

EXCAVATIONS AT THE FORMER JEWSONS YARD, HAREFIELD ROAD, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX

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SUMMARY

The site was evaluated in June 1993 and subsequently excavated from May–July 1994. A watching brief supplemented these phases of work. Evidence for activity ranging in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval was present on the site. Mesolithic and Neolithic flint work was recovered from features of all dates. Evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement activity included a ditch and the plans of at least two structures. A major Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age landscape boundary, comprising three parallel ditches and a revetment or fences aligned NW–SE was uncovered. It may have been used as a driveway. A fourth ditch appears to have been added to the alignment in the Middle Iron Age. Small Romano-British pits which may have contained cremations were found. These had been inserted into the upper fills of the E ditch. Medieval material was recovered from the upper silts of one of the ditches and from cultivation soils across the site.

INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out three phases of work at the former Jewsons Yard, Harefield Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex (TQ 055845) in June 1993 and May, June and July 1994. Evaluation was undertaken in support of an application for planning permission for retail development. Subsequently, excavation and watching briefs were undertaken to mitigate the effects of development following a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been approved by English Heritage. The archaeological recording was undertaken on behalf of Davies

Street Properties Ltd, which funded all aspects of the work.

The site (Fig 1) lies at the NW periphery of Greater London at a height of 42–44m OD adjacent to the River Colne, which is a major tributary of the Thames. The Lower Colne Valley runs N–S and is cut through older Thames terrace sediments resting on Lower Tertiary deposits and above Denham on chalk bedrock (Gibbard 1985, 82). The site lies on the edge of the high ground to the E of the River Colne and Fray's River, overlooking the river valley.

The natural subsoil on the development site consisted of brickearths which showed variations in both colour and gravel content. In evaluation Trenches 1 and 5 the prehistoric features were seen to cut through a gravel layer which overlay the brickearth.

Four trenches (1–3, 5) and one test pit (4) were dug during the evaluation (Figs. 2 and 3). Ditch 1 was located in both Trenches 1 and 5. Trench 1 also located the Middle Bronze Age ditch [120]. Test pit 4 revealed a partial section of Ditch 4. No significant archaeology was seen in Trenches 2 and 3.

Following evaluation further archaeological recording actions were determined. Part of the development was designated for detailed excavation and recording (Fig 2, Trenches 6 and 8). Within this area all structures and zones of activity were to be fully excavated, all ditches and gullies to be excavated to minimum of 20% by volume, and all pits to be half sectioned. To the N of Trenches 6 and 8, the areas designated Trenches 7 and 9 (Fig 2) were stripped under

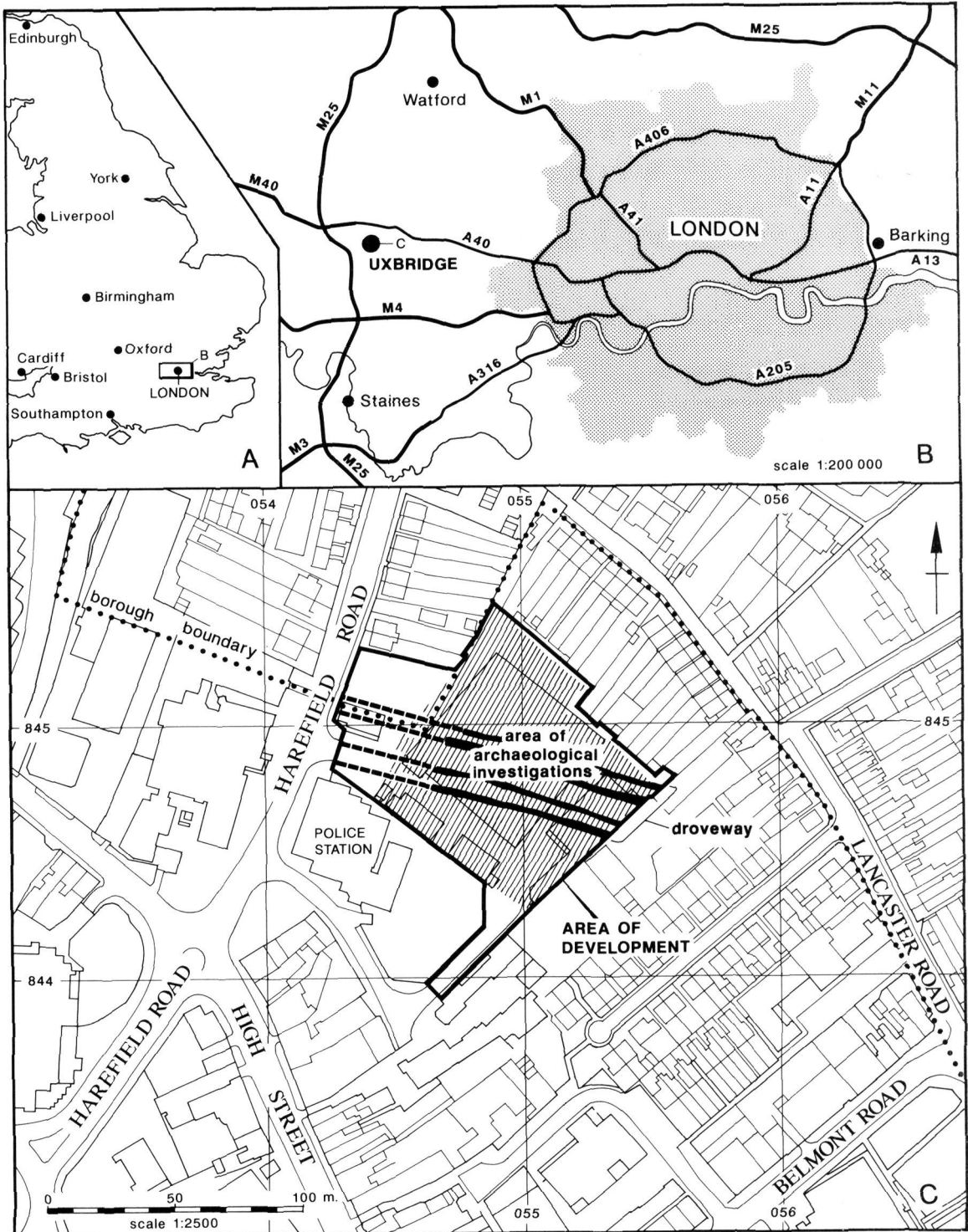


Fig 1 Site location, showing Borough boundary

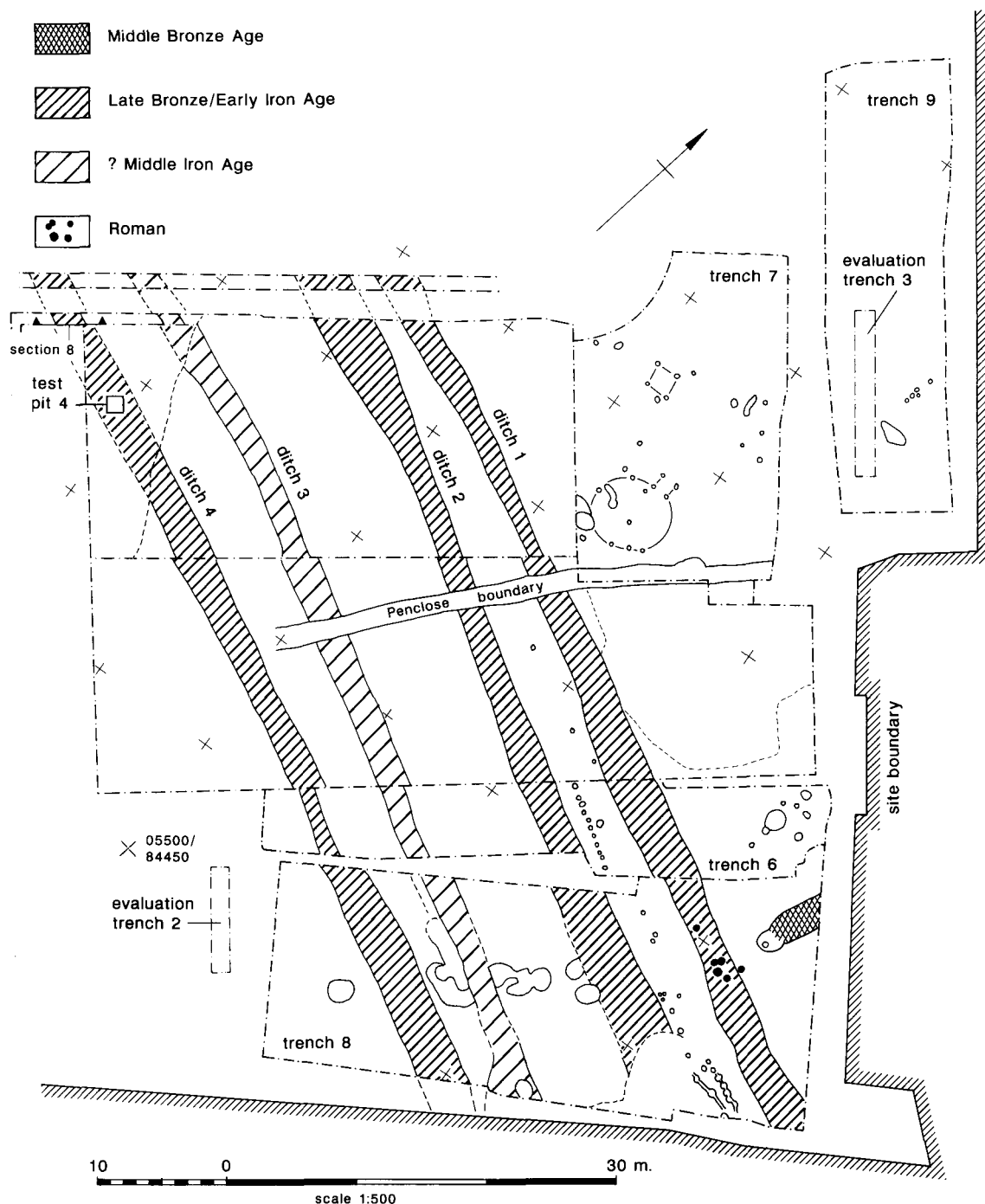


Fig 2 Plan of excavated area

archaeological control and features planned and recorded in advance of construction work. In the central portion of the site to the NW of Trench 6 and W of Trench 7 a watching brief allowed

the recording of the ditch alignments. This area had been heavily truncated by previous buildings. To the N and W of this area groundworks did not penetrate to a depth sufficient to expose

archaeological features or deposits. A total area of c.9600m² was examined.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

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The four ditches which make up the land boundary or droveway have each been assigned a number (1–4) with Ditch 1 being located furthest north. All four ditches were seen in Trenches 6 and 8. They were further traced in the watching brief area which lay in the angle between Trenches 6 and 7. All four ditches were aligned NW-SE (Fig 2).

