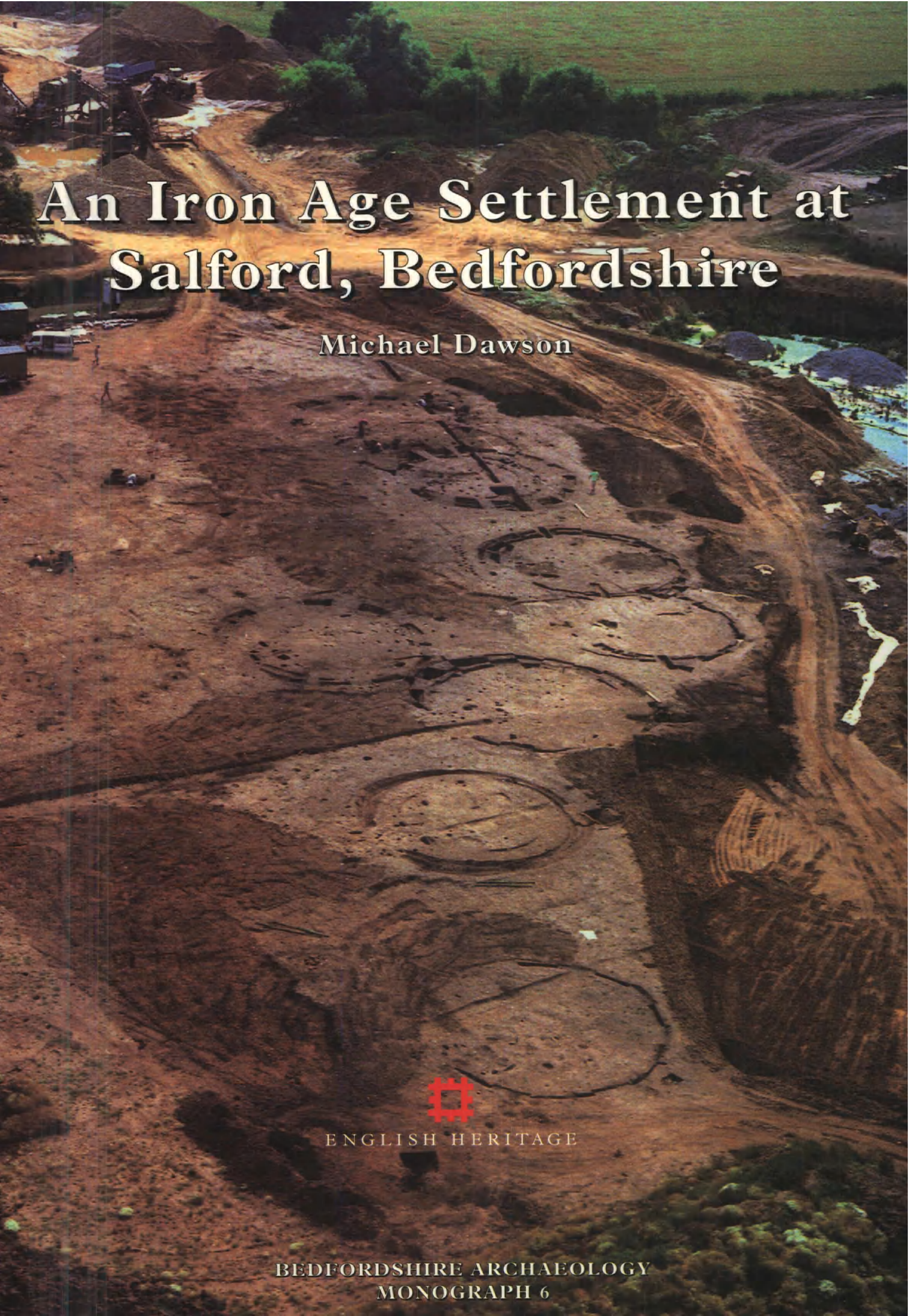

An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire

Michael Dawson

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MONOGRAPH 6

An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire

Cover illustrations

Front: Aerial photograph of the excavation of the western part of Salford during 1990. The drip gullies of several roundhouses can be seen together with a remnant of deposit 2100

Back: Roundhouse G1 during excavation in 1989

An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire

by

Michael Dawson

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M Dawson,
Bozeat, Northants 2004

SUMMARY

Salford was excavated in three seasons during the period 1988 to 1991. Initially it was identified as the location of a Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow cemetery, but during investigation it quickly became clear that the interest of the site extended from ritual activity in the Neolithic to an agrarian building in the Roman period.

The earliest evidence from Salford is a single Neolithic pit containing an assemblage of pottery, a form of deposit characterised as bringing meaning to an area at the end of a ritual process. Ritual continued to be a theme in the Bronze Age with the construction of three ring ditches. Occupation began in the early Iron Age, with a partially enclosed settlement of roundhouses and four-post structures. In all, some 23 roundhouses were concentrated in two major phases dating from the early and middle Iron Age. Later occupation, perhaps to the north of the area investigated, was suggested by the discovery of four late Iron Age cremations and a Roman-period barn.

The Iron Age settlements were agrarian in character with no clear evidence of craft specialisation, but analysis extended beyond processual interpretation of functionality into areas of underlying ritual. In the earliest period of occupation the settlement may have included areas deliberately distanced from the community, perhaps the dwelling of a shaman or chieftain, and a four-post structure was identified as the probable remains of a shrine. A large skull fragment suggested the latter may have been associated with animal, possibly bovine, ritual. In the earlier Iron Age phase the settlement was characterised by houses with entrances focused on the south-east, while in the middle Iron Age occupation entranceways looked eastwards and the ritual four-post shrine was not replaced.

One of the most significant aspects of the Salford analysis has been the ceramics. No scientific dating had been possible from the burnt clay, charcoal or bone samples taken during excavation and dating was reliant on the limited evidence of stratigraphy and the ceramic assemblage. Analysis of the latter suggested a conservative tradition in which it was only the changing proportions of specific types which indicated any temporal shift in settlement activity. Salford has yielded one of the largest ceramic assemblages from comparable area excavations in the county and provides a significant corpus of ceramic fabric and forms from the county.

In the later Iron Age, further evidence from material culture, brooches and ceramics suggested that pressure on the community at Salford led to a specific expression of cultural identity with the deposition of the earliest and most northern and western example of Welwyn burial yet recognised. Salford may be at the start of a process of change which was to spread from periphery to core as the trend in this form of status expression caught hold.

In the Roman period a change in landscape patterning led to the establishment of a rectangular barn and by the post-Roman or Saxon period the focus of settlement activity had moved away, probably to the location of the present village of Salford. Some indication of the environmental transformations occurring at this time has been deduced from deposits found within a pond and it is clear from the abandonment of the investigated site that the area was increasingly marginalised as activity shifted southwards towards the river.

The excavations at Salford provided a rare opportunity to examine an area of Iron Age settlement, but have also provided an extensive catalogue of material culture and ecofactual remains which will be a source of comparison and reinterpretation for many years to come.

RÉSUMÉ

Entre 1988 et 1991, le site de Salford avait fait l'objet de fouilles pendant trois saisons. Au début, le site avait été identifié comme l'emplacement d'un cimetière de tumulus remontant au néolithique ou à l'âge du bronze mais les fouilles ont rapidement révélé que l'intérêt du site allait des activités rituelles du néolithique à un bâtiment agricole de l'époque romaine.

L'indice le plus ancien découvert à Salford est une seule fosse néolithique qui contenait un ensemble de céramique, un type de dépôt signifiant que ce lieu avait été utilisé à des fins rituelles. Les rites ont continué à être un thème au cours de l'âge du bronze, avec la construction de trois fossés annulaires. L'occupation commença au début de l'âge du fer, avec un peuplement, partiellement entouré d'une enceinte, composé de maisons rondes et de structures à quatre poteaux. En tout, quelque 23 maisons rondes étaient concentrées en deux grandes phases, remontant au début de l'âge du fer et au moyen âge du fer. La découverte de quatre crémations de la fin de l'âge du fer et d'une grange de l'époque romaine suggérait une occupation ultérieure, peut-être au nord de la zone fouillée.

Les peuplements de l'âge du fer étaient de caractère agricole et ne présentaient pas d'indices clairs d'artisanats spécialisés, mais l'analyse est allée au-delà d'une interprétation des variables matérielles qui entraînent des changements culturels et a été poussée dans le domaine des rites sous-jacents. Lors de la plus ancienne période d'occupation, le peuplement avait peut-être englobé des zones délibérément placées à une certaine distance de la communauté, peut-être la demeure d'un shaman ou d'un chef, et on a identifié une structure à quatre poteaux comme vestiges probables d'un autel. Un grand fragment de crâne suggérait que ce dernier avait peut-être été associé à des rites animaux, peut-être bovins. Pendant la phase au début de l'âge du fer, le peuplement était caractérisé par des maisons dont l'entrée était orientée vers le sud-est, alors que, pendant le moyen âge du fer, les entrées étaient orientées vers l'est et l'autel rituel à quatre poteaux n'avait pas été remplacé.

La céramique constitue l'un des aspects les plus significatifs de l'analyse de Salford. Les échantillons d'argile brûlée, de charbon de bois ou d'os prélevés au cours des fouilles n'ont permis aucune datation scientifique, et la datation dépendait des indices limités fournis par la stratigraphie et l'ensemble de céramique. L'analyse de cette dernière suggérait une tradition conservatrice dans laquelle seule la variation dans les proportions de types spécifiques indiquait des changements d'activités du peuplement dans le temps. Salford a fourni l'un des plus grands ensembles de céramique par rapport aux fouilles d'étendue comparable dans le comté, et fournit un assemblage significatif de matière céramique et de formes du comté.

A la fin de l'âge du fer, des indices ultérieurs de la culture matérielle suggéraient que la pression sur la communauté de Salford avait mené à une expression spécifique d'identité culturelle, avec le dépôt de l'exemple le plus ancien, et le plus au nord et à l'ouest, de sépulture Welwyn reconnu jusqu'à présent. Salford représente peut-être le début d'un processus de changement qui allait se répandre de la périphérie vers le centre lorsque la tendance vers ces formes d'expression du standing s'affirma.

Au cours de l'époque romaine, un changement de la physionomie du paysage a mené à la mise en place d'une grange rectangulaire et, à partir de l'époque post-romaine ou saxonne, le centre d'activité du peuplement s'est déplacé, probablement sur l'emplacement du village actuel de Salford. Certaines indications des transformations environnementales qui se sont produites à cette époque ont été déduites à partir de dépôts découverts dans un étang et il est clair, en raison de l'abandon du site enquêté, que cette zone devenait de plus en plus marginale au fur et à mesure du déplacement des activités vers la rivière et le sud.

Les fouilles effectuées à Salford ont non seulement fourni une rare possibilité d'étudier une zone de peuplement de l'âge du fer mais ont également fourni un important catalogue de la culture matérielle et des vestiges écologiques, catalogue qui restera une source de comparaison et de réinterprétation pour de nombreuses années à venir.

Charlette Sheil-Small

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Salford, eine Siedlung aus der Eisenzeit, wurde während drei Ausgrabunsphasen in den Jahren 1988 bis 1991 freigelegt. Zunächst wurde der Fundplatz für einen Hügelgrabfriedhof aus dem Neolithikum oder der Bronzezeit gehalten, aber es wurde bald deutlich, daß dieser Ort zu verschiedentlichen Zwecken genutzt wurde, als ein Platz wo im Neolithikum Rituale abgehalten wurden, sowie als ein Standort für ein landwirtschaftliches Gebäude während der Römerzeit.

Der älteste Fund aus Salford besteht aus einer neolithischen Grube, aus der ein Keramik Ensemble geborgen wurde. Der Charakter dieses Ensembles verlieh diesem Standort eine bestimmte Bedeutung, daß es sich um einen Ort am Ende eines rituellen Prozesses handelte. Rituale blieben in der Bronzezeit weiterhin ein bedeutendes Thema und wurden durch die Konstruktion von drei Kreisgräbern verkörpert. Seit der frühen Eisenzeit gibt es Hinweise auf eine dörfliche Niederlassung, ein teilweise umzäuntes Areal bestehend aus Rundhäusern und vierpfostigen Konstruktionen. Insgesamt wurden 23 Rundhäuser identifiziert, die in zwei Hauptbauphasen gebaut und zeitlich in die frühe bis mittlere Eisenzeit eingeordnet wurden. Nördlich des Grabungsareals wurden 4 Späteisenzeitliche Einäscherungen in einer römischen Scheune entdeckt, die auf spätere Siedlungsphasen schließen lassen.

Die Dörfer aus der Eisenzeit waren landwirtschaftlich geprägt, ohne konkrete Hinweise auf eine Spezialisierung des Handwerks. Es wurde allerdings nicht nur die Funktion der Funde untersucht, sondern auch deren hintergründige Rituale. Während der frühen Siedlungsphase gab es Orte, die absichtlich von der Gemeinschaft distanziert wurden, zum Beispiel die Unterkünfte von Schamanen oder Häuptlingen. Eine aus 4 Pfosten bestehende Konstruktion wurde als möglicher Überrest eines Schreins gedeutet. Ein großes Bruchstück eines Schädelknochens wird mit tierischen, möglicherweise Rinder Ritualen in Zusammenhang gebracht. In der frühen Eisenzeit waren die Eingänge der Behausungen gen Südosten ausgerichtet, im Gegensatz dazu blickten die Eingänge in der mittleren Eisenzeit gen Osten, und der rituelle vierpfostige Schrein wurde nicht wieder erneuert.

Einer der wichtigsten Aspekte des Fundbestands in Salford waren die Keramikfunde. Es war nicht möglich Proben von gebrannten Ton, Holzkohle oder Knochen, die während der Ausgrabung entnommen wurden, wissenschaftlich zu Datieren. Funde konnten nur durch die Sedimentstratigraphie und mit Hilfe der Keramiken zeitlich eingeordnet werden. Die Auswertung der Keramikfunde wies eine sehr konservative Tradition nach, in der nur das sich ändernde proportionale Verhältnis verschiedener Typen eine zeitliche Entwicklung der Siedlungs-aktivität erkennen läßt. Salford hat zu einer der bedeutendsten Keramiksammlungen in der Grafschaft beigetragen und liefert hiermit ein bedeutendes Sammelwerk von Keramikstruktur und Formen.

Im der späten Eisenzeit zeigten Fundstücke wie Broschen und Keramiken, daß Druck auf die Gemeinschaft in Salford ausgeübt wurde, der zum Ausdruck einer besonderen Kulturellen Identität führte. Ein Beispiel dafür sind die Überreste von 'Welwyn' Gräbern, die hier als die nördlichsten und westlichsten Ausläufer dieser Gräberkultur gelten. Salford verkörperte den Beginn einen Wandlungsprozess, dessen Einfluß aus den Randgebieten eindrang, und zu einem Trend dieser Form des Statusausdrucks führte. Mit der Römerzeit kamen Veränderungen in der Landschaftsstruktur und es wurde eine rechteckige Scheune angelegt. In der Nach-Römerzeit und Sachsenzeit verlagerte sich der Fokus der Siedlungsaktivität, wahrscheinlich in die Nähe des heutigen Dorfes Salford. Sedimente in einem nahegelegenem Teich lassen vermuten, daß sich in dieser Zeit grundlegende Umweltveränderungen vollzogen. Die Siedlung wurde allmählich verlassen, und die Aktivitäten im Grabungsareal wurden in zunehmenden Maße marginalisiert, während sich das Zentrum der Aktivitäten nach Süden in Flußnähe verlagerte.

Die Ausgrabungen in Salford boten eine seltene Gelegenheit eine Siedlung aus der Eisenzeit im Detail zu untersuchen, und haben einen ausführlichen Katalog von kulturellen und ökologischen Funden hervorgebracht, der eine wichtige Quelle für zukünftige Forschungsarbeiten, Vergleichstudien und Reinterpretationen liefert.

Heike Neumann

Frontispiece: Salford during excavation looking south-westwards across structures G1, G4, G5, G6, G8 with G11 centre left

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Excavation

The presence of archaeology at Salford, Bedfordshire, has been known for many years. Two ring ditches, seemingly the remains of a Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow cemetery, appeared to occupy a prominent location near the medieval village of Salford. Also visible in aerial photographs taken in 1976 (HSL UK 76 26 (25.6.76); 18/1489–90) were two parallel ditches. The site was characterised as prehistoric in the county Sites and Monuments Record, and it was this designation which provided the basis for the earliest investigations.

In 1986 GFX Hartigan Ltd was given planning consent to quarry gravel at a site to the north-west of Salford village (Fig 1.1). The archaeological significance of the location was established from the SMR, and consent was conditional on access being given for the purposes of archaeological recording. The quarry was planned to operate over two years in two phases. Initial discussions between the mineral operator's agents and the county council resulted in the implementation of a watching brief in the summer of 1988, which led to the recording of one of the ring ditches together with the recovery of prehistoric pot and flint material.

Following the watching brief, a short period of salvage excavation took place on the western side of the quarry area in the autumn of 1988. It was during this episode that a series of late Neolithic pits and several Iron Age features, including two post-built roundhouses, were recorded. In September 1989 as the quarry extended, topsoil stripping took place followed by further recording when the majority of Iron Age features and deposit (2100) were discovered.

Throughout autumn 1989 and early 1990 negotiations took place between Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service, English Heritage and the quarry operator which were to lead to extended excavation during 1990 and 1991.

1.2 Landscape and Topography

The solid geology of the area shows it to be underlain by Oxford clay covered by a second terrace drift deposit (Fig 1.3). The site at Salford is located at NGR SP928392 situated west of the present village on the western border of Bedfordshire (Fig 1.1, 1.4). The topography of this area combines low relief with a mixture of soil types at the west end of the Bedford clay vale. The soils at the site were of the Bishopstone 2 association, described as comprising 'deep fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging' (SSEW 1983). To the south on the lower slopes, coincident with the outcropping Oxford Clay, the soils were of the Evesham 2 association 'calcareous clayey soils, slowly permeable, subject to some seasonal waterlogging' and characterised by 'landslips and associated irregular terrain locally' (SSEW 1983).

The Iron Age site is on a low gravel hill, adjacent to a small tributary of the River Ouzel which flowed westwards. In the past the clay vale to the east between Salford and Bedford has been noteworthy for the lack of archaeological evidence but the site at Salford, together with recent work at Marston Moretaine and Wootton indicate the area may have been densely settled from the Neolithic onwards.

1.3 Excavation Strategy and Methodology

The aims and objectives of the excavation were initially based on the early appraisal of the site in Bedfordshire Sites and Monuments Record, which had identified at least three, probably Bronze Age, ring ditches in the area. This assessment seemed to have been confirmed during the first episode of the watching brief in 1988, except that the Neolithic pottery in pits close to the rings led to a re-appraisal of the general date of the monuments. In autumn 1988 the principal aim was to investigate the remains of *Neolithic* ring ditches and to determine the relationship between the funerary monuments and what appeared to be post-built Neolithic roundhouse structures close by to the north. This approach was formalised in an application to English Heritage for funding in March 1989, when the aims were once again refined. Now the development of the Neolithic landscape, deforestation, and the date of the funerary monuments were the principal objectives, together with further investigation of the Neolithic ceramic assemblage. Considerable interest remained in the potential to explore a settlement contemporary with the ring ditches and to employ radiocarbon dating wherever possible.

Excavation continued with funding from GFX Hartigan until the discovery of roundhouses of Iron Age date and deposit (2100) on the eastern side of the site. This changed the emphasis of the fieldwork objectives towards understanding the remains of an Iron Age settlement site. In October 1989 an English Heritage grant was approved for fieldwork.

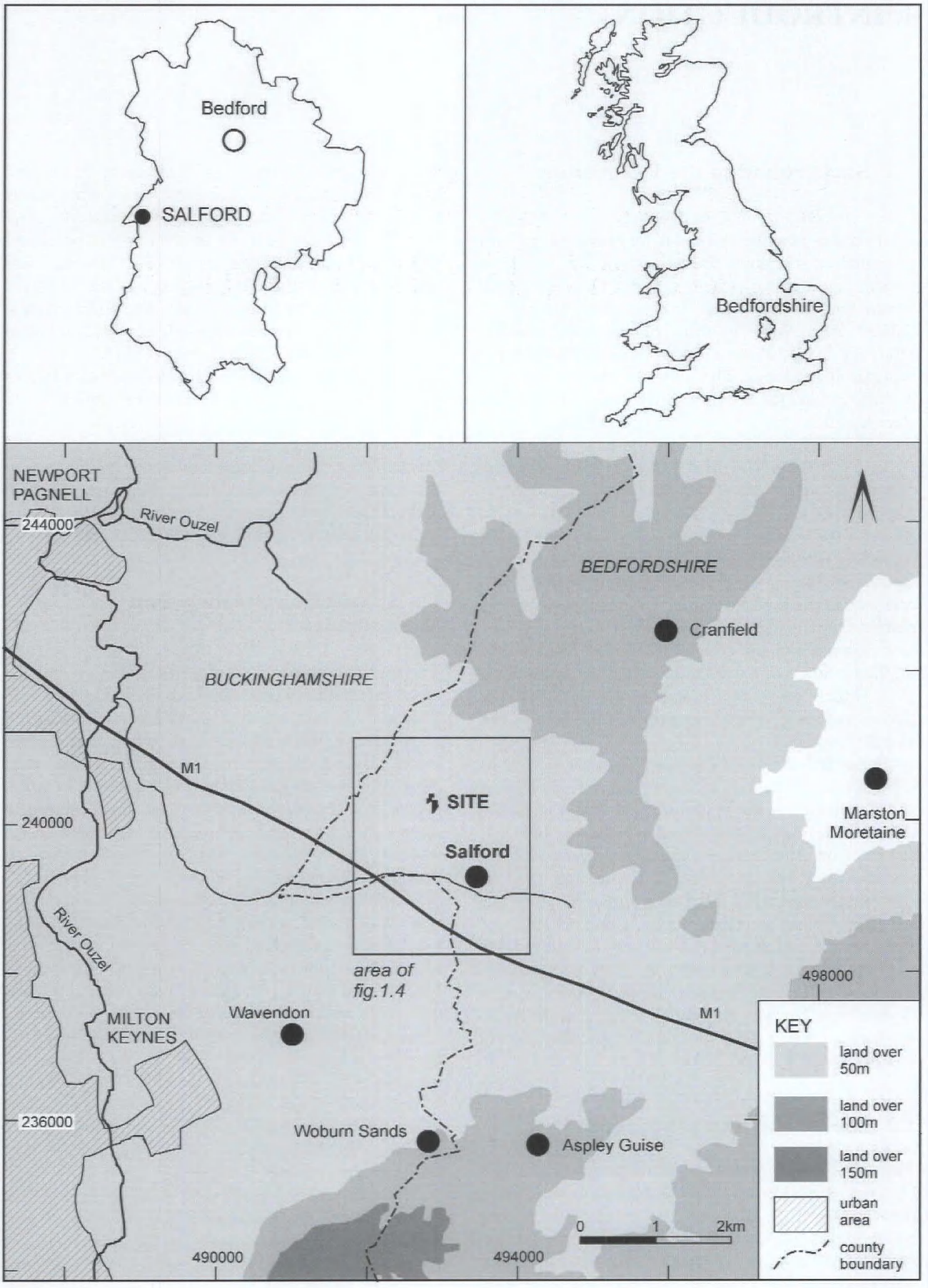


Fig 1.1: Salford location plan

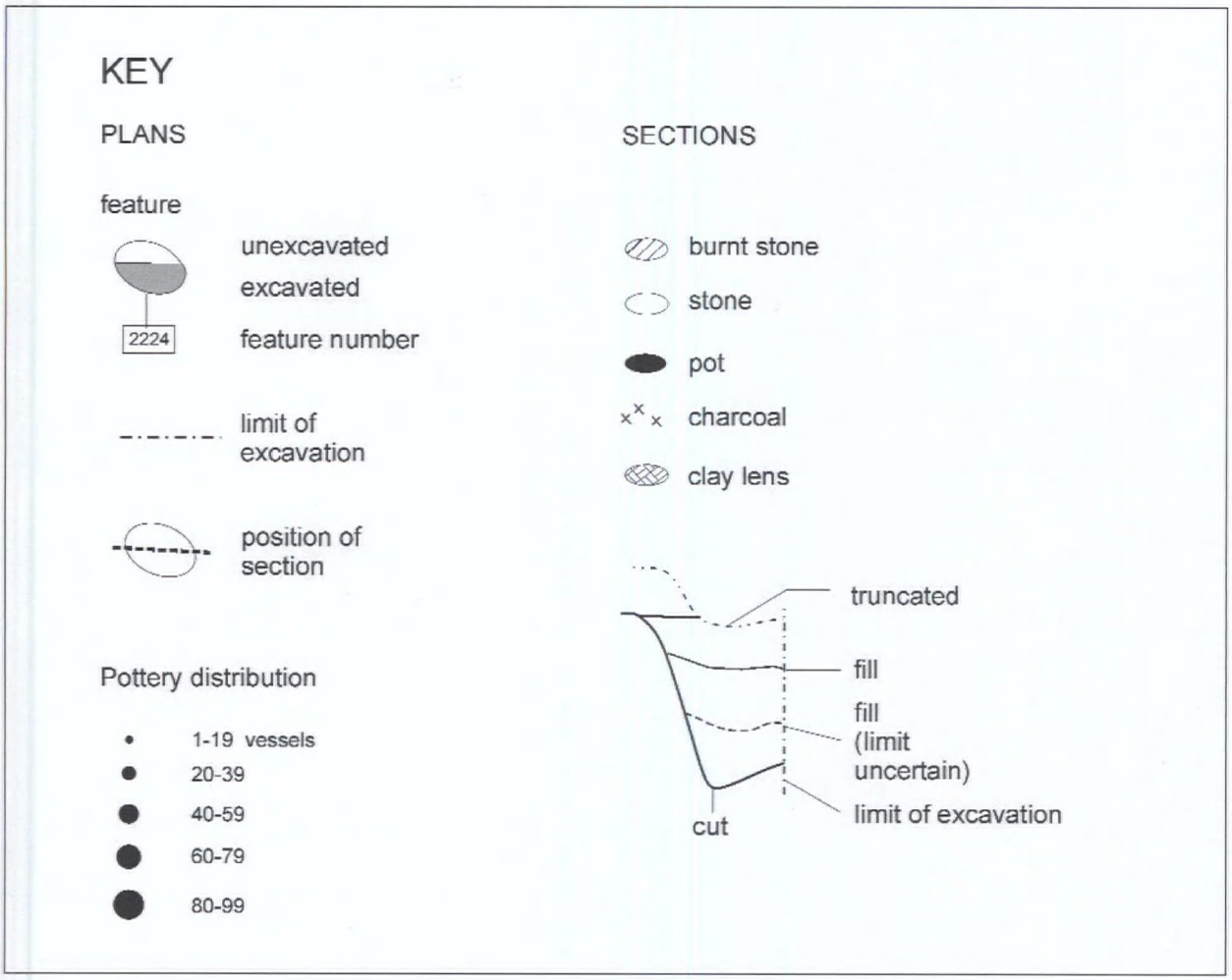


Fig 1.2: Drawing conventions

The re-orientation of the fieldwork towards understanding the development of the Iron Age settlement and deposit (2100) were reported to English Heritage in a Condition of Grant report, in September 1990. The methodology for investigating the occupation 'spread', as deposit (2100) was then termed, is detailed in section 2.7, although during the early stages of recording a magnetic susceptibility survey of this deposit was undertaken.[1] While the level of sampling during this period was not fixed, 50% of all the archaeological features were excavated and, where ground conditions required or suggested, the level was increased. Great difficulty was experienced on site in determining stratigraphic relationships owing to the sandy nature of the soil. Sampling for pollen, plant macrofossils, archaeomagnetic dating and soil micromorphology was developed on site following appraisal by specialists.

Post fieldwork assessment began in 1990 and a first draft was completed in October 1991. At the same time, English Heritage published the 2nd edition of the *Management of Archaeological Projects* and the post fieldwork assessment was revised to accord with this new document. The rewritten Post Fieldwork Assessment and Updated Project Design was finally approved in March 1996.

The Assessment and Updated Project Design (BCAS 1994, 7.2) saw the final shift in emphasis towards the Iron Age and understanding deposit (2100). The post fieldwork analysis also saw the wholesale adoption of computerised methods in analysis. However, one of the enduring problems of the Salford site is the paucity of dating evidence. Despite some on-site sampling, no scientific dates could be derived from radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic or thermo-luminescence techniques. To this problem must be added the difficulties of an excavation in

[1] This survey was carried out by Royston Clark, using equipment from Southampton University. The results, which were processed into graphical form but not a formal report, were used to identify the potential locations of roundhouses, part of the continuing assessment of the site during the early stages of excavation. It was illustrated in the Post Fieldwork Assessment (Dawson 1995, fig 4) showing the anomalies created by G1, G2 and G3. On analysis, the results did not contribute further to the site report and the data now form part of the archive.

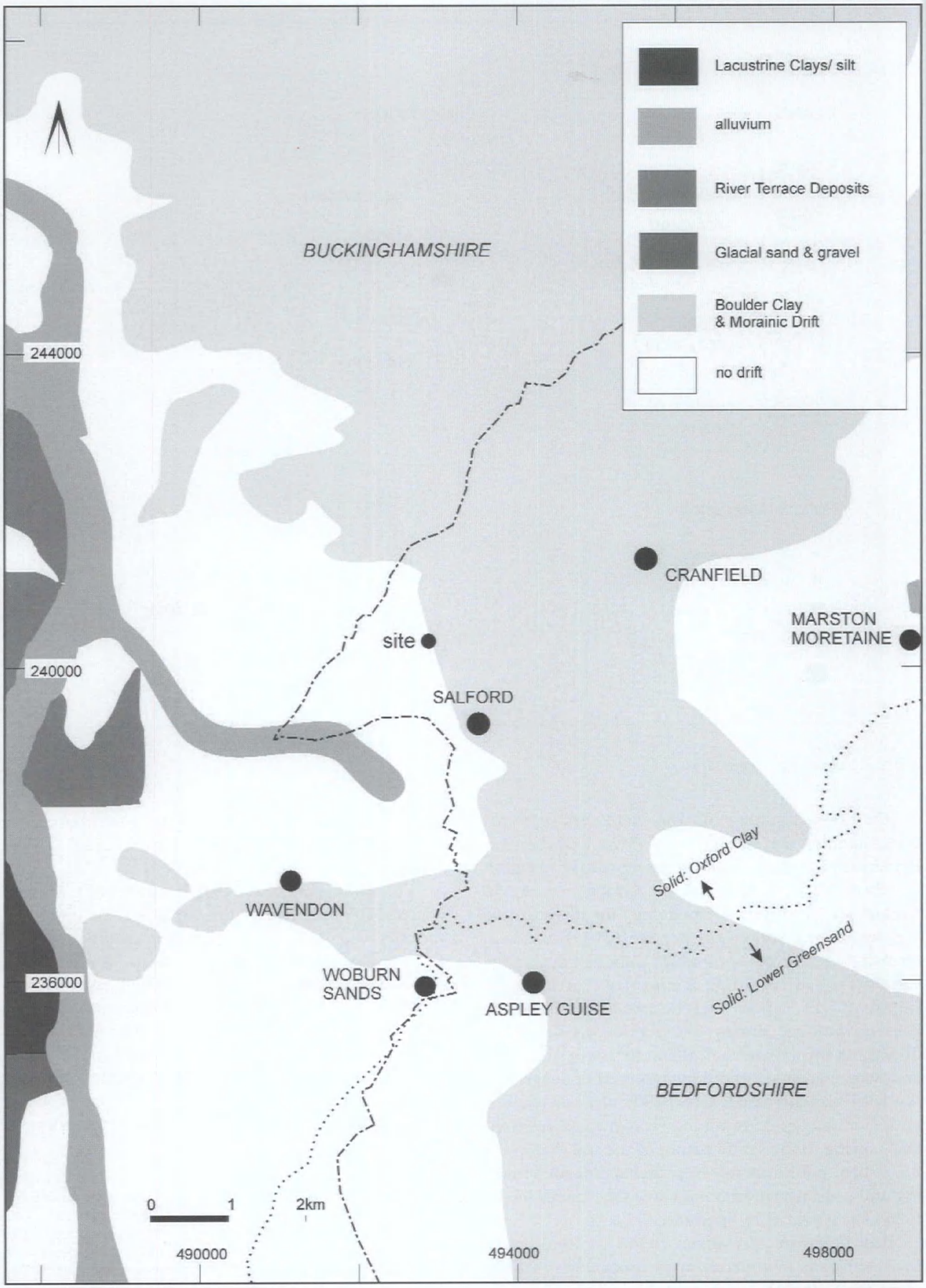


Fig 1.3: The drift geology of the Salford area

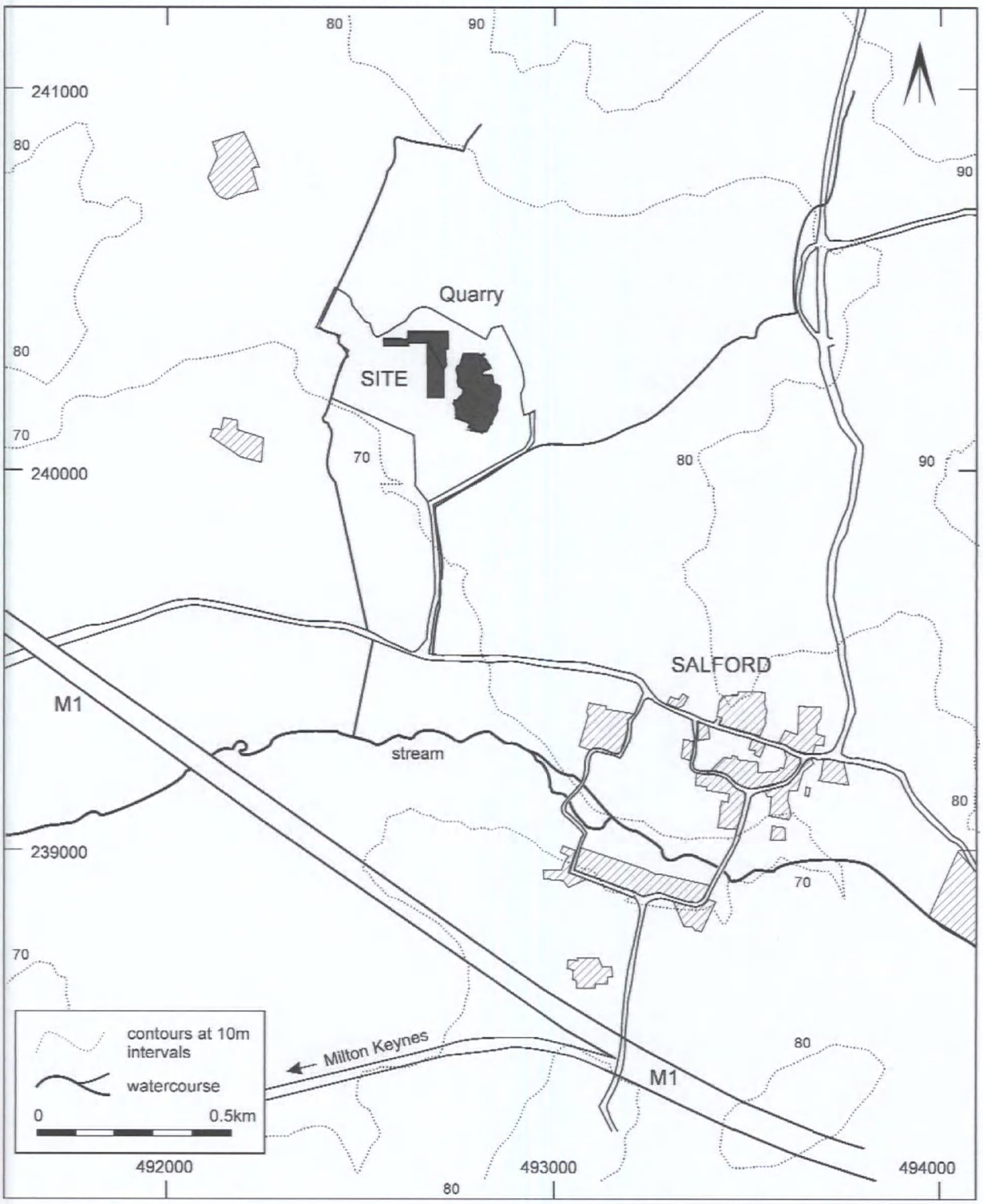


Fig 1.4: The topography of the Salford area

especially sandy soils, which produced little clarity in determining stratigraphic relationships. This has meant that the dating framework of the Salford report depends heavily upon the ceramics and is therefore necessarily broad based (see Chapter 3). It will become apparent, too, throughout the report that the underlying belief is that Iron Age Salford represents a site that was continuously occupied from the late Bronze Age until the end of the middle Iron Age. In the late Iron Age a small cremation cemetery was established north of the earlier settlement and in the Roman period, when the area was probably given over to farming, a field barn was erected on the site. From the Saxon period the landscape was transformed and the village of Salford, known from the 12th century, has clearly drawn attention away from the location of the original Neolithic site.

1.4 Structure of the Report

This report presents the data collected during the investigation of Salford in four separate chapters. Chapter 2 comprises the excavated evidence of contextual data, ceramics and non-ceramic finds that form the basis on which the date and character of the site have been determined. A catalogue and analysis of individual groups of data follows: in Chapter 3 artefacts, and Chapter 4, ecofacts. Scientific analysis of both soil micromorphology and clay thin sections are referred to throughout the relevant sections, but the full reports have been included in the site archive, at the request of English Heritage, rather than in this publication. Chapter 5 draws the excavated data together, seeking to discuss the development of the site, emphasising its Iron Age context.

The Salford report is long and two factors have led to the production of such a comprehensive document. The first is that nothing of the scale and range of the Salford site has been published from the Iron Age of the middle Great Ouse drainage, and in this respect this report attempts to make up some of the lost ground of the past 20 years' research into the Iron Age. Secondly the increasing re-analysis of the Iron Age (Parker Pearson 1996) means that this site will provide not only a comparison for other excavations from the same period but will form the basis for its own re-interpretation.

1.5 Plans

The plans in this report mark a departure from the usual hand-drawn archaeological plans insofar as they have been generated by computer using a combination of the archaeological mapping software Gsys, and the Microsoft database Access. Nevertheless, the usual site plans preface the report illustrating Salford in its modern, topographical and geographical setting. Individual phase plans have been prepared for the six main periods of activity and individual structure or group plans have been located with reference to the national grid. Figure 2.3 provides a shortcut plot of all the context groups in the text, and individual groups, regardless of phase, can be located at a glance with reference to this figure.

2 THE EXCAVATION EVIDENCE

2.1 Introduction (Figs 2.1–2.3)

The archaeological evidence at Salford comprises over 4000 contexts, most of which relate to activity in the Iron Age, when the site was dominated by a settlement of roundhouses and four-post structures. There is also significant evidence of activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age as well as the Romano-British period. This chapter describes the temporal development of the site from the Neolithic, phase 1, through to the Roman and Saxon periods, phase 7. Within the broad phasing or periods of activity, the excavated data are presented as a series of context groups which are designated G**. These might represent individual structures, groups of similar features, such as pits, or occasionally individual features, such as a pond, made up of several constituent parts. Occasionally, isolated features are referred to by their context or feature numbers alone.

The lack of vertical stratigraphy, and paucity of contexts for which relationships could be determined has been particularly problematic at Salford. Inevitably, therefore, the dating of activity phases is based on the ceramic assemblage and for this reason the ceramic data from context groups are presented together with the excavated evidence in this section.

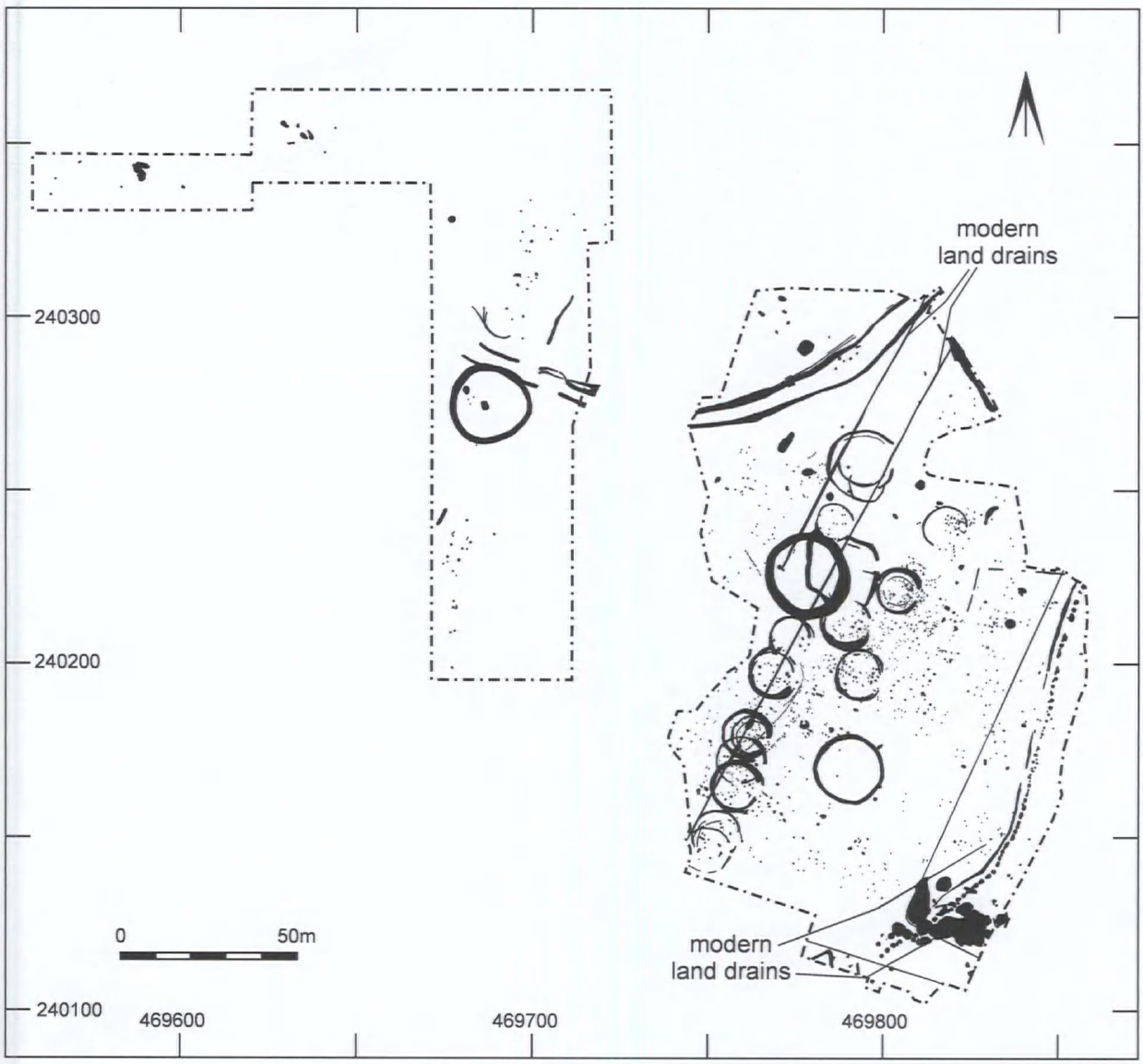


Fig 2.1: Salford all excavated features

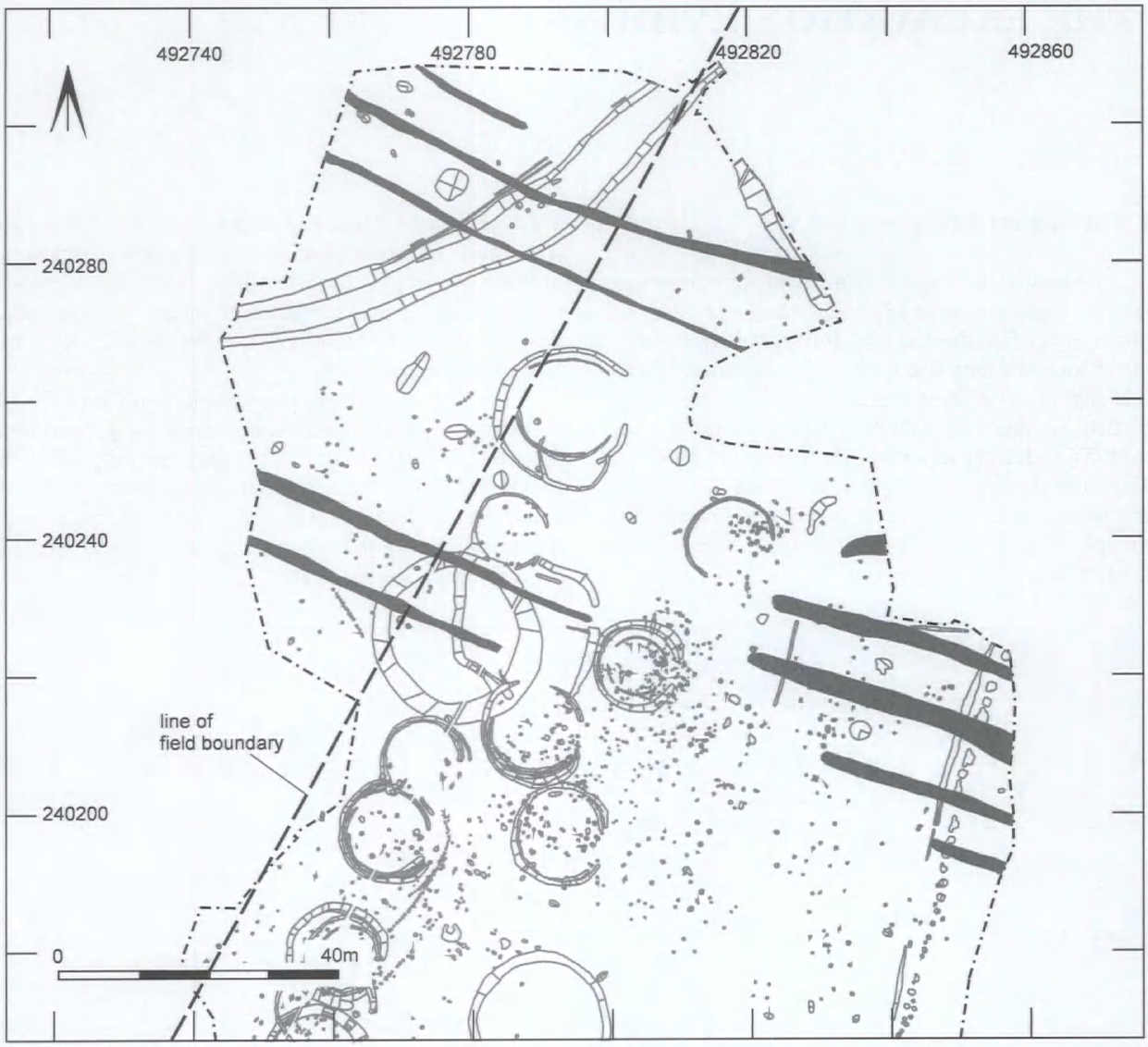


Fig 2.2: Salford medieval furrows and modern field boundaries

The codes for the fabric types, however, are listed in Chapter 3.1. The date ranges assigned to some individual pottery types, though, indicate the ceramics were current over several centuries, probably much longer than the life of individual roundhouses. The result is that we have designated structures and ceramics to broad activity phases. The probability is that, during the Iron Age at least, the two phases of activity represent a sequence of evolution and adaptation of individual structures rather than the foundation of one distinct settlement after another (cf. Allen and Robinson 1993, figs 40 and 41). The earliest occupation activity, phase 3, we believe tends towards the earlier Iron Age because of the constituents of the ceramics assemblage and, for the same reason, phase 4 activity tends towards the middle Iron Age (see Chapter 3 below). At this stage in the development of ceramic analysis and with no scientific dating evidence we cannot be more precise, but the similarity in layout between the two Iron Age periods of occupation reinforces the impression from the ceramics analysis that there may have been no distinct break between phases 3 and 4. It is possible that we are looking at a village occupied nearly continuously for some 700–800 years.

In contrast to the Iron Age, during the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and in the late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods, the changes in the landscape seem more profound, with clearer differences in the character and location of activity.

2.2 Phase 1: Activity during the Neolithic (*c.*3500–2500 BC)

Evidence of the earliest activity at Salford was found in the northern area of the site. It comprised a total of thirteen features in two groups, G67 to the east and G77 to the north-west (Fig 2.4); twelve of the features were pits while one was a tree throw hole, the

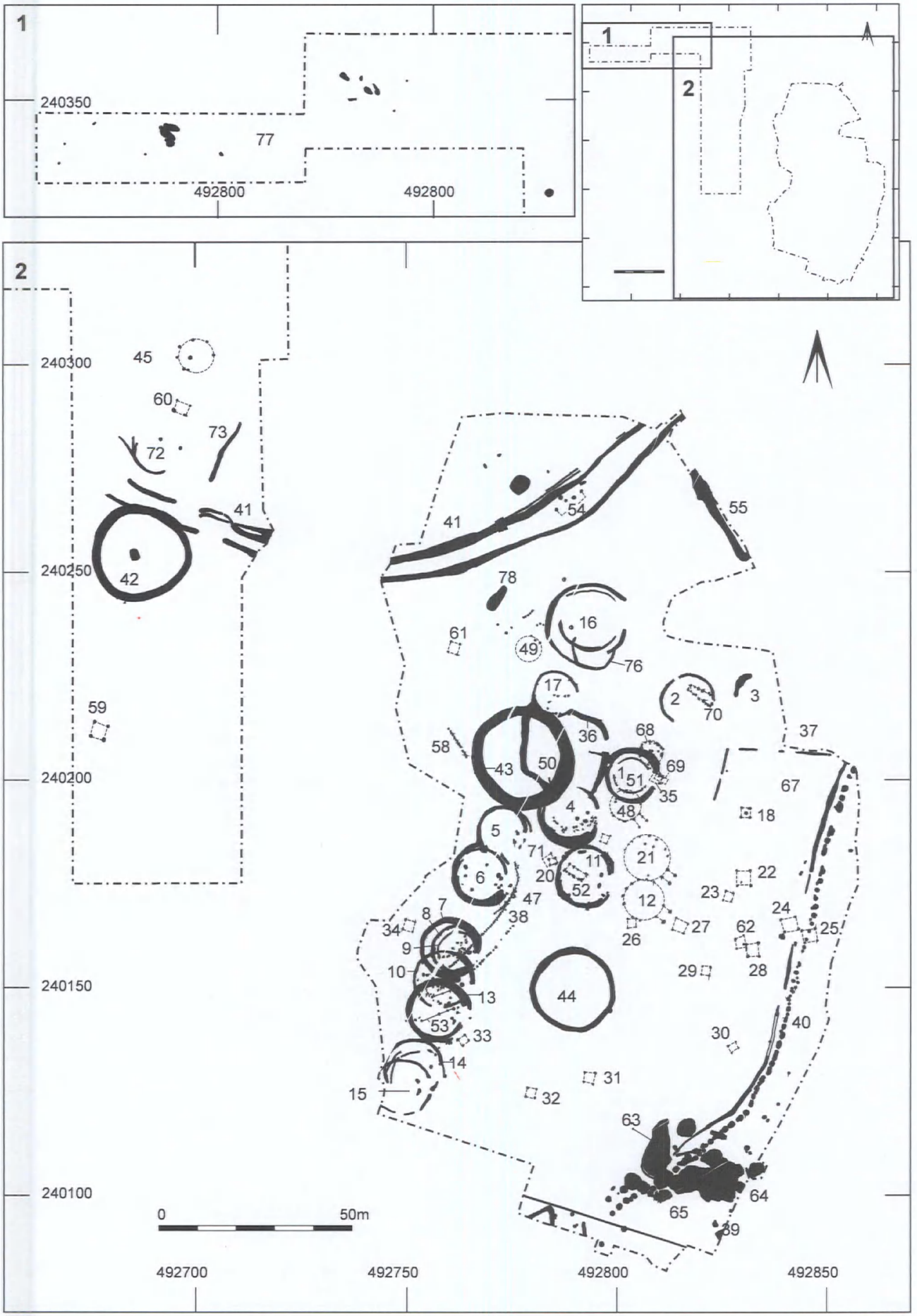


Fig 2.3: Salford, all archaeological groups

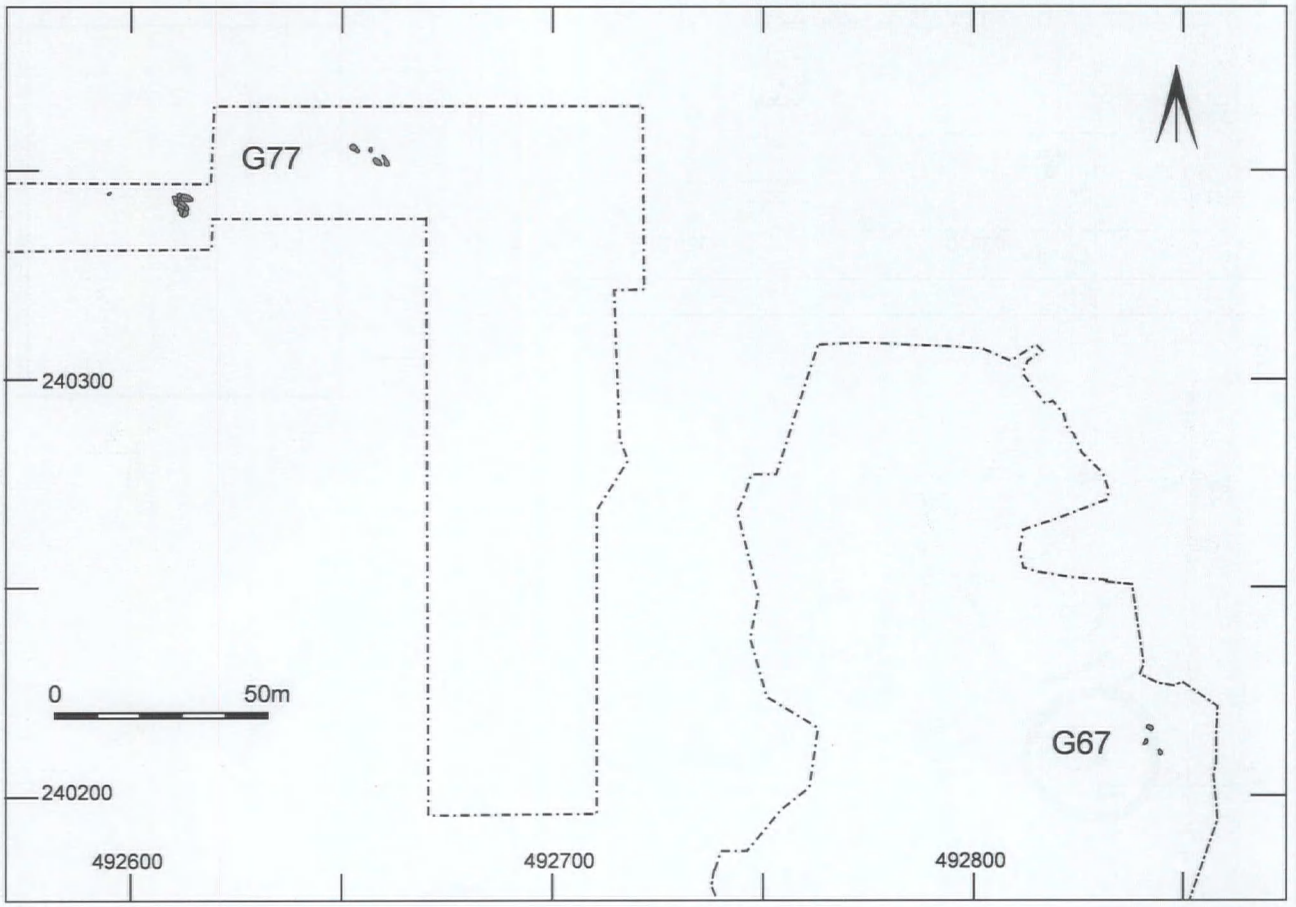


Fig 2.4: Phase 1 the Neolithic

latter in G77. The date of this phase derives from the ceramic assemblage of Peterborough wares found in pit groups G67 and G77. The dating of Peterborough wares has recently been reviewed in the light of radiocarbon dates from Brynderwen and Horton (Thomas 1999, 108). The two dates indicate the earliest currency of Mortlake ceramics occurred *c.*3500–2900 BC while at the other end of the spectrum Peterborough ware may have gone out of use before 2500 BC (Gibson and Kinnes 1997, 67). In the absence of radiocarbon dates from Salford, the date range of the ceramic assemblage provides the only parameters for the date of activity at Salford during the Neolithic.

Pit Groups

The earliest pits at Salford were located in the north-western and eastern area of the excavation. They were not found to be associated with any structural evidence for contemporary settlement, although one of the pits in G77 did contain a large ceramic assemblage.

Pit group G67 comprised three pits [1864], [3520] and [3522] in close proximity to each other (Table 2.1). They were similar in size and shape and may be of similar date and function, although only feature [1864] contained dating evidence. The function of the pits remains uncertain but [3520] and [3522] contained wind-blown silt, including some charcoal, and pit [1864] contained the largest proportion of occupation material.

Feature	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Profile	Fills
1864	1.6m×1.1m	0.7m	Steep sides, irregular	Light greyish brown silt, with some sand towards the base. Contained numerous burnt stones and some charcoal. Finds comprise 33 sherds of Peterborough ware and five undiagnostic struck flints
3520	1.35m×0.9m	0.35m	Gradual to moderate sides, irregular	Mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Finds include 2 small sherds of Iron Age pottery (both <2g in weight); probably intrusive
3522	1.6m×0.7m	0.2m	Irregular	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered

Table 2.1: Pits in G67

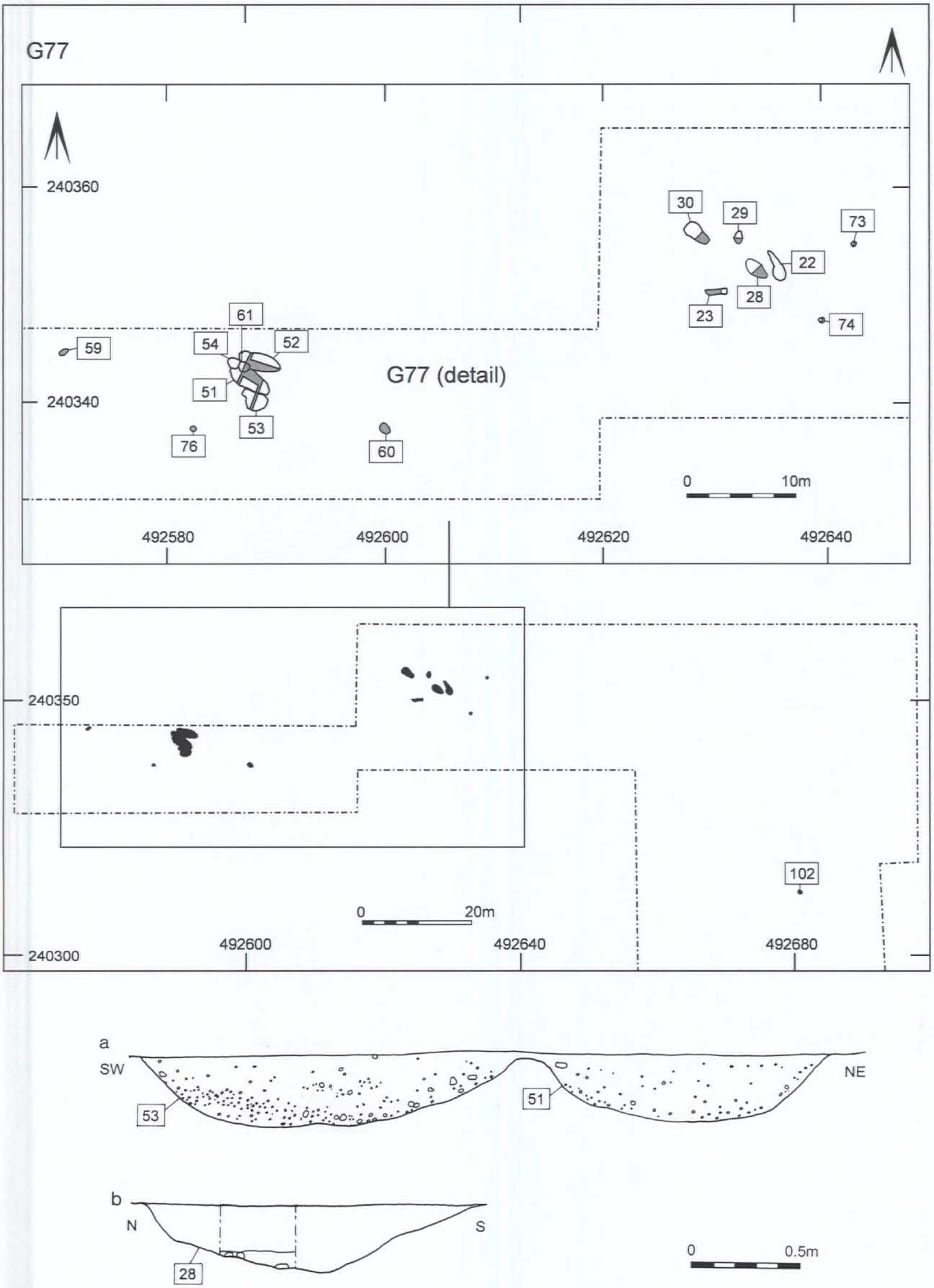


Fig 2.5: Plan of G77 (note limited recording of section in [28])

Feature	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Profile	Fills
28/22				A crescent of black clay, surrounding a patch of disturbed natural, overlying a thin band of black clayey loam. Contained frequent burnt stones and charcoal flecks, and 2 sherds of early prehistoric pottery
30	2.5m×1.4m	0.3m	Irregular	Black silty loam. Contained 41 sherds of early prehistoric pottery and 6 struck flints
29	1.2m×0.5m	0.1m	Irregular	Black loam. Contained 28 sherds of early prehistoric pottery and two struck flints
51, 52, 53, 54, 61				A series of intercutting pits. The fills were too similar to allow differentiation across the features. Dark brown loam. Contained a total of 27 sherds of early prehistoric pottery and 15 struck flints
59				Dark brown loam. Contained 3 sherds of early prehistoric pottery
102	0.8m×0.8m	0.5m		Primary fill comprised yellowish/brownish grey silty loam. Secondary fill comprised dark grey clayey loam, containing 2 sherds of early prehistoric pottery

Table 2.2: Features in G77

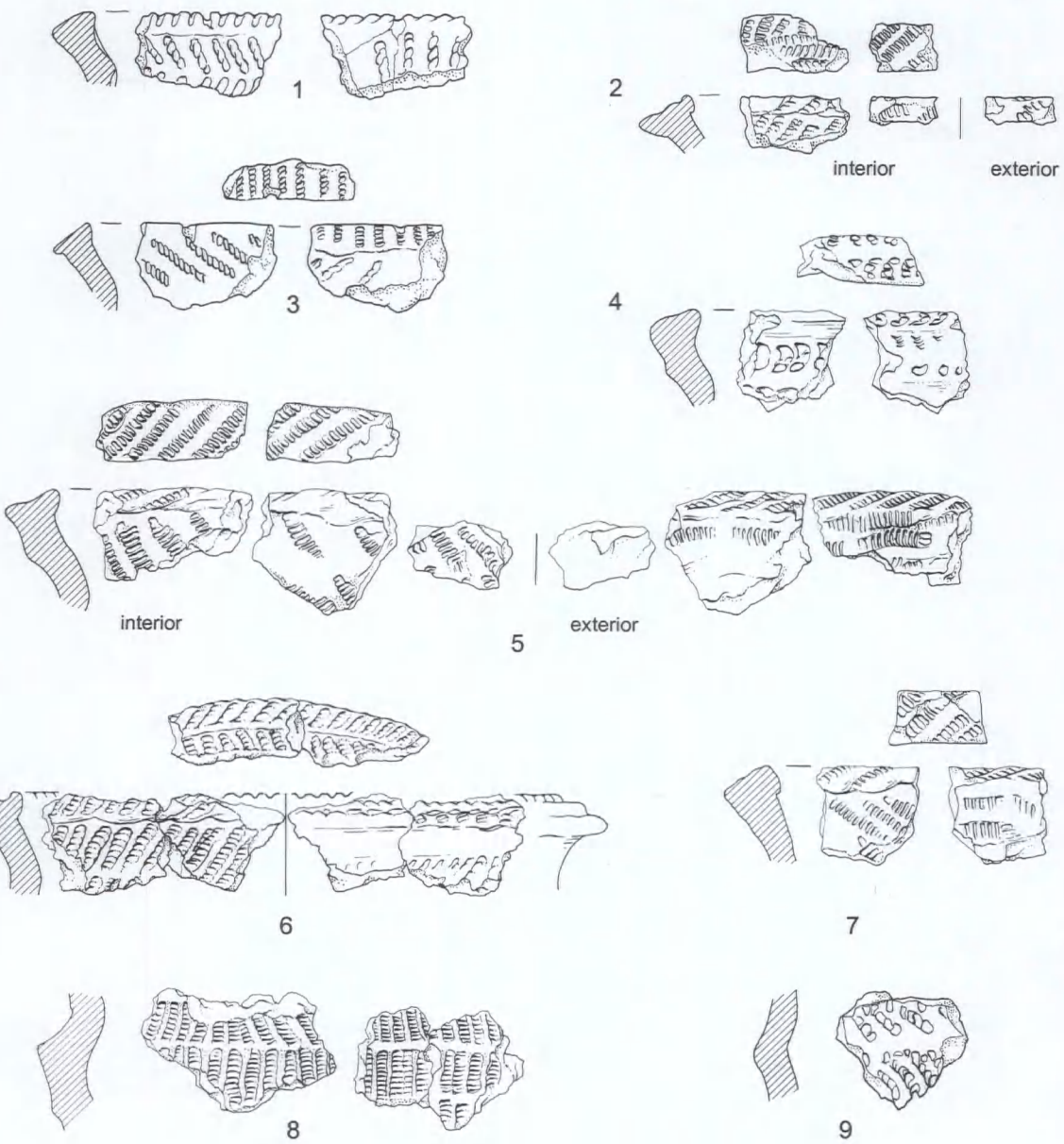


Fig 2.6: Neolithic ceramics nos 1–9 (scale 1:2)

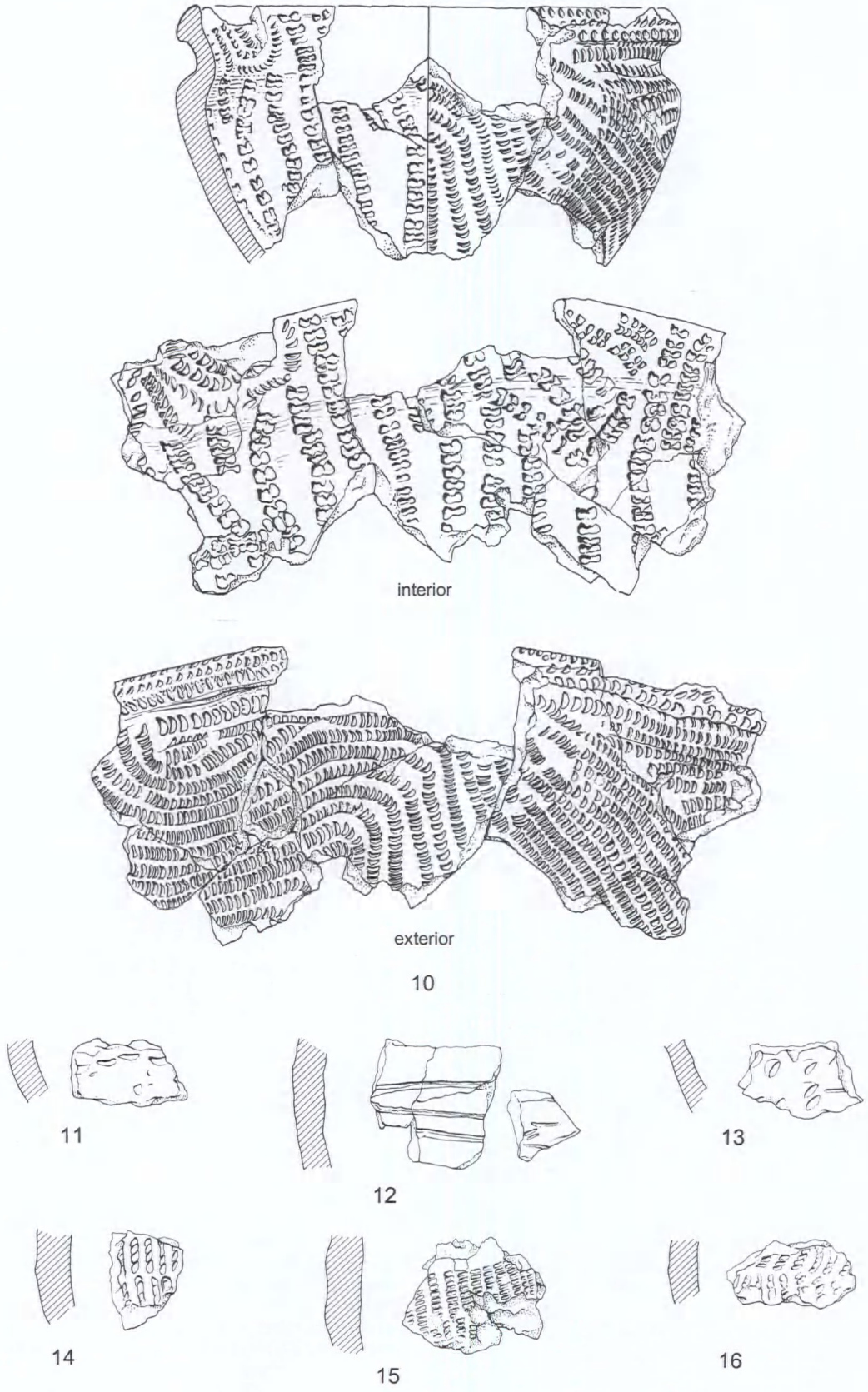


Fig 2.7: Neolithic ceramics nos 10–16 (scale 1:2)

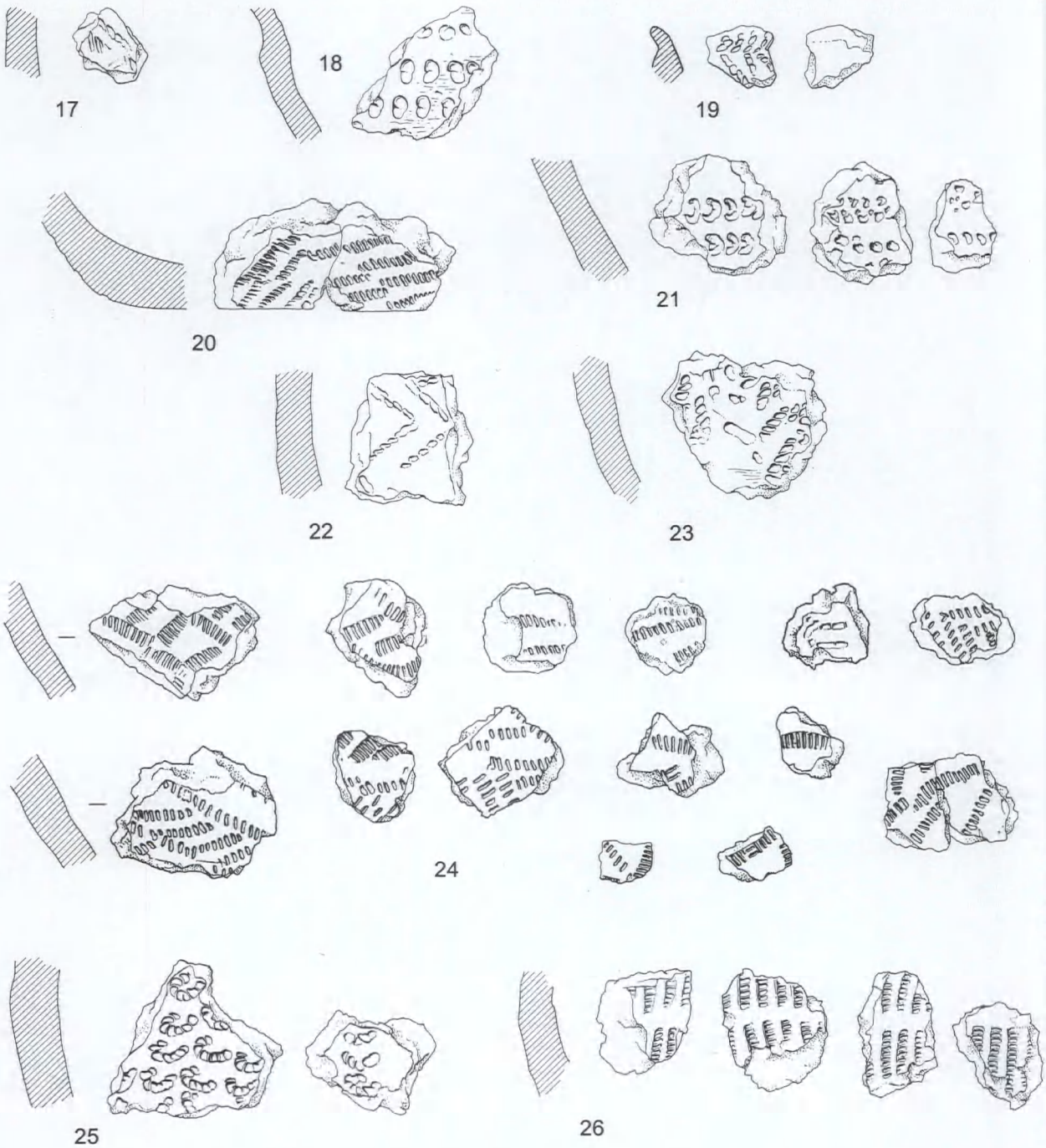


Fig 2.8: Neolithic ceramics nos 17–26 (scale 1:2)

Pit group G77 comprised several features representing prehistoric activity in the north-west area of excavation (Table 2.2).

The majority of features assigned to phase 1 were dated by ceramics, while several more may be contemporary because of their proximity and physical similarity to the dated features. Some disturbance of features in G77 is indicated by the presence of Iron Age and Roman pottery in pits [22], [51], and [102] (Fig 2.5).

Neolithic Ceramics

Ian Kinnes

The Neolithic ceramics from pits [54] G77 (Fig 2.6 nos 2–9, Fig 2.8 nos 20–26, Fig 2.9, nos 27–32) and [1864] G67 (Fig 2.7 no. 10, Fig 2.9 no. 33) are of particular significance. It is an important assemblage for Peterborough ware both locally and nationally since such material tends to be sparse in quantity and infrequent in occurrence. Vessel no. 10 from (1865) pit [1864] is classic Mortlake in its neck profile and prolific impressed decoration, but the schema of the latter is unmatched elsewhere (Fig 2.7). Externally the multiple nested curves and undulations are unique for Mortlake and find no ready match in any other tradition. Internally, where decoration is normally confined to immediately below the rim, the 'ladder' pattern reaching deep within the vessel has not been seen elsewhere, Grooved Ware being the only British Neolithic tradition to have this as an occasional feature. In short, a unique vessel, for which it is tempting, therefore, to assign a special function.

From the fill (185) of pit [54], there is an exceptional group where perhaps 20 vessels are represented (Fig 2.8 nos 20–26, Fig 2.9 nos

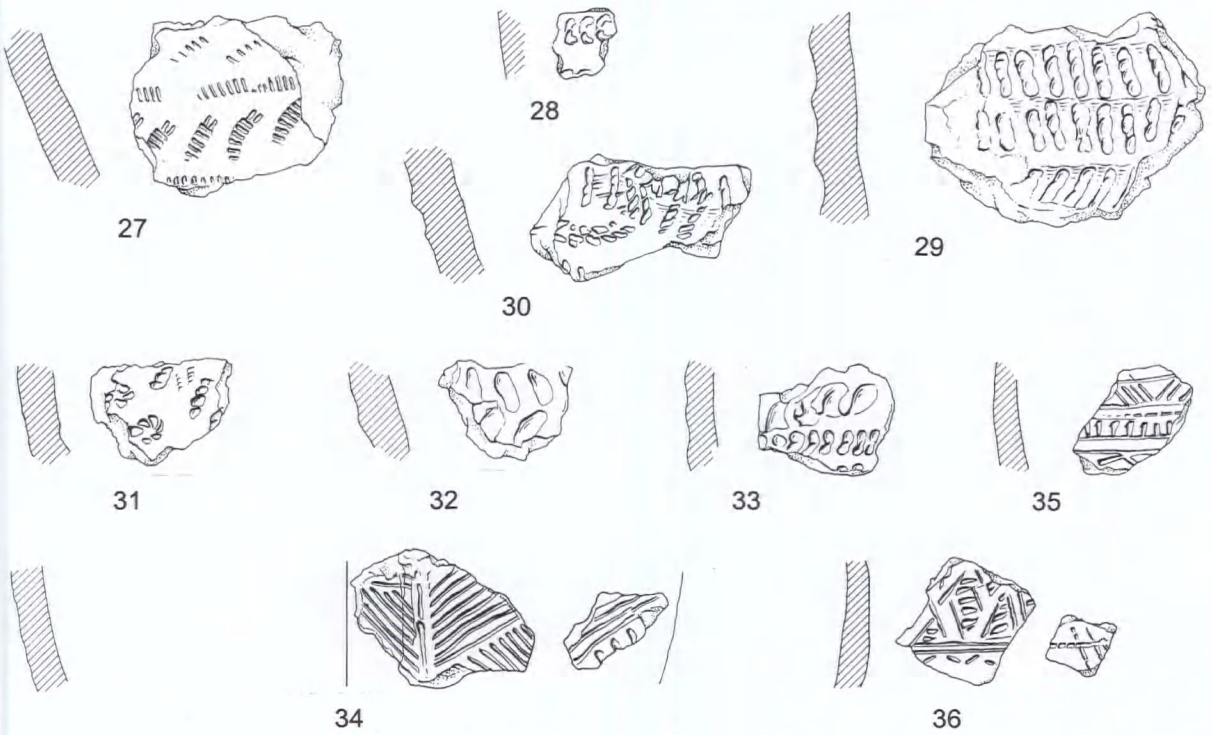


Fig 2.9: Neolithic ceramics nos 27–36 (scale 1:2)

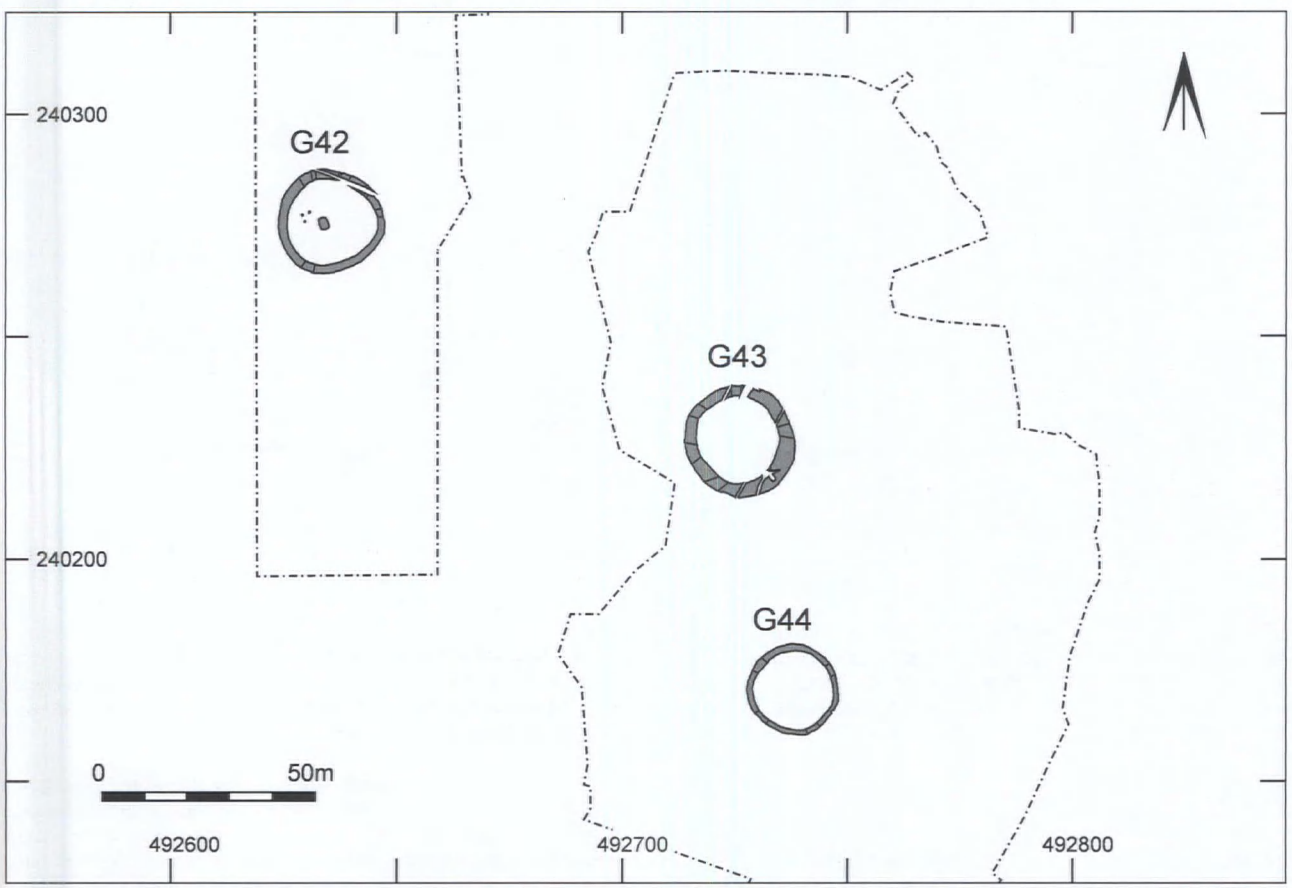


Fig 2.10: Phase 2 Bronze Age

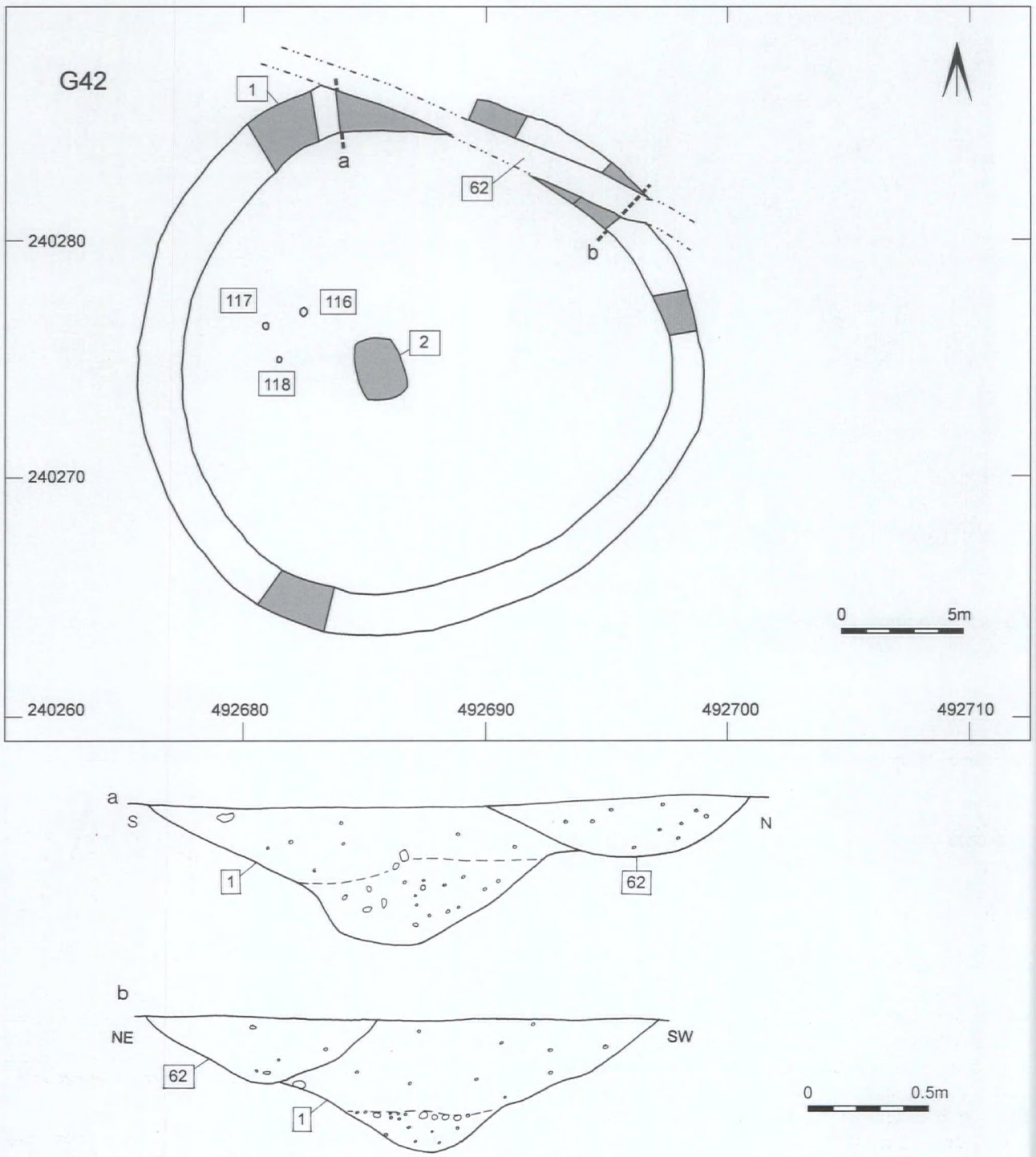


Fig 2.11: Ring ditch G42

27–32). Some caution must be expressed on such numbers since the known eclecticism of Peterborough decoration even on a single pot can be misleading for sherd assemblages. However, allowing for taphonomic processes, it seems that individual vessels are largely represented by small portions only, with forms, decoration and fabrics invoking a kind of thesaurus of the tradition. Curation and selection for specific deposition can be reasonably inferred, as seems apparent in many other Peterborough contexts.

Much of the material listed here as Peterborough Ware is likely to be Mortlake and some perhaps Fengate but the expanded corpus, since Smith's formative work, has cast doubt on the overall mechanism of this tradition (cf. Gibson 1995; Gibson and Kinnes 1997). The sparse presence of Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware (Wainwright and Longworth 1971) and Southern style Beaker (Clarke 1970) is insufficient for comment but again classification needs revision. It should be noted that no cereal impressions or visible organic residues were observed.

Although the majority of the flint recovered from the pits is not diagnostic, it is consistent with a Neolithic date. Four flakes came from pit [1864], one utilised, another a crude end scraper, while a ground axe fragment and multi-platformed core, along with flake debitage, suggests a similar date for pit [54]. In comparison to later phases, the number of tools present in these assemblages is much higher.

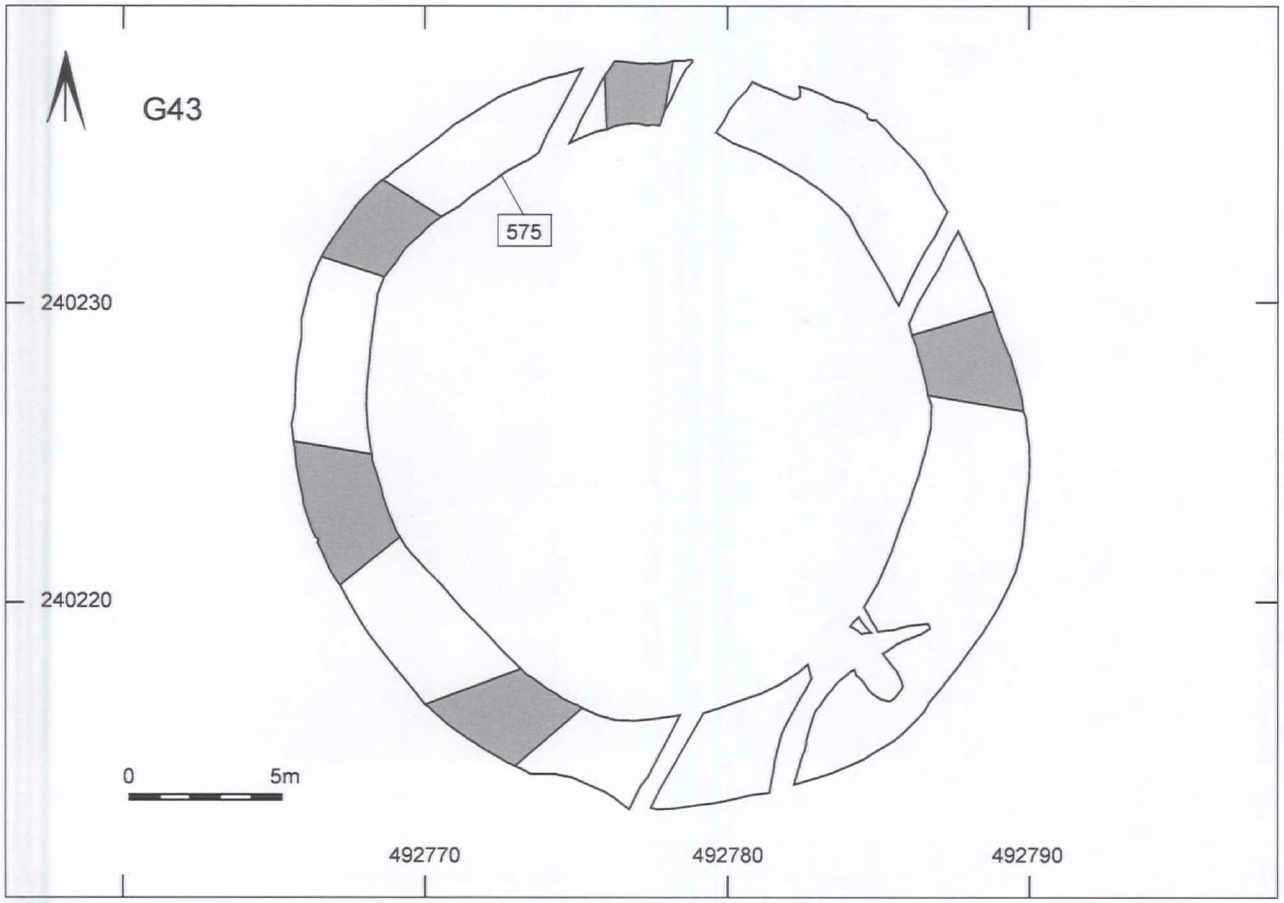


Fig 2.12: Ring ditch G43

2.3 Phase 2: the Bronze Age *c.*2000–700 BC)

Bronze Age activity at Salford was characterised by the construction of three ring ditches on the western side of the excavation. All three, G42, G43 and G44, enclosed areas of *c.*17m–20m in diameter. None contained burials, although the monuments were almost certainly linked to funerary arrangements. The dating evidence, which is slight, suggests they were constructed in the Late Bronze Age. The rings were excavated under salvage conditions and no sections were recorded for G43 (Fig 2.10).

Ring Ditches

Ring ditch G42 comprised a continuous, sub-circular ditch [1], with a near central stone cyst. It had an internal diameter of 19m–20m and enclosed an area of approximately 300m². The ditch varied in width from 1.2m–2.65m and the sides sloped at 30–45° to a narrow, V-shaped base up to 0.65m deep. Approximately 25% of the ditch was excavated, and found to contain a primary fill (82), of mid-brown sandy loam sealed by a secondary deposit (7) of dark brown silts (Fig 2.11). The ring-ditch fills contained 15 pieces of flint debitage and a single end scraper.

Off-centre was a sub-rectangular pit [2], 2.65m long and 1.9m wide, with gradual to moderately steep sides sloping to a flat base only 0.25m deep. Within this pit was an oval arrangement of loosely packed stones, approximately 1.8m long and 1.3m wide, enclosing an area 1.3m long and 0.9m wide. The stones were large, rounded pebbles, 0.1m-0.3m in diameter, with occasionally larger stones. They were covered by a dark brown silt. The pit [2] contained eight debitage flakes and a single fine flint-tempered F01B jar comprising 14 sherds, which, like the stone filling, was covered by a dark brown silt. The sherds are small but all belong to the same vessel and are therefore unlikely to be intrusive.

Three small post holes [116], [117], [118] and a large, oval pit [113] were also located within the circumference of the ring but these were not excavated (and 113 was not planned) so it is not clear whether these were associated with the construction of the monument, or whether they belong with the later Iron Age settlement.

Ring ditch G43 comprised a continuous, near-circular gully [575], with an internal diameter varying from 18m–20m, enclosing an area of approximately 280m². The gully varied in width from 2.2m–4.2m and the sides sloped at 30°–40° to a narrow, V-shaped base 0.4m–1m deep. Some 20% of the gully fill was excavated, and comprised a mid-reddish brown sandy silt. There was no evidence of any features within the circumference of the ring, although the gully and the area within had been disturbed by Iron Age activity (Fig 2.12).

There is no evidence of primary or secondary burial from G43 and while shallow burials within a mound, which did not penetrate the subsoil, may have been ploughed out, or possibly destroyed by the Iron Age settlement, some evidence of the contents might have been expected from the upper fills of the ring ditch. Like G42, the ditch contained only a mix of redeposited natural and contemporary topsoil, with little cultural material. The presence in the upper ditch fills of a small amount of Iron Age pottery suggests that it was still partially open when the Iron Age settlement was established.

Plate 1: Ring ditch G44 from the west

However, settlement structures cut into the backfilled ditch, truncating the centre of the monument, indicate that it had been levelled, possibly deliberately, when the later features were constructed.

The five single sherds of Iron Age date, fabric types F03 and F17, found in the upper fill of the ditch [575] were probably deposited when the drip gullies of round houses G17 or G4, were cut into the upper horizons of the ditches. The flint assemblage contained in the ditch fills is mixed, with an early Neolithic blade and backed knife, and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age debitage and a thumbnail scraper.

Ring ditch G44 comprised a continuous sub-circular ditch [2469], with an internal diameter of 17–18m, enclosing an area of approximately 250m². The ditch varied in width from 1m to 1.8m with a variable profile, gradual to steep sides sloping to a wide flat base except in the north-western segment, where the profile was V-shaped. The depth varied from 0.2m to 0.4m. Approximately 20% of the ditch fill was excavated and comprised light to mid-yellowish brown sandy silt. The fill was truncated by a small pit of probably Iron Age date (Plate 1; Fig 2.13).

In common with G42 and G43 there was no burial evidence, although burials in mound material may have been ploughed out, or destroyed by later, Iron Age, activity. Twelve single sherds of pot were recovered from the ditch fill, Iron Age in date, fragmentary, undiagnostic of form, abraded and weighing an average of 3g. One fragment recorded as fabric F27, could possibly be from a collared urn. It weighs 11g, and is reduced internally with a buff-brown external surface, with very faint decoration, which might be cord-impressed. In addition 8kg of burnt stone was recovered from the ring ditch, and probably originates with Iron Age hearths nearby, when the ditch was still a shallow depression. The flint assemblage from the ring-ditch fills is almost entirely debitage, a mixture of blades, flakes and cores.

Like G43, the Iron Age pottery in G44 suggests that the ditch may have been a shallow depression when the Iron Age settlement was established. The flints, however, hint at edge-derived material, while the presence of a late medieval/post-medieval lace tag, which probably resulted from ploughing or animal burrowing, indicates much later disturbance.

Discussion

The function of the rings is uncertain. Similar monuments are known from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age based on radiocarbon dates, for example, Bell Slack, Grindale, Humberside, dated 3000 BC (cited in Megaw and Simpson 1979, 260) and Simon's Ground barrow B, Dorset, dated to the late 2nd millennium BC (White 1982, 41). The most common dates are early Bronze Age, and the presence of the putative collared urn fragment would agree with this. However, the other ceramic evidence, in the form of the flint-tempered F01B sherds in pit [2], suggests that G42, at least, may not have been constructed until some time in the very latest Bronze Age, possibly even in the early Iron Age (see section 3.1, Fabric use through time).

