

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Michael Dawson



BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
MONOGRAPH 3

Cover illustration: How east Stagsden may have looked during phase 3,
the 'Belgic' Iron Age, oil on canvas, by Peter Froste

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

by

Michael Dawson

Contributors

M Allen (Molluscs), A Clarke (Archaeomagnetic Dating), B Dickinson (Samian),
H B Duncan, P Gentil (Artefacts), T A Jackman (Human Bones),
M Luke (West Stagsden), A F Roberts (Animal bone),
R Scaife (Plant Macrofossils), A M Slowikowski (Ceramics)

Illustrations by

C A Marshall and R M A Trevarthen

Bedfordshire Archaeology
Monograph 3
2000

Published jointly by
**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE,
DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
and
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Copyright © 2000 Bedfordshire County Council

All rights reserved

ISBN 0 95315 311 8

*Both the County Council and the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council are indebted
to the County Engineers for their funding of this volume.*

Contributions to the monograph series should be sent to:
The Editor, Michael Dawson, Wykes Farm, Allens Hill, Bozeat, Northants NN29 7LW.

Members of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council Editorial Committee for
Bedfordshire Archaeology and the monograph series:
Michael Dawson (Editor Monograph Series), Peter Wood (Treasurer),
Stephen Coleman (Editor *Bedfordshire Archaeology*),
John Hutchings, David Hall

Printed in England by Short Run Press Ltd, Exeter

CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
Summary	1
The excavations	1
Geology and Topography	1
A history of Stagsden	4
2 The Excavation Evidence <i>M Dawson with A M Slowikowski and H B Duncan</i>	11
2.1 West Stagsden	11
2.2 East Stagsden	21
3 The Artefactual Evidence	61
3.1 The Coarse Pottery <i>A M Slowikowski</i>	61
3.2 The Samian Wares <i>B Dickinson</i>	85
3.3 Kiln Furniture and Ceramic Building Material <i>P Gentil with A M Slowikowski</i>	86
3.4 The Non-ceramic Artefacts <i>P Gentil with H B Duncan</i>	92
4 The Ecofactual Evidence	105
4.1 The Landsnail Evidence <i>M J Allen</i>	105
4.2 The Charred Botanical Remains <i>R Scaife</i>	107
4.3 The Animal Bone Assemblage <i>A F Roberts</i>	116
4.4 The Human Bone <i>T A Jackman</i>	122
5 The Geotechnical Data	123
5.1 Geophysical survey <i>C F Gaffney, C Stephens, D Weston</i>	123
5.2 Archaeomagnetic Dating <i>A Clarke</i>	125
6 Discussion	127
6.1 Site morphology	127
6.2 Site development	130
6.3 Landscape development	132
7 Bibliography	135
<i>Index</i>	139

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Fig No</i>	<i>Description</i>	
1.	The location of Stagsden	2
2.	The drift geology of the Stagsden area	3
3.	The location of east Stagsden and west Stagsden	5
4.	West Stagsden, major features and area of investigation	6
5.	West Stagsden, the impact of medieval ploughing	7
6.	West Stagsden, all archaeological features	8
7.	West Stagsden, phased plan	9
8.	West Stagsden, phase 2. Ceramics from post hole 189, G28 (no 1); Post hole 144 (no 2)	13
9.	West Stagsden, phase 3 Ceramics from pit 128	15
10.	West Stagsden, roundhouse G24	17
11.	West Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from layer G26	18
12.	West Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from ditch 110	19
13.	West Stagsden, sections all phases	20
14.	East Stagsden, major features and area of investigation	22
15.	East Stagsden, the impact of medieval ploughing	23
16.	East Stagsden, all archaeological features	24
17.	East Stagsden, phases 1, 2, 3	25
18.	East Stagsden, phases 3, 4, 5	26
19.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G20	29
20.	East Stagsden, phase 1. Ceramics from pit 830 (no 25) and pit 554 (nos 26–31)	30
21.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G2	31
22.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G4 and G5	32
23.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G6	32
24.	East Stagsden, phase 2. Ceramics from pit 836	34
25.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G1	35
26.	East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from ditch G19	36
27.	East Stagsden, roundhouse G3	37
28.	East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from pit 699	38
29.	East Stagsden, kiln G9	39
30.	East Stagsden, kiln G10	40
31.	East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from pit 886	41
32.	East Stagsden, kiln G7	42
33.	East Stagsden, kiln G8	43
34.	East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from boundary ditch G16	45
35.	East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from pit 902 (no 60) and pit 990 (nos 61–63)	46
36.	East Stagsden, the human burial G31 in phase 4	47
37.	East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from the human burial G31 in pit 896 (nos 64–69 and pit 992 (nos 70–73)	48
38.	East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from human burial pit 992	49
39.	East Stagsden, phase 5. Ceramics from ditch G17	51
40.	East Stagsden, stone lined pit 556	52
41.	East Stagsden, phase 5. Ceramics from enclosure G22	57
42.	East Stagsden, sections all phases	58
43.	East Stagsden, sections all phases	59
44.	East Stagsden, sections all phases	74
45.	Ceramics type series. Fabric F14 Fine mixed	75
46.	Ceramics type series. Fabric F15 Coarse mixed	

47.	Ceramics type series. Fabric F16 Coarse shelly (nos 141–149); fabric F17 Grog (nos 150–152); fabric F27 Grog/shell (nos 153–159)	76
48.	Ceramics type series. Fabric F03 Grog/sand (nos 160–169); fabric F06A Fine grog (nos 170–176); fabric F06B Medium grog (nos 177–179)	77
49.	Ceramic type series. Fabric F07 Shelly (nos 182–192); fabric F08 shell/grog (nos 193–194)	78
50.	Ceramic type series. Fabric R04B G-B import (no 195); fabric F24 Shelly (nos 196–201); fabric R14 Harsh sandy (no 202); fabric R01 Samian (nos 203–206); fabric R03A Whiteware (no 207); fabric R06C, D, E Greyware (nos 208–212); fabric R07B Sandy blackware (nos 213–215); fabric R12B Nene Valley colour coat (no 216); fabric R13 Shelly (no 217)	79
51.	East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G10 (nos 218–227); kiln G9 (nos 228–229)	80
52.	East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G8	81
53.	East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G7	82
54.	East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G7	83
55.	East Stagsden, kiln furniture	89
56.	East Stagsden, kiln furniture	90
57.	Artefacts from west Stagsden	94
58.	Artefacts from east Stagsden	99
59.	Artefacts from east Stagsden	100
60.	Artefacts from east Stagsden	101
61.	Geophysical survey of areas adjacent to east Stagsden	124
62.	Ceramic distribution in G20	131
63.	Cropmark sites in the vicinity of Stagsden	133

LIST OF TABLES

Table Description

West Stagsden

1.	Description of pits in [G27]	11
2.	Pottery from pit group [G27]	11
3.	Pottery from roundhouse [G1]	12
4.	Pottery from roundhouse [G25]	12
5.	Postholes of [G28]	12
6.	Pottery from pits [G28]	12
7.	Description of hollows in pit G29	13
8.	Pottery from hollows G29	13
9.	Pottery from isolated features in phase 2	14
10.	Pottery from enclosure ditches [165] [167] in phase 3	14
11.	Pottery from enclosure ditches [132] [141] [169]	14
12.	Pottery from isolated layers [117] [126] [127]	16
13.	Pottery from isolated pits in phase 3	16
14.	Pottery from surfaces adjacent to roundhouse [G24]	17
15.	Pottery from layer [G26]	17
16.	Pottery from enclosure ditches [222] [226]	18
17.	Pottery from enclosure ditches [110] [148] [262] [264]	19
18.	Description of pits in [G30]	19
19.	Pottery from isolated features in phase 4	21

East Stagsden

20.	Description of post holes in roundhouse [G20]	21
21.	Pottery from [G20]	27
22.	Description of pits in phase 1	27
23.	Pottery from pits of phase 1	27
24.	Description of isolated features in phase 1	28
25.	Pottery from isolated features in phase 1	28
26.	Pottery from roundhouses in phase 2	29
27.	Description of pits in phase 2	30
28.	Pottery from pits in phase 2	30
29.	Description of three pits [836] [811] [809]	31
30.	Pottery from pits in phase 2	33
31.	Isolated features in phase 2	33
32.	Pottery from isolated features in phase 2	33
33.	Pottery from roundhouse [G1]	33
34.	Pottery from roundhouse [G3]	34
35.	Pottery from enclosure ditch [518]	35
36.	Pottery from roundhouse [G4]	35
37.	Description of pits in phase 3	37
38.	Pottery from pits in phase 3	37
39.	Pottery from kilns [G9] and [G10]	38
40.	Pottery from post holes [847] [881] and gully [888]	40
41.	Isolated features in phase 3	40
42.	Pottery from isolated features in phase 3	40
43.	Pottery from kilns [G8] and [G7]	42
44.	Pottery from the boundary ditch [G16]	44
45.	Pottery from boundary ditches in [G15]	44

46.	Pottery from ditch [G18]	44
47.	Isolated features in phase 4	44
48.	Pottery from isolated features phase 4	45
49.	Pottery from pits [896] and [892]	49
50.	Pre-Roman pottery from ditch [G17]	50
51.	Roman pottery from ditch [G17]	50
52.	Pottery from ditch [G32]	50
53.	Pottery in the stone lined pit or well [556]	51
54.	Pre-Roman pottery in enclosure ditch [G22]	53
55.	Roman pottery from [G22]	53
56.	Pottery from ditch [G14]	53
57.	Isolated features in phase 5	54
58.	Pottery from pits in phase 5	54
59.	Pits in the upper fills of ditch [G16]	54
60.	Pottery from isolated pits in phase 5	54
61.	Description of pits in the vicinity of enclosures [G22] and [G23]	55
62.	Pottery from pits in the vicinity of [G22] and [G23]	55
63.	Pits at the west end of east Stagsden	55
64.	Pottery from pits at the west end, phase 5	55
65.	Description of pits [640] and [651], phase 5	55
66.	Pottery from pits in phase 5	56
67.	Pottery from [G13] and [G23]	56
The artefacts		
68.	Ceramic catalogue	67
69.	Histograms: Ceramic fabrics by phase	72
70.	Samian forms	85
71.	Portable furniture from the kilns	87
72.	Fabric types of kiln furniture	91
73.	Nails by phase	93
74.	Coins from west Stagsden	95
75.	Iron Age and Roman artefacts from west Stagsden	96
76.	Nails from east Stagsden	97
77.	Coins from east Stagsden	98
78.	Flint assemblage from east Stagsden by phase and context	102
79.	Finds by functional category and phase at east Stagsden	103
The ecofacts		
80.	Mollusca from the Stagsden sites	106
81.	The charred plant remains from west Stagsden	111
82.	The charred plant remains from east Stagsden, phases 1 & 2	112
83.	The charred plant remains from east Stagsden, phase 3	113
84.	The charred plant remains from east Stagsden, phase 4	114
85.	The charred plant remains from east Stagsden, phase 5	115
86.	West Stagsden, animal bone by phase, species and feature type	118
87.	West Stagsden, number of animal bones by phase and feature type	118
88.	East Stagsden, animal bone by phase, species and feature type	119
89.	East Stagsden, numbers of animal bones by phase and feature type	119
90.	West Stagsden: bones identified to species	121
91.	East Stagsden: bones identified to species	121
Discussion		
92.	Pits; finds profile	128
93.	Size of round houses at east and west Stagsden	129

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological report on the excavations on the Stagsden bypass is the result of a great deal of enthusiasm, co-operation and hard work. The excavation itself took place in the early stages of construction of the A422 road shortly after the start of topsoil removal, and the project would not have been possible without the help and co-operation of the County Council's Engineers Department and their main contractors Roadworks (1952) Ltd.

Of the excavation team, the hard work and enthusiasm was supervised on the ground by Mike Luke at west Stagsden, Steve Robinson at east Stagsden and Chris Moore, who was responsible for the early reporting during the watching brief on the initial build. On site the day to day work was undertaken by Mike Trevarthen, Mark Philips, Andy Thomas, Ian Boustead, Sue Diamond, Kirsty Heyward, Ed McSloy, Ron Humphrey, G Moore, Steve Leach, Greg Watson, Mike McDaid, Helen Parslow, Ian Beswick, A Rutherford, Mark Bell and Dawn Enright. Brian Biddle was responsible for environmental sampling, Terry Jackman for human bone and Sue Hedley provided essential administrative support.

In post excavation various people have been involved. Steve Robinson wrote the first draft of east Stagsden which was added to by Andy Thomas. The preliminary analysis of west Stagsden was undertaken by Antony Maull and Mike Luke. The non-ceramic artefacts report was written by Paula Gentil under the direction of Holly Duncan, the ceramics report by Anna Slowikowski, Samian by Brenda Dickinson. Dr Mike Allen, Tony Roberts and Dr Rob Scaife respectively wrote the snail, animal bone and plant microfossil reports. The archaeomagnetic date was undertaken by Tony Clarke whose enthusiasm on the day for the opportunity took him well into the evening after the excavation had closed. The illustrations in this report have been prepared by Mike Trevarthen, Lisa Padilla and Cecily Marshall. The whole assemblage was drawn together by Cecily Marshall.

In County Hall the support of the County Archaeologist, David Baker, in his negotiations with the County Engineers Team was invaluable. The project was undertaken by Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service, with funding provided by the County Engineers. Bedfordshire Archaeological Council contributed over 50% of the costs of printing this volume.

1 INTRODUCTION

Summary

Excavations at two sites south of Stagsden took place in advance of construction of the A422 southern bypass in 1991. The two sites investigated both had their origins in the Iron Age and both have evidence of settlement into the Roman period. At east Stagsden the settlement area was initially dominated by round-houses and pit groups. In the final stages of the Iron Age, kilns were constructed on the site and a single elaborate neonate burial placed in a shallow pit. The site was subsequently levelled but continued to be venerated for several generations into the Roman period. At west Stagsden the earlier Iron Age settlement continued to be occupied on a small scale well into the Roman period. This report not only contains details of the temporal development of the site but has a large illustrated corpus of locally made ceramics closely dated by archaeomagnetic techniques. The latter will make a significant contribution to local ceramic and Iron Age studies of the region.

The excavations

Archaeological investigation of the route of the Stagsden bypass began in 1987, prior to the publication of PPG16, with a brief desk top assessment by the County Heritage Officer, Angela Simco. This survey drew attention to the location of an indistinct linear cropmark (SMR 14711) close to the eastern end of the bypass.

In May 1991 a watching brief was undertaken by Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) after start of works by Roadworks (1952) Ltd., funded by the County Engineers (Improvements) Department. Following initial topsoil removal by D8 tractor and box scraper two sites were identified. The first was located at the western end of the bypass, the second close to, and part of, the site indicated by the cropmarks (SMR 14711) in the east. The first site was excavated over two weeks in June and the second in July and August 1991.

In July 1995 the area adjacent to east Stagsden was examined by geophysical survey as part of the post fieldwork analysis programme. It was intended to map the extent of the site, and locate any further

industrial activity following the discovery of several pottery kilns during excavation.

Geology and Topography

The two sites in this report were situated in the parish of Stagsden, Bedfordshire, on the route of the A422 bypass which occupies a shallow valley south of the present village of Stagsden. The road was located on the northern side of the valley, to take advantage of the shallow slope above the course of a seasonal stream, called the Serpentine Brook. This drains south into the River Great Ouse below Bromham village. Today, although the valley is dry for most of the year, it forms part of the wider Ouse drainage. The resulting topography has provided a route westwards since at least the medieval period. On the south side of the bypass the ground rises a little more steeply before reaching the top of a clay ridge which extends south, running almost parallel with the River Great Ouse, as far as Kempston Bell End. Stagsden is mentioned in Domesday when it formed part of the holding of Hugh de Beachamp.

The two archaeological sites investigated during the construction of the road were: west Stagsden, located at the west end of the bypass on top of the clay ridge; and east Stagsden which lies south east of Stagsden village in an area straddling the interface between the underlying Oxford Clay and an outcropping layer of cornbrash. The first site, west Stagsden, comprised the margins of an Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead and included pits, part of a round house and ditched boundaries. The second site, east Stagsden, was a settlement occupied in the late Iron Age with some evidence for activity continuing into the Roman period. This settlement included several round houses, pottery kilns as well as a series of boundary ditches and a large pit group.

The solid geology of the area comprises a band of Oxford clay which forms a ridge running across northern Bedfordshire first cut through by the River Great Ouse at Bromham and Clapham and eroded by tributaries along its length like that at Stagsden. The result is that the Ouse Valley above Bedford is dominated by a series of clay ridges

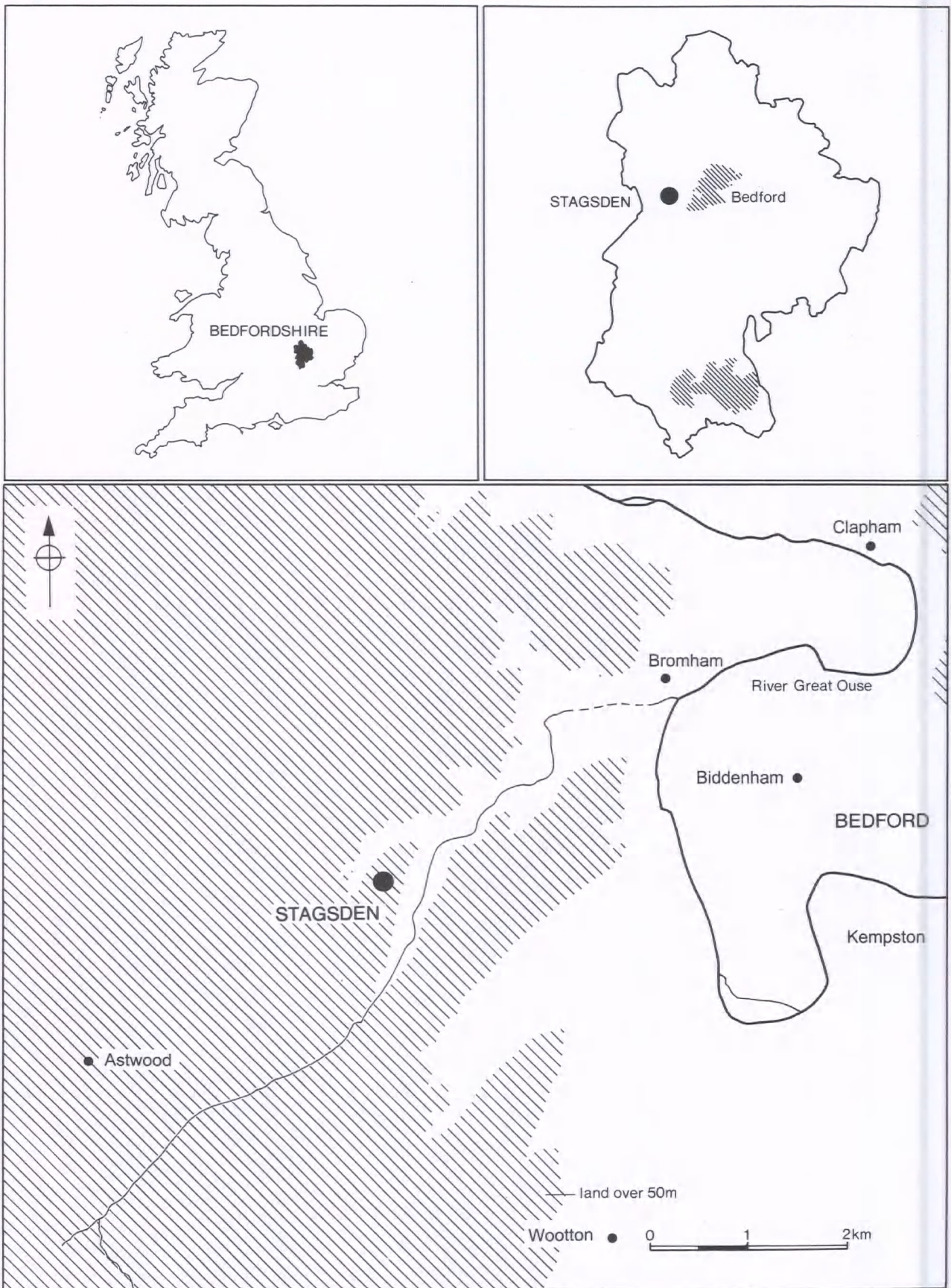


Fig. 1. The location of Stagsden.

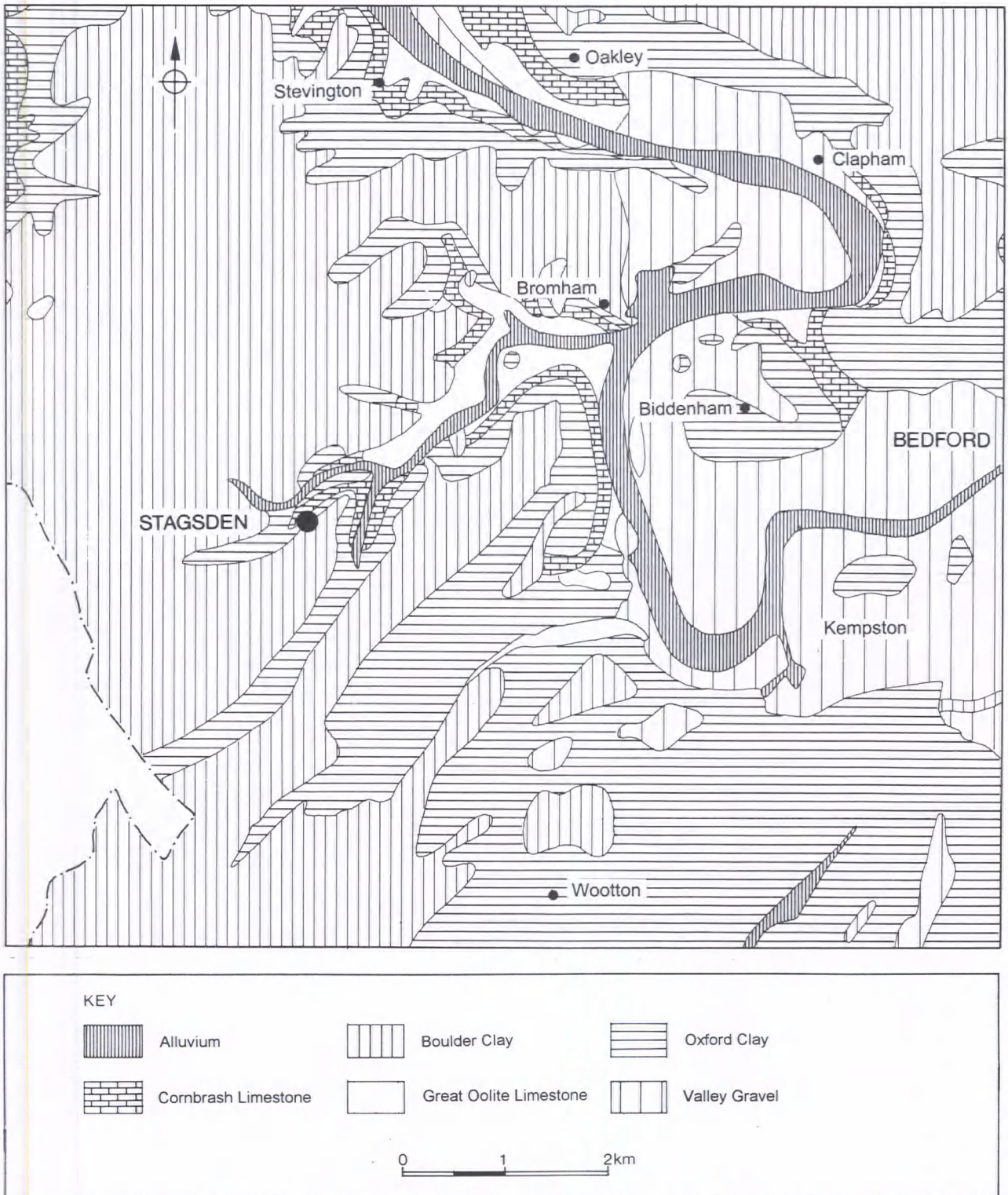


Fig. 2. The drift geology of the Stagsden area.

forming low hills such as those at Clapham and Pavenham. Below Bromham the river flows eastwards through a wide flat valley towards Sandy and Tempsford. Glacial activity at Stagsden has left superficial deposits on the tops of the clay ridges which comprise yellowy weathered clays with a high stone content and this is the underlying material upon which west Stagsden was founded. The valley stream however has eroded through the Oxford clay to expose the cornbrash which at east Stagsden formed the boundary between the Oxford clay on the upper western side and alluvial deposits on the lower eastern side. The drift geology sequence was identified as part of the ground investigations for the bypass and during archaeological clearance. Recent and Pleistocene deposits in the valley comprised mainly sand and silty clays with varying proportions of gravel often interdigitated with cohesive alluvium. The alluvium itself comprised mainly sandy clays with varying proportions of gravel and, locally, sands and gravels. At the southern end of the bypass the sandy silty clays, which contained some gravels, overlay a band of Oxford clays. The Jurassic sequence at east Stagsden comprised a band of outcropping Cornbrash on the northern side of the valley which divided the site into two, the upslope Blisworth clays and the downslope mixed clays and alluvium of the Upper Estuarine Series. East Stagsden lay on soils of the Evesham 3 Association.

West Stagsden occupies a low knoll west of the modern village, on non calcareous gley soils of the Moreton Association. The soils, although intensely farmed today, are heavy clays listed as Grade 1 by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, whilst the lighter soils of east Stagsden are Grade 3. The location of the latter site seems to have clearly influenced the location of activities represented by kilns and pits.

A history of Stagsden

The parish of Stagsden, 3419 acres, is located west of Bedford. Little is known of early Stagsden, although a parish survey suggests the earliest visible features in the landscape are routeways (White

1976). There are few documented changes to the parish boundary. 'East end' was transferred to Bromham in 1934 and the boundary with Astwood has been smoothed at SP96054825.

The routeways comprise what are now bridleways between Bromham and Cranfield Bourne End and from Bromham Grange towards Turvey. The sunken ways run north to south; one part of a road between London and York, via Harrold Bridge and a second congruent with Cut Throat Lane.

The holdings listed in Domesday suggest a large Saxon population. Land was held by four major landowners: Countess Judith, Hugh de Beachamp, the Bishop of Bayeaux and Count Eustace (Steele-Elliot 1924). By the 13th century there were four moated sites in the parish at Ducksworth, in the manor of Dylwik and in the manor of Bosoms at Wick End. Most of the landed property was gradually acquired by the Mordant family in the 14th and 15th centuries. The decline in their fortunes led to the transfer of their Stagsden property to the Trevor family in 1710. The estate was bought by the Crown Commission of Woods and Forests in 1873 but was sold at auction in 37 lots in 1921.

The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1828 before which it had been predominantly open fields (Court Baron for the Manor of Stagsden 1734). Although including some rich agricultural land, particularly around Church End, the geology means the parish is susceptible to drought. The parish has always been largely agricultural with very little evidence of industry. Some limestone quarrying has taken place, most notably for the 13th century church of St Leonards, and clay was extracted from behind Broadmead Farm from a field known as 'Claypits'.

The two sites in this report were located in Town Field, west Stagsden, and Oak Field, east Stagsden; both were close to and on the northern valley side of the Serpentine Brook. Both were affected by ridge and furrow oriented north to south, probably a remnant of the open field system.

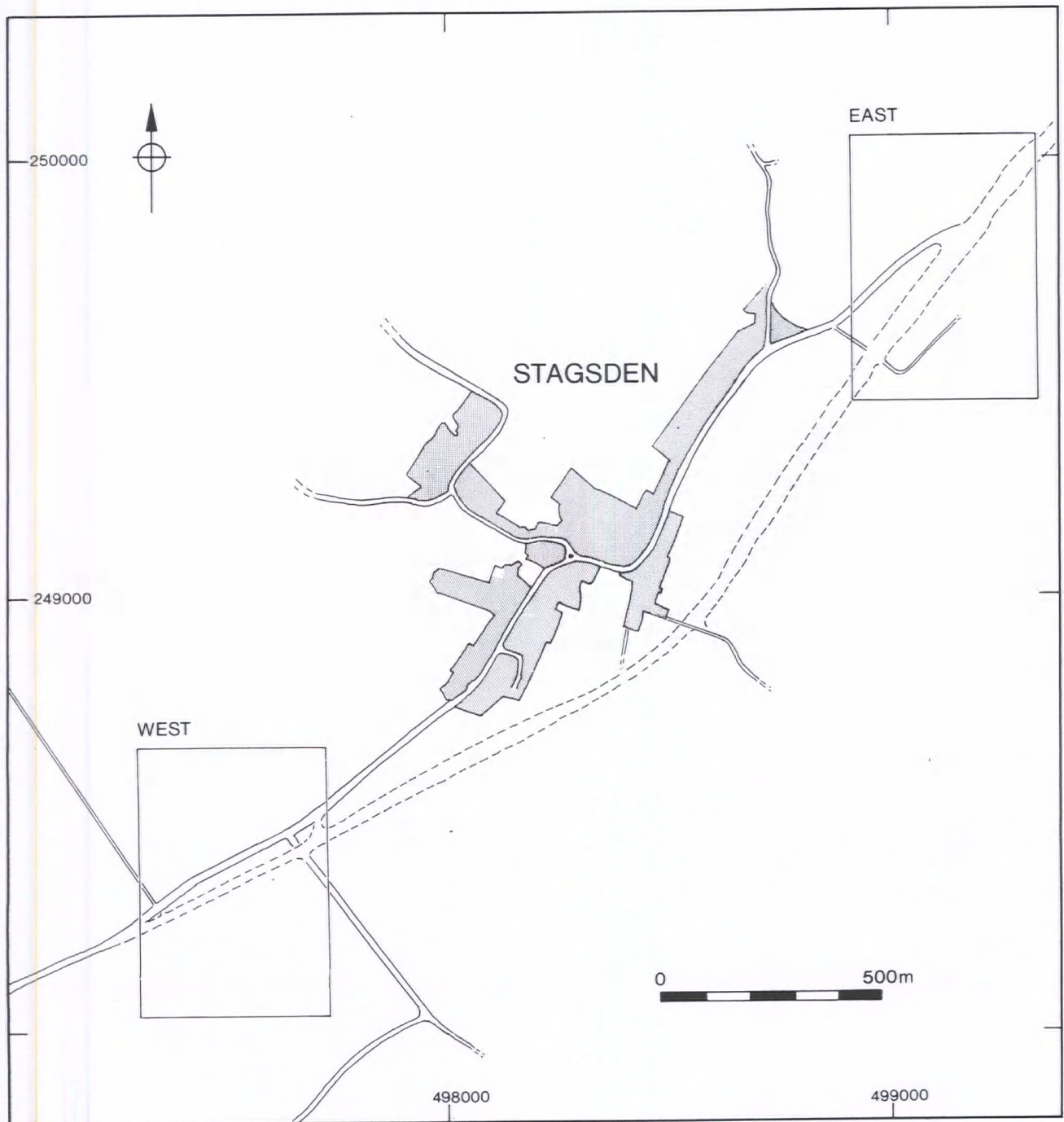


Fig. 3. The location of east Stagsden and west Stagsden.

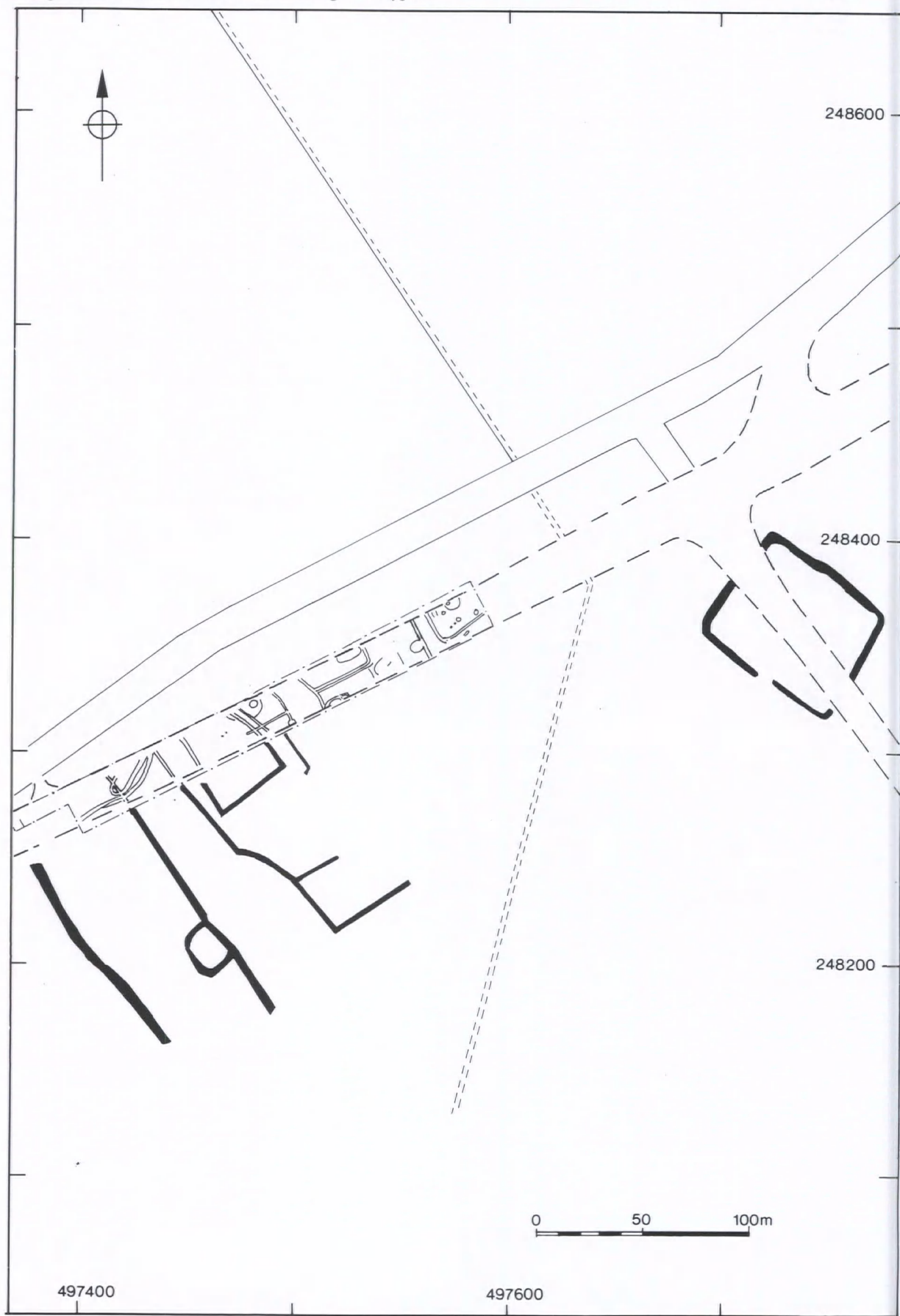
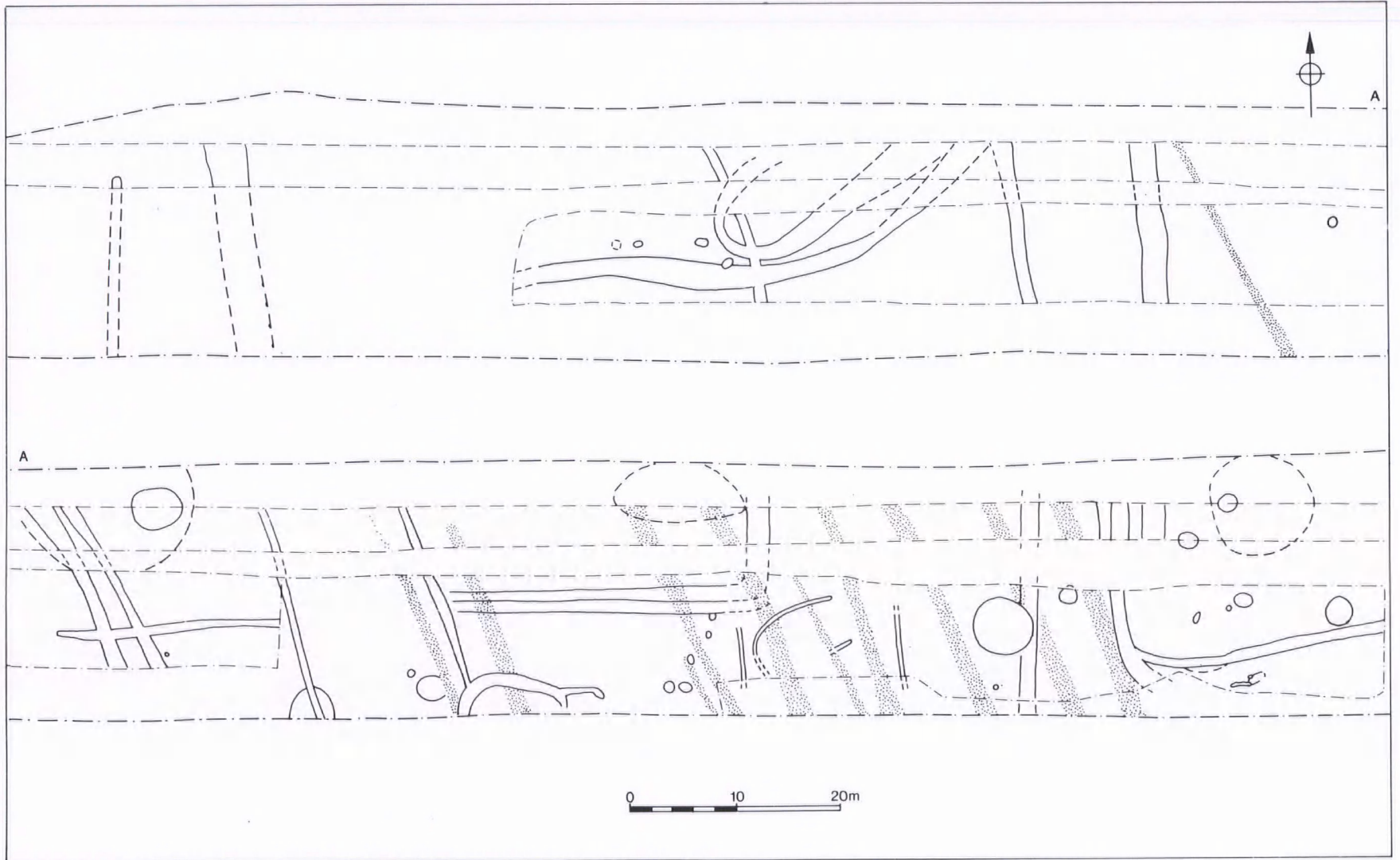


Fig. 4. West Stagsden, major features and area of investigation. Cropmarks in black.



7

Fig. 5. West Stagsden, the impact of medieval ploughing.

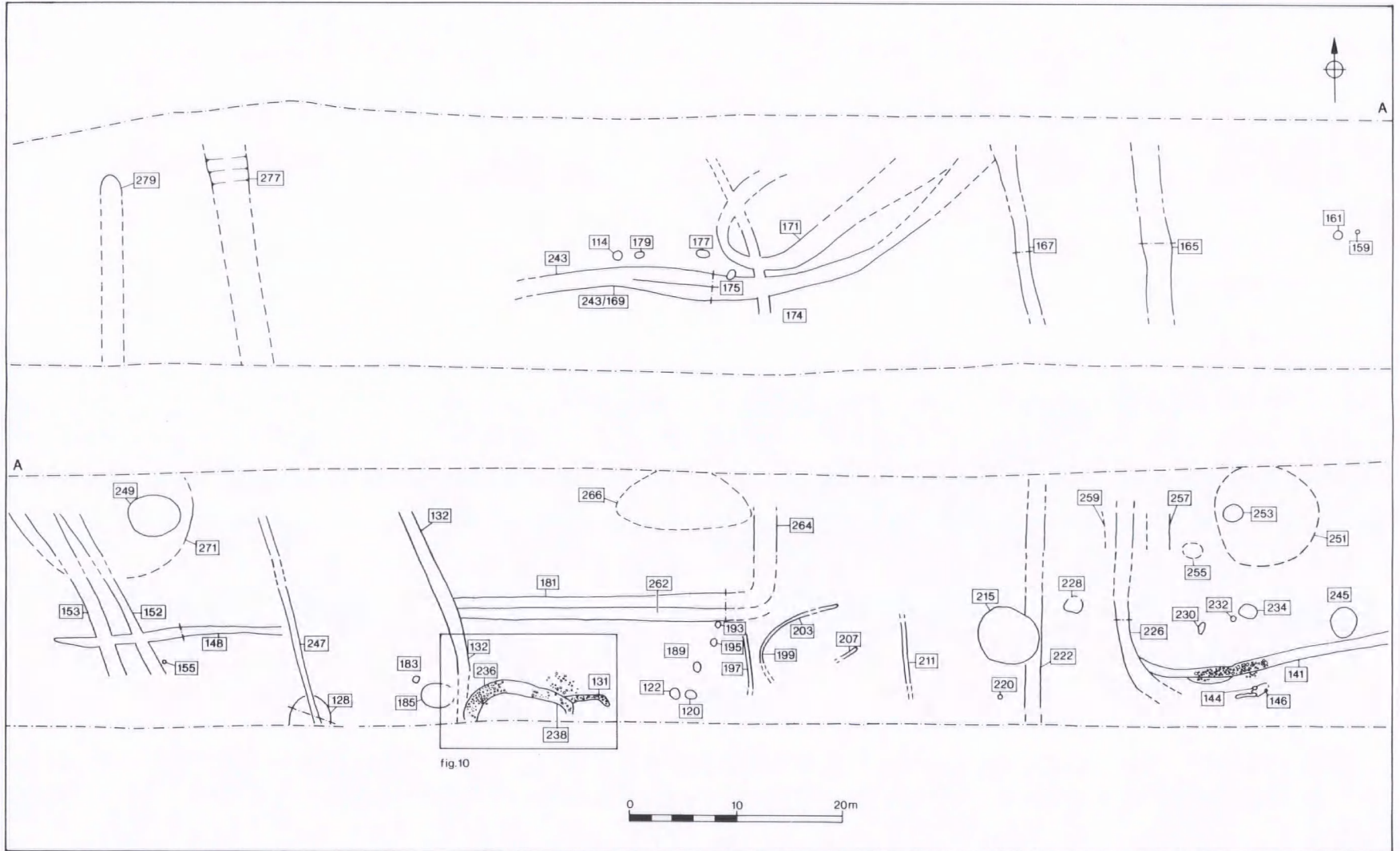


Fig. 6. West Stagsden, all archaeological features.

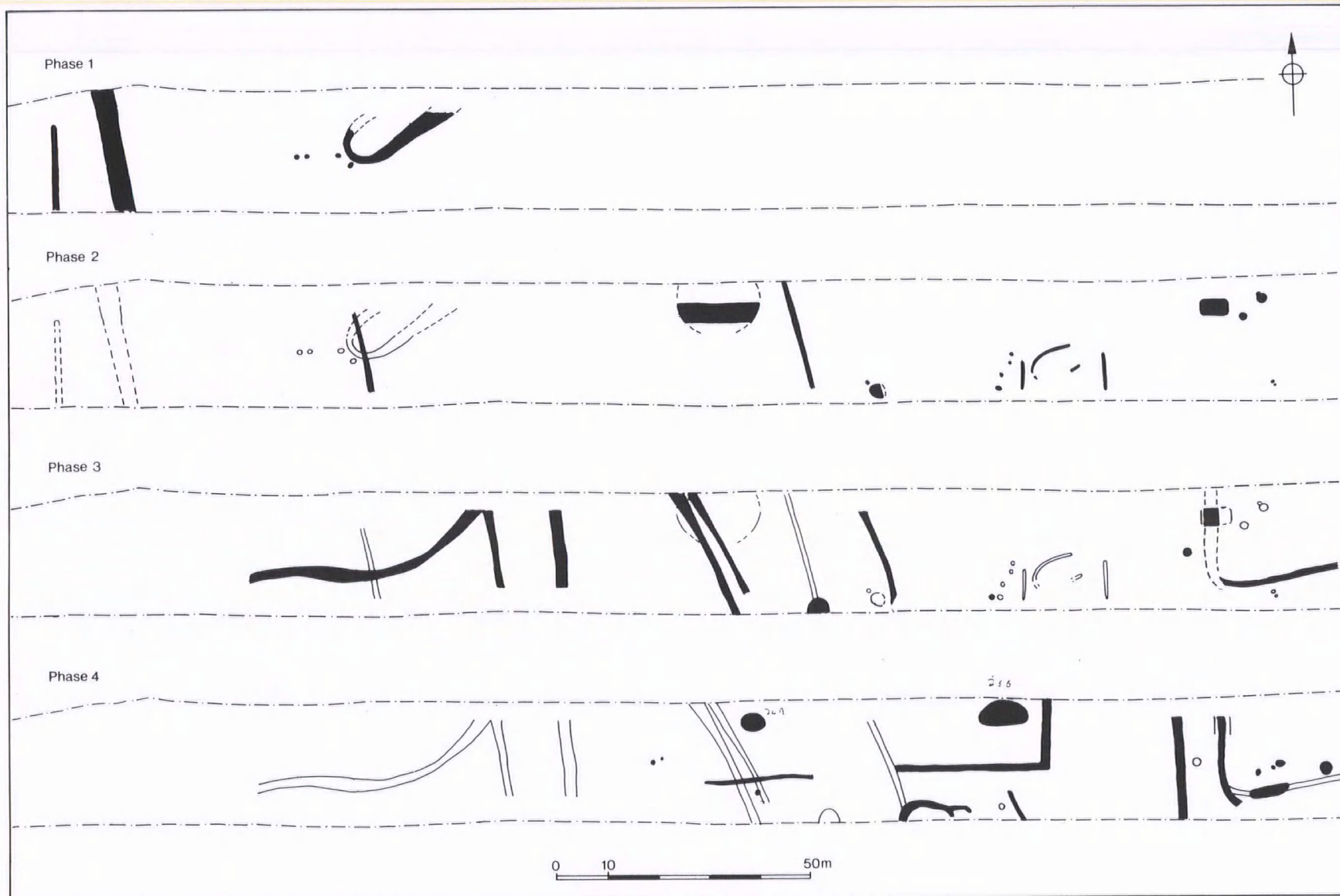


Fig. 7. West Stagsden, phased plan.

2 THE EXCAVATION EVIDENCE

Introduction

The two sites discovered during archaeological investigations along the route of the Stagsden bypass were originally designated site 1, west Stagsden and site 2, east Stagsden. Located to the west of Stagsden village, the first site was excavated in inclement weather, under salvage conditions. Initial investigation was limited to the 15m wide road corridor, with a second stage of recording, during construction, of the northern drainage ditch of the new highway. The second site, east Stagsden, was at the eastern end of the bypass route. This site was excavated in arid conditions in two episodes, the south carriageway, followed by the northern carriageway.

2.1 West Stagsden

Summary

The first site at Stagsden was identified during topsoil stripping of the route of the Stagsden bypass (figs 3 and 4).

Eight phases of activity were identified, of which phases 1–4 were of archaeological interest. The remainder either represent natural features or medieval/post medieval agriculture. Only phases 1 to 4 are described in this report; records of the remainder can be found as part of the site archive which will be deposited in Bedford Museum, Acc No 1991/217.

The contextual evidence, which is described below, has been grouped by structure, such as enclosure, roundhouse or grave where a clear association could be determined. These have been designated [G**]. Remaining features, such as pits, ditches or isolated postholes which could not be so readily assigned to a group have been left as individual features grouped by generic heading, such as 'Isolated Features' or 'Pits' etc. Much of the descriptive data has been tabulated for ease of reference.

Phase 1 Pre 'Belgic' Iron Age

The evidence for the earliest phase of activity was found at the west end of the site. It consisted of a

pit group, a roundhouse, together with a shallow gully possibly representing one side of an enclosure. These remains probably represent activities on the periphery of a larger settlement located beneath the fields adjacent to the road corridor.

Pits G27

G27 comprised four pits [114, 175, 177, 179]. All contained the same clay fills suggesting they may have been subject to similar depositional processes. The pit group may be contemporary with ditch [171] which appears to terminate to the east. None of the pits was fully excavated, and only pits [114] and [179] produced any pottery (table 2), comprising small quantities of pre- 'Belgic' types.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
114	0.9m dia.	Unknown	Circular pit, dark grey-brown silty clay fill, rare small stones (115)
175	0.9m dia.	Unknown	Sub-circular pit, dark brown silty clay fill, occasional small and medium sized stones (176)
177	1.5m x 0.9m	Unknown	Oval pit, dark brown silty clay fill, rare small stones (178)
179	0.9m x 0.6m	Unknown	Oval pit, dark brown silty clay fill, rare small and medium sized stones (180).

Table 1: Pits of G27

F. no	F14	F15	F27
114	2/2/21		1/2/26
179	3/3/52	3/5/75	

Table 2: Pottery from pit group G27 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Roundhouse and enclosure

A curving length of ditch [171] probably represented part of a small circular structure in the corner of an enclosure. The structure may have been less than 10m diameter and was probably a small roundhouse. The enclosure ditch was aligned south-west to north-east for 20m before turning northwards; its profile was asymmetrical and steep on the north side. Along the southern stretch its width was fairly uniform at 1.6m, but on the north-south alignment it narrowed to 1.3m. The ditch was filled by (278) a dark brown-grey silty clay with occasionally, small and medium sized stones, some burnt. There were no discernible differences in the fills (172) along the length of the ditch to suggest peripheral activities (fig 6, 13).

Approximately 18m further to the west, ditch [279] may have formed part of a linear enclosure. It had a rounded terminal and was some 2m wide and 1m deep, filled by (278) a light grey-brown silty clay with some small stones and charcoal, a similar fill to ditch [277].

F. no	F14	F16	F17	F27	F03
171	6/18/300	5/5/176	2/2/25	18/23/307	1/1/15
279	1/1/8				

Table 3: Pottery from the roundhouse phase 1 ditches (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The pottery from the enclosure ditch [279] comprised a single sherd of pre-'Belgic' type (table 3). A larger assemblage was recovered from drip gully [171], including upright-rimmed ovoid jars and a handled vessel (nos 119, 124, 148, 157). The fragmentary remains of an iron sheet were also present in the fill of the gully [171].

Phase 2 Late Iron Age

In phase 2 the focus of activity, within the road line, appears to shift eastwards with features concentrated on a south-west to north-east alignment. In this phase a small settlement with at least one building, pits, several hollows and a pond was established beside a large linear enclosure to the west.

Roundhouse, pits, hollows

Roundhouse G25, consisted of a curving drip gully [199, 203], truncated by two medieval furrows. The arc of the gully described a circle 11m in diameter, and was exposed for over 12m. It was approximately 0.4m wide. The terminal at the east was rounded in plan and the drip gully [203] was filled by a brown silty clay with few small stones (204). There was no evidence for a contemporary ground surface or floor level. Associated with the curving gully were two slots aligned north to south [197, 211], both over 6m in length and 0.4m wide, possibly the beam slots of adjacent structures. Their fills (198, 212) both consisted of brown silty clay with some small stones. These were not excavated, but were scanned for artefacts. A similar slot [207] nearly 2m in length and 0.4m wide, filled by the same material

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Character of fill
120	1m	Unknown	Sub-circular post hole, grey-brown silty clay fill, occasional medium sized stones and rare large stones, frequent charcoal flecks (121)
189	1m x 0.5m	0.35m	Oval post hole, mid grey-brown silt fill, occasional large stones, rare charcoal flecks and burnt clay (190)
193	0.65m dia.	Unknown	Circular post hole, dark grey-brown silt fill, occasional medium sized stones (194)
195	0.7m dia.	Unknown	Circular post hole, light brown clay, rare small stones (196)

Table 5: Post holes in G28

(208), was situated 5m south of slot [203]. A small quantity of pottery was recovered from the roundhouse (table 4), amongst which is a fragment from an everted-rim jar in a fine Roman greyware (R06C). If this sherd is not intrusive, it indicates that the gully [203] may not have been completely filled until the Roman period.

F. no	F07	F08	R06C
197		2/2/13	
199	1/1/1		
203			1/1/10

Table 4: Pottery from Roundhouse G25 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Pits G28 Four pits or post holes of similar dimensions were located to the west of roundhouse G25 and may represent one side of an earthfast structure. The four pits formed an alignment north-north-east to south-south-west, over 8m.

F. no	F16	F07	F09
120	1/1/22	1/1/3	
189		2/2/23	1/1/29
195			2/4/38

Table 6: Pottery from pits G28 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The pottery from the post holes dates to the 1st century AD, and is probably contemporary with phase 4 at east Stagsden. A base sherd from post hole [189] is impressed with the same mark that occurs on pottery from kiln [G8] (no 1). A single nail (Manning Type 1b) was recovered from the fill of post hole [195].

Hollows G29 At the east end of west Stagsden was a series of hollows which can be divided into two sub-groups based on their profiles and size. The first sub-group comprised two large depressions [251] and [257], and the second two large pits [253] [255]. The two shallow depressions were recorded on the periphery of the excavation and possibly represent small quarry pits. Both contained sherds of late Iron Age pottery and [253] contained a small sherd of Roman fine blackware (R07B).

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Character of fill
251	9.5m	0.6m	Sub circular hollow, yellow-brown silty clay fill, with rare small stones (252). Steep sided with undulating base
257	>0.4m x >0.2m	1.4m	Oval hollow, dark yellow-brown sandy silty clay fill, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks (258). Steep sided.
253	1.6m x 0.9m	0.7m	Oval hollow, grey-brown silty clay fill, with rare small stones (244). Steep sided.
255	1.7m x 1m	1.2m	Oval hollow, dark yellow-brown silty clay fill, occasional medium sized stones and rare small stones, occasional charcoal flecks (256). Steep sided with concave base

Table 7: Hollows G29

F. no	F07	F08	F09	R07B
251			1/1/1	
257	1/1/8			
253		1/1/16		1/1/3

Table 8: Pottery from hollows G29 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The western enclosures

On the western side of the habitation area, were three parallel ditches which might indicate an enclosure system oriented north to south.

Ditch [277] was oriented north to south, and during excavation was only recorded in the roadside drainage channel. It had an asymmetrical profile, steep sided on the east and was 3.1m wide and over 1m deep. The ditch was filled by a light grey-brown silty clay with occasional stones of variable size (278). Charcoal flecks and burnt stones in the fill suggest settlement activity near by. Aerial photograph evidence (fig 4) indicates this ditch was part of a larger enclosure system represented by [174] and [247] which extends further south. A third part of the enclosure system may be represented by ditch [222]. This contained fragmentary, abraded and probably residual late Iron Age ceramics F05 and F07, with a fragment of modern land drain indicating later disturbance. The ditch was 2.2m wide and 1m deep, with a steep eastern slope down to a narrow, concave base, filled by a light-dark brown silty clay (223).

Isolated features

In addition to the grouped features were several isolated pits and post holes together with a pond or waterhole:

Pit [185] was oval in plan, aligned east to west and truncated at the east end by a medieval furrow. It was only partially investigated, revealing steep sides. It was filled by a dark grey-black silty clay with small stones (186).

Pit [183] was north-west of pit [185], oval in shape. The only fill (184) in this feature was a dark grey silty clay with rare small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.

Pond [271] was 25m west of the nearest contemporary feature. The upper fill of this feature was truncated by medieval furrows and a phase 4 pit [253]. The pond was 17m long with a symmetrical profile and sloping sides at around 45°. The base of the pond was not recorded, but was at least 1.8m below topsoil. The lowest fill (270) identified within this feature survived against the sides (0.2m thick) and was a yellow-brown silty clay with few stones. Further silt (269) was partially visible at the bottom and

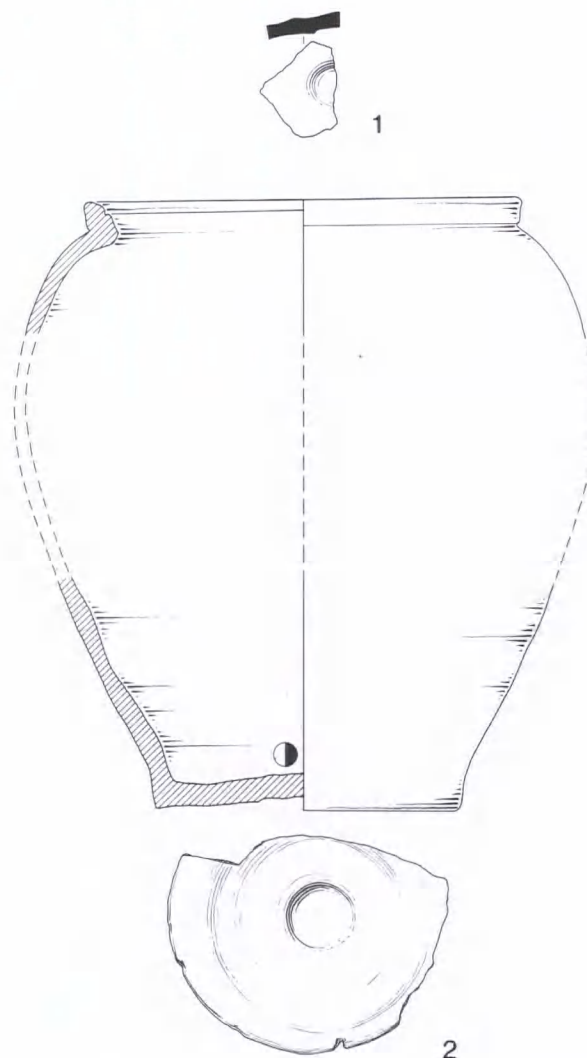


Fig. 8. West Stagsden, phase 2. Ceramics from post hole 189, G28 (no 1); post hole 144 (no 2) Scale 1:4.

against the sides of the pond, some 0.2m thick, light grey-brown silty clay with stone, charcoal flecks and small fragments of animal bone. The upper fill (268) was a yellow-brown silty clay with some stone.

F. no	F14	F03	F06A	F06B	F07	F09
144					2/125/2692	
146		1/1/27		1/4/171*	1/1/35	
183					3/6/110	
185		1/1/2	2/9/118		4/7/111	1/1/23
271	1/1/2					1/2/13

Table 9: Pottery from isolated features (*cross context with [128] in phase 3 discussed below) (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Pottery from the isolated features (table 9) is late Iron Age in date with 'Belgic' characteristics. Assemblages in [183, 185, 271] comprise a variety of tablewares, including bowls, platters, cups and butt beakers. The two sherds of fabric types F03 and F14 are both small, abraded and probably residual.

Cremation? [144]. On the south-east side of the site were two small features: one, [146], may have been an isolated post hole; the second [144] could have been a cremation. The latter was sub-circular in plan, 0.4m in diameter, with symmetrical sides and a flat base, filled by (145) a grey-brown silty clay. In the fill was the truncated base of a pottery vessel suggesting that this may once have been a cremation. Approximately 50% of the pot survives although it is shattered into many pieces. The pot is a lid-seated jar of shelly F07 type (no 2) and is marked on the base with an impressed roundel of the type found on pottery in kiln G8. There was also a fragment of a *tegula* in this pit.

Phase 3 Late 1st – late 2nd century AD

In phase 3, activity shifted slightly away from the phase 2 focus, with settlement activity more certainly concentrated beyond the excavated area. The activity investigated in phase 3 was characterised by a series of rectangular enclosures continuing the system and orientation established in phase 2. In addition to the boundary ditches there was a series of small pits and several isolated features. The majority of boundaries share common alignments and their potential extent is made explicit by the aerial photograph data (fig 4).

Enclosures

In the central part of the site two pairs of ditches [153/152] and [167/165] form the eastern and western limits of enclosures oriented north to south (fig 6, 13). On the western side, ditch [167]

averaged 1.3m wide and was over 0.4m deep, with a reasonably symmetrical profile. The aerial photograph data suggests this ditch formed the western axis of a series of possibly three enclosures which hung off it to the east. Parallel and slightly to the east was [165] which formed, with its return [153], a small sub-rectangular enclosure. This enclosure, whilst part of the larger series, may have been double-ditched with [152] forming the outer perimeter.

F. no	F06C	F07	R06C
165	1/1/7	2/2/9	1/1/7
167		3/4/124	

Table 10: Pottery from the enclosure ditches (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The pottery from the enclosure ditches is fragmentary (table 10), but includes a rim sherd from a fine greyware R06C jar and a Langton Down brooch (Rf 124) suggesting that the ditches were not finally filled until the Roman period.

Ditch [132] extended across the entire width of the site, but was obscured towards the south by a furrow. The ditch was aligned approximately north-south almost parallel to the track-way [167/165]. It was 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep, with a symmetrical profile and rounded base. It was filled by (133) a dark brown-grey silty clay with few stones, flecked with charcoal. The ditch probably represents a field or enclosure boundary, part of the same system as [174], [167], [165].

Ditch [141/259] was aligned east to west, approximately 1.2m wide and 0.15m deep. It too probably represents the remains of an enclosure. It was filled by (116) a light brown-yellow silty clay with occasional stones. Perpendicular to [141] was ditch [259], 2.3m wide and 1m deep. The profile of the feature was asymmetrical with a steep east side down to a narrow concave base. It was filled by (260) a dark yellow-brown silty clay which included some moderately sized stones and charcoal flecks.

F. no	F14	F03	F05	F06C	F07	F08	F09	R13	R01A	R01B	R18A	R06C	R06D	R05A
132		1/1/15	1/1/1	1/1/7	1/1/26			8/14/300	1/1/25	1/1/25	1/1/3	5/7/126		2/2/13
141/259					2/2/34	1/1/1	1/2/43					3/3/35	1/3/9	1/1/15
169	1/1/25		2/4/15		2/4/43				1/1/4					

Table 11: Pottery from the enclosure ditches (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Secondary enclosures

Crossing the enclosures on the north side was a sinuous ditch [243/169] possibly the remains of a secondary enclosure boundary. It was aligned east to west for the majority of its visible length but towards the east, turned to the north-east. The original channel of this ditch [169] was recut [243] broadly on the same alignment but deviating slightly in one area. The earliest ditch [169] was 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep; it had an asymmetrical profile with a steep north side and gently sloping south side. It was filled by (170) a light-brown silty clay with few stones. The recut ditch [243] followed the same alignment as the earlier ditch, was 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep and was steep sided on the north. It was filled by (244) a yellow-brown silty clay with few stones. It was impossible to determine the relationship between this enclosure and the main sequence based on [167] (fig 13).

All the vessels from the enclosure ditches were fragmentary, with the latest dating to the early Roman period, and probably no later than the end of the 2nd century AD (table 11). The ceramic date range is complemented by the presence of a Hod Hill brooch (Rf 123) of mid- to late 1st century AD from the fill of [132].

The largest ceramic assemblage, from ditch [132], includes a number of varied forms, among them bowls, lid-seated or channel-rim jars, storage jars and flagons, in a variety of fabrics. One samian bowl was recovered from ditch [169], and comprises a number of joining sherds from neighbouring contexts: layers (113, 117) and pit [122]. The pit and the ditch may have been filled from the same source that contained the samian sherds.

Isolated features

Several layers (113, 117, 126, 127, 188) of stony material survived beneath the phase 4 roundhouse G24 (fig 10). They comprised mid-dark brown-grey silts with occasional stones and some charcoal flecks. The only variation within the material was in the quantity of stones (117). These deposits occur to the east of ditch [132] and may represent a partially preserved buried soil. This material may be derived from agricultural activity, possibly a midden, although it contains a small quantity of domestic material. The pottery from these layers (table 12) is fragmentary, but includes some large pieces of storage vessels in coarse grog F06C and shelly R13 fabrics. The latest pottery dates to the latter part of the 2nd century, and includes a developed channel-rim jar, a fragment of Nene Valley Colour Coat R12B and a flagon sherd possibly in Verulamium region white ware R03A. The developed channel-rim jars were being produced at Harrold in the second half of the 2nd century. The samian has a number of cross-fitting sherds, discussed above; it is mid-Antonine in date. The metalwork assemblage is limited to nails (Manning Type 1b), a single hobnail and a coin of Trajan (AD 96-117) from (188). The latter indicates activity in the first half of the 2nd century. To the north-west, and parallel to the construction trench, a spread (188) of dark grey silty clay may be associated with the roundhouse. The pottery is fragmentary. One shelly sherd has an incised design on the shoulder, similar to motifs found on pottery from kiln G8 at east Stagsden. This is probably residual, originating in phase 2.

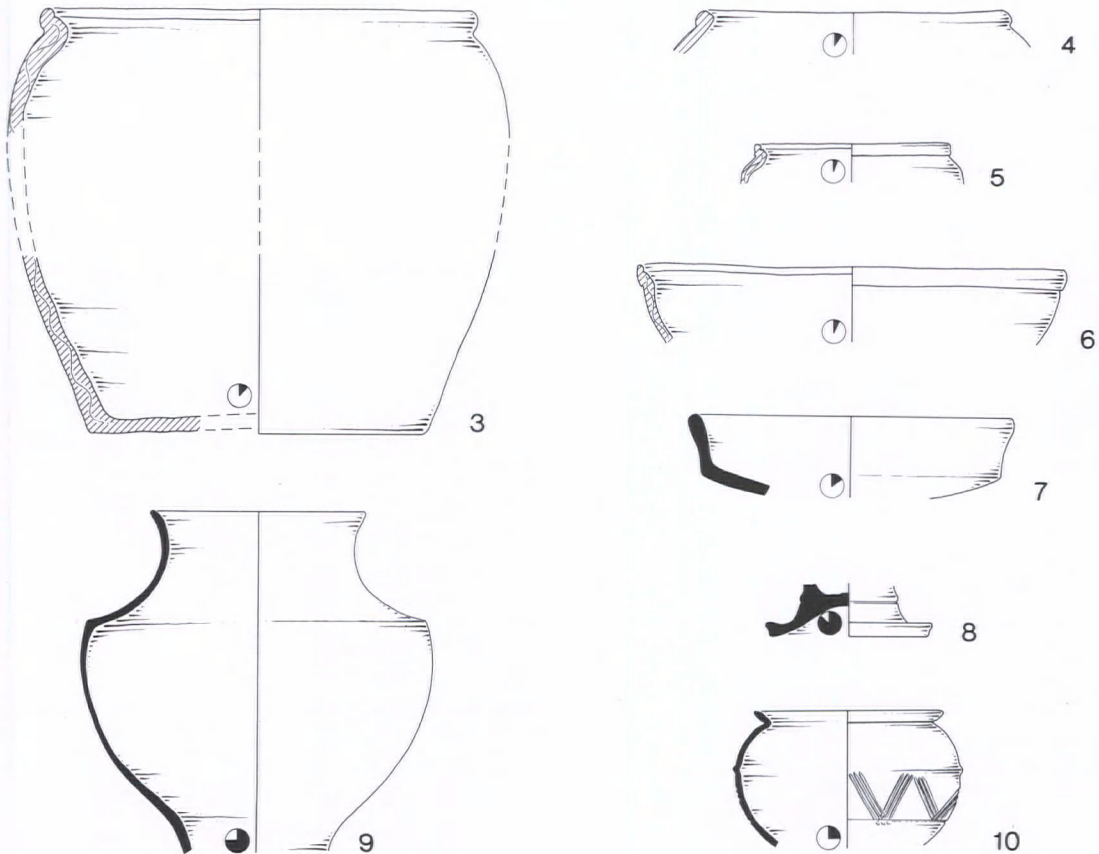


Fig. 9. West Stagsden, phase 3 Ceramics from pit 128. Scale 1:4.

F. no	F03	F05	F06B	F06C	F07	F24	R13	R01A	R03A	R10A	R06C	R07B	R05A	R12B
117				2/6/32	2/2/13			0/1/1*						
126	1/1/5	1/1/1					4/4/53			1/1/4			2/2/1	1/1/3
127		7/7/19	1/1/8	1/5/282	8/8/364	1/2/9			1/1/6		2/4/34	1/1/5		

Table 12: Pottery from isolated layers (*cross-context with [122]) (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Pit [128] was located on the southern limit of the site and was probably sub-circular in plan, some 3.8m in diameter and 0.65m deep. The profile of the pit was asymmetrical with a steep east side. Its primary fill (242) comprised a mid-grey-brown silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal flecks occupying the lower 0.1m. Most of the pit was filled by (129) a dark grey-brown silty clay with few stones and some charcoal (fig 13). The primary fill of pit [128] contained an almost complete carinated vessel (no 9) in fabric type R08 (table 13). A globular jar in the same fabric (no 10) was recovered from the upper fills. Both vessels are paralleled at Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986, 331 fig 137 no 441; 333, fig 138 no 459), where they are dated to the early 2nd century. The fabric of both the Stagsden and the Baldock vessels is fine, sand-tempered and dark blue-grey in colour. It was suggested that the Baldock vessels were possibly manufactured in the Hadham area (Stead and Rigby 1986, 271). At Baldock these vessels are primarily non-cooking wares. This may be the case at Stagsden. The samian from this pit is Neronian in date, but may have been in use for a long time. The shelly lid-seated jars, although hand-made, could nevertheless, have come from Harrold, where these jars were in production into the second half of the 2nd century. The upper fill (129) of the pit yielded tweezers (Rf 100), a rake prong (Rf 140) and a nailcleaner (Rf 101) both in the date range of mid-1st to first quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Pit [122] was 1m in diameter. The feature was not excavated, but was filled by a very dark grey-brown silty clay, flecked with charcoal. A single sherd of samian was recovered from the upper fill and joins others from the boundary ditch [170] and one of the layers (117).

Pit [228] was oval in plan 2m east to west by 1.5m north to south, with steep sides down to a flat base. The fill (229) of the pit comprised a dark brown-black silty clay with few stones. The only variation in the deposit was the presence of slightly higher concentrations of stone towards the base. The pottery from the pit (table 13) is fragmentary, but includes a sherd of mid-2nd century samian. There is also a lid-seated bowl in shelly F24 fabric, which cannot be exactly paralleled at Harrold, but is the bowl version of the common lid-seated jar. The 'Belgic' grog-

tempered sherds are abraded and probably residual. Small fragments of sandy daub/fired clay were also recovered.

Phase 4 Late 2nd – 4th century AD

Phase 4 represents a return of settlement to the area occupied in phase 2. The focus of domestic activity was a roundhouse with a stone foundation. Enclosure systems associated with it seem to form a pattern similar to that established in phase 3.