Generally the fills of excavated features were very similar and mostly consisted of brown/buff silty clays derived from the natural brickearth mixed with varying proportions of gravel. They are not described in detail.

Mesolithic and Neolithic activity

Both Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were found in small numbers across the site with no concentrations. None of the flint was associated directly with any features (see p 00 below).

Middle Bronze Age features

The evidence of this phase consisted of a large ditch [120] and a scatter of postholes, among which could be identified the plans of two structures.

The ditch

The short length of a ditch [120] aligned NE-SW was located within Trench 8 (Fig 3). It contained Middle Bronze Age pottery in its lower fills, cut [120: 116, 117 & 118]; cut [1009: 1008], (Fig 5.1); a separate and later feature [868] was initially misidentified as the ditch terminal during area excavation. The ditch was sealed by material [110] very similar to the natural brickearth. This layer may have been the remains of a bank ploughed over the ditch after it had silted up. A further section through this ditch was observed during the watching brief. A line of undated tree-throw pits [916, 927, 996], some of which

were cut by the Middle Iron Age ditch (Fig 3) continued on a similar alignment to the SW. They were the only such features recorded on the site and may have formed part of a boundary with ditch [120].

The post-built structures (Fig 4)

Two possible post-built structures were identified in Trench 7. Building 5 was a circular structure 6m in diameter and eight postholes were identified [711, 728, 748, 759, 761, 762 and 765] around its circumference, with two further postholes [746 and 781] which probably represent a porch. The postholes varied from 0.2 to 0.44m in width and from 0.01 to 0.12m in depth. Three other postholes [706, 724 & 790] and a gully [726] lay within the structure. One of the postholes [724] contained Middle Bronze Age pottery, a flake from a Neolithic polished axe, and oak and hazel charcoal with one charred sloe and emmer wheat. Building 6 was a four-post structure measuring 2m across. The postholes [771, 773, 775 and 777] varied from 0.26 to 0.3m in width and 0.17 to 0.22m in depth.

Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age features

A landscape boundary consisting of a fence line, or a revetted bank, flanked by two ditches (1 and 2) and a further parallel ditch (4) was set at right-angles to the Middle Bronze Age ditch [120] and aligned NW-SE. Domestic rubbish had been dumped into parts of Ditches 1 and 2. It is probable that the parallel ditches served both as a boundary and as a droveway.

The ditches (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

Ditch 1 was the northernmost of the group and could be traced for a distance of approximately 74.5m. Two partial sections were excavated in evaluation Trenches 1 and 5. Six further sections were recorded during excavation in Trenches 6 and 8 and just under half of the ceramic assemblage from the site was recovered from these sections. The slope of the sides of the ditch varied from 30° to 45° and the depth from 0.8m to 1m. The ditch varied between 1.91 to 2.96m in width. In the two southern sections in Trench

