Chapter 5
The 2nd to 3rd Century AD Roman Complex (Phase 3)

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INTRODUCTION

The early 2nd century saw a radical re-organisation of the settlement pattern at Claydon Pike, possibly linked to it becoming the centre of an agricultural estate associated at least in part with the cultivation of hay meadows. The original suggestion that these changes were a result of direct, if small scale, Roman military intervention no longer seems to be valid (Miles and Palmer 1990, 22-3), and instead it appears to have been part of much wider changes in the landscape (see Cool below and Chapters 8 and 16).

Distinct zones of activity belonging to this phase were observed within the main excavation trenches (13, 19, 17, 29), with a number of trackways running between them and leading to a large area of central space, which remained clear until at least the later 3rd century AD (Fig. 5.1). The complex was constantly being remodelled until the late 3rd/early 4th century AD (Figs 5.2-5.3), when all remaining parts seem to have been dismantled and levelled prior to the establishment of a modest villa estate (see Chapter 6).

The Phase 2 enclosures and gullies in Trench 13 were replaced by an arrangement of large rectilinear ditched enclosures, aisled buildings, fencelines and a cobbled trackway leading from an entrance gateway (Fig. 5.4). Large quantities of finds were recovered from Phase 3 contexts in this area, suggesting that it remained the primary focus of occupation at the site. Immediately to the west in Trench 19 was a double ditched rectangular enclosure (E 18/19; Fig. 5.13). Aside from an area of cobbling, no contemporary internal features could be discerned, although the compacted gravel subsurface would have ensured that if any structures had been present, they would have required negligible or no foundations, and would therefore leave no presence in the archaeological record. Column parts and other structural stone in the vicinity do hint at a structure of some architectural merit in the area, and it remains a distinct possibility that this was the site of a religious focus, aligned upon the central cleared area (see discussion below).

Further to the west on the other side of a north-south trackway, Trench 29 contained a succession of ditched boundaries, along with a stone footed building (B 5) and another possible structure at the north end (Fig. 5.14). The quantities of domestic debris suggest some occupation, although slight. The presence in several features of iron slag may indicate some blacksmithing, although the quantity of such material is small compared to Trench 17 to the north.

Trench 17 was physically characterised by a series of intercutting, sub-rectangular enclosures and associated features such as stack rings, pits, gullies and a small rectangular building with masonry foundations (Fig. 5.18). These were bounded by an arrangement of regular linear ditches running north-south and east-west which formed large rectilinear enclosures. The character of occupation differs markedly from Trench 13, and on the basis of general finds distribution, it would seem to have been utilised primarily for low status domestic occupation, light industry (primarily iron working), and agricultural activity (livestock pens). With the exception of Building 6, any structures are likely to have been non-masonry.

A series of enclosure boundaries and trackways were located in cropmarks and salvage areas surrounding the main excavation trenches, and appear to have been part of the Phase 3 complex (Fig. 5.1). The northern trackway led across the marshy area towards another road and a series of Roman field systems in the Warrens Field site. The western trackway ran towards Thornhill Farm, *c* 600 m distant, and was probably the same as the track located at that site running south-west through the small 2nd-century settlement at Kempsford Bowmoor (OAU 1989; Fig. 2.1).

Phase 3 activity continued for around 200 years until the early 4th century, and within this period there were four main structural sub-phases (a to d), probably marking a shift in site character (Figs 5.2 and 5.3). The sub-phases for the whole site are presented in relation to those of Trench 13, where the stratigraphic sequences and dating evidence were most clear (see Chapter 2, Post-excavation methodology).

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

The following is a summary account of the archaeological sequence of the major trenches in Longdoles Field, according to the sub-phases of Phase 3 (Figs. 5.2 and 5.3). Full stratigraphic descriptions can be found in Digital section 2.2.

Fig. 5.1 The Roman settlement complex

Fig. 5.2 Phase 3 sub-phases 3a and 3b

Fig. 5.3 Phase 3 sub-phases 3c and 3d

Trench 13 – the settlement focus (Fig. 5.4)

Phase 3a (c 125-150 AD) (Fig. 5.2)

Phase 3a saw the enclosure of two areas of land, separated by a cobbled trackway, and the construction of two aisled buildings (B 1 and B 3) in the northern zone. A gateway structure (B 4) stood at the entrance to the trackway in the west and seems to have marked the main area of access into the enclosure complex (although see discussion below). Most of the northern enclosure (4340 m^2) was revealed within Trench 13. It was bounded by trackway lanes to the west and the south, while to the north the ground gradually dropped away into marshy terrain. An entrance to the northern enclosure was located midway along the central east-west trackway. Only a small part of the southern enclosure was found within Trench 13, but its full extent, as revealed by cropmarks, was 6000 m^2. No features were definitely associated with this area during this sub-phase.

Northern enclosure

The western boundary of the northern enclosure was formed by ditch 2198. This consisted of at least two cuts, but possibly up to four, giving it a broad appearance up to 3 m wide, and with a variable depth of 0.6 m to 0.8 m. The sequence of the recutting was uncertain, but it would appear that the boundary gradually shifted westwards. Just north of the gateway, the boundary turned east becoming ditch 2156, which was traced for *c* 22 m, before being truncated by Phase 4 boundary ditch 501. Midway along this stretch the ditch had a broad profile 1.6 m wide and 0.65 m deep. The fill was similar to that in 2198, a very clean orange-brown sandy loam, and had large amounts of limestone

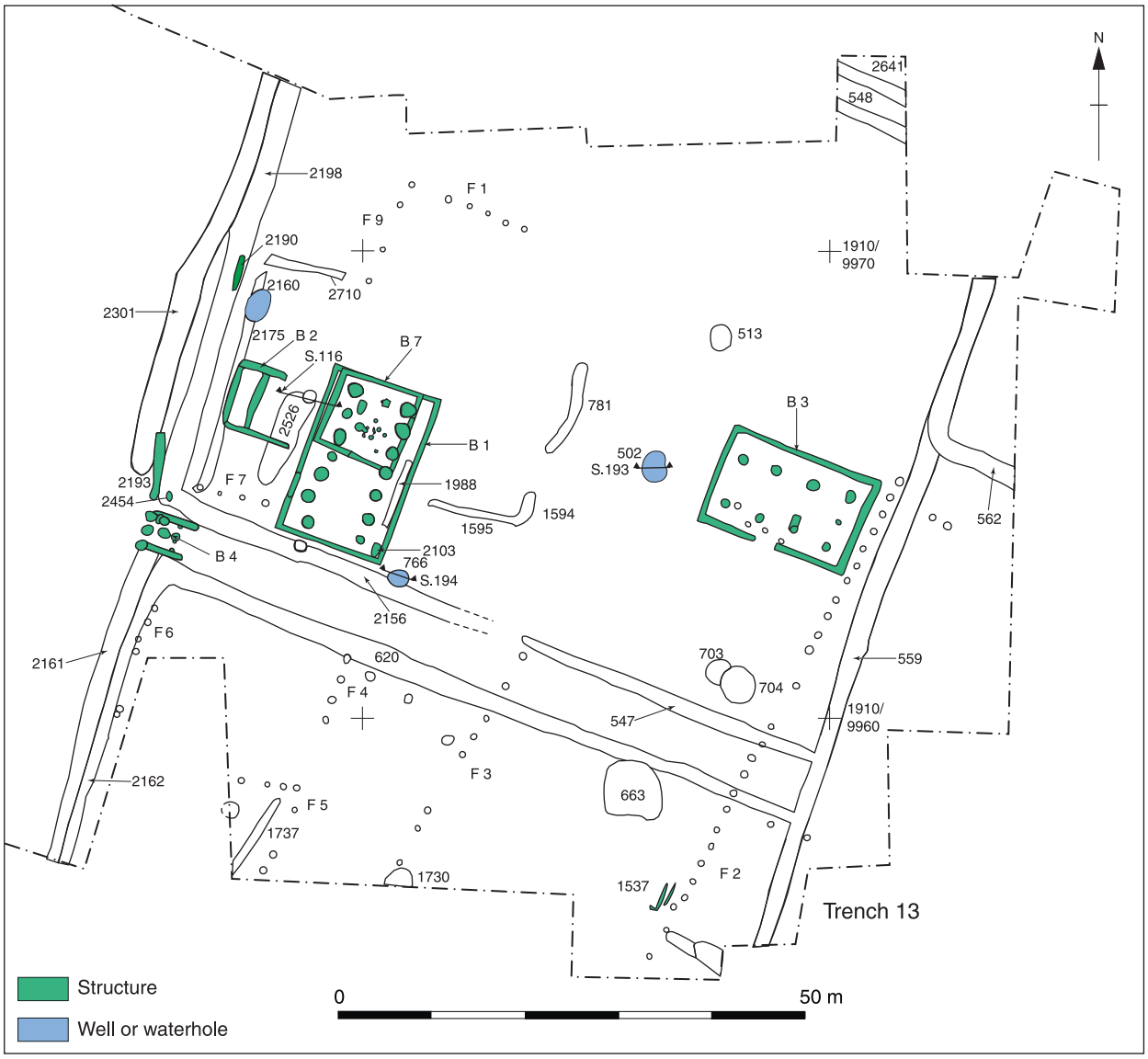


Fig. 5.4 Trench 13 Phase 3 composite plan

rubble in its lower and middle fills just south of Aisled Building 1. Ditch 2156 presumably terminated at some point below 501, leaving an entrance way to the enclosed area of up to 7 m, before restarting as ditch 547. Ditch 547 continued on the same alignment as 2156 for 34 m. This was 1.2 m wide and 0.6 m deep and had only a single cut. The eastern side of the enclosure was formed by ditch 559, which was *c* 1.8 m wide and *c* 0.9 m deep. During Phase 3a, this ditch did not form a continuous boundary with the southern enclosure, but instead the eastern end of the trackway remained open and may have formed another entrance into this part of the complex (see discussion below). Only a small section of the northern boundary ditch (548) was revealed in Trench 13, although aerial photographs revealed that it ran from ditch 559 to join the western boundary just north of the trench. A parallel but slightly smaller ditch 2641 ran to the north (2-3 m distant), and at the western end turned south into – and was cut by – ditch 548, *c* 5 m short of the western boundary.

Finds from the northern enclosure ditches varied in quantity and character, possibly reflecting activities within the immediate vicinities. The southern ditches (2156, 547) contained far greater quantities of pottery (*c* 17.5 kg), as well as a number of other finds such as an iron billet, vessel glass fragments and a bone pin. Much less pottery came from ditch 559 (1.27 kg), although it produced significantly more animal bone (740 fragments). Very few finds were recovered from the northern boundaries, implying that they were removed from the main areas of domestic activity, although admittedly only small sections of these ditches were excavated.

Southern enclosure

The southern enclosure within Trench 13 comprised ditches 2162, 620 and the southern continuation of 559. At least three cuts were visible in 2162, with the latest measuring *c* 1.2 m across and *c* 0.5 m deep. The cuts tended to merge the further south they went. The northern end of the ditch had been cobbled over and was cut by postholes probably associated with a later phase of the entrance to the enclosures in Trench 13. Ditch 620, defining the southern side of the lane dividing the enclosures, ran off east from 2162, and was undoubtedly contemporary with at least the latest cut of that feature. This ditch was 1.2 m width and 0.6 m depth, with two cuts visible at the western end. The eastern side of the enclosure was formed by ditch 559, which ran southwards as a cropmark until it met the southern triple boundary (Fig. 5.1). Trenches were dug in this area to ascertain the relationship between the various boundaries, and it is suggested that part of the southern section of ditch 559 had been recut on a number of occasions, possibly even surviving into Phase 4.

As with the northern enclosure, finds from the ditches were variable, with ditch 620 producing large quantities of pottery (19.4 kg; Fig. 5.24, nos 2, 5-6), and other finds (iron nails, ceramic tile, an iron stylus (Fig. 5.29, no.43) and a number of copper alloy personal items (Fig. 5.26, no.12)), similar to the parallel trackway ditches *c* 5 m to the north. Large quantities (1000 fragments) of animal bone were also recovered from this feature. Very few finds came from ditch 2162, but they did include a millstone grit quernstone and *c* 1 kg of pottery.

Gateway structure (B 4) and east-west trackway (Figs 5.2 and 5.5, Pl. 5.1)

The two enclosures were separated by a trackway, 5-6 m wide. It was clearly cobbled at least in part, as several phases of cobbling survived in the subsidence of the Phase 2 enclosure ditches E 16 and E 17. A layer of occupation debris between the cobbled surfaces contained over 2.5 kg of pottery and 143 animal bone fragments. The large quantities of pottery from the trackway ditches (2156, 547, 620; see above) indicated that they were filled in by the middle of the 2nd century, although the trackway appeared to continue in use (see Phase 3b).

At the western end of the trackway two parallel footings (2331, 2332) of small random limestone rubble formed part of a gateway structure into the complex (Fig. 5.5; Pl. 5.1). These were 3 m apart, *c* 0.6 m wide and appear to have been 4.5 m long. The footings were shallow and insubstantial, but still could have supported a structure of some magnitude, as the underlying gravel would have provided a firm base. One metre from the eastern end of the footings, positioned on the inside of each wall were two small stone packed postholes 2466, 2465. A further posthole, 2478, lay midway between these two. These were all of a similar size, 0.3 m wide and between 0.2 m to 0.3 m deep, and there was 1.5 m from post centre to post centre. These smaller postholes would have been the basis for the actual gate. The footings and gate posts would have formed the first phase of the gateway, seen in Phase 3a.

During the course of its existence the gateway underwent many modifications, although none of these can be attributed to any specific sub-phase. The western end of 2331 had been robbed to leave a 2.5 m length of footing, while the robbing of 2332 left over 3 m of footing. Whether this was due to the whims of the stone robbers or whether it represented a later structural phase of the gateway is unclear. The southern robber trench was cut by a large stone packed posthole, 2314. This appeared to be matched by posthole 2313 located 3 m from the western end of wall 2331. Three other stone-packed well preserved postholes ran east-west (2329, 2330, 2333), and this post arrangement appears to represent a second major phase of the gateway. The robber trench for wall 2331 had itself been cut by two further postholes 2327 and 2328, which could relate to a later phase of the gateway. A late 3rd-century coin was recovered from 2327, which suggests that the gateway was no longer functioning by Phase 3d.

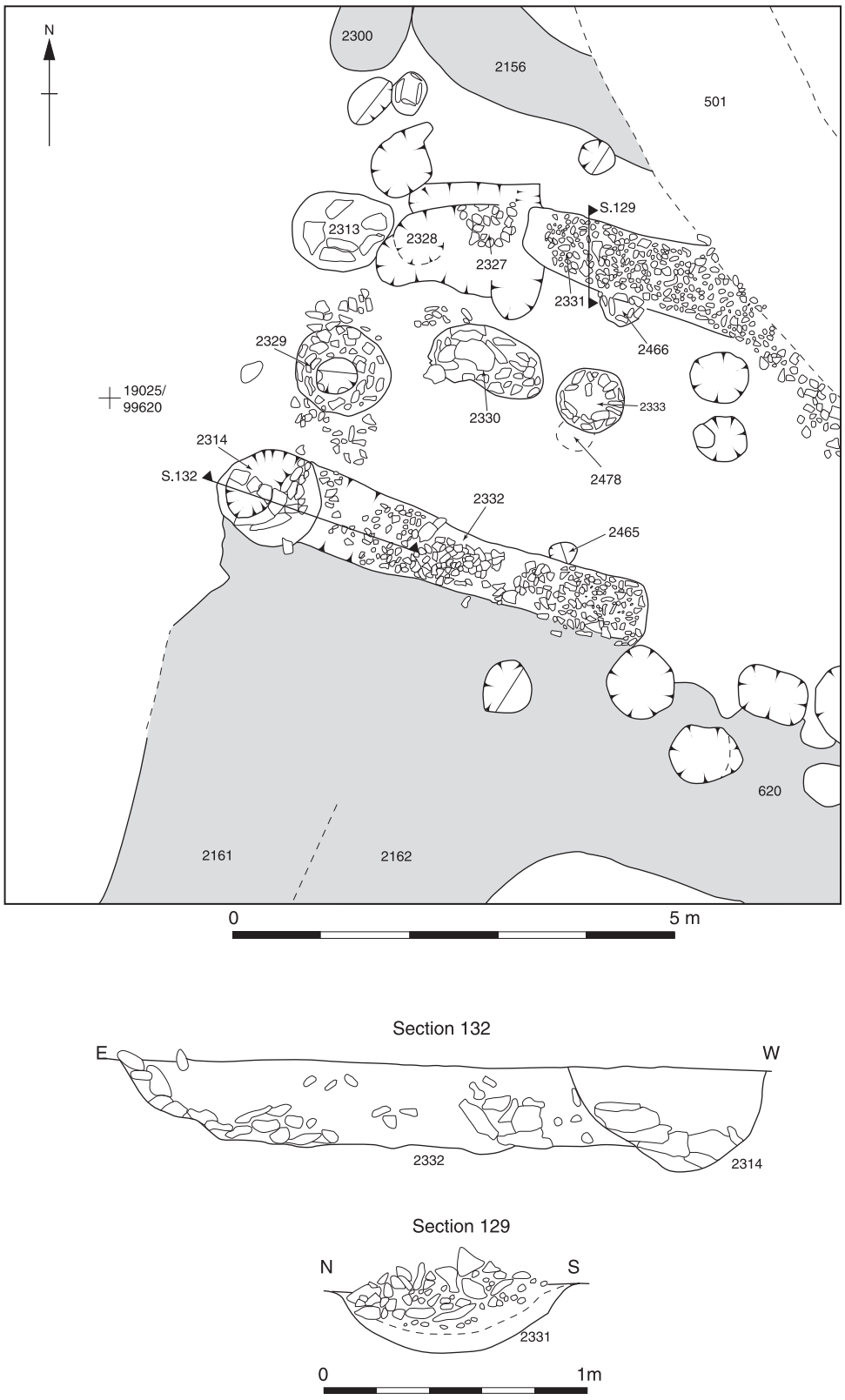


Fig. 5.5 Trench 13 gateway

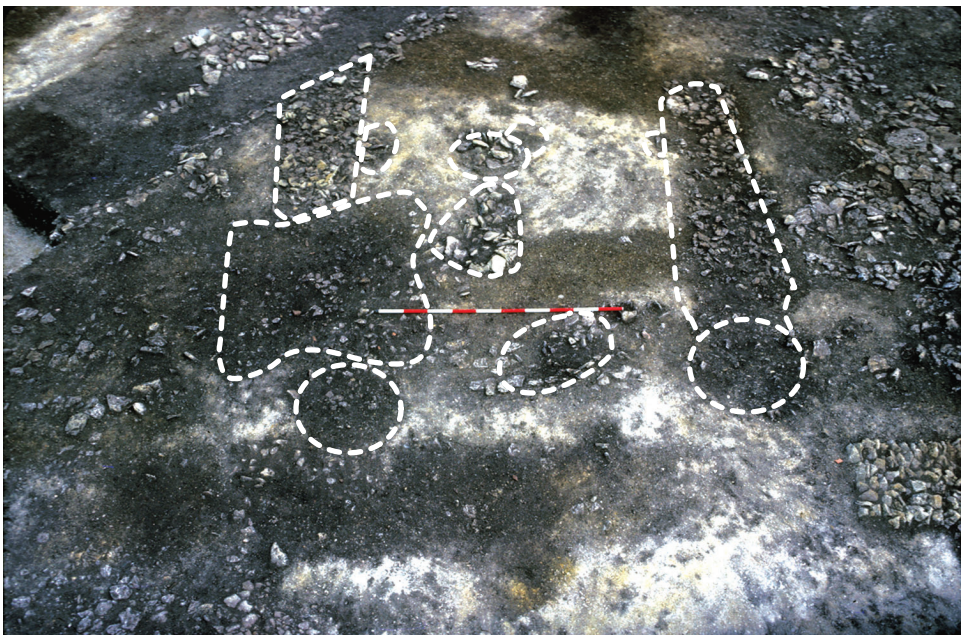


Plate 5.1 Trench 13 gateway structure

Aisled Building 1 (B 1; Fig. 5.6, Pl. 5.2)

Aisled Building 1 (B 1) was situated in the south-west corner of the Trench 13 enclosure (Fig. 5.4). It was constructed during Phase 3a, and continued in use until the end of Phase 3c, towards the end of the 3rd century AD. Orientated on a NE-SW axis, it measured (conjectured) 18.5 m x 11.5 m (Fig. 5.6), and was formed by two rows of 7 paired post-pits (Fig. 5.6), with the aisle post lines being 6 m apart (post centre to post centre) and 15 m long. The building was cut directly by at least two other buildings, and this truncation had removed the floor levels. A fragment of mortared stone random rubble foundation (2518) on the south-western side had been preserved by the later floor of the hypocaust in Building 8. The foundation measured 2.8 m x 0.5 m and lay from 2 – 2.5 m from the centre of the nearest postline. It probably represented the western external wall of the building. There was no surviving evidence for the north and south walls, although these are assumed to have been a half bay width from the end posts as in B 3. The southern wall would thus have lain less than 1 m from boundary ditch 547.

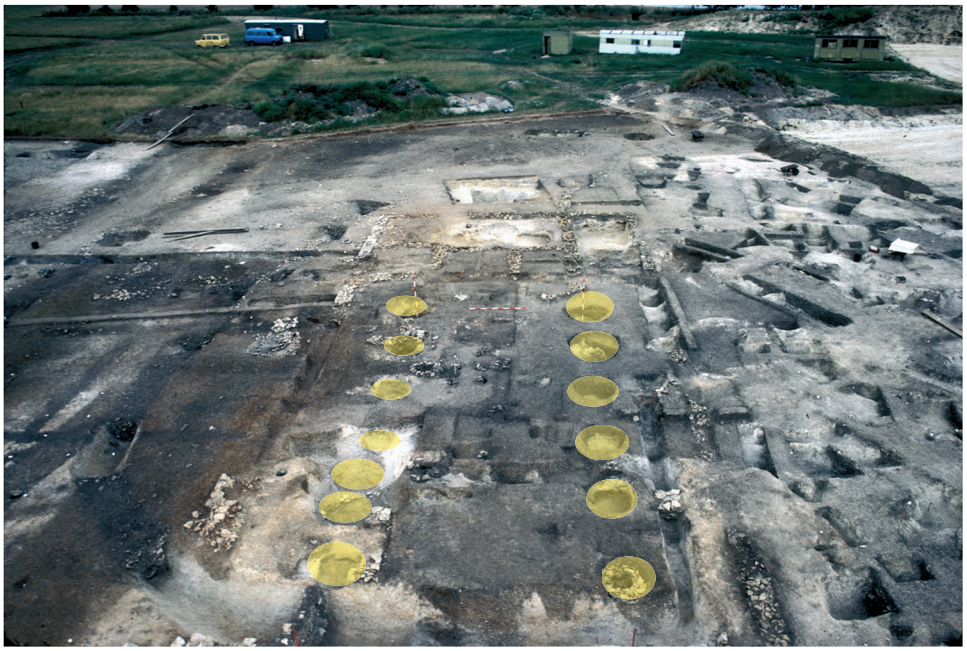


Plate 5.2 Trench 13 Aisled Building 1

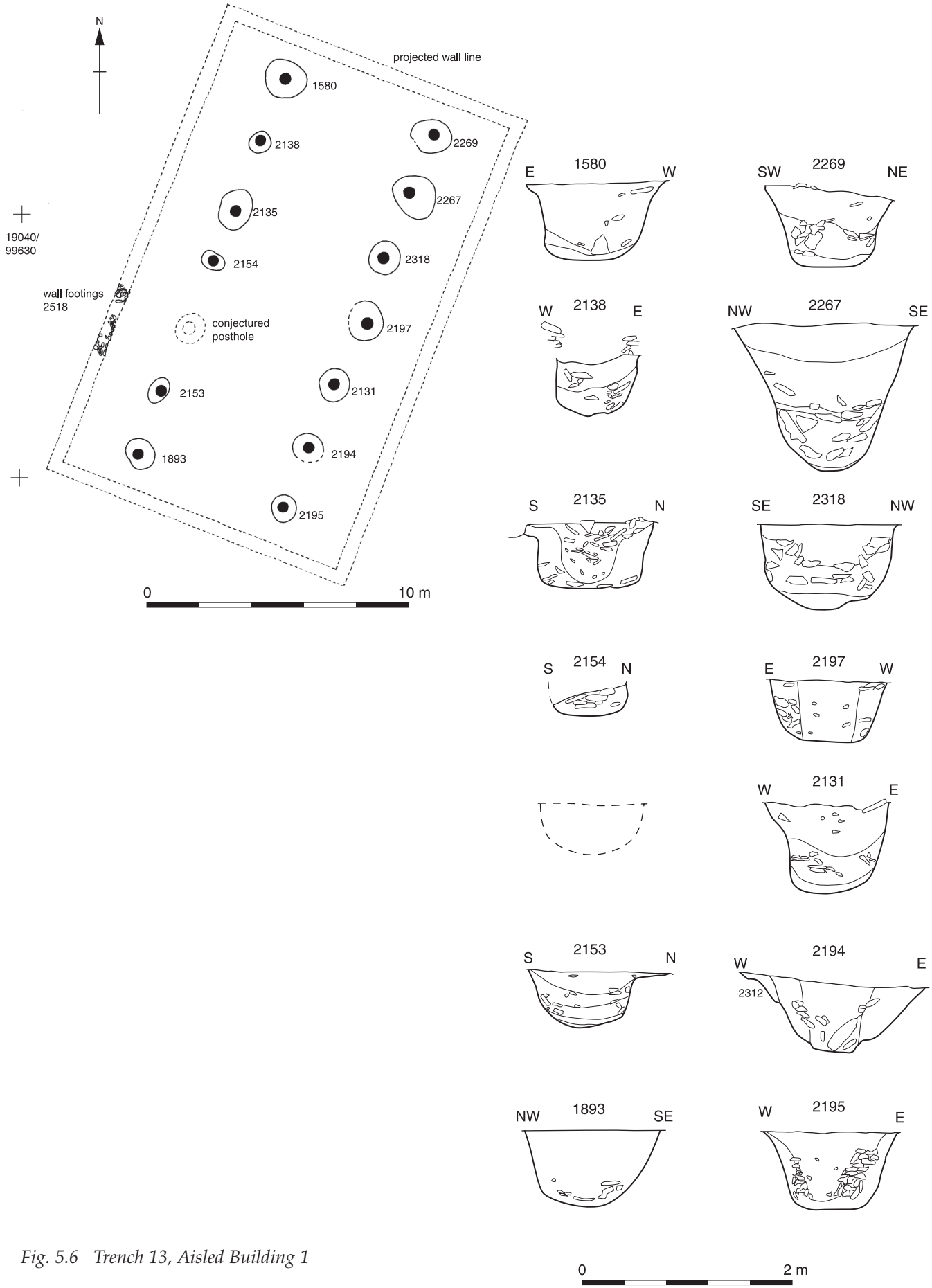


Fig. 5.6 Trench 13, Aisled Building 1

The pottery (4.2 kg) recovered from B 1 was mostly dated after the mid 3rd century, although 2nd-century ceramics were also present. Many of the posts appear to have been dug out upon abandonment of the building, and the later pottery was largely derived from the post pits. The material had undoubtedly become incorporated into these features at the time of the destruction of the building, and it therefore suggests a demolition date of mid to late 3rd century AD. Fired clay, ceramic tile, iron nails and mortar/plaster fragments were most commonly recovered from the postholes. A copper alloy coin was also recovered from posthole 2267, dated to 259-68 AD. Painted wall plaster was recovered from nearby Phase 3 b/c well 766 most likely derived from the demolition of B 1. A domestic function for the building is suggested by the pottery and animal bones (see Discussion below).

Aisled Building 3 (B 3) (Fig. 5.7, Pl. 5.3)

Situated on the eastern side of Trench 13, just over 1 m from enclosure boundary ditch 559, was a second aisled building (Fig. 5.4). The walls (557, 556, 688) were stone founded with a mixed and unfaced small random rubble limestone footing of variable width (up to 0.75 m; Fig. 5.7). The overall dimensions of the building were 17 m x 11 m. Survival of the footings was good except on the north side where they overlay natural gravel, and on part of the west side where they were cut through by Phase 4 enclosure E 22. Where the building overlay the Phase 2 enclosure ditches of E 11, rubble consolidation was seen. A gap of 1.8 m centrally placed on the southern side marked the entrance. The walls had been partially robbed on the southern and eastern sides of the building, and a mid 4th-century coin was recovered from the top of the robber trench fill. Four sets of stone-packed post pits (677, 676, 538, 678, 691, 685, 690 and 684) formed the aisled interior of three bays with a half bay at either end. A single posthole (683) along the eastern end axis was thought by the excavators not to have been an aisle post, and its dimensions were not recorded. However, there are examples of aisled buildings with end posts (eg Somerford Keynes, see Chapter 9), and given its precise alignment this must remain a possibility.

The bays were 4 m wide, with the aisles 1.75 m in width and the nave 6.25 m across. The aisle posts were all of similar dimensions ranging from 0.6 m to 0.8 m in diameter and 0.6 m to 0.7 m in depth. Limestone rubble packing was present in all and relatively undisturbed except in 690. Post-pipes range from 0.15 m to 0.20 m in diameter. The small amount of pottery recovered was mostly mid 3rd century in date, and a late 3rd-century coin was recovered from the top of post pit 678. As with B 1 this is probably material that had become incorporated into the features during the demolition of the building. A probable floor make-up of dark grey loam (522) was found throughout the interior, and most of the finds from the building came from this layer. A partially articulated sheep skeleton (699, not shown on Fig. 5.7) was found under this layer in the central part of the building, but may not be at all related to the structure. Probable interior division 689 consisted of a 1.6 m length of concentrated limestone rubble *c* 0.8 m wide. It ran north from posthole 690 into the interior of the barn (Fig. 5.7). It sealed the packing of posthole 690 but could have abutted the post itself. Just 1 m east of aisle post 691, on the southern aisle axis was pit 686. This contained a Savernake storage jar, the rim of which would have stood proud of the Roman ground level.

Outside B 3 a patch of cobbling 616 abutted wall 556 on the east side, running at a slight angle to the building axis (Fig. 5.7). It was seen to overlie eastern boundary ditch 559, but was cut by Phase 3c Fenceline 2. The cobbling in this area was not contemporary with the construction of the building and is most likely to fall into Phase 3 b.

It is difficult to date the destruction of B 3. It had certainly gone out of use by the end of Phase 4 as enclosure ditch 501 (E 22) cut through the western end. It seems likely that the building could have continued in use into the early 4th century (Phase 3b or 4a), probably in a slightly dilapidated state. The two coins recovered (contexts 678 and 736) were not from totally reliable contexts, although the coin from robber trench 736 (dated AD 330-46) suggests that the building was demolished by the mid 4th century, if not much earlier. The Savernake jar in pit 686 indicates use of the building in the 2nd century. The majority of the 2.2 kg of pottery recovered from layer 522 was rather a mixed assemblage, mostly dating to after AD 250, and suggesting that the building was in use at least until the end of the 3rd century.

Layer 522 also contained quite a large number of finds. These were mostly iron objects: 28+ nails, a rod, awl, ring, plate or bar and a tool collar, but also included smithing slag, vessel glass, a spindlewhorl, a copper alloy vine leaf (probably from a lamp; Fig. 5.28, no.31) and pin and fired clay, including daub. The rubble of wall 688 contained a silver finger ring and an iron hobnail plate. Few finds were recovered from the postholes, and these included a copper alloy bell (Fig. 5.32, no. 63), fired clay and a small amount of vessel glass. Only a very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from this building, and none from the general floor make-up layer (522). This contrasts sharply with Aisled Building 1 and suggests a non-domestic function for this building (see discussion below).

Internal enclosure boundaries and other features (Fig. 5.4)

Ditch 2175 was located 2 m to the east of ditch 2198 and ran parallel to it for 25 m. This ditch was a maximum of 1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep. At the

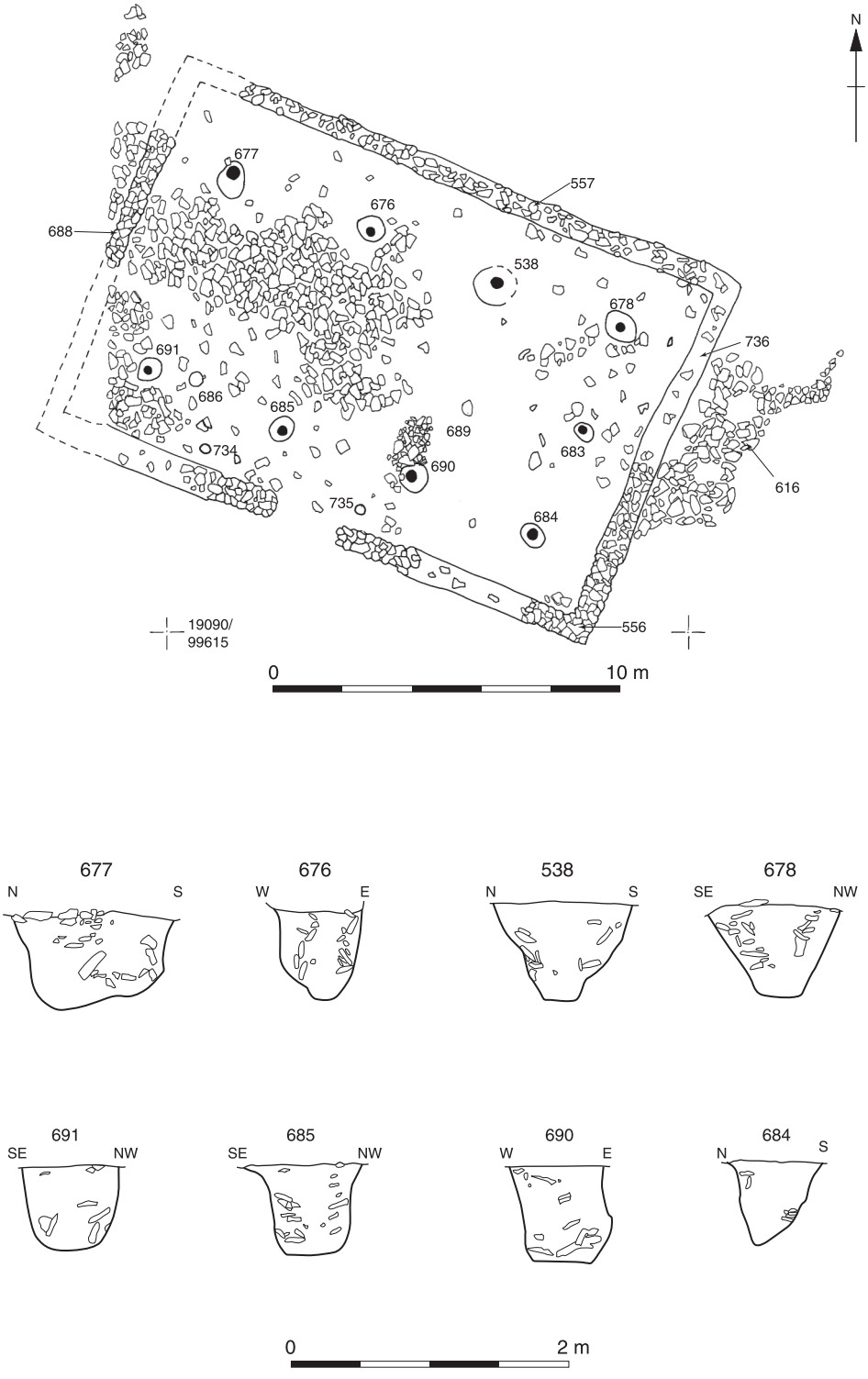


Fig. 5.7 Trench 13 Aisled Building (B 3)

Plate 5.3 Trench 13 Aisled Building 3

southern end it turned south-west towards the curve of 2198 and 2156, and was cut by Phase 4 ditch 501. Ditch 2175 was overlaid by the beam slot of Building 2 (B 2), and the pottery recovered from 2175 appears to have been contaminated by the material from this building. The ditch contained a quern of Niedermendig lava.

