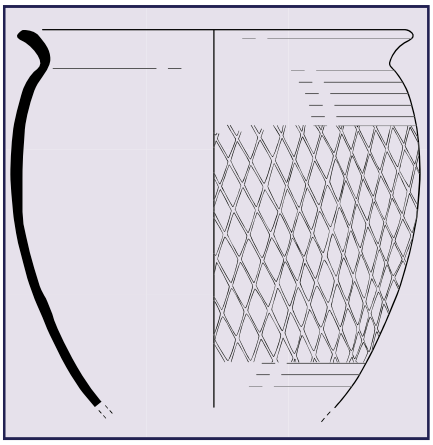
Excavations at Stallards Place Dymock Gloucestershire



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Publication Report

EXCAVATIONS AT STALLARDS PLACE, DYMOCK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by

Andrew Simmonds

with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Paul Booth, Luke Howarth, Ian Scott, Wendy Smith, and Lena Strid

Illustrations by Georgina Slater and Rosalyn Lorimer

SUMMARY

During April and May 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted an excavation at Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire in advance of construction of new housing within the former gardens of Stallards Place. The investigation produced further evidence for the Roman settlement at Dymock to add to that known from previous excavations. A boundary ditch was identified extending back from the main Roman road; it defined a plot containing one definite and one possible building and a small number of pits and gullies. The ceramic evidence suggests that occupation at this site started later than at previously excavated sites at Dymock, perhaps representing a westward expansion of the original settlement, and continued in use after some other areas had been abandoned. The area investigated may have been somewhat peripheral to the main focus of the settlement; it was located at the western limit of the known distribution of Roman finds, and the results of the excavation indicated less intensive occupation than has been recorded by excavations further east.

An area of pits and postholes of medieval date was identified representing occupation fronting onto the main road through the village. These features mostly dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries, and may relate to the failed attempt to establish a borough at Dymock during the 12th or 13th century.

INTRODUCTION

During April and May 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted an excavation at Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire, at NGR SO 6986 3133 (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Ten Estates and Developments, in advance of construction of new housing on land that was formerly the grounds of Stallards Place. The site comprised part of the gardens surrounding the house, and a former orchard to the south. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a condition attached to the planning permission for the development by Forest of Dean District Council.

Geology and Topography

Stallards Place is situated in the western part of the village, where the ground slopes westward from the highest point, on which St Mary's church stands. The site comprised a roughly triangular plot encompassing *c* 0.2 hectares and fronted onto Stoneberrow Place, the main road through the village, which curved around its eastern and northern edges. The ground falls away gently across the site from 38 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the western edge to 36 m OD in the east. The solid geology consists of Lower Old Red Sandstone, and is overlain by Devonian mudstone and associated drift.

Archaeological Background

The modern village of Dymock is believed to stand at the junction of two Roman roads, where a road leading from the fort and settlement at Stretton Grandison to a possible crossing of the River Severn south of Tewkesbury is joined by a possible road extending southward toward Gloucester (Catchpole *et al* 2007, 133-4). According to the Ravenna Cosmography, compiled around AD 700 from earlier sources, the road from Kenchester to Gloucester passed through two now unlocated places, *Epocessa* and *Macatonium* (Rivet and Smith 1979, 361-2, 404-5), and these have been

tentatively identified as Stretton Grandison and Dymock respectively (Gethyn-Jones 1966, 11). The presence of a Roman settlement at Dymock has been recognised since at least the start of the 20th century, as a result of the discovery of remains including Roman coins (Leech 1981, 31). The recording of chance finds and remains exposed during groundworks at numerous locations within the village throughout the 20th century, has lead Gethyn-Jones (1991, 97) to postulate the presence of a settlement extending over an area of some 14-16 hectares along the line of the Roman road. A number of more formal excavations have taken place in Dymock. The Malvern Research Group conducted a series of small-scale excavations between 1957 and 1972 but these have not been fully published. More recent excavations have been carried out at three locations: on land adjacent to Rose Cottage and Winserdine, immedieatly across the road from Stallards Place (Taverner 2001); on land adjacent to the Rectory, *c* 100 m east of Stallards Place (Simmonds 2007); and at the Sewage Treatment Works, *c* 400 m east of Stallards Place (Catchpole 2007a). All three investigations revealed evidence for Roman occupation, and burials were encountered at the Sewage Treatment Works and at Rose Cottage and Winserdine (Parry 1994). Although there had been no previous excavations at Stallards Place, a scatter of Roman pottery is known to have been discovered in the gardens in 1959 (Gethyn-Jones 1991, 91), and in the grounds of the school bordering the western side of the site, what may be a Roman road surface and adjacent stone buildings were observed between 1957 and 1959 (Gethyn-Jones 1991, 96). The projected line of the Roman road passes *c* 10 m to the north of Stallards Place (Fig. 1).

The modern village has Saxon origins, as demonstrated by the Anglo-Saxon fabric in the lower part of the walls of the church (Verey 1970, 175), and was recorded in the Domesday Book as having a substantial population. During the 12th or early 13th century an attempt was made to establish a borough with a market, but by the early part of the following century the settlement was in decline, possibly due to competition from nearby Newent and to its disadvantageous position in relation to contemporary communications routes (Leech 1981, 30).

Evaluation Results

An evaluation comprising eight machine excavated trenches uncovered two gullies, a ditch, a posthole and a probable beam slot, possibly indicating settlement in the eastern part of the site. The associated finds indicated that this activity dated from the 2nd-4th century. A layer of Roman ploughsoil was recorded across the entire site, and a medieval gully was also observed (CgMs 2005).

Excavation Methodology

The site comprised a main, approximately rectangular, area to the south of Stallards Place and a smaller, triangular area to the north, connected by a narrow corridor to the west of the house. The overburden, comprising a thick modern topsoil, was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and working under close archaeological supervision, to reveal a layer of Roman ploughsoil that extended across the entire site. As no archaeological features were observed cut into the Roman ploughsoil, machine excavation continued to the surface of the natural geology, into which archaeological features were cut. All archaeological features were excavated by hand in accordance with standard OA practice (Wilkinson 1992).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

Roman period (Figs 2-4)

The earliest evidence for activity recorded on the site dated from the Roman period and comprised boundary ditches, part of a building and three discrete pits. Ceramic evidence recovered from these features suggests that this occupation dates from the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

Ditch 222, which extended across the excavation on a NNE-SSW alignment, which was originally defined by cut 99, had been re-cut on at least three occasions (cuts 101, 104 and 105, Fig.

3). This repeated redefinition suggests that it marked an important boundary. Its size and dimensions were remarkably consistent in each of its phases, with a generally steep-sided profile measuring approximately 1 m wide and 0.6 m deep. Each phase had been dug slightly further west than its predecessor, resulting in a gradual westward migration of the boundary. Small quantities of pottery were recovered throughout the fills of this ditch. The pottery dates indicated that it was established no earlier than the first half of the 2nd century, and it had silted up by the end of that century or the early part of the 3rd century.

Ditches or gullies were also recorded that defined lesser, subsidiary boundaries, which were possibly slightly later in date than ditch 222. These were universally shallow, insubstantial features no more than 0.15 m deep. Ditches 221 and 225 (Fig. 2) were located respectively to the west and east of ditch 222 and extended on oblique angles to it. In contrast to ditch 222, these ditches followed somewhat circuitous alignments. Both extended to the south beyond the edge of the excavation. Due to the shallow nature of these features it was not possible to be certain whether their northern ends represent original terminals or whether the ditches petered out at these points due to truncation by later ploughing. The pottery recovered from these features dated generally from the 2nd century, although a single sherd from a black burnished ware dish from ditch 221 may have dated from the early part of the 3rd century. Ditch 223 was located immediately east of ditch 222 (Fig. 2) and lay on an approximately parallel alignment, but its morphological similarity to ditches 221 and 225 suggests that it is associated with those features rather than representing an additional phase of the main boundary ditch. It measured no more than 0.16 m deep, and extended only 7 m into the area of the excavation, ending in what may have been an original terminus.

Ditch 217, located in the northern part of the excavation, was similarly shallow and extended on a parallel alignment to ditch 222 (Fig. 2). A total length of 4 m of this ditch was exposed; its southern end was cut by ditch 218. The latter ditch was somewhat more substantial, being a steep-sided, U-shaped feature measuring 0.45 m wide and up to 0.37 m deep, which

extended into the excavated area for 4 m before ending in a definite terminus. The pottery from this ditch was slightly later than most of the material from the site, dating from the mid-3rd century.

