

EXCAVATIONS AT BRADWELL ABBEY BARN, BUCKS. 1971

B. R. K. NIBLETT

with contributions by C. Saunders and B. Westley.

INTRODUCTION

In 1958 members of the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society reported Roman pottery and occupation debris from a field close to Bradwell Abbey Barn (N.G.R. SP 817394), 3 km. south-east of Stony Stratford, North Bucks. Trial excavations the following year revealed a cobbled surface with associated late Roman pottery, tile and animal bones.¹ The site lay within the area designated for the new city of Milton Keynes and was threatened with total destruction; hence a further excavation was initiated by the Milton Keynes Research Committee in the spring of 1971, under the direction of the writer. This excavation was intended to be exploratory and simply to ascertain the character and extent of the occupation; total excavation of what appeared to be an interesting site was to have followed. However, since the Research Committee was later wound up, resources were not forthcoming for further work, with the unfortunate result that the 1959 and 1971 excavations, both of them restricted preliminary operations, form the sum of archaeological investigations carried out on a site which has since been destroyed by road work.

Permission to excavate was kindly given by Mr. Morton, who was then farming the site, and the Milton Keynes Development Corporation who owned it, and the subsequent excavation lasted for three weeks in April 1971. The bulk of the work was shouldered by ten full-time volunteers, and was financed by the Milton Keynes Research Committee, with grants from the Department of the Environment and the Buckinghamshire County Council. To all the bodies and individuals concerned the writer extends her sincere thanks.

The Site (see plan, fig. 1)

The site occupied an exposed hill-top position 9 km. north-west of the Romano-British settlement of *Magiovinium* and only 1 km. north-east of Watling Street, which, however, it did not overlook. Water was provided by a small stream at the base of the hill to the north-west. In view of this exposed position, combined with the heavy, badly drained soil derived from the boulder clay subsoil, the site did not look particularly inviting for early settlement. Nevertheless, there are several examples of early Iron Age, Belgic and Roman occupation in the near vicinity, and remains of a substantial villa are currently

¹ See the report by Mr. C. Green in the *Wolverton and District Archaeological Society Newsletter* for 1959.

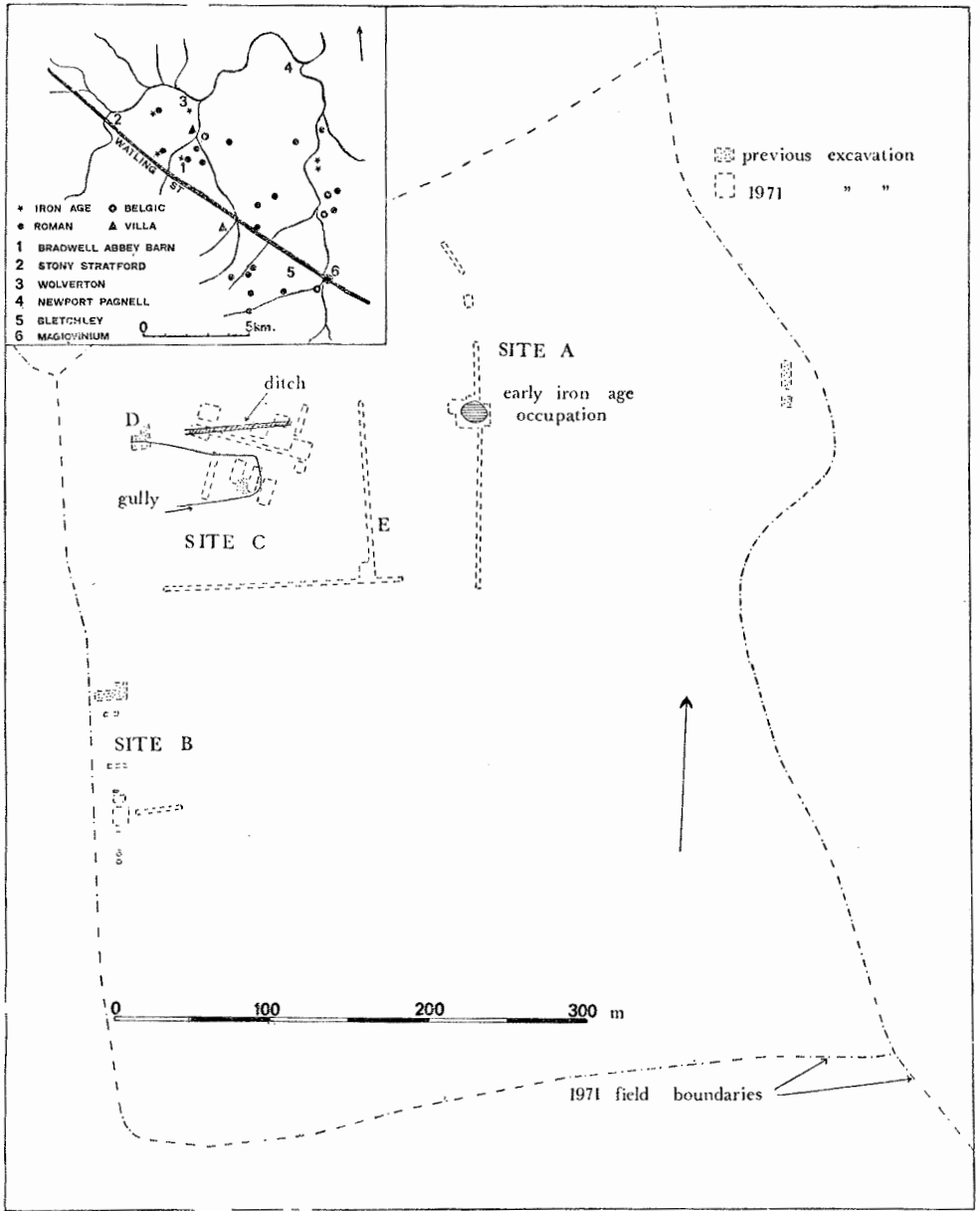


Fig. 1. Bradwell Abbey Barn. Plan of the site.

being excavated between Wolverton and Bradwell, only 1.5 km. north of the site.²

Trial trenching by machine suggested that the settlement at Bradwell Abbey

² I am grateful to Mr. H. S. Green for information on his excavations on this site, and for his help and comments on the Iron Age and Roman occupation in the area which form the basis for the inset in fig. 1.

