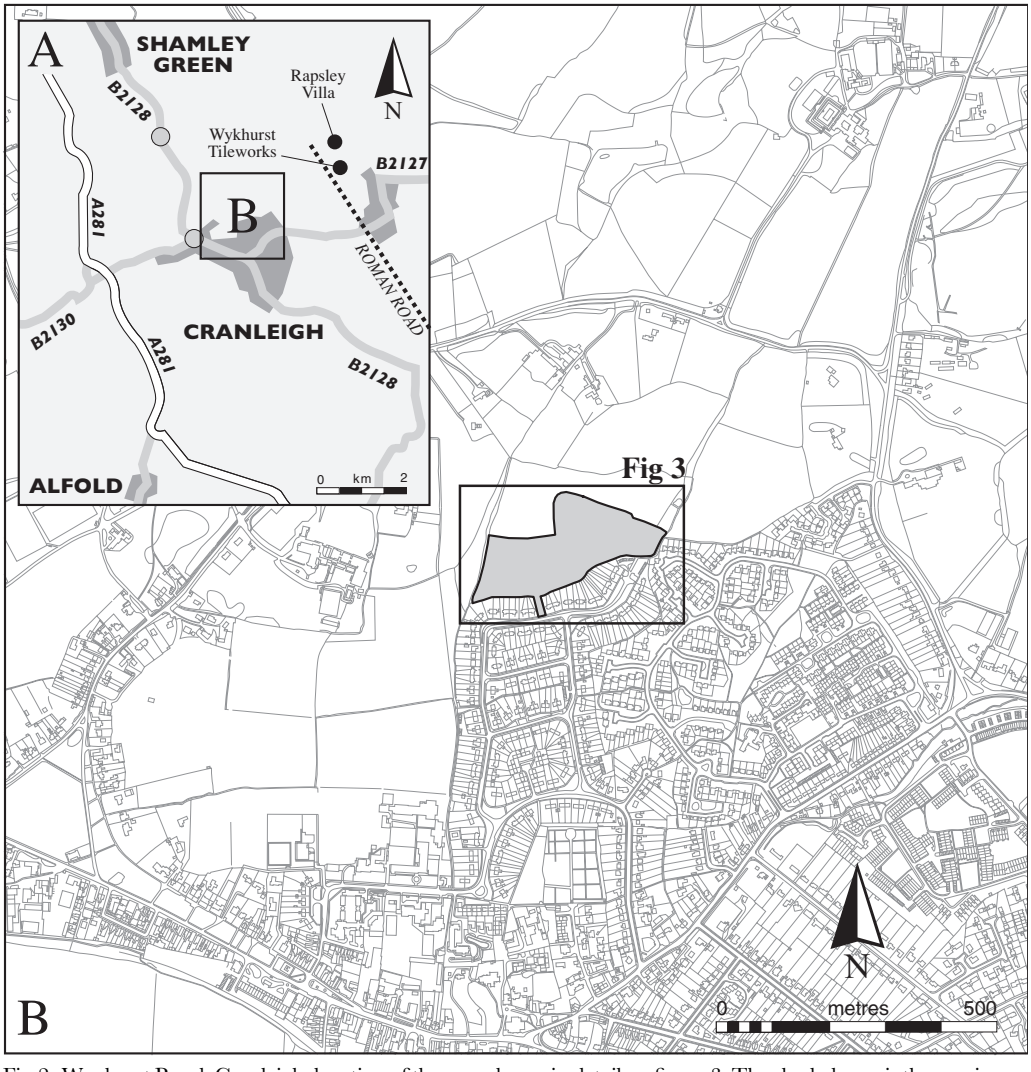

Fig 2 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: location of the area shown in detail on figure 3. The shaded area is the maximum extent of the area of archaeological investigation, as shown on figure 3. (© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved)

'Roman', and in the case of some recut linear features their origin may be obscured by the presence of material which belongs to their final infilling). The dating evidence available has been presented below, but phases of occupation are difficult to define clearly, a point that has been further considered in the *Discussion*.

Prior to the commencement of work there was very little available information regarding archaeological finds in the immediate vicinity of the site. Important Roman sites are known from Rapsley, near Ewhurst, and Wykehurst Farm, Cranleigh (figs 1 and 2), and their relationship to the present site is considered in the *Discussion*, where the wider context of the site is also reviewed.

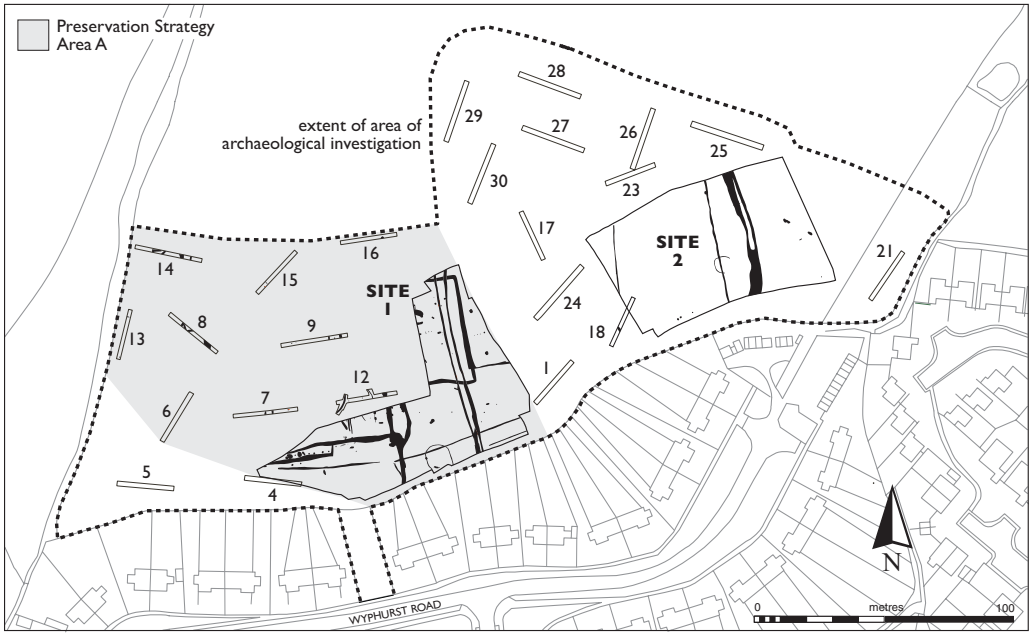

Fig 3 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: plan showing the location of all archaeological investigations, and the extent of Preservation Strategy Area A. (© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved)

Topography

The topography of both site areas sloped gradually downwards from north to south, that of Site 1 also sloping downwards to the west at its western end, while Site 2 sloped downwards to the east at its eastern end. To the north of each site the ground levelled off before eventually beginning another downward slope. The ground within Preservation Strategy Area A was, for the most part, relatively level.

Machining, stratigraphy, and geology

STRATIGRAPHY

The overburden to the level of the undisturbed 'natural' geology was removed using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.5m-wide toothless bucket. This consisted of around 0.20–0.30m of topsoil over 0–0.25m of brown clay subsoil in each site area. No subsoil was observed on the higher ground to the north, this deposit and the topsoil being thickest at the southern limit of excavation, which lay immediately adjacent to the extant boundary between the redevelopment area and the rear gardens of the houses on the northern side of Wyphurst Road. This boundary, marked by a tree line and a partially infilled ditch, has almost certainly influenced the build up of both deposits in its immediate vicinity, some material probably deriving from bank material and some probably resulting from ploughing. This build-up led to the development of a narrow strip of relatively flat or converse sloping ground along the northern side of the boundary as seen at surface level, though the natural profile of the ground was maintained through the gardens and at the level of the natural.

The machining of the site showed it to be criss-crossed by numerous recent field drains, most of which contained short sections of terracotta pipe. The exposure of and damage to some of the shallower of these drains, periods of heavy rainfall and the high level of water within the ground, caused each site to flood (for prolonged periods, or throughout the excavation) against parts of the southern boundary. This hampered or prevented the

excavation of some features, but it is not thought that significant information was lost as a result.

GEOLOGY

The undisturbed geology in each site area consisted of orange-yellow Wealden Clay, with areas of orange-yellow-white sandy clay, and insubstantial outcrops of yellow sandstone mixed with clay. Outcroppings of sandstone were also encountered during the third evaluation of the site (Dover 2002c) and this material was used in wall foundations of Roman buildings within Preservation Strategy Area A.

Metal detector survey

A metal detector was used to scan the surface of all exposed feature fills after the removal of the overburden from the site, and was used on occasion to scan the overburden during and after its removal, though this was not always possible. Scanning the features led to the recovery of a large number of iron objects, mostly nails, from ditch 200 and, to a lesser degree, from ditch 228, and to the recovery of a fragment from a copper-alloy object, which was found close to the surface of 200.

Trial trench features (fig 4)

The features noted here were discovered in trial trenches lying within Preservation Strategy Area A to the north and north-west of Site 1 (fig 3), with the exception of trench 18, which lay between Site 1 and Site 2.

TRENCH 7

Three postholes (contexts 122, 123 and 133), two gullies (125 and 132) and one possible stakehole (134) were investigated in trench 7. Context 122 contained a fill of dark grey/brown sandy clay, from which two sherds of Roman pottery, and one fragment of daub were collected. Posthole 123 contained a similar fill, though with frequent fragments of charcoal in this case, and produced one sherd of Roman pottery. Posthole 133 contained a fill of mid–dark grey/brown silty clay with abundant fragments of sandstone, and produced two Roman sherds. Some of the postholes found during the later excavation also contained frequent stones – see 227 in *Phase 3*, *Postholes* (below) for a possible explanation for these.

Gullies 125 and 132 were both aligned roughly north–south, and were sampled by the excavation of segments 124 and 131 respectively. Segment 124 contained a fill of dark grey/black sandy silty clay with charcoal and produced eighteen sherds of Roman pottery (three further sherds were also recovered from the surface of the unexcavated fill), while 132 contained a fill of dark grey/brown silty clay with fragments of charcoal and sandstone, and produced six Roman sherds and one fragment of Roman tile (one further Roman sherd and two more tile fragments were also recovered as surface finds). The possible stakehole, 134, was excavated on the east edge of segment 131, and contained a fill that was visually identical to that of the gully. This feature produced no finds, and it was impossible to be certain that it was man-made and not a root hole or some other disturbance.

TRENCH 8

Three features which may have been associated with walls (126–128), a layer (129) and a broad linear feature (130) were found in trench 8, but waterlogging prevented the investigation of all except 126. Walls 126–128 are fully described in the *Discussion* (below), and little can be said about 129 and 130. Context 129 was a dark grey deposit that occupied the ground between 127 and 128 and may have been the remains of a layer associated with building demolition, and 130 was probably a ditch. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of 129, and eleven Roman sherds were recovered from the surface of 130.

TRENCH 9

Two ditches (105 and 115), two probable postholes (106 and 107) and one pit or ditch terminal (116) were discovered in trench 9. Features 106, 107 and 116 contained similar fills of dark brown or grey/brown sandy clay with fragments of charcoal, but produced no datable finds. Ditch 105 was sampled by the excavation of segment 104, which showed it to contain a fill of grey/brown silty sandy clay and it produced four sherds of Roman pottery and a struck flint flake (probably of Neolithic origin). Ditch 115, investigated at segment 114, contained a similar fill to 104, but produced no datable finds.

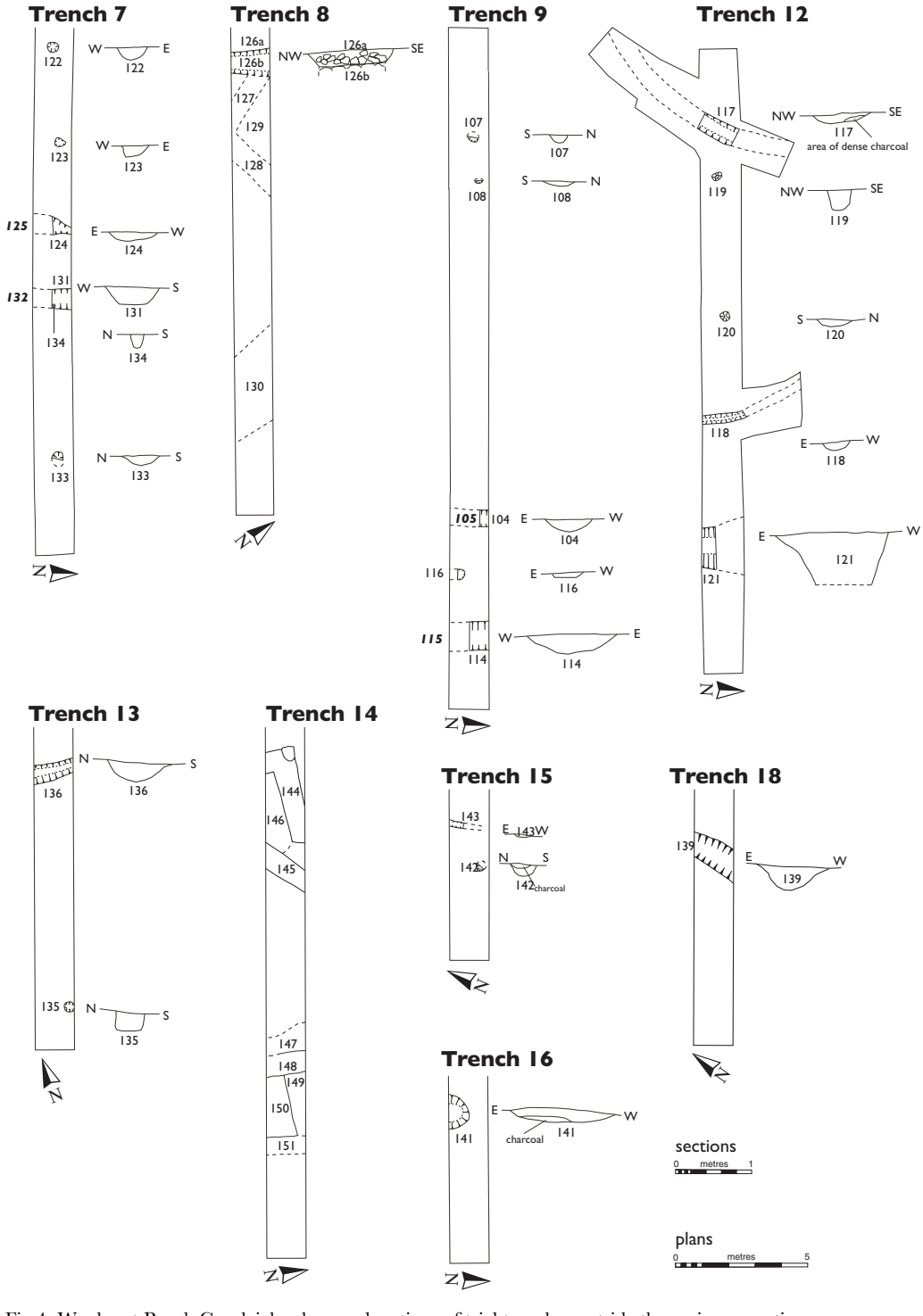

Fig 4 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: plans and sections of trial trenches outside the main excavation areas.

TRENCH 12

Trench 12 revealed two curvilinear gullies (117 and 118), a probable large ditch (121) and two postholes (119 and 120); 117 and 118, which may have been parts of ring gullies associated with Iron Age roundhouses, are considered in the *Discussion* (below).

Postholes 119 and 120 contained fills of dark grey and grey/brown sandy clay respectively, that of 119 also containing numerous flecks of charcoal, but neither produced any finds. Ditch 121, which had a tapering appearance, was sampled at its narrowest point and was found to be steep sided with a fill of dark brown sandy clay. Excavation was abandoned at a depth of 0.70m, before the base of the feature had been reached, as its period of origin had been satisfactorily established by the recovery of sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of Roman tile. It was felt that further investigation would be better conducted as part of a more widespread investigation when the full extent of the feature could be appreciated. A struck flint flake, probably Neolithic, was also recovered from the fill. In view of the results from the subsequent excavation, it seems likely that 121 was a further part of ditch 309 (see Ditches 222 and 309, under *Phase 3: Roman*, below).

TRENCH 13

A posthole (135) and part of an east–west aligned ditch (136) were discovered in trench 13. Posthole 135 contained a fill of grey/brown sandy clay and produced one struck flint and one calcined flint, the finds indicating that it may be of prehistoric origin. Ditch 136 contained a fill of grey clay and produced one sherd of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery.

TRENCH 14

Five wall foundations (144, 145, 148, 149 and 151), and three layers (146, 147 and 150) were investigated in trench 14, all of these being associated with a building or (more probably) buildings of Roman origin. These contexts are fully described below in the *Discussion*.

TRENCH 15

Trench 15 revealed a small pit or posthole, 142, and part of a shallow gully, 143. Posthole 142 contained two marginally different fills, an upper layer of mid-grey/brown silty clay with much charcoal (142A), and a lower layer of grey/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (142B), while 143 contained a single deposit of fill that was similar to 142A. No finds were recovered from 142, but 143 produced several sherds of Iron Age pottery.

TRENCH 16

Trench 16 revealed a large pit, 141. This contained a fill of dark grey/brown sandy clay with many fragments of charcoal, but produced no finds.

TRENCH 18

In trench 18, a segment, context 139, was excavated through a ditch. This had a mid-grey/brown silty clay fill. No datable evidence was recovered from the fill.

The excavation of site 1 (fig 5)

PHASE 1: PRE-LATE IRON AGE

None of the features discovered at Site 1 could be dated to before the Late Iron Age on the evidence of finds recovered from their fills, but earlier activity in the vicinity is attested by the presence of a small number of struck flints found residually in later contexts. Diagnostic pieces among this assemblage have been dated to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, and the good quality of the remainder suggests that most, if not all pieces are of corresponding, rather than later, origin (see *Discussion*, below).

PHASE 2: LATE IRON AGE AND LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN TRANSITION

Ditch 406

This feature was first discovered during the investigation of ditch 280 when it was found on the western side of segment 325, no relationship being visible between the two fills, and was encountered again when its northern terminal was located during the examination of hollow 422 (see *Phase 3*, below), and its suspected southern terminal (412) was located on the eastern side of segment 413. The depth of the ditch varied between 0.40 and 0.60m, the two shallower segments containing single fills of grey/brown clay soil, and the deepest, 407, containing a marginally paler-coloured basal fill in addition to this. The only finds recovered from 406 are two sherds of pottery that are thought to be most probably of late Iron Age origin, but may belong to the Iron Age/Roman transition.

Ring gully 371

While it seems reasonable to describe feature 371 as a ring gully it should be noted from the outset that its full extent and shape is unknown, so there is a possibility that this terminology is misleading. The feature was sampled by the excavation of twelve segments, which removed nearly all the fill, and was found to be *c* 0.28m wide x 0.10m deep with a single fill of grey/brown clay soil. It was cut by ditch 365 (*Phase 3 – Ditches 365 and 419*, below) and pit 382 (*Phase 3 – Pits*, below), and segment 378 was a convincing terminus. Excavation produced quite frequent sherds of pottery, three small scraps of baked clay or daub,

and one struck flint flake; no finds were recovered from segments 380, 383, 391 and 392. Nearly all the pottery came from the adjacent segments 372–3, and much of this consisted of refitting pieces from a limited number of vessels (see *Catalogue of selected feature assemblages – Ring ditch 371*, below). Roughly half the material recovered could belong to the Late Iron Age or the early Roman period while the remainder is dated as early Roman, so it seems likely that this feature infilled during the transition between these periods. The high proportion of material present within 372–3 must result from deliberate deposition at this point, rather than from casual accumulation.