Part of a building (227) was identified in the narrow corridor excavated between the main excavation area to the south of Stallards Place and the smaller area to the north (Fig. 4). This strip was only 4.5 m wide, and consequently only the central part of the building was exposed. The building appears to have been oriented NW-SE, approximately at right angles to ditch 222, and was 4 m wide. A row of five postholes (29, 31, 33, 35, 37) forming the north-eastern wall, and a beam slot (59) and a single posthole (53) forming part of the opposite wall were revealed. The postholes of the north-eastern wall were circular and measured 0.3 m in diameter and 0.09 – 0.16 m deep, with the exception of posthole 35, which was square and measured 0.16 m across. Posthole 53 in the south-western wall was slightly larger, measuring 0.40 m in diameter, but was still only 0.12 m deep. The beam slot was likewise very shallow, surviving to a depth of only 0.08 m. A possible internal dividing wall was represented by a beam slot (226) extending laterally across the building, and a lone internal posthole (39) was also recorded.

A group of shallow, truncated postholes was located in the central part of the site, to the west of ditch 222 (Fig. 2), three of which yielded sherds of Roman pottery. These postholes may represent the surviving elements of a second building, but if this were the case insufficient evidence survived to establish its form or character.

A total of three pits were attributed to the Roman period. The largest of these was pit 27, which was located in the northern part of the excavation and measured 2.8 x 1.2 m and 0.19 m deep. In addition to a small assemblage of pottery dating from the second half of the 2nd century, the pit contained a fragment of a copper alloy brooch and a dump of animal bone, predominantly cattle bones, which included two metatarsals that had been split longitudinally, possibly for the removal of marrow. The other pits (47, 156) yielded only small quantities of pottery and animal bone.

Medieval period (Fig. 2)

Evidence for medieval activity was largely confined to an area in the south-eastern part of the excavation, near the street frontage. The features were presumably dug through the Roman ploughsoil, although they were not recognised until the soil had been removed and consequently only the bases of the features were preserved, their surviving depths rarely exceeding 0.15 m. The features comprised eight postholes, seven pits, a gully and two possible gullies. The postholes did not form any coherent structure and the bases of the pits generally survived only as shallow, concave scoops. Small quantities of finds were recovered, including pottery that dated this activity to the 11th - 13th centuries. The gully (224) was a shallow, V-shaped feature that extended for 9.8 m on a north-south orientation, parallel to the street frontage. It had a maximum depth of 0.17 m but became progressively more shallow toward the northern end before petering out. Features 168 and 170 appeared to be short lengths of gully lying on similar orientations to gully 224, and were both similarly shallow.

The only medieval features not located near the road frontage were a square pit (21), from which a small number of large sherds of 11th- to 13th-century pottery were recovered, and a well (19); both of which were recorded in the northern part of the site. The well measured 2 m in diameter and following hand-excavation to a depth of 0.97 m, auguring indicated that it continued for a depth of at least a further 5 m. Pottery recovered from the upper part of the fill (20) indicated that it had been back-filled during the late 15th or 16th century, but its origins could be considerably earlier.

Post-medieval period (Fig. 2)

Ditch 220 extended along the western edge of the excavation and is likely to have defined the

western boundary of the property on which Stallards Place was built. Pottery recovered from its only fill (86, 115, 144) indicated that it was in-filled during the 16th or 17th century, although residual material dating from the 15th century was also present. A ditch (108) extending along the road frontage at the northern end of the excavation is likely to be a road-side ditch, probably of post-medieval or modern date.

Two pits (61, 197) were also attributed to the 16th or 17th century on the basis of pottery recovered from their fills.

THE FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY *by Paul Booth*

Introduction

Some 435 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 6173 g, were recovered from the excavation. These included 68 rim sherds amounting to 5.97 rim equivalents (RE). The pottery was fully quantified using codes for fabrics, vessel and decoration types etc in the OA Roman recording system. The pottery was in moderate condition. The average sherd weight is over 14 g, but preservation of sherd surfaces, dependent upon soil conditions and degree of wear, was variable; surface burnishing, a characteristic of much Severn Valley ware, for example, was often not detectable.

Fabrics

Quantification of the assemblage by fabric is presented in Table 1. Fabric/ware codes and summary descriptions are given in this table, with cross reference to the National Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) as appropriate. The sequence of presentation in Table 1 is by the major ware groups identified in the OA system, with so-called fine and specialist wares, in this case samian wares, amphorae, mortaria and white-slipped wares, listed before the remaining coarse ware categories (for this approach see eg Booth 1991; 2004).

INSERT TABLE 1

The assemblage was dominated by Severn Valley ware fabrics, oxidised versions of which consistently comprised *c* 46% of the pottery by all measures. Detailed subdivision of the Severn Valley ware group was not attempted (since minor macroscopic differences in the fabric cannot be correlated reliably with the evidence from the very incomplete list of known production sites), so most sherds were assigned to the generic (O40) group code. Examples of fabrics with an organic component (O41 and O48) were isolated, however, as these (particularly O41) are distinctive; they may be assigned to an early stage in the development of Severn Valley ware (Timby 1990, 249) and are therefore chronologically significant. None of the vessels could be associated with one of the few known Severn Valley ware production sites. Reduced fabrics, which comprised 18.2% of the sherd total, almost certainly included further Severn Valley wares. It is likely that all the sherds assigned to fabric R60 were reduced Severn Valley wares, the fabric being analogous to O41. A proportion of sherds in the R30 group might also have been Severn Valley products, but this is less certain. The lack of known production sites in the region makes the attribution of these usually rather undiagnostic fabrics rather difficult, particularly when distinctive rim forms are also largely or entirely absent.

Known coarse ware production sources were represented by Malvern and south-east Dorset. Black-burnished ware (BB1, fabric B11) from the latter source comprised about 20% of the assemblage (based on sherd count and REs; the figure for weight was less, as is typically the case with this fabric), while Malvernian ware (fabrics G21 and G22) products totalled 8-9%. These were slightly better-represented in terms of weight, reflecting the presence of sherds of a number of characteristic large jars. They included a few examples of the ‘Romanised’ grey fired Malvernian product, here distinguished as fabric G22.

'Fine and specialist' wares formed 6.4% of the total sherds. Samian ware, almost entirely from Central Gaul, was the most important element of these and provided all the rim sherds in this group. The overall weight total of fine and specialist wares (10.7%), was boosted by a small number of South Spanish amphora sherds (fabric A11) and by the single mortarium sherd from the site, the base of a vessel from the Mancetter-Hartshill industry (fabric M23). Fine wares as such, and white wares, were notably absent.

Vessel types

These are summarised in Table 2 in terms of broad classes.

INSERT TABLE 2

Jars were the principal vessel class (65%), as would be expected, with no other class particularly well-represented. Bowls comprised some 6% of the assemblage and all open forms together (bowls, dishes and the uncertain intermediate category) only totalled 14% of the vessels. Black-burnished ware, which might have been expected to provide examples of these forms, was mainly represented in this assemblage by jars of 'cooking pot' type. Tankards, the most distinctive Severn Valley ware form, amounted to almost 9% of the assemblage, although it should be noted that some of the simple rims assigned to this form, such as No. 4 below, could possibly have been from carinated bowls. At least five tankards were indicated by handles not associated with rim sherds, however, underlining the general importance of the type.

Lids were well-represented, at 7.4% of vessels, and were present both in Severn Valley ware and Malvern ware. Amongst the minor forms, cups were represented only in samian ware (Drag 27; the other samian ware rims were all from Drag 31 dishes, while two Drag 37 bowls and another decorated vessel of uncertain form were represented by body sherds). Flagons were notably absent,

although the two sherds in Q fabrics were very likely from such vessels. However, the Severn Valley ware assemblage included four vessels recorded as handled jars (rather than jugs, in the absence of spouts), such as No. 1 below. These amounted to 7% of the total REs, but having wider mouths than most flagons these vessels may not have served exactly the same function.

The most unusual vessel is a fragment of what appears to be a pedestal base. Superficially the profile of this piece has some resemblance to those of the range of dishes in Severn Valley ware (eg Rawes 1982, nos 97-103; Webster 1976, nos 69-71), but the vessel would be very shallow and has a diameter of only *c* 100 mm. On balance the sherd seems more likely to have derived from a pedestal base, perhaps from a type such as Thompson A4 (1982, 61-3). Such a form would be very unusual in this region, however, and this is emphasised by the fact that the fabric may be Severn Valley ware. The sherd is extremely stained and discoloured, so the fabric identification is not certain, but it is strengthened by the occurrence of a Severn Valley pedestal base at Frocester (Timby 2000, 156, no. 180).