Situated between B 1 and ditch 2175 and overlain by B 2 was a large, fairly shallow feature, 2526 (section shown on Fig. 5.8). This measured *c* 10.5 m north to south and was 2.5 m wide, steep sided and flat bottomed with a depth of *c* 0.50 m. The north-east corner swelled out and encompassed a deeper circular pit 2517. Evidence from the fill of these two features suggests that they were infilled and therefore open together. Pit 2517 and the northern part of 2526 had been overlain by mortared limestone foundation 2503. A more regularly laid patch of unmortared stone, 2512, measuring 1 m x 0.8 m, lay adjacent to the north. The lowest fill of 2526 was of a very clayey texture, unlike the bottom of any other feature of this depth. It suggested the remains of a deliberate clay lining, perhaps to contain liquid. Pit 2517 perhaps operated as a sump in this connection. The large amount of pottery (12.8 kg) from these features suggests a mid 2nd-century date, and included 15 fragments of amphora (Dr 20 and Cam 186a). A total of 235 animal bone fragments were recovered, and there was also a concentration of oyster shells. The exact function of these features is uncertain, although the material deposited within them suggests Roman style culinary activity in the vicinity.

Phase 3b (c mid-late 2nd century AD) (Figs 5.2 and 5.4)

During Phase 3b the trackway ditches (2156, 547, 620) dividing northern and southern enclosures were infilled to create one large enclosure, albeit with many internal divisions. The western boundary was seen to continue shifting progressively westwards, with a fenceline (F 6) constructed immediately east of the southern part of the boundary, and a stone wall (2190) adjacent to the northern part. A second fenceline (F 4) was positioned 21 m east of the first. The eastern boundary was recut as a continuous ditch (559). Although the trackway ditches were infilled, a layer of cobbling was laid down, suggesting that the area may still have functioned as a thoroughfare. The gateway structure continued in use, possibly with some modifications, as did both of the aisled buildings. A two-roomed structure (B 2) was erected on the western side of B 1, lying perpendicular to it. On the eastern side of B 1 three ditches (1595, 1594, 781) created an internal boundary, possibly associated with control of access to the building. A well (766) is also seen in use at the south-eastern corner of B 1 (Figs 5.4 and 5.10).

The outer enclosure

During this phase the northern section of the western boundary was recut as 2301. It was represented by at least three cuts ranging from 0.4 m to 0.7 m deep and *c* 1 m wide, and ran through the centre of the hollow separating Trench 17 and Trench 13. Its fill was characteristically siltier than that of its predecessor 2198 but with no surviving waterlogged material. To the east of 2301, wall 2190

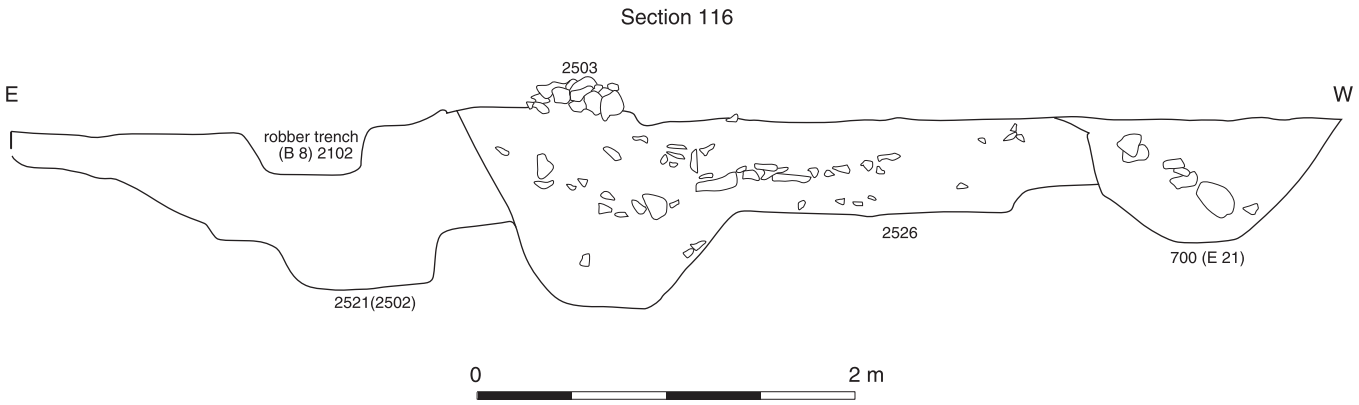


Fig. 5.8 Section 116 across pit 2526 and B 1

appears to have been constructed during this phase, comprising a *c* 5 m length of laid stone work overlying ditch 2198 (Fig. 5.4). Lying *c* 20 m to the south of this was a large amount of stone rubble (2454; Fig. 5.4) over ditch 2198 just north of the gateway, and this may have been part of the southern section of the same wall, designed to give greater privacy and security to the inner compound of the western aisled building (projected wall line shown on Fig. 5.2). South of the gateway, ditch 2301 continued on the same alignment as ditch 2161. This was a recut of Phase 3a ditch 2162, and of similar dimensions. Two basic cuts were discernible, on average 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep. The eastern boundary (559) was recut during Phase 3b to form a solid boundary, and at some point towards the end of this phase or the beginning of the next, the ditch was overlain by a layer of limestone rubble (616), which was in turn cut through by Fenceline 2 in Phase 3c.

Comparatively little pottery was recovered from either the northern (*c* 2.2 kg) or southern (3.4 kg) sections of the western boundary. The assemblages were both rather mixed, with that from 2301 dating from the 2nd century to the mid–late 3rd, indicating continued use into Phase 3c. That from 2162 was mostly confined to the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD, suggesting that it may not have been open as long. Finds from both ditches included a bone pin, iron nails, slag fragments, a piece of lead sheet, a copper alloy pin, building stone, ceramic tile and window glass fragments. A total of 544 animal bone fragments were recovered from the various ditch cuts.

Building 2 (B 2) (Fig. 5.9, Pl. 5.4)

On the west side of Trench 13 running at right angles from B 1 lay a two celled structure (B 2; Fig. 5.9). This was formed by four slots 2509, 2510, 2513 and 2514, all shallow and flat bottomed measuring *c* 0.2 m deep and 0.6 m wide. The width of the slots suggests that they may in fact have held masonry foundations which had been subsequently robbed in entirety, although the nature of the superstructure remains uncertain. The structure appeared to form a rectangular extension to B 1 (see Fig. 5.4), and was divided into two rooms by 2510. Overall the structure measured 9.5 m x 7.5 m and the individual rooms were *c* 6 m x 6.5 m and 6 m x 2 m. No slot existed on the east side against B 1. Slot 2509 ran within 0.5 m of the conjectured wall of the aisled building while slot 2513 was lost *c* 2 m from it. Stratigraphically B 2 overlay Phase 3a features 2526 and 2175, and was itself cut by Phase 4 ditch 700 (E 21; see Chapter 6). The pottery assemblage recovered from the slots was quite substantial (11.8 kg) and mixed. On the whole it was rather late and included a large percentage of black-burnished ware, including 2nd- and mid to late 3rd-century forms. The sherds were much larger than those seen in B 1 and B 3, indicating that they may have been in use around the time of the demolition of the building. Finds from B 2 included a number of iron nails (20+) together with a split pin, shoe cleat, brooch, vessel glass, whetstone and a bone pin. Slot 2513 contained a copper alloy coin dated to AD 364-78. Over 300 animal bone fragments were recovered from the feature, in the most part comprising the main domesticates (see Sykes below and Discussion) but also including red deer antler. The destruction date of B 2 may have been contemporary with the destruction of B 1.

Internal ditched boundaries (Fig. 5.4)

To the east of Aisled Building 1 was an arrangement of ditches (1594, 1595, 781) bounding two sides of an area 18 m by 10 m, open to the north. A 3 m wide entrance lay on the east side. The northern terminal of ditch 781 was not totally clear as it was truncated by Phase 4 ditch 780, and so the feature could have extended further north. Between the terminals of 781 and 1594 a concentrated rubble area spread north-eastwards (not shown on plan). A deliberately laid area forming a

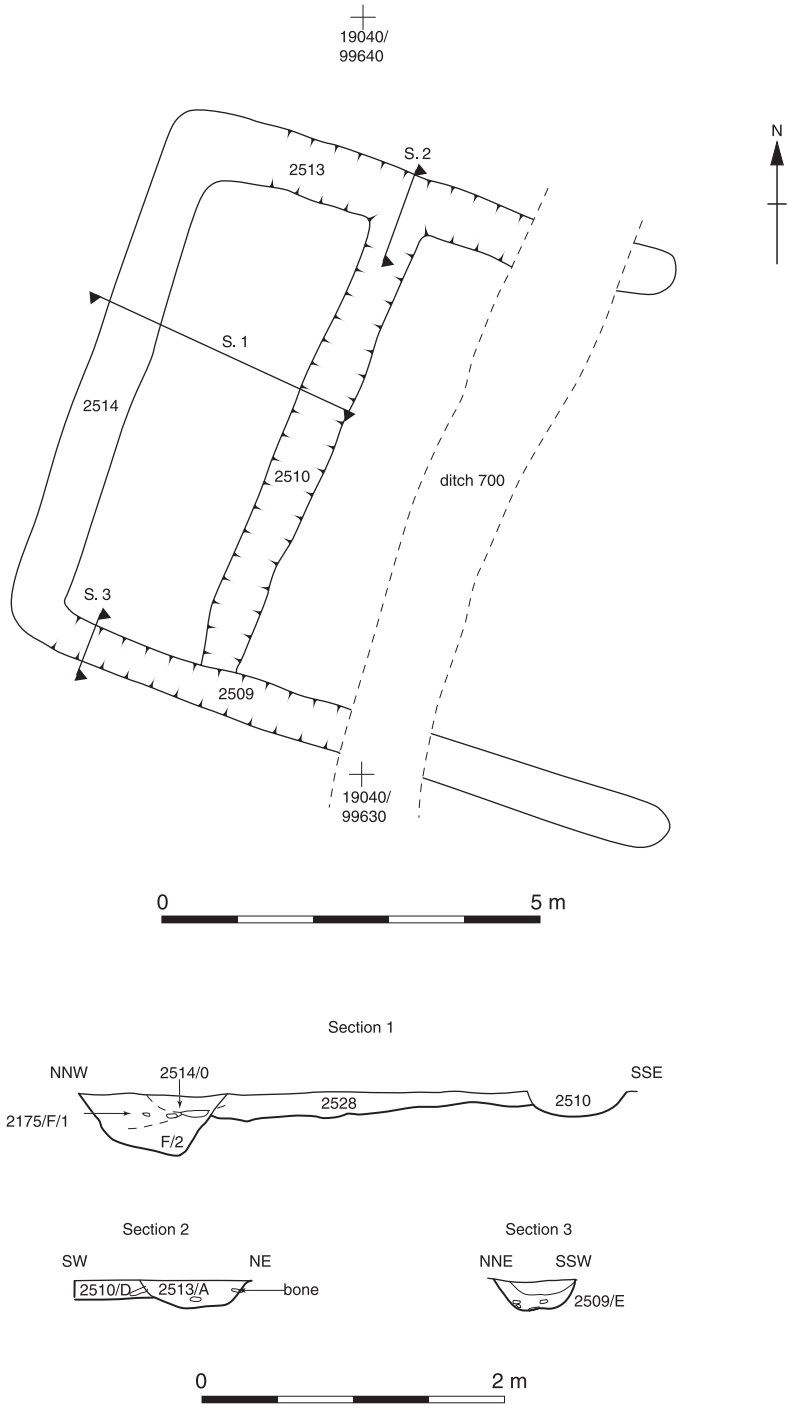


Fig. 5.9 Trench 13 Building 2

Plate 5.4 Trench 13 Building 2

block 0.6 m² adjacent to the terminal of 781 may form part of a gateway placement. The pottery assemblage from the three ditches was quite substantial (2.73 kg) and quite mixed, dating from the 2nd century to the second half of the 3rd century. A fragment of wall plaster may indicate that 1595 was open at the time of the destruction of B 1. Finds include fired clay fragments, iron nails and 300 animal bone fragments, including a reasonable quantity of domestic fowl. It is reasonable to assume that these ditches may have defined an internal area of domestic activity associated with B 1, possibly along with fencelines F 1 and F 9.

Fencelines (Fig. 5.2 and 5.4)

Two linear arrangements of posts (F 4 and F 6) could be assigned to this sub-phase, both in the southern part of the main enclosure. F 4 was aligned approximately NE-SW, cutting the southern edge of trackway ditch 620, although respecting its line, implying that the area was still functioning as a thoroughfare. The postholes were *c* 2.4 m apart and had distinctive oval plans with evidence for stone packing. This fenceline has been placed in Phase 3b on the basis of its relationships with ditch 620 and F 6, which was parallel. Dating evidence is inconclusive with small amounts of 1st-century pottery (20 g) from one posthole and a late 4th-century coin from the top of another. F 6 lay *c* 22 m west of F 4, bordering the rectangular enclosure seen in Trench 19. This consisted of four aligned posts, probably with two more after a break of 6 m. The fenceline respected the line of western boundary 2161, and ran parallel to it, cutting the eastern edge of Phase 3a ditch 2162. All posts were well packed with limestone.

Pits, wells and waterholes (Fig. 5.4)

An irregular shaped feature (663) was seen in the south-east of Trench 13, comprising at least one pit. It was approximately 6 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep. This feature cut Phase 3a trackway ditch 620 and was sealed by a layer of hard standing, 647. Chronologically 663 could be seen to belong to this phase as it contained exclusively mid to late 2nd-century pottery. Finds were few and consisted of a small number of iron nails, fired clay and a copper alloy pin. However, the size and composition of the pottery (2.1 kg) and animal bone (103 fragments) assemblages suggests that the feature was used for dumping domestic material. Another pit probably belonging to Phase 3b was 2160 lying just to the east of the western boundary and truncating Phase 3a internal boundary 2175. The feature was *c* 2.4 m wide and 1.3 m deep and probably functioned as a waterhole. Deposits from the lowest waterlogged layers included just over 1 kg of pottery loosely dated to the 2nd century and 54 animal bone fragments. Environmental samples revealed evidence for a particular abundance of trees and shrubs in the vicinity (see Robinson below).

Well 766 was situated adjacent to the south-eastern corner of B 1 (Fig. 5.10, Pl. 5.5). It was a maximum of 1.8 m in diameter at the top, narrowing to 1.4 m at the base with a maximum depth of 1.26 m. The dry stone wall lining continued to the base. The infill comprised layers of dark grey sandy loam, mixed clay and gravel, along with a layer of charcoal and a small amount of rubble. The large pottery assemblage (*c* 3 kg) dated mostly from the mid to late 3rd century, with all of the later Oxford colour-coated ware coming from the top

two layers. Finds included a number of iron nails, fired clay fragments, an iron padlock hasp (Fig. 5.31, no. 59), two bone pins and wall plaster fragments distributed throughout the fills. This was assumed to have been derived from the destruction of B 1 (see above). Most of the plaster came from the lower fills of the well, with nearly all of the nails coming from layers above this. It is possible that this represents successive stages of building destruction, and that the well was infilled with this destruction debris over a relatively short period of time. Over 650 animal bone fragments came from the well, exhibiting a large range in species. It is suggested (see Sykes, below) that this assemblage represents primary domestic refuse, perhaps the remains of a single high-status meal. No stratigraphic relationships were recorded, but the well appeared to cut ditch 2156 and the pottery and plaster recovered indicate that it was infilled during Phase 3c and/or Phase 3d. The well was therefore most likely in use during Phases 3b and 3c.

Phase 3c (early to late 3rd century AD) (Figs 5.3-4)

During Phase 3c the western boundary of the main enclosure appeared to continue in use, although its southern extent is unclear. A short stretch of wall (2193) appeared to succeed the Phase 3b wall, but it could not be traced further north (Fig 5.4). The gateway, B 4 (Fig. 5.5; see above), seems to have remained in use. The eastern boundary ditch (559) was infilled and cobbled, and replaced by a 60 m fenceline (F 2), slightly obliquely to the line of the earlier ditch. To the north of the fenceline ditch 562 could be seen, associated with a large paddock to the east of Trench 13, defined by cropmarks (Fig. 5.1). Approximately 27 m to the west of F 2 was a shorter parallel fenceline (F 3). Thirteen metres further west there were two lines of postholes at near right angles to form Fenceline 5. All three buildings continued in use, as did the associated internal boundary ditches.

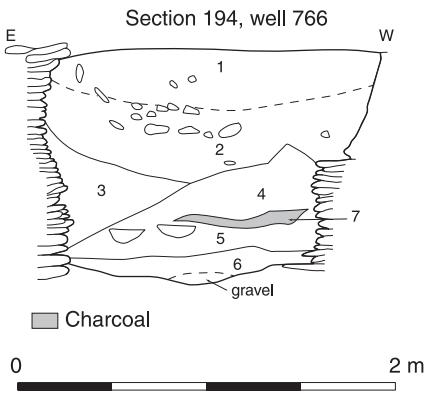


Fig. 5.10 Section 194 through well 766

Plate 5.5 Trench 13 well 766

The outer enclosure

During Phase 3c the western boundary (2301, 2161) continued in use, while north of the gateway a small stretch of wall (2193) and its robber trench was seen (Fig. 5.4). Wall 2193 was on a broad footing *c* 1 m wide, of small unmortared random rubble. This extended north *c* 10 m from the gateway, although there is no evidence that it continued further. The relationship between the wall and the gateway structure is not certain, although on spatial grounds they are likely to be contemporary. Most of the eastern boundary ditch (559) was replaced by a fenceline (F 2). Just to the north of this fenceline was ditch 562, aligned south upon the line of 559 and then turned south-east, defining a large enclosure (*c* 60 m x 50 m) located mostly as a cropmark. Ditch 562 was *c* 2-2.5 m wide and *c* 0.9 m deep. On the whole the pottery from 562 (2.3 kg) was late 3rd-century in date, and could be slightly later. Small finds consisted of several iron nails, an iron spearhead, plus vessel and window glass fragments. Over 300 animal bone fragments were recovered.

Fencelines

Extending from just south of the intersection of ditches 559 and 562, a series of postholes (F 2) spaced *c* 2 m apart and aligned south-west, was traced for at least 60 m, before exiting Trench 13. This fenceline, approximately parallel to the western edge of B 3, appears to have been related to it. The postholes ranged from *c* 0.3 m to *c* 0.8 m in diameter and from *c* 0.15 m to 0.35 m deep. The majority had pitched limestone packing, much of

which was undisturbed. This fenceline stopped 5 m short of the 559-562 intersection (Fig. 5.4). Two further postholes were recorded, aligned south-east, 7 m from the first post and formed an entranceway *c* 5-6 m wide to the eastern enclosure. Finds from the fenceline were minimal, and included a Millstone Grit quern fragment, iron nails and a small amount of pottery indicating a late 2nd- to 3rd-century date. The postholes cut through both trackway ditches 547, 620 and through cobbled area 616 which overlay ditch 559. A possible 4 m gap in the fenceline lay to the north of the east-west trackway, and could have represented another entrance into the enclosure.

Lying *c* 27-28 m west of and running parallel to F 2 lay Fenceline 3 (F 3). It consisted of at least eight postholes stretching for *c* 26 m. Intervals between the postholes varied from 2 m to 4 m. The fence was aligned northwards up to the line of ditch 547, cutting across the east-west trackway. The southerly extent of the fenceline was not traced beyond the main Trench 13 boundary. The sparse dating evidence from the postholes suggests a 3rd-century date and given its parallel alignment it is likely to have been contemporary with F 2.

Located approximately parallel to F 3 and *c* 13 m further west, a line of four-postholes (F 5) was traced for a distance of *c* 10 m. The fenceline then appeared to change direction and head west for 6 m. No further postholes were observed in the salvage area to the west. The postholes were generally irregularly spaced. Stratigraphically F 5 could be seen to truncate Phase 2 features but no relationships were recorded with later features. This fenceline has therefore been placed in Phase 3c on the basis of its spatial relationship with F 2 and F 3.

Phase 3d (late 3rd to early 4th century AD
(Figs 5.3-4)

The end of Phase 3 (3d) saw a re-ordering of the enclosed area, although the nature of these changes is not clearly understood (Fig. 5.3). The western boundary was infilled, and wall 2193 was robbed. Either during Phase 3d or Phase 4a, the southern part of western boundary ditch 2301 was covered by a layer of cobbling that extended into Trench 19, north of the rectangular enclosure (see Trench 19 below and Chapter 6). Buildings 1 and 2 were demolished, and internal boundaries 781, 1594 and 1595 went out of use. These features were replaced by a single small square building, B 7 (Fig. 5.11; see below). Three oven/hearth features were discovered in the interior of this building, suggesting a domestic function (Pl. 5.6). Aisled Building B 3 did continue in use, although the extent of this use is not known. Lying just to the west of B 3 was well 502 which may have belonged to both Phase 3d and 4a/b. F 2 may have continued into this phase, given the spatial relationship with B 3, and therefore F 3 may also have still have been standing. The majority of the pottery from ditch 562 was late 3rd-century in date, although later material was recovered suggesting that the enclosure to the east of Trench 13 may have continued in use into this phase.

Building 7 (B 7) (Fig. 5.11; Pl. 5.6)

A small square structure, 8 x 8 m internally, was erected on the site of B 1 (Fig. 5.4). It lay at the northern end, sealing with its east wall four of the aisle postholes from the earlier building. Only two small fragments of wall or footings survived, in the east (2107) and north (2139). Both these fragments were coursed and regularly faced unlike the walls of B 1 and the later villa (B 8) which succeeded B 7 (see Chapter 6). Wall 2139 was sealed by layer 1949, interpreted as a levelling or dump layer beneath the floors of B 8, while eastern wall 2107 had been reused in B 8. Aside from where 2107 overlay an earlier posthole, the walls were not deeply founded. Robber trench 1977, robbing wall 2139 was barely 0.1 m deep, and 2106, robbing wall 2107, was 0.14 m at its maximum. Robber trench 2106 was seen to continue south from wall 2107 for *c* 4 m. It was later overlain by Phase 4 layer 1929 (B 8) and Phase 5 wall 1999. Robber trench 1977 was traced for 5 m from the north-east corner of the building, before it was cut by robber trench 1947 of B 8. It could not be located west of 1947. It should be noted, however, that the survival of the stratigraphy in this area was poor. A small hearth 1948 overlay the robber trench 1977 but was itself sealed by 1949, a floor make-up layer in B 8. The position of hearth 1948 is thus stratigraphically between B 7 and B 8, and may represent activity during the demolition of B 7 and

Plate 5.6 Trench 13 oven 2113

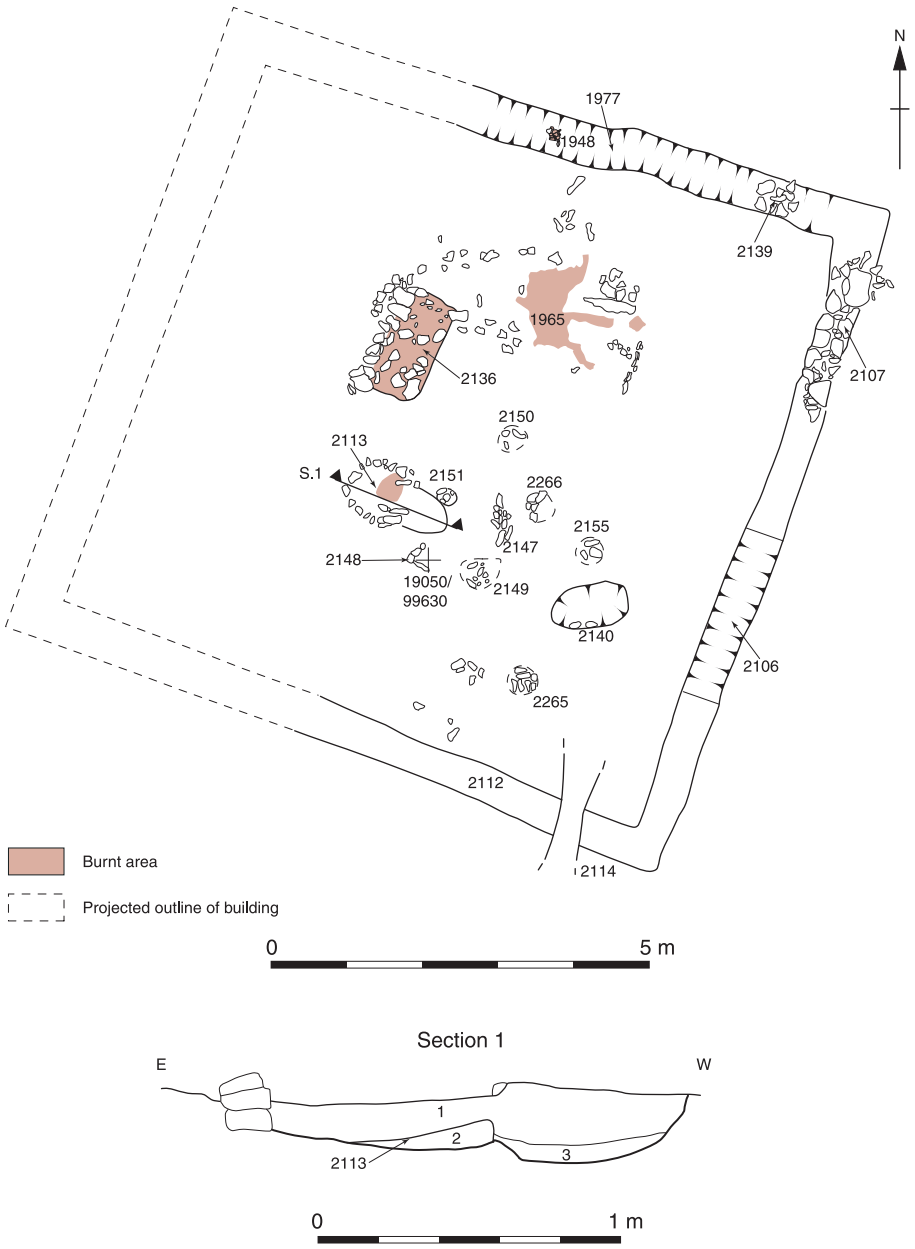


Fig. 5.11 Trench 13 Building 7

construction of B 8. The south and west sides of the building were far more difficult to discern. The line of the southern wall was highlighted by possible robber trench 2112 although the western section had been removed by the medieval well, 696. Given the truncated extents of robber trenches 1977 and 2112 and the poor preservation of features, the western extent of the structure has to be conjectured. It appears likely that it was on the line of the western wall of B 8, 1556.

Internally layer 2152 (not shown on plan), a black sandy loam, appeared to be a contemporary horizon, although not showing any signs of compaction to be expected from a floor surface. Few finds were associated with it, only 78 g of pottery, an iron nail and a copper alloy coin dated AD 250-400. A series of hearths, ovens, postholes and pits were defined at this level and would appear to be associated with B 7. To the north of 2152, layer 2111 (not shown on plan) could be seen, which was also a black sandy loam, overlaid by 1920 (B 7 destruction layer) and abutting robber trench 1977. It is likely that this layer was contemporary with 2152. It contained 4th-century pottery (0.82 kg), a fired clay fragment, several iron nails, a whetstone, iron bolt and iron spearhead. Most of the 81 animal bone fragments associated with B 7 came from this layer.

Three ovens or hearths within the interior seem stratigraphically contemporary, although may not have been features of the building when it was first constructed. Feature 2136 was poorly preserved, however some stone facing survived on the south and east walls. The pottery from the hearth indicated a late 3rd-century date. Hearth 1965 was situated in the north-eastern part of B 7. It was defined by two perpendicular lines of burnt and pitched stone forming an area 1 m x 0.8 m. An area of burnt clay ran west for *c* 0.7 m from within the feature. Hearth 1965 was seen to overlie layer 2111, and was overlaid by destruction layer 1920 which sealed interior layer 2152. The remaining oven, feature 2113, was positioned south of 2136, orientated NW-SE (see section on Fig. 5.11 and Pl. 5.6). The oven was circular in plan, and constructed of up to four courses of limestone, with pitched slabs on the eastern side leading to a stokehole. The fill was a black sandy loam containing charcoal, and a small quantity of charred plant grain (wheat, barley and flax). The secondary fill covered both the oven and the stokehole. The oven was well preserved and had been set deeper than the other features within B 7. It could well have been a simple type of bowl-shaped corn-drier, as defined by Morris (1979, 182), although the quantity of grain is very slight. It was overlain by layer 1929. Finds consisted of fired clay fragments including daub, and a mortar/plaster fragment. A concentration of postholes was located to the immediate east of hearth 2113 (Fig. 5.11). These were all of a similar size *c* 0.4 m diameter and 0.3 m deep with limestone packing. Postholes 2147, 2148, 2149 and 2151 formed a 1 m² four-post structure around the stokehole to 2113. An oval pit (2140), *c* 1 m x 0.50 m and 0.22 m deep, lay adjacent to these postholes, and had a greyish black fill of sandy loam with charcoal. Four other postholes (2150, 2266, 2155, 2265) lay within the eastern half of B 7, but formed no recognisable structure.

B 7 appears to have been erected soon after the demolition of B 1, in the later 3rd century AD, and it was partially dismantled and incorporated into the Phase 4 villa during the early 4th century (see Chapter 6). There were few finds to indicate the building's function, but it was well constructed, and the presence of wall plaster (if it did indeed relate to this building) suggests a domestic dwelling of some kind. The presence of hearths and a possible corn-drying oven associated with grain and chaff suggests that at least at some point crop processing took place within the building (see discussion below).

Boundary 1988 and oven 2103 (Fig. 5.4)

Post-dating B 1, but aligned on the same axis as the eastern aisle post line, lay gully 1988. Its northern terminal lay just north of the south-east corner of B 7. It was traced south for *c* 7 m where its southern extent was truncated by Phase 4 ditch 700 (E 21). The gully was narrow but comparatively deep measuring 0.55 m wide and 0.5 m deep. It contained a rubble fill with late 3rd- to 4th-century pottery (4.5 kg). A causeway of laid and coursed limestone slabs and gravelly mortar (2126) had been constructed across the gully, approximately 1 m in length. Stratigraphically it predates B 8 boundary wall 1587, and would therefore seem to be contemporary with B 7, perhaps re-marking a boundary originally defined by B 1. Gully 1988 was overlain by Phase 4 layer 1929. Aside from the pottery, finds from the gully comprised iron nails, a whetstone, mortar and plaster (probably from B 1), fired clay and a bone bobbin. A total of 188 animal bone fragments were also recovered, including domestic fowl and hare. Just to the south of, and cut by, ditch 700 was oven 2103. It comprised up to three stone wall courses, although it was partially robbed. It was filled with charcoal, burnt stone and 0.48 kg of pottery, ranging from 2nd- to 4th-century in date. Large quantities of glume bases of spelt wheat were also recovered, and the oven probably represented part of a centralised cereal-processing facility for the settlement. It was clearly later than B 1, and spatially is more likely to belong to Phase 3d or possibly 4a.

Well 502 (Figs 5.4 and 5.12, Pl. 5.7)

A well was sited 8 m west of Aisled Building 3, between the two late Roman enclosure ditches E 21 and E 22. The opening was *c* 1.2 m diameter and depth was 3.6 m, with a dry stone lining reaching to the bottom of clean gravel (Fig. 5.12). This was much deeper than any other well on site. It had been infilled with gravelly loam and some limestone rubble. Its construction date cannot be suggested with any certainty but it appears likely to have been in use during the later 3rd century and part of the 4th century, and therefore spans both Phase 3d and 4a/b. It is unlikely to have continued in use after the construction of enclosure ditch 780 which would have effectively isolated it from the main domestic buildings. Poorly preserved organic material was recovered, along with 3.5 kg of pottery, a bone pin, shale bracelet (Fig. 5.34, no. 10) and what may have been a copper alloy razor.

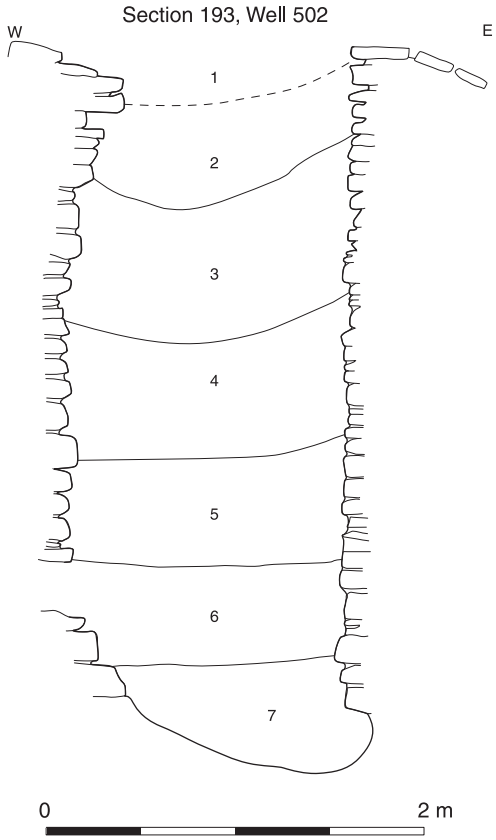


Fig. 5.12 Section 193 through well 502

Phase 3 features un-assignable to sub-phases (Fig. 5.4)

There were a variety of features in Trench 13 that clearly belonged to Phase 3 on a ceramic and/or stratigraphic basis, but could not be assigned to a specific sub-phase.

Fencelines

Three further fencelines were thought to belong to Phase 3 (F 1, F 9 and F 7). F 1 and F 9 may form two sides of an enclosed area, 11 m (F 9) by 13 m (F 1). All the postholes were stone packed, and dimensions varied between 0.3-0.5 m diameter, and 0.18-0.38 m depth. Stratigraphically the fencelines post-date Phase 2 features, cutting into the tops of ditch 2602, and were cut by Phase 4 ditch 765 (E 21). Another fenceline (F 7) was traced NW-SE for 7 m from the southern terminus of Phase 3a ditch 2175, which it appeared to cut. This was parallel to gully 2710 (see below) *c* 26 m to the north. It comprised four postholes (2177-2180) set between 2 m and 2.5 m apart, all stone packed. They varied in diameter from 0.4-0.6 m, and were 0.14-0.2 m deep. It is possible that these fencelines all relate to the reorganisation of the settlement in Trench 13 during Phase 3b, helping to partially enclose the western aisled building.

Ditches and gullies

Gully 2710 was traced for 8 m perpendicular to Phase 3a ditch 2175. The western terminus of this gully was unclear, but was thought to lie just short of 2175. In the east it was truncated by Phase 4 ditch 700 (E 21). The gully was *c* 0.8 m wide, and the pottery (0.86 kg) indicated a date in the second half

Plate 5.7 Trench 13 well 502

of the 3rd century. It would not therefore seem to be contemporary with 2175. In the south-western corner of Trench 13 gully 1737 was seen running NE-SW, overlying a series of Phase 2 gullies. It contained fired clay fragments, several iron nails, a melted lead fragment, copper alloy ligula and copper alloy coin dated AD 335-41. In addition there were 1.76 kg of pottery and almost 200 animal bone fragments.

Pits

A number of pits were revealed across Trench 13, which belonged to Phase 3. A NW-SE line of roughly circular pits was seen between F 4 and F 3, just south of trackway ditch 620, although it is not known if there was any relationship between them. A small amount of 2nd and 3rd-century pottery was recovered from them. Immediately north of ditch 547 and west of F 2 two intercutting pits were excavated (703, 704). Pit 703 was circular, *c* 2 m diameter and *c* 0.4 m deep, and contained pottery (1.8 kg) broadly dating from the mid 1st to 3rd centuries and a quantity (90 fragments) of animal bone. The feature was cut by adjacent pit 704, approximately 3.5 x 4 m, and 0.4 – 0.5 m deep. Finds from this pit included fired clay fragments, coal, animal bone (73 fragments) and pottery (0.58 kg) dating from the mid 2nd to 3rd centuries. To the north-east of Trench 13 oval pit 513 was seen, *c* 3 m in length. This contained 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery, an iron nail and fragments of daub. It was cut by Phase 4 ditch 501 (Fig. 6.4). At the southern limit of the excavations was feature 1730, which had been badly truncated and is difficult to classify. The cropmarks did not indicate if it extended south of the trench. However, it was quite substantial in size, 3 m wide and *c* 0.8 m deep. It contained a number of finds including fired clay fragments, several iron nails, smithing slag, vessel glass, a spindlewhorl and lead weight, as well as 2 kg of pottery dated mid 1st to mid 3rd century. A total of 147 animal bone fragments was also recovered.

Corn-driers

In the south-eastern part of the site was a probable corn-drying oven (1537) overlying Phase 2 ditch 643 (Fig. 5.4; Pl. 5.8). It comprised two parallel lengths of limestone 'walls' set 0.55 m apart for 1.5 m, along a NE-SW alignment. The western wall turned at right angles at the southern end for a further 0.4 m, while the corresponding side appears to have been robbed. Only a single course of stonework survived and so the 'flue' of the structure was only a maximum of 0.1 m in depth. Structurally, it appears to be a corn-drier of traditional T-shaped design (Morris 1979, 10) with the stokehole at the northern end showing traces of burning. There is no dating evidence for the structure, but T-shaped corn-driers generally appear from the 2nd to 4th century AD, with the vast majority belonging to the later period. It could therefore belong to Phase 3 or 4.