Roundhouse

Roundhouse G24 comprised a semi-circular trench [236] [238], 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep describing a building with an internal diameter of some 9m–10m (fig 10). The trench was filled by orange-brown clay containing many moderately sized limestone blocks as well as several small flints (237, 239). These possibly represent a foundation. In the eastern part of the gully or trench [238] there were fewer stones, possibly the result of robbing. A similar circular deposit was discovered at Eastcotts (BCAS in prep) dating to the late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD. Although no pottery was recovered from the Stagsden example, there was a mirror fragment of mid- to late 1st century AD date.

There was no evidence for a surviving floor surface or internal features from the roundhouse but outside, almost abutting the semi-circular trench, was a deposit of stones (131) similar to the trench fill. These stretched for 3.5m, east to west, and may have been an external structural addition to the roundhouse. To the north of the roundhouse were two stone surfaces (124, 119). These probably represent disturbance from the north-east section of the semi-circular trench. It is unclear whether the pivot stone, Rf 162, from these surfaces formed part of the structural furnishings of the roundhouse, or had been reused as foundation material. The pottery from these surfaces (table 14) is a mixture of probably residual pre- 'Belgic' and 'Belgic' sherds, and Roman pottery. The latter including sherds from a Neronian or early Flavian samian platter.

F. no	F14	F05	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	F09	F24	R13	R03A	R01A	R01B	R06C	R08
122											0/4/12*			
128		4/5/53	8/14/144		18/49/1319			8/13/192		1/4/32		2/6/18	3/3/79	2/41/515
228	1/1/6		1/1/2	2/4/159		3/3/79		1/2/43	2/2/23		1/1/19		4/6/27	

Table 13: Pottery from isolated pits (* cross-context with (117)) (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

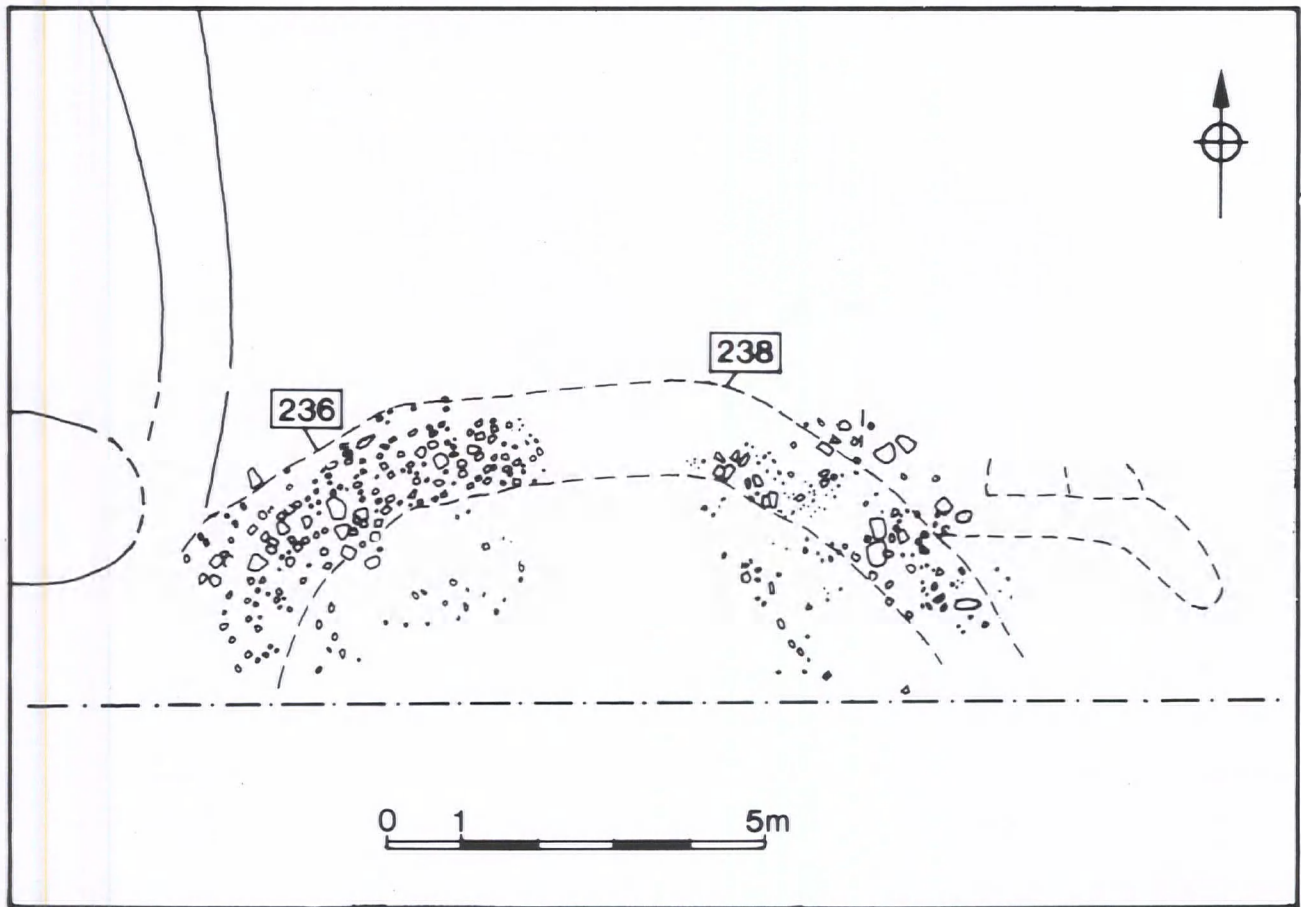


Fig. 10. West Stagsden, roundhouse G24.

F. no	F03	F17	F05	F06B	F07	F08	R01B	R06C	R07B	R05A
118		1/1/8			1/1/3					
124	3/3/31		3/4/45	2/2/30	9/12/129		1/2/10		1/1/23	
187				1/1/4	16/25/571	1/1/37		1/1/4	2/3/21	1/2/4

Table 14: Pottery from external surfaces and spreads associated with roundhouse G24 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

At the west end of the phase 3 ditch [141] was a layer G26 which comprised an agglomeration of stones and ceramic building material. The deposit (142) was mainly confined to the ditch, but a small area extended south of the ditch line (240). Together the deposits formed an area 7m x 1m which had been deposited in a relatively shallow area of the ditch. The main constituent of these deposits was limestone fragments, with sandstone and flint present in smaller quantities. The ceramic building material consisted of Roman brick and tile fragments,

including a small number of imbrex fragments. Building ironwork was represented by a T-clamp (Rf 164) and nails. There was no order to the distribution of these components, and they may have been used to level up an area of uneven ground, in which case the material need not have originated on the site. The ceramic assemblage is fully Romanised, with a variety of forms: cups, bowls, flanged bowls, folded beakers, narrow-necked jars, storage jars and jars with triangular or rectangular rims. The latter two are in shelly R13 fabric, and probably originate at

F. no	F06C	R13	R01A	R33	R06C	R07B	R05A	R12B
142	1/1/18	61/104/2509	5/5/48	1/6/168	21/44/543	5/13/121	5/5/58	1/1/43
240	1/1/11	15/23/336			4/5/33			

Table 15: Pottery from layer G26 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

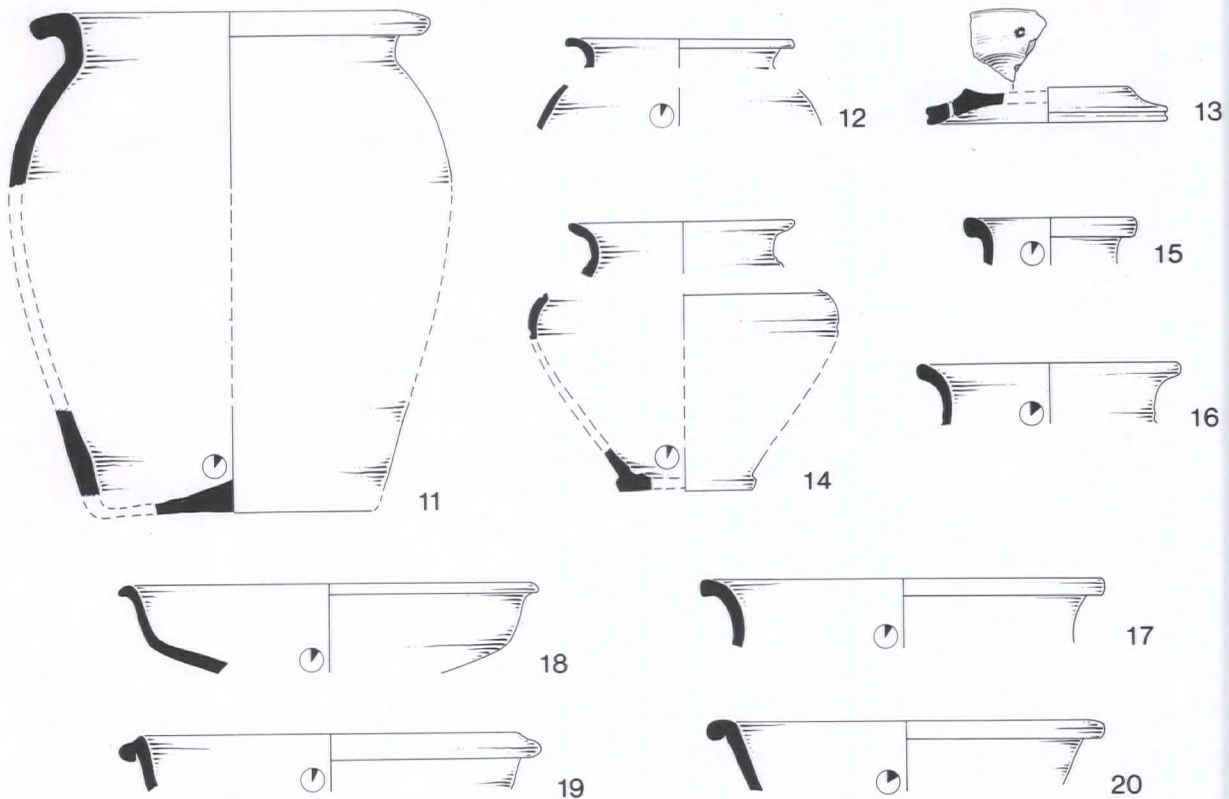


Fig. 11. West Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from layer G26. Scale 1:4.

Harrold, where they appear in phase 3, second half of the 2nd century, developing into the common types of the 4th century (Brown 1994, 57). Mortaria make their appearance for the first time. The two sherds of grog-tempered F06C ware are residual. The fragments of lava quern (Rf 156 and Rf 160) may also be residual as traditionally these date to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Enclosures

The enclosure system established in phase 2 was further extended in phase 4. On the eastern side the **trackway ditch [226]** recutting [259] was 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep, with an asymmetrical profile, this time steeper on the west side, gently sloping to a concave base. The fill (227) comprised a dark brown-black silt with some stone (fig 13). The latest pottery (table 16) is of late Roman date, possibly early 4th century, and contains some residual material. The R13 shelly wares are all paralleled by examples from Harrold (Brown 1994, 62, 74) where they are common in the first half of the 4th century. Number 217 is typical of Harrold bowls (Brown 1994, 73 fig 38 no 329). The non-local pottery includes R11D Oxfordshire and R12B Nene Valley Colour Coated wares. The Oxfordshire fragment is of Young's type C44 and dates to the mid-4th century at the latest (Young 1977, 158). The Nene

Valley bowl is probably 3rd century in date, but may have continued in use into the 4th century (Howe, Perrin and Macreth 1980, 14). A coin of the 4th century (Rf 126) was also found in the fill.

Further west **three ditches [262/264, 181, 148]** make up the right angle of a rectangular enclosure. The east side of the enclosure was parallel to [226] and comprised a length of ditch [262/264] oriented north to south which had been once recut. The original ditch [264] was 2.4m wide and over 1.5m deep with a V-shaped profile. This was filled with a yellow-brown silty clay with rare stones (265). The recut of this ditch [262] followed the same alignment but was smaller. It was 1.8m wide and 1.1m deep with an asymmetrical profile steepest on the west. The fill (263) comprised a grey-brown silty clay with some small stones and charcoal flecks. The east-west boundary comprised three stretches of ditch. The first [110/181] was perpendicular to ditches [262/264] and it too had been recut. The original ditch [181] was 1.1m wide and 0.65m deep with an asymmetrical profile, steeper on the south side, filled by (130) a mid-brown silty clay. The recut [110] which followed the same alignment, was slightly to the south, and smaller: 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep. Its fill (111)

F. no	F06C	F07	F24	R13	R06C	R05A	R11D	R12B
226	1/1/15	14/25/256	1/1/8	8/12/397	4/5/40	1/1/3	1/1/6	3/6/71

Table 16: Pottery from ditches [226] (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

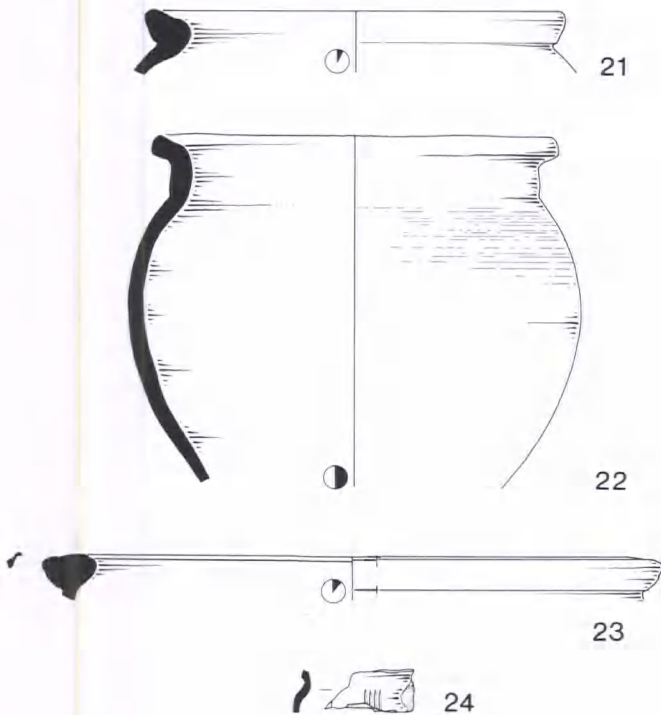


Fig. 12. West Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from ditch 110. Scale 1:4.

comprised a light-grey silty clay with rare stones. Ditch [148] continued the line of the enclosure but was considerably smaller in scale, only 0.7m and 0.15m deep and filled by (149) a dark grey-blue silty clay with small stones and occasionally, charcoal flecks (fig 13). Single sherds were recovered from [148, 262, 264]. A larger assemblage, including Romanised forms, came from [110]. These include rectangular rimmed jars and flanged bowls in R13 shelly ware (nos 21-4), which are the late 2nd-century proto-types of the more common jars and bowls produced at Harrold in the 4th century. Very few decorated vessels were recovered from anywhere on the site; a sherd with intermittent vertical combing in a London-type style was recovered from the

ditch [110]. The two samian vessels are 1st century and early 2nd century in date, but may have been in use for a long time. Amphorae are rare but substantial fragments of one Dressel 20 vessel were recovered from the same ditch, which also produced the fragmentary remains of an iron cleaver (Rf 157), sheet fragments of lead and two nail shanks.

Isolated Features

Two **post holes [159/161]** were situated on the west side of the principal focus of phase 4 and may be the remains of a two-post structure. **Post hole [159]** was 0.4m in diameter with (160) a dark grey-blue silty clay fill; post hole [161] however, was 1m in diameter, with a dark brown-grey silty clay fill (162). Both contained small and medium sized packing stones. Two further isolated post holes [155] and [232] were small, less than 0.5m in diameter and both filled by grey silty clay.

Pit [249] was oval in plan, 5m east to west by 3m north to south, with symmetrical sides and concave base. The fill (250) comprised a dark yellow-brown clay with rare small stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The pottery assemblage contained only two diagnostic forms: a shelly F24 bowl (no 199) of reeded rim derivative type (Brown 1994, 59), and a pink gritty R18A flagon. Both types are dated to the second half of the 2nd century, with fabric R18A possibly continuing into the 3rd century (Marney 1989, 182, Fabric 18c).

Pit [266] was oval in plan, 10m east to west by 5m north to south. In profile the feature was symmetrical with gently sloping sides to a concave base, approximately 1.5m deep. The primary fill (276), comprised a dark yellow-brown silty clay with few small stones below layers of light yellow-brown silt (275, 273, 274). The primary fill included a ceramic assemblage of mixed late Iron Age, probably residual, and Roman pottery. The late Iron Age pottery included two shelly sherds, one of which contains a high quantity of sand, both with decorative motifs present in kiln G7 on east Stagsden. A single vessel, undiagnostic of form, but possibly a butt beaker, is of a fine white fabric, R04B, and may be a Gallo-Belgic import. Few of these finewares were recovered from either site. The Roman fragments are generally undiagnostic, although one shelly R13 rectangular-rimmed jar may date to the second half of the 2nd century (Brown 1994, 59). The middle and upper fills contained abraded, single undiagnostic sherds of late Iron Age and Roman date.

F. no	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	F24	R13	R01A	R01B	R14	R06C	R07B	R19A
110	1/1/11		1/1/57	7/7/175	3/3/91	2/4/207	9/67/2039	1/2/7	1/1/4	1/2/10	6/6/68	3/3/11	1/36/2249
148				1/1/7									
262											3/5/22		
264		1/1/3											

Table 17: Pottery from enclosure ditches (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	Shape in plan	Dimensions	Depth	Character of fill
230	Oval	1.1m x 0.6m	Not known	Light brown silty clay, rare small stones (231).
234	Oval	2m x 1.3m	Not known	Dark brown silty clay, rare small stones (235).
245	Sub-circular	2.5m	Not known	Dark grey-brown silty clay, rare small stones (246)

Table 18: Pits G30

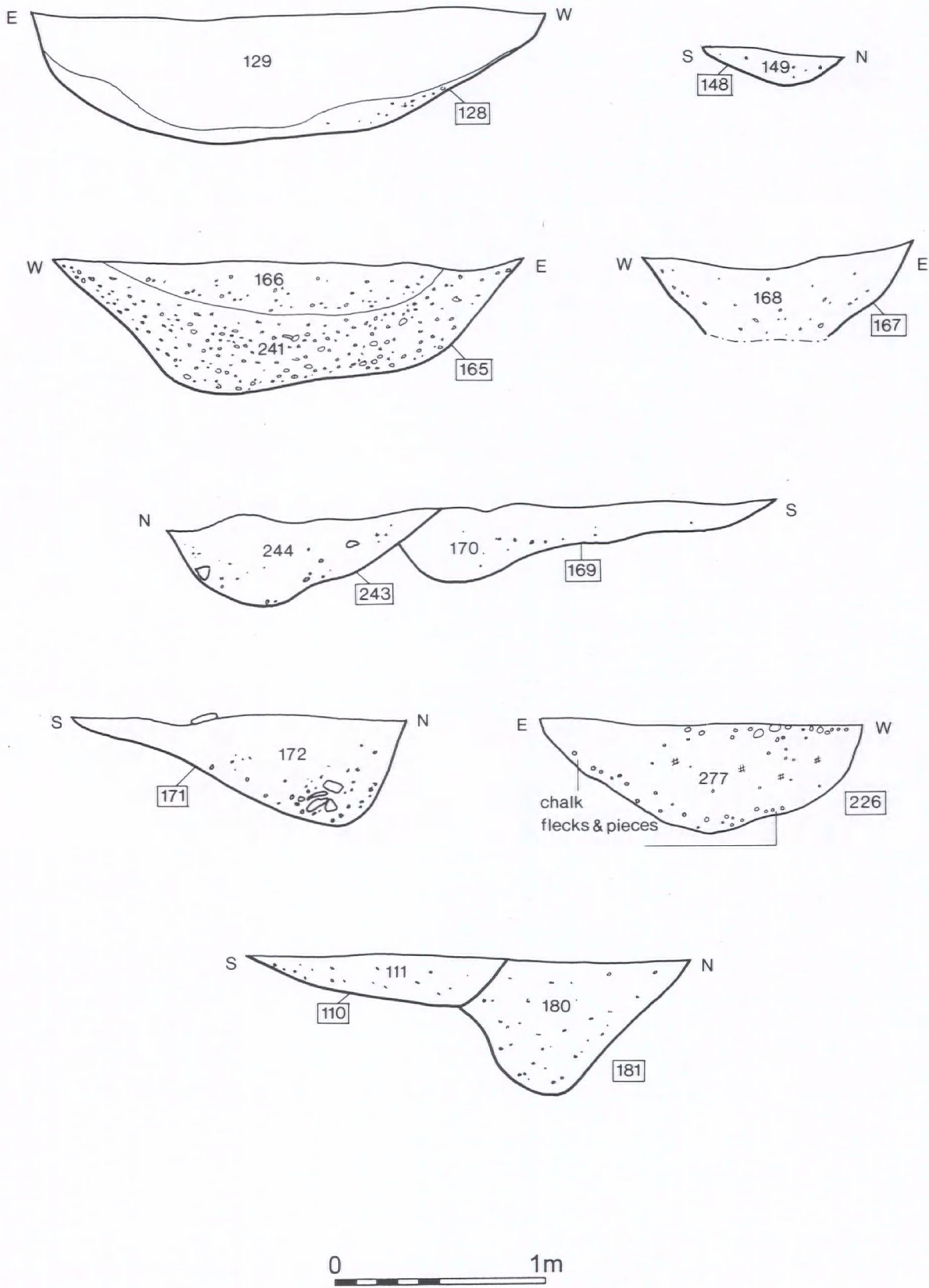


Fig. 13. West Stagsden, sections all phases.

F. no	F14	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F09	R04B	F24	R13	R18A	R14	R06C	R07B
155						1/1/2								
161													1/1/16	
230	1/1/2									1/1/5			1/1/5	
249					1/1/6		1/2/50		2/2/38	4/6/49	1/1/1		4/5/30	1/1/1
266	1/1/2	4/5/46	1/1/9	3/3/18		8/10/130	2/2/49	1/2/3		5/5/235		1/1/17	1/1/2	1/1/1

Table 19: Pottery from isolated features in Phase 4 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Pits G30 were located towards the east end of the site. They were varied in shape and size but form a compact group possibly within enclosure G26. Only the smallest of the pits [230] was excavated, from which pottery of Roman date was recovered.

2.2 East Stagsden

Summary

At east Stagsden the excavated evidence comprised six phases of archaeologically significant activity. The phases, which span the period from the middle Iron Age to the middle of the Roman period, probably represent continuous activity in the area of excavation. Much of this was related to settlement. There is, however, no evidence for any gradual increase in the settlement size and therefore for settlement agglomeration. The level of settlement activity may always have remained small scale.

Phase 1 Middle Iron Age

The first phase of activity at east Stagsden saw the establishment of a small unenclosed settlement comprising two roundhouses, one with an associated enclosure. Settlement activity was also evident from the large number of pits. Many were located in an outcrop of cornbrash towards the eastern limit of the excavation. Several contained a wide range of ceramics and ecofacts.

Roundhouses

The two **roundhouses** comprised one post-built structure G20 and another G21 identified with an arc of gully describing a circumference of approximately 11m. Both were poorly preserved, the result of plough erosion and truncation by later activity.

Roundhouse G20 comprised a single, uneven ring of post holes of variable size and depth (table 20) with the possible remains of a porch on the southern, down-slope side (fig 19). The surviving post holes of this structure enclosed an area of 12m diameter. This was slightly larger than the areas enclosed by the drip gullies of later buildings. The form of this roundhouse

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
772	1.35m x 0.95m		The primary fill comprised charcoal flecked brown silts (774), with secondary fills of charcoal rich brown silts (773).
777	2.5m x 1.25m	0.45m	An oval pit, possibly a firepit, with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked dark brown clay loam with a high stone content, including limestone fragments up to 0.50m in size (778).
792	0.7m x 0.6m	0.15m	Cut lined with limestone blocks set in clay. Fill of charcoal flecked brown silt loam (793). Replacement of original post [813] on stone surface.
796	0.5m x 0.5m	0.35m	Brown silt with frequent limestone and sandstone blocks. Stones are the disturbed remains of post packing material (797).
813	0.7m x 0.6m	0.15m	Primary fill of blue-grey silt clay (815). Secondary fill of charcoal rich greyish black silt (814).
819	1.45m x 1m	0.4m	Primary fill of charcoal flecked greenish brown silt clay (821). Secondary fill of brown silt clay with frequent limestone blocks (820).
824	0.9m x 0.75m	0.3m	Brown sandy silt. Badly truncated by plough and modern machining.
845	0.9m dia.	0.3m	Charcoal flecked brown clay (846). Truncated by gully of roundhouse, G3.
857	1.6m x 1m	0.4m	Primary fill of charcoal flecked orange brown silt clay (858). Secondary fill of charcoal rich greyish black silt.
865	0.8m x 0.7m	0.2m	Brown silt. Post pipe present; diameter 0.33m, depth 0.16m.
883	1.1m x 1m	0.25m	Primary fill of charcoal flecked orange-brown silt clay (885). Secondary fill of charcoal rich grey clay-silt with limestone and sandstone blocks (884). Possible replacement of original post on stone platform.
898	0.9m	0.13m	Greyish brown silt clay (899). Truncated by gully of roundhouse, G6.

Table 20: The post holes of roundhouse G20

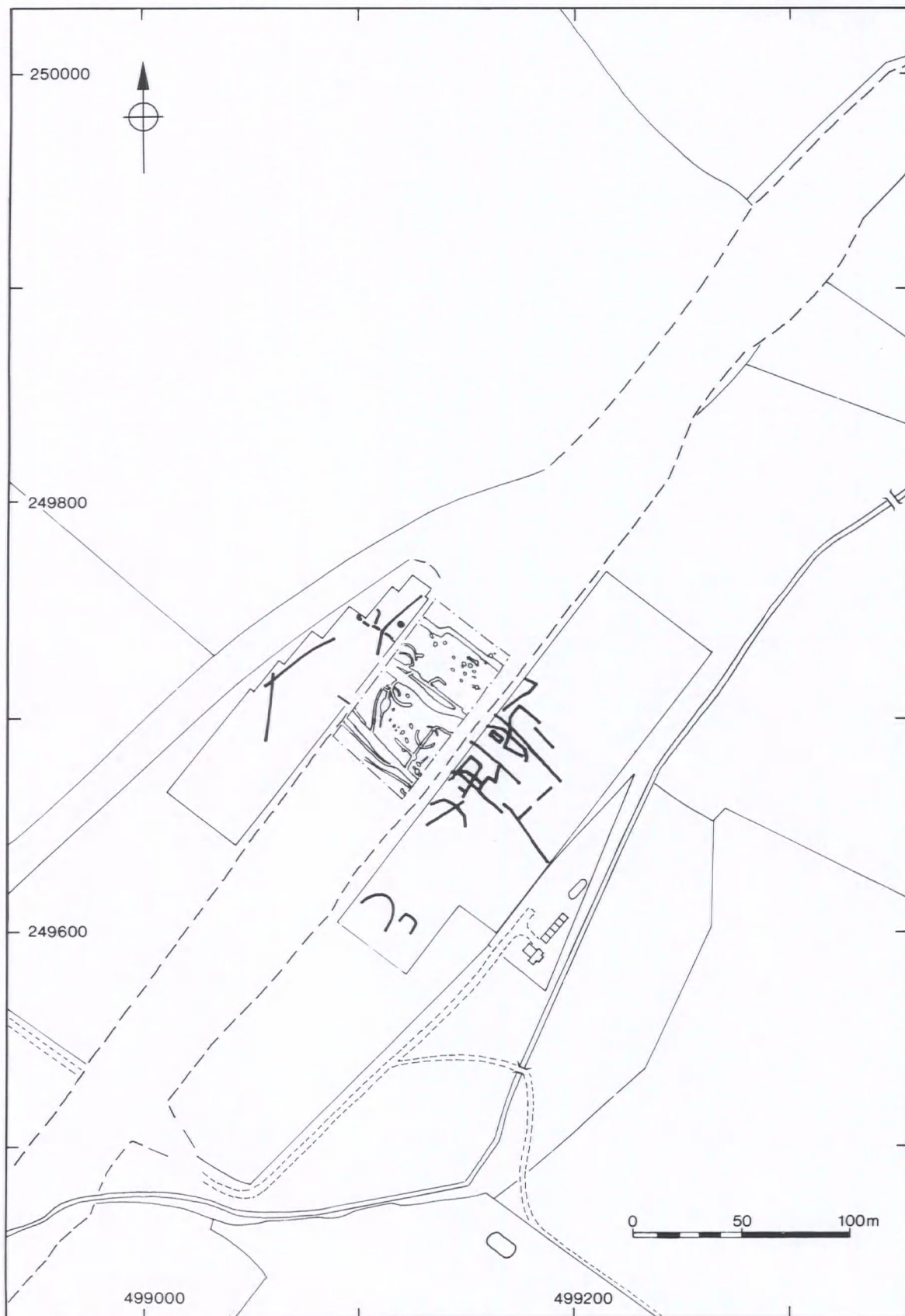


Fig. 14. East Stagsden, major features and area of investigation. Geographical anomalies in black.

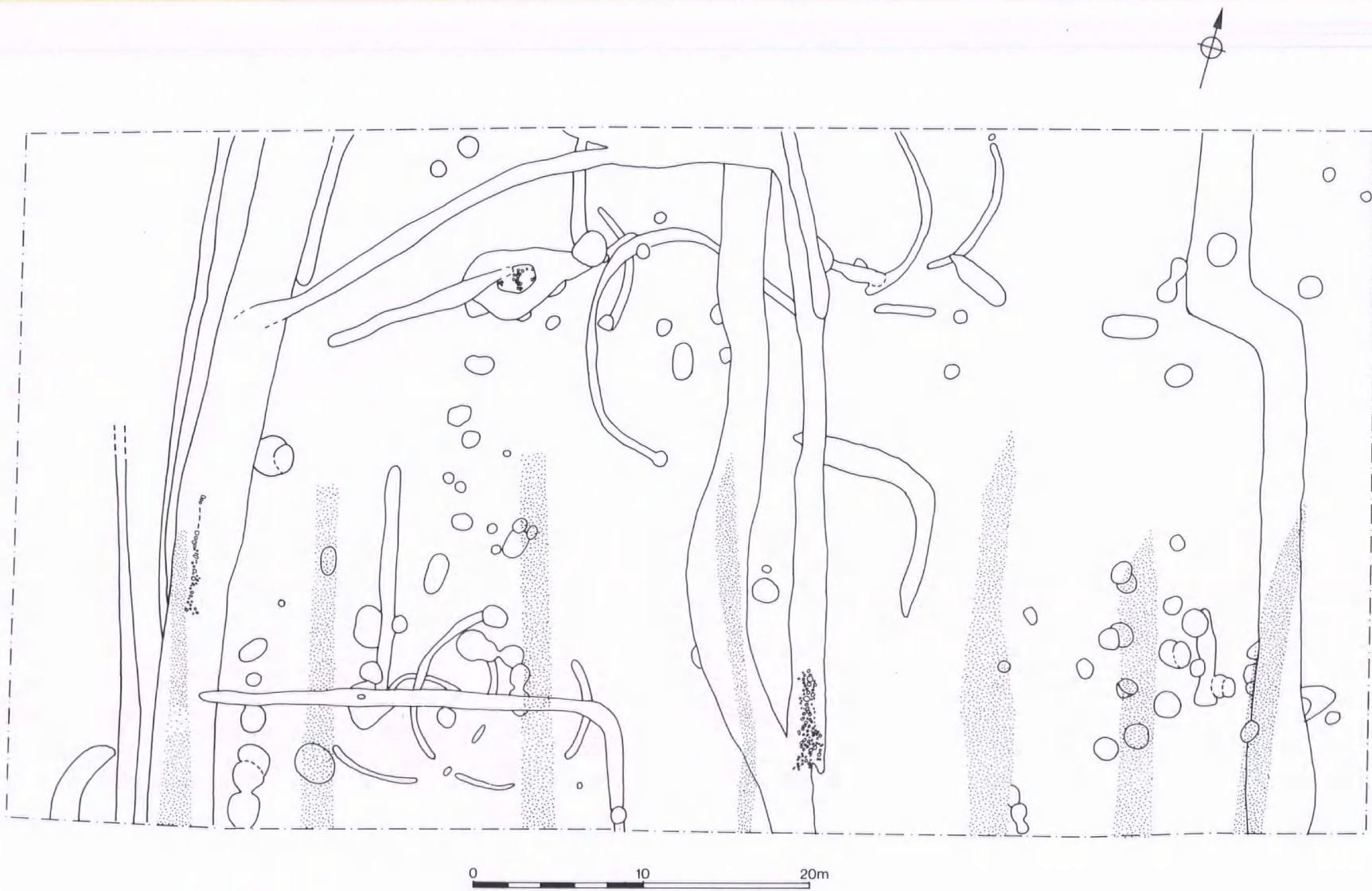


Fig. 15. East Stagsden, the impact of medieval ploughing.

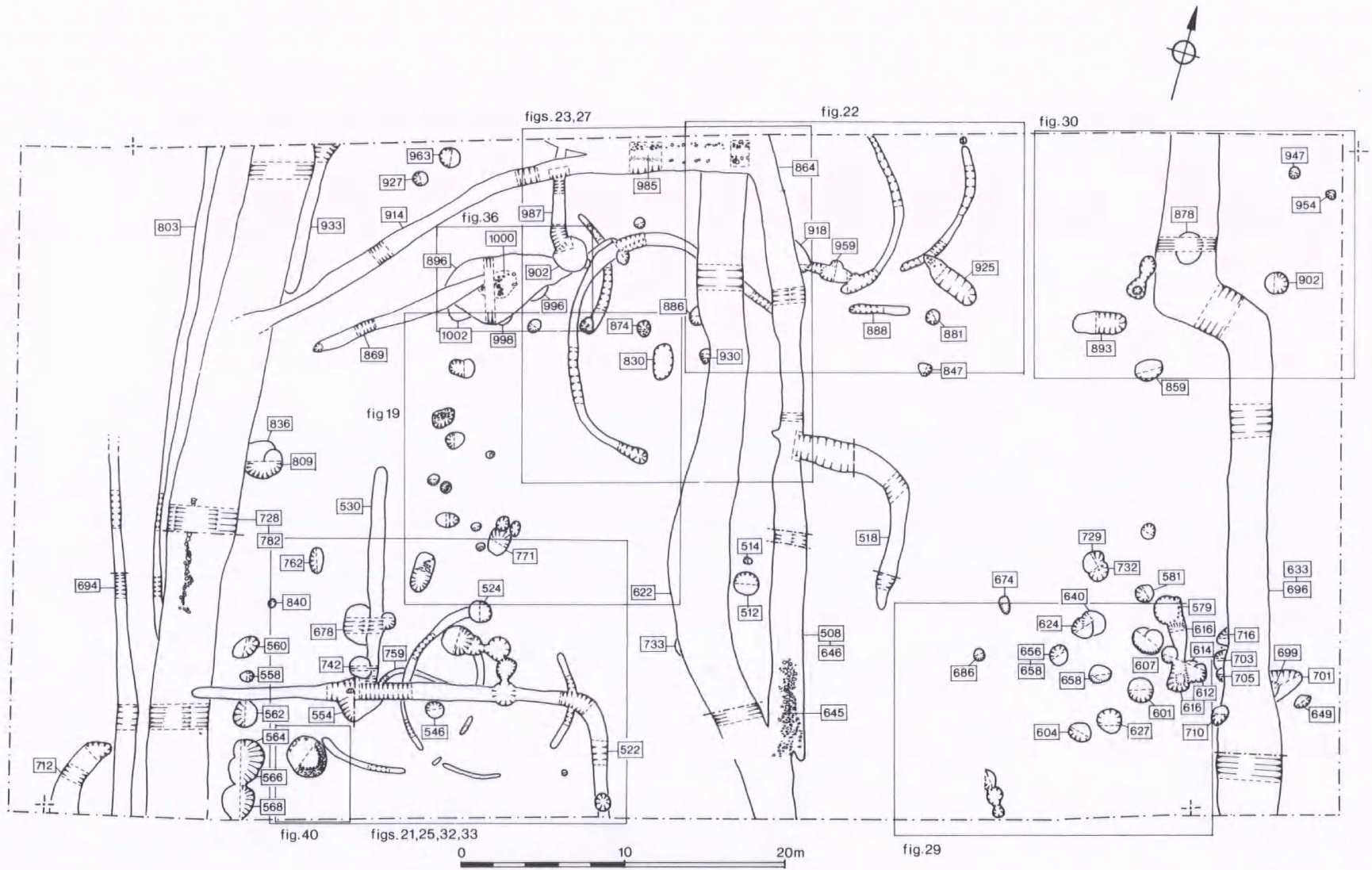
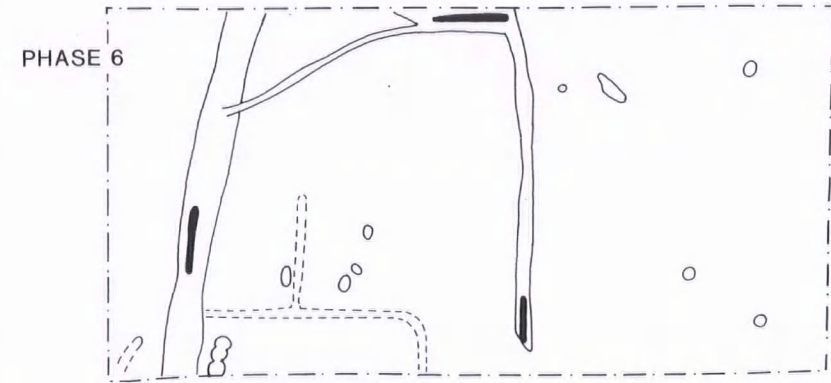
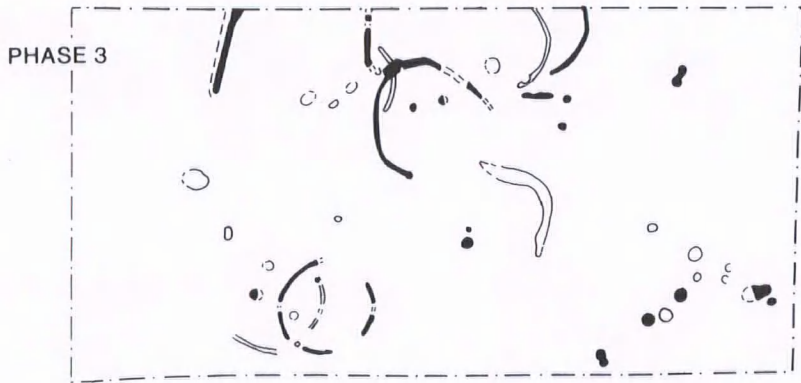
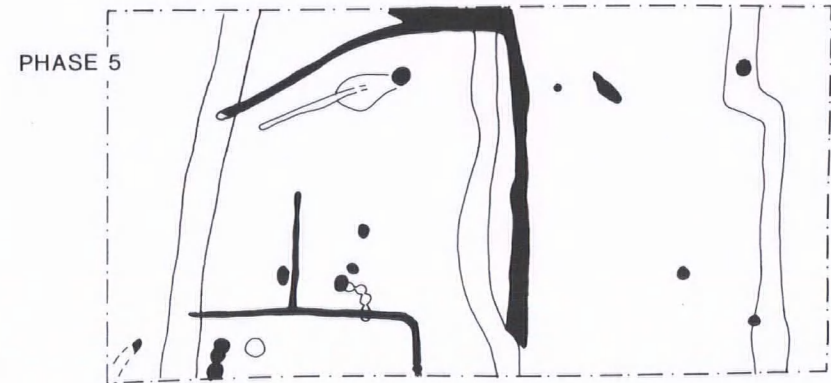
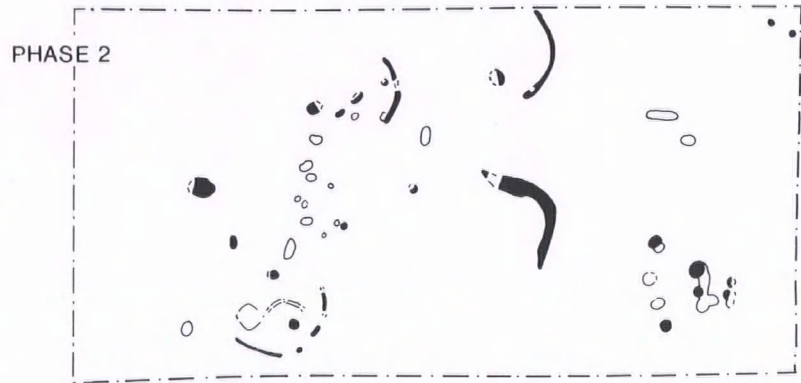
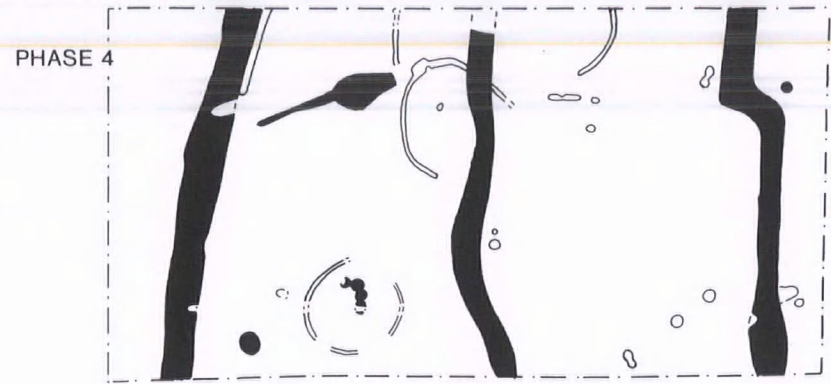
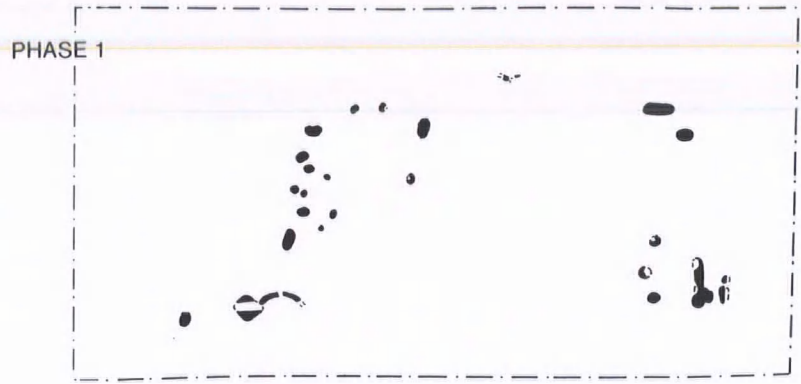


Fig. 16. East Stagsden, all archaeological features.



Figs 17 and 18. East Stagsden, phases 1, 2, 3 and phase 3, 4, 5.

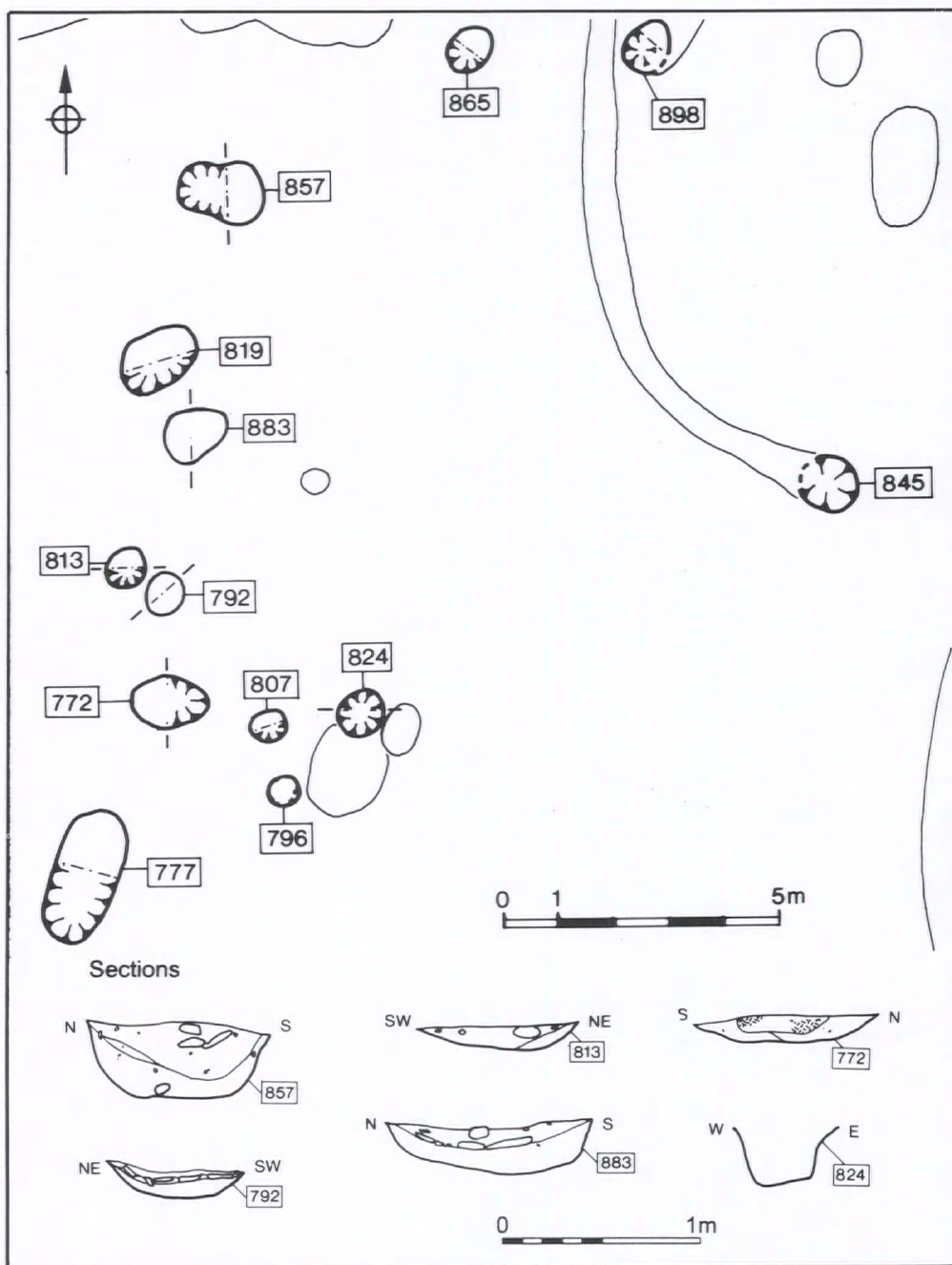


Fig. 19. East Stagsden, roundhouse G20.

suggests it falls into the pattern of structures characterised by Eldons Seat (Cunliffe 1968) Balkesbury and Maiden Castle. Furthermore it is clear from the pairing of post holes [857] and [859] that G20 may have stood sufficiently long for the encircling posts of a supporting ring beam to have rotted and been renewed. These may have been reset in post holes or on stone foundations. The majority of post holes were featureless although one [857] contained a single flint core and four sherds of Iron Age ceramics. Whilst the flint may have been residual, two of the pottery sherds, in fabrics F14 and F17, were large, and could have been deliberately inserted into the space around the post.

On the south side of the roundhouse was a shallow oval pit [772] which contained a high concentration of burnt material. The edges, which showed little evidence of *in-situ* burning, suggest it may have been used as a firepit in which burning material was deposited. Sherds of pottery in fabrics F14, F16 and F17 indicate a *terminus post quem* for the disuse of the roundhouse sometime in the pre-‘Belgic’ Iron Age. A single late Iron Age sherd, weighing only 3g, is probably intrusive. A second pit [777] a little further south of G20 may have been similar in date and function to [772], their contemporaneity indicated by two sherds from a single vessel (no 140) found in their fills.

F. no	F14	F16	F17	F06A
772	1/4/81	0/1/10*		
796	1/1/43			
824		1/1/3		
857	2/2/27		2/2/22	
883		1/1/8	1/1/9	1/1/3

Table 21: Pottery from post holes of roundhouse G20 (*cross-joins with [777]) (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The second roundhouse G21 comprised a short arc of gully [759], approximately 4m long, which had been truncated to the south by a much later ditch (fig 16). The gully had a rounded profile 0.50m deep suggesting it had been cleaned repetitively. The fill, a yellow-grey silt with some limestone fragments and flint pebbles, contained no finds.

Pits

Towards the eastern limit of excavation and located in an outcrop of cornbrash, was a large number of intercutting pits. These were generally sub-circular or oval in plan, varying from 1m-1.4m in diameter. All were shallow, 0.20m-0.45m deep, probably the result of plough damage. Where the profile survived the sides were steep or vertical, and the bottoms were flat or slightly concave.

The pits contained few artefacts. In one [624] was a worked length of antler (Rf 150) which may have been used as a digging tool.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
612	1.1m x 0.7m	0.2m	Steep sided pit with a slightly concave base. Fill of light brown silts clay (613).
614	1.4m x 1.3m	0.3m	Steep sided pit with an uneven base. Fill of dark brown silts clay (615).
624	1.15m x 1m	0.45m	Steep sided with a flat base. Primary fill of grey-green clay, secondary fill of dark grey silts clay with much charcoal (625). A fragmentary layer of burnt clay at the base of the feature may have been the remains of a lining.
656	1.2m x 1m	0.3m	Steep sided pit with an uneven base. Fill of mid-brown clay loam with much charcoal and fired clay (657) (fig 43).
658	Uncertain		Pit, profile uncertain due to disturbance by later features. Fill of dark greyish brown silts clay (659).
703	1.1m x 1.1m	0.2m	Steep sided pit with an uneven base. Fill of mid-brown silts clay (704).
705	0.7m dia.	0.3m	Steep sided pit with a narrow, concave base. Fill of yellowish brown clay-loam (706).
716	Uncertain		Pit, profile uncertain due to disturbance by later features. Fill of light yellowish brown silts clay (717).
732	1.2m dia.	0.25m	Steep sided pit with a flat base, filled by dark brown silts.

Table 22: Details of pits in phase 1.

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F19	F27	F03	F07
624	6/8/146	6/6/116			2/2/53		1/5/110	
656			2/3/26			3/3/33	1/1/13	
703		1/4/51		1/1/53		1/1/21		

Table 23: Pottery from the pits in phase 1 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

Three of the remaining pits contained pottery all of which was fragmentary (table 23).

Within the area of the pits was feature [616] which may have been the base of a structure. It comprised two square-bottomed pits [642] and [672], 0.65m and 0.50m deep, linked by a shallow gully 5.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.35m deep. The fills were all light brown clays, although a secondary darker silt was seen in a southern section. Stratigraphic relationships between the features were impossible to determine suggesting all three may have been contemporary and therefore, part of a single structural unit. This may have been part of a timber frame. No pottery was recovered from this group of features.

Isolated Features

Within the general area of the settlement were several pits together with post holes that did not fall into identifiable groupings (table 24).

Isolated features are a familiar part of Iron Age settlements. In the Stagsden examples there were few non ceramic artefacts, although pit [554] did contain a weaving tablet or wrist guard (Rf 138). The isolated features contained pottery of primarily pre-'Belgic' Iron Age date, although pit [893] contained three sherds, possibly of late Iron Age date, that may be intrusive. Two of the pits, [554] and [830] contained sizeable ceramic assemblages; the rest contained small, mainly single, sherds. Pit [554] contained a mixed assemblage with several single sherds (nos 26-31) and three substantially complete jars in fabrics F15, F16 and F20, as well as a number of more fragmentary vessels. Only no 28 was decorated, with finger tipping on the rim.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
554	2.5m dia.		Truncated pit, may have been sub-rectangular in plan. The feature was excavated to 0.70m without reaching the bottom. The primary fill comprised charcoal flecked black-brown silts clay, the secondary fill comprised charcoal rich greyish black clay-silt and the final fill comprised dark yellowish brown silt (555) (fig 42).
562	1.5m dia.		A sub-circular pit. Fill by yellowish brown silt (563).
830	2.1m x 1.2m	0.15m	A sub-rectangular pit with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. Fill comprised charcoal rich silt clay (831).
859	1.7m x 1.3m	0.70m.	An oval pit with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. Fill comprised charcoal rich brown clay loam, contained frequent fire cracked stones towards the surface (860).
893	3.25m x 1.25m	0.30m	A sub-rectangular pit, with gradual sides sloping to a concave base. The primary fill comprised orange-brown silt clay with occasional limestone and chalk inclusions. The secondary fill comprised charcoal rich dark grey sandy silt with frequent limestone and sandstone inclusions (894) (fig 44).
959	0.50m dia.	0.45m	A largely truncated post setting, with steep sides sloping to a flat base. The fill comprised charcoal rich clay loam containing a high proportion of fired stones (960).

Table 24: Isolated features in phase 1

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F20	F27	F07	F08
554	17/48/1124	12/36/1105	4/15/507		1/ 9/316	1/1/1		
562	1/1/76	3/3/54	1/1/13	3/3/39		1/1/6		
777	1/1/9		6/9/151	4/9/140				
830	1/1/12	1/125/10576						
859		1/1/4				3/3/60		
893	5/7/180	1/2/72	2/2/35				1/1/15	2/2/37
959	1/1/19					2/4/39		

Table 25: Pottery from isolated features in phase 1 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

The main constituents of the assemblage from pit [830] were 125 large sherds, and a number of smaller fragments belonging to a single vessel (no 25). The single flint waste flake found in this pit is probably residual. The vessel is a thick-walled storage jar, which was complete when deposited and had been placed on its side in the pit. A single sherd belonging to another vessel was also recovered, but is probably not associated with the deposition of the storage jar and entered the pit with its final filling. The jar had a pitted interior surface due to the dissolution of the fabric's calcareous inclusions. This may be due to leaching as ground water settled in the vessel, but the dissolution would have been uneven, and visible on both interior and exterior surfaces. The exterior surface, however, is smooth and unpitted, with the calcareous inclusions still clearly visible. The pitting, therefore, was probably caused during use, perhaps because the jar had held a slightly acidic substance. A similar storage jar was found in a comparable situation, lying on its side in pit B6 at Bromham (Tilson 1975, 21). The pit fill also contained a high proportion of charcoal fragments in its fill, although only three unidentifiable cereals and few weed seeds could be identified.

Phase 2 Pre 'Belgic' Iron Age

The second phase of settlement at east Stagsden followed an almost identical structural pattern, to the first. Three new roundhouses were constructed

in similar locations to those of phase 1, and, in the area of cornbrash, three new pits were excavated. This phase is probably contemporary with phase 1 at west Stagsden.

Roundhouses

Three new roundhouse structures were identified with curving drip gullies, although little or no internal details have survived. Roundhouse G2 was best preserved, with a broken semi-circle of drip gully, whilst only the eastern arc of drip gullies survived to identify roundhouses G5 and G6. Roundhouse G2 was a direct replacement of phase 1 roundhouse G21, and involved a slight shift to the north. Roundhouse G6 replaced roundhouse G20, again with a slight northwards shift. Roundhouse G5 was an entirely new building, constructed in a previously undisturbed area.

Roundhouse G2 comprised the broken, semi-circular remains of a penannular gully [536], divided into three lengths of 1m, 2m, and 5m, describing an internal diameter of 10m (fig 21). These sections were the result of erosion by later furrows and ditch G22, in phase 5. The width of the gully varied from 0.2-0.4m and the sides sloped gently to a slightly concave bottom 0.05-0.1m deep. The gullies were filled by dark clay silts flecked with charcoal. There was no evidence for structural elements either within the gully or inside the gully circuit. The second **roundhouse G5** north of G2 was also identified by its curved drip

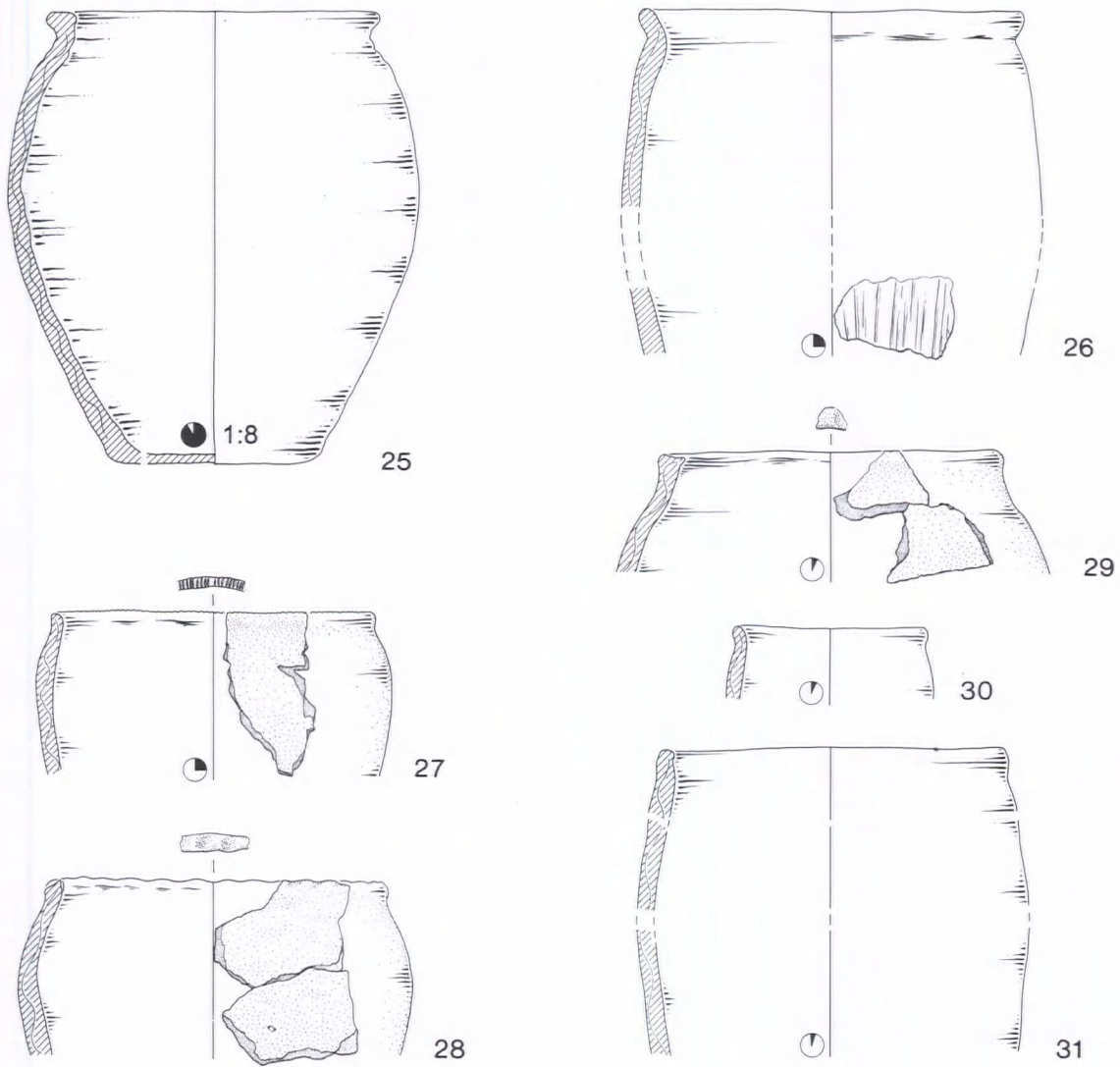


Fig. 20. East Stagsden, phase 1. Ceramics from pit [830] (no 25) and pit [225] (nos 26–31). Scale 1:4.

gully [921] (fig 22). Approximately 11m long it continued beyond the northern limit of excavation and, although only the eastern arc of the gully survived, the diameter of the enclosed area may be some 10m. The width of the gully varied from 0.2-0.4m and it had moderately steep sides, 45-60°, down to a narrow, concave base 0.15-0.2m deep. It was filled by a charcoal flecked dark grey loam, containing limestone and flint pebbles and the occasional burnt stone fragment. **Roundhouse G6** was identified only from a short curved gully [900], 8.5m long (fig 23). The diameter of the gully was estimated at 10m and conforms to the pattern established for roundhouses in phase 1. This drip gully was 0.4m to 0.6m wide but its profile varied more than in other

roundhouses, changing from a shallow sided gully with a narrow base, to a more steep sided form, with a broad, concave bottom 0.18m-0.25m deep. The fill, dark greyish brown silt clay, contained some limestone fragments and flint pebbles.

The gullies of these roundhouses, in common with those of phase 1, contained no non-ceramic artefacts and the ceramics assemblage is fragmentary. The latter may be domestic refuse (table 26). The exception to this is the gully of roundhouse G6, which, in addition to fragmentary sherds, also contained part of a single vessel comprising nine sherds, in fabric F27. It may have been deliberately deposited with other broken vessels.

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F27	F07
536			1/1/18	1/1/19	2/2/13	
921	4/6/44		2/2/15			
900		1/1/20			1/9/109	2/2/37

Table 26: Pottery from the phase 2 roundhouses (vessel/sherd/weight g.)

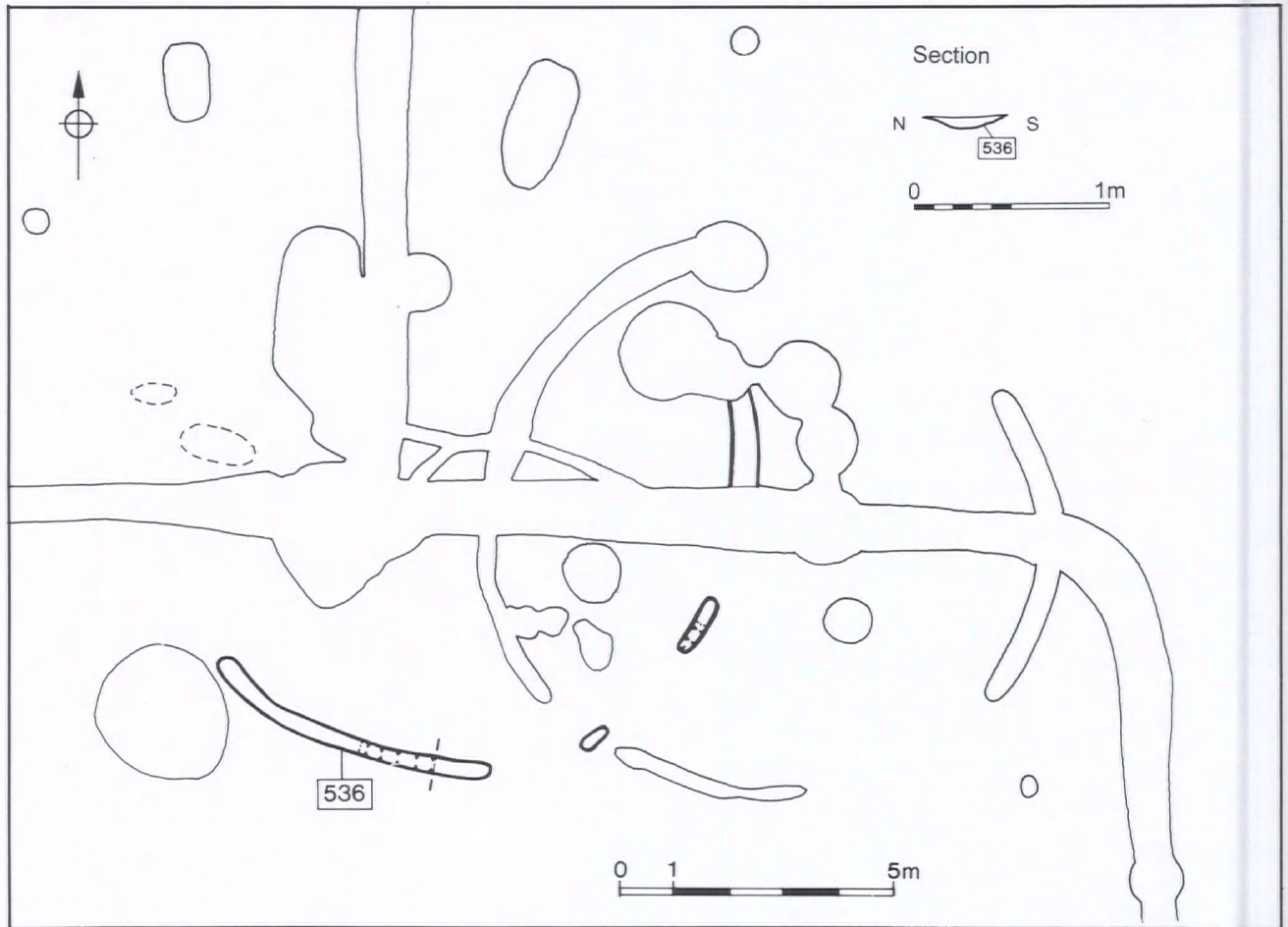


Fig. 21. East Stagsden, roundhouse G2.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
579	1.6m x 1.5m	0.35m	Steep sided pit with a flat base. Fill of dark greyish brown silts clay (580).
607	1.1m x 1m	0.15m	Moderate to steep sided pit with an uneven base. Fill of mid brown silts (608).
729	1.4m x 1.2m	0.5m	Steep sided pit with a slightly concave base. Primary fill of mid brown sandy clay; secondary fill of dark brown silt, tertiary fill of mid brown silts (730).

Table 27: Three pits in phase 2.

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F27	F03
579		1/1/11	3/4/41	1/3/12	1/1/24	
729	2/2/40		3/3/60		1/1/4	2/4/92

Table 28: Pottery from the pits in phase 2 (vessels/sherds/weight g.)

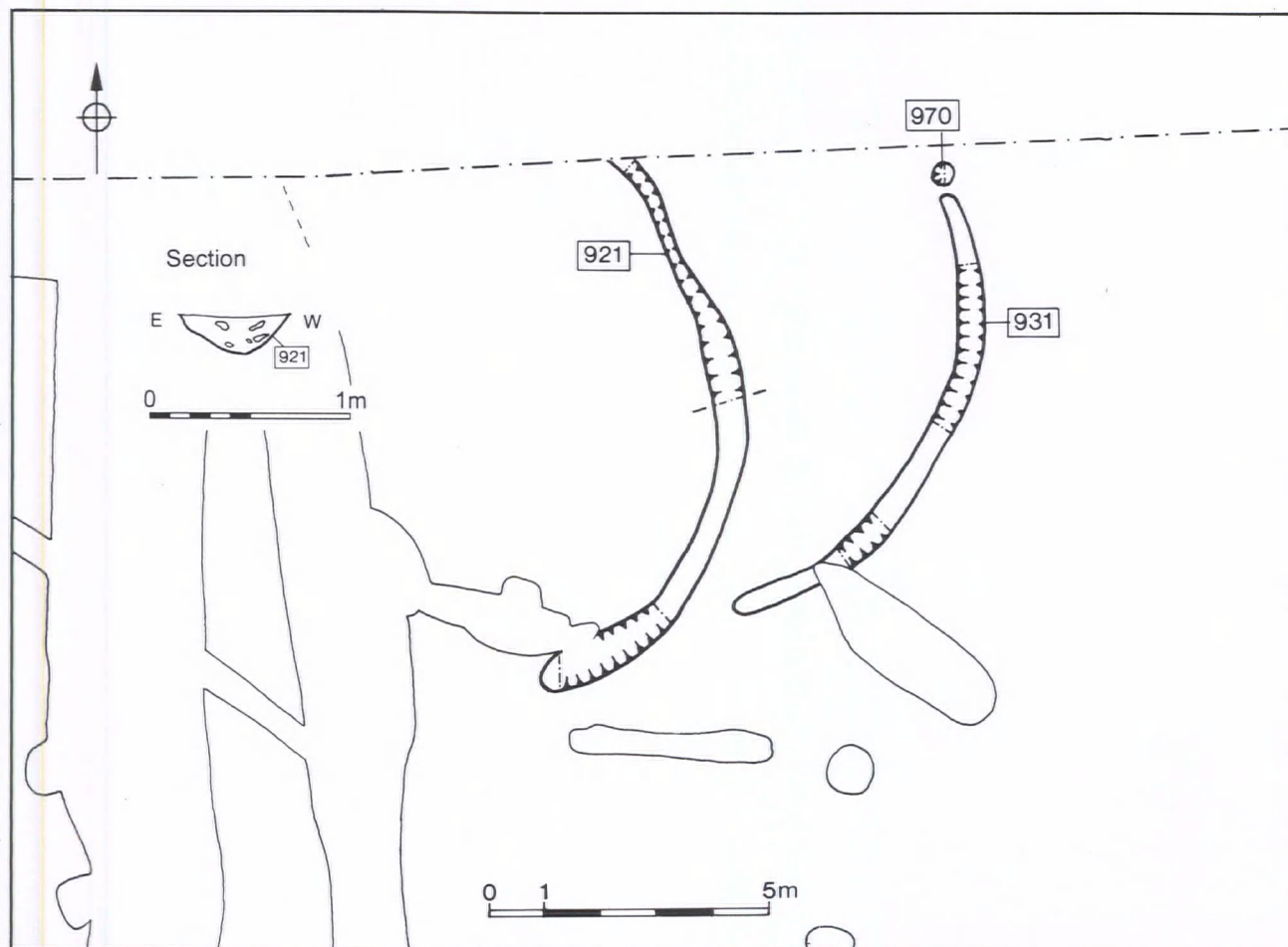


Fig. 22. East Stagsden, roundhouse G4 and G5.

Pits

East of the roundhouses **three pits** were excavated in the area of cornbrash. They all cut into earlier features of phase 1, not only indicating that these had been backfilled but emphasising continuing activity in this area (table 27).

The fragmentary pottery assemblage from these pits is comparable to that in the phase 1 pits. Even the range of fabric types continue those of phase 1, except for fabric F03 which is marginally more frequent in phase 2 (table 28).