The Salford ring 'cyst', G42, certainly contained no burial evidence and the nature of the soil allowed for reasonably good bone preservation elsewhere, so it is unlikely to have led to the total decay of bone material here. While it is possible that the stones were the base of a platform, possibly part of an excarnation rite (Carr and Knüsel 1997), or that burial above subsoil level had been dispersed, this is unlikely as no human bone has been recovered. The ring ditch itself may have remained fully open for only a very short period; there is no evidence for recutting while the fill contained only a single thumbnail scraper and natural silts.

2.4 Phase 3: the Early Iron Age (*c.*9th century BC–5th century BC)

The third phase of activity at Salford occurred during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, a period dated by the ceramics assemblage to between the 9th century BC and the 5th century BC (see pp.105–6).

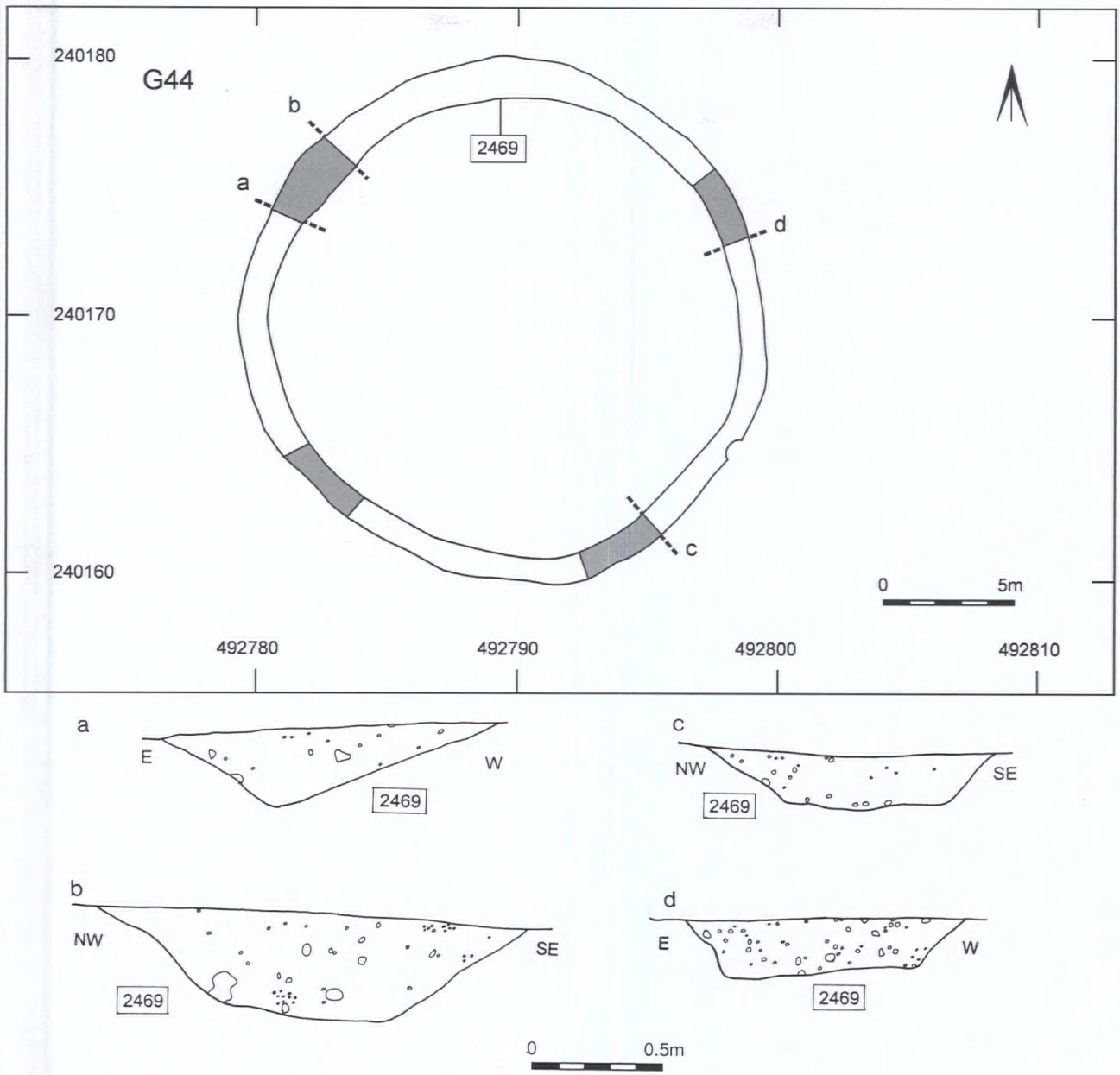


Fig 2.13: Ring ditch G44

It was a period when several round and rectangular structures and four-post structures were constructed, forming a settlement which may have been partially enclosed. On the upper slopes of the site the northern boundary comprised a pair of near parallel ditches while on the east, pits and a ditch followed a sinuous course close to the edge of the excavation some 30m away from the main settlement area.

In addition to the structure of the settlement there were two deposits that may have been of ritual significance. One from pit [1322], found beneath four-post structure, G18, comprised a large ceramics assemblage, 20 vessels represented by 25 sherds, and an antler, while the second was another large deposit of ceramics, a single vessel of 16 sherds, 87g, and a small sherd from a second vessel, in a post hole [1862] in roundhouse G68 (Fig 2.14).

Linear boundaries

In phase 3 Salford was partially enclosed within a complex boundary of several elements. This arrangement is not directly comparable with other sites in the region, where enclosure commonly involves single or double encircling ditches.

In the early Iron Age Salford was partially enclosed. On the eastern side was a section of **boundary, G40**, comprising a near parallel ditch and pit alignment (Fig 2.15), while in the north was a length of double **ditches G41**.

The pit alignment, 86 pits of which were recorded, ran parallel to the eastern limit of excavation for 86m before turning sharply through 45° to the south-west, where it ran for 40m through an area disturbed by later pits, G39, G63, G64, G65, G66. The pits in the alignment were close together, in some cases almost intercut, and varied in size from 0.45m × 0.35m to 2.7m × 1.65m. Fifty-four of these features (Table 2.3) were half sectioned; most had steep or vertical sides, 0.1m–0.5m deep.

Feature	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Profile	Fills
2004	2m×0.8m	0.4m	Moderately steep sides, V-shaped profile	Dark greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
2006	0.8m×0.5m	0.3m	Near vertical sides sloping to rounded base	Dark greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
2008	1.2m×1.15m		——Not Recorded ——	Dark greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
2904	——Truncated——		Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark grey clay
2906	1.2m×0.95m	0.35m	Steep/near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark grey clay
2908	0.95m×0.85m	0.5m	Overhanging sides and a flat base	Dark grey clay
2910	1.5m×1.45m	0.5m	Moderate sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay
3003	1.4m×1.35m	0.6m	Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Mid-grey clay
3005	1.05m×1m	0.55m	Near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark grey clay
3011	1.5m×1.2m	0.6m	Steep/near vertical sides sloping to an irregular base	Dark brown silty loam with greenish mottles
3300	1.15m×1.05m	0.3m	Steep sided with an irregular profile	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3302	1.1m×1m	0.2m	Steep sides sloping to an irregular base	Mid-yellowish brown clay
3304	0.4m×0.35m	0.1m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3306	0.7m×0.65m	0.15m	Irregular, asymmetrical profile	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3310	0.65m×0.65m	0.15m	Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3312	0.65m×0.6m	0.15m	Irregular, asymmetrical profile	Dark yellowish brown clay
3396	0.8m×0.65m	0.1m	Moderate sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3398	0.55m×0.45m	0.05m	Flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay
3414	1.25m×1.05m	0.3m	Steep/near vertical sides and a sloping base	Light yellowish brown sandy silt
3416	1m×0.9m	0.5m	Steep/near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt
3418	0.9m×0.75m	0.3m	Steep sides sloping to an uneven base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3420	Truncated	0.3m	Uncertain sides, flat base	Mid-yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3422	Truncated	0.35m	Near vertical sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3428	1.3m×1.15m	0.45m	Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Primary fill of mid-yellowish brown sandy silt. Secondary fill of dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3430	Uncertain	0.45m	Steep to vertical sides sloping to a narrow, rounded base. Has the appearance of a post hole	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3432	1m×0.9m	0.2m	Moderate/steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3434	0.5m×0.45m	0.1m	Flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and some burnt clay
3436	1.25m×0.9m	0.2m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3438	1.45m×1m	0.5m	Steep sides sloping to an irregular base	Primary fill of mid-yellowish brown sandy silt. Secondary fill of dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3440	0.85m×0.75m	0.3m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3444	0.85m×0.5m	0.1m	Flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3446	0.8m×0.5m	0.15m	Near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3448	1m×0.55m	0.3m	Near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3460	0.55m×0.5m	0.25m	Near vertical sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3462	0.65m×0.55m	0.15m	Moderate sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3464	0.85m×0.45m	0.2m	Moderate sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3466	0.95m×0.65m	0.25m	Moderate sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3468	0.9m×0.7m	0.35m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3470	Truncated	0.4m	Uncertain	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3472	Truncated	0.3m	Uncertain	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3474	Truncated	0.5m	Uncertain	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3476	Truncated	0.45m	Uncertain	Dark yellowish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3481	0.65m×0.55m	0.1m	Irregular base	Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
3492	1.5m×0.05m	0.45m	Moderately steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Primary fill of mid-yellowish brown sandy silt. Secondary fill of dark yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
3495	0.65m×0.65m	0.35m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt
3497	0.8m×0.8m	0.2m	Moderate sides sloping to an irregular base	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
3499	0.75m 0.7m	0.45m	Steep sides sloping to a pointed base	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
3502	1.3m 1.2m	0.5m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks

Feature	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Profile	Fills
3504	Truncated	0.3m	Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Dark brown sand
3704	1.2m 1.1m	0.5m	Steep sides sloping to a narrow, flat base	Dark grey clay with occasional charcoal flecks
3741	1.3m 1.05m	0.5m	Steep sides sloping to a rounded base	Mid-greyish brown loam with occasional charcoal flecks
3743	1m 0.95m	0.65m	Steep, vertical or overhanging sides and a rounded base	Primary fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. Secondary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy silt
3751	1.2m 0.9m	0.5m	Steep sides sloping to a narrow, rounded base	Primary fill of yellowish green sand. Secondary fill of yellowish green sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
3756	Truncated	0.35m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Primary fill of yellow sand. Secondary fill of mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks

Table 2.3: Pits excavated in G40

	EIA					MIA			
F no.	F01A	F01B	F02	F03	F28	F29	F16	F17	F27	F30
2004				1:1:1	2:2:2		2:2:7			
2008					2:3:2					
2908	1:1:28			3:50:264	2:2:23	1:1:1		1:1:4		
3003				2:2:10	1:1:7					1:1:15
3005					1:5:1					
3011				1:1:2	1:1:7			1:4:14		
3300				1:1:1						
3312	1:5:46				1:1:5	1:1:1				
3396				1:1:7		1:1:13				
3414		1:1:1		1:1:2	1:1:1			4:4:6	3:3:5	
3418				1:1:4						
3420								1:1:9		
3428				1:1:5						
3432		2:2:7			2:2:3	1:1:2	3:6:2			
3434					2:2:4					
3438				1:1:4				2:2:1		
3440					1:2:2		2:2:2			
3444		1:1:1			3:4:41		5:5:6		4:4:5	
3452 (ditch)				2:2:30	3:3:16		2:3:12	2:2:10	1:1:20	
3460				1:1:5	2:2:9		2:4:10			
3470					3:5:20		4:5:24	2:2:5	2:2:14	
3472					2:2:4		1:1:1			
3474									1:1:2	
3492	1:1:7			2:3:11	2:2:11		1:1:2			
3495				2:2:2	1:1:3		3:3:9			
3502		1:1:2		2:2:6						
3508 (ditch)		2:2:5	1:1:9	7:7:12	2:2:8		7:7:19			
3704						1:2:2		1:1:2	2:2:3	
3741				1:1:4	2:2:10		1:1:16			
3743						1:1:8	3:3:8			

Table 2.4: Pottery from the pit alignment G40 (vessel:sherd:weight g)

The adjacent ditch, sections [4046], [4044], [4048], [3508], [3452], ran roughly parallel to the pit alignment, 0.5–2.7m to the west with several gaps or causeways. The ditch was on average only 0.6m wide, but in parts reached up to 1.4m across. Only approximately 10% of the ditch was excavated; and its sections found to have variable profiles from gradual to steep sides with concave or uneven bases, 0.1m to 0.4m deep. There was only a single fill of dark yellow-brown silt. The excavated ditch sections [4046], [4044], [4048], [3508], [3452] were described but not planned.

Despite limited excavation and recording, a large assemblage of pottery was recovered from the pits and ditch sections (Table 2.4): 147 vessels, represented by 219 sherds, the majority single sherds. One pit [3313] yielded a spearhead (Rf 51) probably of later Bronze Age date (*c.*1200–600 BC). It was in a fragmentary and abraded condition and may have been redeposited.

There is no perceptible deposition of complete vessels, either whole or broken, in the fills of pits, as is common in other pit alignments (Pollard 1996, 111) or, for example, at Biddenham Loop, near Bedford (Albion in prep a). However, a number of substantial fragments, all of Iron Age date, were recovered (Fig 2.16 nos 37–47), and from the preponderance of carinated forms the date of the filling of the pits is likely to be in the early Iron Age. Commonly dating to the middle Iron Age (Pollard 1996, 110), the pit alignment at Salford is clearly an early example.

To the north of the pit and ditch alignment G40, was a short stretch of **ditch G55**. This was probably part of the same boundary as G40. It was visible only in the north-east corner of the site where it ran parallel to the edge of the excavation for nearly 24.5m. The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east but turned sharply through 90° to the north-west at the south-eastern end. Varying in width from 1.35m to 3.35m, it was steep sided with an uneven profile,

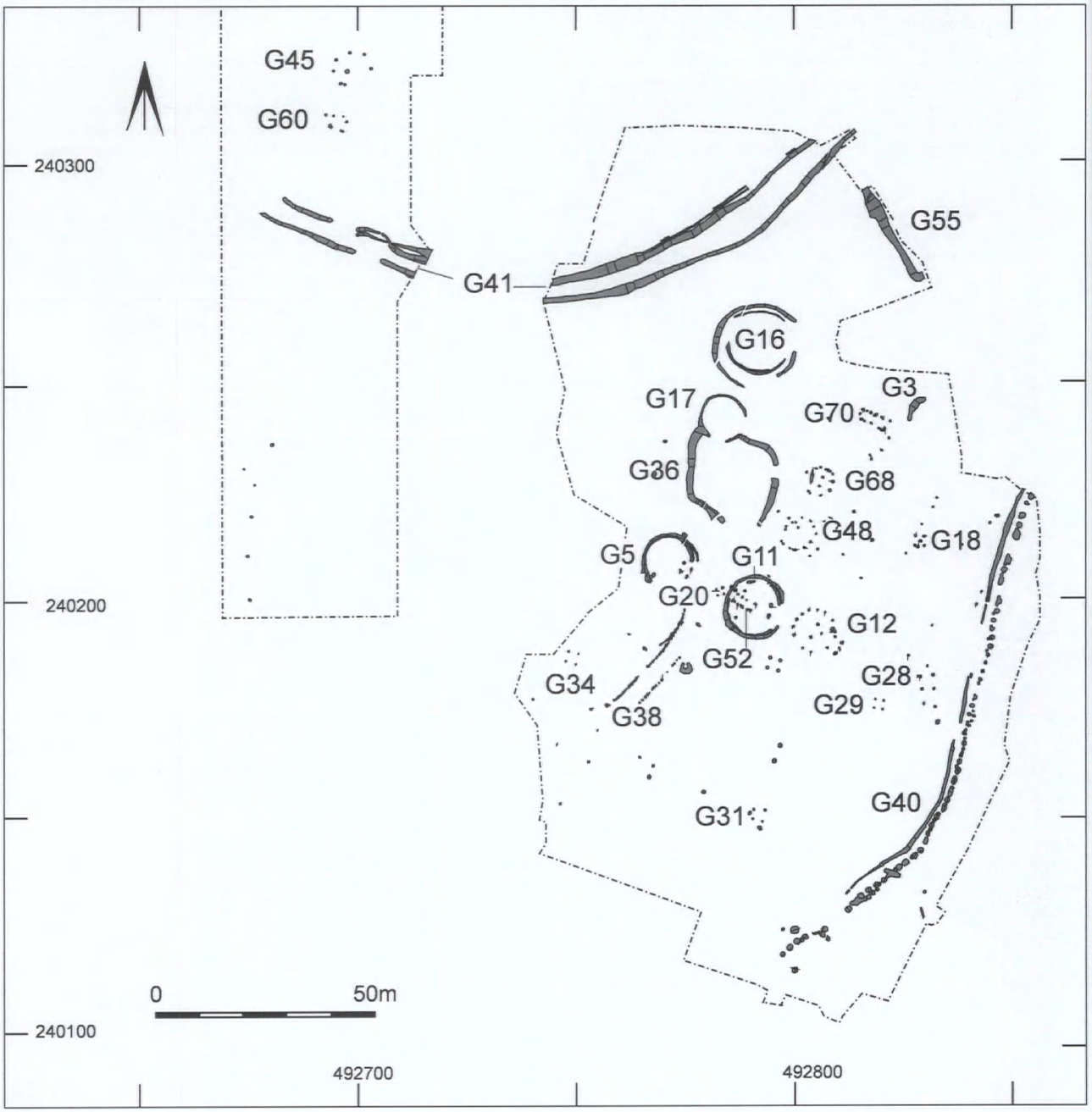


Fig 2.14: Phase 3 Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age

0.55m deep in the northern section, 0.6m deep in the centre while the southern section was V-shaped, some 0.9m deep (Fig 2.17).

A relatively small quantity of pottery was recovered from G55 (Table 2.5): 19 vessels, comprising 30 sherds, weighing 125g (not illustrated). Most of the sherds are undiagnostic body sherds, and it is only the presence of an ovoid jar that indicates it may still have been open in the middle Iron Age.

	EIA		MIA		
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F16**	**F17**	**F27**
792	9:14:80	1:1:4	1:3:3	5:8:15	3:4:23

Table 2.5: Pottery from G55 ditched enclosure (vessels:sherds:weight g)

North of the settlement area and forming the northern boundary was **G41**. This **curvilinear boundary**, comprising two parallel ditches, 3m to 4m apart, was visible for some 150m. A gap of approximately 30m between two stretches of the alignment was a result of overzealous machining during topsoil removal, and initially the ditches had probably been continuous throughout (Fig 2.18).

Approximately one-third of the ditches of **G41** were excavated. They were found to contain dark yellow-brown silts. The southern ditch [62] and [350], varied in width from 0.75m-2.25m at the surface, and at its west end its profile was asymmetrical, sloping to a concave base 0.25m deep. In the east it was steep sided with a V-shaped profile, 0.3m-1m deep. A recut section [63] was 1m wide, with steep sides to a narrow, concave base, 0.4m deep.

Several sections of the northern part of the ditch were excavated [3], [55], [66], [56] and [724] indicating that the initial cut [65]

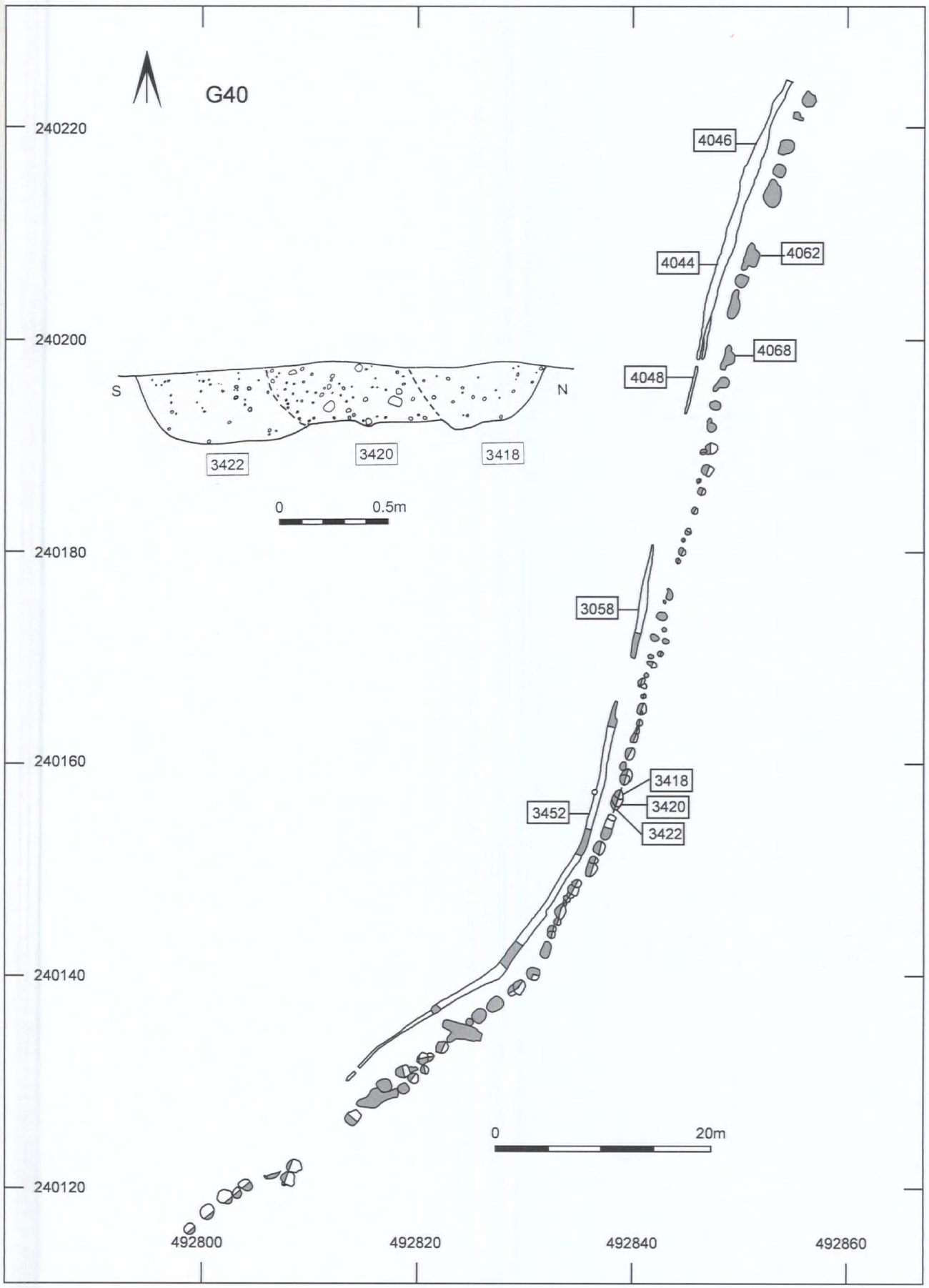


Fig 2.15: Boundary G40

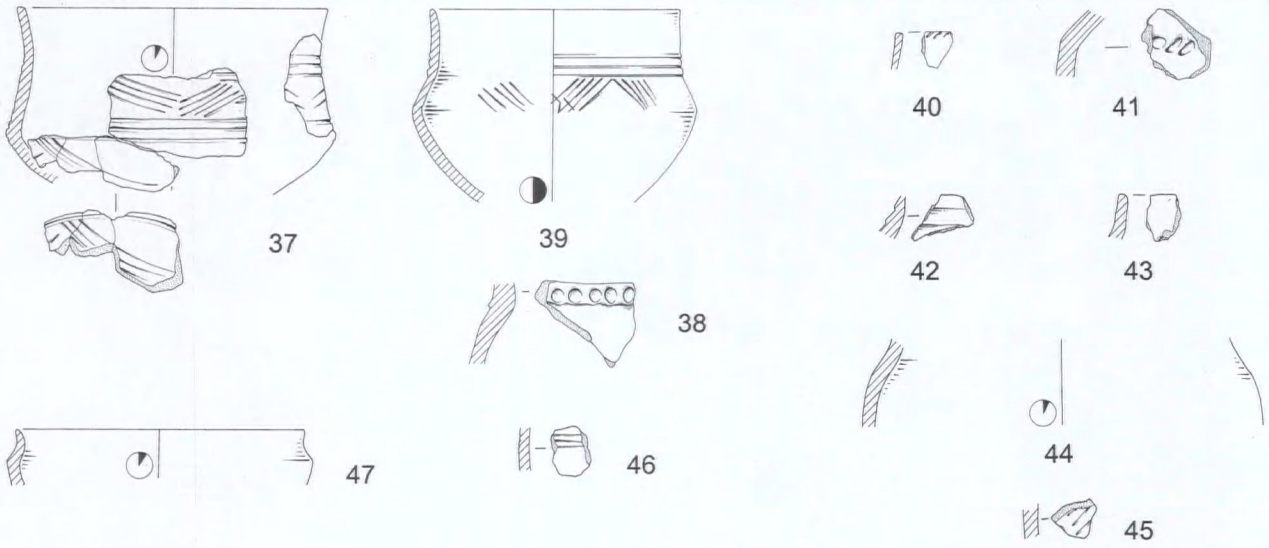


Fig 2.16: Iron Age ceramics in G40 nos 37–47 (scale 1:4)

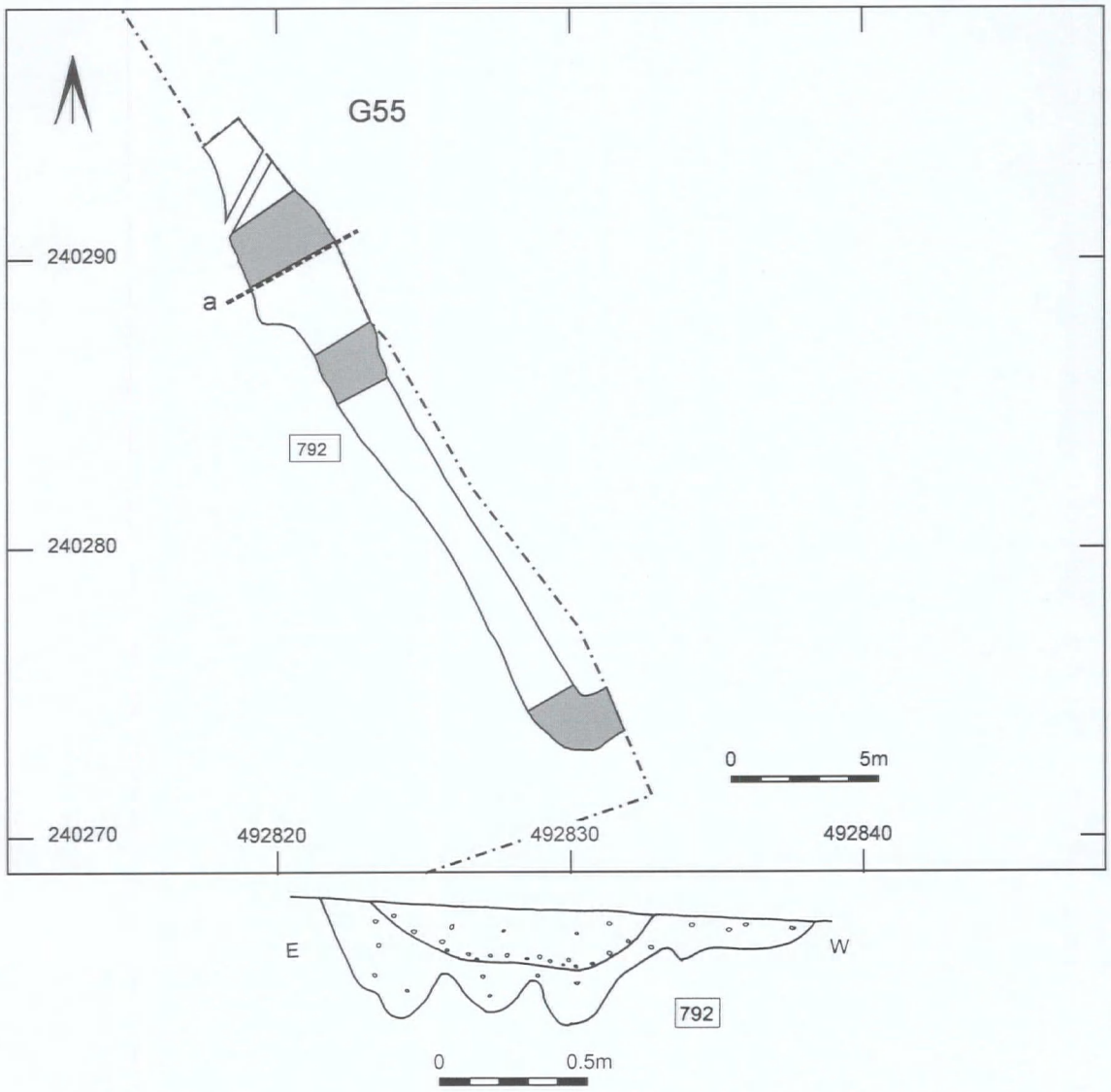


Fig 2.17: Boundary G55

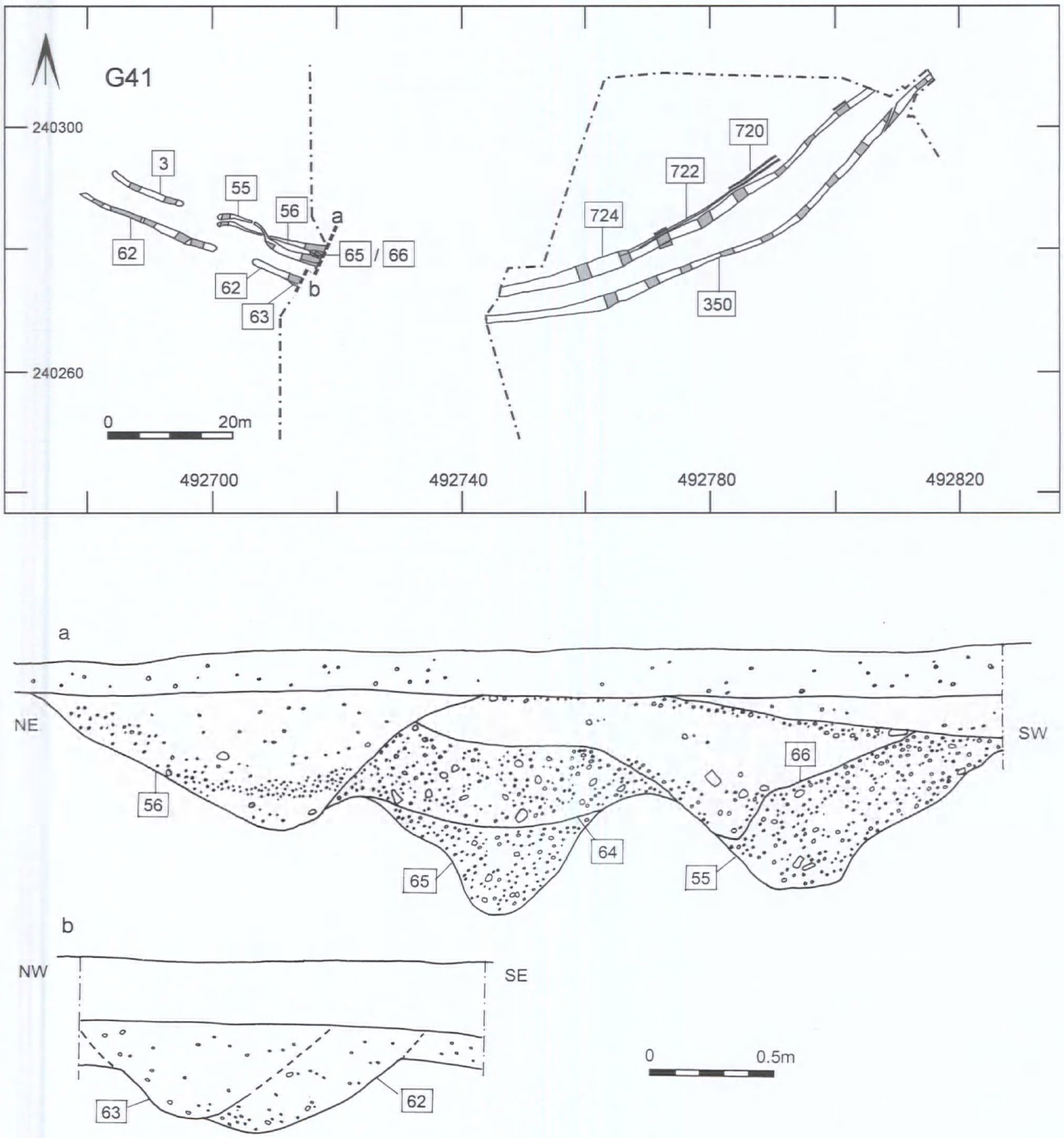


Fig 2.18: Boundary G41

may have been replaced by ditch [55], which in turn had been recut [66] and later straightened as ditch [56]. The fills throughout were brown silts.

Two shallow ditches [722] and [720] were recorded intermittently to the north of this boundary group. Between 0.3m and 0.6m apart, they were 0.3m–0.4m wide with steep sides and U-shaped profiles but only some 0.15m deep. In contrast to the earlier ditches, they were filled by dark grey loam.

In total, 37 vessels were recovered from G41 (Table 2.6), 10 from the northern ditch and 27 from the southern ditch (not illustrated). The vessels comprise single sherds, with the exception of four tiny fragments of a samian vessel, possibly the results of a single crushed sherd, found in the upper fill of the southern ditch. The assemblage is fragmentary and the sherds are small, weighing an average of only 2.9g. The earliest fills of both ditches contain pottery of early Iron Age date, defined by fabric; only one sherd from the southern ditch is diagnostic of form, a carinated bowl. From the northern ditch came a fragment of handled jar, in fabric F17, from the upper fill. A small quantity of pottery, four sherds, of middle Iron Age date was recovered from the upper fills of both ditches (745) (765) and (780).

Although most of the pottery is of early Iron Age date, the upper fill of the southern ditch (351) and the fill of its recut (191) also contained Roman pottery. This suggests the boundary remained a visible depression, perhaps retaining a significance that was important to the location of the late Iron Age cemetery, G54, in phase 5.

	EIA				MIA			RB	
F no.	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F27**	**R01B**	**R07B**
N ditch									
66		2:2:8				1:1:4			
56		1:1:1				1:1:1	1:1:1		
55			1:1:6						
724		1:1:4							
724 (upper fill)						2:2:16			
S ditch									
62	1:1:3	4:4:14	3:3:9	2:2:5		10:10:10			
63								1:4:2	
350							2:2:11		
350 (upper fill)			1:1:6	1:1:6	1:1:3				1:1:6

Table 2.6: Pottery from G41, the double ditch boundary (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Roundhouse and Avenue

On the western side of the settlement area lay a roundhouse, G5, distinguished by a parallel arc of posts which appears to form a curving avenue or trackway leading to it. This form of structured approach is unprecedented locally and comparable examples have been sought from contemporary sites across Britain.

Roundhouse G5 comprised a circular building partially enclosed by a drainage gully. Two pairs of south-east-facing entrance posts indicate the orientation of the building. The drip gully was excavated in sections [1530], [1531], [1532], in which at least two phases of recutting were visible. The recut, from 10.5m to 11.5m in diameter, shows a broadening of the gully and a divergence at the western terminal. The gully varied from 0.25m–1.3m wide with a U-shaped profile up to 0.35m deep and was filled by a single mixed grey-yellow sandy silt (Figs 2.19, 2.20).

Two pairs of post holes, 2m apart, probably forming an entrance, were located in line with the outermost gully [1532]. Of the outer pair, one [1565] was oval, 0.6m × 0.35m, 0.15m deep, with a fill of mid-grey-brown sand; and in the other [4701] it was evident the post had been replaced. The second pair of posts [1569] and [1563] were 2m inset from the outer posts and were aligned with gullies [1530] and [1531]. These post holes were 2.2m apart; one [1569] was circular 0.6m diameter and 0.13m deep, the other [1563] oval, 0.56m × 0.38m wide, some 0.05m deep. The latter had also been replaced by an oval post hole 0.62m × 0.31m, 0.15m deep [1561].

A very large assemblage of pottery, 409 vessels represented by 516 sherds, was recovered mainly from the encircling gully of [G5] (Fig 2.21 nos 48–75) with a single small, plain, body sherd in fabric type F03 in the fill of post hole [1565] (Table 2.7).

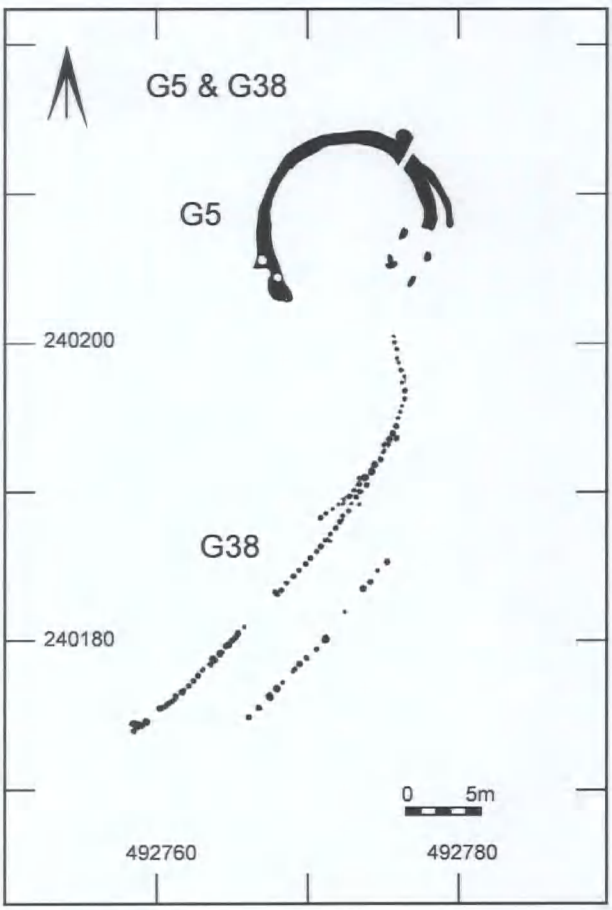


Fig 2.19: Roundhouse G5 and avenue G38

	EIA				MIA			
F no.	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
1530/1531 inner gully	3:3:16	75:79:283	43:53:197	6:6:47	13:20:74	63:76:468	2:13:51	26:40:185
1532 outer gully	1:1:4	59:67:385	32:41:171	1:1:5	9:30:107	55:60:168	2:2:19	18:23:97
1565		1:1:7						

Table 2.7: Pottery from roundhouse G5 (vessel: sherd: weight g)

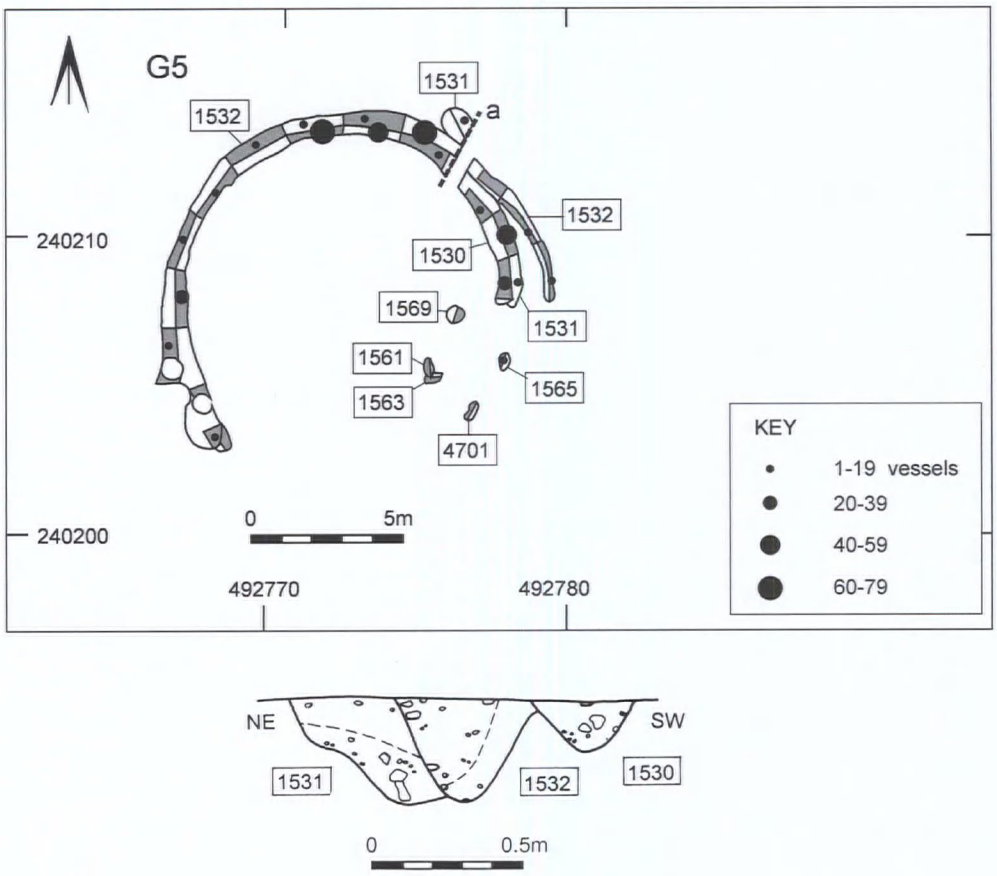


Fig 2.20: Roundhouse G5

Most of the pottery comes from the inner gully, though there is no significant difference in fabric type between pottery found in the inner and outer gullies. The percentages of carinated and furrowed vessels are also similar at 17.75% and 15.25% respectively. The presence of ovoid forms in the inner gully, however, although in very small quantities (two vessels represented by three sherds) and their absence from the outer gully, does suggest that the inner gully was filled later than the outer. The majority of vessels are represented by single sherds, weighing on average 4.46g. Only a single vessel was represented by more than one sherd, from the outer gully [1532]. It was an F03 vessel, undiagnostic of form, which comprised four sherds with an average weight 13.5g (not illustrated). Five vessels from the inner gully had over three sherds weighing more than 5g, the most complete of which was an F17 jar (Fig 2.21 no. 65) of five sherds with an average weight of 9.8g. A small surface (1545) within G5 had a sherd from the same carinated vessel (not illustrated) occurring in (1475), part of the G5 gully [1532].

The degree of fragmentation of the assemblage suggests deliberate deposition of a mixed assemblage of primary, more complete, and secondary, small and fragmentary, material into the gullies. None of the sherds are abraded. Lastly a fragment from a circular ceramic object (Fig 2.21 no. 52) recovered from the outer gully [1532], had possibly been used as a stand for another vessel.

In addition to the ceramic material, the drip gully [1530-1532], contained 14kg of burnt stone, 22g of hearth lining and a small ferrous hearth bottom. Although not *in situ*, the burnt stone and hearth bottom suggest the proximity of an iron-smithing hearth. The hearth material may indicate this activity was small-scale reworking; the presence of a whetstone (Rf 28) suggests this may have included bladed implements.

The presence of pottery in the drip gullies of houses has been frequently commented upon (Parker Pearson 1996), and most assemblages occur around the entrance, either through frequent sweepings of the interior through the doorway (Gwilt 1997) or as 'special deposits' (Parker Pearson and Richards 1994). The distribution of the assemblage in G5 does not conform to this pattern, as most of the pottery occurs within the north-west quarter of the gully, although the southern part of the gully of G5 has been cut away by the gully of G6.

Avenue G38 On the southern side of roundhouse G5, two lines of post holes defined a 4m-wide trackway or avenue, G38, which formed a curved approach to the roundhouse. Comprising 85 post holes, several had been replaced including [2296] by [2292], [2388] by [2390] and [2386] by [2400] while a number of post holes, slightly out of alignment, may represent further repairs (Fig 2.22).

The trackway can be divided into three component parts – the curvilinear western line, a divergent western line and an eastern line. The western line, 33m long, comprised 53 post holes, with the post holes 0.8m–0.5m in diameter, 0.3m–0.65m apart. The divergent line of eight post holes ran for 3.5m from the main alignment. These post holes were between 0.43m–0.58m apart and were generally sub-circular, 0.1m–0.24m in diameter.

The eastern line of only 15 posts ran parallel to the southern end of the main alignment for 14m, at a distance of 4m. The post holes were 0.55m to 2.25m apart, with the larger gaps possibly the result of later erosion. All the post holes were sub-circular or oval, 0.15m–0.4m in diameter.

Ten post holes produced pottery (Table 2.8), all of it fragmentary, with most vessels comprising single sherds (not illustrated). Abrasion and leaching occurred on four vessels, but these are in relatively soft fabrics: F16, F17 and F27. Four rim sherds were recovered, three of which are from carinated vessels, one each from [2133], [2143], [2292]. The remaining rim is from a possible cylindrical vessel, although this is very small.

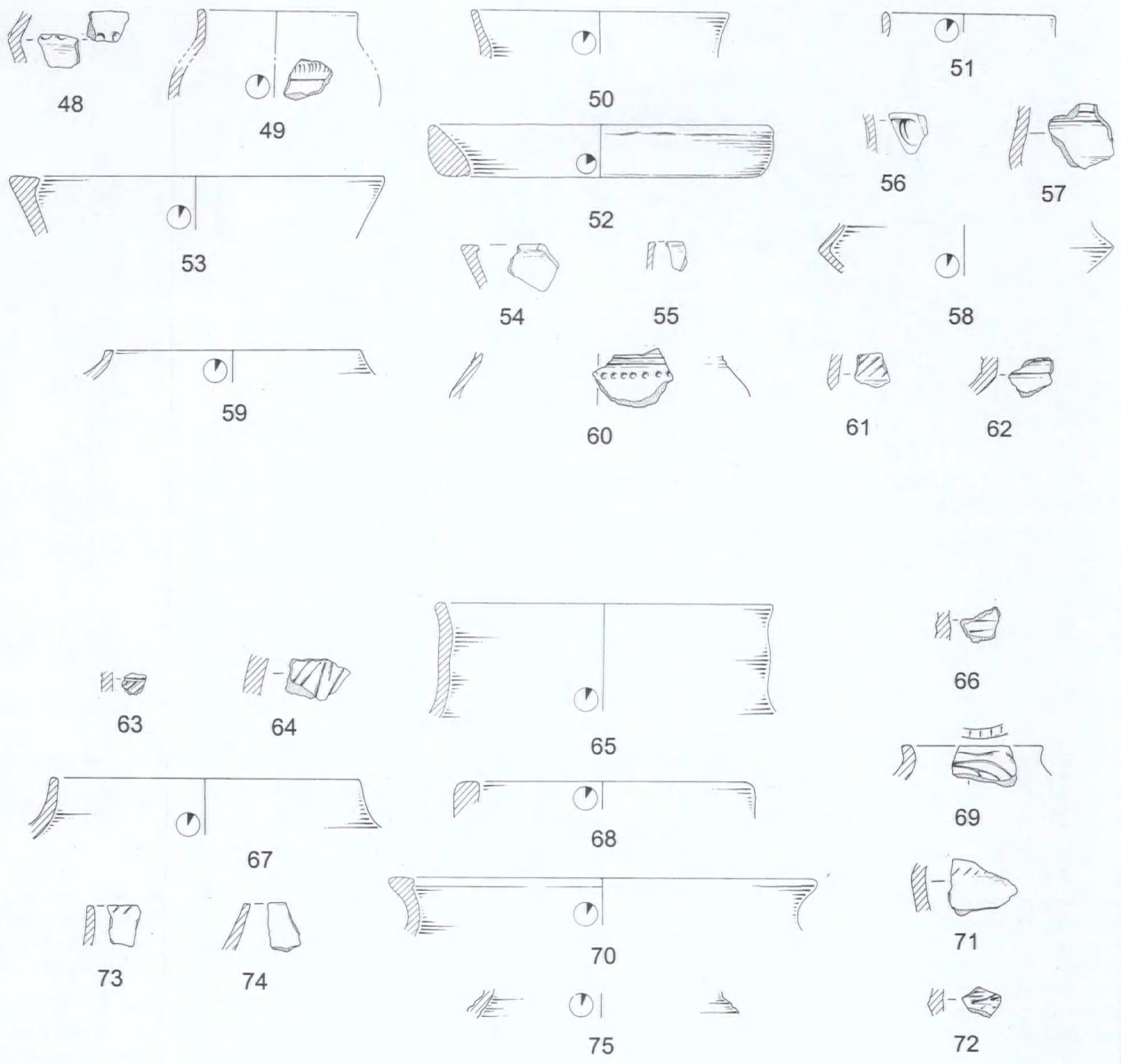


Fig 2.21: Iron Age ceramics in G5 nos 48–75 (scale 1:4)

F no.	F01B	EIA F03	F28	F29	F16	MIA F17	F27
2133		1:1:6				1:1:2	1:1:1
2137					1:2:2		
2143	1:3:2	1:1:1				1:1:1	
2200						1:1:6	
2265		1:2:2					1:3:9
2292		1:2:4		1:1:8	1:1:3		1:1:1
2390	1:1:2						
2402						1:1:1	
2438						1:1:2	
2442			1:1:3				

Table 2.8: Pottery from trackway G38 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

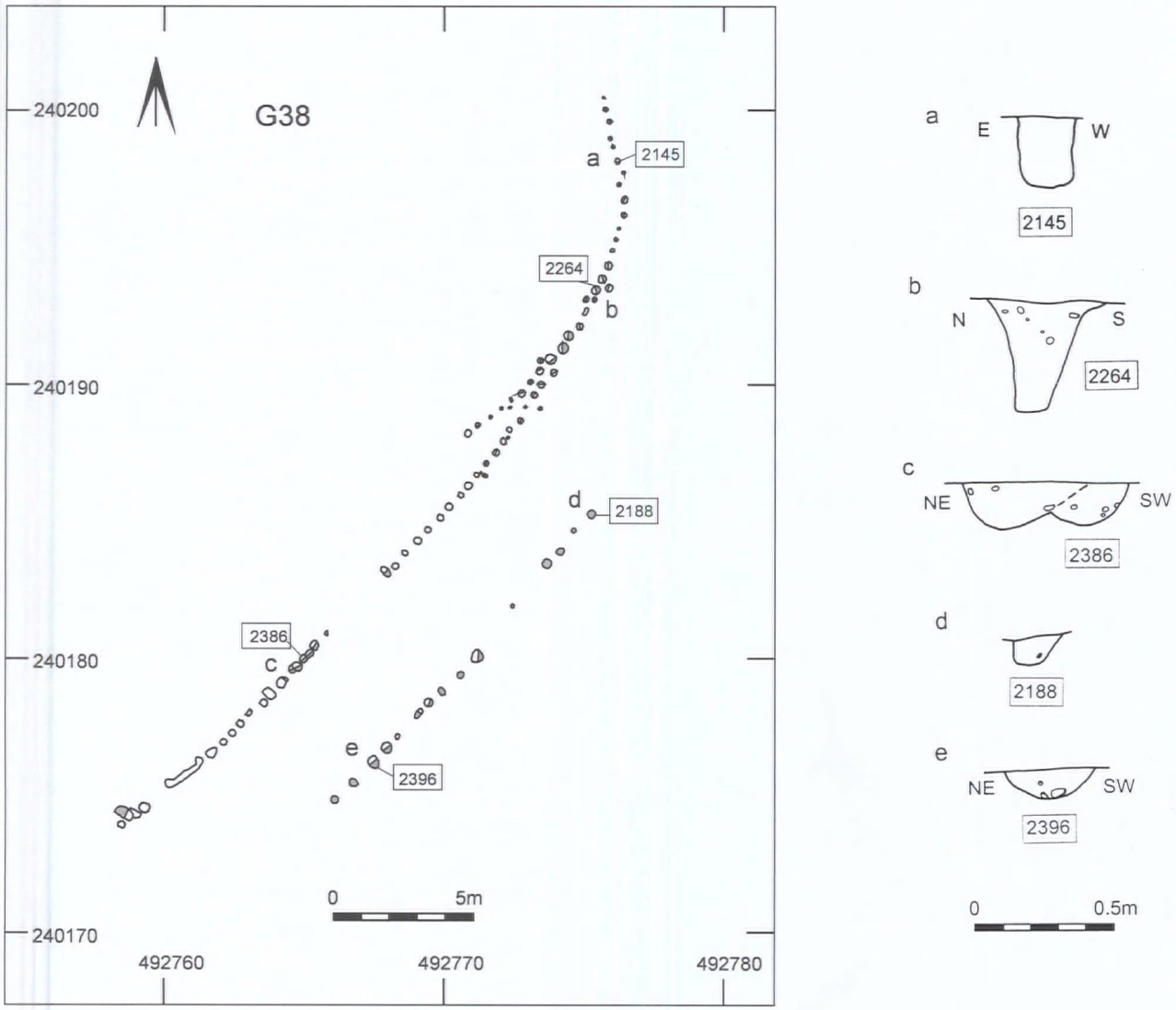


Fig 2.22: Avenue G38

The pottery is of mixed date, with the latest pottery dating to the middle Iron Age, which suggests the sherds may have got into the post holes when the posts were finally removed in phase 4. A single post hole [2402] produced 0.5kg of burnt stone.

Roundhouse and Enclosure

A second possibly structured approach was recorded to roundhouse G17 and comprised a near rectangular enclosure that was attached to the roundhouse. This is the only example at Salford of a possible distinction between private, public and communal space with the threshold from public to communal space at the entrance to the enclosure and from communal to private on entrance to the roundhouse. Comparable enclosures have been sought locally and regionally and are discussed in Chapter 5.

	EIA		MIA		
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
355	11:24:158	3:3:14	8:11:48	2:2:8	3:4:14

Table 2.9: Pottery from roundhouse G17 drainage gully (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Between roundhouses G16 and G5 was **roundhouse G17**. It comprised a discontinuous penannular drainage gully [355] and [319], 10.5m in diameter. The gully was 0.3m-0.4m wide, with steep sides sloping to a flat base up to 0.25m deep with two gaps in the gully, 4m to the south and 5m to the east, but no further structural evidence of an entrance. The building was located at the corner of **enclosure G36**, which may have formed part of an entranceway to the building (Figs 2.23 and 2.24).

A moderate quantity of pottery was recovered from the drainage gully of G17 (Table 2.9): 27 vessels, represented by 44 sherds, with an average weight of 5.5g (not illustrated). A single small fragment of a carinated vessel was recovered from this building, in addition to two undiagnostic rim sherds. The rest of the assemblage comprised body sherds, mainly fragmentary. Two sand and grog F03 vessels were made up of six and seven sherds respectively. Both are plain and comprise fragments of the body only.

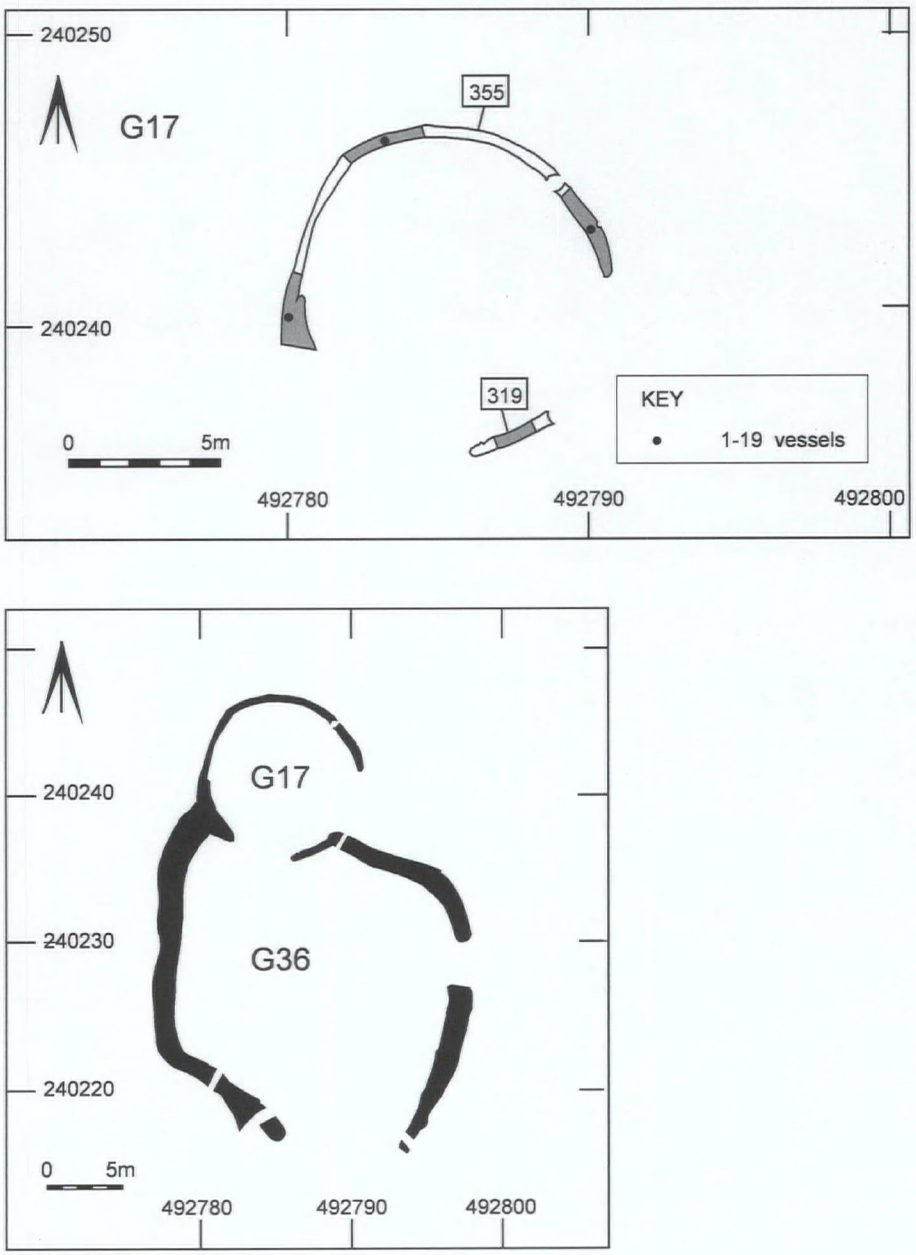


Fig 2.23: Roundhouse G17 and enclosure G36

None of the vessels are sooted or contain visible residues, suggesting they were not used for cooking. Although there is no evidence for a hearth, two sherds have re-oxidised breaks, suggesting they had been reheated after breakage. Small quantities of pottery were found in the north-west and south-west sectors, but the largest concentration was north of the doorway.

Enclosure G36 was south of G17; it was sub-rectangular and comprised three separate lengths of ditch, with gaps to the north, east and south, respectively 6.3m, 3m and 8.1m wide. It enclosed an area 17m wide and nearly 18.5m long, some 300m². One part had been recut [1129], [314].

The relationship between the drip gully segment [356] and [319] suggests that the enclosure was constructed first, at least before the drip gully of G17 was dug. The eastern side of the enclosure comprised a slightly curving gully [800], 11.65m long with a broad, square terminal to the north and a slightly narrower terminal to the south. Up to 1.45m wide with sides sloping at approximately 45° to a V-shaped base 0.5m deep, it contained a primary fill (802), sealed by a deposit of mid grey-brown silt, (801). The northern side of the enclosure was a curvilinear gully, excavated in sections [605], [358], [317]. It was 12.2m long with rounded terminals at both ends, up to 1.5m wide with sides sloping at approximately 45° to a V-shaped base 0.5m deep, and was filled by dark yellow-brown silt.

The southern ditch [1132], survived for over 7.7m with a rounded terminal to the south-east. It was up to 1.1m wide with sides sloping at approximately 45° to a V-shaped base 0.7m deep, and was filled by dark brown silt. This ditch had been recut by [1129], [314], and [356] which completely removed the original ditch along the western side of the enclosure. The recut ditch was L-shaped, 24.25m long, running from an intersection with the penannular gully of building G17 to the north, to an intersection with the penannular gully of building G4 to the south. It was up to 1.95m wide with sides sloping at approximately 45° to a V-shaped base 0.4m–0.6m deep and filled by dark yellow-brown silts.

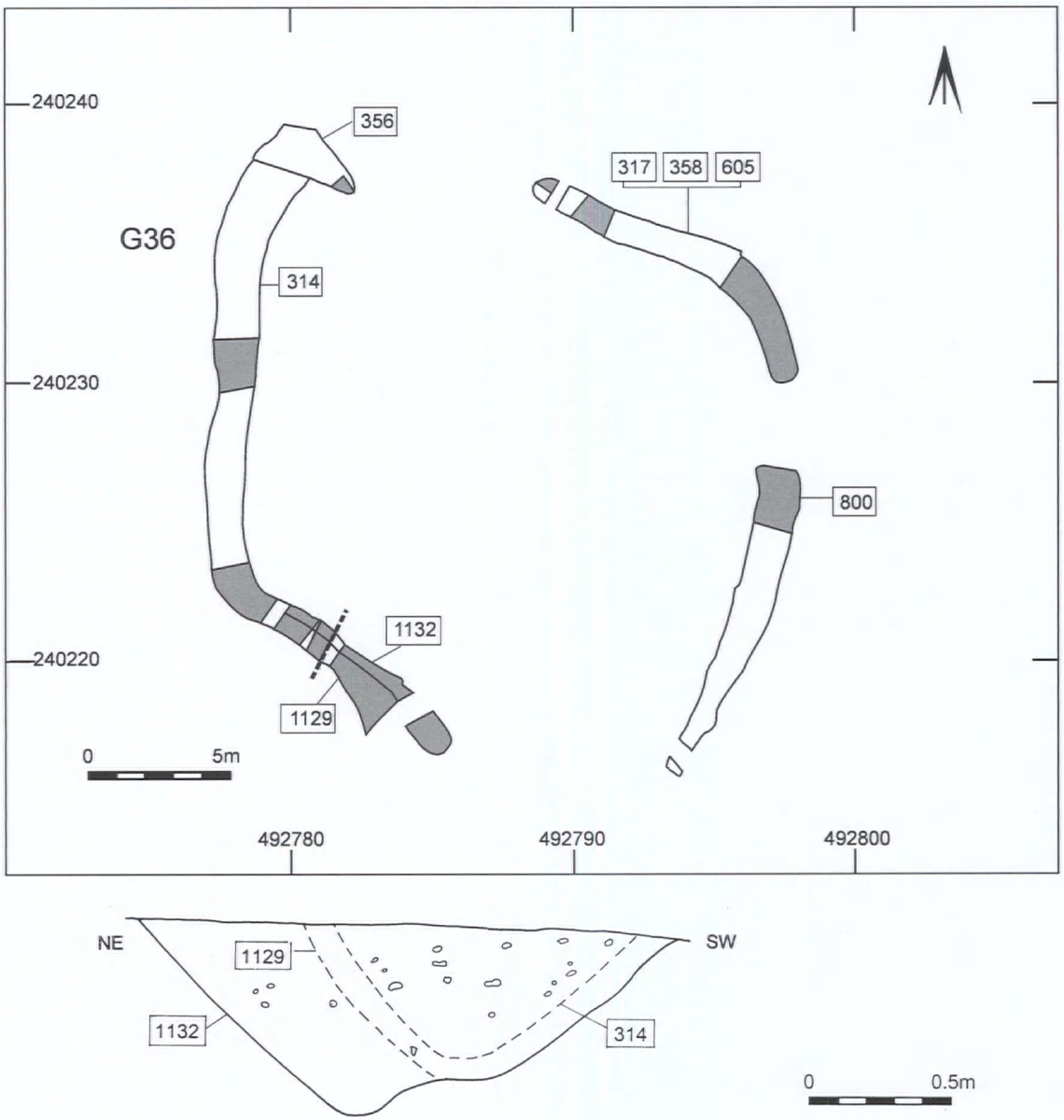


Fig 2.24: Enclosure G36

F no.	PREH NEO	EIA F01A	F01B	F03	F28	F29	MIA F16	F17	F22	F27	F30
605/358/317				24:28:249	23:24:141	1:1:10	6:7:73	26:54:588	2:2:15	7:12:76	15:16:163
800				9:13:121				3:3:11	1:3:6	2:2:4	
1132		1:1:14	1:1:23	7:7:53	6:6:40	1:1:11	3:3:14	5:7:55		18:18:141	
1129/314/356	1:1:9			18:19:173	9:10:57	1:3:25	2:3:3	7:11:54	1:2:85	8:8:49	1:1:15

Table 2.10: Pottery from enclosure G36 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Between 73–82% of the ceramic assemblages in each of the ditch sections comprised undiagnostic body sherds. The original cut of the southern ditch contained most carinated vessels, at 14.29%, and no later, ovoid, forms. The sherds throughout the enclosure ditches are larger, even though still generally representing only one vessel, with an average weight of 8.5g, as compared to 5.5g for sherds from the roundhouses; 19.14% of sherds from the enclosure weigh 10g or over. Although most of the pottery is fragmentary and the vessels are represented by one or two sherds only, there are nine vessels with more than four sherds surviving, four of which are illustrated (Fig 2.25 nos 86, 89–90, 92).

The northern ditch fill contained the largest assemblage of pottery, 104 vessels, possibly originating from roundhouse G17 (Table 2.10).

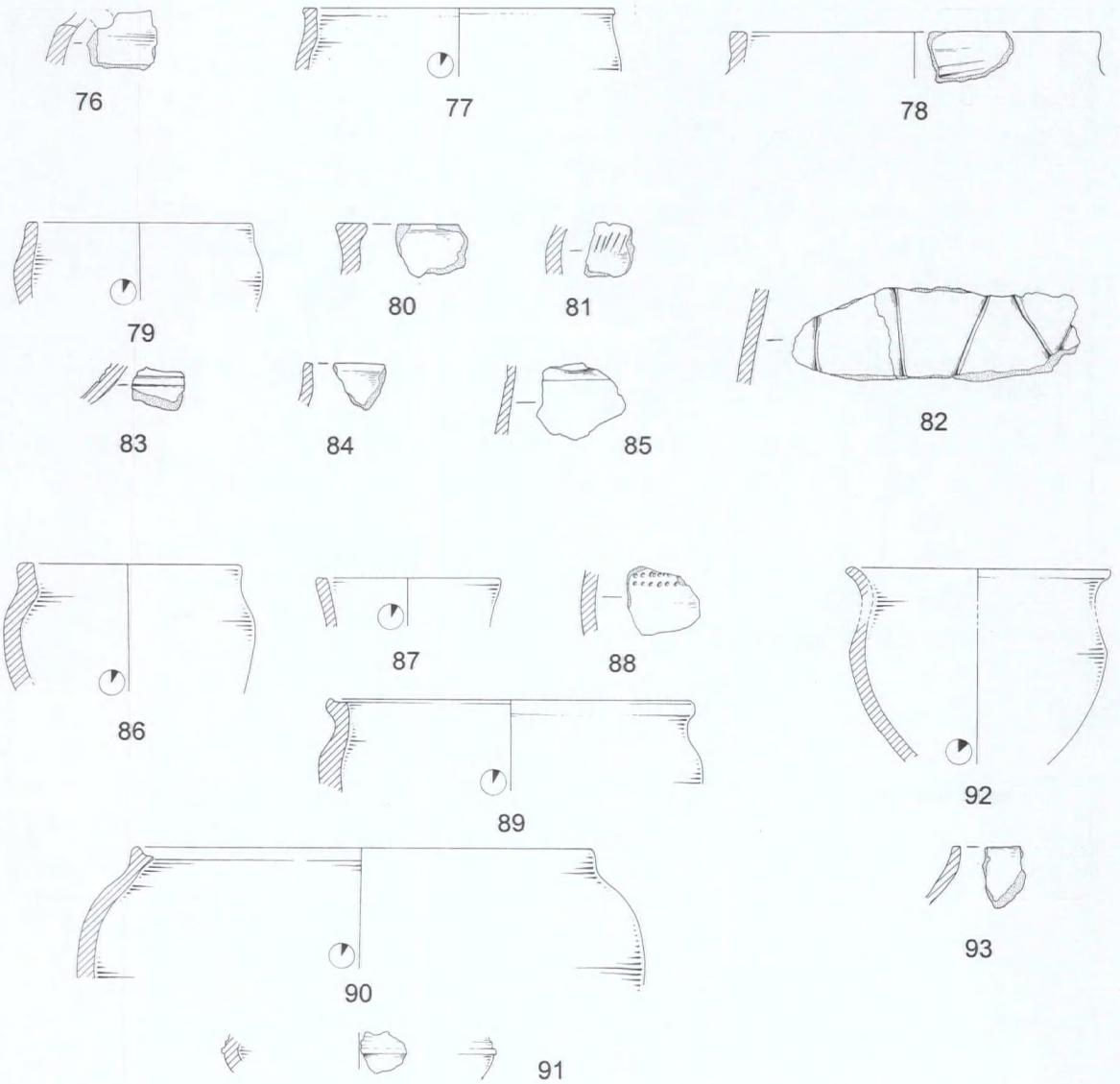


Fig 2.25: Iron Age ceramics in G36 nos 76–93 (scale 1:4)

Roundhouses with Eaves-drip Gullies

The principal building form at Salford in the Iron Age was the roundhouse. In phase 3 two groups have been distinguished, those with eaves-drip gullies and those with post rings. The two types probably represent the same built form and equate to Reynolds (1995, 193) single ring of posts, the only distinguishing characteristic at Salford being the provision of an eaves-drip gully.

Four roundhouses at Salford in phase 3, including G17, were defined by their drip gullies. Of the remaining three the furthest east was **roundhouse G3**, a poorly preserved circular building which aerial photographs, taken after the initial topsoil stripping, clearly show was once a near full circle. However, secondary machining severely truncated the ring and a short arc of penannular gully is all that remained to be investigated (Fig 2.26).

The result was a building defined by a 7m long arc of gully [1858], some 1.7m wide, with steep sides and an irregular profile up to 0.6m deep. The primary fill comprised mid-brown sandy silt, with a secondary fill of dark brown silt. No evidence of internal structure survived.

	EIA		MIA		RB
F no.	F03	F28	F17	F27	R01
1858	4:5:25	3:3:2	2:2:3	1:2:12	1:1:8

Table 2.11: Pottery from roundhouse G3 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Twelve sherds of primarily early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill of the gully (Table 2.11), including two fragments of carination from fine sandy F28 vessels. A single sherd of Roman samian was also found, but this is probably intrusive. There was some Roman activity in this part of the site and there was much plough damage to this structure.

The second **roundhouse G11** was located on the southern side of the settlement, between G5 and G12. It was defined by a penannular drip gully with an entrance on the south-eastern side. The gully had been recut at least once. The inner circuit enclosed an area 12.2m in diameter. Gaps of 3.7m on the north side and 5.6m on the north-west side were probably the result of erosion, while a 6m gap in both gullies in the south-east probably indicates the position of an entrance. The inner gully was up to 0.58m wide with

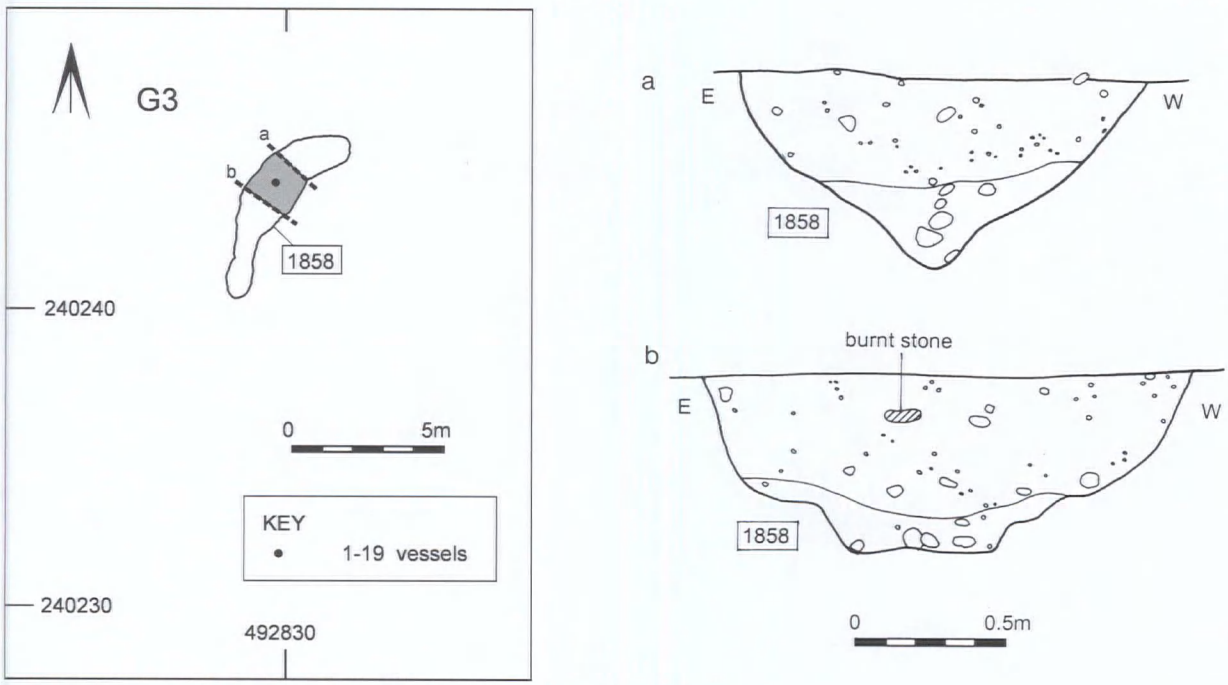


Fig 2.26: Roundhouse G3

	EIA						MIA				
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F02**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**F30**
2509/2870 iner gulley	1:1:4	1:1:12	1:1:3	8:9:52	3:4:12		3:3:12	8:8:61		8:8:32	
2666 outer gully	2:2:6	2:2:14		64:67:544	29:37:141	2:2:12	9:10:34	52:66:322	2:10:5	24:26:176	1:1:3
2558				3:3:33			1:1:1	2:2:8			

Table 2.12: Pottery from roundhouse G11 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

an uneven profile, and up to 0.2m deep. Approximately 55% of this gully was excavated and comprised dark yellow-brown silt. The gully was recut by [2666], a concentric gully 13.5m diameter. This too had a gap on the south-east side 5.4m wide. This gully was up to 1.3m wide with an uneven, U-V-shaped profile, 0.1m–0.3m deep (Fig 2.27; Plate 2).

A pair of post holes [2558] and [2608], 2.75m apart, mark the position of the entrance and probably the wall of the structure. The entrance was inset but otherwise aligned with the gap in the gullies of G11. Both post holes were oval, 1m × 0.6m wide; [2558] was 0.34m deep and [2608] 0.3m deep, and both were filled with dark yellow-brown silt.

Inside G11 were two parallel lines of post holes designated G52. The post holes are slightly offset from the entrance (Fig 2.27) but nevertheless face the entrance. They probably represent internal partitions or structures and extend over some 4.8m, aligned north-west to south-east. The northern line comprised sub-circular post holes [2652], [2522], [2660], [2576] and [2538], 0.25m to 0.46m in diameter, 0.1m to 0.26m deep, filled by dark yellow-grey silt. The southern line comprised ten sub-circular post holes [2526], [2528], [2530], [2554], [2550], [2552], [2548], [2546], [2574] and [2534], 0.1m to 0.55m diameter, 0.3m to 0.23m deep and filled by yellow-brown silts (Fig 2.27). The layout of the structure is reminiscent of the Maiden Castle shrine (Wheeler 1943, fig 19) and in terms of scale comparable with that from Frilford (Bradford and Goodchild 1939, 11–15, fig 5) and Claydon Pike, XVIIa, at Lechlade (Miles and Palmer 1983).

A large but fragmentary assemblage of pottery was recovered from the gully of G11, where 220 vessels were represented by 258 sherds (Table 2.12). The outer gully contained most of the pottery, but there was little difference in the spread of fabric types between the two gullies and only a marginal difference in the forms present. Of the vessel total in the earlier, inner, gully [2509/2870], 12% can be identified as carinated vessels or furrowed bowls. The rest are undiagnostic jars or body sherds (Fig 2.28). The fill of the outer, later, gully [2666] was made up of fewer carinated and furrowed bowls, although still, at 6.95%, the highest percentage of diagnostic vessels in this assemblage. Rounded and cylindrical jars together make up less than 2% and ovoid vessels were not identified in either gully assemblage.

As with roundhouse G5, the distribution of pottery around the gully does not conform to the pattern noted elsewhere (Parker Pearson 1996), with only small quantities recovered from either side of the doorway. The largest collections were made in the north-western and south-western sectors of the gully. Three small body sherds were found in the fill of the entrance post hole [2558]; too small to have been used as packing around the post, they may have been deposited during repairs or when the post rotted. There were no internally or externally sooted vessels in this assemblage and two vessels had internal white residues, possibly limescale from long-term use as water storage containers.

In addition to the ceramics, the inner gully [2870] contained 13kg of burnt stone, perhaps the remains of a hearth or contents of a fire pit. A shale bracelet (Rf 43) in the primary fill was broken and

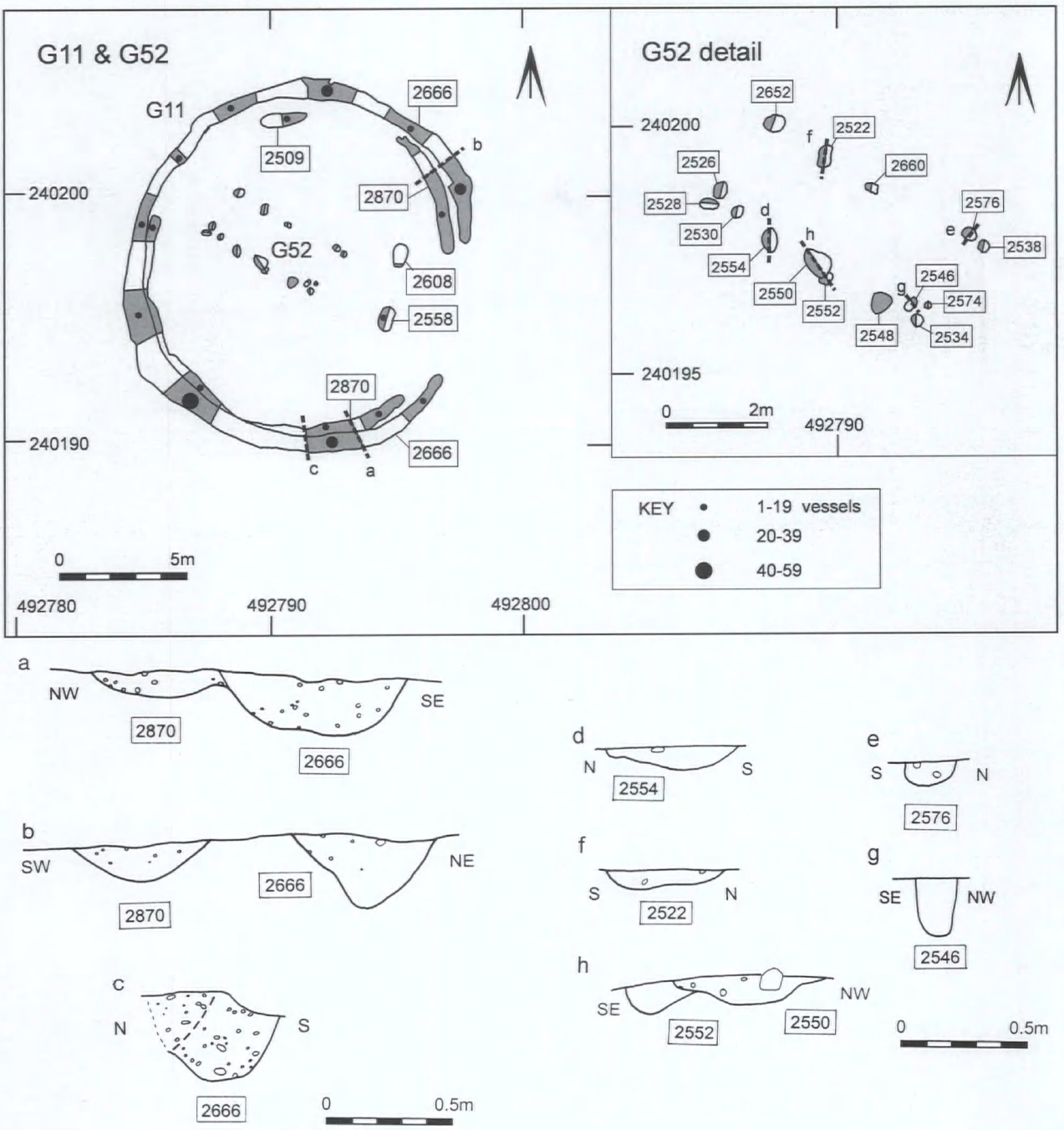


Fig 2.27: Roundhouse G11 and structure G52

cannot be closely dated, as examples are known from throughout the Iron Age and Roman period. A large quantity of burnt stone, 99.75kg, was found in the outer gully, probably the remains of several hearths. Accompanying the stone was the bottom of a ferrous smithing hearth (639g), and fragments of clay hearth lining (3g). Burnt stone that may have been re-used as post-packing was also found within the fill of one of the two post holes.

	EIA		MIA
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F27**
2526	1:1:2		
2546		4:17:299	1:2:11
2554		1:1:2	

Table 2.13: Pottery from rectangular structure G52 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Three post holes of the internal structure G52 yielded pottery, mainly small single sherds (Table 2.13). One [2546] produced sherds from five vessels, one of which was a carinated jar (Fig 2.29 no. 111) comprising 14 sherds with an average weight of 20g each. It is unusual in that it has a thick body and a flat rim with incised decoration unique on the site. A herringbone design was incised with a sharp instrument into the rim, and a single line of short incisions possibly made with the fingernail, was made into the shoulder carination. No exact parallels for these decorative motifs have been found, although the general decorative scheme fits into Barrett's 'decorative phase' (Barrett 1980, 305, fig 6). The closest parallels for the form may be found in the carinated vessels such as those from Bancroft, Milton Keynes, dated by Knight to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (Knight 1994, 394, fig 203). The 14 sherds are clearly not residual and may be significant in terms of the function of G11/52.

Plate 2: Roundhouse G11 with internal structure G52 (roundhouse G4 to the rear)

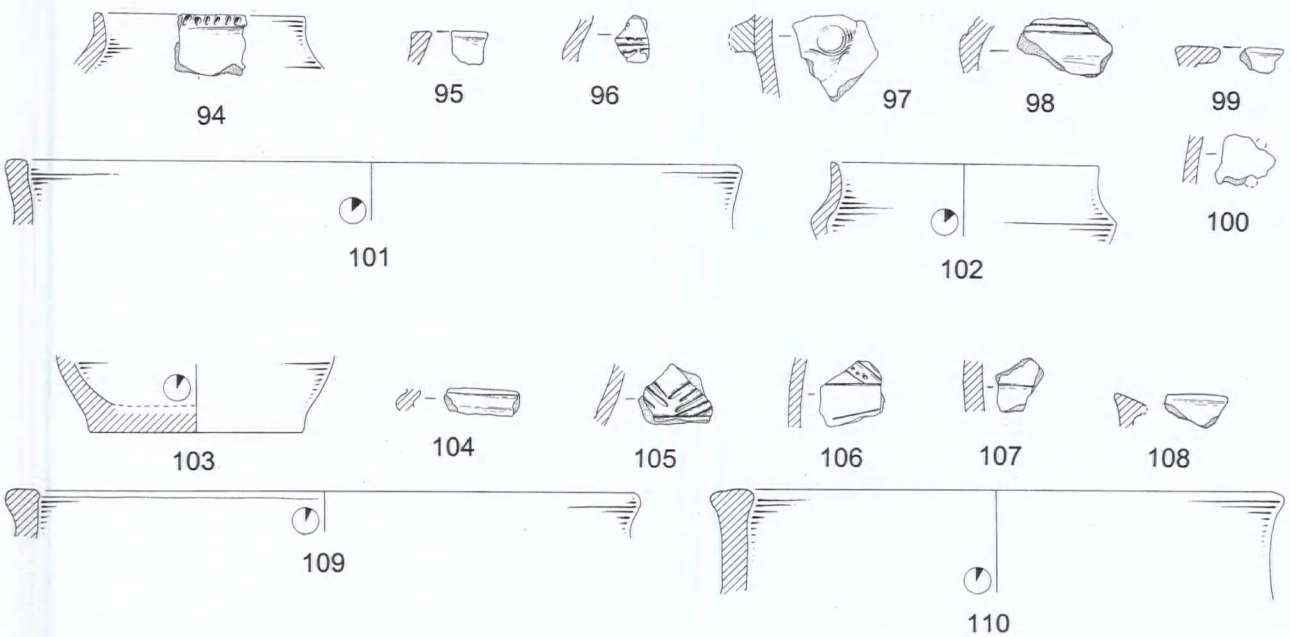


Fig 2.28: Iron Age ceramics in G11 nos 94–110 (scale 1:4)

One other carinated vessel was recovered from post hole [2526]; this was a small burnished rim sherd. All the pottery comes from post holes within the southern wall of this structure.

Roundhouse G16 was the most northerly of the phase 3 roundhouses in the main group and was perhaps the largest. It comprised an inner wall slot excavated in sections [1116], [517] and [518]. The inner slot enclosed an area 13.5m–14m in diameter, its northern arc 0.2m wide with a U-shaped profile 0.06m deep, and the southern up to 0.5m wide, 0.2m deep, with both parts filled by dark grey silts.

The outer drip gully [467] [578] was roughly concentric with the inner and formed a circle 17.5m–19m in diameter. This circuit was up to 0.8m wide, with a U-shaped profile, 0.3m deep, filled by dark grey clay loam. The presence of an east-facing entrance is evident in an 8.8m gap in both the inner and outer gullies (Fig 2.30).

A total of 70 vessels, represented by 79 sherds were recovered from the gullies of this structure (Table 2.14; Fig 2.31). The assemblage was fragmentary, with no pattern in fabric distribution. The forms similarly exhibit little patterning, although the smallest and least diverse assemblage comes from the earliest, outer, gully. Carinated

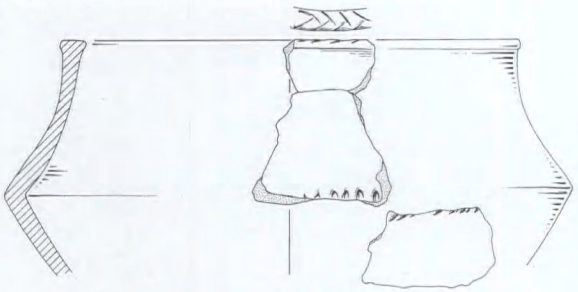


Fig 2.29: Iron Age ceramics in G52 no. 111 (scale 1:4)

	EIA		MIA		
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
467/578 inner gully	12:16:50	8:10:97	9:9:27	1:1:13	4:4:18
517 outer gully earlier	4:4:23	3:3:8	6:8:43	1:1:15	4:4:16
518 outer gully later	5:6:12	3:3:10	8:8:33		2:2:18

Table 2.14: Pottery from roundhouse G16 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

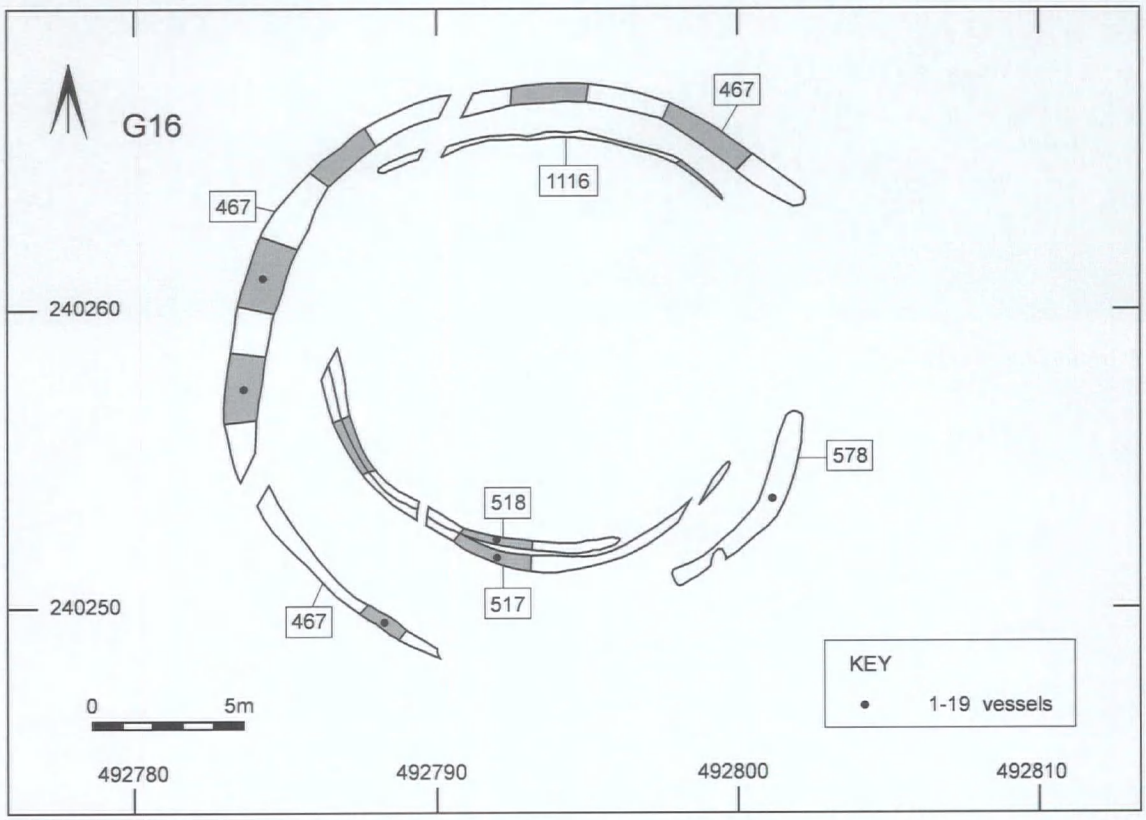


Fig 2.30: Roundhouse G16

and furrowed vessels form less than 1% in the inner and later outer gullies, with undiagnostic body sherds making up 82–88% in these features. The remaining 1–2% is made up of rounded or cylindrical jars or undiagnostic jar rim fragments.

Most of the pottery was found in the north-west and south-west quadrants, with smaller quantities from the south-east, on the southern side of the entrance. This differs slightly from the pattern established by roundhouses G5, G11 and G12, where most of the pottery is furthest from the doorway.

Post ring Roundhouses

Post ring roundhouses, probably the same built form as those with drip gullies, have been separated out because there may be some functional reason for the drip gullies. This house form might also indicate structural elements that may have been lost in those roundhouses which only survive as drip gullies. In both phases there are fewer post ring roundhouses than drip gullies, suggesting their survival may be the result of post-depositional erosion (now impossible to determine).

Roundhouse G12 was located on the south-eastern edge of the settlement focus. It comprised a circle of eleven post holes from the structure's walls together with four post holes of the entrance porch (Fig 2.32; Plate 3). The eleven post holes, [2704], [2708], [2710], [2712], [2714], [2716], [2718], [2720], [2724], [2726] and [2730], formed a circle 9.9m in diameter, enclosing an area of 77m². The distances between the posts varied between 1.8m and 2.5m. The greater distances were on the southern arc and probably result from two missing post holes. Most of the post holes were circular or sub-circular, between 0.25m and 0.6m in diameter. The exception was a large irregular feature [2730], which may have been a replaced post. All of the post holes were half-sectioned, and found to have near vertical sides, 0.15m–0.3m deep, filled by mid-brown silts.

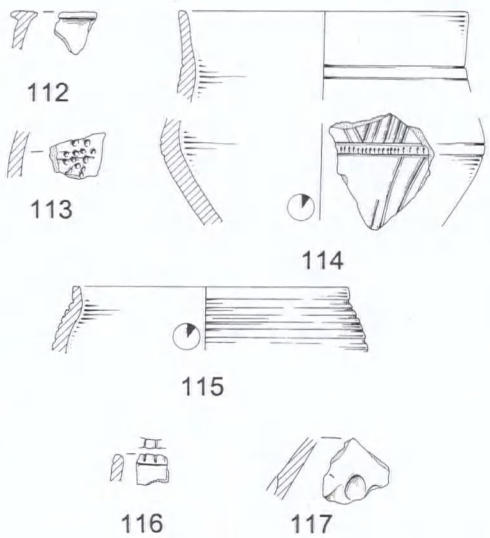
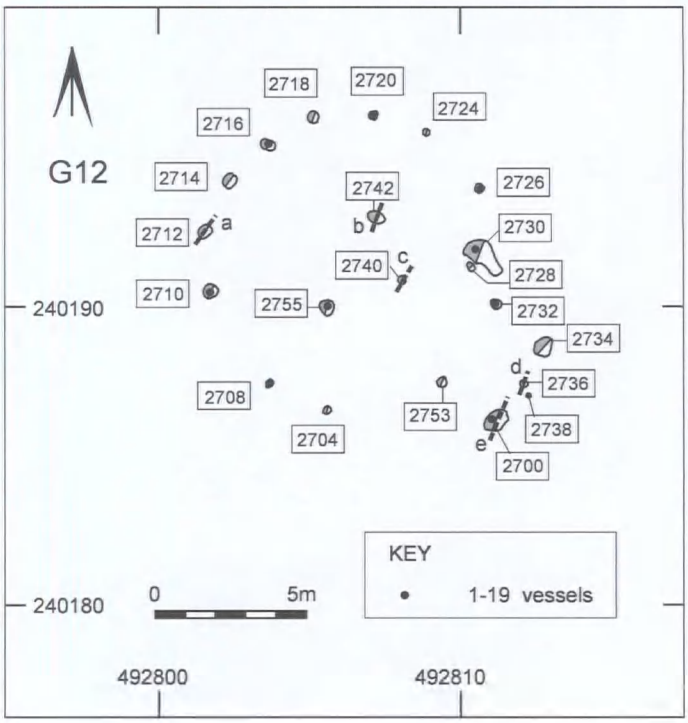


Fig 2.31: Iron Age ceramics in G16 nos 112–117 (scale 1:4)

The entrance was defined by four post holes [2700], [2732], [2734] and [2753], enclosing an area of 3.1m × 2.2m. The inner posts [2732] and [2753], which lay on the circumference of the wall, were sub-circular, 0.45m and 0.35m in diameter respectively. Both were half-sectioned, 0.2m and 0.09m deep respectively, with fills of mid-brown silt. The outer posts [2700] and [2734] were both oval, 0.9m × 0.65m and 0.75m × 0.6m respectively, 0.25m and 0.1m deep, filled by yellow-brown silts. Two smaller post holes, possibly supporting posts, were located between the outer entrance posts [2736] and [2738]. They were sub-circular, 0.3m and 0.2m in diameter, 0.09m and 0.07m deep respectively (Fig 2.32).

In the centre of the building were two internal post holes [2742] and [2755], 3.45m apart. These post holes were sub-circular, 0.45m and 0.35m diameter, 0.4m deep, filled by mid-brown silts. Post hole [2742] contained a post pipe of 0.14m diameter. A third post hole [2740] was located within the circumference of the building wall. It was 0.25m in diameter, with steep sides and 0.37m deep, filled by brown silt.

G12 contained only a small and fragmentary ceramic assemblage: 21 vessels represented by 24 sherds (Table 2.15). There appears to be no significant pattern to the fabric distribution. Two rims, one from a carinated vessel and the other from an undiagnostic jar form, were recovered from two of the four entrance posts: one inner post [2732] and one outer post [2700] (Fig 2.33 nos 118, 119). All other sherds are undiagnostic body sherds. Hill (1995, 109) discusses the significance of the deposition of specific sherd types, particularly rim sherds, in meaningful deposits. The diagonally opposing posts at the entrance to the house may be deemed to be 'meaningful'. Although the assemblage is small, the majority of sherds occur in post holes of the north-west and south-west quarters of the structure. This fits into a pattern formed by the distribution in other structures at Salford (see below, Pottery Discussion). No sooted vessels or sherds with visible residues were found in this structure.