A further possible L-shaped corn-drier (1364) was recorded in the salvage area about 20 m north of Trench 13 (not shown on plan) but not fully excavated. It would have lain outside of the main rectangular enclosure, and again could belong to either Phase 3 or Phase 4.

Plate 5.8 Trench 13 corn-drier

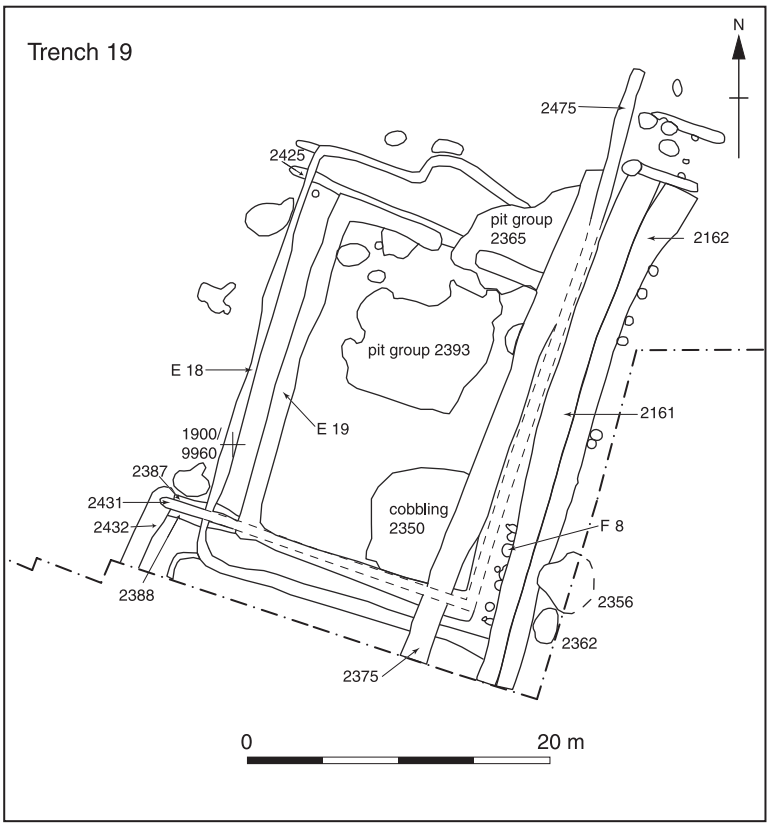


Fig. 5.13 Trench 19 composite plan

Trench 19 – The rectangular enclosures (Fig. 5.13, Pl. 5.9)

Phase 3a: Pre-enclosure features (c early 2nd century AD)

Activity in Trench 19 during Phase 3a was seemingly quite limited, and is archaeologically defined as those few features which are stratigraphically earlier than the double-ditched rectangular enclosure (Fig. 5.2). These comprise a pair of gullies (2387, 2388) aligned WNW-ESE on the south-west corner which were cut by ditch 2432 and truncated by both the outer enclosure gully (E 18), and by the corner of the inner gully (E 19; Fig. 5.13). Significantly, they lay exactly on the same alignment as the later enclosure gullies, and may well relate to the north-south Phase 3a boundary ditch 2162. Gully 2425, orientated WNW-ESE along the northern side of the enclosure probably belongs to Phase 3a on spatial grounds, as it lay on the same alignment as gullies 2387/8 and the later enclosure.

Phase 3b/c: The enclosures (mid 2nd–later 3rd century AD)

Although activity began in Phase 3a, the first significant period of expansion in this area came during the middle of the 2nd century AD (Phase 3b), with the establishment of a substantial double-ditched rectangular enclosure (Fig. 5.2). This was probably an extension of the radical reorganisation that occurred in Trench 13 during Phase 3a, and resulted in an enclosure facing north onto a large cleared central zone, with the aisled buildings to the north-east. The spatial relationship between the two enclosure boundaries suggests that they were contemporary features, at least up until about the mid 3rd century AD, although E 19 seems to have stayed open for longer (see below). There were no *in situ* indications of any internal structures within the enclosure, and the finds reveal little of the nature of any activity there (see discussion below). It seems likely that most of the area was kept clear, although the quantity of structural stone found, including column parts, indicates the likelihood of some kind of edifice. Most of the pottery from the enclosures was mixed with material from later pits and redeposited spreads, dating to the later 3rd/early 4th century (Phase 3d).

Enclosure E 18

The smaller outer gully, E 18, seemed to be attached to the side of ditch 2161 to the east, and was thus a continuous feature (Fig. 5.13). It defined an area *c* 31 x 21 m with the only irregularity being on the north side where a segment of the gully projected forward *c* 2 m. The gully was *c* 0.4 m wide and 0.3 m deep with evidence of a single cut. The fill was a very

Plate 5.9 Trench 19 rectangular enclosures

clean clay loam with little gravel. The finds, which comprised mostly iron nails and pottery (*c* 3.5 kg), were predominantly from its surfaces. The northern side had been cut by pit group 2365 (see below) and then partially sealed by cobbling during the later 3rd/early 4th century (along with part of E 19). Most of the finds recovered were associated with this or just prior to it. A total of 257 animal bone fragments were also recovered, most from the western side.

Enclosure E 19

The inner enclosure ditch, E 19, is likely to have been contemporary with E 18, although a later recut veered south, thereby removing the element of concentricity and suggesting that the inner gully may have been open for longer (see Phase 3c plan, Fig. 5.3). The inner enclosure was *c* 23 x 16 m, with a 3 m entrance causeway situated centrally on the northern side, aligned with the projecting segment of the outer enclosure. The dimensions of the inner ditch were variable ranging from 0.6 to 1.2 m wide and 0.4 to 0.6 m deep. Two clear cuts were defined on the north-west and southern sides. The recutting of the ditch on the southern side seemed to be associated with changing activity within the enclosure (Phase 3c?). The earliest cut on this southern side was sealed by an area of cobbling 2350 (7 x 5 m) in the south-east corner. This cobbling seemed to respect the edge of the late recut, and hence was presumably contemporary with it. The north-eastern part of the rectangular enclosure was particularly badly truncated by ploughing, with the result that features were generally very shallow, cuts were often difficult to distinguish, and finds from different features were inevitably quite mixed. A section of the inner enclosure appears to have been cut by pit group 2365, but was then subsequently recut, probably at the same time as other parts of the enclosure. Most of the pottery from E 19 was of mid-late 3rd-century date. In total 519 animal bone fragments were recovered from the different sections of E 19.

The north-south boundaries (2161, 2162, F 8)

A sequence of ditches divided the area of the rectangular enclosure from the enclosures in Trench 13 (Fig. 5.13). The earliest, 2162, was probably part of the boundary system that marked the major Phase 3a reorganisation seen within Trench 13. Ditch 2161, running parallel to 2162, was similar in proportions to it, and belonged to Phase 3b. It was this ditch which probably formed the eastern boundary of the Trench 19 double enclosure. A short fenceline, F 8, could be traced for *c* 7 m along the west side of ditch 2161 at the south-east corner of the rectangular enclosure. The postholes were irregularly spaced and some were seen to cut the edge of one cut of ditch 2161. The juxtaposition of ditch 2161, F 8 and enclosure ditch 2376 (E 19) might suggest that all three may not have been contemporary but it is conceivable that the enclosure was separated from Trench 13 features by a fence and ditch arrangement.

Phase 3 c/d: the pits (late 3rd-early 4th century AD)

At some point in the late 3rd/early 4th century, two groups of pits were dug through the north-eastern and central parts of Trench 19, cutting though the earlier enclosure boundaries (Fig. 5.13). The north-eastern pit group (2365) appears to have been earlier (Phase 3c? see Fig. 5.3), and the inner enclo-

sure (E 19) was subsequently recut. By the time that pit group 2393 was dug (Phase 3d or 4a; see Fig. 5.3), it is likely that the enclosure was no longer in use.

Pit group 2365

In the north-east of Trench 13, lay a group of pits that had been heavily truncated by ploughing, and in some areas were just seen as an irregular spread of dark soil and rubble. Individual cuts were difficult to distinguish and cut sizes and profiles were also variable. The pit group was cut by Phase 4 ditch 2375 and a recut of E 19. Dating is problematic. Large quantities of finds came from the interface of the topsoil and pit fills, and they showed a similar mix to that of the adjacent pit group to the south. This included almost 13 kg of pottery, much of which was 3rd-century in date, but quantities of 4th-century material were also present. Much of the earlier pottery was in an eroded state and of small sherd size, indicating perhaps that this was residual material. The high percentage of Rhenish wares compared to that from the whole site suggests that it derived from a single source, and it may have been part of a general spread of material deposited across much of the northern part of the site (Phase 3d?), that only survived in the tops of the gully and pit hollows. Other finds included 124 animal bone fragments, over 10 kg of ceramic tile, late Roman vessel and window glass, iron nails, two coins (AD 268-70 and AD 320-78), a copper alloy bracelet, bone pins and an iron sickle.

Pit group 2393

Pit group 2393 formed a sub-rectangular area in the central part of Trench 19, showing clearly as a cropmark. It consisted of a series of pit cuts, often difficult to distinguish stratigraphically due to similarity of fills, which contained limestone rubble, domestic debris and general building debris. Some of the pits were also quite rich in charred plant remains – probably the dumped waste from processed crops which had been burnt on a domestic hearth (see Straker *et al.* below). The cuts themselves varied from being regular and rectangular to irregular and sub-circular. Dimensions were variable: between 1 to 3 m across and 0.2 to 0.5 m deep. The group was in part sealed by alluvium (2355), indicating that the pits survived as pronounced hollows for some considerable time. Chronologically, there is little to distinguish between the finds from pit groups 2393 and 2365, although the only stratigraphic relationship recorded suggests that the central group was later. The fact that more of the material seemed to derive from the main fill of these pits, as opposed to the upper surface, also suggests that these were later features, associated directly with the dumping of material. This probably occurred in Phase 3d or 4a. The finds from these pits included over 21 kg of pottery, almost 6 kg of ceramic tile, late Roman vessel and window glass, smithing slag, mortar and plaster, bone pins, iron nails, a copper alloy bracelet and four coins, mostly 4th century. A total of 1012 animal bone fragments was recovered from these pits, most (77.7%) of which were unidentifiable. Of the identifiable species, cattle (9.7%) and sheep (10%) were most numerous.

In addition to the wealth of material within the enclosure pits, there were two areas of redeposited rubble (2356, 2362) over ditch 2162 to the south-east, which also probably belong to the Phase 3d/4a. Significantly, these included three separate column parts (Fig. 6.21, nos 3-4, 6), which must have come from a structure of some architectural merit, possibly located within the actual enclosure (see discussion below). Further column parts (Fig. 6.21, no.2) found in similarly dated pits in Trench 17 to the north may have come from the same structure.

Trench 29 – The south-western enclosures
(Fig. 5.14)

The archaeological sequence within Trench 29 is particularly problematic in that the relationships between the mass of inter-cutting features were often quite obscure. Phasing has therefore relied as much upon ceramic dating and spatial analysis as stratigraphic relationships. Although many features could not be assigned to a specific sub-phase, it is believed that all activity within this Trench is confined to Phase 3.

Phase 3a? (c early 2nd century AD?)

The earliest Phase 3 activity in Trench 29 is represented by an east-west ditch (2847) along the southern boundary (Fig. 5.2). The feature was fairly insubstantial (0.18 m deep, 0.7 m across), and was cut by part of Enclosure 20 (E 20). A number of other gullies were also cut by E 20, but these formed no coherent pattern. Dating evidence from these features was slight, but on the whole suggestive of the early 2nd century AD.

Phase 3a – Enclosure 20 (early–mid 2nd century AD)

Sub-phase 3a was represented by a sub-rectangular enclosure (E 20) centred on the excavation trench, covering an area *c* 30 m east-west and 33 m north-south (see Fig. 5.2). Its southern edge cut the earlier boundary 2847 while the northern limit projected *c* 3 m into the line of the main east-west Roman road. The east limit, which defined the edge of the north-south road, was formed by a relatively substantial ditch (0.9 m wide and 0.6 m deep) and showed traces of recutting. The western part of the enclosure was also quite substantial (up to 1.2 m wide, 0.5 m deep) but there was no obvious recutting. A single terminal was located in the north-west side (not shown on plan) possibly representing an entrance. Large segments of the enclosure were truncated by later features on the north and east sides and thus any possible evidence for causeways here was lost. Stratigraphically the enclosure

predates the formulation of main east-west road, and dating evidence from the pottery principally derives from the upper fill. Its use/infill date is early to mid 2nd century and thus it could be seen as broadly contemporary with the initial redevelopment of Trench 13. The use of the enclosure cannot be ascertained with any certainty, as associated finds were limited. Aside from a small quantity of fired clay and iron nails, the only finds were a fragment of vessel glass and a single whetstone. Just over 100 animal bone fragments were recovered from the enclosure sections. The *c* 2.5 kg of pottery included four fragments of 2nd-century samian and 15 pieces of Dressel 20 amphora. The resolution of the pottery dates is not fine enough to allow association with any of the internal features, and the overall quantities of debris within the ditch are generally not large enough to indicate with certainty that domestic activity was occurring within.

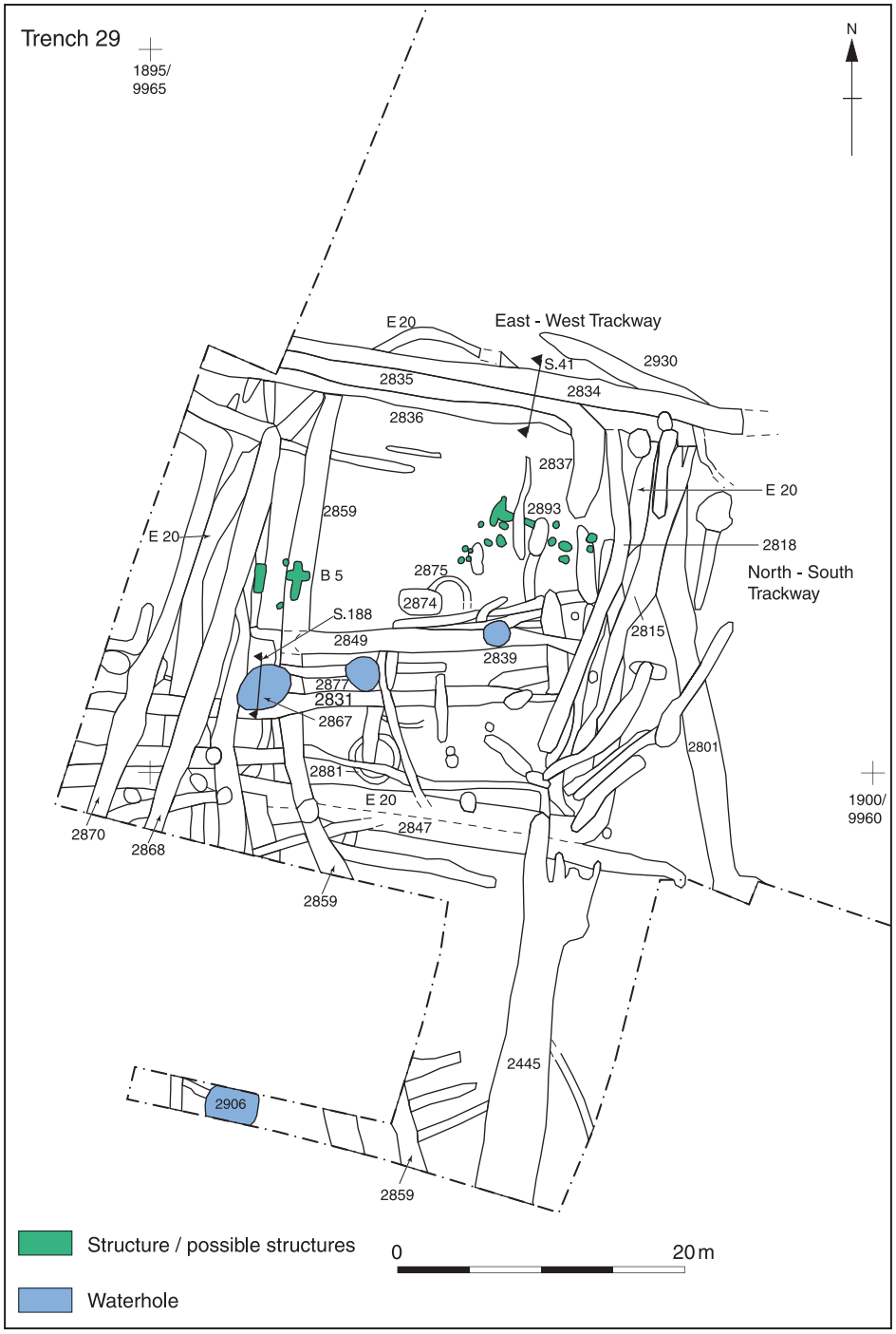


Fig. 5.14 Trench 29 composite plan

Phase 3a/b (c 2nd century AD)

Phase 3a/b saw a more regular demarcation of the area, with linear boundary ditches defining the north, east and west sides of a rectilinear enclosure (*c* 25 m across east-west; see Fig. 5.2). The northern ditch (2836) appears to have been the earliest of a sequence of east-west trackway ditches (see section 41, Fig. 5.15), the position of which changed very little throughout the remaining phases (Fig. 5.14). It was *c* 0.3 m in depth and at least 1 m across, its northern edge being cut by a later trackway ditch. Orientated in a southerly direction from this trackway boundary were two further ditches, 2859 and 2801, which may be contemporary. Ditch 2859 ran north to south where it curved south-east, and while its extent further south is unclear from aerial photographs, it does not seem to have crossed the line of the north-south road. It cut through sections of E 20, and became shallow towards the intersection with trackway ditch 2836, appearing to be contemporary with it. It was fairly broad and shallow (1.4 x 0.4 m) and was overlain by the eastern side of B 5 (see below). Approximately parallel to 2859 on the east side of the trench was a substantial ditch 2801 (*c* 2.3 m wide, 0.54 m deep), which cut diagonally across the line of the north-south road. It is not certain that this ditch was contemporary with 2836, although it does seem to follow the same alignment as the western ditch 2859.

The overall spatial arrangement of features in this sub-phase suggests that the line of the east-west trackway was well established by this time, while the same may not be true of the north-south trackway. The sub-phase is not well dated, but it can be placed within the 2nd century AD. A series of inter-cutting internal boundaries probably also belong to this general phase, although some of these are seen to cut through ditch 2859, while others are demonstrably cut by it (see below). Very few finds came from these features, but these included small quantities of pottery and fired clay.

Phase 3b/c (c later 2nd–3rd century AD)

This composite phase includes a sequence of features, which define a set of coherent boundaries to the west and east of the platform, while to the north they are also associated with the east-west road (see Fig. 5.3). As with the previous phase, a rectangular area is demarcated, but on a slightly different alignment, and with the possible appearance of a double-ditched boundary similar to that in Trench 17. An area *c* 24 m east to west was defined. On the west side were two major ditches: 2868 and 2870. The inner ditch, 2868, comprised two cuts, the earlier of which turned west 3 m short of the east-west road, and was subsequently cut by 2870. The later cut ran parallel to 2870 (between 2 and 3 m apart) but terminated at the point where the earlier cut curved west. Both 2870 and 2868 were of similar proportions (*c* 1 to 2 m wide and 0.4-0.5 m deep), and it is suggested that the ditches were contemporary and formed a double boundary, probably defining an enclosure further to the west outside the area of the trench. Aside from a few sherds of pottery (0.47 kg), there were no recorded finds from these ditches. The eastern side of Trench 29 was defined by a series of three separate ditches which all converged and became part of the east-west road ditches. The latest ditch 2837 is a foreshortened version of its earlier centre parts, extending only 5 m south of the road before terminating. It showed signs of recutting and was relatively deep (0.8 m and *c* 1.7 m wide). The other two boundaries 2818 and 2815 were less regular in line than those to the west, and ran south for 24 m before terminating. Ditch 2815 was shallow (*c* 0.3 m deep) with recuts showing to the north. Boundary 2818 was slightly more substantial (*c* 1.2 m wide, 0.4 m deep), although it became shallower to the north. There were rubble spreads across the northern extent of these ditches.

Ditch 2445 was orientated north-south and extended out of the trench. The various cuts of this feature terminated several metres short of 2818 and 2815 and some may have been associated with these boundaries. The cuts, five at least, varied in dimensions, (0.5-0.8 m wide and *c* 0.5-1 m deep), and the hollow caused by these features had been levelled out with rubble and domestic debris dating to the early 4th century (layer 2444). Ceramic material from the ditch cuts (*c* 3.2 kg) was mostly 2nd- and 3rd-century in date. Aside from

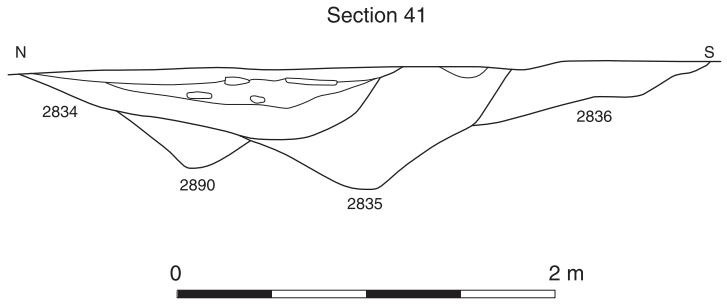


Fig. 5.15 Section 41 through east-west roadside ditches in Trench 29

the apparent re-deposited material in Phase 3d/4, this sub-phase produced the largest quantity of pottery (*c* 17 kg) suggesting that activity was at its most intense during this period, although it was still much less than in Trenches 13 and 17. The quantity of finds, which included three late 3rd-century coins, two stone mortars (Fig. 5.34, nos 16-17), and other industrial and domestic debris, corroborates this. Activity in this sub-phase seems to have ceased around the mid to late 3rd century (unlike the 'rectangular layout' of Trench 17 which probably extended into the later 3rd/early 4th century). There is a notable lack of Oxford colour-coated ware from the infilling of these ditches. The start date is more difficult to pinpoint but would presumably be around the latter part of the 2nd century at the earliest. The end of this sub-phase also marks the end of any real domestic or 'light industrial' activity in this part of the site (see discussion below). It is likely that Building 5 and at least two of the wells (2906, 2867) were contemporary with this phase (see below).

Phase 3d to Phase 4 (late 3rd–4th century AD)

The final phase of activity in Trench 29 is confined largely to the south-east corner (see Fig. 5.3). A series of short lengths of gully orientated NE-SW at a slight angle to the earlier boundaries. They varied from 7-10 m in length and were variable in profile from narrow and deep cuts (0.7 m wide, 0.7 m deep) to broad and shallow (0.3 m deep, *c* 0.9 m wide). Many of the gullies showed some signs of recutting, and relationships between them were not always clear. Almost 5 kg of pottery was dumped within these gullies, along with 225 animal bone fragments, vessel glass, iron nails, iron shears, a copper alloy brooch (2nd century) and a bone pin. South of these gullies, the linear boundary mentioned above (2445) may still have been in existence but only showing as a hollow. Its upper layer (2444) contained large amounts of pottery (*c* 15 kg) and 60% of the finds from the entire phase in this trench, including vessel glass, a quernstone, a brooch and pin, 2 4th-century coins and 124 animal bone fragments. This material appears to have been dumped here, along with quantities of building stone rubble, probably from another part of the trench or from further afield. Although this material is mixed, it does generally date to the later 3rd and early 4th century, a similar date range to that of the material derived from the gullies to the north. The dumping of domestic and structural material during this phase is paralleled on both Trench 17 and 19, and must relate to the radical phase of reorganisation across the whole site. Another feature probably of this phase was ditch 2834, the latest recut of the east-west trackway ditch, which was *c* 1.8 m wide and 0.35 m deep.

Trench 29 internal features (Fig. 5.14)

There were many features within Trench 29 that could not be accurately assigned to specific sub-phases, though all would seem to fall within Phase 3.

Internal boundaries

A sequence of ditches and gullies were situated in the central and southerly part of Trench 29, although the relationships between them were not always clear. Their general alignment suggested contemporaneity with eastern ditch 2801 of Phase 3a/b, although many cut through ditch 2859 of that same sub-phase. Two substantial ditches, 2831 and 2849, orientated east-west, both appeared to cut ditch 2859 to the west. Ditch 2831 (1.5 m wide, 0.4 m deep) was cut by a number of north-south gullies and was traced westwards out of the trench. Ditch 2849 further north (1.2 m wide, 0.4 m deep) was stratigraphically later, cutting through all features with the exception of waterhole 2839 and possibly ditch 2818 to the east, although no certain relationships were recorded in this area. The western terminal of this feature is unclear. The pottery from these features (1.6 kg) suggests a 2nd-century date, and it is likely that they were broadly contemporary with the Phase 3a/b features, probably defining internal boundaries. Aside from the relatively small amounts of pottery, other finds consisted for the most part of fired clay and iron nails. A fragment of 2nd-century vessel glass and a dress pin hint at occupation, while a small amount of smithing slag suggests minor industrial activity.

Building 5 (B 5) (Figs 5.14, 5.16 and Pl. 5.10)

Situated on the west side of the trench and overlying Phase 3a/b ditch 2859, was a square structure, *c* 2.5 m^2 internally, probably of two phases. The first phase was formed by two short lengths of parallel wall, 2895 and 2887, defining the east and west sides. Wall 2895 survived only as disturbed footings and was of a small random rubble nature. Quantities of rubble in the upper layers of adjacent ditch 2868 suggest that the ditch may have been only partially infilled when the structure was demolished. Wall 2887, cutting ditch 2859, was deeply founded and was of coursed construction. Overlying the central section of this wall foundation were burnt flat limestone slabs (2885), which projected eastwards for 0.5 m (Pl. 5.10). They were covered by a layer of burnt material, and were connected to a probable stoke-hole on the western side of the wall (2886). It is suggested that this was part of an oven structure, probably inserted into the wall at a later date, although no evidence for its superstructure has survived. This second phase of B 5 may be related to the two postholes (2900, 2901) on the northern and southern sides, sited off-centre towards wall 2887 and opposing each other (Fig. 5.16). These lined up with two limestone slabs that could have

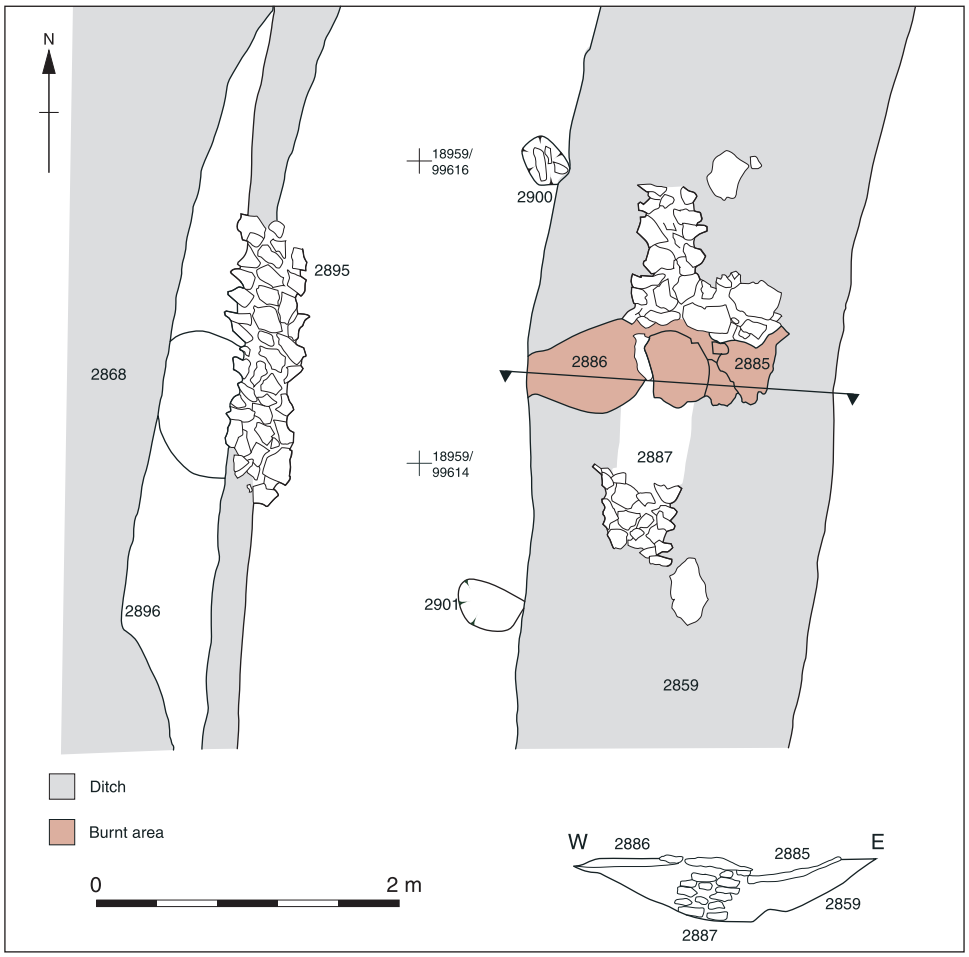


Fig. 5.16 Trench 29 Building 5

Plate 5.10 Trench 29 Building 5

formed post pads *c* 1 m to the east, and thus a rectangular, possibly open sided building (3 m x 1 m), would have been created around the oven. No further features appeared to be associated with the structure. Dating is based on its stratigraphic position, post-dating ditch 2859 (giving therefore a construction date some time in the later 2nd/early 3rd century) and appearing indirectly contemporary with the Phase 3b/c boundary ditch 2868 (perhaps in use up to the mid 3rd century?).

Other structural evidence

Apart from Building 5 on the west side of the trench, a further area in the north-east corner suggested the presence of a structure or structures (Fig. 5.14). The evidence took two forms: a concentration of postholes and an L-shaped slot (2893) with associated coursed stonework. It is not clear if these represent associated activity or two distinct phases of activity. The postholes are roughly confined to an area 7 m by 4 m although they themselves do not define a rectangular area. Many are stone packed. It is difficult to make logical structural sense out of their pattern, and the relationship with the possible timber slot 2893 is not certain. This slot was shallow but relatively wide (0.2 m deep, 0.6 m wide) with a nearly flat base. It was L-shaped in plan, measuring 3.5 m east to west before turning south for 1.5 m, with a line of coursed stonework lying inside the angle. The nature of the stonework suggests that it may have been part of an internal feature. It is impossible to date these features with any precision.

Stack rings

Two of these small diameter circular gullies were recorded from Trench 29 (2881 and 2875; Fig. 5.14). They were 3 m across with gully dimensions of 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Sides were gently sloping. The southern half of 2875 was lost, partially cut away by pit 2874 and partially due to it shallowing out. They could not be dated precisely, but would appear to be early in the stratigraphic sequence.

Waterholes

Four small waterholes (2867, 2877, 2839 and 2906) were sited within the area of Trench 29, with depths ranging from 1.02 to 1.15 m (Fig. 5.14). Three in the central area were stratigraphically late, cutting Phase 3a/b boundaries. The fourth (2906) lay further south, beyond the main area of Trench 29. Steps existed down into the waterholes in two cases (2839, 2906), both on the east side. It should be noted, however, that only the west sides of the other two (2867, 2877) were excavated. A similar feature with probable steps on the east side was located in Trench 17 to the north (1318), and contained part of an infant skeleton (see below). It is likely that all of the waterholes belonged to the same sub-phase (3 b/c), although they may not have all been directly contemporary. Waterholes 2867 (Fig. 5.17, Pl. 5.11) and 2906 contrasted with the others in having a fairly large deposit of alluvial material as the upper layers, suggesting that they remained as substantial hollows into the post-Roman period. Aside from small quantities of pottery and animal bone, finds were few, although a cone of *Pinus Pinea* was recovered from a lower deposit of dark grey organic material in waterhole 2906 (see Phase 3 Environment).

Plate 5.11 Trench 29 waterhole 2867

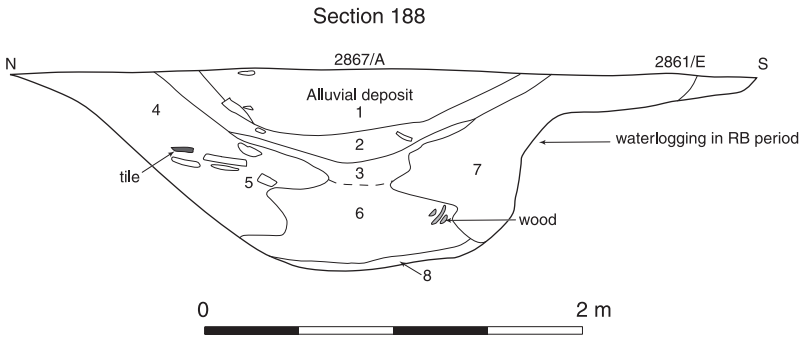


Fig. 5.17 Section 188 through waterhole 2867 in Trench 29

Pits

A total of 19 pits were excavated in Trench 29 (Fig. 5.14). They seemed to concentrate around the boundaries of the area and often cut earlier boundary ditches, particularly on the south-west and north-east corners. The pits to the south-west were similar in form, being *c* 1 m in diameter and from 0.7 to 0.9 m deep. As with the waterholes, they were the latest features in the area, most probably belonging to Phase 3b/c. Their fills indicated that they were probably not used for the disposal of domestic refuse, and they appear to have been deliberately infilled rather than left to silt up naturally. The majority of the pits were approximately circular in shape and ranged in size from shallow scoops (*c* 0.15 m depth) to the more substantial pits in the south-west corner of the trench mentioned above. Pit 2874, in the central part of the trench, contrasted with the rest of the pits in being sub-rectangular in plan (2.4 x 1.5 m, 0.5 m deep), with steep sides and a flat bottom. It had been deliberately infilled: the soil was charcoal blackened and contained pottery (0.74 kg), stone, animal bone and daub fragments. Most of the remaining pits contained very few finds.

Trench 17 – the western settlement area (Fig. 5.18; Pl. 5.12)

Phase 3b (early/mid 2nd–?late 2nd/early 3rd century AD)

Activity commenced in Trench 17 in about the mid 2nd century AD, probably after the radical re-organisation that took place within Trench 13 to the east (see Fig. 5.2). A series of major north-south and east-west linear boundaries were laid out, defining zones of domestic, agricultural and light industrial activity in the western and northern parts of the trench. The south-west corner of this area was given over to a series of enclosures, while another larger enclosure to the north contained a series of stack-rings and a waterhole, possibly for the provision of animals. The primary domestic foci appear to have been to the east of the south-west enclosure group and north-east of the central enclosure, although no definite structures of Phase 3b date have been located, and many of these features could belong to Phase 3c/d. Over 70 % of all smithing slag from Phase 3 contexts came from Trench 17, with particular concentrations in ditches 1409 and 1335, implying light industrial activity in these areas.

Major linear boundaries

Although it is uncertain whether they formed the earliest components of the site, a series of linear ditched boundaries (1247, 1340, 669, 1401, 1409) enclosed much of the area to the north and west, and virtually all archaeologically detected activity was confined to certain zones within this space (Fig. 5.18). Ditches 748 and 707 appear to have been later additions along the southern and eastern sides, and have been tentatively assigned to Phase 3c/d (see

Plate 5.12 Trench 17 – view from east-west trackway looking north

below). If this was the case, then much of the central area of the site would have been left open during the 2nd and early 3rd century AD.

Ditch 1247 lay in the south-western part of the site, lying along the same east-west alignment as 748, and partially truncated by ditch 1255. The ditch was 1.5 m wide and contained a very small amount of pottery and animal bone. It is likely that this feature was contemporary with ditch 1340 aligned SSW-NNE and traced for over 50 m before continuing out of the trench. This was *c* 1 m across, 0.3 m in depth, and was cut by ditch 667. The northern boundary of the area was defined by WNW-ESE ditch 669, which may originally have joined up with ditch 1340, although it was cut by 667 at this point, thereby obscuring earlier relationships. The ditch was traced for 27 m before turning slightly to the south and being cut by ditch 1201, which was presumably its successor. Only 0.1 kg of pottery came from this feature, along with a single mid 4th-century coin from an upper fill.