Barn was confined to the top of the hill.³ Only two of the trial trenches, A and C, produced signs of occupation and these were subsequently enlarged to form sites A and C.

Site A

The long trial trench A revealed an extensive area of black soil, which when the trench had been expanded was found to cover an oval area 10 × 14 m. in extent. At first sight this deposit looked like the filling of a pit, but excavation produced nothing more than a shallow scoop cut a few cm. into the boulder clay and filled with friable black earth incorporating numerous charcoal flecks together with occasional larger lumps. This filling produced a small quantity of animal bones, including remains of a pair of red deer antlers and an interesting group of early Iron Age pottery sherds (see report below). Clearly this material came from nearby occupation, and the question arises whether the scoop was the sunken floor of a hut. Its very uneven base, however, militated against such an interpretation, as did the absence of any trace of a trampled surface or hearth, while in spite of careful examination, the surrounding area produced no sign of structural remains.

The early Iron Age pottery, described below, dates from the 5th-3rd centuries B.C. and its presence here provides an interesting addition to the early Iron Age sites in the area. (Plan, fig. 1, inset.)

Site C

40 m. west of the early Iron Age deposit lay the Romano-British occupation first uncovered in 1959. In 1971 a trial trench was laid out across it, which was later expanded to form site C. (Plan, fig. 2.)

The earliest occupation on site C was represented by a gully which was traced for 125 m. and which appeared to have enclosed an oval area on the hill-top. Near the south-east corner of this enclosure the gully had been interrupted by an entrance, approximately 10 m. wide.

The base of the gully contained several large pieces of limestone in a thin layer of grey/yellow primary silt, with a high clay content. This was sealed by the main filling of the gully, which consisted of black, silty earth incorporating numerous flecks of charcoal and produced large quantities of animal bone and Roman pottery.

When the gully had practically silted up, a stout palisade was erected along its line. Post-holes, between 40 and 56 cm. in diameter and set 1.25 m. apart, were cut into the soft silty fill of the gully along its inner edge. The posts had been packed into the holes with large lumps of limestone, which formed a continuous layer between the post-holes and overlay the gully fill. (Fig. 3, section A). At the same time the old entrance through the gully in the south-east corner was blocked by a narrow trench filled with packing stones. This trench lacked the layer of primary silt and black filling found beneath the layer of

³ On the west of the site, in area B, stone field-drains were found, which probably dated from the 18th century or later. These may have been mistaken for wall-bases in earlier excavations when a wall and gateway were recorded here. No sign of these was found in 1971.

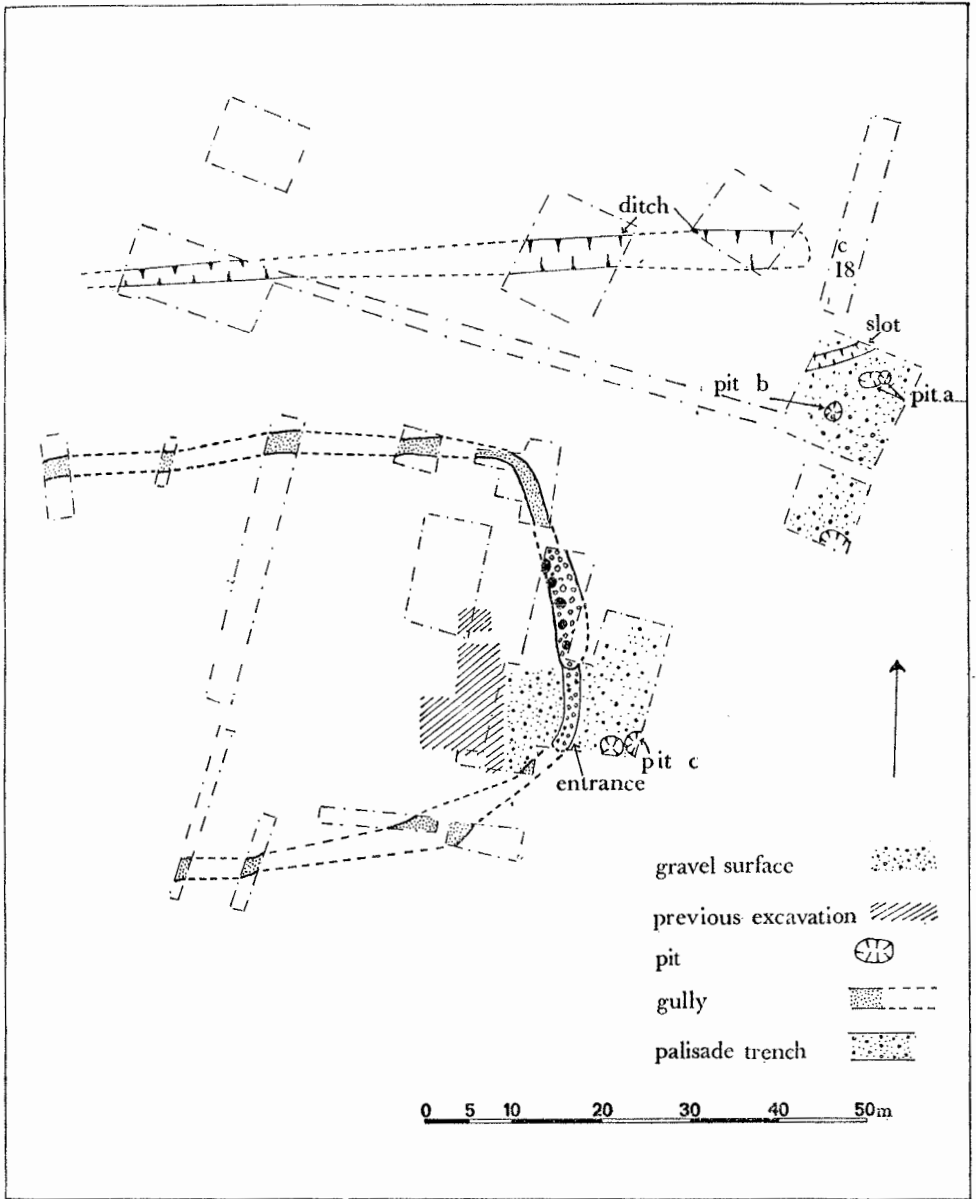


Fig. 2. Plan of Site C, Bradwell Abbey Barn.

packing stones in the earlier gully, and was clearly an addition, contemporary with the construction of the palisade. (Fig. 3, section B.) See plates 1 and 2.

