

Chapter 3: Period 2 - Late Iron Age and Roman

PHASE 1, UP TO *c* AD 43

The principal feature assigned to this phase was a single cremation burial adjacent to, but outside, Area C. No excavated feature in Area C was of this date. None of the excavated features in Area B was demonstrably of this date, although a small number of features contained pottery which could suggest a pre-conquest date (including cremation 1261 at the north-east margin of Area B, see below), but none of the features need have been that early.

Burial 9200

The report starts with a description of discovery of the grave; this is followed by a description the burial as found, and interpretation of the layout of the burial and location of the finds, and finally a discussion of the finds. The finds are catalogued in detail in Chapter 8.

Recovery

The burial was located at TQ 99976 40168 and 43.96 m above OD, situated some 40 m due west of the south-west corner of excavated Area C (Fig. 3.1). The burial was revealed on Friday October 8th 1999 in an area adjacent to the Wilcon Homes compound during stripping by contractors for an access driveway to

new houses. After exposure, and before OA staff were summoned, parts of the burial were excavated by workmen using hand tools. By the time OA staff arrived cremated bone and fragments of wood and copper alloy objects had been identified and considerable disturbance had occurred. The remaining *in situ* parts of the burial were cleaned and recorded as far as was possible, given the extensively disturbed nature of the remains and the need to clear the site to allow construction work to continue (Plate 3.1).

As seen in the field the approximate dimensions of the disturbed area containing the burial were 1 m x 0.70 m, within which the remains of a wooden box, a wooden stave bucket, a *terra nigra* platter and fragmentary copper-alloy objects including parts of a jug, a bowl, a fluted fragment from a shallow vessel - a *patera* - and several possible fittings, were apparent together with cremated bone (Figs 3.2 and 3.3). The outline of the original cut for the cremation was unclear due to the presence of redeposited clay backfill and the disturbance of the feature by the contractors. Subsequent cleaning and the examination of the deposits already removed showed that at least two distinct fills existed. One was redeposited natural clay around the box and bucket; the other was a compact grey clay silt that sealed the box lid.

As a consequence of the character of the surrounding solid clay natural and clay rich fill, and the evident complexity and fragility of the objects within the burial, what remained of the cremation was lifted in blocks. A small trench was machined around three sides of the remains and the clay cut away from the edges of the feature. The exposed deposits were then cut in two at a point where it was thought that this would cause the minimum amount of damage

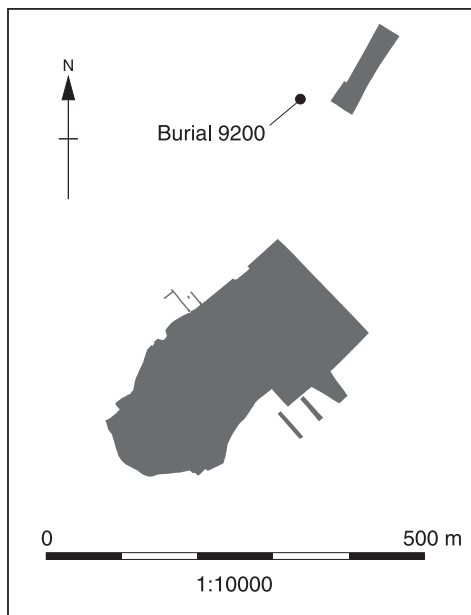


Figure 3.1 Period 2: Phase 1. Location of Burial 9200.

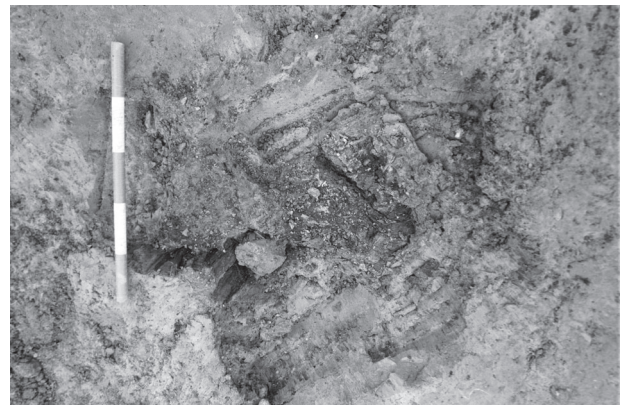


Plate 3.1 Burial 9200 as revealed by contractors' excavation.

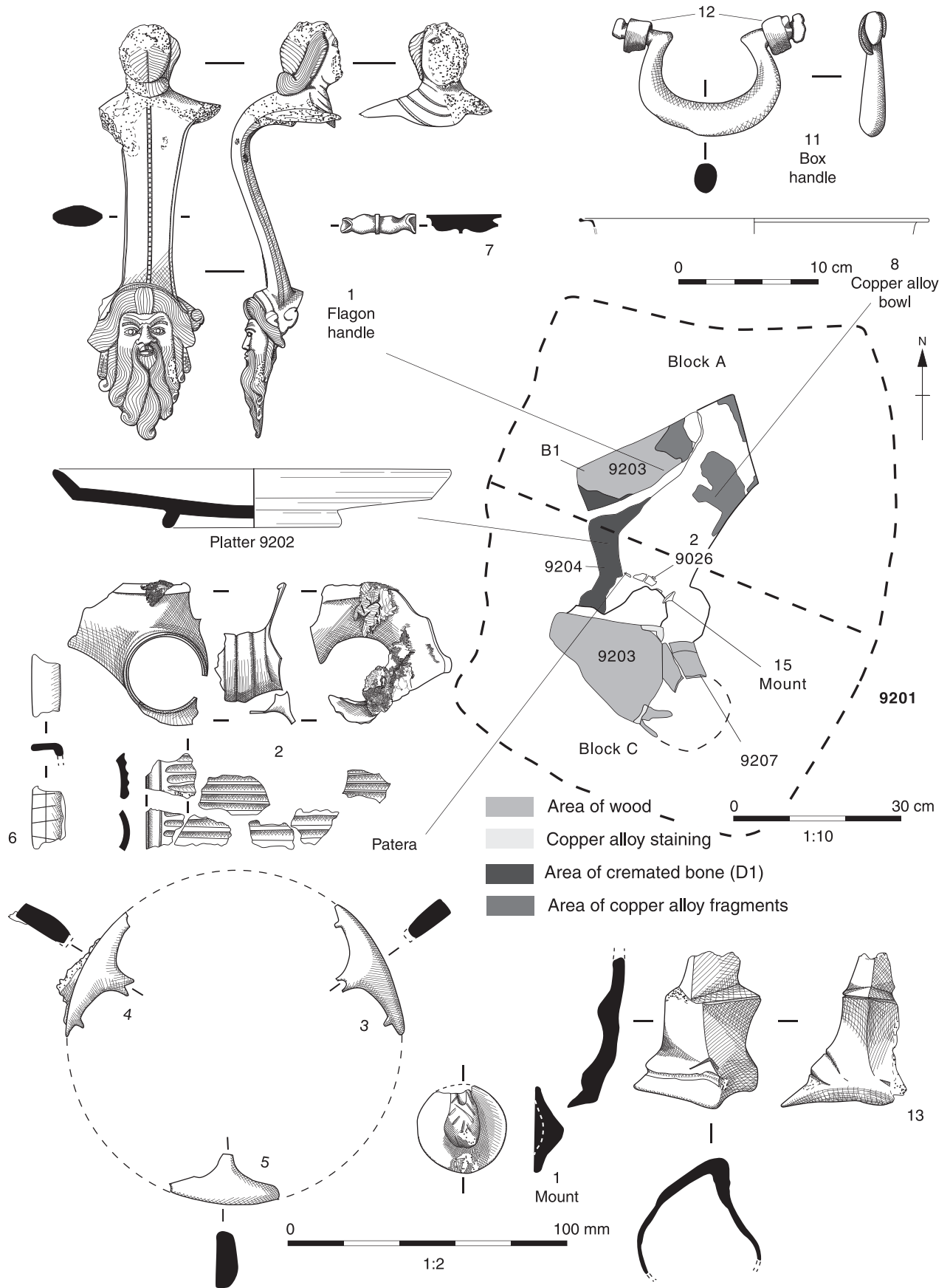


Figure 3.2 Burial 9200: Detailed plan of grave and drawings of grave goods.



Figure 3.3 Burial 9200: Hypothetical reconstruction of principal identified grave goods.

to the remaining deposits. The two resulting blocks being labelled A (to the north) and C (to the south). All of the soil disturbed by the building contractors was also collected. This fell into two categories: loose soil (mostly grave fill) which was collected in sample buckets, and larger clay lumps of varying size, in some cases still containing fragmentary archaeological material *in situ*, some of which were also assigned individual block numbers. One such large block (B1) measured 0.4 x 0.3 x 0.15 m and included a distinct semi-circular stain of copper alloy. Another (block D1) held the impression of the foot ring of the platter with cremated bone beneath it. Where possible these were related spatially to the archaeologically recorded remains of the burial.

The excavated blocks and the salvaged lumps/blocks were subsequently dissected under controlled conditions by Karla Graham at the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology at Portsmouth. Full records of this are held in the project archive. In the light of this work and detailed examination of the finds, some of the interpretations made on site were shown, inevitably, to have been mistaken. Despite the careful

work undertaken at Portsmouth, some fundamental aspects of the burial, and much of the detail, remain obscure.

Description of the grave and contents as found

The plan (Fig. 3.2) shows the extent of major disturbance from the contractors' excavation and the principal surviving *in situ* elements in the centre of this area. The original edges of the cremation burial pit (notional cut 9201) had been heavily disturbed by the contractors on site, and only the position of the objects suggested the approximate dimensions of the grave pit. This was possibly, but not certainly, square or rectangular, perhaps roughly 0.55 m x 0.50 m with the probable longer axis approximately north-west to south-east, and perhaps up to 0.30 m deep below the level of the top of the plough-truncated natural subsoil, though none of the recovered soil blocks was greater than c 0.20 m in depth.

At the base of the cut at or towards its northern edge were the possible remains of a wooden box (9203) with copper alloy components. Parts of this

were recovered in blocks A and B1, but traces of decayed organic material and fragments of copper alloy were observed widely across the feature, though it is unclear if these represent a single object or several different items of broadly similar construction. The north-east corner of the box was relatively well-defined, but disturbance elsewhere makes it impossible to establish its precise dimensions. This question is, however, crucial for interpretation of the burial overall. The principal possibilities are that a small or medium sized box (perhaps up to 320-360 mm x 200-220 mm) aligned NE-SW lay in the northern corner of the grave pit, or that the majority of the identified items lay within the box, which occupied most of the grave pit and on this interpretation might have been up to c 450 mm x 350 mm in plan, with the long axis aligned NW-SE. The original height of the box is unknown. The wooden remains were too degraded to allow identification of the species used. Many copper alloy fragments were associated with the decayed organic material, but none survived in a recognisable form. This suggests that the box was decorated and/or reinforced with thin sheet, or indeed that it might have been largely covered with such sheeting.

Interpretation of the layout of the burial and location of the finds

For the purposes of the following description the 'large box' interpretation is followed, but is, of course, speculative. The corollary of this assumption is that most of the identified objects, with the principal exception of the wooden bucket (see below) lay within the box, but it is possible that some were placed on top of it.

The northern corner of the box (9203) may have contained one or more copper alloy objects - presumably vessels of thin metal since the surviving fragments cannot be identified to form. Towards the western corner of the box was the main deposit of cremated bone (9204), which was noted on site as a relatively discrete and coherent deposit. This deposit included cremated fragments of bird, sheep and pig, as well as the human remains of an adult, probably male. The cremated bone was partly overlain by the *terra nigra* platter of Camulodunum form 1 (Fig. 3.2: 9202) with a diameter of c 280 mm. Unburnt animal bone and copper alloy fragments were recovered from within the platter. The bones were from a lamb; further fragments, presumably, but not certainly, from the same animal, were amongst the unstratified material from the contractors' excavations grouped as context 9200. The copper alloy was almost certainly from the *patera* (9206; Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. nos 2-5) (Fig. 3.2: 2-5). What is less certain is the relationship between this vessel and the lamb, but the latter may have been placed adjacent to the edge of the box west of the former.

The *patera* can be reconstructed with some confidence, despite its extremely fragmentary nature, on the basis of surviving components of the handle (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. No. 2) (Fig. 3.2: 2), a rim frag-

ment (Cat. no.6) (Fig. 3.2: 6) and three cast feet (Cat. nos 3-5) (Fig. 3.2: 3-5). Parts of the handle were recorded *in situ* in a location consistent with the positioning of the body of the *patera* above the *terra nigra* platter, though it may be that the components were not attached, since a piece of linen fabric, preserved by corrosion products inside the hollow cast handle, overlapped the edge of the handle attachment in a way that should not have been possible had the handle been attached to the body of the vessel. The vessel has an estimated diameter of c 220 mm.

At least two other copper alloy vessels were identified and on the present interpretation of the grave were probably inside the box. The first of these was a jug of which only the highly decorated handle, depicting Silenus, survived (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 1) (Fig. 3.2: 1). The handle was recovered by the workmen and was not *in situ*. Fluted fragments, initially thought to belong to this vessel, were part of the *patera* 9206 (Cat. no.2) (Fig. 3.2: 2). Sufficient corroded fragments were associated with the jug handle, however, to indicate that this was buried as a complete vessel rather than a detached object.

The other copper alloy vessel was a probable bowl, of which only part of the rim was recognisable in detached soil block B2 (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. Nos 8-10). This vessel was fairly shallow and may have been either circular or oval in shape, at least c 250 mm in diameter, and probably had a drop handle (Cat. no.11) (Fig. 3.2: 11), though this was also an unassociated find.

The principal problem relating to these two vessels is their location. It is likely that both lay towards the north-east side or east corner of the box, and possible that the jug was placed in the bowl. Alternatively, the numbering of block B2 suggests a perceived association with the other B blocks - B1, certainly located on the north-west side of the grave, and the smaller detached block B3 which proved to overlie it. It is possible therefore that B2 also originally joined onto B1, but the complete absence of any traces of cremated bone in B2 does not support this suggestion (unless the bowl in B2 had lain on top of the box rather than within it), so a location further south-east is preferred, albeit tentatively.

Towards the south-east side of the grave were the remains of a stave bucket (9207) (Plate 3.2). Parts of this survived as preserved wood, possibly as a consequence of anaerobic conditions resulting from the bucket having been tightly packed and surrounded with sterile, redeposited natural clay (9208) and perhaps enhanced by the proximity of copper alloy. The surviving fragments, of yew wood (species identification by Mark Robinson), indicated a diameter of about 150 mm. The bucket had been badly damaged before recovery, and the southern edge was completely lost, but large parts of the remains were contained within soil block C1 examined at the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. In this work 16 fragments of wood were eventually given separate numbers, but it is highly improbable that these represented 16 different staves, many of the fragments



Plate 3.2 Block C1 from Burial 9200.

being very small. The best preserved stave had maximum surviving dimensions of *c* 137 mm x 77 mm recorded at the time of initial examination, while the adjacent stave 2 was 101 mm x 50 mm. It is not clear if the latter dimension was the full width of the stave, but this is possible. At an average width of *c* 77 mm only six or seven staves would have been required in the bucket. It seems likely that most staves were rather narrower than this, but their original number is unknown; an interim assessment identifying nine staves is probably close to the mark, however. The bottom of the bucket did not survive, though its position is indicated by indentations towards the base of some staves. Staining of some of the wood and the presence of copper alloy fragments suggest that the bucket was probably bound with bands of copper alloy sheet.

The bucket had clearly been placed upright in the grave, though by the time of recovery the best preserved staves were leaning to the south-east. The uppermost parts of the bucket, including handle and suspension loops, were completely missing. A copper alloy mount (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 15; see below) (Fig. 3.2:15), found just north of the bucket, might have come from it.

As already noted a sterile yellow silt-clay (9208), almost indistinguishable from the natural subsoil of this part of the site, was packed in and around the stave bucket. This material was also used to fill the rest of the grave pit, which accounts for the effective

invisibility of the edges of the grave cut in its disturbed state. It also supports the interpretation that the bucket lay outside the box, which occupied most of the remainder of the grave pit. The principal fill encountered in and above the area of the box and extending as far as the north-west edge of the bucket was a layer of light grey clay silt (9205) varying between 0.02-0.3 m in depth. This is likely to have represented both the gradual processes of infilling of the box itself as it decayed, as well as the accumulation of material in the hollow above the box at the same time, but there was no meaningful distinction between the character of the soil in these two different contexts.

A number of fragments of copper alloy, only located during examination of the remains of the burial at the Centre for Archaeology, suggest the presence of further objects not referred to here.

Copper alloy artefacts from Burial 9200 by H E M Cool

Interpreting the copious quantities of copper alloy found associated with this burial is fraught with difficulties. The first problem stems from the fact that copper alloy does not survive well at Ashford. Though part of the burial was lifted entire and excavated in the laboratory (report in archive), much of the copper alloy had been reduced to the state of undiagnostic tiny fragments or copper corrosion

products. Extensive radiography before laboratory excavation was relatively unhelpful and in only one case revealed any hint of the outline of a vessel. The second problem is that in nearly all cases the most diagnostic pieces had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologists and so there are doubts as to where some of them were placed within the burial. This is particularly regrettable as it is clear that the burial contains unusual forms of artefacts and it would have aided interpretation to have known which elements were associated together.

It will be helpful to summarise here what it was thought had been found on site at the time the burial was lifted. It was known that there was a jug as the fine handle (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 1) (Fig. 3.2: 1) had already been removed. It was assumed that this was associated with a cylindrical fluted object (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 2) (Fig. 3.2: 2) which was still *in situ* and which was thought to have been the neck of the vessel. A fragment referred to as a possible strainer bowl (see Cat. no. 2) was located a little to the north of this (the precise position being uncertain). There was also thought to be a large bowl as a semi-circle of copper alloy could be seen in one of the blocks removed by the contractors (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 10) and rim fragments (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. nos 8-10) were also lying loose. The box holding the remains was observed to have had copper alloy fragments scattered with the decayed wood that had formed it, and in one case a distinct corner was preserved. Fragments of copper alloy were also observed on the *terra nigra* platter and it was suggested that this might either be a vessel placed on the platter or have been derived from a vessel alongside the platter. Finally it was also observed that there might be another copper alloy object below the cylindrical fluted object. A wooden bucket was also recognised.

The one vessel that can be identified with certainty is the jug represented by its handle (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 1) (Fig. 3.2: 1). This type of handle is used on jugs with wide trefoil mouths, short necks and wide bodies (Tassinari 1993, type 2112). A jug of this sort with a very similar handle is known from Pompeii (*ibid.*, vol. 1, 42, vol. 2, 65, Tav. CV 3 and 4, no. 18763). That has a female bust on the upper attachment with precisely the same hairstyle as seen on the Ashford attachment. The lower attachment of the Pompeii jug has a very similar male bearded face, but little stumps of horns can be seen on the forehead suggesting the figure was intended to be Pan. On the Ashford handle, these are missing and it is likely that the mask was intended to represent Silenus. The body of these jugs was thin and spun out of sheet on a lathe (see Toynbee 1967, 240 for technique), so there need be no surprise that no recognisable pieces of the body survive. In the soil conditions at Ashford, the body can be expected to have fragmented into small undiagnostic pieces.

Jugs of this type are part of the earliest Imperial service of jug and *patera* to which Nuber (1972, 38) has given the name of Hagenow. These were in use during the first half of the 1st century AD, though ex-

amples of the jugs are found in contexts that suggest they continued in use into the Flavian period, for example in a rich Flavian burial at Winchester (Toynbee 1967). Though the form has been recovered at Pompeii, it is not common there (Tassinari 1993), suggesting it might not still have been in contemporary use by the time of the eruption in AD 79. There is, therefore, the possibility that the Ashford jug could have been a pre-Conquest import. As well as the example from the Flavian grave at Winchester, another jug of this type was found in the Welwyn-type burial at Stanfordbury, Bedfordshire (Stanfordbury A). This jug is a closer parallel for the Ashford jug as the female busts on the upper attachments of both are very similar to each other (Toynbee 1963, 175, plate 130, no. 114). Their lower attachments differ, however, as the Stanfordbury example has two comic masks at the base of the handle. Stanfordbury A also contained a stamped Gaulish copy of an Arretine cup dated to c AD 35-45 (Stead 1967, 47), suggesting the burial may have been made about the time of the Claudian conquest.

The form of the jugs with handles make it clear that the fluted cylindrical object (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 2) (Fig. 3.2: 2) could not have been part of this vessel. As the catalogue entry shows the fragments from this were collected both on site and during the excavation in the laboratory. The distinctive cast fluting on the fragments and on the broken tip of the piece originally identified on site as part of a possible strainer bowl make it clear that both groups were from the same item. The fragments are consistent with this being the handle of a *patera*; for general form see those from the Welshpool deposit (Boon 1961, fig. 4, nos 2-4). The handles of *paterae* were cast separately and generally had a terminal in the form of the head of a ram or wolf and a shield-like plate or wall at the other end for attachment to the bowl. The ridged appearance on the interior of the plate/cylinder junction of the fluted handle makes it clear that this was not intended to be seen in contrast to the apparently well-finished exterior. The difference in slope above and below the junction with the cylinder is what is to be expected of an attachment for a shallowly sloping bowl, and the finished edges observable on the wall or plate makes it clear that this is indeed an attachment plate rather than a compete vessel wall. *Patera* handles could be cast solid in one piece, but hollow ones are also known, as well as ones which are recorded as being filled with some other material (Waugh and Goodburn 1972, 138 nos 148-9, figs 44-45). It may be noted here that the traces of a linen textile (see below) were inside the handle apart from one fragment that spills out over the broken edge. Whether this was the original filling though is open to question. The position could be the fortuitous result of breakage and perhaps the vessel was placed in the grave wrapped in cloth.

The lack of a terminal is puzzling as it could normally have expected to be cast with the handle even if the latter was hollow. However, the terminal fragments have well-finished edges and clearly if it did

have an animal-head terminal it must have been cast separately. As a solid casting some part of it might have been expected to survive even the corrosive soil of Ashford, but there is no recognisable trace of such an item within the copper alloy from the deposit. It has to be assumed therefore that this *patera* was not placed in the grave with a terminal in position.

There are no fragments that can be recognised as being from the body with any certainty. The body would have been cast and probably finished on a lathe, but it would have been thin-walled. The fragments of copper alloy found on the platter did include small convex-curved fragments that had probably originated from a cast vessel wall. There was also one tiny fragment that retained part of an angular moulding very similar to that on the shield-like attachment of the *patera* handle. Given the position of the platter and the planned angle of the fluted part of the handle the evidence would be consistent with the bowl of the *patera* having been placed in the platter with the handle pointing towards the east. The large fragment from the junction of the handle and attachment was only approximately located, but its general position is consistent with the arrangement proposed.

There were many different types of *paterae* in use in the Roman world. The lack of an animal head terminal, the neatly fluted handle with transverse mouldings at either end, the relatively plain attachment shield all suggest the Ashford *patera* may have been of the form that has often been observed in Hagenow services of *paterae* and jugs (Nuber 1972, 39; see for example Taf. 3.1a-b). Unusually for *paterae* these often have three small separately cast feet applied to the base to protect it, rather than the base being raised on an integrally cast foot ring. There are three such feet from the grave (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. nos 3-5) (Fig. 3.2: 3-5). Two (nos 3 and 5) were found loose on site. The third (no. 4) was excavated from Block B3 in the laboratory, but the original location of this is not known precisely. Given the removal of the platter from the grave by the contractors and the presence of nos. 3 and 5 loose in the items also removed by them, it seems reasonable to suggest that these feet did indeed come from the *patera*. If, as suggested, the *patera* sat in the platter then these solid cast pieces would have been obvious items to have been picked out on first discovery. The outer diameter of the feet would also have been appropriate for a *patera* such as this. It would have been too small for the other bowl known from the burial.

Such *paterae* had horizontally out-turned rims and a single fragment of a rim of the appropriate type was recovered (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 6) (Fig. 3.2: 6). It was clearly made in a different way from, and has a different profile from, the rim from the large dish in the grave (Cat. nos 8-9, see below), and so could well have come from the *patera*. Its original location is unknown. Finally the small mount (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 7) (Fig. 3.2: 7) may be considered, though again its original location is unknown. It has corrosion products on the back indicative of having been soldered onto another piece of metal. The cupped ends have a conical aperture of about 4 mm depth.

In overall appearance the piece is very similar to the central part of a swing handle that was attached to a vessel (see den Boesterd 1956, 52, pl VIII, no 170). The recessed ends would be most suitable to anchor the ends of the handle itself. Some Hagenow *paterae* have this sort of swing attachment opposite the handle, and this may explain the function of no. 7.

It seems very likely that the grave contained the classic *patera* and jug combination used for hand washing and for libations, and well known from many sites throughout the Roman world (Nuber 1972; Koster 1997, 74). As already noted in the discussion of the jug handle no. 1, the jugs typical of the Hagenow service have occasionally been found in contexts as late as the Flavian period. The presence of both elements of the service in this grave, however, strongly suggests that the deposition may have been made during the *floruit* of the service. Nuber (1972, 40) notes dates of deposition ranging from the beginning of the 1st century AD to the Claudian period. It may be noted, however, that at least one Hagenow *patera* from a Claudian context was old by the time it was deposited. This was the one placed in the warrior burial at Snailwell, Cambridgeshire (Lethbridge 1952, 33, plates VIa, VII). If the mount no. 7 does indicate the presence of a swing handle, then this would suggest an early date as it is not a feature that has been observed on those placed in the later contexts. The presence of a Hagenow service cannot certainly indicate that the grave was pre-conquest, but the possibility that it may have been is a strong one. The presence of these expensive imported items, probably originating in Campania, also suggests that the deceased was an elite member of his community.

A larger raised bowl is represented by the fragments catalogued as nos. 8 to 10 (Cool, Chapter 8, below). Again given the circumstances of their discovery - in and around Block B and collected loose on site - there is no guarantee that they all belong to the same vessel, but all are made from sheet metal, and the rim and base diameters would be consistent with a vessel of c 200 mm base diameter with sides sloping out slightly to a rim of c 250 mm. The X-radiograph of the base suggests that it *may* have been elliptical rather than circular, perhaps like the elliptical shallow sheet dish found in the Welwyn Garden City burial (Stead 1967, 26, fig. 14) which had a single drop handle. Among the copper alloy collected on site there is an omega-shaped drop handle (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 11) (Fig. 3.2: 11) and some fragments that clearly served to attach it to something (Cat. no. 12) (Fig. 3.2: 12). It is not known where these fragments came from. One possibility is that they should be viewed as part of the bowl. Both the elliptical bowl and the strainer from Welwyn Garden City (Stead 1967, 23, fig. 12) had single handles, and the footed bowl from an earlier burial at Welwyn may also have had just the single handle (Smith 1912, 16, fig. 11). Presumably they served for hanging these large vessels safely out of the way when not in use. Though there is no proof that the handle and the large bowl were associated here, this seems as least as likely as the possibility that

the handle was part of the box fittings, none of which otherwise survive in any recognisable form.

The fragment no.13 (Cool, Chapter 8) (Fig. 3.2:13) was excavated in the laboratory below the position of the *patera* handle. Between the handle and no. 13 another mass of copper alloy was found, the only recognisable part being Cat. no. 14, and it is possible that the two are connected. The interior of no. 13 and the edge of the 'rim' does not appear to have the finish that would be expected if these surfaces were to be seen. The most likely interpretation of it appears to be as a stand, possibly the foot of some composite item. Precisely what this was remains uncertain. Metal furniture feet at this time normally took the form of the feet of felines and stands for little statuettes were normally cubic or cylindrical. None appears to have the complex shape seen here.

The shape and size of the bucket that stood to one side of the wooden box is best understood from the excavation records both on site (see above) and in the laboratory (report in archive). Though in places the wood has survived remarkably well, in no case is it possible to reconstruct a complete stave or even (with certainty) the width of a complete stave from the surviving fragments, although a particularly well-preserved fragment from Stave 1 was 77 mm wide on initial recording, and this may have been its complete width. There was a small amount of information about the base as on Stave 6 the finished end of the stave is preserved. On the interior a black organic deposit from another layer of wood runs transversely across this stave and would be consistent with a base plate *c* 22 mm thick with the base of stave projecting *c* 5 mm beyond it. Two fragments of wood (Stave 10 and un-numbered) retain the remains of slots which were probably the seating for the base. No iron fittings were preserved, but one fragment of wood (Stave 16) retains the effects of compression, possibly caused by a band.

It may well be that at least the lower part of the bucket was decorated by copper alloy sheet. In several cases during excavation it was noted that the staves stood on black organic matter. The deposit of this below Stave 4 shows much fragmented copper alloy in the X-radiograph. On the base of Stave 6, preserved as black organic material rather than recognisable wood, there is clearly a deposit of copper alloy corrosion products on the exterior. Though it is possible that this copper alloy was derived from another object on which the bucket stood, the evidence of the iron shanks makes this unlikely. These shanks were found in the lower parts of Staves 15 and 16. Where measurable the shank was 3.5 mm in diameter. A small void close to the end of Stave 2 might have been produced by a similar or slightly smaller shank though no metal is now detectable. Iron nails or rivets are not functionally necessary for coopered buckets (see Morris 1990, 206-21) and a more likely explanation for their presence is that they were present to attach copper alloy plates to the woodwork as was done in the case of the Aylesford bucket (Evans 1890, 360). On that bucket the bottom two copper alloy bands were plain and the upper one was decorated with repoussé reliefs of

fantastic animals and decorative scrolls. At Ashford there is no evidence of such decoration, but it may be noted that the excavation of block C1 in which part of the bucket was embedded did produce a few scraps of thin ribbed copper alloy sheet.

It is possible that mount no. 15 (Cool, Chapter 8, Cat. no. 15) (Fig. 3.2:15) may have decorated the bucket. It was lifted separately on site from the area of the bucket and had clearly decorated a wooden object as wood is embedded in the corrosion products. The details of the decoration are a little unclear due to corrosion damage, but they appear to represent a feline face, and it is tempting to wonder whether this might have been the attempt of a native craftsman to depict a lion, a creature often associated in Classical art with funerary items and which was to be adopted later in the 1st century by Romano-British metalworkers (see for example Borrill 1981, 315-6). Equally the mount could have come from the box in which the burial was placed, but as there is only one example this seems less likely. On the caskets decorated by lion-headed studs several are usually used to produce a symmetrical pattern, and the solid nature of this mount makes it unlikely that others would have disappeared entirely through corrosion.

Only the jug handle (Cat. no. 1) now obviously hints at the splendours of the grave furnishings originally provided for this individual. The cremated bones were placed in a wooden casket decorated with copper alloy fittings. At least three copper alloy vessels of some pretension were placed in the grave as well as the *terra nigra* platter, the bucket and possibly some piece of elaborate furniture. It should also be stressed that other items may also have been present, now reduced to unidentifiable fragments and dust. In both block B1 and in the platter deposits of red dust were recovered, for example. These are clearly magnetic and may hint at additional iron fittings. There can be no doubt that the person buried would have been an elite member of his community as the finds place the burial amongst the most richly furnished of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition.

PHASES 2-7, AD 43-400

The report begins with a description of the main road and roadside ditches, which divide the site into blocks. An understanding of road ditches is critical to understanding the overall layout and phasing of the site. This is followed by description and discussion of the evidence of occupation within the blocks defined by the roadside ditches

The Weald to Canterbury Road

The main axis of the Roman settlement within Area B was formed by the Weald to Canterbury road, aligned north-east to south-west. Within the excavation area this extended for 337 m, with a maximum width of 18 m as defined by roadside boundaries, but generally averaging 13 m (Plate 3.3). The roadside boundaries comprised a sequence of ditches, successive



Plate 3.3 Examination of north-west roadside ditch sequence.

phases of which generally encroached slightly upon the area defined by the road itself.

North-west roadside ditches

Phase 2 c AD 43-70

The earliest phase of the ditches on the north-west side of the road consisted of (from the north-east) groups 860, 40, 8700 and 8950 (Fig. 3.4). From the ceramic evidence, it would appear that the ditch was established during Phase 2 of Period 2 and was silt-ing up during the early part of Phase 3 (see Lyne, Chapter 6, Assemblages 4 and 5 for the early fills and 8 and 9 for the later ones).

Ditches 860, 40, 8700 and 8950 represented one continuous ditch, which extended south-westwards through Area B. It originated at the northernmost corner of the area at some distance from the edge of the road as later defined; a short length of a gully (164) in a roadside location at the extreme margin of Area B was assigned tentatively to Phase 2, but its extent must have been very limited. The profile of the earliest ditch in this area varied slightly throughout its 290 m length. As it approached the line of the road from the north, reaching it some 95 m from the north-east baulk of Area

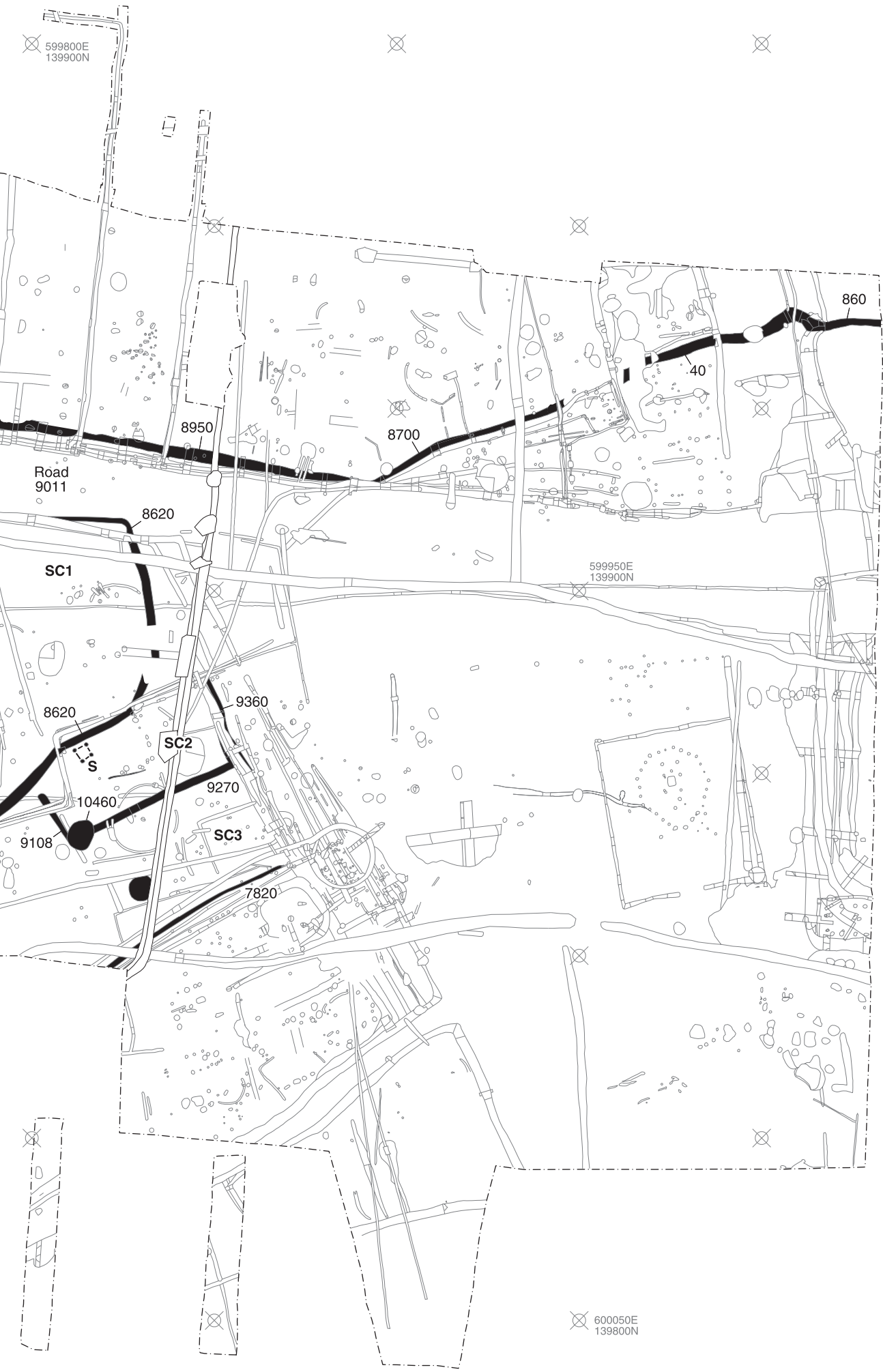
B, the ditch generally ranged from 1.70 m to 2.20 m in width and had 45° sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.5), although about 30 m from the north-east baulk it was more U-shaped in profile with splayed upper edges (Fig. 3.5, section 17). It had an average depth of 0.70 m. The fills were predominantly silt clays, apart from the uppermost deposit, which was a grey-brown silt. None of the deposits within the ditch produced much to signify any specific or intense domestic or industrial activity within the area. Only the upper silts of the ditch in the vicinity of Phase 3 Structure I (Fig. 3.5, section 8) produced evidence of activity, but this consisted of intrusive metalworking debris which had settled into the surface of the earlier ditch.

At the point where the ditch reached the road to follow the north-east to south-west alignment, it was cut by all the later phases (Phases 3-4) of the roadside ditch (Fig. 3.5, section 1049), and had a splayed U-shaped profile. Its average width at this stage was 1.60 m and it ranged from 0.40 m to 0.80 m in depth. As the ditch ran to the south-west the excavated sections illustrate how the roadside ditch sequence moved slightly south-eastwards in successive phases (Fig. 3.6). As well as showing the continuous roadside ditches, the sections also demonstrate the regularity of the gully sequence which defined the south-west group of settlement



Figure 3.4 Period 2: Phase 2, c AD 43-70. General plan, plus road surface 9011.

599800E
139900N



599950E
139900N

600050E
139900N

600050E
139800N

The Roman Roadside Settlement at Westhawk Farm

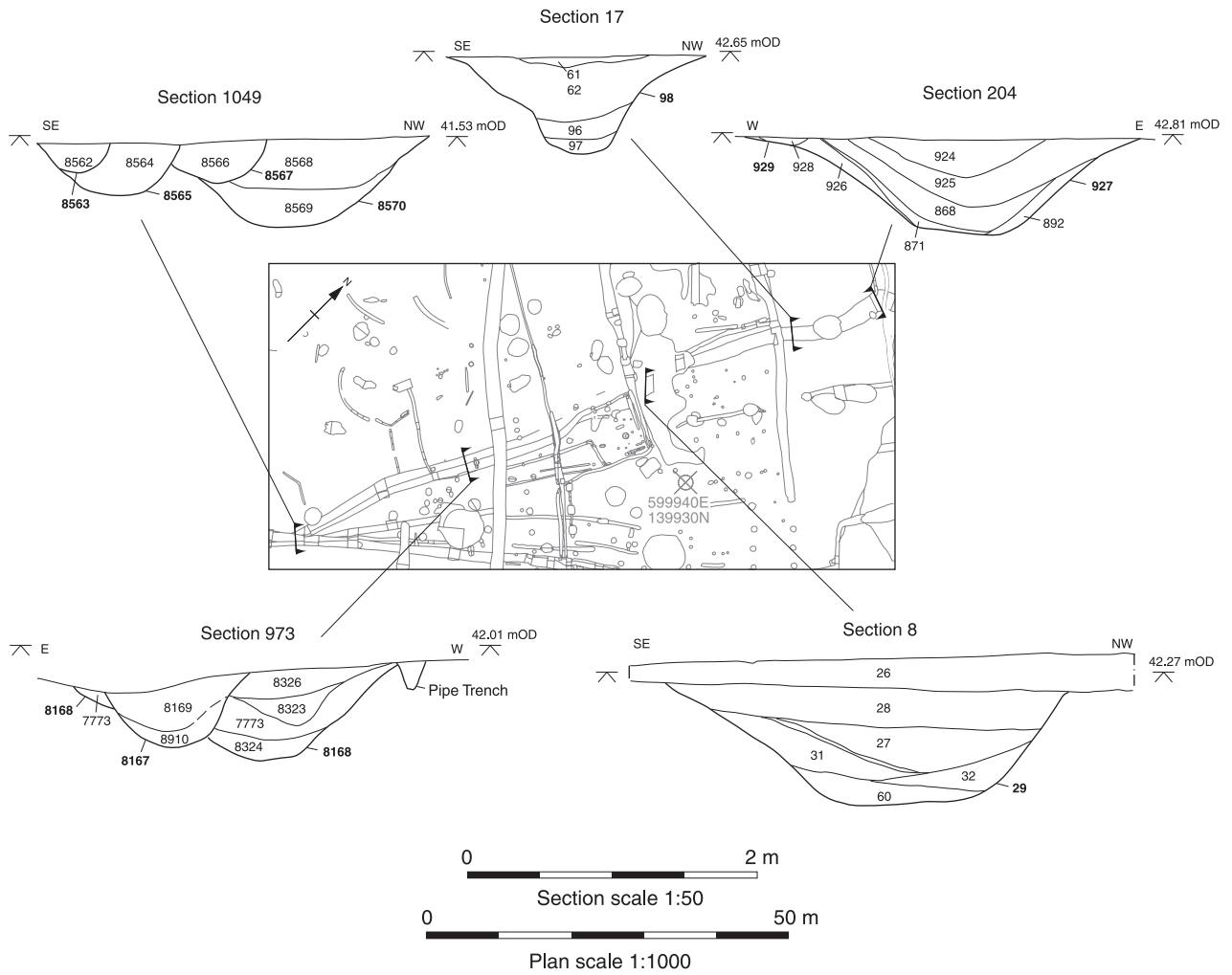


Figure 3.5 Sections of ditches 860, 40 and 8700: Sections 204, 17, 8, 973 (cut 8168), 1049 (cut 8570).

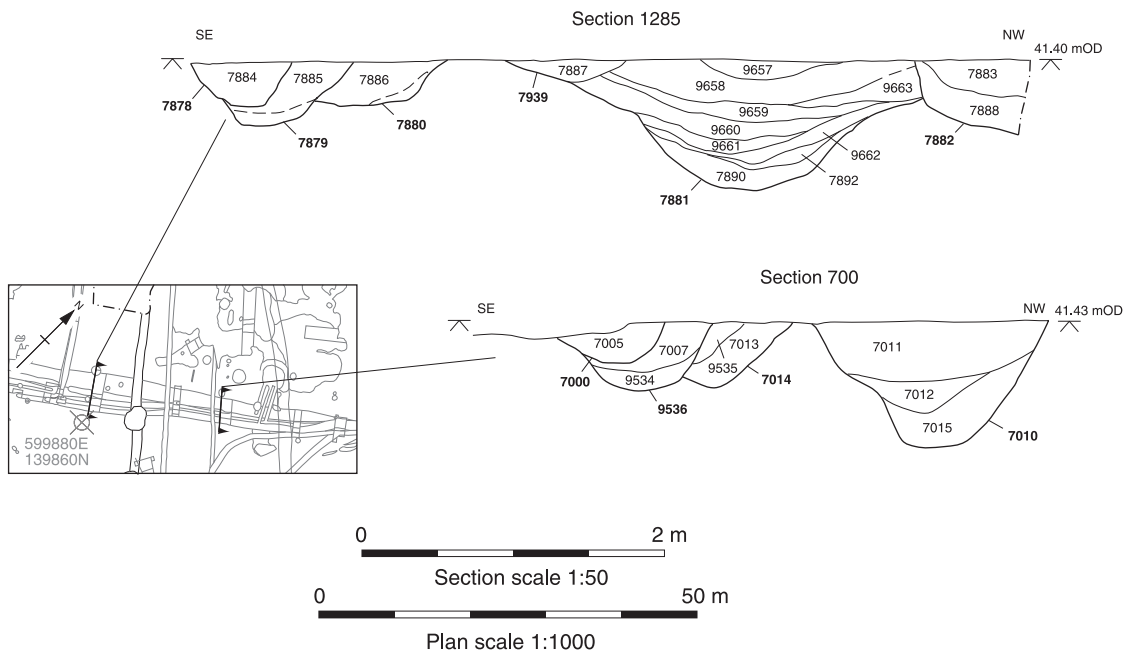


Figure 3.6 Sections of ditch 8950: Sections 700 (cut 7010), 1285 (cut 7881).

plots in Phase 4. These consisted of a continuous rectangular gully representing the first stage, succeeded by a north-west/south-east gully and a separate north-east/south-west gully fronting the road.

As the Phase 2 ditch ran south-westwards towards the periphery of the settlement the fills became more homogeneous, comprising in some cases a single clay silting deposit with very few inclusions, suggesting a lack of activity to the north-west of the road at this stage of the roadside ditch sequence (Fig. 3.7).

South-east roadside ditches

Roadside ditches on the south-east of the Canterbury road were identified in the south-western part of Area B, but terminated well short of the north-east margin of the site, at the south-west corner of the shrine area, where they to the east to define the south side of the shrine area. Subsequent roadside ditches characteristically extended further to the north-east, encroaching a little more into the shrine area with each successive phase (see below).

Phase 2

The primary phase ditch group 8620 to the south-east of the road probably ran parallel with the north-western roadside ditch sequence for approximately 195 m. It is assumed that ditch 8620, and Phase 3 ditch 8670 (see below), extended as far as the south-west limit of Area B, but evidence for both had been completely removed by a later (Phase 4) ditch on the same alignment. At the south-west corner of the shrine area ditch 8620 turned south-eastwards away from the road line for 35 m before returning to the south-west as ditch group 9060 (Fig. 3.4). At the point where 8620 turned to the south-west, a further ditch (Group 9360) extended south-eastwards from 8620 for 25 m, and most likely extended at least as far as a north-south Phase 2 gully 7820 (see Plot SC3 below). The full length of 9360 was not identified as Phase 3 ditch 7850 truncated its south-east end. Ditches 9270 and 9108 possibly combined with 9360, and may also have utilised later ditch 7850, to form an enclosure fronting onto the south side of the shrine area (see Plot SC2 below).

Ditch 8620 had an average width of 1.50 m and a depth of 0.70 m throughout its length and the profile comprised generally moderately sloping, but irregular sides with a rounded or uneven base. The deposits, which filled this ditch, were very consistent, comprising a primary yellow-brown silt clay sealed by a light grey-brown silt (Fig. 3.8, sections 928, 929, 922). This sequence of deposits varied as the ditch neared the south-eastern part of Area B, where four distinct fills were identified. These comprised a primary light grey-orange silt clay, overlain by a yellow-grey silt clay. Sealing these were two clay silting deposits, the uppermost made up of a fine grey silt (Fig. 3.8, section 914). These fills produced a modest quantity of pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 6).

The above sequence of deposits continued in the south-western return of the first phase ditch 9060, up

to a 9 m stretch of which had two distinct deposits of charred remains (Fig. 3.8, section 978). These consisted largely of grain, chaff and weeds, indicating that cereal processing activity was occurring within the vicinity (see Pelling, Chapter 9). Beyond this area the south-western end of ditch 9060, up to its terminus, had a more consistent profile with sides sloping moderately to a flat base (Fig. 3.9), and was filled with three distinct layers of grey silt.

Phase 3

A further stage of definition of the south side of the shrine area early in Phase 3 was marked by ditch 7850, which cut the top of Phase 2 ditch 9360. Ditch 7850 did not extend quite as far as the south-east roadside ditch sequence at its west end, but ran eastwards for 80 m, before turning to form the western boundary of a north-south trackway (Fig. 3.10). Ditch 7850 ranged from 1 m to 2.5 m in width, but was on average 2 m wide and 0.65 m deep. Throughout its length it was typically filled with three distinct deposits and had a consistent profile of steep sides to a slightly rounded base, giving a broad U-shaped appearance (Fig. 3.11). The recorded deposits generally comprised a primary light grey clay, overlain by a dark grey clay silt and sealed by a mid-grey fine silt, although in some cases (eg Fig. 3.11, sections 1073 and 872), a single grey silting fill was the only deposit identified. There were relatively small amounts (less than 5%) of charred remains present within the deposits. Collectively they contained among other finds a fragment from a blue-green glass bottle (SF1007), a yellow-green glass fragment (SF1260), a coin dated AD 69-96 (SF1413; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), and a fragment from a lava quern (SF1339; see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no.31). Small find 1007, dated to the late 1st century, came from the primary clays of the ditch and the remaining three were all retrieved from the upper silts. Almost the full length of the ditch was cut into by later gullies, all representing later boundaries along the same axis; as the ditch extended further to the east it was sealed by Phase 5 soil spread 7439 associated with Structure P (Fig. 3.11, section 811).

The Phase 3 south-east roadside ditch 8670 presumably followed the same course as Phase 2 ditch 8620, but extended for a further 5 m to the north-east before turning roughly to the east to define the next stage of southern boundary for the shrine area (Fig. 3.10). After a slight break this ditch line was resumed as ditch 9730 which extended for 26 m before turning to the south-west and continuing as ditch 7840, which cut ditch 7850 (above). Ditch 8670 had moderately sloping sides, curving slightly to a flat base. With average dimensions of 1.20 m in width and 0.30 m in depth it was consistently filled with a single brown-grey clay silting deposit (Fig. 3.12, section 919). Its continuation, 9730, had a more rounded profile and was slighter with an average width of 0.70 m width and a depth of 0.20 m (see Fig. 3.11, section 830). Similarly this stretch of the ditch was also filled with a single grey clay silt deposit which produced amongst other finds a yellow-green glass fragment (SF1375; see

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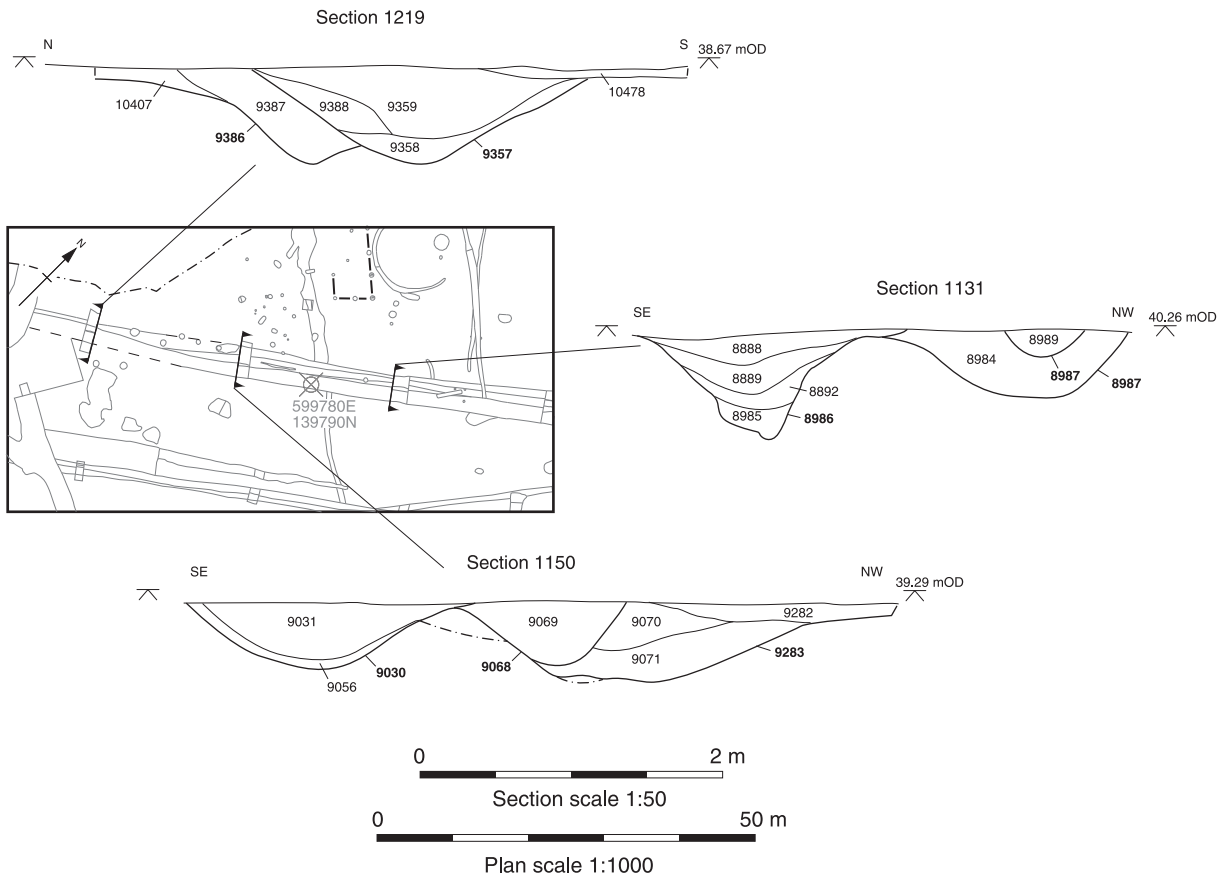


Figure 3.7 Sections of ditch 8950: Sections 1131 (cut 8987), 1150 (cut 9283), 1219 (cut 9386).

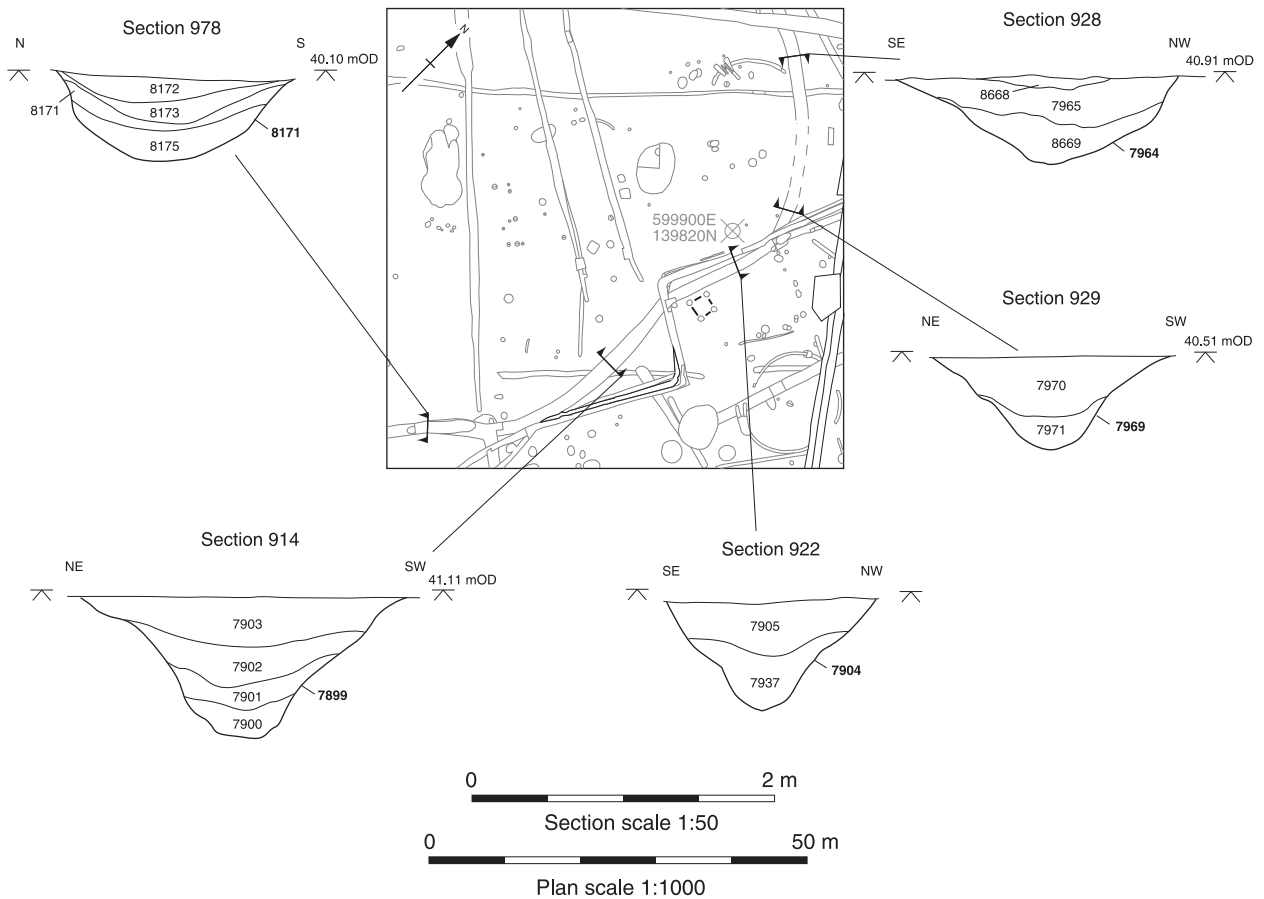


Figure 3.8 Sections of ditch 8620: Sections 928, 929, 922, 914, 978.

