

# Chapter 5: Material Culture

## from the Roman Settlement and Shrine

THE ROMAN POTTERY by Jane Timby

### Introduction and methodology

The evaluation and subsequent excavation resulted in the recovery of some 28,574 sherds of pottery weighing 487 kg. All this material was subjected to a rapid scan during the post-excavation phase (Booth in OA 2004b) with quantification principally derived from the initial basic finds record. A note of major ware groups was made and a spot date produced for each context. For this report all the stratified pottery was sorted into fabrics and quantified by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (rim) (EVE) for each recorded context. Rim sherds were identified to form types and coded accordingly. Notes were made of other featured sherds. Other features, such as potters' stamps, graffiti and residues were noted where appropriate. Attribution of sherds to fabric was mainly done by eye, occasionally assisted by use of a binocular microscope (x20). Where relevant the National Roman fabric codes (NRFC) (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been used. Local or other wares not in this system were coded used a mnemonic code reflecting both the colour and the main inclusions present. A summary of all the defined fabrics can be found in Table 5.1. The quantified data was entered onto a MS Excel spreadsheet, a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

The condition of the pottery was generally very good with a high proportion of joining sherds. Surface preservation was also good and the edges relatively unabraded. This state of good preservation is reflected in a relatively high average sherd weight of 17 g. Pottery was recovered from some 797 contexts in total. Some 10% of the assemblage by sherd count was recovered from general collection.

The report is arranged in three sections; first is a description of the fabrics and associated forms; this is followed by a period discussion including defining key groups and finally the assemblage is viewed in its local, regional and national context.

### Description of fabrics and forms

The wares have been divided into four groups: continental imports, regional traded wares, local wares, and miscellaneous unknown source.

### Continental imports: fine wares

*Samian ware.* Some 1103 sherds of samian were recovered, c 14.1 kg, 2600 EVEs. This is effectively 3.9% by sherd count of the whole assemblage, 2.9% by weight. This is probably one of the largest assemblages to be recovered to date from a small nucleated settlement, comparable to that recovered, for example, from the extramural area of Alchester, which yielded some 1142 sherds out of an assemblage of 45,628 Roman sherds (2.5%) (Evans 2001). Most of the sherds appear to be Central Gaulish, in particular from Lezoux, with a smaller number of vessels from Les Martres-de-Veyre, accompanied by eight South Gaulish and twelve East Gaulish vessels. At the time this report was being prepared there were no samian specialists available to undertake a detailed account of the material; as a consequence it has been quantified alongside the other pottery and any stylistic or and chronological details considered only in broad terms. Where possible, vessel forms were identified to the standard typologies. Some of the better, decorated pieces have been illustrated by using rubbings (Fig. 5.1) and the more complete potters stamps drawn (Fig. 5.2). Where parallels could be found these are cited.

*South Gaulish.* Just five vessels (eight sherds) in South Gaulish ware were noted, one from Phase 3, the rest from Phases 4 and 5. Forms include a decorated bowl Drag 30, a dish 18/31, a closed form, the base of a very worn reused cup and a dish with barbotine decoration, which falls into Vernhet (1986, 99) Service D. The latter, from the La Graufesenque kilns, is likely to date to the Flavian period and was recovered from Phase 3 ditch 11910.

*Central Gaulish.* The bulk of the samian assemblage comes from Central Gaul, in particular from the Lezoux kilns with a small amount of the slightly better quality earlier material from Martres-de-Veyre. By sherd count some 7.1% of the material came from Phase 3 contexts, 44.4% from Phase 4 and 32.6% from Phase 5 with lesser amounts from the other phases. Much of that from Phase 5 is presumably redeposited or curated material. Phase 6 (post-Roman) yielded 11 sherds recovered from sunken-featured buildings.

Table 5.2 summarises the forms present based on rim EVEs. The dish Drag 31 is by far the commonest form present, accounting for 32.7% of the assemblage.

Table 5.1 Quantified summary of Roman pottery assemblage

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>% Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% No</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	
IMPORTS	SG SAM	South Gaulish samian	139	+	8	+	25	0.1	
	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	13752	2.8	1083	3.8	2557	5.8	
	EG SAM	East Gaulish samian	189	+	12	+	18	+	
	ARG CC	Argonne colour-coated ware	3	+	1	+	0		
	CNG BS	Central Gaulish black slip	52	+	10	+	22	0.1	
	MOS BS	Moselle black slip	30	+	11	+	0		
	BAT AM	Baetican amphorae	1226	0.3	13	0.1	0		
REGIONAL	GAL AM	Gallic amphorae	236	0.1	10	+	0		
	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	3402	0.7	205	0.7	554	1.3	
	HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware	120	+	48	0.2	38	0.1	
	MAH WH	Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria	66	+	2	+	10	+	
	OXF PA	Oxon parchment ware	5	+	1	+	0		
	OXF RS	Oxon colour-coated ware	373	0.1	26	0.1	44	0.1	
	OXF RSM	Oxon colour-coated mortaria	65	+	4	+	12	+	
	OXF WH	Oxon white ware	27	+	3	+	2	+	
	OXF WHM	Oxon white ware mortaria	266	0.1	8	+	17	+	
	SOC WH	South Carlton white ware	296	0.1	1	+	20	0.1	
	VER WH	Verulamium white ware	443	0.1	19	0.1	99	0.2	
	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	2068	0.4	30	0.1	104	0.2	
	LOCAL	GROG	misc hand made grog-tempered	94	+	2	+	0	
		GR SH	grog and shell-tempered	77	+	5	+	0	
BOX GR		burnt oxidised grog-tempered	6025	1.2	226	0.8	351	0.8	
BPNK GR		burnt pink grog-tempered	1365	0.3	24	0.1	67	0.2	
BWH GR		burnt white ware grog-tempered	38112	7.8	1782	6.3	2835	6.5	
GY GR		grey grog-tempered	6571	1.4	110	0.4	161	0.4	
OX GR		oxidised grog-tempered	4219	0.9	184	0.7	236	0.5	
WW GR		white grog-tempered	9759	2.0	272	1.0	570	1.3	
PNK GT		pink grog-tempered	2478	0.5	46	0.2	43	0.1	
LVN CC		Lower Nene Valley cc ware	43031	8.9	4011	14.1	6449	14.7	
LVN CCM		Lower Nene Valley cc mortaria	403	0.1	8	+	15	+	
LVN OX		Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	2410	0.5	209	0.7	354	0.8	
LVN PA		Lower Nene Valley parchment ware	217	+	20	0.1	52	0.1	
LVN RE		Lower Nene Valley grey ware	134659	27.7	11000	38.6	17020	38.8	
LVN REM		Lower Nene Valley grey ware mortaria	44	+	2	+	0		
LVN WH		Lower Nene Valley white ware	10137	2.1	804	2.8	606	1.4	
LVN WHM		Lower Nene Valley ww+C61 mortaria	14373	3.0	246	0.9	657	1.5	
SHELL1		handmade shelly ware	130137	26.8	4186	14.7	4184	9.5	
SHELL2		wheelmade shelly ware	37013	7.6	2412	8.5	3824	8.7	
SHELL3		sparse shelly ware	140	+	7	+	54	0.1	
SHLISA		misc shell/limestone/sandy	38	+	3	+	25	0.1	
BOX SY		burnt oxidised sandy ware	245	0.1	7	+	28	0.1	
BWH SY		burnt white ware sandy	7149	1.5	371	1.3	678	1.5	
BWH PA		burnt white parchment ware	55	+	5	+	0		
BW		black sandy ware	5334	1.1	449	1.6	928	2.1	
BB1 IMIT		wheelmade BB1 copies	3605	0.7	172	0.6	572	1.3	
BW MIC		black micaceous ware	117	+	10	+	5	+	
BWF		black fine ware	198	+	15	0.1	49	0.1	
BWF MIC		black fine micaceous ware	333	0.1	34	0.1	91	0.2	
GREY		grey sandy ware	147	+	12	+	12	+	
GYF		fine grey ware	13	+	2	+	15	+	
OXID		oxidised sandy ware	853	0.2	84	0.3	145	0.3	
PNK SY		pink sandy ware	101	+	16	0.1	11	+	
BSGW		black slipped grey ware	8	+	1	+	0		
UNKNOWN		BUFF	buff sandy ware	311	0.1	30	0.1	30	0.1
		BUFF CC	buff sandy ware with colour-coat	11	+	1	+	0	
		BUFF MIC	buff micaceous ware	6	+	1	+	0	
		CC	misc colour-coated wares	305	0.1	26	0.1	19	+
		CWW CC	coarse white ware with colour-coat	5	+	1	+	0	

Table 5.1 (continued) Quantified summary of Roman pottery assemblage

Fabric	Description	Wt	% Wt	No	% No	EVE	% EVE
GLAZE	British glazed ware	2	+	1	+	11	+
GY RB	grey with a red burnish	23	+	1	+	0	
MICA	mica-slipped wares	614	0.1	30	0.1	61	0.1
MORT	misc mortaria	540	0.1	7	+	8	+
OXID F	fine oxidised wares	297	0.1	11	+	4	+
OXID MIC	micaceous oxidised wares	309	0.1	26	0.1	39	0.1
WS OXID	white-slipped oxidised ware	298	0.1	27	0.1	3	+
WS GY	white-slipped grey ware	11	+	1	+	0	
WWF	fine white wares	131	+	19	0.1	0	
WW	misc white wares	1078	0.2	71	0.3	167	0.4
MISC	miscellaneous unclassified	64	+	17	0.1	0	
TOTAL		486223	100.00	28502	100.00	43901	100.00

Table 5.2 Summary of Central Gaulish samian ware forms (expressed by EVE)

Form	Type	EVE	% EVE	Summary total
Dish	18	10	0.4	
	18/31	62	2.4	
	31	836	32.7	
	18/31-31	19	0.7	
	31R	67	2.6	
	32	9	0.4	
	36	62	2.4	
	42	21	0.8	
	Service E	8	0.3	
	79	23	0.9	
	Curle 15	10	0.4	
	Curle 23	44	1.7	
	Lz 070/071	30	1.2	
Bowl	Dish misc	14	0.5	47.5
	30	8	0.3	
	37	218	8.5	
	30/37	5	0.2	
Cup	38	14	0.5	
	Curle 11	32	1.3	10.8
	27	39	1.5	
	33	851	33.3	
	35	9	0.4	
	46	15	0.6	
	80	0	0.0	
Mortaria	O&P LV 13	30	1.2	36.9
	45	37	1.4	
Jar	Curle 21	0	0.0	1.4
	72	83	3.2	3.2
TOTAL		2556	100.0	100.0

In general terms dishes accounted for 47.5% of the samian assemblage. Other types include Drag 18/31, 18/31-31, 31R, 32, 36, 42, 79, Curle 15 and 23, dishes Service E and large dishes with angular rims which, if from East Gaul would be classified as Ludowici Tg, but as these are clearly Central Gaulish, fall into Bet's Lezoux form 70/71 (Bet *et al.* 1989, fig. 4). Bowls account for 10.8% overall by rim EVE and include forms Drag 30, 37, 30/37, 38 and Curle 11. Cups are the second commonest form present accounting for 36.9% of the assemblage with Drag 33 being the most frequent overall form at 33.3%. Other cups include Drag 27, 35, 46 and O&P LV 13. One of the Drag 35 cups, a Les Martres-de-Veyre vessel from colluvium 12223, had the slightly more unusual use of barbotine decoration on the body. Also present, but not as a rim, is a Drag 80. Mortaria, although present, are not that common at 1.4%. Most sherds are from Drag 45s, but at least one Curle 21 was identified from body sherds. Jars of form Drag 72 make up the remaining 3.2%, largely from a single plain vessel from pit 12826, of which 75% of the rim was present along with several body sherds.

In total some 20 stamps have been recorded, plus a mould stamp ADVOCISI from a Drag 37 found in well 12885 (Phase 5) (see Fig. 5.2.S1). Where forms could be determined two stamps were on Drag 31, one each on 18/31 and 31R, four on Drag 33 and a further six from cups and two from Drag 37 bowls. At least six vessels had some form of graffiti scratched in after firing with examples on forms Drag 31, 37, 42, 45, 79 and a cup (cf Fig. 5.5.38; Fig. 5.9.100; Fig. 5.10.115-16). Two of these vessels were also stamped.

Six vessels showed evidence of repair, mainly as drilled holes, but one vessel, a Drag 31 dish from context 10625 (a finds reference layer near building 10840), still had an *in situ* rivet. Repaired vessels include two of form Drag 31, three Drag 37 bowls and a dish Drag 42, perhaps suggesting the decorated vessels were slightly more precious.



Fig. 5.1 Decorated samian pottery

*East Gaulish.* Just 12 sherds of East Gaulish samian ware were present with examples of forms Drag 31, 33, 35 with no barbotine decoration, 79R and a small bowl. An unclassified sherd from a bowl form with a rouletted exterior was recovered from unphased colluvium 12233. The other sherds all came from Phase 4 and 5 contexts.

**Continental imports: Decorated samian pottery**  
(Fig. 5.1)

- D1. Drag 37. CG. Finds reference (10718), Phase 3.
- D2. Drag 37. CG. Finds reference 11340 (10668), Phase 3-4.
- D3. Drag 37. CG. Floor (11555), Phase 4.
- D4. Drag 37. CG. Make-up (11692), Phase 4.
- D5. Drag 37. CG. Pit 12168 (12136), Phase 4.
- D6. Drag 30. CG. Layer (12158), Phase 5.
- D7. Drag 37. CG. Layer (12372), Phase 5.
- D8. Drag 37. CG. Ditch 12965 [12871], (12875), Phase 5.
- D9. Drag 37. CG. Animal freestyle scene. Grave 12655, (12657). Unphased.

*Samian stamps* (Fig. 5.2)

- S1. ADVOCISI Advocisus. Mould stamp, Drag 37. Lezoux. AD 160-90. Well 12885, (12601) Phase 5.
- S2. ATTINIO Attinus. Drag 33. ?Lezoux. Burnt. Demolition layer (11153), Phase 5.
- S3. BELINICCI: Beliniccus. Cup, Lezoux. c AD 135-65. Ditch 12617 (12618), Phase 4.
- S4. BORILLI-OFFIO Borillus. Drag 33. Lezoux. Parallels Frocester Court (Price 2000, fig. 9.14.5). Finds reference (10718), Phase 3.
- S5. C\_RC\_IIIIO\_OFI Criciro. Drag 31. Lezoux. AD 140-65. Pit 12826, (12827), Phase 4.
- S6. DAMI [ ] Daminus, Bowl/dish. Lezoux. Layer 12830 (12721), Phase 4.
- S7. METTI-M Mettius. ?Cup/small bowl. Lezoux. Parallels: Frocester (Price 2000, fig. 9.14.S4). Grave 12725 [12726], (12728), Phase 4.
- S8. NOVEMON [ ] November. Drag 33. ?Lezoux. Layer (12435), Phase 4.
- S9. SATV [ ] Cup. Graffito on underside. Finds reference (11331), Phase 5. AD 160-200
- S10. SEVERI [ ] Severus. Drag 33, Lezoux. AD 130-55. Pit 12826 (12827), Phase 4.
- S11. Rosette. ?Dish. Lezoux. Stakehole 11829, (11828). Unphased. Incomplete
- S12. [ ] EMIINIM ?Geminus c AD 160-200. Cup. Lezoux. Sunken-featured building 12740, (12737), Phase 6.
- S13. [ ] NVV Drag 33, Lezoux. Construction cut 8032, (8058), Phase 4.
- S14. Illegible retrograde. Drag 37, Lezoux. Layer (11960), Phase 4.
- S15. JIAII\_ M Drag 33, Lezoux. Construction cut 12885, (11342), Phase 4.
- S16. Illegible. Cup. Lezoux. Finds ref. 11620, (10656), Phase 4-5.

- S17. [ ] ISCANI Drag 31. Lezoux. Ditch 10690, (10631), Phase 5.
- S18. ] LVPIM [ Cup. ?Lezoux. Layer (12435), Phase 4.
- S19. ] OF Pit 12826 (12827), Phase 4.
- S20. [ ] CTORIM Drag 31R. Lezoux. Ditch (10504). Unphased.
- S21. [ ] LINI Cup, Lezoux. Layer (10842), Phase 4.
- S22. Illegible. Base. Unstratified.

*Argonne colour-coated ware* (ARG CC) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 47). A single small beaker sherd was recovered from layer 12372, Phase 5, probably of 2nd-century date.

*Central Gaulish black slipped ware* (CNG BS) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 50). Ten sherds were recorded, mostly from beaker from Phase 4 contexts. One beaker has a post-firing graffito incised on the neck (Fig. 5.8.76).

*Moselle black-slipped ware* (MOS BS) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 60). Some 11 sherds were recorded, all body sherds, probably all from beakers. One sherd from 11626 shows part of a barbotine leaf decoration.

**Continental imports: Amphorae**

Baetican amphorae (BAT AM) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 84). Twelve body sherds and a single stamped handle (Figs 5.3 and 5.10, 114) are present from Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae. The stamp S\_N\_R approximates to Callender (1965), no. 1641 but has the additional triangular stops. Stamp 1641 has been documented at Corbridge and Monte Testaccio and is dated AD 140-80.

*Gallic amphorae* (GAL AM) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 93). Ten bodysherds from Gallic wine amphora sherds are present.

**Regional traded wares: coarse wares**

Dorset black burnished ware (DOR BB1) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 127). Some 204 sherds of DOR BB1 were recorded weighing 3360 g, some 0.7% of the total assemblage by count. The material all appears to be the Poole Harbour type. Apart from a single jar sherd decorated with an acute burnished lattice and thus likely to be of 2nd-century date from Phase 3, and a further two sherds from Phase 3-4, most of the sherds come from later phases. The number of sherds increases in Phase 4 to 20 sherds, 0.2% of the total assemblage, but the most significant importing period lies in Phase 5 when 155 sherds were recorded, 2.2% of the total assemblage for this phase by count. Two forms are the most frequently found, the plain-sided dish, which accounts for 42.5% by EVE, and flanged rim conical bowls, which total 40.5%. The remaining 17% are made up of jars (7.7%), flat rim bowls (5%) and grooved rim bowls (4.3%).

It has been observed by Evans (2001, 364) that in northern England jars tend to occur at similar levels

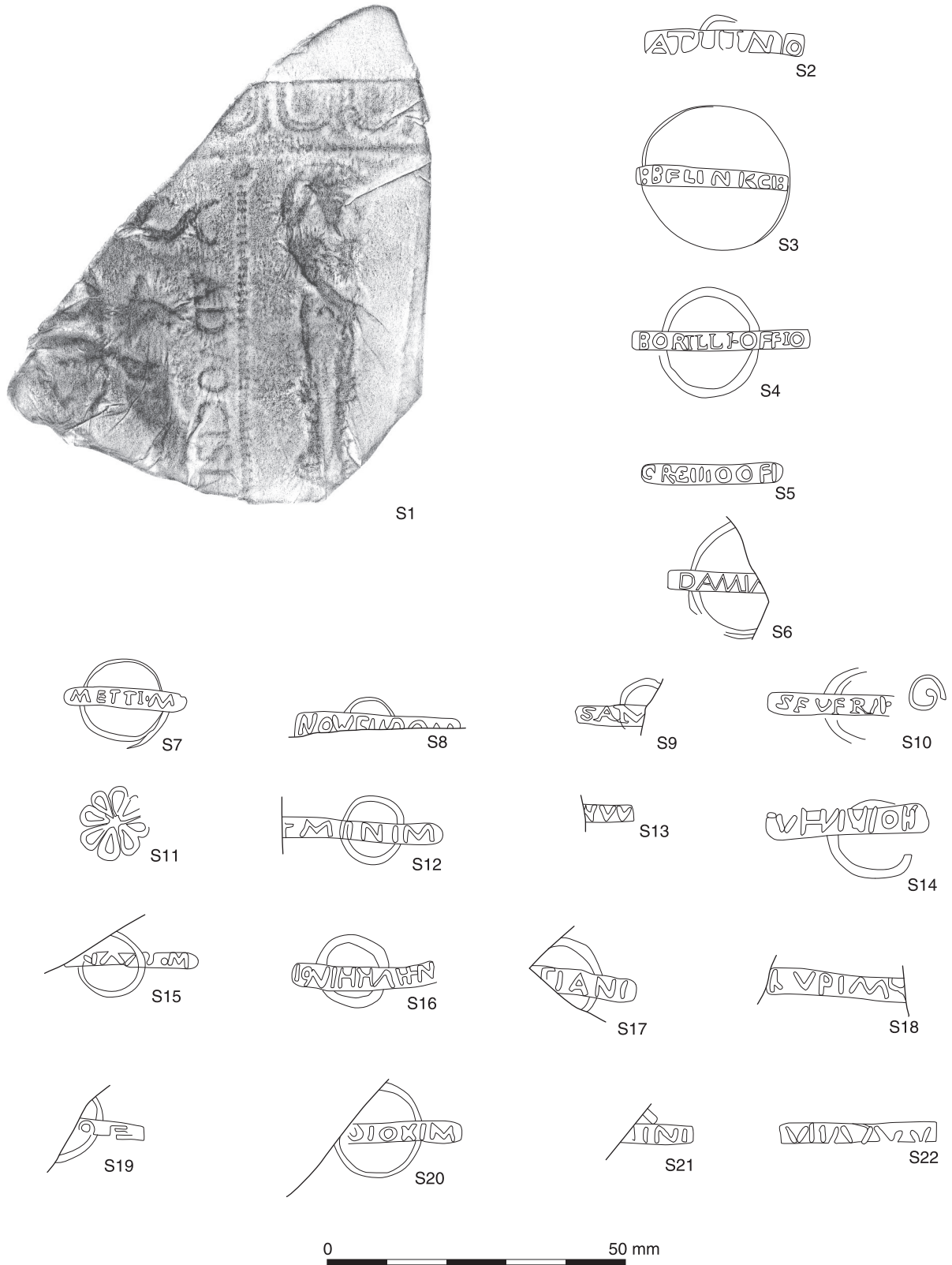


Fig. 5.2 Samian stamps

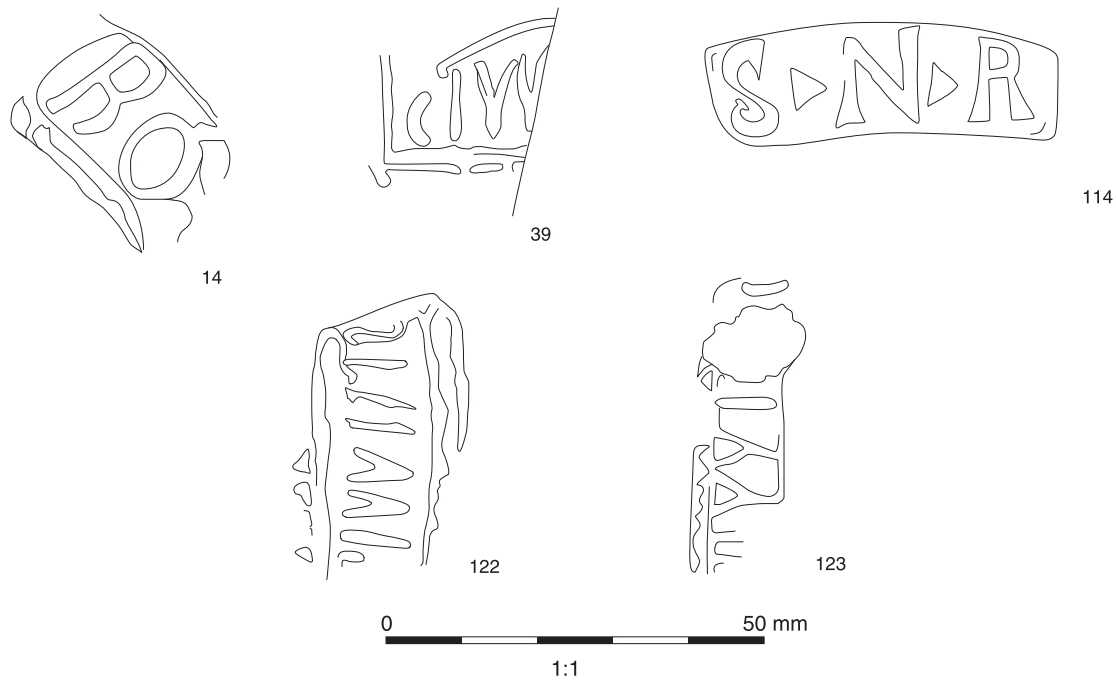


Fig. 5.3 Mortarium and amphora stamps

to dishes/bowls and on the Antonine Wall jars dominate. However at Alchester (ibid.) bowls/dishes comprise over 90% of the assemblage in the period c 350-400, which Evans regards as unusual and attributes to the availability of jars in other fabrics. Sites to the east in Cambridgeshire such as Orton Hall Farm (Perrin 1996, table 46) similarly have few or no jars; this absence does appear to reflect a specific marketing pattern.

*Hadham oxidised ware* (HAD OX) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151). A single everted rim jar represented by 48 small fragments was recovered from grave 8010, Phase 5.

*Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria* (MAH WH(M)) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189). Limited to just two sherds from a Phase 4 layer. The sherds are worn and partially burnt.

*Oxfordshire parchment ware* (OXF PA) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 175). A single small sherd came from Phase 5 waterhole 10589.

*Oxfordshire colour-coated ware* (OXF RS) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176). A total of 30 sherds, of which four derive from mortaria. Apart from one sherd from Phase 4-5, all the material all comes from Phase 5 contexts. Forms include Young (1977) types C45, C51, C81 and C91.

*Oxfordshire white ware* (OXF WH) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 175). Represented by just three sherds, one from a flask of Young (1977) type W21, plus eight

sherds from mortaria with examples of forms (ibid.) M17 and M22, all types typical of the later 3rd to 4th centuries.

*South Carlton white ware mortaria* (SOC WH) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 162). A single rim sherd came from pit 12826, Phase 4 (Fig. 5.7.74).

*Verulamium white ware* (VER WH) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 154). A small group of 16 white ware sherds and a further 32 sherds of mortaria distributed across Phases 3 to 5. The forms include examples of jars, a small jar and flagons, one a disk-mouthed form. One mortarium is stamped across the flange (Figs 5.3.14 and 5.4.14) with a name starting BO., the rest of the name too poorly impressed to decipher.

#### **Local wares: Lower Nene Valley wares**

*Lower Nene Valley grey ware* (LNV RE). This group accounts for 27.7% by count, 38.6% by weight of the assemblage and is thus the commonest ware found. The vessels display quite a range of colour from very pale grey to dark grey. Black wares have been classified separately but may be related. The core is usually lighter in colour. This component of the Lower Nene Valley industry appears to have become established by the second quarter of the 2nd century and continues through until the late 3rd or early 4th century (Perrin 1999, 78). The vessel repertoire is dominated by jars, which account for 45.7% (by EVEs) of the ware category, the commonest forms being everted simple (Fig. 5.9.101, 110) or

rolled rim, neckless, bifid and lid-seated types (Fig. 5.8.91). Decoration includes slashed cordons, grooves, frilled rim edges and burnished line (Fig. 5.5.20). Some vessels have distinctive ridged necks and others display triple cordons. Examples of the earlier forms are present at Higham Ferrers with moulded or carinated profiles and cordons, grooves and zones of decoration. These are not prolific, with most of the forms being the more standardised everted rim forms. The rim diameters range from 60 mm through to 300 mm with peaks around 120 mm – 140 mm and 200 mm – 220 mm. The wider-mouthed forms are more common in the later phase.

Dishes are the next most frequent vessel class, accounting for 25.6% (EVEs) of the total LNV RE assemblage. The commonest form is the plain straight-sided dish, similar to the DOR BB1 form (Fig. 5.9.105); others have thickened rims (Fig. 5.8.94). Some vessels have burnished line decoration on the upper base surface or intersecting arcs on the wall.

Beakers constitute the next commonest form and are dominated by poppyhead forms often with barbotine dot decoration (Fig. 5.4.4; Fig. 5.4.15; Fig. 5.5.27) and beakers with undifferentiated rims with grooves near the lip (eg Fig 5.5.28). One beaker from Phase 5 is handled. Some beakers are indented and others have burnished line decoration as latticing or zig-zags.

The fourth commonest form is the bowl (9.9%), which shows quite a diverse range of shape, the most common being the straight-walled form with an expanded rounded or triangular rim (Fig. 5.6.49). This type is thought to appear around the mid 2nd century, continuing through until the later 3rd century. There are also two vessels imitating samian bowl form Drag 30 and examples with burnished line decoration (Fig. 5.9.96). Other forms present in minor amounts include tazze with pie-crust decoration, lids (Fig. 5.9.95), flasks (Fig. 5.5.33) and mortaria.

At least nine, and possibly ten of the LNV RE vessels show post-firing graffiti. In most cases these are in the form of a simple cross, of which there are four examples (eg Fig. 5.6.46 and Fig. 5.10.118) or incised lines on the rims, both of jars and bowls, for which at least four examples have been noted (eg Fig. 5.6.46; Fig. 5.8.75). Other examples may be more literate but are too broken to decipher (eg Fig. 5.7.72). A base from ditch group 111750 has holes drilled through after firing. Another base sherd from a jar from layer 12945 was filled with a lime-like material whilst a base from well 8278 had been re-used and was particularly worn. Just two vessels, a plain-sided dish and a flanged bowl, showed evidence of use in the form of sooting.

*Lower Nene Valley white ware* (LNV WH) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119). Overall this group accounts for 2.1% by weight with a further 2.9% for the white ware mortaria (LNV WHM). The highest proportion of LNV WH occurs in Phase 4 (64.5%) whilst

the highest incidence of mortaria (59.4%) by weight occurs in Phase 5 contexts. In addition a small group of finer white wares was defined, and are also presumed to belong to this category.

The white wares feature in a wide range of forms including flagons, jars, bowls, dishes, beakers, flasks and lids, none in any great quantity. The flagons include cup-mouthed forms and ring-necked forms with a larger upper ring. The jars range from necked, everted forms (Fig. 5.5.29), to a lid-seated example, a bifid rim wide-mouthed form down to a small unguent jar. Some indented sherds come from a folded jar or large beaker. Other beakers feature everted, thickened rims and a moulded rim form. The bowls include reeded rim, (Fig. 5.5.22-23) flat rim, grooved rim and flanged forms, some with red-painted decoration; the dishes a plain-rimmed form and an expanded rim straight-walled type identical to the grey ware form. Most of the white wares probably date to the mid-later 2nd century, being replaced in the 3rd century by the grey and colour-coated wares (Perrin 1999, 108).

The main white ware production seems to have focussed on mortaria, well represented in this assemblage. The earliest form at Higham Ferrers present in Phase 3 has a plain slightly curved flange with an upstanding bead (cf Hartley and Perrin 1999, type M6-7), typologically dated to the mid-later 2nd to 3rd century. In Phase 3-4 the first hammer-head rim form occurs with a plain (uncorrugated) face usually dated to the 3rd century. With the increased quantities of finds from Phase 4 contexts comes a greater range of forms, largely of 3rd- to 4th-century types with corrugated hammer-head flanged, thickened drop flanged and flatter corrugated flanged vessels (as *ibid.*, type M40), typologically datable to the later 3rd-4th century. Several flanges have red painted decoration (Fig. 5.9.109), and one has black painted decoration. A single example of a stamp (Figs 5.3 and 5.5, 39) came from Phase 4 well 12885, with two further examples from unphased contexts (Figs 5.3, 5.10, 121, 123). Several sherds show evidence of wear. The repertoire of forms is slightly less diverse in Phase 5 compared to Phase 4 despite the slightly greater number of sherds. One vessel has red-painted Zs on the flange.

*Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware* (LNV CC) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). The colour-coated component of the Nene Valley industry accounts for nearly 9% of the assemblage by weight, 14% by sherd count and 14.7% by EVE. The date of the earliest production of colour-coated wares is not yet known but the industry appears to have become fairly well established by the later 2nd century (Perrin 1999, 87) when the principal products were beakers, flagons and boxes. From the late 3rd century onwards all the main forms made in LNV RE were made in LNV CC, augmented by copies of samian ware forms. From around the mid 4th-century, bowls, dishes and jars dominate the output. This pattern seems to be supported by the Higham Ferrers finds.



A small number of sherds occurs in Phase 3, less than 1% of the LNV CC assemblage, this rises to 36.5% in Phase 4 and peaks in Phase 5 at nearly 54% by count. In Phase 3 rims are limited to flared rim and cornice-rim beakers and triangular rimmed bowls and decorative techniques include rough-casting, barbotine floral decoration, barbotine scales and rouletting. In Phase 4 the repertoire expands dramatically with numerous beakers, bowls, dishes, jars (Fig. 5.5.37), boxes and lids, disc-mouthed flagon, spouted flagon (Fig. 5.7.73) and a copy of a samian bowl Drag 37 (Fig. 5.5.34) and dish Drag 36. Imitations of Drag 36 were made at Stanground in the early 3rd century (Dannell *et al.* 1993). Various beaker forms include bag-shaped and bulged girth examples (Fig. 5.5.41). Beaker decoration includes barbotine scales, hunt scenes with animals, ducks, barbotine diagonal stripes, scrolls, interlocking S-shapes and hairpin designs (Fig. 5.5.35; Fig. 5.6.42-3). The duck motif is fairly unusual but parallels can be cited from a cremation burial at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts (Leary 1996) and from Wallsend (R. McBride pers. comm.). Also of particular note is a sherd with a male figure displaying a distinctive hairstyle (Fig. 5.6.52). The piece is superficially similar to an example from Stonea, Cambs (Johns 1996b, fig. 174, 3) and Chesterton (Perrin 1999, fig. 60, 139) although it differs in detail. The rarity of such beakers might suggest that these were specialist items. Hunt scenes were probably not produced much after the end of the first quarter of the 3rd century (Perrin 1999, 92).

Other decoration includes the use of rough-casting, white paint and rouletting. Two vessels carry graffiti (Fig. 5.6.50). A few sherds of colour-coated mortaria also feature but were clearly not an important part of the output. Also included here are two vessels from well 8032 with an oxidised fabric but also with the classic colour-coated surfaces. One is a copy of a Drag 37 bowl including the ovolo mouldings (Fig. 5.5.34); the other a plain rim beaker with barbotine scroll decoration (Fig. 5.5.35). Mould-made Drag 37 imitations were found in the Water Newton and Great Casterton kilns (Perrin 1999, 102). Amongst the dishes is one imitating the samian form 36 with barbotine leaf decoration (Fig. 5.8.84) from a Phase 5 ditch. This form appears to date to the late 2nd -3rd century (Perrin 1999, 86).

Similar forms feature in Phase 5 but there is an increase in hemispherical bowls with a wall flange or rim flanges (Fig. 5.9.102-3), jars including rolled and almond-shaped rims and one with a ridged neck (Fig. 5.8.77, 80; Fig. 5.9.108), plain-rimmed dishes and disk-necked flagon (Fig. 5.9.106). A complete box lid came from a Phase 5 ditch (Fig. 5.8.85). Further copies of samian forms occur (eg Fig. 5.8.84). One base carries an illegible stamp (Fig. 5.2.S22). Various beaker forms continue to feature including cornice rim (Fig. 5.9.98) and folded types (Fig. 5.9.99). Amongst the beaker sherds is one decorated with raised bosses and another with a painted red and white fluted column (Fig. 5.8.86). A

sherd with indented combing is also a new feature in this phase. A flanged conical bowl (10679) has a graffiti, as do two beakers (Fig. 5.8.78; Fig. 5.9.107). Two further beaker sherds from unphased contexts also bear graffiti (Fig. 5.10.119-20). Grave 11790 contained a complete miniature necked beaker (Fig. 5.10.117).

*Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware* (LNV OX). A small group of oxidised sandy wares, which greatly resemble the LNV RE group in paste and texture, have been labelled LNV OX although this particular fabric is not a widely recognised component of the Lower Nene Valley industry *per se* and may derive from elsewhere in the locality. Most of the sherds came from Phase 4 contexts, with fewer from Phase 5. Forms include necked jars, triangular rimmed jars, ring-necked flagon, reeded rim dishes, copies of samian forms Drag 36, 30 and 38 and a carinated cup. A plain-rimmed beaker has a cross scratched onto the rim (Fig. 5.6.56) and a bowl has two cuts across the rim (Fig. 5.7.69).

*Lower Nene Valley parchment ware* (LNV PA) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). Another small group of 217 sherds distributed across Phases 4 and 5. The paste is quite fine and most pieces carry some form of red painted decoration, mainly as lines or bands. Of note is a bowl with a flanged rim with red painted decoration (Fig. 5.10.118).

#### *Local wares: grog-tempered*

The grog-tempered category of wares can be divided into four main groups: handmade grog-tempered ware of the later pre-Roman-early Roman tradition; grog and shell-tempered wares of similar date; local sandy grog-tempered wares and pink grog-tempered ware, which although from a Midlands source (see below), was traded further afield. The local sandy grog-tempered wares have been divided into six sub-fabrics based on colour. This is to some extent arbitrary as depending on which part of the vessel is present could effect which group a sherd is placed, most particularly with the blackened exterior sherds. The division was made at the analytical stage to look for possible patterns in vessel type by vessel colour and to see if this changed through time.

*Grog-tempered* (GROG). A very small group of just two handmade body sherds, one from Phase 3 with a scratch-marked exterior. Probably residual.

*Grog and shell-tempered ware* (GR SH). Another small group of five unfeatured handmade body sherds distributed across Phase 4 and 5 contexts. Probably residual.

*Sandy grog-tempered wares*. These have been divided into six subgroups based on colour: burnt oxidised ware (BOX GR); oxidised ware (OX GR); burnt

white ware (BWH GR); white ware (WW GR), grey ware (GY GR and burnt pink grog-tempered ware (BPNK GR). Collectively the group accounts for 14.1% by weight, 9.3% by count of the total assemblage. Within the group 57.7% by weight are the burnt white wares, followed by 14.8% white ware, 9.9% grey ware, 9% burnt oxidised grog-tempered ware 6.4% oxidised ware and just 2% burnt pink ware. The term 'grog' is used loosely as the paste contains largely rounded to sub-angular clay pellets, which may occur naturally. Marney (1989, 64, fabric 2) encountered the same problem with the grog-tempered wares at Milton Keynes, which probably embrace the same fabric tradition. A kiln recently excavated at Brackley, Northants, dated to the later 1st century was producing mainly oxidised sandy grog (clay-pellets) tempered wares, the products being largely channel rim jars and bowls (Timby forthcoming a). Another similar unpublished production site is known at Ashton, Northants (Aird, n.d.). These were probably just two of a large number of similar rural production centres established in the later 1st century to early 2nd century, which later developed into more centralised industries servicing the local area resulting in the range of products in this fabric seen at Higham Ferrers.

The largest group, BWH GR is distinguished by having a white fabric with a blackened exterior. It is clear that in some vessels this blackening can vary over the surface of the vessel and some zones, particularly towards the bases, tend to have more patchy blackening. This is presumably due to stacking of the vessels during firing, where not all surfaces were exposed to the reducing atmosphere presumably deliberately introduced by burning green fuel towards the end of the firing process. Sherds were distributed throughout contexts in Phases 3 to 5 with a greater emphasis in Phase 3 where 37.7% by weight of the group occurred, gradually decreasing in Phase 4 to 34.4% and dropping away to 14.5% in Phase 5. Most of the vessels are jars, in particular, forms with triangular lid-seated rims (Fig. 5.5.18-19, 21; Fig. 5.6. 58; Fig. 5.7.63, 68; Fig. 5.8.90), accompanied by a small number of large reeded-rim or hammer-rim bowls or lids, one of which is sooted on the interior. In most cases the vessels are wheelthrown but occasional handmade sherds occur. In Phase 3 the lid-seated jars account for 53.3% by EVE of all the jars in this fabric. The remainder comprise simple everted-rim necked jars (18%), necked, everted, thickened-rim jars (13%) and smaller amounts of vessels with triangular rims, bifid rims, flat rims and cordoned necks. Usually vessels are plain but some examples occur with fine ridging on the body similar to the shelly ware, or combing. In Phase 4 lid-seated jars account for 63.7% EVE with the same range of other types. Jar diameters range from 80 mm through to 280 mm with the greatest numbers occurring between 160 mm -180 mm. In Phase 5 the quantity of vessels has considerably decreased

along with the diversity; only jars are found, amongst which the lid-seated type is still dominant.

The white 'grogged' wares form the second commonest group with the highest incidence in Phase 4, where 64% by weight of the sherds occurred, and only 15.8% in both Phase 3 and Phase 5. The range of forms is very similar to BWH GR, perhaps with slightly more very large bowls (Fig. 5.5.25; Fig. 5.6.45; Fig. 5.9.97). Amongst the jars lid-seated forms again dominate (Fig. 5.4.2). One closed vessel has impressed triangles around the girth.

Similar patterns prevail for the other coloured variants GY GR, OX GR and PNK GT, all of which have their highest incidence in Phase 4. Fabric BOX GR, by contrast shows, its highest incidence in Phase 3 where 69.8% of this fabric occurs, compared to 28.4% in Phase 4. This would tie in with evidence from the early kilns in which the products are largely oxidised, suggesting that this was the preferred firing colour at this time. The forms however, are consistent across these other variants in which lid-seated jars dominate, (Fig. 5.4.1), accompanied by other jar forms and large bowls (Fig. 5.6.48). The firing colour cannot thus be equated with vessel type and is more likely to represent the output from different kilns, or the signature of different potters in the locality.

*Late pink grogged ware* (PNK GT) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 210). A distinctive ware mainly used for large storage jars and dating to the later 2nd to 4th centuries (Booth and Green 1989). Sherds first appear in Phase 4. A source in the Midlands, postulated on the basis of the distribution, has now been confirmed (Booth 1999).

#### *Local wares: shelly wares*

Shelly wares (fabrics SHELL1-3) collectively account for 34.4% by weight, 23.2% by count. Three fabrics have been distinguished, two of which are identical but have been divided on the basis of handmade (SHELL1) and wheelmade (SHELL2) sherds. A fourth small group of sandy ware with shell and limestone and represented by just three sherds was also defined.

*SHELL1-2*: A generally dark brown to black, rarely oxidised ware, with a soapy feel and containing a moderate to common density of fossil shell and other fossiliferous matter such as bryozoa of a type typically found in the Jurassic clays. Other inclusions include rare grains of red or black iron, fine, rounded quartz sand and rare fragments of limestone. The core is usually grey. There is some uncertainty as to whether the shell was deliberately added, occurred naturally in the potting clays or was a mixture of the two. The pastes are usually fairly uniform, which might suggest the latter. Shelly wares are extremely common in this area from the Iron Age through to the later Roman period and indeed it is difficult to identify late Iron

Age from early Roman material in the absence of other wares. The ware must have been made at a number of centres, few of which have been identified. A major production centre was based at Harrold, Beds from the 1st to late 4th century and perhaps beyond (Brown 1994). Other kilns producing similar products are known at Emberton, Bucks (Mynard 1970), Great Barford, Beds (Stansbie 2007) and Willington, Beds (A Slowikowski pers. comm.). The same fabric was used for making ceramic building material.