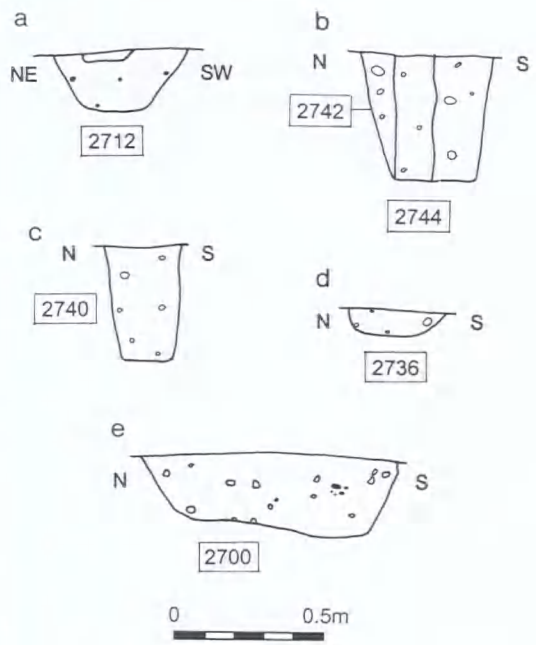


Fig 2.32: Roundhouse G12

F no.	F01A	F01B	EIA F03	F28	F29	F16	MIA F17	F27
post holes of wall	1:1:8	1:1:3	3:3:3	4:7:37			1:1:2	2:2:8
2700	3:3:10				1:1:2	1:1:1	1:1:2	
2732				1:1:7				
2755		1:1:4		1:1:8				

Table 2.15: Pottery from roundhouse G12 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Plate 3: Roundhouse G12 (note the four posts to the left are the entrance to G21, phase 4 see Fig 2.76)

Fig 2.33: Iron Age ceramics in roundhouse G12 nos 118–119 (scale 1:4)

A small quantity (285g) of vitrified hearth lining was recovered from the fills of one of the entrance post holes [2753], possibly re-used as post packing.

A second post ring **roundhouse, G48**, with an entrance porch to the south-east, was just to the north of G11 and G17. The roundhouse was defined by the ten post holes of the outer wall [4040], [1772], [1085], [914], [1106], [4236], [598], [600], [4244] and [4248], which formed a circle 8m in diameter, enclosing approximately 50m². The distances between the post holes varied from 0.75m to 3m, with the larger gaps possibly the result of shallow bedding. The post holes were mostly circular or sub-circular, 0.22m to 0.4m in diameter, 0.8m–0.15m deep, except [1106] which was 0.6m deep. All were filled by dark yellow-grey silt (Fig 2.34). Two post holes [1089] and [1087] seem to indicate repairs to the outer wall, possibly buttressing.

The entrance was defined by four post holes, [613], [652], [4228] and [843]. It was slightly splayed, 2m–2.4m wide and 2.3m deep, with the inner posts on the circumference of the wall. The post holes were sub-circular, 0.3m to 0.42m, 0.13m–0.15m deep, filled by grey silts. Opposite the entrance were two pairs of post holes [1087], [1089] and [4685], [4686], 0.8m apart, on the west side of the building. All four post holes were sub-circular, 0.25m to 0.33m, 0.1m to 0.18m deep, filled by dark yellow silts.

Only a very small assemblage of pottery, a sherd of fabric F03 from [914] and one in fabric F22 from [1772], was recovered from the north-eastern quadrant of the house (Fig 2.35 no. 120).

In contrast to G12, and the eaves-drip gully roundhouses, was the post-built **roundhouse, G68**. It was located north of G48 and, at some 6–7m in diameter, was the smallest of the roundhouses.

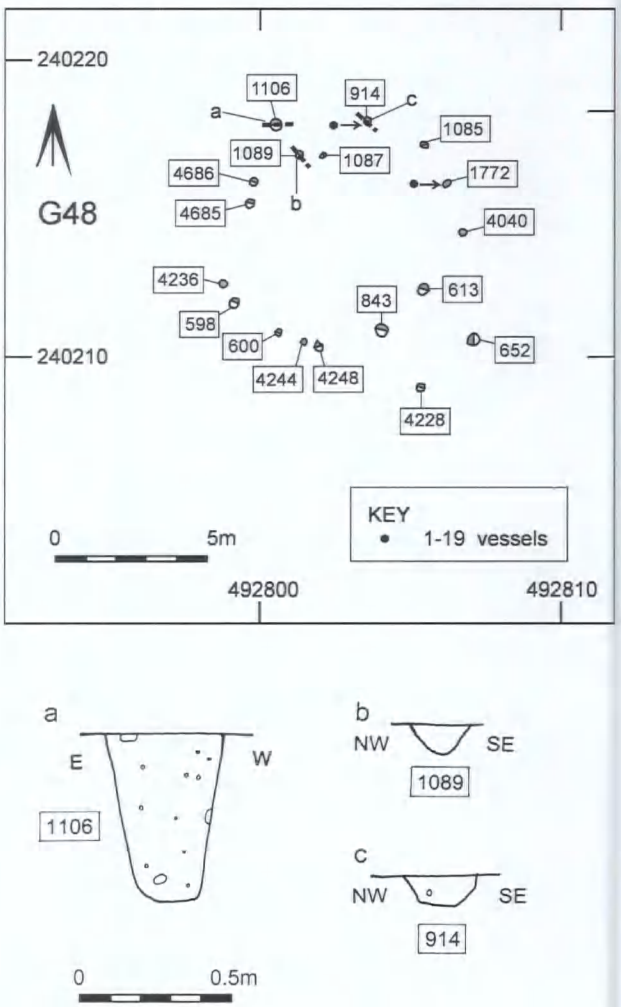


Fig 2.34: Roundhouse G48

120

Fig 2.35: Iron Age ceramics in G48 no. 120 (scale 1:4)

F no.	F01B	EIA F03	F28	MIA F17	F27
980		1:1:1	1:1:10	2:2:2	2:2:4
1862		1:16:87	1:1:2		
1866	1:1:4				
3647		1:1:1			
3649			1:1:1		
3663		1:1:2			1:1:7
3675		1:1:3			

Table 2.16: Pottery from roundhouse G68 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

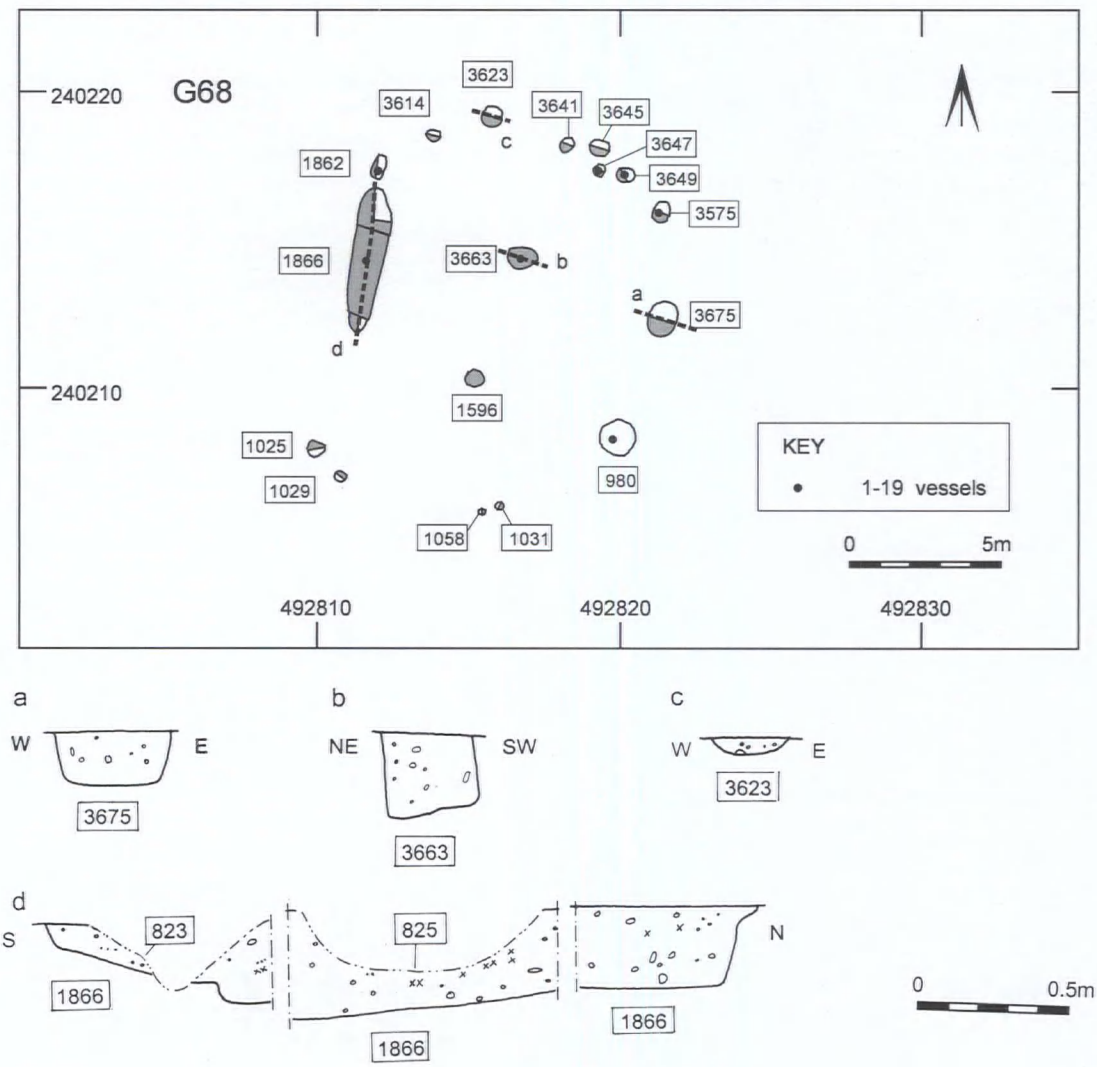


Fig 2.36: Roundhouse G68

The structure of G68 comprised twelve post holes in an outer ring with a single pair of entrance posts and a single pair of internal posts. The twelve outer post holes [3575], [3649], [3647], [3645], [3641], [3623], [3614], [1862], [1025], [1029], [1058] and [1031] defined a circle of 6–7m diameter; enclosing some 33m². All the post holes were oval, between 0.04m and 0.38m diameter, 0.3m and 0.28m deep and filled by dark grey silts. In contrast [1862] was filled with burnt, mid reddish brown clayey silt, although it did not appear to have been burnt *in situ* (Fig 2.36).

Towards the rear of the building was an elongated fire pit [1866], 2.3m long, north to south, and 0.6m wide. Steep sides sloped to a flat base, 0.4m deep. It was filled by burnt red-brown clay. The fire pit had been cut by the later drip gullies [823] and [825] of roundhouse G1, phase 4.

The entrance was defined by post holes, [3675] and [980], which were 2.1m apart, facing south-east. They were both oval, 0.6m × 0.45m, 0.2m deep, and filled by mid-brown silt. The internal posts [3663] and [1596], were similar in size to the entrance posts, and located axially within the roundhouse opposite the entrance posts, also 2.1m apart.

Roundhouse G68 produced the highest vessel:sherd ratio of all the post-built structures on the site (Table 2.16). The contrast with other roundhouses, which usually contain fragmentary assemblages

Feature	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Profile	Fills
8	0.75m×0.45m	0.2m	U-shaped	Dark grey clay
9	0.9m×0.65m	0.2m	Steep sides sloping to a flat base	Dark grey clay
10	0.35m×0.3m	0.05m	Rounded base	Brownish grey clay
11	0.35m×0.35m	0.25m	U-shaped	Dark grey clay
12	0.35m×0.25m	0.2m	U-shaped	Dark brown clay
13	0.25m×0.25m	0.1m	U-shaped	Mid-brown clay
14	0.35m×0.35m	0.1m	Gradual sides sloping to a rounded base	Greyish brown clay

Table 2.17: Post holes of circular building G45

Fig 2.37: Iron Age ceramics in G68 no. 121 (scale 1:4)

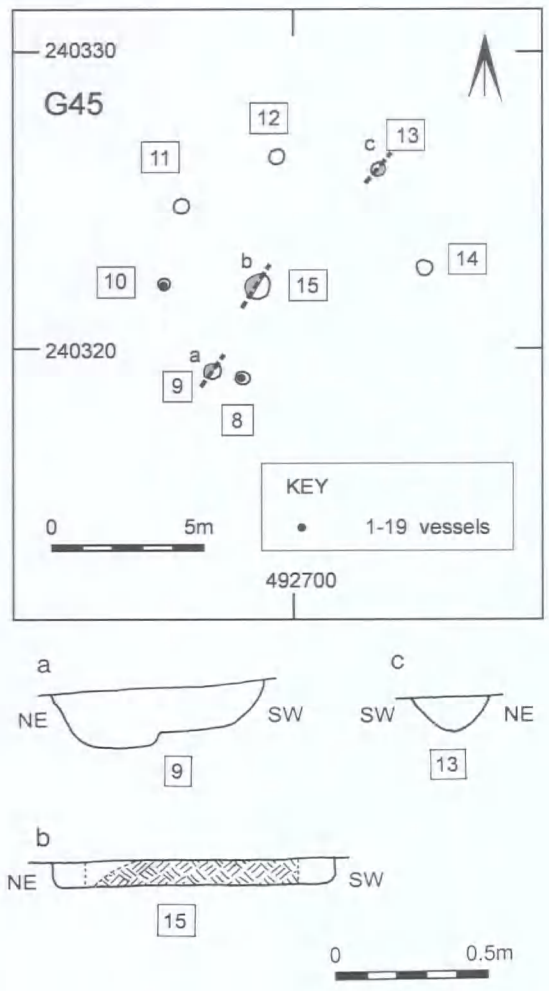


Fig 2.38: Roundhouse G45

of small sherds, was because a relatively large amount of pottery was deposited in one of the post holes in the north-west sector [1862]. This deposit comprised two vessels: a single vessel made up of 16 sherds, weighing a total of 87g, and a small sherd from a second vessel. Both vessels were in different fabrics, the former comprising the base only, while the latter comprised a rim only. This deposit fits into the pattern of pottery deposition in the north-west sector of the majority of roundhouses at Salford. All other ceramics from this roundhouse comprised single sherds, undiagnostic of form (Fig 2.37 no. 121).

The roundhouses described above formed a compact group that may have been the main settlement area. Yet in both phases 3 and 4 a single roundhouse was located over 200m to the north-west of the main focus. In phase 3, this was **G45, a post-built roundhouse** of seven post holes with an internal hearth. The structure was defined by an incomplete, circular arrangement of post holes [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13] and [14]. Between 2.6m and 3.7m apart, they formed a circle 8.7m in diameter, enclosing an area of approximately 60m². The post holes were all sub-circular, with diameters of 0.25m to 0.8m. All seven were half-sectioned and had variable profiles, 0.05m to 0.2m deep (Table 2.17). A depression in the base of [9] may indicate the size of posts was approximately 0.25m in diameter (Fig 2.38).

The hearth within the building was sub-circular, 0.9m long and 0.7m wide, defined by a ring of loosely placed pebbles and flint nodules up to 90mm in size. The area within these stones had been lined with clay, scorched red by the heat of the fire.

A small quantity of pottery, four vessels, was recovered from this roundhouse. All the sherds were undiagnostic of form, and the phasing depends solely on the fabrics (F01A, F03, F28).

Four-post Structures

Nine four-post structures, dating to phase 3, were found predominantly on the south and east sides of the settlement focus. The dimensions of these buildings are given from the centre of the corner posts around their circumference (see also phase 4). The function of four-post structures has proved particularly elusive, with alternatives including animal stalls, excarnation platforms, leaf-, fish-, or hide-drying racks, grain storage, shrines and look-out towers. At Salford in phase 3, one at least may be a shrine.

G18 comprised four sub-circular post holes [1316], [1320], [1328] and [1334]. Each was half-sectioned, and proved to be some 0.14m to 0.2m deep, filled by dark grey-brown silt. G18 occupied an area 2.3m × 2.2m. In the centre was a small circular pit [1322], 0.32m deep, and filled by grey-black silt (Fig 2.39).

A relatively large quantity of pottery was recovered from this structure, with 20 vessels represented by 25 sherds (Table 2.18). Most of the pottery, 65%, came from the central pit. Although no complete vessels were recovered, there were three fragments of carination, two rims and a base. The carinated vessel fragments (Fig 2.40 no. 124) possibly have white inlay. An antler was also found in pit [1322] which suggests a deliberate, possibly ritual, deposit (Plate 4).

F no.	EIA F01B	EIA F03	EIA F28	MIA F16	MIA F17
1316	1:1:14				
1322		3:3:16	8:13:55	1:1:3	1:1:1
1328			4:4:24		2:2:4

Table 2.18: Pottery from four-post structure G18 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Plate 4: Possible ritual pit [1423] (1422) with antler found beneath four-poster G18

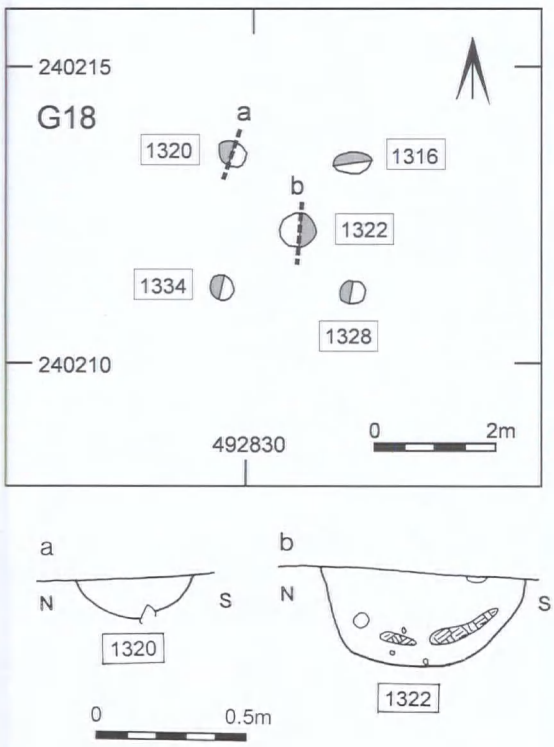


Fig 2.39: Four-post structure G18

The second **four-post structure, G20**, comprised four oval or irregular post holes [2566], [2568], [4328] and [4332], 0.2m to 0.5m diameter, 0.22m to 0.26m deep, filled by dark yellow-brown silt. It was approximately square, 1.55m × 1.4m, with one of the post holes containing 0.5kg burnt stone, possibly used as post packing (Fig 2.41).

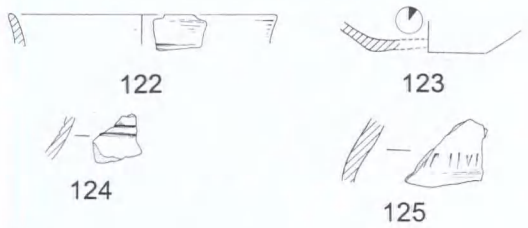


Fig 2.40: Iron Age ceramics in G18 nos 122–125 (scale 1:4)

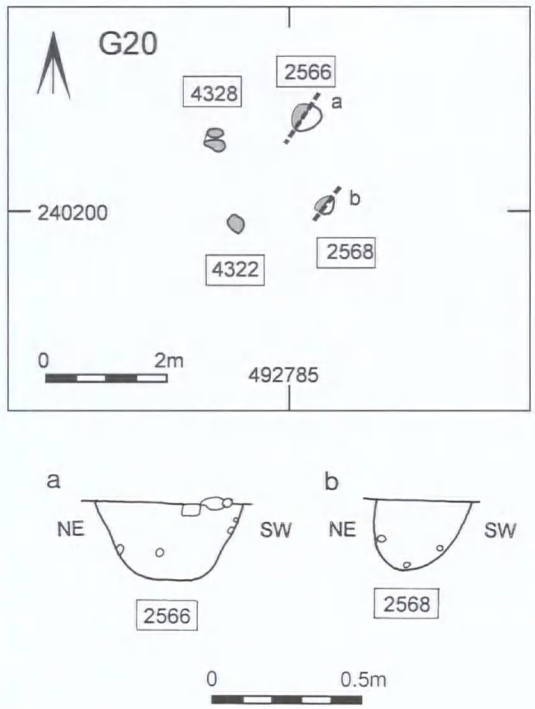


Fig 2.41: Four-post structure G20

Fig 2.42: Iron Age ceramics in G20 no. 126 (scale 1:4)

F no.	EIA F03	EIA F28	MIA F16
2566	3:3:10		1:1:5
2568		1:1:1	

Table 2.19: Pottery from four-post structure G20 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Five single sherds were recovered from the post holes, all small, but unabraded, and none weighing more than 6g (Table 2.19). Four of the sherds came from one of the northern post holes and a single sherd came from one of the southern posts. The pottery may have originated in roundhouse G11 (Fig 2.42 no. 126).

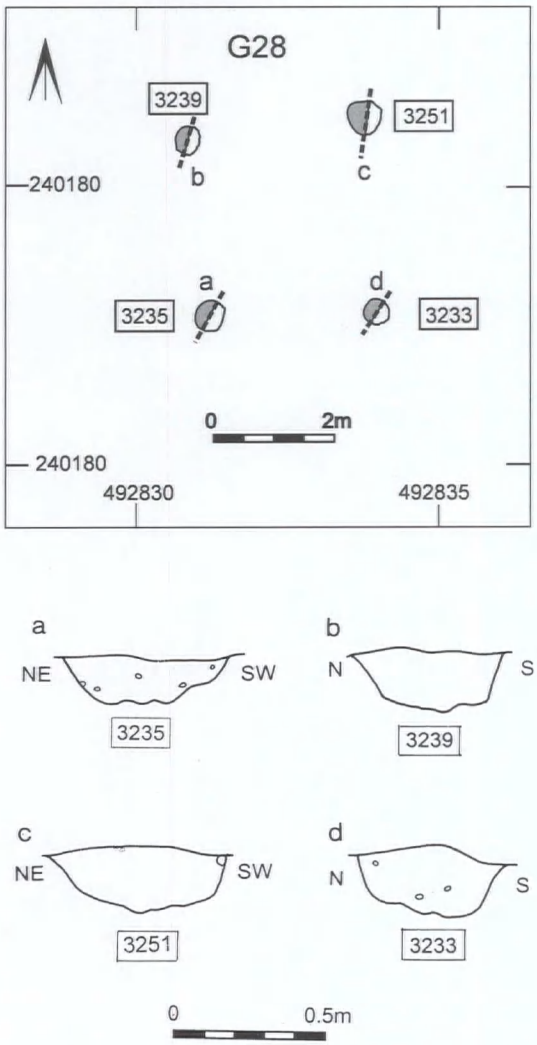


Fig 2.43: Four-post structure G28

F no.	F01B	EIA F03	F28	MIA F16	F17	F27
3233		2:2:2	1:1:1			2:2:2
3235			1:1:1			
3239						1:1:2
3251	1:1:7					

Table 2.20 Pottery from four-post structure G28 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

A third **four-post structure, G28**, comprised four oval post holes [3233], [3235], [3239] and [3251], 0.4m to 0.55m diameter, 0.15mm–0.23m deep, filled by yellow-brown silts. It occupied an area 3.2m × 2.8m, some 8.6m² (Fig 2.43).

Eight single sherds were recovered from this structure: five from post hole [3233] and single sherds from the other three post holes (Table 2.20). Over half the sherds are abraded.

G29 was a four-post structure comprising four sub-circular post holes [3595], [3597], [3599] and [3601], 0.2m to 0.29m diameter, 0.7m–0.1m deep, filled by grey sandy silt. In [3599] was a large amount of charcoal. The structure covered an area of 2m × 2m (Fig 2.44). Two single sherds were recovered from one of the northern and one of the southern post-holes. Both were of early Iron Age fabric types, F01B and F03, but are otherwise undiagnostic.

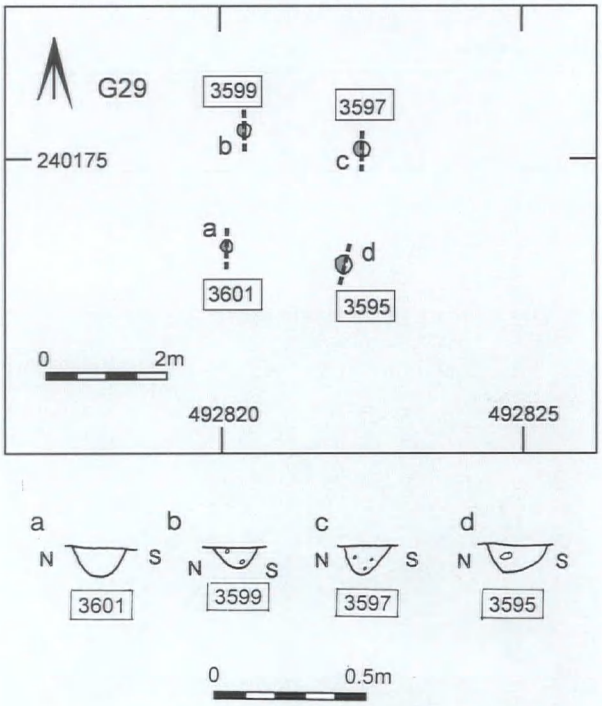


Fig 2.44: Four-post structure G29

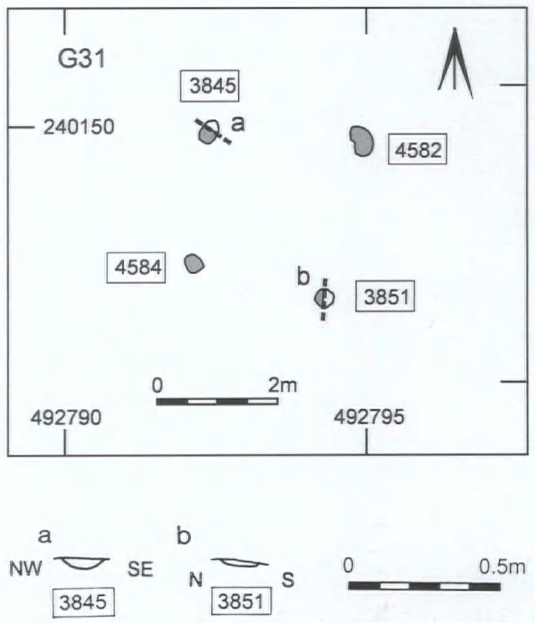


Fig 2.45: Four-post structure G31

G31 comprised a four-post structure with four irregular post holes [3845], [3851], [4582] and [4584], 0.31m to 0.5m diameter, 0.3m–0.7m deep, with yellow-brown sand. It occupied an area of 2.7m × 2.3m (Fig 2.45).

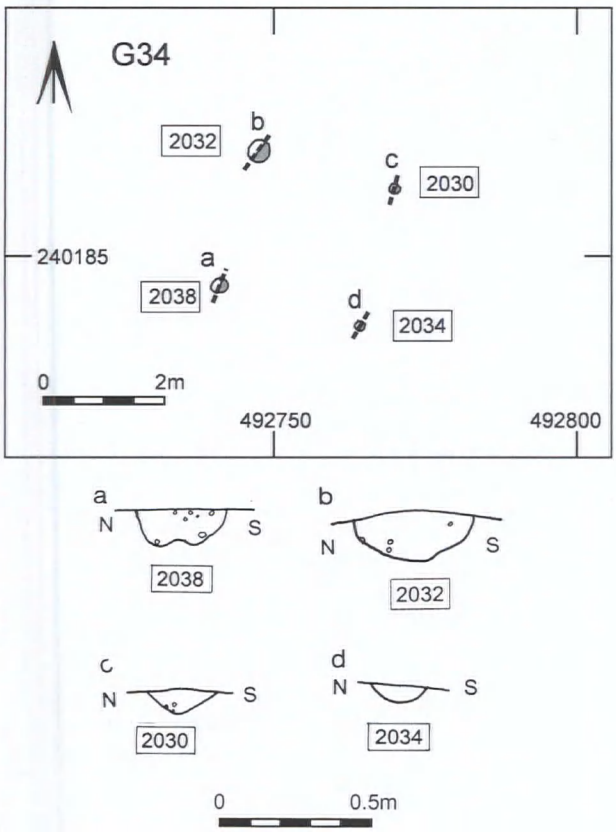


Fig 2.46: Four-post structure G34

G34 was a four-post structure comprising four circular post holes [2030], [2032], [2034] and [2038], 0.18m–0.38m diameter, 0.06m-0.18m deep, filled by grey-brown silt. It occupied an area of 2.4m × 2.4m (Fig 2.46). A single sherd, a tiny fragment of carination, was found in one of the northern post holes of structures G31 and G34.

G60 comprised a four-post structure of sub-circular post holes [95], [111], [125] and [139]; 0.4m–0.73m in diameter and some 0.1m to 0.35m deep. The structure occupied an area of 3.5m × 2.5m with a single clear replacement post [109], which was oval 0.6m × 0.44m, 0.15m deep, while the irregular shape of feature [125] suggests a second (Fig 2.47). Three post holes produced pottery, fragments from four vessels, although only one post hole [95], produced more than one sherd belonging to the same vessel. This carinated bowl comprised six sherds, their average weight less than 2g, and may represent a single crushed sherd. All other sherds were small, of early Iron Age fabric, but undiagnostic of form.

Rectangular Structure

Rectangular structures in Iron Age contexts are known from the region but are not common. They may perform quite specific functions and the phase 3 example at Salford to the north is somewhat detached from the main area of settlement. It does, however, appear to follow the same orientation as the roundhouses.

G70 comprised a rectangular post-built structure, approximately 14.75m long and 3m wide, aligned north-west to south-east. The northern end was defined by a single oval post hole [4659], 0.48m × 0.3m. The north-eastern wall comprised eleven sub-circular post holes [4660], [4661], [4662], [4663], [702], [704], [700], [698], [4666], [1229] and [1275], 0.6m–0.5m diameter, 0.2m–0.14m

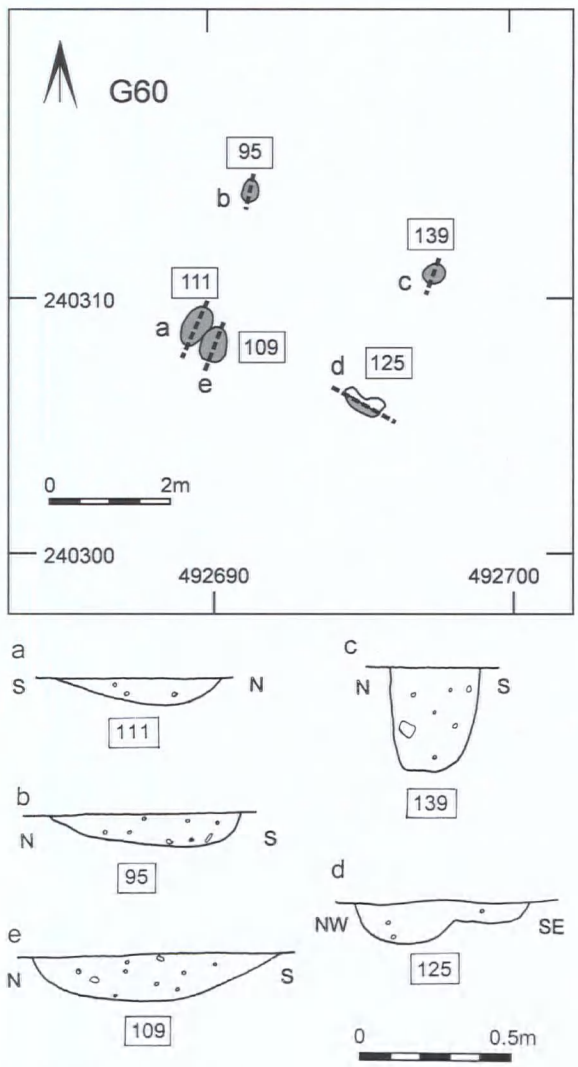


Fig 2.47: Four-post structure G60

deep and filled by dark grey silt. The southern end was represented by a single, oval, post hole [827], 0.45m × 0.35m, 0.19m deep and filled by mid-grey-brown silt. The south-eastern wall comprised seven sub-circular post holes [829], [692], [831], [591], [662], [1233] and [1231], 0.25m to 0.42m diameter, 0.06m to 0.34m deep and filled by dark grey loam (Fig 2.48).

Twelve sherds were recovered from this structure. All the pottery came from the southern wall, and in particular post holes in the south-east corner. This distribution may be illusory, as a number of contexts were not recorded. The majority were small body sherds but two sherds came from carinated vessels, one of which had incised decoration at the carination (Fig 2.49 no. 127).

The single rectangular building is unusual at Salford. It bears superficial similarities to the internal structure (G52) in roundhouse G11. However, this example is free standing and is almost three times longer at approximately 14.75m long. Similar structures have been found in the region but these are not common (Knight 1984, 158).

Isolated Pits

In addition to the structures noted above there were several pits in phase 3 (Table 2.21). Some were located adjacent to roundhouses and four were found close to the end of the pit alignment G40.

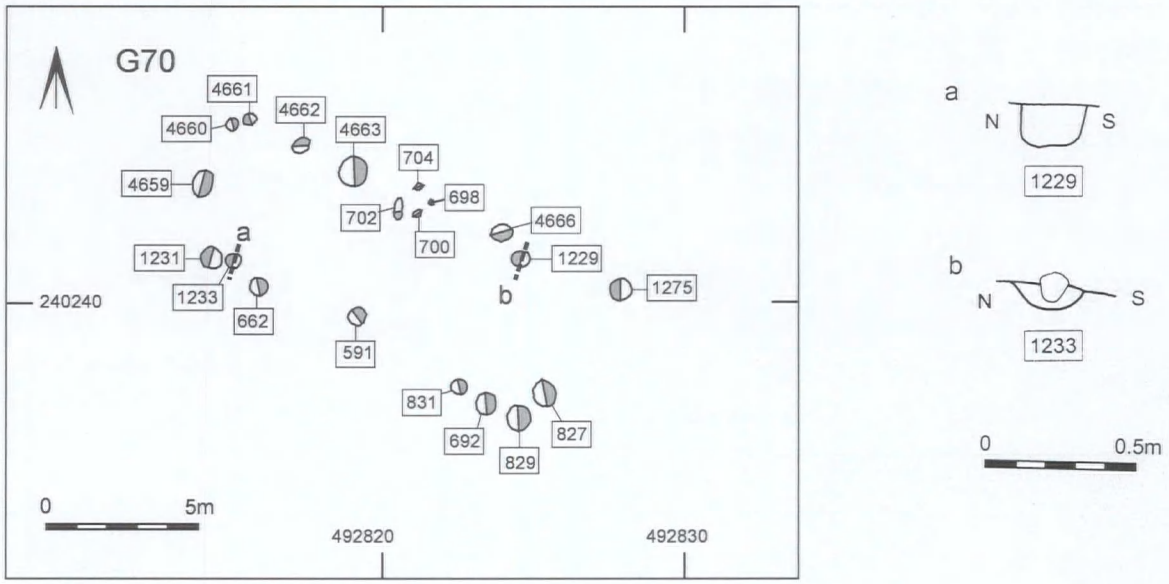


Fig 2.48: Rectangular structure G70

F no.	Dimensions	Description	Location
3658	1m diam × 0.3m deep	Steep-sided, flat-bottomed pit with a slightly deeper part suggesting the location of a post. Sandy fill	South end of G40
3404	0.75m diam × 0.2m deep	Shallow circular pit with concave bottom	Eastern side of phase 2 ring G44
1553	1m × 0.6m × 0.45m	Oval pit or possibly post hole with three identifiable fills: sandy upper (1555); middle (1554) stony; lower silts (1553)	Adjacent west side of G5
352	1.2m × 0.8m × 0.4m	Irregular pit with silty fill (301)	Adjacent (8m west) of G36
1376	0.65m × 0.55m × 4m	Circular pit with near vertical sides sloping to concave base (1377). Contained near whole vessel and cow mandible	East of roundhouse G48
2676	0.8m × 0.2m	Shallow-bottomed pit with sandy fill	West of roundhouse G11
3402	1m × 0.9m × 0.14m	Shallow pit or post hole with silty fill (3403)	Eastern side of phase 2 ring G44
3013	*c*.0.6m × 0.6m × 0.23m	Shallow oval pit, silty fill (3014)	South end of G40
2757	2m × 1.4m × 0.15m	Shallow oval pit, filled by silts (2758)	South end of G40
3007	1.2m × 1.2m × 0.9m	Circular steep sided pit filled by silts (3008) which included waterlogged wood	South end of G40
3484	0.5m × 0.5m × 0.32m	Bell-shaped pit, filled by silts containing animal bone. Three similar fills identified: upper (3485), middle (3486) and lower (3582)	East of G40
1360	0.28m × 0.23m	Small, shallow circular pit	

Table 2.21: Isolated pits identifiable in phase 3

	EIA					MIA			
F no.	F01A	F01B	F03	F28	F29	F16	F17	F27	F30
3658 (3660)					1:1:12				
3658 (3659)	1:1:13				2:2:10	1:1:4	1:1:1		
3404		1:1:7	1:1:3	2:5:10					
1553			2:2:44						
352			5:6:22	12:20:97				5:5:18	
1376				2:77:291					
2676				2:2:19					
3013				1:2:5					1:1:1
2757					1:1:5				
3484					1:2:10				
3402						1:1:1			
3007			1:1:3					1:1:2	
1360				2:50:138		2:2:2			

Table 2.22: Pottery from phase 3 isolated pits (vessel:sherd:weight g)

127

Fig 2.49: Iron Age ceramics in G70 no. 127 (scale 1:4)

Plate 5: Pit 1360

Twelve isolated pits produced pottery which dated their fills to phase 3 (Table 2.22). The pits had single fills, except for pit [3658]. The bottom-most fill of this pit contained a sherd of early Iron Age date, dating the original filling of the pit. The top-most fill contained both early and middle Iron Age pottery, in small quantities. It is not certain how far down in the fill these occurred, but it may be that the hollow caused by slumping of the fill was still visible in the middle Iron Age.

The majority of these pit assemblages are fragmentary, comprising single body sherds. The exceptions to this are pits [1376] and [1360]. Pit [1376] contained a carinated jar, 50% complete (Fig 3.1 no. 394). This jar was decorated by fingertipping on the top of the rim and on the carination. This decoration is typical of the early Iron Age, particularly in the East Midlands, but paralleled by vessels from Gretton, Northamptonshire (Elsdon 1993, E.1). Pit [1360] contained, in addition to single sherds, a small bowl comprising 49 sherds. It was found lying on its side, with the lower part removed by the machine, and may have been complete when originally deposited. It is a particularly fine F28 fabric, with external burnishing and a lattice design on the shoulder (no. 395). This could have been a structured deposit. The only other pit where forms could be determined is [352]. Three furrowed bowls and a carinated vessel were identified from the surviving carinations; all other sherds were undiagnostic body sherds.

2.5 Phase 4: Middle Iron Age (*c*.5th century BC–2nd century BC)

The fourth phase at Salford saw an intensification of settlement activity. Dated by the ceramic assemblage to the middle Iron Age, *c*.5th century BC to the 2nd century BC (see p.106), in this phase the settlement does not appear to have been enclosed although both G40 and G41 were still shallow features in the landscape and may have remained to define the settlement limit. In this phase the evidence is of a settlement with some 12 roundhouses, 3 four-post structures and several pit groups. The layout of this settlement is significantly different from phase 3, with the roundhouses strung out in a sinuous line from north to south. As with phase 3 there were two pits [2902] and G63 with significant, possibly ritual, deposits (Fig 2.50).

In common with phase 3, the date of activity is derived from the ceramic assemblage. In this phase, however, the intercutting of structures to the south, although chronologically indistinguishable, indicates the replacement within the same period of activity of two roundhouses in marginally different locations. This does not, of course, suggest a longer period of occupation for the settlement than in phase 3. As with phase 3, the components of the settlement have been subdivided into major structural types to ease discussion.

Roundhouses with Eaves-drip Gullies

The majority of roundhouses in phase 4 were surrounded by eaves-drip gullies and, with the exception of G72 in the north-west, they form a linear group along the centre of the excavation. In contrast to the phase 3 roundhouses, none has evidence of structured access. At the northern end of this group was roundhouse G76, slightly removed from the line of the majority of the roundhouses. The general layout of the settlement in this phase suggests the beginnings of a repeated occupation module which may have contributed to the different layout of the phase 4 settlement.

Roundhouse G76 comprised a penannular drip gully [468], 9.5m in diameter, up to 0.75m wide and filled by a dark grey-brown silt (Fig 2.51).

Although only 25% of this structure was excavated, a relatively large assemblage was recovered, 95 vessels, comprising 127 sherds, weighing 739g, concentrated in the north-west quadrant (Table 2.23). The presence of cylindrical and ovoid jars, and scored decoration, places this structure firmly in the middle Iron Age. The presence of vessels with internal residues suggests they may have been used for cooking (Fig 2.52).

South of G76 was **roundhouse G2**. This comprised a single penannular drip gully with a pair of entrance posts. The drip gully [1158] was 12m in diameter, enclosing an area of 113m². It was 0.4m–0.65m wide with a U-shaped profile and 0.1m–0.2m throughout. It had not been recut (Fig 2.55).

	EIA			MIA		
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
468	28:44:346	12:15:89	1:1:1	31:36:167	1:2:1	22:29:135

Table 2.23: Pottery from roundhouse G76 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

	EIA		MIA	
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F17**	**F27**
1158	5:5:37	1:1:8	8:8:31	3:3:5

Table 2.24: Pottery from roundhouse G2 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

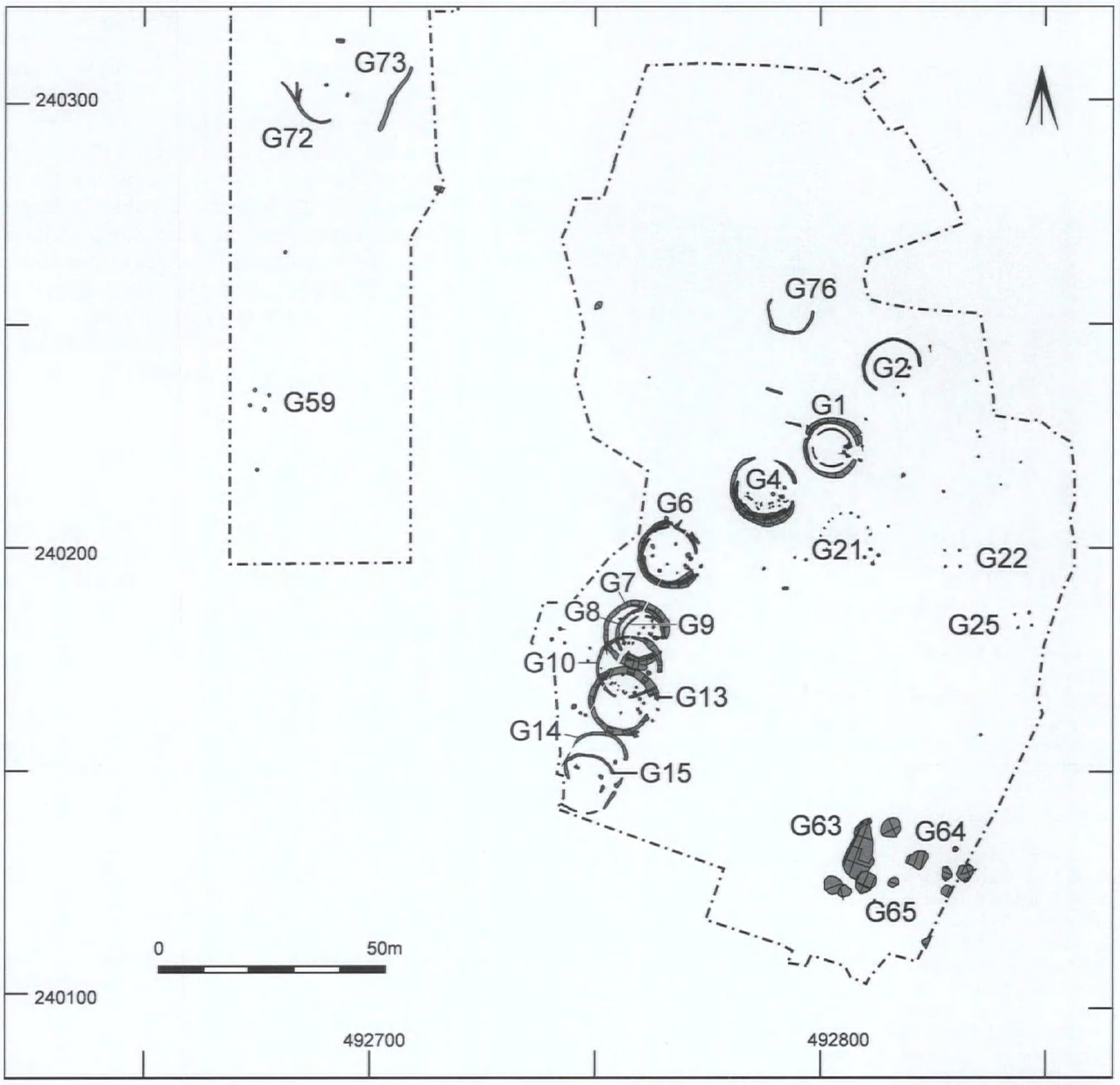


Fig 2.50: Phase 4 Middle Iron Age

The pair of post holes that indicated the position of the entrance [4668] and [4669] were sub-circular, 0.6m and 0.64m in diameter and 1.85m apart.

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from this structure: 17 sherds, weighing 81g, all from different vessels (Table 2.24). None of the vessels were diagnostic of form. The poor survival was due to plough damage and over-machining.

Almost directly south of G76 and G2 was **roundhouse G1**. This was a circular building defined by a substantial, penannular, drip gully 11m in diameter [823]. The line of the building structure was evident from a circular slot concentric with the drip gully and there was an east-south-east facing entrance formed of four posts through a gap in the gully (Fig 2.53; Plate 6).

The earliest drip gully had an internal diameter of 11m, and was some 0.4m–0.8m wide, 0.15m–0.25m deep. The recut [825] on the same line as the original was slightly larger with an average diameter of 11.5m. A 3.75m wide causeway in both gullies indicates the maintenance of an east-facing entrance. The gullies were filled by grey-brown silts.

Concentric with the drip gullies was an inner wall slot [904], inset by 1–2m. The gully was 8.1m in diameter, 0.25m wide, with a U-shaped profile up to 0.15m deep, and filled by a dark grey-brown silt. On the eastern side and forming part of the entrance were two post holes, 2.45m apart. The southern post [949] was 0.55m in diameter, 0.2m deep; the northern post [899] was 1.2m × 0.65m wide and had probably been replaced. Two post holes located in line with the drip gullies may indicate the outer limit of an extended porch. These were 3.2m apart and 3m out from the internal posts. The southern post [1006] was oval, 0.7m × 0.45m wide, and 0.1m deep. The northern post [920] was sub-circular, 0.4m in diameter and 0.13m deep. Around the entrance was an area of cobbling.

A number of slight, irregular soil marks recorded around the internal entrance post holes, [957], [951], [967], [955], [953], [901], [934], [936], [938], [940], [942], [974], may indicate animal

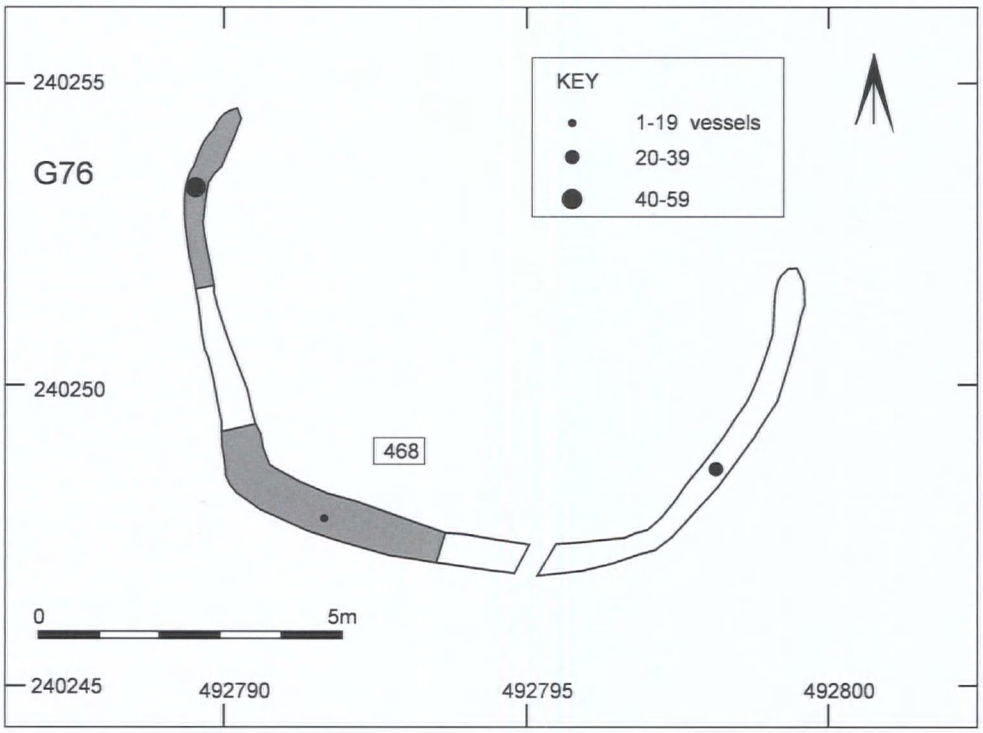


Fig 2.51: G76, note ceramics collected from surface of unexcavated sections

	EIA				MIA					
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**F30**	**F35**
823	1:1:1		64:98:505	17:22:104	10:11:28	51:62:284	1:1:7	21:37:141		
821		1:1:3	10:11:39			2:2:9		2:2:5		
825		1:1:6	98:111:824	63:71:303	21:24:53	110:131:806	10:13:95	55:64:274	1:2:23	1:1:10
904			6:6:58			1:1:3				
899			1:1:12		1:1:1	1:1:4				
901						1:1:1				
920			1:1:8					1:1:5		
1099			6:6:59	7:7:33	6:6:47	6:6:59				

Table 2.25: Pottery from roundhouse G1 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

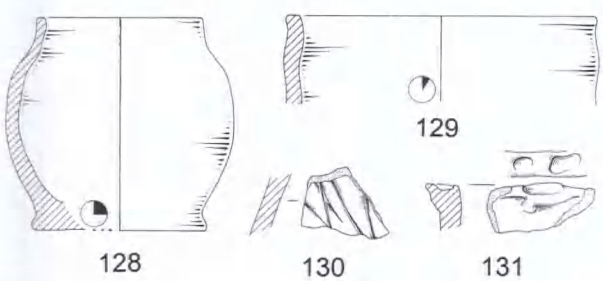


Fig 2.52: Iron Age ceramics in G76 nos 128–131 (scale 1:4)

activity, probably dust baths left by chickens (B W Cunliffe, commenting on BBC *Iron Age Farm* project).

At the rear of the building was an east-west aligned slot [821], 6m long. It had been cut by gully [825]. The slot was some 0.57m wide with steep sides, 0.34m deep and may have been the slot for a ground beam, possibly part of a fenced or palisaded extension to the roundhouse.

A large fragmentary assemblage of 578 vessels was recovered from G1, comprising 704 sherds, weighing 3810g, with few vessels comprising more than one or two sherds (Table 2.25). Twenty-nine per cent of the early Iron Age pottery from this structure came from the fill of the primary cut of gully [823]. However, a similar percentage, 27%, of the middle Iron Age total within this structure, also comes from this same feature. A greater percentage of the total from this roundhouse comes from the fill of the recut gully [825], although percentages of early and middle Iron Age pottery are similar, 58% and 59% respectively. The distribution of the pottery in the gullies is spread through the structure but there are distinct concentrations in the north-west and north-east sectors, with smaller concentrations in the south-east sector. A similar pattern of distribution can be seen in roundhouses G5 in phase 3, and G7 and G14 in phase 4 (Table 2.33).

The percentage of decorated pottery within this structure is 5.5% (Table 3.11), with no significant deposition pattern. The majority came from the recut gully [825], the feature with the largest assemblage of pottery. Some 14kg of burnt stone was recovered from the earliest gully [823] suggesting the presence of a hearth, with 38.28kg in the recut gully [825], along with 12g of hearth lining. The presence of the hearth and the sherds with sooting and residues suggest that these were remains related to cooking either within the roundhouse or nearby. The five vessels with burnt

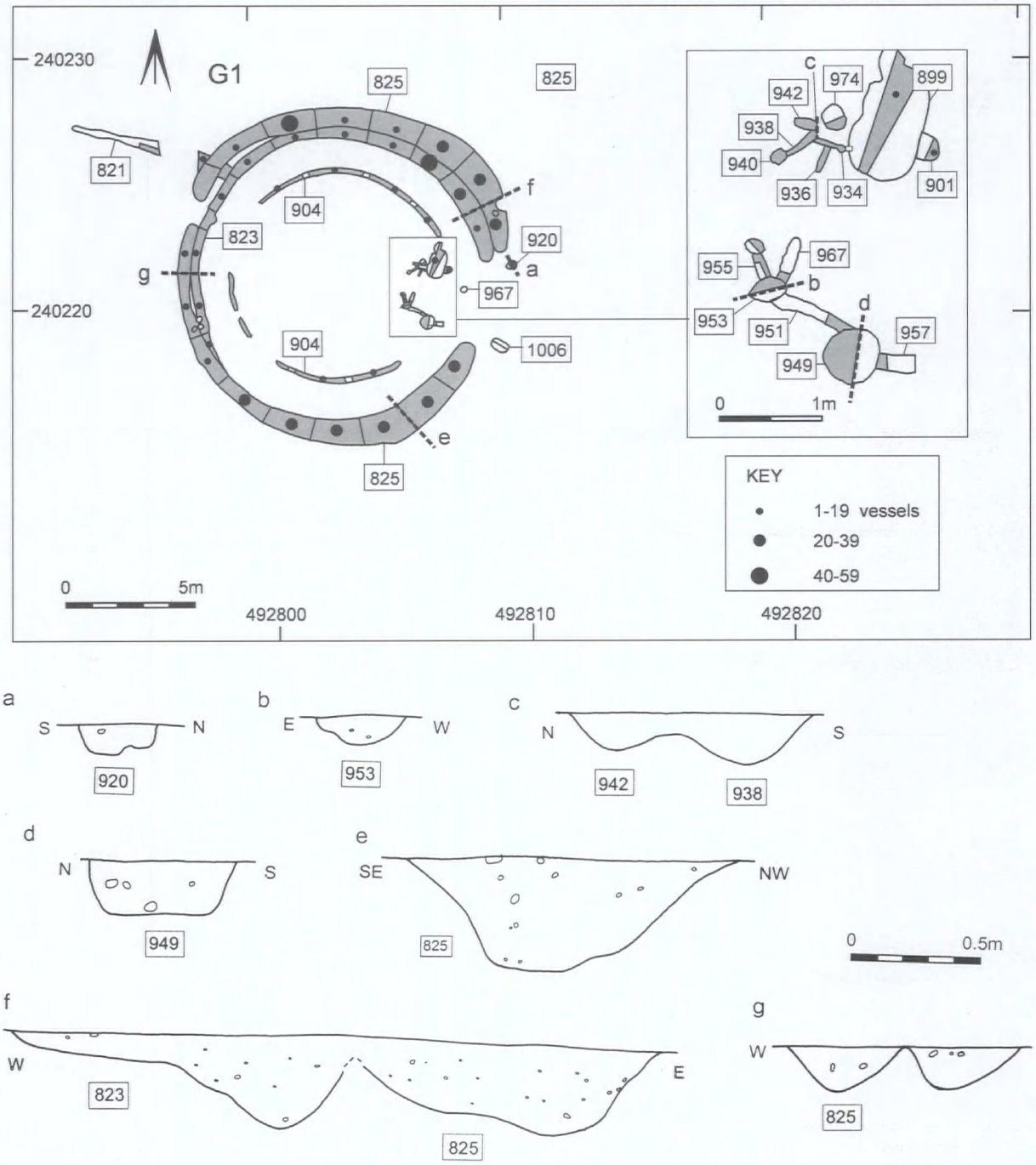


Fig 2.53: Roundhouse G1

F no.	EIA F03	EIA F28	EIA F29	MIA F16	MIA F17	MIA F22	MIA F27
1728	1:1:1						
1808							1:1:1
1500	74:75:643	20:21:87	3:3:17	12:14:92	96:146:1651	6:24:463	44:55:367
1501	11:14:61	11:11:30	2:4:39		14:20:132		5:5:22
1573	11:12:34	1:1:5		7:7:35	21:24:94	3:13:428	9:17:207
1589	5:5:21			1:2:12	5:5:24		3:3:6
1811	15:15:80	5:5:11	3:3:32		20:31:152		8:12:30
1829	1:1:4				1:1:2		

Table 2.26: Pottery from roundhouse G4 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Plate 6: Roundhouse G1

breaks and the four with re-oxidised breaks indicate the breakage of vessels while still on the hearth (Fig 2.54 nos 132–172). The remains of an iron bracelet (Rf 21) and a cow mandible (Rf 58), possibly utilised as a leatherworking platform, were found in the recut gully [825].

South of G1, **roundhouse G4** comprised a frequently recut penannular drip gully with three surviving post holes at the entrance. Two arcs of post holes mark the position of the roundhouse wall. The drip gully was excavated in several sections [1501], [1589], [1500], [1829], [1811] and [1573], and had at least two phases of recutting. Its internal diameter was 14m, while a break of 4m on the eastern side and post holes indicate an entranceway (Fig 2.56; Plate 7).

Two post holes [1808] and [4222], were aligned with the eastern gap, set back within the structure 2.2m–2.4m from the line of the drip gullies. The posts were 2.25m apart, circular, 0.55m and 0.61m in diameter. Post hole [1808] was recut by [1668]. A third post hole [1744] was 2m to the west of the outer pair, and may have been an internal support.

An arc of ten post holes on the south side of the building [1728], [1720], [1718], [1714], [1712], [1700], [1688], [1686], [1684] and [1682] ran parallel to the drip gullies, inset by 2.25m, approximately 7.8m in diameter, enclosing an area of 48m². The post holes were all circular or sub-circular, 0.16m-0.32m in diameter.

A second line of stake holes formed a concentric ring within the drip gully. Comprising [1742], [1740], [1730], [1726], [1722], [1704] and [1706], this outer ring was approximately 9.8m in diameter. The stake holes were 0.07m–0.22m, less than 0.05m deep, except for [1706] and [1722], 0.15m deep and [1726], 0.1m deep.

The two rings of stake holes, together with the repositioning of the drip gullies, suggest that the roundhouse was rebuilt entirely, at least once, in the same position.

A large quantity of pottery was recovered from G4: 419 vessels, comprising 551 sherds, weighing 4783g (Table 2.26). The assemblage is fragmentary, with few vessels comprising more than one sherd. Most of the pottery came from the gullies. A single sherd each was found in entrance post hole [1808] and structural post hole [1728]. Both sherds weighed no more than 1g, and therefore could have been trampled in during occupation.

The pottery is fragmentary, with 11% of vessels no more than abraded crumbs. A smaller number of more substantial vessels is present suggesting a mixed assemblage of discarded material, some longer surviving sherds and some more recently deposited. Also associated with the fills of this gully was the remains of a ceramic loom weight. Abraded and battered crumbs are concentrated in the south-west sector of the gully and the more substantial vessels, for example nine sherds of an F17 globular vessel (no. 183), eight sherds of an F17 scored vessel (no. 190) and seventeen sherds of an F22 ovoid jar (no. 192), were found in the area of the gully on either side of the entrance. The gully to the south of the entrance contains more pottery than the northern part, but survival of the archaeology here is better (Fig 2.57 nos 173–198).

Overall distribution of the pottery is concentrated in the south-east and north-east sectors, with less significant concentrations in the south-west sector. This is in keeping with the distribution pattern at Salford, particularly for the phase 4 roundhouses.

Gullies [1500] and [1573] produced the fragmentary remains of a loom weight (Rf 22), 184.75kg of burnt stone and 15g of hearth lining, the latter suggesting a succession of discarded hearths. In contrast, gullies [1589] and [1811] yielded 11.5kg of burnt stone and 14g of hearth lining and a small smithing hearth bottom (351g), suggests that iron working was conducted on a domestic level nearby.

South of G4, **roundhouse G6** comprised a penannular drip gully with up to three pairs of entrance posts and several possible internal features, including a hearth. The drip gully had been

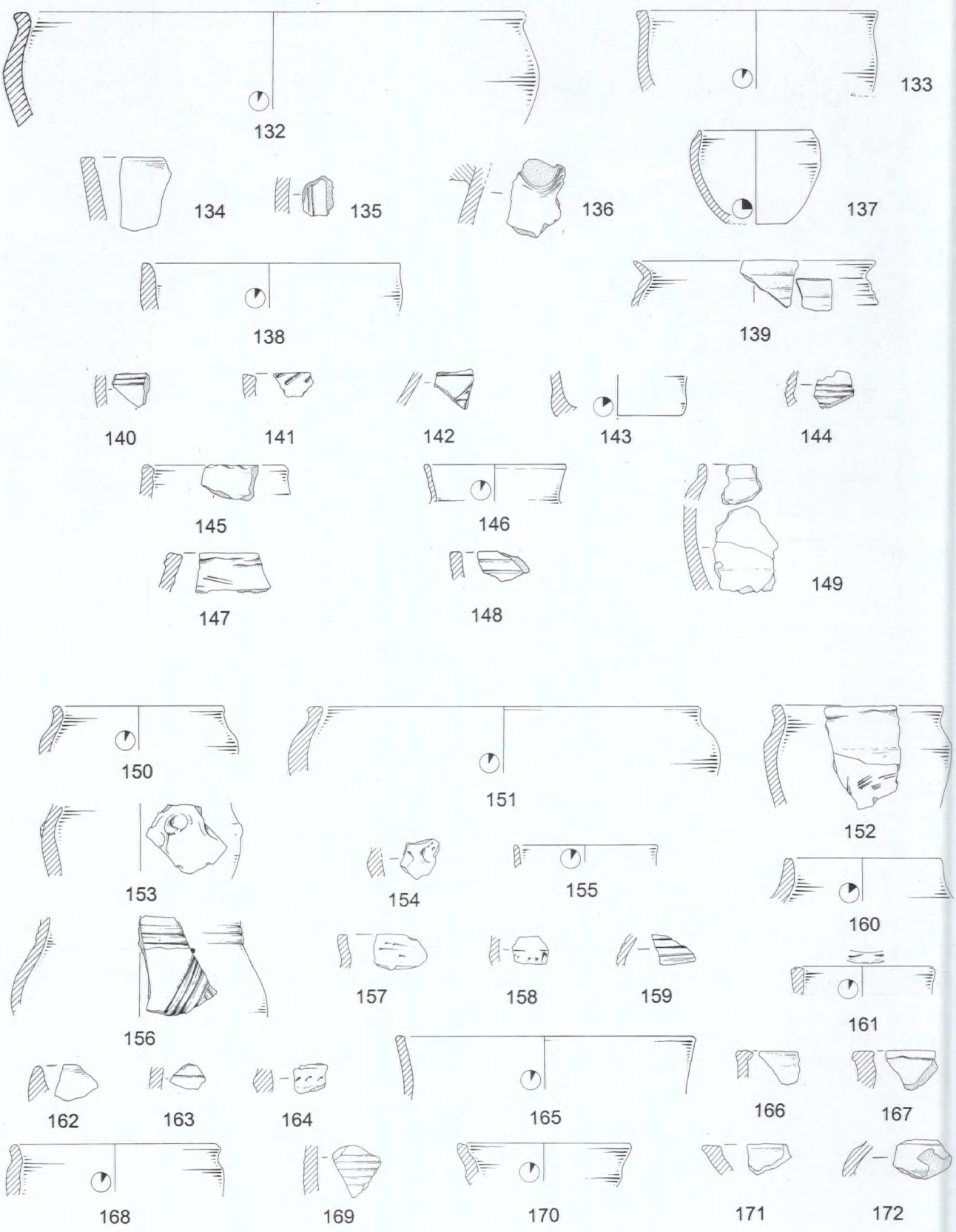


Fig 2.54: Iron Age ceramics in G1 nos 132–172 (scale 1:4)

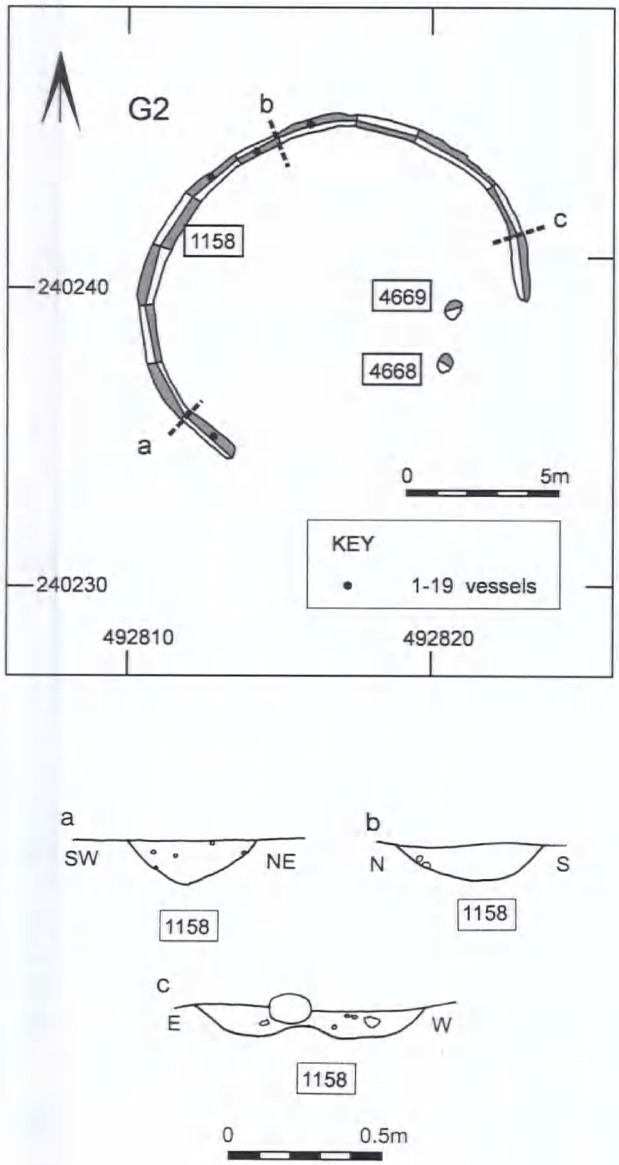


Fig 2.55: Roundhouse G2

extensively recut while the three pairs of entrance posts suggest the roundhouse had been rebuilt at least once (Fig 2.58; Plate 8).

Roundhouse G6 was originally defined by a semicircular drip gully (sections [2300], [2305], [2302], [2303], [2072], [2304], [2307], [2071] and [2308]). This was extended to a near full circle by the addition of gullies [2073] and [1540], leaving an east-south-east facing gap of 4m. The gullies enclose a circle of 11.5–13.5m, enclosing some 104–143m². Although several phases of recutting were visible in the gullies, the stratigraphic sequence could not be determined. The gullies varied in width from 0.2m to 1.2m and were up to 0.4m deep.

The porch comprised an innermost pair of entrance post holes [2153] and [2127], which were 2.2m apart, one, [2153], was oval, 1.1m × 0.8m wide, 0.25m deep the other [2127] sub-circular, 0.5m in diameter, and 0.25m deep. The second pair of entrance posts were approximately 1m to the south-east, 2.1m apart; [2151] was irregular, 0.8m × 0.6m, 0.2m deep, while [2125] was sub-circular, 0.5m in diameter, 0.3m deep. The third pair of post holes [2131] and [2162], adjacent to the terminals of the drainage gullies, were 2.1m apart. The first [2131] was sub-rectangular, 0.6m long × 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep; and the second [2162] was sub-circular, 0.5m in diameter, 0.35m deep.

Several more post holes were recorded within the roundhouse. Three [2123], [2119] and [2103], were 1.5m from the gully and were perhaps remnants of the roundhouse wall, while post holes [2111] and [2115] may have been internal supports, similar to those in G12, phase 3.

A large quantity of pottery was recovered from this structure, 299 vessels, represented by 425 sherds, weighing 2921g (Table 2.27).

Entrance post holes [2125, 2151] were the only features to contain solely early Iron Age pottery. All other features had a mixture of early and middle Iron Age pottery, with approximately twice as much later pottery.

Forty vessels could be allocated to a particular form, although many more rims were found. Of these diagnostic vessels, 28 were carinated or furrowed bowls, occurring mainly in mixed assemblages, although gullies [2071], [2072], [2303] produced only carinated vessels. These gullies, however, produced fabrics, if not forms, of mixed date and only in small quantities. Other diagnostic forms occurred in small quantities – single examples of rounded jars, cylindrical jars and open vessels; nine examples of ovoid jars.

The general distribution of pottery is consistent throughout the life of the structure. Iron Age pottery, both early and middle, is

			EIA			MIA				RB
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**R06C**
2073			5:6:39	2:2:30		1:1:22	11:15:37		2:2:9	
1540	1:1:2		3:14:96	6:6:15			9:15:25		1:3:3	
2071			3:4:68			4:4:21		1:1:3	1:1:5	
2072			1:1:2			1:4:5			1:1:2	
2303			4:4:11						2:2:13	
2304		1:1:6	35:43:319	8:10:44		8:16:70	27:57:358	5:7:66	11:11:73	
2305			23:26:286	4:9:20		2:2:45	32:47:405	1:1:3	14:22:166	1:1:7
2307			4:4:23	1:2:4		3:3:11	9:9:60	2:3:18	2:3:42	
2308			11:12:160			2:2:11	18:29:195	1:1:11	2:2:16	
2125			1:1:1							
2151		1:2:2		2:2:20						
2162			1:1:2				2:3:17			
2153			1:1:12		1:1:22		3:3:17			
2084									1:1:1	

Table 2.27: Pottery from roundhouse G6 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

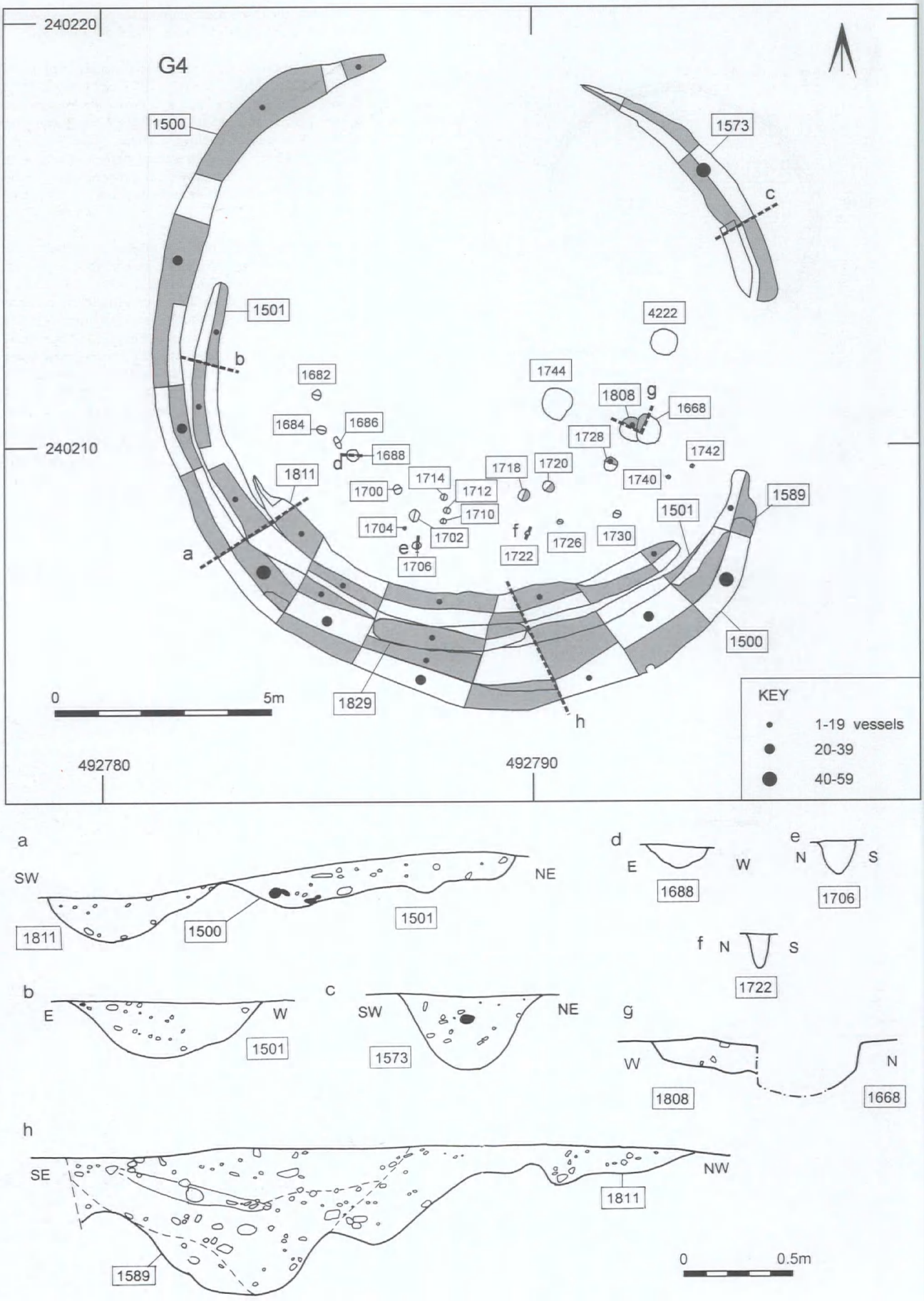


Fig 2.56: Roundhouse G4

Plate 7: Roundhouse G4, foreground, and G5 behind from the north

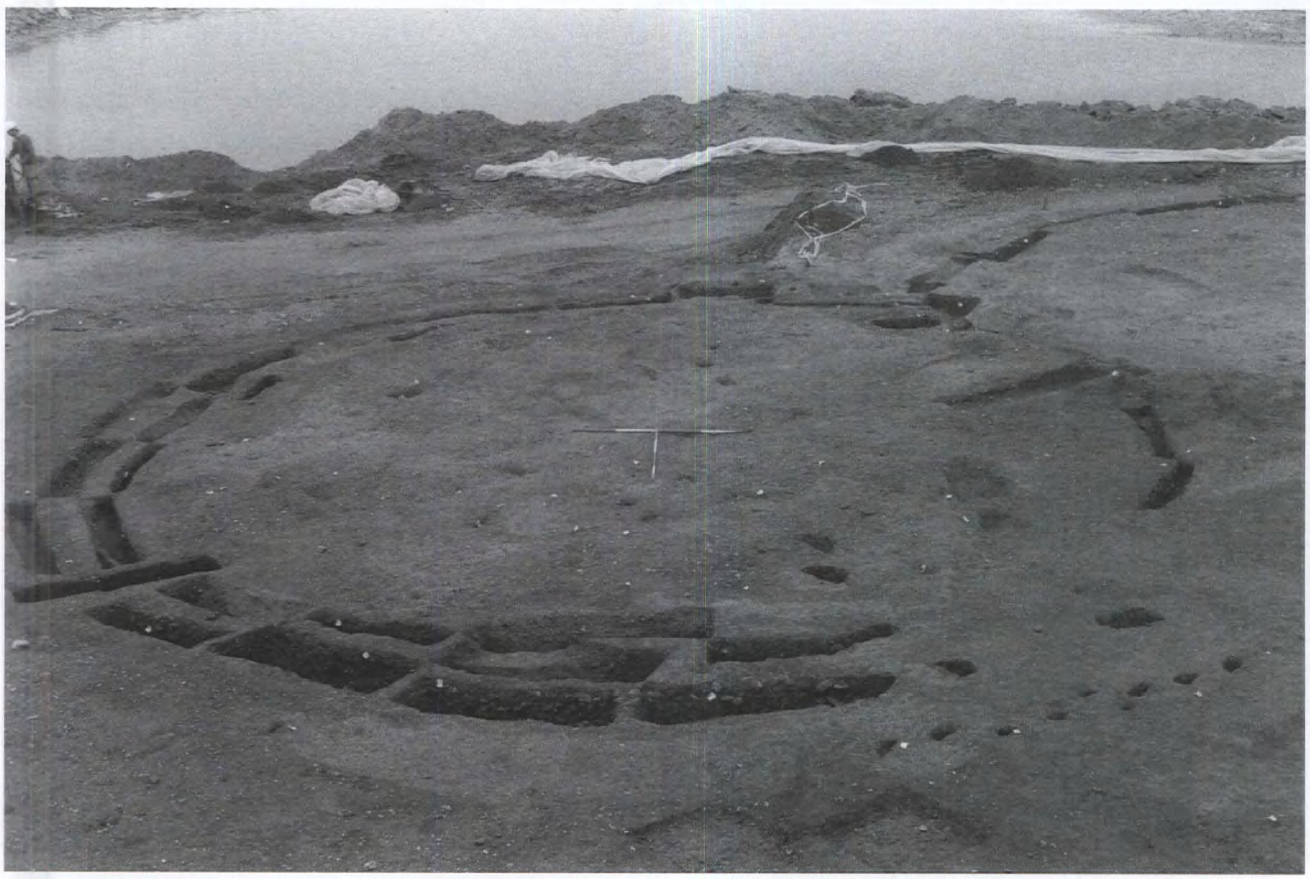


Plate 8: Roundhouse G6

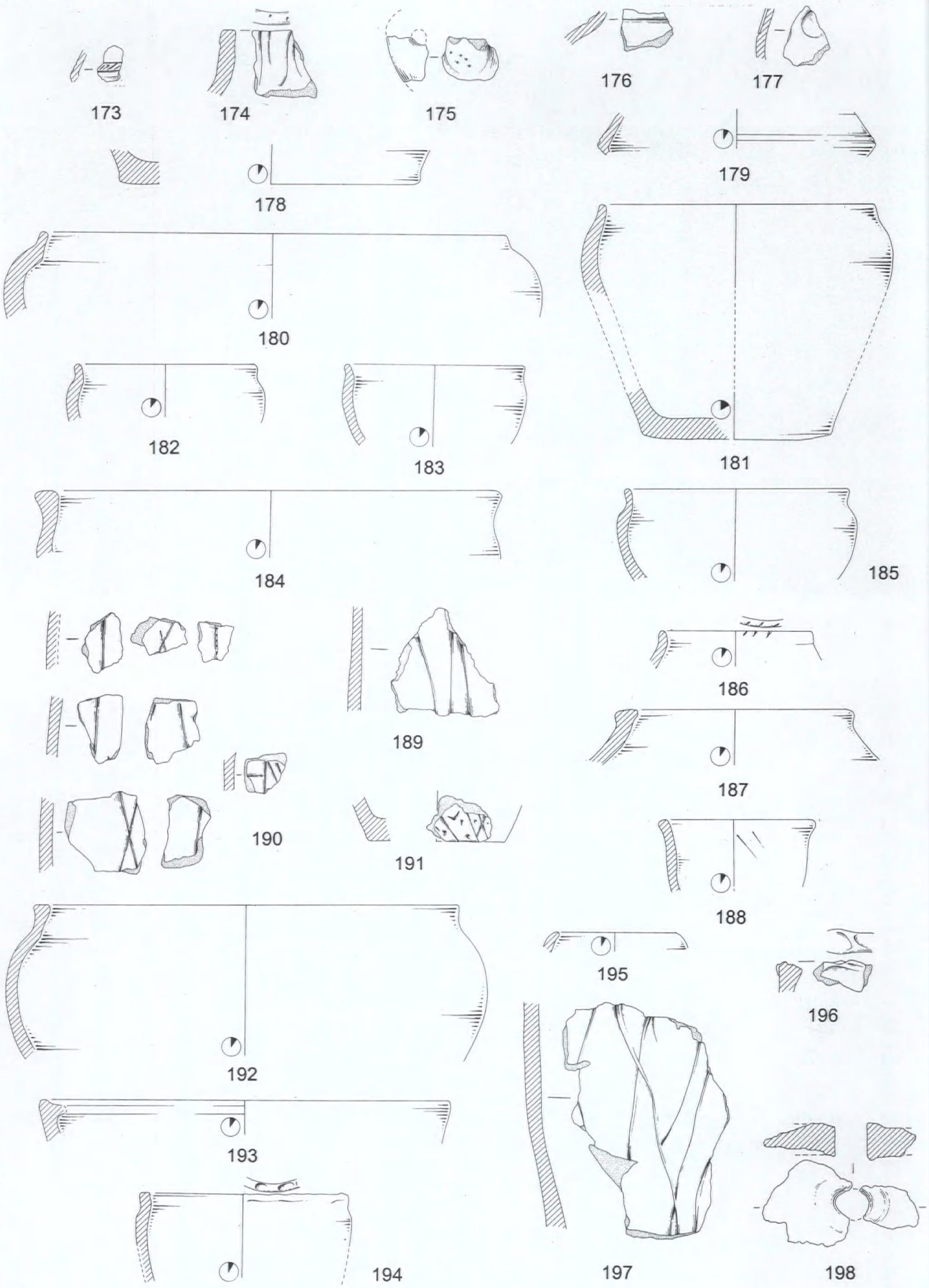


Fig 2.57: Iron Age ceramics in G4 nos 173–198 (scale 1:4)

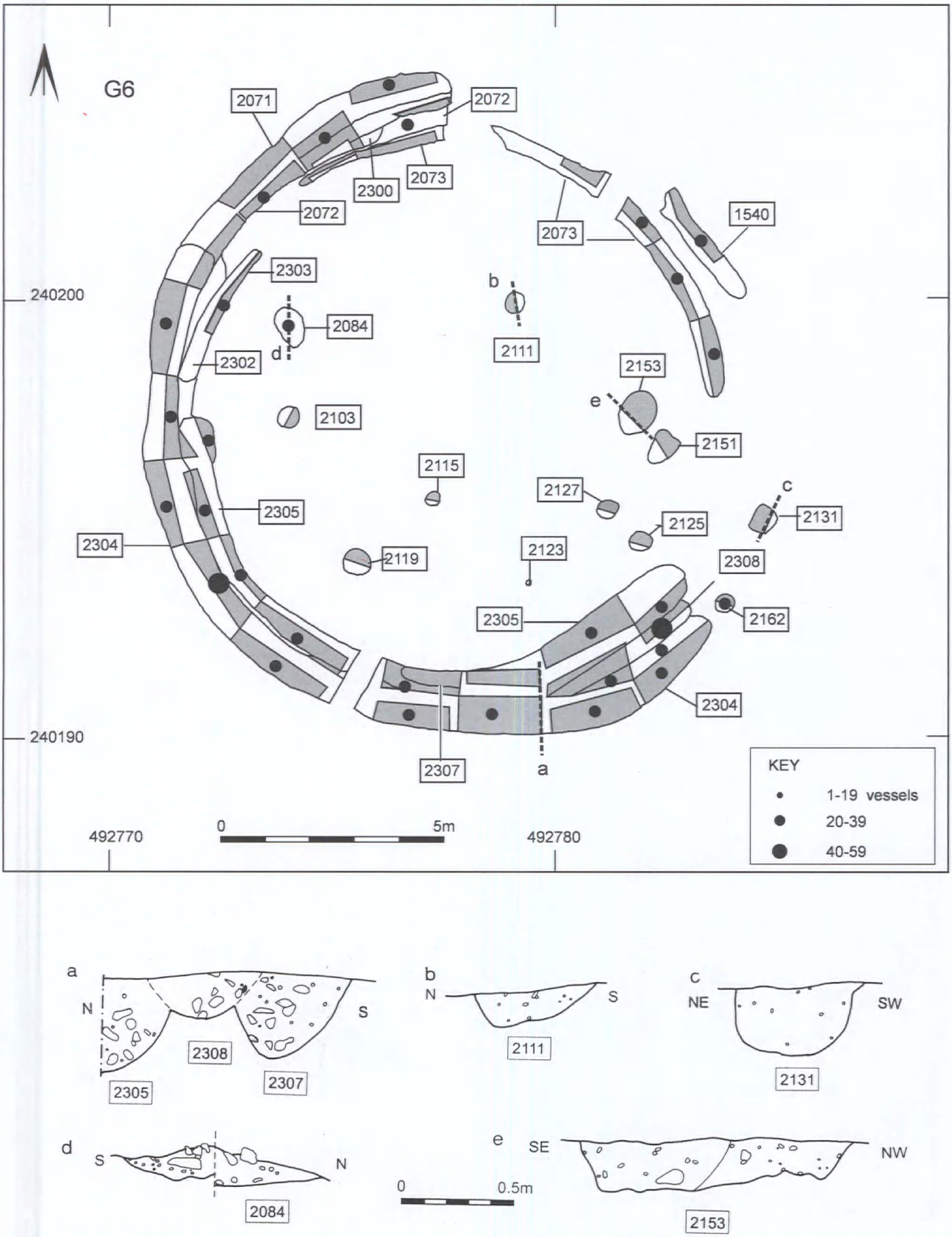


Fig 2.58: Roundhouse G6

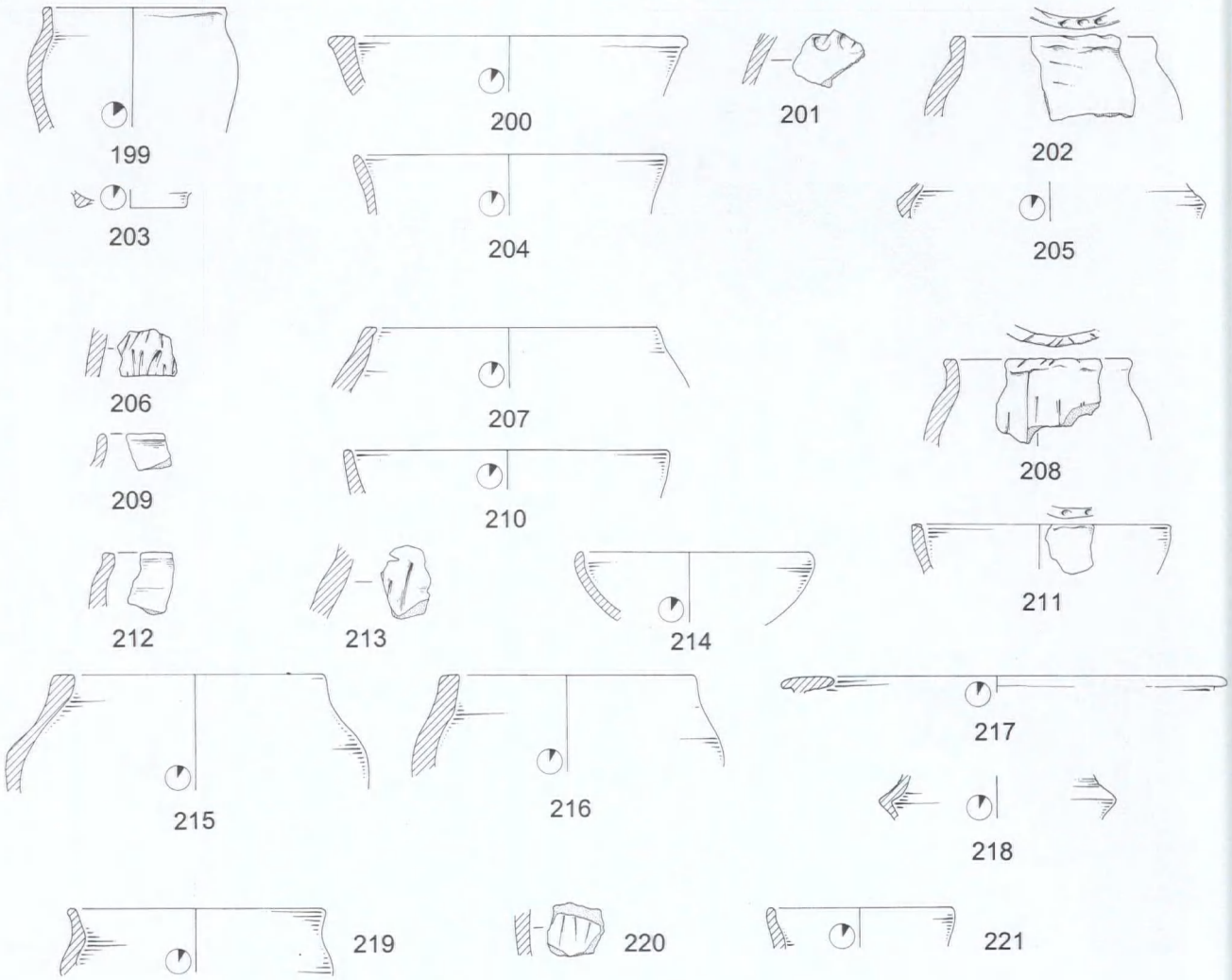


Fig 2.59: Iron Age ceramics in G6 nos 199–221 (scale 1:4)

Plate 9: Roundhouses G7, G8, G9

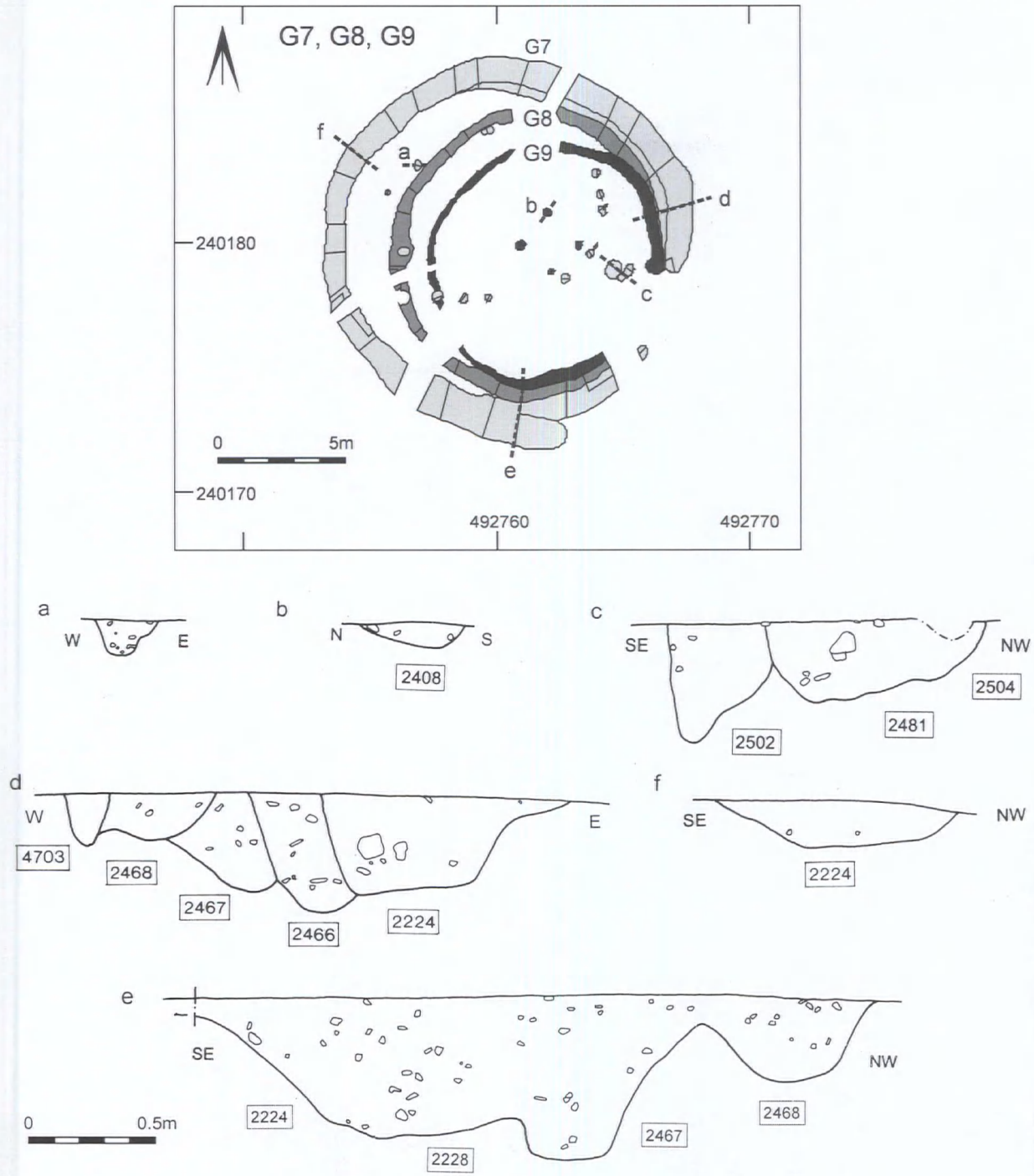


Fig 2.60: Roundhouses G7, G8, G9

concentrated in the north-east and south-east quadrants, with smaller, but still significant, amounts in the south-west quadrant. In this instance there is a concentration on both sides of the entrance, not the usual situation at Salford (see section 3.1), but similar to distributions noted elsewhere (Parker Pearson 1996, 119) (Fig 2.59 nos 199–221).

This roundhouse is one of the few structures that retained a hearth *in situ*. It comprised an oval pit [2084], containing 11.5kg of burnt stone. The central hearth [2084] also produced a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery, F27. Further quantities of burnt stone, weighing 248.25kg, were recovered from both the encircling gullies [2073], which might suggest a succession of hearths in the structure or nearby. Further burnt material was recovered from one of the innermost entrance posts [2153], the burnt stone from the hearth presumably re-used as post packing.

Textile working at Salford is evident from a 'bodkin' (Rf 36) found in gully [2305], and while too little of this object survives to determine its original form, the presence of polish on the surface suggests that it was used perhaps as a weaving implement. The probable nail shank found within the fill of a second gully fill [2304] may be intrusive from later Iron Age and Roman activity, although it is not inconceivable that it was in use in the later part of the middle Iron Age.

The small fragment of fingernail decorated fired clay (Rf 25) found in the fill of gully [2073] may be related to the finely executed

decorated clay discs (Rf 33, Rf 41) recovered from deposit (2001) (see section 2.8). Too little of this object survives to determine its original form, but the fabric appears to equate with an early Iron Age type (F29) suggesting this object may be residual.

South of G6 was a group of three roundhouses **G7, G8 and G9**. Of these G8 was the earliest and much of its drainage gully had been cut away (Plate 9; Fig 2.60).

Roundhouse G8, almost enclosed by G7, comprised a single penannular drip gully [2467], some 0.75m wide, U-shaped in profile, and some 0.2m deep (Fig 2.61). It enclosed an area 10.8m in diameter and on the south-east side was an entrance causeway, 4.7m wide, part of which had been truncated by the drainage gullies of building G7 (Fig 2.65).

This roundhouse is the earliest of the three built on the same site. Its gully produced an assemblage comprising 267 sherds: some 157 vessels, weighing 2387g (Table 2.28). The vessels largely comprise only one or two sherds, although some of these are relatively large: for example, an F17 handled jar weighs 117g (no. 237), an F27 ovoid jar weighs 120g (no. 239), and an F03 handled jar weighs 93g (no. 222). Four F17 vessels did have a number of sherds surviving. They comprise 8, 10, 15 and 57 sherds, weighing, respectively, 125g, 104g, 181g, and 485g. All, however, are undiagnostic body sherds (Fig 2.62 nos 222–239).