A series of ditches (1401-1404) defined part of the north-south trackway to the north-east, until cut by the later ditch 1201. They were all quite shallow with a maximum depth of 0.4 m. Ditch 1401 appears to have turned westwards after 10 m to continue for *c* 22 m as 1409, and form the northern internal boundary of the central open area. Ditch 1409 contained large volumes (over 6 kg) of pottery, in addition to a significant quantity of smithing slag suggesting the presence of light industrial activity in the vicinity. Other finds from this ditch include a stone cosmetic palette (Fig. 5.33, no. 7), spindle-whorl, fired clay and 145 animal bone fragments. Subsequent recuts of 1401 (1402) and 1409 (1408) probably represent a later phase of the same boundary line (see below). Ditch 1408 contained part of a lower rotary quern (Fig. 5.33, no. 2).

Fig. 5.18 Trench 17 composite plan

Enclosures

In the south-western corner of Trench 17, was a successive series of apparent ditched enclosures, probably utilising the southern (1247/1255) and western (1340/667) boundaries of the area (Fig. 5.18). The finds from these features included over 5 kg of pottery, 250 animal bone fragments, fired clay daub, a copper alloy belt fitting, and a part of the head and the limb bones of an infant. To the north of the south-western enclosure group, was an east-west ditch (1286), which curved round northwards and probably turned into ditch 1335. Ditch 1335 was more substantial, being *c* 1 m wide and 0.6 m deep. The ditch formed a sub-rectangular enclosure (*c* 12 x 16 m) with an east-west ditch (1320) of similar character to the north. There may have been an entrance in the north-east corner of this enclosure, opposite the main entrance to the central open area. A small amount of pottery (*c* 1.8 kg) was recovered from all these ditches except 1335 where it was present in much greater quantity (5.6 kg). This ditch also contained many nails, daub fragments, smithing slag, animal bones and a fragment of vessel glass. The interior of the enclosure contained a number of circular gullies (see below).

Other internal linear boundaries

There were many other linear boundaries within the western and northern parts of Trench 17, although most formed no spatially coherent pattern (Fig. 5.18). Ditch 670 was aligned eastwards from 668 (relationship uncertain), was cut by 667, and continued into the north-western interior for *c* 9 m. It is unusual in that it was one of the very few features that continued beyond the main exterior enclosure ditches. The finds include a small pottery assemblage (0.62 kg), quantities of fired clay, smithing slag, iron rings and links and 74 animal bone fragments.

Orientated SW-NE for *c* 15 m across the centre of Trench 17 was a substantial ditch, 1294 (up to 1.2 m wide and 0.6 m deep). It cut part of the south-west enclosure group and was in turn cut by B 6. The ditch produced a large quantity of pottery (*c* 9 kg), along with fragments of coal, smithing slag, fired clay, 85 animal bone fragments and a few domestic finds including a whetstone and a glass bottle fragment. To the south of 1294 was north-south ditch 1269, which comprised a series of cuts up to *c* 1.3 m wide and 0.5 m deep, and was stratigraphically later than most of the other features in the area (see Pl. 5.12). The ditch contained over 10 kg of pottery, along with a reasonable quantity of other finds including iron nails, iron chisels, a bone bobbin, a copper alloy pin, vessel glass, fired clay, smithing slag, a flint marble (Fig. 34, no. 18), and a quantity of coal. Over 200 animal bone fragments were also recovered. This suggests domestic and light industrial activities within this area.

In the north-eastern part of the site, mostly enclosed within the major boundaries were three linear ditches (1420, 1414 and 1367), all on different alignments. The earliest stratigraphically was 1420 (*c* 1 m across and 0.38 m deep), cut by a shallow ditch/gully (1414) which curved from west to north and was up to 0.8 m wide and 0.3 m deep. This was cut by ditch 1367 (up to 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep) which was aligned SW-NE and traced for 20 m, and contained large amounts of pottery (9.8 kg) and finds throughout its length, including fired clay, smithing slag, and a few iron objects (a key, knife and nails).

Circular gullies and gully arcs

Throughout Trench 17, there were a number of circular gullies and gully arcs of varying dimensions (Fig. 5.18). The largest (1208) lying between the south-west enclosure group and the internal north-south boundary (1206) was just 5.6 m in diameter, and would therefore seem too small to have been a roundhouse gully. It is shown in the foreground of Plate 5.12. A slightly bigger circular gully at Thornhill Farm (*c* 6-7 m dia) was interpreted as a storage building or temporary night shelter (Jennings *et al.*, 2004, 150). Approximately 11 m to the west lying within the south-west enclosure group lay another much smaller circular gully, 1308 (*c* 3 m dia), while further to the north lay three more similar features. None of these features produced any finds other than a very small amount of pottery and their dimensions suggest they could well be stack rings, used to store fodder for animals. Most of the gully arcs were confined to the interior of the western enclosure (1286 1335, 1320, 1314), and produced few finds.

Pits

A total of 81 pits, or probable pits, were recorded from Trench 17, with 25 of these forming a coherent group within the rectangular central open area (see Phase 3c/d below). The remainder were found throughout the area of gullies and enclosures to the north and west, although there are apparent concentrations to the north of circular gully 1208 and around the area of B 6. The majority of pit fills outside of the central area have no recorded finds other than occasional small quantities of pottery and animal bone, in contrast to most of the ditch fills. The major exceptions are two large pits (1246, 1202) south of circular gully 1208, which would seem to have been used – at least secondarily – for the disposal of domestic and light industrial refuse (Fig. 5.18). Pit 1202 contained waterlogged material, and could well have functioned as a waterhole. In total over 8.5 kg of pottery, along with vessel glass, coal fragments, a padlock bolt (Fig. 5.31, no. 58), animal bone and smithing slag were recovered from these features.

Phase 3c/d (early/mid 3rd to early 4th century AD)

At some point in mid to late 3rd century AD, there appear to have been significant alterations to the spatial organisation. The open area to the south-east

was probably enclosed at this time, and a rectangular building was constructed in the central northern part of the site, later rebuilt with stone foundations (see Fig. 5.3). Sections of probable masonry walls were built to the south, possibly connected to a hearth structure. By the later 3rd/early 4th century (Phase 3d), it seems that activity had greatly declined in this area, and a series of pits were probably dug in the previously cleared enclosure at this point, possibly for gravel extraction (see Fig. 5.3). They were subsequently infilled, some of them with structural masonry from another part of the site.

External boundaries

Ditch 1255 was essentially a recut of southern boundary 1247 and was traced westwards for over 35 m; it continued under the baulk (Fig. 5.18). It was the northern ditch of the main east-west trackway (*c* 3 m wide, 0.5 m deep), which was traced on aerial photographs continuing westwards away from the site. Ditch 667 aligned approximately north-south was recorded for 52 m at the western side of the main activity area in Trench 17. It was a substantial ditch measuring *c* 2.2 m wide, 0.6 m deep, which cut boundary 1340 on the same alignment. Ditch 1201 was aligned at right angles to ditch 667 across the northern length of the trench for *c* 45 m before turning northwards to follow the line of the main north-south trackway. The ditch was *c* 1.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep, and cut the earlier northern boundary 669. Substantial quantities of pottery were recovered from some of these ditches, especially 1201 which produced over 21 kg. Most of this pottery dated from the 2nd to 4th centuries, and it is likely that the ditches were still open into Phase 4. A large number of primarily structural and domestic finds were also recovered.

Western enclosure boundaries

About 4 m to the west of, and parallel to, 667 was ditch 668 (Fig. 5.18). It was cut by ditch 1312 which was parallel to it for its entire length and must represent its successor. It was difficult to distinguish between the two cuts, and the overall dimensions were 2.6 m wide and 0.45 m deep. A small quantity of finds was recovered, although the recorded pottery assemblage (*c* 1.7 kg) did include a substantial percentage (18 %) of Dressel 20 amphora. Other finds included a copper alloy bracelet and pin, two coins (1st-2nd century and 4th century) and 550 animal bone fragments. These ditches may have defined a north-south trackway lying between the large open enclosure (paddock?) to the west and the domestic, agricultural and light industrial zone within Trench 17.

South-eastern enclosure

The south-eastern part of the trench was enclosed (*c* 23 x 26 m) with the addition of ditches 748 and 707 (Fig. 5.18). These features were of similar character and dimensions (*c* 1 m width, 0.3 – 0.7 m depth), and not only enclosed the central area but also acted as side ditches for the main roads leading into the site. Defining part of the western boundary of the interior open space was a *c* 10 m long shallow ditch/gully, 1206, (*c* 0.8 m wide, 0.25 m deep) running north from the junction of 748 and 1255. Its northern terminus was cut by ditch 1253, which continued on a similar alignment to further enclose the open space area. Pottery from these enclosure ditches suggested they were in use from the mid to late 3rd century.

Waterholes (Figs 5.18, 5.21)

Lying 2 m east of ditch 667 was large oval waterhole 1318 (measuring 3.2 x 2.4 m across, 1.2 m deep), which contained part of an infant burial, a variety of 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th-century pottery (2.2 kg), a 2nd century AD cockerel brooch (Fig. 5.25, no. 9), a stone counter (Fig. 5.34, no. 19), and 136 animal bones. Two further waterholes (1342, 1344) were located further south. Feature 1342 was *c* 2.5 m across and 1.1 m deep and cut Phase 3/4 ditch 667 (see section 32, Fig. 5.21), while just to the north, 1344 (2 m across, 1.2 m deep) also cut ditch 667. Both 1318 and 1342 had steps leading down from the eastern side, similar to features in Trench 29. One of the rubble pieces used as a step in 1318 was a column base which must have been derived from another part of the site, as with the column parts found within one of inter-cutting pits (see below). It seems likely that this waterhole was excavated during Phase 3d, much the same as the inter-cutting pits (see below). Pit 1202, lying *c* 20 m east of 1340, may also have been a waterhole (see above).

Rectangular building B 6 (Figs 5.19, and 5.20)

Lying in the central northern part of the site, on a NW-SE alignment, was a two-phase rectangular building, measuring *c* 6.5 x 4.5 m. The first phase comprised three lengths of a timber slot building (1379, 1458, 1305) open on the north-west side (Fig. 5.19). Stratigraphically, the building is among the latest features in this part of the site, with only pit 1398 and the second phase of the rectangular building lying above it. Pit 1398 contained a large assemblage of charred plant remains, mainly comprising wheat grain although also with a range of wild plants suggesting animal fodder or hay as the sources (see Straker *et al.* below).

The second phase of B 6 is indicated by narrow compact linear rubble spreads (1376-8; Fig. 5.20) lying over the earlier slots, suggesting that the structure was rebuilt with pitched stone foundations. On the south-eastern side (1376) was an area of large limestone slabs, possibly marking a threshold into the building, although there is no indication of a wall of any kind on the corresponding north-west side, suggesting that the entrance was located here. Finds associated with the timber slot building comprised over 3.7 kg of late 3rd/early 4th-century pottery, fired clay, slag, an iron reaping hook (Fig. 5.31, no. 63), 71 animal bone fragments and part of a shale bracelet (Fig. 5.34, no.

14). No finds could be related to the second building phase, although mixed pottery of 2nd- to early 4th-century date was found in upper spreads around the structure. It is unlikely that the second phase building was in use beyond the early 4th century. The structure was used for domestic purposes, with light industrial activity in the area.

'Walls' 1366, 1385 (Fig. 5.20)

An extensive spread of rubble was found in the area around B 6, and while most of it may have derived from this building, there were at least two sections of probable walling to the south (1366, 1385). However, whilst these features may well have been the remains of walls, it is also possible they represent the truncated remains of a localised rubble spread, that had sunk into the ditches beneath. Unfortunately there is no dating evidence from any of these 'structures' but they are all amongst the latest features stratigraphically, and probably belong to Phase 3c/d, contemporary with B 6.

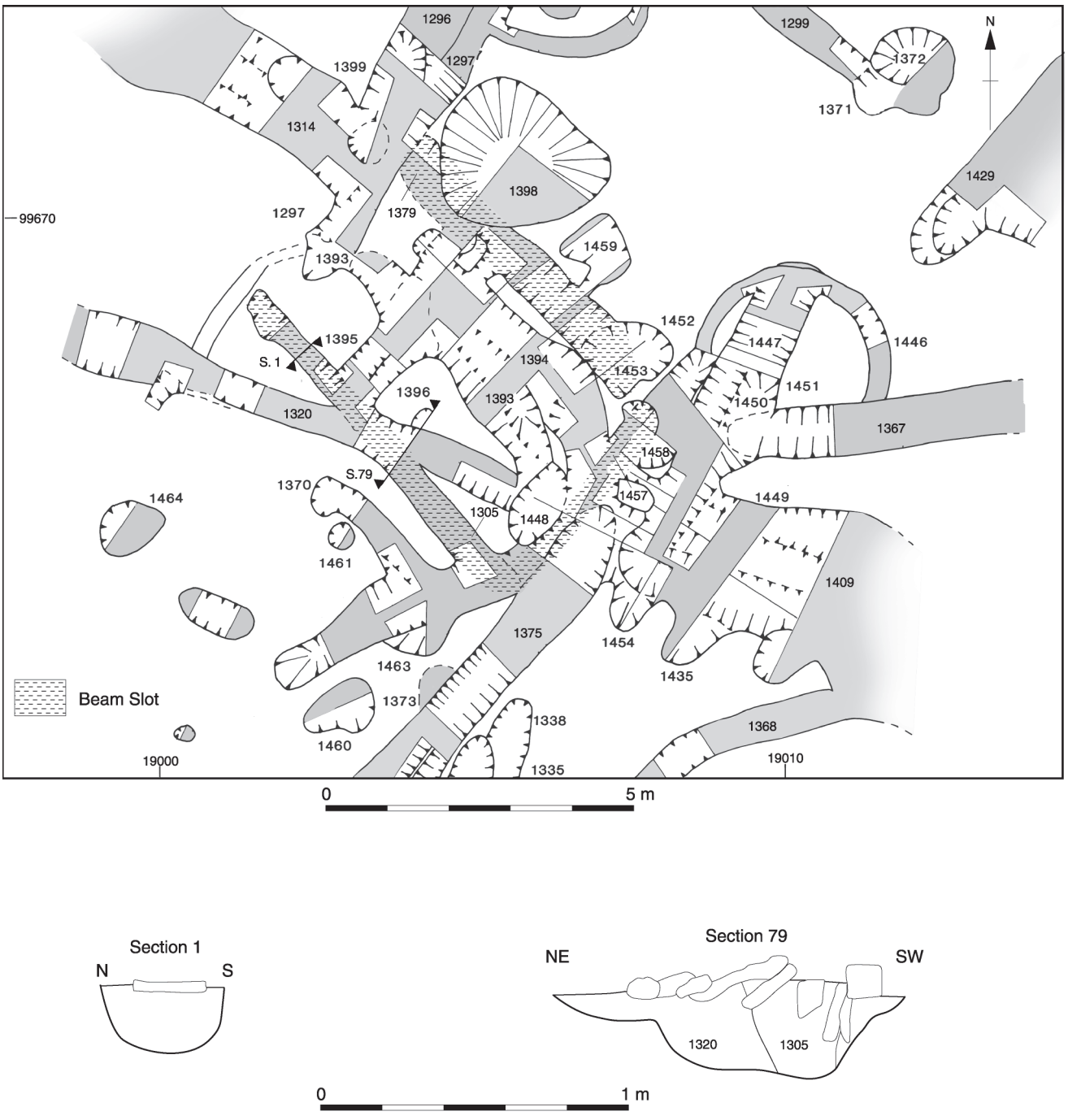


Fig. 5.19 Trench 17 Building 6

Oven/hearth (Fig. 5.20)

In the centre of Trench 17, north of 1269 and south of B 6, lay an oven structure (1355). A line of four postholes (1346, 1352-4) lay along its southern side, possibly representing a surrounding structure, although it is possible that they are later features. The only finds to come from any of these features were a small quantity of fired clay from the oven itself, presumably part of its superstructure.

South-eastern pit grouping

Situated in the south-eastern part of Trench 17, in the lower half of the internal cleared enclosure, was a group of 25 inter-cutting pits covering an area approximately 12 x 14 m (Fig. 5.18). Over a third of the 10 kg of pottery came from a single pit (1249) to the north of the main group, and this appears to be primarily later 3rd/early 4th century in date. Many other finds came from the remaining pits, including two column parts (see Fig. 6.21, no. 2 and Pl. 5.13) and other masonry building fragments, iron nails, fired clay, lead sheets, a copper alloy bracelet, two bone pins and a small quantity of smithing slag. Almost 1000 animal bone fragments were also recovered from these pits, most (70%) of which were unidentifiable; 73% (190) of the identifiable bone fragments were of cattle. The evidence from pottery and a single coin (AD 267-80) suggests that these features were dug in Phase 3d or possibly 4a, during a period of obvious transformation within the site. It is likely that most of the material was deposited here from another part of the site at a time when the cleared enclosure went out of use.

Archaeological features from the settlement periphery

The northern road (Fig. 5.22, Pl. 5.14)

Part of a WSW-ENE aligned Roman road was revealed in Trench 18, lying *c* 60 m north of the main excavation area (Fig. 2.3). It was clearly a continuation of the main north-south road found between Trenches 13 and 17 to the south, which connected that area to further Roman roads and field systems in the north, over the area of the middle Iron Age settlement on the Warrens Field site. Cutting through the Roman road in Trench 18 was a series of post-Roman ditches, along with the parish boundary stream, which was probably diverted along this route in the medieval period. The two parallel lengths of Roman roadside ditch (705, 751) were about 4.5 m apart and about 1.5 m wide. They were recut several times and had traces of banks on their outside edges. The only finds to be recovered were an iron rod from 751, a fragment of wood from 705, and less than 200 g of pottery from the trench as a whole. A total of 31 animal bone fragments were also recovered from ditch 705.

The southern boundaries

Several machine-dug trenches were excavated south and south-east of the main settlement to elucidate the stratigraphy of this complex cropmark area (Fig. 2.3). Emphasis was placed upon linear boundaries and their relationship to the triple-ditched boundary that appeared to mark the southern limit of the site. Dating this boundary is difficult, and the sequence and association of the three ditches is far from clear.

Plate 5.13 Trench 17 column base within south-eastern pit group

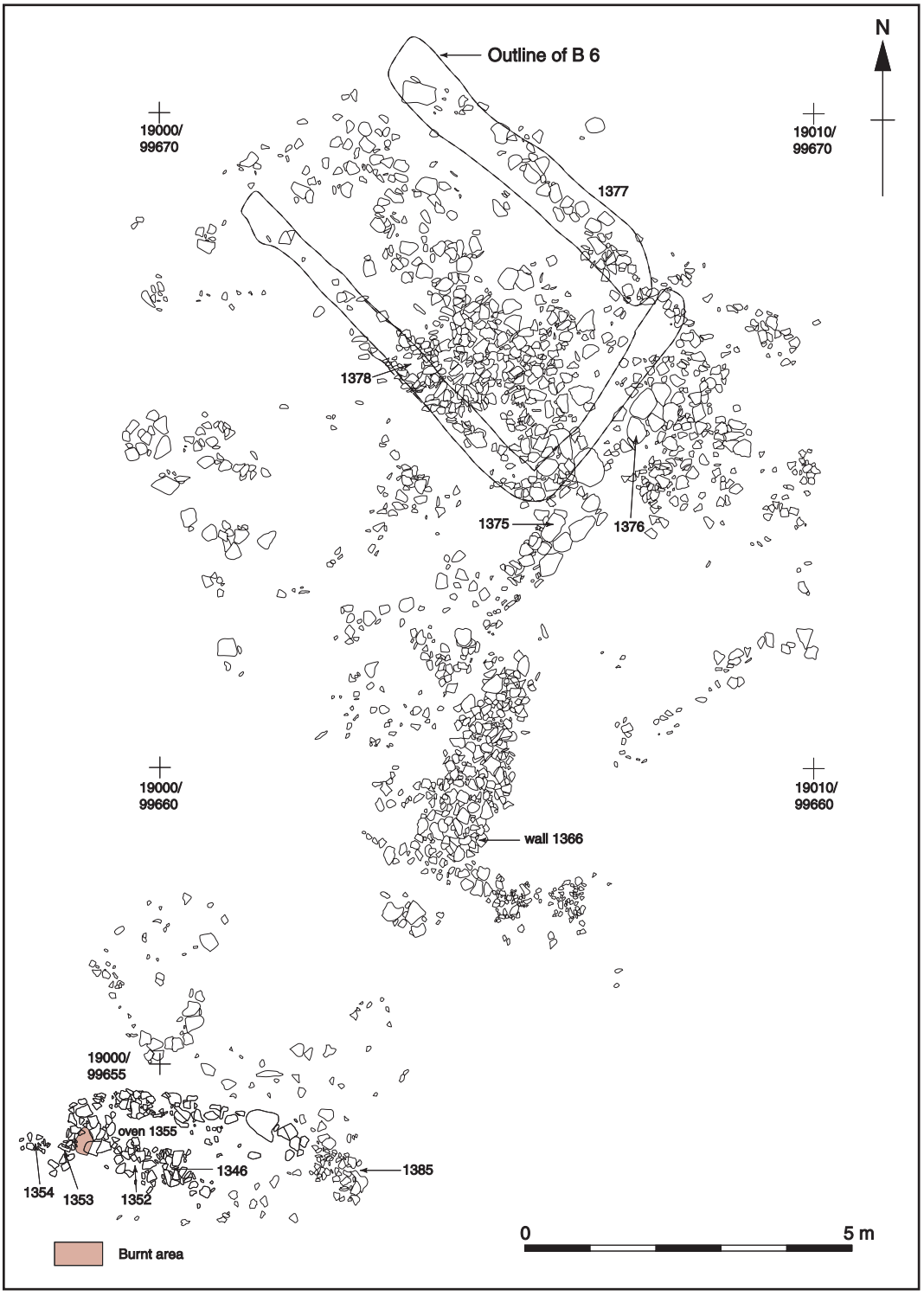


Fig. 5.20 Plan of stone features in central Trench 17

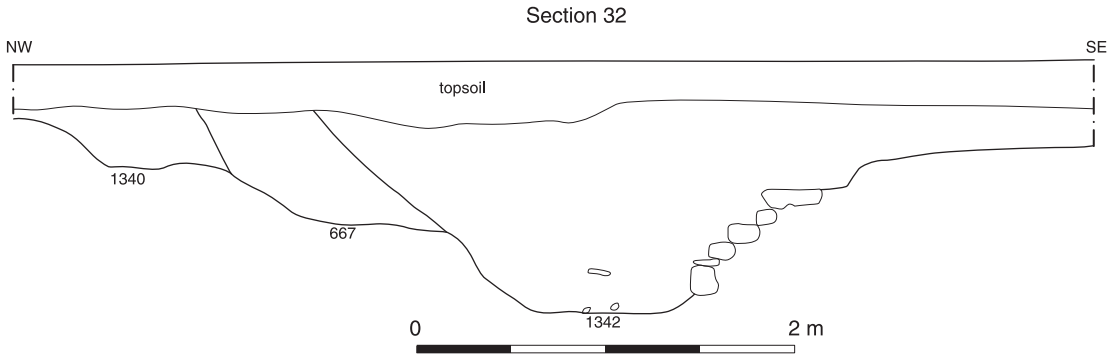
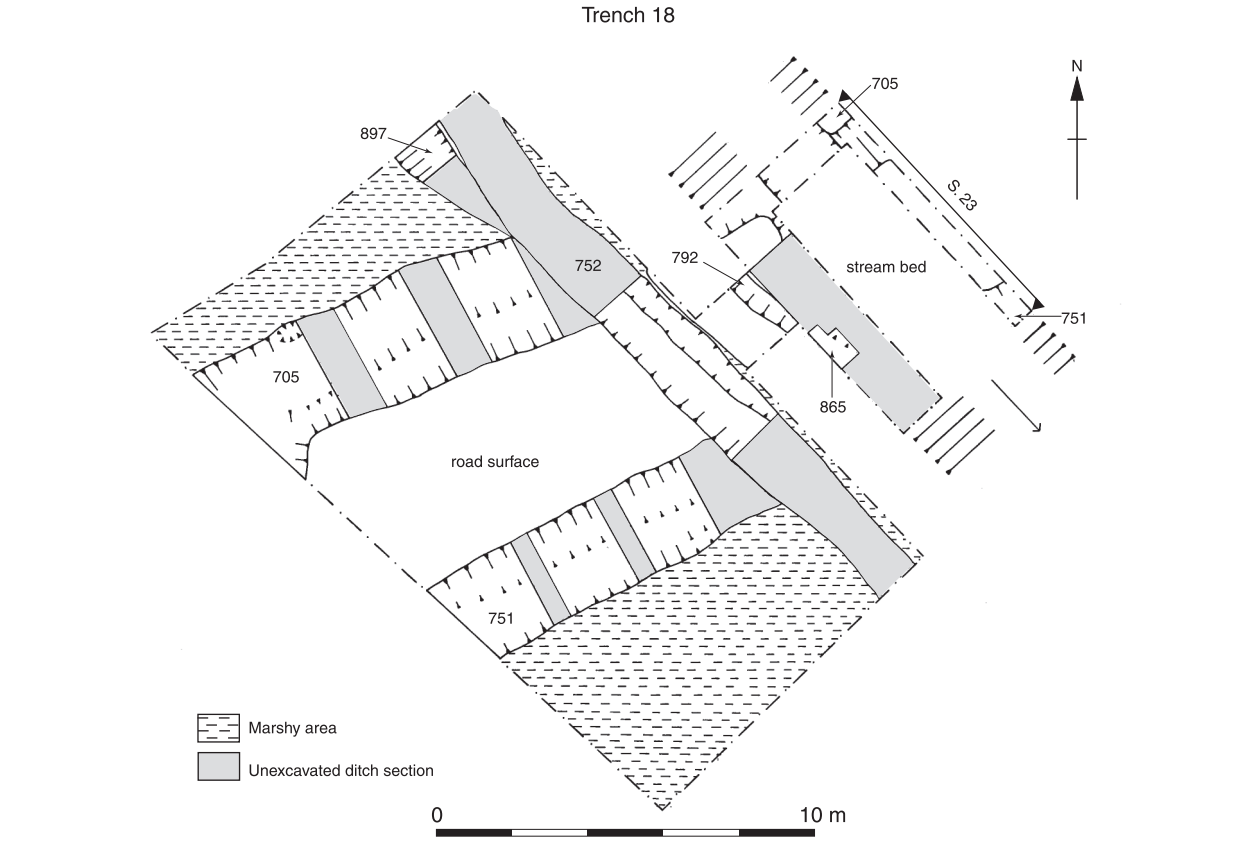


Fig. 5.21 Section 32 through waterhole 1342 and ditches 667 and 1340



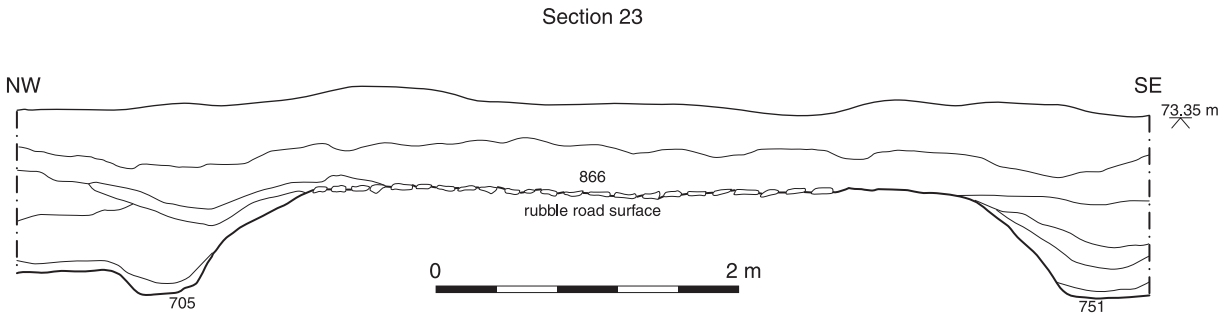


Fig. 5.22 Trench 18 plan: the northern road

Plate 5.14 The northern road

Nevertheless it does seem that the overall sequence ran possibly from the end of Phase 2 up until Phase 4. The absence of any deep deposits of alluvium suggests that most of the ditches had been infilled prior to the end of the Roman period, with the possible exception of ditch 517, within which alluvium was found in Trench 38. The western limit of these boundaries is the road running southwards from between Trench 19 and Trench 13. The boundaries were traced for 125 m east-west before turning north-east for about another 100 m and disappearing into the marshy area on the north-east side of the site. Other enclosures were revealed in Trench 38 on the south-eastern corner of the site, which are likely to belong to Phase 3 and/or Phase 4.

The western periphery

Five trenches were machine excavated to the west of the main settlement, revealing parts of the main east-west roadway ditches and outer enclosures known previously from cropmarks (Fig. 2.3). Very few finds came from these features as is to be expected for an area far removed from the settlement core, although the small amount of pottery recovered is 2nd- and 3rd-century in date. A soil sample from an outlying field ditch in Trench 31 indicated a wet low-lying environment with periodic flooding, along with extensive evidence for the cultivation of hay meadows (see Robinson below).

Roman field systems in Warrens Field

To the north of the main settlement, in Warrens Field, was an extensive series of ditched boundaries and trackways which made up the Roman field systems (Fig. 5.1). Most of the ditches were recorded during salvage work and details of fill and stratigraphic relationships are often lacking. Four fields are clearly formed within the observed area and a fifth can be postulated with some certainty from the cropmarks. Trackways were noted entering the site from the south-east, following the edges of Islands 1 and 2, and turning towards the north-west. A further trackway was seen heading towards the Longdoles Field site.

Absolute dating is problematic due to the small amounts of material recovered from this type of context. However, the main field system would appear to have been established during Phase 3, and may be associated with the trackways. Later 4th-century material was recovered from ditch context 377, indicating that at least some of the field systems were in use during Phase 4. Despite several phases being represented, the field system appears to have retained its integrity throughout the Roman period, presumably dictated by the topographic restraints of the marshy areas.

THE FINDS

Large quantities of finds were recovered from Phase 3 contexts, with a variety of form and function far surpassing that of Phase 2. These were particularly prolific in Trench 13, which formed the main domestic core of the complex. As with other phases, there are still significant taphonomic problems, although with the possible exception of the pottery the general character of the finds assemblage is distinctive enough to make assumptions about the nature of the site. Full finds reports can be found in Digital section 3.

Pottery (Figs 5.23-4) *by Paul Booth*

Despite the pottery assemblage of Phase 3 totaling over 373 kg (with *c* 43 % fully recorded), its character is not particularly distinct (Tables 5.1 and 5.2). This is because, in consequence of its overall time span, it contains a wide variety of ceramic components which in different circumstances might have been used to mark developmental stages in the chronological sequence. For example the appearance of the Oxford colour-coated ware (F51) and related Oxford fabrics around the middle of the 3rd century AD falls well within the phase rather than indicating the beginning of a new phase, so the presence of such material cannot be used as a clear marker of a significant stage in the development of the site. As with Phase 2, and for the same reasons, close correlation of the detailed stratigraphic sequence and the ceramic evidence (best developed in Trench 13) did not produce a clear picture of the evolution of the assemblage through this phase (despite the overall size of the Phase 3 assemblage) and the detailed evidence is not presented here. Impressions of this evolution can be based upon some aspects of the material itself, however, though without the benefit of closely supporting stratigraphic data.

Figure 5.23 shows the distribution of major fabric groups from Phase 3 contexts within the main

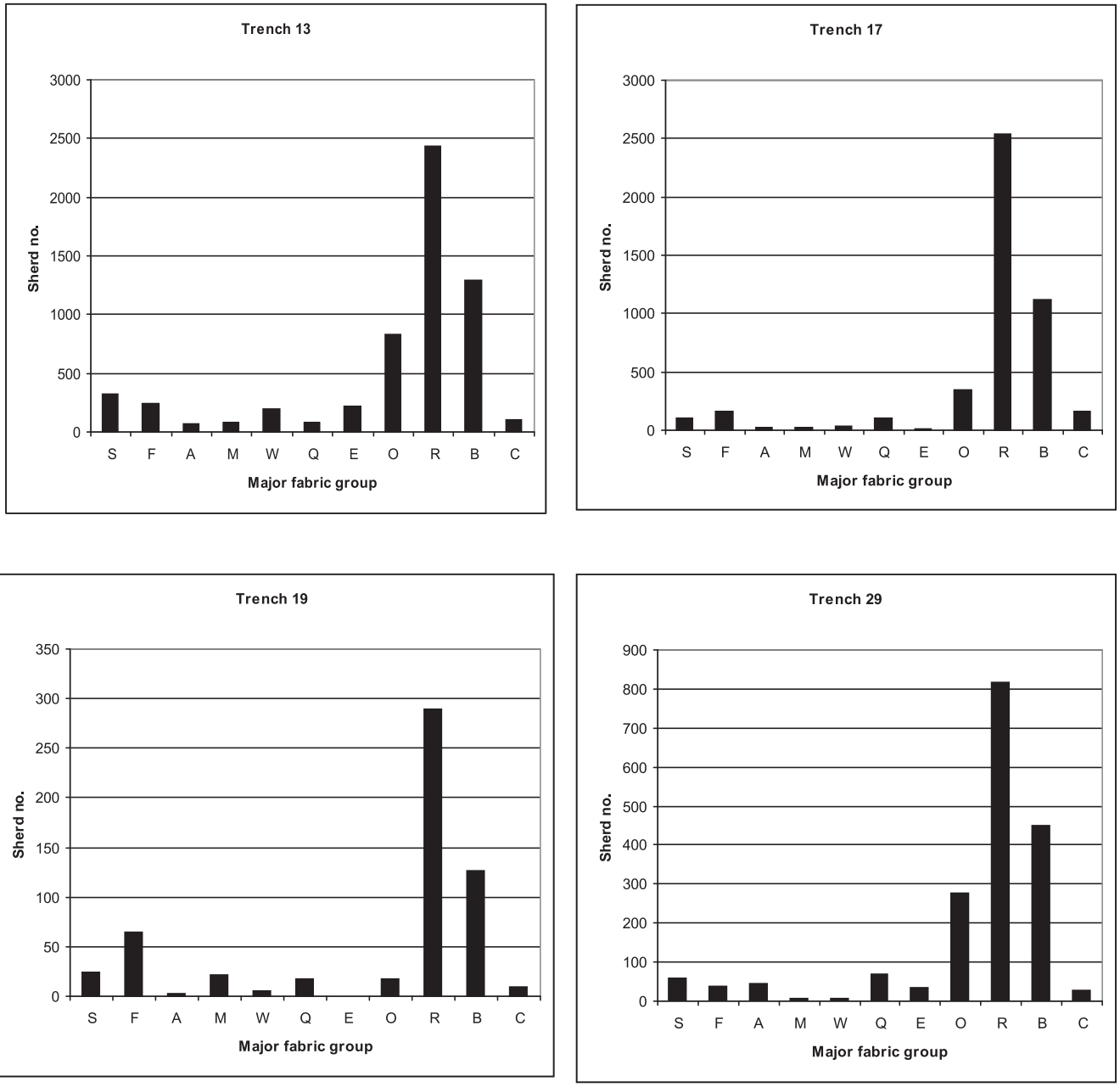


Fig. 5.23 Quantity of major pottery fabric groups in Phase 3, according to trench

Table 5.1: Quantity of major fabric groups in Phase 3

Major fabric group	*Sherd no.*	*% of Phase 3*
Samian (S)	519	4
Fine wares (F)	511	3.94
Amphorae (A)	298	2.3
Mortaria (M)	132	1.02
White firing wares (W)*	245	1.89
White-slipped wares (Q)*	265	2.04
Early 'Belgic type' wares (E)	263	2
Oxidised 'coarse' wares (O)	1481	11.41
Reduced coarse wares (R)	6025	46.4
Black-burnished wares (B)	2960	22.8
Calcareous-tempered wares (C)	285	2.2
Total	12984	100

* except mortaria

Table 5.2: Major vessel types in Phase 3 (RE)

	Rim equivalents (RE)	*% of Phase 3*
Amphorae (A)	1.63	1
Flagons (B)	3.42	2.1
Jars (C)	110.28	67.7
Beakers (E)	3.58	2.2
Cups (F)	4.56	2.8
Tankards (G)	3.91	2.4
Bowls (H)	17.27	10.6
Bowls/dishes (I)	0.16	0.1
Dishes (J)	7.33	4.5
Mortaria (K)	4.4	2.7
Lids (L)	1.95	1.2
Unknown (Z)	4.4	2.7
Total	162.89	100

excavation trenches. The Trench 13 assemblage shows the greatest diversity in form and fabric types, reflecting among other factors the larger area involved as well as the greater complexity and range of archaeological activity. The principal coarse ware fabrics whose use was already established in Phase 2 (if not intrusive there) became significantly better established. These include oxidised and reduced wares of North Wiltshire origin (O31 and R35) and both Dorset and imitation black-burnished wares (B11 and B30). Savernake ware (R95), however, was also best represented in this phase, and clearly remained a significant component of the assemblage throughout the 2nd century. Oxfordshire products including colour-coated ware (with forms such as C45 and C51) show a small but significant increase on the anomalous levels present in Phase 2.