Jars dominate both the handmade and wheel-made fabrics and overall account for 93.1% EVEs. All the larger storage jars are handmade, accounting for 18% of EVEs in SHELL1. Other jar forms are quite diverse, the dominant ones being simple everted rim, everted thickened rim, triangular rim, flat rim and lid-seated (Fig. 5.4.8-12, 17; Fig. 5.5.36; Fig. 5.6.59-60; Fig. 5.7.61, 64-5, 67; Fig. 5.8.82; Fig. 5.8.89; Fig. 5.10.113). Decoration is limited but includes one vessel with impressed crescents around the girth, one storage jar with deeply impressed rouletting and occasional use of diagonal combing and incised wavy line (Fig. 5.7.61) but most vessels are plain or finely ridged. The rim diameters range from 110 mm through to 520 mm. The highest incidence lies in the 160-240 mm range but seven vessels fall into the range between 400 and 520 mm suggesting that these were storage jars. There was little evidence of use, two necked jars had sooted rims and two vessels were internally burnt. A jar recovered from well 8278 has an internal undefined deposit and another jar an internal calcareous lining from holding or heating water.

Other forms are largely restricted to bowls (4.2% EVE), dishes (1.9%) (Fig. 5.4.3) and single examples of a lid and a folded beaker. The handmade bowls are often the larger vessels with flat, down-turned rims. Some are decorated with a wavy line on the rim. The most common forms, however, are flat rim or flanged rim forms (Fig. 5.7.71). A slightly unusual closed vessel missing a rim but with five holes made before firing has been interpreted as a watering can (Fig. 5.4.6). A tubular handle or spout also in this fabric was found in Phase 3 well 12890 (Fig. 5.4.5). A fragment of a probable lamp chimney came from layer 12718, group 12830, within the shrine (Fig. 5.6.53) and a rectangular piece cut before firing from roadside ditch group 10670 (Fig. 5.8.83) may have also come from a lamp chimney.

Modified items include the edge of a sherd fashioned into a counter from ditch group 12895. A hemispherical bowl from ditch group 12310 had a post-firing cut across the rim (Fig. 5.4.13) and one jar rim from ditch 10681 was marked with a graffito.

*SHELL3*. A small group of wares distinguished by much sparser shell temper compared to *SHELL1-2* and a sandier paste. All the sherds came from Phase 4 and 5 contexts and include necked jars and one beaker.

### *Local wares: sandy wares*

The sandy wares to some extent mirror the grog-tempered wares in that the divisions made for some of the groups have been primarily based on firing colour rather than any other distinguishing characteristics. As with the grog-tempered wares some vessels have been deliberately blackened on the exterior, giving a burnt oxidised ware (BOX SY), a burnt white ware (BWH SY), a burnt fine white parchment ware (BWH PA) and black, orange and pink sandy wares. The group overall is quite small compared to the grog and shelly categories, with only the black sandy ware and burnt white ware categories contributing just over 1% each to the overall assemblage. Also included in this group of wares is a black micaceous ware, a black ware imitating BB1 forms and a miscellaneous grey sandy group.

*Burnt oxidised sandy ware* (BOX SY). A small group of seven sherds, all from Phase 3. Forms are limited to a reeded rim bowl and an S-shaped bowl (Fig. 5.5.24).

*Burnt white sandy ware* (BWH SY). A slightly larger assemblage of 371 sherds with a white sandy body and blackened exterior. The range of forms is similar to the grog-tempered counterpart with various lid-seated jars (Fig. 5.6.44), everted rim (Fig. 5.7.66), triangular rim (Fig. 5.7.62), flat rim and bifid rim jars, some with ridged exterior surfaces. Also present in lesser amounts are triangular rimmed (Fig. 5.8.93), flat rim and reeded rim bowls and lids. One jar carries a X scratched into the inner rim face (Fig. 5.10.112) and one jar has three lines incised into the rim (Fig. 5.8.92). Two vessels have sooted exteriors and calcareous linings and one complete jar has a holed base (Fig. 5.6.55). Sherds of this ware are present from Phase 3 through to Phase 5 with 62% by count coming from contexts in Phase 4.

*Burnt white parchment ware* (BWH PA). A small group of five body sherds from a single Phase 4 layer.

*Black sandy ware* (BW). A moderately large group of 449 sherds, 1.6% of the total assemblage. Most of the sherds occur in Phase 3 and 4 contexts suggesting that this industry may have been short-lived, dating to the early-mid 2nd century. Forms include neckless and lid-seated jars, triangular rimmed jars, sharply everted rim beakers, folded beakers (Fig. 5.5.32) and plain-rimmed dishes.

*Orange sandy ware* (OXID). A slightly mixed group of fine to medium grade orange sandy wares mainly from Phase 4 contexts. Forms include a similar range to the BOX SY group, with lid-seated jars, bifid rim jars, everted rim jars (Fig. 5.4.16) and reeded rim and flanged rim bowls (Fig. 5.7.70) and almond-shaped rim beakers. A few sherds are decorated, the techniques including burnished lattice, white paint and rouletting.

*Pink sandy ware* (PNK SY). A very small group from Phases 4 and 5. The only two feature sherds are from a lid-seated jar and a flanged bowl.

#### **Other sandy wares**

Imitation black burnished wares (BB1 IMIT). Wheelmade black burnished ware copies in a hard black sandy fabric, usually burnished. This fabric is largely used to make plain-rimmed dishes, flat rim bowls and flanged-rim conical bowls (Fig. 5.8.87; 104) imitating those found in the DOR BB1 range. Jars also feature but are less common. The imitation also includes the burnished line decoration, either latticing or intersecting arcs (Fig. 5.5.40). One conical flanged bowl has a graffito scratched into the wall (Fig. 5.8.87).

*Black micaceous ware* (BW MIC) and *fine black micaceous ware* (BWF MIC). A medium sandy, micaceous, and finer, micaceous ware, collectively only accounting for 44 sherds. The former includes at least one everted rim jar and an open form with burnished line decoration (Fig. 5.8.81); the latter includes several bowls copying samian form Drag 30 (Fig. 5.5.26). Also included in the latter are a small dish with a particularly highly polished interior surface (Fig. 5.6.57) and a bowl with stamped and rouletted decoration (Fig. 5.6.51).

*Fine black ware* (BWF). A small group of 15 sherds, which includes a Drag 30 bowl with London style decoration, plain-rimmed dishes and a jar/beaker with a rouletted neck (Fig. 5.4.7).

*Grey sandy wares* (GREY). A miscellaneous category for grey wares that do not fit other categories.

*Fine grey ware* (GYF). Just two sherds, but including a beaker with unusual chevron and dimple decoration (Fig. 5.5.30).

*Black-slipped grey ware* (BSGW). A single polished black sherd from Phase 3.

#### **Miscellaneous wares: unknown source**

Buff wares (BUFF) a small group with one colour-coated sherd (BUFF CC) and one micaceous buff ware (BUFF MIC). The plain buff wares include one with a notched cordon, rouletted decoration and one sherd with black painted stripes.

*Colour-coated wares* (CC). Miscellaneous colour-coated ware. Mainly oxidised ware with a red colour-coat.

*Coarse white ware with a red colour-coat* (CWW CC). A single, unfeatured, sherd from Phase 4.

*British glazed ware* (GLAZE). A single, small cupped mouth, possibly from a flask (Fig. 5.6.54). Brownish

red, sandy fabric with a dark olive-green glaze on the inner and outer surfaces.

*Grey ware with a red burnished finish* (GY RB). Single example of a spout in a grey, sandy, fabric with a burnished red slip from a Phase 4 ditch (Fig. 5.6.47).

*Mica-slipped wares* (MICA). A small group of 27 sherds with an orange, sandy, fabric covered with a golden micaceous slip. Most of the sherds occur in Phase 4 contexts and are likely to be 2nd-century products. Vessels are mainly beakers, bowls or dishes including the substantial part of a dish similar to Young (1977) form C45 from floor (11555) and a plain-sided dish from Phase 5.

*Miscellaneous mortaria* (MORT). Seven sherds of unclassified mortaria variously with flint and/or quartz and clay pellet trituration grits.

*Fine oxidised ware* (OXID F). A small group mainly used for beakers and a small flask (SF 676) deposited in a Phase 5 grave (Fig. 5.8.79). Probably largely 2nd century in date.

*Micaceous oxidised wares* (OXID MIC). A medium fine, dark orange ware, distinctively micaceous. Sherds are largely unfeatured but include a small sherd with a faint relief pattern (Fig. 5.8.88).

*White-slipped oxidised ware* (WS OXID) and *white slipped grey ware* (WS GY). Two small groups, the latter just a single sherd. Most of the sherds are unfeatured but are largely from flasks or flagons with a single example of a reeded rim bowl. Most of the sherds come from Phase 4 contexts.

*Fine white wares* (WWF). A small group largely from Phase 3 and 4 contexts. Vessels include a flask, a hemispherical bowl with red painted decoration (Fig. 5.5.31) and a sherd painted with a dot and circle in orange paint.

*Miscellaneous white wares* (WW). Various grades of white ware not easily classified and from all phases of the site. Vessels include lid-seated and rolled rim jars, flagons and bowls. A sherd from a beaker from Phase 4 is decorated with a single horizontal red line.

#### **Discussion by stratigraphic phasing**

The following section discusses the pottery by the stratigraphic phasing. Although certain chronological trends can be discerned from Phase 3 through to Phase 5 it is clear that either a substantial amount of material remained in use beyond its conventional production date, or that Phase 5 contained much redeposited material. This is particularly apparent for the samian and colour-coated wares, which might be due to their very specialist nature, surviving longer in use than the less chronologically sensitive coarse wares.

*Phase 1-2 (prehistoric)*

A single handmade sherd of flint-tempered ware came from ditch 11236 of prehistoric date. A large assemblage of 174 sherds of Roman pottery from waterhole 11140 (10615; see Chapter 2) is intrusive in this phase. The group dates to the mid 2nd century and comprises almost exclusively locally made grog-tempered and sandy wares and products from the Lower Nene Valley industry.

*Phase 3 (early-mid 2nd century)*

The earliest Roman activity appears to date from the early 2nd century and archaeological contexts allocated to this phase on stratigraphic grounds produced some 3046 sherds weighing 62.8 kg and with 45.98 EVEs (Table 5.3). Overall the sherds are well preserved with an overall average sherd weight of 20.6 g.

The only continental import present in Phase 3 is Central Gaulish samian, which accounts for 2.6% by

Table 5.3 *Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 3 contexts*

PHASE 3	Fabric	Description	Wt	% Wt	No	% No	EVE	% EVE
IMPORTS	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	1569	2.5	78	2.6	456	9.9
REGIONAL	COL CC	Colchester colour-coat	19	+	1	+	0	
	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	5	+	1	+	0	
	VER WH	Verulamium white ware	5	+	1	+	0	
	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	1380	2.2	16	0.5	71	1.5
LOCAL	BOX GR	burnt oxidised grog-tempered	4090	6.5	148	4.9	234	5.1
	BPNK GR	burnt pink grog-tempered	8	+	1	+	0	
	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	14354	22.8	643	21.1	1018	22.1
	GY GR	grey grog-tempered	346	0.6	11	0.4	21	0.5
	OX GR	oxidised grog-tempered	1459	2.3	57	1.9	83	1.8
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	1671	2.7	49	1.6	148	3.2
	GROG	misc hm grog-tempered	92	0.2	1	+	0	
	LNVC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	258	0.4	28	0.9	46	1.0
	LNVOX	Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	24	+	3	0.1	0	
	LNVER	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	9655	15.4	954	31.3	1185	25.8
	LNVERWH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	2098	3.3	177	5.8	64	1.4
	LNVERWHM	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria	316	0.5	8	0.3	7	0.2
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	17837	28.4	464	15.2	480	10.4
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	4748	7.6	233	7.7	310	6.7
	BOXSY	burnt oxidised sandy ware	252	0.4	8	0.3	28	0.6
	BWHSY	burnt white ware sandy	783	1.3	46	1.5	39	0.9
	BW	black sandy ware	1014	1.6	65	2.1	205	4.5
	BB1IMIT	wheelmade BB1 copies	87	0.1	6	0.2	27	0.6
	GREY	grey sandy ware	18	+	2	0.1	0	
	OXID	oxidised sandy ware	146	0.2	4	0.1	38	0.8
UNKNOWN	BSGW	black slipped grey ware	8	+	1	+	0	
	BWF	black fine ware	23	+	2	0.1	17	0.4
	BWF MIC	black fine micaceous ware	73	0.1	6	0.2	25	0.5
	FLINT	flint-tempered	20	+	1	+	7	0.2
	MORT	misc mortaria	13	+	1	+	0	
	OXID MIC	micaceous oxidised wares	143	0.2	8	0.3	20	0.4
	WS OXID	white-slipped oxidised ware	107	0.2	6	0.2	0	
	WWF	fine white wares	26	+	3	0.1	0	
	WW	misc white wares	200	0.3	13	0.4	69	1.5
TOTAL			62847	100.00	3046	100.00	4598	100.00

count of the overall group. Regional imports account for less than 1%, with the bulk of the assemblage comprising local wares. These can be broadly divided into the grog-tempered group, Lower Nene Valley group, shelly wares and sandy wares. Collectively the grog-tempered wares account for 30% by sherd count, 35% by weight; the Lower Nene Valley wares for 38.4% by count (19.7% weight); the sandy wares for 4.3% by count (3.7% weight) and the shelly wares for 22.9% (35.9% weight). Lower Nene Valley grey ware was the commonest individual fabric, accounting for 31.3% of the total assemblage by sherd count. It is thought that this industry was established by the second quarter of the 2nd century (Perrin 1999, 78).

Table 5.4 summarises the main forms present from Phase 3 contexts. Coarse ware jars dominate the group accounting for 60.7% followed by bowls/dishes at 16% and beakers at 9% of EVEs. Within the fine tableware cups are the commonest samian form accounting for 6.4% overall of the Phase 3 assemblage and 57.4% of the samian assemblage.

Circular building 10920 produced a modest group of some 74 sherds (653 g). Of particular note is a DOR BB1 jar decorated with acute lattice and two Verulamium white ware mortaria. Lower Nene Valley grey ware dominates, accounting for 50% of the group. Other forms present are limited to everted rim jars and one dish. Building 10910 to the south-west yielded no material but the associated well 12890 produced 94 sherds (1327 g). Of note from this group is a shelly ware tubular spout/handle (Fig. 5.4.5). Two sherds of LNV CC ware have barbotine floral decoration in imitation of samian Drag 36 dishes. This would suggest that material was accumulating in the well perhaps into the 3rd century. Vessels with this type of decoration tend to date to throughout the 3rd century and well

into the 4th century (Perrin 1999, 102). Most of the other wares could be 2nd-century types and the samian appears to be mainly Antonine.

A third stone circular building, 11340, produced a smaller assemblage of 31 sherds from Phase 3 contexts and a further 144 sherds from Phase 3-4 deposits. Eighteen sherds of Central Gaulish samian from Phase 3 include two vessels with rivet holes, a Drag 42 dish and a Drag 37 bowl. The samian might suggest a Hadrianic date for this phase and certainly no LNV CC is present. Further material from the building allocated to Phase 3-4 yielded a further 16 sherds of samian, so overall this accounts for 19.4% of the pottery recovered from the building, a particularly high concentration, suggesting that the structure may have served some sort of specialised function. Moreover the samian includes at least three decorated bowls, a handled dish (Drag 42) and a mortarium alongside the more common dishes (Drag 18/31 and 31) and cups (Drag 33). Eight small sherds of LNV CC came from Phase 3-4, and together with the single samian mortarium sherd suggest a date of deposition for context (10668) after the mid 2nd century. The coarse wares include lid-seated jars, dishes, beakers and mortaria with nothing of particular note to mark them as different or of specialised function.

The boundary ditch (12310), to the south of building 10920, produced a very substantial assemblage of 1362 sherds (32.4 kg). Three ware groups dominate the assemblage: grog-tempered (BWH GR, BOX GR in particular), shelly and LNV RE, which collectively amount to 91.6% of the sherd count. The former two wares include a large number of lid-seated jars; the latter includes several expanded-rim dishes. Also present in the shelly wares are a number of reeded-rim dishes (Fig. 5.4.3). The material is generally well-preserved with an

Table 5.4 Quantified summary of vessel forms from Phase 3, 4 and 5 contexts

Form	Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5	
	EVE	%	EVE	%	EVE	%
Samian						
dish	176	3.9	676	3.9	410	2.4
bowl	38	0.8	88	0.5	94	0.5
cup	288	6.4	347	2.0	200	1.2
mortaria	0	0.0	25	0.1	15	0.1
Coarseware						
jar	2728	60.7	8254	47.1	8105	47.2
bowl/dish	721	16.0	3400	19.4	5452	31.8
mortaria	78	1.7	257	1.5	425	2.5
lid	59	1.3	90	0.5	153	0.9
beaker	406	9.0	3828	21.8	1717	10.0
cup	0	0.0	38	0.2	18	0.1
flagon/jug	0	0.0	309	1.8	208	1.2
flask	0	0.0	149	0.9	310	1.8
box	0	0.0	66	0.4	56	0.3
TOTAL	4494	100.0	17527	100.0	17163	100.0

overall average sherd weight of 24 g. There are several examples of multiple sherds from single vessels and several profiles can be reconstructed. Sherds of both Lower Nene Valley white ware and Verulamium white ware mortaria are present. The latter includes several sherds from a vessel stamped BO[...] on the flange (Fig. 5.4.14) typologically dating to the early 2nd century. Imported continental wares are quite scarce in the ditch group with just five sherds of Central Gaulish samian. The latest of these is probably a Curle 23 dish of Antonine date.

Ditch 12880, also associated with the early settlement layout, similarly produced a substantial assemblage of pottery with some 1013 sherds (17.4 kg). The sherds were slightly more fragmented compared to those in ditch 12310, with an overall average weight of 17 g. Although the group is again dominated by three fabrics: grog-tempered, LNV RE and shelly ware accounting for 73% by count, there is a greater diversity of other wares compared to ditch 12310. In particular there is more Central Gaulish samian and slightly more Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware including an indented beaker with barbotine scale decoration. Vessels of note include a fine black, micaceous ware bowl copying the samian Drag 30 form (Fig. 5.5.26) and several sherds from a barbotine dot decorated LNV RE beaker (Fig. 5.5.27).

Other pottery allocated to Phase 3 largely came from layers, hearths, pits, ditches and colluvium deposits and comprised moderately small groups. Of particular note is a vessel from pit 11482, suggested to be a watering can. This is a wheelmade shelly ware closed form, broken at the neck but with five holes through the base made before firing (Fig. 5.4.6). Of the two large pits or waterholes near the southern terminal of ditch 12880, waterhole 12072 produced 33 sherds, over half of which were grey wares (LNV RE) and waterhole 11991 just five sherds.

#### *Phase 3-4 (early/mid-late 2nd century)*

Apart from the additional pottery from building 11340 (see above) and 16 sherds from hearth 11348 the remaining pottery from this phase came exclusively from layers (Table 5.5). Of particular note are a red painted fine white ware sherd, probably a Lower Nene Valley product (Fig. 5.5.31) and a sherd of fine grey ware beaker decorated with chevrons and dimples (Fig. 5.5.30). Sherds of LNV CC include beakers decorated with diagonal barbotine stripes, and barbotine scales and box and lid fragments. Further sherds of DOR BB1 feature, including a plain-rimmed dish from layer (12306). An imported Central Gaulish black slip beaker came from the same context.

Table 5.5 Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 3-4 contexts

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>% Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% No</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>
IMPORTS	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	295	4.2	27	5.4	70	11.7
	CNG BS	Central Gaulish black slip	42	0.6	5	1.0	0	
REGIONAL	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	31	0.4	2	0.4	8	1.3
	VER WH	Verulamium white ware	10	0.1	1	0.2	15	2.5
	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	47	0.7	1	0.2	0	
LOCAL	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	1111	15.9	56	11.2	31	5.2
	GY GR	grey grog-tempered	411	5.9	9	1.8	0	
	OX GR	oxidised grog-tempered	116	1.7	5	1.0	12	2.0
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	54	0.8	3	0.6	0	
	LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	131	1.9	26	5.2	29	4.9
	LNV OX	Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	2	+	1	0.2	0	
	LNV PA	Lower Nene Valley parchment ware	37	0.5	1	0.2	0	
	LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	1918	27.5	201	40.4	218	36.6
	LNV WH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	119	1.7	8	1.6	47	7.9
	LNV WHM	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria	83	1.2	3	0.6	7	1.2
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	1841	26.4	76	15.3	24	4.0
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	257	3.7	32	6.4	31	5.2
	BWH SY	burnt white ware sandy	276	4.0	18	3.6	45	7.6
	BW	black sandy ware	109	1.6	16	3.2	34	5.7
	OXID	oxidised sandy ware	3	+	1	0.2	0	
UNKNOWN	GYF	fine grey ware	10	0.1	1	0.2	15	2.5
	OXID MIC	micaceous oxidised wares	20	0.3	1	0.2	0	
	WS OXID	white-slipped oxidised ware	2	+	1	0.2	0	
	WWF	fine white wares	11	0.2	1	0.2	0	
	WW	misc white wares	32	0.5	2	0.4	10	1.7
TOTAL			6968	100.00	498	100.00	596	100.00

***Phase 4 (mid/late 2nd century-early/mid 3rd century)***

Contexts allocated to Phase 4 yielded a substantial assemblage of 11,455 sherds weighing 182.3 kg (Table 5.6). Samian ware is well represented, accounting for 4.3% of the total assemblage by count. Other imported fine wares include Central Gaulish and Moselle black slip beakers, both current in the later 2nd-early 3rd centuries. A few sherds of Spanish olive oil and Gallic wine amphorae occur but the quantities are modest. Regional imports show a marked increase compared to Phase 3, with Mancetter-Hartshill and South Carlton mortaria appearing for the first time along with products of the Oxfordshire industry. Dorset black burnished ware and Verulamium white wares continue to feature. However, the number of regionally imported sherds is low and overall only accounts for just 0.4% of the Phase 4 assemblage.

Local wares again dominate the assemblage with products from the Lower Nene Valley industries showing the highest occurrence, collectively accounting for 60.3% by count compared to 38.4% in Phase 3. Lower Nene Valley grey wares again forms the single most common component at 40.8% by count, but the colour-coated wares and white ware mortaria show a marked increase. By contrast the grog-tempered component of the assemblage has dropped from 30% in Phase 3 to 8.5% while the sandy and shelly wares are fairly constant at 4.6% and 20.6% respectively.

The proportions of the different forms present have also slightly changed compared to Phase 3 (Table 5.4). Coarse ware jars remain the commonest form but have dropped to 47.1% (EVE) of the Phase 4 assemblage. Beakers now form the second commonest form at 21.8%, closely followed by bowls/dishes at 19.4%. The increase in beakers partly reflects the impact of the Lower Nene Valley colour-coated industry, beakers being amongst the commonest forms made in the 2nd century along with flagons/flasks and small boxes. These two forms, not present in Phase 3, now contribute 2.7% and 0.4% of the assemblage respectively. Amongst the tableware, cups are now far less common with dishes being the commonest samian form.

During Phase 4 building 10910 was demolished and cut through by two new ditch boundaries 11750 and 11760, which produced 89 and 16 sherds respectively. The larger groups from 11750 perhaps significantly did not contain any colour-coated ware with 84% of the assemblage being equally divided between grog-tempered ware, shelly ware and LNV RE. The sherds were quite large and did not appear residual. Building 10910, which produced no pottery would thus appear to have been quite early in the sequence in this area and the ditches relatively short-lived, perhaps silted up by the mid 2nd century.

Phase 3 Ditch 12880 was replaced by ditch 12980. This also appears quite short-lived producing a

largely mid 2nd-century assemblage not dissimilar to that from ditch 12880. A significant difference, however, lies in the size of the sherds, which have an average weight of 35 g, twice that of material from ditch 12880. Grog-tempered wares dominate the group at 42% of sherd count and include the substantial part of a very large WW GR bowl. Just a single sherd of LNV CC is present and no samian. The only fine ware is a mica-slipped bowl. The size of the sherds strongly suggests that this is not redeposited material. The soil layers in 13015, which yielded 174 sherds (3230 g), show great similarity to those in ditch 12980, with possibly the same or very similar vessels. The layers produced a single LNV CC beaker and relatively little LNV RE, but numerous grog-tempered and shelly wares and an early 2nd-century black, micaceous ware copy of a samian bowl Drag 30.

Other features which appear to date relatively early in the phase on the basis of few colour-coated wares and a greater emphasis on grog-tempered wares, include well 12140, ditch 12471 (with five sherds of samian ware from Les Martres-de-Veyre suggesting an early/mid 2nd-century date), ditch 12617 (with a large group of 163 sherds, 5% of which are samian ware alongside a high proportion of grog-tempered wares and negligible colour-coated sherds) and grave group 12725. This last feature produced 200 sherds (3238 g), 12% of which were samian, and included the profile of a black micaceous ware dish. The sherds suggest an early/mid 2nd-century currency and are presumably all redeposited. Ditch 11750 also contained mainly grog and shelly ware with no colour-coated wares and a samian ware dish Drag 42 of probable Trajanic-Hadrianic date.

Also early is layer 12224 (with a group of Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware), layer 12236 (with a very worn South Gaulish samian ware cup and barbotine decorated colour-coated ware), demolition layer 11159 (also with Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware and no colour-coated ware) and layer 11555 (with a mica-slipped dish and LNV CC beaker sherd including the example with barbotine ducks (Fig. 5.8.88)).

One of the largest individual assemblages from the site came from pit 12826, with 829 sherds (18.5 kg), giving an average sherd weight of 22.3 g. Several vessels with joining sherds and near-complete profiles were present (cf Fig. 5.6.58-60; Fig. 5.7.61-74). Grog-tempered wares account for 17.6% by number; samian ware for 7.6%, LNV RE for 30% and shelly ware for 22.8%. The samian ware includes stamp S10 with a production period AD 130-55. Rare vessels include the South Carlton mortarium and parts of two white ware flagons (LNV WH).

Ditch 12895, defining the northern limit to the settlement area, also produced a good assemblage of 433 sherds of pottery (8.8 kg). A greater emphasis on colour-coated Nene Valley wares, 14% by count of the assemblage, intimates a slightly later date of



Table 5.6 Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 4 contexts

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>% Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% No</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	
IMPORTS	SG SAM	South Gaulish samian	44	+	6	0.1	10	0.1	
	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	5676	3.1	481	4.2	1118	6.4	
	EG SAM	East Gaulish samian	117	0.1	6	0.1	8	0.1	
	CNG BS	Central Gaulish black slip	10	+	5	+	12	0.1	
	MOS BS	Moselle black slip	22	+	9	0.1	0		
	BAT AM	Baetican amphorae	130	0.1	4	+	0		
	GAL AM	Gallic amphorae	194	0.1	7	0.1	0		
REGIONAL	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	310	0.2	20	0.2	64	0.4	
	MAH WH	Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria	66	+	2	+	10	0.1	
	OXF RS	Oxon colour-coated ware	32	+	4	+	0		
	OXF RSM	Oxon colour-coated mortaria	36	+	2	+	6	+	
	OXF WHM	Oxon white ware mortaria	12	+	1	+	0		
	SOC WH	South Carlton white ware	296	0.2	1	+	20	0.1	
	VER WH	Verulamium white ware	192	0.1	10	0.1	57	0.3	
LOCAL	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	224	0.1	7	0.1	25	0.1	
	BOX GR	burnt oxidised grog-tempered	1669	0.9	59	0.5	107	0.6	
	BPNK GR	burnt pink grog-tempered	1317	0.7	20	0.2	67	0.4	
	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	13182	7.2	627	5.5	1153	6.6	
	GY GR	grey grog-tempered	3047	1.7	17	0.2	57	0.3	
	OX GR	oxidised grog-tempered	1928	1.1	89	0.8	95	0.5	
	PNK GT	pink grog-tempered	252	0.1	12	0.1	10	0.1	
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	5922	3.3	151	1.3	287	1.7	
	GR SH	grog and shell-tempered	67	+	3	+	0		
	LVN CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	12888	7.1	1504	13.1	2133	12.2	
	LVN CCM	Lower Nene Valley cc mortaria	32	+	2	+	5	+	
	LVN OX	Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	1939	1.1	151	1.3	290	1.7	
	LVN PA	Lower Nene Valley parchment ware	84	0.1	11	0.1	22	0.1	
	LVN RE	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	51081	28.0	4672	40.8	7271	41.7	
	LVN WH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	5964	3.3	471	4.1	367	2.1	
	LVN WHM	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria	4456	2.4	94	0.8	175	1.0	
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	49034	26.9	1622	14.2	1700	9.8	
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	12157	6.7	733	6.4	1146	6.6	
	SHELL3	sparse shelly ware	78	+	5	+	35	0.2	
	SHLISA	misc shell/limestone/sandy	5	+	1	+	0		
	BWH SY	burnt white ware sandy	4489	2.5	213	1.9	377	2.2	
	BW	black sandy ware	1812	1.0	182	1.6	393	2.3	
	BB1 IMIT	wheelmade BB1 copies	1014	0.6	46	0.4	122	0.7	
	BW MIC	black micaceous ware	199	0.1	19	0.2	61	0.4	
	GREY	grey sandy ware	72	+	7	0.1	0		
	OXID	oxidised sandy ware	473	0.3	43	0.4	78	0.5	
	PNK SY	pink sandy ware	91	0.1	14	0.1	8	0.1	
	UNKNOWN	BUFF	buff sandy ware	8	+	2	+	0	
		BUFF CC	buff sandy ware with colour-coat	11	+	2	+	10	0.1
		BUFF MIC	buff micaceous ware	6	+	1	+	0	
		BWF	black fine ware	5	+	1	+	0	
		CC	misc colour-coated wares	165	0.1	16	0.1	19	0.1
		CREAM	fine cream ware	11	+	1	+	0	
CWW CC		coarse white ware with colour-coat	5	+	1	+	0		
GLAZE		British glazed ware	2	+	1	+	11	0.1	
GYF		fine grey ware	3	+	1	+	0		
GY RB		grey with a red burnish	23	+	1	+	0		
MICA		mica-slipped wares	440	0.2	19	0.2	38	0.2	
MORT		misc mortaria	190	0.1	1	+	0		
OXID F		fine oxidised wares	33	+	8	0.1	4	+	
OXID MIC		micaceous oxidised wares	46	+	3	+	9	0.1	
WS OXID		white-slipped oxidised ware	255	0.1	29	0.3	5	+	
WWF		fine white wares	136	0.1	22	0.2	24	0.1	
WW		misc white wares	277	0.2	10	0.1	34	0.2	
MISC		miscellaneous unclassified	33	+	3	+	0		
TOTAL				182262	100.00	11455	100.00	17443	100.00

abandonment compared to the above ditches. The forms are mainly beakers typical of the mid/late 2nd century into the early 3rd century and a copy of a samian decorated bowl is of similar date. Also present is a disk-necked flagon, generally a type dating to the 3rd century. Shelly wares account for 33% of the group and include part of a sherd reshaped as a counter.

The substantial roadside ditch 10680 produced just seven body sherds but large pieces with an average sherd weight of 41 g. These include five sherds of LNV CC and one piece of Central Gaulish samian ware.

Well 12885, probably associated with building 10870, produced a large assemblage of 278 sherds (6 kg) in the lowest fill. Three wares dominate, grog-tempered, LNV RE and shelly, collectively accounting for 82.6% by count. Also present are nine sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware and five sherds of LNV CC, including beakers and a box. It would seem that the well was constructed at some point in the second half of the 2nd century.

Other layers with substantial assemblages include rubble layer 12435 (by Ironstone wall 12437) with 455 sherds (5935 g), including MOS BS and white ware mortaria suggestive of a later 2nd- to 3rd-century date of accumulation. Slightly later are layers 12585 (buried plough soil), 12683 (colluvium), 10678 (a layer over the roadside 'pavement') and 10843 (silting against building 10800) with OXF RS mortaria, LNV CC jars and flanged bowls (DOR BB1, LNV RE), which probably date to the later 3rd or 4th centuries.

One of the largest assemblages came from 12830, a thin layer of silty soil extending across most of the interior of the shrine precinct, with 2837 sherds weighing 19,706 g. The assemblage is well-fragmented, with an average weight of 7.2 g, and chronologically diverse, ranging from the early 2nd century through to later 2nd-early 3rd century with two intrusive post-medieval pieces. Vessels of note include the only glazed sherd (Fig. 5.6.54), a fragment of lamp chimney, two small unguent jars, South, Central and East Gaulish samian ware, imported fine wares MOS BS and CNG BS and several colour-coated wares, mostly used for beakers but including a copy of a Drag 37 bowl. Samian ware accounts for 5% of the group and LNV CC for 14.2%. The composition of the assemblage in terms of forms deviates from the main trend for the overall phase in that jars only account for 27.6% by EVE but beakers account for 58.5%, distinguishing this group from a standard domestic assemblage.

Later features included in the phase are ditch 13005 (a plot boundary ditch flanking the north side of building 11370) with a 3rd-century grooved rim colour-coated bowl, robber trench 11330 of building 11370 with a colour-coated jar also typical of the later 3rd or 4th centuries, and construction cut 11821 (for the terraced area north of building 10870), also with 3rd-century forms.

Other assemblages of note include the substantial part of a large bowl in an oxidised grog-tempered ware from road surface 12031. Pit 12669 to the north of building 10850 produced an assemblage of 117 sherds (4415 g), which includes some particularly large sherds from a shelly ware storage jar giving an average sherd weight of 37.7g. This greatly contrasts with the 230 sherds from layers within the shrine (12830), which were particularly fragmented (see above). It was from this group that the barbotine figured beaker (Fig. 5.6.52) was recovered. Masonry wall 12413 from building 11630 produced a single sherd from a Drag 32 dish, a form predominantly of late 2nd-century date.

In the northern part of the site (Area G) six features probably date to this phase, wells 8278 and 8032 and ditches 8291, 8288, 8293 and 8303. Well 8278 only produced 10 sherds including six large storage jar fragments in shelly ware. Colour-coated wares were not present. By contrast well 8032 produced a large quantity of 961 sherds, 16.4 kg. Over half, 55%, comprise LNV RE with a further 18% LNV CC and 17.5% shelly ware. Grog-tempered wares are negligible and there are just 27 sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware. Most of the assemblage appears to date to the later 2nd-3rd century. Ditch 8291 produced 27 sherds of mid 2nd-century date; ditch 8288 produced 350 sherds probably also of the late 2nd-early 3rd century; ditch 8293 contained 31 sherds of 2nd-century date and ditch 8303 just seven sherds, again probably 2nd century in date. Also in the northern part of the site was a burial assigned to this phase; grave 8154 with 36 sherds, fairly well fragmented and presumably from the grave fill, which might suggest a 3rd-century *terminus post quem* for the burial. The base of a heavily truncated pot in generic wheelmade Roman shelly ware (8006) was found set into the natural colluvium immediately to the east of building 8019, but was not closely datable.

#### Phase 4-5 (3rd-4th century)

Contexts allocated to Phases 4-5 produced some 1444 sherds weighing 17958 g (Table 5.7). The assemblage is again quite diverse suggesting a fairly high level of redeposition; also reflected in the overall average sherd weight of 12 g. Lower Nene Valley grey wares dominate, accounting for 49.7% of sherds, followed by shelly wares at 26.5%. The grog-tempered component is still in decline at 5.6%. Samian ware levels are quite high at 4.6% but colour-coated wares are quite low at just 7.9%. There are very few specifically late wares, two exceptions being an Oxfordshire white ware mortarium (Young 1977, type M22) within construction cut 12519 (internal stone wall in building 10800) and an Oxfordshire colour-coated dish (*ibid.*, type C45) from ditch 11729, both of which suggest a later 3rd- or 4th-century date.

Table 5.7 Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 4-5 contexts

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>% Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% No</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	
IMPORTS	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	494	2.8	64	4.4	87	5.6	
	EG SAM	East Gaulish samian	30	0.2	3	0.2	0		
REGIONAL	BAT AM	Baetican amphorae	164	0.9	1	0.1	0		
	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	156	0.9	9	0.6	16	1.0	
	OXF RS	Oxon colour-coated ware	23	0.1	1	0.1	7	0.5	
	OXF WHM	Oxon white ware mortaria	68	0.4	2	0.1	0		
LOCAL	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	19	0.1	1	0.1	0		
	BOX GR	burnt oxidised grog-tempered	68	0.4	7	0.5	0		
	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	887	4.9	31	2.2	36	2.3	
	GY GR	grey grog-tempered	1615	9.0	32	2.2	0		
	OX GR	oxidised grog-tempered	37	0.2	1	0.1	0		
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	150	0.8	10	0.7	7	0.5	
	LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1093	6.1	113	7.8	201	13.0	
	LNV OX	Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	16	0.1	1	0.1	0		
	LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	4939	27.5	718	49.7	673	43.4	
	LNV WH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	217	1.2	17	1.2	0		
	LNV WHM	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria	366	2.0	7	0.5	18	1.2	
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	5356	29.8	274	19.0	243	15.7	
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	1439	8.0	108	7.5	165	10.7	
	BWH SY	burnt white ware sandy	187	1.0	8	0.6	25	1.6	
	BW	black sandy ware	69	0.4	6	0.4	21	1.4	
	BB1 IMIT	wheelmade BB1 copies	265	1.5	9	0.6	51	3.3	
	OXID	oxidised sandy ware	73	0.4	10	0.7	0		
	UNKNOWN	PNK SY	pink sandy ware	1	+	1	0.1	0	
		BWF	black fine ware	5	+	1	0.1	0	
MORT		misc mortaria	167	0.9	1	0.1	0		
WW		misc white wares	40	0.2	5	0.4	0		
MISC		miscellaneous unclassified	14	0.1	3	0.2	0		
TOTAL			17958	100.00	1444	100.00	1550	100.00	

### *Phase 5 (late 3rd-4th century)*

Features and deposits allocated to Phase 5 produced a total of 10,302 Romano-British sherds weighing 181.6 kg (Table 5.8). Whilst there is still clearly quite a lot of redeposited material from the 2nd century onwards there are certainly changes in the overall composition of the assemblage reflecting the later date, although the main ware groups found in Phases 3 and 4 are still the dominant ones. Lower Nene Valley grey wares account for 37.1% by count, colour-coated wares for 20.9% and shelly wares for 25.7%. The grog-tempered wares are present but only account for 3.6% (excluding PNK GT which is a specifically late ware). Other wares which are far more prominent than hitherto include BB1 imitations, DOR BB1 proper, LNV WH mortaria and products of the Oxfordshire industries. Samian ware, which should by this time largely be residual or curated, accounts for 3.5%.

In terms of form composition (Table 5.4) the trend established for Phases 3 and 4 continues with jars still the dominant form and, at 47.2%, at a similar level to Phase 4. Dishes/bowls on the other hand show a marked increase to 31.8% whilst beakers have dropped to 10%. This reflects the trend seen in

the local colour-coated industry in which bowls, dishes and jars are the main forms produced in the later Roman period. In general terms the proportion of samian ware present has dropped, but amongst this material dishes continue to be the main form present.

In Phase 5 some 35.8% of the pottery came from layers, 45.8% from negative features and 18.4% was from unspecified collection units. Several ditches assigned to this phase produced sizeable assemblages, those in the southern area with over 100 sherds including 10690, 10700, 11940 and 12965. The material from ditch 10690, which possibly defined the northern entranceway to the late Roman settlement, was noticeably well-fragmented with an average sherd weight of 9.3 g. By contrast ditch 10835 (the northern boundary of plot G), although only producing 34 sherds, had an average sherd weight of 47 g. In all cases flanged bowls are present in various fabrics, most commonly DOR BB1, LNV RE and LNV CC indicative of a date in the later 3rd to 4th centuries. Jars in LNV CC, a common 4th-century form, are present in ditches 11940 and 10700. Robber trench 11230 (of building 10870) similarly contained a colour-coated jar.

Table 5.8 Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 5 contexts

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>% Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>% No</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	
IMPORTS	SG SAM	South Gaulish samian	50	+	1	+	0		
	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	4599	2.5	352	3.4	718	4.2	
	EG SAM	East Gaulish samian	64	+	5	0.1	10	0.1	
	ARG CC	Argonne colour coated ware	3	+	1	+	0		
	MOS BS	Moselle black slip	8	+	2	+	0		
	BAT AM	Baetican amphorae	889	0.5	7	0.1	0		
REGIONAL	GAL AM	Gallic amphorae	34	+	2	+	0		
	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	2671	1.5	156	1.5	433	2.5	
	HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware	20	+	13	0.1	15	0.1	
	OXF PA	Oxon parchment ware	5	+	1	+	0		
	OXF RS	Oxon colour-coated ware	318	0.2	21	0.2	37	0.2	
	OXF RSM	Oxon colour-coated mortaria	11	+	1	+	0		
	OXF WH	Oxon white ware	27	+	3	+	2	+	
	OXF WHM	Oxon white ware mortaria	186	0.1	5	0.1	17	0.1	
	VER WH	Verulamium white ware	149	0.1	4	+	7	+	
	VER WHM	Verulamium white ware mortaria	435	0.2	7	0.1	20	0.1	
LOCAL	BOX GR	burnt oxidised grog-tempered	105	0.1	4	+	0		
	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	5542	3.1	299	2.9	331	1.9	
	GY GR	grey grog-tempered	544	0.3	22	0.2	8	0.1	
	OX GR	oxidised grog-tempered	428	0.2	16	0.2	29	0.2	
	PNK GT	pink grog-tempered	1832	1.0	27	0.3	17	0.1	
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	1466	0.8	35	0.3	92	0.5	
	GROG	misc hm grog-tempered	2	+	1	+	0		
	GR SH	grog and shell-tempered	10	+	2	+	0		
	LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	26659	14.7	2156	20.9	3785	22.1	
	LNV CCM	Lower Nene Valley cc mortaria	20	+	1	+	0		
	LNV OX	Lower Nene Valley oxidised ware	360	0.2	45	0.4	54	0.3	
	LNV PA	Lower Nene Valley parchment ware	96	0.1	8	0.1	0		
	LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	55855	30.8	3823	37.1	6799	39.7	
	LNV WH	Lower Nene Valley white ware	841	0.5	65	0.6	39	0.2	
	LNV WHM	Lower Nene Valley white ware mortaria	7632	4.2	114	1.1	369	2.2	
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	47755	26.3	1484	14.4	1455	8.5	
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	15921	8.8	1163	11.3	1980	11.6	
	SHELL3	sparse shelly ware	62	+	2	+	19	0.1	
	SHLISA	misc shell/limestone/sandy	16	+	1	+	3	+	
	BWH SY	burnt white ware sandy	1070	0.6	58	0.6	170	1.0	
	BW	black sandy ware	2166	1.2	168	1.6	261	1.5	
	BB1 IMIT	wheelmade BB1 copies	2082	1.2	100	1.0	353	2.1	
	BW MIC	black micaceous ware	177	0.1	10	0.1	5	+	
	GREY	grey sandy ware	18	+	1	+	0		
	OXID	oxidised sandy ware	146	0.1	25	0.2	22	0.1	
	PNK SY	pink sandy ware	49	+	4	+	0		
	UNKNOWN	BUFF	buff sandy ware	109	0.1	10	0.1	0	
		BWF	black fine ware	109	0.1	10	0.1	32	0.2
		BWF MIC	black fine micaceous ware	61	+	9	0.1	5	+
		CC	misc colour-coated wares	173	0.1	14	0.1	0	
		MICA	mica-slipped wares	37	+	3	+	7	+
		MORT	misc mortaria	170	0.1	4	+	8	0.1
OXID F		fine oxidised wares	264	0.2	3	+	0		
OXID MIC		micaceous oxidised wares	22	+	3	+	10	0.1	
WS OXID		white-slipped oxidised ware	14	+	1	+	0		
WS GY		white-slipped grey ware	11	+	1	+	0		
WWF		fine white wares	4	+	1	+	0		
WW		misc white wares	346	0.2	28	0.3	0		
TOTAL				181643	100.00	10302	100.00	17112	100.00

In the northern area (Area G) four ditches (8298, 8294, 8295 and 8297) produced moderately large assemblages, all with 4th-century forms and fabrics. Ditch 8292 had a stamped OXF RS base and a dish (Young 1977, form C45) in the same fabric alongside flanged bowls in LNV RE and LNV CC. Four handmade Saxon sherds also came from this feature, presumably intrusive or surface finds. Ditch 8294 contained the substantial part of a LNV CC jar (Fig. 5.8.77) along with further OXF RS and DOR BB1 sherds.