Chronology

Correlation of the pottery data with the limited evidence for the stratigraphic development of the site failed to produce any meaningful chronological patterning. Most feature groups were small and broadly similar in character. Diagnostic sherds were scarce, and the size of feature groups was such that chronological arguments based on fabric proportions could not be considered reliable. Conversely, consideration of the pottery in relation to the likely sequence of the principal Roman features on the site, particularly the view that ditch group 222 may have been a primary feature, did not suggest any meaningful ceramic distinction between this and other features. In ceramic terms, therefore, the Roman features on the site are regarded as being of a single broad phase.

Close dating of most of the context assemblages is thus not possible in the absence of chronologically diagnostic fabrics and forms. Indeed, some groups consisted largely or entirely of

Severn Valley ware body sherds, and where present rim sherds in these fabrics are also often not susceptible of close dating. Overall, however, the emphasis of the Severn Valley ware seems to be on the middle of the Roman period - diagnostically very early and late forms appear to be completely absent, and the 'early' fabric O41 was widespread in the early 2nd century and could easily have been of that date at Dymock. Malvern ware provides another early Roman component, but continued in use at least into the later 2nd century if not later.

None of the identified fabrics and forms requires a date before the late 1st century. Equally, none of the black-burnished ware is in forms that predate the expansion of distribution of this ware in the early 2nd century. Black-burnished ware bowls and dishes were poorly represented by rims, but the main type amongst these was the simple rimmed 'dog dish', most common in the 3rd and 4th centuries but introduced as early as the later 2nd (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 99), which forms the basis for its dating here. The more numerous cooking pots include examples of both 2nd and 3rd century date. The bulk of the samian ware, all but one tiny fragment of which was Central Gaulish, clearly dated to the 2nd century, and the frequency of examples of Drag 31 suggest that this material was most common in the second half of that century.

In summary, despite the lack of closely dated pieces, it can be suggested that the emphasis of the assemblage falls largely if not entirely in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. While a wider date range is not precluded by some of the broadly dated sherds, and accepting that arguments from negative evidence can be problematic with an assemblage of this size, all the more diagnostic material is consistent with this suggestion. It may be possible to narrow this range a little. BB1 seems to be consistently present in the early fills of some of the more significant features, such as the primary cut of the ditch 222 complex, which may suggest a *terminus post quem* of at least *c* AD 120 for these. At the other end of the range, the absence of characteristic later Roman Severn Valley ware forms, already noted, and the complete absence of any Oxfordshire products, widespread across the region from the middle of the 3rd century, may suggest a terminal

date for activity in this particular part of Dymock. If activity had not ceased by *c* AD 250 it had fairly certainly come to an end before the end of the 3rd century, by which time at least occasional instances of Oxfordshire products might have been expected, even in a small assemblage such as this.

Catalogue of Illustrated Sherds

In view of the absence of particularly significant feature groups the illustrated vessels are arranged in fabric and vessel type order.

1. Fabric O40. Narrow mouthed ?jar with fragmentary expansion of everted rim suggesting the location of a handle. Context 11.

2. Fabric O40. Medium mouthed jar with hooked everted rim. Context 28.

3. Fabric O40. Large medium mouthed storage jar with thickened everted rim. Context 157.

4. Fabric O40. Tankard or carinated bowl with two grooves on upper body. Context 177.

5. Fabric O40. Curving sided bowl with slightly hooked rim. Context 28.

6. Fabric O40. Rounded bowl with simple slightly insloping rim. Burnt on exterior. Broadly as Newland Hopfields type 4.1 (Evans *et al*. 2000, 39-40), but not exactly paralleled. Context 210.

7. Fabric O40. Curving sided dish. Cf Rawes (1982) no. 98. Context 92.

8. Fabric O40. Simple lid, slightly burnt on tip of rim. Context 161.

9. Fabric O40? Pedestal base. The sherd is heavily discoloured and the fabric is uncertain. Context 24.

10. Fabric R60. Medium mouthed jar with grooved everted rim. Context 161.

11. Fabric R60. Tankard with groove on upper body wall and vestigial acute angled burnished lattice decoration below. Context 100.

12. Fabric B11. Cooking pot with burnished rim and shoulder and acute angled burnished lattice

decoration. Context 90.

13. Fabric B11. Small cooking pot or beaker-type jar. The top of the rim is burnished but the shoulder is eroded. Faint traces of slightly acute angled burnished lattice decoration on body. Context 98.

14. Fabric G21. Large everted rim jar, burnished on top of rim and roughly on the shoulder with acute angled lattice overlain with horizontal lines. Context 13.

15. Fabric G21. Large jar with sharply everted rim. Roughly burnished on top of rim and perhaps on lower neck. Context 28.

Discussion

The assemblage, which contains no exotica and appears to date entirely to the middle part of the Roman period, is broadly consistent with those reported from other recent work at Dymock (Timby 2007; Brown and Timby 2007, see also Ratkai 2001), but there are also some differences in aspects such as chronology.

The range of fabrics and forms is quite closely comparable in all these groups, with the smaller assemblages such as the present one and that from Dymock Rectory having, unsurprisingly, a rather narrower range. All the assemblages are dominated by Severn Valley wares, but to differing extents (Table 3).

INSERT TABLE 3

The figures for the Sewage Treatment Works and Dymock Rectory are very similar, *c* 69% and 66% of sherds respectively, while oxidised ware (probably all Severn Valley ware) at Rose Cottage amounted to *c* 58% of the total sherds, with an uncertain proportion of the reduced wares probably also of Severn Valley origin. The evidence from Stallards Place contrasts somewhat with this picture, the representation of Severn Valley ware being rather lower than at the other sites, while the

representation of black-burnished ware is correspondingly markedly higher. While the present assemblage is fairly small it is notable that the black-burnished ware representation here is relatively consistent across all measures; there seems therefore to be a genuine distinction between this and the other Dymock sites. This is most easily explained in chronological terms. As indicated above, black-burnished ware was present in the earliest fills of at least some of the principal features on the site, and the relatively high incidence of this ware is consistent with it having been available from the time of the earliest occupation here. In other words, as already suggested, activity at Stallards Place commenced after *c* AD 120, whereas that at the other Dymock sites commenced rather earlier, in the mid to late 1st century, with the result that those assemblages contained larger amounts of Severn Valley ware and other fabrics, such as grog-tempered wares and Malvernian oolitic limestone tempered fabrics, which were no longer in circulation by the early 2nd century. Other early characteristics, such as rusticated decoration, were effectively absent from the Stallards Place assemblage, which produced a single tiny rusticated sherd in fine reduced fabric R10.

The chronological range of the Sewage Treatment Works material was summarised as follows 'Aside from the pre-Flavian component .. the groups…suggest... a focus of activity in the later 1st-2nd centuries, limited 3rd century activity and a complete decline by the 4th century.' (Timby 2007, 168). This range was closely comparable to that of the other recent Dymock sites and with regard to its later part seems also to describe the situation at Stallards Place.

Comparative data on vessel types are available only for the Sewage Treatment Works site. These again provide a degree of contrast with the Stallards Place data. In particular, the representation of jars here is rather higher (at 65% of REs) than at the Sewage Treatment Works, where these vessels formed 55% of the site total. If this difference is not simply a consequence of the small size of the Stallards Place assemblage it is slightly surprising, since the latter, having a later start date than the Sewage Treatment Works material, might be expected to show a decrease in the quantity of jars in line with a widely observed chronological trend that sees numbers of jars

declining through time at the expense of bowls and dishes (eg Millett 1979, 37-39; Booth 2007, 331-334 for regional comparanda and discussion). If real, this distinction between the two assemblages might be significant in functional terms, the higher percentage of jars (and even the lower representation of vessels such as tankards - 8.9% of vessels at Stallards Place and 16% at the Sewage Treatment Works) perhaps suggesting a more basically functional aspect to activity at Stallards Place.

This suggestion, however, is not borne out by the evidence of the fine and specialist wares (Table 4), which shows these wares as well-represented at Stallards Place as in the other Dymock assemblages, and rather better-represented in terms of sherd count.