There is no evidence that the palisade followed a different course from the gully at any point, although time was not available in 1971 to establish the complete circuit of either feature. It is clear that the gully and palisade enclosed an area measuring at least 45×60 m., and since the excavation only uncovered the eastern end, the actual area enclosed must have been larger.

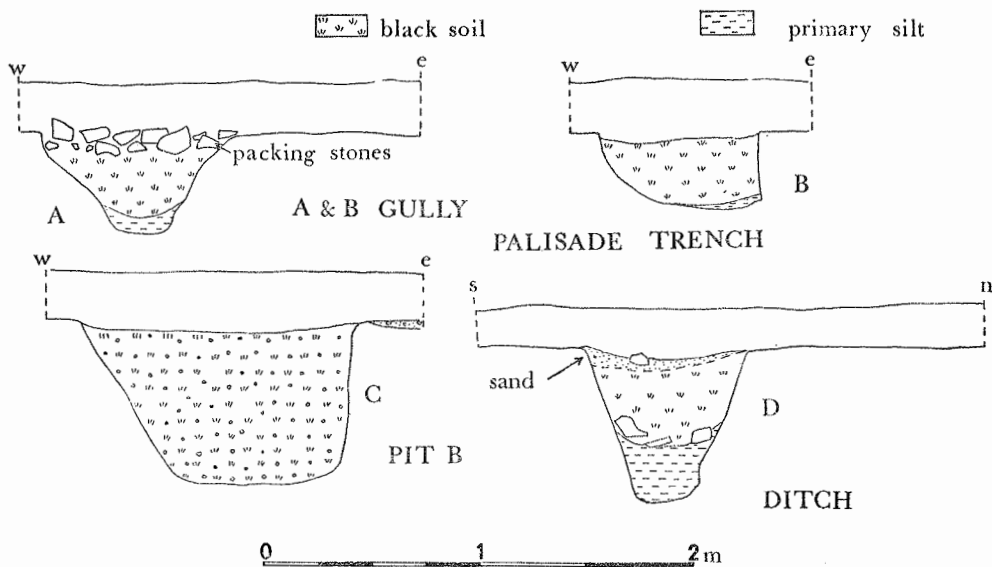


Fig. 3. Sections of features on site C.

Excavation in 1959 at point D (plan, fig. 1) revealed an area of black soil which may well have marked a continuation of the gully.

Over most of its excavated course the packing stones of the palisade had been robbed out, a process that had also obliterated all trace of the post-holes. Only over a comparatively short stretch, 10 m. long, had both post-holes and packing stones been preserved intact. Most of the packing stones had also been removed from the short stretch of palisade trench that blocked the original entrance and it was not possible to recover the outline of the post-holes among the disturbed stones that remained. There is little doubt, however, that post-holes once existed here also. The stone robbing had apparently taken place from the downhill side, with the result that over most of its length the gully had a markedly asymmetric profile with a vertical face on the inner, uphill side and a sloping one on the other. (Fig. 3, section B.)

After the packing stones had been removed, a fine gravel surface was laid over the robbed remains of the palisade at its south-east corner. This surface may have been continuous, or at any rate contemporary, with another area of good quality flooring 20 metres to the north-east and so well outside the line of the gully and palisade. Both floors consisted of small rounded and obviously worn pebbles set in a layer of brown clay. Flecks of charcoal, fragments of tile and occasional small chips of limestone had been trampled into the surface, which in places was covered by a soft, black layer producing domestic refuse and late third/fourth-century pottery, and a coin of Allectus. (Fig. 5, nos. 35-42.)

The floor was within 15-25 cm. of the modern field-surface and had been damaged by ploughing. Associated with the surfaces were a number of small pits filled with black silt, a possible stake-hole, and a slot cut 5 cm. into the

north-west of the northern area of gravel and filled with dark loam. This slot may once have contained a sleeper-beam, providing a base for a wall.

Running along the northern side of site C was a small ditch, neatly cut 75 cm. into the boulder-clay. This ditch was 25 cm. wide at the bottom and only 75 cm. wide at the top, although it broadened out towards its eastern end. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Apart from a thin layer of grey primary silt, the filling consisted of a heavy grey clay/silt with occasional stones. Near the top of this fill was a spit of yellow sand. (Fig. 3, section D.)

The ditch was traced in a straight line for over 70 m. It was not picked up in a small trial trench, C.18, which was cut at the north-east corner of site C. As it is difficult to see how it could have been missed had it existed, presumably the ditch ended here, perhaps at an entrance. Neither this nor any other feature on the site has shown up on air photographs.

The Date

In view of the small area opened up a surprising amount of datable and stratified material was recovered.

The dark layer overlying the southern gravel surface produced a coin of Allectus, and Pit A, cut through the northern gravel surface, had a coin of Carausius in the filling of a re-cut.

A large proportion of the pottery from the site came from the black filling of the gully which was later sealed by the packing stones for the palisade. The pottery occurred throughout this layer and at all levels included a number of nearly complete vessels. In view of their completeness these pots cannot have lain about the site for many years before finding their way into the gully. They are more likely to have been in use while the gully was silting up, and furthermore they suggest that the site was continuously occupied while this silting up was taking place. The pottery dates from the late second to late third centuries. (Fig. 4, nos. 8-30, Fig. 5, nos. 31-34).

The date of construction of the palisade itself is more difficult to assess, due to the absence of closely associated material, nor did the gravel surface which post-dated it seal any pottery. However, the occupation layer which overlay parts of the surface produced a fair amount of pottery, as did pits A and B which were cut into it. (Fig. 3, section C.) All this material was fragmentary and could well represent rubbish surviving from an earlier date. In any case it cannot provide a date for the laying of the gravel.

The almost total absence of early Roman material from the site suggests that occupation did not begin before the late second century. The fragment of carinated platter (Fig. 5, no. 51), was unstratified and probably is simply a stray survival. Apart from this the earliest pieces are the straight-sided dishes and necked bowls from the filling of the gully, which date from the late second to the early third century. (Fig. 4, nos. 8, 26. Also the flagon rim, 30.)