Pottery was recovered from five wells across the site: 12340, 12885, 12890, 8032 and 8278. Moderately small groups of late 3rd- to 4th-century wares came from 12340, 12890 and 8278. Slightly more material (163 sherds) came from well 12885, also 4th century but including the Central Gaulish samian ware bowl stamped by Advocisus (S1) (Fig. 5.1.S1). Well 8032, near the possible temple building 8019, produced a particularly large assemblage of 633 sherds (11367 g) dominated by three fabrics, shelly ware (22%), LNV CC (18.6%) and LNV RE (53%) all of which featured 4th-century types.

Large groups were also recovered from water-holes 12955 and 10589, with 128 and 170 sherds respectively. The latter contained a number of joining sherds from single vessels and a high number of flanged bowls in fabrics BW, LNV RE, LNV CC and DOR BB1, a sherd of OXF PA and a bowl in OXF RS. A large 4th-century shelly ware flanged bowl came from 12955.

Fewer large assemblages were recovered from pits in this phase, three exceptions being pits 8035, 10804 and 10823. Pit 8035 is the latest, dating to the 4th century and containing triangular rimmed shelly jars, an OXF RS bowl (Young 1977, type C81) and Hadham ware. Pit 10823 is probably late 3rd-4th century in date and pit 10804 is probably 3rd century in date.

Other features of note in this phase include hearth 12860 within building 10840, which produced 176 sherds, many of which are burnt.

With the exception of a mortarium sherd all the sherds are from coarse domestic wares, both bowls and jars. Posthole 11589 (part of structure 13035) contained an *in situ* everted rim shelly ware jar and seven other sherds including a triangular rim shelly jar.

Pottery was recovered from three graves 8123, 10780 and 11790. Grave 8123 produced 23 sherds, one an almost complete oxidised flask missing its top (Fig. 5.8.79, SF 676) and 11 sherds from a plain-rimmed dish. Grave 11790 produced a complete colour-coated beaker (Fig. 5.10.117) and eight miscellaneous sherds.

At least 11 defined layers of various types produced in excess of 100 sherds and one, layer 12945 (internal occupation soil within building 10830) produced 412 sherds, fairly well fragmented with an average weight of 12.5 g. This layer contained a number of later colour-coated forms including mortaria, flagons, boxes and jars, plus three DOR BB1 conical flanged bowls and a shelly jar decorated with a wavy line on the rim. Three layers stand out as unusual in that they contained little or no colour-coated ware. These are layers 11117 (rubble between buildings 10880 and 10870), 11151 (metalled surface around well 12885) and 11152 (trample to north of building 10870). A small quantity of pottery recovered from the colluvium 11988 and 12374 included the stamped Dressel 20 amphora handle (Fig. 5.10.114).

#### Phase 6 (post-Roman)

Phase 6 contexts produced 113 Roman sherds (1551 g), many of which came from various sunken-featured buildings (Table 5.9). Of particular note is the relatively high proportion of fine wares, samian ware and colour-coated wares, which account for 44% by sherd count. These may have been deliberately sought out because of their colour, either as already broken sherds or useable vessels.

Table 5.9 Quantified summary of pottery from Phase 6 contexts

	Fabric	Description	Wt	% Wt	No	% No	EVE	% EVE
IMPORTS	CG SAM	Central Gaulish samian	79	5.1	12	10.6	7	6.3
REGIONAL	DOR BB1	Dorset black burnished ware	165	10.6	12	10.6	25	22.3
	OXF RSM	Oxon colour-coated mortaria	18	1.2	1	0.9	6	5.4
	BWH GR	burnt white ware grog-tempered	102	6.6	6	5.3	0	
	WW GR	white grog-tempered	18	1.2	1	0.9	5	4.5
	LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	269	17.3	36	31.9	11	9.8
	LNV RE	Lower Nene Valley grey ware	450	29.0	23	20.4	50	44.6
	SHELL1	handmade shelly ware	394	25.4	16	14.2	3	2.7
	SHELL2	wheelmade shelly ware	19	1.2	4	3.5	0	
	BW	black sandy ware	15	1.0	1	0.9	0	
	BB1 IMIT	wheelmade BB1 copies	22	1.4	1	0.9	5	4.5
TOTAL			1551	100.00	113	100.00	112	100.00

**Graffiti**

Table 5.10 summarises the incidence of sherds with post-firing graffiti. In total some 33 vessels have been noted as having some form of post-firing graffiti, ranging from simple single line incisions across the rim or footrings, to crosses or more complex symbols or letters. The vessels mainly occur in Phase 4 and 5 contexts, with only one example from a Phase 3 ditch. Sixteen of the vessels (48%) are finer tablewares, either samian ware, imported beaker or Lower Nene Valley colour-coated wares. The remainder are on coarse wares with 30% on Nene Valley grey wares. In terms of form, 27% of graffiti are on beakers, 42% on bowls or dishes, 15% on jars, two examples on cups and a single example on a mortarium; this represents a moderately high incidence of graffiti. The slightly larger assemblage from Stonea Grange, Cambs, for example, notes only nine examples of graffiti on pottery (Potter 1996, 493) of which five are on samian, two on colour-coated ware, one on a grey

ware and one on a London type bowl. Most of these take the form of crosses. A lower incidence has also been observed on pottery from Silchester (Timby, 2006). By contrast however, nine vessels, all DOR BB1, from the roadside settlement at Birdlip Quarry, Glos, had simple graffiti, a ratio of 1:1855 (Timby 1999, 344). The extramural settlement at Alchester produced 17 sherds, a rate of 1:2734 (Evans 2001, 382), which Evans considered low in comparison with other urban sites but higher than comparable rural sites. The figure from Higham Ferrers of 1:864 is noticeably higher than any cited by Evans (ibid.) and could indicate either a specialised role or the sub-urban character of the settlement. Interestingly, although not quantified or discussed, there appears to be quite a high incidence of vessels with graffiti from the temple site at Uley, Glos (eg Woodward and Leach 1993, fig. 165.65, 73; fig. 167.108, 112; fig. 168.129, 137, 151a; fig 169.167).

Table 5.10 Summary of sherds with post-firing graffiti

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Figure</i>
BB11 MIT	bowl	5	waterhole 10589	possible letters on wall	5.8.87
BWH SY	jar	5	waterhole 12955	cross incised inside rim	5.10.112
BWH SY	jar	4-5	finds ref 10625	x3 incisions on rim	5.8.92
CG SAM	dish Dr 31R	4	ditch 10681	x2 parallel incisions across footring	not illus
CG SAM	bowl Dr 37	4	layer 10971	?letters below rim	5.5.38
CG SAM	cup Dr 33	5	layer 11153	cross on underside of base	not illus
CG SAM	mortaria Dr 45	5	waterhole G12955	?interior graffito- single line	not illus
CG SAM	cup	5	finds ref 11331	incised ?symbol under base	5.10.116
CG SAM	dish Dr 79	5	finds ref 10625	incised letters under base	5.9.100
CG SAM	dish Dr 31	5	ditch 10858	interior and exterior graffiti	5.10.115
CNG BS	beaker	4-5	layer 12523	x2 crosses on neck	5.8.76
LNV CC	beaker	0	ploughsoil 10977	incised V on rim interior	5.10.121
LNV CC	beaker	4	layer 12614 Gp 12830	incised cross below rim	5.6.50
LNV CC	beaker	4	floor 11555	letter or symbol near base	5.6.43
LNV CC	beaker	5	pit 10804	x1 incision on rim	not illus
LNV CC	jar	5	ditch G8295	possible graffiti on neck	5.7.78
LNV CC	bowl	5	make-up 10679	graffiti on neck ?letters	5.9.107
LNV CC	beaker	5	layer 12372	x2 incisions on rim	not illus
LNV OX	beaker	4	pit 12698	cross on rim	5.6.56
LNV OX	bowl	4	pit 12826	x2 incisions on rim	5.7.69
LNV CC	beaker	0	robbercut 10884	incised cross on body	5.10.120
LNV RE	?bowl	0	finds ref 8003	incised ?cross on interior of base	5.10.119
LNV RE	beaker	4	finds ref. G10890	incised cross on body	5.6.46
LNV RE	closed form	4	pit 12826	possible letter	5.7.72
LNV RE	bowl	4	layer 12436	x3 lines incised across rim	5.6.49
LNV RE	bowl	4	grave 8154	probable incised line across rim	not illus
LNV RE	bowl	4	layer 12435	? graffiti	not illus
LNV RE	jar	5	layer 10816	incised line on rim	not illus
LNV RE	dish	5	finds ref. 10591	?cut on base	not illus
LNV RE	base	5	layer 12945	cross on inside	not illus
LNV RE	bowl	4-5	finds ref 8031	x1 incision on rim	5.8.75
SHELL1	bowl	3	ditch G12310	x1 incision on rim	5.4.13
SHELL1	jar	4	ditch 10681	incision \ / on rim	5.5.36

## Catalogue of illustrated sherds

*Nos 1-29 Phase 3* (Fig. 5.4-5)

1. Lid-seated jar. Fabric BOX GR. Ditch 12310 (11508).
2. Lid-seated jar with diagonal combed decoration. Fabric WW GR. Ditch 12310 (11508).
3. Straight-sided dish with a moulded rim. Fabric SHELL1. Ditch 12310 (11508).
4. Poppyhead beaker with diamond-shaped panels of barbotine dot decoration. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch 12310 (11508).
5. Tubular handle or spout. Fabric SHELL1. Construction cut 12890 (11526).
6. Closed vessel with a narrow opening and with six holes made in the base before firing. Possibly a watering can. Fabric SHELL2. (11550).
7. Probable jar with a zone of rouletting around the neck. Fabric BWF. Burnt deposit (12011).
8. Ovoid handmade jar with a sharply everted thickened rim. Incised line on upper rim surface around the circumference. Fabric SHELL1. Burnt deposit (12011).
9. Round shouldered jar with a short everted rim. Finely rilled exterior surface. Fabric SHELL2. Burnt deposit (12011).
10. Lid-seated jar with a blackened, rilled exterior surface. Fabric SHELL2. Ditch 12310 (12065).
11. Globular-bodied, lid-seated jar. Rilled, blackened exterior. Fabric SHELL2. Ditch 12310 (12065).
12. Slightly angular hemispherical bowl with a flat rim. Fabric SHELL 2. Ditch 12310 (12065).
13. Thickened rim bowl. Single extant cut line across the rim made after firing. Fabric SHELL1. Ditch 12310 (12065).
14. White ware mortarium with a bordered stamp impressed across the flange near the spout. Only the first two letters BO... can be read. Fabric VER WH(M). Ditch 12310 (12065).
15. Bag-shaped beaker with a short everted rim. Decorated with diamond-shaped panels of barbotine dots. Fabric LNV RE. Group 12725 (12730).
16. Wide-mouthed jar with a ridged exterior. Fabric OXID. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
17. Wide-mouthed jar. Fabric SHELL2. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
18. Bifid rim jar. Fabric BWH GR. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
19. Wide-mouthed jar. Fabric BWH GR. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
20. Small grey ware jar with a sharply everted flaring rim. Diagonal burnished line decoration. Sooted exterior. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
21. Wide-mouthed lid-seated, globular-bodied jar. Finely rilled exterior, sooted. Fabric BWH GR. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
22. Reeded rim hemispherical bowl. Fabric LNV WH. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
23. Reeded rim bowl. Fabric LNV WH. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
24. Flanged rim hemispherical bowl with a rilled exterior. Fabric BOX SY. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
25. Hammer rim conical bowl. Fabric WW GR. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
26. Straight-sided bowl, possibly imitating samian form Drag 30, Fabric BWF MIC. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
27. Poppyhead beaker with a cordoned neck and

decorated with panels of barbotine dot decoration. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch group 12880 (12908).

28. Bag-shaped beaker with everted rim. Rouletted decoration. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch group 12880 (12908).
29. Thickened rim jar/ beaker. Fabric LNV WH. Ditch group 12880 (12908).

*Nos 30-2 Phase 3-4* (Fig. 5.5)

30. Beaker decorated with incised chevrons and oval depressions. Fabric GYF. Layer (11376). The design is very similar to that on a bowl from Chesterton in 'London-type' ware from a pit dated to the second quarter of the 2nd century (Perrin 1999, fig. 44.294) and probably originates from the same source.
31. Hemispherical bowl in fine white ware with red painted decoration. Fabric WWF. Layer (11574).
32. Folded beaker with a black exterior and grey interior. Fabric BW. Layer (12306).

*Nos 33-74 Phase 4* (Figs 5.5-7)

33. Flask with a burnished finish. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch 8288 (8040).
34. Bowl imitating samian form Drag 37 including the ovolo decoration. Below the ovolo are incised short lines. Matt orange red exterior on an orange fabric. Fabric LNV CC. Construction cut 8032 (8058).
35. Bag-shaped beaker with trailed barbotine decoration. Fabric LNV CC. Construction cut 8032 (8058).
36. Everted rim jar. Fabric SHELL1. Incised \ / on rim. Ditch 10682.
37. Narrow necked jar with a light grey colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Ditch 10682.
38. Central Gaulish samian, Drag 37 with edge of post-firing graffito JA[ . Layer (10971).
39. Flange from a white ware mortarium with part of a stamp CIVV[. Fabric LNV WH(M). Construction cut 12885 (11419).
40. Base from a bowl with burnished line decoration on the interior. Fabric BB1 IMIT. Robber cut (11434).
41. Beaker with a bulging girth. Very pockmarked black colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Floor (11555).
42. Several sherds from a bag-shaped beaker with barbotine decoration. The decoration consists of a frieze of ducks, which survive as scars where the barbotine has come away. Fabric LNV CC. Floor (11555).
43. Bag-shaped beaker with interlinking scroll decoration. Dark brown colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Floor (11155).
44. Wide-mouthed lid-seated jar with a rilled exterior finish. Fabric: BWH SY. Floor (11155).
45. Hammer-headed rim bowl. Fabric WW GR. Ditch 12980 (11781).
46. Body sherd from a beaker with diagonal burnished line decoration and an incised cross graffito. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference 10890 (11851).
47. Probable spout in a grey fabric with a red burnished finish. Fabric GY RB. Ditch 12895 (11878).
48. Large conical bowl with a thickened rim. Fabric OX GR. Road surface (12031).
49. Bowl with a triangular rim with at least three incised lines across the top. Fabric LNV RE. Layer (12435).
50. Plain rimmed beaker with a dark brown colour-coat. An incised cross graffito has been scratched

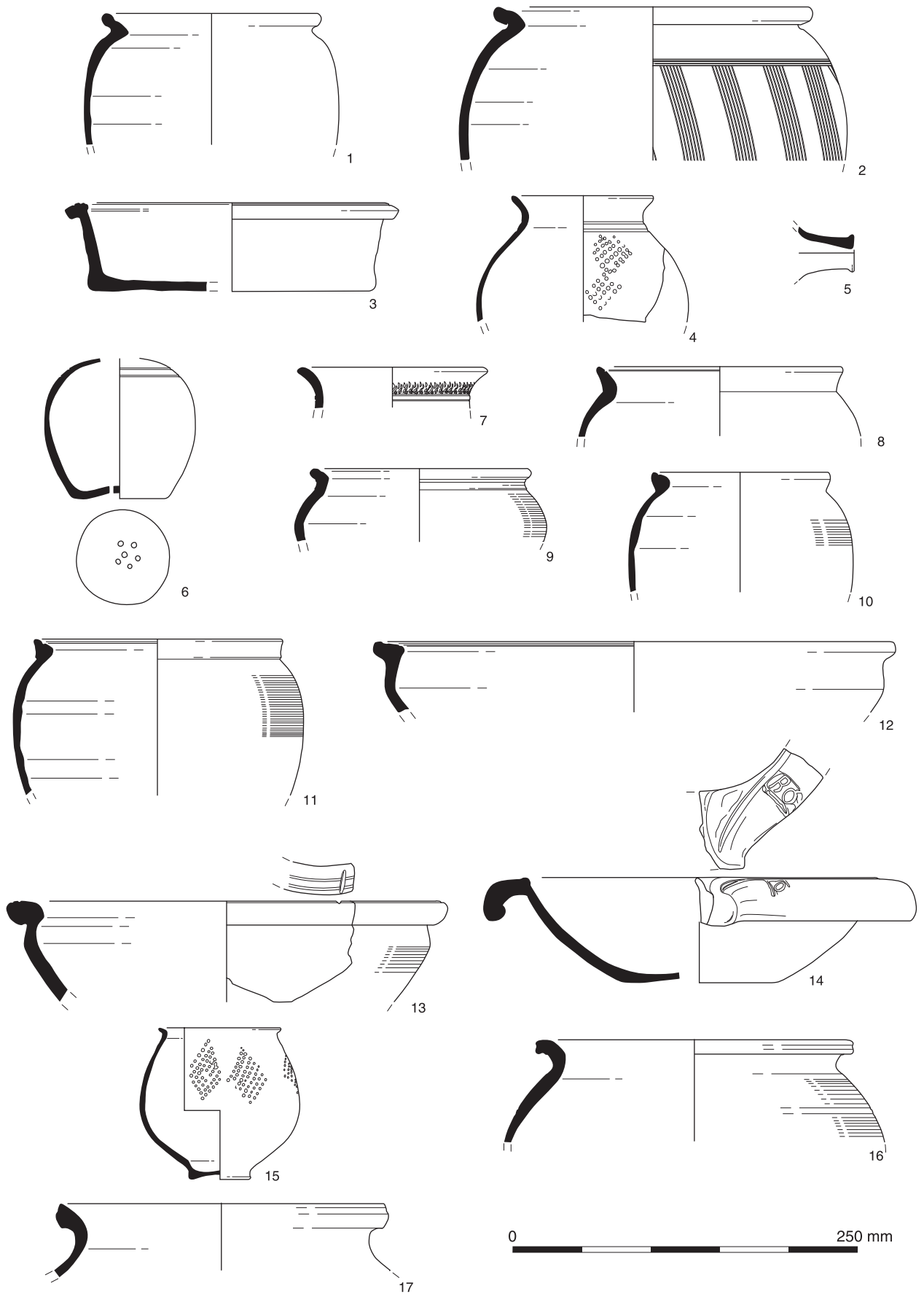


Fig. 5.4 Roman pottery



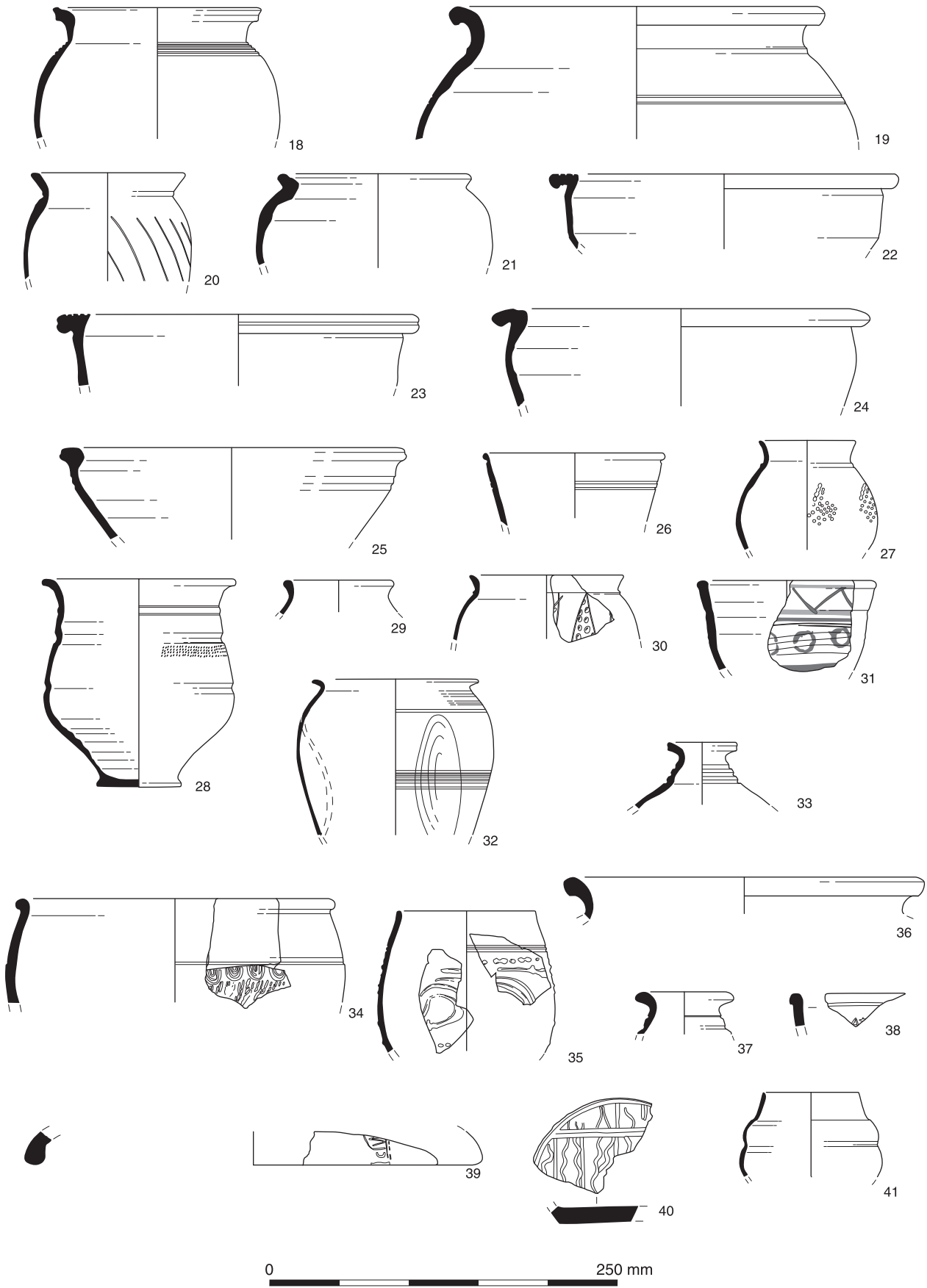


Fig. 5.5 Roman pottery

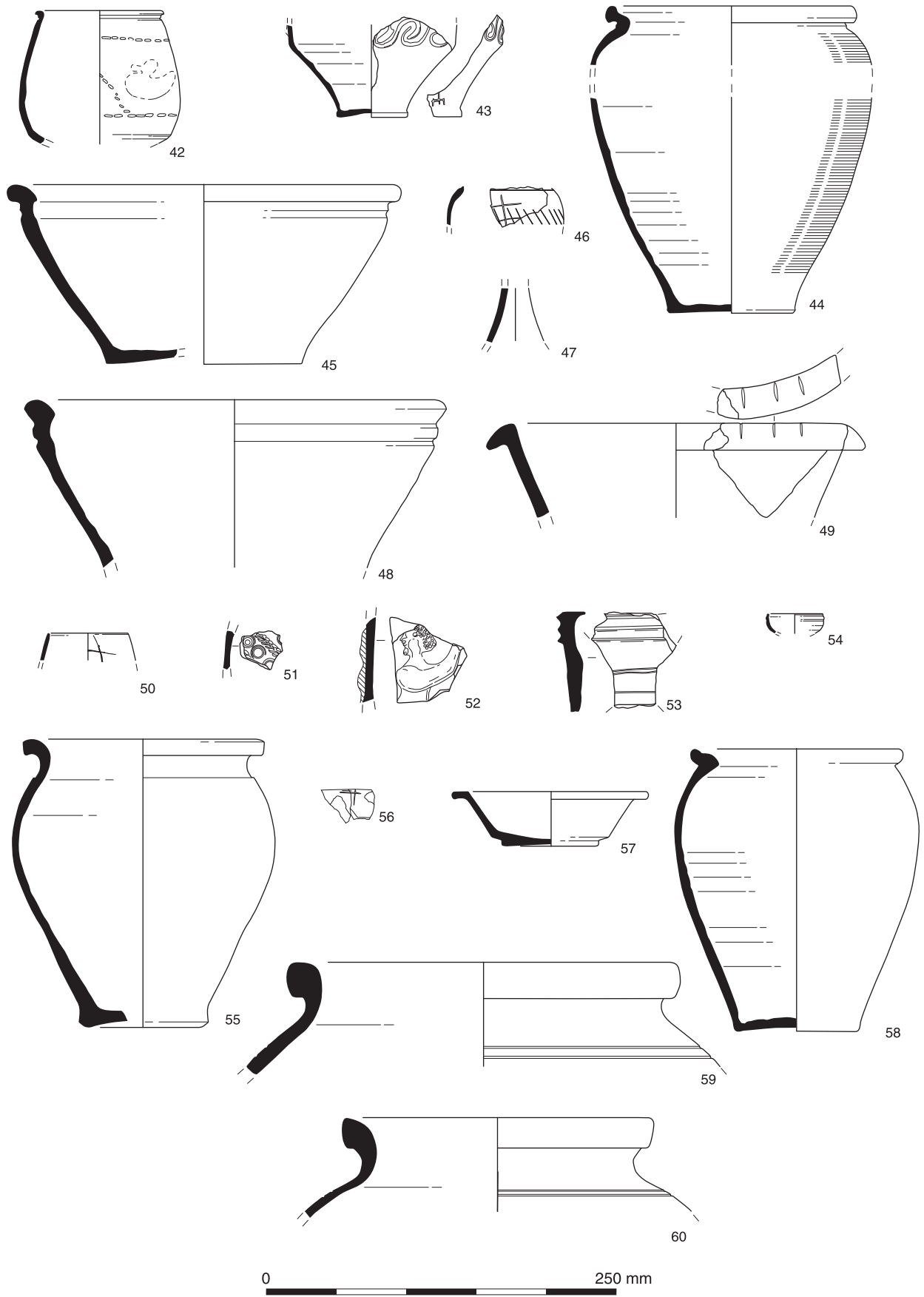


Fig. 5.6 Roman pottery

- into the upper body. Fabric LNV CC. Layer (12614).
51. Body sherd from a bowl with stamped and rouletted decoration. Fabric BWF MIC. Layer G12830 (12614).
  52. Body sherd from a beaker with an applied figure. The hairstyle is very distinctive suggesting a person of non-European origin. Brownish colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Layer G12830 (12615).
  53. Fragment of lamp chimney in a shelly fabric. Angular cut apertures. Fabric SHELL1. Layer G12830 (12718).
  54. Small cupped rim, ?flask. Fabric GLAZE. Layer G12830 (12691).
  55. Complete jar with a deliberately holed base. Sooted, rilled exterior. Fabric BWH SY. [12692] (12616).
  56. Plain rimmed beaker with an X incised near the lip. Fabric LNV OX. Pit 12698 (12699).
  57. Small dish with a highly polished black interior. Fabric BWF MIC. Grave 12725 (12728).
  58. Complete lid-seated jar. Fabric BWH GR. Pit 12826 (12827).
  59. Storage jar. Fabric SHELL1. Pit 12826 (12827).
  60. Storage jar. Fabric SHELL1. Pit 12826 (12827).
  61. Wide-mouthed jar decorated with a discontinuous incised wavy line. Fabric SHELL1. Pit 12826 (12827).
  62. Small jar with a pendant rim. Spaced grooves on exterior. Fabric BWH SY. Pit 12826 (12827).
  63. Lid-seated jar. Fabric BWH GR. Pit 12826 (12827).
  64. Narrow necked jar. Fabric SHELL2. Pit 12826 (12827).
  65. Wide-mouthed jar. Fabric SHELL2. Pit 12826 (12827).
  66. Wide-mouthed jar with cordon below the rim. Fabric BWH SY. Pit 12826 (12827).
  67. Wide-mouthed everted rim necked, cordoned jar. Fabric SHELL1. Pit 12826 (12827).
  68. Lid-seated jar. Fabric BWH GR. Pit 12826 (12827).
  69. Reeded rim bowl. Two incised cuts across rim. Fabric LNVOX. Pit 12826 (12827).
  70. Large flanged rim bowl in a hard orange sandy ware. Fabric OXID. Pit 12826 (12827).
  71. Dropped flat rim hemispherical bowl. Fabric SHELL2. Pit 12826 (12827).
  72. Body sherd with part of a graffiti scratched in. Fabric LNV RE. Pit 12826 (12827).
  73. Handled spouted flagon with a dark brown colour-coat. Rouletted decoration. Fabric LNV CC. Pit 12826 (12827).
  74. Vertically flanged mortarium with a broken spout. The trituration grits are composed of rounded quartz grains. Fabric SOC WH. Pit 12826 (12827).
- Nos 75 – 6 Phase 4-5 (Fig. 5.8)**
75. Dish with thickened triangular rim. Deeply incised line across rim. Fabric LNV RE. Finds ref. (8031).
  76. Several sherds from a funnel necked beaker with an incised graffiti on the neck. Fabric CNG BS. Layer (12523).
- Nos 77-117 Phase 5 (Fig. 5.8-10)**
77. Wide-mouthed jar/bowl. Black colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Ditch 8294 (8022).
  78. Necked beaker with a matt red colour-coat. Possible graffiti on neck. Fabric LNV CC. Ditch 8295 (8092).
  79. Flask broken at the neck. Fabric OXIDF. SF 676. Grave 8123 (8129).
  80. Jar with a dark brown colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Well 8032 (8279).
  81. Base of an open form decorated with burnished lines. Fabric BW MIC. Well 8032 (8279).
  82. Jar with hooked rim and a ridged exterior. Fabric SHELL2. Well 8032 (8279).
  83. Flat, rectangular object broken at both ends with edges cut before firing. Possibly from a lamp chimney. Fabric SHELL1. Ditch 10670 (10403).
  84. Dish copying samian form Drag 36 with barbotine leaf decoration on the rim. Dark grey colour coat. Fabric LNV CC. Object reference (10507).
  85. 'Castor' box lid with rouletted decoration. Red-brown colour-coat on an orange fabric. Fabric LNV CC. Ditches 10835, 10845 and 10855 (10510).
  86. Body sherd from a beaker decorated with a fluted column painted in red and white. Fabric LNV CC. Ditch 10835, 10845 and 10855 (10510).
  87. Flanged conical bowl with a burnished finish. Graffiti scratched onto the body. Fabric BB1 IMIT. Waterhole 10589 (10587).
  88. Body sherd from a closed form. Faint impressed or moulded patterned decoration, difficult to decipher. Fabric OXID MIC. Finds reference G10840 (10624).
  89. Large storage jar. Fabric SHELL1. Finds reference (10625).
  90. Lid-seated jar. Fabric BWH GR. Finds reference (10625).
  91. Lid-seated jar. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference (10625).
  92. Everted rim jar. Three extant post-firing incised lines on rim. Fabric BWH SY. Finds reference (10625).
  93. Dish with flattish triangular rim. Fabric BWH SY. Finds reference (10625).
  94. Dish with a chamfered base and thickened rim. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference (10625).
  95. Circular disk with a ridged surface perforated by four equidistant holes. Presumably a lid. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference (10625).
  96. Bowl decorated with a burnished line lattice. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference (10625).
  97. Large hammer-headed rim bowl. Fabric WW GR. Finds reference (10625).
  98. Cornice rim beaker. Orange-brown colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Finds reference (10625).
  99. Folded beaker. Black colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Finds reference (10625).
  100. Base from a Drag 79 Central Gaulish dish with graffiti, probably a name, on the underside. Finds reference (10625).
  101. Almost complete everted rim jar. Fabric LNV RE. Ditch 10835 (10629).
  102. Flanged bowl. Black colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Make-up (10679).
  103. Flanged conical bowl. Dark red colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Make-up (10679).
  104. Flanged conical bowl with a burnished lattice decoration. Fabric BB1 IMIT. Make-up (10679).
  105. Plain walled dish with slightly tapered rim. The base is burnished across in one direction. Fabric LNV RE. Make-up (10679).
  106. Disk-necked handled flagon. Fabric LNV CC. Make-up (10679).
  107. Beaker sherd with a dark brown exterior and red interior. Barbotine decoration and part of a graffiti scratched in after firing. Fabric LNV CC. Make-up (10679).

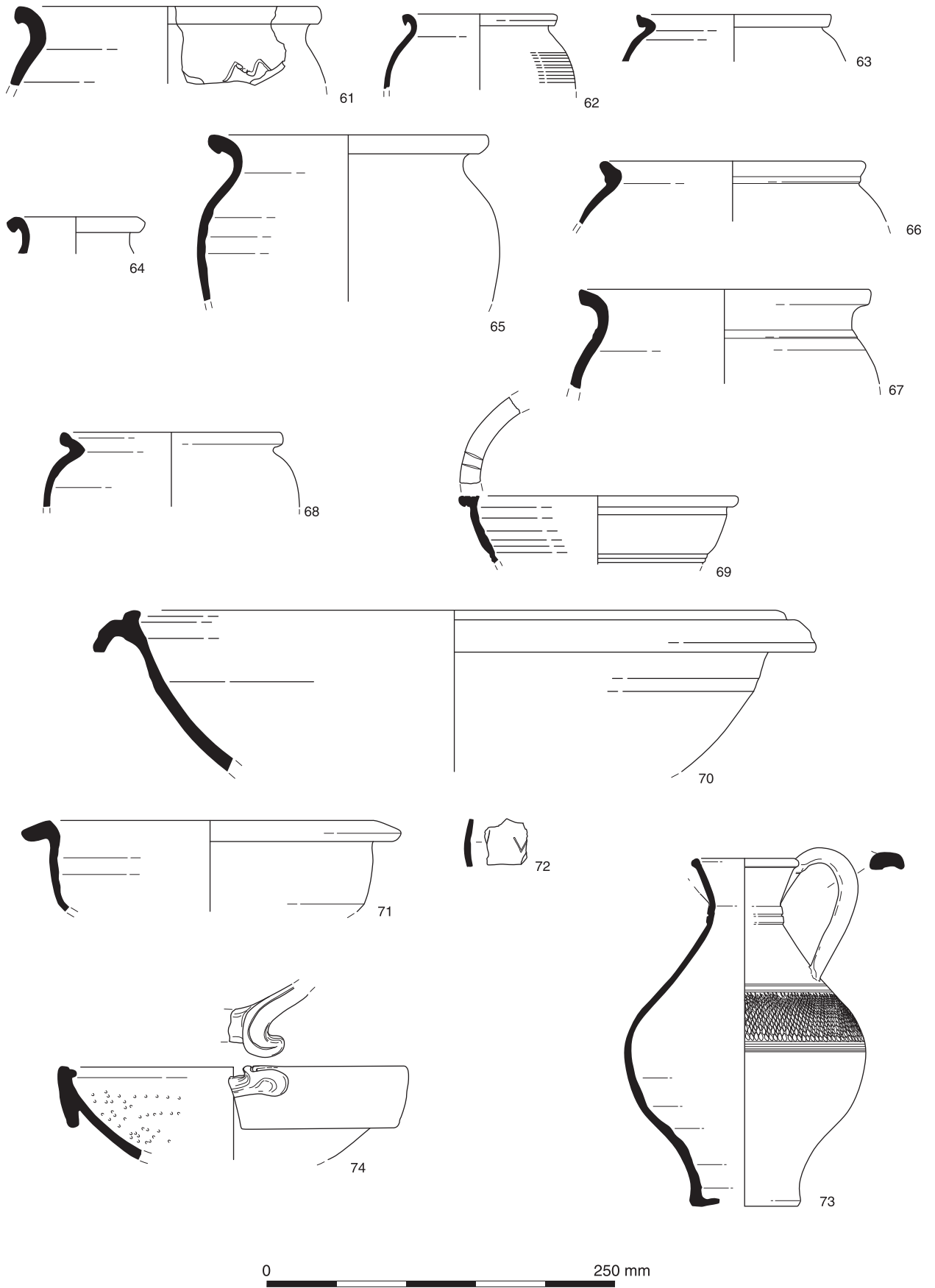


Fig. 5.7 Roman pottery

Chapter 5

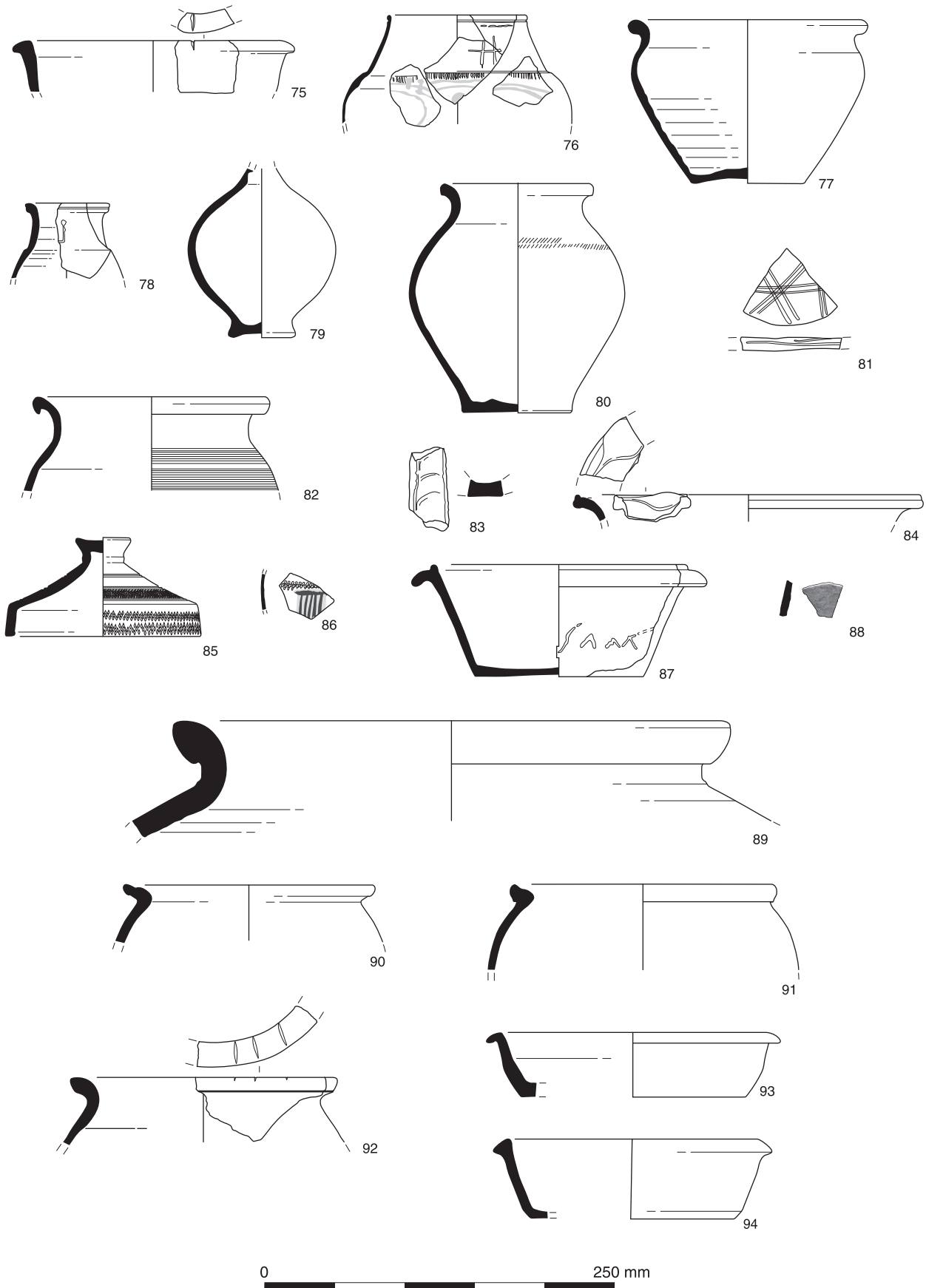


Fig. 5.8 Roman pottery

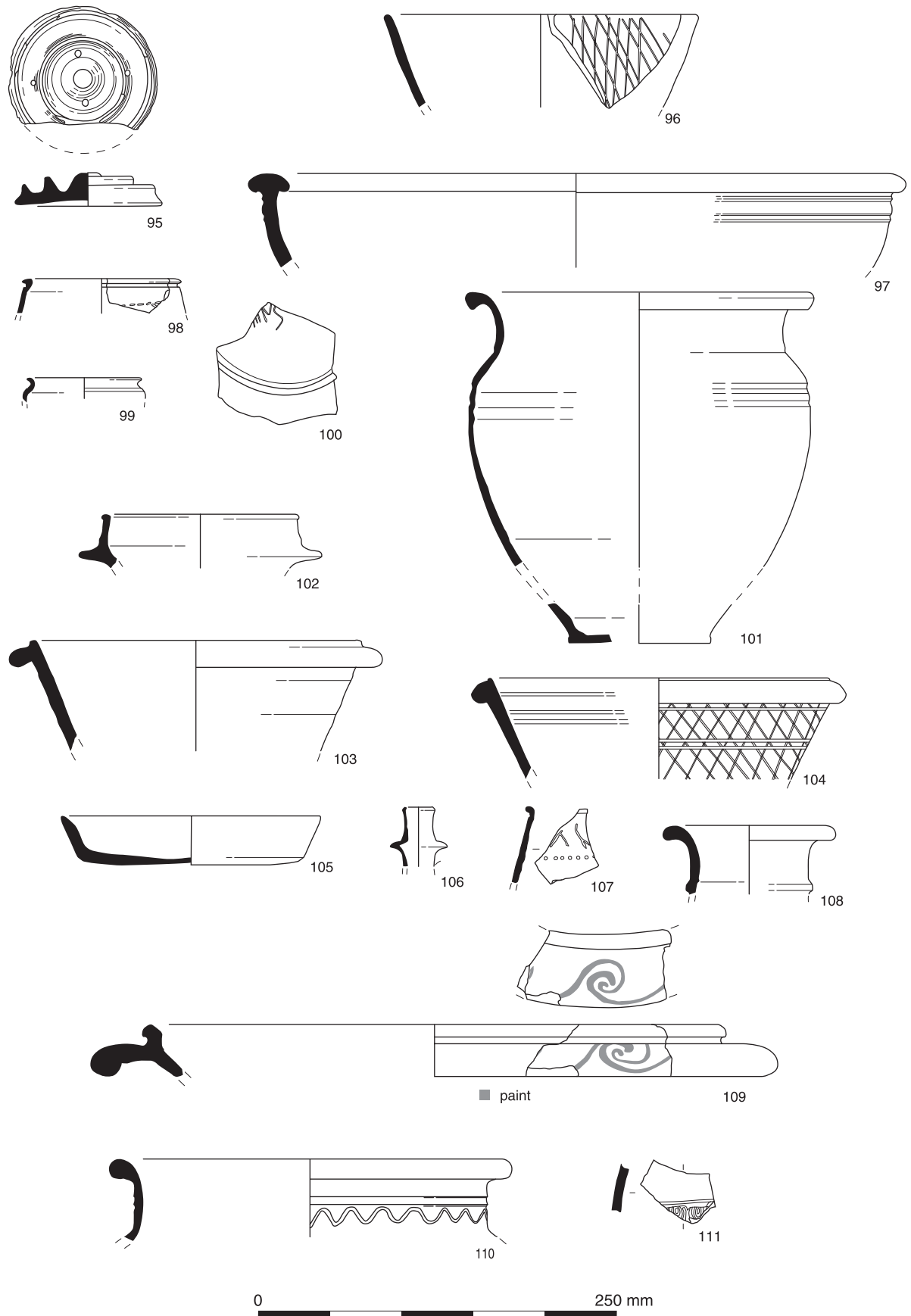


Fig. 5.9 Roman pottery

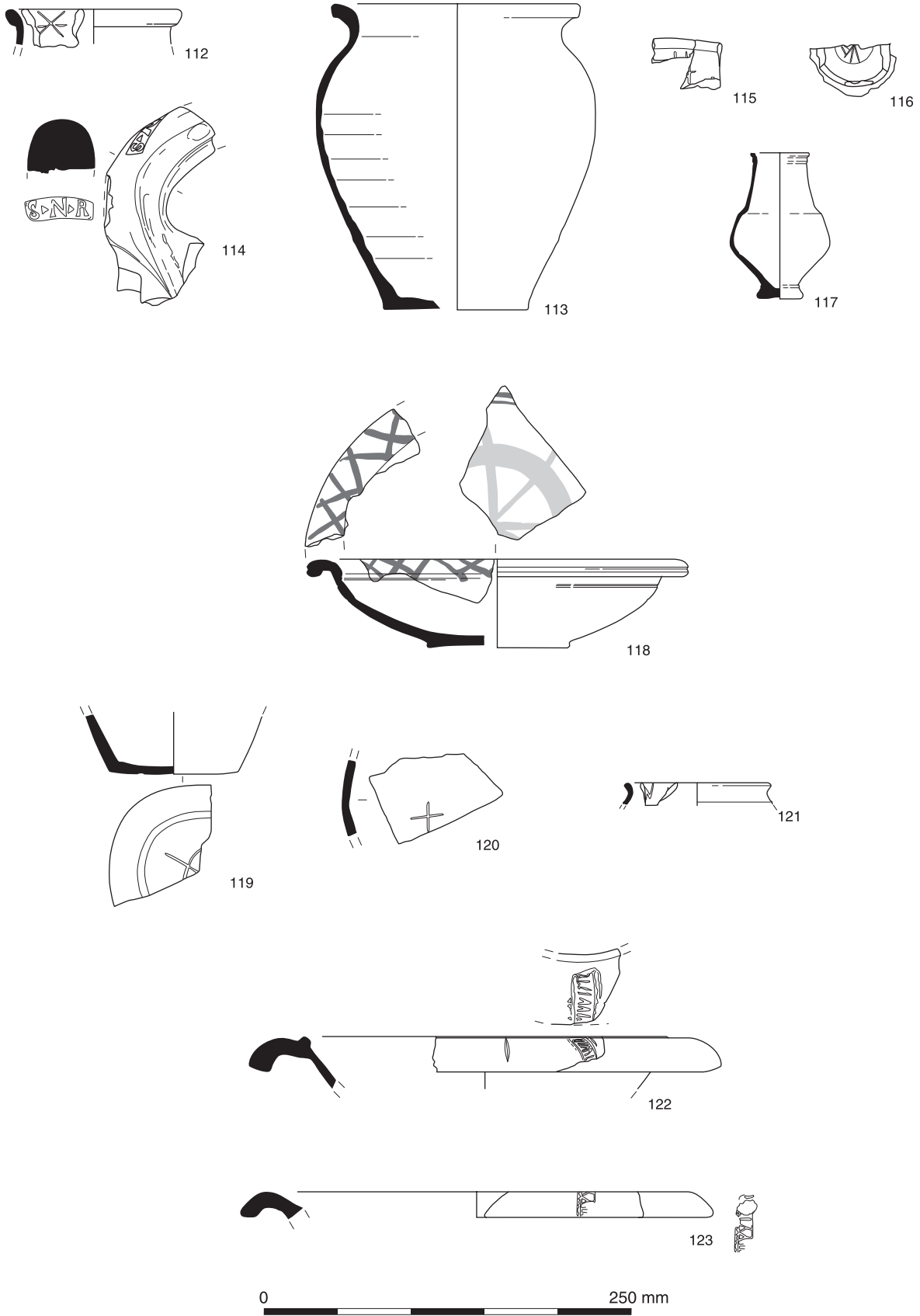


Fig. 5.10 Roman pottery

108. Narrow cordon-necked jar. Dark brown colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Make-up (10679).
109. White ware mortaria with red painted decoration on the flange. Fabric LNV WH (M). Make-up (10679).
110. Necked jar decorated with an incised wavy line. Fabric LNV RE. Pit 10804 (10802).
111. Body sherd from a bowl with a moulded ovolo imitating a Drag 37 form. Fabric: LNV CC. Waterhole 12955 (10921).
112. Jar with a X scratched into the inner rim face after firing. Fabric BWH SY. Waterhole 12955 (10921).
113. Wheelmade necked jar with a sooted exterior. Fabric SHELL2. *In-situ* in posthole 11589 (11591).
114. Split handle from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora stamped S\_N\_R. Colluvium (11988).
115. Central Gaulish samian dish Drag 31 with graffiti on both sides. Ditch 11270 (10859).
116. Central Gaulish cup stamped SATV[ (Fig. 5.2.S9), with graffiti on underside. Finds reference (11331).
117. Complete miniature beaker. Black colour-coat in orange fabric. Fabric LNV CC. Grave 11790 (11777).