Pit 254

This pit was a steep-sided, flat-bottomed, trough-like feature found just to the south-east of 290. It was roughly 0.34m deep and contained a fill of brown clay soil with random patches of grey-coloured soil. It produced two small fragments of baked clay, and two small sherds of grog-tempered pottery that may be of Late Iron Age or early Roman origin. This feature may belong to Phase 2 or Phase 3, though the absence of any pit within the site area that could be positively attributed to Phase 2 and the close proximity of 277 and 290, suggests it is perhaps most likely to have been broadly contemporary with these. Pit 277 produced material that can be dated to the later 1st century AD, and 290 produced a grog-tempered Roman sherd and a further sherd of non-specific Roman origin. Pits 277 and 290 are attributed to Phase 3 on the basis of their finds, but it is possible that they, and/ or 254 may have originated closer to the Iron Age/ Roman transition than to the end of the 1st century.

PHASE 3: ROMAN

The ditches

Ditches 200 and 253

Ditch 200 ran between, and roughly parallel to, ditches 220 to the south, and 228 to the north, and was cut by seven recent field drains. At its eastern end it was met by a short stretch of ditch 253, which appears to have linked it to ditch 228 at some time; variations within the basal profile of segments 246 and 247, which formed the corner, suggested that the deeper 246 had been a terminal either prior to or subsequent to the advent of 253, but this sequence could not be resolved through excavation. The former option may seem the more likely in terms of development, but the relative dating of 228, which appears to have infilled before 200, suggests that this and 253 may only have been associated with an earlier phase of 200. Segment 247 was *c* 0.24m deep with a single fill of grey/brown clay soil that was flecked with charcoal, while 246 was around twice this depth at the section and contained five layers of fill; the penultimate deposit of the latter, 246B, was visually indistinguishable from the fill of 247.

Ditch 200 widened and deepened to the west of 246, reaching its maximum excavated depth of 0.70m in segment 234. Variations in the profile of 334 and, perhaps, in that of 234 suggested that the ditch had been recut at least once, though there was no evidence in the internal stratigraphy of these segments to support this contention; two layers were attributed to the former, and four to the latter. Ditch 334 was seen to cut a shallow east–west gully on its northern side, this feature, 348, presumably belonging to an earlier, if not the earliest, phase of the boundary.

The finds recovered from ditch 200 consist of over 850 sherds of pottery, just under 400 fragments of Roman brick and tile, 289 iron objects, most or all of which were nails, a small lump of lead, a small quantity of poorly preserved animal bone and six pieces of struck flint. The vast majority of these finds (including 670 sherds, 351 brick/tile fragments and 287 iron objects) were recovered from context 334A, a dark, charcoal-rich layer that constituted the final infill deposit of this segment and did so similarly in 234 and 246, though it was less productive at these locations (234A and 246A). Relatively few finds were recovered from primary fills or from others that were early in the sequence, though a useful assemblage of 54 sherds was recovered from 234C. The metalwork from 334A was mostly discovered with the aid of a metal detector, while the rest was mainly recovered from the final infill as a result of metal detecting between segments. The five sherds recovered from primary contexts in 234 and 246 were of non-specific origin, but, with the exception of the fifteen sherds from 246B (many of which came from a single vessel), which are early Roman, the remaining contexts that produced pottery all yielded material of mid–late 2nd or late 2nd–early 3rd century date. It is clear that this is the date of final infilling although the origin of this ditch may have been considerably earlier within the Roman period. Of the other contexts mentioned here, just one sherd of non-specific Roman origin and one piece of Roman brick/tile were recovered from ditch 253, and no finds came from 348.

Ditches 220 and 275

Ditches 220 and 275 were interrupted by a short gap between definite terminals 276 and 288, and appear to have been on the same alignment, though it is impossible to be certain of this as little of 275 lay within the site area. Each feature was of similar width and depth, the latter measurement reaching a maximum of 0.29m in segment 221, and contained readily comparable fills of light to mid-grey, or grey/brown sandy clay. Ditch 220 was cut by field drains 241, 248, 298, 322 and 333. Eleven sherds of Roman pottery and five fragments of Roman brick/tile were recovered from 220, but 275 produced no finds. Diagnostic sherds among the small assemblage from 220 have been dated to the mid–late 2nd century AD, and it possible, perhaps likely, that 275 was of the same date.

Ditches 228 and 309

Ditch 228 was cut by field drains 230, 238, 241, 248, 320, 321, 333 and 421, by postholes 267 and 273, by pit 308, and by ditch 309, but no relationship could be established between it and pit 251. It varied

between 0.70 and 2.60m in width and between 0.25 and 0.95m in depth, being at its narrowest and shallowest downslope in segment 274 and at its most substantial in segment 330. The internal stratigraphy encountered within the segments differed in accordance with their dimensions, single layers of fill being identified in segments 274 and 287 while six lenses or layers were identified in 330 (fig 7); the final infill deposits of segment 250 (250A and B), and the penultimate infill layer of segment 330 (330B), contained quite frequent flecks of charcoal. The profile of the ditch was also quite variable, with a very pronounced 'slot' being present in the base of 229 and evidence of 'shelving' being present here, in 250, and to a lesser degree in 330 (fig 7). These features seem likely to indicate the position of the base of the feature at different periods and, if so, provide evidence of recutting, though, as was generally the case for ditch 200, this suggestion was not confirmed stratigraphically. Around 270 sherds of pottery, 100 pieces of baked clay/daub, a small quantity of animal bone, one large iron nail, and three struck flints were recovered from this feature. The majority of the sherds are Roman, most of these belonging to the early part of this period with the latest material that was diagnostic (from 250B, a late infill deposit which was not completely sealed at surface level by 250A, and an assemblage that may contain material derived from pit 251: see fig 5) dating to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD, while twenty are either Late Iron Age or early Roman. As was the case with ditch 200, the majority of finds came from the late or final infill deposits of the stratigraphic sequence.

Ditch 309 was cut by features 284 and 285, may have been cut by the possible posthole 286 and, as noted above, cut ditch 228. It varied between 0.70 and 0.78m in depth where sampled, and contained up to six lenses or layers of fill, though one of those attributed during excavation to segment 310, and two that were attributed to terminal 324 may partly or wholly belong to hollow 422 (see *Hollow 422, and features 296 and 297*, below (for 422), and fig 7 for sections). The profile of segment 283 may show evidence of recutting as similar features to those noted for ditch 228 are displayed, and the distinction recorded most tentatively between layers A and A1 may provide some support for this. This ditch produced around 250 sherds of Roman pottery, two sherds that are either Late Iron Age or early Roman, two undatable fragments of brick or tile, and two that are Roman, and 28 pieces of baked clay or daub. In total, 190 of these sherds, which included material of mid–late 2nd century origin, were recovered from layers 283A and 283B (150 sherds), while the remaining groups are dated as early Roman. Again, the origin of the ditch may be considerably earlier than the material that belongs to its final infilling.

Ditches/gullies 208, 211 and 279

Ditches or gullies 208, 211 and 279, and two similar features, 203 and 271, which are almost certainly of Iron Age or Roman origin (see *The ditches*, below), are comparable as all enter the site area from the north and either terminate (211) or shallow out without further trace after some 4–5m. Features 208 and 211 survived to maximum depths of 0.15 and 0.22m respectively and both contained two layers of fill, while 279 was no more than 0.06m deep and contained a single deposit of orange/grey/brown clay soil. Seven sherds of Roman pottery and an Iron Age sherd were recovered from 208, the later material only being datable to the early Roman period or later, and 30 Roman sherds came from 211, these including material which belongs to the early to mid-2nd century AD; both features also produced small quantities of animal bone and baked clay/daub. Feature 279 produced no finds, but appeared to cut the Roman pit 290 and is not thought likely to post-date this period.

Ditch 280

Ditch 280 was cut by field drains 327 and 420 and by ditch 365, and itself cut ditch 406 and ditch 375. It was sampled by the excavation of six segments and was found to contain either a single deposit of fill (315), or up to four different lenses or layers (301). Its maximum depth at these locations varied between 0.54 and 0.90m, the shallowest and deepest of these measurements being recorded within the two adjacent segments 397 and 413 respectively. This variation, and a shallower 'shelf' some 0.30m deep identified on the eastern side of segment 315, may result from recutting, though no other evidence of this was discovered. The feature produced over 170 sherds of pottery, 76 of these coming from segment 397, four fragments of Roman brick/tile, several lumps of baked clay or daub, a few fragments of animal bone, and one struck flint. Thirteen of the sherds may either have been of Late Iron Age or early Roman origin, but the majority belong to the early Roman period and suggest that the feature had infilled by the end of the 1st century AD.

Ditch 336

Ditch 336 entered the northern part of the site area from the west, turned sharply northwards within segment 409, and was cut by field drain 405, by modern ditches 205 and 318, and by ditch 370. It was generally around 0.60m deep where sampled, and contained between two and four (409) lenses or layers of fill. Segment 368 was cut by ditch 370, which had removed all trace of 336 further to the north. The feature produced seventeen sherds of Roman pottery, 138 fragments of baked clay or daub (some of which bore wattle impressions, and nearly all of which came from segment 346), an undatable scrap of brick or tile and one struck flint. Most of the pottery was not diagnostic within the Roman period, though three sherds that are of late 1st century origin were recovered from segment 368 and it is possible that the others are of similar date.

Ditches 356 and 370

Ditch 370 ran in a roughly north–south direction across the eastern part of the site area, turned a sharp

corner towards the west at its northern end, continuing beyond the limits of excavation in this direction, and either joined another ditch (356) or turned and continued towards the east at its southern end. Ditch 370 was cut by ditch 205, and probably by ditch 318, and itself cut ditch 336 (fig 5). It varied between 0.48 and 0.60m in depth, and generally contained a brown-coloured upper fill and a paler-coloured primary fill, though up to six deposits (most of these being minor lenses) were recorded in segment 386. Ditch 356 was narrower and shallower than 370, the depth being no more than 0.32m where sampled, and seems likely to have been a distinct feature for this reason (rather than a continuation of the same ditch as seems likely to have been the case at the northern end of 370); it contained either a single (357) or two layers of fill. The wider, marginally deeper, western end of segment 357 may have been a terminal at some stage, but, if so, the sequence of development could not be determined from the fill here. Ditch 370 produced eleven sherds of Roman pottery and two struck flints, while 356 produced four further Roman sherds, three fragments of Roman tile and a few pieces of baked clay. Diagnostic material belonging to the 1st and the mid–late 2nd centuries AD was recovered from 370, while the material from 356 is of 1st century origin. Ditch 370 seems most likely, therefore, to have infilled by the mid–late 2nd century, although both this boundary and 356 may have originated in the 1st century.

Ditch 358

This feature is classified as a ditch for convenience, but its extent is uncertain and not enough of it was seen to be sure that it was linear. It contained two layers of fill, and had a very irregular shape in plan and profile, the depth varying between 0.26 and 0.38m and a distinct 'shelf' being evident on the northern side. Alternatively, this may have been an irregular pit or a ground clearance feature. The fill produced six sherds of Roman pottery that belong to the 1st century AD.

Ditches 365 and 419

Ditches 365 and 419 ran roughly parallel to each other in the southern part of the site area and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the east. Ditch 365 was cut by field drain 420 and by ditch 205, and itself cut ditch 280, ring gully 371, and probably ditch 417 (see below). It contained a fill of grey/brown clay soil, and was no more than 0.24m deep where sampled. One Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery sherd, four Roman sherds, and a fragment of baked clay were recovered from this feature, the latest sherds of those that were diagnostic being datable to the late 1st century AD. Ditch 419 could not be investigated because of flooding in this part of the site, but may have been associated with, and/or contemporary or broadly contemporary with 365, on the basis of its similar alignment. Ditch 365 may also have been associated with ditch 220, and/or ditch 375, the former shallowing out a short distance to the west of terminal 366 and the latter terminating adjacent to this. The limited evidence that is available suggests that these features might have infilled at later (indicated by the finds) and earlier (as 375 is thought to have been cut by ditch 280) dates respectively. The position of 419 could not be accurately recorded as this feature flooded almost immediately after it was revealed and lay completely beneath water when the site illustration (fig 5) was produced. It was planned largely from memory, but its width and course are thought to represent very closely what was seen. A test hole dug by a mechanical excavator *c* 8m to the east of the limit of excavation to check for a continuation of this ditch revealed no evidence of its presence, so it may have terminated, changed direction, or been ploughed out between these points.

Ditch 417

This ditch was first discovered in trial trench 2 (segment 100), and was later re-examined during the excavation (segment 418), though work in this vicinity was hampered by severe waterlogging, and by difficulties relating to the movement of the soil within the site area, which meant that the ground to the north and south of 100 was exposed for investigation at different times. Work was further encumbered by the presence of ditches 205 and 318 at this point, the precise course of each of these being difficult to determine and record on plan.

When first exposed 417 was thought to be simply a continuation of ditch 318 (Phase 4), but consideration of a stratigraphic relationship recorded during the evaluation that suggested this ditch was cut by ditch 365 (see above), and the excavation of segment 418, showed otherwise. Segment 418 was found to measure *c* 1.15m wide x 0.35m deep, contained an undifferentiated fill of grey silty clay, and was cut by the narrower ditch 318 that contained a much browner coloured fill (segment 425: see fig 5). The excavation of this segment produced a large sherd of pottery, which has been dated to the Late Iron Age, while segment 100 had previously produced two sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman origin and four sherds belonging to the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD. The northern extent of 417 is not known, this having been obscured by the later ditch 205, but 100 was some 0.10m shallower than 418, and it is possible that this decrease in depth occurred towards a terminal. To the south, 417 was observed to continue beyond the edge of site, but its submersion under water prevented further investigation.

Pits 210, 237, 239, 240, 277, 290, 308 and 382

Eight of the pits discovered during the excavation can be attributed to the Roman period, the majority of these apparently belonging to the 1st century AD, the only one of clearly later date being 210.

Pit 237 was sampled as part of an operation that investigated its relationship to posthole 236, and it was found to have cut this feature. It was 1.34m wide x 0.52m deep, where sampled, but it may have been wider and possibly deeper if the section had been

Fig 5 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: overall phased plan of the excavation Area 1.

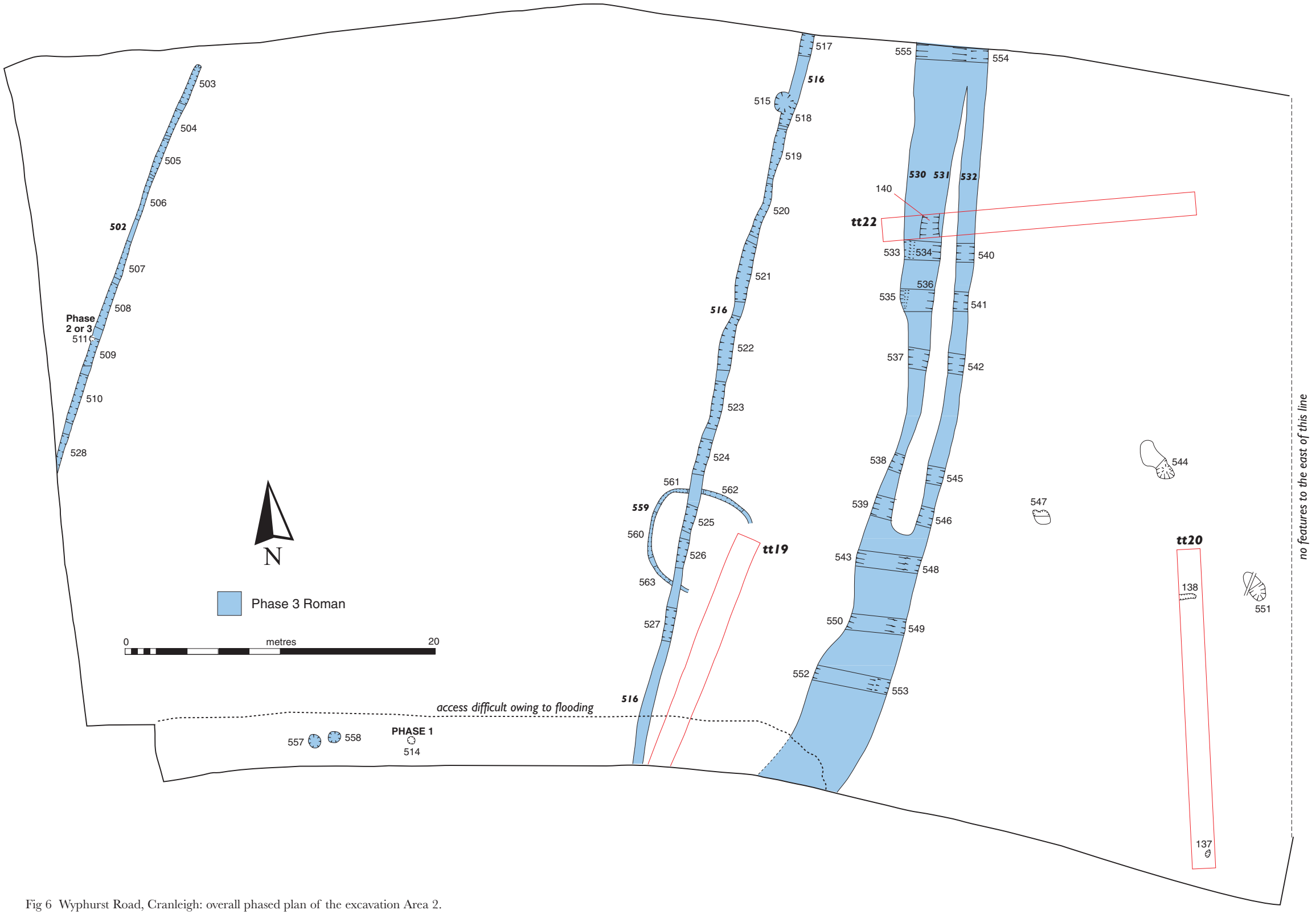

Fig 6 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: overall phased plan of the excavation Area 2.

located further to the west. It contained a main fill of heavily iron-panned grey/brown clay soil that contained several small lumps of sandstone in its lower part, and a shallow primary fill of orange/grey/brown silty clay that was continuous around the sides and base. The main fill produced two lumps of baked clay and three sherds of Roman pottery. The pottery was not diagnostic within this period, but the feature presumably belongs to the mid–late 2nd century, or later, because of its relationship to 236.

Pits 239, 240 and 308 were discovered close to each other, and to an undated but potentially contemporary pit, 251, on the northern side of ditch 228; 308 probably cut this feature, but no relationship could be established between it and 251. All these features were quite shallow, 240 being the most substantial at a depth of 0.20m, and all contained single fills of brown, or grey/brown clay soil. Ten sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from 239; one sherd that may have been Late Iron Age or early Roman and four that were Roman were recovered from 240; eleven sherds that may have been Late Iron Age or early Roman, and 59 that were Roman were recovered from 308 –the diagnostic Roman pieces suggesting a late 1st century origin for each feature. In addition to these finds, one or two fragments of baked clay and a small quantity of bone were recovered from 239, and nineteen fragments of baked clay were recovered from 308.

