

Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman settlement on the Oxford Clay at Luton Road, Wilstead

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SUMMARY

Between May and September 2001 Albion Archaeology undertook archaeological investigations in advance of housing development at Luton Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire. Evidence for settlement from the early–middle Iron Age, the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and the Saxo-Norman period was located.

Early–middle Iron Age

The early–middle Iron Age settlement was unenclosed, but restricted in extent. It comprised clusters of pits, postholes and a single ditch of uncertain function. A relatively large contemporary pottery assemblage was recovered along with a small quantity of charred cereal remains.

Late Iron Age/early Romano-British

Prior to the Roman Conquest a new farmstead was established at a different location to the early–middle Iron Age settlement, possibly fitting a regional trend of settlement shift during this period. Two distinct domestic foci were identified, both containing structural remains, a water pit and smaller pits. Both were located to the south of a contemporary boundary ditch but it is unclear if this was part of an enclosure. Possibly from the late 1st century AD a rectangular ditched enclosure system which incorporated the earlier boundary ditch was established in the same area as the earlier farmstead. Every enclosure contained settlement-type features, which included clusters of pits and postholes along with a roundhouse that was securely dated to this period.

Later Roman

At some point in the later Roman period a single, new enclosure was established in the same area as the earlier enclosures, but on a different alignment. This clearly represents a major change in settlement layout, possibly associated with a break in occupation. The enclosure contained only a handful of settlement-type features and, with one exception, a small finds assemblage. However, a centrally positioned depression produced a large and unusual finds assemblage, including a ‘special’ deposit associated with ritual sheep sacrifice. This evidence may suggest that the site took on a more religious function during this period.

Saxo-Norman

The Saxo-Norman settlement was established away from the earlier Iron Age and Roman farmsteads. It comprised two domestic foci, separated by a boundary ditch. It probably lay on the periphery of a larger, dispersed settlement, associated with the Domesday Manor of Wilshamstead.

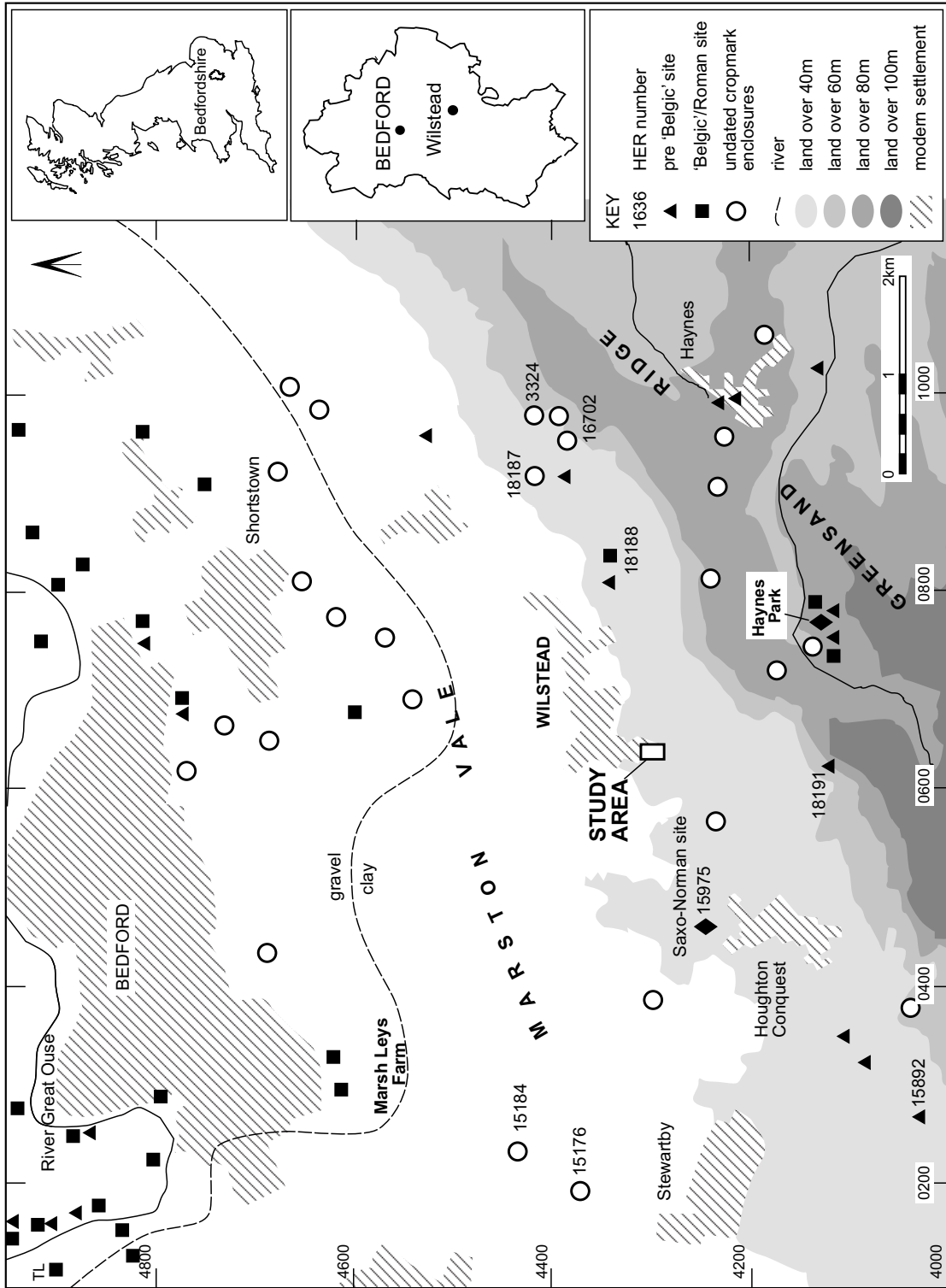


Figure 1: Site location

INTRODUCTION

In 1999 Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd was granted planning permission (99/00980/FUL) by Bedford Borough Council for the residential development of an area of land off Luton Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). On the advice of the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) of Bedfordshire County Council, a condition was placed on the planning permission, requiring a programme of archaeological work in advance of development. This was in line with local planning policy and the guidelines in the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16). An evaluation located significant archaeological remains over part of the development area. Subsequent open area archaeological excavation was undertaken within those areas where remains would be unavoidably destroyed by the development.

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) (renamed Albion Archaeology during the project) undertook the work on behalf of Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd. This report presents the evidence for Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman settlement from all stages of the work.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

(Fig. 1)

The site was located at the southern tip of the village of Wilstead, c. 5km southeast of Bedford, centred at TL 0625 4310. It covered an area of c. 7 hectares.

Topographically, the site lay on the southern edge of the Marston Vale, a low lying and relatively flat clay vale, bordered by the Greensand Ridge to the south. It sloped down from northeast to southwest, between 45m and 40m OD. The site was bounded to the west by the A6, to the east by Luton Road, and to the north by fields. The underlying geology was Oxford Clay and the land was under pasture prior to the archaeological investigations.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

(Fig. 1)

At the time of the investigations the County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) contained little evidence for archaeological sites around Wilstead. The only recorded archaeological

remains within the development area itself were ridge and furrow earthworks, indicating that it had once been under arable cultivation.

Until recently, archaeological evidence for pre-medieval activity in the Marston Vale was relatively sparse (Dawson forthcoming). Few intrusive investigations had been undertaken and the majority of the evidence was in the form of cropmarks, which are inherently difficult to date. There are several quite complex cropmarks in the Marston Vale within 5km of Wilstead, e.g. HER 15176 and 15184 to the west and HER 3324, 16702 and 18187 to the east. The majority of these appear to represent ditched enclosure systems and are mostly presumed to be Iron Age/Romano-British in date.

The manor of Wilstead was recorded in Domesday Book under its Old English name, Wilshamstead, indicating the existence of late Saxon occupation in the area. However, apart from villages and moated sites, the only possible evidence until recently for early medieval activity in the vicinity was the discovery of Saxo-Norman pottery c. 1km to the southwest (HER 15975) of the site.

Over the last ten years there has been an increase in the quantity of intrusive fieldwork within the Marston Vale. This has produced far more evidence for Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement than had previously been expected. A number of investigations have been undertaken near Marston Mortaine, c. 6.5km to the west, e.g. Beancroft Road (Shotliff and Crick 1999), Church End Lower School (Edmondson and Steadman 2001) and Stewartby Millennium Park (BCAS 1998). More recently, and later than the investigations reported in this article, a number of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites (HER 18188 and 18191) were located during archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of pipeline construction through the Marston Vale to the east of Wilstead (Network Archaeology 2004). The previous scarcity of archaeological evidence for settlement in the vale is probably the result of several factors which are discussed in the conclusion.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

(Fig. 2)

A staged programme of archaeological work was undertaken, with each stage building on the results of the earlier stages. The integrated results form the main section of this report.

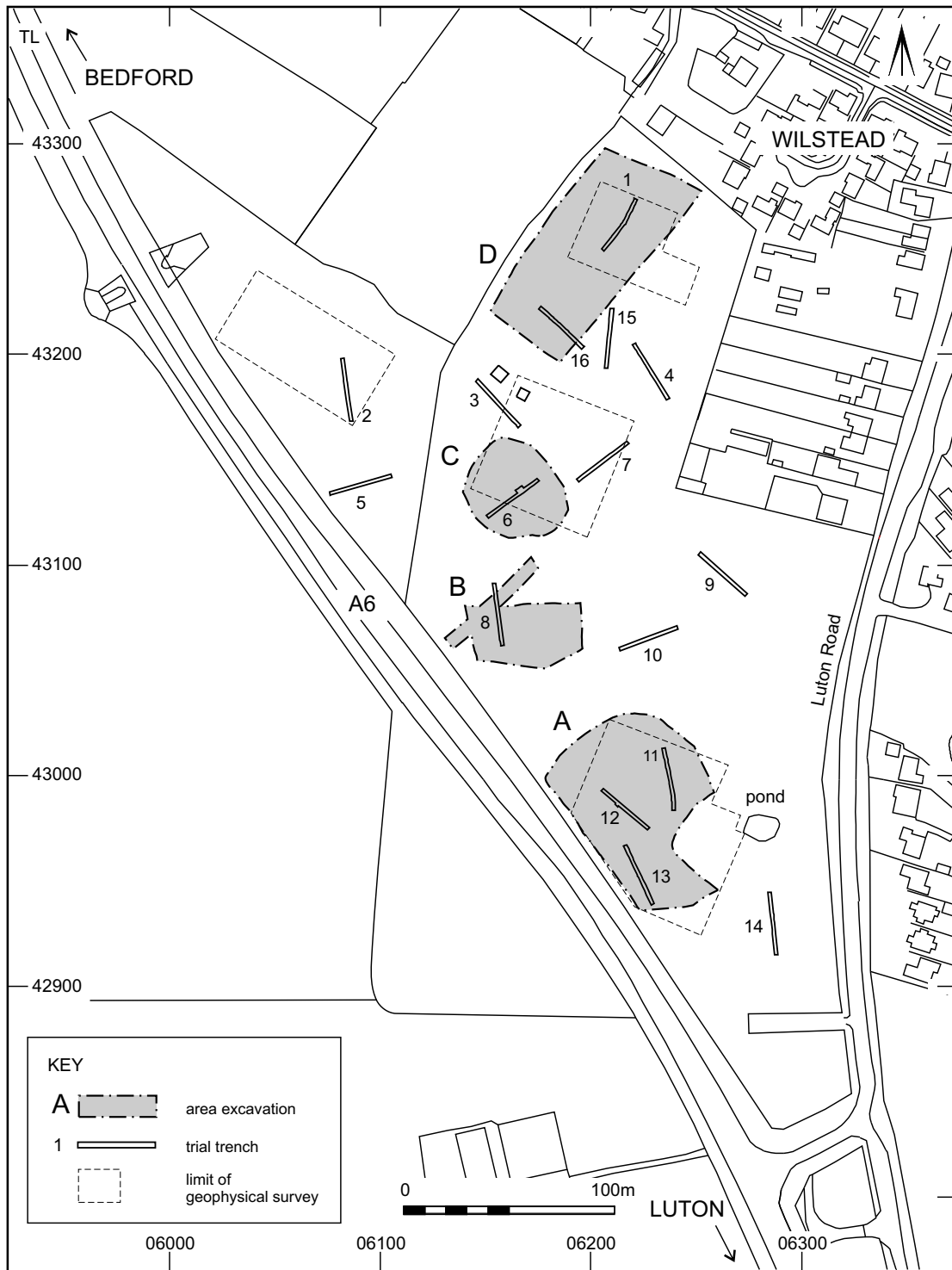


Figure 2: Areas of different types of archaeological investigation within Study Area

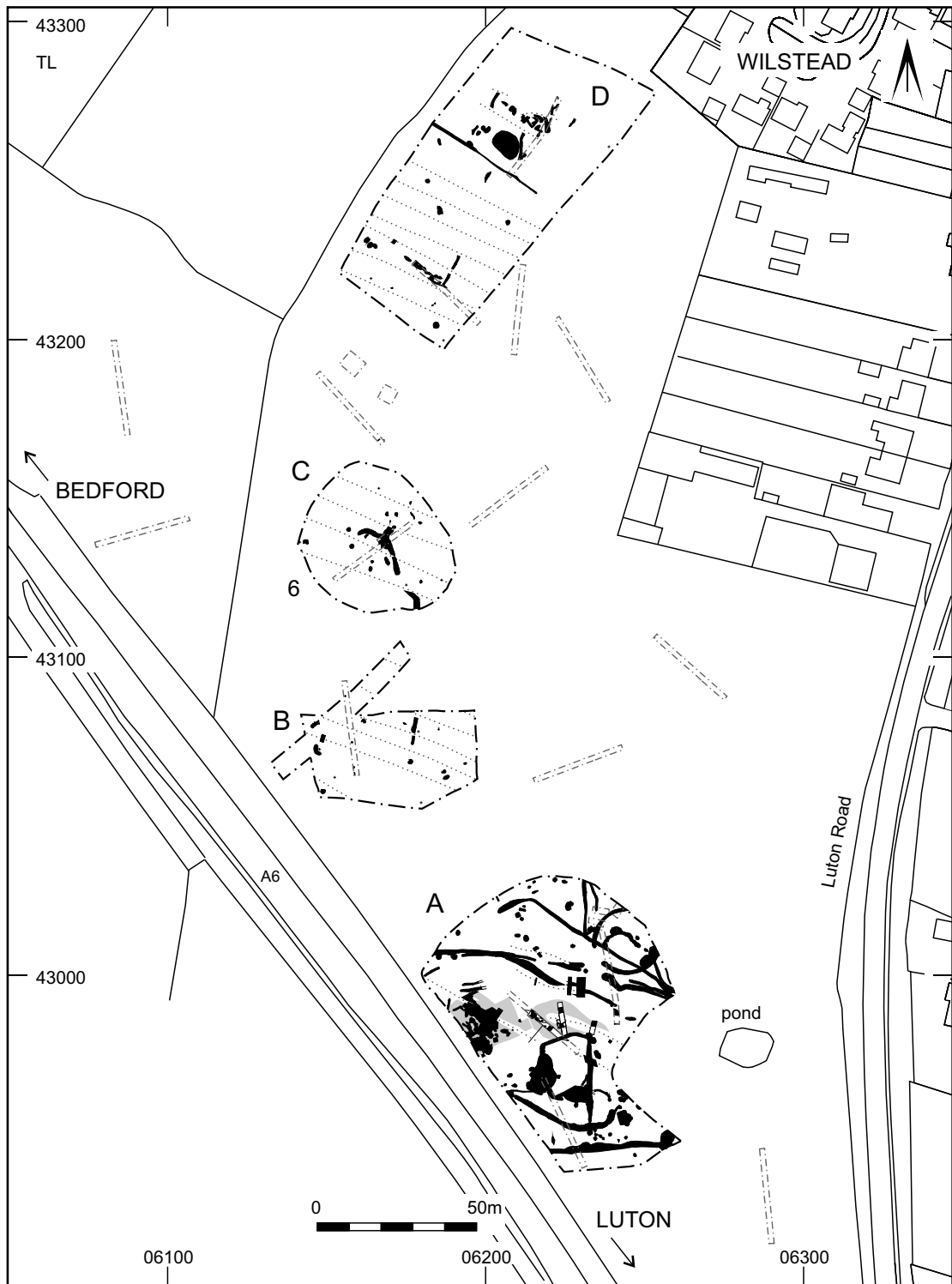


Figure 3: All features within excavation areas and evaluation trenches

Briefs were issued by the CAO for each element of the work, stipulating methodology and extent. These, along with the BCAS Project Design and reports on each stage, are in the project archive.

NON-INTRUSIVE EVALUATION

A summary of the results of the preliminary non-intrusive evaluation, coordinated by Countryside, Planning and Management (CPM), is presented below.

A desk-based archaeological assessment concluded that archaeological remains were likely to be present within the development area (CPM 1999).

A magnetometry survey was carried out by GSB Prospection (1999). The entire site was scanned along traverses spaced at c. 10m intervals but the results were “negative”. Following discussions between GSB, CPM and the CAO, four areas, c. 1.4ha in total, were chosen for detailed survey to test the results of the scanning (Fig. 2). Ditch- and pit-type anomalies were identified in the two southern areas only. They were magnetically weak explaining why they were not detected during scanning.

An earthwork survey of the entire site recorded the denuded ridge and furrow earthworks. These were aligned approximately northwest–southeast, c. 6m apart, with no obvious breaks suggestive of settlement or trackways.

INTRUSIVE EVALUATION

Sixteen trial trenches, with a combined length of 480m, were excavated by BCAS (1999). Seven were targeted on geophysical anomalies, many of which proved to be of human origin and were dated by pottery to the Romano-British period. Three main foci of archaeological features were identified: around Trenches 1 and 16 to the north, Trench 6 in the centre of the site, and Trenches 11, 12 and 13 to the south. Elsewhere, Trench 8 contained a small number of late Iron Age and post-medieval features. Several trenches contained the bases of medieval furrows, although no finds of this period were recovered.

The remains were suggestive of low status, Romano-British rural settlement. However, it was suggested that the two fragments of *tegulae* recovered may indicate that a fairly substantial dwelling was located in the vicinity (BCAS 1999, 17).

OPEN AREA EXCAVATION (Fig. 3)

Although the evaluation identified significant archaeological remains, they did not, *per se*, warrant preservation *in situ*. It was agreed by the CAO and Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd that they could be dealt with by detailed archaeological investigation in advance of construction. A Brief was issued by the CAO for this work (BCC 2000). Following discussions between the CAO, Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd and BCAS it was agreed the investigation be divided into four areas (A–D), c. 1.4ha in total. The extent and shape of these reflected the development plan and with regard the eastern edge of Area A respected the newt habitat.

Work began in May 2001 while construction commenced on adjacent land. All hand excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with the BCAS *Procedures Manual* (BCAS 2000) and the Project Design (BCAS 2001). The identification of features following machining was difficult due to the dry and hard ground conditions at the time of the investigation. However, where identified, all isolated archaeological features were half-sectioned and ditches were subject to segment excavation.

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

On completion of the fieldwork, a combined Assessment Report and Updated Project Design (Albion 2002a) was produced. This summarised the results, set out a research framework and methodological basis for the post-excavation analysis.

During analysis, the evidence recorded on site was organised into a hierarchy, comprising:

- G (*group*) numbers: interpretative entities, *e.g.* buildings, ditch lengths, concentrations of pits;
- L (*landscape*) numbers: collections of broadly contemporary and spatially coherent G numbers, *e.g.* a settlement focus, a field system;
- Phases: broad, chronological divisions, *e.g.* early–middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman.

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

Following these introductory sections, the results of the investigations are presented within a phased chronological framework, the site narrative. This is further sub-divided by the hierarchical L and G numbers (see above). A decimal suffix is used to indicate major fills within L and G numbers.

Summary artefactual and ecofactual evidence is integrated into the site narrative. Pottery described as “contemporary” in the site narrative is dated to the same chronological period as the phase. It is also presented and discussed in more detailed, individual sections. The report concludes with a discussion of the results of the investigations. Appendices contain more technical data on the artefactual and ecofactual evidence.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

PHASE 1: EARLIER PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

Although a small lithic artefact assemblage of possible Neolithic and early Bronze Age date was identified, it is entirely residual within later features. This prehistoric evidence is, therefore, only briefly described in the artefacts section.

PHASE 2: EARLY–MIDDLE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT (Fig. 4)

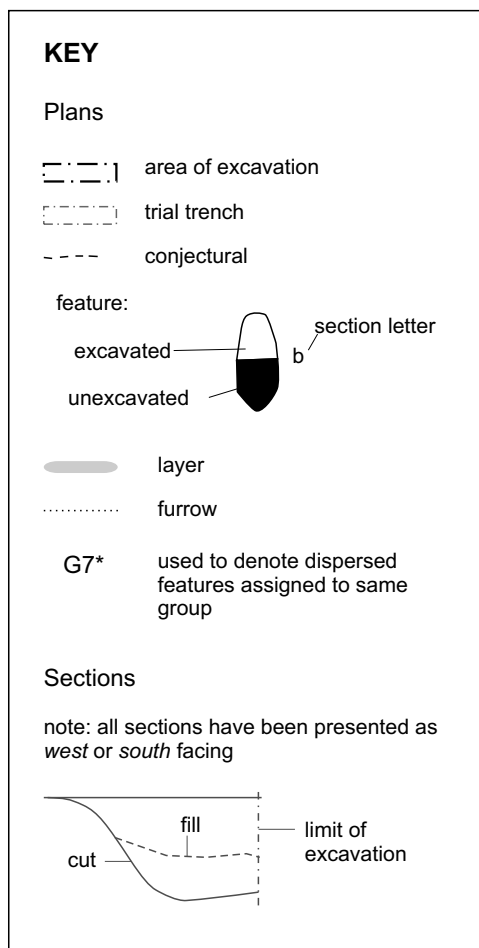
The earliest firm evidence for settlement was in Area C. It comprised a segmented ditch L1, a gully and an adjacent cluster of pits and postholes L2. The precise relationship between these two elements of the settlement is unclear. The ditch truncated three of the pits, suggesting it was later in date. However, its pottery assemblage was similar to that of the pits, suggesting they were broadly contemporary. Although only a few structural features survived, the artefactual and ecofactual assemblages and the clustered nature of the pits are suggestive of an unenclosed farmstead.

The settlement can be only broadly dated to the early–middle Iron Age by an assemblage of 254 sherds of pottery. Recognisable forms, typical of a domestic context, include round shouldered and ovoid jars or bowls and large storage jars. The small quantity of plant remains recovered from ecofactual sampling indicate that the inhabitants were growing cereals, including spelt wheat and barley. Dry, open conditions are indicated by an assemblage of land snails from the ditch. Small amounts of fired clay and animal bone were also recovered.

Boundary L1

Curvilinear ditch L1 (G61) ran for at least 27m on a northwest–southeast alignment. It terminated to the northwest and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. It was in two segments, separated by a c. 5.5m gap. It truncated three of the pits in L2 but the other pits appeared to be clustered around the ditch rather than being divided by it. There was no evidence for an associated bank and the function of the ditch remains uncertain.

Its primary fill (L1) was relatively sterile. However, its secondary (L1.1) and tertiary (L1.2) fills produced a significant proportion of the early–middle Iron Age artefactual and ecofactual



Key to plans and sections

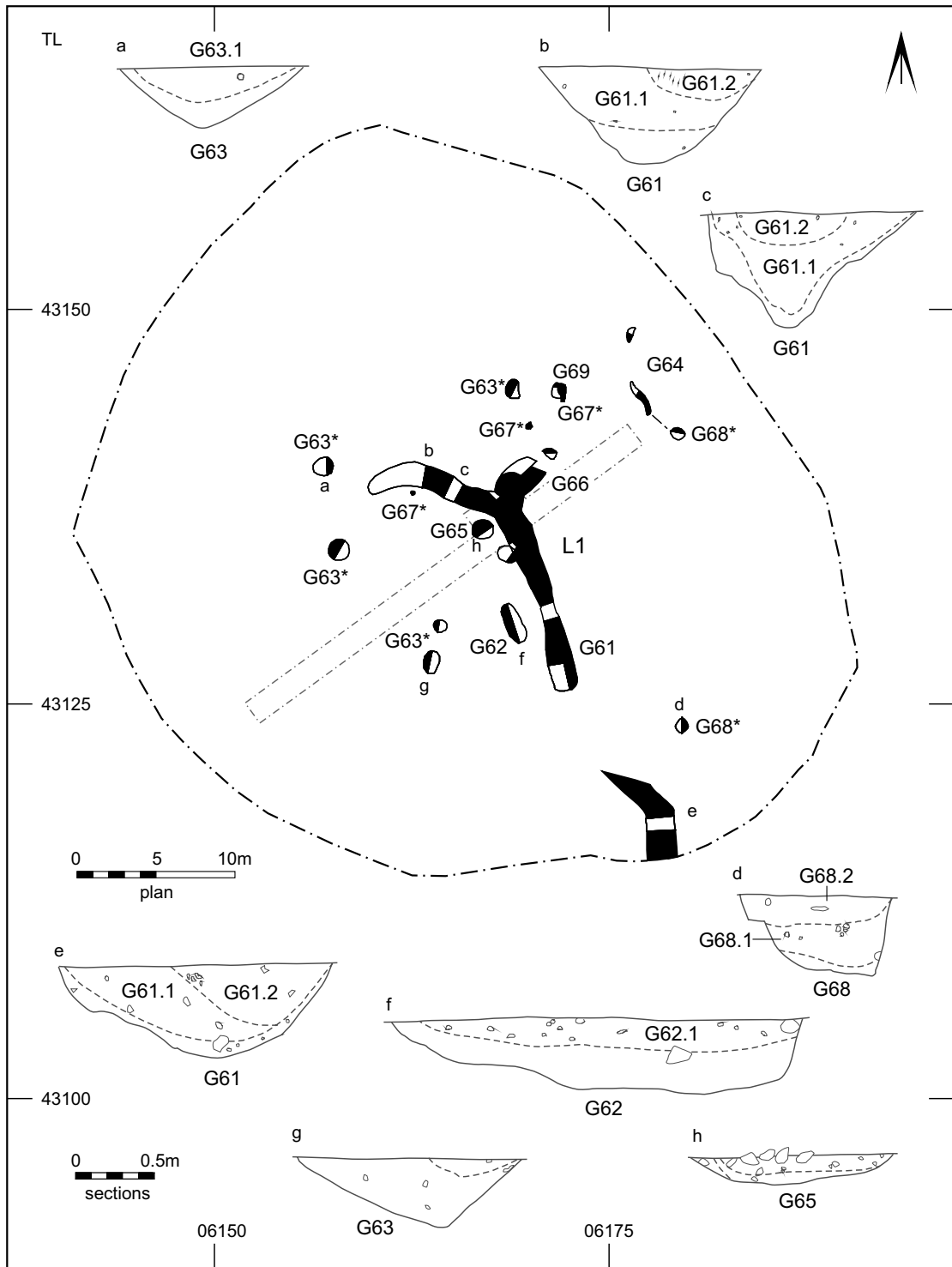


Figure 4: Phase 2: Early–middle Iron Age plan and sections of ditch L1 and pits and postholes L2

assemblages, suggesting it remained open while the settlement was in use. This is reinforced by the presence in its fill of the shells of snails which live in stagnant water.

Ditch G61

Ditch G61 was *c.* 1.6m wide and *c.* 0.7m deep. It had a steep-sided, irregular, U-shaped profile (Fig. 4c) that became more concave in profile towards the northwest (Fig. 4b) and south (Fig. 4e).

A primary fill was present in all of the excavated segments; it varied from mid orange brown to mid orange grey silty clay. The majority of artefacts, 18 fragments of animal bone and a fragment of fired clay, were recovered from the southernmost segment. The secondary fill (G61.1) comprised a mix of natural infilling and a mid to dark grey brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional small to medium stones, charcoal flecks and numerous mollusc shells (ecofactual sample 35). It produced 24 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 15: P1 and P2), 5 fragments of fired clay, an iron annular ring (RA 95) and 25 fragments of animal bone. The tertiary fill of the ditch (G61.2) contained charcoal flecks along with a total of 43 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 15: P3), 2 fragments of fired clay and 35 fragments of animal bone.

Pits, postholes and gully L2

A cluster of seventeen pits (G62, G63, G65, G66, G68 and G69), three postholes (G67) and one gully (G64) were spread over an area *c.* 26m in diameter. For the purpose of analysis the pits were initially divided into two types: scoops (gentle profiles, usually under 0.27m deep); or basin-type pits (steeper profiles, often with a flat base and usually over 0.27m deep) (see Table 1). However, in the following discussion the pits are separated into six groups on the basis of their diameter and spatial distribution.

Although artefacts and animal bone were present in the primary fills (L2) of these features, the secondary (L2.1) and tertiary fills (L2.2) produced the majority of the Phase 2 assemblages. The pits were extensively sampled for ecofacts but only small quantities of charred grain and wood were recovered.

Pits G62, G63 and G65

Pits G62, G63 and G65 all lay to the southwest of ditch L1 and were slightly larger than the pits to the northeast of the ditch. Circular pits G65 were located next to ditch L1, which truncated one of them. Oval pit G62 was also next to the ditch, but two smaller circular and four sub-circular pits G63 were slightly further from it.

The pits' primary fills comprised a dark grey black silt with frequent charcoal flecks (G62), a light yellow (G65) or a mid orange grey (G63) silty clay. Artefacts retrieved included 2 sherds of contemporary pottery, 13 fragments of fired clay and 54 fragments of animal bone. The majority of these artefacts came from pit G62 which also contained small quantities of charred cereal grain and wood (ecofactual sample 34).

The secondary fills comprised light yellow brown sandy clay (G62.1) and mid grey brown clay silt (G63.1, G65.1) with medium to large stones. Fills G63.1 and G65.1 contained 36 sherds of contemporary pottery, 10 fragments of fired clay, 75 fragments of animal bone, along with quantities of cereal grain and sloe (ecofactual samples 39 and 40).

Pits G68 and G69

Two sub-circular pits G68 and three intercutting sub-circular pits G69 lay to the northeast of ditch L1. Pits G68 were *c.* 17m apart. Pit G69 was re-dug on two occasions.

The pits' fills (G68.1, G69.1 and G69.3) comprised mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. A total of 68 sherds of contemporary pottery and 34 fragments of animal bone were recovered. The fills of pit G69 contained small quantities of charred cereal grain and wood from thorn scrubs, oak and ash (ecofactual samples 36, 37 and 38).

Pit G66

Large, sub-oval pit G66 was re-dug on at least two occasions. It lay to the northeast of ditch L1, which truncated both re-cuts.

Two of the pits contained sterile light yellow or light brown grey silty clay primary fills. The secondary (G66.2) and tertiary fills (G66.3) comprised dark grey black clay that contained occasional small to medium stones, tiny quantities of charred plant remains and charred wood (ecofactual sample 41). The secondary fill (G66.2) also contained 58 sherds of contemporary pottery, 3 fragments of fired clay and 80 fragments of animal bone.

Postholes G67

Three circular postholes G67 were located *c.* 8m and 2.5m apart, forming a tentative northeast–southwest alignment on either side of ditch L1. They contained no evidence for post-pipes or packing material.

They were filled (G67.1) either by a mid brown grey silty clay or a dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks, but no artefacts.

Gully G64

A northwest–southeast aligned gully G64 was located on the apparent northeast limit of the pit cluster; it may have served as a boundary. It was at least 3.3m long, 0.4m wide and 0.10m–0.25m deep with an asymmetrical, U-shaped profile.

It was infilled with a dark grey silty clay that contained occasional small to medium stones and two fragments of fired clay.

PHASE 3: LATE IRON AGE/EARLY ROMAN SETTLEMENT (Fig. 5)

A new settlement was established on previously unoccupied land, *c.* 100m to the south of the early–middle Iron Age farmstead. Four discrete foci were identified: L3 (Area B), L4, L5 and L6 (Area A). These may represent one or more farmsteads.