If we are right in assuming that the pottery from the gully fill is representative of the pottery in use on the site while the silt was accumulating in the gully, the gully itself was probably cut sometime in the late second or early third century. This means that the palisade was probably not erected until the middle of the third century, after which the gravel surfaces and associated features

were constructed. Thus the whole of the site's history could be contained between the late second and early fourth centuries, although the uncertain construction date of the palisade and of the gravel surfaces, together with our ignorance of the length of life of any feature on the site, means that occupation could have continued for a considerably longer time, even reaching into the sub-Roman period.

Discussion

The long and totally barren trial trenches at B and E (Plan, fig. 1), suggest that Roman occupation on the hill top was restricted. The amount of occupation debris on site C, however, amply illustrates its domestic nature, while both the palisade and the ditch are more suggestive of obstacles to prevent livestock from straying than of sturdy defensive works. The excavated features on the whole have the appearance of stockpens and working areas, such as would be expected on an agricultural site.

It is not clear what purpose the gully was intended to serve, as it was only used as a palisade trench after it had become largely silted up. It is possible that it was a drainage gully. Although it does not run down hill, surface water from the site could have collected in it and it is certain that some drainage arrangements would have been imperative on this heavy clay site.

The early Iron Age Pottery, by C. Saunders, B.A. (Fig. 4, nos. 1-7)

Forty-seven sherds from at least a dozen vessels, including both fine and coarse wares, are present. The diagnostic sherds are listed and discussed below.

1. Carinated bowl with flaring rim. Grey-buff exterior, grey-buff/black interior with fine water-worn grits and light brown inclusions.
2. Small hemispherical bowl. Fabric as *no. 1*; grey-black exterior and interior.
3. Small fragment of a simple rim. Fabric similar to above, orange-buff exterior and grey-black interior.
4. Sharply carinated shoulder decorated immediately above the carination with a large thumb-impressed "dimple". Grey-buff interior and exterior with some fine water-worn grits and shell fragments.
5. Lug handle. Orange-buff with some fine water-worn grits and light brown inclusions. Slightly vesicular.
6. Base of a jar. Grey-black interior and exterior with fine water-worn grits, light brown inclusions and minute shell fragments. Traces of vertical wiping on the body of the vessel.

Not illustrated

A. Sherd decorated with a small finger-tip impression. Orange-buff exterior with grey-black interior; similar to *no. 3* and perhaps part of the same vessel.

B. Shoulder decorated with a finger-tip impression. The form appears to be fairly slack, but the size of the sherd precludes any certainty as to the exact form. Grey-black interior and exterior, slightly vesicular surfaces with fine light brown inclusions.

C. Small fragment of base. Orange buff/grey exterior; grey-black interior with fine water-worn grits and light brown inclusions.

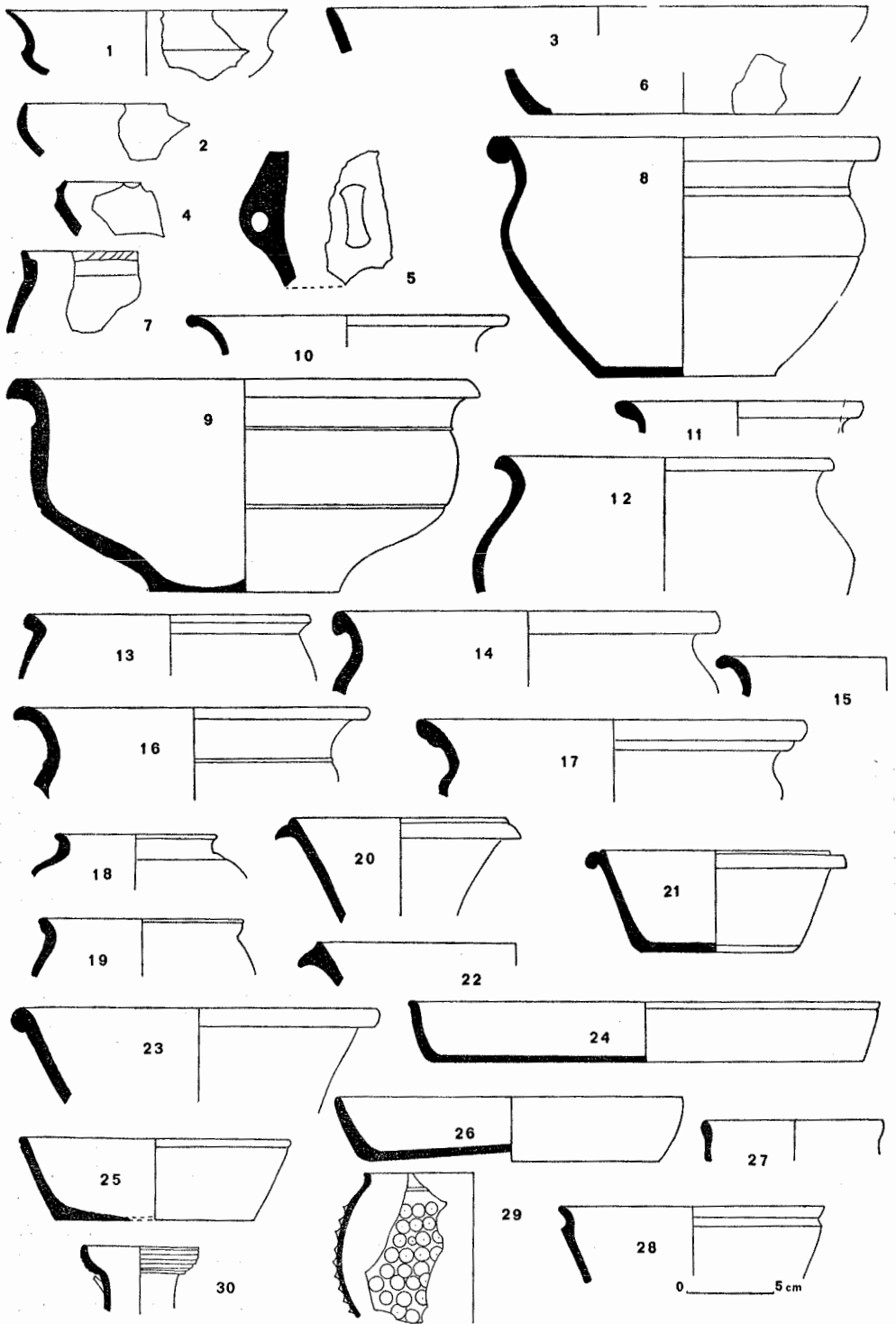


Fig. 4. Early Iron Age and Roman coarse pottery.