Pits 277 and 290 were both cut by a field drain close to the northern limit of excavation, with 290 probably also being cut by the shallow gully 279, while no relationship could be established between this and 277. Pit 277 was a maximum of 0.50m deep and contained three layers of fill, while 290 reached a depth of 0.64m and contained five distinct layers. The final and tertiary infill deposits of 290 are noteworthy – the former because it contained numerous lumps of baked clay and frequent flecks or smears of charcoal and was clearly the result of deliberate deposition, and the latter because it consisted almost entirely of a deposit of charcoal. Bulk soil samples were collected from each of these layers (for the results see the section on charcoal, below). Pit 277 produced 39 sherds of Roman pottery (28 of these coming from the final infill layer), eighteen fragments of baked clay, and a small quantity of bone, while 290 produced just two Roman sherds in addition to the baked clay. The pottery from 277 indicates that this feature belongs to the later 1st century AD, while the two sherds from 290 are of non-specific Roman origin. Examination of the baked clay from 290 has shown this to include pieces with distinctive wattle impressions, and fragments derived from a triangular loomweight (see the sections on clay objects and baked clay, below).

Pit 382 was *c* 0.34m deep, contained two layers of fill (the lower of these being very similar to the mid–dark brown coloured upper fill, but having a greater stone content), and cut ring gully 371. Its excavation produced eleven sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, 38 Roman sherds, and a residual flint core of Late Neolithic origin. The Roman pottery recovered from this feature indicates that it is of similar date to the ring gully, while the stratigraphic relationship between the two shows its origin to have been slightly later within the later part of the 1st century AD.

Pit 210 was *c* 0.30m deep and contained two layers of fill. Its excavation produced sixteen sherds of Roman pottery, one prehistoric sherd, an iron nail, a small piece of baked clay, and eleven undatable, but presumably Roman, fragments of brick/ tile. The pottery indicates that this feature belongs to the mid–late 2nd century AD.

Postholes 218, 219, 222, 223, 227, 235-6, 249, 266–8, 269, 273, 360, and possible posthole 224

Postholes were the most frequently occurring type of feature to be discovered by the excavation, but, as is often the case with features that are rapidly infilled after having been dug, the majority of these produced no dating evidence. Those that produced datable material all belong to Phase 3, and three others that are discussed here (219, 222 and 249) seem almost certain to belong to this period for the reasons given below. The remainder have been classified as undated, but it seems highly likely that the majority of these were also Roman.

The features discussed here are quite varied in terms of dimensions and fills, and it is arguable that some may have been small pits rather than postholes. Contexts 218, 223 and 224 may represent a sequence of postholes set at much the same location, or, less likely perhaps, they may indicate the position of a feature that contained two, or even three posts at the same time, depending on the validity of 224. Postholes 218 and 223 were 0.23 and 0.37m deep respectively, the former containing an upper fill of dark grey clay soil with quite frequent lumps of sandstone and Reigate stone (218A) and a shallow, pale grey basal fill that contained no sandstone (218B), while the latter, and the 0.17m deep 224, contained fills that were visibly indistinguishable from 218A. Posthole 224 may indicate the position of a post at this location, but its shape and profile were less distinctive than was the case for 218 or 223, and it is also possible that it may have been created during the deliberate removal of a post, or posts, from either, or both, of these. Fourteen sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of Roman glass were recovered from 218A, and a further Roman sherd was recovered from 223, but no finds came from 224; the pottery from 218 indicates that this, and presumably 223 and 224, infilled during the mid–late 2nd century AD.

Features 219, 222 and 249 were 0.30, 0.22 and 0.40m respectively, and each contained a single fill of either dark grey/brown, or pale to mid-grey (249) clay soil. The fills of 219 and 249 both contained quite frequent lumps of sandstone but, while some of these may have been used as packing material around a post, the position of most suggested that they had either been dislodged if this had been the case, or that they had been used as infill material once the post had been removed. The sizes of 219 and 249 may relate to the sizes of the posts that they are thought to have contained, or may be the result of subsequent enlargement if they were deliberately removed from

smaller holes. Alternatively, these features may have been small pits, but this is thought less likely for the same reasons given below for feature 227. The only finds recovered from these features were single, small, undatable fragments of tile from 219 and 222, which seem most likely to be Roman due to the apparent absence of later features in the vicinity apart from the field drains. The alignment and spacing of these features implies that they may have been associated, and their similarity to features such as 227 and 236, on the northern side of ditch 200, suggests that all may have been contemporary.

Feature 227 was a maximum of 0.24m deep, and contained an homogeneous fill of orange/grey clay soil that contained lumps of sandstone and Reigate stone similar to those seen in 218B etc. One of the stones discovered was set against the north-western side of this feature and may have been a post packing stone that survived *in situ*, but the remainder, which were scattered randomly throughout the fill mainly on the northern side, must have been displaced if they had ever been used for this purpose. Alternatively, some or all of the stones may have been deliberately added to the feature as infill material. Context 227 was readily comparable with 236 and both may have been small pits, but their alignment, and the presence of other features such as 218 and 235, which are definite postholes and contained similar stone-rich fills, suggests that they are perhaps more likely to have been postholes that were enlarged during post removal. Feature 236 was the same depth as 227, and contained a main fill of grey/brown clay soil with frequent stone lumps and an orange/grey basal fill with slightly less of this material. Feature 227 produced four sherds of Roman pottery that were not diagnostic within this period, while 236 produced three sherds which belong to the mid–late 2nd century AD.

Feature 235 lay between 218 and 227 on the northern side of ditch 200, was cut by field drain 238, and may just have cut gully 348 that ran alongside and preceded 200. This feature was funnel-shaped and measured *c* 0.90m across at surface level, with a central post socket that measured *c* 0.40m in diameter. The depth around the sides varied between 0.20 and 0.35m, while the base of the socket lay 0.76m beneath the machined-cleared ground surface. It contained two distinct fills, a charcoal-flecked grey clay soil that formed a central core and contained one large, and two or three smaller pieces of sandstone (235A), and a pale grey/brown clay soil with frequent pieces of sandstone, particularly on the northern side, which surrounded the upper part of the core (235B; fig 7). The stones within

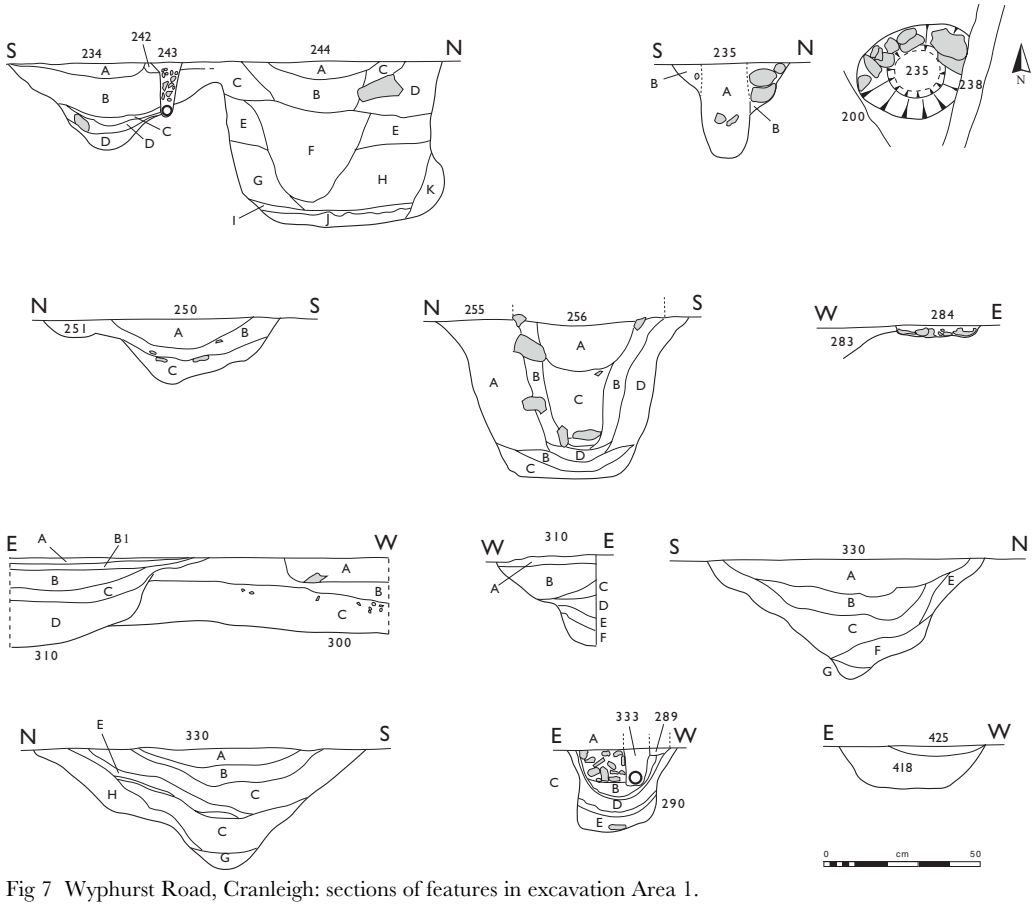

Fig 7 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: sections of features in excavation Area 1.

235B were clearly packing material that survived *in situ*, while those within 235A may have been dislodged and subsided into this after the post had decayed: there was no indication that the post had been deliberately removed from this feature. Three large Roman iron nails were recovered from this feature.

Features 266, 267 and 273 form a reasonably regular L-shape beside the north-western edge of the excavation area, and may have been part of a square, four-posted structure if a fourth posthole lay just beyond this. Both 266 and 267 were *c* 0.15m deep, the former containing a single fill of grey/brown soil and the latter containing a grey/brown upper, and a slightly paler-coloured basal deposit, while 273 was 0.24m deep with a single fill like that of 266. One small sherd of Roman pottery and a lump of baked clay were recovered from 266; a Roman sherd, two sherds that may have been of Late Iron Age or early Roman origin, and three lumps of baked clay were recovered from 267, and one further fragment of baked clay was recovered from 273. It is impossible to be certain that these features were contemporary within the Roman period, but as 267 and 273 both cut ditch 228 (which had probably infilled by the early 2nd century) it seems highly probable that these two, at least, were co-existent.

Feature 269 was discovered against the northern edge of the site, near pit 277. It was *c* 0.15m deep, contained a single fill of pale grey/brown clay soil, and produced two sherds of pottery that are of Late Iron Age, or more probably early Roman, origin. This feature may have been contemporary with the nearby posthole 268.

Feature 360 was discovered in the north-eastern part of the site area, and was the only posthole found here that could be dated by an artefact recovered from its fill. This feature was 0.38m deep, contained an upper layer of grey/brown clay soil, and a main fill of yellow/brown clay soil with lenses of redeposited yellow clay and frequent flecks of charcoal. The main fill produced five small lumps of baked clay, and one small sherd of Roman pottery that is not diagnostic within this period.

Linear features 258 and 332; postholes 213 and 259–265

These features are discussed together as they form a line running roughly east–west close to the southern side of ditch 228, which suggests that they may have been associated. They need not all be of Roman origin, however, and even if they are, they need not be contemporary within this period. After machining it appeared that 258 might have been a broken or segmented gully that survived in three stretches, one to the west, as indicated on figure 5, one to the east, more or less as depicted by 332, and one between, but not actually joining, each of these. During the excavation of this part of the site, however, the expected central section was not rediscovered, though it is possible that if it had survived as little more than a stain when first seen, all traces of it may have been removed during the recleaning of the muddy ground in this area.

The excavation of 258 showed it to be no more than 0.10m deep, and revealed a number of deeper impressions, 259–263, in its base that, with the possible exception of the shallowest of these, 259, are thought to have been post- or stake- (262) holes. Postholes 264 and 265 were also discovered, the latter being on the line of the suspected eastern continuation of the gully; a further posthole, 213, had previously been found to the west. Postholes 259–263 measured between 0.13 and 0.34m deep (below ground surface level), while 213, 264 and 265 were between 0.08 and 0.13m deep, and all these features and 258 contained comparable fills of grey/brown clay soil. Context 332 was a slot-like feature approximately 0.10m deep, with a similar fill to the others discussed here, and what appeared to be convincing terminals at each end (despite the fact that the eastern end was cut by a field drain). The only finds recovered from any of these features were a single sherd of Roman pottery from 260, and a small scrap of Roman pottery from 332, neither of these being diagnostic within the period. Assuming these features to have been contemporary, it is possible that some or all may have been of structural significance, perhaps representing one side of a timber-built building for which no other evidence has survived, or part of a fence line.

Possible hearths 284 and 285

Features 284 and 285 were found slightly less than 2m apart on the eastern side of segment 283 of ditch 309, and both cut the edge of the ditch. These features were each around 0.10m deep, and contained upper fills of grey/brown clay soil and basal fills that were charcoal-rich and contained smears and small lumps of oxidised clay, the lower fill of 285 being overlain by a thin layer of grey silty clay that might have been derived from ash. The natural clay that formed the base and sides of these features did not appear as a heavily oxidised 'surface' as is often the case with hearths, particularly those that are used repeatedly, but it remains highly likely that burning took place within them and it is possible that the baked clay noted may have been disturbed. It is also possible that a thin, charcoal-rich layer (283B) found within the adjacent ditch segment was contemporary with these features, the ditch potentially having been partially infilled at the time. Twenty-two sherds of pottery came from 285 together with some baked clay, while 244 only produced fragments of baked clay. Most or all of the pottery from 285 came from two different vessels dating to the late the 2nd or early 3rd centuries AD, while 284 yielded no finds that could be dated. The similarities between these features and their relationship to 283 indicates that both are of contemporary origin. Bulk soil samples were collected from each of these features (see the section on charcoal, below).

Waterholes or wells 244 and 255

Each of these features could only be partially excavated by conventional means before severe waterlogging prevented any further work by hand and necessitated the digging of the remainder of the sample

section by a mechanical excavator. Machining allowed the full profile of each feature to be recorded (fig 7), but inevitably resulted in the destruction of the original sides owing to the use of a bucket.

Feature 244 was found to measure *c* 1.8m wide x 1.32m deep and to contain eleven different layers of fill (the majority of these being sandy silts). The observed disposition of layers may be explained by supposing the former existence of a central and wood-lined shaft within a larger construction shaft; when the wood decayed the distinction became less clear. Feature 255/6 (discussed below) shows a similar, but clearer arrangement of layers. Despite its large size, 244 produced just twelve sherds of Roman pottery, sixteen fragments of Roman brick/tile, six pieces of baked clay, and an iron 'lump' – all of this material from the final three infill layers (244A–C). The pottery indicates that it had infilled by the end of the 1st century AD. No relationship was visible in section between this feature and the adjacent ditch segment, 234, but, after trowelling, ditch 200 did appear to cut 244 and the finds recovered from it are consistent with a later date of infilling.

The neighbouring feature 255 initially appeared to have been cut, roughly centrally, by a later feature, 256. Context 255 was a similar size to 244, while 256 measured *c* 1.2m in diameter at surface level and was 1.12m deep. Three layers have been attributed to 255, and four to 256 in the drawn section (fig 7), but the bottom 0.20–0.25m of these features was difficult to record because of waterlogging, and it is possible that 256 might have been deeper than it appears. Five sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of Roman brick or tile were recovered from 255A, while 98 Roman sherds, three sherds that may have been of Late Iron Age or early Roman origin, 25 fragments of Roman brick or tile, an iron nail, and 41 pieces of baked clay were recovered from 256A–C (these were recovered as a single context as the distinctions subsequently recorded in section were not clear during excavation). The pottery from 255 belongs to the late 1st century AD, while 256 produced sherds of 1st century and later origin, the latest material belonging to the mid–late 2nd century AD. One possibility for these features is that 255 infilled during the late 1st century, assuming the few finds recovered from it were not present residually, and was later recut by 256, which may have finally infilled as much as a century later. It is far more probable, however, that 255 represents a construction pit around a narrow, central shaft that had been lined to prevent the sides collapsing inwards, though no evidence of such a lining survived. Fill 256B was heavily encrusted with iron panning, and it is possible that this layer and 256D represent primary infilling through the lining and from above during the life of the feature, while 256C and 256A represent infilling once it had gone out of use. The large sandstone lumps seen in section, and several others that were present at surface level may have surrounded the top of the shaft. The feature may, therefore, have been constructed in the late 1st century and remained in use for many years during the first part of the 2nd century.

Feature 402

This amorphous feature was found close to the southern limit of excavation, just inside ring gully 371. It varied between 0.10 and 0.22m in depth, and contained a fill of grey/brown soil that produced a Late Iron Age/early Roman sherd, six early Roman sherds, and three pieces of baked clay. The shape of this anomaly suggests that it may have been a ground clearance feature. If so, the obvious reason would have been to enable the construction of the structure that is thought to have been enclosed by 371, although the apparently later date of this feature suggests that this is unlikely.

Hollow 422 and features 296 and 297

This refers to the area of ground lying between ditch 280 and the corner formed by ditches 228 and 309, which appeared as a large, irregularly shaped, area of fill when first exposed, and concealed the courses of these ditches. Hollow 422 was initially sampled by the excavation of a (roughly) 1m-wide trench, 294, which removed a layer of grey/brown clay soil with quite frequent small lumps of sandstone, 299, and revealed features 295–7. The initial trench left a number of questions unanswered and it was subsequently expanded to the south and west to reveal the southern extent of 295 and ditch terminals 324 and 407. The excavation of 296 and 297 showed each to be *c* 0.15m deep after the removal of 299, and suggested that both may have been the remains of shallow pits. Ditches 408, 309 and 406, which include segments 295, 324 and 407, are discussed above.

It seems likely that 422 may have developed as a trample hollow between ditches 228, 309 and 280, and that 299, which was around 0.20m deep, may have been a 'puddled' deposit that consisted of the upper parts of various infilled features and other impressed soils. The sandstone lumps, which were similar to those seen to occur naturally within the geology of the site, may well have been added deliberately when the ground at this point became waterlogged. Eight sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from 299, this material being of non-specific date within the period. No finds were recovered from 295, 296 or 297, but the pottery from 407 and 324 was of Late Iron Age and early Roman origin respectively.

PHASE 2 OR 3

The features included under this heading lack unequivocal evidence of date. In no case, however, is there any reason to suppose they are modern, and, given the frequent similarity of their fills to those in features that are definitely of Roman or earlier date, and the absence of evidence of later settlement activity, it seems probable that the majority, if not all, are of similar date. Further arguments in favour of this conclusion are presented below in relation to some of the features.

The ditches

Ditches 203 and 271

Ditch 203 lay immediately to the west of the Roman ditches 208 and 211, the southern terminals of these three features lying just a few metres apart, and it is possible that there may have been an association between them, one potentially having replaced another as a boundary was re-established. However, the orientation of 203 is different, being more towards the north-west than the north, which may suggest a closer association with the similarly aligned, though much narrower, 271, a little further to the east. Ditch 203 was *c* 0.40m deep and contained three distinct layers of fill, while 271 was no more than 0.13m deep and contained a single deposit of orange/brown clay soil. Neither feature produced any finds, but there seems little doubt that both are either of Iron Age or Roman origin; the absence of any Roman material from the more substantial and almost completely excavated 203 may be significant as it is somewhat unusual for a ditch of this period, located close to an area of domestic occupation, not to have accumulated any contemporary artefacts. The secondary infill layer of 203 contained frequent pieces of charcoal and fragments of calcined bone, and samples from the deposit were taken from segments 204 and 335 (see the section on charcoal, below).

Ditches 340, 403, 414 and 415

Ditches 340, 403 and 414 are comparable in that all entered the site area from the west and terminated almost immediately, but there are few other similarities between them; 403 and 414 were cut by a field drain. Ditches 340 and 403 were a maximum of 0.21 and 0.34m deep respectively, the former containing two layers of fill and the latter a single undifferentiated deposit, while 414 was a much more prominent feature that reached a maximum depth of 0.72m where excavated, and contained six layers of fill (the distinction between some of these being marginal). A slight widening and deepening at the western end of 403 suggested that this feature might have been recut at some stage, a wider, deeper terminal possibly having preceded or replaced a narrower, shallower one; a similar development may explain the narrower, shallower 'bulge' at the southern end of 414. Ditch 415 also entered the site area from the west, and was again cut by 423, but this feature curved to the south and either met, cut, or was cut by 414; it was *c* 0.20m deep with a single layer of fill. None of these features produced any datable finds (two fragments of baked clay were recovered from 340), but all are thought to be most probably of Iron Age or Roman origin; for the reasons given above for ditch 203, the very substantial 414, which presumably had a relatively long life as an 'open' context, seems unlikely to have been Roman.