INSERT TABLE 4

The dominance of samian ware amongst the Stallards Place fine and specialist wares has already been noted, and in terms of the preponderance of Drag 31 dishes amongst the material could be seen as consistent with a rural pattern of samian ware use (Willis 2004). The fact that three out of the 21 sherds were decorated, however, is more consistent with the evidence from higher status rural and nucleated settlements in the region (Booth forthcoming), although overall these fine and specialist ware figures suggest that Dymock belongs with a 'middle' range of rural settlement sites (Booth 2007, 328-239). Clearly Dymock is a settlement with some ambiguities in its character, at least as revealed by the pottery evidence (eg Timby 2007, 167), reflecting the only partly rural nature of many roadside settlements.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY *by Paul Blinkhorn*

The medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage comprised 104 sherds with a total weight of 1,965 g. It comprised a wide range of wares of medieval and later date which indicate that there was

activity at the site from the 11th century onwards, with the range of fabrics and vessel types being typical of sites of the period in the region. Generally, the average sherd weight is large, and the assemblages in good condition, indicating that the pottery was deposited near the point of breakage. The terminology used in this report is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998).

Fabrics

The following fabric types were identified:

F1: Malvern Chase wares, late 12th – early 14th century. 19 sherds, 259 g, EVE = 0.14.

F2: Sandy limestone ware, 11th – 12th century. 14 sherds, 310 g, EVE = 0.11.

F3: Herefordshire Fine Glazed Micaceous ware, 13th – 16th century. 4 sherds, 82 g, EVE = 0.10.

F11: Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware, late 13th – early 17th century. 59 sherds, 1,203 g, EVE = 0.42.

F404: Cistercian ware, late 15th – 17th century. 3 sherds, 33 g, EVE = 0.

F414: Manganese Ware, late 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 2 g.

F425: Red Earthenware, mid 16th – 19th century. 4 sherds, 76 g.

These wares are all common finds in the region, and occur in both the Gloucester City and Worcestershire type-series (Vince unpub; www.worcestershireceramics.org.uk).

Forms

The entire rim sherd assemblage comprised jars, other than two jug rims, one in F3 and the other in F11, and also a small fragment of a cup rim in F11. The latter was glazed on both surfaces, and appears likely to be an imitation of a ‘Tudor Green’ type vessel. Four handles were noted, three of which were in F11, with the other being on a Cistercian ware cup. The F11 handles are from jugs or cisterns. All the Cistercian ware from the site comprised cup fragments, as is typical of the tradition.

A number of non-joining fragments from the same large Oxidized Malvernian ware vessel were noted in context 20. It is probable that this was a cistern, but there was not sufficient of the vessel present to allow this to be said with certainty.

Discussion

This group of pottery comprises mainly a range of medieval fabrics which are typical of sites in the region, and from a number of relatively localized sources. It is dominated by Malvernian wares, but smaller amounts of material from Herefordshire are also present. The exact source of fabric 2 is uncertain, but it has similarities to fabric 58 in the Worcestershire type-series. The group is well-stratified, with the mean sherd size large and little abrasion, and there is little evidence for re-deposition. An apparent peak in deposition between the late 15th and 16th centuries is in fact illusory, as all the pottery of this date occurred in a single context (20), the back-fill of well 19. The vessel consumption pattern is also typical, consisting largely of jars in the earlier part of the medieval period, then more developed vessels such as jugs, cups and possibly a cistern occurring in the later medieval deposits.

METALWORK *by Ian Scott*

In contrast to the assemblage from the Sewage Treatment works excavation, which produced a number of brooches and evidence for manufacture of these as well as other items (Cool 2007), the metalwork from Stallards Place is of strictly limited interest. The only items of note are:

1 (*not illustrated*) Probable Dolphin brooch fragment, much eroded. The foot of the brooch and most of the catch plate are missing. Originally with separate sprung pin now lost. Comprises part of bow with eroded remains of small plain wings. Apart from the wings no evidence for attachment of spring and pin. Dated to the mid to late 1st century AD. Cu alloy.

L 34 mm; W 16 mm. Context 28, pit 27

2 (*not illustrated*) Small circular buckle, comprising plain ring and tongue. Iron. L 23 mm; W 17 mm. Context 115, ditch 220, sf 1.

SLAG *by Luke Howarth*

A total of 276 fragments (14 kg) of slag and associated residues were recovered from 51 contexts. The majority of the material was recovered from Roman contexts, and it is likely that remains recovered from later deposits represent redeposited material created during the Roman period. Most of the material was recovered by hand during the excavation, although smaller fragments of slag and hammerscale were also recovered from the residues of environmental samples. The material was recovered exclusively from the fills of ditches and pits, and no metalworking structures were identified. Almost half the excavated contexts produced material indicative of iron smelting, mostly comprising tap slag. Ten contexts contained fragments of material associated with primary smithing, that is, the refining of previously smelted material. Approximately 5 kg of this material consists of potential smithing waste, including eighteen fragments of possible sunken hearth slags and smithing bottoms.

Discussion

Metalworking residues have been found at all four major excavations within the village, leading to the suggestion that iron smelting and refining formed a significant part of the economy of the settlement. The assemblages of slag and metal working wastes recovered from these excavations are not identical, and these differences may indicate that different processes were taking place in different places. Although the assemblage from Stallards Place is not large, it includes a larger proportion of smithing waste than has been observed at other sites, suggesting that this activity was taking place nearby.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

ANIMAL BONE *by Lena Strid*

Only the material from contexts of Roman date is reported here. Records of the entire animal bone assemblage are held in archive. The assemblage consisted of 890 re-fitted fragments, of which 165 (18.5%) could be determined to taxon (Table 5). Most bones were in a fair condition, with few traces of gnawing or burning. Regardless of species, bones from almost all body parts were retrieved, which indicates that cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse were all being slaughtered and butchered on the site. Neonatal and juvenile bones were absent, and while one would assume that animal rearing took place at the settlement, no evidence for this can be found in this small assemblage.

INSERT TABLE 5

The animal bone assemblage is dominated by cattle bones. Epiphyseal data suggests that most cattle were sub-adult or adult when slaughtered. The few mandibles suitable for ageing give a more varied result, all age ranges from 30 months and upwards being represented by one or two mandibles each. The numbers of ageable sheep/goat and pig bones are too few to discern a slaughter pattern, although both sub-adult and adult animals are present.

Butchery marks were found on 12 cattle bones and one bone from a large mammal, probably cattle. These marks corresponded to skinning and portioning of ribs as well as disarticulation of long bones and filleting of the meat. One pig calcaneus in the Roman assemblage displayed patches of thin layers of pathological bone growth, suggesting some form of infection.

Discussion

The faunal remains from Stallards Place represent a fairly typical rural Roman assemblage, in terms of the animals present and the mortality profiles for domesticates. There is an unusually large proportion of cattle bones, which is difficult to explain as it is not generally reflected elsewhere in the locality (Ingrem 2007; Poole forthcoming; Powell 1999). While sheep/goat is the second most numerous taxon, the relatively low number of fragments of these species is unusual for a Roman site in south-western Britain. The scarcity of pig, horse, dog and deer is more typical of rural sites in this period.

The closest parallel to the predominance of cattle bones at Stallards Place can be found at the rural settlement at Hill Court Farm (Table 6, Poole forthcoming), *c* 6 miles north-east of Dymock, where it may be explained as part of a strategy for exploiting the grazing resource of the adjacent Longdon Marsh. This pattern is in stark contrast to most Iron Age and Romano-British sites in the locality, where sheep are equally as common or more common than cattle (Powell 1999). At the Sewage Treatment Works site sheep dominated (Table 6, Ingrem 2007). Cattle and pig are very common on Roman urban and military sites, and it has therefore been postulated that assemblages with a predominance of sheep/goat bones represent a 'native' economy, whereas assemblages with a predominance of cattle and pig represent Romanised settlements (King 1991). One could argue that what we see in the two Dymock assemblages is a Romanisation process, changing the focus of the animal husbandry from sheep/goat during the 1st-early 2nd century at the Sewage Treatment Works to cattle in the later 2nd century at Stallards Place. However, the assemblages are rather small, and so any interpretation can only be tentative.

INSERT TABLE 6

At Dymock and on contemporary rural sites in the region (eg. Ingrem 2007, Poole forthcoming),

two peaks of slaughter can be found for cattle and sheep/goat. The younger animals would have been slaughtered for meat, whereas the older ones were kept for breeding and secondary products such as milk, wool and traction. A lack of older, adult, cattle may indicate trade in live cattle to the urban markets, as most cattle in the urban centres at Gloucester and Deansway, Worcester were over three years of age (Maltby 1983, microfiche; Nicholson and Scott 2004, 523). Elderly cattle are more commonly represented at other Roman rural sites in Gloucestershire, indicating their use as draught animals (Ayres and Clark 1999). Pigs were relatively few in number at Stallards Place and mostly slaughtered as sub-adults or young adults. This is a normal pig husbandry strategy, as lack of secondary products and high fecundity renders it unnecessary to keep pigs after they have reached their adult size.