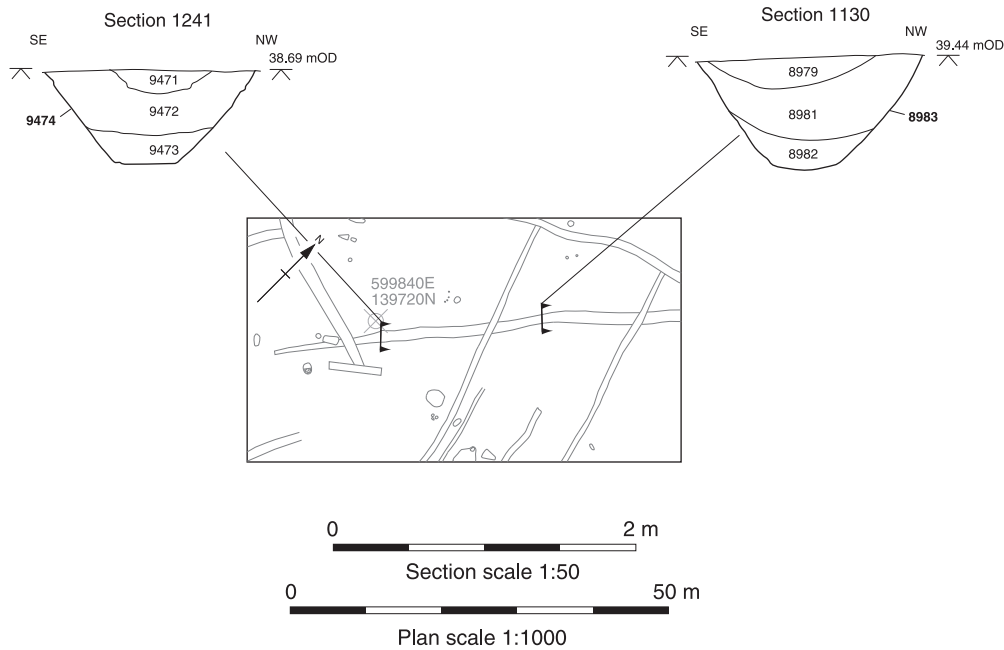


Figure 3.9 Sections of ditch 9060: Sections 1130, 1241.

Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 70). As the south-western return, ditch 7840 extended for 128 m and was filled along its length with a grey-brown clay silt. The profile was also consistent, with moderate to steep sides, a flat base, a width of 0.60 m and a depth of no more than 0.28 m (Fig. 3.12, sections 741, 870, 891, 1014).

Running parallel to 8670/9730 was a series of ditch segments which eventually extended to the western boundary of the north-south trackway. From west to east these consisted of 9490, 7790 and 8140 (Fig. 3.10). Ditch 9490 was filled with a single light brown silting deposit. The profile had moderate sides to a flat base with average dimensions of 0.32 m width and 0.08 m depth (Fig. 3.13, section 732). Ditch 7790 had the same profile (Fig. 3.13, section 746) and was also filled with a single deposit of grey-brown clay silt which produced a blue-green glass fragment from an indented beaker (SF 966; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.41). This part of the ditch widened to give average measurements of 0.5 m width and 0.15 m depth. The easternmost stretch of the ditch, 8140, had an average width of 0.60 m and a depth of 0.22 m and was filled with a single deposit of light grey clay silt with occasional inclusions of iron slag (Fig. 3.13, section 963).

Phase 4

The Phase 4 roadside ditch followed the same alignment as its predecessors extending to the north-east again for a further 6 m (Fig. 3.14). Ditch 8680 was seen extending from the south-west limit of Area B, cutting into the top of the previous two phases of ditch (Phase 2 ditch 8620 and Phase 3 ditch 8670; see Fig.

3.15, section 994), in most cases removing all trace of them. Ditch 8680 generally had a broad U-shaped profile with a rounded base, but varied locally, in places having a more V-shaped profile with a flat base (Fig. 3.15). Its average dimensions were 1.35 m wide and 0.60 m deep. Throughout its course it was generally filled with three distinct deposits. These comprised a light grey clay primary deposit, a brown-grey clay silt, and an upper fill of grey clay silt, which produced amongst other finds a fragment from the base of a glass vessel (SF1096; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.66). There was little variation in the character of these deposits, but occasionally there were dump deposits of charred remains. A consistent trait was the moderate level of flint and iron slag present within the secondary and upper deposits which most likely derived from the erosion of the adjacent road surface.

At the south-west corner of the shrine area ditch 8680 turned to the east to define the north side of enclosure SC1. It terminated after 28 m. There was a small break or possible entrance some 2 m wide before the alignment resumed as feature 9500. This continued to extend to the east in the form of gully segments 7780 and 10479. The segments of gully were filled with a single grey silting deposit with occasional inclusions of iron slag and small amounts of charred remains. Gully 9500 had an average width and depth of 0.60 m and 0.14 m (Fig. 3.13, section 732, cut 7145), while the remaining two gullies had average dimensions of 0.47 m width and 0.22 m depth (Fig. 3.16, sections 747, 768). Throughout the length of this phase of gully, a moderate to steep sided, flat based profile was maintained.

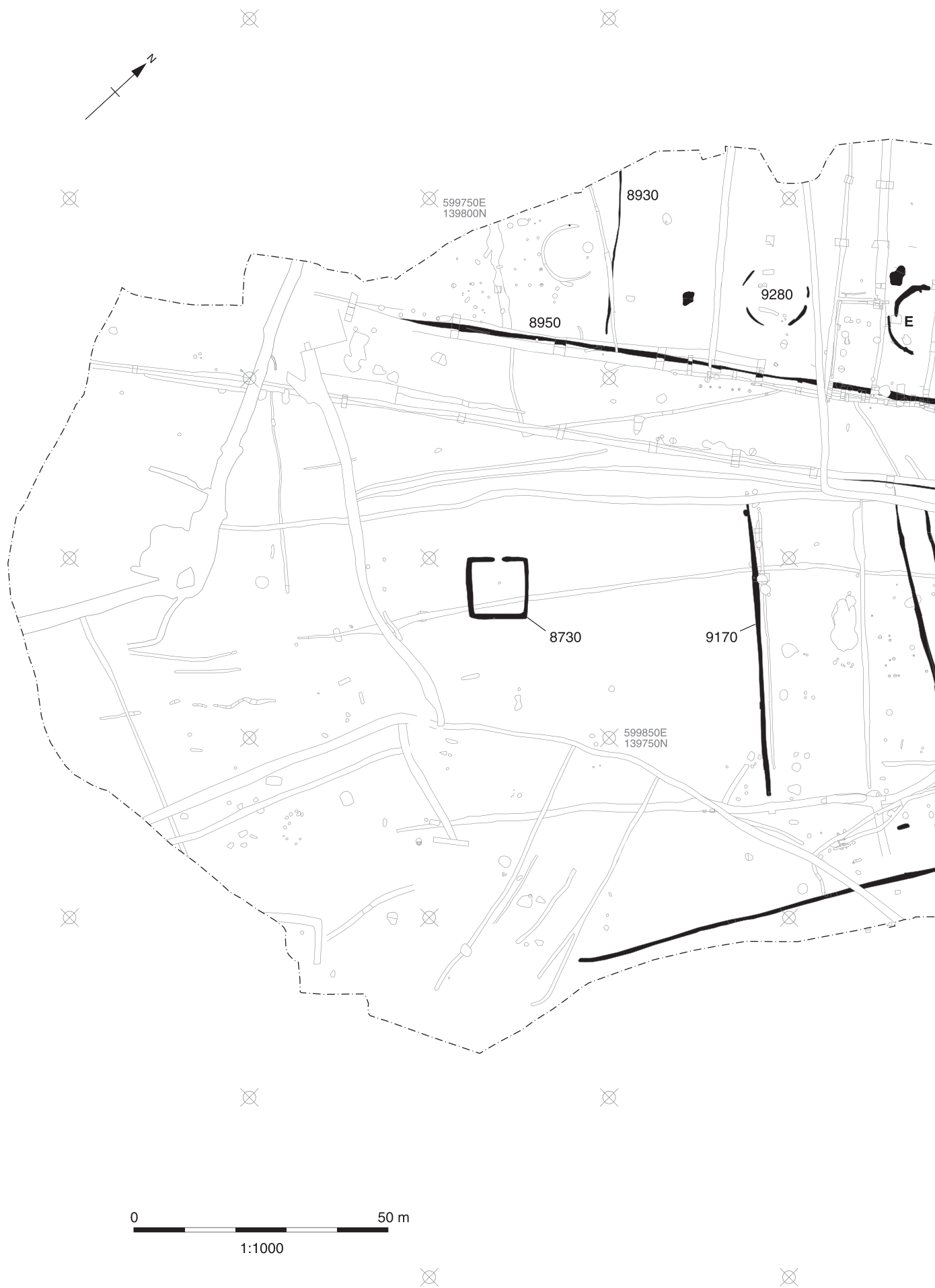
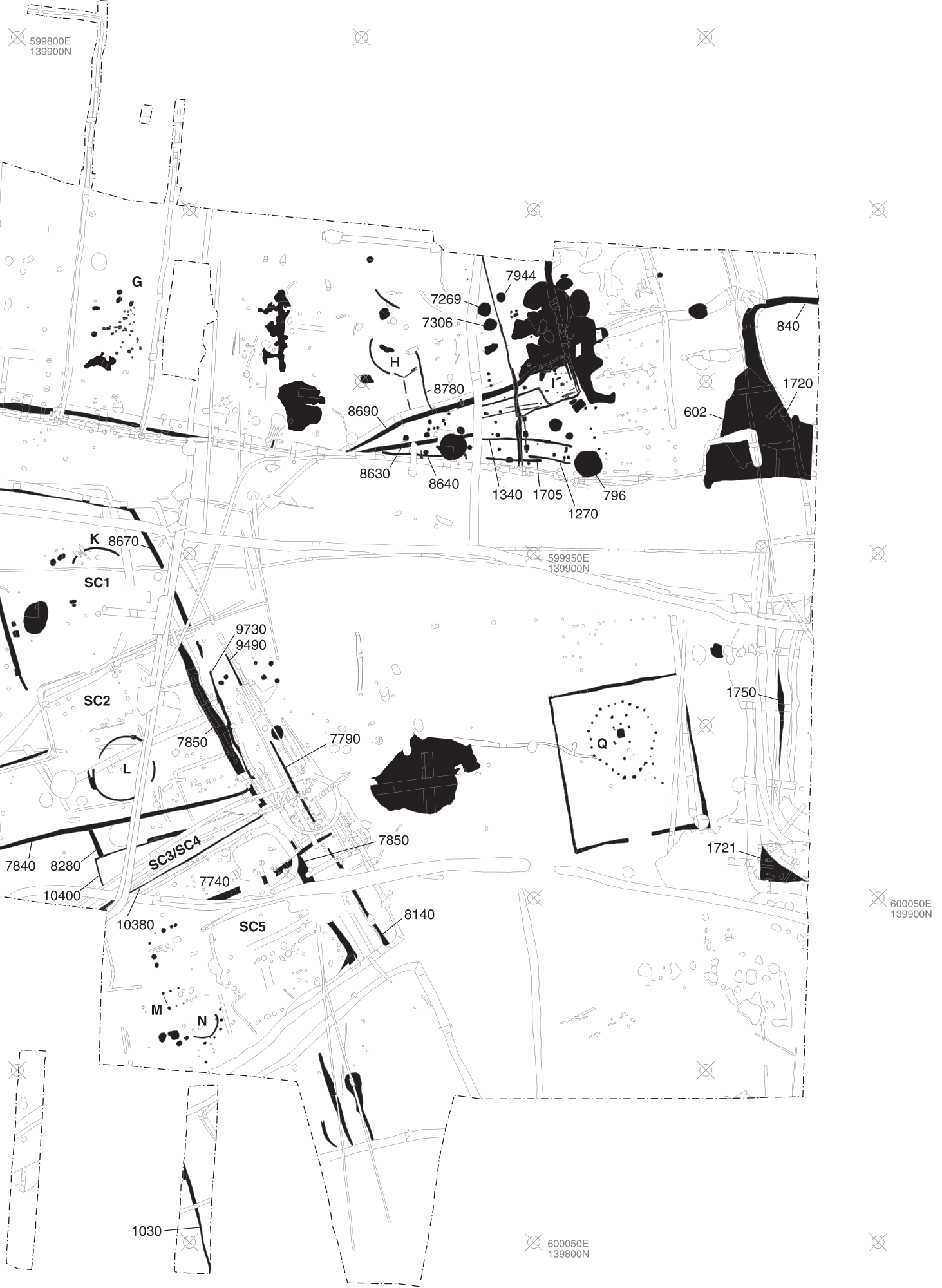


Figure 3.10 Period 2: Phase 3, c AD 70-150. General plan.



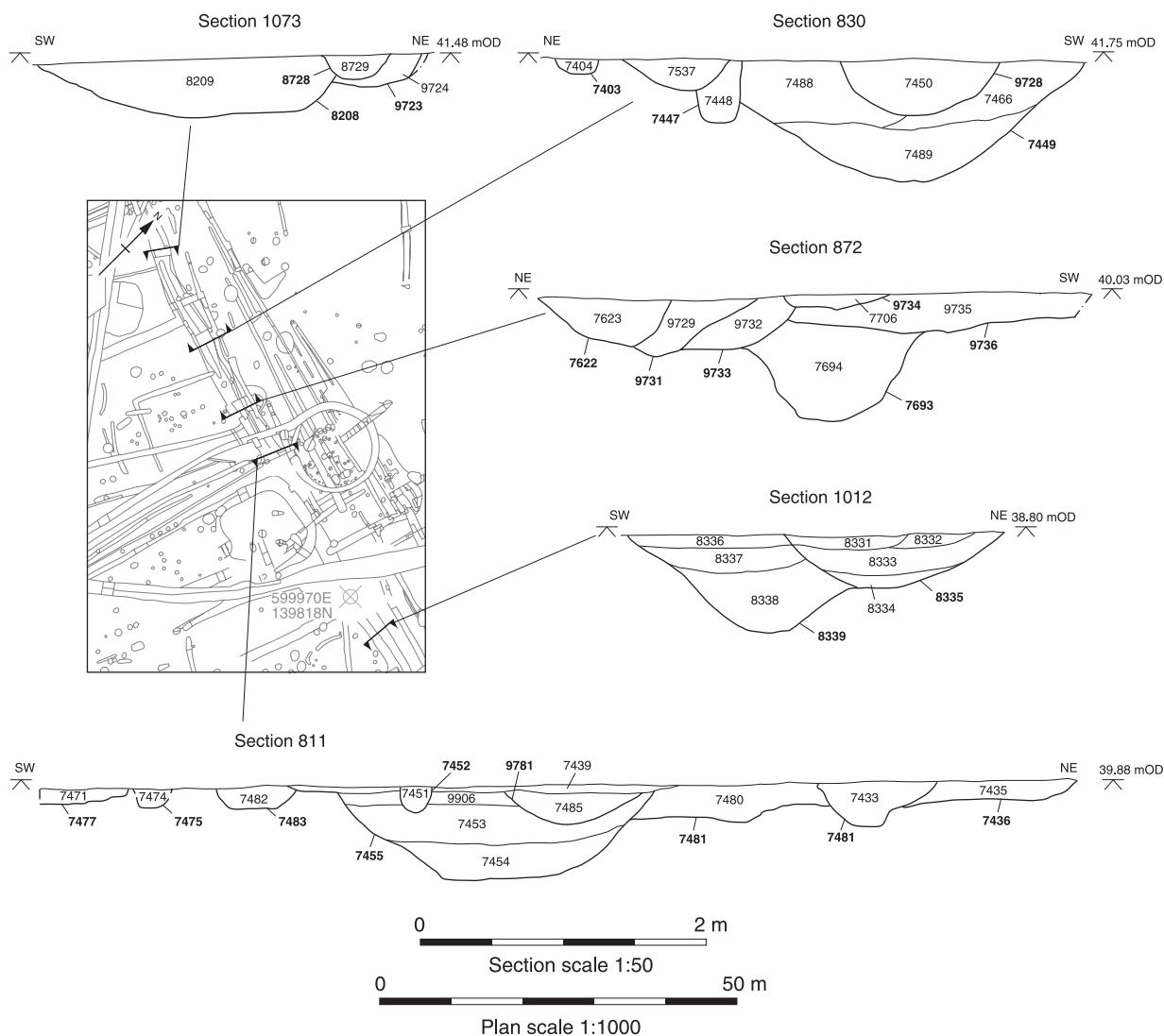


Figure 3.11 Sections of ditch 7850: Sections 1073 (cut 8208), 830 (cut 7449), 872 (cut 7693), 811 (cut 7455), 1012 (cut 8339).

A number of other gullies within this phase were observed either side of 9500 following the same east-west alignment. Gullies 9740, 7800 and 7750/7760 complemented the main boundary, or represented a form of intermediary sub-phase occurring between the main boundary and its predecessor (Fig. 3.14). Gully 9740 was observed for 16 m cutting into the top of Phase 3 ditch 7850. It had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. As it extended to the east it became progressively deeper, but overall it averaged 0.80 m in width and 0.30 m in depth (See Fig. 3.11, section 830). Gully 7800 was some 36 m long and had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.16, section 745). The western terminal was shallow and ill defined and may not have reflected the original limit of the feature. As 7800 extended to the east the sides sloped more steeply to a rounded base, and the average dimensions were 0.50 m wide and 0.18 m deep. Gullies 7750 and 7760 were cut on the same alignment, 7760 being the later. Both had steep sides and a rounded to flat base (Fig. 3.16, section 1161). 7760 extended for 27 m to end in a rounded terminal to the east while

7750 was only 15 m long. Both ditches were cut by Phase 5 penannular Structure P (Group 7500), and their course to the east was occasionally obscured by spreads of occupation debris. However, in plan, 7750 is likely to have corresponded to 7770 which was seen emerging from the eastern edge of the penannular structure and extending eastwards up to the junction with north-south ditch 8020 (Fig. 3.17). All the above mentioned ditches were filled with the same single deposit of light grey clay silt which had occasional inclusions of iron slag, fired clay and charred remains.

A change in the layout to the boundary system south-east of the road was demonstrated by gully 8980/9350. This was truncated by successive phases of gully, but was seen clearly terminating to respect the eastern terminal of roadside ditch 8680 (Fig. 3.14). Gully 8980/9350 originated 10 m south of ditch 9060 and extended to the north in a zig-zag fashion. The southern part of the gully (8980) was 0.7 m wide and 0.25 m deep where its full profile existed. It had a steep-sided flat-bottomed appearance, and was filled with a single deposit of grey silt (Fig. 3.16, section

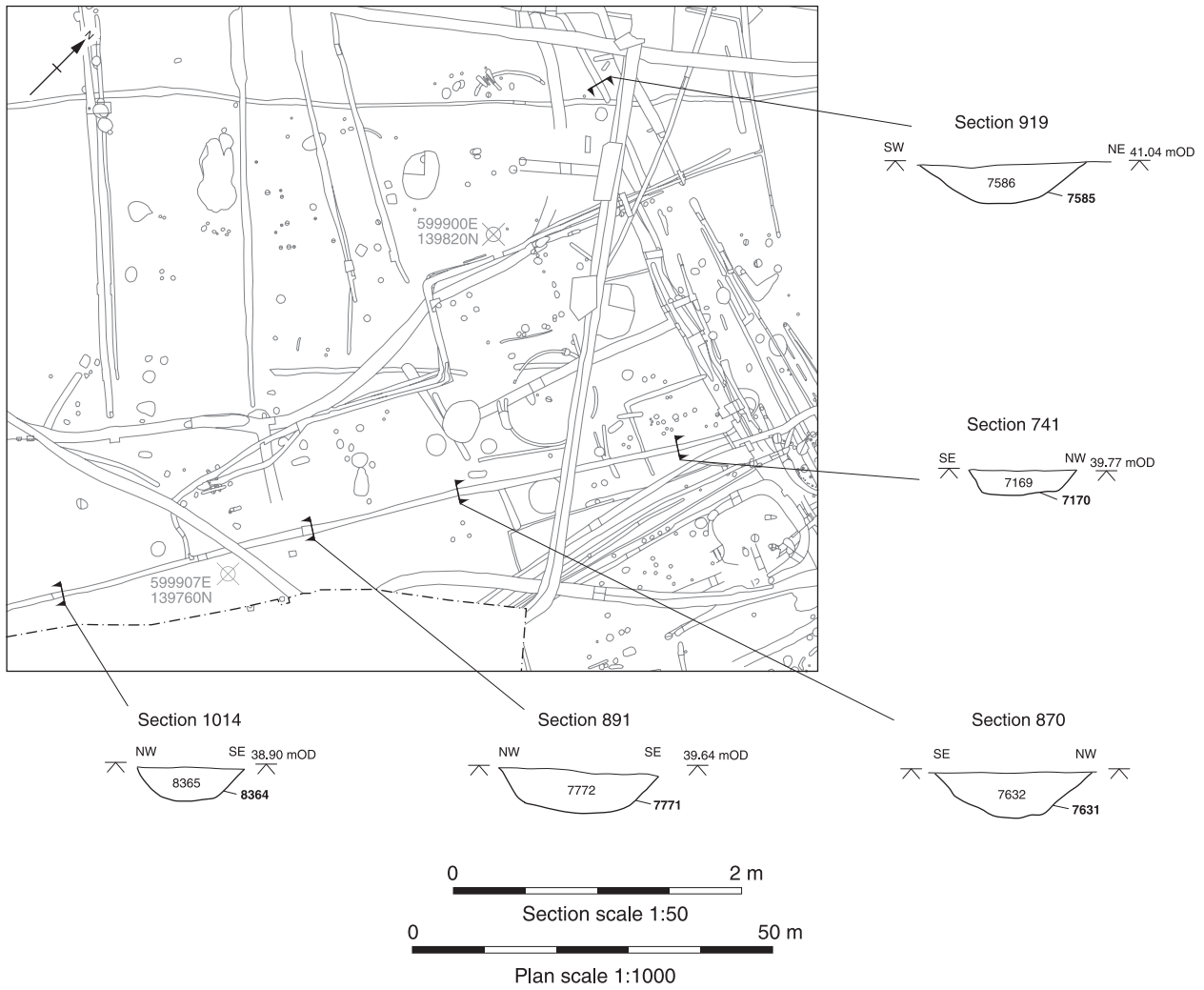


Figure 3.12 Sections of ditch 8670: Section 919 (cut 7585); ditch 7840: sections 741, 870, 891, 1014.

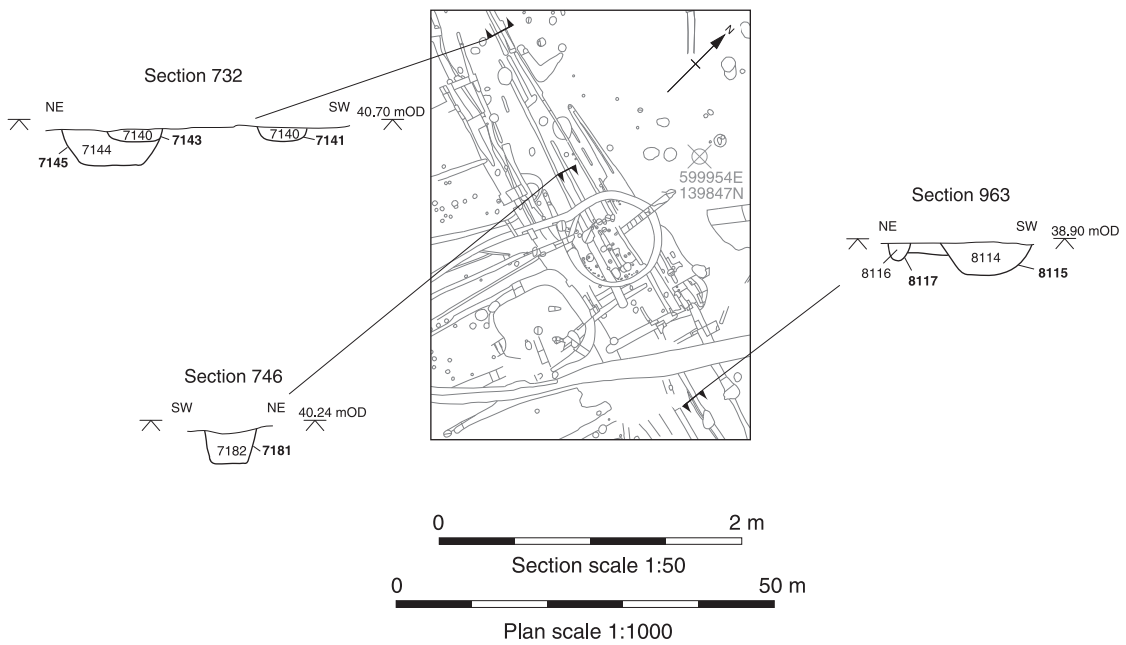


Figure 3.13 Sections of ditches 9490, 7790 and 8140: Ditch 9490: section 732 (cut 7141); ditch 7790: section 746 (cut 7181); ditch 8140: section 963 (cut 8115).

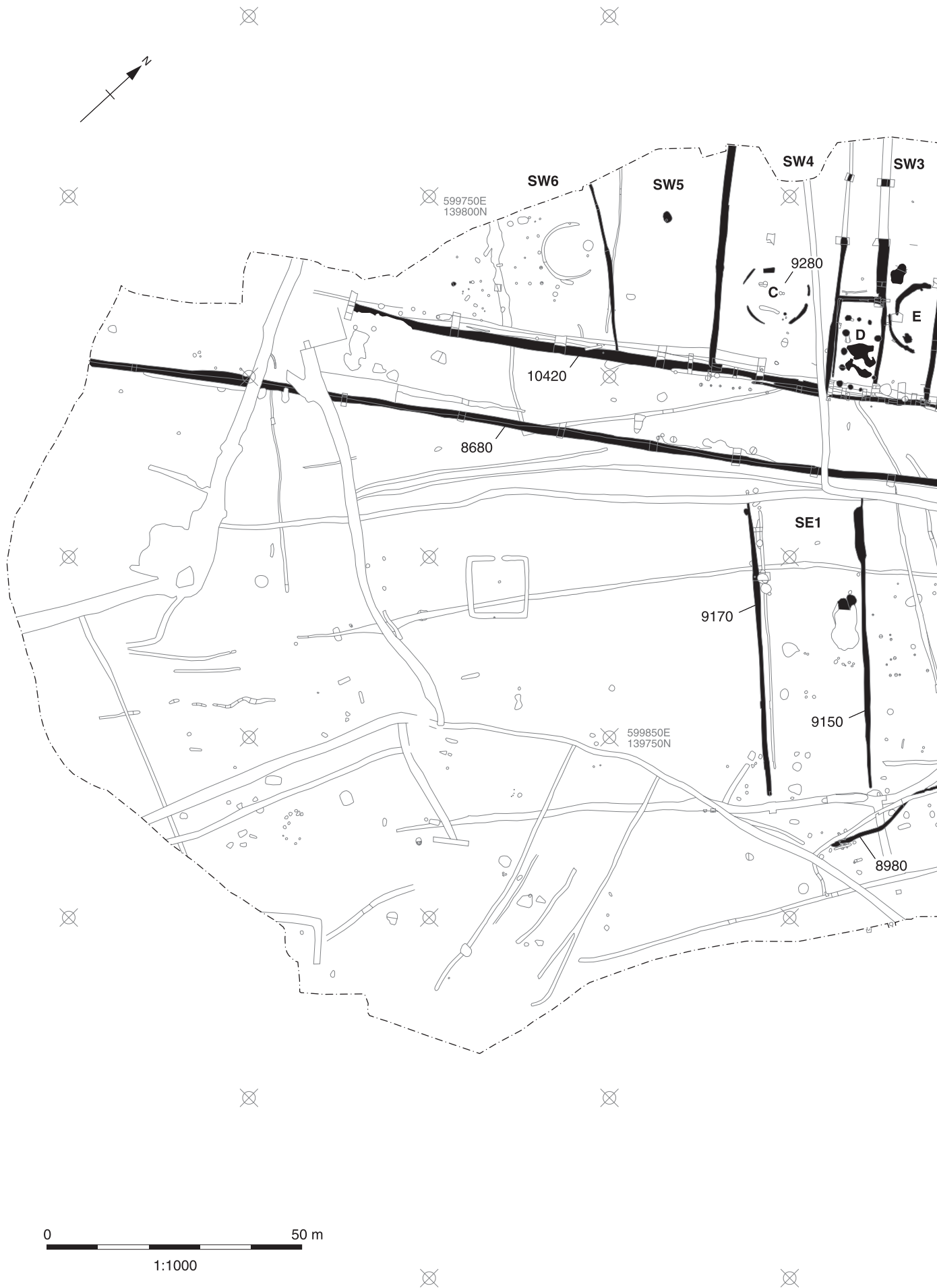


Figure 3.14 Period 2: Phase 4, c AD 150-200. General plan.



599800E
139900N

SW2

SW1

G

7269

7306

30

870

810

850

U

J

1680/8590

796

599950E
139900N

666

570

8680

9350

9500

9740

7780

7800

7750/7760

SC2

7860

L

10479

Q

970

1760

7369

SC4

7670

SC5

8140

529

R

T

9960

10450

1290

1280

10440

SC6

1020

1010

1320

1040

600050E
139900N

600050E
139800N

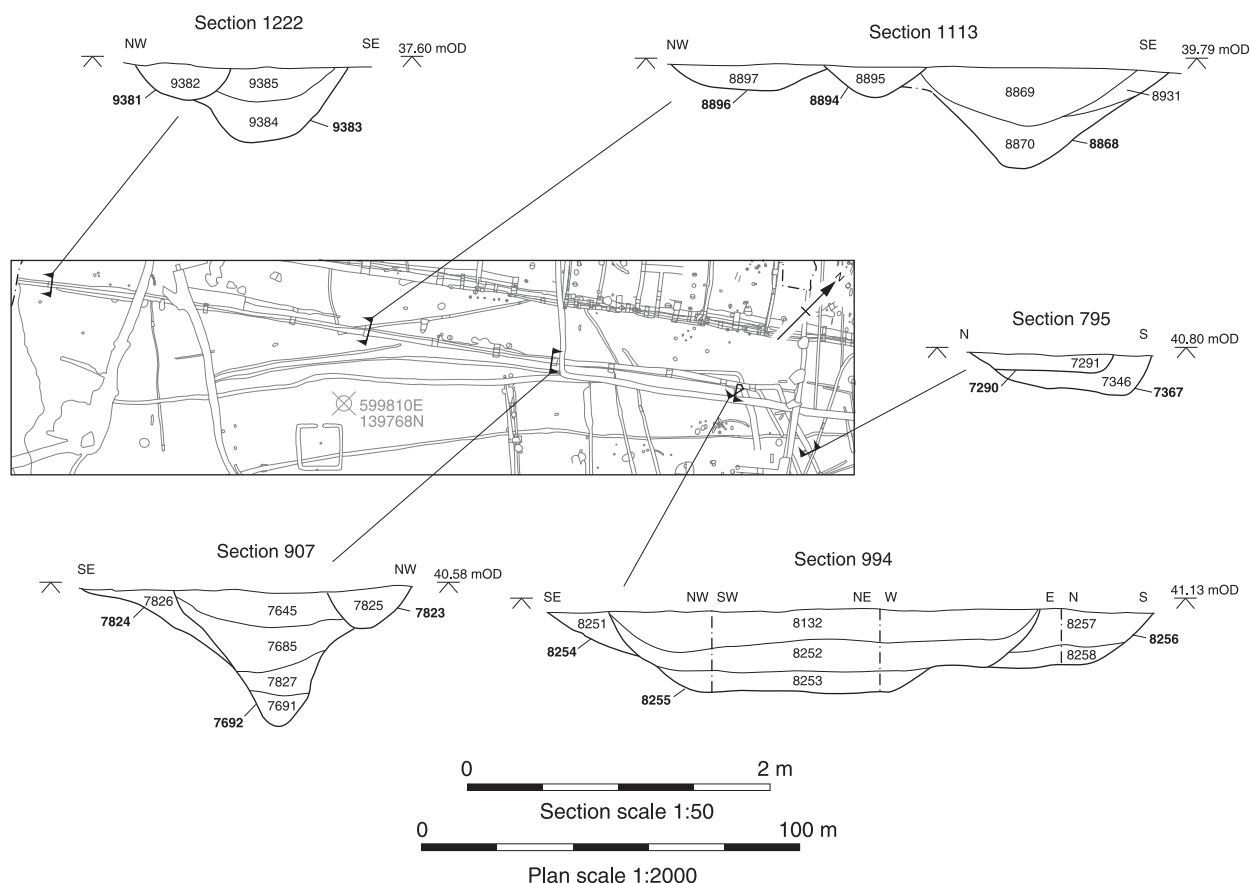


Figure 3.15 Sections of ditch 8680: Sections 1222 (cut 9383), 1113 (cut 8868), 907 (cut 7692), 994 (cut 8255), 795 (cut 7367).

967). As it continued to the north as 9350, the profile remained consistent and the gully was filled with a primary grey clay, in places sealed by an upper grey silting deposit with occasional inclusions of iron slag and sub-rounded flint nodules. Gully 9350 was on average 0.6 m wide and up to 0.26 m deep, and was the earliest in an alignment of three gullies (Fig. 3.16, section 860, cut 7871), which represented the continued use and definition of the same boundary throughout the occupation of the area, with each subsequent phase being positioned further to the north.

Phase 5

Ditches 8850, 8770/8920 and 43/595 clearly formed the latest stage of the roadside ditch sequence. The roadside gully 8850 (Fig. 3.17) extended approximately 143 m from the south-western limits of the site. Along its length it cut into the top of Phase 4 ditch 8680 and finally ended in a well-defined rounded terminal. The gully was filled with dark brown clay silt which was very distinctive in plan, and the profile varied little from moderate to steep sides and a rounded base. The width was between 0.46 and 0.85 m and the depth between

0.23 and 0.35 m (Fig. 3.15). It is possible that the north-eastern end of ditch 8680 survived in part into this phase north of the point at which it was recut by 8850.

Phase 5 saw the first definition of the south-east margin of the road in the vicinity of the shrine, in the form of ditch 43/595 (Fig. 3.17). This feature extended from the north-east edge of Area B for 56 m along the south-east side of the road, until it was totally removed by a large post-medieval field division. The ditch had a rounded profile measuring on average 0.6 m wide and 0.25 m deep, and was mostly filled with a single grey clay silting deposit (Fig. 3.18, section 4), but in the north-east part of the gully this sealed a compact clay layer containing dense sub-rounded flint (Fig. 3.18, section 134). This feature represented a single phase of roadside definition that did not correspond to the sequence on the north-west side of the road, which had at least two phases of roadside definition within Phase 5.

The penultimate phase of gully sequence defining enclosure SC1 was represented by 9340, 8940, 7018 and 7730 (Fig. 3.17). Gully 9340 possibly followed the same alignment as its predecessor 9350/8980, but for part of its probable length the feature was totally removed

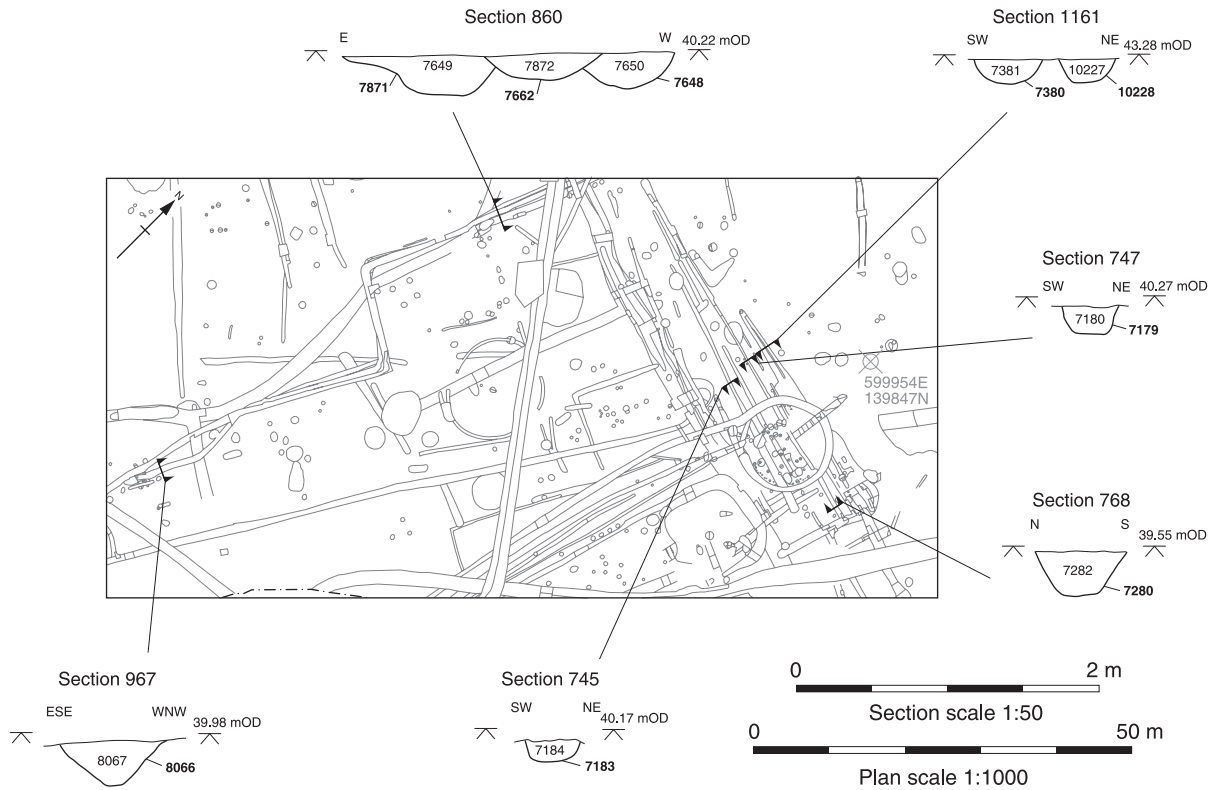


Figure 3.16 Sections of ditches 7780, 10479, 7800, 7750, 7760, 8980 and 9350: Ditch 7780: section 747 (cut 7179); ditch 10479: section 768 (cut 7280); ditch 7800: section 745 (cut 7183); ditch 7750: section 1161 (cut 10228); ditch 7760: section 1161 (cut 7380); ditch 8980: section 967 (cut 8066); ditch 9350: section 860 (cut 7871).

by the next phase of gully and was only seen for a 30 m stretch, extending northwards to a rounded terminal. Gully 9340 was generally 0.55-0.6 m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.2 m and was roughly U-shaped in profile (Fig. 3.18, section 706, cut 7034), occasionally splaying to a slightly rounded V-shaped profile at points along its length. Gully 8940 began 2 m north of the terminal of 9340 and extended for 12 m on a WNW-ESE alignment. It became progressively narrower and shallower as it extended to the west. It was 0.91 m wide and 0.45 m deep at the east end, and only 0.29 m wide and 0.18 m deep at the west end. Primary and secondary deposits of grey silt clay were noted in the east terminal, overlain by a grey clay silt deposit which extended throughout the remaining length of the gully (Fig. 3.18, section 708). Two further segments of gully, 7018 and 7730 (Fig. 3.18, sections 701 and 888) were 8 m and 2 m in length respectively and aligned NE-SW defining the south-eastern edge of the road. Both gullies had steep sides and a flat base, were typically 0.60 m wide and 0.25 m deep, and were filled with the same single deposit of grey clay silt with inclusions of sub-rounded flint, deriving from the surface of the road.

The last Phase 5 boundary within this sequence was defined by zig-zag gully 8770/8920 (Fig. 3.17).

This originated from the south-east at the junction with Phase 3 ditch 7840, which suggests that the latter boundary was still defined in some way during this phase of settlement. This stage of gully extended on the same alignment as its predecessors, extending northwards for a further 2 m. The average dimensions of the gully were 0.65 m wide and 0.24 m deep, shown in a profile which was consistently steep sided with a flat to slightly rounded base. The northern stretch of the gully was filled with a single brown-grey clay silt which produced notable amounts of iron slag and sub-rounded small stones (Fig. 3.18, section 701, cut 7020; section 707). Towards the southern end of the gully, just beyond the point where it cut into the top of Phase 2 ditch 9060, the fills comprised a primary clay silt overlain by a dump deposit of dark grey clay silt containing a large amount of charred plant remains and fragments of ceramic building material (Fig. 3.18, section 1097).

Of all the phases of gully south-east of the road and defining the south side of the shrine area, it is notable that the Phase 5 features, 8940 and 8770/8920, were the only ones to reflect the exact WNW-ESE axis of the primary phase of rectilinear enclosure around the shrine (group 70 features).

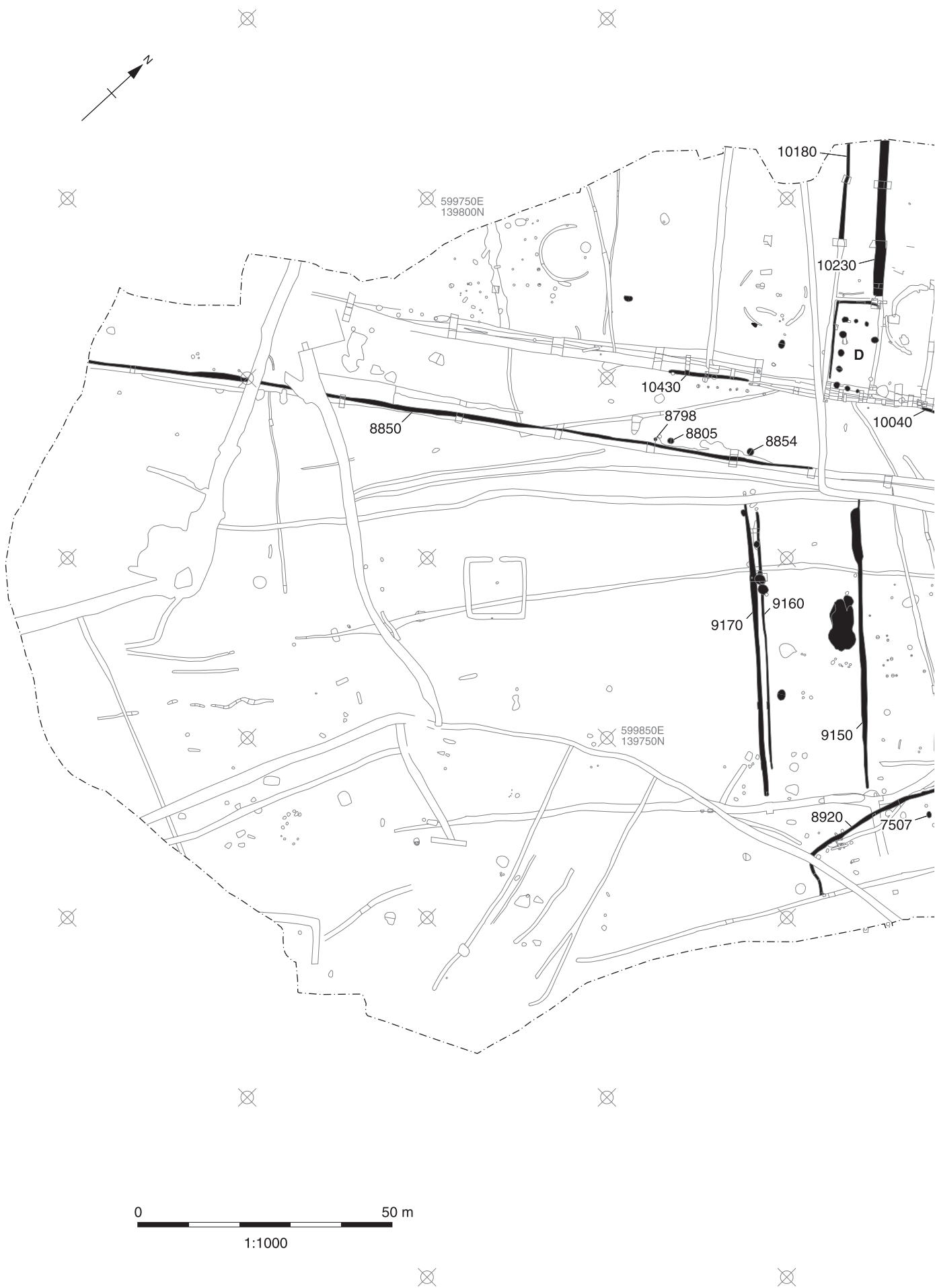


Figure 3.17 Period 2: Phase 5, c AD 200-250. General plan.



599800E
139900N

9440 = 9450

9570

10240

7730

7730

8920

7728

7239

1675

1630

1695

43 = 595

599950E
139900N

8940

8770

9340

SC2/SC3

7502

P

SC4

8020

Q

R

7830

7382

SC5

8070

7338

7442

10450

10440

8070

7269

770

796

1000

600050E
139800N

600050E
139900N

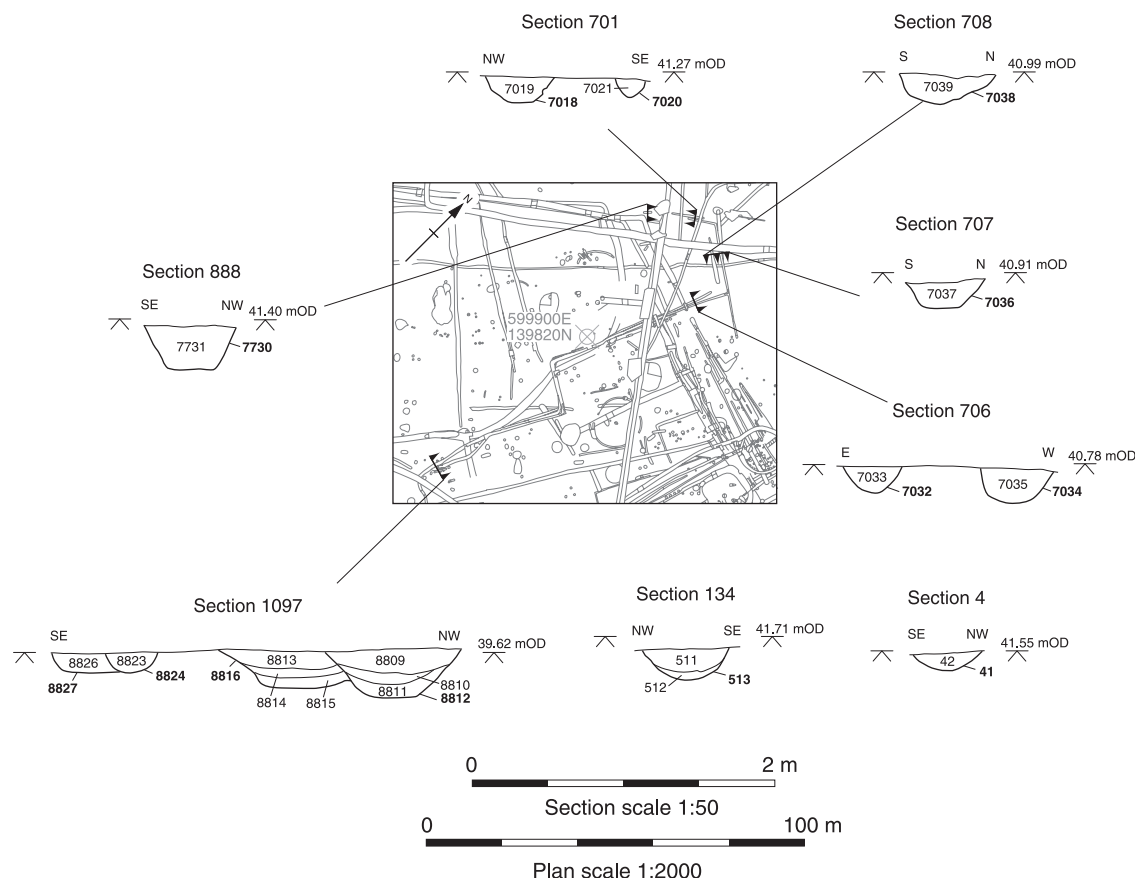


Figure 3.18 Sections of ditches 9340, 8940, 7018, 7730, 8770/8920, and 43/595: Ditch 9340: section 706 (cut 7034); ditch 8940: section 708 (cut 7038); ditch 7018: section 701; ditch 7730: section 888; ditch 8770/8920: sections 707 (cut 7036) and 1097 (cut 8812); ditch 43/595: sections 4 and 134.

Pits

Within the area of the road, directly north-west of the last phase roadside gully (8850), were three pits, possibly all of Phase 5 date. The most north-easterly, 8854, lay opposite the north-eastern end of fenceline 9470 and in line with the south-western boundary of Plot SE1 (see below). This was a well-defined five-sided pit with vertical sides and a flat base, 1.3 m wide and 0.48 m deep. The primary fill was a thin layer of dark brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks, sealed by a 0.43 m deep upper fill of dark grey silt clay also with charcoal. Fourteen iron objects were recovered from the pit, eleven of them nails from the uppermost deposit (8855). The other three objects were a handle or tang (SF1465), a possible length of chain (SF1467; see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no.18; Fig.5.12) and a triangular plate fragment of uncertain function (SF1471). Other finds from this feature included a piece of copper alloy binding (SF1469; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.120) and two fragments of blue-green bottle glass (SF1470 and SF1481) dated late 1st to early 3rd century, which came from the uppermost fill. The shape of the pit suggests that it held a wooden post.

Approximately 15 m south-west were pits 8798 and 8805. Pit 8798 was circular with a diameter of 0.7 m

and a depth of 0.23 m, steep sides and a rounded base. It was filled with grey-black clay silt containing occasional patches of charcoal. Pit 8805 was also circular, 1.2 m in diameter and 0.26 m deep, with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill was the same as that of 8798 and produced a fragment of a *denarius* of Caracalla (SF1286, AD 196-211; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5).

Road surfaces

Almost nothing remained of the road surfaces, presumably owing to plough truncation. The only surviving part of the road comprised three discrete irregular patches, deposit 9011 (Fig. 3.4), which covered an area of approximately 35 sq. m located just north-east of the modern north-west to south-east aligned field boundary which divided Area B into two unequal parts. Layer 9011 was deposited directly on top of the natural Wealden clay, indicating that the topsoil had been removed prior to the laying of 9011; there was no sign of make up or levelling layers to facilitate the construction of the road. Layer 9011 consisted of a mixture of flint and gravel with occasional inclusions of iron slag debris surviving to a maximum depth of 0.15 m. Lenses of silty clay throughout the matrix suggest that it was periodi-

cally exposed to flooding or waterlogging, and hint that the deposit may have comprised parts of several successive surfaces which were not otherwise distinguishable, though it is also possible that 9011 represented a form of bedding layer for the metallised surface proper. These deposits were not dated.

South of 9011 were the remains of two parallel wheel ruts which extended for 20 m along the line of the road. These were 1.5 m apart from their external edge, and 1.1 m apart from their internal edge. Both ruts had a maximum depth of 0.05 m and were filled with compacted iron slag and small sub-rounded flint nodules.

Concentrations of gravel and iron slag were noted in the vicinity of the road line within the post-Roman subsoil in the course of removal of this deposit by machine. These suggest that despite its general appearance within the excavated area the road had originally been surfaced for its full length.

North-west oblique ditch area

At the northern limit of the site where Phase 3 ditch 840 met Phase 2 ditch 860, a range of features extending to the south-west indicated domestic and industrial activity.

Phase 3

Ditch 840 (Fig. 3.10), which approached the road from the north-east in the extreme northern corner of Area B, projected the alignment of, and was probably the same feature as, the major settlement boundary ditch encountered at the south-eastern margin of Area C

(see below). Ditch 840 extended for approximately 13 m before it turned to the south-east into a large area of predominantly silt deposits (602), which extended to the north-west margin of the road. Along the north-east to south-west alignment the ditch was filled with a single grey silt, and was on average 1.6 m wide and 0.4 m deep (Fig. 3.19, section 193). As it turned to the south-east it widened to a maximum of 3.4 m (Fig. 3.19, section 174 cut 710), but generally the average dimensions in this stretch were 2 m wide x 0.40 m deep. There were two clay silting fill deposits, both producing appreciable amounts of pottery.

The large area of clay silt deposits into which 840 ran may have represented the fill of a sump for water draining away from the settlement if ditch 840 represented the southern limit of the north-west boundary of the settlement at this time. The drainage would also have been facilitated by ditch 1720 which ran eastwards from 840 and presumably continued into Area A, where, from the evidence provided by the geophysical survey, it would have continued on the alignment of the ditches fronting the north-west side of the road.

There were three different stages of roadside ditch or gully which span the time frame defined by Phase 3, consisting of 8690 and associated gully 8780, 1340/8630 and 1705/8640 and gully 1270. Each stage of ditch radiated from the same point, moving successively clockwise towards the eventual north-east to south-west line of the road (Fig. 3.10).

Ditch 8690 was aligned NNE-SSW and extended for approximately 42 m from its north-east terminal. It varied in width from 1.0 m to 1.20 m, and in depth from 0.30 m to 0.40 m. The profile remained consistent along its length, having a broad U-shaped appearance

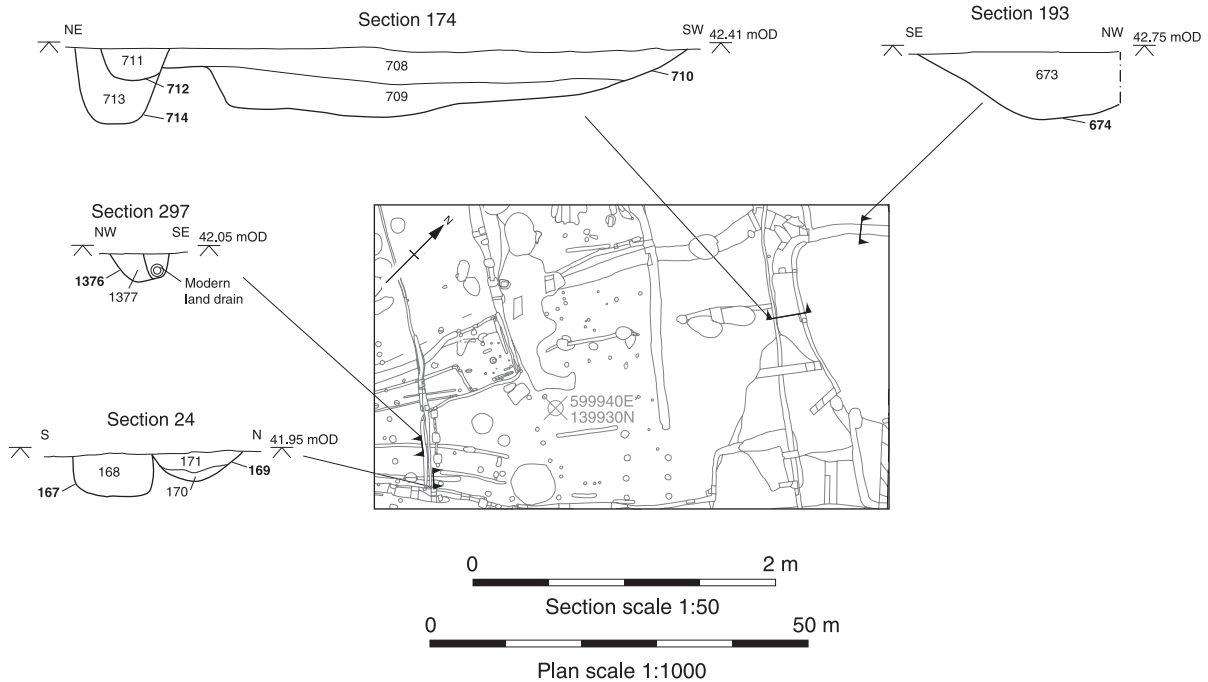


Figure 3.19 Sections of ditch 840: Section 193, section 174 (cut 710); gully 1340/8630: section 297; gully 1705/8640: section 24 (cut 169).

with a slightly shallower slope on its western edge (Fig. 3.5, section 973, cut 8167). A contemporaneous gully, 8780, extended WNW from the western side of 8690 for 13 m (see Possible Plot NW4 below). These ditches represented the earliest stage of activity, pre-dating the division of this area into regular plots during Phase 4. Ditch 8690 is likely to have corresponded with ditches 7939 and 9930 as they extended south-west along the line of the Canterbury road, continuing to the south-western limit of Area B as ditch 10070. A broad correspondence between ditch 8690 and 8960 to the south-west is also possible, however, and the two features produced contemporaneous pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 11), though ditch 8960 was tentatively assigned to Phase 4 (see below).