L5 and L6 lay to the south, near boundary ditch G13/17; they were *c.* 33m apart. They contained a small number of pits, mainly clustered together,

G No.	No. of features	Distribution	Form	Profile	Pit type	Length/ diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Section No.	Pottery sherds	Animal bone	Charred plant remains	Other
G62	1 pit		Oval	Concave	Basin	2.60	0.50	4f	4 EMIA	54	Cereal grain (sample 34)	Burnt clay Charcoal
G63	6 pits	Dispersed over 1.5m	Sub-circular	U-shaped	Basin	1.18	0.20	4a 4g	4 EMIA	—	Cereal grain and sloe (sample 40)	Fired clay
			Sub-circular	U-shaped	Basin	1.16	0.38		1 EMIA	—		
			Sub-circular	U-shaped	Basin	1.43	0.43		5 EMIA	—		
			Circular	Concave	Scoop	0.83	0.12		—	35		
			Circular	Concave	Basin	1.42	0.51		4 LIA	40		
			Sub-circular	U-shaped	Scoop	0.60	0.16		3 EMIA	—		
G65	2 pits	1m apart	Circular	Concave	Scoop	1.35	0.20	4h	23 EMIA	—	Cereal grain (sample 39)	Fired clay
			Sub-circular	Concave	Scoop	0.76	0.25		—	—		
G66	3 pits	Intercutting	Sub-oval	Concave	Basin	2.65	0.53		68 EMIA	80	Chaff (sample 41)	Fired clay
			Sub-oval	Concave	Basin	1.80	0.66		—	—		
			Sub-oval	—	—	0.80	—		—	—		
G67	3 postholes	8m and 2.50m apart	Sub-circular	Concave	—	0.25	0.07		—	—	—	
			Circular	U-shaped	—	0.10	0.10		—	—		
G68	2 pits	17m apart	Circular	U-shaped	—	0.25	0.25		—	—	—	
			Sub-circular	U-shaped	Scoop	0.90	0.27		1 EMIA	14		
G69	3 pits	Intercutting	Sub-circular	U-shaped	Basin	0.95	0.50	4d	—	—	—	
			Sub-circular	Concave	Scoop	0.60	0.25		62 EMIA	20	Cereal grain (samples 36, 37 and 38)	Charcoal
			Sub-circular	Concave	Scoop	0.80	0.15		3 EMIA	7		
			Sub-circular	U-shaped	Basin	0.75	0.25		2 EMIA	—		

Table 1: Summary of Phase 2 pits and postholes by G number

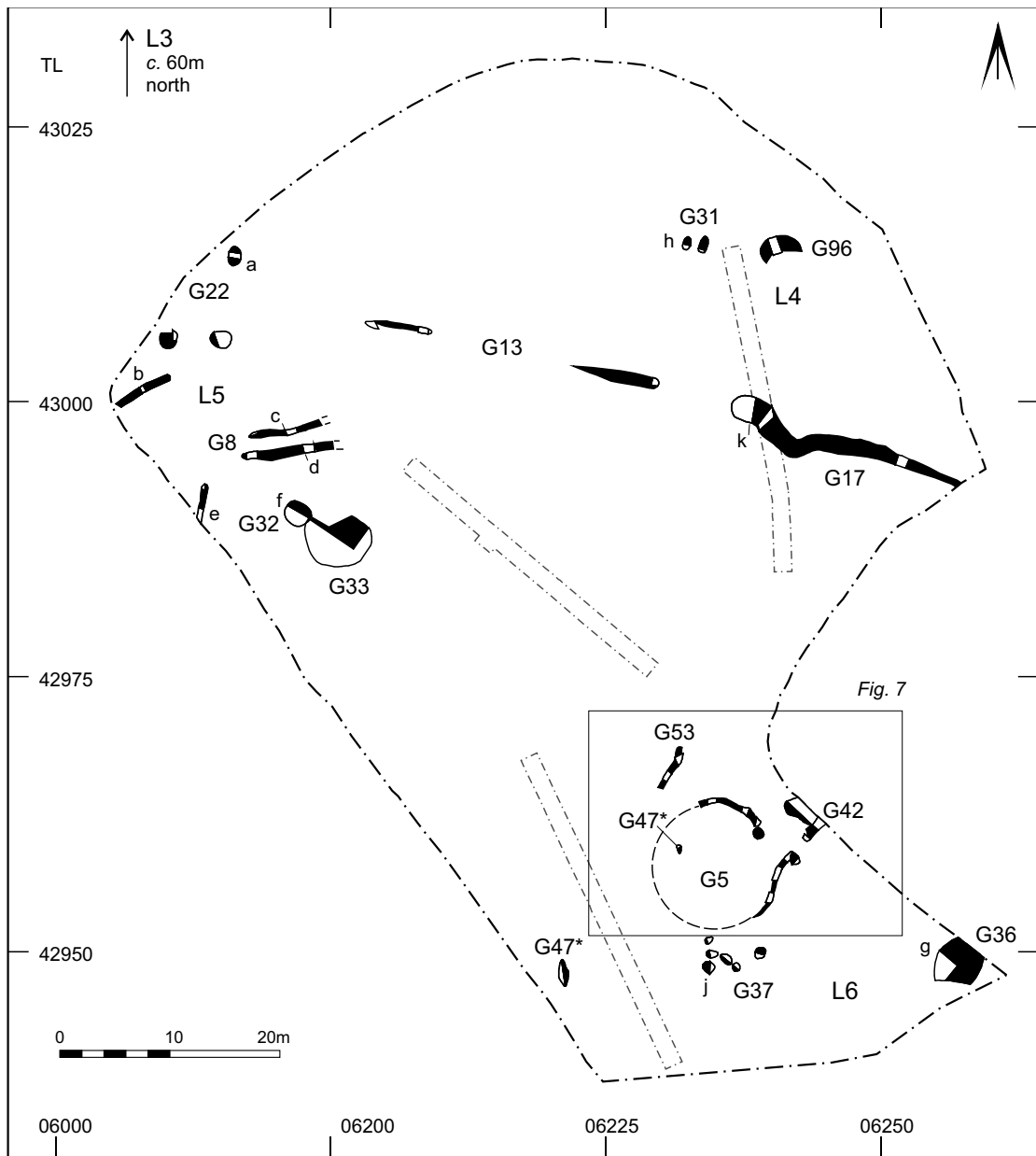


Figure 5: Phase 3: Late Iron Age/early Roman plan

with some evidence for buildings or structures. L5 contained a water pit. L4 comprised a small pit cluster, to the northeast of the boundary ditch. L3 was located 60m north of L5 (in Area B); it comprised three small pits G60 and two postholes G59. The pottery dating is not sufficiently refined to determine whether the foci were contemporary or, especially in the case of L5 and L6, sequential.

These more extensive settlement remains produced an assemblage of pottery roughly twice as big as the Phase 2 early–middle Iron Age assemblage. Again, the late Iron Age/early Roman, ‘Belgic’ assemblage is typical of a rural farmstead, characterised by tablewares, storage vessels and cooking pots. Larger quantities of fired clay fragments, including handmade slabs, were also

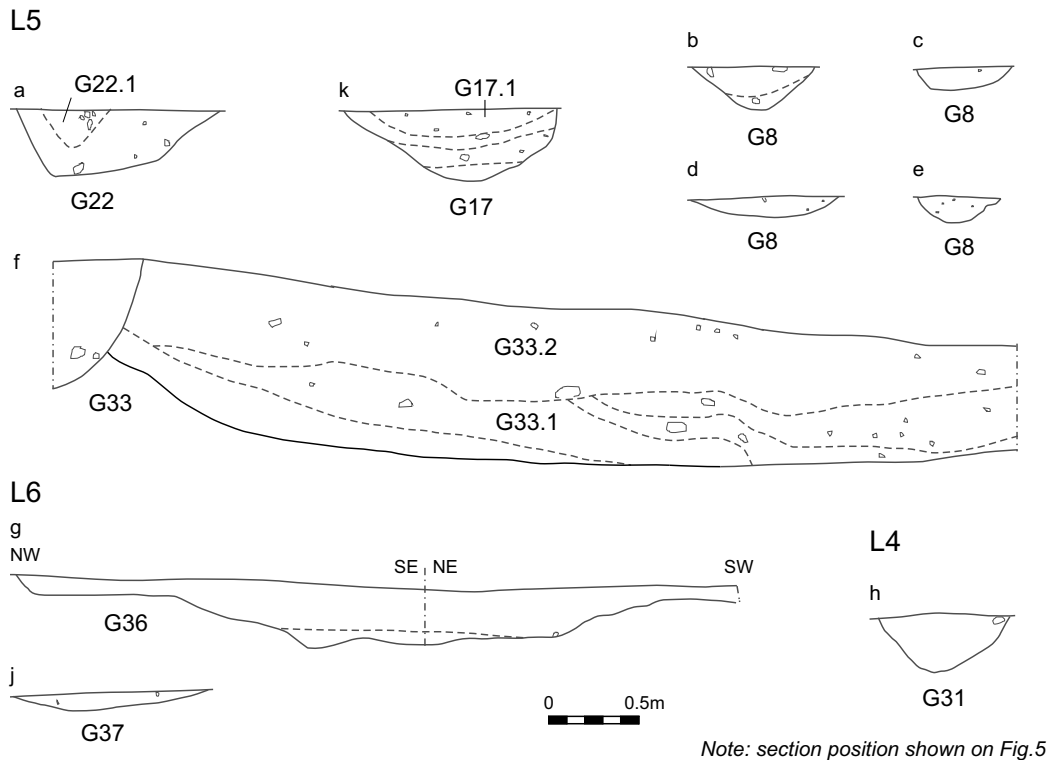


Figure 6: Phase 3: Late Iron Age/early Roman sections

recovered. By contrast, very little animal bone and no charred plant remains were recovered.

Boundary ditch G13/17

An east–west aligned boundary ditch crossed the northern half of Area A. It comprised two segmented lengths G13 and G17, visible for c. 55m, with a c. 7m wide entrance. Both the primary and secondary fills produced late Iron Age/early Roman pottery; the largest finds assemblage came from G17's substantial terminal.

Ditch G13/17

East–west boundary ditch G13/17 was 0.45m to 0.70m wide with an asymmetrical U-shaped profile and slightly concave base (Fig. 6k). It deepened from west (0.1m) to east (0.7m). Its c. 0.2m thick primary fill comprised mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium stones. It contained 14 sherds of contemporary pottery.

The main infilling of the ditch (G13.1 and G17.1) comprised a mid grey clay and a dark black brown clay silt which appeared to be a combination of natural infilling with some domestic debris. Only the terminal of G17 contained any finds: 16 sherds of contemporary pottery, 7 unidentifiable fragments of fired clay and a single fragment of animal bone.

Domestic Focus L5

Domestic focus L5 was located to the southwest of boundary ditch G13/17. It extended over an area of c.30m and may have continued beyond the limit of excavation. It comprised four structural slots G8, a water pit G33, a single large pit G32 and a cluster of smaller pits G22. The upper fills of the water pit produced the greatest assemblage of finds from these features, including twelve fragments of handmade fired clay slabs.

Structural slots G8

Four slots G8 were grouped within c. 5m of one another. Their nature, dimensions and proximity suggest a structural function. Although they varied in length from c. 3m to 7m, they were typically c. 0.6m wide. They had similar, shallow, concave profiles, flattish bases and were c. 0.3m deep (Fig. 6b, c, d and e). Two were parallel, only 1m apart on an east–west alignment. One was aligned northeast–southwest, and one north–south. The ends of the slots were shallow and ephemeral; they are not considered to be genuine terminals.

The slots were filled (G8.1 and G8.2) with mid grey brown and dark black brown silty clay with moderate small to medium stones. They produced 14 contemporary pottery sherds, 5 fragments of fired clay and 5 fragments of animal bone. A late 3rd/4th century coin (RA 10) is considered to be intrusive.

Water pit G33

Pit G33 was sub-circular in plan, c. 6m in diameter with a concave profile and a flat, slightly uneven base (Fig. 6f). Its large size and the organic nature of its primary fills suggest that it was a water pit.

The primary and secondary fills (G33.1) were all dark and organic in composition. However, the tertiary fill (G33.2) comprised a dark orange grey sandy clay with occasional small stones. The secondary and tertiary fills produced a large assemblage of finds: 259 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 15: P4, P6–P9 and Fig. 16: P10–P13), 12 pieces of fired clay slabs, 6 other fragments of fired clay and 36 fragments of animal bone. Thirty-four of the pottery sherds were from a necked jar; the significance of this is uncertain as it was not recognised as a semi-complete vessel during excavation.

Large pit G32

Large, sub-circular pit G32 was located to the south of structural slots G8. It was c. 2m in diameter and c. 0.75m deep with an asymmetrical, concave profile. Its original function is unknown. It may be associated with water pit G33, although, on excavation, it appeared to be stratigraphically later. Its light brown grey silty clay fill (G32.1) contained 34 sherds of contemporary pottery, 17 fragments of fired clay and 8 fragments of animal bone.

Pits G22

Three circular pits G22 to the north of structural slots G8 were c. 1.5m in diameter and c. 0.4m deep, with asymmetrical, U-shaped profiles and flattish bases (Fig. 6a). Their mid orange grey clay silt fills (G22.1) contained 14 sherds of contemporary pottery and 4 fragments of animal bone.

Domestic Focus L6

A similar concentration of features L6 lay 33m to the southeast of L5. It comprised a possible roundhouse G5, a structural slot G53, a cluster of small pits G37, along with individual and paired pits G36, G40, G42 and G47. The fills of these features (L6.1) produced a small assemblage of contemporary pottery, the majority of which came from a single vessel in the roundhouse gully.

Possible roundhouse G5 (Fig. 7)

The curvilinear features G5 appear to be the truncated remains of a drainage gully around a roundhouse, which would have had an internal diameter of c. 10m. A c. 4m gap between the two gullies may indicate an entrance to the northeast. The gullies were c. 0.9m wide and c. 0.3m deep, with shallow, concave, U-shaped profiles (Fig. 7c).

The gully fills comprised a mid orange brown silty clay (G5.1) and a mid brown black silt (G5.2) with occasional small stones. Twelve sherds from a single jar (weighing 145g) and a fragment of fired clay were found in G5.2.

Structural slot G53 (Fig. 7)

A short, northeast–southwest aligned slot G53 lay c. 4m to the northeast of possible roundhouse G5. It was comparable to the structural slots in domestic focus L5. Its northeast end was a genuine terminal, but it was truncated to the southwest by later features. Although shallower, its profile was comparable to the roundhouse drainage gully (Fig. 7a).

Its light yellow grey silty clay fill (G53.1) contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks but no artefacts.

Pits G40 (Fig. 7)

Two sub-circular pits G40, c. 3.3m apart, were located on the northeast side of possible roundhouse G5. Although one appeared to truncate the drainage gully, their proximity to the postulated entranceway is intriguing. Both were c. 1m in diameter and c. 0.1m deep, with shallow, concave profiles.

Their mid orange brown clay fill (G40.1) contained occasional small to medium stones but no artefacts.

Scoop G42 (Fig. 7)

To the northeast of the possible roundhouse entrance was an irregular scoop-like feature G42. It is difficult to interpret because it continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was c. 3.7m long, c. 1.5m wide and only c. 0.3m deep, with a symmetrical profile. Its slightly W-shaped profile suggests it may actually have been more than one feature (Fig. 7b). It may represent a shallow quarry, although its proximity to the possible roundhouse entrance may suggest a relationship with that building.

Its mid orange grey sandy clay fill (G42.1) contained occasional medium stones but no artefacts.

Pit group G37

A cluster of six pits G37 lay next to the postulated south side of possible roundhouse G5. Three were oval in plan, one was circular and two were sub-circular. All were c. 1m in diameter and no more than 0.15m deep, with concave profiles and fairly flat bases (Fig. 6j).

Their fills (G37.1) varied from mid grey brown to mid yellow grey silty clay with inclusions of small to medium stones but no artefacts.

Pits G47

G47 comprises two sub-oval pits, located c. 14m apart. The more easterly of the two lay within possible roundhouse G5. It was c. 0.8m long, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. The other pit was c. 2m long, 0.90m wide and 0.15m deep. Both had asymmetrical concave profiles and bases. Their fills (G47.1) comprised a mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones, containing 5 sherds of contemporary pottery.

Pit G36

A large, partially truncated, probably oval pit G36 was located c. 15m southeast of possible roundhouse G5 in the corner of Area A. It was c. 4m in diameter and 0.35m deep, with an irregular concave profile and an uneven base (Fig. 6g).

Its fill (G36.1) comprised a mid orange grey sandy clay with occasional medium stones but no artefacts.

Pit cluster L4

A small pit cluster L4 was located c. 13m north of the opening in boundary ditch G13/17. It comprised a pair of pits G31 and a single pit G96, c. 5m apart.

Their fills (L4 and L4.1) produced a sizable assemblage of contemporary pottery (the majority from a single jar) and a small quantity of animal bone.

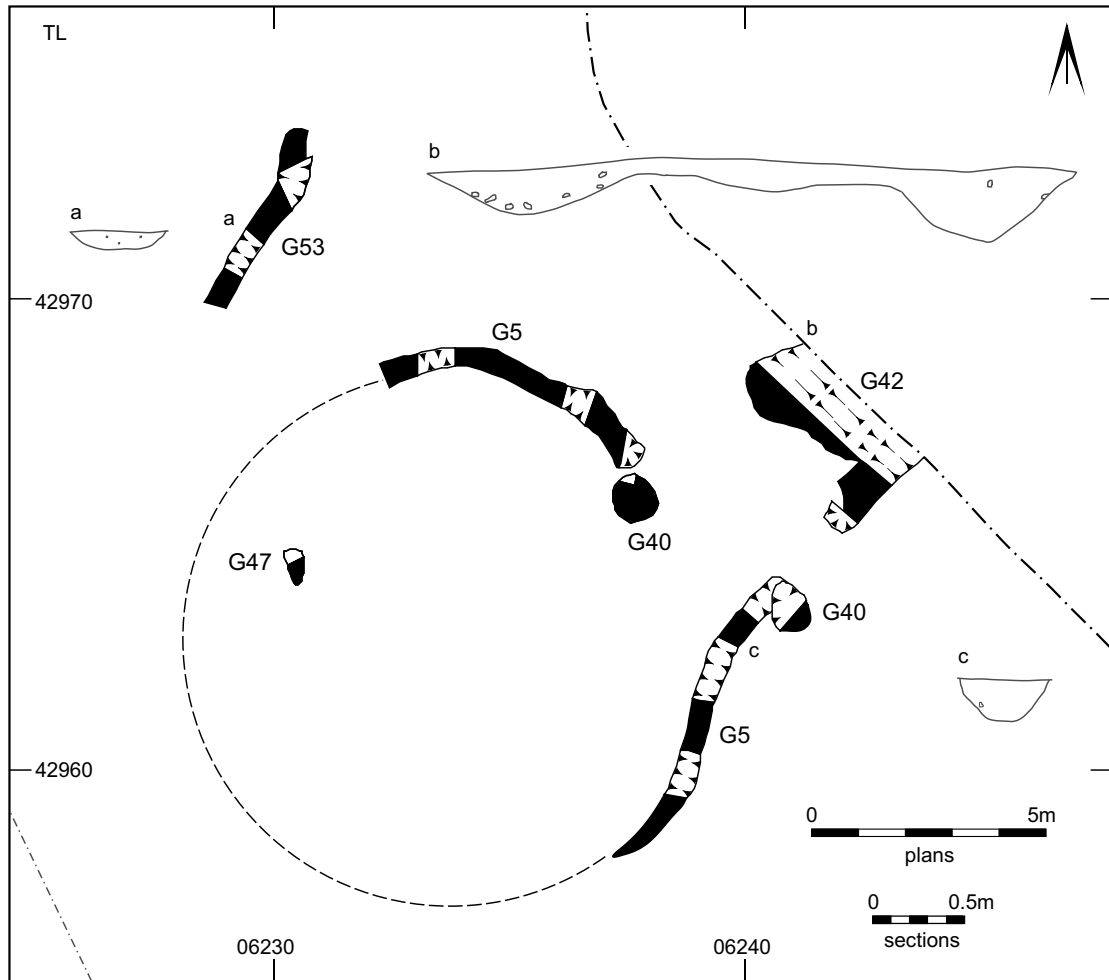


Figure 7: Phase 3: Close-up of roundhouse G5 and sections

Pits G31 and G96

G31 comprised two oval pits, c. 0.8m apart. Both were c. 1.5m by 0.6m and less than 0.3m deep, with concave profiles and concave bases (Fig. 6h). With a diameter of c. 3m, pit G96 to the east was larger. It was truncated by a later ditch but was probably circular in plan. It had a concave, U-shaped profile, a flat base and was 0.25m deep.

The pits were filled with either a mid orange grey clay or a mid red brown clay (G31.1 and G96.1) with occasional small to medium stones. Fill G96.1 contained 83 sherds of contemporary pottery, 79 of which derived from the same jar. Pit fill G31.1 contained 6 fragments of animal bone.

Activity focus L3

L3 was situated within Area B c. 60m northwest of the main focus of late Iron Age/early Roman activity. It comprised two postholes G59 and three small, intercutting pits G60. The fills of these

features (L3.1) produced a small quantity of domestic refuse.

Postholes G59

Circular postholes G59 were c. 7.5m apart. They were c. 0.4m in diameter and c. 0.25m deep with steep-sided, U-shaped profiles.

Their sole fill (G59.1) comprised a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of contemporary pottery was recovered.

Pits G60

Three intercutting, ovoid pits G60 were located c. 10m NW of postholes G59. They were c. 0.6m to 0.80m in diameter and c. 0.1m to 0.35m deep, with concave profiles.

The pits' fills (G60.1) varied from a dark grey sandy silt to a dark brown silty clay. They contained 8 sherds of contemporary pottery, 4 fragments of fired clay and 2 fragments of animal bone.

PHASE 4: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT (FIG. 8)

A rectilinear enclosure system L7 was established possibly in the late 1st century AD in the same location as the Phase 3 settlement, with some evidence for continuity. For example, the earlier boundary ditch G13/G17 was re-dug and incorporated into the new system. It is also possible that the Phase 3 domestic focus L5 continued in use because, unlike L6, it was not truncated by the new enclosure system. Several separate enclosures or sub-enclosures were identified. Domestic activity L8/L9 and L10/L11 was concentrated in the southern parts of all three. This included a single roundhouse L8 in the southwest corner of one of the enclosures, although the majority of the surviving features were pits.

With the exception of a relatively large assemblage from L10 and a semi-complete vessel from L7, the majority of the recovered artefacts came from pits and ditches close to the roundhouse. A range of pottery types were recovered, although the majority of the assemblage comprises early–middle Roman sand-tempered greywares and shelly coarse wares. Again, it is essentially low status and utilitarian in nature, with very few regional or continental imports. Compared to the earlier phases of settlement, a greater variety of artefact types were recovered, although they are still typical of a rural farmstead. New types include brick, tile, and a range of metal objects. Spelt wheat continued to be grown at the site, with evidence for both processing and malting. The small assemblage of animal bone is also typical of domestic refuse.

Enclosure system L7

A series of rectangular enclosures L7 were established on an east–west alignment. They continued beyond the limit of excavation, so their full extent and dimensions are unknown. However, ditches G9/G16 and G2 defined an enclosure measuring c. 55m north–south. The relatively substantial east–west ditch G2 was re-dug at least once. This significant boundary may even have defined the southern limit of the enclosure system. The other ditches were less substantial and contained a number of gaps, c. 6–8m wide, which probably represent entrances.

The ditches in this enclosure system produced a considerable assemblage of finds, including charred cereal remains, from both primary and, in particular, later fills. Interestingly, the substantial

southern ditch G2 produced very little material. In contrast, the ditches in the northern half of Area A appear to have accumulated quantities of domestic refuse from roundhouse L8. The rectangular array of ditches G6/G20/G21 also produced a large assemblage of material, perhaps supporting the suggestion that they enclosed a domestic structure.

Ditch G2

East–west boundary ditch G2 was located towards the southern end of Area A; it may have defined the southern limit of the enclosure system. It was over 40m long, continuing beyond the limits of excavation, with no discernable breaks. Overall, it was c. 2m wide and 0.6m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile (Fig. 8h). Towards the east it had been re-dug on its northern side as a more substantial ditch (Fig. 8j). There was no evidence for an associated bank.

Its mid orange grey clay fill (G2.1) contained occasional small stones and produced 4 sherds of contemporary pottery.

Ditches G9/G14 and G16

East–west aligned ditches G9/G14 represent two lengths of the same ditch, truncated by later activity. They terminated to the east and, after a c. 14m gap, ditch G16 continued the alignment. The boundary was at least 75m long, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to both east and W. Ditch G9/G14 was c. 1m wide and c. 0.4m deep, with a steep-sided profile and flattish base (Fig. 8a). It shallowed to the east where it was only 0.1m deep (Fig. 8c). Ditch G16 was c. 0.7m wide and c. 0.2m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave profile and irregular base.

From east to west, the colour of the ditches' fills changed from mid brown grey to dark grey brown silty clay. Only the western segments of ditch G9 contained a primary and secondary fill (G9.1). The latter produced 84 sherds of contemporary pottery, 11 fragments of fired clay, a 1st–2nd century coin (RA 32), a nail (RA 81) and 13 fragments of animal bone. The only fill (G14.1) of ditch G14 produced 24 sherds of mainly 1st–2nd century pottery, 22 fragments of fired clay slabs and a single fragment of animal bone. Ditch G16 also contained only one fill (G16.1) and this contained 169 sherds of contemporary pottery, of which 157 came from a semi-complete cordoned jar. This fragmentary vessel was found towards the bottom of the ditch and is likely to have been broken prior to deposition. In addition, 2 fired clay slabs, 2 other fragments of fired clay, a single fragment of tegula and 49 fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Ditches G11 and G19

Two north–south enclosure ditches G11 and G19, c. 2.5m apart, were identified in the northern part of Area A. They were both c. 18m long and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the N. To the S, they both terminated in similar locations. Ditch G11 was c. 1.35m wide and c. 0.4m deep, with an irregular, concave profile (Fig. 8d); it shallowed to a depth of 0.20m at its terminal. The two segmented lengths of ditch G19 were c. 1m wide and c. 0.25m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave profile (Fig. 8e). It shallowed to a depth of 0.15m at its terminal. There was no evidence for an associated bank in either ditch's fills. Although stratigraphically possible, these ditches are unlikely to have been contemporary but they clearly served a similar purpose.

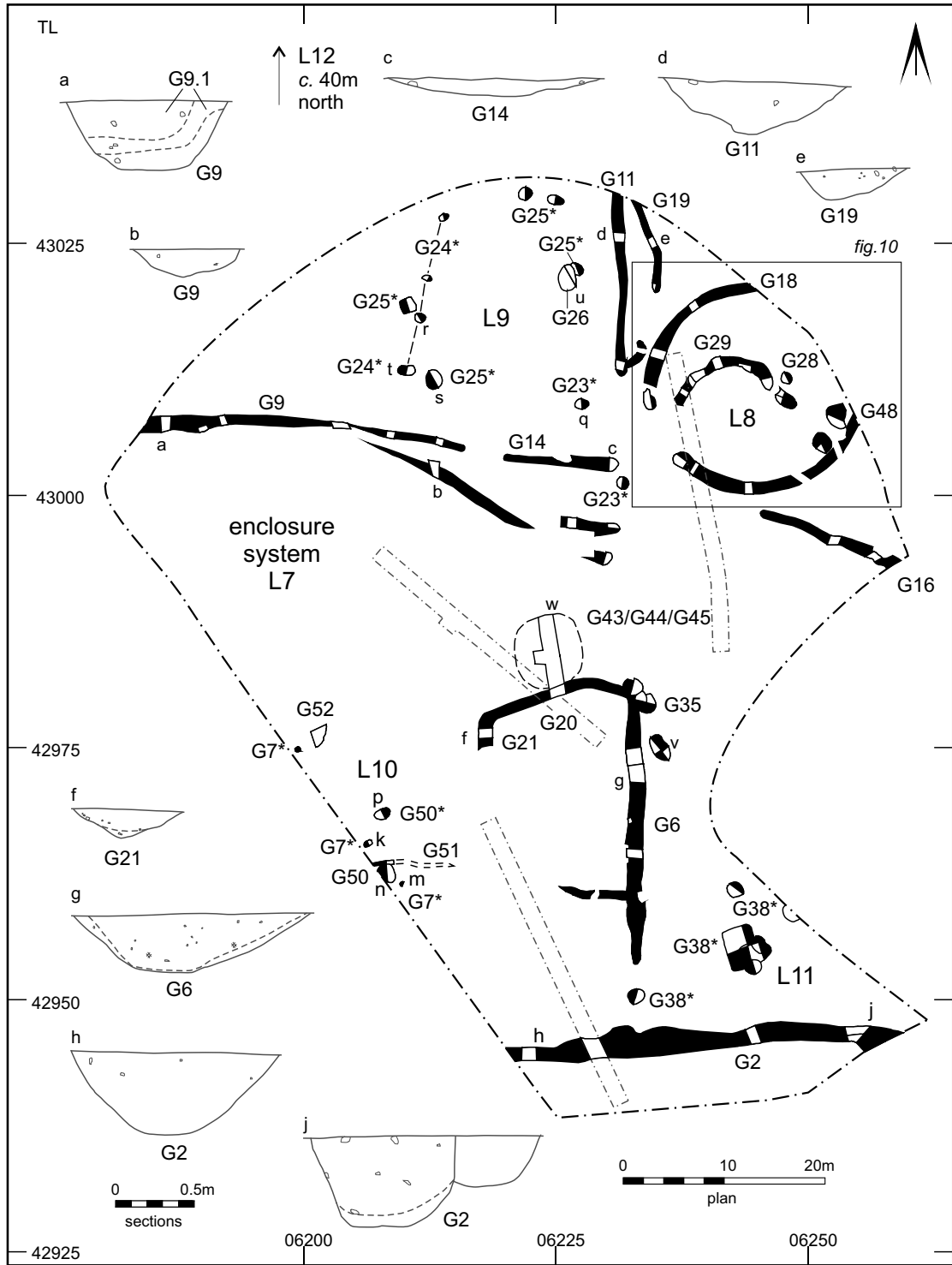


Figure 8: Phase 4: Early Roman plan and boundary ditch sections

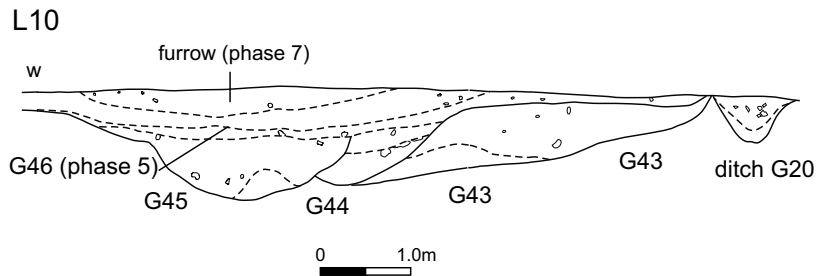
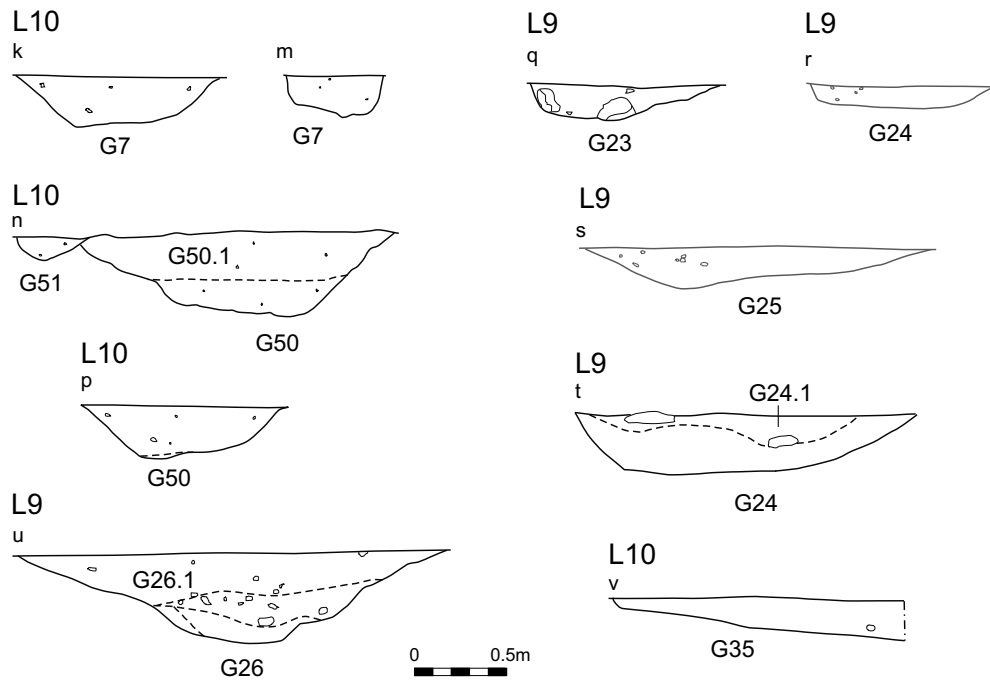


Figure 9: Phase 4: Early Roman boundary ditch sections

The primary fill of ditch G11 comprised mid yellow grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. It was 0.30m thick. It contained 33 sherds of contemporary pottery, including a hemispherical decorated samian bowl from Central Gaul (Fig. 17: P20). The secondary fill (G11.1) comprised a mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to large stones. It produced a number of artefacts, including 22 sherds of contemporary pottery, 428 fragments of fired clay and a small quantity of vitrified clay.