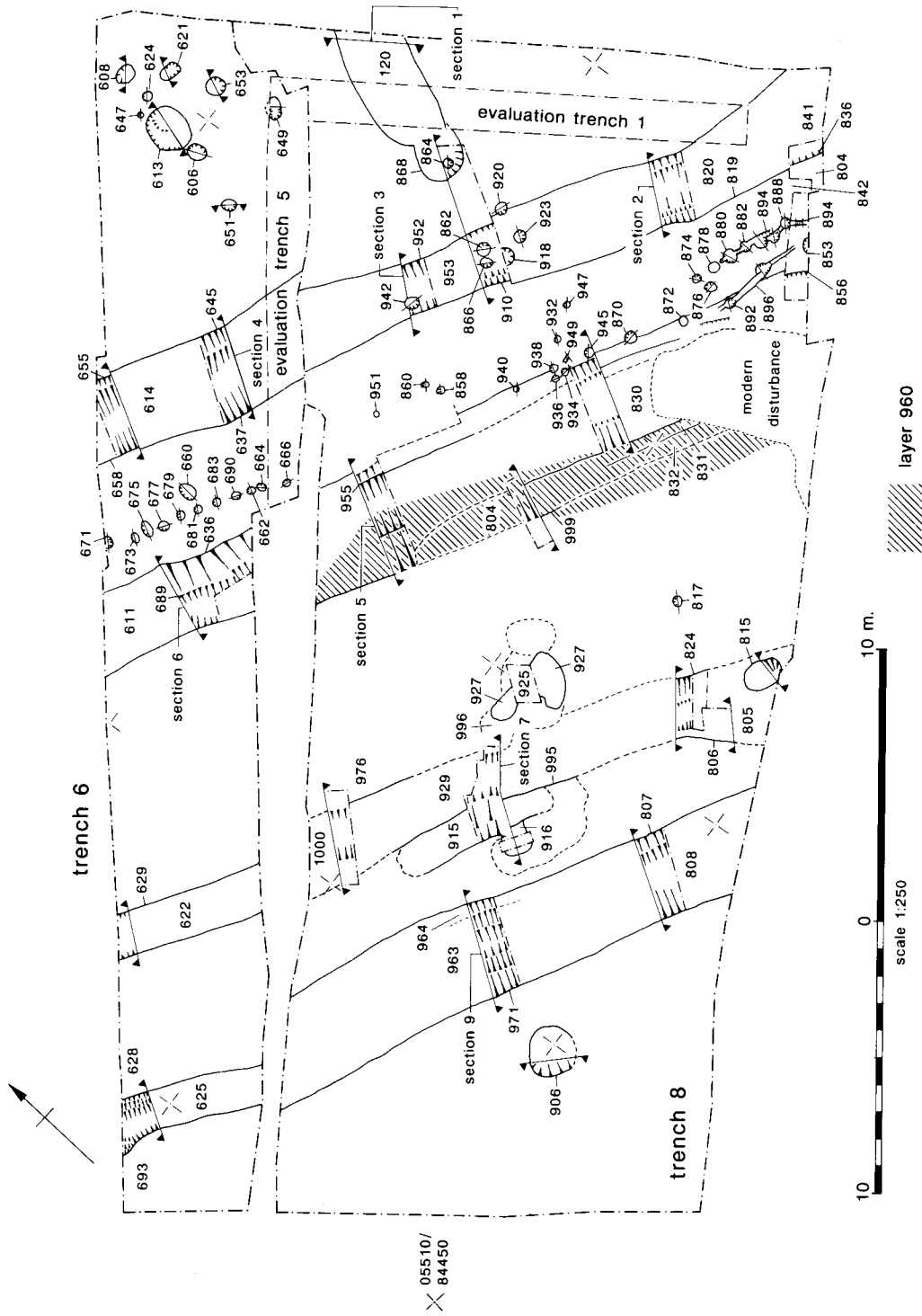


Fig 3 Detailed plan of Trenches 6 and 8

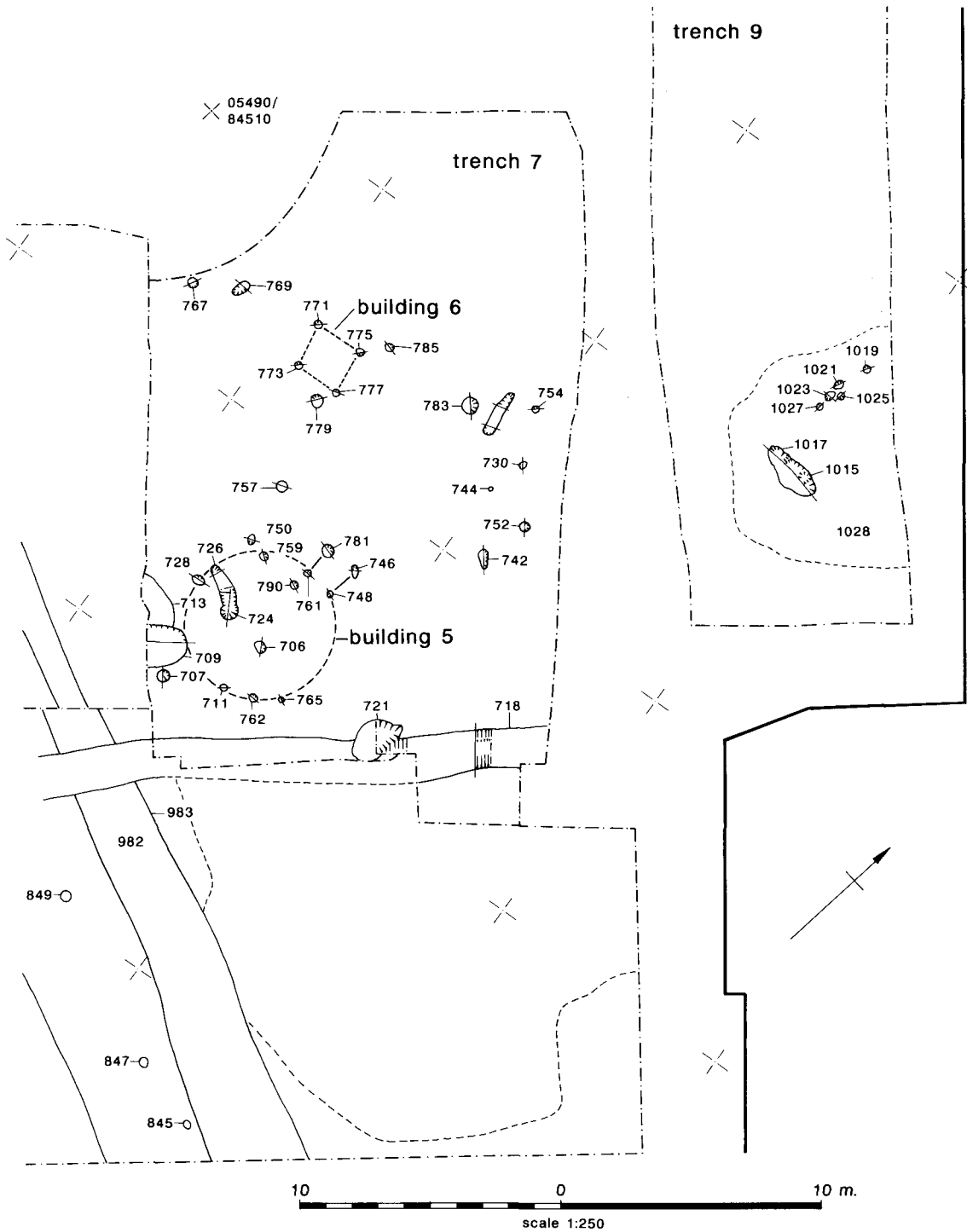


Fig 4 Detailed plan of Trenches 7 and 9

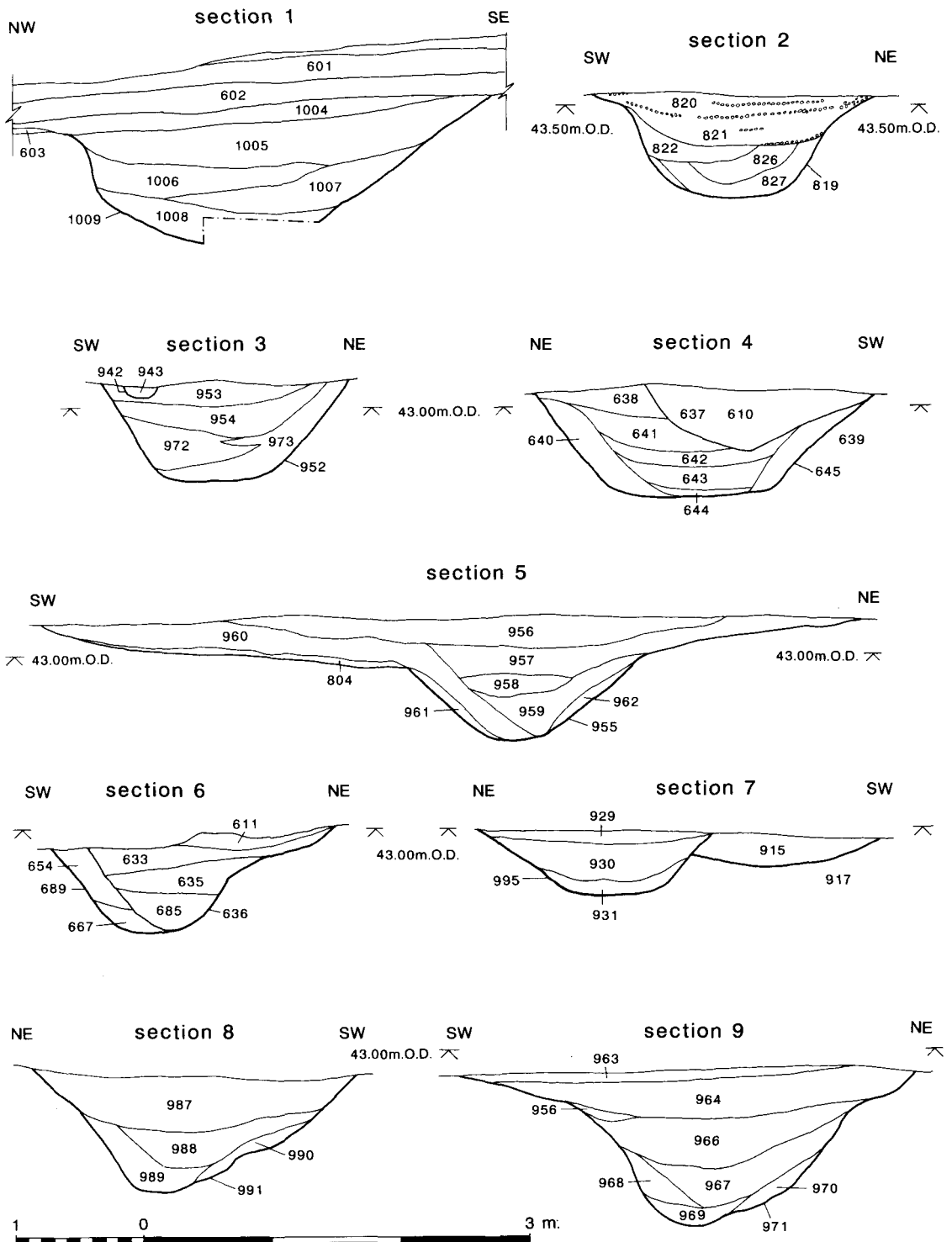


Fig 5 Ditch sections

8, a dump of domestic material formed the upper fill of the ditch [822] (Fig 5.2). This deposit contained charred plant remains (spelt wheat) and LBA pottery. One hundred and seventeen sherds were recovered from [822] and these represented a mixed deposit of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (catalogued pottery sherds, P2-6; Fig 6). The overlying fills [820 and 821] contained a further 76 sherds of similar material (including P7-9, Fig 6) which, together with the material from [822], forms 20% of the pottery assemblage recovered from the site. However, the lower fills of the ditch at this point [826, 827 & 828] contained 12 sherds of pottery in Early Iron Age fabrics (AF2 and 3). An EIA furrowed bowl came from the bottom of the next section [909], (Fig 6, P14). A single Middle Iron Age rim (P13) and six Romano-British sherds were recovered from [899], a layer of the upper fill of Ditch 1, cut [910] in Trench 8. In Trench 6, Romano-British pottery was found in the upper fill [641] of Ditch 1. A shallower cut [637], (fill [610], Fig 5.4), also containing Romano-British pottery, was dug on the same alignment as the main ditch. This cut was only seen in Trench 6.

Ditch 2 was 3.25m to the SW of Ditch 1, and was traced for a distance of 65.5m. Five sections were excavated. The sides of the ditch varied from near vertical to 45° and the ditch measured from 1.7 to 2.7m wide and 0.4 to 0.95m deep. The bottom of the ditch varied from flat to rounded. Medieval and Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper silts of the ditch [830]. In the two southern sections a dump of domestic material [831 and 958], (Fig 5.5) with charred plant remains (oak and hawthorn charcoal) and quantities of burnt flint was recovered. EIA pottery (P17, Fig 6) was found in the lowest fill of Ditch 2 in Trench 6, cut [689] (Fig 5.6).

The western edge of Ditch 2 in Trench 8 was lower than the general site level and the slight hollow was filled by layer [960] (Figs 3 and 5.5). It is possible that [960] was an *in situ* deposit contemporary with the ditches and that because of its position it had escaped the truncation by ploughing which was in evidence elsewhere on the site. However, too much weight must not be placed on the recorded relationship between [960] and the ditch fills – defining layers within the brickearth-derived material was not easy – and it is possible that [960] was simply another layer of disturbance.

Ditch 4 lay 11.5m SW of Ditch 2 and could be traced for a distance of approximately 74m. Three sections were cut through the ditch in the excavation; one in the watching brief. A partial section was recorded in the evaluation (test pit 4). The ditch profile had sloping sides and a gently rounded bottom. The ditch was between 2.44m and 3.3m wide and varied from 0.78 to 1.24m in depth. LBA/EIA pot was recovered from the lowest fill [812]. A section recorded in the watching brief (Fig 5.8) was of particular interest as the upper fill [987] contained a dump of burnt flint and clay. In Trenches 6 and 8, Ditch 4 was very difficult to see because the top fill [808] closely resembled the natural brickearth. During excavation this layer was thought to be bank material which had been slighted into the ditch. Later ploughing disturbed these layers and truncated the natural subsoil with the result that no old ground surface or remnant of any bank survived to confirm this interpretation. Middle Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper silt [984] of the ditch in the watching brief area.

The revetment or fences

Between Ditches 1 and 2 evidence for a revetment or for fences was recovered. Two rows of postholes were seen in Trench 8 and a single row in Trench 6. The postholes in Trench 6 were spaced c.0.5m apart and revealed no evidence for slots between the posts. One row in Trench 8 was placed centrally between the ditches and comprised postholes spaced c.0.5m apart and linked by a wall slot. The second row of postholes in Trench 8 was positioned on the edge of Ditch 2 and the posts were spaced c.2m apart and at the S of the trench were linked by a wall slot. The postholes were cut through the gravelly layer capping the brickearth [842 and 907] which had been slightly disturbed by ploughing and their state of preservation was variable. Pottery recovered from the features indicated a LBA/EIA date which suggests that the posts were contemporary with Ditches 1 and 2. It is possible that postholes in the centrally placed row in Trench 8 and the row in Trench 6 were contemporary, and that the postholes in the second row in Trench 8, which were more widely spread, were of a different date, in which case they would best be interpreted as fences. If, however, the rows of posts were contemporary,

they could well be evidence for a revetted bank between Ditches 1 and 2.

Middle Iron Age activity

Ditch 3 which was 8m S of Ditch 2 and 3.5m N of Ditch 4, was traced for a distance of 71.5m (Figs 2, 3 and 5.7). This ditch was much slighter than the other ditches and was 0.2m wide and only 0.5m deep. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered but it is possible, though perhaps unlikely, that the pottery is residual and the ditch later in date. The evidence suggests that this ditch was later than Ditches 1, 2 and 4, but that it forms part of the same boundary. It would seem to be an addition to an existing boundary, or perhaps a replacement for it.

Romano-British features

A group of six small pits [862, 866, 918, 920, 923 and 942] probably of Roman date (Figs 3 & 5.3) were cut into the accumulating upper fills of Ditch 1 at a point adjacent to the MBA ditch [120]. The pits were 0.35 to 0.6m in width and 0.09 to 0.14m in depth. They had been badly truncated by ploughing and as a result the quantities of bone and pottery recovered were very small. The fills of all six pits were similar and comprised black or dark grey silty clay with charcoal. The presence of charcoal and some burnt bone suggested that the pits might be cremations. The amount of bone recovered from soil samples was very small (see Table 4) and could not be identified as human or animal.

The environmental evidence from the pits included oak and hawthorn charcoal and orache, vetch, plum, cherry, dock, summer savory, sedge and emmer or spelt wheat and spelt chaff with emmer or spelt glume bases. This evidence may indicate that the pits contained burnt domestic rubbish rather than cremations.

The pottery recovered comprised one sherd from pit [862], fill [863], and two sherds from each of pits [866], fill [867], and [918], fill [919]. Pits [920] and [923] contained no pottery. Pit [942], fill [943] contained 11 sherds, including three joining sherds from a possible jar base (fabric 7). None of the pottery could be identified as from cremation urns. The location of the pits adjacent to Ditch [120] and their relationship to

the fills of Ditch 1 suggests that both ditches were still visible in the Roman period.

Albert Ironworks and Penclose House

The S portion of the site formed part of the Albert Ironworks. A ditch [718] formed the boundary between the Ironworks and Penclose House which was built in 1836–8 at the W of the site. The house was demolished in 1990. The boundary ditch ran across the site in a broadly NE-SW direction cutting through Ditches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig 2). An irregular feature [721] which cut the ditch was interpreted as a tree-throw hole (Fig 4). Several 19th-century features, including shallow brick lined circular pits, were recorded in Trenches 7 and 9 (the former gardens of Penclose House) and are interpreted as planting pits.

THE FINDS

The later prehistoric pottery

Alistair Barclay

Introduction

The evaluation and subsequent excavation produced a small assemblage (939 sherds, 4377g) of later prehistoric pottery. Most of the assemblage was recovered from the fills of a double-ditched driveway. The assemblage ranges in date from later Bronze Age through to the Middle Iron Age.