Ditch 8630/1340 was aligned NE-SW and was approximately 44 m long. It terminated to the north-east, and was truncated by 8640/1705 to the south-west. It had an average width of 1.0 m and an average depth of 0.40 m with the profile varying from a slightly rounded 'V' shape to straight sided with a sharply defined flat base (Fig. 3.19, section 297). The fill of this ditch was consistent throughout its length, comprising a single clay silting deposit with more instances of iron slag in the vicinity of Structure I (Phase 3).

Ditch 8640/1705 and gully 1270 represented the final stage in the sequence of radiating ditches. The former was aligned ENE-WSW and extended for approximately 35 m. It was truncated by waterhole 7329 and also by roadside ditch 8950 to the west, where it met the straighter line of that ditch. Feature 8640/1705 had a maximum width of 0.40 m and a depth of 0.40 m and had a U-shaped profile with a rounded base (Fig. 3.19, section 24). Two grey silting deposits filled the length of the ditch, with the lower having a larger amount of sub-rounded flint and iron slag. Ditch 1270 was located just north-west of the above mentioned ditch and extended a further 9 m eastwards. It had all of the characteristics of 8640/1705, but was conceivably associated with 8630/1340.

North-west roadside plots (Fig. 3.20)

At the northern corner of Area B were a series of divisions which lay north-west of the road, defining plots referenced here (from north-east to south-west) as NW1, NW2 and NW3, with slighter evidence for a further plot, NW4. These plots north-west of the Canterbury road were laid out roughly at right-angles to the road alignment, defined by boundaries aligned approximately north-west to south-east, and were between 11 m and 20 m wide. The group of six south-western plots (see below) were more regularly laid out and were between 17 m and 22 m in width. In all cases each plot had a common boundary with the adjacent plot. The chronology of the north-west roadside plots is slightly uncertain. Plot NW3 was certainly in place in Phase 3, but the evidence for Plots NW1 and NW2 is less clear. The whole group may have been laid out at one time, but their arrangement could have been more piecemeal.

Fronting the road to the south-east of the north-west

plot divisions were a series of roadside gullies. At the north-eastern edge of Area B were Phase 4 ditches 1700 and 1690 which combined to form a small three-sided rectilinear 'enclosure' approximately 9 m wide, which must have been broadly contemporary with the north-west plot sequence. The 'enclosure' fronted the road, but its south-eastern boundary was not defined at this stage by a roadside ditch, nor was there any such ditch north-east of the enclosure. Ditch 1700 was a possible re-cut of 1690 and had a different sequence of fills, with a notably higher concentration of charcoal within its upper silting fills. Its maximum depth was 1 m, seen at the junction with 1690. As it turned the corner to the south-east it ended in a distinct terminal 0.50 m deep approximately 2 m short of the edge of the road alignment. Ditch 1690 began at the junction with 1700, extended to the road and continued on the north-east to south-west alignment for 26 m before terminating south-east of waterhole 796. At its south-western terminal ditch 1690 was approximately 0.40 m wide and 0.10 m deep, but it became wider and deeper to the north-east. In the vicinity of Structure J, however, 1690 narrowed sharply from 0.90 m to 0.50 m, and became more shallow, being only 0.12 m deep here. At this point the profile also changed; its rounded shape became more pronounced with sharply sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch was filled with a consistent sequence of light brown silting deposits throughout its length, but there was a notable quantity of charred remains in the deposits south-east of Structure J. These may have been associated with the use of this building.

Phase 4 gully 1685 continued the alignment of 1690 towards the south-west, with a gap of 4 m between their terminals defining an access to waterhole 796. Gully 1685 survived for a length of 13 m and was at least 0.40 m wide, being cut along its length by a later roadside ditch 1680. The gully had a variable profile. It was rounded and approximately 0.10 m deep at its north-east terminal, deepening to 0.40 m at the mid point of the gully. The profile became more angular and flatter based further to the south-west, reaching a steep-sided narrow south-west terminal 0.55 m deep. As with 1690, gully 1685 was filled with a single silting deposit. Two postholes were located north-west of the termini of 1685 and 1690. Posthole 175 had a diameter of 0.90 m and 190 had a diameter of 0.75 m, both were 0.25 m deep with moderate sloping sides and flat bases. Grey-blue silt clay containing occasional charcoal flecking and slag fragments filled both postholes, which may have served to help define access to waterhole 796.

Gully 1685 occupied the same stratigraphic position as 1690 and reflected the same phase of layout. Both features represented the first straightening of the roadside boundary, in contrast to previous phases (Phases 2 and 3) in which the boundary deviated to the north from the road alignment.

Plot NW1

Plot NW1 was bounded by Phase 4 gullies 870 and 850 to the north-east, and by ditch 30 to the south-

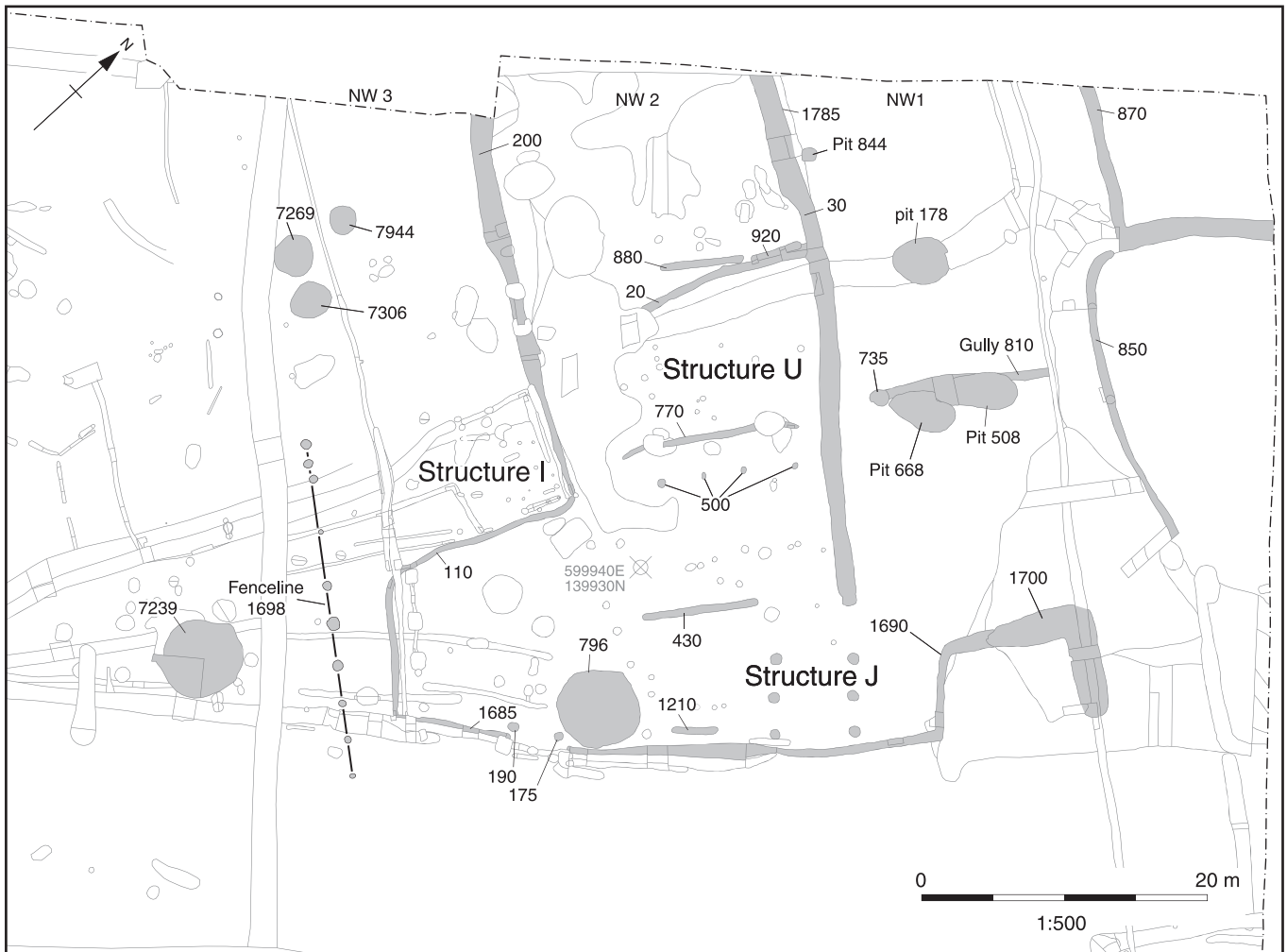


Figure 3.20 Plan of north-west roadside plots NW1, 2 and 3.

west, defining an area 20 m wide and at least 40 m in length (Fig. 3.20).

Gully 850 was located in the northern corner of Area B and followed the north-eastern edge of ditch 840 (Phase 3). Close to the north-western terminus of 850, the south-east end of a similarly NW-SE aligned ditch (870) also cut ditch 840. The common relationship of these features to ditch 840 suggests a degree of association and together gullies 850 and 870 probably formed the north-eastern boundary of Plot NW1, albeit rather irregularly aligned. Gully 850 had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.19, section 174, cut 712), with a maximum depth of 0.20 m and a consistent width of 0.60-0.70 m. Gully 870 had the same profile and depth and was only marginally wider at 0.86 m (Fig. 3.21, section 165, cut 660). Both gullies were filled with a single deposit of clay silt, with the fill of 850 including small amounts of charred remains.

Approximately 20 m to the south-west was a NW-SE aligned boundary ditch (30), which mirrored the alignment of 870 and 850 and was approximately 38 m in length. This ditch was a later version of ditch 1785 which was on the same alignment, but was only

identified in plan over an 8 m length at the north-west margin of Area B. The average width and depth of ditch 30 was 1.20 m and 0.50 m and it was consistently filled with clay silts throughout its length (Fig. 3.21, sections 5 and 221). Three nails were retrieved from the south-eastern terminal of the ditch and a body fragment from a glass vessel was recovered from its north-western end.

No structures were identified within Plot NW1. It contained principally two Phase 3 pits (178 and 844), a Phase 4 gully (810), and several Phase 5 pits (group 820).

Pit 844, which lay just north-east of ditch 30, cutting through the edge of earlier ditch 1785, was steep sided with a flat base, 1.2 m in diameter and 0.7 m deep (Fig. 3.21, section 221). The base of the pit was filled with three layers of clay silt which possibly derived from the erosion of the feature's edges. A layer of redeposited clay containing large pieces of charcoal sealed these deposits and in turn was overlain by three dark grey silt clays all containing high levels of charcoal flecking. The upper silting deposit also contained many charcoal flecks as well as fragments of

burnt clay. Small finds 169-171, 173 and 177, all blue-green glass vessel fragments, were also retrieved from the upper silts. Practically all of the deposits within this pit yielded large amounts of pottery, totalling almost 18 kg (See Chapter 6, Assemblage 17).

Pit 178, 4 m across with steep sloping sides, cut into the top of Phase 2 ditch 860 and was excavated to a depth of 1 m without reaching natural clay. The lowest excavated fill was an orange grey silt clay with sub-rounded flint, producing small amounts of charcoal and a blue-green glass base from a globular vessel (SF19; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.54). Above this was a layer of grey silt clay containing a large amount of charcoal fragments and a light yellow-brown neck and shoulder from a glass globular jug (SF 13; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.45). This was overlain by a yellow brown clay silt, which in turn was overlain by a grey clay silt, which contained dense charcoal fragments. The two upper deposits consisted of grey-brown clay silts.

Approximately 6 m south-east of pit 178 was gully 810. Aligned NNE-SSW, at right-angles to the plot boundaries, it was traced for c 13 m from its southern terminus, but it is not clear if it extended across ditch 840 as far as the plot boundary gully 850. Gully 810 was cut by the later pits, but where it was not disturbed it had a maximum width and depth of 0.60 m and 0.40 m respectively, and was filled by single grey-brown silt clay along its length.

Three pits cut gully 810. Pit 508 was oval in shape and measured 6.50 m NE-SW and 2.50 m NW-SE, with a depth of 0.50 m. Pit 668 had a diameter of 2.25 m and a depth of 0.45 m. Pit 735, at the southern end of gully 810, was 1.70 m in diameter and 0.28 m deep. All

three pits were filled with grey-brown clay silts containing fragments of fired clay, and collectively they produced nine small finds, consisting largely of nails and further unidentified pieces of iron which possibly derived from the truncated gully. Although pit 668 was cut later than 508, it was clear that the latter was still partially open since a fine grey silt deposit (671) extended across the top of both features (Fig. 3.21, section 166).

Plot NW2

Plot NW2 was bounded by ditch 30 to the north-east and by gully 200 to the south-west (a short segment of this gully was later re-cut as 300), creating an area some 20 m wide by 47 m long (Fig. 3.20).

Within the area created by these boundaries were a number of Phase 4 linear features aligned almost perpendicular to ditch 30. From the north-west these consisted of gully segments 880 and 920, gully 20, gully/beamslot 770, post-row 500 and beamslot 430. Gully segment 1210 to the extreme south-east could also belong to this sequence.

Gully 20, the earliest of these features, lay immediately south-east of gully segments 880 and 920. It was slightly curving in plan and extended up to ditch 30, which cut the gully, suggesting that gully 20 might have been contemporary with ditch 1785, the antecedent of ditch 30. It is possible that gully 20 represented an intermediate phase between the disuse of the Phase 2 settlement boundary ditch 40 and the laying out of boundary 1785. Gully 20 extended 14 m to the south-west where it was masked by soil spread 26 which was associated with Structure I. Gully 20

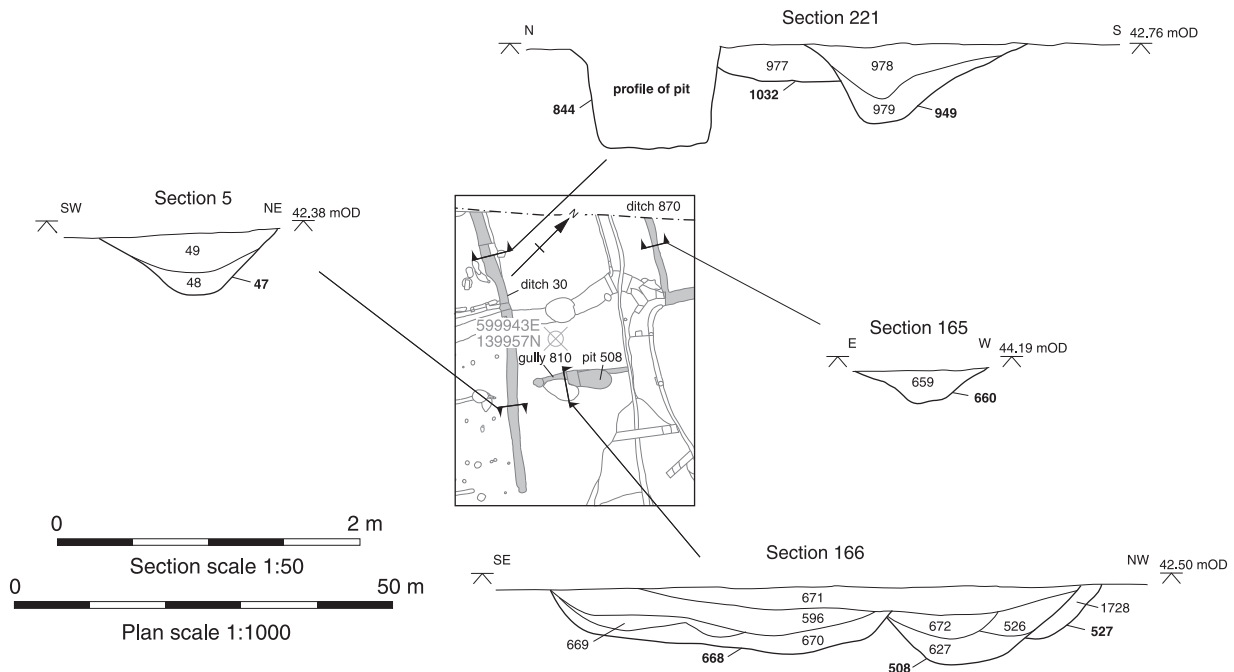


Figure 3.21 Plot NW1: Sections of ditch 870: Section 165; ditch 30: section 221 (cut 949), section 5; ditch 1785: section 221 (cut 1032); pit 668, pit 508 and gully 810 (cut 527): section 166.

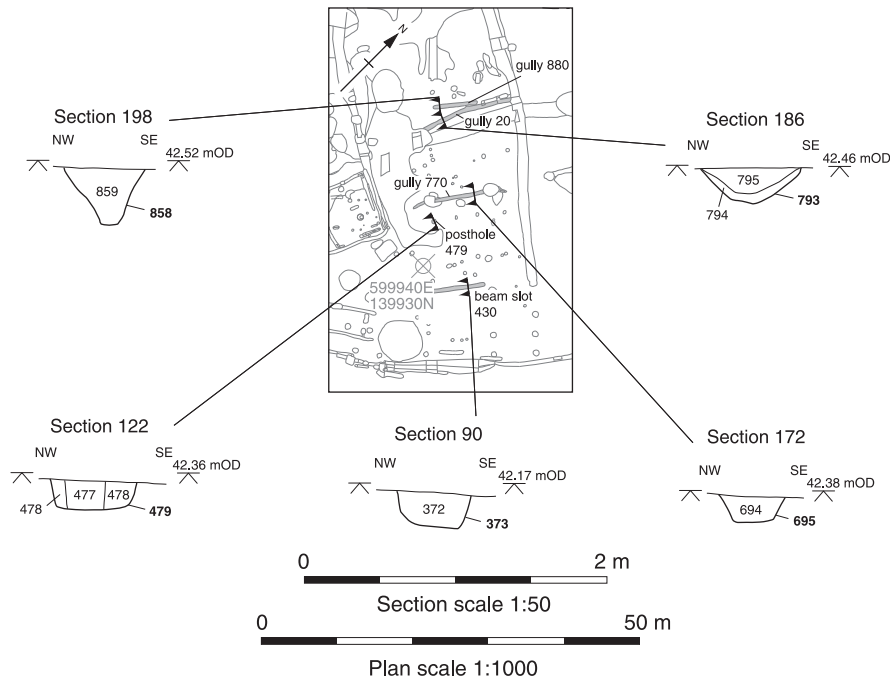


Figure 3.22 Plot NW2: Sections of gullies 880, 20 and 770; beam slot 430, and posthole 479: Sections of gully 880: section 198 (cut 858); gully 20: section 186 (cut 793); gully 770: section 172 (cut 695); beam slot 430: section 90 (cut 373); posthole 479: section 122.

had a maximum width and depth of were 0.70 m and 0.24 m respectively, and had moderate sloping sides to a flat base. Throughout its length it was filled with a yellow-grey silt clay, overlain by an upper grey clay silt deposit, which included occasional sub-rounded flints (Fig. 3.22, section 186).

Structure U

Gullies/slots 880/920, 770 and 430 were spaced at regular 11 m intervals suggesting that they were contemporaneous features within this phase. In view of this, and other similarities of character, it is possible, if perhaps unlikely, that these features, together with posthole group 500, were parts of a structure or structures, but in the absence of other evidence the nature of the structure (tentatively labelled Structure U) is unclear. It is perhaps more likely that these features simply served to subdivide Plot NW2.

Two segments of gully, 880 and 920, 6 m and 4 m long respectively and set almost end to end, were located north-west of earlier gully 20. Gully 880 had an average width and depth of 0.60 m and 0.30 m; 920 had an average width of 0.50 m and an average depth of 0.20 m. Both gullies had a steep V-shaped profile with a flat base, and were filled by a single deposit of silt clay (Fig. 3.22, section 198).

Shallow gully 770 to the south had an average depth of 0.10 m and a width of 0.33 m, cut by shallow pits at either end. It had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.22, section 172) and was most likely a beam-slot. A single silt clay deposit was present through-

out its length and contained very little other than two iron nails (SF153 and SF154). At its south-western end this gully cut a small pit (630), the fill of which contained a significant assemblage of charred plant remains. Two metres south-east of, and parallel to, gully 770 was a row of post holes 500.

Post-row 500 consisted of four postholes which extended collectively for a length of 9.3 m. Three of the postholes, which had an average diameter of 0.34 m, contained a single silt clay deposit with occasional sub rounded flint inclusions. The posthole (479) at the south-west end was slightly larger than the others with a diameter of 0.58 m, and was the only one to have a post pipe, some 0.26 m across (Fig. 3.22, section 122). The post pipe deposit was dark grey silt clay, surrounded by a redeposited natural clay packing fill which contained occasional sub angular flint nodules.

South-east of gully 770 and postholes 500 was gully segment 430 (Fig. 3.22, section 90). This had a typical beamslot profile with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base. Average width and depth were 0.30 m and 0.20 m and its single clay silt deposit had the appearance of a single back-filling episode, which contained an appreciable amount of fired clay and iron slag, as well as one iron nail and a glass vessel body fragment.

None of these features extended as far north-east as boundary ditch 30, but had well-defined termini to the north-east and the south-west. Therefore, even though they were cut within the same general phase as ditch 30, there was no stratigraphic relationship between them and the main boundary.

Structure J (Phase 4) (Fig. 3.23)

Structure J, a six post square structure measuring up to 5.6 m square, which fronted the north-west side of the Canterbury road, was located beyond the south-eastern terminal of ditch 30. The north-east side of the structure was aligned of the plot boundary.

The postholes were all very similar, with a maximum diameter of 0.86 m, and a maximum depth of 0.30 m. The two posts fronting the road were filled with a single clay silt deposit with occasional sub rounded flint, and approximately 10% charred plant remains. The four remaining postholes had postpipes. They had an average depth of 0.22 m, and were filled with a clay silt deposit representing the positions of the posts which had diameters measuring between 0.29 and 0.33 m. The postpipe deposits produced a concentration of charred remains, approximately 20%, and were surrounded by clay silt packing fills containing sub-rounded and larger sub-angular flint nodules. A handful of pottery sherds associated with the postholes suggest a late 2nd century *terminus post quem* for the construction of the building (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 30).

Waterhole 796 (Fig. 3.24; Pl. 3.4 and Table 3.1)

Waterhole 796 was a circular feature with an approximate diameter of 5 m and a depth of 4 m. It was located on the line of the boundary between plots NW2 and NW3, at the south-east corner of plot NW2 and the north-east corner of plot NW3 (Fig. 3.24; Plate 3.4). The lowest excavated deposits of the waterhole were dated to Phase 3 and its overall period of use was from Phase 3 to Phase 6. It would have provided

a water supply for Phase 3 structure I, and Phase 4 structure J. The waterhole was excavated in quadrants to a depth of 3 m and the base fills up to a metre deep were investigated with an auger. Each excavated quadrant was issued separate context numbers which were all cross-referenced (see below, and Table 3.1).

The lowest excavated deposit was 1628, a light grey silt at least 0.64 m deep, assigned to Phase 3. The underlying material examined by augur was exactly similar in character and may have represented a sequence of fairly rapid silting. The upper profile of 1628, however, was very irregular and had probably been recut, perhaps to improve access to water. The overlying deposits, a series of waterlogged grey silt clays, were assigned to Phase 4. The earliest of these was 1583 and contained fragments of wood and a twist of withies in a semi-circular shape which could have been used as a rope (SF250; see Allen, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 4; Fig.5.14). Sealing 1583 was a series of layers 1604, 1603, 1596 and 1602, which produced no dating evidence. Layers 1604 and 1603 were very clean deposits. Layer 1596 above them had fragments of wood throughout.

The first deposit with dating material was 1547, a dark grey silt clay, which produced pottery dating to AD 170-200+. It also contained worked wood in the form of several pegs (see Allen, Chapter 5, Cat. nos 2 and 3; Fig.5.14) and five small finds: leather shoes (SF247 and SF251; see Mould, Chapter 5, Cat. nos 1-3; Figs 5.17-15.18), an iron bucket handle fragment (SF248, see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no.15; Fig.5.11) and a handle mount (SF253, see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 16; Fig.5.12), and a fragment from a lava rotary quern (SF249; see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 16; Fig.5.13).

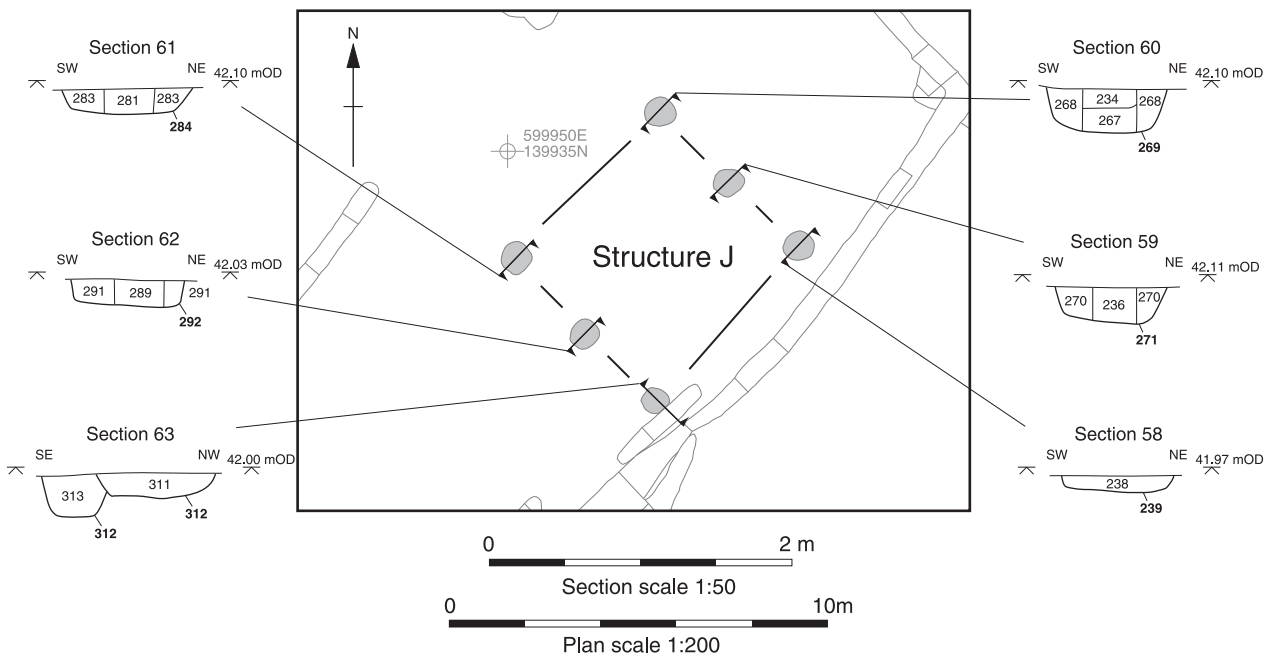


Figure 3.23 Plot NW2: Plan of Structure J and sections of postholes.

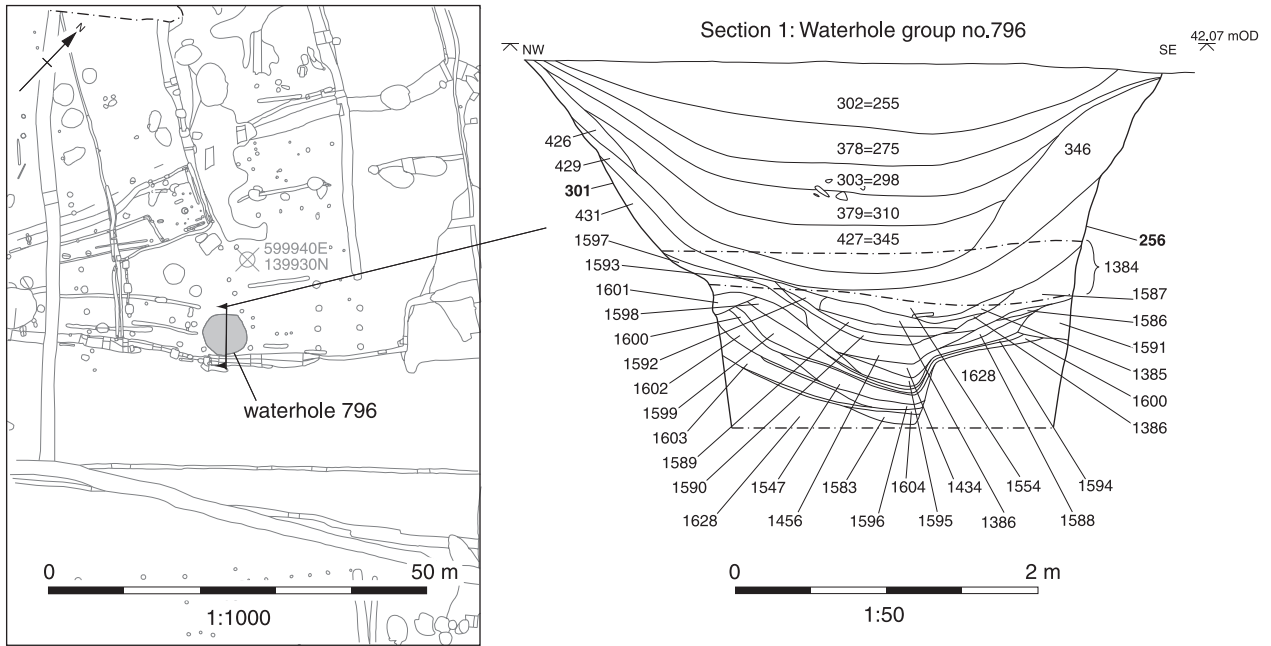


Figure 3.24 Plots NW2/NW3: Section and location of waterhole 796.



Plate 3.4 Excavation of waterhole 796.

The Roman Roadside Settlement at Westhawk Farm

Table 3.1 Waterhole 796: Summary of contexts, finds and dating evidence, from the earliest (1628) to the latest fill (302/255/675/707)

Context	Description	Depth	Phase	Finds
1628	light grey silt	0.64 m	3	
1583	grey silt clay, waterlogged	0.1 m	4	wood (incl. withies SF250)
1604		0.04 m	4	
1603		0.16 m	4	
1596		0.08 m	4	wood fragments
1602		0.20 m	4	
1547	dark grey silt	0.16 m	4	pottery AD 170-200+; worked wood (incl handle and pegs); shoes (SF247, SF251); iron bucket handle and mount (SF248, SF253); rotary lava quern (SF249)
1600	dark grey silt	0.08 m	4	
1599	dark grey silt	0.18 m	4	no finds
1594	dark grey silt	0.04 m	4	no finds
1598	dark grey silt	0.12 m	4	no finds
1595	dark grey silt	0.10 m	4	
1591	orange brown silt clays	0.32 m	4	
1601	orange brown silt clays	0.18 m	4	
1597	light grey silt	0.10 m	4	
1434	light grey silt	0.10 m	4	rotary lava quern fragment (SF244)
1593	silty clay		4	
1588	silty clay		4	
1586	silty clay		4	
1456	dark grey clay	0.20 m	4	pottery AD 100-130 (residual); wood; shoe (SF245)
1590	dark green-grey silt clay	0.20 m	4	
1587	mid grey silt clay	0.20 m	4	
1589	dark green-grey silt clay	0.08 m	4	pottery AD 170-230; wood (incl pegs)
1386	green brown silt		4	pottery AD 100-150; wood (incl plank fragment)
1592	green brown silt		4	
1385	green brown silt	0.08 m	4	pottery AD 43-200+
1554*	orange brown clay silt	0.14 m	5	pottery AD 200-250; wood
1384	series of deposits		6	pottery AD 270-300
368	grey orange sand	0.06 m	6	
437/724/346	mid brown silt sand		6	pottery AD 200-270; 1 x coin 2nd century (SF240)
367	blue grey silt clay	0.20 m	6	pottery AD 200-270; iron ring (SF73)
431/1379	light yellow brown sand silt		6	
429/366/1359/1380	dark grey black clay, rich in charred remains. Dumped deposit	0.19 m	6	pottery AD 150-300
428	mid orange brown silt		6	charcoal and fired clay
427/345/758/725	silting deposit	0.52 m	6	pottery AD 200-300; 2 x coins 2nd century (SF217-218); quern fragment (SF198); glass fragment (SF196); 6 x nails
344	grey black clay, charred remains	0.18 m	6	pottery AD 200-270; coin of Gallienus (SF59)
322	light orange yellow clay		6	
379/310/723/739	grey brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks, pieces of fired clay and local Ragstone fragments	0.30 m	6	pottery AD 200-300; 29 x coins 2nd to early 3rd century (SF151, SF219-236, SF238-239, SF264-269, SF275-276); glass fragment (SF199); fragment of lead (SF270); iron bracket (SF263) and 7 x nails
303/298/677/726	grey brown silt clay with quantities of large Ragstone blocks	0.24 m	6	pottery AD 200-300; 31 x coins (SF51, SF56-57, SF60-65, SF131-135, SF137-142, SF144-146, SF162-168) mainly 2nd-century but including 3 x 3rd-century radiates (SF51, SF138, SF164) and one 4th-century (SF166); glass bottle fragment (SF136); 2 x nails
378/275/676/720	dark brown clay silt occasional charcoal and fired clay flecking	0.34 m	6	pottery AD 150-350; 2 x 1st-2nd-century coins (SF128-129); 2 x glass bottle fragments (SF125, SF143); lead alloy fragment (SF172)
302/255/675/707	dark brown clay silt with occasional charcoal, fired clay flecking and ceramic building materials		6	pottery AD 200-300; 7 x coins (SF23-24, SF49, SF54, SF58, SF121 SF124) latest dated AD 244-249; 4 x glass fragments (SF120, SF122-123, SF150); decorated lead alloy strip (SF161); 2 x iron objects (SF28, SF50); 5 x nails

* Pottery from contexts with numbers in bold = Pottery assemblage 39.

Overlying 1547 was 1600, another dark grey silt clay layer, and then a series of light grey clay silts, 1599, 1594 and 1598, none of which produced finds. Three deposits (1595, 1591 and 1601) sealed 1598. Layers 1591 and 1601 were orange brown silt clays and represented the weathering and erosion of the feature's edges. Above 1591 and 1601 were two light grey silts (1597 and 1434). A lava rotary quern fragment (SF244, see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 15; Fig.5.13) came from 1434.

The upper part of the Phase 4 sequence consisted mostly of further silty clays. Deposits 1593 and 1588 were overlain by 1586 and 1456. The latter was a waterlogged dark grey clay layer, which produced pottery - presumably residual - dating to AD 100-130, a leather shoe (SF245; see Mould, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 4; Fig. 5.20), and a piece of unidentified waterlogged wood, which displayed tool marks (see Allen, Chapter 5, Cat. no.1; Fig.5.14). Above 1456, was layer 1590, a dark green-grey silt clay with wood fragments throughout, and 1587, a mid grey silt clay layer. Deposit 1589 sealing 1587 was a dark green-grey silt clay, which again fragments of waterlogged wood, including two pegs, and pottery dating to AD 170-230. Above this deposit lay 1592 and 1386, both green brown silt clays with densely packed fragments of wood. Deposit 1386 also produced pottery dating to AD 100-150 and three larger pieces of waterlogged wood consisting of a plank, a beam which may have been structural, and a piece of unworked wood. The last deposit in the Phase 4 sequence, 1385, was a grey brown silt clay with a concentration of waterlogged wood fragments and pottery dated broadly to AD 43-200+.

A change of character in the fill sequence was indicated by the overlying deposit 1554, an orange brown clay silt with occasional fragments of wood and pottery dating to AD 200-250. This deposit belonged to Phase 5 and may have represented a levelling horizon within the sequence of fills. It was overlain by a series of deposits of Phase 6 date which may simply have accumulated above 1554 or may have been fills of another recut of the waterhole. These deposits, clearly assigned to Phase 6 on the basis of ceramic finds (see Chapter 6, Assemblages 39 and 40), were notable for containing a substantial number of coins, mostly of 2nd-century date. Deposit 1384, which lay at the interface of Phase 4, 5 and 6 fills, incorporated a number of different deposits because poor weather conditions made recording of individual deposits impossible. This layer produced pottery dating to AD 270-300. Finds from 1384 were therefore assigned to Phase 6.

The primary Phase 6 fills were 368, and 437/724/346. Layer 368 was a grey orange silt sand deposit created by water running down the edge of the feature. Layer 437/724/346 was a mid brown silt sand with pottery dating to AD 200-270 and a 2nd-century coin (SF240; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5).

Above these was 367, a blue grey silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks, containing pottery dated to AD 200-270 and an iron ring (SF73; see Scott, Chap-

ter 5, Cat. no. 19). A light yellow brown sand silt (431/1379) above 367 may have represented redeposited natural originating from the erosion of the edge of the feature. Above layer 431/1379 was a deposit (429/366/1359/1380) that had probably been deliberately dumped. This consisted of a dark grey black clay rich in charred remains, possibly derived from the area of Building I to the north-west. It contained pottery dating to AD 150-300. Above this, were successive silting layers 428 and 427/345/758/725. This latter layer produced pottery dating to AD 200-300 and ten small finds, comprising two 2nd century coins (SF217 and SF218; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), a quern fragment (SF198; see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no.36), a glass fragment (SF196; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 68) and six nails. This was overlain by 344, a deposit of grey black silt clay, which contained a high proportion of charred remains tipped in from the east, and produced pottery dated to AD 200-270 and a coin of Gallienus (SF59; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). A light orange yellow clay (322) was located above this around the southern edge of the feature, and was overlain by 379/310/723/739, a grey brown silt clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, small pieces of fired clay and fragments of local Ragstone. This deposit contained pottery dated AD 200-300, and 38 small finds, including 29 coins of 2nd to early 3rd century date (SF151, SF219-236, SF238-239, SF264-269 and SF275-276; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) and the remainder consisted of a glass fragment (SF199), a fragment of lead (SF270; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 133), an iron bracket (SF263; see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 23; Fig.5.12) and seven iron nails.

Above this deposit was 303/298/677/726, a grey brown clay silt containing considerable quantities of large Ragstone blocks. This produced pottery dated to AD 200-300 and 34 small finds: two iron nails, a glass bottle fragment (SF136; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 62) and 31 coins (SF51, SF56-57, SF60-65, SF131-135, SF137-142, SF144-146 and SF162-168; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). The majority of the coins were of 2nd-century date, although there were three 3rd-century radiates (SF51, SF138, SF164) and an issue of AD 316 (SF166), the only 4th-century coin recovered from the excavated areas (see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). Fill 303/298/677/726 was overlain by 378/275/676/720, a dark brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking and fragments of fired clay. The finds included pottery dated broadly to AD 150-350, two glass bottle fragments (SF125 and SF143), a fragment of lead alloy (SF172; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.131), two 1st- to 2nd-century coins (SF128 and SF129; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) and four nails. The uppermost fill was 302/255/675/707, a dark brown clay silt with small amounts of charcoal, fired clay and ceramic building material. This deposit also produced a large quantity of pottery which was dated to AD 200-300 and nineteen small finds. These included four glass fragments (SF120, SF123, SF122, see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 64, and SF150, see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 61), a decorated lead alloy strip possibly from a candlestick (SF161, see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 78;

Fig.5.5), two iron objects (SF 28, see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 20; Fig.5.12; SF50) and five iron nails. There were seven coins (SF23-24, SF49, SF54, SF58, SF121 and SF124; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), the last (and latest) of which was dated AD 244-249.

Plot NW3

Plot NW3 was a 12 m wide area defined by boundary gullies including those relating to the Phase 3 metalworking Structure I (see Fig. 3.25). The plot NW2/NW3 boundary was formed by two north-west to south-east gullies, 300 and 200 (Fig. 3.25, section 25). Gully 200 was the earlier and extended 28 m from the north-west edge of Area B. It had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base and was consistently 0.4 m wide and 0.12 m deep. The fill was a single dark brown silt clay with infrequent charcoal flecks, occasional iron slag fragments and two large iron nails (SF11, SF12). Gully 300, 8.5 m long, was a recut of the east-south-east end of gully 200 and had 45° sloping sides, a rounded base, and ranged in width from 0.2 m to 0.44 m, but was consistently 0.15 m deep. Again the fill was a single dark brown silt clay which produced a *dupondius* of Hadrian (SF10; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5).

A further gully (110) ran south-south-westwards from the terminus of gully 200, with which it was probably contemporary, for some 15 m before turning south-east to extend to the line of the road, ending at a junction with roadside gully 1685. Gully 110 had steep sides and a flat base with an average width of 0.48 m and a depth of 0.22 m (Fig. 3.25, section 299). Its two fills were a primary orange-brown clay silting deposit overlain by a dark brown clay silt, containing frequent charcoal and small sub-rounded stone and a reasonable quantity of pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 10).

Successive stages of definition of the south-western boundary of Plot NW3 were indicated by gullies 8540, 1400, 8550 and 1410/8530. Many had similar near vertical sided profiles and flat bases (Fig. 3.25, section 300), with the same dimensions and sequence of deposits as noted in gully 110. At its north-west end gully 8540 extended beyond the edge of Area B, and was parallel to 200 and some 12 m from it. Its south-easterly extent is uncertain as it was truncated by later features, but it may have continued as far as the angle of gully 110, although its relationship to that feature is not known. A probable second stage of the plot boundary, a redefinition of its south-eastern half, was represented by ditch 8550 which appeared to terminate before its line was resumed by gully 1400. The latter then extended all the way to the roadside ditch sequence, cutting gully 110. Strictly, however, the relationship between 8550 and 8540 is not known and the latter could have been the later of the two. Immediately south-west of Structure I (see below) the plot boundary was redefined again by gully 1410/8530, with a total length of *c* 9.5 m.

Some 4-5 m south-west of these boundaries and approximately parallel to them was a post-row, group

1698 (see Fig. 3.20), consisting of a series of fourteen postholes 0.4-0.7 m in diameter, and 0.1-0.3 m deep. Not all had post pipes, but where these did occur they measured 0.25-0.3 m in diameter and were filled with a dark brown silt clay, surrounded by an orange-brown silt clay packing with occasional charcoal and slag. The group extended WNW as far as the limit of excavation and also projected slightly south-eastwards into the line of the Canterbury road. It probably represented a late stage of definition of the south-west margin of Plot NW3.

On the same WNW-ESE alignment, but north of gully 1400 was a row of three postholes linked by a narrow gully (1790) extending for 8 m. The postholes of 1790 were rectangular, up to 0.98 m long and 0.48 m deep. They were filled with grey silt clay packing containing sub-angular flint. The post pipes contained dark grey silt with moderate amounts of wood charcoal and had diameters between 0.35 m and 0.5 m. The gully or beamslot extending for 2 m between each post-pit was quite narrow, 0.24 m wide and 0.05 m deep with a vertical sided flat based profile, and was filled with an orange-brown clay silt.

Structure I (Fig. 3.25)

Structure I was a small rectangular enclosure with an internal area of *c* 88 sq. m, situated in the angle formed by the northern plot boundary and its south-south-westward continuation gully 110. The structure was principally of beamslot construction, though these features were discontinuous. Internal features included postholes, but these did not form any particularly coherent pattern, and not all could be closely phased (Figs 3.20 and 3.25).

The structure itself was made up of four beamslots, 1610, 1620, 360, and 1480 which formed a rectangular shape. Feature 1610 was aligned NNE-SSW and formed the 'west' side. It had steep sides and a flat base and was 0.4 m wide and 0.22 m deep (Fig. 3.25, section 341). The primary deposit within this slot was a yellow-brown silt clay, sealed by a dark brown clay silt. Both deposits contained occasional charcoal and slag pieces, as well as small sub-rounded stone. Slot 1620 extended 5 m ESE from the north end of 1610. It was 0.3 m wide and 0.2 m deep and also had near vertical sides and a flat base. Unlike 1610, however, it had a single fill of dark brown silt clay containing small sub-rounded stone, infrequent charcoal flecking, and occasional iron slag fragments (Fig. 3.25, section 25). There was a gap of *c* 2.4 m between the end of 1620 and the presumed north-east corner of the structure, marked by the north-north-east end of slot 360. The latter feature was 2.5 m long, almost vertical-sided with a flat base and was typically 0.4 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Contemporaneous posthole 188, 0.45 m across and 0.22 m deep, was located at the south-south-west terminal of 360 (Fig. 3.25, section 77), but there were no further traces of the 'east' wall to the south of 188. Both the beamslot and the posthole were filled with a grey-dark brown clay silt producing notable amounts of furnace debris. A possible

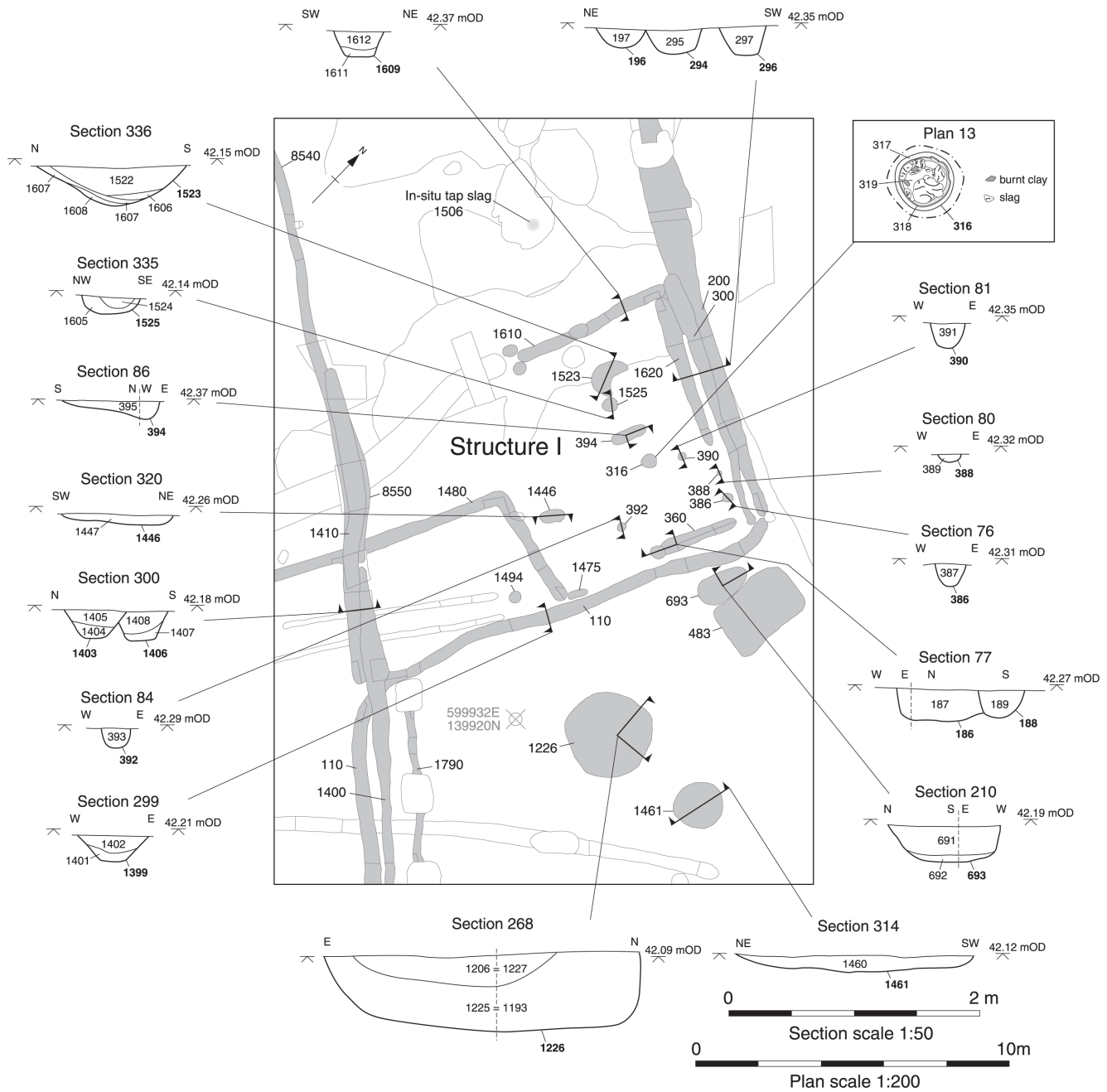


Figure 3.25 Plot NW3: Plan and sections of Structure I and associated features, including sections of beam slots 1620, 1610 and 360; and gullies 110, 200, 300, 1400 and 1410: Beam slot 1620: section 25 (cut 296); beam slot 1610: section 341 (cut 1609); beam slot 360: section 77 (cut 186); gully 110: section 299 (cut 1399); gully 200: section 25 (cut 196); gully 300: section 25 (cut 294); gully 1400: section 300 (cut 1403); gully 1410: section 300 (cut 1406).

'south' wall was indicated by slot 1480. A 4 m length of this feature was aligned almost E-W, not exactly parallel to 1620. It then turned SSW for some 7.5 m. Slot 1480 had steep sides and a flat base with average dimensions of 0.28 m width and 0.1 m depth, and was filled with a deposit similar to the fill of 360.

Internal features of structure I included eight post-holes with average dimensions of 0.25 m depth and 0.4 m diameter, although the largest was 0.58 m in

diameter. These were all vertical sided with flat to slightly rounded bases, and were filled with a single grey clay silt, containing occasional charcoal (Fig. 3.25, sections 81, 80, 76, 84). A crescent shaped hearth, 1523, was located in the north-west corner of the structure (Fig. 3.25, section 336). This was 1.2 m across and 0.3 m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It had a yellow-brown clay lining which was overlain by a charcoal rich deposit,

possibly dumped as the clay beneath showed no sign of *in situ* scorching. Above this was an orange-red silt clay made up predominantly from fired clay fragments. The uppermost deposit comprised a dark grey clay silt containing charcoal and a large amount of iron slag (c 40% of the deposit). A second internal hearth, 1525, measured 0.46 m in diameter and 0.14 m in depth. This had steep sides and a rounded base and was filled with a primary yellow clay lining, overlain by a dark grey clay silt containing at least 80% wood charcoal (Fig. 3.25, section 335). Pit 316 was 0.48 m across and 0.4 m deep, and contained an upright storage jar with a girth diameter of 0.4 m (Fig. 3.25, plan 13). The pot was held in place by a deposit of light brown silt clay around its edges. As found, the pot was truncated at its maximum girth, and was filled with a grey silt clay containing notable amounts of iron slag and general furnace debris.

External features included two large pits to the east of the structure. Pit 483, adjacent to the north-east corner, was sub-rectangular in shape and measured 2.65 m x 1.7 m x 0.3 m deep. The profile was steep sided to a rounded base. A dark brown clay silt containing charcoal, slag, and small rounded stone in moderate quantities filled the base of the pit. A grey clay silt containing approximately 20% slag and fired clay overlay this. The upper deposit was a light brown clay silt and produced marginally higher quantities of slag, fired clay and wood charcoal. Pit 1226 (Fig. 3.25, section 268), south of 483, was circular with a diameter of 2.55 m and a depth of 0.6 m, with sides sloping at 60° to a flat base. This was filled with a primary grey clay silt which contained a large amount of fired clay and slag with occasional charcoal, sealed by a light grey clay silt which had a slightly lower amount of the same material.

Two smaller pits associated with Structure I were also located within this area. Pit 693 (Fig. 3.25, section 210) lay east of boundary 110 between it and pit 483, was oval in shape and measured 1.6 m by 0.9 m with steep sides and a flat base. A thin deposit of brown-yellow silt clay within the base of the feature was overlain by a brown-orange clay silt, with slag, fired clay and wood charcoal pieces making up about 20% of its composition. Further east, circular pit 1461 (Fig. 3.25, section 314) measured 1.9 m diameter and 0.14 m depth and had moderate sloping sides and a flat to irregular base. It was filled with a single deposit of grey-orange silt clay which produced occasional charcoal flecking and small pieces of iron slag.

Occupation spreads associated with the metal-working process were noted to the west of the structure. Deposit 1627 was very mixed in composition, and measured approximately 8 m by 3.50 m. The eastern part of this spread adjacent to Structure I was predominantly composed of grey silt with discrete patches of wood charcoal. The western area of this deposit had a concentration of wood charcoal and a patch of *in situ* scorching. To the west of this spread was an area that contained possible *in situ* tap slag (1506, Fig. 3.25; see Chapter 7, Structure I) and measured approximately 2 m by 3 m.

Further west again were two large pits, 7944 and 7306, and a small well, 7269 (Fig. 3.20). Only the first of these lay within the plot as defined by the gullies 8540. The other two features lay south of 8540, but between it and the post-row 1698 and it is quite likely that the latter was a fenced boundary that related to an expansion and redefinition of plot NW3.

Pit 7944 (Fig. 3.26, section 1028) was sub-circular, some 1.9 m across and was excavated to 1.2 m without encountering the natural clay. The lowest excavated deposit was a light grey-orange silt clay (8782) which possibly formed through the collapse of the pit edges, or a similar rapid process. Overlying this was a very mixed deposit (8454) consisting of thick lenses of dark grey silt clay and orange-brown silt clay which had been dumped into the centre of the pit. The upper fill (7945) was a grey-orange silt clay which was again very mixed in composition. This contained a substantial amount of charcoal, fired clay and pieces of iron slag.

Pit 7306 (Fig. 3.26, section 774) was 2.5 m in diameter and 1 m deep. It had irregular, but steeply sloping sides and an angled base. The lowest fills were yellow silt clays (7492 and 7446) representing the erosion of the feature's edges. Overlying these were three deposits (7437, 7430 and 7407) of dark grey silt clay all containing notable amounts of charred remains and iron slag. The next five deposits (7427, 7402, 7397, 7396 and 7307) all appeared to have been deliberately placed within the pit. All comprised dark grey-black clay silts, mixed with patches of yellow clay, and all contained large amounts of charcoal, fired clay, iron-working debris, and pottery sherds.

Feature 7269 (Fig. 3.26, section 781) was a relatively small well which was excavated to a depth of 1.8 m without reaching the natural clay. The construction pit, cut on its south-west edge by post-medieval ditch 9020, measured at least 2.7 m in diameter at the surface and was 1.2 m in diameter at the lowest excavated point. The well shaft was 1.1 m across at the surface, but only 0.44 m in diameter at the excavated base. Part of the lining survived, consisting of Ragstone blocks measuring on average 0.3 m by 0.15 m by 0.1 m, bonded together with grey clay. Four courses of stone survived around the south-west side of the shaft, but only occasional stones were present to the north-east. The clay matrix (7535) between the stones and the packing of the construction pit behind them was identical. As this material appeared to form the edge of the well shaft where there were no stones it is possible that the stone lining was only ever partially present, although if so it is hard to see how the lower sides of the shaft could have been kept stable.

The lowest excavated deposit within the well shaft was a very clean grey clay (7523). This was overlain by three layers of grey-brown silt clay (7328, 7327 and 7309) which contained infrequent charcoal and small pieces of iron slag. The three upper deposits (7271, 7308 and 7270) were all dark grey silts containing substantial amounts of iron slag, charcoal and occasional fragments of ceramic building material.