**Nos 118- 23 Unphased** (Fig. 5.10)

118. Bowl with flanged rim. The rim and interior are decorated with red paint designs. Fabric LNV PA. Finds reference (8003).
119. Base with a graffiti scratched onto the upper surface. Fabric LNV RE. Finds reference (8003).
120. Body sherd from a closed form with an incised X graffiti. Grey-brown colour-coat. Fabric LNV CC. Robber cut 10884 (10886).
121. Beaker with a grey-brown colour-coat. Incised V on interior of rim. Fabric LNV CC. Ploughsoil (10977).
122. White ware mortaria with a stamped flange. Fabric LNV WH(M). Layer (11136).
123. White ware mortaria with a stamped flange. Fabric LNV WH(M). Grave 10950 (10924).

**Discussion**

The pottery assemblage recovered from the excavations at documents a particularly high level of activity between the mid 2nd and mid 4th centuries although there is little evidence for late 4th-century activity. The balance between the different ware groups signifies subtle chronological changes throughout the occupation which, when grouped into the site phasing, allows general trends to be discerned (Figs 5.11-12 and Table 5.11). Four main wares/fabrics dominate the assemblage; sandy grog-tempered wares, shelly ware, Lower Nene Valley grey ware and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fig. 5.11). The sandy grog-tempered wares form a distinct local tradition dating from the later 1st to 2nd centuries and have been recognised on all sites of this date in the region. The tradition appears to develop out of the LPR IA grog-tempered wares and seems to be the output from a series of small rural kilns scattered around the area. Eventually it appears as Midlands pink-grog-tempered ware (PNK GT) from around the later 2nd century through to the 4th century which largely features as large storage jars (Booth and Green 1989). The wider distribution of this type (Taylor 2004) suggests a more centralised source. As might be expected, sandy grog-tempered wares dominate the Phase 3 assemblage, show a rapid decline in Phase 4 and only form a very small, and undoubtedly residual, component of the Phase 5 assemblage. The shelly ware tradition by contrast shows a fairly consistent presence throughout all the phases although the nature of the forms demonstrates a typological development from forms typical of the early Roman period, developing again out of a pre-

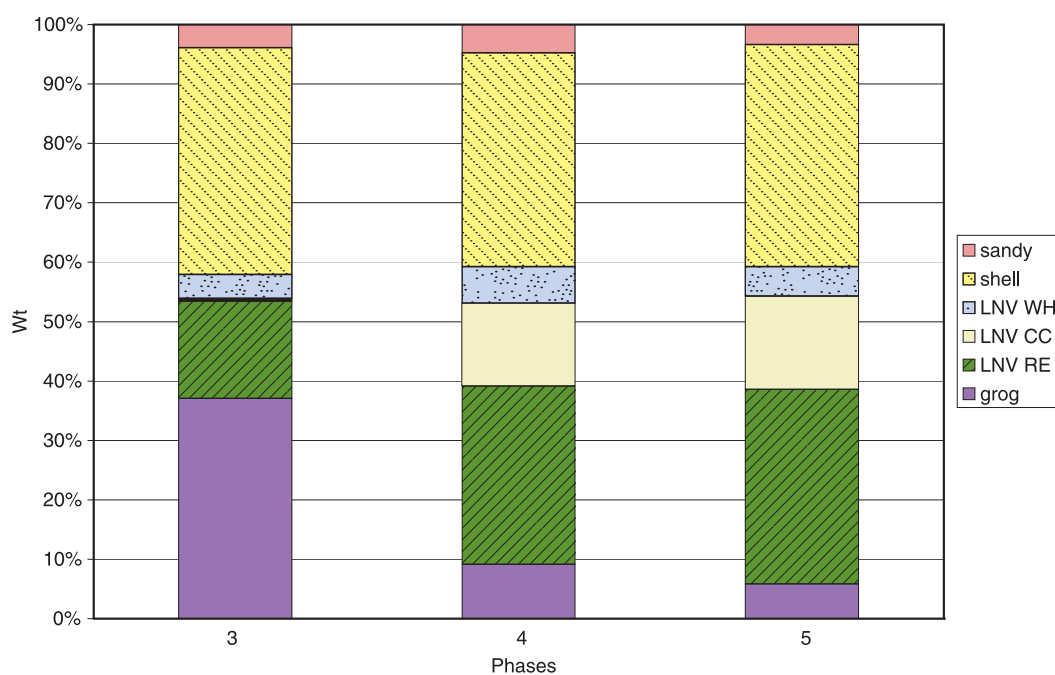


Fig. 5.11 Relative proportion of local wares for Phases 3-5



Table 5.11 Summary of main ware groups by phase

	Ware groups	Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5	
		% No	% Wt	% No	% Wt	% No	% Wt
Imports	samian	2.6	2.5	4.3	3.2	3.5	2.6
	other fineware	0	0	0.1	+	+	+
	amphorae	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5
Regional	DOR BB1	+	+	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.5
	Oxon industries	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
	Verulamium	0.6	2.2	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.0
	Other	+	+	0.3	0.2	0.1	+
Local	sandy grog	29.8	34.9	15.0	8.5	3.9	5.5
	LNV grey ware	31.3	15.4	40.8	28.0	37.1	30.8
	LNV colour-coat	0.9	0.4	7.1	13.0	20.9	14.7
	LNV white wares	6.1	3.8	5.1	5.7	1.7	4.7
	shell	22.9	35.9	20.6	33.6	25.7	35.1
	sandy	4.3	3.7	4.6	4.5	3.6	3.2
Unknown	all other	1.5	1.2	1.6	2.7	0.4	0.3
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100

Roman tradition, with lid-seated and channel-rim jars, to the later Roman period with triangular rimmed jars and flanged bowls. The nature of production also changes, again probably from a dispersed rural production to a more centralised industry as typified by the kilns at Harrold, Beds, which are likely to have produced most of the later wares.

The dominant fabric in all phases is Lower Nene Valley grey ware, the production of which was probably well established by the mid 2nd century. A diverse range of forms was produced including jars, dishes and beakers. By the early 3rd century the

form repertoire had become more standardised. At least two kilns are known, at Sibson and Stibbington, and others are likely to have existed (Perrin 1999, 78). Production is thought to have ceased early in the 4th century (*ibid.*). This is not supported, however, by the data at Higham Ferrers, where the grey wares remain the commonest ware by percentage count, second by weight, suggesting either a high level of redeposition or that there were other kilns still producing similar wares into the 4th century. By contrast the pattern of the Lower Nene valley colour-coated wares conforms to that which might be expected, with a very low presence in

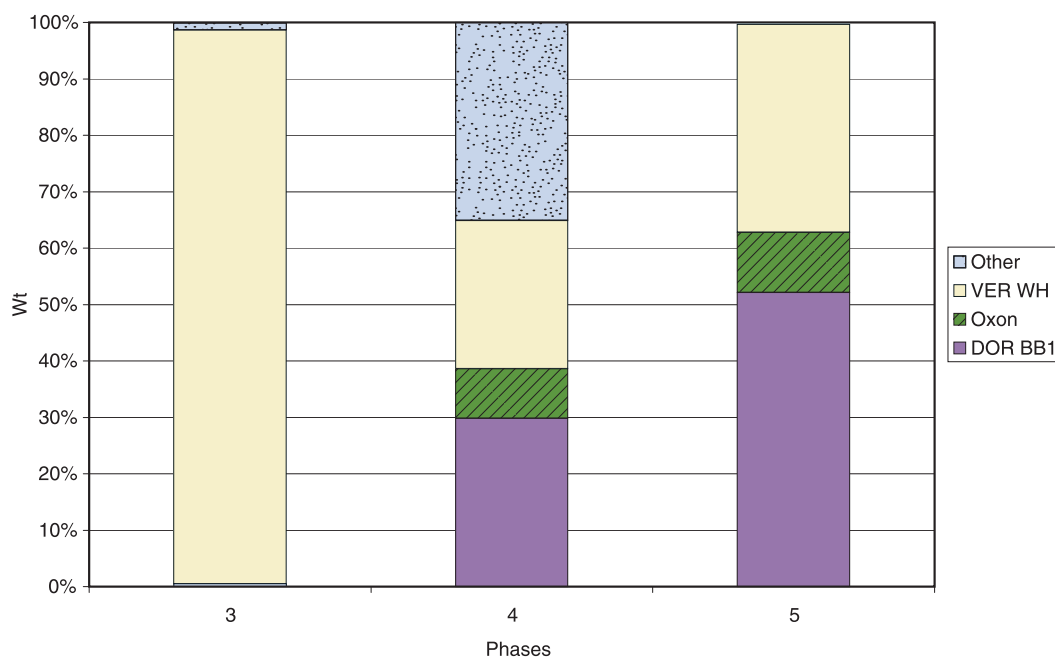


Fig. 5.12 Relative proportions of regional imports for Phase 3, 4 and 5

Phase 3 compared to Phases 4 and 5. By the later 3rd and 4th century the colour-coated industry was copying most of the forms previously made in the grey wares.

Looking at the regional imports (Fig. 5.12) both Dorset black burnished ware and products from the Oxfordshire industries start to appear in Phase 4 but largely feature in Phase 5. The highest incidence of other regional imports occurs in Phase 4. Verulamium white wares by contrast show their highest incidence in Phase 3, with small amounts in Phases 4 and 5. Samian ware accounts for 2.6% by count of the Phase 3 assemblage, 4.3% of the Phase 4 and is still at a respectable level of 3.5% in Phase 5, by which time production would have ceased. This is quite a common phenomenon with samian ware and may partly reflect the potentially high levels of redeposition already hinted at by other wares but perhaps also a deliberate curation of such vessels. Both amphorae and other continental fine wares are so sparse that no comparable trends would be detectable.

Figures 5.13a-c and 5.14a-c show a functional analysis of all the Phase 3-5 samian and coarse ware vessels quantified by rim equivalents (based on data in Table 5.4). In the samian ware range cups form by far the commonest form in Phase 3. In the Phase 4 samian repertoire dishes are more common than cups, and mortaria start to appear. By Phase 5, although the levels of samian ware have dropped, dishes remain the dominant form.

As far as the coarse wares are concerned (Fig. 5.14a-c), in Phase 3 jars account for 60.7% of the assemblage followed by dishes at 16%. By Phase 4 jars still dominate but have decreased to 47.1% and beakers have come to the fore, accounting for 21.8% corresponding with the development of the Lower Nene Valley colour-coated industry. A greater diversity of forms is present with examples of flagons, flasks and boxes. By Phase 5 jars still form less than 50% of the assemblage and dishes have become far more prominent at 31.8%. Beakers have dropped to 10% and mortaria show a slight increase.

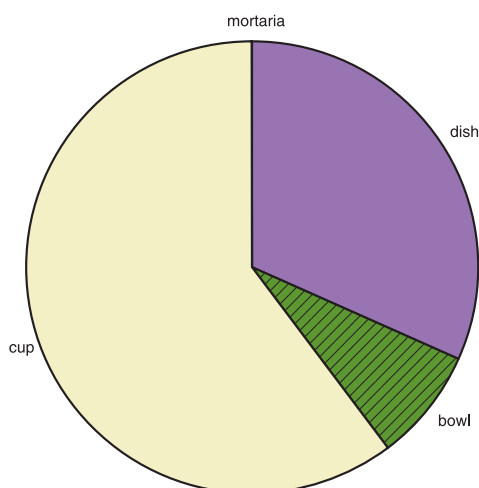


Figure 5.13a

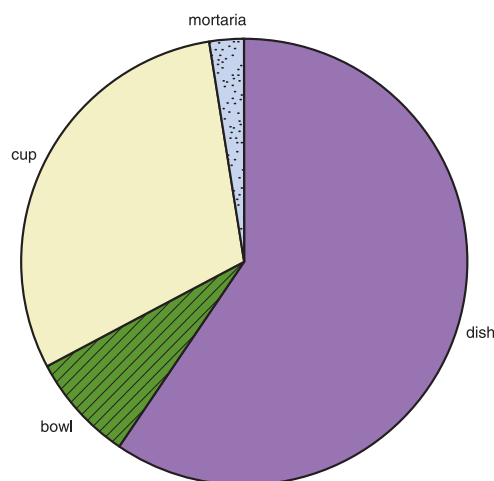


Figure 5.13b

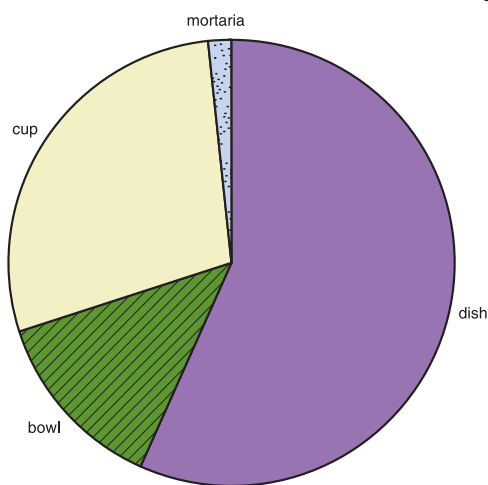


Figure 5.13c

Fig. 5.13 Functional analysis of samian (Phase 3-5)

These figures seem in broad terms to follow the normal national trend for Roman sites, in which the proportion of jars tends to decline progressively from the 1st to 4th century. It is also the norm for rural sites to show a consistently higher proportion of jars, generally 50% and above, with more 'urban' sites showing a higher proportion of dishes/bowls. From this perspective the Higham Ferrers assemblage conforms to the pattern seen at the extramural settlement at Alchester, Oxon, which displays rural characteristics for the earlier material but by the later period looks more urban (Evans 2001, 370). The religious nature of the site at Higham Ferrers could well be introducing different usage and depositional patterns, particularly in the case of the high proportion of beakers, although

this could also be a reflection of market supply as similar irregularities were observed in the Alchester data (ibid., 372).

There is clearly quite a rapid sequence of development across the site with ongoing earth-moving activities resulting in quite a high level of redeposition. There are quite clear distinctions between the deposits in different features and layers in terms of the quality and quantity of pottery present, often reflected in the sherd size, suggesting a variety of formation processes at work. There are four particularly high concentrations of samian ware: pit 12826 (Phase 4), building 11310 (Phase 3/3-4), well 8032 (Phase 4 and 5) and shrine interior 12830 (Phase 4). It is very possible that these groups represent some form of specialised deposits.

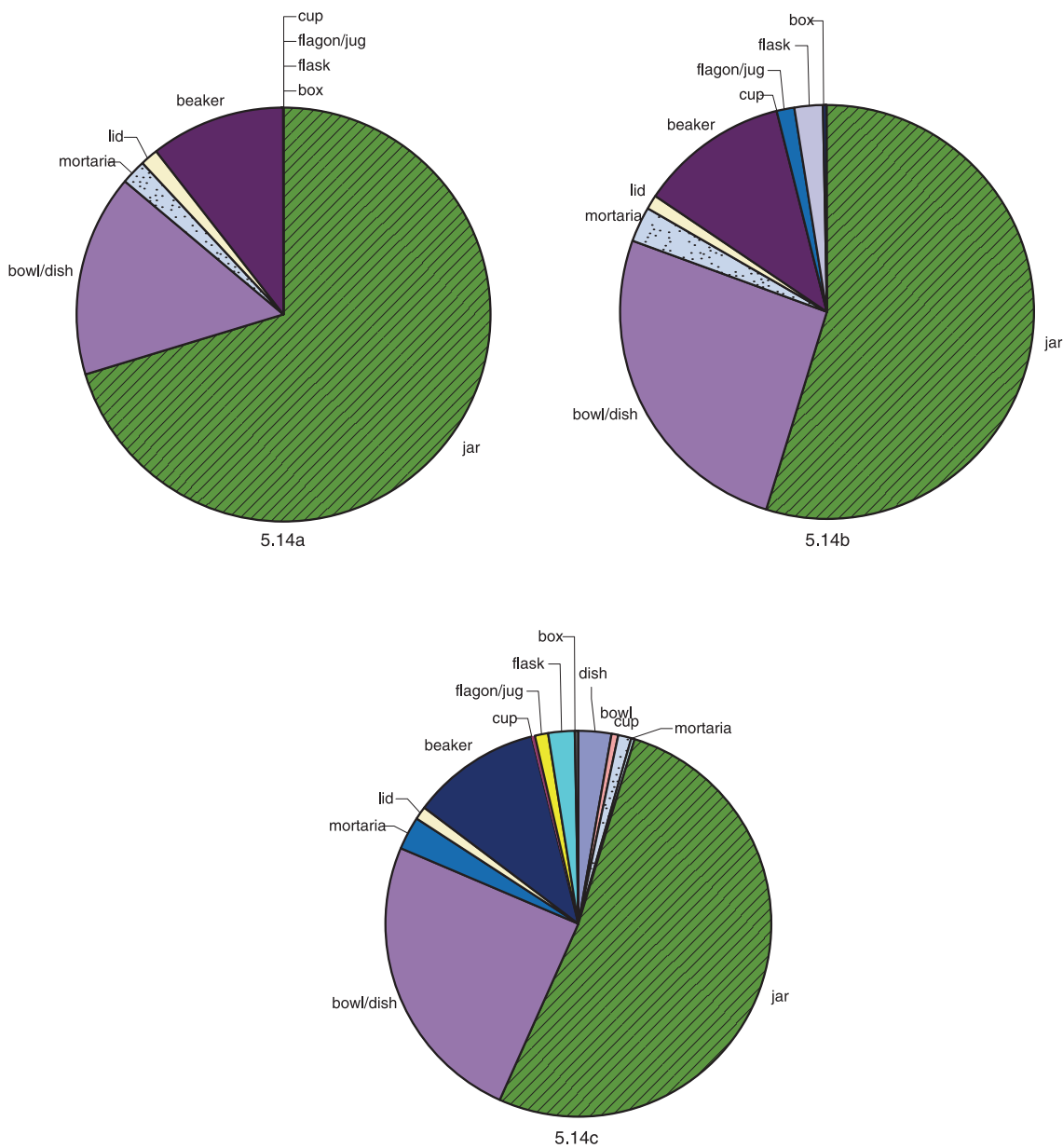


Fig. 5.14 Functional analysis of coarse wares (excluding samian) Phases 3-5 – expressed as % EVE

### Shrine interior

The large assemblage from the shrine interior not only included a high proportion of samian ware but also several other unusual vessels, for example the only glazed sherd, most of the Moselle ware, a lamp chimney and two unguent jars. Figure 5.15 illustrates the different vessel composition between the shrine interior and the other deposits in Phase 4. This demonstrated the much higher incidence of beakers from the shrine area. These could have been linked to specific practices, or there may have been, for example, a market stall selling fine wares within the shrine precinct for activities linked with religious ceremony or for the hospitality of visitors. Did this involve the drinking of particular brews or potions? Were vessels available to take away as souvenirs – encapsulations not only of the place but your time at that place, much as we buy mementos today? Were different forms of vessel associated with specific festivals?

There are few other published quantified pottery reports from temple sites with which to compare the Higham Ferrers assemblage. A comparably high incidence of Moselle ware (and other fine wares) to that seen at this site was noted in association with a probable shrine at Claydon Pike, Glos (Booth 2007, 132). At Uley, Glos a number of votive miniature pots were recovered from the site (Woodward and Leach 1993, 140-4), a type not evident at Higham Ferrers. However, at Uley an analysis of the vessel forms associated with different buildings did not appear to show anything of great significance that would distinguish them as ritual as opposed to domestic in function (Leach 1993, 245-9). Analysis of material excavated in 1992 from Lowbury Hill, Berks, revealed an atypical vessel profile where jars

only accounted for 30%, dishes for 41% and beakers for 12%. Plain-rimmed dishes were particularly common. Mortaria were also well represented (Timby 1994, 183). During excavations at Stonea Grange, a pit adjacent to the temple site contained an unusual group of semi-complete Lezoux samian vessels probably deposited in the early 3rd century (Jackson and Potter 1996, 219). Two of the vessels had rivet repairs. Willis (2004, section 12.2) has collated several noteworthy examples where samian has been found in association with religious *foci* suggesting a possible specific link with religious activities. Amongst these are two shrines at Brigstock, Northants, where sherds from nine samian vessels were reported, three of which had examples of graffiti on the footrings (Hartley 1963). A similar strong association of samian with a temple has also been demonstrated at Great Chesterford, Essex where large quantities recovered from the precinct area is suggested to be possibly from votive offerings, feasting or the debris of retail (Willis 2004, 12.2). By contrast other sites such as Uley show no such preferences. Willis (*ibid.*) points out that such variation should not be too surprising and it is likely that ‘different deities will have been venerated and evoked by differing acts and procedures.’ The duck motif beaker may also have some significance here. Ruth Leary has reported on a cremation vessel containing the bones of a young child with similar decoration from Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts (Leary 1996). Leary has highlighted several examples of the use of the duck motif in potentially ritual contexts and suggested that it may have had more than a decorative purpose and thus that these vessels may also have had a specialised purpose.

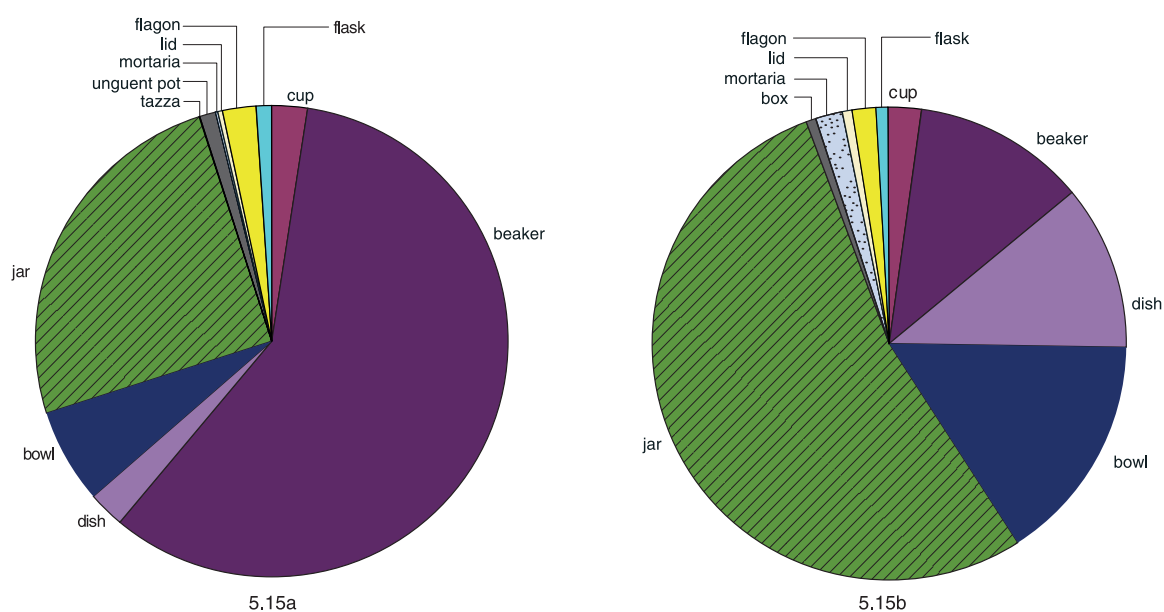


Fig. 5.15 Vessel composition in shrine interior and Phase 4 settlement contexts

Part of the recent work at Barton Street, Manchester investigated a potential shrine area (structure/enclosure G). The deposits associated with this area of the site contained a number of unusual vessels including a higher proportion of beakers and vessels with graffiti or incised marks (Leary 2007). It also contained the largest percentage of flasks and flagons from the site, which the pottery specialist suggests reflects a special function for this area associated with ritual activity. Beakers account for 37% EVE from this structure compared with the 58.5% from the shrine area at Higham Ferrers. Evans (1993) in his study of pottery function and finewares in the north has noted particularly high numbers of beakers at the mithraeum at Carrawburgh (*ibid* Appendix 1) and Catterick Racecourse adjacent to a cemetery, the implication being their use in religious rituals.

### *Local and regional comparison*

The assemblage recovered from the excavations discussed in this report is chronologically quite different from that recovered from the work carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology nearby on the A6. The latter site comprised material of early-middle Iron Age continuing through to early 2nd century (Timby 2004). The early Roman assemblage from this area of Higham Ferrers included few imports with samian constituting less than 1% of the assemblage; other imported fine wares and amphorae were absent. Sandy grog-tempered wares dominated the assemblage, particular fabrics BWH GR/WH GR and BOX GR/OX GR emphasising their later 1st- 2nd-century date. The Higham Ferrers site has a few hints of Iron Age or 1st-century material but appears to date from the early-mid 2nd century through to the 4th century, suggesting a shift in settlement focus in the early 2nd century. A high proportion of grog-tempered wares in Phase 3 could intimate a small degree of overlap between the two areas.

Several other sites have been excavated in the immediate locality, mostly as yet unpublished, in particular the villas at Redlands Farm immediately to the north and Stanwick excavated as part of the Raunds project; Rushden (Woods and Hastings 1984), and slightly further away, Oundle, Irchester, Ashton and Brixworth (Woods 1972).

The nearby site at Rushden comprised a series of late Iron Age and Roman enclosures and included at least six pottery kilns dated to the period AD 45-60 (Woods and Hastings 1984) producing an unusual range of wares, many decorated. These wares predate the main occupation at Higham Ferrers and no examples were recognised in the pottery assemblage there.

Detailed data are as yet unavailable from the Stanwick sites and the roadside settlement at Ashton. Although published and clearly comparable the Brixworth assemblage is not quantified, prohibiting inter-site comparison. Oundle and

Irchester do, however, bear useful comparison as does Stonea, Cambs, slightly further afield (Jackson and Potter 1996). Recent work at Victoria Park, in the small town of Irchester produced an assemblage of *c* 2500 Roman sherds dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries. In terms of composition of material the assemblage is similar to that from Higham Ferrers with a predominance of local wares; in particular, sandy grog-tempered ware, shelly ware, Lower Nene Valley grey ware and colour-coated wares. In terms of imports samian ware was quite well represented, accounting for around 4% by weight compared to 2.9% overall at Higham Ferrers, but other imports were limited to occasional sherds, both continental and regional wares (Timby in prep). This would strongly suggest that both sites essentially had access to the same market supplies.

Recent excavations at Oundle, located on the River Nene some 25 km north-west of Higham Ferrers and close to the roadside settlement at Ashton, located a small settlement dating from the 1st-4th century which produced an assemblage of *c* 6700 sherds (Timby forthcoming b). Again imports were relatively sparse and samian only accounted for 1.7% by weight, perhaps a reflection of its lower status. As with Irchester and Higham Ferrers, both DOR BB1, Verulamium and Oxfordshire wares are present but in negligible quantities. Lower Nene Valley grey ware contributed 24.5% by weight to the assemblage compared to 27.7% at Higham Ferrers and 27% at Irchester and colour-coated wares 16% compared to 8.9% at Higham Ferrers and 11.7% at Irchester. This could well be a reflection of the proximity of the kilns to Oundle. Interestingly all these sites have produced small quantities of a British glazed ware and mica-slipped wares suggesting that some early 2nd-century kilns in the region were experimenting with these techniques.

The extent to which Stonea Grange, a settlement complex located in the Fenlands west of Durobrivae but within the catchment area for the Nene Valley industries, is comparable to other sites in the area is more difficult to judge, as samian ware was not quantified in the same way as other components of the assemblage, for which totals are given by weight. Nevertheless, roughly 3300 sherds (Johns 1996a, 409) must have represented a significant contribution to the assemblage; speculatively, if the average samian ware sherd weight at Stonea had been the same as at Higham Ferrers, the 3300 sherds would have comprised at least 5% of the total pottery (by weight) – including the amphorae. The latter amounted to *c* 7.7% (by weight) of all the pottery (excluding the samian ware). These figures suggest an assemblage rather different in character from many of the others discussed here, though other imported wares, for example, seem only to have been present in very small quantities. The grog-tempered tradition does not appear to extend out to this area, the four main wares being shelly ware (22.6% by weight), LNV RE (18.0%) and LNV CC (8.0%) and other reduced ware (26.3%)

(Cameron 1996, 475, table 21, percentages based on a weight total that excludes amphorae and samian ware).

Thus it would seem that the pottery assemblage from Higham Ferrers is quite typical for the region, reflecting a ready market for products of the Nene Valley industry and other local kilns. The sandy grog-tempered wares probably show the most restricted distribution as they only occur on sites in the immediate area and are absent to the west in Cambridgeshire and to the south from sites in and around Milton Keynes (Marney 1989). The low incidence of imported amphorae and fine wares and the absence of imported mortaria seem to be typical of the area, although clearly samian ware was as readily available as elsewhere in the country. It must be assumed that the exotic quality of the Nene Valley colour-coated industry fulfilled the demand for tablewares and that other food commodities such as wine and oil were either not in demand or arrived in non-ceramic containers. Although a few products from Dorset, Oxford and Hertfordshire were marketed it seems, especially in the case of the last two, that local wares formed suitable substitutes, particularly for mortaria.

**COINS** by Cathy King

**Introduction**

A total of 478 Roman coins were recovered from the excavations at Higham Ferrers between 2001 and 2003. The assemblage that will be discussed here also included five post-Roman coins, two metal objects that were not coins and two metallic non-coin fragments treated as a single item, making a total of 486 entries in the coin list (Table 5.12). The Roman coins from the shrine (107) and settlement (371) have been summarised in Table 5.13. In addition 17 Roman coins (recovered by metal detector) from an area to the west of the northern part of the site (in the vicinity of the disused sewage works) have been listed and tabulated separately (Table 5.14).

The coins have been catalogued in accordance with the guidelines suggested by R J Brickstock (2004) with some minor modifications. The date parameters listed for the imitations are usually the same as those for the prototypes they imitate and are preceded by a *c* indicating that they cannot be earlier than the initial date.

Most coins not attributable to a specific emperor can be fitted within broader parameters. For example all of the illegible bronze coins of the 1st and 2nd centuries in this assemblage can be identified as belonging to the early empire and can thus be included in the total for the years AD 41 to AD 193. The illegible silver coins and their copies fall in the years before AD 260 and most can be fitted into the chronological period between AD 193 to and AD 260 (Table 5.15). The vast majority of official illegible radiates of debased silver content were produced

Table 5.12 Chronological quantification of all excavation coins

Date	Genuine		Imitation		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To AD 41	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
41-54	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4
54-68	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
69-96	5	1.0	0	0.0	5	1.0
96-117	7	1.4	0	0.0	7	1.4
117-138	9	1.8	1	0.2	10	2.1
138-161	10	2.1	1	0.2	11	2.3
161-180	6	1.2	0	0.0	6	1.2
180-192	4	0.8	0	0.0	4	0.8
193-222	7	1.4	8	1.7	15	3.1
222-238	3	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.6
238-260	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
260-275	97	20.3	70	14.6	167	34.9
275-296	10	2.1	2	0.4	12	2.5
CE/GE Illeg	5	1.0	80	16.7	85	17.8
296-317	6	1.2	0	0.0	6	1.2
317-330	11	2.3	3	0.6	14	2.9
330-348	40	8.4	35	7.3	75	15.7
348-364	3	0.6	13	2.7	16	3.3
330-360	1	0.2	8	1.7	9	1.9
364-378	10	2.1	0	0.0	10	2.1
378-388	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
388-402	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4
1c-2c	12	2.5	2	0.4	14	2.9
3c-4c	3	0.6	2	0.4	5	1.0
Post Roman	5	1.0	0	0.0	5	1.0
Not coin	3	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100.0</b>

between AD 260 and 274 and coins of the Gallic emperors can frequently be distinguished from those of the Central Empire emperors and attributed accordingly. Where they cannot, they have been treated as part of the broader period from AD 260 to AD 296 (Table 5.16). In the 4th century a period defined between AD 330 and AD 360 has been created to deal with small bronzes and their copies issued within this period that cannot be more closely dated. A small group of coins that cannot be assigned definitively to either the 3rd or 4th century has been placed in the category '3c to 4c' and excluded from the numerical calculations below, as have the post-Roman pieces and non-coins.

Any analysis and interpretation of the Roman coins recovered from Higham Ferrers must begin by taking the nature of the site itself into account. It is part of a linear roadside settlement consisting of domestic buildings along the eastern side of a north-south road, with a shrine(s) defined by a walled temenos identified on the western side of the road. These remains only represent the northern limit of a much larger settlement of which an individual building was excavated in 1961 (Meadows 1992).

A significant proportion of the coins from Higham Ferrers as well as a large number of other metal finds including votive leaves and personal items were recovered from the shrine and its proximity. Within the settlement area significant coin concentrations were present in buildings 10820 and 10840. This report will examine intrasite spatial pattern in coin deposition, looking at possible changes over time, and attempt to assess what evidence, if any, there is showing a relationship between the nature and location of the coins and economic and/or religious activity. The data from the current excavations is also compared with the material from the 1961 excavation (Meadows 1992; Reece n.d.) and other sites in the immediate region, including Stanwick, which has yielded 3545 Roman coins, and the Roman town of Ircchester.

Finally, in order to assess how typical the coin assemblage from Higham Ferrers is in comparison with other Romano-British sites, two lines of enquiry will be followed. The first will be to analyse the coin data from other rural and/or roadside settlement sites to see how similar the data are and to what extent Higham Ferrers matches the prevailing pattern for this group of sites. The pattern of coin loss at Higham Ferrers will then be compared with other types of Romano-British sites to see if it matches the pattern for temple sites or villas.

### The composition of the coin finds

Before undertaking any comparative analysis, a brief discussion of the chronological composition of the coins excavated at Higham Ferrers is needed. Although excavations can yield significant numbers of Roman coins, they tend to be those their original owners would have valued least and consequently they would have spent little time in searching for them even if they were aware they had lost them. To some extent this explains the high proportion of ancient copies and coins of low value which almost certainly do not represent the true wealth of the community. Consequently, one should exercise caution about inferring the wealth and status of a community based mainly on the nature and number of coins retrieved from excavations.

No gold coins and only 21 silver coins (denarii) which form 4.4% of the total were recovered from the excavations (Table 5.15). Over half of the denarii (11) were ancient copies. The date range of the prototypes on those copies legible enough to identify lies between *c* AD 117 and AD 235. They cluster in the years between AD 193 and AD 235 as do their prototypes as there are 8 official pieces and 8 copies from this period. There are no 4th-century siliquae (minted in some quantity between *c* AD 355 and AD 402) which is compatible with the relatively small proportion of Roman bronze coins datable to the later 4th century recovered from Higham Ferrers.

There are 56 bronze coins datable to the period between AD 41 and AD 238, two of which are imita-

tions. It is worth noting for dating purposes that the majority of the 1st- and 2nd-century bronze coins can be categorized as either very worn or extremely worn. The most unusual coin in this early group is a quadrans of Claudius I. These are rarely found on British sites although a small number have been recovered from Harlow Temple and Hayling Island, both early temple sites with a significant Iron Age and early Roman component (France and Gobel 1985, 49-70; Briggs *et al.* 1992). The sestertius of Maximinus Thrax is also uncommon as the supply of bronze coins to Britain had largely ceased in the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries and only small numbers of these later bronzes minted between *c* AD 193 and AD 260 reached Britain (Walker 1988, 299-301).

The Higham Ferrers assemblage is dominated by the extremely debased 'silver' issues of the later 3rd century and more specifically by the antoniniani of the central emperors Gallienus and Claudius II (including Divus Claudius) and the Gallic emperors Postumus, Victorinus, and the Tetrici together with their imitations (Table 5.16). There are 264 excavation coins (55%) datable to the years between AD 260 and AD 286 and 152 (57%) of this group are ancient copies. By contrast the 112 nummi of the 4th century minted between AD 330 and AD 402 form a much smaller proportion of the total (23.4%) although the 56 contemporary imitations of these pieces (which cluster in the years from *c* AD 330 to 360) again form half the total.

While the group of 17 coins from the area to the west of the excavation is too small to provide a reliable statistical comparison with the excavation material, they are nonetheless interesting (Table 5.14). Nine coins (53%) fall in the 1st and 2nd centuries, five (29%) in the years AD 260 to 286, and three (17.6%) belong in the 4th century. By comparison with the coins from the overall excavation this group displays a higher percentage 1st- and 2nd-century coins in proportion to those of the 3rd and 4th centuries (see below). However, the coin ratios are more comparable with those from the shrine alone (Table 5.13), possibly suggesting that a similar early (and possibly ritual?) focus existed along the entire western part of the site.

The overall picture presented by the coins is of a site where Roman coins minted before AD 260 form only a small proportion of the total and where those of the 4th century are also underrepresented. The very high proportion of both official antoniniani and their copies minted in the years between AD 260 and AD 286 is atypical of roadside settlements and temple sites (see below).

These data can be compared with the list of 185 coins from the excavations in the 1960s compiled by Richard Reece (Reece n.d.). Reece divided the material into two groups. The first consists of 129 coins, which he identified as a scattered 4th-century hoard of 'nummi'. The majority of these were produced in the years between AD 330 and AD 348 (102 coins or 79%) with a tail consisting of three

Table 5.13 Summary of coins from the shrine and the settlement

Date	Genuine		Shrine Imitation		Total		Genuine		Settlement Imitation		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To AD 260	39	90.7	4	9.3	43	40.2	25	73.5	9	26.5	34	9.0
AD 260-296	11	21.2	41	78.8	52	48.6	101	47.6	111	52.4	212	56.1
AD 296-402	7	58.3	5	41.7	12	11.2	66	52.8	59	47.2	125	33.7
Total	57		50		107		192		179		371	

copies whose prototypes are datable to the years AD 348 to AD 364. No identifiable pieces occur after AD 364 but, unusually for bronze hoards of this period, there is a small group of coins (15) ranging from a mid 2nd-century bronze piece to eight radiates from the years between AD 260 and AD 286 and ending with six post-reform ‘nummi’ minted before AD 330.

Reece’s second group consists of 56 coins classed as general site finds. The chronological distribution of the 4th-century coins in this group is not dissimilar to that of the hoard or the current Higham Ferrers excavation material, since the latest datable general coins do not extend beyond AD 348 to AD 364. To emphasise this point, the latest datable pieces from the current Higham Ferrers excavations minted between AD 364 and AD 402 form only 2.5% of the total and only two coins (0.4%) fall in the years after AD 378.