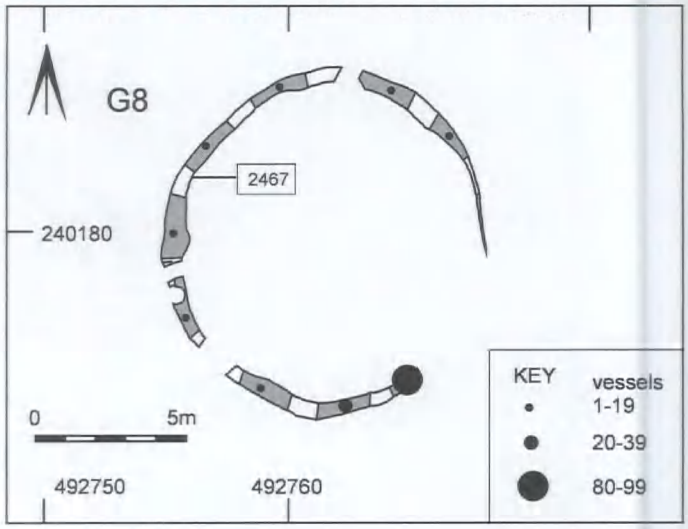


Fig 2.61: Roundhouse G8

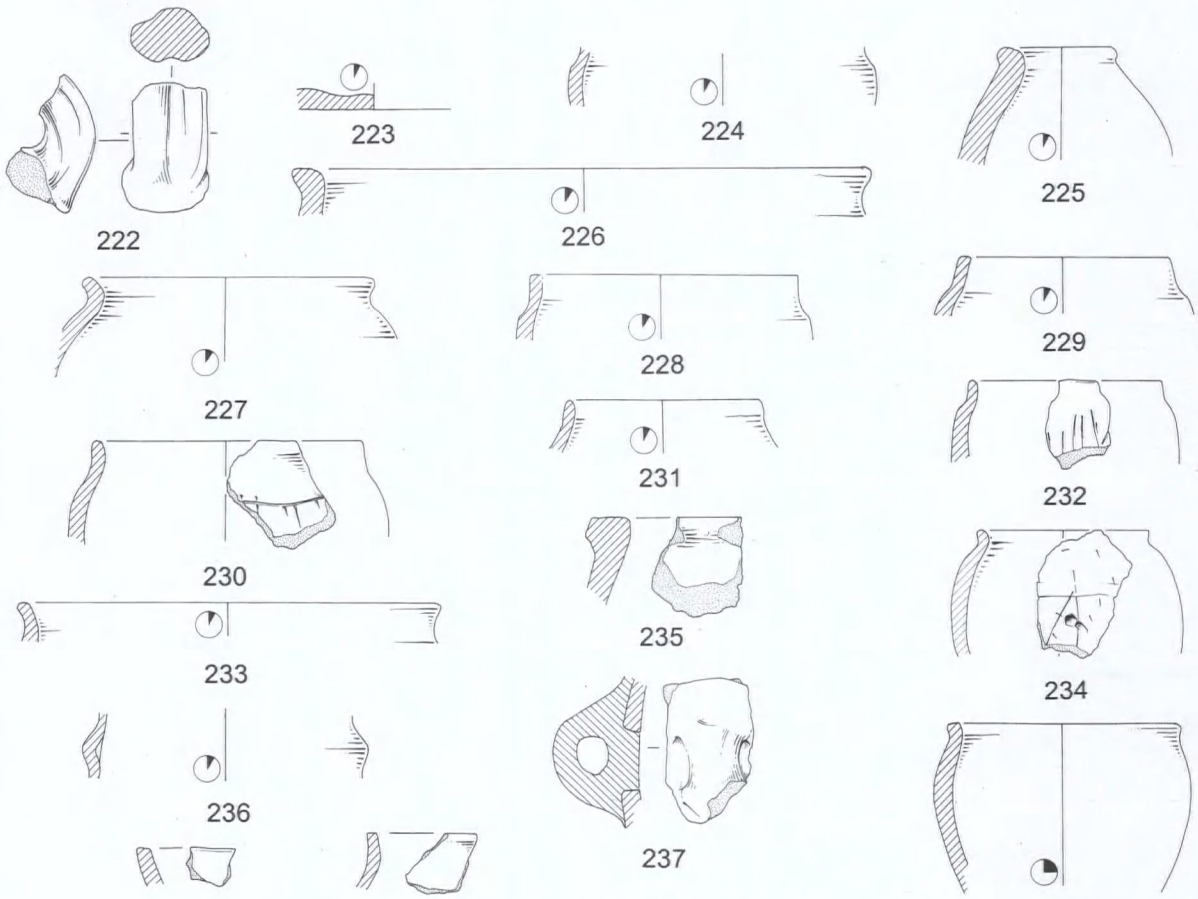


Fig 2.62: Iron Age ceramics in G8 nos 222–240 (scale 1:4)

	EIA			MIA			
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
2467	19:23:259	7:7:20	1:1:14	10:10:83	102:202:1623	4:5:88	14:19:300

Table 2.28: Pottery from roundhouse G8 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Of the nineteen vessels that could be assigned to a form, there were equal numbers, 36%, of carinated vessels and ovoid jars. The remaining 26% is made up of rounded, handled and cylindrical jars. The relatively high percentage of carinated vessels suggests that this structure may have been occupied at the beginning of phase 4.

The pottery is concentrated in the south-east quadrant of the gully, particularly in the area south of the entrance. It is here that the four F17 vessels with the largest number of sherds are found. It is unclear whether they were deposited deliberately after having their rims and bases removed, or whether they were discarded after accidental breakage. The presence of vessels with sooting and residues suggests that cooking, or some activities involving heating vessels, was being carried out in this structure and this may be related to the 21kg of burnt stone derived from the drip gully [2467].

Roundhouse G7 comprised a penannular drainage gully, with evidence for a post-built entranceway and wall.

The earliest drip gully comprised sections [2228] and [2466]. The gully enclosed an area of 104m², 12.5m in diameter, with a causeway of 3.5m indicating the position of an east-south-east facing entrance. The early drip gully was 0.5m deep and had been recut [2224] to enclose an area 12.5m in diameter. The later gully stopped short of the original entrance, leaving a wider south-east facing causeway of 7.6m (Fig 2.63).

The wall of the roundhouse was evident from a ring of posts within the circumference of the drainage gullies, 1.6m–2.75m from the gully edge. The ring of posts [2281], [2283], [2286], [2256], [2424], [2422] [2234] and [2238], described a circle 8.1m in diameter. All were sub-circular or oval, 0.25m–0.38m in diameter and 0.15m–0.3m deep.

Three posts survived from the entrance [2492], [2250], [2481]. The two inner posts, 1.4m apart, were sub-circular, 0.24m–0.4m in diameter. One post hole [2481] had been recut twice.

The ceramic assemblage from G7 is a mixture of fragmentary sherds and larger vessels, comprising 372 vessels, made up of 582 sherds, weighing 4702g (Table 2.29). Most of it comes from the gully, although one of the entrance post holes [2481] produced a relatively substantial vessel, comprising seven sherds, weighing 99g. This post hole produced thirteen sherds in all. The pattern at Salford seems to be that at least one of the entrance post holes had some pottery in it. The size of the sherds in this post hole suggests deliberate deposition (Fig 2.64 nos 241–280).

The forms found in the recut gully [2224] are more varied than those found in the initial gully [2228, 2466], and include rounded and ovoid jars, open vessels, cylindrical and handled jars, carinated vessels as well as undiagnostic rim sherds. In contrast, much of the early gully had been cut away, and it contained only carinated, cylindrical and handled vessels which, when compared to the ceramics in the recut gully, twenty-three diagnostic vessels, suggests that this may be residual.

The distribution of the pottery in the gullies is concentrated in the north-east/south-east sectors, with the largest concentration north of the entrance. This is unusual at Salford, where most of the pottery is deposited away from the entrance. The presence of burnt stone and hearth lining, together with sooted pottery and some

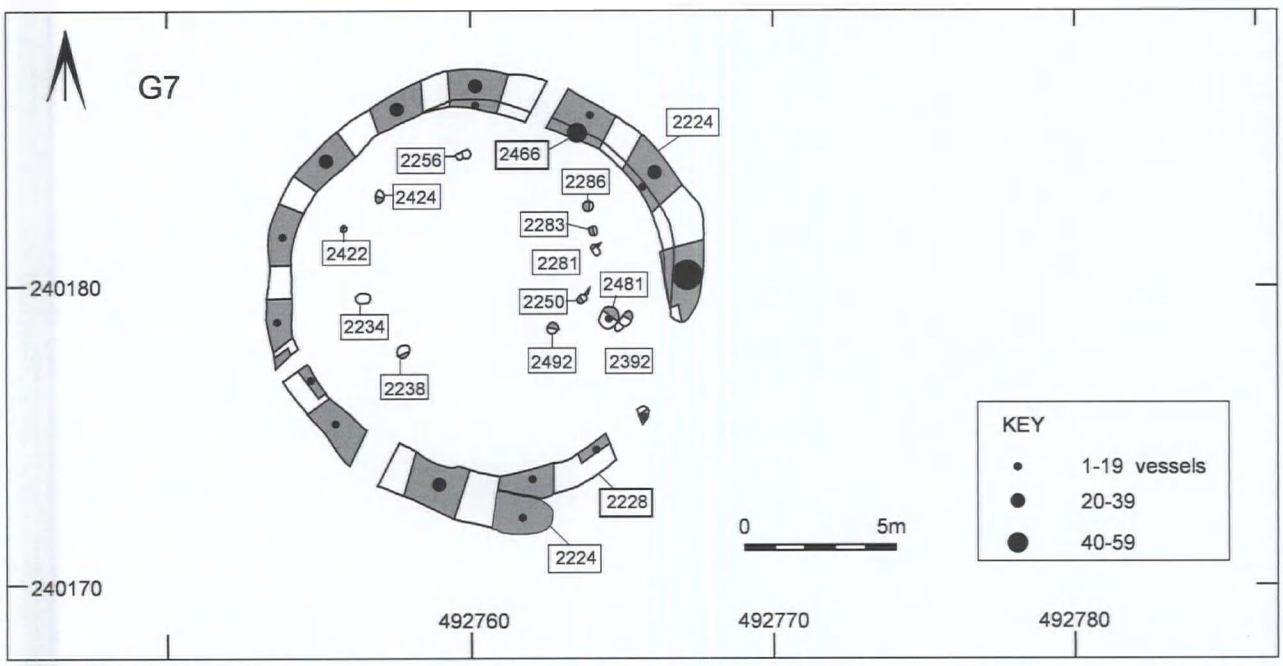


Fig 2.63: Roundhouse G7

F no.	F01A	F01B	EIA F03	F28	F29	F16	MIA F17	F22	F27
2466			7:7:30	2:2:6		13:13:39	28:29:184		4:4:10
2228			2:2:17	3:3:20		1:1:4	29:49:543	3:27:199	3:9:333
2224	1:1:32	4:4:20	52:78:621	23:25:145	1:1:8	24:26:181	124:158:1353	12:14:162	29:34:228
2481			4:4:86				2:2:8		1:7:99

Table 2.29: Pottery from roundhouse G7 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

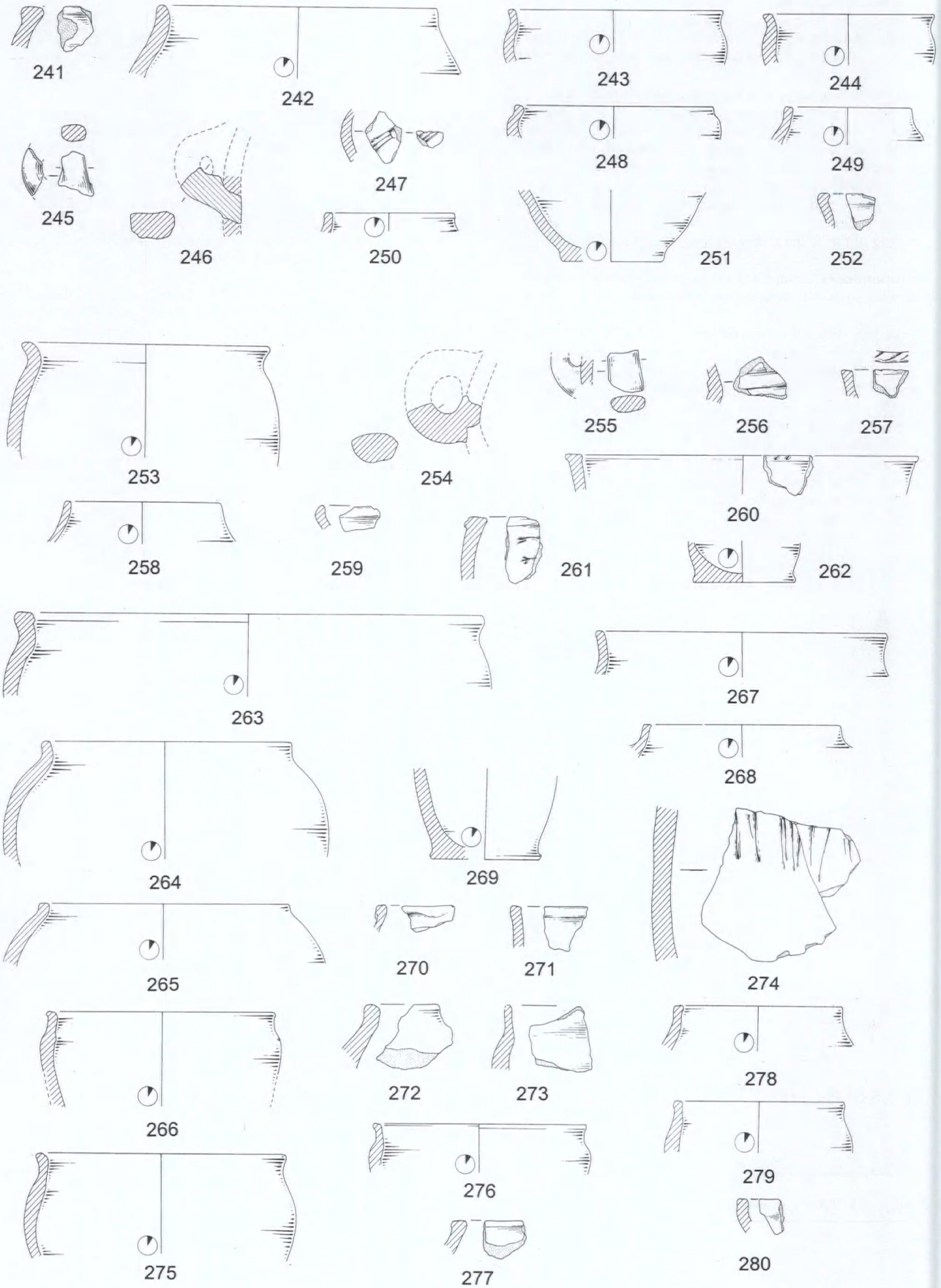


Fig 2.64: Iron Age ceramics in G7 nos 241–280 (scale 1:4)

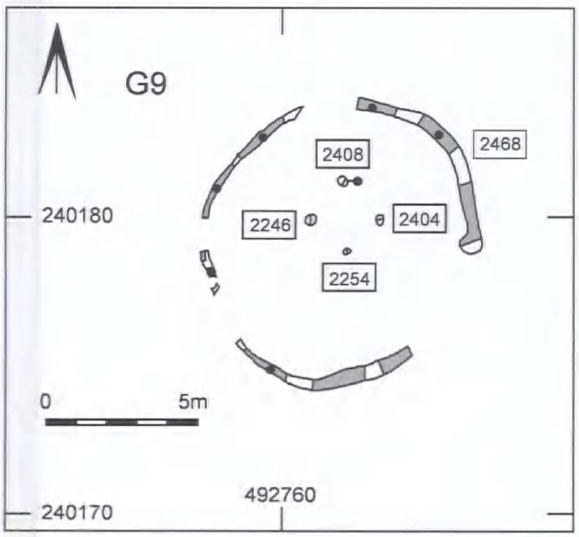


Fig 2.65: Roundhouse G9

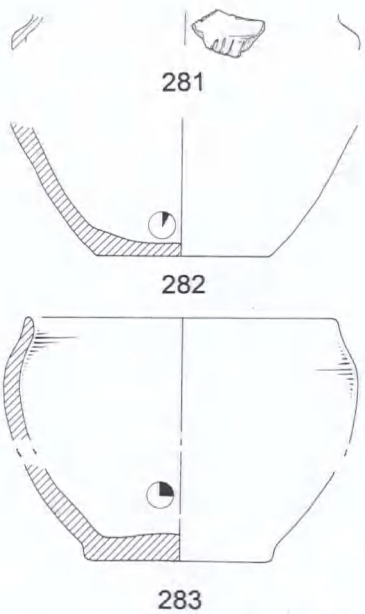


Fig 2.66: Iron Age ceramics in G9 nos 281–283 (scale 1:4)

vessels with residues, suggest domestic activity, possibly cooking, although the proximity to G8 and G9 may have resulted in material spreading from there.

The non-ceramic finds from this roundhouse were restricted to evidence of hearths, in the form of burnt stone, and a small quantity of hearth lining (6g). The quantity of burnt stone, both from the initial gully fills of [2228] and [2466], totalling 42.25kg, and the subsequent recut [2224], 551.25kg, might suggest a number of successive hearths in use over an extended period. However, the proximity to roundhouses G8 and G9 may also provide another explanation of these large quantities (see G9). Burnt stone was also recovered from a single post hole [2234], part of a circle of post holes within the circumference of the gully, and was presumably utilised as post packing.

Roundhouse G9 was defined by a penannular drainage gully, with four post holes possibly representing the remains of the internal structure or a separate four-post structure. The drainage gully [2468] enclosed an area 9.4m × 8.2m wide with a causeway 3.8m

	EIA		MIA			
F no.	F03	F28	F16	F17	F22	F27
2408		1:1:2	1:1:3			
2468	8:8:27	1:1:4	1:1:6	23:33:441	1:1:1	2:2:5

Table 2.30: Pottery from roundhouse G9 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

wide on the south-east side. The gully had been partially truncated by roundhouse G10. The gully was 0.5m wide, 0.1m deep and in the northern terminal was a roughly circular post hole. The latter, 0.72mm in diameter with vertical sides, was 0.18m deep. In the centre of the building were four post holes [2254], [2404], [2408] and [2246], which formed a square 1.7m across. The post holes were sub-circular, 0.18m–0.35m in diameter (Fig 2.65). This internal structure may be compared to G11 in phase 3 and is similar to two examples at Groundwell Farm, Wilts (Allen *et al* 1984, fig 6.5 nos 2 and 4). The post holes in G9 are also slightly offset from the east-facing entrance; however, the structure is much smaller.

A small quantity of pottery, 38 vessels, comprising 48 sherds, weighing 489g, was recovered from the gully and from one of the central post holes (Table 2.30). The pottery from the central post hole [2408] is small and abraded, and is probably the result of trampling. The presence of F28 and F16 fabric in the post hole suggests the posts are contemporary with roundhouse G9. Most of the pottery was recovered from the north-east/north-west sector of the gully, and this includes two substantial vessels, a base in fabric F17 (no. 282) and an ovoid jar which is incomplete but comprises a full profile (no. 283). The rest of the pottery is fragmentary and mainly comprises single sherds. None of the vessels were sooted or had residues (Fig 2.66 nos 281–283).

Approximately 2.75kg of burnt stone was recovered from the penannular gully [2468].

South of the G7, G8, G9 group, and partially intercutting these structures, was **roundhouse G10**. It comprised a penannular drainage gully with a pair of post holes at the entrance, together with an arc of post holes within the drainage gully indicating the location of the roundhouse wall (Fig 2.67; Plate 10).

Only the terminal and a small section remained of the original drainage gully [4531], the rest having been truncated by a recut [2693]. This gully was 13.4m in diameter, with gaps of 4.6m on the south-eastern and 3m on the southern arc. The gully varied from 0.32m–1.45m wide with a large terminal on the north-eastern arc; it was moderately steep sided, 0.3m deep.

The two entrance posts [2888] and [3859] were 2.2m apart, sub-circular, 0.57m and 0.92m in diameter respectively. The base of [3859] held a large flat stone, probably a post pad, above which was a 0.25m wide column of darker soil, probably the remains of a post.

The two internal posts [2770] and [2294] were 4.25m apart, roughly symmetrical with the axis of the building through the entrance, and are probably the remains of an entrance. One [2770] was oval, 0.55m long and 0.32m wide, 0.32m deep, while the other [2294] was 0.37m in diameter. The circle of nine post holes within the building were inset approximately 0.5m–1.5m from the encircling drainage gully and enclose some 95m². All were sub-circular in plan, 0.12m–0.38m in diameter.

In addition a cluster of stake holes was noted in the south-western quarter of the roundhouse [2810], [2808], [2804], [2802], [2800], [2792], [2796], and [2786], which may be the remains of internal structures.

A relatively small assemblage of pottery was recovered from G10: 62 vessels comprising 83 sherds, weighing 599g (Table 2.31). Four post holes contained pottery: one of the post holes around the

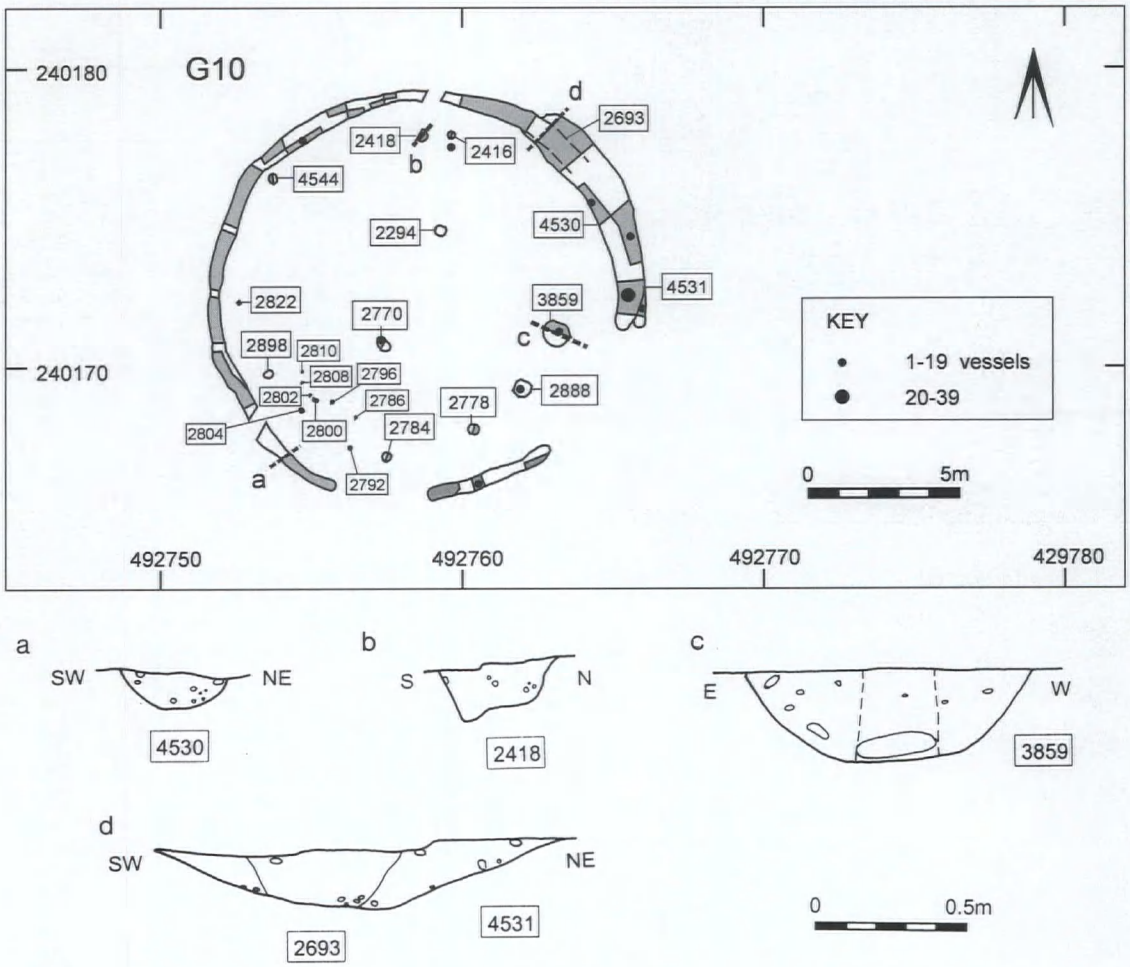


Fig 2.67: Roundhouse G10

perimeter [2416], an internal support post [2770] and one of the entrance post holes each contained either one or two sherds. One of the entrance post holes [2888], however, contained 21 sherds, each weighing at most 6g. Most of the pottery came from the recut gully.

Diagnostic forms were two carinated bowls and two ovoid jars, not enough to be significant. The distribution of the pottery was concentrated in the north-east/south-east quadrants of the gully, the commonest distribution at Salford. Vessels with sooting and residues occurred, suggesting cooking nearby or inside this structure (Fig 2.68 nos 284–288). The recut gully [4530] produced a small assemblage of burnt stone, 3.25kg.

Further south still, adjacent to and intercut by G10, was **roundhouse G13** which comprised a recut penannular drainage gully with three pairs of entrance post holes and a pair of internal supports (Fig 2.69; Plate 11).

The encircling drainage gully excavated in sections [2895], [2893], [2924], [3216], [2897] and [2896] had evidence of at least four phases of recutting. The gully enclosed an area 12m to 14.5m in diameter, some 110–165m², while the causeway through the gullies varied from 4m–9m.

A sub-rectangular arrangement of four post holes at the entrance [2918], [2920], [2958] and [3316] defined an east-facing entrance porch, 2.8m wide and 3.4m deep. All the post holes were oval, up 0.58m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep. A circular depression in [2920] suggested a post approximately 0.15m in diameter. A further pair of post holes indicated the position of replacement posts [2916] and [2926] 2.3m apart at the rear of the entrance. These

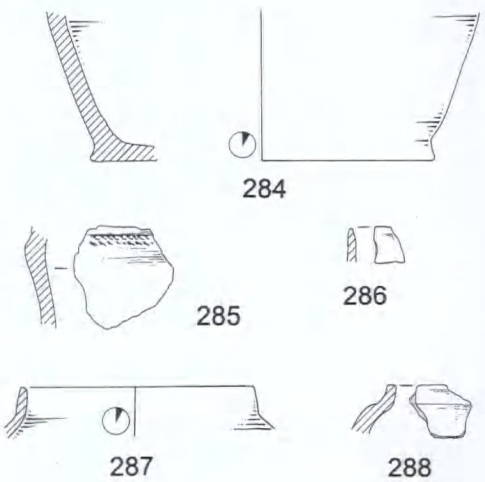


Fig 2.68: Iron Age ceramics in G10 nos 284–288 (scale 1:4)

were sub-rectangular, 0.55m × 0.47m deep, steep sided with depressions in their bases, possibly the remains of posts 0.15m–0.2m in diameter.

In the centre of the structure were post holes [2782] and [3270], 4.35m apart, oval, 0.37m long and 0.25m wide, and only 0.1m deep.

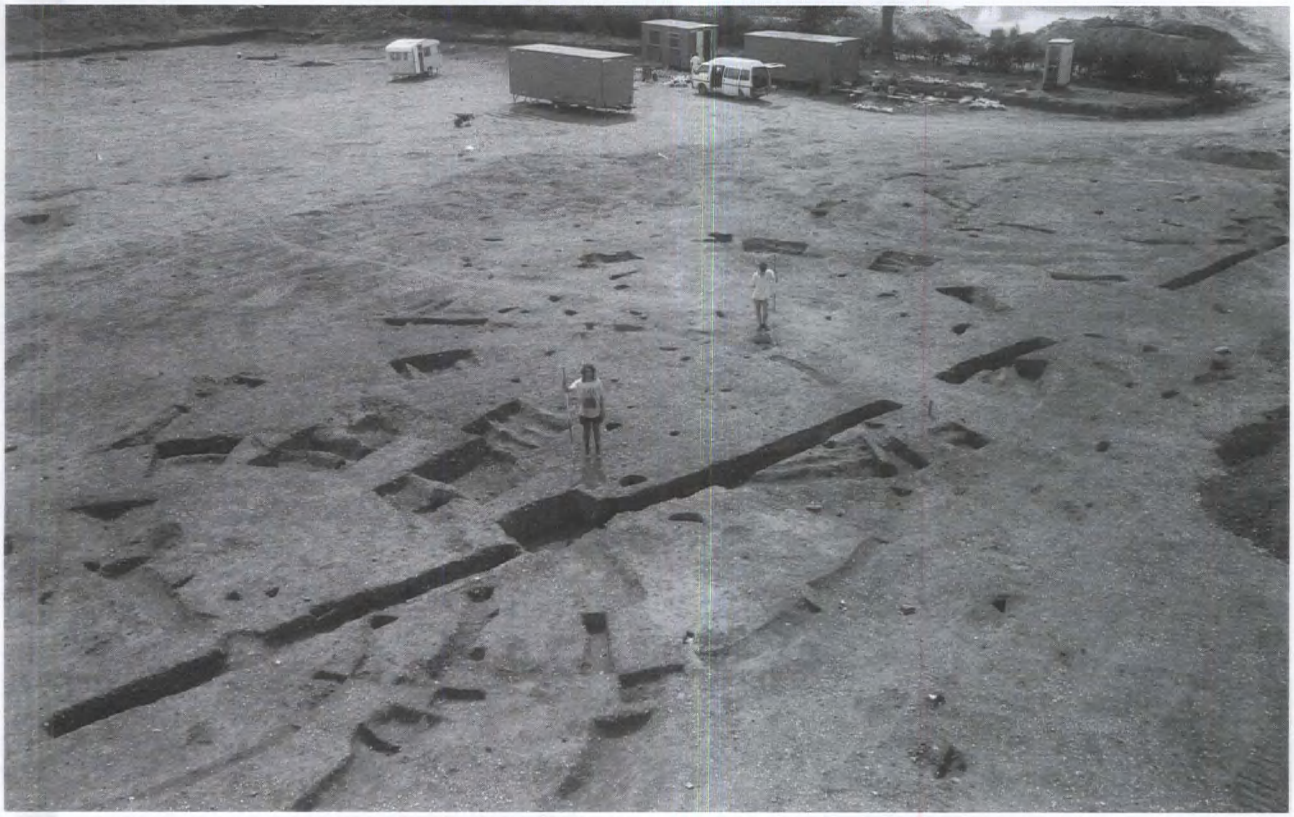


Plate 10: Roundhouse G10 (centre)

	EIA			MIA				
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**F30**
2770			1:1:4					
2888	2:2:11			4:4:14	13:15:117			
3859					1:1:7			
2416	1:1:4						1:1:1	
4531						1:1:43		
4530	6:6:13	1:1:1		7:7:54	21:31:185	1:8:46	1:3:87	1:1:12

Table 2.31: Pottery from roundhouse G10 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

	EIA				MIA				
F no.	**F01A**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**F30**
2918								1:1:4	
2920						1:1:3			
2893		3:3:11	1:1:4			5:6:68		1:1:3	
2895		14:16:51	3:3:6		2:3:25	21:34:194		4:4:7	
2896	1:1:6	9:9:61	3:6:8		4:4:20	17:17:85	1:1:1		
2897	1:1:6	28:38:467	11:13:44	3:3:43	6:6:51	59:62:634	4:4:13	12:13:92	
3216			1:1:1	1:1:2		4:4:7	1:1:10	2:7:39	1:1:10

Table 2.32: Pottery from roundhouse G13 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

A relatively large assemblage of pottery was recovered from this structure: 226 vessels comprising 267 sherds, weighing 1977g (Table 2.32; Fig 2.70, nos 289–307). The vessel:sherd ratio indicates a highly fragmentary assemblage, with only three vessels made up of more than two sherds. These are an F03 handled jar comprising 9 sherds, weighing 181g (no. 291); an F17 vessel comprising 9 sherds, weighing 117g (no. 301); and an F27 vessel comprising 6 sherds, weighing 35g (not illustrated).

The pottery is concentrated in the north-east and south-west quadrants, with most coming from the south-west. The evidence of vessels with sooting and residues suggests cooking may have been carried out in or near to this roundhouse. Nine vessels were leached. Although in itself quite small, the number is high when compared with other structures. This suggests that either the pottery was discarded in wet conditions or that the vessels were used for long-term storage of water or other liquids.

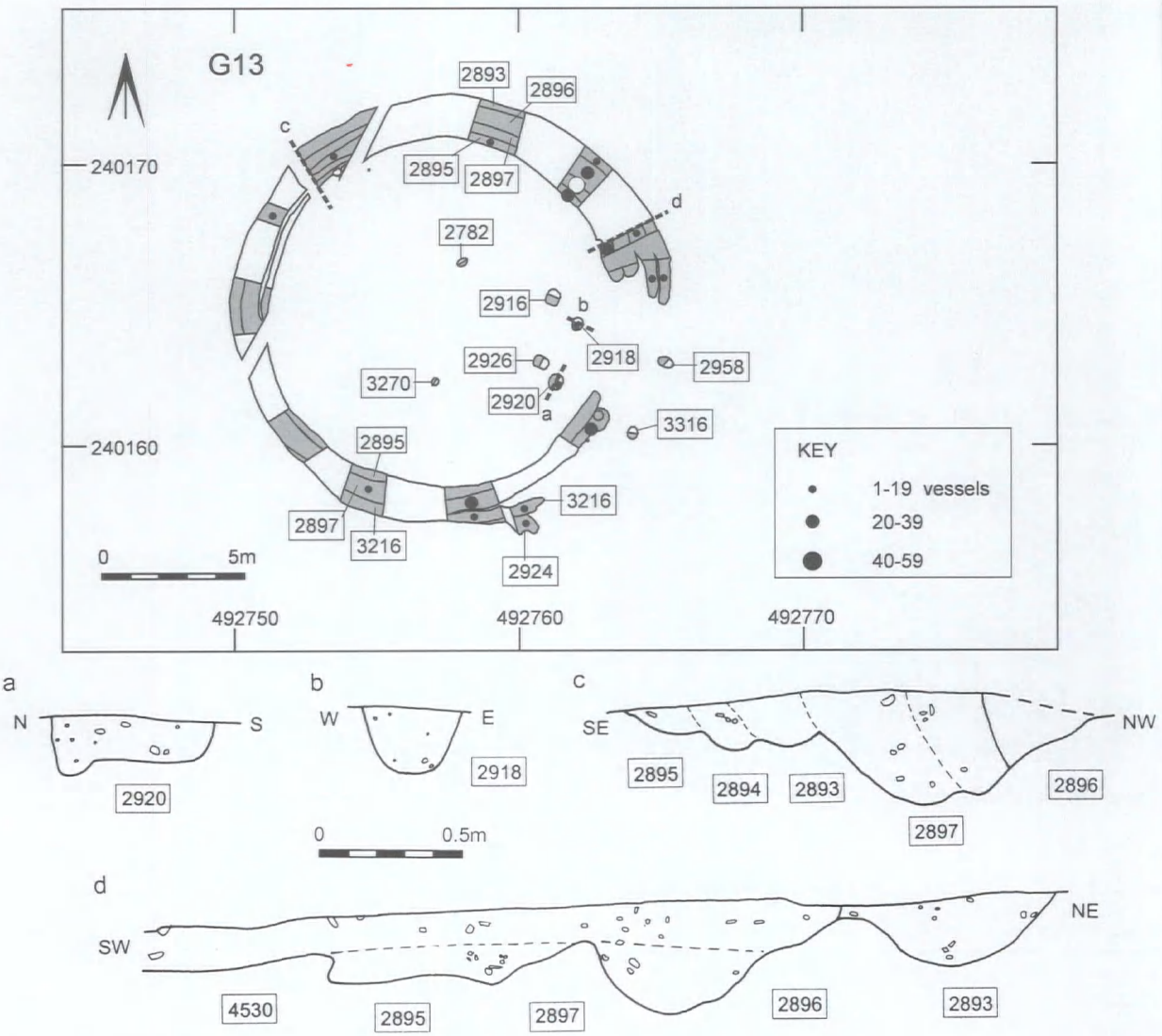


Fig 2.69: Roundhouse G13

Plate 11: Roundhouse G13

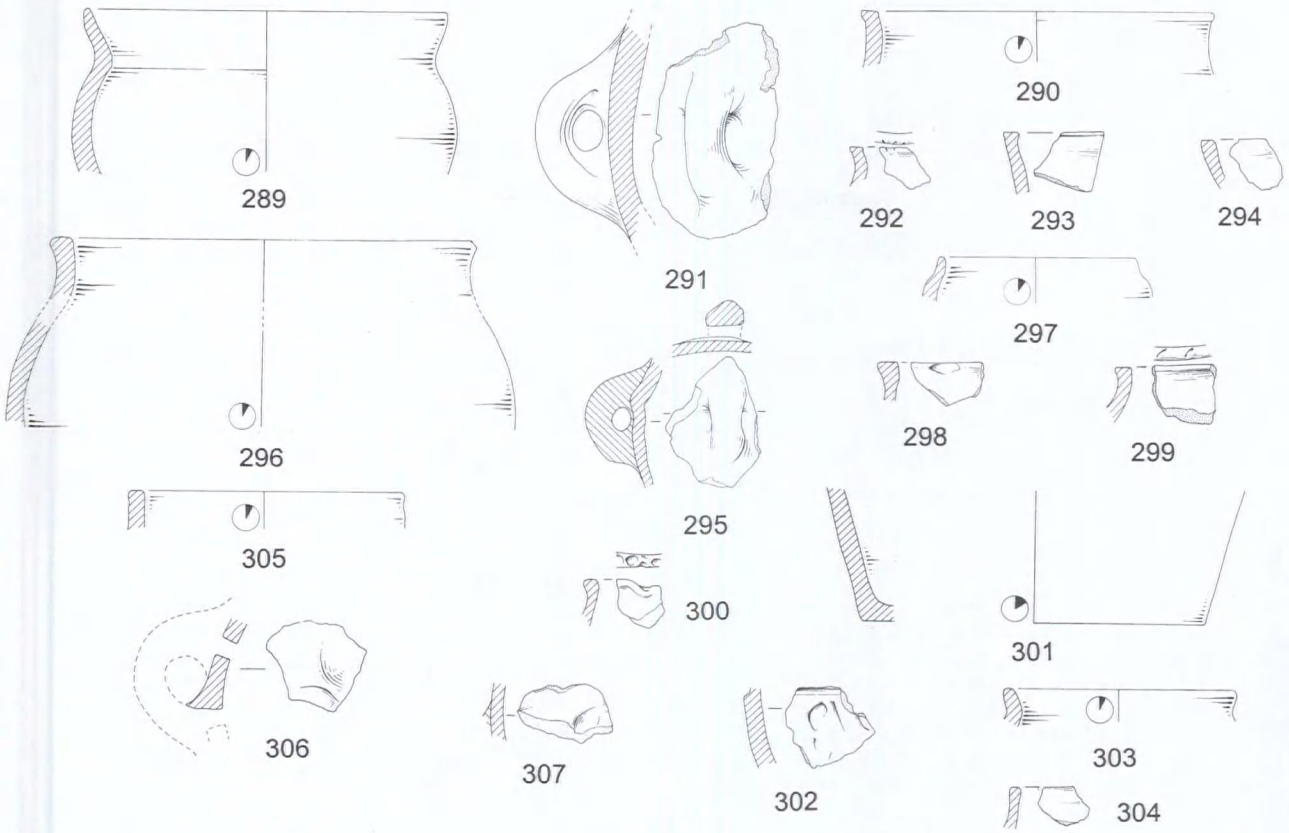


Fig 2.70: Iron Age ceramics in G13 nos 289–307 (scale 1:4)

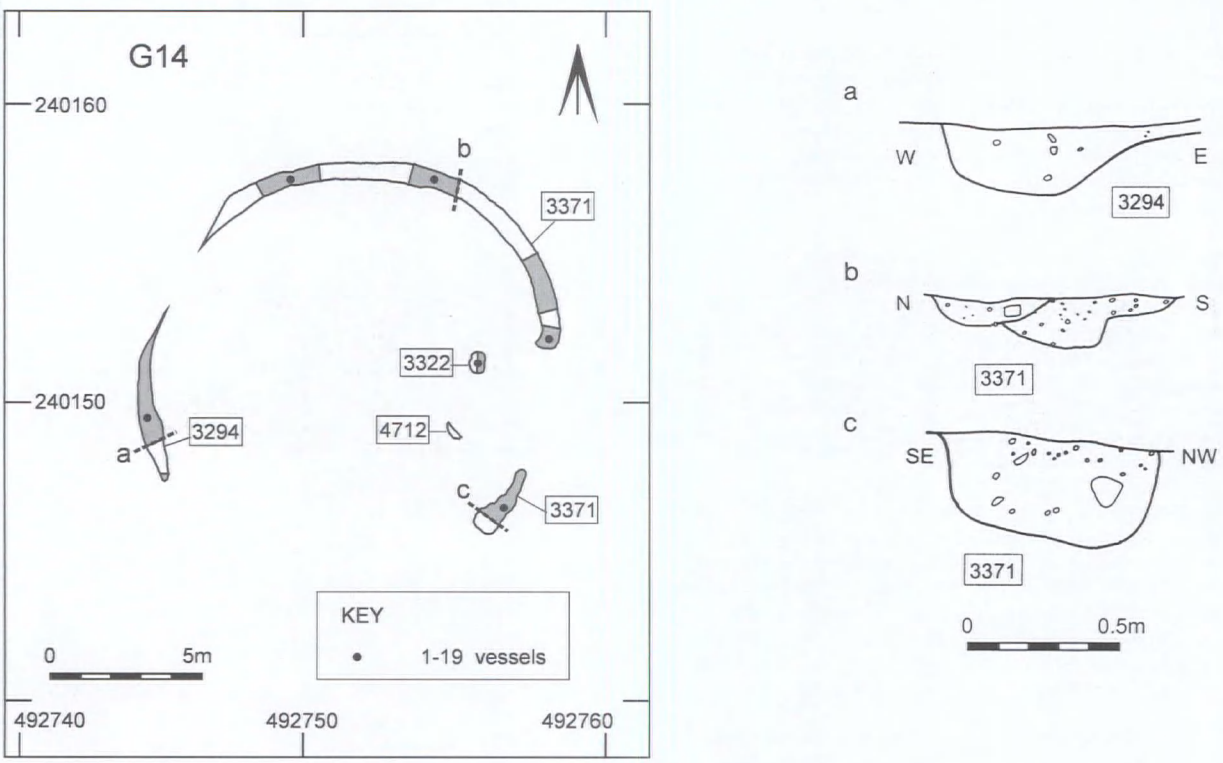


Fig 2.71: Roundhouse G14

	EIA			MIA		
F no.	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F16**	**F17**	**F27**
3322					1:1:2	
3294		1:1:15			1:1:4	1:1:9
3371	1:1:6	1:1:10	4:4:6	1:1:1	11:54:115	

Table 2.33: Pottery from roundhouse G14 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

	EIA			MIA		
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F27**
3284		2:2:1		1:1:1		
3368	1:1:2					
3370	6:6:60	2:2:10	1:1:8	3:3:6	18:20:98	2:2:5

Table 2.34: Pottery from roundhouse G15 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

South of G13 and intercut with the southernmost roundhouse G15 was roundhouse G14, comprising a penannular drip gully with a single pair of entrance posts. The drip gully [3294] and [3371], was 13m in diameter, enclosing approximately 130m². It was some 0.7m wide with a U- or V-shaped profile, and up to 0.25m deep. The southern arc was incomplete. A 4m gap and two entrance posts indicated the position of an east-facing entrance (Fig 2.71). The entrance post holes [3322] and [4712] were located in line with the eastern gap in the drip gully, 2.4m apart. They were both sub-rectangular, 0.7m × 0.5m, and 0.4m deep.

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from roundhouse G14: 22 vessels comprising 65 sherds, weighing 168g (Table 2.33). Most of the vessels comprise single sherds, and even the one vessel in fabric F17 that has 44 sherds is badly shattered and weighs only 26g. The sherds are largely featureless, although a possible lid (Fig 2.72 no. 309) was found in the gully [3371].

Despite the small size of the assemblage, the pottery is not scattered throughout the gully and there is a concentration in the south-east quadrant, south of the entrance. Otherwise pottery is absent from the south-west quadrant and there is only a negligible quantity in the north-east quadrant; absences of pottery from whole sectors of gullies is rare on the site (see Section 3.1 Distribution of the Pottery).

At the southern limit of the roundhouses was **roundhouse G15**. It comprised an interrupted, circular drip gully with a single pair of entrance posts. The drip gully [3370] was 13m in diameter, enclosing approximately 130m². The gully was some 0.65m wide and 0.3m deep. A 4m wide gap indicated the position of an east-facing entrance. An entrance structure comprised a single pair of post holes [3284] and [3368], in line with the gap. Both were irregular in shape, 1.6m × 0.7m and 1m × 0.55m respectively, suggesting they had been re-dug (Fig 2.73).

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from this structure: 36 vessels, comprising 38 sherds, weighing 191g (Table 2.34). Most of the pottery came from the patchy remains of the gully, and is in a fragmentary condition. The only diagnostic form was a cylindrical jar. Tiny sherds were recovered from the entrance post holes. The concentration appears to be in the north-west quadrant of the gully, but with such a small assemblage, and only partial excavation, this cannot be certain (Fig 2.74 nos 310–312).

In phase 3, a single roundhouse G45 was situated away from the main focus of activity to the north-west, and in phase 4 another roundhouse was located in the same area. **Roundhouse G72** comprised a recut penannular drainage gully and a hearth. The drainage gully [4], was 10–11m in diameter, and is the only

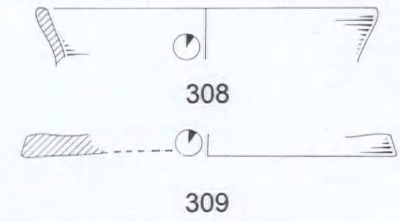


Fig 2.72: Iron Age ceramics in G14 nos 308–309 (scale 1:4)

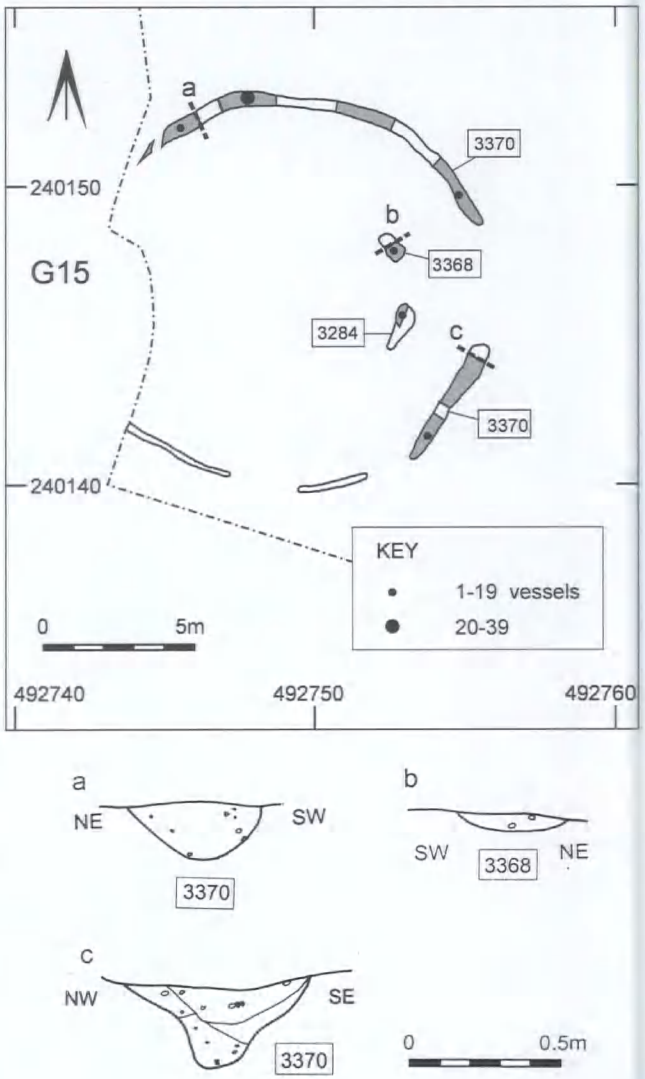


Fig 2.73: Roundhouse G15

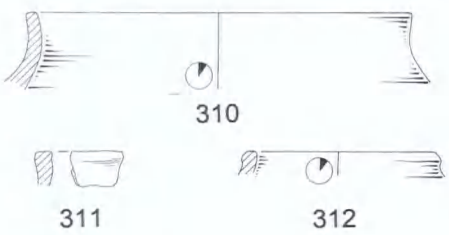


Fig 2.74: Iron Age ceramics in G15 nos 310–312 (scale 1:4)

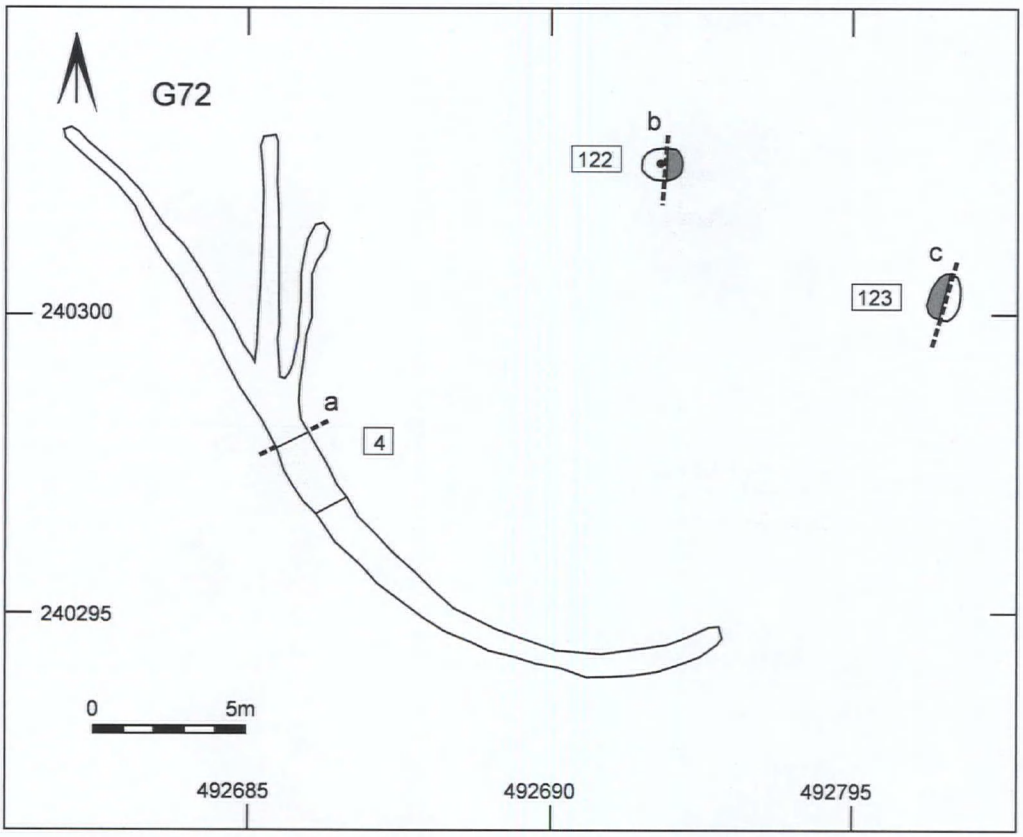


Fig 2.75: Roundhouse G72, plan (above) and sections (left)

example that seems to include water run-off channels. The gully was up to 0.7m wide, and some 0.18m deep. It had been recut on a slightly different line. Within the projected circumference of G72 was a sub-circular hearth [122] approximately 0.8m in diameter. It was made up of closely packed burnt stones in a matrix of black silty loam, overlying a layer of yellow clay partially lining the base of a shallow pit 0.1m deep.

On the circumference of the structure was a single shallow oval pit [123] 0.75m × 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled by charcoal and dark brown loam (Fig 2.75).

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from roundhouse G72: a total of 7 vessels, comprising 12 sherds and weighing 51g (Table 2.35). No diagnostic forms survived. A single small body sherd

	EIA		MIA
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F17**
4	3:3:22	1:1:2	2:3:15
122			1:5:12

Table 2.35: Pottery from roundhouse G72 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

from the gully [4] has a row of impressed dots; all other sherds are plain. A vessel comprising five small sherds was recovered from the possible hearth [122].

Post ring Roundhouses

A single post ring roundhouse was identified in phase 4, located on the eastern side of the main settlement. Post ring round houses in phase 3 were also located in this general area and G21 may be further evidence of a continuing tradition.

Roundhouse G21 was the only post ring roundhouse in this phase. It comprised a circle of ten post holes, with four post holes of the entrance porch. The ten post holes [4698], [4699], [4302], [4300], [4296], [4284], [4276], [4274], [4272] and [4292] represent the structural wall of the roundhouse, 10m–11m in diameter. In general, the post holes were sub-circular, varying from 0.12m × 0.16m to 0.41m × 0.38m and from 1.1m to 3.3m apart.

The south-eastern entrance was 2.3m wide and 2.3m deep, defined by four post holes, [2745], [2747], [2749] and [2751]. The inner posts lay on the circumference of the building wall, and all four were sub-circular, 0.5–0.6m in diameter (Fig 2.76).

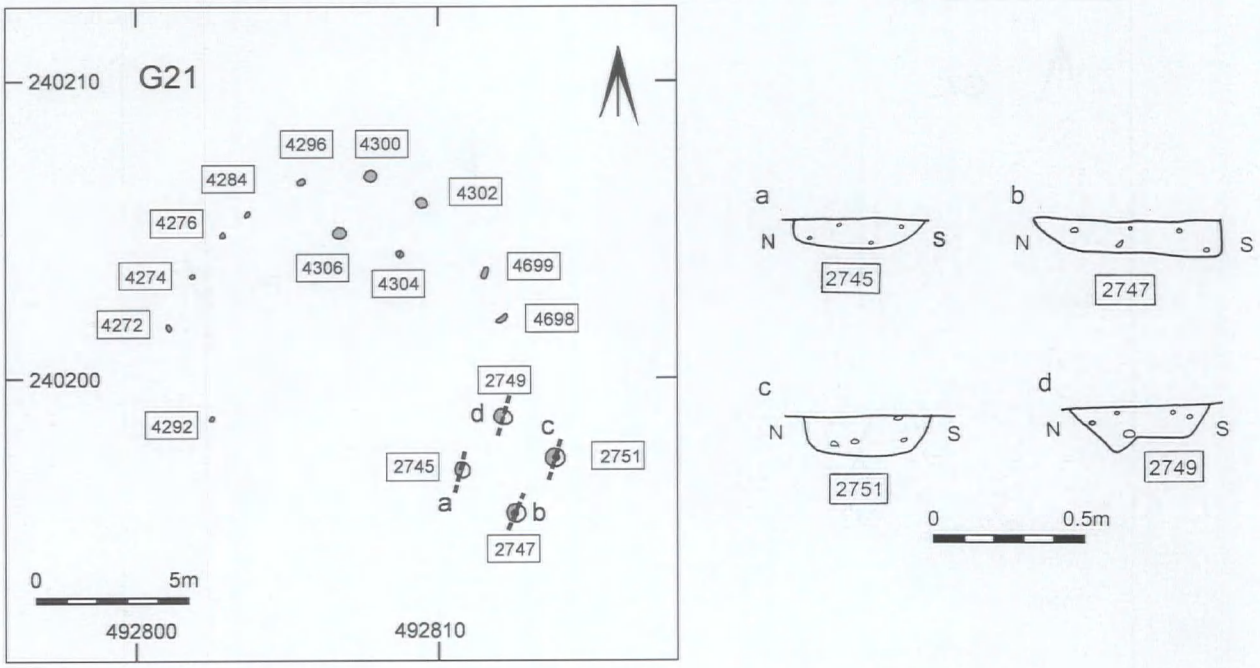


Fig 2.76: Roundhouse G21

F no.	EIA F03	EIA F28	MIA F17	MIA F27
2747		2:2:1	2:2:18	5:5:9
2751	2:2:4	1:1:1	2:2:8	1:1:2

Table 2.36: Pottery from G21 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

A small assemblage was recovered from two post holes at the entrance to this roundhouse, 15 sherds, weighing 35g. They all belonged to different vessels (Table 2.36), and are small, featureless, body sherds.

Four-post structures

Only three four-post structures were found in phase 4, two on the eastern periphery of the site and the third some way to the west. The latter may replicate the four-post structure found on the west side in phase 3, although it was somewhat to the north. There is no evidence in phase 4 that suggests the specific function of the four-post structures although their post holes did contain some ceramics.

G22 comprised a **four-post structure** 3.6m × 3.3m. The four sub-circular post holes [3342], [3352], [3378] and [3380] varied from 0.32m to 0.42m in diameter, 0.18m–0.26m deep (Fig 2.77).

F no.	EIA F03	EIA F04	MIA F17
3342	1:2:7	1:3:13	
3380			1:1:3

Table 2.37: Pottery from four-post structure G22 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

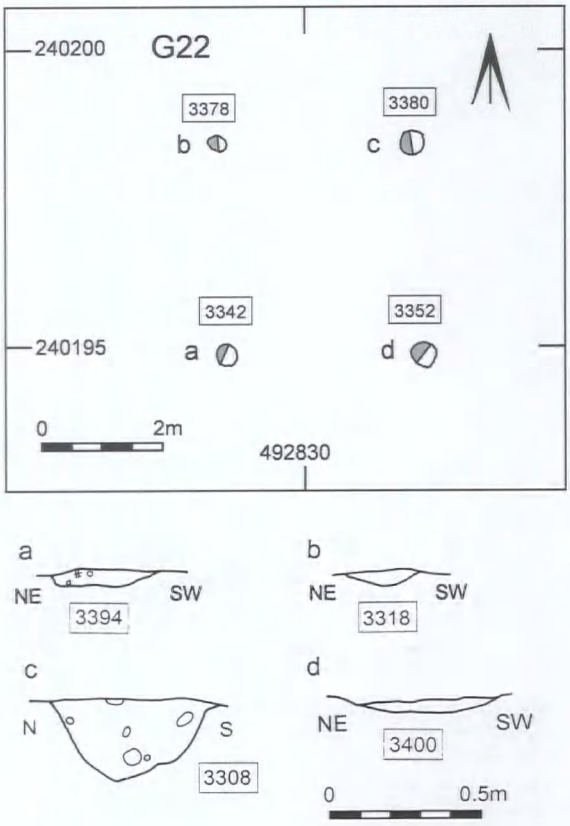


Fig 2.77: Four-post structure G22

Six sherds, representing three vessels, were recovered from this four-post structure (Table 2.37). A single burnished body sherd was found in the north-east post hole [3380] and five plain body sherds in the south-west post hole [3342]. All the sherds are small, averaging 3.8g, but unabraded.

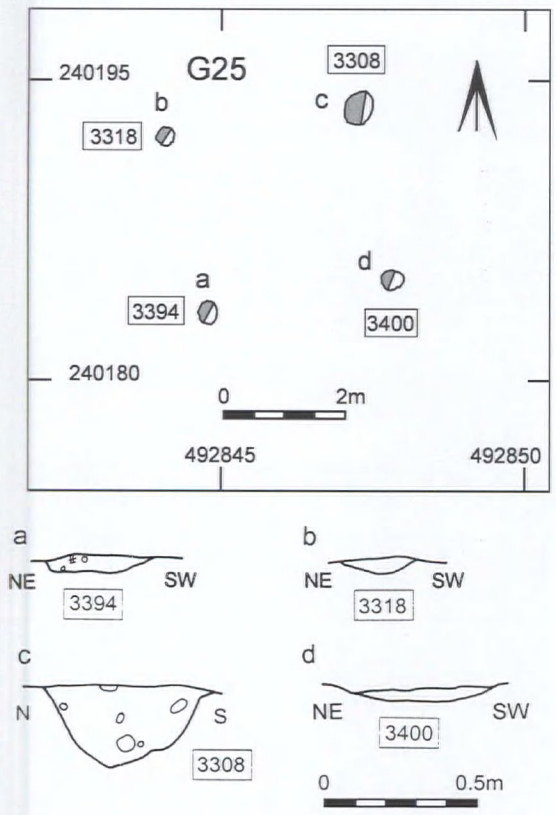


Fig 2.78: Four-post structure G25

G25 was a four-post structure 3.2m × 3.1m, its post holes [3308], [3318], [3394] and [3400] were sub-circular, from 0.3m × 0.29m to 0.6m × 0.48m and generally less than 0.05m deep. No pottery was found in this structure (Fig 2.78).

G59 comprised a four-post structure occupying 3.6m × 3.5m. The four oval post holes [24], [38], [39] and [47] varied from 0.65m × 0.55m to 0.95m × 0.7m in diameter and were between 0.3m-0.5m deep (Fig 2.79).

Pottery totalling 42 sherds, representing 12 vessels (Table 2.38), was recovered from all four post holes of this structure. Three of the post holes contained fragmentary vessels, each represented by no more than three sherds. Post hole [39], however, contained vessels whose sherd count cannot be accounted for by the incidental infilling of the hole. Two vessels, a handled jar and an undiagnostic jar, comprised 15 and 14 sherds respectively. The sherds of the undiagnostic jar are small, weighing 1g on average. The handled jar, on the other hand, comprises a number of body sherds, decorated with fingernail incisions on the shoulder, and a single complete handle, possibly one of a pair. No rim or base survives. The shelly F16 rim, from the same post hole, is inturned, characteristic of Knight's Group 1 assemblages (1984, 47). The F17 vessel from this post hole, although apparently substantial in terms of sherd count, comprised mainly crumbs (Fig 2.80).

	EIA		MIA	
F no.	**F03**	**F28**	**F16**	**F17**
24		1:3:10		
38		1:1:3		3:4:9
39		1:14:67	1:1:8	1:15:14
47	4:4:4			

Table 2.38: Pottery from four-post structure G59 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

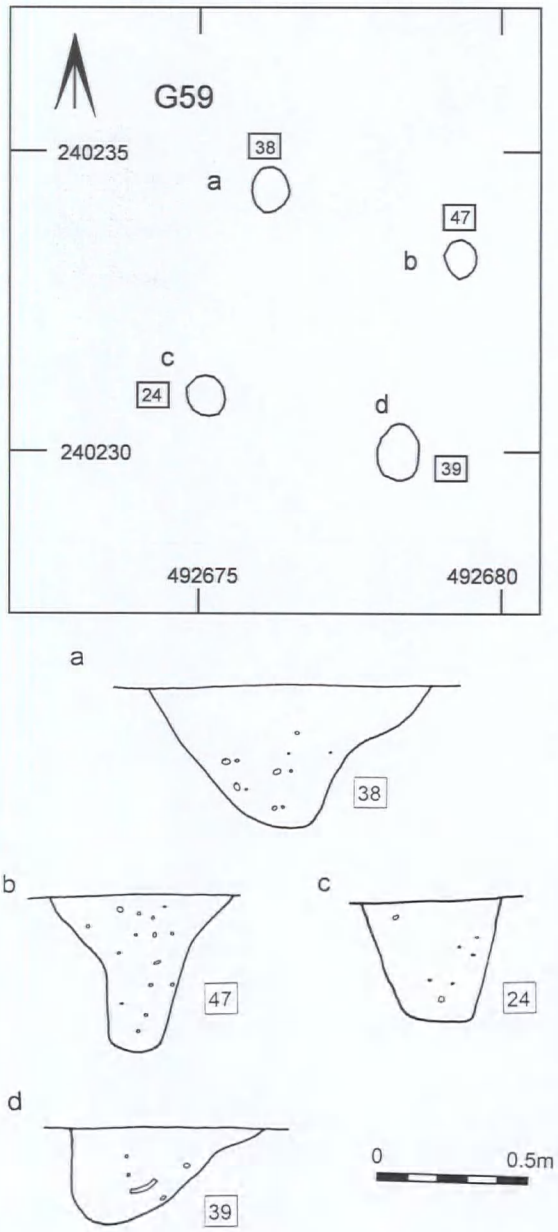


Fig 2.79: Four-post structure G59

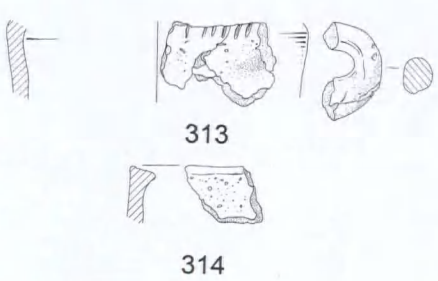


Fig 2.80: Iron Age ceramics in G59 nos 313–314 (scale 1:4)

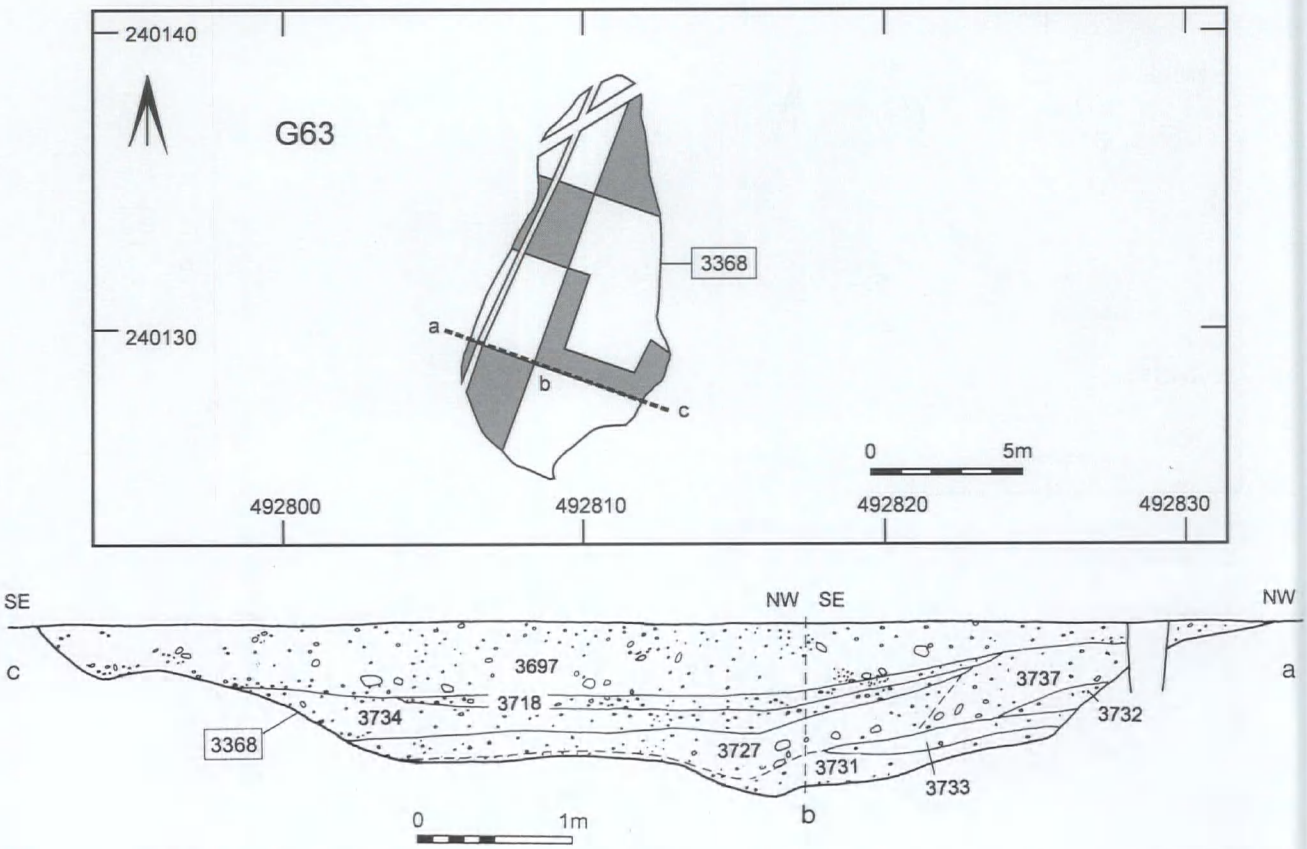


Fig 2.81: Pit G63

Pits

Three pit groups were found dating to phase 4. They were all located in the south-eastern area of the excavation. Although described as pits during excavation, the phase 4 examples were all large hollows, perhaps reminiscent of watering hollows, or gravel or sand pits rather than the more familiar circular Iron Age pit. The area in which they were located was part excavated by machine and it is clear that in antiquity considerable reworking had taken place. Three pits in this phase were found to contain cattle skulls but the bone was not retained and therefore does not appear in the animal bone report.

The largest **pit G63** (Fig 2.81) comprised a large, irregular hollow, 13m long, up to 6.5m wide, approximately 0.9m deep. It had a complex sequence of fills, the primary fill of which comprised a light brown wind-blown sandy silt, filling the base to a depth of 0.2m. This was sealed by a thin band of yellow and orange-brown sand; redeposited natural had washed in through erosion of the feature sides, which in turn was sealed by deposits of mid-grey-brown and dark brown sandy silt, with occasional greenish hues. The latter suggest the presence of decayed organic material. This horizon contained a large amount of ceramic waste, suggesting deliberate deposition of domestic material. Later fills comprised alternating bands of redeposited natural and wind-blown silts, interspersed with more substantial deposits of occupational material, filling the pit from south to north.

The primary function of the pit is uncertain. Despite its proximity to the pond G39, it contained no waterlogged deposits. The presence of wind-blown silt and redeposited natural suggest that the pit would have been open for some time prior to its secondary use for the deposition of occupational material. Up to four separate episodes of disposal have been identified which, together with the presence of redeposited natural and wind-blown silts between the deposits, suggest this was a periodic event.

Pit G63 contained a large, but mainly fragmentary, assemblage of pottery, totalling 95 vessels, represented by 223 sherds weighing 2210g (Table 2.39). The primary fill (3727) contained a single sherd of probable early Iron Age pottery in fabric F28, an otherwise undiagnostic body sherd. This may indicate the pit was first excavated some time in the early Iron Age, although it is also possible

			EIA			MIA			
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**	**F30**
3688 (1st)				1:1:13					
3688 (2nd)		1:1:10	1:1:2	2:2:7				3:4:40	
3688 (3rd)			5:14:184	1:1:1				3:23:265	
3688 (4th)	1:1:6	2:3:77	13:30:467	10:10:66	1:1:7	23:30:185	3:3:67	12:80:622	3:3:57
cleaning		1:1:4	3:3:99	1:1:1		1:1:2	1:1:3	3:8:25	

Table 2.39: Pottery from pit G63 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

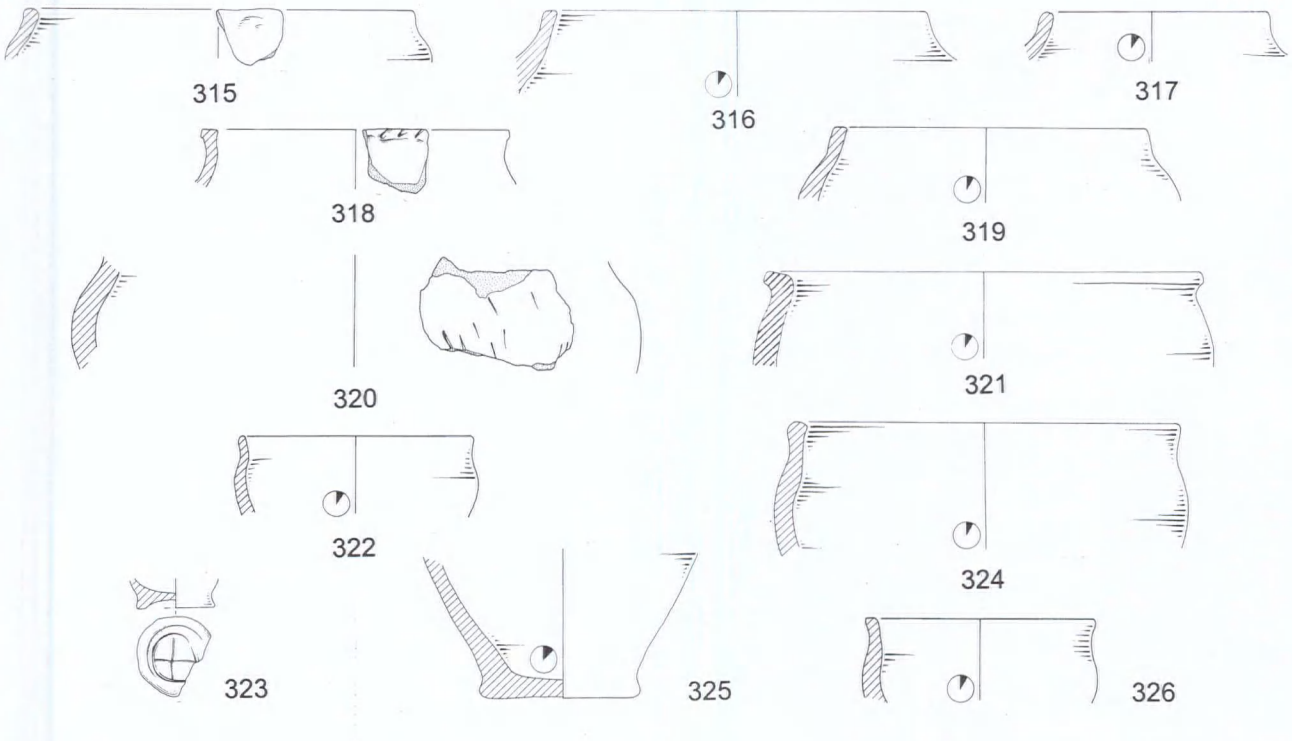


Fig 2.82: Iron Age ceramics in G63 nos 315–326 (scale 1:4)

the single sherd, which weighed only 13g, could have migrated from the upper fills, which also contain pottery of this type.

The pit continued to silt during the middle Iron Age, when chronologically diagnostic pieces include ovoid jars (nos 322, 324) and a jar with scored decoration (not illustrated). A base sherd in fabric F17, with a post-firing grafitto scratched into it (no. 323), was found in the upper fill (3689). Early Iron Age pottery, certainly residual, was also found throughout these layers. One jar, found in the top of the pit, joined a sherd from [3670], a nearby pit in G24. There are no further cross-joins between any of the sherds throughout the layers, suggesting that the fill was taken from an original deposit of extensively mixed ceramics. Four episodes of deposition have been identified (Fig 2.82 nos 315–326).

A horse scapula (Rf 59, Fig 3.13), which appears to have been utilised as a leatherworking platform, was found within the fills of the second episode of disposal. A total of 101kg of burnt stone was recovered from all the fills of this pit, with the largest quantity of burnt stone, 69.5kg, in the uppermost fill. No burnt stone was recovered from the lower fills.

The second **pit group** in the southern area was **G64** (Figs 2.83–2.84). It comprised six pits [2765], [2871], [3458], [3670], [3759] and [3805][3815][3817], all of similar size but with variable profiles. Two of the pits [3759], [3805] were machine dug and only five of the pits in this group produced pottery (Table 2.40).

Pit [3759] was sub-circular, 5m × 4.2m in diameter, with an uneven profile and variable sides some 1m deep. The primary fill was a green-grey silt, probably indicating decayed organic material, and above this were shallow bands of redeposited natural sands.

Pit [3805]/[3815]/[3817] was irregular in plan, 4m × 4m wide. It had gradually sloping sides, 0.7m deep. The primary fill was yellow-brown silt and redeposited natural, washed in through erosion of the pit sides. This was sealed by grey-brown silt and several deposits of sandy silt. The uppermost fill contained yellow-green mottles, possibly the remains of decayed organic material. The pit [3805] contained three cattle skull fragments.

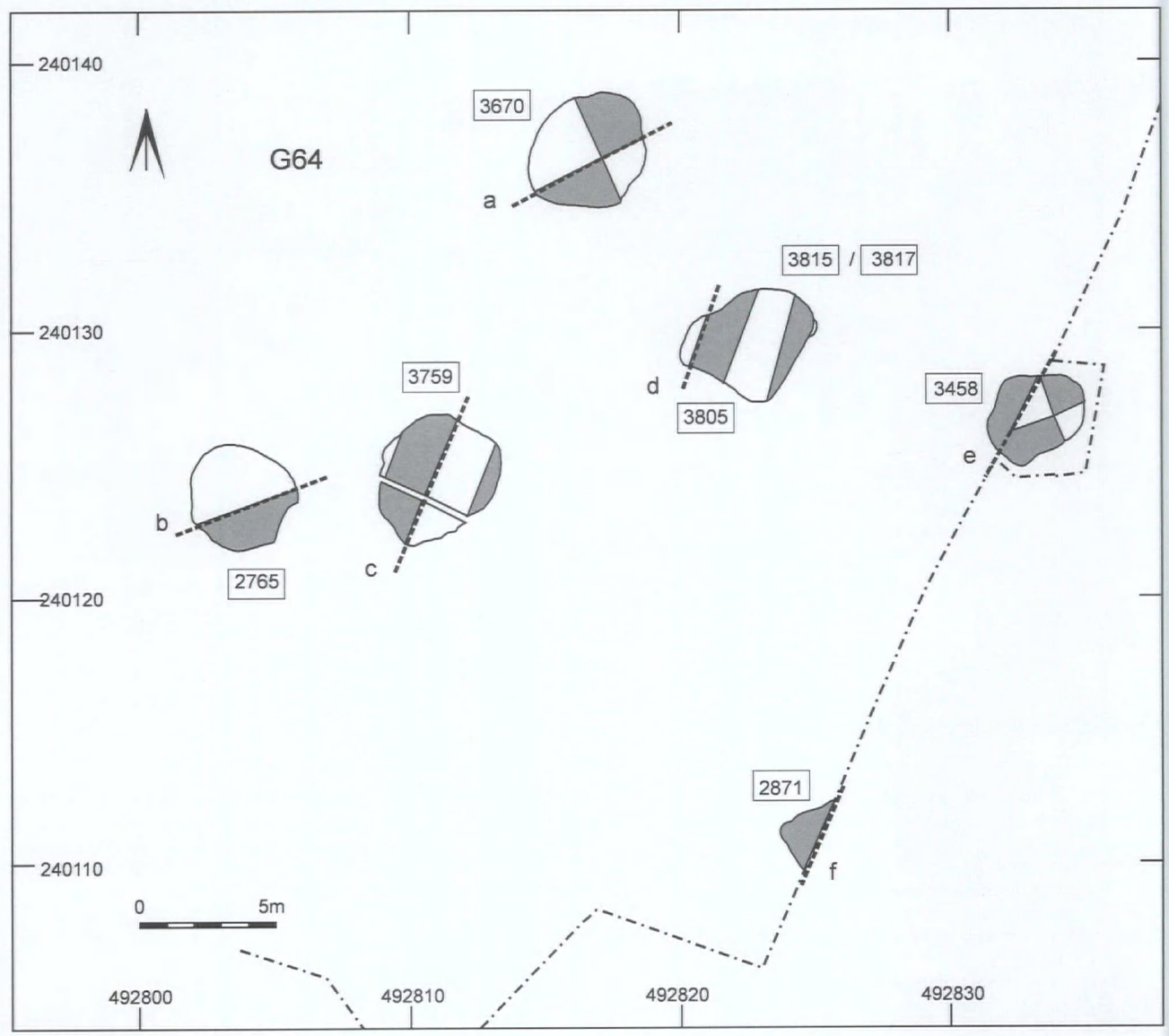
Pit [2765] was sub-circular, approximately 4m in diameter, with sloping sides to a flat base 0.6m deep. It contained a primary fill of mid-brown sand and a secondary fill of dark grey silt. Joining ceramics between these two layers suggest that, although distinguishable archaeologically, the two episodes of filling occurred within a short space of time, and probably from the same source.

Pit [2871] was partially obscured by the eastern limit of excavation. It had steep sides sloping to a flat base, 0.35m deep. The primary fill comprised blue-grey silts, sealed by dark grey silt. No finds were recovered from this pit.

Pit [3458] was irregular in plan, 4m long and 3m wide, with steep sides sloping to a flat base 0.7m deep. It contained a primary fill of

			EIA			MIA			
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F22**	**F27**
2765	1:1:30		2:15:153	2:2:17			2:2:11		1:1:50
3458	1:2:43	3:6:53	4:7:17	8:21:107	1:3:1				2:2:5
3670			7:9:213	7:10:82		1:1:62		1:10:122	6:6:39
3759									1:4:69
3805									1:1:17

Table 2.40: Pottery from pit group G64 (vessels:sherds:weight g)



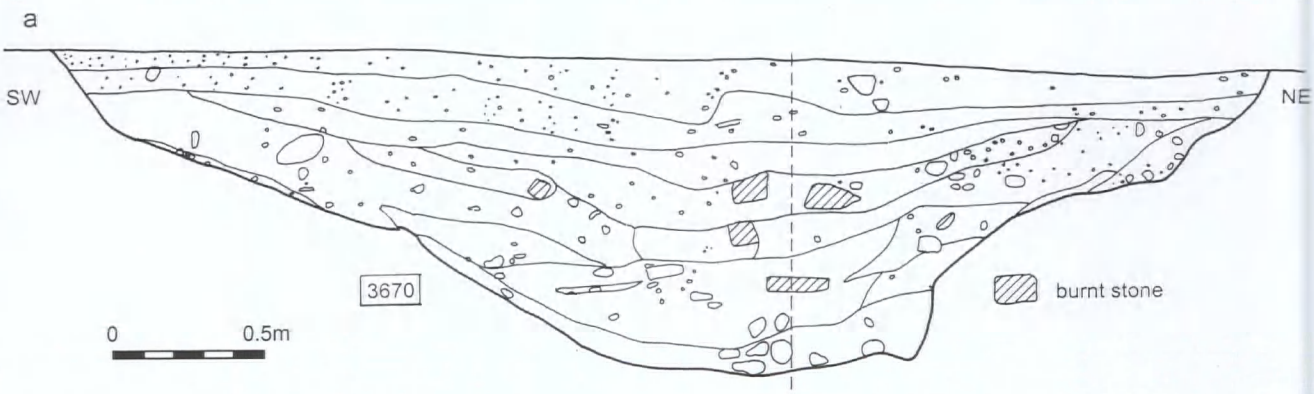


Fig 2.83: Pits G64

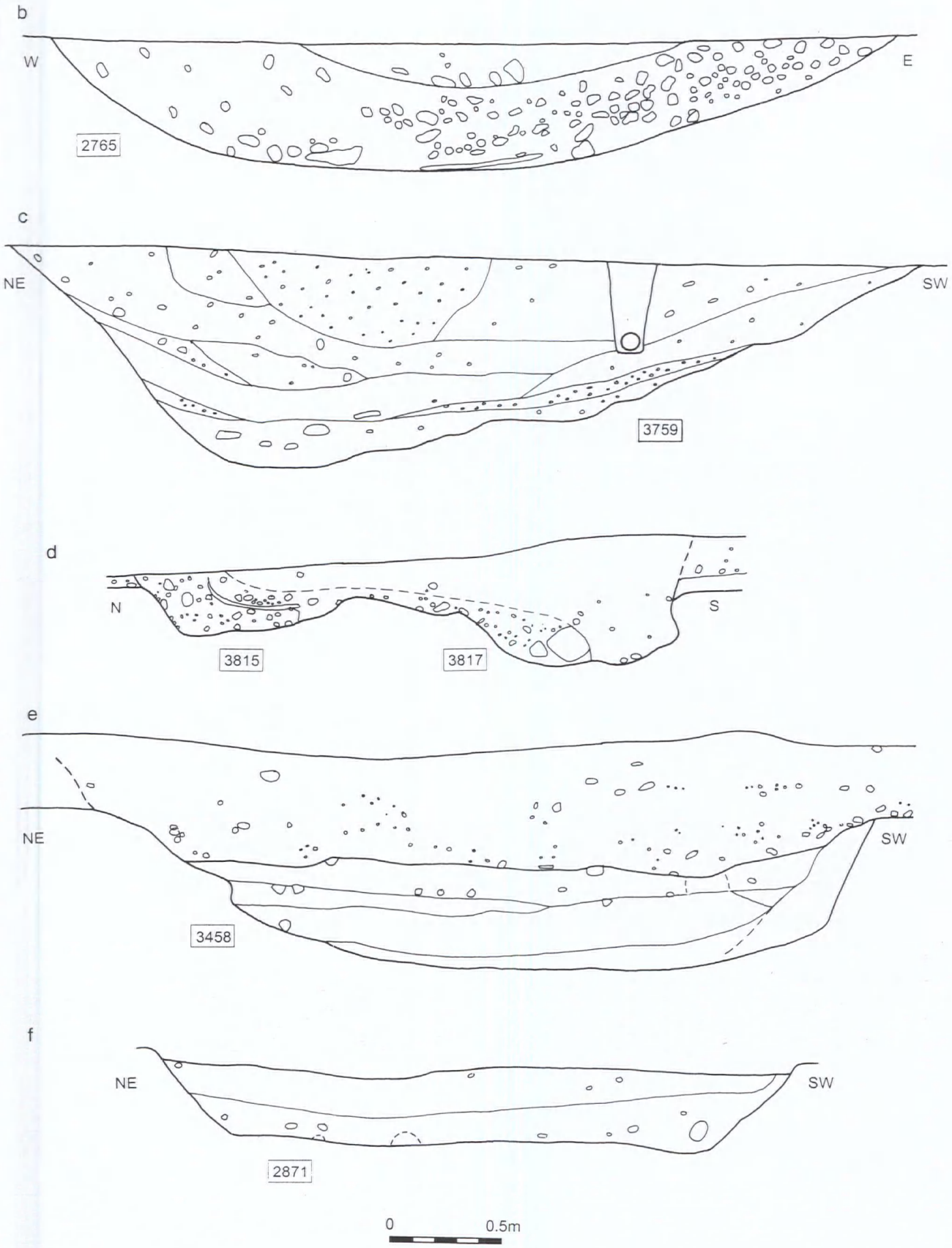


Fig 2.84: Sections through pits G64

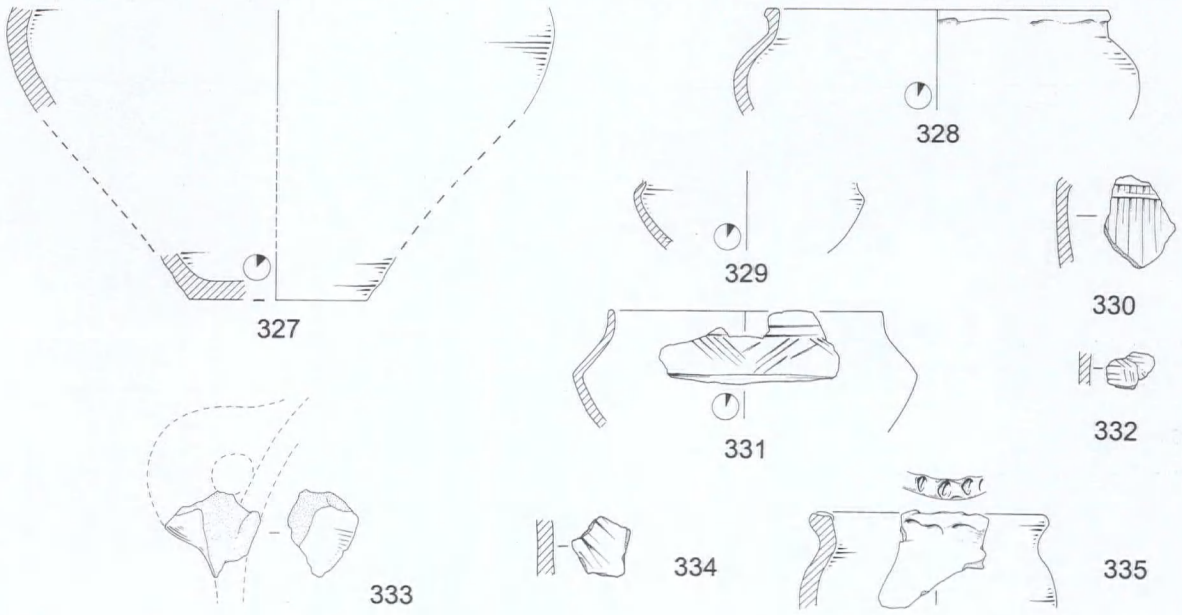


Fig 2.85: Iron Age ceramics in G64 nos 327–335 (scale 1:4)

dark grey silt (3480) sealed by clean sand probably eroded into the feature from the surrounding area, with a final fill of mid-brown silt. The primary fill contained four vessels: one is middle Iron Age fabric F27 with three vessels in early Iron Age fabric F28. The early Iron Age pottery comprises eight sherds of a carinated bowl, weighing 54g, with an incised zigzag design (no. 331) and a jar with brushing marks on the body (no. 330). In contrast, the middle Iron Age sherd is small, 3g, and badly leached. The early Iron Age vessels may be residual, their relatively large size, particularly the carinated bowl, suggesting they had been deposited elsewhere, possibly as an heirloom, before being subject to any abrasion. Ceramics in successive fills are more mixed, widely abraded, with the uppermost assemblage of middle Iron Age date.

Pit [3670] was sub-circular, 5m × 4m, with uneven, generally steep sides sloping to a flat base 1.1m deep. It contained a primary fill of blue-grey silt, sealed by three bands of edge-derived natural. This in turn was sealed by grey loam containing sand, silt and clay. Three cattle skulls were recovered from the fills of this feature. A jar sherd from the uppermost layer cross-matched with another sherd from pit G63. The primary silts produced a single vessel, comprising ten sherds. They are all body sherds and are relatively thick, measuring 10mm and weighing 122g. The vessel is in fabric F22 and dates the primary fill securely to the middle Iron Age. The middle and upper fills comprise a mixture of early and middle Iron Age fabrics, with the earlier sherds being smaller and more fragmentary than the later. This suggests a final filling some time well into phase 4. A sherd from the middle fill (3685) came from the same vessel as a sherd from an isolated pit [3487]. The two pits are some distance apart, and may suggest some material originated from the same source and both pits were filled within a short space of time. Pit [3670] was the only feature to contain burnt stone, 34.5kg. Although the ceramic assemblage was found throughout the fills of this pit, the burnt stone was confined to the middle, which may suggest two or three episodes of hearth clearance or capping of the deposited material (Fig 2.85 nos 327–335).

A third pit group G65 comprised four pits [2902], [3549], [3651] and [3720], all of similar size and form, although pit [3720] was machine excavated. Three of the four pits in this group produced pottery (Table 2.41): 30 vessels, comprising 71 sherds weighing 681g, the majority coming from pit [2902] (Fig 2.86).

Pit [2902] was sub-circular, 2.85m × 2.6m wide, with steep sides sloping to a concave base 0.55m deep. It contained pottery whose latest fabric types are middle Iron Age (Table 2.41), in an assemblage which included vessels with early Iron Age characteristics. These are quite substantial with, for example, an F28 rounded jar (Fig 2.87 no. 339) comprising 21 sherds weighing 221g; an F28 vessel (not illustrated) with only two sherds but weighing 59g, and an F01A vessel (not illustrated) with six sherds, weighing 154g. The sherds are mainly undiagnostic of form. Six vessels had decoration, all fingernail slashing either on the rim or the shoulder (e.g. nos 338, 339 and 342). A single vessel (no. 338) had a cordon applied to the shoulder, which was then fingernail slashed, and burnished above. The decorated vessels make up 36.66% of the total.

Contained within the fills of this pit were the remains of a worked antler tine (Rf 49). Although its use remains uncertain, the highly polished surface suggests use either as a weaving tool or perhaps a rake. Its incomplete state and the presence of gnawing suggest it was discarded prior to being deposited in the pit.

Of the remaining three pits, two [3651] and [3720] produced a small quantity of ceramics: small sherds, on average weighing 3g, in fabrics dating to the early Iron Age. Pit [3549], partially obscured by the eastern limit of excavation, apparently contained

			EIA			MIA	
F no.	**F01A**	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F27**	**F30**
2902	1:6:154		3:4:38	12:39:392	3:3:30	1:5:8	2:6:35
3651			1:1:2	3:3:6	1:1:5		
3720		1:1:2	1:1:2	1:1:7			

Table 2.41: Pottery from pits G65 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

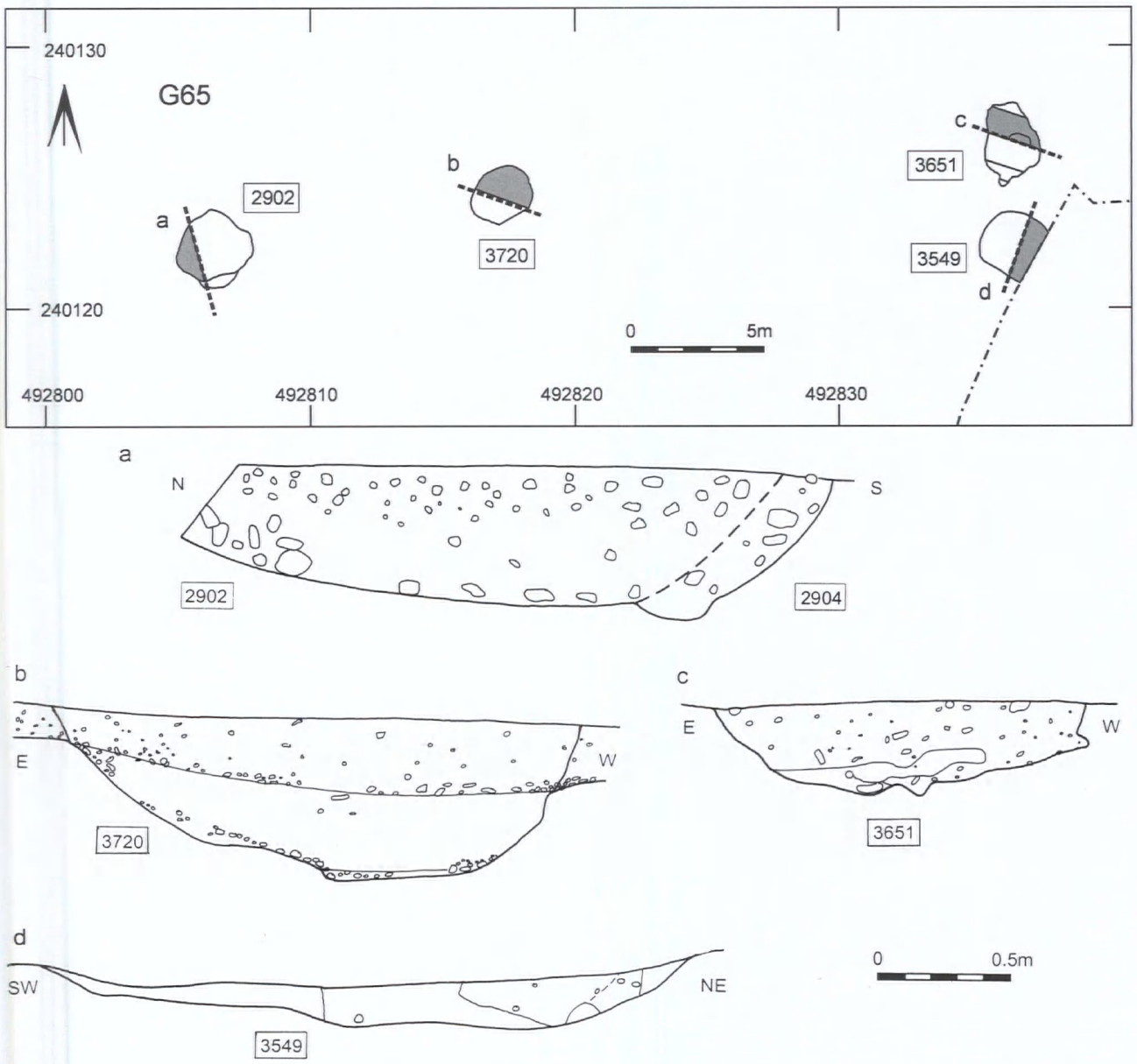


Fig 2.86: Pits G65

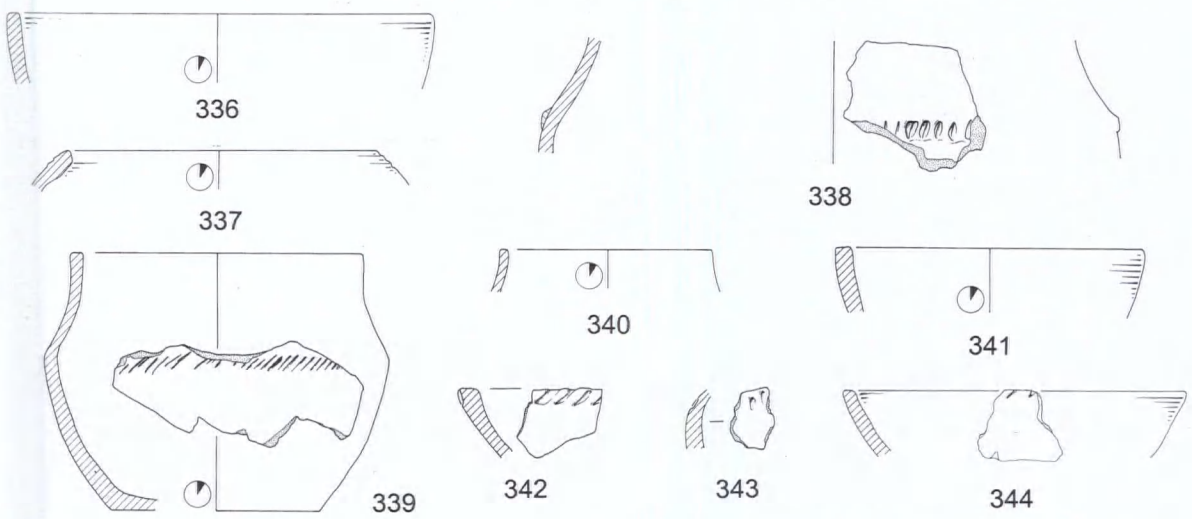


Fig 2.87: Iron Age ceramics in G65 nos 336–344 (scale 1:4)

no finds. However, it contained orange sandy silts, and in the base was a large quantity of charcoal. Pit [3651] contained some waterlogged wood in its primary fill (3653).