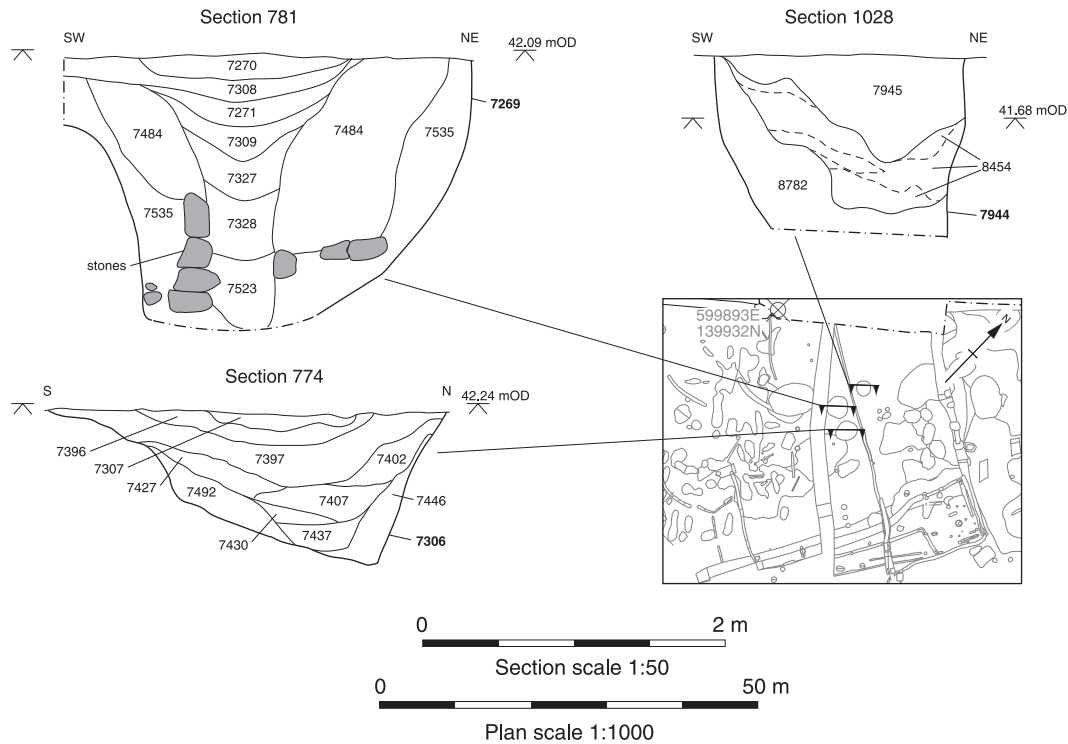


Figure 3.26 Plot NW3: Sections of pits 7306, 7944 and 7269.

Possible Plot NW4 (Fig. 3.27)

The possible existence of a fourth plot in this series is hinted at by gully 8780. This was contemporary with gully 8690 which redefined the line of the Phase 2 oblique settlement boundary ditch running approximately south from Structure I in Phase 3. Gully 8780 extended WNW from gully 8690 for 13 m. It was exactly parallel to, and some 18 m from, gully 8540 that defined plot NW3 (Fig. 3.25), giving a projected plot width quite closely comparable to those of NW1 and NW2. There was no further evidence to support this interpretation, however.

North-West Undivided Roadside Area (Fig. 3.27)

An undivided zone with a maximum possible width (at the roadside) of some 77 m lay between the two groups of north-west and south-west roadside plots. If the existence of plot NW4 is accepted, then the area was rather smaller. Until Phase 4 this area contained the southern end of the north-west oblique ditch.

Structure H (Phase 3) (Fig. 3.28)

A possible structure (labelled H) was located west of the north-west oblique ditch 8700 in the north-eastern part of this area of the site. It comprised three lengths of gully with an average width of 0.40 m and ranging in depth from 0.06 to 0.32 m (Fig. 3.28, section 856, cut 7602; section 796, cut 7371; section 905, cut 7794). A common characteristic of all three gullies

was the presence of a primary deposit of blue-grey clay which seemed to act as a lining. This was sealed by a layer of dark grey silt clay which produced notable amounts of charred remains, a blue-green body fragment from a square glass bottle and a small group of pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 13). The gullies were probably linked with gully 8970 which drained into roadside ditch 8700. The lack of physical continuity between the gully lengths, and the rather irregular nature of their plan, make interpretation difficult. The features could, however, have served as intermittent drains around the south side of a circular building up to *c* 10 m across (this assumes that gully 8780, also assigned to Phase 3, was not exactly contemporary with the structure). No specific structural features survived, however.

Waterhole 7239 (Fig. 3.27; Table 3.2)

This feature was located immediately north-west of the Phase 4 roadside ditch group 8590 where it cut Phase 3 features. It had a diameter of 6.50 m at sub-soil level, and a total depth of 3.40 m. The top 1.20 m was excavated entirely by hand, while the remainder was excavated by machine, to 38.20 m above OD. The sides of the waterhole sloped at approximately 45° for the first 0.8 m, thereafter the feature was cut more vertically, though had an irregularly rounded base.

The primary fill was 9398, a grey silt clay containing small sub-rounded stones (Table 3.2). A deposit of blue grey clay (9397) overlay this. Overlaying 9397 and extending down the south-western edge and

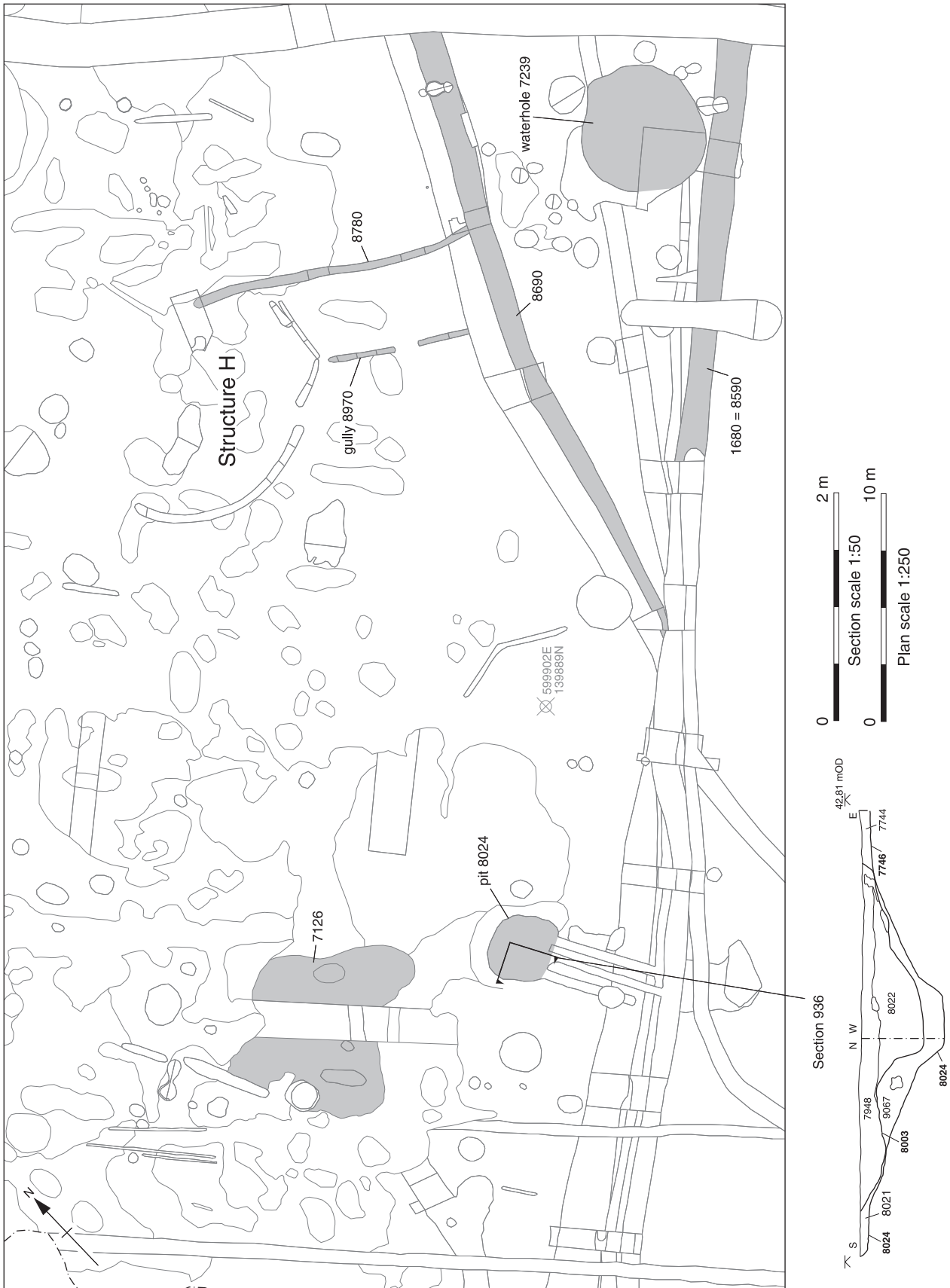


Figure 3.27 Plan of undivided north-west roadside area; section of pit 8024.

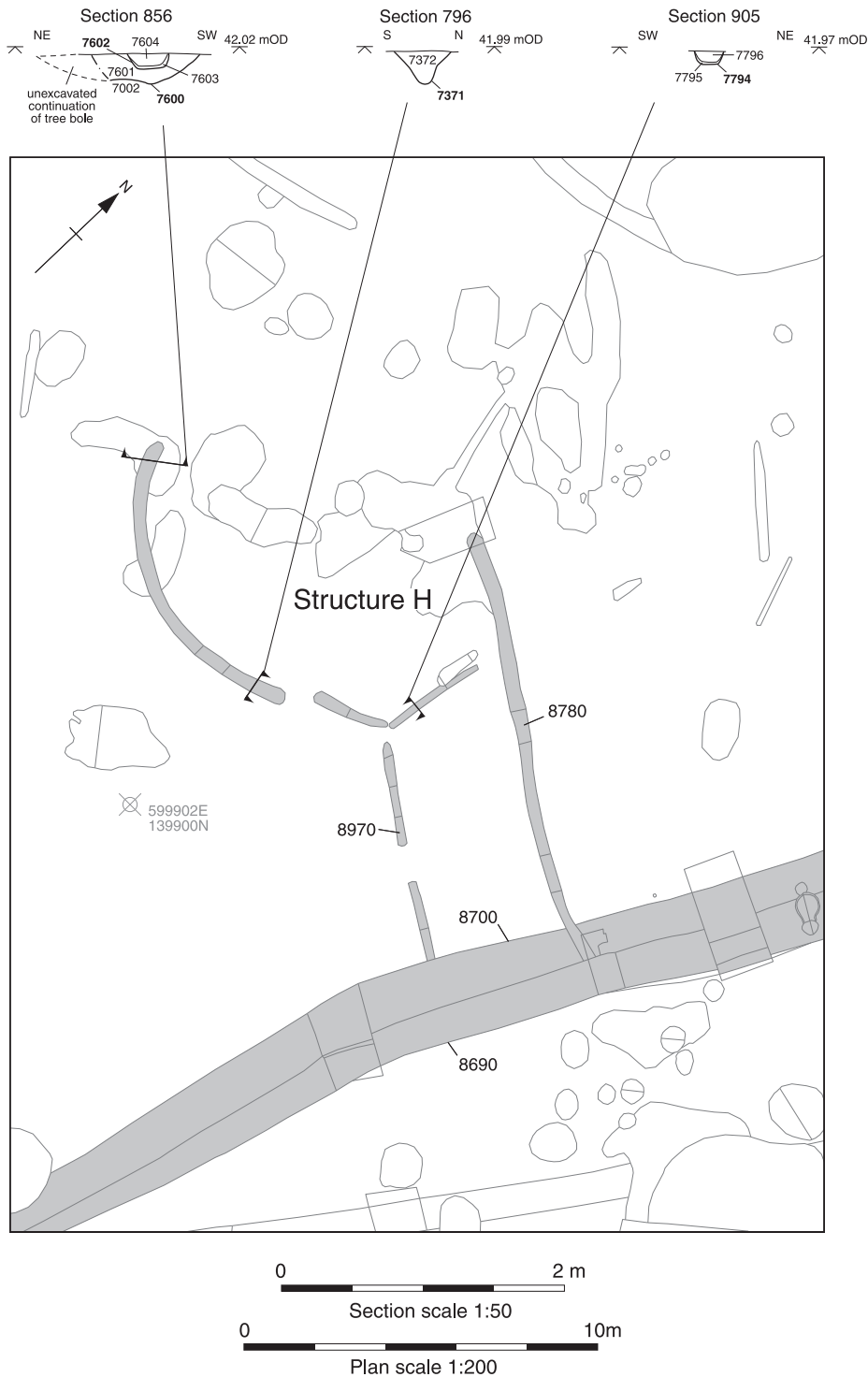


Figure 3.28 Undivided north-west area: Plan of Structure H and associated ditches 8970 and 8780, and sections of curvilinear ditches.

across the base of the feature was an orange grey silt clay 9395/9176. Next came a number of deposits (9396, 9394, 9393, 9392/9197, and 9158) all made up of similar inclusion-free blue grey silt clays. Contexts 9396 and 9392/9197 produced well preserved water-logged timbers. Part of an oak ladder (SF1517; see Allen, Chapter 5, Cat. nos 12-13; Fig.5.15) came from

context 9396 while an object identified as a separate rung from the ladder (SF1516; see Allen, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 10; Fig.5.15) came from context 9392/9197.

Overlying these deposits was 9391 (equivalent to 9154 and 9157), which produced no dating evidence. It was overlain by 9155 the earliest deposit to produce pottery, dated AD 120-160. Three small finds also

Table 3.2 Waterhole 7239: Summary of contexts, finds and dating evidence, from the earliest (9398) to the latest fill (7240)

Context	Description	Depth	Finds
9398	grey silt clay	0.22 m	
9397	blue grey clay	0.10 m	
9395/9176	orange grey silt clay	0.10 m	
9396	blue grey silt clay		waterlogged timbers (incl. oak ladder, SF1517)
9394	blue grey silt clay		
9393	blue grey silt clay		
9392/9197	blue grey silt clay		waterlogged timbers (incl. rung from ladder, SF1516)
9158	blue grey silt clay		
9391/9154/9157	brown orange silt clay	0.60 m	
9155	orange grey clay silt		pottery AD 120-160; 1 x coin (illegible <i>dupondius</i>); L-shaped iron key (SF1508) and an unidentified iron object (SF1507)
9153/7242	compact grey brown clay with slight iron panning	0.56 m	pottery AD 100-200
7241	orange brown silt clay	0.35 m	pottery AD 120-200; fragment of glass (SF982)
9152/7314	grey brown silt clay. Dumped deposit	0.40 m	pottery late 1st-century
7120	orange brown clay silt	0.24 m	
7243/7251	brown grey clay silt	0.18 m	pottery 2nd-century
7250	dark grey clay silt, much charcoal. Dumped	0.12 m	pottery 1st-2nd century
7249	brown grey clay silt		pottery AD 150-250
7246	brown grey clay silt		pottery AD 100-250; fragments of ceramic building materials; slag
7245	orange brown clay silt	0.06 m	
7248	grey brown clay silt with charcoal	0.16 m	pottery AD 150-200; ceramic building materials
7247	densely packed ceramic building materials in a dark orange red clay matrix	0.10 m	pottery AD 150-200; ceramic building materials; quern fragment (SF997)
7244	grey clay silt with charcoal	0.30 m	pottery AD 150-275; ceramic building materials; perforated lead sheet (SF998)
7240	light grey clay silt with charcoal	0.38 m	pottery; window glass (SF959)

Waterhole 7239 produced Pottery Assemblage 32, late 2nd-century.

came from this deposit; a possible L-shaped staple of iron (SF1507; see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no.26), an L-shaped key (SF1508; see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no.11; Fig.5.11) and an illegible *dupondius* (SF1509; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). Overlying 9155 was 9153/7242, which produced pottery dated AD 100-200. Fill 7241 above this produced pottery dated AD 120-200 and a fragment of glass (SF982). Context 9152/7314, was next in sequence, and produced late 1st-century pottery. Above 7241 was layer 7120, followed by deposit 7243/7251, which produced 2nd-century pottery. Deposit 7250 was next and contained 1st- to 2nd-century pottery. A brown grey clay silt (7249) above this contained pottery dated to AD 150-200. Next was a thin dumped deposit (7246) which contained fragments of ceramic building material, slag, and pottery dated AD 100-250. Overlying this was 7245, which formed a silting layer that had accumulated within the centre of the feature.

A series of dumped deposits followed, all of which contained relatively large amounts of domestic refuse, in some cases consisting of redeposited debris. Layer 7248 was a grey brown clay silt with charcoal and ceramic building material fragments throughout, as well as pottery dated AD 150-200. Context 7247 on the south-eastern edge of the feature consisted largely of densely packed ceramic building material fragments in a dark orange red clay silt matrix. The pottery was again dated AD 150-200. A quern fragment (SF997)

also came from this deposit. Deposit 7244 was next in the sequence and comprised a grey clay silt with charcoal and fragments of ceramic building material. Pottery from this context was dated AD 150-270; it also produced a perforated fragment of sheet lead (SF998; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 127). The uppermost deposit in the feature was 7240, a light grey clay silt with charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. This produced pottery and a fragment of blue/green cast window glass (SF959; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.93). Overall the upper fills of the feature contained a substantial pottery assemblage, which suggested a date at the very end of the 2nd century AD for the filling of the feature (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 32).

Pit 8024 (Fig. 8.27)

Pit 8024, placed within Phases 3-4, was located some 42 m south-west of waterhole 7239 and linked with the nearby roadside boundary ditches by three different stages of narrow gully. The pit was sub-circular measuring approximately 3 m in diameter and reaching a depth of 0.73 m. It was re-cut as pit 8003 which had a smaller diameter and the same profile, but was only 0.54 m deep (Fig. 8.27, section 936). The deposits at the base of the pit 8024 were all yellow clays with occasional inclusions of charcoal and iron slag. The upper deposits (8022) consisted of silt clays and

produced higher densities of charred remains and iron slag. The predominance of silt clays within the pit suggests that this feature possibly acted as a sump for the drainage of water from the roadside ditches.

Area of soil spreads (Fig. 8.27)

North-west of pit 8024 was a collection of irregular soil spreads and apparently natural hollows which contained deposits of general domestic debris. Of all the soil spreads, 7126/7127 was the most extensive, covering an area approximately 48 sq. m for a depth of 0.04-0.26 m. This produced a largely 2nd-century ceramic assemblage, as well as four blue-green body fragments from a glass vessel, a lead alloy disc (see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 127) and numerous iron nails.

No coherent features were recorded in this part of the area. One unusual find, however, was a cache of 33 rounded flint pebbles, perhaps slingstones, from context 10239, an amorphous patch of grey silt. This deposit was unfortunately not dated.

Phase 4 roadside boundary ditches

Ditches 8960 and 9520 defined the south-eastern margin of the north-west undivided roadside area in Phase 4. The ditches terminated at their south-west ends respecting the north-east boundary of plot SW1 (see below; Fig. 3.31), which itself consisted of two stages of gully. Both 8960 and 9520 were traced north-eastwards from here for some 35 m, beyond which they were truncated by ditch 1680/8590, also of Phase 4 date. Ditch 8960 was the earlier of the two (and was possibly of Phase 3 date). Where surviving the profile had a flat base with a reasonably sharp, but rounded break to straight sides (Fig. 3.6, section 1285, cut 7880). Ditch 9520, a re-cut, is thought to pre-date ditch 1680/8590, and therefore probably relates to the first stage of plot SW1 boundary (9910/9380). The general width and depth of 9520 were 0.90 m and 0.40 m respectively, and the profile, again where it survived truncation, was steep sided and flat based (Fig. 3.6, section 1285, cut 7879). It produced a group of pottery dating to the second half of the 2nd century (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 18). Ditch 9520 was cut by the second phase of plot SW1 boundary gully (9390/9890) which was of the same phase as roadside ditch 8590.

Phase 4 roadside ditch 1680/8590 extended unbroken for approximately 105 m all the way from Structure J in Plot NW2 up to the north-east corner of Plot SW1 before terminating (Fig. 3.31). It had a consistent profile along its length: moderate sides and a flat base with an average width and depth of 0.7 m and 0.24 m respectively (Fig. 3.6, section 1285, cut 7878). Another consistent characteristic of this ditch was the nature of the fill, which comprised a dark grey clay silting deposit containing a high proportion of rounded gravel flint which presumably had eroded from the adjacent road surfaces, including 9011. The

fills produced a group of pottery of late 2nd-century date (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 19).

Feature 1680/8590 was part of the final major phase of boundary definition north-west of the Canterbury road and was probably contemporary with the second (and final) stage of definition of the boundaries of Plot SW1 (see below).

South-west roadside plots

The south-west roadside plots were all defined by gullies extending from the road at right angles to its alignment (Fig. 3.29). Plots SW1, SW2 and SW3 all had two stages of definition of their boundary gullies, both falling within Phase 4. In each case the first stage of definition consisted of a NW-SE aligned gully which on reaching the roadside ditch alignment turned to the south-west to run along the line of the road. In the second stage of boundary definition of plots SW1-SW3 the side boundary gullies terminated at their south-east ends and were associated with separate segments of gully fronting the road. The fronts of the other plots, SW4, SW5 and SW6, were mostly defined by a single feature, the final Phase 4 roadside ditch 10420.

Ditch 10420 was first seen at the midpoint of the plot SW3 frontage, emerging at the junction with ditch 10270, which subdivided the plot longitudinally (see below). The ditch (Fig. 3.33, section 1432, cut 10305) extended south-west from this point to the south-western margin of Area B, defining the north-west edge of the Canterbury road over this distance. Its north-eastern extent beyond this point is unknown, having been removed by later (Phase 4, second stage) gullies related to plots SW1-SW3. It is possible that 10420 represented a continuous roadside ditch which related to the first stage of the south-west plot gullies, and would therefore be associated with ditch 10060 (fronting Plot SW2) for example. In the area fronting Plots SW3-SW6 ditch 10420 was disturbed by the later modifications to the roadside frontage, but south-west of the plots it constituted the final Phase 4 north-west roadside boundary, undisturbed by later sequences of gully. In this area the ditch had an average width and depth of 1.38 m and 0.56 m respectively, and a profile generally consisting of slightly irregular, but moderately, sloping sides with a rounded to flat base (Fig. 3.30).

The fills of ditch 10420, as examined in the vicinity of the plots, especially close to Structure D in plot SW3, had larger amounts of charred remains which may have been dumped into the partially silted ditch. In this area the fills of the ditch largely consisted of a yellow-brown silt clay sealed by a dark grey-brown silt. The primary fill produced a fragment of a frit melon bead (SF1543; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 26), while the upper silts contained a worn *as* of Trajan (AD 98-117) (SF1546; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). Further south-west, the ditch fills reflected the lack of any substantial activity, domestic or otherwise, in the surrounding area. These deposits generally comprised a yellow-brown silt clay overlain by a

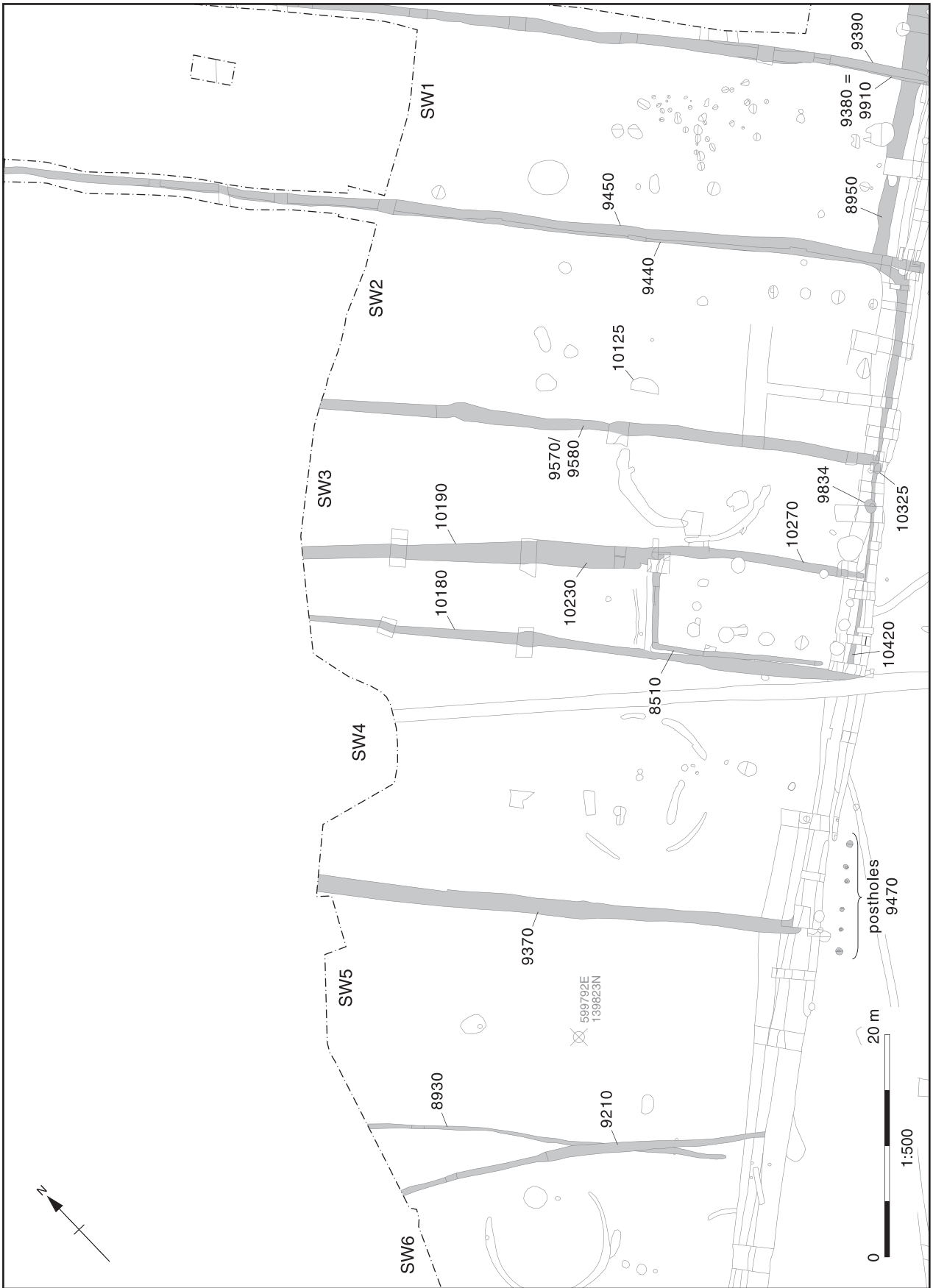


Figure 3.29 Plan of South-west roadside plots SW1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

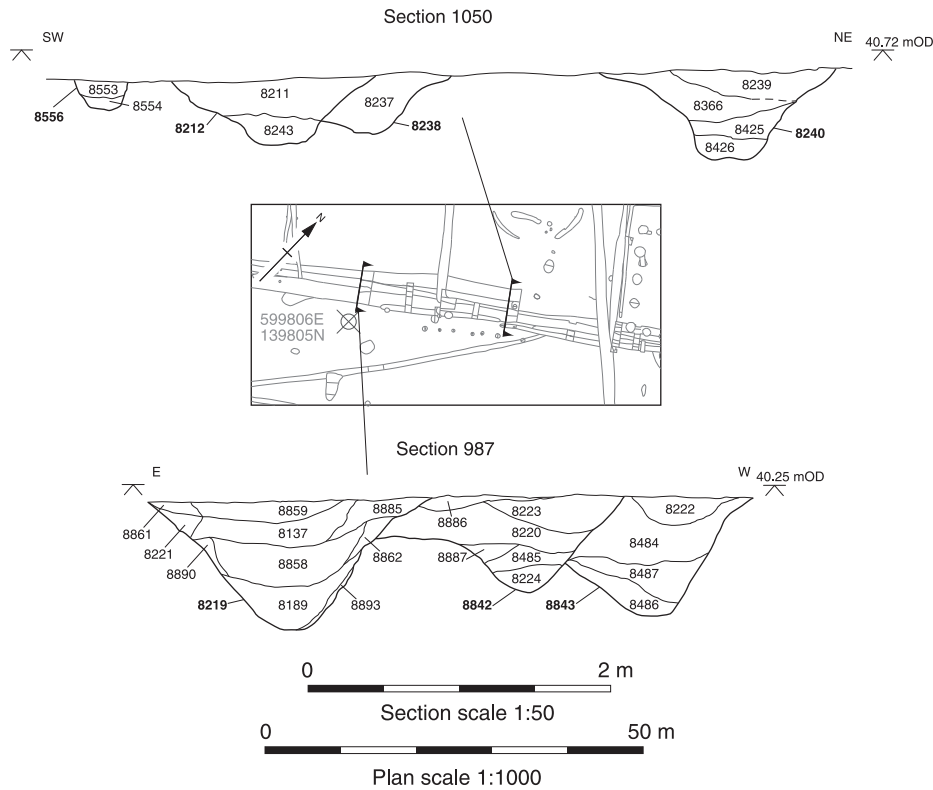


Figure 3.30 Sections of ditch 10420: Section 1050 (cut 8212), section 987 (cut 8219).

grey-brown silt clay and then sealed by a fine grey clay silt, which had built up over a period of time. The only exception to this sequence of deposits was noted in a section excavated along the front of plot SW5. Here a more complex sequence of deposits was noted, consisting largely of clay silts on the edges of the ditch, deriving from the silting of the natural edges and the up-cast from the original excavation slumping back into the ditch.

Plot SW1

The first stage of the Phase 4 gully that formed the north-east boundary of plot SW1 was 9380/9910 (Figs 3.29 and 3.31). This originated at a point beyond the original north-west edge of Area B and extended 68 m south-eastwards to the line of the road before turning to the south-west to define the front of the plot. The gully terminated at the junction with the first stage of the north-east boundary of plot SW2 (gully 9440/10060). The profile of 9380/9910 was most pronounced to the north-west, where it had a sharply defined V-shaped cut. As it turned at a right-angle to run alongside the road its profile changed to fairly straight sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.31, section 1164, cut 9278; section 1132, cut 8969) eventually ending with a rounded terminal. The maximum width and depth were 0.7 and 0.28 m, but the feature became shallower as it turned to the south-west and at its terminal end. The gully had a maximum of two deposits throughout its length, the primary deposit being

a yellow brown silt clay sealed by a deposit of grey silt. The south-west terminal end was filled with a single deposit of light brown silt clay. Pottery from these features included material dating to the first half of the 2nd century as well as later (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 20A).

This first boundary was cut along its length by the second stage of boundary consisting of gullies 9390/9890 and 9900. Gully 9390/9890 was cut on the same alignment as the previous phase, but terminated 5 m after turning to the south-west at the road frontage. There was a break of approximately 2 m to define an entrance to the plot from the road before gully segment 9900 began, extending for 9 m and terminating at the south-west corner of the plot. generally had a broad U-shaped profile (Fig. 3.31, section 855, cut 7565; and section 1164, cut 7561) with a width and depth of 1 m and 0.30 m respectively. Where it turned to the south-west it became narrower and shallower, reaching on average 0.50 m in width and only 0.10 m in depth, although at the south-west terminal the depth increased slightly to 0.20 m. The fill of this gully was consistent along its length and consisted of a grey brown silt clay with a small percentage of charred remains noted along its NW-SE length, and occasional flint nodules present along the NE-SW alignment, possibly deriving from the eroded road surface. Mid 2nd- to mid 3rd-century pottery was also recovered (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 22A). The segment of gully 9900 again had a single deposit of silt clay along its length (Fig. 3.31,

section 1132, cut 8938) and produced a fragment of an iron nail.

The latest roadside features specific to plot SW1 were three circular postholes, group 10005, one of which cut the fill of gully 9900. These had an average diameter of 0.6 m and a depth of 0.23 m, with the largest being 0.86 m across (Fig. 3.31, section

939). The profiles were almost vertical sided with flat bases, and the fills consisted of a silt clay packing with Ragstone pieces up to 0.2 m in size, and a dark grey clay silt post pipe fill ranging in diameter between 0.25 m and 0.48 m. It is unclear if these quite substantial postholes formed part of a boundary or, perhaps more likely, a structural feature.

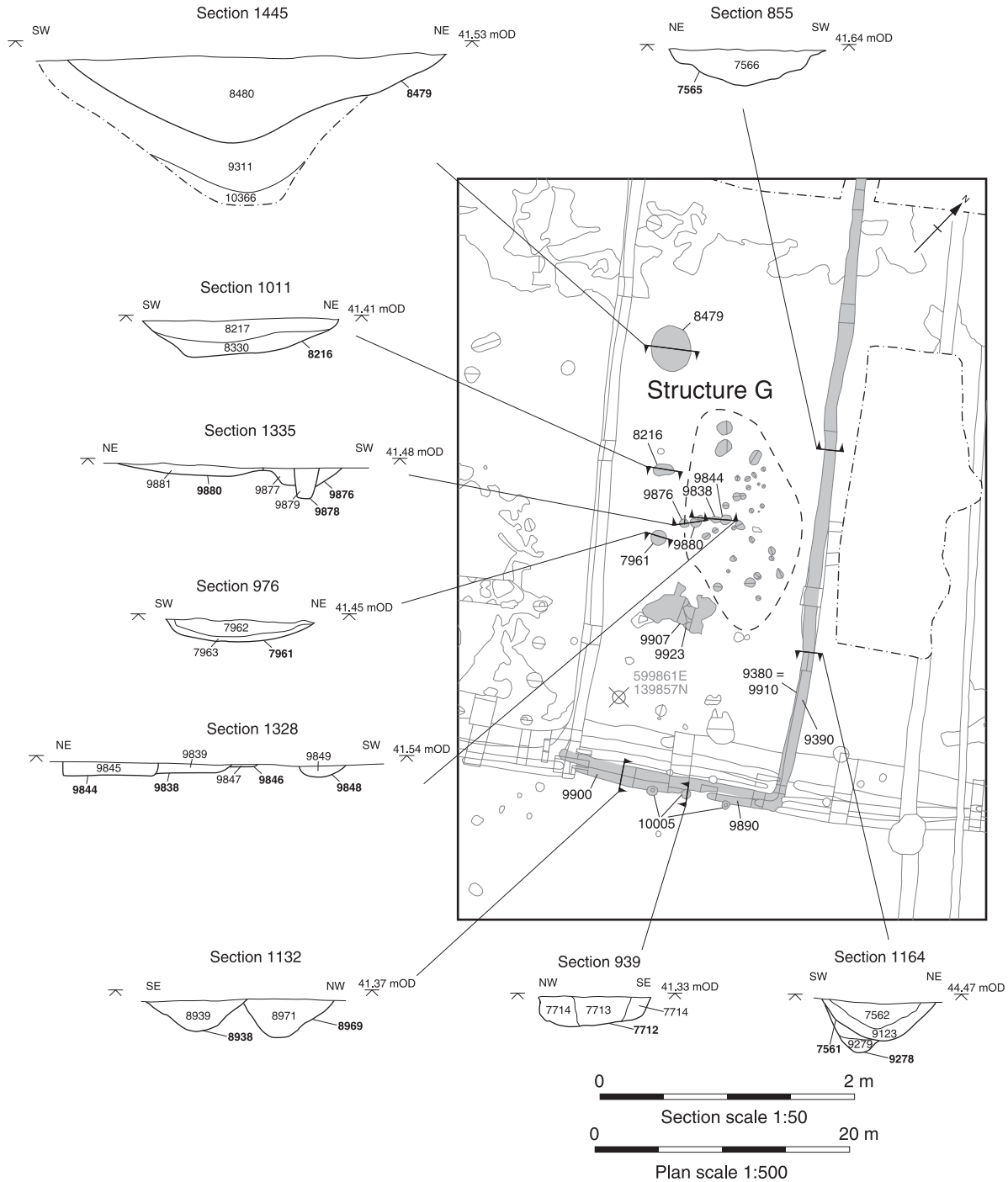


Figure 3.31 Plot SW1: Plan including Structure G and sections of gullies 9380/9910, 9390/9890 and, 9900: Gully 9380/9910: section 1164 (cut 9278), section 1132 (cut 8969); gully 9390/9890: section 855 (cut 7565), section 1164 (cut 7561); gully 9900: section 1132 (cut 8938).

A number of features ranging in date from AD 70-250 were found within the area of Plot SW1. Towards the front of the plot was a series of inter-cutting shallow pits including 9907 and 9923. The former was oval with steep sides and a flat base measuring 2 m across and 0.24 m deep, the latter had similar dimensions, but had shallower sides and an irregular base. Both were filled with a dark grey silt clay, containing occasional charcoal flecking. Two isolated pits, 7961 and 8216, lay further north-west. These were sub-circular and were up to 1.2 m in diameter and 0.19 m deep. Both had irregular bases and sides and were filled with a grey silt clay, which produced a small amount of pottery datable to Phase 3. North-east of these pits was an area of postholes and possible stakeholes. There were 37 of these features within an area of approximately 150 sq. m. No coherent building plan was identified despite careful examination, but it is possible that the evidence was affected by truncation. The features were therefore tentatively grouped as Structure G (Fig. 3.31). A few of the postholes, 9876, 9880, 9838, and 9844, had well-defined profiles with steep sides and flat bases, and measured on average 0.6 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. They were filled with a dark grey silt clay that contained large amounts of wood charcoal. Posthole 9838 had an iron nail (SF1528) at the base, and 9876 was filled with a packing stone measuring 0.1 m by 0.15 m. Pottery associated with these features was mostly dated late 1st to mid 2nd century (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 29). Further to the north-west was a large pit or waterhole (8479), 3.2 m in diameter and 1.3 m deep. This contained two distinct fills; the earlier was a thick layer of grey silt clay and was sealed by a grey brown clay silting deposit 8480, which produced a possible millstone fragment in millstone grit (SF1491; see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 38) and pottery datable to Phase 5 (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 38).

Plot SW2 (Fig. 3.32)

Plot SW2 mirrored SW1 to the north-east in terms of the sequence of phases (Figs 3.29 and 3.32). Again the primary phase of boundary gully was represented by a continuous rectilinear feature 9440/10060 extending from the north-west and turning to the south-west as it reached the line of the road. This was succeeded by NW-SE aligned gully 9450 and its NE-SW continuation, 10050. Gully 9440 was on average 0.8 m wide and 0.3 m deep and had a U-shaped profile with a flat base (Fig. 3.32, section 1180, cut 10455; section 849, cut 9332). It was approximately 77 m long before it turned to become 10060 (Fig. 3.32, section 1004, cut 8027). There was a single grey-brown silt clay fill present throughout its length, with a progressively higher proportion of charred remains noted in the 25 m stretch nearing the road. As it turned to form the boundary to the roadside (10060) the feature deepened to 0.6 m and widened to 1.3 m with a well-defined flat base and straight sides at an angle of 50°. This reduced again along its south-westerly course to a profile with a flat base and moderate sloping sides,

approximately 0.7 m wide and between 0.2 and 0.3 m deep (Fig. 3.32, section 1004, cut 8027), eventually ending in a rounded terminal at the point of contact with the corner of plot SW3. A primary deposit of grey silt clay was noted intermittently along the length of 10060, sealed consistently by a grey brown silting deposit which produced a notable amount of charred remains (approximately 30%) and some iron slag. These ditches produced pottery mainly dated to the first half of the 2nd century (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 20B).

The second stage plot SW1/SW2 boundary gully 9450 was investigated well beyond the limit of Area B to determine its extent. A machined trench revealed that 9450 extended 36 m beyond the original boundary of Area B before turning to the south-west to define the rear of plot SW2. In total this gave a depth of 83 m from the road frontage, and judging by the consistency of the dimensions of the rectilinear divisions it is possible that this was the length of most of the plots in the SW group. It is notable that there was no north-westerly projection of the rear boundary of the plot to form a comparable rear boundary for plot SW1. Gully 9450 cut into the edge of 9440 along its length and generally had a U-shaped profile with a flat base and ranged from 0.5 m to 1 m in width and 0.2 to 0.3 m in depth. It was filled with a single deposit of grey silt clay throughout its length (Fig. 3.32, section 1180, cut 9223; section 849, cut 7567; section 851, cut 7571) containing mostly late 2nd-century pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 22B). This gully terminated towards the south-east where it met the line of the road. From this point 10050 ran south-westwards defining the north-west edge of the road for 37 m. The profile varied slightly from straight-sided and flat-based to a more rounded U-shape (Fig. 3.32, section 1004, cut 8312). The width was consistently near to 0.5 m, but the depth fluctuated between 0.08 and 0.3 m. A single distinctive dark grey silt filled 10050 and was clearly visible in plan extending along the line of the road. A notable feature of this deposit was the quantity of large pieces (average 0.05 m) of wood charcoal concentrated in the easternmost 10 m length of the feature. The fill of 10050 also produced sporadic concentrations of fired clay, slag and tap slag as well as a 1st- to 3rd-century blue/green glass body fragment.

Two gully segments, 10040 and 10240, which cut into the top of 10050, represented the final stage of roadside boundary associated with plot SW2 and were assigned to Phase 5. These were on average 0.5 m wide with a surviving depth of 0.05 m and a broad flat base and splayed sides (Fig. 3.32, section 1004, cut 8321; section 1384, cut 10107). Both gullies were filled with a coarse silt-sand clay, which was a distinctive mottled brown-yellow colour, and both ended in well-defined rounded termini, defining a 5 m wide gap giving access to plot SW2 from the Canterbury road.

Within the north-east corner of plot SW2 was a NW-SE aligned row of four substantial postholes, referred to as Structure F. All but one had a silt clay packing fill with flint and stone measuring up to 0.16 m x 0.07 m,

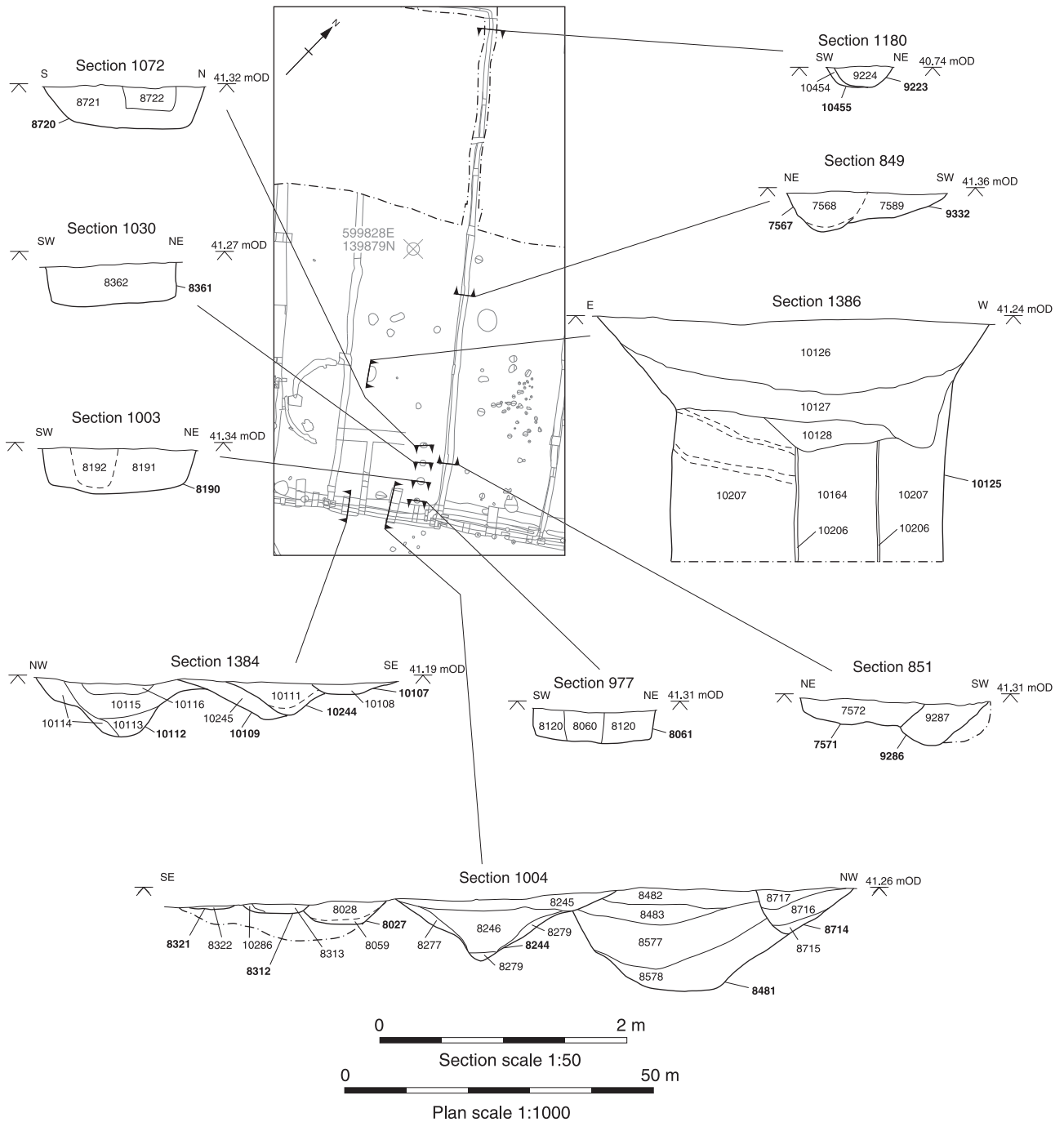


Figure 3.32 Plot SW2: Plan including Structure E, and sections of ditches 10060, 10050; gullies 9440, 9450, 10240 and 10040: Ditch 10060: section 1004 (cut 8027); ditch 10050: section 1004 (cut 8312); gully 9440: section 849 (cut 9332), section 1180 (cut 10455), section 851 (cut 9286); gully 9450: section 1180 (cut 9223), section 849 (cut 7567), section 851, (feature 7571); gully 10240: section 1384 (cut 10107); gully 10040: section 1004 (cut 8321).

and a dark grey silt clay which represented the fill of the post void. The packing fills produced pottery of later 2nd-century date (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 33). The diameter of the postholes ranged from 1 m to 1.28 m and the surviving depths reached a maximum of 0.36 m. The diameter of the post voids was on average 0.4 m (Fig. 3.32, sections 1072, 1030, 1003 and 977). The area directly to the south-west was in-

vestigated carefully to examine the possibility that the posts formed part of a larger structure, but no evidence was found. The posts cut the top of Phase 2 roadside ditch 8950, and appeared to be contemporary with Phase 5 roadside gullies 10040 and 10240. It is possible that the posts carried the ridge pole of a structure whose other components did not survive (see below).

South-west of the post-row was a shallow hollow filled by deposit 9333, the south-western limit of which being defined by SW2/SW3 boundary gullies 9570 and 9580; the deposit extended over a very well-defined rectangular area of approximately 32 sq. m. It produced a reasonably large pottery assemblage (over 4 kg - see Chapter 6, Assemblage 34) indicating a date which places it in Phase 5, an iron nail and a fragment of glass from a blue-green tubular rimmed bowl (SF1512; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 38; Fig. 5.4). The dark grey silt clay of 9333 probably formed through gleying as the deposit had organic inclusions and was most likely seasonally water-logged. Such a scenario coincides well with the interpretation that this deposit represents animal penning. The shallow depth of the soil, on average 0.08 m, its irregular undulations throughout, and its reasonably well-defined area all suggest a trample deposit. If so, the shallow hollow thus created would have held surface water throughout much of the winter, while also having a concentration of organic inclusions in the form of manure, hay and bedding.

A sub-circular waterhole 10125 was located north-west of the gleyed area (Fig. 3.32, section 1386). This feature had a diameter of 3.2 m, was hand excavated to a depth of 1.94 m and augured to a depth of 4.14 m below ground level without encountering natural geology. The two lowest recorded auger deposits consisted of blue-grey silt clays with occasional inclusions of charcoal and wood fragments, overlain by a blue-orange silt clay 0.60 m deep. The latter was sealed by two deposits of blue-grey silt clay, which had bands of, dark green clay throughout, above which was a mixed blue-orange silt clay. The hand-excavated deposits above this comprised a grey-yellow clay (10207) that was deposited around the internal circumference of the waterhole to create a vertical shaft. This was then sealed and consolidated by a layer of light grey clay (10206), which appears to have formed the lining of the waterhole. The shaft defined by 10206 was filled with a deposit of grey-blue silt clay (10164) 0.96 m deep, overlying which were three grey silt clay deposits (10126-101280, all producing pottery dated AD 130-200.

Plot SW3 (Figs 3.33-3.35)

Plot SW3 was *c* 19 m wide and of uncertain length. It was divided longitudinally into two strips respectively *c*. 9 m and *c*. 10 m wide. These are considered to represent two halves of the same plot rather than two separate, unusually narrow plots. A structure was placed, or partly placed, in each half (Figs 3.29 and 3.33-3.35).

The north-east boundary of plot SW3 was defined by successive Phase 4 gullies, 9570 and 9580. Gully 9570 was heavily truncated by the later 9580 and only seen in plan towards the south-east, where it neared the line of the road, and towards the far north-west (Fig. 3.33, section 1143, cut 9053). Its fills produced a small group of pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 20C). By analogy with the sequence of the two stages

of gully definition within plots SW1 and SW2, 9570 would most likely have run to the north-east corner of the plot and turned south-westwards to follow the line of the road, most probably as ditch 10410 which extended for 30 m across the frontage of plot SW3, before ending in a rounded terminal in front of plot SW4. The south-east edge of 10410 was cut along its entire length by ditch 10050, although what did remain suggested a feature 0.75 m wide at the north-east end becoming gradually wider, up to 0.95 m, at its south-western end. The depth of ditch 10410 remained consistent at 0.3 m, as did the round based and broad U-shaped profile (Fig. 3.33, section 1355, cut 9964; section 1432, cut 10289).

The second stage plot SW2/SW3 boundary gully, 9580, terminated at the north-east corner of plot SW3 to respect the NE-SW line of ditch 10050. The latter formed the south-east boundary of plots SW2, SW3 and part of SW4 at this stage in the Phase 4 development of the site. Gully 9580 (Fig. 3.33, section 1143, cut 9547; section 1018) had a U-shaped profile and was filled with a single grey silt clay which produced an illegible early Roman coin (SF1494; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) and a small group of pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 22C).

A localised later development of the plot SW3 frontage was represented by a short length of gully 10280 (Fig. 3.35; see Fig. 3.33, section 1355, cut 9963), probably analogous with 10240 at the front of plot SW2 (Fig. 3.35). A gap of *c* 4 m between these two features at the north-east corner of plot SW3 may have defined a late (Phase 5) entrance into the plot. Post-holes 10325 and 9834 (Fig. 3.35), set back from the terminals of 10240 and 10280 respectively, may have carried gateposts.

The south-west side of plot SW3 (the SW3/SW4 boundary) was defined initially by ditch 10180/8510, extending some 49 m from the edge of Area B to the roadside ditches. At that point it may have terminated to respect the line of ditch 10050 (see above), but the relationship was largely removed by a large post-medieval ditch (9130) and this interpretation is speculative. An initial impression was that ditch 8510 terminated just south-east of the line of 10050 and was therefore later than it. This, however, would have left the south-west side of plot SW3 undefined in the first part of Phase 4 and it is likely that the south-east end of 8510 was a recut which had completely removed an earlier phase of boundary on this alignment. This recut, which probably included cuts 8796 and 8893, had an estimated length of 15 m. If this interpretation is correct the position of an original south-east terminal for ditch 8510, and thus its relationship to the roadside ditch sequence, is unknown.

As initially defined, ditch 8510 was L-shaped in plan, extending from the roadside and then turning a right angle to the north-east at the point of junction with ditch 10180, which continued the line of the south-eastern length of 8510 to form the north-western part of the plot SW3/SW4 boundary. No relationship could be identified between 8510 and 10180 at the point of junction and they are therefore assumed

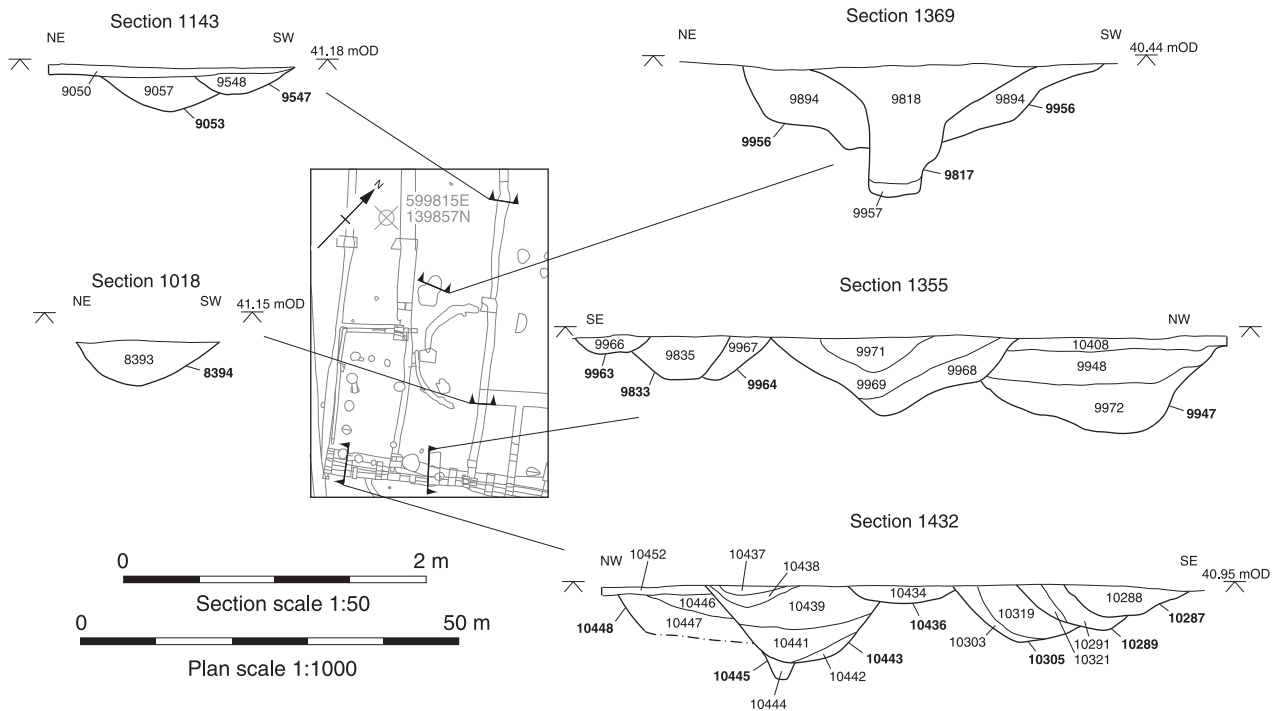


Figure 3.33 Plot SW3: Sections of gullies 9570, 9580, 10410 and 9580: Gully 9570: section 1143 (cut 9053); gully 9580: section 1143 (cut 9547); gully 10410: section 1355 (cut 9964), section 1432 (cut 10289); gully 9580: section 1018.

to have been contemporary. The north-easterly arm of 8510 extended for 8 m to a junction with ditch 10230/10270, which formed the longitudinal subdivision of the plot. Ditch 8510 must have been the later of these features.

Ditch 10180/8510 had an average width of 0.81 m and a depth of 0.22 m with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig. 3.35, section 1074, cut 8694; section 1105, cut 8796 (the latter representing the 'recut' version on the interpretation offered here)). Throughout its length it was filled with a grey-brown silt clay, except in one section midway along its length, which had a more varied sequence of fills (Fig. 3.35, section 1269, cut 9593). These fills consisted of three silt clays, of which the secondary and uppermost produced a large amount of charred remains (approximately 80%) and fired clay, possibly derived from activity within structure D some 15 m to the south-east.

Ditch 10180/8510 produced nine small finds comprising four fragments of glass (three sherds (SF1453, SF1454 and SF1456) from a late 2nd- to 3rd-century spouted jug (see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 51; Fig. 5.5) and the fourth sherd (SF1487) a blue green body fragment), two pieces from a copper alloy steelyard (SF1451, SF1452; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 80; Fig. 5.6), a biconical lead weight (SF1321; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 83) and two iron nails.

Plot SW3 was divided longitudinally by ditch 10230/10270. This had steep sides and a rounded base with an average width and depth of 0.85 m and 0.5 m respectively (Fig. 3.35, section 1226, cut 9401; section 1070, cut 8712). The feature extended for the entire length

of the plot as revealed in Area B, terminating at the roadside adjacent to ditch 10050, with which it may have been broadly contemporary, though an earlier date is perhaps more likely. The fills of 10230/10270 were a primary of grey-yellow silt clay, and an upper fill of dark grey clay silt, which contained occasional charred remains and fired clay.