PLATE VII. Bradwell Abbey Barn. General view of the western portion of the palisade trench on site C.



PLATE VIII. Bradwell Abbey Barn. A post-hole in the palisade trench, partly excavated.

With the exception of the vessel *no. 7* listed below, the remainder of the sherds display fabrics comparable to those already listed, although four of these body-sherds have a smooth lightly burnished surface. Typologically all these sherds form a single group and although an assemblage of this type appears to be without parallel in the immediate area the general affinities of the group are clear.

The most diagnostic piece is the carinated bowl (*no. 1*); this belongs to a class of bowl which appears with local variations in the Thames Valley, Chilterns and Eastern England (Harding 1972, *pl. 5*). Such bowls often have a dark or black burnished surface and may be decorated with incised motifs, particularly in the Chilterns (Saunders 1972, 9). The general class may be divided into at least four styles (Cunliffe 1974, 38) although the divisions between these are by no means clear cut.

The decorated jar (*no. 4*) with its sharp angular shoulder and impressed "dimple" can be compared with jars found in the Upper Thames region. Such jars have been discussed by Dr. Harding and the dimpling on the present example can be compared with his "smaller" class (Harding 1972, 87 *fn. 8*). The other finger-impressed sherds (*nos. A and B*) fall happily into the general range of coarse wares associated with carinated bowls, as does *no. 6* with its vertically wiped exterior.

The lug handle (*no. 5*), although a type often associated with later wares, can be paralleled in similar assemblages. Such handles were discussed by Dennington and Gallant (1964, 243, *Fig. 4, 20*) when considering an example from Thorney Farm, Iver; this had been attached by the tang method, as had examples from Chinnor (Richardson and Young 1951, 141, *fig. 6, 23-26*).

This pottery falls within that period of the pre-Roman Iron Age which Harding has termed the "angular ceramic phase" and which was contemporary with continental Early La Tene from the fifth to third centuries B.C. Dating within this phase is difficult to determine. In the Upper Thames area the development of decoration on carinated bowls has been seen as a chronological one with the ornate wares from Chinnor falling late in the series (Harding 1972, 90). Sharp shouldered jars like *no. 4* also appear to be early in the Upper Thames sequence, and this vessel and the undecorated bowl might imply that the present assemblage falls within the earlier part of the angular phase. It would, however, seem unwise to emphasise this possible early date, as the group is so small and without immediate local analogues,⁴ but it would seem that the makers of this pottery had a stronger relationship with the inhabitants of the Upper Thames Valley rather than with those to the south or east.

Fig. 4, *no. 7*.

7. Rim of a small jar with "cabling" on the outer edge of the rim and an internal rim groove. Grey-black exterior, brown-buff interior with fine shell fragments and slightly vesicular surfaces. Found during field-walking on the surface near the south-west end of the field. Not associated with the other early Iron Age sherds.

⁴ A group of pottery from a pit at Ravenstone is perhaps of similar date (Mynard 1970, 411, *fig. 6*), although if the parallels with pottery from Pitstone suggested by Mynard are accepted then this should belong to the later part of the angular phase.

This vessel is of much later date than those listed above. The type has most recently been discussed by Mr. J. Williams with reference to very similar examples from an enclosure at Moulton Park, Northamptonshire (Williams and Mynard 1974, nos. 152, 160, 162, etc.). Jars of this type have been found on several sites in North Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. They are found, as at Moulton Park (enclosure 2), in association with Belgic wares of the first century A.D.; although the form and fabric seem to place such vessels at the end of the local ceramic developments which originated in the middle pre-Roman Iron Age.

The Roman Coarse Pottery

On the whole the forms from Bradwell Abbey Barn are not closely similar to those prevalent at the Brixworth Roman villa 34 kilometres to the north, which has produced a useful series of Roman-British pottery. This may be due to the hiatus at Brixworth between 235 and 300, and the comparatively small quantity there of pottery later than the early fourth century.⁵ The wide-necked jars from Bradwell Abbey Barn are similar in a general way to those from Brixworth, but the jars with lid-seated rims, so common from Brixworth, are absent at Bradwell Abbey Barn. The lid-seated rims were current in the later first and second centuries at Brixworth, and so may have largely gone out of use during the main phases of occupation at Bradwell Abbey Barn.

Fig. 4. From the black fill in the gully.

8. Complete jar in rather soft grey fabric with occasional grey inclusions; orange outer surface. Bold, well rounded bead-rim. See Woods 1972, fig. 16, 88. Late Antonine.
9. Complete jar, similar in form to 8 but with a more pointed rim. The fabric is rather soft, dense orange/buff ware, grey at the core. See Woods 1972, fig. 16, 87. Late Antonine/Severan.
10. Rim of a coarse jar in granular grey fabric, black at the surface. The surfaces rather pitted where inclusions have weathered out.
11. Rim of a jar in dense, soft, grey fabric with no visible inclusions. Smooth brown exterior.
12. Upper part of a jar in soft pink/buff fabric with large black grit inclusions and occasional small pieces of red and white "grog". Smooth surfaces.
13. Rim of a jar in the very hard, light grey fabric with no visible inclusions. Smooth dark surfaces.
14. Jar with a slightly hooked bead rim. Fabric as 9 above.
15. Jar in dense pale grey fabric with white and black grit inclusions. Surface pale grey and very pitted where inclusions have been weathered out. Rim in hard orange fabric.
16. Part of a wide-mouthed jar in hard, dense, pale grey fabric with smooth surfaces. Bead rim- and small shoulder-cordon.
17. Rim of a jar in very hard, dense, pale grey fabric, fumed on the exterior. The groove along the exterior of the rim gives a "double rim" effect. See Woods 1972, fig. 31, 225. ?late second to the early third century.

⁵ See Woods 1972, 4.