Methodology

The assemblage is quantified by weight and sherd number. The pottery is characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment, decoration and colour. Only the more diagnostic featured sherds are listed in the catalogue. The sherds were analysed using a binocular microscope (x 20) and were divided into fabric groups on the basis of principal inclusion type. Oxford Archaeological Unit standard codes are used to denote inclusion types.

Fabrics

Eleven fabrics have been defined by their principal inclusion types and have been given an alpha-numeric code. There are five fabric groups: flint (F1-3); flint with sand (FA1-3), sand with flint (AF1-3), sand (A1) and organic (O2). During the later Bronze Age flint-tempered fabrics were predominantly used in the manufacture of pottery in the Colne Valley area, eventually being replaced by sand during the transition to the Iron Age (Longley 1980, 40-65; O'Connell 1986, 61-2). Following the work of O'Connell and Longley it is tentatively suggested that at Uxbridge there is a simple chronological trend from flint-tempered to flint with sand-tempered fabrics in the mid to late Bronze Age, and that by the early Iron Age fabrics were predominantly made from sandy fabrics with the addition of little or no flint. All 11 fabrics recognised at Uxbridge could be of local manufacture.

Fabric descriptions

Inclusion codes: A=sand (quartz and other mineral matter), F=flint, O=organic matter.

Size range: 1 = < 1mm very fine; 2 = 1-2mm fine-medium; 3 = > 2mm medium-coarse.

Flint

F1 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) fine (< 1mm) angular calcined flint (9 sherds, 30g).

F2 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) fine-medium (1-2mm) angular calcined flint. Some sherds also contain ferruginous pellets and organics (46 sherds, 233g).

F3 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) medium-coarse (> 2mm) angular calcined flint. Some sherds also contain grog (126 sherds, 783g).

Flint with sand

FA1 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) fine (< 1mm) flint and rare (up to 5%) quartz sand (126 sherds, 352g).

FA2 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) fine-medium (1-2mm) angular calcined flint and rare (up to 5%) quartz sand (200 sherds, 706g).

FA3 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) medium-coarse angular calcined flint and rare (up to 5%) quartz sand (96 sherds, 854g).

Sand with flint fabrics

AF1 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) quartz sand and rare (up to 5%) fine (< 1mm) angular calcined flint (11 sherds, 43g).

AF2 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) quartz sand and rare (up to 5%) medium (1-2mm) angular calcined flint. Some sherds also contain ferruginous pellets (72 sherds, 331g).

AF3 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) quartz sand and rare (up to 5%) coarse (> 2mm) angular calcined flint (27 sherds, 205g).

Sandy fabric

A1 Hard fabric with common (up to 15%) coarse quartz sand. Some sherds also contain ferruginous pellets and, or, organics (212 sherds, 996g).

Organic fabric

O2 Soft fabric with organic temper (2 sherds, 2g).

Indeterminate

Sherds considered to be too small to be assigned to any fabric (12 sherds, 27g).

Surface treatment and decoration

Wiping was noted on a number of coarseware vessels (*eg* Fig 6.4) and smoothing and burnish were noted on some fineware vessels. Decoration is rare amongst the assemblage and occurs on only 11 vessels. Finger tipping occurs on the shoulders of nine coarseware jars (Fig 6.4, 6, 16-7) and includes one example with multiple rows (Fig 6.6; *cf* Canham 1980 fig 16.42-3). In addition, cabling occurs on a flaring rim (Fig 6.15) and furrowed lines occur on the shoulder from a fineware bowl (Fig 6.14). The base from a coarseware vessel has been deliberately flint-gritted (Fig 6.12).

Forms

Because of the fragmentary nature of the assemblage, indicated by an average sherd weight of less than 5g and the relatively low number of featured sherds, no attempt has been made to construct a form series. The recovery of much of the assemblage from ditches that had been recut probably accounts for the apparent brokenness of the assemblage.

The assemblage is characterised by rims and shoulders mostly from bipartite vessels. Twenty three rims were recorded of which a representative range is illustrated in Fig 6. Rim P1 is from a straight-sided coarse ware vessel (Fig 6.1). Similar forms occur in Deverel-Rimbury and 'early' Plain Ware assemblages of the 15-8th centuries cal BC and are common in the Thames Valley (Barrett 1980). P4, 6, 9, 17 are all fragments from decorated coarseware jars belonging to Barrett's Class I (1980). Rims P10 and P18 are likely to derive from fineware bowls of bipartite form and are of Late Bronze Age date. The simple rims and shoulders, P2 and P8, are from tripartite vessels of Early Iron Age date. The rim P11 is probably from a type of hooked-rimmed jar. The flaring rim P15 with probable

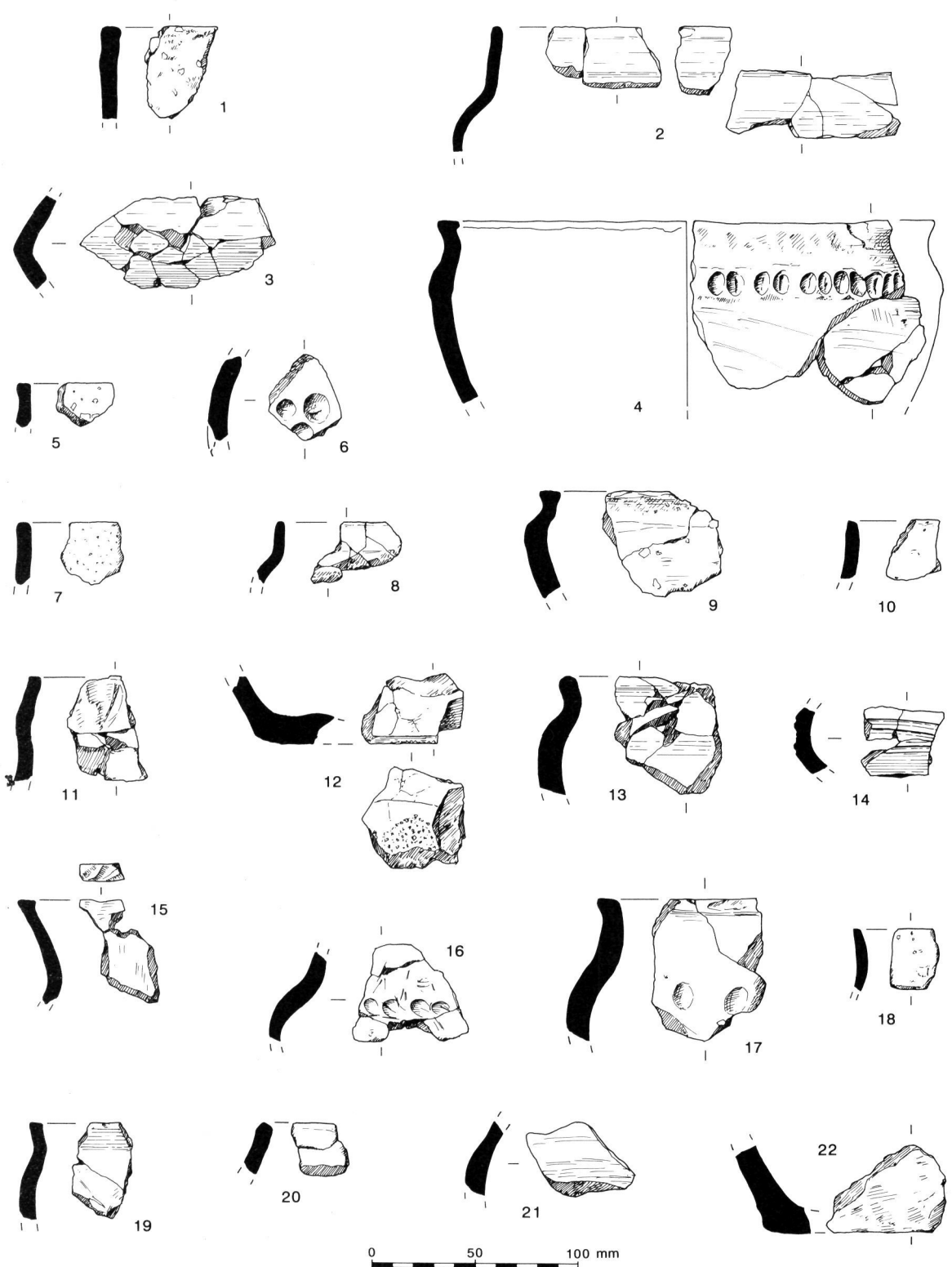


Fig 6 Prehistoric pottery

cabing and the form of rim P19 can be paralleled at both Ivinghoe Beacon and Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980, fig 34.347; Cotton and Frere 1968, figs 20.119 and 18.74-5). The rounded shoulder with furrowed decoration (P14) is probably from a type of furrowed bowl of earliest Iron Age date. The rounded shoulders and rim represented by P13 and P21 which are manufactured from sandy fabrics are of Middle Iron Age date.

The small number of featured sherds in the overall assemblage is in direct contrast to the variety of rim and vessel forms. Chronologically the assemblage is mixed and includes both Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age forms. In addition, P1 and a small number of flint-tempered sherds could be of mid-late Bronze Age date, while the sand-tempered sherds represented by P13 and P21-2 are of Middle Iron Age character.

Catalogue

Ditch 120

P1. (Fig 6.1) Layer 116. Mid-Late Bronze Age. Simple rim from a straight walled vessel. Fabric FA3. Colour: ext: brown; core: dark grey; int: grey. (*cf* O'Connell 1986, fig 47:80-1).

Ditch 1 section 819

P2. (Fig 6.2) Layer 822. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Rounded shoulder and upright rim. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* Canham 1980, fig 18.85).

P3. (Fig 6.3) Layer 822. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Angular shoulder from a fineware bowl. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey.

P4. (Fig 6.4) Layer 822. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Shouldered jar with finger-tip decoration. Fabric FA3. Colour: ext: reddish-brown to dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey to brown. (*cf* O'Connell 1986, fig 48:30).

P5. (Fig 6.5) Layer 822. Late Bronze Age. Simple rim. Fabric F2. Colour: ext: brown; core: grey; int: brownish-grey.

P6. (Fig 6.6) Layer 822. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Shoulder with double row of finger-tip decoration. Fabric FA2. Colour: ext: brown; core grey; int: greyish-brown. (*cf* Canham 1980 fig 15.47, 16.42-3).

P7. (Fig 6.7) Layer 821. Simple, upright rim. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: brown; int: brown.

P8. (Fig 6.8) Layer 821. Simple rounded upright rim from a fine ware shouldered vessel. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: greyish-brown; int: greyish-brown.

P9. (Fig 6.9) Layer 820. Late Bronze Age. Shouldered bowl with short neck and flat rim. Fabric FA3. Colour: ext: reddish-brown; core: dark grey; int: greyish-brown. (*cf* O'Connell 1986, fig 51: 128).