Plot SW3 contained evidence of two structures, Structure E and Structure D. The former was only partly contained within the plot, and presumably predated its establishment, while the latter was well-defined by surrounding gullies.

Structure E (?Phase 4) (Fig. 3.34)

Structure E was represented by drainage gully groups 10250/10260, and lay on the north-east side of the plot, set back *c* 8 m from the contemporary roadside gully. The gullies defined approximately half of what may originally have been a circular structure with an approximate diameter of 12 m, in which case it must have predated the establishment of the south-west plots (see below). The profile of both gullies varied from shallow to steep sided; 10260 had moderate sloping sides and an irregular base (Fig. 3.34, sections 1153 and 1154), while 10250 had consistently irregular sides and base (Fig. 3.34, section 1151, cut 8895; and section 1152). A primary deposit of grey-brown clay was observed within both features, overlain by a dark grey silt clay containing occasional pieces of wood charcoal. The late 2nd-century pottery assemblage from these gullies (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 28)

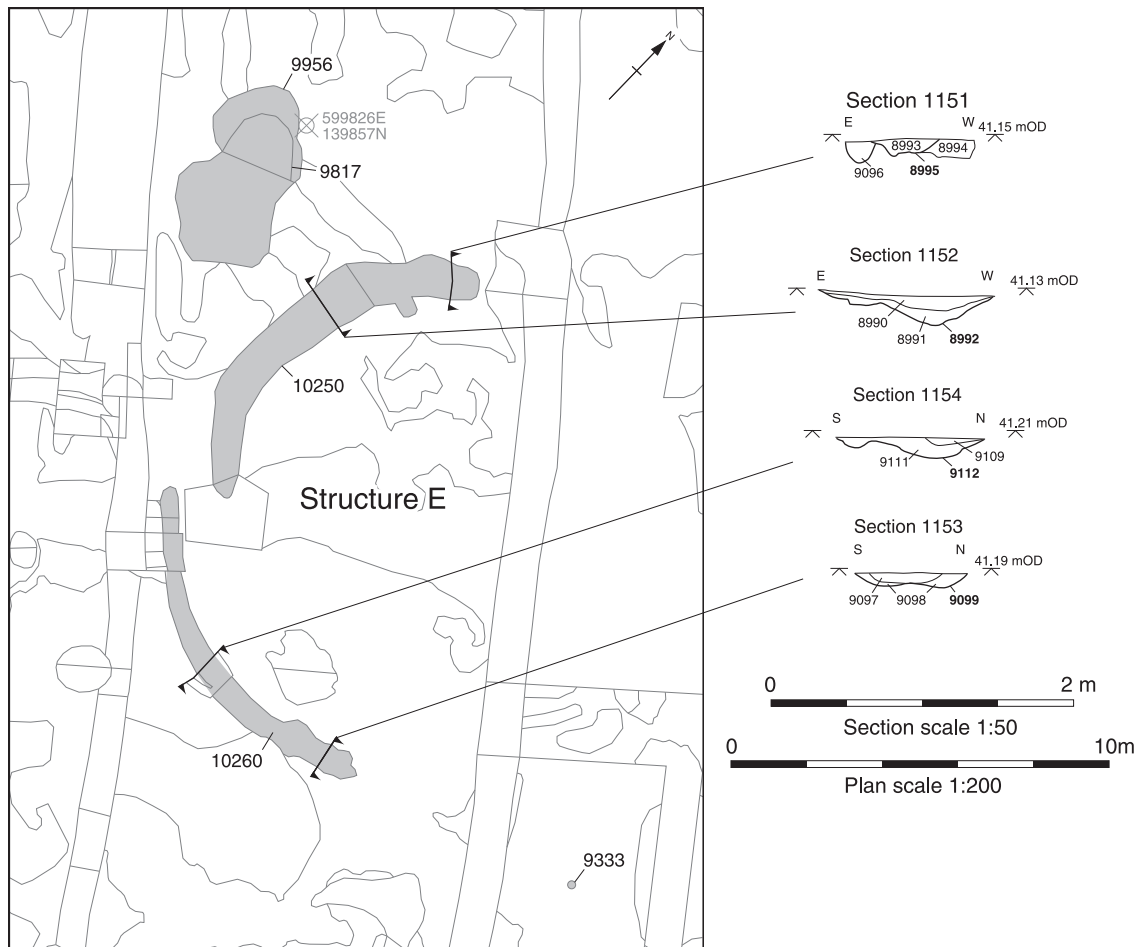


Figure 3.34 Plot SW3: Plan of Structure E and sections of gullies 10250 and 10260: Gully 10250: section 1151 (cut 8895), section 1152; gully 10260: section 1153, section 1154.

corresponded with the pottery retrieved from the later of two adjacent intercutting pits. An earlier feature, pit 9956, 2 m to the north-west was roughly circular, with a maximum diameter of 2.46 m and a depth of 0.52 m (Fig. 3.33, section 1369). Its sides were generally steep and the base was slightly irregular, but predominantly flat. The only fill was a yellow-grey clay which may have been deliberately deposited, but contained no dating material. Pit 9956 was cut by pit 9817 which was 1.5 m in diameter and 0.88 m deep. This had near vertical sides with splayed upper edges and was filled with a grey-yellow silt clay, sealed by a dark reddish-grey silt clay (9818) containing much charcoal and a large pottery assemblage.

Structure D (Phase 4-5) (Fig. 3.35)

Structure D (Fig. 3.35) was located between the south-west boundary of plot SW3 (ditch 10180/8510) and the longitudinal plot subdivision (ditch 10230/10270). The latter was in existence before structure D was constructed, as the postholes of the north-east side of the building cut into the fills of 10230/10270. The L-shaped plan of 8510, however, is likely to have

been cut either to respect the position of an existing structure or to accommodate one which was to be constructed soon after.

A second stage of definition around structure D was marked by features post-dating ditch 8510. A gully (10170) was cut along the inner edge of ditch 8510 and followed its L-shaped plan. The south-east terminus of the gully fell a little short of the roadside ditches and of the south-east corner of Building D. Its north-east arm terminated at the junction with earlier ditch 10270, where it met a small, steep-sided pit, 9199, 0.54 m in diameter and 0.47 m deep. The gully was typically 0.5 m wide and had moderate to steep sloping sides and a flat base. It increased in depth from 0.2 m to 0.34 m from the south-east to the north-east. It was filled with a consistent dark grey-brown silt clay along its length (Fig. 3.35, section 1105, cut 8795; section 1074, cut 8696), with localised concentrations of charred remains and fired clay. The fill of pit 9199 was a similar dark grey clay.

The line of feature 10270 adjacent to structure D was not redefined, but north-west of the building the line of the longitudinal plot division was renewed by ditch 10190 which cut the top of 10230 for a distance

of at least 31 m (to the edge of Area B) and ended in a rounded south-east terminal about 1 m from pit 9199. The profile of this ditch, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base at the north-west, became more steep-sided as it extended to the south-east. The sequence of fills also varied with grey-brown clay silts observed at the north-west and south-east extremities, but a more complex series of deposits noted near the middle of the feature (Fig. 3.35, section 1226, cut 9402). These consisted of three silt clay

deposits overlain by two grey upper silting fills. The secondary deposit within this ditch produced a *sestertius* of 161-180 (SF1515).

Structure D itself was represented by eleven post-holes out of a presumed original total of fourteen (Fig. 3.35). Only two postholes were found on the north-east side of the building, both cut into the fill of ditch 10270. The three fronting the road cut into the fills of Phase 3 continuous roadside ditch 10070. On average the postholes were 0.96 m in diameter and 0.37 m in

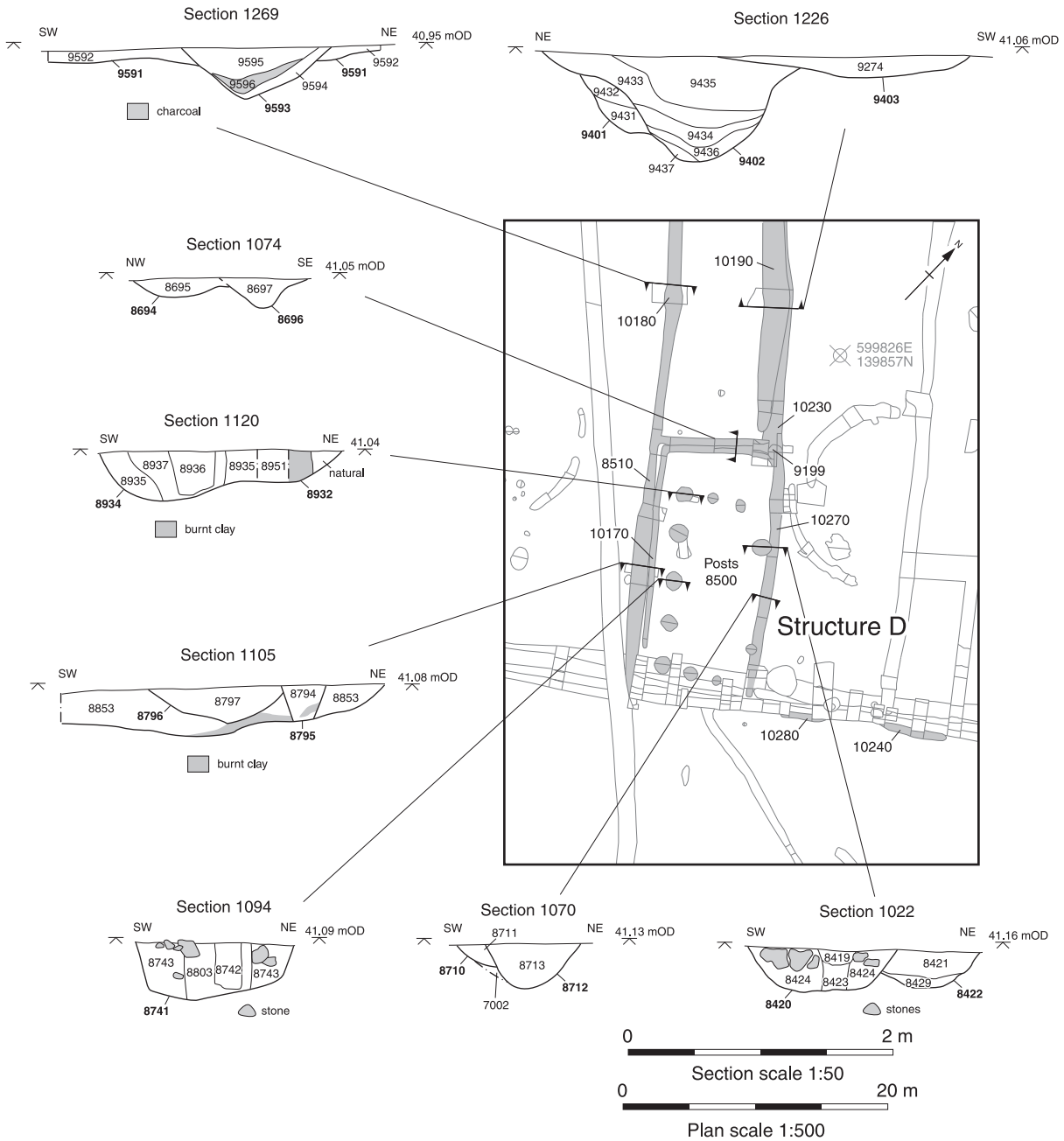


Figure 3.35 Plot SW3: Plan of Structure D and sections of Drainage gully 10180/8510, and gullies 10170, 10190 and 10230/10270: Drainage gully 10180/8510: section 1074 (cut 8694), section 1105 (cut 8796), section 1269 (cut 9593); gully 10170: section 1105 (cut 8795), section 1074 (cut 8696); gully 10190: section 1226 (cut 9402); gully 10230/10270: section 1226 (cut 9401), section 1070 (cut 8712).

depth, near vertically-sided and flat-bottomed. They all had separate packing and post pipe deposits. The former consisted of a yellow-brown silt clay with large Ragstone packing stones measuring on average 0.2 by 0.14 by 0.14 m and occasional flint measuring 0.1 x 0.05 m, while the post pipe fills were dark grey silt clay with occasional charcoal flecking. The post pipes measured between 0.4 and 0.5 m in diameter. Two of the postholes fronting the road produced an iron nail and a blue-green glass bottle fragment datable to the late 1st to early 3rd century (SF1493; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 56; Fig. 5.5). Together the post-pits contained 111 sherds of pottery collectively indicating a later 2nd-century date for the structure (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 26). As mentioned above, three of the projected postholes in the north-east side of the building, including the two corner posts, were not located. The reason for this is not clear, but is unlikely to have been because of plough truncation since the other postholes were all fairly uniformly substantial.

There was very little indication of internal features within the building. A small feature (8932) projecting from the south-west corner post-pit (8934) represents the cut for an oven excavated by KARU in evaluation Trench 4 (Fig. 3.35, section 1120). Since this feature was cut by the post-pit, it must therefore have predated the use of the building. A further shallow pit containing two 'burnt zones' was also examined by KARU immediately east of post-pit 8741, but no trace of this was identified in 1999. From its position this feature, which was 0.80 m wide and projected at least *c* 1.30 m into the building from the wall line, could have been contemporary with the use of the building, but its function is uncertain. Features associated with the structure - principally the surrounding gullies - produced pottery indicative of activity up to *c* AD 250 (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 27).

Plot SW4 (Fig. 3.36)

This was the widest of the south-west group of plots, measuring 22 m across, possibly as a consequence of the existence of structure C within it (Fig. 3.29). Its north-east boundary was defined by ditch 10180/8510 as described above, and the plot was bounded to the south-west by gully 9370 (see plot SW5). (For the boundary ditches alongside the road and the alignment of seven postholes (group 9470) just south-east of the ditches, see Plot SW5 below.)

Structure C (Phase 4)

Approximately 16 m south-west of possible circular structure E (in plot SW3) was structure C, represented by gully group 9280. This consisted of four distinct segments of curvilinear drainage gully with an internal diameter of 13.30 m. The truncated gullies had an average width of 0.30 m and an average depth of only 0.06 m (Fig. 3.36, sections 1189, 1187, 1194, 1192). They were all filled with a single deposit of grey-brown silt clay which produced amongst

other finds a fragmentary coin of Hadrian (SF1388, see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) and a group of pottery dated roughly to the mid 2nd century AD (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 24).

Although in origin this structure may have predated the establishment of organised property divisions in Phase 4, its central position within the area defined by gullies 10180/8510 and 9370 cannot merely be coincidence. It is clear that structure C was still in existence at the time of the layout of plot SW4, the boundaries of which were positioned to respect its location.

Internal features include postholes 9295 and 9323. The former was located just inside the south-east side of the structure and was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.08 m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base. It was filled with a single deposit of dark grey silt clay and at the very base were the remains of a vessel dated AD 43-200, lying on its side (Fig. 3.36, section 1200). Within the central area of structure C was isolated posthole 9323 possibly associated with hearth base 9324 (Fig. 3.36, section 1213). This posthole had vertical sides and a rounded base and was filled by a primary yellow-brown silt clay, overlain by a dark grey clay silt containing large amounts of charcoal and lumps of burnt clay. A quern fragment within this deposit may possibly have been used as post packing. Feature 9324, tentatively recorded as a hearth base, was 0.45 m in diameter and only 0.03 m deep. All that remained therefore was a shallow depression filled with a layer of charcoal rich clay silt. This overlay the natural clay base which was fire reddened. A thin layer of grey silt extending from the south-east edge of 9324 also had patches of *in situ* scorching, but no concentrations of wood charcoal.

Pit 9315 and later pit 9317 were sub-circular and located towards the western side of structure C (Fig. 3.36, section 1208). The former was 0.9 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep and the latter 0.9 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. Both had shallow sides and a rounded base and were filled with a grey brown silt clay. Pit 9304 to the east was 0.55 m in diameter and 0.07 m deep (Fig. 3.36, section 1204). This was filled with a dark grey silt clay, which like the other pits produced nothing to determine the function of these features. A 3.5 m long stretch of gully (group 9310) also lay in the south-east part of the structure. This had regular sides sloping at 45° and a flat base and was on average 0.65 m wide and 0.11 m deep with well-defined termini at each end (Fig. 3.36, section 1202, cut 9300; section 1203, cut 9302). This was the only internal structural feature demonstrably contemporary with the drainage gullies defining structure C.

Grave 8160

Just inside the north-west perimeter of structure C was grave 8160 (Fig. 3.36, sections 1448 and 1449), which was rectangular, aligned NE-SW, and measured 1.94 m long, 0.76 m wide and 0.24 m deep. No skeletal remains survived due to the acidic nature of the soil, but a 0.02 m deep coffin stain (8548) of dark

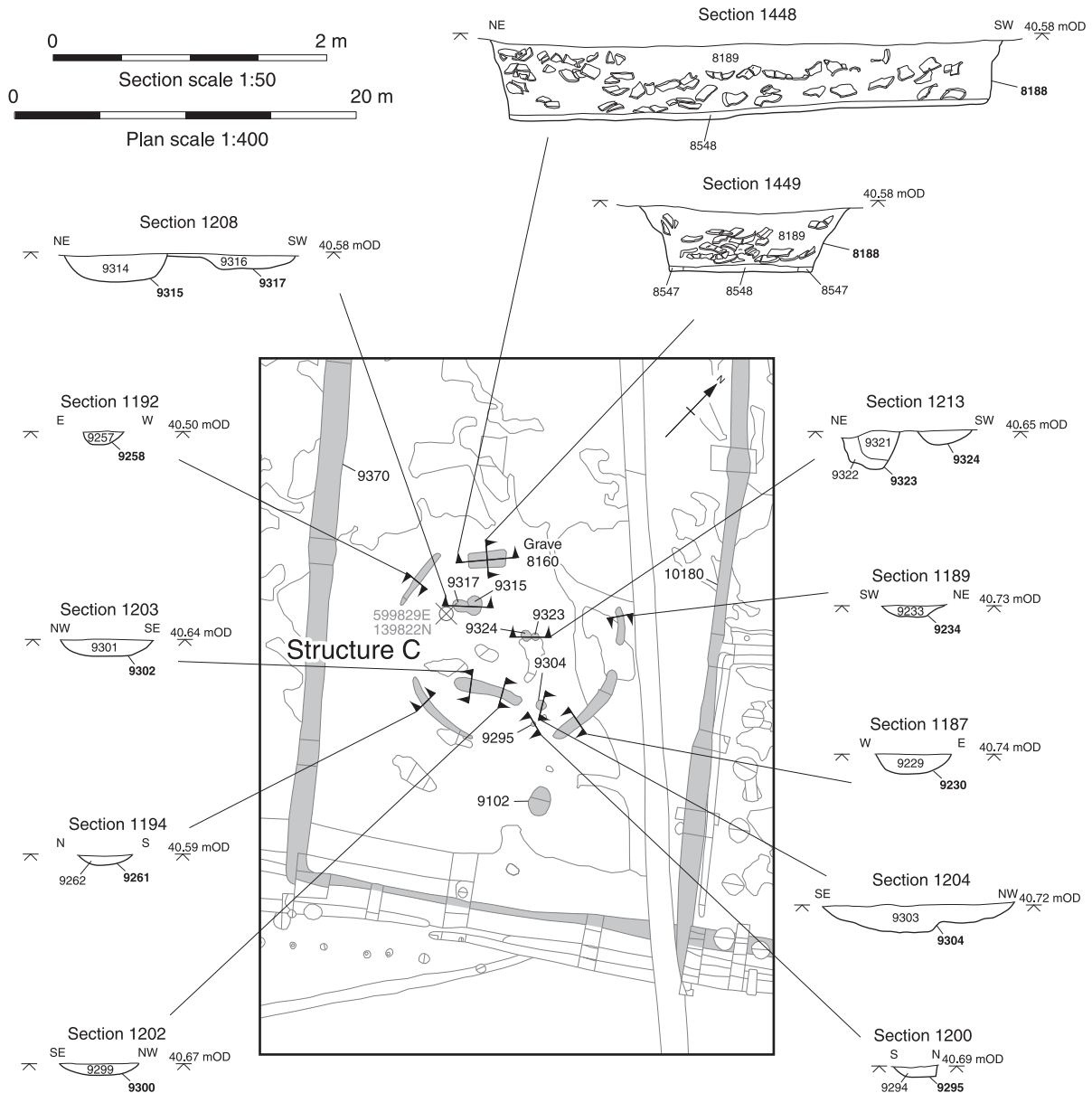


Figure 3.36 Plot SW4: Plan of Structure C and sections of gullies 9280, 9310, and Grave 8160: Gully 9280: sections 1192, 1194, 1189, 1187; gully 9310: sections 1202, 1203; Grave 8160: sections 1448 and 1449.

grey clay, was visible extending around the internal edge of the grave cut at its base. Two nails and a fragment of iron (SF1440-1442) along the south-west edge of the grave cut also suggested the existence of a wooden coffin. Around 8548 was a fairly clean light grey silt clay (8547). Above this the uppermost 0.20 m of the grave was backfilled with a very similar clay (8189), distinguished by containing a very large quantity of pottery fragments (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 25). Many of the pottery vessels appeared to have been deliberately broken before being placed into the grave. The only exception is a small, but complete crucible. The date of deposition of the ceramic assemblage from the grave (c AD 170) presumably indicates the end of use of Structure C.

Other features

Features outside structure C consisted largely of irregularly-shaped root holes, with oval pit 9102 the only exception (Fig. 3.36). This measured 1.7 m x 1.4 m and 0.35 m deep, and had steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. The primary fill was a grey-yellow silt clay which had two pieces of stone measuring 0.1 m by 0.15 m pressed through it and into the sides of the pit. Overlying this was a dumped deposit of charcoal-rich clay silt with occasional lumps of burnt clay. The original function of the pit is unclear, although it was eventually used to deposit occupation debris. The pit may have been associated with Structure C, although the dumped backfill produced

pottery dated to AD 200-270, suggesting that the feature post-dated the abandonment of the structure.

Plot SW5 (Fig. 3.37)

The plot SW4/SW5 boundary was formed by gully 9370 (Figs 3.29 and 3.37). This extended some 43 m from the north-western edge of Area B to the roadside ditch alignment. It had an average width and depth of 1.4 m and 0.4 m respectively and moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 3.37, sections 1217 and 1176). Throughout its length; in places a grey-brown clay silt sealed the latter. These fills produced a group of generally very broken pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 22D). At its south-eastern end 9370 cut earlier roadside ditches 8950 (Phase 2) and 10070 (Phase 3), eventually ending in a well-defined terminal at the junction with the contemporaneous Phase 4 ditch 10420 (Fig. 3.37, section 1220). Just south-east of this junction was a 16 m length of shallow U-shaped drainage gully, group 10430, which cut the top of 10420 along its length and was filled with grey silt clays (Fig. 3.37, section 1428, cut 10257). This stretch of gully was contemporary in date (Phase 5) with other short gully segments to the north-east, which may suggest that the north-west roadside boundary was not defined by a substantial and continuous ditch during the later phases of occupation. Alternatively, since 10430 did not have well-defined termini and it may have merely been cut into 10420 to facilitate drainage from the road.

Immediately south-east of gully 10430 and parallel to it was a row of seven postholes, group 9470, which extended for 12 m, essentially fronting plot SW4 (Fig. 3.29). Of the four excavated all had near vertical sides and a flat base, while three had distinct post pipes, with diameters between 0.13 and 0.2 m, while overall the postholes had an average diameter and depth of 0.5 m and 0.28 m respectively. The postholes contained yellow-brown silt clay packing fill, with occasional stone fragments typically 0.15 by 0.08 by 0.10 m and the pipes were filled with a dark grey silt clay (Fig. 3.38). The function of the postholes is uncertain. They were not obviously part of a structure and they may simply have formed a short fence-line, but in this case their associations are not clear. They are assigned tentatively to Phase 5. Further small pits or postholes clustered at the road margin in line with the plot SW4/SW5 boundary.

Internal features in plot SW5 consisted of a few discrete pits and the remains of a cremation grave. Pit 10249 (Fig. 3.37, section 1426) measured 1.9 m by 3 m and was only 0.15 m deep. It had a very uneven base and sides and may have been the remains of a tree-hole. Nevertheless its grey silting fill produced pottery datable to Phase 3. Further north-west were Phase 4 features 10337 and 10335. The upper part of cremation grave 10337 had been removed by 10335, and all that remained was a circular pit with steep near vertical sides only 0.06 m deep. The dark brown silt clay fill of 10337 contained *c* 30% charcoal fragments and 268 g of cremated bone from an unsexed adult. Feature 10335, which cut across the top of the

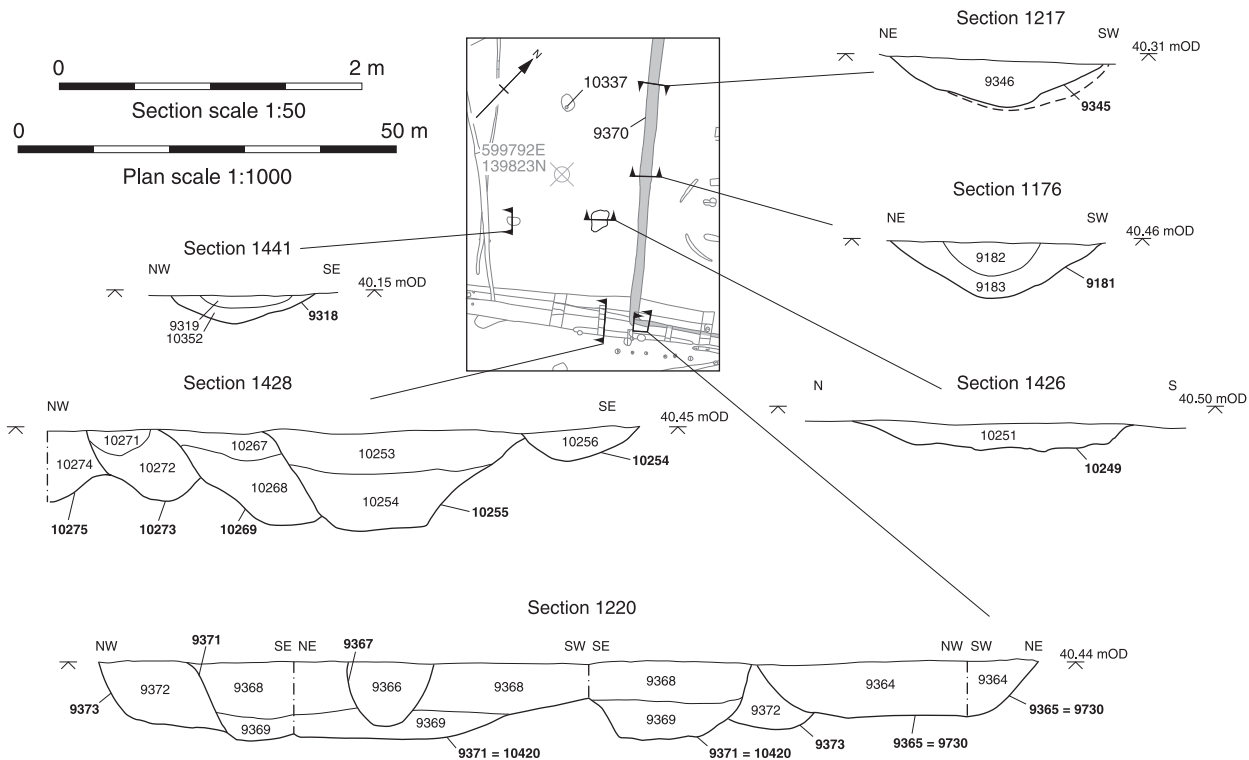


Figure 3.37 Plot SW5: Plan and sections of gullies 9370 and 10430; and location of truncated cremation pit 10337: Gully 9370: sections 1217, 1176, 1220 (cut 9365); gully 10430: section 1428 (cut 10257).

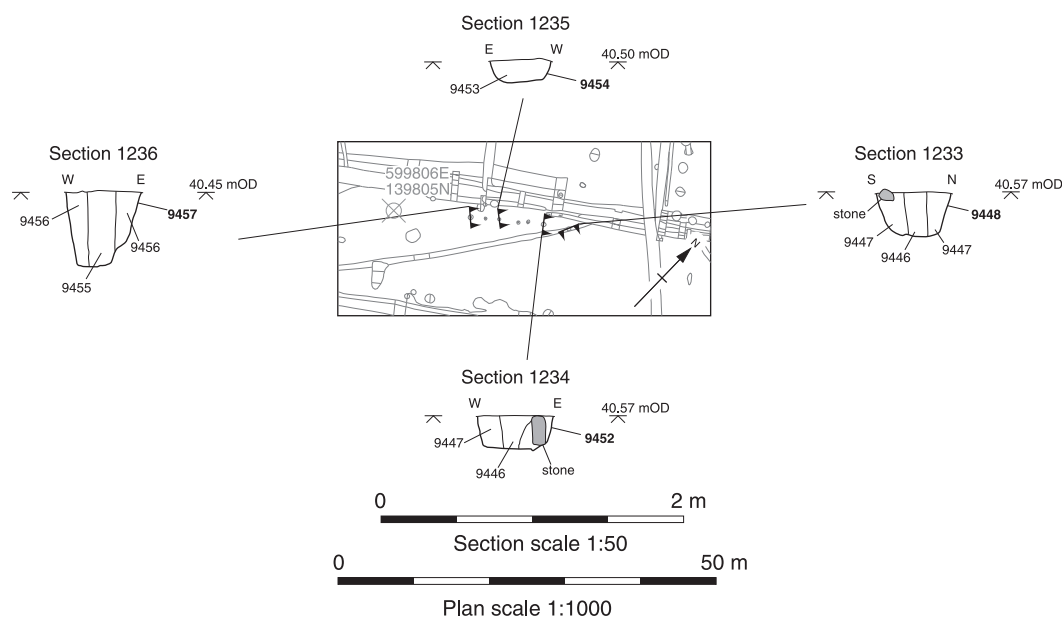


Figure 3.38 Plot SW4/SW5: Plan and sections of posthole group 9470.

grave, was 2 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep. It was filled with a grey silt clay, which contained 2 g of cremated bone. Phase 5 pit 9318, which lay south-west of pit 10249, was sub-circular, and measured 1 m by 1.5 m and was 0.18 m deep with moderately sloping sides and was filled by two deposits of grey silt clay (Fig. 3.37, section 1441).

Plot SW6 (Figs 3.29 and 3.39)

Plot SW6 was bounded to the north-east by gully 9210 and perhaps by its predecessor 8930, but did not have a clearly defined south-western boundary within the excavation area. Gully 8930 was laid out at right-angles to the roadside ditches, parallel to the north-east boundary of plot SW5 and 20 m from it. It was traced over a distance of some 33 m from the north-west edge of Area B and terminated c 1.5 m short of the Phase 2 roadside ditch 8950. The gully was generally c 0.4 m wide and 0.15 m deep (Fig. 3.40, sections 1186 and 1092). However, the pottery derived from its fills suggested a Phase 2 or early Phase 3 date, thus predating the establishment of the south-west plots and probably associated with the adjacent Structures A and B (see below).

Gully 9210 seems to have formed the Phase 4 boundary between plots SW5 and SW6. Curiously, this was not perpendicular to the main road alignment, but instead followed a WNW-ESE course, some 20 m from and parallel to a relict length of the prehistoric field system (feature 9480) lying to the south. Gully 9210 cut across the fills of 8930 and the Phase 2 and 3 roadside ditches 8950 and 10070 and ran into the top of roadside ditch 10420. Its average width and depth were 0.9 m and 0.35 m and it was filled consistently with a primary brown-yellow silt clay sealed by a grey silting deposit (Fig. 3.39, section

1170, cut 9143; and section 1093, cut 8856), except at the junction with the roadside ditch, where the gully (Fig. 3.39, section 1443, cut 10364) had only a single silting fill, which extended across the top of ditch 10420 (Fig. 3.39, section 1443, cut 10362).

The prehistoric ditch alignment 9480 must have survived as a landscape feature in some way. A deposit (context 9543) overlying its fills produced a small pottery assemblage probably of pre-Flavian date (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 2). This feature may have served to define the south-west side of a 'plot' in Phase 2 and perhaps into Phase 3, corresponding to gully 8930 to the north, but with no indication that it provided any definition of the south-west side of plot SW6 at any later date.

Features within the area of SW6 consisted of two probable Phase 2 structures and a Phase 5 pit; the structures predated the organisation of the area north-west of the road into regular plots. Even though there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two structures, and the component features of Structure B produced no useful dating material, their proximity suggests that they were closely contemporaneous.

Structure A (Phase 2) (Fig. 3.40)

Structure A was defined by a penannular gully (group 8790) with an internal diameter of 9.5 m and an average width and depth of 0.60 m and 0.10 m respectively. The widely-spaced termini of this feature, facing north-east, probably did not reflect its original layout as their profiles, becoming gradually shallower with ill-defined ends, suggest plough truncation rather than a structural characteristic. The gully was filled with a single brown-grey silt clay containing moderate amounts of wood charcoal and occasional sub-rounded pieces of flint and stone. This deposit

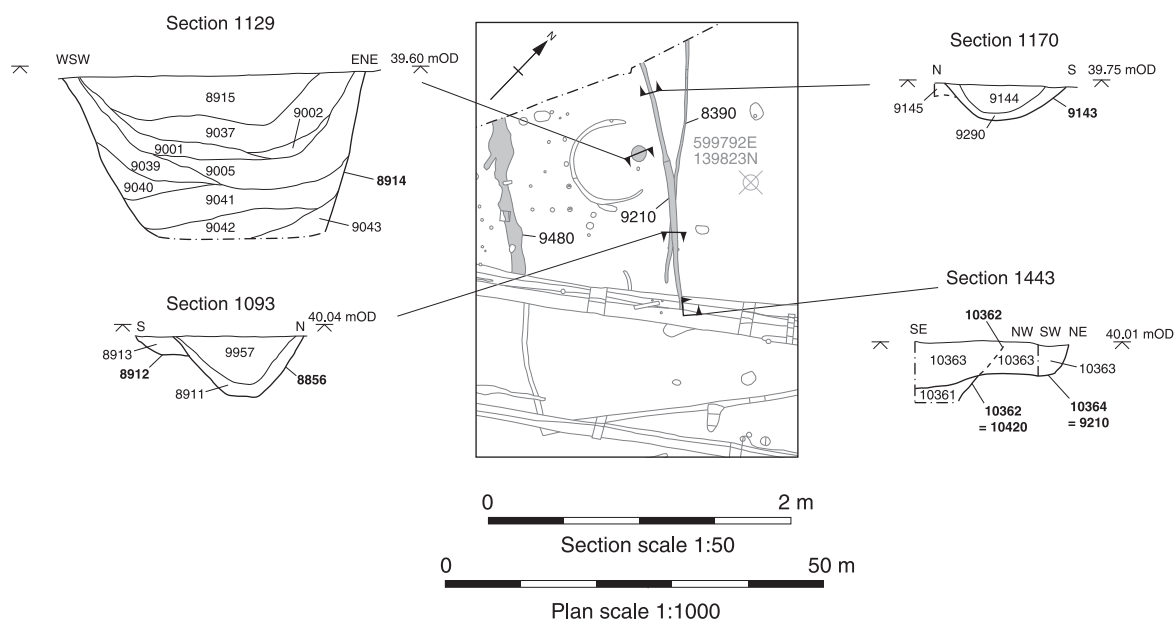


Figure 3.39 Plot SW6: Plan of ditches and gullies 9480, 9210 and 8390, and pit 8914, and sections of gully 9210, and pit 8914: Gully 9210: section 1170 (cut 9143), section 1093 (cut 8856), section 1443 (cut 10364); pit 8914: section 1129.

also produced a (probably intrusive) fragment from a prismatic bottle of blue-green glass (SF1462) broadly dated late 1st-early 3rd century. Otherwise the fills of this feature produced 495 sherds (4236 g) of pottery mostly of pre-Flavian character, suggesting that the fill of the gully was contemporary with deposit 9543 (above) overlying the fills of prehistoric ditch 9480 (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 3). There were no internal surfaces or features (but see pit 8914 below).

Structure B (Phase 2) (Fig. 3.40)

Structure B consisted of a rectilinear setting of seven postholes (Group 10480). This group was aligned broadly north-west to south-east and probably defined the whole of the SE and NE sides and part of the SW side of a small building located immediately south-west of the penannular structure A. The structure was c 5 m wide and perhaps 10 m long. The postholes were on average 0.50 m in diameter and 0.10-0.20 m deep and they were all filled with a dark grey-brown silt clay. As with structure A there were no internal surfaces or features.

Pit 8914

Pit 8914 was located south-west of gully 9210 and would have lain within the north-east part of structure A if it is assumed that gully 8790 was originally circular in plan. The pit was, however, dated to Phase 5. It was 2.0 m diameter and was excavated to a depth of 1.10 m without reaching the natural clay (Fig. 3.39, section 1129). It was filled by a series of silt clay deposits, including a number of sterile clays which derived from the erosion of the natural edges. Sealing these was an upper silting deposit which included a

purpose-made fired clay counter (SF1486; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 79) among other ceramic finds. The latter were mostly not closely dated, but two small sherds pottery were of 3rd-century date. On this basis the feature was somewhat tentatively assigned to Phase 5.

North-East Enclosure Area

Ditch sequences (Figs 3.41-3.43)

At the north-east edge of Area B were the ditches of what appeared to be a double ditched enclosure (Fig. 3.41). The ditches ran parallel to the edge of Area B. At their north-west end the majority of these ditches turned north-eastwards and, to judge from the results of the gradiometer survey, they extended along the line of the Canterbury road. The excavations also showed that the ditches turned north-eastwards at their south-eastern extents. Only the south-western side of the enclosure lay within the excavation area, and therefore the function of the ditches was not fully established. The enclosure appears to have been established in Phase 3 and its boundaries were redefined several times in Phase 4 before falling out of use in Phase 5.

Cremation grave (Phase 2)

The primary feature in the area was an apparently isolated late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial within a sub-rectangular shallow pit (1261) (Fig. 3.41), measuring 0.46 m by 0.2 m by 0.12 m deep. At the north-east end of the pit was an ancillary vessel (1262), which can be dated late Iron Age to c AD 50. This was found in an upright position, though it

had been truncated, probably by post-Roman ploughing. The remainder of the pit was filled with a single deposit of mid-grey clay silt, 1263, which contained the remains of the cremated bone (see Chapter 8).

Ditches 1721 and 1750 (Phase 3) (Figs 3.41-3.42)

The earliest ditches in the enclosure sequence were 1721 and 1750, both dated to Phase 3. Ditch 1721 was only observed on the north-east side of later ditch 1765 (Fig. 3.42, section 132, cut 519) and in the excavated sections underlying structure R (Fig. 3.42, section 347, cut 1671), consequently its extent to the north-west is quite unknown. Owing to the degree of truncation by later ditches, only a small part of the profile survived in each excavated section. This had a consistently broad, flat base and increased gradually in width and depth towards the south-east, the depth ranging from 0.3 m at the north-west to 0.8 m at the south-east. The most complete profile had a broad flat

base with a sharp change to sides sloping at 40°. These splayed dramatically at an average depth of 0.4 m, to sides sloping at 10°, possibly suggesting a surface width in excess of 3 m. Generally the ditch was filled with a single deposit of grey-brown clay silt which produced pottery and an illegible early Roman coin (SF252; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). In the vicinity of structure R, however, the ditch contained a sterile brown-yellow silt clay, which appeared to be redeposited natural. This perhaps derived from the excavation of the next phase of ditch, and may have been deliberately deposited to level out an area in anticipation of the construction of structure R.

Ditch 1750 was also heavily truncated along its length by a later (Phase 4-5) ditch (1740), and therefore its original surface width was never determined. The ditch had a splayed V-shaped profile with an average depth of 0.4 m, filled with a single deposit of mid brown clay silt (Fig. 3.42, section 229, cut 1078; section 57, cut 341). Its extent to the south-east and

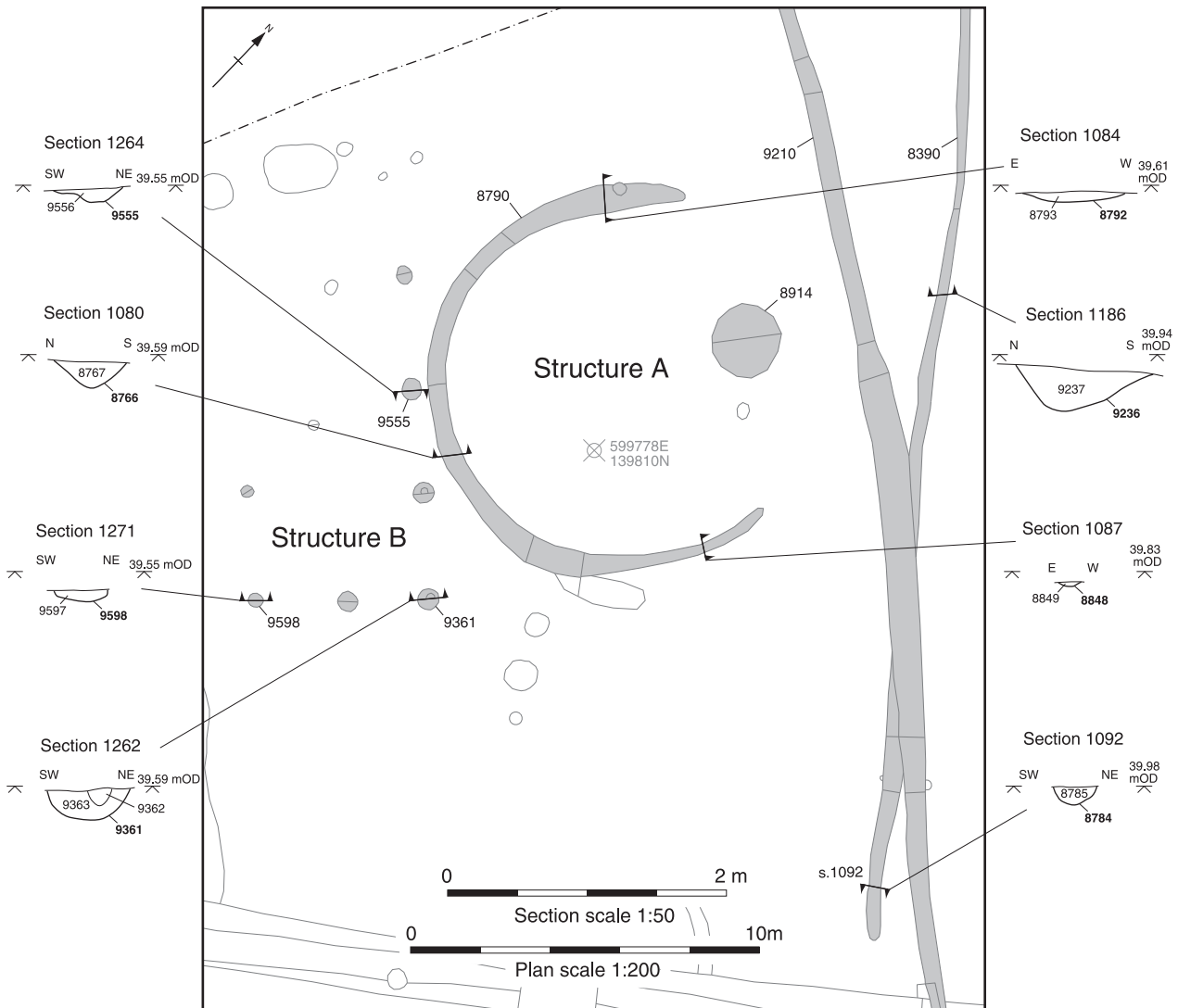


Figure 3.40 Plot SW6: Plan and sections of Structures A and B and associated ditches 8390 and 9210.

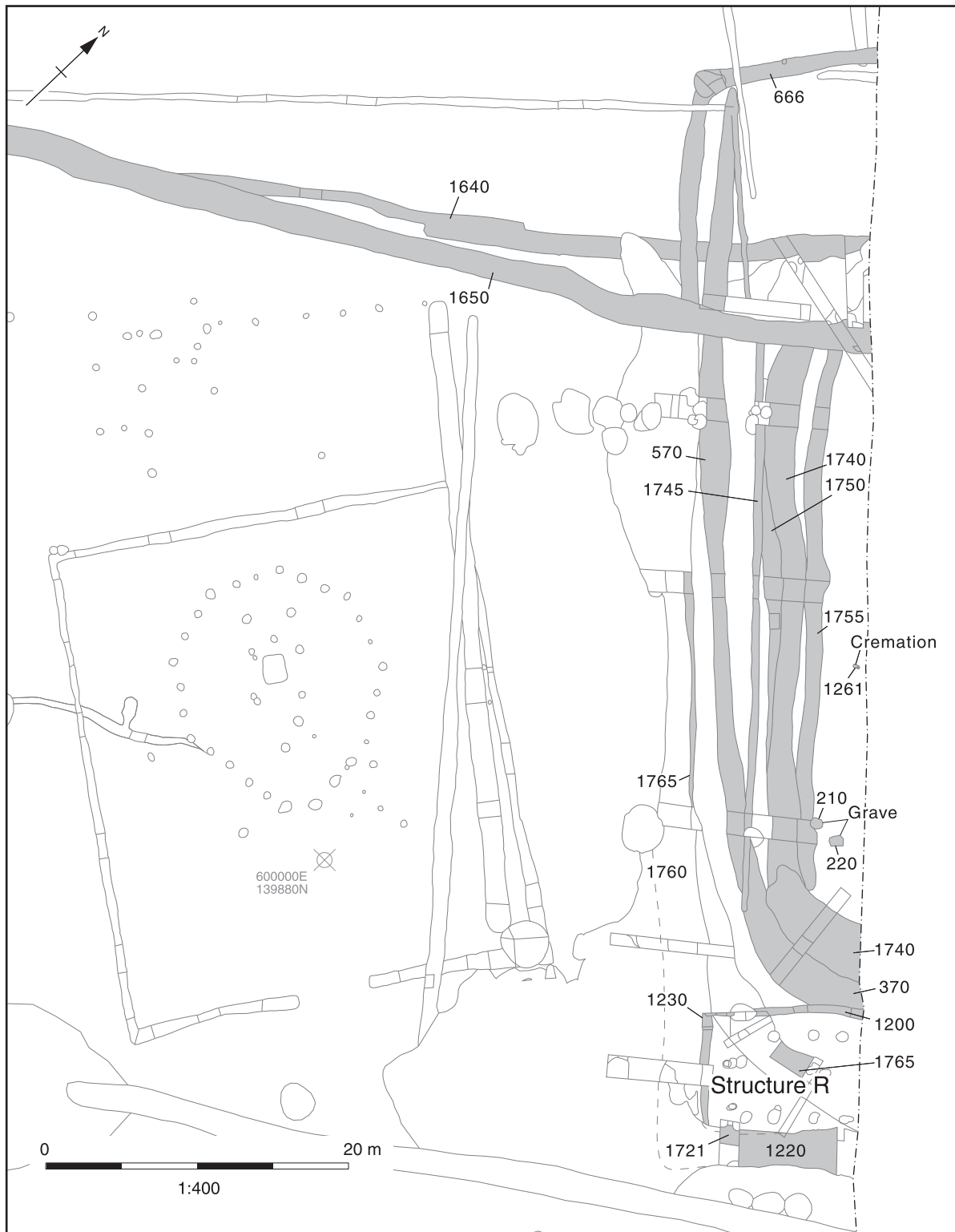


Figure 3.41 NE enclosure area: Plan of multiple enclosure ditches and location of graves 210, 220 and cremation 1261.

north-west is not known owing to truncation by later features, but it is possible that 1750 continued beneath 1740 and turned to the north-east. Close to the point where this change of alignment may have occurred a shallow hollow some 3 m wide (1107) lay

immediately south-west of the putative line of 1750. This feature was also assigned to Phase 3.

A short length of gully (690), lying at the south-east margin of the Canterbury road immediately adjacent to the north-east edge of Area B, was tentatively

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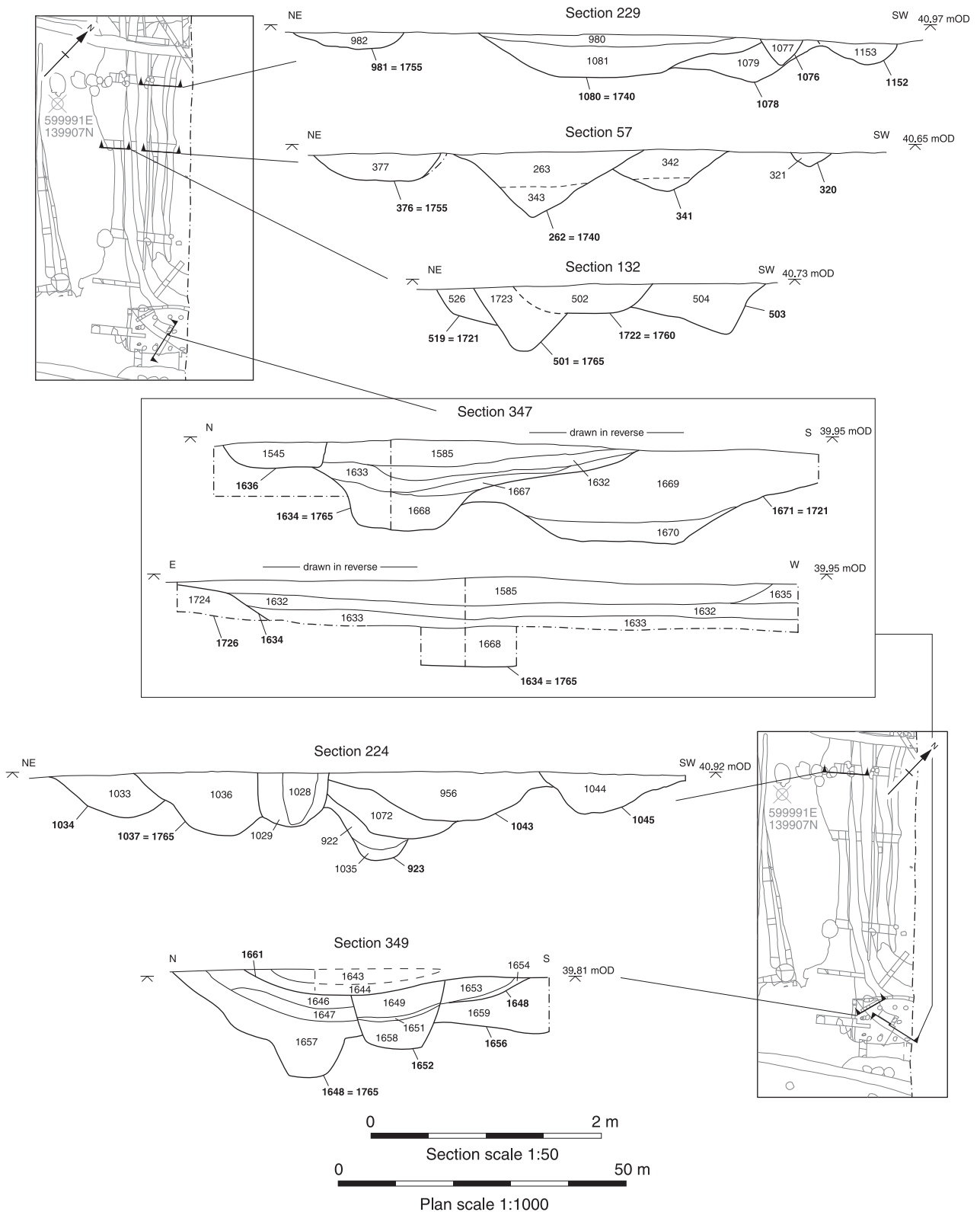


Figure 3.42 NE enclosure area: Sections through multiple enclosure ditches: Sections of ditch 1721: section 132 (cut 519), section 347 (cut 1671); ditch 1750: section 229 (cut 1078); section 57 (cut 341); ditch 1740: section 229 (cut 1080), section 57 (cut 262); ditch 1760: section 132 (cut 1722); ditch 1755: section 229 (cut 981), section 57 (cut 376); ditch 1765: section 132 (cut 501), section 347 (cut 1634), section 224 (cut 1037), section 349 (cut 1648).

assigned to Phase 3 and may possibly have been related.

Ditch 1765 (Phase 4) (Figs 3.41-3.42)

Ditch 1765 represented a re-cut of ditch 1721. It was cut along its length by a later Phase 4 ditch 1760. Where a complete or partly truncated profile survived, the ditch was 3.2 m wide and 0.8-0.9 m deep. It had a well-defined flat base with steep sloping edges (Fig. 3.42, section 224, cut 1073; section 349, cut 1648; section 132, cut 501). The majority of the fills throughout the length of the ditch consisted of orange-grey and brown-grey clay silts, but a section excavated across the ditch beneath structure R (Fig. 3.42, section 347, cut 1634) showed that the feature had been purposely backfilled to level out this area. The silt clays contained occasional charcoal flecking and small sub-angular flints. They produced a late 1st- to early 3rd-century glass bottle handle fragment (SF274; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 60), and ceramic evidence indicating that the ditch was dug about the middle of the 2nd century, and back-filled *c* AD 200 (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 23). The upper part of 1765 in the vicinity of structure R - used for ironworking - was filled with a clay silt containing dense hammer scale debris to a depth of 0.2 m, presumably contemporary with the use of the structure. This implies that a shallow hollow must still have existed over parts of 1765, while the next phase of ditch, 1760, was open. The presence of furnace debris within the lower fills of 1760 suggests that slag and other furnace debris were deposited to the south-west of the building, whilst waste from the secondary iron processing stage was deposited within the interior of the structure, and therefore into the top of 1765. Ditch 666 was probably an extension of ditch 1765 to the north-west, forming the west corner of the probable enclosure. This corner was relatively square in plan, contrasting with the more rounded corner to the south.

Ditches 570 and 1755 (Phase 4) (Figs 3.41-3.43)

Ditch 570 was paired with 1755 to form the south-west side of a double ditched enclosure also in Phase 4. Both features were truncated by ditch 1740, and were on average 5 m apart, which appears to have been the spacing employed quite consistently for all of the paired ditches in this part of the site. Ditch 570 had a broad splayed U-shaped profile with a depth of 0.3-0.35 m and an average width of 1 m, widening to 2.4 m as it turned at its south-eastern end (Fig. 3.43, section 295, cut 1371). Throughout the length of the ditch it was filled with a single dark brown silting deposit, containing sub-rounded stone and small sub-angular flints (Fig. 3.43, section 257, cut 1205; section 131; section 185, cut 775).

Ditch 1755 had a shallow bowl-shaped profile with a slightly rounded base. It was between 1 m and 1.2 m wide and gradually increased in depth from 0.15 m at the north-west to 0.3 m at the south-east. The ditch had a possible south-east terminal, but this was

not well-defined due to the extent of later truncation. The north-western limit of the ditch was also difficult to locate presumably because it was totally truncated by ditch 1740. The full length of the ditch was filled with a single dark brown silting deposit (Figs 3.42, section 229, cut 981; section 57, cut 376; 3.43, section 185, cut 784).

The relationship between these features and ditch 1765/666 was not clearly demonstrated, but as ditch 570 appeared to terminate against the line of ditch 666 at the side of the Canterbury road it is assumed that 570 and its fellow (1755) were slightly later than 1765/666 (Fig. 3.41).

Ditches 1740 and 1760 (Phase 4-5) (Figs 3.41-3.43)

A further pair of enclosure ditches also seems to have originated in Phase 4. Ditch 1740 emerged from the north-eastern edge of Area B and extended south-eastwards before returning to the north-east again beyond the limit of excavation. This feature had a marginal relationship with both ditches 570 and 1755, but appears perhaps to have cut both. It was most likely paired with the Phase 4-5 ditch 1760, which lay approximately 5 m further to the south-west and extended along the south-west edge of structure R before turning to the north-east as ditch 1220. Ditch 1760 certainly cut ditch 1765.