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
809	1m dia.	0.35m	The third pit in the sequence was sub-circular, with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base, filled by charcoal flecked dark grey clay (810).
811	c. 1m		The shape, dimensions and profile unclear. The fills comprised light greyish brown silts with some stone and fired clay, sealed by an upper fill of dark grey silt.
836	c. 1m	1m	Full dimensions unclear because of later disturbance. The primary deposits (837, 839) comprised mid-brown silt containing occasional limestone fragments and flint pebbles. This was sealed by dark grey silt (838) similar to the primary fills, but with relatively abundant charcoal. Sealed by clean red-brown clay (850), probably re-deposited natural during a period of erosion of the pit edges or deliberate backfilling. The latest fill comprised mid-brown silt clay with much stone (849), and a compact deposit of crushed cornbrash (835). A final capping (812) of grey brown silt contained many flint pebbles.

Table 29: Three pits [809, 811, 836].

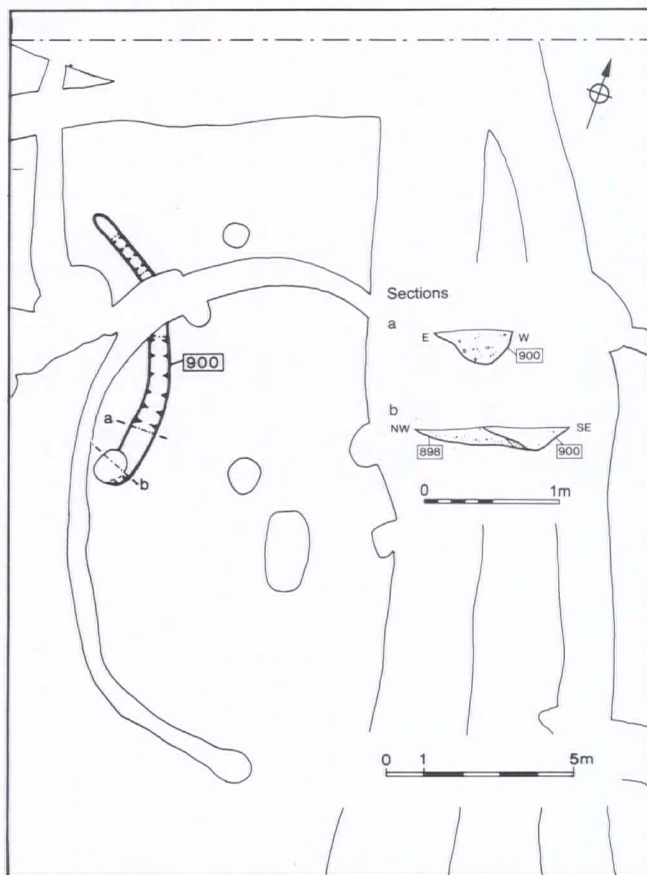


Fig. 23. East Stagsden, roundhouse G6.

Isolated features

In addition to the eastern concentration of pits, a significant number of other pits and post holes were identified elsewhere in phase 2. Two may have been paired. Post holes [947] and [954], were both sub-circular, approximately 0.50m dia. and only 2.5m apart. Although both had been significantly plough damaged, they were only 0.05m deep, their proximity suggests a two-post structure (Ellison and Drewett 1971). Only post hole [954] contained ceramics, a scrap weighing about 1g, in a shelly fabric which might be F07.

Less certainly part of a structure, but significant for their location on the west side of the site, were three pits [809, 811, 836] (fig 16). All the pits were intercut by each other and, although their individual dimensions were difficult to establish, a standard of 1m diameter, with steep sides was noted (table 29). The relatively large ceramics assemblage in [836] suggests this was deliberate.

The ceramic assemblage in [836] (table 30) contained ceramics in grog-tempered fabric F06B (nos 32-3), as well as earlier types in fabric F14. The numbers of sherds per vessel, and their weight, suggests the later ceramics were not intrusive and the vessel:sherd ratio and sherd weight, indicates the 'earlier' vessels are unlikely to be residual. The pottery, therefore, is likely to have been deposited in the pit at the same time, suggesting contemporaneous use of these ceramic types.

Further isolated or single features were found across the site

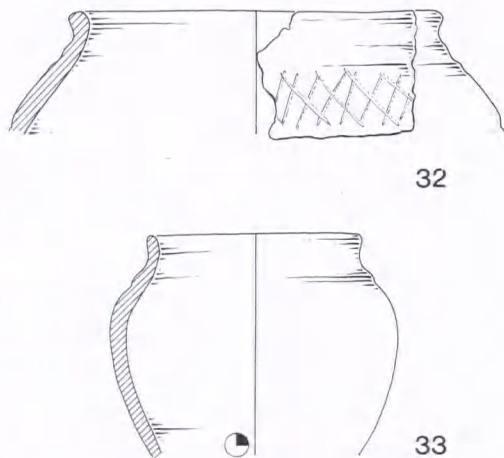


Fig. 24. East Stagsden, phase 2. Ceramics from pit [836]. Scale 1:4.

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F03	F06A	F06B	F07
809	1/1/11							
836	6/11/204	1/3/57	2/2/17	6/21/345	1/1/26	1/1/2	3/20/245	2/2/29

Table 30: Pottery from the pits in phase 2

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
627	1.5m x 1.5m	1m	Steep sided pit with a flat base and a primary fill of mid brown sandy clay, secondary fill of dark brown silts (628).
680	1m dia.	0.12m	A circular pit, with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked mid brown silts (681).
762	1.5m x 0.9m	0.30m	An oval pit with moderately steep sides sloping to a flat base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked orange-brown clay-loam (761).
918		0.35m	A single pit truncated by later archaeological activity. Fill comprised charcoal flecked silts (919).

Table 31: Isolated features in phase 2

(table 31) (Not illustrated). Pottery from the isolated features is very fragmentary, although several rim sherds were recovered (nos 120, 123, 146).

Pit [627] produced the largest assemblage, with at least four vessels comprising more than one sherd. The sieving of layer (628) from this pit produced a single abraded fragment of a possible mould. The fabric is fine and sandy but the sherd weighs only 1g. and there are no diagnostic features.

Phase 3 ‘Belgic’ Iron Age

Continuity of settlement in phase 3 is represented by three roundhouses in similar positions to roundhouses G2, G5 and G6. Evidence of single post holes and pits, and the excavation of several further pits in the area of cornbrash, suggests general continuity of practices established in phase 1. The construction of two pottery kilns in this

period, however, is a significant addition. Phase 3 is also noteworthy for the appearance of the first linear boundary, suggesting a change in the land use pattern.

Roundhouses

Three new **roundhouses** were identified through drip gullies, but, as in phase 2, there were no surviving structural details. Roundhouse G1 was best preserved and comprised a broken, but nearly full gully circuit. All three structures were direct replacements of existing buildings. Roundhouse G1 lay to the east of, and overlapped G2. Roundhouse G3 replaced roundhouse G6 and roundhouse G4 replaced roundhouse G5. In addition a short stretch of ditch G19 may have enclosed a small plot adjacent to G3.

Roundhouse G1 comprised three segments of a near circular drip gully [534], varying in width from 0.45m in the north, to 0.25m on the south (fig 25). Reduction in depth from 0.12m to 0.05m north to south, together with the rounded profile suggests some re-cutting or cleaning as well as slight terracing. The fills, as in

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F27	F03
627	4/9/155		9/16/278	3/4/62	7/8/55	1/1/5
680				1/1/4		
762	1/1/3	1/1/8				
918	2/2/132		1/3/26		1/1/46	

Table 32: Pottery from isolated features in phase 2 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. No	F14	F16	F17	F27	R06C
534	1/1/27	3/3/21	3/3/24	2/2/33	1/1/5

Table 33: Pottery from roundhouse G1 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

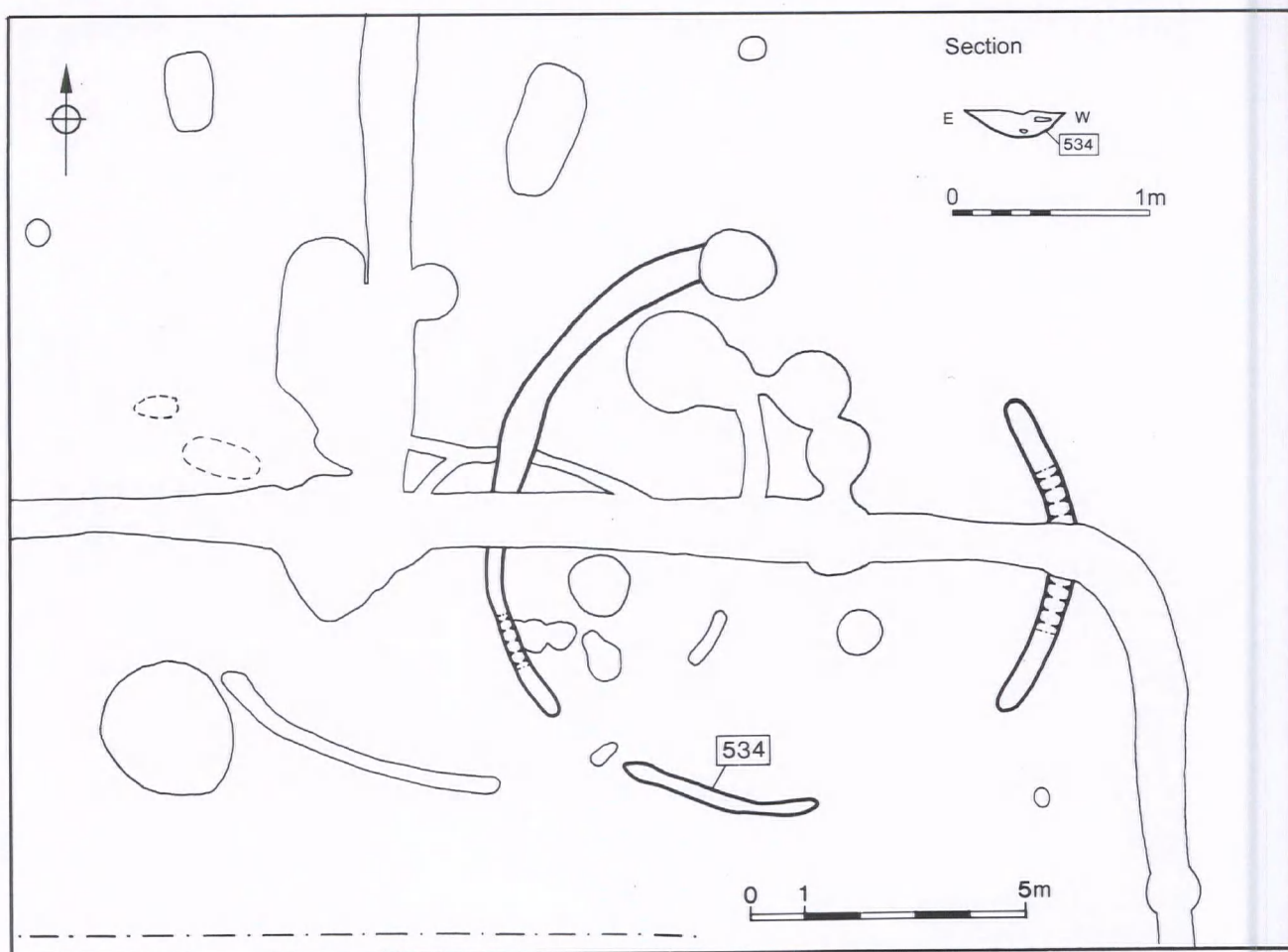


Fig. 25. East Stagsden, roundhouse G1.

the previous phases, were consistent with silting, comprising charcoal flecks, cornbrash fragments and small flint pebbles in a matrix of brown clay. The gully enclosed a sub-circular area 10m in diameter.

The pottery from the drip gully of roundhouse G1 is fragmentary, once again probably domestic refuse. A single tiny sherd of Roman greyware (R06C), however, is likely to be intrusive.

The second roundhouse G3 comprised an irregular, sub-circular configuration of intercutting gullies. The diameter of the area enclosed was approximately 12m (fig 27). Four sections through this complex were excavated and the relationships between the constituent parts of the gullies suggests that they comprised the partially surviving arcs of three circular drip

gullies, evidence of re-excitation around a building possibly subject to damp or drainage problems. The first gully was a southern arc [843], 0.5m-0.6m wide with moderately steep sides, 45°-60°, sloping to a rounded base 0.23m-0.3m deep, which the section shows clearly was never recut. The fill comprised dark brown clay with flecks of chalk, and small quantities of limestone and flint gravel. A slight broadening of the gully at the intersection with [900] (the gully of G6) may indicate a second surviving part of the circumference of this gully. The second element in this structural sequence was an arc of gully [978], 0.5m-0.65m wide with near vertical sides sloping to a slightly rounded bottom 0.2m deep. The fill comprised mid-brown silts. This gully had been recut up to four times with [974] part of this sequence. The third component of this sequence is the small surviving arc of gully [862] between ditches G15 and G17. It was 0.55m wide with moderately steep sides sloping to a rounded

F. no	F14	F15	F17	F27	F07
843	2/4/51			7/9/165	
862				1/4/36	1/1/4
974			1/7/47		
978	1/4/75			2/2/19	

Table 34: Pottery from roundhouse G3 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

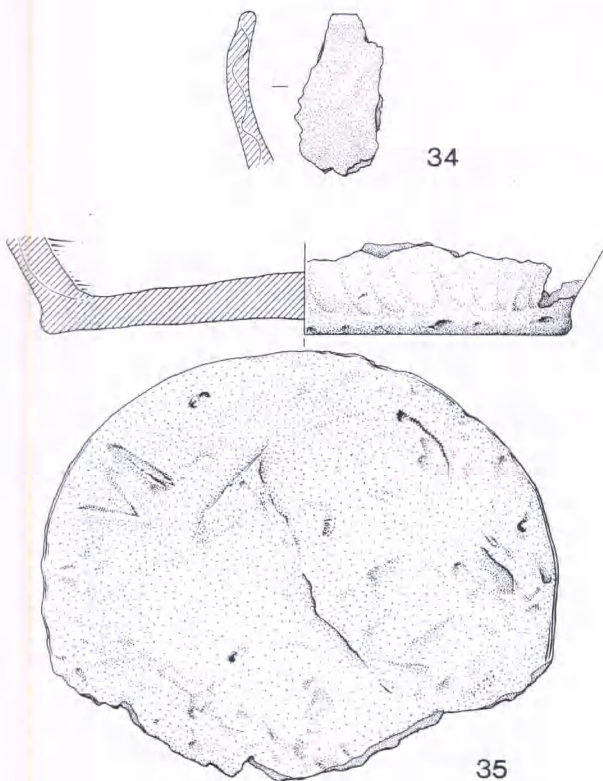


Fig. 26. East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from pit [836]. Scale 1:4.

base 0.18m deep. The fill comprised dark brown silts.

The pottery from the gully of this roundhouse, as might be expected, is abraded and fragmentary. Sherds from one vessel (no 79) came from nearby pits [992] and [990] as well as the gully (975).

Situated immediately to the east of this structure was an L shaped ditch [518], possibly an enclosure G19, comprising an 8m

eastern arm and an 8.5m northern arm, with a gradual 90° turn forming the north-eastern corner. The ditch was some 1.8m wide and 0.75m deep, with steep sides and a U-shaped profile but otherwise contained no structural evidence. The lowest fills comprised yellowish brown silts, with some cornbrash and charcoal. This suggests an open gully next to a hedge or other boundary. Ultimately the ditch was allowed to fill gradually with domestic refuse. It was located on the east side of G3 typically the direction of roundhouse entrances (Oswald 1997).

In the ditch silt was a triangular loomweight (Rf 141) and an offcut from a Red deer antler (Rf 154). The pottery from this enclosure ditch is fragmentary. However (779), the context that produced the loomweight and the antler offcut, contained a relatively large assemblage, primarily 'Belgic' in fabric and form. The presence of a post-medieval glazed sherd (fabric type P01) and Roman sherds weighing just 8g indicates these are intrusive. A complete shelly (F07) base sherd was recovered from (519); it had a faint mark incised on the bottom, which might be read as 'VI' (no 35).

The third roundhouse G4 comprised only a single section of curved gully [931] 9m long, describing an arc 10m in diameter (fig 22). The gully was 0.4m-0.5m wide with gradual, irregular sides sloping to a flat base 0.15m-0.25m deep, and filled by charcoal flecked mid-brown silts with some limestone and flint pebbles. A single small post hole [970] situated next to the northern terminal may be the remains of an entranceway. A second structural element was a small pit [875] within the circumference of the building. It was sub-circular in plan, 0.9m long and 0.8m wide, with gradual sides sloping to a flat base 0.3m deep. The fill comprised sandstone and limestone fragments, many of which had been burnt, suggesting this feature was a small domestic hearth or firepit. There was no further evidence of internal structures (Not illustrated).

The pottery is fragmentary, but the preponderance of 'Belgic' wares suggests that this might be the latest of the three roundhouses in this phase to go out of use. The entrance post hole [970] contained a sherd of pottery in a Romanised sandy fabric (R14), but of 'Belgic' form (no 202). Small fragments of shelly (F07) pottery, possibly made in one of the kilns found on the site, were found in the gully and the hearth, suggesting the gullies of this structure continued to be filled into the next phase.

F. no	F14	F17	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R03A	R06C	R05A	P01
519	1/2/75	2/2/52					3/4/1864					
779		2/16/206	4/7/113	10/16/130	2/2/19		6/20/441		1/1/2	1/1/7	1/1/3	1/1/21
799			1/1/6			1/1/16	1/1/8					
800												1/2/6

Table 35: Pottery from the L-shaped ditch [518]

F. no	F14	F16	F27	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R14	P01
875				1/1/2				1/1/25			
931	1/1/26							2/3/27	1/1/16		1/1/5
970						2/2/13				1/1/26	
987		1/1/43	1/101/1589		5/15/140	6/14/187	4/6/65	4/18/196			

Table 36: Pottery from roundhouse G4 and adjoining enclosure (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

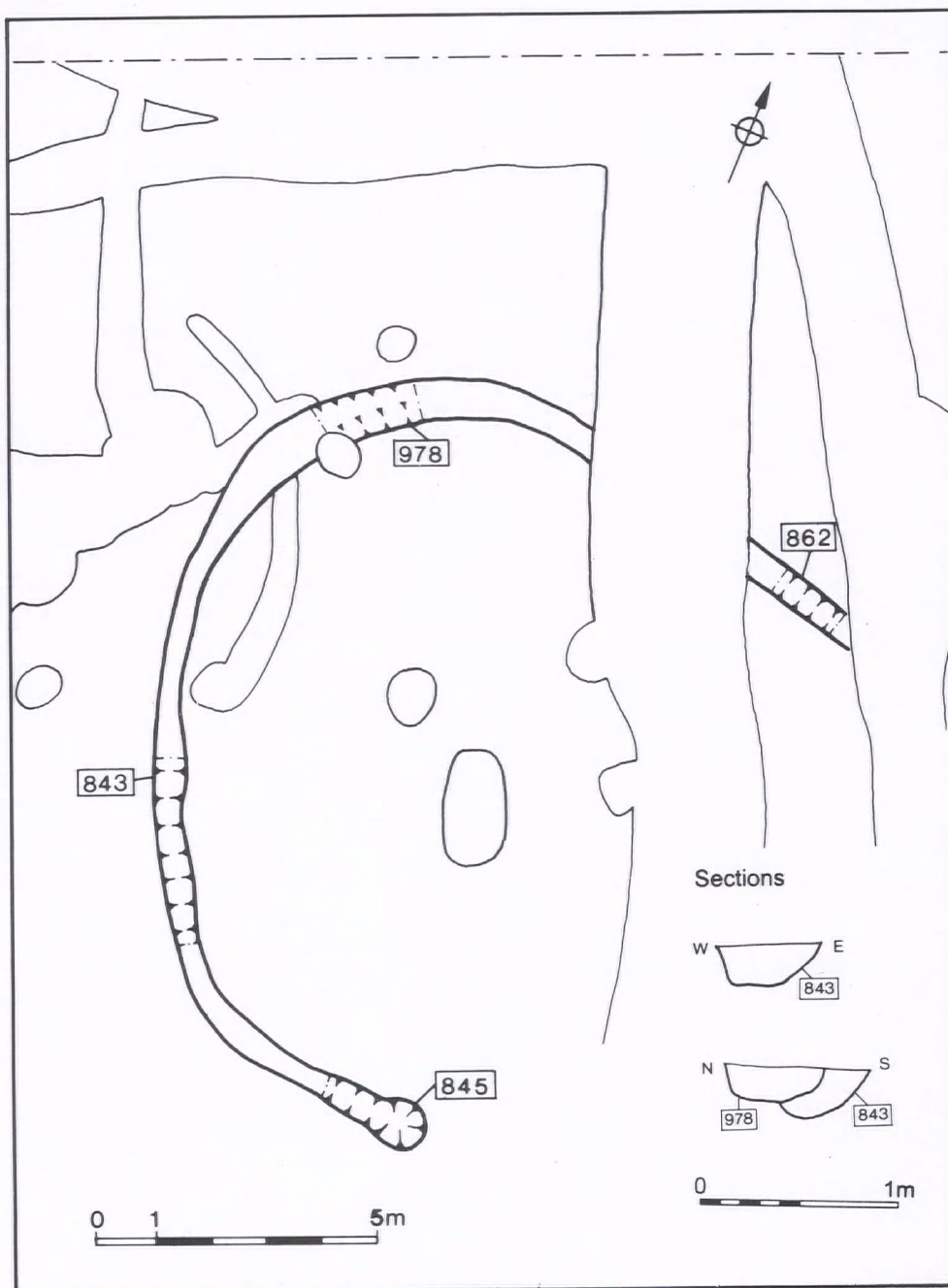


Fig. 27. East Stagsden, roundhouse G3.

Situated immediately west of G4 was a gully [987], aligned north to south and some 6m long. It varied in width south to north from 0.5m to 1m and the sides were moderately steep down to a V-shaped base 0.4m deep. The fill comprised charcoal flecked dark greyish brown silt. The ceramics assemblage is similar to that of roundhouse G4, in that it is dominated by 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares, fabric group F06 (table 36). Although badly truncated by later activity, this feature may form an adjoining enclosure similar to G19 next to roundhouse G3.

Pits

In common with the two earlier phases, a series of pits were located within the cornbrash but somewhat farther to the east. Most were similar in size and profile to the earlier pits, but three, at least, were much deeper. The inclusion of substantial quantities of burnt material in the fills of [604] and [649] may indicate deliberate backfilling with kiln waste (table 37).

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
601	1.6m x 1.6m	0.5m	Steep sided pit with an uneven base, filled by mid brown silts containing large limestone fragments, near the bottom (602, 603) (fig 43).
604	1.4m x 1.3m	0.55m	Steep sided pit with a flat base. Primary fill of dark greyish brown silt with much charcoal, fired clay and limestone fragments (606); secondary fill of light greyish brown silts (605).
649	1m x 0.7m	0.15m	Pit with an uneven, slightly concave base. Fill of yellow-brown clay, containing a lens of charcoal and fired clay near the surface (650).
699	Uncertain	0.35m	Pit with gradually sloping sides and an uneven base. Fill of dark grey silt (700).
701	Uncertain	0.8m	Shallow pit with a flat base. Primary fill of yellow brown silts, secondary fill of yellow brown silt with cornbrash fragments, tertiary fill of yellow brown silts clay.

Table 37: Phase 3 Pits.

F. no	F15	F16	F17	F27	F03	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F09	F24
601	1/1/56		2/3/8	1/4/11						1/2/18		
604	1/4/125					2/2/9		4/6/249	1/4/163	4/4/64	4/5/136	2/2/60
649		2/3/44	4/12/133									
699				3/3/34	1/2/47*			5/54/730	6/8/78	3/55/531		
701		1/1/18			0/1/24*	2/4/18	2/6/69	1/1/11	1/1/8			

Table 38: Pottery from phase 3 pits (* cross-joining sherds) (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

The ceramic assemblage from the pits is mixed and fragmentary. The small quantity of pottery in [649] may be residual. The cross-joining sherds between [699] and [701] are probably due to the intermingling of pottery when [699] was cut into [701]. Pit [699] contains a good assemblage of 'Belgic' pottery (nos 36-40). Forms from this pit indicate a domestic assemblage with lid-seated jars, cordoned jars and a girth beaker (fig 28). Sooting on the lid-seated jars suggests their use as cooking pots. Two of the remaining pits, [701] and [601], contained fragments of shelly pottery or kiln furniture which may have originated from the nearby kiln G9. Pit [604] also contained fragments of an oven or

kiln floor, (fig 57.19), and possibly a 'lid' (not illustrated).

Pottery Kilns

The most significant addition to the evidence of craft activity at east Stagsden in phase 3 was the appearance of two **pottery kilns**. Both were shallow and damaged by ploughing and both lay towards the eastern limit of the site. The first kiln G9 comprised a circular firing pit [574], 1m diameter, with steep sides sloping to a flat base 0.30m deep (fig 30). The edges of the pit were highly scorched and it contained a primary fill of dark grey clay loam with large quantities of burnt material; a secondary

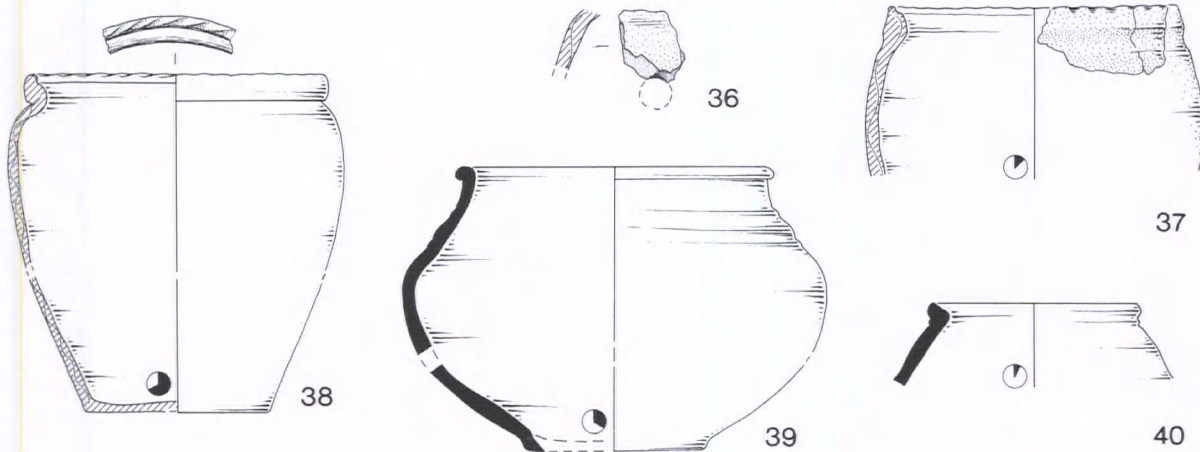


Fig. 28. East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from pit [699]. Scale 1:4.

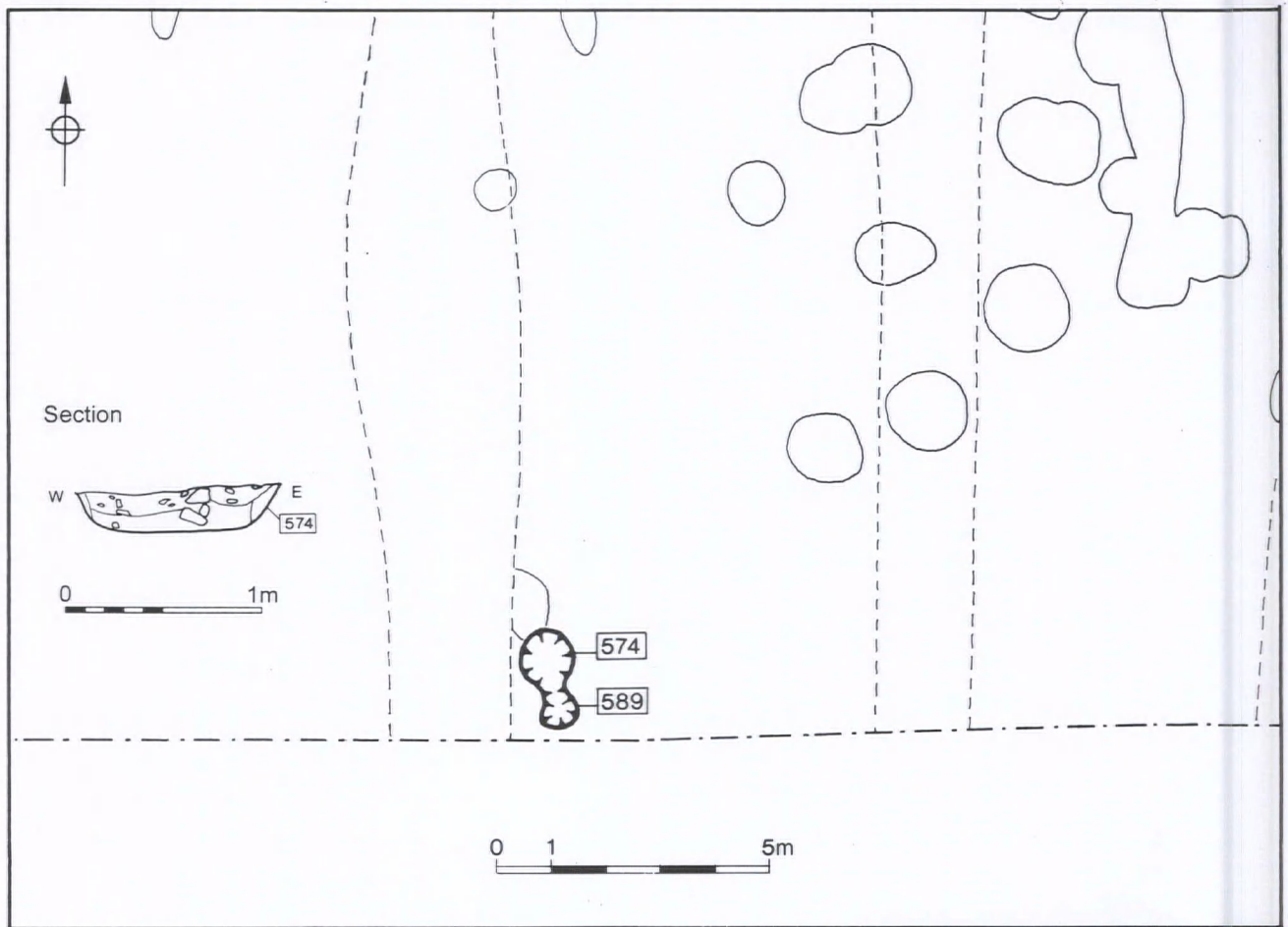


Fig. 29. East Stagsden, kiln G9.

layer of angular limestone fragments and a tertiary fill of grey clay, again with much burnt material. South of the firing pit were the remains of a shallow flue/stoke pit [589], 0.6m in diameter and only 0.05m deep. This was filled by grey clay loam, with some burnt clay, charcoal and small stones. Next to the firing pit [574] was an earlier fire pit (806) 1m in diameter, with steep sides down to a flat base 0.3m deep. The fill comprised charcoal flecked dark brown silt clay with burnt clay and small stone inclusions. It is possible that the latter represents the remains of an earlier kiln almost totally destroyed by G9.

The second kiln G10 comprised a firing pit [909], with flue and stoke pit [907] at its northern end. Between cuts [909] and [907],

within the structure, was a thin layer of burnt clay (940) which may once have formed a lining for the flue. The firing pit [909] was circular, 1m in diameter, with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base 0.2m deep. The edges of the pit had been scorched, and it was filled by charcoal rich silts. The charcoal content increased towards the base of the feature. Situated in the centre of firing pit [909] was a large ceramic urn, 0.4m in diameter and 0.35m deep. This had been inserted into the base of pit [909]. The stoke pit [907], 1m in diameter, had an irregular profile and was only 0.05-0.1m deep and filled by charcoal rich mid-brown silts.

F. no	F14	F16	F03	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	R05A
Kiln G10									
907				1/74/1229		2/2/15	1/13/395	13/199/3951	
909				4/4/344				16/326/12143	
Kiln G9									
574	1/1/12	1/1/23	1/2/4	2/9/30	2/31/294	11/14/172		2/2/51	1/1/13

Table 39: Pottery from kilns G10 and G9 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

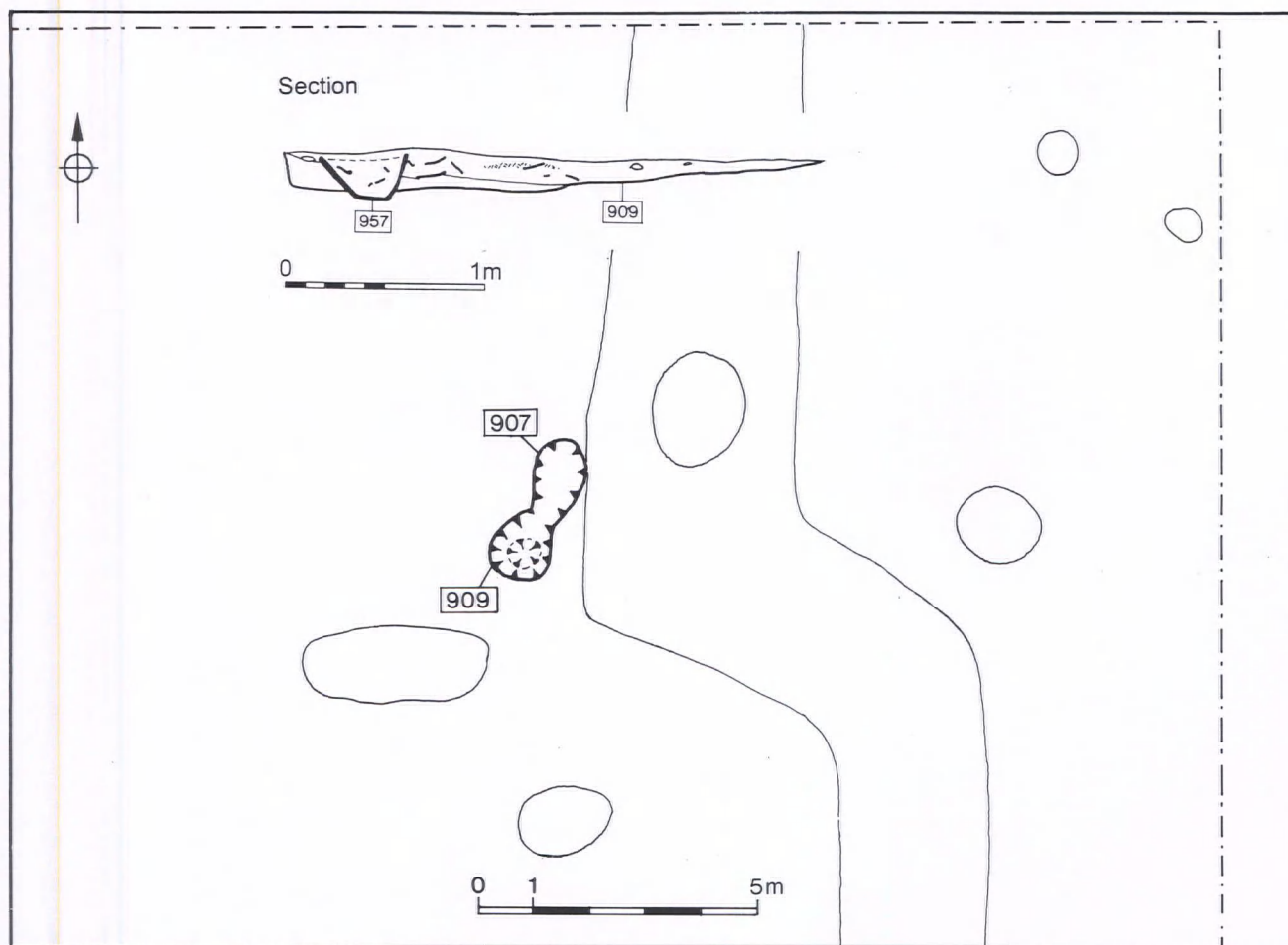


Fig. 30. East Stagsden, kiln G10.

Furniture from the phase 3 kilns is sparse and not as varied as that used in the succeeding phase. One of the large storage jars (no 225) produced in the kilns was placed upside down and used as the central pedestal in kiln G10. Kiln bars rested on the pedestal, radiating outwards towards the kiln wall (Swan 1984, 62). Their attachment to the kiln wall, however, is unclear. No pedestal was found in kiln G9; it was probably removed for re-use elsewhere. A fragment of a perforated clay plate was recovered from kiln G10, and possibly a fragment of lid from kiln G9.

Linear ditches

The second innovative feature in phase 3 was the construction of ditched linear boundaries. Possibly the earliest boundary was aligned north to south [933], extending southwards from the northern limit of excavation for 9.5m, ending in a rounded terminal (fig 16). The width of the ditch varied from 0.75m to 1.5m, with irregular, generally steep sides sloping to a flat base 0.5m deep. The primary fill comprised yellowish brown clay with many flint pebbles and some limestone fragments. The secondary fill, probably a consolidation horizon, comprised mid-brown clay with fewer inclusions whilst the upper fill comprised yellowish brown clay with a large quantity of stone. Only a small quantity of pottery was recovered from sections cut through the

ditch, including two vessels, in coarse mixed fabric F14 and groggy fabric F17; both are abraded and entirely residual.

Isolated features

In common with the earlier phases a small number of pits and post holes have been identified. As in previous phases most do not fall into specific patterns, although one structural grouping is proposed.

Post holes [847, 881] were sub-circular, 0.9m and 0.75m dia. respectively. Post hole [847] was irregular in profile 0.15m deep and filled by dark grey silt, whilst post hole [881] had near vertical sides and a flat bottom 0.2m deep. Both features contained large quantities of burnt material with limestone and sandstone fragments, probably used as post-packing material. The two posts were set 3.25m apart and, if structural, may represent a construction based on two posts. Perpendicular to the posts was a short **linear gully** [888]. It was aligned east to west, 3.75m long and 0.5m wide, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base 0.1m deep. Filled by charcoal flecked dark brown sand and some small stones, this may be part of the larger structure.

The pottery from this structure is fragmentary. Only post hole [881] produced a significant assemblage, including sixteen sherds

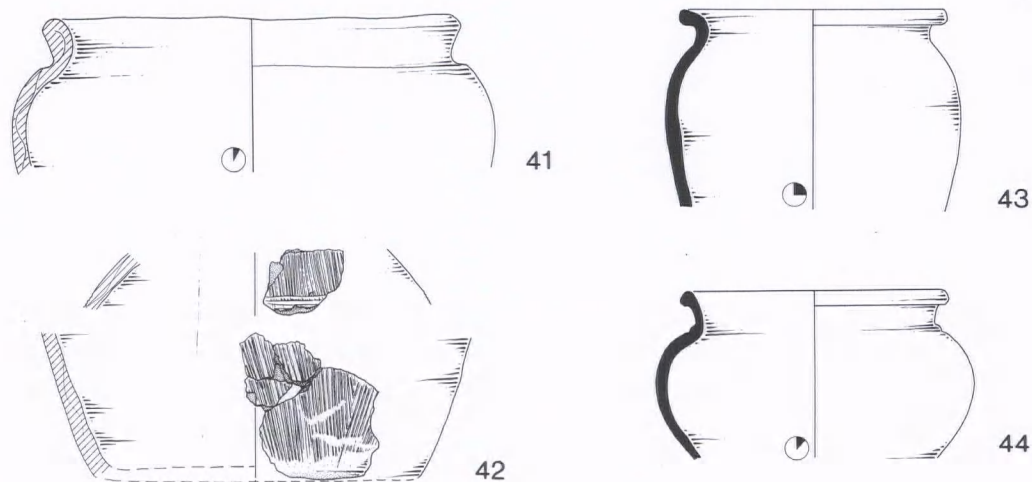


Fig. 31. East Stagsden, phase 3. Ceramics from pit [886]. Scale 1:4.

F. no	F14	F03	F05	F06A	F07
847		1/1/5			1/4/21
881			3/3/56	2/17/142	5/7/41
888	3/3/34			1/1/3	3/3/16

Table 40: Pottery from post holes [847, 881] and linear feature [888] (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

from a wide-mouthed bowl (no 44) in F06A, whilst the sherd of fabric F14 found in [888] is abraded, and probably residual.

The presence of wheel-made pottery in fabric F24 in pit [512] suggests that this feature went out of use and was filled late in this phase. A fragment of shelly F07 kiln fabric was also found in this pit. The only other pottery of significance came from [886]. This assemblage of predominantly ‘Belgic’ pottery (nos 41-4) contained a jar in fabric F15 (no 42) suggesting this fabric type continued in use alongside the ‘Belgic’ grog-tempered wares for some time after their introduction.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
512	1.1m dia.	0.4m	Circular pit with steep sides sloping to a flat base. It was filled with a primary layer of charcoal flecked reddish brown clay-silt and a secondary layer of yellowish brown clay-silt containing frequent large limestone fragments (513).
514	0.5m x 0.2m	0.16m	Small and oval pit with steep sides sloping to a narrow, concave base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked yellowish brown silt (515).
742	1.5m dia.	0.85m	Sub-circular pit, with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. Three fills were identified comprising a primary horizon of greyish black loam with few pebbles (746). Its high charcoal content, suggesting hearth or kiln waste. The secondary fill comprised mid-brown clay-silt containing some small pebbles and charcoal flecks (745). The uppermost fill was a clean blue-grey silt which may have been a deliberate seal (744, 743).
822	1m x 0.55m	0.3m	Truncated pit, filled by orange-brown sandy silt (823).
886		0.4m	Pit truncated by ditch [622] in phase 4. Moderately steep sides sloping to a flat base. The single fill comprised dark greyish black sand (887).

Table 41: Isolated features in phase 3

F. no	F15	F16	F05	F06A	F06B	F07	F08	F24
512				1/1/1	1/1/12	3/3/37		4/7/137
514						1/3/12		
742		1/9/32						
886	1/6/515	1/1/15	2/3/59	4/8/128	7/9/176	10/17/209	2/8/55	

Table 42: Pottery from isolated features in phase 3 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

Phase 4 Late Iron Age

Phase 4 was a period of considerable change when the focus of settlement seems to have shifted away from the area of excavation. No new roundhouses were constructed within the excavated area and the land was sub-divided into rectilinear enclosures by three ditches, which were maintained throughout this phase and into the next. Continuing production of ceramics was evident in the construction of two large kilns, whilst the two earlier, shallow kilns, from phase 3, fell into disuse and were filled with debris. With the shift in settlement, possibly only a short distance away, excavation of pits ceased.

Roundhouses

Two roundhouses G3 and G4 remained in use until the excavation of the linear boundary G15 [622], divided the habitation area. Pottery from G4 is mainly late Iron Age in date (see table 36) while that found in G3 mainly comprises ceramics of the earlier tradition (table 34). Sherds of shelly F07 pottery, possibly made in one of the kilns, were recovered from G4. The pottery manufactured in the kilns of both phases 3 and 4 is of the same fabric type and it is impossible to tell which kiln

the sherds originated from. Roundhouse G4 may even have survived the division of the site by ditch G15 with roundhouse G1 surviving sufficiently for fragments of Roman pottery R06C to accumulate in the upper fills of the drip gully. However, the site seems to have ceased to be the focus of settlement.

Possibly in response to the shift in settlement, pottery manufacture was moved to the west, with two new kilns G7 and G8 located within the circumference of G1. Both kilns were significantly deeper than their predecessors, although the two kilns could not have been in use simultaneously. Kiln G7 post-dated kiln G8. Kiln G7 comprised a firing pit [540], stoking pit [766] and flue [816] (fig 32). The firing pit was roughly circular in shape, 1.3m in diameter, the sides were vertical, sloping down to a slightly concave base 0.85m deep. The primary fill comprised charcoal rich black silt, with dark brown clay and some large limestone blocks above. The stoke pit [766] was similar in shape to the firing pit [540], 1.4m in diameter, but with shallower edges and a stepped-in base 0.7m deep. The fills were very similar to the firing pit and comprised a primary charcoal rich black silt, charcoal flecked grey silt, dark brown clay silt containing occasional large limestone fragments and a final fill of greyish brown clay. The flue [816], linking the firing pit and the stoke pit, comprised a 0.7m wide channel with steep sides 0.72m deep. It was lined with yellow clay with two upright limestone slabs and a capping stone in the aperture.

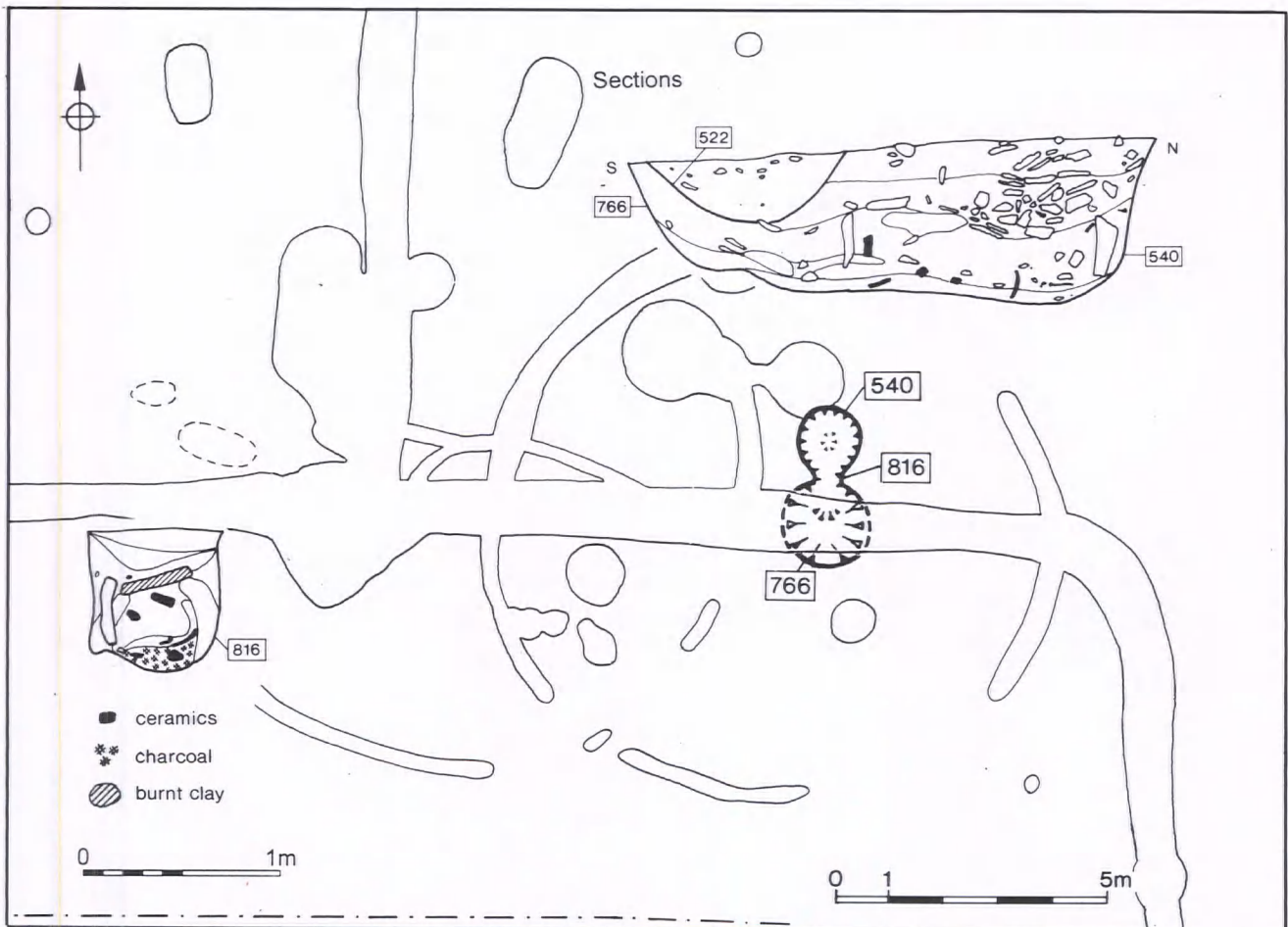


Fig. 32. East Stagsden, kiln G7.

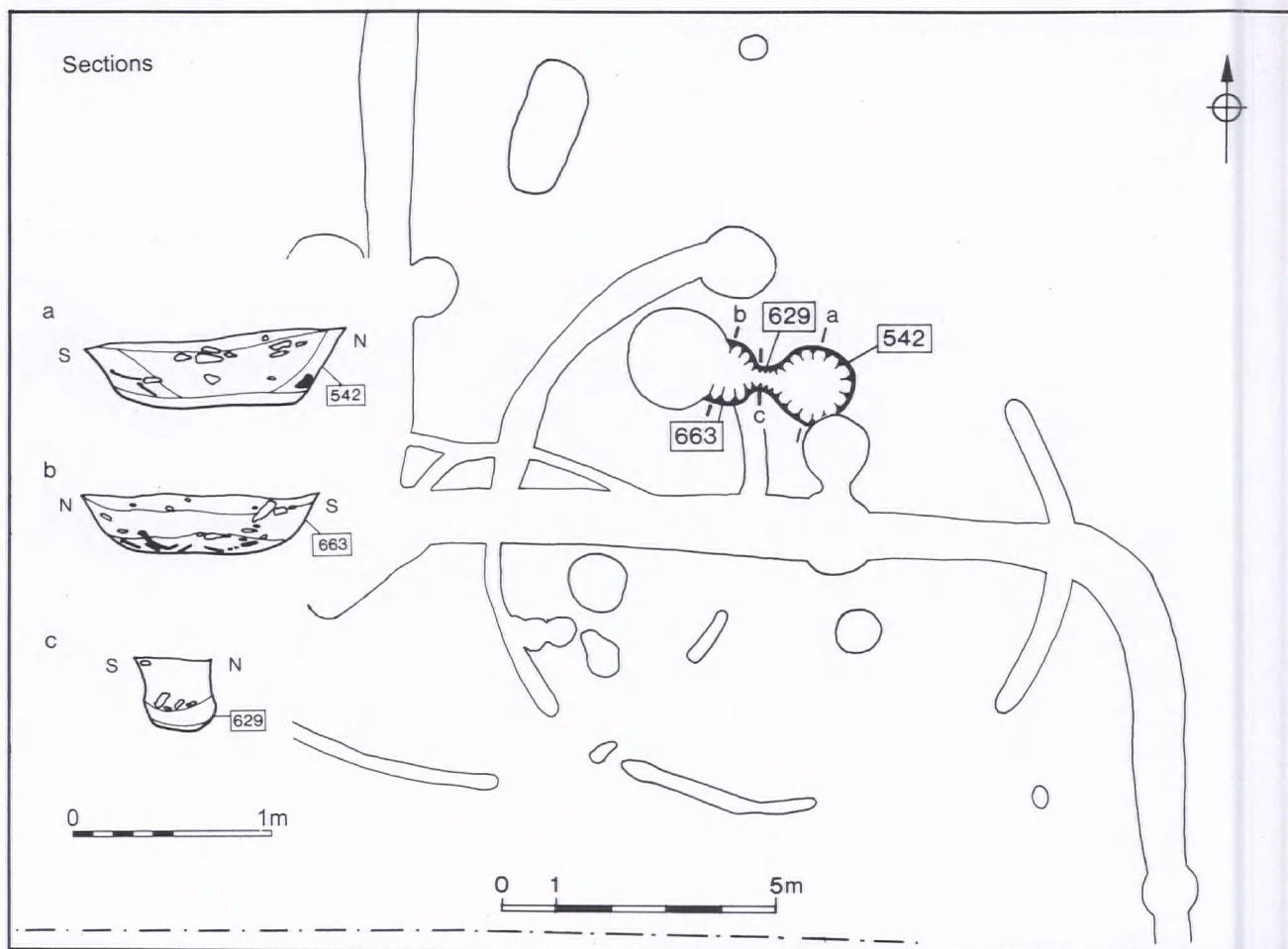


Fig. 33. East Stagsden, kiln G8.

Kiln G8 was identical in design to G7, comprising a firing pit [542], stoke pit [663] and flue [629]. The firing pit was circular in shape, 1.6m in diameter, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base, 0.42m deep; the edges of the pit were scorched from successive firing (fig 33).

The dominant pottery type made in the kilns is the shelly F07 jar, either large storage jars or smaller lid-seated jars. Both kilns were finally filled with different pottery (table 43): kiln G7 contained predominantly waster material, and far more of it than

kiln G8, whilst kiln G8 contained a greater variety of pottery including both waster materials and probably domestic rubbish. Kilns G7 and G8 were similar in construction and firing to those in the preceding phase. The major difference lies in the extensive survival of a variety of kiln furniture. Several clay slabs (fig 56.14-15) which may have been used as liners, were recovered from these kilns and from a number of non-kiln features in this phase, and, although this may be a matter of survival, their presence could suggest that modifications, and perhaps improvements, to the firing process were carried out in this phase.

F. no	F14	F15	F03	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	F24	R05A
Kiln G8										
542	5/6/202		2/2/7	1/2/6	2/13/531		28/179/8482	1/1/28		
663		1/1/13	1/1/304	1/5/25		1/4/20	28/205/11756		1/2/27	
Kiln G7										
540			1/28/1196		1/1/15		60/443/30046			
766							5/13/3280			1/1/1

Table 43: Pottery from kilns G8 and G7 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

Linear ditched boundaries

The use of ditched linear boundaries was extended in phase 4 with three ditches dividing the site into two 25-30m wide enclosures. Although roundhouse G4 may still have been in use in the early stages of this period, no further evidence of settlement activity was discovered.

Ditch G16 comprising [696/876] spanned the entire site with a dog-leg towards the northern limit of excavation (fig 44). The width of the original cut varied from 2.5m to 4m and it was steep sided, over 45°, but irregular, sloping to a narrow base. The ditch was 1.3m deep to the south and 1.4m deep in the centre. The northernmost section was excavated to a depth of 1.3m without reaching the base of the feature, which could have reached 1.75m-2m if a consistent profile is assumed. The fill which comprised charcoal flecked yellowish brown silt clay, becoming sandier to the north, with occasional inclusions of cornbrash and limestone fragments, does not suggest habitation close by, and the material in the ditches probably derived from gradual erosion of the ditch edges. The date of this ditch is derived from a combination of stratigraphic and ceramic evidence. The ditch cuts pits [716, 703, 705] and is cut by [710]. Early ceramics in the

ditch (see below) probably derive from these early features. G16 was recut in a much shallower version [633] (fig 44). The new ditch line followed the line of the original, but was slightly narrower with a maximum width of 3.3m. Its profile was also similar, with steep sides sloping to a wide, concave base 0.9m-1m deep. The northern part may have been as deep as 1.5m. The primary fills, which here comprised yellowish brown clays and silts, seem to comprise edge derived material, rather than habitation debris. The sequence of fills in the southernmost section, however, was more complex, giving some indication of activities close by. Initially the fills were the same as those in the north section with the primary fill comprising light brown silts, but here it was sealed by greenish brown material, suggesting the deposition of organic debris after consolidation of the ditch. The secondary fill comprised greyish brown silt with a high charcoal content, suggesting disposal of hearth or kiln waste. This in turn was sealed by a layer of crushed limestone and cornbrash, possibly material derived from the excavation of pits in the same area. The uppermost fill reflects the pattern seen in the sections to the north; silts containing frequent cornbrash, pebbles, charcoal and burnt clay inclusions hint at the reversion of surrounding areas to agriculture. Two brooches (Rf 121 and

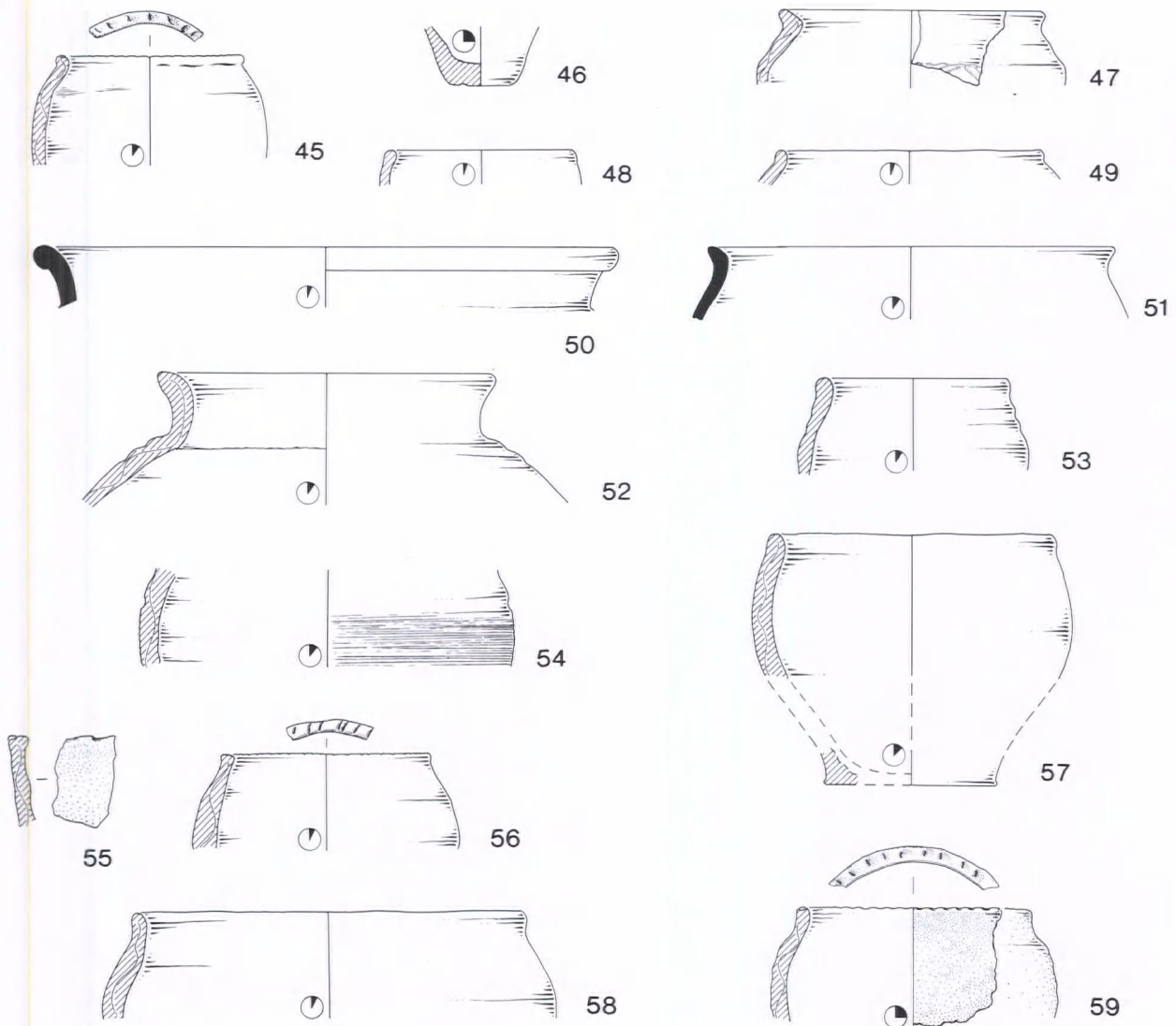


Fig. 34. East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from boundary ditch G16. Scale 1:4.

F. no.	F14	F15	F16	F17	F21	F27	F03	F06A
633	2/8/63	1/3/73	3/3/42	26/51/994	1/2/53	19/22/246	5/5/206	1/2/9
696	11/38/416	1/3/107				1/1/27		
876	2/4/141	1/12/244	2/3/110	6/7/164		7/7/369	1/4/36	

Table 44: Pottery from the boundary ditch G16 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no.	F14	F15	F17	F27	F03	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07
622 (ph 4)	1/1/11	1/1/84	1/1/8	4/6/189	1/1/11					
622 (ph 5)		1/1/8	14/17/300	16/19/532	2/2/39	1/2/10	9/12/267	1/3/92	1/1/110	9/16/604

Table 45: Pottery from the boundary ditch G15 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no.	F14	F15	F16	F17	F03	F05	F07	R06D
782	4/9/163	4/18/1763	1/1/13	5/5/73	2/3/109	3/3/56	6/15/214	1/1/3

Table 46: Pottery from ditch G18 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

Rf 145), in use in the first half of the 1st century AD, were recovered from these uppermost fills, along with a bone point or toggle (Rf 139).

The pottery from this ditch is mixed. The recut from [633] contains ceramics with 'Belgic' elements, which are absent from [696] and [876], as well as transitional ceramics, with 'Belgic' forms, grog-tempered fabric but hand-made. The 'Belgic' elements of the assemblage include jars with rippled shoulders, Thompson's type B2 (1982, 117-138), and burnished wavy line decoration or all over external burnishing. One jar (no 54) is deeply scored horizontally and echoes the scored decoration common in the middle Iron Age throughout the east Midlands. No pottery with 'Belgic' elements was recovered from [696] or [876]. All the pottery from these features is native in character: fabrics and forms are of the early type; decoration is restricted to fingernail impressions on the rims. Despite the large size of these sherds and several belonging to the same vessel (table 44), this assemblage could be regarded as residual, although a small

fragment of kiln bar recovered from the contents of [876] suggests instead the longevity of these ceramic types.

The **second ditch G15** also stretched across the entire site (fig 43). This ditch [622] varied in width from 2.25-3.75m. The sides were steep, c.60°, sloping to a narrow V-shaped base 2.3m deep. The earliest fills (669) comprised brown silt clay, probably natural in origin, resulting from erosion of the ditch edges. The homogenous nature of these fills and the general lack of coarse components indicates that there was no bank associated with the boundary. A thin lens of burnt material seen in the northern section suggests an episode of deliberate deposition of hearth or kiln waste (619). The phase 4 fills contained pottery in early fabric types, suggesting earlier material eroded into the ditch with the primary fills.

The pottery is a transitional assemblage with both wheel-made 'Belgic' wares and hand-made copies with burnished decoration, combing or 'rustication'. The vessels are relatively fragmentary.

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
869	11m x 0.06m-0.1m	0.3m	A gully aligned north-east to south-west with a U-shaped profile with steep sides, 60°, sloping to a concave base. A section to the west revealed an irregular profile with gradually sloping sides, c.30°, sloping to a flat, slightly uneven base 0.18m deep. The fills varied from clean, dark brown silt clay to relatively stony yellowish brown silt (870).
902	1.5m dia.	0.29m	A sub-circular pit, with gradual sides sloping to a slightly concave base. The fill comprised dark reddish brown clay (903).
990	1m dia.	0.3m	A small pit, with an irregular profile. Its sides sloped from 30°-80° to a narrow, concave base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked greyish brown clay loam containing a large quantity of pottery (991).
1000	2.5m x 1.5m	0.3m	Hearth cut into the upper fill of pit [896], this poorly defined feature was oval in plan, with gradual sides sloping to a slightly concave base. The fill comprised charcoal rich silt containing frequent burnt stones suggesting the feature was a hearth (1001). The feature does not appear to be associated with any structures.

Table 47: Isolated features in phase 4

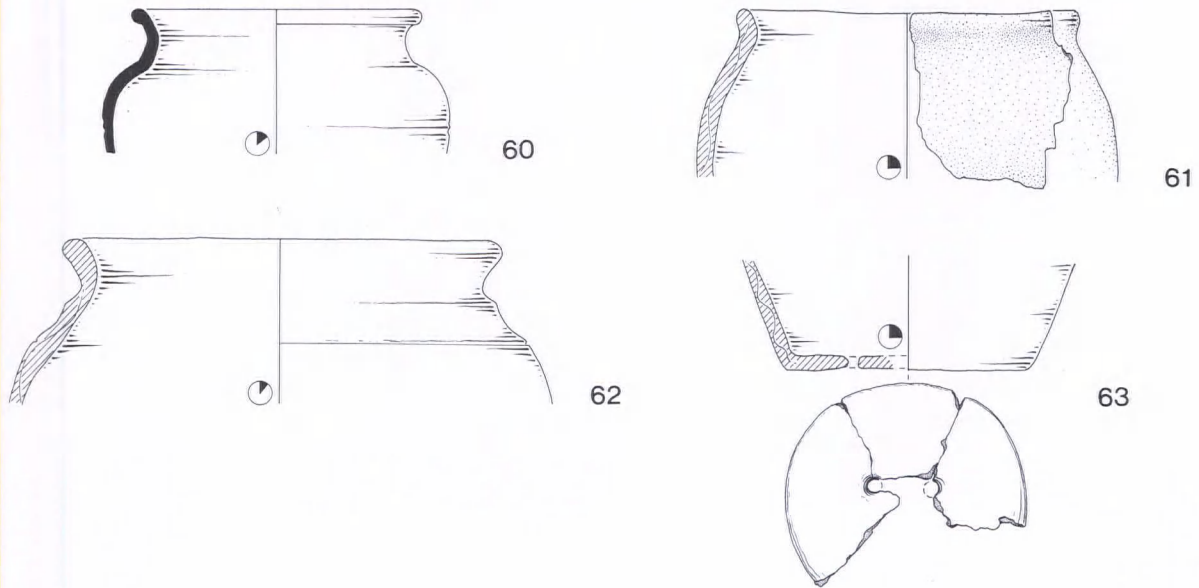


Fig. 35. East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from pit 902 (no 60) and pit 990 (nos 61–63). Scale 1:4.

The inturned rim of no 160 occurs in Knight's Group 1 assemblages, dating to the early Iron Age (Knight 1984, 47), although at Stagsden it is likely to be later. At least five vessels in shelly fabric F07, one of them a lid-seated jar, may have originated in one of the kilns on the site.

Parallel to ditches G15 and G16 was G18. Once again north-south aligned, the boundary G18 [782] spanned the entire width of the site (fig 44). Excavation revealed a complex series of recuts, although the fills were generally similar throughout. These comprised crushed cornbrash in a clay matrix and suggest deliberate deposition of material excavated from elsewhere on site. The earliest surviving cut [782], of uncertain width, had irregular sides (where visible) sloping to a flat, 0.25m wide base 0.85m deep.

The pottery in this ditch comprised a mixed assemblage of fragmentary single sherds of early fabric types, and more substantial vessels of late Iron Age with a single fragment of probably intrusive Roman type (table 46).

Isolated features

The shift in settlement focus away from the area of excavation is visible in the relatively small number of isolated features recognised in this phase. Most but not all of this activity was located in the western enclosure.

A single Nauheim derivative brooch (Rf 144) was found in the fill of pit [902] and the small assemblage of pottery from this pit included a 'Belgic' wheel-made cordoned jar (no 60). Of the other

isolated features only [990] contained a significant assemblage of pottery. This is a transitional assemblage with both 'Belgic' and earlier elements in which wheel-made vessels include fragments of butt beakers and cordoned jars. The ceramics of the earlier tradition are hand-made jars in fabrics F14 and F17; vessel no 63 had a hole bored into the body after firing.

Human burial

A single human burial was found at east Stagsden G31 (fig 36). The structure of the grave, which was not completely excavated, comprised a near oval pit [896] approximately 8m x 4m, with, on the northern periphery, three circular post holes or pits [996] [998] [1002] which had been truncated by [896]. The pit [896] was initially steep sided with a gradually sloping base down to a deeper central hollow. It contained three distinct horizons which contained a generally fragmented pottery assemblage. The primary horizon (941), a mix of dark brown loam, charcoal and decayed limestone, contained the skeleton of a foal. On the southern edge of the pit, close to the foal, was part of a lid-seated jar in shelly fabric F07 neatly broken in half (no 69). Above the primary horizon was a second layer of loamy material (897), containing slightly fewer limestone fragments, extending across the full extent of the inhumation pit. Within this horizon was a single human neonate burial located slightly north of the foal. In the area of both foal and neonate, the section appears to have sunk slightly suggesting subsidence, but not the presence of any container. The upper fill of the pit (989) contained a high proportion of limestone and charcoal fragments and sealed the burial below.

F. no	F14	F16	F17	F27	F06B	F06C	F07
869			1/1/2	1/2/59		2/4/29	1/1/1
902					4/8/67		2/4/29
990	1/13/39		1/6/234		10/44/570	2/24/427	4/13/225

Table 48: Pottery from phase 4 isolated features (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

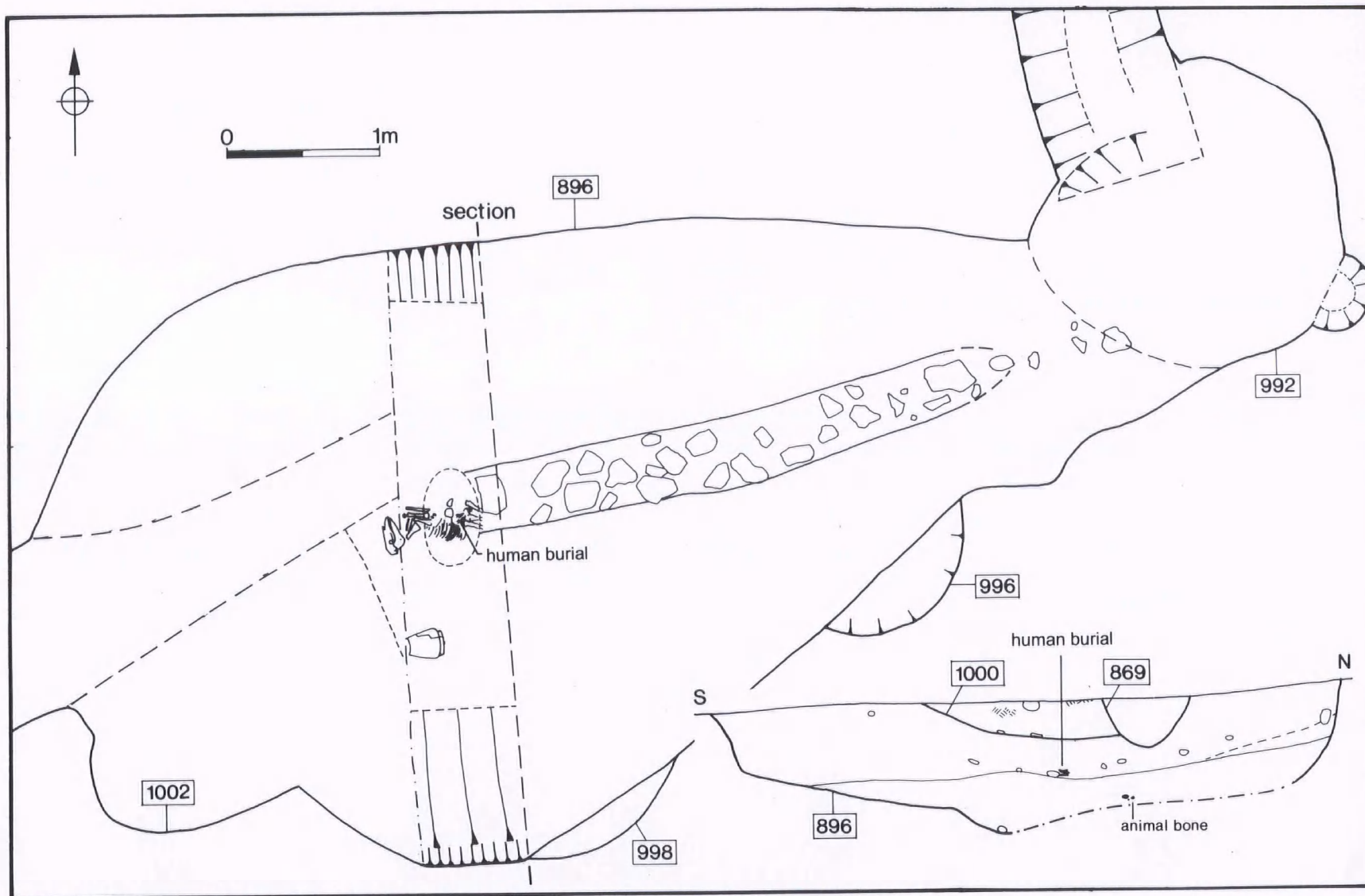


Fig. 36. East Stagsden, the human burial G31 in phase 4.