This general pattern of fabric proportions is seen more clearly in the Trench 17 assemblage, not affected by the problem of residual material. The assemblage was more obviously dominated by reduced coarse wares (particularly North Wiltshire products) and black-burnished wares. While not as common as in Trench 13, Savernake ware (R95) still formed a significant component of the reduced wares. Most of the various fine and specialist wares were thinly represented, Oxford colour-coated ware being the most important individual fabric in this group. The majority of the other fine and specialist wares were of types that are unlikely to be found in the region before the Antonine period, such as Nene Valley and Mancetter/Hartshill mortaria (the latter, fabric M23, strictly not present until the general Phase 3/4) and only present in small quantities at Claydon Pike. More local wares such as the white slipped fabric M32/Q22, which is dated mainly mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD (Rigby 1982b, microfiche 1, D03-D05), were also present. Ceramically, the only noticeable distinction between the Phase 3 and 3/4 assemblages in this trench relates to the relative proportions of reduced (particularly North Wiltshire) coarse wares and black-burnished wares, the former dropping from *c* 54% of the Phase 3 assemblage to *c* 44% of the Phase 3/4 group, with a corresponding increase in the latter. Since there is no meaningful increase in the level of other 'late Roman' ceramic markers, it is entirely possible that this change took place within the later part of Phase 3 (ie late 3rd-early 4th century) rather than later. This would be consistent for example with the low level occurrence in the Phase 3/4 group of brown colour-coated fabrics F61 and F62 whose suggested date of manufacture begins towards the end of the 3rd century (Rigby 1982b, microfiche 1, D09).

Elsewhere the Phase 3 assemblages follow a broadly similar pattern, except that there was notable variation in fine ware representation between Trenches 19 and 29. The Trench 19 Phase 3 assemblage was quite small but nevertheless contained most of the range of fabrics seen later in this area. Generally these suggest, together with the negative indicators of very low levels of South Gaulish samian ware and 'native' wares (E wares are completely absent in this phase group, for example), that significant activity may not have begun much before the middle of the 2nd century. The broad date range of Phase 3 makes it very difficult to establish meaningful distinctions between this assemblage and those assigned to Phase 4 or to a less certain composite Phase 3/4 in this area of the site.

The Trench 19 Phase 3 assemblage is notable for a relatively high proportion of fine wares (almost 11% of sherds in this phase group) – levels maintained in Phases 3/4 and 4. For example 85% of the Rhenish ware (fabric F44) from the site (consisting mainly of fragments of folded beakers) is recorded from this area, along with two thirds of the albeit small amount of Colchester colour-coated ware and relatively large quantities of local and Oxford

colour-coated wares. These contributed to an overall very high representation of fine and specialist wares in this trench/phase group (23.6% of sherds).

While the only vessel that may provide direct support for the interpretation of this area as a ritual focus is part of what appears to be a tazza in a possible Severn Valley ware fabric (O43 – cf Cirencester 106; Rigby 1982b, microfiche 1, D09), the high representation of fine wares might also be significant, suggesting a preponderance of drinking vessels, which can be shown elsewhere in the region to be associated with special deposits, as for example in a late 2nd-century group at Alchester (Booth *et al.* 2001, 377-8). Unfortunately, however, the Trench 19 material is fragmented and the quantification of beakers by EVEs in this area/phase group is not at all remarkable – nevertheless the high incidence and variety of fine ware sherds is suggestive of an unusual pattern.

The Trench 29 Phase 3 assemblage, in contrast, is marked by a remarkably low incidence of fine wares (only 1.6% of sherds), though other elements raised the overall fine and specialist ware total to 12.2%. Oxidised coarse wares are particularly well represented at this time, amounting to 16.4% of sherds, a figure only approached in Trench 13 (13.9%). Otherwise the assemblage appears unremarkable.

Figure 5.24 presents a selected group of Phase 3 pottery from Trench 13 trackway ditches 547 and 620. A full catalogue of illustrated sherds can be found in Digital section 3.2.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 5.24)

1. E83, CD. 547/F/1.
2. R95, CD. 620/L.
3. R35?, CD, slight sooting. 547/D/1.
4. R95, CD. 547/B/1.
5. R35, ?CD. 620/K.
6. B11, CK. 620/N.

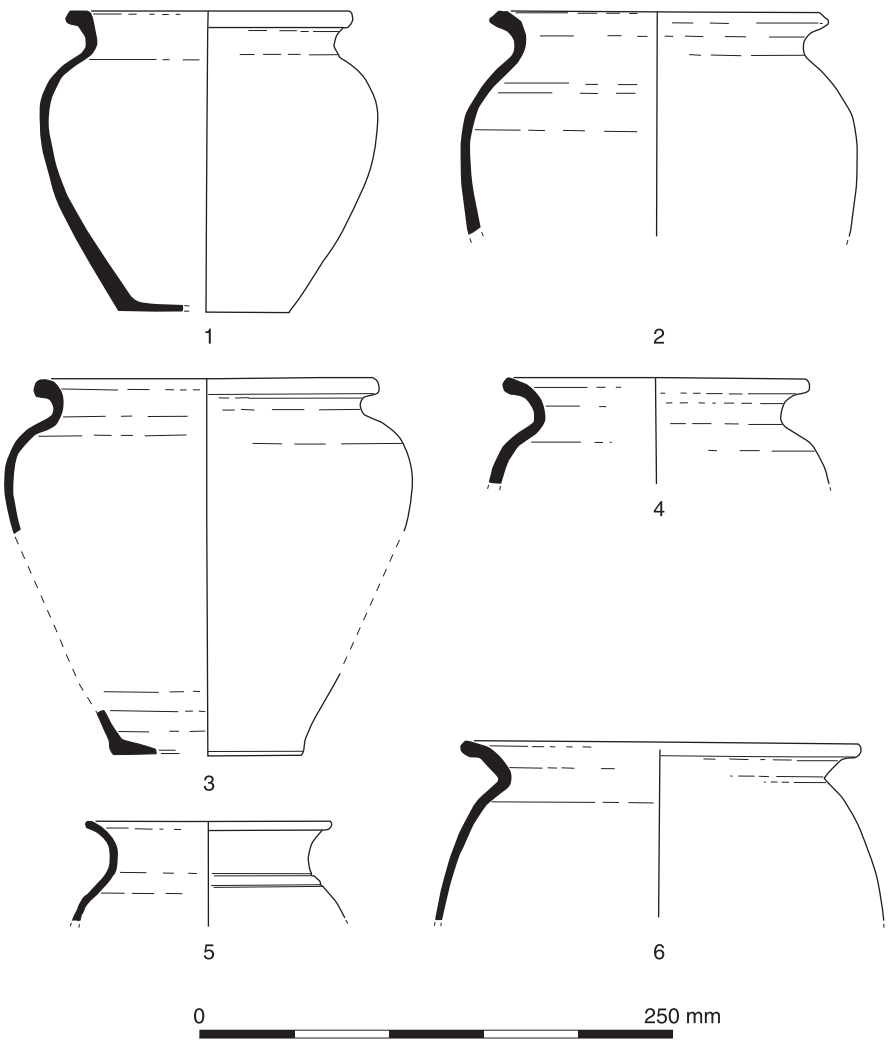


Fig. 5.24 Pottery from Phase 3a Ditch 547/620

Coins *by Cathy King*

Just 28 coins were found in definite Phase 3 contexts, and 17 of these were intrusive. When the coin assemblage is taken as a whole, 46 coins (6.3%) were minted before AD 260 by contrast with the 97 coins (34.9%) from Somerford Keynes. Additionally, apart from one denarius from the Roman Republic (see Chapter 4), all of the silver recovered belongs in the years after AD 192. There are eight 'silver' coins from the years AD 193-260, five of which were either plated or the bronze core of a plated piece. Most of these coins were unstratified. Although the proportion of early bronze coins at 4.9% is much lower than that from Somerford Keynes (26.6%), there is a reasonable scatter from the first and second centuries, the majority of which comes from the main settlement site. However, if the site became an official Roman depot or military estate in the 2nd century, there is little if anything in the coin loss pattern that reflects this status. By far the largest concentration of coinage dates to the later 3rd and 4th centuries (Phase 3d and 4), within the periods of peak coin loss established by Reece and others for Britain as a whole (Reece 1991; 1992). Across the site there were 44 3rd-century imitations which represent 29% of the total of the 3rd-century pieces; 95% of them are copies of coins minted in the years AD 260 and AD 284.

Metal and glass small finds (Figs 5.25-5.33)
by Hilary Cool

It is clear from the finds that it was not just the landscape that underwent radical alteration at Claydon Pike in Phase 3. There are major changes in the finds record as well. As can be seen from Table 5.3, a very wide range of activities appear in this phase and even in the categories present in Phase 2 (personal items, fasteners and textile production) there are new departures. The personal ornaments (Table 5.4) suggest women started wearing their hair in different styles and as a whole the population started wearing Romanised shoes. Building techniques also changed, with glazed windows, timber clad structures and doors which were designed to be closed. Inside the buildings the furnishings changed, with for example at least one exotic copper alloy oil lamp (Fig. 5.28, no.31). New ways of preparing drink are suggested by the handle fragments 1690 and 2076 (Fig. 5.28, nos 32-3), while the iron cleavers may indicate changes in butchery practise (Fig. 5.30, nos 52-3).

The finds are telling us of very deep-seated lifestyle changes. It is almost as if the population adopted the Roman cultural package wholesale. The question needs to be asked whether this was affecting the same population who had lived on the site in Phase 2 or was this the result of new people with different customs moving in. Would a woman who had spent her girlhood on the site have lived to see her grand-daughter adopting new fashions, or would she have looked on from the side-lines whilst 'foreigners' lived there in alien buildings with outlandish lifestyles?

In as far as can be seen, if the Phase 3 population was new, it was certainly not 'foreign', as the metal hairpins and the brooches they were using are still local forms. If the re-organisation was 'official' then it has left no trace in the finds record. There is, for example, no Hadrianic military equipment. Instead there is a noticeable presence of later Antonine/Severan equipment. Quite what the status of this is, though, is open to question as

Table 5.3: Small finds from Phase 3 and Phase 3/4 according to functional category

Function	*3*	*3/4*	*Total*
Personal	100	30	130
Toilet	5	1	6
Textile	4	1	5
Household	5	2	7
Recreation	2	-	2
Weighing	-	1	1
Writing	1	1	2
Transport	4	-	4
Building	677	201	878
Tools	17	7	24
Bone working	2	-	2
Metal working	2	1	3
Fasteners	32	9	41
Agriculture	4	1	5
Military	4	1	5
Religion	1	-	1
Miscellaneous	119	59	178
Total	979	315	1294

Table 5.4: Personal ornaments and clothes accessories from Phase 3 and Phase 3/4

Simple Name	*3*	*3/4*	*Total*
Brooch	18	3	21
Bracelet	13	8	21
Finger ring	2	-	2
Necklace	-	1	1
Bead	12	2	14
Pendant	-	1	1
Hair pin	8	3	11
Ear-ring	1	-	1
Belt fittings	-	-	0
Dress pin	-	-	0
Shoe cleat	18**	4	22
Hobnail	28	8	36
Total	100	30	130

** Entry includes 2 items whose identifications are not secure

similar material was found as Somerford Keynes. As discussed in Chapter 9, this might just be part of a pattern of dispersed deployment where soldiers were involved in policing duty and not be indicative of official involvement or ownership of the Claydon Pike estate. Against the hypothesis of continuity of the population the finger ring 1080 may be considered. It is likely that this was an heirloom by the time it was lost, but it seems unlikely that the 1st-century inhabitants at Claydon Pike would have observed the sumptuary laws as the original owner must have. There are also more hints of luxury in the assemblage in Phase 3 than is suggested by the Phase 2 finds. The copper alloy lamp, the ivory die (Fig. 5.28, no. 39), the use of metal rather than bone hairpins all hint at a degree of affluence (Fig. 5.27, nos 21-23).

In Table 5.5 the types of objects stratified in Phase 3 contexts are summarised. As can be seen the widest range of functional categories is seen in Trench 13. It has a more domestic flavour than the assemblage in Trench 17. In the tools category, for example, most of the material from Trench 13 consists of knives and blade fragments whereas in Trench 17 the category is dominated by carpentry tools. Trench 17 also has agricultural implements (including a reaping hook and a probable scythe) whereas the category is missing in Trench 13. This together with the smithing activity suggests this was much more a service area than a domestic one.

Figures 5.25-33 present a selected group of finds either from Phase 3 contexts or else dating to this period. A full illustrated catalogue can be found in Digital section 3.4.

Table 5.5: Distribution of material from Phase 3 contexts (excluding building material and miscellaneous items)

Function	*Trench*			
	13	*17*	*19*	*29*
Personal	30	63	3	4
Fasteners	12	15	3	1
Tools	10	6	1	-
Household	2	3	-	-
Metal working	1	1	-	-
Toilet	4	1	-	-
Transport	3	1	-	-
Bone working	1	-	-	1
Military	4	-	-	-
Recreation	2	-	-	-
Religion	1	-	-	-
Textile	4	-	-	-
Writing	1	-	-	-
Agriculture	-	4	-	-
Total	75	94	7	6

Illustrated catalogue: Brooches associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.25)

1. *504 SF 334 Polden Hill.* Copper alloy. A lower Severn Valley type see Hattatt (1987, 102), later C1 – mid C2. Length 61 mm, wing width 29 mm. Trench 13.
2. *2441 SF 2200 Polden Hill.* Copper alloy. Hattatt (1987, 96). Later C1. Length 40 mm, width spring cover 19 mm. Trench 29.
3. *501 SF 1113 T-shape.* Copper alloy. A lower Severn type, see Hattatt (1987, 102). C2. Length 45 mm, width of hinge cover 16 mm. Trench 13, Phase 4.
4. *U/S SF 2639 T-shape.* Copper alloy. Possibly a variant of Hull 122. A lower Severn type, see Hattatt (1987, 109) no. 918. C2. Length 49 mm, present hinge cover width 29 mm.
5. *687 SF 878 Trumpet.* Copper alloy. The Chester variant (Hattatt 1985, 109). Later C1-C2. Length 39 mm, width head 10 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
6. *2803 SF 2969 Double-ended brooch.* Copper alloy. Zoomorphic terminals at either end with punched fur and ring and dot eyes. C 2. Length 49 mm, width 28 mm. Trench 29, Phase 3/4.
7. *667 SF 722 Plate-headed trumpet variant.* Copper alloy. Possibly related to Hull 138/40 (see Hattatt 1987, 110 no. 921). Length 89 mm, width of spring cover 29 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3/4.
8. *U/S SF 1253 Openwork disc brooch.* Copper alloy. A rare British form – see especially Hattatt 1985, 146 no. 538. C2. Diameter 28 mm. Trench 28.
9. *1318 SF 2577 Cockerel brooch*. Copper alloy. Crummy 1983, 15 nos. 75-6; Hattatt 1985, 175 no. 620. C2. Length 28 mm, width 13 mm maximum diameter 21 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3/4.
10. *U/S SF 2549 Knee brooch*. Copper alloy. Now bent out of shape. See Hattatt 1987, 263 – a British variant. Later C2 – C3. Length now 26 mm, original length *c* 30-35 mm, width spring cover 10.5 mm.

Personal ornamentation associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.26)

11. *1200 SF 673 Bracelet.* Copper alloy. Complete. C4. Present diameter (open) 62 mm, section 5 x 1.5 mm. Trench 17.
12. *620 SF 598 Bracelet.* Copper alloy. Multiple unit. C4. Present length 43 mm, section 4 x 1 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
13. 1253 SF 3114 Bracelet bead. Jet. C4. 1 corner chipped. Length 14 mm, width 7 mm., maximum thickness 6.5 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3.
14. *U/S SF 1072 Finger ring.* Diameter 20 x 20.5 mm; hoop section 3 x 1 mm. Trench 19.
15. *559 SF 1080 Finger ring.* Blue/green glass intaglio in remains of iron ring. The glass gem is oval with a flat upper face 10 x 8 x 2 mm. Its device is an eagle with wings displayed, standing on a thunderbolt (Fulmen). Below is a globe. Trench 13, Phase 3.
16. *1200 SF 732. Bead.* Glass. Flattened ovoid bead perforated transversely. Translucent deep green (appearing opaque) with thin opaque red streaks. Diameter 11 x 9 mm, thickness 3 mm, perforation diameter 2 mm. Trench 17.
17. *1200 SF 2494. Bead.* Glass. 'D'-sectioned annular. Translucent blue/green. Diameter 17 x 16 mm, thickness 5-6 mm, perforation diameter 8.5 mm. Trench 17.
18. *U/S SF 299. Pendant?* Lead. Rectangular-sectioned

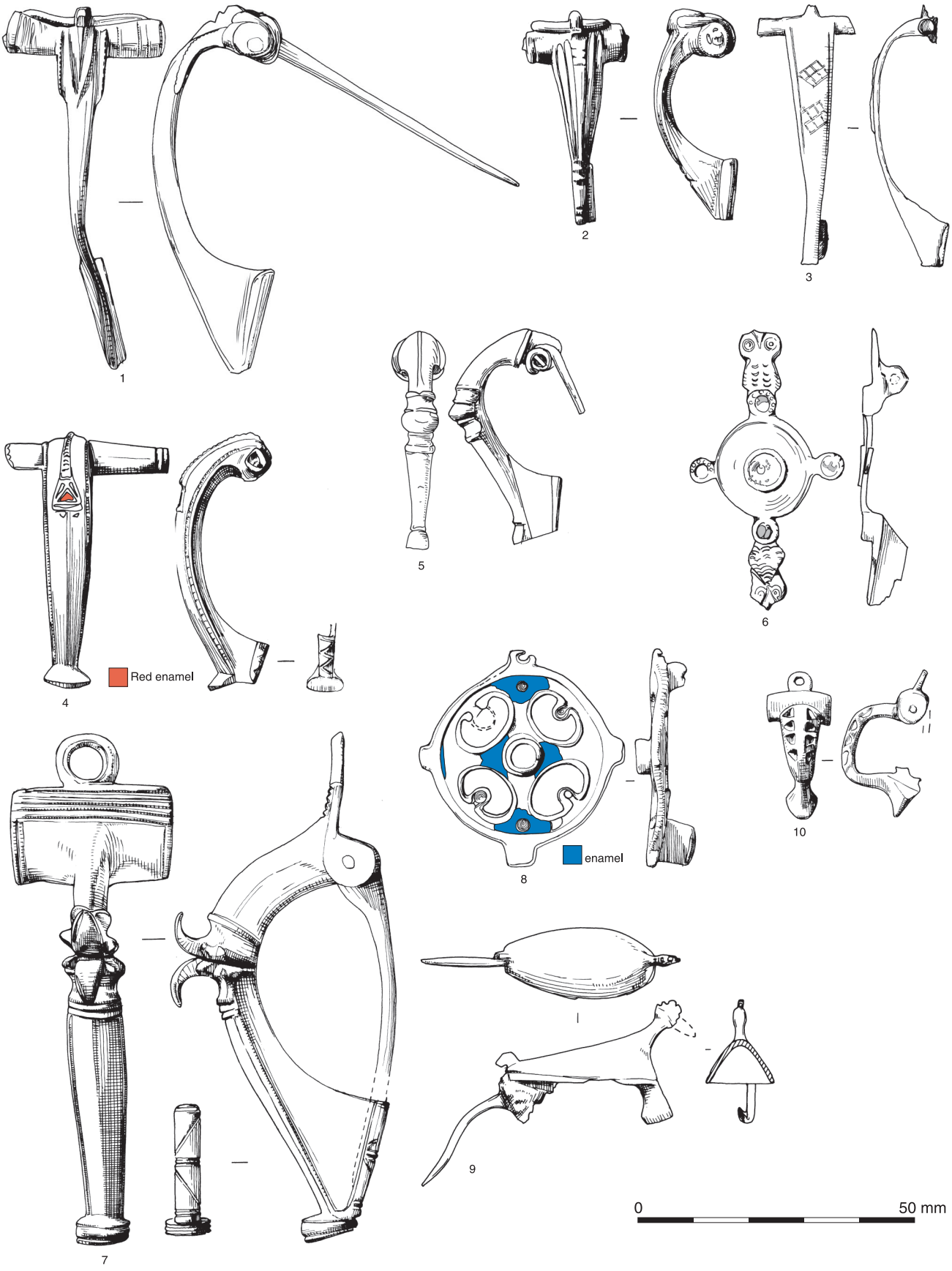


Fig. 5.25 Brooches associated with Phase 3

tapering rectangular block with perforation at narrower end, worn through at top. Length 12.5 mm, maximum section 8 x 5 mm. Trench 17.

19. *2409 SF 2338. Bead.* Shale. 10 mm diameter. Perforation diameter 1.5 mm. Trench 19, Phase 3.
20. *1219 SF 747. Necklace fastener.* Copper alloy. Triangular flat perforated plate with notched edges and long wire hook; perforation has worn through and plate has been bent to form a hook through which a wire loops twice; forms a double loop at other end, with loose end then tightly wrapped around the first length to form rigid bar before looping through bent plate of necklace fastener. C4. Complete length 35 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3/4.

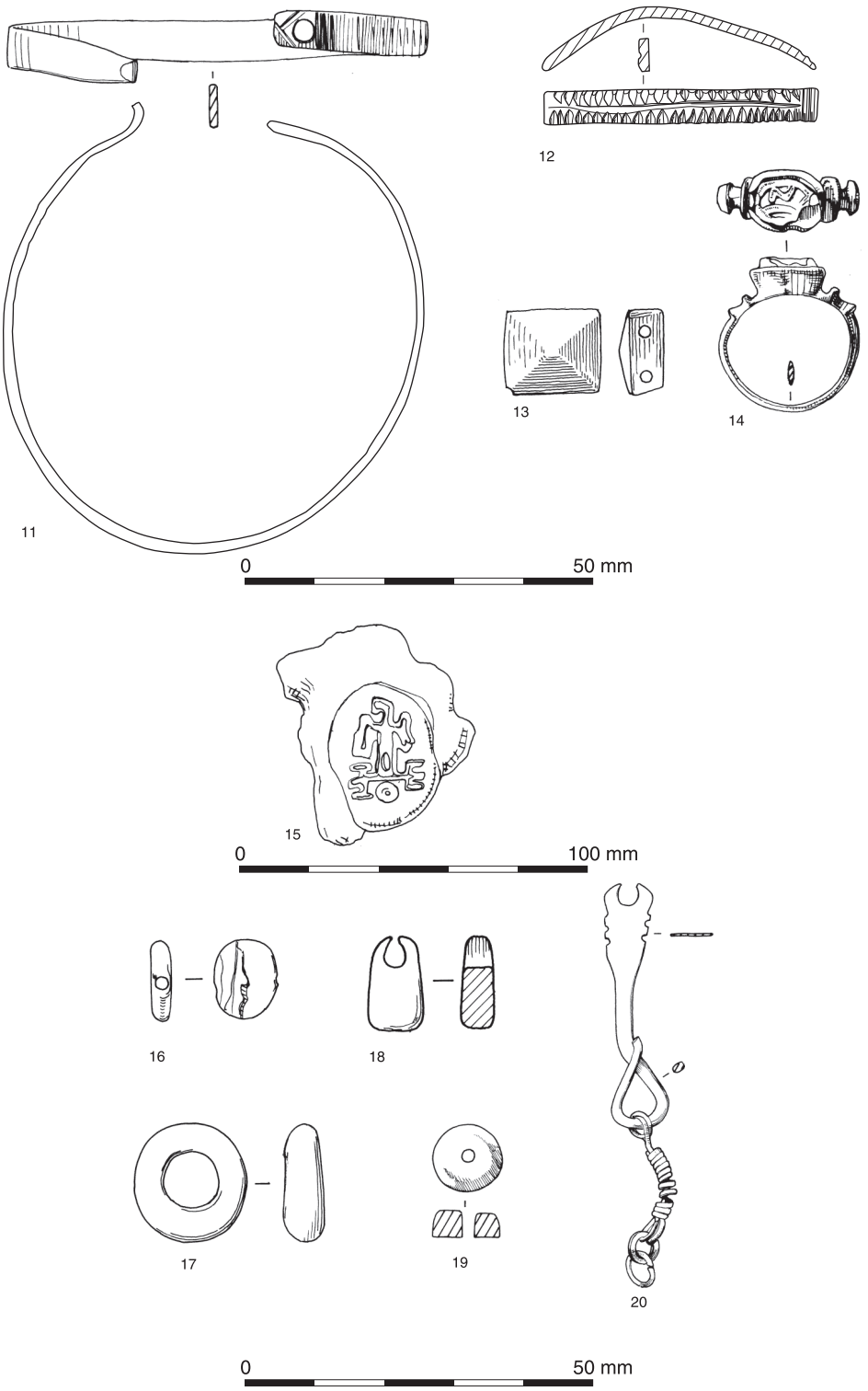


Fig. 5.26 Personal ornamentation associated with Phase 3

Personal ornamentation, toilet and textile objects associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.27)

21. *687 SF 851. Hairpin.* Copper alloy. Tall hemispherical head with close-set vertical grooving; sharp hour glass moulding below. Length 111 mm, head diameter 2.5 mm, shank diameter 3 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
22. *505 SF 185. Hairpin.* Copper alloy. Hemispherical knob head, sides vertically grooved, upper part plain. The cross-hatched shank is unusual. C1-C2. Length 100 mm, head diameter 3.5 mm, shank 2.5 mm. Trench 13.
23. *2430 SF 2967. Hairpin.* Copper alloy. Cylindrical cross-hatched cylinder with shallow conical terminal. Present length 49 mm, head section 6 mm, shank section 2.5 mm. Trench 19.
24. *2620 SF 2874. Hair pin.* Bone. Conical knob head of same diameter as top of shank, diagonally cross-hatched; now in two fragments. Present length 59 mm, diameter of head 4 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
25. *1200 SF 2540. Earring.* Copper alloy. Rectangular-section, narrowest to ear, penannular with one bevelled end. Traces of transverse grooves on hoop. Trench 17.
26. *687 SF 555. Toilet set.* Copper alloy. All tools have transverse perforated terminals with pronounced channel separating loop from tool on each face. Trench 13, Phase 3.

    Nail cleaner. Length 44 mm, maximum section 5 mm.

    Tweezers. Length 46 mm, width at jaws 6 mm.

    Cosmetic spoon. Length 44 mm, maximum section 4.5 mm.
27. *U/S SF 2654. Rasp.* Copper alloy. From a toilet set. Broken disc terminal. Present length 45 mm, rasp section 3.5 x 2.5 mm.

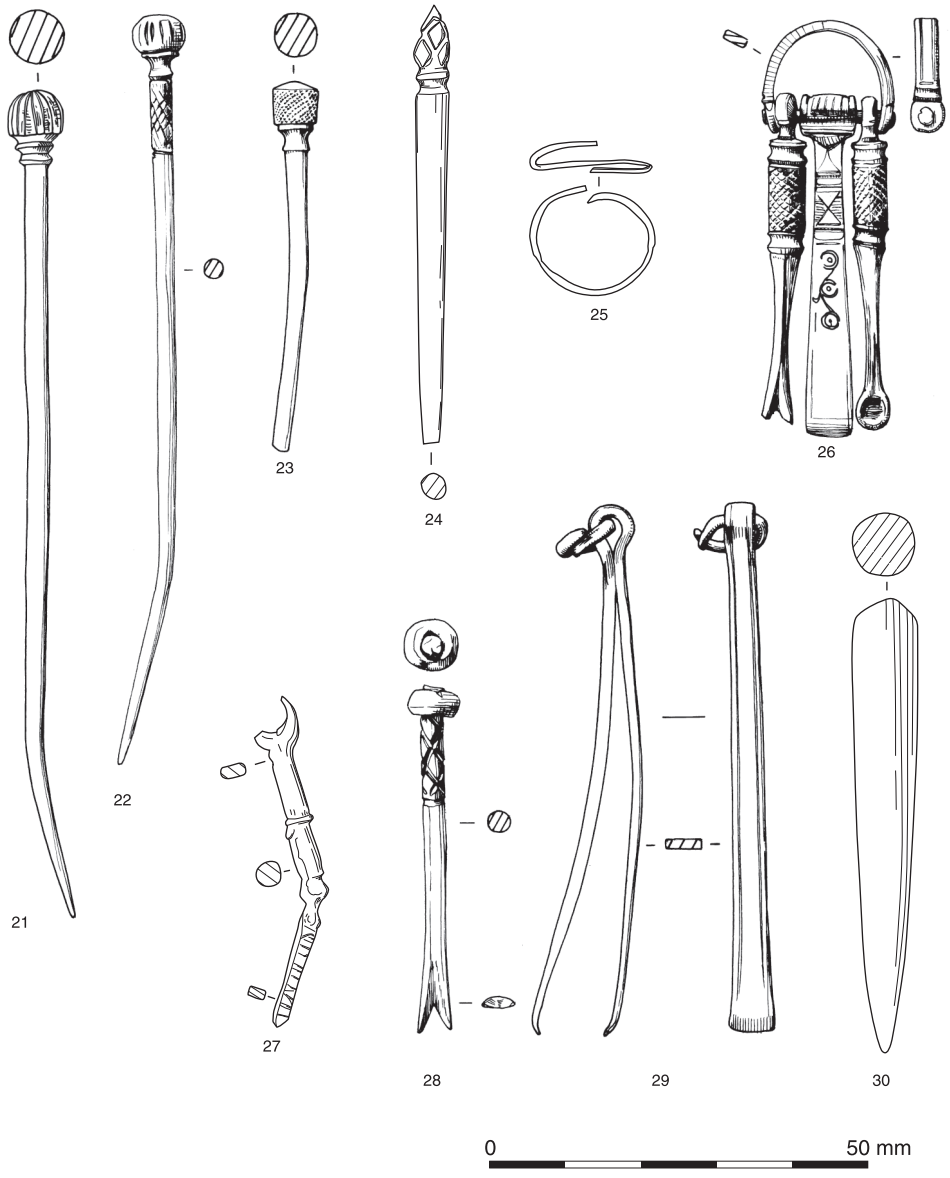


Fig. 5.27 Personal ornamentation, toilet and textile objects associated with Phase 3

28. *504 SF 158. Nail cleaner.* Copper alloy. Oval-sectioned shank with circular knob bone head. Length 46 mm, section 3.5 x 3 mm. Trench 13.
29. *U/S SF 1610. Tweezers*. Copper alloy. Rectangular-sectioned strip bent in two with closed loop. Length 71 mm, section 4 x 1 mm. Trench 13.
30. *504 SF 159. Pin beater?* Bone. Circular-sectioned rod; one end broken, other tapering to point retaining glossy surface. Present length 60 mm, maximum section 9.5 mm. Trench 13.

Household and recreation objects associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.28)

31. *522 SF 360. Vine leaf.* Copper alloy. Cast with separately sweated on knobs at terminals, two now extant. Convex-curved; front marked with veins. Probably the reflector from the back of a metal oil lamp. Length 68 mm., thickness 1.5 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
32. *2317 SF 1690. Jug handle fragment*. Copper alloy. Oval-sectioned handle with projecting thumb rest; both ends broken. This is the handle from a sheet metal jug (Eggers Form 128) used to heat water (Koster 1997, 33 no. 10). This does not join with find 2076, but could come from the same handle. Present length 67 mm. Trench 13.
33. *2349 SF 2076. Jug handle fragment.* Lower part of cast oval-sectioned handle with part of attachment plate. Possibly from same handle as SF 1690. Present length 45 mm, handle section 8 x 6 mm. Trench 13.
34. *U/S SF 33. Bowl rim fragment.* Copper alloy. Slightly incurved rim, internally thickened; body twisted out of shape. Small circular perforation near rim; exterior has traces of white metal coating; interior has polishing marks near rim. Present height *c* 45 mm.
35. *U/S SF 3013. Escutcheon.* Copper alloy. Broken, triangular, straight-sided escutcheon with broken circular attachment loop. Probably from a small bucket (cf den Boesterd 1956, 47 nos. 154-5). Present length 49 mm, maximum section 18 x 2 mm.
36. *2101 SF 2542. Spoon.* Bone. Circular bowl; broken circular-sectioned shank in two joining fragments. Present length 65 mm, diameter of bowl 22 mm, shank section 3.5 mm. Trench 13, Phase 2/3.
37. *1234 SF 911. Counter*. Glass. Plano-convex appearing black. Base smoothed. Two large hollows from bubbles at edge. Diameter 13 mm, thickness 5.5 mm. Trench 13.
38. *504 SF 198. Counter.* Bone. Disc with bevelled edge; obverse decorated with three concentric grooves around central dot. Diameter 17 mm, thickness 3 mm. Trench 13.
39. *687 SF 434. Die.* Ivory. Faces marked by spots formed of double ring-and-dot. Dimensions 17 x 15 x 14 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
40. *2005 SF 1411. Pointed oval counter.* Bone. Flat faces decorated by 5 and 6 ring-and-dots, sometimes with double ring-and-dots; two sides have 3 and 4 double ring-and-dots. Dimensions 33 x 16 mm, thickness 7 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.

Weighing, writing and transport objects associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.29)

41. *U/S SF 620. Steelyard weight.* Lead. Biconical with iron suspension loop. Length (total) 60 mm, diameter 37 mm. Trench 13.
42. *632 SF 377. Stylus.* Copper alloy. Copper alloy styli are not common but there is a distinct possibility that simply decorated ones such as this may be a local type (cf Wilcote, where two have been recovered from 2nd-century contexts; Hands 1993, 38 no. 16; 1998, 58 nos. 57). Length 118 mm, scraper section 6 x 1mm, shank section 2 mm. Trench 13.
43. *620 SF 1040. Stylus.* Iron. Length 125 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
44. *U/S SF 108. Stylus.* Iron. Length 140 mm.
45. *504 SF 337. Linch pin*. Iron. Length 142 mm. Trench 13.
46. *687 SF 789. Strap loop.* Copper alloy. Rectangular plate with rectangular loop behind, 4 petalled flower with petals reserved and central orange cell; traces of enamel in border now decayed green. Dimensions 27 x 21 mm, depth 9 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.

Tools and pottery repairs associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.30)

47. *1265 SF 2178. Punch.* Iron. Rod with square-sectioned tip. Length 85 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3.
48. *504 SF 320. Awl?* Bone. Oval sectioned shank with flat head tapering to point. Length 85 mm, maximum section 7 x 5 mm. Trench 13.
49. *2198 SF 1761. Knife.* Iron. Straight blade edge curved up to tip. Present length 140 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
50. *503 SF 128. Knife.* Iron. Parallel back and blade edge with back sharply angled down to tip; stepped shoulders; tapering tang. Length 113 mm. Trench 13.
51. *759 SF 593. Knife.* Iron. Blade with concave back and edge curved up to point; tanged curved down. Length 160 mm. Trench 13.
52. *2335 SF 1868. Cleaver.* Iron. Triangular blade with straight back in line with open socket. Present length 270 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3/4.
53. *687 SF 435. Cleaver.* Iron. Open socketed handle; straight back in same line as handle; curved blade. Length 150 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
54. *U/S SF 1605. Clasp Knife.* Copper alloy handle of dog chasing hare with part of iron blade retained in slot and therefore closed when deposited. Length of handle 70 mm. Trench 13.
55. *U/S SF 2386. Clamp.* Lead. One D-sectioned bar and one wider plate connected by two shanks. Retaining fragment of reduced pottery. Length 49 mm, width (bar) 9 mm, thickness 13 mm.
56. *U/S SF 778. Plug.* Lead. Circular with H-shaped profile retaining fragment of oxidised pottery ('sandy storage jar'). Diameter 41 x 38 mm, thickness 20 mm. Trench 17.

Security, fasteners and agricultural objects associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.31)

57. *1454 SF 2960. Latch lifter.* Iron. Retaining loose ring terminal and curved blade. Length 245 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3.
58. *1202 SF 754. Padlock bolt.* Iron. Rectangular bung-shaped stop; two spines; barbs missing. Present length 70 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3.
59. *766 SF 627. Padlock hasp*. Iron. L-shaped bar with ring at end of shorter arm and central expansion on other arm. A padlock of Manning (1985) Type 2. Length *c* 115 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.