P10. (Fig 6.10) Layer 614. Rim from a bipartite bowl. Fabric F2. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* O'Connell 1986, fig 49: 90-101).

P11. (Fig 6.11) Layer 614. Rim sherds from a hooked rimmed or bucket shaped vessel. Impressed decoration. Fabric FA3. Colour: dark brown; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* O'Connell 1986, fig 56: 263-4).

P12. (Fig 6.12) Layer 898. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Flint gritted base sherd from a coarse ware vessel. Fabric FA2. Colour: ext: reddish-brown; core: grey; int: grey.

P13. (Fig 6.13) Layer 899. Middle Iron Age. Rounded rim and out-turned neck. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark brown; core: dark grey; int: dark grey.

P14. (Fig 6.14) Layer 909. Early Iron Age. Rim and shoulder from a fine ware bowl with furrowed decoration. Fabric FA1. Colour: ext: dark brown; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* Canham 1980 fig 14.30).

P15. (Fig 6.15) Layer 972. Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Out-turned flaring rim with squared top. Fabric AF1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* Longley 1980, fig 34: 347-9; Longley 1991, fig 90 P222).

P16. (Fig 6.16) Layer 954. Late Bronze Age. Shoulder with finger tip decoration. Fabric A1. Colour: ext: reddish-brown; core: dark grey; int: reddish-brown. (*cf* Longley 1986, fig 43-4).

Ditch 2

P17. (Fig 6.17) Layer 667. Early Iron Age. Jar sherds with an out-turned rim, straight neck and finger-tip decorated shoulder. AF3. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: brownish-grey. (*cf* Cunliffe 1991, A:8.3).

Ditch 4

P18. (Fig 6.18) Layer 669. Late Bronze Age. Fine ware rim from a bipartite bowl. Fabric FA2. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* Longley 1991, fig 78 P28).

P19. (Fig 6.19) Layer 812. Late Bronze Age. Squared rim, flaring and rounded shoulder. Fabric AF1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey. (*cf* Longley 1991, fig 85 P130).

P20. (Fig 6.20) Layer 984. Middle Iron Age. Simple rim. Fabric A1. Colour: ext: greyish-brown; core: dark grey; int: greyish-brown.

P21. (Fig 6.21) Layer 984. Middle Iron Age. Rounded shoulder with burnish. Fabric A1. Colour: ext: dark grey; core: dark grey; int: dark grey.

P22. (Fig 6.22) Layer 984. Middle Iron Age. Base sherd from a coarse ware jar. Fabric A1. Colour: ext: reddish-brown; core: dark grey; int: dark grey.

Discussion

At least three ceramic phases can be recognised among the assemblage: Mid-Late Bronze Age (15-8th century cal BC); Late Bronze-Early Iron Age and Early Iron Age (8-6th, 6-4th century cal BC) and Middle Iron Age (4th-1st century cal BC). The pottery is a good indicator of domestic activity and much of the assemblage may have derived from the dumping of refuse in and around the driveway ditches.

The earliest pottery recovered from the site is manufactured from a range of flint-gritted fabrics and includes thick walled sherds with dense flint grit (mostly fabrics F1-3). The earliest group

comes from Ditch 120 and includes the vessel fragment P1 and several coarse flint-tempered sherds in fabrics F1–3. These sherds are most likely to belong to the Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Middle Bronze Age or the Plain Ware tradition of the Late Bronze Age. Pit [724] and Posthole [790] within the post-built house contained a small number of later Bronze Age sherds manufactured from these fabrics. In addition, a number of other sherds that were recovered from the droveway ditches could be redeposited or residual material, especially as some are in a relatively worn condition.

The flint and sand-tempered fabrics are thought to be of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date (*cf* Longley 1980, 40). Both the bipartite vessel forms and the limited use of finger-tip decoration on the shoulders of coarseware jars are typical of the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. Simple plain rims from fineware vessels of probable bipartite form are present. This material is characteristic of the so called 'Decorated Ware' assemblages of the 8–6th century (Barrett 1980). These sherds have good affinities with the Late Bronze Age assemblages from Petters Sports Field and Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980; O'Connell 1986). However, some of the vessels with more upright necks and flaring rims (Fig 6.2, 15 & 17) have affinities with Cunliffe's Park Brow-Caesar's Camp group which he places in the 6th–4th centuries BC (Cunliffe 1991, 72, fig A:8).

Most of the material recovered from the droveway ditches, including P2–19 is of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date. This includes both Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age forms, which are unlikely to be contemporary in date. Some, if not most of the pottery, could be redeposited, especially if the ditches were recut. Much of this pottery can be paralleled amongst the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age assemblages recovered from excavations at Heathrow some 10km to the south (Canham 1980; Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993; O'Connell 1990).

Middle Iron Age material came from [603, 830, 966, 982 and 984]. Layer [984] contained a group of 79 sherds in sandy fabrics as well as some redeposited material including a finger-tip decorated shoulder in a worn condition. This material is likely to indicate small-scale domestic activity within the vicinity of the droveway.

The worked flint

Philippa Bradley

Introduction

An assemblage of 529 pieces of worked flint and 530 pieces of burnt unworked flint and quartzite pebbles was recovered from a series of pits, postholes, gullies, ditches and unstratified contexts. Assemblage composition is summarised in Table 1, selected artefacts are described in the catalogue and illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

Methodology

The flint was recorded using codes supplied by the Museum of London; the flint records were put onto a database (dBase IV) which will form the basis of the research archive.

Raw materials

The flint is dark brown, almost black to grey in colour with a smooth white, pink or brown cortex. The flint has frequent cherty inclusions and thermal fractures both of which caused some cores to shatter. A few pieces of grey chert and a single flake of Bullhead flint were also identified (Shepherd 1972, 114). Cortication is generally light, some pieces are iron-stained and some sand-glossing was noted. Calcium carbonate concretion was also noted on much of the flint, presumably deriving from the calcareous river gravels.

The majority of the flint would have been available relatively locally within the river gravels. The single piece of polished implement from the fill of posthole [724] and the few pieces of better quality flint would have been brought to the site from further afield.

The burnt unworked flint is generally very heavily calcined, being white or grey in colour, sometimes with a reddish tinge. Varying degrees of crazing were recorded from lightly burnt to very heavily calcined and highly crazed. Flint pebbles weighing around 240g and small quartzite pebbles were recovered from the deposits of burnt flint.

Table 1. *Flint assemblage composition*

Context Group	Flakes (including core rejuvenation flakes)	Blades, blade-like flakes, bladelets	Irregular waste	Chips	Cores	Retouched forms	Total	Burnt unworked flint
old ploughsoil	45 (inc 3 core rejuvenation flakes)	10	2	8	4	3	72	10
top of brickearth	12	1	—	—	1	—	14	—
treehole	1	1	—	—	—	1	3	—
pits, scoops	31 (inc 1 core rejuvenation flake)	17	1	7	1	3	60	10
postholes	11 (inc 1 flake from polished implement and 1 core rejuvenation flake)	4	1	8	—	1	25	28
gullies, watching brief ditch	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Ditch 120 (MBA)	15	—	—	3	1	—	19	—
Ditch 1	135 (2 core rejuvenation flakes)	—	9	17	8	11	180	83
Ditch 2	44	9	2	1	2	2	60	361
Ditch 3	37	6	1	1	1	3	49	22
Ditch 4	24	1	—	5	2	2	34	10
plough-disturbed layers	6	1	—	—	—	—	7	—
Romano-British pits (?cremations)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
TOTALS	367	50	16	50	20	26	529	530

Technology and dating

The assemblage contains diagnostic retouched forms dating to the Mesolithic; the distinctive character of the majority of the debitage can quite confidently be assigned to the later Bronze Age. A single flake from a polished implement from the fill of Posthole [724] would indicate Neolithic or Early Bronze Age activity. All stages of the reduction sequence were recovered although no hammerstones were found. Surprisingly little of the worked flint was burnt, only 16 flakes, blade-like flakes and chips showed any sign of burning.

The Mesolithic component of the assemblage consists of three obliquely blunted points (Fig 7.1–3), blades, blade cores (*eg* Fig 8.9), and a crested blade from [304]. One or two other retouched pieces may belong to this phase of activity, these include a piercer on a blade, a truncated blade, an unfinished microlith or piercer and one or two of the neatly retouched

scrapers (*eg* Fig 7.4). Two backed blades, including an example from [984] (Fig 7.7) may also be Mesolithic.

Blades and blade-like flakes are frequently soft-hammer struck with linear or punctiform butts (Tixier *et al* 1980, 105). Platform edges are often abraded and previous parallel blade scars were often noted on the dorsal faces of flakes and blades. Some of the soft-hammer struck flakes would also seem to belong to this activity. Approximately seven flakes and blade-like flakes were utilised, some pieces exhibited edge gloss. Cores were often rejuvenated when platforms became unworkable; five face/edge rejuvenation flakes and one core tablet were recovered. Another core tablet from [1012] (old ploughsoil) was reworked into a scraper (Fig 7.5) although the nature of the retouch would suggest that this piece is probably Bronze Age in date.