The main infilling of ditch G19 (G19.1) comprised a light yellow brown silty clay with occasional small to large stones. It produced 22 sherds of contemporary pottery and a hobnail (RA 90).

Ditches G6/G20/G21

Three continuous ditches G6/G20/G21 appeared to define

an area, c. 27m by 13m, between east–west ditches G2 and G9/14/16. North–south ditch G6 terminated to the south, c. 7m from ditch G2. It was c. 1.0m wide and c. 0.4m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave profile and a flat base (Fig. 8g). East–west ditch G20 was contiguous with G6; it was c. 0.9m wide and c. 0.5m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile (Fig. 9w). North–south ditch G21 was contiguous with G20; it was c. 1.35m wide and c. 0.35m deep, with a wide, V-shaped profile (Fig. 8f). North–south ditch G6 is on the same alignment as boundary ditch G11 to the north, suggesting it too was an enclosure boundary. However, in combination with G20 and G21, it may form a small, rectangular enclosure, which could have held a rectangular building.

The ditches' primary fill comprised a c. 0.1m thick, mid yellow brown sandy clay, with occasional small to medium stones.

It produced 17 sherds of contemporary pottery and 13 fragments of animal bone.

The secondary fills ranged from dark black grey to mid brown grey silty clay. Fill G6.1 contained 99 sherds of contemporary pottery, 29 fragments of fired clay and 17 fragments of animal bone. Ecofactual sample 3 contained a high concentration of glumes of spelt wheat. Fill G20.1 contained 148 sherds of contemporary pottery, a single fragment of *tegula*, 3 brick fragments, 4 fragments of fired clay, a possible iron shears blade (RA 77) and 31 fragments of animal bone. Part of an iron wheel hub (RA 47) was found in the unexcavated upper ditch fill during metal detecting.

Roundhouse L8 (Fig. 10)

A pennanular ditch G18, c. 18m in diameter, is presumed to have served as a drain around roundhouse L8. The only gap in the ditch lay to the southwest, suggesting an entrance on this side of the building. Although it is unclear if they are contemporary, a number of other features in the vicinity may have been associated with the roundhouse. They comprise a curvilinear ditch G29 and several large pits G28 and G48 situated within the bounds of the pennanular ditch. Both the primary (L8) and secondary (L8.1) fills of these features produced a range of domestic refuse, including part of a rotary quern (RA 89).

It is not possible to assign a precise date to the construction and use of the roundhouse. However, the majority of the pottery comprised Romanised fabrics and forms, with only seven sherds of late Iron Age material. This suggests that the building was occupied during the Roman period.

Drainage ditch G18

Pennanular ditch G18 continued beyond the limit of excavation. However, sufficient was present to demonstrate that it enclosed an area c. 18m in diameter. Its exposed length was continuous except to the southwest, where a gap of 5m suggests an entranceway. It was generally c. 1.2m wide, increasing slightly towards its terminals. It was c. 0.2m to 0.4m deep, with a concave profile and flat base (Fig. 10a, g and h).

Its primary fill comprised light grey orange silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium to large stones. This produced 12 sherds of contemporary pottery, one fragment of daub and one fragment of fired clay.

The secondary fills (G18.1 and G18.2) ranged from mid red brown to dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small to large stones. Recovered artefacts included 41 sherds of contemporary pottery, 11 fragments of fired clay, part of a rotary quern (RA 89) and 19 fragments of animal bone.

Ditch G29

Curvilinear ditch G29 was located within the circumference of ditch G18. It is, therefore, uncertain if it was contemporary. However, its western terminal appeared to respect the entrance to the roundhouse. The ditch was c. 1.1m wide and c. 0.3m deep with a concave, U-shaped profile and base (Fig. 10b and c).

Its c. 0.15m thick primary fill comprised mid yellow grey clay with occasional small to large stones. Fifteen sherds of contemporary pottery (including 5 of 1st–2nd century types), 5 fragments of fired clay and 3 fragments of animal bone were recovered.

The secondary fill (G29.1) comprised dark brown grey sandy clay with occasional medium stones and charcoal flecks. It contained 5 sherds of contemporary pottery (including two of 2nd century types) and 12 fragments of fired clay.

Pits G28

One sub-circular and two oval pits G28 were situated to the east of ditch G29 within the circumference of ditch G18. The sub-circular pit was 1.2m in diameter. The intercutting, oval pits were c. 2m by 0.6m. All had asymmetrical, concave profiles with slightly irregular, flat bases; they were c. 0.25m deep (Fig. 10d and e).

They were filled (G28.1) with a mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small to large stones. Artefacts recovered from them included 23 sherds of contemporary pottery (including 4 sherds of 2nd century types), a tiny quantity of vitrified clay and 6 fragments of fired clay.

Pits G48

Two large sub-oval pits G48 were adjacent to, but within, the circumference of ditch G18. They both measured c. 2m by 1.5m; they had U-shaped profiles with flattish bases and were 0.40m and 0.85m deep (Fig. 10f).

A 0.3m thick primary fill in the northern pits comprised a dark orange grey sandy clay with occasional large stones.

The secondary fills (G48.1) varied from a mid orange grey sandy clay to a dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium stones. They contained a total of 18 sherds of contemporary pottery (including a single sherd of a 2nd century type) and 3 fragments of animal bone.

Domestic focus L9 west of roundhouse L8

Domestic focus L9 was located in the southeast corner of the enclosure defined by ditches G9/G14 and G11/G19, to the west of roundhouse L8. The features were distributed over an area c. 25m in diameter and were separated into four groups, G23, G24, G25 and G26, based on size and spatial location. Most of the features produced small quantities of domestic refuse. Pit G26 was exceptional; its fill comprised a series of rubbish deposits, presumably derived from the roundhouse.

Pits G23

Two circular pits G23, 5m from roundhouse L8, appeared to mirror its entrance; the significance of this is uncertain. They were c. 1m in diameter and c. 0.2m deep, with asymmetrical concave profiles and flattish bases (Fig. 9q).

Their mid grey brown silty clay fill (G23.1) contained occasional medium to large stones. It also produced 4 sherds of contemporary pottery and 6 fragments of fired clay.

Pits G24

Four sub-circular pits G24, on c. 4m spacings, may have formed an approximate north–south alignment extending for

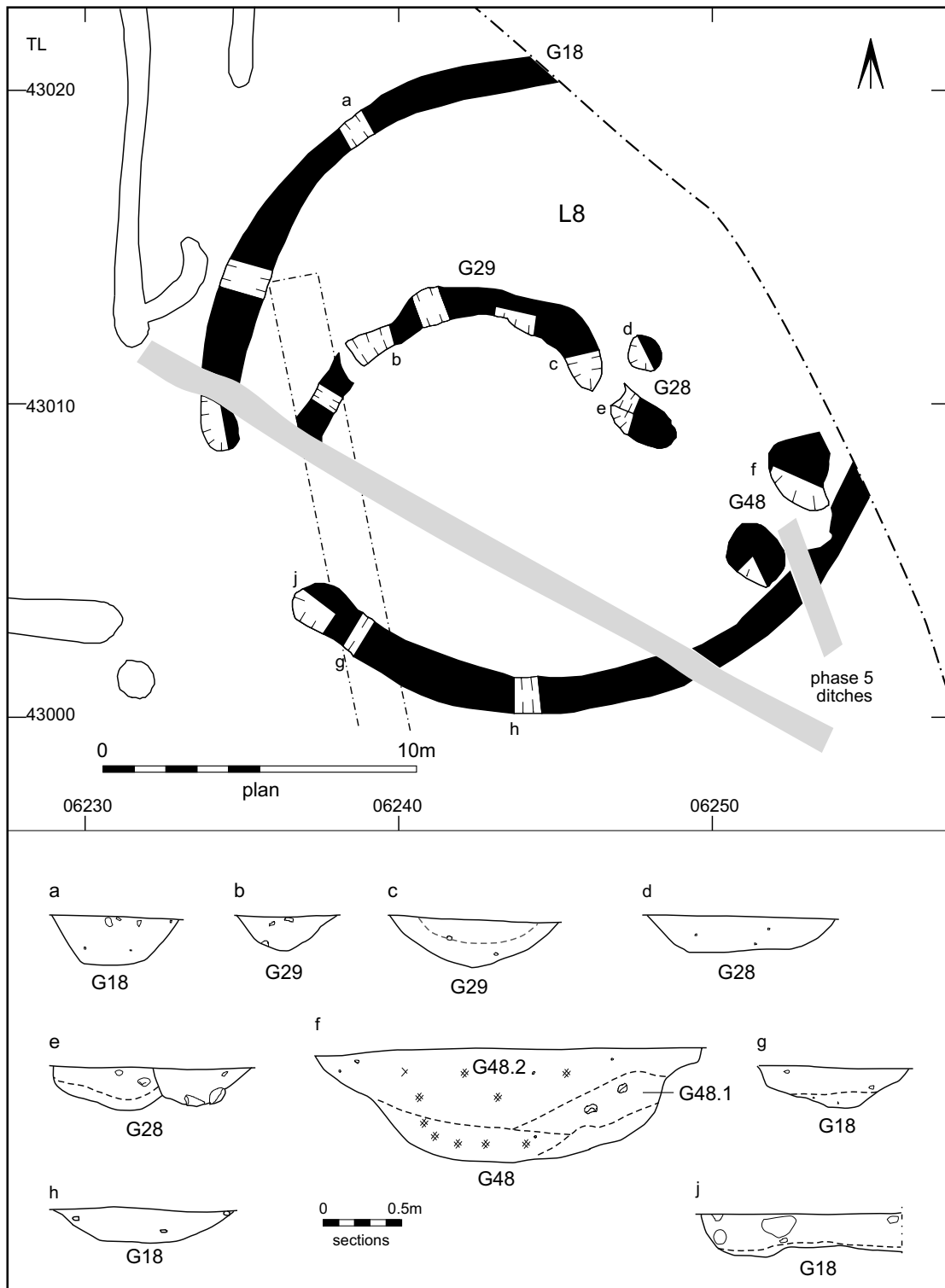


Figure 10: Phase 4: Close-up of roundhouse G18 and sections



Plate 1: Investigation of pottery within Phase 4 pit G26



Plate 2: Archaeological recording in Phase 4 water pit G43/44/45

16m. They were *c.* 1m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with similar asymmetrical concave profiles (Fig. 9r and t).

A primary fill of mid yellow brown clay in one pit produced three sherds of contemporary Roman pottery. The secondary fills (G24.1) ranged from a mid grey brown silty clay with moderate large stones in the southern pits, to a dark grey brown clay with moderate small to medium stones in the northern pits.

Pit G26 (Plate 1)

Pit G26, located next to enclosure ditch G11, was the largest of the features in domestic focus L9. It measured 2.35m by 1.8m, was 0.50m deep, and had a stepped, U-shaped profile (Fig. 9u). It was fully excavated because it contained a series of dumps of domestic debris.

The primary fill, a mid yellow orange silty clay, contained 10 sherds of contemporary pottery (including a single sherd of 2nd century type), 11 hobnails (RA 87), 6 fragments of fired clay and 72g of vitrified clay.

The secondary fill (G26.1) of dark orange grey silty clay contained a large quantity of domestic debris, including 130 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 17: P15, P17 and P18). Amongst the latter were 41 sherds from the same jar (Fig. 17: P18) and 8 sherds of 2nd century types. In addition, 4 fragments of daub, 23 fragments of fired clay, 199g of vitrified clay, a fragment of a glass vessel (RA 88) and 2 nails (RA 85 and RA 86) were also recovered. The relatively large animal bone assemblage (372 fragments) was analysed in detail. It is typical of dumped domestic refuse; cattle, sheep/goat, horse and pig were identified. Charred spelt wheat, much of which had germinated, was also recovered; it may represent grain that was accidentally burnt in the process of being malted.

Pits G25

The remaining five pits in this area have been assigned to G25. They were similar in size and profile; three were circular, one was square and one was oval. They were 1.4m to 1.8m in diameter and less than 0.20m deep, with concave asymmetrical profiles and uneven bases (Fig. 9s).

The pits' fills (G25.1) varied from mid grey yellow clay to mid blue grey clay with occasional small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. Only two produced any finds: 6 sherds of contemporary pottery, 12 fragments of fired clay, 139g of vitrified clay and 6 fragments of animal bone.

Activity Focus L10

Located in the enclosure defined by ditches G2 and G9/14/16, this group of features comprised postholes G7, possible structural slot G51, a water pit G43, and pits G35, G50 and G52. This activity focus lay to the west and north of the rectangular array of ditches G6/G20/G21, with which it may have been associated. Although the features were broadly contemporary, some of the pits were inter-cutting and the water pit had been re-dug at least twice (G44/G45).

Again, as with domestic focus L9, most of these features produced small quantities of domestic refuse, with two features producing much larger assemblages. Perhaps surprisingly, these did not include the water pit, although this did produce the

earliest example of human bone from the site: four small, disarticulated fragments. The larger assemblages of finds came from the two smaller pits G50, immediately to the west of enclosure G6/G20/G21. This may represent further supporting evidence for the suggestion that this rectangular array of ditches enclosed a domestic structure (see above).

Postholes G7

Three postholes G7, at 4m and 11m spacings, have been tentatively interpreted as forming a northwest–southeast alignment that extended for *c.* 16m. They were *c.* 0.5m in diameter and 0.1m to 0.25m deep, with concave, U-shaped profiles and uneven bases (Fig. 9k and m). None contained evidence for a postpipe or associated packing.

Their fills (G7.1) ranged from mid yellow grey silty clay to mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones. Two produced a total of 10 sherds of contemporary pottery and 2 fragments of fired clay.

Possible structural slot G51

East–west slot G51 was only visible for 2m; it continued beyond the limit of excavation to the west and was truncated to the east. It was 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep, with a gentle, asymmetrical, V-shaped profile (Fig. 9n).

Its fill (G51.1) comprised a mid grey brown clay with occasional small stones. It produced 10 sherds of contemporary pottery, 3 fragments of fired clay, a nail (RA 93) and 3 fragments of animal bone.

Water pit G43/G44/G45 (Plate 2)

Water pit G43 was located in the centre of the enclosure defined by ditches G2 and G9/14/16, immediately north of sub-enclosure G6/20/21. It had been re-dug at least twice (G44/G45).

The original water pit G43 was *c.* 4m in diameter and 0.6m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 9w). Its northern end was later re-dug as G44, which was 2.50m in diameter and 0.40m deep, with a concave U-shaped profile and a concave base. This was again re-dug at its northern end as G45, which was at least 3m in diameter and 0.65m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave, U-shaped profile.

All of the pits contained some primary infilling, either a grey orange or a mid yellow orange sandy clay. This was 0.25m to 0.35m thick and appeared to be derived from the sides of the pits. Only the primary fill of the latest water pit produced artefacts (see below).

The secondary fill of the original water pit (G43.1) was a mid orange yellow sandy clay with occasional small to large stones. It contained 23 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 17: P16), 7 fragments of fired clay, 4 fragments of human bone and 16 fragments of animal bone.

The fills of the first re-cut (G44.1/G44.2) comprised a mid green grey sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. This produced 2 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 17: P14), 58 fragments of fired clay, a Roman bone hairpin (RA 75) and a fragment of animal bone.

Finds from the primary fill of the latest re-cut G45 include 29 sherds of contemporary pottery, 4 fragments of fired clay and 8 fragments of animal bone. The secondary fill (G45.1) consisted of mid grey silty clay with occasional small to medium stones but no artefacts.

Pits G50

Two sub-circular pits G50 were located 4m apart. They were up to 1.6m in diameter and up to 0.45m deep, with U-shaped concave profiles and flat bases (Fig. 9n and p).

Their fill (G50.1) was a mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. Both produced large assemblages of artefacts, which include 239 sherds of contemporary pottery, 4 fragments of fired clay, a nail (RA 58) and 38 fragments of animal bone.

Pit G52

Pit G52 was probably sub-circular in plan but had been truncated by later activity. It was *c.* 1.7m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with an irregular U-shaped profile and uneven base.

Its 0.10m thick primary fill comprised a mid brown orange silty clay with occasional large stones. It contained no artefacts. The secondary fill (G52.1) comprised a dark grey silty clay with occasional large stones that contained 5 sherds of contemporary pottery.

Pits G35

Four pits G35 were located close to one another at the northeast corner of sub-enclosure/structure G6/20/21; two were truncated by the ditch. Three of the pits were intercutting, while the other pit was located 2m to the south. All of them were up to 1.5m in diameter and up to 0.35m deep, with concave profiles and uneven bases (Fig. 9v).

They were filled (G35.1) with a dark black brown clay silt with occasional small stones. This produced 54 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 17: P19), 21 fragments of fired clay, a fragment of *tegula* and 8 fragments of animal bone.

Pit cluster L11

A cluster of pits G38, covering an area *c.* 15m in diameter, lay close to enclosure ditch G2. Several of the pits were intercutting and were therefore only broadly contemporary. They were relatively large, but quite shallow, and may originally have been dug to extract clay. They produced a small assemblage of pottery.

Pits G38

An arrangement of eight pits G38 lay 5m north of southern enclosure ditch G2. One pit was rectangular in plan and 4m long; the remainder were either circular or oval and *c.* 1.8m in diameter. Five of the pits were intercutting, with the rectangular pit being the earliest. All were less than 0.3m deep, with concave, U-shaped profiles and flat bases.

One pit contained a primary fill, a 0.2m thick mid yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small stones. It produced 2 sherds of contemporary pottery. The secondary fills (G38.1) varied from mid yellow brown to light brown grey clay; they produced 9 sherds of contemporary pottery.

Pits L12

L12 comprised three pits G57 and G58, located in Area B. They produced a relatively small assemblage of pottery and animal bone, probably reflecting their distance from the main settlement area.

Pits G57

The two oval pits G57 were 6m apart. They were 0.9m to 2m long, 0.6m and 1m wide, and *c.* 0.2m deep, with asymmetrical, concave profiles.

Their fills (G57.1) comprised dark grey brown to mid yellow grey silty clay and produced a single sherd of contemporary pottery.

Pit G58

Circular pit G58 was located 37m to the west of pits G57. It was *c.* 0.5m in diameter and 0.4m deep, with a stepped, concave profile and irregular, concave base.

The primary fill comprised a 0.15m thick, light yellow grey sandy clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. The secondary fill (G58.1) comprised a mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional small stones and moderate charcoal flecks. It produced 8 sherds of contemporary pottery and 9 fragments of animal bone.

PHASE 5: LATER ROMANO-BRITISH ACTIVITY

(Fig. 11)

The earlier east–west settlement enclosure system was replaced by a single northwest–southeast rectangular enclosure L13. This was defined, in part, by ditches, and also featured an internal, ditched sub-division. Evidence for activity within the interior (L15) was limited to a single water pit, a large central depression and a small cluster of pits. A number of other pits L14 lay beyond the enclosure's northern boundary. The distribution of both finds and features within the enclosure suggests that its southern half was the main focus of activity.

The Phase 5 pottery assemblage is characterised by a greater quantity of late Roman fine wares, imported from regional production centres such as Oxfordshire and the Nene valley. Vessel forms of later Roman date are also present amongst the ubiquitous shell- and sand-tempered coarse wares. The presence of possible kiln furniture suggests that the latter may have been produced within the settlement. Amongst a wide range of everyday objects were four late 3rd to early 4th century coins; six more of the same date were residual in later contexts. Although the evidence is limited, the charred plant remains (dominated by wheat chaff) and the animal bone assemblage suggest that the economic basis of the settlement remained largely unchanged. A slight increase in the relative abundance of sheep may be significant and is complemented by the recovery of a wool comb.

The depression at the centre of the enclosure produced the majority of the Phase 5 finds. These include a number of sheep skulls, which represent

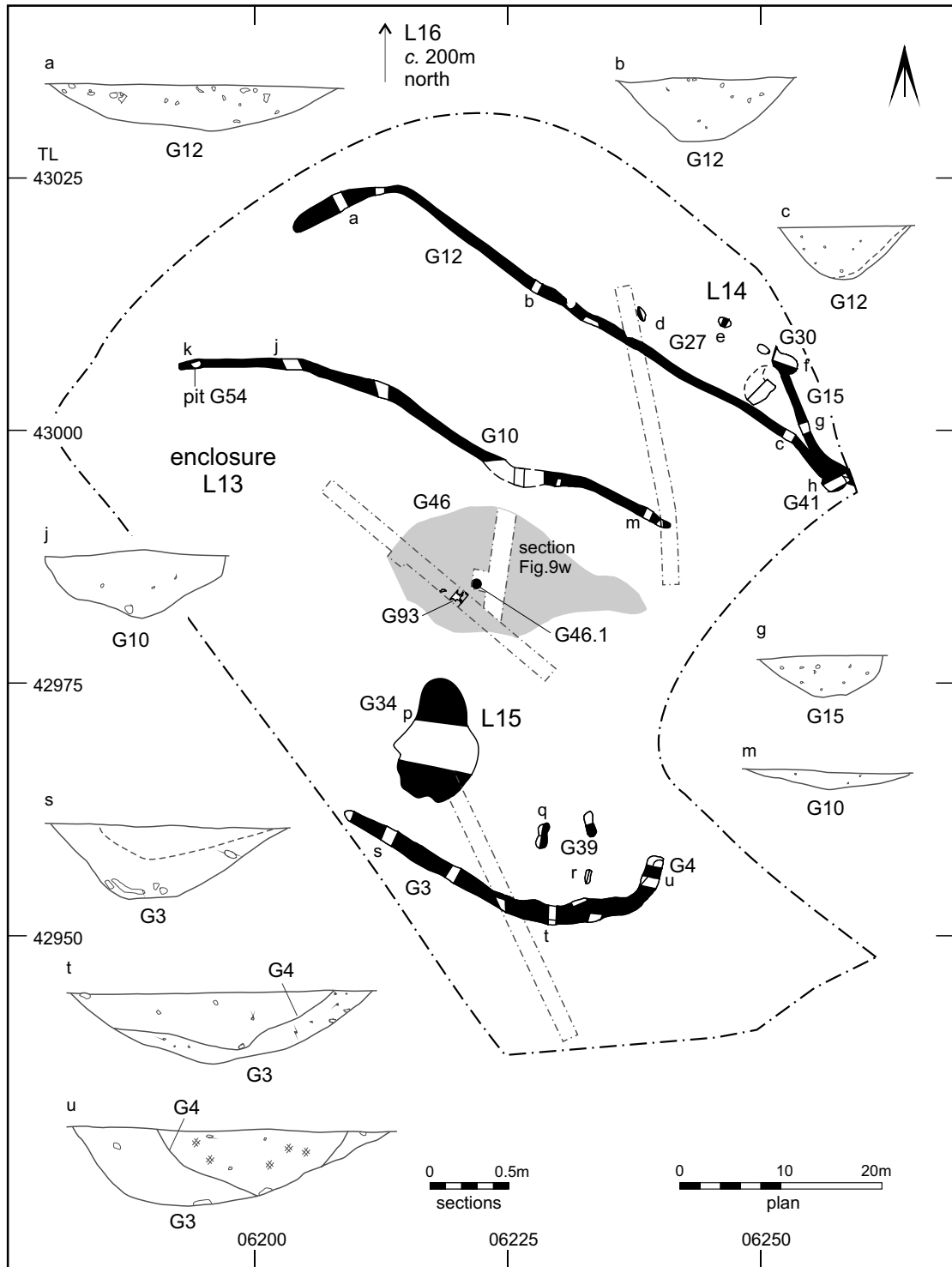


Figure 11: Phase 5: Later Roman plan and boundary ditch sections

sacrificial remains, several fragments of a human skull, and a number of unusual artefacts. Interestingly, no buildings or structures were identified, and the majority of the features were either on the periphery of, or outside, the enclosure. Taken together, this evidence may suggest that this area was no longer used for habitation but had taken on a more religious function.

Enclosure L13

Northwest–southeast enclosure L13 was defined by ditches on its southwest (G3/4) and northeast (G12) sides. The silting patterns in the eastern part of ditch G12 suggest the presence of an internal bank along the northeast side of the enclosure.

No ditch was identified to the northwest. However, the change in alignment at the north-western end of ditch G12 suggests some form of physical boundary did exist on this side of the enclosure. A similar arrangement was repeated at the southeastern end of ditch G3/4, which also changed alignment and terminated. It is uncertain whether the southeast side of the enclosure was also unditched because it lay beyond the limit of excavation. Ditch G10 was roughly parallel to the northeast side of the enclosure; it appears to represent an internal partition.

Renewal of the enclosure ditches is demonstrated by the re-cutting G4 of its southwest ditch. A short length of ditch G15, to the north of the enclosure, may represent minor remodelling of its northeast side.

As with the Phase 4 enclosure system, these ditches produced a considerable quantity of domestic debris, particularly pottery, fired clay, animal bone, and charred wheat (both chaff and grain). The great majority of this material came from ditches G3/G4 and ditch G10, suggesting that the southern half of the enclosure was the main focus of activity. The distribution of internal features supports such an interpretation.

Ditch G3/G4

The 33m curvilinear ditch G3 formed the southwest boundary of the enclosure. It terminated to the northwest and to the southeast. It was c. 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile (Fig. 11s, t and u). The southeast part of the ditch was re-cut by G4, which had an asymmetrical, concave profile (Fig. 11t and u). There was no evidence in the fills of either ditch to suggest the presence of an associated bank.

The 0.25m thick primary fill (G3.1) varied from a light yellow grey silty clay with occasional stones and flecks of burnt clay to a mid black grey clay with occasional medium sized stones. It produced 49 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 18: P25 and P26), 9 fragments of animal bone, 4 nails (RA 59, 60,

63 and 64), an iron tack (RA 62) and a fragment of iron bar (RA 61).

The secondary fill (G3.2) comprised mid grey brown clay silt with occasional stones. It produced 44 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 18: P24), including 2 sherds of 3rd–4th century types, a fragment of fired clay and 166 fragments of animal bone. The fills of the terminals (G3.3) comprised a yellow grey silty clay with occasional small stones; they produced a single contemporary pottery sherd.

The secondary fill (G4.1) of the re-cut G4 comprised a dark brown silty clay. It produced 23 sherds of 3rd–4th century pottery, 3 fragments of fired clay, a brick fragment and 12 fragments of animal bone. Ecofactual sample 7 contained charred plant remains dominated by wheat chaff.

Ditch G12

Ditch G12 formed the northern boundary of the enclosure; it was at least 55m long. It terminated to the northwest and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the southeast. It was c. 1.5m wide and 0.40m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile (Fig. 11a and b). The southwest side of one excavated segment contained a 0.1m thick primary fill of light brown grey clay with occasional flint nodules, suggesting the presence of an internal bank (Fig. 11c).

The secondary fill (G12.1) varied from a light grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones in the northwestern part of the ditch to a mid yellow grey clay towards the southeast. It produced 9 sherds of contemporary pottery, a fragment of fired clay slab and 25 other fragments of fired clay.

Ditch G10

Internal ditch G10 was located c. 13m south of, and parallel to, enclosure ditch G12. It was 50m long and terminated to the northwest and the southeast. It was 0.9m wide and 0.30 deep to the northwest (Fig. 11j), but shallowed to 0.1m to the southeast (Fig. 11m). It had a concave, symmetrical profile.

Its fill (G10.1) comprised a mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small to large stones and charcoal flecks. It produced a relatively large assemblage of finds, consisting of 75 sherds of contemporary pottery, including 13 sherds of 3rd–4th century types, a brick fragment, 87 fragments of fired clay and 13 fragments of animal bone.

Ditch G15

The position and alignment of ditch G15 indicates that it was not contemporary with the original enclosure. It largely lay to the north of the enclosure but, for part of its length, appeared to truncate and follow the same alignment as ditch G12. It was visible for 12m. To the north it had been truncated; to the south it continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was c. 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile (Fig. 11g).

Its fill (G15.1) comprised a mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional small stones.

Activity Focus L15

Evidence for activity in the southern half of enclosure L13 comprised a water pit G34, a small cluster of pits G39, depression G46 and a single pit G93 (dug into the depression).

Collectively, these features produced the single greatest assemblage of domestic debris from the site, emphasising that activity within enclosure

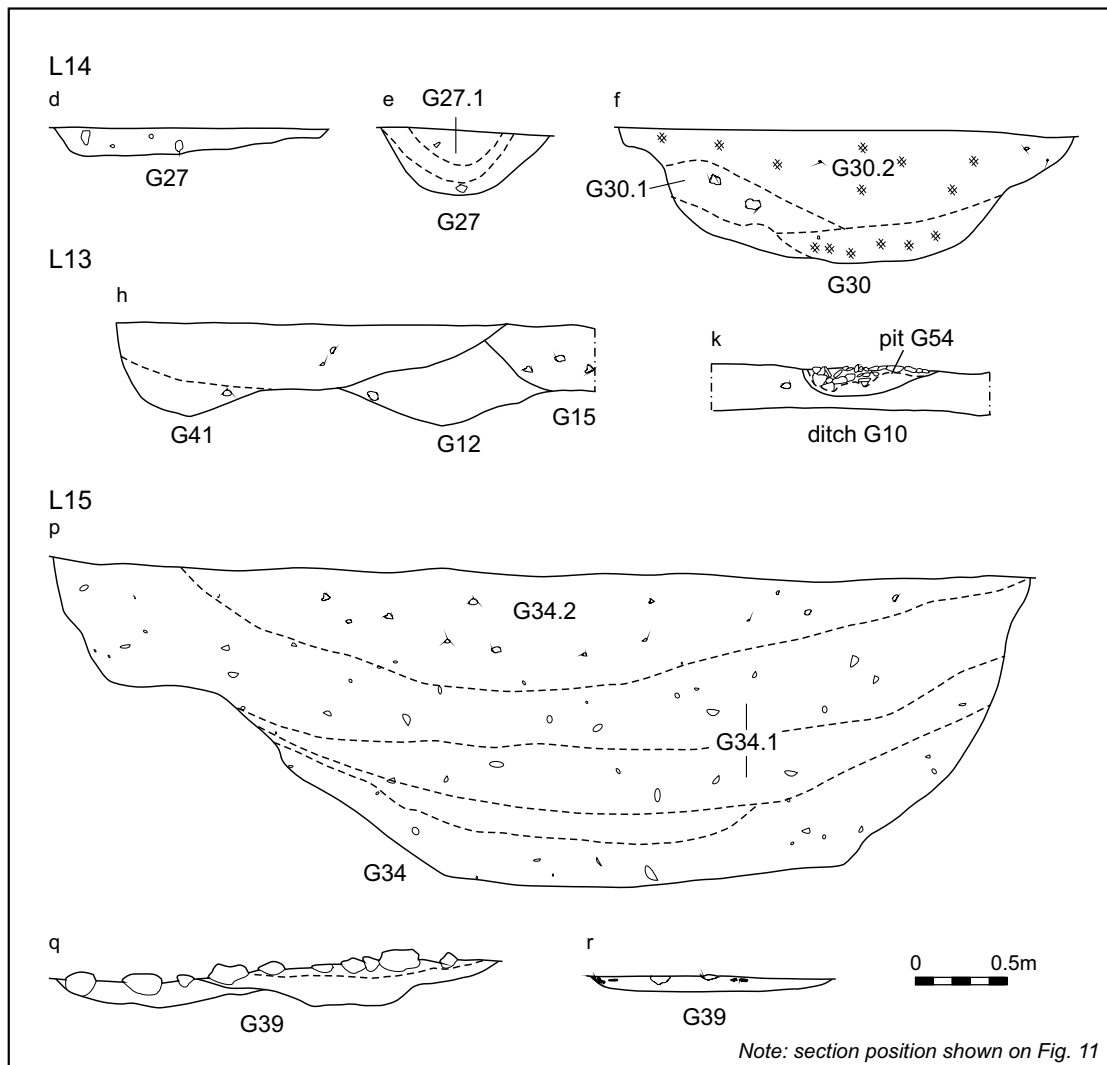


Figure 12: Phase 5: Later Roman sections

L13 was centred on its southern half. Once again, pottery, animal bone, fired clay fragments and charred crop remains predominate. A wide range of other everyday objects were also recovered, including the remains of a hobnail shoe, a whetstone, a mixing palette for cosmetics or medicines, and an iron comb for untangling wool prior to spinning. The presence of sheep skulls, apparently from sacrificed animals, and fragments of a human skull hint at more unusual activities.