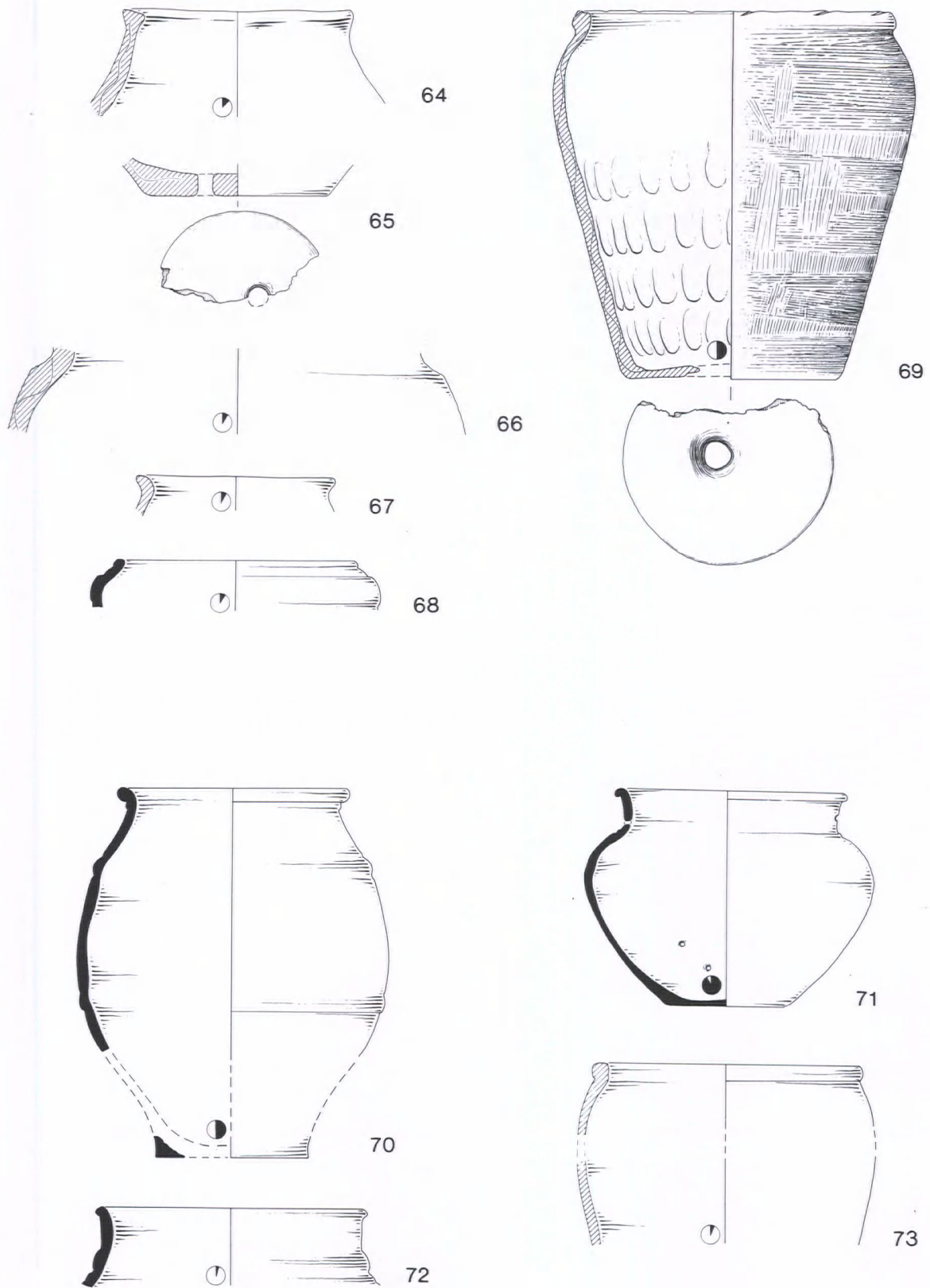


Fig. 37. East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from the human burial G31 in pit [896] (nos 64–69) and pit [992] (nos 70–73). Scale 1:4.

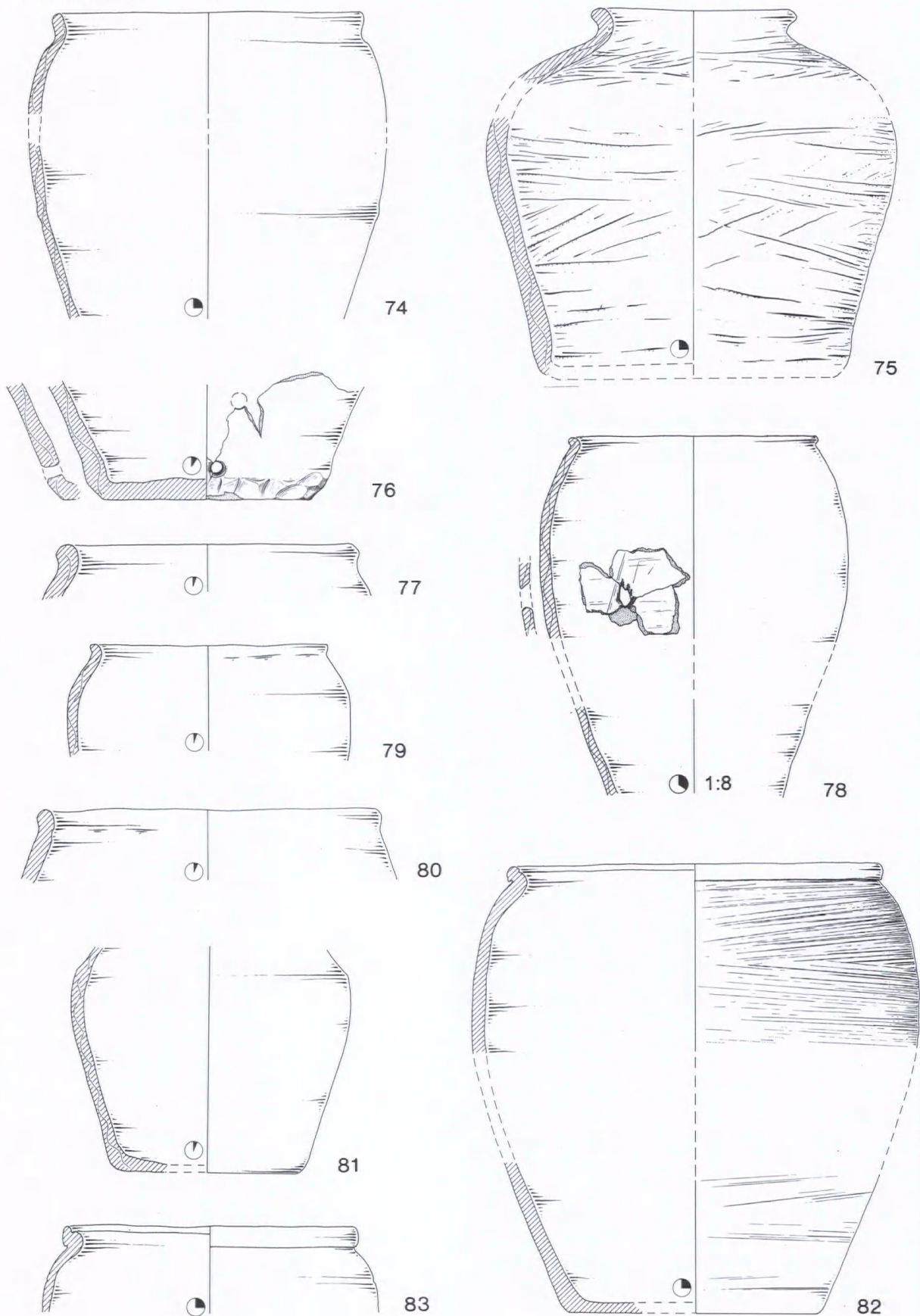


Fig. 38. East Stagsden, phase 4. Ceramics from human burial pit [992]. Scale 1:4.

F. no	F14	F15	F17	F27	F03	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07
896	2/8/610	4/4/158		1/1/61	1/1/8	7/18/296	5/5/162	5/7/107	1/4/35	8/10/1232
992	3/74/4296	2/55/3013	14/73/1504	2/4/76		1/2/53	9/155/2102	3/4/79		7/112/3731

Table 49: Pottery from pits [896] and [992] (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

A final component of the burial was a pit [992] cut into the eastern end of pit [896]. It was sub-circular in plan, 2m in diameter with moderately steep sides sloping down to a concave base 0.5m deep. The primary fill comprised charcoal rich blackish brown clay silt with frequent burnt stones. A number of cross-joining sherds were recovered from the layers of pit [992]. Although archaeologically distinct, the filling of this pit probably occurred within a short space of time. Substantial, unabraded vessels make up much of the assemblage (table 49, figs 37, 38). This is a transitional group, with the 'Belgic' element comprising butt-beakers and cordoned jars in a fine, wheel-made, grog-tempered fabric (nos 70-2). Number 73 is possibly hand-made, although still in a grog-tempered fabric. The early tradition is represented by jars in fabric F14 and F15 (nos 74-8).

Phase 5 1st/2nd century AD

The trends established in phase 4 continue in phase 5 with the maintenance of the existing ditches. The

recuts are generally smaller and shallower and, in the case of the central ditch, involve a slight deviation from the existing pattern. Some subdivision of the enclosures took place with the construction of narrow angular ditches on the south side of the site and the excavation of a new ditch to the north possibly to link existing ditches. During this phase a series of larger pits was excavated in the area of the two phase 4 kilns. A well or stone lined pit G14 was probably excavated and filled at this stage.

Linear Boundaries

The ditches which made up the linear boundaries in phase 4 were recut on the same lines in phase 5, although the new cuts were generally shallower than the originals. The exception was the central ditch, G15 which was not maintained and was reduced to a shallow gully. However, the excavation of a new ditch, G17 immediately to the east, probably replacing G15, indicates the

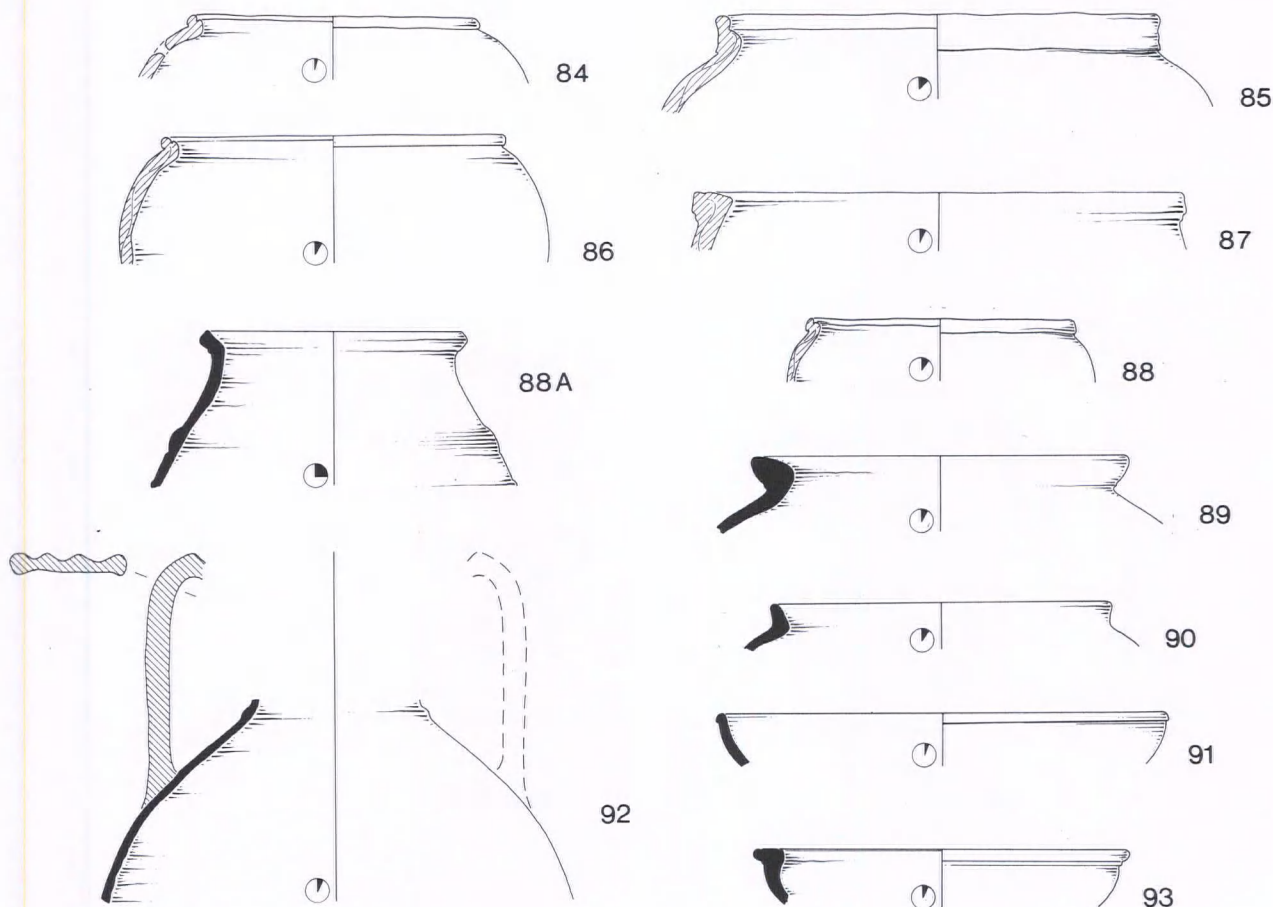


Fig. 39. East Stagsden, phase 5. Ceramics from ditch G17. Scale 1:4.

continuing importance of the boundary line. **Ditch G15** had begun to silt gradually in phase 4 in a process which continued into phase 5. The fills above the phase 4 horizon of burnt material (619) were less homogenous than the primary silts, comprising mixed yellowish and grey silts, sands and clays suggesting gradual accumulation in an already consolidated ditch. A single forked antler point (Rf 146) was recovered from this horizon. Adjacent to and east of G15 was **G17**. The ditch [508] was recorded over 38m extending beyond the northern limit of excavation. In its earliest form it had a variable profile; gentle or moderately steep sides, 30-45°, sloping to a narrow concave base 0.25m-0.4m deep. The fills generally comprised clean brown silts with few inclusions, although a section to the south revealed primary and secondary fills of reddish brown sand. A single phase of recutting [863] was evident with a primary fill of reddish brown sand, sealed by darker silts. The recovery of a Nauheim derivative brooch (Rf 149) and a Langton Down variant (Rf 143), suggests it was open in the 1st century AD.

There is a largely contemporary assemblage of pottery from ditch [G17] (tables 50, 51). This includes a shelly F24 jar and a whiteware R03A flagon, comprising 13 and 11 sherds respectively. The shelly jar (not illustrated) is of a developed channel rim type made at Harrold in the 2nd century (Brown 1994, 62). Otherwise Roman pottery makes up a significant part of the assemblage from this ditch which together with the Harrold type wares, poppyhead beakers, and whiteware flagons (no 92), dates the whole assemblage to the post-Conquest period, possibly even into the 2nd century. Two samian vessels were also recovered, dating to the Hadrianic or early Antonine periods. There is a single 'Belgic' fine grog tempered F06A butt beaker, comprising 42 sherds (no 88A), comparable in date to the Langton Down brooch. Unless it is residual, this pot may have continued in use

long after this type was being manufactured in the 1st century.

The **third recut ditch** was G32. This ditch [728] recut the largely backfilled ditch [782] and had an irregular, stepped profile indicating periods of cleaning. It was excavated only to a depth of 0.9m without reaching the base, although the full depth can be estimated at 1.1-1.3m. The fills (726, 727, 728, 827) comprised silty clays, containing large quantities of crushed cornbrash in the lower horizons, with some limestone fragments, flint pebbles and charcoal in the upper layers. The ditch was dated to the Roman period by the appearance of R05A, R03A, R06 and R07 fabric types, many of which are unabraded, the most complete pottery comprising four vessels with over ten sherds (eg no 214). This ditch is likely, therefore, to have been filled at the end of this phase, or early in phase 6.

Stone-lined pit or well

An innovation in the Conquest period, may have been the excavation of a stone-lined pit or well G11 (fig 40). Situated in the western enclosure, it was circular in plan, 2.44m diameter with near vertical sides [556] sloping to a flat base 1.3m deep. The sides were lined with narrow rectangular limestone courses (690), made up of ashlar varying in size up to 0.2m long. The lining was found to be slightly overhanging, with evidence of earlier collapse at its southern edge. In contrast to the primary material, which was largely limestone rubble, the upper fills comprised blue-grey silts, greenish brown silts and finally, dark brown silts. This sequence may represent consolidation, the disposal of organic waste or the deliberate sealing of the pit or well. Nevertheless, the shallowness, the absence of silts and water damage to the lining, suggest the stone-lined pit may never have functioned, either as a source of water or as a cistern.

F. no	F14	F03	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R04B
508			6/11/71	4/8/24	15/23/212		19/86/1306	10/13/184	2/2/5
646		1/1/3	1/1/31	3/5/112		4/32/435	4/5/108		
864			5/6/94	4/45/288			9/12/210	1/1/3	
892	1/1/12								

Table 50: Pre-Roman pottery from ditch G17 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	F24	R01A	R01B	R03A	R06C	R07B	R05A
508	8/31/403	1/1/2	2/4/7	3/6/24	9/18/92	1/1/4	1/1/1
646	1/1/17				2/12/185		
864		2/2/18				1/1/26	
892	1/8/377						

Table 51: Roman pottery from ditch G17 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	F14	F15	F03	F05	F07	F08	R03B	R06C	R07B	R05A
728	2/2/18	1/1/19	3/10/121	3/6/51	17/77/985	4/68/1097	1/2/11	3/6/34	2/13/113	1/1/5

Table 52: Pottery from ditch G32 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

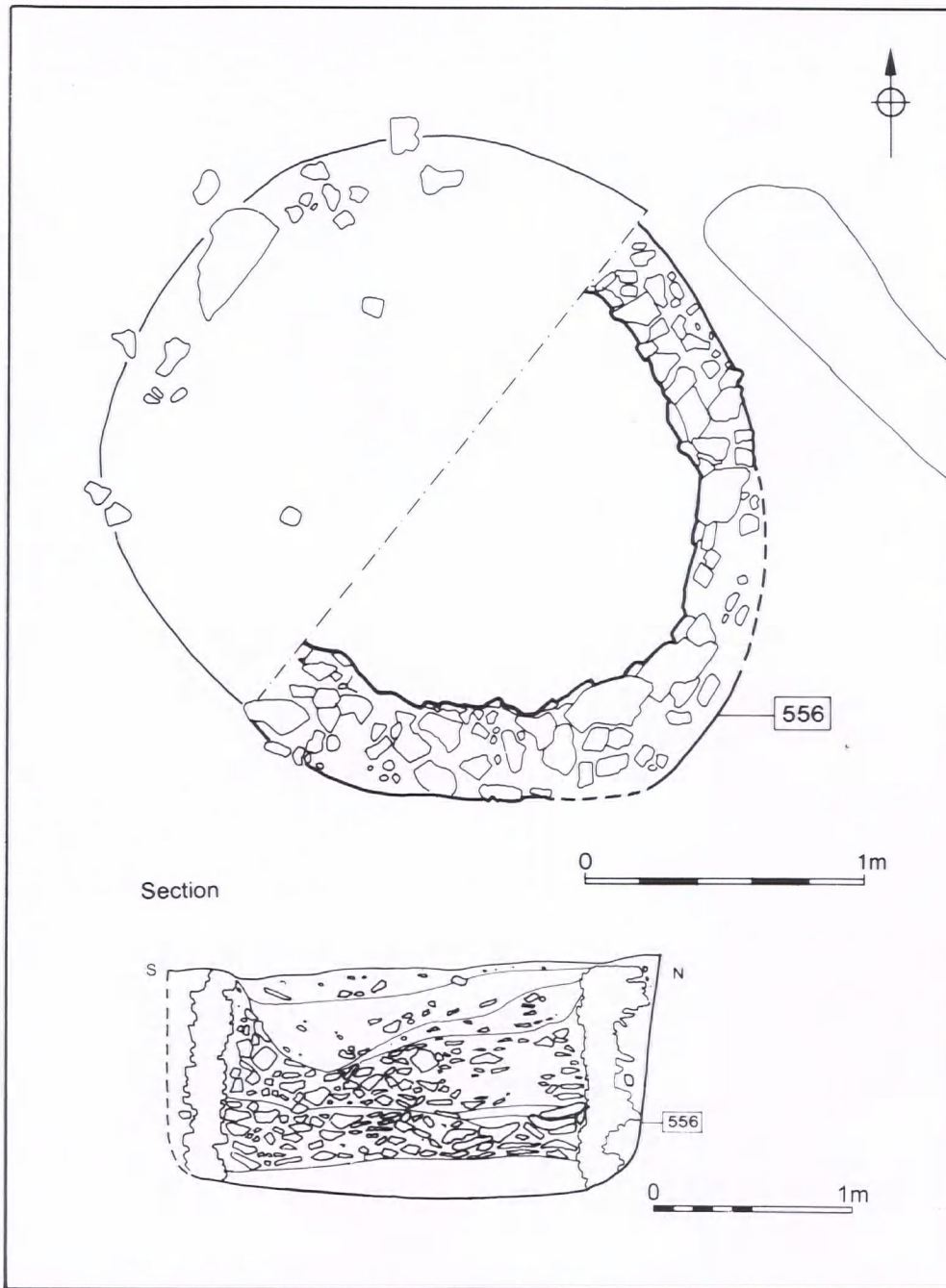


Fig. 40. East Stagsden, stone-lined pit [556].

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F03	F05	F06B	F06C	F07	R06C
556 (primary deposits)		1/3/151	1/1/70		2/4/199	1/6/224		3/3/224	
556 (upper fills)	11/24/138	5/7/238		5/14/131	1/2/21	1/1/12	3/4/104	17/51/593	1/1/4

Table 53: Ceramics in the stone-lined pit or well (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

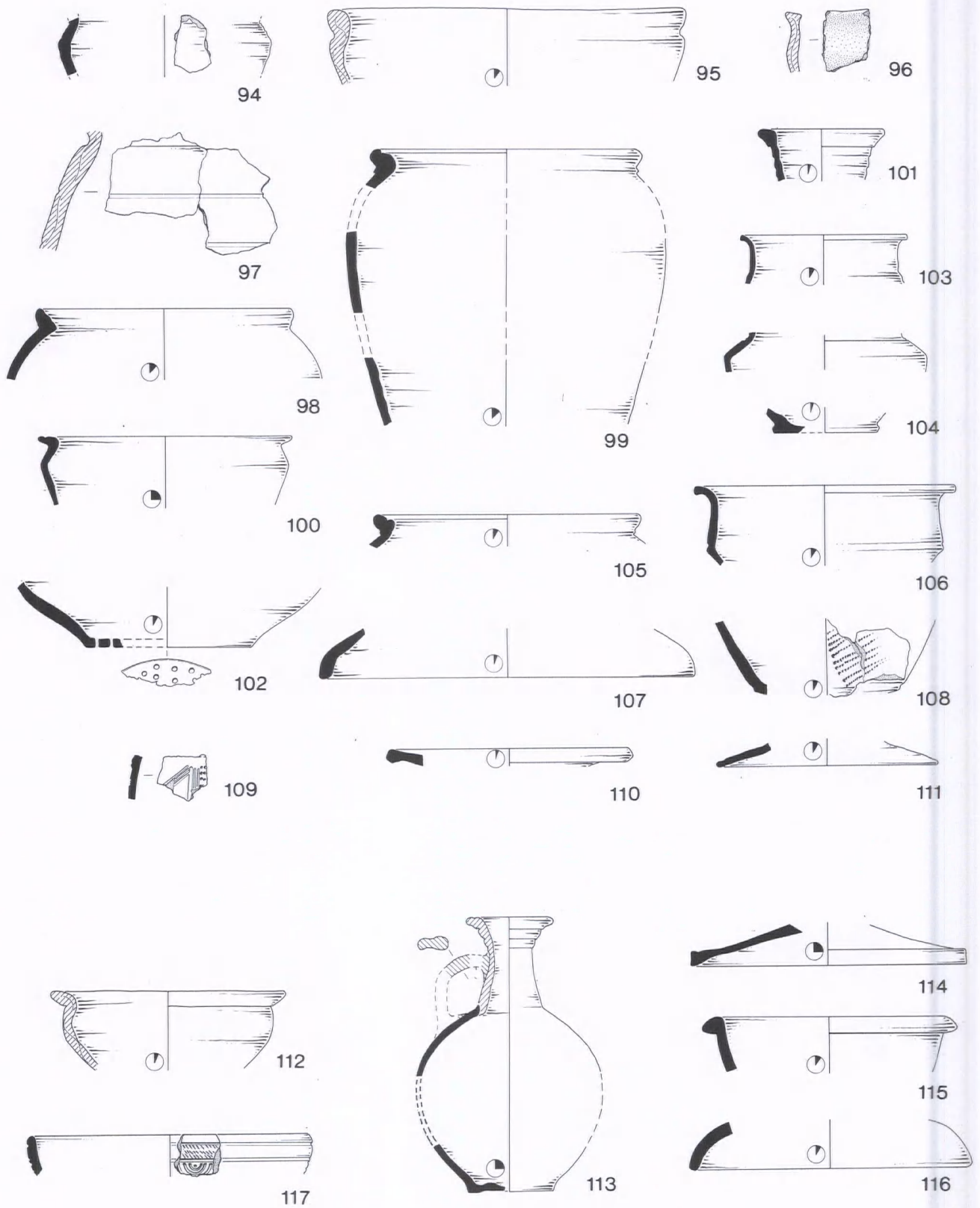


Fig. 41. East Stagsden, phase 5. Ceramics from enclosure G22. Scale 1:4.

The primary fills (table 53) of the stone lined pit included a fragmentary assemblage of mainly 'Belgic' wares which include a grog-tempered F06B cordoned jar. A single but large sherd of shelly F07 fabric possibly originated from a vessel manufactured on the site, which had been deposited after the last kiln had gone out of use (no 186). This suggests the pit must have been filled in phase 5 and had probably been dug in the same phase. The upper fills are a mixture of 'Belgic' and earlier ceramics. Some mixing of fills is suggested by the presence of a cross-join between the upper and lower layers. The fragmentary nature of the pottery and the small size of the sherds also suggests that the pottery is not necessarily contemporary, and could have been part of a midden deposit.

Enclosures

In addition to the maintenance of the linear enclosures originally constructed in phase 4, phase 5 saw the excavation of a number of smaller enclosures in particular ditch G22 (fig 16 & 42). Located towards the southern limit of the excavation a rectilinear enclosure was constructed across the area once occupied by kilns G7 and G8. The ditch [522] ran from the southern limit of excavation for 7m and turned gradually through 90° to the west, continuing for a further 25m to a terminal within the upper fill of [782], ditch G18. The profile was consistent throughout, 1m wide with gradual sides and a concave base 0.25m-0.4m deep. The fill was also consistent throughout, comprising charcoal flecked dark brown silts with limestone fragments and flint pebbles. The ceramic assemblage in this ditch was dominated by Roman period wares (tables 54 & 55); there were few other finds. A small fragment of riveted iron sheet (Rf 117) and a fragment of blue-green glass vessel (Rf 136) were clearly discarded items, whilst several flint flakes were residual in this context. Towards the centre of the northern arm of this ditch an arrangement of stones (677) was uncovered. Some 2.5m long, it comprised limestone blocks, up to 0.2m in size mixed with occasional sandstone pebbles. No distinction was made between these and the ditch fill, but similarities can be seen with the stone structures of phase 6.

The western side of this enclosure was identified with ditch terminal [712] in the south-western corner of the site. Perpendicular to this enclosure was another ditch [530], running for 13m from the intersection with [522] to a rounded terminal. The width was consistent, 0.6m, with moderately steep sides, c.45°-60°, sloping to a narrow V-shaped base 0.4m deep. The fill comprised greyish brown silt clay containing occasional limestone and flint inclusions.

The ceramic assemblage from the ditches of enclosure [G22] is fragmentary although a number of diagnostic forms were present (nos 94-117). Most of the pottery came from [522]. The presence of a mica-gilded, R02, vessel; whiteware, R03A and B, flagons; the slipped orange sandy, R05A, flagon and bowl, and the greyware, R06C jars, point to a deposition date in the early 2nd century. The vessel forms are varied and include flagons, platters, lids, strainers, lid-seated jars, narrow-necked jars, wide-mouthed jars, carinated bowls and bowls with London type decoration (no 117). Even though the pottery was not deposited in the ditch as a primary deposit, the variety of vessels, with their Roman forms, points to a domestic assemblage, deposited by people who are, by this phase, gradually adopting Roman vessel forms. Yet cooking techniques were not totally Romanised; there is an absence of mortaria, and the shelly lid-seated jars are still being used as cooking pots, although the hand-made shelly F07 lid-seated jars have gradually been replaced by the wheel-made F24 version.

A further ditch G14 formed a curvilinear boundary roughly east-west between G17 and G18. The ditch was 1.2m wide with moderately steep but uneven sides sloping down to a concave base 0.45m-0.65m deep. It contained charcoal flecked reddish brown silt with some limestone fragments, suggesting gradual accumulation of waterborne or windblown silts.

The ditch contained a predominantly late Iron Age ceramic assemblage, fragmentary with relatively small sherds. The presence of a wheel-made shelly F24 vessel, however, points to a 1st century AD date of deposition, probably post-Conquest, with much of the earlier pottery residual. This is confirmed by

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F03	F04	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R04B
522	2/2/25			2/2/50	5/5/32	1/1/5	8/14/85	4/9/55	5/6/115	5/10/264	162/186/2139		1/1/4
712	2/4/23	1/2/28						2/16/141	3/3/19	1/3/15		1/3/16	
530		1/1/41	1/1/4		1/1/7		1/1/12				5/5/31		

Table 54: Pre-Roman pottery from enclosure ditch G22 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	F24	R02	R03A	R03B	R06B	R06C	R06D	R06E	R07B	R08	R05A	R13
522	33/70/751	1/1/3	2/2/22	9/23/144	3/7/137	98/124/843	17/20/50	1/1/12	10/13/68	1/3/13	6/20/110	1/1/33
712												
530			1/4/67	3/18/151		6/14/124	1/1/8				1/2/31	

Table 55: Roman pottery from enclosure ditch G22 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	F16	F17	F03	F06B	F07	F24
914	1/1/28	4/8/93	1/1/10	1/1/18	6/12/263	1/1/36

Table 56: Pottery from ditch G14 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
925	4m x 1.25m	0.35m	Irregular feature with gradual sides sloping to an uneven base. The primary fill (935) comprised charcoal flecked yellowish brown silt clay, the secondary fill (926) comprised dark grey silt clay containing frequent burnt sandstone blocks.
923	1m dia.	0.2m	Steep sided pit with a flat base. The fill comprised grey clay loam with occasional limestone fragments and flint pebble inclusions (924).

Table 57: Isolated features in phase 5

F. no	F14	F16	F17	F27	F05	F06B	F07	R04B
925	1/1/4					3/3/13		1/8/118
923	7/21/195	9/22/503	5/8/76	11/16/310	2/7/51		3/5/44	

Table 58: Pottery from pits in phase 5 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
878	2m x 1.7m	1.05m	Oval pit, cut into the upper fills of ditch [876], G16, with vertical sides sloping to a flat base. Primary fill comprised blackish brown silt (946); secondary fill, black silt containing a high proportion of burnt material (charcoal, daub); the final fill, dark grey brown clay silt with a high proportion of burnt material (879). The fills suggest deliberate deposition of hearth or kiln waste (fig 43).
710	1.3m x 0.9m		Oval pit cut into the upper fill of ditch [633] G16, which had been damaged by later ploughing. It had steep sides sloping to an uneven base 0.50m long. The primary fill comprised mid-brown silt (721). The secondary fill comprised charcoal flecked blackish grey silt (720). The upper fill comprised charcoal flecked dark grey silt containing a lens of burnt clay (711).

Table 59: Pits in the upper fills of ditch G16

the fragmentary nature of the pottery and the relatively small sherd size.

Isolated features

Excavation of pits and post holes continued in phase 5 with at least thirteen new pits excavated. Despite the apparently random dispersal of these pits they fall into the following groups.

The first group comprised two features [925] [923] close to the earlier location of roundhouses G4 and G5 (table 57). The fill of [925] produced a bone point manufactured from a sheep tibia (Rf 147), perhaps used in textile-working or in burnishing ceramics. The ceramic assemblage in pit [925] is mainly pre-'Belgic' in character with the presence of a handled jar, ovoid jars and a shelly vessel with finger tip decoration on the rim. The primary fill of [925] contained sherds of shelly F07 fabric, from

vessels possibly made on the site. In contrast pit [923] contained a small assemblage of 'Belgic' pottery, including a fine whiteware flagon which may be a Gallo-Belgic import (no 195). The conventional date for the manufacture of this type of flagon is during the first half of the 1st century BC (Stead and Rigby 1989, 144), although it may have remained in use beyond this period.

The second grouping comprised two pits [878] and [710] which had been cut into the upper fills of the phase 4 ditch G16, on the east side of the site. Pit [710] contained late Iron Age pottery, including grog-tempered F06 cordoned jars, part of a very fragmentary assemblage, comprising mainly singleton sherds. Pit [878] contained a similar mix of pottery to [710], in that most of the pottery is late Iron Age, although two sherds of Roman pottery also occurred, including a small chip of samian.

F. no	F16	F17	F03	F06A	F06B	F06C	R01	R03C	R06C
878			1/1/10	2/2/24			1/1/1		1/5/10
710	1/1/24	6/8/107			4/4/93	1/1/5			

Table 60: Pottery from isolated pits in phase 5 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

The Excavation Evidence

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
524	1.1m dia.	0.3m	Pit with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. Fill dark brown silts (525).
544	1.8m dia.	0.65m	Moderately steep sided pit with a flat base. Primary fill of greenish blue clay capped by limestone slabs (737, 738); secondary fill of charcoal rich brownish black silt (735, 736). Upper fill of charcoal flecked brown silt containing limestone fragments and flint pebbles (545).
546	1m dia.	0.3m	Circular pit with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked greyish brown clay silt containing several large limestone fragments (547).
678	1.1m x 0.9m	0.2m	Pit west of ditch [530]. Oval, wide with gradual sides sloping to an uneven base. The fill comprised charcoal flecked dark brown clay (679).
771	1.6m x 1.3m	0.3m	Pit with gradually sloping uneven sides with a slightly uneven base. Fill by dark greyish black sandy silt containing flint pebbles and limestone fragments (770).

Table 61: Pits in the vicinity of enclosures G22 and G23

F. no	F03	F14	F15	F05	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R04	F24	R01A	R03C	R06C
524		1/1/6						1/2/9		1/1/2				
546	1/1/22	8/12/145	1/1/6		1/1/5			2/2/20					1/1/5	
544			1/1/75	2/2/ 251		2/7/180		13/75/2853	4/25/896					
771			2/2/14	1/1/3			2/3/51	4/6/122			1/1/34	1/1/1		2/2/4

Table 62: Pottery from pits in the vicinity of enclosures G22 and G23 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
564	Uncertain	Uncertain	Profile unclear as truncated by [566]. Primary fill of mid brown silt clay, secondary fill of orange brown sandy clay, final fill of charcoal flecked dark yellowish brown silt (564).
566	1.75m x 1.75m	0.35m	Gradual, uneven sides with a concave base. Fill of greyish brown clay silt (567).
568	Uncertain	Uncertain	Profile unclear as truncated by [566]. Fill of dark brown silt clay containing frequent limestone fragments and flint pebbles (569).

Table 63: Pits at the west end of east Stagsden

F. no	F14	F15	F16	F17	F03	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F09	R01A
564	8/19/358	6/13/581	1	1/1/11	1/1/9	2/2/12	2/2/36		7/10/93	1/2/22	
568	4/5/49	3/3/128	2/2/93		0/1/64*	6/6/69		3/7/270	4/6/70		1/1/7

*Table 64: Pottery from the pits at the west end (*cross-joins with G18 [782]) (vessel/sherds/weight g.)*

F. no	Dimensions	Depth	Description
651		0.45m	The earlier of the two pits, steep sided with a concave base. The fills comprised dark brown silt containing limestone fragments, sealed by mid-brown silts (652, 661, 662).
640	1m dia.		Sub-circular pit truncated by pit [651]. It was steep sided with a flat base 0.45m deep, fills comprised dark brown silt (660) sealed by a thin band of relatively stony brown silts (641).

Table 65: Pits [640, 651] in phase 5

The third group comprised five pits [524, 544, 546, 678, 771] in the vicinity of the enclosure ditches G22 and G23. Of these [546] contained the only registered find, a fragment of copper alloy sheet (Rf 118). The pit also contained mainly Iron Age pottery (table 62) and a single small sherd of a whiteware R03C flagon from which its date is derived. The primary and upper fills all comprised charcoal rich material, indicating the proximity of settlement related activities.

Pit [544] had been cut into the remains of kiln [G8]. It contained a mixture of pottery, most of which was late Iron Age in date. Some sherds were decorated in the style as nos 231, 242-3, and were derived from the kilns which were cut by this pit. Two remaining pits, [524, 771], contained a mixture of Iron Age and Roman pottery. Pit [524] contained a small quantity of pottery, among which was a possible import. It is of a particularly fine fabric, black throughout, although the sherd is too small to be diagnostic. Pit [771] contained fragmentary pottery, the latest of which is a Roman fine greyware R06C cordoned jar. The date is likely to be late 1st-2nd century.

The fourth group comprised three intercutting pits [564, 566, 568] located towards the western limit of excavation, within the area of enclosure ditch [522]. Pit [566] contained no pottery. The other two pits contained late Iron Age material, including sherds of pottery made on the site (table 64). A single sherd of samian (no 206) was found in pit [568]. No other Roman pottery was present. One sherd from [568] joined with a vessel from G18 [782] (785).

The final grouping of pits comprised two [640, 651] intercutting pits excavated in the area of cornbrash which had been popular in phases 1, 2, 3.

Only pit [640] contained a small assemblage of pottery, comprising five sherds of Iron Age date and a single sherd of Roman greyware R06C. None of the sherds was diagnostic of form.

F. no	F16	F27	R06C
640	2/2/30	2/3/24	1/1/2

Table 66: Pottery from pits in phase 5 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

F. No	F14	F03	F06A	F06B	F06C	F07	F08	R03A	R06C
G13 [985]			2/6/30	2/13/96		8/42/502			
G23 [828]	1/1/4	1/1/10	3/7/63	3/3/56	1/1/10	13/36/614	5/6/162	1/33/200	2/ 2/27

Table 67: Pottery from G13 and G23 (vessel/sherds/weight g.)

Phase 6 Later 2nd Century AD

The final phase of activity on the site is represented by three stone alignments, which were constructed in the upper fills of earlier ditches. They were all badly eroded by furrows.

The first **G12** was located in the upper fills of ditch G17 [646] (figs 16, 42). It comprised a north-south stone alignment [645], approximately 6m long, 1m wide and 0.25m deep. The stones were mostly limestone, with average dimensions of 0.2m x 0.2m x 0.10m, set in a matrix of mid-brown silts. Some of the stones on the eastern side had been deliberately pitched. The second **alignment G13** comprised two parallel lines of stones [985], 0.5m apart set in an east-west aligned slot excavated in the upper fill (914) of ditch [G14]. The slot was up to 2m wide with steep, near vertical sides, although, the full profile was not excavated. The line to the south (983) comprised limestone slabs on average 0.15m x 0.10m x 0.05m. These had been carefully placed, mostly pitched. The line to the north comprised similar limestone slabs 0.12m x 0.12m x 0.05m and these showed greater signs of disturbance. The stones were set in a matrix of orange-brown clay-loam (fig 16). The third **alignment G23** was contained in a slot excavated in the upper fills [728] of ditch G32. It was approximately 7m in length. The alignment was 0.7m-0.8m wide with near vertical sides and a flat base 0.50m deep. The stones comprised roughly placed limestone blocks of average size 0.2m x 0.15m x 0.05m, set in a matrix of brown silt clay.

All three settings are stratigraphically the latest features at Stagsden, and they have therefore been assigned to the Roman period. Two contained dating evidence but there is no specific evidence for their function. The presence of a coin of Antoninus Pius is evidence of some activity at the site well into the 2nd century.

Only two of the stone alignments produced any pottery (table 67). Other than the whiteware R03A flagon (no 207) from G23, the pottery from both features is fragmentary and most of it probably derived from the ditch fills into which the alignments were set.

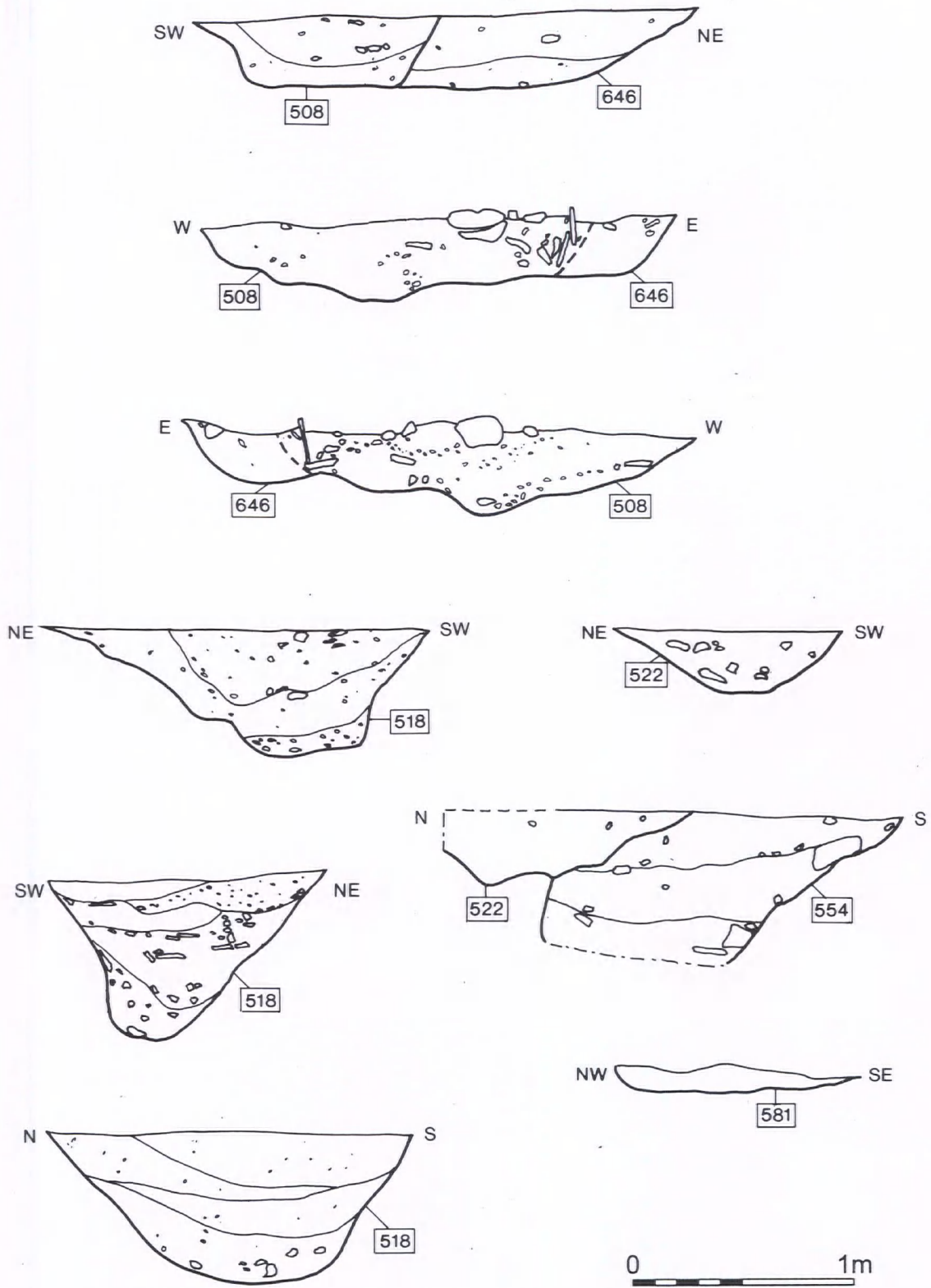


Fig. 42. East Stagsden, sections all phases.

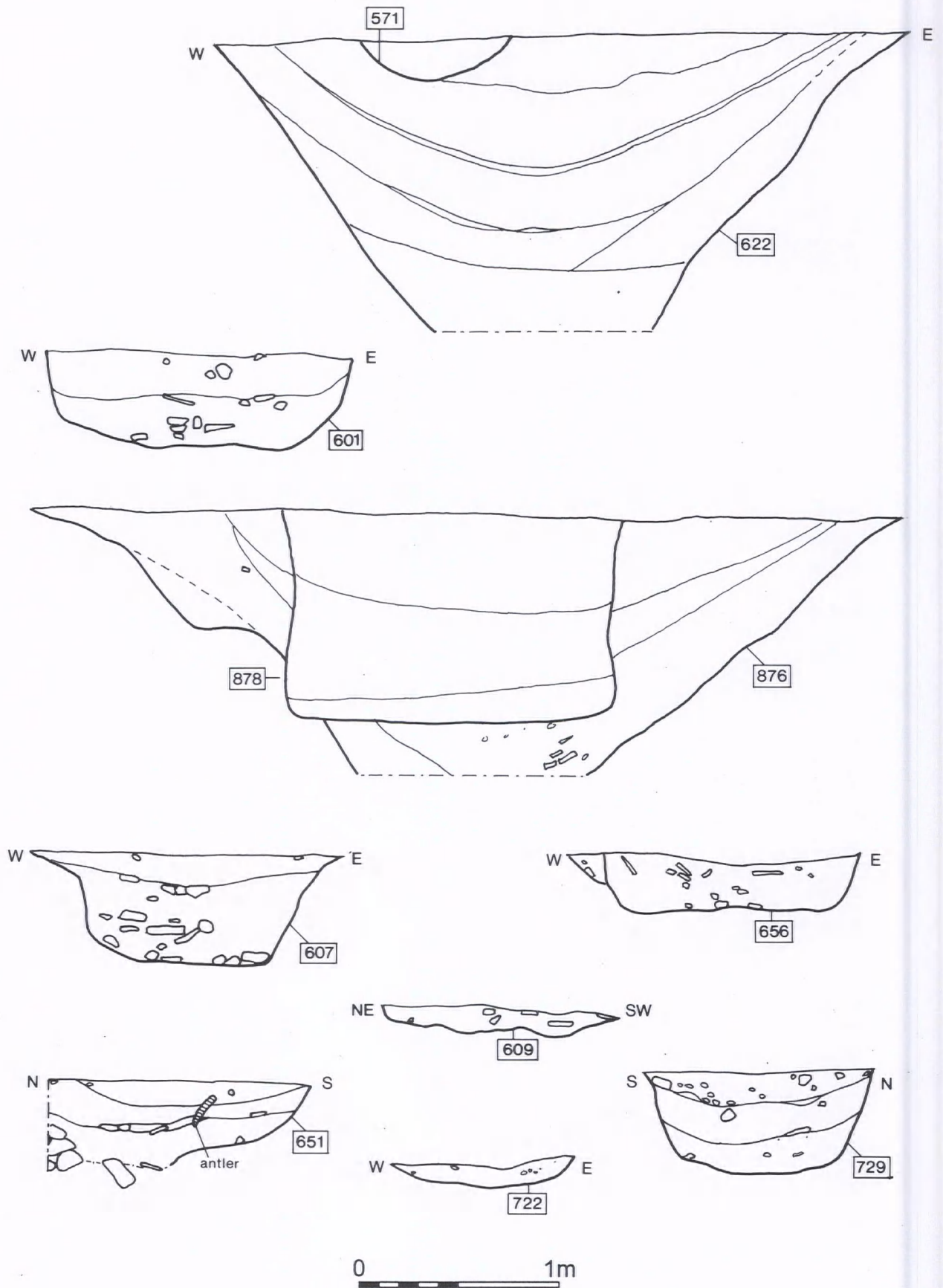


Fig. 43. East Stagsden, sections all phases.

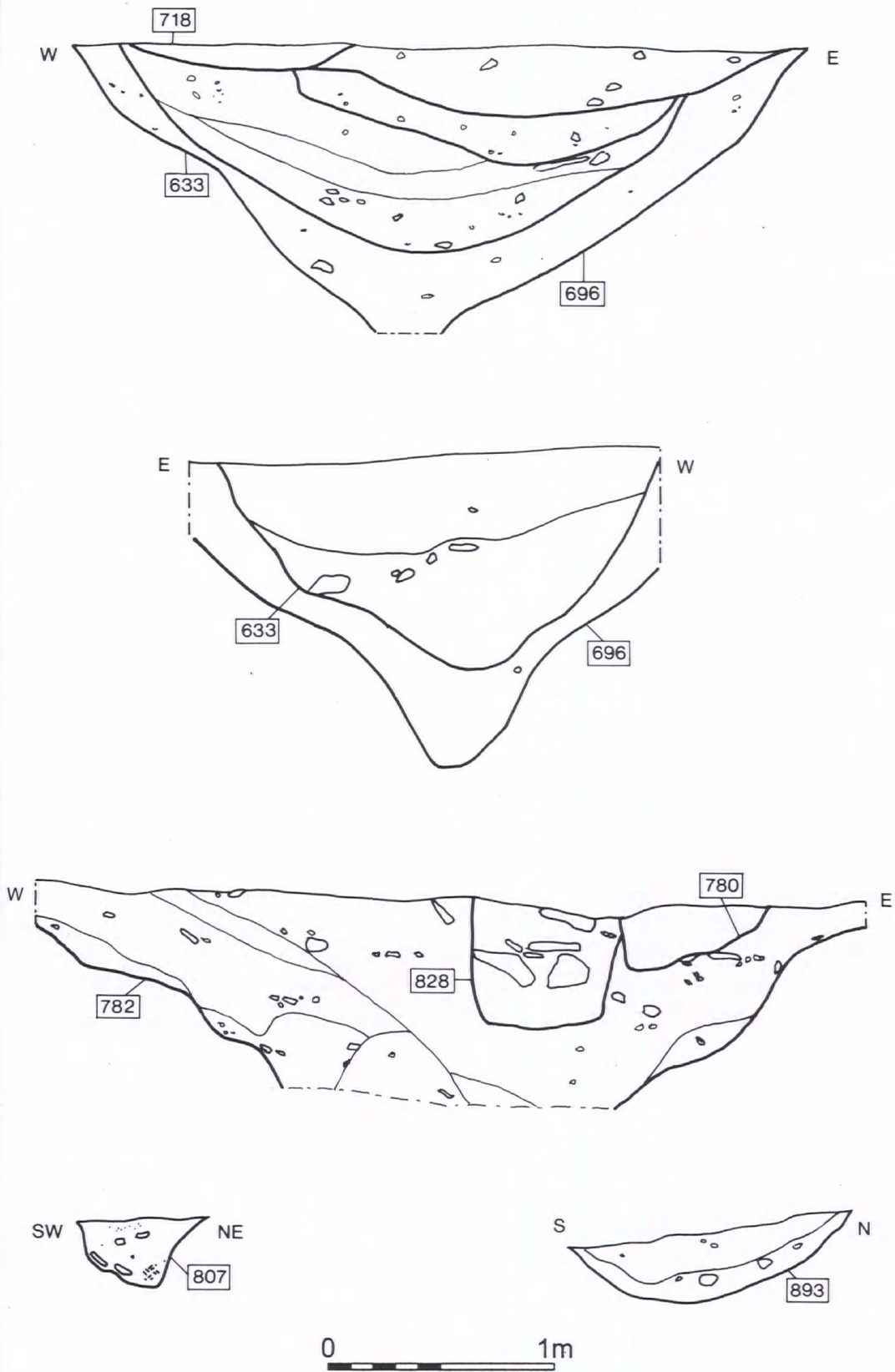


Fig. 44. East Stagsden, sections all phases.

3 THE ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

Introduction

The following chapter presents the artefactual evidence from the Stagsden sites: ceramics, samian and ceramic building material, are followed by non-ceramic artefacts grouped by function. Each artefact assemblage has been catalogued against type and discussed by site. The exception to this is the small assemblage of samian which has been discussed by context. Despite the small size of the assemblage and the limited area of excavation the analysis of the pottery and kilns, together with their archaeo-magnetic date, will have important implications for ceramic studies in the region. The overall objectives of this section have been to identify objects, examine the date of individual artefacts, consider the impact these excavations have had upon conventional dating and, together with the structural analysis, attempt to identify areas of activity or patterns of behaviour.

3.1 The Coarse Pottery

A M Slowikowski

Introduction and methodology

A total minimum of 2476 ceramic vessels, represented by 6803 sherds, weighing 182.313kg, was found on the Stagsden sites. West Stagsden produced the smaller quantity totalling 630 vessels (1197 sherds, weighing 22.978kg) while east Stagsden produced 1846 vessels (5606 sherds, weighing 159,335kg). West Stagsden produced 0.16%, and east Stagsden 5.53%, of unphased pottery, primarily from isolated features.

The pottery was quantified by minimum vessel count, sherd count, weight and, for the Roman pottery only, EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents). Sherds broken after excavation were counted as one. Cross-context analysis, or the examination of sherds from the same vessel but from different contexts, was used, as far as possible, to give additional information about the site phasing and general soil movement across the site. Both joining and non-joining sherds were noted. These are all recorded in the archive, with a distinction made between joining and non-joining sherds.

All quantitative statements in the pottery report are based on the vessel count. Percentages have been rounded up to two decimal places. More detailed discussion of the pottery as it relates to the structures and features of the sites may be found in chapter 2

Drawing Conventions

All ceramic drawings are at a scale of 1:4, except for the largest vessels which are drawn at 1:8 (the scale is shown on the drawing). Where it is clear that the vessels are hand-made, the sections are hatched, as are all applied parts. Visible coils are indicated in the section. Wheel-made vessels have their sections blacked in. The proportion of the vessel surviving is estimated in the pie diagram at the base of each drawing; where all surviving sherds have been shown, the pie diagram has been omitted. The pottery figures are arranged in three groupings. Figures 8-9, 11-12, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 34-5, 37-9, 41 are the stratified groups, and these are part of the integrated site description. Figures 45-50 are the illustrated type series comprising vessels, additional to the stratified groups, arranged in approximate chronological order. Figures 51-4 are the pottery groups from the kilns. All the vessels are numbered in sequential order and catalogued in table 68.

Fabric Type descriptions

F03 Grog and sand

Fabric – A fabric with fairly hard surfaces, but soft in the break, with an uneven fracture. Surfaces can be smooth and sandy to the touch. There is a wide variation in colour which is generally grey-black but can have dull orange or buff areas. Inclusions are a mix of sub-rounded or rounded quartz; grog lumps, which can measure up to 2.0mm; very occasional areas of random crushed shell, possibly crushed shelly pot; sparse flint and organic voids. The grog inclusions frequently have, in themselves, visible grog inclusions. The remains of blackened organic matter are often linear in form, and not necessarily incorporated into the fabric deliberately. Iron ore may sometimes be present.

Forms – Bowls; cordoned, lid-seated, storage or otherwise undiagnostic jars. Decorative motifs include burnished wavy lines, lattice and herring-bone pattern.

Dating – Primarily a late Iron Age fabric, occurring in pre – ‘Belgic’ forms, but continuing into the ‘Belgic’ period. Known at other sites in the county such as Kempston and Ruxox (Parminter forthcoming).

Comments – Coils are frequently visible in the section, although some vessels appear to be wheel-made. Decoration is sparse but comprises burnished lattice or wavy lines. Sixty-six vessels, less than 3% of the total assemblage, were recognised in this fabric type.

Illustrations – 37, 46-7, 160-169, 250.

F04 Organic

Fabric – Fairly hard, smooth, reduced fabric with mid-grey to brown-black surfaces and a dark grey core. Visible voids from organic matter removed during firing, on surfaces and in the break. The fabric may occasionally contain sparse random lumps of crushed grog and some sub-angular quartz.

Forms – Undiagnostic vessels with burnished exteriors.

Dating – Found infrequently on mid- to late Iron Age sites.

Comments – Organic tempered pottery has traditionally been associated with the Saxon period, although there is a growing body of evidence to suggest that organic tempering was used in the Iron Age, usually as a component of a mixed suite of inclusions. It was never a major inclusion type and may occasionally have been added accidentally. It has been found on other sites in the county, such as Warren Villas and Salford (Slowikowski in prep), and Ursula Taylor School, Clapham (Dawson 1988, 11) but never in large quantities. Organic impressions on the surface of pottery do not necessarily derive from its inclusion in the fabric of the vessel, but from the surface upon which the pot rested while drying out, prior to firing. Organic matter may also be found in the natural clay from which the pot was formed. A single vessel was recovered from the site.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F05 Grog and shell

Fabric – Blackened buff-brown exterior and buff interior with hard, smoothed surfaces and an uneven fracture. Inclusions are large, angular lumps of grog and large, ill sorted shell, both up to 2.5mm, with some occasional finer quartz.

Forms – Bowls; lid-seated, storage or otherwise undiagnostic jars.

Dating – A late Iron Age fabric, occurring in 'Belgic' forms

Comments – ninety-one vessels were found, just less than 4% of the total assemblage. See comments on F08.

Illustrations – 6, 224.

F06 Grog tempered

Fabric – Soft, soapy fabric, buff-orange to red-brown in colour with a light grey core when oxidised, and black with a grey-black core when reduced. Frequent grog inclusions are present in varying degrees of coarseness. The finest and smoothest is F06A with inclusions within the range 0.1-0.5mm; F06B contains medium sized particles, up to 1.5mm, and F06C is the coarsest variant, with inclusions up to 4.0mm.

Forms – F06A: butt beakers; carinated bowls; bead rimmed, cordoned, wide-mouthed or storage jars; platters and pedestal urns. F06B: girth and butt beakers; bowls; carinated cups; bead rimmed, cordoned, lid-seated, wide-mouthed or storage jars. F06C: butt beakers; cordoned or storage jars. Undiagnostic jars occurred in all three variants. Vessels are generally wheel made, although hand made copies of 'Belgic' forms also occur.

Dating – Late Iron Age, in the 'Belgic' pottery tradition. Fully discussed by Thompson (1982).

Comments – The coarsest version, F06C, is the least common variant of this type at Stagsden. This may be because the kitchen wares, such as jars for cooking or storage, most commonly occurring in this fabric type on other sites, were made in the shelly fabric, F07, produced on the site.

Illustrations – 7, 32-33, 39-41, 44, 60, 62, 67-68, 70-73, 170-181, 227-229, 235.

F07 Shell

Fabric – This type is usually oxidised to a bright orange-buff colour throughout, although pale orange-brown or grey examples also occur, with occasional pale buff or cream cores. Larger shell inclusions often leach out of the fabric, leaving a 'corky' appearance to the surfaces.

Forms – Jars, predominantly large storage vessels, and smaller lid-seated cooking pots are the two most common forms produced in this fabric. Other forms are lid-seated bowls; cordoned, wide-mouthed or otherwise undiagnostic jars, and lids.

Dating – A late Iron-age fabric. At Odell, north Bedfordshire, these shelly wares are dated to the mid-1st century AD (Dix in prep).

Comments – Vessels in this type are generally hand-made, as opposed to the wheel-thrown shelly wares of the post-Conquest period. It is one of the commonest fabric types in the region. Its sources are in the shelly limestone area, on either side of the Bedfordshire/Northamptonshire border, which produced the raw materials for pottery from the Iron Age to the medieval period (see also type R13 below), although pottery production in this area probably began much earlier. Kilns producing pottery in this fabric type were excavated at Clapham (Tilson 1973) and Biddenham (BCAS in prep).

Illustrations – 1-5, 38, 43, 69, 82-87, 97, 182-192, 218-223, 225-226, 230-234, 236-249.

F08 Shell and grog

Fabric – Fairly soft, smooth fabric, buff in colour with a grey core throughout. External surfaces can have orange patches. The shell and grog tempering is very fine with the shell weathering out of the surfaces, leaving tiny voids, although not as 'corky' in appearance as type F07 shelly ware.

Forms – Lid-seated bowls and lid-seated, storage or otherwise undiagnostic jars.

Dating – This type began in the late pre-Conquest period and probably did not see out the 1st century AD.

Comments – This is related to fabric type F05, above, differing only in the proportion of inclusions. The same forms occur in both types. Shelly clay mixed with grog was common at Odell (Dix in prep) and Ursula Taylor School, Clapham (Dawson 1988, 11), both in north Bedfordshire. This type makes up just under 2% of the total assemblage.

Illustrations – 88, 193-194.

F09 Sand and grog

Fabric – Hard fired, slightly harsh fabric, reduced throughout to a grey-black or grey-brown colour, with an occasional paler core. Abundant, medium, black or light buff grog inclusions are present, approximately 0.48mm, as well as frequent, medium, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, 0.32-0.64mm.

Forms – Butt beakers; cordoned or otherwise undiagnostic jars, and platters.

Dating – Late Iron Age, in the 'Belgic' tradition.

Comments – Twenty-five vessels occurred in this fabric type, just less than 1% of the total assemblage. It was first identified at Ursula Taylor School, Clapham, where it occurred in small quantities. It does not seem to be a major fabric type.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F14 Fine mixed inclusions

Fabric – Usually a dark grey fabric but with buff-orange to grey-brown patchy exterior surfaces; fairly hard and moderately smooth, but with a lumpy feel, and an uneven fracture. Inclusions are sparse to moderate, poorly sorted shell, 0.3-1.0mm; moderate, poorly sorted, sub-rounded to sub-angular grog, orange-buff or grey in colour, depending on the level of reduction, 0.5-2.0mm; sparse to moderate, moderately sorted,

sub-rounded quartz, 0.2-0.5mm; elongated black voids from organic matter, either grass or straw, which has burnt out, in varying proportions from sparse to abundant; very occasional sub-angular black inclusions which may be iron ore, 0.5-3.0mm. In addition, some examples also contain very occasional angular flint fragments, c.0.5mm. The general appearance of this fabric is of a very mixed, poorly sorted suite of inclusions, with great variation in their proportions between the vessels.

Forms – Bowls; cordoned, storage, ovoid or otherwise undiagnostic jars.

Dating – Originating in the middle Iron Age, with characteristic ovoid jars with finger tipping or nail impressions on the rims, this type appears to continue into the late Iron Age, contemporaneously with wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery.

Comments – F14 and F15, below, are two extremes of a single fabric type. Smaller vessels tend to be in F14, but not exclusively. There are possible differences in function, where coarser, larger vessels required a highly tempered fabric. This would be so for cooking vessels, where the coarse temper prevents a vessel from cracking due to thermal shock, although no sooting survived on the exteriors of any of the F14 or F15 vessels. The finer F14 vessels were probably used in food consumption. Decoration, such as fingertipping or fingernail impressions on the rims is more common on, but not exclusive to, the finer F14 vessels. Because this is a range within a single fabric type, some consumption vessels may have been made in the coarser fabric, and some food preparation vessels may have been made in the finer fabric. A small quantity, five in total, of F14 vessels also had either black or white residues or pitting on their interiors, suggesting possible food preparation or long term storage of acidic substances.

Illustrations – 30, 34, 55-58, 61, 64, 65, 74-76, 94, 118-130.

F15 Coarse mixed inclusions

Fabric – Dark grey with patchy orange-buff to brown surfaces; fairly hard and smooth but lumpy to the touch. Inclusions are frequent, poorly sorted, coarse shell, 0.5-3.5mm; moderate, sub-rounded grog which itself has visible inclusions in it, 1.0-3.0mm; sparse to moderate black voids from burnt out organic matter; sparse to moderate sub-rounded quartz, 0.5-0.8mm; very occasional rounded black inclusions possibly iron ore, c.0.5mm.

Forms – Carinated and otherwise undiagnostic bowls; rounded, storage, handled and otherwise undiagnostic jars.

Dating – Originating in the middle Iron Age, but continuing into the late Iron Age, contemporaneously with 'Belgic' pottery. A single fragment was found with scoring on the surface.

Comments – The general appearance is of coarse, poorly made vessels, with little surface finish. Interiors appear to be better smoothed than exteriors, although this may not be deliberate. See also comments for F14 above. The scored decoration is characteristic of the middle Iron Age in the East Midlands, although there is evidence of its continuation into the late Iron Age in this region (Elsdon 1993, 2). Stagsden is on the edges of the scored ware distribution.

Illustrations – 25-29, 42, 45, 59, 66, 77-78, 112, 131-140.

F16 Coarse shell

Fabric – Buff-orange to grey-brown surfaces with a grey or purple-brown core. The fabric is soft and smooth with a tendency to crumble. Densely packed, coarse shell is the dominant inclusion, 0.48-2.82mm. Occasional leaching in some examples leaves elongated voids within the fabric. Sparse, medium, sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz, 0.24-0.4mm, and some occasional coarse grog, 0.4-0.8mm, may be present.

Forms – Handled or otherwise undiagnostic jars. Decoration is limited to finger tipping on the rims.

Dating – Shelly fabrics were used in the region throughout the

Iron Age and Roman periods. It is the local fabric of the region. *Comments* – This type is characterised by the coarseness of the fabric and the rough hand-made vessels. Shelly pottery was made throughout the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods in north Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire and it can sometimes be difficult to determine the date of undiagnostic body sherds. The forms and decoration of most of the coarse shelly pottery, however, suggest that it was being used in the middle Iron Age (but see also type F07). Eighty-six vessels occurred in this fabric type, just less than 4% of the total assemblage.

Illustrations – 31, 35, 141-149.

F17 Grog tempered

Fabric – Colour varies from buff-orange through varying shades of brown to varying shades of grey; cores are mid- to dark grey. Texture is fairly smooth, but lumpy, and the fabric varies from soft to hard. Inclusions are primarily frequent, grey-brown or orange-brown, poorly to moderately sorted, sub-angular grog, 1.5-3.0 mm or 0.5-1.0mm depending on the coarseness of the vessel. Other inclusions are very sparse; they are poorly sorted, sub-rounded quartz, 0.5-1.5mm, and rounded black iron ore, 0.5-1.0mm. The iron ore is not seen in all examples.

Forms – Bead-rimmed, cordoned and storage jars as well as undiagnostic bowls and jars.

Dating – Originating in the pre – 'Belgic' Iron Age, with forms of middle Iron Age tradition, but appearing to continue into the 'Belgic' late Iron Age, with the addition of copies of 'Belgic' forms.

Comments – Just over 5% of the assemblage was made up of this type, 130 vessels in total. At the finer end of the range of this fabric type, there is some similarity to 'Belgic' fabric type F06, the main difference being, with a few exceptions, the evenness of the firing and the wheel-thrown nature of type F06.

Illustrations – 50-54, 63, 79-81, 95-96, 150-152.

F19 Sand and organic

Fabric – Buff-brown soapy surfaces with a dark grey core showing random inclusions of sub-angular quartz and some voids and remains of organic matter, probably straw or chopped grass. A fine fabric, fairly hard fired and reduced throughout, with buff-brown surfaces and a dark grey core. Invariably smooth and occasionally soapy to the touch, the vessels are often burnished on the exterior. Quartz is abundant, medium, sub-angular to sub-rounded, 0.24-0.48mm. Frequent elongated voids are present where organic inclusions have burnt out.

Forms – Undiagnostic jars only.

Dating – The only two vessels occurring on the site were found in phase I contexts on east Stagsden, and are probably of pre – 'Belgic' date.

Comments – This type only occurs very rarely. F19 and F04 may be variants of the same fabric type, the difference lying in the proportion of quartz to organic matter.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F20 Limestone inclusions

Fabric – Surfaces are buff-brown with grey patches and the core is mid-grey; fairly hard, moderately rough with a powdery feel. The primary inclusions are moderate to frequent, poorly sorted, sub-rounded to rounded limestone lumps, 0.5-6.0mm, among which are rare oolites, c.0.6mm. Other inclusions are moderate, sub-rounded to rounded, well sorted clear quartz, c.0.5mm, although occasionally larger fragments occur, up to c.1.0mm; sparse rounded black inclusions, 0.3-0.5mm, possibly iron ore; sparse, sub-angular, red inclusions, 0.1-0.3mm, also possibly iron ore.

Forms – Undiagnostic vessels only.

Dating – Occurring in phase 1 on east Stagsden, in the pre- 'Belgic' tradition.

Comments – Only one vessel was found.

Illustration – Not illustrated.