The blade cores recovered were all opposed platform types, (*eg* Fig 8.9) (see Table 2 for typology). Two core fragments also had blade

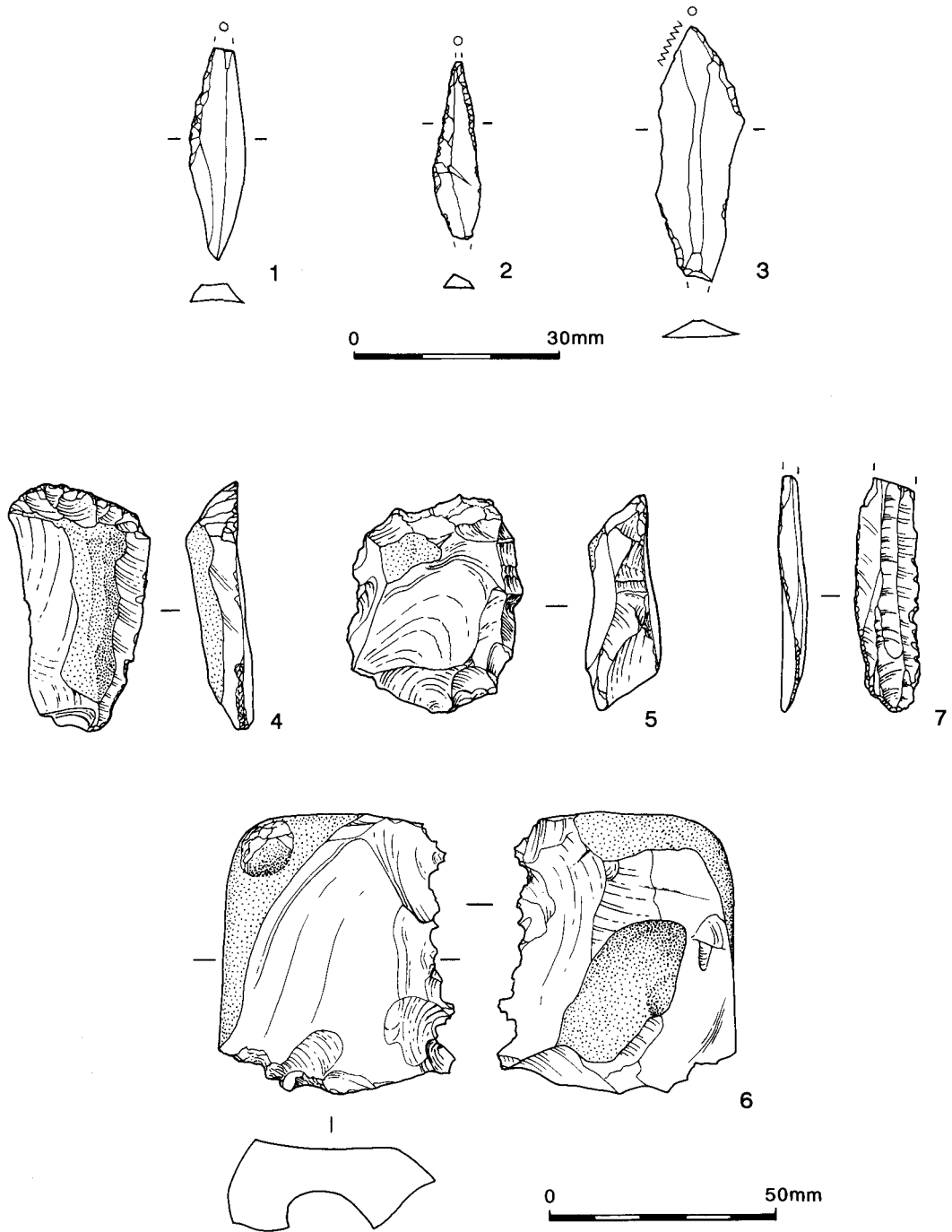
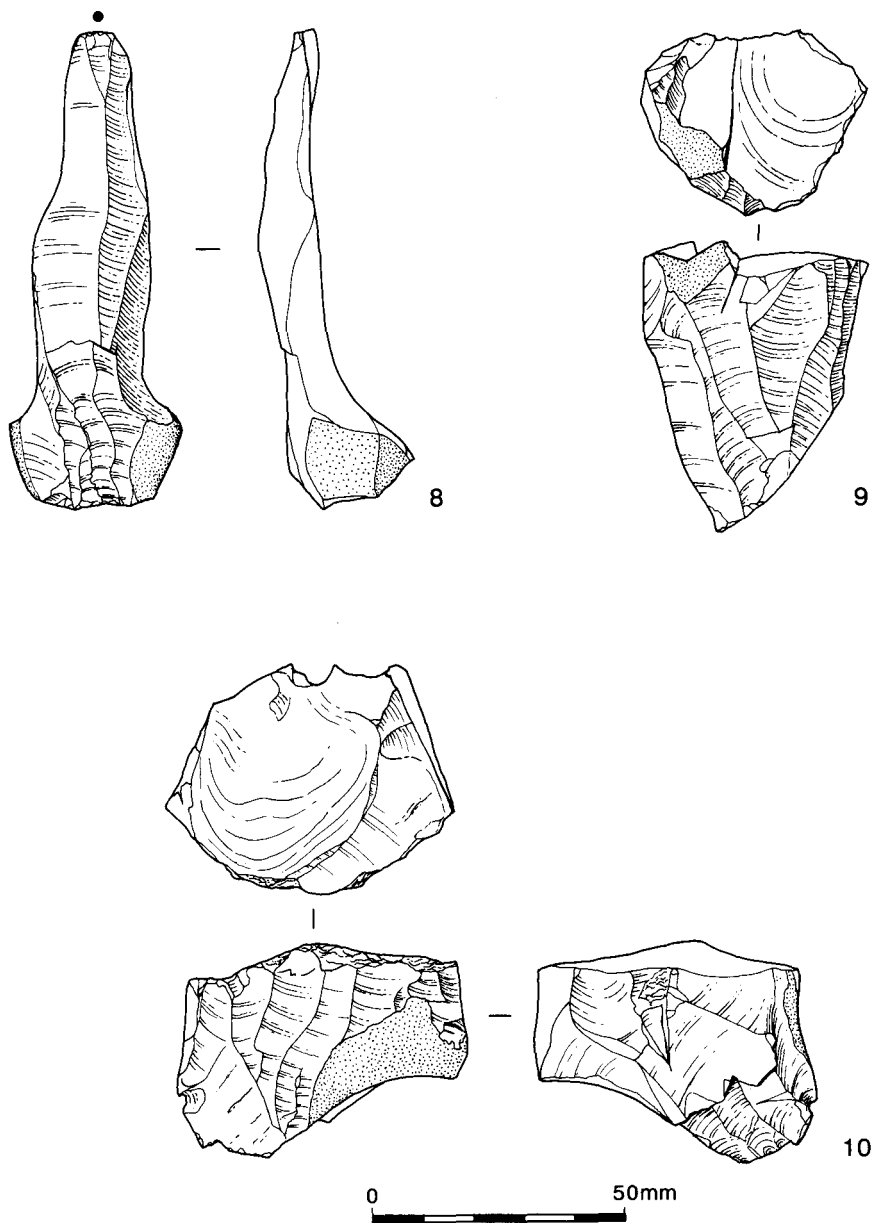


Fig 7 Flint

scars. These cores were generally very carefully worked with overhangs being removed between knapping episodes. A plunging flake from an opposed platform blade core (Fig 8.8) indicates

that some of the cores must have originally been much larger. One or two blades and blade-like flakes and a piercer (Small find no. 607 [610]) were also quite long (in the range of 80–100mm).



The longest surviving blade scar on the blade cores is 53mm indicating that they were considerably worked down.

Mesolithic artefacts were recovered from all areas of the site although there was a possible slight concentration in Trench 6.

Obliquely blunted points occur in both earlier and later Mesolithic assemblages (Pitts and Jacobi 1979, fig 5) and with the absence of other

microlith types it is difficult to refine the dating. Although the microliths are on the small side, they compare well with those from Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge (see Lewis 1991, 252, fig 23.10, no. 8288). The general appearance and composition of the Harefield Road material would indicate an earlier Mesolithic date.

Very little of the flintwork, with the exception of the flake from a polished implement from the

Table 2. Core typology

Context group	Opposed platform blade	Single platform flake	Multi-platform flake	Keeled	Core fragments	Total
old ploughsoil	1	—	—	—	3	4
top of brickearth	—	—	1	—	—	1
pits, scoops	—	—	—	—	1	1
fill of Ditch 120	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ditch 1	3	—	—	1	4	8
Ditch 2	—	—	1	—	1	2
Ditch 3	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ditch 4	—	1	—	—	1	2
TOTALS	5	1	3	1	10	20

fill [723] of posthole [724] is demonstrably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date. The remaining flintwork from [723] would be consistent with a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. A very large, steeply retouched scraper (c.72mm long and 46mm wide) from [1001] may be of Neolithic date, however, scrapers are notoriously difficult to date (*cf* Riley 1990, 227). Some of the multi-platform flake cores (*eg* Fig 8.10) and the keeled core may also be later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The remaining retouched forms recovered are unspecific types such as scrapers, broken and unclassifiable or atypical pieces (Table 3). Some of these pieces may also belong to this activity.

The majority of the flint assemblage would, on technological grounds, appear to be later Bronze Age in date. This material is characterised by broad, hard-hammer struck flakes, irregularly worked cores and minimally retouched pieces, often worked on thermal blanks (*eg* the denticulate from [821], Fig 7.6). Butts tend to be wide and unprepared, many are cortical. Approximately 97% of the butts classified (a total of 319 pieces)

were unprepared. Incipient cones of percussion were noted on the butts of many flakes (*eg* from [638, 674, 997 and 1001]) indicating attempts to flake were unsuccessful (*cf* Brown 1992, 92; Montague 1995, 22). Twin bulbs of percussion and very pronounced bulbs indicate that excessive force was used. Hinge fractures were commonly noted amongst this material. Cores were irregularly worked with few removals and there were few attempts to maintain platforms by rejuvenation. Many of the cores shattered because of thermal fractures or cherty inclusions within the raw material, however, unlike the Mesolithic opposed platform cores, there were few attempts to rejuvenate suitable fragments.

The retouched pieces which would seem to be of Late Bronze Age date include minimally retouched scrapers, for example Fig 7.5 on a core tablet, denticulates, for example Fig 7.6 on a thermal blank, a notch and a minimally retouched piercer made from a small pebble. The reduction in the numbers of retouched forms is a characteristic of later Bronze Age flint technologies (*cf* Healy 1981, 165; Brown 1992,

Table 3. Retouched forms

Context group	Scrapers	Obliquely blunted points	Backed blades	Denticulates/notches	Piercers	Miscellaneous retouch	Totals
old ploughsoil	1 (other)	2	—	—	—	—	3
treehole	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
pits, scoops	1 (end)	1	1	—	—	—	3
postholes	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ditch 1	5 (4 end & side; 1 end)	—	—	2	2	2	11
Ditch 2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ditch 3	1 (end & side)	—	1	1	—	—	3
Ditch 4	1 (other)	—	—	—	—	1	2
TOTALS	9	3	2	3	2	7	26

92; Montague 1995, 22; Ford *et al* 1984, 167). At Micheldever Wood there was a fairly wide range of retouched forms but only scrapers and borers were present in any quantity (Fasham & Ross 1978, 59). The emphasis in these assemblages is on producing expedient tools, generally cutting, scraping and piercing tools and far less emphasis is placed on the preparation of blanks and their final retouching.

The majority of the burnt unworked flint and quartzite pebbles were recovered from dumps of domestic debris in Ditches 1 and 2 (Table 1). Two hundred and fifty-four pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from a single layer in Ditch 2 [958]. This material appeared to have been dumped with other rubbish including pottery and charcoal.

Catalogue

Selected pieces are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. The catalogue entries are ordered as follows: object with brief description, raw material, condition, context, small find number and weight (cores only).