There is a clear difference between the Higham Ferrers coins from the earlier and the current excavations in terms of the distribution of their 3rd and 4th-century pieces (Table 5.17). The proportion of the 4th-century coins in the 1961 excavation groups is significantly larger than the proportion of 3rd-century pieces while the opposite is true of coins from the current excavations. Even excluding the 1961 hoard, the relatively low number of 4th-century coins from the current Higham Ferrers

excavations is clear and reinforced by the distribution pattern of the material from Stanwick (Table 5.17) where 55% of the coins can be dated to the years between AD 330 and AD 402 (Davies n.d.).

Both the 1961 and current excavation coins have significant numbers of contemporary imitations from the peak periods AD 260 to AD 296 and AD 330 to AD 348. The 69 4th-century copies in the hoard form 37.3% of the total for that century, while the three 3rd-century imitations amount to only 5.3%. The 4th-century imitations from the current Higham Ferrers excavations, on the other hand, equal 44.6% of the identifiable total which is not dissimilar to the 1961 distribution. However, the 152 3rd-century copies form 57.5% of the total which is in sharp contrast with their percentage in the earlier excavation.

**Coin distribution**

Initial examination of the distribution of the Roman coins from Higham Ferrers suggests that the shrine and the buildings adjacent to it along the road in the settlement, especially building 10820, were significant areas of coin deposition from at least the later 2nd century through to the earlier 4th century (Fig. 5.16). Deposition on the site as a whole, as noted above, begins on a relatively modest level (Fig. 5.17), peaks in the 3rd century and declines significantly in the 4th century, particularly in the shrine area (see Table 5.13). In the settlement area the coins are distributed over the whole of the southern part of the site with a more intense focus in the area opposite the shrine.

The shrine itself was separate from the main settlement and its structural focus faced to the south-west along the valley rather than the roadside. The southern limit of the precinct was defined by the foundations of a monumental wall with the shrine itself enclosed in a walled temenos to the north of the monumental wall and separated from it by a paved area (see Chapter 4). If the deposition pattern of those coins which can be assigned to a specific emperor or dynasty is examined, the earliest coins (defined by their date of minting) within the shrine enclosure are of the Flavian dynasty minted between AD 69 and AD 96. They are found clustered at the southern end of the enclosure together with a small group of 2nd-

Table 5.14 Chronological quantification of the coins recovered to the west of the excavation

Date	Genuine		Imitation		Total	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
69-96	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9
138-161	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9
180-192	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9
193-222	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9
260-275	2	11.8	1	5.9	3	17.6
275-296	1	5.9	1	5.9	2	11.8
330-348	1	5.9	1	5.9	2	11.8
348-364	1	5.9	0	0.0	1	5.9
1c-2c	5	29.4	0	0.0	5	29.4
Total	14	82.3	3	17.6	17	99.9



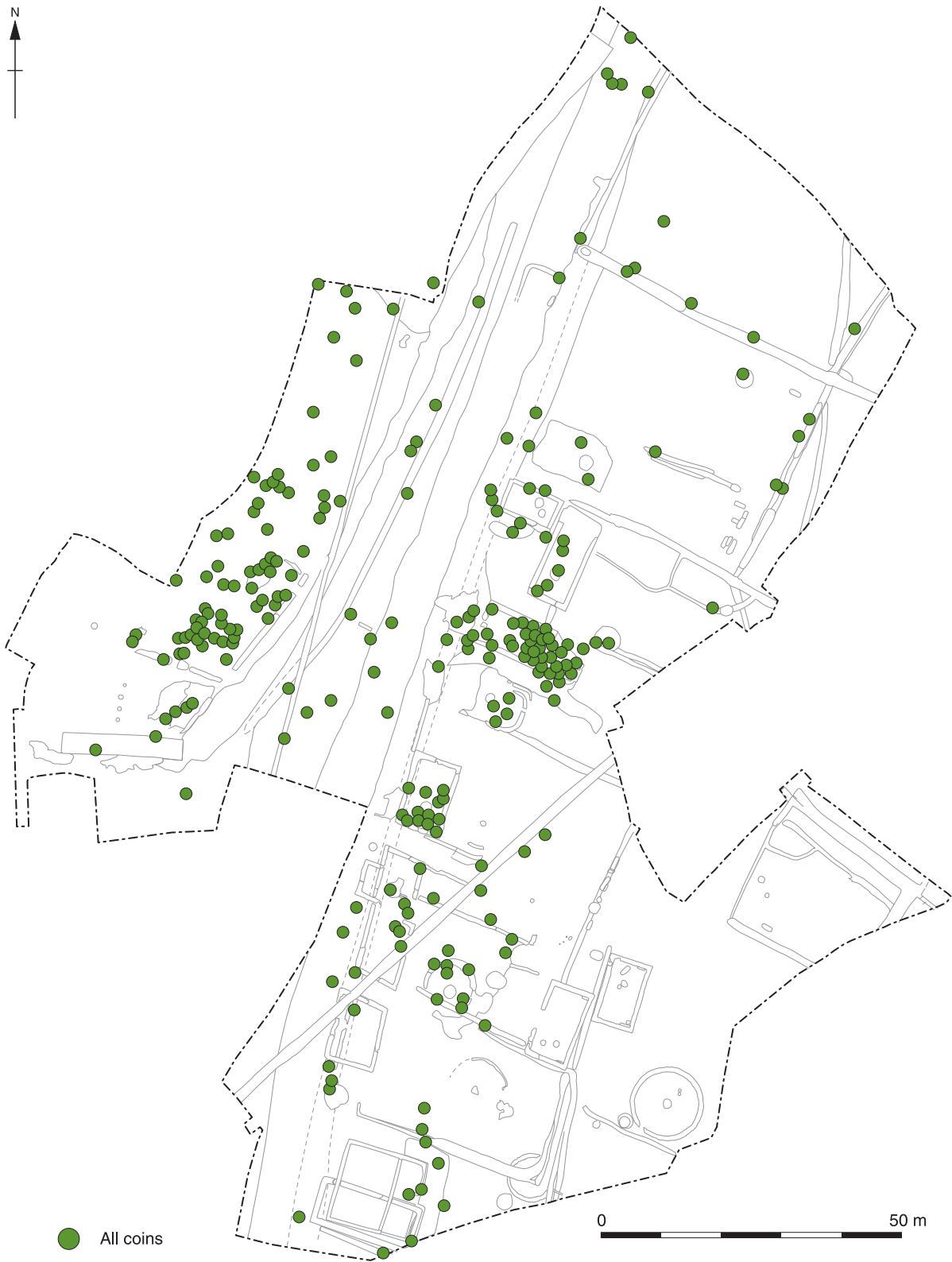


Fig. 5.16 Primary distribution of 1st- to 4th-century coins within the site

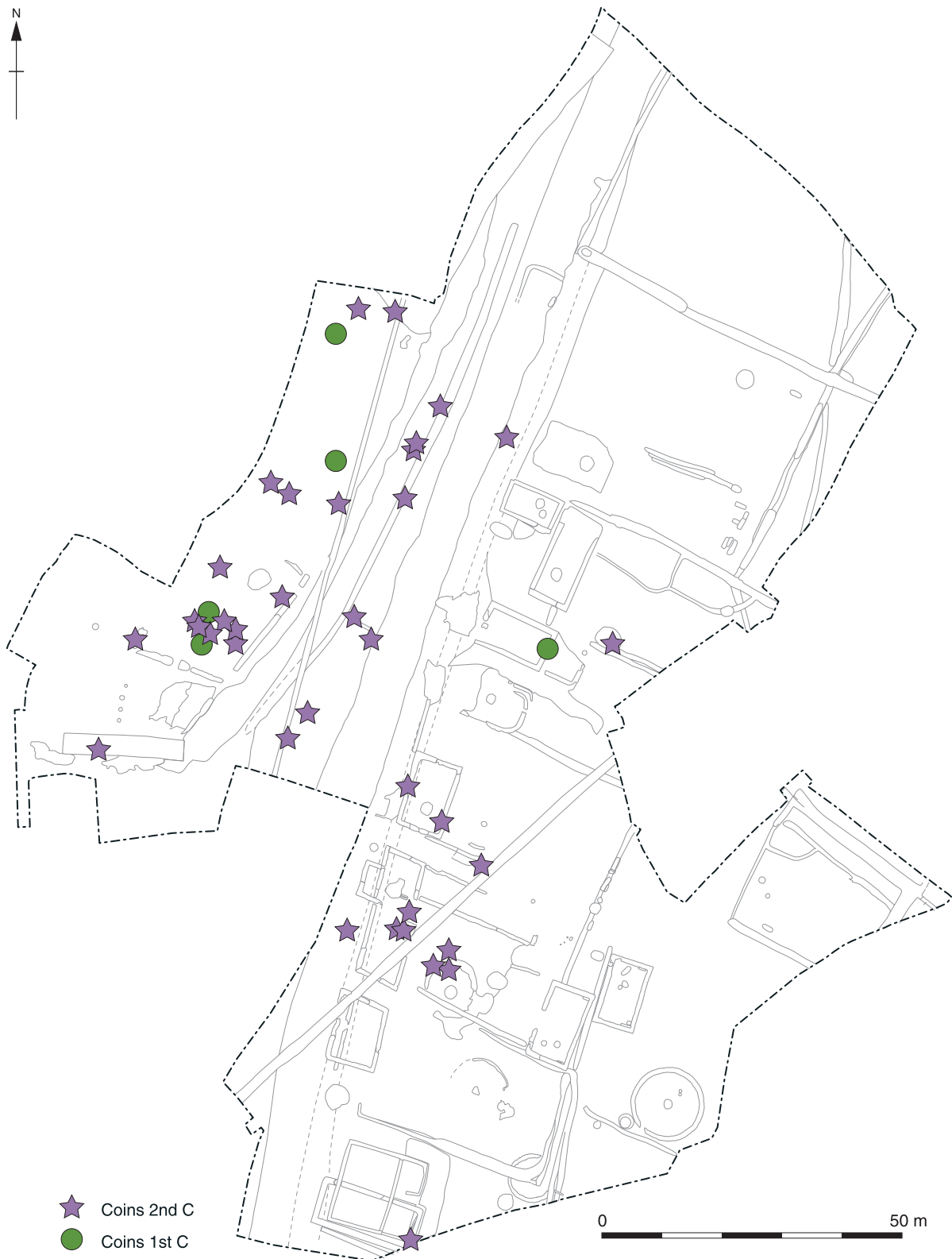


Fig. 5.17 Distribution of 1st- and 2nd-century coins

century coins ranging in date from AD 117 to AD 193 (Fig. 5.17). All of the coins show significant signs of wear and the 1st-century pieces are more worn than those of the 2nd century, which suggests a reasonably long period in circulation, compatible with a deposition date from the mid 2nd century or early 3rd century.

A small scatter of 1st- and 2nd-century coins was found to the north of the shrine enclosure. If the illegible pieces are included, the majority of the 1st- and 2nd-century coins are bronze (54 out of a total of 59) and three of the five denarii whose prototypes were produced in the 2nd century were ancient copies. It is worth noting that over half of the coins recovered outside the excavation area to the north of this group were also 1st-2nd century in date (see above).

The deposition pattern both in the shrine and over the site as a whole for coins minted between AD 193 and AD 260 is significantly different from the earlier period. Only two of the total of eighteen coins from this period are bronze (both genuine), an as of Julia Domna and a sestertius of Maximinus Thrax, and there are no coins that can be specifically identified from the years AD 238 to AD 260. The remaining 16 coins are denarii consisting of eight genuine issues and eight ancient copies, the majority of which are plated. Ten from the shrine area (including three plated pieces) have prototypes that were minted between AD 193 and AD 238 ending with two genuine denarii of Severus Alexander produced between AD 222 and AD 235 (Table 5.15). It is worth noting that the two bronze coins from these years mentioned above as well as a genuine denarius and five denarius imitations occurred in other contexts on the site and are not associated with the shrine. A similar distribution pattern applies to the five denarii of the earlier 2nd century, of which only the two genuine pieces and one ancient copy can be attributed to the shrine area.

It is uncertain whether the denarii arrived as a single group or individually over a longer period of time. Linked to this problem is the date when the coins were copied. It is possible that the copies were made in the period after the routine supply of

Table 5.15 Chronological quantification of the silver coins

Date	Genuine		Imitation		Total	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
117-138	0	0.0	1	4.7	1	4.7
138-161	0	0.0	1	4.7	1	4.7
161-180	1	4.7	0	0.0	1	4.7
181-192	1	4.7	0	0.0	1	4.7
193-235	8	38.1	8	38.1	16	76.2
c. 103-235	0	0.0	1	4.7	1	4.7
Total	10	47.5	11	52.2	21	99.7

bronze coins had effectively ceased or as part of an endemic process occurring in the 2nd century. Either scenario is tenable although the concentration of silver coins (including the imitations) in the years between AD 193 and AD 235 seems to suggest that in the absence of regular supplies of bronze coins, silver was beginning to replace them (particularly the debased silver issue of the Severans and their successors). The failure to supply sufficient amounts of the more valuable silver currency presumably was a stimulus to the production of copies.

The later 3rd-century coins are, without exception, antoniniani of the central, Gallic and British empires and their copies (Table 5.16), and most range from worn to extremely worn. Of the 179 coins (68%) that can be assigned to an emperor or group, 111 (42%) are of the Gallic Empire, 59 (22%) are of the Central Empire and 9 (3.4%) are of the British Empire. There are 85 antoniniani (32%) that cannot be fully identified of which 80 (30%) are ancient copies. As was noted above, the ancient copies significantly outnumber the genuine pieces. Where they can be specifically identified, they cluster in the reigns of Claudius II, the Tetrici, and the Gallic emperors (Victorinus and the Tetrici) who cannot be specifically identified.

Deposition of coins within and around the shrine area in the 3rd century is slightly scattered although some broad patterns are evident (Fig. 5.18). Perhaps the clearest of these is a small but distinct group located just inside the entrance of the temenos reflecting what appears to be the main shrine focus. This pattern is similarly represented by a concentration of 2nd-century coins (Fig. 5.17) and many of the personal items and nails (see Scott below). A linear distribution of 3rd-century coins is also present

Table 5.16 Detailed chronological quantification of coins dated AD 260-296

Date	Genuine		Imitation		Total	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
Gallienus	12	2.5	5	1.0	17	3.5
Claudius II	8	1.7	4	0.8	12	2.5
Divus Cl II	8	1.7	17	3.5	25	5.2
Quintillus	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4
Probus	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4
Diocletian	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Postumus	6	1.2	0	0.0	6	1.2
Marius	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Victorinus	19	4.0	2	0.4	21	4.4
Tetrici	36	7.5	26	5.4	62	13.0
GE Illeg 268-274	5	1.0	16	3.3	21	4.4
CE/GE Illeg	5	1.0	80	16.8	85	17.8
Carausius	4	0.8	2	0.4	6	1.2
Allectus	3	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.6
Total	112	23.2	152	31.6	264	55.0

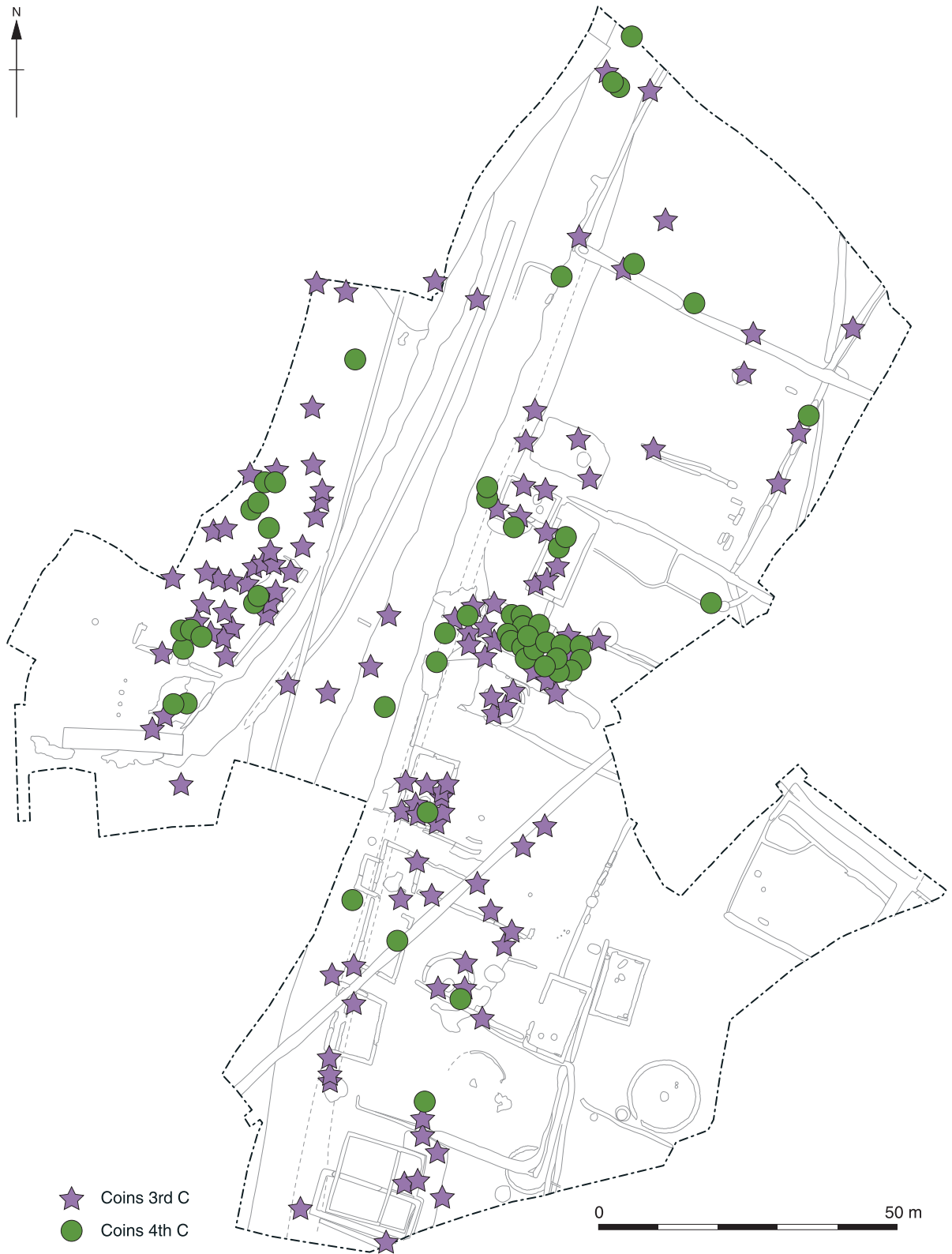


Fig. 5.18 Distribution of 3rd- and 4th-century coins

along the interior side of the temenos wall fronting the roadside, which is made more marked by the general lack of similar items within the road space area immediately east of the wall. The only other group of any size, albeit rather more scattered, is a number of coins more generally distributed across the western open side of the temenos to the north of the primary entrance focus. Others were present on the platform between the temenos entrance and the monumental wall and two were recovered in the open area to the south of the wall (not shown on plan). A few outlying coins were also located further to the north and could have been associated with a small scatter of items deposited around a further possible roadside shrine focus here (see discussion in Chapter 7).

The pattern of the 3rd-century coin deposition in the southern half of the site excluding the shrine is densest in the area containing buildings 10800, 10810, 10820, 10830 and 10840, with 10820 and 10840 in particular producing dense concentrations (Fig. 5.18). There is also a significant scatter at the southern end of the site largely associated with the buildings in the area, and a more sparse representation of 3rd-century coins in the northern part of the main settlement site. In addition, there are 3rd-century coins within contexts surrounding the possible temple to the north of the settlement (Area G; context 8000s) and the Saxon settlement (contexts 6030 and 6125) approximately 500 m to the east (Hardy *et al.* 2007), which have not been mapped. The number of 3rd-century coins from these contexts is small (18) but the ruler distribution is broadly compatible with that from the shrine contexts.

The 3rd-century chronological distribution by ruler in both shrine and roadside contexts are broadly similar. Coins of Gallienus to Quintillus amount to 13.5% from the shrine contexts and 25.3% from the roadside contexts. The distribution of coins of Postumus and the other Gallic rulers including the illegible Gallic empire pieces amounts to 32.7% from the shrine and 35.8% from the roadside contexts. Of the 18 3rd-century coins from Area G and the Saxon settlement there are three (16.6%) of the Central Empire rulers Gallienus to Quintillus and seven (38.8%) of the Gallic emperors. A similar pattern is repeated in the distribution of the 23 3rd-century coins from the spoil heap. Eleven coins (23.4%) belong in the group from Gallienus to Quintillus and 23 (48.9%) are of the Gallic Empire. The absence (or virtual absence) of other emperors reigning in the years AD 260 to AD 296 is characteristic of British sites. By contrast, the ancient imitations from shrine contexts (79%) and roadside contexts (65%) significantly outnumber those from Area G and the Saxon areas (30%) and the spoil heap (51%).

A total of 132 pieces (27.6%) can be securely dated to the 4th century, with 95 (72%) belonging in the years before AD 348, and 75 (57%) falling in the years AD 330 to AD 348. These represent the last

period in which Roman coins reached the site in any real numbers. The 59 ancient copies account for nearly half (44.7%) of the 4th-century finds and 35 of them (55%) have prototypes that were produced between AD 330 and AD 348. Copies also predominate in the period AD 348 to AD 360 when 13 of the 16 FEL TEMP REPARATIO pieces are imitative.

In the 4th century coin deposition in the shrine area continued but on a much smaller scale (Fig. 5.18; Table 5.13). The finds are largely located in the shrine interior and again a small group reflects the focus located just within the temenos entrance. Another small group is located just beyond the likely northern limit of the temenos while only a single coin is located north of this. Three coins were recovered from the demolition debris sealing the platform located between the temenos entrance and the monumental wall. In the settlement area, the coins are concentrated in building 10820 (see below), and there is also a thin scatter of coins in the vicinity of or within buildings 10800, 10810, and 10830, but only one in building 10840 (not mapped on plan). Other outliers are found near ditches north of building 12900. In the southern half of the site a small number of coins are found scattered across the area although none appear to be directly associated with any of the buildings.

There are two groups of 4th-century Roman coins found in Area G (general topsoil/spoil contexts 8003 and 8004) and two from Saxon contexts 6030 and 6125. The Saxon contexts had nine 4th-century Roman coins. In Area G, four of the 14 (28.5%) coins from context 8003 were 4th century in date as were eight (40%) of the twenty coins from context 8004. Eighteen (25.3%) of the 71 coins from the spoil heap were from the 4th century, 9 official pieces and 9 contemporary copies.

One of the more interesting aspects of the 3rd-century coin distribution is the concentration of material both within the shrine and its environs and in the approximately parallel buildings along the road (see above). This suggests that a significant focus of activity involving coin use was located in this area of the site, although exactly what the nature of the activity was is less clear and it is worth noting that the associated finds do not provide evidence for any large scale 'industry' *in situ*. What one would like to know is how direct a link existed between the shrine and roadside buildings in monetary terms and what this link was in the 3rd and 4th centuries?

Figure 5.18 clearly illustrates the density of the deposition of 4th-century coins in building 10820, concentrated at the back of the west room along the north and west walls. There is a small cluster of coins from outside the entrance to the building (context 10666) and a few coins in the east room. Within the building the coins are fairly widely scattered.

The mapped 3rd-century coins in building 10840 present a somewhat different picture (Fig. 5.18). Although the total number is small, all of those

actually within the building were, with the exception of an illegible 2nd-century bronze coin, produced between *c* AD 260 and AD 286. A small cluster of eight coins in the south-west corner is almost certainly a hoard, but it is unlikely that the other 3rd-century pieces in the room ever formed part of it given their distance from the find's focal point.

The twenty coins from building 10840 from contexts that have not been three-dimensionally mapped, contexts 12836 (7 coins), 12835 (9 coins), 12829 (2 coins), and 12862 (2 coins), are also located in the southern portion of the building in the vicinity of the hearth. Nineteen of the twenty coins date to the years between AD 193 and AD 286 and 17 were minted in the later 3rd century, *c* AD 260 to AD 286. A single coin from context 12835 was from the 4th century, an ancient copy minted between *c* AD 330 and AD 360, and there are two imitative denarii of Severus and Elagabalus datable to *c* AD 193 to AD 235. Thus the picture presented by the coin deposition in building 10840 is one of coin loss predominantly from the 3rd century, with little corresponding material from the 1st, 2nd or 4th centuries.

Unlike building 10840, coin deposition continued in building 10820 until the latter half of the 4th century and ends with a coin minted between AD 364 and AD 378. In fact, the number of 4th-century coins (40) significantly outnumbers those recovered from the 3rd century (19) and those retrieved from the shrine area (12). The coins located three-dimensionally occur mostly in the western end of the west room and the southern end of the eastern room where they are more closely grouped. However, their scattered distribution does not suggest that the coins in either room form part of a hoard, despite the fact that over 70% of the coins mapped have prototypes that were minted between AD 330 and AD 348. There are only a handful of pieces from the years AD 286 to AD 330 and AD 348 to AD 378.

The picture presented by the 4th-century coin distribution in building 10820 suggests that there was a level of activity occurring here that led to an influx of coinage from the years *c* 330 to AD 360, which is not reflected in the shrine or elsewhere across the settlement. Broadly, it mirrors the 4th-century coin distribution of the hoard and general finds from the 1961 excavation further south.

While both the shrine and nearby roadside buildings are comparable in having significant numbers of coins, the distribution of other personal objects in metal and bone is much larger in shrine contexts than in buildings 10800, 10810, 10820, 10830, and 10840 (See Scott below).

### Inter-site analysis

Higham Ferrers is located in an area which is rich in Roman remains, lying just over 2 km from the important settlement at Stanwick (part of the Raunds Area Project) which has yielded 3,545 Roman coins and 1.4 km from the villa at Redlands Farm both to the north. The Roman town of Irchester lies 4.5 km to the south-west with other unexcavated villas located within close distances to the north-east and south-west. Roman pottery factories were located slightly further away in the vicinity of Wellingborough at Mears Ashby and Hardwick. Thus Higham Ferrers is located within a network of larger and smaller settlements and a regional industrial context. However, the richness of the potential comparative coin material is significantly diminished by the fact that as yet it is largely unpublished and the coin material from the Raunds Area Project, for example, is available only in a brief (but still useful) summary. Nevertheless, this project is an obvious starting point in a comparison of its coin population with that of Higham Ferrers, given its proximity and the fact that it is also a rural site. The most prominent difference between the two, as noted above, is the concentration of coins in the 4th century from the Raunds area, most obviously at Stanwick, in the years from AD 330 and AD 402 (Table 5.17). Another significant distinction is the magnitude of the coin assemblage. The Raunds group of sites includes Stanwick with a total of 3575 pieces of which 3545 are Roman. Three other subsidiary sites under this project (Irthlingborough, Mallows Cotton and West Cotton) produced a total of 129 coins (Davies pers. comm.). These numbers can be contrasted with the relatively small total of 478 Roman coins from the current Higham Ferrers excavations, and even including the 185 coins from the 1961 excavations, the total does not begin to approach the volume of finds from Stanwick.

Consequently, it is unsurprising that Stanwick

Table 5.17 Chronological quantification and comparison of coins from Higham Ferrers and Stanwick

Phase	Higham Ferrers (current)		Stanwick		Higham Ferrers 1960s	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
A (to AD 260)	77	16.2	456	14.0	2	3.6
B (260 to 296)	264	55.8	925	28.3	12	21.3
C (296-330)	20	4.2	86	2.6	3	5.4
D (330-402)	112	23.6	1797	55	39	69.6
Total	473	99.8	3264	99.9	56	99.9

includes a broader range of material than Higham Ferrers including 13 Iron Age coins (11 Catuvellaunian, one Trinovantian, and one Cantian). The Cantian piece is a gold quarter-stater of Eppillus, the Trinovantian is a silver unit of Tasciovanus, and the Catavellaunian are all bronzes. No Roman gold coins were found at any of the Raunds sites, but a total of 71 silver coins were retrieved from Stanwick, including five 4th-century siliquae of Julian. While the actual number of silver coins from Stanwick is much larger than that from Higham Ferrers, it still amounts to only 2% of the total.

It is unfortunate that as yet there has been no subdivision of the silver coins from Stanwick into chronological periods nor has the number of imitations, if any, been quantified, which makes detailed comparison with Higham Ferrers difficult. However, the 21 Higham Ferrers silver coins and their copies amount to 4.4% of the assemblage, which is slightly higher than at Stanwick. If the imitations are excluded from the Higham Ferrers calculation, the ten genuine pieces amount to 2.1% which is very close to the Stanwick percentage. Both sites reflect their rural nature in the very small amounts of precious metal coinage recovered.

Another way in which the two sites are comparable is in the amounts of earlier Roman coinage (to AD 260) retrieved. At Stanwick a total 456 coins or 15% were minted before AD 260, while at Higham Ferrers 77 pieces (16.2%) can be assigned to this period. The usual pattern for rural sites is to have small percentages of coins from the years before AD 260 and it is interesting to note that the early coins at both Higham Ferrers and Stanwick cluster in the area of shrines. At Stanwick a *temenos* was created in the 1st century AD surrounding and focused upon a Bronze Age barrow. It was situated to the north of the much later villa buildings and continued to function into the 4th century (Crosby and Neal forthcoming). At Higham Ferrers the beginnings of the shrine are dated to the later 2nd century. It continued functioning throughout the 3rd century but appears to have fallen out of use early in the 4th century.

Up to the middle of the 3rd century the two sites seem to have followed a fairly similar pattern of development although Stanwick was clearly the larger and more important settlement. However, the much higher percentage of later 3rd-century coin loss at Higham Ferrers (55.8%), as noted above, in comparison with that at Stanwick (28.3%) does not necessarily signal a significant divergence between the two settlements at that moment in time. It is worth pointing out in this context that the largest single group of coins from Stanwick also falls in the years between AD 260 and AD 296. This evidence offers some support for the similarity between the two sites beyond the mid 3rd century.

The high percentage of later 3rd-century coins recovered from Higham Ferrers can also be viewed from a somewhat different perspective. It is related (inversely) to the relatively small number of 4th-

century pieces recovered from the currently excavated parts of the site. In other words, if Higham Ferrers had continued to receive and discard 4th-century coins in the same sorts of quantities as it had done in the 3rd century, the percentage total of the 3rd-century pieces would decline in relative terms as those of the 4th century rose. By contrast, the much larger numbers of 4th-century coins at Stanwick, particularly those of AD 364 to AD 378, make the 3rd-century coin loss there look much less significant numerically. However, there is no doubt that Stanwick and Higham Ferrers have divergent patterns of coin loss from the mid 4th century onwards both in quantitative terms – numbers of coins – and percentages. The coin evidence suggests, even nuanced by the predominance of 4th-century coins recovered from the 1961 excavation, that there was a decline, change, or different focus of activity at Higham Ferrers after AD 348. Certainly fewer coins reached the excavated parts of the settlement.

The reasons for the decline in the numbers of 4th-century coins retrieved from Higham Ferrers are unclear. Certainly the settlement size and quantity of the buildings continued to increase into the early 4th century. The use of the shrine as a major focus does appear to have ceased, although a small concentration of 4th-century coins suggests some continued reverence here. From the evidence of occupation within many of the buildings and the few assemblages of pottery that can be assigned to the late 4th century it certainly appears that the settlement continued to be occupied for much of this period, albeit probably at a less intensive level. At Stanwick, on the other hand, significant construction and modifications to existing buildings continued throughout the second half of the 3rd century and throughout the 4th century (see Discussion, Chapter 7).

Having examined the similarities and differences between the coin assemblages from Higham Ferrers and Stanwick which are located close to one another geographically and demonstrably 'rural' in their origins and earlier history, it is now useful to analyse coin data from other sites. This will show how closely Higham Ferrers matches the pattern for rural or other types of sites.

Unfortunately, the process of comparing the coin assemblages from Higham Ferrers with other British sites is not as straightforward as one might wish. Most recent work in Britain has been based on the premises Richard Reece has put forward in a number of studies: firstly that there is a general pattern of coin loss in Britain to which most sites conform; secondly that sites can be grouped into categories defined by their nature and function; and finally that chronological periods can be defined, to which coins can be assigned and analysed, that will yield patterns of coin loss supporting or modifying the definitions of the site categories (Reece 1991; 1993; 1995; 1996 and 1998). As Reece himself has noted, all three give rise to problems with definition

Table 5.18 Regional comparison of periods of peak coin loss in nucleated/rural settlements, temples and villas

PERIODS OF PEAK LOSS SITE	260-296		330-348		348-364		364-378		388-402	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
H Ferrers Current	264	55.8	75	15.7	16	3.3	10	2.1	2	0.4
H Ferrers 1960s All	20	10.8	136	73.5	6	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Stanwick	925	28.3	590	18.1	314	9.6	766	23.5	103	3.2
Irthlingborough	5	31.3	1	6.3	0	0.0	5	31.3	0	0.0
Mallows Cotton	17	25.4	17	25.4	10	14.9	13	19.4	5	7.5
West Cotton	8	33.3	2	8.3	2	8.3	3	12.5	0	0.0
Ashton Exc.	58	18.9	50	16.3	22	7.2	53	17.3	47	15.3
Ashton FW	30	27.3	26	23.6	10	9.1	18	16.4	15	13.6
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
Bucks	20	17.4	43	37.4	11	9.4	22	19.1	2	1.7
Somerton	34	28.0	38	20.1	30	15.9	33	17.5	45	23.8
Asthall	2	4.6	13	30.2	6	13.9	7	16.3	0	0.0
Wilcote 1990-92	7	23.3	3	10.0	2	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wilcote 1993-96	1	4.1	3	12.5	1	4.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wilcote Quarry	2	1.6	82	65.6	20	16.0	1	0.8	0	0.0
Wilcote 1993-96 SF	22	31.4	18	25.7	8	11.4	8	11.4	0	0.0
Wilcote All	32	12.8	106	42.6	29	11.6	9	3.6	0	0.0
ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
Braintree	13	18.0	15	20.8	4	5.5	1	1.4	1	1.4
Wickford	219	50.4	39	4.7	11	2.5	11	2.5	7	1.6
Ware	226	27.6	262	32.0	101	12.3	113	13.8	40	4.9
Wotton Exc.	54	45.4	10	8.4	16	13.4	2	1.7	32	26.9
Wotton FW	138	26.2	209	39.7	59	11.2	55	10.4	5	0.9
Cow Roast Orch.	71	24.3	50	17.2	31	10.6	51	17.4	29	9.9
Cow Roast Mar.	50	29.0	17	13.3	2	1.5	19	14.8	3	2.3
SUFFOLK, NORFOLK AND LINCOLNSHIRE NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
Hacheston 1973	102	25.9	138	35.0	26	6.6	13	3.3	2	0.5
Hacheston 1974-5	166	21.2	373	47.7	60	7.7	13	1.6	2	0.2
Hacheston FW	86	7.9	730	67.2	74	6.8	19	1.7	2	0.1
Caister	190	33.4	256	45.0	25	4.4	15	2.6	2	0.3
Sapperton	39	27.9	40	12.5	47	14.7	92	25.7	33	10.3
COTSWOLD WATER PARK SITES (GLOS) NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
Somerford Keynes NB	54	19.4	36	12.9	45	16.2	10	3.6	1	0.3
Claydon Pike	142	19.4	171	23.3	71	9.7	157	21.4	21	2.9
Leaze Farm	24	9.6	56	22.5	38	15.2	64	25.7	17	6.8
Wigmore	24	43.6	16	31.4	3	5.8	2	3.9	0	0.0
Cottage Fields	10	27.0	15	40.5	3	8.1	2	5.4	2	5.4
Roughground Farm	9	18.3	17	34.7	11	22.4	1	2.0	1	2.0
OTHER GLOUCESTERSHIRE SITES NUCLEATED SETTLEMENTS/RURAL SITES										
Kingscote Site Finds	367	31.0	340	28.7	98	8.2	100	8.4	8	0.6
Kingscote 1	85	16.3	173	33.0	61	11.6	160	30.5	8	1.5
Kingscote 2	369	33.3	315	28.5	122	11.0	12	1.2	2	0.2
Kingscote 1976	61	17.0	163	43.5	64	17.8	1	0.3	0	0.0
Coln St. Aldwyns	254	18.2	471	33.8	93	6.6	219	15.7	53	3.8
Wycomb 1	11	4.5	115	47.7	55	22.8	41	17.0	6	2.5
Wycomb 2	15	5.6	63	23.7	63	23.7	49	18.5	26	9.8
ESSEX, HERTS, AND BUCKS VILLAS										
Gestingthorpe	259	55.0	104	22.1	18	3.8	12	2.5	10	2.1
Dickets Mead	146	59.1	42	28.8	9	6.1	1	0.4	0	0.0
Boxmoor	70	66.0	10	9.4	6	5.7	0	0.0	1	0.9



Table 5.18 (cont'd) Regional comparison of periods of peak coin loss in nucleated/rural settlements, temples and villas

PERIODS OF PEAK LOSS SITE	260-296		330-348		348-364		364-378		388-402	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
Gadebridge	74	25.2	125	42.7	16	5.5	16	5.5	7	2.4
Bancroft 1973-1978	19	9.1	91	43.7	12	5.8	18	8.6	10	4.8
Bancroft 1983-1986	52	8.1	180	43.9	78	12.2	85	13.3	13	2.2
Bancroft Mausoleum	2	3.0	15	23.5	7	11.3	14	22.5	11	17.7
Bancroft Shrine	0	0.0	7	24.1	5	17.3	7	24.1	10	34.5
GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE VILLAS										
Chedworth	73	19.9	71	19.3	36	9.8	115	31.2	1	0.2
Barnsley Park	60	9.4	288	45.3	94	14.8	124	19.5	1	0.1
Frocester Court	188	33.7	156	28.0	42	11.1	63	11.3	47	8.4
Atworth	49	25.1	73	37.4	17	9.7	20	10.2	0	0.0
Gt. Witcombe	57	25.3	44	19.5	25	11.1	47	20.8	6	2.7
ESSEX, NORFOLK, RUTLAND TEMPLES										
Chelmsford	17	9.2	39	21.1	14	7.6	45	24.4	17	9.2
Hockwold	35	21.9	28	17.5	20	12.5	44	27.5	7	4.4
Thistleton Dyer	58	15.0	78	20.1	67	17.3	48	12.4	53	13.6
WILTSHIRE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, AND SOMERSET TEMPLES										
Nettleton	261	14.6	448	25.0	220	12.3	507	28.3	202	11.3
Lydney SF	884	16.5	1961	36.5	320	6.0	1329	24.8	20	0.4
Lydney Exc.	203	23.7	259	30.2	89	10.4	198	23.1	13	1.5
Lamyatt Beacon	73	18.1	102	25.7	69	17.4	65	16.4	46	11.6
Henley Wood	185	41.2	119	26.5	33	7.3	37	6.0	4	0.9

or methodology, as can the analysis techniques used (Lockyear 2000).

Reece grouped his data from 140 British sites into five categories, namely large towns (including certain and possible civitas capitals), military sites, rural sites (including smaller towns, villages, and farmsteads), villas, and finally temples (Reece 1991). At first glance this list of categories seems to consist of a straightforward set of definitions but in practice a number of sites do not fit easily into any single category. For example, Stanwick and Bancroft (Williams and Zeevat 1994) can both be classed as villa sites but both also have shrines from which coins have been retrieved. This means that they potentially overlap two of Reece's categories (temples and villas). Higham Ferrers and Fairford Claydon Pike (Miles *et al.* 2007) are classed as rural sites but they are of quite different character and they too have shrines from which coins were retrieved; again this results in their overlapping two categories (rural settlements and temples).

A further difficulty arises from the fact that sites evolve and can change over time. Harlow temple (France and Gobel 1985) and Hayling Island (Briggs *et al.* 1992), for example, are both temple sites where a large number of Iron Age coins were retrieved and the Roman assemblage peaks in the years before AD 260. This contrasts with the usual temple/shrine pattern from Romano-British sites where there tends to be a peak in deposition in the 4th century.

Despite these difficulties Reece provides a functional approach to compare different sites, as Lockyear's study has shown (Lockyear 2000). Table 5.18 records coin loss figures from periods of peak

coin loss in the 3rd and 4th centuries for three types of sites – nucleated settlements and rural sites, rural temples, and villas. The three categories of site chosen for analysis tend to share one important characteristic in that they are rural in nature. Since Higham Ferrers is a settlement, it seems most useful to begin with comparing its coin profile with that of other Northamptonshire settlements and then with sites further afield as presented in the table.

The emphasis on a narrower geographical focus for nucleated settlement and rural sites than for temples or villas in this analysis is based on the fact that Higham Ferrers' primary function falls in this category. However, the definitions formulated by Reece are, inevitably, less mutually exclusive than one would wish them to be. There is no doubt that Higham Ferrers is a rural settlement site, but it also had a shrine. The question arises of whether one could expect the coin profile here to resemble more closely that of 'rural sites', 'temple sites' or fall somewhere between them. Further problems arise when one attempts to measure the extent to which Higham Ferrers conformed to the coin loss pattern for Northamptonshire, again related to the nature and definition of the individual sites and how comparable they actually are.

The similarities of Stanwick and Higham Ferrers have been noted above; both are rural settlements with shrines until the mid 3rd century when their development diverged. It is clear that coins from the current Higham Ferrers excavations have the highest peak among the Northamptonshire sites for the period between AD 260 and AD 296. In the later 4th century (AD 364+) Higham Ferrers has negligible

numbers of coins, while most of the Raunds sites (except for West Cotton) have higher percentages for these years. The Ashton assemblage is the only group to have percentages above 13% of coins from the years AD 388 to AD 402.

In a wider regional comparison, the percentage coin values for the years between AD 260 and AD 296 from Northamptonshire sites are slightly closer to those from Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire than they are to those from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The percentage distribution of the Northamptonshire sites for this period also shows similarity with the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) sites in Gloucestershire, although not with the other Gloucestershire sites.

For the period between AD 330 and AD 348, five of the eight Northamptonshire sites have coin percentages that range from 30% to 15%. All of the other groups of central and eastern sites have a wide range of values with no clear single focal point, and vary significantly from one another. The Gloucestershire sites are generally similar to one another and again are distributed over a continuum.

From about the middle of the 4th century onwards, coin loss declined at the rural sites under discussion here with the exception of the years between AD 364 and AD 378. In the years between AD 348 and AD 364, all of the Northamptonshire sites have percentages from 0% to 15%, and this is broadly reflected in most other central/eastern and western sites shown in Table 5.18. In terms of rural sites, it is difficult to describe the years between AD 348 and AD 364 as a period of peak loss.

At most of the central/eastern rural sites the percentage range from the years AD 364 and AD 378 tends to be between 0% and 20%, with the exception of two of the Raunds sites, which have values between 23% and 31% (Irthlingborough and Stanwick). The current and 1961 Higham Ferrers excavations come at the bottom of the range, being the only two sites recorded in this group with percentages lower than 5%. The reasons for this divergence have been discussed previously. A comparison with the two groups of Gloucestershire rural sites shows a not dissimilar pattern to the eastern sites.

The final period of peak loss, AD 388-AD 402, is characterised by low levels of coin deposition. Among the Northamptonshire group, Ashton stands out in having two sites with percentages higher than 10%. Deposition at the Raunds sites (including Stanwick) has declined significantly and ranges between 0% and 7.5% and there are just two coins (0.4%) from the Higham Ferrers excavations. Among the other central/eastern sites, percentages above 10% are rare, with a few exceptions (eg Wotton-at-Stone in Hertfordshire had 26.9%), while 22 of the 28 sites in the central/eastern rural group had percentages below 5%. The level of coin deposition in this period was also low at sites in the two Gloucestershire rural groups.