Water pit G34

A large, pear-shaped water pit G34 was located 4m north of enclosure ditch G3/G4. It was c. 12m by 7.5m in extent and 1.7m deep, with a steep-sided, asymmetrical, U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig. 12p).

Its 0.4m thick primary fill comprised a waterlogged mid blue grey clay deposit, which produced 2 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 18: P28). Waterlogged seeds from ecofactual sample 22 were dominated by duckweed, which would have grown on the surface of the water, and stinging nettle and hemlock, which must have been growing within the settlement.

The secondary fill (G34.1) comprised a mid green grey clay, which produced 81 sherds from 40 contemporary pottery vessels (Fig. 18: P21, P23 and P27), including 2 sherds of 3rd–4th century types. It also contained a fragment of fired clay slab, 8 other fragments of fired clay, a single piece of *tegula*, a nail (RA 102) and 24 fragments of animal bone.

Tertiary fill (G34.2) comprised a dark grey clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. It produced 41 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 18: P22), including 7 sherds of 3rd–4th century types. It also contained 4 fragments of fired clay, 2 fragments of *tegula*, a copper finger ring (RA 2), a nail (RA 67) and 3 fragments of animal bone. The presence in both



Plate 3: Phase 5 'special' deposit G46.1 of sheep skulls--

the secondary and tertiary fills of sherds from the same vessel could suggest that water pit was rapidly infilled.

Pit cluster G39

Four sub-oval pits G39 all lay within c. 5m of one another, close to the eastern terminal of enclosure ditch G3/4. They were 1.1m to 2.5m long and 0.5m to 1.2m wide with irregular concave profiles. All were less than 0.25m deep (Fig. 12q and r). Two were intercutting and three truncated earlier Phase 4 features.

The pits were filled by deposits that varied from a dark black grey silty clay with occasional small to medium stones (G39.1) to a mid brown grey silty clay with inclusions of red clay and occasional small stones (G39.2). They produced 83 sherds of contemporary pottery including 4 sherds of 3rd–4th century types, 6 fragments of fired clay, a nail (RA 91), 70 hobnails, indicating the presence of at least one shoe (RA 92 and 104), and 3 fragments of animal bone. Ecofactual sample 16 contained significant quantities of spelt or emmer wheat chaff.

A layer of sandstone fragments, 0.10m to 0.30m in size, had been laid over the infilled pits, with their flatter, smoother surface facing upwards.

Central depression G46

The depression was at least 30m by 12m in extent and sealed the disused Phase 4 water pits within the centre of enclosure L13. It was filled by 2 dark grey brown sandy clay layers c. 0.4m thick (Fig. 9w). The lower layer contained slightly more stones but was otherwise indistinguishable during hand excavation. They contained 'special' deposit G46.1 (see below).

The layers produced a relatively large quantity of material, including 499 sherds of pottery, 89 fragments of fired clay, 12 fragments of *tegula*, a fragment of brick and 3 fragments of brick/tile. They also produced a bone hairpin (RA 82), a whetstone (RA 83), 3 coins dated to AD270–340 (RA 34, 52, 57), a wool comb (RA 35) (Fig. 21), two other metallic objects (RA 39, 44, 45), 13 nails (RA 37, 38, 40, 46, 48, 49, 50, 78, 84, 100 and 101) and a mixing palette (RA 76) (Fig. 21). Also recovered were 280 fragments of animal bone and 26 fragments of a human skull.

'Special' deposit G46.1 (Plate 3)

A 'special' deposit G46.1 was identified towards the centre of depression G46. It comprised the deliberate deposition of at least three sheep skulls. The three identified during hand excavation had been carefully placed together (presumably at the same time), on their sides but facing in different directions. No artefacts were found with them and they do not appear to have been placed in a purpose-dug pit. They appear to represent the remains of a ritual act, involving sheep sacrifice (for further discussion, see below).

Pit G93

A possible pit G93, identified in a trial trench, was dug into the infilled depression G46. It was 1.1m in diameter and at least 0.55m deep, although its full extent and profile are unknown as it was only partially excavated.

The lowest excavated fill comprised a mid orange brown clay with occasional small to large stones. It produced 141 sherds of contemporary pottery, including 5 sherds of 3rd–4th

century types, and 11 fragments of animal bone. The dark grey brown silty clay upper fill (G93.1) contained a layer of large stones and produced 7 fragments of fired clay, 2 fragments of *tegula*, a coin dated to AD268–270 (RA 1), a nail (RA 105) and 50 fragments of animal bone.

Activity Focus L14

The remaining evidence for activity in this Phase comprised pits, the majority of which (G27 and G30) lay to the northeast of northern enclosure ditch G12. In addition, two pits G41 and G54 truncated ditches associated with the enclosure.

A relatively small assemblage of domestic debris was recovered from these features. Wholly exceptional was pit G54; it produced a large assemblage of fired clay bricks, slabs and plates which must have derived from a nearby oven or kiln.

Pits G27

Three oval pits G27, in close proximity, were all *c.* 1.2m by 0.8m in extent and less than 0.35m deep, with asymmetrical, concave profiles (Fig. 12d). One pit contained a 0.1m thick primary fill (Fig. 12e) of mid grey yellow clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. It produced seven sherds of contemporary pottery.

The main pit fills (G27.1) comprised mid yellow grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. They produced 8 sherds of contemporary pottery, 2 fragments of fired clay and a fragment of daub.

Pits G30

Two large sub-oval pits G30 were located to the southeast of pits G27. They were *c.* 3m by 1.5m in extent and 0.25m to 0.5m deep, with concave, U-shaped profiles and flattish bases (Fig. 12f). Their 0.1m to 0.35m thick primary fill consisted of a mid orange grey sandy clay with occasional small to large stones.

The secondary fills (G30.1) varied from dark orange grey to light grey orange sandy clay. They produced 25 sherds of contemporary pottery, 2 fragments of fired clay, 2 fragments of daub and 21 fragments of animal bone. The tertiary fills (G30.2) ranged from mid yellow grey sandy clay to dark black brown silty clay with occasional small to large stones. They contained a single sherd of 3rd–4th century pottery and 2 fragments of animal bone.

Later pit G41

Large sub-circular pit G41 truncated the infilled ditches G12 and G15. It was *c.* 2.1m in diameter and 0.5m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave profile and an irregular, concave base (Fig. 12h). Its 0.2m thick primary fill comprised a dark blue grey clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. It produced no artefacts.

The secondary fill (G41.1) comprised a dark yellow grey clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. It produced a 6 sherd of contemporary pottery, a fragment of fired clay and 6 fragments of animal bone.

Later pit G54

Circular pit G54 was dug into the fill of internal enclosure ditch G10 towards its west end. It was 0.7m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with an asymmetrical, concave profile and flat base (Fig. 12k).

Its 0.1m thick primary fill comprised mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small to medium stones. It produced a single sherd of contemporary pottery and 16 fragments of fired clay. Overlying this was a mid grey brown silty clay with mottling of red, black and orange clay, along with charcoal flecks. This produced over 11kg of fired clay fragments, including slabs (Fig. 20: FC2 and FC3), perforated and circular plates (Fig. 20: FC4 and FC5), a large brick fragment (Fig. 20: FC1) and a large number of unidentifiable pieces. The absence of any evidence for *in situ* burning suggests that this material was derived from a nearby oven or kiln. Three fragments of animal bone were also recovered.

Pits L16 (not illustrated)

Two pits G74 were located within Area D, *c.* 200m north of enclosure L13. Only a small pottery assemblage was recovered from them.

Pits G74

The two pits G74 were located 26m apart. One was circular in plan, 1.15m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with an asymmetrical concave profile. The other was sub-circular in plan, 2m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with a concave profile.

Their fills (G74.1) comprised a mid black brown clay silt with occasional small to large stones and charcoal flecks. This produced 4 sherds of contemporary pottery, including a single sherd of 3rd–4th century type.

PHASE 6: SAXO-NORMAN SETTLEMENT (Fig. 13)

Settlement during this phase was concentrated on previously unoccupied land in Area D. It comprised two domestic foci L17 and L18, separated by ditch L21, which is the only evidence that the settlement may have been enclosed. The domestic foci contained possible structures, a water pit and a number of smaller pits. A more dispersed spread of features L19 lay *c.* 115m to the south in Area B.

Utilitarian jars and bowls in the St Neots-type tradition dominated the small pottery assemblage, although Stamford fine wares are also present. The remainder of the finds assemblage is also domestic in nature: fired clay, iron objects, fragments of quern, animal bone and charred wheat grains. The majority of this material had accumulated in the water pit.

Boundary L21

Boundary ditch L21 was at least 40m long; it continued beyond the limit of excavation to the northwest and was truncated to the southeast. Although it clearly separated domestic foci L17 and L18, it is unclear if it was part of a larger enclosure system. It is dated by a large sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery from its primary fill.

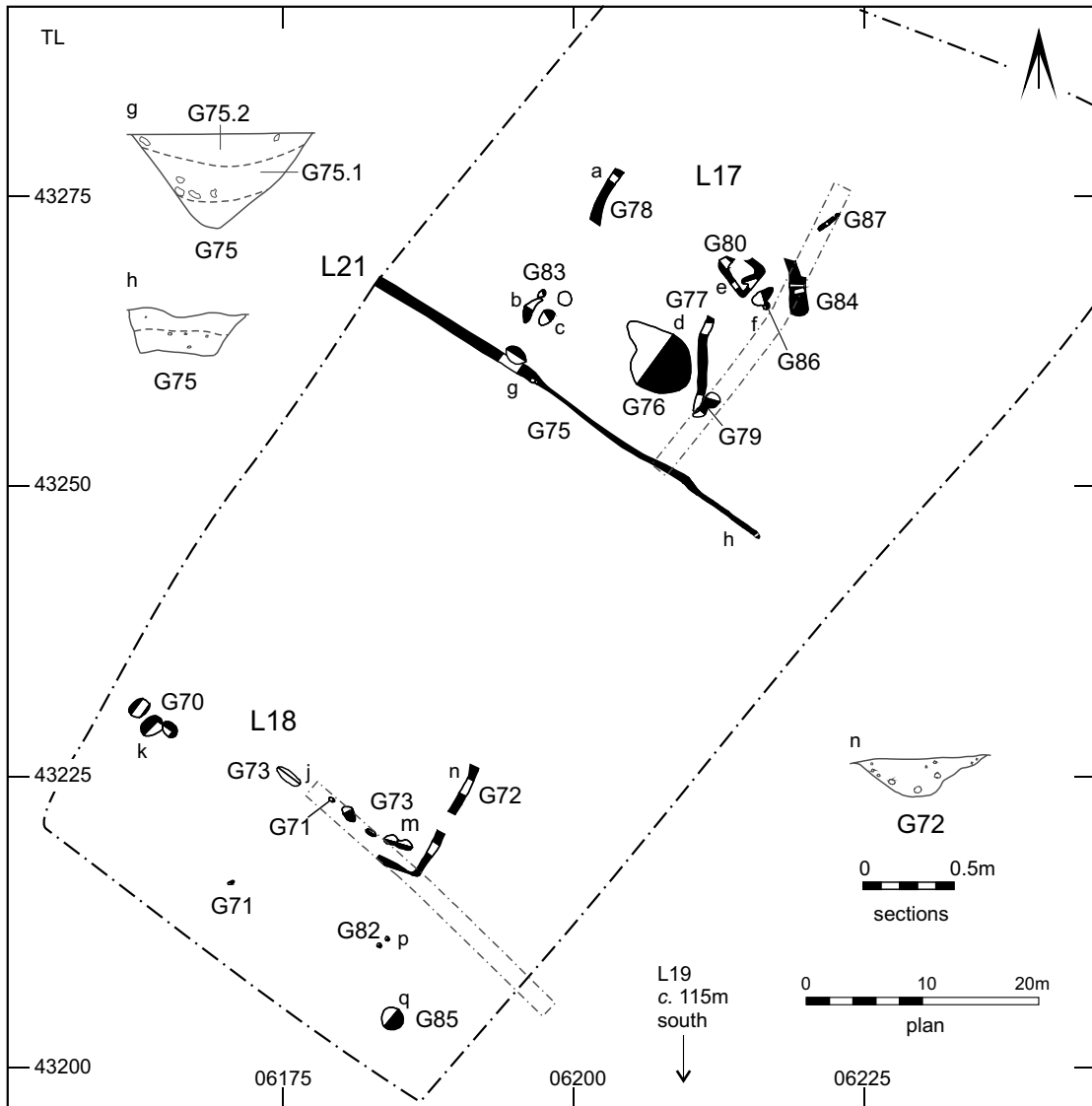


Figure 13: Phase 6: Saxo-Norman plan and boundary ditch sections

Ditch G75

Boundary ditch G75 was generally c. 1m wide and 0.55m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig. 13g). However, to the southeast it narrowed to 0.55m, was flat based and only 0.2m deep (Fig. 13h). It did not terminate to the southeast, but had been more heavily truncated by deeper ploughing.

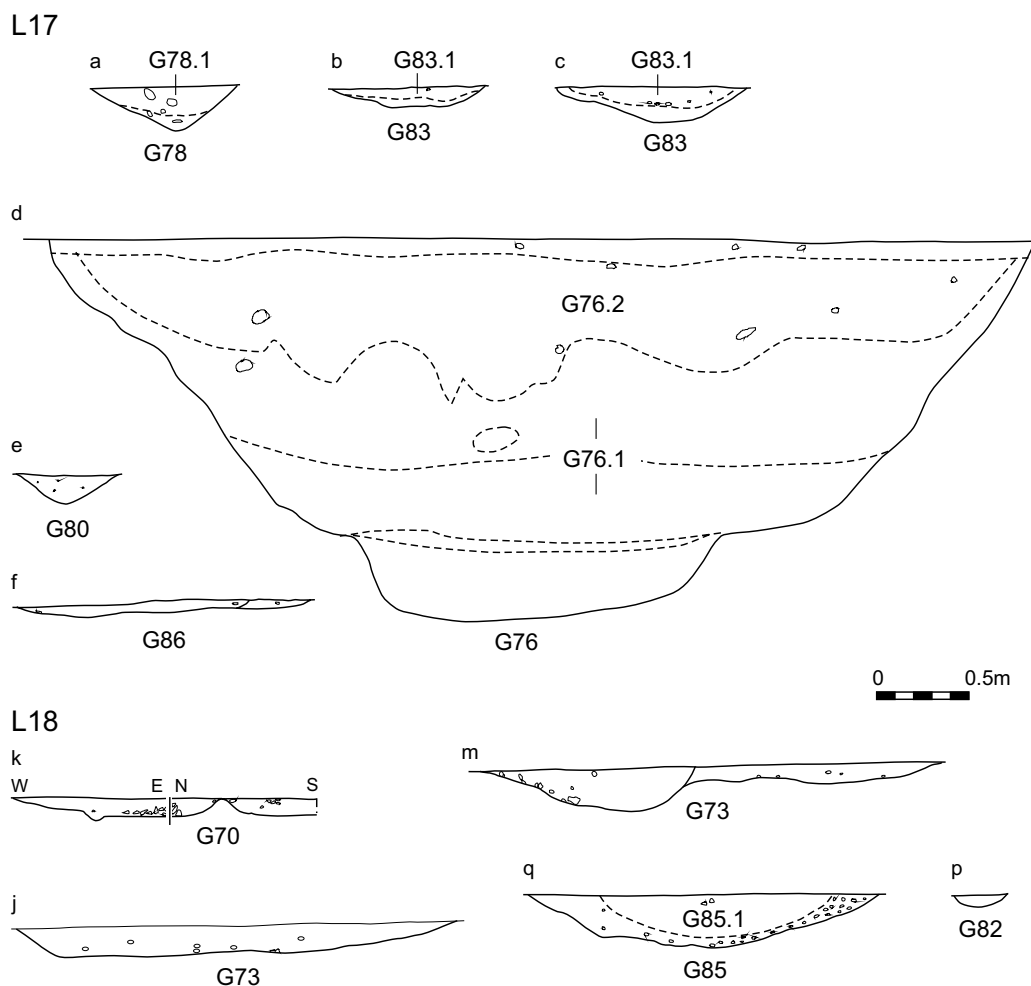
The 0.1m to 0.35m thick primary fill comprised a mid yellow brown clay silt. It produced a large sherd of contemporary pottery and 2 fragments of fired clay.

The secondary fill (G75.1) varied from a mid grey black silty clay with occasional medium stones and charcoal flecks in the northwest to a light yellow brown silty clay with occasional small stones to the southeast.

Domestic focus L17

Domestic focus L17 was located to the northeast of the boundary ditch L21. It comprised a possible rectangular structure G80, a further four possible structural slots G77, G78, G84 and G87, a water pit G76 and three areas of pitting G79, G83 and G86.

These features produced a small assemblage of domestic debris, comprising pottery, fragments of fired clay, animal bone and charred grain. Most of this material came from the fills (primary, secondary and tertiary) of the water pit.



Note: section positions shown on Fig. 13

Figure 14: Phase 6: Saxo-Norman sections

Possible rectangular structure G80

Slot G80 enclosed a rectangular area, approximately 2m by 2.5m in extent. The slot was 0.50m to 1m wide and less than 0.15m deep, with a concave profile (Fig. 14e). There were no internal features and the function of this structure is unknown.

Its fill of dark black brown clay silt (G80.1) contained moderate small to medium stones and frequent charcoal flecks. It produced three sherds of contemporary pottery.

Structural slots G77, G78, G84 and G87

Four slots G77, G78, G84 and G87 of similar size and profile were located close to structure G80. They were aligned approximately north-south and were 5m to 8m long; their full extent is uncertain due to truncation by later features. Overall, they were c. 0.8m wide and less than 0.25m deep, with asymmetrical, concave profiles (Fig. 14a).

Their fills varied from mid grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and moderate quantities of small stones to dark grey

brown clay silt with occasional small to medium stones. Fill G84.1 produced a fragment of fired clay.

Water pit G76

Water pit G76 was excavated partly by hand and partly by machine. It measured 7.2m by 5.3m and was 2.1m deep, with an irregular, concave profile (Fig. 14d). The gently sloping NW side may have provided access to its base.

Its two waterlogged primary fills comprised light blue grey organic silty clays, with a combined thickness of c. 0.45m. Both fills were horizontal and probably accumulated in standing water. They produced 30 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 19: P29 and P34), 10 fragments of fired clay and 64 fragments of animal bone. Ecofactual sample 51 contained poorly preserved organic remains from a variety of trees and plants that would have been growing within the settlement.

The water pits secondary fill (G76.1) was a light yellow grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. It

also contained lenses of dark grey humic silty material, which produced small quantities of charred wheat and oat grains (ecofactual sample 49). Among the 23 sherds of contemporary pottery were some from the same vessel as sherds recovered from the primary fills, suggesting relatively rapid infilling. The secondary fill also produced 22 fragments of fired clay and 21 fragments of animal bone.

The tertiary fill (G76.2) comprised a mid grey orange silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. It produced 10 sherds of contemporary pottery, 15 fragments of fired clay and 2 fragments of animal bone. Ecofactual sample 47 was dominated by charred free-threshing wheat grains.

Pits G83

A cluster of five pits G83 lay to the northwest of water pit G76. One was circular, three were sub-oval and the fifth was more irregular in shape. They varied in size and profile but were all less than 0.20m deep (Fig. 14b and c). Where present, the 0.05m and 0.1m thick primary fill was a grey brown silty clay. It produced 5 sherds of contemporary pottery and 14 fragments of fired clay.

The main fill (G83.1) was a dark grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sized stones. It produced 8 sherds of contemporary pottery and 3 fragments of fired clay.

Pits G79

Two intercutting, sub-circular pits G79 lay at the south end of slot G77; one truncated the slot. They were *c.* 1.5m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with U-shaped profiles and flat bases. One pit contained a 0.15m thick primary fill of light grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.

The main fill (G79.1) comprised light yellow brown silty clay with moderate small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. It produced 5 sherds of contemporary pottery.

Pits G86

Two intercutting pits G86 lay next to possible structure G80. A larger sub-oval pit, 2.1m by 1.1m, truncated a smaller sub-circular pit that was 0.6m in diameter. Both had asymmetrical, concave profiles with flat bases and were less than 0.1m deep (Fig. 14f). Their fill (G86.1) comprised a mid grey silty clay with occasional medium stones and charcoal flecks.

Domestic focus L18

Domestic focus L18 lay *c.* 40m southwest of boundary ditch L21. It comprised an alignment of pits G73, a two-post structure G82, two postholes G71, a cluster of pits G70, an individual pit G85 and a ditch G72. Some of these settlement elements appear to articulate with one another, *e.g.* pits G73 and ditch G72. Overall, however, it is difficult to discern any pattern in their distribution. Their domestic status is confirmed by a small assemblage of pottery, fired clay, animal bone and other everyday objects.

Short alignment of pits G73

A northwest–southeast alignment of five shallow pits G73 ran for a distance of 13m, parallel to ditch G72. The pits were either oval or sub-circular in plan; two were intercutting. With the

exception of a larger pit to the northwest, they were typically *c.* 1.2m in diameter. All had asymmetrical, concave profiles and were less than 0.25m deep (Fig. 14j and m).

Their fills (G73.1) varied from dark grey black to mid grey silty clay with occasional inclusions of small to large stones and charcoal flecks. They produced 44 sherds of contemporary pottery (Fig. 19: P30-P33), 6 fragments of fired clay and 27 fragments of animal bone, the majority of which came from the pit to the northwest.

Two-post structure G82

Two postholes, *c.* 0.5m apart, may represent a two-post structure G82. They were 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m deep, with shallow concave profiles (Fig. 14p). Their fills (G82.1) comprised dark black brown clay silt with no inclusions or artefacts.

Postholes G71

Two further postholes G71, 11m apart, lay to the northwest of the two-post structure. They were sub-oval in plan, *c.* 0.6m by 0.3m and 0.1m deep, with concave profiles. Their fills (G71.1) comprised mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones. They produced 5 sherds of contemporary pottery and part of an iron box fitting (RA 97).

Pit cluster G70

Three sub-circular pits G70 lay on the northwest limit of excavation. They were *c.* 1.45m to 2.05m in diameter and less than 0.25m deep, with asymmetrical concave profiles and flat bases (Fig. 14k). Their fills (G70.1) varied from dark black brown clay silt with occasional small stones to mid black brown sandy clay with moderate medium to large stones. They produced 11 sherds of contemporary pottery, 2 fragments of animal bone, a fragment of fired clay and a nail (RA 98).

Pit G85

An isolated pit G85 lay *c.* 8m southeast of the possible two-post structure G82. It was *c.* 1.9m in diameter and 0.3m deep, with a concave profile and slightly uneven base (Fig. 14q). Its 0.25m thick primary fill comprised a mid orange brown clay silt with frequent small and medium sized stones.

The secondary fill (G85.1) comprised mid black brown clay silt with occasional medium sized stones and charcoal flecks. It produced 14 sherds of contemporary pottery and quern fragments (RA 103).

Ditch G72

Northeast–southwest aligned ditch G72 survived for a length of 15m, although no genuine terminals were identified. To the south it turned to the northwest. It was *c.* 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep, with an irregular concave profile (Fig. 14n). It appeared to be associated with the short alignment of pits G73, although its function is uncertain.

Its fill (G72.1) comprised dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small stones and frequent charcoal flecks. This produced 6 sherds of contemporary pottery, 5 fragments of fired clay and 8 fragments of animal bone.

Other contemporary activity L19 (not illustrated)

A small group of features L19 lay *c.* 115m south of domestic foci L17 and L18 in Area B. They comprised a ditch G55, an adjacent posthole and pit

G56, and another pit G81. Only the ditch produced Saxo-Norman pottery but given the absence of activity in this area from other periods it is tentatively suggested that pits and posthole are contemporary with the ditch. A small quantity of fired clay and animal bone were also recovered.

Ditch G55

Ditch G55 was visible for 10m, terminating to the south and continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the north. It was generally 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep, with a U-shaped profile, stepped sides and a flat base.

Its fill (G55.1) comprised dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sized stones and frequent charcoal flecks. It produced a total of 36 sherds of contemporary pottery, the majority of which came from the terminal, 43 fragments of animal bone and 41 fragments of fired clay.

Pit and posthole G56

Pit and posthole G56 are discussed together purely because of their proximity to ditch G55. The pit was oval in plan, c. 0.65m by 0.4m in extent and 0.2m deep, with a concave, U-shaped profile and flat base. The posthole was c. 0.3m in diameter and 0.05m deep, with a concave profile.

The main fill of the pit (G56.2) comprised a mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones. The fill of the posthole (G56.1) was much darker with frequent charcoal flecks and one large stone which might have been used for packing the post.

Pit G81

An isolated, sub-circular pit G81 lay 4.5m south of ditch G55. It was 1.1m in diameter and 0.25m deep, with a concave profile. Its fill (G81.1) comprised dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small stones. It produced 4 fragments of animal bone.

PHASE 7: MEDIEVAL

Prior to the open area excavation, ridge and furrow earthworks L20 survived within the development area, although they were less distinct to the north in the vicinity of Area D. They were aligned northwest–southeast on regular, c. 6m spacings. Sub-surface linear features, corresponding with the earthwork furrows, were identified in the trial trenches and open area excavations.

No direct dating evidence was recovered for the setting out of this field system. However, the furrows truncated the remains of the Saxo-Norman settlement in Area D (see Fig. 3). Their fills L20.1 produced 153 sherds of pottery of widely ranging date, but most of which was residual Roman material, as well as 4 Roman coins (RA 11, 15, 31 and 79) and 21 fragments of animal bone. Although small in number the 12th–13th century sand-tempered sherds probably give the best indication of

the date of the establishment and use of the field system.

PHASE 8: SUBSOIL AND TOPSOIL

Topsoil and subsoil layers yielded 23 sherds of pottery from all periods, 12 post-medieval roof tile fragments and 19 fragments of animal bone. A range of metal objects were also recovered: an iron double-spiked loop (RA 9); an iron loop-headed spike (RA 16); a hobnail (RA 18); an iron latch lifter (RA 21); two coins dated to the late 3rd–4th century AD (RA 24 and 28); a copper toilet spoon (RA 30) and an iron tack (RA 54).

POTTERY

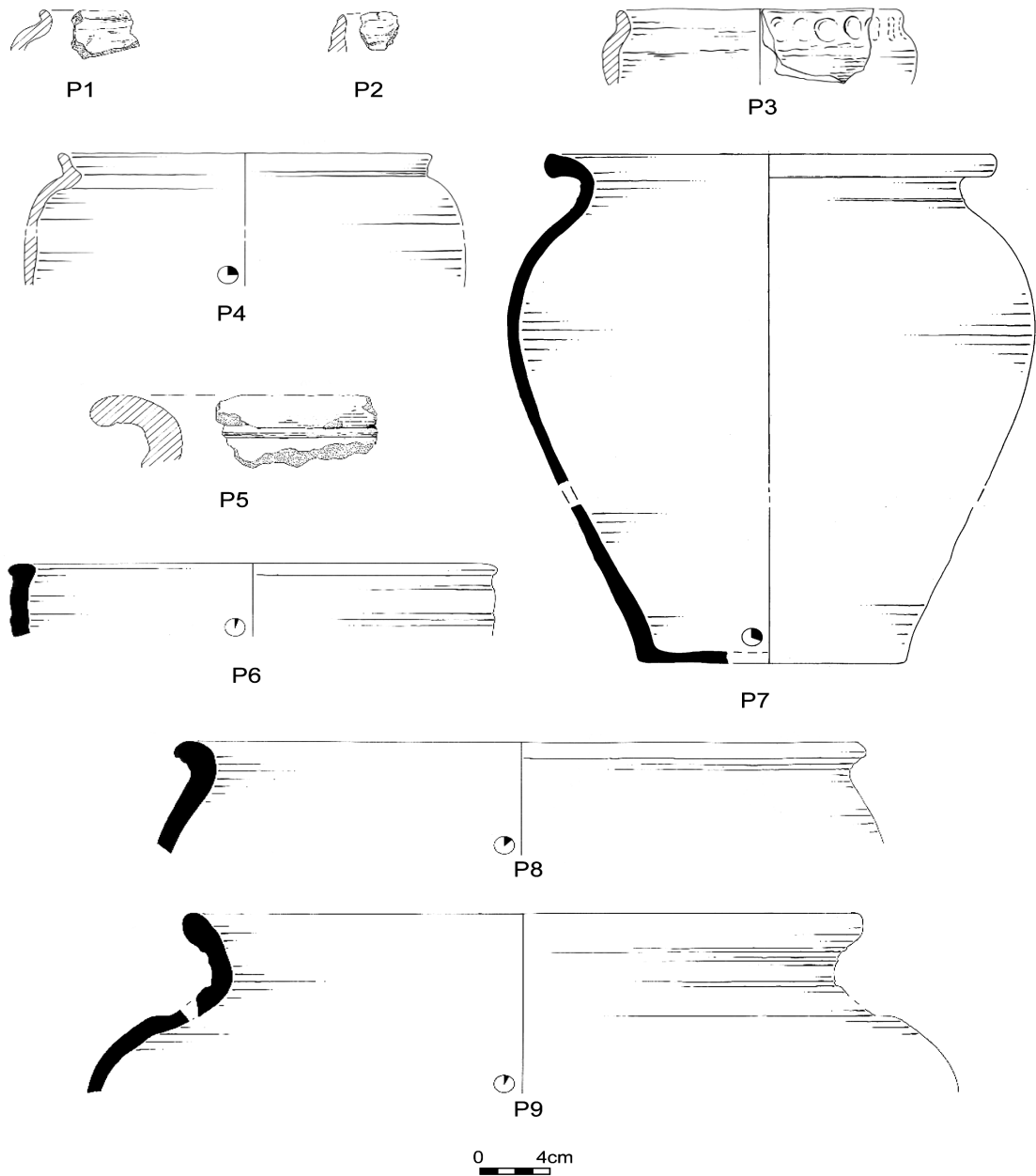
Jackie Wells, incorporating report by Felicity Wild (samian)

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Excavation produced 4,031 pottery sherds, representing 1,747 individual vessels, weighing 49.4kg. The pottery was examined by context and seventy-seven fabric types (defined either by type and quantity of inclusions, or by finish) were identified (see Appendix 1) in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Form codes were assigned and catalogued within fabric type. Quantification was by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight. Sherds belonging to the same vessel, but deriving from separate contexts, were quantified as a single vessel.

Attributes including decoration, manufacturing techniques, levels of abrasion, and evidence of use, such as the presence of residues, sooting and wear marks, were recorded.

A representative sample of the pottery has been illustrated (Figs 15–19). Standard drawing conventions have been used, with vessels shown at one-quarter size, external view on the right and a section and internal view on the left. Handmade vessels are illustrated with hatched sections and wheel-thrown vessels with solid sections. The pie diagram at the base of each illustration indicates the proportion of the vessel recovered. Omission of the pie diagram indicates illustration of all surviving sherds.