Ditch 375

This feature was approximately 0.16m deep, and contained a single fill of grey/brown clay soil that produced no finds. Its northern end terminated close to the western end of the Roman ditch 365, which may suggest an association between the two contexts, but 365 was clearly seen to cut the early Roman ditch 280 while 375 appeared to have been cut by it. The evidence available suggests that this feature may be of early Roman, or, more probably, of Iron Age origin.

Ditch 408

The circumstances that led to the discovery of this feature are described above in the account given for hollow 422 (above). The excavated segment, 295, survived to a depth of around 0.20m after the removal of layer 299, and contained a single fill of grey/brown clay soil. This produced no finds, but the feature clearly pre-dates the development of 299 and is presumably, therefore, either of Late Iron Age (if associated with ditch 406) or Roman origin.

Pits 251 and 257

Pit 251 lay immediately to the south of the early Roman pits 239 and 240 and seems likely to have been broadly contemporary with these features, but no finds were recovered from its fill other than two small fragments of baked clay, and no relationship was established between it and ditch 228. It was around 0.14m deep and contained a single fill of brown soil. Pit 257 was cut by the Roman ditch 200, and probably by the early Roman waterhole 244, and was roughly 0.48m deep with a fill of grey/brown clay that contained small patches of redeposited yellow clay. The fill did not contain sandstone lumps as were seen in other features in the vicinity such as 236 and 249 – at least one of which may belong to the 2nd century AD – and produced just one tiny scrap of baked clay. It is possible that this feature pre-dates Phase 3, but the apparent absence of earlier features in this part of the site area suggests that it is perhaps most likely to be of early Roman origin.

Postholes and stakeholes 111, 112, 201, 202, 231, 232, 268, 286, 307, 312–14, 323, 329, 341–4, 347, 349–52, 354, 359, 362, 377, 385, 401 and 410–11

The majority of these features are thought to have been postholes, though 349–52, 359, 377 and 385 are more likely to have contained driven stakes because of their smaller diameters and conical profiles; the irregularly shaped 354 might also have contained a stake at its southern end, and 111 and 351 might have contained two stakes. They all contained single deposits of fill, this being either orange/grey, brown or grey/brown in colour, and their depths varied between 0.07 (341) and 0.40m (401), with the majority being between 0.12 and 0.25m deep. Contexts 232, 286, 329 and 411 were not entirely convincing as man-made features, but they may have contained posts.

Finds from these features occurred only in 201, 222, 312 and 347, which produced a few small fragments of baked clay, and 352 which produced a small scrap of pottery that is probably of Late Iron

Age, but may be of early Roman, origin. The sherd, which was recovered from the surface of the fill, may date this feature (and, if so, may suggest a date for some of its neighbours), but it may equally well have been present residually in a later context. Features 111 and 362 may have been associated with the nearby posthole 360, which produced a small Roman sherd. Context 268 may have been associated with the nearby and similarly deep posthole 269, which produced two pottery sherds of Late Iron Age or, more probably, early Roman origin. Post-/stakeholes 341–4 lie at roughly 90° to ditch 370 and run more or less parallel to ditch 356, and may have been associated with either or both of these features, perhaps being part of a fence line in the corner of a field. Feature 401 cut ditch 370, which seems to have infilled by the mid–late 2nd century, so must be of later Roman or post-Roman origin (beside ditches 205 and 318, there is no evidence of post-Roman activity in the vicinity). It seems likely that the majority of these features are Roman and belong to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD. If any are of significantly later date, the most likely candidates are perhaps 313, 314 and 323 because of the dark brown colour of their fills (though evidence of this kind can be very misleading), and possibly 112 and 401.

Possible hearth 345

This feature appeared to have been either the site of some light burning, or to have contained material associated with this activity. It was a maximum of 0.16m deep, its depth and its shape in plan and profile being slightly irregular, and contained a shallow upper fill of grey/brown soil and a main fill of mixed pink/red and yellow/brown soil with flecks of charcoal. The pink/red coloration of the fill and the charcoal suggested an association with burning, but the orange clay through which the feature had been cut had not been oxidised. The feature produced no finds.

Linear feature 352

Little can be said about this short linear feature that was found on the western side of ditch 318, in the vicinity of post/stakeholes 352 and 354. It was no more than 0.08m deep, and contained a single fill of mid–dark grey/brown clay soil that produced no finds. The colour of the fill was similar to that of the neighbouring post-/stakeholes, which may suggest an association between them, and indicated that the feature was most probably man-made rather than the product of other activity.

Features 281, 282, 291–3 and 302–6

These features were all found on the western side of ditch 280, close to the northern limit of excavation, and it is difficult to know how to interpret them. Most contained single fills of brown, or grey/brown (303, 305 and 306) clay soil, the only exception being 304 that contained a yellow/grey coloured lens of disturbed natural and soil towards the base; their depths varied between 0.08 (282) and 0.34m (302). Context 302 is thought to have been cut by 280, but it was not possible to determine any other relationship between these features or the ditch where they were intercutting, and in most cases the numbers issued refer primarily to the basal hollows revealed after excavation. Features 292 and 305 were of irregular appearance in plan and profile. It is unclear whether they were created as part of a single event, perhaps during ground clearance, whether various pits and/or postholes were dug at much the same location at slightly different times, or whether they were the product of a combination of these, or the result of other processes. None of these features produced finds of any type.

PHASE 4: POST-MEDIEVAL/MODERN

In addition to the features mentioned below, numerous field drains, most of which contained short segments of terracotta pipe, were discovered during the excavation. Many of these cut earlier features and this has been noted where relevant above.

Ditch 205

This feature ran in a north–south direction across the eastern part of the site area and was clearly seen to cut the Roman ditches 336, 365 and 370 (see *Postholes and stakeholes 111* etc, above, for its relationship to feature 112). The excavation of segment 317, and a segment in trial trench 11, showed the feature to contain an homogeneous fill of dark brown clay soil, and revealed part of a terracotta pipe field drain lying on its base. Further to the north the field drain was not found during the excavation of segment 113 of trial trench 10, so it may not have continued beyond its probable union with another drain, 404, while to the south the drain lay a little way above the base of the ditch and was damaged during machining. It seems most likely, therefore, that the the ditch was known and utilised when the pipe was laid. No finds were recovered from segment 317, but a sherd of modern blue and white china was recovered from the basal fill of 113 during the evaluation.

Ditch 318 and feature 355

Ditch 318 followed a similar course to ditch 205, running roughly parallel to it some 2m further to the west. It was cut by field drain 404, which appeared to meet a drain found in the base of 205, was itself clearly seen to cut ditch 336, and is thought most likely to have cut ditch 370, though this relationship was not clear either in plan or section. In the southern part of the site area the distance between 205 and 318 reduced, and 318 most probably cut another ditch, 417 (see *Phase 3, Ditch 471*, above), but work in this vicinity was hampered by severe waterlogging and difficulties relating to the movement of the overburden material. Feature 318 was primarily sampled by the excavation of ten segments, two of these having been dug previously in trial trenches 10 and 11; it was found to vary between 0.12 and 0.28m in depth and contained a single fill of brown clay soil similar to that

of 205. The only finds recovered from this feature were two very small scraps of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, which were most probably present residually, and a sherd of 19th century 'china' that was a surface find between excavated segments. From the outset this feature was thought most likely to be broadly contemporary with 205 owing to the visual similarity between their fills and the affinity of their courses, and, while this was not proven conclusively by the recovery of artefacts from the segments excavated, it still seems most likely to have been the case. Feature 355, a short, linear appendage on the western side of segment 319, may, but need not, have been broadly contemporary with 318. It was *c* 0.15m deep, and contained a fill that was visibly indistinguishable from that of 319, but produced no finds.

Feature 311

Feature 311 was slightly irregular in shape, contained a fill of loose brown soil with frequent small lumps of sandstone that were similar to those occurring within the natural, and was no more than 0.13m deep. It produced no finds, but the loose character of the fill suggested that it may be of relatively recent origin; this feature need not have been man-made and might have been created by root action or some similar activity.

UNDATED FEATURES

Pits 109 and 338

Pits 109 and 338 were found close to the eastern edge of the site area, the latter having been cut by a field drain. Pit 109 was 0.22–0.26m deep, with a single fill of grey/brown clay soil, while 338 was 0.38m deep, and contained three distinct layers of fill. The secondary infill layer of 338 consisted almost entirely of redeposited orange/yellow clay and occasional lumps of this material were also present in the final infill deposit. Both of these features were slightly irregular in shape, and neither produced any finds.

Feature 272

The shape of 272 was extremely irregular both in plan and profile, and its depth varied between 0.18 and 0.38m, being deeper towards the north-east. It contained an undifferentiated fill of brown clay soil that produced no finds. The appearance of this feature is similar to that of 402 (see above), which is thought to have been a ground clearance feature, but while 272 may have been created as a result of similar activity, it could belong to any period.

Feature 252 of uncertain origin

Feature 252 was cut by field drain 320 at its western end, and was little more than a shallow scoop that reached a depth of 0.12m at its deepest point. It contained a single fill of pale yellow/grey sandy clay that was lighter in colour than the fill of any other feature sampled by the excavation, and produced a single struck flint flake. The flint recovered and the coloration of the fill may suggest that this feature is of Bronze Age or earlier origin, but the find came from very close to the surface of the feature where it may have been present by chance; the character of the fill suggested that it was perhaps more likely to have been a root disturbance or a variation in the natural geology than anything man-made.

The excavation of site 2 (figs 6 and 8)

It should be noted that most of the features discovered in this area have been assigned to different phases of occupation on the basis of very limited evidence, and in some cases this evidence may be misleading.

PHASE 1: PRE-LATE IRON AGE

One feature and several artefacts found within the Site 2 area pre-date the Late Iron Age, the latter consisting of a small scrap of pottery of Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age date that was recovered from the surface of feature 544, one undiagnostic struck flint that was recovered from feature 547, and two undiagnostic struck flints that were found in segment 522 of the early Roman ditch 531. The finds from 544 and 547 may indicate the date of these features, but they may also be present residually like the flints from 522; as the evidence is inconclusive these features have been classified as undated.

Feature 514

Feature 514 was discovered close to the southern limit of excavation and consisted of a pot that had been set in the ground with very little fill around its outer edge (fig 8). The top of the vessel was scraped by the mechanical excavator, but little was lost as a consequence, and it must have been broken already as previously separated rim sherds were recovered from the upper part of its fill. The vessel survived in extremely fragile condition, its shape having distorted slightly in the ground, and was difficult to extract as a result. No finds were recovered from within the vessel other than a number of greensand lumps (derived from the local outcrop) of unknown significance. They were tightly packed within the pot, and there was only a small amount of soil with them. No material of obvious significance, such as burnt bone, was noted when the fill of the pot was emptied, but further analysis of the sample was not carried out as it was mislaid. Feature 514 may have been a cremation burial, despite the probable absence of burnt bone (see *Discussion*, below), but it is also possible that the pot was buried for other reasons. The vessel is a barrel urn of Middle Bronze Age date (see *The pottery*, below).

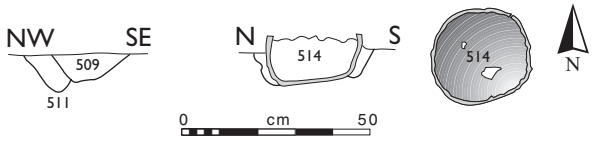

Fig 8 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: sections of features in excavation Area 2.

PHASE 2 OR 3: LATE IRON AGE OR ROMAN

Posthole 511

This feature was approximately 0.26m deep, contained a fill of light grey clay with small specks of orange clay, and appeared to have been cut by the shallower segment 509 of ditch 502 (figs 6 and 8), which contained no orange clay. It produced no finds, but (assuming the suggested relationship with 502 is correct) must pre-date this ditch, which probably belongs to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD.

PHASE 3: ROMAN

Ring gully 559

A little more than two-thirds of this shallow ring gully survived, the south-eastern part, which presumably would have included an entrance, most probably having been truncated by later activities such as ploughing. Where excavated, the feature varied between 0.04 and 0.12m in depth, becoming little more than a stain to the east of segments 562 and 564, and contained a single fill of grey/brown clay soil that was seen to be cut by the darker-coloured fill of ditch 516. Excavation produced one sherd that may belong to the Late Iron Age, and nine that are of early Roman origin, but yielded no other finds.

Ditch 502

Ditch 502 was sampled by the excavation of nine segments, was found to vary between 0.10 and 0.16m in depth and contain a single fill of light grey/brown soil; segment 509 cut the probable, but undated, posthole 511. Segment 503 was a reasonably convincing terminal. The only find of any type recovered from this feature was a large, unabraded sherd of Roman pottery found close to the surface of segment 508. The colour of the fill suggested that this feature is unlikely to be of recent origin, so it may well be dated by the sherd, which belongs to the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD.

Ditch or hedge line 516

Feature 516 lay roughly 10m to the west of 530–2 and followed a broadly similar course, though that of 516 appeared to be marginally straighter overall. The segments excavated showed it to contain a single fill of dark grey/brown clay soil and to be of quite changeable width and depth, the latter varying between 0.09 and 0.20m with the position of the edges often being quite indistinct. The site plan (fig 6) may not convey the general irregularity and poor edge definition encountered during the excavation of this feature, characteristics that suggested it could mark the position of a hedgeline rather than a ditch. Feature 516 was clearly seen to cut ring-gully 559, and is thought to have cut pit 515, though this relationship was less clear. It was sampled at regular intervals, but despite this produced just three very small sherds of pottery, two of which belong to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period, while the other is of non-specific Roman origin, and an iron nailhead. The limited evidence available suggests that this feature may belong to the early Roman period, particularly, perhaps, as a similar date is suggested for 531, but it remains possible that the material recovered from it was present residually in a later context.

Ditches and/or hedge line features 530, 531 and 532

While there is no doubt that the easternmost of these features, 532, was a ditch, the interpretation is less clear for 530 and 531. Feature 532 varied between 0.20 and 0.50m in depth, and generally contained a single fill of grey/brown clay soil, though a marginally paler coloured basal fill was recorded in the deepest segment, 554. Both 530 and 531 contained similar fills of grey/brown soil, the presence of the former only being suggested by the identification of the narrower, marginally deeper areas 533 and 535 within the much broader, and shallower segments 534 and 536; 533 and 535 may have been the base of a ditch at some stage, the latter possibly having been a terminal. It was tentatively suggested that 530 might have cut 531, but this relationship is uncertain. The depth of 530 varied between 0.14 and 0.20m in the two segments where it was identified, while the dimensions of 531 varied considerably as a result of poor edge definition and an uneven profile (it was typically around 0.10m deep, but varied between 0.04 and 0.24m). Feature 531 may indicate the position of a shallow ditch, or perhaps a series of shallow intercutting ditches or gullies of which 530 may represent a single (possibly the latest) phase, or it may indicate the position of a hedgeline as has been suggested above for 516. If the latter suggestion is correct, 531 seems likely to have been contemporary with ditch 532. In the southern part of the site area the courses of 531 and 532 were obscured by waterlogging, but it is thought that both curved slightly towards the west.

No finds were recovered from 532 or could be positively attributed to 530, but seven sherds of pottery and two residual struck flints were recovered from 531; two further sherds came from segment 555, which potentially contained elements of each feature. The pottery consists of material that has been dated as being of Iron Age, Late Iron Age/early Roman, early Roman, and 'Roman' origin, and overall suggests that

these features (assuming them to be broadly contemporary) belong to the second half of the 1st century AD, possibly dating closer to the Iron Age/Roman transition than to the end of the century.

Pits 515, 557 and 558

Pit 515 was approximately 0.46m deep and contained a fill of pale grey clay soil that is thought to have been cut by the darker coloured fill of ditch segment 518 (*Ditch or hedge line 516*, see above). It produced three sherds of early Roman pottery and a few very small fragments of baked clay.

Pits 557 and 558 lay side by side near the southern limit of excavation, roughly 5.5m to the west of feature 514. They were 0.32 and 0.18m deep respectively, and each contained single fills of grey/brown clay soil. Pit 557 produced three sherds of early Roman pottery, while 558 produced two sherds that can only be loosely dated to the 2nd century. The close proximity of these features to each other and their similarity in diameter may suggest that both are likely to have been broadly contemporary, and, if so, it is possible that they belong to the period from the late 1st to the early 2nd centuries AD.

UNDATED

Features 137, 138, 544, 547 and 551

These features were found quite close together on the eastern side of ditch 532. Trial trench features 137 and 138 are recorded as having been a possible small pit/posthole and a linear feature that appeared to represent a gully terminal, the former being *c* 0.25m deep with a grey/brown fill that was flecked with charcoal, and the latter being just 0.09m deep with a fill of grey silty clay that also contained charcoal. Neither feature was rediscovered as part of the subsequent excavation, which is particularly surprising in the case of 138 if this had been part of a more substantial linear feature. Contexts 544 and 547 were irregularly shaped in both plan and profile, 544 varying between 0.36 and 0.42m in depth and containing a main fill of light grey sandy clay and a secondary fill of orange/brown sandy clay, and 547 varying between 0.04 and 0.08m in depth with a single fill of yellow/brown sandy clay. Feature 551 was a slightly more regular shape than these and was around 0.34m deep with a single fill comparable to the main fill of 544.

It is not entirely clear which, if any, of these features were man-made, but 544, 547 and (probably) 551 seem unlikely to have been more than ground clearance features. The charcoal noted as having been present in 137 and 138 may suggest that these were man-made if it was correctly identified, but it is possible that manganese flecks found to be present in varying quantities within the natural were misidentified during the evaluation. The only finds recovered from these features were a small scrap of calcined flint gritted pottery of Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age date that was recovered from the surface of feature 544, and one undiagnostic struck flint that was recovered from feature 547. The finds may give an indication of the date of these features, but may well be present either residually or intrusively.

Worked flint, by Nick Marples

Thirty-one flints weighing 890g were recorded from 22 contexts spanning both areas investigated, although Site 2 yielded just three items (table 4 gives the full catalogue: see *Endnote*). Only one context, 334A, with five worked flints, produced in excess of two pieces. The finds appear to be distributed thinly across the whole area and most were found as residual items within later (mainly Roman) features. The flint is of good quality, generally mottled or 'milky' grey, with off-white or buff matt cortex (including one nodular piece), although there are also examples of black and light honey coloured flint. Condition is generally quite fresh, with only two pieces slightly rolled. One blade, one flake and one irregular fragment are burnt and one blade and two flakes are broken. Four pieces classed as tools exhibit edge damage that may be accidental. Many pieces are iron stained. Artefact categories identified are listed in table 1 below, while tools have been classified in table 2. Although no precisely datable tools are present, an endscraper made on a tertiary flake with punctiform-type butt is almost certainly of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

Table 1 Flintwork composition

Cores	Irregular waste	Flakes	Blades	Tools	Total
7	1	10	2	11	31

Table 2 Flint tools

Scrapers	Awls	Notches	Combination tool	Miscellaneous retouched	Edge damaged
1	1	1	1	3	4

In the absence of diagnostic tool forms, dating of the collection is dependent on the technological attributes of tool blanks, cores and débitage. No primary flakes are present and most blades or flakes retain unidirectional or multidirectional blade or flake scars on their dorsal surfaces indicating controlled and systematic flaking. All three blades, one with a linear butt and diffuse bulb usually associated with soft hammer percussion, exhibit unidirectional bladelet scars characteristic of flintwork from the Mesolithic period. Most flakes show evidence of hard hammer removals with prominent bulbs, incipient cones of percussion and plain butts. Flake shape (tending towards a length:breadth ratio of 1:1, but with many blanks slightly longer than they are broad) suggests that they are likely to be of Neolithic or earlier date. No thick, squat flakes characteristic of the Bronze Age are present and there are only three hinged terminations.