CHARRED PLANT REMAINS *by Wendy Smith*

Seven bulk soil samples were collected from a variety of deposits, including a possible Roman plough soil, ditches and pits, and were processed for charred plant remains. An assessment of these samples established that small quantities of cereal grain were present in Roman – post-medieval samples, but only one deposit (sample 7, context 93 from Roman ditch 222) was suitably rich to be of interpretable value (Table 7).

INSERT TABLE 7

Results

Sample 7, of 40 litres, was strongly dominated by cereal chaff, accounting for 72.9% of all identifications made. Due to poor preservation most of the wheat (*Triticum* sp.) glume bases could not be identified to species level. However, in cases where it was possible to identify to species level the majority of chaff was spelt. One possible emmer (*Triticum* cf. *dicoccum* Schübl.) spikelet

fork was also noted. The majority of cereal grain (N = 131 or 10.1%) recovered is poorly preserved and highly fragmented, but indeterminate wheat grain is the cereal most frequently identified. A few of the grains (N = 8) are clearly germinated. Nearly as many detached sprouts, or coleoptiles (N = 113 or 8.7%), as grain were recovered. A small quantity of weed/ wild plants (N = 103 or 7.9%) are also present. With the exception of three uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) seeds, which may or may not be modern, the weed/wild taxa recovered typically occur as weeds of arable fields.

Discussion

The charred plant remains recovered from ditch 222 are most likely a cereal crop processing waste re-used as fuel. Obviously with only one sample, which is derived from a secondary deposit and may well be a mixture of several depositional events, it is probably unwise to take these results completely at face value. Nonetheless, there is growing evidence for deposits rich in wheat (typically spelt) glume bases (often representing an overall proportion of 70% or greater) and coleoptiles (detached sprouts – usually with an overall proportion of 4%–12% of the entire assemblage), e.g. Birdlip Quarry pit 180, Gloucestershire (Pelling 1999); Catsgore, Somerset (Hillman 1982). Such deposits are universally interpreted as crop-processing waste re-used as fuel, because of the abundance of charred cereal chaff.

The assemblage is similar to several others from southern England of this period that have been interpreted as malting debris. The presence of coleoptiles (detached sprouts) could either indicate spoilt grain, which had begun to germinate through poor storage conditions or high humidity, or malted grain, which has been intentionally allowed to germinate and then heated to arrest germination, creating malt. An assemblage rich in glume-wheat chaff and detached sprouts can be interpreted as ‘comings’ (*sensu* Robinson 1999) or the intentional de-husking of malted grain prior to brewing. The removal of ‘roots’ or ‘rootlets’ (ie the sprouts or coleoptiles) from the dried malt product, just before brewing is a key stage of some malting processes (eg Briggs 1998, 8

and 10; Glamann 2005, 23). If the 'roots' or 'rootlets' (ie sprouts or coleoptiles) were not removed, they would give a bitter flavour to the ale (Briggs 1998, 23).

OVERALL DISCUSSION

The Roman Settlement

The excavation at Stallards Place has provided further evidence for the Roman settlement at Dymock, which can be added to that known from previous excavations (eg. Catchpole 2007b, Taverner 2001), and less formal observations (Gethyn-Jones 1966, 1991). In the main the discoveries at this site are consistent with the previous findings, although there are differences in chronology and certain other details, which may be associated with the relatively peripheral location of the site in relation to the likely focus of settlement.

Previous investigations have suggested that the Roman settlement at Dymock was laid out as a series of plots or enclosures extending alongside the Roman road, the projected line of which passes c 10 m to the north of Stallards Place. It is likely that ditch 222, which extended across the excavation at a right angle to the projected line of the road, is the boundary of such a plot, comparable to ditch 46 at the Rectory site (Simmonds 2007, 234 and fig. 20) or the enclosure ditch at the Sewage Treatment Works (Catchpole 2007a, 139). Within this plot were one definite and one possible building, as well as a small number of pits and gullies. Insufficient of Building 227 was revealed within the footprint of the excavation to establish it's full dimensions or the details of its form, but it was clearly rectilinear and aligned parallel to the road frontage. The method of construction of the building, comprising a combination of beam slots and postholes that presumably supported a superstructure of wattle and daub, was consistent with that of buildings recorded at the Sewage Treatment Works and Rectory sites. As with the buildings those sites, no stone or ceramic roof tiles were found, indicating that the roof is likely to have been of thatch or turf.. The function

of the building is uncertain. It was set back at some distance from the road frontage, although it is possible that it was merely one part of a larger complex of buildings extending beyond the limits of the excavation and fronting onto the road. At the Sewage Treatment Works it was suggested that Structures A and B, which lay at right angle to each other, were part of such a complex, possibly forming two sides of a winged building arranged around a rectangular courtyard (Catchpole 2007a, 218). Catchpole (ibid.) has drawn attention to the difference between this form of architecture and that usually encountered on contemporary native settlements, and elsewhere Lockett (2002) has suggested that the buildings on native settlements in western England may have been characterised by a tradition of mass wall construction. Catchpole has suggested that this contrast in architectural forms may be explained by Dymock having originally been constructed by the Roman administration as a staging post for the Cursus Publicus, and this would be consistent with the absence of evidence for an Iron Age precursor for the settlement, either at Stallards Place or in previous excavations.

As regards structure 228, if this group of postholes does indeed represent a building, it could also be suggested that it had a different construction from the other Roman buildings known in Dymock, being represented entirely by postholes, and that this reflects a difference in function, perhaps as a barn or other ancillary structure.

Although evidence from the previous excavations indicates that the settlement at Dymock was initially established during the last third of the 1st century (Catchpole 2007b, 235), the ceramic evidence from Stallards Place indicates that occupation did not start here until some time after AD 120, perhaps representing a westward expansion of the settlement. This area also appears to have continued in use later than some of the areas to the east, the latest ceramic material in the fill of ditch 222 dating from the early 3rd century whereas the enclosure and buildings at the Sewage Treatment Works had passed out of use by the middle of the 2nd century (Catchpole 2007a, 217). It is possible that this reflects a certain ebb and flow of occupation, with individual areas

passing in and out of use as the need arose. It is possible that ditches 221, 223 and 225 and gullies 217 and 218 in the northern part of the excavation were part of a short-lived system of boundary or drainage ditches that post-dated ditch 222. Their similar, shallow forms and circuitous alignments suggest that they were not associated with ditch 222, and pottery from ditches 218 and 221 indicated a possible early 3rd century date, contemporary with the latest silting of the ditch. There was no evidence for activity continuing beyond the middle of that century, which is consistent with the absence of late Roman remains from the previous excavations. The evidence from coin finds indicates that activity continued somewhere in the vicinity, perhaps on the higher and more level ground now occupied by the church, but no definite structural remains from the later period have yet been found.

There is some evidence that the part of the settlement excavated at Stallards Place was marginal in character. It is located toward the western limit of the distribution of finds of Roman material recorded by Gethyn-Jones (1991, fig. 2) and extends back some way from the road that was the focus of the settlement, and the level of activity recorded in the excavation appears lower than that uncovered further east. Indeed, it is possible that all the areas thus far investigated are peripheral to the main focus of the settlement, which may lie in the vicinity of the church, where the digging of graves has resulted in the discovery of building stone and Roman pottery (Gethyn-Jones 1991, 94). The emphasis of the animal bone assemblage on cattle, as opposed to the predominance of sheep/goat recorded elsewhere in the settlement (eg. Ingrem 2007, 201), may be evidence that this area had a specialised role related to cattle husbandry, although it could equally represent a diachronic change in patterns of consumption relative the those areas of the settlement where occupation started earlier, or merely be a result of the small size of the assemblage.

Almost half the excavated contexts produced material indicative of iron smelting, but in small quantities, and no in situ hearths or furnaces were identified. Similar observations have been made at the other excavated sites at Dymock (Catchpole 2007a, 236) and the apparent ubiquity of

evidence for iron processing may indicate that this industry was a significant activity at Dymock, to a much greater extent than was typical for a rural settlement. The Forest of Dean was home to the second largest iron industry in Roman Britain, after that on the Weald (Jackson 2012, 195), and the location of Dymock on a major road at the edge of the Forest may have enabled it to play a part in this industry, albeit on a small scale than the larger, semi-urban settlements at Ariconium and Worcester (Jackson 2012, 194). If iron processing was indeed important at Dymock, the westward extension of the settlement into the Stallards Place area during the early 2nd century may have been associated with an expansion of the space dedicated to this industry. It is worth noting in this respect that the northern ironworking area at Ariconium was established at this time, and production at Monmouth was also increased (Jackson 2012, 194). At the moment, however, direct evidence for the specific locations in which processing was undertaken at Dymock is lacking, although this may simply be due to the fragile character of the evidence; hearths and furnaces need not have been deep or substantial structures and their superstructures were constructed from unfired clay, with the result that their remains could easily have been destroyed by later activity.