F21 Shell and organic

Fabric – Oxidised surfaces, orange in colour with buff patches; interior surfaces and core can be mid-grey throughout. Smooth, fairly hard with an uneven fracture. Inclusions are sparse to moderate, very poorly sorted shell, 1.0-10.0mm; moderate amounts of elongated black voids where organic matter has burnt out; very sparse and only occasional, rounded quartz, c.0.5mm. The background is of densely packed, finely pounded shell, possibly deriving from the local cornbrash.

Forms – Undiagnostic body sherds only.

Dating – Uncertain, but possibly pre- 'Belgic', although it occurred in phase 4 on east Stagsden.

Comments – A single vessel, comprising two body sherds was allocated to this type. It may be a variation of type F16.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F24 Buff shelly

Fabric – Usually buff throughout, but with occasional dark brown or grey patches on the exterior, and a grey core. Fairly hard, smooth and moderately soapy to the touch. Inclusions are frequent to abundant poorly sorted coarse shell, 0.2-2.5mm; sparse to moderate poorly sorted sub-rounded limestone fragments, 0.5-1.0mm; very occasional sub-rounded quartz, c.0.5mm. Surfaces occasionally show voids where the shell has leached out.

Forms – Lid-seated and storage jars as well as undiagnostic jars and bowls.

Dating – Mid- to late 1st century AD.

Comments – Wheel-made vessels in the Roman tradition. Probably early Harrold (Brown 1994). Sixty-nine vessels, just under 3% of the total assemblage, were in this type, 68% occurring in phase 5 on east Stagsden.

Illustrations – 21, 89-90, 93, 98-99, 196-201.

F27 Shell and grog

Fabric – Colour varies from buff-orange, through grey-brown to varying shades of grey, with mid-dark grey cores. Texture is fairly smooth with a powdery feel, and may be either fairly soft or hard fired. Inclusions are frequent, buff-brown to orange, sub-rounded grog, with inclusions often visible within it, varying in size from 0.3-1.0mm in finer examples to 0.5-7.0mm in coarser vessels; frequent shell, varying in size from 0.1-0.5mm in the finer vessels to 0.3-2.5mm in the coarser examples. Other inclusions are very sparse and do not occur in all examples. They are sub-rounded quartz, c.1.0mm, and rounded black iron ore, 0.3- 2.0mm.

Forms – Bead-rimmed, handled and storage jars, as well as otherwise undiagnostic jars.

Dating – A coarse fabric comprising forms in the pre- 'Belgic' tradition. Although it occurs in varying quantities in all phases, its greatest popularity is in phase 2 on east Stagsden, where it reaches 15.66% of the phase total.

Comments – This type makes up just over 5% of the total assemblage.

Illustrations – 36, 48, 49, 153-159.

R01A Samian – Central Gaulish

Fabric – There are two main variations in this type. Les Martres de Veyre: a fine fabric, orange-pink in colour with a shiny, waxy orange slip. Lezoux: fine, pale brown-orange fabric with mica inclusions and an orange slip.

Dating – Manufactured in central Gaul (around Clermont Ferrand) in the period c.100-200 AD.

Comments – see below p. 85

Illustrations – 203-206.

R01B Samian – South Gaulish

Fabric – A fine fabric with a glossy slip. This type varies in colour and composition from a smooth, pink-orange fabric with hard, glossy slip, to a pink fabric with white flecks and red slip.

Dating – This type was manufactured in southern Gaul and was the most common type of samian in Britain from c.43-110 AD.

Comments – see below p. 85

Illustrations – 91.

R02 Mica-gilded

Fabric – Fine fabric, sandy to the touch, with soft buff-pale brown surfaces and a paler grey core. Inclusions can vary in size, but fine well-sorted quartz, with a scatter of larger rounded grey or opaque inclusions are the most common. Characterised by a surface dusting of mica to achieve a glossy exterior.

Forms – undiagnostic body sherd.

Dating – A 2nd-century date is suggested for these wares (Marsh 1978).

Comments – A single vessel was found on east Stagsden, in phase 5.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R03A Fine white ware (Verulamium region ware)

Fabric – Generally cream buff throughout, with a hard gritty surface. Vessels can fire to a dark grey or have a deliberately darkened surface. Inclusions vary considerably in size and in quantity, from abundant sub-rounded opaque quartz in products from the Brockley Hill kilns to finer multi-coloured sub-angular quartz from other kilns, such as Radlett and Brickett Wood. There can be traces of shell and sparse red iron ore.

Forms – Except for a single possible lid fragment, all other vessels are flagons.

Dating – This type was manufactured in the Verulamium region in the late 1st to 2nd centuries.

Comments – Nineteen vessels were recovered, from phase 5 on east Stagsden and phase 3 on west Stagsden.

Illustrations – 92, 114, 207.

R03B Gritty white ware

Fabric – Hard fired fabric, gritty to the touch with buff-white surfaces and variable pale orange-pink core. Inclusions are well-sorted sub-rounded translucent pink-red and opaque white quartz, 0.2-1.0mm, and sparse red iron ore.

Forms – Flagons only.

Dating – Dating is uncertain, although all were recovered from phase 5 contexts on East Stagsden, and therefore possibly date to the late 1st or 2nd century.

Comments – Similar to R03A and to Milton Keynes fabric 39 (Marney 1989). Sources are uncertain; Oxfordshire has been suggested for the Milton Keynes fabric, although the Verulamium region is also a possibility.

Illustrations – 101, 113.

R03C Smooth white ware

Fabric – Hard fired smooth fabric, cream-buff throughout. Inclusions are well-sorted quartz predominantly clear or opaque white, 0.1-0.5mm, with frequent black streaks, possibly the remains of organic matter, and occasional red iron ore.

Forms – Flagons only.

Dating – Possibly late 1st to 2nd century.

Comments – A single vessel was recovered from a phase 5 context on east Stagsden.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R04 Unidentified import

Fabric – Hard fired and fine, usually white in colour, with an occasional pinkish core. Inclusions are very fine coloured quartz with occasional rare traces of mica.

Forms – A single unidentified vessel was found.

Dating – probably 1st century.

Comments – Fine wares from unidentified sources, copying Gallo-Belgic fabrics and forms.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R04B Gallo-Belgic whiteware

Fabric – A fine white or cream-coloured fabric, very smooth to the touch and in adverse conditions easily abraded. Inclusions are moderate very fine quartz and sparse, larger pieces, with some smudged earthy black and orange-red inclusions.

Forms – Flagon, one of which is of Hofheim type.

Dating – This type is found in small quantities on late Iron Age-early Roman sites in the region, for example Caldecotte and Wavendon Gate, in Buckinghamshire; Gorhambury villa and Baldock, Hertfordshire, and Norton Road, Bedfordshire (BCAS in prep).

Illustrations – 195.

R05A Orange sandy

Fabric – Orange-buff sandy wares with moderate to abundant sub-angular quartz inclusions, which vary in size from 0.1-1.0mm. Surfaces can be slipped white.

Forms – Flanged bowls, flagons and undiagnostic jars.

Dating – The date range is from the 2nd to the late 3rd centuries.

Comments – A source for this type is as yet unknown. Just over 1% of the total assemblage is made up by this type, with most vessels occurring in phase 5 on east Stagsden, and phases 3 and 4 on west Stagsden.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R06B Greyware (coarse)

Fabric – A harsh gritty fabric, although surfaces can be smoothed and burnished. Inclusions are large ill-sorted quartz grains, generally abundant.

Forms – The only diagnostic form was a strainer.

Dating – A date for this coarse local greyware is from the 2nd century onwards.

Comments – Only a small proportion, 3.39%, of the greyware vessels occurred in this fabric type.

Illustrations – 102.

R06C Greyware (fine)

Fabric – Colour is mid-grey, often with paler cores; hard fired and smooth to the touch. Surfaces are frequently burnished. Inclusions are generally fine quartz with occasional larger grains.

Forms – Folded and poppyhead beakers; carinated bowls; cordoned, lid-seated, narrow-necked, wide-mouthed and storage jars; lids and pedestal urns.

Dating – 2nd century onwards.

Comments – The commonest greyware on the site, making up 86.85% of the greyware assemblage.

Illustrations – 8, 14-20, 103-108, 115-116, 208-209.

R06D Greyware (micaceous)

Fabric – Colour is mid-grey with a paler core and buff-pink margins. Soft fired and easily abraded. Inclusions are fine quartz with sparse inclusions of larger grains, red iron ore and some voids. Varying amounts of mica, sparse to common, but always particularly visible on the surfaces.

Forms – Plain-rimmed beakers, bowls, jars, platters and lids.

Dating – As for R06B.

Comments – London ware copies are found throughout southern Britain in the 2nd century.

Illustrations – 109-110, 117, 210-211.

R06E Greyware (calcareous)

Fabric – A hard fired fabric with variable grey surfaces and core that contains abundant clear and opaque white quartz, 0.1-0.5mm. Characterised by a vesicular appearance resulting from the leaching or burning out of calcareous inclusions. Voids may be up to 0.5mm. The exterior surface is sometimes burnished.

Forms – The only diagnostic forms are a lid and a jar.

Dating – Occurring in phase 5 on east Stagsden, possibly late 1st or 2nd century in date.

Comments – Only two fragments were recovered.

Illustrations – 111, 212.

R07B Sandy black ware

Fabric – This is a hard sandy fabric with black, burnished surfaces, which occasionally spall in firing. The core is grey with red margins. Inclusions are fine quartz with some larger particles.

Forms – Storage jars, lids, and undiagnostic jars and bowls.

Dating – This as a local black ware with a date range in the county throughout the Roman period. At Stagsden, however, it appears to be most common in phase 5 on east Stagsden and phase 4 on west Stagsden. Its currency on the site, therefore, was probably throughout the 2nd century.

Comments – Just under 2% of the total assemblage is made up of this type, comprising 41 vessels.

Illustrations – 24, 213-215.

R08 Black micaceous

Fabric – A fine, hard fabric, black in colour, with soft smoothed surfaces. Inclusions are small random quartz, and mica which can be particularly obvious on the surfaces.

Forms – This fabric was used for small and fine, thin-walled vessels. Diagnostic vessels are carinated bowls and jars.

Dating – Found in late 1st to 2nd century phases at Stagsden.

Comments – Found in small quantities on other sites in the county, such as Kempston and Ruxox (Parminter forthcoming).

Illustrations – 9-10.

R10A Buff gritty

Fabric – A hard gritty fabric, buff in colour with a paler core. Inclusions are fine ill-sorted quartz. Surfaces can be blackened.

Forms – Undiagnostic vessels only.

Dating – Elsewhere in the county this fabric type occurs in 2nd-century forms (Parminter forthcoming).

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R11 Oxford oxidised ware

Fabric – Soft and sandy to the touch, the fabric is brownish-orange in colour. Mica is visible on the surfaces and throughout the fabric. Other inclusions are fine quartz with sparse larger grains and small black and coloured inclusions.

Forms – Undiagnostic vessels only.

Dating – Dating is from the late 1st century onwards.

Comments – An Oxfordshire source is suggested for this type.

Illustration – Not illustrated.

R11D Oxford colour coat

Fabric – As for Oxford oxidised wares type R11, but has a dull brownish-red slip which is often fugitive and both fabric and finish are easily worn and abraded.

Forms – The only diagnostic vessel is a single bowl in Young's type C44 (Young 1977, 158).

Dating – Manufactured in Oxfordshire from the mid-3rd century onwards.

Comments – One vessel only was recovered.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R12B Nene Valley colour coat

Fabric – A creamy white colour throughout, with some soft shell and a scatter of red iron ore, which can be lumpy or linear. The later wares have the same fabric constituents but in a pale orange colour.

Forms – Beakers and bowls were the only diagnostic vessels found.

Dating – Occurring mainly in phase 4 on west Stagsden, and probably dated to the 3rd century, but possibly continuing into the 4th century.

Comments – Fully described and discussed by Howe, Perrin and Mackreth (1980), Perrin and Webster (1990) and Dannal *et al.* (1993). Five vessels were found on west Stagsden only.

Illustrations – 216.

R13 Shelly

Fabric – A fairly soft fabric, which can be easily abraded, with a surface colour which can vary from pale buff to dark grey, and a paler core. Inclusions are abundant ill-sorted shell visible throughout. Leaching may occur. Some later 2nd to 4th century pots from the Harrold kilns are harder with a finer finish.

Forms – A wide variety of forms, including carinated and flanged bowls; jars with lid-seated, rectangular or triangular rims; storage jars and lids. Surface finishes range from simple smoothing or wiping, to combing and rilling. These finishes are particularly common on later vessels. Decoration is rare, mostly simple linear motifs around bowl rims.

Dating – Throughout the Roman period; Harrold reached the height of its production of shelly ware in the 4th century.

Comments – Harrold, north Bedfordshire, was a major manufactory of this type throughout the Roman period, but particularly in the 4th century (Brown 1994). Shelly fabrics from the same area were used from the Iron Age (see type F07). The lid-seated cooking pot is the commonest Conquest period form in shelly fabric; its transitional date, into the Roman period, can make it difficult to categorise. However, all R13 vessels are wheel-made while F07 shelly vessels are hand-made.

Illustrations – 11-13, 22-23, 100, 217.

R14 Red-brown harsh

Fabric – Hard sandy fabric with dark grey exteriors and orange-brown interiors. Inclusions are fine clear or opaque quartz and sparse red iron ore.

Forms – Cordoned and undiagnostic jars.

Dating – Dating is uncertain. Its occurrence in phase 4 on west Stagsden suggests a date from the 2nd to the 4th centuries, but the cordoned jars indicate a date in the early Roman period.

Comments – Only three vessels were recovered from the site.

Illustrations – 202.

R18A Pink gritty

Fabric – Harsh granular texture, with a variable pale to dark pink-orange colour. Inclusions are frequent well-sorted, sub-rounded multi-coloured quartz, 0.2-0.6mm; frequent red and black iron ore, up to 1.0mm, and occasional calcareous inclusions and sparse white mica.

Forms – The only diagnostic forms are flagons.

Dating – Dating is uncertain but the flagon fragments found on the site point to a date in the second half of the 2nd century. It may continue into the 3rd century.

Comments – Found in small quantities on Bedfordshire sites; a date and source for this type is uncertain, although it has similarities to Fabric 18c at Milton Keynes (Marney 1989, 182).

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R19A Amphora (Dr 20)

Fabric – A thick buff-brown fabric with harsh surfaces. Inclusions are ill-sorted clear, grey and opaque quartz, rounded shell inclusions, some soft red iron ore and large flakes of gold mica visible on the surfaces and throughout the fabric.

Forms – A single Dressel 20 amphora was found.

Dating – A source for this type is the Guadalquivir region in Spain (Williams and Peacock 1983).

Comments – A single vessel was recovered from phase 4 on west Stagsden.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R33 Mortaria (Verulamium region)

Fabric – As R03A, but with the addition of flint and quartz trituration grits.

Forms – Mortaria only in this category.

Dating – This type was manufactured in the Verulamium region in the late 1st to 2nd centuries.

Comments – A single vessel was recovered from phase 4 on west Stagsden.

Illustrations – Not illustrated.

A small quantity, eleven sherds, of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, primarily from ploughsoil furrows, but also from fill (779) ditch [518], and fill (932) ditch [931]. The latter sherds are small, weighing about 1g only, and are regarded as intrusive. The post-Roman pottery has not been included in the report.

Illust no.	Fabric code	Common name	Form	Feature no.	Phase	Comments
1	F07	Shelly	Base sherd	189	2	impressed base
2	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	144	2	impressed base
3	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	128	3	
4	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	128	3	
5	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	128	3	
6	F05	Grog/shell	Lid-seated bowl	128	3	
7	F06B	Medium grog	Carinated bowl	128	3	
8	R06C	Fine grey ware	Pedestal urn	128	3	
9	R08	Black micaceous	Carinated jar	128	3	
10	R08	Black micaceous	Globular jar	128	3	
11	R13	Shelly	Rectangular jar rim	142	4	
12	R13	Shelly	Jar	142	4	
13	R13	Shelly	Lid	142	4	post-firing hole
14	R06C	Fine grey ware	Cordoned jar	142	4	
15	R06C	Fine grey ware	Narrow necked jar	142	4	
16	R06C	Fine grey ware	Narrow necked jar	142	4	
17	R06C	Fine grey ware	Jar	142	4	
18	R06C	Fine grey ware	Carinated bowl	142	4	
19	R06C	Fine grey ware	Bowl	142	4	
20	R06C	Fine grey ware	Bowl	142	4	
21	F24	Butt shelly	Developed lid-seated jar	110	4	
22	R13	Shelly	Rectangular jar rim	110	4	
23	R13	Shelly	Jar	110	4	
24	R07B	Black sandy	Body sherd	110	4	
25	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	830	1	scale 1:8
26	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	554	1	scored lower body
27	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	554	1	finger nail decoration on rim
28	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	554	1	finger tipped rim
29	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	554	1	finger tipped rim
30	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	554	1	
31	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	554	1	
32	F06B	Medium grog	Cordoned jar	836	2	hand-made 'Belgic' form; lattice decoration; possible F17
33	F06B	Medium grog	Cordoned jar	836	2	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17
34	F14	Fine mixed	Bowl	518	3	
35	F16	Coarse shelly	Base sherd	518	3	incised "VI"
36	F27	Grog/shell	Shoulder sherd	699	3	post-firing hole
37	F03	Grog/sand	Lid-seated jar	699	3	finger tipped rim
38	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	699	3	finger tipped rim
39	F06B	Medium grog	Cordoned jar	699	3	
40	F06B	Medium grog	Butt beaker	699	3	possible girth beaker
41	F06B	Medium grog	Wide mouthed jar	886	3	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17
42	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	886	3	scored
43	F07	Shelly	Jar	886	3	possibly wheel-made
44	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	886	3	
45	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	633	4	finger nail decoration on rim
46	F03	Grog/sand	Base	633	4	
47	F03	Grog/sand	Cordoned jar	633	4	? lattice decoration
48	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	633	4	
49	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	633	4	
50	F17	Grog	Jar	633	4	possibly wheel-made
51	F17	Grog	Jar	633	4	possibly wheel-made
52	F17	Grog	Jar	633	4	hand-made 'Belgic' form
53	F17	Grog	Jar	633	4	hand-made 'Belgic' form
54	F17	Grog	Body sherd	633	4	horizontal combing
55	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	696	4	finger tipped rim
56	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	696	4	finger tipped rim
57	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	696	4	
58	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	876	4	
59	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	876	4	finger tipped rim
60	F06B	Medium grog	Cordoned jar	902	4	
61	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	990	4	

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Illust no.	Fabric code	Common name	Form	Feature no.	Phase	Comments
62	F06C	Coarse grog	Cordoned jar	990	4	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17
63	F17	Grog	Base	990	4	post-firing hole(s)6
64	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	896	4	
65	F14	Fine mixed	Base	896	4	post-firing hole
66	F15	Coarse mixed	Shoulder sherd	896	4	
67	F06B	Medium grog	Jar	896	4	possibly hand-made
68	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	896	4	
69	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	896	4	post-firing hole; combed exterior; finger nail impressed rim; obvious interior finger marks
70	F06A	Fine grog	Butt beaker	992	4	
71	F06A	Fine grog	Jar	992	4	post-firing holes in neck and body
72	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	992	4	
73	F06A	Fine grog	Jar	992	4	possibly hand-made
74	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	992	4	
75	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	992	4	random wipe marks internal and external
76	F14	Fine mixed	Base	992	4	knife trimmed base angle; two post-firing holes
77	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	992	4	
78	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	992	4	post-firing hole; scale 1:8
79	F17	Grog	Jar	992	4	
80	F17	Grog	Jar	992	4	
81	F17	Grog	Jar	992	4	
82	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	992	4	horizontal combing
83	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	992	4	
84	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	508	5	post-firing hole
85	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	508	5	
86	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	508	5	
87	F07	Shelly	Jar	508	5	
88	F08	Shell/grog	Lid-seated jar	508	5	
89	F24	Buff shelly	Developed lid-seated jar	508	5	
90	F24	Buff shelly	Jar	508	5	
91	R01B	Samian	Bowl	508	5	
92	R03A	Fine white ware	Flagon	646	5	
93	F24	Buff shelly	Reeded rim bowl	646	5	
94	F14	Fine mixed	Body sherd	522	5	
95	F17	Grog	Bowl	522	5	
96	F17	Grog	Bowl	522	5	
97	F07	Shelly	Shoulder sherd	522	5	incised horizontal lines
98	F24	Buff shelly	Jar	522	5	
99	F24	Buff shelly	Lid-seated jar	522	5	
100	R13	Shelly	Bowl	522	5	
101	R03B	Gritty white ware	Flagon	522	5	
102	R06B	Coarse grey ware	Strainer	522	5	
103	R06C	Fine grey ware	Narrow necked jar	522	5	
104	R06C	Fine grey ware	Jar	522	5	
105	R06C	Fine grey ware	Lid-seated jar	522	5	
106	R06C	Fine grey ware	Carinated bowl	522	5	
107	R06C	Fine grey ware	Lid	522	5	
108	R06C	Fine grey ware	Jar	522	5	comb stabbed decoration
109	R06D	Micaceous grey ware	Body sherd	522	5	
110	R06D	Micaceous grey ware	?Platter	522	5	possible lid
111	R06E	Calcareous grey ware	Lid	522	5	
112	F15	Coarse mixed	Bowl	522	5	
113	R03B	Gritty white ware	Ring necked flagon	530	5	neck applied separately
114	R03A	Fine white ware	Lid	530	5	
115	R06C	Fine grey ware	Bowl	530	5	
116	R06C	Fine grey ware	Lid	530	5	

The Artefactual Evidence

Illust no.	Fabric code	Common name	Form	Feature no.	Phase	Comments
117	R06D	Micaceous grey ware	Bowl	530	5	London-type decoration
118	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	564	5	
119	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	171	1	
120	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	918	2	
121	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	782	4	
122	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	564	5	
123	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	627	2	
124	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	171	1	
125	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	548	0	finger nail decoration on rim
126	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	931	3	finger nail decoration on rim
127	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	926	5	
128	F14	Fine mixed	Jar	556	5	
129	F14	Fine mixed	Base	843	3	
130	F14	Fine mixed	Shoulder	564	5	finger nail incisions
131	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	556	5	
132	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	604	3	
133	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	500	0	
134	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	900	2	
135	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	568	5	
136	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	556	5	
137	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	556	5	
138	F15	Coarse mixed	Jar	562	1	finger marks beneath rim
139	F15	Coarse mixed	Handled Jar	564	5	
140	F15	Coarse mixed	Base	782	4	
141	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	777	1	
142	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	556	5	finger tipped rim
143	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	972	1	finger tipped rim
144	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	926	5	finger tipped rim
145	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	782	4	
146	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	627	2	
147	F16	Coarse shelly	Jar	282	1	
148	F16	Coarse shelly	Handled jar	171	1	
149	F16	Coarse shelly	Handled jar?	568	5	
150	F17	Grog	Jar	622	4	incised decoration on shoulder
151	F17	Grog	Bowl	532	0	
152	F17	Grog	Jar	633	4	
153	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	987	0	
154	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	926	5	
155	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	926	5	
156	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	703	1	
157	F27	Grog/shell	Jar	171	1	finger nail decoration on rim
158	F27	Grog/shell	Handled jar	926	5	
159	F27	Grog/shell	Base	581	0	pinched base angle
160	F03	Grog/sand	Jar	622	4/5	
161	F03	Grog/sand	Jar	622	4/5	
162	F03	Grog/sand	Jar	914	5	
163	F03	Grog/sand	Jar	729	2	
164	F03	Grog/sand	Body sherds	562	1	lattice and wavy line decoration
165	F03	Grog/sand	Body sherd	622	4/5	herringbone decoration
166	F03	Grog/sand	Base	782	4	
167	F03	Grog/sand	Body sherd	878	5	finger tip decoration
168	F03	Grog/sand	Base	930	0	
169	F03	Grog/sand	Cordoned jar	624	1	
170	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	1004	0	
171	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	828	6	
172	F06A	Fine grog	Butt beaker	864	5	
173	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	987	0	
174	F06A	Fine grog	Base	822	3	
175	F06A	Fine grog	Wide mouthed jar	712	5	
176	F06A	Fine grog	Bead rim jar	622	4/5	possibly hand-made
177	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	622	4/5	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17
178	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	556	5	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Illust no.	Fabric code	Common name	Form	Feature no.	Phase	Comments
179	F06A	Fine grog	Cordoned jar	710	5	hand-made 'Belgic' form; possible F17
180	F06B	Medium grog	Butt beaker	604	3	
181	F06B	Medium grog	Bowl	146	2	
182	F07	Shelly	Jar	518	3	
183	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	663	4	scale 1:8
184	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	140	8	
185	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	544	5	
186	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	556	5	finger nail decoration on rim
187	F07	Shelly	Jar	771	5	
188	F07	Shelly	Jar	728	5	incised mark on shoulder
189	F07	Shelly	Lid	987	0	
190	F07	Shelly	Body sherd	132	3	combed exterior
191	F07	Shelly	Body sherd	187	3	decorated shoulder
192	F07	Shelly	Body sherd	187	3	horizontal combing; post-firing hole
193	F08	Shell/grog	Lid-seated jar	728	5	horizontal combing
194	F08	Shell/Grog	Jar	864	5	
195	R04B	Gallo Belgic white ware	Flagon	923	5	
196	F24	Buff shelly	Developed lid-seated jar	604	3	
197	F24	Buff shelly	Developed lid-seated jar	771	5	
198	F24	Buff shelly	Developed lid-seated jar	504	0	
199	F24	Buff shelly	Bowl	108	4	
200	F24	Buff shelly	Bowl	249	4	
201	F24	Buff shelly	Lid	140	8	
202	R14	Harsh sandy	Cordoned jar	970	3	
203	R01A	Samian	Bowl	281	0	
204	R01A	Samian	Dish	864	5	
205	R01A	Samian	Lid	864	5	
206	R01A	Samian	Body sherd	568	5	
207	R03A	Fine white ware	Flagon	828	6	
208	R06C	Fine grey ware	Lid	132	3	
209	R06C	Fine grey ware	Poppy head beaker	640	5	
210	R06D	Fine grey ware	Narrow neck jar	782	4	
211	R06D	Fine grey ware	Lid	733	5	
212	R06E	Calcareous grey ware	Globular jar	694	0	
213	R07B	Black sandy	Bowl	833	0	
214	R07B	Black sandy	Lid	153	7	
215	R07B	Black sandy	Bowl	728	5	
216	R12B	Nene Valley Colour Coat	Bowl	226	4	
217	R13	Shelly	Bowl	226	4	
218	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	907	3	
219	F07	Shelly	Jar	907	3	
220	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	907	3	
221	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	907	3	
222	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	907	3	
223	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated bowl	907	3	
224	F05	Grog/shell	Lid-seated jar	907	3	finger nail decoration on rim; vertical combing
225	F07	Shell	Storage jar	907	3	pedestal in kiln G10; scale 1:8
226	F07	Shell	Storage jar	907	3	decorated shoulder
227	F06C	Coarse grog	Storage jar	907	3	decorated shoulder
228	F06A	Fine grog	Platter/dish	574	3	
229	F06B	Medium grog	Lid-seated bowl	574	3	finger tipped rim
230	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	663	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
231	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	663	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
232	F07	Shelly	Jar	542	4	scale 1:8
233	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	542	4	impressed base

Illust no.	Fabric code	Common name	Form	Feature no.	Phase	Comments
234	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	663	4	combed exterior; obvious finger marks on interior
235	F06B	Medium grog	Lid-seated bowl	542	4	
236	F07	Shelly	Jar	540	4	impressed base
237	F07	Shelly	Jar	540	4	impressed base
238	F07	Shelly	Jar	540	4	impressed base
239	F07	Shelly	Jar	540	4	impressed base
240	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder
241	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	766	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
242	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
243	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
244	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
245	F07	Shelly	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8
246	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	540	4	
247	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	540	4	
248	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	540	4	
249	F07	Shelly	Lid-seated jar	540	4	combed exterior
250	F03	Grog/sand	Storage jar	540	4	decorated shoulder; scale 1:8

Table 68: Ceramics from east and west Stagsden

West Stagsden

The ceramic assemblage from west Stagsden comprises 24.4% of the total assemblage, and spans the late Iron Age to Roman periods. The earliest pottery, from phase 1, is pre-Conquest in date, with pottery groups that comprise vessels with earlier, pre-'Belgic' characteristics. This pottery can continue in use into the late Iron Age/ 'Belgic' period, and begin as early as the middle Iron Age.

The Conquest period is represented by pottery from phase 2, with some of the features in this phase contemporary with phase 4 at east Stagsden. Although little fully Romanised pottery is found in this phase, samian makes an appearance for the first time. Manufacture of the latest pieces dates to around AD190, hence a tentative date range for the pottery from phase 3 is late 1st to late 2nd centuries.

Lid-seated jars, of similar form to those made in the kilns on site, are present in some contexts with Roman pottery, for example enclosure ditch [132] (table 11). These jars are red-brown in colour, wheel-made and have horizontal rilling on their bodies. The source can no longer be the east Stagsden kilns as these had gone out of use by the immediate post-Conquest period, and the characteristics of the pottery, manufacture and surface treatment, is different. These characteristics are closer to the pottery being produced in the Harrold kilns, some 8km away, in the mid-1st century, the first phase of kiln production at Harrold (Brown 1994, 56). It is therefore likely that the Romanised and highly organised industry at

Harrold may have begun at the same time as that at Stagsden, but while pottery production at Stagsden was short-lived and ceased in the mid-1st century, it continued at Harrold into the 4th century.

By phase 3, there is more variety in fabric use. These are no longer predominantly from immediately local sources, indicating a wider catchment area for the acquisition of pottery. At Harrold, the production of heavy roll-rimmed storage jars decreases towards the end of the 2nd century, and the reduction is mirrored at west Stagsden, where only two vessels in phase 3 and five vessels in phase 4 were found. The absence of storage jars, in any fabric, by this time, suggests different methods of storage must have been in use.

The pottery from phase 4 is fully Romanised, with a variety of forms, including mortaria and amphora. This is a lengthy phase, with pottery groups dating to the late 2nd century and some to the early 4th century.

East Stagsden

The assemblage from this site makes up 75.6% of the total evidence from this site, and the phases have been more precisely defined.

Chronology

The pottery has been used to supplement the stratigraphy in confirming or establishing the phasing on the site. The features which have been

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

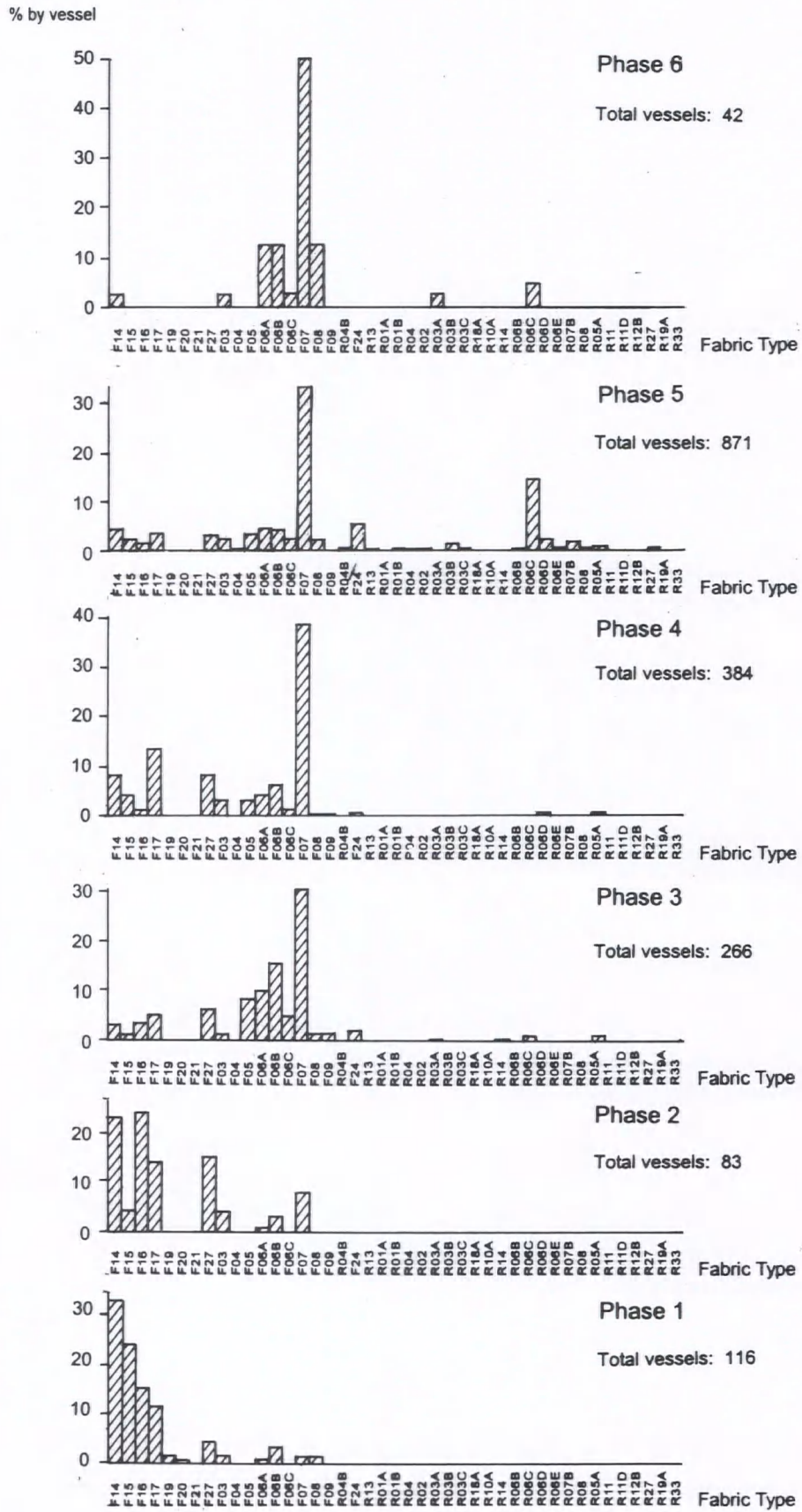


Table 69: Histograms: Ceramic fabrics by phase at East Stagsden.

phased by stratigraphic relationship confirm the orthodox pottery sequence based on Knight (1984). Where features had no stratigraphic or spatial relationships these, where possible, have been phased on the pottery found within them. The results are illustrated by a series of histograms (table 69).

Although six phases have been distinguished stratigraphically, the length which each phase lasted is difficult to determine. Ceramically, there is little difference between phases 1 and 2 (pre- 'Belgic' Iron Age), phases 3 and 4 (Conquest period), and phases 5 and 6 (Roman).

Furthermore in terms of the ceramic periodisation the phases all overlap, indicating a continuing tradition of ceramic usage. This suggests the prevailing tradition was one in which new fashions, such as wheel-thrown pottery in phases 3 and 4, or the Roman 'imports' in phases 5 and 6 were gradually accepted. Nevertheless native traditions were maintained together with the wheel-thrown wares for some time, although by phases 5 and 6 the early tradition had all but petered out.

The kilns and the pottery found within them

Samples for archaeomagnetic dating were taken from three kilns, G7 and G8 and G9. It was not possible to distinguish between them and a mean date of AD 40-100 was arrived at. All the kilns are of simple updraught semi-sunken type, which, although having origins in the pre-Conquest period, continued in use into the late 1st century (Swan 1984, 55). The Stagsden examples were probably turf covered and contained portable kiln furniture (see below). These kilns were most suitable for producing oxidised pottery because of the difficulty in totally sealing off the oxygen. All the pottery produced at Stagsden is oxidised.

Kilns of this type were influenced by Roman technology probably from Gaul, although they were doubtless being worked by native potters (Swan 1984, 56). Similar kilns were found at Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, dated to the post-Conquest period (Marney 1989, 95). Like Stagsden the pottery fired in them comprised large storage jars although they formed a smaller proportion of the bulk of the pottery which was fine, burnished tablewares.

There are a number of kilns of comparable date within the region, producing similar pottery, both in fabric and form types. The kilns at Bromham, north Bedfordshire, although barely surviving, produced a mass of kiln furniture and wasters (Tilson 1973, 31). The main produce of these kilns was

hand-made lid-seated jars and storage jars with decorated shoulders similar to Stagsden. The pottery industry on this site began in the late Iron Age, and, like Stagsden, continued into the Roman period. Further east in the Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire, a kiln producing pottery in an oxidised shelly fabric, mainly large storage jars, was recently investigated (BCAS in prep). However the otherwise ubiquitous lid-seated jars common to this region, and manufactured at Stagsden and Bromham, are missing from this kiln assemblage, although they are present on the nearby domestic site. There is no archaeomagnetic date from Biddenham, so its precise date cannot be determined, but it is likely to be Conquest period.

The repertoire of the Stagsden kilns is typical of the late Iron Age Bedfordshire/Buckinghamshire/Hertfordshire/Northamptonshire tradition: lid-seated jars and storage jars, all hand-made (Thompson 1982, 245). These forms continued, but using wheel technology, into the post-Conquest period, and together with the archaeomagnetic date, attest the operation of the kilns in the mid-1st century.

Very little pottery was found in kiln G9, it was a mixture of mainly single sherds from a mixed assemblage of fabric types, and forms. Butt beakers, bowls and platters, as well as residual early Iron Age sherds suggest refuse disposal, possibly from a midden deposit. This pottery had no connection with the manufacturing process of this kiln. Kiln G10, on the other hand, contained pottery largely of one fabric type, shelly F07, although a large storage jar (no 224), comprising 74 sherds, was of shell and grog, F05, type. A few single sherds of non-kiln products also occurred. Otherwise there was a limited number of forms: large numbers of sherds making up lid-seated jars and storage jars; this kiln had the shelly F07 storage jar (no 225) used upside down as a pedestal.

Kilns G9 and G10 were probably not working at the same time. The firing sequence might be as follows. Kiln G10 was fired first; then kiln G9 was built some distance away. The waste from kiln G9 was then used to fill up kiln G10; disused kilns are a ready dumping area.

The stratigraphic sequence clearly shows kiln G7 cutting kiln G8. The differences in the nature of the pottery assemblages in the two kilns are not as great as the differences between kilns G9 and G10. Both kilns contain substantial quantities of shelly vessels, with many large sherds making up the vessels. Lid-seated and storage jars are the predominant

forms, and the products of, presumably, both kilns. The earlier of the two kilns, kiln G8, also contained a mixed assemblage comprising small quantities, and sizes, of sherds in a variety of fabric types, including some residual early Iron Age types. This suggests that the kiln was out of use for some time before kiln G7 was built through it.

There is no clear evidence of structures associated with the kilns, although the flimsy shelters, which would be all that was necessary for storage areas and fuel stores, would only have left very slight evidence. The group of post holes in the southeast corner of the site might be the remains of such a shelter in phase 3. No comparable evidence survives

in phase 4, although there are a number of pits and post holes which could not be phased.

The kilns of phases 3 and 4 were rebuilt on different alignments. With the prevailing winds coming from the west, the most advantageous positioning of the kiln would be with the entrance in a westerly direction, though not facing directly into the wind. This would have helped the flow of air through the kiln. Similarities lie with the Bromham kiln site in that both are in exposed areas, eminently suitable for taking advantage of the available draughts to create high temperatures in the kilns (Tilson 1973, 64).

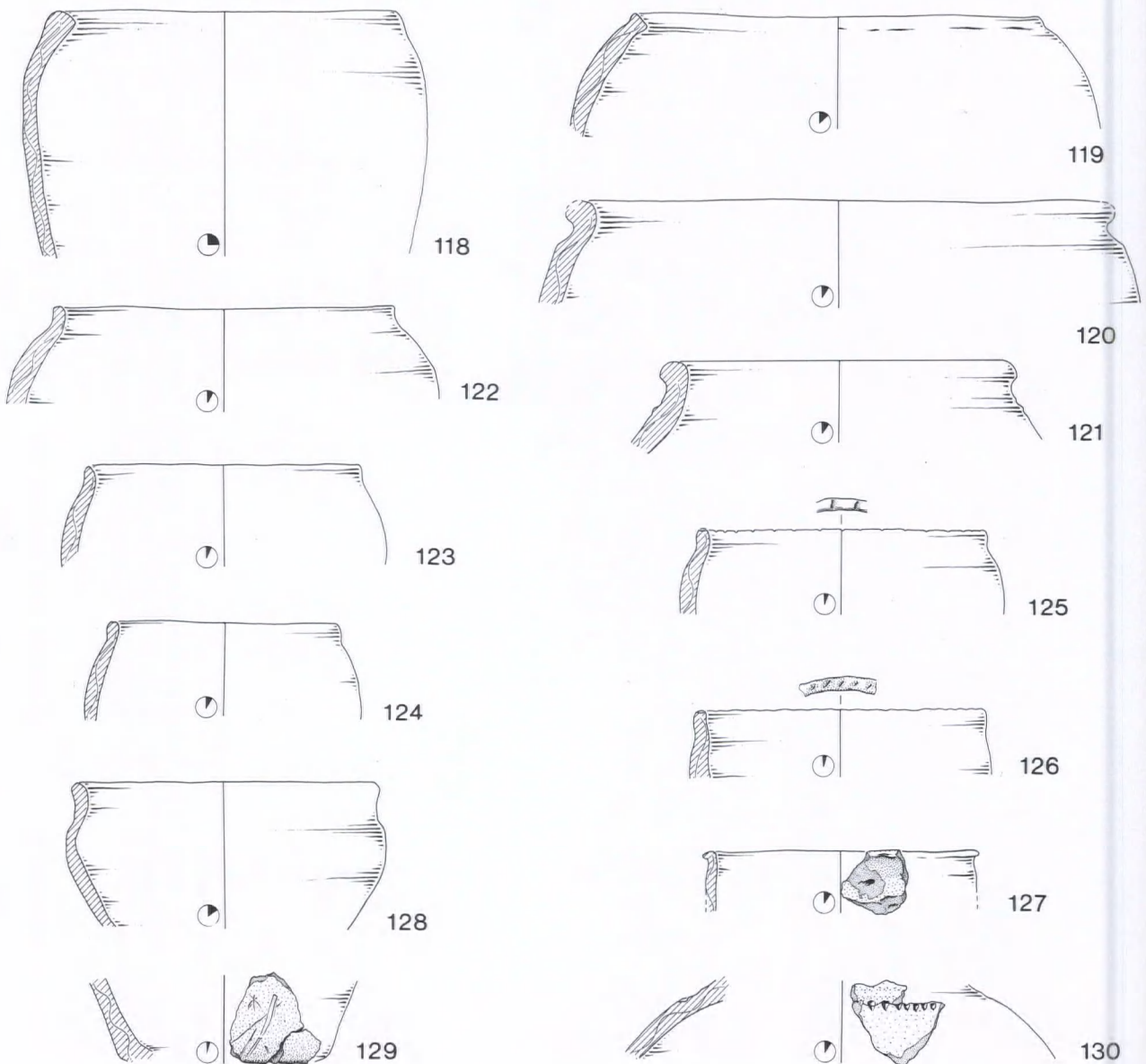


Fig. 45. Ceramics type series. Fabric F14 Fine mixed. Scale 1:4.

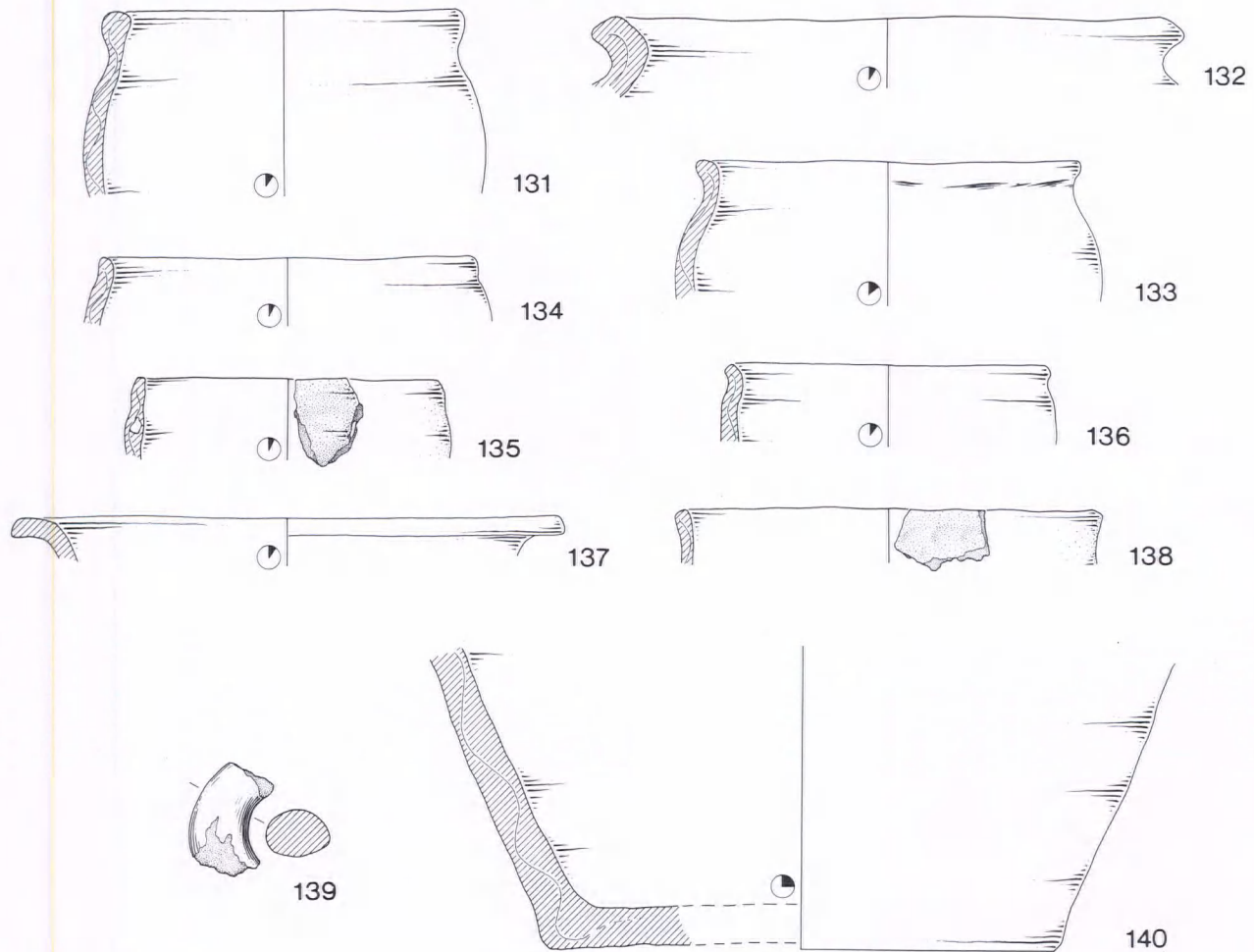


Fig. 46. Ceramics type series. Fabric F15 Coarse mixed. Scale 1:4.

Potters' marks. Seven vessels had deliberately marked bases. On east Stagsden, four vessels from kiln G7 (nos 236-9) and one from kiln G8 (no 233), have impressed marks on their bases. The marks from kiln G7 are all diagonal reliefs (type 1) and all occur on the bases of storage jars. The mark from kiln G8 is an impressed roundel (type 2) and occurs on the base of a lid-seated jar. A number of bases without marks was also found. Two examples of type 2 marks were found on west Stagsden, in post hole [189] G28, and isolated post hole [144], both in phase 2, indicating the relationship between both sites in the late Iron Age.

The marking of pottery serves a number of purposes. It may be required by the end user to indicate ownership, capacity or a specific function. Alternatively, the mark may identify a specific order, or individual pots within a firing. The marks on the Stagsden pots were stamped on the bases of

the vessels prior to firing. Drying and firing them upside down, the marks would be clearly visible to the potter but invisible during use, suggesting the mark only served a purpose during the manufacturing process.

Type 1 marks are confined to the firing chamber of kiln G7 and the type 2 mark to the firing chamber of kiln G8. The differences in the marking of the pottery in the two kilns may be associated with the re-orientation of kiln G7 on a different alignment to kiln G8. Type 1 marks are found only on storage jars and type 2 marks on lid-seated jars.

All the kilns, in both potting phases, were probably producing the same types of shelly storage and lid-seated jars. Slight variations in the rim forms of the lid-seated jars appear to be randomly distributed between the kilns, with no one rim form concentrated in any one kiln.

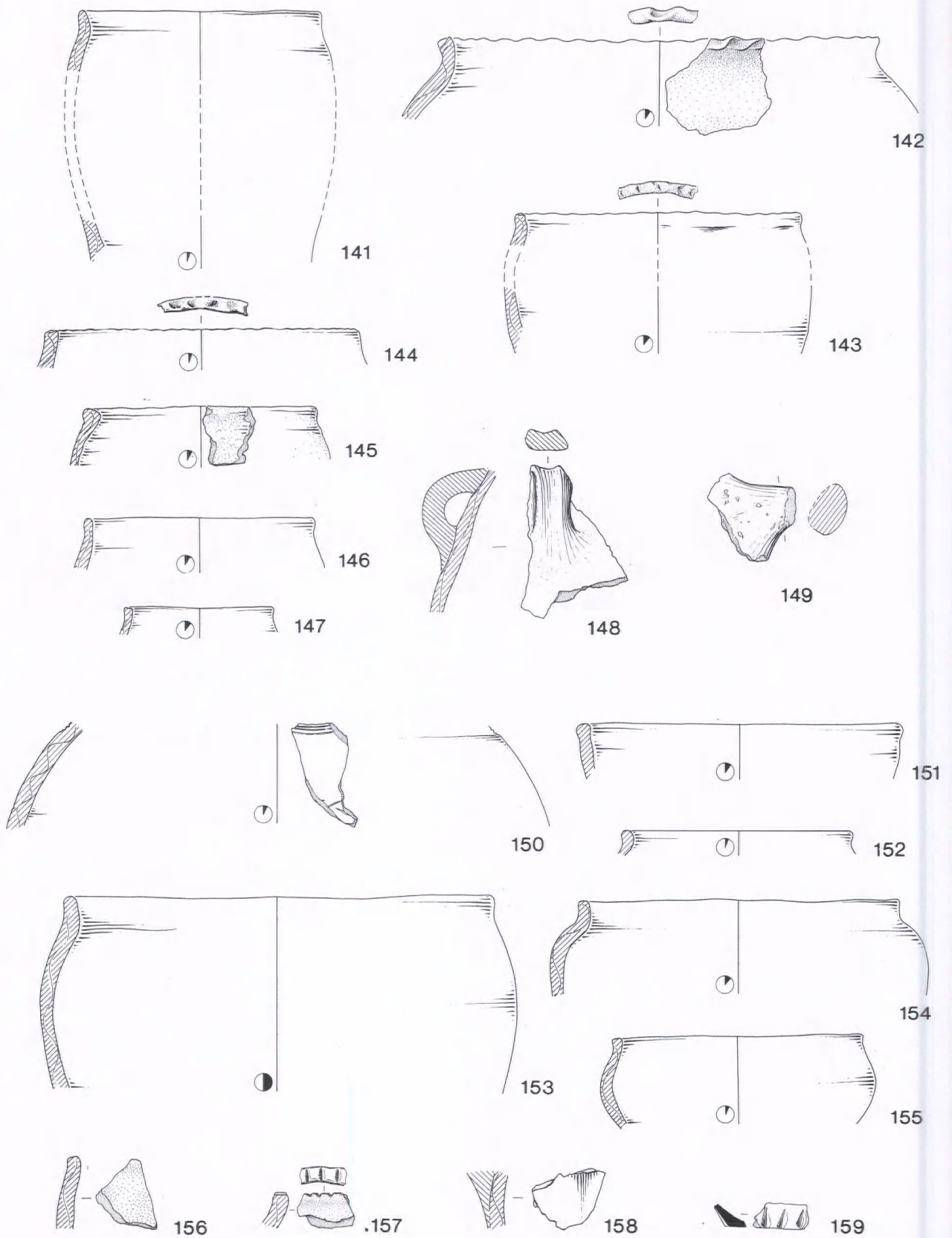


Fig. 47. Ceramics type series. Fabric F16 Coarse shelly (nos 141-149); fabric F17 Grog (nos 150-152); fabric F27 Grog/shell (nos 153-159). Scale 1:4.

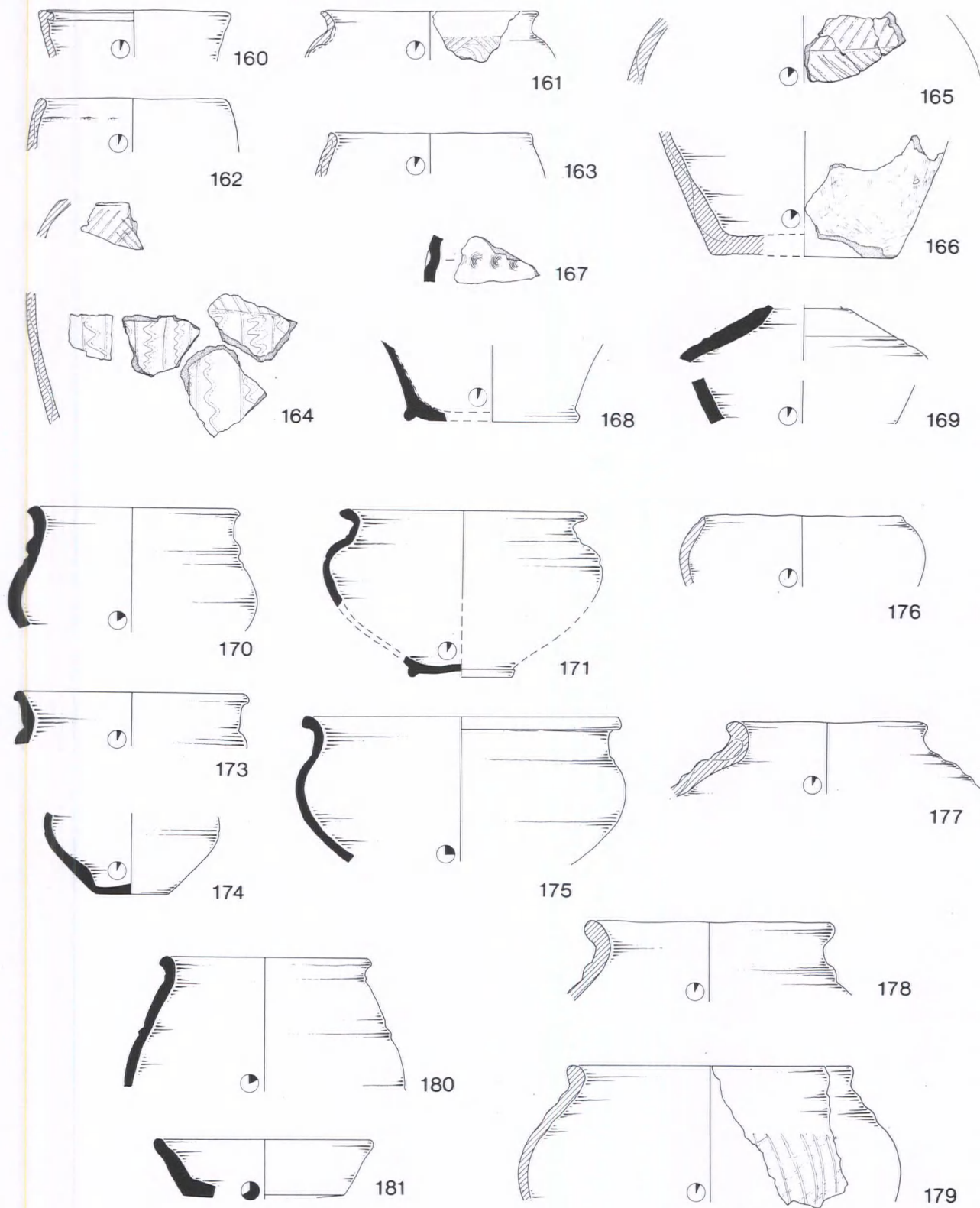


Fig. 48. Ceramics type series. Fabric F03 Grog/sand (nos 160-169); fabric F06A Fine grog (nos 170-176); fabric F06B Medium grog (nos 177-179). Scale 1:4.

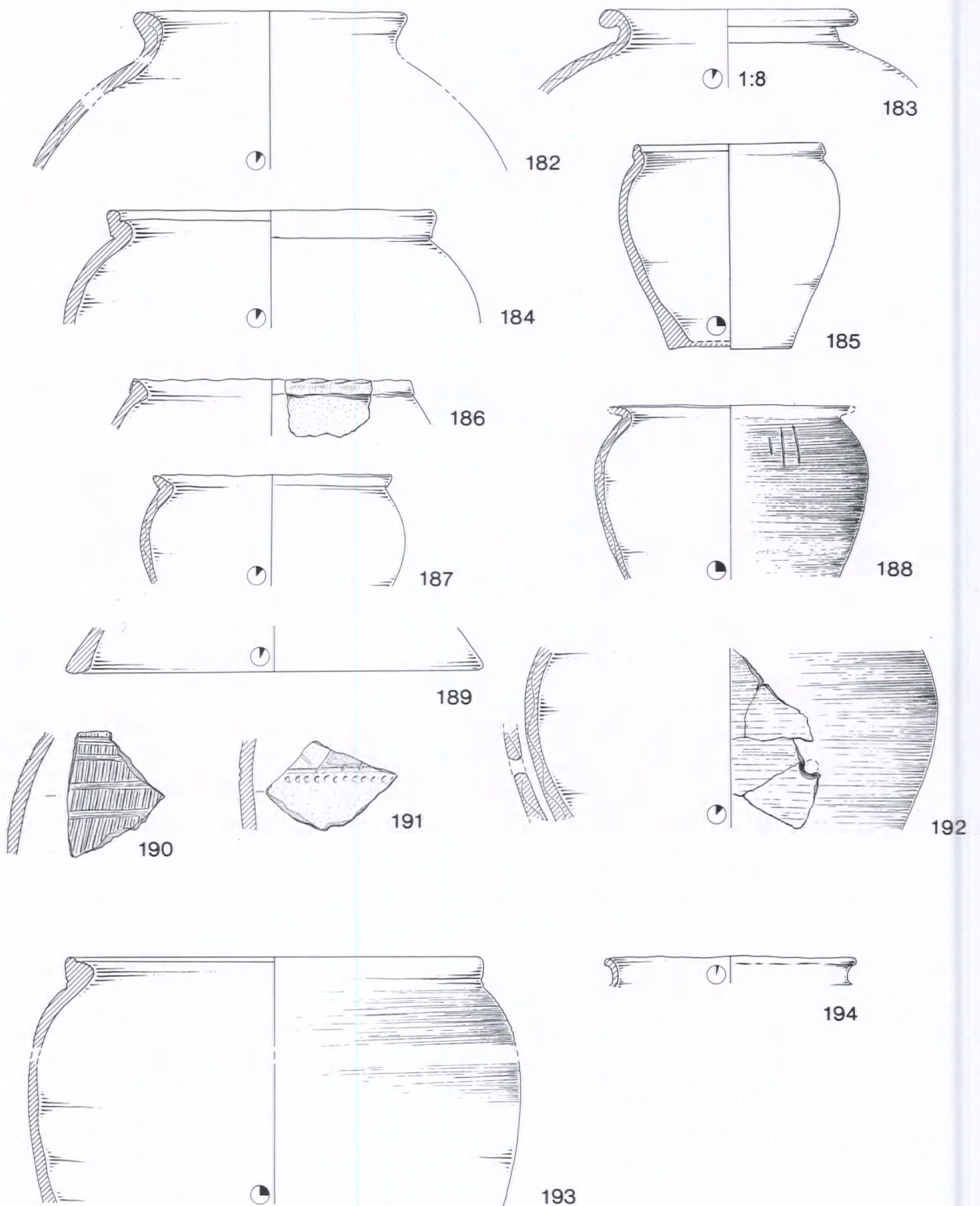


Fig. 49. Ceramic type series. Fabric F07 Shelly (nos 182-192); fabric F08 Shell/grog (nos 193-194). Scale 1:4.

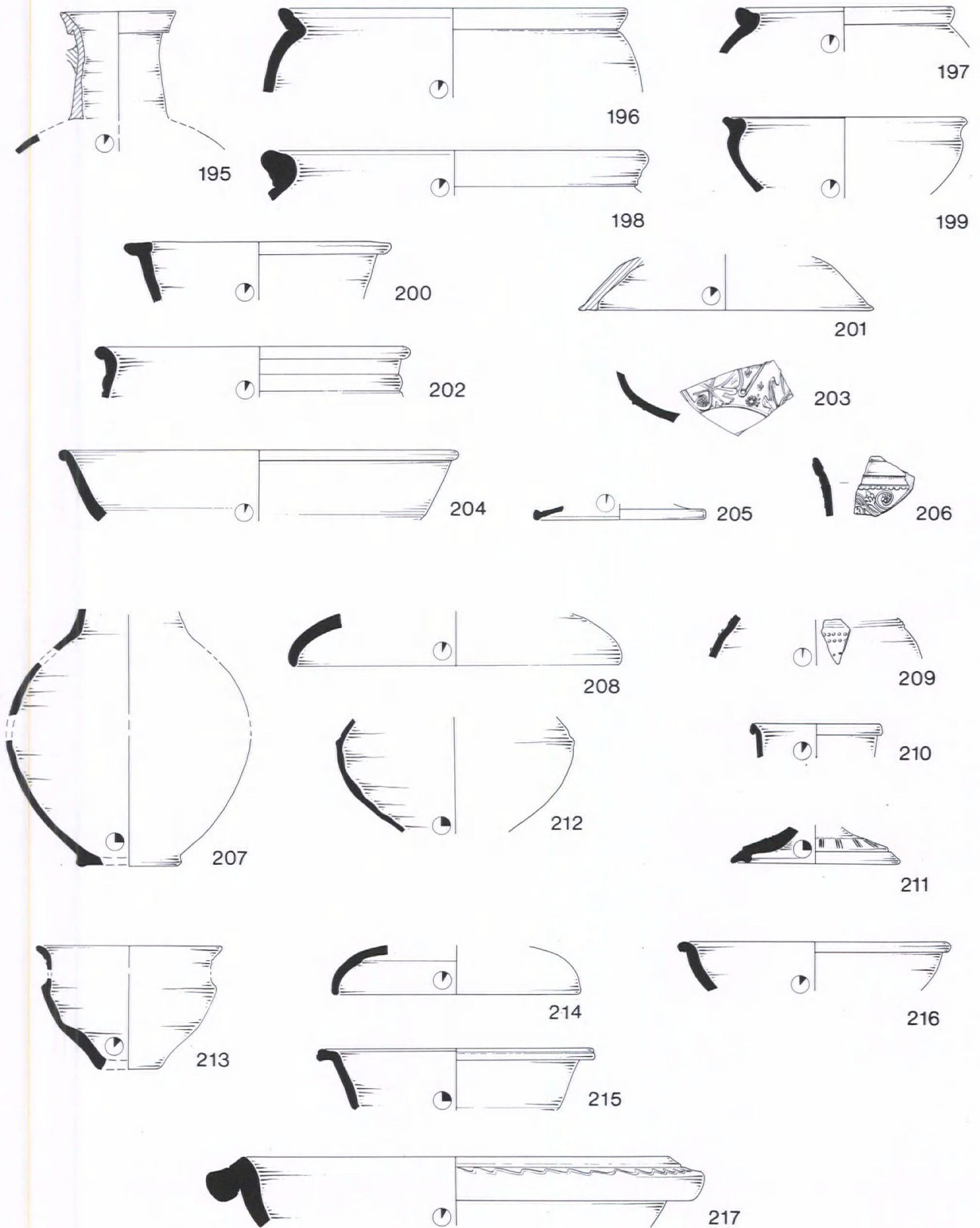


Fig. 50. Ceramic type series. Fabric R04B Gallo-Belgic import (no 195); fabric F24 Shelly (nos 196-201); fabric R14 Harsh sandy (no 202); fabric R01 Samian (nos 203-206); fabric R03A Whiteware (no 207); fabric R06C, D, E Greyware (nos 208-212); fabric R07B Sandy blackware (nos 213-215); fabric R12B Nene Valley colour coat (no 216); fabric R13 Shelly (no 217). Scale 1:4.

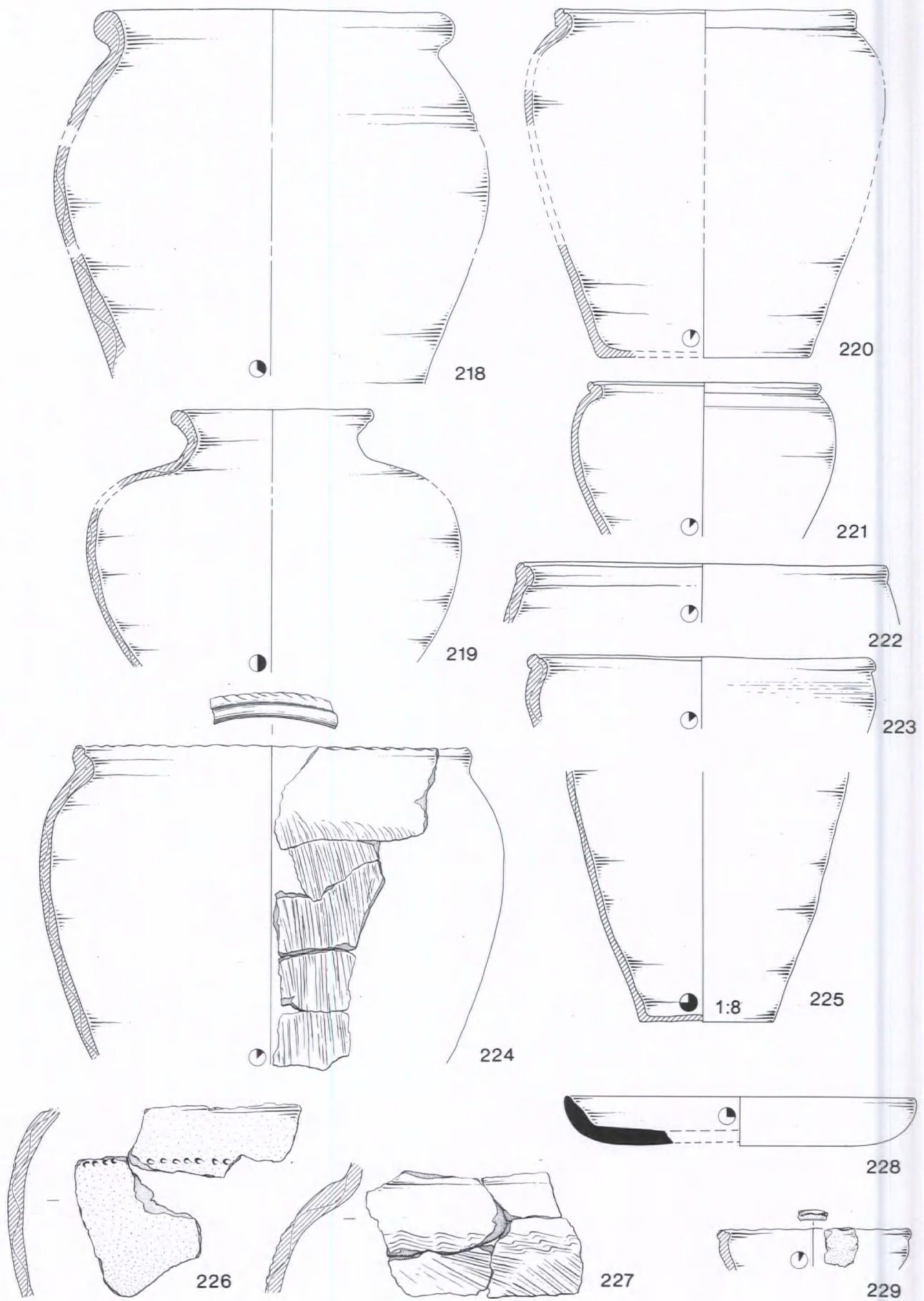


Fig. 51. East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G8. Scale 1:4.

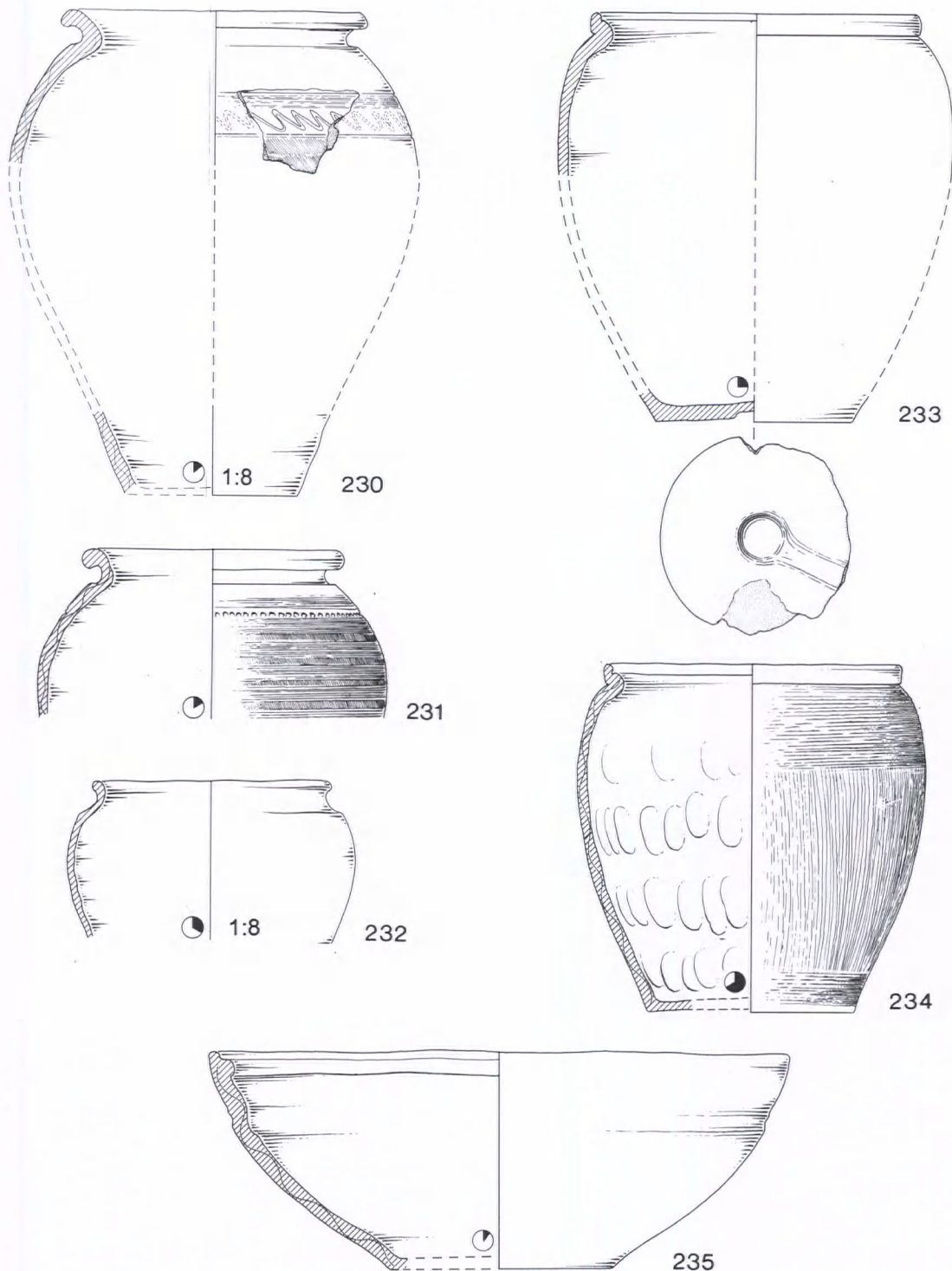


Fig. 52. East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G8. Scale 1:4.