Most cores from the site (classified in table 3) are quite small, with maximum dimensions ranging from 34 to 71mm (mean value 46.1mm) and weights varying between 9 and 119g, with a mean weight of 50.6g. They are generally intensively worked, all with more than five removals each, and four with around ten removals.

The small single platform bladelet core is certainly of Mesolithic date, and this piece is comparable to illustrated examples from a site discovered by fieldwalking at Painshill Farm, located *c* 3km to the south-west (Field *et al* 1987, 89).

Five cores are multi-platform flake types with evidence of hard hammer miss-hits in the form of incipient cones of percussion. Flake removals are generally long or proportional (with length:breath ratios around 1:1). All could well be of the same Late Neolithic date as a keeled discoidal core recovered from context 382A. In addition, two cores may have been re-used as hammerstones, a common Neolithic trait.

One core and two trimming flakes from context 334A appear to derive from the same nodule, suggesting flintworking in the immediate vicinity.

Table 3 Flint cores

Core type	Total	Notes
Single platform bladelet	1	Platform edge abraded
Double platform flake	2	Both with incipient cones
Multi platform flake	2	1 core with incipient cones, 1 bruised on edge
Multi platform flake and bladelet	1	1 joint platform
Keeled discoidal	1	

The collection as a whole indicates some activity in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, largely confined to those parts of the site with drift deposits. Mesolithic findspots have been recorded on sandstone outcrops within the Weald Clay, and the site at Painshill Farm noted above (which also produced some Neolithic flintwork), is likewise situated in an area of sandier soils (Field *et al* 1987, 88).

The pottery, by Phil Jones (tables 5–8: see *Endnote*)

INTRODUCTION

The mix of pottery from the excavations seems to be domestic and of Roman or 'native' types that date up until the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries, although it seems likely that the earliest period of occupation had been during the immediately pre-conquest period. There is, in addition, a Barrel Urn of Deverel-Rimbury type that had been buried upright and filled with stones during the Middle Bronze Age. A summary of the pottery by period and excavation area is given in table 5, while full details by context and fabric are in tables 6 and 7. Table 8 provides additional details of the quantitites of form types of the fabric 3A/B Roman pottery (see below).

Excluding the placed urn, the collection is of 2163 sherds (26.61kg; 28.18 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs)) from 64 features that include 24 ditches or gullies, 31 pits, postholes and stakeholes, two waterholes or wells and two ring gullies. It is to be emphasised, however, that although a few of these contain pottery of Late Iron Age type, they are always accompanied by sherds that would normally be dated to the Roman period, albeit early during the occupation. Most feature assemblages are relatively small, and only six contain over 100 sherds, of which five are ditches (200, 206, 228, 280 and 309) and the other is a waterhole (256).

The report that follows begins with a description of the urn and follows with summary accounts of the 'native' and 'romanised' wares and vessel forms. There is also a summary catalogue of the more important context assemblages, but all other data are presented in tables.

Only 38 items were selected for publication as illustrations (figs 9 and 10), but these include almost all the Late Iron Age or Early Roman 'native' types since these are little understood in the northern fringe of the Weald. Almost all 'romanised' pottery has been described in accordance with previously published works, especially those of Lyne & Jefferies 1979 (abbreviated to L&J) and Millett 1979 (abbreviated to Millett), and the few examples that are illustrated have been chosen only to demonstrate aspects of the dating of the site.

THE BARREL URN

The greater part of this large vessel was found upright within pit 514 although it had suffered some plough damage. Its fill contained broken fragments of greensand of the Hythe Beds series. Although care was taken with its retrieval, its friable nature ensured that it broke into many pieces – so much so that it proved impossible to reconstruct for the purposes of illustration within the time available. Its rim and base angle are shown, and demonstrate that the form may be that of a Barrel Urn, since the former is slightly inward-leaning and the latter slightly splayed (fig 9, no 1). If so, it would have been a simple, unmodified example, since there was no indication from an examination of the remainder of the sherds that the vessel had been cordoned. The rim is slightly bulbous and its diameter is likely to be close to that shown, at 26cm; but there is more certainty about the base, which was 24cm across. The body of the vessel, therefore, is unlikely to have been much more barrel-shaped than is shown. Although there are other vessels from the site that are similarly tempered with calcined flint and of Late Iron Age or early Roman date, the frequent fragments within this vessel are much coarser, with very many as large as 10mm across. The surfaces of the vessel had been left rough.

THE 'NATIVE' FABRICS AND THEIR FORMS

Two groups of fabrics had been used to prepare the hand-made vessels of Late Iron Age type from the site, with one predominantly tempered with grog (1E) and the other predominantly

Table 5 Pottery sherd count and weight by excavation area

		Bronze Age	Iron Age	Iron Age/ Roman	Roman	Medie-val	Post-medieval	Total	Total less Barrel Urn
Evaluation	No of sherds	–	4	–	59	–	1	64	64
	Weight (g)	–	*55*	–	*528*	–	*3*	*586*	*586*
Site 1	No of sherds	1	2	109	1951	1	2	2066	2066
	Weight (g)	*1*	*29*	*2316*	*23248*	*38*	*49*	*25681*	*25681*
Site 2	No of sherds	1	1	6	26	–	–	34	33
	Weight (g)	*3486*	*1*	*104*	*238*	–	–	*3829*	*343*
Totals	No of sherds	2	7	115	2036	1	3	2164	2163
	Weight (g)	*3487*	*85*	*2420*	*24014*	*38*	*52*	*30096*	*26610*

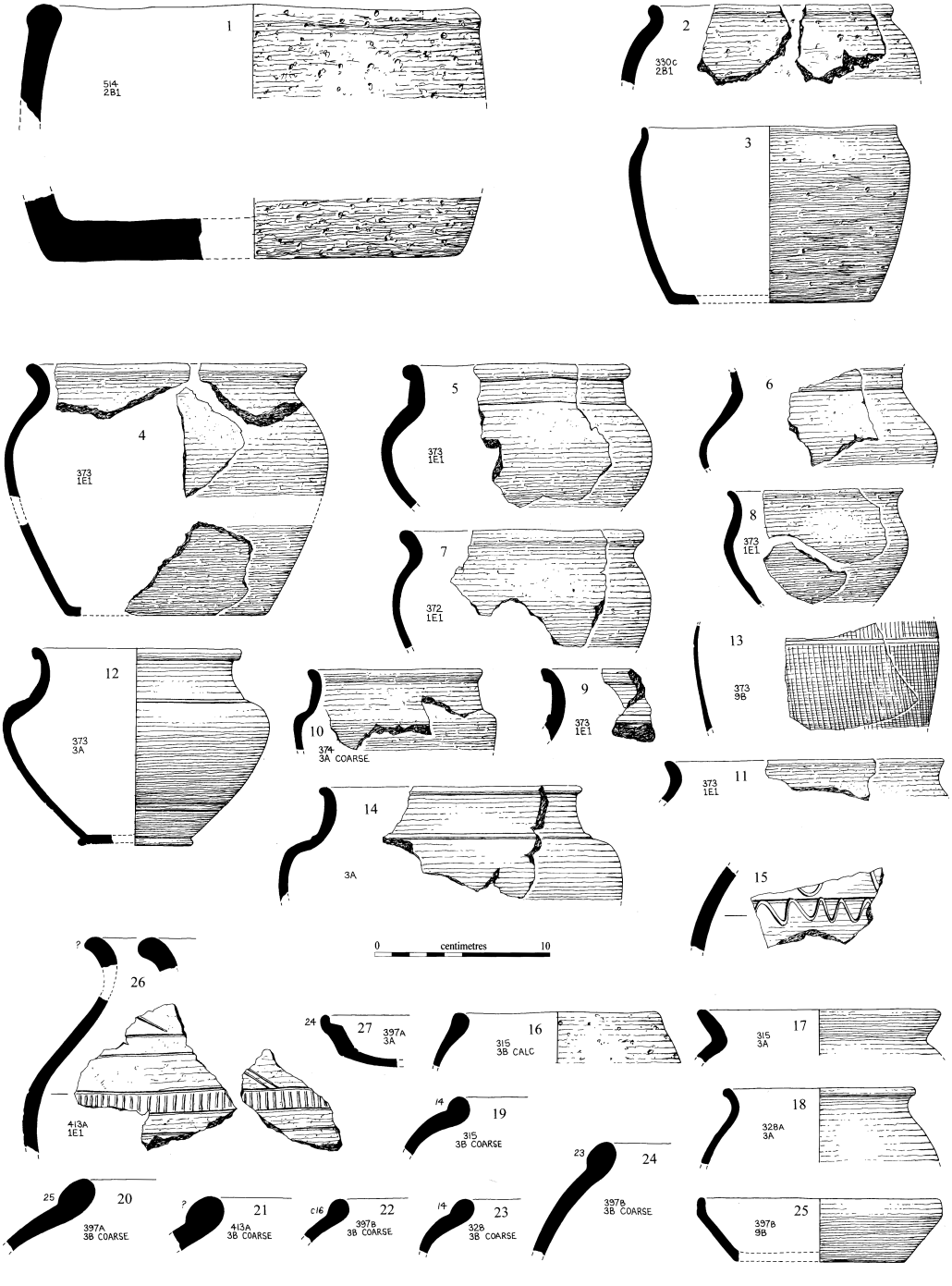

Fig 9 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: pottery drawings nos 1–27. (Scale 1:4)

tempered with calcined flint (2B). It is to be noted that the alphanumeric notation of these follows that of the Roman type series of fabrics first established for Surrey during the study of pottery from Staines (Roman *Pontibus*) (Jones forthcoming), and since grog fabrics 1A–D seem absent from Cranleigh, the series is supplemented with the 1E types. Similarly, 2A fabrics predominantly tempered with shell are also absent from Cranleigh.

Group 1E Grog-tempered fabrics and forms

There are 94 sherds (1.64kg; 1.49 EVES) predominantly tempered with grog, representing between 3% (count) and 6% (weight) of all pottery from the site. Most, however, are of fabric 1E1 that has no accessory inclusions (87 sherds; 1.5kg; 1.3 EVEs) whereas the multiply tempered fabrics 1E2–5 are represented by between one and three sherds each.

There are eleven vessels of fabric 1E1 represented by rim sherds, and seven are shouldered jars with everted rims of Iron Age ancestry that are not normally associated with assemblages of Roman date. Three of these, however, are from the fill of the ring ditch 371 where they are in association with 'romanised' wheel-thrown greyware (see below). Two have simply everted rims (fig 9, nos 4 and 7); another has a more upright collar surmounted by a beading and a carination at the neck (fig 9, no 5) and a small rim fragment could be from either variant (fig 9, no 11). Yet another example with a simply everted rim is from a smaller vessel that may be classified as a beaker or cup (fig 9, no 8). The ring ditch also contained the rim of a cordon-necked jar in the same fabric (fig 9, no 9). Other examples of the early jar form with an everted rim are represented by rim sherds from ditch 336 (not illustrated), pit 382 (fig 10, no 33) and ring ditch 559 (not illustrated).

The remaining rim sherds in 1E1 fabric are from a lid with a diameter of 18cm and a bead-rimmed jar of uncertain diameter, both from ditch 228, and two others, almost certainly of the same storage jar found in ditch 280, the vessel of which had burnished linear decoration on the shoulder (no 26). The only other featured sherd is a pronounced foot-ring base angle that also came from ditch 228.

The four other fabrics predominantly tempered with grog are: 1E2, with a little additional quartz sand; 1E3, with almost as much sand as grog; 1E4, with some additional calcined flint; and 1E5, with some voids that probably contained shell. The only featured sherds among them are both of 1E3, and include the rim of a bead-rimmed jar of 14cm diameter from ditch 365, and a base angle from ditch 280.

Group 2B Calcined flint-tempered fabrics

There are five fabrics predominantly tempered with comminuted calcined flint, and collectively they amount to 22 sherds (0.87kg; 0.18 EVEs). Nearly half of these are of 2B1, with no other temper material, and featured sherds among them include the rim of a bead-rimmed jar of 14cm diameter, a base angle of 12cm diameter and a body sherd from a storage jar decorated with incised linear and curvilinear schemes (fig 9, no 15), all from ditch 228.

Fabric 2B2 has some additional quartz sand and includes a base angle of 9cm diameter from ditch 280, and the single sherd of 2B3 has almost as much sand as flint as well as some glauconitic grains, and is from the shoulder of a jar – possibly of early everted rim type – from ring ditch 371 (fig 9, no 6). The four body sherds of 2B4 have almost as much iron mineral inclusions as flint and are also from the fill of ring ditch 371; there is a single sherd of 2B5, with almost as much grog as flint, from ditch 531.

THE 'ROMANISED' FABRICS AND THEIR FORMS

The remaining pottery from the site is wheel-thrown, and the greater majority is from coarseware vessels probably made in the Alice Holt/Farnham manufacturing district *c*21km north-west of the site. There are, in addition, small quantities of sherds of other coarseware and fineware fabrics, mostly of uncertain origin except for some from British regional sources and the samian pottery. Sherds of mortaria and imported amphorae are rare.

Alice Holt/Farnham grey/brown sandy wares

Between 83% (weight and EVEs) and 91% (count) of all pottery from the site is from this source area, with the majority (2345 sherds) belonging to the spectrum of the standard grey sandy ware fabric (3A) and with much smaller quantities (45 sherds) of its predominantly brown equivalent (3B). In addition a significant minority in both grey and brown variants (192 sherds) have very coarse inclusions of quartz sand (3A/B COARSE), and there are also twelve sherds that are the same, but which also include sparse amounts of calcined flint (3A/B CALC). Pottery of both 3A and 3B is ubiquitous across northern Surrey, but the coarser variants are more closely confined to the west of the county, nearer to the source area.

3A/B CALC Coarse sandy fabrics

There is only a relatively small quantity of this coarseware type (twelve sherds), although, because most sherds are from a single storage jar, by weight it represents nearly 5% of all pottery from the site (1.23kg). All but one sherd is in the oxidised 3B

variant. Vessels represented by rim sherds include a storage jar with a beaded rim (BRSt) from ditch 280, another with an everted rim from ditch 228, and one that is surmounted by a heavy, roll-rim beading from ditch 228. There is also the rim of a smaller, bead-rimmed jar from the same ditch, and the rim of a possible biconical jar from ditch 309. The latter may be residual in 309 since the sherds in accompaniment are of late 2nd century or even later date, whereas this coarseware is usually associated with later 1st century occupation. In addition there are many joining sherds (but counted as one; 0.9kg) from another storage jar, but one with a more simple everted rim, from ditch 406 (fig 10, no 35). There was insufficient time for a full reconstruction of its profile for illustration, but the vessel has a pronouncedly rounded, high shoulder and a base diameter that is smaller than that of the rim.

3A/B COARSE Sandy fabrics

All but seven of the 192 sherds (4.38kg; 2.0 EVEs) are of the oxidised B type, and, just as for the CALC variant, most are from storage jars. Of eight represented by rim sherds, seven are of the bead-rimmed type, of which three are from ditch 280 (fig 9, nos 20, 21 and 24) and the others from pits 255 and 308, and ditches 228 and 200. The remaining storage jar, from posthole 231, is of the everted type, but with a roll-rim top beading like the examples in CALC. In addition to the bead-rimmed storage jars from ditch 280, there are three examples of the more standard sized types (fig 9, nos 19, 22 and 23) and another is from pit 308. The rim of a lid from gully 206 may have been used to cover larger jars as it had a diameter of 19cm. Other forms represented by rim sherds include the rim of a cordon-necked jar from pit 308, and rims of Fig7 jars were recovered from waterhole 256 and ditch 200. More unusual in such a coarse fabric is part of a four-lobed strap handle from a flagon recovered from ditch 531. The only featured sherd in the reduced 3A variant is an unusual jar from the early assemblage of ring ditch 371. It is a necked vessel with an inwardly tapering collar surmounted by a short, everted rim, and it has a sharply rounded shoulder (fig 9 no 10).

3A/B Standard grey/brown sandy fabrics

These constitute the most common spectrum of fabrics, with 2390 sherds (16.2kg; 20.97 EVEs) that represent 84% of all pottery from the site, and of which only 45 are of the oxidised 3B variant. Table 8 provides details of the numbers of forms represented by rim sherds from each feature in which they were found, but a summary account of them, and of the acronyms involved, seems appropriate.

Of 128 jars, the most common type is the cordon-necked type (CNJ; L&J Class 1; Millett Types 17, 18, 21 and 24), with 40 examples represented by rim sherds, of which 1st century examples were recovered from, among other features, pit 382 (fig 10, no 34) and ring ditch 371 (fig 9, nos 12 and 14) and later examples from ditch 309 (an almost hybrid Fig 7 form) and ditch 200 (among eighteen examples).

The next most common form is the everted-rimmed jar (ERJ; L&J Class 3B; Millett Type 23), with

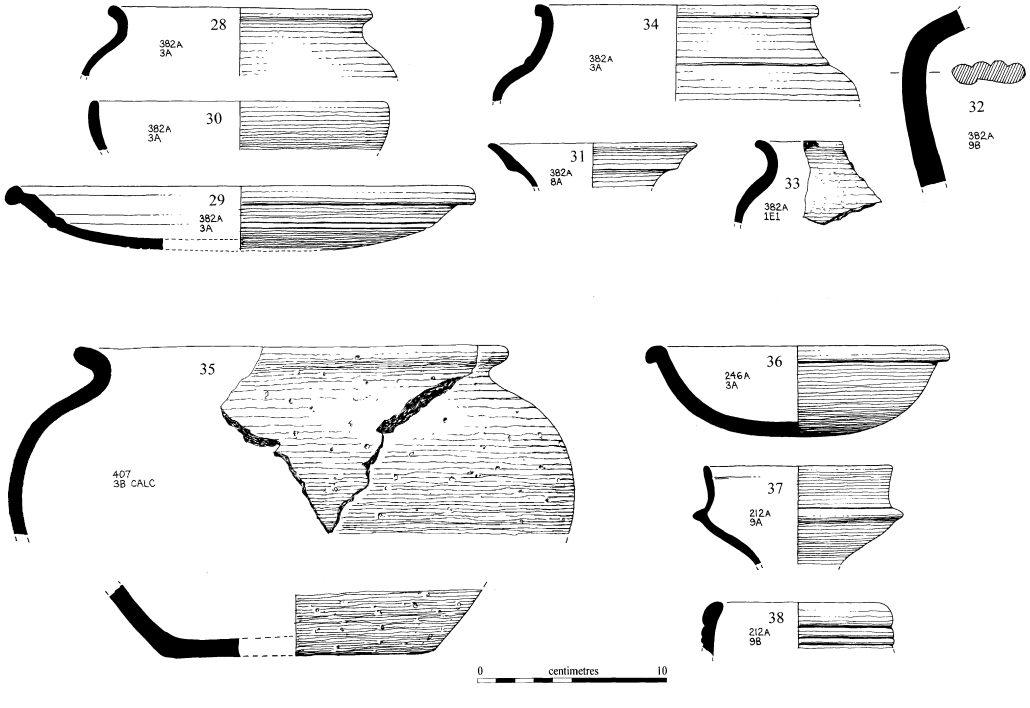

Fig 10 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: pottery drawings nos 28–38. (Scale 1:4)

Table 8 Wyphurst Road, Cranleigh: pottery forms in Roman fabrics 3A/B and 3A/B COARSE & CALC

Feature	closed											open									TOTALS
	EERJ	BRJ	BRSt	CNJ	FIG7J	ERSt	ERJ	ERBk	HRJ	CAVJ	BICJ	SB	PLAT	HEMB	6AB	FRB	BRB	LID	BRB Lid	FLAG	
3A/B																					
103	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
105	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
130	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
200	–	1	–	18	19	–	18	10	1	1	2	–	–	1	6	–	18	2	1	–	98
208	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
210	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	3
211	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
220	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
228	–	13	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	26
236	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
239	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
240	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
253	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
256	–	–	–	–	2	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	9
277	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
280	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
285	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2
308	2	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
309	–	2	–	1	–	–	10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	16
336	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
356	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
358	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
370	–	2	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
371	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
382	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	4
402	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
515	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
TOTALS	4	22	1	41	28	–	37	13	1	1	3	7	4	2	10	1	20	3	1	1	200
3A/B COARSE & CALC																					
130	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
200	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	3
228	–	1	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
231	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
255	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
256	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
280	–	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
308	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
309	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
371	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
382	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
406	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
TOTALS	3	7	7	2	2	2	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	25
COMBINED TOTALS																					
	7	29	8	43	30	2	37	13	1	1	4	7	4	2	10	1	20	4	1	1	225

35 examples, although there are another thirteen of narrow rim diameter that better qualify as beakers. The general consensus is that these ultimately derive from BB1 examples that were reaching the London area during the second quarter of the 2nd century, and the dating of such copies is usually accepted as being from around AD150 and onwards throughout the Roman period.