On the whole, the nucleated settlement/rural

sites discussed here show more similarities than differences when expressed in terms of the peak periods of loss. Where deviation occurs, such as the high percentages from Higham Ferrers in the period between AD 260 and AD 296, it suggests a different site history from the 'average'.

The coin deposition pattern from periods of peak loss at villas has quite close parallels with that at rural sites in some periods (Table 5.18). In the years between AD 260 and AD 296, the eastern villas (Essex, Herts and Bucks) have percentages that span the same range (3% to 66%) overall as the rural sites from that region, but there is no clear clustering. The western villas (Glos and Wilts) have percentages of coin from this period that are broadly compatible with the western rural group (9.4% to 33.7%), and do not have the higher values that occur at the eastern rural sites.

For the years between AD 330 and AD 348, the percentages of coin loss from the eastern villa sites generally decline, with the main exception of Bancroft, where coin loss rises to just under 44%. The percentage of coin loss at the eastern villa sites falls broadly into the same range as those of the central/eastern rural sites. The coin loss percentages at the western villas matches the eastern villa sites reasonably well (19.3% to 45.3% to).

Coin deposition at villas in the years between AD 348 and AD 364 is significantly lower at most sites. The villa and rural/settlement sites differ most sharply in this period if the number of percentages below 5% is compared. Gestingthorpe is the only eastern villa to have a coin deposition percentage below 5%, while the lowest percentage at a western villa site is 9.7% (Atworth). By contrast, the central/eastern rural group has 18 sites with percentages below 10% and eight below 5%, and the western rural group has nine sites with percentages below 10%.

Between AD 364 and AD 378, the percentages of coin loss at the eastern villa sites range from 0% to 24.1%, with the Bancroft villa sites again generally having the highest values. Overall, the eastern villas are broadly similar to the eastern rural/settlement sites in this period. Stanwick, classified in these tables as a rural/settlement site, and Bancroft have unusually high percentages of coin loss for this period and the question arises as to why this is? It seems likely that the coins from the shrine and mausoleum at Bancroft may be distorting the pattern; certainly they have low percentages of 3rd-century coins and high 4th-century ones. However, it should be pointed out in this context that coin deposition at the Stanwick temenos, although not the site as a whole, drops sharply in these years. Only 12 of the 700 dated coins from the temenos are post AD 364, suggesting that it was falling out of use (Crosby and Neal forthcoming). The shrine at Higham Ferrers, a settlement site, also has a low coin deposition for this period. The major difference between Higham Ferrers and both Stanwick and Bancroft is that the

shrine at Higham Ferrers had fallen out of use in the early 4th century.

Comparison of the western rural/settlement sites with the western villa sites presents a different picture. The range of percentages in the western villa group lies between 10.2% and 31.3%, while the rural/settlement group had coin loss percentages ranging from 0% to 43.5%. Nine sites had percentages of 10% or below and another seven ranged between 10% and 26%.

In the final period, AD 388 to AD 402, there is a decline in coin deposition at the villa sites. In the eastern group, all but two of the sites have percentages that are below 5%; the exceptions are Bancroft Shrine (34.5%) and Bancroft Mausoleum (17.7%). These two sites continue to be exceptional in their pattern of coin loss. The coin loss percentages at the western sites range from 0% to 8.4% and four of the five sites are below 5%. The overall picture is one of a decline in coin deposition at both villa and rural/settlement sites with a few exceptions, more evident in the eastern rural group than any other.

The temple sites are the final group whose patterns of coin deposition during periods of peak coin loss are to be compared that that of Higham Ferrers. The eastern group consists of sites from Essex, Norfolk, and Rutland. The western group are from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Somerset. The small number of sites means that there are not enough data to track close similarities or divergences in coin loss patterns in any meaningful way, but a general trend does emerge.

For the years between AD 260 and AD 296, the percentage range lies between 9.2% and 21.9% at the three eastern sites. Only one of the 29 central/eastern settlements had a comparably low percentage for this period (Wilcote quarry with 1.6%; Hands 1993; 1998). The western temple sites have coin loss percentages between 14.6% to 41.2% which fits within the range of the western settlement/rural sites (4% to 43.6%).

In the years between AD 330 and AD 348, the eastern temple sites have coin loss percentages between 17.5% and 21.1%, fitting within the middle to bottom range of the eastern rural/settlement sites and the bottom end of the eastern villa sites. The western temples have coin loss percentages that range from 25% to 36.5% and fit within the rural/settlement site range that clusters between 20% and 35%. At most temple sites coin loss is highest in the first two peak periods. Temples with low coin deposition in the later 3rd century and the first half of the 4th century reflect either temples that start early and peak in the years before AD 260 and decline thereafter (eg Harlow, Hayling Island), or shrines or temples that start late and are most active in the second half of the 4th century.

Coin loss is significantly lower in the years between AD 348 and AD 364 but this is characteristic of all three site groups analysed in this discussion. In the years between AD 364 and AD 378, the coin deposition percentages rise in both the eastern

and western temple groups, lying within the range of the eastern and western rural/settlement sites. However, the temple sites recorded here do not have the tail of values below 5% (or even 10%) characteristic of the rural/settlement sites.

It is only in the period between AD 388 and AD 402 that the temple sites begin to reflect the declining pattern of coin loss characteristic of the rural/settlement sites and, to a lesser extent, the villa sites from the mid 4th century onwards. But even in this last period there are comparatively higher values in both the eastern and western temple groups. In these years there are more temple sites with coin percentages above 12% than the villas or settlement/rural group.

### Conclusions

There is no doubt that Higham Ferrers is a rural roadside settlement site which, in terms of its residual coin population, shares many characteristics with comparable sites in Northamptonshire and other parts of Britain. The absence of significant amounts of earlier Roman coinage of the 1st and 2nd centuries is compatible with its relatively late foundation in the 2nd century. It also suggests that its origins were non-military in nature since 'military' sites frequently have significant proportions of coins minted before AD 260. The dominant economic activity was agricultural and there does not seem to have been any significant form of industry.

Higham Ferrers underwent a period of growth and consolidation in the 3rd century, which may be reflected in part by the very high proportion of coins from the years between AD 260 and AD 296 recovered from the site. Many of these were associated with the shrine and the nearby roadside buildings, suggesting that they may have been linked in some way. The shrine itself was situated on the western side of the road overlooking the navigable river. This would have provided a route for the inward and outward transport of goods and people and, presumably, coins as well.

Stanwick provides a reasonably close parallel with the development of the site at Higham Ferrers up to the middle of the 3rd century in terms of its coin population. Both sites have relatively small percentages of silver coins and coins minted before AD 260 and this is characteristic of rural sites. However, Stanwick was the larger and more important site in all periods as the much larger quantity of coins retrieved demonstrates. Both sites had active shrines; that at Stanwick began in the 1st century and continued in use until the mid 4th century. At Higham Ferrers, the shrine fell out of use slightly earlier.

From the mid 3rd century onwards Stanwick and Higham Ferrers diverged sharply. The addition of new buildings and modifications to existing structures continued at Stanwick after the middle of the 4th century and coin deposition rose significantly in

the period from AD 364 to AD 378, declining thereafter. At Higham Ferrers, the density and quantity of buildings increased into the later 3rd century but by the early 4th century new building seems to have ceased and coin deposition dropped significantly; after AD 348 it was minimal. The reasons for this divergence between the two sites are unclear but may be linked to some sort of administrative reorganisation of local agriculture for tax or other purposes. One potential cause underlying the change could be the effect of Diocletian's tax reforms in the late 3rd century which led to a reclassification of land values.

There may also have been a link between activity at the shrine and the arrival of coin at the site. The presence of outsiders from the wider community who joined with residents in feasting and ritual deposition of objects might have produced an influx as well.

Comparison of the pattern of coin deposition at Higham Ferrers with other sites (rural/settlement, villas, and temples) demonstrates that most of the close parallels tend to be with rural/settlement sites and the fewest are with temple sites. Civitas capitals,

walled 'small towns' and military sites have been deliberately omitted from this analysis because they, by their very nature, are likely to show divergence. As noted above, a major problem in analysing coins by site type is that categories may not be mutually exclusive. For example, Fairford Claydon Pike is a settlement/rural site that also has a small villa and a shrine. It could, therefore, be included in any, or all, of the three site categories analysed here and need not fit neatly into any of them.

The solution to this problem, in this case, has been to emphasize the rural aspects of the site to be analysed and then define its dominant feature (villa, temple etc.) and classify it accordingly. Using this method, Stanwick and Fairford Claydon Pike have both been defined as settlement/rural sites. Even so, their patterns of coin deposition in the peak periods of coin loss are quite different from one another for reasons that are not clear.

Analysing individual sites like Higham Ferrers in the context of geographically linked site groups like those from the Cotswold Water Park or Raunds area is a potentially productive approach to use in defining 'regionality' in terms of coin deposition.

Table 5.19 Summary quantification of small finds by context group, phase and function

Group	Phase	Function									
		Arms	Tools	Transport	Measure	Votive	Personal	Household	Door	Security	Structural
metal	3										
detecting	4						1				
	4 to 5							3			
	5		1	2			14	12		4	5
	unph		2			1	9	7			
Sub Totals			3	2	1		24	22		4	5
settlement	3						2				
	3 to 4					1					1
	4		4				22	4		1	2
	5	1	10	6	2	3	230	15	4	11	11
	Rom		1	1	2		10	2			2
	u/s						2				
	unph						32	1	2		1
Sub Totals		1	15	7	4	4	298	22	6	12	17
shrine	4	1	24	6		14	344	11	1		12
Sub Totals		1	24	6		14	344	11	1		12
shrine associated contexts	4		12	1		2	135	3		1	5
	4 to 5		1	1			11	1	1	1	
	5						1				1
Sub Totals			13	2		2	147	4	1	2	6
Totals		2	55	17	5	20	813	59	8	18	40

There is no doubt that Higham Ferrers and Stanwick were linked in some form to one another throughout much of their history, although it is difficult to see precisely how, based on coinage use and loss alone. Until the coin evidence from Stanwick has been fully published, it can only be partially utilised to assess the extent to which a hierarchical relationship may have existed between Higham Ferrers and Raunds. The decline in coin deposition at Higham Ferrers from the mid 4th century onwards also needs explanation, especially in the context of the significant numbers of coins from the years AD 364 to AD 378 recovered from Stanwick.

**SMALL FINDS** by Ian R Scott with contributions from Martin Henig and Roger Tomlin

A total of 2363 Roman small finds (not including worked stone, glass and coins) were recovered during the excavations, including 123 from Area G (Tables 5.19 and 5.20). The assemblage comprises 1790 iron objects, 357 copper alloy finds, two objects comprising both iron and copper alloy, 94 lead

objects, three silver pieces, a pewter bead, 114 bone objects, a single jet pin stem and a fragment of a shale bracelet.

Most of the small finds are from stratified contexts, with only 199 objects not phased. The assemblage can be divided into four groups: the largest part of the assemblage (n=1050) is derived from contexts of the settlement site, including Area G to the north. The second largest group of material (n=825) is derived from the shrine area. The third part of the assemblage comprises a group of material from contexts stratigraphically adjacent to the shrine. The material from these contexts (n=312) is in many ways comparable in its composition to the material from the shrine deposits. Finally there is a tranche of material recovered using a metal detector (n=176). Much of this material can be provenanced and consequently can be assigned to one of the stratigraphic phases. This material is described as 'metal detector' finds in the tables. Much of it comes from the settlement site and the roadside ditches.

The stratified material comes predominantly from contexts dated to Phases 4 and 5 (late 2nd to 4th century), with objects from the settlement site coming mainly from Phases 4 and 5, (with a preponderance of Phase 5 material) and the finds from the shrine and associated contexts both being assigned mainly to Phase 4.

All the iron and copper alloy objects were x-rayed prior to analysis. The X-rays, retained in archive, form the primary visual record of these objects.

### Context group assemblages

The assemblages from the settlement and the shrine are considered at length. The material recovered with the use of a metal detector and the material from contexts adjacent to the shrine are not dealt with in same detail.

### Settlement assemblage

The finds from Area G to the north of the main excavation of the Romano-British settlement are included with the settlement assemblage. They formed part of the stratigraphic sequence on the Saxon settlement and were assigned to a broad Romano-British phase.

### Area G

The 123 objects from Romano-British contexts, include eight hobnails, 75 nails, 20 miscellaneous fragments, and three small unidentifiable fragments ('unknown'). The remaining items include four objects of uncertain function ('query'). The identifiable items include a spud, or chisel (**Cat. No. 28**), a looped peg, or possible linch pin (**Cat. No. 60**) and two weights, or possible weights (**Cat. Nos 77-78**). There is a possible bucket hoop fragment (SF 611, context 8003) and a lead plug/repair on from a ceramic vessel (Context 8058).

Nails	Bindings	Misc	Query	Industrial	Unknown	Totals
			1			1
	1	5				7
6	1	5	1			16
38	5	19	6	2		108
3		15	6	1		44
47	7	44	14	3		176
5		1		1		9
1		1				4
51	2	13	4	61		164
196	22	62	16	4	2	595
75	3	20	4		3	123
						2
105		6	5	1		153
433	27	103	29	67	5	1050
240	10	128	29	3	2	825
240	10	128	29	3	2	825
67	4	26	19	1	5	281
	1	4	1			22
1		1		5		9
68	5	31	20	6	5	312
788	49	306	92	79	12	2363

Table 5.20 Summary quantification of small finds by context group, phase and raw material

Context Group	Phase	Material								Totals	
		fe	cu	cu & fe	bone	pb	ag	pewter	jet		shale
metal	3		1								1
detecting	4	2	3			2					7
	4 to 5	12				4					16
	5	87	12		2	6			1		108
	unph	13	22			9					44
Sub Total		114	38		2	21			1		176
settlement	3	6	1		2						9
contexts	3 to 4	2	1			1					4
	4	84	11		67	2					164
	5	500	60	1	14	19				1	595
	Rom	105	5			13					123
	u/s		2								2
	unph	135	11		2	5					153
Sub Total		832	92	1	85	40				1	1050
shrine	4	652	124	1	23	23	1	1			825
Sub Total		652	124	1	23	23	1	1			825
shrine	4	186	85		1	7					281
associated	4 to 5	4	16		1	1					22
contexts	5	2	3		2		2				9
Sub Total		192	104		4	10	2				312
Totals		1790	357	2	114	94	3	1	1	1	2363

The most interesting finds are a copper alloy hairpin (**Cat. No. 279**) and a small pair of plain tweezers (**Cat. No. 310**). There are also structural fittings, bindings and objects of uncertain function.

The range and quantity of Romano-British finds is limited compared to the main settlement and suggests that these Romano-British contexts are at, or beyond, the periphery of the main settlement area. Most are from Area G which clearly lies at the edge of the main Romano-British settlement. The fact that only two personal items have been recovered contrasts with Site 10 where numerous brooches, finger rings and toilet items were recovered. The finds indicate the limited status of this part of the site.

#### Other Romano-British finds

In addition to the stratified finds from Area G a number of other Romano-British finds should be mentioned. Two unstratified Romano-British finger rings have been included in the quantification tables, but not catalogued: SFs 275 (context 6030)

and 301 (context 6125) from Site 4. A further Romano-British object of uncertain provenance – a pair of plain tweezers (HFKM 93) has been omitted from both the quantification and catalogue. Finally reference should be made to a number of Romano-British finds found in the fills of sunken featured buildings. These have been published in the report on the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement (Hardy *et al.* 2007), and are not further considered here.

#### Phases 3 and 3 to 4

The finds from the settlement include a very small number of finds from Phase 3 and Phase 3/4 contexts (Table 5.19). There are two items of personal adornment, a fragment of a narrow copper alloy bangle or bracelet (**Cat. No. 215**) and a stem fragment from a bone hairpin (SF 1186). Perhaps more interesting is the possible small model or votive shield from context 11396, within the entrance to Phase 3 circular building 11340, and probably representing a ritual deposit (**Cat. No. 92**).

## Phase 4

A larger, though still modest assemblage of small finds was recovered from Phase 4 contexts (Table 5.19), reflecting the overall expansion of the settlement. These include four tools (a punch (**Cat. No. 50**), an ox-goad (**Cat. No. 27**), an awl (**Cat. No. 53**) and a bone needle (**Cat. No. 44**)), and a number of items of personal adornment including three brooches (**Cat. Nos 153, 187, 194**), and a bracelet fragment (**Cat. No. 223**). The brooches comprise a simple one-piece iron fibula with a sprung pin (**Cat. No. 153**) of 1st-century date, a T-shaped brooch (**Cat. No. 187**) of the later 1st to 2nd century, and a trumpet-headed brooch (**Cat. No. 194**) of late 1st- to mid/late 2nd-century date. There are also two plain ligulae (**Cat. Nos 327-328**), a pair of tweezers (**Cat. No. 317**) and a circular seal box without a lid (**Cat. No. 94**).

Household objects include a knife (**Cat. No. 334**), a bucket handle mount (**Cat. No. 363**) and a probable vessel handle (**Cat. No. 364**). The bucket handle mount and vessel handle were both from well 12885. There is a single L-shaped lift key (**Cat. No. 382**). The only structural fittings are a T-clamp and U-shaped clamp. Only 51 nails were recovered from the settlement in this phase.

Perhaps the major find of the Phase 4 settlement assemblage is the evidence for bone working. Sixty-one fragments of cut and broken bone were recorded from settlement contexts of Phase 4. Many more small fragments of bone waste were recovered from soil samples, but not quantified in detail. The bone working debris came from a small number of contexts, but most fragments (n=41) came from context 12913, a deposit outside building 11370. A further twelve pieces came from contexts 11316 and 12170, a hearth and pit in building 10890. Crummy (2001a) has recently argued that the absence from the archaeological record of assemblages with all stages of bone working – prepared bone, worked blanks and part finished objects and bone working debris – together with lack of evidence for workshops, strongly indicates that bone was carried out by itinerant craftsmen with no fixed workshops. They would carry a small stock of finished items but generally would make objects to order.

Overall the finds assemblage from Phase 4 contexts is quite small and yet contains evidence for a variety of activities, including domestic tasks and craftworking. The occupation was apparently contemporary with the *floruit* of the shrine, and this might explain the presence of the high proportion of personal items.

## Phase 5

Far more finds were recovered from Phase 5 contexts, incorporating a wider range of object types (Table 5.19). The finds included part of a copper alloy sword scabbard slide of 2nd- to 3rd-century date (**Cat. No. 1**), from a disturbed deposit (10547) over buildings 10800/10810, and obviously residual. The presence of small numbers of military

fittings of 2nd- and 3rd-century date on civil settlements has now been recognised as a widespread phenomenon (Bishop 1991; see also Scott 1999, 387) and may represent the presence of soldiers involved in policing, or possibly simply billeted. There are at least seven tools from Phase 5 contexts, mostly from buildings 10820, 10830, 10840, 10860 and 11370: they are a smith's or mason's chisel (**Cat. No. 3**), a mason's gad or set (**Cat. No. 7**), a fragment of an awl or drill bit (**Cat. No. 9**), a carpenter's awl or punch (**Cat. No. 10**), a rake tine (**Cat. No. 29**), a possible sickle or reaping hook blade (**Cat. No. 31**) and a needle (**Cat. No. 39**) for sewing or for leatherworking. There are also three more probable tools: a possible punch (**Cat. No. 50**), a tool of uncertain function with a solid handle and thin hooked stem (**Cat. No. 54**), and a socket possibly from a tool (**Cat. No. 57**).

The Phase 5 assemblage includes part of a slave shackle (**Cat. No. 59**) from plot division ditch 10855 (context 10627), a cast copper alloy fitting from a cart (**Cat. No. 64**), three bridle bits, or parts of bits (**Cat. Nos 66-68**), and a fragment of a hipposandal (**Cat. No. 71**) from building 10820. The slave shackle is one of two from the site. The more complete example (**Cat. No. 58**) was found by metal detecting from a dark silty deposit (context 10507) sealing the pavement area to the north of building 10800 and is also assigned to Phase 5. The same deposit produced part of a further bridle bit (**Cat. No. 65**). A probable weight (**Cat. No. 75**) came from building 10820. All are items associated with transport and trade.

The only overtly cult or religious objects are three small fragments of votive leaves (**Cat. Nos 88-89**), all from a possible demolition or occupation deposit (12183) within building 10880.

Personal items, which number 230, form by far the largest part of the Phase 5 assemblage. However this number includes 193 hobnails, most of which (170) come from the grave backfill (10793) covering skeleton 10794, with 20 from context 11007, a late surface of building 10810 (see Table 5.25 below). Items of personal adornment comprise a shale bangle (**Cat. No. 209**), two bangles of cable type (**Cat. Nos 219-220**), a bangle with notched decoration (**Cat. No. 221**) (Phase 5 building 10840), a one-piece Colchester brooch (**Cat. No. 163**), a two-piece Colchester brooch (**Cat. No. 165**), a T-shaped brooch (**Cat. No. 190**), a knee brooch (**Cat. No. 197**), and a lozenge-shaped plate brooch (**Cat. No. 208**). A la Tène III brooch (**Cat. No. 160**) was found through metal detecting in the area of building 10880. There are eight finger rings (**Cat. Nos 243, 253, 255, 259-262**; and SF 1458, context 11332), two possible bangle fragments (SF 1437, context 11257; SF 2748, context 12601) and a brooch pin fragment (SF 1444, context 11153). Another finger ring (**Cat. No. 266**) was recovered by metal detecting from building 10880. Five bone (**Cat. Nos 290, 300, 303, 306-307**) and two copper alloy hairpins (**Cat. Nos 280, 287**) were found, along with one copper alloy and four

bone hairpin fragments. The remaining personal items comprise a small decorative plate (**Cat. No. 110**) perhaps for a belt, two pairs of tweezers (**Cat. No. 312-313**), one recovered through metal detecting, a ligula (**Cat. No. 322**) and a stylus (**Cat. No. 101**).

Household or domestic items include three knives (**Cat. Nos 337, 340-341**), three bone knife handles (**Cat. Nos 348-350**), and a cast copper alloy terminal from a knife handle (**Cat. No. 351**). Four knives (**Cat. Nos 335-336, 339, 346**), a spoon bowl (**Cat. No. 352**), possible flesh hook fragment (**Cat. No. 354**) and a ladle fragment (**Cat. No. 355**) were recovered through metal detecting from context 10507, a silt deposit north of building 10800 assigned to Phase 5. A further two knives were recovered by metal detecting from the area of building 10880 (**Cat Nos 330, 343**). Also found were a copper alloy vessel fragment (**Cat. No. 357**) and a lead repair for a ceramic vessel (SF 1065, context 10547). A candlestick made from copper alloy sheet with a lead base (**Cat. No. 362**) was recovered by metal detector from above ditch 10700. There is also a circular domed washer perhaps from a piece of furniture or a box (**Cat. No. 373**), two bell-shaped terminals (**Cat. Nos 365-366**), and two objects of uncertain function (**Cat. Nos 371-372**). A third bell-shaped terminal (**Cat. No. 367**) was recovered by metal detector from the area of building 10840.

Security items include two barb-spring padlock keys (**Cat. Nos 375-376**) from inhumation grave 10780, and a third recovered by metal detecting (**Cat. No. 374**), a fragment of a barb spring padlock key (**Cat. No. 377**), three L-shaped lift keys (**Cat. Nos 378, 380-381**), including one from grave 10780 and one recovered by metal detecting, a T-shaped lift key (**Cat. No. 385**), an L-shaped slide key (**Cat. No. 386**), and a possible key handle or hinge strap (**Cat. No. 388**). There is also a fragmentary iron key on a copper alloy chain (**Cat. No. 387**) from building 10880, a chain link (**Cat. No. 391**) overlying the road ditch (context 10816), and a barb-spring padlock (**Cat. No. 390**) among metal detector finds from the pavement to the north of building 10800 (context 10507). Linked with items of security are door or shutter fittings. These comprise an almost complete hinge strap (SF 2954, context 12585) and three L-shape hinge pintles (SF 1394, context 11007; SF 1718, context 11667; SF 2314, context 12372) for drop hinges.

Structural items comprise three L-staples, eight miscellaneous clamps, dogs and holdfasts, along with 196 nails and 22 pieces of binding (see Tables 5.27-9 below).

#### *Comparison of the phase assemblages*

Comparison between the phase assemblages from the settlement shows some differences. The obvious disparity in numbers is the first thing. This suggests that occupation of the settlement was less intense in the earlier phase. However, it is important to note that the smaller quantity of finds from the earlier

phase may simply reflect that sites were cleared before any changes in structure or use. If that were the case earlier finds may well have been removed, recycled, dispersed or redeposited. Another difference is the presence of evidence for bone working in the earlier phase. There are more tools in Phase 5 but this seems simply to reflect the fact that the Phase 5 assemblage is substantially larger than the Phase 4 assemblage.

Both assemblages have evidence for writing – in Phase 4 a seal box, and in Phase 5 a stylus. This does not necessarily mean that the occupants of the settlement could read or write, but may reflect that among passing travellers there would be literate people. Obviously in Phase 4 the presence of the proposed shrine would draw in visitors, some of whom may have been literate, as may have been the official(s) associated with the shrine.

The items of personal adornment, especially brooches, bangles and finger rings occur in both phases. Significantly, the brooches in both phases are predominantly of copper alloy, which contrasts quite sharply with brooches from the shrine (see below). In Phase 4 one bow brooch is of iron and five are of copper alloy, and in Phase 5 all four bow brooches are of copper alloy. There are, perhaps surprisingly no finger rings from Phase 4 contexts in the settlement. The eight finger rings from Phase 5 contexts comprise one iron and seven copper alloy rings, six of which have stones, settings for stones, or bezels. A seventh ring comprises a flat band decorated with grooves around the band. Only the eighth ring is a simple plain band such as occurred in numbers in the shrine deposit.

#### *Shrine assemblage*

Before considering the composition of the finds from the shrine, it is worth considering the reasons for interpreting it as a religious assemblage. The first indication is the quantity of material and its concentration in a restricted area with clear evidence for structured deposition (see below). Then there is its composition – primarily consisting of personal items and in particular finger rings and brooches, together with a large number of coins. This is the range of finds that is regularly found associated with temples and shrines (Smith 2001, 155), and it contrasts with the composition of the small finds assemblage from the rest of the settlement. The clinching point is the presence of a number of votive items – votive ‘leaves’, miniature objects and an elaborate cult spearhead.

The shrine assemblage is assigned to Phase 4 (late 2nd-3rd century). Amongst the finds is a substantial number of personal items, which are considered further below. Other components of the assemblage include a shield boss (**Cat. No. 2**) and 22 tools. The latter includes nine ox-goads (**Cat. Nos 12-20**), perhaps reflecting the fact that the shrine lay beside a road that would be frequented by ox-teams, rather than being simply evidence for the rural economy.



The next most numerous category of tool was sewing needles, seven of which were found (**Cat. Nos 34-38, 41-42**). Both these categories are light, easily portable objects. The remaining tools comprise a smith's punch (**Cat. No. 6**), two chisels (**Cat. Nos 47-48**), a possible awl (**Cat. No. 52**), part of a fire tool (**Cat. No. 55**) and a fragment which may be part of tool tang or drill bit (**Cat. No. 56**).

Items relating to transport comprise part of a nave band from a wagon wheel (**Cat. No. 61**), a harness bell (**Cat. No. 69**), a decorative phalera (**Cat. No. 70**), and two fragments of hipposandal (**Cat. Nos 72-73**).

Household items are very limited in numbers. They consist of four knives (**Cat. Nos 331-332, 344, 347**), a copper alloy spoon bowl (**Cat. No. 353**), an iron ladle (**Cat. No. 356**), a small pewter dish, which has been partially flattened (**Cat. No. 359**) and a small copper alloy hinge strap (**Cat. No. 369**). One of the knives (**Cat. No. 331**) is quite large with a comparatively small triangular blade, and is very distinctive. A second knife (**Cat. No. 332**) has a curved tapering blade and again it is distinctive in form. There is also a small knife with a solid handle with a terminal loop (**Cat. No. 347**), which from the form of its blade might be identified as a knife for trimming pens. The fourth knife is incomplete. It is possible to see all these objects being part of the equipment needed by a shrine for libations and sacrifices, and in this regard attention must be drawn to a very distinctive small knife (**Cat. No. 82**), which may have been a specialised knife for cult use.

As might be expected, a number of overtly cult objects have been identified. These are a large cult spear (**Cat. No. 80**), a small specialised knife with a hook on its cutting edge already noted (**Cat. No. 82**), a leaf-shaped tanged knife or spear head (**Cat. No. 81**), six fragments of votive leaves (**Cat. Nos 83-87**), and possible model or votive spear (**Cat. No. 93**). Two further fragments of votive leaves were found in contexts associated with the shrine (**Cat. Nos 90-91**). Also possibly with cult significance were five pieces of carefully rolled lead, which it was hoped might be inscribed. Four were not inscribed; the fifth was inscribed with illiterate scribbles (see Tomlin below).

Some 14 structural items were present and included dogs, clamps, holdfasts and washers. There was also a single L-shaped hinge pintle (an early hinge typically used for larger doors). More interesting there were some 240 nails, with a further 68 from associated contexts. These are in addition to the large number of hobnails from the shrine deposits (see Table 5.25 below). Although there is little evidence for structures, it is possible that some at least of these nails were used structurally, but others may have been used in the shrine, perhaps to secure defixiones. The numerous hobnails, like nails, must be linked in some way with the rituals. A likely use for the hobnails is as thumb tacks for securing prayers and curses, although the ritual deposition of actual shoes is certainly possible (see

discussion, Chapter 7). The possibility that the nails and hobnails were of intrinsic ritual significance because they were made of iron will be considered below.

The assemblage is clearly of ritual or cult significance and many (though certainly not all) of the finds are likely to have been votive offerings. It would seem that preference was given to items of personal adornments when selecting items as offerings, as they were the most numerous category of find from the shrine (n=344; see discussion below). A further 147 personal items come from contexts associated with the shrine. The associated contexts are mainly assigned to Phase 4, but one context (10543), the road surface immediately adjacent to the shrine, is phased 4 to 5 while a second context (10738), comprising rubble and silts sealing the shrine 'platform', is assigned to Phase 5, after the shrine supposedly went out of use. The former context produced 23 small finds and the latter nine.

The finds from 10543 include a decorative embossed strip, which might have been part of a votive leaf or a decorative feature from a piece of furniture (**Cat. No. 368**), two brooches (**Cat. Nos 161, 164**), six finger rings (**Cat. Nos 270, 273, 275**; SFs 1040, 1116, 2358, context 10543), a hairpin (**Cat. No. 281**) and two hairpin stem fragments, an L-shaped lift key (**Cat. No. 379**), a pair of shears (**Cat. No. 33**) and a pole terret (**Cat. No. 62**). Finds from 10738 include one Anglo-Saxon type hairpin (**Cat. No. 289**) and some casting waste in the form of a silver casting header and a silver droplet (SF 1258, 1253, context 10738) and copper alloy droplet (SF 1254, context 10738) (Table 5.30 below).

It should be noted that among the finds from associated contexts are objects from context 12986 (metal detector finds from within the former sewage works on the west side of the Roman road opposite Area G), which seem to have been part of the spread of votive material to the north of the main shrine. The finds include five plain finger rings, a deliberately broken sewing needle (**Cat.No.40**) and two pairs of tweezers, one pair deliberately damaged (**Cat.No.319**). However the finds also include a small strap tag (**Cat.No.111**) of medieval type, dating to the late 13th or early 14th century or later.

### Distribution of the finds in the settlement and shrine

Discussion of finds within their specific contexts (eg buildings, ditches etc.) can be found within the archaeological description in Chapter 4, while an overview of finds distribution in terms of site development, functionality, ritual practice and social status is dealt with in Chapter 7. Here it is just worth noting the main overall distribution pattern of finds within the site, as illustrated in Figure 5.19 (note that Area G finds are not represented). The most obvious point of note is the much greater density of finds within the shrine area when compared with the settlement as a whole, which is

Between Villa and Town

Table 5.21 Summary quantification of personal items by context group, type and material\*

Context Group	Identification	Material							Totals
		ag	ag/pb	bone	cu	fe	jet	shale	
Metal detecting	Armlet				2				2
	Brooch, bow				2				2
	Brooch, bow unidentified				1				1
	Finger ring				3				3
	Hairpin			1	1				2
	Hairpin fragment			1			1		2
	Tweezers				2				2
	Mount				1				1
	Stylus				1				1
Sub Total				2	13		1		16
Settlement	Armlet				6	1		1	9
	Armlet fragment				2				2
	Brooch, bow				10	1			11
	Brooch pin					1			1
	Brooch, plate				1				1
	Finger ring				9	1			10
	Hairpin			8	3				11
	Hairpin fragment			9	2				11
	Pin fragment				2				2
	Decorative plate				1				1
	Stud				1				1
	Ligula				3				3
	Tweezers				4				4
	Seal box				1				1
	Stylus						1		1
Sub Total				17	45	5		1	68
Shrine	Armlet				4	10			14
	Armlet fragment					8			8
	Bead		1						1
	Brooch, bow				8	42			50
	Brooch, bow unidentified					1			1
	Brooch pin				10	3			13
	Brooch spring					4			4
	Brooch, plate				2				2
	Finger ring	1			52	11			64
	Hairpin			9	1				10
	Hairpin fragment			11	4				15
	Fungiform stud				2				2
	Ligula				4	1			5
	Ligula?					1			1
	Mirror				1				1
	Seal box				2				2
	Stylus						2		2
Sub Total		1	1	20	90	83			195
Shrine associated	Armlet				3	5			8
	Armlet fragment				1				1
	Brooch, bow				19	4			23
	Brooch, bow unidentified				2	2			4
	Brooch pin				1				1
	Brooch spring					1			1
Brooch, penannular					1			1	

Table 5.21 (continued) Summary quantification of personal items by context group, type and material

Context Group	Identification	Material							Totals
		ag	ag/pb	bone	cu	fe	jet	shale	
	Brooch, plate				1				1
	Finger ring				29	1			30
	Hairpin				6				6
	Hairpin fragment			1	1				2
	Pin fragment					2			2
	Buckle				1	1			2
	Buckle pin					1			1
	Strap end (medieval)				1				1
	Stud				1				1
	Nail cleaner				1				1
	Tweezers				4				4
	Seal box				1				1
Sub Total				1	71	18			90
Grand Total	1	1	40	219	106	1	1	369	

\* Excluding hobnails (see Table 5.24)

undoubtedly influenced by the deliberate deposition of objects as votive gifts, rather than as casual loss. Within the settlement, the finds scatter is quite dispersed, although there is a slightly higher concentration in and around buildings 10800, 10810 and especially 10820 and in the roadside ditch to the north of this group. This is probably in part due to the apparent longevity of occupation within these buildings, as indicated by the concentration of 4th-century coins (see King above). It is also noticeable that the overall finds concentration generally decreases with increased distance from the roadside buildings, as would be expected being further removed from the main zones of occupation. These 'backland' areas may have been small paddocks or horticultural plots (see Robinson, Chapter 6), and also contained a number of small cemeteries.

The finds from the shrine clearly show evidence for deliberate structured deposition, and this is discussed more fully in Chapter 7. The main focus of this deposition appears to have been located *c* 8 m north of the inner shrine entrance, but the spread of finds continues northwards, beyond the apparent northern boundary of the religious precinct. This may indicate the existence of further ritual foci along the western roadside area, which have left little or no archaeological trace.

#### Comparison between the settlement and shrine assemblages

Clearly the two assemblages are quite different, although the total number of finds from each part of the site is broadly comparable. The most obvious difference is that the shrine assemblage is dominated by personal items and in particular items of personal adornment (Table 5.21), with far fewer workaday

objects – tools, horse and cart gear, household items and so forth. However, it is not simply the case that there are more personal items in the shrine assemblage, as the differences go deeper.

#### Brooches

There are 11 bow brooches from the settlement, two from metal detector finds, 50 from the shrine deposit and 23 from contexts associated with the shrine. Clearly far more brooches come from the shrine deposit, but there is a more significant difference. Brooches from the settlement and metal detector finds comprise 12 copper alloy brooches and one iron brooch, whereas the finds from the shrine comprise eight copper alloy and 42 iron brooches. The finds from the contexts associated with the shrine break down differently, with 19 copper alloy and four iron brooches (Table 5.22). The iron brooches are almost all simple one-piece sprung brooches, the so-called 'Nauheim Derivative'. It is perhaps worth drawing attention to the comment by Simpson and Blance (1998, 268) that 'Nauheim Derivatives' were 'some of the commonest types (of brooch) found on temple sites'. In addition to the brooches there is only a single brooch fragment – a brooch pin – from the settlement contexts and metal detector finds. By contrast there are 17 fragments of brooch – comprising pin and spring fragments – and an unidentified bow from the shrine deposit. The difference in this instance may reflect a difference in collection strategy between settlement contexts and the shrine deposit, although it is tempting to see it as reflecting the presence of deliberately broken items in the shrine area. There are at least two brooches which have clearly been deliberately

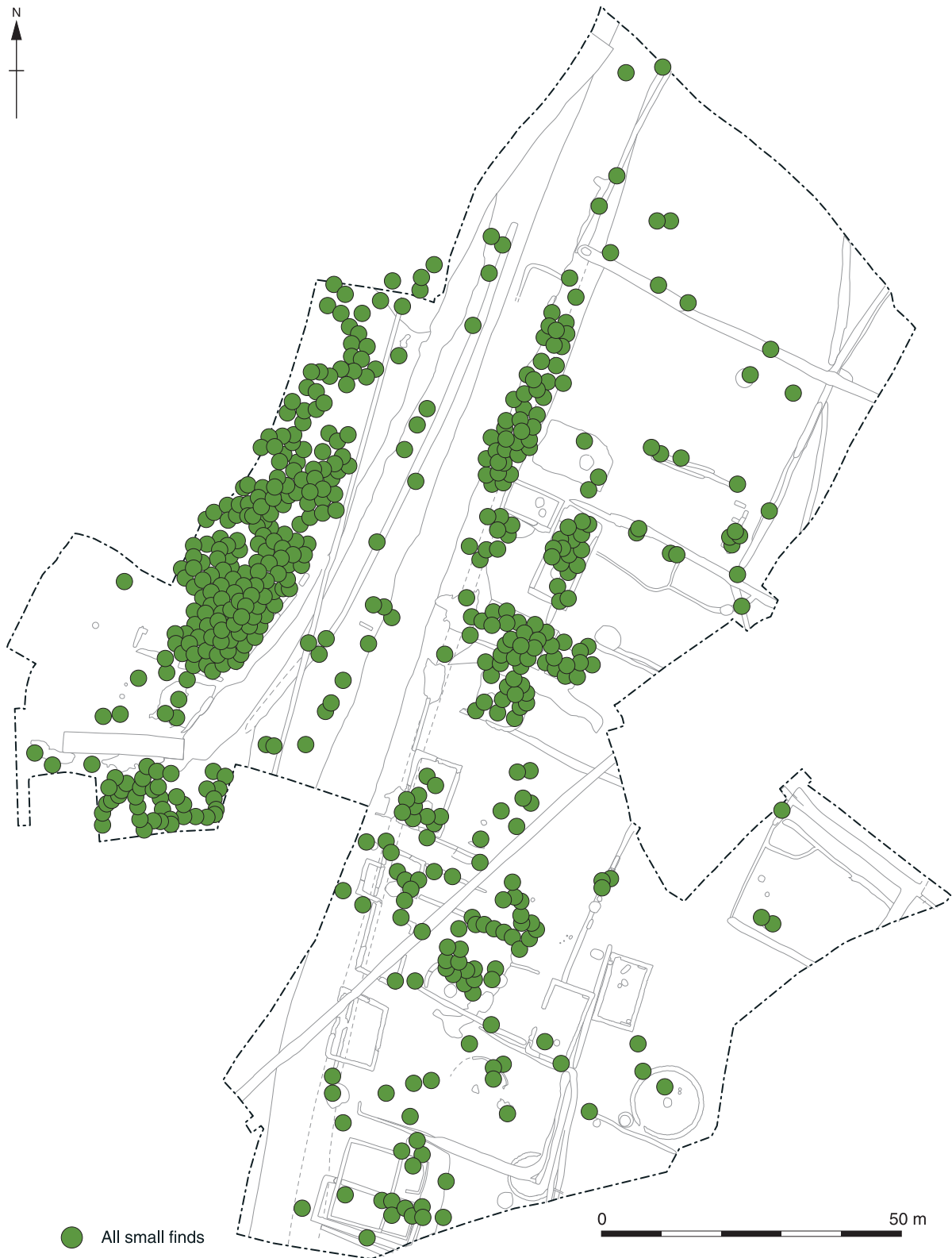


Fig. 5.19 Distribution of all finds (excluding coins) within the site

Chapter 5

Table 5.22 Summary of occurrence of brooches by type

a) Distribution of brooch types by context group

Brooch type	Date	Context Group				Totals
		shrine	shrine assoc	settlement	metal detector	
La Tène III brooch	early/mid 1 C				1	1
One piece sprung	1 C	30	6	1		37
One piece sprung ?	1 C	11				11
'Aucissa'	1 C		1			1
Fantail	1 C		1			1
One-piece Colchester	mid 1 C		2	1		3
Two-piece Colchester	mid 1 C		7	2		9
Hod Hill	mid 1 C	2	1			3
Dolphin	mid 1 C	1				1
Strip Bow, Early hinged	mid/late 1 C	2				2
T-shaped	1 - 2 C	4	2	5		11
Polden Hill	late 1 C - 2 C		1			1
Headstud	late 1 C - 2 C		1			1
Trumpet headed	late 1 C - 2 C		1	1		2
Knee	late 2 C - 3 C			1	1	2
Plate brooch		2	1	1		4
Penannular brooch			1			1
Total identified brooches		52	25	12	2	
unidentified bows		1	4		1	6
pin and spring fragments		17	2	1		20
Total fragments		18	6	1	1	
Totals		70	31	14	3	117

b) Distribution of brooches by type and phase

Brooch type	Date	Phase				Totals
		4	4 to 5	5	unph	
La Tène III	early/ mid 1 C			1		1
One-piece sprung	1 C	37				37
One-piece sprung ?	1 C	11				11
Aucissa	1 C	1				1
Fantail	1 C	1				1
One-piece Colchester	mid 1 C	1	1	1		3
Two-piece Colchester	mid 1 C	6	1	1	1	9
Hod Hill	mid 1 C	3				3
Dolphin	mid 1 C	1				1
Strip Bow, Early hinged	mid/late 1 C	2				2
T-shaped	1 - 2 C	7		1	3	11
Polden Hill	late 1 C - 2 C	1				1
Headstud	late 1 C - 2 C	1				1
Trumpet headed	late 1 C - 2 C	2				2
Knee	late 2 C - 3 C			1	1	2
Plate brooch		3		1		4
Penannular		1				1
Total identified brooches		78	2	6	5	
unidentified bows		5			1	6
pin and spring fragments		19		1		20
Total fragments		24		1	1	
Phase Totals		102	2	7	6	26

broken or damaged (Cat. Nos 189-190). A pair of tweezers (Cat. No. 319) and a sewing needle (Cat. No. 40), both from context 12986 associated with the shrine, also appeared deliberately damaged. The ends of the tweezers had been bent back and twisted, and the needle had been broken in two.

Jundi and Hill (1998, 134) have suggested that the regular occurrence of brooches in the archaeological record marks a change in attitudes to self. Firstly we see the sudden increase in the numbers of brooches in the archaeological record of the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Hill's so-called 'Fibula event horizon') and then over the succeeding centuries we see increasingly decorative brooches coming into use, such as the 3rd-century copper alloy oval disc-brooch, ornamented in enamel and with an intaglio depicting a male head, found within the shrine (Cat. No. 205). Jundi and Hill (*ibid.*) argue that this marks an increasing awareness of self and a desire to express this through display. This is a perfectly reasonable argument, but if it is accepted we then have to explain why the Higham Ferrers shrine brooches are predominantly early, very simple plain sprung forms, and mostly made of iron.