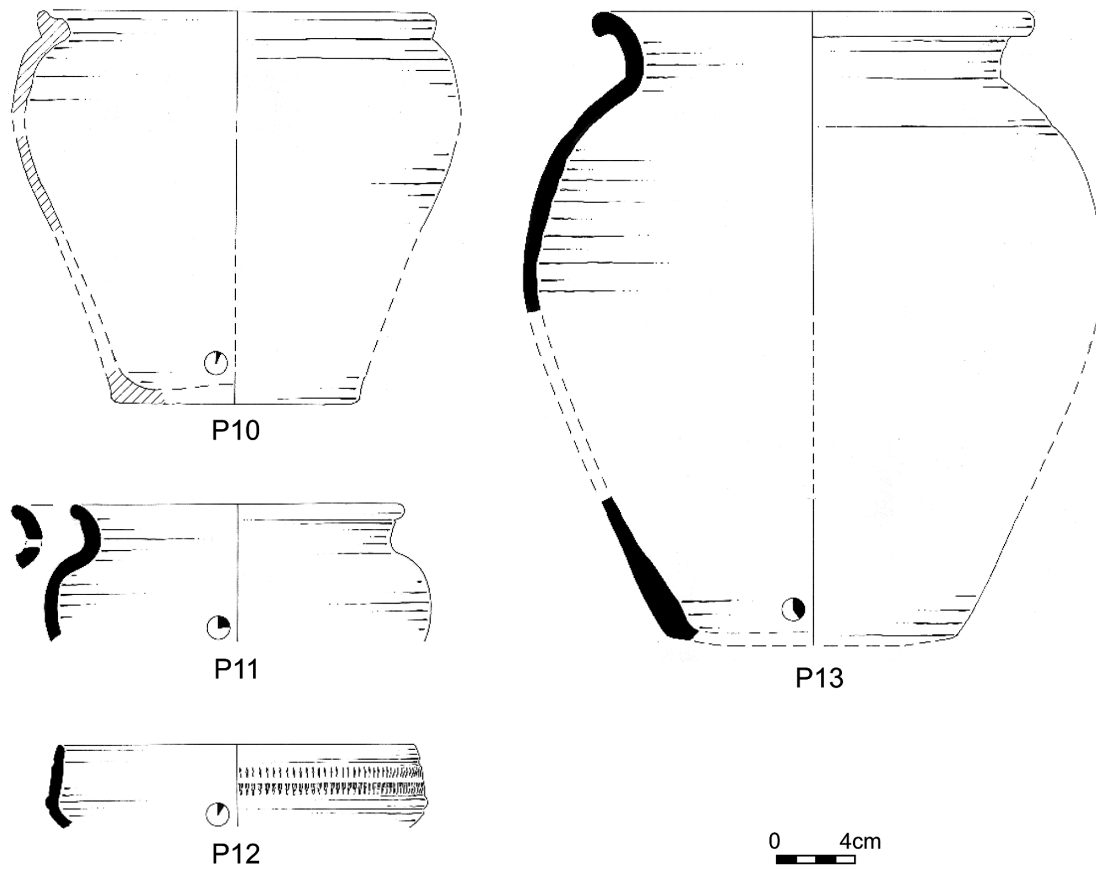
Illust.	Fabric type	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
P1	F15	Round-shouldered vessel	L1.1	G61.1	605
P2	F19	Upright rim vessel	L1.1	G61.1	605
P3	F16	Round-shouldered vessel	L1.2	G61.2	2603
P4	F05	Lid-seated jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P5	F06C	Storage jar	L20.1	G89.1	2647
P6	F05	Bead rim bowl	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P7	F06C	Large jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P8	F06C	Large jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P9	F06C	Large jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469

Figure 15: Selected Phase 2 pottery (P1–P3) and Phase 3 pottery (P4–P9)

L.No.	Fabric Type*													Total	
	F28	F29	F16	F17	F19	F27	F30	F35	F03	F14	F15	F06	F07		R06
L1													1:1		1:1
L1.1	4:9		1:5		2:2	1:5				1:1	2:2		1:1	1:1	13:26
L1.2	1:2	1:8	7:13	1:3	3:6	1:1	1:3	1:4	1:2		1:1			1:1	19:44
L2										1:1	1:1	2:2			4:4
L2.1	10:76	1:3	2:13		1:1		1:2	1:1				1:4			17:100
L2.2	2:3		5:41	1:1	5:13		1:8								14:66
	17:90	2:11	15:72	2:4	11:22	2:6	3:13	2:5	1:2	2:2	4:4	3:6	2:2	2:2	68:241

* Excludes miscellaneous unidentified fabrics. NB: Shaded area indicates contemporary ceramics.

Table 2: Phase 2 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)



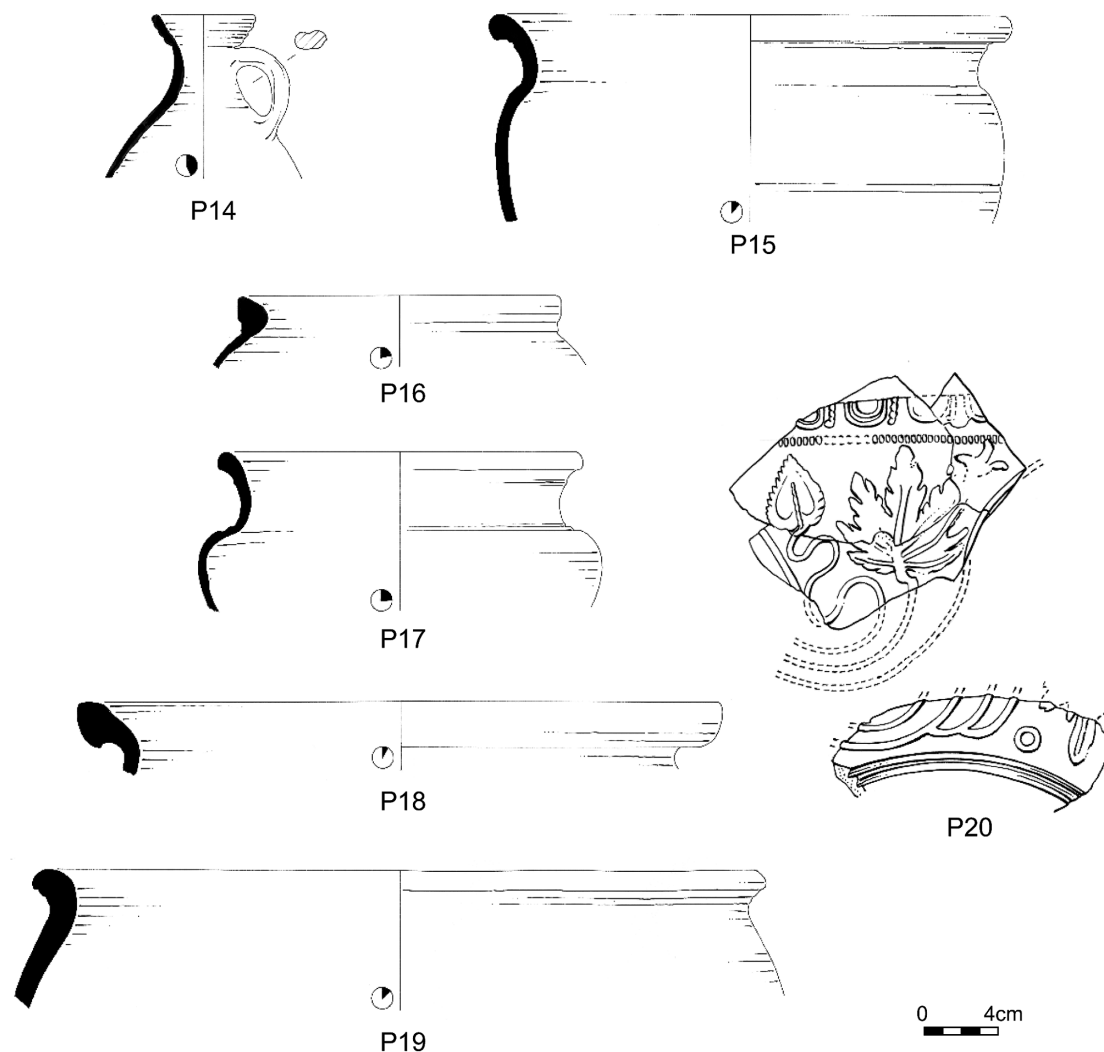
Illust.	Fabric type	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
P10	F07	Lid-seated jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P11	F34	Necked bowl	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P12	F34	Necked jar	L5.2	G33.2	2469
P13	R06G	Rouletted bowl	L5.2	G33.2	2469

Figure 16: Selected Phase 3 pottery (P10–P13)

DISCUSSION

The proportions of fabric types within each Phase and Landscape are presented in Tables 2–6. For clarity, fabric type divisions have been amalgamated where appropriate, and are tabulated using a

generic type code. The pottery is discussed below by chronological period, with reference to the structural hierarchy (Phases, L and G numbers) where appropriate. Approximately 11% of the assemblage derives from unphased or modern features, and is not considered in the following discussion.



Illust.	Fabric type	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
P14	R03B	Ring-necked flagon	L10.2	G44.2	2140
P15	R06C	Necked jar	L9.1	G26.1	2256
P16	R13	Developed lid-seated jar	L10.1	G43.1	2137
P17	R06E	Cordoned jar	L9.1	G26.1	2291
P18	R13	Large jar	L9.1	G26.1	2290/2291
P19	R13	Jar with triangular rim	L10.1	G35.1	2273
P20	R01A	Hemispherical decorated bowl	L7	G11	2382

Scale 1:4, except no. 20 scale 1:2

Figure 17: Selected Phase 4 pottery (P14–P20)

Early–middle Iron Age (Phase 2) (6% of total sherd count) (Table 2 and Fig. 15)

The early–middle Iron Age assemblage comprises 254 sherds from 50 vessels, weighing 2.5kg. The material is fairly fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 9g and a vessel:sherd ratio of 1:3. The pottery is generally abraded, and leaching is evident on sherds tempered with shell and organic matter.

Vessels are predominantly sand- or shell-tempered, characteristic of the period. Diagnostic forms comprise round shouldered and ovoid jars or bowls and large storage jars (Fig. 15: P1–P3). The latter are comparable with examples recovered from Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire (Luke forthcoming). Rims are inturned, rounded or flat, and a single example of a pinched-out base was recorded. Decoration is restricted to occasional finger-tip impressions on body sherds.

Provenance of the pottery assemblage

All the early–middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from Area C. The majority of the assemblage derives from the upper fills of features associated with L2, in particular the secondary and tertiary fills (G66.2) of pits G66, which yielded 1.6kg pottery. Sherds from a single coarse shell-tempered (type F16) storage jar were recovered from the tertiary fills of ditch G61, L1.2, and from two nearby pits G66, L2.2 (G61.2 and G66.2 respectively), suggesting their infilling may have occurred at the same time.

Late Iron Age (Phase 3) (12% of total sherd count) (Table 3 and Fig. 16)

Late Iron Age pottery comprises 479 sherds from 159 vessels, weighing 7.3kg. Sherds are larger (average weight 16g) and less abraded than the earlier material, although the vessel:sherd ratio (1:3) is comparable.

Approximately 42% of this assemblage comprises sherds tempered with grog or grog/sand. Shell/grog- or shell-tempered sherds constitute 55% of the material, and entirely sand-tempered types the remainder. Given that the local Oxford Clay does not contain significant shell inclusions, the clay source for the shelly types is likely to lie at some distance from the site. Potential kilns for this type of pottery include Clapham or Stagsden (Tilson 1973; Slowikowski 2000), both approximately 10km northwest of Wilstead.

The vessels are in the ‘Belgic’ tradition, and represent a standard range of domestic pottery characteristic of the region, as defined in Thompson’s

Zones 7 and 8 (1982, 15–16). The majority of the vessels are wheel-thrown; a small proportion are handmade with a wheel-finished shoulder and rim, and approximately 38% are entirely handmade. The latter are mainly shelly lid-seated jars and storage vessels, and large coarse grog tempered vessels (types F07 and F06C respectively). Other forms are narrow-necked, cordoned, and neckless jars, bead rim and lid-seated bowls, and platters. The forms recorded represent tablewares, storage vessels and cooking pots (Fig. 15: P4–P9 and Fig. 16: P10–P12). Use of the latter for this purpose is indicated by the presence of external and lid-sooting (79 sherds). One neck sherd has been modified by the addition of a post-firing perforation. Decoration is rare and includes horizontal and vertical combing, cordons and incised motifs.

Provenance of the pottery assemblage

The majority of the late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Area A. Over 70% of the assemblage derived from the upper fills of features associated with domestic focus L5, in particular the tertiary fill (G33.2) of water pit G33, which yielded 5.5kg of pottery. The water pit assemblage comprises several individual vessels represented by more than one sherd, including 34 sherds (weighing 1.4kg) from a ‘Belgic’ (type 34) necked jar. Sizable assemblages were also recovered from pits G32 (L5) and G96 (L4), which contained 796g and 882g pottery respectively. The majority of the assemblage from the latter (79 sherds weighing 873g) was derived from the same lid-seated jar (R07B).

Roman (Phase 4/5) (76% of total sherd count) (Table 4, Figs 17 and 18)

Pottery datable to the Roman period comprises 3,054 sherds, from 925 vessels, weighing 38.6kg. Despite constituting the majority of the ceramic material, the pottery is fairly fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 13g and a vessel:sherd ratio of 1:2.

The pottery spans the entire Roman period. However, most is datable to the 2nd and early 3rd centuries, with only a small group of later Roman fine wares and coarse wares present. The assemblage is dominated by sand-tempered reduced coarse wares (fabric groups R06, R07 and R14), and shelly coarse wares (fabric R13), which constitute 45% and 33% of the pottery respectively. The prevalence of the former is likely to reflect the exploitation of raw materials deriving from the

L.No.	Fabric Type*																	Total				
	F04	F05	F06	F07	F09	F34	R02	R03	R32A	R07B	R01	R13	R06A	R05	R06	R07	R09A		R14	R34	R36	R22A
L3.1	1:4	1:2	1:7	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:1	3:3	1:1	2:7									3:13
L4		2:2	1:1	1:1	1:1	1:79	1:1	4:4			7:13		1:6									10:15
L4.1		2:2	5:5	3:6	6:22	2:2	2:2	9:9			7:7	2:6	1:1									17:106
L5.1		2:2	4:23	8:46	6:59	6:11	4:41	1:1	4:9		1:1	1:1	4:23	1:6	1:3							40:63
L5.2					1:2						1:12											67:259
L6.1	1:4	9:29	14:52	11:73	13:35	4:41	1:1	6:11	1:1	5:83	1:1	23:35	1:1	4:4	34:53	3:7	1:1	5:24	1:6	2:5	1:6	141:473

* Excludes miscellaneous unidentified fabrics. NB: Shaded area indicates contemporary ceramics.

Table 3: Phase 3 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)

L.No.	Fabric Type*																							Total				
	F05	F06	F07	F09	R03	R08	R10B	R19	R07B	R01	R13	R03D	R06A	R18	R03E	R05	R06	R07	R09A	R14	R33	R35	R36		R38	R11	R12	
L7																											22:55	
L7.1	2:2	1:1	4:13	3:5	8:33	6:17	8:11	43:80		2:2	1:3	3:4	39:67	7:26	9:18	1:1							1:1				138:288	
L7.2		1:1	3:109	1:1	2:2	1:2	1:1	12:103				1:1	13:28	2:3	1:1	1:163					1:4	3:4					43:424	
L8								1:5			2:9		4:13														8:27	
L8.1		3:6	1:1	5:9			2:2	12:23			1:1	19:51		1:1													44:94	
L9		2:3	8:8		1:1		2:2	2:7			1:1	2:2															8:13	
L9.1					3:8		2:6	15:126			1:1	12:25	1:1									1:2					45:179	
L10								4:4																			23:31	
L10.1		2:2	2:2	3:3	1:1	1:1	6:93	8:11	37:58	1:1	2:2	7:7	49:118	2:4	3:41	1:1					1:1						128:348	
L10.2					1:1			1:1																			2:2	
L11																												2:2
L11.1																												9:9
L12.1							1:1	1:1	4:9			2:2	1:1	5:5													4:9	
	4:5	15:18	7:122	7:9	23:57	1:5	2:2	1:1	18:121	23:54	143:439	1:1	2:2	3:3	3:5	15:16	165:338	12:34	1:1	15:224	1:1	1:2	1:1	1:1	2:5	9:22	475:1481	

* Excludes miscellaneous unidentified fabrics. NB: Shaded area indicates contemporary ceramics.

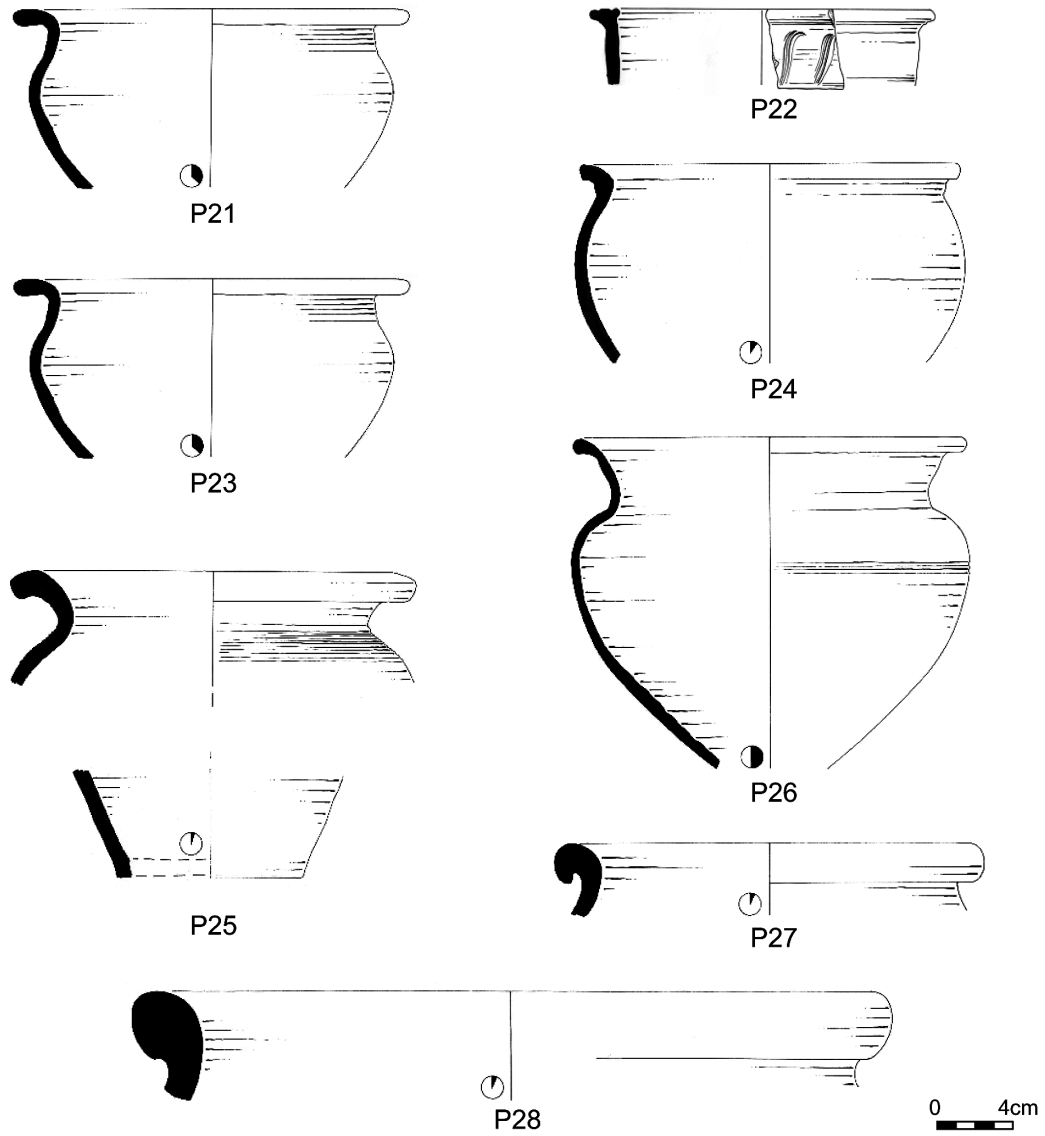
Table 4: Phase 4 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)

L.No.	Fabric Type*																							Total							
	F28	F17	F05	F06	F07	F09	F34	R02	R03	R08	R19	R07B	R01	R13	R04A	R06A	R09B	R18	R03E	R05	R06	R07C	R09A		R14	R33	R28	R38	R22A	R11	R12
L13																															7:51
L13.1																															117:153
L13.2																															10:31
L14	2:2	1:3																													5:13
L14.1																															17:41
L15																															116:165
L15.1																															3:4
L15.2																															6:7
L16.1																															1:1
	2:2	1:3	2:2	12:15	10:15	5:5	3:4	1:8	13:17	3:3	1:9	24:40	16:21	244:431	1:1	1:1	1:1	2:5	1:2	19:41	276:474	31:51	2:12	24:31	2:2	2:2	2:11	1:1	30:41	45:60	765:1318

* Excludes miscellaneous unidentified fabrics. NB: Shaded area indicates contemporary ceramics.

Table 5: Phase 5 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)

Table 5: Phase 5 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)



Illust.	Fabric type	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
P21	R06D	Flanged bowl	L15.1	G34.1	2465
P22	R06D	Reeded-rim bowl	L15.2	G34.2	2464
P23	R06C	Everted rim bowl	L15.1	G34.1	2465
P24	R07B	Bowl	L13.1	G3.2	2295
P25	R13	Rilled jar	L13	G3.1	2011
P26	R06C	Necked jar	L13/13.2	G3.1/3.4	2010/2011
P27	R13	Jar with undercut rim	L15.1	G34.1	2465
P28	R13	Roll rim storage jar	L15	G34	2468

Figure 18: Selected Phase 5 pottery (P21–P28)

Greensand Ridge. Numerous sources are likely for these types, especially during the earlier Roman period, when small-scale, localised manufacture would have been the main means of production. A proportion of the shell-tempered vessels may be products of the Harrold kilns (Brown 1994), located approximately 12km to the northwest of Wilstead.

Vessel forms date predominantly to the early Roman period, and are representative of a low-status utilitarian assemblage, comprising a range of storage, kitchen and table wares (Fig. 16: P13 and Fig. 17: P17 and P18). Early forms include lid-seated jars and bowls, flanged and plain rim bowls, dog-dishes, storage jars, ring-necked flagons, reed-rim bowls, *mortaria*, *amphorae*, and platters. Later forms include rectangular rim bowls, jars with triangular, undercut, bead and everted rims, narrow-necked jars, and folded and plain-rim beakers. The incidence of sooting is restricted to the shelly vessels, indicating their specialised use as cooking pots/kitchen wares. The unsooted sandy reduced wares suggest a primary use as table wares.

Three sherds, including one from a shell-tempered storage jar, have thick internal white residues, possibly representing an accumulation of limescale. Thirty-six shell-tempered sherds have pitted internal surfaces, resulting from long-term use, and wear marks are present on seven base sherds in varying fabric types.

Decorated pottery, although occurring more frequently than during the late Iron Age, is still rare. It comprises incised wavy lines, lattice motifs, rouletting, stabbing, combing, rilling and burnishing. It is possible that some forms of surface treatment, such as slips or painted decoration, may have been lost due to post-depositional abrasion.

The incidence of regional and continental imports is low, constituting 8% and 3% of the assemblage respectively. The former include 2nd century products of the Verulamium region industries, black-burnished wares, Nene Valley grey wares and pink grogged vessels, the latter likely to derive from Caldecotte, Buckinghamshire. Later Roman regional imports of late 3rd to 4th century date include vessels (mainly fine wares) from Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and the Nene valley.

Continental imports are of early Roman date and are represented by samian ware, *amphorae*, and single sherds of Rhenish and lead-glazed ware. Samian includes plain and decorated ware of central, southern and eastern Gaulish origin (sixty-eight, eight, and three sherds respectively), and a

single sherd of British 'imitation' samian of unknown source (decorated samian is described in Appendix 1). The samian assemblage ranges in date from the late 1st to the late 2nd century. The presence of south Gaulish ware suggests that samian ware was first reaching the site in small quantities during the Flavian period (AD 69–96).

The samian from Phase 4 features is probably all Hadrianic to mid-Antonine in date (AD 117–c. 180). The central Gaulish pieces of undoubtedly late 2nd century date and the east Gaulish pieces were from features attributed to Phase 5. Forms are restricted to bowls (forms 18, 18/31, 18/31R, 31, 31R, and 37), cups (forms 27, 33 and ?35) and dishes (form 36). One central Gaulish form 33 cup, of mid-late Antonine date, is stamped **I. IONO**.

Provenance of the pottery assemblage

Roman pottery derives almost entirely from features within Area A. A negligible number of sherds were residual within Saxo-Norman features in Areas B and D.

Phase 4 (Table 4)

The Phase 4 assemblage is generally more fragmented and dispersed than that from Phase 5. Only pits G50 (L10.1) and G26 (L9.1), and ditch G16 (L7), contained over 1kg of pottery, the majority (3.1kg) deriving from the secondary fill (G26.1) of pit G26. The assemblage from G16 comprises several individual vessels represented by more than one sherd, including 157 sherds (1.4kg) from a sand-tempered (type R14) cordoned jar.

One hundred and thirty-three sherds representing fifty-two vessels (897g) derived from the drainage ditch and internal features associated with roundhouse L8. The pottery ranges from late Iron Age to late Roman in date. However, the majority of the assemblage comprises early–middle Roman sand-tempered grey wares and shelly coarse wares (types R06 and R13 respectively). Sherds are small (average weight 6g) and the fragmented nature of the material is attested by a low vessel to sherd ratio of 1:2. The quantity of pre-Roman material (seven sherds) is tiny when compared to the large Roman assemblage. This strongly suggests that the former is residual and that the roundhouse was built and lived in during the Roman period.

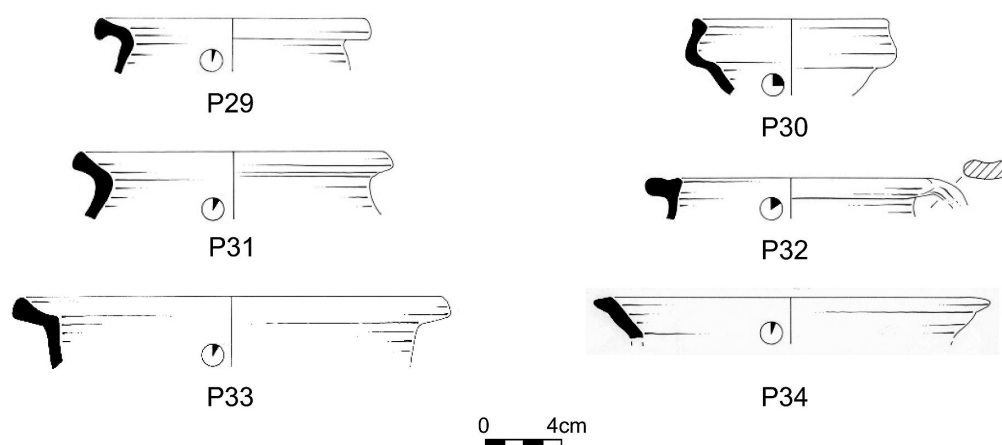
Phase 5 (Table 5)

The Phase 5 assemblage is characterised by a greater quantity of late Roman regional imported fine wares, and the presence of later forms among

L No.	Fabric Type*												Total	
	F03	F05	F06	F07	F09	R05	R06	B01	B01A	B01C	C12	C01		C04
L17							2:2	7:22		1:13				11:39
L17.1	1:2	1:5		1:6	2:2			8:39	4:10				1:1	18:65
L18.1						1:1		22:76	1:3		1:1	1:1		26:82
L19.1								8:18	5:18					13:36
L21			1:1							1:1				2:2
	1:2	1:5	1:1	1:6	2:2	1:1	2:2	45:155	10:31	2:14	1:1	1:1	2:3	70:224

* Excludes miscellaneous unidentified fabrics. NB: Shaded area indicates contemporary ceramics.

Table 6: Phase 6 pottery fabric types by Landscape (vessel:sherd count)



Illust.	Fabric type	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
P29	B01	Everted rim jar	L17	G76	2743
P30	B01	Bowl with inturned rim	L18.1	G73.1	2640
P31	B01	Everted rim jar	L18.1	G73.1	2632
P32	C12	Pitcher	L18.1	G73.1	2640
P33	B01	Everted rim bowl	L18.1	G73.1	2640
P34	C04	Jar	L17	G76	2743

Figure 19: Selected Phase 6 pottery (P29–P34)

the ubiquitous shell- and reduced sand-tempered coarse wares. The majority of the assemblage was recovered from the upper fills of features in activity focus L15, in particular depression G46 and water pit G34, which produced 9.4kg and 2.4kg pottery respectively. Although the depression produced a large quantity of pottery, the material was highly fragmented, with a low vessel to sherd ratio of 1:2. The occurrence of six sherds from the same vessel within the secondary and tertiary fills (G34.1 and G34.2 respectively) of water pit G34 suggests rapid infilling of the feature. Only five other groups, pits G39 and G93, boundary ditches G3 and G10, and depression G46, contained between 1.0kg and 1.5kg of pottery.

Saxo-Norman (Phase 6) (6% of total sherd count) (Table 6 and Fig. 19)

The Saxo-Norman assemblage comprises 231 sherds from 44 vessels, weighing 868kg. The material is highly fragmented (vessel:sherd ratio 1:3): most sherds are very small (average sherd weight 3g) and highly abraded, and those containing shell inclusions are leached.

The majority of the assemblage comprises shell-tempered wheel-thrown vessels in the St Neots-type tradition, datable from the 9th–11th centuries. Forms include bowls with inturned rims of pre-conquest date, and everted rim jars and ‘top hat’ vessels of the conquest period. Fine wares are restricted to two sherds of 10th–12th century

Stamford ware, one from a spouted pitcher (Fig. 19: P32).

Provenance of the pottery assemblage

Pottery of Saxo-Norman date was only found in Areas B and D. Only pit G73 (L18.1), water pit G76 (L17), and boundary ditch G55 (L19.1) contained over 100g of pottery; no group contained in excess of 500g. Sherds from a single shell-tempered (type B01) vessel were recovered from the primary and secondary fills of water pit G76, L17/17.1, suggesting the feature may have become infilled over a short period of time.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Jackie Wells

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The ceramic building material comprises a small quantity of roof tile and brick, and a sizable assemblage of daub, fired clay, handmade slabs and portable kiln/oven furniture. Quantification of all material was by fragment count and weight, and unless otherwise stated, quantitative data in the text are based on the latter.

BRICK AND TILE

The assemblage comprises fifty-three fragments (weighing 2.5kg) of Roman brick and tile, and twelve roof tile fragments (403g) of late/post-medieval date. The latter are mainly unstratified, and have not been included in the following discussion.

Two Roman fabric types were identified and are detailed in Appendix 2. Sixty-two percent of the material is shell-tempered; the remainder is sand-tempered. The majority of the assemblage comprises small, abraded fragments (average weight 34g). Diagnostic forms are brick and *tegulae*. Although of probable Roman date, it is unclear whether the undiagnostic fragments represent thick tegulae or thin bricks, and for this reason they have been recorded as unidentifiable.

Most of the brick and tile derives from the upper fills of features assigned to Phases 4 and 5, in particular depression G46 (Phase 5), which yielded over 62% of the total assemblage (Table 7). The small quantity of brick and tile suggests that any substantial structures were located some distance from the excavated area.