Fig 7 jars, so named by the author from their upper profile (FIG7J; L&J Class 3A; Millett Types 19–22), are represented by 28 rims and the form is usually associated with early to mid-2nd century assemblages across west Surrey.

The last of the common jar forms has the oldest ancestry, with the development of bead-rimmed types during the Late Iron Age. There are 22 examples in the collection, but it is pertinent that only one is present among 58 jar rims in the late assemblage of ditch 200.

Another early jar form with probable Iron Age antecedents is globular, and with an everted rim, like those in the grog-tempered fabric 1E1. Two examples are present in the late 1st century assemblage of pit 308. The only other jar form present in the collection is of some significance. This is the hook-rimmed jar (HRJ; L&J Class 3C: Millett Types 26 and 27) that is generally dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries, and there is only one example, from ditch 200. The rarity of this form, which, together with the 3BJs, represents the greater majority of later Roman jars, is strong evidence for the ending of occupation during the late 2nd or early 3rd century.

Of only three rims in the oxidised 3B variant, one is from the only storage jar in 3A/B. It is of bead-rimmed type and was recovered from ditch 130. In addition, however, are two storage jar body sherds in 3B from ditch 200 that have internal finger impressions. These are most probably from the large, cable-rimmed storage jars of L&J Class 10 that are thought to have begun to be produced from the late 2nd century.

About 37 bowls and dishes are represented by rim sherds, of which the most common form is the bead-rimmed type (BRB; L&J Classes 5A and 6B; Millett Types 3 and 4) of which there are 20 examples, although sixteen are from ditch 200. Two of the other four are in the oxidised 3B variant and also from ditch 200. Like the 3BJs, this form, too, is of BB1 ancestry and is generally dated to the later 2nd or early 3rd centuries. An unusual variant of the bead-rimmed type has a completely concave base (fig 10, no 36) and may, instead, have been used as a lid.

The second most common open form is the later form of simple upright bowl (6AB; L&J Class 6A; Millett Type 7) that also began production during the later 2nd or early 3rd century. There are nine examples, with six from ditch 200, including the only example with a horizontal groove below the rim.

One of two early open forms represented on site is the Surrey bowl (SB; L&J Class 5; Millett Type 2), of which none of the seven examples was present in ditch 200; the other is the plain, hemispherical bowl or 'dog-dish' (HEMB; some of L&J Class 6; Millett Type 1) represented by two examples (including fig 10, no 30).

Another early open form is the platter, with its cordons and grooves of Gallo-Belgic ancestry, and there are four examples in the collection, all of full profiles (including fig 10, no 29).

The only other form in 3A is the flagon, represented by a double-lobed rim from pit 358 that has a diameter of 10cm and resembles L&J Class and sub-class 8.5 of early Roman date.

Group 4 ?Verulamium region/London sandy ware

A single buff body sherd (1g) from gully 105 is tentatively identified as belonging to this Hertfordshire/London tradition, although it may be of some other oxidised sandy ware. There is, however, a *mortarium* rim that is more certainly from that source are (see Group 7 below).

Group 5 Tilford/Overwey sandy ware

The absence of any sherds of this ubiquitous late Roman coarseware, the source of which lies less than 10km from Cranleigh, would again suggest an ending to the occupation during the later 2nd or early 3rd century.

Group 6 BB1 Black-burnished ware

No sherds of this Dorset ware were identified within the collection, and this indicates the near monopoly that the Alice Holt/Farnham potters maintained in the local distribution of coarsewares during the Roman period

Group 7A Amphorae

Only four sherds are present in the collection, and three from posthole 356 are from the same 7A1 southern Spanish amphorae. There is also the lower spring of a broad strap handle and part of the body wall of another from ditch 309 in a cream fabric with much quartz sand.

Group 7B Mortaria

There is a single sherd identified as being from a mortarium, and that is a rim fragment from ditch 502 in 7B1 Verulamium/London buff sandy ware. The rim form is of 2nd century type.

Group 8 Orange fineware fabrics

Of 24 sherds (0.19kg; 1.18 EVEs), twenty are of the finer 8A type and the others of sandier 8B. The former includes parts of a butt beaker from ditch 100, the rim of a hook-rimmed beaker from ditch 200 and the rim of a 'pulley ring' flagon from pit 382 (fig 10, no 31). The only featured sherd in 8B is the complete rim of another flagon with a single handle spring and an external white slip from gully 206.

Group 9A Fine sandy greywares

Only four sherds (0.07kg; 1.14 EVEs) were recognised as being sufficiently finer than those of Group 3A sandy fabrics to warrant their separate quantification. They include all but the base angle of a carinated cup from gully 211 (fig 10, no 37) and a small body sherd with *en barbotine* applied decoration that may be from the rectilinear dotted panel of a poppy beaker from ditch 130.

Group 9B Fine cream/buff wares

Among seventeen sherds (0.3kg; 0.64 EVEs) are the rims of two or three bowls or dishes, including one with a corrugated external surface from gully 211 (fig 10, no 38), unless it is a beaker or cup, another with a short upright collar from ditch 280 (fig 9, no 25) and a rim fragment from ditch 309. There is also a body sherd from a butt beaker from ring ditch 371 which, although it has a chemically eroded surface, retains traces of horizontal scoring in imitation of rouletting (fig 9, no 13).

Group 10A1 Samian

With 78 sherds (0.71kg; 0.77 EVEs) this is the most common fineware from the site, and almost all the collection is from central Gaul. Twelve vessels are represented by rim sherds, of which four are of Dr 18/31 bowls (from ditches 200, 309 x 2 and waterhole 256), one Dr 33 cup (from gully 408), one Dr 38 flanged bowl (from feature 225) and four Dr 27 campanulate cups (all from ditch 200). There are also two rims of Dr 30 bowls with decorated bodies and the body of another (from ditch 370). Ten more decorated sherds were recovered from ditch 200, and another from ditch 336.

Group 10B3 Nene Valley colour-coated fineware

Two body sherds of red/brown slipped cream/buff fineware bearing elements of *en barbotine* 'hunt' schemes of decoration were recovered from ditch 200.

CATALOGUE OF SELECTED FEATURE ASSEMBLAGES

Ring ditch 371 (context assemblages 372–4, 378, 381, 383)

Forty sherds (0.87kg; 2.12 EVEs), including 15 of 'romanised' sandy fabric 3A and 14 of 1E1 grog-tempered ware, although there is proportionally more of the latter by weight. There are also seven sherds of 2B calcined flint-gritted fabrics, three of 3A COARSE and a body sherd from a butt beaker in the fine cream/buff 9B fabric (fig 9, no 13). Unique to the site collection is a sherd in a fabric tempered with crushed quartzite, quartz sand and glauconite (fig 9, no 6). It is from the upper part of a globular jar with a constriction at the base of its near-upright neck. Among the grog-tempered ware are the rims and other sherds from four globular jars with everted rims (fig 9, nos 4, 5, 7 and 11), a smaller example that may have been used as a cup (fig 9, no 8) and a cordon-necked jar (fig 9, no 9). There are no featured sherds among the 2B sherds, and the only rim in 3A COARSE is from a small jar with an accentuated shoulder and a short everted rim (fig 9, no 10). Two vessels of 3A fabric are both cordon-necked jars, including a full profile (fig 9, no 12). This is a relatively small example and the cordon is vestigial. It has a slightly undercut rim, a carefully made foot-ring base with two concentric grooves on the underside and two horizontal grooves on the lower body. The other example is larger and has a beaded rim termination (fig 9, no 14).

The assemblage contains several vessels that would not be out of place in one of Late Iron Age date, but they are accompanied by others that would usually be regarded as being early Roman types. Overall, the quantity of 'native' material (21 sherds; 0.44kg; 1.03 EVEs) is about the same as that of 'romanised' types (eighteen sherds; 0.43kg; 1.09 EVES). That said, however, only the smaller of the cordon-necked jars in 3A fabric seems certainly wheel-thrown – one of the criteria accepted as being symptomatic of 'romanisation' – but its cordon is barely perceptible. It is not at all clear whether the other example is wheel-thrown or hand-made, and the same applies for the cordon-necked jar in grog-tempered ware. There is, however, no certainty that the fast wheel had not been adopted prior to the conquest, and it would have lent itself to the fashioning of the cordons that are characteristic of Atrebatic pottery. The only other certainly wheel-thrown vessel represented in the fill is the thin-walled butt beaker in cream/buff fineware, but again, although this could belong to the early Roman occupation, it may be earlier since this Gallo-Belgic type is known from pre-conquest sites in the region. There is, therefore, some uncertainty in the dating of the ring ditch, or more accurately, its infill, and the best alternatives seem to be that it was a Late Iron Age feature

abandoned in the Neronian or Flavian period, or that it was wholly of very early Roman usage when 'native' traditions were beginning to be superseded by 'romanised' types. The author prefers the former explanation, as the character of full 'romanisation' may best be represented by some other feature assemblages (see below).

Ditch 280 (context assemblages 301, 315, 325, 328, 397 and 413)

This linear feature yielded 117 sherds (3.09kg; 1.1 EVEs), of which 31 are of 3A, 67 of 3A/B COARSE and four of 3AB CALC. Collectively, these sherds of Alice Holt/Farnham fabrics represent between 82% (weight) and 89% (EVEs) of all pottery from the fill. The 'native' fabrics, by contrast, are represented by only twelve sherds of grog-tempered types and two that are calcined flint-gritted. Such a difference in relative quantities of 'native' to 'romanised' material is to be compared with the assemblage of ring ditch 371 above, and there are also differences in the forms that are represented. The ditch assemblage is dominated by sherds from bead-rimmed jars and storage jars in the coarse sandy fabrics (fig 9, nos 19–24), and there is also the rim of another bead-rimmed storage in 3A CALC (not illustrated). Also in the latter fabric is a similar jar, but which has a bulbous termination rather than a beading (fig 9, no 16). A fifth storage jar is represented by many sherds from one that had an everted rim, and which was decorated on its upper part with linear schemes of scoring (fig 10, no 26). This is the only featured vessel among the 'native' types and is made of the grog-tempered fabric 1E1. The standard 3A sandy fabric includes the rims of a platter (fig 10, no 27), and two globular jars. Both have everted rims, but that of the larger jar has a thick and straight eversion (fig 9, no 17), whereas the other is slighter and more gently curving (fig 9, no 18). As well as the platter, another open form is represented by the only fineware vessel from the ditch, a carinated bowl in the 9B cream/buff fabric (fig 9, no 25). A close parallel, but in greyware, was found in the outer ditch of Anstiebury hillfort in a group tentatively dated to *c*AD50–60 (Thompson 1979, fig 8, no 36).

In general terms the assemblage seems most likely to belong to the late 1st century AD, even though there are few close parallels for the two everted rimmed jars (although see below, pit 382) and the preponderance of storage jars may indicate that special functions were being conducted in the vicinity of the ditch. What distinguishes it from the ring ditch pottery is the absence of the early types of everted rimmed jars in hand-made fabrics and of cordon-necked jars.

Pit 382

This small group of 49 sherds (0.72kg; 0.85 EVEs) includes 34 sherds of 3A sandy ware and eleven of 1E1 grog-tempered ware. The latter includes the only other rim of an early everted-rimmed jar outside the ring ditch 371 assemblage (fig 10, no 33). There is, however, a similar rim in the 3A sandy ware (fig 10, no 28), which is itself comparable with an example from ditch 280 (fig 9, no 18). Also in 3A are the rims of a cordon-necked jar (fig 10, no 34), a simple hemispherical bowl (fig 10, no 30) and a platter (fig 10, no 29), all of which are typical of late 1st century groups. Two flagons are also represented by a 'pulley-necked' rim in fine orangeware (fig 10, no 31) and a four-lobed strap handle in fine cream/buff ware (fig 10, no 32).

The forms and mix of fabrics strongly suggest a late 1st century date for the deposition of the group, and there is a possibility that it had belonged to its third quarter.

Ditch 228 (context assemblages 228, 229, 250, 274, 300 and 330)

The assemblage contains 267 sherds (3.0kg; 1.89 EVEs) of which 199 are of 3A fabrics and 23 more of 3B COARSE. The latter includes the rims of a bead-rimmed storage jar, a bead-rimmed jar and a cordon-necked jar, and there is also the heavily rounded rim termination

of an everted-rimmed storage jar in 3B CALC. The most common form among the 3A sherds is the bead-rimmed jar, represented by thirteen rim sherds, but there are also rims from four cordon-necked jars, four Fig 7 jars and four Surrey bowls. In the calcined flint-tempered fabric 2B1, of which four sherds are present, there is a storage jar sherd with a linear and curvilinear scored scheme of decoration (fig 9, no 15), and there is the rim of a bead-rimmed jar in grog-tempered 1E1. Among the five sherds of samian is the rim of a Dr 27 campanulate bowl. Most of the forms would indicate a late 1st century date, although the presence of four Fig 7 jars might place the assemblage in its final decade or the beginning of the 2nd century.

Ditch 200 (context assemblages 200, 234, 246 and 334)

This is, by far, the largest assemblage from the site, with 1582 sherds (8.09kg; 12.44 EVEs), of which between 81% (weight) and 93% (count) are of fabric 3A. Although none of the collection is illustrated, table 8 provides a listing of the forms in 3A and their quantities as represented by rim sherds. Among the few sherds of 3B are the rims of two bead-rimmed bowls as well as two storage jar sherds with internal finger gouging. These are the only sherds from the site that can be identified as belonging to L&J Class 10 storage jars. Amongst the many rims of bead-rimmed bowls is one that, because of the complete concavity of its basal profile, may have been used as a lid (fig 10, no 36). Vessels represented among the 26 sherds of 3B COARSE include a bead-rimmed storage jar, a lid and a Fig7 jar, and other featured sherds include a flagon in 8B sandy orangeware and a hook-rimmed jar in the finer 8A orange fabric. Samian is also relatively well represented by between 3% (count and EVEs) and 5% (weight) of the feature assemblage, and includes the rims of three Dr27 campanulate cups, a Dr 37 bowl, a Dr 30 bowl, a Dr 18/31 bowl and a Dr 36 dish; the only two sherds from the site of Nene Valley ware Hunt cups are also present.

The date of the infilling of the ditch seems more easily determined by what forms and fabrics are absent or rare, than what are present. Since there are only three sherds of the 'native' fabrics, one can readily assume that its earliest material dates from a period long after their general circulation in the 1st century, and the rarity of bead-rimmed jars (one) and absence of Surrey bowls and platters in greyware would seem to confirm that. It may also be significant that there are no flanged bowls of the types that became ubiquitous during the 3rd and into the 4th centuries (L&J Class 5B; Millett Type 14), and only one hook-rimmed jar (L&J Class 3C; Millett Type 27) that has a similar dating range. The hook-rimmed jar rim is the only example in 3A coarseware from the site, although there is another, in 8A orangeware, that is also from ditch 200. Since there are many bead-rimmed bowls (18) that probably came into circulation by the mid-2nd century, it seems likely that this ditch assemblage belongs to the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries, but no later.

Ditch 309 (context assemblages 283, 310 and 324)

Three segments of this linear feature were excavated, but the assemblage from one of them is much later than the others and may have a bearing on the end of occupation of the site. The stratigraphical report suggests that there seems to have been some recutting of the ditch, but if so, it seems not to have affected some parts of it.

Segments 310 and 324 collectively contain 62 sherds (0.90kg; 0.16 EVEs), of which 40 are of 3A, six of 3B COARSE and one of 3B CALC. Since the featured sherds of 3A are the rims of two bead-rimmed jars and a cordon-necked jar, and the six sherds of samian, all of vessels from southern Gaul, include part of a Dr 15/17 platter, these parts of the ditch seem to have been filled in the 1st century with no later recutting. Other featured sherds from 310 and 324 include the lower spring of a strap handle from an amphora and a segment from a strap handle of a flagon in fine creamware.

Segment 283, on the other hand, provided pottery of much later date from two consecutive fills, with the basal one described as being 'burnt', although, since there seems little difference

in the forms present they are quantified and described together. This segment lay immediately adjacent to two pits that also contained burnt fills. The fill of 283 contained 188 sherds (1.40kg; 2.39 EVEs), and very many of the 180 sherds of the standard 3A/B fabric are friable and oxidised orange/brown as a result of being burnt. They include the rims of six Fig7J jars, three everted-rimmed jars and two bead-rimmed bowls. Also burnt are the rims of a presumably residual and possibly biconical jar in 3B CALC and the rim of a Dr18/31 bowl from central Gaul. The sandy ware forms are considerably later than those in 310 and 324, and could belong to the late 1st or early 2nd centuries. When first examined, two alternatives for the burnt condition of the sherds and the burnt fills of the segment and adjacent pits were considered, but any reasoning that they were wasters from production was soon abandoned because of their association with burnt sherds of other fabrics, including samian. Since their dating seems to lie towards the latest dating for the occupation of the site as a whole, the other possibility is that they had been burnt during an event that precipitated its abandonment: a fire that had consumed buildings as well as their contents. Whatever else may be true, however, it is entirely reasonable to suggest that the vessels of this group had all been in contemporary use immediately prior to the fire that had burnt them: an assertion that cannot be made for any other of the feature assemblages.

Other finds, by Kathryn Ayres

GENERAL COMMENT

The majority of the features, and also finds, are of Late Iron Age or Roman date. Personal possessions were very rare. They include a single fragment of Roman vessel glass and a possible knife handle made of copper alloy. Other artefacts indicating domestic activities include the two partial loomweights, which are of characteristic Iron Age triangular shape, but also continued into the Roman period. Some burnt and calcined bone was identified, presumably the remains of meals discarded in pits and ditches, but bone did not otherwise survive in the acidic conditions.

Structural remains were more abundant and included tile, baked clay, stone and the large number of nails recovered from ditch 334A. A small quantity of slag was recorded but is too small to indicate metalworking on the site itself.