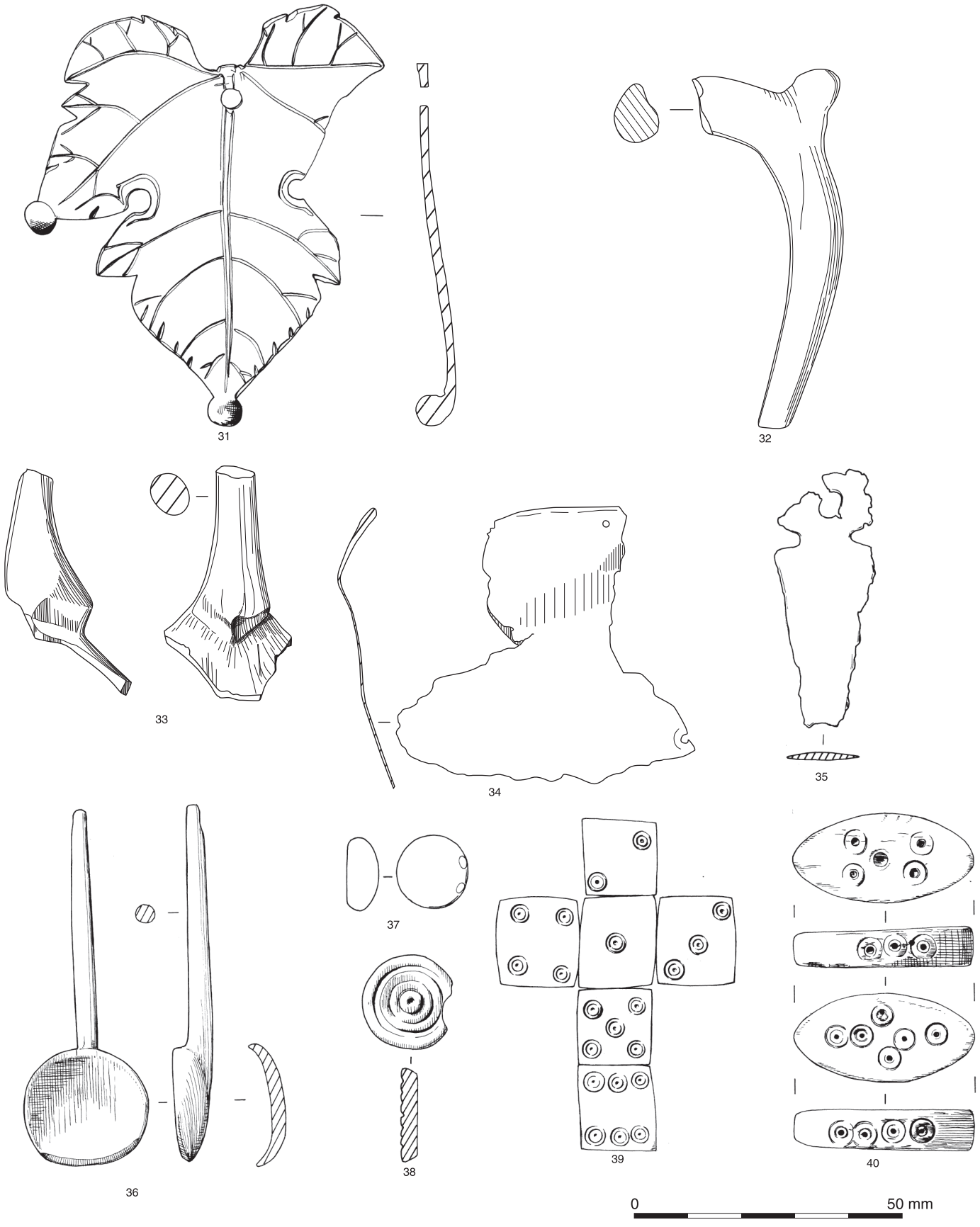


Fig. 5.28 Household and recreation objects associated with Phase 3

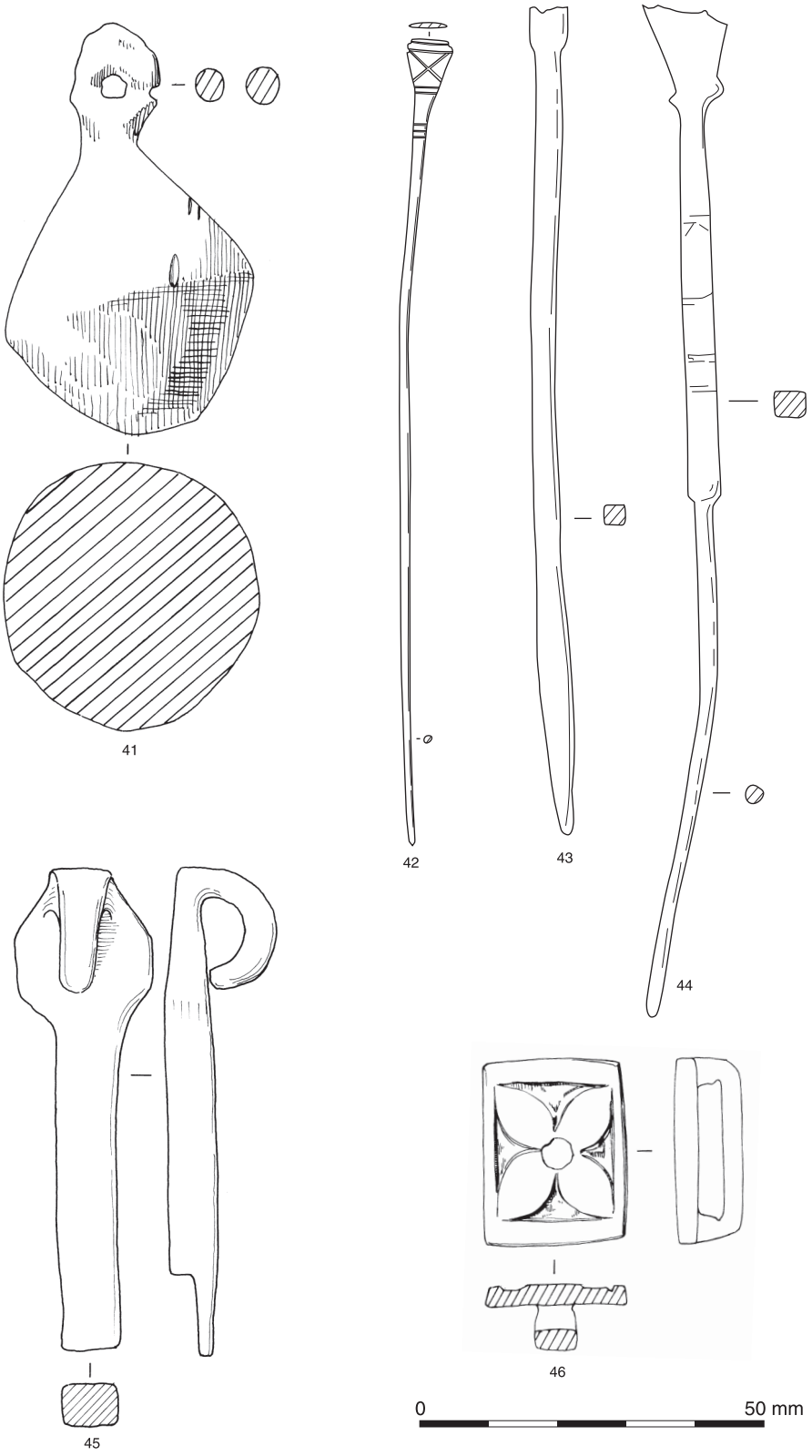


Fig. 5.29 Weighing, writing and transport objects associated with Phase 3

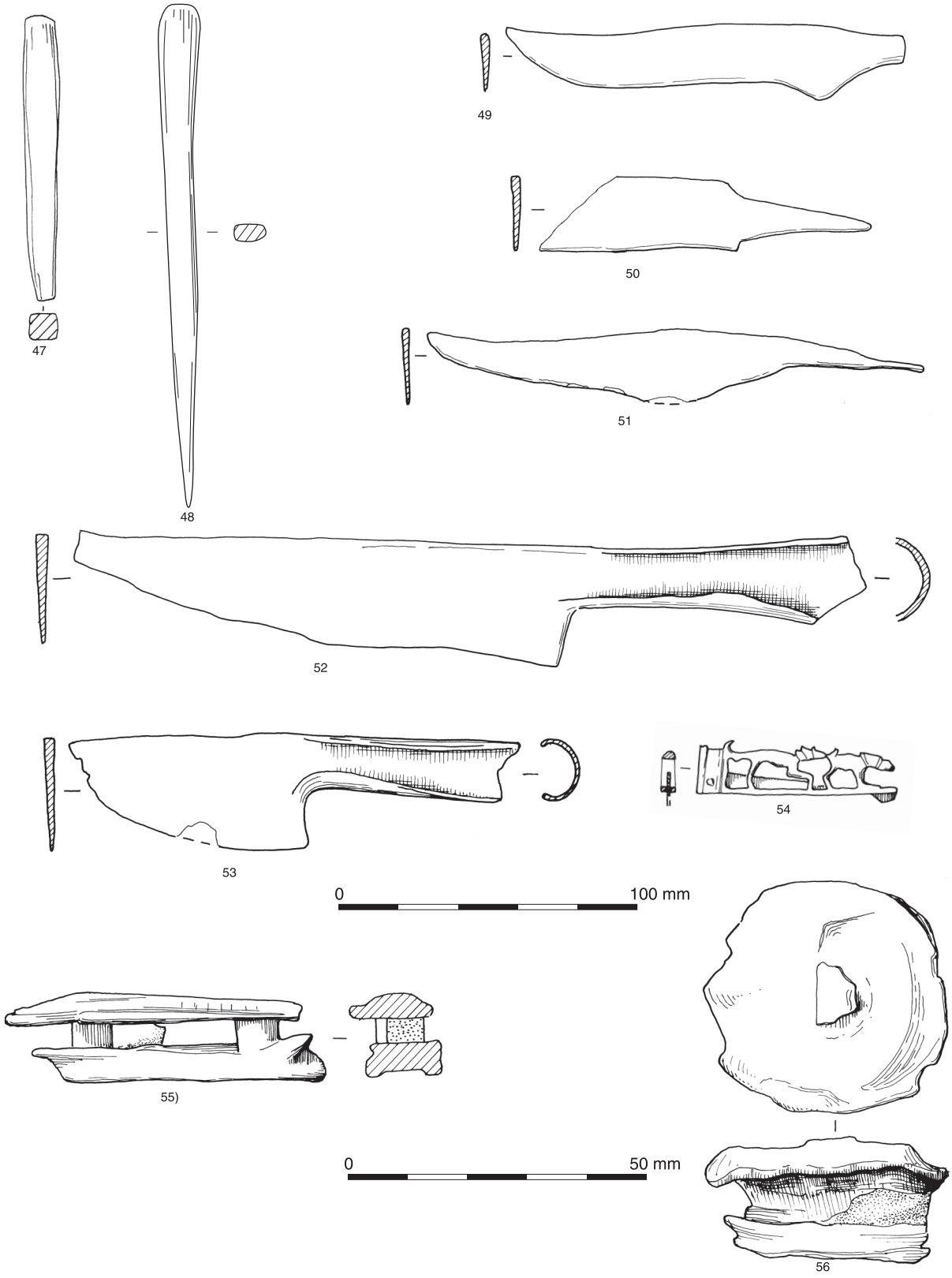


Fig. 5.30 Tools and pottery repairs associated with Phase 3

60. *687 SF 854. Padlock key.* Iron. Handle with loop terminal, ward plate present with single central perforation (See Manning 1985, 96). Length 143 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.
61. *793 SF 661. Lion-headed stud head.* Copper alloy. Hollow, stepped stud head with effect of two rings with central flat-fronted oval. In use during the Flavian period (Borrill 1981, 315). Diameter 15 mm. Trench 13, Phase 4.
62. *1200 SF 693. Ferrule*. Iron. Socket with elongated point. Length 70 mm. Trench 17.
63. *1305 SF 2489. Reaping hook.* Iron. Only socket visible on X-ray. Trench 17, Phase 3.

Military and religious objects associated with Phase 3 (Fig. 5.32)

64. *U/S SF 5493. Baldrick fitting.* Copper alloy. Heart-shaped openwork with broken transverse loop and triangular terminal, all elements very shallowly D-sectioned with flat back. Later C2-C3. Length 64 mm, width 49 mm, thickness 2 mm.
65. *693 SF 912. Vulva mount.* Copper alloy. Elongate hexagonal plate with oval hollow-backed boss; two studs with integral washers on the back. This type of mount is common in military assemblages of the later 2nd to 3rd centuries (Oldenstein 1977, 139; for other

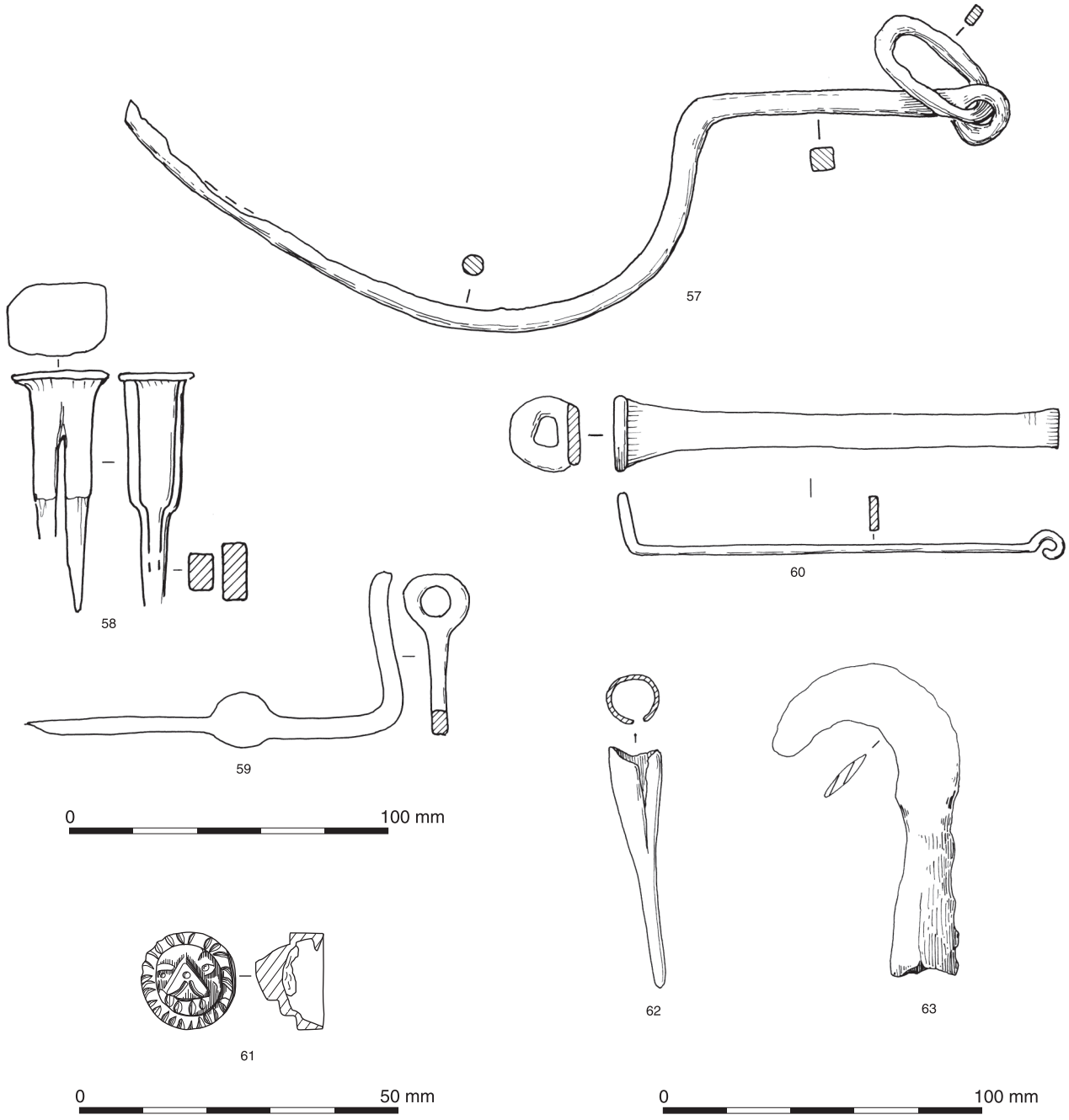


Fig. 5.31 Security, fasteners and agricultural objects associated with Phase 3

references see Cool 1990a, 81, fig. 70 no. 27). Later C2-C3. Length 37 mm, width 22 mm. Trench 13, Phase 4.

66. *1913 SF 1506. Strap end.* Copper alloy. Broken circular loop with groove above slightly waisted circular-sectioned bar, expanding out to greatest width marked by 2 grooves. Similar to example from Saalburg (Oldenstein 1977, 144, 249 no. 297). C2-C3. Length 40 mm, max diameter 7 mm. Trench 13, Phase 4.
67. *U/S 2699. Barrel bead.* Copper alloy. Octagonal-sectioned cylinder tapering to both ends. A type found predominantly on military sites (Mould 1991, 194 no. 694, fig. 97) but occasionally on apparently civilian ones (Lloyd-Morgan 2001, 230 no. 48, fig. 6.5). C2-C3. Length 45 mm, maximum section 16 x 14 mm.
68. *U/S SF 1674.* Caterpillar mount. Copper alloy. D-sectioned bar with hemispherical terminals. These are a common find on mid 2nd to 3rd century military sites (see for example Mould 2002, 136 no. 6; Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 237 nos 3.877-8). L C2-C3. Length 28 mm, section 6.5 x 4 mm. Trench 13.
69. *538 SF 107. Bell.* Copper alloy. Bell. Rectangular-sectioned cone with diamond-shaped perforated loop and small knob at each corner. Iron loop and clapper internally. Length 49 mm, max diameter 34 x 31 mm. Trench 13, Phase 3.

Worked Stone (Figs 5.33-4) *by Fiona Roe*

A total of 38 objects of worked stone came from Phase 3 contexts, with a further 16 from Phase 3/4 (Table 5.6).

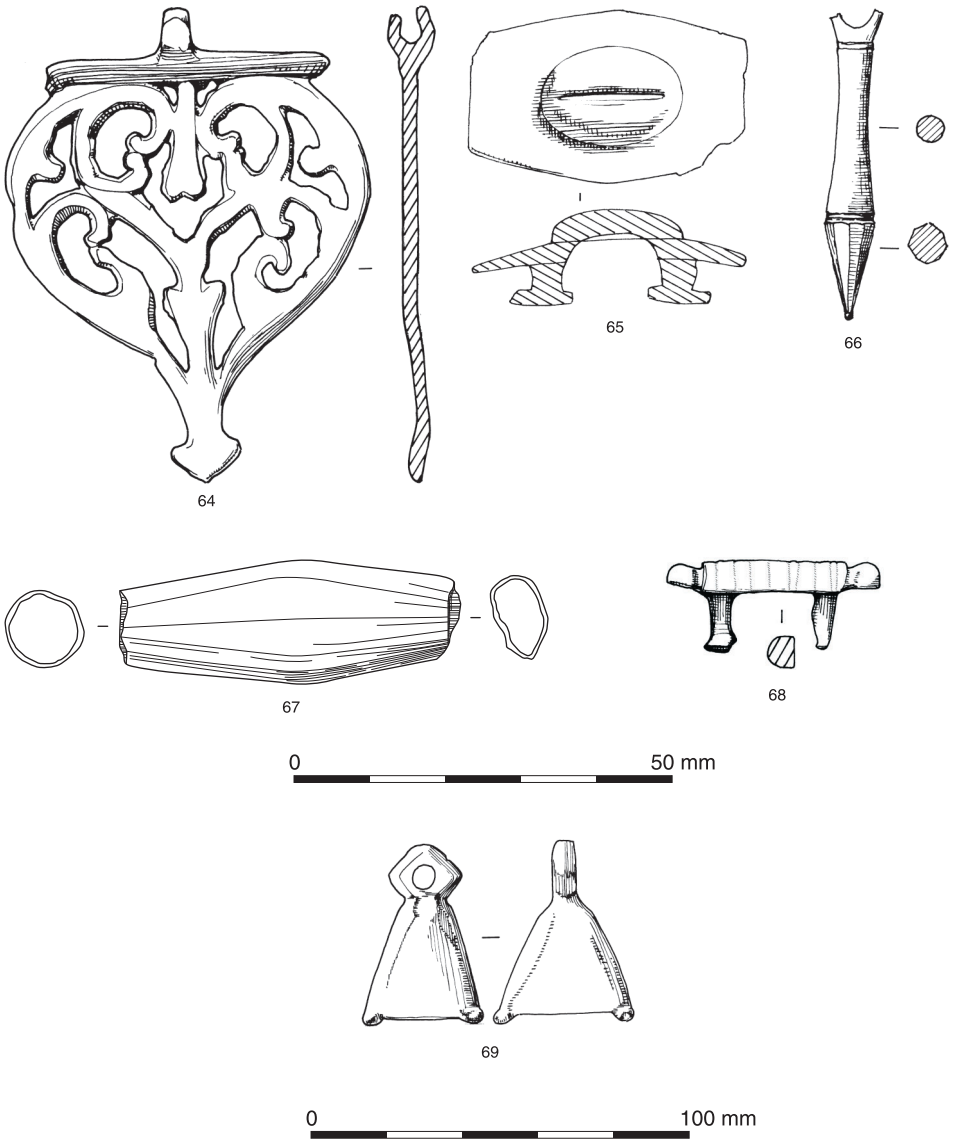


Fig. 5.32 Military and religious objects associated with Phase 3

Quern/millstones

It can be seen from Table 5.6 that Upper Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean/Wye Valley area was particularly important as quern and millstone material. There are also numerous whetstones made from Lower Old Red Sandstone, described below, so there could have been strong links with the Forest of Dean. The Upper Old Red Sandstone comprises two interbedded varieties of stone, sandstone and conglomerate (Welch and Trotter 1961, 49), and both were widely utilised. The quartz conglomerate contains pebbles which are mainly of white vein quartz, and these give the stone a distinctive appearance (eg Fig. 5.33, no. 1). The rotary querns and millstones were manufactured by pecking into shape, and neat pecking round the rim is characteristic of the examples from the Longdoles Field site at Claydon Pike. The grinding surfaces of rotary querns were also prepared by pecking, although they often later became worn into concentric rings (Fig. 5.33, no. 2). At least three of the pieces that were found in Phase 3 contexts can be identified as millstones (half of all millstones identified from the site), on the basis of an estimated diameter of up to *c* 750 mm (eg Fig. 5.33, nos 3-4), or a slot for a rynd fitting (SFs 2927 and 2575). A nearby stream could have supported a watermill. The Upper Old Red Sandstone is likely to have been in use throughout the later Iron Age and Roman period.

The Old Red Sandstone querns and millstones were transported to Claydon Pike some 64.4 km (40 miles) from the Forest of Dean, but they are in no way unusual, since they are found on all other Roman sites in the area (Saunders 1998). They have also been recorded, for instance, at the neighbouring sites of Thornhill Farm (Shaffrey 2004) and Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993, 160 and Ashmolean Museum). Old Red Sandstone objects have been found at a number of nearby Roman towns including Cirencester (Corinium Museum; Cotswold Archaeology, in prep) and Wanborough (Buckley 2001 and Swindon Museum). Upper Old Red Sandstone, mainly in the form of rotary querns, has also been widely recovered from Roman sites in Oxfordshire (Roe in prep). Millstones made from Upper Old Red Sandstone are known from other sites, and can be impressive, as is demonstrated by a pair of complete upper stones with grooved grinding surfaces from Woolaston, Gloucestershire (Scott Garrett 1938, pl IIB; Watts 2002, 58 and fig 21).

It is surprising however how much Millstone Grit was also brought to Claydon Pike, coming from the Pennines around Sheffield, some 188 km (117 miles) north from the site. Only one rotary quern made from Millstone Grit has been identified (SF 3009), although from an unstratified context, and it appears that it was being utilised primarily as a millstone material. The finds from the Longdoles Field site have not survived in good condition, and although in total six pieces could be identified as coming from millstones, another seven are of uncertain type. In four cases traces of pitting could be seen, this being the typical method for finishing off querns or millstones made from this variety of stone.

Table 5.6: Worked stone from Phase 3 and Phase 3/4 contexts

	Imported stone								*Cotswolds*				*Local*		
Identification	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*Total*
Rotary quern	6														6
Quern or millstone	1	4	1												6
Millstone	2	1													3
Quern?										1					1
Whetstone				10	2	2	2					3			19
Whetstone/point sharpener					4										4
Spindlewhorl									3			1			4
Weight													1		1
Marble?														1	1
Palette								1							1
Counter?														1	1
Bracelet									4						4
Bead									1						1
Bowl/mortar											2				2
Total	9	5	1	10	6	2	2	1	8	1	2	4	1	2	54

Key

1. Upper Old Red Sandstone 2. Millstone Grit 3. Niedermendig lava 4. Kentish Rag 5. Lower Old Red Sandstone 6. Red Sandstone Cotswold Limestone 7. Pennant Sandstone 8. Purbeck Marble 9. Kimmeridge Shale 10. Jurrassic Sanstone 11. Coarse-grained limestone 12. Fine-grained limestone 13. Quartzite 14. Flint

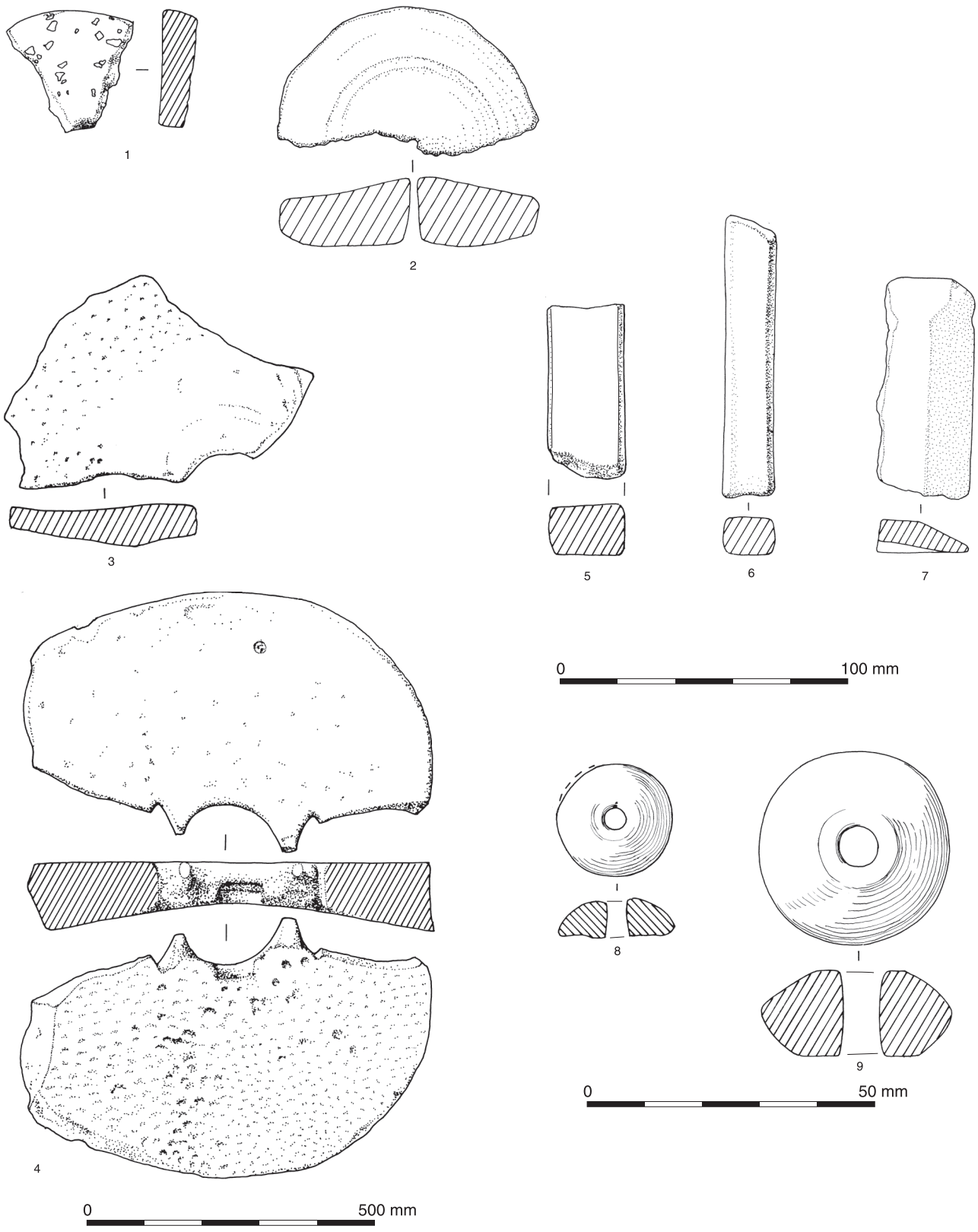


Fig. 5.33 Worked stone (querns, whetstones, palette, spindlewhorls)

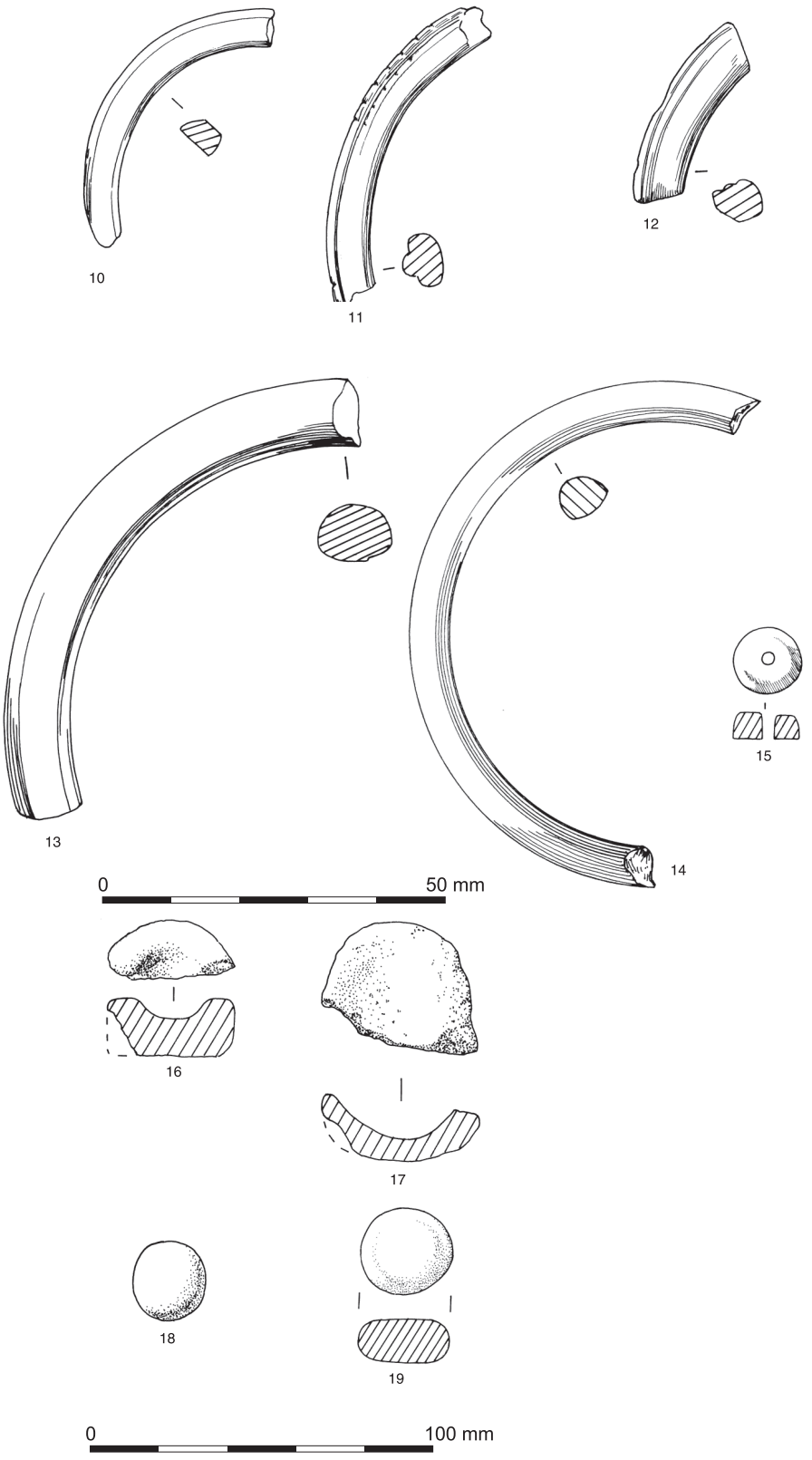


Fig. 5.34 Worked stone (other objects)

Evidence from other local sites supports the theory that Millstone Grit was brought into Gloucestershire mainly as a millstone material. A large example of one of these millstones can be seen at the Chedworth Roman villa (Watts 2002, 62 and pl 9). Pieces of another large millstone were found at Frocester Court (Price 2000, 195 and Gloucester Museum), and part of a further one came from Cricklade Street in Cirencester (Barber and Walker 1996, 9 and Corinium Museum). In addition there is a probable millstone fragment from Somerford Keynes (Chapter 9) and fragments of Millstone Grit were found at Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993, 160 and Ashmolean Museum). These millstones would have been valuable pieces of equipment, and one found at Wanborough, which was one metre in diameter, had been repaired with lead (Buckley 2001, 160 and fig 62, 16). It is clear that although Millstone Grit is found in smaller quantities than Upper Old Red Sandstone on Gloucestershire sites, the trade from the Pennines must have been an important part of the Roman economy.

Niedermendig lava does not survive well on gravel sites, and all the pieces found at the Longdoles Field site are small fragments. There is some evidence from other Gloucestershire sites to show that it was used both for rotary querns and for millstones. A complete lower stone from a lava millstone was found at the Wortley Roman villa (Taylor and Bagnall 1989, 43 and fig 14, 121). Some lava rotary querns are known from local Roman sites, as for example from Stepstairs Lane, Cirencester (Cotswold Archaeology, in prep), and from Wanborough (Buckley 2001, 156), but it is more usual for unidentifiable, weathered fragments to be found, as at the Longdoles Field site. However, the number of Roman sites in Gloucestershire where lava has occurred (some 16 at the time of writing) suggests that it may have been quite widely used.

There is only one Phase 3 quern – and one other – made from Jurassic sandstone or limestone from the Cotswolds, and these may have served as a stand-by if supplies of imported quernstone failed to arrive when needed.

Whetstones

The large numbers of whetstones from Phase 3 are unusual (Table 5.6), and are probably even under-represented given that there are a further 16 unstratified examples. These seem to hint at a rural economy in which they may have been needed for sharpening tools such as sickles or scythes, and such objects were indeed recovered from the site (see Cool above). Thus the whetstones fit with the suggestion that haymaking was an activity particularly characteristic of this site during Phase 3. Two distinctive varieties of whetstone were found at the Longdoles Field site. Firstly, there are whetstones of rod type, and these are all made from light-coloured sandy limestones (eg Fig. 5.33, nos 5-6). The second variety consists of whetstones of slab type, and these were all made from sandstones. The whetstones of the rod variety are mainly made from Kentish Rag, which is likely to have come from around Maidstone (Fig. 5.33, nos 5-6), but three are made from fine-grained, sandy limestone from the Cotswolds. Most of these whetstones are now well worn to a characteristic cigar shape (Fig. 5.33, no. 6). Three of the Kentish Rag ones retain traces of grooves from the initial shaping of stone (Fig. 5.33, no. 5), but this is not a particularly uncommon feature.

The whetstones of the slab variety are mainly made from purple-brown Lower Old Red Sandstone tilestone from the Forest of Dean (Welch and Trotter 1961, 33). These tend to be unevenly shaped, relatively thin, re-used fragments, although at least one have been worn into a pyramidal shape (SF 371). Two more whetstones appear on macroscopic examination to be Pennant sandstone (SFs 2979, 2747), another tilestone, and this may also have been obtained in the Forest of Dean, although the Bristol coalfield is another possible source. A few others were made from red sandstone of less certain origin which may however also have come from the Forest of Dean. Four other whetstones/point sharpeners were made from light coloured quartz sandstone likely to be Jurassic sandstone with a more local source. The flat whetstones of Old Red Sandstone tilestone were used in a different way from the Kentish Rag ones, with wear on the main, flat surface, rather than longitudinally up and down the sides. The broken edges have usually been left unmodified. These whetstones could have been used for more heavy duty honing than the Kentish Rag ones.