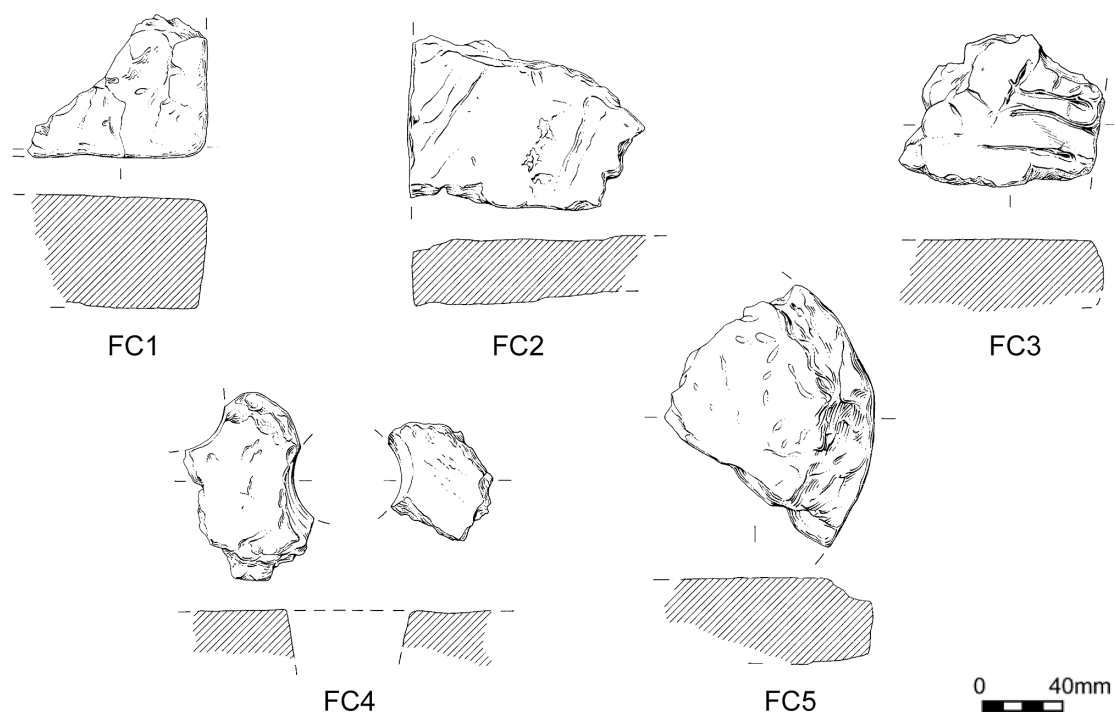
DAUB, FIRED CLAY, SLABS AND KILN/OVEN FURNITURE

Over 1,700 fragments, weighing 17.3kg, were collected. Three fabric types were identified and are described in Appendix 3. Daub and fired clay fragments are mainly sand-tempered, either reflecting the exploitation of local resources, or suggesting the unsuitability of other temper for structural use. A number of the larger daub fragments retain impressions of circular wattles, ranging in diameter from 13–25mm. Most have one finished surface – the oxidised external wall face, with wattle impressions on the reduced sides and reverse. Fragment thicknesses range from 15–40mm, with some pieces exceeding 50mm. The majority of the fired clay assemblage comprises amorphous and abraded fragments, some of which may represent degraded daub.

Phase	L No.	G No.	G No. description	Tegula	Brick	Frag	Total
6	L17	G83	Pit group			1:8	1:8
5	L13.1	G4.1	Fill of boundary ditch G4		1:46		1:46
	L13.1	G10.1	Fill of boundary ditch G10		1:51		1:51
	L15	G93.1	Disuse fill of pits G93	2:85			2:85
	L15.1	G34.1	Secondary fill of water pit G34	1:78			1:78
	L15.2	G34.2	Tertiary fill of water pit G34	2:67			2:67
	L15.2	G46	Depression	12:919	1:594	3:25	16:1538
4	L7.1	G9.1	Secondary/tertiary fills of boundary ditch G9			6:74	6:74
	L7.1	G16.1	Secondary fill of boundary ditch G16	1:33			1:33
	L7.2	G20.1	Disuse fill of ditch G19	1:10	3:73		4:83
	L10.1	G35.1	Fill of pits G35	1:90			1:90
			Total	20:1282	6:764	10:107	36:2153

NB: Excludes unstratified material.

Table 7: Brick and tile by Phase, L and G numbers



Illust.	Description	L No.	G No.	Context
FC1	Large brick fragment	L14.1	G54.1	2486
FC2	Slab	L14.1	G54.1	2486
FC3	Slab	L14.1	G54.1	2486
FC4	Perforated plate	L14.1	G54.1	2486
FC5	Circular plate	L14.1	G54.1	2486

Figure 20: Selected Phase 5 oven/kiln furniture (FC1–FC5)

Handmade clay slabs occur in both sand and organic fabrics. They range in thickness from 25–45mm and have finger-smoothed surfaces and edges. Although relatively common finds from sites of late Iron Age and Roman date, their precise function remains unclear. Suggested uses include pre-fabricated components for structures such as hearths, ovens or kilns, and salt-licks for cattle (Rigby and Foster 1986, 187–8).

Approximately 76% of the total assemblage derives from Phase 5 features, in particular the secondary fill G54.1 of pit G54 (L14.1), which contained over 11kg of structural debris and portable furniture deriving from either an oven or a kiln. The material from G54.1 includes fragments of a large handmade brick (55mm thick), two rectangular slabs (27–30mm thick), three perforated plates (25mm thick) and a circular plate

(30mm thick) (Fig. 20: FC1–FC5). Fourteen percent of the assemblage derives from Phase 4 features, including 288g associated with round-house L8, while negligible quantities were recovered from features assigned to Phases 2, 3 and 6 (Table 8).

VITRIFIED CLAY

A small quantity (478g) of vitrified clay was recovered. It was not associated with any industrial residues and is, therefore, likely to derive from the linings of domestic hearths. All fragments were redeposited within features assigned to Phase 4, the majority (339g) deriving from the upper fills of pits G26 and G50 (L9.1).

Phase	L No.	Landscape description (with G No.)	Daub/fired clay	Slab
6	L17	Area of domestic activity (G76, 83)	24:108	
	L17.1	Deliberate infilling of features in L17 (G76.1, 76.2, 83.1, 84.1)	41:177	
	L18	Area of domestic activity (G70)	1:1	
	L18.1	Deliberate infilling of features in L18 (G72.1, 73.1)	11:30	
	L19.1	Deliberate infilling of boundary ditch L19 (G55.1)	41:82	
	L21	Boundary ditch (G75)	2:2	
5	L13.1	Natural infilling of enclosure ditches L13 (G3.2, 4.1, 10.1, 12.1)	116:783	1:27
	L14	Pits (G54)	16:10	
	L14.1	Infilling of pits L14 (G27.1, 30.1, 41.1, 54.1)	68:331	511:10742*
	L15	Pit group (G93, 93.1)	9:86	
	L15.1	Secondary fills of pits L15 (G34.1, 39.1)	14:165	1:28
4	L15.2	Tertiary fills of water pit, other pits and depression (G34.2, 39.3, 46)	104:1157	
	L7.1	Secondary fills of enclosure ditches L7 (G6.2, 9.1, 11.1, 14.1, 16.1)	479:1535	24:84
	L7.2	Tertiary fills of enclosure ditches L7 (G16.2, 20.1)	6:14	
	L8	Roundhouse (G18, 29)	7:76	
	L8.1	Disuse fills of roundhouse L8 (G18.1, 18.2, 28.1, 29.1)	29:212	
	L9	Rubbish pits (G26)	6:151	
	L9.1	Secondary fills of pits L9 (G23.1, 25.1, 26.1)	50:167	
	L10	Pits (G44, 45)	4:3	
	L10.1	Deliberate infilling of pits L10 (G7.1, 35.1, 43.1, 50.1, 51.1)	36:192	
	L10.2	Tertiary fill of pit L10 (G44)	58:60	
	3	L3.1	Fill of pits L3 (G60.1)	3:24
L4.1		Disuse fills of boundary ditch L4 (G17.1)	7:99	
L5.1		Secondary fill of features in activity area L5 (G8.2, 32.1)	22:430	
L5.2		Tertiary fill of water pit L5 (G33.2)	6:22	12:458
L6.1		Natural infilling of roundhouse and pits L6 (G5.2)	1:3	
2	L1	Enclosure ditch (G61)	1:3	
	L1.1	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch L1 (G61.1)	5:35	
	L1.2	Tertiary fill of enclosure ditch L1 (G61.2)	2:8	
	L2	Pit group (G62, 63)	13:9	
	L2.1	Secondary fills of pits L2 (G64.1, 65.1)	12:11	
	L2.2	Tertiary fills of pits L2 (G66.2)	3:46	
	Total	1197:6010	549:11339	

* Includes kiln/oven furniture. NB: Excludes unstratified material.

Table 8: Summary of daub and fired clay by Phase and L number

REGISTERED AND NON-CERAMIC ARTEFACTS

Jackie Wells, incorporating report by Peter Guest (coins)

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Registered artefacts (*i.e.* excavated objects requiring more detailed recording and description than bulk finds such as pottery) are described in this section. All iron objects and seventeen copper alloy artefacts (158 in total) were submitted for x-radiography; the x-ray plates form part of the site archive. Each object was assigned a broad term or simple name, and a related functional category, in accordance with the Bedfordshire Artefacts Typology. Objects are discussed below by functional category and summarised in Table 9. For detailed catalogue entries see Appendix 4.

DISCUSSION

Fasteners and fittings

Twenty-eight iron timber nails and nail fragments were recovered. The majority derive from Phase 5 features, particularly depression G46, which produced thirteen nails. Only eleven examples were sufficiently complete for full classification (after Manning 1985, 134–137), the majority being examples of Type 1B (Table 10). This is consistent with the incidence of nail types on other sites of Romano-British date where this form is prevalent, reflecting its general usefulness. All nails have square- or rectangular-sectioned shanks, tapering to a predominantly rounded tip, although two wedge-shaped examples were noted. Only one nail is clenched, indicating use.

Phase	L No.	G No	G No. description	Artefact Summary
8	L22	G91	Subsoil	Fe double-spiked loop (RA 9), Fe hobnail (RA 18), Fe loop-headed spike (RA 16), Fe latch lifter (RA 21), CA coin (RA 24, 28), CA toilet spoon (RA 30), Fe tack (RA 54)
7	L20.1	G89.1	Fill of furrows G89	CA coin (RA 11, 15, 31, 79)
6	L18.1	G70.1	Fill of pits G70	Fe nail (RA 98)
	L18.1	G71.1	Fill of postholes G71	Fe box fitting (RA 97)
	L18.1	G85.1	Secondary fill of pit G85	Lava quern fragments (RA 103)
5	L13	G3	Primary fill of enclosure ditch G3	Fe nails (RA 59, 60, 63, 64); Fe bar fragment (RA 61); Fe tack (RA 62)
	L15	G93.1	Main fill of pits G93	CA coin (RA 1); Fe nail (RA 105)
	L15.1	G39.1	Secondary fill of pits G39	Fe hobnails (RA 92 & 104); Fe nail (RA 91)
	L15.1	G34.1	Secondary fill of water pit G34	Fe nail (RA 102)
	L15.2	G34.2	Tertiary fill of water pit G34	Fe nail (RA 67); CA finger ring (RA 2)
	L15.2	G46	Central depression within enclosure L13	CA bell (RA 45); CA coin (RA 34, 52, 57); Fe nail (RA 37, 38, 40, 46, 48, 49, 50, 78, 84, 100, 101); Fe wool comb (RA 35); Pb strip (RA 39); Fe strip (RA 44); mixing palette (RA 76); bone hairpin (RA 82); whetstone (RA 83)
4	L7.1	G9.1	Secondary fills of enclosure ditch G9	CA coin (RA 32); Fe nail (RA 81)
	L7.1	G11.1	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch G11	Vitrified clay (29g)
	L7.1	G19.1	Main fill of enclosure ditch G19	Fe hobnail (RA 90)
	L7.2	G20.1	Main fill of enclosure ditch G19	Fe hub or nave lining fragment (RA 47); Fe shears blade (RA 77)
	L8.1	G18.1	Secondary fill of roundhouse Ditch G18	Quern fragment (RA 89)
	L8.1	G28.1	Upper fill of pits G28	Vitrified clay (2g)
	L9	G26	Primary fill of pit G26	Fe hobnails (RA 87); vitrified clay (72g)
	L9.1	G25.1	Fill of pits G25	Vitrified clay/fuel ash (140g); burnt flint (11g); flint flake
	L9.1	G26.1	Secondary fill of pit G26	Fe nail (RA 85, RA 86); vessel glass (RA 88); vitrified clay (199g)
	L10.1	G50.1	Secondary fill of pits G50	Fe nail (RA 58)
	L10.1	G51.1	Fill of slot G51	Fe nail (RA 93)
	L10.2	G44.2	Tertiary fill of water pit G44	Bone hairpin (RA 75)
	L11.1	G38.1	Fill of pits G38	Flint flake
3	L5.1	G8.2	Secondary fills of ditches G8	CA coin (RA 10)
2	L1.1	G61.1	Secondary fill of ditch G61	Fe annular ring (RA 95)
	L2.1	G64.1	Fill of gully G64	Flint flake
	L2.1	G65.1	Secondary fill of pits G65	Flint flake

NB: Fe = iron, Pb = lead, CA = copper alloy.

Table 9: Summary of non-artefacts by Phase, L and G number

Nail type	Description	Quantity
1B	Flat rectangular head	7
2	Triangular head	2
3	T-shaped head	2
Unclassified	Shanks only	17
	Total	28

Table 10: Nail types, quantity and form

Latch lifter

Locking mechanisms are represented by an incomplete iron latch lifter RA 21, recovered from subsoil, Phase 8 (*cf.* Crummy 1983, fig. 138). This class of artefact represents a very simple form of key, probably operating a lock made otherwise entirely of wood. The earliest examples known from Britain are late Iron Age in date but, in this

country, the type remains in use throughout the Roman period (Manning 1985, 88).

Double-spiked loop and loop-headed spike

Single examples of a double-spiked loop RA 9 and a loop-headed spike RA 16 occurred in subsoil, Phase 8. Both forms are ubiquitous on most types of Roman site (Manning 1985, pl 59, 61; Crummy 1983, figs 125 and 126) and functioned by providing a ring or loop for attachment to woodwork or masonry (Manning 1985, 129).

Tacks

Two incomplete iron tacks RA 54 and 62 were recovered from subsoil, Phase 8 and boundary ditch G3, Phase 5, respectively. Both are common forms, in use throughout the Roman period, the

former, with its domed, hollow head, functioning specifically as an upholstery stud (Manning 1985, 136; pl 63, R101 & R102).

Household items

Quernstones

Fragments of two querns RA 89 and 103 were recovered from Phases 4 (G18.1) and 6 (G 85.1) respectively. The former is an incomplete, flat rotary quern upper stone made from millstone grit, likely to derive from Derbyshire or Yorkshire. The latter comprises abraded, undiagnostic rotary quern fragments manufactured from imported lava, originating from either the Mayen quarries of Germany or from French lava outcrops found near Volvic (King 1986, 94).

Vessel glass

RA 88 is a small fragment of blue-green glass deriving from a vessel of indeterminate form. During the Roman period most glass containers and tableware were blue-green in colour (Price and Cottam 1998, 15). The fragment derives from the secondary fill of pit G26, Phase 4.

Crafts and industry

Wool comb

Depression G46, Phase 5, yielded an iron wool comb RA 35 (Fig. 21), used to untangle fibres and ensure that they lay parallel prior to spinning. The

object is double-sided, with a central cross-piece with fine teeth extending to one side and coarse teeth to the other. This differentiation of fine and coarse teeth appears to be an unusual feature. Most Roman iron wool combs were made from a forged plate either in the shape of an H with a broad central bar, the end teeth formed from the uprights of the H, or a rectangular plate. Short slots were cut, by chisel, into the cross bar and a tooth welded in each slot. Where combs were made from rectangular plates, the end teeth are L-shaped, with the short arm set in a wider slot cut in the side of the plate (Manning 1985, 33). The x-ray of RA 35 shows that two of the fine teeth are clearly constructed in this manner, and two possible slots in the side of the plate may have accommodated the end teeth. None of the remaining teeth exhibit slots for welding in position, but this may be due to a high degree of concretion. Combs possessing teeth at both ends are known from Worth, Kent; Great Chesterford, Essex; Baydon, Wiltshire; Ewell, Surrey; and London (Manning 1985, 34).

Multi-purpose implements

Shears

Shears were used for a variety of tasks, and for this reason can rarely be assigned a precise function, although division into three groups by size (Manning 1985, 34) is an accepted criteria for determining use. Although incomplete, RA 77 may be a blade from medium shears (type 2), suitable

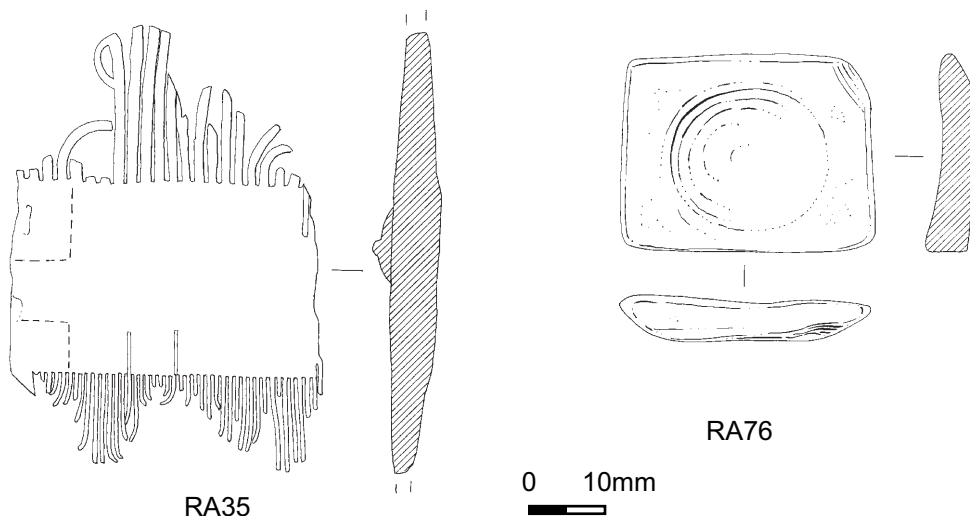


Figure 21: Selected artefacts: wool comb (RA 35) and mixing palette (RA 76)

for shearing sheep or cutting cloth, but too large for personal use. It was recovered from the secondary fill G20.1 of ditch G20, Phase 4.

Whetstone

Whetstone fragment RA 83 is an example of a primary hone, fashioned from Kentish Ragstone (a glauconitic quartz-bearing limestone), and deliberately quarried and traded from Kent. Although originally rectangular, wear through use has modified the object to a rounded, bar-like shape of circular cross-section. The whetstone was recovered from depression G46, Phase 5.

Personal items

Finger Ring

A small portion of a possible intaglio finger ring RA 2, made of copper alloy, was recovered from the tertiary fill of water pit G34, Phase 5. The object survives in very poor condition; recognisable elements are part of a shoulder and hoop junction, and the edge of a setting for an intaglio. A 2nd–3rd century date is probable.

Hairpins

Two incomplete bone hairpins RA 75 and 82 were recovered from Phases 4 (G44.2) and 5 (G46) respectively. RA 82 has a flattened globular head and swelling shank characteristic of type 3 pins (Crummy 1983, 21; fig. 19/300) dating from c. AD 200 to the late 4th/early 5th century. RA 75 comprises a portion of shank decorated with either a cordon or incised groove, and is unclassifiable. Such items functioned primarily as decorative hairpins, although some may also have been used as garment fasteners.

Hobnails

Eighty-three iron hobnails were recovered. Although undatable, hobnails generally occur on rural sites in 2nd century and later deposits. All are Manning type 10 forms (1985, 135), with short, narrow, square-sectioned shanks and small pyramidal heads, and a length which varies between 15mm and 17mm. Where complete, the tips of the shanks are clenched over. Single examples were recovered from subsoil, Phase 8, and from the upper fills of ditch G19, Phase 4. A small group of eleven nails derive from pit G26, Phase 4. A collection of seventy nails representing the remains of a hobnailed shoe were recovered from the secondary fill of pit G39, Phase 5. Although

twenty-one nails were excavated prior to recognition of the full extent of the remains, forty-nine were lifted and x-rayed within the soil matrix. Of these, seventeen were concentrated in the heel area, whilst thirty-two studded the upper sole, largely on the right-hand side of the shoe, suggesting it may have been for the left foot. No decorative pattern could be discerned in the nailing.

Toilet spoon

Subsoil, Phase 8, yielded a cast copper alloy toilet spoon RA 30 with a small round, flat scoop. Simple spoons such as this may have been used to extract and mix cosmetics, or in manicure, to push back the cuticle (Crummy 1983, 59). Toilet spoons appear to have been made throughout the Roman period; similar examples are known from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 64/1898) and Bancroft, Milton Keynes (Williams and Zeevat 1994, fig. 145/119).

Mixing palette

A complete quartzite mixing palette RA 76 (Fig. 21) was recovered depression G46, Phase 5. Small slabs of stone were used as palettes on which to mix cosmetics or medicines. Comparable examples are known from Gorhambury, Herts (Neal *et al.* 1990, fig. 146/1051), Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 61) and Castleford, W Yorks, (Clarke 1998, fig. 112/84).

Coins

Peter Guest

Twelve copper alloy coins, mainly of late Roman date were identified (Table 11). Although the assemblage is small it shows a 'normal' Romano-British concentration of coins from the late third and fourth centuries.

Miscellaneous objects

Hub or nave lining

The main fill of ditch G20, Phase 4, contained a curving rectangular iron strip of V-shaped section, identified as a possible hub or nave lining fragment RA 47. The act of lining the outer end of the hub with an iron ring reduced the wear caused by its rotation on the axle. Complete hub linings normally comprise a split iron band that could be slightly compressed as it was inserted, although complete cylinders are also known. All hub linings tend to be V-shaped in section, the wider edge

Phase	L. No.	G. No.	RA	Denom.	Date range	Obverse	Reverse
8	L22	G91	24	AE3 fragment	late 3rd/4th C	Illeg.	Illeg.
	L22	G91	28	AE3 fragment	late 3rd/4th C	Illeg.	Illeg.
7	L20.1	G89.1	11	AE3	330–335	Constantinopolis	Victory on prow
	L20.1	G89.1	15	Denarius	218–226	Julia Maesa	Illeg.
	L20.1	G89.1	31	AE3	330–340	Constantinopolis	[Victory on prow]
	L20.1	G89.1	79	AE3/4	330+	Illeg.	Illeg.
5	L15	G93.1	1	Radiate	268–270	Claudius II	Illeg.
	L15.2	G46	34	Barb. radiate	270–290	As Divo Claudio	As Consecratio
	L15.2	G46	52	Barb. radiate	270–290	Illeg.	Illeg.
	L15.2	G46	57	AE3	330–340	Helmeted bust left	Illeg.
4	L7.1	G9.1	32	AE1	1st–early 3rd C	Illeg.	Illeg.
3	L5.1	G8.2	10	AE3/4	late 3rd/4th C	Illeg.	Illeg.

Table 11: Coins by Phase, L and G number

being on the outside. The external diameters on British examples tend to vary from slightly under 100mm to almost 140mm – the internal diameter (wheel size) is about 20mm less in each case (Manning 1985, 72).

Bell

Depression G46, Phase 5, yielded a conical sheet copper alloy bell RA 45. The object is perforated for attachment of a clapper and suspension ring, neither of which survive. Such items may have been attached to the halters or collars of livestock or domestic pets, although some may have been used as personal ornaments (*cf.* bell on armlet from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 41/1808) and unattached bell (fig. 54/1811)). Although the form was in use throughout the Roman and medieval periods, its association with securely dated Roman material suggests it may be of similar date.

Box fitting

An incomplete iron object identified as the possible remains of a small chest or casket hinge RA 97 was recovered from the fill of posthole G71, Phase 6. The poor condition of the object makes it impossible to determine whether the hinge is of drop or loop form, and precludes certainty as to whether the spiralled wire which runs down the back of the main body is a decorative feature or is corroded in position post-deposition.

Ring

An incomplete annular iron ring RA 95 was recovered from the secondary fill of ditch G61, Phase 2. The object is sub-rectangular in section, with a diameter of 45mm, and may have functioned as a harness or cart ring, or a ring handle on furnishings. It is typologically undatable.

Unidentified objects

Unidentified iron and lead objects derive from Phase 5, and comprise two tapering rectangular strip fragments RA 39 and 44 and a rectangular-sectioned iron bar RA 61. The latter tapers sharply in thickness at the break, and may represent the remains of a chisel or punch head.

Flint artefacts

The flint assemblage comprises six struck flakes (29g) fashioned from poor quality raw material, and a piece of burnt flint (11g). The flakes retain a high proportion of cortex and have sustained post-depositional damage. All are residual within pits assigned to Phases 2 (L2.1) and 4 (L9.1, L11.1), and Phase 7 furrows (L20.1).

ANIMAL BONE

Ellen Hambleton

INTRODUCTION

All the animal bone was examined as part of the post-fieldwork assessment (Albion 2002a). The small size of the assemblage from each Phase severely limits the potential for meaningful and reliable conclusions concerning the role of animal species at the site. The relatively high proportion of unidentifiable fragments is a reflection of the overall state of preservation of the assemblage, which is generally quite poor. The fragmentation and surface erosion of the bone has undoubtedly resulted in the loss of ageing, metrical, butchery and gnawing data. With the exception of the assemblages from pit G26, Phase 4 and depression G46, Phase 5, there was little potential for analysis beyond that undertaken as part of the

	Phase 2: Early–middle Iron Age	Phase 3: Late Iron Age/early Roman	Phase 4: Roman	Phase 5: Later Roman	Phase 6: Saxo-Norman
Cattle	13	15	46	34	18
Sheep/goat	5	9	43	54	8
Horse	5	4	10	10	3
Pig	1	—	8	5	6
Roe deer	—	—	—	—	1
Hare	—	—	—	1	—
Bird	—	—	—	1	—
Unidentified	91	30	287	318	50
Total count	115	58	394	423	86

* Excludes unassigned material and material from phases 7 and 8.

Table 12: Animal species by Phase (fragment count)

assessment. The following discussion is, therefore, in part based on the assessment report.

QUANTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION OF SPECIES

A total of 1,154 fragments were recovered by hand during excavation, only 28% of which could be identified to species. A further 342 fragments were recovered from sieved ecofactual samples, from which only fifteen fragments were identified to species.

Species present include cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig, roe deer, hare and bird (Table 12). Among the fragments identified to species, cattle remains are the most abundant (42%) followed closely by sheep/goat (39%), with horse the next most abundant species (12%), then pig (7%). Wild mammals and birds are very poorly represented in the assemblage. However, the assemblage is too small to provide reliable information concerning the relative economic importance of different species at the site and any conclusions drawn must be treated with caution.

PROVENANCE

Animal bone was recovered from Phase 2 (early–middle Iron Age) through to Phase 8 (post-medieval). The bulk of this material is of Romano-British date with the majority (423 fragments) coming from Phase 5 (later Roman) deposits and a slightly smaller sample (394 fragments) from Phase 4 (Roman) (Table 12). There does appear to have been some increase in the relative abundance of sheep in Phase 5 compared to earlier Phases. However, this may simply reflect the presence of the sheep-rich deposit G46.1,

which contained several sheep skulls, mandibles and a cervical vertebra. Horse was recovered from all Phases and is consistently the third most common species in the Romano-British Phases, while pig is generally less common. The pattern of species representation described above is fairly typical of Romano-British rural settlements, which are usually dominated by sheep/goat and cattle with a low incidence of pigs (King 1999) and tend to have horse occurring more commonly than on urban settlements (Maltby 1994). The relative species abundance in the Romano-British phases (4 and 5) is similar to other assemblages of this date from the region *e.g.* Milton Keynes (Mynard 1987, 180–191) and, in particular Marsh Leys Farm, Bedfordshire (Albion in prep.).

ASSEMBLAGE FROM G26

The material from pit fill G26.1 (Phase 4) was subject to further analysis because the assemblage was relatively large (372 fragments) and because cranial elements were observed during the assessment. However, only a small number of fragments were identifiable to species: sixteen cattle, twenty-one sheep/goat, two horse and five pig. These include several loose teeth and skull fragments, demonstrating that cranial elements of several different species were present in the deposit. However, there is no indication that these represent the deliberate deposition of complete crania, and postcranial elements are also present. On balance, there is nothing in this faunal assemblage to suggest it differs significantly from what one might expect to find in a general accumulated deposit of domestic refuse.

ASSEMBLAGE FROM G46.1: 'SPECIAL' DEPOSIT OF SHEEP SKULLS

Introduction

During excavation, three complete sheep skulls (G46.1, Phase 5) were identified within the depression at the centre of enclosure L13. They were placed close together on their sides, facing different directions and were suggestive of a 'special' deposit. Therefore, following assessment, all bone from this deposit was examined in detail. In addition to the three skulls noted during excavation, the assemblage also contains an additional two fragmentary sheep skulls, two mandible/maxilla pairs, one radius/ulna and one atlas vertebra (butchered), giving a minimum number of five individuals. All the skulls were positively identified as belonging to sheep of a hornless variety commonly found in later Romano-British assemblages.

Age at death

Based on the state of tooth eruption and wear on the five pairs of mandibles, it is possible to estimate the age at death of the sheep from this deposit (Grant 1982; Hambleton 2001; Payne 1973). Of the three skulls found in close association, Skull 1, had a Grant (1982) Mandible Wear Stage (MWS) of 39 which places it towards the younger end of Payne's (1973) Wear Stage of G (equivalent to 4–6 years), suggesting an age of approximately 4 years. Skull 2 was at MWS 35, which is towards the start of Payne stage F (3–4 years), suggesting an age of approximately three years. Skull 3 was at MWS 25, which places it towards the older end of Payne stage D (1–2 years), and had 3rd mandibular molars that had erupted through the bone, although they were not at full occlusal height. Silver (1969) suggests an age of 1.5–2 years for eruption of the M3, which combined with the toothwear data, could suggest an age of approximately 2 years at death. Of the other two individuals represented, one mandible pair was of a similar age to Skull 2 and had MWS of 34 (c. 3 years at death). The other mandible pair was of a similar age to Skull 1 and showed a slight variation in levels of wear with the right side having a MWS of 37 and the left side a MWS of 39 (equivalent to c. 4 years at death).

Absolute ages assigned to archaeological sheep mandibles based on modern comparative data may vary in accuracy and precision, particularly amongst adult animals where rate of toothwear may vary within and between populations.

However, despite these caveats, the three closely associated skulls and two additional mandible pairs do appear to represent individuals of three age cohorts (2, 3 and 4 years old), each roughly a year apart in age at death. This pattern of age at death would seem to be consistent with all five individuals' being killed and deposited together in a single event. Based on the assumption that sheep births were concentrated in March to April (Hamilton 2000, 61), it is suggested that individuals killed at approximately 24, 36 and 48 months (2, 3 and 4 years respectively) represent animals killed in the spring months.

Butchery marks

Four of the sheep displayed evidence of having been butchered. Each of the three skulls found in close association had fine horizontal knife cuts across the central region of the occipital bone on, or slightly below, the pronounced ridge of muscle attachments at the back of the skull. These marks almost certainly resulted from cutting through the top of the neck muscle at the back of the skull in order to detach the head from the rest of the body. The technique used to remove the heads of these three individuals, cutting from the dorsal side, is somewhat unusual among faunal assemblages of this date (Maltby, pers. comm.). More commonly, cut marks are seen on the cervical vertebra where the head has been disarticulated from the post-cranial skeleton slightly further down the neck, and the skull removed, often with the upper cervical vertebrae still attached. This latter technique was evident on one of the other individuals from deposit G46.1; there were no marks on the skull, while the associated atlas vertebra displayed horizontal knife marks on the ventral surface consistent with disarticulation of the head at the first and second cervical vertebral joint.

Conclusion

It is clear from the careful placing of at least three of the skulls, and the almost complete absence of any other sheep post-cranial material, that this deposit does not represent the casual discard of domestic refuse or primary butchery waste. The fine cut marks on the occipitals of the three skulls found in close association were virtually identical, and displayed such a consistent technique that one could argue that the same practitioner was responsible for the butchery of all three animals. This, together with the ageing evidence, suggests that these three individuals were all killed at the same

time of year, and the close association and apparent deliberate placement of the skulls supports the hypothesis that these three skulls were deposited together in a single event. It is difficult to determine whether the additional two sheep skulls represented were part of the same careful arrangement as the group of three closely associated skulls. However, the use of two different butchery techniques perhaps indicates that not all of the individuals represented were dispatched by the same person. The group of three skulls and the additional two crania and mandible/maxilla groups might, therefore, represent two or more discrete depositions of sheep heads, albeit occurring at roughly the same time.

HUMAN BONE

Christopher Mallows

A small amount of human bone, all from Roman deposits, was recovered. Water pit G43 (L10, Phase 4) produced four fragments, and a partial cranium was discovered in the central depression G46 within enclosure L13 (Phase 5).

Two left heads of metacarpals, a left medial hand phalanx and a left mandibular fragment were recovered from water pit G43. All were very poorly preserved, with considerable erosion and loss of surface detail.

The partial adult cranium recovered from depression G46 also exhibited poor preservation, including post-mortem fracturing. The surviving elements were from the frontal, parietal and nasal regions. Not all the fragments join, but they do appear to be from the same individual. Sex could not be determined. Porous periosteal bone deposition was noted, primarily above the orbital roof. The individual appears to have suffered from anaemia at some point before, but not at the time of, death.

CHARRED AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS

Jenny Robinson

INTRODUCTION

On site, very few deposits appeared to have the potential to preserve charred plant remains. However, thirty-four ecofactual samples were taken from a range of feature types and spatial/

chronological locations. In addition, a further six samples were taken from waterlogged deposits. Following assessment, fourteen samples, including two from waterlogged deposits, were subject to further analysis.