The four pits in G65 have been grouped together because of their proximity to one another and because of their morphological similarity. The dating is based on the middle Iron Age ceramics from [2902]; the earlier Iron Age pottery, which is small and abraded, in pits [3651] [3720] is probably residual, and while the same is true of early Iron Age ceramics in [2902], these are larger sherds and may have originated in an earlier, even curated, deposit (*cf.* Hill 1995, 109).

2.6 Phase 5: Late Iron Age (*c.*200 BC–*c.*AD 43)

Phase 5 is the latest period of activity in the Iron Age. It is characterised by the establishment of a small cremation cemetery between the degraded remains of the boundary ditches, G41, on the northern side of the site. Further south, in the south-eastern corner of the site a pond remained open but gradually silted up during this phase (Fig 2.88).

The Pond

At the southern end of the excavation a waterlogged area was initially sectioned by machine and later part excavated by hand. The results of pollen and plant macrofossil sampling suggested the presence of standing water and that the feature was a pond (Fig 2.89).

The **pond G39** was large, 16m long and up to 8m wide with irregular, generally quite shallow sides sloping to a flat base up to 0.9m deep. Approximately 20% of the fill was excavated, mostly by machine, providing partial longitudinal and transverse sections. This revealed a complex sequence of fills, at first designated [3000], comprising perhaps re-excavated elements subsequently designated feature numbers [3666], [3833], [3835]. A series of fills

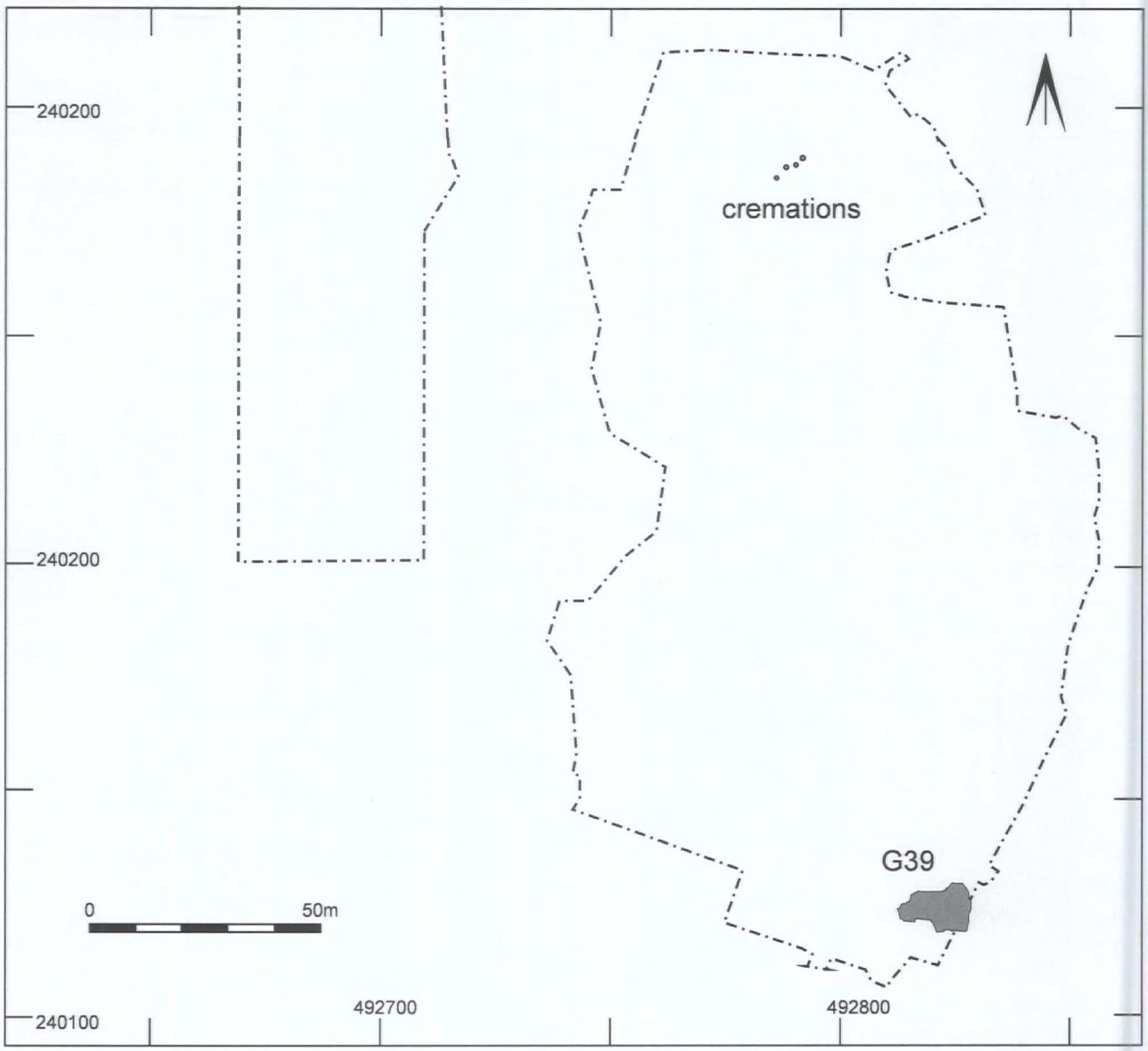


Fig 2.88: Phase 5 Late Iron Age

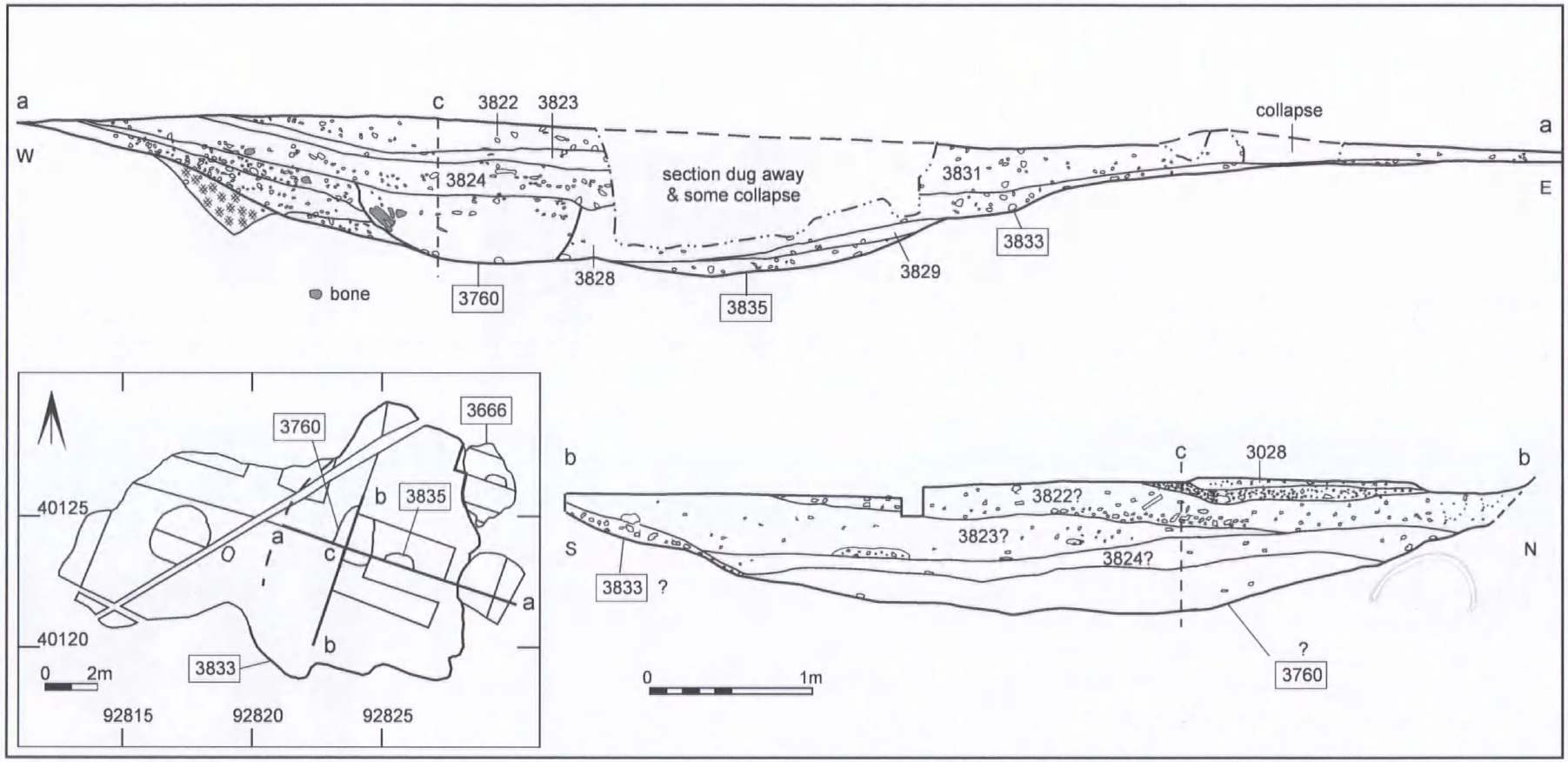


Fig 2.89: Pond G36

F no.	F01B	EIA F03	F29	MIA F16	F17	LIA F07
3666		1:1:11				
3833	1:1:8	5:6:31	2:3:7	1:1:37	1:2:2	1:4:101

Table 2.42: Pottery from the pond G39 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

was identified in each 'feature' which may have been hollows within the silted pond.

The primary fill (3828, 3832) comprised dark greyish brown clayey silt with a high proportion of preserved organic material. These were sealed by various deposits of lighter sandy silt (3824, 3831, 3823) with a layer of perhaps eroded material (3829) visible on the eastern side of the section. The upper fills of the pond comprised dark grey or yellowish grey clayey silt interspersed with lenses of redeposited natural sand and gravel (3822). Pollen samples were taken from bottom fills, contexts (3832, 3828, 3824, 3831), while waterlogged wood was recovered from pond designated (3000). Plant macrofossil data was also recovered from the pond (3000) but was recorded as coming from the same horizons as the pollen.

At an intermediate stage of backfilling, a smaller feature was excavated within the larger pond. This feature [3760], was only seen in section and was 1.4m wide with steep sides and a flat base coinciding with the top of the natural gravel. The fill appeared to comprise largely decayed organic material.

A relatively small amount of pottery was recovered from the fills of this feature, possibly because it was machine excavated (Table 2.42).

The fills of the pond contained small quantities of pottery, the largest being four sherds from one late Iron Age shelly vessel, F07. This is the only late Iron Age vessel found on the excavated site, with the exception of the cemetery G54 vessels. Roman pottery, undated greyware R06B, a rim sherd of a bowl, came from context (3028) a deposit of overburden sealing the pond, which suggests the feature was probably backfilled by the Roman period.

Cremation Cemetery

The cremation cemetery was located on the northern margins of the excavation, between the ditches of the boundary G41. The cremations, C1–C4, were all in separate pits [608], [686], [603], [689], and were placed in a line, over some 7.5m long, parallel to ditch [724] G41. The location of the cremations

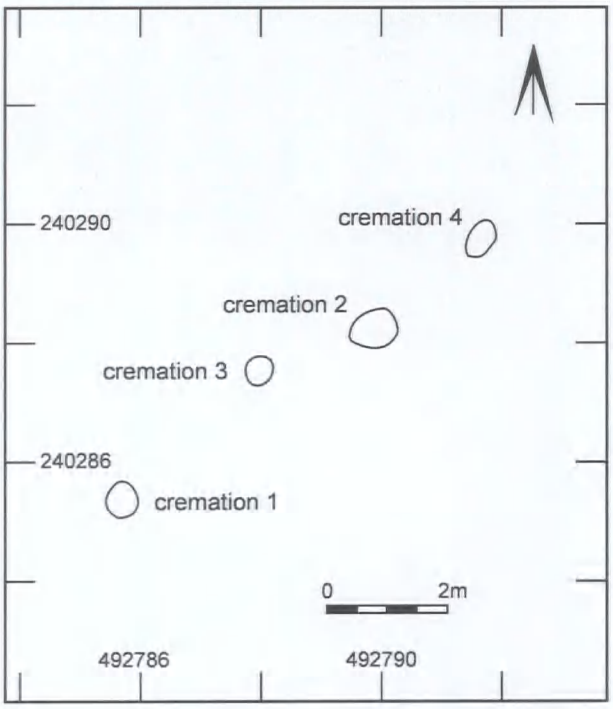


Fig 2.90: Plan of cremation cemetery

Plate 13: Cremation 3

Plate 12: Cremation 1

Plate 14: Cremation 4

suggests that the ditches of G41 were still visible when the cremations were deposited during the period from the end of the 2nd century BC to the mid-1st century BC.

All the cremations were similar in form, each containing two ceramic vessels (Table 2.43). The size and form of the vessels, however, varied between cremations. Each cremation also contained grave goods in the form of two or more brooches. In three examples the cremated bone was contained within the ceramic vessels, but in one, C4, cremated bone was found scattered loose in the pit (Figs 2.90–2.91).

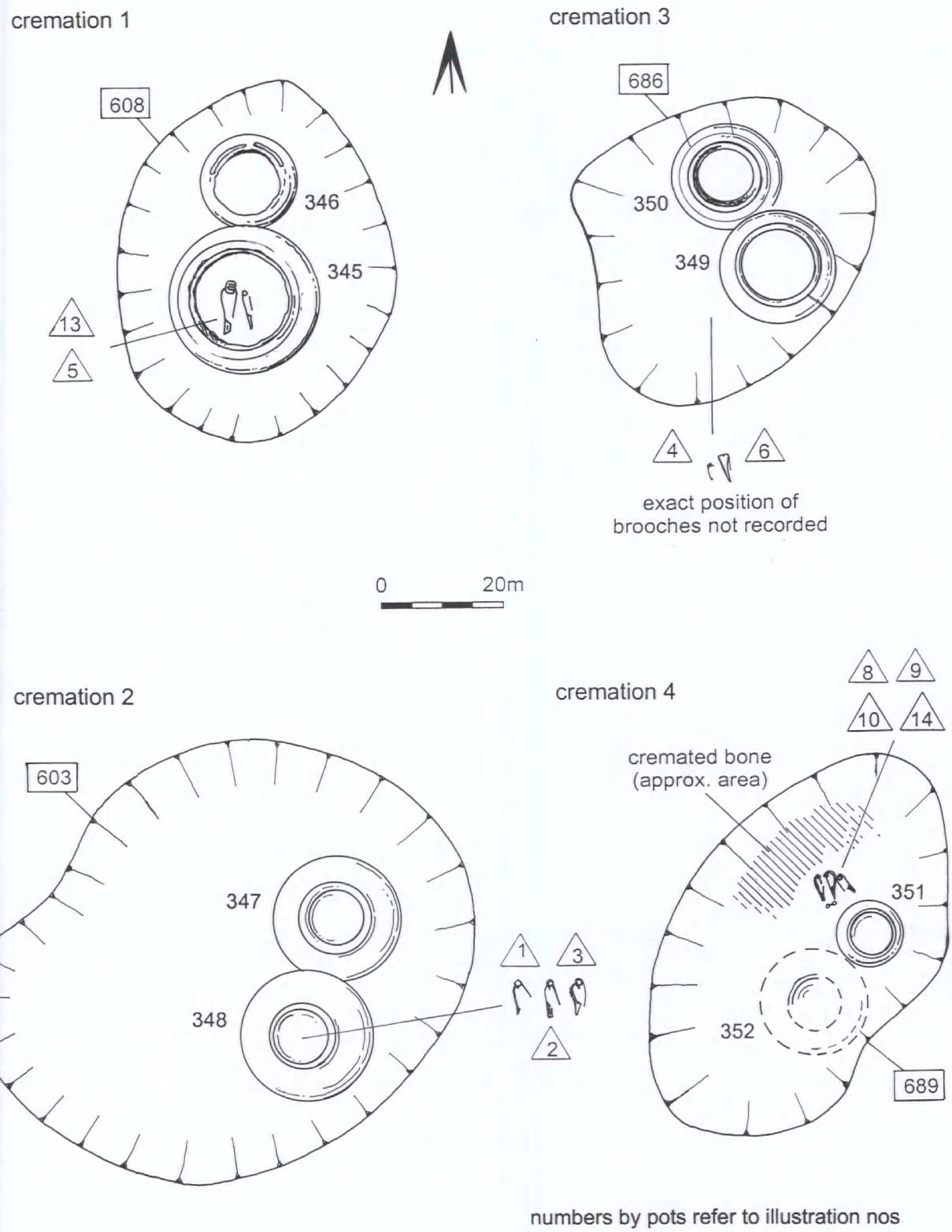


Fig 2.91: Cremations in phase 5

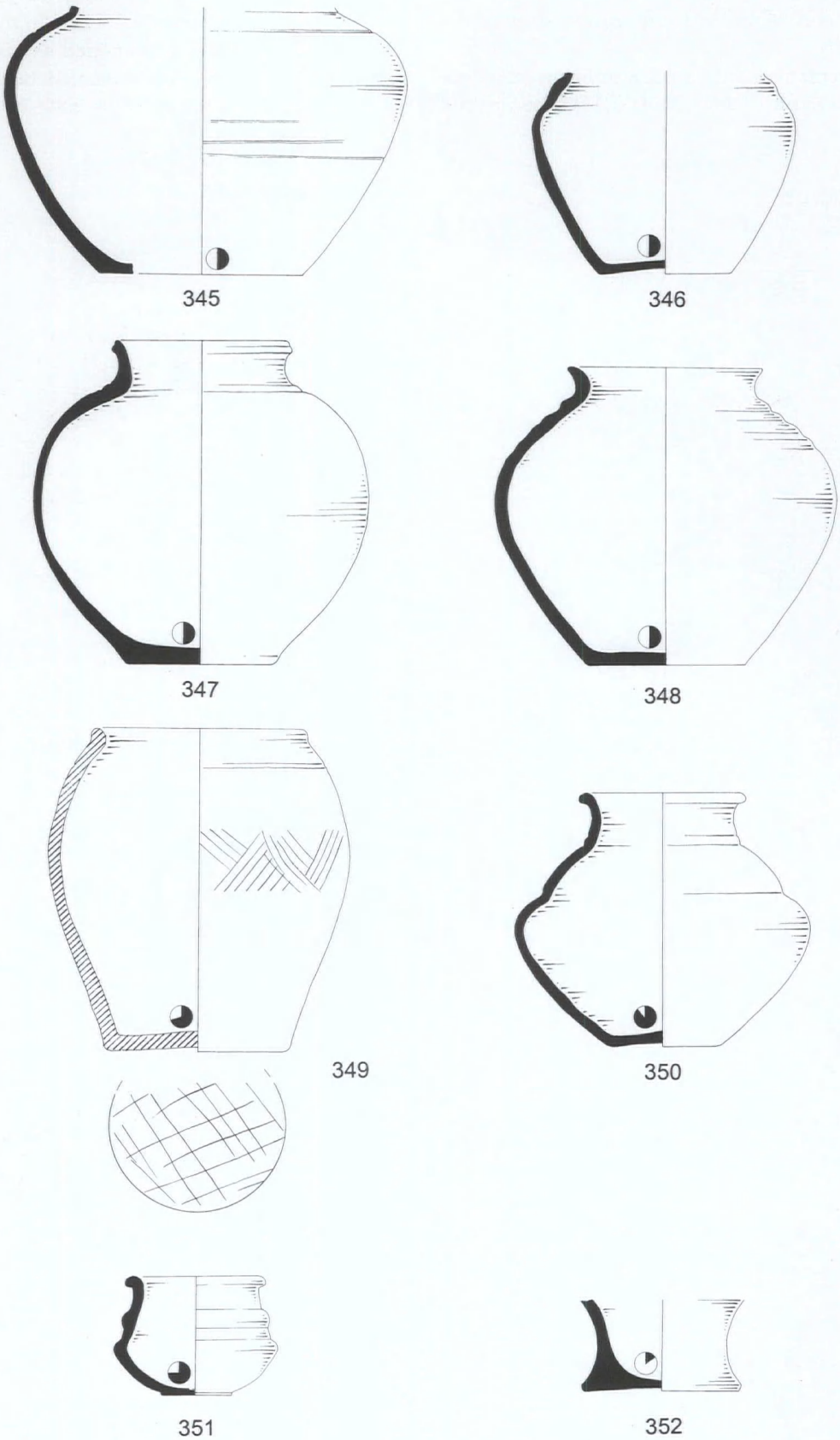


Fig 2.92: Iron Age ceramics in the cemetery G54 (scale 1:4)

F no.	Crem (vessel no.)	F06B	F09	Fig 2.92
608	1 (1)		1:304:1049	345
608	1 (2)	1:232:688		346
603	2 (1)		1:196:1104	347
603	2 (2)		1:183:843	348
686	3 (1)	1:69:1169		349
686	3 (2)	1:104:692		350
689	4 (1)		1:21:342	351
689	4 (2)		1:62:299	352

Table 2.43: Pottery from the cemetery G54 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Cremation 1

The cremation pit [608] was sub-circular, some 0.62m long and 0.5m wide, and was steep sided with a flat base (Plate 12). The pit contained two nearly complete ceramic vessels (Fig 2.92 nos 345–346), the larger of which had collapsed in on itself. The latter had once held two iron Nauheim brooches (Rf 5, Rf 13, Fig 3.11). These dated to a period from the end of the 2nd century BC to *c.*25 BC. Unfortunately, the position of the brooches within the pot was not recorded during the excavation. The cremation pit had been backfilled with mid-yellow-brown silty clay.

Cremation 2

The cremation pit [603] was oval, 0.81m long and 0.66m wide. This pit was very shallow and contained two ceramic vessels of similar size (Fig 2.92 nos 347–348), which had been partially truncated during topsoil removal. The pit also contained three copper-alloy brooches (Rf 1, 2, 3, Fig 3.11): two Nauheim types dated from the end of the 2nd century BC to *c.*25 BC and one Stead type from *c.*15 BC to the Roman Conquest.

Cremation 3

The cremation pit [686] was sub-circular with a diameter of 0.50m (Plate 13). It, too, was very shallow and contained two ceramic vessels (Fig 2.92 nos 349–350), both of which had been badly truncated. This cremation contained two copper-alloy brooches (Rf 4, 6, Fig 3.11). One brooch, an Alesia type (Rf 6) was located within a lens of dark yellowish brown sandy silt, surrounded by a rusty brown stain 2mm wide, interpreted as the remains of a decayed organic container. Unfortunately, the location of the second brooch within the grave was not recorded during excavation. Brooch Rf 6 (Alesia) is dated mid-1st century BC to 25 BC and Rf 4 (Nauheim) from the end of the 2nd century BC to 25 BC. The cremation pit was backfilled with dark yellowish brown silty clay.

Cremation 4

The cremation pit [689] was oval, 0.68m long and 0.41m wide (Plate 14). It was very shallow (691) (690) and contained two ceramic vessels (Fig 2.92 nos 351–352) located towards the north edge of the pit, both badly damaged. Three copper alloy brooches, Rf 8 and Rf 9 (Feugère Type 11a), Rf 10 (Stead Type) (Fig 3.11) were found close to the smaller of the two vessels, contained within a lens of dark yellowish brown sandy silt, possibly the remains of a decayed organic container. A copper-alloy and iron lump (Rf 19) were also found within the pit and may be the melted remains of a fourth brooch. The south and west sides of the pit held a scatter of cremated bone. The cremation pit was backfilled with mid-yellowish brown silty clay. One of the brooches, Rf 10, is dated from *c.*15 BC to the Conquest, while the Feugère Types Rf 8 and Rf 9 are mid-1st century BC.

2.7 Phase 6: the Romano-British Period (mid-1st century AD–5th century AD)

Phase 6 represents activity during the Romano-British period and consists of G37: the poorly preserved remains of a rectangular timber-framed structure, a dump of domestic hearth material and a group of four large pits, G78, the latter at the northern end of the site (Fig 2.93). This level of activity suggests settlement nearby.

Rectangular Structure

Rectangular buildings are obviously common in the Roman period; however, there are few examples of isolated structures like this one at Salford. Probably timber-framed with sill beams, it was large enough to be the remains of an agricultural barn.

G37 is a rectangular structure comprising a series of badly eroded gullies, heavily damaged by plough furrows which enclosed two sides of an area 25m long and 13m wide. The north gully comprised sections [1448], [1458] and [1806], which survived to a length of 22m. The gully was 0.50m wide with near vertical sides sloping to a flat base up to 0.30m deep. The gully, 40% of which was excavated, comprised mid-brown to dark grey-brown silts (Fig 2.94).

The west gully [1798] survived to a length of 12.75m, with a single break due to a plough furrow. It was up to 0.35m wide, with steep to near vertical sides sloping to a flat or slightly concave base some 0.25m deep. The gully was filled by the same mid-brown silts.

This structure may be the plough-damaged remains of a field barn, comparable to an early Roman building identified at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon (Miles 1984, 9, fig 7).

A large quantity of pottery recovered from the fills, indicates re-use of the gullies for the disposal of domestic waste. A large proportion of this was early Roman in date, possibly indicating an Iron Age/Romano-British transitional date for the structure, with disuse/demolition in the Romano-British period.

Two **pits G79**, of similar size, 10m apart, were located in the gullies of G37. The first [798] was sub-circular, 3.5m long, 2.7m wide and 1m deep. The primary fills comprised light orange-brown silt, sealed by a deposit of light yellow-brown silt. These deposits contained a number of large stones, up to 0.25m in size. The upper fills comprised dark grey-brown silt with a concentration of dumped burnt material towards the horizon with the lower fills, probably a dump of domestic hearth sweepings. The upper fills contained three sherds of Iron Age date.

The second pit [1101] was sub-circular, 2.4m long, 1.9m wide and 1m deep, with a dark grey silt fill which produced five sherds of Iron Age date and one sherd of Roman date (Table 2.44).

	EIA		MIA		LIA	RB
F no.	F01A	F28	F17	F27	F06B	R05A
798	1:1:10	1:1:1	1:1:8			
1101		1:1:7		3:3:14	1:1:11	1:1:2

Table 2.44: Pottery from pit group G79 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

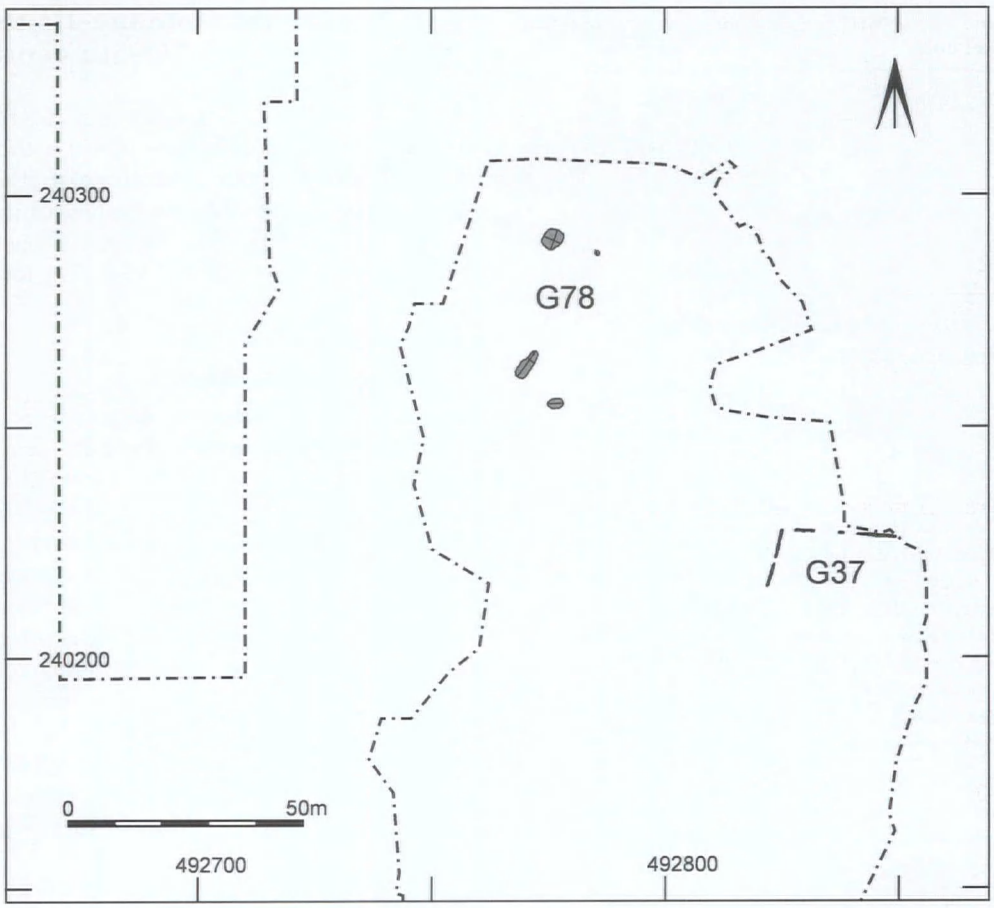


Fig 2.93: Phase 6, the Roman period

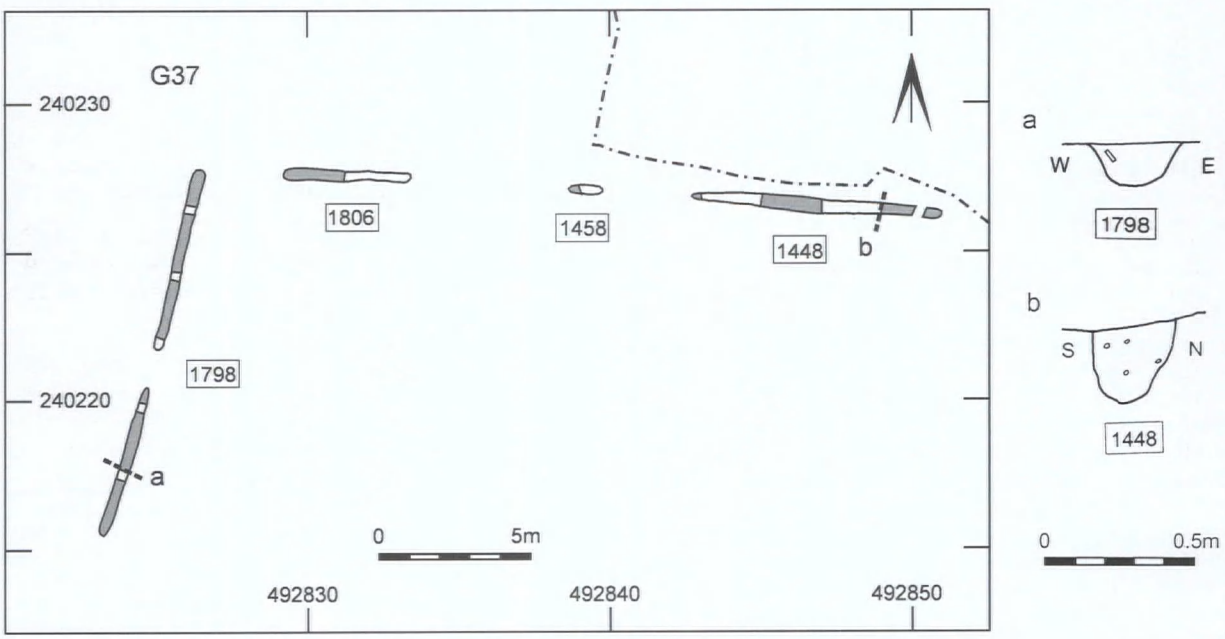


Fig 2.94: Rectangular building G37

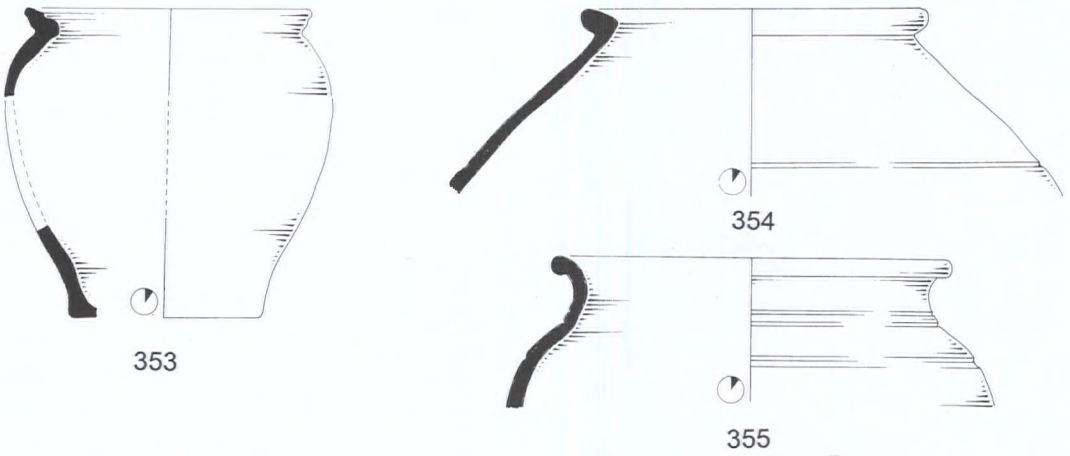


Fig 2.95: Ceramics from G37 nos 353–355 (scale 1:4)

	EIA				MIA			RB				
F no.	**F01B**	**F03**	**F28**	**F29**	**F16**	**F17**	**F27**	**R14**	**R03A**	**R06**	**R06C**	**R05A**
1448		4:4:22	3:3:8		3:3:4	8:8:17	1:1:1	4:14:267	1:3:3	1:1:8	5:7:117	1:1:2
1798	2:2:13	12:13:32	6:6:16	1:1:1	4:4:4	5:5:27						
1806				1:1:3								

Table 2.45: Pottery from structure G37 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

The pottery is fragmentary and largely residual, although the presence of Roman body sherds in pit [1101] suggests that this pit at least was filled in the Roman period.

The gullies of structure G37 contained a mixed assemblage, made up of 62 vessels, comprising 77 sherds weighing 545g (Table 2.45). All the Roman pottery was recovered from [1448], the northern arm of this structure. Diagnostic sherds are from a lid-seated shelly R13 jar (Fig 2.95 no. 353) and two sandy R14 jars (nos 354-355). A small greyware R06C body sherd had a pre-firing hole piercing it, and was possibly from a strainer. The lid-seated jar and a body sherd of a flagon in Verulamium fabric R03A may indicate a date in the first half of the 2nd century. All the pre-Roman pottery is likely to be residual (Fig 2.95 nos 353–355).

Pits

At the northern end of the excavated area was a group of four pits, **G78**, dating to the Romano-British period (Fig 2.96).

The first **pit [345]** was oval, 3.25m long, 2m wide and 0.60m deep. It was half excavated, the fill comprising dark yellow-brown silt containing a small assemblage of pottery, which included a sherd of Roman greyware, and the remains of a single iron nail.

Pit [347] was oval, 6.75m long, 2.5m wide and 0.25m deep. It was half excavated, the fill comprising reddish brown silt in which there was a single sherd of Roman greyware.

	EIA	MIA		RB	
F no.	**F03**	**F17**	**F22**	**R03A**	**R06C**
345		2:2:4	1:1:3		1:1:3
347					1:1:9
706	1:1:9			1:1:3	
754					1:1:14

Table 2.46: Pottery from pit group G78 (vessels:sherds:weight g)

Pit [706] was sub-circular, approximately 4.5m in diameter and 1.15m deep. It was half excavated, the fills comprising yellow-grey-brown sandy silt, which contained two sherds, one of Roman date, the other residual Iron Age.

Pit [754] was sub-circular, approximately 1.2m in diameter and 0.65m deep. It was half excavated, revealing a primary fill of dark yellow-brown sand and a secondary fill of dark brown loam containing a single sherd of Roman greyware.

The assemblage from these pits is small and fragmentary, and largely residual (Table 2.46). The Roman pottery is undiagnostic.

2.8 Deposit (2100)

Discovery

During the removal of topsoil by machine at Salford in 1989/90 an extensive sub-soil deposit was noted in the area of a pre-existing field boundary. The deposit was found to be a layer of dark loam and was initially interpreted as a medieval headland located close to a pre-existing boundary. It was partially cleared by machine until on-site re-assessment led to the suggestion that the soil might be a midden or 'occupation' deposit, possibly dating to the Iron Age. This assessment led to a programme of sampling to collect artefactual, ecofactual and soil structural data[1] as a means to interpret the origin or function of the deposit.

[1] The results of soil micromorphological analysis were considered inconclusive by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory and the report remains on file as part of the archive in Bedford Museum (MacPhail 1997).

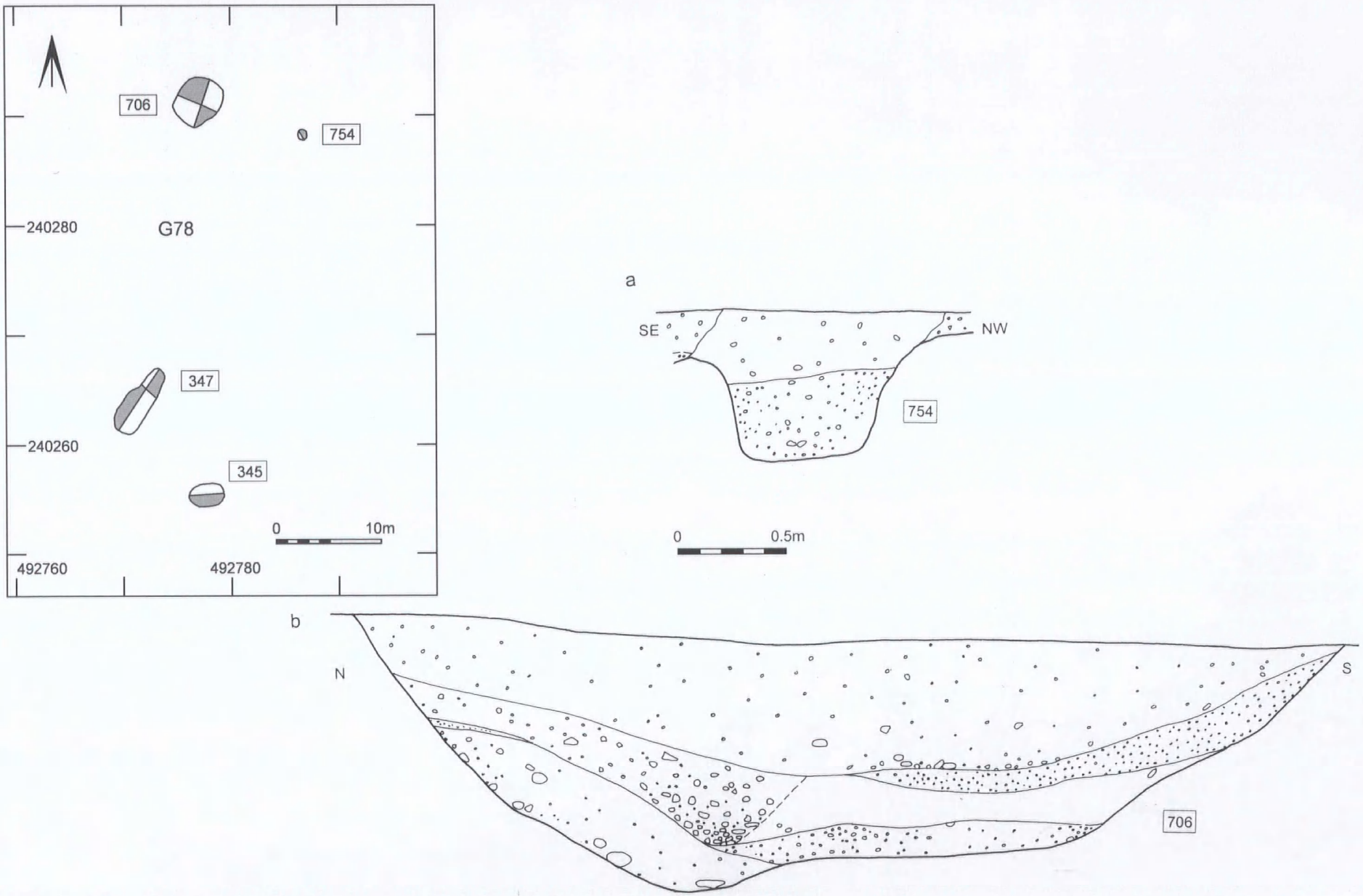


Fig 2.96: Pits G78

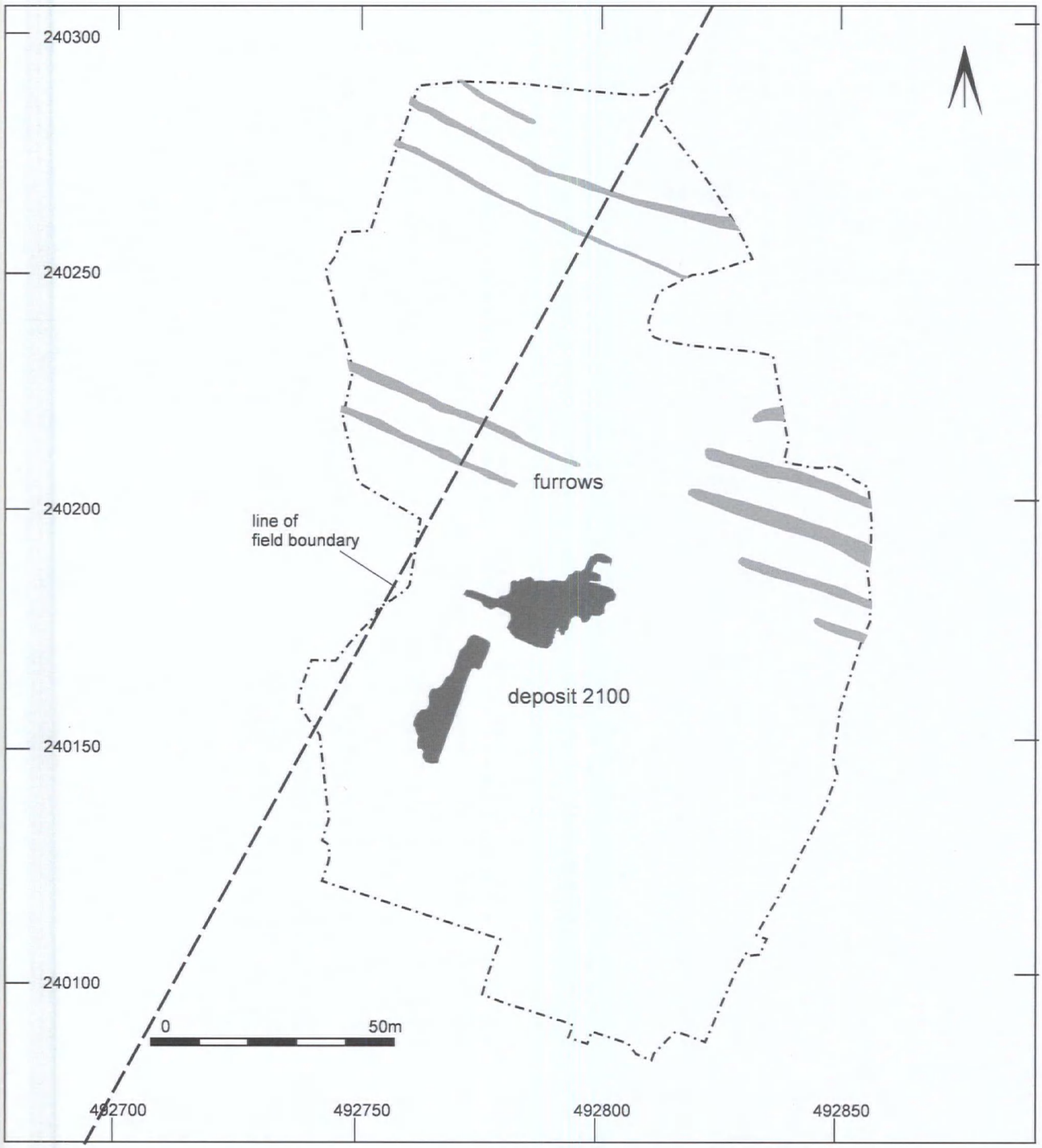


Fig 2.97: Plan of deposit (2100) and furrows

The deposit, designated (2100), extended from structure G2 in the north to structure G10 in the south (Fig 2.97). A sampling procedure for this deposit was designed to maximise artefact and ecofact recovery. Using a 1m grid covering 374m², 452 samples of 1000mm × 1000mm × 10mm were excavated, with individual samples collected through the depth of the deposit designated A (lowest) to E (uppermost). The deposit was deepest on its northern edge. Artefact and ecofact collection was through dry sieving once the soil had been broken up in a cement mixer. The use of the latter resulted in some damage to charcoal, animal bone and perhaps pottery and even flint.

The original extent of the deposit was of considerable interest because of the structural evidence it sealed. Although only two limited areas (Fig 2.97) remained after machine stripping, re-appraisal of the site records showed that, at its full extent, the deposit had partially covered a line of structures including G11, G68, G48 and G12 from phase 3, and slightly encroached on the drip gullies of G2, G8, G9, G10

and G13 from phase 4. Unfortunately, this was a written description and no plan survives from this period of the excavation. The excavation records of the drip gullies of round houses G9, G10, G11 and G13 suggest that they were coterminus with the original extent of the deposit. Consequently the deposit surviving in 1991 was approximately 100m long, running south-west to north-east, and appears to respect the structure of roundhouses assigned to phase 4.

The Ceramic Evidence (Figs 2.98–2.101)

The ceramic assemblage recovered during sampling of the deposit (2100) was extensive. A total of 15,535 vessels, represented by 15,690 sherds, weighing 31,242g, was recovered (Table 2.47). This represents 78.89% of the total site assemblage, although its fragmentary nature may be seen from the vessel:sherd ratio of 1:1.09. Two sherds of Saxon pottery were also recovered, together with single sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Pottery distributions were plotted by chronological grouping for each individual layer, for squares with a single spit and for squares with more than two spits. The results are stored in the archive.

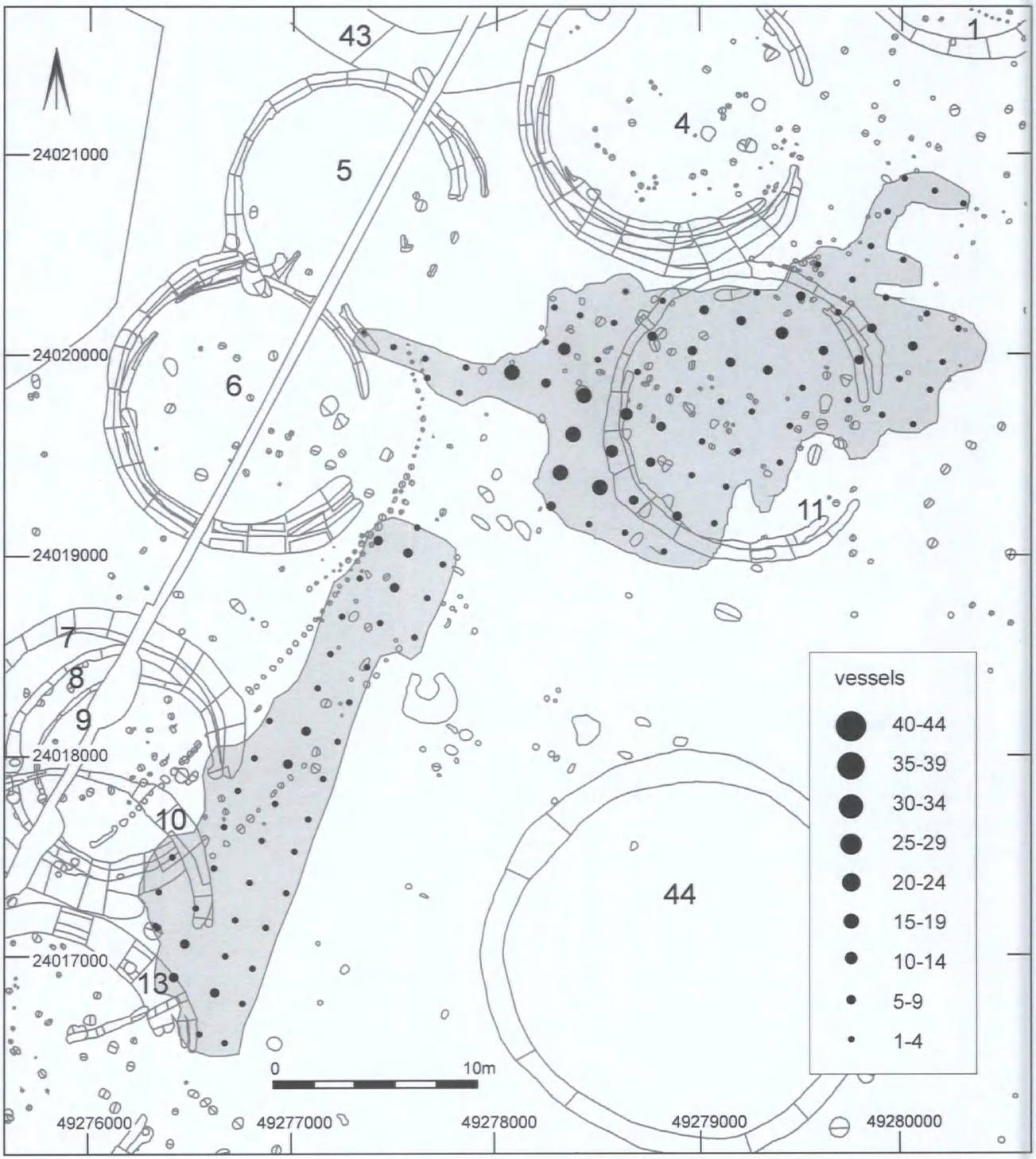


Fig 2.98: Early Iron Age ceramics in deposit (2100)

Fabric	Sherds	weight g	Fabric	Sherds	weight g
F01A	37	115	F06A	12	35
F01B	121	334	F06C	1	1
F01C	43	169	F09	2	14
F02	11	38	R06	13	55
F03	200	707	R07B	17	112
F28	3936	9794	R05A	1	1
F29	432	1371			
F16	1609	3185			
F17	9187	15,015			
F30	5	76			
F04	2	11			

Table 2.47: Iron Age and Roman pottery from deposit (2100) by fabric type

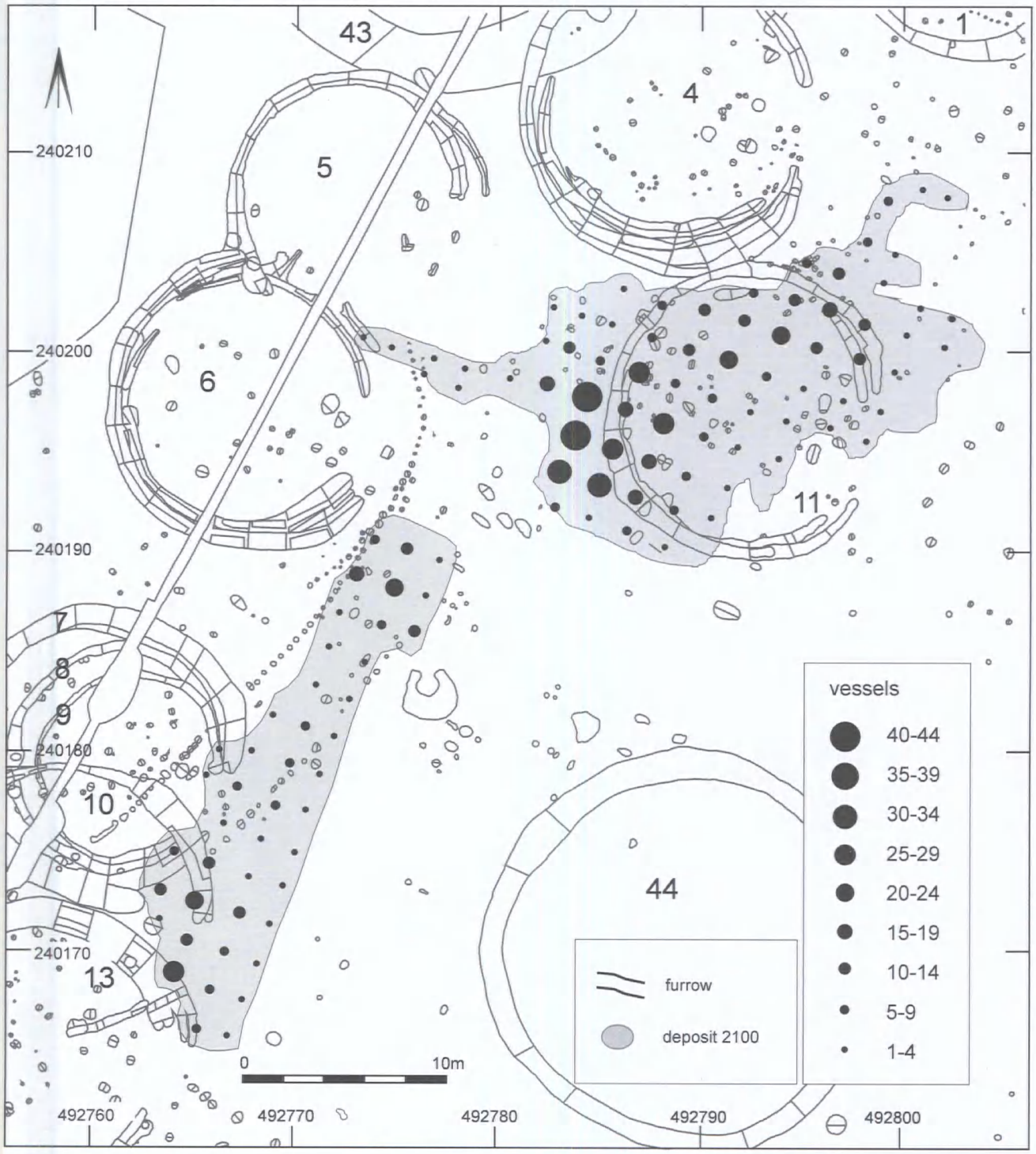


Fig 2.99: Middle Iron Age ceramics in deposit (2100)

Squares with more than one spit occur on the northern edge of the deposit. It is here that the deposit is at its greatest depth. Pottery in the bottom-most spits shows a marked concentration above G11, a roundhouse in phase 3. This is also the case with the registered artefacts, although the pottery concentration appears to be centred just to the west of G11, and south of G6 (Figs 2.98–2.99). At Salford there is no difference in the chronological distribution of early and middle Iron Age pottery, as defined by fabric type. There is generally more middle Iron Age pottery, but the concentration is the same. Late Iron Age pottery (Table 2.47, fabric types F06–F09) occurs in small quantities in deposit (2100), and, with the exception of the cemetery, this is the only other context where it is found (Fig 2.100). This suggests that there was limited activity in the late Iron Age, which may have taken place beyond the boundary of the earlier settlement. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery is found in the bottom-most layer in squares with both one and more than one spit. A comparison with the distribution of the Roman non-ceramic artefacts indicates a similar, but not so concentrated, spread over G11, with the pottery also spreading to the north-east of this roundhouse. Roman pottery also occurred in the vicinity of the shale bead, although not directly over the entrance of roundhouse G10 (see below).

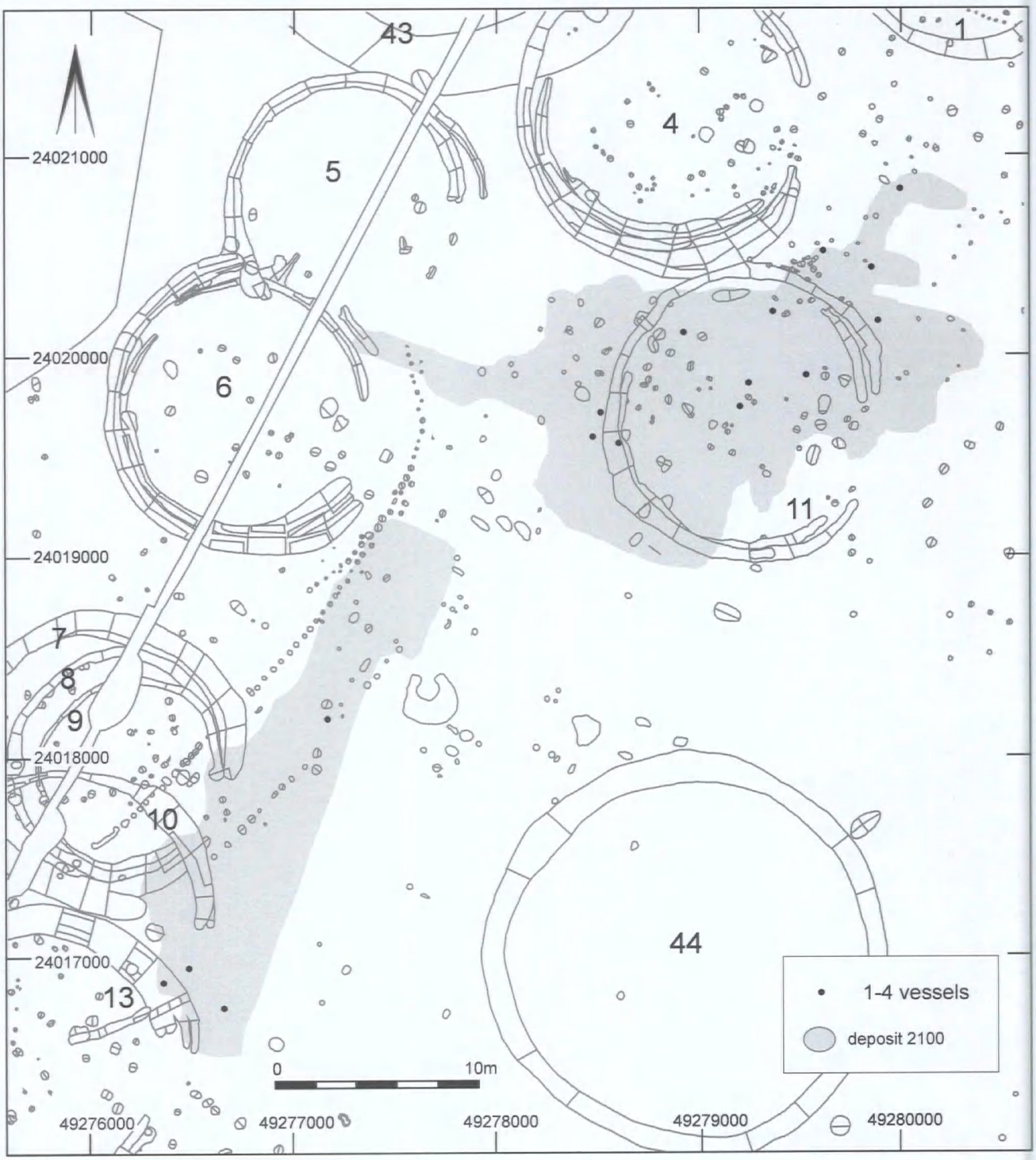


Fig 2.100: Late Iron Age ceramics in deposit (2100)

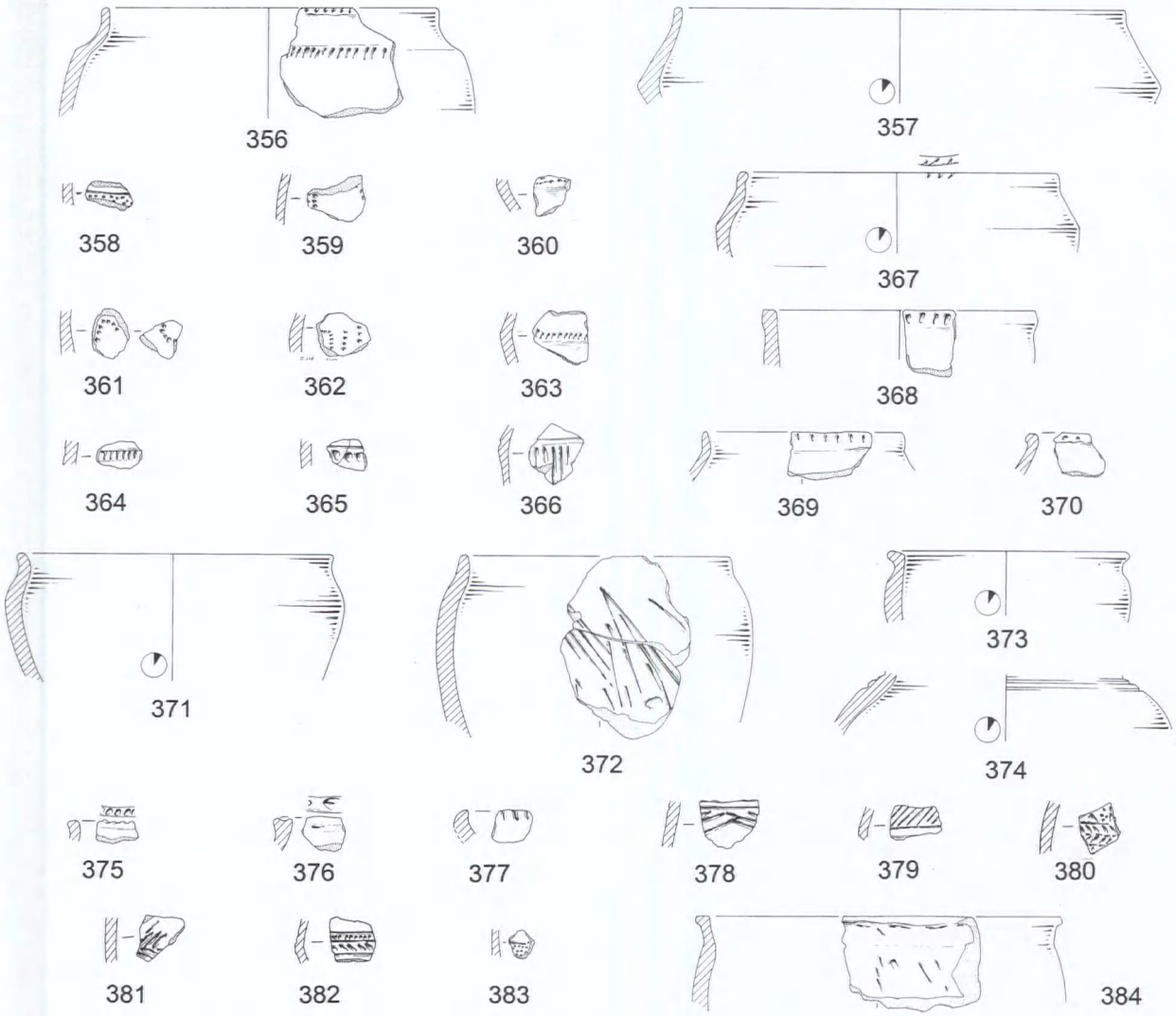


Fig 2.101: Ceramics in deposit (2100) nos 356–384 (scale 1:4)

Object	No.	Weight	Date
Iron nail	1		Iron Age–Roman
Wine bottle sherds	2		Post-medieval
Spindle whorls	2		Early–middle Iron Age
Clay hearth lining		86.1g	
Ferrous smithing slag		239.6g	
Coin	1		mid-3rd to 4th century
Blue glass bead	1		Iron Age–Saxon
Shale bead	1		Iron Age–Roman
Copper-alloy folded buckle plate	1		Late Iron Age–post Roman
Copper-alloy wire (portions of brooch pins?)	2		Iron Age–Roman
Copper-alloy sheet fragment	1		
Decorated ceramic roundels	2		Early–middle Iron Age
Copper-alloy shank from dress/hair pin, toiletry item or needle	1		Iron Age–Roman
Copper-alloy rod/cylinder (12mm)	1		

Table 2.48: Non-ceramic finds from deposit (2100)

The Non-ceramic Evidence

The assemblage of finds from the deposit (2100) survived in a fragmentary and abraded condition, in many instances precluding identification of original form and function (Table 2.48). These finds were concentrated immediately over phase 3 roundhouse G11, adjacent to roundhouses G4 and G6, phase 4 (Fig 2.102). The only item to occur outside this concentration was a shale bead, recovered from over the entrance to roundhouse G10, phase 4.

While the distribution pattern on its own may suggest that a main focus of activity, rubbish disposal, was centred on the area of roundhouses G4 and G6 in phase 4, the presence of a Roman coin

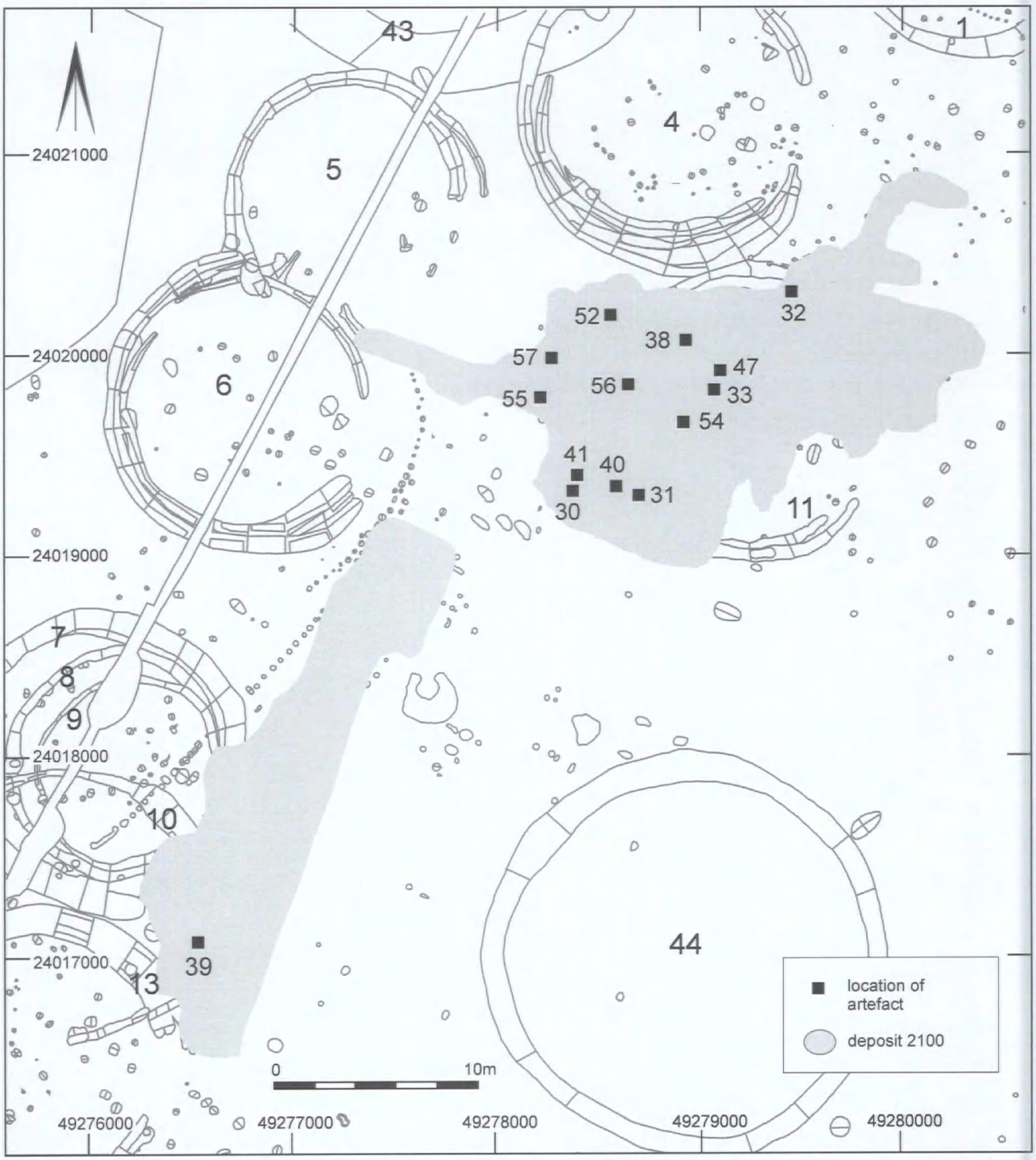


Fig 2.102: Registered finds in deposit (2100)

indicates that the deposit remained exposed for some time after this period. The coin was recovered within the lowest depths of this deposit, indicating the deposit had been subjected to reworking, although this may have resulted from a concentration of animal activity in this area. The presence of two sherds of wine bottle glass presumably derive from subsequent post-medieval agricultural activity.

The Animal Bone

Deposit (2100) contained 292 samples, comprising 2521 bones summarised in Tables 2.49–2.52. Seventy-nine per cent of the samples came from the upper-most levels and there were none from the lowest level (Table 2.49). Sixty-four samples contained fragments identifiable to species (Table 2.50); 96% of the fragments were unidentifiable but were recorded according to type of bone and size of animal (Table 2.51). Most samples contained ten or fewer fragments after being sieved through a 5.6mm mesh (Table 2.52).

All the bones are very fragmentary, and show surface abrasion and wear. Most of the breaks are old, but there are many modern breaks, reflecting the method of recovery. Gnawing is present, knife marks are found but no scraping or chopping. Burning is found on just under 7% of the fragments.

Spit	b	b+c	C	c+d	d	d+e	e	Total
No. of samples	10	1	19	1	29	1	231	292
No. with identified species	3	1	4	1	5	1	50	64

Table 2.49: Animal bone from the deposit (2100)

Spit			b	b+c	C	D	d+e	e	Total
Equus	Horse	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Bos	Cattle	2	1	5	1	2	0	39	50
Sus	Pigs	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
Ovis	Goats	0	0	2	0	1	0	27	30
Canis	Dog	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cervus	Wild deer	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
Total		2	1	7	1	6	0	80	97

Table 2.50: Number of samples with identified animal bones per spit deposit (2100)

Spit	b	b+c	c	c+d	D	d+e	e	Total
1 Long bone	11	5	19	0	22	0	273	330
2 Long bone	17	5	35	0	26	4	409	496
3 Long bone	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
1 Rib	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
2 Rib	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Skull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1 Vertebra	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
2 Vertebra	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Teeth	10	0	2	0	17	0	84	113
Skull	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	11
Flat bone	3	3	10	0	4	0	119	139
Compact bone	11	0	35	10	106	1	1155	1318
Total	52	14	103	10	177	5	2063	2424

Table 2.51: Number of identified animal bone fragments per spit deposit (2100)

Abbreviations
1 Large animal (horse, cattle); 2 Medium animal (sheep, pig, dog); 3 Small animal (hare, cat)

No. frags per sample	1–5	6–10	11–15	16–20	21–25	26–30	31–35	36–40	41–45
No. samples	140	75	38	21	10	4	1	0	2

Table 2.52: Number of unidentified animal bone fragments per spit deposit (2100)

The species identified are the same as those from the main assemblage and in the same proportions. Cattle are the most common with fragments from all parts of the body found in all spits; sheep/goat are the second most frequent with similar fragments but from fewer spits. Horse remains are all teeth, apart from an astragalus, and are all found in the highest spit. The few pig bones are three teeth, a mandible and a second phalanx. A piece of a dog mandible was found in the second spit, and five fragments of red deer antler come from the first and second spits. The predominance of compact bones in the unidentified fragments reflects the presence of a large number of bones reduced to undiagnostic pieces. Long bone fragments from medium-sized animals are the second most frequent, followed by long bone fragments from large animals. There is a high number of tooth fragments, which are not found in the main assemblage (Table 2.51).

The bones from this deposit do not differ in any significant way from the bones from the main assemblage. They are a random collection with no concentration of types of bone or species. The abrasion and wear seen on them indicate that they have been exposed on the surface at some time, but whether they have been curated and later placed in the deposit during cleaning or were worn *in situ* is hard to say.

Discussion

Deposit (2100) at Salford can be characterised as a horizon containing significant anthropogenic material that seals a series of Iron Age structures. The presence of anthropogenic materials in this deposit contrasts with the ploughsoil above it, suggesting it had a different origin.

The date (2100) was deposited relies on its stratigraphic relationships and the temporal range of finds from within it. Both the registered artefacts and the ceramics indicate the majority of this evidence comes from the middle to late Iron Age, with some Romano-British material and two post-medieval wine bottle sherds at the bottom of the deposit. The deposit also seals several roundhouses from phase 3, in particular G11. It seems quite probable, therefore, that the deposit began to accumulate, possibly in phase 4, and continued to accumulate into the Romano-British period.

Once the deposit had begun to accumulate, the anthropogenic evidence suggests that it saw considerable reworking. The animal bone in particular, notwithstanding the modern damage during collection, is almost entirely fragmentary and abraded. This is also true of the ceramic assemblage. Not only did it contain a mixed, fragmentary, assortment of pottery with no difference in the chronological distribution of early and middle Iron Age vessels, but there were also Iron Age and Roman ceramics together, although in small quantities, at the bottom of the deposit.

Perhaps the most obvious mechanism for reworking is ploughing following abandonment of the Iron Age and Roman structures, although concentrated animal activity might also account for the condition of the animal bone and ceramics noted above (Beckman and Smith 1974; Courty *et al* 1994). Unfortunately, neither the data from soil micromorphology samples nor the site records of the microtopography provide sufficient evidence to confirm either mechanism. Alternatively, while it is certainly possible that this deposit accumulated in a dip or hollow in the background topography there is no site data to support this contention. It is also possible, even probable, that the deposit has been preserved as the lower horizon of a medieval headland bank.

2.9 Phase 7: Saxon (*c.* AD 450–*c.*650)

Evidence of Saxon activity was recovered from a watering hollow, which contained Saxon pottery. The hollow G66 [3001] was approximately 3m wide and

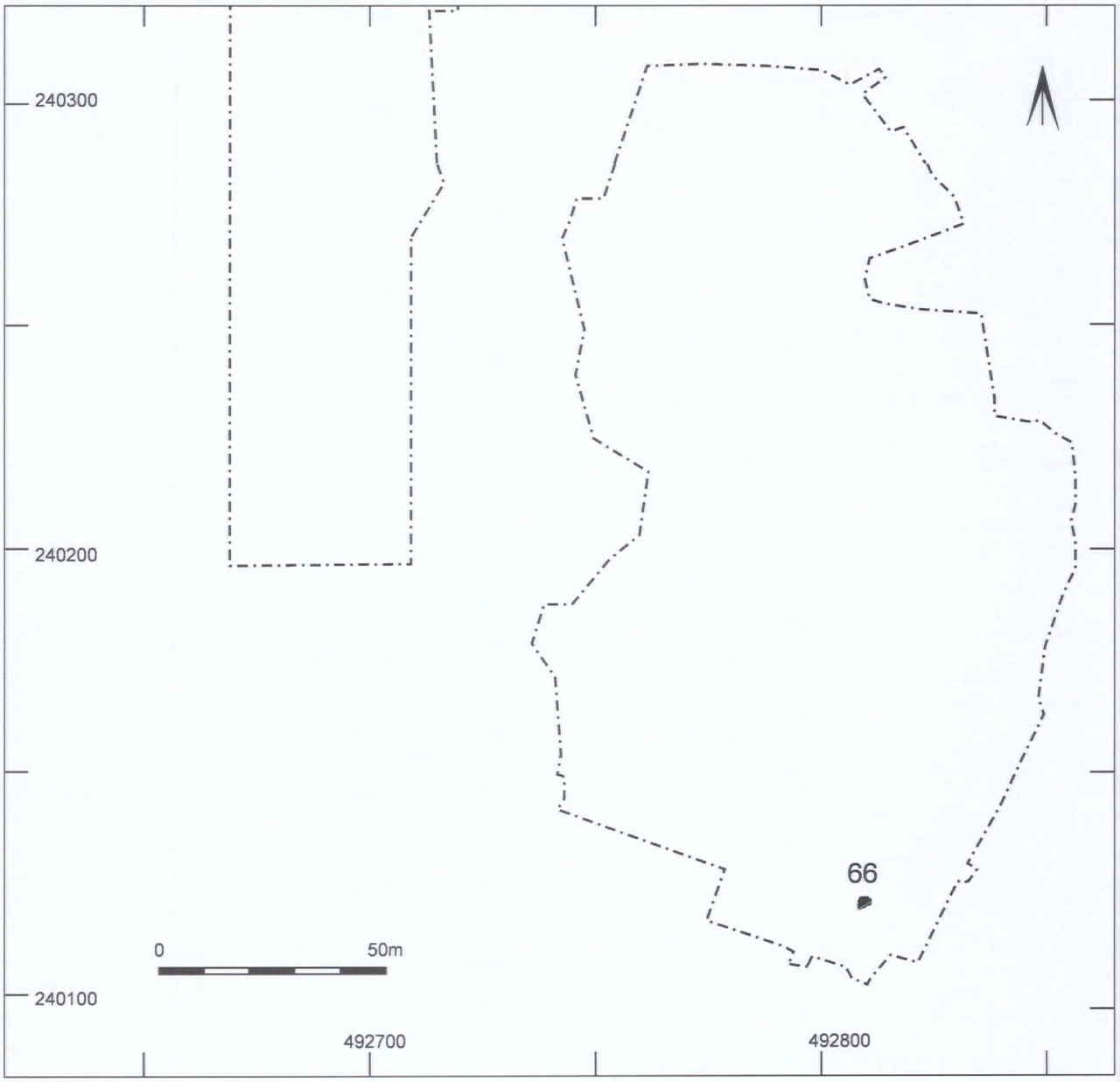
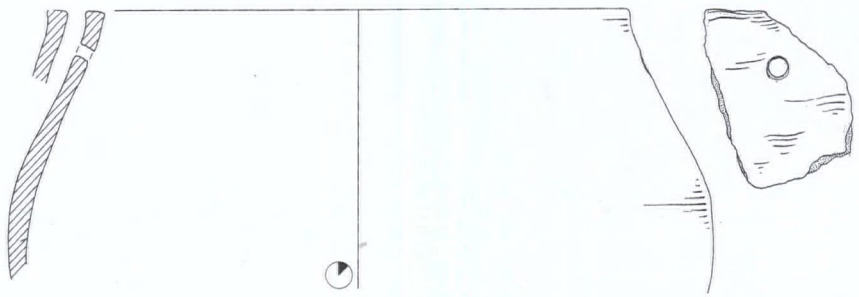


Fig 2.103: Phase 7 Saxon period



407

Fig 2.104: Ceramics from G66 (scale 1:4)

roughly circular, with steep sides in some places undercut, possibly the result of localised collapse (Fig 2.103). Two fills were recorded; an upper fill (3002) was a black silt horizon with some stone and some burnt material, including charcoal. This was some 1.5m deep, below which was a 0.05m horizon of mixed gravel and sand with some iron-panning, which probably represents the bottom of the hollow.

Pottery was recovered only from the upper fill (3002) of the hollow. In addition to fragmentary Iron Age and Roman pottery, three Saxon vessels were found, the most substantial of which is no. 407 (Fig 2.104). It has two pre-firing holes pierced on opposing sides, just below the rim. The fabric is distinctive, with rounded red quartz clearly visible to the naked eye. There is only one other occurrence of this fabric type in the county, at Stewartby, mid-Bedfordshire. At neither site was any Maxey ware found, a type characteristic of the middle Saxon period in this region. It can therefore be tentatively suggested that this pottery is of pre-Maxey date. Elsewhere, however, for example at Stratton, a deserted medieval settlement near Biggleswade, quartz-tempered pottery appears to go on well into the middle Saxon period. It was found frequently in association with Maxey ware. The small quantities found at Salford, and the absence of any other associated datable finds mean that a firm date cannot be determined. The form is characteristic of the early Saxon period (cf Myres 1977, fig 74, 3994) probably of late 5th-century AD date. The presence of the hollow [3001] G66 is the only evidence of Saxon activity on the site. Well-preserved wood was also recovered from the same feature. This has not been identified or analysed, due to cost, and the wood no longer survives. This has, therefore, led to a bias in the data presented.

3 THE ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

Introduction

The third chapter of the Salford report presents the artefact data from the excavations, subdividing the material into four sections: 3.1 The Pottery, 3.2 Fired Clay and Daub, 3.3 Clay Thin Section Analysis, 3.4 Non-Ceramic Finds and 3.5 Flint. Each section is individually prefaced.

3.1 The Pottery

A M Slowikowski

Introduction and Methodology

In total, 19,693 vessels were recovered from the site, including vessels from deposit (2100) (Table 3.1). Most of the pottery came from deposit (2100), making up 78.89% of the total assemblage. Although the vessel:sherd ratio does not differ greatly between the excavated assemblages and those from deposit (2100), 1:1.07 and 1:1.01 respectively, sherd and vessel weights vary widely, with an average sherd and vessel weight of 2.00g and 2.01g respectively for deposit (2100), and 6.50g and 11.64g for sherd and vessel weight, respectively, for the excavated assemblage. Unlike the excavated assemblage, the condition of the material from deposit (2100) is poor, with low sherd size and weight and a high incidence of abrasion. This poor condition may have been caused to a great degree by the experimental sorting and cleaning of samples on site with the aid of a cement mixer. Small, soft-fired, sherds may have been destroyed by this method.

The excavated assemblage was laid out by structure. The pottery was recorded by fabric and form within context, and quantified by vessel, sherd count and weight. Sherds broken after excavation were counted as one. Sherds from the same vessel but from different contexts were recorded, and 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. Other recorded attributes are decoration, evidence of use, such as sooting, wear or residues, and evidence of manufacturing techniques.

	Vessels	Sherds	Weight kg
Excavated assemblage	4,158	7,061	46,004
Deposit (2100)	15,535	15,690	31,242
Total	**19,693**	**22,751**	**77,246**

Table 3.1: Quantification of pottery from Salford (see also Fig 3.3)

All quantitative statements in the pottery report are based on the vessel count, unless otherwise stated. Percentages have been rounded up to two decimal places.

The Pottery Illustrations

The pottery is presented at 1:4, the early prehistoric at 1:2. Hand-made vessels have hatched sections and, where coils are clearly visible, these are shown in the section. Wheel-thrown vessels have solid black sections. All applied parts are shown hatched in section. 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. This is the largest early and middle Iron Age ceramic assemblage in Bedfordshire, excavated using modern methods. The pottery has therefore been illustrated to show the full range of fabrics, forms and decoration, occurring on the site. All the vessels are numbered in sequential order and catalogued in Tables 3.2–3.7 for the prehistoric pottery and Table 3.8 for the remaining assemblage.

Type/style	Type code	Site Fabric no.	Colour	Fabric description
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	1a	grey/black	vesicular
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	1b	grey/black	fine–small flint
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	1c	grey/black	fine–medium flint
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	2a	buff	fine–small flint
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	2b	buff	fine–medium flint
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	2c	buff	fine–medium flint; vesicular
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	3a	buff-dark	vesicular
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	3b	buff-dark	fine–small flint; vesicular
Mortlake/Peterborough	X05B	3c	buff-dark	fine–medium flint
Fengate	X05C	4	buff-grey-buff	grog; vesicular
Grooved Ware	X06	5	buff-grey	fine flint; vesicular
Beaker	X07	6	buff	fine flint

Table 3.2: Early prehistoric fabrics

Feature	Illus no.	Description	Fabric
30 (G77)	1	Rim internally expanded; on neck alternating panels of twisted cord and fingernail, on rim radial twisted cord, interior twisted cord herringbone (see Peterborough Ware (163) vessel b)	1b
54 (G77)	2	Rim expanded; on rim twisted cord, interior rows of twisted cord 'maggots'	1b
54 (G77)	3	Rim expanded; on rim radial twisted cord, interior diagonal twisted cord	1c
54 (G77)	4	Rim externally expanded; rows of bird-bone impressions on neck, rim and interior.	1b
54 (G77)	5	Rim expanded; on neck whipped cord, on rim and interior twisted cord 'maggots'	1b
54 (G77)	6	Rim external ledged; on rim and interior twisted cord 'maggots'	1c
54 (G77)	7	Rim expanded; whipped cord on rim, neck and interior.	2b
54 (G77)	8	Shoulder; above and below whipped cord 'maggots'	1c
54 (G77)	9	Shoulder; above and below twisted cord 'maggots'	1b
1864 (G67)	10	Rim externally expanded over cavetto neck and pronounced shoulder; on body complex multiple rows of crescents in arcuate and nested design, on neck panelling alternating small and large crescents, on rim crescents and ovates, on interior bird-bone ladder	1c

Table 3.3: Feature sherds of Mortlake type ceramics (see Figs 2.6–2.7)

Feature	Illus no.	Description	Fabric
1 (G42)	11	Wall; irregular lentoids	4
3 (G41)	12	Wall; incised lines	4

Table 3.4: Feature sherds of Fengate type ceramics (see Fig 2.7)

Feature	Illus no.	Description	Fabric
102 (G77)	13	Wall; lentoids.	1b
3 (G41)	14	Wall; twisted cord rows.	1c
28 (G77)	15	Wall; whipped cord rows	1c
29 (G77)	16	Wall; twisted cord herringbone	3b
30 (G77)	17	Shoulder; twisted cord herringbone	1a
30 (G77)	18	Shoulder; bird-bone rows	3b
30 (G77)	19	Wall; twisted cord	3a
54 (G77)	20	Base flattened; on wall whipped cord rows	3c
54 (G77)	21	Wall; bird-bone rows	3c
54 (G77)	22	Wall; twisted cord herringbone	3b
54 (G77)	23	Wall; twisted cord 'maggots'	2c
54 (G77)	24	Wall; whipped cord lattice	3c
54 (G77)	25	Wall; twisted cord horseshoes	3c
54 (G77)	26	Wall; whipped cord 'maggot' rows	3c
54 (G77)	27	Wall; whipped cord 'maggots'	3c
54 (G77)	28	Wall; bird-bone row	2a
54 (G77)	29	Wall; twisted cord 'maggot' rows	3c
54 (G77)	30	Wall; twisted cord 'maggot' rows	3b
54 (G77)	31	Wall; twisted cord horseshoes	3c
54 (G77)	32	Wall; bird-bone rows	3b
1864 (G67)	33	Wall; bird-bone row over fingernail rustication	1c

Table 3.5: Feature sherds of Peterborough ware ceramics (see Figs 2.7–2.9)

Context	Illus no.	Description	Fabric
183	34	Wall; incised filled triangle 'basketwork' divided by pseudo-cordon	5

Table 3.6: Feature sherds of Grooved Ware ceramics (see Fig 2.9)

Context	Illus no.	Description	Fabric
188	35	Wall; lentoids and incised lines above zone of impression-filled reserved triangles and lozenges	6
188	36	Wall; comb-stamped lines defining zones of lentoids and incised diagonals	6

Table 3.7: Feature sherds of Beaker ware (see Fig 2.9)

Fig no.	Illus no.	Fabric	Fabric description	Phase	Group	Feature	Feature type
2.6–2.9	1–36		Early Prehistoric (see specialist catalogue Tables 3.3–3.7)				
2.16	37	F03	Grog/sand	3	40	2908	Pit alignment
2.16	38	F01A	Coarse flint	3	40	2908	Pit alignment
2.16	39	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	40	2908	Pit alignment
2.16	40	F03	Grog/sand	3	40	3003	Pit alignment
2.16	41	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	40	3003	Pit alignment
2.16	42	F03	Grog/sand	3	40	3414	Pit alignment
2.16	43	F28	Fine sand	3	40	3434	Pit alignment
2.16	44	F28	Fine sand	3	40	3444	Pit alignment
2.16	45	F28	Fine sand	3	40	3444	Pit alignment
2.16	46	F28	Fine sand	3	40	3400	Pit alignment
2.16	47	F28	Fine sand	3	40	3508	Pit alignment
2.21	48	F01B	Fine flint	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	49	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	50	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	51	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	52	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	53	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	54	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	55	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	56	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	57	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	58	F03	Grog/sand	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	59	F28	Fine sand	3	5	1531	Gully
2.21	60	F28	Fine sand	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	61	F28	Fine sand	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	62	F28	Fine sand	3	5	1531	Gully
2.21	63	F17	Grog	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	64	F17	Grog	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	65	F17	Grog	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	66	F17	Grog	3	5	1531	Gully
2.21	67	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	68	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1531	Gully
2.21	69	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	70	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	71	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	72	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1532	Gully
2.21	73	F27	Grog/shell	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	74	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	5	1530	Gully
2.21	75	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	5	1530	Gully
2.25	76	F03	Grog/sand	3	17	355	Early southern ditch
2.25	77	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	1132	Early southern ditch
2.25	78	F27	Grog/shell	3	36	1132	Early southern ditch
2.25	79	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	80	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	81	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	82	F22	Grog/organic	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	83	F27	Grog/shell	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	84	F27	Grog/shell	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	85	F27	Grog/shell	3	36	1129	Later southern ditch
2.25	86	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	358	Northern ditch
2.25	87	F28	Fine sand	3	36	358	Northern ditch
2.25	88	F28	Fine sand	3	36	358	Northern ditch
2.25	89	F17	Grog	3	36	358	Northern ditch
2.25	90	F17	Grog	3	36	317	Northern ditch
2.25	91	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	36	358	Northern ditch
2.25	92	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	800	Eastern ditch
2.25	93	F03	Grog/sand	3	36	800	Eastern ditch
2.28	94	F01B	Fine flint	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	95	F03	Grog/sand	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	96	F28	Fine sand	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	97	F17	Grog	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	98	F27	Grog/shell	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	99	F27	Grog/shell	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	100	F27	Grog/shell	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	101	F16	Shelly	3	11	2870	Inner ditch
2.28	102	F30	Sand/calcareous	3	11	2509	Inner ditch
2.28	103	F03	Grog/sand	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	104	F03	Grog/sand	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	105	F03	Grog/sand	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	106	F28	Fine sand	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	107	F28	Fine sand	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	108	F17	Grog	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	109	F27	Grog/shell	3	11	2666	Outer ditch
2.28	110	F27	Grog/shell	3	11	2666	Outer ditch

Fig no.	Illus no.	Fabric	Fabric description	Phase	Group	Feature	Feature type
2.29	111	F28	Fine sand	3	52	2546	Post hole
2.31	112	F03	Grog/sand	3	16	578	Inner ditch
2.31	113	F03	Grog/sand	3	16	467	Inner ditch
2.31	114	F28	Fine sand	3	16	467	Inner ditch
2.31	115	F28	Fine sand	3	16	467	Inner ditch
2.31	116	F28	Fine sand	3	16	518	Outer ditch
2.31	117	F17	Grog	3	16	518	Outer ditch
2.33	118	F28	Fine sand	3	12	2755	Post hole
2.33	119	F17	Grog	3	12	2700	Post hole
2.35	120	F03	Grog/sand	3	48	914	Post hole
2.37	121	F28	Fine sand	3	68	980	Post hole
2.40	122	F28	Fine sand	3	18	1322	Central pit
2.40	123	F28	Fine sand	3	18	1322	Central pit
2.40	124	F28	Fine sand	3	18	1322	Central pit
2.40	125	F28	Fine sand	3	18	1328	Post hole
2.42	126	F16	Shelly	3	20	2566	Post hole?
2.49	127	F03	Grog/sand	3	70	829	Post hole
2.52	128	F03	Grog/sand	4	76	468	Ditch
2.52	129	F17	Grog	4	76	468	Ditch
2.52	130	F17	Grog	4	76	468	Ditch
2.52	131	F27	Grog/shell	4	76	468	Ditch
2.54	132	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	133	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	134	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	135	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	136	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	137	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	138	F28	Fine sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	139	F28	Fine sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	140	F28	Fine sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	141	F28	Fine snad	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	142	F28	Fine sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	143	F29	Coarse sand	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	144	F16	Shelly	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	145	F17	Grog	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	146	F17	Grog	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	147	F17	Grog	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	148	F27	Grog/shell	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	149	F27	Grog/shell	4	1	823	Primary gully
2.54	150	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	151	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	152	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	153	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	154	F03	Grog/sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	155	F28	Fine sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	156	F28	Fine sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	157	F28	Fine sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	158	F28	Fine sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	159	F28	Fine sand	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	160	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	161	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	162	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	163	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	164	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	165	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	166	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	167	F17	Grog	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	168	F22	Grog/organic	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	169	F22	Grog/organic	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	170	F27	Grog/shell	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	171	F27	Grog/shell	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.54	172	F35	Micaceous	4	1	825	Recut gully
2.57	173	F27	Grog/shell	4	4	1808	Entrance post hole
2.57	174	F17	Grog	4	4	1811	?Ditch
2.57	175	F17	Grog	4	4	1811	?Ditch
2.57	176	F03	Grog/sand	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	177	F03	Grog/sand	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	178	F03	Grog/sand	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	179	F28	Fine sand	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	180	F17	grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	181	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	182	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	183	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	184	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	185	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully

Fig no.	Illus no.	Fabric	Fabric description	Phase	Group	Feature	Feature type
2.57	186	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	187	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	188	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	189	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	190	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	191	F17	Grog	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	192	F22	Grog/organic	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	193	F27	Grog/shell	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	194	F27	Grog/shell	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	195	F27	Grog/shell	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	196	F27	Grog/shell	4	4	1500	Gully
2.57	197	F22	Grog/organic	4	4	1573	Ditch
2.57	198		oven/kiln floor	4	4	1500	Ditch
2.59	199	F03	Grog/sand	4	6	1540	Ditch
2.59	200	F03	Grog/sand	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	201	F03	Grog/sand	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	202	F17	Grog	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	203	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	204	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	205	F30	Sand calcareous	4	6	2304	Ditch
2.59	206	F03	Grog/sand	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	207	F03	Grog/sand	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	208	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	209	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	210	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	211	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	212	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	213	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	214	F17	Grog	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	215	F27	Grog/shell	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	216	F27	Grog/shell	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	217	F27	Grog/shell	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	218	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	6	2305	Ditch
2.59	219	F17	Grog	4	6	2307	Ditch
2.59	220	F17	Grog	4	6	2307	Ditch
2.59	221	F17	Grog	4	6	2307	Ditch
2.62	222	F03	Grog/sand	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	223	F03	Grog/sand	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	224	F29	Coarse sand	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	225	F16	Shelly	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	226	F16	Shelly	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	227	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	228	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	229	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	230	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	231	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	232	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	233	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	234	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	235	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	236	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	237	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	238	F17	Grog	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	239	F27	Grog/shell	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.62	240	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	8	2467	Ditch
2.64	241	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	242	F17	Grog	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	243	F17	Grog	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	244	F17	Gorg	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	245	F17	Grog	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	246	F17	Grog	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	247	F17	Grog	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	248	F17	Grog	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	249	F17	Grog	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	250	F22	Grog/organic	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	251	F27	Grog/shell	4	7	2228	Earliest gully
2.64	252	F27	Grog/shell	4	7	2466	Earliest gully
2.64	253	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	254	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	255	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	256	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	257	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	258	F03	Grog/sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	259	F28	Fine sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	260	F28	Fine sand	4	7	2224	Recut gully

Fig no.	Illus no.	Fabric	Fabric description	Phase	Group	Feature	Feature type
2.64	261	F16	Coarse shelly	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	262	F16	Coarse shelly	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	263	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	264	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	265	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	266	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	267	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	268	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	269	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	270	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	271	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	272	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	273	F17	Grog	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	274	F17	Grog/organic	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	275	F22	Grog/organic	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	276	F22	Grog/organic	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	277	F22	Grog/organic	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	278	F27	Grog/shell	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	279	F27	Grog/shell	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.64	280	F27	Grog/shell	4	7	2224	Recut gully
2.66	281	F03	Grog/sand	4	9	2468	Ditch
2.66	282	F17	Grog	4	9	2468	Ditch
2.66	283	F17	Grog	4	9	2468	Ditch
2.68	284	F17	Grog	4	10	4530	Ditch
2.68	285	F22	Grog/organic	4	10	4530	Ditch
2.68	286	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	10	4530	Ditch
2.68	287	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	10	2416	Post hole
2.68	288	F17	Grog	4	10	2888	Post hole
2.70	289	F03	Grog/sand	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	290	F03	Grog/sand	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	291	F03	Grog/sand	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	292	F03	Grog/sand	4	13	2896	Ditch
2.70	293	F28	Fine sand	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	294	F16	Coarse shelly	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	295	F17	Grog	4	13	2897	Ditch
2.70	296	F17	Grog	4	13	2893	Ditch
2.70	297	F17	Grog	4	13	2893	Ditch
2.70	298	F17	Grog	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	299	F17	Grog	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	300	F17	Grog	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	301	F17	Grog	4	13	2895	Gully
2.70	302	F17	Grog	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	303	F22	Grog/organic	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	304	F22	Grog/organic	4	13	2896	Gully
2.70	305	F27	Grog/shell	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	306	F27	Grog/shell	4	13	2897	Gully
2.70	307	F27	Grog/shell	4	13	2897	Gully
2.72	308	F03	Grog/sand	4	14	3371	Gully
2.72	309	F17	Grog	4	14	3371	Gully
2.74	310	F17	Grog	4	15	3370	Ditch
2.74	311	F17	Grog	4	15	3370	Ditch
2.74	312	F22	Grog/organic	4	15	3370	Ditch
2.80	313	F28	Fine sand	4	59	39	Pit
2.80	314	F16	Shelly	4	59	39	Pit
2.82	315	F01B	Fine flint	4	63	3688	Pit layer 2
2.82	316	F03	Grog/sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 3
2.82	317	F03	Grog/sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 3
2.82	318	F03	Grog/sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	319	F03	Grog/sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	320	F03	Grog/sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	321	F01B	Fine flint	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	322	F28	Fine sand	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	323	F17	Grog	4	63	3689	Pit layer 4
2.82	324	F27	Grog/shell	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	325	F27	Grog/shell	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.82	326	F30	Sand/calcareous	4	63	3688	Pit layer 4
2.85	327	F03	Grog/sand	4	64	2765	Pit
2.85	328	F01A	Coarse flint	4	64	3458	Pit
2.85	329	F03	Grog/sand	4	64	3458	Pit
2.85	330	F28	Fine sand	4	64	3458	Pit
2.85	331	F28	Fine sand	4	64	3458	Pit
2.85	332	F28	Fine sand	4	64	3458	Pit
2.85	333	F03	Grog/sand	4	64	3670	Pit
2.85	334	F03	Grog/sand	4	64	3670	Pit
2.85	335	F27	Grog/shell	4	64	3670	Pit

Fig no.	Illus no.	Fabric	Fabric description	Phase	Group	Feature	Feature type
2.87	336	F03	Grog/sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	337	F03	Grog/sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	338	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	339	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	340	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	341	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	342	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	343	F28	Fine sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.87	344	F29	Coarse sand	4	65	2902	Pit
2.92	345	F09	Grog/sand	5	54	608	Cremation 1 vess.1
2.92	346	F06B	Medium grog	5	54	608	Cremation 1 vess.2
2.92	347	F09	Grog/sand	5	54	603	Cremation 2 vess.1
2.92	348	F09	Grog/sand	5	54	603	Cremation 2 vess.2
2.92	349	F06B	Medium grog	5	54	686	Cremation 3 vess.1
2.92	350	F06B	Medium grog	5	54	686	Cremation 3 vess.2
2.92	351	F09	Grog/sand	5	54	689	Cremation 4 vess.1
2.92	352	F09	Grog/sand	5	54	689	Cremation 4 vess.2
2.95	353	R13	Shelly	6	37	1448	Post hole
2.95	354	R14	Harsh sandy	6	37	1448	Post hole
2.95	355	R14	Harsh sandy	6	37	1448	Post hole
2.101	356	F01C	Flint/sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	357	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	358	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	359	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	360	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	361	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	362	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	363	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	364	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	365	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	366	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	367	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	368	F28	Fine sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	369	F29	Coarse sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	370	F29	Coarse sand			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	371	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	372	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	373	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	374	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	375	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	376	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	377	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	378	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	379	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	380	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	381	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	382	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	383	F17	Grog			2100	Loam deposit
2.101	384	F30	Sand/calcareous			2100	Loam deposit
3.1	385	F01B	Fine flint			3253	Post hole
3.1	386	F03	Grog/sand			2678	Mod intrusion
3.1	387	F03	Grog/sand			2678	Mod intrusion
3.1	388	F03	Grog/sand			903	Topsoil
3.1	389	F28	Fine sand				U/S
3.1	390	F28	Fine sand				U/S
3.1	391	F28	Fine sand	4		3487	Pit
3.1	392	F28	Fine sand	3		1388	Post hole
3.1	393	F28	Fine sand			2998	Post hole
3.1	394	F28	Fine sand	3		1376	Pit
3.1	395	F28	Fine sand	3		1360	Pit
3.1	396	F28	Fine sand	3		1360	Pit
3.1	397	F28	Fine sand			486	Pit
3.1	398	F28	Fine sand	3		1241	Post hole
3.1	399	F29	Coarse sand	3		99	Post hole
3.1	400	F17	Grog			903	Topsoil
3.1	401	F17	Grog			903	Topsoil
3.1	402	F17	Grog	4		1556	Post hole
3.1	403	F27	Grog/shell	4		1556	Post hole
3.1	404	F27	Grog/shell			903	Topsoil
3.1	405	F27	Grog/shell	4		3487	Pit
3.1	406	F04	Organic	4		2220	Pit
2.104	407	A32	Coarse sandy (red quartz)	7	66	3001	Well

Table 3.8: Catalogue of illustrated pottery

Fabric Type Descriptions

Early Prehistoric Pottery

Ian Kinnes

The material was largely residual in later contexts but by and large shows little abrasion although much fragmentation. Sherds of Mortlake, Fengate and Peterborough, with a small component of Grooved Ware and Beaker, indicate prolonged activity in the 3rd and early 2nd millennia BC. Definitions for these styles broadly follow those of Smith (1956; 1974) for Peterborough Ware, with chronology reviewed by Gibson and Kinnes (1997); Wainwright and Longworth (1971) for Grooved Ware; Clarke (1970) for Beaker, with chronology reviewed by Kinnes *et al* (1991).