1. Microlith. Obliquely blunted point. Abrupt retouch to upper left-hand side. Clark's Class Aia (Clark 1933, 56). Proximal break. Medium to heavy cortication. [304], Old Ploughsoil (Lower). Small find no. (sf) 301.
2. Microlith. Obliquely blunted point. Abrupt retouch to upper left and right-hand sides. Distal break and slight damage to tip. Clark's Class Aib (Clark 1933, 56). Light brown flint, fresh condition. [612], fill of pit. sf 660.
3. Microlith. Obliquely blunted point. Retouched upper right-hand side with additional retouch to the lower left-hand side. Very fine removals on the upper left-hand side may result from use rather than formal retouch (indicated on Fig 7.3 by zig-zag line) Clark's Class Aic (Clark 1933, 56). Distal break. Orange-brown flint with medium cortication ? Iron concretion on ventral face. [602], Old Ploughsoil. sf 789.
4. End scraper. Neatly retouched, scraping angle 55–70°. Fresh condition. Mid brown flint with smooth buff cortex, occasional cherty inclusions. [614], Ditch 1. sf 694.
5. Scraper on a core tablet. Irregularly retouched, some later damage, scraping angle 65–70°. Undetached bulbs of percussion. Some thermal fractures and cherty inclusions. Battered and sand-glossed. [1012], Old Ploughsoil. sf 1104.
6. Denticulate on a thermal fragment. Brown to grey flint with cherty inclusions, smooth buff pebble cortex. Large flaw within the flint. Coarsely retouched. [821], Ditch 1. sf 882.
7. Backed blade. Neatly retouched along edge, edge has suffered more recent damage. Light brown flint with cherty inclusions, very lightly corticated. Worn. Distal break. [984], Ditch 3. sf 1050.
8. Plunging flake, removing large part of an opposed platform

blade core. Fresh condition. Dark brown to black flint with smooth white cortex. [1001], Ditch 1. sf 1076.

9. Opposed platform blade core, abraded platform edges. Grey flint with many cherty inclusions. Small patch of light brown cortex remaining. [119], Ditch 120. sf 131. Weight 110g.

10. Multi-platform flake core, some truncated blade scars, lightly burnt. Reddish-grey flint with cherty inclusions. A small area of smooth buff cortex remains. [984], Ditch 3. sf 1055. Weight 114g.

Discussion

Although a relatively small component of the overall total, the Mesolithic material is of some interest given its proximity to the important scatter at Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge. No focus for the Mesolithic activity was identified at Harefield Road although there was a slight concentration of material in Trench 6. Food and hide processing, knapping and possibly hunting activities are represented. Although the dating evidence is slight this activity is probably earlier Mesolithic, dating to around 9800–8500 BP.

The trend towards broader flakes through time is now well established (Pitts 1978, 26; fig. 4). The seeming lack of controlled flintworking and limited number of retouched forms are typical of later Bronze Age industries (Fasham and Ross, 1978, 63; Healy 1981, 165; Ford *et al* 1984, 167). Burnt unworked flint is also frequently associated with later prehistoric sites and may relate to many different activities including cooking, saunas or the preparation of temper for pottery (Hodder and Barfield 1991). The perceived reduction in the knapper's 'skill' and the limited number of retouched forms may simply reflect the role of flintwork in the later prehistoric period; new technologies may have been preferred for many activities, flint simply being used for the more mundane domestic activities (*cf* Ford *et al* 1984, 166). Flint tools would still have been more effective and more efficient than metal for many of these activities, such as scraping, cutting and piercing (Ford *et al* 1984, 166).

The fired clay

Alistair Barclay

A total of 32 fragments of clay were recovered and, with the exception of three possible object fragments from [898] and a tile fragment from

[603], the material is characterised by amorphous lumps of fired clay. Nearly all of this material is oxidised reddish-brown and is therefore likely to indicate, albeit indirectly, domestic or industrial activity.

The Roman pottery

P. Booth

Some 90 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 1039g, were recovered from the excavation, some from post-Roman contexts. The material was generally in poor condition, many sherds being relatively small and with badly-preserved surfaces. The latter characteristic may have been a consequence of adverse soil conditions rather than redepositional factors. None of the sherds were considered worth illustrating.

The sherds were divided into nine fabric groups, for which generalised descriptions are given here, followed by codes used in the Museum of London (MoLAS) pottery recording system. The MoLAS codes employed here are broad categories, since the character of the material did not warrant detailed matching of the sherds with more specifically defined fabrics.

1. Fine sandy oxidised fabric with cream/white slip, RWS, (2 sherds).
2. Fine sandy oxidised fabric as 1 but apparently without slip, OXID, (1 sherd).
3. Coarse sandy oxidised fabric, OXID, (1 sherd).
4. Coarse oxidised fabric tempered with common angular grog, GROG, (1 sherd).
5. Very fine reduced, probably 'London ware', LONW, (2 sherds).
6. Coarse quartz-tempered reduced fabric, SAND, (57 sherds).
7. Moderately coarse reduced fabric with sand and occasional grog inclusions, SAND, (21 sherds).
8. Coarse sandy irregularly fired fabric, SAND, (3 sherds).
9. Coarse grog-tempered irregularly fired fabric, GROG, (2 sherds).

Confident attribution of these fabrics to sources was difficult, particularly as some groups were only represented by small numbers of sherds with no diagnostic features. Both fabrics 1 and 2 may have originated at Staines (*cf* Crouch and Shanks 1984, 44); otherwise the identification of two small fragments of London ware seems reasonably secure. Fabrics 8 and 9 were essentially in the 'Belgic' ceramic tradition (Thompson 1982, 4), though only the latter was grog-tempered. Of the two principal fabrics, 6 has most of the characteristics of the Fulmer/ Hedgerley kilns, though there is clearly some variation of fabric

within this industry (*cf* Crouch and Shanks 1984, 45; Cauvain and Cauvain 1987, 164) and probably originated there. The finer fabric, 7, was perhaps another Staines area product.

Only three fragmentary vessels were represented by rim sherds (0.35 EVEs); a medium mouthed jar in fabric 6, an uncertain jar or bowl in fabric 7, and a slightly beaded rim jar in fabric 8. Base sherds in fabric 1 were probably from a flagon, but no other specific forms were indicated by body sherds. The forms are not themselves diagnostic of source or of close date, nor do they suggest any particular functional specialisation.

Just over one third of the small quantity of Romano-British pottery from the site (36 out of 90 sherds) was recovered from the upper fills of the parallel ditches, and in particular from Ditch 1 (33 sherds). A further two sherds came from a recut [637] of Ditch 1, and two sherds from a layer sealing the fills of the same ditch. Another 20 sherds were recovered from the small pits (*ie* the possible cremations) cut into the upper fills of Ditch 1; of these 20 sherds, 11 were found in pit [942] fill [943]. It is possible that the pottery from the pits is residual, given their relationship with the fills of Ditch 1. Two other features, [709] fill [710] and [713] fill [714], both in Trench 7, contained RB pottery and may have been of Roman date. They produced four and two sherds respectively. The remaining RB pottery (24 sherds) comes from later contexts, including ploughsoils.

The assemblage indicates limited, low status settlement, though the small sample present may not have been representative of the overall site from which it derived. The range of sources represented by the pottery appears to have been very limited, with the bulk of the material probably deriving from the Fulmer/Hedgerley kilns less than 10km distant to the west, and further material perhaps from Staines. There are no imported or specialist wares and notable absentees are products of the Brockley Hill and Highgate Wood sites to the northeast and east. The Fulmer/Hedgerley kilns are generally dated to the early-mid 2nd century, with much material assigned to the second quarter of the century. It has been suggested that the industry was in operation in the 1st century (Crouch and Shanks 1984, 45), though production sites of this date are as yet unknown. The present assemblage is probably largely of 2nd-century date, though the

grog-tempered sherds, for example, indicate a 1st-century component.

The medieval and later pottery

Lucy Whittingham

Thirty-five medieval sherds (0.2kg) have been identified from residual contexts (old ploughsoil, the top fill of Ditch 2 and modern garden soil). The majority of the sherds are from early medieval cooking pots in a variety of coarse sand or sand and flint-tempered fabrics. They are mainly of one fabric type; a coarsely gritted quartz and flint-tempered fabric with thickly slurried surfaces. The rims are all square-clubbed cooking pot forms, one with thumbed upper edge. Two sherds in this fabric type have stabbed and thumb-impressed decoration on the shoulder. The combination of fabric type, vessel type, potting technique and decoration suggest an early medieval date between the mid 11th and the late 12th centuries. Other recognised medieval wares present are London-type ware jug sherds of mid 12th to mid 14th-century date and Kingston-type wares of mid 13th to mid 14th-century date. A small number of post medieval sherds are present including 17th to 18th-century post-medieval Redware (PMR), English Stoneware (ENGS) and 19th-century transfer printed Pearlware (PEAR).

The cremated bone

Angela Boyle

Cremated material from five contexts was examined and the results are tabulated in Table 4. None of the bone recovered could be identified as certainly human.

The charred plant remains

Mark Robinson

Introduction

During the excavation 54 samples were taken from a cluster of pits and post holes, and the large parallel Ditches 1 and 2. Late Bronze Age occupation debris including charcoal spread along part of the length of these ditches. A further 10 samples were taken from six possible Roman cremations which had been inserted into the top of Ditch 1.

The samples, which were of c.10 litres (unless the fill of the entire context was less), were floated onto a 0.5mm mesh and dried. All the dried flots were then scanned at x10 magnification to determine which had potential for further analysis.

Under half the Late Bronze Age flots contained charred seeds or charcoal. Unfortunately, most of them were contaminated with pieces of coal, coke and cinder from the Albert Ironworks which formerly occupied part of the site. It was therefore decided to concentrate analysis on those uncontaminated samples from a post hole [723] and two uncontaminated samples from the spread of occupation debris in the Late Bronze Age ditches [822, 958 and 831].

All the samples from the Roman cremations, except the only sample from [924], contained charred remains and all were uncontaminated. However, some of the flots were very large with, for example, between 140 to 150g of charcoal from those flots listed as + + + + in Table 6. Analysis of all the possible cremations for the full range of charred plant remains would have been very time-consuming. Therefore it was decided to analyse for seeds and chaff one sample from each of the three cremations in which they were

Table 4. Summary of cremated bone

Context	Cut	Sample no	Weight	Fragment size	Colour	Comments
867	866	806	c. 1g	>10mm	white	no identifiable bone
919	918	808	c. 7g	c. 10mm	white	no identifiable bone
922	920	809	c. 93g	10–25mm	white	no identifiable bone, small stones
924	923	810	c. 3g	5–25mm	white	no identifiable bone
943	942	811	c. 70g	>10–20mm	white	no identifiable bone

found during the assessment (Table 5). Charcoal was analysed from one sample from each of the six cremations which contained it (Table 6).

Results

The results of the analysis for charred seeds and chaff are listed in Table 5. The possible *Prunus spinosa* from [723] comprised most of the fruit in

addition to the stone. Seeds and chaff were absent from the samples from [822 and 958].