These rather squat, wide-mouthed jars were not a feature of the Ecton site, dating from the mid-first to the late second century, and where cordons on jars occurred only rarely.⁶ This confirms the evidence from Brixworth, discussed above, that the Bradwell Abbey Barn jars may date from the third century.

18. Rim of a fine beaker in very hard grey fabric. Rather rough surfaces.
19. Part of a beaker in soft fabric, as 9 above.
20. Flanged bowl in hard, pale buff fabric with rough, grey surface. At Brixworth flanged bowls and dishes do not appear before the late third century, although they are represented by the early third century elsewhere.⁷ There was no sign of decoration on either *no.* 20 or 21 from Bradwell Abbey Barn, nor on any of the other dishes from the site, but the very weathered condition of some of the pots makes this point inconclusive.
21. Complete flanged bowl with chamfered base in good quality, gritty, grey fabric with smooth surfaces. At Ecton this type dates from the second to third centuries.
22. Rim of a flanged bowl or dish in very dense, rather soft fabric, dark grey on the exterior, bright red on the interior. Exterior fumed and rather rough textured.
23. Dish with heavy, rounded rim in very hard, pale grey fabric with occasional light grit inclusions. Rough surfaces. At Brixworth heavy rounded-rim dishes similar to this were dated to the late third to early fourth centuries. See Woods 1972, fig. 11, 48.
24. Large dish in gritty, grey fabric with smooth exterior and burnished interior. Faint groove on the exterior, beneath the simple rounded rim. The large diameter and the absence of a chamfer, usual on Antonine and third-century examples, suggests a date in the late third or fourth centuries.
25. Small bowl in hard, dense, red fabric with no visible inclusions. Burnished surfaces.
26. Dish in dark grey, sandy fabric with black and white sand grain inclusions; interior surfaces carefully smoothed. Simple rounded rim and slightly curved walls. At Brixworth these date from the later third to fourth centuries, but elsewhere they occur from the Antonine period onwards.
27. Rim of a beaker in dense white fabric. No visible inclusions. Smooth surfaces.
28. Rim of a small, fine jar in hard, dense, brick-red fabric. Sharply carinated shoulder and everted rim.
29. Body-*sherd* from a fine colour-coated beaker, in rather soft, pale orange fabric. Black colour-coat with barbotine decoration on the exterior.
30. Flagon neck in fine yellow/buff fabric. Rather cupped rim with faint grooves on the exterior. At Colchester the type dates from the late second century, but at Verulamium it was being manufactured in the mid-second century, Antony 1968, fig. xii, 14. They clearly continued in use, however, until the late third century, if not later. Frere 1972, fig. 132, 1072. A.D. 270-275.
31. Mortarium in pale buff fabric. Pronounced upright bead and well curved flange. Johnston 1969, fig. xiii, 9. Mid to late second century.

⁶ Johnston 1969.

⁷ Woods 1972, 13.

32. Waster of a mortarium in dense, hard, orange/pink fabric. Numerous black grits on the interior reaching almost up to the bead.
33. Hooked rim of a large, heavy storage jar in dense soft grey fabric. Smooth red surfaces.
34. Rim of a storage-jar with heavy expanded rim in soft grey fabric with weathered pink surface. Burnished wavy line-decoration on the exterior.

Pottery from the dark layer sealing the cobbled surface

35. Rim of a jar in dense, soft, orange/buff fabric. No visible inclusions. Exterior originally fumed, but now largely weathered off.
36. Rather a square rim in grey fabric with very heavy shell-grit temper. Surfaces smoothed, red on the interior, back on the exterior.
37. Rim in buff fabric with small grit-inclusions. In some cases the grits have been weathered out. Smooth black surface.

The simple, squared off rims of *nos.* 36 and 37 are not unlike those at Jewry Wall, Leicester, but the Bradwell Abbey Barn examples are not so curved in the neck. Kenyon 1948, fig. 51, 11. Late third to fourth century.

38. Part of a jar in dense pale grey fabric with black and white grit-inclusions. Pale grey surfaces, very pitted where inclusions have weathered out.
39. Body-shoulder of a beaker in soft, red fabric with a seven-armed rosette-stamp. This very simple, rather crude stamp differs from the superior stamps on colour-coated ware noted at Brixworth (see Woods 1972, p. 39-43), nor is there any trace of a colour-coat on our example, but this may well have weathered off. A source in the Oxford region seems likely. Later third to fourth century.
40. Neck of a flagon in rather soft, orange fabric.
41. Mortarium in white pipe-clay.
42. Mortarium in dense pink/buff fabric with heavy black grits and pink interior surface.

Pottery from Pit A, Phase 1.

43. Part of a jar in very dense, dark grey fabric with pale pink surfaces.

Pottery from Pit A, Phase 2.

44. Part of a jar in dense, dark grey fabric with occasional "grog" inclusions.
45. Rim of a beaker in soft, red fabric, grey at the core. No visible inclusions. Rough surface.

Pottery from Pit B.

46. Rim of a dish in soft white fabric with occasional sand grain inclusions.

Pottery from Pit C.

47. Rim of a flanged dish. Tips of both rim and flange very pointed. Hard pale grey fabric with occasional pale grit inclusions. Rough surfaces. See Broadribb 1971, fig. 39, 377-379. *c.* A.D. 250-350.
48. Rim of a flanged dish with marked beading and heavy, rounded flange.