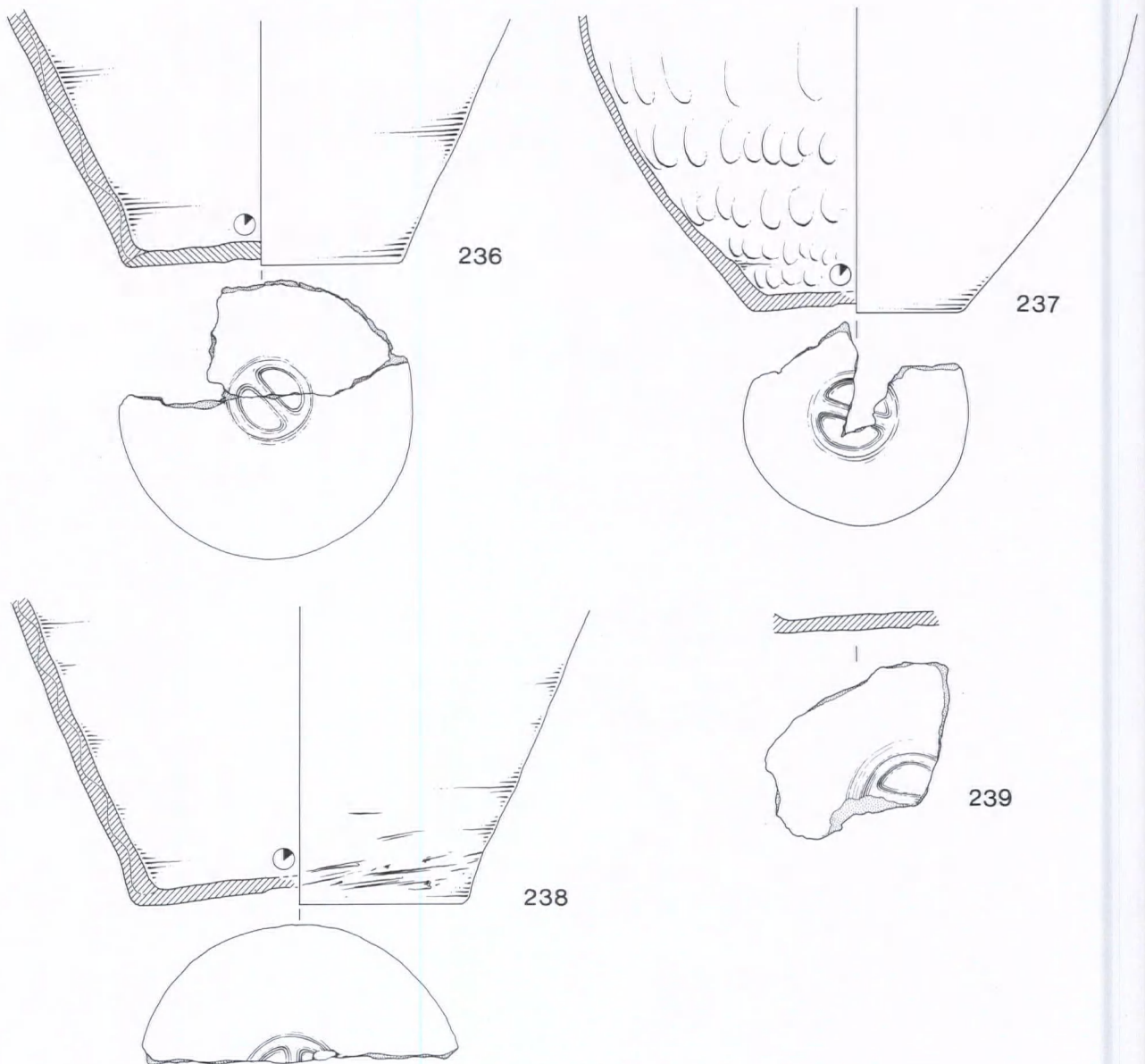


Fig. 53. East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G7. Scale 1:4.

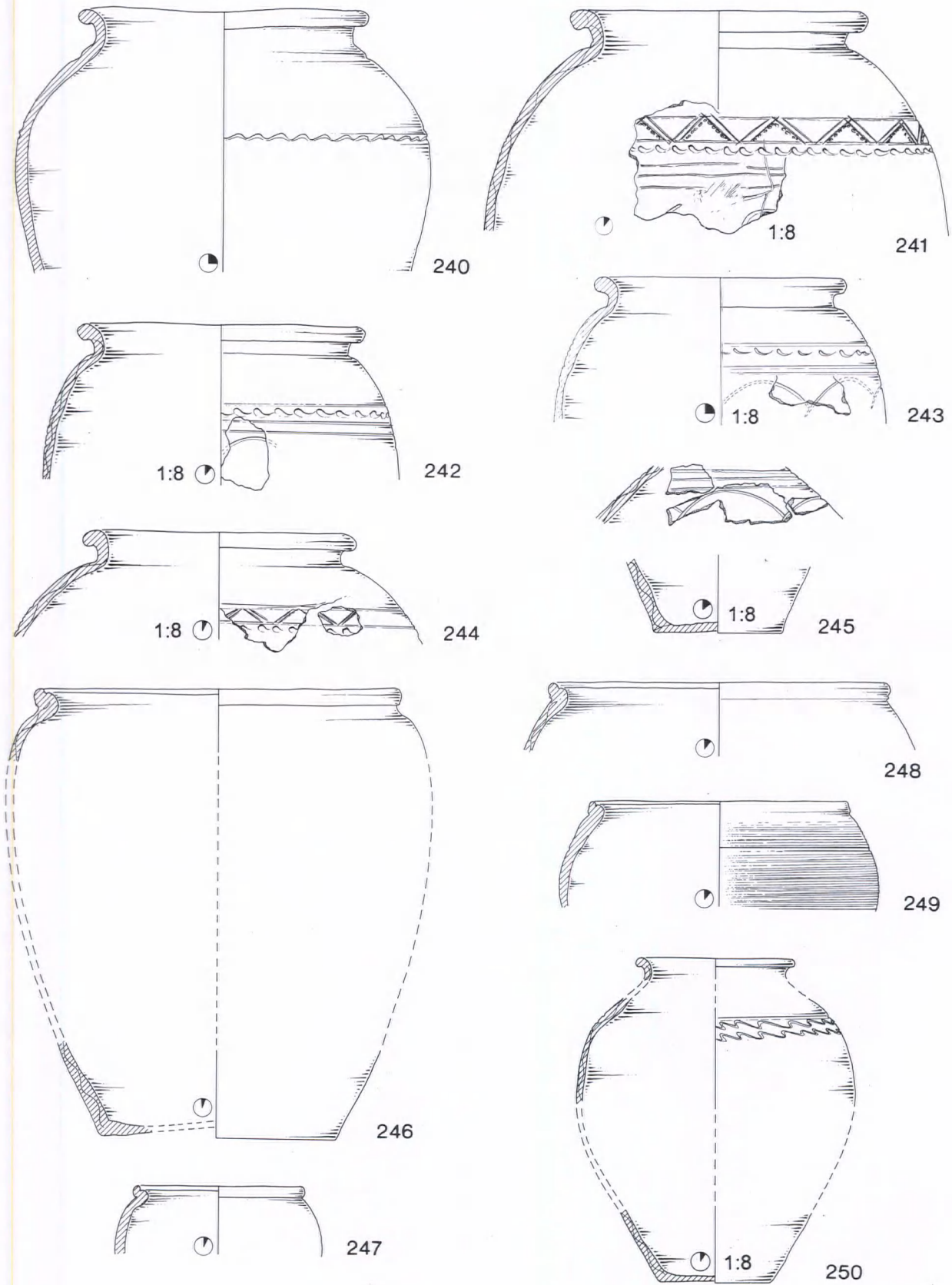


Fig. 54. East Stagsden. Ceramics from kiln G7. Scale 1:4.

Decoration. Decoration is found only on the storage jars, suggesting that these vessels were on view. Decorative motifs found in all the kilns are similar, but with slight variations of detail. Decoration is found only on the shoulder, the most prominent part of the storage jar. Horizontal grooves are common to all the designs, both as guidelines for other motifs and as decorative motifs in themselves. Lines of finger tip impressions between horizontal grooves are found in kiln G10 (phase 3) and kiln G8 (phase 4). Although allocated to different phases, the time span between the disuse of one kiln and the building of the other, even within the context of a completely re-organised settlement layout, need not be great, possibly even within a single generation.

The motifs on the pottery of the succeeding kiln G7 are different. The favoured motifs are arcs, zigzags and rows of 'dashes' (e.g. nos 226, 230-1, 240-5). Combing, either vertical or horizontal, or random is common to kilns G7, G8, and G10 but in small quantities. This is found on both storage jars and lid-seated jars, and not confined to the kiln assemblages (see nos 69, 82, 190, 224, 234). This method of roughening the surfaces would not only have served a decorative purpose, but would have made it easier to grip and carry a full vessel.

Left-handed wavy lines are found on shelly F07 jar (no 230) from context (666) in kiln G8, and also on F03 sand and grog jar (no 250) from context (740) in kiln G7. The latter vessel is of a form produced in the kiln, although not of the usual fabric.

Manufacturing faults. The vessels deposited in the kilns are clearly wasters. The most common firing fault was spalling, so badly in some cases that whole surfaces came away. This fault was found in all the kiln assemblages. Cracking of the body, causing a weakness in the vessel, was found on vessels in kiln G7, particularly around the shoulder. The kiln G10 wasters included sherds which had come away at the coil, where the join had not been strong enough. No one fault is specific to any one kiln, indicating a sufficient skill to deal with inherent weaknesses in the vessels. Occasional cracking, spalling or breakage did occur. The large storage vessels would have been particularly difficult to make and fire successfully. Complete drying of such vessels was difficult as can be seen by the frequent occurrence of spalled surfaces.

All kiln vessels are hand made following the native tradition. Acceptance of the wheel is difficult because of the need to readjust ones motor-muscle

memory. There needs to be an impetus to change those production techniques that have served the community well enough. It has been suggested that, as wheel technology requires finely levigated clay, which in turn requires firing in a kiln rather than a bonfire, the introduction of the kiln and the wheel usually occurred together (Barley 1994, 24). The industry at Stagsden did not last much beyond the Conquest period, and the mass production of shelly domestic wares was taken over by the Harrold industry, using both kiln and wheel technology.

Uses of the pottery

Evidence for the use of the pottery was recorded; among these functional attributes are sooting, wear marks, residues, pitting and holes.

Seventy-three vessels are sooted, making up just under 3% of the total assemblage. Internal sooting, with a clean exterior, suggests the deliberate burning of the contents, or the use of vessels as fire pots to transfer burning embers from one hearth to another. Thirty-four vessels are sooted internally in such a way. All are of Iron Age date, occurring in phases 1, 3, 4 and 5 on east Stagsden only, with none found on west Stagsden. This suggests either different activities occurring on the two sites or that different areas of the settlements were excavated. There is no internal sooting on any of the Roman pottery from either site. External sooting, the result of heating on a hearth, was found on the full range of fabric types, spanning the chronological range, with no apparent concentrations.

Few wear marks could be distinguished. A single F14 jar in phase 4 on east Stagsden had an internally worn rim, possibly from a lid which was harder than the pot. No ceramic lids of Iron Age date were recovered, and it is likely that wood, soft cloth or leather were used as coverings.

Fourteen vessels contained internal white residues, which might be hard water scale. Without full analysis these residues cannot be identified. The majority occurred on east Stagsden, with no particular concentration of pottery types, although only one Roman R08 carinated bowl had an internal residue; all others are of Iron Age date.

Pitting of the internal surface occurred on eighteen vessels, all found on east Stagsden. This attribute is usually the result of long-term storage of liquids with an acidic content high enough to dissolve calcareous inclusions on prolonged contact. Ten of these vessels were found in phase 5, most being F07 shelly jars.

A number of vessels had holes bored into the body or base. The two vessels with pre-firing holes are of Roman R13 and R06C fine greyware types, and they were purpose-made as strainers or sieves. Nine vessels had holes bored into them post-firing, for a secondary use, either functional or ritual, or repairs. One group of these vessels with post-firing holes came from features associated with the human burial, G31. In total, seven vessels with drilled holes came from these features, in addition to other pottery sherds (table 49). From the grave pit itself, half an F07 shelly lid-seated jar (no 69) and an F14 base (no 65) were recovered. Holes had been drilled into the centres of both bases. Two of the surrounding post holes also contained pottery with drilled holes. Post hole [990] has a single drilled F17 base (no 63) with either two small holes next to each other or a single elongated slot; insufficient survives to say which. Post hole [992] contained four vessels with drilled holes. Two vessels have holes in their bodies: no 78 has a neatly chipped hole in the shoulder; no 71 is a complete pot with two small holes drilled in the body and two opposing holes in the neck, possibly to secure a lid. The other two vessels are an F14 base with a hole at the centre, and an F06A body sherd with a small drilled hole. Each hole from post hole [992] is slightly different, either in shape, size or position. The three holes drilled in the bases from the fills of the grave pit and post hole [992] (nos 49, 69, 76) are very similar: they measure approximately 10mm in diameter, are drilled from the exterior and are positioned centrally. The large number of holed vessels from these associated features cannot be coincidental, and suggests a ritual use associated with the burial of the child. Breakage of pottery, spoiling an otherwise perfect vessel, is a common part of rituals associated with rites of passage or propitiatory offerings, and particularly birth and death (Wait 1985, 241ff).

The large storage jar of fabric type F15, (no 25), from pit [830], one of the isolated features in phase 1 at east Stagsden, may be another example of a structured deposit, rather than rubbish disposal. It was found on its side in the pit, and was probably whole when buried, although shattered on recovery. Its pitted interior suggests the storage of acidic liquid, but it is impossible to determine whether this is associated with the act of deposition. No other pottery was found with it, except a single sherd, probably a residual fragment. A complete storage jar was found in the same position in a pit at Bromham (Tilson 1975, 21), but the purpose of this deposit, as with pit [830], could not be identified.

3.2 The Samian Wares

B Dickinson

The Samian Assemblage

The samian from both Stagsden sites comprises 41 sherds from a maximum of 26 vessels, from the following sources:

Lezoux	Central Gaul	58%
La Graufesenque	South Gaul	32%
Les Martres-de-Veyre	Central Gaul	10%

Form	Lezoux	La Graufesenque	Les Martres-de-Veyre
15/17R		1	
15/17 or 18		1	
18		4	
18R		1	
18/31			1
18/31 or 31	1		
18/31R	1		
18/31R-31R	2		
29		2	
30 or 37	1		
31	2		
31R	1		
33	2		
36	2	1	
37	2		1
38	1		
46	1		
Tx	1		
Dish	1		
Cup	1		
Total	18	10	3

Table 70: Samian forms

The range of material is rather restricted and consists of the commoner samian forms found in Britain. They are divided into:

Dishes	58%
Bowls	26%
Cups	16%

Decorated ware

West Stagsden: (109) Form 37, Central Gaulish, with rosette-tongued ovolo (Rogers 1974, B15), used at Lezoux by Drusus ii. c. AD 125-145. (Not illustrated)

West Stagsden: (229) Form 37, Central Gaulish. A bowl in the Ianuaris ii/Paternus iii style, with a scroll laid out inaccurately, so that one of the upper concavities is unusually narrow. The vine-scroll (Rogers 1974, M3) is on a mould in this style in the Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The

leaf (Rogers 1974, H39) and trifold motif (Rogers 1974, G336) are on a bowl from Corbridge (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl.119, 5) from a mould stamped by both potters. The eleven-petalled rosette (Rogers 1974, C227) is on a bowl from Caerwent with a mould-stamp of Ianuaris. c. AD 135-165 (Not illustrated).

East Stagsden: (509) Form 29, South Gaulish. The scroll in the upper zone has spirals and tendrils respectively in rosettes and tiny trifold motifs. The upper part of the lower zone contains a bird to left in an elliptical festoon. There are no exact parallels for the details, but the use of sub-zones of such festoons in lower zones suggests a Neronian date. Cf. a bowl from Aislingen, stamped by Albus I (Knorr 1912, Taf. III, 2) c. AD 50-65. (Not illustrated).

East Stagsden: (569) Form 29, South Gaulish. A fragment of the upper zone, with tendrils and spirals ending, respectively, in bud-clusters and nine-petalled rosettes. This type of decoration was very common in the Neronian period (fig 50.206).

Potters' stamps

West Stagsden: (133) JON(?), with reversed N, on form 18/31, Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Heavily overfired. Trajanic (Not illustrated).

East Stagsden: (509) Dish, Central Gaulish, probably stamped [PRIMIA]NI: Primianus iii of Lezoux, Die 6F. Stamps from the same die are in a group of late-Antonine samian recovered off Pudding Pan Rock, Kent, and occur on forms introduced at Lezoux c. AD 160, such as 31R and 79, c. AD 160-200 (Not illustrated).

Plain vessels

East Stagsden: (770) Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine (Not illustrated).

East Stagsden: (804) Cup, Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre). Trajanic (Not illustrated).

East Stagsden: (863) Forms 18/31R (overfired) and 46 (with rim as on form Curle 15), Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine (fig 50.204 & 205).

Discussion

This collection is too small for any statistical analysis to be valid, but several general observations may be made about the samian. The South Gaulish ware seems to be almost entirely pre-Flavian. There is nothing to bridge the gap between this material and the early 2nd century, which is represented by a few Trajanic pieces from Les Martres-de-Veyre. These account for 10% of the samian and reflect the comparative scarcity of samian of this period on many British sites. None of the latest Central Gaulish (Lezoux) ware is certainly pre-Antonine. Although the proportion of East Gaulish samian is often low on sites in this part of the province, its absence here strongly suggests that samian was not reaching the site in the 3rd century. The evidence, then, implies intermittent use of samian from the 1st century down to c. AD 160.

3.3 Kiln Furniture and Ceramic Building Material

P Gentil with A M Slowikowski

Introduction and methodology

Four types of non-pottery ceramics were recovered: brick and tile, daub/fired clay, kiln furniture and miscellaneous ceramic objects. Each was recorded and quantified by sherd count and weight. Six fabric types were defined, and, although they are described together below, not all are relevant to all the four types of non-pottery ceramics. Catalogue numbers are referred to as (no **).

Fabric Type Descriptions

Calcareous

Fabric – an oxidised, fine matrix with white calcareous (?chalk) inclusions. Fairly low-fired. A variant of this type is a coarse, sandy fabric with large white calcareous inclusions, up to 12.5mm, occasional grog and large voids where organic material has burnt out.

Forms – mainly daub/fired clay, although a single tray fragment was found in the variant fabric.

Organic

Fabric – a heavily tempered fabric with frequent voids where the organic matter has burnt out. Inclusions include flint, chalk, shell and iron-ore and occur in varying sizes and densities. Oxidised, buff to orange surfaces, often patchy, with orange cores.

Forms – daub/fired clay and a variety of kiln furniture, including lids, pedestals, plates, slabs and oven floor fragments.

Shelly

Fabric – two varieties of shelly fabric were defined. The first is densely packed with shell and has a brittle feel. Oxidised cores, often red, with buff-orange patchy surfaces. Comparable to F07 in the pottery fabrics. The second type is a shell-tempered fabric, varying in density, with occasional iron-ore inclusions, 0.2-1mm. Buff surfaces with orange, oxidised cores. Comparable to R13 in the pottery fabrics.

Forms – A variety of kiln furniture occurred in the first fabric variant, including tray fragments, kiln bars, lids and slabs. Roof-tile and brick only occurred in the second variant.

Grog-tempered

Fabric – two variants of this fabric type were defined. The first is a fine matrix with fairly dense, small grog inclusions and occasional shell, with a soapy feel. The second is a coarser fabric with large grog pellets up to 17mm and frequent iron-ore.

Forms – daub/fired clay, as well as a variety of kiln furniture, including oven flooring, lids and pedestals. Kiln bars only were made in the coarser fabric variant.

Shell and grog tempered

Fabric – characterised by frequent shell and occasional grog, approximately 0.5mm, and rare iron-ore. Orange cores with buff-orange surfaces.

Forms – kiln furniture only, including kiln bars, pedestals and a possible test piece.

Sandy

Fabric – a poorly fired, powdery fabric with moderate quartz and sparse iron-ore. Oxidised, light orange throughout.

Forms – a single fragment of daub/fired clay and a possible fragment of oven lining.

Brick and tile

A small amount of Roman roof tile and brick, totalling 4,259g, was recovered from west Stagsden only. Roof tile is represented by three *tegulae* and a single *imbrex*. A single *tegula* fragment was found in the possible, phase 2, cremation [144](145) while the remaining examples were all from phase 3 contexts. Brick was only found in phase 3 ditches. While two bricks show a thickness of 26mm and 21mm, the remaining two examples from fill (143) are 39mm and 60mm thick. This, together with their smoothed and worn upper surfaces, suggests that they were used as floor tiles.

All the brick and tile is in the second variant of the shelly fabric. This shell-tempered fabric was commonly used for tile in the Bedfordshire area where a kiln site manufacturing tile of this type, in addition to shelly pottery, was found at Harrold (Brown 1994). This small quantity of ceramic building material, found only on west Stagsden, suggests that any substantial structures stood some way from the excavated area.

Disturbance of the site subsequent to the Roman occupation is evident from post-medieval roof tile within the fills of two phase 3 ditches and a phase 1 pit on west Stagsden. Although these fragments of oxidised sandy building material may be Roman in date, all other brick and tile of this date on the site is made in a shelly fabric.

Daub and fired clay

West Stagsden. A quantity of undiagnostic fired clay fragments totalling 579g was also recovered, although only 337g of these were from phased contexts. The majority of fired clay fragments are in a calcareous fabric but two small pieces from pit [228] are in a sandy fabric, and may be intrusive. Surfaces remain only on fragments from phase 1 contexts, a fragment from the drip gully [171] having finger impressions.

East Stagsden. Undiagnostic fired clay fragments (905g) were found in 28 contexts on east Stagsden and appear in all six phases, the greatest weight

coming from phase 1. Three fabrics are represented – organic (307g), calcareous (594g) and shelly (4g). No wattle or finger impressions are visible and surfaces are present only on two fragments of calcareous fabric, one from phase 1 [772] and the other from phase 3 [699]. In addition six fragments from phase 2 [836] in organic fabric show smooth and rounded edges and may be part of an object of unknown form.

Kiln Furniture

East Stagsden. A large quantity of ceramic material associated with the kilns was recovered including kiln bars, lids, pedestals, plates and slabs. The assemblage represents the portable furniture used within the kilns. Most of the objects were found within the kilns themselves, though several pieces were recovered from the fills of later, nearby features.

Furniture	kiln G10	kiln G9	kiln G8	Kiln G7
Kiln bars	5	6	15	10
Lids		1		2
Pedestals			3	
Plates	1		1	
Slabs			4	2
Total	6	7	23	14

Table 71: Portable furniture from the kilns

Kiln bars

Fragments of 40 rectangular-sectioned kiln bars were recovered from east Stagsden, 36 from the kiln structures. Kiln G7 produced ten bars, kiln G8 fifteen, kiln G9 six and kiln G10 five. The remaining four examples were found within phase 5 features and a phase 3 pit.

The kiln bars are all oxidised to orange with orange or red cores though occasionally there are reduced cores, buff-grey in colour. They have been formed by rolling out the clay before squaring it into shape, possibly with the aid of blocks of wood. Finger impressions are common.

The most common fabric used was shelly, accounting for 20 bars. This fabric accounts for roughly half the bars from the phase 4 kilns G7 and G8 and is the only fabric found in phase 5 ditches [508] and [854]. Shell and grog fabric was used to make bars only in phase 4, since it is only found in kilns G7 and G8. A single fragment was found in phase 5 pit [544]. Kiln bars in grog-tempered fabric only occur in kiln G9, deposited in the kiln when it went out of use in phase 4. A fragment was also recovered from the phase 3 pit [992]. Bars of this type are smaller and better finished with smoother surfaces than those of other fabrics.

Kiln bars are the commonest form of portable kiln furniture found on Iron Age and Romano-British kiln sites. Usually radiating out from a central pedestal, they acted as a base on which to stack the pots allowing an even circulation of heat (Corder 1959). At Stagsden it is unclear how the bars were

secured; they may have been placed in holes in the kiln wall, on the ledge or on top of the kiln wall. Kilns where they have been recovered *in situ*, in Bedfordshire, have been found at Mile Road, Elstow, and Harrold (Swan 1984; Brown 1994).

Lids

Portions of five lids were recovered from east Stagsden: two from kiln G7, one from kiln G9 and two from non-kiln contexts. Three are in organic-tempered fabric, and one each in grog-tempered and shelly fabrics. One of the organic-tempered lids was sooted on the under side. Thicknesses vary between 18mm and 28mm.

The heavily organic-tempered lid with clear grain and chaff impressions, from its size and the coarseness of the fabric (no 5), may have been used to cover the whole top of the kiln. The smaller, thinner pieces may have been used as part of an overlapping group, for the same purpose.

Pedestals

Fragments representing five pedestals have been recovered from east Stagsden, three from kiln G8, one from a phase 4 linear feature and the remaining example from a phase 3 pit. Those from kiln G8 are all in an organic fabric while the fragments from non-kiln contexts are in grog, and grog and shell fabrics.

Kiln G8 produced two further pedestal fragments, both in organic fabric. A slightly abraded fragment from fill (665) may have been the corner of a pedestal while fill (596) produced a piece with one intact concave side and numerous finger impressions similar to no 7.

A single fragment (125g) in a grog-tempered fabric from the phase 3 pit [992] may also belong to this category. Unlike the other examples, which all occur in phase 4, the surfaces are rough and uneven. However, the flat extended base and concave sides suggest that it should be included here.

Pedestals such as these would have been used to support kiln bars or plates within the firing chamber. The relatively small sizes of the Stagsden examples suggest that they were used as ancillary supports for a larger central pedestal or alternatively several may have been used together (Swan 1984, 61). Similarly shaped pedestals have been noted from kiln sites in the Nene Valley (Woods 1974, 275-6). No specially manufactured central pedestals were recovered from any of the kilns, although the lower two thirds of a large storage jar (no 225) in shelly fabric F07 was recovered from the firing chamber of kiln G10. It was found *in situ*, and was used, upside down, as a pedestal (Swan 1984, Fig III I).

Kiln plates

Three perforated plates have been recognised, all in organic fabric. The most complete example (no 9) was found in the firing pit of kiln G10, while kiln G8 and a phase 5 pit produced single fragments (nos 10-11).

Plates with multiple perforations were used to span the gaps between kiln bars or perhaps to separate layers of pots. Plates of this type have been recognised at other kiln sites although the closest parallel for the Stagsden examples were found at Blackmore Thick, Northants (Smith and Todd 1974, 9-10).

Test piece

A poorly fired undiagnostic lump (no 13) in shell and grog fabric was recovered from kiln G7. It was squeezed in the hand into a cylindrical shape. Its function is unknown but it would have been

suitable for use either as a small prop or as a test piece to determine when the necessary temperature had been reached and the firing process completed.

Slabs

The nine slabs recovered have been separated into three sub-categories: trimmed, plain and thick. The two 'thick' slabs, while from non-kiln contexts, may have been used in the kilns and therefore have been included despite certain differences. Slabs seem only to have been used in the phase 4 kilns G7 and G8.

Trimmed slabs. A single slab falls into this sub-category, comprising twenty-three fragments, weighing 1623g, in organic fabric. Eight of the fragments have straight sides while the largest piece (no 14b) displays an angle of approximately 170°. The edge has been trimmed with a knife and several fragments show evidence of finger smoothing. Most of the fragments were found in kiln G8, with one from pit [544] in phase 5.

Plain slabs. Six plain slabs of uniform thickness have been identified, all but one from phase 4 kilns (3 from kiln G8 and 2 from kiln G7). The remaining example, which is abraded, was found in the phase 5 pit [564]. These slabs are 22-30mm thick and are straight-sided. All are in a shelly fabric except for the abraded fragment which is in shell and grog. Each of the slabs in this category has one or more smoothed sides, three having both surfaces smoothed and the rest having one surface smoother than the other.

Thick slabs. Two slabs stand out from the above examples since they slope gently inwards from the edge. The presence of sooting and slight burning on the upper surfaces and edges also marks them out from the rest. Since these slabs are not associated with the kilns they may have had a function unconnected with the pottery industry. Both were recovered from phase 5 contexts. One is in a shell and grog fabric with a thickness of 32mm at the edge, decreasing to 25mm at the centre. The other is in organic fabric and the thickness decreases from 35mm at the edge to 30mm at the centre.

Ceramic slabs are fairly common finds from late Iron Age sites although their function is not fully understood. Examples have been recorded from the King Harry Lane site at Verulamium (Stead and Rigby 1989). Large numbers of slabs were also recorded at Baldock, Hertfordshire and although these have sharp, squared-off edges they too exhibit the characteristic smoothed upper and unfinished underside (Stead and Rigby 1986, 187-188).

The majority of slabs from Stagsden are associated with kilns, within which flat, unperforated slabs could have been used in a number of ways. They may have acted as spacers between layers of pots or perhaps as part of the kiln floor resting on top of kiln bars. However, the solid nature of the slabs may have obstructed the flow of heat if used in the latter arrangement (Swan 1984, 64). Alternatively they may have been used alongside a central pedestal or placed on top of smaller pedestals to give a solid, flat area for the ends of kiln bars to rest upon. Yet another possible explanation is their use as a support for the turf in the roofing of the kiln. In the Barton-on-Humber experimental kilns this method worked well but it was noted that a layer of broken pottery or tile would have been equally suitable (Bryant 1971, 17).

The two 'thick' slabs, while perhaps representing a form of kiln furniture, may have had a different function. Such simple objects were presumably easily and quickly manufactured and were no doubt used in a variety of ways. It has been suggested, for

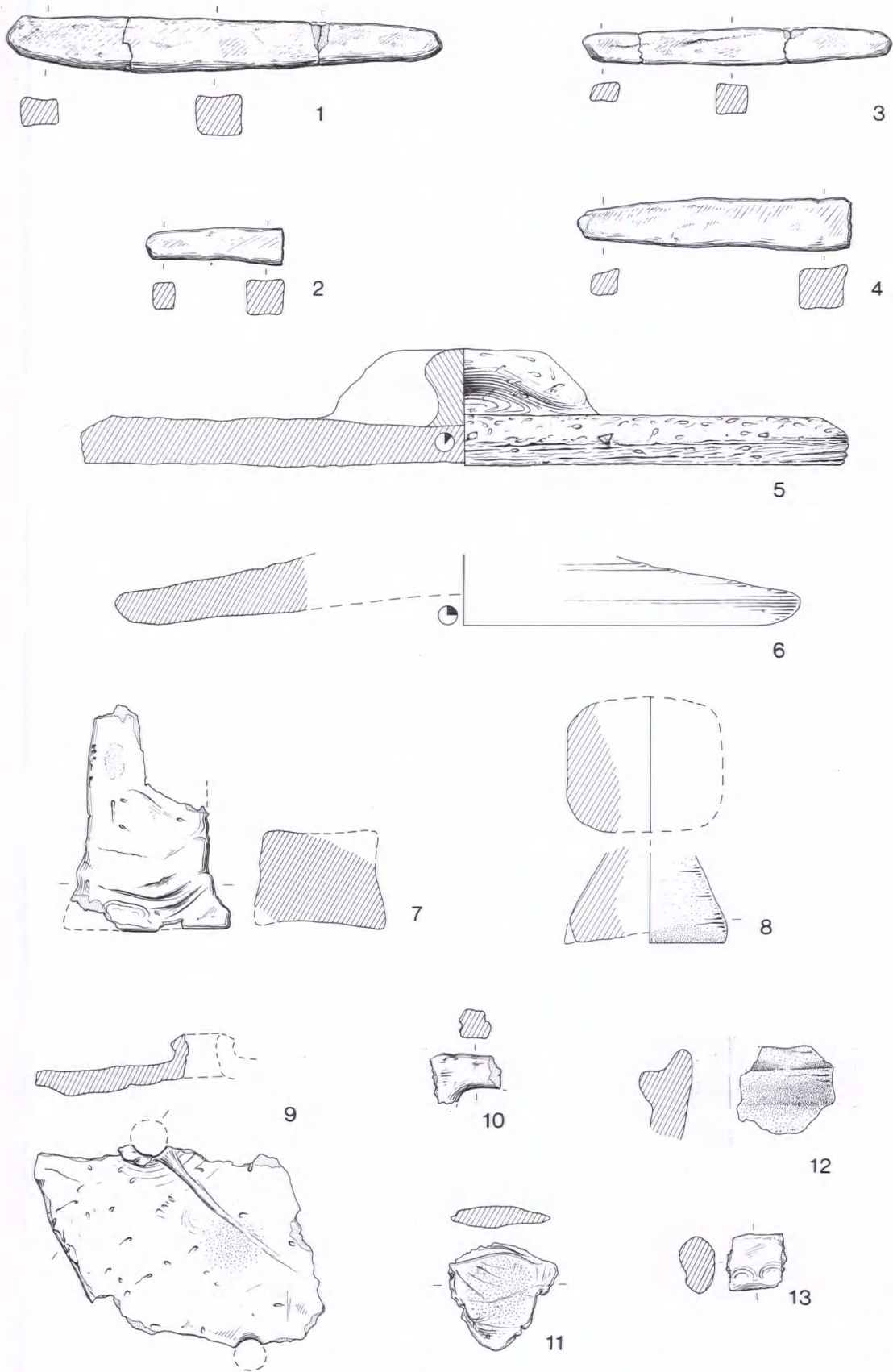


Fig. 55. East Stagsden, kiln furniture. Scale 1:4.

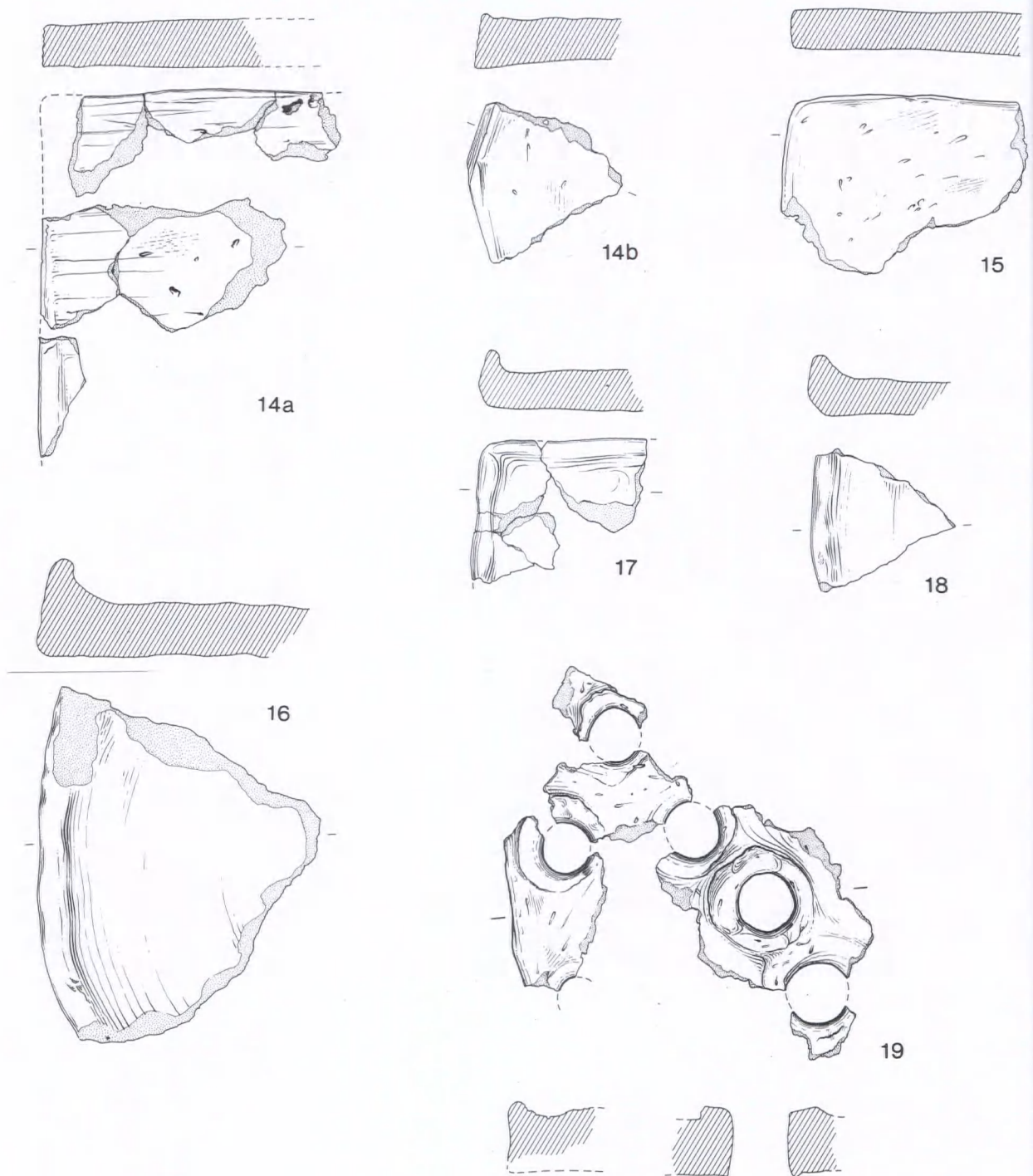


Fig. 56. East Stagsden, kiln furniture. Scale 1:4.

example, that such slabs could have been used as salt-licks for cattle (Stead and Rigby 1989, 52). The porous nature of the organic slab may have been particularly suitable for this.

Fabric	Kiln G10	Kiln G9	Kiln G8	Kiln G7
organic	1		5	1
shelly	5		11	8
grog-tempered		7		
shell/grog			7	5

Table 72: Fabric types of the portable furniture from the kilns (by fragment)

Miscellaneous ceramic objects

A number of ceramic objects were recovered in contexts unassociated with the kilns.

Tray

Fragments of tray-like objects with raised edges were recovered from both sites (nos 16-18). Both rectangular and rounded fragments were found. Rounded examples, such as nos 16 and 18, have also been found at the Roman villa at Newnham Marina, Bedfordshire. While their function is uncertain, one fragment, (no 16), was found in stone alignment G23, in phase 6 on east Stagsden. Most of the pottery within this stone alignment, however, probably originated in the fills of the ditch into which it was cut, and the 'tray' may have likewise originated from there.

Oven lining

Approximately 77 fragments, weighing 2208g, in a poorly fired sandy fabric were found in pit [624] on east Stagsden, phase 1. The poor condition of this material does not allow reconstruction, although a single fragment appeared to have a curving edge and an external flange (no 12). Its position in a phase 1 pit suggests it was not associated with the pottery industry, which flourished in phases 3 and 4. It may be a domestic or industrial oven lining.

Oven floor

Forty-six fragments of a flat object with pre-firing holes pierced through it, were recovered from pit [604], phase 3 on east Stagsden (no 19). At least one fragment had an edge and one of the surfaces was slightly sooted. This surface had been well smoothed and may have been the upper surface. It was in an organic fabric, and may be a clay floor of an oven or kiln.

Holed fired-clay floors of this type are known from several Iron Age sites and have been variously described as domestic or corn-drying oven floors. Two examples from Harrold, Bedfordshire have 8 or 10 small holes arranged around a larger central hole with a diameter of c.12.5cm. A similar arrangement is recorded at Little Woodbury (Brailsford 1949, 159; Dunning 1970, 37). A small fragment was recovered from another late Iron Age Bedfordshire site, Ursula Taylor, Clapham (Dawson 1988, 18). At Warmington, Northamptonshire, a well-preserved example had seven irregularly spaced perforations around a larger central hole and was raised on a hollow pedestal (Knight 1984, 161). The holes would have acted as vents creating an updraught from a heat source below.

Swan (1984, 65) warns against automatically assuming perforated fragments are part of domestic oven floors, and she suggests a use as portable plates in conjunction with kiln bars. It is possible

that the example from Stagsden may have served such a purpose in the pottery manufacturing process. However, the difference in nature and thickness between this object and the much thinner and better made kiln plates suggests that it had some other use.

Catalogue of illustrated ceramic kiln furniture and other objects

Kiln bars

1 Shelly fabric. Length 566mm, width 53mm. 2607g. East Stagsden, kiln G7 (740), phase 4. Fig 55.1

2 Grog-tempered fabric. Not complete, estimated length 460mm, width 50mm. 450g. East Stagsden, kiln G9 (583), phase 4. Fig 55.2

3 Shelly fabric. Length 397mm, width 45mm. 1033g. East Stagsden, kiln G8 (596), phase 4. Fig 55.3

4 Shell and grog tempered. Not complete, estimated length 700mm, width 60mm. 1537g. East Stagsden, pit [544], phase 5. Fig 55.4

Lids

5 Fifteen fragments (3,718g) in an organic fabric, forming roughly 1/3 of a lid, estimated diameter c. 480mm. The applied handle shows finger impressions from the right hand. The base has been flattened. East Stagsden, kiln G7 (740/789/739), phase 4. Fig 55.5

6 Three fragments (1101g) in shelly fabric, one of which has a rounded rim. The lid increases in thickness from c.20mm at the edge to c.30mm towards the centre. The underside is flattened and the upper surface has two equidistant curving lines suggesting that the whole surface was covered with concentric, incised circles. East Stagsden, kiln G7 (739/789), phase 4 and pit [544] (736), phase 5. Fig 55.6

Pedestals

7 A rectangular block, in an organic fabric, with an extended, flattened end and slightly concave sides. One side has a folded effect suggesting compression. Numerous finger impressions are visible on the surfaces, 781g. East Stagsden, kiln G8, 6 frags from (665), 4 from (666), phase 4. Fig 55.7

8 Three joining fragments, in a shell and grog tempered fabric, forming part of the curving base of a pedestal. The sides slope inwards and the base is smoothed to a greater degree than the sides 126g. East Stagsden, linear feature [1004], phase 4. Fig 55.8

Kiln plates

9 Four fragments, in an organic fabric, with the remains of two holes (dia. 23mm) pierced before firing. One of the holes has a prominent outer lip, while the other is flat. The underside is uneven but the upper surface has been roughly smoothed and has a circular patch of reduction c.33mm in diameter that probably marks where a pot stood for firing. No edge survives 456g. c.13mm thick. East Stagsden, kiln G10 (910), phase 3 and 1 fragment from (903), phase 4. Fig 55.9

10 A single fragment (22g) in an organic fabric, with part of the circumference of a hole (dia. c.35mm) situated 17mm from the edge. East Stagsden, kiln G8 (665), phase 4. Fig 55.10

11 A small, thin fragment (55g) in an organic fabric, with a reduced patch on one side where a pot stood for firing. East Stagsden, pit [528] (529), phase 5. Fig 55.11

Oven lining

12 Seventy-seven fragments of possible oven lining in a poorly fired sandy fabric. The single piece with the remains of an edge is illustrated. The majority of fragments, however, have no surviving surfaces due to the friable nature of the fabric. The largest and most complete piece is c.20mm thick and displays finger impressions 2208g. East Stagsden, pit [624], phase 1. Fig 55.12

Test piece

13 A fragment (40g) of extremely coarse shell and grog fabric. Poorly fired, the lump appears to have been squeezed in the hand forming a rounded exterior surface. It has two clear finger-tip impressions on one side. The fragment may represent an amalgamated lump of waste clay, possibly used as a test piece. East Stagsden, kiln G7 (740), phase 4. Fig 55.13

Slabs

14a & b Trimmed slab in an organic fabric, comprising twenty-three fragments, eight of which have straight sides while the largest piece (no 14b) displays an angle of c.170°. The edge has been trimmed with a knife and several fragments show evidence of finger smoothing. 1623g. East Stagsden, kiln G8 (665/666), phase 4 and 1 fragment from pit [544], phase 5. Fig 56.14

15 Plain slab in shelly fabric, comprising a single corner fragment. Both upper and lower surfaces are well smoothed and have patches of reduction, including a regularly shaped semi-circle. Finger impressions are visible on the edges. At the corner there is a differently oxidised arc, bright orange in colour. 496g. East Stagsden, kiln G8 (666), phase 4. Fig 56.15

Trays

16 A high-rimmed tray-like object in a shelly fabric, the upper surface of which has been smoothed and appears burnt especially close under the rim. The rim itself is smooth and slightly worn along the top. 1493g. Thickness at rim 60mm, body is 33mm thick. East Stagsden, ditch [828] (829), phase 6. Fig 56.16

17 Five joining fragments forming the corner of a tray-like object in calcareous fabric, with a flattened base, an uneven but smooth upper surface and a pronounced lip. There are finger impressions on the edge and upper surface. Thickness at rim 27-32mm. East Stagsden, topsoil. Fig 56.17

18 A tray-like object in grog-tempered fabric. The thickness of the pronounced lipped edge is 39mm, while the body measures 21mm thick. The base is flattened and reduced with evidence of having been smoothed with the fingers. There is wear on the top of the lip and in an arc about 30mm from it on the upper surface. The edge, though uneven, appears to be curving. West Stagsden, pit [249], phase 4. Fig 56.18

Oven/kiln floor

19 Forty-six fragments of oven/kiln floor in an organic fabric, thirteen of which show evidence of holes pierced through before firing. The largest fragment has a complete hole, dia. 35mm, and parts of two others. The holes are about 35mm apart, a further fragment showing that they began c.16mm from the edge. Some of the holes have thickened rims, burred up on the upper surface, indicating from which surface they were pierced, while others are flat. The complete thickness is c.50mm. 1615g. East Stagsden, pit [604], phase 3. Fig 56.19

3.4 The Non-ceramic Artefacts

P Gentil with H B Duncan

Introduction

Non-ceramic artefacts from the two sites along the line of the Stagsden Bypass have been recorded, treated and classified in the same manner. The method statement that follows therefore refers to both sites. A total of 56 registered finds was recovered. These items, along with the bulk assemblages of nails, 18, slag, 231g, and flint, 28, were assigned broad terms and allocated functional categories in accordance with the Bedfordshire Artefact Typology (BAT). Adrian Tribe, then of the Kent Museums Service, carried out conservation of the copper-alloy objects and X-rayed all the ironwork.

As in most assemblages there is a small quantity of objects whose survival is too fragmentary to determine their original form. These fragments of sheets, strips and rods do not contribute to understanding the nature of occupation at Stagsden and they are not included in this catalogue. In this report finds from topsoil, plough furrows and unphased deposits have only been included if the artefact is of intrinsic interest. A full catalogue of registered finds is in the site archive that will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no 1991/217).

The coding in each catalogue entry contains the following information:

Rf 32	(143)	G 40	Phase 4
Registered find no. and illustration number	Context no.	Associational group no.	Phase no.

West Stagsden

Fastenings and Fittings

T-clamp

T-clamps are one of the more common pieces of structural ironwork encountered on Roman sites, fulfilling a wide variety of functions, including attaching tiles. Rf 164 is one of a distinctive form that have curved, anchor-shaped heads unsuited to attaching tile. Manning (1985, 132) has suggested that this form may have held wood, of semicircular

section, in place. In common with many anchor-shaped T-clamps, the shank of Rf 164 is bent, suggesting it was driven through a second piece of timber and turned over.

Rf 164: Iron T-clamp with curved anchor-shaped head (34mm x 16.5mm). Rectangular sectioned shank bent over, incomplete (cf Manning 1985, Pl 62 R70). Present length 66mm, (143) G26 phase 4. Not illustrated.

Nails

Eight of the thirteen nails recovered from west Stagsden could be identified as Manning Type 1B, the most prevalent form of Roman nail which was of general purpose use but also frequently used in cladding (1985, 134-5). The remaining nails consisted of shanks only and cannot be classified (table 73).

Site	Phase	Context	Type	Quantity	Comment
1	2	196	1B	1	
1	3	113	1B	1	
1	3	126	1B	1	
1	3	127	1B	1	
1	4	111		2	Nail shanks only
1	4	143	1B	4	
1	4	143		2	Nail shanks only
1	7	192		1	Nail shank only

Table 73: Nails by phase

Household Utensils

Querns

Three extremely worn fragments of lava quern were found in contexts attributed to phase 4, none of which show evidence of any remaining grinding surface. Recent studies have highlighted the danger of prescribing a blanket term such as 'Mayen' to all lava querns since Volvic lava from the Auvergne region of France is now known to have been imported into Roman Britain (Peacock 1980, 49). As petrological examination has not been undertaken for the Stagsden fragments, their origin remains uncertain. The extremely fragmentary and worn condition of the pieces precludes any discussion of size or type.

Given the close proximity of the findspots it is possible that the fragments were originally part of the same quern. If the quern fragments are of Mayen lava then their position in phase 4 (late 2nd-

4th century AD) may be significant. Peacock cites only three examples of Mayen lava querns from the later Roman period with the majority being found in 1st and 2nd century contexts (Peacock 1980, 50). This has led others to postulate residuality for later phased examples. Given the abraded condition of these fragments and their association with 3rd and 4th century ceramics, this explanation seems probable although a continuation of trade, perhaps at a reduced level, may also explain the rarity of later examples (Buckley and Major 1983, 76).

Rf 156: A single worn fragment of lava quern with no surfaces remaining. Weight - 38g, (143) G26, phase 4. Not illustrated.

Rf 160: Two worn fragments of lava quern with no surfaces remaining. Weights - 177g and 26g, (240) G26, phase 4. Not illustrated.

Cleaver

Despite its poor, fragmentary condition an identification as a cleaver can be postulated for this object. The majority of cleavers were probably used for butchering meat (Manning 1985, 120). Although incomplete, enough of the blade survives to suggest that this cleaver was of Manning's Type 2 with a blade wide in proportion to its length and a strongly convex cutting edge (Manning 1985, 122). This is the commonest form of cleaver and probably continued in use throughout the Roman period.

Rf 157: Six fragments of a large, bladed tool. One fragment indicates a blade width of 76mm and a second fragment is probably the remains of a (socketed?) handle, enclosure ditch [110/181] (182), phase 4. Not illustrated.

Vessel Glass

A single sherd of natural blue-green glass, probably from a plain base of a prismatic bottle, was recovered (Rf 163). Although this sherd was found in topsoil deposits (140), it is probable that it derived from the Roman occupation. Prismatic bottles were very common throughout the later 1st and 2nd centuries.

Trade and Commerce

Coinage

This functional category is represented by four coins, all of copper-alloy¹ (table 74).

The small number recovered, despite the wide use of metal-detectors, may in part be due to the heavy clay soil encountered and to the partial excavation of features resultant from rescue conditions.

¹Preliminary identification was carried out by RMA Trevarthen, and subsequently confirmed by P Guest.

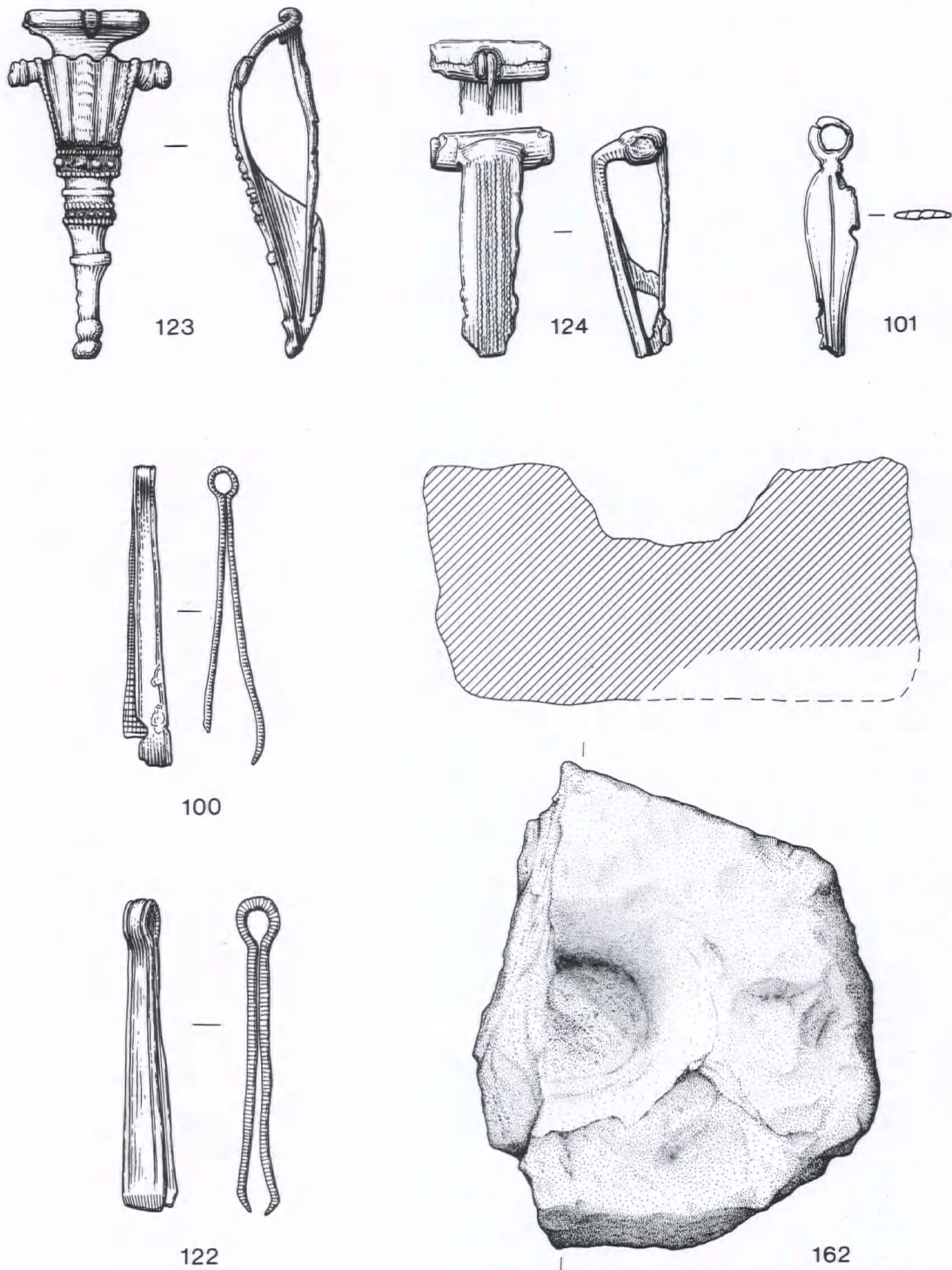


Fig. 57. Artefacts from west Stagsden. Scale 1:1 except no 162 (1:4).

Rf no	Emperor	Reverse	Denomination	Date	Phase	Context
102	TRAJAN	Illegible	Dupondius	96-117	3	188
126	as Urbs Roma	as wolf and twins		330-335	4	227
127	MAGNENTIUS	Gloria Romanorvm	AE 3	350-353	8	140
125	VALENS	Gloria Romanorvm	AE 3	364-378	7	152

Table 74: Coins from West Stagsden

Agriculture

Rakes

Roman rakes, in common with their medieval counterparts, had a wooden beam with a series of iron prongs set in it. The single example recovered from west Stagsden, (Rf 140), has the characteristic slightly curved tapering stem topped by a tang that has a step on one side at the junction with the stem. Rake prongs are not precisely datable as this form continued unchanged from the Roman to medieval periods.

Rf 140: Iron rake prong slightly curved tapering stem of rectangular section, surmounted by a tapering tang with a step in one side at the junction of the stem and tang (cf Manning 1985, pl 25, F63-66), Length 81.7mm, pit [128] (129), phase 3. Not illustrated

Personal Adornment

This class of artefact is represented by two complete copper-alloy brooches, both of which are well-preserved and classic examples of their respective types, and the fragmentary remains of a single hobnail (Manning Type 10) from a phase 3 deposit. Rf 124, while from a plough furrow, is included here due to its intrinsic value.

Brooches

The **Hod Hill** type seems to have been introduced at the Conquest. The main period of use appears to have lasted until about AD 70 since the type is absent from Agricola sites in the North of England. Crummy suggests that all Hod Hill brooches may have been coated with white metal (Crummy 1983, 10) and the Stagsden example bears this out. Mackreth (1981, 142) has noted that design pairs are very rare in this type. While an exact parallel has not been found, similar examples include brooches from Baldock (Stead 1986, fig 47 nos 117, 118) and Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 5 no 32).

Rf 123: A complete, well-preserved brooch with lateral lugs at the top of the bow, each of which has a moulded ridge. The leg is cross-ribbed and there is a foot knob. There are traces of a white metal plating (probably tinning) at the very top of the bow

and on one of the ridges of the bow, ditch [132](133), phase 3. Fig 57.123

Dated from about AD 10 most **Langton Down** brooches will have been lost by c.AD 60. Many commentators divide the type by the shape of the head, either squared or rounded, but dates for these sub-types are conflicting (cf Hattatt 1987, 80; Olivier 1988, 44-5). The Stagsden example has a rounded head but does not bear the waisted bow of many of this sub-type. Indeed, the shape of the bow is that of the square-headed examples.

Rf 124: A typical brooch of its type having a wide, flat bow with five beaded rows, a slightly rounded and raised head and a separate encased spring. The catchplate is pierced. The bottom of the bow has broken off, ditch [153](154), phase 3. Fig 57.124

Toilet Implements

Nail Cleaners

A single example was found falling within Crummy's Type 1b, a mid-late 1st century date being appropriate (Crummy 1983). The leaf-shaped blade of the Stagsden example may indicate that it is late in this period since Crummy's Type 2a, which probably extends into the 2nd century, also has this characteristic. Rf 101 was found within the same pit as one pair of tweezers (Rf 100) which suggested the possibility that they were part of the same toilet set.

Rf 101: A simple copper-alloy nail-cleaner with the suspension loop on the same plain as the leaf-shaped shaft but off-set from it. The tip is missing. Decoration consists of a shallow groove running down the centre of each side of the shaft, pit [128](129), phase 3. Fig 57.101

Tweezers

Two pairs of copper-alloy tweezers were found both exhibiting the same form of decoration and of similar size. Tweezers were used for the removal of facial and body hair although they may have been used to adjust lamp wicks (Philpott 1991, 182). Crummy noted the considerable variation in size and shape of tweezers from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 58-9) but the Stagsden examples show only a 2mm difference in length, a fact that may be

significant. The decoration of bordering grooves seen on both pairs is a common form with parallels at Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 63 no 1883) and Milton Keynes (Mynard 1987, fig 43 no 65). Tweezers are common and widespread finds in the Roman period but no clear dates within this period can be assigned to different types. Dating is dependent therefore on stratigraphic information alone. Rf 100 was found in a pit with late 1st century pottery but Rf 122 was residual within a plough furrow.

Rf 100: A pair of copper-alloy tweezers with a shallow groove running parallel to each edge of the arms and extending over the loop. Possibly beaten out. This pair possibly belong to the same toilet set as Rf 5 (nail cleaner), Length 46mm, pit [128](129), phase 3. Fig 57.100

Rf 122: A pair of copper-alloy tweezers, decoration the same as for Rf 100. Length 48mm, furrow [218] (219), phase 7. Fig 57.122

Mirror

A fragment of copper-alloy sheet with a high percentage of tin has been interpreted as a mirror fragment. One side is highly polished while the other is rougher, suggesting the fragment may have originally been mounted in a box or frame rather than a handle (Bailey 1986, 384). The surviving straight edge on this fragment indicates it belongs to rectangular mirrors of Group A, which had their *floruit* in the 1st century (Lloyd-Morgan 1981, 3-20).

Rf 114: A small mirror fragment, 1.6mm thick, with one highly polished side and one rough side. Remains of one straight edge survives, (237) G24, phase 4. Not illustrated

Objects of uncertain or unknown identification

A socketed stone has been tentatively identified as a pivot-stone due to its similarity to two illustrated examples from Roughground Farm, Lechlade (Allen 1993, fig 105 no 122; fig 106 no 124). The

nature of the wear suggests the enlargement and use of a natural hollow in the stone although the presence of wear around the top of the hole, beyond the pronounced lip, is perhaps inconsistent with a "gate-pivot". The lack of wear at the bottom of the hole would, however, seem to preclude its use as a mortar.

Rf 162: A large limestone object broken in half which has been crudely rounded. The upper surface is smoothed and polished in places around the central hole. While the sloping sides of the hole are worn, the base is not. The underside, though flattened, is not smoothed. Width c.296mm. (119) G24, phase 4. Fig 57.162.

Discussion

A total of 29 registered artefacts, along with 13 nails, 1 flint and 190g of dense ferrous slag, was recovered from west Stagsden. The medieval and post-medieval artefacts derived from deposits of phases 7 and 8, medieval furrows and ploughsoil, are not included in the discussion below.

The small assemblage of artefacts from phases 1 and 2 can contribute little to the interpretation of the site in the Iron Age. The single nail (196) from phase 2 derived from a pit fill of G28. Its recovery from disuse deposits renders a direct association with the construction techniques of this structure problematic. In form this nail is not dissimilar to Manning's Type 1B. Occurrences of nails in Iron Age contexts are known from numerous sites including Biddenham Loop (BCAS in prep) as well as from further afield such as Westhampnett (Montague 1997, 105).

Although quantities of artefacts recovered are not high in phase 3, relative to the assemblage as a whole there is an increase. This probably reflects the increasing availability of metalwork in the Roman period. 'Romanisation' is evident within

Functional Category	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phases 7 & 8
Fasteners		nail	nails (3)	nails (8)	
Household				T-clamp querns (2) cleaver	prismatic bottle
Trade			coin	coin	coins (2)
Agriculture			rake prong		
Personal			brooch hobnail toiletty items (2)	toiletty item	brooch toiletty item
Uncertain Fragments	Iron	Lead		pivot stone lead (3) copper alloy iron	
Total	1	1	10	20	5

Table 75: Iron Age and Roman artefacts from west Stagsden

this assemblage in the form of toiletry items (Rf 100 and Rf 101), a coin of Trajan (Rf 102) and a Hod Hill brooch (Rf 123), the latter, introduced around the time of the Conquest, continued to be popular until c.AD 70.

Pit [128] lies on the southern edge of the excavation and its contents, consisting of incomplete examples of a nail cleaner (Rf 101), tweezers (Rf 100) and a rake prong (Rf 140), probably represent discard from domestic occupation beyond the limits of the excavation. In contrast, the complete condition of the Hod Hill brooch (Rf 123) recovered from fills of a field or enclosure boundary ditch [132], suggests this was an accidental loss. The recovery of a coin of Trajan (Rf 102) from a layer (188) provides a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the overlying phase 4 roundhouse G4.

The relative increase in quantities of finds continues in phase 4, much of this relating to structural fastenings in the form of nails and a T-clamp (Rf 164). Manning (1985, 132) has suggested that anchor shaped T-clamps are more suited to fixing wood of semi-circular section in place and this may provide some indication of the construction materials in use. Over half of the nails and the T-clamp were recovered from a concentration of stones and ceramic building materials G26, mainly within the confines of ditch [141]. This suggests the disposal of disused building materials, perhaps to level-up the ditch fill.

The recovery of a probable 1st-century AD mirror fragment (Rf 114) from the foundation of roundhouse G24 indicates a continuing Romanising influence and suggests domestic occupation in the vicinity prior to the roundhouse's construction. The tentatively identified pivot stone (Rf 162) was also associated with this structure. Its recovery from an external dump, interpreted as disturbance from the foundation trench, makes it unclear whether the object formed part of the structural furnishings or was reused as foundation material.

The remaining finds from this phase were recovered in mainly fragmentary form from ditch fills and probably represent periodic clearing of domestic rubbish from surrounding occupation areas. The copy of a Constantine I coin (Rf 126) recovered from the fills of ditch [226] indicate that it had silted up by the mid-4th century.

East Stagsden

Fasteners and Fittings

Nails

This category is only represented by nails. Of the four found only two are from phased contexts, both are incomplete and cannot be allocated to one of Manning's types. The nail shanks were from the following deposits:

Context	Feature type	Phase	Description
897	Pit	4	Square-sectioned shank, present length 56mm.
509	Ditch	5	Square-sectioned shank, present length 60mm.

Table 76: Nails from east Stagsden

Household Utensils

Vessel Glass

As with west Stagsden, vessel glass was poorly represented amongst the east Stagsden assemblage. Although close dating is not possible, as the form of Rf 136 is indeterminate, blue-green glass vessels are commonest during the 1st to 3rd centuries.

Rf 136: A single fragment from a vessel of indeterminate form. It is a thin body fragment of natural blue-green glass with a high bubble content. Form indeterminate. Thickness 1.85mm, (523) G 22, phase 5. Not illustrated.

Craft and Industry

This functional category is represented at Stagsden by artefacts made of ceramic, antler and bone. The objects fall into three groups, textile working, antler working and objects here classified as points.

Textile working

Evidence for textile working is limited to a single fragment of a triangular loomweight, a form commonly associated with the Iron Age, used in conjunction with a warp-weighted loom.

Rf 141: Roughly rectangular corner fragment of a triangular loomweight retaining a diagonally pierced hole, diameter 7.7mm. Fine sand/quartz tempered fabric, (779) G19, phase 3. Fig 58.141

Antler working

Two objects indicate that antler working was carried out on east Stagsden. Rf 150 may have been used as an implement such as a pick, hoe or rake

Rf no	Emperor	Reverse	Denomination	Date	Phase	Context
107	Antonius Pius	Britannia Cos	As	154-55	unph'd	527

Table 77: Coins from east Stagsden

since it bears many similarities to the picks found at Grimes Graves, Norfolk (Clutton-Brock 1984). Whilst the wear on the brow tine could have resulted from the actions of the deer itself before shedding, the fact that it is restricted to one area may perhaps suggest that it was caused by subsequent use. Indeed, the beam has been worked in such a way as to remove the projections along most of its length to form a handle leaving the brow and bez tines at the lower end intact. In the Grimes Graves examples the bez tine was also broken off and the beam tended to be reduced in length more than the Stagsden example. It is interesting, however, that the Neolithic picks exhibited the same random cut marks along the beam as seen here.

The tool marks on off-cut (Rf 154) suggest that the piece was rotated so that the blade did not penetrate too deeply into the cancellous tissue; the final separation being by breaking. This was the common method of cutting antler (MacGregor 1985, 55).

Rf 150: A length of shed, red deer antler exhibiting considerable evidence of working. The lower (or brow) tine is smoothed on one side at the end and the trez has been roughly detached. Below the resulting stump is a small patch of cut marks. The beam has been cut off at the fork of the crown. Length 685 mm, pit [624] (625), phase 1. Fig 58.150

Rf 154: Antler tine of red deer, cut off at both beam and point ends. The point end has been rounded off and there are further cut marks below. Length 119mm, (799) G19, phase 3. Fig 58.154

Points

The following two artefacts, although clearly displaying different forms are both part of a class of implements commonly recovered from excavations and variously known as 'points'. The high degree of polish exhibited by many of these points is usually seen as proof that they were used in textile manufacture (MacGregor 1985, 174; 188-89). However, bone objects identified as pot burnishers at Rushden also show a high degree of polish (Woods and Hastings 1984, 100-11) and Swan has cautioned that "bone items on kiln sites deserve close examination" (Swan 1984, 51). (Rf 146) was found in a context containing quantities of kiln pottery and it is possible that it was used in pottery manufacture. Similar objects found elsewhere have usually been described as amulets (MacGregor

1985, fig 61) but the perforation on these examples is at the base of the fork. Two other artefacts, one from Winnall Down, Winchester (Winham 1985, fig 73 no 4) and another from Gorhambury (Wardle 1990, fig 141 no 970), although having only one curving tine, bear suspension holes and show smoothing.

Rf 146: A forked antler implement made from right antler of roe deer. The antler has been cut below the first tine and at the junction of the top two tines. One tine is smoothed to a point and polished with wear, while the other has a hole with a diameter of 7mm drilled through the flattened beam, (912) G15, phase 5. Fig 58.146

Rf 147: Left sheep tibia, gnawed at distal end and worked to a point at midshaft. The point shows evidence of wear and is polished. Length 88.4mm, ditch [925] (926), phase 5. Fig 58.147

Trade and Commerce

Coins

A single, considerably worn coin was the only artefact of this category found.

Personal Adornment

Brooches

East Stagsden produced seven copper-alloy brooches, two of which were from unphased contexts but have been included here for their intrinsic value. Of the remainder, three are from phase 4 and two examples are from phase 5. The brooches have been grouped below according to broad, established types.

Nauheim Derivatives are a common type ranging in date from the pre-Conquest period to the mid-1st century. Brooches of this type are characterised by their single-piece construction and generally have four-coil springs and solid catch plates.