Medieval Dymock

The pits and postholes in the southern part of the excavation dating from the medieval period formed no coherent pattern, but clearly represent some form of occupation fronting onto the main road through the village. This road had been diverted some distance to the south of the line of its Roman precursor, perhaps to by-pass an enclosure around the church. Although a small amount of 11th-century pottery was recovered, this medieval activity seems to have mainly occurred between the 12th and 14th centuries, and may be contemporary with the failed attempt to establish a borough at Dymock during the 12th or early 13th century. The western boundary of Stallards Place, defined until the 16th or 17th century by ditch 220, may also have been established at this time, as it is the most easterly of a group of modern property boundaries in the northern part of the village that

appear to preserve the boundaries of a series of burgage plots extending back from the road (Leech 1981, 34).

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LOCATION OF THE ARCHIVE

The finds, paper record and digital archive will be deposited with Dean Heritage Museum Trust, Camp Mill, Soudley, Gloucestershire under accession code SOYDH 2007.27.

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Stallards Place, Dymock, SOYDH2007.27 - Tables

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery fabrics

Ware code	*Nat Fabric Ref Coll code*	*Summary Description*	*Nosh*	*% Nosh*	*Wt (g)*	*% Wt*	*RE*	*% RE*	*Comment*
S20	LGF SA	South Gaulish samian ware	3	*0.7*	4	*0.1*			
S30	LEZ SA 2	Central Gaulish samian ware	18	*4.1*	178	*2.9*	0.35	*5.9*	
A11	BAT AM 1 and 2	South Spanish amphora (Dressel 20)	4	*0.9*	367	*5.9*			
M23	MAH WH	Mancetter-Hartshill white mortarium	1	*0.2*	91	*1.5*			
Q10		Fine oxidised white slipped ware	1	*0.2*	5	*0.1*			
Q30		Fine reduced white slipped ware	1	*0.2*	17	*0.3*			
O		Oxidised coarse ware unspecified	2	*0.5*	2	+			
O30		Moderately sandy oxidised coarse ware	1	*0.2*	5	*0.1*			
O35		?North Wiltshire sandy oxidised coarse ware	2	*0.5*	15	*0.2*			
O40	SVW OX 2	Severn Valley ware	168	*38.6*	2293	*37.1*	2.62	*43.9*	
O41		Severn Valley ware, organic tempered	4	*0.9*	51	*0.8*			
O48		Severn Valley ware, organic and ? calcareous inclusions	30	*6.9*	469	*7.6*	0.16	*2.7*	
R10		Fine reduced ware	13	*3.0*	75	*1.2*	0.06	*1.0*	
R30		Moderately sandy reduced coarse ware	42	*9.7*	297	*4.8*	0.54	*9.0*	
R50		Black coated fine sandy reduced coarse ware	6	*1.4*	67	*1.1*			
R60		Organic tempered reduced coarse ware	14	*3.2*	381	*6.2*	0.44	*7.4*	
R85		Micaceous sandy reduced coarse ware	3	*0.7*	15	*0.2*			
R90		Coarse ?grog-tempered reduced ware	1	*0.2*	7	*0.1*			
B11	DOR BB 1	Black-burnished ware (Dorset BB1)	84	*19.3*	955	*15.5*	1.24	*20.8*	
C10		Shell-tempered ware	1	*0.2*	3	+			
G20		?Malvernian rock tempered	1	*0.2*	103	*1.7*			?Disc
G21	MAL REA	Malvernian rock tempered	31	*7.1*	749	*12.1*	0.55	*9.2*	
G22	MAL REA	Ditto 'Romanised' reduced	4	*0.9*	24	*0.4*	0.01	*0.2*	
TOTAL			435		6173		5.97		

Table 2: Quantification of vessel classes by rim equivalents (RE)

Vessel class	*Description*	*RE*	*% RE*
C	Jars	3.88	65.0
D	Uncertain jars/bowls	0.06	1.0
E	Beakers	0.09	1.5
F	Cups	0.10	1.7
G	Tankards	0.53	8.9
H	Bowls	0.36	6.0
I	Uncertain bowls/dishes	0.02	0.3
J	Dishes	0.46	7.7
L	Lids	0.44	7.4
Z	Unknown	0.03	0.5
Total		5.97	

Table 3: Percentages of Severn Valley and black-burnished wares from Dymock sites (quantification by sherd count)

Site	*% Severn Valley ware*	*% BB1*	*Site sherd total*
Stallards Place	41.8	19.3	435
Rectory	67.3	3.2	339
Sewage Treatment Works	69	4.6	2865
Rose Cottage/Winserdene	58.2+	4.7	2538

+ indicates an uncertain quantity of reduced Severn Valley wares not included

Table 4: Percentages of fine and specialist wares from Dymock sites

Site	*% F&S sherd count*	*% F&S REs*	*Site sherd total*
Stallards Place	6.4	5.9	435
Rectory	3.5	6.3	339
Sewage Treatment Works	4.3	5.1	2865
Rose Cottage/Winserdene	3.6	?	2538

Table 5: Quantification of animal bone by species, including NISP, MNI and weight. The skeletal element used to establish MNI is marked with an asterisk.

	Cattle (Bos taurus)	*Sheep/goat (Ovis aries / Capra hircus)*	*Pig (Sus domesticus)*	*Horse (Equus caballus)*	*Dog (Canis familiaris)*	*Deer (Cervus elaphus / Dama dama)*	*Roe deer? (Capreolus capreolus)*	*Bird*	*Medium mammal*	*Large mammal*	*Indeterminate*
Skull fragments	2	1		4						49	
Mandible	10	2	1			1				8	
Loose teeth	38	11	4	1	1						
Axis	1										
Vertebra									1	8	
Rib									5	14	
Sacrum	1										
Scapula	3										
Humerus	6		1	1							
Radius	5	5*			1						
Ulna	1	1							1		
Carpal	1	1									
Metacarpal	6	2									
Pelvis	2	1		1			1				
Femur	4										
Tibia	9*	1	3*								
Tibiotarsus								1			
Calcaneus	3	1	1								
Metatarsal	11	4									
Phalanx 1	1	1							1		
Phalanx 2	4										
Indet. metapodial	3		1								
Long bone									26	106	
Indeterminate											505
Total (NISP)	111	31	12	7	2	1	1	1	34	185	505
MNI	4	3	3	1	1	1	1				
Weight (g)	3796	180	196	260	3	28	16	3	101	1404	967

Table 6: Comparison of the representation of the three major domesticates as a percentage of the animal bone identifiable to species at Stallards Place and other sites in the region

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig
Stallards Place (n=154)	72.1	20.1	7.8
Hill Court Farm (Poole forthcoming, n=244)	63.5	33.6	2.9
Dymock Sewage Treatment Works (Ingrem 2007, n=281)	33.5	50.5	16.0
Deansway, Worcester (Nicholson and Scott 2004, n=2360)	54.6	25.6	19.7
Gloucester (Maltby 1983, n=1567)	61.2	25.0	13.8