The shrine deposit is dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries on the basis of coins and pottery. The brooches from the shrine are almost exclusively 1st-century forms (Table 5.22), although two later forms are present in contexts adjacent to the shrine. One possible explanation for this is that the brooches are seen as purely symbolic, and therefore directly comparable with the miniature votive offerings often found at shrines. It was perhaps not necessary therefore to offer up the very latest and most decorative brooches as offerings to the gods. The fact that the majority of the brooches are plain simple forms may simply be a consequence of their early date, although it could be argued that it represents the worshippers' perception of themselves in relation to the gods. They may in their day-to-day dealings with others have wished to display their wealth, or to indicate how they viewed themselves or wished to be seen within local society, through the adoption of certain fashions, including the wearing of decorative brooches. It may be that in their relationships with the gods they showed more restraint or humility, or they may have assumed that the gods would know them and not be fooled by outward display. An alternative explanation may be that these early iron brooches were deliberately deposited as archaic offerings, with possible ancestral associations, as has been suggested for finds at a number of other Roman temple sites in southern Britain (Smith 2001, 156). There are for example a number of iron brooches from Lowbury Hill (Atkinson 1916, 34, pl VIII, 22-28).

Another possibility is that it is the material—the iron—from which they are made that makes them particularly appropriate as offerings to the gods. In recent years a number of scholars (for example Aldhouse-Green 2002; Dungworth 1998; and Hingley 1997) have argued that iron was a metal

with particular magical qualities, and therefore that it should be seen as having potentially ritual significance (Hingley 2006). Aldhouse-Green (2002, 16) has argued that the process of iron production is quite different from the production of other metals—copper alloy, gold, or silver—and that this set Iron Age and Roman blacksmiths apart from other metalworkers and 'imbued them with awe, mystique and fearful respect'. Smiths had a special status which is reflected in the evidence for smith gods (Leach 1962). Hingley (1997, 9) has noted the distinctive nature of iron production, 'a mystical process during which rocks were converted into powerful cultural artefacts', and has argued that the process in the Iron Age at least was associated with the idea of regeneration (*ibid.*, 10-13). The argument as presented is not entirely convincing, as while it is undoubtedly true that a number of significant iron objects have been found in hoards and ritual deposits (*ibid.*, 13-16; Hingley 2006 *passim*), it is questionable whether it is the material—the iron—or the specific objects—currency bars, swords, sickles, and so forth—which are being offered to the gods. It seems most likely that it is the object that is significant rather than the material, especially as models of swords, spears, shields and axes, generally made of copper alloy, are found as votives at shrines and temples. Against this, Dungworth (1998) has argued that the metal is important, and has suggested that even objects as humble as nails have ritual significance. He cites the examples of the *clavus annalis* and *defixiones*. The *clavus annalis* was the annual ceremony held on 13th September in Republican Rome when a nail was driven into the wall of the Temple of Jupiter as a protection against plague. The religious and ritual significance of the act is clear and the use of the nails unequivocal. *Defixiones*, or curse tablets may well have been nailed up at shrines and temples in order to gain the gods' attention, but it is at least arguable that it is the tablet with the curse that is significant, and the nail is merely the means to fix the tablets. At Higham Ferrers, good numbers of both wood nails and hobnails were recovered from the shrine deposit, and it is argued that these were used to fasten curse tablets and prayers, and does not mean that the nails had any religious significance in themselves.

Although it is tempting to see magical or ritual significance in the strong representation of iron brooches, there remains a suspicion that in reality the reason is more prosaic. Iron brooches of simple sprung bow type were a relatively common form of early brooch and their presence in the shrine assemblage perhaps reflects this fact.

*Higham Ferrers, Stanwick and Redlands Farm brooch assemblages compared*

It is instructive to compare the brooch assemblage from Higham Ferrers with the assemblages from the villas at Stanwick (Table 5.23) and Redlands Farm. Just over 170 identifiable brooches were recovered in the excavations on the large villa at Stanwick

(Olivier, nd). Of these 129 are bow brooches, 25 penannulars and 19 plate brooches. Although the majority of the bow brooches are of 1st-century date, there are later brooches including a crossbow brooch. The big difference between the assemblages is that almost all the Stanwick brooches are copper

Table 5.23 Summary quantification of brooches from Stanwick (Raunds Area Project Iron Age and Romano-British Project)\*

Type	Date range	Count
la Tène III	mid 3rd – 2nd C BC	2
Augenfibel	early 1st C AD	1
Langton Down	[early 1st C AD]	4
Birdlip	[1st C AD]	2
British	1st C AD	17
Colchester	1st C AD	16
Colchester transitional	1st C AD	1
Polden Hill	1st C AD	4
Ribbon bow	1st C AD	1
Simple Gaulish	1st C AD	4
Thistle	1st C AD	3
Wire bow (fe)	1st C AD	1
Aucissa	mid 1st C AD	4
Dolphin	mid 1st C AD	13
Segmented bow	mid 1st AD	1
Hod Hill related	mid to late 1st C AD	10
Rosette	mid-late 1st C AD	1
Colchester derivative	late 1st C AD	18
Fantail	late 1st C AD	1
Bow-and-fantail	late 1st-early 2nd C AD	2
T-shaped	late 1st – mid 2nd C AD	11
Trumpet	1st – late 2nd AD	4
Zoomorphic	2nd C AD	3
Knee	late 2nd C AD	3
P-shaped	2nd – 3rd C AD	1
Crossbow standard form	3rd – 4th C AD	1
Penannular Type A3	1st C BC- 1st C AD	1
Penannular Type B1	1st C BC- 1st C AD	1
Penannular Type C	1st C BC- 1st C AD	18
Penannular Type D	1st C BC- 2nd/3rd C AD	1
Penannular Type D5	1st – 2nd C AD	3
Penannular Type D7	5th C AD	1
Plate, wheel	mid – late 1st C AD	2
Plate, umbonate	late 1st – late 2nd C AD	1
Tutulus	[1st – 3rd C AD]	1
Disc flat	2nd C AD	4
Moulded disc	2nd C AD	2
Plate, equal-ended	2nd C AD	2
Plate, lozenge repoussé	2nd C AD	1
Plate, gilded spoke disc	2nd – 3rd C AD	1
Plate, oval	2nd – 3rd C AD	3
Plate, round	early 3rd – early 4th C AD	1
Plate, unusual	-	1
Total		173

\* Based on assessment and dating by Adrian Olivier (in Central Archaeological Service, n.d., Appendix 3J)

alloy. Only one brooch – a wire bow – is explicitly noted as being of iron. The quality of the Stanwick assemblage in terms of the numbers and variety of types of brooches is arguably higher than the Higham Ferrers assemblage. The contrast is all the greater if we exclude from consideration the brooches from the shrine deposit at Higham Ferrers. Since it is argued that they are votives, these brooches are a special case and do not necessarily reflect directly the wealth and status of the settlement site and its inhabitants.

The small size of the remaining assemblage from settlement contexts and the more limited range of brooches it comprises contrast with the Stanwick collection. This clearly reflects the difference in status between a roadside settlement such as Higham Ferrers, and a large villa such as Stanwick.

By contrast the brooch assemblage from the Redlands Farm villa, sited only a few miles from Higham Ferrers, is much less impressive and includes only six brooches, comprising three disc brooches, a sawfish brooch, a rare enamelled axe brooch and a spring fragment from a brooch. The limited number of metal finds in general may reflect the status of this small rural 'villa'.

#### *Finger Rings by I R Scott and M Henig*

A total of 108 finger rings was recovered from the investigations at Higham Ferrers (Table 5.24). As with the brooches the majority of finger rings come from the shrine deposit (n=64) and associated deposits (n=30). There are eight finger rings from settlement Phase 5 contexts and none from Phase 4. The metal detector finds included three finger rings, of which only one could be assigned to a phase. The disparity between the shrine deposits and other deposits is even more marked than with brooches, which is probably because most of the finger rings were contemporary in date with the main use of the shrine.

Despite the fact that iron finger rings are generally quite well represented in the archaeological record, at Higham Ferrers they are almost totally absent. This absence would seem to argue against the proposition that iron had particular significance as a votive material (see brooches above).

The finger rings can be divided broadly into three groups; decorative or 'trinket rings' with bezels and other decorative features (**Cat Nos. 241-261**), plain rings comprising a simple band, in a few instances with some decorative treatment (**Cat. Nos 262-269, 275-276**) and six rings made from wire (**Cat. No. 277**), including one possible ring of silver wire. Many of the rings are so-called 'votive rings' which are 'simple flat rings', and appear to be simple castings possibly made in one piece moulds (**Cat. Nos 270-272**). There are four rings of sub-square section which fall into the same category (**Cat. Nos 273-274**). These are comparable to rings found at Uley (Bayley and Woodward 1993), which were interpreted there as votive objects, perhaps 'votive

Table 5.24 Summary of occurrence of finger rings by metal, type, context group and phase

Metal	Ring Type	metal detector finds			Phase 5	settlement			shrine	
		Phase 5	unph	Total		unph	u/s	Total	Phase 4	Total
Silver	Wire hoop								1	1
Sub Total									1	1
Cu alloy	Decorative/Trinket rings				5	1	2	8	1	1
	Flat grooved				1			1		
	Barley sugar twist								3	3
	Simple circular	1	1	2					13	13
	Simple circular, patterned								4	4
	Simple flat		1	1					24	24
	Simple sub-square								1	1
	Simple triangular								1	1
	Strip hoop				1			1	1	1
	Strip hoop, patterned									
	Wire hoop								3	3
	Twisted wire hoop								1	1
	Sub Total		1	2	3	7	1	2	10	52
Iron	Decorative/Trinket rings				1			1	10	10
Sub Total					1			1	11	11
Totals		1	2	3	8	1	2	11	64	64

money', and were thought to have been made on site. The Higham Ferrers examples differ in detail from the examples found at Uley, but are clearly similar in a number of ways; they are basically flat, undecorated and mass-produced in simple moulds. They differ in that the Higham Ferrers rings appear to be of one type and are uniform in size, whereas at Uley a number of clear sub-types were found, and the rings varied markedly in diameter.

The 'trinket rings' from Higham Ferrers comprise a fairly consistent group of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. None is of precious metal and such rings will not have belonged for the most part to individuals of high status. A few of the rings contain intaglios (only one a cut stone, very simply engraved), showing that the use of signet rings had trickled down to the lower ranks of society.

### Bracelets

The number of bracelets and bracelet fragments within the assemblage is 43, of which 24 are of iron. There are two copper alloy bracelets found by metal detector. Ten bracelets are from settlement contexts, nine of copper alloy (one a fragment), and one of iron. By contrast, there are six iron bracelets and 12 iron bracelet fragments, and only four copper alloy bracelets from the shrine deposit. The contexts associated with the shrine produced two copper alloy bracelets, one copper alloy fragment and five iron bracelets. There is a clear association of iron

bracelets and the shrine, and a clear distinction between the settlement and shrine finds. Unlike the brooches, which are predominantly of early date, the bracelets are mainly late in date, with the exception of three earlier bracelets, or armlets (Cat. Nos 210-212).

### Copper alloy and bone hairpins

There are eleven copper alloy hairpins (Cat. Nos 279-288) and six hairpin stem fragments, and 18 bone hairpins (Cat. Nos 290-307) and 23 hairpin stem fragments. In addition there is a copper alloy hairpin of Anglo-Saxon type (Cat. No. 289) from rubble over the shrine platform.

The ten copper alloy pins include five (Cat. Nos 281-285) that can be assigned to Cool's groups 1-3, none of which can be closely dated within the Roman period (Cool 1990, 151-54 and figs 1-3). Another example (Cat. No. 286) belongs to Group 6 and is datable to the late 1st or early 2nd century. Group 6 hairpins are found in East Anglia and spread towards the West Country, what Cool has termed the 'Jurassic ridge distribution' (1990, 175 and fig. 15). Six copper alloy hairpins, including the Anglo-Saxon pin and a single stem fragment, are from shrine-associated contexts. The settlement has produced three hairpins, including one from Area G, and one stem fragment, while only one hairpin and four stem fragments came from the shrine deposit.



Phase 4	shrine associated contexts		Totals
	Phase 4 to 5	Total	
			1
			1
2		2	11
			1
			3
9	2	11	26
			4
7	2	9	34
2	1	3	4
			1
			2
1	1	2	2
2		2	5
			1
23	6	29	94
1		1	12
1		1	13
24	6	30	108

The majority (10) of the bone hairpins are Crummy's Type 2, that is pins with simple conical heads and transverse grooves forming crude mouldings. These range in date from the mid 1st century to the end of the 2nd century (Crummy 1983, 21). Seven come from the shrine deposits and three from the settlement. Crummy Type 3 hairpins have spherical or near spherical heads, and these do not seem to occur much before the end of the 2nd century. They continue in use until the end of the Roman period. Only one example comes from the shrine and two examples from the settlement. The remaining hairpins are not closely datable. Of the 40 pins and stem fragments, 20 are from the shrine, 17 from the settlement, two from metal detecting, and one from a context associated with the shrine.

The impression is that hairpins are fairly evenly divided between settlement and shrine, with no marked disparity in the numbers, although six of the copper alloy hairpins were recovered from contexts associated with the shrine, but only one from the shrine itself. However, nine bone pins and eleven stem fragments were recovered from the shrine deposits, compared to eight pins and nine fragments from the settlement. Overall, there are slightly more pins and fragments of hairpins from the shrine and associated contexts than from the settlement. Similar numbers of pins (27) were found at Uley (Woodward and Leach 1993, 168-71 and fig. 131) and at Lowbury Hill (Atkinson 1916, 42-3, and pls XII and XVII), with *c* 10 copper alloy and 15

bone examples. By contrast large numbers of hairpins were found at Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, 201 and fig. 82, 10-26; and 216, fig. 93, 1-20) (63 copper alloy and 75 bone) and especially at Lydney (Woodward and Leach 1993, table 20 record 320 metal and 3 jet pins).

### Toilet items

The settlement produced three ligulae (Cat. Nos 322, 327-328) and four pairs of tweezers (Cat. Nos 310, 313, 315, 317), while the metal detector finds include two pairs of tweezers (Cat. Nos 311-312). The shrine assemblage includes four copper alloy ligulae (Cat. Nos 323-326), one certain (Cat. No. 321) and one possible iron ligula (Cat. No. 320), and a mirror fragment (Cat. No. 308). There were no tweezers from the shrine deposits. The contexts associated with the shrine produced four pairs of tweezers (Cat. Nos 314, 316, 318-319) and a nail cleaner (Cat. No. 309). Overall the number of toilet items is not large, but comparable to the assemblages from Nettleton (Wedlake 1982, 219, and fig. 94) (*n*=21) and Harlow (Gobel 1985a, 82 and fig. 42) (*n*=19). Uley has produced only a few toilet items (Woodward and Leach 1993, 177 and fig. 135; see also 332 and table 20).

Toilet items, like brooches and other items of adornment, point to a concern with self and presentation. They are first found in the late Iron Age (Hill 1997, 96) and continue in use through the Roman period. Nail cleaners, which form part of the toilet set from the Iron Age onwards, are a distinctive British object, with few coming from continental sites. For this reason the single nail cleaner from Higham Ferrers is of particular interest. Crummy and Eckhardt (2003) have recently discussed selected types of nail cleaner at some length, including the Baldock type as found at Higham Ferrers. The Baldock type nail cleaner was in use from the mid 1st century into the 2nd century. Its geographical distribution is limited to eastern parts of Britain with a concentration in Hertfordshire (*ibid.*, 55 and *illus.*4). Other types that Crummy and Eckhardt discuss also have limited distributions. This pattern of limited distributions of specific types may reflect a desire to assert local identity against the invasive Roman culture. It is interesting that nail cleaners, which are found predominantly in the south of Britain, are rare on military sites, and are found particularly on rural sites and in small towns. They are less common in the large towns of southern Roman Britain. As a peculiarly British form they are not part of the empire-wide culture, but their use might be read as an assertion of local British culture and values. Higham Ferrers is just the kind of rural site/small town that should produce nail cleaners, although the single example recovered certainly cannot be used to suggest any specific 'anti-Roman' sentiment within the settlement. Baldock, occupied in the Iron Age and Roman periods has produced 13 nail cleaners (Stead and

Rigby 1986, 130 and fig. 56, 263, 277-78, 280-85). By way of comparison the probable shrine at Lowbury Hill (Atkinson 1916, pl XII, 30-31) produced two nail cleaners, Uley (Woodward and Leach 1993, 177, fig 135, 4-8) five examples and Harlow temple eight examples (Gobel 1985a, 82 and fig. 42, 1-7).

### Writing

Items relating to writing and literacy are relatively few in number. There is a single stylus (**Cat. No. 101**) and the body of a seal box (**Cat. No. 94**) from the settlement, and a stylus amongst the metal detector finds (**Cat. No. 98**). From the shrine deposit there are two seal box lids (**Cat. Nos 95-96**) and two styli (**Cat. Nos 99-100**). Another seal box lid was recovered from the contexts associated with the shrine deposit (**Cat. No. 97**). Although the number of objects is certainly not large, it is significant that five out of eight were recovered from the shrine area or related contexts. This may suggest that literacy—at least in this particular settlement—had some association with ritual practices, which is further suggested by the higher than normal incidence of graffiti noted on the pottery (see Timby above) and the inscribed lead sheet from the shrine (see Tomlin below). Literacy is discussed further in Chapter 7.

### Votive items

There were a number of objects which appear to have been made specifically as cult paraphernalia. The majority of these are from the shrine deposits as might be expected, although three votive leaf fragments (**Cat. Nos 88-89**) and a possible model shield (**Cat. No. 92**) came from the settlement, the latter probably a ritual deposit in the entranceway to building 11340. The bell, identified in the catalogue (**No. 68**) as a harness bell, came from context 11328 and therefore may more plausibly be seen as part of the regalia of the shrine. The votive items from the shrine (see above) included the large cult spearhead (**Cat. No. 80**), found near the northern perimeter, which clearly belongs to a well-known class of find, often associated with shrines. Perhaps the best known examples come from Osterburken and Ehl in the Rhineland on the Upper German *limes* (Austin and Rankov 1995, pl. 10). The so-called Benefiziarierlanze from Osterburken was found in the 'sacred precinct' with a collection of 25 altars set up by beneficiarii (Schallmayer 1984; 1986; Schallmayer *et al.* 1990). The head is long and elaborate in construction, with more than one material used. The Ehl Benefiziarierlanze is a good parallel for the form (Ritterling 1919; Waurick 1971; and also Bishop and Coulston, 1993, fig. 84, 13). Both the Osterburken and Ehl heads are composite, with decorative features in contrasting materials. It is very possible that the Higham Ferrers head had bone or copper alloy embellishments, perhaps with decorative inserts in the smaller holes on the blade, and possibly copper alloy bindings around some of its margins.

The link between elaborate spearheads such as those from Osterburken and Wiesbaden and the beneficiarii, may be justified, in the case of Osterburken, on the grounds that the altars found in the shrine were dedicated by beneficiarii (see the discussion by Eibl 1994). Less elaborate, but nonetheless special, spearheads are known in Britain, such as that found a 4th-century floor surface in 'the magazine adjacent to the basilica exercitatoria (XIX)' at Caerleon, but which Boon thought earlier in date. (Boon 1972, 67, note 254 and fig. 38). The Caerleon example is a silver standard point or beneficiarius spearhead, although Boon suggested that this object was a signum head rather than a beneficiarius spearhead, because of the lack of slots and holes (cf. Trajan's Column: Lepper and Frere 1988, pl. xx, scene XXVI; pl. xcvi, scene CXXVIII). A comparable iron signum-, or lance-, head was found at Künzing on the Danube and comes from the mid 3rd-century hoard (Herrmann 1969, fig. 4.10 and also Bishop and Coulston, 1993, fig. 84.14). A similar signum head is shown on a late 1st-century relief possibly showing Praetorians and now in the Palazzo della Cancelleria (Waurick 1983, Taf. 54, 3). A spearhead from Niederbieber (Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, Acc.No. 31785) could be a military signum, or a cult spear. It has a broad blade round at the bottom and pierced by two large holes. The point is missing. The interesting features are the offset socket which joins one face of the spearhead, and the curved cross section of the blade. This supports the idea that this object is a cult spear rather than a military insignia.

Generally, military insignia can be distinguished from the spearheads found on temple and shrine sites such as Lowbury Hill (Atkinson 1916, pl XIV, 8-10; also Fulford and Rippon 1994, 177-179), Brigstock (Greenfield 1963, 243, fig. 5, 4-5 and pl. XXXVIII, c and e (copper alloy); and *ibid.* 249, fig. 7, 6-8 (iron)) and Wittenham Clumps (WA 2004, 25). A 'ceremonial object' with holes was actually recovered from the River Nene near Peterborough (Green 1975). Many of these objects have piercings and rings and could serve as 'rattles', such as the examples from Moorgate Street, London (Wheeler, 1930, 108, pl. XLVII, 1-3).

The association between elaborate spearheads, such as that from Osterburken, and now the example from Higham Ferrers, on one hand and shrines on the other is a key factor. The Higham Ferrers example, and almost certainly the Osterburken example, are cult objects, part of the paraphernalia of the shrine, not military badges of office. Further example of 'special' spearheads associated with shrines come from Mainz in Germany, where a shrine to Mars Leucetius produced a number of votive spear heads (Klein 1999), and simple examples come from shrines at Lowbury Hill, Oxon and Brigstock, Northants, mentioned above.

In addition to the ceremonial spearhead, excavations also recovered a possible model spearhead in

iron (**Cat. No. 93**). Spears, along with axes, are the most common form of miniature weapons to be found on Roman period temple sites (eg Uley: Henig 1993a, 131; Lamyatt Beacon: Leech 1986; Woodeaton: Bagnall-Smith 1999, 150-2) though none may have had strictly military associations, as spears may equally have been associated with hunting.

Five fragments of copper alloy votive leaf (**Cat. Nos 83-87**) were the final objects of a specific ritual nature to have been recovered from the shrine, and may have been used as votive gifts in themselves or may have been part of ceremonial dress. As with the model spears, they are not uncommon finds on temples within southern Britain, being recorded on at least 13 such sites (Smith 2001, 155).

#### *The lead sheets by Roger Tomlin*

Eight scraps of lead sheet of varying size and thickness were found within the shrine, and were unfolded and cleaned. Only one (1505) was found to be inscribed, on both sides. It is irregular in shape and is probably a fragment. The writing is illegible, and may not have been meaningful.

On one side there are at least two texts – the first lightly incised with a stylus, apparent Roman cursive letters; overlying it were deeply incised straight strokes, somewhat resembling Roman capitals, but perhaps including deletions. On the other side, there are similar deeply incised straight strokes, again somewhat resembling Roman capitals. The axis of writing seems different, however, and there is no obvious pattern to it. Individual letters can be identified, but no words or sense, although it does not seem to be a ‘pseudo-text’, scribble intended to look like writing.

#### *Other classes of material*

Although the key components of the shrine assemblage are the votive objects and the personal items, which are interpreted as objects offered to the gods, there are other finds which need to be briefly considered. The presence of a shield boss (**Cat. No. 2**) in the shrine deposit may be slightly unexpected, although the tradition of offering military items at sacred sites is certainly known from a number of temples across Britain and the continent (Smith 2001, 156). In many of the sanctuary complexes of northern Gaul for example, shield bosses were relatively common votive finds (Derks 1998 50), while in Britain shield parts have been found at the temples of Harlow (Bartlett 1988, 166), Hayling Island (Downey *et al.* 1980, 293) and Nettleton (Wedlake 1982 20), with model shields at Frilford (Bagnall-Smith 1995, 198) and Worth (Klein 1928, 81). Whether the shield boss at Higham Ferrers was originally attached to a shield or not remains unknown.

Unexpectedly there are more tools or craft items from the shrine deposit (24) than from the settlement (15), but these figures are misleading: the

shrine figures are dominated by nine ox goads (**Cat. Nos 12-20**) and seven needles or needle fragments (**Cat. Nos 34-38, 41-42**). There are also five ox goads (**Cat. Nos 21-23, 25-26**) and two needles (**Cat. Nos 40-43**) from the shrine associated contexts. From settlement contexts there are just two ox goads (**Cat. Nos 24, 27**) and two needles (**Cat. Nos 36, 42**). Although ox-goads are functional objects, it should be noted that six complete goads and one fragment were found at Lowbury Hill (Atkinson 1916, 52 no.38 and pl. xv, 17-18), and that therefore a votive role for such objects cannot be ruled out. Household items, door fittings and locks and keys come mainly from settlement contexts, while structural items are evenly distributed between shrine and settlement.

The main distinctions between the shrine and settlement assemblages are marked by the numbers of specifically votive items from the shrine deposit, and by the numbers of personal items. In addition there is a clear selection of certain types of item – early iron brooches, finger rings and bracelets in particular – as offerings to the gods.

#### **Small finds catalogue** (Figs 5.20-47)

##### **Weapons** (Fig. 5.20)

1. **Sword scabbard slide**. 2nd-3rd century. Cu alloy. L 60 mm. Context 10547, area of buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1653. Ph 5. In general see Oldenstein 1976, 95-101, 241-42 and Taf. 12-13.
2. **Shield boss** with shallow oval dome, c 37 mm deep and 110 mm x 106 mm. Fe. L 150 mm, W 115 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1478. Ph 4.

##### **Tools** (Fig. 5.21-23)

###### *Smithing Tools* (Fig. 5.21)

3. **Smith's or mason's chisel**. Fe. L 142 mm. Context 12676, building 10830, SF 2776. Ph 5.
4. **Small cross pane hammer**. Fe. L 62 mm, W 13 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2391. Ph 4.
5. **Hammerhead** fragment, with oval eye flanked by small flanges. Fe. L 47 mm, W 36 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2431. Ph 4.
6. Possible **punch**. Fe. L 74 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1898. Ph 4.

###### *Masonry tool* (Fig. 5.21)

7. **Mason's gad, or set**, with battered head. Fe. L 98 mm. Context 12835, building 10840, building 10840, SF 3075. Ph 5.

###### *Carpentry tools* (Fig. 5.21)

8. (*not illustrated*) **Awl or drill bit**. Fe. L 113 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1903. Unphased.
9. **Awl, or drill bit** fragment. Fe. L 113 mm. Context 11310, building 10870, SF 1473. Ph 5.
10. (*not illustrated*) **Awl, or punch**. Fe. L 62 mm. Context 12984, building 10820, SF -. Ph 5.
11. (*not illustrated*) **Chisel blade** fragment. Fe. L 55 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3056. Ph 4.

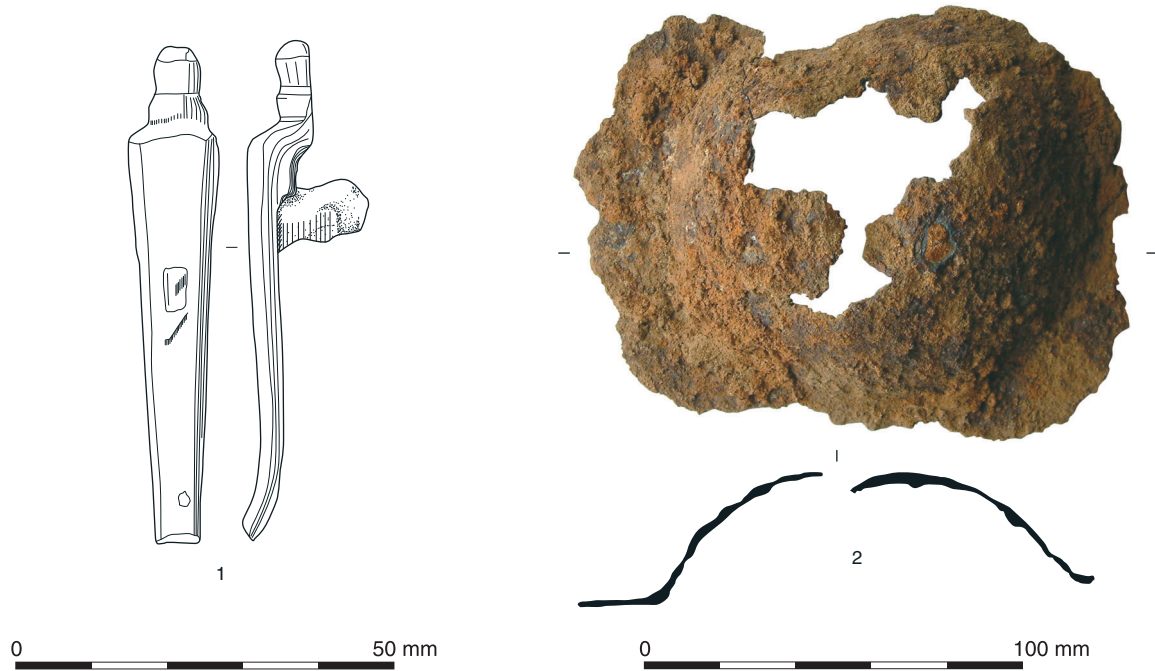


Fig. 5.20 Weapons

**Agricultural tools** (Fig. 5.21)

Ox goads

12. (not illustrated) **Ox-goad** with spiral socket. Fe. L 32 mm, D 14/15 mm, internal D 10/11 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2509. Ph 4.
13. **Ox-goad**. Fe. L 40 mm, D 16 mm, internal D 10 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2669. Ph 4.
14. **Ox-goad**. Fe. L 35 mm, D 19 mm, internal diameter 12 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1928. Ph 4.
- 15-17. (not illustrated) **Ox-goads** with spiral socket. Fe. L 25-31 mm, D 15-18 mm, internal D 8-13 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1979, 2038, 2071. Ph 4.
18. **Ox-goad**. Fe. L 37 mm, D 13 mm, internal D 7 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2121. Ph 4.
19. **Ox goad** with simple collar or plain socket. Fe. L 32 mm, D 13 mm, internal D 7/8 mm. Context 11771, shrine area, SF 1809. Ph 4.
20. **Ox goad**. Fe. L 25 mm, D 19/20 mm, internal D 12 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1850. Ph 4.
21. (not illustrated) **Ox-goad**. Fe. L 30 mm, D 22 mm, Internal D 16 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2496. Ph 4.
22. **Ox-goad**. Fe. L 32 mm, D 19 mm, internal D 12 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2614. Ph 4.
- 23-27 (not illustrated) **Ox-goads**. Fe. Context 12857, shrine foundation, Context 12434 colluvium west of shrine, (SF 2869, 2934), Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine, (SF 3124), Context 12942, ditch 12895. Ph 4.

*Spud, rakes, reaping hooks and shears*

28. (not illustrated) **Spud**, or **chisel**, socketed. Fe. L 178 mm, blade W 35mm, socket D 29 mm. Area G, Context 8048, well 8032. Ph 3-5.
29. **Rake tine**, with incomplete tang. Fe. L 94 mm. Context 12332, building 10820, SF 2680. Ph 5.

30. **Reaping hook** with reinforced back. Fe. L 155 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 2815. Ph 5.
31. Possible **sickle** or **reaping hook blade**. No extant tang or socket. Fe. L 82 mm. Context 11252, building 10870, SF 1435. Ph 5.
32. **Shears blade**. Fe. L 110 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, unstratified, SF 1178. Unphased.
33. **Shears blade**. Fe. L 174 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1045. Ph 4-5.

**Textile or leatherworking tools** (Fig. 5.22)

Needles

The needles are large and are more likely to be used for sewing leather than for tailoring. Cf needles from Vindonissa (Gansser-Burckhardt 1942, 20 and Abb. 9).

34. **Sewing needle**. Cu alloy. L 139 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1500. Ph 4.
35. **Sewing needle**. Cu alloy. L 133 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1640. Ph 4.
- 36-38. (not illustrated) **Sewing needle** fragments. Cu alloy. L 27-36 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2693, 2901, 2915. Ph 4.
39. **Sewing needle**. Cu alloy. L 121 mm. Context 12254, pit 12253, SF 2359. Ph 5.
40. (not illustrated) **Sewing needle**. Complete but deliberately bent and broken. Cu alloy. L (extant) 123 mm. Context 12986, SF 3212. Ph 4
- 41-43. (not illustrated) Possible **sewing needles**. Fe. L 24-58 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2055, 2084, Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2626. Ph 4.
44. **Sewing needle**. Bone. L 74 mm. Context 11327, building 10870, SF 1842. Ph 4.

**Net Weights**

- 45-6. (not illustrated) Possible **net weights**. Pb. D 17-20 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1501, 1564. Ph 4.



Fig. 5.21 Tools

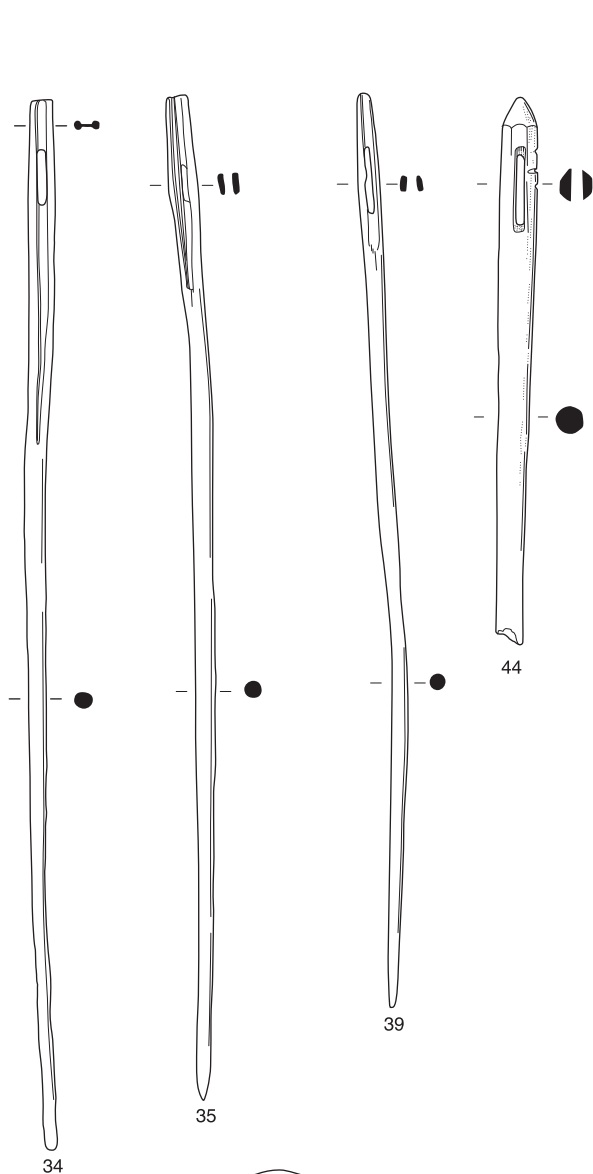


Fig. 5.22 Tools

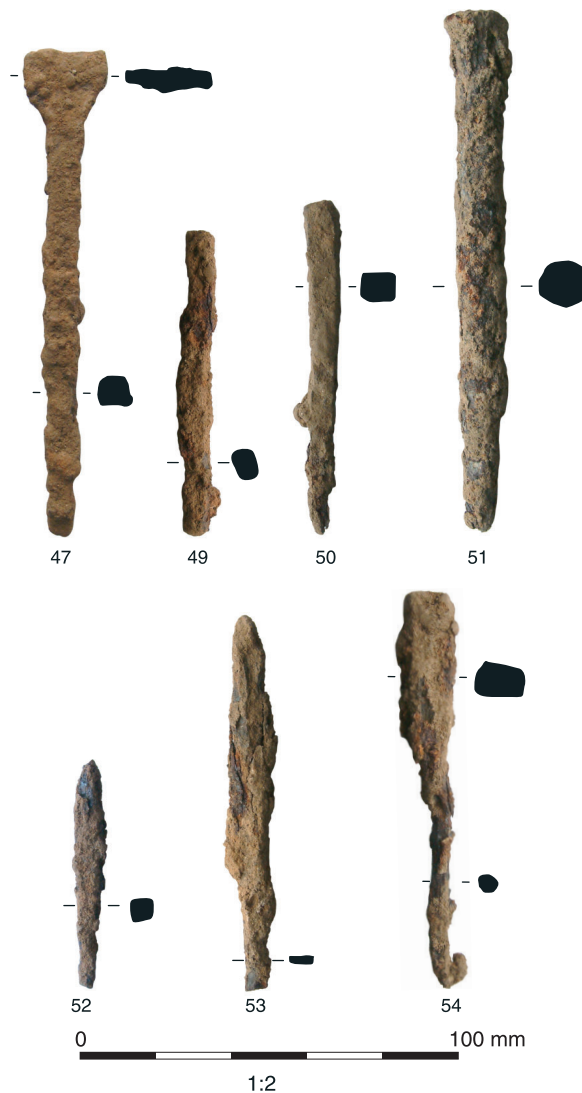
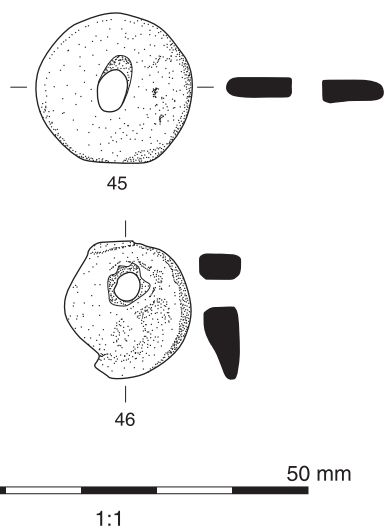


Fig. 5.23 Tools

*Tools of uncertain identification* (Fig. 5.23)

- 47. Possible **chisel**. Fe. L 128 mm, W 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1636. Ph 4.
- 48. (not illustrated) **Small chisel-like object**. Fe. L 60 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1740. Ph 4.
- 49. Possible **chisel blade**. Fe., L 79 mm. Context 11627, colluvium beneath shrine, SF 2300. Ph 4.
- 50. Possible **punch**, or spike, with possibly battered head. Fe. L 89 mm. Context 11153, buildings 10860 and 11370, SF 1594. Ph 5.
- 51. **Punch** with battered head. Fe. L 137 mm. Context 12472, ditch 12471, SF 2457. Ph 4.
- 52. Possible **awl** fragment. Fe. L 59 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2947. Ph 4.
- 53. Possible **awl**. Fe. L 99 mm. Context 12942, ditch 12895, SF -. Ph 4.

*Possible tool fragments*

- 54. Possible **tool** with solid handle and a thin stem hooked at the end. The hook is probably not original. Fe. L 105 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1073. Ph 5.

- 55. (not illustrated) **Rod handle**, possibly from a fire tool. Fe. L 200 mm. Context 11672, shrine area, SF 1776. Ph 4.
- 56. (not illustrated) Possible **tool fragment** of sub-rectangular section. Perhaps a piece of a drill bit. Fe. L 45 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1848. Ph 4.
- 57. (not illustrated) **Socket or ferrule**. Fe. L 80 mm, W 18 mm. Context 12835, building 10840, SF 3074. Ph 4.

**Transport and Trade** (Figs 5.24-6)

*Slave shackles* (Fig. 5.24)

See Thompson 1993 for an overview of so-called slave shackles.

- 58. **Slave shackle fragment**, terminating in rolled-over loops with small rings attached. Fe. L 85 mm, W 85 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3173. Ph 5.

The main loop with its U-profile is comparable to examples of shackles from Bengel, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany (Thompson 1993, illus. 72-3), Bavay, Nord, France (ibid., illus. 78) and Tournus, Saône-et-Loire, France (ibid., illus. 84). Unlike these shackles and other examples illustrated by Thompson, the Higham Ferrers example is permanently closed. It is possible that originally the shackle had just two rings, which were then secured by a barb spring padlock such as **Cat. No. 390** below, which is also from context 10507. This is how a

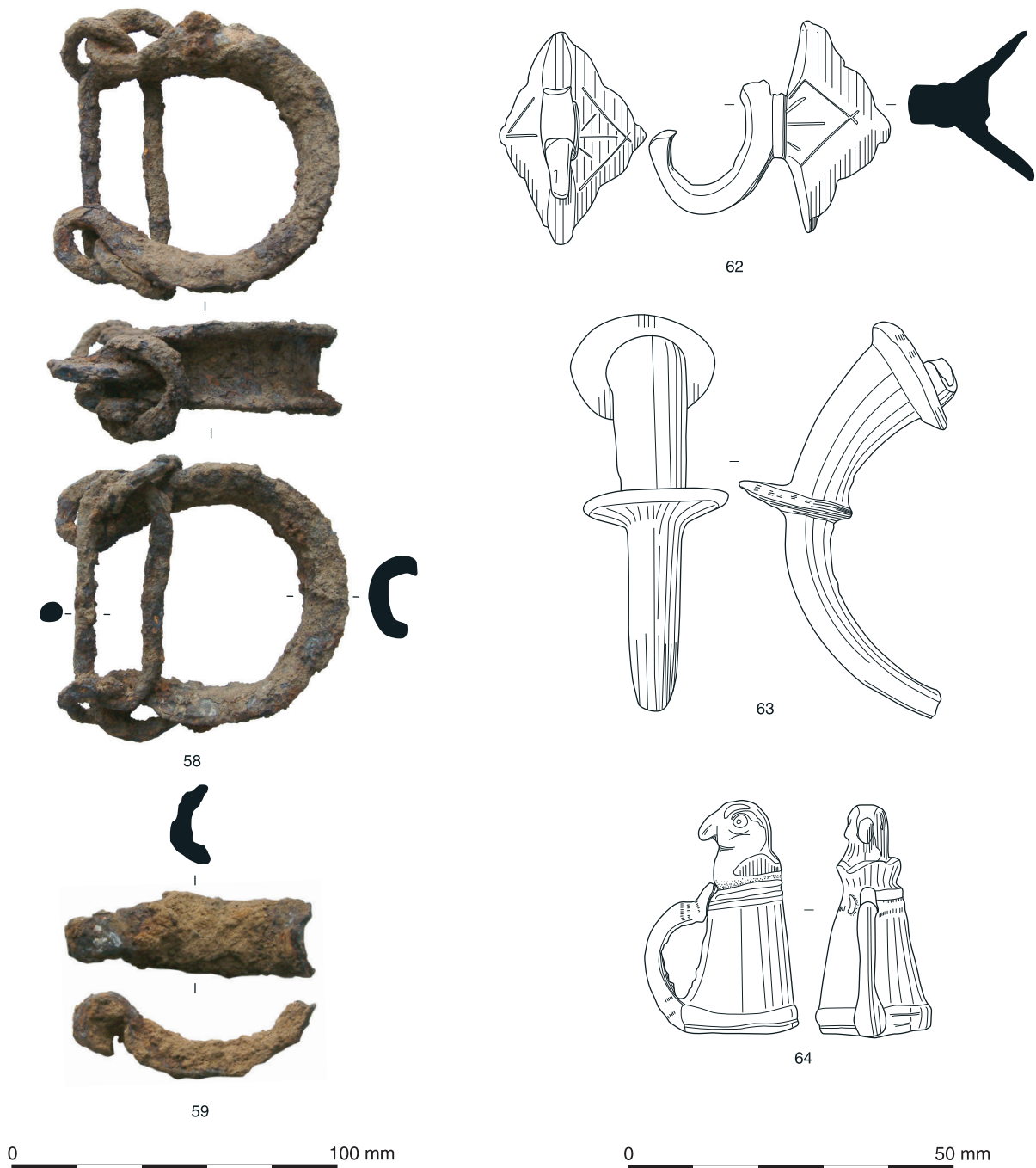


Fig. 5.24 Transport and trade

shackle from Sombornon, Côte d'Or, France (Thompson 1993, illus. 75) is closed.