The range of sub-groups within this broad category is well illustrated by the three examples from Stagsden. While Rf 144 may be regarded as a typical Nauheim Derivative, the other examples are less common forms of the type. Rf 149 falls within Crummy's Type 11b having a single curve to the bow (Crummy 1983, 8). The majority of Nauheim Derivatives have four-coil springs, three-coils being comparatively rare although examples have been found at Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 2 nos. 2, 5, 9). Rf 144, having a wide, flat bow, is of Crummy's

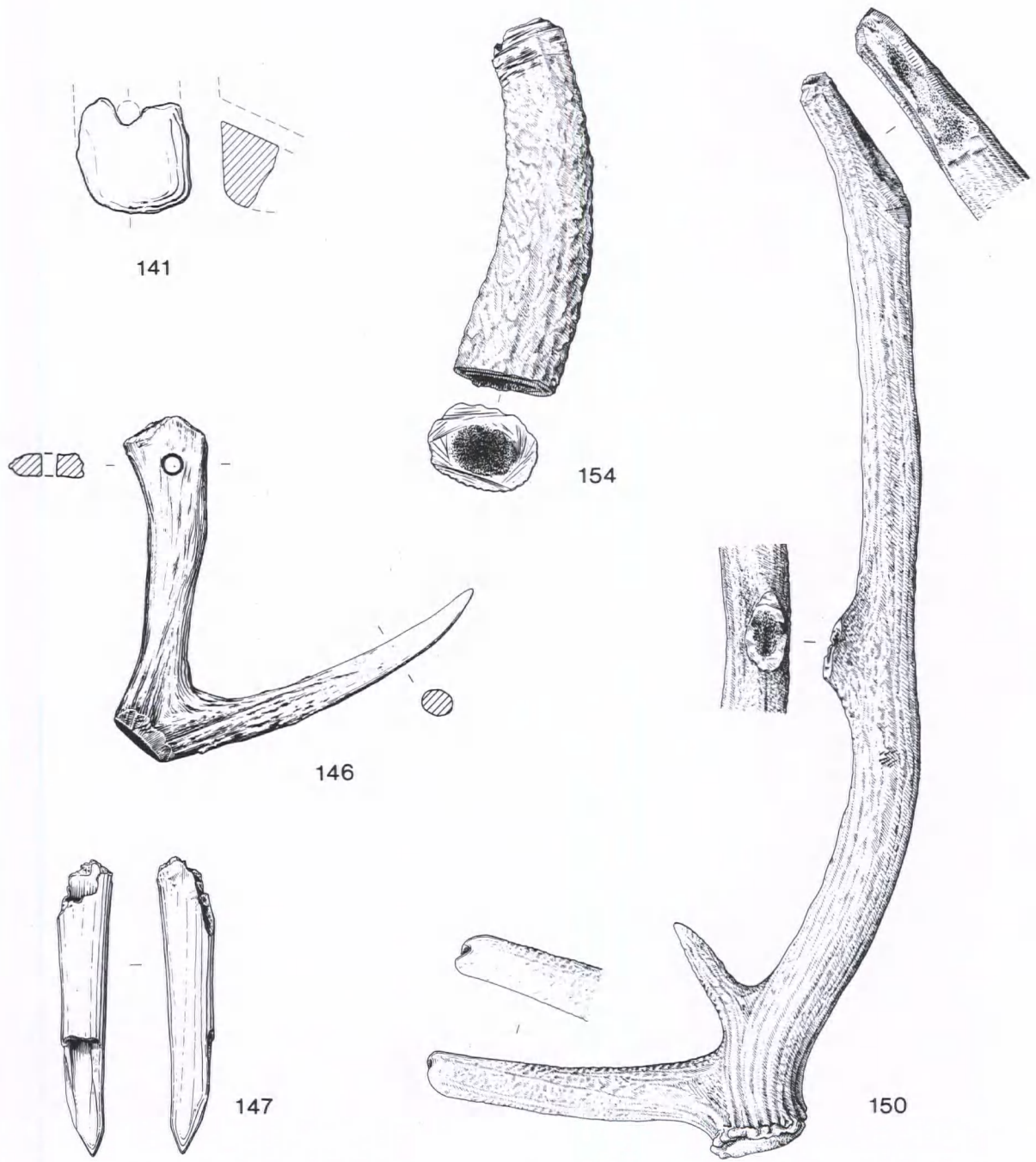


Fig. 58. Artefacts from east Stagsden. Scale, all at 1:2 except no 150 (1:4).

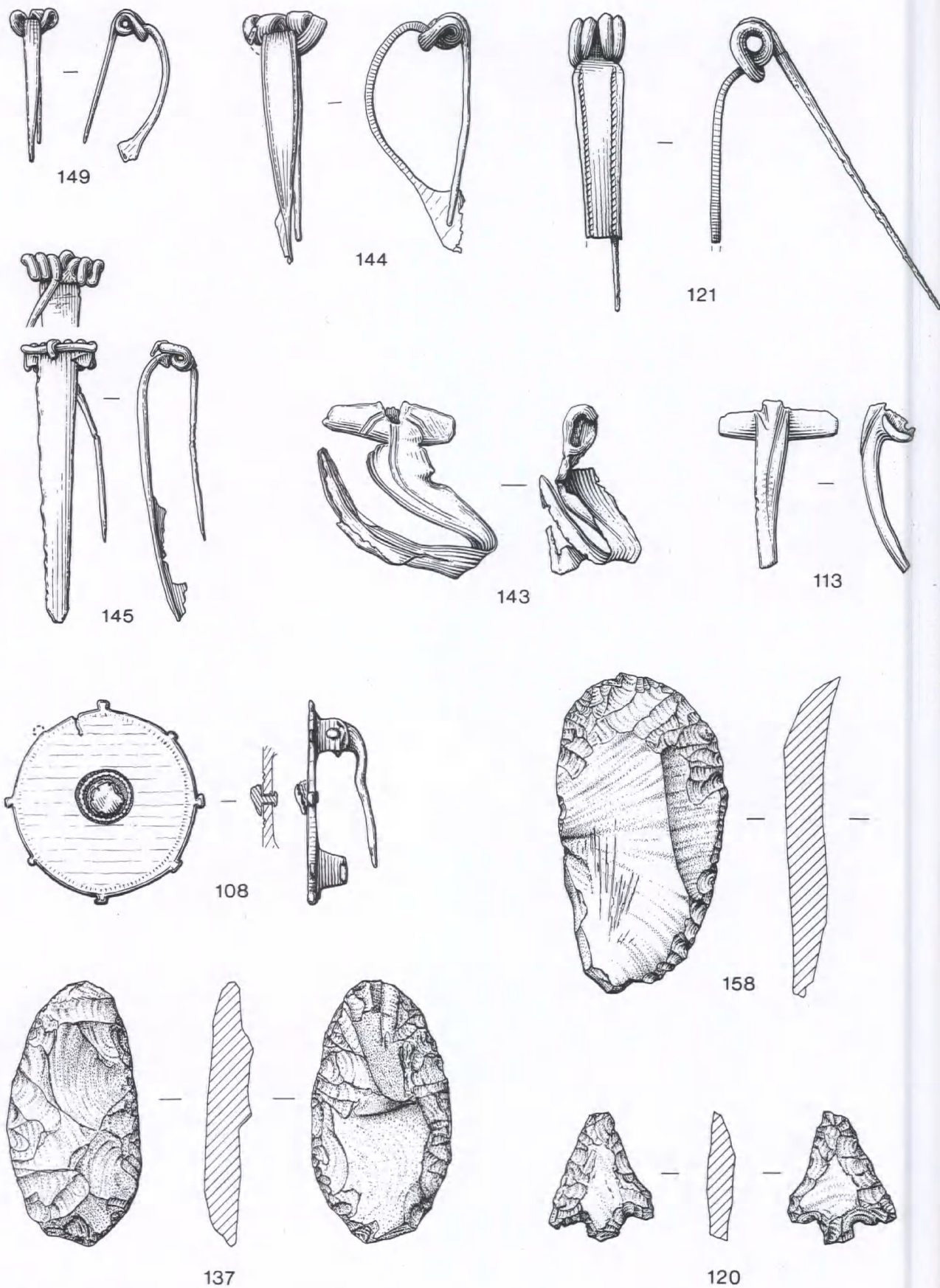


Fig. 59. Artefacts from east Stagsden. Scale all at 1:1.

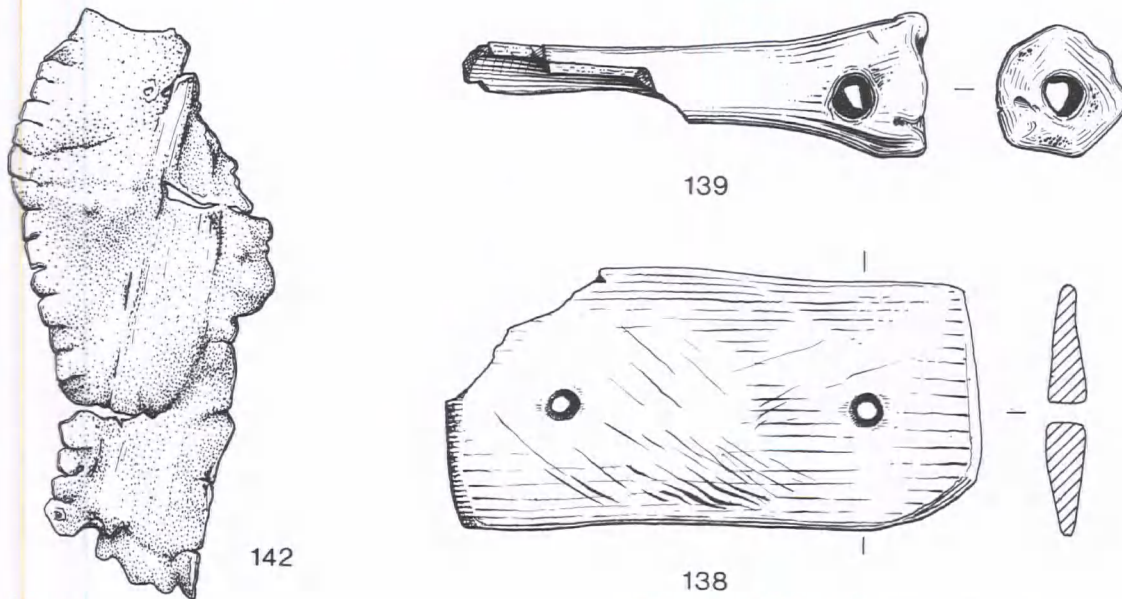


Fig. 60. Artefacts from east Stagsden. Scale, all at 1:1.

Type 11a. Olivier has pointed out that this type probably represents a true derivative form of the continental Nauheim brooch (1988, 36). Such brooches are widespread across Southern England with parallels from Gorhambury (Butcher 1990, fig 121 no 5) and Baldock (Stead 1986, fig 40 no 18).

Brooch Rf 121 is perhaps the most interesting of the three. Despite its incomplete condition it appears to belong to a rare type of Nauheim variant which Hattatt has dubbed a Langton Down prototype (Hattatt 1987, 43). Known examples seem to have a distinct eastern distribution with parallels at Gorhambury (Butcher 1990, fig 121 no 9) and Leyland's Farm (Mackreth 1986, fig 40 no 1). Although it may be a continental import of a classic Nauheim proper, the absence of a catch plate means that this must remain uncertain. A very similar brooch from Ruxox Farm, Bedfordshire (McSloy in prep.) may indicate the possibility of a local variant.

Rf 121: A single-piece brooch with a wide flat bow, slightly tapering towards the foot. The lower half of the bow is missing. Decoration consists of marginal grooves inside which are small crosswise ridges. Length 65mm, (637) G16, phase 4. Fig 59.121

Rf 149: A simple, single-piece brooch with a narrow rectangular-sectioned bow and three-coil spring. The catch plate, which was most probably solid, is missing as is the pin. Length 28.3mm, (890) G17, phase 5. Fig 59.149

Rf 144: A single-piece brooch with a wide flat bow, four-coil spring and solid catch plate. Decoration consists of two grooves running parallel to the sides of the bow. Length 45mm., pit [902] (903), phase 4. Fig 59.144

Similar brooches to Rf 143 have been noted at the Iron Age cemetery, King Harry Lane, Verulamium (Stead and Rigby 1989, fig 49 L4); Woodcock Hall, Norfolk (Brown 1986, fig 12 No 39) and Verulamium (Goodburn 1984, fig 7 no 33). The latter two examples have been described as **Langton Down variants**, the typology followed here. An early to mid- 1st century date seems probable.

Rf 143: A distorted brooch with a sheet bow and an encased iron rod. The pin would also have been of iron. The catch plate is pierced with a triangular hole. Decoration consists of two pairs of slanting grooves on the head with a pair extending down the centre of the bow. Length c.65mm, (863), G17 phase 5. Fig 59.143

Brooch Rf 145 belongs to Olivier's Ribbon Bow form of the **Simple Gaulish** brooch, a type whose distribution centres on the east of England north of the Thames, in particular to a band of country incorporating parts of Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire (Olivier 1988, 40). While of continental form, these brooches may also have been native productions. Most stratified brooches of this form have been dated to the first half of the

1st century. At the Iron Age cemetery of King Harry Lane, examples are dated in the range AD 1-55 (Stead and Rigby 1989, 99-100) and the Baldock examples also point to an early 1st century date (Stead 1986, 123-4).

Rf 145: This brooch has a flat, tapering bow and a six-coil spring. The external chord is held down by a forward facing narrow hook. The catch plate is incomplete but likely to have been pierced. Length 51.2mm, (634) G16, phase 4, Fig 59.145

The lack of distinct cavetto mouldings on the bow of Rf 113 mark it as a **Colchester BB** brooch. This example has the deep groove on the upper part of the bow seen on an example from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 6 no 53) which also exhibits the same off-centre crest. The type seems to have been post-Conquest in date judging from its rarity in the Iron Age cemetery at King Harry Lane (Stead and Rigby 1989, 101).

Rf 113: An incomplete brooch with the separate spring, catch plate and bottom of the bow missing. It has semi-cylindrical sidewings. The securing lug is incomplete but evidence of the perforations remain. There are very faint incised lines on either side of the central groove running down the bow. Length 29.65mm, (incomplete), (500), unphased. Fig 59.113

No exact parallels have been found for Rf 108 although it does share many characteristics with the group of disc brooches having peripheral lugs. Hattatt refers to a group of early tinned plate brooches in the form of a plain disc with six small

border lugs, a marginal groove and two or three concentric grooves at the centre, sometimes with a riveted boss. Examples are known from Dragonby and Camulodunum (Hattatt 1987, 158). A further variant of this type has concentric grooves, with slightly raised ground between, which have either six or eight lugs (Hattatt 1987, 158-9). Colchester provides a close parallel to Rf 108, although having only six lugs it is in other ways similar (Crummy 1983, fig 14 no 84) and is given a Claudian date.

Rf 108: A flat, disc brooch with eight small lugs around the circumference. The central 'boss' is a separate component attached through the centre of the brooch and has a thin sheet of white metal plating on its top surface. A groove surrounds the centre-piece. There is a 1mm area around the circumference that does not bear the surface wash of the rest of the brooch. Diameter 33.2mm, (500), unphased. Fig 59.108

Flintworking

D Enright

The flint assemblage, except for a waste flake from topsoil deposits at west Stagsden, comes from east Stagsden. The assemblage is small, 27 worked flints, and spans the Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date. Although six tools are present (table 78), the majority of the assemblage is debitage (74%). Dating has been assigned on the basis of general production techniques, including soft versus hard hammer struck and thickness of butt, and flint quality. The assemblage appears, on the basis of stratigraphic phasing and associated ceramics, to be

Context	Feature Type	Phase	Comment	Tools	Debitage
831	Pit [830]	1			1 flake
858	Pit [857]	1		core (1)	
812	Pit [836]	2			2 flakes
849	Pit [836]	2			2 flakes
700	Pit [699]	3			1 flake
844	Ditch [843]	3			1 flake
596	Kiln [G8]	4			1 flake
654	Ditch [G16]	4			1 flake
666	Kiln [G8]	4		retouched flake (1)	
941	Pit [G31]	4			1 blade
945	Ditch [G16]	4		knife (1)	1 crested blade
634	Ditch [G16]	4			1 flake
636	Ditch [G16]	4			1 flake
547	Pit [546]	5		plano-convex knife (1)	
509	Ditch [G15]	5			1 flake
557	Stone lined pit [G11]			retouched flake (1)	1 flake
569	Pit [568]	5			1 flake
626	Pit [G22]	5			1 flake
926	Ditch [925]	5			2 flakes
521	Pit	unph'd	no pot	Barbed & tanged arrowhead (1)	
695	Ditch	unph'd	Roman & IA pot	plano-convex knife (1)	
500	Ploughsoil	unph'd			1 core

Table 78: Flint assemblage by phase and context

almost totally residual. The possible exception is a barbed and tanged arrowhead, the sole artefact recovered from an unphased isolated pit.

The raw material is mainly composed of orange/brown to brown/black flint. There are six patinated pieces, showing a grey-blue milky appearance. Patination does not appear to have a direct correlation with chronology and may be considered to be caused by calcareous burial conditions. The flint ranges from moderate to poor quality and is rather flawed. Seventeen pieces retain cortex, fairly thick in places, where the waste flakes were obviously from cortex removal. This may indicate the raw material was in the main small nodules or pebbles derived from gravel deposits.

With two exceptions, a blade and a crested blade exhibiting characteristics of soft hammer production (941, 945), flaking was probably carried out using hard hammers. Two cores, one exhibiting multiple platforms, were identified.

Three pieces have fairly regular, well formed retouch down one or more edges and can be classified as knives. Rf 158 displays some invasive retouch, while Rf 137 has bifacial working; both of these may be considered plano-convex knives of the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

The single barbed and tanged arrowhead (Rf 120) is of Sutton Type B (Green 1980, fig 45) dated to the early to middle Bronze Age.

Other flake tools (not illustrated) include miscellaneous retouched flakes.

Evidence for Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity is poorly represented. The incidence of plano-convex knives and a barbed and tanged arrowhead might suggest Beaker activity in the area. However, the possibility of bias in collection along with the

limited and residual nature of the assemblage precludes any certainty.

Objects of uncertain or unknown identification

Rf 142: A fragment of lead-alloy sheet with a scalloped edge. Length 79.45mm, (749) G17, phase 5. Fig 60.142

Rf 139: The proximal end of a sheep metatarsal with polished surfaces and three holes, one through the top and two opposite each other through the sides. The holes are irregular in shape and are of different sizes. The smoothed inner edges of these holes establish that they were not made by canine activity. Possibly a broken point or toggle, (636) G 16, phase 4. Fig 60.139

Rf 138: Bone object with two holes of equal size drilled through either end. The rectangular object is slightly curved and is polished. Although the object as a whole shows a considerable amount of wear, the holes are only slightly worn. One corner is broken. Length 70.45mm, pit [554] (697), phase 1. Fig 60.138

A similar object to Rf 138, found in a late 1st century cess-pit at Gorhambury, was identified as an archer's wristguard (Wardle 1990, fig 141 no 973). However, it is perhaps worth noting here that weaving tablets have been found with two perforations although circular in shape (MacGregor 1985, 191). The lack of wear around the holes on the Stagsden example may perhaps preclude such a function.

Discussion

A total of 27 registered finds, along with 4 nails, 41g of slag and 27 flints, was recovered from east Stagsden. Of these 11 are from unphased deposits and, unless typologically datable to the Iron Age or Roman periods, do not form part of the discussion below.

With the single exception of a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Rf 120), the flint was recovered from deposits that produced Iron Age or Roman ceramics and therefore must be considered residual. Although the assemblage is small, the presence of plano-convex knives and the barbed and tanged

Functional Category	Phase 1	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Unphased
Fastenings			nail	nail	
Household				vessel glass	
Craft	Antler pick (?)	fuel ash slag antler offcut loomweight		antler point bone point	
Trade					coin
Personal Adornment			brooch (3)	brooches (2)	brooches (2)
Uncertain	Wristguard (?)		bone point/toggle		
Fragments				lead iron copper alloy	

Table 79: Finds by functional category and phase

arrowhead, along with the predominantly hard hammer struck debitage, suggests activity in the late Neolithic/Bronze Age.

The numbers of artefacts from phase 1 deposits were limited. Rf 138 was recovered from the disuse fills of an isolated pit south-west of G20. The identification of this rectangular bone plate, with a circular perforation at either end, is uncertain. It is possible that this may have served as a weaving tablet. Although its shape is as yet unparalleled on other weaving tablets, a variety of forms, including square, circular and hexagonal, are known (MacGregor 1985, 191). The lack of any grooves radiating from the perforations, a frequent trait of other examples, suggests an archers' wristguard, although hunting appears to have been of little economic significance (Cunliffe 1991, 381) and, at best, was only an adjunct to the main food strategies.

The presence of antler, such as Rf 150, does not necessarily indicate hunting as it was likely that shed antler was collected and brought to site. This object does indicate that antler was being exploited as a raw material, probably on the level of a home-based industry. The wear marks on Rf 150 suggest it may have been used as a digging implement, either in cultivation or more general use, such as the digging of storage pits.

Except for two flint waste flakes, phase 2 deposits yielded no artefacts. The artefact recovery level of phase 3 was similar to that of phase 1 and is focused on craft based items. A small quantity (41g) of fuel ash slag was present. This alkali silicate slag is formed when the fuel is consumed leaving small quantities of ash which, at temperatures around 1000°C or higher, combine with other siliceous materials such as clay lining, producing a lightweight slag. Although fuel ash slags are not of themselves evidence for any particular industrial process, its recovery from kiln G9 suggests it derived from the hotter part of the structure, the small quantity perhaps indicating the kiln had been at least partially dismantled.

The recovery of a triangular loomweight (Rf 141) from the enclosure ditch G19 to the east of roundhouse G3 does indicate a limited degree of textile production. The manufacture of woollen cloth has a lengthy history and it is likely that most households supplied their own requirements (Cunliffe 1991, 446). Antler also continued to be used in phase 3 as indicated by the worked red deer tine (Rf 154).

The level of finds recovery increases slightly in phase 4, most notably with an increase in metalwork, in particular in the form of brooches. This increase in discarded metalwork would appear to indicate a greater availability of material and may, perhaps, suggest an increase in the prosperity of the settlement. All three brooches recovered date to the first half of the 1st century AD. Two, (Rf 121, Rf 145), derived from the uppermost disuse fills of boundary ditch [633], while a single brooch, Rf 144, came from disuse fills of an isolated pit [902]. Craft activity is, in contrast to succeeding phases, poorly represented being limited to a single example of a bone point (Rf 139). Although the brooches attest to occupation in the area, the paucity of home-based craft items may serve to support the structural evidence in indicating a shift in settlement focus away from the area of excavation.

A greater quantity of artefacts was recovered in phase 5, metalwork accounting for 66% of the assemblage. All the artefacts derived from disuse fills of boundary ditches and pits and almost all were incomplete, perhaps suggesting purposeful discard of damaged or unfashionable items. The presence of discarded fragments of metal suggests, as with phase 4, an increasing availability of metalwork, and a concomitant decrease in the need for recycling. The two brooches (Rf 143 and Rf 149), both in use in the first half of the 1st century AD, recovered from disuse fills may suggest that the boundary ditches [864] and [892] were gradually allowed to silt up in the second half of the 1st century. The use to which the two 'points' (Rf 146 and 147) were put is uncertain. The polish evident on both items may result from their use as weaving implements; alternatively they may have served as burnishers.

Except for a single fragment of vessel glass Rf 136, there is little in the phase 5 assemblage to suggest any truly Romanising influences. This is in contrast to the contemporaneous period (phase 3) on west Stagsden. No artefacts were recovered from east Stagsden in phase 6. The recovery of a single coin of Antonius Pius (Rf 107) from unphased deposits hints at some form of later activity in the area. In contrast however, the brooch assemblage from unphased deposits (Rf 108 and Rf 113) does not date much beyond the third quarter of the 1st century. This would appear to suggest that the focus of occupation activity had moved away from east Stagsden sometime in the later half of the 1st century.

4 THE ECOFACTUAL EVIDENCE

4.1 The landsnail evidence

M J Allen

Introduction

Nine samples of sieved molluscs from the Stagsden sites were submitted for analysis. The snails had been recovered using a Siraf tank with a base grid of 1mm and sieves down to 500 microns from bulk soil samples whose original volume/weight was unrecorded. The available shells were only those recovered from the flots. Palaeo-environmental interpretation is restricted by the lack of molluscs from the residues, which may contain a significant number of apical fragments (Evans 1972), and include both smaller complete shells as well as larger, but often fragmented species such as *Pomatias elegans*. There is therefore some inherent bias as some less well preserved and fragmentary species may not be represented. Nevertheless, observations about the general environment, such as open grassland/arable and wetter periods of alluvial inundation can be made whilst general trends in the nature of the local environment can be detected. But there may be limitations in determining very specific environments within these categories, for instance, the specific nature of the open grassland – lightly grazed, short dry grassland, meadow, or long grassland.

The molluscs were identified by Sarah Wyles and checked by the writer using a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope. The results are given in table 80; nomenclature follows Kerney (1976).

Shell numbers were variable, but shell preservation was generally good. Low numbers are in part a reflection of the partial retrieval of the assemblages. Although, not surprisingly, open country species predominate, subtle but significant differences between assemblages and diagnostic elements within assemblages enable cautious, but more detailed, interpretation of the type of open environment, whether arable or pasture, and short intensively grazed or long grassland or rough pasture. On east Stagsden these range from arable, trampled grassland/grazed grassland, bare earth, short

grassland to long (ungrazed) grassland. Samples from west Stagsden contexts (109, 113, 127, 165) do show variation from open dry environments to assemblages from more moist habitats.

West Stagsden

All the assemblages were very small and only ditch [165] produced enough shells to make any comment. The mixed assemblage from the upper fills of this relatively shallow feature is probably indicative of long grass and low intensive grazed pasture.

The remaining assemblages, table 80, do not contradict the general open grassy environments indicated from the other samples.

East Stagsden

Phase 1: middle Iron Age

Pit [830] (831). A single sample from the shallow pit, in the centre of the ring-gully, produced only four shells, but did include introduced Helicellids. The ceramic assemblage in the pit dating to the pre 'Belgic' Iron Age indicates that they are intrusive.

Phase 2: Pre 'Belgic' Iron Age

Pit [597], lower fill (606). The assemblage from the lower fill of the pit was predominantly of open country type and dominated by *Vallonia excentrica* and *Pupilla muscorum* with *Helicella itala*. This assemblage is typically a xerophilic one of short dry, probably grazed, grassland.

Phase 3: 'Belgic' Iron Age

Both samples from this phase group contained a high proportion of shade-loving species, and shell preservation in ditch [696] was good with over 1700 shells (table 80), however, the size of the original sample is unknown.

Ditch [696], lower fill (654). This assemblage is particularly interesting; the high mollusc numbers allow more detailed palaeo-environmental interpretation and the presence of a mixed assemblage with a relatively high proportion of shade-loving species is significant. The open country element is dominated by the super-abundance of *Vallonia costata* and the dominance of *V. excentrica* with few *Pupilla muscorum* and *H. itala* which might indicate a rich, grassland. The shade-loving fauna is significant, but over-shadowed by the super-abundance of *V. costata*. The assemblage is typical of long lush mesic, probably ungrazed grassland and may represent local vegetation regeneration within the ditch. A high proportion of the shade-loving element comprise Evans' Punctum Group (Evans 1972, 195) which is typical of assemblages of vegetation regeneration in ditches. The presence of *Ena obscura* representing 2% of the assemblage is

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

noteworthy, but this is a species commonly found with other woodland species (Evans 1972, 165). A single occurrence of the freshwater species *Lymnaea truncatula* has probably been incorporated into this assemblage by human or animal agencies. It seems likely that the shells in this lower fill represent a ditch in open grassland, but in which some longer vegetation became established in the bottom of the 1m deep ditch.

Ditch [622] (952). An assemblage from the lower charcoal rich secondary fill of the ditch contained very low numbers of shells, 39, and seems to be mixed. Both open and shade-loving species occur, the latter representing 23%. This tentatively indicates a lush long grassland, and possibly vegetation re-growth in the ditch.

Phase 5: 1st/2nd century AD

Ditch [728] (727)

Shell numbers are low, (table 80), but indicate an open, probably grassland environment.

Discussion

Information from the second phase of occupation at east Stagsden indicates the establishment of a dry grazed grassland. In subsequent phases of occupation the molluscs from the ditches also reflect grassland, but suggest that they existed in a rich

Phase Feature Context Sample	East Stagsden					West Stagsden			
	1 Pit 830	2 Pit 597	3 Ditch 696	3 Ditch 622	5 Ditch 728	3 Ditch 165	3 Gully 108	4 Spread	3 Spread
MOLLUSCA									
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	-	-	3	2	-	9	-	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	-	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	-	1	14	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	-	2	9	5	1	-	-	2	4
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	-	21	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	-	3	912	7	16	7	-	7	3
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	-	40	142	1	17	3	-	1	-
<i>Ena obscura</i> (Müller)	-	-	36	-	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	-	2	126	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Müller)	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Ström)	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	-	-	114	4	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	2	-	125	-	3	-	-	-	-
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	-	282	154	273	171	2	-	4	17
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Candidula intersecta</i> (Poiret)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Candidula gigaxii</i> (L. Pfeiffer)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	-	12	30	6	2	2	-	-	-
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)	-	2	96	9	30	11	4	1+ [1]	1
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linnaeus)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Cepaea/Arianta</i> spp.	-	-	5	-	-	4	-	-	-
<i>Lymnaea cf truncatula</i> (Müller)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Taxa	3	8	20	11	7	9	1	5	4
Shannon Index	1.04	1.47	1.79	2.15	1.44	1.90	0.0	1.30	1.21
TOTAL	4	84	1710	39	71	40	4	13	9
% shade-loving species	50	2.4	25.8	23.1	7.0	30.0	0	0	0
% catholic species	0	4.8	8.3	28.2	42.3	40.0	100	7.7	11.1
% open country species	50	92.8	65.9	48.7	50.1	30.0	0	76.9	77.8

Note: All totals exclude *C. acicula*

Table 80: Mollusca from east and west Stagsden

grassland and that longer vegetation regeneration had occurred in the ditches. There is insufficient evidence to confirm that the ditches bounded ploughed fields. Nor is there evidence for episodes of flooding or local wetter conditions. The single freshwater shell, in the large assemblage in ditch [696], is considered to have been incorporated into the ditch by human or animal agencies, but indicates that these source habitats exist locally.

4.2 The Charred Botanical Remains

R Scaife

West Stagsden

Introduction

During excavation of west Stagsden, a number of features had contexts containing obvious charred plant remains and, therefore, archaeobotanical potential. Some 10 contexts were sampled which range in date from the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age to the Romano-British period. One medieval furrow containing plant material typical of the Iron Age/Romano-British period may contain reworked material. Together, the Iron Age and Romano-British features have yielded quantities of cereal crop remains and associated weeds of cultivation. These data provide a useful comparison with the charred plant material extracted from excavations at east Stagsden and are a useful addition to the history of agriculture in the Bedfordshire region.

Methodology

Samples of 6 to 10 litres volume were taken from all main contexts and especially those exhibiting obvious charred remains. Botanical remains were extracted using flotation (Siraf tank) with the flot and residue sieved down to 300 μ (extraction by B. Biddle). Sorting of both elements and identification of the plant remains was carried out using a low power microscope (Wild M3c). Identification was assisted by comparison with reference collections of modern seeds (Cambridge McDonald Institute and Palaeopol, Isle of Wight). The data from this analysis are presented in tables 81-85.

The evidence

The contexts from which archaeobotanical remains were extracted come from 3 phases spanning the Pre-'Belgic' to late Romano-British periods (table

81). The remains recovered from these periods are as follows.

Phase 1: The pre 'Belgic' Iron Age

Unfortunately, only a single sample is attributable to this phase of occupation. The sample from ditch fill (172) of 8 litres produced only a single grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and 2 indeterminate grain fragments.

Phase 2: Late Iron Age

One sample from a pit [184] was taken in phase 2. It produced larger numbers of grain and weed seeds. Caryopses recovered were largely of *Triticum spelta* type (*T. dicoccum* and *Triticum spelta*) (emmer and spelt wheat). Apart from a single glume base of *Triticum* sp. indeterminate, no chaff was recovered. A small range of seed types was recovered. Root/tubers of *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *tuberosum* were identified from roundhouse G25 (197).

Phase 3: Late 1st-late 2nd century AD

Three samples were taken from pit fill (129) and ditch fills (165, 166). The latter failed to produce cereal crop remains and contained only a small number of weed seeds including *Chenopodium* sp., *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Polygonum aviculare* and *Brassica* sp. A further sample included surface (113), which produced very substantial numbers of charred grain. This context also produced a relatively diverse range of weed seeds as did another layer (127) although the latter had relatively little charred grain. On the surface (113), the assemblage of grain is almost wholly *Triticum spelta* type grain, (237), with large numbers of *Triticum* sp. indet., 140, and indeterminate grain fragments, 287. Single grains/caryopses of *Triticum aestivum* type (bread and club wheat), *Hordeum* sp. and *Bromus cf. secalinus* were identified. Fortunately, charred chaff debris was also present and comprised *Triticum spelta* glumes and indeterminate glume bases.

A diverse range of weed seeds includes typical segetals and ruderals as for example, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Thlaspi arvense*, *Polygonaceae* spp., *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, *Valerianella dentata*, *Anagallis arvensis*, *Stellaria media*, *Brassicaceae* spp. and *Chenopodium* spp.

Phase 7: Medieval

A medieval furrow (109) contained a substantial number of caryopses of *Triticum spelta* type, 104, and a small number of *Avena*. In contrast to samples described above from phase 3, weed seeds were sparse. The preponderance of spelt type grain in this context suggests this feature contains charred material reworked from an earlier deposit. This argument is based on the fact that emmer/spelt types predominate during the Iron Age/Romano-British periods but are generally absent in later periods when free threshing hexaploid wheat (*Triticum aestivum* and *T. compactum*) became more popular.

Discussion

It is unfortunate that more charred material was not forthcoming from the earlier phases 1 and 2. Given the relatively large sample sizes processed, this perhaps reflects a lack of activity, such as cereal processing or parching, which caused charring and preservation. A single grain of *Hordeum* sp. in the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age from ditch fill (172) represents

local presence of barley during this period, assuming that no re-working has occurred. The predominance of spelt wheat in the 1st and 2nd century period is typical and highly characteristic of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. This grain type includes both *Triticum spelta* L. (spelt wheat) and *T. dicoccum* Schubl. (emmer wheat) which are generally not identifiable to species (although Jacomet 1987 distinguishes in some cases on 'pear' shaped grains) from the grain alone due to similar morphology. Identification to genus is, however, possible from chaff (glumes and spikelet forks) but unfortunately chaff was absent in the samples examined. It is possible that the grain had been cleaned and the waste material/chaff disposed of elsewhere. Alternatively, the small numbers of grain may represent 'background waste' distributed across the site.

The phase 3 assemblage from the surface (113) produced a fine assemblage of crop remains. Characteristically, spelt wheat (*T. spelta* L.) is the dominant type present with the large numbers of grain with chaff (glume bases) present, the latter identifiable as *T. spelta*. This may be associated with corn drying when spelt ears were parched to release the grain from the ear; that is, spelt is a hulled, non-free threshing wheat. Preservation through charring is likely through accidents during this process.

Since the pioneer work of Jessen and Helbaek (1944) and Helbaek (1952), there has been increasing evidence for the marked expansion of spelt wheat from the Iron Age into the Romano-British period. This is evidenced particularly in southern England (Helbaek 1952; Murphy 1977; Jones 1981) and eastern England (Murphy 1985; Scaife 1984). Reasons for this dramatic change in crop husbandry are not clear but suggestions of changes in taste preferences, change to Autumn sowing and suitability to a cooler wetter climate have been variously considered (Fowler 1981, 163). Whatever the cause for the change in agronomy, there was a clear predilection for spelt wheat during these periods and as suggested by Jones (1981) it may have been widely used in making porridge. Use in brewing has also been postulated because of sprouted ears which have frequently been recovered.

Spelt wheat may also to have been harvested and transported as whole ears of grain and subsequently stored and processed at the point of consumption (Jones 1981). Thus, the presence of spelt need not imply the local cultivation on/near the processing

site although it does, along with other records from east Stagsden, indicate the local/regional importance of this crop. The predominance of grain over the numbers of weed seeds implies that the crop had been largely cleaned although some weed contaminants remained with the crop whilst being parched. The relatively small amounts of chaff in relation to the grain are somewhat problematic. Although much larger quantities might be expected if the grain was spoiled during parching, on the present evidence no other accidental cause can be identified. Overall, the weed seeds recovered from all contexts are typical of disturbed ground and arable habitats. Segetals and weeds predominate and are largely of dry- arable/waste land types. There are, however, some taxa indicative of damper areas (*Eleocharis*, *Juncus* and *Scirpus*). There are no clear indications of wood or hedgerow taxa, although given the inherent 'chance factor' in preservation of such an assemblage, absence does not necessarily imply ecological absence.

As noted above, the medieval features ascribed to agricultural furrows were found to contain, in one case, substantial numbers of *Triticum spelta* L. grain and chaff remains. If the charred remains have stratigraphical integrity, the presence of such spelt in such later contexts is anachronous. Whilst in rare cases, spelt has been recorded into the early Saxon period in Gloucester (Green 1981) and West Stow, Suffolk (Murphy 1985), it would be an unusual find in British medieval contexts.

East Stagsden

Introduction

Five phases of occupation have been recognised in the excavated area of east Stagsden. These span the period early/middle Iron Age to 1st/2nd century AD of the Romano-British period and include the pre and post 'Belgic' Iron Age. The Iron Age sites produced a number of roundhouse structures associated with pits and kilns (phases 1-4), whilst the Romano-British (phase 5) comprised largely ditches and pits representing agricultural activity peripheral to the main areas of settlement. These features and occupation structures produced contexts ideally suited to the preservation of charred remains and therefore, the potential for elucidating the character of local land use. Thus, a systematic sampling strategy was undertaken (B. Biddle) on a range of features but which concentrated on the pits, house ditches, kilns/hearths and floor coverings where charred remains were observed.

Methodology

Sampling and extraction techniques follow those described for west Stagsden. However, a larger number of samples was examined from this more extensively excavated area. Sample sizes ranged from 2-15 litres taken from potentially useful contexts and particularly those with obvious charcoal horizons. Sorting of the residue, identification and counting of seeds was carried out under a low power microscope (Wild M3c) and with comparative reference collections. Raw data from this analysis are presented in tables 82-85. Taxonomy follows that of Stace (1991) for all weed seeds whilst that for cereals follows Jacomet (1987).

The evidence

As noted above, five phases of activity have been recognised. For the purposes of this discussion, the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age, phases 1-3 are discussed as one. The recovered remains are characterised as follows:

Phases 1-3: middle Iron Age to 'Belgic' Iron Age

In spite of the fact that contexts examined were from pits, hearths/kilns, floor surfaces of roundhouses and surrounding ditches, the overall quantities of charred material recovered were generally small. The principal exceptions to this come from the phase 3 kiln G9, (583). Pit (611), from the same phase, contained substantial numbers of unidentifiable charred cereal fragments. These finds include predominantly cereal grain but with very little chaff debris (glumes, spikelet forks and straw debris) and only small numbers of weed seeds.

Overall, in phase 1-3, contexts, the predominant charred grain recovered was *Triticum spelta* type (includes spelt and emmer wheat; *Triticum spelta* L. and *T. dicoccum* Schubl. respectively) with sporadic occurrences of *T. aestivum* type (*T. aestivum*/*T. compactum*; bread and club wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (barley), *Avena* sp. (rye) and *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome grass). A small number of glume bases was, however, recovered from the phase 2 roundhouse ditch (922, 956). These are diagnostic and easily identifiable as *Triticum spelta* L. (spelt wheat). The only other crop types recovered include *Pisum sativum* L. (pea) and the possibility that *Bromus secalinus* (chess grass) may also have been harvested.

Phase 4: Late Iron Age

This phase was represented by samples taken from pits (896; 995), ditches (636, 659; 880; 952), and kilns (591; 632; 666; 741; 767). The primary fill of pit (995), ditch fill (952) and the kiln G7 (767) produced relatively large numbers of charred cereal and associated weed seeds and some chaff remains. The primary fill of kiln G7 (741) contained the greatest quantities of *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome grass) and numerous indeterminate fragments of grain. The very small numbers of chaff elements recovered and the few seeds indicate that the grain had been processed prior to when it was presumably accidentally charred during parching. Cereal types, as with phases 1-3, were predominantly *Triticum spelta* type (spelt/emmer wheat) but with some contexts containing larger numbers of *Avena* sp. (eg. pit

995). A typical assemblage of weed/segetal seeds is present and includes *Chenopodium* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus*, *Polygonum aviculare*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Lithospermum arvense* and sporadic occurrences of other types.

Phase 5: 1st/2nd century AD

Samples were obtained from the Romano-British ditches (727; 912) and pits (879; 878). These features apparently associated with agricultural activity produced very substantial numbers of charred cereal remains especially in the large pit [878] (879) adjacent to a kiln G10. *Triticum spelta* type again predominated (195 caryopses) with *Triticum* indet. fragments (102 indet grain and fragments), *Hordeum* sp. (21 caryopses), *Avena* sp. (47 caryopses) *Avena/Bromus* type (27 caryopses) and *Bromus secalinus* (14 caryopses). Of importance are the glume bases (57) of *Triticum spelta* L. and a single *Triticum dicoccum* Schubl. which help establish the genus/type of the grain present. In addition are chaff remains including culm nodes and straw and the rachis fragments of *Hordeum vulgare* L. Associated with this assemblage of cereals are numerous seeds of weeds usually associated with arable and waste ground (ruderals and segetals). These include Poaceae, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Vicia* sp. *Vicia Lathyrus*, *Fallopia convolvulus*, *Polygonum convolvulus*, *Rumex acetosella* type, *Trifolium* spp, and *Medicago* spp. Two fragments of *Vicia faba* and cf. *Pisum sativum* are also cultivated crops. Other contexts produced much smaller numbers of grain and weed seeds. This is typified by material from ditch fill (912), which contained *Triticum spelta* type grain and associated glume bases and a single spikelet fork of *Triticum spelta* L. and *Hordeum* grain.

Discussion

The study of charred crop assemblages from multi-period archaeological sites can produce data which relate to changing crop husbandry and cereal processing techniques in general and the character of the local land use and environment. They may also provide data on the possible use of archaeological contexts from which the charred remains have been recovered. The interpretation of charred cereal grain assemblages must, however, consider the taphonomy of the assemblages. This can be construed as largely resulting from the accidental or deliberate burning of grain, chaff and weed seeds, or any one of these elements, and the disposal of this burnt, waste material in contexts, such as pits, where suitable preservation has taken place. Thus, east Stagsden might appear to provide a range of archaeological contexts from which valuable archaeobotanical data could be obtained. This has to a large extent been the case. A range of crop types and weeds have been identified from a variety of contexts including typically ditches, pits, kilns, floors and a stone lined pit attributed to occupation from the early Iron Age to the Romano-British 1st/2nd century AD. Thus, evidence for some 800 years of arable activity is provided from one locale and in an area for which there has been previously few data.

The fact, however, that sample sites span the Iron Age and Romano-British periods means that we are here dealing with periods for which there is strong evidence that the main crop types established during the Iron Age were spelt and emmer wheat and barley with rye. As such, the assemblages of charred remains recovered from Stagsden are typical of material from other sites of this period in England (Jessen and Helbaek 1944; Helbaek 1952; Jones 1981) reflecting the predilection for spelt with emmer as the principal wheats. Here, it is unfortunate that there is, in general, relatively little cereal chaff, especially glume bases and spikelet forks, since these are required for the accurate identification of spelt and emmer as the grain alone has, in general, similar morphology. It is clear though that throughout the period represented at Stagsden, emmer/spelt was the predominant crop, or at least it was this which was more frequently burned whether accidentally or deliberately. Contexts from the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age, the late Iron Age and the Romano-British phases have substantial numbers of emmer/spelt type grain which, in some cases is accompanied by chaff. This indicates the predominance of spelt during this period. This hexaploid, non-free threshing wheat requires 'parching' to aid release of the grain from the hull. Thus, recovery of such charred remains is most likely to have resulted from accidents during this process. In such contexts where both spelt grain and chaff are present, this is particularly plausible. In some contexts, however, there is a distinct absence of such chaff debris with the grain and it is likely that burning took place after crop processing activities such as threshing and winnowing. This may also account for few, or even the absence of, weed seeds in these contexts. In these cases chaff may have been disposed of in areas which are beyond the excavated area.

The available evidence shows clearly the strong reliance on spelt throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. It is also important to note that in the case of spelt, there is some evidence that this crop may have been harvested and transported as whole ears to its place of consumption and possibly stored until its use (Reynolds 1974). Thus, cultivation may not have taken place near the site and whilst it is more conceivable that cultivation was taking place locally, it must also be considered that cultivation was being practised on another farmstead. Thus, there may be a distinction between producer and consumers with final processing for use taking place on the site of the latter.

Whilst spelt wheat appears to have been the main crop type, typical of the period and other sites is

the resurrection of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum* Schubl.) after a period of less importance during the Bronze Age. There is limited evidence of emmer in the remains from Stagsden with a small number of identified chaff remains. However, it is possible that it was not being widely cultivated locally, it was a weed of the spelt crop or that accidental charring did not occur and thus it is not represented on site. The same may also apply to *Avena* sp. and *Hordeum* sp. which are similarly present in small numbers from all periods but more prevalent in phases 4 and 5. However, larger numbers of these are likely to imply cultivation of these crops. *Triticum aestivum* type (hexaploid, bread and club wheats) are also noted but in small quantity. This indicates its use during the occupation but, little can be said of its relative importance as a crop since this type does not require parching (being free threshing) and thus, there are fewer possibilities of its accidental charring/burning.

Other crop remains include *Pisum sativum* L. in phases 3 and 5 (pea), *Vicia faba* L. (Celtic bean/horse bean) in phase 5 and *Bromus secalinus* L. (rye brome). The possible use of the latter is debated since it is generally considered as an introduced weed of wheat crops (Clapham *et al.* 1962). *Vicia faba* L. (celtic bean) has been tentatively identified from fragments of pulse in phase 5. Identification as *V. faba* ssp. *minor/major* was not possible because of poor preservation. Its importance as a major food crop is now generally recognised (Zohary and Hopf 1994) with identifications back to the early Bronze Age (Scaife 1982) in England and from the Neolithic in Wales (Hillman in Simmons and Tooley 1982). From later periods there is much more data and both *Pisum sativum* L., and *Vicia faba* were diagnostic crop plants of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

In conclusion, a range of contexts with potential for archaeobotanical work was examined from 5 phases of the site spanning the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age to the 1st and 2nd century of the Romano-British period. These included pits, ditches, round house periphery ditches, floors and a well. These were examined for charred plant remains which would yield evidence of agricultural crops. The presence of grain and its preservation was generally variable from the different contexts, but a range of features provided identifiable material, both chaff and cereal grain. Typical of these periods, grain of spelt/emmer type was most common. In some cases quantities of chaff remains, i.e. glume bases and spikelet forks, are identifiable as predominantly spelt wheat (*T. spelta* L.). Lesser occurrences of *Triticum dicoccum*

Schubl., *T. aestivum* type (bread and club wheat) also attest to the cultivation of these wheat varieties. Other cereals include *Avena* sp. (likely rye) and *Hordeum* sp. (barley). Whilst it is tempting to assign temporal importance to differences in these assemblages, the eccentricities of accidental burning and preservation precludes this. Non arable crops also evidenced include *Pisum* (pea) and possibly

Vicia faba L. (Celtic/horsebean). With all of those contexts yielding such arable crops are, in some cases, diverse assemblages of weeds of arable and waste ground (ruderals and segetal taxa). These are typical of cereal assemblages in various states of crop processing. These data help towards our understanding of regional agricultural practices during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Context	172	184	268	165	166	129	113	127	126	133	109
Sample	8	9	131	105	7	5	2	4	3	6	1
Phase	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	7
Group/type	Ditch	Pit		Ditch		Pit	Ditch	Layer	Layer	Ditch	
CEREAL/CROPS											
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> type		1					1	1	1		
<i>Triticum spelta</i> type		4				4	237	4	10	8	104
<i>Triticum</i> indet		7		1		1	140	6	9		29
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	1						1				
<i>Avena</i> sp											3
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>		1				1	1		1		
Indet fragments	2	9			1	2	287	14	7	8	6
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L							39				
<i>Triticum</i> indet		1					15			1	
<i>Triticum</i> indet							1				
Straw	1										
OTHER CROPS											
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L							1				
WEED SEEDS											
<i>Ranunculus</i> a/t/b											1
<i>Brassicaceae</i> indet.											1
<i>Brassica</i> sp					1		1	1	1		
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>							1				
cf <i>Camelina</i>		1				1	1				
<i>Stellaria</i> sp								8			
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp		1		1		1	2	5	1		1
<i>Malva</i> cf <i>sylvestris</i>		1									
<i>Vicia</i> sp		2				1	1	1			
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>				1							
<i>Medicago</i> sp								1			
<i>Trifolium</i> sp (small)							1	9			
<i>Trifolium</i> sp (large)								13			
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>					1		1				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>							1	1			
<i>Polygonum</i> sp						1			1		
<i>Rumex</i> sp		1					8	2	1		2
<i>Prunus</i> sp								1			
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>								1			
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>							1				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>							1				
cf <i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>								1			
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>								1			
<i>Tripleurospermum</i> sp							1	5			
<i>Picris echioides</i>							1				
cf <i>Festuca</i>								1			
cf <i>Lolium</i>				1							
Poaceae indet				4		1	13	19			2
<i>Eleocharis</i>							2	12			
<i>Scirpus</i> sp							3	4			
<i>Juncus</i> sp								4			
<i>Arrhenatherum</i>			3								

Table 81: The charred plant remains from west Stagsden

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Context	657	814	831	858	922	956
Sample	116	122	127	129	139	141
Phase	1	1	1	1	2	2
Group/type	Pit fill	Surface	Pit	Pit	RH G5	RH G5
CEREAL CROPS						
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> type					1	
<i>Triticum spelta</i> type	4	5				
<i>Triticum indet</i>	3	4		1	1	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	2				1	
<i>Avena</i> sp	1					
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>					1	
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>	3				1	
Indet fragments	10	1	3	1	4	2
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L	3				6	
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	1					
<i>Triticum indet</i>					4	
<i>Triticum spelta</i>						
<i>Triticum indet</i>						
OTHER CROPS						
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L	1					
WEED SEEDS						
<i>Brassicaceae</i> indet		1				
cf <i>Camelina</i>					1	
<i>Montia fontana</i>					1	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp		1	3	1	1	
<i>Vicia</i> sp		1				
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	7					
<i>Medicago</i> sp	1					
<i>Trifolium</i> sp (small)						
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>		1	1		1	1
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>						
<i>Polygonum</i> sp						
<i>Rumex</i> sp	1	1				
<i>Corylus avellana</i>			1			
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>						
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>						
<i>Valeriana dentata</i>					1	
Poaceae indet						
<i>Carex</i> sp				1		
Unidentified	1					
<i>Arrhenatherum</i>						
		tubers				

Table 82: East Stagsden charred plant remains from phases 1 & 2.

The Ecofactual Evidence

Context	611	606	746	844	583	908	910	920	910	882	882
Sample	106	111	119	128	101	135	136	138	148	103	130
Phase	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Group/type	Pit	Pit	Pit	RH G3	Kiln G10	Kiln G10	Kiln G10	Kiln G10	Kiln G10	Surface	Surface
CEREAL CROPS											
cf <i>Triticum aestivum</i> type								3			
<i>Triticum spelta</i> type	4		3		18	5	3		3		5
<i>Triticum</i> indet	16		1	2	46	4	1	20	1		14
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	1			1	1						2
cf <i>Hordeum</i>	2		1			2					
<i>Avena</i> sp	13		5								2
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	2		2					18			
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>		1	4	1	2						
Indet fragments	62	2	7	4	172	1		39			17
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L	4		1	1				1			
<i>Triticum</i> indet								1			
Straw								1			
OTHER CROPS											
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L	1	1	1		1						
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>											1
WEED SEEDS											
<i>Ranunculus</i> a/r/b			1								
<i>Brassicaceae</i> indet		3			1						
cf <i>Camelina</i>					1	2		5			
<i>Stellaria media</i>					1			1			
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp		6		1	2			1			2
<i>Atriplex</i> sp	1				1						
<i>Linum</i> cf <i>perenne</i>										1	
<i>Vicia</i> sp		1			4	1				1	2
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	11		1	3							9
<i>Medicago</i> sp			14	1							1
<i>Trifolium</i> sp (small)	1					1					1
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	1		3		2						1
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>			1								
<i>Rumex</i> sp	1		7								3
<i>Corylus avellana</i>										1	
<i>Prunus</i> sp								1			
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>								1			
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>								1			
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	10				20						
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>								1			
<i>Galium</i> sp											1
<i>Tripleurospermum</i> sp								1			
<i>Cirsium</i> sp					1						
cf <i>Lolium</i>						1					
<i>Poaceae</i> indet		1									4
<i>Carex</i> sp			2								
<i>Eleocharis</i>			4					1			
<i>Juncus</i> sp			1								
<i>Arrhenatherum</i>								1	1		

Table 83: East Stagsden, charred plant remains from phase 3

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Context	669	880	952	995	995	685	591	632	666	767	741
Sample	115	134	142	146	147	113	105	108	120	125	123
Phase	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Group/type	Ditch G15	Ditch G16	Ditch G15	Pit G31	Pit G31	Pit G11	Kiln G8	Kiln G8	Kiln G8	Kiln G7	Kiln G7
CEREAL CROPS											
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> type											
cf <i>Triticum aestivum</i> type		1									
<i>Triticum spelta</i> type		59	1	23	21	4	1	6		10	
<i>Triticum</i> indet		29	3	20	13	2		1	2	12	1
<i>Hordeum</i> sp				6		8					
cf <i>Hordeum</i>				4	2	5					
<i>Avena</i> sp		12		11	12						
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>			1			3		3	1		
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>		2	5								
Indet fragments		70	7	60	26	4		8	8	21	
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L		9							1	1	
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>			1								
<i>Triticum</i> indet		8	2							1	
<i>Triticum spelta</i>											
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>					1						
<i>Triticum</i> indet											
<i>Hordeum</i>											
Straw			1								
OTHER CROPS											
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L											
WEED SEEDS											
<i>Brassica</i> sp	1	1									
cf <i>Camelina</i>			4	3							
<i>Stellaria</i>	1										
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp	3	12	49		2		1				
<i>Vicia</i> sp		2	1	1							
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>				8	1		1				
<i>Medicago</i> sp		7									
<i>Trifolium</i> sp	7										
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>		3				1				1	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>		2	1								
<i>Rumex</i> sp		2	2								
<i>Prunus</i> sp							1				
<i>Prunus</i> sp							1				
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>				1	5						
<i>Tripleurospermum</i> sp	1										
<i>Poaceae</i> indet				2	1		3				
<i>Juncus</i> sp		1			1						
Unidentified							2				

Table 84: East Stagsden, the charred plant remains from phase 4

The Ecofactual Evidence

Context		636	741	547	547	879	879	879	727	912
Sample		100	123	102	103	132	133	137	117	143
Phase		4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Group/type		Ditch- G16	Kiln G7	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch G18	Ditch G15
CEREAL CROPS										
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> type	caryopses		4			9				
<i>Triticum spelta</i> type	caryopses	20	81	7	1	195	2	6	8	13
<i>Triticum</i> indet	caryopses	15	74	6	2	101		6	2	15
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	caryopses	7	1	1		21		4		6
cf <i>Hordeum</i>	caryopses					8				2
<i>Avena</i> sp	caryopses	8	5	19	1	47				3
<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	caryopses	2		7		27			1	
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>	caryopses			4		14				
Indet fragments	caryopses	29	209	6	2	350	1		7	11
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L	glumes	3	1	1	1	57				
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	glumes					1				
<i>Triticum</i> indet	glumes									1
<i>Triticum spelta</i>	spk forks	1	1			8				
<i>Triticum</i> indet	spk forks		3			1				
<i>Hordeum</i>	rachis					4				
Straw						**				
Culm notes		**				**				
OTHER CROPS										
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L						1				
WEED SEEDS										
<i>Brassicaceae</i> indet				4	10				1	
<i>Brassica</i> sp			1			2				1
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>										1
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp		1		4	3	3				15
<i>Atriplex</i> sp									1	
<i>Vicia</i> sp						314				
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>		1	1			11	1	2		
<i>Medicago</i> sp		1		1	1					
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i>						1				
<i>Trifolium</i> sp				1		7			1	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>		1		2	3	5				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>					1	4				1
<i>Polygonum</i> sp			1						1	
<i>Rumex</i> sp				1		14			2	1
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>				1		37		2		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		1		1						
<i>Galium</i> sp						1				
cf <i>Lolium</i>						1				
<i>Poaceae</i> indet				4	2	40				
<i>Carex</i> sp						2				
Unidentified			1							
<i>Arrhenatherum</i>	tubers		1							

Table 85: East Stagsden, charred plant remains from phases 4 & 5

4.3 The animal bone assemblage

A F Roberts

Introduction

A total of 2438 animal bone fragments was recovered from the excavations on the route of the Stagsden bypass, 418 found in 44 contexts from west Stagsden and 2020 found in 146 contexts from east Stagsden. Fifty five per cent of the bones come from Iron Age phases, mainly from pits, and 41% from Roman phases mainly from ditches. The remaining 4% are from furrows and modern ploughsoil and unphased contexts.

Methods

The bones were recovered by manual excavation and by wet sieving and are in a good state of preservation. They show little sign of weathering but gnawing is frequent. Identification was made using the author's comparative collection and the osteological collection of Liverpool Museum. Measurements were made following von den Driesch (1976) and are recorded in millimetres. Tooth wear was recorded following the method of Grant (1982) and described below following O'Connor (1988).

Species

Eighteen species were identified: horse, cattle, pig, sheep, dog, hare, field vole and small rodents from both sites, and in addition from east Stagsden: red deer, roe deer (as a small find), hedgehog, common and pygmy shrew, hare, field vole, wood mouse, weasel, chicken, duck, crow, tit and finch species and frog. Sixty seven per cent of fragments from west Stagsden, and 51% from east Stagsden were not identified to species, but grouped by type of bone and size of animal.

Domestic species

Horse

West Stagsden

The only evidence of horse from west Stagsden were 2 adult teeth from pit [179].

East Stagsden

One hundred and twenty two horse bones were recovered, from 17 contexts in phases 1-5, (table 86). Most of these were ditch fills and 15 contexts contained only 1 or 2 bones, including a skull fragment, a mandible, 4 teeth and 10 limb bones, all adult. Ditch fill (804), phase 5, contained 9 bones from an adult right foreleg, and pit fill (941), phase 4, the almost complete skeleton of a young foal associated with an infant burial (see below).

Measurements were taken from only 6 bones, 2 of which enabled withers heights to be calculated, following the method of Kiesewalter (von den Driesch & Boessneck, 1974). These gave heights of 1.105m and 1.083m, 10¾ and 10½ hands, indicating small ponies from phases 4 and 5 respectively. There were no indications of butchery or disease in the horse bones.

Cattle

West Stagsden

Sixty nine bones identified as cattle were recovered from west Stagsden. They come from 21 contexts and all phases, but never in large numbers. Five mandibles provide tooth wear data, all coming from adult specimens.

East Stagsden

Two hundred and twenty four cattle bones came from 83 contexts and all phases on east Stagsden. Most come from pit fills in the earlier phases (1-2) and from ditch fills in the later phases (3-5). Only one context, ditch fill (509), phase 5, contained more than 10 cattle bones. All parts of the skeleton are present, the most common being the mandible, but only 7 of these provide tooth wear data. These gave evidence of 2 sub-adults, 3 adults and an elderly specimen, for which both mandibles were present. The bones are fragmented, only 11 specimens providing measurements, 1 of which, a radius from ditch fill (648) phase 4, gives a withers height of 1.148m indicating small cattle.

There is no evidence of pathology or trauma on these bones and only two incidences of particular butchery in the removal of a horncore by chopping in (648) and knife marks around the articulation of a mandible from pit fill (995), phase 4.

Pig

West Stagsden

Pig bones are infrequent, only 11 found in 6 contexts. A mandible from context (133) comes from a sub-adult.

East Stagsden

Forty four pig bones were found in 27 contexts from 6 phases. The largest group consists of only 5 bones. Mandibles are the most frequent bone and 8 provide age information, 1 juvenile, 4 sub-adult and 3 adult.

The bones are either too incomplete or too young to provide any measurements. Periodontal disease was present in a mandible from ditch fill (980) phase 4. There is no evidence of butchery.

Sheep

West Stagsden

Thirty one sheep bones were found in 12 contexts from west Stagsden. A single mandible comes from an adult animal.

East Stagsden

Sheep bones are the commonest from the site, 15.6% of the total, found in 81 contexts and all phases. Four contexts contain 10 or more bones, including the incomplete skeleton of an adult in pit [546] phase 5. No bones are complete enough to provide withers heights, only 13 give measurements at all. However, ageing data is provided by 48 mandibles: 2 juvenile, 16 immature, 7 sub-adult and 23 adult. The only incidence of disease is found in a swollen mandible with periodontal disease from pit fill (507), phase 5. The bones have been subject to butchery particularly in the midshaft of long bones, and there are knife marks on an ulna from fill of the stone lined pit (557), phase 5.

Dog

West Stagsden

Only 8 dog bones come from west Stagsden and they represent 2 individuals. The head of an elderly dog comes from the fill (269) of pond [271], phase 2. The alveoli of both mandibular 4th premolars have been resorbed in this specimen.

East Stagsden

Fifty five dog bones come from East Stagsden, found in 8 contexts and 5 phases, their numbers inflated by 2 incomplete skeletons from pit [546] phase 5, which account for 47 out of 55 bones. The remaining bones include skull, teeth and long bones, found singly. Withers heights are obtainable from the smaller of the dogs in the burial and a tibia from a Roman period context (784). The Iron Age dog has a withers height of 52.5cm and the Roman example is 31.9cm. These heights fit into Harcourt's (1974) ranges for dogs of these periods.

There is an incidence of bone change in a tibia from natural stratum (500) phase 6, where the fibula is fused at midshaft. The smaller of the dogs in the burial has knife marks on its lower right humerus.

Chicken

East Stagsden

Only 2 possible chicken bones were found, in pits [699] phase 4 and [878] phase 5, both very fragmentary. The chicken was introduced to Britain in the late Iron Age, and is rarely found at this period.

Wild species

Mammals

Erinaceus europaeus	Hedgehog
Sorex araneus	Common shrew
Sorex minutus	Pygmy shrew
Lepus capensis	Hare
Microtus agrestis	Field vole
Apodemus sylvaticus	Wood mouse
Mustela nivalis	Weasel
Cervus elaphus	Red deer
Capreolus capreolus	Roe deer

These species can be divided into those which may have been hunted and eaten, and those which are evidence of the local environment. All are found on east Stagsden; only hare, field vole and unidentified rodents are found in west Stagsden. The deer and the hare fall into the former group. Evidence for the red deer comes from antler and teeth, with no evidence for its consumption as a food animal. The antler has been utilised in phases 1 and 5, a shed antler from pit fill (625), phase 1, having been used as a pick, and a roughly worked tine comes from ditch fill (799), phase 3. An antler point or 'amulet' from ditch fill (912), phase 5, is the only evidence for roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) from the site. Two hare bones come from each site, a burnt radius and ulna from external dump [112], phase 3 at west Stagsden; and from east Stagsden an atlas from well fill (685) and a metapodial from pit fill (879), phase 5. The burning on the bones suggests that they may have been eaten.

The native fauna of the east Stagsden is represented by small rodents: field vole and wood mouse; insectivores: hedgehog, common and pygmy shrews; and a carnivore: the weasel. There are also bones identified only to vole species, mouse species, rodent or small mammal in phases 1-5. Field vole bones are found in phases 1-5, wood mouse in 1, 4 and 5, common shrew in 4 and

5, and pygmy shrew, hedgehog and weasel in 5 only. These animals all share common habitats of woodlands, hedgerows and grasslands; shrews share runs with common voles in lush grass; as shrubby growth develops bank voles and wood mice move in along with predators such as weasels (Corbet 1980).

Birds

Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard (or domestic duck)
Corvus corone corone	Carrion crow
Paridae sp.	Tit
Fringillidae sp.	Finch

There are only 6 wild bird bones from east Stagsden, from phases 4 and 5, and only 2 species identified: mallard and carrion crow. The other bones come from tit and finch species. The mallard is possibly domestic, but may as easily be a wild specimen; both it and the crow are widespread and common species (Henzel 1979).

Amphibians

Rana temporaria	Common frog
-----------------	-------------

The only amphibian identified was the common frog. It occurs as individual bones and 2 skeletons from ditch fill (669), phase 4 and well fill (685), phase 5, on east Stagsden.

Fish

Seven small fish bones were recovered from east Stagsden in ditch fills (636), phase 4 and (879), phase 5, but have not been identified to species.

Bones unidentified to species

Sixty seven per cent of bones from west Stagsden and 51% from east Stagsden were unidentified to species due to fragmentation. They were categorised by animal size and type of bone as shown in table 86.

West Stagsden

Long bone fragments are commonest in all phases, large animals predominating in phases 1, 3 and 4, medium sized more frequent in phase 2. Flat bone fragments from mandibles, scapulae and pelves are the next most common followed by large ribs, and skull fragments.

East Stagsden

Long bone fragments are again the most common, large animal predominating in phases 4 and 5, in the earlier phases medium sized are commoner. As at west Stagsden, flat bones and large ribs are the next most frequent. The fragmentation of the bones does not appear to represent any industrial processes, it is more likely to be the result of consumption.

Bones by Phase

West Stagsden

Phase 1

Features containing bones: G27: [179; 171]. Seventy bones come from a ditch and a pit, of which 71% are unidentified. The only horse remains (2 teeth) from west Stagsden come from a pit in G27 [179].

Phase 2

Features containing bones: [108, 120, 144, 146, 183, 185, 189, 271]. Only 44 bones come from this phase, of which 28 are unidentified.

Species	Equus	Bos	Sus	Ovis	Canis	Cervus	Small mammal	Unidentifiable	Total
Phase 1									
Pit	2	5						22	29
Ditch		1	1	8			3	28	41
Phase 2									
Pit		2		2				16	20
Ditch		2		2			2	12	22
Surface		2							2
Phase 3									
Pit		9	2	4				29	44
Ditch		11	2	9	2		2	27	53
Enclosure ditches		9					5	52	66
Surfaces					6				6
Phase 4									
Pit								3	3
Ditch		17	1	2				60	80
Surface		1						1	2
Enclosure ditches								12	12
Phase 7									
Furrow		3		3				14	20
Phase 8									
Cultivated soil	4	5	1				2	12	
Unphased ditches		3							3
Subsoil		3							3
Total	2	69	11	31	8	16		281	418

Table 86: West Stagsden, animal bone by phase, species and feature type

	Pit	Ditch	Surface	Hearth	Dump	Surface	Furrow
Phase 1	29	41					
Phase 2	20	22					
Phase 3	44	53			66		
Phase 4	3	80	2		12		
Phase 7							20
Phase 8						12	
Unphased		33					

Table 87: West Stagsden, numbers of animal bones by phase and feature type

Cattle and sheep bones do not number more than 2 in any context. Six vole bones come from ditch [108]. The dog bones from pond [271] appear to belong to a single head from an elderly individual.

Phase 3

Features containing bones: G24:[112, 117, 126, 127, 187; 128, 132, 141, 165, 167, 228, 249]. Forty per cent of all the bones from west Stagsden come from this phase. Most come from external deposits beneath G24, and much of it, particularly from [112] and [127], is burnt and includes hare bones. Five cattle mandibles come from adult animals, and single mandibles come from a sub-adult pig and an adult sheep. All the mandibles, with the exception of one cattle mandible, come from ditch [132].

Phase 4

Features containing bones: G24:[118, 124; 110, 155, 159, 222, 226,

234, 262, 266]. Seventy-eight per cent of bones from this phase are unidentified, and of the 21 bones identified, 18 are from cattle. Most of these are teeth and mandible fragments.

Phase 7

Features containing bones: [136, 153, 157, 191, 209].

Phase 8

Features containing bones: 140.

Unphased

Features containing bones: [134, 261]. These bones were recorded, but are not included in this report.

Species	Equus	Bos	Sus	Ovis	Canis	Cervus	Small mammal	Gallus	Bird	Fish/amphibian	?	Total
Phase 1												
Pit		20	6	27	1	1	15			3	84	157
Surface		2									8	10
Hearth				1			2					3
Phase 2												
Pit	2	21	3	21							95	142
Ditch		5		6							37	48
Surface	1											1
Phase 3												
Pit		6	3	7			6				16	38
Ditch	1	10		18	1						15	45
Hearth											1	1
Phase 4												
Pit	99	40	17	53		2	25	1		2	157	396
Ditch	4	52	7	48	3	1	21		3	44	139	322
Surface		4	1	13							13	31
Hearth		3	1	3			4				15	26
Phase 5												
Pit		17	1	49	47		17	1	2	12	113	259
Ditch	13	19	2	28	1		17			6	169	255
Surface		6	1	12							92	111
Hearth	1											1
Burnt deposit	1	12	2	8			3		1		39	66
Stone lined pit/well		3		4			1		30		8	46
Phase 6												
Hearth		1		1								2
Natural Surface		2		1	2						2	7
UP												
Pit		1		12							27	40
Surface											1	1
Total	122	224	44	315	55	4	111	2	6	97	1040	2020

Table 88: East Stagsden, animal bone by phase, species and feature type

? = Unidentifiable unid.

East Stagsden

Phase 1

Features containing bones: [554, 562, 592, 594, 624, 656, 772, 777, 796, 813, 819, 830, 859, 893, 943, 959, 972]. Ninety-two per cent of the bones from phase 1 are found in pits containing small numbers of bones from cattle and sheep, with occasional pig and horse. Single bones come from dog and red deer. Sheep bones are found from all parts of the body, the commonest being mandibles, of which 6 are immature, 1 sub-adult and 1 adult.

Cattle bones are mainly from the head and there are no foot bones. The only ageable mandible is that of an adult. Forty-nine per cent of bones found in pits are unidentifiable to species. There are a small number of bones from other types of features: 3 structures and a hearth. Most are unidentified fragments.