In addition, a number of the Old Red Sandstone ones were also used as point sharpeners. The Lower Old Red Sandstone was in use during both Phases 3 and 4, but half of the finds are unstratified, so that the full picture is not clear. A curious fact is that although the Old Red Sandstone whetstones appear to be made from re-used roofing tile, there are no definite examples of such roofing material from the Longdoles Field site, where all the stone roofing tiles were made from Jurassic limestone (see below). Further whetstones made from Old Red Sandstone tilestone were found at the nearby sites of Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993, 161 and Ashmolean Museum) and Thornhill Farm (Shaffrey 2004), where again no roofing tiles made from Old Red Sandstone were recorded. However these roofing tiles from the Forest of Dean were being transported to other sites in Gloucestershire, since they were widely used in Roman Gloucester and other sites in that particular area such as Hucclecote (Roe 2003b, 51). It could be that broken pieces of tilestone from the source area were not wasted, but were instead traded out, along with querns and millstones, to sites such as Claydon Pike where they could be put to good use as whetstones. Other Roman sites in the region, as for example Kingscote,

have some whetstones made from Coal Measures Sandstone, which may have been transported southwards from the Pennines in conjunction with the millstones of Millstone Grit (Gutierrez and Roe 1998b, 178). No doubt the Old Red Sandstone whetstones, coming from a nearer source, were less costly, and for this reason might have been preferred at Claydon Pike. Whetstones made from Pennant sandstone appear to be less common in the area, but were noted from Barnsley Park (Corinium Museum), and one was found at Asthall (Roe 1997, 101). These too could be fragments of roofing tile which were put to further use.

As was seen with the querns and millstones of imported stone, the materials used for whetstones in the Longdoles Field site at Claydon Pike have not occurred in isolation, but are part of a wider picture. The Kentish Rag whetstones, in particular, appear to have been very widely distributed and there is a comparable collection of 14 Kentish Rag whetstones from Barnsley Park (Peacock 1971b, 153), while another ten examples were found at Kingscote, (Gutierrez and Roe 1998b, 178). Elsewhere in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire they have frequently been recorded but in smaller numbers, as for instance at Asthall (Roe 1997, 100). Whetstones made from Lower Old Red Sandstone have been found in smaller quantities. Nevertheless, apart from their presence at the adjacent sites of Roughground Farm and Thornhill Farm, they have occurred at Barnsley Park (Corinium Museum) and Asthall (Roe 1997, 100), two further sites where the stone roofing tiles were made from Jurassic limestone (Williams 1971, 101; Booth 1997, 102). There are also examples from Somerford Keynes (Chapter 9).

Other worked stone objects

There are further objects of imported stone from the Longdoles Field site at Claydon Pike which again demonstrate how certain lithic materials were being widely distributed during the Roman period (Table 5.6). Purbeck Marble from Dorset was one such variety of stone, being used especially for mortars and other vessels, but also on occasion for palettes. The fragment from the Longdoles Field site (Fig. 5.33, no. 7) appears to be the first palette of this material to be recognized from Gloucestershire, where other known examples were made from imported Mediterranean marbles, as was the case for instance at Kingscote (Gutierrez and Roe 1998a, 167). However a quantity of Purbeck Marble was recovered from Roman Cirencester (Corinium Museum), and so the palette, or a piece of stone from which to make it, could have been acquired from the market there. Kimmeridge shale was also brought from Dorset, and there are fragments from eight small objects in Phase 3 contexts and three unstratified. These amount to three spindlewhorls (Fig. 5.33, nos 8-9), six small bracelets, four of which are plain (Fig. 5.34, nos 10, 13-14) and two decorated (Fig. 5.34, nos 11-12), together with a ring and a small bead (Fig. 5.34, no. 15). This collection is typical of what has been found on other Gloucestershire sites, as for instance at Barnsley Park (Corinium Museum), Frocester (Price 2000, 185) and Kingscote (Timby 1998, 220).

Cotswold stone lends itself well to the manufacture of stone vessels, and two were found at the Longdoles Field site in Phase 3/4 contexts. These were informally made mortars, one (Fig. 5.34, no. 16) apparently made from a reused piece of building stone from the Corinium quarries, the other (Fig. 5.34, no. 17) probably made from a limestone cobble which could have been found in the local gravels. Comparable limestone mortars were found at Somerford Keynes (Chapter 9), and another came from Thornhill Farm (Shaffrey 2004). One spindlewhorl is made from a fine-grained limestone, which again is similar to stone used for roofing tiles, with a probable source in the Great Oolite.

The few objects made of stone from the immediate locality demonstrate the limited local resources. Small flint pebbles which probably came from the river gravels were used for a possible marble and a possible counter (Fig. 5.34, nos 18-19). A quartzite pebble, also probably from the gravels, was used for a small weight of Iron Age type (SF 2572).

A selection of worked stone objects relating to Phase 3 occupation is presented in Figure 5.34, a full worked stone catalogue can be found in Digital Section 3.8b

Illustrated catalogue: Worked stone (querns, whetstones, palette, spindlewhorls) (Fig. 5.33-4)

1. SF 2981 Segment of rotary quern, probably upper stone, weathered, traces of rings on grinding surface, pecked rim; diam *c* 400 mm, thickness at rim 50.5 mm, 1.710 kg. Upper Old Red Sandstone quartz conglomerate. Trench 29.
2. 1408 SF 2926 About half lower stone rotary quern, fully pierced, rim pecked to shape, underside unmodified; diam *c* 350 mm, thickness at rim 59 mm, thickness in centre 85 mm, 7.800 kg. Upper Old Red Sandstone, quartz conglomerate. Trench 17, Phase 3.
3. 2441 SF 3062 Weathered fragment from millstone, part of central hole; diam at least 730 mm, diam of hole *c* 110 mm, thickness at rim *c* 48 mm, thickness at centre 83 mm, 10.9 kg. Upper Old Red Sandstone quartz conglomerate. Trench 29.
4. 2840 SF 2984 Fragment upper stone of small millstone. Upper Old Red Sand stone quartz conglomerate. Trench 29.
5. 1716 SF 1030 Fragment whetstone, traces of two grooves from initial shaping into rod, rectangular cross-section, slightly worn; 60 x 26 x 17 mm, 40 g. Kentish Rag. Trench 13, Phase 3.
6. 2509 SF2141 Whetstone, worn to a slender rod; 97 x 17 x 13 mm, 40 g. Kentish Rag. Trench 13, Phase 3.
7. 1409 SF 2838 Corner fragment from palette, two chamfered edges; 74.5 x 32 x 10 mm, 35 g Purbeck Marble. Trench 17, Phase 3.

8. 687 SF 423 Spindlewhorl, plano-convex. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 13, Phase 3.
9. SF 603 Complete spindlewhorl, biconical. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 13, Phase 3.

Worked stone (other objects) (Fig. 5.34)

10. 502 SF 76 Fragment bracelet. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 13, Phase 3/4.
11. 687 SF 660 Fragment bracelet, decorated. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 13, Phase 3.
12. 1200 SF 946 Fragment bracelet, decorated. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 17.
13. 2397 SF 1812 Fragment bracelet. Kimmeridge Shale. D-sectioned hoop with turning marks internally. Diam 100 mm; *c* 28% circumference extant; section 10.5 x 9 mm. Trench 19, Phase 3.
14. 1379 SF 2996 Fragment bracelet. Kimmeridge Shale. D-sectioned hoop with turning marks internally. Diam 73 mm; *c* 53% circumference extant; section 6 x 5.5 mm. Trench 17, Phase 3.
15. 2409 SF 2338 Small bead. Kimmeridge Shale. Trench 19, Phase 3.
16. 2447 SF 2573 Fragment of mortar, weathered and burnt; diam *c* 210 mm, max thickness 70 mm, 640 g. Jurassic limestone, shelly and oolitic. Trench 29, Phase 3.
17. 2448 SF 2574 Part of crudely made mortar, hollowed area in unshaped cobble; 190 x 141 mm, max thickness 57 mm, 1.650 kg. Coarse-grained, shelly Jurassic limestone, possibly a cobble from the gravels. Trench 29, Phase 3.
18. 1269 SF 2336 Small spherical pebble, unworked, but possibly could have been used as a marble; diam 22.5 mm, 15 g. Flint. Trench 17, Phase 3.
19. 1318 SF 2864 Small, polished pebble, could have been used as counter; diam. 2.6 mm, thickness 12 mm, 7 g. Flint (with blackened surface). Trench 17, Phase 3/4.

Metalworking *by Peter Northover and Chris Salter*

Of the *c* 32 kg of slag-like material recovered from the site, over 66% came from Phase 3 contexts, and while this is not a huge quantity, it does indicate that some level of industrial activity did take place within the settlement, as would perhaps be appropriate for an extensive agricultural complex. Furthermore around 88% of this material came from contexts in Trench 17 implying that this was very much a localised activity, restricted to the margins of the main settlement area. There are a number of different processes that can generate slag-like material some of which may not be associated with metalworking. The most common types of non-metallurgical slag-like materials are fuel ash slags (FAS) and furnace lining material (FLM) which could have been produced by any operation that was capable of producing temperatures of 1200ºC and above. Normally such temperatures were only produced in manufacture of pottery or metal artefacts but occasionally a large well ventilated fire could reach this sort of temperature range. There is no evidence for pottery production on site, and the quantity of true slags, which are the vitreous waste product of a metallurgical process, indicates that iron working did take place. The commonest slags on archaeological sites are those derived from iron working processes such as smelting or smithing, and at Claydon Pike it seems that all of the material was derived from smithing. Such iron smithing was probably carried out on a relatively minor scale, possibly for the creation and repair of agricultural tools and structural fittings for the estate. It is possible that some bronze working occurred on site during this phase, but it is unlikely that copper alloy metallurgy was ever more than a minor and episodic component of the local metal economy.

Building Materials

Ceramic building material *by Leigh Allen*

Of the 434 kg of ceramic tile from the site, just over 100 kg (23%) came from Phase 3 contexts, with a further 48 kg deriving from Phase 3/4 (Table 5.7). Of the Phase 3 assemblage, 57 kg appeared either plain or unidentifiable, and over 26 kg was definitely roofing material (tegulae and imbrices). One interesting find was a fragment recognised as a skylight hood. In order to give more light inside some houses, circular holes were made in *tegulae*, which were then partially covered by semi-circular clay hoods. Twelve fabrics were identified amongst the tile assemblage (see Digital section 3.9), with two major sources indicated – Minety (McWhirr 1971) and Wanborough

Table 5.7: Distribution of tile types across main excavation trenches in Phase 3 (weight and % from site)

Tile type	*Trench 13*		*Trench 17*		*Trench 19*		*Trench 29*		*Total*	
	Wgt (g)	*%*	*Wgt (g)*	*%*	*Wgt (g)*	*%*	*Wgt (g)*	*%*	*Wgt (g)*	*%*
Box tiles	3200	78.43	575	14.09	270	6.62	35	0.86	4080	4.08
Imbrices	11100	85.45	870	6.70	580	4.46	440	3.39	12990	12.98
Tegulae	11885	89.66	235	1.77	925	6.98	210	1.58	13255	13.24
Large tiles and bricks	7385	63.55	200	1.72	3,095	26.64	940	8.09	11620	11.60
Plain tile	31695	75.68	3120	7.45	4600	10.98	2465	5.89	41880	41.83
Unidentified	14083	86.46	685	4.21	970	5.96	550	3.38	16288	16.27
Total	79348	79.26	5685	5.68	10440	10.43	4640	4.63	100113	100

(Anderson *et al.* 2001). The kilns at Minety went out of use in the 3rd century, but it is not possible to determine if this led to a shift in reliance to the competing source at Warnborough. A very small proportion of the fabric comes from a known kiln site at Fairford; its use seems to have been restricted to the production of flat plain tiles only.

Almost 80% of the material was from Trench 13 with a particular concentration in the area of Aisled Building 1, and presumably deriving from this structure. The quantities recovered are still very small compared to the total needed for such a tiled roof, although it is likely that there was much reuse of material, both within the Phase 4 villa, and probably to areas away from the site. It is also quite likely that much of the ceramic material could have been lost in the unexcavated parts of the site such as baulks and the topsoil. About 4 kg of box tile was recovered from Phase 3 contexts, nearly all from Trench 13, but this is perhaps more likely to be intrusive material deriving from the Phase 4 hypocaust building (B 9).

Mortar and plaster *by Graham Morgan*

A total of 95 samples of mortar and plaster were taken from the site, and 30% of this came from Phase 3 contexts. These included the only sample of fine painted wall plaster (Group 1; see Digital section 3.10) which came from well 766. Two samples of a coarser painted plaster (Group 2) were also recovered from this well and all material is assumed to have come from Aisled Building 1. Further samples of this group came from a posthole of B 1 and the robber trench of B 7. The colours on the plaster were red, green and yellow.

The overall evidence from the tile and the mortar and plaster indicates that Aisled Building 1 at least was a structure of some architectural merit, with a tiled roof and painted plaster on the walls. This appears to be in contrast with Aisled Building 3 which it is suggested may have had a thatched roof and an altogether more 'rustic' appearance. The column parts found within Phase 3/4 pits in Trench 17 and 19 probably derived from a structure belonging to Phase 3 (see Phase 3 discussion).

Building stone *by Fiona Roe*

Fourteen pieces of building stone came from Phase 3 contexts, with a further eight from Phase 3/4. The objects comprise roofing tile fragments, architectural pieces and samples of building stone. The roofing tiles are made from fissile varieties of the Great Oolite, which were probably obtained from around Coln St Aldwyns, Gloucestershire (Richardson 1933, 106). The limestone used for columns and other shaped pieces of masonry probably came from the Roman quarries at Corinium (McWhirr *et al.* 1982, 35). As most of the building stone came from Phase 3/4 and especially Phase 4 contexts, they have been discussed more fully in Chapter 6, although it is probable that some of the columns belonged to structures in use during Phase 3 (see discussion below).

Fired clay *by Alex Smith*

A total of 217 fragments of fired clay were recovered from Phase 3 contexts, with just over half deriving from Trench 13, and most of the remainder coming from Trenches 17 and 29. About 82% comprised unidentifiable fragments, with daub (9.7%) forming the largest of the functionally discernible object categories, followed by oven fragments (6.9%). The only other fired clay objects were three spindle-whorls, two of which came from Trench 17.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Full environmental reports from this phase of Claydon Pike can be found in Digital section 4.

Animal bone *by Naomi Sykes*

Distribution of the Phase 3 animal bones is more complex than Phase 2, with remains coming from five separate trenches (Table 5.8). Of the 11,818 specimens recovered, most (59%) derived from Trench 13, with 24% coming from Trench 17, 10% from Trench 29, 7% from Trench 19 and 0.1% from Trench 18. The assemblages from Trench 13 and 17 are the best preserved, showing the highest percentage of identifiable fragments (31% and 34%) and the lowest frequency of loose teeth (17% and 18%). In all cases cattle and caprines are the dominant taxa, with pig and horse being represented in lower numbers. Dog bones are present in all trenches, except 18, whereas cat bones were present only in Trench 13. The assemblage from Trench 13 shows the widest range of taxa: wild mammals (red deer, roe deer, hare, badger, fox, field vole, mole and rodent), birds (duck, coot, grey heron, dunlin, snipe, blackbird, song thrush and crow) and fish (eel) are all represented. Wild animals are less abundant in the other trenches but red deer were identified in the Trench 17 assemblage and roe deer in that from Trench 19. By comparison with the earlier periods, this increase in game representation is clear evidence for the uptake of hunting, fowling and fishing. Domestic birds are also present in higher frequencies than in either Phase 1 or 2, accounting for 3% of the identifiable remains from Trench 13. It is possible that this widening of the resource base resulted from a post-conquest change in dietary preferences, especially since hunting and the consumption of domestic birds are thought to have been traits of the Roman lifestyle (King 1991).

The 'Romanisation' process also appears to have impacted upon the wider animal economy. For instance, there is a slight increase in the average age of caprine slaughter: whereas 66% of Phase 2 individuals survived past 1-2 years, this figure rises

Table 5.8: Composition of the Phase 3 animal bone assemblage by trench, according to the NISP (MNI given in parentheses)

Trench	*13*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*29*	*Total*
Cattle	941 (8)	320 (7)	3 (1)	56 (1)	197 (2)	1517
Sheep/goat	682 (12)	474* (13)	1 (1)	48 (1)	135 (7)	1340
Pig	168 (4)	36 (2)	1 (1)	9 (1)	12 (1)	226
Horse	79	45	4	4	15	147
Dog	13*	21*		4	10	48
Cat	3					3
Red deer	1 + 9a	3				13
Roe deer	2			1 + 1a		4
Hare	9					9
Badger	2					2
Field vole	1					1
Mole	1					1
Rodent	2					2
Frog	27					27
Fish	4					4
Domestic fowl	51*	5		1		57
Goose	10	1				11
Domestic duck	6					6
Duck	6					6
Coot	1					1
Grey heron	1	1				2
Dunlin	1					1
Snipe	1					1
Blackbird	1					1
Song thrush	1					1
Carrion crow	3					3
Crow	1					1
Barn owl		1				1
Unidentifiable mammal	4755	1955	22	717	780	8229
Unidentifiable bird	140	11			2	153
Total NISP	6922	2873	31	841	1151	11818

* = figures include skeletons that have been counted as '1'

a = antler

to 75% in Phase 3, indicating an increased reliance on secondary products, most probably wool and manure. Inter-period shifts are even more dramatic for cattle. Ageing and sexing data demonstrate a move away from the Phase 2 situation, with animals, in particular male animals, being kept to considerably older ages: the percentage of cattle slaughtered by 15-26 months dropped from 50% to 35%, with the percentage of males rising from 10% to 64% of the adult herd. According to Maltby (1994; 1998) assemblages from Roman towns tend to be dominated by prime-aged females. He argues that this inter-site variation reflects the provisioning system, whereby oxen and bulls were retained on the rural sites whilst cows were deliberately selected to be sent for slaughter within the towns. The inter-phase variation noted at the Longdoles Field site may, therefore, indicate a post-conquest increase in commercialisation, with the development of urban markets and a standardisation of rural-urban provisioning. Cattle were probably, sent to towns on-the-hoof, since the body part patterns show little evidence for the export of pre-butchered joints of meat. The data do, however, demonstrate a slight over-representation of scapulae, suggesting that shoulders of beef may have been brought onto the site. Caprines and pig skeletal representation appears to be influenced more by factors of preservation than human activity.

Cattle, caprines and horses all increased in size between Phase 2 and 3. Average wither heights rose by 110 mm (from 1.09-120 m) for cattle, 10 mm (0.58-0.59 m) for sheep/goat and 170 mm (1.32-1.49 m) for horse. It is uncertain whether these increases resulted from the importation of continental stock or through the selective breeding of native animals, however, the fact that neonatal and foetal cattle and caprine remains were recovered from the Phase 3 assemblage would suggest that by this period animals were being bred on site.

Viewed in conjunction, these shifts in animal age, sex and size hint at a significant change in the animal economy, and it seems possible that they reflect the widespread agricultural intensification that occurred during the Romano-British period. Population expansion following the Conquest increased the demand for food, causing greater areas of land to be taken into arable production (Dark 2000, 82). Need for strong plough animals could have dictated the decision to retain male cattle on rural sites and may have encouraged selective breeding for, or the importation of, larger individuals. To improve the fertility of the river gravel soils, sheep/goat manure, which is higher in nutrients than the dung of cattle, may have become an important resource, perhaps explaining why caprines were maintained to older ages in this period. The taxa ratio data for the Trench 13 assemblage (cattle 50%, caprines 37%, horse 9% and pig 4%) also supports the idea of a shift in agricultural economy, with cattle frequencies increasing at the expense of pig: the need for plough animals leading to a rise in cattle, whilst pig frequencies declined as their woodland pasture was turned over to farmland. Species representation data for the other trenches do not display identical patterns, for example, the Trench 17 assemblage shows a much higher frequency of sheep/goat, however, since the Trench 13 assemblage is by far the largest, it is probably the most representative.

Inter-trench variation can, most probably, be linked to disparity in both the sample sizes and contexts from which the assemblages derive, although some genuine differences are apparent. For instance, Trench 17 contained three sheep and one dog burial, whereas articulated remains were largely absent from all the other trenches. The context from which the burials were recovered (pits, a ditch and a gully) suggest that no feature type was viewed as having a particular functional significance. Indeed, the data from all trenches show few clear patterns that can be linked to systems of rubbish disposal or specialised activities. Perhaps the best evidence for spatial patterning is provided by the bird and pig bone distributions from Trench 13: it was noted that areas where these remains are found in high density appear to correlate with zones of domestic activity. For example, whereas bird remains account for 31%, and pig 30% of the material from Building 1 (Phase 3) these taxa are less well represented, or totally absent, in most of the linear boundary contexts. Most of the bone material across Trench 13 appears to be homogenous but the assemblage from well 766 is set apart from other contexts by the sheer diversity of the animals contained within it: five of the site's nine hare bones, one of the two roe deer specimens, all of site's fish bones plus the remains of domestic fowl, coot and dunlin are presented in this feature. The frequency of pigs is also higher than in most other contexts. It can only be assumed that this assemblage represents primary domestic refuse, perhaps the remains of a single high-status meal.

Charred plant remains *by Vanessa Straker, Martin Jones and Ann Perry*

In this phase the settlement was reorganised with large rectilinear ditched enclosures, two aisled buildings, fencelines and a cobbled trackway. Fifty samples were analysed from 3 gullies, 15 ditches, 5 pits, 4 wells, 2 layers and 4 ovens, distributed over the sub phases as shown in Table 5.9.

The range of farming and domestic activities taking place at the settlement throughout the early 2nd to early 4th centuries was probably varied and is reflected by the heterogenous distribution of grain, chaff and weeds in the samples and the much greater concentration of plant macrofossils than in earlier phases. The 50 samples from Phase 3 compare with 40 from Phase 2 and 19 from Phase 4, with more samples in Phase 3 from a range of features other than ditches. Some individual features (eg oven 2103, see below) are very rich, but the mean macrofossil concentration is also greater. The figure for Phase 3 pits, for example, at 117.5 items /litre is noticeably greater than for Phases 2 and 4 (1.7 and 10.2 respectively).

The range of crops is similar to earlier phases, with the significant presence of spelt, with emmer and smaller amounts of breadwheat being typical of Roman assemblages. There may be an exception at Barton Court Farm (M K Jones 1984) but some of the material there may have been wrongly assigned (Campbell and Straker 2003). However, free threshing cereals are likely to be under represented in the charred macrofossil record in relation to hulled wheats as they do not require exposure to heat to facilitate dehusking and can be removed at an early stage of crop processing (Hillman, 1984).

There are also very rare occurrences of beans (*Vicia faba* var *minor*) and flax (*Linum usitatissumum*) found in Phase 3 contexts at Claydon Pike. Neither of these crops is as likely to become accidentally charred as the hulled wheats, which benefit from heat to render the chaff brittle and facilitate dehusking. Flax is known to have been an important crop in the Thames Valley and it grows well rotated with other crops on wet ground. Its seeds have been found at Barton Court Farm and Farmoor (M K Jones 1984; Lambrick and Robinson 1979). Although only one carbonised seed was found at Claydon Pike, from an oven (Phase 3b 2113/3), it is more plentiful in the waterlogged assemblage (see Robinson below). It is a useful crop for as well as providing bast fibres for textiles, its seeds are oil rich and can be used for the oil or as cattle feed. The single example of a Celtic bean was found in ditch sample 547/E from Phase 3a. It is very likely that pulses were a much more important component of the diet than it would appear from the archaeological record alone and may have been an important source of plant protein. Beans, peas and other legumes are nitrogen fixing and if grown as part of a rotation, help to maintain soil fertility. Roman peas were identified from the Warwickshire gravel site at Tiddington (Moffett 1986).

Table 5.9: Phases 3 and 3/4 charred plant taxon presence in x samples (no. of items)

		Phases	*3*	*3A*	*3B*	*3A/B*	*3B/C*	*3C/D*	*3D*	*3/4*
		No. of samples	*17*	*11*	*3*	*6*	*5*	*5*	*3*	*15*
Crops										
Triticum cf *dicoccum* Schübl.	emmer type	grain	3 (6)	2 (8)	1 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (2)	5 (12)
Triticum cf *dicoccum*	cf emmer wheat	glume bases	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triticum dicoccum	emmer wheat	glume bases	2 (43_	2 (2)	0	0	1 (1)			3 (10)
Triticum dicoccum	emmer wheat	spikelet forks	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (6)
Triticum cf *spelta* L.	spelt type	grain	8 (390)	3 (87)	1 (3)	2 (2)	2 (6)	0	0	2 (15)
Triticum spelta L.	spelt wheat	glume bases	6 (459)	0	2 (4)	1 (1)	2 (4)	1 (1)	1 (2)	6 (72)
Triticum cf *dicoccum/spelta*	emmer/spelt	spikelet forks	1 91)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (4)
Triticum cf. *aestivum*	bread wheat type	grain	2 (4)	3 (2)	1 (2)	0	0	0	0	5 (27)
Triticum sp.	wheat	grain	12 (178)	4 (75)	3 (68)	3 (3)	4 (20)	4 (8)	1 (1)	12 (182)
Triticum sp.	wheat	sprouted grain	1 (11)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triticum sp.	hulled wheat	glume bases	14 (1576)	6 (31)	3 (26)	1 (18)	4 (44)	3 (13)	0	10 (394)
Triticum sp.	hulled wheat	spikelet forks	3 (3)		0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0
Triticum sp.	hulled wheat	spikelet fork bases	0	3 (6)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	3 (4)
Triticum sp.	wheat	internode fragments	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (9)
Triticum sp.	hulled wheat	brittle rachis internode fragments	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (3)	0	0	1 (2)
Triticum sp.	free threshing wheat	tough rachis internodes	2 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triticum/Secale sp.	wheat/rye	grain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (3)
Triticum/Hordeum sp.	wheat/barley	grain	7 (147)	2 (1)	1 (22)	0	0	0	2 (6)	3 (32)
Hordeum sp.	barley	straight grain	3 (56)	1 (10)	2 (7)	0	2 (3)	1 (1)	0	4 (10)
Hordeum sp.	barley	twisted grain	3 (23)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Hordeum sp.	barley	indeterminate grain	10 (294)	9 (41)	2 (49)	1 (2)	3 (6)	3 (10)	2 (5)	8 (66)
Hordeum sp.	barley	hulled straight grain	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Hordeum sp.	barley	hulled twisted grain	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Hordeum sp.	barley	hulled grain	1 (2)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hordeum sp.	barley	internodes	3 (88)	0	0	0	1 (5)	0	0	0
Avena sp.	oats	grain	3 (34)	1 (2)	1 (3)	0	0	0	0	3 (5)
Avena sp.	oats	awn fragments	2 (11)	1 (1)	0	0	1 (3)	0	0	1 (1)
Avena/Bromus sp.	oats/brome	grain	1 (3)	2 (4)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	grain	5 (30)	5 (31)	1 (5)	4 (5)	3 (13)	0	1 (1)	4(10)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	rachis fragments	2 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	2 (2)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	culm nodes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Linum usitatissimum L.	flax	seed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	

Table 5.9: Phases 3 and 3/4 charred plant taxon presence (continued)

		Phases	*3*	*3A*	*3B*	*3A/B*	*3B/C*	*3C/D*	*3D*	*3/4*
		No. of samples	*17*	*11*	*3*	*6*	*5*	*5*	*3*	*15*
Wild species		**habitat range**								
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	buttercups	G	2 (2)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	3 (3)
Ranunculus cf. *flammula* L.	cf lesser spearwort	V (wet)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Montia sp.	blinks	Da M G W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Cruciferae	mustard family	V	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raphanus raphanistrum L.	wild radish, charlock	Da	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Brassica sp.	mustard, cabbage etc	D Da		1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brassica/Sinapis sp.	mustard, cabbage etc	D Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0
Sinapis cf. *arvensis*	wild mustard	D Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caryophyllaceae	campion family		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Stellaria media agg.	stitchwort	D Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (9)
Cerastium sp.	chickweed	D Da	0	0	0	0	1 (2)	0	0	0
Silene sp.	campion	V	1 (4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agrostemma githago L.	corn cockle	Da	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Chenopodiaceae	goosefoot family		0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	2 (2)
Atriplex sp.	orache		0	0	1 (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Chenopodium sp.	goosefoot	V	2 (6)	0	3 (3)	1 (1)	0	0	0	2 (4)
Chenopodium rubrum L.	red goosefoot	D Da	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linum catharticum L.	purging flax	G	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leguminosae	clover, pea family	V	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (1)	0	0	0	0	2 (2)
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	vetch, tare	Da M G S W	3 (5)	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	1 (3)
Lathyrus/Pisum	vetch, pea	Da, G C	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vicia faba var minor	celtic bean	C	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicago cf *lupulina* L.	cf black medick	G	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (2)
Trifolium sp.	clover	V	3 (145)	2 (5)	2 (27)	0	2 (8)	0	0	4 (14)
Trifolium cf. *pratense* L.	red clover	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 (22)
Potentilla sp.	tormentil	V	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	3 (5)
Umbelliferae	parsley family	V	1 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pimpinella/ Sium	burnet-saxifrage / water-parsnip		1 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aegopodium podagraria L.	ground-elder	D da G V	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apium cf. *nodiflorum* (L.) Lag.	fool's watercress	M	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polygonum sp.	bistort	V	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fallopia convolvulus (A.) Löve	black bindweed	Da	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	2 (2)
Rumex sp.	sorrel, dock	Da G M S W	4 (52)	0	2 (9)	0	1 (3)	1 (3)	0	5 (5)
Rumex acetosella agg.	sheep's sorrel	Da G	2 (21)	4 (5)	0	0	0	0	0	7 (21)

Table 5.9: Phases 3 and 3/4 charred plant taxon presence (continued)

		Phases	*3*	*3A*	*3B*	*3A/B*	*3B/C*	*3C/D*	*3D*	*3/4*
		No. of samples	*17*	*11*	*3*	*6*	*5*	*5*	*3*	*15*
Urtica dioica L.	stinging nettle	D, V	2 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euphrasia sp./*Odontites verna*	eyebright, red bartsia	Da G	3 (33)	1 (1)	2 (9)	0	1 (1)	1 (1)		5 (19)
Rhinanthus sp.	yellow rattle	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
cf. *Satureja hortensis*	savory	C	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prunella vulgaris L.	self heal	G	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	3 (10)
Plantago sp.	plantain	Da G	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plantago major L.	great plantain	Da G	2 (2)	1 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Plantago media L.	hoary plantain	G	1 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (3)	0	0	1 (1)
Plantago lanceolata L.	ribwort plantain	Da G	2 (4)	2 (2)	0	0	1 (2)	0	0	2 (23)
Sherardia arvensis L.	field madder	D Da	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	0	0	0	3 (3)
Galium sp.	bedstraw	Da M G S W	5 (6)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Galium cf. *aparine* L.	cleavers	Da V	3 (3)	2 (3)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	2 (4)
Valerianella dentata (L.) Poll.	lamb's lettuce	Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0		1 (1)
Compositae	daisy family		0	0	1 (2)	0	0	0	0	0
Cirsium cf. *arvense* (L.) Scop.	creeping thistle	D Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cirsium/Carduus sp.	thistle	V	1 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthemis cotula L.	stinking chamomile	Da esp base rich	1 (121)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 (22)
Lapsana communis L.	nipplewort	Da	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0		0
Tripleurospermum maritimum (L.) Koch	scentless mayweed	Da	0	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	1 (1)
Artemisia sp.	mugwort	D Da	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum L.	ox-eye daisy	D, Da G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (2)
Cyperaceae	sedge family	A M G	2 (5)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	5 (15)
Eleocharis sp.	spike rush	A M G	1 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis	spike-rush	A M G	3 (9)	3 (3)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	4 (17)
Eleocharis quinqueflora (F.X.Hartm) Schwartz	few-flowered spike-rush	A M G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (1)
Carex sp.	sedge	V (mainly wet)	1 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)	0	1 (2)	1 (1)	0	4 (6)
Carex spp.	sedges	V (mainly wet)	3 (18)	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	2 (36)
Gramineae	grass family		7 (38)	6 (21)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (7)	1 (2)	0	6 (15)
Gramineae culm node	grass family		1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	3 (19)
Arrhenatherum bulbosum bulbil	onion couch	D Da G	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0		0
Poa sp.	poa	G	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0		0
Bromus S. *Eubromus*	brome, chess	Da G	3 (3)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (7)	0		1 (2)
Avena fatua/ludoviciana	oats	floret bases	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The only oat floret base from the site came from a Phase 3 context and is identifiable to a *fatua* or *ludoviciana* wild form. It is likely that the oats are simply a minor weed component which, like the large-seeded *Bromus* (brome), are difficult to separate from the grain during winnowing and sieving in post-harvest crop processing. This means they often become accidentally charred with the prime product. It has been pointed out that the large seeded grasses may well have been intentionally used as a famine food, but Jones (1988, 90) notes that sometime after the Iron Age, wild grasses become much less numerous in charred macrofossil assemblages.

The range of arable weeds is most diverse in Phase 3, and certain taxa appearing for the first time during this period have been associated with the transition from shallow ard cultivation to deep ploughing (Jones 1988). Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), a cornfield weed typical of heavy soils, makes its first appearance in Phase 3 and another introduction, corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) is first seen in Phase 3d/4a. More widely in Britain, these two species together with *Centaurea cyanus/nigra*, become visible in the late Roman period at a time when metal items associated with heavier ploughs appear in the archaeological record (Jones 1988).

A single seed of ground elder (*Aegopodium podograria*) was found in pit 1398 in Phase 3. Although now regarded as a pernicious garden weed, this species is long thought to have been a Roman introduction and can be used as a pot herb (Clapham *et al.* 1987, 283; Godwin, 1975, 225). The Claydon Pike example appears to be the sole archaeological record for the period.

Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), black medick (*Medicago* cf. *lupulina*), buttercups (*Ranunculus acris/repens or bulbosus*) and yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus* sp.) increase from Phase 3 onwards. All of these taxa (and others) are recorded by Mark Robinson in the waterlogged assemblages (see below). From his waterlogged data, he infers that grassland was managed and included the production of sedge hay. The plants of damp soils such as the sedges may have formed part of a burnt grassland assemblage, although the wide range of taxa that survives in the waterlogged assemblages is not reflected by the charred plant remains. However, the percentage presence analysis does show a wider range of weed species in Phase 3 than in earlier and later phases. The integration of the different strands of evidence in the waterlogged assemblages led Robinson (see below) to the conclusion that large quantities of arable products must have been brought to the site, as they did not appear to have been grown locally. Certainly the evidence for the use of arable crops is much better in Phase 3 than in the preceding periods or the 4th-century villa complex. As large areas were excavated, the increase in evidence for Phase 3 should be a reasonable reflection of the activities taking place rather than being biased through sampling of features closer to the main areas of activity in one phase compared with another.

The charred plant remains were recovered from features all across the site during Phase 3. Oven 2103 in Trench 13 was very rich in chaff, notably emmer and spelt glume bases and spikelet forks which comprised over 80% of the large assemblage. These are the remnants of the oven fuel which was probably also disposed of in ditches, pits etc. Many of the other features from Phase 3 were also chaff-rich and some could have originated from oven cleanings, rather than the direct burning of crop cleanings. However, as well as chaff, the oven assemblage also contained small weed seeds including over 100 seeds of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and occasional ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). This is most likely to represent processing waste from a late stage in cleaning to free the grain from the spikelets and remove weed seeds. The damp ground plants could be from damp field margins or burnt animal fodder, but also from the heart of the arable fields, which often suffered from poor drainage in the Iron Age and Roman periods (Jones 1988).

Another large assemblage from pit 1398 was composed mainly of wheat grain, probably spelt, as suggested by the chaff, with some indeterminate wheat and barley grain and chaff. Among the accompanying list of taxa is a wide range of wild plants, and a relatively high number of clover seeds, perhaps indicative of animal fodder or hay as a source.

Charred plant remains from Phase 3/4

Fifteen samples came from contexts that were either late Phase 3 or early Phase 4 (*c* early 4th century AD; Table 5.9). Macrofossil concentrations vary, ranging from 0.6 for ditch 1201 to 50.3 items per litre for pit 2385. Composition is also variable with over 80% chaff in ditches 667 and pit 1250, 55% in a section of ditch 1201 and over 70% weeds in pit 1219 which suggests that a range of different crop processing activities was probably taking place and/or that crop processing waste is mixed with burnt plant debris from other sources, such as animal fodder and roofing or flooring material. A greater percentage presence of chaff was evident than for other phases, but unusually, these samples are from ditches and pits rather than hearths or ovens where chaff is often found having been used as tinder.