The results of the charcoal analysis are listed in Table 6. Ten or 20 fragments from each sample were identified using incident light high power microscopy. The charcoal from the Bronze Age flots was mostly in small fragments and it was difficult to determine whether it was from young or old wood. The *Prunus* and Pomoideae charcoal from the Romano-British pits was all

Table 5. Charred seeds and chaff

	Context (cut) Sample no	Late Bronze Age	Romano-British pits		
		723 (724) 615 a+b+c	863 (862) 805	919 (918) 808	943 (942) 811
	Volume (litres)	30	10	10	10
Seeds					
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	orache	—	2	2	—
<i>Vicia</i> or <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	vetch or tare	—	3	—	—
<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>spinosa</i> L.	sloe	1	—	—	—
<i>P. domestica</i> L.	plum	—	—	—	1
<i>P. avium</i> L.	cherry	—	—	—	1
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	dock	—	3	43	—
<i>Satureja hortensis</i> L.	summer savory	—	—	—	1
<i>Carex</i> sp.	sedge	—	—	1	—
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Shubl.	emmer wheat	3	—	—	—
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Shubl. or <i>spelta</i> L.	emmer or spelt wheat	4	2	1	—
cereal indet.		14	4	—	—
Gramineae indet.	grass	—	4	—	—
weed indet.		1	1	1	—
Chaff—glume bases					
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L.	spelt wheat	—	41	—	—
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Shubl. or <i>spelta</i> L.	emmer or spelt wheat	—	10	—	—

Table 6. Charcoal

	Context (cut) Sample no	Late Bronze Age			Romano-British pits)				
		723 (724) 615 a+b+c	Ditch 1 822 (819)	Ditch 2 958 (955)	831 (829)	863 (862) 805	867 (866) 806	919 (918) 808	922 (920) 809
	Volume (litres)	30	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	sloe, etc	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pomoideae indet.	hawthorn, etc	—	—	2	2	4	2	—	1
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	7	8	8	8	15	8	20	10
No. of fragments		10	10	10	10	20	10	20	10
Abundance of charcoal		++	++	+++	++	++++	+++	++++	+++

KEY: + present, ++ some, +++ much, ++++ very much.

small diameter wood with under ten rings. All the *Quercus* charcoal from [919], a single fragment from [863] and some of the fragments from [943] (the remainder were too small to determine) were also from small diameter wood with under 10 rings. All the *Quercus* charcoal from [822, 831, 867] and the remainder from [863] was from old wood and mostly had tyloses.

Discussion

The charred cereals from [723] were all either grains of *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer wheat) or grains that could have been from *T. dicoccum*. This provides useful evidence that emmer wheat remained a crop in the region into the Late Bronze Age. The assemblage of Late Bronze Age charred plant remains was too small to establish their origin and it is uncertain whether the fruit of *Prunus* cf. *spinosa* (sloe) represented a food item or not. The Late Bronze Age charcoal was unexceptional.

Quercus sp. (oak) was the main fuel used for the possible cremations. Sometimes the pyres appear mostly to have been sticks or branch trimmings and sometimes more substantial pieces of wood were burnt. The other plant remains from [863 and 919] probably represent kindling. In the case of [863] it comprised mostly crop processing waste, with many glumes of *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat). Seeds of *Rumex* sp. dominated the other charred remains from [919] and it is possible that dry weeds were used to start the fire. The interpretation of the remains from [943], a stone of *Prunus domestica* (plum), a stone of *Prunus avium* (cherry) and a seed of *Satureja hortensis* (summer savory) is more problematic. However, there are other examples of food plant remains being recovered from Roman cremations in the London area. Some of the Roman cremations from Hooper Street, East London contained charred *Lens culinaris* (lentils) (Dr D. de Moulins, pers comm).

DISCUSSION

Alistair Barclay with Philippa Bradley

The excavation confirmed the evidence from documentary sources; the area had remained a green field site until the construction of Penclose House and the Albert Ironworks in the 19th

century. The excavations identified the south-east boundary and part of the gardens of Penclose House. Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork recovered from the ploughsoils associated with these fields and from various features indicated the earliest activity across the site. Later prehistoric activity was found beneath these ploughsoils and consisted of ditches, a ditched droveway and a small open settlement.

The site

The earliest excavated features were found in Trench 7 and belong to a small open settlement comprising a house and a four-post structure of later Bronze Age date. Contemporary with this settlement is a boundary defined by the short stretch of Ditch [120] and an alignment of treeholes. Pottery from the ditch and from features within the house is identified as Mid-Late Bronze Age. If the pottery is contemporary with the settlement, then the house and the four-poster would belong to the same period as the ditch. Emmer wheat was found in direct association with Mid-Late Bronze Age sherds in one of the settlement features [724]. In plan the house consists of an irregular oval post-ring of approximately 5–6m in diameter, and a porch structure with the entrance facing north. The incompleteness of the post-ring could be a product of differential plough damage. An alternative interpretation of the porch structure representing a four-poster seems less likely given the greater size of two of the postholes.

The irregular, small size and slightly oval plan of the house is perhaps typical of some later Bronze Age settlements, comparable structures include two houses from Stanwell, six houses and an oval structure from Petters Sports Field, Surrey and structure IV from Ivinghoe Beacon, Buckinghamshire (O'Connell 1986 and 1990; Needham 1990, 115–118 and fig 34; Cotton and Frere 1968, 196). None of these examples are entirely convincing, but this appears to be a characteristic of some Late Bronze Age structures. Four-post structures are a common feature of both Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements and are often assumed to be granaries (Poole 1984, 93–4).

The pottery from the ditched droveway indicates that at least three of these ditches were laid out in the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Pottery and flintwork from Ditches 1 and

2 may indicate domestic refuse, either deliberately dumped or redeposited into the open earthwork. This pottery appears to have been re-deposited because there is pottery of Early Iron Age type from the lower fills of both Ditches 1 and 2. Middle Iron Age pottery from Ditch 3 and some of the upper fills of the other ditches indicates that the droveway remained in use for several centuries. In the Roman period a series of possible cremation deposits, some associated with pottery of probable 2nd-century date were placed in the top of Ditch 1. Roman activity appears to be insignificant and, on the basis of the ceramic evidence, of low status. Consequently, the double ditched droveway may just have survived as a much silted boundary at this time. Probable medieval ploughing appears to have disturbed these cremation deposits and truncated any surviving earthworks and relic ground surface.

A series of excavations around Uxbridge have produced evidence for prehistoric ditches of probably contemporary date. A pair of ditches were found at Three Ways Wharf, a pair of E-W ditches at the Cowley Business Park and a single ditch at Uxbridge Block III, Site I (Lewis 1989, 9; Bennett 1989 and Mills 1984). Another single ditch was found nearby at Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth (Cotton *et al* 1986, 48 and fig 34). If the small scale of some of these excavations is taken into consideration, then the area of Uxbridge may in fact overlie extensive Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age settlement. It is possible that the ditches at Harefield Road and the other sites in and around Uxbridge form part of a co-axial system of land division. At present this can only be substantiated by further excavation.

The site in a local and regional context

Mesolithic flintwork has been recovered from a number of sites within Uxbridge and its immediate area, for example at Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge (Lewis 1991, 254) and Mesolithic/Neolithic flint was found immediately south of Harefield Road (Mills 1984, 6). Similarities between the Harefield Road material and the substantial early Mesolithic flint scatter (scatter C) at Three Ways Wharf (Lewis 1991) have already been discussed. In the wider context Mesolithic flintwork has been found in the Colne Valley at such sites as Iver, Sandstone and Boyers Pit (Lacaille 1961; 1963; Lewis 1991, 247,

fig 23.1). Slightly further afield Mesolithic material has been recovered at Broxbourne in the Lea Valley (Collins 1976, 15).

Later prehistoric activity has been recorded in Uxbridge; Mills found evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity including a series of ditches, pits and scoops (Sites I and II) with contemporary pottery (Mills 1984). In the vicinity few contemporary sites have produced any quantity of lithic material, for example Runnymede Bridge (Saville 1991, 127) and Petters Sports Field, Egham (Pitts 1986, 9). Later Bronze Age flintwork has also been recovered from Harmondsworth, Cranford and Sipson although this is unpublished (Jon Cotton, pers comm). Late Bronze Age ceramics, flintwork and copper artefacts were recovered from a settlement site at Weston Wood, Albury, Surrey (Russell 1989) and Late Bronze Age flintwork has been recovered from excavations at Carshalton, Surrey (Adkins and Needham 1985, 41). In the wider context numerous later Bronze Age sites have been excavated in the Lower and Middle Thames Valley (Barrett and Bradley 1980), many of which have produced similar contemporary artefact assemblages.

The phenomenon of land division increases in the later Bronze Age, which in the context of southern England may reflect wider social and political change. The emergence of a variety of land divisions, including linear ditches, ditched droveways and coaxial field systems, appears to have happened diachronously within the region of the Thames Valley. Land divisions of various types and date are known along the length of the Thames Valley. Field systems and droveways have been recorded around the Thames estuary in Essex and Kent. At Mucking a Late Bronze Age ringwork was constructed over an existing field system, while at Gravesend pottery and radiocarbon dates indicate that a probable droveway was constructed around 1000 cal BC (Bond 1988; Mudd 1994).

In the middle Thames Valley probable Late Bronze Age droveways have been excavated at Stanwell (O'Connell 1990) and it is possible that the town of Uxbridge overlies a coaxial field system of comparable date (Mills 1984). An extensive coaxial field system of later Bronze Age date has been evaluated at Dorney and ditches and settlement activity have been excavated at Bray (Tim Allen pers comm; Barnes & Cleal 1995). Some evidence for land division has been found in the Kennet Valley and in the Upper

Thames Valley a number of coaxial field systems and linear ditches of later Bronze Age date have been recorded (Lambrick 1992, 88).

The ditches at Harefield Road, together with the various sites recorded around Uxbridge, reflect locally a much wider period of social and political change towards a more settled and bounded landscape.

At a later date, it should be noted, that the historic borough boundary to the west of the site was on a similar alignment to the droveway.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank the developers, Davies Street Properties Ltd, for their financial support of the fieldwork and the costs of publication. Thanks are also due to Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd the on-site contractors. The illustrations were the work of Paul Hughes and Lesley Collett of the OAU graphics office. Philippa Bradley wishes to thank Nick Merriman (Museum of London) for supplying the recording codes for worked flint, John Lewis (MoLAS) who kindly provided access to the early Mesolithic flint assemblage from Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge; Nick Barton for discussion of the Harefield Road assemblage and Jon Cotton (Museum of London) for discussing the unpublished later Bronze Age flint assemblages.

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The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society is grateful to Davies Street Properties Ltd for the costs of publishing this paper.