METHODOLOGY

Samples were processed by bulk flotation onto a 0.25 mm sieve and scanned under a binocular microscope. The non-waterlogged flots were sorted dry under a binocular microscope and the waterlogged flots were sorted in water. Macroscopic plant remains other than charcoal were identified at up to x50 magnifications. The results are presented in Table 13, nomenclature following Clapham *et al.* (1987). Charcoal from these samples was broken transversely and examined at up to x50 magnifications. If necessary, it was also sectioned radially and tangentially and examined at up to x40 magnifications using a petrological microscope. The results are given in Table 14. The results from the two waterlogged samples are given in Table 15.

DISCUSSION

Early–middle Iron Age (Phase 2)

Seven samples 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, all from pits G62, G63, G65, G66 and G69, were analysed in detail. They contained small quantities of cereal grain, including both *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and hulled *Hordeum* sp. (barley). Chaff was not well represented, but included *Triticum spelta*. Occasional seeds of arable weeds were present including *Bromus secalinus* (brome grass). Sample 40, from one of the pits in G63, also contained two stones of *Prunus spinosa* (sloe) and two unidentified tubers.

These remains show that cereals were being cultivated in the vicinity during the early–middle Iron Age, but do not indicate large-scale crop processing. It is uncertain whether or not the sloes and tubers in sample 40 were food remains.

The charcoal from these samples was mostly from thorn scrub, particularly *Prunus* sp. (probably *P. spinosa*, sloe), but Pomoideae (hawthorn *etc.*) was present in most samples and *Rhamnus catharticus* (purging buckthorn) was identified in two samples. There was also a slight presence of *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal in some of the samples

Sample	Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age						Phase 4: Roman			Phase 5: Later Roman			Phase 6: Saxo-Norman								
	34	36	37	38	39	40	41	G62	G69.1	G69.3	G65.1	G63.1	G66.2	G6.1	G4.1	G39.1	L13	L15	L17	L20	
L.n.b.	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L7	L10	L10	L10	L10	L10	L20	
Sample volume (litres)	20	45	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	20	10	20	10	20	
GRAIN																					
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L.	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	16	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>T. spelta</i> L. - sprouted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schübl. or <i>spelta</i> L.	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	40	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schübl. or <i>spelta</i> L. - sprouted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - free threshing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
hulled barley	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. - hulled	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
cereal indet.	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	25	9	12	—	—	5	
Total grain	7	9	3	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	92	16	32	—	—	62	
CHAFF																					
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. - glume	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	328	53	55	—	—	—	
<i>T. dicoccum</i> Schübl. or <i>spelta</i> L. - glume	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	596	220	379	—	—	—	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - awns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	3	—	—	—	
<i>Avena</i> sp. - awns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Total chaff (excluding awns)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	924	273	434	—	—	0	
FRUIT AND NUTS																					
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
WEED SEEDS																					
<i>Ranunculus</i> Sect. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Papaver sp. (not <i>somniferum</i> L.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chenopodiaceae indet.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Vicia</i> or <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
cf. <i>Trifolium</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> agg.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schul. B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Carex</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Bromus</i> cf. <i>secalinus</i> L.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Avena</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gramineae indet.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Weed indet.	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	3	—	—	3	
Total Weed seeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	1	—	—	4	
Total Weed seeds	1	5	0	0	0	5	4	2	2	49	8	4	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
VEGETATIVE PLANT REMAINS																					
Tuber indet.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Table 13: Charred plant remains by Phase, L, G and sample number

Sample G Nb. L Nb. Sample volume (litres)	Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age							Phase 4: Roman		Phase 5: Later Roman	Phase 6: Saxo- Norman
	34 G62 L2	36 G69.1 L2	37 G69.3 L2	38 G69.3 L2	39 G65.1 L2	40 G63.1 L2	41 G66.2 L2	15 G26.1 L9	3 G6.1 L7	16 G39.1 L15	47 G76.2 L17
<i>Rhamnus</i> <i>catharticus</i> L. purging buckthorn	—	+	—	—	—	+	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Prunus</i> sp. sloe	+	+	++	—	—	+	++	—	—	—	+
Pomoideae indet. hawthorn, apple etc.	+	+	+	—	+	+	+	—	+	—	+
<i>Quercus</i> sp. oak	—	—	—	+	—	+	+	+	—	+	—
<i>Fraxinus</i> <i>excelsior</i> L.	—	—	—	++	—	+	—	—	—	—	—

+ present, ++ abundant

Table 14: Charcoal by Phase, L, G and sample number

Sample G Nb. L Nb. Sample volume (litres)	Phase 5: Later Roman	Phase 6: Saxo-Norman
	22 34 15 10	51 76 17 20
<i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>repens</i> L. creeping buttercup	—	+
<i>Ranunculus</i> S. <i>Batrachium</i> sp. water crowfoot	+	—
<i>Brassica</i> sp. wild turnip, black mustard etc.	—	+
<i>Coronopus squamatus</i> (Forst.) Asch. swine-cress	+	—
<i>Atriplex</i> sp. orache	+	—
<i>Potentilla</i> cf. <i>reptans</i> creeping cinquefoil	+	—
Pomoideae indet. - wood apple, hawthorn etc.	—	+
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L. hemlock	++	—
<i>Torilis</i> sp. hedge-parsley	—	+
<i>Rumex</i> sp. dock	—	++
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. stinging nettle	++	—
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. hazel	—	+
<i>Quercus</i> sp. - wood oak	—	+
<i>Cirsium</i> sp. thistle	—	+
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L. nipplewort	—	+
<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.) Hill sow thistle	—	+
<i>Juncus</i> sp. rush	+	—
<i>Lemna</i> sp. duckweed	+++	—
leaf fragment	—	++
woody fragment	—	+++

— absent, + present, ++ abundant, +++ most plentiful

Table 15: Waterlogged plant remains by Phase, L, G and sample number (seeds unless stated)

and charcoal of *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) was found in sample 38 from a pit in G69. The results suggest that fuel was mostly obtained from scrub or hedgerow sources, but that some woodland timber was also available.

Romano-British (Phase 4)

Two samples were analysed in detail for charred remains. Sample 15 from the fill of pit G26 was comprised predominantly of wheat grain with very

few weed seeds or chaff fragments. Some of the grain could be identified more closely to *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat). A significant proportion of the grain showed signs of germination. It is possible that this deposit represents grain which was being malted and had been accidentally burnt.

Sample 3 from the fill of ditch G6 contained a very high concentration of glumes of *T. spelta*. The glumes outnumbered grain by a factor of 10:1. Given that chaff is more vulnerable to complete

combustion than grain, the remains clearly represent material that was very rich in chaff. Arable weed seeds were also present, the most numerous being *Rumex* sp. (dock) and *Bromus cf. secalinus* (brome grass). The remains probably represent the waste product from the de-husking and cleaning of spelt wheat. Similar species and ratios of chaff to grain were observed in contemporary deposits at Haynes Park (Robinson 2004, 102).

Later Romano-British (Phase 5)

Two samples were analysed in detail for charred remains: sample 7 from ditch G4 and sample 16 from pit G39. The results were very similar to those from sample 3 in the previous Phase. Chaff of spelt wheat predominated in both samples, although the proportion of weed seeds was much lower than in sample 3. Most of the grain was probably spelt wheat, although there was also a slight presence of *Hordeum* sp. (barley). The remains in these samples likewise represent debris from the de-husking of spelt.

In addition, sample 22 from the lowest fill of water pit G34 was analysed in detail. It contained rather poorly preserved waterlogged seeds predominately of *Lemna* sp. (duckweed), a minute floating plant which probably covered the surface of the water. The other seeds were mostly from the vegetation growing on the settlement, such as *Conium maculatum* (hemlock) and *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle).

Saxo-Norman (Phase 6)

Two samples from water pit G76 were analysed in detail for plant remains. In sample 47 (from the upper fill), charred grains of free threshing *Triticum* sp. (rivet or bread wheat) predominated (in the absence of chaff it was not possible to determine which species was present). Small quantities of *Avena* sp. (wild oats), which was likely to have been a crop by this date, and hulled *Hordeum* sp. (hulled barley), along with some weed seeds, were also present. The range of species and quantity of material is comparable to those from Haynes Park (Robinson 2004, table 9). This material may represent grain that was being parched in order to harden it prior to hand milling. Grains of free-threshing wheat and oats were also present in sample 49 (not subjected to full analysis) taken from the secondary fill of the water pit.

Ecofactual sample 51 derived from the lowest fill of the water pit, but only contained poorly preserved organic remains. Seeds of aquatic plants

were absent but the sample contained many leaf and wood fragments, including Pomoideae (hawthorn, apple etc.) and *Quercus* sp. (oak). It is possible that the water pit was situated alongside a hedge or a clump of trees and bushes. The other seeds were from plants of disturbed ground or hedgerow habitats, such as *Torilis* sp. (hedge parsley) and *Rumex* sp. (dock).

Three further samples (45 from a pit in G83 and 27 and 28 from ditch G55) were only subject to assessment. They contained assemblages of charred remains very similar in character to those from water pit G76. Grains of free-threshing wheat predominated; sample 28 also contained a rachis fragment of *Secale cereale* (rye), another cereal characteristic of this period.

MOLLUSCS

Jenny Robinson

Mollusc shells were very sparse or absent from the majority of the ecofactual samples. The only notable concentration was found in sample 35, which was taken from the fill of ditch G61, Phase 2. The most numerous shells were of *Lymnaea truncatula*, which probably lived in temporary bodies of stagnant water in the ditch bottom. The remaining shells were of terrestrial species such as *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Vallonia excentrica* that had probably entered the ditch from the surrounding ground surface, and suggest dry, open conditions.

DISCUSSION

Despite the relatively limited extent of the excavated areas, evidence for six Phases of activity was recovered. The earliest (Phase 1) comprised Neolithic/early Bronze Age worked flint. However, this material was entirely residual within later features and is not indicative of settlement at this date. The first farmstead was established in the early–middle Iron Age (Phase 2). The majority of the evidence for settlement relates to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period (Phases 3, 4 and 5), although the Saxo-Norman period (Phase 6) is also represented. The following chronological discussion highlights particularly significant aspects of the evidence for each period.

EARLY–MIDDLE IRON AGE (C. 800 TO 300 BC)

Introduction

The investigations located a previously unknown early–middle Iron Age farmstead (Phase 2). Its location on the Oxford Clay of the Marston Vale is of particular interest because settlements of this period in the Eastern Counties are often believed to have been concentrated on lighter soils and along river valleys (Bryant 1997, 25; Dawson forthcoming). The Luton Road, Wilstead settlement can be added to a small, but increasing, number of sites of this period situated on clay soils (see Bryant 1995, 22–4).

The evidence comprises a ditch, pits, postholes and a gully. The presence of a segmented ditch L1 is perplexing because it did not obviously enclose the settlement features and even truncated some of the pits. However, it produced a similar pottery assemblage to many of the pits and is, therefore, believed to have been broadly contemporary. Despite the presence of the ditch, the settlement is considered to have been ‘open’ or unenclosed. At the time of Knight’s (1984, 223) survey this class (Group 4) was considered to be relatively uncommon. However, since then an increasing number of unenclosed settlements have been located, such as Bancroft, Milton Keynes (Williams and Zeepvat 1994, 55), Hinksley Road, Flitwick (Luke 1999, 81) and Biddenham Loop (Luke forthcoming), suggesting that they may actually have been relatively common.

The earlier view that unenclosed settlements were relatively uncommon is probably a reflection of their very nature: they are difficult to detect by anything other than open area excavation. For example, it is striking that while evaluation Trench 6 located ditch L1 and produced early–middle Iron Age pottery, it did not identify many of the pits or postholes.

The dating of the farmstead is based solely on the pottery assemblage, which predominantly comprises sand- or shell-tempered fabrics characteristic of the period.

Components of the settlement

A small number of features, characteristic of settlement, were identified. They comprised seventeen pits, three postholes and a gully, covering an area c. 26m in diameter.

The pits were generally small and concave in profile. They were certainly not ‘classic’ Iron Age storage pits. They may be classified as either

basin- or scoop-shaped, on the basis of their size and profile. The basin-shaped pits could have served a storage function, while the scoop-shaped pits are more likely to be the result of clay extraction. Clusters of similar pits dating to the middle Iron Age were excavated at East Stagsden, in association with a roundhouse (Dawson 2000, 21–27 and fig. 17). However, the Luton Road, Wilstead pits are also comparable to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits at Aldermaston Wharf, Berks (Bradley *et al.* 1980, 221) and Biddenham Loop (Luke forthcoming).

No buildings or structures could be identified within the remaining features in this settlement, postholes G67 and gully G64. Although it is possible that the curving segmented ditch was associated in some way with a roundhouse. It is likely that the more ephemeral evidence for buildings and structures may simply have been destroyed by plough truncation., although the presence of small postholes would suggest this was not universally the case.

Economy

Limited mollusc evidence points to dry, open conditions around the settlement. Spelt wheat and barley were being grown, although the charred plant remains do not suggest large-scale crop processing. The charred wood species indicate that fuel was obtained from scrub and hedgerow sources, but that some woodland timber was also available. The animal bone is dominated by cattle, but the assemblage is too small and in too poor a condition to provide any significant insight into animal husbandry. Although it is likely that mixed farming, the norm for this period (Hill 1995a, 60), provided the economic basis for the settlement, the recovered assemblages are too small to allow the relative importance of plants and animals to be assessed.

LATE IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH (C. 50 BC TO AD 410)

The overall settlement sequence

During the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Phase 3), a new settlement was established c. 100m to the south of its early–middle Iron Age predecessor. Two discrete domestic foci were identified to the south of a boundary ditch. The dating evidence is not sufficiently refined to determine whether both were occupied simultaneously. The

'Belgic' pottery assemblage is characterised by wheel-thrown vessels with shell/grog, shell or sand inclusions. A standard range of domestic vessel forms, typical of the region, is present.

At some point, possibly in the late 1st century AD, a rectilinear system of ditched enclosures (Phase 4) was established in the same area as the 'Belgic' settlement. The new system mirrored the alignments of the earlier boundary ditch, suggesting no significant break in occupation. Features characteristic of settlement were identified in all three of the investigated enclosures. None were present to the south of the southernmost enclosure ditch G2, which may have defined the limit of the settlement. The pottery assemblage spans the entire Roman period, although most is datable to the 2nd and early 3rd centuries. It is again characterised by domestic, utilitarian types and forms.

It seems likely that a change in use of this part of the settlement occurred sometime during the late Roman period (Phase 5). A single, new enclosure L13 was laid out on a different alignment to the earlier system. It contained less evidence for buildings or structures than the enclosures it replaced. The pottery assemblage is characterised by a greater quantity of imported late Roman regional fine wares and the presence of characteristically later forms amongst the coarse wares. The recovery of ten late 3rd–early 4th century coins, including three from the depression at the centre of enclosure L13, may provide a date for this phase of activity. The absence of late 4th century coins may indicate that the settlement was abandoned at some point before the middle of the 4th century.

Settlement shift

The early–middle Iron Age and the 'Belgic' Iron Age/early Romano-British settlements at Luton Road, Wilstead lay nearly 100m apart. This fits a regional trend, first noted in the 1970s (Simco 1973, fig. 1), whereby surprisingly few early–middle Iron Age settlements are directly overlain by 'Belgic' replacements (see Luke and Shotliff 2004, 118).

Another significant change in settlement layout, possibly associated with a break in occupation, was seen in the later Roman period. A new enclosure was laid out on the site of earlier enclosures, but on a different alignment. Similar, possibly contemporary changes towards the end of a period of Roman occupation have been observed at Marsh Leys Farm (Albion 2002b, 93) and Shefford Lower School (Albion 2005, 38).

Nature of the enclosure system

Because it continued beyond the limit of excavation, the full extent of the Romano-British rectilinear enclosure system at Luton Road, Wilstead is unknown. However, the presence of a possible southern boundary (*cf.* Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams *et al.* 1996, 83)) and the absence of any ditches in Area B suggest it is likely to have covered at least one hectare. Williams *et al.* (1996, 83) have suggested that the creation of large enclosed areas was common practice in lowland Roman Britain during the second half of the 1st century AD. This dating would be broadly compatible with the establishment of enclosure systems at Luton Road, Wilstead and other sites in the area, *e.g.* Haynes Park (Luke and Shotliff 2004, 119) and Hinksley Road, Flitwick (Luke 1999, 83).

Settlement components

In terms of their constituent parts, the three phases of late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement showed both similarities and variation. The two principal Phase 3 domestic foci L5 and L6 were *c.* 33m apart. Both contained a similar range of features, including possible buildings or structures, large pits (including a water pit) and numerous smaller pits.

The majority of the features in the Phase 4 settlement were also small pits. Again, buildings were represented in the form of a definite roundhouse L8. The presence of a rectangular, domestic structure is also hinted at by an arrangement of ditches and other features which all produced significant quantities of finds. A large water pit was re-dug on at least two occasions.

In contrast to the earlier phases, the later Romano-British enclosure (Phase 5) did not contain evidence for either buildings or other structures. It did, however, again contain a large water pit and a number of smaller pits. At the centre of the enclosure was a shallow depression G46, filled with layers containing an exceptional range of finds. These are discussed in more detail below.

Buildings

Both of the main domestic foci within the Phase 3 settlement contained possible structural features. In L6, the curving nature of the gullies G5 is suggestive of drainage features associated with a roundhouse. The gap in the gullies to the northeast, the paired pits G40, and the position of scoop G42 suggest a possible doorway on this side. By

contrast, Hill (1995a, 54) has suggested that houses, like settlements as a whole, would normally have been entered from the direction of the rising sun, *i.e.* east to southeast. With a projected diameter of *c.* 10m, the size and nature of this roundhouse make it comparable to buildings G19 and G60 at Hinksley Road, Flitwick (Luke 1999, 48 and fig. 3).

Slots G8, in domestic focus L5, were comparable to those associated with buildings F181 and F182 at Ivy Chimneys, Essex (Turner 1999, 26–29). However, they were not associated with postholes and did not have the characteristics of beam slots. Nevertheless, their relative proximity and uniqueness on the site suggest that they probably served a structural function. However, they did not form a pattern that can be easily interpreted as a building.

The evidence for the Phase 4 roundhouse L8 was much more substantial. The building was defined by a drainage ditch *c.* 18m in diameter, with a gap for an entrance to the southwest. The function of internal gully G29 and pits G48 is uncertain; they may not have been contemporary with the building. The majority of the sizable pottery assemblage from the roundhouse is of 2nd–4th century AD date. It is, therefore, securely dated to the Romano-British period and may have been constructed sometime in the 2nd century AD. Hingley (1989, 31) believes that roundhouses may have been very common throughout lowland Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The Luton Road Wilstead roundhouse was probably occupied into the 3rd century. Hingley has observed that at some sites, *e.g.* Odell, Beds. (1989, 33) and Somersham, Cambs. (1989, 172) they continued in use into the 3rd/4th century. This has been demonstrated more recently at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes, where roundhouses occur throughout the Roman period (Williams *et al.* 1996, 86).

As with so many excavated Roman settlements in the region, for example Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams *et al.* 1996, 86), there is no direct evidence for rectangular buildings. Although highly speculative, the Phase 4 rectangular arrangement of ditches G6/G20/G21, which encloses an area *c.* 27m by 13m, may indicate the position of such a building, for which no other evidence survived. A similar arrangement of ditches F3203 at Ivy Chimneys, Essex (Turner 1999, 41 and fig. 37) had comparable dimensions and was also interpreted as defining a rectangular building.

Pits

A large feature, interpreted as a water pit, was present within each of the three phases of settlement. They were *c.* 4m to *c.* 11m in diameter and 0.8m to 1.7m deep. The original Phase 4 water pit G43 was re-dug at least twice. The presence of water pits on Romano-British farmsteads is quite common, *e.g.* G29 and G58 at Hinksley Road, Flitwick (Luke 1999, 57–59), G11 at East Stagsden (Dawson 2000, 50–51) and pit 835 at Wavendon Gate (Williams *et al.* 1996, 64–66). Alternative interpretations, such as quarry pit or ritual pit, were considered for pit 835 at Wavendon Gate. However, it was concluded that a water pit, which may have developed ritual significance, was the best interpretation of the evidence (Williams *et al.* 1996, 69–70). As at Wavendon Gate, the depth and steep sides of the Luton Road Wilstead water pits, suggest that water would have been bucketed out of them, with no direct access for animals.

The function of the small pits that are ubiquitous on late Iron Age/Romano-British rural sites is uncertain. At Luton Road Wilstead, it is interesting to note that, although many occur as isolated features, there are several instances where pits or parts of pits have been re-dug *e.g.* G35 and G38 (Phase 4). It is possible that such features originated as intermittent, small quarry pits for clay to use in buildings and other structures. Many of the pits were subsequently filled with domestic debris. Pit G54 (Phase 5) was exceptional, in that it contained the dumped remains of a nearby oven or a kiln.

Economy

The charred plant remains from late Iron Age/Romano-British deposits were generally sparse. However, the presence of grain and chaff in many of the samples is suggestive of de-husking and cleaning of spelt wheat. A significant proportion of the grain in sample 15 show signs of germination suggesting that it was possibly being malted when it was accidentally burnt. Other evidence for crop processing on the site is the discovery of a large fragment of a rotary quern from the ditch around roundhouse L8.

The majority of the animal bone from the site derived from Romano-British deposits, particularly Phases 4 and 5. However, the assemblage is too small and fragmentary to permit reliable inferences about animal husbandry to be drawn. Cattle and sheep/goat predominate, with horse and pig present in smaller numbers. Such a species

proportion is typical of a Romano-British farmstead. Artefacts probably associated with livestock included a copper alloy bell, an iron wool comb and iron shears.

Ritual and Religion

A 'special' deposit of sheep skulls G46.1 was discovered within depression G46 at the centre of the Phase 5 enclosure L13. Three complete skulls were recorded during fieldwork; they had been placed close together on their sides, facing in different directions. During analysis of the animal bone from this feature, two more fragmentary skulls were identified. All were from a hornless variety of sheep commonly found in the later Romano-British period.

The five sheep appear to have been either 2, 3 or 4 years old when they were killed, probably in the spring months. Butchery marks on four of the skulls indicate how the head was removed from the rest of the body. The cut marks on the three skulls found close together were so similar that it is likely that these sheep were butchered by the same person. The skull of one of the other sheep had been detached from the body by a different technique, perhaps by a different butcher.

Virtually no other sheep bone was recovered from the depression, confirming that the skulls were not part of a casual dump of domestic rubbish. The butchery evidence, the consistent season of death and the careful placing of at least three of the skulls suggest that this material was associated with a ritual act or religious event, involving sheep sacrifice in the spring.

The use of animals as sacrificial offerings and their associations with particular deities or festivals throughout the year was a feature of Romano-British ritual and religion (Henig 1984, 22-35). It appears to represent the continuation of the widespread Iron Age custom of burying whole or partial animal carcases, presumably after sacrifice (Woodward 1992, 78). There is evidence for seasonal votive deposits of butchered sheep/goat remains at several Romano-British temples/shrines, e.g. Hayling Island, Hants. (Downey *et al.* 1979), Harlow, Essex (Legge & Dorrington 1985), Uley, Gloucs. (Levitan 1993) and Brigstock, Northants. (Woodward 1992, 79).

The deposition of whole or partial animal carcases is also known from Romano-British rural settlements. A partial sheep skeleton and two dog skeletons in a pit at East Stagsden, Beds. were described as having 'ritual meaning' (Roberts

2000, 122), although there was little else about the deposit that would support such an interpretation. An apparently carefully arranged, mature sheep burial was identified at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams *et al.* 1996, 63-4 and plate 8; Dobney and Jaques 1996, 226). Only a few metres away, placed in the upper fill of a 3rd century ditch, were two horse skulls, one of which had been butchered (Dobney and Jaques 1996, 225 and pl. 7). The latter example is probably the closest regional published parallel to the deposit of skulls at Luton Road, Wilstead, which otherwise appears, so far, to be unique.

The three sheep skulls G46.1 were not found in a purpose-dug pit. Beyond that, their precise relationship with the much more extensive depression G46 could not be elucidated. However, the latter clearly sealed the earlier, Phase 4 water pits. The three coins found within it dated to AD 270-340, and provide the only firm dating evidence. In addition to the coins, it also produced a significant number of artefacts, including a copper finger ring, nails, a whetstone, a bone hairpin, a wool comb and a mixing palette, along with a considerable quantity of pottery and animal bone. Part of an adult human skull was also recovered. Adult cranial fragments were found in a late Iron Age/early Roman depression F4502 at Ivy Chimneys, Witham, Essex where it was suggested they could be associated with votive activity (Turner 1999, 237).

It is clear that the Luton Road Wilstead material does represent something more than the accumulation of domestic refuse in a convenient hollow; it has some characteristics of a votive deposit placed in a 'special' depression. 'Ritual rubbish' is a common phenomenon in pits and wells in south-eastern England in the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Ross 1968; Hill 1995b). At Ivy Chimneys, a number of depressions and ponds were in use throughout the Romano-British period, for example F2409, F2747, F3321 assigned to the later 3rd century, which were interpreted as serving a votive purpose (Turner 1999). Explaining his interpretation, the excavator says: 'this has partly been due to the presence of unequivocal later votive activity, and partly because of the presence of unusual features and finds' (Turner 1999, 238-9). However, some ponds and depressions are known to have been associated with religious sites for example the later phases at Ivy Chimneys (Turner 1999) and Farley Heath, Surrey (Winbolt 1927, fig. 2), sometimes having integral paved or gravelled

surfaces. With this in mind, the depression's central position within the late enclosure at Luton Road, Wilstead is striking. Bird has suggested that the occurrence of off central temples within sacred enclosures implies the presence of 'something more important in the middle' (Bird 2004, 80). He speculates that this may have been a sacred tree although a natural pond or depression, like at Luton Road, Wilstead is another possibility.

The recovery of a number of semi-complete pottery vessels from the settlement may be significant. However, they were not associated with any other unusual finds and therefore it is unclear whether they represent 'special' deposits or simply the disposal of unusable vessels in convenient hollows. Hill has discussed the significance of apparent rubbish in Iron Age Wessex (1995b), and the Luton Road, Wilstead evidence hints that this may have continued into the Roman period.

No formal human burials were identified within the settlement. However, in addition to the skull fragments described above, water pit G43 (Phase 4) also produced poorly preserved fragments of human bone. These discoveries are unusual because in the Roman period, even on rural settlements, burials tend to be located on the periphery of domestic areas, *e.g.* Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams *et al.* 1996, 80–82). The human bone fragments from Luton Road, Wilstead may derive from disturbed, earlier burials. Alternatively, and given their provenance from the same part of the site, it is possible that they were associated with the same activities that led to the ritual deposition of the sacrificed sheep.

Status of the settlement

Throughout its history, the late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement appears to have been essentially low-status. The pottery assemblage remains utilitarian in nature. It predominantly comprises locally made types with few regional or continental imports. A wide range of other everyday objects were recovered, including coins associated with the latest phase of settlement. Again, none of these are exceptional, confirming that the inhabitants of the settlement were probably fairly low-status farmers.

It is clear that ritual and religious activities were taking place on the site, specifically in the later Romano-British period. Comparable votive deposits within depressions do occur on what are unequivocally religious sites like Ivy Chimneys, Essex (Turner 1999). However, complete and

partial animal burials along with the presence of wooden and bronze wheel symbols (possibly associated with a solar cult) were identified at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams *et al.* 1996, 62, 68, 69–70), a site that was nonetheless still considered to have been primarily a farmstead (Williams *et al.* 1996, 61). A similar interpretation could be placed on the evidence from Luton Road, Wilstead. However, it is intriguing that the depression was right at the centre of the later Roman enclosure and that, other than from this feature, there was very little evidence for domestic occupation.

SAXO-NORMAN (c. AD 900 TO 1150)

Introduction

The majority of the evidence for Saxo-Norman settlement was situated on previously unoccupied land to the north of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlements. It comprised a boundary ditch, a water pit and a range of other settlement-type features, but no firm evidence for buildings. The majority of the pottery assemblage comprises shell-tempered, wheel-thrown vessels in the St Neots-type tradition. The manor of Wilstead was recorded in Domesday Book under its Old English name, Wilshamstead (Morris 1977), confirming late Saxon occupation in the area.

Nature of the settlement

Most of the settlement-type features were in two concentrations, L17 and L18, *c.* 30m apart and separated by a boundary ditch. They are interpreted as discrete, though probably contemporary, domestic foci. Pits, including one larger water pit, were the commonest feature type. No firm evidence for buildings was identified, although a small number of short gullies and slots may represent the remains of structures. A smaller group of similar features was also found *c.* 115m to the south.

It is presumed that these domestic foci were associated with the manor recorded in Domesday Book (Morris 1977, 53, 3). All Saints' Church, located *c.* 200m to the north, may also have originated during this period when nearby Elstow Abbey held the patronage (Papworth and Ripa 2002, 11). It is possible, therefore, that the remains within the excavation area represent the southern extent of a larger, dispersed settlement. Such settlements, rather than nucleated villages, appear to have been the norm at this time (Astill 1988, 37).

A number of comparable examples of the partial investigation of extensive settlements exist in the locality, *e.g.* Marston Moretaine (Edmondson and Steadman 2001, 54) and Haynes Park (Luke and Shotliff 2004, 121–124).

Domestic occupation of the site appears to have given way to arable cultivation by the 12th/13th century. A similar date for settlement abandonment or shift was suggested at Marston Morrtaine (Crick 1999, 133; Edmondson and Steadman 2001, 52). This would appear to contrast to the national picture where the appearance of new settlements has been noted from around the 13th century (Astill 1988, 37). However, within the confines of restricted sites like Luton Road, Wilstead, it is always difficult to determine whether excavation results are representative. In particular it is impossible to know whether whole settlements were abandoned or just certain parts of them.

Economy

In Domesday Book, Wilstead manor is valued as 3 hides, with land for 6 ploughs and meadow for ½ plough. The recorded population suggests that the manor could have supported as many as one hundred inhabitants. Perhaps surprisingly, given the proximity of the well-wooded Greensand Ridge, no woodland is recorded (*cf.* the adjacent manor of Haynes (Luke and Shotliff 2004, 123–4)). The significance of this is uncertain; it may simply reflect the unevenness of the Domesday record of woodland in Bedfordshire (Darby and Campbell 1962, 33).

Although the animal bone assemblage from this phase is fairly small, it indicates that cattle were the predominant species, as at Haynes Park (Luke and Shotliff 2004, 123–4). Sheep and pigs were also present in small quantities.

Sampling for charred plant remains showed that wheat, barley, oats and rye were all likely to have been cultivated during this period. Comparable evidence was again obtained from Haynes Park (*ibid.*). It is also clear that the spelt wheat of earlier periods had been replaced by free-threshing wheat. The fragments of lava quern (RA 103) recovered from pit G85 are indicative of crop processing.

MEDIEVAL (C. AD 1150 TO 1500)

The presence of ridge and furrow earthworks over the entire investigation area suggests the land was

turned over to arable cultivation after this part of the Saxo-Norman settlement was abandoned.

CONCLUSION: SETTLEMENT DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION ON THE OXFORD CLAY

The evidence from Luton Road, Wilstead can be added to a growing body of data for Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxo-Norman settlement on the Oxford Clay. Previously it had been considered that ‘the Oxford Clay areas of the county really were largely unsettled in the Roman period’ (Simco 1984, 21).

Several reasons can be adduced for the previous lack of settlement evidence on the Oxford Clay. Firstly, the heavy clay soils of the Marston Vale have tended to be under pasture rather than arable cultivation, as was the case with Luton Road, Wilstead. Therefore, the identification of archaeological sites on the basis of cropmarks has not been possible. Secondly, even where the clay land has been under arable cultivation, cropmarks have proved extremely difficult to detect unlike on the more conducive geologies such as the gravel terraces of the Great Ouse. Thirdly, much of the modern development and quarrying (and therefore the archaeological investigations) within Bedfordshire has been concentrated on the river valleys.

Over the last ten years, however, there has been a moderate increase in the number of excavations and cropmarks on the Bedfordshire Clays (see Fig. 1). Sites such as Marston Moretaine (Crick 1999, 133; Edmondson and Steadman 2001, 52), Topleys Hill (Luke 2004), and now Luton Road Wilstead, are changing our perception of settlement patterns on the clay. These sites, combined with the more recent evidence from work on a gas pipeline between Steppingley and Willington (Network Archaeology 2002, 189), are beginning to indicate a high settlement density during the Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxo-Norman periods on the Oxford Clay of Bedfordshire.