The fill of pit 2385 (Trench 19) was rich in plant macrofossils. Wheat and barley grain was mixed with hulled wheat (mainly spelt where identification was possible) glume bases and spikelet forks, but there were also small numbers of a range of weeds of arable land and grassland such as corn cockle, knotgrass, black bindweed, stinking chamomile and buttercups, clover and tormentil. There were also some sedges and spike-rushes characteristic of damp ground. This is a good example of a rubbish pit where waste from

processing crops to release grain for consumption was dumped probably after being burnt on a domestic hearth.

Waterlogged plant and invertebrate remains *by Mark Robinson*

Seven waterlogged samples were investigated from waterholes or wells assigned to the Phase 3 settlement in Longdoles Field site, and two further samples came from ditches beyond the main settlement. The waterholes, pits and wells all seem to have held water which supported low populations of small water-beetles such as *Helophorus* sp., *Ochthebius minimus* and *Hydraena testacea*. Three of these features seem from the seed evidence to have had aquatic plants growing in them. Waterhole 2160 (Trench 13) seems to have had *Callitriche* sp. growing in it. The aquatic flora of waterhole 2867 (Trench 29) included *Ranunculus* S. *Batrachium* sp., *Callitriche* sp. and *Veronica* S. *Beccabunga* sp., while *Lemna* sp. covered the surface of the water in waterhole 2906 (Trench 29). Remains of the weevil *Tanysphyrus lemnae*, which only feeds on *Lemna* spp., confirms the presence of that plant in waterhole 2906 and adds it to the species from waterhole 2160.

The interpretation of the waterlogged plant and invertebrate remains from the Phase 3 waterholes, pits and wells is a more complex problem than for the Phase 2 deposits. Human transport had probably been a factor in the introduction of waterlogged biological remains in all these features. Three of the samples, Samples 766/2, 1202/15 and 1318/C/3, had a major component of hay and, in the case of Sample 766/2, straw as well. With this imported plant material probably came some of the insects. Interpretation is also difficult because the area of the settlement was so large that some of the remains, particularly the seeds, which tend to have a small radius of origin when they have not experienced human transport, are giving little information on environmental conditions beyond the limits of the settlement. It was possible to see the environment of the 1st-century AD enclosures as a part of the more general landscape without these problems.

The two ditch samples from west of the main settlement (1487, 2495) contained a rather higher proportion of remains from plants and invertebrates which lived in them than did the waterlogged deposits inside the settlement. All the plant and invertebrate remains seem to have entered these deposits through natural agencies.

Overall, it is difficult to arrive at a conclusion as to the main purpose of the Phase 3 settlement at Claydon Pike. One of the major activities at the site would seem to have been the management of hay meadows on the floodplain and gravel terrace and the collection of the hay at the settlement. There is possible evidence for Roman hay meadows elsewhere in the Upper Thames Valley but not as firm as that from Claydon Pike. The insect evidence from Appleford, Oxon (Robinson 1980), hinted at the presence of meadowland although this was not supported by the botanical evidence. It is now realised that Sample 1060/2 from an early Roman well at Farmoor, Oxon (Robinson 1979) included a hay meadow assemblage. It contained seeds of *Rhinanthus* sp., *Leucanthemum vulgare* and *Centaurea* cf. *nigra* and *Vicia* or *Lathyrus* pod fragments. There was a large beetle assemblage as summarised below:

Species Group 2	Pasture / Dung	1.5%
Species Group 3	?Meadowland	14.2%
Species Group 8	Lathridiidae	30.3%
Total number of Terrestrial Coleoptera		393

The high value for Species Group 3 and the low value for Species Group 2 might suggest that meadowland surrounded the well at Farmoor. However, the very high value for Species Group 8 suggests that it was old hay that entered the deposit and it is possible that the meadowland weevils of Species Group 3 had been transported to the site in hay. Claydon Pike thus provides the first good evidence for the presence of meadowland on the floodplain and first terrace of the Upper Thames during the Roman period.

The entomological evidence is consistent with the storage of some hay at the site. However, those groups of insects which might be expected to flourish in old haystack bottoms etc., such as the Lathridiidae, although very much more abundant than during Phase 2 at Claydon Pike were not as abundant as at the Roman sites of Farmoor and Barton Court Farm on the Thames gravels (Robinson 1981, 280-81).

Neither the archaeological nor entomological evidence suggests large scale storage of grain at the site. However, cereals were certainly brought to the site, and the carbonised plant remains provide plenty of evidence for activities concerning cereals. It is possible that threshing waste was mixed with the hay for fodder and it is even possible that it was brought to the site for this purpose.

While it is by no means certain that the management of hay meadow and the collection of fodder was the main activity at the site, there is little environmental evidence for much else. There does not seem to have been a great concentration of domestic animals at the settlement, although the evidence from the dung beetles suggests that they were by no means absent. There was evidence that some of the hay had been cut from what was normally pastureland and the aftermath of the hay meadows was probably grazed. If hay meadows are not grazed following mowing, various tall coarse umbellifers such as *Heracleum sphondylium* become established and they were not evident either from the samples containing cut hay or the sample from the field ditch in the hay meadow. Either sheep or wool had been brought to the site because a puparium of *Melophagus ovinus*, the sheep ked, was found in Sample 1202/15. This wingless fly is a

bloodsucking ectoparasite of sheep which does not survive for more than a few days if removed from its host (Edwards *et al.* 1939, 123-4). However, there was no evidence for any large-scale activity involving sheep.

The 'intensity' of human occupation of the site as reflected by the beetle assemblages was greater than in Phase 2 and there was evidence for timber buildings. There was no evidence for flooding of the main excavation area during Phase 3. Indeed the settlement would have been well situated as a dry place for a rick-yard to which hay was brought from the floodplain. In botanical terms the site appears fully 'Romanised'. The familiar range of horticultural crops was present, perhaps grown on the site, and box hedges seem to have been present. The weed seeds included some species regarded as Roman introductions.

There was little evidence from the waterlogged remains that the main excavation areas were put to different uses during Phase 3, although deposits of hay were only found from Trenches 13 and 17.

DISCUSSION *by Alex Smith*

The early 2nd century AD saw quite dramatic changes in the form, economy and material culture of the settlement at Claydon Pike. Such transition is however certainly not an isolated phenomenon, as landscape reorganisation seems to have been widespread across much of the Upper Thames Valley at this time (discussed in Chapter 16). The changes at Claydon Pike provide quite a clear stratigraphic break with the earlier settlement, although some elements of continuity do exist, and there appears to be little or no chronological gap between the two phases. The development of the site within Phase 3 is slightly less clear, especially outside Trench 13, and although a general structural sequence can be discerned, this cannot readily be related to shifts in the site economy. Nevertheless, the overall economy, environment and material culture of this phase is clearly definable, which not only helps to place the site within the regional settlement hierarchy, but also provides illumination on matters such as social expression and identity.

Settlement organisation and development

In the early 2nd century AD the circular enclosures and boundaries of Phase 2 were replaced by two major rectilinear enclosures, the northern of which encompassed two substantial aisled buildings. An artist's reconstruction of this aisled building complex is shown in Plate 5.15, with B 1 and well 766 to the right and the main gateway (B 4). At this stage, occupation appears to have remained more or less limited to Trench 13 in the east, which was generally better drained and more suitable for habitation. The only major contemporary feature outside this area was an irregular enclosure in Trench 29, which may well have had an agricultural capacity (see Activity areas below). The new settlement shows evidence for careful organisation, and it is likely that the enclosures, structures, and major trackways were built at the same time, as part of a co-ordinated plan of re-development. The only real signs of structural continuity from the previous phase lay in the line of the western enclosure boundary and the position of the main area of domestic occupation. The former may have been more influenced by topographical considerations as it lay at the junction of the higher gravel island and the lower lying area between the main excavation trenches.

The outer gateway complex

The main entrance into the complex lay between the two large enclosures on the western side, and this

Plate 5.15 Reconstruction of aisled building complex

led into a trackway flanked by ditches, the northern of which had an opening into the compound containing the aisled buildings. The eastern end of the trackway was left open during this early phase, and may have acted as a subsidiary access point (see below). Although not a monumental structure, the western outer gateway – with its masonry walls and timber uprights – was clearly designed with some visual impact in mind (see Pl. 5.15). The structure itself probably comprised a 3 m long entranceway flanked by low masonry walls, at the end of which were two timber gates which swung either side of a central post. The width of both gates would have been 1.2 m, which is significantly smaller than most other known gateways of the period, such as at the Roman town at Alchester (1.7 m; Booth *et al.* 2001, 437), the inner courtyard at Gadebridge Park villa (*c* 3.65 m; Neal 1974, 55), and the late Iron Age or early Roman Enclosure at Weekley, Northants (*c* 2 m; Jackson and Dix 1988, 54). Unlike these other sites, the Claydon Pike gateway would have effectively blocked the use of large wheeled transport into the main complex from this direction. This has significant implications with regard to the transport of materials, especially when the complex is believed to have been at least in part a central storage and distribution depot for hay from the surrounding fields (see Site economy below). A possible explanation is that wheeled transport may have accessed the enclosure complex from the east, and a substantial length of linear trackway can be seen as a cropmark running towards this entrance, probably linking it with another settlement, just 0.5 km to the east (SMR 3191). The western gateway may therefore have been limited to foot and possibly horse traffic. It is well known that different points of access within households and settlements were often associated with different levels of status (eg Fairclough 1992, 355), and it is therefore possible that the western gateway at Claydon Pike held a higher social value. This may account for its later refurbishment with three large posts across the front, which would have increased its visual impact while also further impeding physical access into the site from this direction.

The aisled buildings

The most visually dominant features within the Roman complex were the two aisled buildings, positioned at right angles to each other, *c* 30 m apart. Aisled buildings have been found across Roman Britain and have a range of different functions including storage and industrial activity (Hingley 1989, 39). Most of them, however, seem to have been residential in nature, especially when they first became quite widespread in the 2nd century AD (Morris 1979, 61). The aisled buildings at Claydon Pike, despite appearing quite similar in plan, would seem to have had very different physical appearances, relating to their different functions. Building 1 to the west was the slightly larger of the two (212 m^2), with mortared masonry lower wall courses probably supporting a timber frame (for a possible reconstruction see Pl. 5.15). There are few clear indications as to the nature of the superstructure, although mud and stud walls were quite widespread in the early 2nd century (Perring 2002, 92) and are certainly possible here. Fired clay fragments were recovered from many of the postholes and may have been part of the wall structure, while the reasonable number of iron nails suggests external wooden planking, perhaps to aid in weatherproofing. Although no window glass could be directly associated with the structure, fragments were recovered from Phase 3 contexts in Trench 13, and must indicate the presence of some glazed windows in the building. The roof of the building was clearly constructed of ceramic roofing tile, which would have firmly differentiated it from the other aisled building (see below). Perring (2002, 91) has recently illustrated how such changes in house building techniques are often accompanied by a greater level of expenditure on interior decoration. The presence of fine painted wall plaster associated with this structure certainly accords with this, although the extent of such decoration within the interior remains unknown. There are no physical indications of any internal divisions within the building and so it is possible that it remained a large open hall, although the lack of preserved floor surfaces would ensure that any partition walls may not have survived in the archaeological record. Indeed the painted wall plaster does suggest the presence of one or more small rooms, and there is some indication of internal differentiation in function and/or status from the finds distribution (see Activity areas below). Furthermore, it is distinctly possible that there could have been a mezzanine floor, perhaps used for storage purposes. In all, the evidence from its physical appearance, together with the associated finds assemblage (see below), suggests that this building was the home of the owners or at least the custodians of the complex.

The second aisled building (B 3) was slightly smaller (187 m^2) and did not share the more refined attributes of the other structure, such as painted plaster. Timber-framed walls probably lay above the lower masonry wall courses, and large numbers (50+) of iron nails probably relate to exterior planking. A small quantity of fired clay daub may also relate to the walls of the structure, while the roof was probably of thatch, although some roofing tile was found in the vicinity. Unlike B 1, there was a well defined and quite substantial 2 m wide entrance on the central part of the southern side, which would perhaps be more appropriate for an agricultural storage barn rather than a residential unit, as wheeled transport could easily be admitted (see Fig. 5.7 and Pl. 5.3). Furthermore there were only three widely spaced bays in the interior, as opposed to six narrow bays in B 1, and so would seem better suited to maximising storage space and loading/unloading material. Similar wide

entrances have been found in Roman buildings at Alchester (Booth *et al.* 2001, 437), and Wantage (Holbrook and Thomas 1996), both of which are interpreted as storage barns. There is some indication of a partition on part of the eastern side of the Claydon Pike building with a small section of possible wall foundation, but it is likely that most of the interior was fully open. The western side contained an area of hard standing and a Savernake storage jar inserted into the floor, which suggests some differentiation of function. The evidence overall suggests that this building was utilised for storage rather than domestic purposes, although it was still a very substantial structure, and may have expressed the status of the owners of the site (see below).

Expansion and development of the settlement

During the middle years of the 2nd century AD, the settlement expanded westwards onto three further gravel platforms, most of which had not been built upon before. Immediately adjacent to the southern enclosure (in Trench 19) and utilising its western boundary ditch, was a rectangular double ditched enclosure, with no evidence for any contemporary internal features (Fig. 5.13 and Pl. 5.9). It was clearly designed to be an integral part of the settlement complex, fronting onto a large open area in front of the main gateway into the inner compound. Whilst its function is far from certain, a religious explanation does seem most appropriate (see Activity areas below). To the west of this the earlier irregular enclosure in Trench 29 was replaced by a series of ditches which defined the east-west and north-south trackways (Fig. 5.14). These ditches were recut many times over the following *c* 150 years, and probably encompassed an area of low level industrial, agricultural and residential activity. The mid 2nd century saw activity commence in Trench 17 further north, with a variety of functional zones being evident, including domestic, agricultural and light industrial (Fig. 5.18; see below). All of these zones were spaced quite deliberately around the large open area in the heart of settlement, which seems to have been respected until the end of the 3rd century. This implies a strong element of deliberate spatial planning within the site that was maintained for a long period of time.

The expansion of the settlement at this time suggests a significant increase in the scale of operations at site, which must have necessitated an increased workforce, perhaps even including imported slaves. At the same time as this expansion, the spatial organisation of the main compound in Trench 13 was altered, possibly to further segregate and enhance the status of the estate owners or custodians. The internal trackway ditches were filled in, creating what would appear to be one large enclosure, although the trackway was clearly still functioning, and a number of posthole alignments and ditches suggest that the area was still physically demarcated into a number of different functional areas. In particular there was an arrangement of ditches, fencelines and a possible masonry wall around the western aisled building (B 1), which may have physically differentiated an area of higher status occupation from the rest of the compound. An apparent gap in the north-east sector of this boundary may be due to the truncation of ditch 781, while it is also possible that this area was demarcated by box hedges, for which evidence has been found (see Robinson above). The northern limits of this 'inner compound' seem to have been dictated by areas of lower lying marshy ground (Fig. 5.1). A possible gateway was located to the east, while to the west, there may well have been a masonry wall to provide greater privacy and definition from the area of lower status occupation and industrial activity in Trench 17 (Fig. 5.4). Environmental material from waterhole 2160 indicates the presence of ash trees in this area, and it is possible that a line of such trees may have ran along the boundary, thus further increasing privacy and ensuring that the division between the different parts of the settlement was more pronounced. Just inside of southern boundary ditch 2161 ran a fenceline (F 6), which may have acted in a similar way.

The only additional structure to belong to this mid 2nd-century phase of development was Building 2, which appears to have been an extension to the aisled building B 1 (Fig. 5.9). Although entirely robbed out, it is most likely that this two-roomed structure was built in a similar way to the aisled building, with lower masonry wall courses and a timber-framed superstructure. Its function may well be connected with food preparation for the residents of the aisled building (see Activity areas below).

It appears that there were no further major changes to the main compound until the later 3rd century, with the exception of the replacement of the eastern boundary ditch by a substantial fenceline. Another large rectilinear ditched enclosure was dug to the east of this, most of which is known only from aerial photographs (Fig. 5.1). In the western part of the settlement, it appears that pits were dug through the two enclosure ditches in Trench 19 at some stage, with the inner boundary being subsequently redefined. It is uncertain if this represents functional change in this area. A structure incorporating an oven was built within Trench 29 (Fig. 5.16, Pl. 5.10), and probably relates to the period when occupation was at its most intense in this area, from the later 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.

Perhaps the most significant change in terms of spatial layout outside the main compound occurred in the mid to later 3rd century, with the enclosure of much of the previously open space in the centre of the site. Two ditches followed the lines of the main trackway ditches in Trench 17, creating an enclosed space with a 2.5 m opening in the south-eastern corner (Fig. 5.18). This area was still largely devoid of archaeologically traceable activity, while in the

zones of domestic, agricultural and industrial activity further north and west, a stone-footed rectangular building was constructed, which was the first recognisable structure from this area.

Settlement decline?

Towards the end of the 3rd century and start of the 4th century AD, many features were either infilled or dismantled, which suggests that the settlement went into a period of decline. Perhaps the most significant development was the dismantling of the western aisled building, parts of which seem to have been used to infill the adjacent well 766. It was replaced by square Building 7 which lay upon the same alignment (Fig. 5.11). This structure was significantly smaller than its predecessor at 64 m^2, but was well constructed, with coursed and regularly faced masonry footings and seemingly with plastered walls. It is presumed to have served in a domestic capacity, although it may have later reverted to agricultural use, as its interior contained hearths and a possible corn-drying oven (Pl. 5.6). The western boundaries of the main compound appear to have fallen into disuse at this stage, with the ditches being filled in and walls robbed. The gateway also appears to have been dismantled. This may indicate that there was now little differentiation between the different parts of the settlement, and indeed the evidence suggests that activity had greatly declined in the western areas. In Trenches 19, 29 and 17, there is evidence for the dumping of structural and domestic material in pits, waterholes and ditches, suggesting that the site was systematically cleared (eg see Pl. 5.13). Large areas of cobbling may also have been laid down at this stage in the centre of the site, although this could well relate to the construction of the villa in Phase 4.

Overall, the situation at the end of the 3rd century suggests a decline in the residential population of the settlement, presumably relating to changes in site economy. The occupants may have now been limited to a single extended family group, although they did still have the resources to construct a well-built masonry-footed building. These were presumably also the same family group who one or two generations later would initiate the construction of a small villa and hypocaust building in the early 4th century AD.

Activity areas within the settlement (Fig. 5.35)

Through spatial analysis of structural features and the finds assemblages, it has been possible to quite clearly discern different 'activity areas' across the site, which relate to both function and status.

Fig. 5.35 Main functional zones within Phase 3 site

The main compound

Within the main eastern compound it has already been established from structural evidence alone that the western aisled building seems more likely to have been used for relatively high status domestic occupation, while the eastern building appears to have been used for storage (see above). The evidence from finds corroborates this and suggests that there may well have been a broad division between the two halves of this northern enclosure. The western building lay directly over the earlier Phase 2 domestic focus, thereby exhibiting evidence for continuity which may suggest that there was not a complete break in population. No floor surfaces survive from this building, with the only directly associated finds coming from the postholes, and therefore relating to the end of use of the building. Nevertheless, these are not likely to have moved far from the area of use, and there are a number of other features in the immediate vicinity which probably relate to the overall function of this building. Most finds from the building's postholes comprised structural material, but did also include two fragments of vessel glass and a small quantity of pottery including flagons, jars, cups, bowls, dishes and mortaria. The animal bone retrieved was of particular interest in that bird and pig bones formed the largest percentages of the identifiable species, whereas in most other areas of the site they were comparatively rare. Furthermore, most of these bones were concentrated in the northern half of the building (see Sykes, above), and to a lesser extend the same is true of the pottery. This may suggest that this was the primary zone for food consumption, although of course it could represent patterns of secondary discard and would therefore not be directly indicative of primary activity in this location. Immediately outside the building to the west was a large sunken clay-lined feature (2526) and sump, which relates to the earliest part of this phase. It was filled with pottery, animal bone, oyster shells and a small quantity of building material. The character of the pottery assemblage differed significantly from that of the building by including a lower percentage of vessels associated with serving (bowls, dishes, cups, flagons etc), and more that seem to have been connected with food preparation and storage, most notably jars. The assemblage also included mortaria and a reasonable quantity of amphora which probably contained olive oil (Dr 20) and fish sauce (Cam 186a). From this, it is not unreasonable to assume that food preparation took place outside the building. Interestingly the extension to B 1 (B 2) which lay over the clay-lined feature contained a ceramic assemblage of similar character, along with a glass flask and beaker and relatively large numbers of animal bones. It can therefore be argued that this structure may have been built to house the food preparation area.

The overall nature of the area around the western aisled building can be further understood by the abundant environmental material from waterhole 2160, which appears on a ceramic basis to date from the mid 2nd to early 3rd century AD. As mentioned earlier, there is evidence for ash trees and also for a variety of other trees and shrubs in the vicinity, including pear, damson, blackberry, rose and hazel. Celery and coriander were also clearly grown in this area, and it is possible it was some kind of small horticultural plot and garden area, directly associated with the occupants of the aisled building. A well just to the south-east of the building (766) also contained useful environmental samples, in addition to finds and structural material that seem to relate to the demolition of the structure. The waterlogged remains indicated a range of trees and shrubs in the vicinity, and also included substantial quantities of hay and cereals (see Site economy below). The animal bone assemblage was quite distinctive and suggestive of high status feasting (see Sykes, above).

The objects associated with the aisled building (B 3) in the eastern part of the compound indicated a distinct functional divergence from B 1 and the area surrounding it. Unlike B 1, the majority of the finds came from a floor make-up layer (522), but could relate to any period of the building's use, from the early 2nd to late 3rd century AD. With the exception of the single large Savernake storage jar, much smaller quantities of pottery were recovered than in B 1. Generally, only jar forms were encountered, but a small number of Dressel 20 fragments were also retrieved. Virtually no animal bones were recovered from the building, with the exception of a single sheep burial in the centre of the building, close to the southern entrance. Although this lay underneath the floor makeup and cannot be firmly related to this phase, it is possible that it was a foundation deposit. The finds give little clue as to the function of the building, but do include a small number of domestic and personal items, including the copper alloy vine leaf from an oil lamp (Fig. 5.28, no. 31). However, the lack of pottery and extreme paucity of animal bone, suggests that the building was not actually used for habitation. Instead, given the nature of the superstructure (see above), it is likely that it was used in a storage capacity, perhaps in part for hay from the surrounding fields.

The central and south-eastern parts of this northern enclosure were probably used in the main as general working areas, where wheeled transport could have loaded and unloaded material. There is some evidence that at least part of this area was metalled (687), and large amounts of debris was recovered from this surface, including over 75 kg of pottery and most of the vessel glass fragments from the phase. A significant quantity of debris was also recovered from the trackway ditches defining the enclosures, and most is likely to be redeposited material, part of the infill from the mid 2nd century AD. The identifiable animal bone assemblage from these ditches was dominated by cattle and then

sheep bones. Pottery forms were heavily dominated by jars (84%), with 20 amphora sherds and a reasonable number of vessel glass fragments also recovered. The finds included a number of personal and domestic items. The quantity of material from these ditches and the cobbled surface may be significant and could suggest that episodes of food and drink consumption took place in this area, or at least that the remains of such events were deliberately deposited here (see below).

Most of the southern enclosure was not investigated and it is difficult to gauge any specific function for this area. Fencelines divided at least part of the enclosure, but there appear to have been minimal ceramic and faunal remains, which suggest a non-domestic use. The area may have comprised a series of paddocks for livestock.

Lower status residential, agricultural and industrial zones

To the west of the aisled building compound, in Trench 17, was an area which appeared quite different, both in terms of the structural remains (see above) and the finds assemblage (Fig. 5.35). Aside from fragments of fired clay daub, there are no indications of buildings in this area until the mid to late 3rd century, although the quantity of pottery and animal remains suggests reasonably intensive occupation. However, the nature of these assemblages is quite distinct, with, for example, samian ware and amphorae accounting for a much lower percentage of the Trench 17 assemblage than in Trench 13. Of the recorded pottery there is also a notable scarcity of mortaria within the Trench 17 group, although the general pottery forms are quite similar to those in Trench 13. The proportions of fine wares are also quite similar, although virtually all of these are Oxford colour-coated ware relating to the later period, probably contemporary with the stone-founded building. This may indicate a rise in the status of this area during the later 3rd to early 4th century. In general the pottery from Trench 17 suggests predominantly low status occupation, with less in the way of Roman style eating habits than practised by the residents of the aisled building in Trench 13. The general animal bone assemblage from Trench 17 was differentiated by a lack of species diversity compared with Trench 13, along with the presence of sheep and dog burials.

It is clear from the overall finds distribution that industrial activity was concentrated in the north of Trench 17, with 70% of all smithing slag from the site in Phase 3 coming from this area (Fig. 5.27). Together with the preponderance of carpentry tools, whetstones and agricultural implements, it implies this was very much the main service area for the whole site.

It therefore appears that Trench 17 contained both industrial and low status residential areas, probably for the workers at the site. There are also indications that animals were kept in this area, with a series of enclosures, waterholes and stack rings along the western boundary. Within one of these waterholes (1318) were found the waterlogged remains of significant quantities of hay thought to have come from west of the settlement (see below), along with box leaves which probably came from nearby hedges. The beetle assemblage suggests that the well also contained faunal compost, probably derived from animals within the surrounding stock enclosures. In general it appears that this area was far clearer of trees and tall shrubs than the western boundary of Trench 13. Further environmental samples from a possible waterhole in the southern part of the trench (1202) also contained high quantities of hay, but unlike 1318, it also included cereal remains, suggesting that this area may have been used for domestic occupation and/or crop processing. A parasite from this feature suggests that sheep were the most likely animals to have been kept in this area, which is corroborated by the three sheep burials.

Further to the south in Trench 29, the finds evidence indicates much less intensive occupation, with approximately one third of the quantity of animal bone and pottery recovered in Trench 17. The pottery assemblage contains the lowest proportion of fine wares on site, suggesting quite low status activity, although it did have the highest percentage of amphora sherds. The finds assemblage contained a small group of personal and domestic items, along with tools and an unusually large proportion of quernstone fragments. A reasonable quantity of smithing slag was also recovered, along with fired clay, which may have come from ovens and/or domestic structures. The environmental evidence from the three waterholes in this area indicated quite disturbed ground with evidence for some animal grazing, but there was no evidence of the hay or cereal remains seen in Trenches 17 and 13. In all, the evidence suggests that this part of the site was probably a working yard similar in nature to parts of Trench 17 further north, although of a much reduced intensity.

Religious focus

At the time of the excavations, the double enclosure in Trench 19 was interpreted as a religious *temenos* associated with the 'official' reorganisation of the site, primarily on the basis of its form and location at the heart of the settlement (Fig. 5.35). Whilst this religious interpretation is far from certain, the spatial arrangement is reminiscent of known sacred sites (eg Folly Lane, St Albans: Niblett 1999), and its position overlooking a central 'public' space is also paralleled by many religious structures, such as the temple dedicated to Peace, Victory and Mars at Silchester (Boon 1974, 113). The lack of any apparent temple building is not problematic, as the most important components of a sanctuary were the boundary (*temenos*) defining the sacred area (*area sacra*), and the altar where rituals were performed (Smith 2001, 24). Altars have only been found on a

very limited number of sanctuaries in Britain, presumably due to their removal and/or destruction (Smith 2001, 153). Additionally, such structures would rarely have needed any foundations, especially when lying upon hard packed gravel as in Trench 19. It is therefore possible that the small column parts and dressed limestone fragments found in the vicinity could have belonged to such an altar or small shrine structure.

The finds from Trench 19 do not readily suggest a religious function, with the possible exception of the fragment of a tazza vessel, commonly used for burning incense and found in a number of temple sites such as at Verulamium (Wheeler and Wheeler 1936, 114). The high proportion of fine ware vessels from Trench 19 is also paralleled at other Roman religious sites, such as at Higham Ferrers, Northants, where the shrine was also formed by an enclosure with no obvious internal temple structure (OA in prep c). A reasonable quantity of vessel glass fragments from the cobbling layer within the enclosure may also have been connected with the ritual use of the area. The remaining finds mainly comprised a small number of personal and household items, but there is little to suggest occupation in this area.

In all, it does seem that there is enough evidence to suggest the likelihood of a religious focus in this central part of the settlement, although the nature of any cult practised there remains unknown.

Economy and material culture

The character of the environmental and finds assemblages from Phase 3 is quite distinct and shows a clear shift in the economy and social structure of the settlement. It appears that at least part of the economic basis of the site became the management of hay meadows on the surrounding floodplain and gravel terraces, probably within large field systems whose ditches appear to have provided effective drainage. A system of trackways led from these fields to the heart of the main settlement complex (Fig. 5.1), and wheeled vehicles must have transported the hay to this central zone, probably to be stored within parts of Trench 17 and the aisled barn in Trench 13. Haymaking in Britain appears only to have begun in the Roman period, and evidence for this activity has been found on a small number of other contemporary sites in the Upper Thames Valley such as Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1988) and Thornhill Farm (Jennings *et al.* 2004). Its introduction was probably driven by the increased demand for winter animal fodder within the larger population centres such as Cirencester, although many of the records of hay from the early Roman period do come from military contexts (Greig 1988). Yet even if hay from Claydon Pike was destined for some official or military use, there is still no indication that such organisations had direct control of the settlement complex (see below and Chapter 16).

Haymaking is a highly labour-intensive form of land use, which might account for the apparent increase in population at the site, possibly even involving the use of slaves. Yet, the main labour-intensive period in this process is also quite short-term, which suggests that other economic activities must have been in operation during the remaining parts of the year in order to keep the workforce occupied (see below). It is also possible that at peak labour times, hired help was gained from the inhabitants of nearby settlements.

Providing food for the residents seems to have involved the importation of cereal crops such as spelt wheat and barley, which are believed not to have been grown in the immediate vicinity. However, if the two outlying corn-driers belong to this phase, rather than to Phase 4, then they may suggest arable activity at some location on the estate, at least during the latter part of the phase. Processing of these crops was carried out on site, as evidenced by the reasonable assemblage of quernstones. Other imported crops include rare examples of beans and flax, the latter possibly used both for textiles and as animal feed. The single carbonised example of flax came from the 'corn-drier' in B 7, possibly for drying after retting (Morris 1979, 8). Horticultural crops were certainly grown on site, with the presence of celery, dill, coriander and cherry amongst others. The recovery of celery seeds from Mount Farm, Dorchester-on-Thames, suggested the possibility of market gardening for the Roman town (Robinson 1992a, 58; see Chapter 16), although the quantities from Claydon Pike are quite small and any if any commercial enterprise did exist, it is likely to have been very limited.

Unlike the later Iron Age and early Roman settlement, there does not appear to have been any great concentration of animals in the heart of the settlement, although they were certainly present, and would have been important for use in the cycle of haymaking (see Robinson above). The patterns of animal husbandry saw marked changes, with substantial increases in the ages of sheep and especially cattle indicating that they were being used for secondary products such as wool and manure. The probable concentration of sheep in parts of Trench 17 is particularly important in this respect, as sheep manure is known to be very good at improving the fertility of the river gravel soils. Cattle were probably sent 'on the hoof' to market centres such as Cirencester, and may have been part of the developing rural-urban commercial relationship. There is also evidence for pre-butchered joints of meat being imported back into the site. The movement of such animals away from the settlement would result in a very unbalanced faunal assemblage on site, and it is therefore possible that animal husbandry was of far greater economic importance than can be demonstrated. It certainly would have integrated well with the hay making, by ensuring that the animals had a ready supply of winter fodder.

Social structure and identity

As already mentioned in Chapter 4, there are great difficulties in attempting to discern past social structure from the archaeological record. However certain aspects of the spatial and structural organisation of the site, together with material culture relating to consumption and identity, can be used to provide some indication of social relations both on an inter- and intra-site level.

The Phase 3 Roman complex reveals what appear to be clear social distinctions between different parts of the site. The major division is between the eastern compound with its prominent aisled buildings and rich finds assemblages and the western zones with less elaborate dwellings and comparative paucity of what may be termed 'high-status' artefacts. Such social differentiation has been found at a number of other rural settlements such as at one of the compounds at Catsgore in Somerset (Hingley 1989, 80), and presumably represents a physical distinction between the agricultural estate owners or bailiffs and the workers. At Claydon Pike, this distinction seems to have been made more pronounced by a large open area of 'neutral' space between the two zones, which was seemingly kept clear for most of the life of the complex (shown as white on Fig. 5.35). Furthermore, the eastern boundary of the open space was given prominence by the use of ditches, walls and trees, and had a slightly elaborate gateway forming the entry point between the two areas. As mentioned above, it is unlikely that this gateway would have been able to admit wheeled traffic, and so it may have been associated with certain social regulations. It is possible that the people of greatest status and influence on the site consciously transformed the spatial order into mnemonic devices that reinforced their superior position and reasserted a pattern of power relations. Perhaps significantly, at the period when the main aisled building was demolished and the first masonry footed building in Trench 17 was constructed, the physical boundaries and the central cleared space between the eastern and western zones ceased to exit. This may imply that there was no longer any great social divide between the two areas at this time.

It is not only in the boundaries and access points that the social order could be reinforced, but also in the buildings themselves. Perring (2002, 80) has recently pointed out that 'houses provide a more sensitive measure of settlement dynamics than most other forms of archaeological evidence', and so the construction of the aisled house and barn in Trench 13 may be seen as an important indication of social transformation. Both aisled buildings would have been quite imposing structures (see possible reconstruction, Pl. 5.15), and even though B 3 was clearly used for storage, it must have impressed a degree of wealth upon those viewing it. It has been observed that an exaggerated emphasis on the architecture of storage may have been a facet of estates where owners were less regularly resident and therefore less able to define and reinforce their social position through social activity alone (Perring 2002, 55). Whether the owners of the complex at Claydon Pike were often absent remains unknown, although it does seem likely that they did utilise acts of conspicuous consumption in order to maintain and/or further their position within society (see below).

The aisled house itself appears to have been of the simple undeveloped type, probably with just one single room (see above), suggesting that it was the residence of a single extended family group (Hingley 1989, 41). However, examinations of artefact distributions within an aisled house at Wanborough have indicated the likelihood of many complex social rules which were applied within the interior space, including areas reserved for predominantly male and female activities (Hingley 1989, 43). Whilst it is very difficult to define such gender segregation in the archaeological record, some spatial patterns relating to food consumption have been observed within the Claydon Pike building (see above), and may be associated with specific social rules. It is unfortunately impossible to determine whether such rules may relate to any pre-existing social order from the Phase 2 settlement.

In addition to the physical organisation of the site, patterns of food and drink consumption may also highlight aspects of social organisation within the settlement. The finds have suggested changes in butchery practices and new ways of preparing drinks (Cool, this vol), while in terms of the ceramic assemblage there is a drop in the occurrence of jar forms, and an increase in vessels associated with drinking (tankards, cups, beakers) and serving (bowls, platters). Although still slight, there are also increases in amphora and mortaria. As highlighted above, most of the changes concerned with Roman style eating habits occurred in the aisled building compound, and there are particular concentrations around the main domestic building, the central cobbled surface area and the east-west trackway ditches (see above). Meadows (2001, 259) has suggested that such concentration of artefacts may represent public acts of food and especially drink consumption linked with establishing relationships with the outside community. Certainly the systems of power within Roman Britain would have relied upon networks of patronage, and so public displays of consumption amongst a setting of visually dominant architecture would have served to reinforce this social order (Perring 2002, 215).

Further indication of a change in consumption practices that may be linked with social transformation is suggested by the increased presence of wild game and domestic fowl. This provides clear evidence for hunting and fishing, which together with the increased culinary preference for domestic fowl, has been viewed as indicative of a 'Romanised' lifestyle (King 1991). The presence of oyster shells is also suggestive of Roman style eating habits, while also indicating the presence of longer distance trade networks. It is undoubtedly

not a coincidence that the greatest concentration of all these remains lies within the immediate vicinity of the western aisled building in Trench 13, which is assumed to have been the residence of the site owners or custodians.

The range of finds from the Phase 3 settlement has been argued to suggest significant lifestyle changes for the inhabitants there (see Cool, above). Such changes include the adoption of different hairstyles and the wearing of Roman style footwear, while hints of a more luxurious lifestyle are suggested by items such as the ivory die and copper alloy lamp. However, most of the items of personal dress, such as the brooches and hairpins are still local British forms, and do not necessarily suggest that a 'foreign' population had moved into the site. Indeed, the notion that the whole emphasis of settlement change at Claydon Pike was linked to external military occupation (Miles and Palmer 1983, 387-8) cannot be readily justified by the finds assemblage, with the only military equipment belonging to the later Antonine/Severan period (see site discussion, Chapter 8 and wider discussion, Chapter 16).