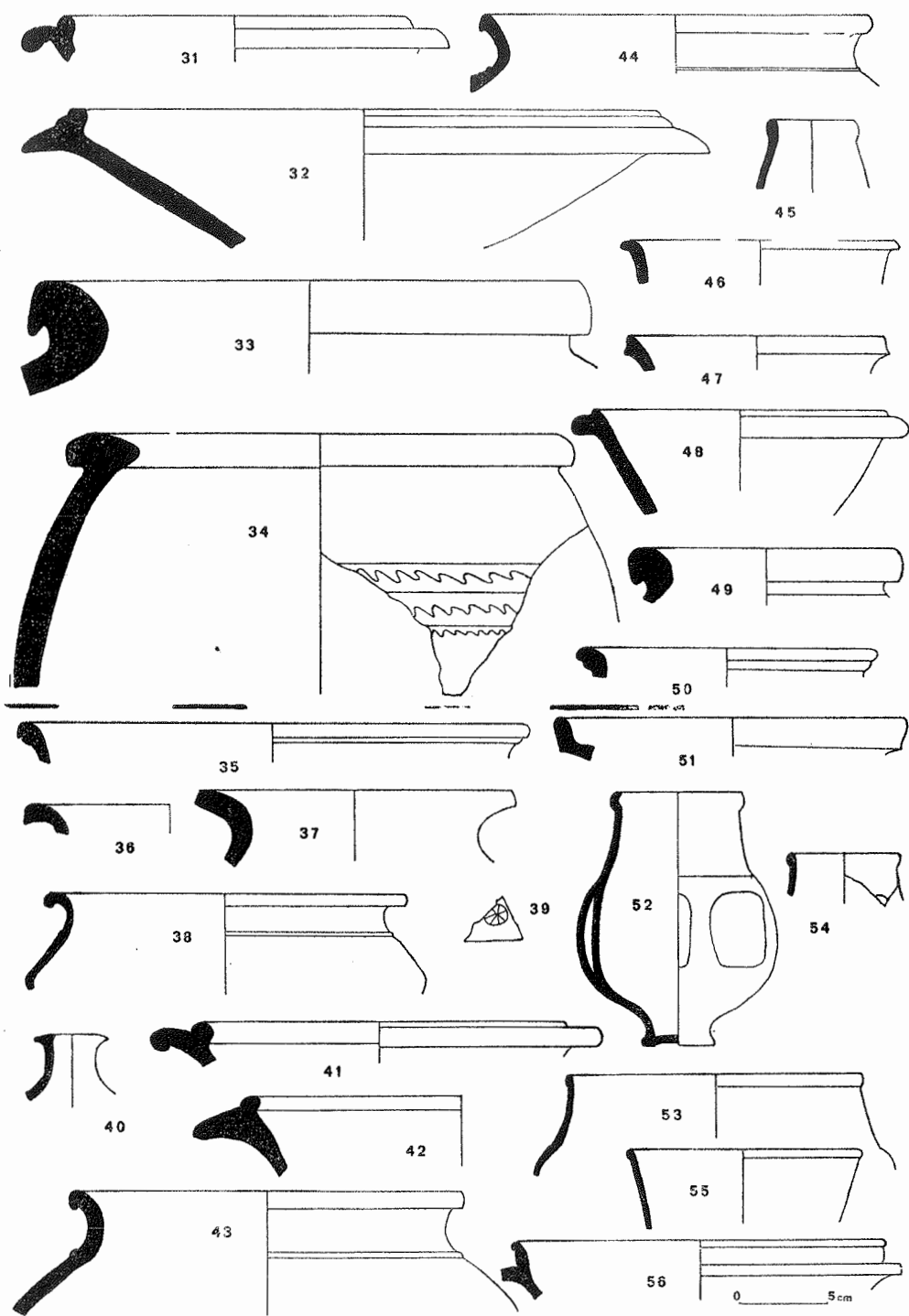


Fig. 5. Roman Coarse Pottery

- Granular grey fabric with black sand grain inclusions. Surfaces smoothed, especially on the interior.
49. Rim of a jar in soft, grey fabric with occasional "grog" inclusions. Pink/orange at the surfaces.

Unstratified.

50. Jar with "Double rim" in grey, calcite gritted fabric. Black exterior, grey interior. For a similar rim see Woods 1972, fig. 35, 256. Fourth century.
51. Rim of a dish with a marked carination in the wall. Granular grey/brown fabric with sand grain-inclusions. Rough black surfaces, smoothed on the exterior. Corder 1954, fig. 2, 3. Mid to late first century.
52. Almost complete thumb-beaker in orange fabric with chocolate colour-coat. Third century.
53. Upper part of a beaker in thin, hard, orange/buff fabric. Chocolate colour-coat on the interior, black on the exterior.
54. Part of a beaker in soft, orange/buff fabric with remains of a red colour-coat, and the edge of a rosette stamp on the shoulder.
55. Rim of a dish in very soft, white fabric with remains of a chocolate colour-coat.
56. Mortarium in hard, dense, buff fabric, with translucent grey and white grits on the interior. Flange missing.

THE SMALL FINDS

Bronze—Coins.

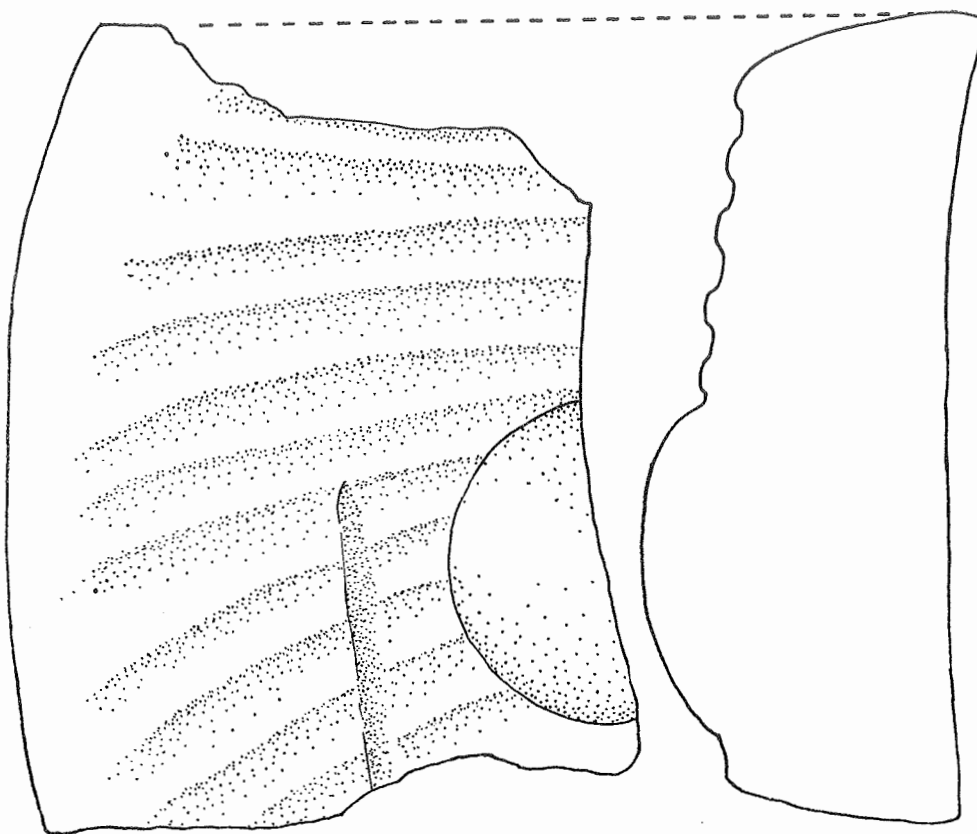
- | | |
|---|---|
| From the dark layer sealing the cobbles | <i>R.I.C.</i> 28. Allectus. A.D. 293-6. |
| From the filling of pit A, phase 2. | <i>R.I.C.</i> 10. Carausius. A.D. 287-93. |
| From the filling of pit A, phase 2. | Illegible third century radiate. |
| Unstratified. | Illegible. ?First century. |