The profile of 1740 was relatively consistent throughout its length, with straight sides sloping at 45° and a flat base. The width varied from 2-2.5 m and the depth from 0.5-0.6 m (Fig. 3.42, section 229, cut 1080; section 57, cut 262; Fig. 3.43, section 185, cut 782; section 295, cut 1354). There were generally two or three clay silt deposits within the ditch. The primary fill, a mid grey clay silt, produced a strip of lead alloy (SF192; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 128) and a light green glass indented beaker body fragment (SF193; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 42). A secondary deposit of reddish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking and a high density of manganese overlay this. This deposit yielded a bronze nail with a leaded terminal (SF158), a fragmentary coin of Trajan (SF152; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), two fragments of glass (SF112 and SF191) and two iron nails, as well as pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 21, including residual material from the primary fills of 1740). At the south-east end of the ditch, as it turned along the north-west side of structure R, a mottled grey-brown silt, 1352 (Fig. 3.43, section 295, cut 1354), which contained a high proportion of charred material, was spread across the top of the ditch, partially sealing and obscuring the fills of earlier ditch 570. Similarly, at the north-west end of the ditch, a dark grey silt (805) containing a large amount of furnace debris, and a coin dated AD 161-175 (SF176; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), extended across the top of 1740 and obscured its southern edge. Despite this it is very likely that the west corner of this phase of inner enclosure ditch was marked by features 1714 and 1716. The relationship between these was not examined, but 1716 was more closely comparable in

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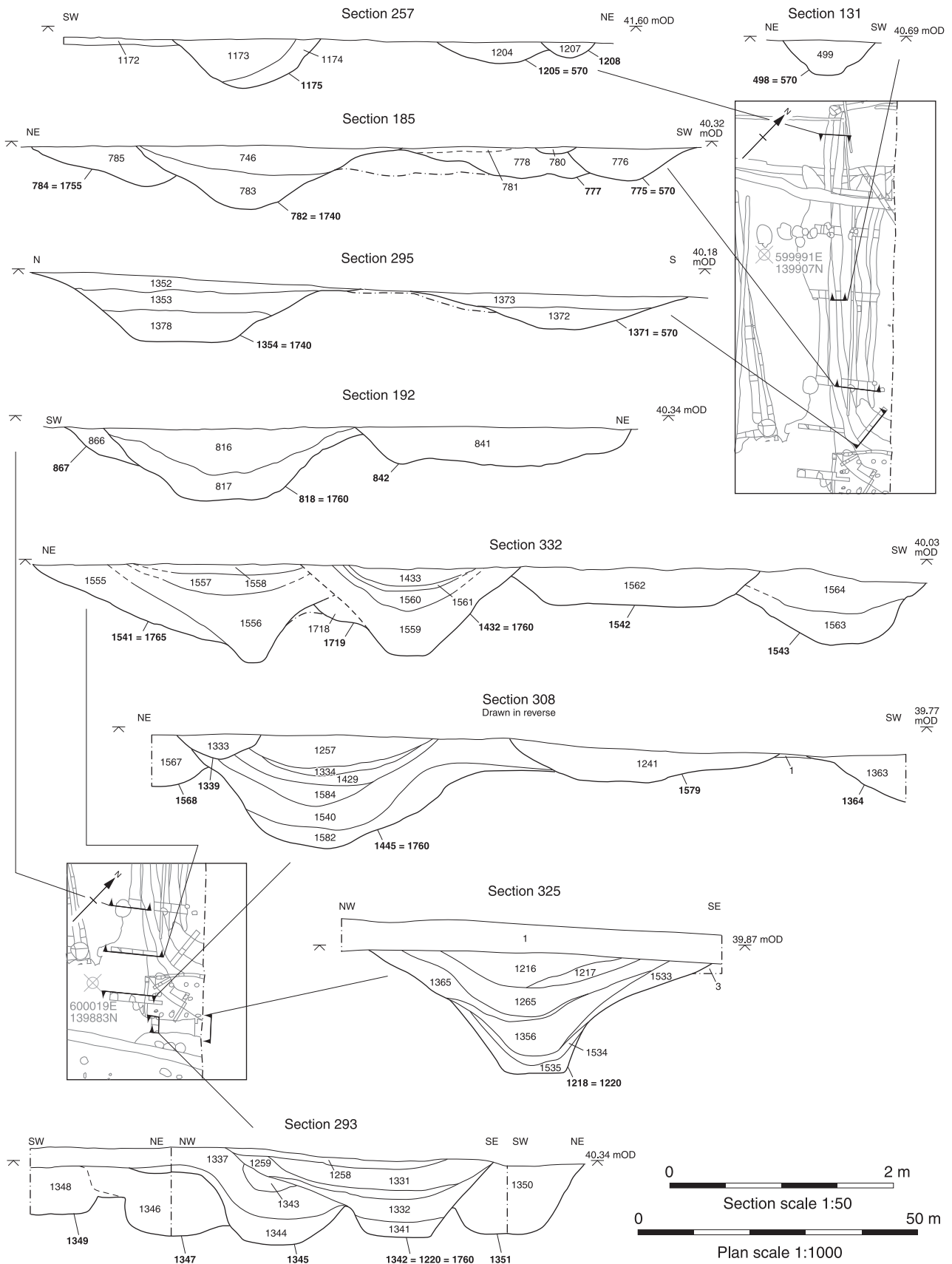


Figure 3.43 NE enclosure area: Sections through multiple enclosure ditches: Sections of ditch 570: section 257 (cut 1205), section 131 (cut 498), section 185 (cut 775), section 295 (cut 1371); ditch 1740: section 185 (cut 782), section 295 (cut 1354); ditch 1760: section 192 (cut 818), section 332 (cut 1432), section 308 (cut 1445); ditch 1760/1220: section 293 (cut 1342); ditch 1220: section 325 (cut 1218); gully 1230: section 308 (cut 1339).

dimensions to 1740 and was presumably its continuation. The corner here was again markedly squared, in contrast with the more rounded southern corner.

Phase 4-5 ditch 1760 ran from NW-SE and then turned to the north-east as ditch 1220 to bound the south-east side of structure R. The profile of the ditch showed a distinct progression in its course south-eastwards. At the north-west end it was 2-2.5 m wide and only 0.2 m deep, though with moderately sloping sides and a well-defined flat base (Fig. 3.42, section 132, cut 1722; Fig. 3.43, section 192, cut 818). The minimal depth of the feature at this point, suggesting heavy truncation, may explain why it was not traced as far as the west corner of the enclosure - where only the earlier ditches 666 and 570 were seen. The ditch became deeper as it approached the vicinity of structure R, with the upper deposits containing higher amounts of charcoal and iron slag (Fig. 3.43, section 332, cut 1432). At the point where it formed the south-west boundary of structure R, it was 3 m wide and 1 m deep, with splayed upper edges becoming steeper with a sharp change of angle to a flat base (Fig. 3.43, section 308, cut 1445). The ditch within this area appeared to have been cut into an area of existing pits which explained why its south-western edge was wide and shallow. This part of 1760 was also backfilled with furnace debris to the extent that ditch 1230 was cut into the top to facilitate drainage, as obviously the debris was effectively damming 1760 at this point. The rest of the ditch was generally filled with a primary grey-brown silt clay, overlain by a series of dark grey clay silts, which contained moderate to high amounts of furnace debris in the vicinity of structure R. The uppermost deposit produced a fragment of lava quern (SF243; see Roe, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 14).

Ditch 1220 was the SW-NE aligned continuation of ditch 1760. It extended north-eastwards beyond the limit of excavation, although the geophysical survey suggests that it did not run much further. The ditch had the same profile as 1760, with a depth between 0.7 m and 1.1 m and a surface width between 2.5 m and 3 m. The deposits within the ditch were all silt clays containing large quantities of fired clay and iron slag (Fig. 3.43 section 293, cut 1342; section 325).

Metalworking installations

Structure R (Figs 3.44-3.45 and Plate 3.5)

Structure R at the south-east corner of the ditched enclosure (above) was a structure with at least six posts bounded to the north-west by gully 1200, to the south-west by gully 1230 and to the south-east by ditch 1220. As excavated, the post structure measured 5.5 m x at least 6 m internally, though it will have been longer as its north-eastern limit lay beyond the area of investigation. (See Paynter, Chapter 7 for a more detailed description of the building in relation to its metalworking function.)

Gully 1200 extended NE-SW for 10.5 m and terminated to the south-west at the junction with gully

1230. It was on average 0.6 m wide and 0.25 m deep, with a rounded profile, and was filled by two silt clays, both rich in wood charcoal (oak) and iron slag (Fig. 3.44, sections 262 and 266). Cutting into the top of gully 1200 was pit 1233. This was oval measuring 1 m across and 0.3 m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The pit was filled with a primary dark grey clay silt which contained a high proportion of charcoal, overlain by a dark grey clay silt which contained less charcoal, but large amounts of iron slag and ceramic building material (Fig. 3.44, section 269).

Gully 1230 succeeded ditch 1760 as the south-western boundary of structure R. It extended for 7.5 m, but lacked clearly defined termini or stratigraphic relationships with the ditches at either end. It had a maximum width of 1.0 m, and a depth of 0.2 m, with a rounded shallow profile, and was filled with grey silting deposits along its length (Fig. 3.43, section 308, cut 1339). The apparent absence of clear terminals at either end is most likely because the gully was cut through the furnace debris which had been dumped into that area of ditch 1760. The remainder of 1760, away from the immediate vicinity of structure R, was not backfilled to this extent and was still functioning, draining water from the north-west towards structure R. Gully 1230 may therefore have been cut into otherwise open ditches 1760 and 1220 to facilitate continued drainage.

The postholes of structure R formed two NE-SW aligned rows, 5.5 m apart, with the centres of the postholes 2-2.5 m distant from each other. Their profiles were generally steep-sided, tapering to a pointed base, but in two instances the base was flat. The postholes ranged from 0.7-0.85 m in diameter and 0.35-0.7 m in depth, with the majority filled with a single deposit of dark grey clay silt, containing notable amounts of wood charcoal, iron slag and fired clay. One of the postholes had a post-pipe 0.32 m in diameter which consisted of a dark brown clay silt with infrequent charcoal and small pieces of iron slag, surrounded by a yellow-brown silt clay packing fill. In no other case was there evidence for the post rotting *in situ*; the posts were presumably removed and the remaining voids rapidly in-filled (Fig. 3.44, sections 311-313, 349, 329, 326, 323, 338).

A number of internal features were noted in the central and north-east parts of structure R. At the north-east end adjacent to the site baulk was a group of possible smithing hearths 1526, 1530 and 1531 (Fig. 3.45, section 331). Hearth 1526 was rectangular in shape with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.7 m by 0.44 m by 0.18 m. It was filled with a dark grey clay silt, rich in charcoal and occasional iron slag lumps. Feature 1531 also had steep sides, and a flat base. It measured 1.2 m x 0.4 m x 0.2 m and was filled with four dark grey silt clay deposits, all rich in charred remains. Hearth 1530 was earlier than 1531 and 1526 and only its south-eastern edge survived. It was filled with a single deposit of dark grey clay silt which was also rich in charcoal. All these features extended beyond the edge of excavation so their full extent is not known.

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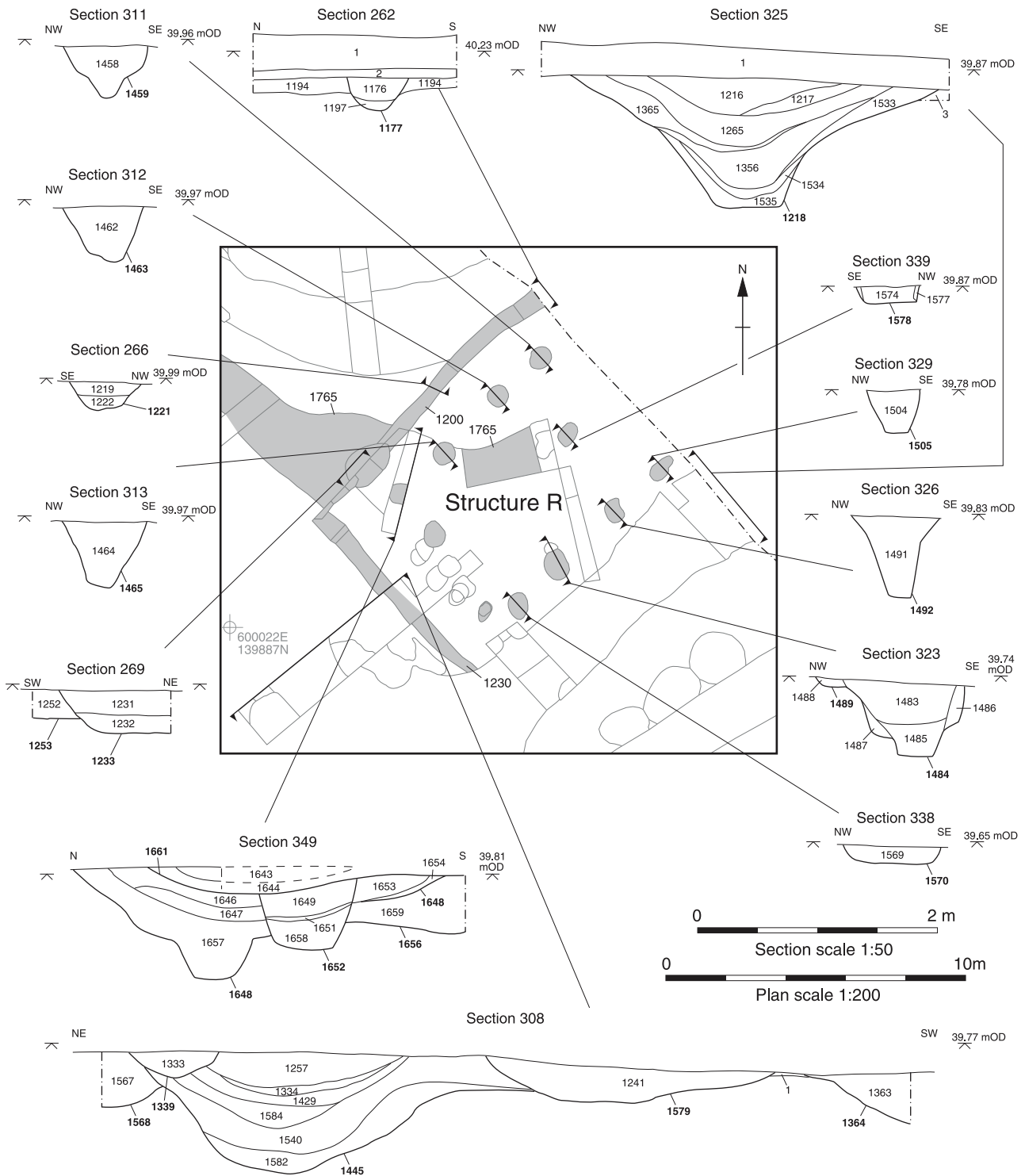


Figure 3.44 Plan of Structure R with sections of ditch 1220, and gully 1230: Ditch 1220: section 325 (cut 1218); section 262 (cut 1177), section 266 (cut 1221); gully 1230: section 308 (cut 1339); pit 1661: section 349.

An occupation spread (1585) was uncovered in the central part of the structure, surviving partly within a slight depression caused by an underlying earlier ditch. It comprised a charcoal-rich clay silt, which contained a very high proportion of hammerscale (Fig. 3.42, section 347). The deposit measured 5.8 m

by 3.5 m and its relatively straight south-westerly edge in line with postholes 1465 and 1484 indicates the position of the end of the building. The distribution of hammerscale was established by sampling on a 0.5 m grid. A probable smithing hearth 1578, measuring 0.7 m by 0.5 m, was observed within 1585



Plate 3.5 View of Structure R before excavation.

(Fig. 3.44, section 339). Close by was a sub-rectangular pit 1636, which measured 0.9 m by 0.9 m by 0.25 m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base and was cut into the top of earlier ditch 1765 (Fig. 3.42, section 347, cut 1634). The pit contained a near complete storage jar, 1546, which was found in an upright position and was filled with a dark brown clay silt with fragments of charcoal and slag throughout.

A shallow pit (1661), which not only cut the fill of ditch 1765 but also 1652 one of the posts from structure R, was for that reason assigned to Phase 6. The feature was 1.7 m by 1.3 m by 0.23 m deep with sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled by a dark grey charcoal rich clay silt, and sealed by a brown clay silt containing charcoal, slag and fired clay (Fig. 3.44, section 349). This was the only feature dated to Phase 6 in this area of the site. Together the component features of the structure - the surrounding gullies, the postholes and pit 1636 - produced a small quantity of pottery of 3rd-century date (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 36).

A NW-SE row of four groups of hearths/furnaces aligned on the long axis of the building was located south-west of the post structure, but inside gully 1230 (Fig. 3.45; Plate 3.6). From the north-west these consisted of intercutting furnaces 1455, 1451 and 1449 (Fig. 3.45, section 310), 1443 and 1438 (Fig. 3.45, section 309), 1428 and 1425 (Fig. 3.45, section 306), and single hearth 1383 (Fig. 3.45, section 298).

Furnace 1455 was sub-rectangular, measuring 0.6 m by 0.5 m by 0.15 m. The sides were steep at 70° and the base flat. A primary deposit of scorched natural clay was overlain by a fired clay lining. This in turn was sealed by a dark brown silt clay containing charcoal and slag. The feature was cut on its north-east edge by 1451, which was 0.55 m in diameter, 0.1 m deep and was filled with a dark red clay silt possibly representing *in situ* burning. This was cut in turn on its north-east edge by furnace 1449. This was sub-rectangular measuring 0.8 m by 0.6 m by 0.11 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single deposit of charcoal-rich clay silt (Fig. 3.45, section 310).

Furnace 1443 was sub-rectangular, measuring 0.7 m by 0.5 m by 0.24 m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Its base was fire reddened, indicating *in situ* burning, and was overlain by a grey clay silt. This was covered by a layer of fired clay which extended up the sides of the feature, and in turn sealed by a grey clay silt containing charcoal and lumps of fired clay. This was cut by furnace 1438 which was oval shaped and measured 0.9 m by 0.8 m by 0.25 m deep. The sides dropped steeply at 70° to a flat base, and it was filled with a single deposit of black clay silt containing 20% wood charcoal and iron slag (Fig. 3.45, section 309).

Furnace 1425 was oval shaped and measured 0.6 m x 0.4 m x 0.15 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base.

A fire reddened clay lining the base was overlain by a yellow-brown silt clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and slag. This was cut by 1428 which was circular with a diameter of 0.65 m and a depth of 0.18 m. The sides fell steeply to a rounded base. The primary deposit was a dark red silt clay probably representing *in situ* burning, overlain by a grey-brown silt clay which contained a low density of wood charcoal (Fig. 3.45, section 306).

Hearth 1383 measured 0.6 m x 0.4 m x 0.05 m deep, with sides sloping at 60° and a concave base. The natural clay edges were fire reddened, and the remainder of the feature was filled with a dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal and slag (Fig. 3.45, section 298).

The debris from all of the above features appears to have been dumped directly to the south west, lo-

cally filling part of ditch 1760. Debris was dumped in surrounding ditches 1220 and 1200 in lesser concentrations.

Other features to the south-east

Circular features to the south-west and south-east of structure R were interpreted as clay extraction pits for the construction of the furnaces of the metalworking area (Fig. 3.17). A number of pits, immediately south-west of boundary ditch 1760, were between 0.6 and 2.4 m in diameter and on average 0.6 m in depth, with moderate to steep sides and flat bases. All were filled with a single deposit of orange-grey silt clay with a large amount of manganese throughout. Further north-west was another series of pits along the edge of ditch 1760 which were similar in profile and

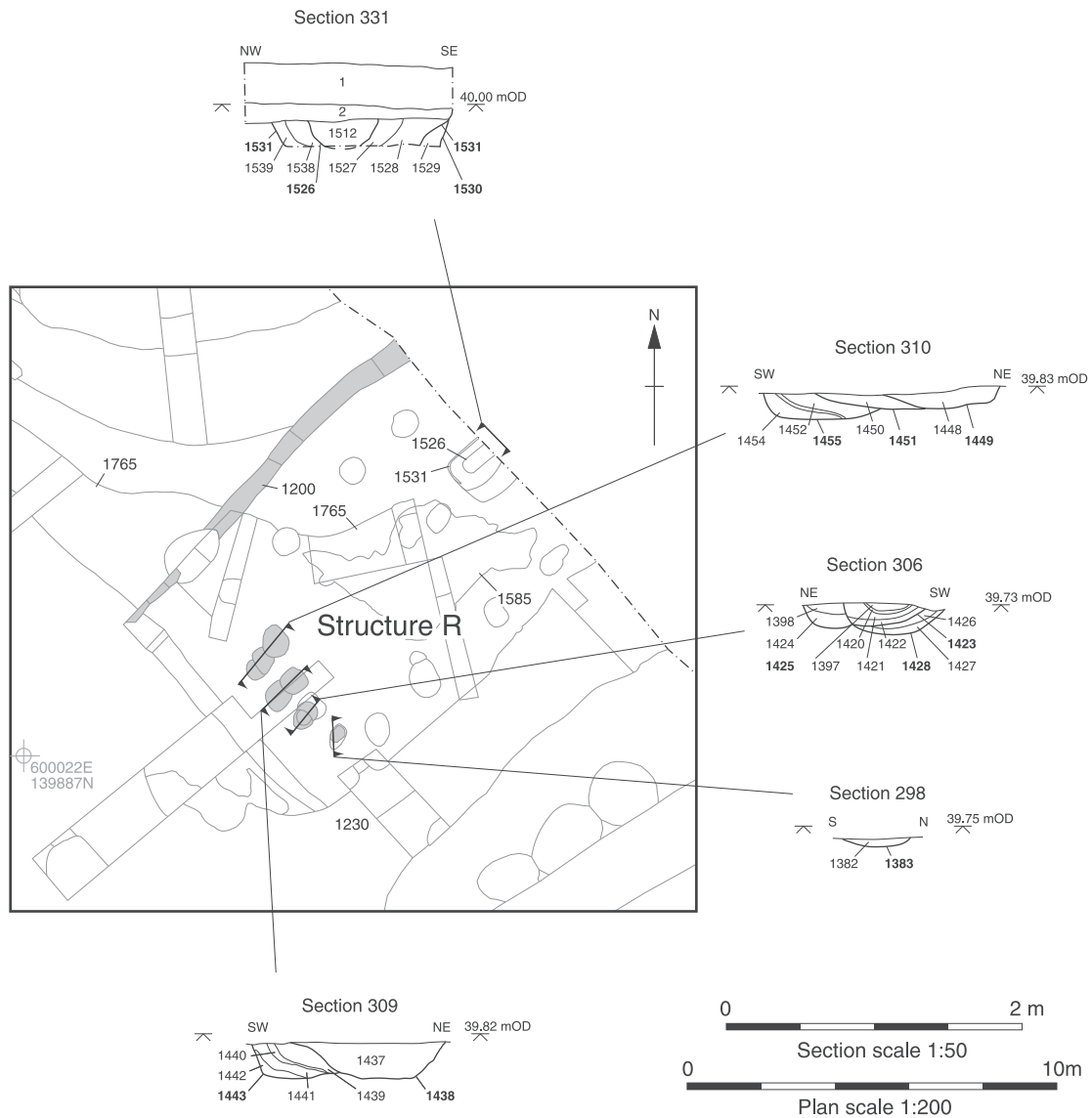


Figure 3.45 Plan of Structure R with sections of internal features including furnaces and hearths: Furnaces 1455, 1451, 1449: section 310; Furnaces 1443, 1438: section 309; Furnaces 1425, 1428: section 306; Furnace 1383: section 298; Hearths 1526, 1531 and 1530: section 331.



Plate 3.6 Furnaces after excavation.

dimension to the above mentioned pits. These pits were also inter-cutting and filled with a single sterile silt clay deposit.

A series of oval pits in the extreme east corner of the excavation area, with surface diameters ranging from 0.8-1.5 m, were not excavated. Their fills resembled those of the excavated pits, consisting of an orange-grey silt clay with no visible inclusions other than large amounts of manganese.

Cremation burials (Fig. 3.41)

Three cremation burials were located north east of the ditch sequences within the north-east enclosure area. Grave 1261 was the most north-westerly of the three, while groups 210 and 220 were situated approximately 12 m north-west of structure R. Grave 1261, dated to the late Iron Age up to AD 50 has been described above. The three burials are itemised in full in Chapter 8; the evidence is only summarised here.

Cremation burial 210 (Figs 3.41 and 8.21), dated AD 170-200, was in a sub-oval grave which cut the north-east edge of enclosure ditch 1755. The pit was near vertical sided with a slightly uneven base. Some 386 g of cremated bone from an adult female lay partly within a truncated cremation urn (205) and partly distributed across the fill of the grave and over some of the ancillary vessels, presumably, but not certainly, as a result of post-Roman disturbance.

The cremation urn was accompanied by six further pottery vessels set out in a way that suggested that they had been placed in a wooden box. The ancillary vessels consisted of samian ware forms 33 and 31 and four coarse ware vessels - two beakers and two bowls. The majority of the vessels had suffered from post-Roman ploughing. None ceramic finds - copper alloy needle (SF32; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 34; Fig. 5.4) and a group of 27 hobnails (see Scott, Chapter 5, Table 5.22) - were found at the base of the pit.

Cremation grave 220 (Figs 3.41 and 8.22; Plate 3.7), contained pottery dated AD 200-250, but was probably closely comparable in date to burial 210. The pit was rectangular in shape with near vertical sides and a flat base. Some 1364 g of cremated bone from a young adult female were placed in a cremation urn accompanied by a further nine pottery vessels, seven of them samian (two form 33 cups and five form 31 bowls), the other vessels being an Upchurch beaker and a BB2 platter. The rectangular grave cut and the very formal rectangular layout of the grave group again suggested that this was a box burial. This was further substantiated by the recovery of three iron nails (SF29-31) along the north-west edge of the pit. A box roughly 0.60 m square would have accommodated the finds as they were recovered. All the pottery vessels were found in an upright position, with only the cremation urn 218 showing significant plough damage. A shallow samian bowl (221) to the south of

the cremation urn was placed on top of 74 hobnails (SF34), indicating that as in burial 210 a pair of shoes had been placed in the bottom of the grave, in this case towards the eastern corner (see Chapter 8).

Shrine Area (Figs 3.10, 3.41, 3.46-3.49)

To the south-west of the north-east enclosure lay an open area containing a polygonal shrine within a rectangular enclosure. The area was defined on its north-east side by the successive ditches of the North-east enclosure. On its north-west it was defined by the main road through the settlement, although there was no identifiable linear feature other than the road on this side of the area until relatively late in the roadside sequence when gully 43/595 was cut. The open area was defined on its south-west side by the evolving sequence of linear features defining the southern settlement area (see below) and linked to the sequence of ditches alongside the main Canterbury road. The south-east limit of the open area appears not to be defined, and the geophysical survey showed no indication of a boundary beyond the edge of Area B in this direction.

The open area was irregular in shape and was gradually eroded by the encroachment of boundaries on the southern side, but even at a late stage in this

process it occupied a frontage of c 100 m on the south-east side of the Canterbury road, while the width of the area south-east of the shrine enclosure, between the south trackway and structure R, was c 70 m.

The main features within the open area were the shrine and its rectangular enclosure already noted and large waterhole 9179, but there was also a group of pits and possible postholes.

Pits (Fig. 3.17 and 3.41)

The pits and possible postholes were located immediately to the south-west of the ditched enclosure (see above) and formed an approximately linear arrangement extending SW from the enclosure ditches. These features exhibited some signs of intercutting and so were not all contemporary, but the relatively regular nature of their alignment suggested that they were broadly contemporaneous. The pottery evidence, albeit limited, and the stratigraphic relationships with ditch group 570, suggest a Phase 5 date.

Rectilinear shrine enclosure (Fig. 3.46, Plates 3.8-3.9)

The rectilinear enclosure was defined by a slight ditch (group 70) and assigned to Phase 3. It was located towards the northern side of the open area (Plate 3.8).



Plate 3.7 Cremation group 220.

Ditch group 70 enclosed an area 27 m NNE-SSW by 31 m maximum WNW-ESE, forming an almost exact rectangle, with an entrance 4.8 m wide facing south-east (Fig. 3.46; Plate 3.9). The average dimensions of the ditch were 0.65 m wide and 0.25 m deep, although at the eastern corner it broadened to 1.2 m wide and

0.5 m deep (Fig. 3.46, sections 112 and 116). The profile varied slightly along its length from moderately sloping sides and rounded base to V-shaped with a flat base. The ditch was filled with a characteristic dark grey homogeneous silt containing sub-angular flint and small sub-rounded stone. A *denarius* of AD

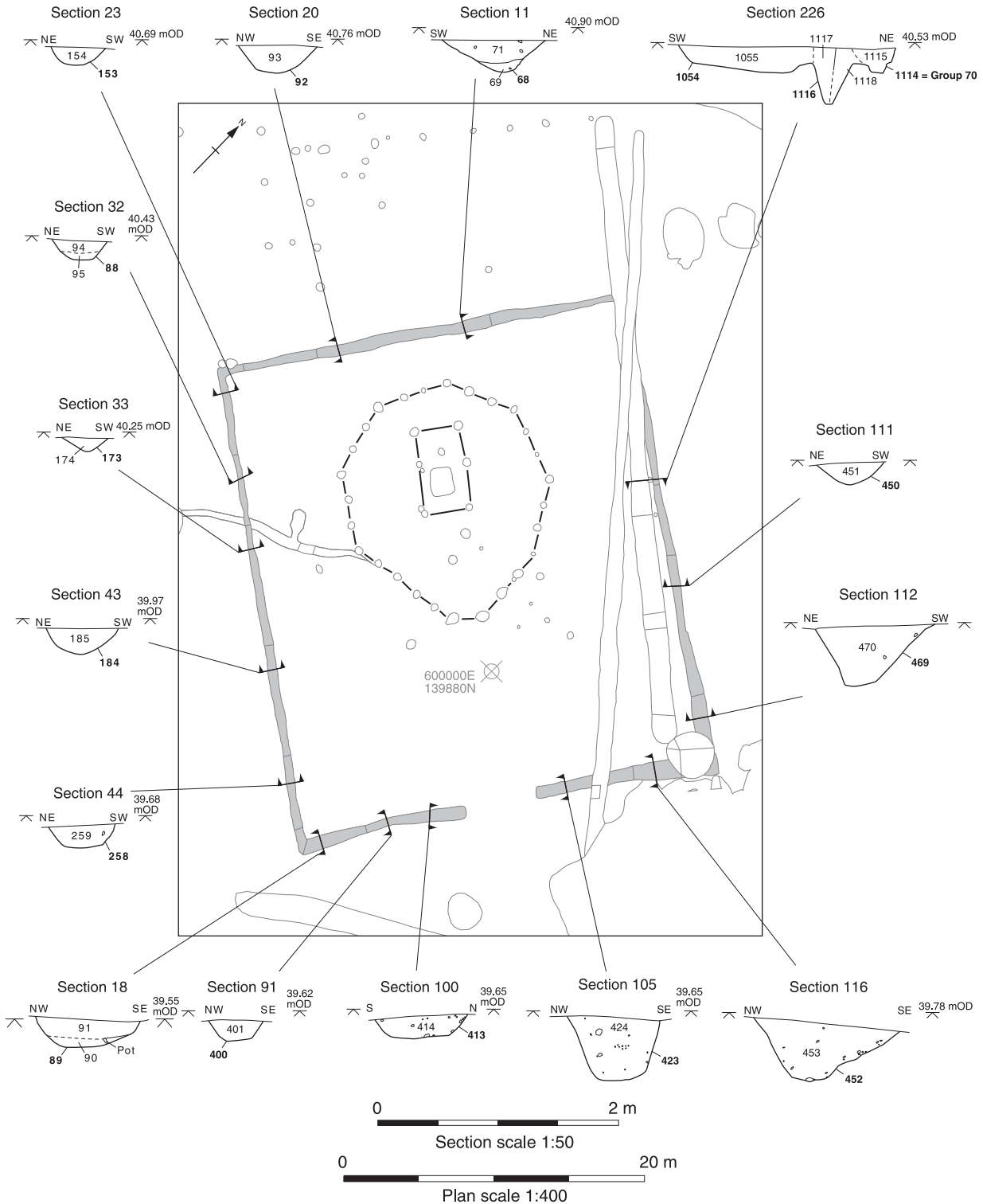


Figure 3.46 Shrine: Plan with sections of primary enclosure ditch 70 polygonal shrine.



Plate 3.8 Shrine enclosure ditch during excavation and view of site beyond.



Plate 3.9 View of shrine enclosure from south-east.

91 (SF21, see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) retrieved from the fill (context 185, Fig. 3.46, section 43) at the south-west side of the enclosure. At two points along the north-west (Fig. 3.46, section 11) and south-west sides (Fig. 3.46, section 32) this layer was overlain by another deposit of dark grey silt. A notable amount of wood charcoal with fragments averaging 0.03 m x 0.03 m was noted within the base of the ditch along the north-west side, and excavated sections either side revealed a number of stakeholes and postholes. A series of five stakeholes was seen cutting through the primary fill and into the base of the ditch 17 m from the west corner. All the stakeholes were circular, having an average diameter of 0.10 m and a depth of 0.12 m, with almost vertical sides tapering to a rounded point. The two postholes located on the outer edge of the west corner had steep sides and flat bases and both were roughly 0.6 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep. All of these features were filled with the upper dark grey silting fill suggesting that they were broadly contemporary with the enclosure ditch fills. The latter produced a small group of pottery, none of which need be later than the end of the 1st century AD (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 12).

Ditch 970 and posthole group 1070 (Fig. 3.47)

A second phase of boundary, in the form of Phase 4 ditch 970, was created on the north-east side of the shrine enclosure (Fig. 3.47). This ditch terminated at its south-east end by pit 529 located at the original east corner of the primary Phase 3 enclosure. It extended to a terminal 13 m north-west of the north corner of the Phase 3 enclosure ditch. From this point a posthole alignment, group 1070, extended south-westwards at a right angle to ditch 970 for a distance of at least 20 m, perhaps supporting a fence which separated the temple area from the road to the north-west.

Ditch 970 had an average width and depth of 1.4 m and 0.2 m and had shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single deposit of light grey silt which contained occasional sub-angular flints. Pit 529 (Fig. 3.47, sections 167-68) was 2.2 m in diameter and 0.95 m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The primary and secondary fills comprised grey clays suggesting that the pit was open for some time and probably held water. Both deposits contained amounts of furnace debris and the lower fill produced three iron nails (SF117-119). Overlying these were two grey-brown silt clays containing large amounts of iron slag and fired clay and including two further iron nails (SF93, SF96) and a paddle-shaped iron object of uncertain function (SF92, see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no.7). The latest deposits in this sequence consisted of a dark brown silt with frequent small sub-rounded stone, overlain by a dark grey silt, which had accumulated in a shallow void within the centre of the pit. Group 1070 consisted of ten postholes which were on average 0.41 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep. Their profiles varied from shallow to moderate steep sided with a flat base, and they were

all filled with a homogeneous grey silt (Fig. 3.47, sections 260, 243 and 250).

Shrine structure (Fig. 3.48, Plate 3.10)

The evidence for the shrine consists entirely of settings for vertical posts, forming an outer wall line and internal features or structures.

Walls of the shrine

The shrine was a nine-sided structure set on the central NW-SE axis of the surrounding enclosure (Fig. 3.48). The perimeter of the structure was defined by 28 postholes, including two posts forming a south-east facing entrance (Plate 3.10). Each side of the structure (numbered 1 to 9 commencing from the right of the entrance as seen from the outside, with the entrance itself being side 9) was made up of four posts, including the end posts, which are shared with adjacent sides, except for that on the south-west side of the presumed entrance (side 8), which had six, and the narrow entrance itself. The lengths of the sides were quite consistent, being approximately 5.3 m, 5.1 m, 5.2 m, 5.8 m, 5.8 m, 5.2 m, 5.2 m and 7.8 m. The south-east facing entrance posts were *c* 1.9 m apart. The extra length of the two sides (4 and 5) furthest from the entrance may have been deliberate, and overall the structure seems to have been carefully planned, though the extra length of side 8 is puzzling. It may be noted, however, that the length of this side is exactly one and a half times that of the typical side length of 5.2 m, so although it is anomalous the length may still have been of particular significance rather than resulting from an error in layout of the structure.

Posthole 192 on the south-west side of the entrance was sub-rectangular, measuring 1.2 m by 1.0 m by 0.5 m deep. The north-east entrance posthole (337) was oval and measured 0.9 m by 0.8 m by 0.46 m deep. Both had steep, near vertical sides and a flat base, filled with brown clay packing surrounding post pipes *c* 0.2-0.3 m across. These had dark grey silt clay within the base, incorporating the remains of the rotted post, overlain by mid brown silt which had accumulated within the post void. The average dimensions of the remaining posts were 0.49 m diameter and 0.16 m depth, with the corner posts in some cases being slightly wider, between 0.38 m and 0.6 m, but not notably deeper than the others. The post at the corner of sides 1 and 2 was the only one to show the remains of a post pipe; all the others were filled with a consistent single mid brown silt. The majority of the postholes had steep sides and a flat base, but occasionally this changed to a more V-shaped profile with a tapered base.

Features within the shrine

There were 11 internal postholes plus a central post setting and a possible small pit (Fig. 3.49). Six postholes (146, 566, 148, 141, 631 and 571, of which the two last were probably replaced by 633 and 568 respectively)

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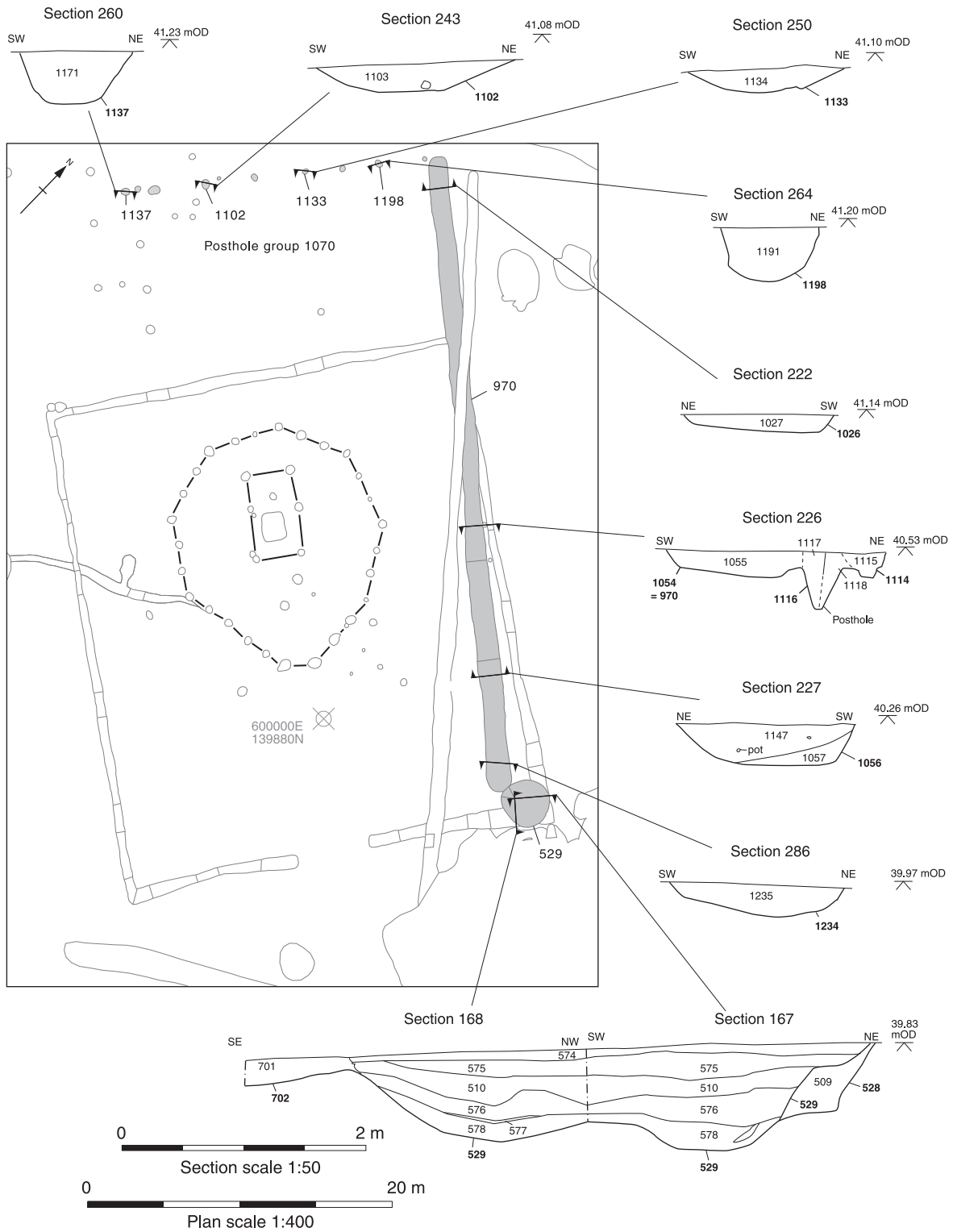


Figure 3.47 Shrine: Plan with sections of secondary ditch 970, pit 529 and posthole group 1070.

may have formed a rectangle measuring 5.5 m by 3 m which enclosed the central feature (415), with another posthole (131) 1 m north-west of 415. All these posts were filled with a single deposit of mid brown silt. The first six postholes generally had steep sides with a sharp break to a flat base, with average di-

mensions of 0.51 m diameter and 0.21 m depth. Finds from them included an iron nail (SF114) and a fragment of blue-green glass (SF9). The two re-cuts had similar profiles and were 0.28 m in diameter and 0.16 m deep (633) and 0.5 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep (568).

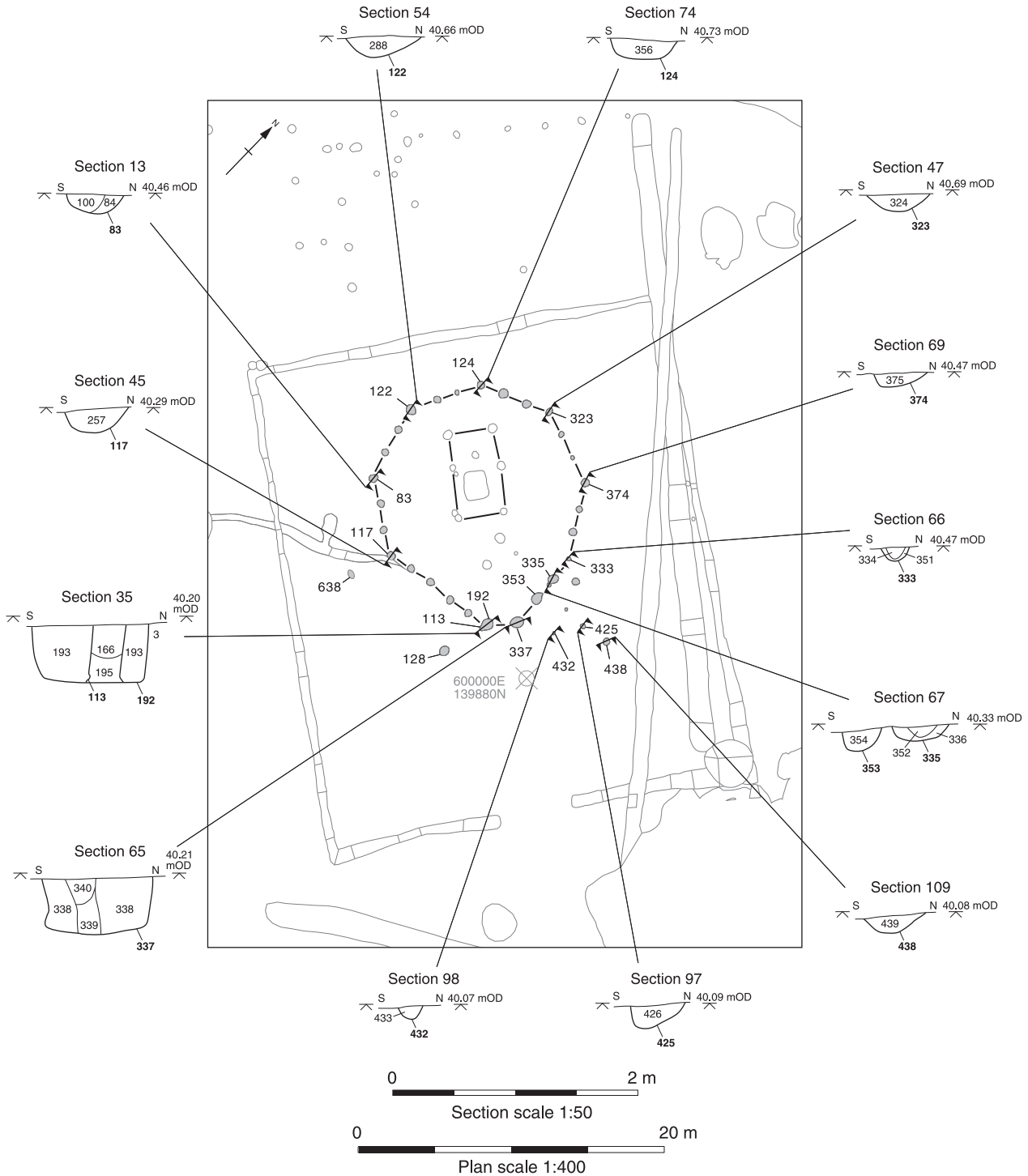


Figure 3.48 Shrine structure: Plan with sections of outer posts of polygonal shrine and external features.

The remaining internal postholes (204 and 443) were located east of the rectangular arrangement of postholes. Both were circular with depths of 0.1 m and 0.15 m and were filled with a single deposit of mid brown silt. Neither post seemed to form an obvious part of the post structure. North-west of these postholes was a possible pit 421. This had a rounded base and sides and was 0.69 m in diameter and 0.23 m

deep. A single deposit of dark grey silt containing small sub-rounded stones filled the whole of the pit, which was positioned near the 'front' of the rectangular arrangement of postholes.

The central feature was a rectangular pit (415), measuring 1.97 m by 1.47 m by 0.85 m deep (Fig. 3.49, sections 103-104). The sides were all nearly vertical apart from the north-west edge which sloped at 70°;

the base was flat. The primary deposit (461) was a sub-rectangular patch of compact dark grey silt clay, roughly 0.6 by 0.6 m, which produced three iron objects (SF81-83; see Scott, Chapter 5, Table 5.27) and a 1st- to 2nd-century coin (SF80; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). The deposit is thought to represent *in situ* decay of a post or other wooden feature, rather than silting after the removal of such an item. A dark yellow silt clay (416), surrounding the primary deposit, contained occasional sub-angular flint and represented the packing around the central post. This produced a single iron nail (SF84) and two 1st-2nd century coins, one illegible (SF91) and one of Hadrian (SF95) (see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5), the latter discovered at the very base of the deposit. Fill 416 also produced a charred fragment of *Pinus pinea* (stone pine) nut shell (see Pelling, Chapter 9). The latest deposit, 417, was a dark grey-brown clay silt which contained small sub-rounded stone and occasional sub-angular flint. This produced five iron nails (SF75-78 and SF90), a possible iron hinge strap (SF88; see Scott, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 13), another 1st-2nd century coin (SF89; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5) and a 4th century glass fragment (SF281; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 53; Fig. 5.5). This upper deposit represented the back-fill of the void formed by the removal of the central post, an event dated after *c* AD 350 by associated pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 41), making 417 the

only context in Area B certainly attributed Phase 7 of Period 2.

Other features within the rectilinear enclosure

A number of postholes lay within the rectilinear enclosure, but outside the polygonal structure. Five of them formed a small group situated north-east of the entrance to the shrine. These ranged from 0.16-0.48 m in diameter and from 0.1-0.25 m in depth and each was filled with a single deposit of dark grey silt. They were notably smaller than the postholes associated with the temple structure and did not form any discernible structure of their own. Another two features to the south of the polygonal structure appeared to be shallow pits rather than isolated postholes as their profiles had very shallow sloping sides unlike the near vertical sides of the postholes. Pit 128, located south of the entrance, was sub-circular with a shallow bowl-shaped profile 0.55 m in diameter and 0.08 m deep, filled by a single deposit of dark grey silt. Pit 638, outside the south-western side of the shrine, was 0.6 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. This was oval in shape with shallow sides and a flat base, filled with a charcoal rich clay silt, and overlain by a mid brown clay silt which contained a significant amount of charcoal.

The date of these features is uncertain in many cases, owing to a paucity of dating material. Many



Plate 3.10 View of shrine structure from east.

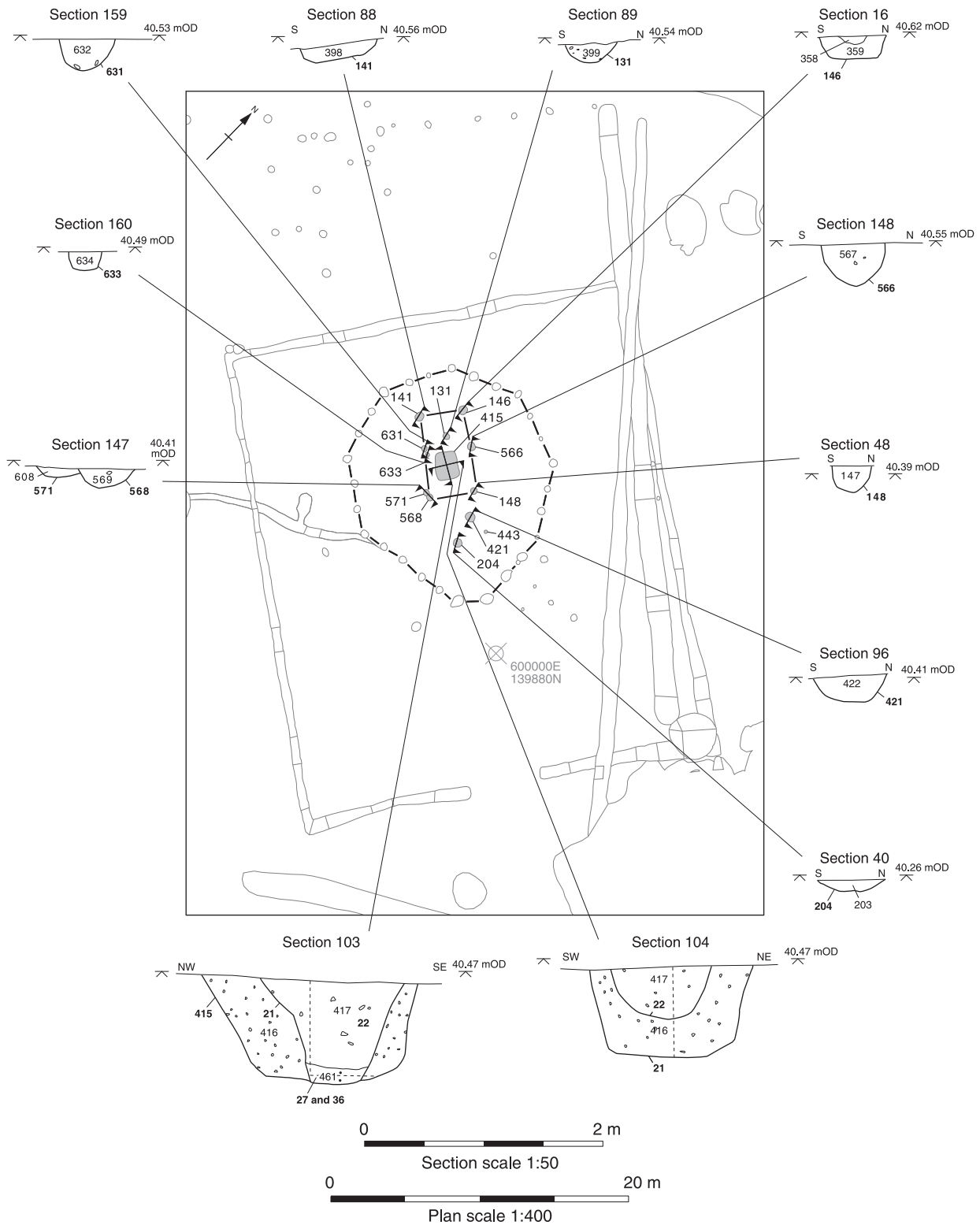


Figure 3.49 Shrine structure: Plan with sections of internal features of polygonal shrine.

individual features were not dated except by association with the shrine complex. The inception of the shrine is assigned to Phase 3 and the remodelling of the north-eastern enclosure boundary to Phase 4. It is assumed that the rest of the (Phase 3) enclosure group

70 fell out of use at this time. The date range of the internal posthole structures is much less certain. The only fixed point is provided by the removal of the central post, an event assigned (uniquely) to Phase 7. It is possible, but unlikely given the total absence of

evidence, that the remainder of the shrine remained in use as late as this. For present purposes it has been assumed that the bulk of the structure did not outlast the majority of adjacent settlement components and the relevant features have been assigned to Phases 3-5 (see below).

Waterhole 9179 (Fig. 3.50; Plates 3.11-3.13; Table 3.3)

Waterhole 9179 lay approximately 25 m south-west of the shrine structure and comprised a vertical sided circular shaft, with an approximate diameter of 8 m in the upper parts and a depth of c 3.80 m. At the surface it broadened out to a shallow irregular ovoid shaped depression, which measured 17.50 m x 13 m with a depth of 0.30 m. Due to its size, this feature was largely excavated by machine, and deposits below its base, which were not readily distinguished from the lower fills, were investigated using an auger to a depth of 6.30 m at 33.52 m above OD (Plates 3.11 and 3.12).

The lowest fills encountered with the auger above the Wealden Clay - layers 10159, 10158, 10119, 10118 - were all very clean and characteristically showed no evidence of organic remains Table 3.3).

Layer 9421, above 10118, and the layers up and including to layer 9413 were machine excavated. (Finds from machine-excavated contexts (9421 to 9413) were grouped together as finds reference number 9422.) Above layer 9421 were successively layers 9420, 9419 and 9418. None of these layers produced dateable finds. Layer 9417 was the lowest deposit in the sequence to produce finds. These comprise pottery dated to AD 100-150, and a timber plank (10079) 3.80 m long, 0.07 m wide and 0.03 m thick, lying horizontally and aligned NE-SW.

Overlying 9417 was 9416, a deposit consisting of a series of thin clay lenses of varying blue, grey and yellow colours. Layer 9415 was next layer in the sequence. Above 9415 was layer 9414, which produced two further timber planks, 9991 and 9992, both horizontal. The former was 1.60 m long, 0.23 m wide and 0.10 m thick and lay NW-SE in the base of deposit 9414, overlying 9992 at its north-east end. The latter was 0.90 m long, 0.43 m wide and 0.03 m thick and lay NNW-SSE. These timbers were not *in situ*, but possibly represented part of a collapsed structure - a lining? - associated with the waterhole.

Above 9414 was a dark grey clay deposit 9413, which produced pottery dated to AD 150-200+ as well as further timber planks (9958 and 9959), which again were lying horizontally (Plate 3.13). Timber 9958 was 1.30 m long, 0.27 m width and 0.05 m thick and lay ENE-WSW, while 9959 was 1.30 m long, 0.13 m wide and 0.06 m thick and aligned north-south. One end of this timber appeared to have been fashioned into a point. Again these timbers were not *in situ*, but are likely to have been structural in some way.