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Comments: originating in the middle Iron Age and continuing into the late 'Belgic' Iron Age

Type F19 Sand and organic

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 63)
Forms: vessel with inturned rim, upright rim and bifid rim vessel with finger-tip impressions.
Illustration: Fig. 15: P2.

Type F27 Shell and grog

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 64)
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds
Comments: originating in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and continuing into the middle Iron Age

Type F28 Fine sand (2.2%)

Fabric: hard-medium fired, sandy or occasionally harsh to feel with even fracture. Colour varies; can be dark-grey throughout, or have mid brown or reddish brown surfaces. Contains abundant, well-sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky-white quartz 0.1–0.4mm (occasionally up to 0.8mm); sparse, well-sorted, rounded, black and red iron ore 0.2–0.5mm. Additionally matrix may contain sparse, greenish glauconite inclusions 0.1–0.2mm
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds
Comments: originating in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and continuing into the middle Iron Age

Type F29 Coarse sand

Fabric: hard-medium fired, harsh to feel with uneven fracture. Colour variable; may be dark grey throughout, or may have mid-brown or reddish brown surfaces. Contains abundant, moderate-poorly-sorted, rounded or sub-rounded, clear or milky-white quartz 0.5–1mm (occasionally very coarse-up to 3.5mm); sparse, well-sorted, rounded, black and red iron ore 0.2–0.5mm. Additionally matrix may contain sparse, greenish glauconite inclusions 0.1–0.2mm
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds
Comments: originating in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and continuing into the middle Iron Age

Type F30 Sand and Calcareous inclusions

Fabric: medium-hard fired sandy fabric, usually with 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-white quartz 0.2–0.4mm and well-sorted rounded calcareous inclusions 0.4–0.7mm. May also contain sparse quantities of fine black or red iron ore.
Forms: everted rim vessel

F35 Micaceous

Fabric: fairly hard fired with smooth surfaces, reduced dark grey-black throughout. Characterised by the presence of abundant fine white mica, particularly visible on the external surface. Contains abundant, well-sorted sub-rounded fine quartz, 0.1–0.5mm, and occasional elongated voids, up to 1.5mm in size, where organic matter has burnt out.
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds

Late Belgic Iron Age

Type F05 Grog and shell (1.0%)

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62)
Forms: lid-seated and everted rim jars, storage jars, cordoned vessels, and a bead rim bowl.
Illustrations: Fig. 15: P4, P6.

APPENDIX 1: POTTERY TYPE SERIES

Fabrics are summarised below by chronological periods, using type codes and common names in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently held by Albion Archaeology. Full fabric descriptions are given only for those types not previously published. Bracketed figures after each fabric type denote a percentage (by weight) of the total excavated assemblage. Percentages are only noted for fabric types constituting over 1% of the total assemblage.

Early–middle Iron Age

Type F03 Grog and sand

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 61)
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds.
Comments: originating in the early–middle Iron Age and continuing into the late Iron Age contemporaneously with wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery.

Type F04 Organic

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62)
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds

Type F14 Fine mixed inclusions

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62-3)
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds
Comments: originating in the middle Iron Age and continuing into the late Iron Age contemporaneously with wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery

Type F15 Coarse mixed inclusions

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 63)
Forms: handmade round shouldered vessel
Comments: originating in the middle Iron Age and continuing into the late Iron Age contemporaneously with wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery.
Illustration: Fig. 15: P1.

Type F16 Coarse shell (1.7%)

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 63)
Forms: handmade storage jars, an ovoid vessel, flat rim vessel and pinched out base sherd.
Illustration: Fig. 15: P3.

Type F17 Grog

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 63)
Forms: undiagnostic handmade body sherds

Type F06 Grog (3.0%)

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62); three sub-divisions of this type have been defined, based on the size and frequency of the grog inclusions. All occur at Luton Road Wilstead.

Forms: F06A: (fine): undiagnostic body sherds, with incised horizontal grooves,
 F06B: (medium): lid-seated vessels with rilling and incised horizontal grooves,
 F06C: (coarse): storage jars, roll rim jars, a neckless jar and a lid-seated bowl. Decoration comprises vertical combing and incised horizontal grooves. Predominantly wheel-made, although handmade examples are known.

Illustrations: Fig. 15: P5, P7-9.

Type F07 Shell (5.5%)

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62)

Forms: handmade, sometimes wheel-finished, lid-seated vessels, with vertical and/or horizontal combing.

Illustration: Fig. 16: P10.

Type F09 Sand and grog (1.3%)

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 62), cf. also Milton Keynes fabric group 47 (Marney 1989, 193-4).

Forms: storage jars, bead rim jars and cordoned vessels. Decoration comprises wavy incised lines, combing, and incised horizontal grooves.

Type F34 Sand (1.0%)

Fabric: Fine, hard-fired fabric with buff-orange surfaces and variable grey core. Contains sparse, well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz 0.1-0.5mm, and occasional mica.

Forms: narrow necked jars, a platter and a necked bowl. The latter has been modified by the addition of a post-firing hole in the neck. Decoration comprises cordons and incised horizontal and vertical designs.

Illustrations: Fig. 16: P11, P12.

Type F Non-specific Iron Age (12 sherds)

Sherds which could not be assigned a fabric type, but whose form or context suggests an Iron Age date. These are described in the site archive.

Roman

Samian identifications by Felicity Wild.

Type R01A Central Gaulish samian ware

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 30-32)

Forms: bowls (forms 18/31, 31, 18/31R, 31R), conical cup (form 33; one stamped I.IONO), cup (form 35), dish (form 36) and hemispherical decorated bowl (form 37, see below).

Decorated ware: Figure types quoted from Oswald 1936-37 (O.) and central Gaulish decorative motifs from Rogers (1974). 1. Form 37, shows a leaf scroll in the style of Cinnamus, with his ovolo (Rogers B223) and the leaves (Rogers J15 and H13) and bird (O. 2315) in the upper concavities of the scroll. The features all occur together on a stamped bowl from London (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, pl. 161, 53). Unlike the London bowl, leaves are also present in the lower concavities. c. AD 150-175.

Date: 2nd century

Illustration: Fig. 17: P20.

Type R01B South Gaulish samian ware

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 28-29)

Forms: bowl (form 18 or 18/31), cup (form 27?) and hemispherical decorated bowl (form 37, see below).

Decorated ware: Figure types quoted from Oswald 1936-37 (O.) 1. Form 37, joining fragments showing a poorly impressed and damaged ovolo with narrow core and indistinct rosette tongue. The decoration beneath the ovolo appears to be zonal, with part of an animal, probably the hound (O. 1923). The ovolo is well known from La Graufesenque, although it is not associated with any named potters. Its occurrence on sites in Scotland suggests a Flavian date, c. AD 75-95.

Date: late 1st-early 2nd century

Type R01C East Gaulish samian ware

Fabric: Suggested origin at the potteries of the Argonne, or perhaps La Madeleine (Tomber and Dore 1998, 34-41).

Forms: bowl (form 31 or variant) and dish (form 36).

Date: mid 2nd century

Type R01D Romano-British samian ware

Fabric: hard granular, glossy fabric of unknown source.

Forms: bowl (form 31)

Date: c. 2nd century

Type R02 Mica gilded wares

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 64); Marney (1989, 185: fabric 34c).

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds.

Date: late 1st-2nd century.

Type R03A Verulamium region whiteware

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 154)

Forms: reed rim bowl, necked jar, flagon, bifurcated rim jar.

Date: late 1st-2nd century.

Type R03B Gritty whiteware

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 64)

Forms: ring-necked flagon, necked jar with horizontal groove.

Date: late 1st-2nd century

Illustration: Fig. 17: P14.

Type R03C Smooth whiteware

Fabric: Hard fired smooth fabric, cream-buff throughout. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded clear or opaque quartz, 0.1-0.5mm, and occasional red iron ore.

Forms: undiagnostic fine walled, rouletted vessel.

Date: late 1st-2nd century.

Type R03D Whiteware with fine shell

Fabric: Hard fired smooth fabric, cream-buff throughout. Contains frequent poorly sorted subangular multi-coloured quartz 0.1-0.3mm, moderate, poorly sorted fine shell (some sub-rounded and others linear), sparse poorly-sorted mica, visible on the surfaces.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds.

Date: 2nd-3rd century.

Type R03E Fine whiteware

Fabric: Hard fired soapy fabric, cream-buff throughout. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded clear or opaque quartz, 0.1-0.5mm. Similar to type R03C, but less smooth.

Forms: reed rim bowl, flagon.

Date: 2nd century+.

Type R04A Rhenish ware

Fabric: Symonds 1992.

Form: fine walled beaker.
Date: 2nd–3rd century.

Type R05A Orange sandy (1.2%)

Fabric: hard fired fabric, orange-buff throughout, although surfaces are often slipped white. Contains frequent to abundant subangular quartz inclusions, 0.5–1.0mm.
Forms: flanged bowl, flagon, everted rim jar, lid, miscellaneous cordoned vessel.
Date: 2nd–late 3rd century.

Type R05B Fine orange sandy

Fabric: hard fired fabric with buff-orange surfaces (often slipped white) and variable pale grey core. A finer version of type R05A, containing frequent, well-sorted subangular quartz inclusions, 0.1–0.5mm.
Forms: undiagnostic fine walled vessels.
Date: 2nd–late 3rd century+.

Type R06A Nene Valley Greyware

Fabric: Marney (1989, 179: fabric group 14)
Forms: plain rim bowl, triangular rim bowl, ‘dog’ bowl with rounded rim.
Date: 2nd–3rd century.

Type R06B Coarse greyware (6.5%)

Fabric: Harsh gritty fabric, with variable reduced core and surfaces, the latter often smoothed and/or burnished. Contains abundant, ill-sorted, sub-rounded quartz, 0.5–1.0mm.
Forms: plain rim and triangular rim bowls, ‘dog’ bowls with rounded and upright rims, dishes, everted and triangular rim jars, lid-seated and neckless jars. Decoration includes horizontal grooves, overall burnishing and burnished lattice motifs.
Date: 2nd century+.

Type R06C Fine grey ware (13.2%)

Fabric: Hard fired, smooth fabric with variable reduced surfaces and paler core. Contains frequent, well-sorted fine quartz, 0.1–0.5mm.
Forms: plain and everted rim beakers, folded beakers, reed rim bowls, bead and triangular rim bowls, flanged and lid-seated bowls, dished, ‘dog’ bowls with rounded and upright rims, cordoned jars, narrow-necked and lid-seated jars, everted and triangular rim jars, and a lid. Decoration comprises horizontal grooves, wavy incised lines, burnished horizontal lines, overall and external black slip, burnished and incised lattice, cordons, and overall burnishing.
Date: 2nd century+.
Illustrations: Fig. 17: P15, Fig. 18: P23, P26.

Type R06D Micaceous grey ware (1.5%)

Fabric: Soft fired fabric with mid-grey surfaces and paler core. Contains common, well-sorted, sub-rounded fine quartz, 0.1–0.5mm, and sparse inclusions of larger grains. Also rare red iron ore.
Forms: single examples of a plain rim beaker, reed rim bowl, flanged bowl, ‘dog’ bowl with rounded rim, everted rim and narrow-necked jar, and a platter. Decoration comprises horizontal grooves, external black slip, cordons, burnishing and combed patterns.
Date: 2nd century+.
Illustrations: Fig. 18: P21, P22.

Type R06E Calcareous grey ware (1.7%)

Fabric: Hard fired fabric with variable reduced surfaces and core, characterised by a vesicular appearance resulting from the leaching or burning out of calcareous inclusions, up to 0.5mm in size. Also contains abundant clear or opaque white quartz, 0.1–0.5mm.

Forms: flanged rim bowl, ‘dog’ bowl with upright rim, dish, everted and triangular rim jars, narrow necked jar and a platter or lid. Decoration is restricted to burnished horizontal lines and cordons.
Date: 2nd century+.
Illustration: Fig. 17: P17.

Type R06F Grog and sand grey ware

Fabric: Hard fired, dense fabric, smooth to the touch, with variable grey-brown surfaces and core. Contains frequent well-sorted subangular quartz, 0.1–0.3mm, powdery buff grog particles, 0.5–1.0mm, and sparse black iron ore.
Forms: cordoned jar with horizontal grooves.
Date: ?2nd century+.

Type R06G Silty greyware

Fabric: soft fired dense fabric, smooth and soapy to the touch, with mid-dark grey surfaces and paler core giving a characteristic sandwich appearance in break. Contains sparse, moderately sorted, clear rounded quartz 0.5–1.0mm (some up to 3.0mm), sparse, moderately sorted subangular shell 0.5–1.0mm and sparse, moderately sorted red iron oxide.
Forms: cordoned bowl with rouletting.
Date: ?2nd century+.
Illustration: Fig. 16: P13.

Type R06H White-slipped greyware

Fabric: hard fired fabric, mid-dark grey throughout. Two groups have been defined a) coarse - abundant well-sorted, well-rounded white quartz; average size <0.1mm with sparser incidence of larger quartz <0.5–0.6mm, and b) fine - sparse to common clear and white quartz inclusions 0.1–0.3mm. Both groups contain sparse iron ore and rare shell inclusions.
Forms: undiagnostic wheel-made body sherd.
Date: ?2nd century+.

Type R07A Black burnished ware

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 127)
Forms: flanged bowls
Date: late 2nd century+.

Type R07B Sandy blackware (6.4%)

Fabric: Hard fired fabric, with black surfaces and grey-black core, often with red margins. Contains frequent well-sorted, sub-rounded fine quartz, 0.1–0.5mm, and sparse inclusions of larger grains.
Forms: bowls with plain, undercut and triangular rims, jars with everted and undercut rims, ‘dog’ bowls with rounded and upright rims, cordoned, lid-seated, neckless and narrow-necked jars. Decoration comprises horizontal combing, wavy incised lines, horizontal grooves and burnished lattice designs.
Date: late 1st century+.
Illustration: Fig. 18: P24.

Type R07C Gritty blackware (2.1%)

Fabric: Coarse, hard fired fabric with black, often burnished surfaces and grey-black core. Contains abundant, ill-sorted, sub-rounded quartz, 0.1–1.0mm.
Forms: flanged bowls, ‘dog’ bowls with rounded and upright

rims, plain rim bowls, jars with everted and triangular rims, and a lid. Decoration is restricted to burnishing.

Date: 2nd century+.

Type R08 Black micaceous

Fabric: Fine, hard fired black fabric, with soft smoothed micaceous surfaces. Also contains sparse poorly-sorted quartz 0.1–0.4mm.

Forms: burnished ‘dog’ bowl with rounded rim.

Date: ?late 1st–2nd century.

Type R09A Pink Grogged

Fabric: Marney (1989, 174: fabric 2a)

Forms: storage jars.

Date: late 2nd century+.

Type R09B Pink grogged with shell

Fabric: Marney (1989, 175: fabric 2c)

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds.

Date: mid/late 2nd–early 3rd century.

Type R10B Fine buff gritty

Fabric: fine smooth fabric with soft, often micaceous surfaces, generally buff throughout. Contains moderate, poorly sorted sub-angular quartz c. 0.1–0.3mm. Some vessels retain traces of a dark slip.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds.

Date: late 1st–late 2nd century.

Type R11 Oxford oxidised ware

Fabric: Young (1977, 185).

Forms: bowl.

Date: manufactured from the late 1st century onwards.

Type R11D Oxford colour coat

Fabric: Young (1977, 123).

Forms: bead rim and flanged bowls, ‘dog’ bowl with rounded rim, miscellaneous jar base with incised ‘O’ in the centre.

Date: mid 3rd–4th century.

Type R11E Oxford white mortaria

Fabric: Young (1977, 56).

Forms: wheel-made flanged mortaria.

Date: mid 3rd–4th century.

Type R12A Nene Valley mortaria

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 119).

Forms: wheel-made body sherds.

Date: mid 3rd–4th century.

Type R12B Nene Valley colour coat (2.0%)

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 118), Marney (1989, 176: fabric 6)

Forms: plain, cornice and everted rim beakers, folded beakers, a bottle, ‘dog’ dish and everted rim jar. Decoration includes rouletting, painting, horizontal grooves, applied scales, barbotine and trailed slip.

Date: late 3rd–4th century.

Type R13 Shell tempered (24.0%)

Fabric: Brown (1994) for products of the Harrold kilns. Also includes a ‘soapy’ variant, which may derive from an unknown source.

Forms: range from the first century, with lid-seated, narrow-necked and square rim jars, to the fourth century, represented by

jars with everted, triangular and undercut rims, large storage jars, small and large bowl forms, with flanged and rectangular rims, and dishes. All are wheel-made. Surface finishes range from simple smoothing or wiping, to combing or rilling, the latter being more common on vessels of later date. Decoration is rare, and comprises rilling, vertical combing, and horizontal grooves.

Date: 1st–4th century.

Illustrations: Fig. 17: P16, P18, P19, Fig. 18: P25, P27, P28.

Type R14 Sand tempered (red-brown harsh) (7.1%)

Fabric: Harsh, hard fired fabric with variable orange-grey-brown surfaces and core. Contains abundant, fine, clear or opaque quartz, 0.3–1.0mm, and sparse red iron ore.

Forms: plain rim beaker, dish and bowl, cordoned and neckless jars, and a jar with developed lid-seating.

Date: ?2nd–4th century.

Type R18A Pink Gritty

Fabric: Slowikowski (2000, 66)

Forms: undiagnostic body sherd.

Date: ?late 1st–2nd century.

Type R18B Pink fine

Fabric: fairly hard fired, although soft-fired examples occur with powdery surfaces. Variable pale to dark pink throughout. Contains frequent, well sorted subrounded multi-coloured quartz 0.1–0.2mm, frequent black iron ore, up to 1.0mm, and sparse red iron ore, up to 1.0mm.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds

Date: ?2nd century+.

Type R19 Unsourced amphora

Fabric: hard fired fabric, pale buff-orange throughout. Contains frequent well-sorted, sub-angular quartz, 0.1–0.5mm, and white mica visible on the surfaces.

Forms: amphorae body sherds.

Date: ?1st–3rd century.

Type R22A Hadham oxidised

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 151), Marney (1989, 186: fabric 37)

Forms: folded beaker

Date: mid to late 2nd century+, with the widest distribution occurring in the 4th century.

Type R28 Gritty calcareous

Fabric: hard fired fabric with buff-white surfaces and a buff-pink to orange core. Characterised by moderate, rounded calcareous inclusions, 0.3–1.5mm. Some voids occur where these inclusions have leached out. Also contains moderate, poorly-sorted, sub-rounded, clear, opaque and pink quartz, 0.2–0.5mm, occasional red iron ore, 0.5mm and rare fine mica.

Forms: everted rim jar

Date: 2nd–4th century.

Type R32A Lead glazed ware

Fabric: Arthur (1978)

Forms: undiagnostic green-glazed body sherd.

Date: 1st–early 2nd century.

Type R33 Verulamium region mortaria

Fabric: Tomber and Dore (1998, 154)

Forms: wheel-made body sherds.

Date: late 1st–2nd century.

Type R34 Cream / Orange ware

Fabric: Marney (1989, 186: fabric group 40)

Forms: flagon.

Date: 2nd century+.

Type R35 Grog

Fabric: hard fired, smooth fabric with hackly/laminated fracture, with pink-grey surfaces and red-brown core. Contains frequent poorly sorted angular grey/white/pink grog, average size 0.5–3.0mm, and black and red/brown iron ore pellets in varying frequencies.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds

Date: 2nd century+

Type R36 Orange gritty

Fabric: rough, gritty fabric with pale buff-orange surfaces and an orange laminated core. Contains abundant opaque sub-rounded milky quartz 0.1–0.2mm, with sparse larger pieces up to 0.5mm. Also sparse red iron ore, some small voids and mica.

Forms: narrow-necked jar

Date: 2nd century+.

Type R38 Unsourced colour coat

Fabric: separately described in the site archive

Forms: folded beaker and ?samian bowl copy (Dr 31?)

Date: unknown.

Type R Non-specific Roman (23 sherds)

Sherds which could not be assigned a fabric type, but whose form or context suggest a Roman date. These are described in the site archive.

Post-Roman

Type B01 St Neots-type (4.5%)

Fabric: described by Hurst (1956) and Denham (1985). A number of subgroups have been identified within the St Neots tradition (Baker and Hassall 1979, 165).

Forms: bowls with intumed rims, everted rim and 'top hat' vessels.

Date: 9th–11th century.

Illustrations: Fig. 19: P29-31, P33.

The following sub-groups of Type B01 were identified:

Type B01A St Neots-type (orange)

Fabric: fairly hard, smooth but not soapy. Characterised by at least one bright orange surface, and a grey core. Inclusions are abundant finely pounded shell; sparse subrounded red iron ore, approx.0.5mm; sparse subangular light grey limestone fragments, approx.2.0mm; sparse subrounded clear quartz, approx.1.0mm.

Forms: jars with everted and upright rims.

Date: 10th–11th century.

Type B01C St Neots-type (mixed)

Fabric: fairly hard fired with orange-brown-grey surfaces and medium to dark grey core. Contains frequent to abundant, poorly sorted shell, 0.5–3.5mm; frequent, poorly sorted, subrounded-subangular clear quartz, 0.2-1.5mm, with the occasional larger grain, up to 2.5mm; moderate amounts of poorly sorted soft, rounded orange-brown (?grog) inclusions, sparse subrounded fragments of limestone, approx.1.0mm, but examples can be as large as 5.0mm; sparse, rounded, red iron ore, up to 3.0mm, but usually 0.3–1.0mm; a background of very

fine white mica, less than 0.1mm.

Forms: everted rim jar.

Date: 10th–11th century.

Type C01 Sand

Fabric: Moderately fired, harsh fabric with an oxidised buff-orange exterior surface, variable buff-orange to grey-brown internal surface, and grey core. Contains frequent, moderately sorted, clear, subrounded, quartz 0.2–0.6mm and sparse rounded, red and black inclusions, possibly iron ore, 0.2–0.5mm.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherd.

Date: 12th–13th century.

Type C04 Coarse sand

Fabric: Hard fired, rough fabric, mid-dark grey throughout, occasionally with buff-brown margins. Contains frequent, ill-sorted, sub-rounded medium to coarse quartz 0.3–1.2mm and sparse, ill-sorted organic matter 0.3–1.2mm.

Forms: everted rim jar.

Date: 12th–14th century.

Illustration: Fig. 19: P34.

Type C05 Sandy (red margins)

Fabric: Distinctive, hard-fired, fairly rough fabric with dark-grey-black surfaces, grey core and characteristic brick-red margins. Contains frequent, well-sorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz 0.3–0.5mm. Also sparse red ?iron ore 0.5mm.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds.

Date: 12th–15th century.

Type C12 Stamford ware

Fabric: Kilmurray (1980, 8–12).

Forms: wheel-made spouted pitcher.

Date: 10th–12th century.

Illustration: Fig. 19: P32.

Type C Non-specific medieval (4 sherds)

Sherds which could not be assigned a fabric type, but whose form or context suggests a medieval date. These are described in the site archive.

Type P Non-specific post-medieval (1 sherd)

Described in the site archive.

APPENDIX 2: BRICK AND TILE TYPE SERIES

Fabrics are summarised below using common names in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently held by Albion Archaeology. Bracketed figures after each fabric type denote a percentage (by weight) of the total excavated assemblage.

Sand (38%)

Fabric: fine and hard-fired, orange throughout, turning to brick-red where over-fired. Generally finely tempered, although some fragments are coarsely made and contain angular quartz up to 6.0mm in size. Contains frequent, well-sorted, sub-angular multi-coloured quartz c. 0.2–0.5mm and dark red and black iron ore c. 0.1–0.3mm. Also rare angular flint inclusions of up to 5mm in size.

Forms: *tegulae* and brick.

Source: although no production centres are known in the immediate vicinity, it is likely that quartz inclusions found in sandy types derive from the Greensand ridge.

Shell (62%)

Fabric: Brown (1994).

Forms: *tegulae* and brick.

Source: Uncertain. However, the fabric is comparable to those from kilns at Harrold Lodge, Beds. Although these are c. 13km to the NW of Wilstead, this kiln complex is known to have exported its shell-tempered building material and pottery widely within the Ouse Valley and its tributaries (Brown 1994, 104–5). Shell-tempered vessels within the Luton Road Wilstead pottery assemblage are also in a fabric comparable to those from the Harrold kilns.

APPENDIX 3: DAUB AND FIRED CLAY TYPE SERIES

Three fabric types were identified: all are likely to have derived from locally extracted clay. Bracketed figures after each fabric type denote a percentage (by weight) of the total excavated assemblage.

Type A Sand (69%)

Coarse, friable mid to dark orange-red fabric with variable dark grey-black patches where reduced. Inclusions are abundant sub-rounded and sub-angular quartz c. 0.1–0.5 mm and rare red iron ore c. 0.5mm. Some larger fragments contain sub-angular/ angular flint or chert pebbles ranging in size between 10–20mm.

Type B Organic and sand (25%)

Buff-orange-brown fabric, dark blue-grey where reduced, with semi-soapy texture. Inclusions are moderate, poorly sorted, sub-angular, multi-coloured quartz c. 0.1–0.5 mm, occasionally ranging to 1.0mm; and frequent, poorly-sorted organic material (?straw), evidenced by elongated voids where the latter has burnt out. Also rare, poorly-sorted red iron ore c. 0.2 mm. Mainly used for the manufacture of slabs and / or handmade bricks

Type C Sand and calcareous inclusions (6%)

Coarse, friable pink-orange-buff fabric with variable dark grey-black patches where reduced. Inclusions are as type A, but the fabric is also characterised by the addition of moderate sub-rounded calcareous (?chalk) pieces c. 0.5–1.0 mm. Some larger fragments contain sub-angular/ angular flint or chert pebbles ranging in size between 10–20mm.

APPENDIX 4: REGISTERED ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

The catalogue is organised by Registered Artefact (RA) number. Only those objects relevant to the publication are listed, although individual descriptions are omitted for the 83 hob-nails, 28 iron carpentry nails, and 12 coins, which are discussed above. Full details of unstratified finds and those artefacts whose date range places them beyond the scope of this article are contained within the site archive.

The coding which prefixes each catalogue entry contains the following information:

RA 10	G8.2	L5.1	Phase 3	Fig. 21
Registered Artefact no.	G. No.	L. No.	Phase	Illustration

In all cases measurements denote the maximum surviving artefact length unless otherwise stated.

RA 2 G34.2, L15.2, Phase 5. *Copper alloy finger ring*. Portion of intaglio(?) finger ring consisting of edge of setting for intaglio and part of shoulder and hoop junction. Slight shoulder on ring. Length 12.8mm. 2nd–3rd century.

RA 9 G91, L22, Phase 8. *Iron double-spiked loop*. Incomplete, square-sectioned with out-turned arms indicating it was driven through wood with a thickness of c. 8mm. Height 51mm; width of loop c. 32mm; thickness of loop 12mm. Roman.

RA 16 G91, L22, Phase 8. *Iron loop-headed spike*. Incomplete, with looped-over head, and square-sectioned shank tapering to a wedge-shaped point, tip damaged. Length 95mm; width 11mm; thickness 11mm.

RA 21 G91, L22, Phase 8. *Iron latch lifter*. Incomplete flat rectangular-sectioned handle with rounded end and portion of curved square-sectioned stem, now slightly out of alignment. Half of stem, including tip, not surviving. Length c. 230mm. Late Iron Age – Roman.

RA 30 G91, L22, Phase 8. *Copper alloy toilet spoon*. Incomplete, tapering circular shaft, with missing point. Opposing end flattening into circular shape at break. Shaft bent. Length (straightened) 73mm.

RA 35 G46.1, L15.2, Phase 5, Fig. 21. *Iron wool comb*. Incomplete double-sided comb comprising a central cross-piece (81mm wide; 50mm deep) with coarse teeth (2mm wide) extending to one side and fine teeth (1mm wide) to the other. Surviving length of coarse teeth 40mm, and of fine teeth 25mm. Only the right hand side has possible remains of end teeth. Roman.

RA 39 G46, L15.2, Phase 5. *Lead strip fragment*. Thin, rectangular in section, tapering in width towards one end; both ends broken. Length 23mm.

RA 44 G46, L15.2, Phase 5. *Iron strip fragment*. Rectangular in shape with relatively thick rectangular section tapering towards one end. Length 57.6mm; width 29.5mm; thickness 7.9mm.

RA 45 G46, L15.2, Phase 5. *Sheet copper alloy bell*. Conical with flattened point, perforated for attachment of clapper and suspension ring. The base of the bell is broken off. Hollow interior, clapper does not survive. Surviving height 20.7mm; thickness 1.7mm (cf. Crummy 1983, fig. 143/4168). Not closely datable: Roman through to medieval.

RA 47 G20.1, L7.2, Phase 4. *Iron hub or nave lining fragment*. Incomplete curving rectangular strip, V-shaped in section with one thicker edge. Estimated internal diameter 120mm; height 41mm; thickness 10mm. ?Roman.

RA 54 G91, L22, Phase 8. *Iron tack*. Incomplete, Manning type 8 tack with a domed hollow head and short portion of square-sectioned shank. Length 11.4mm.

RA 61 G3, L13, Phase 5. *Iron bar fragment*. Rectangular in shape and section, tapering in thickness; possibly remains of a tool head (chisel or punch?). Length 28.2mm, width 17.8mm, thickness 16mm.

RA 62 G3, L13, Phase 5. *Iron tack*. Incomplete, small tack with damaged flat head, tapering shank with clenched tip. Length c. 15mm.

RA 75 G44.2, L10.2, Phase 4. *Bone hairpin*. Tapering shank, tip missing and head broken off. Remains of an incised groove or cordon visible adjacent to the 'head' break. Length 58.6mm; diameter 4.5mm.

RA 76 G46, L 15.2, Phase 5, Fig. 21. *Quartzite mixing palette*. Rectangular, upper face worn very smooth, with central circular indentation, stained a darker colour from pulverizing or mixing. Three bevelled edges on the underside which also show signs of extensive wear. Length 67mm; width 52mm; thickness 12mm.

RA 77 G20.1, L7.2, Phase 4. *Iron ?shears blade*. Four pieces (three joining). A short portion of arm survives, blade back continues the line of handle and is more or less straight. The edge is straight, both back and edge rise to form tip. Manning type 2. Length 215mm; blade length c. 185mm.

RA 82 G46, L15.2, Phase 5. *Bone hairpin*. Incomplete flattened globular type. Head rectangular in cross-section, and sub-square (with rounded corners) in plan. Shank tapering oval to circular in section, diameter 4.8mm. Two joining pieces. Surviving length 59.5mm. Roman.

RA 83 G46, L15.2, Phase 5. *Kentish Ragstone primary hone*. Incomplete, rounded, bar-like in shape with rounded cross-section, originally rectangular but worn through use. Surfaces worn smooth, with some dishing evident. One end missing. Length 122mm; diameter 25.3mm. Roman.

RA 88 G26.1, L9.1, Phase 4. *Glass vessel fragment*. Small, curving fragment of blue-green glass. Thickness 2.7mm. Roman.

RA 89 G18.1, L8.1, Phase 4. *Millstone grit rotary quern fragment*. Approximately one quarter of an upper stone with straight side edges and vertical lines pecked around circumference. Portion of central feeder hole survives. Grinding surface worn from use. Diameter 350mm; thickness 59.6mm.

RA 95 G61.1, L1.1, Phase 2. *Iron annular ring*. Rounded rectangular in section, broken in two pieces. Estimated diameter 45mm.

RA 97 G71.1, L18.1, Phase 6. *Iron box fitting*. Flat rectangular-shaped piece of iron, width 10mm, tapering slightly towards one end which has broken off. The opposing end narrows abruptly to form a squared extension which curves upwards before the break. A fragment of spiralled wire runs down the back of the main body. The latter is pierced by an iron rivet just before the narrowed extension, possibly representing the remains of a small drop or loop hinge from a casket or chest. The object's poor condition makes it impossible to determine whether the spiralled wire is a decorative feature or has corroded in position post-deposition. Length 60mm.

RA 103 G85.1, L18.1, Phase 6. *Lava rotary quern fragments*. Thirteen pieces retaining no diagnostic traits or surfaces. Weight 37g.