Iron

Spike, 11.5 cm. in length, flattened at one end, otherwise with a rounded section. Not illustrated. From the filling of the slot cut through the northern gravel surface.

Stone. Fig. 6.

Part of a sandstone quern which formed part of the packing in the gully for the palisade. The identification of this as a quern is made somewhat uncertain by the eccentric position of the raised knob. The deeper incision that cuts across the original grooves of the quern is a recent scratch.



0 5 cms

Fig. 6. Stone object from site C.

BONES FROM BRADWELL ABBEY
by B. Westley, B.Sc., F.Z.S.

The bones from the above site show a fauna as follows:

Carnivora	Dog	2 fragments
Perissodactyla	Horse	7 fragments
Artiodactyla	Red Deer	Many antler pieces, 1 animal
	Pig	2 fragments
	Sheep	28 fragments
	Cattle	63 fragments

102

497

All the material is well broken up and undoubtedly represents, for the most part, remains of food. The locations of the fragments are given on the attached list and the numbers quoted refer to fragments and not complete bones, of which there are hardly any, and which are mentioned where they occur, e.g. "horse phalanx, complete". The bone fragments are not numerous or large enough to allow any useful estimate of the number of individuals present but if the numerical ratio of the fragments means anything, then cattle certainly outnumber other food species considerably, and were the main meat food supply. The cattle are quite large animals in some cases, judging by the size and thickness of limb parts, but the material is not complete enough for measurement and there is no skull evidence except two young mandibles. The animals do have the appearance, however, of being larger on the whole than the "Celtic ox" of prehistoric Britain.

Sheep are apparently of a horned variety, as shown by a skull part (A.31 (3)), and are small and slender.

Pig remains are very few, only two fragments appearing. This seems a little unusual as the pig is ordinarily present in greater quantities on ancient sites.

Dog is shown in only two fragments, probably of the same animal (C.10m 3) and is a large beast, perhaps the size of a retriever.

Red Deer is shown in Pit A.31, represented by a bag of antler fragments, from the same animal. This is a large one, perhaps a six-eight pointer. The antler is broken into fragments, about 6-8 cm. length and two of them have obviously been cut with a knife or saw, perhaps in the preparation of artifacts. With this bag of antler is part of a pig scapula. The presence of deer and pig, if indigenous to the site, denotes a wooded environment, as both animals naturally inhabit woodland.

It may be remarked that there is no trace of other domestic animals, such as geese, domestic fowl or other birds. Wild fauna are also absent, except for the red deer, which may represent hunting activities. The absence of wild birds, fox, badger, rodents, moles, etc., may indicate a fairly populous environment.

Site A. (A.31, 2). From the upper fill of the scoop.

Cattle	Limb fragments	4
	Teeth	2
	Vertebra	1
Sheep	Tooth	1

(A.31, 3). From the base of the scoop.

Cattle	Mandible	1, incomplete, with 4 teeth.
Sheep	Skull	1 fragment, with horncore base.
Horse	Tooth	1
Antler	Fragments of antlers of 1 red deer.	See discussion.
Pig	Part of a scapula	See discussion.

Unstratified, Site A.

Cattle	Metatarsal	1 shaft
Sheep	Metatarsal	2 shafts

Site C. From the primary silt in the gully.

Cattle	All parts	22 fragments including 7 teeth.
Sheep	All parts	11 fragments including 6 teeth.
Dog	Jaw and atlas	A large animal, hound size.

From the dark fill in the gully.

Cattle	Scapula	4 fragments.
	Phalanx	1 (first toe).
	Mandible	1, and 5 teeth, young calf.
	Vertebra	1
	Femur	2 fragments.
	Metatarsal	2 fragments.
Sheep	Mandible	2 fragments, second year.
	Hind limb	2 fragments
Horse	Tooth	1
	Pelvic	1 fragment.
	Phalanx	1, second.

From the packing stones in the gully.

Cattle	Limb parts	3 small fragments.
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From the filling of a post-hole in the stockade.

Sheep	Radius	1 shaft.
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From the soft, black layer overlying the main area of gravel floor.

Cattle	Mandible	1, with teeth, second year.
	Mandible	1 fragment.
	Mandible	2, incomplete, with teeth, second year.
	Radius	1 shaft fragment
	Radius	2 fragments.
	Sacrum	1 fragment.
	Teeth	2
	Vertebrae	2
	Sheep	Mandible
Ribs		3
Metatarsal		1, a young lamb.
Metacarpal		1 fragment.

From pits cut into the gravel surface.

Cattle	Tibia	1 distal fragment.
Sheep?	Indeterminate fragments.	

From clay/loam overlying the Roman levels and beneath the ploughsoil.

Cattle	Pelvic	2 large fragments.
	Radius	1 fragment distal.
Sheep	Metacarpal	1 fragment, proximal.
	Tooth	1.

From the fill of the ditch on the north side of site C.

Cattle	Teeth	4, second year.
	Limbs	4 fragments, femur, metatarsal.
Horse	Tooth	1, adult.
	Pelvic	1 fragment.
	Phalanx	1, complete (hoof).

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Antiq. Journ.</i>	<i>Antiquaries Journal.</i>
<i>Arch. Journ.</i>	<i>Archaeological Journal.</i>
<i>Rec. Bucks.</i>	<i>Records of Bucks.</i>
<i>R.I.C.</i>	Mattingly, H. and Sydenham, E. A., <i>The Roman Imperial Coinage.</i> Oxford 1928, and later.

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