As noted above, context 9422 was the combined finds reference for the machine excavated deposits. Included amongst the finds with context number was a large piece of unworked oak found in an upright position against the south-west edge of the feature. It is possible that it had been placed deliberately within the waterhole, but it may simply have derived naturally from a tree in the immediate vicinity. The timber formed part of the trunk of a small, slow grown mature oak (c 0.3 m diameter with a mean of 313 rings), but unfortunately the dendrochronological sequence could not be matched (D Miles pers. comm., report in archive) and perhaps would not have been useful

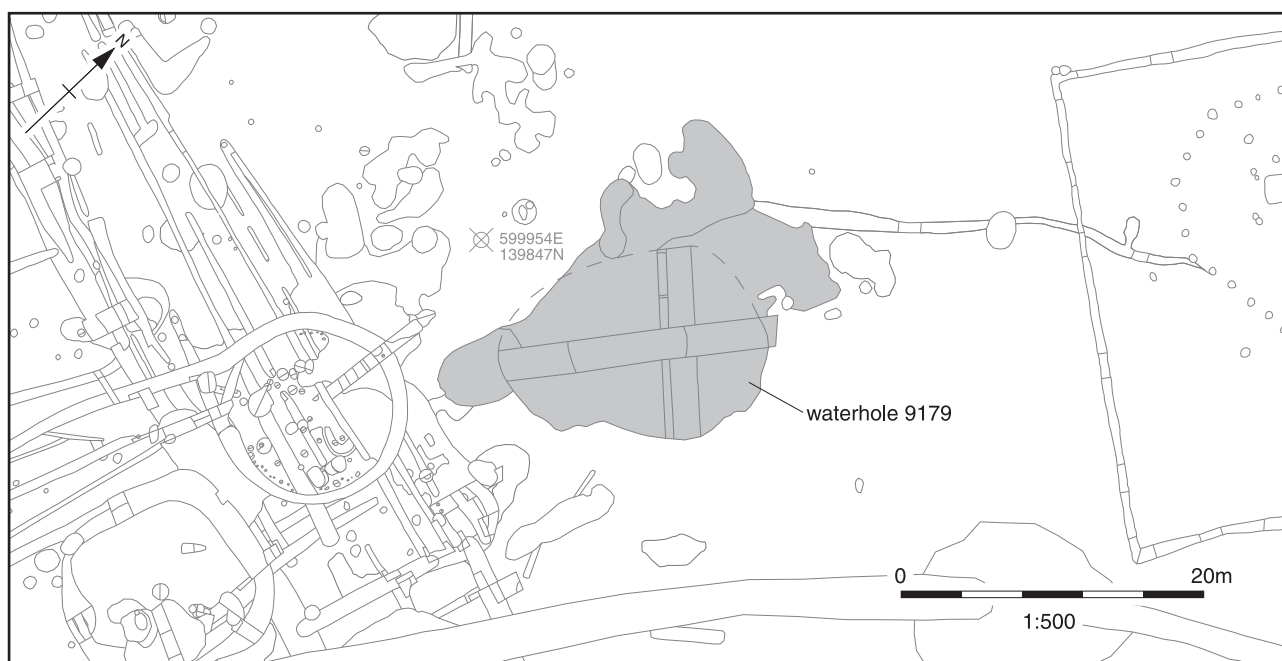


Figure 3.50 Plan of waterhole 9179.



Plate 3.11 Upper portion of waterhole 9179.



Plate 3.12 Waterhole 9179 after machine excavation.

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Table 3.3 *Waterhole 9179: Summary of contexts, finds and dating evidence, from the earliest (10159) to the latest fill (7128)*

Context	Description	Depth	Method	Finds
10159	light grey clay	0.15 m	auger	
10158	tenacious dark grey clay with white flecking	0.45 m	auger	
10119	pale grey silt clay	0.25 m	auger	
10118	dark grey clay	0.35 m	auger	
9421	compact dark grey clay	0.18 m	machine dug	
9420	blue clay with orange flecking	0.20 m	machine dug	
9419	dark blue clay with white flecks	0.15 m	machine dug	
9418	blue yellow clay	0.65 m	machine dug	
9417	blue yellow clay	0.58 m	machine dug	pottery 100-150; wood plank (10079)
9416	series of clay lenses or blue, grey and yellow	0.35 m	machine dug	
9415	dark brown clay silt	0.15 m	machine dug	
9414	dark blue clay		machine dug	2 x wood planks (9991-9992)
9413	dark grey clay	0.26 m	machine dug	pottery AD 150-200+; wood planks (9958-9959)
9422	finds from contexts 9421 to 9413		machine dug	unworked oak; quernstone fragment (SF1518)
9188	blue grey clay	0.20 m	hand	
9187	light grey silt clay occasional sub rounded stones	0.26 m	hand	
9185	light grey silt clay	0.40 m	hand	
7258	compact orange brown clay	0.10 m	hand	glass bottle sherd (SF976)
9186	light grey clay	0.30 m	hand	
7129	grey blue clay silt	0.40 m	hand	pottery AD 150-200; wood fragments
9184	light grey clay silt		hand	
7128	compact grey clay silt with ironpanning		hand	2 x coins 'early Roman' (SF931-932); quern fragment; cu alloy bead (SF939)

Waterhole 9179 produced Pottery Assemblage 37, mid to late 2nd century



Plate 3.13 *Timbers 9958 and 9959 from waterhole 9179.*

(9186). Above this was layer 7129, which produced pottery dated AD 150-200 as well as a number of wood fragments. Layer 9184 comprised a light grey silt clay, which had accumulated within the centre of the waterhole. The uppermost deposit, silting layer 7128, filled the wide (*c* 17.50 m x 13 m), shallow, hollow overlying the main waterhole fill sequence. It consisted of a compact grey clay silt with a high quantity of iron panning. Two coins, a quern fragment and a rare copper alloy bead (SF939) were recovered in the course of a metal-detector examination of the upper part of this deposit. The coins, SF931 and SF932, were both heavily corroded and only dated broadly to the early Roman period. The finds reference contexts assigned to these objects (7088, 7087 and 7081 respectively) all form part of fill 7128.

The total quantity of pottery recovered from the waterhole was very small, but indicated a late 2nd- to early 3rd-century *terminus post quem* for the upper fills of the feature (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 37).

Southern Settlement Area

To the south side of the open area containing the Shrine and waterhole 9179, was a series of plots and enclosures, the northern margins of which were generally defined by ditches and gullies originally linked in some way to the south-east roadside ditch/gully sequence. These plots and enclosures were for the most part less well-defined than those on the north side of the Canterbury road, although for the most part they were approximately rectilinear and contained a variety of structures and other features. For ease of reference the plots/enclosures have been allocated numbers in a 'south-central' series (SC1-SC6 from west to east) in the same way as the roadside plots, but because the definition of individual units was not always so clear these labels have more value in some phases than in others. The general developmental sequence in this part of the site saw a northward movement of the northern boundary of the area and, to a lesser extent, a west to east sequence of establishment of enclosures. The north-south trackway which entered the shrine open area seems to have been a component of this arrangement from an early stage, however.

It should be noted that a particularly high concentration of discrete features, particularly small pits and/or postholes, was encountered in this part of the site. It was not possible to examine all of these, and many that were excavated were not well-dated. It is likely that rather more posthole structures than those described below originally existed here.

Plot SC1 (Figs 3.4, 3.10, 3.14, 3.17 and 3.51)

Phase 2 (Fig. 3.4)

The earliest stage of development in this area was marked by the curvilinear ditch 8620 which was a continuation of the primary south-east roadside ditch. This feature curved first to the south-east and then

doubled back to the south-west, eventually fading out about 150 m south of the contemporary edge of the shrine area. The definition of its south-west end was unclear, however, and the ditch may originally have extended further in that direction. Although ditch 8620 partly enclosed the position of a circular structure (Structure K) this was dated to the following Phase 3 (plot SC1). No features assigned to Phase 2 were identified within the area 'enclosed' by the ditch.

Phase 3 (Fig. 3.10)

The curvilinear Phase 2 ditch 8620 and the associated primary south-east roadside ditch were superseded by roadside ditch 8670 which turned at an angle of *c* 60° to form part of the southern boundary of the shrine area in this phase. The ditch effectively provided a more rectilinear arrangement of the 'front' of plot SC1, with a gap probably at least 2 m wide some 14 m from the north-west corner perhaps forming an entrance. A rear boundary or boundaries of the plot may have been formed by parallel ditches 9090 and 9100. These were aligned roughly NW-SE and extended for *c* 40 m from the vicinity of (but without having a direct relationship with) the south-east roadside ditch. At their south-east ends they terminated short of Phase 2 ditch 8620, with the implication that they may have respected the surviving alignment of this feature. Ditches 9090 and 9100 were up to 1.05 m wide and 0.52 m deep (Fig. 3.51, section 879, cut 9100). Their profiles varied throughout their length from rounded to straight-sided with a flat base, but the fills were a consistent grey clay silt which produced a fragment of lava quern (SF1340) from ditch 9100. The ditches were also consistently parallel, on average 5 m apart, and may have formed some sort of trackway access to the rear of the south-centre block of plots.

Structure K, part of plot SC1 (Phase 3), was represented by the remnants of a curvilinear drainage gully (9990) extending for approximately 9.5 m (Fig. 3.51). The gully was on average 0.60 m wide and 0.20 m deep, with a projected diameter of *c* 15 m if originally circular or penannular. The profile of the gully was steep sided and flat based, and throughout its length was filled with a single grey silting deposit containing early-mid 2nd century pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 14). The only feature remaining which was possibly associated with a structure was posthole 7511 situated just east of and inside the identified south end of the gully. This was circular with steep sides and a flat base, measured 0.72 m diameter and 0.24 m deep and was filled with a brown grey silt clay containing charcoal flecking.

A group of three pits lay just west of the south end of the gully. These were not excavated, but surface finds suggested that they were probably contemporary with structure K. Four postholes immediately west of these features may have formed part of a structure or a fence some 7.5 m long. These features were undated, however, and their relationship to structure K is unknown.

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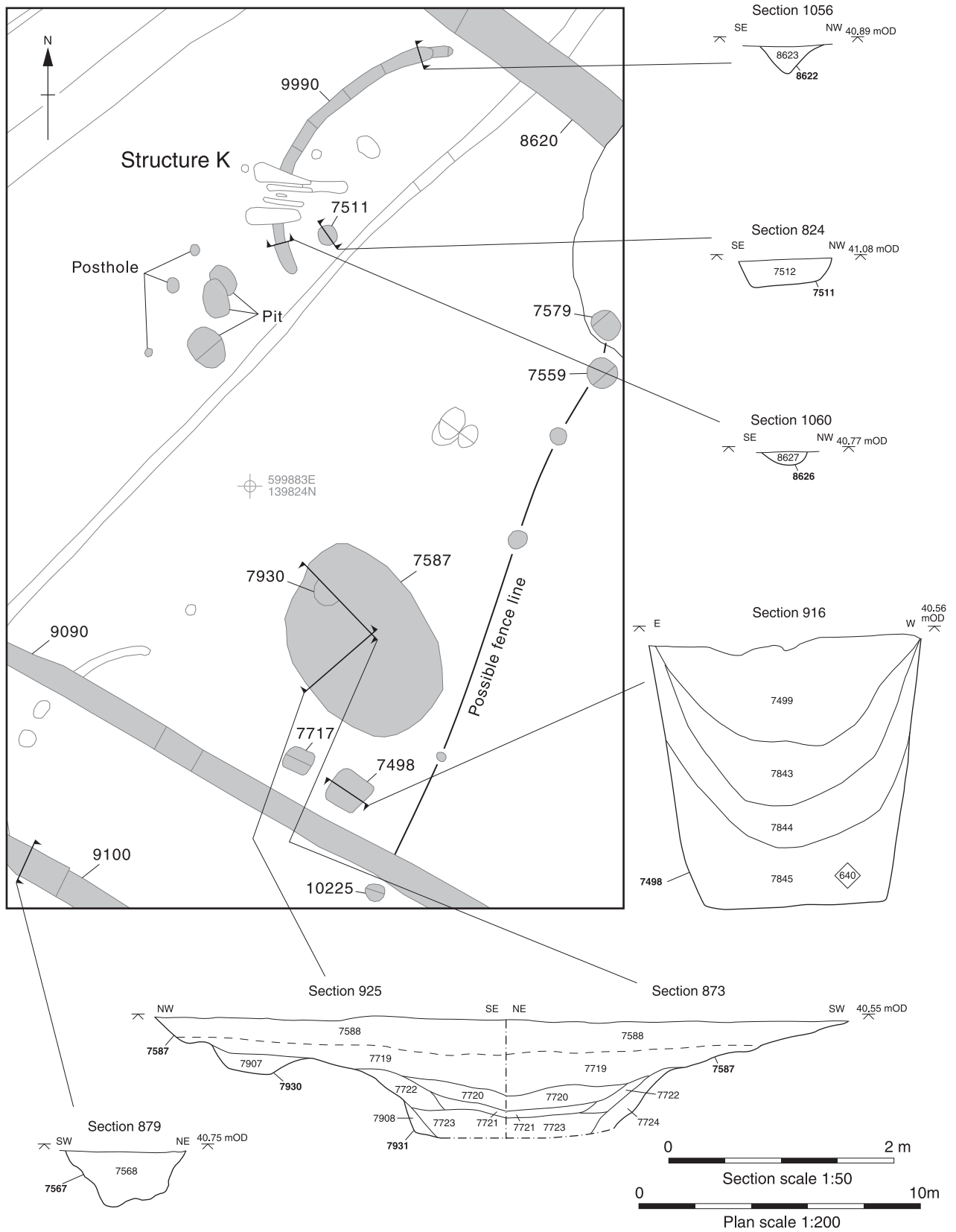


Figure 3.51 Plot SC1: Plan and sections of Structure K, waterhole 7587 and ditches 8620, 9090 and 9100.

Waterhole 7587 was south of structure K; it was *c* 6.5 m x 4.5 m in plan and excavated to a depth of 1.1 m (Fig. 3.51, sections 873/925). The two lowest excavated deposits comprised orange-grey silt clays, both encountered at the level of the current water table. The earlier fill represented erosion and slippage of the edges while the latter appeared to have accumulated slowly within the centre of the feature. Overlying these was a compact orange silt, and an orange-grey silt clay, which contained a small amount of charred remains. Sealing these lower deposits were three distinct grey clay silt layers, which all contained notable amounts of charred remains, fragments of ceramic building material and (unusually) some animal bone. The uppermost silt extended across the top of the waterhole and produced a yellow-green glass fragment from the base of a jar or jug (SF1317; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 50).

At the time this waterhole was dug, two small pits appear to have been deliberately cut into its edge, both on the north-west side. The first (7930) was cut into the top of the feature, while the other (7931) was located at the lowest excavated point. Both were sealed by the fills within the waterhole. Pit 7930 had a diameter of 0.5 m and a depth of 0.25 m and was filled with a single dump deposit consisting largely of broken pottery sherds in a matrix of orange-brown silt clay. Pit 7931, dug into the steeply-sloping side of the waterhole, was 0.35 m across and 0.3 m deep and was filled with orange-grey silt clay. This deposit (7908) held the remains of a near complete vessel, which may have represented a deliberate deposit. The waterhole and associated pits collectively produced a small early 2nd century pottery assemblage, though the pot in 7908 probably did not date much before the middle of the 2nd century (the end of Phase 3) at the earliest.

Phase 4 (Fig. 3.14)

The southern edge of the shrine area was defined in Phase 4 by a complex sequence of gullies, generally on a line advanced at least 5 m north of that in use in Phase 3. At the south-west corner of the shrine area the Canterbury road south-east ditch 8680 turned to the east, terminating after 28 m at the north-west corner of plot SC2.

There was no significant indication of activity in plot SC1 in this phase. Two square pits were located at the southern edge of Phase 3 waterhole 7587. Pit 7498 was 1.2 m across and excavated to the depth of the water table, at 1.2 m (Fig. 3.51, section 916). The lowest fill examined was a grey-brown silt clay containing small amounts of charred remains. This was overlain by a clean yellow silt clay, which appears to have eroded from the edge of the pit. Sealing these deposits were two fills of light grey clay silt which gradually accumulated into the top of the feature. An adjacent pit, 7717, 1.05 m across and 0.3 m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base, was filled with a single deposit of grey-brown clay silt which

produced four iron nails (SF1341-4), but no closely dateable pottery. A Phase 3 or later date is possible for this feature.

Phase 5 (Fig. 3.17)

Despite widespread redefinition of boundaries in this part of the site in this phase the main evidence of activity was confined to an apparently new enclosure (plot SE1) to the south-west of SC1 and to plots SC4 and SC5. In particular there were very few features of this phase in plots SC1-SC3.

A number of small pits and postholes, north-east of plot SE1 - both within the area of Plot SC1 and south of the Phase 3 gullies which originally defined it - may be tentatively assigned to this phase. These averaged 0.2 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep with steep sides and flat bases and were all filled with yellow-brown silt.

More certainly of this phase was a roughly NNE-SSW aligned row of six irregularly spaced postholes extending over some 28.5 m from 10225 at the south to 7579 at the north (Fig. 3.51). These, if truly associated with each other, may have formed a fenceline. The excavated examples were steep sided and flat based, on average 0.4 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. They were filled with a single deposit of light grey clay silt and all produced Phase 5 pottery.

Plot SC2

Phase 2 (Figs 3.4, 3.52)

In Phase 2 SC2 was defined on its west side by ditch 8620 and on the east side by ditch 9270. Ditch 9270 together with ditch 9108 formed an enclosure defined to the west in part by 8620 and probably utilising ditch 9360 (which extended south-east from 8620 for at least 25 m) to form the northern boundary. In this form plot SC2 had overall dimensions of *c* 15 m by 35 m. Both 9270 and 9108 had moderately-sloping sides and a rounded base with an average width of 1.10 m and depth of 0.26 m. Both were filled with a single deposit of light grey silt. At the south-east corner of the enclosure, the probable junction of these ditches and cutting both of them, was a relatively shallow waterhole, group 10460, measuring 5 m by 6 m across, and excavated in quadrants to a depth of 1.10 m (Fig. 3.52, section 926). The eastern quadrant was filled with a series of grey-yellow silt clays which appear to have derived from the erosion of the feature's edge. The western quadrant, which was located within the enclosure, had higher concentrations of charred remains and more instances of dumped deposits, most likely indicating activity within the enclosed area. The lower excavated deposits comprised dark grey silt clays with sporadic concentrations of charred remains. These were overlain by three distinct layers of grey-orange silt clay which again showed high densities of charred remains. A dumped layer of silt clay containing ceramic building material

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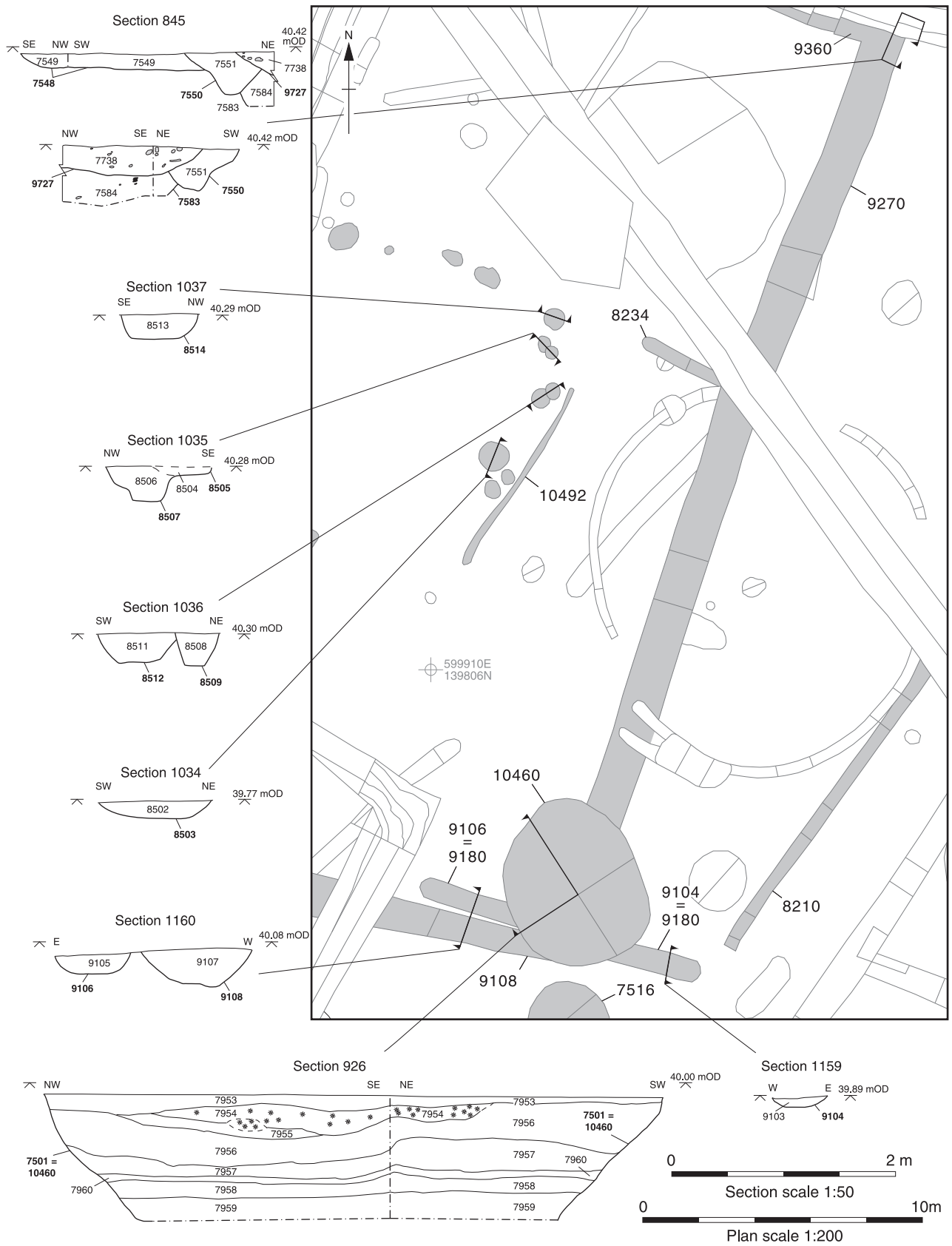


Figure 3.52 Plot SC2: Plan of Phase 2 and possible Phase 2 features, including enclosure ditch 9270 and waterhole 10460, with sections.

fragments overlay this, and extended 1.80 m from the north-west edge of the feature. This was overlain by another dumped deposit tipped from the north-west, that is, within the area defined by the enclosure. This consisted largely of charred plant remains in a very dark grey silt clay matrix. The uppermost deposit which extended across the top of the entire feature was a grey silt clay which contained relatively little charred material, but produced a group of pottery which may have been deposited no later than *c* AD 50-60 (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 7).

A four-post structure (S) was located in the south-west corner of plot SC2 (Fig. 3.4). This had dimensions of 2 m by 2.50 m and was interpreted as a grain store. No other features related to this phase appeared to survive within the enclosed area, although a group of postholes and slots north of structure S might have originated in this phase (see Phase 3 below).

Phase 3 (Figs 3.10, 3.53)

Plots SC2 and SC3 seem to have been combined in Phase 3 as the initial east boundary of plot SC2 – ditch 9270 – was overlain by a probable circular structure (L). The structure lay within the area defined to the north by gully 9730, an easterly extension of the line of 8670 in front of plot SC1, and on the east by ditch 7840 (see also south-east roadside ditches above). The south-western return of ditch 7840 extended for 128 m.

Phase 2 features probably continued to provide definition of the west and part of the south side of the plot, although gullies 9180 and 8210, located towards the south-east corner, south and east of structure L (see below), were new to this phase (Fig. 3.52). The features were 10 m and 12 m long and 0.75 m and 0.45 m wide respectively. Both had steep sides and a flat base, with an average depth of 0.12 m. The former feature, clearly dated to Phase 3 by pottery and on the basis of spatial evidence, should have cut the fills of waterhole 10460, equally clearly dated to Phase 2, although this relationship was not evident either in plan or in section. It is perhaps possible that the waterhole was of later date, but that its fills contained only redeposited Phase 2 material. Just south of 10460 outside the southern boundary of the plot was a large contemporary pit (7516) 2.60 m in diameter and 1.50 m deep. This was filled with a primary deposit of blue-grey clay sealed by a grey-brown clay silt. Overlying this was a substantial grey silting deposit containing occasional fragments of wood charcoal and finds including a blue-green ribbed glass fragment (SF1268; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 73) and SF1288 (a fragment of lead).

Structure L (group 8270) was defined by three main segments of curvilinear gully enclosing a slightly oval area some 12-13 m across (Fig. 3.53). The gullies on the south and west sides were both cut by a modern feature. Elsewhere definition was imperfect, but the length of gully on the south-east side had a well-defined terminal at its western end, coincident with the line of the Phase 2 ditch 9270. At this point there

was a short length of subsidiary gully just outside the line of the main feature, perhaps emphasising the importance of drainage here. The gullies were on average 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep, but in places the depth was reduced to 0.03 m due to truncation. All three gully segments were filled with grey clay silt and produced 1st-2nd century pottery (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 16).

A posthole (8236) in the centre of the circle defined by the gullies may have been a component of the structure. This was 0.65 m in diameter and 0.19 m deep. The post appears to have been removed and the void filled with a deliberate deposit of fired clay, charred remains and pottery fragments (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 15), in a clay silt matrix. No other potential structural components were identified.

Pit 7733 was located just south of structure L (Fig. 3.53). This was 2.2 m across and steep sided, but the base was not recorded as excavation ceased at a depth of 1.2 m. Orange-grey silt clays within the base of the pit, most likely deriving from the erosion of the edges, were overlain by two grey silting deposits. All the deposits were reasonably clean with no obvious domestic debris; only one of the upper silting deposits produced pottery datable to AD 70-150. Other features in the area were not well-dated and their phasing is somewhat speculative. They included a group of four small pits located to the north of structure L which may possibly have been associated with it. Only one of these, pit 7473, was excavated, and was 1.45 m in diameter and 0.54 m deep (Fig. 3.53, section 850). It was filled with three very similar deposits of grey-brown silt clay containing occasional small sub-rounded stone.

An unexcavated gully (10492), *c* 7.5 m long and varying in width from 0.12-0.25 m, filled with grey clay silt was located west of structure L and parallel with gully 8210. At right-angles to this feature was a further, more substantial gully (8234). This was only 3 m long, but was truncated at its east end by a modern field boundary, also removing the relationship between 8234 and both the Phase 2 ditch 9270 and structure L, although it is possible that the latter of these was quite closely contemporary with 8234. The gully, steep sided with a rounded base, had a width of 0.5 m and a depth of 0.2 m.

These features may have been associated with a roughly rectilinear arrangement of postholes immediately to the west (Fig. 3.52). These formed a north-south line some 8 m long before turning to the west for a further 9 m. The excavated postholes had steep sides and flat bases and ranged in diameter from 0.45 m to 1 m, with an average depth of 0.26 m. All the postholes were filled with a light grey clay silt, containing small sub-rounded stone and occasional pieces of wood charcoal. The postholes were not closely dated and it is possible that they related to the Phase 2 layout of the plot, but the limited amount of pottery recovered from their fills was consistent with Phase 3. Forming only two sides of a structure, they are perhaps more likely to have represented part of a small enclosure than a building.

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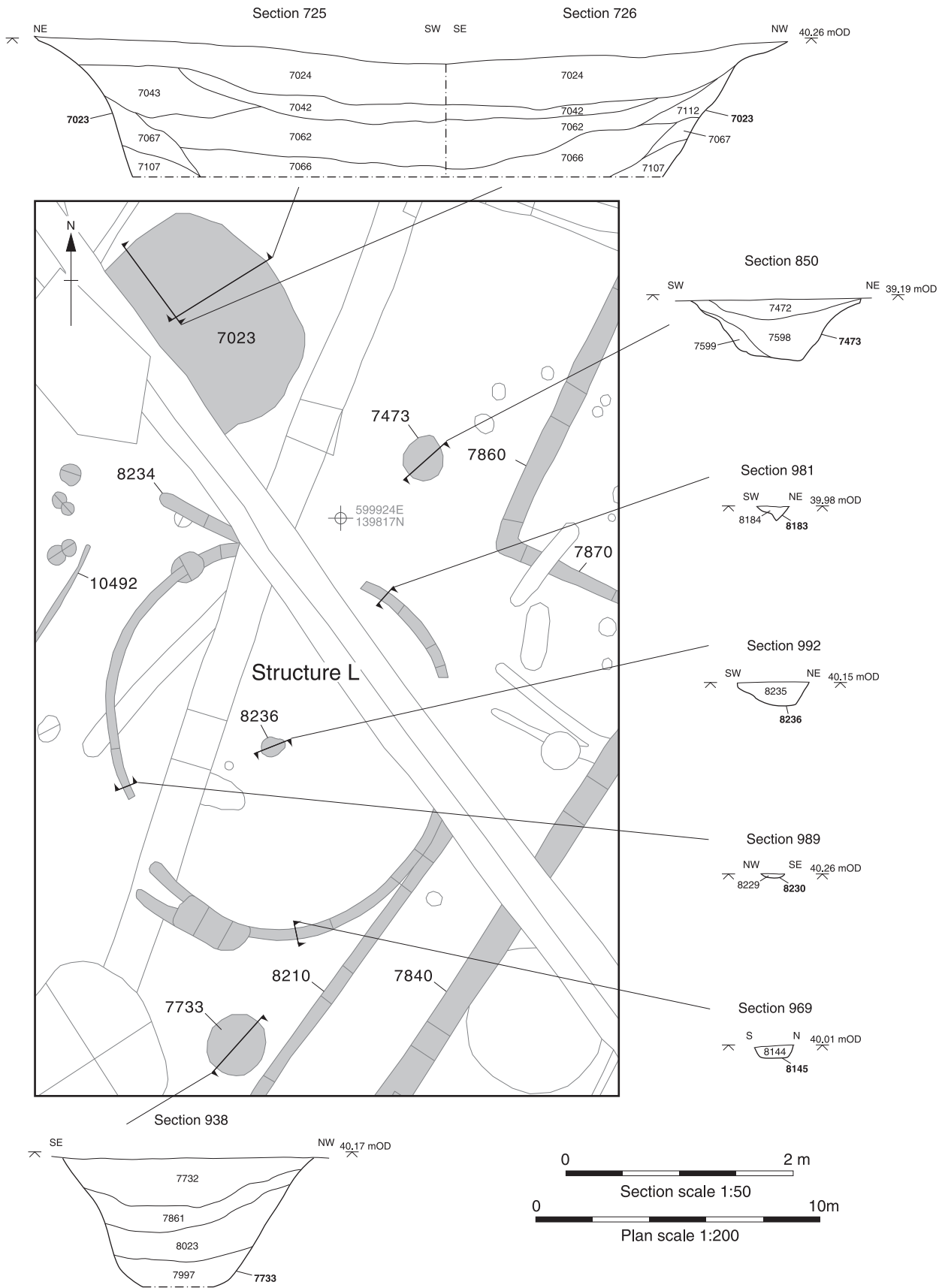


Figure 3.53 Plot SC2: Plan of Phase 3 and possible Phase 3 features, including Structure L, and waterhole 7023, pits 7473 and 7733, and associated gullies, with sections.

Phase 4 (Fig. 3.14)

The expanded single plot SC2/SC3 was maintained in this phase. The terminus of ditch 8680, extending from the south-east roadside margin, was exactly in line with the redefined plot SC1/SC2 boundary. There was a possible entrance some 2 m wide before the alignment resumed as feature 9500. This continued to extend eastwards in the form of gully segments 7780 and 10479.

A number of other gullies lay either side of 9500 and followed the same E-W alignment in this phase. Gullies 9740, 7800 and 7750/60 either complemented the main boundary, or represented a form of intermediary boundary located between the main boundary alignment and its predecessor (Fig. 3.14). Gully 9740 was 16 m long and cut into the top of Phase 3 ditch 7850. Gully 7800 was some 36 m long and extended to the east across the front of both plot SC2/SC3 and plot SC4. Gully 7800 was succeeded by a series of broadly contemporary ditch segments which eventually extended to the western boundary of the north-south trackway. From west to east these consisted of 9490, 7790 and 8140 (Fig. 3.14).

The latest gullies in this Phase 4 sequence were 7750 and 7760, cut on the same alignment, 7760 being the later of the two. Like 7800 these gullies extended part way across the northern side of plot SC4 and they were cut by Phase 5 penannular structure P (group 7500). Here their easterly extent was occasionally obscured by spreads of occupation debris. However, 7750 is likely to have corresponded to 7770 which ran eastward from structure P across the north side of plot SC5 and up to the junction with N-S ditch 8020. All gullies were filled with a same similar deposit of light grey clay silt which had occasional inclusions of iron slag, fired clay and charred remains.

The west side of plot SC2 was refashioned in this phase, possibly for the first time, although the offset alignments of Phase 3 ditches north of plots SC1 and SC2 suggest the existence of a predecessor of the Phase 4 boundary, presumably completely removed by later features. The Phase 4 boundary itself (8980/9350) was extensively truncated by successive phases of gully. The northern end of the new boundary (9350) was discernibly the earliest in a sequence of three gullies (Fig. 3.16, section 860, cut 7871) and clearly terminated to respect the eastern terminal of roadside ditch 8680 (Fig. 3.14). The continuation of this boundary to the south (8980) followed a zig-zag plan (Fig. 3.14) as far as a point 10 m south of the Phase 2 ditch 9060 where it terminated with no apparent reason.

The east side of plot SC2/SC3 was less clearly defined in this phase. Its principal component may have been a shallow NNE-SSW aligned gully (7369). This was 28 m long with its northern terminal some 17 m short of the broadly contemporary east-west gully 7800 (the southern end of the feature may have lain beyond the edge of the excavated area). Only 2 m further east a parallel gully (7670) was associated with structure O in plot SC4 (see below).

A circular waterhole 7023, south-east of the Phase 4 boundary gully 9350 and partly truncated by a modern ditch, had a maximum diameter of 7.5 m (Fig. 3.53). It was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m. The two lowest deposits excavated consisted of yellow-brown clay silt which had accumulated on the north-western edge of the feature. These were overlain by a substantial layer of grey silt clay which contained fragments of sandstone and a blue-green glass handle. A sterile orange-grey clay silt above this lay on the north-west slope of the waterhole. This was sealed by two grey clay silt deposits, both containing sub-angular natural flint nodules and occasional charcoal. A layer of dark grey clay silt, with fine lenses of grey clay throughout, overlay these deposits. This contained discrete patches of charred remains and occasional fired clay, as well as producing five iron nails and a fragment of blue-green glass. The uppermost fill of the waterhole was a grey silt clay with orange oxidation mottling. Sub-angular flint nodules and small rounded stone was present throughout this layer which produced four iron nails and a short length of copper alloy wire (SF907).

Some 9 m east of the waterhole was an L-shaped length of gully 23 m long (groups 7860 and 7870) which enclosed most of the north-east corner of plot SC2/SC3, an area which included a cluster of post-holes (Fig. 3.14). The north-west end of this feature lay adjacent to the east terminal of east-west gully 9740. The gully was on average 0.48 m wide and 0.17 m deep, with moderate sides and a rounded base. The NNE-SSW arm of the gully was filled almost entirely with wood charcoal (the largest pieces measuring 0.04 by 0.03 m) and notable amounts of iron slag in a black clay silt matrix. A dumped deposit of yellow to light grey ash was found at the part of the gully where it turned 90° eastwards at its southern end; the fill was covered by the black clay silt noted above. A dark grey clay silt overlying this and restricted to this point, contained occasional iron slag pieces, frequent charcoal and two iron nails (SF943, SF944). As the feature extended ESE the sequence of dumped deposits ceased and the remainder of the gully was filled with a single light grey clay silt with occasional sub-rounded stones.

The postholes enclosed by the gully were all near vertical sided with flat bases, and had average dimensions of 0.44 m diameter and 0.26 m depth. The largest posthole in this group, 8777, was the only one which appears to have been later in date than the rest, as it contained 15 fragments of pottery dated to AD 200+, while the small assemblages from the other features were consistent with a Phase 4 date.

Phase 5 (Fig. 3.17)

Plots SC2 and SC3 seem to have remained as a single unit in this phase. The boundary between plot SC1 and plot SC2/SC3 was defined by gully 8770 which followed the dogleg alignment of its Phase 4 predecessor before eventually linking to the alignment of

the Phase 3 gully 7840 some 90 m south of the contemporary boundary of the shrine area (Fig. 3.17).

There was no indication of activity within the northern part of plots SC2 and SC3. However, another cluster of pits was uncovered south-west of the rear of these plots as originally defined and adjacent to gully 8770. The largest of these, 7502, had a diameter of 2.2 m and a depth of 0.26 m, with shallow sloping sides and a rounded base. It had a primary fill of dark grey silt clay with frequent charcoal fragments, overlain by an orange-grey clay silt containing a little charcoal. A smaller pit, 7507, lying 2 m to the west, was 0.98 m in diameter and 0.27 m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. The primary fill was a redeposited yellow clay containing frequent fired clay fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Overlying this was a dark grey clay silt with smaller amounts of charcoal and fired clay, sealed by a light grey clay silting deposit. The other pits in this area were typically shallow with an average diameter of 1.0 m and depth of 0.16 m; all were filled with a single deposit of light grey clay silt.

Plot SC3

Phase 2 (Fig. 3.4)

This plot was bounded by gully 9270 to the west and presumably by Phase 2 ditch 9360 to the north, although this could not be traced all the way to the putative north-east corner of the plot because it was cut away by Phase 3 ditch 7850 at its east end (Figs 3.4 and 3.10). The eastern side of the plot was defined by a NNE-SSW aligned Phase 2 gully 7820, giving an approximate plot width of 21-22 m. At the north end this feature appeared to have a shallow terminus immediately south of Phase 5 structure P and associated occupation spread 7439, while to the south it extended beyond the edge of the excavated area. Gully 7820 had steep sides sloping at 70° to a flat base and on average was 0.7 m wide and 0.21 m deep. Its fills were a primary brown silt clay sealed by a light grey clay silt and contained 1st century pottery except for a single upper fill (7078) which contained a group of pottery of Phase 4 date. This material was either intrusive or, perhaps more likely, related to a very localised recut of the feature.

No internal features in plot SC2 were certainly attributable to this phase. There was a large possible waterhole in the southern part of the plot. This feature was not excavated or dated by finds, but it may have been of Phase 2 date on the basis of a marginal relationship with a Phase 3 gully. No Phase 2 features were identified in the area east of plot SC3.

Phase 3 (Fig. 3.10)

Plot SC3 was at least partly incorporated with plot SC2 in this phase. The plot was bisected approximately by a ditch (7840) interpreted as a boundary between the augmented plot SC2 to the west and a new plot (SC4) to the east. The latter also incorpo-

rated part of the space previously (and again subsequently) assigned to plot SC3.

Phases 4 and 5

See plot SC2 above.

Plot SC4 (Fig. 3.54)

Phase 3 (Fig. 3.10)

There was no definable plan element in this part of the south settlement area before Phase 3. The establishment of ditch group 7840 at that time had the effect of bisecting plot SC3 at a slightly odd angle (see plot SC2 above). The area east of this alignment was defined as plot SC3/SC4 in this phase (Figs 3.10 and 3.54). The approximate line of the original eastern boundary of plot SC3 may have been maintained, however, by two north-south gullies (7369, and 7774 = group 10380) though the phasing of these features is not absolutely certain. A number of other gullies uncovered between 7840 and 10380, despite their sparse dating evidence, were assigned to phase 3 on the basis of their layout. These included 10400, a narrow (typically 0.25-0.30 m wide) slot running roughly parallel to 7840 some 5 m east of it, which turned a sharply-defined right-angle to the east at its southern end. Neither the eastern nor the northern end of 10400 was confidently located and its interpretation is uncertain. Close to the corner of the gully the gap between 7840 and 10400 was closed by a broader gully 8280. This was undated, and could perhaps have been of Phase 4 date. Just north-east of this gully was a large discrete feature *c* 4.75 m across. This was not excavated, but its size suggests that it could have been a waterhole. It had a marginal relationship with ditch 7840, which may have been the later of the two. On the basis of its position, however, the feature was perhaps broadly contemporary with the surrounding linear features. A Phase 2 or 3 date is likely.

Further east another N-S aligned feature, ditch 7740, lay a little to the west of the line later more clearly defined as the boundary between plots SC4 and SC5. Ditch 7740 had a minimum length of 29 m and was truncated at its south end by a post-medieval feature. At its northern end it extended almost 8 m beyond the line of the slightly earlier Phase 3 E-W ditch which notionally marked the northern boundary of the plots in this phase. The average width and depth of 7740 were 1 m and 0.3 m respectively, and it had a consistent profile with moderate sides and a flat base. The ditch was mostly filled with a single deposit of light grey silt clay, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, but at the north end the deposit sequence changed. Here it consisted of primary and secondary fills of light grey silt clay, overlain by a yellow-grey silt clay containing a large amount of charcoal and patches of burnt clay. This may have been intrusive material associated with the later structure O which directly overlay 7740.

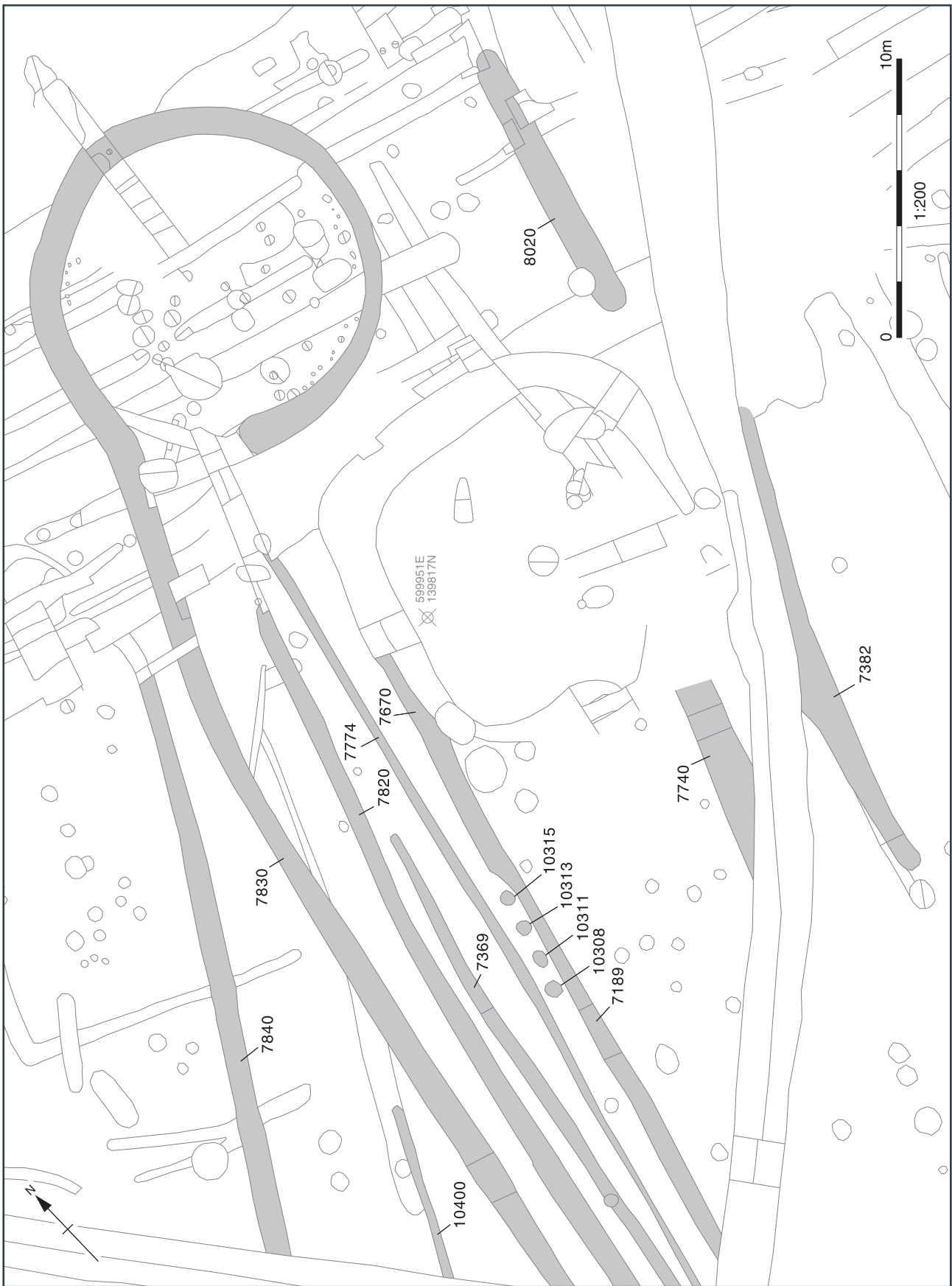


Figure 3.54 Plot SC3/SC4: Plan of boundary ditches.

Phase 4 (Figs 3.14, 3.54-3.55)

As defined in this phase plot SC4 was perhaps up to 20 m wide and distinguished principally by the presence of structure O in its north-west corner (Fig. 3.14). The main boundary between plot SC4 and plot SC3 was 7670 which extended southwards from the edge of the ditch surrounding structure O. Gully 7670 was 0.71 m wide and 0.23 m deep and had the same profile as the smaller gully, 7369, just to the west (see above). It was filled with a mid grey clay silt which contained occasional charcoal fragments (10%) and two iron nails (SF987, SF1000). Four unexcavated postholes, bordering the western edge of 7670, were set about 1 m apart from centre to centre. These each measured *c* 0.5 m in diameter and filled with light grey clay silt.

The north side of the plot was marked by a series of gullies, most of which were continuous with features bounding plot SC2/SC3 (see above). A number of these gullies appeared to have an eastern terminus in line with the east side of the ditch defining structure O, and it is possible that the east side of the plot in this phase was in line with these termini, on an alignment followed by Phase 5 gullies 8020 and 7382. Alternatively, a division between plots SC4 and SC5 was marked by ditch 10495 some 8 m further east (see below).

Structure O was defined by a gully (group 7660) roughly square in plan with an opening to the east and internal dimensions of 10 m by 10 m (Fig. 3.55). The termini were rounded and well-defined, forming an entrance *c* 1.5 m wide. The average surviving width and depth of the gully were 1.0 m and 0.18 m respectively and it had a consistently sloping-sided and flat-bottomed profile. The gully was filled with a single deposit of light grey clay silt containing infrequent amounts of wood charcoal and pottery dated to the late 2nd century AD (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 31). At a point along the southern edge of the structure three phases of gully were observed in section; however, in other areas of excavation the latest phase of gully had truncated the previous two completely. The profile of the gully surrounding structure O suggests that it was for drainage rather than structural purposes.

Internal features included a number of pits, postholes and a hearth. Very few of these, however, were clearly recognisable as structural features which may have shed light on the form of the building. The only possible exception was a shallow pit (7687), which lay in the centre of the structure and could perhaps have carried a central post. This was 1.0 m in diameter and 0.05 m deep with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled with a brown silt clay which contained small lumps of fired clay and fragments of iron slag. Pit 7716 was sub-rectangular, measured 1.25 m by 0.45 m by 0.10 m deep, and had steep sides to a rounded base. It was filled with a light grey clay silt. A further pit (7611) was located at the eastern internal edge of the structure. This measured 2.0 m by 1.2 m by 0.76 m deep and was again steep-sided with a flat base. It

had a primary fill of red-brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking, sealed by dark grey clay silt. Posthole 7699 was near vertical sided and flat based, filled with a dark grey clay silt containing a large amount of wood charcoal. It may have been associated with a hearth (7697) which lay directly to the east. Measuring 1.10 m by 0.7 m by 0.23 m this was sub-rectangular with steep sides and a flat base. The primary deposit was a lining of fire-reddened, re-deposited, natural clay. A charcoal-rich, dark grey clay silt overlay this. A discrete patch of fire reddened clay above this represented a second episode of firing; this was in turn sealed by another deposit of charcoal-rich clay silt. Patches of fired clay around the hearth may have represented the remains of similar features, or merely have derived from 7697. The hearth and the posthole cut through 7666, a light grey silt clay on average 0.1 m thick, which contained a large amount of pottery fragments and a curved bronze rod or ring fragment (SF1333; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 115). This deposit represented a gradual accumulation of silt within the interior of the structure.

A small pit (7582) at the entrance of structure O contained the remnants of a near complete pot. The pot was in an upright position and fitted snugly into the pit which had a diameter of 0.6 m and a depth of 0.3 m. The southern edge of the pot had collapsed, the broken pieces being found within the silt clay deposit which filled it; additionally, there was some plough damage to the surviving upper part of the vessel. A larger pit (7213) was located to the rear of the building in the angle between gully 7660 and plot SC3/SC4 boundary gully 7670. Measuring 1.5 m in diameter and 0.32 m deep, 7213 had steep sides and a rounded base and was filled with a single deposit of light grey silt with occasional small angular flint nodules. The fill contained no material diagnostic of a particular function. It may perhaps have been used for storage. An adjacent (unexcavated) pit cut the fills of gully 7660 and may perhaps have been of Phase 5 rather than Phase 4 date.

Phase 5 (Fig. 3.17)

The plot SC3/SC4 boundary was formed by a N-S gully 7830 contemporary with penannular structure P. Gully 7830 extended *c* 47 m southwards from the gully surrounding that structure to the edge of Area B and was typically 0.8 m wide and 0.25 m deep. The sides of the gully sloped at 70° to a flat base, and it was consistently filled with a single light grey clay silt, which contained occasional small rounded stone and a blue-green glass bottle fragment (SF996).

Structure P (Group 7500) was defined by a penannular gully which enclosed an area with an internal diameter of 11 m (Fig. 3.55). The gully terminated to provide an entrance to the south-west 4.5 m wide. Generally the gully had sides sloping at 70° to a flat base, although at two points along its length the base was slightly rounded, and the overall average width was 0.9 m and depth 0.28 m. A primary light grey clay silt was noted along the length of the gully, although

Chapter Three

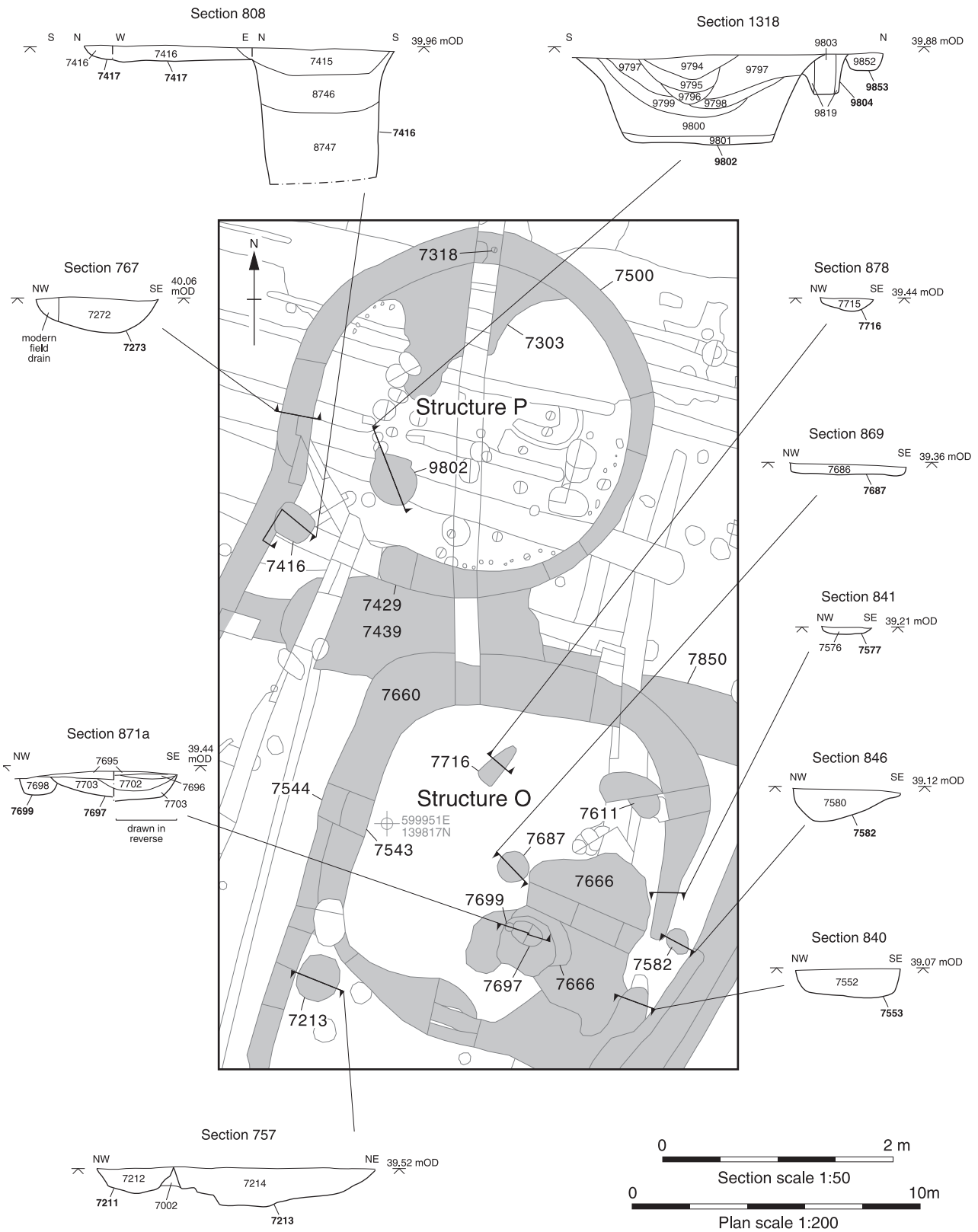


Figure 3.55 Plot SC4: Plan of Structures O and P with plans and sections of associated features.

at both termini this deposit was much darker and contained more charcoal; along the eastern arc of the gully a dump of fired clay was deposited within the base. This deposit produced a neck fragment from a blue-green glass bottle (SF1104; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 63) and two bronze coins, one of Augustus dated 28-25 BC (SF1224) and the other illegible, but early Roman (SF1225) (see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). Also within this part of the gully was a secondary deposit of dark grey clay silt which extended for approximately 10 m. This contained a large amount of dumped material including fired clay and charcoal fragments, a reeded bottle handle of blue-green glass (SF1006; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 58; Fig. 5.5), and a cluster of five nails (SF1067-69, SF1073-4), all located above posthole 7318 which was cut into the base of the gully. At the southern terminal the light grey clay silts of two earlier gullies were noted, extending to the west and north west. These most likely represented earlier stages of entrance to the structure. Collectively the gullies produced a substantial group of pottery generally of early 3rd century date (see Chapter 6, Assemblage 35).

A series of 22 stakeholes was ranged around the northern and southern arcs inside the penannular gully. These ranged between 0.1 m and 0.13 m deep with an average diameter of 0.2 m, and presumably formed part of the wall line for an internal structure. A series of soil spreads was uncovered within the lines indicated by the stakeholes. Spread 7303, situated within the northern edge of the structure, had a consistent depth of 0.07 m and consisted of a dark grey clay silt which contained occasional slag fragments and wood charcoal. Soil spread 7439 consisted of a dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks throughout, and was located at the southern edge of the structure. Covering an area *c* 9 m by 3.4 m, and with a depth of 0.06 m, this appeared to have survived plough truncation by settling into the slight depression created by earlier ditch 7850. There were 25 postholes or small pits within the centre of the structure. All of these features had steep, near vertical, sides and flat or rounded bases. Their diameters ranged from 0.20-0.45 m and the depths from 0.10-0.26 m and they were all filled with a light grey clay silt, mottled with red silt patches. The majority produced pottery, but very little else was recovered other than occasional iron slag fragments and small amounts of charcoal.

A large pit (9802) was located just inside the entrance to the structure, and another waterhole 7416 was positioned outside the entrance west of the south-west terminal of the penannular gully. Pit 9802 was square in plan with vertical sides 1.7 m long and 0.78 m deep. The two lowest fills were natural silts, overlain by a dump deposit of yellow clay containing a large amount of fired clay and much charcoal. Overlying this were two grey silting deposits, sealed by a dark grey silt clay, which contained a large amount of, charred remains. A yellow redeposited clay above this contained occasional pieces of fired clay and the uppermost fill was a grey silt with infrequent charcoal

flecks. Pit 7416 was also square in plan, 1.3 m across, with vertical sides at least 1.2 m deep. The lowest fill was a blue-grey clay containing occasional iron slag fragments, overlain by a red-grey clay with patches of light grey clay throughout. These were sealed by an upper deposit of dark grey clay silt containing a large amount of fired clay and wood charcoal.

Plot SC5

Phase 3 (Figs 3.10, 3.56)

Plot SC5 was defined to the west by ditch 7740 and to the north by ditch 7850. Ditch 7850 turned southwards at the north-east corner of the plot apparently to form the west side of the north-south trackway. The existence of a ditch on the west side of the trackway in this phase cannot be demonstrated conclusively since the direct evidence for its presence would have been removed by later ditches on the same line, but seems to be required by the spacing and layout of all the features in this part of the site. This gave an approximate maximum width of 26 m for the plot (Fig. 3.10). Its length is uncertain, however, because there was no clear evidence for a southern boundary in this phase. Short, isolated lengths of undated gully lying some 45-50 m from the line of 7850 may have indicated the position of such a boundary, but this is uncertain. There were indications, however, of a northerly extension to the plot, suggested by a gully (8140) lying parallel to 7850 and some 5 m north of it. This may have been associated with the northward extension of ditch 7740 beyond the line of 7850, but the two features did not meet.