The material is generally hard-fired in a good surface condition, although the quantity of small sherds and crumbs indicates much fragmentation. There is no reason to assume that the clays were other than local with varying degrees of crushed flint filler; grog occurs in the Fengate sherds and vesicular fabrics were recurrent, presumably from fired-out chopped vegetable material, possibly dung.

Later Prehistoric

F01A Coarse flint type

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, rough, with an uneven fracture. Colour variable, can be patchy dark grey throughout or with reddish brown outer surface and margin. Common angular flint inclusions are generally poorly sorted, between 1–2.5mm and infrequently up to 5mm. Sparse quantities of fine quartz and red and black iron ore are also present in the matrix.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered and carinated forms occur.
Illustrations – 38, 328.

F01B Fine flint type

Fabric – Hard fired, sandy, with an irregular fracture. Typically reddish brown outer surface with dark grey core and internal surface, although can be dark grey throughout. Contains common, moderately well-sorted angular flint, 0.5–1.5mm. Can also contain sparse fine quartz and red and black iron ore.
Forms - Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered and carinated forms occur in deposit (2100).
Illustrations – 48, 94, 315, 321, 385.

F01C Flint and sand type

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, can be quite harsh to feel, with an even fracture. Exterior surface generally patchy grey, interior surface and core dark grey or black. Contains common, moderately well-sorted, angular flint, 1.5–3mm; and common, well-sorted, rounded, clear or milky-white quartz, 0.2–0.4mm. Also may contain sparse, fine, red and black iron ore.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered and carinated forms occur.
Comments – Rare; occurs in small quantities only in deposit (2100).
Illustrations – 356.

F02 Grog and flint type

Fabric – Medium to soft fired, rough, with an uneven fracture. Typically mid- to dark grey throughout, although exterior surface may be mid-brown or reddish brown. Contains common, well-sorted, rounded black grog 0.5–1.5mm, and common or sparse, moderately sorted angular flint inclusions, 0.6–1.7mm. May also contain sparse, fine, red and black iron ore.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered and carinated forms occur.
Comments – Occurs in small quantities only in deposit (2100).
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F03 Grog and sand

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, slightly sandy, with an even fracture. Colour variable, may be dark grey throughout, or may have buff or mid-brown outer surface. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded, buff or dark grey grog 0.4–1.6mm; common, well-sorted, clear or milky-white quartz, 0.1–0.4mm, and sparse, well-sorted, rounded, black and red iron ore, 0.2–0.5mm. Additionally, clay matrix may occasionally contain sparse, well-sorted rounded calcareous inclusions, 0.4–0.7mm.
Forms – Furrowed bowls and carinated vessels; round-shouldered and ovoid vessels; rarely, handled and cylindrical vessels.
Illustrations – 37, 40, 42, 49–58, 76–7, 79–81, 86, 92-3, 95, 103–5, 112–13, 120, 127–8, 132–7, 150–4, 176–8, 199–201, 206–7, 222–3, 241, 253–8, 281, 289–92, 308, 316–20, 327, 329, 333–4, 336–7, 386–8.

F04 Organic

Fabric – Soft to medium fired, smooth or soapy to feel, with an uneven fracture. Typically dark grey throughout, although occasionally with patchy buff or light grey outer surface. Characterised by common, occasionally well-defined linear voids, representing burnt-out chopped vegetable matter, 1–5mm. May also contain sparse, fine quartz and red or black iron ore.
Forms – Undiagnostic body sherds.
Illustrations – 406.

F05 Grog and shell

Fabric – Soft to medium fired, soapy, with an uneven fracture. Colour variable, may be dark grey throughout, or may have buff or mid-brown outer surface. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded, buff or dark grey grog 0.5–0.8mm; common-sparse, plate-like fossil shell (or voids, where leached), 0.3–0.8mm. May also contain sparse quantities of fine quartz and black or red iron ore.
Forms - Mostly undiagnostic body sherds.
Comments –Occurs rarely only in deposit (2100).
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F06A Fine grog tempered

Fabric - Soft to medium fired, soapy to feel, with an even fracture. Surfaces and margins are orange-brown to grey-black, core is mid- or dark grey. Common dark grey or buff grog inclusions are rounded and well sorted, 0.4–0.6mm. Also contains sparse fine quartz and red or black iron ore.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic wheel-made body sherds, although some jars with everted rims and horizontal grooved decoration are present.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F06B Medium grog tempered

Fabric – Firing and colour variation as for F06A. Common dark grey or buff grog inclusions are rounded and well sorted, 0.5–1.0mm. Also contains sparse fine quartz and red or black iron ore.
Forms – Cordoned jars, found in the cremation cemetery.
Illustrations – 346, 349–50.

F06C Coarse grog tempered

Fabric – Firing and colour variation as F06A. Contains common, rounded and well-sorted dark grey or buff grog inclusions, 1.0–1.5mm, but may be up to 4.0mm. Also contains sparse fine quartz and red or black iron ore.
Forms – Undiagnostic body sherds only.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F07 Shelly

Fabric –Fairly soft fired, soapy, bright orange-buff in colour. Abundant, elongated shell inclusions.
Forms – A single, hand-made, body sherd was recovered.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F09 Sand and fine grog tempered

Fabric – Soft to medium fired, slightly sandy to feel, with an even fracture. Surfaces and margins are orange-brown, core is mid- or dark grey. Contains common, well-sorted rounded or sub-rounded clear or milky white quartz, 0.2–0.4mm, and common to sparse,

rounded, well-sorted black grog inclusions, 0.4–0.6mm. Also contains sparse fine red and black iron ore.
Forms – Cordoned jars found in the cremation cemetery.
Illustrations –345, 347–8, 351–2.

F14 Mixed inclusions

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, sandy to feel, with a regular fracture. Typically, surfaces are patchy dark grey and core is dark grey or black. Contains common, well-sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky white quartz, 0.2–0.4mm, and common to sparse, plate-like shell (or voids, where leached), 0.3–0.8mm. May also contain sparse fine quartz and black or red iron ore.
Forms – Undiagnostic body sherds only.
Comments – Occurs in small quantities only in deposit (2100).
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

F16 Shelly

Fabric – Soft fired, soapy to feel, with an uneven, laminated fracture. Typically, buff to mid-brown surfaces and mid-grey core, although occasionally brown throughout. Contains abundant, well-sorted, plate-like fossil shell, 0.3–1.5mm. Shell inclusions are commonly leached out, resulting in a 'corky' appearance. May also contain sparse quantities of fine quartz and black or red iron ore.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered, carinated and cylindrical forms occur.
Illustrations – 101, 126, 144, 225–6, 261–2, 294, 314.

F17 Grog

Fabric – Soft to medium fired, with smooth or soapy feel and an even fracture. Wide variation in surface colour: may be buff, reddish brown or patchy grey; core predominantly mid–dark grey. Contains common-abundant, well-sorted, sub-rounded, buff or dark grey grog, typically 0.5–1.6mm, with occasional fragments up to 4.0mm. May also contain sparse, well-sorted rounded calcareous inclusions 0.4–0.7mm and sparse quantities of fine quartz and black or red iron ore.
Forms – Occurs in a variety of forms, most commonly ovoid vessels, but carinated, round-shouldered and cylindrical forms are also present.
Illustrations – 63-6, 89–90, 97, 108, 117, 119, 129–30, 145–7, 160–7, 174–5, 180–91, 202, 208–14, 219–21, 227–38, 242–9, 263–74, 282–4, 288, 295–302, 309–11, 323, 371–83, 400–2.

F22 Grog and organic

Fabric – Soft to medium fired, smooth or soapy to feel, with an uneven fracture. Typically reddish brown surfaces and dark grey core, although may be dark grey or brown throughout. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded, buff or dark grey grog, 0.5–0.8mm, and common, occasionally well-defined linear voids, representing burnt-out chopped vegetable matter, 1.0–5.0mm. May also contain sparse, fine quartz and red or black iron ore.
Forms – Ovoid, cylindrical and handled vessels occurred.
Comments – Excavated assemblage only.
Illustrations – 82, 168–9, 192, 197, 250, 275–7, 285, 303–4, 312.

F27 Grog and shell

Fabric – Fairly soft to hard fired, fairly smooth with a powdery feel. Colour varies from buff to orange, through varying shades of grey, with mid- to dark grey cores. Inclusions are frequent, buff-brown to orange, sub-rounded argillaceous fragments, possibly 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 calcareous inclusions, possibly a shelly limestone, 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, 1.0mm, and rounded black iron ore, 0.3–2.0mm.
Forms – A variety of forms is present, including furrowed and carinated vessels; round-shouldered and ovoid vessels, and, rarely, cylindrical jars and a single example of an open bowl.
Illustrations – 67–73, 78, 83–5, 98–100, 109–10, 131, 148–9, 170–1, 173, 193–6, 215–17, 239, 251–2, 278–80, 305–7, 324–5, 335, 403–5.

F28 Fine sand

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, sandy, and occasionally quite harsh, with an even fracture. Colour varies from dark grey throughout, to mid-brown or reddish brown surfaces. Contains abundant, well-sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky quartz, 0.1–0.4mm, occasionally up to 0.8mm; sparse, well-sorted, rounded, black and red iron ore 0.2–0.5mm.
Forms – Over 30% of carinated and furrowed vessels occurred in this fabric, although most sherds are undiagnostic body sherds. Other forms occurring are round-shouldered, ovoid and cylindrical vessels, as well as two examples of handled jars and a single example of an open bowl.
Illustrations – 43–7, 59–62, 87–8, 96, 106–7, 111, 114–16, 118, 121–5, 138–42, 155–9, 179, 259–60, 293, 313, 322, 330–2, 338–43, 357–68, 389–98.

F29 Coarse sand

Fabric – Hard to medium fired, harsh, with uneven fracture. Colour varies, as F28. Contains abundant, moderate to poorly sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky quartz, 0.5–1mm, occasionally very coarse, up to 3.5mm; sparse, well-sorted, rounded, black and red iron ore, 0.2–0.5mm.
Forms – Mostly undiagnostic body sherds, although some round-shouldered and carinated forms occur.
Illustrations – 143, 224, 344, 369–70, 399.

F30 Sand and calcareous inclusions

Fabric – Medium to hard fired, sandy to feel, with an even fracture. Typically, reddish brown surfaces and dark grey core, although may be dark grey or brown throughout. Contains abundant, well-sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky quartz, 0.2–0.4mm; well-sorted rounded calcareous inclusions, 0.4–0.7mm. May also contain sparse quantities of fine black or red iron ore.
Forms – Most sherds undiagnostic, although ovoid jars were identified.
Illustrations – 39, 41, 74–5, 91, 102, 203–5, 218, 240, 286–7, 326, 384.

F35 Micaceous

Fabric – Fairly hard fired with very smooth surfaces. Reduced to grey throughout. A fine micaceous fabric, especially on external surface. very fine sandy matrix, less than 0.1mm; some black voids, possibly fired out organic matter.
Forms – A single body sherd was found in this fabric type.
Illustrations – 172.

Roman

R01 Samian

This fine, glossy red imported ware is divided into two groups, dependent on source: R01A Central Gaulish; R01B South Gaulish.

R03A Fine whiteware

Fabric – Generally cream buff throughout, with a hard, gritty surface. Inclusions vary considerably in size and in quantity, from abundant sub-rounded opaque quartz to finer multi-coloured sub-angular quartz. Sparse shell and red iron ore also occurs.
Forms – A single flagon fragment and a body sherd were recovered.
Comments – This type was manufactured in the Verulamium region in the late 1st to 2nd centuries.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

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.
Forms – Body sherds only.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

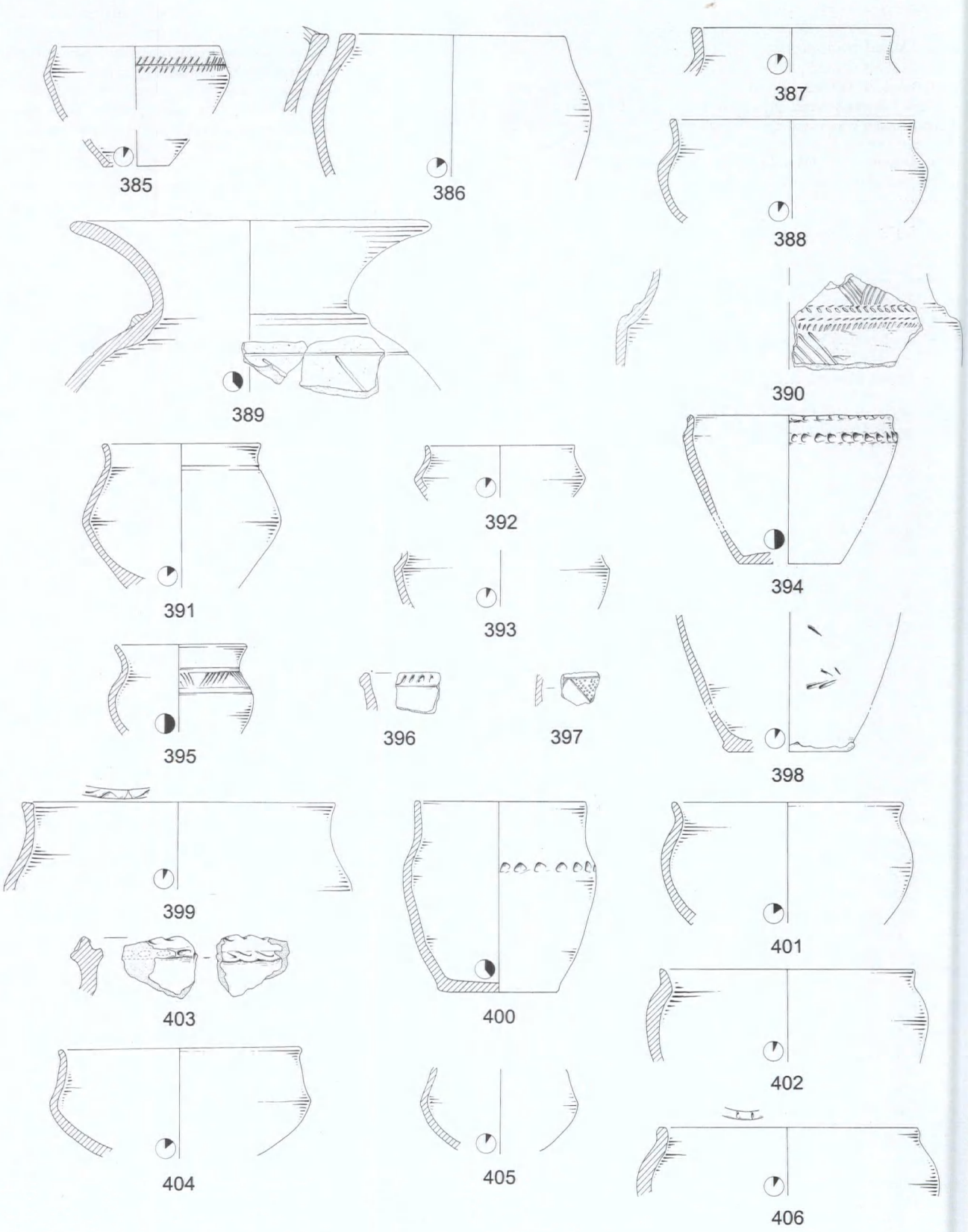


Fig 3.1: Miscellaneous and unphased ceramics 385–406 (scale 1:4)

R06 Greyware
Fabric – A general code for a greyware fabric which falls between R06B and R06C in texture and firing, and where the sherds are too small to define further.
Forms – Body sherds only, generally weighing less than 5g.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R06B Coarse greyware
Fabric – A harsh gritty fabric, although surfaces can be smoothed and burnished. Inclusions are large ill-sorted quartz grains, generally abundant.
Forms – Reeded rim and plain rim bowls were the only identifiable forms.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R06C Fine greyware
Fabric – Hard fired and smooth to the touch; colour is mid-grey, often with paler cores. Surfaces are frequently burnished. Inclusions are generally fine quartz with occasional larger grains.
Forms – Single examples of cordoned jars, everted rim jars and plain rim bowls were identified.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R07B Sandy blackware
Fabric – Hard fired, 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 – Undiagnostic rim and body sherds only.
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R11D Oxford colour coat
Fabric – Fairly soft fired, sandy to the touch; brownish orange in colour with a dull brownish red slip. Mica is visible on the surfaces and throughout the fabric. Other inclusions are fine quartz with sparse larger grains, and small black inclusions, possibly iron ore.
Forms – A single flanged bowl was found.
Comments – Manufactured in Oxfordshire from the mid-3rd century onwards. Fully described and discussed by Young (1977).
Illustrations – Not illustrated.

R13 Shelly
Fabric – Fairly soft fired, smooth and soapy to the touch; colour is buff-grey throughout. Inclusions are abundant ill-sorted shell, which has partially leached out, leaving voids.
Forms – A single lid-seated jar was found.
Illustrations – 353.

R14 Harsh sandy
Fabric – Hard fired, sandy with a harsh feel; colour is dark grey with orange brown patches. Inclusions are fine clear or opaque quartz and sparse red iron ore.
Forms – Single examples of cordoned and neckless jars were identified; all other vessels comprised undiagnostic body sherds.
Illustrations – 354–5.

Saxon

A32 Coarse sandy (red quartz)
Fabric – hard-fired, fairly rough fabric, dark grey throughout, Abundant, ill-sorted, rounded quartz inclusions, 0.4–1.5mm, distinctly pink or red in colour, although clear rounded quartz grains occur rarely. Angular red inclusions also occur rarely.
Forms – A single jar with holes pierced on opposing sides, just below the rim.
Illustrations – 407.

Discussion

The ceramic phases

The limitations of stratigraphy in specifying the phases of activity at Salford has placed considerable emphasis on the ceramic sequence in determining the site's chronological development (Table 3.9).

Ceramic phase	Period	Activity phase
CP1	Neolithic	1
CP2	Bronze Age	2
CP3	Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age	3
CP4	Middle Iron Age	4
CP5	Early–Middle Iron Age	4
CP6	Late Iron Age	5
CP7	Early–Late Iron Age	5
CP8	Romano-British	6
CP9	Middle Iron Age–Romano-British	6
CP10	Saxon	7

Table 3.9: The ceramic sequence

The ceramic phases of the Iron Age are based on the regional ceramic groups defined by Knight (1984) and further refined by him (2002), as follows: CP3 (Knight's Late Bronze Age/earlier Iron Age), defined by a high proportion of carinated vessels, furrowed bowls and round-shouldered vessels with fingernail or fingertip-impressed decoration, comparable to decorated assemblages as described by Barrett (1980); CP4, defined by a wide variety of vessel forms, in particular the presence of ovoid vessels, and vessels of open and cylindrical type and scored decoration; CP6 defined by wheel-thrown vessels in the 'Belgic' tradition, as described by Thompson (1982), or hand-made copies of these types. Context groups which, either because of their small size and poor survival of the ceramics or the mixed nature of the assemblage, could not be allocated to a single ceramic phase, and cover a wide date range, have been allocated to CP5, 7 and 9 (Table 3.9). These groups have been assigned to their latest ceramic phase for the purposes of assigning an overall activity phase.

Late Bronze Age/earlier Iron Age assemblages (CP3) have been dated by association with Ewart Park metalwork to the 8th century BC. However, a re-assessment of the dating of this metalwork has led to a possible start date as far back as the 9th or 10th century BC (Needham 1997, 55–107). An end date for this tradition may be some time in the 5th century (Knight 2002, 132).

It has to be borne in mind that Salford is on the southern periphery of the area defined by Knight, and there is a need for further work to determine how far the chronology defined for this area can include Salford. It is also unclear how the early assemblage from Salford fits into the regional groupings as defined by Cunliffe. The nearest grouping to the south with which it has affinities is the Ivinghoe–Sandy group. These are, however, an agglomeration of largely disparate sites in the Chiltern area, producing pottery made in a 'contemporary native tradition, largely untouched by external influences' (Cunliffe 1991, 69).

Fabric	Forms											
	FURB	CARB	CARJ	CARV	RNDB	RNDJ	RNDV	OVDB	OVDJ	GLBJ	CYLJ	HANJ	OPNB
F01A									1				
F01B					1								
F03	13	31	2	163		6		1	20		4	6	1
F28	13	16	5	118	1	3			1		1	2	1
F29				1		1							1
F16			1			3					4		
F17		1		3		2	1	1	35	1	9	7	5
F22									6		1	1	
F27	1			2		5	6		5		17		1
F30									1				
Total	27	48	8	287	2	20	7	2	69	1	36	16	9

Table 3.10: Diagnostic pottery forms within the major Iron Age fabrics (vessel count) (FUR furrowed; CAR carinated; RND rounded; OVD ovoid; GLB globular; CYL cylindrical; HAN handled; OPN open. Suffix codes: B bowl; J jar; V vessel, ie unidentified body sherd)

Scored ware, characteristic of Cunliffe's Breedon–Ancaster group (1991, 73), is found widely in the East Midlands by the 2nd century BC, and began some time in the 5th or 4th centuries. Although its core area of distribution is between the Rivers Trent and Nene, this tradition of scoring with a sharp implement or brushing with twigs stretched as far south as the Chilterns (Bryant 1995, 21). The tradition continued well into the 1st century AD (Knight 2002, 133).

A chronological sequence has been worked out for fabrics used on the site by examining the diagnostic forms with chronologically significant characteristics (Table 3.10). The fabrics assigned to CP3 (Fig 3.2) have a high proportion of diagnostic forms of carinated or furrowed bowl type, and a correspondingly low percentage of ovoid, rounded or other forms. The reverse is true for fabrics assigned to CP4. The flint fabrics, F01A and F01B, have no diagnostically early forms surviving; total quantities are low. The forms of CP4, however, make up only 33% of the total flint-tempered assemblage, comparative to the other fabrics assigned to CP3. Elsewhere in the region, flinty fabrics are early Iron Age in date (Slowikowski 1988, 17, but see also Kinnes, p.102, for flint-tempered early prehistoric fabrics), and they have been described as characteristic of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age assemblages in the Chilterns (Bryant 1995, 17). They have, therefore, been assigned to CP3.

Having assigned each fabric to a ceramic phase, the proportion in which they occurred within each stratigraphic group was examined (Figs 3.4–3.9). A distribution of the chronologically diagnostic forms was done, and, together with the fabric proportions in each group, this determined the phase to which that group was allocated. Both fabric and form, therefore, has been used to determine the position in the ceramic sequence of each stratigraphic group.

Fabric use through time

Thin section analysis of samples of pottery and of local clays indicates the predominant use of local raw materials in the production of the pottery. These local sources were exploited throughout the Iron Age, although there are a number of differences between the phases. Fabric type F03 is found most commonly in CP3, but continues to be used in CP4, to a lesser degree. The sandy fabrics, F28 and F29, begin to be used in CP3, but continue to be important in CP4. Fabrics F16, F17 and F27, although they possibly begin in CP3, are predominantly CP4 types. The flint fabrics, F01A and F01B, are found only in CP3, and fabrics F16, F22, F30 and F35 appear only in CP4.

It appears, therefore, that there was a slight change in the choice of fabrics used. Flint fabrics have gone out of use by the end of CP3, and more mixed 'grog' and calcareous types come into use. The main fabric types on the site (F03, F28, F17 and F27) continue to be used throughout CP3–4.

There is some evidence that a small quantity of pottery was brought in from outside the immediate locality. But whether because they were producing something that the people at Salford could not get locally, or because it was part of the exchange network necessary for the survival of communities in the region, is not possible to say. At Danebury, about 50% of their pottery was acquired from afar, albeit in the same type of pot as they could get locally. Therefore this suggests the maintenance of community networks rather than the need for pots that could not be acquired closer to home (Morris 1997, 36). This does not appear to be the case at Salford. A single example of a non-local fabric was defined during thin section analysis. Its source cannot be determined, but the possible limonite inclusions are not found in the local clays examined. The sherd is undiagnostic of form and is undecorated. Superficially, it has the appearance of flinty fabric F01B and was only recognised through detailed fabric analysis. There may be more examples in the assemblage, but these would only be recognised through the time-consuming task of analysing every sherd.

Decorated pottery from the roundhouses

One-hundred-and-sixty-seven vessels with decoration were recovered from the roundhouses, mainly

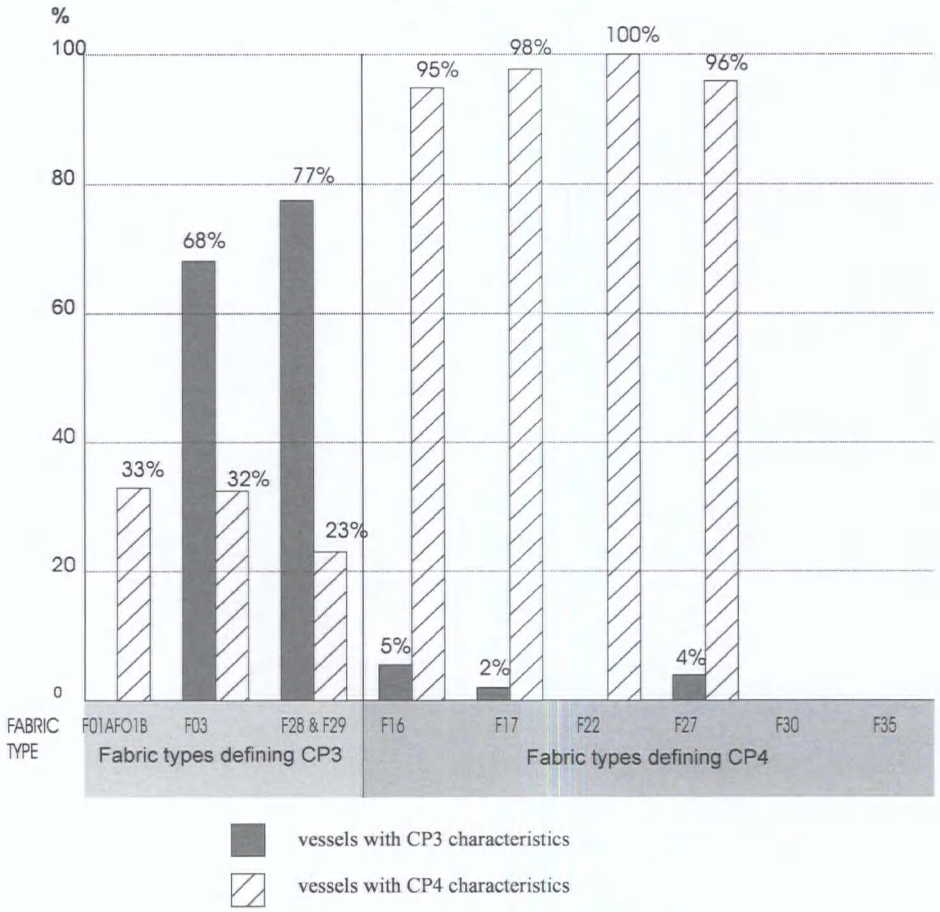


Fig 3.2: Histogram showing percentage of diagnostic forms per fabric

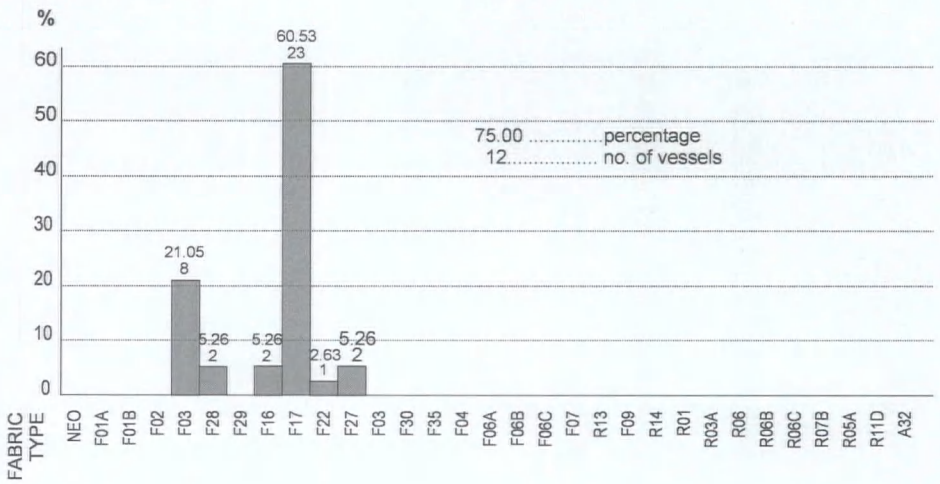
Fig 3.3: Total percentage of fabric types in the excavated assemblage

from the gullies (Table 3.11). This accounts for 72.93% of the total of decorated vessels recovered from the excavation, 229 in total. Burnished surfaces have been included as decorated vessels, but it must be borne in mind that burnishing is not only a decorative surface finish, but also serves a functional purpose in that it helps to make the vessel watertight by drawing the finest particles to the surface and thereby sealing it.

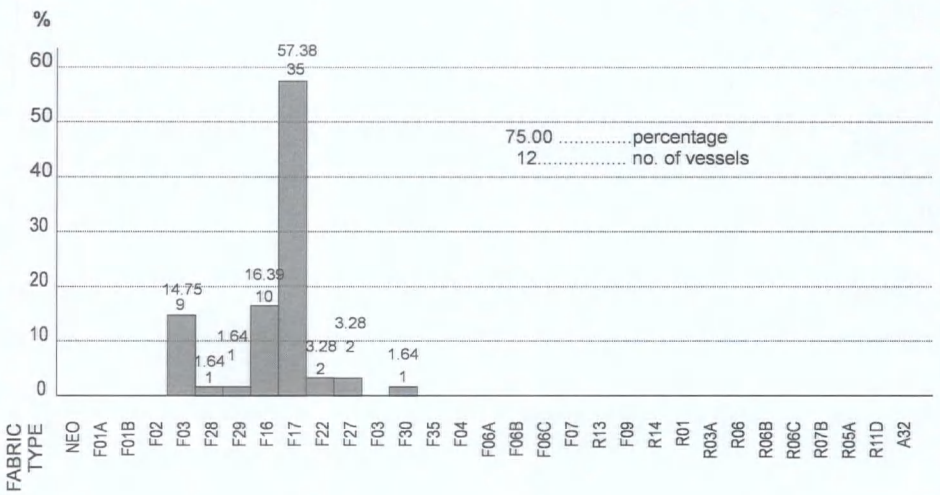
Phase 3

Fewer decorated wares were found in phase 3, although they formed a greater percentage of the total – 5.98%, in the roundhouses of this phase – than those of phase 4, 4.95%. Marginally more decorated vessels were found in the southern roundhouses, especially G11 and G5. Incised decoration is most common, making up over half the total in this phase, usually taking the form of incised horizontal lines above a carination, although 19 instances were on small undiagnostic body sherds. The slashing occurs as cuts with a knife or other tool, usually on the shoulder. There are rare instances of vertical combing. Around one quarter of the phase 3 decorated sherds from roundhouses are burnished only. Roundhouses G3, G45 and G48 had no decorated pottery.

Pottery in Roundhouse G9



Pottery in Roundhouse G10



Pottery in Roundhouse G13

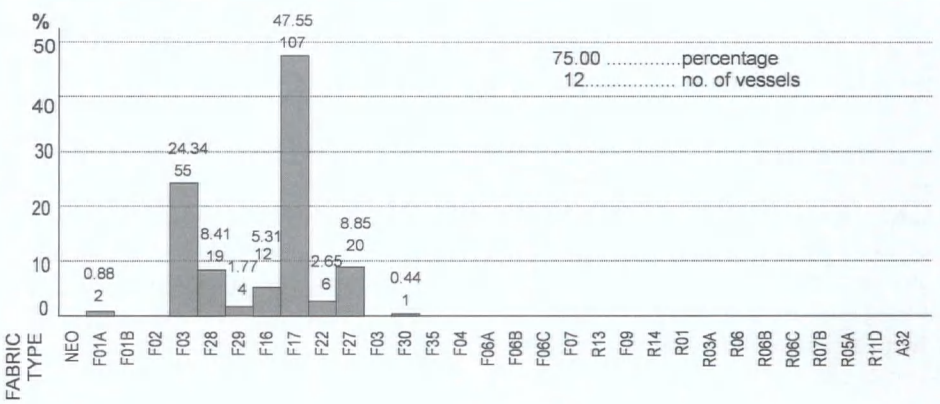


Fig 3.4: Pottery in roundhouses G9, G10, G13

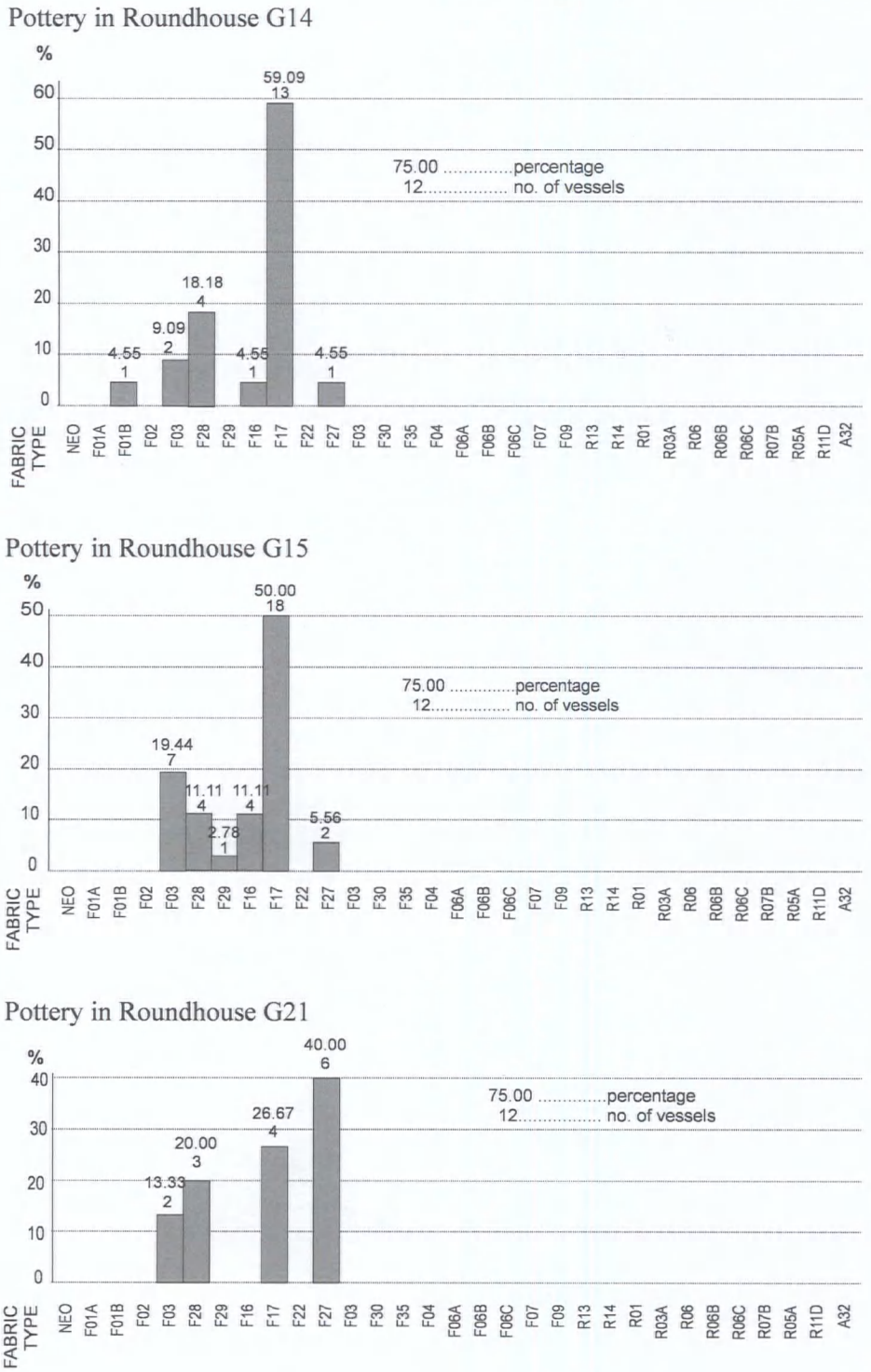


Fig 3.5: Pottery in roundhouses G14, G15, G21

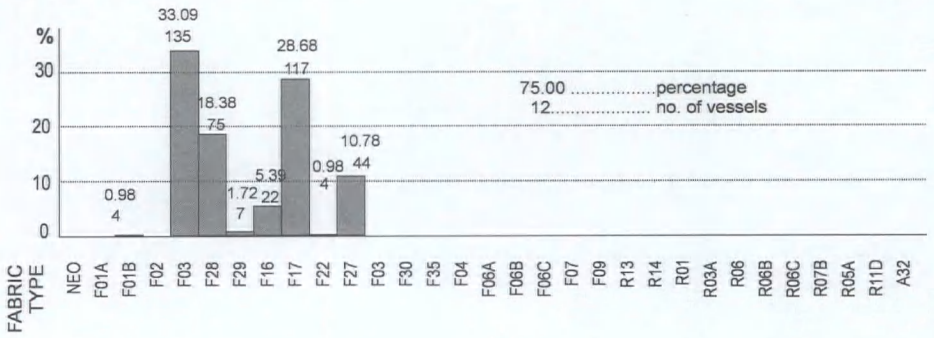
Phase 4

About a quarter of the decorated vessels are burnished only, the same proportion as in phase 3. This might indicate a steady use of these burnished vessels throughout the two phases, with possibly little change in function.

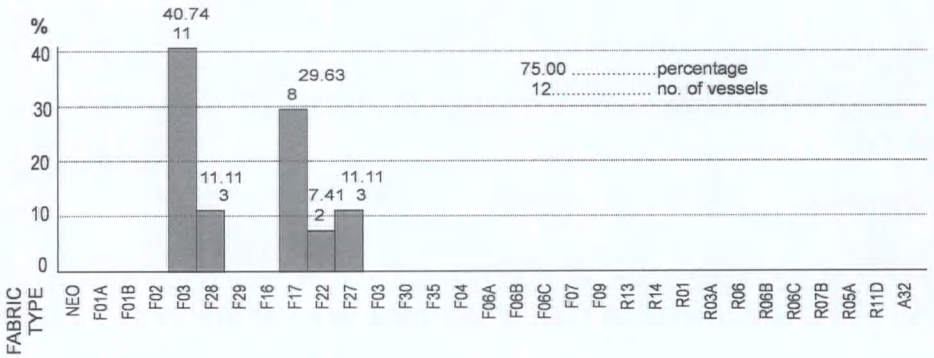
The distribution of decorated vessels, north to south, is more random in this phase. Only G21 has no decorated pottery, but the archaeological evidence for this structure is poor and survival was only slight.

As with phase 3, incised decoration formed the most common component, 42.5% of the decorated assemblage in the phase 4 roundhouses (Table 3.11). Slashing on the shoulders decreases as a percentage, but vertical combing and scoring increase. Scoring is a chronologically diagnostic surface treatment, although it is not common at Salford. The core of the scored ware distribution lies further north, between the Rivers Trent and Nene (Elsdon 1993, 2). Other sites are known in Bedfordshire which have produced

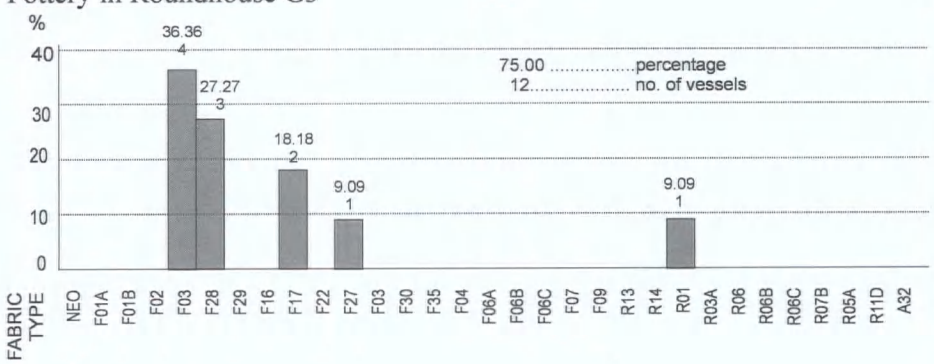
Pottery in Roundhouse G5



Pottery in Roundhouse G17



Pottery in Roundhouse G3



Pottery in Roundhouse G11

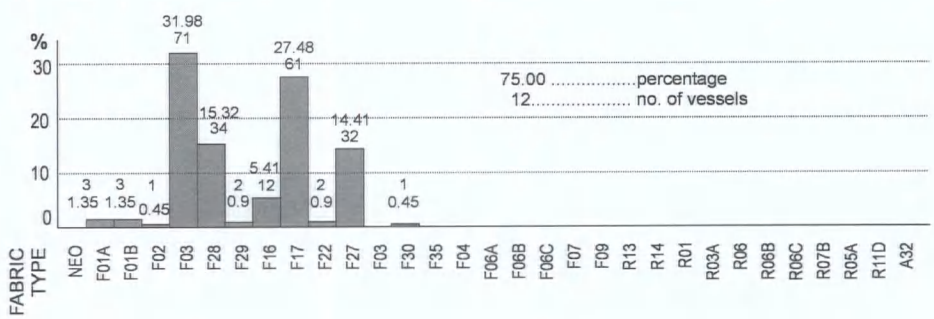


Fig 3.6: Pottery in roundhouses G5, G17, G3, G11

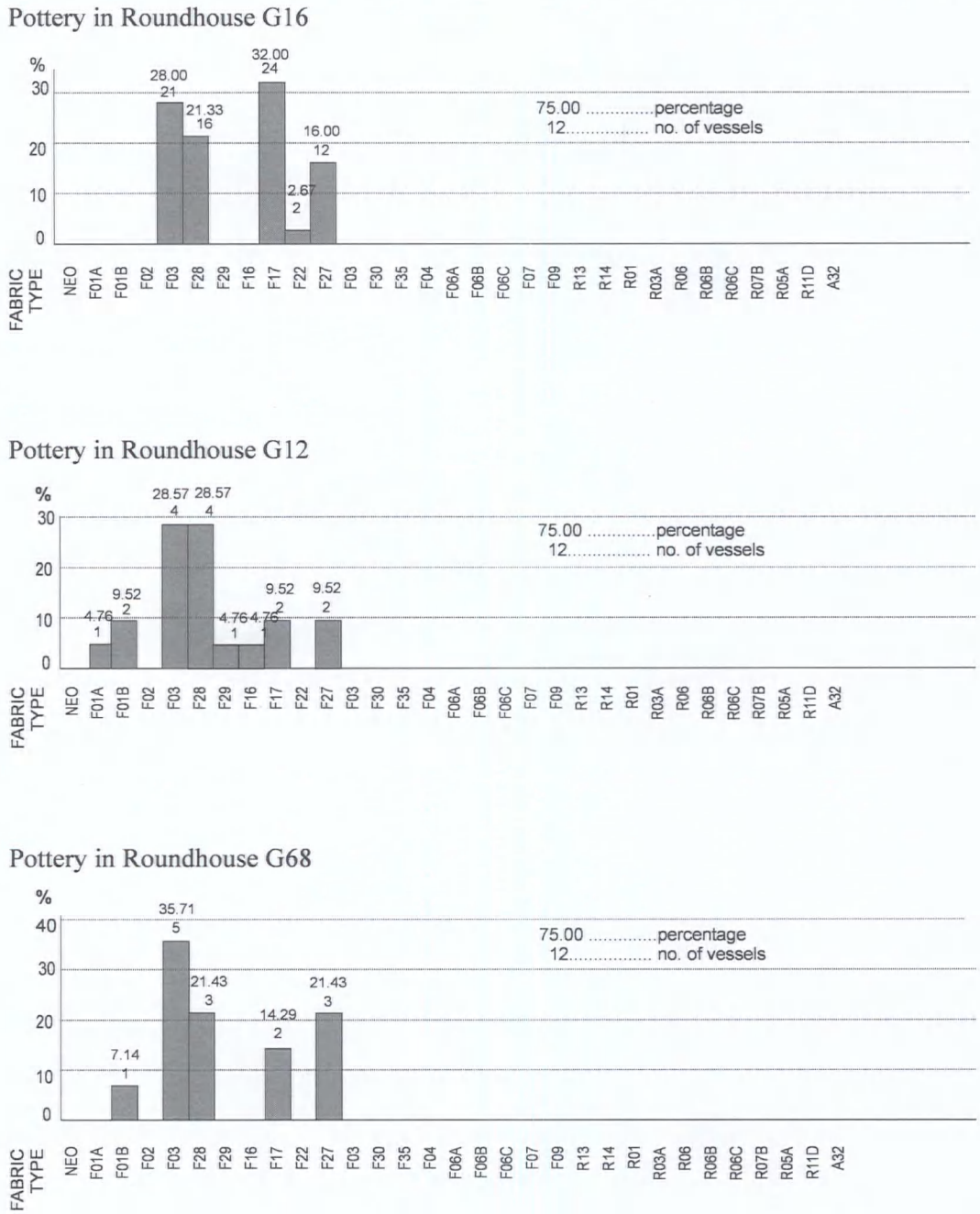


Fig 3.7: Pottery in roundhouses G16, G12, G68

scored ware, for example Stagsden (Slowikowski 2000) and Shillington (Slowikowski 2004) but, like Salford, not in large quantities. Two decorative elements absent from phase 3 roundhouses are present in phase 4: fingernail/fingertip impressions on rim and/or shoulder, and other impressions generally on the body.

Evidence of pottery use from the roundhouses (Table 3.12)

Seventy-five per cent (by vessel) of all pottery from the roundhouses comes from phase 4. The roundhouses that have been allocated to phase 3 were built and went out of use in the same phase; the houses allocated to phase 4 went out of use in phase 4, but may have been built in the earlier phase 3.

Evidence for use was sparse. The largest concentration in phase 3 comes from G5 (and also from G6, cutting it in the succeeding phase), although even here the sooted vessels make up only 1.47% and the vessels with visible residues make up only 0.73%. The percentage of sooted vessels in phase 4 roundhouses is also small, 1.73%, with vessels exhibiting visible residues making up 1.90%. As a percentage, the figures do not differ greatly across the Iron Age phases, possibly indicating no great changes in use over time.

In phase 4, there appears to be a correlation between structures containing sooted vessels and

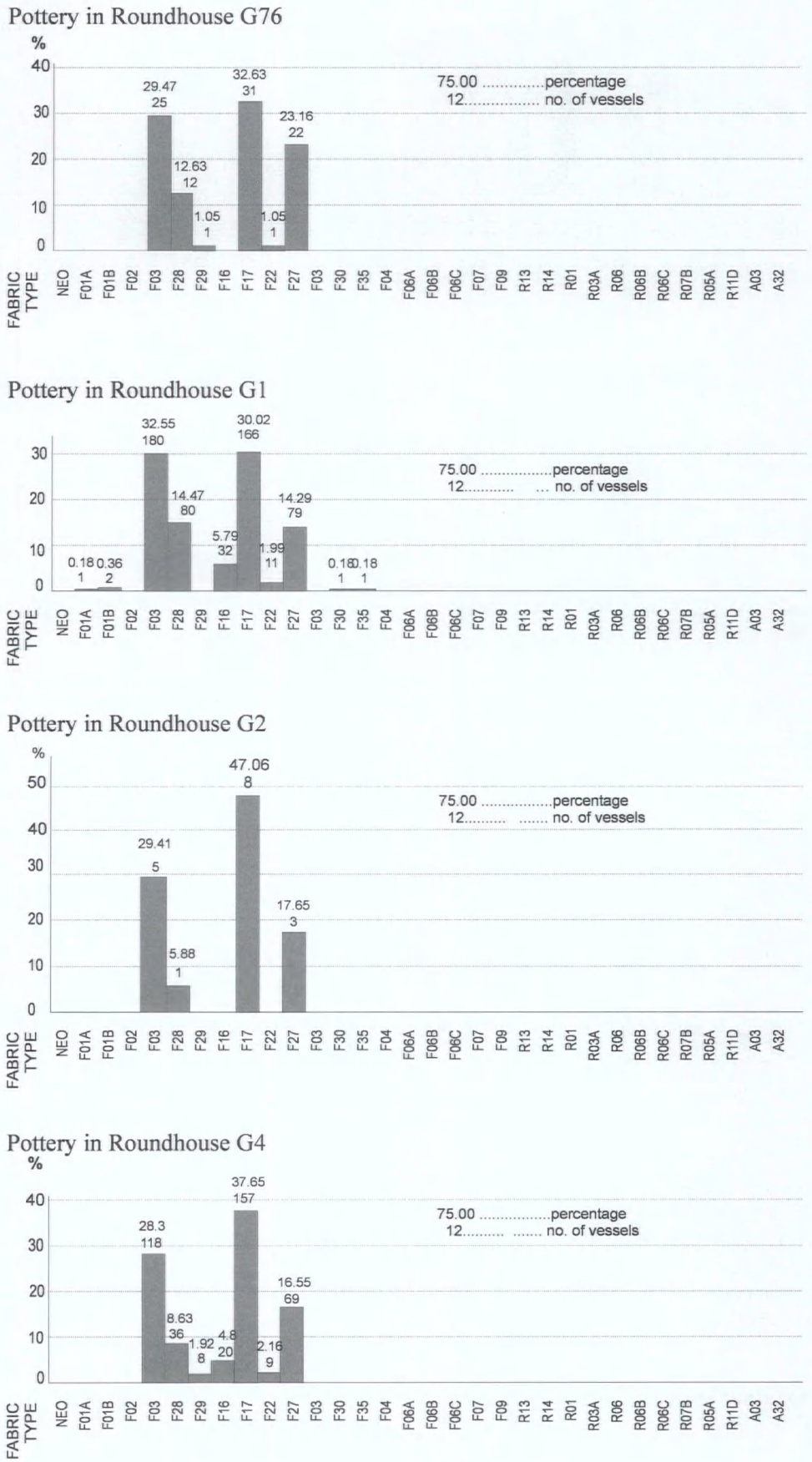


Fig 3.8: Pottery in roundhouses G76, G1, G2, G4

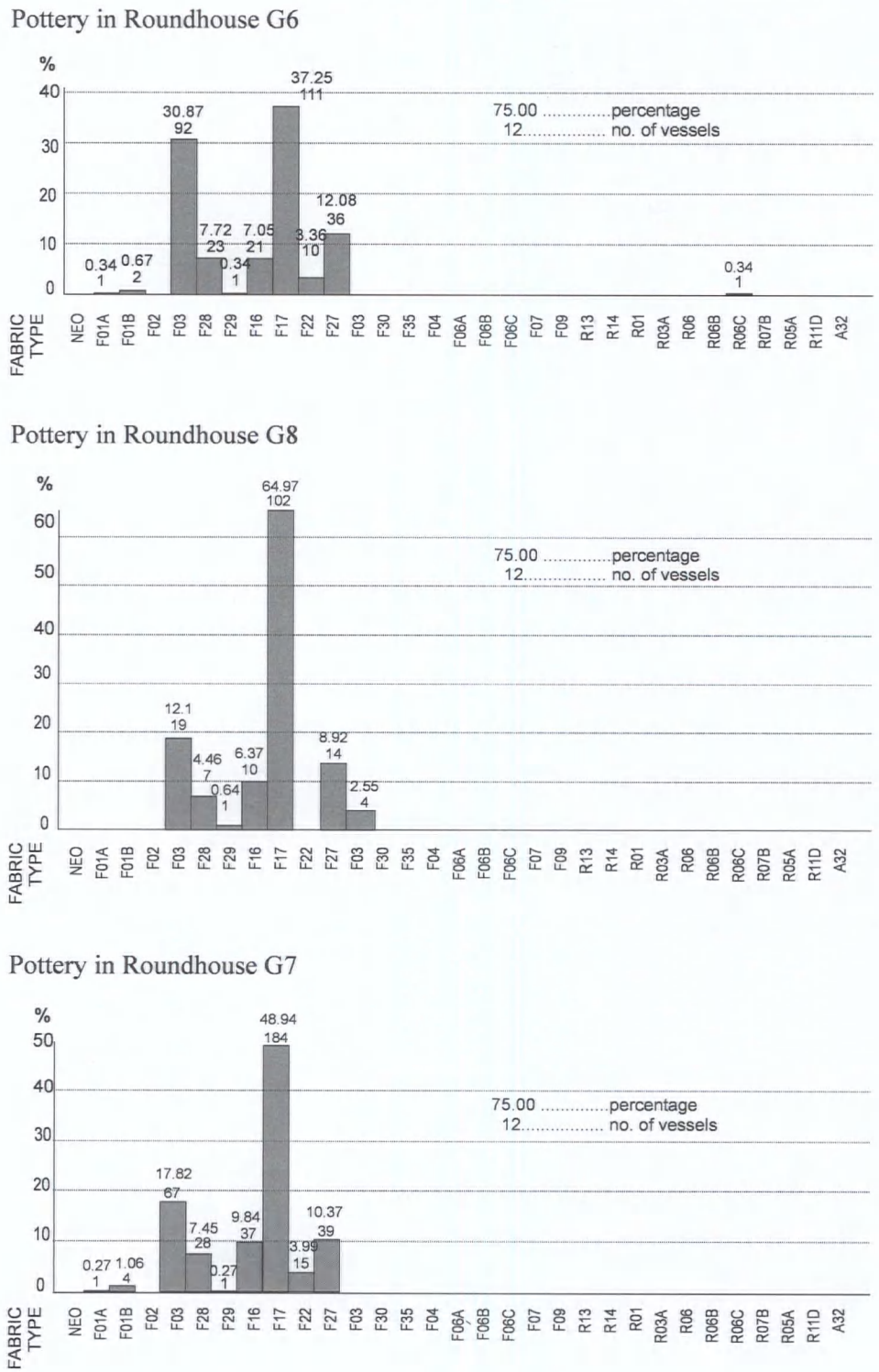


Fig 3.9: Pottery in roundhouses G6, G8, G7

those with evidence for hearths, in the form of burnt stones. Structure G13 is the only one where there is no burnt stone, but there is sooted pottery. Sherds with re-oxidised breaks occur randomly in structures with and without hearths.

Structures where cooking may have occurred, based on the presence of sooted vessels and internal residues, are, in phase 3, G16 and G5, and in phase 4, structures G1, G4, G6, G8, G7, G13 and G10. These are also the structures with the most substantial survival archaeologically, and those with the largest assemblages of pottery. It does not mean, therefore, that these were the only structures where cooking was being carried out.

A number of sherds were submitted for residue analysis during the assessment stage of the project (Heron 1995, 27). Further analysis was not carried out because of contamination during processing.

Group	Decorative technique						
	incised	slashed	scored/combed	fingertip/nail	impressed	burnished	total
45							
16	3	1					4
17	1						1
3							
68	1					1	2
48							
11	8	2	1			5	16
12	1					2	3
5	12	4	1			4	21
Phase 3 total	26	7	2			12	47
72					1		1
76	1		3	1			5
2	1					1	2
1	11	2	4	2		13	32
21							
4	5	1	5	3			14
6	9	2		1		4	16
8	2		2		1		5
9		1					1
7	9	2				8	19
13	7	1	1	2		3	14
10	6	1				1	8
14						2	2
15						1	1
Phase 4 total	51	10	15	9	2	33	120
Total	77	17	17	9	2	45	167

Table 3.11: Decorated pottery in the roundhouses, by vessel count, arranged by phase, geographically north to south

Group	Evidence of use													
	pitting int	residue int black	residue int white	soot int/ext	soot int	soot ext	soot ext base	soot ext upper	holes neck	holes body	wear ext girth	wear ext base	reoxid breaks	total
45														
16		4			1									5
17									1				2	3
3														
68														
48														
11			2							1				3
12											1			1
5	1	1	2		5			1			3		1	14
Phase 3 Total	1	5	4		6			1	1	1	4		3	26
72														
76		2												2
2														
1	1	2	4	1	7	1	1	1				1	5	24
21														
4	1	7	3	3										14
6	1	4	1	1	2	3		7		1				20
8		1			1	4							1	7
9														
7		7			4									11
13		1			2	3							3	9
10	1	2				1								4
14														
15		12												12
Phase 4 Total	4	38	8	5	16	12	1	8		1		1	9	103
Total	5	43	12	5	22	12	1	9	1	2	4	1	12	129

Table 3.12: Pottery with evidence of use from the roundhouses, by vessel count, arranged by phase, geographically north to south. (Int: internal; Ext: external)

However, the assessment results did indicate the presence of lipids in higher concentrations than would result solely from handling the sherds. In some samples these were high enough to indicate vessels had been used not just for storage of fatty foods but rather processing of food involving heat, such as cooking or fat-rendering. It was not possible to determine whether the source was animal or plant based.

Distribution of the pottery

More detailed discussion of the pottery distribution within each individual group may be found in Chapter 2.

The distribution of the pottery in each roundhouse was examined by quadrant (Table 3.13). The quadrants were determined by drawing a line through the centre of the doorway and then again crossing this line at right angles through the centre of the house. Analysis of pottery using this method of subdivision was published by Parker Pearson (Parker Pearson and Richards 1994, 49) and it showed clear subdivisions in the uses of the house. Other analysis has shown that pottery is concentrated in the gullies on either side of the doorway, possibly as a result of sweeping out the interior (Hill 1995, 21). At Salford, however, little of the pottery is found near the doorways, even in roundhouses where the survival of the circumference is good. The best surviving houses of phase 3 show a concentration in the north-west and south-west sectors of the gullies. Three houses of phase 4, G2, G72 and G76, also show this distribution, although survival here is poor. There is a marked concentration of pottery in the south-east and north-east sectors only in phase 4, although the houses where this occurs, G4, G6, G7, G8, G9, and G10 are long lived and may have begun in phase 3. Therefore the absence of any concentrations in the south-east and north-east sectors in phase 3 may not be real. This difference in concentrations is, therefore, more likely to reflect long-lived functions of the houses than any changes between the phases.

Roundhouse no.	NW	SW	SE	NE	Entrance posts only
Phase 3					
G5	*	*		*	
G11	*	*			
G12	*	*			
G68	*				
G16		*	*		
G17		(*)		*	
G45		(*)			
G48				(*)	
Phase 4					
G2	*	(*)			
G72	(*)	(*)			
G76	*	*			
G1	*		(*)	*	
G14	(*)		*		
G15	*				
G4		(*)	*	*	
G6		(*)	*	*	
G7	(*)		*	*	
G8			*	(*)	
G9			(*)	*	
G10			*	*	
G13		*		*	
G21					*

Table 3.13: Distribution of pottery in roundhouse quadrants

Pottery from the four-post structures is generally sparse, abraded and fragmentary. Analysis of the distribution of the pottery in the post holes indicates no significant patterning, although every such structure has produced sherds from at least one of its northern post holes. Only two four-post structures had significant assemblages: G18 in phase 3, where a relatively large assemblage was recovered from a central pit, and G59 in phase 4, where a single handled jar, comprising 15 sherds, was deposited in one of the northern post holes.

Pottery from the rectangular structure G70, phase 3, was sparse, and came from post holes in the southern wall. G70 has a particularly heavy concentration in the south-east corner. This may indicate an entrance in the southern wall. The function of such rectangular structures cannot be determined on the basis of the pottery alone.

Most of the vessels from pits are fragmentary. There are, however, notable exceptions. Pit [1376] in phase 3 contained a substantial decorated carinated jar (no. 394). Such a vessel might have been a deliberate deposit, particularly as there are no immediately adjacent contemporary structures from which the pot may have originated as rubbish. In phase 4, two pit groups were identified, G64 and G65. G64 comprised five pits with pottery, most of it fragmentary and of mixed date. Pit [3670], however, contained a single vessel in fabric F22, comprising ten sherds, in its bottom-most fill. The rim and base are absent. The vessel is thick walled, about 10mm, and would not disintegrate easily; the rim and base may therefore have been re-used or discarded elsewhere. G65 comprised four pits, three of which contained pottery. Pit [2902] in particular, contained a sizeable assemblage (Table 2.41), including a relatively high percentage of decorated pottery. The decoration is fingernail slashing on the rim and/or shoulder. The assemblage comprises mainly body sherds; forms are unrecognisable beyond a round-shouldered jar. As with pit [3670], rims and bases are absent. From the size of vessel and uniformity of decoration, this might be a deliberate deposition in the pit, or, likewise, a rubbish deposit from a single source, where the vessels had a similar function. Individual pits have a largely fragmentary assemblage, with pottery of mixed date.

North-west of the main settlement area were two structures, one in phase 3 and phase 4. The assemblage from the phase 3 roundhouse, G45, comprises a total of four vessels, eight sherds, none of which is

decorated. The ceramics from roundhouse G72, in phase 4, also comprises a small assemblage, of only seven vessels, twelve sherds. This area was excavated as a watching brief, so direct comparison with the assemblage from the excavated area probably gives a skewed picture. There does, however, appear to be less pottery in general in this area. It was in contemporary use with the main area of settlement, but appeared to be separated from it by a double ditch. This suggests a specialised function, possibly comparable with the situation at Wakerley where a separate area was defined and whose function was determined by the cutting of a number of pits, otherwise absent from the main area of settlement (Gwilt 1997, 154).

Pottery vessels from the Late Iron Age cemetery

Of the four burials in the small cemetery G54, three (cremations 1–3) comprised a cremation vessel and an accessory, and one (cremation 4) was unurned with two accessory vessels. Not all the vessels survived to their full profiles, and some had their rims or top halves destroyed by machine. Cremations 1–3 comprised cordoned jars, while unurned cremation 4 comprised a pedestal urn (no. 352), only the base of which survived, and a small cordoned bowl (no. 351). The vessels are comparable to those found in the cremation burials at King Harry Lane cemetery, in fabric and form, if not in numbers or accompanying grave goods (Stead and Rigby 1989, 180, figs 65–6).

Most of the vessels appear to be wheel-thrown, although walls are fairly thick, with rough fingering on the interiors. Number 349 may be hand-made or part hand-made, but it is well finished and the exact technique cannot be established. Hand-made vessels were often finished off on a wheel or turntable, although this combined technique appears to have been most common in the post-Claudian period, at least at King Harry Lane, where a much larger assemblage of late Iron Age cremation vessels was recovered. The Salford vessels are in the 'Belgic' pottery tradition, as categorised and described by Thompson (1982). Fabrics are either grog-tempered, F06B, or grog-tempered with sand, F09. Only cremation 1 has both its vessels in different fabrics. The importance of the vessels may not have lain in their fabrics – both fabrics appear superficially the same – but in their forms. It is not clear, however, whether the vessels were purpose made for burial. None of the vessels had been used for cooking; there is no evidence of sooting. Two vessels, however, did have abraded interiors (cremation 1, no. 346 and cremation 3, no. 350), and may have been used prior to burial. Analysis of the King Harry Lane cemetery led to the suggestion that cooking pots and storage jars were regarded as 'unacceptable' as cremation urns (Stead and Rigby 1989, 201).

Besides the cordons, which are integral to the form, only one vessel has any decoration. Vessel no. 349 in cremation 3 has a herringbone design incised faintly on the girth, and a grid incised on its base. This is the vessel, which contained the Alesia brooch Rf 6. The purpose of the design on the base is unclear, as it would not be visible when the pot was in normal use. It may be that this is a purpose-made vessel for the burial rite, and that the design had some significance in that rite, maybe even identifying the buried individual or the family. The form of this vessel differs from the rest in that it is a bead-rimmed jar, and may have been hand-made, rather than wheel-thrown. At King Harry Lane, bead-rim jars were found only in the poorer graves. They did, however, all vary, suggesting that they may have been specially ordered from the potters for the burial rite (Stead and Rigby 1989, 189). The decoration on the Salford vessel would seem to indicate that it was a significant pot, either to the individual buried or to the mourners.

Dating from the brooches suggests a date range of 50–10 BC, Stead's Welwyn phase (see pp.128–30) for further discussion) and possibly 55–30 BC. The pottery cannot be so closely dated. Wheel-turned Aylesford-Swarling type pottery may have been current in southern Britain from about the late 2nd century BC (Haselgrove 1997, 51–72). It is commonly found in the East Midlands by the end of the 1st century BC (Knight 2002, 136). Bead-rim jars, such as no. 349, were in use by the second half of the 1st century. Cordoned jars were common from the 1st century BC and continued into the Conquest period. A chronological trend in the size and number of cordons was recognised both at King Harry Lane and Baldock. Complex multi-cordoned jars appeared to be earlier than those with a single broad cordon (Stead and Rigby 1989, 183). There are, however, too few vessels to say whether this also holds true for the Salford cemetery. Both single (no. 350) and multi-cordoned types (no. 348) were found; however, some of the vessels had their upper parts destroyed by machine.

Even in such a small cemetery assemblage as Salford, great variation is seen in the vessels used in the burials. All vary in shape, but all but those in cremation 4 (nos 351–2) are jars 160mm or 200mm in height, with an approximate capacity of 2 litres, a suitable size for holding a cremation (Stead and Rigby 1989, 183). Cremation 4 was unurned but the burial included a cordoned bowl and a pedestal vessel, with only the base surviving, a combination of forms also seen at King Harry Lane (Stead and Rigby 1989, 178). The pedestal base does not fall neatly into any of the forms defined by Thompson (1982). It has affinities in its profile to Thompson's form A2 (particularly 1982, 48 no. 961) but it is only slightly concave, and is also comparable to Thompson's flat-footed pedestal bases (particularly 1982, 76 no. 5).

The cemetery at Salford appears to be one of several recently discovered small burial groups on the

fringes of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition. Other comparable cemetery sites recently discovered in the county are Stotfold, mid-Bedfordshire (Steadman in prep), and Biddenham Loop, north Bedfordshire (Luke in prep). The single burial at Stotfold and the sixteen at Biddenham are more richly furnished than those at Salford, with varying numbers of pottery vessels, toiletry equipment, perforated iron discs and evidence of meat, or, at Stotfold, an articulated pig skeleton. Further east, the cemetery at Hinxton Rings, Cambridgeshire, has produced a small group of eight cremations, five of which were enclosed by ditches. Two are particularly rich, with nine of the nineteen pottery vessels found in one burial (Hill *et al* 1999, 257). When compared to the large cemeteries such as King Harry Lane, these cemeteries are small, short-lived and relatively poor, with Salford perhaps being the poorest of them.

3.2 The Daub and Fired Clay

A small quantity of daub and miscellaneous fired clay was found. Five fabric types were defined and these are described below. The daub/fired clay was quantified by weight, and attributes such as wattle or grain impressions, or any curvature, surfaces or edges were recorded.

Fabric Type Descriptions

Sandy (SDY)
Patchy buff orange to buff-grey, fairly harsh fabric, ranging from fine to coarse. Quartz inclusions are moderately frequent to abundant, sub-rounded and approximately 0.5mm in size. Rare 'grog' fragments, which may be naturally occurring, red iron ore and some large flint inclusions, up to 10mm are present.

Organic (ORG)
Two variants of this fabric type were found.

Group no.	Group description	SDY	ORG	GRG	CAL	SHL	Phase total
Phase 1							
67	Pits		9				
77	Pits	21	10	8	10		
Total		21	19	8	10		58
Phase 3							
3	Roundhouse		1				
5	Roundhouse	22	88	16	10	3	
11	Roundhouse	95	612	3	28		
12	Roundhouse		1				
16	Roundhouse		11				
17	Roundhouse		22		22		
20	Four-post structure	9					
36	Enclosure	16	78		17	7	
40	Linear boundary	8		5			
41	Double ditch		14				
45	Roundhouse	36	2				
68	Roundhouse		2				
Total		186	831	24	77	10	1128
Phase 4							
1	Roundhouse	186	292	12		1	
4	Roundhouse	31	957	41	71	2	
6	Roundhouse	45	1084	42	47	7	
7	Roundhouse	93	632		5	3	
8	Roundhouse	4	157		77		
10	Roundhouse	1	70				
13	Roundhouse	11	180	2	4	10	
14	Roundhouse	1			24		
15	Roundhouse	503					
21	Roundhouse	2					
38	Trackway		33				
59	Four-post structure		2				
63	Pit	10					
64	Pit group		20				
72	Roundhouse		2				
76	Roundhouse	9	55				
Total		896	3484	97	228	23	4728
Phase 6							
37	Rectangular building		37				
Total			37				37
Total		1103	4371	129	315	33	5981

Table 3.14: Daub/fired clay from groups, by weight (g)

1. Orange fabric with grey patches, and sometimes a buff surface. Smooth to the touch with an occasional soapy feel. Voids are present where the organic matter has burnt out; other inclusions are occasional grog, which may be natural, and sparse iron ore. This is the most frequent fabric type on the site.
2. Buff to mid-grey in colour, with frequent voids where organic matter has burnt out. No other inclusions are visible.

Comments – the same percentage of each variant is present in both phases 3 and 4. Both types are often found together. The fragment of oven/kiln floor from G6 is in variant 1 of this type. Naturally occurring organic matter is found in the local clays (see thin section report), although the impression of grain in two examples of variant 1 suggests the deliberate addition of some organic matter, possibly in the form of dung.

Grog (GRG)

Orange or deep red in colour, this fabric is coarse, with a lumpy appearance. The often large 'grog' fragments, which may be up to 5mm, may be naturally occurring argillaceous inclusions. No other inclusions are visible.

Calcareous (CAL)

Buff to buff-orange in colour, fairly fine fabric. The frequent, rounded calcareous inclusions range in size 0.5–5.0mm. There are occasional voids where organic matter has burnt out.

Shelly (SHL)

Red-brown in colour, fairly smooth and occasionally soapy. The shell is dense and fine, with some leaching.

Group	ORG1	ORG2
Phase 3		
3	✓	
5	✓	✓
11	✓	✓
12	✓	
16	✓	
17	✓	
36	✓	
41	✓	
45	✓	
52	✓	
68	✓	
Phase 4		
1	✓	✓
4	✓	✓
6	✓	
7	✓	
8	✓	✓
10	✓	
13	✓	
38	✓	
59	✓	
64	✓	
72	✓	
76	✓	✓

Table 3.15: Incidence of organic fabric variants

Discussion

Most of the daub was found in the gullies of roundhouses, although small quantities were found in other structures (Table 3.14). Small quantities were found in the post holes of roundhouses without gullies, G12, G45, G68 and G21. Two four-post structures, G20 and G59, produced daub/fired clay. G20 is a phase 3 structure and is situated in the middle of the settlement, between G4, G5, G6 and G11. All produced daub/fired clay and the fragments from G20 may have originated from one of these neighbouring structures. G59, in phase 4, however, is well away from any roundhouses, being far to the west of the main settlement. The presence of daub here may be indicative of the type of building techniques used for this structure.

Roundhouse G11, produced a large quantity of daub. Wattle impressions were found on 50 fragments weighing 899g. These fragments were found in phase 3 roundhouses, G5 and G11, and phase 4 roundhouses, G4, G6, G7, G10 and G13.

The incidence of the various fabric types throughout the phases does not differ greatly (Table 3.14). Organic-tempered clay is favoured throughout phases 3 and 4. The organic inclusions may not have been deliberately added, but may be naturally occurring in the local clay. Only two grain impressions were recognised. An organic-rich fabric may have been favoured because the voids created by the burning out of the inclusions result in a lighter material.

The two variants of this fabric type occur in the same proportions throughout the phases (Table 3.15). Either they occur together in the same structure, or variant 1 occurs alone. Variant 2 never occurs alone, and, with its higher organic content, may have proved more useful for patching and repairing rather than in the original build.

A single fired clay object was found from an oven floor in roundhouse G6 in phase 4, comprising 88 fragments weighing 629g. This is a flat slab of clay with holes, approximately 30mm diameter, pierced through it. A number of these have been recovered on Iron Age sites in the region, including good examples from Stagsden (Slowikowski 2000) and Biddenham Loop, north Bedfordshire (Albion in prep a). These have been interpreted as the floors of bread-baking ovens (Dunning 1970, 37).

3.3 Petrological Report on the Pottery

K Knowles

Introduction

Thin sections from twenty-six pottery sherds were examined using a polarising petrological microscope at magnifications ×20, ×40 and ×100. The inclusions, minerals, rocks, temper, organic material and argillaceous inclusions, within the clay matrix were identified and an estimate of the relative frequency, size, shape and degree of sorting was recorded using the visual estimation charts outlined by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 1992. Detailed identification of the cryptocrystalline clay matrix was not possible since this would have involved the use of a scanning electron microscope. The thin sections were also compared with clay taken from the surrounding area (Fig 3.10).

Macroscopic Examination

The sherds had been macroscopically examined and placed into ten groups based on the composition and abundance of the aplastic inclusions. From each of these groups two or more sherds were submitted for petrological examination (Table 3.16).

T-section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
1	3254	F01A	Coarse flint
24	2100 (spit 1685.1)	F01A	Coarse flint
22	2100 (spit 287.1)	F01B	Fine flint
26	3689	F01B	Fine flint
10	1574	F16	Coarse shell
14	318	F16	Coarse shell
11	1588	F17	Grog
9	2233	F17	Grog
13	577	F17	Grog
19	3028	F17	Grog
2	1482	F22	Grog/organic
5	568	F22	Grog/organic
20	3697	F22	Grog/organic
8	3691	F14	Mixed inclusions
7	2511	F14	Mixed inclusions
3	1551	F14	Mixed inclusions
6	1574	F27	Grog/shell
15	3697	F27	Grog/shell
12	3697	F27	Grog/shell
17	595	F28	Fine sand
18	318	F28	Fine sand
4	2758	F29	Coarse sand
16	1482	F29	Coarse sand
21	3689	F30	Sand/calc
23	2903	F30	Sand/calc
25	2100 (spit 124.1)	F30	Sand/calc

Table 3.16: Thin sections

Petrological Examination

Petrological examination revealed that the pottery assemblage is comprised of three distinct clay types, identified through the composition and relative frequency of the tiny cryptocrystalline inclusions that occur naturally within the clay matrix.

Fine sandy/micaceous clay

The first clay comprised a fine sandy/micaceous cryptocrystalline clay matrix characterised by an abundance of fine quartz grains and occasional flecks of mica less than 0.1mm across. Larger aplastic inclusions identified within this clay type can be divided into three distinct fabric groups:

Quartz-rich fabric

This fabric comprises abundant to moderate quartz, organic plant matter, occasional mica, metaquartzite, chert/flint, feldspar and naturally occurring argillaceous inclusions. It is possible to identify slight textural differences within each fabric (Table 3.17) particularly with regard to the size of quartz grains and their degree of sorting.

Quartz/flint fabric

Although appearing macroscopically to be very similar in both composition and texture, the quartz/flint fabrics are significantly different petrologically (Table 3.18). Both F01A (1) and F01B (22) have similar aplastic inclusions comprising angular flint, subangular to rounded quartz grains, occasional metaquartzite, feldspar, mica, organic plant matter and argillaceous inclusions, but they can be subdivided into a coarse flint fabric F01A (1) and a medium to fine flint fabric F01B (22). F01B (24) is equally distinctive since the fabric comprises coarse, angular, flint inclusions similar to F01A (1) but has very few aplastic inclusions except for rare quartz, mica, iron ore, argillaceous inclusions and organic plant matter. Long tapering streaks of a medium quartz-rich clay can also be seen interspersed within the original fine-grained clay. The most distinctive fabric within this category is F01B (26) containing common flint fragments, moderate quartz grains, mica, argillaceous inclusions, organic plant matter, occasional feldspar and metaquartzite similar to those found in F01B (22). It is characterised by its common to abundant, well-sorted, well-rounded, dark, almost opaque, grains (possibly magnetite, haematite or ilmenite), which are not present in such high proportions in any other pottery fabric from the site.

Quartz and fossil shell fabric

This fabric is particularly distinctive, having a fine sandy/micaceous clay matrix with common to abundant, well sorted, medium to coarse-grained quartz and common, poorly sorted, angular, coarse-grained fossil shell (Table 3.19). Occasional to moderate argillaceous inclusions, occasional mica, feldspar, metaquartzite, micaceous sandstone and chert/flint can also be identified.

Very fine calcareous clay (Tables 3.20–3.22)

The second distinctive clay type comprises a very fine calcareous cryptocrystalline clay matrix, characterised by occasional to moderate fine quartz grains less than 0.1mm in size. Examination of the aplastic inclusions occurring within this clay reveals two distinct fabric groups.

Very fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions and organic plant matter

This fabric group contains similar aplastic inclusions to the sandy/micaceous clay type, although in different quantities. It comprises occasional quartz grains, rare quartzite, feldspar, mica, chert/flint and moderate to common organic matter. What makes this fabric distinctive is its numerous and varied argillaceous inclusions. Unfortunately, it is difficult to establish whether these argillaceous inclusions are deliberate additions to the clay or naturally occurring argillaceous rock fragments. Only petrological analysis of the surrounding clay deposits will answer this question

T-section no..	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
25	2100	F30	Medium/fine sand: well sorted
17	595	F28	Medium/fine sand: well sorted
16	1482	F29	Coarse sand fabric: moderately well sorted
18	318	F28	Coarse sand fabric: moderately well sorted
4	2758	F29	Coarse sand fabric: very poorly sorted

Table 3.17: Quartz-rich fabric

T-section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
1	3254	F01A	Coarse chert/flint: very poorly sorted
24	2100	F01A	Coarse chert/flint: very poorly sorted
22	2100	F01B	Medium/fine chert/flint: poorly sorted
26	3689	F01B	Medium/fine chert/flint: poorly sorted

Table 3.18: Quartz/flint fabric

T-section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
10	1574	F16	Medium/coarse quartz and coarse fossil shell (moderately well-sorted fabric)
23	2903	F30	Medium/coarse quartz and coarse fossil shell (moderately well-sorted fabric)

Table 3.19: Quartz and fossil shell fabric

T-Section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
5	568	F22	Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with occasional argillaceous inclusions
2	1482	F22	Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix, with argillaceous inclusions
11	1588	F17	Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions
13	577	F17	Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions
19	3028	F17	Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions

Table 3.20: Very fine calcareous clay

T-Section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
3	1551	F14	Abundant coarse fossil shell
6	1574	F27	Abundant coarse fossil shell
12	3697	F27	Abundant coarse fossil shell
14	318	F16	Abundant coarse fossil shell
7	2511	F14	Occasional to moderate fossil shell
8	3691	F14	Occasional to moderate fossil shell
9	2233	F17	Occasional to moderate fossil shell
20	3697	F22	Occasional to moderate fossil shell

Table3.21: Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions, organic plant matter and fossil shell

T-Section no.	Context no.	Fabric code	Description
15	3697	F27	Moderate organic plant matter, fossil shell and quartz
21	3689	F30	Moderate organic plant matter, fossil shell and quartz

Table 3.22: Fine calcareous clay with abundant small acicular calcareous laths

Petrological examination of the specific fabrics within this group reveals F22 (5) to be the most distinctive, comprising moderate organic plant material, occasional argillaceous inclusions, rare to occasional sub-angular quartz and rare black iron ore in a 'clean' fine-grained calcareous clay matrix. F22 (2), F17 (11), (13) and (19) are however more typical of this clay type, comprising occasional to moderate quartz grains, rare feldspar, mica, chert/flint, moderate to common organic plant matter and several different types of common argillaceous inclusions. Three different types of argillaceous inclusion were identified within this fabric.

Argillaceous inclusions that occur naturally within the original clay.
Frequently opaque, irregular to sub-rounded inclusions with a high optical density (possibly patches of dark iron ore or pyritised plant matter), which contain rare to occasional quartz and mica flecks within its matrix.

Clay pellets (accidentally reintroduced into its original clay during preparation).
Similar composition to the original clay with a neutral optical density.

Argillaceous rock fragments, clay temper and grog.
Opaque, sub-angular to sub-rounded inclusions with a medium to high optical density. Difficult to distinguish between the naturally occurring argillaceous rock fragments and deliberately added grog or clay temper.

Fine-grained calcareous clay matrix with argillaceous inclusions, organic plant matter and fossil shell

This fabric has the same fine-grained calcareous clay matrix and similar aplastic inclusions to the previous one. It is particularly distinctive because it contains moderate to abundant fossil shell and common to abundant argillaceous inclusions (both natural argillaceous inclusions, clay pellets, argillaceous rock fragments and possible deliberate additions of grog or clay temper). It is not yet possible to determine whether the fossil shell was naturally occurring within the clay or whether it was deliberately crushed and added to the fabric. Examination of the local clay may answer this question.

Fine calcareous clay with abundant small acicular calcareous laths

This clay type has a distinctive fine calcareous clay matrix with abundant tiny acicular calcitic laths, less than 0.1mm. Moderate to common sub-angular organic plant matter which is still intact after the firing process can also be clearly identified, in addition to moderate angular limestone or fossil shell, quartz grains and moderate to common argillaceous inclusions.

Geology of the Area Around Salford

Salford is located on the Upper Jurassic Oxford clay, which has a high carbonaceous content and comprises several different argillaceous rocks, including a brownish grey bituminous mudstone, a calcareous mudstone, fossiliferous shale, calcareous siltstone and silty mudstone. Cementstone nodules, sporadic thin pyritic shell beds comprising crushed ammonite shells, bivalves, brachiopods, echinoids and foraminifera are also common. The glacial drift deposits of the Quaternary overlying the whole area include head, till, alluvium and river terrace deposits and a varied range of material which includes quartz, Bunter quartzite, sandstone, flint, fossil shell, most commonly bivalves and belemnites, limestone, igneous erratics and variable organic material.

Two kilometres to the south of Salford is the Lower Cretaceous Woburn Sands Formation sitting on top of the Oxford clay. It comprises quartz sands of variable grain size, often well sorted and rounded, quartzite, chert/flint, phosphatic nodules, hard gritty ironstone, carstone reefs, trace fossil burrows, wood and fragments of plant remains contained in pyritious nodules or clayey streaks in sand. Most of the Woburn sands are unfossiliferous and often comprise lenticular seams of fuller's earth (calcium smectite). An unnamed tributary of the River Ouzel, which has its source near the village of Aspley Guise and Ridgmont, cuts across the Woburn Sands Formation and flows northwards through the village of Salford to meet the River Ouzel near Willen. It is likely that material from the Woburn Sands is present in the river terrace deposits along the length of this tributary. Analysis of ditch and stream sections taken from the tributary at Aspley Hall, NGR SF943384, 1km south of Salford, revealed patinated sub-angular flint and rounded Bunter quartzite pebbles in a matrix of medium to coarse-grained sand.

Clay Samples Taken from the Area Around Salford

Four clay samples were petrologically examined from the area around Salford (Fig 3.10). The first (Clay Sample 2) was taken from 1km north-west of Salford at Whitsundoles Farm, NGR SF925399 from the Oxford clay formation, although it is likely that deposits from the Pleistocene Glacial Drift are to be found within the sample. This clay comprises common monocrystalline quartz and irregular organic matter, moderate flint and dark opaque fragments (possibly mudstone or siltstone) and occasional polycrystalline quartz, metaquartzite and dark iron ore. A second clay (Clay Sample 1) was taken from the unnamed tributary of the River Ouzel 2.5km downstream from the village of Salford at Kingstone Brook, NGR SF906389. This clay comprised very abundant, well-sorted, closely packed quartz grains, occasional polycrystalline quartz, organic matter, iron ore, rare flint, dark opaque fragments (mudstone or siltstone) and microcline. These samples were taken in order to establish whether the pottery with a 'fine sandy micaceous clay' fabric was taken from the unknown tributary of the River Ouzel in or around Salford or whether it was dug from the local Oxford clay and glacial drift deposits which cover most of the area.

Petrological examination of the clay suggests that the clay of these pottery fabrics came from the Oxford clay/glacial drift deposits in the vicinity of Salford. Comparison of Clay Sample 1 with the 'fine sandy micaceous clay' fabric from the river terrace deposits revealed that although both contained similar inclusions, Clay Sample 1 contained very abundant, well-sorted, closely packed quartz grains but little mica or quartzite. There are also clear textural differences between the two clay types; for

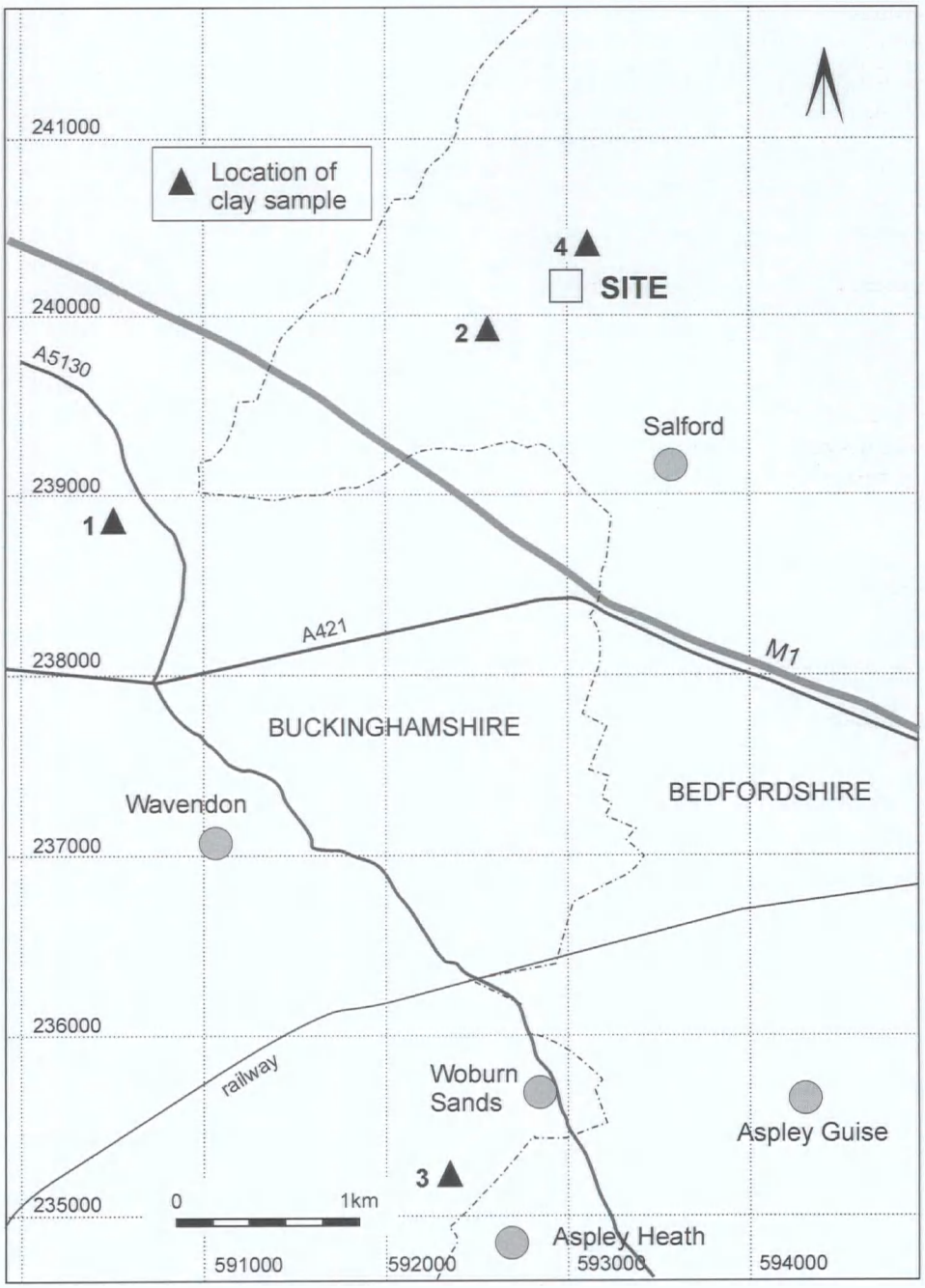


Fig 3.10: Location of clay thin section samples

example, the river clay comprises flint which does not exceed *c*.0.2mm in length, whereas the 'fine sandy micaceous clay' fabric with quartz/flint inclusions comprises moderate to common large angular flint/chert fragments often well in excess of *c*.0.8mm in size. These inclusions are similar to those found in Clay Sample 2 from the Oxford clay/glacial drift deposits.

A third clay (Clay Sample 3) was taken from Wavendon Wood, Aspley Heath, NGR SF923354, 4km south of Salford. This clay from the Woburn Sands formation was taken in order to establish whether the pottery fabric F01B (26), with its distinctive dark opaque inclusions, possibly magnetite, haematite or ilmenite, originated in clay from the Woburn Sands area as it is clear that the clays from the Salford area do not have the same abundance of such inclusions. Petrological examination of Clay Sample 3 revealed common monocrystalline quartz, moderate flint, occasional polycrystalline quartz, iron ore, rare feldspar and dark opaque grains. The sparsity of the dark opaque inclusions in Clay Sample 3 may discount this clay as the basis for F01B (26), although the geology around Woburn Sands is complicated and opaque inclusions of many minerals occur within this formation. If this distinctive fabric is an import to both Salford and Woburn Sands it may be significant that clays with similar common,

rounded, opaque inclusions have been identified petrologically in pottery fabrics at Shillington Bury, Bedfordshire, and Haddenham, Cambridgeshire.

The fourth clay (Clay Sample 4) was taken from an area close to Salford at NGR SF932405. It has a very fine-grained isotropic calcareous cryptocrystalline clay matrix with occasional quartz, mica and moderate black/brown iron ore inclusions. It was taken to establish whether the 'fine-grained calcareous clay' fabric originated with clay sources close to the excavation. Interestingly, F22 (5) very closely resembles Clay Sample 4 both mineralogically and texturally, except that the clay sample contains very distinctive tiny iron ore inclusions which are *c.*0.1mm and smaller in the clay matrix. Although it is difficult to establish whether Clay Sample 4 was used in the manufacture of the 'fine-grained calcareous clay' fabrics, it cannot be ruled out, and may be this pure fine-grained clay (Clay Sample 4) had been mixed with Oxford clay or glacial drift deposits to produce the more common 'very fine calcareous clay fabric with its larger aplastic inclusions'. Further samples are needed to establish whether the larger aplastic inclusions occur naturally within the local clay or whether aplastic inclusions such as fossil shell and calcareous argillaceous inclusions were deliberately added to the pottery fabric.

Several questions need to be re-examined following the petrological analysis of the four clay samples. Firstly, is it possible to establish whether the argillaceous inclusions found within the pottery are naturally occurring in the clay or deliberate additions to the pottery fabrics? Examination of Clay Sample 2 from the Oxford clay/glacial drift deposits reveals the presence of opaque fragments with a high optical density, possibly patches of dark iron ore or pyritised plant matter, and also naturally occurring argillaceous rock fragments such as siltstone and mudstone with a medium to high optical density. It would appear that these argillaceous inclusions are naturally occurring angular rock fragments rather than deliberate additions of grog or clay temper.