Phase 2

Features containing bones: G2: [536; G5: 921; G6: 900; 579, 627, 680, 729, 809, 836, 918]. Pits again supply most of the bones in

	Pit	Ditch	Surface	Hearth	Stone lined pit/well	Burnt deposit	Natural surface
Phase							
1	157		10	3			
2	142	48	1				
3	38	45	12	1			
4	396	322	31	26			
5	259	255	111	1	46	66	
6				2			7
UP	40		1				

Table 89: East Stagsden, numbers of animal bones by phase and feature type

this phase 74%, with 25% coming from ditches. Again cattle and sheep bones predominate, with three bones only from horse and pig, but unidentified fragments are commonest (69%). Bones in small numbers come from all parts of the body in both cattle and sheep. The greatest number and variety of bones came from pit [836] but they appear to be a random assortment including horse, cattle, pig and sheep long bones, mandibles and skull fragments. Only four mandibles give an indication of age in sheep, two sub-adult, one immature and one adult. There is a single ageable cattle mandible from a sub-adult.

Phase 3

Features containing bones: G1: [534]; G3: [843, 862, 875, 978]; G4: [931]; G19: [518; 601, 604, 649, 847, 933]. In this phase, most bones come from ditches (47%), with smaller numbers coming from pits (39%). Sheep bones are more common than cattle, there are only 3 pig bones and there is a single horse foot bone from the ditch around roundhouse G3. Sheep bones come from all parts of the body with the exception of the feet and metatarsals are the commonest. Sheep mandibles are from 1 immature, 1 sub-adult and 3 adults. Small amounts of bone come from the drip gullies of G1, G3 and G4, and appear to be general rubbish.

Phase 4

Features containing bones: G4:[931]; G7: [540]; G8:[542, 663]; G9: [574]; G10: [907, 909, 910]; G14: [914]; G15: [622]; G16: [633, 876]; G17: [646; 504, 512, 564, 604, 696, 699, 701, 712, 742, 807, 836, 869, 881, 883, 886, 888, 896, 902, 930, 990, 992, 1004]. This phase contains the greatest number of bones from east Stagsden. Fifty-one percent of the bones come from pits and 41% from ditches, with the rest made up from structures and hearths, but there are no large concentrations of bone material.

Sheep bones are again more common than cattle bones, but in both species the bones come from all parts of the body. In the case of the sheep, tibiae and mandibles are most frequent, 23 mandibles providing ages: 2 juvenile, 6 immature, 1 sub-adult and 14 adults. Foetal bones are also present. Only 1 cattle mandible is ageable, from an adult.

The large number of horse bones is explained by the foal burial (see below), otherwise horse is represented by a handful of long bones and teeth found singly. Pig bones are commoner in this phase than in any other, 5 mandibles are evidence of 1 immature, 2 sub-adults and 2 adults. Three left scapulae were found together in pit [564]. Only 3 dog bones were found, equalled by red deer. There was a single chicken bone from pit [699], and a frog skeleton from ditch [622] G15. Small mammals are found in groups in pit [604] and ditch [696].

Human Burial G31

Characterised as a human burial G31 also contained a foal; the following describes the animal bone component. The horse burial was discovered at the end of the excavation in a box section of [896] (fig 36). At its base the section measured 70 cm wide, and was taken N-S, the horse lay W-E and was cut by the section at both ends. It was lying on its left side, head to the east, tail to the west. The excavator mentions two teeth found in the west section, but it is not clear which of the ten teeth present these were. The skull is missing, with the exception of the basilar part of the occipital, but the mandibles are present in a fragmentary condition. All six mandibular deciduous premolars are present, as are three incisors and the right upper second deciduous premolar. Unfortunately the photograph of the horse *in situ* does not show the mandibles or teeth but as it is otherwise fully articulated it seems probable that the skull lies in the east section

in a north-south plane. It could be the case, however, that the head was detached and placed separately, as in a pit at Danebury (Grant 1984), but this was not associated with an inhumation. The horse was placed in the ground rather than tossed into a hole. The right legs are folded in the natural position of a seated animal. The right scapula has rotated through 180°. The left foreleg is raised, and the left hind leg lies beneath the right in the same position. The distal epiphysis of the right femur has moved to lie beneath the rib cage.

The skeleton is entire with the exception of most of the skull, most of the pelvis, and most of the phalanges. The ilia are the only parts of the pelvis present and they are unfused; it is likely that the other elements of the pelvis lie in the west section. There are only 4 phalanges present, one complete set and an additional first phalanx. Eleven vertebral bodies, 21 epiphyseal plates and 15 arches, including 2 thoracic spines, are present, all unfused. There are 19 articular ends of ribs present. The horse is a neonate, all the bones are unfused including the basilar occipital. The body and arch of the vertebra are fused at birth or shortly afterwards (Sissons and Grossman 1961), the teeth are all unworn and unerupted, giving an age around birth (Levine 1982). The absence of the remains of neonates and foals on Iron Age sites such as Gussage All Saints and Loughbridge Deverill, has been seen as an indication of husbandry practices, with no breeding being practised, and horses being rounded up periodically and selected (Harcourt 1979). Foals born in the May-July foaling season would be driven out to graze in the surrounding countryside, and any dying of natural causes would not be found in the faunal assemblage (Moore- Colyer 1994). At Danebury, however, young horses are represented in the latest phase of the occupation, indicating breeding there. The foal at Stagsden was available for the burial of an infant of the same age, perhaps reflecting the close association of mythical heroes such as Pryderi and Cu Chulainn, with horses born at the same time as themselves (Ross 1967; Green 1992) and, if it was born in the normal foaling season, would suggest a summer burial.

Phase 5

Features containing bones: G11: [556]; G14: [985]; G17: [508, 646, 854, 864]; G18: [728, 782]; G19: [518; 506, 522, 530, 544, 546, 558, 568, 576, 640, 655, 678, 710, 733, 771, 803, 833, 878, 923, 925, 949, 694]. Pits provide 36% and ditches 35% of the bones in this phase, with 15% coming from structures. Sheep bones are almost twice as common as cattle bones, but this includes a partial skeleton from the burial in pit [546]. Sheep bones come from all parts of the body, with mandible and tibia the most frequent. The mandibles give ages of 1 immature, 1 sub-adult and 4 adults. The mandible is the most common bone from cattle and 4 give ages: 2 immature and a pair from an elderly individual.

The number of dog bones is also inflated by the skeletons from pit [546]. This circular pit with vertical sides and a flat base contained the bodies of 2 dogs and an adult sheep, amongst several large limestone fragments. Knife marks on the humerus of the smaller dog may indicate that it was skinned. Horse bones come mostly from a foreleg in ditch [803] and are otherwise individual teeth and limb bones. Pig bones are infrequent but include ageable mandibles of an immature and an adult.

Phase 6

Features containing bones: G18: [828; 500].

Unphased

Features containing bones: [510, 674, 768]. These bones were recorded, but are not included in this report.

Phase	1	2	3	4	7	8	UP	Total
1LB	25	52	31	8	3	0	3	77
2LB	4	13	21	10	4	0	0	52
3LB	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
1RI	4	8	11	7	1	0	0	31
2RI	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
1V	4	1	5	4	0	0	0	14
2V	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
3V	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	4
SK	2	0	10	14	1	0	0	27
FB	9	1	22	22	5	2	0	61
CB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	50	28	108	76	14	2	3	281

Table 90: West Stagsden, bones unidentified to species

Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	UP	Total
1LB	9	9	10	84	110	1	0	223
2LB	20	21	16	75	94	0	12	238
3LB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1RI	11	22	1	67	28	0	0	129
2RI	22	10	6	31	29	1	9	108
1V	2	5	3	16	3	0	0	29
2V	3	1	1	4	20	0	7	36
3V	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
SK	2	40	0	23	34	0	0	99
FB	2	23	4	17	92	0	0	138
CB	0	1	0	7	11	0	0	19
Total	92	132	41	324	421	2	28	1040

Abbreviations:

1 Large animal (horse, cattle) 2 Medium animal (sheep, pig, dog) 3 Small animal (hare, cat) LB Long bone, RI rib, V vertebra, SK Skull, FB flat bone, CB Compact bone.

Table 91: East Stagsden, bones unidentified to species

Summary

Although the bone sample from Stagsden is small, and more than half is unidentified to species, some conclusions can be drawn from it regarding husbandry and ritual.

The animal bones reflect a mixed economy, which changes little over the different phases of the sites. It is based chiefly on sheep and cattle in similar numbers, with lesser but continuous evidence for pigs, which are most common in the late Iron Age. This reflects the situation at Odell, described by Grant (1989) as 'an example of animal management at a settlement, which was perhaps largely self supporting and unromanized.'

Sheep were kept for wool, milk and manure while alive, and meat and skins when dead. From the evidence of the tooth wear the majority were killed when immature or adult with few killed when juvenile or sub-adult, a pattern observed at other

Iron Age sites including Gussage All Saints (Maltby 1981). The immature stage is not the optimum age for meat production, so although the meat would have been eaten, it is unlikely to have been the main reason for the culling. Possibly it was concerned with flock management.

Cattle are kept for the same reasons, and traction may be added. The few mandibles from the sites are predominantly adult, with one of advanced years. The pig mandibles indicate no preferred age for slaughter, but they are too few to provide definite information.

Horse and dog occupy similar positions on the sites, with small numbers of individual bones and special deposits of whole or partial skeletons. Grant (1984) remarks that dogs and horses are the species most frequently reported as special deposits, and this is indeed the case at Stagsden. The foal burial has obvious ritual significance, and so may the horse foreleg from ditch [803], complete from mid-

humerus to hoof, and similar to an example from Danebury. The dogs, 1 perhaps skinned, and sheep buried in pit [546], which also contains limestone blocks, also have ritual meaning; and so perhaps may the head of an old dog deposited in the pond [271], although this comes from a later phase. Green (1992) comments that dogs seem to have particular associations with watery sites.

Little use appears to have been made of game for food, but antler has been used for the manufacture of artefacts, as has bone, and possibly horn, if the horncore removal in phase 4 (648) at east Stagsden is for this reason.

The animal bones from Stagsden provide evidence for husbandry, ritual and industry, but all on a modest scale. Grant's (1989) description of the nearby Odell site could be equally well applied here 'a modest farmstead and the material remains suggest a modest standard of living for its inhabitants.'

4.4. The Human Bone

T A Jackman

The incomplete remains of a single neonate were found during the excavation of G31, (897) at east Stagsden. The age at death, birth +/- 6 months, is based on the size of the long bones (Ubelaker 1976) and the absence of fusion in the spinous processes on any of the vertebrae.

Bones present –

- skull fragments
- 10 vertebrae
- 10 left ribs
- 7 right ribs
- left and right distal humeri
- left pelvis
- left proximal tibia
- 1 metacarpal
- 2 metatarsals
- 1 phalame

5 THE GEOTECHNICAL DATA

5.1 The Geophysical Survey

C F Gaffney, C Stephens and D Weston

Introduction

The area of the survey covers land to the north-west and south-east of east Stagsden. The north-west section was flat and covered with long grass, while the south-eastern part was also flat but covered by a young crop. The calcareous pelosols within the area are slowly permeable, clayey or fine loamy over clayey soils, formed from a parent of Jurassic and Cretaceous clays. The topsoils are prone to swelling and cracking with wetting and drying cycles. They are characteristic of the Evesham 3 association. Away from waterlogged, low-lying contexts, such soils are generally favourable to gradiometry and the results of this survey should be a fair representation of the buried archaeology within the survey area.

The gradiometer survey was commissioned to address three issues that arose as a result of excavation at east Stagsden. Firstly, the extent of the site, secondly whether it was enclosed, thirdly, was there a significant further area of 'industrial' activity at the site. The survey was undertaken in two parts.

Results of Gradiometer Survey

Survey A The data set located surprisingly few anomalies that would appear to relate to either the cropmark interpretation or the excavation evidence, but there are anomalies that are archaeological in origin. Part of the survey data set nearest to the bypass has been affected by the presence of a metal fence and anomalies due to archaeological features will not be recognised within approximately 3m of the fence. A weak, but regular, suite of linear anomalies can be seen at right angles to the fenceline. These are likely to be ridge and furrow, the presence of which was noted in the excavation (fig 15). A single, very strong, anomaly of probable archaeological origin can be seen in the northern corner of the survey. It is likely that the ditch contains debris from the industrial processes noted in the excavation. There are few other archaeological type anomalies within the survey area. However, the most likely anomalies are near to the single probable archaeological anomaly. Unfortunately, these responses are fragmented and their interpretation is

more uncertain. Those postulated archaeological anomalies in the central portion of the survey are very weak and it is believed that they may relate to later field divisions.

Survey B The results from the second part of the survey are similar to those obtained in Area A. That is, the predominant set of anomalies indicate the presence of ridge and furrow. However, there are clear anomalies of archaeological interest within this survey area and the data suggest that a greater concentration of ditches are to be found in Area B than in Area A. The orientation of the anomalies is similar to those noted on aerial photographs and found during the excavation. The anomalies are weak and there is no suggestion of very strong anomalies that would suggest 'industrial' activity within the area. Interpretation of the anomalies has been hampered due to the fact that they are in a similar orientation to the anomalies produced from the ridge and furrow. No evidence has been found for a boundary ditch within this area, although the settlement type anomalies are concentrated within 20m of the bypass.

Conclusions

The survey results have indicated that the known site does not extend very far into the gradiometer survey Area A. A single strong anomaly in this area, which correlates with the excavated evidence, has been traced. A few tentative anomalies have been identified, although none are likely to be the product of industrial type features. The length of ditch that has been highlighted as being of likely archaeological origin may contain material from industrial processes. It is uncertain if the ditch type anomalies located in survey Area A indicate that the site is enclosed. The survey on the opposite side of the road, Area B, indicates that settlement features are concentrated near to the excavation, although no physical boundary can be found to suggest an enclosed settlement.

The results of the gradiometer survey suggest that although remains exist within the survey, they are restricted to the area immediately adjacent to the excavated features. While there are no anomalies that would equate with further burnt or fired features, the strength of the one clear archaeological anomaly suggests that the fill of the ditch could be associated with such activities. The interpretation of the geophysical evidence would suggest that the focus of the settlement lay within the footprint of the bypass.

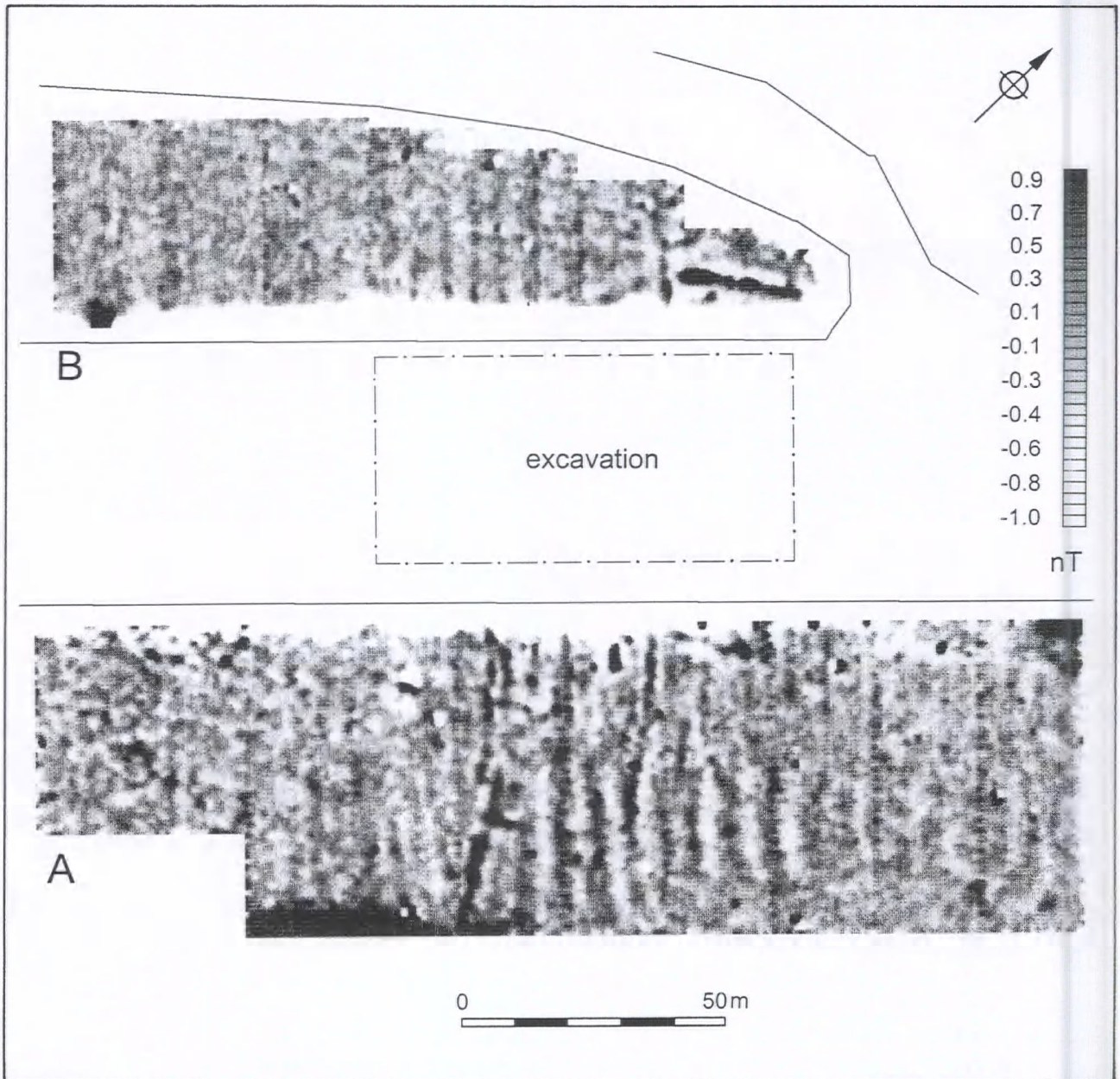


Fig. 61. Geophysical survey of areas adjacent to east Stagsden.

5.2 Archaeomagnetic Dating

A Clark

Methodology

The methodology employed is outlined below (Clark et al 1988), calibration follows Turner et al (1982). Three bowl-shaped kilns were sampled for archaeomagnetic dates. Samples were taken by the disc method around the perimeter of each kiln at its existing rim or just below, 13 from the most easterly G9 and 10 and 15 respectively from the two intersecting kilns G7 and G8, making a total of 3 samples altogether. Orientation was by magnetic compass.

Survey Results

Many of the samples gave badly scattered results. It was noted that this tended to occur in distinct sectors of the kiln perimeters, and in the higher samples, suggesting slippage and distortion in

the walls, and even perhaps some post excavation distortion due to weathering of the rather soft and fragile material.

The material was also of rather low magnetic stability, but it was possible to optimise clustering of the measurements by partial AC demagnetisation to 8.75 and 10 millitesla. Outlying values obviously affected by movement were discarded, leaving a total of 19 usable samples. The three groups were statistically inseparable, and the result was therefore based on the overall mean. Although there is a clear sequence of construction in kilns G7 [543] and G8 [541] which cuts into it, the archaeomagnetic measurements were not able to resolve the difference in date, and it seems likely that both kilns lie within the date span given below:

Mean direction of thermoremanent magnetisation:

Dec = 0.13°W; Inc = 67.38°; alpha-95 = 2.25°

Last firing within the date span:

cal AD40-110 at the 68% confidence level.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Site morphology

Despite the disparate nature of the evidence at west Stagsden and the linear character of east Stagsden it is clear that the two sites share a significant range of characteristics. The phase 1 occupation at west Stagsden probably originated with small scale unenclosed settlement comprising a roundhouse and attached enclosure together with slight evidence of ditched enclosures to the west. The unenclosed settlement endured, possibly as late as the Conquest period, phase 2, but by the late 1st century AD the proliferation of ditches had begun and by the late 2nd century AD they were widespread. The aerial photograph evidence (fig 4), indicates some of the excavated ditches form part of a wider series of linear enclosures with at least one of them double ditched. In the final phase at west Stagsden the enclosures seem to be reduced in scale and to have become more angular in shape. At east Stagsden the earliest settlement, like that in the west, was unenclosed. In phase 1, the middle Iron Age, a single post-built roundhouse, without a surviving drip gully, characterised the settlement. The pattern of roundhouses and pits continued until the late Iron Age, phase 4, when the settlement was replaced by ditches bounding linear enclosures. Of the individual elements both sites had at least one roundhouse with an attached enclosure as well as pits and other isolated features. However, it was only at east Stagsden that there was good evidence of activity zoning, particularly pitting on the eastern margin. At both sites the aerial photograph evidence, and at east Stagsden geophysical survey of areas around the excavations, suggest restricted focii without extensive field systems or focussed agglomeration. The animal bone evidence, together with data from the plant macrofossils and land snails, indicates they were both small scale farming communities for whom the mix of arable and stock rearing may have remained unchanged into the Roman period.

The broad similarities between the two sites and the phasing of developments suggests the sites could fall into the pattern of development which is now familiar from past surveys in this region (Knight 1984). However, interpretations of the development of Iron Age settlements have changed

considerably in the past decade (Parker Pearson 1996). In particular the embedded social structure of pre-Roman society has been recognised in terms of depositional patterns and has now largely superseded primarily functional interpretations of features such as pits and ditches. It is no longer adequate to assume simply that pits were used either for storage or refuse disposal, (Halstead, Hodder, Jones 1978; Hill 1989; Hill 1995) nor that the primary function of stone-lined pits or wells was water storage or supply (Webster 1997). Furthermore the layout of settlements could be the manifestation of more complex belief systems rather than a topographically determined strategy (Parker Pearson 1996).

At Stagsden the sites have been shown to comprise four principal components prior to the appearance of ditched boundaries. These were roundhouses, sometimes accompanied by attached enclosures; areas of pits; dispersed or 'isolated' features, and pottery kilns.

A revolution has recently taken place in our understanding and interpretation of pits found on Iron Age settlement sites (Hill 1995). From early interpretations and experimentation, pits once thought to have functioned primarily as below ground grain storage have now been integrated into the complex embedded ritual of Iron Age agrarian society. It is now possible to see the pits as part of a continuum in which some were used initially for storage, some as the repositories for propitiatory deposits intended to promote the changing seasons and the success of crops, and some for both. The disposal of midden material, which led to a high level of residuality in the ceramics assemblages from pits, together with the occurrence of large unabraded pottery sherds, is one aspect of the depositional pattern. A second is the inclusion of special artefacts in the pits such as bronze, iron, or bone objects which might also be seen as part of the propitiatory ritual. Cunliffe has suggested that pits may only have been used once (1992, 79) whilst Hill (1995) suggests special deposits may have been made every 5-10 years and that the pits may have remained open for 10-20 years. Much of this interpretation, however, is based on southern central Britain, in particular Wessex.

Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Stagsden Bypass

Pit	Group	Phase	Ceramics	Residual ceramics	Registered finds	Cereal grains
West Stagsden						
185	-	2	✓	✓		
183	-	2	✓			✓
122	-	3	✓			
128	-	3	✓		Rf 140, Rf 101, Rf 100	
228	-	3	✓	✓		
230	G30	4	✓			
234	G30	4				
245	G30	4				
East Stagsden						
612	-	1				
614	-	1				
624	-	1	✓		✓ Rf 150	
656	-	1	✓			✓
658	-	1				
703	-	1	✓			
705	-	1				
716	-	1				
732	-	1				
554	-	1	✓*		✓ Rf 138	
562	-	1	✓			
830	-	1	✓*			
859	-	1	✓			
893	-	1	✓	✓		
951	-	1	✓			
579	-	2	✓			
607	-	2				
729	-	2	✓			
836	-	2	✓			
811	-	2				
809	-	2	✓			
918	-	2	✓			
762	-	2	✓			
680	-	2	✓			
627	-	2	✓			
601	-	3	✓			
604	-	3	✓			
649	-	3	✓			
699	-	3	✓			
701	-	3	✓			
512	-	3	✓			
514	-	3	✓			
742	-	3	✓			✓
822	-	3	✓			
886	-	3	✓	✓		
902	-	4	✓		✓ Rf 144	
990	-	4	✓*			
556	-	5	✓			
925	-	5	✓		✓ Rf 147	
923	-	5	✓		-	
546	-	5	✓		✓ Rf 158/118	
878	-	5	✓			✓
710	-	5	✓			
651	-	5				
640	-	5	✓	✓		
524	-	5	✓			
544	-	5	✓			
678	-	5				
771	-	5	✓			

*Table 92: Pits and their contents. * contains substantially complete pots, or a large assemblage.*

At both the Stagsden sites pits form a significant part of the excavated evidence. At west Stagsden there were ten pits which divide into two broad groups irrespective of date. The majority, seven, were between 0.9m-2m in diameter and date to phase 3. The remaining three were larger: [128], which may better be defined as a hollow; [249] which was 5m x 3m in plan and [266] which was oval, 10m x 5m. It is the first group which most closely conforms to the 'norm'. All of these contained ceramics, but, in contrast to the Wessex and southern British models, only three [128], [185], [228] contained residual elements and none contained special artefacts. Only two pits [183](184) and [128] (129) produced comparatively high numbers of cereal grains compared to the ditches and of these [128] is exceptionally large. This might reflect the limited extent of the excavation and the few pits fully excavated. However, the ubiquity of ceramics in these pits, compared to the post holes does suggest at least a more deliberate pattern of disposal than the incidental inclusion of rubbish from an untidy site.

At east Stagsden the incidence of pits is not only more widespread but the groupings are more distinctive. Throughout phases 1 to 3 there were three preferred areas. These were in the north-east, south-east and south-west of the site. One of the most distinctive concentrations was in the cornbrash in the south-east quadrant of the site. In all there were 45 pits, the majority falling within the 0.7m to 2.1m diameter range. Like west Stagsden there were also some larger examples. From phase 1 pit [893] was 3.25m x 1.25m and from phase 5 pit [925] was 4m x 1.25m diameter. Largest of all was [896] a wide shallow pit in which a neonate child had been buried. Of the majority pits, all those in phases 2 and 3 contained ceramics assemblages, in contrast to phase 1 in which only 30% contained pottery. Furthermore although the pits of phase 1 in the cornbrash area were separated from phase 2 on stratigraphic grounds, the ceramics assemblages were very similar. Few pit assemblages, however, could be described as residual possibly with the exception of [579], [607] and [729] in phase 2, [886] in phase 3, and [640] in phase 5. Some, however, were distinctive in either having large ceramics assemblages or containing single vessels. In particular [554] in phase 1 contained the remains of three substantial jars and a weaving tablet (or wrist guard); pit [830] contained a flint implement and 125 sherds from a single large jar; whilst [990] in phase 4 contained a substantial assemblage of 'Belgic' and earlier ceramics (table 48). Given this variation in assemblages it is difficult not to conclude that deposition was deliberate. Once again

there is nothing to suggest the casual sweeping of ceramic fragments into open features as a result of unstructured waste disposal. In fact given the range of artefact types the evidence suggests careful curation of an extensive range of artefact types.

The second characteristic of the settlement areas is the presence of roundhouses. Two distinct types have been noted, and there is possibly a third form. At east Stagsden there are those in which internal features have not survived or never penetrated the subsoil, which are only evident from encircling drip gullies. In addition there was a single example of a post-ring roundhouse G20. At west Stagsden the evidence is less clear with a single sub-circular ditch which seems to form part of a drip gully [171] and an adjacent enclosure in phase 1, with a second short stretch of drip gully G25. Lastly there is a sub-circular hollow G24 containing a high proportion of stone which occupies the same area as the drip gully or post-ring structures. This configuration may be similar to hut 1 at Brigstock (Knight 1984, fig 33) and there are similar examples nearby at Eastcotts, on the Bedford bypass, and Stotfold, suggesting a wide distribution (BCAS in prep).

In terms of size, however, the roundhouses all fall within the 'normal limits' for these structures in the region (table 93). Furthermore whilst the drip gullies of roundhouses G2, G4, G6, G1, G3 could all support entrances on the south-east or eastern sides, the gullies of roundhouses G3 and G1 actually preclude any westerly facing entrance. This situation is similar to the pattern illustrated by Oswald which he interprets as conforming to sunrise and sunset (Oswald 1997, fig 10.4).

Roundhouse G*	Diameter	Phase
West Stagsden		
G25	11m	2
Roundhouse, ditch 171	>10m	
East Stagsden		
G20 (post-ring)	11.10m	1
G2	10.00m	2
G4	8.80m	2
G6	6.60m	2
G5	8.00m	3
G1	7.70m	3
G3	11.00m	3

Table 93: The size of roundhouses at east and west Stagsden

A third potential point of comparison between roundhouses is the dispersal of artefacts within

the interior, but only in roundhouse G20 was the distribution of finds determined (fig 62). Here the ceramics were restricted to the southern half of the house and therefore comparable to Longbridge Deveril Cow Down (Chadwick 1994) and Dunston Park (Fitzpatrick and Morris 1994). The single Stagsden example is however later in date.

The third constituents of the settlements are isolated features and these can be roughly subdivided into groups which include watering hollows, single post holes, two-post structures, and shallow hollows. Few of these can be further characterised although one of the larger pits [128], on west Stagsden, contained cereal grain, tweezers, a nail cleaner, samian and, in the primary fill, a near complete carinated vessel, with residual ceramics in the upper fills. Potentially the most significant of the isolated features is the human burial in phase 4 at east Stagsden G31. Known to comprise a neonate foal and neonate child with a substantial vessel and a large assemblage of ceramics, the burial seems to have been configured with the child placed as if mounted on the foal, with a broken pot to one side. None of the remaining pots in this deposit were complete or unbroken and the foal may well have had its head placed behind it. Such a configuration reflects one of the defining characteristics of sacrifice, which requires that objects are deposited, broken, to sever the link between the living world and beyond, thereby easing the transfer to the afterlife (Wait 1985, 241). A second potentially sacrificial deposit was the elderly dog's head in pit [271] phase 2 at west Stagsden. This pit only contained a limited range of pottery (table 9) and was not associated with a human interment. Lastly a single possible cremation was recorded in the same phase at west Stagsden, [144].

Lastly in phase 3 and 4, at east Stagsden, although the settlement shifted away from the excavated area, the appearance of kilns is a significant addition to the site. They not only represent a new approach to potting but they are significant for the date of their appearance and for their short period of operation. Together these factors could confirm Swan's thesis that it was demand driven by the Roman army in the early years of the Conquest which led native producers to turn to kiln firing (Swan 1984, 8). The latter may have improved control and reduced wastage but it is more likely that the advantage in kiln firing was more effective use of fuel.

6.2 Site development

Determining the factors important to the articulation of the sites at Stagsden is far from straightforward given the limited extent and sampling strategy of excavation. The pattern of deposition in the pits may conform to the pattern identified in Wessex and central southern Britain but the characteristic three horizons of deposition could not be identified and the deposit of artefacts in more northern sites may have a different regime. The configuration of roundhouses, however, does seem to conform with entrances on the east or south-east.

Alternatively the transformation of the landscape through the creation of boundaries which has formed a major theme in interpreting the Iron Age, does not seem to be replicated at Stagsden. Neither site conforms to the pattern of 'systematic boundary definition' in the middle Iron Age (Taylor 1997, 202) as the creation of boundaries at both sites occurred late in the Iron Age, possibly only just prior to the Roman conquest. It is not even clear whether these boundaries came to enclose habitation. At east Stagsden the initial boundary was shallow and insubstantial on the west side whilst those in the central area were surprisingly deep. Unfortunately the financial and time constraints of the excavation precluded full excavation of the ditches and no significant patterning of deposits can be attempted, either to complement the changing character of the ditches, or to assess in detail activity areas adjacent to them. At best ceramic and occasionally non-ceramic finds have generated dating evidence whilst the depositional pattern of the ditch silts, which were excavated, has confirmed that the ditches were, in areas that were maintained, clear of domestic debris. Yet the depth of the ditches and the fact that they do not extend downslope to the nearby stream suggests they were not simply drainage channels. They form very narrow, approximately 25m wide, enclosures.

Possibly significant, the ditches which appear in phase 4 occur at the same time as the neonate burial suggesting that the two may be linked. Clearly the short deep ditches not only create small well-defined enclosures but indicate the settlement area, including the kilns, had now been abandoned. It is impossible to be certain that the ditches enclose the burial; neither the geophysical survey nor aerial photographs confirm their full extent, but the

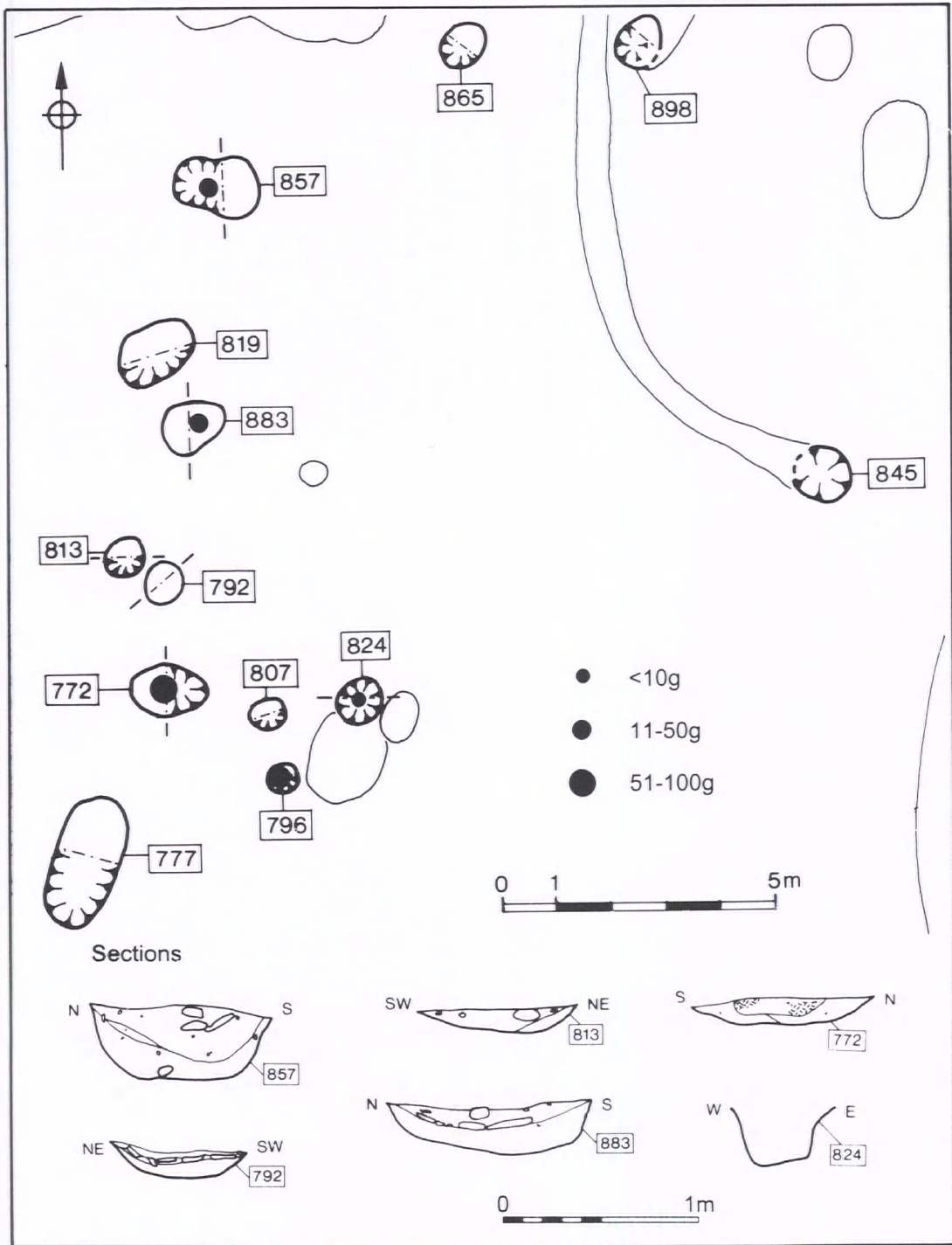


Fig. 62. Ceramic distribution in G20.

ditches were re-cut and [508] [646] was re-aligned in phase 5. Furthermore the three stone alignments in phase 6 [G12] [G13] and [G23] do act to enclose the area of the neonate burial. The impression is that the ditches may have isolated the burial area which continued to be venerated, with the boundaries later re-established in slightly different form. A second, possibly significant, factor is that in phase 4 all pit digging ceased, only to be resumed in phase 5 when the stone-lined pit and several other pits were established. The initial separation of the burial area by the three ditches and the reduction of the settlement in this area did not, however, lead to the settlement being abandoned. Unabraded Roman period ceramics in the phase 5 ditches, together with other artefacts, suggest the settlement had shifted, possibly to the south, away from the Iron Age core. The latter area, however, was encroached upon and reduced by ditch [522] but not inhabited.

6.3 Landscape context

In 1991 the sites excavated at Stagsden were the only recorded sites of putative Iron Age date in the parish (White 1976). In June 1996 Bedfordshire County Council commissioned an aerial survey of the county which coincided with excellent conditions for archaeological recording. Although the results were restricted to areas which were under cereal crops the survey revealed several further sites in the immediate area of the two sites that were hitherto unknown¹. These comprised a group of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures identified on the south slopes of the valley, created by the Serpentine Brook together with a second series on the clay ridge adjacent to west Stagsden (fig 63).

In the first group to the east of east Stagsden were three rectangular enclosures. It was orientated north-west to south-east, with sides 54m by 40m

with no evidence for an entranceway or internal features. The western ditch continues for over 20m to the south-east. In the vicinity of this enclosure are a series of ditches, one of which crosses the south-east corner of the enclosure indicating that it is not contemporary. This may be associated with a number of ditches, which are arranged perpendicular to it. Two pits over 4m in diameter are situated to the north-west of the enclosure.

A second enclosure was located further upslope. It too was rectangular but oriented south-west to north-east, 74m by 66m. Once again there was no evidence of an entrance gap in the ditch circuit. Two parallel ditch alignments however indicate the potential to locate an entrance which may have been moved subsequently. Inside the enclosure were two circular ditches approximately 15m in diameter which may represent the location of roundhouses. Towards the north corner was a single large pit. The boundary ditch of the second enclosure continued to the north-east, indicating the possibility of additional, attached, enclosures. Four large pits, approximately 6m in diameter, could represent quarry pits or clusters of smaller pits.

The third enclosure in this eastern series was located 160m west of the second enclosure. It was sub-square in shape, and orientated north-west to south-east with sides of approximately 35m. A small additional ditch attached to the south-west side may represent an annex to the main enclosure.

The second group of sites is located close to the west of Stagsden where a series of rectangular or sub-rectangular cropmarks suggest several enclosed sites of Iron Age date.

The enclosure sites fall into a pattern of sites, increasingly common throughout the county, whose morphology suggests they fall within the Iron Age or Romano-British periods (from c.750BC to the 5th century AD). Somewhat further away from the

¹

Survey Source	Survey Ref.	Run ID	Photo Ref	Form	Format	Year
RAF 106G/UK/1562		3115-16	GA4, CA7 & 8	Vertical	Black & White	
Aerofilms	96C/566	Run 6	2414	Vertical	Colour	1996
Aerofilms	96C/558	Run 7	0355	Vertical	Colour	1996
Aerofilms	96C/558	Run 7	0353	Vertical	Colour	1996
Aerofilms	96C/558	Run 7	0354	Vertical	Colour	1996
Hunting Surveys	HSL UK8682	Run 18	2356	Vertical	Black & White	
Hunting Surveys	HSL UK8682	Run 18	2355	Vertical	Black & White	
Hunting Surveys	HSL UK8682	Run 17	9699	Vertical	Black & White	
Hunting Surveys	HSL UK8682	Run 17	9698	Vertical	Black & White	

Aerial photographs on which the introduction to the archaeological landscape of Stagsden is based.

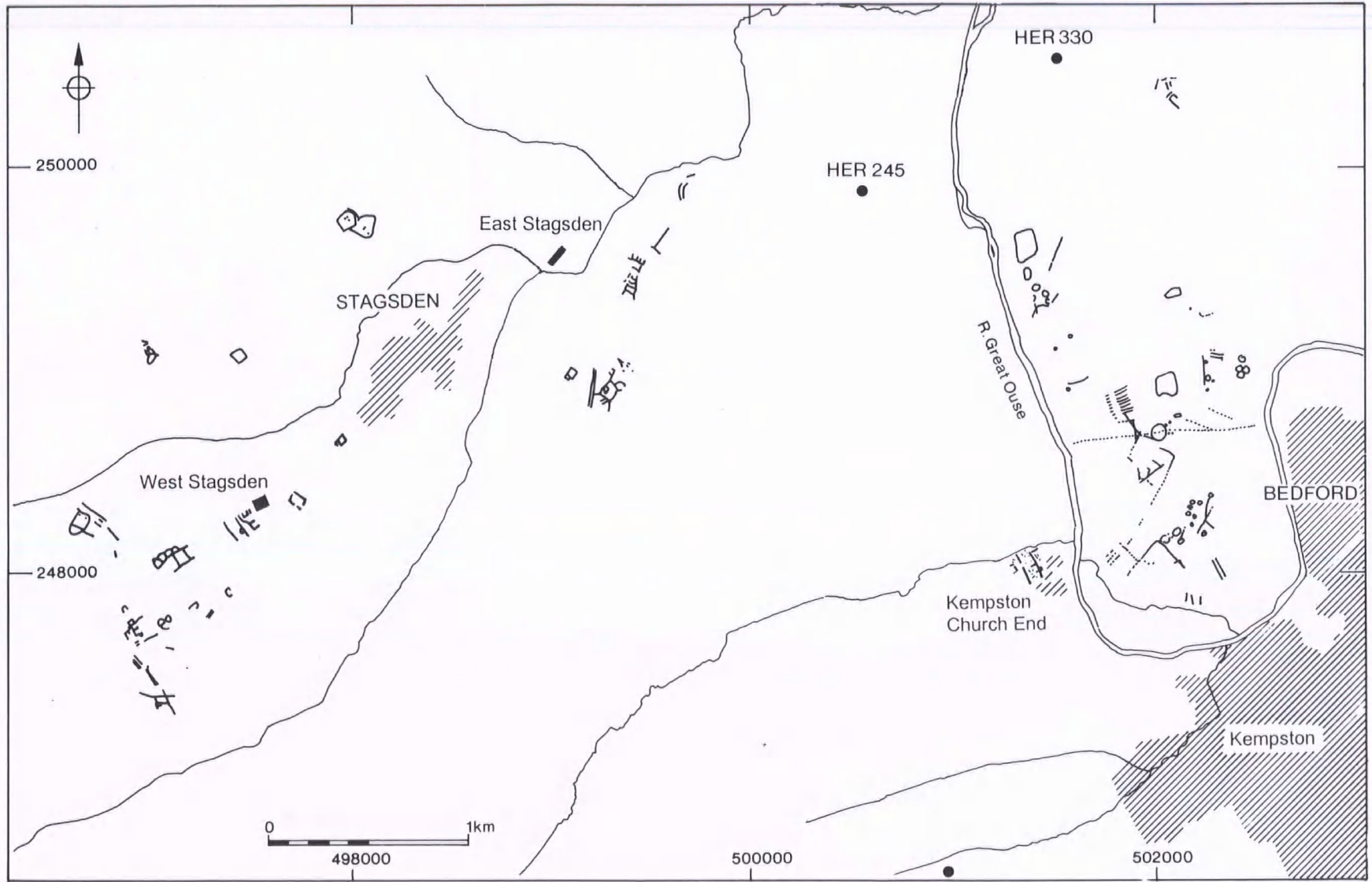


Fig. 63. Cropmark sites in the vicinity of Stagsden.

excavated sites at Stagsden several of these sites have recently been excavated or evaluated. These include Church Farm, Clapham (BCAS 1997/11); Gold Lane, Biddenham (Dawson in prep. a.); Biddenham Loop (BCAS in prep.), and at Norse Road (BCAS 1997/41). The sites are predominantly the focus of settlement activity of varying scale and complexity, although to date there is no convincing evidence that such sites represent villages or larger agglomerated settlement. The latter settlement type is a phenomenon of the Roman period, and is usually unenclosed.

In contrast to cropmark sequences often found on the lower gravels of the Great Ouse floodplain or first terrace, such as those at Willington (Simco 1984, fig 64), the enclosures at Stagsden seem to be isolated, and although several have subsidiary enclosures none are associated with extensive ditched field systems.

Despite the apparent clarity of the aerial photograph evidence further sites may have been obscured by alluvial silts in the valley of the Serpentine Brook brought downstream by flood waters. On the lower slopes and in the smaller defiles of the valley sides the movement down-slope of colluvial material may also have obscured archaeological evidence. Furthermore the visibility of sites may have been affected by the historical land use pattern. The historic map evidence (1828 Enclosure Map) suggests the north facing slopes opposite east Stagsden may have been outside the system of Stagsden's open fields. Here the predominance of *-close* names may indicate these fields are less likely to have suffered extensive plough furrow damage and further sites may remain masked under deeper soil cover.

The broader landscape context of the sites at Stagsden therefore is difficult to assess in detail, at this stage of research, although some indication of

the potential has been outlined in the introduction. Until 1991 and the discovery of the two sites at Stagsden, the area west of Bedford, within and bordering the clay vale, was considered part of an inhospitable landscape shunned by early populations possibly even throughout the Roman period (Simco 1984, 21). Prior to the excavations at Stagsden, the only aerial photograph evidence of archaeological sites in the area had been a series of vertical photographs taken in 1946 (RAF 106G/UK/1562. 3115-3116), whilst surveys held by the County Council, from September 1986 (HSL UK 86/82) and June 1981 (HSL UK 86/81), had been taken too early or too late in the crop cycle to generate good cropmarks.

However, recent fieldwork and aerial photograph evidence have begun to fill these areas with settlements which date at least from the Iron Age. Such increases are particularly noteworthy at Marston Moretaine and Wootton where recent excavations and chance finds have produced evidence of late Iron Age and Roman occupation. The increasing recognition of sites across the region is part of a trend which has gathered momentum since the late 1980s (Clark and Dawson 1995) and it is clear therefore that the Stagsden sites could have been part of a relatively densely occupied landscape

Both Stagsden sites have illustrated the need for large scale and detailed excavation of sites of this period. Their late development of ditched boundaries, probably for entirely different reasons, serves to underline the possibly localised nature of developments in the area. In the most recent attempts to find a single developmental pattern it has been concluded that the change from enclosed to unenclosed sites is asynchronous across the region (Dawson in prep. a.), yet this only emphasises the need for further detailed research into temporal change in an increasingly complex landscape.

7 Bibliography

- Allen T G, 1993 'Stone Objects', pp. 160-5 in Allen, Darvill, Green, Jones
- Allen T G, Darvill T C, Green L S, Jones M U, 1993 *Roughground Farm, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: a prehistoric and Roman landscape*, Thames Valley Landscapes: the Cotswold Water park, Volume 1. Oxford Archaeological Unit
- Arthur P, Marsh G, (eds), 1978 *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*
- Bailey J, 1986 'Mirrors', pp. 384-85 in Stead and Rigby
- Barley N, 1994 *Smashing Pots*, British Museum
- BCAS, in prep 'Archaeology of the Biddenham Loop, Bedford'
- BCAS, in prep 'Archaeology at Norton Road, Stotfold'
- BCAS, 1997 'Church Farm, Clapham Archaeological Evaluation' Report 97/11, Bedford
- BCAS, 1997 'Post Fieldwork Assessment of Potential for Analysis Norse Road' Report 97/41, Bedford
- Blasquez J M, Remesal J, 1983 *Production y Comercio del Aciete en la Antiquedad*. II Congreso, Madrid
- Brailsford J W, 1949 'Excavations at Little Woodbury', *Proceedings of Prehistoric Society* XV, 156-168
- Brown A, 1994 'A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing Site at Harrold, Bedfordshire', *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, 21, 19-107
- Brown R A, 1986 'The Iron-Age and Romano-British Settlement at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk' *Britannia* XVII, 1-58
- Bryant G F, 1971 *Experimental Romano-British Kiln Firings at Barton on Humber, Lincolnshire*, The Workers' Educational Association, Barton-on-Humber Branch, Occasional Paper No. I
- Buckley D G, Major H, 1983 'Quernstones' pp. 73-76 in Crummy
- Butcher S, 1990 'The brooches', pp. 115-20 in Neal, Wardle, Hunn
- Chadwick Hawkes S, 1994 'Longbridge Deveril Cow Down Wiltshire, House 3: a major round house of the early Iron Age' *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 13, 46-69
- Champion T C, Collis J R, 1996 *The Iron Age in Britain and Ireland: recent trends*, Sheffield
- Clapham A R, Tutin T G, Warburg E F, 1962 *Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press
- Clark R, Dawson M 1995 'Later prehistoric and Romano-British landscape in mid Bedfordshire' pp. 56-68 in Holgate (ed)
- Clark A J, Tarling D H, Noel M, 1988 'Developments in archaeomagnetic dating in Britain' *Journal Archaeological Science* 15, 645-667
- Clutton-Brock J, 1984 *Grimes Graves - Fascicule No. 1 - The Neolithic Antler Picks*.
- Corder P, 1959 (1957) 'The Structure of Romano-British pottery kilns', *Archaeological Journal* CXIV, 10-27
- Corbet G, 1980 *The Mammals of Britain and Europe*, Collins, Glasgow.
- Cunliffe B W, 1968 'Excavations at Eldons Seat, Encombe, Dorset' *Proceedings of Prehistoric Society* 34, 191- 237
- Cunliffe B W, (ed.) 1984 *Danebury* Vol. 2, CBA Res Rep.
- Cunliffe B W, 1991 *Iron Age Communities in Britain* 3rd edition, London RKP
- Cunliffe B W, 1992 'Pits, preconceptions and propitiation in the British Iron Age,' *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 11, 69-84
- Crummy N, 1983 *The Roman Small-Finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report No. 2
- Dannal G B, et al, 1993, 'Excavations on a Romano-British production site at Park Farm, Stanground, Peterborough, 1965-1967', *Journal Roman Pottery Studies* 6, 51-93
- Dawson M, 1988 'Excavations at Ursula Taylor Lower School', *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, 18, 6-24
- Dawson M, (ed) 2000 *Prehistoric, Roman and Post Roman landscapes of the Great Ouse Valley* CBA Res Rep 119
- Dawson M, 1999 in prep (a), 'Archaeology in the Bedford Region' BAR, Oxford
- Dix, B., in prep, Odell
- Dunning G C, 1970 'Ovens of Baked Clay', pp. 17-35 in Eagles and Evison
- Drury P J, 1978 *Excavations at Little Waltham 1970-71* Chelmsford Excavation Committee Rep 1 CBA Res Rep 26
- Eagles B N, Evison V I, 1970 'Excavations at Harrold, 1951-53', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 5, 17-55
- Edmonds M, 1995 *Stone Tools and Society* London

- Ellison A, Drewett P, 1971 'Pits and Postholes in the early British Iron Age: some alternative explanations' *Proceedings of Prehistoric Society* 37/1 183-194
- Elsdon S M, 1993, *Iron Age Pottery in the East Midlands: a Handbook*
- Evans J G, 1971 *Land Snails in Archaeology* London
- Fasham P J, 1985 *The Prehistoric Settlement at Winnall Down, Winchester*. Hampshire Field Club Monograph 2
- Fitzpatrick A P, Morris E, (eds) 1994 'The Iron Age in Wessex: Recent work', Salisbury, Association Francaise D'Etude de L'Age du Fer/Trust for Wessex Archaeology
- Fitzpatrick, A P, 1997 *Archaeological Excavations on the route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992 Volume 2: The Cemeteries*, Wessex Archaeology Report No 12
- Fowler P J, 1981 *The Farming of Prehistoric Britain*, Cambridge University Press.
- French C A I, 1984 *The archaeology along the A605 Elton-Haddon Bypass, Cambridgeshire*, Fenland Archaeological Trust Monograph 2.
- Frere S S, 1984 *Verulamium Excavations III*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph 1
- Friendship-Taylor R M, Friendship-Taylor D E, 1989 *Iron Age & Roman Piddington: an interim report on the Excavation of a late Iron Age settlement and Romano-British Villa in Northamptonshire* Upper Nene Archaeological Society
- Goodburn R, 1984 'The Non-Ferrous Metal Objects' pp 19-67 in Frere 1984
- Grant A, 1982 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates', pp. 91-100 in Wilson, Grigson, Payne (eds)
- Grant A, 1984 'Animal husbandry', pp. 496-548 in Cunliffe, (ed)
- Grant A, 1989 'Animals in Roman Britain', pp. 135-146 in Todd, (ed)
- Green F J, 1981 'Iron Age, Roman and Saxon crops: the archaeological evidence from Wessex', pp. 129-153 in Jones, Dimbleby (ed)
- Green H S, 1980 *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles* British Archaeological Reports, British Series 75 (i & ii)
- Green M, 1992 *Animals in Celtic Life and Myth*, London.
- Gurney D, (ed) 1986 *Settlement, Religion and Industry on the Roman Fen Edge, Norfolk*, East Anglian Archaeology Report No 31
- Gwilt A, Haselgrove C, 1997 'Reconstructing Iron Age Societies' Oxbow Monograph 71
- Halstead P, Hodder C, Jones G, 1978 'Behavioural archaeology and refuse patterns: a case study' *Norwegian Archaeology Review* 11, 118-31
- Hattatt R, 1987 *Brooches of Antiquity*, Oxbow Books
- Harcourt R, 1974 'The dog in prehistoric and early historic Britain', *Journal of Archaeological Science* 1, 151-76.
- Harcourt R, 1979 'The Animal Bones', pp. 150-160 in Wainwright
- Haselgrove C, 1994 'Social organisation in Iron Age Wessex', pp. 1-3 in Fitzpatrick, Morris, (eds)
- Heinzel H, Fitter R, Parslow J, 1979 *The Birds of Britain and Europe*, (4th ed) Collins, London.
- Helbaek H, 1952 'Early crops in southern England', *Proceedings of Prehistoric Society* 18, 194-233
- Hill J D, 1989 'Rethinking the Iron Age' *Scottish Archaeological Review* 6, 16-24
- Hill J D, 1995 'Ritual and rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex', British Archaeological Reports, British Series 242
- Hingley R, 1990 'Domestic organisation and gender relations in Iron Age and Romano-British households', pp. 125-149 in Samson (ed)
- Holgate R, (ed) 1995 *Chiltern Archaeology* Dunstable
- Horner J, 1989 'Geotechnical Survey along the route of the Stagsden Bypass'
- Howe M D, Perrin J R, Macreth D F, 1980 *Roman Pottery from the Nene Valley: A Guide*, Peterborough City Museum Occasional Paper No 2
- Jacomot S, 1987 *Prahistorische Getreidefunde, Eine Anleitung zur Bestimmung prahistorischer Gersten und Weizen-Funde*, Botanisches Institut der Universitat, Abteilung Pflanzensystematik und Geobotanik, Basel
- Jessen K, Helbaek H, 1944 *Cereals in Great Britain and Ireland in prehistoric and early historic times*. Det. Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab Biologiske Skrifter 3.(2) Copenhagen.
- Jones M, 1981 'The development of crop husbandry' pp. 95-127 in Jones, Dimbleby
- Jones M, Dimbleby G W, 1981 *The environment of man: the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon period*. BAR British Series 87
- Kerney M P, 1976 *Atlas of non-marine Mollusca in the British Isles* Cambridge: Institute of Terrestrial Ecology
- Knight D, 1984 *Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement in the Nene and Great Ouse Basins, Part 1*, British Archaeological Reports Britain Series 130
- Knorr R, 1912 *Die Terra-Sigillata-Gefasse von Aislingen*, Dillingen
- Levine M A, 1982 'The use of crown height measurements and eruption wear sequences to age horse teeth', pp. 223-50 in Wilson et al.
- Lloyd-Morgan G, 1981 *Description of the collections*

- in the Rijksmuseum G.M.Kam at Nijmegen. IX: *The Mirrors*, NL 1981
- MacGregor A, 1985 *Bone, Antler, Ivory and Horn: The technology of Skeletal Material since the Roman period*. London
- Mackreth D, 1981 'The Brooches', pp. 130-51 in Partridge
- Mackreth D F, 1986 'The Brooches', pp. 61-67 in Gurney
- Mackreth D F, 1989 'Selection of first century brooches from Piddington', pp. 24-26 in Friendship-Taylor
- McSloy E, (in prep) 'The brooches' in Dawson
- Maltby M, 1981 'Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Animal Husbandry, a review of the faunal evidence', pp. 155-203 in Jones, Dimbleby
- Manning W H, 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron tools, fittings and weapons in the British Museum*, London, British Museum Press
- Marney P T, 1989 *Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes 1972-82*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No 2
- Marsh G, 1978, 'Early second century fine wares in the London area', pp. 119-223 in Arthur, Marsh, (eds.)
- Montague R, 1997 'Metalwork', pp. 89-109 in Fitzpatrick
- Moore-Colyer R J, 1994 'The Horse in British Prehistory: some speculations', *Archaeological Journal* 151, 1-15
- Murphy P L, 1977 *Early Agriculture and environment on the Hampshire chalklands: circa. 800 B.C.-400 A.D.* unpubl. M.Phil. University of Southampton
- Murphy P, 1985 'The cereals and crop weeds', pp. 100-110 in West
- Mynard D C, 1987 *Roman Milton Keynes excavations & fieldwork 1971-82*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series No. 1
- Neale D S, 1989 'The Stanwick villa, Northants.: An interim report on the excavations of 1984-88' *Britannia* XX, 149-169
- Neal D S, Wardle A, Hunn J, 1990 *Excavation of the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval Settlement at Gorhambury, St Albans*, English Heritage Archaeological Report no. 14
- O'Connor T P, 1988 *Bones from the General Accident Site, Tanner Row, CBA*, London
- Olivier A, 1988 'The brooches', pp. 35-53 in Potter, Trow
- Oswald A, 1997 'A doorway on the past: practical and mystic concerns in the orientation of roundhouse doorways', pp. 87-96 in Gwilt, Haselgrove (eds)
- Parker Pearson M, 1996 'Food, fertility and front doors in the first millenium BC', pp 117-133 in Champion, Collis (eds)
- Parker-Pearson M, Richards C, 1994 'Architecture and order: spatial representation and archaeology', pp. 38-72 in Parker-Pearson, Richards (eds)
- Parker-Pearson M, Richards C, (eds) 1994 *Architecture and Order: Approaches to Social space*, London Routledge.
- Parminster Y, (in prep) 'The Pottery' Dawson
- Partridge C, 1981 *Skeleton Green, a late Iron Age and Romano-British Site*, Britannia Monograph Series No. 2
- Peacock D P S, 1980 'The Roman Millstone Trade: a petrological sketch' *World Archaeology* 12, No. 1, 43-53
- Perrin J R, Webster G, 1990, 'Roman Pottery from Excavations in Normangate Field, Castor, Peterborough, 1962-3', *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 3, 35-62
- Philpott R, 1991 *Burial Practices in Roman Britain - A survey of grave treatment and furnishing AD. 43-410* British Archaeological Reports, British Series 219
- Potter T, Trow S, 1988 *Puckeridge-Braughing, Herts. The Ermine Street Excavations 1971-72* Hertfordshire Archaeology 10
- Reynolds P J, 1974 'Experimental Iron Age storage pits: an interim report'. *Proceedings of the Pre-historic Society* 40, 118-131
- Rogers G B, 1974 *Poteries sigillees de la Gaule centrale*, Gallia Suppl. XXVIII, Paris
- Ross A, 1967 *Pagan Celtic Britain*, London
- Samson R, (ed) 1990 *The social archaeology of houses* Edinburgh, The University Press
- Scaife R G, 1982 'An early Bronze Age record of *Vicia faba* L. (horsebean) from Newbarn (Gallibury) Down, Isle of Wight'. *Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report* No. 3501
- Scaife R G, 1984 'The plant remains' pp. 154-167 in French C A I
- Simco, A, 1984, *The Roman Period*, Survey of Bedfordshire
- Simmons I G, Tooley M J, 1981 *The environment of early man in Prehistory*, London
- Sisson S, revised Grossman J, 1961 *The Anatomy of the Domestic Animals* 4th edition Saunders and Co., Philadelphia.
- Smith D J, Todd M, 1974 'A First Century Pottery Kiln at Blacktmore Thick Farm Southwick', *Journal Northampton Museum Art Gallery*, 10, 6-12
- Stace G, 1991 *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press.
- Stanfield J A, Simpson G, 1958 *Central Gaulish Potters* London

- Stead I, 1986 'The brooches', pp. 109-25 in Stead Rigby
- Stead I, Rigby V, 1986 *Baldock – The Excavation of a Roman and Pre-Roman settlement 1968-72*, Britannia Monograph Series No.7
- Stead I, Rigby V, 1989 *Verulamium – The King Harry Lane Site*, English Heritage Archaeological Report No 12
- Steele-Elliot J, 1924 'Stagsden and its manors' *Bedfordshire Historical Record Society* VIII 1-12
- Swan V, 1984 *The pottery kilns of Roman Britain* Supplementary Series 5, RCHM: HMSO, London
- Taylor J, 1997 'Space and place: some thoughts on Iron Age and Romano-British landscapes' pp. 192-205 in Gwilt, Haselgrove
- Thompson I, 1982 *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery from South-eastern England*, BAR British Series 108 i-iii
- Tilson P, 1973 'A Belgic and Romano-British site at Bromham', *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 8, 23-66
- Tilson P, 1975 'The Excavation of an Iron Age Hut Circle at Bromham in 1971 with a Note on Two Post-medieval Finds from Clapham', *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 10, 19-24
- Todd M, (ed) 1989 *Research in Roman Britain 1960-1989*, Britannia Monograph Series No. 11, London
- Turner G M, Thompson R, 1982 'Detransformation of the British geomagnetic secular variation record for Holocene times' *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society* 70, 789-792
- Ubelaker D H, 1989 *Human skeletal remains: excavation, analysis, interpretation*, Manual of Archaeology, 2nd ed.
- von den Driesch A, 1978 'A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites', *Peabody Museum Bulletin 1*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University.
- von den Driesch A, Boessneck J A, 1974 'Kritische Anmerkungen zur Widerristhoerberechnung aus Langenmassen vor- und frugeschichtlicher Tierknochen', *Saugetierkundliche Mitteilungen* 22, 325-48
- Wainwright G J, 1979 *Gussage All Saints, an Iron Age Settlement in Dorset*, London
- Wait G A, 1985 *Ritual and religion in Iron Age Britain* BAR British Series 149, i & ii
- Wardle A, 1990 'Objects of bone' in Neal, Wardle, Hunn 1990, 157-59
- Webster J, 1997 'Text expectations: the archaeology of 'Celtic' ritual wells and shafts', pp. 134-145 in Gwilt, Haselgrove
- West S, 1985 *West Stow. The Anglo-Saxon Village. Volume 1: Text.*, East Anglian Archaeology Report No.24
- White R, 1976, *The parish of Stagsden*, unpubl Bedfordshire County Council
- Williams D F, Peacock D P S, 1983 'The importation of olive oil into Roman Britain', pp. 263-80 in Blazquez, Remesal (eds)
- Wilson B, Grigson C, Payne S, 1982 *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* BAR British Series 109, Oxford
- Winham R P, 1985 'The Antler and Bone Objects', pp. 93-6 in Fasham
- Woods P J, 1974 'Types of Late Belgic and Early Romano-British Pottery Kilns in the Nene Valley', *Britannia*, 5, 262-281
- Woods P, Hastings S, 1984 *Rushden: The Early Fine Wares* Northamptonshire County Council
- Young C J, 1977, *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*, BAR British Series 43, Oxford
- Zohary D, Hopf M, 1994 *Domestication of plants in the Old World* Oxford Science Publications; Clarendon Press, Oxford

INDEX

- Amphibians, 117
Amphora, 19
Animal bone, A F Roberts report, 116
Antler, worked, 27, 35, 97
Archaeomagnetic dating, A Clark report, 127
- Baldock, Herts, 16, 88
Balkebury, Hants, roundhouse, 26
Barbed and tanged arrowhead, 103
Barton-on-Humber, Lincs, experimental kilns, 88
Beaker period flint, 103
Belgic wares, 16, 35ff, 40, 44, 49, 50, 53, 71, 129
Biddenham Loop, Beds, iron nails, 96
Biddenham Loop, Beds, pottery kiln, 73
Birds, 117
Blackmore Thick, Northants, kilnplates, 88
Brick, Roman, 17, 87
Brigstock, Northants, roundhouse, 129
Bromham, Beds, 28
Bromham, Beds, pottery kilns, 73, 74, 85
Bronze Age flint, 102
Brooches, 43, 98
Brooches, Colchester BB, 101
Brooches, disc, 102
Brooches, Hod Hill, 95, 96
Brooches, Langton Down variants, 50, 95, 101
Brooches, Nauheim derivatives, 98
Brooches, Simple Gaulish, 101
- Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, Bucks, pottery kilns, 73
Camolodunum, (Colchester, Essex) disc brooches from, 102
Cattle, 116
Charred botanical remains, R Scaife report, 107
Chicken, 117
Church Farm, Clapham, Beds, 131
Cleaver, iron, 19, 93
Coarse pottery report, A M Slowikowski report, 61ff
Coins, 93, 98
Countess Judith, 4
Cremation, possible identification, 14
- De Beauchamp, Hugh, 3, 4
Disc brooches, 102
Ditches, descriptions and discussion of, 13ff, 18ff, 39, 43ff, 49, 53, 56, 91, 106, 130
Dog, 117
Domesday, 4
- Dragonby, Lincs, disc brooches from, 102
Drawing conventions, 61
- Eastcotts, Beds, 16
Eldons Seat, Dorset, roundhouse, 26
Emmer wheat, resurrection of, 110
Enclosures, Iron Age, 13, 15, 50, 130
Enclosures, Roman, 14, 18, 30
- Fabric type, ceramics, 61ff
Fastener and fittings, 92
Fish, 117
Flint, D E Enright report, 45
Foal, part of human burial, 120
- Gallo-Belgic wares, 19, 54
Gaul, kiln technology, 73
Gaulish, simple Gaulish brooch, 44, 101
Geophysical survey, C F Gaffney, C Stephens, D Weston report, 123
Glass, fragments of vessel, 53, 93, 97
Gold Lane, Biddenham, Beds, 131
Gussage All Saints, Dorset, sheep bones, 121
- Hadham, Essex, 16
Harrold Bridge, Beds, 4
Harrold wares, 16, 18, 19, 50, 71, 84, 87
Harrold, pottery kilns, 71, 91
Hod Hill, brooches, 95
Hollows, Iron Age, 12
Horse, 116
Human bone, T A Jackman report, 126
Human burial, 45, 120
- Kiln furniture, 37ff, 73, 87
Kiln furniture and ceramic building material, P Gentil, with A M Slowikowski report, 86
Kilns, Mile Road, Bedford, 88
Kilns, pottery, 37, 41, 73
King Harry Lane, St Albans, Herts, cemetery, 88, 101
- Langton Down brooches, 50, 95, 101
Lead alloy sheet, 103
Les Martres-de-Veyre, samian from, 86
Lezoux, samian from, 85
Little Woodbury, Wilts, oven floor, 91
London style, combing, 19
Longbridge Deveril Cow Down, Wilts roundhouse from, 130

- Loomweight, triangular made of clay, 35, 97, 104
- Maiden Castle, Dorset, roundhouse, 26
- Mammals, 117
- Marston Moretaine, Beds, 132
- Mesolithic flint, 102
- Milton Keynes, Bucks, 95
- Mirror, toilet implement, 96
- Molluscs, M J Allen report, 105
- Mordant family, 4
- Nail cleaner, toilet implement, 95
- Nails, of iron, 17, 19, 93, 95, 97
- Nauheim, brooch, 45, 50
- Nauheim derivatives, brooches, 44, 98
- Nene Valley colour coat wares, 18
- Neolithic flint, 102, 103
- Newnham Marina, Beds, Roman villa, 91
- Non ceramic artefacts, P Gentil and H B Duncan report, 92ff
- Norse Road, Bedford, 131
- Odell, Beds, 121
- Ouse Valley, CBA Research Report, 132
- Oxford Clay, 1ff
- Oxfordshire wares, 18
- Pig, 116
- Pits, in the Iron Age, 11, 12, 13, 26ff, 31ff, 127
- Pits, in the Roman period, 16, 19, 54ff
- Points, bone, 44, 54, 98
- Potters marks, 75
- Pottery, A M Slowikowski report, 61ff
- Querns, 93
- Querns, Mayen imports, 93
- Querns, of lava, 18, 93
- Rakes, 93
- Roof tile, Roman, 17, 87
- Roundhouse, 11ff, 16, 21ff, 27ff, 33ff, 41ff
- Roundhouses, discussion of, 127ff
- Samian, 16, 19, 50, 54
- Samian, B Dickinson report, 85
- Serpentine brook, adjacent to east Stagsden, 1
- Sheep, 116
- Shelly wares, 73, 84
- Spelt wheat, 108, 110
- Stagsden village, Beds, 4
- Stone lined pit, 50
- Sutton Type b, barbed and tanged arrowhead, 103
- T-clamp, 17, 92
- Textile working, 97
- Tile, post medieval, 87
- Tile, Roman, 87
- Toggle, 44
- Trevor, property owners in Stagsden, 4
- Tweezers, toilet implements, 95
- Ursula Taylor School, Clapham, Beds, oven floor, 91
- Verulamium (St Albans) Herts, 101
- Vessel glass, 53, 93, 97, 104
- Warmington, Northants, oven floor from, 91
- Weaving tablet, bone, 103
- Wessex, characterisation of pits, 129
- Westhampnett, Dorset, iron nails from, 96
- Willington, Beds, cropmark site, 132
- Woodcock Hall, Norfolk, 101
- Wrist guard, 103

This book is available direct from:
Peter Wood, 14 Glebe Avenue, Flitwick MK45 1HS

Bedfordshire Archaeology Monographs

- Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 1, 1994
A Late Roman Cemetery at Bletsoe
by Michael Dawson £12.00
- Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 2, 1997
Bridges of Bedfordshire
by Angela Simco and Peter McKeague £12.50