The plot contained a large number of poorly-dated discrete features, few of which could be assigned with confidence to this phase. They were so assigned principally on the basis of their spatial arrangement in relation to features such as ditch 7740. An approximate southerly projection of the line of 7740, beyond its presumed terminus beneath the modern ditch, was marked by a linear arrangement of small pits or (less likely) large postholes extending north-south for some 7 m, before turning to the east for a further 6 m. These were unexcavated, but were mostly from 0.7 m to 1 m across, with an occasional smaller example. All had an upper fill of light grey silt. Additional possibly related features lay a little further to the east, where they were interspersed with postholes assigned to a probable six post structure (Structure M), on a similar alignment. It is possible that these features related to a structure rather than simply forming linear groups of discrete pits. This possibility is discussed further below.

Structure M (Fig. 3.56) was square and measured 3 m by 3 m, with the individual postholes ranging from 0.25 m to (exceptionally) *c* 0.75 m in diameter. It had suffered heavy truncation from ploughing. A line of four further postholes extended northwards from the north-east corner of the structure while a group of undated pits to the north may also have been associated with it.

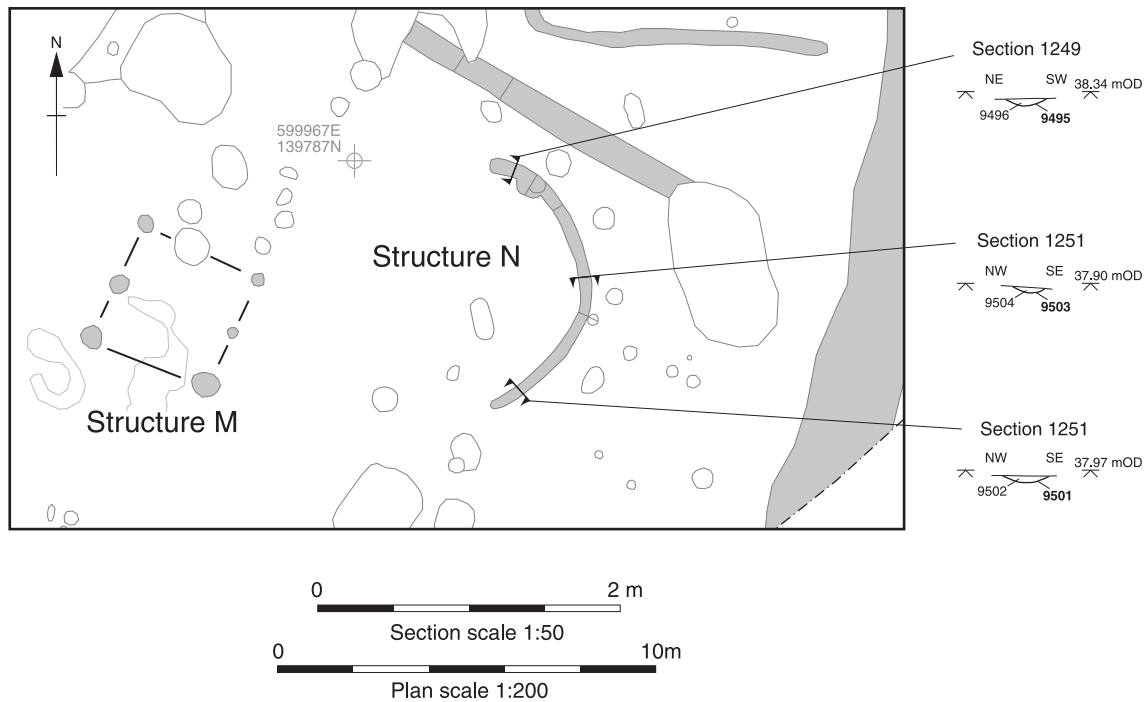


Figure 3.56 Plot SC5: Plan and sections of Structures M and N.

A short length of curvilinear gully (group 9970), equidistant between Structure M and the north-south trackway to the east, had an average width of 0.30 m and was only *c* 0.05 m deep (Figure 3.56). Neither terminal was well-defined, however, and it is likely that the gully was originally more extensive. It may have surrounded the eastern side of a circular structure (N), which would have had a diameter of approximately 7 m. Dating material from the gully was scarce, but was consistent with a Phase 3 date.

Phase 4 (Figs 3.14, 3.57)

The north side of a small rectilinear enclosure was formed by ditch 9960 (Figs 3.14 and 3.57). Its west side (ditch 10495), which lay 8 m east of structure O, was traced for 13 m and, although the north-west corner was obscured, it is almost certain that this feature was linked with an E-W ditch alignment recutting the Phase 3 boundary 7850 and extending eastwards to the west side of the N-S trackway, where it turned again to the south. Here it followed the alignment of the trackway for 20 m before either being lost to a later ditch (ditch group 10450, which defined the full length of the west side of the trackway was thought to span both Phases 4 and 5) through truncation or (perhaps more likely on the basis of the plan) terminating. The resulting enclosure, lacked a south side, but had approximate maximum dimensions of 20 m (N-S) by 13 m (E-W). On average, ditch 9960 was 1.0 m wide and 0.4 m deep, filled with a primary yellow-grey silt clay, overlain by two mid grey silt clay deposits with occasional fragments of charcoal and small pieces of fired clay. The profile varied little and

generally had sides sloping at 45-60° to a slightly rounded base. Ditch 10495 was similar, but wider, being up to 1.5 m across.

At the south-east corner of this enclosure a further, smaller rectilinear enclosure was defined by narrow (unexcavated) gullies surrounding an area roughly 10 m by 9 m apparently facing the west side of the N-S trackway. It is possible that these gullies, together with a row of four possible postholes towards the eastern side, defined a structure, but their combined character was reminiscent of features lying just north of the Phase 2 structure S in Plot SC2, which is interpreted as an enclosure. This interpretation is tentatively favoured here. The north-west corner of the enclosure feature was obscured by an irregular soil spread 7204 measuring approximately 11 m by 5 m, which survived within a slight hollow. This comprised a primary reddish-brown silt clay with charred remains and fragments of ceramic building material, overlain by a dark grey clay silt containing moderate amounts of wood charcoal. Pottery from the upper fill (7125) was of Phase 4 or possibly Phase 5 date.

A series of postholes and two short segments of gully within the north-east corner of the area defined by enclosure 9960 possibly represented the remains of a circular or sub-rectangular structure, labelled T (Fig. 3.57). The majority of the features were very ephemeral with diffuse edges, which makes this interpretation rather speculative. A rectangular arrangement of four postholes could have formed an entrance which would have faced south. The rest of the structure may have been formed by a roughly L-shaped arrangement of postholes which survived around the south eastern edge of the building. A

western side to this structure may have been marked by a 4 m length of possible drainage gully, and another gully segment only 1.4 m in length was seen at the eastern external edge of the putative entrance. No dating evidence was retrieved from this possible structure, but its position within the enclosure indicates that it was probably of Phase 4 date.

Phase 5 (Fig. 3.17)

Structure P was the only feature at the northern, or front, end of plot SC4 in this phase. Plot SC5, in contrast, was more closely defined. Its northern boundary was formed by ditch 8070 which ran roughly east-west for 21 m before turning to the south as ditch

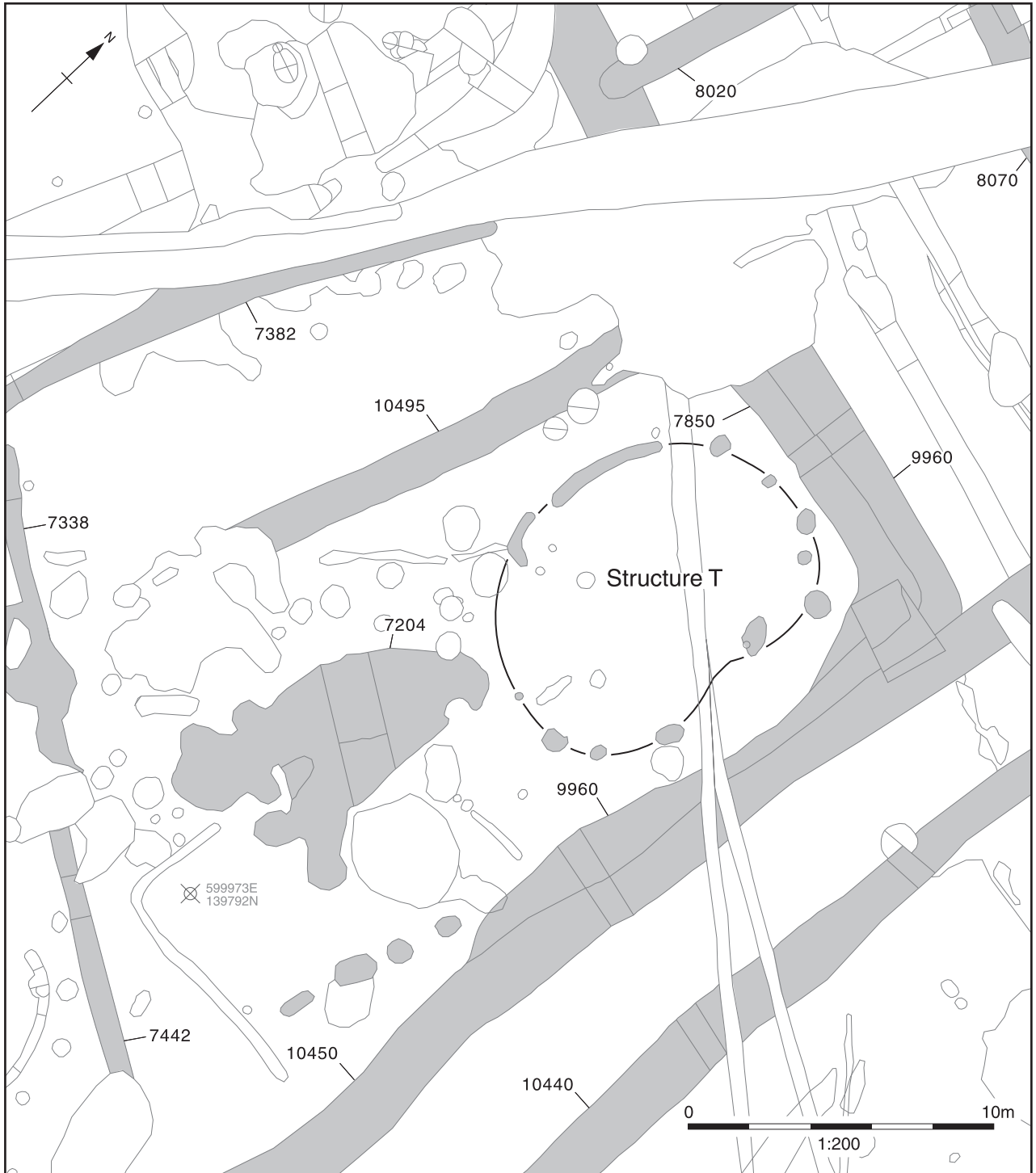


Figure 3.57 Plot SC5: Plan of Structure T with associated enclosure ditches 7850, 9960, and 10495, and trackway ditches 10450 and 10440.

10450, which formed the western ditch of the north-south trackway. The profile of ditch 8070 remained consistent along its length of the feature, with sides sloping at 70° to a flat base. The fills were generally a light grey silt clay, overlain by a grey silt clay mottled with patches of red silt. However, at the point where the ditch turned to the south, the corner segment was filled with a different sequence of deposits. This comprised two orange-grey silt clays, derived from the erosion of the ditch edges, sealed by a red-brown clay silt containing fragments of fired clay and ceramic building material. Overlying this were two light brown clay silts containing occasional slag fragments and small sub-angular stone. Ditch 10450, the southerly continuation of ditch 8070, had an average width of 1.10 m and depth of 0.52 m, with sides sloping at 60° to a flat base. The primary fill was consistently a blue-grey silt clay, overlain by a grey silt clay with infrequent charcoal flecks, slag and fired clay fragments.

Four segments of gully – 7442, 7338, 7382 and 8020 - combined with the trackway ditch to form an approximately rectangular enclosure with maximum dimensions of c 23 m by 39 m (Fig. 3.17). The western boundary of plot SC5 was formed by gully 8020, which began 1.5 m south of the western terminal of ditch 8070 and was 10 m long with clearly defined rounded termini. Its average width was 1.0 m and the depth 0.3 m. Some 5 m from the southern terminal of 8020 the line of the boundary was continued by ditch 7382. This was 18 m long, up to 1 m wide, and ended in a rounded terminal 0.7 m wide and 0.1 m deep with shallow sides and an undulating irregular base. Gullies 7338 and 7442, were most likely part of the same feature, and extended south-eastwards from the end of 7382 to form the rear (south-west) boundary of the plot. Both had shallow sloping sides and an irregular to flat base with an average width of 0.75 m and depth of 0.15 m. All these gully segments were filled with a single deposit of dark grey silt clay containing infrequent charred remains.

A series of pits was uncovered within plot SC5, though not all were closely dated. The small sample excavated was filled with a single deposit of grey silt clay containing occasional charcoal and fragments of animal bone. They were mostly shallow, with sides sloping gently to a flat base, and on average were 0.8 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep, although the larger unexcavated pits had a maximum diameter of 2 m.

Trackway ditch 10450 was paralleled to the east by ditch 10440 (Figs 3.17 and 3.57). These features and their predecessors combined to form a trackway generally 3.5 m to 4 m wide between plots SC1-SC5 to the west and plot SC6 to the east. The trackway gave access to the open area and shrine complex from the south. Both ditches extended beyond the excavated area, but within the confines of Area B they extended for approximately 95 m. The southernmost observations of these features were made in trenches excavated in 1998, where the southward continuation of ditch group 10440 was defined as group 1000.

Ditch 10450 was typically c 1.10 m wide, while 10440/1000 was from 1.80 m to 2.35 m wide and 0.55-

0.85 m deep. It had a slightly different profile from 10450, with sides sloping at 60° to a more pointed V-shaped base. A primary light grey-brown silt clay was found throughout the length of the ditch, and was overlain by a dark grey clay silt which contained occasional fragments of slag and ceramic building material and the base of a blue-green glass vessel (SF1026; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 65; Fig. 5.5). At its northern end, at the margin of the shrine area, 10440 returned to the east for at least 30 m.

The uppermost fills of both 10450 and 10440 were assigned to Phase 5 on the basis of pottery evidence. As already indicated, however, it is likely that ditch 10450 was cut in Phase 4, and may very well have had a predecessor in Phase 3. The same may be presumed for ditch 10440. At the very least, a Phase 4 ditch on this alignment is required by the presence of plot SC6 (see below) and appears to have been represented by ditch 1000. Whether the east side of the trackway was defined by a ditch in Phase 3 is less certain, but is quite likely in view of the suggested or possible phasing of features such as 1030 and 1020 in and adjacent to the area of plot SC6 (see below).

Plot SC6 - south-eastern settlement area (Fig. 3.58)

This plot was located to the east of the north-south side road and defined on its west and north sides by ditch 10440/1000. Ditch 1040, assigned to Phase 4, was located east of 10440/1000 on a NNE-SSW alignment (Figs 3.14 and 3.58) and was seen in two extensions of Area B, which showed that it had a minimum length of 57 m. Although its northerly limit is not known; it is likely that it terminated at a junction with the eastern return of 10440, but this is not certain. Characteristically, 1040 had moderately sloping sides and a flat base with a width of 0.7 m and a depth of 0.34 m. It was filled with a light grey silt clay, overlain by a mid grey clay silt with infrequent charcoal flecks (Fig. 58, section 236, and section 274, cut 1281).

Ditch 1040 is interpreted here as defining the south-eastern side of a somewhat hypothetical plot SC6 in the south-east angle of ditch 10440. In general 1040 appears to have been the last substantial boundary extending south-eastwards down the slope towards the Whitewater Dyke. A number of gullies perpendicular to it, including 1280 and 1290, terminated to respect its line and only one earlier gully (1030) - possibly Phase 3 - extended south-east of it and continued beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 3.10). It is noteworthy that while the east-west arm of ditch 10440 extended beyond the edge of the excavated area its recorded length is almost exactly that seen on the gradiometer survey, which shows the feature apparently coming to a clear stop. It therefore seems likely that the north-east corner of plot SC6, possibly formed by the junction of 10440 and 1040, and falling just outside the excavated area, marked the limit of significant activity at the south-east margin of the settlement.

Features 1280 and 1290 were two parallel segments of shallow ditch, neither extending as far west as trackway ditch 10440/1000. The former had moderate

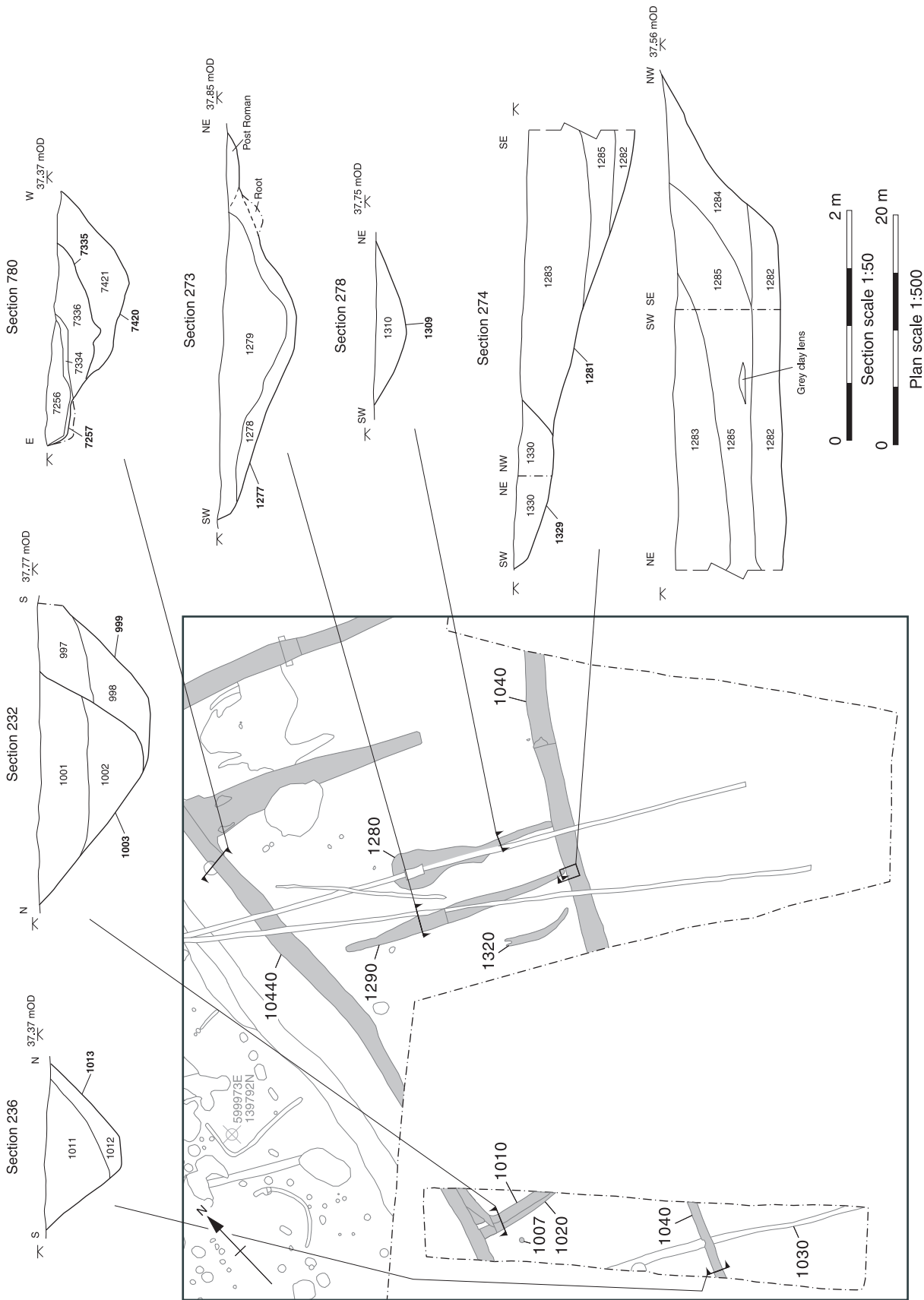


Figure 3.58 Plot SC6: Plan showing trackway ditch 10440/1000, enclosure ditches 1040 and 1020, and gullies 1030, 1290, 1280 and 1320, with cremation grave 1007, with selected ditch and gully sections.

sloping sides and a rounded base with a width and depth of 1 m and 0.2 m (Fig. 3.58, section 278). This was filled with a single deposit of dark brown clay silt which produced two blue-green glass fragments, one a ribbed body sherd (SF202; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 72) and the other a sherd from a tubular rimmed bowl (SF203; see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no. 37; Fig. 5.4), dated to the mid 1st to mid 2nd century. Ditch 1290 also had moderate sloping sides, but a flat base, with an average width and depth of 1.4 m and 0.32 m respectively (Fig. 3.58, section 273). Both ends narrowed to ill-defined termini. A dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking overlay a primary grey-brown silting fill. South of these ditches was a curvilinear segment of gully (1830) which terminated before reaching a junction with ditch 1040. This was heavily truncated by post-Roman plough damage and had a maximum width of 0.7 m and an average surviving depth of 0.07 m, being only 0.03 m deep at either end. Gully 1830 had the same profile as ditch 1290 and was filled with a single deposit of light grey clay silt.

Approximately 20 m south of this group of features two further gullies extended from the trackway ditch 10440/1000 eastwards beyond the edge of the excavation. Gully 1020 was the earlier of the two with a width and depth of 1 m and 0.4 m, moderate sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.58, section 232, cut 999). This extended from ditch 10440/1000 for at least 7 m. Gullies 1020 and 1000 were probably broadly contemporary, but the fill of feature 1020 was truncated by part of ditch 1000. Since 1020 did not extend beyond the line of ditch 1000 it may originally have related to an earlier feature on the same alignment as 1000. A later feature, gully 1010, ran parallel with ditch 10440 for 5 m before turning to the east and cutting into the top of gully 1020 for a further 5 m. This later gully had similar dimensions and profile as its predecessor and both were filled with orange-grey silt clay overlain by brown-grey clay silt (Fig. 3.58, section 232, cut 1003). In combination with the trackway ditches 10440/1000, gullies 1020 and 1010 probably defined the south-west corner of plot SC6.

A single adult cremation burial in grave 1007 was uncovered a few metres south of gully 1020. The grave had a diameter of 0.36 m, a depth of 0.15 m, and contained a single vessel (1004), a storage jar holding 1225 g of cremated bone. The vessel was in poor condition due to plough damage, and was lifted along with the remains to be excavated off site. It was dated *c* AD 43-100, placing the burial in Phase 2 or 3 (see Chapter 8).

Gully 1030, approximately 8 m to the south, presumably also originated at a junction with ditch 10440, although the evidence for this lay outside the excavated area. If it did join 10440, then it would have extended for at least 32 m south-eastwards from the line of 10440. This feature had the same moderate sided profile and flat base as seen in the other gullies in this part of the site, and was 0.7 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It was filled with a light brown-orange clay silt, which became slightly more clayey in composition as it extended down slope to the south-east.

Apart from the isolated cremation burial, there were no features associated with the gullies to indicate the type of activity in the area. This part of Area B was well away from the more intensive areas of settlement, and may possibly have been prone to seasonal flooding from the Whitewater Dyke located to the south-east. A probable alluvial deposit on average not more than 0.15 m deep was noted beneath the subsoil during the machine excavation of these areas. This was not dated, however, so it is not known if it was contemporary with the settlement.

Southern Peripheral Area

Plot SE1 (Fig. 3.59)

This plot lay south-east of the Canterbury road and south of plot SC1 and was defined by three parallel NW-SE aligned gullies (9150, 9160 and 9170), which were angled slightly of the perpendicular in relation to the Canterbury road it. They may have formed field boundaries, but in view of their spacing and their location opposite the south-west block of plots, it is perhaps more probable that they enclosed a single property unit (SE1). The rear (south-east side) of this plot appears to have been defined by the residual line of the Phase 2 ditch 9060, giving a maximum plot depth of *c* 65 m, while at the north-western street frontage none of the gullies extended as far as the roadside gullies, though this area was quite heavily disturbed by post-medieval ditches which could have completely removed portions of some of the gullies.

The most south-westerly gully was 9170, which had an average width of 0.97 m and depth of 0.28 m. A slighter gully, 9160, was only *c* 1 m north-east of 9170. This had steep sides and a slightly rounded base with an average width of 0.44 m and depth of 0.13 m. It was filled with a single deposit of grey-orange silt with high densities of manganese. This gully became gradually shallower to the south-east, rather than ending in a formal terminal. In its north-western part it was cut by a number of pits and other features (see below), while close to its north-western terminal it appeared to cut the north-east edge of a 4.8 m length of a rather broader gully (9165). Some 20 m north-east of 9170 was 9150, which was on average 1.14 m wide and 0.27 m deep. A localised recut 11 m long at the north-west end of the feature (9190) was up to 2 m wide and 0.37 m deep. Both 9150 and 9170 were steep-sided with a flat base and, like 9160, became gradually shallower to the south-east. Both had a similar single grey clay silt fill.

A group of small unexcavated pits projected the alignment of 9160 at its north-western end and a further cluster of undated pits (9138, 9134, 9131, 10493 and 10494) cut into the top of 9160 and partly into 9170 some 25 m from the road edge. Further south-east an isolated pit (8214) lay immediately north-east of 9160. This was oval in shape, *c* 1.56 m by 1.2 m and excavated to a depth of 1.2 m without reaching the natural clay. The lowest deposit excavated was an orange-brown silt clay with lenses of light grey clay throughout. This



Figure 3.59 Plot SE1: Plan showing ditches 9150, 9160 and 9170 and associated features.

was overlain by a grey-orange clay silt containing occasional fragments of burnt stone and charcoal and the uppermost fill was a grey-orange clay silt with a high density of manganese and frequent small rounded stone.

A group of slightly irregular intercutting pits covering an area approximately 10 m by 4 m was located towards the north-east side of the plot. The pits

excavated at the north-west end of this group (10009, 10011 and 10086) all had moderate sloping sides with a rounded base, and were on average 0.41 m deep, ranging from c 1.2 m to c 3 m across. Their primary fills were consistent yellow-brown silt clays, sealed by series of grey-brown silt clays. The uppermost deposit in all cases contained frequent amounts of charred remains.

The chronology of the features of plot SE1 is a little uncertain. The primary boundaries of the plot were probably formed by 9150 and 9160, both of which could, on the basis of the limited pottery recovered from their fills, have been as early as Phase 3 in date. It seems unlikely that 9170 and 9150 were contemporary use. The only complicating factor is that the upper fill of the small gully 9165, apparently cut by 9160, was clearly of Phase 5 date. Material in this fill could have been intrusive, but it may be that the relationship between 9160 and 9165 was incorrectly observed, a suggestion supported by the fact that the corresponding feature (9190) relating to ditch 9150 to the north was the later of the two and was also of Phase 5 date. The plot could have originated either in Phase 3 or Phase 4, though the fact that the ditches seem to have respected the major Phase 2 alignment at their south-east ends argues for an earlier rather than a later date. Ditch 9170 could have replaced 9160 either in Phase 4 or Phase 5. The pits which cut 9160 and impinged marginally on 9170 were, like most of the ditches, poorly dated. Unequivocal Phase 5 material came from a single upper fill (9168) of ditch 9170, from the two localised ?recuts 9165 and 9190, from the upper fill of isolated pit 8214, and from 10011, one of the group of irregularly-shaped pits adjacent to ditch 9150.

Possible mortuary enclosure (Fig. 3.60)

A small square ditched enclosure (group 8730) was uncovered in the south-western part of Area B, approximately 26 m south-east of the road (Figs 3.10 and 3.60). This consisted of a single ditch defining an area with an internal width of 10 m and a north-west

facing entrance 1.4 m wide. The average width and depth of the ditch, which had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, were 0.93 m and 0.3 m. It had a single fill of light yellow-brown clay silt which produced a small quantity of undiagnostic 1st-2nd century pottery. The only remaining internal feature was a post-hole located centrally in the enclosure. This measured 0.5 m by 0.4 m and 0.07 m deep and had vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a single deposit of mid brown silt clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. A rather larger, very amorphous feature cut by the posthole was probably a tree throw hollow. The date of this feature remains unclear. It was tentatively assigned to Phase 3.

Other features (Fig. 3.61)

Cremation graves

Two isolated cremation burials, 9860 and 9940, 4.5 m apart lay at the extreme south-eastern margin of Area B, immediately south-east of NE-SW aligned ditch 7840. The grave of 9940 was roughly circular with steep sides and a rounded base measuring 0.6 m in diameter and 0.32 m deep. An upright cremation urn within the pit was filled with a light grey silt clay, which contained the cremated bone. Above this deposit was an inverted samian bowl, which appeared to have been placed deliberately to act as a form of lid for the burial. Cremation grave 9860 was sub-rectangular and measured 0.6 m by 0.7 m, but only survived to a depth of 0.03 m (Plate 3.14). Within the pit were the remains of a flagon lying on its side, and the heavily broken up remains of a jar. The majority of the cremated bone was within

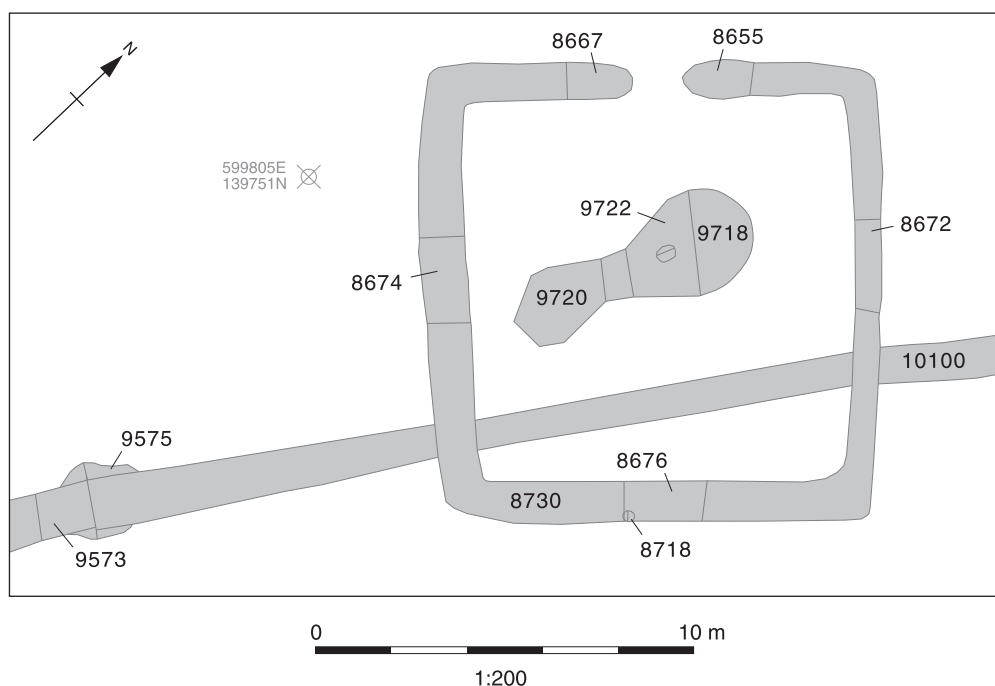


Figure 3.60 Plan of mortuary enclosure 8730.

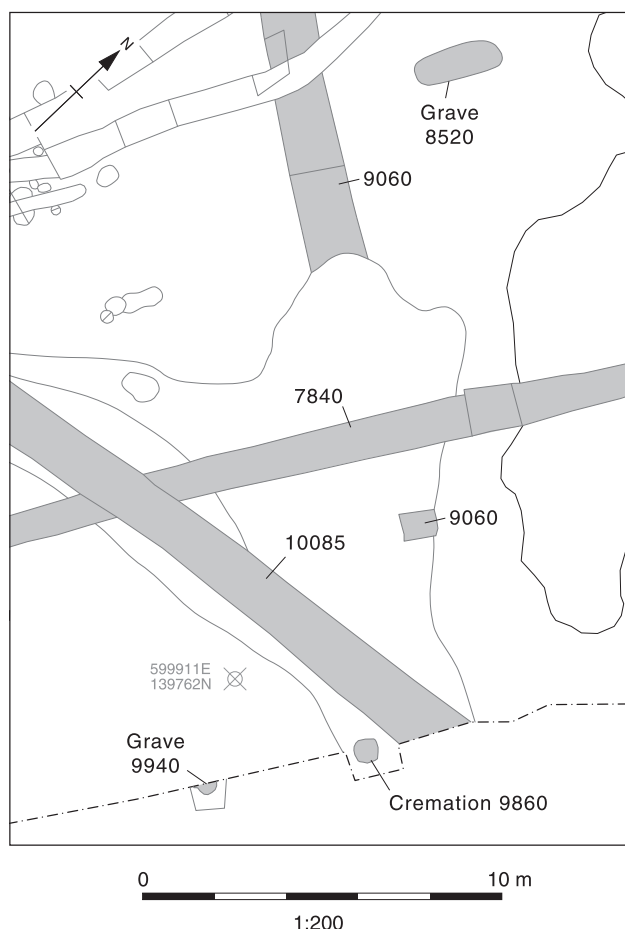


Figure 3.61 Location of graves 8520 and 9940, and cremation 9940.



Plate 3.14 Cremation group 9860.

a shallow bowl-shaped depression in the centre of the cremation cut and does not seem to have been placed within the jar. It may originally have been held in a bag or some other organic container. Both cremation pits were back-filled with redeposited natural silt clay (see Chapter 8).

Inhumation grave

A single inhumation grave 8520, aligned roughly NE-SW, was situated approximately 19 m north-west of the cremations mentioned above. The grave was sub-rectangular in shape, with a maximum width of 0.75 m, tapering to 0.43 m at either end, and a length of 2.46 m. The edges of the grave were irregular and near vertical; the base had maximum surviving depth of 0.14 m. The bone preservation was very poor due to the acidic nature of the soil, and only incomplete parts of the right and left tibia and the right femur survived. The grave contained three ancillary vessels. A samian bowl and a heavily broken up flagon were set in an upright position on the base of the grave in the vicinity of the right foot. At the north-east end of the grave, close to where the head would have been, were the remains of a small grey ware flask. This lay

on its side with only half of the base surviving. Also at the north-east edge of the grave was a single iron nail (SF1406), the only surviving evidence for a coffin (see Chapter 8).

Area C (Figs 3.62-3.63)

Cemetery

A small cemetery was located to the north-west of Area A beyond the main settlement boundary. Eleven cremations and eight possible inhumations were examined within a well-defined enclosure.

Ditches

The south-east boundary of the cemetery (and of the whole of Area C) was marked by a substantial NE-SW ditch alignment (5174). This divided the cemetery from the adjacent settlement in all phases; indeed, its alignment is perpetuated by a modern hedge and tree line up to the present day. Only some of the later phases of ditch 5174, however, were observed within the limits of Area C.

A NW-SE aligned ditch (5270) was stratigraphically the earliest linear feature within the cemetery

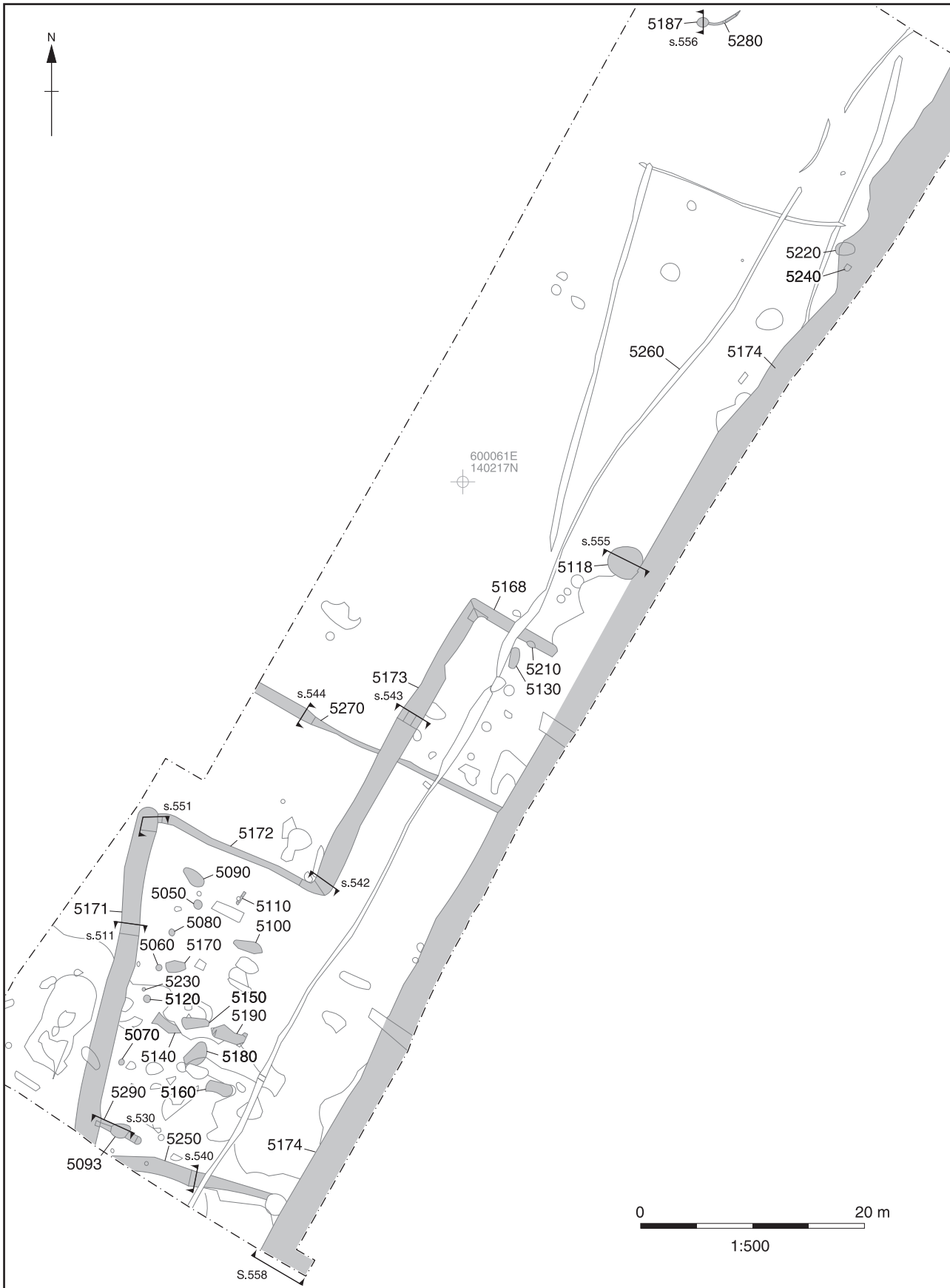


Figure 3.62 Area C: Plan of cemetery enclosed within ditches 5250, 5174, 5171, 5172, 5173 and 5168.

The Roman Roadside Settlement at Westhawk Farm

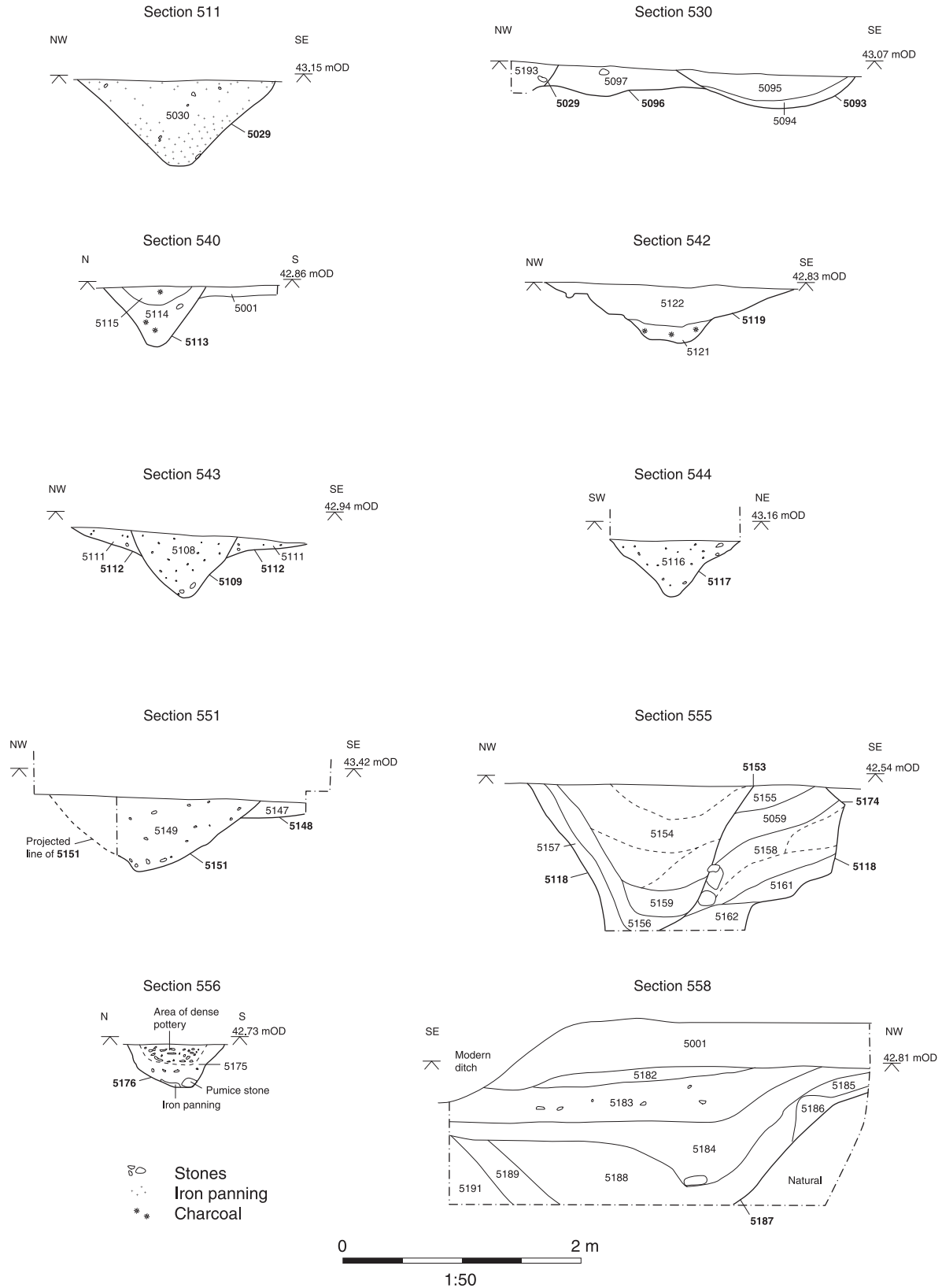


Figure 3.63 Area C: Sections of cemetery ditches 5250, 5171, 5172, 5173, 5174, ditch 5270, gully 5290, waterhole 5118, and pit 5176: Ditch 5250: section 540 (cut 5113); ditch 5171: section 511 (cut 5029), section 551 (cut 5151); ditch 5172: section 551 (cut 5148); ditch 5173: section 542 (cut 5119), section 543 (cut 5109); ditch 5174: section 558 (cut 5187), ditch 5270: section 544 (cut 5117), gully 5290: section 530 (cut 5096), waterhole 5118: section 555; and pit 5176: section 556.

area. Ditch 5270 was 1.10 m wide and 0.45 m deep and had a splayed V-shaped profile (Fig. 3.63, section 544). The light grey silt clay fill may have represented a single episode of backfilling, rather than a gradual silting event. Ditch 5270 may have represented an early form of boundary for the north-east side of the cemetery, before it was succeeded by a more elaborate cemetery enclosure consisting of ditches 5171, 5172, 5173 and 5168.

The NE-SW ditch 5174 was most likely, judging by the evidence of the gradiometer survey, a continuation of ditch 840 recorded in Area B. This feature paralleled the alignment of the Canterbury road, but lay to the rear of the settlement plots north-west of the road, separating the cemetery from the main settlement area. It is likely that this alignment was in place from a very early stage in the life of the settlement and would have been in existence before the ditches associated with the cemetery boundary (5171, 5172, 5173, 5168) were established. Ditch 5174 had an average width of 4.0 m and a depth of 1.50 m, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3.63, section 558). A yellow-brown silt clay on both sides of the ditch represented the erosion and slippage of the original edges. This was overlain by a yellow-brown silt clay, which contained moderate amounts of charcoal, tipping into the ditch from the south-east edge. Above these fills were two grey silt clay deposits, both containing large amounts of charcoal. The latter of these deposits was of substantial depth (0.55 m) and represented a single episode of infill. This was interpreted as a possible flood deposit, or the fill at least suggested that the ditch had contained standing water for a time. These deposits were sealed by a dark grey silt, which represented a more gradual accumulation in the ditch.

Ditches 5250, 5171, 5172, 5173 and 5168 comprised a rectilinear series of boundaries which formed a more elaborate enclosure for the cemetery area. Features 5172, 5173 and 5168 formed one continuous ditch which eventually terminated to respect the alignment of boundary ditch 5174 at the north-east corner of the cemetery enclosure. This ditch ranged considerably in width from 0.60 m to 2.20 m and in depth from 0.12 m to 0.50 m. Its shallow U-shaped profile at its western limit changed as it extended eastwards to a ditch to a profile with shallow sloping sides, which stepped down steeply to a flat base. A blue-grey primary silt clay fill was recorded along its length, overlain by grey-brown silting deposit which contained occasional pieces of hearth bottom slag. The ditch produced pottery mostly dated *c* AD 43-100, although an upper silting deposit (5122; Fig. 3.63, section 542) within the NE-SW stretch of the ditch produced (in a larger assemblage) a few small sherds dated after AD 200 which were probably intrusive. It was within this area of the ditch that a re-cut (5109) was recorded, running on the same axis for approximately 22 m (Fig. 3.63, section 543). This was 0.9 m wide and 0.5 m deep and had steep sides and a rounded base filled with a pale grey clay silting deposit which contained a bronze Colchester

derivative brooch (SF501) dated mid-late 1st- to early 2nd-century (see Cool, Chapter 5, Cat. no.10).

Ditch 5171 was aligned roughly NNE-SSW and formed the western boundary of the cemetery area. This feature was up to 1.67 m wide and 0.72 m deep and had sides sloping at 45° to a flat base (Fig. 3.63, section 511). It was filled by a blue-grey silt clay mottled with flecks of orange silt, which produced an illegible 1st-2nd century coin (SF505; see Guest, Chapter 5, Table 5.5). A short stretch of gully, group 5290, extended 4 m to the south-east from the line of ditch 5171 (Fig. 3.63, section 530). This had a shallow U-shaped profile and measured on average 0.8 m wide and 0.2 m deep, although to the south-east it ended in an ill-defined terminal only 0.08 m deep. The gully was filled with brown-grey clay. A sub-circular pit (5093), 1.5 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, was cut into the top of gully 5290. It had a primary fill of grey-orange silt clay overlain by a dark brown clay silting fill containing infrequent charcoal flecks.

Ditch 5250, aligned roughly WNW-ESE, probably formed the south-western boundary of the cemetery area. To the south-east it ran into pit 5196 before the junction with main boundary 5174. To the north-west it extended beyond the area of excavation, but it is likely to have returned to the north as ditch 5171. Ditch 5250 was typically 0.9 m wide and 0.5 m deep, with sides sloping at 45° to a slightly rounded base, and it was filled with grey-brown silt clay overlain by a dark grey silting deposit (Fig. 3.63, section 540).

Graves

Nineteen graves, ten cremation and nine possible inhumation graves, were excavated within Area C. Most of the burials were in discrete features, as a result of which the dating of some of them was problematic. It is emphasised that no unburnt human bone survived and the identification of inhumation burials was based on feature morphology, in some cases aided by the inclusions of pottery vessels which might have been placed in the features intact and therefore suggest grave goods. The graves and their contents are itemised in full in Chapter 8; this evidence is only summarised here in approximate chronological sequence (Table 3.4)

Two inhumation graves, 5130 and 5190, some 42 m apart, were tentatively assigned to Phase 2 on the basis of associated finds. Two further inhumations adjacent to 5190 - 5160 parallel to it to the south and 5180 roughly at a right angle between 5190 and 5160 - could also have been as early as Phase 2 in date, but the pottery redeposited in the grave fills could not be more closely dated than Phases 2-4. Three cremation burials, 5110, 5120 and 5230, might also have been as early as Phase 2 in date, but could only be assigned wide date ranges. The last two of these formed part of a row of cremations some 18 m long (from south to north 5070, 5230, 5120, 5060, 5080, 5050 and 5090) which extended roughly SSW-NNE inside the line of ditch 5171, but not quite parallel to it (see below).

Table 3.4 Area C cemetery: Summary of burials

Phase	Type	Grave group no	Cut	Alignment	Maximum dimensions (m)	Main fill	Grave goods
2	Inhum	5130	5047	E-W	1.80 x 0.90 x 0.12	5046	Drinking vessel
2	Inhum	5190	5085	NW-SE	3.00 x 1.00 x 0.20	5084	
2-3	Crem	5110	5026		0.35 dia x 0.15	5033	Urn
2-4	Inhum	5160	5072	NW-SE	2.30 x 1.10 x 0.19	5071	
2-4	Inhum	5180	5099	c N-S	2.10 x 1.10 x 0.12	5098	
2-5	Crem	5120	5043		0.60 dia x 0.15	5040	Urn
2-5	Crem	5230	5146		0.33 dia x 0.07	5143	Urn
3	Crem	5220	5131		1.70 x 1.10 x 0.20	5132	?Wooden box, urn, 3 other vessels, animal bone, hobnails
3	Crem	5240	5166		0.54 x 0.51 x 0.07	5163	Possible box?? Urn
3	Inhum	5170	5023	E-W	1.90 x 1.00 x 0.10	5022	
3-5	Inhum	5100	5032	E-W	2.80 x 1.00 x 0.15	5031	
4-5	Crem	5080	5021		0.60 dia x 0.15	5017	Urn and flagon
5	Crem	5050	5010		0.65 x 0.40 x 0.15	5011	Urn and intaglio
5	Crem	5070	5061		0.70 x 0.60 x 0.15	5062	Urn and drinking vessel
5	Crem	5210	5128		0.94 x 0.52 x 0.05	5127	Drinking vessel
5	?Inhum (infant)	5060	5016		0.50 dia x 0.12	5012	2 vessels
5	Inhum	5150	5054	E-W	2.50 x 1.10 x 0.18	5053	
6	Crem	5090	5028		c 1.00 x 0.70 x 0.25	5024	Urn, 3 other vessels, animal bone, jet beads and cu bracelet
6	Inhum	5140	5052	NW-SE	3.00 x 1.20 x 0.20.	5051	

Two cremation graves (5220 and 5240) and a single inhumation grave (5170) were assigned to Phase 3. The first of these was certainly contained within a wooden box, and 5240 was possibly treated similarly, although this suggestion is only based on the square shape of the grave. These two graves lay well to the north of the rest of the cemetery immediately north-west of ditch 5174, while inhumation grave 5170 lay close to the line of predominantly Phase 5 cremation burials. A further inhumation, 5100, a little to the east of 5170, was on a similar WNW-ESE alignment to the ?Phase 2 inhumation grave 5160 and 5190 further south. It could only be dated within a wide Phase 3-5 bracket and may therefore have been roughly contemporary with 5170 or rather later.

The row of cremation graves (5070 to 5090) included the majority of those assigned certainly or probably to Phase 5. The spacing of these features varied from c 1.5 m to 3.5 m. The character of burial 5060 was uncertain since no cremation urn or cremated bone was recovered. It is possible that this feature contained an infant inhumation rather than a cremation. The most northerly burial of this row, 5090, was assigned to Phase 6, although a late 3rd century (Phase 5) date is just possible. This cremation group lay in a cut approximately 1.0 m by 0.70 m and 0.25 m deep at the south-east edge of what initially resembled a sub-rectangular inhumation cut. It contained a complete beaker (5003), a fragmented flagon (5027) and a complete cremation urn (5026) at the south-east edge of the pit (Plate 3.15). This latter was lifted and excavated in the laboratory at OA. During excavation a ceramic lid was discovered within the jar, beneath which was a bracelet of copper alloy and a configuration of jet and lignite beads forming a necklace and an armlet (Figs 5.8, 8.6). The necklace was found to consist entirely of jet, while the armlet was a mixture

of jet and lignite (see Allason-Jones, Chapter 5; see also Cool, Chapter 5). Below the jet and lignite jewellery, which was unburnt, were the cremated remains of a young adult male (See Chapter 8 below).

A further Phase 5 cremation group, 5210, was located over 30 m north-east of the nearest contemporaneous cremation burial in a sub-rectangular grave cut into the edge of the north-eastern arm of ditch 5171 that defined the cemetery area. This was the only certain burial with such a relationship; an unexcavated feature (5194) which cut 5171 towards the south-west edge of Area C was thought to be a pit rather than a grave.

Late inhumation burials were 5150, aligned E-W and assigned to Phase 5, and the immediately adjacent 5140, aligned roughly NW-SE, assigned to Phase 6 on the basis of a small number of sherds in the back-fill of the feature. The former grave cut an earlier gully (5069) and pit (5067).

Other features

A waterhole (5118) with a re-cut (5153) was situated north-east of the cemetery area and was truncated slightly by the north-west edge of ditch 5174. Feature 5118 was roughly circular with a diameter of 3.5 m (Plate 3.16). The sides were near vertical, but the base was not recorded as the feature could only be excavated to a depth of 1.5 m (Fig. 3.63, section 5550). The lowest deposits at the south-east and north-west edges of the waterhole consisted of silt clays deriving from the erosion of the natural edges. Overlying these lower deposits was a substantial layer of light grey silt clay containing charcoal flecks and fragments of stone. This layer (5158), approximately half way down the excavated section of the waterhole, appears to have been waterlogged at one time, as a



Plate 3.15 Grave group 5090 showing grave goods in situ.



Plate 3.16 Well 5118.

high concentration of compacted organic debris was very visible. At the point of recording, however, oxidised flecking was observed throughout the deposit. The penultimate deposit consisted of a dense layer of redeposited natural clay, which contained few inclusions, but did produce a light yellow-brown glass fragment of 1st- to 2nd-century date (SF502). This deposit may possibly consist of upcast derived from the excavation of ditch 5174, or from the re-definition of the edges of the ditch. The uppermost deposit within waterhole 5118 was a light grey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal.

Re-cut 5153 was oval in shape and cut into the north-west edge of waterhole 5118. It measured 2.5 m by 2 m and 1.5 m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base. The primary fill within the base of 5153 was a 0.4 m thick dark grey clay silt, which contained a large amount of organic debris and occasional charcoal flecks. This was overlain by a substantial layer (1 m thick) of yellow-brown silt clay, which resembled redeposited natural, perhaps indicating deliberate backfill of the disused waterhole.

A further pit (5176) lay in the northern part of Area C and was probably related to gully segment 5280,

which ran from its eastern edge. The pit was 0.60 m in diameter and 0.40 m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flat base. The original function of the pit is uncertain, but it was backfilled with a single deposit of redeposited natural clay which contained fragments of ceramic building material and fragments of at least four flagons probably of late 1st-century date (see Chapter 6 below, Assemblage 1). Gully 5280 was curvilinear, approximately 3 m long and on average 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile (Fig. 3.63, section 556). It was backfilled with the same material seen in pit 5176, and included fragments from a further flagon related to those from the pit.

A narrow gully (5260) was generally aligned parallel to the main Roman boundary 5174 some 6-8 m distant from it and extended across the length of Area C. This feature, on average 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep, was filled with a mottled grey-brown silt clay which contained many abraded fragments of Roman pottery. The nature of these finds and the fact that it cut all features along its course through the site, suggested that the gully was of post-Roman, and most likely post-medieval, date. Its alignment was followed by that of two field drains which ran the length of Area C.