Secondly, was fossil shell deliberately added to the pottery fabric? The absence of fossil shell from Clay Sample 1 (river terrace deposit) suggests that the 'fine sandy micaceous clay' fabric with quartz and fossil shell which was earlier assigned to the river terrace deposits is unlikely to have come from this location. It is more likely to have come from the Oxford clay since shell beds are common in that formation. The absence of fossil shell in Clay Sample 2 (Oxford clay) may be due to the fact that more than one clay sample needs to be taken in order to get a representative view of the diversity of the Oxford clay formation.

Finally, one must consider the 'fine calcareous clay with its abundant small acicular calcitic laths' and distinctive plant matter. None of the four clay samples revealed a close parallel, although it is likely that this fabric may be local since F27 (12) with its 'fine calcareous clay and argillaceous inclusions' contains similar distinctive occasional plant matter.

In conclusion, petrological examination of the clay samples has raised many questions which more extensive sampling strategy may address. However, the homogeneity of local geological deposits, such as the Oxford clay and glacial drift, makes it very difficult to assign exact provenances to what appear to be local pottery fabrics.

Clay Preparation and Provenance

The relative homogeneity of the deposits and glacial drift mentioned above also makes it particularly difficult to distinguish between local and regional imports to Salford. However, detailed examination of the geology, glacial drift and soils has been useful in identifying possible clay sources for the majority of pottery from the site. Further petrological analysis of each fabric type has revealed that both the clay and the aplastic inclusions, whether naturally occurring or deliberate additions to the clay, could certainly be acquired from local clay sources.

Three clay types have been identified from the pottery assemblage at Salford. The first has a distinctive fine sandy/micaceous clay matrix with abundant relatively well-sorted quartz grains. The river terrace deposits from the tributary of the River Ouzel which runs through Salford was a likely provenance for this clay, and contain a mixture of material from the Oxford clay and glacial drift, in addition to a ready supply of relatively well-sorted, often rounded, quartz, quartzite, feldspar, angular patinated flint, mica, organic plant matter and rare limonitic grains, all of which may have been carried downstream from the Woburn Sands formation.

Petrological analysis reveals that the aplastic inclusions identified within the sandy/micaceous clay fabrics can all be found in the river terrace deposits. Examination of the 'quartz-rich fabric' with its abundance of relatively well-sorted (often rounded) quartz grains bears close similarities to the river terrace deposits and it is likely that little modification of the clay would have been necessary. The 'quartz/flint fabric', which may have been modified by the addition of deliberately calcined flint temper, is more likely to be naturally occurring angular patinated flint fragments found in the river terrace deposits. Certainly, petrological examination of the surface of the flint reveals no evidence that the flint fragments had been 'calcined'. The 'quartz/fossil shell fabric' with its 5–10% of fragmented fossil shell is more difficult to assign to the river gravels. The deliberate addition of such small quantities of fossil shell are unlikely to have significantly altered or modified the working or firing properties of the clay. It must therefore be assumed that fossil shell could be found in the river terrace deposits, although only petrological examination of clay samples from this tributary will answer this question.

The second distinctive clay type to be identified from the pottery assemblage at Salford has a fine calcareous clay matrix comprising occasional to moderate quartz grains and larger common argillaceous inclusions. Its 'clean' fine calcareous clay matrix with occasional quartz grains suggests that it is less likely to have been taken from the river terrace deposits. Detailed examination of the aplastic inclusions suggests that it could have been derived from the glacial drift deposits around the village of Salford. Certainly it is likely that argillaceous inclusions found within these pottery fabrics are more likely to be naturally occurring rock fragments, such as silty mudstone and siltstone, which were originally derived from the Oxford clay. These were likely to have been incorporated by glacial action into the drift deposits during the Quaternary. Many of these naturally occurring angular rock fragments may have been mistaken for deliberate additions of grog or clay temper in previous pottery reports. However, until examination of the argillaceous rock fragments within the glacial drift and Oxford clay has taken place one should not rule out the possibility that grog was used as a tempering agent.

The above-mentioned fine calcareous clay fabric, with its common argillaceous inclusions, can also be identified, containing fossil shell, usually fragmented bivalves, ammonites, belemnites and foraminifera. Interestingly, the argillaceous inclusions are of a more calcareous type, fossiliferous shale or calcareous mudstone, and it is likely that these argillaceous rock fragments along with the fossil shell may have been derived from the same source. Whether both these distinctive inclusions were intentionally acquired, crushed and added to the clay or whether they were locally occurring within the glacial drift and Oxford clay deposits it is difficult to say.

The third distinctive clay type that occurs in the pottery fabrics has a calcareous clay matrix with distinctive abundant acicular calcitic laths. Petrological examination of the aplastic inclusions reveals quartz and fossil shell and significant quantities of organic plant matter that has not been burnt out during the firing process, a factor which may suggest that the firing was of short duration at a low temperature. Unfortunately, this fabric remains unprovenanced until further clay samples from the area can be examined.

The only possible import to the site is F01B (26). Its aplastic inclusions are similar to those found in the sandy/micaceous 'quartz/flint' fabric but this example has an abundance of black opaque grains, which are rarely found in this quantity in the river gravels around Salford. A possible provenance for this clay might be the limonitic sands, which occur in the Upper Woburn Sands Formation in the south of this region, although clay samples are needed in order to confirm this.

Firing Conditions

On the whole, the quartz-rich fabrics with their fine sandy/micaceous clay matrix (with the exception of F01B (26) have more variations in surface and core colours than those fabrics with a fine calcareous clay matrix. This appears to suggest that there is less control over the temperature and firing conditions of the quartz-rich fabrics than there is for the darker, more uniform, fabrics of the fine calcareous clay matrix.

It is difficult to establish a precise firing temperature for each clay type but it is generally accepted that at temperatures exceeding 650–750°C most organic material will be burnt out of the clay, leaving voids or partial carbonised remains of the cellular structure of the plant. Both sandy/micaceous and fine calcareous pottery types rarely contain organic plant material with its cellular structure fully intact, so it must be assumed that firing temperatures exceeded 650°C. Only the fine calcareous clay with acicular calcite laths may have been fired at a lower temperature than 650°C since the organic plant matter is frequently intact and its cellular structure is clearly visible.

In order to establish a possible upper limit for the firing of the sandy/micaceous clay and also the fine calcareous clay, it is important to note that calcite within fossil shell decomposes on firing at temperatures around 850–900°C. Given the anisotropic nature of the clay and also the presence of calcitic fossil shell in much of the material, it is likely that temperatures did not exceed 900°C and that the majority of the pottery from the site was fired at relatively low temperatures, between 650–850°C.

Summary and Conclusion

Of the 26 early to mid-Iron Age pottery sherds analysed petrologically from the site at Salford only one example appears to have been a regional import to the site. The remainder of the pottery is likely to be of local manufacture and can be separated into three groups, depending on the composition of the clay matrix and any larger distinctive aplastic inclusions. The nearest available clay sources that could have been exploited in the manufacture of this pottery can be found in and around the village of Salford. The first type, a sandy/micaceous clay, may have been taken from the river terrace deposits along the unnamed tributary at Salford. The second type, a calcareous clay may have been dug from the glacial drift deposits in and around the area of Salford. These two distinct clay types may suggest that decisions were being made about the selection and preparation of the clay and it has not yet been ruled out that material, such as fossil shell or grog, was deliberately added as temper. A third type of material is organic plant matter, which occurs commonly in all of the fabrics. Both glacial drift and river terrace deposits are known to contain some naturally occurring organic plant matter but one cannot rule out the possibility that deliberately added

plant matter may have been added, perhaps to increase plasticity of the clay. Only further petrological analysis of clay samples taken from the area will provide a closer indication of whether the inclusions were deliberately added as temper. Certainly, if this is the case it is probable that the potters were not just making decisions about the exploitation of different clay sources but also about the type and amount of temper to be added to that clay.

3.4 Registered and Non-ceramic Bulk Artefacts

H B Duncan and D F Mackreth

Introduction

During analysis each object was assigned a broad term or simple name, and a related functional category, in accordance with the Bedfordshire Artefacts Typology (BAT). This catalogue is organised by functional category and, within each category, divided into broad terms. Only the best or most representative example of each broad term has been selected for inclusion in the published catalogue, although the general discussion, which precedes the catalogue entries, refers to the full assemblage. A catalogue entry for every object is available in the project archive.

The coding which precedes each entry contains the following information:

12	Rf 47	(2989)	6	phase 3
catalogue no.	registered find no.	context	Group no.	period

Conservation of the artefacts was carried out by Adrian Tribe, while with the Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

Fastenings and Fittings

In total, three nails were recovered, none complete. Two survived as heads and short sections of shank and appear to be flat-headed timber nails consistent with Manning's Type 1B (1985, 134–5). The suggested Roman date is corroborated by the presence of Roman ceramics within the same deposits (G78 and deposit 2100). The third example consists of a much-corroded shank only. This may be intrusive within the fills of G6 drip gully, as associated ceramics indicate an early to middle Iron Age date.

Household Fixtures, Furnishings and Utensils

Although no evidence of furnishings was found, quantities of burnt stone and, to a lesser degree, clay lining, were recovered, in the main from fills of roundhouse drip gullies. Three *in situ* sunken hearths, consisting of burnt stone and clay lining, were recorded during excavation in G6, G45 and G72. A fourth possible hearth was noted in G68, although it was unclear if the material was actually burnt *in situ*. The paucity of *in situ* hearths, when compared to the number of buildings recorded, is striking. The quantity of burnt stone recovered, however, might suggest that some of the hearths were raised. With this in mind, quantities of burnt stone were plotted and tabulated by structure (Table 3.25). Contexts yielding ferrous slag in association with either burnt stone and/or clay lining were interpreted as evidence of craft activity, and are discussed below (Craft and Industry). Where burnt stone occurred on its own, or in combination with clay lining, it is assumed to indicate the presence of a domestic hearth. Hence the evidence presented in Table 3.25 may tentatively be used to indicate the presence of domestic hearths in a further six buildings.

Craft and Industry

Ironworking

A total of 1260.6g of ferrous slag was recovered. In the main these consisted of small fragments, their size precluding differentiation between ferrous smithing and smelting slags. Four pieces, however, have been identified as probable small hearth bottoms (D Starley, pers comm), with depths ranging between 20mm and 40mm. Three were found within the fills of roundhouse penannular gullies (Table 3.23), in association with burnt stone and/or vitrified clay lining. This evidence would appear to suggest that small-scale iron-smithing activity was being carried out within G4, G5 and G11. Deposit (2100), overlying much of the settlement, produced a further 239.6g of ferrous slag. Generally these are tiny fragments not exceeding 20g, although one further hearth bottom, weight 153g, was identified.

Spinning and weaving

Evidence for textile working was limited to two examples each of spindle whorls and loom weights. Although the fabric of both whorls equate with Iron Age ceramic types (F17 and F29), only Rf 57

Building	Feature type	Burnt stone (kg)	Clay lining (g)	Ferrous slag (g)	Comment
4	1589 recut gully	11		351	?2 small hearth bottoms
5	1530 gully	5	9	31	?1 small hearth bottom
11	2666 recut gully	22		639	1 hearth bottom

Table 3.23: Ironworking within structures

survives in complete enough condition to determine its original form. This appears to be of a flattened globular shape with a central funnel-shaped perforation. The second whorl, represented by two fragments (Rf 54 and Rf 55) of an upper surface, retains decoration in the form of incised lines radiating from the central perforation. Without a complete profile of the original form of this whorl we can only suggest from the angle of the surviving surface that it was biconical. Clay spindle whorls occur on most Iron Age sites, although in limited quantities (Williams 1993, 119). The forms do not appear to be particularly diagnostic of date, and this assemblage is too limited for any useful comparative analysis with other Iron Age sites.

Of the two loom weight fragments recovered, the fabric of Rf 22 suggests it may be the earlier in date. Unfortunately, too little of this loom weight survives to determine its original form. The curvature and thickness, however, do not suggest it was of triangular form, the usual type encountered in Iron Age assemblages. Rf 53 is an annular weight, distinguished by having a central hole as wide or wider than the surrounding ring of clay, and is considered to date to the early Saxon period (Dunning *et al* 1959, 23–25). Its presence within a phase 4 deposit indicates it is intrusive, deriving from subsequent Saxon (phase 7) activity. The recovery of this loom weight, combined with the presence of well G66 [3001] containing a single substantial jar of fabric type A32 (Fig 2.104, no. 407), suggests that Saxon occupation was adjacent to the excavated area.

Evidence for the use of skeletal material as a tool comes in the form of a mandible and scapula. These bones retain a series of random puncture marks on both surfaces. The puncture marks are quite small and possess squared or triangular outlines, reminiscent of the tips found on leatherworking awls. It is tentatively suggested that these items served as a form of working platform, the leather to be pierced placed over the bone. The bone backing would not only provide a rigid surface which would not readily blunt the awl tip as it pierced the leather, but would also provide some protection for the leather worker.

Rf 57 (2100 square 1301.3): **ceramic spindle whorl**. About one-third of a flattened globular whorl with the beginnings of a funnel-shaped central perforation. Fabric buff-orange throughout, coarse sand with angular quartz inclusions (2.0–6.0mm) (F29) (Fig 3.11).

Rf 54 (2100 square 880.1) and Rf 55 (2100 square 1299.4): **ceramic spindle whorl**. About one-third of a ?biconical whorl with the remains of a central perforation. Incised lines radiate from the spindle hole. Fabric grey throughout, grog-tempered with occasional rounded quartz and iron ore inclusions (0.5mm) (F17) (Fig 3.11).

Rf 22 (1149) G4 phase 4: **ceramic loom weight**. Incomplete, remains of curving edge and portions of two surfaces survive, one surface flattened. The fabric is unevenly mixed and hard-fired, with an even dark grey colour throughout and buff-orange surfaces. Sparse rounded to sub-rounded quartz (0.3–0.6mm) and sparse unevenly dispersed calcareous inclusions. The fabric would appear to equate with ceramic type F30 'sand and calcareous'. Th 45mm. Wt 135g (Fig 3.11).

Rf 53 (3644) Ungrouped, phase 4 **ceramic loom weight.** About one-third of an annular weight. Hard-fired with light to dark grey fabric and buff surfaces with occasional grey patches. Inclusions include chopped organic matter, possibly straw, and rounded light grey or red grog fragments, varying in size from 2.0–10.00mm. Sparse quartz, c.0.5mm in size, and clear organic impressions visible on the surfaces. Estimated ext. diam 95mm, int. diam 35mm, Th 45mm (Fig 3.11).

Rf 58 (863) G1 phase 4 **bone 'leatherworking platform'**. Cow mandible, incomplete. Portion of mandible, both ends broken. Both surfaces retain a cluster of random puncture marks of squared, lozenge-shape or triangular outline. L 170mm (Fig 3.11).

Rf 59 (3726) G63 phase 4 **bone 'leatherworking platform'**. Horse scapula, incomplete. Portion of a scapula, one end broken. Both surfaces retain clusters of random puncture marks of squared, lozenge-shaped or triangular outline. L 220mm (Fig 3.11).

Multi-purpose bladed tools and sharpeners

No iron-bladed tools, for example knives or shears, were recovered. This absence is unsurprising, given the suggested early to middle Iron Age date of the settlement and the care presumably bestowed upon metal tools during this period. That iron was in use is indicated by the presence of both smithing slag (see above) and a single whetstone. The latter was recovered from the drip gully fills of G5, which also yielded a small quantity of smithing slag (Table 3.23). Rf 28 is a secondary whetstone, a stone that happened to have honing properties but was not specifically quarried or imported for this purpose. This quartzite pebble was perhaps obtained from a nearby river or stream, or the local drift.

Rf 28 (1482) G5 phase 3: **quartzite whetstone**. Roughly rectangular in plan and section. One surface smoothed, but no dishing evident. L 73.5mm (Fig 3.11).

Weaponry

The fragmentary remains of a single copper-alloy spearhead were recovered from the fill of pit [3312] within G40. This consists of a portion of blade and rounded mid-rib. Although rounded mid-ribs can occasionally occur on looped spearheads types, they are more usually a feature of the peg-hole varieties of the later Bronze Age, MBA3–LBA3, *c.*1200–600 BC (S P Needham, pers comm).

Rf 51 (3313) G40 phase 3: **copper-alloy spearhead**. Incomplete, consisting of half a tapering, rounded mid-rib and one edge of blade, approaching tip? A grey-black substance adheres to the internal surface of the rib and this may be a remnant of the original clay core used in casting. Surviving L 24.6mm, diam of rib 10mm; W 18mm (Fig 3.11).

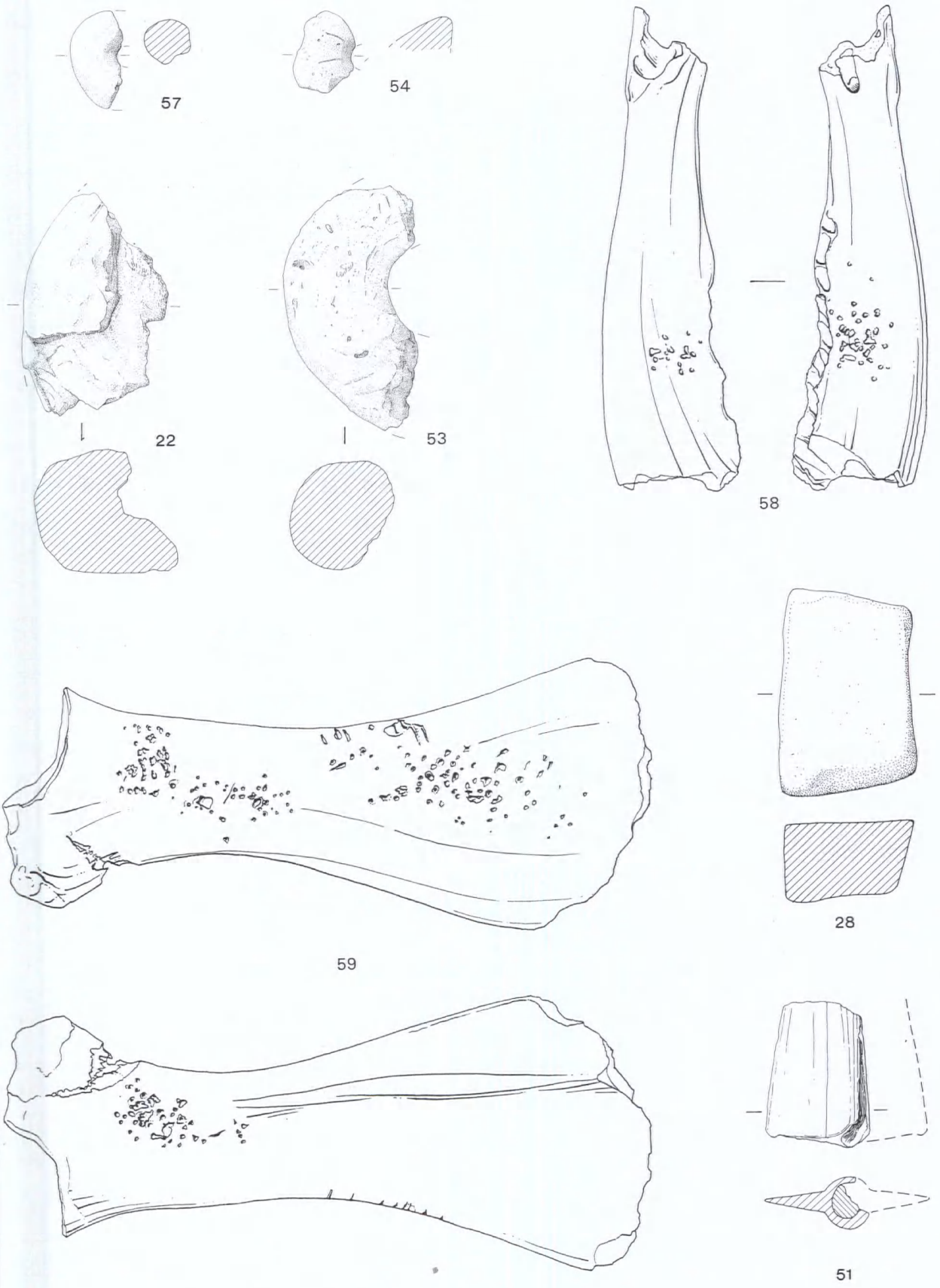


Fig 3.11: Registered finds 57, 54, 22, 53, 58, 59, 28 (scale 1:2), 51 (scale 1:1)

Personal adornment and dress

Brooches

D F Mackreth

All of the ten brooches identified derived from a group of four cremations, G54 (Table 3.24). Consideration of the deposition pattern and significance of this cremation group is contained within the discussion section immediately following the catalogue; the catalogue discussion below is limited to typological dating and parallels. Metal analysis, carried out by Justine Bayley of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, indicated that the non-ferrous brooches were all of bronze alloy. Although the fragmentary survival of some of the brooches precludes certainty, four brooch types have been identified.

Nauheim

The form of the spring and the framed catch-plate on Rf 1 and Rf 2 show that both of these brooches are Nauheims, and are a pair made by the same artisan. However, unlike the classic form (cf Feugère 1985, pl 33; 445–6), the profiles are rather straight and the bow is distinctly narrow at the top, but this is also to be expected as part of the same series (cf Feugère 1985, pl 36, 508–16). An example from Folkestone with an external chord (Stead 1976, 411, fig 4.2), a left-over from earlier types of La Tène, shows that there is no need to see the profile of the bow or its narrowness as being, perhaps, a late feature. This is not an isolated occurrence, as one from Great Chesterford shows (Cambridge, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 48.923A).

The type is poorly dated in this country, indeed, it is not well dated anywhere. The most useful recent summary (Feugère 1985, 223–6) points out that the earliest lie at the very end of the 2nd century BC and that the type appears to run no later than *c.*25 BC. The point at which the last Nauheim in use ceased to be worn is very hard to determine. In Britain, there are now sufficient Nauheims to show that it was widespread throughout England south of a line from the Bristol Channel to the Wash. Not surprisingly, it is well represented along the whole of the south coast, especially in Sussex and Kent where the derivative forms were especially popular. Locally, as far as the present site is concerned, there are several from the Hertfordshire-Bedfordshire-Northamptonshire area.

Perhaps the best indicator in Britain as to the terminal date of the type as a whole is the King Harry Lane Cemetery (Stead and Rigby 1989), where none occur. The closest is a derivative from a phase 1 burial which has the customary style of decoration, but married to a solid catch-plate (Stead and Rigby 1989, G317.4). All in all, there is nothing in the British evidence which must go against Feugère's determination. The fragmentary survival of brooches Rfs 5, 13 and 4 preclude certain identification of brooch type although similarities in form, type of spring, form of bow and framed catch-plate, strongly suggest that these three brooches were also of the Nauheim type.

Rf 2 (604) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. Forged, the spring of four coils, with internal chord, is integral with the bow, which has a rectangular section tapering to a pointed foot. Most of the profile is straight, only the head having a gentle curve leading into the spring, which rests against slight shoulders. There is a V-shaped valley down each side of the bow and the front is forged to have a sharp-edged ridge down the right-hand side. There is a line of scorper-graver decoration down the middle. The catch-plate was an open frame, the piercing having been cut using a chisel (Fig 3.12).

Rf 1 (604) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. Although less well preserved, all the surviving elements exactly match those of Rf 2. Only the very top of the catch-plate is present, but it shows that a chisel had been used to make the piercing (Fig 3.12).

Rf 4 (688) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. In many pieces and too fragmentary for the brooch to be reconstructed. The spring cannot be reassembled sufficiently well to tell whether the chord was internal or external. The bow section is roughly rectangular with rounded corners, its profile recalling those of Rfs 1 and 2. The front has two incised lines down it, with a line of scorper-graver decoration laid over the top. Not enough of the catch-plate is left for the presence or absence of a piercing to be seen (Fig 3.12).

Rf 5 and Rf 13 (602) G54 phase 5: **iron brooches**. In many pieces and poorly preserved. Only the lower bow and catch-plate of Rf 5 is relatively well preserved. The spring on Rf 13, although distorted, can be reconstructed to have an internal chord, integral with the bow and probably with four coils. There is no evidence of decoration on either brooch. Both catch-plates are framed. The suggested reconstructions are based on the x-rays (Fig 3.12).

Alesia

The rolled-under head and the hole in the catch-plate of Rf 6 would appear to indicate that this is an Alesia brooch (Duval 1974). Originally Rf 6 would have possessed a knob or bead, mounted in this instance on an iron bar, on each side of the catch-plate, a feature also seen on one of the brooches from Alesia itself (Duval 1974, 67, fig 2.3). However, Rf 6 possesses some deviations from the type as defined.

Brooch type	Cremation C1 (602)	Cremation C2 (604)	Cremation C3 (688)	Cremation C4 (691)
Nauheim	2(?) iron (Rf5, Rf13)	2 copper-alloy (Rf 1, Rf 2)	1 copper-alloy (Rf 4)	
Alesia			1 copper-alloy (Rf 6)	
Feugère 11a				2 copper-alloy (Rf 8, Rf 9)
Stead		1 copper-alloy (Rf 3)		1 copper-alloy (Rf 10)

Table 3.24: Brooch types by cremation

Fig 3.12: Registered finds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 (scale 1:1)

There is no sign of incipient wings, nor is decoration apparent on the bow. Admittedly, the brooch is in poor condition, but enough survives of the top, where there was most chance of ornament surviving, to show that it was plain. The top of the bow is distinctly rounded, a feature unparalleled on other Alesia brooches. Although the foot and catch-plate are damaged, the thinness of the metal at the front of the foot would appear to argue against the existence of a projection, normally a common feature on this form of brooch.

The question arises as to whether this is a genuine Alesia or an imitation, possibly British in origin. A view of those illustrated by Duval (1974) or Feugère (1985, type 21 and 22, pls 108–14) shows that although the form is extremely varied, being unified by the rolled-under head and the beaded decoration of the catch-plate, plain brooches are very uncommon and none has the swelling at the top of the bow. It is just conceivable that this 'swelling' may be associated with brooches of Feugère's Type 11 (1985, pls 83–4), also present within the Salford assemblage.

Alesias of whatever form are rare in Britain. At present there is no evidence in this country for a series of transitional forms between the Alesia and the succeeding 'Aucissa' type (Feugère 1985, pl 112, 1463, pl 117, 1498), and, hence, no typological series into which the present example can be slotted. Rf 6 would appear, however, to share more traits in common with the Alesia form than with the later Aucissa. It therefore can be suggested that the Salford brooch should be dated to part of the *floruit* of the Alesia, which begins somewhere before the middle of the 1st century BC, and prior to the occurrence of the true Aucissa. Evidence for the transition between the latest Alesias and the earliest Aucissa can be seen at the fortress at Dangstetten, dated to the period around 10 BC (Fingerlin 1972, Abb 8). Hence it can be suggested that Rf 6 dates to a period before 25 BC, rather than after.

Rf 6 (688) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. The axis bar of the hinged pin is housed in the rolled-under head of the bow, which, at the top is as wide as the axis bar shank and tapers to a pointed foot. The fragmentary state of the piece suggests that the sides of the bow had been slightly concave. The catch-plate is damaged, but retains most of a single round hole, which has, on one side, traces of iron corrosion. (Fig 3.12).

Feugère's Type 11a

Both Rf 8 and Rf 9 are members of Feugère's Type 11a, some of which have projections on the foot, which drive from the applied beads of the Alesia form. These two brooches are very similar to one illustrated by Feugère (1985, pl 83, 1103) and examples of the type are relatively common in Britain. They can range from a highly elaborate form with a central moulding and an ogival plate beneath (Mackreth 1993, 84–7m, fig 63.1) to a flat one (Nan Kivell 1927, 390, pl 1.f and g). Their distribution is south of a line drawn from the Bristol Channel to the Humber Estuary, although there does not appear to be a significant concentration within this area at present. None of the British examples has an adequate date and it is only indicated on the continent as being in the middle and latter part of the first century BC (Feugère 1985, 251).

Rf 8 (691) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. The spring has four coils with an internal chord. The bow has a domed disc at its head, with a groove round the surviving periphery. The rest of the bow appears to have had a straight profile, or possibly slightly recurved, and to have tapered to a pointed foot. The catch-plate is solid (Fig 3.12).

Rf 9 (691) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. Fragmentary remains of a similar brooch as Rf 8. The domed disc with groove are present and the catch-plate appears to have been solid (Fig 3.12).

Stead Type

Brooches Rf 3 and Rf 10 belong to a group here referred to as the Stead Type. This form, cognate with Feugère's Type 8, was first effectively dealt with in Britain by Stead (1976) who showed that they belonged to the cultural suite pre-dating the familiar Langton Down and Rosette types. Over the last twenty years a sufficient number of further examples have come to light for some of the main varieties to be identified and possible lines of development indicated. The basic type has a four coil internal chord spring, although external chords are by no means uncommon, a set of mouldings, which can range in positioning on the bow, and, usually, a framed catch-plate. The overall distribution of this group is south-east of a line running from the Bristol channel, south of Oxfordshire, and then up to the Humber, generally along the west side of Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. The heaviest concentration occurs in south-eastern England, although the numbers in the area local to Salford are not negligible. Care must be taken when ascribing brooches to this type as aspects of this form, such as the use of moulding on the bow, continued to be popular up to, if not beyond, AD 40. The presence of a framed catch-plate, in combination with the other listed traits, may be of particular importance.

The date of this brooch form is not certain. Only two examples of this type occur at the King Harry Lane cemetery, one from a phase 3 burial and the other from a phase 1 grave, both possessing fretted catch-plates (Stead and Rigby 1989, G124.4 and G270.4). It seems likely that such catch-plates had passed out of manufacture and use before the start of the cemetery. The report, while acknowledging that the cemetery could have come into being as early as *c.*15 BC (Stead and Rigby 1989, 83), cautiously assigned the earliest date to AD 1 (Stead and Rigby 1989, 84), with the consequence that the cemetery was made to last significantly beyond the Roman Conquest. There is, however, a striking absence of well-known post-Conquest types: one Colchester

Derivative (G 316.4) and no standard Hod Hill, despite these forms being used in quantity a few hundred metres away. If the phasing is adjusted to start around 15 BC, virtually all the imbalance disappears. This could mean that brooches like the two under discussion may start earlier still.

Rf 3 (604) G54 phase 5: **Copper-alloy brooch**. The spring has four coils with an internal chord. The bow is divided into two by a set of three mouldings near the top, the middle one larger than the others. Above the mouldings, the bow is generally rounded in section and widens towards the top to form shoulders against which the internal chord rests. The profile here is rounded. Below the mouldings, the profile is almost straight, with a slight recurve. The front is rounded and it tapers to a pointed foot. The catch-plate is framed, the bottom edge having a slight peak. The return of the catch-plate has two sunken mouldings at its top (Fig 3.12).

Rf 10 (691) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy brooch**. Similar to Rf 3, the upper bow has a median arris and the back corners are chamfered. The triple mouldings do not run round the back. Beneath these, the upper bow section is largely repeated down to another set of mouldings made up of two thin ridges separated by a wide flute. The rest of the bow has a flat front face. The catch-plate is solid (Fig 3.12).

Brooch chain

Numerous fine copper-alloy wire links were recovered from cremation 4 (691) and, as this cremation also produced what is apparently a pair of Feugère's Type 11A brooches, it seems probable that the remains of this chain originally linked brooches Rf 8 and Rf 9. Instances of chains linking brooch pairs occur in precious metals on the continent (e.g. Faudet 1979, pl 1.8) but rarely has this feature been recorded in Britain in non-precious metal. A second instance of linked brooches, this time in iron, recently came to light from Harlington Quarry, Bedfordshire, again within a cremation (Duncan 2001, 32). The brooches from Harlington are of the Stead Type but with the head of the bow expanded into a trumpet-like shape. The links were formed of a short length of iron wire bent into an oval loop, not dissimilar to the copper-alloy links from Salford. On the continent the wearing of chained pairs of brooches is thought to have begun in the La Tène I period, coming to Britain during La Tène III (Boon and Savory 1975, 45). This practice appears to have been a female fashion on the continent (Snape 1993, 6). Unfortunately, not enough of the cremated bone of (691) survived to allow determination of sex. As this cremation contained three brooches, it is possible the third, unmatched, brooch may have secured an undergarment (D Mackreth, pers comm).

Rf 14 (691) G54 phase 5: **copper-alloy chain**. Oval links (4.4mm × 3mm) formed of circular-sectioned wire (diam 0.8mm). About 12 links survive, one complete, but most in fragmentary condition (Fig 3.13).

Bracelets

Both of the bracelets recovered were incomplete and in the case of Rf 21 this precludes identification with any degree of certainty. However, its simple form and estimated diameter can be paralleled by an example from King Harry Lane cemetery (Stead and Rigby 1989, fig 114, G150.4) and also within the British Museum collections (Manning 1985, pl. 33, J10 and J11). Stead and Rigby describe this as a popular La Tène III form occurring in precious as well as base metals, a form which also continued in use throughout the Roman period (1989, 103; Clarke 1979, 304).

Shale objects begin to appear with increasing regularity in the Iron Age. In the earlier Iron Age armlets and bracelets were chipped into rough rings and then ground and polished. Lathe turning was introduced in the 1st century BC, but hand-made bracelets, especially of non-circular form, continued to be made in the Roman period (Crummy 1983, 36). The fragmentary survival and absence of diagnostic decoration on the Salford bracelet (Rf 43) preclude refinement in dating for this piece beyond the Iron Age and Roman periods. Pliny cited the magical and curative properties of jet (Allason-Jones 1996, 8 and 15–17) and it is possible that shale was thought to be imbued with similar powers. In Roman period graves, items of jet have come predominantly from female burials and Allason-Jones notes that there is a strong presumption that jet and its alternatives were seen as having a special significance for women (1996, 17).

Rf 21 (865) G1 phase 4: **iron bracelet**. About one-quarter of a circular, plain iron bracelet, with rounded cross-section. Est ext diam 80mm (Fig 3.13).

Rf 43 (2476) G11 phase 3: **shale bracelet**. About one-quarter of a plain shale bracelet with D-shaped cross-section. Est ext diam 60mm (Fig 3.13).

Beads

Both the small annular beads recovered would appear to be of long-lived forms. Blue glass beads, such as Rf 45, are a type known to have been in use from about the 6th or 5th century BC to at least the 8th century AD (Guido 1978, 66–8). The shale bead, Rf 39, is likely to be of a similar date-range to the shale bracelet, Rf 43. Both beads were recovered from deposit (2100) which overlay the settlement and produced an assemblage of mixed date. Hence further refinement of dating by association is not possible.

Rf 45 (2100): **glass bead**. Small annular bead of translucent blue glass with central cylindrical hole. Diam 8mm, Ht 4mm (Fig 3.13).

Rf 39 (2100): **shale bead**. Small annular bead with central cylindrical hole. Diam 8.4mm, Ht 4mm (Fig 3.13).

Objects of uncertain or unknown use

This category includes objects which, due to fragmentary survival, cannot be identified with certainty, or the use of which is unknown to the cataloguer. This section is ordered by material, with catalogue entries preceding any discussion of possible uses.

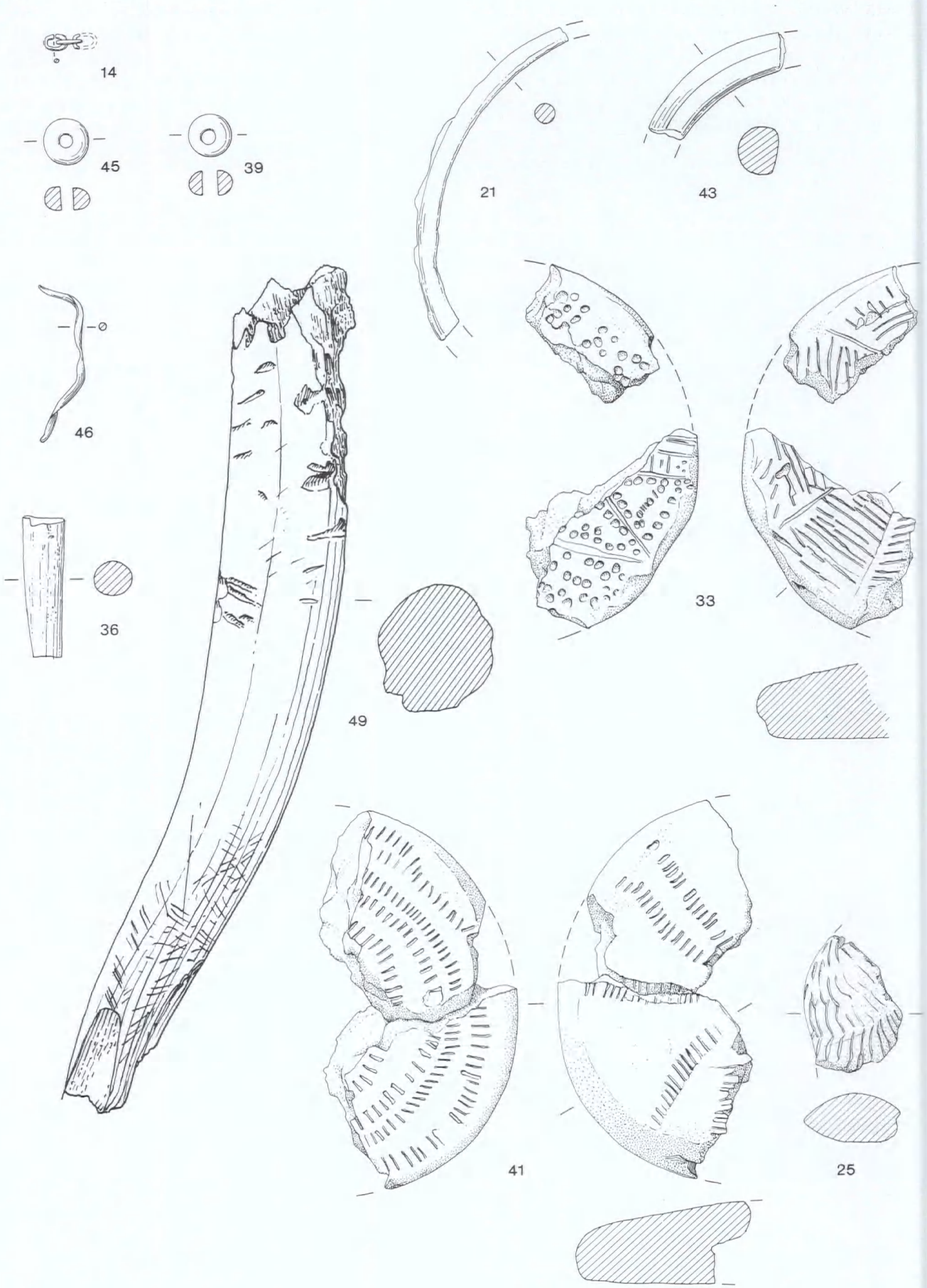


Fig 3.13: Registered finds 14, 21, 25, 33, 36, 39, 41, 43, 45, 49 (scale 1:1)

Small fragments of sheet are not included here but are fully catalogued within the site archive.

Copper alloy

Rf 46 (2698) ungrouped and unphased: **wire**. Fragment of rounded rectangular section, 1 × 1.3mm, with remains of coiling evident. L *c.*36mm. (Not illustrated).

This fragment is likely to have originally formed a coiled spring for a brooch. Deposit (2100) produced a further two fragments of similar dimensions.

Bone

Rf 36 (2066) G6 phase 4: **shank fragment**. Short portion of mid-section with polished surfaces. Rectangular section, 7 × 6.5mm, tapering to 5 × 5mm. L 26.4mm (Fig 3.13).

The presence of a polished surface suggests that this object may have been used in textile working, either as a weaving implement or bodkin.

Antler

Rf 49 (2903) G65 phase 4: **tine**. Incomplete tine, tip broken off, the beam end has broken and has been gnawed. Surfaces heavily wear marked. Wear marks are in the main random, although tight groupings of parallel marks are visible on one side. Polish occurs over the wear marks, the highest polish occurring on the same surface as the groupings of parallel transverse marks. L 173mm (Fig 3.13).

The highly polished surface on this tine could point to its use as a weaving tool. The plentiful and clearly visible wear marks, however, are unlikely to have originated from this use. High polish can also be produced by silicates. Rees (1979, 314–18) in discussing antler 'hoes' defines two forms of this tool type. Type II has two forking prongs, formed from long tapering tines, which join together at what is usually the main shaft of the antler. The shaft is equipped with some method of attaching the handle, usually a hole. The majority of tools of this type have marks of wear on the tips of their tines, with gloss occurring more on the underside, rather than top, of a curving tine, or more on one side than the other on straight tines. An illustrated example from Newstead (Rees 1979, fig 100) indicates transverse wear marks extending from the tips partly up the tines. Rees cogently argues that the pattern of wear marks and polish on these tools indicate use not as a hoe but as a type of rake and pitchfork combined, used to lift and stack straw in the field (1979, 317–18). It is conceivable that Rf 49 may have originally formed one prong of such a tool, as the pattern of polish is similar and groupings of transverse wear marks are apparent. However, there are points of discrepancy. Although the Salford tine does have transverse marks, the majority of marks are random. Of the ten examples identified by Rees, the majority would appear to date to the Romano-British period and in fact Rees states 'there is no evidence to suggest that the tools were introduced before the Roman invasion, nor that they continued in use after the fourth century' (1979, 315). The ceramic material associated with Rf 49, however, was consistently of early to mid-Iron Age date. Without more of the object surviving its identification must remain uncertain.

Ceramic

Rf 33 (2100 square 822.1): **unidentified**. Two fragments of a flat disc-like object. Both surfaces are decorated. The upper surface has a series of incised lines radiating from the ?centre, dividing the disc into triangular segments, with closely spaced incised parallel lines filling the ground between each segment. The reverse surface has incised lines creating triangular fields but with the apex of each triangle falling along the outer edge of the disc, possibly when complete forming a star-like pattern. The whole surface is decorated with stabbed dots. Fairly hard-fired but crumbly fabric, red-brown with light to dark grey patches throughout. Inclusions include dense chopped organic matter and sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz, c.0.3mm. Possibly equates with ceramic type F19 thought to date to the early to middle Iron Age. Est diam approx. 70mm, Th 13.4mm (Fig 3.13).

Rf 41 (2100 square 1116.1) and Rf 56 (2100 square 1061.1): **unidentified**. Two joining fragments creating approximately half of a disc-like object of plano-convex section with rounded edges. Both surfaces are smoothed and decorated. The upper surface has radiating curving linear ornament formed by closely set transverse fingernail impressions, the lines occurring in pairs in two cases and singly in one. The ground in between is plain. The reverse surface is decorated with the same linear ornament but in concentric circles. The surface colour is buff-orange with dark grey patches. Clean breaks, however, reveal a dark grey core, indicating a secondary heating post-breakage, resulting in surface oxidation. Fabric is very hard fired, fine, with rare quartz inclusions, 0.3mm–0.9mm, but with the occasional larger fragment up to 2.5mm. There is no ceramic type to correspond with the fineness of this disc. Est diam 70mm, Th 15.5mm (Fig 3.13).

These decorated discs were first thought to be fragments of spindle whorl. The lack of any evidence for a central perforation, especially on the more substantially surviving disc Rf 41/56, in combination with their diameters, would tend to argue against this interpretation. Great care was taken in their manufacture, as evidenced by the smoothed and decorated surfaces. Their exact use is uncertain, although suggestions forwarded for other ceramic roundels include stacking toys, gaming counters, or trivets. The fabric of Rf 33 suggests an early to middle Iron Age date, equating with ceramic type F19, but as these discs were probably locally made, the fabric may reveal more about local clay sources than chronology. The decorative motifs, however, would not be out of place on pottery of this date, although no similarities in decoration were noted among the Salford pottery assemblage. All three fragments came from the upper-most spit of deposit (2100), which produced an assemblage of mixed date.

Rf 25 (147) G6 phase 4: **unidentified**. Fragment of fired clay, one external surface surviving, sloping profile. The surviving surface is decorated with adjoining rows of fingernail impressions. Fairly hard fired, with buff surface and dark grey fabric. The fabric is well smoothed with sparse sub-rounded quartz, approx. 0.5mm, with very occasional larger fragments of up to 4.0mm. Appears to equate with ceramic type F29 although well smoothed out. Original form and dimensions not discernible (Fig 3.13).

Discussion

Fastenings and fittings

Given the main period of occupation at Salford, the paucity of metalwork associated with building fixtures or fittings is unsurprising. Generally there is precious little metalwork recovered from early to middle Iron Age occupation sites and Salford is no exception, with a total of four metal items from phases 3 and 4. This is likely to arise from a combination of factors. Metalwork may have been a limited resource: whether this limitation was due to access to raw material, control of production and/or knowledge of production, or reflect more localised economic circumstances, or a combination of these factors, is unclear. More recently, additional factors have begun to be taken into account including models of depositional practices possibly current in the early to middle Iron Age (Hodder 1982; Hill 1995; Gwilt 1997) and prevailing attitudes to artefact consumption and discard (Willis 1997).

The earliest occurrence of a nail was from the gully of roundhouse G6, phase 4. Although this may be intrusive, such objects are known from the period. Danebury produced a staple from Ceramic Phase 5, broadly contemporary with the period *c.*450–350/300 BC (Cunliffe and Poole 1991a, 353; 1991b, 235–6). The ironwork finds from Danebury were, in the main, recovered from hoards, deposited in small specially dug holes and collections placed on the bottom of abandoned storage pits (Cunliffe and Poole 1991a, 333), and this contrasts with the Salford example which was among occupation debris.

A second nail recovered from pits G78 dated to the Roman period (Phase 6) and may have been an accidental loss.

Household

Only three roundhouses, G45, phase 3; G6 and G72, phase 4, had evidence of hearths, from which 1487.78kg of burnt stone was recorded. Of this total, approximately 84% derived from fills of penannular ditches surrounding the roundhouses. A smaller quantity, 27.5kg or approximately 2%, was recorded from roundhouse post holes, while roundhouse G6 yielded 11.5kg (0.8%) from an *in situ* hearth. The character of the burnt stone, and its distribution mostly in the roundhouse gullies and post holes, with a small fraction from an *in situ* hearth, suggests it represents the remains of raised hearths once within the buildings. Six other structures, although not retaining *in situ* evidence of hearths, produced varying quantities of burnt stone, perhaps indicating the presence of further domestic hearths (Table 3.25).

Three of the structures yielding evidence of domestic hearths, G1, G6 and G7, possessed recut drip gullies, some of which followed the same line as the initial cut. For this reason it is difficult to determine if the greater quantities of burnt stone in some structures represent more than one hearth in a building, or several hearths over a prolonged period of occupation.

The deposition of fire-cracked stone within the drip gullies might be purposeful re-use of hearth material, possibly to form soakaways in a similar

Phase	Group	Structure type	Feature type	Burnt stone	Other
2	44	Ring ditch	Ring ditch	8kg	
3	5	Roundhouse	Gully	14kg	Hearth lining (22g); smithing hearth bottom 31g
	11	Roundhouse	Gully [initial]	13kg	
			Recut gully	99.75kg	Smithing hearth bottom 639g and hearth lining 3g
	12	Roundhouse	Post hole		285g
	20	Four-post	Post hole	0.5kg	
	38	Trackway	Post hole	0.5kg	
	45	Roundhouse	Hearth	Quantities present not recorded	
4	1	Roundhouse	Gully [initial]	14kg	
			Recut gully	38.28kg	Hearth lining 12g
	4	Roundhouse	Gully? [initial]	184.75kg	Hearth lining 15g
			Gully? recut	11.5kg	Iron-smithing hearth bottom 351g
	6	Roundhouse	Hearth	11.5kg	
			Re-cut gullies	248.25kg	
			Post hole	1.75kg	
	7	Roundhouse	Gully [initial]	42.25kg	
			Recut gully	551.25kg	Hearth lining 6g
			Post hole	0.75kg	
	8	Roundhouse	Gully	21kg	
	9	Roundhouse	Gully	2.75kg	
	10	Roundhouse	Gully	3.25kg	
	72	Roundhouse	Hearth	Quantities present not recorded	
	63	Pit	Pit	101kg	
	64	Pits	Pit	34.5kg	

Table 3.25: Evidence for hearths

manner to french drains. There is, however, little consistency in the deposition of the material and it may be that the stone merely represents occupation debris that settled into the drip gullies.

Pit fills of phase 4 accounted for 12% of the burnt stone assemblage and this material may have served as capping for episodic deposition of debris, while no pits in phase 3 yielded burnt stone. In both phases hearth material could have accumulated in adjacent features, possibly accounting for the small quantity of burnt stone in the upper fills of phase 2 ring ditch G44. Iron Age pottery from the same fills indicates that the ditch remained partially open.

Craft, industry and subsistence

Three roundhouses had evidence of ironworking, two in phase 3, G5 and G11 and one in phase 4, G4. This comprised small hearth bottoms, not more than 40mm deep. Although ironworking might be carried out away from a domestic area, and indeed where large quantities of ironworking debris are encountered this does seem to be the case, it is not unknown for smithing to be carried out within roundhouses (Crew 1989). Such ironworking can be undertaken on a domestic hearth using bellows and leave no structural trace in the archaeological record (McDonnell 1986). The limited size and quantities of this smithing slag suggests that ironworking at Salford was conducted on a domestic level. This may have constituted final smithing, as opposed to the initial stage of working raw bloom to billet, and/or periodic repairs. The recovery of a whetstone from G5 also suggests that sharpening and/or maintenance of bladed implements was also undertaken. The level of this activity may equate with De Roche's 'restricted domestic production', which is household based but carried out by part-time semi-specialists, perhaps working seasonally and producing for others outside their domestic unit (1997, 20). The 'semi-specialist' theory is perhaps supported by the restricted distribution of the metalworking debris, which is confined to one area of the site. This might suggest that a distinct smithing area was developing. This raises the potential of invoking a production model based on control, say by a family group (Gwilt 1997, 163) which inhabited the three roundhouses. Furthermore, the specialised knowledge of smithing, passed from one generation to the next, may account for the continuing distribution of smithing material in phase 4. Whether this constitutes evidence for social control over the later stages of metalworking (Fitzpatrick 1984, 184) remains unknown.

Evidence for other crafts is limited to textile working and leatherworking. Weaving is represented by the possible 'bodkin' (Rf 36) from roundhouse G6 and the remains of a ceramic loom weight (Rf 22) from roundhouse G4, both phase 4. Both are fragmentary and were recovered from drip gullies. Fragmentary remains of two spindle whorls from deposit (2100) indicate the preparation of yarns. Both these whorls were found overlying phase 3 roundhouse G11, and may have derived either from activity contemporary with, or subsequent to the use of, this structure. The fabric type F17 suggests that one whorl (Rf 54/55) may date to the middle Iron Age, whorl (Rf 57) of fabric type F30 is of suggested early Iron Age date. De Roche notes that although during the Iron Age differentiation of textile production stages is emerging, in many instances textile manufacture was still domestic and family based (1997, 23).

Although no awls were recovered, the working of leather is suggested by the recovery of two bone 'working platforms' (Rf 58 and Rf 59). One was recovered within a recut drip gully of roundhouse G1, phase 4. The second example, Rf 59, had been deposited within a pit located in the south-east corner of the site (G63, phase 4).

While the function of the utilised antler tine (Rf 49) remains uncertain, the polish and wear marks present suggest agricultural use, perhaps as a type of rake and pitchfork. Although material culture evidence for agriculture is sparse, if not absent, it would have been a fundamental element of survival.

Although the quantity of bone artefacts is very limited, a total of four items, it may be noteworthy that half of the assemblage (Rf 59 and Rf 49) was recovered from pit fills. These pits, G63 and G65, phase 4, were located south-south-east at the perimeter of the settlement, adjacent to the pit alignment/palisade boundary, G40, of phase 3. Recently, attention has been focused on the formation, position and deposition of 'rubbish' within Iron Age pits (Hill 1995; Gwilt 1997). Gwilt, in a study of the Iron Age settlement at Wakerley, Northants, noted that worked bone and antler were deliberately selected for deposition at boundary locations (1997, 162). He argues that the material type, rather than the original function of the artefact, was the important factor in this selection, linking the concept of nature versus culture, as exemplified by naturally occurring material humanly altered, with the ambiguity in the status of space at the edge of an enclosure. Whether this is the case at Salford is problematic; the presence of gnawing on Rf 49 suggests it was discarded prior to being redeposited within the pit, while the limited assemblage of worked skeletal material precludes valid comparison with the pattern suggested at Wakerley.

Weaponry

Although the linear boundary G40 produced a sizeable assemblage of pottery, only one pit [3312] yielded any metalwork. This may reflect the value placed upon this resource, as finds of metalwork from Bronze Age and early to middle Iron Age settlement sites are rare. The spearhead (Rf 51) was incomplete and abraded, suggesting it was redeposited in this pit, where it was found with ceramics of early Iron Age date (Fabric Types F01A, F28 and F29).

Personal adornment

Finds of personal adornment are few in phases 3 and 4. A shale bracelet (Rf 43) was found within the primary gully fill of roundhouse G11 in phase 3. Its form, plain with D-shaped cross-section, cannot be dated more closely than to the general span of the mid- to late Bronze Age (Longley and Needham 1980, 31) continuing into the Roman period. Finds of iron bracelets of Iron Age date, such as Rf 21 from a recut gully of roundhouse G1, phase 4, are not frequent occurrences. Parallels generally occur in burials of later Iron Age date (Montague 1997, 99), but an iron bracelet was found with a La Tène B type 1C brooch at Meon Hill (Haselgrove 1997 referring to Liddell 1935). The scarcity of middle Iron Age parallels for this bracelet may be a reflection of the care normally bestowed on a finite resource or differing deposition practices, rather than an indicator of a limited date range. Finds of Iron Age metalwork from contexts other than burials or hoards is a rarity, and changes in burial practices in the late Iron Age may have resulted in greater survival of these bracelets when compared with earlier examples. The simple form of this armlet/bracelet perhaps echoes earlier Late Bronze Age forms in copper alloy (Longley and Needham 1980, 21).

Two items of personal adornment were recovered from deposit (2100). Both are small annular beads, one of shale (Rf 39) and one of translucent blue glass (Rf 45). Neither is closely datable, the blue glass bead in particular enjoying a lengthy period of use spanning the 5th/6th century BC to at least the 8th century AD (Guido 1978, 66–8). The formation and suggested subsequent reworking of deposit (2100) make it difficult to ascribe these beads to specific phases of activity with any certainty, although it is suggested that the main period of deposition occurred in phase 4. The recovery of the shale bead immediately overlying the entrance to roundhouse G10 suggests its presence relates to occupation of that structure. The blue glass bead, in common with the majority of registered artefacts from deposit (2100), was found concentrated in the area overlying roundhouse G11, phase 3 and immediately adjacent to the south-south-west of the entrance to roundhouse G4, phase 4. This bead may therefore relate to occupation of roundhouse G4. Care, however, must be exercised as deposit (2100) also yielded occasional finds of Roman date, for example a coin and buckle plate, suggesting it remained exposed for a considerable period. Two coiled wire fragments also derived from this concentration of finds in (2100). These are likely to have formed parts of brooches; the date, form and phase of activity to which these belonged, however, remains uncertain.

The small cremation cemetery, G54, comprising four shallow sub-circular to oval pits, belongs to the Aylesford tradition of burials (Whimster 1981, 147). Although there are exceptions at either end of the spectrum, Aylesford tradition burials form a fairly homogeneous group, the majority containing either none or one to two brooches, with or without accompanying pots (Whimster 1981; Stead and Rigby 1989). The advent and standardisation of this burial rite coincides with a period of profound transformation in south-east England (Hill 1997, 102; Pearce 1997, 175). This has led some researchers to see these changes as consciously adopted by individuals and groups as part of new life-styles (Hill 1997, 102), an active decision to align with new political, social or religious systems. The choice of items selected for inclusion within the burial would appear to reflect changes in how people perceived their bodies and identities (Hill 1997), in comparison to stress placed on more communal-based resources of the middle Iron Age (Hill *et al* 1999, 268). But at the same time, the limited and apparently standardised range of items selected would appear to argue for a 'group identity'. Individuality within that group identity may have been portrayed not by what items were selected for inclusion, but perhaps by the quantity of items from a limited range (Pearce 1997).

The Salford burial assemblages conform to the general pattern, each containing two vessels and brooches, two burials, [603] and [689], differing only in possessing three as opposed to two brooches (Table 3.26). Whether the inclusion of more than two brooches is indicative of sex is not conclusive; only one cremation [608] could be sexed as a possible female. Age would not appear to have been a factor as cremation [686] would appear to be a young adult while [608] and [686] are thought to have been adults.

Cremation	Contexts	Urned	Accessory vessel	Grave goods	Goods within vessel?
1	608/602	Yes	1	2 Nauheim brooches (Fe)	Yes
2	603/604	Yes	1	2 Nauheim brooches (CA) 1 Stead Type (CA)	Yes
3	686/688	Yes	1	1 Nauheim (CA) 1 Alesia (CA)	External – organic container
4	689/691	No	2	2 Feugère 11a (CA) 1 Stead type (CA)	External – organic container

Table 3.26: Grave goods

Three of the four cremations were urned. The single unurned burial had two vessels placed on the eastern side of the pit, while the cremated bone was, in the main, to the west and north of the vessels. In two cases the accompanying grave goods were contained within the cremation vessel, while two had the grave goods deposited within the burial pit, possibly within organic containers. The brooches had been deposited after the bodies had been cremated, although the partially melted remains of an iron and copper-alloy object within burial [689] cremation urn may indicate that the body was accompanied by an object on the funeral pyre. The nature of this object, however, whether personal accessory or part of a container or fastener, remains unknown.

Two chronological phases are evident within the Aylesford tradition burials. The earlier group, equating with Stead's Welwyn phase, has been defined as burials which contain La Tène III brooches and no Gallo-Belgic pottery or local copies (Stead 1976; Hill *et al* 1999, 262). Although some of the brooch and pottery forms present in this earlier group could have been in use prior to 50 BC, the majority of these burials have been conventionally dated to between 50–10 BC. The later group, Stead's Lexden phase, possess a range of later brooch types and Gallo-Belgic pottery forms current after 15–10 BC, continuing into the first half of the 1st century AD (Stead 1976; Hill *et al* 1999, 262–3).

Although caution should be exercised in the simplistic use of brooches as dating indicators, particularly in burials, the Salford brooch assemblage suggests that this cemetery belongs to the earlier chronological period of the Aylesford tradition. The Nauheim brooches present in three of the four cremations as a type appear to run no later than *c.*25 BC, while the Alesia and Feugère's 11a brooches have a suggested period of use from the middle to later 1st century BC. The period of use of the final type of brooch present, Stead's type or boss on bow type, is presently a matter of debate (see Mackreth above and 1995; Haselgrove and Millett 1997; Duncan 2001). Haselgrove, in discussing brooch dating and deposition, defined two phases of La Tène D2, D2a (80–55 BC) characterised by late varieties of Nauheim and sharply shouldered filiform types and D2b (55–30 BC) typified by Alesia and collared or boss on bow brooches and filiforms with solid catch-plates (1997, 56). The Salford assemblage would appear to sit more comfortably within the La Tène D2b range.

The effect of curation on the date of deposition of brooches in graves should not be overlooked. Haselgrove (1997) has noted that brooch forms rapidly changed in the later 1st century BC, native forms quickly giving way to Romanised forms. The absence of any of these later forms from Salford and the apparent desire for standardisation within the grave assemblages strongly suggests a date of deposition before *c.*5–10 BC, and most likely earlier, perhaps prior to 25 BC.

The brooch forms present, their distribution within the burials, the uniformity of ceramic fabric and form, and the positioning of the burials, all suggest that the cemetery spans a limited period, probably not exceeding two generations.

Objects of unknown function

Three ceramic objects of uncertain, but perhaps related, function were found. The first object (Rf 25), although retaining one surface, is too small a fragment to determine its complete form. This is decorated with a pattern of fingernail impressions. Its recovery from the fills of gully extension [2073] in roundhouse G6 may suggest it relates to occupation of this structure in phase 4, although the fabric of this item, F29, with a suggested early Iron Age date, may indicate it was residual. The remaining two items were recovered from deposit (2100), within the concentration of finds overlying roundhouse G11 and immediately south of roundhouse G4. Both items were finely executed, plano-convex in cross-section and decorated on both surfaces. Only one disc, Rf 33, could be equated to ceramic fabric types and this, F19, has a suggested date of middle Iron Age. These may have been spindle whorls, although the lack of conclusive evidence for a central perforation, combined with their atypical form, makes this questionable. The care and effort bestowed on decorating these items is also not readily paralleled, although more ornately decorated spindle whorls are known from Roman contexts. If these objects do relate to textile production it is noteworthy that their occurrence corresponds to the conjectured 'craft zone' of the settlement.

3.5 Worked Flint

E McSloy

Quantification

In total, 1435 humanly worked flints, weighing 6593g, were recovered from the study area with, in addition, 151g of fire-fractured flint and stone.

Methodology

All worked flint was examined and sorted into the groups outlined in Tables 3.27–3.28. Full quantification was undertaken and this information is contained within the site archive. Recorded attributes include hammer-mode, presence of cortex and patination (cortication), degree of post-depositional damage and colour/type of raw material. Suggested dates are based on typologically and technologically diagnostic characteristics.

Provenance

A small proportion of the assemblage, 137 pieces or 9.5% was retrieved from what are considered early prehistoric contexts, phases 1–2. Dating evidence for the two early prehistoric phases comes in the form of late Neolithic 'Peterborough-type' ware pottery from phase 1, and small quantities of Bronze Age ceramics from phase 2. The bulk of the worked flint derives from contexts associated with the later prehistoric (Late Bronze Age–Late Iron Age) and subsequent settlement, and that retrieved from topsoil and subsoil horizons. Material from deposit (2100) is presented separately (Tables 3.27–3.28). This is not only in deference to the peculiarities of the formation process but also because of the use of dry sieving in this area, and the proportionally higher artefact retrieval this achieved. The recovered flint is essentially discussed as a single assemblage; however, any relevant compositional differences between the groups described here are highlighted.

Condition

With some notable exceptions, the flint from Salford had suffered some degree of post-depositional damage. Excepting topsoil-derived material, incidence of edge damage and abrasion was highest overall, and, on an individual level, most acute on material from deposit (2100). The reasons for this are not fully understood; some additional damage might have been caused by the filtration process, although it

Phase	Cores			Flakes		Blades			Tools	Total
	Flake	Blade	Rejuv.	Flake/chip	Ut.	Comp.	Brk.	Ut		
1	1	–	–	16	1	1	2	–	7	28
2	4	1	1	92	1	4	1	–	5	109
3	5	3	–	86	1	–	1	–	5	101
4–7	12	1	1	168	1	5	3	3	15	209
Deposit (2100)	58	–	4	686	4	4	5	1	33	795
unphased	32	4	1	137	–	3	3	2	11	193
Total	128			1193		38			76	1435

Table 3.27: Summary of flint by type

Period	Tool type	Ph 1	Ph 2	Ph 3	Ph 4–7	Deposit (2100)	unphased	Total
Mesolithic	Microlith	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
	Truncated blade	–	–	–	1	1	1	3
	Microdenticulate	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Mesolithic/early Neolithic	Denticulate	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
	Backed blades	1	1	–	–	–	–	2
	Leaf arrowheads	–	–	–	1	1	1	2
Neolithic	Ground axe fragments	2	–	–	1	3	1	6
Late Neolithic	petit-tranchet arrowhead	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Late Neolithic/early BA	plano-convex knives	–	–	–	–	3	–	3
	tanged arrowhead	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
	thumbnail scrapers	1	2	–	1	3	1	9
	discoidal scrapers	–	–	–	–	3	–	3
Undiagnostic	misc scrapers	1	1	–	8	11	8	26
	misc knives	–	–	1	–	–	–	3
	notched flakes	–	–	–	–	2	–	2
	misc retouched flakes	1	1	3	3	4	3	12
Total/% total		7(25%)	5(4.6%)	5(5.5%)	15 (6.9%)	33(4.2%)	11(5.6%)	76(5.3%)

Table 3.28: Flint tool summary

seems likely that the condition was effected by a real taphonomic process. By way of contrast, flint recovered from early prehistoric contexts (phases 1–2) is predominantly free from damage. The relative condition of material from the site will be further considered.

Incidence of patina or 'cortication' is rare, amounting to 59 pieces or 4.1% of the assemblage. For the most part this is confined to slight whitish mottling. A number of pieces, however, exhibit more complete discolouration, including several pieces of all-over white. Patination is a process affected by the conditions of deposition and the calcareous nature of the underlying geology. Consequently, the relative antiquity of pieces is not always a factor in the extent of patina. It is the case at Salford, however, that the proportion of patinated pieces of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date (41.2% of all blades, microliths, blade cores, rejuvenation flakes), is significantly higher than the figure for the total assemblage.

Raw Material

The flint from Salford is predominantly grey-brown, although mid-grey, brown and black pieces were also noted in the assemblage. Mainly buff-coloured cortex survived on approximately 61% of all debitage, varying between rough and thick to thinned and abraded, as if rolled by riverine action. Complete cores are small, averaging 26g and ranging in weight between 8g and 59g. The great bulk of the assemblage is consistent with the use of small cobble-sized nodules, almost certainly deriving from the underlying Ouse Valley gravels. Pieces which are unlikely to have been obtained from this source comprise a number of flakes of a pale grey, fine-grained chert, including three certainly struck from ground axes. A similar pattern of exploitation of local gravel sources and limited importation has been noted at neighbouring sites in the vicinity of Milton Keynes (Green 1974; Richards 1994).

Manufacture

An attempt was made to determine the manner of hammer mode employed (Ohnuma and Bergman 1982). The main indications of 'hard hammer' percussion (with flint or stone hammer), were a thick butt or striking platform, a clear point or cone of percussion and an often prominent bulb of percussion. 'Soft hammer' struck pieces, where a percussor of wood or antler was used, were characterised by a minimal striking platform, low, diffuse bulb of percussion and 'lipped butt'. In a significant proportion of cases, 426 pieces or 32.4%, no determination was possible because incompleteness or secondary working obscured the proximal end.

A large majority of the material assessed, 867 pieces or 66.1%, exhibited characteristics appropriate for 'hard hammer' production. Only 19 pieces or 1.4% could be assigned with certainty to a 'soft hammer' struck group. The dominance of 'hard hammer' mode also accounts for the large number of shattered 'chips', the high incidence of hinge fracture and incidence of incipient bulbs of percussion noted on a number of flake cores and fragments. Despite the evidence inferable from the core product, no clear examples of hammer stones of flint or of any other material were identified.

Evidence for pressure flaking was limited to a small number of arrowheads and knives exhibiting shallow invasive retouch (nos 3, 6 and 8). Retouch by direct percussion was more common and most scrapers would probably have been made in this way.

The Catalogue

Individual catalogue entries have been selected for the most part on the basis of their diagnostic qualities and their relevance to the chronology of the assemblage. In the case of less diagnostic implements, such as scrapers, a selection has been made to illustrate the broad range of types.

Debitage

Flakes

Flakes, which here include fragments, chips and utilised pieces, comprise the largest proportion of the assemblage, amounting to 1190 pieces or 83.1% of the total. As the overwhelming majority of the flint assemblage was demonstrably residual, no analysis of length:breadth ratio was undertaken for comparison across the site. However, the impression strongly gained during quantification was of broad, squat removals with length:breadth ratio rarely much in excess of 1:1.

The majority of complete flakes, 638 pieces or 68.4%, retained some cortex. Although a high quantity of cortical flakes can, in certain circumstances, be taken as an indication of an initial 'reduction' stage of production, this is unlikely to be the case at Salford. As demonstrated by Green (1974, 84–85), the quantity of cortical or partly cortical flakes on a site is dictated largely by the qualities of the raw material available. It is the case at sites such as Salford, that little of the raw material available would be capable of producing large quantities of non-cortical removals.

Blades

Thirty-eight complete blades, fragments and utilised 'cutting' blades were recovered, representing 2.6% of the total. Where substantially complete, identification of blades was made using a formula where the length:breadth ratio is 2:1 or greater. A more subjective assessment, intended to determine whether the manufacture of the blade was intentional, was also undertaken. Such an assessment relies on the identification of ridges employed purposefully to guide the shape of the removal (Gingell and Harding 1979).

This assessment was used independently to identify sections from broken or snapped blades.

Cores

Cores, including fragments and rejuvenation flakes, amount to 128 pieces, representing 8.9% of the total assemblage. The recovered cores can be divided fairly neatly into flake cores (87.5%) and blade cores/ rejuvenation flakes (12.5%). The flake cores comprise single platform 'pebble' cores and cores with multiple platforms, including discoidal types. Greater standardisation is apparent with the blade cores represented; there is less rotation, with only single and opposed platform blade cores present. A number of the blade cores exhibited signs of rejuvenation and three core 'tablets' and a further four ridged 'trimming' flakes were identified. In most instances, blade cores and rejuvenation flakes displayed evidence for platform abrasion (Fig 3.14 no. 1). Corresponding abrasion was also noted in many cases with the blades themselves.

1 Unstratified. **Blade core.** Exhibits two platforms on opposing faces at approximately 90°. The main platform shows evidence for preparation the form of platform abrasion. Distinctive 'chocolate' brown flint. L 40mm, W 36mm D 14mm. (Fig 3.14).

Tools

Tools are summarised by phase in Table 3.28. The overall proportion of tools (here classified as all pieces with secondary working) is 5.5%.

Axes

No complete axes were recovered from Salford. Two ground axe fragments preserved areas of the cutting edge. A further four fragments retained areas of finely ground surface and almost certainly represent axes. As previously noted, three of these fragments were of fine-grained chert, probably not from a local source. The ground axe illustrated is unusual in retaining a substantial area of cortex. A chalk source seems likely for this piece.

2 (2100 square 1569.1). **Ground axe fragment**. Represents approximately one-quarter of a thin-butted, flaked and ground axe. Convex scraping edge at distal end. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 55mm, W 45mm. (Fig 3.14).

Arrowheads

Four arrowheads were recovered. The two rather inelegant leaf arrowheads (nos 3 and 4) probably date to the earlier Neolithic. In both cases the irregular or dipping profile of the blank is preserved and it is possible they represent hastily produced or unfinished examples. The later Neolithic *petit tranchet* arrowhead (no. 5) is a relatively rare example of the type from the eastern region. Its poor condition is a feature of material from deposit (2100). By way of contrast, tanged arrowhead (no. 6) is very finely made and in exceptionally good condition.

3 (2100 square 1629.1). **Leaf-shaped arrowhead**. Bi-facially worked over most of surface with semi-abrupt and shallow invasive retouch. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 30mm, W 15mm. (Fig 3.14).

4 (2205) G7, phase 4. **Leaf-shaped arrowhead**. Broad and squat type, closest to Green's type 3A (Green 1980). Retouch is bi-facial although confined to the edges. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 35mm, W 22mm. (Fig 3.14).

5 (2100 square 1692.1). ***Petit tranchet* type arrowhead**. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 30mm, W 21mm. (Fig 3.14).

6 (799) G79 Unphased pit group. **Tanged arrowhead**. Elongated and with acute point. Closest to Green's 'Sutton A' type. The invasive retouch is bi-facial, extending over virtually the entire surface. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 37mm, W 19mm. (Fig 3.14).

Knives

Six complete or fragmentary knives were identified. In all cases retouch was uni-facial, over the dorsal surface only.

7 (162) G77, phase 1. **Knife**. Produced on wholly cortical flake with 'natural' backing. The curving edge is formed by continuous shallow invasive retouch. The apparent 'notch' worked from the dorsal surface is likely to represent post-depositional damage. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 48mm, W 27mm. (Fig 3.14).

8 (2100 square 1302.1). **Knife/piercer**. Roughly triangular. The knife edge, which is partly broken, is worked with invasive retouch. Secondary use as a piercer or possibly a scraper is indicated by abrupt retouch at the apex. Dark grey-brown flint. L 49mm, W 35mm. (Fig 3.14).

Scrapers

Forty scrapers were identified, making up 52.6% of the combined tool assemblage (Table 3.29). Scraper types have been defined below on the basis of scraping edge location and, in the case of 'thumbnail scrapers', the overall size. With the exception of discoidal and thumbnail types, which are of likely late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, the scrapers are not diagnostic and probably are of mixed date.

9 (2212) G7, phase 4. **Endscraper.** Flattened convex scraping edge at distal end. Produced on long narrow flake. Unpatinated dark grey flint. L 41mm, W 20mm. (Fig 3.15).

10 (1865) G67, phase 1. **Endscraper.** Near flat scraping edge at distal end. Produced on wholly cortical flake. Unpatinated dark grey flint. L 34mm, W 28mm. (Fig 3.15).

11 (unstratified) **Endscraper**. Convex scraping edge at distal end. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 46mm, W 30mm. (Fig 3.15).

Type	No.
Endscrapers	18
Sidescrapers	6
End/sidescrapers	4
Discoidal scrapers	3
Thumbnail scrapers	9
Total	40

Table 3.29: Flint scrapers by type

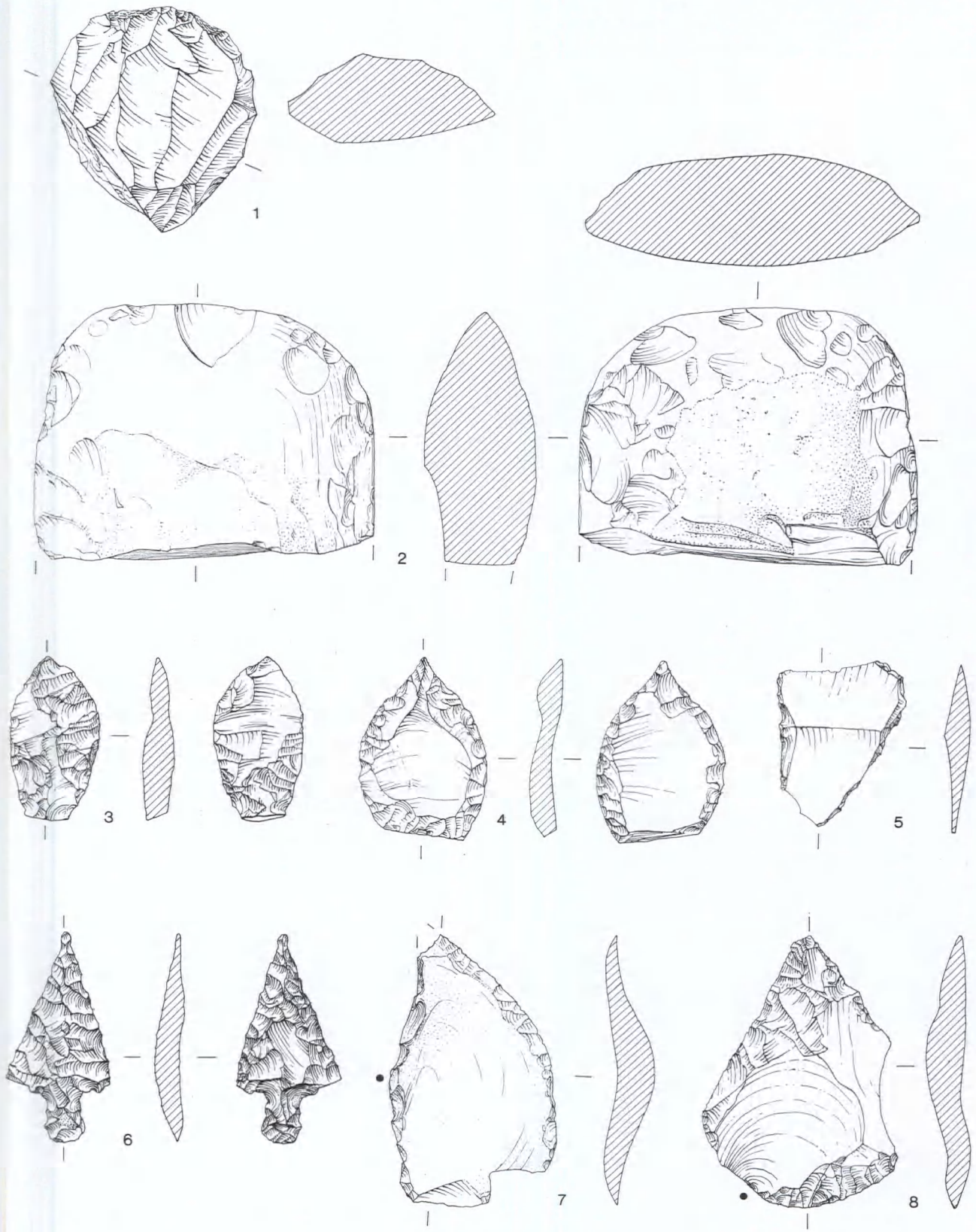


Fig 3.14: Flint 1–8 (scale 1:1)

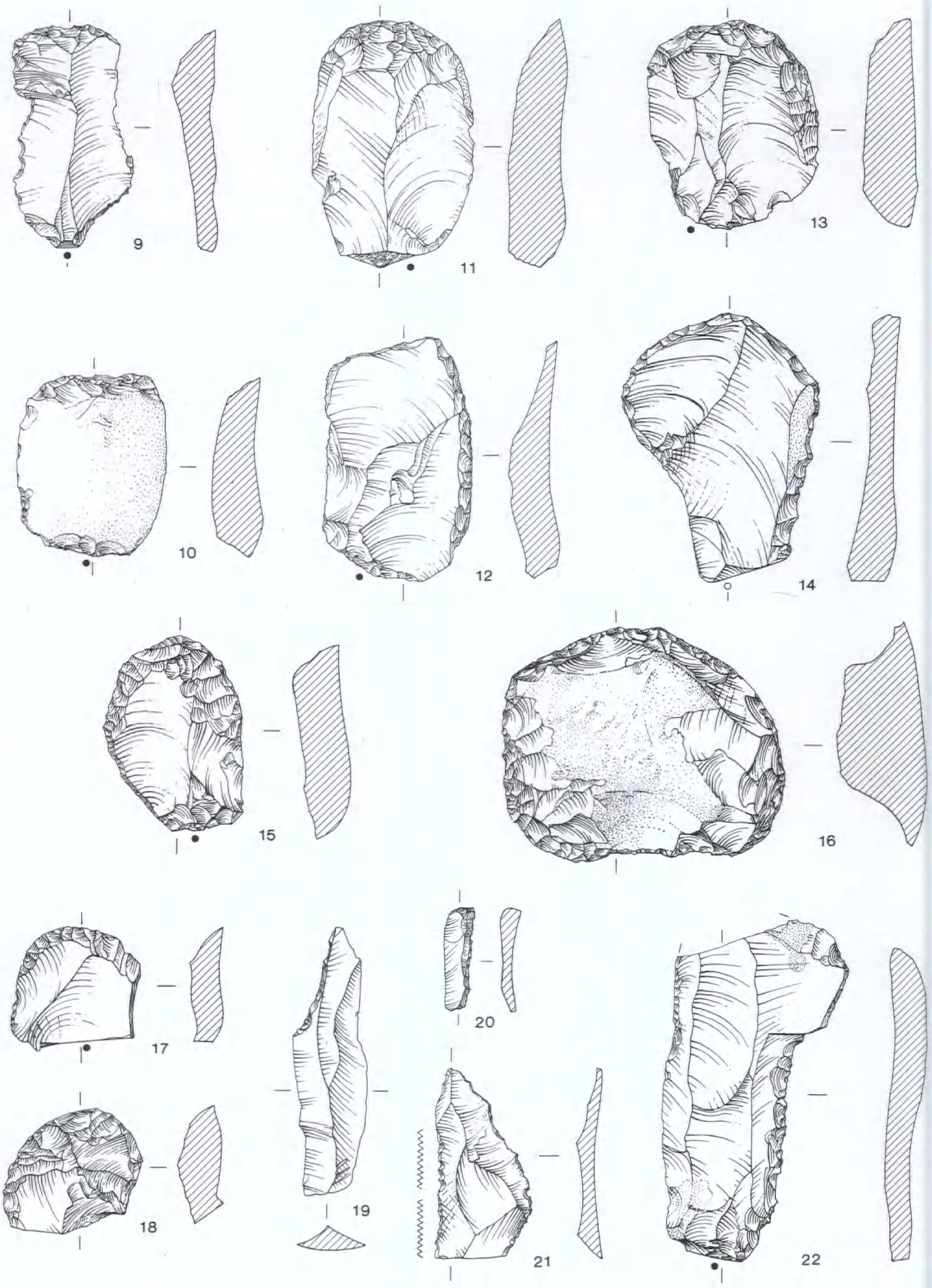


Fig 3.15: Flint 9–22 (scale 1:1)

12 (2100 square 1640.1). **Sidescraper.** Flat scraping edge, extending the length of one side. Unpatinated dark grey-brown flint. L 47mm, W 27mm. (Fig 3.15).

13 (576) G43, phase 2. **End/sidescraper.** Convex scraping edge at distal end, extending down one side. Unpatinated pale grey flint. L 37mm, W 31mm. (Fig 3.15).

14 (2232) G10, phase 4. **End/sidescraper**. Broad convex scraping edge at distal end, extending down one side. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 48mm, W 37mm. (Fig 3.15).

15 (083) G41, phase 6. **End/sidescraper**. Narrow, rounded scraping edge at distal end, extending down both sides. Unpatinated dark grey-brown flint. L 36mm, W 26mm. (Fig 3.15).

16 (2100 square 1405.1). **Discoidal scraper.** Produced on large, natural (?frost shattered) blank. Unpatinated dark grey flint. L 55mm, W 45mm. (Fig 3.15).

17 (2100 square 1004.3). **Thumbnail scraper.** Convex scraping edge at distal end. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 24mm, W 22mm. (Fig 3.15).

18 (007) G42, phase 2. **Thumbnail scraper**. Convex scraping edge at distal end, extending to sides. Unpatinated mid-grey-brown flint. L. 26mm, W. 22mm. (Fig 3.15).

Other tools

Mesolithic tools in the assemblage include single examples of a rod-like microlith, an obliquely blunted blade and a microdenticulate. A find which was clearly residual from the ring-ditch fill was a backed blade (no. 22), which is either Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic in date.

Not illustrated are fourteen miscellaneous and undiagnostic retouched pieces, including two notched flakes. A variety of uses can be inferred for such pieces, with retouch added either to strengthen a cutting edge or to blunt an unwanted edge to make handling easier.

19 (unstratified). **Truncated blade.** Obliquely blunted at proximal end. Dark grey flint deeply patinated to white. L 51mm, W 13mm. (Fig 3.15).

20 (2100 square 1690.1). **Microlith.** Rod type. Grey-brown flint with slight mottled white patina. L 20mm, W 5mm. (Fig 3.15).

21 (2473) unphased. **Microdenticulate**. Fragment of blade with serration to both edges. Unpatinated mid-grey flint, L 51mm, W 13mm. (Fig 3.15).

22 (576) G43 phase 2. **Backed blade?** Substantial blade with spall extending to approximately three-quarters its length, taken from proximal end, possibly to facilitate hafting. This, the 'backed' edge, and what remains of the distal end has been blunted by abrupt retouch. The cutting edge exhibits likely utilisation damage. Unpatinated mid-grey flint. L 36mm, W 16mm. (Fig 3.15).

Discussion

Although the flint work constitutes, in the main, a 'dispersed' body of material, evidence in the form of diagnostic tool types and observation of working technologies attest to human activity from the Mesolithic to the late Neolithic-Bronze Age at Salford.

Evidence for Mesolithic–early Neolithic activity is confined to the presence of diagnostic, but clearly residual, material. This includes a number of characteristic tool types and evidence for blade production (Tables 3.27–3.28). The number of diagnostic Mesolithic–early Neolithic flint comprises 65 pieces, or 4.5% of the assemblage.

During the later part of the Mesolithic there appears to have been an appreciable expansion in the land exploitation, with river valley sites such as Salford increasingly producing artefactual evidence for activity of some kind. Semi-permanent or seasonally occupied 'base camps' will have existed in the area, although in the case of Salford, the quantity of material is not great and is unlikely to represent more than accumulated losses from hunting forays or the general movement of people.

The bulk of the flint from Salford, including waste 'debitage', is consistent with working traditions of the later Neolithic and Bronze Age. Relatively little of this material is sufficiently diagnostic to place it more accurately in this scheme. The range of tools present, however, does suggest domestic activity of some form, although its exact nature and longevity is not known. The features from within phase 1, dated by late Neolithic pottery and, in some cases, by flint tools, provide one context for such activity.

The structural evidence for phase 1 is meagre compared to later phases. The two clusters of features, G77 and G67, which make up this phase are, however, fairly typical of what is considered as representative of domestic activity of the early prehistoric period in the region and beyond. Similarly insubstantial 'occupational' traces have been recorded recently at Biddenham Loop and Dog Farm, Willington, Bedfordshire (Albion in prep a and b). Although the quantity of flint recovered from activity phase 1 is not large (Tables 3.27–3.28), the number of tools represented (7 items, or 25% are 'potentially' of similar date) is significantly greater compared to later phases. The flint from activity phase 1 is generally indicative of a late Neolithic–Bronze Age date.

The presence of a tree throw hole, feature [28]/[22], among the western cluster of early prehistoric features (G77) is significant. Whether the feature represents deliberate tree clearance or if the tree was a victim of storms is not certain. Any uprooted tree would have represented a fortuitous opportunity for flint procurement and in this instance may have provided a focus for the associated pitting activity (Table 3.30).

The most substantial feature from phase 1 is feature [1864], G67. A large quantity, 33 sherds, of late Neolithic pottery was recovered from this feature, along with burnt stone, charcoal and worked flint, including a crude end scraper. Much has been made in recent years of the ritual character of some Neolithic pits (Thomas 1991, 56–64). It has been argued that certain such features, most commonly

Phase	Group	Description	Blade	Flake	Core	Core rejuvenation	Tools
1	67	Pit [1864] fill	0	4	0	0	1
1	77	Pit [29] fill	1	0	0	0	1
1	77	Pit [30] fill	2	2	0	0	2
1	77	Intercutting pit [51, 52, 54]	0	11	1	0	3
2	42	Ring-ditch primary fill	0	5	2	0	0
2	42	Ring-ditch secondary fill	0	8	0	0	1
2	42	Pit [2] fill	0	6	0	0	0
2	43	Ring-ditch fill	1	17	1	0	3
2	44	Ring-ditch fill	4	55	2	1	1
		Totals	8	108	6	1	12

Table 3.30: Flint from phases 1 and 2

isolated, regular in shape and containing significant quantities of pottery, food remains, flint tools and debitage, are for more than routine rubbish disposal. The frequent inclusion of burnt material, along with the other typical contents has led to the suggestion that the whole assemblage is 'intentionally redolent of hearth and home' and probably indicative of some form of ritual. While feature [1864] is not comparable in all respects to this model, a 'special' function of some form seems likely.

Activity in phase 2, of a clearly ritual nature, is attested in the form of ring-ditch monuments. Presumed central burials or any 'satellite' interments were not located and there are no individual flint tools or groups that might confidently be suggested as deriving from any such contexts.

Evidence for domestic activity contemporary with the construction or period of 'use' of the monuments is minimal. Very little pottery of Bronze Age date was present in the ring-ditch fills and diagnostic tool types limited to two 'thumbnail' type scrapers. The flintwork recovered from the fills of the ring ditches (Table 3.30) appears to have accumulated over time as part of the gradual silting process. The ratio of flint tools to debitage in this phase (equivalent to 4.6%) is lower than the likely 'dispersed' assemblages of phases 3–7 (Table 3.27). The proportion is more comparable to that seen in deposit (2100) (4.1%). The disparity is most likely a result of the use of sieving in these areas and the consequent recovery of the small flakes and chips, which under normal circumstances might easily be missed. Additionally, collection bias may result from a tendency in the less intensively sampled areas to recover the more visible tool types.

Evidence for late Bronze Age/early Iron Age flintworking is not widely attested in the region. The neighbouring Milton Keynes sites at Bancroft (Richards 1994) and Pennyland (Williams 1993) have produced no positive evidence for the continued use of flint in this period, and all flint from later prehistoric features was considered to be residual at these sites. The tool types found in the contexts within phase 3 are largely undiagnostic but not uncommon in late Neolithic–middle Bronze Age groups (Table 3.28). The quantity of flint debitage is not large compared to subsequent phases and was most likely present in the soil when the buildings and other features which make up the phase were being constructed.

4 ECOFACTUAL EVIDENCE

Introduction

The fourth chapter of the Salford report gathers together the ecofactual evidence, presenting specialist reports on: 4.1 Human Bone, 4.2 Animal Bone, 4.3 Pollen, 4.4 Waterlogged Wood and 4.5 Macroscopic Plant and Insect Remains. In addition to the human bone from the cremations and animal bone recovered from all contexts, samples were taken for plant macrofossil and waterlogged wood and included 43 flots of carbonised plant material from a wide range of archaeological features, 9 flots of waterlogged material from the pits and 398 bags of abraded charcoal from the cement mixer and sieving of deposit (2100). Block samples were taken for pollen analysis. As with the artefacts in Chapter 3, each section is separately prefaced.

4.1 Human Bone

T A Jackman

Introduction

Cremated bone was recovered from four burials. It weighed a total of 1650g.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the examination was to sort, identify and catalogue the human bone and to calculate a minimum number of individuals. It was anticipated that this might lead to further demographic and pathological information together with information on cremation ritual and technique.

Method of Retrieval and Recording

Each of the burial contexts were fully excavated, with the contents of the funerary urns wet sieved through a 0.5mm mesh. The samples were then sorted for human and non-human bone. The human bone was weighed and recorded onto a plan of the skeleton. No non-human bone was identified. Surface changes such as colour, cracking and distortion were also recorded on a standardised form together with a measurement of the longest fragment and any other comments.

Size of the Sample

Each cremation was weighed, then after sorting, the identified bone was weighed to calculate the percentage of identified fragments: 31.3% of cremation 1 was identified, 19.2% of cremation 2 and 3% of cremation 3 giving a total of 53.5% of fragments identified (Table 4.1). There were no identifiable fragments from cremation 4.

Cremation 1 (608), [602].
Sex: ?female (size and appearance of the bone)
Age: Adult
No. of individuals: 1
Total weight: 655g
Weight of identifiable fragments: 205g (31.3%)
Maximum length: 78.9mm from a long bone
Colour: Generally buff with blue and black fragments from the pelvis and petrous.
Distortion: Cracking and twisting of the long bones.

Cremation 2 (603), [604]
Sex: ?
Age: Young adult (sutures and teeth)
No. of individuals: 1
Total weight: 780g
Weight of identifiable fragments: 150g (19.2%)
Maximum length: 63.1mm from a femur, proximal end
Colour: Buff
Distortion: Cracking and twisting of the long bones.

Cremation 3 (686), [687, 688]
Sex: ?
Age: Adult
No. of individuals: 1
Total weight: 160g
Weight of identifiable fragments: 5g (3%)
Maximum length: 26.4mm from a long bone
Colour: Buff
Distortion: Few transverse cracks.

Cremation	Context	Age	Sex	No. Ind	Weight	Weight of identified frags	Percentage sample	Max length of frags
1	602	Adult	?Female	1	655g	205g	31.3%	78.9mm
2	604	Young adult	?	1	780g	150g	19.2%	63.1mm
3	687, 688	Adult	?	1	160g	5g	3%	26.4mm
4	690, 691	?	?	1	55g	–	–	–

Table 4.1: Cremations at Salford

Cremation 4 (689), [690, 691]
Sex: ?
Age: ?
No. of individuals: ?
Total weight: 55g
Weight of identifiable fragments: NA
Maximum length: NA
Colour: Buff
Distortion: Longitudinal cracks.

Discussion

Number of individuals
No more than one individual was present in each sample as no two bones the same were identified. This does not rule out the possibility that one individual could have been spread between two or more burial contexts.

Age
General categories for age have been assigned to Cremations 1, 2 and 3. Cremation 4 was too small and fragmented to give any indication of age. Cremations 1 and 3 are adults based on the fusion of the epiphyses. Cremation 3 has a skull fragment with a well-defined suture, although judging by the thickness of the skull fragments present, it is still likely to be adult. Cremation 2 is possibly a young adult. It also has skull sutures that can be seen which, together with the rate of attrition of the surviving teeth, are consistent with a young adult.

Sex
Only cremation 1 could be sexed and was possibly female, the identification based on morphological features of the skull: the zygomatic arch, nuchal crest, size and shape of the mandible and on the sizes of the ends of the long bones.

Surface appearance
All the cremations were well calcined and buff in colour, indicating that they had been burned while still fleshed and to a fairly consistent temperature over the majority of the body. Cremation 1 had a few fragments from the pelvis and the petrous portion from the skull that were blue-black in colour. All the cremations displayed varying amounts of transverse and longitudinal cracking with distortion and twisting of the long bones. In general, the larger the sample, the more of these surface changes were seen.

Pathology
There was no evidence of pathology present.

Conclusion

The remains of two, possibly three, individuals from burial contexts were identified. All the bone is buff coloured and well burned, apart from fragments of pelvis and skull from Cremation 1 which are blue-black in colour. They all displayed varying amounts of cracking, distortion and twisting. Two of the cremations are adult and one is a young adult. Cremation 1 is a possible female.

4.2 Animal Bone

A F Roberts

Introduction

A total of 5321 animal bone fragments were examined from the excavations at Salford Quarry. Bones from the deposit (2100) were treated separately (see below). Of the bones, 93.2% came from Iron Age phases, mainly from ditches, 4.4% are from unphased contexts, and the remainder from Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon phases. Fragmentary bones, unidentified to species, make up 71.3% (Table 4.2). The bones identified to species are also fragmentary but have provided measurements and tooth-wear data.

Methods

The bones were recovered by manual excavation and are in a fair state of preservation. They show signs of weathering, burning and gnawing. Three bones show evidence of being digested by a dog. 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; withers heights are estimated using the factors of Kiesewalter, Matolcsi and Teichert described in von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974). Tooth wear was recorded following the method of Grant (1982) and described below following O'Connor (1988). All records are with the site archive, and the bones are stored at Bedford Museum.

Species

The species identified were almost entirely domestic, being horse, cattle, pig, sheep, goat, dog and domestic fowl. Red deer and perhaps the single duck bone are the only wild species present.

Horse

Horse bones, 176 of which were recovered, came from 85 contexts in phases 3–7 (Table 4.3). Of these contexts 75% contained only one or two bones; teeth or skull fragments are the main components of those contexts with greater numbers, with the exception of [1132] G36 which contains five limb bones. The bones come from all parts of the body (Table 4.3). The large number of skull fragments in ungrouped feature [3875] probably come from a single skull. All the bones are from adult specimens with the exception of a mandible from [3670] G64.

Gnawing by dogs is present on nine limb bones including radius, femur, metapodials and phalanges. Knife marks are present on a femur from [2765] G64 and two metapodials from [3688] G63 and [792] G55. A scapula, Rf 59, from [3688] G63, was covered in small holes as though it had been used as a platform on which items were pierced (Fig 3.13). Despite the fragmented nature of most of the bones, 20 bones could be measured and 4 withers heights calculated. These gave heights of 1.20m and 1.25m from [1132] G36, 1.31m from an isolated post hole [3558] both in phase 3, 1.20m in [1099] G1, phase 4. These are ponies of 12 to 13 hands, larger than those from Stagsden (Roberts 2000, 116).