METALWORK AND SLAG

The majority of the metal finds were recovered from Roman ditches with a smaller number from other Roman features. The sole copper-alloy object appeared to be the terminal of knife handle.

The iron assemblage consisted mostly of nails; a total of 305 nails was recovered, the vast majority (285) from Roman ditch 334A, which were covered with charcoal deposits. There was a lesser quantity of other objects, which were sent to Museum of London Specialist Services (MOLSS) for X-ray. Unfortunately the objects were in a poor condition and even after being X-rayed, could not be identified and their function is not known.

Only one item of lead was identified, an irregular-shaped waste fragment.

Three small pieces of slag were recovered from the upper layers of Roman ditch 397, and together weigh 334g. The fragments are too few and small to indicate metalworking within or close to the excavated areas.

Copper alloy

200surf	Shaped terminal with traces of iron at base, terminal of a handle, possibly knife. Roman

Iron

u/s	Unidentified object. SF3
131	Square sectioned iron bar
205	Unidentified object. Modern
228	Object (lump). Roman
244	Object (lump). Roman
334A	Unidentified objects x2. Roman

Nails

200	Nails x7. Roman
210	Nail x1. Roman
220	Nail x3. Roman
228	Nail x1. Roman
234C	Nail x1. Roman
235A	Large nails x3. Roman
246B	Long nail x1. Roman
256	Nail x1. Roman
300A	Large nail x1.
309	Nail shaft fragment x1. Roman
334A	Nails x285. Mixture of small and large nails, heads and shafts. Much charcoal
518	Nail head

Lead

200 Irregular-shaped lump of lead. Roman

GLASS

Two sherds of glass were recovered during the excavations. One, however, from context 200 could not be found during the assessment stage of the analysis and therefore could not be identified and dated. The other (from Roman posthole 218) is part of a small vessel of Roman date.

218A Very small curved fragment of Roman glass, from a vessel. Light blue in colour, 3mm thick

CLAY OBJECTS, by Phil Jones

Loomweight

Fragments of a baked clay loomweight were found among the burnt daub walling debris in 290 (see below). It, too, seems to have been burnt in the presumed fire that probably caused it to shatter. Most of it was recovered and partial reconstruction shows it to be of the typical triangular form favoured during the Iron Age, with rounded piercings across each corner. When complete it stood 15.3cm high, and 8.8cm across. The fabric of the loomweight is of a badly levigated, but predominantly red/brown, clay with cream/buff streaking, and it has innumerable inclusions of iron mineral concretions. These are also characteristics that the softer of the two tile fabrics of the site share, and might indicate that the same clay had been used.

Plaque

Two joining fragments of baked clay and a smaller piece from context 227 (0.44kg) are from a tabular object *c* 2.5cm thick that has one roughly flat underside and an upper face that is knife-faceted towards the only extant corner, where there is an irregular piercing. There is another rough piercing close to its edge, but there is so little else of the object that its purpose is impossible to discern. It is in a buff/grey fabric with no visible inclusions.

Uncertain

An unusual fragment recovered from ditch 330A was curved and shaped like an *imbrex* (roof tile) but was of baked rather than fired clay.

BAKED CLAY, INCLUDING BURNT WALLING

Over 1000 baked clay fragments were recovered from 47 contexts across the site, and totalled 22.4kg in weight. Over half of the fragments (499 fragments, 16.4kg) were recovered from Roman pit 290, with the remainder from Roman ditch segments, pits and other features. A significant number of the fragments, particularly within the three features containing the largest amount (pit 290; ditches 346 and 330), displayed distinct wattle impressions and smoothed surfaces indicating they were structural.

Burnt walling, by Phil Jones

Large quantities (16.4kg) of fragmented walling were found in 290, and many pieces included surfaces and multiple impressions of wattles. No piece was found with surface keying, and none that included both inner and outer surfaces. The fabric of the fragments is consistent in its mixture of iron mineral inclusions and quartz sand, the latter almost certainly having been added as a temper.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL, by Phil Jones (table 9)

Nearly 500 fragments of Roman tile (495 pieces; 21.68kg) were recovered from the site, although 71%, by count, are from a single segment of ditch 200 (context 334A; 353 pieces; 13.95kg). Although much of the collection is comminuted, almost all fragments that can be identified as to form belong to *tegulae*. From their thicknesses of between 35 and 42cm, floor tile fragments are present in the assemblages from gully 132 (one) and ditch 200 (seven), but, remarkably, only one *imbrex* was identified from the curvature of a small fragment recovered from waterhole 256. The only other tile form is represented by part of a box-flue from ditch 200 that had at least one combed face and a rectilinear cut-out on an adjacent one.

The clay body of the tiles is variable, but the majority are profusely tempered with iron mineral inclusions with little or no added quartz sand. This fabric is often badly levigated, with the under-mixing of a red/brown clay with a buff one clearly visible, and it is often relatively under-fired, unless the friability of the fragments is the result of subsequent chemical degradation. A lesser quantity is in a hard-fired fabric with a little quartz sand, although even some of these also contain iron mineral inclusions. Because of this the relative proportions of the iron-rich and the harder types are difficult to determine in the collection, but in the largest context assemblage of 334A, there are five *tegulae* (based on the presence of flanges) in the harder type, compared to 31 of the other fabric. The latter includes the only six corners of *tegulae* from the site.

The kiln source of the tiles is unknown, but unless this had been in the direct vicinity of the site, it might have been that which was excavated in 1936 at Wykehurst Farm, which lay only 3km to the east (Goodchild 1937).

Most of the small fragments from the site were discarded after being sorted into the two basic fabric types and counted and weighed, but all obvious floor tile pieces have been retained, as well as all flanged pieces from *tegulae*, and the box flue and *imbrex* fragments. In addition, a small collection of the most badly crushed fragments of the softer fabric from 334A have also been retained.

Only two medieval/post-medieval tiles were identified, both roof tiles, one of which had a peghole.

Table 9 Roman ceramic building materials by count and weight, by type

	Tegula	*Imbrex*	Flue	Floor	Uncertain	Totals
No	143	1	1	7	343	495
Weight (g)	12203	491	245	252	8490	21680

BURNT AND CALCINED BONE (table 10)

Fifty-two fragments of burnt and calcined bone were collected from twelve contexts which included Roman ditch segments, pits and a posthole. The majority was heavily calcined and unidentifiable, although one cattle molar, two sheep and three pig bones could be identified. Just under one-third of the bone was recovered from ditch 330.

Table 10 Burnt and calcined bone

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Sheep-size	Unidentified	Total
Roman	1	2	1	4	34	42
Undated	–	–	2	3	5	10

Charcoal: the evidence for fuel wood and woodland composition,

by Imogen Poole (tables 11 and 12: see *Endnote*)

INTRODUCTION

The excavations revealed a number of features (pits and ditches) dating from the Iron Age through to the 3rd century AD. Nine bulk samples were obtained from these features for a rapid bioarchaeological assessment, with the aim of ascertaining the concentration and preservation of remains prior to a more detailed assessment. Sub-samples were taken from the bulk samples, and processed by flotation using 1mm and 300-micron mesh sieves. The dried residues were sorted by eye. The flots were scanned using a low-power zoom-stereo microscope. All the samples contained a high concentration of well-preserved charcoal. No charred or waterlogged seeds were preserved in the samples. It was, therefore, recommended that there should be a detailed charcoal assessment with the aim of providing provisional quantitative information on Iron Age and Roman fuel wood utilisation and woodland composition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material was prepared using standard techniques (Gale & Cutler 2000) and examined using an Olympus BX41 microscope. The charcoalified material was examined using epi-illumination with magnifications of up to 400x. Material was identified from three planes of section whenever necessary. Descriptions in relevant literature, such as Schweingruber (1990), were consulted as an aid to identification when required. Material categorised as unidentifiable could not be assigned with confidence to a specific taxon due to small size and/or quality of anatomical character preservation. When a genus is represented by a single species in the native British flora it is named as the most likely origin of the wood although it must be noted that wood anatomy alone is often not enough to secure identification to individual species. Classification follows that of Tutin *et al* (1964–80).

Anatomical characteristics required for determining fragment identity, particularly in transverse section are usually lacking in fragments <2mm. Moreover anatomical and morphological features of wood can vary depending upon the ecological conditions to which the parent plant was adapted and fragments <2mm are usually not large enough to determine whether variation is the result of ecological or taxonomic differences. Therefore fragments <2mm were not studied. Keepax (1988) recommends examination of a minimum of 100 fragments per sample based on taxon recovery curves for samples from temperate environments where floristic diversity tends to be comparatively low. In order to recover the fullest account of the taxa present and to provide quantitative data that can be used statistically, at least 100 fragments were randomly selected from each sample where fragment numbers per sample were in excess of 100. In samples with fragments less than 100, all fragments were studied. When two fractions were provided (ie 2mm and 4mm) then the above procedure was followed for each to ensure taxonomic coverage was as full as possible.

RESULTS

The results of the charcoal assessment is summarised in tables 11 and 12. All material appeared to be from relatively mature wood (stem wood) as determined by growth ring curvature unless otherwise stated specifically as round wood, twig wood or mature/heart wood in table 12. Round wood was identified by the presence of (part of) a pith and bark, whereas small diameter (twig) wood was identified by the presence of the pith and inner wood or tight growth ring curvature

of the inner wood if the pith was missing but no bark. Heart wood was identified by the presence of tyloses in the vessels. A total of nine taxa were represented among the 1271 fragments, these are shown below.

Taxon	Common Name
Quercus sp.	oak
Prunus sp.	blackthorn, cherry
Maloideae: includes	*Crataegus, Sorbus, Malus* and *Pyrus*
Fraxinus excelsior	ash
Ulmus sp.	elm
Populus/Salix sp.	poplar/willow
Corylus avellana	hazel
Alnus sp.	alder
Fagus sylvatica	beech

Only hardwoods (angiosperms) were identified among the fragments examined, including the unidentifiable fragments. No softwood/conifer (gymnosperms) were identified among the samples. It could not be determined which members of the Maloideae are represented owing to the difficulty in distinguishing genera of this sub-family of the Rosaceae. All the *Quercus* fragments were identified as deciduous rather than evergreen *Quercus* but could not be determined to species. Taxonomic affinity is probable for those species names preceded by '?' (table 11), here assignment to a particular taxon was not possible with certainty owing to small size and/or anatomical preservation. A number of probable *Quercus* fragments, recorded here as ?*Quercus*, lacked some characteristic anatomy which would have allowed unreserved assignment to this genus rather than *Castanea*. It could not be clearly determined which species of *Prunus* were present again owing to small size and/or poor preservation. Close anatomical similarity between *Salix* and *Populus* prevented the separation of these two genera.

Phase 2/3: Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition

Ditches

Sample <1> context (204B) contained 120 fragments of *Quercus* sp. along with a further 33 fragments of ?*Quercus* and one fragment of *?Prunus* sp. Sample <9> context (335) contained 19 fragments of *Quercus* sp. along with 50 further fragments of ?*Quercus* and two fragments of ?Maloideae.

Phase 3: Roman

Ditches

Sample <2> context (234F–H) contained 28 fragments of *Quercus* sp. along with a further 29 fragments of ?*Quercus* and one fragment of ?Maloideae sp. Sample <4> context (283) contained 76 fragments of *Ulmus* sp. and a further nineteen fragments of ?*Ulmus*. In addition, there were 36 fragments of *Populus/Salix*, 33 fragments of *Quercus*, five fragments of ?*Betula*, two fragments each of *Corylus* and ?*Corylus* and one fragment of *Fraxinus*.

Ditch/possible hearth

Sample <5> context (284) contained 124 fragments of *Quercus*, 29 fragments of *Corylus*, 23 fragments of Maloideae, seven fragments of *Ulmus* and five fragments of *Alnus*. Sample <6> context (285) contained 69 fragments of *Quercus*, five fragments of ?*Quercus*, twelve fragments of *Corylus*, five fragments of *Alnus*, four fragments of *Acer* and one fragment each of both *Fagus* and ?*Prunus*.

Pit

Sample <7> context (290A) contained seventeen fragments of *Quercus*, three fragments of ?*Quercus* and 21 fragments of ?Maloideae. Sample <8> context (290C) contains 22 fragments of *Prunus* and one fragment of *Quercus*.

Waterhole/well

Sample <3> context (256E–H) contains 33 fragments of *Quercus*, 30 fragments of ?*Quercus*, eleven fragments of Maloideae, four fragments of ?Maloideae and one fragment of *Fraxinus*.

TAXON ABUNDANCE: FRAGMENT SIZE AND COUNTS

The ranking of taxa provides a measure of taxon abundance and a basis for assessing the possible relative abundance of each taxon as a component of the contemporary vegetation. Moreover it provides an indication of the extent to which particular woods were exploited. However, the quantitative analysis of charcoal is problematic because of the difficulty of determining what the fragment numbers recorded actually represent both in themselves and in terms of the former abundance of each taxon and in each context. Taphonomic (preservation) factors including human activities and rituals (religious or otherwise) can directly and indirectly influence what enters the archaeological record and its long-term survival (Smart & Hoffman 1989). Wood selection/avoidance, methods by which fire waste was disposed, or the size and condition of fragments, for example, may each filter out taxa or cause them to be under- or over-represented. Fragment counts should be interpreted with caution and cannot be considered independently as an accurate means of inferring taxon abundance. Moreover often with the smaller (ie 2mm fraction) the number of probable taxa (ie denoted by '?') and unidentifiable fragments results from the inability to check the full character range given the small size of the material. Therefore this may result in some taxa being under-represented.

Phase 2/3: Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition

Only samples from ditch sites were analysed from this phase where the taxon with by far the most abundant fragment count was *Quercus*. Possible *Prunus* and Maloideae fragments were rarely present in these samples.

Phase 3: Roman

Samples from ditch, ditch/possible hearth, pit and waterhole/well sites were analysed from this phase.

From the four ditches the most abundant taxon with the highest frequency count was *Ulmus* followed closely by *Quercus* and then *Populus/Salix*, ?*Betula*, C*orylus* and ?*Corylus*, ?Maloideae and *Fraxinus*.

Interestingly, the most abundant fragment type was not *Quercus* as it was in the earlier Phase 2/3. The dominance of *Ulmus* is also surprising because it was absent from the earlier Phase 2/3 (ditch) assemblage.

From the two ditch/possible hearth sites practically all the samples were dominated by *Quercus* (having the highest frequency count), followed by *Corylus,* Maloideae, *Alnus, Ulmus, Acer*, *Fagus* and ?*Prunus* (in order of frequency).

From the two pit sites the taxon with the highest frequency count was *Prunus* followed by ?Maloideae and *Quercus*.

From the waterhole/well site the taxon with the highest frequency count was *Quercus*, (in both fractions) followed by Maloideae (in both fractions) and *Fraxinus* (2mm fraction only). The high proportion of ?*Quercus* resulted from the fragments often falling at the extreme lower limit and thus all characters could not be checked owing to the small size of the fragment under investigation.

FRAGMENT PROPERTIES

In general fragment preservation in this assemblage from both Phase 2/3 and Phase 3 was generally good. Few samples contained friable material and no observable pattern was noted. The loss of structural integrity characteristic of friable fragments is evidenced by the fibrous texture of the fragments and the ease with which they fall apart when handled or otherwise disturbed. This may result from the preparation process negatively affecting the fragments, or alternatively structural degradation may have occurred prior to charring as a consequence of the breakdown of wood tissue by fungi (eg white rot fungi). Wood badly affected by white rot fungi becomes fibrous in nature with a texture resembling that of friable charcoal. The fragility of the fragments makes it difficult to view the array of anatomical characters needed for identification and also to determine whether fungal hyphae are present. Other than the friable nature of a minor proportion of the fragments, there was little decay evidence. Decay evidence would suggest that there had been some time between separation of wood from the parent plant (ie either naturally shed and/or collected and stored) and use. Since this evidence is in the main lacking it cannot be suggested that this wood was burned as seasoned dead wood.

Closely spaced growth rings along with tyloses suggest that many of the *Quercus* fragments came from slow grown mature material. Tyloses were observed in some fragments from all the ditch sites in Phase 2/3, and all the ditch sites, in one of the two possible hearth sites, two of the three pit sites and the waterhole/well site in Phase 3. Therefore it seems likely that during both phases the material was derived from gathered wood possibly for immediate use, rather than from accumulated dead wood or indeed wood that had been collected, through vegetation clearance for example, and then stored prior to use. The use of the 'green' wood is somewhat surprising considering that most woods burn more efficiently when seasoned.

Study of anatomical features such as growth ring curvature, presence/absence of pith or bark for example can help establish relative maturity and the pre-charring form of the wood represented: ie twig-wood, branch/stem-wood, sapwood or heartwood. The vast majority of fragments examined derived from branch or possibly stem-wood, but twig-wood was represented albeit infrequently (present in all ditch samples from Phase 2/3, and three of the four ditch sites, both ditch/hearth sites but none of the pit and waterhole/well sites in Phase 3) and not confined to any particular taxon (table 12). Small diameter wood is more likely to be totally destroyed by combustion relative to larger wood elements and is inherently more fragile as charcoal. Therefore twig-wood and small diameter stem-wood of shrub taxa could be consistently under-represented. The presence of bark indicates that wood was burned in an unconverted state, as round-wood. No fragments survived in this form even though one piece of unidentifiable wood with bark was noted (sample <8> context 290C; Appendix 1). Most small diameter (twig) fragments retained only the inner or innermost wood and pith and lacked the outermost wood and bark tissue. Tyloses, indicative of heartwood, were observed in *c* 7% of the *Quercus* fragments examined. Only one specimen showed signs of severe thermal degradation (fragment from a ditch sample <2> context 234 in Phase 3) – here the anatomy had become more or less amorphous and highly shiny black appearance rendering the fragment unidentifiable.

DISCUSSION

The material studied was derived from different sites spanning Late Iron Age to Roman differentiated into two phases. In Phase 2/3, Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition, the predominant wood identified was *Quercus*. In contrast Phase 3, Roman, the dominant taxon type is no longer obviously *Quercus*, even though this taxon can dominate, but other taxa are also abundantly used (eg *Ulmus*) and the charcoal taxonomic composition is much more varied (table 11). This is discussed in more detail below.

Species selection and fuel wood

The charcoal examined represents the remains of wood used for fires. All the wood listed above and in table 11 are known fuel woods except for *Prunus*, Maloideae and *Ulmus*. These latter woods have a relatively low calorific value and would probably not have been gathered as fuel wood as such, although interestingly *Ulmus* has been identified as a fuel wood in archaeological sites in the Middle East. In the samples taken from ditches assigned to Phase 2/3 and the waterhole/well and the ditch/possible hearth contexts in Phase 3, *Quercus*, a good quality fuel wood, was the most abundant wood identified. In those contexts where *Quercus* was not the most abundant, ie in the Phase 3 pit and ditch contexts either the fragment numbers were less than optimal or *Prunus* and *Ulmus*, both relatively poor quality fuel woods, were identified as being most abundant. This may suggest that (a) random gathering of fresh wood for fuel had taken place for the activities associated with these two sites during Phase 3, or (b) that different activities were undertaken at these different sites which did not necessarily require good-quality fuel. There is a possibility that some of the wood may have originally been used as structural timber.