Table 7: Charred plant remains from context 93, Roman ditch feature 222

LATIN BINOMIAL		ENGLISH COMMON NAME
CEREAL GRAIN		
Triticum sp. - indeterminate	32	Indeterminate wheat grain
Triticum sp. - germinated	8	Germinated wheat grain
Cereal - indeterminate	90[E]	Indeterminate cereal grain
Cereal/ Large POACEAE - indeterminate	1	Indet. Cereal/ Large Grass
CEREAL CHAFF		
Triticum cf. *dicoccum* Schübl. – spikelet fork	1 (1gb + 1r)	Possible emmer spikelet fork
Triticum spelta L. – spikelet fork	10 (18gb+2r)	Spelt spikelet fork
Triticum spelta L. – glume base	167	Spelt glume base
Triticum sp. – spikelet fork	38 (76gb + 0r)	Indeterminate wheat spikelet fork
Triticum sp. – glume base	415	Indeterminate wheat glume base
Triticum sp. – rachis node	250	Indeterminate wheat rachis node
Triticum sp. – glume/ lemma fragments	++	Indet. Wheat glume/ lemma frags.
Triticum sp. – awn	+	Indeterminate wheat awn
Cereal - indeterminate rachis internode	20[E]	Indeterminate cereal rachis
COLEOPTILE/ DETACHED EMBRYO		
Cereal/ Large POACEAE – coleoptile (estimate m.n.i.)	113[E]	Indet. Cereal/ Large grass sprout
Cereal/ Large POACEAE – detached embryo	2	Indet. Cereal/ Large grass embryo
WEED/ WILD PLANTS		
Chenopodium sp.	7[E]	Goosefoot
Agrostemma githago L. - calyx tip	3	Corncockle
cf. *Agrostemma githago* L. - seed coat fragment	1	Possible Corncockle
Sambucus nigra L. (dried-out waterlogged/ possibly modern)	3	Elder
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch. Bip.	6	Scentless Mayweed
Lolium sp. - caryopsis	14	Rye grass
Avena sp. – awn (estimate m.n.i.)	+	Indet. Cultivated/ wild oat
Avena sp./ *Bromus* sp.	16[E]	Oat/ Brome Grass
Bromus sp.	24	Brome Grass
POACEAE – indeterminate small caryopsis	2	Small-seeded grass
POACEAE – indeterminate medium caryopsis	11[E]	Medium-seeded grass
POACEAE – indeterminate large caryopsis	15[E]	Large-seeded grass
POACEAE – indeterminate rachis node	1	Indet. wild grass rachis node
Unidentified – seed coat	1	-
Unidentified	3	-
TOTAL IDENTIFICATIONS	**1303**	

Key: NE = estimate count, gb = glume base, r = rachis, m.n.i. = minimum number of individual items. + = < 5 items, ++ = 5-25 items.

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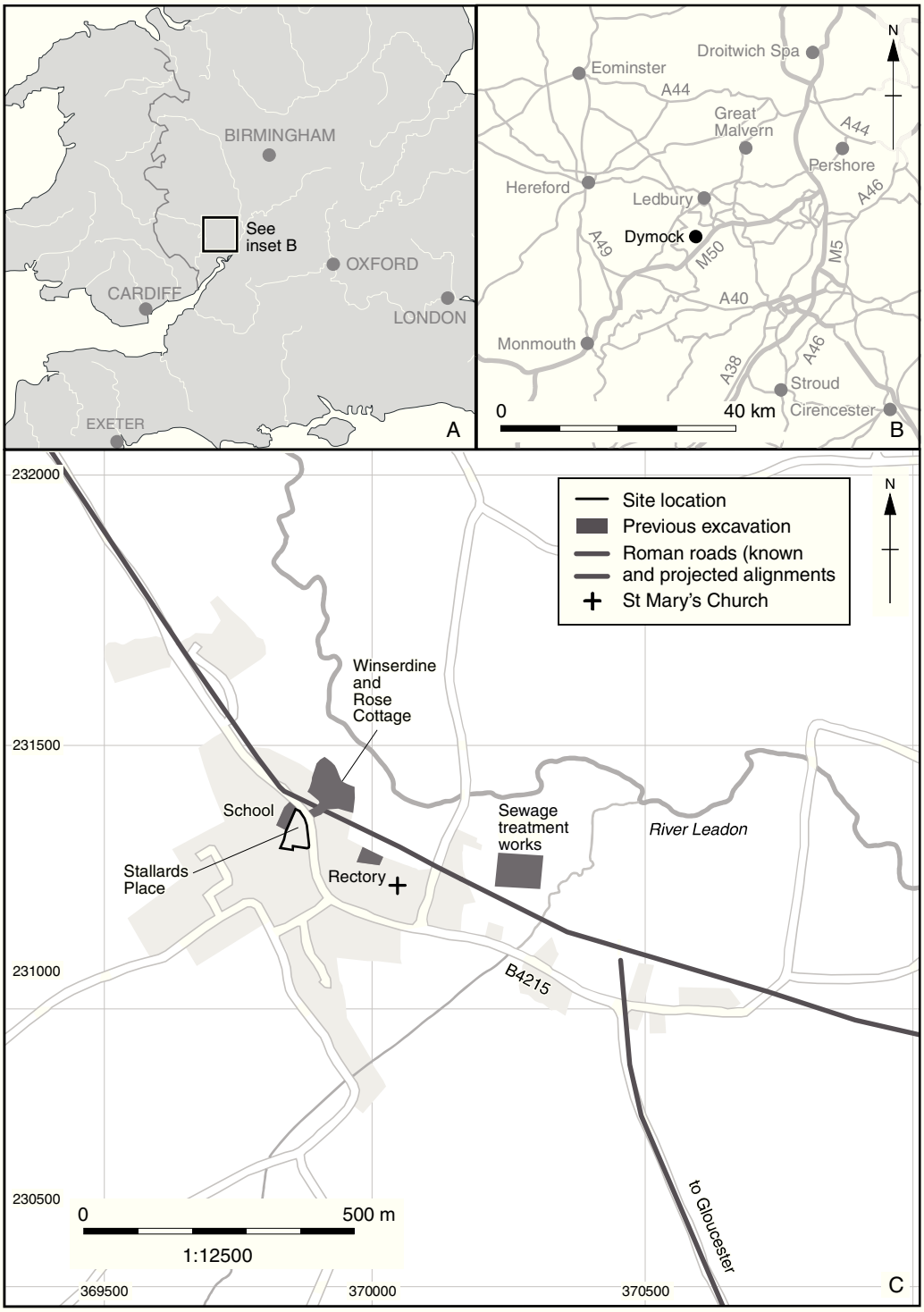