Phase	Feature	Horse	Cattle	Pig	Sheep/Goat	Dog	Red deer	Fowl	Domestic duck	Unid	Total
1	Pits									3	3
	Tree throw									6	6
3	Pit	5	24	7	8	1	1			108	154
	Ditch	33	130	15	91	4				739	1012
	Structure	39	9	2	10	1	1			84	146
	Hearth									1	1
4	Pit	20	120	33	24	3	2			459	661
	Ditch	62	396	32	232	2	1			1832	2557
	Structure	5	34	5	19			1	1	187	252
	Layer									1	1
5	Pond	7	25	3	10					119	164
6	Pit	1	1		3	1				13	19
	Ditch		4							9	13
	Structure		1							3	4
	Layer		10		1					20	31
7	Pit	4	16	2	5					26	53
Total		176	770	99	403	12	5	1	1	3610	5077

Table 4.2: Numbers of animal bones by phase, species and feature type

	Horse					Cattle					Pig					Sheep/Goat				
Phases	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Skull	25	1			1	11	24	3	1		3	5				8	5			1
Mandible		1				18	77	2	6		6	6				13	36			
Tooth	35	39	6		1	49	143		6	2	5	27				32	112		3	
Vertebra					1	4	4										6	1		
Scapula	2	3				11	38	3	1		2	4			1	6	6			
Humerus						5	33	3		2	3	4	1		1	7	12	2	1	
Radius	2	5	1	1		3	31	1		2	1	2	1			5	22	2		1
Ulna						9	12	1			1	4				1	1	1		
Carpal	1						3													
Metacarpus	3	5				3	25	1		1		2				7	5	1		1
Pelvis	1	2				6	30	1	1	1		1				7	4	1		
Femur	2	6				7	21	1		2	3	2	1			3	6	1		1
Tibia		2				11	28	5		3	1	5				11	45			1
Calcaneus	1	2				3	16					1				1	1			
Astragalus	3	4			1	2	14	1				3				2	2	1		
Tarsal						1	3													
Metatarsus		3				10	20	2	1							7	9			
Metapodial	1	5				1	6			3		3					2			
Phalanx 1	1	9				4	14					1					1			
Phalanx 2						5	5	1												
Phalanx 3							3													

Table 4.3: Numbers of skeletal elements by phase for horse, cattle, pig, sheep/goat

Age	Cattle		Sheep		Pig	
	Phase 3	**Phase 4**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**
Juvenile		1		1		
Immature	1	4			1	1
Subadult		1	5	7	1	
Adult	2	11	2	9		
Elderly	1	1				

Table 4.4: Tooth eruption and wear: cattle, sheep and pig mandibles

Cattle

Of the identified species, cattle bones are the most common, with 770 specimens. They come from 236 contexts and all phases, with most from ditch fills in phases 3 and 4 (Table 4.2). Few contexts contain ten or more bones. All parts of the skeleton are present (Table 4.3) but none in discrete groups, suggesting an absence of specific processing areas.

Age at death can be estimated from 22 mandibles, 4 from phase 3 and 18 from phase 4 (Table 4.4). Over half come from mature adult and elderly animals, with a smaller number from immature and juvenile animals. Measurements were taken from 57 bones, 3 of which give withers heights of 1.00m from [1800] phase 4, 1.04m from [3833] G39, phase 5, and 1.12m from [3001] G 77 phase 7, indicative of small cattle. The only evidence of pathology or abnormality from the site occurs in cattle bones. In a mandible from [821] G1 there are two large foramina at the site of the mental foramen. An adult acetabulum from [1500] G4 retains the suture lines of its components, while another acetabulum from [2908] G40 has a patch of eburnation on its pubic surface, resulting from stress on the joint, perhaps connected with use as a draught animal. Finally a horncore from [3458] G40 is misshapen, but whether this is through trauma or illness is unclear. Knife marks are found on mandible, humerus, pelvis and tibia, and chopping marks are common. A mandible, Rf 58, from [825] G1 is covered in the same small holes as the horse scapula described above (Fig 3.13). Gnawing is frequent, particularly on the ends of long bones and calcanei.

Pig

Pig bones are the least frequent of those from the large domestic animals; 99 were found in 69 contexts (Table 4.2) from 4 phases, 54 of the contexts containing single bones. Teeth are the commonest element found (Table 4.3), but all parts of the skeleton are represented in small numbers.

Age at death can be estimated from three mandibles (Table 4.4), which come from immature and subadult animals with a range of between 1 and 2 years old. Adult animals were also present, as shown by a large male lower canine tooth from [2902] G65. Gnawing is evident on 5 bones; an astragalus and a metapodial have been digested by a dog. There are no signs of butchery and a single tooth has been burnt in this assemblage from an isolated post hole [50].

Sheep/Goat

Sheep/goat bones are found in 165 contexts and all phases (Table 4.2). The presence of goat is indicated by three horncores in phases 3, 4 and 7; no other bones have been definitely identified from the species. As with other species from this site, the sheep/goat bones occur in small numbers in most contexts and only seven contain ten or more; all parts of the body are represented (Table 4.3).

Withers heights can be estimated from eight specimens from phases 3, 4 and 5. In phase 3, heights of 0.57m, 0.59m, and 0.61m occur, phase 4 has heights of 0.57m, 0.59m and 0.64m, and phase 5 a height of 0.61m, all indicating small sheep.

Ageing data is provided by 24 mandibles (Table 4.4). This shows peaks at the subadult and mature adult stages, suggesting a group of animals killed in the year after their birth and a second group killed after a productive adult life.

Gnawing is infrequent on sheep bones, only five incidences being noted. An astragalus has been digested by a dog. Knife marks are found on the distal end of a tibia, and another has multiple cuts on the shaft. A goat horncore from phase 7 has been sawn from the skull.

Dog

Only twelve dog bones were found, all singly, with the exception of an atlas, calcaneus and metapodial from [1532] G5 phase 3 (Table 4.2). All other bones found were from the head: skull, mandible, teeth and atlas, the mandibles coming from a juvenile and an elderly individual. The size of the older mandible fits in well with those recorded by Harcourt (1974).

Red deer

The only wild animal represented in the assemblage was the red deer, with five specimens from phases 3 and 4 (Table 4.2). The burr, base tine and lower beam of a large shed antler was the only bone from [1322] G18 phase 3, a fragment of antler beam came from [2467] G8 phase 3, and a tine chopped from the beam from [1668] G4 phase 4. The remaining bones were a metatarsus and humerus from [3720] G65 phase 4 (Grant 1981).

Bird bones

The only evidence for birds on the site comes from isolated post holes in phase 4 (Table 4.2). A radius shaft of a bantam-sized domestic fowl was found in [3442] and a tibiotarsus of a mallard was found in [1796].

Bones by Phase

Phase 1

Groups containing bones: G77

The nine bones from phase 1 come from the tree throw hole [28] [22] and pit [30]. None can be identified to species.

Phase 3

Groups containing bones:

Roundhouses G3, G5, G11 (G52), G12, G17, G45, G48, G68; four-post structures G18, G20, G28, G29; enclosure G36; boundary G40.

Of the bones in this phase, 76.5% come from the fills of ditches, 11.65% from pits and 11.04% from structural contexts. All the animal species identified are present, unidentified fragments are 71% of the assemblage. Most bones come from roundhouses defined by ditches; those defined by post holes provide few bones. Pits in this phase, whether defining structures or marking boundaries, contain random and sparse bone fragments, which do not appear to have been purposefully deposited. Ungrouped feature [3875] stands out as containing a possibly complete but fragmented horse skull.

Phase 4

Groups containing bones:

Roundhouses GI, G2, G4, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10, G13, G14, G15, G21, G76; four-post structure G22, G59; trackway G38; enclosure ditch G55; pit groups G63, G64, G65.

This phase presents a similar picture to phase 3, with the majority of bones coming from ditches, particularly those of roundhouses. The difference here is marked by the pit groups, which contain a variety of bones from all the animal species. There is no evidence from the bones for tanning, which is suggested for G64. The cattle skulls are from four individuals and found in two different pits [3458] and [3670]. All have their horncores present, and are found with horse, cattle, pig and sheep bones.

Phase 5

Groups containing bones: G39.

A single fill from this pond contained horse, cattle, pig and sheep bones and a predominance of unidentified fragments.

Phase 6

Groups containing bones: G41, G37, G78.

The features in these groups provided few bones. The ditches of the enclosure G41 contained only four cattle bones and nine unidentified fragments; there was even less from G37. The pits in G78 contained single bones of horse, cattle, sheep and dog.

Phase 7

Groups containing bones: G66.

This pit contained 53 bones, half of which were identifiable. They included horse, cattle, pig, sheep/goat bones, the goat horncore having been sawn from the skull. The cattle bones do not indicate tanning waste.

Summary

The bone sample from Salford is fragmentary, with 71.3% unidentified to species, and only a handful of species identified. Of the assemblage, 67.3% of the bones come from ditch fills and 18% from pits. There are no partial or complete burials and no concentrations of bone type, which might have indicated processing areas. The only indications of craft involving bones are the pierced horse scapula and cattle mandible from phase 4, the sawn goat horncore from the Saxon period and, perhaps, the shed antler, which must have been collected outside the settlement (Grant 1981).

The animal bones reflect an economy based chiefly on cattle and sheep, with lesser but continuous evidence for pigs. The three goat horncores from three phases may indicate that the goat was present in small numbers, but never common (Maltby 1981). The bone assemblage is comparable to those from the settlements at Stagsden (Roberts 2000) and Odell, described by Grant (1989). Sheep were probably 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 subadult or adult, with few killed when juvenile or immature, a pattern which differs from that observed at Stagsden and other Iron Age sites, including Gussage All Saints, Dorset, where the younger sheep were killed at the immature stage (Harcourt 1979).

Cattle were kept for milk and manure, and traction may be added, for which the pathology of the acetabulum in a pit [2908] G40 might be evidence. The mandibles from the site are predominantly adult, with two of advanced years, showing that meat was a secondary product. The pig is of most use when dead; the three mandibles are all from young animals, but breeding stock may be indicated by the large male canine. Horse bones here indicate larger ponies than those from Stagsden, but there is no evidence for any ritual use, unless the shattered skull in the ungrouped feature [3875] is significant. Dog bones are sparse and give little idea of the size and shape of the breeds they came from. Red deer remains are the only indication of wild fauna on the site. The antler is shed and would have been collected, but the presence of leg bones shows they were also eaten, but they were not a major resource. The bird bones are the most minimal evidence for the presence of domestic fowl and duck and little can be said about them.

The animal bones from Salford provide evidence for husbandry, but little else. The settlement at Salford consumed animals but there is no evidence of breeding at the site, there being no neonate bones, unless these have not survived. The bones have been broken down into fragments in the course of consumption and scattered after it, perhaps being tidied up into deposit (2100). The lack of small wild species may be the result of the method of excavation or they may never have been present on this part of the site.

4.3 Palynological Analysis of Pond Deposits

Patricia E J Wiltshire

Introduction

The pond (G39) was estimated to be of late Iron Age (phase 5). The fill consisted of 46cm of stony iron-mottled, clayey deposit that overlay about 30cm of a dark, fine-grained clay. The feature had been cut into the basal orange, gravelly sand and was found to contain pottery of Iron Age date. A single sherd of Roman greyware was found in the overburden sealing the pond suggesting this feature had been filled by the Roman period. Palynological assessment of the dark clay had shown that palynomorph preservation was very good and that the pollen and spore spectra changed with depth. This meant that the dark clay would be useful for providing a picture of changes in vegetation and land use during the period of sediment accumulation. Analysis might thus provide some understanding of the impact of Iron Age people on their surroundings at the site.

Methods

Sampling and Processing: Sixteen samples were taken at 2cm intervals throughout the dark clay horizon in the field. Each sample was placed in a plastic bag and stored at 4°C. Subsamples of 1.0g of sediment were subjected to standard preparation procedures, with both acetolysis and hydrofluoric acid treatment (Dimbleby 1985). Preparations were lightly stained with 0.5% safranine and mounted in glycerol jelly.

Counting and Identification: Pollen counting was carried out with a Zeiss phase contrast microscope at ×400 and ×1000 magnification. Counts in excess of 400 pollen grains were achieved. All microscopic charcoal fragments with the longest axis of >10mm were counted in 10 standard traverses. Algae and fungal spores were counted conventionally, along with plant pollen and spores. Identification was aided by published keys and modern reference material.

Nomenclature: Palynological nomenclature follows that of Bennett *et al* (1994); Moore *et al* (1991); Punt and Clarke (1984); Punt *et al* (1988); and botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1991). Cereal-type pollen refers to all Poaceae grains >40 μm with annulus diameters >8 μm (Anderson 1979; Edwards 1989).

Expression of Data: Percentage pollen data were expressed on the basis of total land pollen and pteridophyte spores (TLPS). Ferns and their allies (Pteridophyta) are genuine members of plant communities and it is deemed irrational to eliminate them from the total sum.

Sphagnum, algal spores, and fungal spores were expressed as percentage of self plus TLPS. The reason for excluding these taxa from the total sum is that their representation in the palynological record depends too critically on small-scale changes in ambient environment. By virtue of their tendency for high fluctuation in propagule production in response to small environmental triggers, they cannot be considered to have equal status with higher plants in statistical representation.

Microscopic charcoal was expressed as a percentage of self plus total pollen and spore count in 10 traverses. It has been shown that because of the high intrinsic degree of error in assessing microscopic charcoal abundance, various methods of assessing microscopic charcoal abundance are valid. The methods chosen here were deemed satisfactory for simple comparison throughout the sediment sequence.

Pollen diagrams: Pollen diagrams were produced by TILIA and TILIGRAPH. Local pollen assemblage zones were derived by inspection of the pollen spectra and made subjectively. Zones were designated SQ1-SQ4 for convenience of description. All taxa achieving <1.0% of the sum were shown as '+'. Dating of the sediments was achieved using artefactual evidence.

Description of Local Pollen Assemblage Zones (Figs 4.1–4.2)

Zone SQ1 ***(26cm–30cm):*** Microscopic charcoal was present at low level and both fungal and algal spores were relatively sparse. Total trees and shrubs fluctuated between 10%–21% with *Alnus* (alder) and *Corylus*-type (e.g. hazel) being the best represented taxa. However, *Quercus* (oak), *Betula* (birch), *Pinus* (pine), and *Tilia* (lime) were also present, and *Prunus*-type (e.g. sloe) was recorded.

Poaceae (grasses) reached a maximum of 69% while other dryland herbs accounted for over 20% TLPS, the most frequent and abundant being ruderals and weeds such as *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel), *R. acetosa* (dock), Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family), Apiaceae (e.g. hogweed), *Achillea*-type (e.g. yarrow), *Plantago major* (greater plantain), and Lactuceae (dandelion-like plants). Other ruderals included *Urtica*-type (e.g. nettle), *Cirsium* (thistle), *Lamium*-type (e.g. white dead-nettle), *Polygonum aviculare* (knotweed), while *Centaurea nigra*-type (knapweed), and other weeds typical of grassland were recorded. A single cereal-type grain was found at 30cm while *Calluna* (heather) and *Pteridium* (bracken) were also growing in the catchment. Wetland plants such as *Filipendula* (meadowsweet), Cyperaceae (sedges), *Sparganium*-type (e.g. bur-reed), and *Sphagnum* moss were also registered.

Zone SQ2 ***(18cm–24cm):*** The amount of microscopic charcoal increased in this zone and fluctuated between 7.1% and 22%. Fungal spores also increased and *Puccinia*-type (rust) spores were also found in every sample in the zone. There was a marked decline in woody taxa in this zone with *Alnus* and *Corylus*-type being the most affected. Furthermore, apart from a single grain of *Betula* and a low percentage of *Pinus*, all other woody taxa failed to be represented at all. *Rumex acetosella* also declined along with *R. acetosa*, but most other herbaceous taxa increased. Percentages were

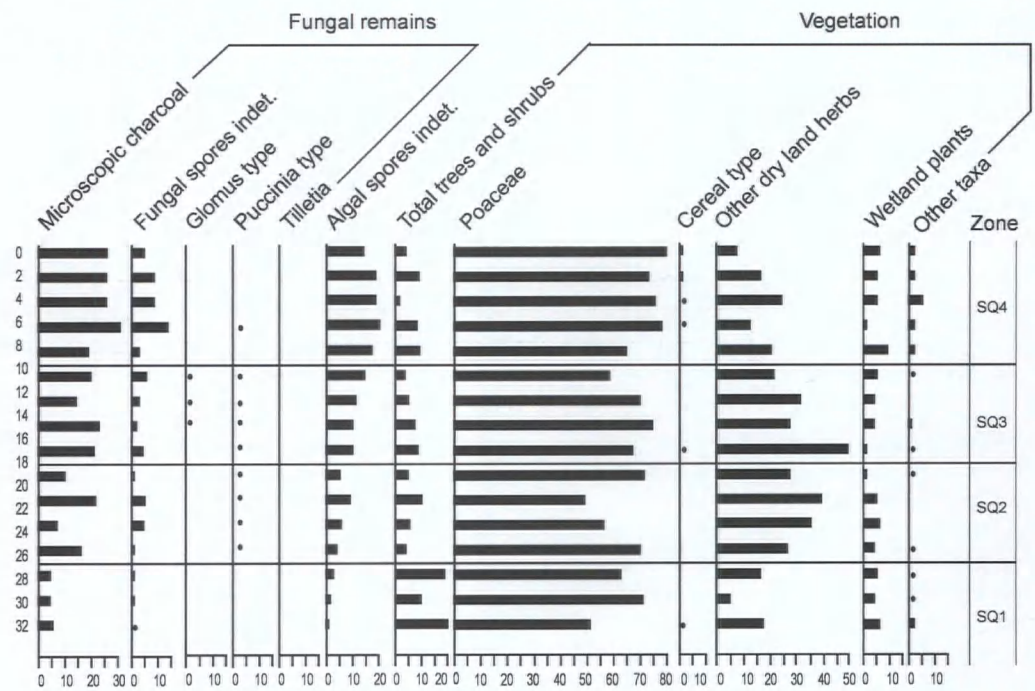


Fig 4.1: Pollen: summary diagram presenting values for microscopic charcoal, fungal remains, Algal spores indet, total trees and shrubs, Poaceae, cereal-type, other dry land herbs, wetland plants, and other taxa

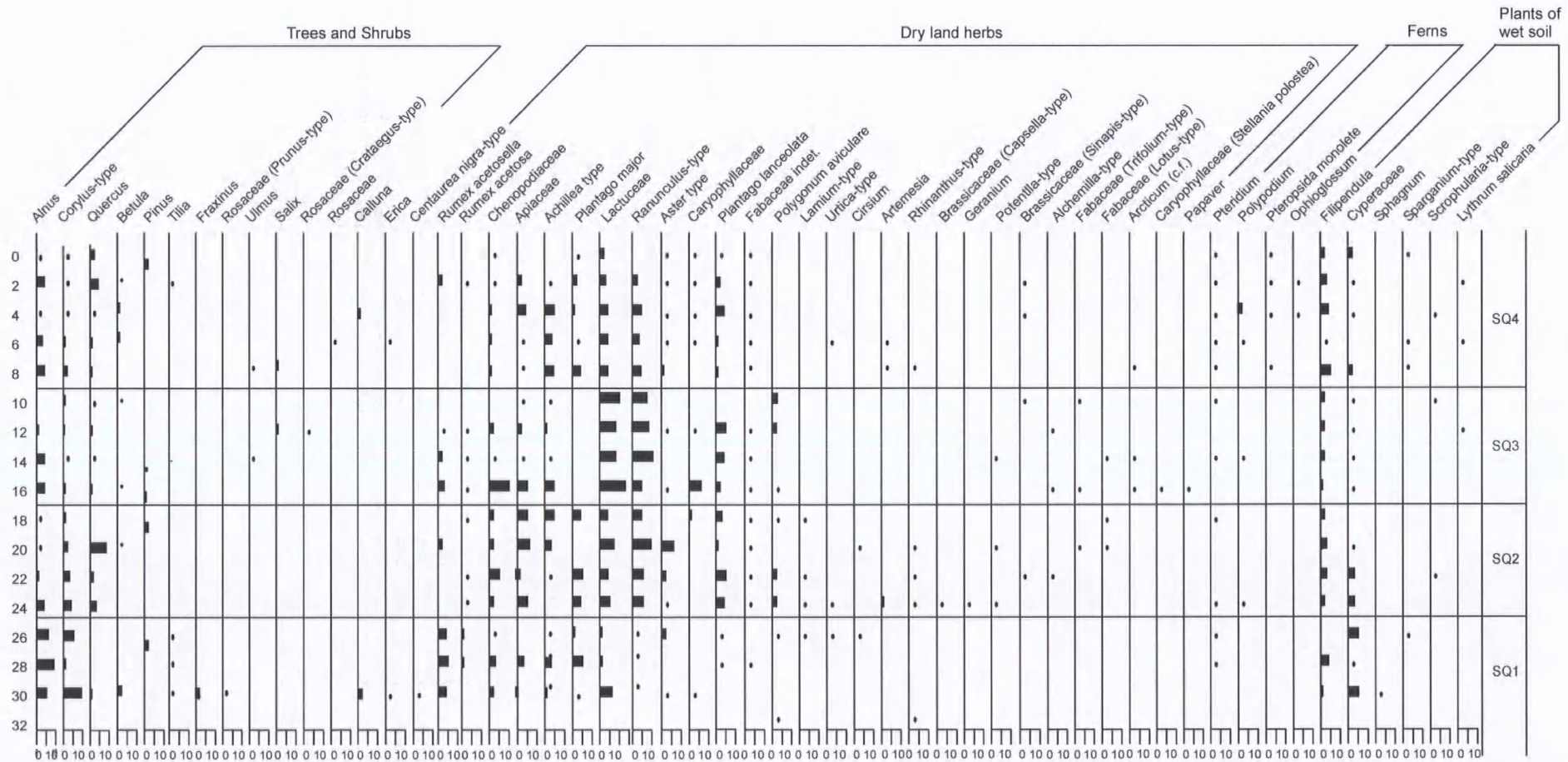


Fig 4.2: Pollen percentage (TLPS) for trees and shrubs, Ericaceae, dry land herbs, ferns, and plants of wet soil

particularly raised for Lactuceae, *Ranunculus*-type (e.g. buttercup), *Plantago major* and *P. lanceolata*, and *Aster*-type (e.g. daisy). Herbaceous plants were better represented than in Zone 1, with a wide range of taxa being found. *Filipendula* was maintained at its previous levels but Cyperaceae declined to extinction at 20cm. *Pteridium* continued to be recorded sporadically and *Polypodium* (polypody fern) was found in a single level. Poaceae fluctuated throughout the zone but still registered at high level, ranging between 56% and 70 %.

Zone SQ3 ***(10cm–16cm):*** Microscopic charcoal fluctuated between 12% and 22% while fungal remains were represented at about the same level as in the previous zone. *Puccinia*-type was present in every sample and *Glomus*-type from 10cm–14cm. Algal spores increased gradually throughout the zone, reaching a value of 14% at 10cm. Woody taxa declined gradually from 7.8%–3.1% although *Alnus* actually increased in this zone. Most of the decline was due to reductions in *Corylus*-type and *Quercus*; *Betula*, *Pinus*, *Ulmus* (elm), *Salix* (willow), and *Crataegus*-type (e.g. hawthorn) were recorded sporadically throughout the zone. Poaceae remained high, with values ranging between 57%–74%, while Lactuceae and *Ranunculus*-type increased markedly. *Rumex acetosella*, Chenopodiaceae, Apiaceae, Caryophyllaceae (e.g. chickweeds), and *Plantago lanceolata* were all well represented although declined to extinction at the end of the zone. *Polygonum aviculare* increased towards the end of the zone and other ruderals, grassland weeds, and *Pteridium* were represented sporadically. *Filipendula* had similar percentages to the previous zone and Cyperaceae was represented at a very low level throughout SQ3. Single grains of *Scrophularia*-type (e.g. figwort), and *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife) were recorded. A single cereal-type grain was found at 16cm.

Zone SQ4 ***(0cm–8cm):*** There was a sustained increase from 6cm to the top of the sequence and this was accompanied by a similar increase in fungal spores. *Puccinia*-type was found only at 6cm and *Tilletia* (smut) spores were found at 0cm. Algal spores increased and were maintained at between 14%–20%. Woody taxa increased slightly in this zone, and the raised values were due mainly to *Alnus*, *Corylus*, *Quercus* and *Betula*, although *Pinus*, *Tilia*, *Ulmus*, and Rosaceae indet. (e.g. *Rubus*) were present. *Calluna* and *Erica* (e.g. bell heather) were recorded. Lactuceae, *Ranunculus*-type, and *Polygonum aviculare* declined slightly throughout the zone, but many other herbaceous taxa increased or were represented for the first time since Zone SQ2, e.g. *Plantago lanceolata* and *P. major*. *Pteridium* was present throughout the zone while *Polypodium* was found at 4cm and 6cm. Monolete *Pteropsida* were relatively frequent and *Ophioglossum* (adder's tongue fern) was recorded from 2cm and 4cm. *Filipendula* and Cyperaceae achieved overall higher percentages than in Zone SQ3 while *Sparganium*-type, *Scrophularia*-type and *Lythrum salicaria* were present. Cereal-type pollen was recorded continuously from 0cm–6cm and there was a slight increase in the uppermost two samples.

Interpretation of Local Pollen Assemblage Zones

Zone SQ1: The boundary between the underlying, ferruginous gravel and the dark deposit of the feature fill was sharp, and it was assumed that Zone SQ1 represented the earliest period of deposition within the 'pond'. Woody plants accounted for only between 11%–18% TLPS so the area was exceedingly open during early sedimentation. *Alnus* (alder) and *Corylus*-type (e.g. hazel) appear to have been the most abundant woody taxa although some *Quercus* (oak) and *Betula* (birch) were growing in the catchment. Considering the dispersal characteristics of *Pinus* (pine), it is possible that it was growing some distance away from the site but *Tilia* (lime), *Fraxinus* (ash), and *Prunus*-type (e.g. sloe) were probably growing fairly close to the feature since they are generally poorly represented in the pollen rain because of low pollen production and/or poor dispersal (Faegri and Iversen 1989).

In spite of the variety of trees and shrubs growing in the catchment, the area was dominated by grassland. The relative abundance of *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel), and the presence of both *Calluna* (heather/ling) and *Pteridium* (bracken) suggest that the grassland was acidic and nutrient-poor. Heather/ling and bracken are often able to invade acid grassland and form part of the pasture sward. Many of the herbaceous taxa, such as Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family), *Urtica* (nettle), *Cirsium* (thistle), *Achillea*-type (e.g. yarrow), and Apiaceae (e.g. hogweed), are also characteristic of pastures where stock animals poach and enrich the soils allowing ruderals to exploit the broken soils; *Plantago major* is able to thrive in trampled microsites (Grime *et al* 1988).

Filipendula (meadowsweet), Cyperaceae (sedges), and *Sparganium*-type (e.g. bur-reed) could have been growing around the pond margins or in nearby ditches while *Sphagnum* moss might have been able to establish in surrounding marshy areas. They are also commonly found where grassland is prone to flooding, as in managed hay meadows (Rodwell 1992). However, if grazing is very light, all three taxa are capable of thriving in peripheral areas of a damp pasture sward, although in such habitats *Filipendula* and Cyperaceae are often below average size, probably a result of competitive stress (personal observation).

Although there were no other palynological indicators of standing water, the low levels of algal spores throughout the zone indicate wetness. However, it is possible that the pond dried out occasionally since sporulation in many non-marine algae is stimulated by periods of desiccation (Round 1981). Although microscopic charcoal was found in every sample, the amounts were relatively low and this might indicate that human settlement was situated a little distance away from the pond.

Zone SQ2: There were marked changes in the local landscape during the time represented by this zone. There might have been a greater exploitation of woodland resources either by removal or by coppicing and pollarding, the net result of which was to reduce pollen production of most woody taxa, except *Quercus*. However, even *Quercus* declined dramatically towards the end of the zone. It is possible that *Alnus*, *Corylus*, and other tree taxa were being used extensively but that there was some management aimed at conserving *Quercus*. This appears to have happened in the late Iron Age/early Roman period at Scole in Suffolk (Wiltshire 1994 and in prep), and at Heybridge where there is evidence of fast-grown oak being used (Atkinson, pers comm).

Herbaceous plants increased quite markedly, both in terms of abundance and species richness. *Lactuceae* (dandelion-like plants), *Ranunculus*-type (e.g. buttercup), *Aster*-type (e.g. daisy), *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain), and *Polygonum aviculare* (knotweed) all increased while a number of other ruderals and pasture plants appeared in the record for the first time. *Filipendula* continued as in Zone SQ1 but the decline in Cyperaceae at 20cm, coupled with the increase in herbs over grasses, might suggest an increase in grazing intensity at the site. The continuous presence of *Puccinia*-type indicates stressful conditions for susceptible plant species (Levine 1928), although it is difficult to determine the nature of the stressful factor(s). It would seem that there was a change in management practice in the area during Zone SQ2.

The increase in microscopic charcoal and the fall in woody taxa suggest that the environs of the pond were being exploited more intensively than before while the progressive increase in algal spores could have been reflecting eutrophication of the water, for example by animal excreta. Green algae certainly respond to enrichment by nitrogen and phosphate (Round 1981), and both are present in abundance in faeces and urine.

Zone SQ3: The higher levels of microscopic charcoal and algal spores might indicate even higher levels of activity around the feature, and the presence of *Glomus*-type suggests that bioactive soil was eroding into the pond. The local vegetation was also still prone to fungal rust infection (see *Puccinia*-type) and this could mean that conditions stressful to plants continued throughout this zone.

The slight fall in woody taxa in this zone was due mostly to declines in *Corylus*-type and *Quercus*, but *Alnus* recovered and *Ulmus* (elm), *Salix* (willow), and *Crataegus*-type (e.g. hawthorn) were recorded for the first time in the sequence. These changes coincide with reduced frequencies of *Plantago major* (greater plantain), Chenopodiaceae, Apiaceae, *Aster*-type, *Urtica*, and others, and it is possible, therefore, that there was establishment of areas of scrub on soils which had supported ruderals. Furthermore, the increase in Poaceae (grasses), *Rumex acetosella*, Lactuceae, and *Ranunculus*-type and the disappearance of herbs such as *Lamium*-type (e.g. white deadnettle), *Rhinanthus*-type (e.g. yellow rattle), *Capsella*-type (e.g. shepherd's purse), and *Geranium* (e.g. herb Robert) could indicate some relaxation of grazing pressure so that grasses and vigorous herbs overtook less competitive ones.

The record of cereal-type pollen at 16cm indicates that arable agriculture was being carried out in the vicinity but the immediate site was probably too wet to support cereals. Certainly *Papaver* (poppy), *Stellaria holostea* (greater stitchwort), *Alchemilla*-type (e.g. parsley piert), and other herbs recorded in this zone, are common weeds of crops or field margins (see Hanf 1983). The changes in local vegetation here are relatively small-scale and subtle, but there does seem to have been a shift in management at the site.

Zone SQ4: This upper zone, which represents the last phase of waterlogged deposits in the feature, shows consistently the highest values for microscopic charcoal, fungal remains, and algal spores, and probably represents a period of more intense activity in the vicinity of the feature. The wider landscape seems to have changed very little, with trees and shrub assemblages being very similar to those in Zone SQ3. However, the area does seem to have become a little wetter and *Filipendula* increased while other wetland indicators, such as *Sparganium*-type, *Scrophularia*-type (e.g. figwort), and *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), were also relatively well represented. Ferns were more frequent, and *Ophioglossum* (adder's tongue fern) was present in the local pasture. This plant is found in damp, lowland meadows today, although it is also a component of upland pastures in the west of Britain (Rodwell 1992).

The sustained high levels of Poaceae, and reduction of Lactuceae and *Ranunculus*-type are difficult to interpret without knowing the species involved, but the small increase in abundance and frequency of cereal-type pollen suggests that arable farming had expanded locally, and it is possible that areas of rough ground were being brought into cultivation. *Calluna* and *Erica* sp. (e.g. common heather and cross-leaved heath) were probably growing in the acid pasture along with *Rumex acetosella* and, in spite of the expansion of cereal production/processing, pasture still dominated the local landscape.

Discussion

Pottery of both early and late Iron Age date was found in the dark, clay deposit which has been the focus of this palynological study, with a single Roman sherd found in the overburden which sealed the pond. Although it is difficult, therefore, to ascribe an accurate chronology to the sedimentary sequence it might be assumed that the deposit represents a fairly long period from early to late Iron Age. The relative smoothness of the pollen curves is indicative of a slow accumulation rate and a lack of turbation within the sediment but, of course, in the absence of radiocarbon estimates, it is impossible to assess the speed of sedimentation accurately.

Without radiocarbon estimates it is difficult to ascribe a precise chronology to the vegetation changes observed in the sequence. However, it must be said that the pollen spectra here closely resemble those found recently in an Iron Age feature from Earith, Cambridgeshire (Wiltshire 1998), and match the bioarchaeological findings at Iron Age and Roman riverside settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire (Lambrick and Robinson 1979). The assemblage in Zone SQ1 is also similar to the late Iron Age landscape at Coveney, Cambridgeshire (Wiltshire 1993b

and in prep), St Albans, Hertfordshire (Wiltshire 1993a; 1993c; 1999), Stanwick, Northamptonshire (Wiltshire 1995), Lakenheath, Suffolk (Wiltshire 1997a), Brandon, Suffolk (Wiltshire 1990), and Chigborough and Slough House Farms, Essex (Wiltshire and Murphy 1998). The East Midlands thus seems to have been largely cleared of woodland in the Iron Age and, in many instances, pasture and open areas dominated the landscape.

The 'pond' at Salford had been created in an area of open ground that was dominated by nutrient-poor, acid pasture. Some individual trees, or small patches of trees and scrub, were growing in the catchment but either woody plants were scarce or they were intensively managed so that they rarely flowered. Domestic activity was probably centred away from the feature, and the only evidence of arable activity was a single cereal-type pollen grain from the base of the waterlogged deposit.

Later (see Zone SQ2), the site seems to have been used more extensively and most of the wood resources were reduced although *Quercus* appears to have been conserved. It is possible that stocking densities and grazing pressure on the pasture increased, and this resulted in a drop in Poaceae percentages and an increase in pasture weeds and ruderals. The consistent presence of fungal rust spores could possibly be an indicator of grazing stress within the plant community. At certain stocking densities, grazing animals often enhance species diversity in pasture and it is quite possible that animal trampling resulted in the greater species richness of herbs seen in Zone SQ2. The sustained increase in algal spores also suggests that the water was becoming eutrophicated, possibly by animal excreta, although there was no direct evidence (e.g. intestinal worm eggs) for faecal contamination.

The changes in herbaceous taxa in Zone SQ3 might suggest a relaxation of grazing pressure, and the recovery of *Alnus*, along with the appearance of other woody plants in the record, might indicate a lessening of management at the site. However, increasing levels of microcharcoal and algal spores suggest that people and stock animals were still active in the area. In Zone SQ4, cereal-type pollen increased and woody taxa had slightly higher percentage values. Changes in herbaceous taxa were also marked, and the site itself appears to have become marginally wetter. However, microcharcoal was more abundant than before and algal spores continued to increase.

In other parts of East Anglia the changes observed between Zones SQ1 and SQ2, a massive removal of trees, and conservation of *Quercus* stands, have been observed dating to the early Romano-British period (Wiltshire 1997b and in prep). Since both early and late Iron Age ceramics were found in the same deposit the chronological relationships between the zones are difficult to ascertain, but what is quite clear is that Romans in the Salford area came into an already intensively managed landscape.

4.4 Waterlogged Wood

Rowena Gale

Introduction

Deposits of waterlogged wood were recovered from several Iron Age contexts at Salford (Table 4.5), and 17 samples were selected for species identification.

The samples mainly consisted of narrow roundwood although more mature wood was also present. Species identification was undertaken to indicate the use of woodland resources and for evidence of woodland management.

Phase	Context
Phase 3	(3008), fill of pit 3007
Phase 4	(3480), primary fill of pit [3458]
	(3653), fill of pit [3651]
Phase 5	G39, fill of pond [3833]

Table 4.5: Contexts from which waterlogged wood was recovered

Materials and Methods

The wood consisted of whole stem, measuring from 7–30mm in diameter, and fragments which included heartwood, probably from wider roundwood. The wood was degraded and included fungal hyphae and spores. Where bark was absent (Table 4.7) the outer surfaces were worn and abraded. Worked surfaces were recorded on samples 76 and 77.

The samples were prepared for examination using standard methods (Gale and Cutler 2000). The wood sections were examined using a Nikon Labophot-2 microscope at magnifications up to ×400. The anatomical structures were matched to reference material. Where possible, details of stem diameter, growth rates and season of felling were recorded.

Results

The taxa identified are summarised in Tables 4.6 and 4.7 and listed below. Table 4.7 includes details of stem diameters, growth rates, season of felling and other comments.

Where anatomical differences between related genera are too slight to allow secure identification to genus level, group names are given. These include members of the Pomoideae (*Crataegus, Malus, Pyrus* and *Sorbus*) and Salicaceae (*Salix* and *Populus*).

Where a genus is represented by a single species in the British flora this is named as the most likely origin of the wood, given the provenance and period, but it should be noted that it is rarely possible to name individual species from wood features, and

Sample	Context	Feature	Group	*Corylus*	Pomoideae	*Prunus*	*Quercus*	Salicaeae
Phase 3, Early Iron Age								
7	3008	3007 Pit	N/A	2 r	1r	–	–	–
Phase 4, Middle Iron Age								
82	3480	3458 Pit	64	1r	-	1r	–	–
75	3653	3651 Pit	65	Unidentified bark				
Phase 5, Late Iron Age								
1	3000	3833 Pond	39	-	–	1r	–	–
2	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	1r	–	–
3	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	2r	–	–
4	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	3r	–	–
5	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	1r	–	–
71	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	–	–	2r
72	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	–	–	1r
73	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	1r	1h	–
74	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	–	1h	–
76	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	–	1h	–
77	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	–	1h	–
78	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	1r	–	3r
80	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	3r	–	1r
81	3000	3833 Pond	39	–	–	1r	–	–

Key: h = heartwood, r = roundwood

Table 4.6: Waterlogged wood from Iron Age contexts

Sample	Context	Feature	Genus/ subfamily	Diameter in mm	No. of growth rings	Bark *in situ*	Season of felling	Comments
Phase 3, Early Iron Age								
7	3008	3007 Pit	Pomoideae	7	8	yes	–	–
			Corylus	11	4	no	–	–
			Corylus	10	5	no	Late summer/ autumn	–
Phase 4, Middle Iron Age								
82	3480	3458 Pit	*Corylus*	20	10	yes	Summer	Early rings of variable width
			Prunus	27	10	yes	–	–
Phase 5, Late Iron Age								
1	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	10	7+	yes	–	–
2	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	10	8+	no	–	–
3	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	10	4	no	–	–
			Prunus	10+	5	no	–	Fragment of roundwood
4	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	25	6	yes	–	–
			Prunus	30	14	no	–	–
			Prunus	–	–	no	–	Gnarled growth, perhaps stump or root, structurally degraded
5	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	10	7+	yes	–	Very knotty
71	3000	3833 Pond	Salicaceae	7	2	no	Winter	Stem with basal heel and lateral shoot
			Salicaceae	17	–	no	–	Stem with lateral shoots; wood degraded
72	3000	3833 Pond	Salicaceae	6	5	no	–	–
73	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	15	6	no	–	Knobbly stem
78	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	15	2+	yes	–	–
			Salicaceae	15	7	no	Winter	–
			Salicaceae	10	6+	no	–	–
			Salicaceae	7	6	no	–	–
80	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	15	3+	yes	–	Knobbly stem
			Prunus	10	5+	yes	–	Knobbly stem
			Prunus	10	2+	yes	–	–
			Salicaceae	20	6	no	Winter	–
81	3000	3833 Pond	*Prunus*	17	3+	no	–	–

Table 4.7: Waterlogged wood from Iron Age contexts: details of roundwood

exotic species of trees and shrubs were introduced to Britain from an early period (Godwin 1956; Mitchell 1974). Classification follows that of *Flora Europaea* (Tutin, Heywood *et al* 1964–80).

The anatomical structure of the wood was consistent with the taxa or groups of taxa named in the following list:

Corylaceae. *Corylus avellana* L., hazel
Fagaceae. *Quercus* spp., oak
Rosaceae. Subfamilies:
Pomoideae which includes *Crataegus* spp., hawthorn; *Malus* sp., apple; *Pyrus* sp., pear; *Sorbus* spp., rowan, service tree and whitebeam. These taxa are anatomically similar.
Prunoideae which includes *P. avium* (L.) L., cherry; *P. padus* L., bird cherry, and *P. spinosa* L., blackthorn. In this instance the broad heterocellular rays suggest *P. spinosa* as the more likely.
Salicaceae. *Salix* spp., willow, and *Populus* spp., poplar. In many respects these taxa are anatomically similar although sometimes the presence of heterocellular ray allows the taxon to be named. The use of this feature, however, is unreliable, particularly in juvenile wood, and has not been applied in this instance.

Discussion

Phase 3, Early Iron Age

Pit [3007] The circular pit was steep sided and measured roughly 1.2m × 1.2m × 0.9m. Wood present in the fill (3008) of the pit included narrow roundwood from hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and a member of the hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae) (Table 4.7).

Phase 4, Middle Iron Age

Pits [3458] and [3651] These pits were associated with pits G64 and G65, which occurred in the south-east corner of the site. Wood from the fill (3480) of pit [3458] included narrow stems from hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The 50mm length of hazel stem was straight and free from lateral growth, typical of coppice growth; the early growth rate of the stem, however, was very variable and did not conform with the fast-growth usually associated with coppice stems. Such variation could reflect climatic or edaphic changes and does not necessarily negate an origin from managed woodland.

A flake of bark was recovered from the fill (3653) of pit [3653] but contained insufficient diagnostic information for analysis.

Phase 5, Late Iron Age

Pond G39 [3833] The pond was large and approximately 16m × 8m, with shallow sloping sides (Fig 2.89). Excavation of the feature revealed a complex sequence of fills, the lowest of which comprised clayey silts with a high proportion of organic material. These were overlain with layers of sandy silts and redeposited sand and gravel. The comparatively large quantity of wood from feature [3833] (Table 4.7) may represent a mixture of deposited waste material and naturally accumulated debris; it comprised mainly roundwood from blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.). The blackthorn ranged in diameter from 10mm–15mm and in age from about 3 to 14 years. Some pieces retained bark, and some were very knobbly and knotty, suggesting an origin from natural growth or hedgerows rather than managed coppice. Since the area appears to have been used extensively for pasture (see Wiltshire, p.154), stockproof blackthorn hedges may have featured in the landscape.

The willow/poplar stems ranged in diameter from 6mm–17mm and from 2–7 years in age. There was no clear evidence that any of these had derived from managed woodland. A basal heel on a 2-year-old stem (sample 71) was possibly indicative of coppice growth, but a lateral shoot about 10mm above the heel tended to suggest non-coppice growth as more likely. None of the roundwood exhibited tool-marks. It is probable that willows and other shrubs grew on the damp soil around the perimeter of the pond. Broken twigs and stems would have entered the pond through natural wastage or from the movement of grazing stock. Although charcoal flecks were frequent in the silts of the pond (Wiltshire, p.152), none of the wood samples appeared to have been burnt.

Samples 73, 74, 76 and 77 included oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood. The slight curvature of the growth rings suggested that these fragments were more likely to have originated either from the inner area of wide trunks or branches or from relatively young trunks/branches. Tool-marks were recorded on samples 76 and 77 – thereby implying artefactual origins.

Evidence for woodland management

The bulk of the wood was recovered from Late Iron Age deposits (pond, G39) with relatively few samples representing the Middle and Early Iron Age phases. It is therefore difficult to comment on woodland management in the earlier phases. The evidence for coppicing at this time was rather inconclusive and although the morphology of the hazel (*Corylus avellana*) stem in sample 82 was certainly characteristic of a coppice rod, the growth rate was atypical (see above).

The gnarled and knobbly blackthorn stems from the pond G39 (3000) were more likely to have originated from hedgerows or scrub than coppice and while there was some evidence to suggest coppiced willow/poplar, this was also inconclusive (see above).

Environmental Evidence

Fewer arboreal taxa were identified from the wood samples, hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), oak (*Quercus* sp.) and willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), than from the pollen analysis (Wiltshire, p.151). The pollen record also demonstrated variation in species dominance across the phases, probably due to changes in local land management. The abundance of blackthorn stems recovered from the pond accords with Wiltshire's conclusions that blackthorn probably grew close to this feature.

In view of the long-standing use of the site for settlement it can be assumed that wood and timber was sourced from the locality over a long period. Considerable quantities of wood would have been required for construction, domestic and industrial fuel – oak appears to have been the main timber for construction and fuel in both phases 3 and 4 (Robinson, p.158) and, in phase 5, for cremations. This in itself suggests that wooded areas would have been subjected to frequent cropping, which would almost certainly have initiated a form of coppicing or pollarding. By implication, it seems likely that woodland management was practised at the site, despite the inconclusive evidence from the wood samples. The pollen record (Wiltshire, p.154) testifies to an open landscape supporting relatively few trees and shrubs. The abandonment of the site between phases 4 and 5 may have allowed some regeneration of the woodland, although this is not apparent from the pollen record. If wood was generally scarce in the region, resources at Salford may have been exploited by outlying communities.

Waterlogged wood has been recovered from a number of sites in the Ouse Valley region but most relate to the Saxon and medieval periods (e.g. Stratton Village, Gale unpub a; Marston Moretaine, Gale unpub b; Eastcotts, Gale unpub c; Haynes Park, Gale 2004, 108–15; Warren Villas, Gale unpub d), and are not directly comparable to Salford. In addition, the wood from these sites was clearly artefactual, in most instances derived from hurdles.

Artefactual wood samples from the Roman villa at Bancroft, Milton Keynes, however, included maple (*Acer campestre*), elder (*Sambucus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), the hawthorn/*Sorbus* group (Pomoideae), *Prunus* sp., willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) (Gale 1994). The roundwood frequently exhibited tool marks and there was evidence of coppicing from willow (*Salix* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and elder (*Sambucus*). A similar range of taxa was identified from a pit at the nearby Late Iron Age/Roman site at Wavenden Gate, Milton Keynes (Gale 1996), and both oak and ash roundwood appeared to have been coppiced.

4.5 Macroscopic Plant and Insect Remains

Mark Robinson

Introduction

Excavation at Salford revealed Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age evidence which included a pond of waterlogged pits, G39, of late Iron Age date. During the excavation, samples were processed on site using a Siraf tank with a 1mm mesh for the recovery of charred plant remains. A finer mesh should have been used for the retention of smaller weed seeds and small chaff fragments, which are likely to have been lost. Samples were also taken from the pond G39, which was machine-excavated, for laboratory analysis.

The flots from the Siraf tank were sorted under a binocular microscope at the University Museum of Natural History, Oxford, and the botanical remains identified. Summary results for carbonised remains are given in Tables 4.8 and 4.9 by period. It was decided that the material from the waterlogged Iron Age pond would not be examined in detail because of difficulties with their stratigraphic relationships and doubt about their dating (see below). Sub-samples were washed over onto a 0.2mm mesh and scanned under a binocular microscope for plant and insect remains.

The Neolithic and Bronze Age charred samples

With the exception of a single barley grain from context (1865), the Neolithic pit in G67, carbonised plant remains were absent from the four pre-Iron Age samples.

The Iron Age charred samples

Eight of the 25 Iron Age samples contained low concentrations of cereal grain, chaff and weed seeds. The cereals included *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (six-row hulled barley), which were probably the main arable crops of the region during the Iron Age. A possible oat of doubtful status was also present.

Context 3443, from a post hole, part of the boundary G40, gave the richest sample, with 15 cereal grains including six-row hulled barley and less closely identifiable barley grains. Context (2511), from the fill of roundhouse, G11, yielded 11 items, mostly weed seeds but also a couple of glumes of *Triticum dicoccum* or *spelta* (emmer or spelt wheat). The other samples all contained four or fewer items. The only certain identification of spelt wheat was on a glume from context (2966), the fill of ring ditch, G44.

		Number of items (seeds unless stated)		
		Neolithic phase1	Bronze Age phase 2	Early, middle and late Iron Age, phases 3, 4, 5,
Number of samples		1	3	25
Number of samples to contain remains		1	0	8
Total volume of soil (litres)		24	75	347
Chenopodium album	fat hen	–	–	2
Galium aparine	goosegrass	–	–	5
Carex sp.	sedge	–	–	2
Triticum spelta glume	spelt wheat	–	–	1
T. dicoccum or *spelta* glume	emmer or spelt wheat	–	–	2
Triticum sp.	wheat	–	–	1
Hordeum vulgare	six-row hulled barley	–	–	1
H. vulgare	six-row barley	–	–	1
H. distichon or *vulgare*	hulled barley	–	–	3
H. distichon or *vulgare*	barley	1	–	2
cf. *Avena* sp.	oats	–	–	1
cereal indet.		–	–	11
Gramineae indet	grass	–	–	2
weed seed indet		–	–	5
Total		1	0	39

Table 4.8: Carbonised seeds and chaff

		Number of samples		
		Neolithic phase1	Bronze Age phase 2	Early, middle and late Iron Age, phases 3, 4, 5,
Number of samples		1	3	25
Number of samples with charcoal		0	0	17
Corylus avellana	hazel	–	–	3
Pomoideae	hawthorn etc	–	–	5
Prunus sp.	sloe etc	–	–	1
Quercus sp.	oak	–	–	13

Table 4.9: Charcoal

The results show that the early and middle Iron Age settlement certainly used cereals but there was no evidence for large-scale cereal processing on the site. Similarly low levels of cereal remains appear to be normal for Iron Age settlements in Bedfordshire, for example the sites on the Bedford Southern Bypass (Robinson, unpub) and Biddenham Loop (R Pelling, pers comm). In contrast, cereal remains are more abundant from settlements in both the upper Thames Valley and the Nene Valley. This is probably another aspect of the regionalisation, manifest in material culture, which developed in England during the Iron Age.

Charcoal, mostly *Quercus* (oak), but also including *Corylus avellana* (hazel), Pomoideae (hawthorn, apple etc) and *Prunus* sp. (sloe etc), was present in many of the early and middle Iron Age samples. Some probably represents the fuel of domestic hearths, but context (2511), G11, the fill of a roundhouse gully, contained hammerscale and slag as well as oak charcoal. It is likely that the settlement had a woodland source of fuel as well as using scrub.

The Waterlogged Samples

A total of nine waterlogged flots were scanned from four features which extended below the water table, including G39 (3000, 3008), G66 (3002), G64 (3480). Seeds of *Ranunculus* subgenus *Batrachium* sp. (water crowfoot) were noted in all but one of the flots and fragments of water beetles such as *Helophorus aquaticus* or *grandis* were present in some. This suggests the features to have been pond-like with submerged vegetation.

The seeds suggest the damp margins of the pits to have supported such plants as *Ranunculus sceleratus* (celery-leaved crowfoot), *Rorippa* cf. *palustris* (marsh yellow-cress) and *Lycopus europaeus* (gipsy wort). This habitat in turn seems to have graded into nutrient-rich, moist disturbed ground with such weeds as *Polygonum lapathifolium* (pale persicaria), *Chenopodium ficifolium* (goosefoot) and *Stellaria media* gp. (chickweed). Scrub or hedgerow, with *Crataegus* sp. (hawthorn), *Cornus sanguinea* (dogwood), *Prunus spinosa* (sloe) and *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) also grew in the vicinity of the pits. In addition to fruit stones, thorny twigs of *Crataegus/Prunus* (hawthorn/

sloe) were also present. There were relatively few seeds of grassland plants, although seeds of *Potentilla anserina* (silverweed) were present in most of the samples. The beetle *Phyllopertha horticola*, which has larvae that feed on roots of grassland herbs, occurred in several of the samples. Dung beetles from the genera *Geotrupes*, *Aphodius* and *Onthophagus*, which feed on the droppings of domestic animals on pastureland, were also identified.

Some crop remains were recorded. The pond G39 (3008) contained seeds and capsule fragments of *Linum usitatissimum* (flax) while contexts (3000), G39, and (3002), G66, both had stones of *Prunus domestica* cf. ssp. *insititia* (bullace). *L. usitatissimum* is entirely plausible in an Iron Age context. There were too few flax remains in the sample to suggest that the pond itself was a retting pit, but it could have been used as a source of water for the processing of flax fibres.

The stones of *Prunus domestica* present a problem of interpretation. On present evidence plum, including bullace, appears to be a Roman introduction to Britain (Moffett *et al* 1989). The pre-Roman records cited by Godwin (1975) are all spurious. Salford does not seem a very likely site for the first Iron Age record of plum. Given the means of excavation of the pond complex, it would be prudent to leave open the possibility that there had been some Roman recutting. (The sample notes record that the pollen samples were also taken from the same section of context (3000) as one of the samples that contained the *P. domestica* stones.)

5 DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

5.1 Salford and its Setting

The Iron Age settlement at Salford was established on sloping ground at the western end of the Bedford clay vale where drift gravels overlie Oxford clay and the drainage pattern of the Ouzel and its tributaries has led to a landscape of low hills and wide shallow valleys. The site faces south eastwards towards the Greensand ridge some 3–4km away.

The drainage is to the south with small streams feeding the River Ouzel and the site is located close to the confluence of the Rivers Tove, Ouzel and Great Ouse, between two smaller tributaries. Soils in this area are mixed, varying with the geology, those on the clays are dominated by the Hanslope series, while in the Ouse Valley the lighter Morton series occupy the lower valley floor. The archaeological site at Salford is on a bend of the Bishampton Association (572t SSEW 1983) which today traditionally supports dairy farming with some winter cereals. Slightly to the south, on the clays, the soils are of the Evesham 2 series (411b SSEW 1983) also associated with stock rearing, dairying and some cereals in drier lowlands.

5.2 Early Prehistory

From the Salford site and the surrounding area there is evidence of activity from the Mesolithic onwards although assessment and evaluation locally at Lodge Farm, Mill Farm and Whitsundoles Farm, has produced only sparse lithic evidence from the Neolithic (BCAS 95/36, 11, BCAS 96/12).

The first evidence of activity at Salford is provided by a series of shallow bowl-shaped pits some of which contained Neolithic ceramics and one, G77, a single barley grain. Another was certainly a tree throw hole. The pits are typical of the Neolithic and fall into the category of special deposits containing ceramic vessels which may be characterised as bringing meaning to an area at the end of a ritual process (Thomas 1999, 66).

The regional pattern of Neolithic activity has not been extensively investigated, and published surveys for the lower Great Ouse Valley (Malim 2000) and for the middle Great Ouse and Chilterns (Holgate 1995) still lay emphasis on the monumental character of much of the human landscape. More recent, but unpublished, work, both field artefact collection and area excavation, suggests the evidence of identifiable domestic activity is increasing. In the Nene Valley, the river valley may have remained open, a corridor of grassland used as pasture in which monumental areas were curated. On the higher slopes, woodland areas cleared in the early Neolithic may have regenerated by the late Neolithic (Parry in prep). At Salford, while the pits, tree throw hole and the discovery of barley grain suggests a population who were prepared to clear the land for cultivation, we cannot be certain what levels of activity these represent or whether woodland was allowed to regenerate once cleared.

The transition from Neolithic to Bronze Age is characterised by change, with the construction of three ring ditches. The date of these rings has been derived by comparison with similar monuments at Bell Slack and Simons Ground, but from this basis we cannot be certain whether there was direct succession from a cleared and possibly venerated site in the Neolithic, to one still important in the Bronze Age but now characterised by ring ditches. Of particular significance is the possible fragment of collared urn from G44. If it is the remains of a secondary cremation in mound material, it may have been deposited during the early 2nd millennium, thereby providing a *terminus ante quem* for the completion of the ring ditch. Over the remainder of the site the flint assemblage, which is dominated by debitage with only 4.6% tools, suggests some probably short-stay domestic activity which may have been episodic and perhaps even seasonal.

The creation of an Iron Age settlement in the same location as the remains of Bronze Age ring ditches is far from unusual, and local examples, from further down the Great Ouse Valley are known at the Bunyan Centre, Bedford (Steadman 1999), Village Farm (Albion in prep c), Willington, Beds (Dawson 1996) and the Biddenham Loop (Albion in prep a). In other situations the remains of ring ditches have been used as nodes in the construction of boundaries formed by pit alignments (Dawson 1997) and they have been proposed as markers on territorial boundaries or, conversely, the centre of territorial units. In many cases Iron Age ceramics have been found in the upper fills of ring ditches suggesting, like Salford, that they had remained open for considerable periods of time in a cleared landscape (Woodward 1978; 1986).

5.3 Settlement in the Iron Age

In phase 3 Salford is clearly characterised by settlement (Fig 5.1). When this activity was initiated is uncertain but the ceramic assemblage indicates it

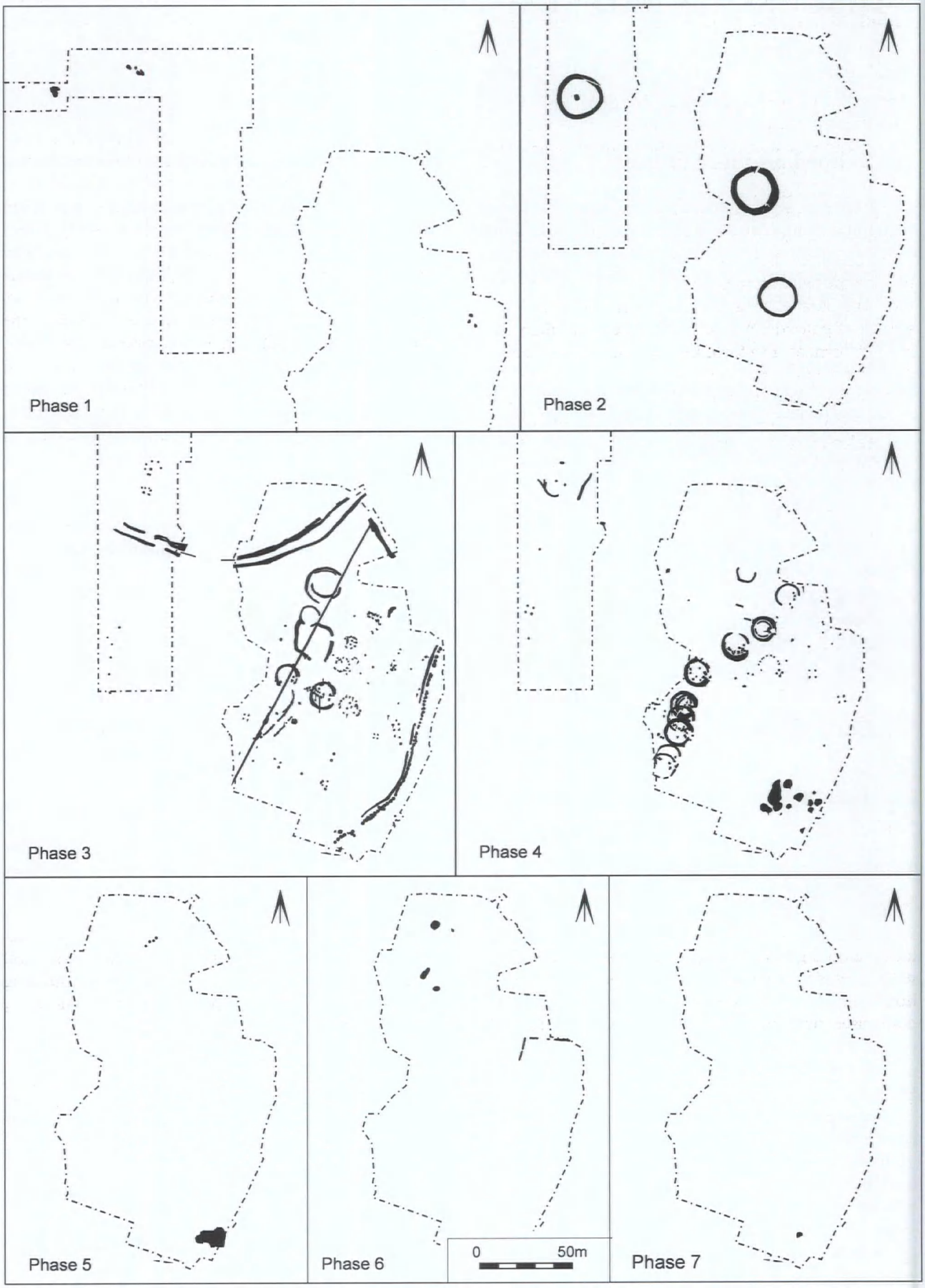


Fig 5.1: Phases of activity at Salford

began in the 9th century BC during the transitional period from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

Enclosure

The first settlement was probably partially enclosed, with the enclosure made up of at least four elements. On the east side was a parallel ditch and pit alignment, the latter possibly containing a wooden palisade, G40. An unexcavated area has left a gap in the evidence before a second stretch of ditch which probably continues the line of the boundary. This ditch, G55, was part-excavated, but the area to the east was also beyond the excavation and we do not know whether it, too, was parallel to a pit alignment and therefore a stretch of palisade. At the southern end of ditch G55 is a 90° turn, as if to form the start of an entranceway. Across the northern part of the site, the boundary is formed by a pair of parallel ditches describing an arc from west to east. On the west side of the site there is no evidence of a boundary, either because it was beyond the area of the excavation, did not exist or was formed by a natural feature such as a stand of trees.

Enclosure is known at several contemporary sites in the Great Ouse Valley including Gold Lane, Biddenham (Dawson 2004) and Willington (Pinder 1986), but there are no directly comparable sites to the partial enclosure at Salford. In functional terms the enclosures may have served to direct cattle and sheep away from crops grown close to the settlement, but the complexity of the structure suggests it performed several symbolic roles (Hingley 1989; Bowden and McOmish 1987). Certainly the palisade at Salford could have provided an imposing barrier and conferred status on the settlement to anyone approaching from the east. Similarly, although it is not an effective defence, it may also have served to distance and exclude groups or individuals approaching the settlement.

Settlement form

The phase 3 settlement occupies a roughly rectangular area on a gently sloping south-east facing hillside with a single, seemingly outlying, post-ring roundhouse to the north-west. The structural evidence comprises nine roundhouses: G3, G5, G11, G12, G16, G17, G45, G48, G68. Of these, four – G12, G45, G48, G68 – are post-built without drip gullies (Knight 1984, group 1, 118) and one, G5, is approached along a defined route, G38. In addition there was a single rectangular structure, G70, without a drip gully, and seven four-post structures: G18, G20, G28, G29, G31, G34, G60. One of the four-post structures, G18, may be a small shrine. Lastly, there are eleven single pits.

The structure of the roundhouses has been described in Chapter 2. Those with eaves-drip gullies generally fall within the range 10.5m–14m diameter and occupy some 85m²–153m² (Table 5.1). In general they do not have the same level of constructional evidence as the post-ring roundhouses. G16 is the only roundhouse with an inner, circular, wall slot. Unfortunately, no sections of the slot were recorded during excavation although it doubtless represents a series of upright posts, a construction technique familiar throughout eastern Britain (cf. Drury 1978; Knight 1984; Allen *et al* 1984).

The most extensive evidence of internal features in this phase comes from G11. Here several post holes, G52, formed a rectangular arrangement, suggesting internal partitioning within the structure, focused or orientated on the entrance. The posts were variable in size and spacing and some had been renewed or replaced. Internal subdivisions in this form may be similar to the shrine at Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943, fig 19), Frilford (Bradford and Goodchild 1939, fig 5) and Claydon Pike (Miles and Palmer 1983, 88–92), and a similar arrangement may be seen in the westerly structure at Collfryn, Powys (Britnell 1989). However, while the Maiden Castle building had a neonate child buried just outside the door and has been interpreted as a shrine, there is no similar evidence from G11/G52. This roundhouse contained a hearth, large quantities of burnt stone and a ferrous smithing hearth as well as the remains of a bracelet, suggesting a practical rather than ritual function. The internal post settings in G11/G52 may have formed structures associated with craft production or might be interpreted in entirely structural terms, subdividing the internal space of the building to allow craft work to be separated from, for instance, domestic areas.

Group no.	Drip gully diam	Post ring diam	Spatial extent	Type (after Knight 1984, 118)
3	Unknown	–		Gp 3
5	10.5m–11.5m	–	86m²	Gp 3b
11	12.2m	–	116m²	Gp 3b
12	–	9.9m	77m²	Gp 1a
16	13.5m–14m	–	148m²	Gp 2b
17	10.5m	–	86m²	Gp 3a
45	–	8.7m	60m²	Gp 1a
48	–	8m	50m²	G 1a
68	–	6m–7m	33m²	G 1a

Table 5.1: Size of roundhouse structures in phase 3

The remaining drip gully buildings, G3, G5, G11 and G16, are comparable with the regional examples of Knight's group 3 (Knight 1984, 118). In a contemporary Campania roundhouse, the drip gully carried water away from the structure and needed regular cleaning after heavy rain (Close-Brooks and Gibson 1966), but few gullies drained away from the buildings at Salford in phase 3 and they are probably 'eaves splash' (Evans 1997), which Reynolds has noted may quickly silt up. These mound up into a humic lump, suggesting that any ceramics or other materials found in the drip gullies may have been deposited soon after the construction of the round house (Reynolds 1995, 192–202).

In addition to the wall slot in building G16, details of wall structures survived in G68, G12, and G48. These buildings vary both in internal area and the distancing of posts. Structurally their external walls comprised earthfast posts set into individual post holes. Two roundhouses, G68 and G12, have pairs of posts located in the centre of the buildings, whilst G48 has several small post holes offset, close to the western side. None of the drip gully or wall slot structures has evidence of subdivision. The paired posts may have been used to support roof timbers similar to the ring beam arrangement proposed at Little Waltham (Drury 1978, fig 67). Reynolds identifies this as a second house type, based on the Pimperne house, and has demonstrated that a central supporting post is unnecessary (Reynolds 1995, 193–97). The two posts may therefore have alternative uses, suggested both by experiment and contemporary African examples which do not support the roof but instead provide a framework from which to suspend a range of items (Reynolds 1995, 197; Moughtin 1988, 46).

Examples of both house forms have porch structures. Those comprising four large posts occur in G5, G12, and G48 at the entranceway, with a two-post variant in G11, where two substantial posts are probably in line with the wall of the structure. Both forms are familiar locally, the two-post arrangement at Brigstock (Knight 1984, fig 33) and the four-post form at Bancroft (Williams and Zeepvat 1994, fig 23, rh334).

Hearths have been found destroyed and redeposited as burnt stone in drip gullies around roundhouses G5, G11 and G12 but none from this phase was intact. This may suggest the hearths were either raised slightly above floor level or made directly on the floor surface and subsequently damaged and dispersed by ploughing, demolition or levelling in phase 4.

The second type of building present in phase 3 is the four-post structure: G18, G20, G28, G29, G31, G34, G60. These are distributed across the eastern part of the settlement, with the exception of G60 which is located to the west. Apart from G18, none have any ancillary structural evidence, nor is there any structural evidence to establish what form these buildings may have taken above ground, although G20, G31, G60 had posts replaced. Four-post structures may represent a variety of functions from grain stores to excarnation platforms (Ellison and Drewett 1971; Reynolds 1995). At Salford, in the absence of more conclusive evidence, we should probably assume they were linked to agriculture, perhaps used for storage of materials or grain (Reynolds 1995, 187).

The third building form was a single rectangular structure, G70. It had no eaves-drip gully and was made from posts and stakes in a variety of sizes, some replaced or later strengthened. G70 was orientated in the same east to west direction as the post-ring roundhouses on the eastern side of the settlement. Similar rectangular buildings have been noted at several sites, principally in the Nene Valley (Knight 1984, 158). Unable to determine a specific function, Knight was able to suggest some regional variation, but the Salford example does not fall into either of Knight's categories and is more complex than the Nene Valley examples. Rectangular structures are familiar from late Bronze Age settlements in Eastern Britain, for instance at Lofts Farm, Essex (Brown 1988) and, although no examples are known from the Salford area, an enclosed site at Gold Lane, Biddenham contained several rectangular, probably domestic, structures of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (phases 1 and 2) (Dawson 2004).

Thus the physical evidence of Salford in phase 3 has revealed a varied settlement of round, square and rectangular structures within a partially palisaded enclosure, possibly bounded by cultivation or tree stands on the west side. The buildings were earthfast timber structures, finished with wattle and daub, fragments of which were found in the gullies of G12, G45 and G68 (G21 in phase 4). The evidence of charcoal from the site suggests that, both in this phase and the next, the main structural timber used on site may have been oak (Gale, p.157). Doubtless the round structures were thatched, but it is unclear whether the rectangular or square structures were roofed.

Three roundhouses stand out in phase 3. One was approached along a structured route or avenue, the second was attached to an enclosure and the third isolated in the west. The first of the distinctive complexes is G5/G38 where the roundhouse is approached along an avenue. Superficially a bounded approach of this type is similar to the ritual site at Dun Ailinne, Co Kildare, but the context of the Irish structure, which is located within a 16ha hilltop enclosure, is entirely different to that of Salford (cf. Cunliffe 1997, 207). Other examples of avenues tend to appear as droveways comprising double ditches, such as those known at Fengate and Maxey, and a similar form was noted at Mingies Ditches where the approach to house 3 was defined by hedging. An almost identical palisade, however, was recorded at Cadbury (Alcock 1972, 101, fig 10.23) but unfortunately without further

Group no.	Drip gully diam	Post ring diam	Spatial extent	Type (after Knight 1984, 118)
76	9.5m			Gp 3b
1	11m	8.1m		Gp 2b
2	12m		113m²	Gp 3a
4	14m	7.8m	48m²	Gp 1b
6	11.5m–13.5m	*c.*8.5m	104–143m²	Gp 1b
8	10.8m			Gp 3a
7	12.5m	8.1m	104m²	Gp 1b
9	9.4m–8.2m			Gp 3a
10	13.4m	?	–/95m²	Gp 1b
13	12m–14.5m			Gp 3b
14	13m		130m²	Gp 3b
15	13m		130m²	Gp 3b
72	10m–11m			Gp 3
21	-			Gp 1a

Table 5.2: Size of roundhouse structures in phase 4

interpretation, and although next to a building, 23, there is no indication that the Cadbury palisade leads directly to any structure.

The second roundhouse complex, G17/G36, was situated on the western side of the settlement between roundhouses G16 and G5, and overlay one of the ring ditches G43. There are neither post holes nor pits within the enclosure. Enclosures attached to roundhouses are known from Milton Keynes 3 (Knight 1984, fig 61) and Cat's Water (Pryor 1978, fig 7), where the function of the enclosures seems to have been for stock corralling, or possibly gardens. At Claydon Pike (Cunliffe and Miles 1984, fig 6.6), structure III may be similar to Salford but is smaller. At more recent excavations in Daventry (Chapman 1994, fig 3), structures 22 and 23 may also represent roundhouses with attached enclosures and there is an enclosure at Hartigans outside RH20 (Williams 1993, fig 76).

The third roundhouse, which may be significant because of access, is G45. Located north-west of the main settlement area, this solitary building was post built and contained a central hearth. The building was replaced in a similar position in phase 4 and may have served to draw attention to anyone approaching from the east or south-east.

Both G38 and G36 could direct entry or exit, or constrain approaches or exits to roundhouses G5 and G17. As such, all three roundhouses, including G45, could be interpreted as having mechanisms to distance an incumbent such as a shaman or chieftain or to enhance the prestige or the inviolability of, say, a blacksmith. At G38 the avenue may derive its significance either when entering or when leaving roundhouse G5, forcing an individual or supplicant to turn around the roundhouse, following the rite of circumambulation (Webster 1995, 460).

Temporal Shift

The transition from phase 3 to phase 4 took place during the 5th century BC and was accompanied by a change in ceramic usage, as the predominance of carinated or furrowed types over ovoid forms in Ceramics Phase 3 was reversed in Ceramics Phase 4. Within the phase 4 settlement the distribution of sooted ceramics and burnt stone, together with the shank of a bodkin (Rf 36) and loom weight (Rf 22), suggests the location of a craft zone centred on G4, which replaced an earlier craft zone focused on roundhouses G5, G11 and G12 of phase 3. In the north-west there is a hint of continuing tradition with the construction of roundhouse G72 in a similarly isolated location to roundhouse G45.

Yet, despite these continuities, there is also evidence of change. The general layout of the settlement remained broadly similar in both phases, with roundhouses on the western side and the eastern area largely blank, but in phase 4 there is a clear shift to a more linear arrangement. Neither the avenue nor the enclosure were retained, and, with the exception of G45, individual house locations were not maintained. Nor was the settlement enclosed in phase 4 although the boundaries, particularly to the north, may still have been visible as shallow depressions. In this way the settlement may still have been bounded by the remnants of the earlier enclosure but these were no longer such explicit statements.

Within the main area of the settlement almost all the roundhouses G76, G2, G1, G4, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10, G13, G14, G15 and G72, had drip gullies in phase 4, with only one post-built structure, G21, without (Table 5.2). G72, despite continuing the locational position of G45 phase 3, also changed form from a post-built to a drip gully roundhouse.

Several roundhouses in phase 4 retained some evidence of internal features. Building G1, in particular, includes an inner circular slot which probably provided the base for wattle panels or timber uprights. Unfortunately, no sections of this were recorded. Roundhouse G4 contained a ring of stake holes which were shallow and approximately 200mm deep, similar to others in G7 and G10. G6, however, contained much larger posts around the circumference, suggesting a more robust structure. This building also contained two axial posts, as did G13, which

suggests internal partitions or supports comparable to those noted in roundhouses G68 and G12 in phase 3. In one example, G9, four post holes were found in the centre of the structure and these hint at the possibility of either a central ring beam, although at 7m diameter the building was smaller than most, or some other internal structure. Similar buildings have been recorded at Winterton, Humberside (Hingley 1997, fig 5.3) and Danebury, Hants (Cunliffe 1984, PS347 and PS335). Internal structures like the four-post layout of G9, have been proposed as the basis of an excarnation platform within a house of the dead, when associated with a west-facing entrance (Gwilt 1997, 164). However, the entrance of G9 faces east and in the only west-facing structure, G72, there was no evidence of internal structures.

There is some evidence of structural repairs to the porches of G4, and the entrances to G7 and G15. The post-ring structure, G21, comprised a partial ring of stake holes but included two four-post settings to the north and east. In both cases the four posts could represent entrance porches reminiscent of building 5 at Wakerley (Jackson and Ambrose 1978; Gwilt 1997, 164). At G21 the four-post settings appear integral to the building, which suggests that this exceptional building had possibly two entrances or that one of the four-post settings represents a change in the orientation of this roundhouse.

In contrast to phase 3, the phase 4 settlement included only three four-post structures G22, G25 and G59. Two were located on the east side of the settlement, which reflects the layout of phase 3, with G59 located in an isolated position on the west side of the settlement, possibly replicating the position of G60.

Ritual and Function

Increasing use of analogies with ethnographic research, and the publication of research in pastoral Africa by Hodder in the early 1980s (Hodder 1982) has led to significant approaches in identifying the underlying ritual code of Iron Age settlement. Today the complex relationship between archaeological deposits and past activity must be seen as one of 'structural transformation rather than passive reflection of past societies' (Gwilt and Haselgrove 1997, 2ff). Since Clarke's study of Iron Age houses at Gussage All Saints (1972), attempts have been made in particular to reconcile finds distributions with activity areas (Chadwick Hawkes 1994; Fitzpatrick 1994) and such analyses have led the way to exploration of the ritual underpinning of much of Iron Age activity (Hill 1989; 1995; Oswald 1997; Parker Pearson and Richards 1994). An extensive range of attributes has now been identified that might have been affected by a ritual code. These include the orientation of roundhouses, the burial of animal bones and artefacts, deposition in pits, the build up of middens, the disposal of the dead, off-site deposition of artefacts, enclosure and the construction of shrines (Tables 5.3–5.4).

At Salford in phase 3, ceramics seem to have been concentrated in either the north-western or south-western quadrants of the roundhouses, although there was insufficient data to be certain whether this occurred in phase 4. Attempting to correlate this evidence with current models of roundhouse use/occupation (Chadwick Hawkes 1994, 19; Fitzpatrick 1994, 68–75) is a significant problem. Most of Salford's assemblages derive from drip gullies, with only a few ceramic finds from structural features like post holes. It is not known whether the gullies were kept clear while in use (Reynolds 1995, 197), so that deposits could have accumulated either during the occupation of the roundhouse, and were subject to regular cleaning, or following its demolition. The mixed character of the ceramics suggests most could have derived from refuse disposal. Ceramics and animal bone in gully terminals have been noted at the Fenland site of Cat's Water, Mingies Ditches, Oxfordshire (Allen and Robinson 1993), and Claydon Pike, Gloucestershire, and could have derived from floor sweepings and reflect the use of the building. Finds within post holes, however, might better reflect use deposits (Reynolds 1995, 197) which could have found their way into the cavities formed by rotting timber uprights and may have been deposited within a few years of the construction of the roundhouse. At Salford, ceramic finds in post holes, however, produces a different pattern to the assemblages in drip gullies. In phase 3, pottery in three roundhouses is found in the door posts of G11 and G12 and in the south-west quadrant of G16. In phase 4, five roundhouses, G7, G10, G13, G14, G15, had ceramics in their entrance post holes, with no consistent pattern in the remainder.

The deposition of ceramics and the near total absence of non-ceramic artefactual evidence indicates the potentially high level of curation in the disposal of different material types (Binford 1976). Such a level of curation could emphasise the significance of individual artefact deposits (Duncan, p.134). It is surprising, therefore, that, compared to other sites in the area such as Stagsden, Bedfordshire, or Pennyland, Buckinghamshire, that there are so few datable pits at Salford. In all some 182 were excavated, twelve of which were Neolithic and assigned to phase 1, two were probably Bronze Age, in phase 2, and eighty-six were part of the boundary G40 in phase 2. Eleven pits were dated to phase 3 (Table 2.21) and in phase 4, eleven pits were identified during excavation but have been interpreted as probably watering hollows. In phase 5, four pits contained cremations. There were four pits dated to the Roman period, phase 6. Some 54 pits remain unphased because they contained no artefacts or datable material. The paucity of artefactual material in pits of all phases, and the absence of pits in phase 4 when

Structure	Phase	Type	Rf	Bulk finds	Animal bone	Ceramics	Function	Orientation
3	3	R-house	–		✓	Table 2.11		SE
5 (38)	3	R-house	Whetstone		✓	Table 2.7		SE
11 (52)	3	R-house	Bracelet	Hearth	✓	Table 2.12		SE
12	3	R-house	–	Daub	✓	Table 2.15		SE
16	3	R-house	–		–	Table 2.14		E
17 (36)	3	R-house	–		✓	Table 2.9		S & E
18	3	4-post	–		–	Table 2.18	Shrine	
20	3	4-post	–	Daub	✓	Table 2.19		
28	3	4-post	–		✓	Table 2.20		
29	3	4-post	–		✓	–		
31	3	4-post	–		–	–		
34	3	4-post	–		–	–		
40	3	Boundary	Spearhead		✓	Table 2.4		
41	3	Boundary	–		–	Table 2.6		
45	3	R-house	–	Daub				
				Hearth	✓	–		Unkn
48	3	R-house	–		✓	–		SE
60	3	4-post	–		–	–		
68	3	R-house	–	Daub				
				Hearth	✓	–		E
70	3	Rectangular	–		–	–		E

Table 5.3: Evidence from phase 3 structures

Structure	Phase	Type	Rf	Bulk finds	Animal bone	Ceramics	Function	Orientation
76	4	R-house			✓	Table 2.23		?E or SE
1	4	R-house	Bracelet Rf 21, Bone (825)	Hearth & burnt stone	✓	Table 2.24		E
2	4	R-house			✓	Table 2.24		E
4	4	R-house	Loomweight Rf 22	Hearth & burnt stone	✓	Table 2.26		E
6	4	R-house	Rf 36/25	Fired clay	✓	Table 2.27		E
8	4	R-house		Burnt stone	✓	Table 2.28		E
7	4	R-house		Hearth & burnt stone	✓	Table 2.29		E
9	4	R-house		Burnt stone	✓	Table 2.30		E
10	4	R-house		Burnt stone	✓	Table 2.31		E
13	4	R-house		–	✓	Table 2.32		E
14	4	R-house		–	✓	Table 2.33		E
15	4	R-house		–	✓	Table 2.34		E
72	4	R-house		Hearth	–	Table 2.35		?E or SE
21	4	R-house		–	✓	Table 2.36		SE
22	4	4-poster		–	✓	Table 2.37		
25	4	4-poster		–	–	–		
59	4	4-poster		–	✓	Table 2.38		
63	4	Pits	Bone		✓			

Table 5.4: Evidence from phase 4 structures

perhaps the most extensive settlement developed, and their return in phase 6, suggests a regional variance to the deposition patterns noted by Hill in Wessex (Hill 1995). Nevertheless several pits which contained cattle skulls [3805, 3670] in G64, phase 4, and another in [2902] G65, also in phase 4, and one unphased example [2758], are reminiscent of bull sacrifice (Ross 1995, 439), while Duncan (p.135) has drawn attention to the antler (Rf 49) in pit G65 but notes that it had been gnawed, probably before deposition, close to the boundary of the phase 3 settlement.

The roundhouses, with their entrances to the east or east-south-east, constitute one of the most typical characteristics of Iron Age settlements, with porches the most solidly marked elements rather than the hearth (Parker Pearson and Richards 1994). At Salford the orientation clearly forms a significant visual element of the ritual code. In the case of the phase 3 settlement, the entranceways have two significant orientations. The free-standing roundhouses are all approached from the east-south-east or east, with the exception of structures G17 and G5, which both had formal structured approaches or departure routes from the south. In phase 4 the structured approach routes were removed and replaced by a near uniform orientation to the east, with the exception of the post-built G21 which is approached from the south-east. The uniformity of east-facing entrances bears comparison with a similar phenomena at Moel y Gaer (Guilbert 1976).

A further factor in the layout of the settlement is the extensive open area to the south-east in phase 3. Here there is little evidence of activity except for the nine dispersed four-post structures. These significantly include G18, a small rectilinear structure which had a central pit where an antler and a large assemblage of pottery had been deposited (Table 2.18). The antler burial in G65, noted above, may be similar to an antler deposited in a clay-lined pit with much charcoal (625) at East Stagsden, phase 1 (Dawson 2000a, 27). But the central location of the pit suggests the structure may be a shrine comparable with those proposed at Cadbury (Downes 1997), Danebury (Cunliffe 1995) and Heathrow (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993). The setting of the structure, away from the roundhouses, furthermore, suggests an open space with potential for an assembly area.

The Environment and Economy of Salford

The pollen analysis indicates the openness of the landscape around Salford, which was given over to pasture and open soils (Wiltshire, p.154) and this is typical of eastern Britain. In phase 3, plant macrofossil samples, however, contained low concentrations of cereal grain, chaff and weed seeds. The cereals present include *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and *Hordeum vulgare* (six-row hulled barley) which were probably the main arable crop, and while the settlement certainly used cereals there is no evidence for large-scale crop processing on the site.

From the pond, G39, in the south-eastern corner came pollen and waterlogged wood samples. The wood represents a mixture of deposited waste material and natural debris, the latter perhaps including knobbly *Prunus* and the former oak. This confirms the charcoal evidence, which was mostly from *Quercus* (oak), probably representing the fuel of domestic hearths and present in many of the plant macrofossil samples.

The waterlogged wood samples were mainly small fragments of woody stem and included species *Prunus* (probably blackthorn), hazel, willow/poplar, oak and ?apple/hawthorn/whitebeam/rowan/wild service. Two larger non-stem fragments exhibited worked surfaces. The greater proportion of the samples arose from stem wood and many still retained their bark. Most samples, the *Prunus* in particular, were knobbly or had numerous scars from lateral shoots, suggesting that these arose from naturally growing specimens rather than coppiced trees, which produce long, straight, stems with relatively few laterals.

The economy of the Iron Age settlement of phases 3 and 4 can be characterised as agricultural, largely pastoral. Cattle and sheep dominate the animal bone assemblage with some evidence for pigs. Ducks and chickens are also represented; however, with only five specimens of wild deer, it is clear there is little reliance on hunting. The majority of cattle were mature or elderly adults, characteristic of Iron Age husbandry in near subsistence agriculture (Robinson and Wilson 1983; Maltby 1996), comparable to animal bone assemblages at local sites Pennyland, Furzton (Williams 1988) and Bancroft (Williams and Zeepvat 1994), where cattle also predominated over sheep and pigs. Knife marks indicate the role of butchery while the limited data from ceramic residue analysis confirm some food processing involving heat. We must assume from the age of the cattle and sheep or goats that dairy products were important, possibly more so than meat. Among the cattle there is one example of a draught animal, in G40 (2908); a significant resource which, after their selection at age 5 to 6 years, Reynolds suggests may have been kept separately to the main herd (Reynolds 1995, 189). In contrast, the pig bone assemblage is small, and the age profile shows them to have been slaughtered, doubtless for meat at 1–2 years old. Sheep and goats not only provided meat, killed at 1 year, but wool and ultimately leather when slaughtered in maturity. Bone working is also evident from the finds assemblage. Horses or ponies, were also present; unlikely to have been draught animals, they were probably used for transport, proportionately only as numerous as sheep/goats in phase 3 and 4. There is no evidence of specific processing areas associated with the animal bone.

Iron smithing, evident from hearths in roundhouses in G5 and G11, phase 3, and G4 in phase 4, seems to have been restricted to a limited number of households or locations and may have been a craft skill which was passed on from one family generation to another rather than a skill held in common by the community. There is no evidence of bronze working and the limited presence of iron artefacts from the settlement phases at Salford, the bracelet from the gully of G1 and nail from G6, indicates both the value of the metal and, in practical terms, that it was unnecessary in day-to-day activity.

Fabric analysis indicates ceramic production took place locally, but not within the area of excavation, and only a small amount was imported. The proportions of decorated ceramics are also small – less than 5.98% in the roundhouses of phase 3 and 4.95% in those of phase 4. Decorated ceramics, slashing on the shoulder, vertical combing and scoring are treatments common to an area from the River Trent to the Great Ouse Valley (Knight 1994; Knight 2002), characterised by the ceramic style zones Ivinghoe-Sandy, Chinnor Wandlebury and the Bowl continuum (Cunliffe 1995). Slowikowski (p.106) suggests that the presence of limited quantities of decorated ceramics not only indicates the regional potential of social discourse but that the ceramic assemblage is evidence of the maintenance of social networks rather than the need to acquire ceramics *per se*.

Regional Context

Low levels of ceramics found in the post holes of the four-post structures and in several pits suggests that the area between the roundhouses, despite the absence of pens, tethering posts or enclosures, may have been used to over-winter some cattle (or sheep). The four-post structures might be interpreted as animal stalls for winter fodder. Such an explanation may seem to draw too heavily on the absence of evidence for a more complex functionality in this eastern area, but the small shrine G18, with its antler deposit, together with the cattle skulls found in pits (which may be an explicit link to bull sacrifice), seem to reflect significant concerns with animals and possibly with herding or husbandry.

The possible identification of activity areas associated with iron working, together with religious or ritualised behaviour based in animal husbandry is the starting point from which to establish Salford's regional context. Initially the early Iron Age settlement may have gained some status through association with past traditions, possibly derived from folk memories of earlier Neolithic activity or the shallow remains of the Bronze Age ring ditches. This situation is comparable to Maxey, where activity was initiated by a small henge and followed by the excavation of square barrows, also containing little dating evidence (Taylor 1997, 193). Salford therefore may fall into a wider pattern of site selection which is only just being recognised in eastern Britain.

The partial enclosure of the settlement also suggests further parallels with regional developments. Although the near absence of imported pottery, and scientific dating, means that we cannot establish with precision the temporal relationship of Salford with other sites in the region, in general terms the forms and fabrics as well as proportions of pottery use are comparable with the patterns established for the Upper Nene and Great Ouse Valleys (Slowikowski, p.105; Knight 1984; 2002). Recent research (Knight 1984; Bryant and Niblett 1997; Dawson 2000a; 2000b; Kidd *ex litt*) into regional settlement patterns suggests a late Bronze Age and early Iron Age landscape characterised by small farms or settlements. Comparable in date with Salford, phase 3, is the enclosed site at Biddenham (Dawson 2004), where several, possibly rectangular, structures were found on higher ground above a loop of the River Great Ouse. In contrast, late Bronze Age–early Iron Age activity at Bancroft was limited to a single large, unenclosed, roundhouse (Williams and Zeepvat 1994). In the middle Iron Age the settlement expanded to eighteen roundhouses spread over 180m along a hillside above the Bradwell Brook. There were no pit concentrations, but there were several four-post structures. Recent excavations have also reached the remains of agglomerated sites to the north such as Wilby Way, Wellingborough (Enright and Thomas 1998), and Crick (Hughes 1998), and there are further examples in the Chilterns to the south (Bryant and Niblett 1997).

This mixed pattern of settlement forms suggests an uncertain social context in which there is no clear hierarchy or interdependence and where there may be significant levels of independence or autonomy. In the case of the upper Thames, Hingley has argued that in this context enclosure can be linked to the transition from an acephalous society to one in which the enclosure represents the needs of a newly arisen elite to define their status (Hingley 1989). At Salford the partially enclosed settlement and the pattern of settlement in the area during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age may support a similar model.

In phase 3 if the wealth of the community was based on cattle held in common, the potential restraints and tensions in a tradition-loaded environment may be present in the discourse between those able to restrict access to processes (such as iron production), express status and constrain access to power, and the common ownership of the community's wealth. In this environment tensions could have been played out through ritual and tradition, some of which are visible in phase 3. In phase 4 the structured entry to or egress from roundhouses has gone, to be replaced by a more uniform settlement. Houses are now laid out in a row and there is a larger area, although no direct evidence, for animal corralling in the eastern part of the site. Is this evidence that Salford had become part of a more explicit settlement hierarchy?

Contemporary middle Iron Age settlement has not been studied in depth but phase 4 broadly equates to the period of occupation of promontory forts at Mowsbury (Dring 1971), Sharpenhoe Clappers (Dix 1983), and Sandy Lodge (Dyer 1971). The appearance of these structures may be evidence of tension between pastoralists and farmers as a result of encroaching arable agriculture (Dawson 2000b, 121). It was probably a time of tribal development and provides a context in which a village may now have taken its place in a more structured hierarchy, concurrent with increasing contacts between what had once been autonomous, but not isolated, communities.

5.4 The later Iron Age: the burials

At the end of phase 4 the settlement at Salford declined and was abandoned. Ceramic analysis suggests this took place during the 2nd century BC, although the evidence is insufficiently precise to determine whether desertion was sudden or whether the settlement gradually declined over several years or generations. In the interregnum that followed, the pollen data suggest the site remained open, possibly rough pasture (pollen zone SQ3) and that the site possibly became marginally wetter. Gale (p.157) thought there may be the potential for some woodland regeneration.

Towards the middle of the 1st century BC a small cremation cemetery was established on the northern margin of the earlier settlement. It comprised four burials in which calcined human bone had been deposited in shallow pits, together with pottery urns and copper-alloy or iron brooches. Cremation 3 also held an organic container. Dated by a combination of metalwork grave goods and ceramics to 50–10 BC, no contemporary settlement has been discovered close to the cremations, though a single piece of late Iron Age pottery found in deposit (2100) and pottery in the upper layer of the pond G39 indicates activity nearby. At comparable sites, such as the Biddenham Loop or Hinxton Rings, settlements are often some distance from the burials and it may be that the desertion of the phase 4 settlement occurred as the settlement shifted further to the north. The Salford burials are typical of the Aylesford group, late Iron Age burials that commonly occur in groups of fewer than five individual graves (Whimster 1981). In many cemeteries graves are grouped either in 'family rings' or satellites around a central burial. Several of these groups are demarcated by small rectangular to sub-rectangular ditched enclosures (Whimster 1981; Hill *et al* 1999). Although no such enclosure is present at Salford, the location of the four cremations between and parallel to the ditches of G41 suggests these ditches may have functioned as boundaries for the small cemetery.

In terms of dating and type of grave goods, the cremations form a cohesive group comparable to Stead's 'Welwyn' burials, an early Aylesford group current in the second half of the 1st century BC group. These are characteristic of a new tradition (Whimster 1981; Hill *et al* 1999) that was developing in eastern Britain. Recently discovered examples at Biddenham, Stotfold and Hinxton confirm the date range in the later 1st century BC, and the distribution in eastern Britain with its limit in the north Bedfordshire claylands. Cemeteries to the immediate north and west of Salford, for example Irwell and Duston, Northants, and Bancroft, Bucks, all fall within the later 'Lexden' phase, possessing butt beakers, Gallo-Belgic derived platters and Colchester and Langton Down brooches (Whimster 1981; Williams and Zeepvat 1994, 63–72).

Burials of Welwyn type mark a change in the way status was portrayed. Not only is greater emphasis placed on the corporeal remains of the dead but, through accompanying grave goods, on their appearance in life, their wealth and possibly earthly status. The origin of such change is often ascribed to imported fashion yet, as Hill *et al* (1999) have shown, this particular tradition may have developed in response to more local factors. Salford is one of the earliest examples of the Welwyn group and on the periphery of the distribution where the need to express status and identity in this way may have been felt most strongly. Salford may be at the start of a process of change which was to spread from periphery to core as the trend in this form of status expression caught hold.

5.5 Salford under Rome

Burial in the late Iron Age cemetery at Salford was the latest discernible event at the site prior to the Roman Conquest, yet from the pollen data the area continued to be grazed. Settlement is known from the other side of the Ouzel at Bradwell, and from the north at Hartigans. At Salford the level of Roman period activity remained low throughout, with only the construction of what appears to be a field barn, G37, on the eastern side of the excavated area. The scarcity of Roman ceramics or other finds from the excavated area and indeed from the adjacent land, at Mill Farm, Whitsundoles Farm and Lodge Farm suggests the focus of Roman settlement was some distance away.

Elsewhere in the region a similar picture is emerging of a settlement pattern in which many sites were occupied and re-occupied throughout the early 1st millennium BC, but few sites occupied in the 2nd century BC were still occupied in the 1st century AD. The period 1st century BC and 1st century AD was one of radical change in the Iron Age, with burial traditions, coinage and the growth of *oppida* characterising this change. In the Roman period the most tangible evidence of change is the increasing appearance of enclosure boundaries and in the Ouse Valley a series of villas, probably estate centres. Locally, Romano-British enclosures are evident at Old Covert (Petchey 1978) and from Whitsundoles Farm (BCAS 95/36, 23), where a field system of Romano-British date extends almost from the banks of the Ouzel. The presence of the field barn G37 may indicate that, under Rome, Salford was subsumed into a larger estate.

5.6 The Saxon Period

The nature of the evidence from the Saxon period suggests that from the end of the Roman period the Salford site was increasingly marginalised as settlement shifted towards the river and the location of the present (medieval) Salford village. The medieval village of Salford was known at Domesday as *Saleford* (DB 1086 AD), Old English for 'Sallow ford'. Sallow, a species of *Salix* that has a low growing or shrubby habit, especially *Salix caprea*, doubtless reflects Salford village's proximity to water and a stream crossing.

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Abbreviations

BAR British Archaeological Reports
CBA Council for British Archaeology
SSEW Soil Survey of England and Wales

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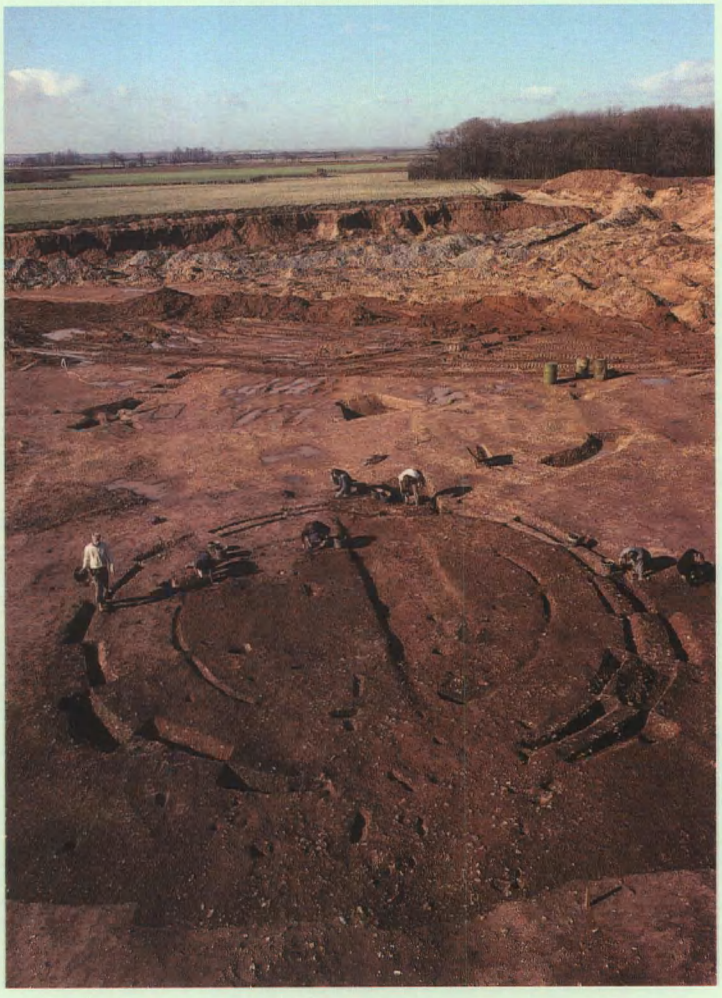

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