Species selection/avoidance introduces bias into taxon representation because it is not an indiscriminate process that provides a random cross-section of the tree and shrub population of a given area. Fuel-wood for every-day activity is often biased in favour of locally available timber (Abbot *et al* 1997; Tabutia *et al* 2003) although allochthonous woods may be used in addition to, or instead of, autochthonous material. Fuel wood acquisition is dependent upon availability and suitability for the fire required. While decisions are often functional, cultural practices and beliefs/rituals can also influence wood selection (Smart & Hoffman 1989; Shackleton & Prins 1992) although the identification of culturally (or otherwise) selected material is rarely possible. Even so, burning properties are often the foremost consideration. For example, taxa may be favoured according to calorific value, smokiness, aromatic qualities, and burning rate (fast/slow). Wood choice may be more important in industrial activities than in domestic ones. The burning properties of wood seem to have been a key consideration although selection would also have been dependent upon the type of fire required. The highest ranked wood (*Quercus*) in this assemblage is excellent fuel wood, burning very hot and producing lasting hot embers. Many of the less well represented taxa are also good fuel woods.

Woodland and the contemporary vegetation

The findings of this investigation suggest that the charcoal probably represents fuel wood gathered from temperate deciduous woodland and scrub/thicket habitats. Based on the findings of the material identified here during Phase 2/3 a *Quercus*-dominated woodland could have been predominant in the local environment.

During Phase 3 the taxa represented by the charcoal assemblage become more varied, suggesting that the local environment may have been more species rich. Moreover, based on the ecological preferences of the material identified for Phase 3 (eg *Alnus, Corylus*, *Prunus*), it is possible that a greater range of taxa than that represented here could have been present locally with the relatively narrow range of woods identified believed to reflect a bias towards a more selective wood use rather than low species diversity in the contemporary vegetation.

Quercus dominated woodland during Phase 3 was probably common with Maloideae and *Prunus* forming subordinate woodland elements as part of the understorey or woodland edge. *Ulmus* may have been a dominant element in some parts. The presence of *Alnus*, *Betula* and *Salix/Populus* indicates the presence and exploitation (albeit to a lesser extent based on the relative low ranking of these taxa) of riverine habitats and/or low-lying wet woodland.

On the information available it cannot be determined whether any of the woods represented derived from natural woodland or from managed resources in which trees were purposefully cultivated to meet local domestic and industrial needs. No evidence of silviculture was observed in any of the material either from Phase 2/3 or from Phase 3. Some of the

charcoal exhibited characteristics associated with large slow-grown trees which may indicate that some of the wood was sourced from relatively undisturbed ancient woodland. The nature of activities at the site is not known except for two possible hearth sites (table 11). Here wood consumption would have been relatively high and it is probable that some form of control over wood resources would have been necessary to ensure continual supplies of fuel-wood. In this respect it may be significant that the highest frequency ranked wood overall (*Quercus*) is known to have been traditionally most commonly established and extensively managed for timber and round-wood.

Discussion

The earliest evidence of human activity in the vicinity of the site is provided by the 30 struck flints that were recovered during the excavation, most or all of which are thought to be of Mesolithic or Neolithic origin. Most of this material occurred residually in later contexts, however, and where it did occur in the absence of later finds, the relevant features (232, 257 and 547) could not be conclusively dated by its presence. In addition to the flintwork, one small scrap of pottery that may belong to the Bronze Age or early Iron Age was recovered from the surface of a possible ground clearance feature (544), but it is impossible to be certain whether this fragment dates the feature, or, as seems more likely, entered its fill through other means. The earliest feature that can be positively dated is the Middle Bronze Age pit 514, which was dug to contain a pottery vessel and seems likely to have been used for funerary purposes despite the absence of obvious indicators of this such as cremated bone or charcoal, as there is plenty of evidence that often only a token amount of material from the funeral pyre was placed in the pit, and the character of this is not necessarily especially diagnostic. The presence of this feature and the earlier finds noted indicates there must have been some contemporary usage of the general area during, and prior to the Bronze Age, though the nature of this remains uncertain.

The main period of occupation that can be identified by datable features appears to have begun around the time of the Roman conquest in the middle of the 1st century AD. Some of the pottery in the site assemblage may just pre-date this event and belong to the end of the Late Iron Age proper, but most of this was recovered from later contexts and only feature 406 has been tentatively assigned to the pre-conquest period. The pottery that is of potentially earlier date need represent no more than the continued manufacture of familiar material prior to the adoption of Roman forms and techniques, or even the continued usage of existing vessels during the immediate post-conquest period. Whatever the precise time of its inception, this occupation appears to have continued until the end of the 2nd century AD, or, possibly, just into the 3rd century.

Two of the most interesting features discovered by the excavation, the ring gullies 371 and 559, may also have been two of the earliest, 559 perhaps being of slightly later date owing to a the higher proportion of early Roman pottery as opposed to material that may have been Late Iron Age or early Roman. Ring gullies of this type are typically interpreted as indicating the location of former structures within the site area, the gully itself probably representing the position of an eaves-drip or drainage trench around the outside of the building rather than being used as a foundation trench or being directly associated with the wall line in some other way (Barrett *et al* 2001, 225; Pryor & Cranstone 1978, 20; Hayman in prep a). It is quite usual for no other evidence of these buildings to have survived as the wall lines, and internal features such as hearths, may have been destroyed by subsequent truncation. The walls themselves do not appear to have been constructed using postholes, unless these had been very superficial which seems unlikely, but may have used relatively shallow stake rings like those seen at Runfold (Hayman in prep a) and elsewhere, or turf (Lambrick & Robinson 1979, who discuss the possible use of this material for building purposes at Farmoor, Oxfordshire, where there was also evidence that turf stripping had taken place).

Features 371 and 558 may well have been associated with structures of this type, though if correct, it is uncertain whether they surrounded dwellings or buildings used for other purposes. The size of 559, which only measures around 6m in diameter, suggests it was probably too small to have served as a dwelling unless it was used as a temporary shelter. The internal diameter of any associated building would have been further reduced by a wall line, and most probably excludes the use of turf walling, which, by its nature would be relatively thick. Ring gullies of this size and smaller are not uncommon in Surrey and beyond, with comparable examples having been found within the county at Runfold (Hayman in prep a: features S1H1 and S4H9) and, perhaps Hengrove Farm (Hayman in prep b: features 1322/3, and, potentially, the more elliptical 1352); comparable and smaller examples were found at Fengate, Northamptonshire, for example (Pryor & Cranstone 1978, 22–4: the elliptical structure 22, and the smaller, circular structures 23–25). Features 1322 and 1323 at Hengrove differ from 371 as they were concentric, the outer ring (1323) having an internal diameter of around 6.5m, and also because the inner ring surrounded five postholes, four of which made an evenly spaced square that was positioned centrally to it. The ring gullies at Fengate are interpreted as having possibly served as drainage gullies around haystacks, and this function is noted as one possibility for the concentric (though not necessarily strictly contemporary) gullies at Hengrove, though it is also noted that they may have surrounded a granary, or a funerary feature such as an excarnation platform. Some of these suggestions may apply to 559, though the absence of internal postholes may exclude the latter two.

The ground plan of 371 is not typical of ring gullies that surround proven or supposed domestic structures because of the straightness of its eastern side (see Runfold and Fengate for representative examples), and it is unfortunate that it was not possible to reveal the full extent of this feature; the internal diameter of the gully as revealed is approximately 9m, approaching the modal size for a conventional roundhouse. It is difficult to discuss the significance of this gully without knowing more about it, but some association with at least one structure remains likely – it is not inconceivable that the feature mirrored itself to the south to surround a second circular building, or even an elongated building that perhaps had rounded walls at the northern and southern ends. The first of these suggestions is prompted by consideration of the ground plan of the Iron Age huts found at Lower Mill Farm, Stanwell (Jones & Poulton 1987), which, though different from this, indicates how two structures may have been linked together. Another atypical feature of this ring gully is that it appears to have had an entrance opening that faced towards the south-west, when it is more usual, certainly when a single structure is concerned, for this to face the south, east, or south-east, as may have been the case with 559. It is possible that this feature had more than one entrance, however, and also that it may have been largely open ended towards the south. The pottery recovered from 371 is interesting as most of the sherds came from a group of vessels that must have been deliberately dumped in the adjacent segments 372–3. It is not known whether this event was completed to dispose of waste material (as seems likely to have been the case with the material found in the final infill layer of ditch 200), or whether it was undertaken as part of an act of ceremonial significance, but the latter is certainly a possibility, and is probably the best potential example of structured deposition found by the excavation. Ceremonial deposits, which often consist of artefacts that have been deliberately broken, are usually interpreted as being associated with 'closing events' that can mark the end of use of a structure.

The only other features revealed by the excavation that seem likely to relate to buildings are postholes 266–7 and 273, though this might also have been the case for some of the postholes found on either side of ditch 200, such as 219 and 235, and for those discussed with linear features 258 and 332 on the southern side of ditch 228. Postholes 266–7 and 273 might have belonged to a four-posted structure which measured *c* 2.5 x 3m, this being dependent on the existence of a further posthole that is postulated to have been present just beyond the limit of excavation; if so, this feature is believed to post-date ditch 228, which had infilled by the early 2nd century AD. Four-posted arrangements of this type are common

on sites of Iron Age and Roman date, and are thought to indicate the position of ancillary structures such as granaries. Little can be said about the other features mentioned here as the evidence available does not reveal any plausible ground plan that indicates the presence of a building (indeed 258 *et al* may represent no more than a fence line), but 235 is certainly a curious feature if used for another purpose because of its very substantial depth.

During the evaluation of the site, however, evidence of probable or possible buildings was discovered in trial trenches 8, 12 and 14. Three of the features discovered in trench 8 seem likely to have been associated with walls (126, 127 and 128), but it was only possible to sample one of these (126) because of waterlogging. The upper fill of this feature, 126A, consisted of a deposit of dark red/ brown sandy clay that contained numerous pieces of unworked stone and occasional fragments of Roman brick or tile; this overlay a consolidated layer that consisted of larger stone fragments set in a matrix of yellow/brown clay, 126B. These layers almost certainly represent *in-situ* foundation material beneath a demolition/robber deposit; some limited further work indicated that at least 0.30m of 126B survived in the ground, these foundations being consistent with the construction of a substantial stone-built building. Feature 127 lay at roughly 90º to 128, and at an acute angle to 126, and each of the unexcavated features had a similar appearance to 126 prior to sampling. Trench 14 revealed various features that are probably associated with different buildings, but only a limited investigation of these was undertaken to avoid disturbance to remains that would be better understood as part of a more widespread excavation. At the eastern end of the trench, wall foundations 148, 151 and 149 (which ran between these) appeared to have been constructed using local stone set in clay, as was seen in 126B. Layers 147 and 150, which may have been the remains of floor surfaces or, more probably, demolition deposits were recorded against these, and fragments of Roman tile were collected from both. Two similar wall foundations, 144 (which turned a 90º corner) and 145, were investigated at the western end of the trench, along with a layer, 146, that was comparable to 147 and 150; a stone that appeared to have been roughly faced was recorded on the outer edge of the corner of 144. The foundations in each of these trenches measures between 0.60 and 0.80m in width, and their alignment suggests that parts of several buildings which presumably belong to different phases of occupation were seen. Unfortunately no datable finds other than fragments of Roman brick or tile were recovered from them or the associated layers noted here, so there is no information to suggest a date within the Roman period for any of the construction or demolition phases. In trench 12, parts of two curvilinear gullies were discovered, and these seem likely to have belonged to ring gullies akin to 371 and 559. One of these, 117, had a fill of dark black/brown sandy clay that contained large amounts of burnt clay (possibly daub) and many fragments of charcoal, but produced no datable finds, while the other, 118, contained a much paler coloured fill that produced two sherds of pottery dated to the Late Iron Age. The fill of 117 may well derive from the deliberate burning of a roundhouse. The subsequent excavation also revealed evidence for the destruction of buildings. The most notable is pit 290, which contained a very large amount of burnt walling (baked clay wattle impressions), and substantial amounts of charcoal. It also included a fragmentary triangular loomweight, of the type favoured in the Iron Age, which could suggest that this material might derive from the destruction of the roundhouses of the transitional period. Similar evidence was found within layers such as 334A, and possibly 250A and B, and 283A and B, which constituted the final, or later infill deposits of ditches 200, 228 and 309, and a comparable event is, perhaps, implied by features like 219 and 249 from which a post might have been removed, though it is not certain that these relate to a building. The layers noted were rich in charcoal and contained numerous finds, 334A being of particular relevance here as it produced a large quantity of roof tile and nearly 300 iron nails.

It is difficult to say much about the other features discovered during the various phases of work on site, particularly the pits and postholes as these provided little indication of their intended function. Postholes 341–4, for example, may have been part of a fence line, and, if so, possibly associated with an enclosure in the corner of a field bounded by ditches 356

and 370, but the significance of these and the remaining pits and postholes may only be fully understood if they are seen as part of a more complete picture. The major ditches discovered were presumably field boundaries used either for agricultural purposes, perhaps enclosing arable fields, stock enclosures, or a combination of these, or to enclose occupation areas, while the smaller ditches (such as 208, for example) may have been used as land divisions within these enclosures, and/or as drainage features. Meaningful discussion of these features is largely obviated for the same reason, however, as their overall plan is not known, and also because their dating (particularly their origin) generally lacks precision. This said, though, 280 seems likely to have been associated with 336, and both of these may have been contemporary with 228; 309 may well have been contemporary with 220, 356, 370 and probably 200; the latter appears to have been recut, and may also have been contemporary with 228 at an earlier stage, both of these perhaps having been together linked by 253. If 309 (also probably recut) had a much earlier origin than could be determined by the finds recovered, which may principally belong to its later use and final infilling, it is possible the 4m or so between it and 280 served as a trackway – albeit a narrow one. It was established that ditches 356 and 370 replaced 336, but in general the sequence of development of these features remains unknown, and although the ditches/hedge line features of the Site 2 area have been attributed to the Roman period it is possible that any or all of these may have only produced material that was present residually within their fills (as is suggested for the Iron Age/Roman pottery recovered from ditch 318 of Site 1). It was disappointing that one of the most intriguing ditches discovered, the very substantial 414, could not be dated, but given that it would be most unusual for a feature of this size located within an area of Roman occupation and close to a number of probable Roman buildings, to produce no associated material, it seems highly likely that it must have infilled prior to this period (a later feature would probably have yielded residual material, if nothing else). If so, it is not unreasonable to suggest that it may be part of an enclosure around a pre-existing settlement area, from a period that pre-dates the use of brick and tile and during which material such as pottery was much less abundant; the evidence available from the site at present suggests that this is most likely to be the Iron Age.

As the features discovered at Wyphurst do not lend themselves to further explanation, consideration must now be given to their probable significance in a wider context. There seems little doubt that the site was occupied from at least the latter part of the Late Iron Age through to the end of the 2nd century, or possibly just into the 3rd century AD, and it is possible, although no evidence was identified, that earlier Iron Age material is present within the site area or nearby, given that occupation at that time is rarely productive of finds and generally quite confined in extent. Although little can be said about the earlier periods, it seems likely that the features discovered were associated with others located nearby, particularly to the south, and the apparent continuity between the Late Iron Age and Roman settlement is important to note. The majority of features discovered clearly belong to the Roman period, and the principal question relating to this inhabitancy must be whether or not the site was occupied by a villa. In his recent book on Roman Surrey, Bird defines this term as meaning 'a rural building with at least stone foundations, tiled roofs, and rectangularity, together with extras such as under-floor heating, painted wall plaster, and baths' (Bird 2004, 91). At least three of these requirements would appear to be met by the Wyphurst site, and while no evidence has so far been found to indicate the presence of any of the 'extras', any or all of these may still have been present given the very small amount of the key area examined.

The identification of a romanised building, almost certainly a villa, at this location is of considerable interest, as relatively few such buildings have been located in the southern part of the county to date, the only other known examples being the Rapsley villa, roughly 3km to the north-east (fig 2) and the Chiddingfold villa or religious complex (Bird 2002), some 9km to the south-west (fig 1). Bird notes that on some of the sites where villas have been discovered there is evidence to suggest pre-Roman occupation during the Iron Age (usually on sites with good soils), and that while some villas may have begun before AD100, most are

likely to have been started in the 2nd century. He also notes that the majority seem to end by the middle of the 4th century. At Rapsley there was evidence of occupation from around AD80, and of a small rectangular timber building between *c*AD120 and 200, when it was burnt down (some fragmentary remains of a masonry structure belonging to this period were also found), but the first villa-like buildings were not seen until around AD 200–220 (Period III); the final period there lasted from around AD280–330 (Hanworth 1968; Bird 2004, 92–6). At Wyphurst the site was clearly in use prior to the Roman period, and while it is not possible to suggest a date of construction for any of the walled buildings found, it is very interesting to note that the Roman occupation here appears to have ended around, or possibly just after, AD200, judging from the absence of later material (it seems unlikely that a significant later Roman presence would have evaded detection in excavation or evaluation). Whether their construction began in the later part of the 1st century, or during the 2nd century, it would appear that the stone-built structures at Wyphurst were raised prior to villa buildings of Period III at Rapsley and ceased to exist around the time the first of the latter were constructed. It is possible, therefore, to speculate on the seemingly strong likelihood of there having been a direct link between the two sites, a link which potentially may even involve a single family, though other associations are equally possible. Rapsley may have been built as a more elaborate replacement for Wyphurst, its site perhaps being seen a preferable for some reason, though without knowing more about the ground plan of Wyphurst this comment remains pure conjecture. Regardless of this, the apparent abandonment and destruction of Wyphurst at this time must surely have been significant to the development of Rapsley, and the construction of the stone-built phase here seems very likely to have used materials robbed from Wyphurst. The tile kilns discovered at Wykehurst Farm (fig 2) are believed to date to the end of the 1st century or first half of the 2nd century AD (Goodchild 1937, 88-90), and seem likely to have supplied the Wyphurst Road site with this material.

As a postscript to the above it is necessary to note, with much regret, that the provisions believed to have been in place to safeguard the buildings and other features lying within the Preservation Area were not acted upon when the development commenced. To comply with the planning approval granted for this work it was agreed that the Preservation Area should be fenced off from the construction site to avoid disturbance by vehicles, and that surplus topsoil removed from the site would be deposited within the Preservation Area as part of a carefully controlled scheme of work that would avoid the use of earthmoving vehicles fitted with tyres (it would be moved into place by machinery fitted with tracks). It was subsequently discovered, however, that the contractors were unaware of the archaeological importance of the site or of these conditions, so the Preservation Area had not been enclosed and earthmoving was undertaken without control. By the time this error was discovered most of the earthmoving had taken place and material had been deposited over a large part of the Preservation Area, this largely occurring during February and March 2005 when the site conditions were very wet. Around the periphery of the Preservation Area many deep ruts caused by wheel-fitted vehicles were clearly visible (Tony Howe, pers comm; Tom Munnery, pers comm), and while it was impossible to assess the extent of these beneath the area where soils had already been deposited there seems little doubt that they extended across much, if not all of the principal area of archaeological interest. When it is noted that the only protection afforded to the features present in this area prior to the development was 0.20–0.25m of waterlogged topsoil, it will be realised that the damage done to these remains, particularly to any shallow deposits or features, is likely to have been severe. Layers of demolition, or even construction phase material, which may have survived close to walls and at other locations and would be crucial to the determination of the sequence of occupation here, may have been very badly damaged, at best, and some features such as ring gullies, which are typically shallow, may have been completely destroyed.

Endnote

The tables listed below are available on the Archaeology Data Service website (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/surreyac/v94.cfm). Copies of this material will also be deposited with the Society's library, Guildford, and the Surrey Historic Environment Record, Woking. Photocopies can also be supplied by post – enquiries should be addressed to the Hon Editors, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

TABLES

4 Catalogue of flintwork
6 Pottery sherd count by context
7 Pottery sherd weight by context
11 Details of the taxa identified and their respective fragment counts and ranking
12 Details of the charcoal assemblages studied subdivided and packaged according to relative maturity

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