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

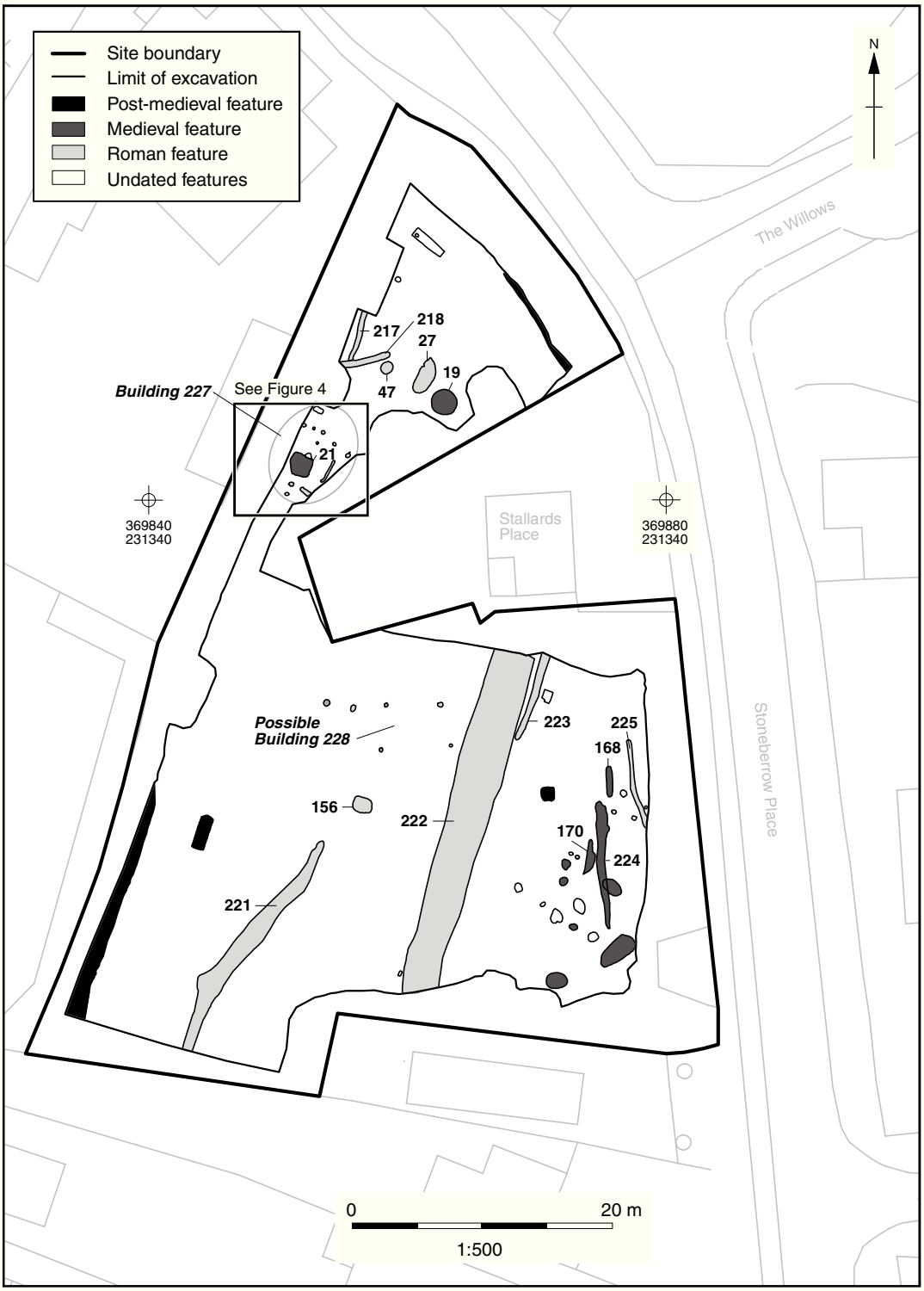

Figure 2: Phased plan of excavated features

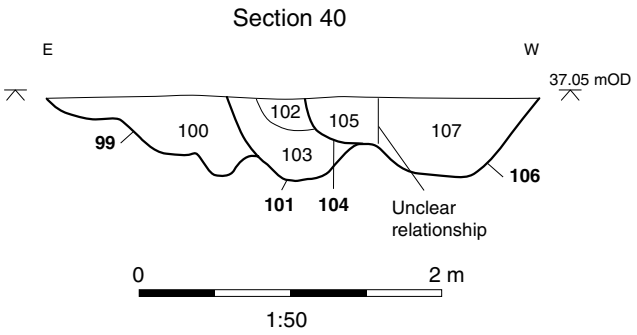

Figure 3 : Section across Roman boundary ditch 222

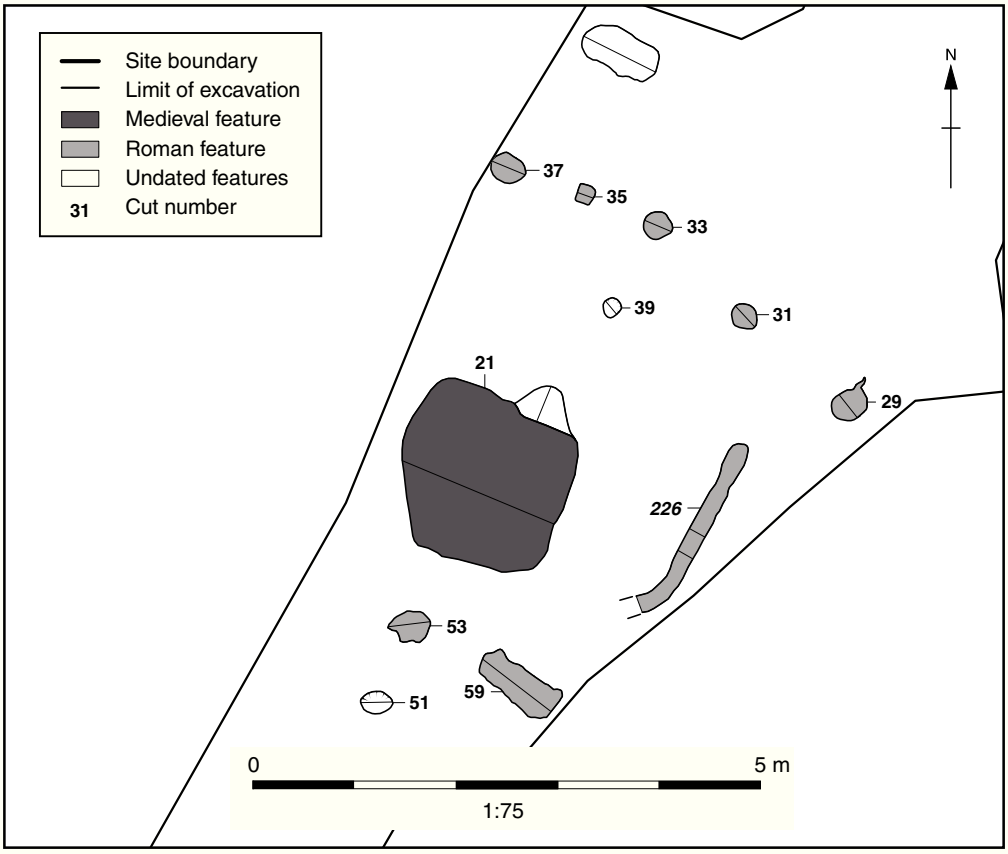

Figure 4: Detail of building 227

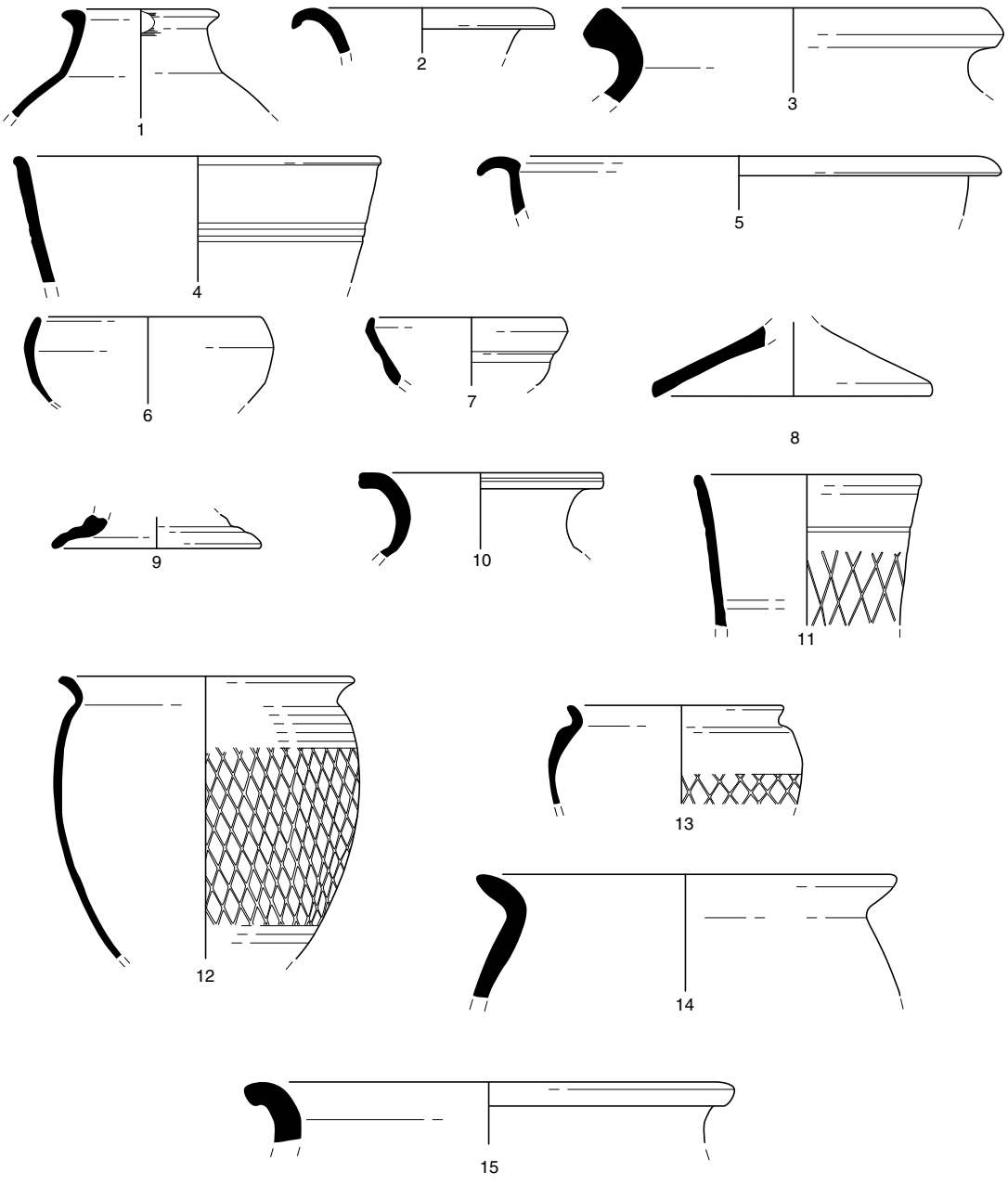

Figure 5: Roman Pottery