59. **Slave shackle fragment** formed of curved strip of U-section, terminating in a rolled over loop at one end. Fe. L 85 mm. Context 10627, ditch 10855, SF 1343. Ph 4.

*Cart or Wagon fittings* (Fig. 5.24)

Transport

60. (not illustrated) **Looped peg**, or possible **linch pin**, with looped head. Fe. L 84 mm. Area G, Context 8095, building 8019. Ph 3-5.
61. (not illustrated) Possible **nave band** fragment. Fe. L 56 mm, W 45 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1630. Ph 4.

62. **Pole terret**, with decorative attachment plate, and iron nail. Cu alloy. L 34 mm, W 33 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1015. Ph 4-5.

63. **Terret ring** fragment. Cast. Cu alloy. L 55 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3116. Ph 4.

64. **Cast ferrule**, with single loop on one side. It has a possible eagle head at the closed end. Cu alloy. H 37 mm, D 19 x 20 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1103. Ph 5.

This is similar to eagle-headed mounts, which have been identified as cart or carriage fittings. Examples come from Cirencester and Colchester (Webster 1958, fig. 3, 37 and fig. 4, 68), and Chichester (Down, 1978, 296-97). Although smaller than these examples, and with a single loop rather

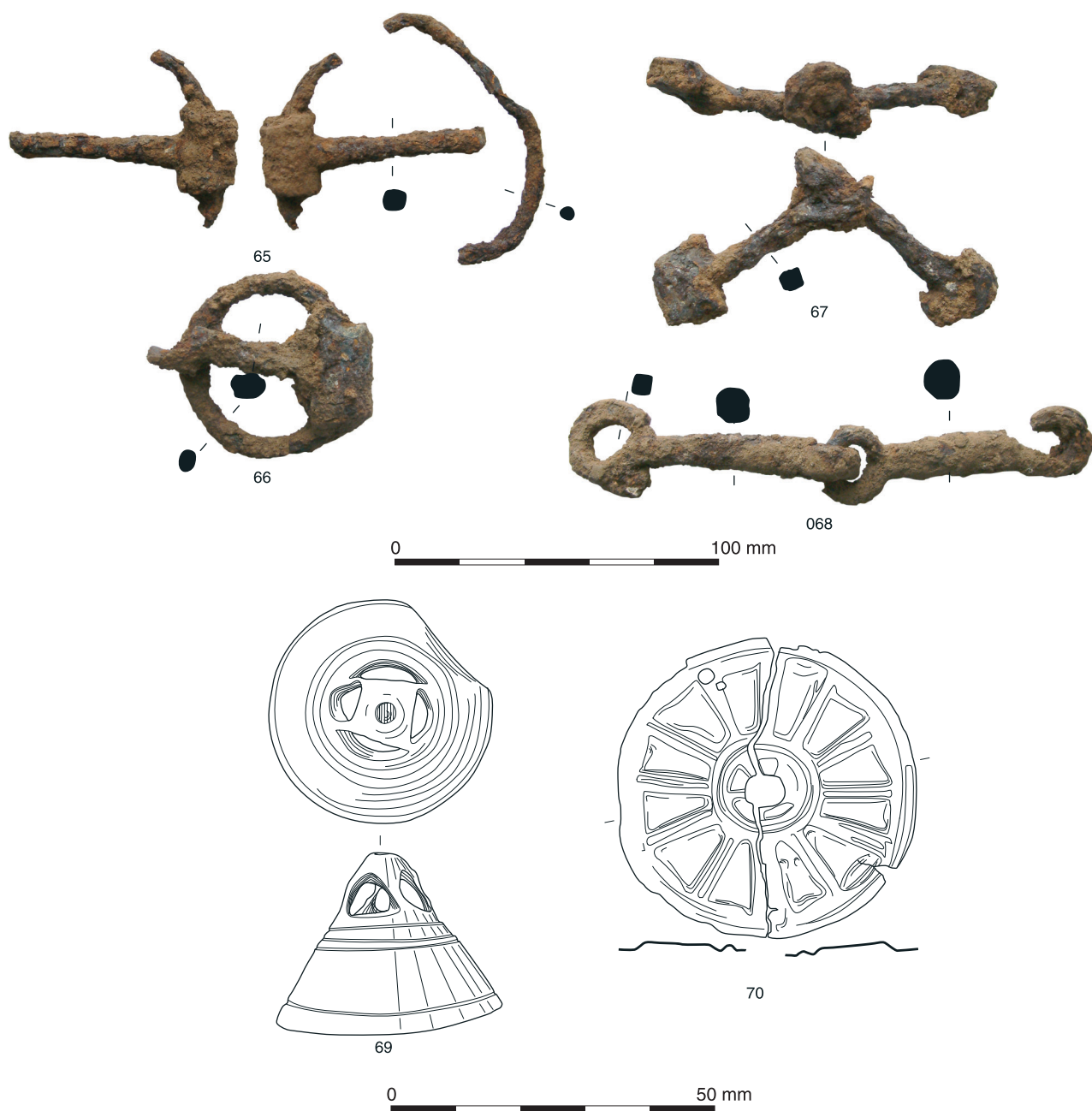


Fig. 5.25 Transport and trade



than an open hook, it nonetheless has clear affinities with them. Von Mercklin (1933) published a study of these and related decorative cart fittings, and illustrates at least one fitting with closed loops (*ibid.*, Abb. 26), as well as a range of fittings with single and double decorative hooks (eg. *ibid.*, Abb.21-25). The latter fittings are interpreted as mounts for securing the reins when the carriage or wagon is at rest. Although the Higham Ferrers piece could not have served this purpose, the closed loop piece could have served as guide for reins or more probably as a securing point for a strap.

#### Harness fittings (Fig. 5.25)

65. **Bridle bit fragments** comprising (1) part of mouth bar with fragment of side ring attached and (2) a broken distorted side ring. Fe. L (1) 70 mm; (2) 82 mm. Context 10507, deposit north of building 10800, SF 3174. Ph 5.
66. **Bridle bit fragment**, comprising one side ring with part of jointed mouth bar. Fe. L of bar 67 mm, D of ring 60 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1057. Ph 5.
67. **Jointed mouth bar** from bridle. Fe. L 105 mm. Context 10816, layer sealing Roman features, SF 1338. Ph 5.

68. **Jointed mouth bar** from a bridle bit. Fe. L 163 mm. Context 11007, building 10810, SF 1413. Ph 5.
69. Possibly **harness bell**. Tinned. Possibly had an iron clapper. Cu alloy, tinned. L 20 mm, W 25 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1492. Ph 4.
70. **Phalera or decorative circular plate** decorated by 12 lightly embossed radial segments and a slight outer border. Cu alloy. D 47 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1567. Ph 4.

#### Hipposandals (Fig. 5.26)

Although only the wings survive, it is fairly certain these fragments are from hipposandals of Aubert Type 1 with side wings and hooks front and back (see Manning 1985, fig. 16, 1), although they could be from Type 5 hipposandals which are only half the width of the hoof (*ibid.*, fig. 16, 5).

71. (*not illustrated*) **Hipposandal wing**. Fe. L 66 mm, W 57 mm. Context 10666, layer above metallated area to north-east of building 10820, SF -. Ph 5.
72. **Hipposandal wing**. Fe. L 72 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1545. Ph 4.
73. **Hipposandal wing**. Fe. L 65 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1579. Ph 4.

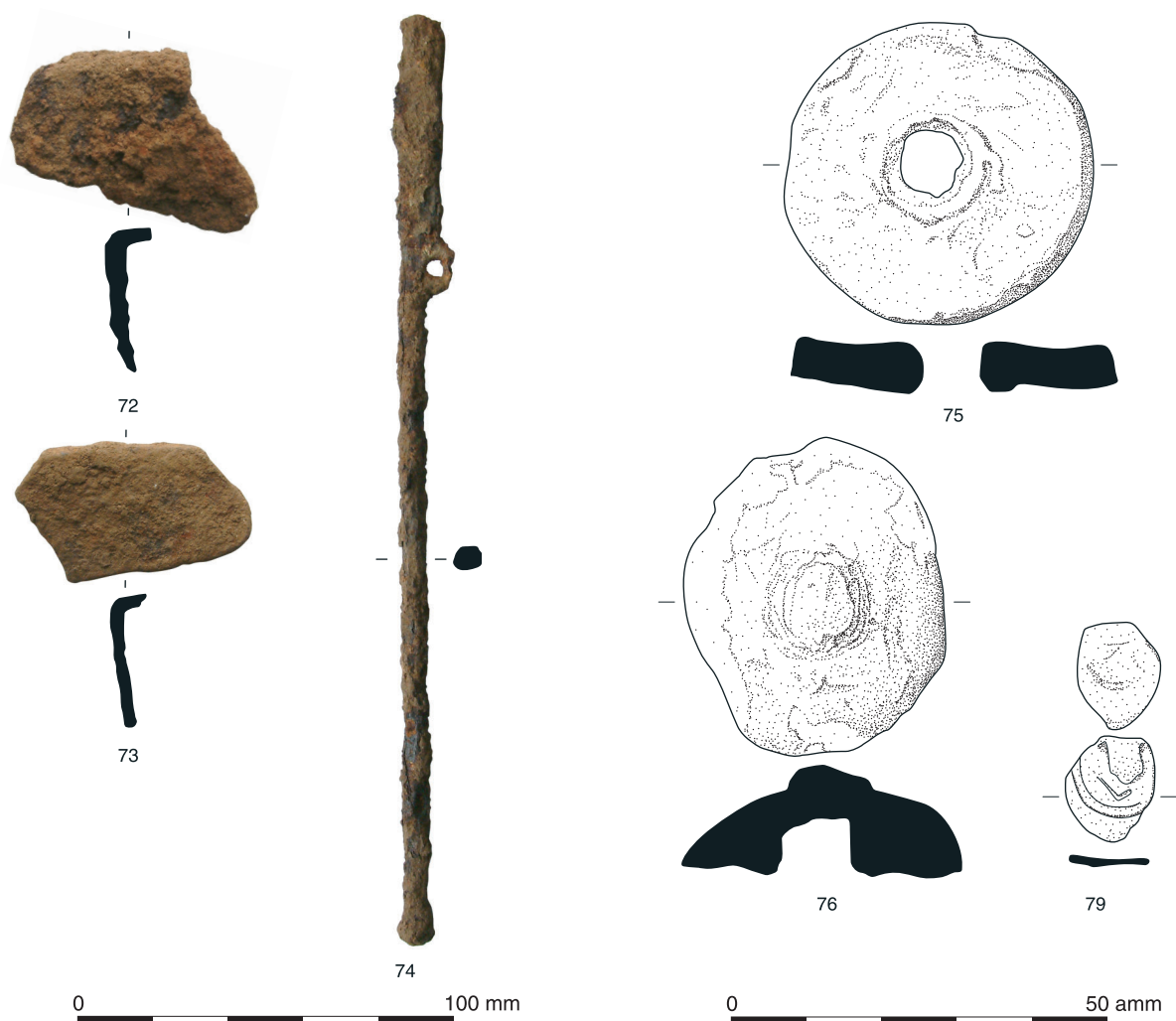


Fig. 5.26 Transport and trade

*Objects of measurement*

- 74. **Steelyard arm.** Fe. L 250 mm. Context 10660, rear of building 10860, SF 1154. Unphased.
- 75. **Weight.** Pb. D 40 mm. Context 12543, building 10820, SF 2717. Ph 5.
- 76. **Possible weight.** Pb. D 22 mm x 23 mm. Context 12984, building 10820, SF 3205. Ph 5.
- 77-78. (not illustrated) Possible **Weights.** L 23-39 mm, D 23-38 mm. Area G, Context 8003, unstratified, SF 627 (possibly medieval), Context 8004, unstratified, SF 639. Ph 3-5.

*Possible lead seal (Fig. 5.26)*

- 79. Possible **lead seal.** Pb. L 14 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1541. Ph 4.

*Votive items (Figs 5.27-9)*

*Cult objects (Fig. 5.27-8)*

- 80. **Cult spearhead.** It has a broad decorated blade and an elongated point with a terminal knob. The blade is largely complete. Its outline has been cut to a decorative shape, although parts are now missing,

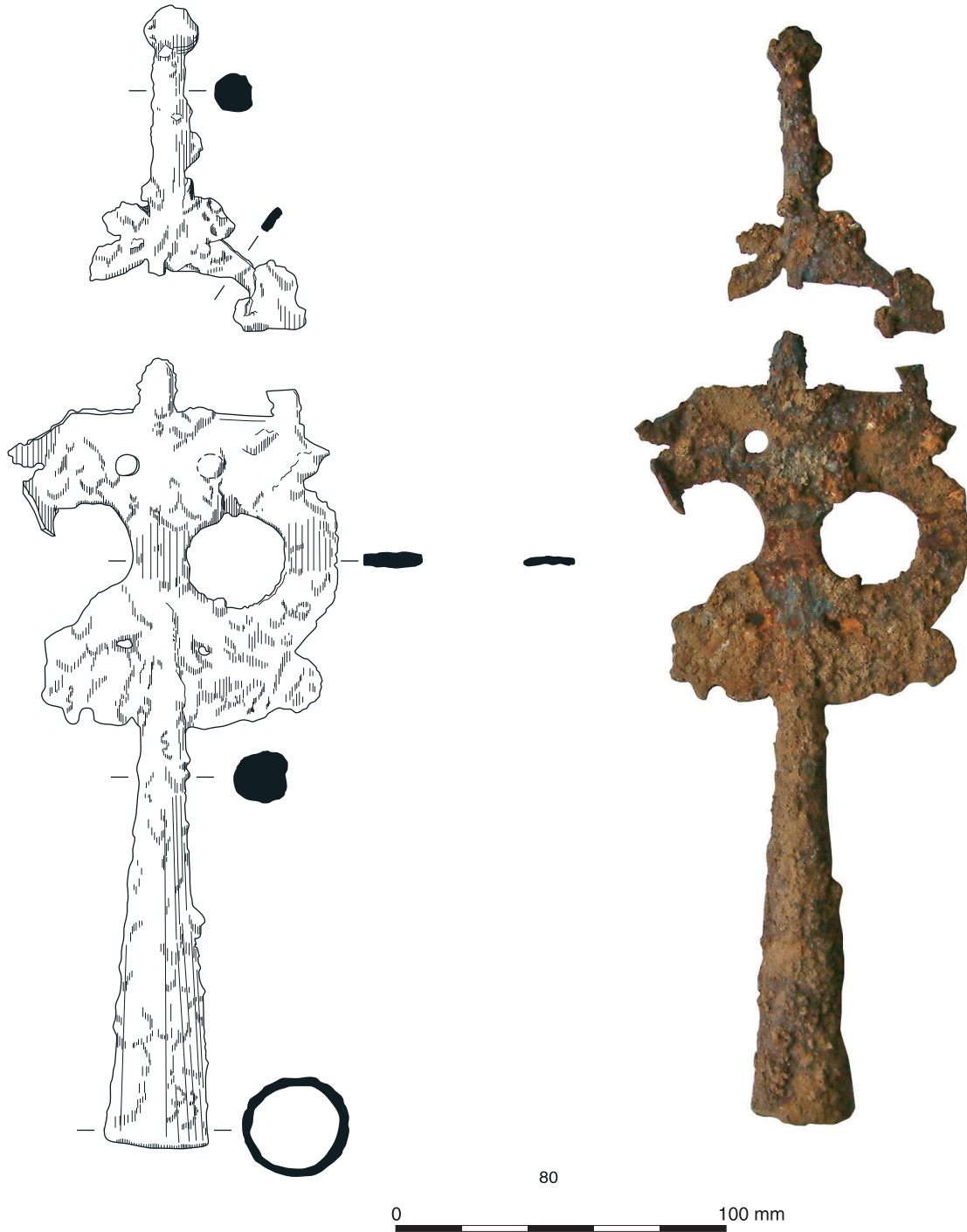


Fig. 5.27 Votive items

and the body of the blade has two large circular cut-outs and two pairs of smaller holes. The x-ray plate suggests that the lower pair may be lunate rather than circular in shape. Fe. L 320 mm, W 102 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1907. Ph 4.

- 81. **Whittle tang spearhead.** Elongated point of lentoidal section. Fe. L 142 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2411. Ph 4.
- 82. **Whittle tang knife** with S-curved back and edge, and a small hook on the blade edge. Fe. L 89 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1994. Ph 4.

*Votive leaf fragments* (Fig. 5.28)

- 83. **Votive leaf fragment**, with herring bone pattern. Folded. Cu alloy. L 30 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1489. Ph 4.
- 84. **Votive leaf fragment**, with lightly chased pattern of chevrons. Folded. Cu alloy. L 23 mm, W 17 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1572. Ph 4.
- 85. (*not illustrated*) Possible **votive leaf fragment**. No visible decoration. Folded. Cu alloy. L 23 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1642. Ph 4.
- 86. **Votive leaf fragment**, lightly chased with chevron and cable pattern. Cu alloy. L 43 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2242. Ph 4.
- 87. **Votive leaf fragment**, with central raised ridge with lightly chased angled lines running off from it. Cu alloy. L 25 mm, W 25 mm. Context 11672, shrine area, SF 1731. Ph 4.
- 88. **Votive leaf fragment**, with lightly chased chevron pattern. Cu alloy. L 39 mm. Context 12183, building 10880, SF 2005. Ph 5.
- 89. (*not illustrated*) **Votive leaf fragments** (1) Fragment with cable pattern ridge with chevron border parallel to it along one edge. No nail holes. (2) Irregular fragment with no original edges, no visible decoration or nail holes. L 20 mm. Cu alloy. L (1) 25 mm; (2) 20 mm. Context 12183, building 10880, SF 2305. Ph 5.
- 90. **Votive leaf fragment**, polished on one face with a low broad ridge, flanked by lightly chased chevron

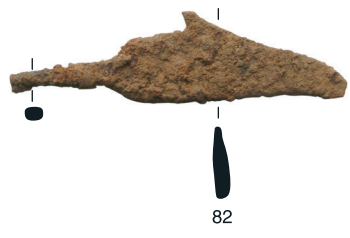
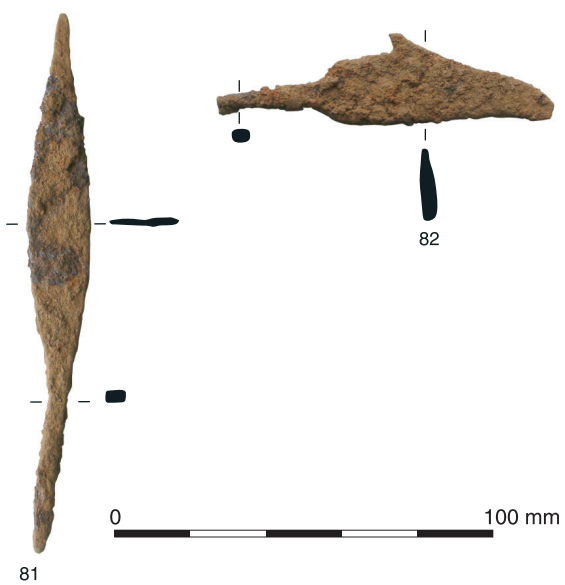
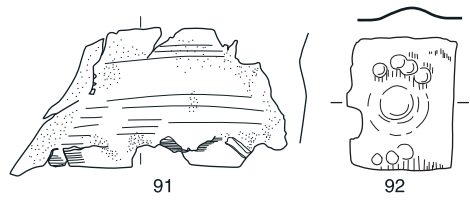
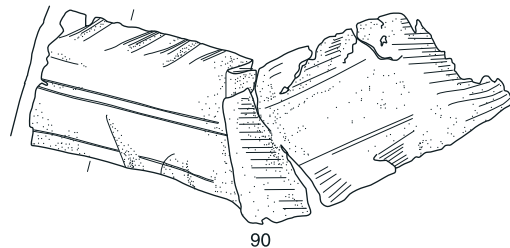
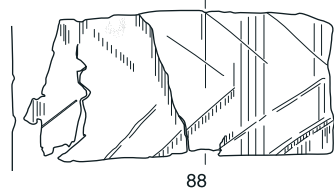
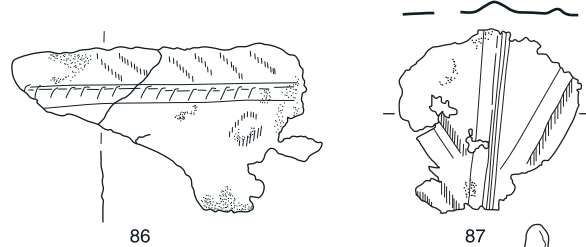
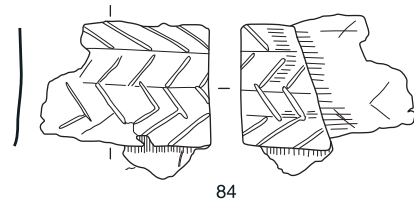
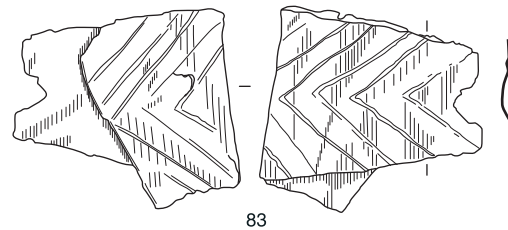


Fig. 5.28 Votive items



Fig. 5.29 Inscribed lead sheet

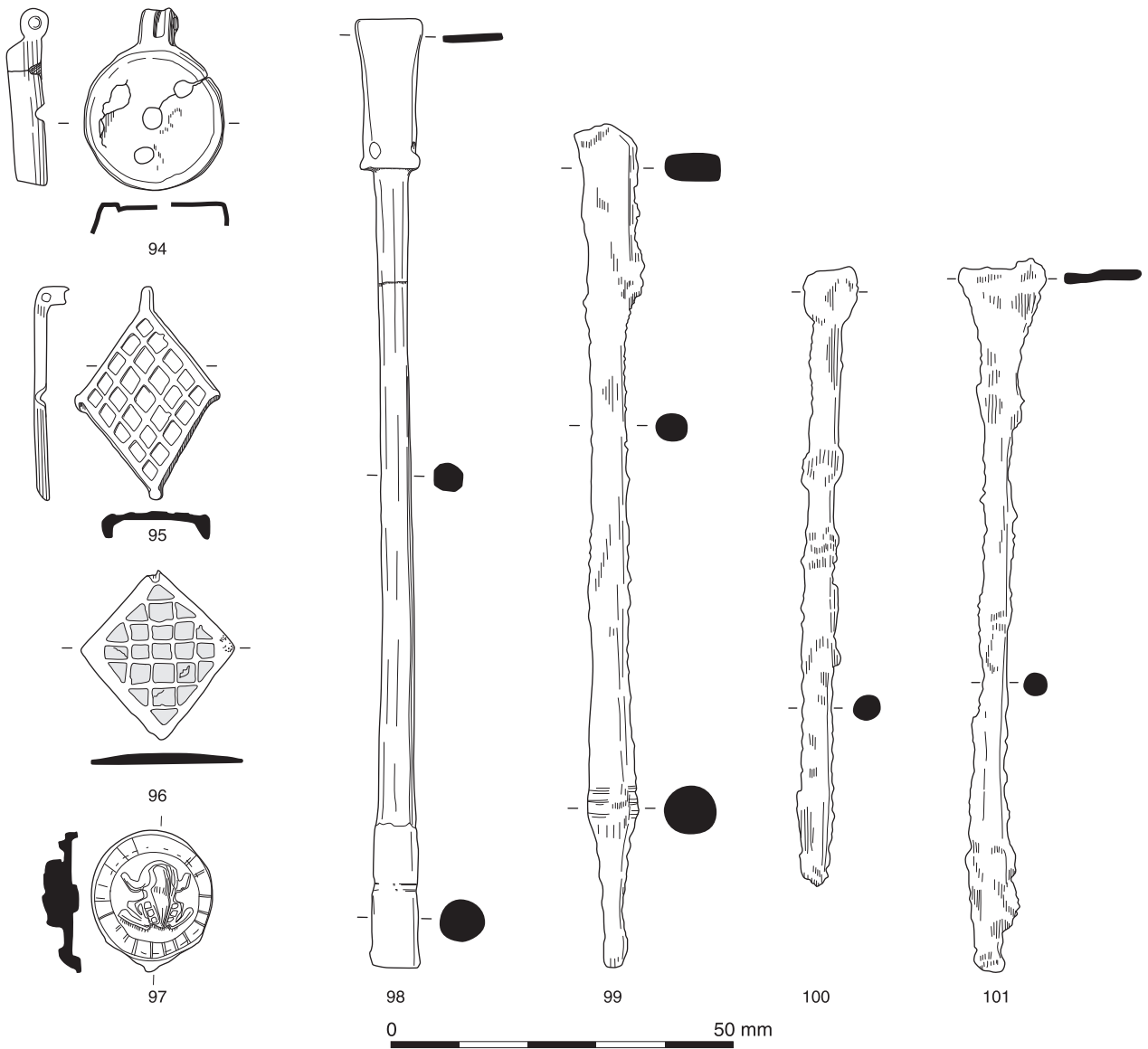


Fig. 5.30 Writing – seal boxes and styli

decorated borders. Bent and folded. Cu alloy. L 65 mm, W 19 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2373. Ph 4.

91. **Votive leaf fragment**, with a low wide central ridge, and chevron decorated edges. Polished on one face. Cu alloy. L 36 mm, W 17 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2374. Ph 4.
- 91a. (*not illustrated*) **Votive leaf fragments**, damaged. (1) The larger fragment has two slightly irregular edges at an angle greater than 90 degrees. There is no certain decoration, but a possible nail hole. (2) The smaller fragment appears to have a lightly chased chevron pattern. Cu alloy. L (1) 45 mm, (2) 33 mm, W (1) 32 mm, (2) 17 mm. Ctx 10738, shrine area, SF 3235. Ph 5.

#### Miniature objects (Fig. 5.28)

92. **Possible miniature rectangular shield?** Possible decorative features above and below 'boss'. Cu alloy. L 17 mm, W 14 mm. Context 11396, building 11340, SF 1616. Ph 3-4.
93. **Possible model spear?** Sub-rectangular section head with three mouldings. Fe. L 119 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2243. Ph 4.

#### Lead sheets

Five folded or folded and rolled lead sheets (36-80 mm in length) were recovered from the shrine deposit. They were investigated for possible traces of writing. As reported by Tomlin (above) only one (Fig. 5.29) had any traces and these appeared to be illiterate.

#### Writing: seal boxes and styli (Fig. 5.30)

##### Seal boxes

94. **Circular seal box**, lacking lid. Cu alloy. L 27 mm, W 22 mm, Depth 4 mm. Context 11302, south-east of building 10900, SF 1442. Ph 4.
95. **Diamond-shaped seal box lid** with pattern of enamel inlaid diamonds. Cu alloy. L 31.5 mm, W 21.5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1576. Ph 4.
96. **Diamond-shaped seal box lid**, with pattern of squares on top face. Cu alloy. L 25 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1608. Ph 4
97. **Circular seal box lid**, with cast frog applied to centre, and raised decorative border. Cu alloy. L 21 mm, W 19 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3115. Ph 4.

##### Styli

98. **Stylus**, Type 4 (Manning 1976, 34). Cu alloy. L 139 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 2466. Unph.
99. **Stylus**, Type 4. Fe. L 123 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2924. Ph 4.
100. **Stylus**, Type 2 or 3. Fe. L 90 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1870. Ph 4.
101. **Stylus**, Type 3. Fe. L 104 mm. Context 12419, building 10820, SF 2472. Ph 5.

#### Personal – Footwear

The only evidence for footwear was in the form of hobnails. Many of the hobnails recovered from the excavation were found singly or in small numbers (Table 5.25).

Table 5.25 Quantification of hobnails by context group

Context Group	Hobnails (count)
Metal detecting	8
Settlement contexts	229
Shrine	148
Shrine associated contexts	56
Total	441

#### Personal – Dress fittings (Fig. 5.31)

102. **Rectangular double frame buckle**. Fe. L 34 mm, W 24 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2388. Ph 4.
103. **Oval double, or spectacle, frame buckle**, cast, decorated. Medieval form. Cu alloy. L 40 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2387. Ph 4.
104. (*not illustrated*) **Buckle pin** formed from thin square-section rod. Fe. L 24 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2866. Unph.
105. **Fungiform stud**, large, with strongly shaped profile. Possible harness or belt fitting. Cu alloy. D 31 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1560. Ph 4.
106. **Fungiform stud**. Cu alloy. D 13 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1817. Ph 4.
107. **Cast decorative mount**, with two stud fastenings. Could be recent. Cu alloy. L 24 mm, W 20 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 973. Unph.
108. **Mount or stud head**, with cross motif. Cu alloy. D 10 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2378. Ph 4.
109. **Large stud** slightly domed head. Cu alloy. D 28 mm. Context 12683, building 10820, SF 2777. Ph 4.
110. **Decorative plate**, trapezoid in shape, with sinuous possibly Celtic pattern. Cu alloy. L 19 mm, W 19 mm. Context 12335, pit 12334, SF 2308. Ph 5.
111. (*not illustrated*) **Strap end**, three-piece. Cast forked spacer with stepped terminal moulding. Attachment plates are plain tapered and have a single rivet. Medieval form. L 29 mm, W 8.5 mm. Context 12986, SF 3218, unstrat. Egan (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 145) suggests that the tongue-shaped strap end with forked spacer was introduced in the late 13th or early 14th century in London.

#### Personal – brooches (Figs 5.31-5)

##### Early Sprung brooches

###### Simple one-piece iron bow brooches

These are of the type sometimes called 'Nauheim derivatives'. These brooches date to the 1st century. The examples from King Meadow Lane almost all have rod or wire bows, rather than flat bows. Copper alloy examples with rod bows are generally later than examples with flat bows, and the geographical distribution of the two forms reflects the differing date ranges. The brooches with flat section bows tend to concentrate in the south of England, whereas those with rod bows are found in the Midlands and the North. Whether iron examples of Simple one-piece brooches follow the same pattern of distribution is unclear, but the Higham Ferrers examples would seem to fit the pattern.

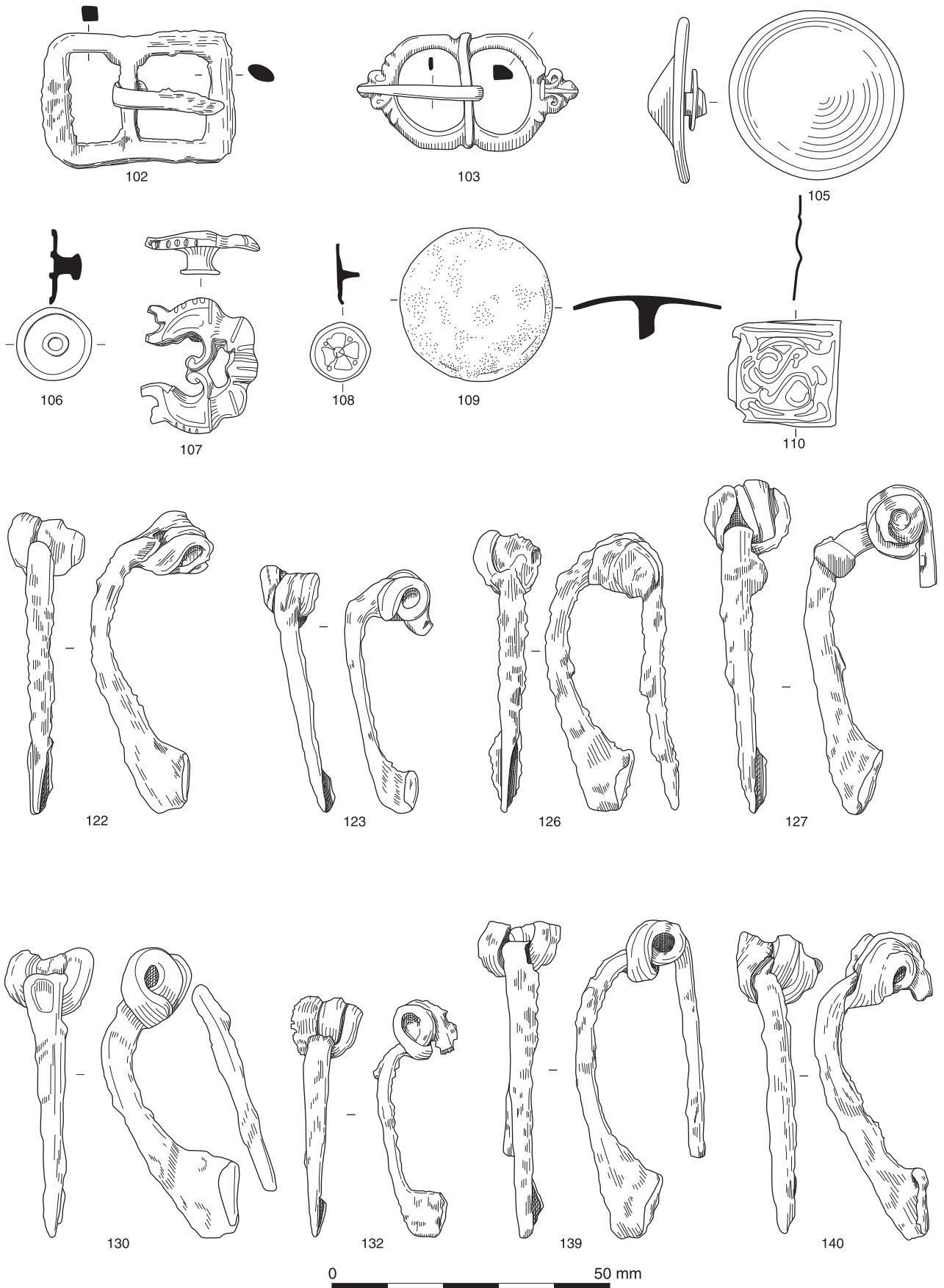


Fig. 5.31 Personal – Dress fittings and brooches

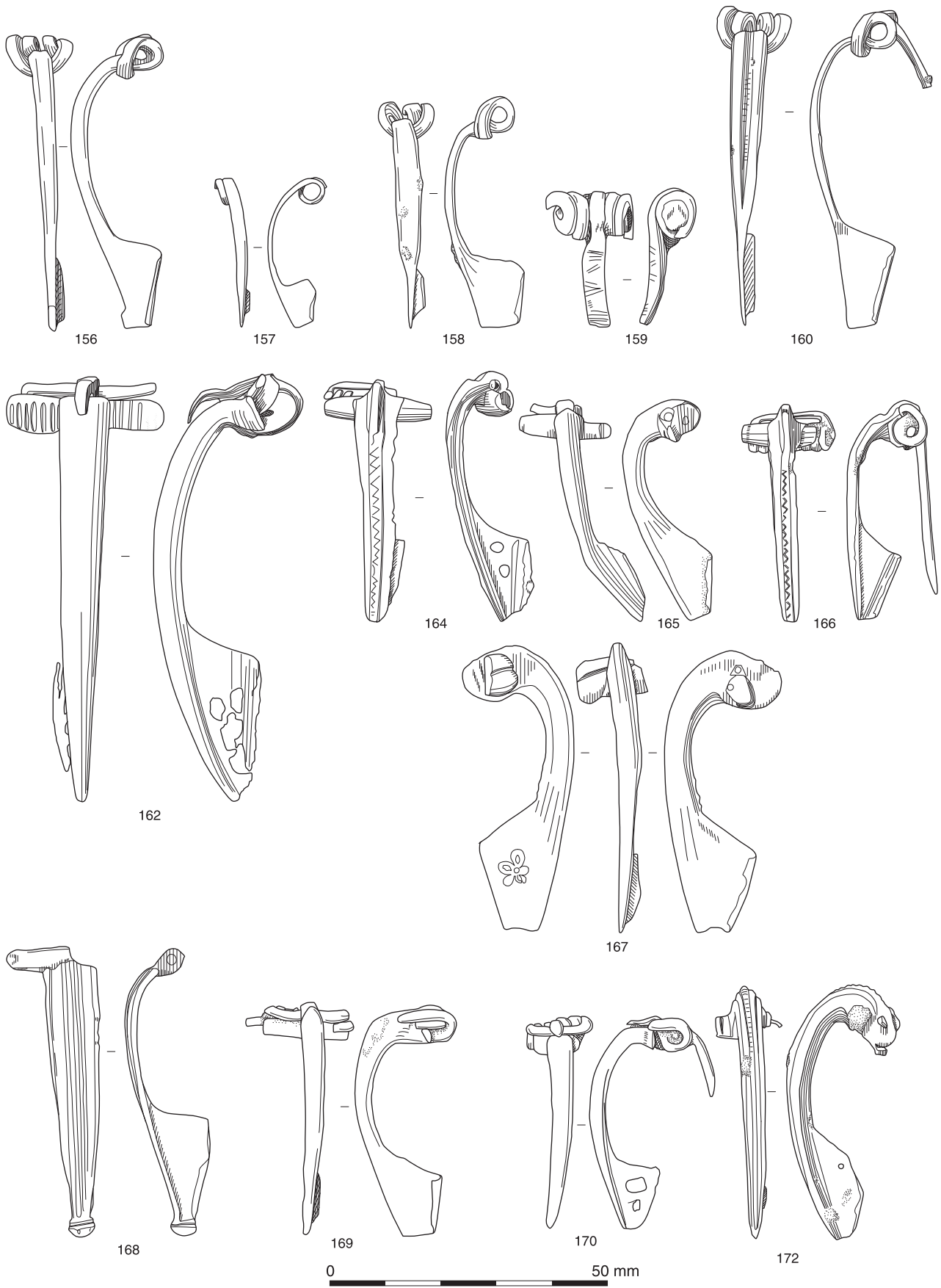


Fig. 5.32 Personal – brooches

- 112-121. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooches, internal chord.** Fe. L 22-50 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, (SF 1240), Context 11328, shrine area (SF 1748, 1777, 1812, 1919, 1971, 1966, 2056, 2087). Ph 4.
122. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Pin missing. Fe. L 54 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2091. Ph 4.
123. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Fe. L 44 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2105. Ph 4.
- 124-125. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooches, internal chord.** Fe. L 34-62 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2112, 2119. Ph 4.
126. **One piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Fe. L 52 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2122. Ph 4.
127. **One piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Fe. L 60 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2149. Ph 4.
- 128-129. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooches, internal chord.** Fe L 16-41 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2154, 2202. Ph 4.
130. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Fe. L 53 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2220. Ph 4.
131. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Fe. L 57 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2223. Ph 4.
132. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Small with tapering strip bow. Fe. L 43 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2245. Ph 4.
- 133-138. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooches.** Fe. L 26-54 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2252, 2278, 2286, 2511, 2544, 2550. Ph 4.
139. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from strip or wire. Fe. L 56 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2642. Ph 4.
140. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from narrow strip. Fe. L 57 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2643. Ph 4.
- 141-155. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece sprung brooches.** Fe. L 22-57 mm. Context 11328, shrine area (SF 2645, 2663, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2712, 2733, 2856, 2898), Context 11627, colluvium underlying shrine (SF 1699), Context 11672, shrine area (SF 1769), Context 11779, shrine area (SF 1866), Context 12349, building 10820 (SF 1882), Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area (SF 2458, 2562). Ph 4.

*One-piece copper alloy bow brooches*

156. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from wire. Cu alloy. L 51 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1578. Ph 4.
157. **Miniature One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Formed from thin strip. Cu alloy. L 26 mm. Context 11771, shrine area, SF 1805. Ph 4.
158. **One-piece sprung brooch, internal chord.** Narrow oval section bow. Cu alloy. L 48 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3060. Ph 4.
159. **One-piece sprung brooch, uncertain chord.** Five coil spring and part of bow. Cu alloy. L 24 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1242. Ph 4.

*La Tène III brooch*

Brooch dated to the early to mid 1st century

160. **One-piece la Tène III brooch, internal chord.** Decorated ribbon-like bow. Cu alloy. L 60 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface, SF 1267. Ph 5.

*One-piece Colchester brooches*

These date to the mid 1st century, and were being made in Britain before the Roman conquest.

161. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece Colchester brooch.** Cu alloy. L 63 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 978. Ph 4 to 5.
162. **One-piece Colchester brooch.** Spring with 6/7 coils and external chord. Cu alloy. L 76 mm. Context 10739, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 1246. Ph 4.
163. (*not illustrated*) **One-piece Colchester brooch.** Spring with outside chord. No pin. Cu alloy. L 59 mm. Context 12531, pit in building 10810, SF 1193. Ph 5.

*Two-piece Colchester brooches*

Two-piece Colchester brooches date to the mid 1st century. They are rare north of the Humber-Severn line, and tend to concentrate in the eastern part of the country.

164. **Two-piece Colchester brooch,** with ridged bow. The spring – with external chord – originally had 6 or 7 coils. Cu alloy. L 40 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1633. Ph 4 to 5.
165. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Plain bow. The spring had an external chord and at least 6/7 coils. Cu alloy. L 40 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1368. Ph 5.
166. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Bow has ridge with criss-cross pattern. Sprung pin with external chord. Cu alloy. L 39 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1233. Ph 4.
167. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** With grooves down bow and on wings. Sprung pin with 8 coils and external chord. Cu alloy. L 36 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2395. Ph 4.
168. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Sprung pin. Plain bow and catchplate. Cu alloy. L 50 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 2979. Ph 4.
169. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Sprung pin. Six or eight coils with external chord. Plain catchplate and bow. Cu alloy. L 42 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3041. Ph 4.
170. **Miniature Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Sprung pin with external chord. Cu alloy. L 39 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3042. Ph 4.
171. (*not illustrated*) **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Sprung pin with external chord. Cu alloy. L 55 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3052. Ph 4.
172. **Two-piece Colchester brooch.** Plain bow. Sprung pin. Cu alloy. L 43 mm. Context 12938, ditch 13000, SF 2232. Unph.

*Polden Hill brooch*

The distribution of Polden Hill brooches is concentrated on the West Midlands. The type appears to date to the late 1st century and early 2nd century.

173. **Polden Hill brooch.** Sprung pin with at least seven coils and external chord. Cu alloy. L 62 mm. Context 10739, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 1249. Ph 4.

*Early hinged brooches*

Aucissa brooches are found over a wide geographical range in Europe and occur in contexts ranging in date from the reign of Augustus to c AD 70. They occur on many military sites and are sometimes seen as especially linked with soldiers (Bayley and Butcher 2004, 151).



174. **Aucissa brooch.** Strongly curved flat cross-section bow with ribbed decoration. The plate at the head is decorated with triangles and inverted broad arrows. Cu alloy. L 54 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3050. Ph 4.

*Strip Bow, Early hinged brooches*

These seem to be a British product dating to the mid to late 1st century and are found mainly in central southern England (Bayley and Butcher 2004, 154).

175. (*not illustrated*) **Strip Bow, Early hinged.** Undecorated flat section tapering bow. No extant catch plate. Fe. L 39 mm, W 18 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2073. Ph 4.
176. **Strip Bow, Early hinged.** Undecorated flat section tapered bow. Fe. L 56 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2177. Ph 4.

*Hod Hill brooches*

Hod Hill brooches are common on the continent, and seem first to arrive in Britain after the Conquest. Their floruit is the mid 1st century. According to Bayley and Butcher (2004, 190 and fig. 167) they do not occur in any numbers north of the Humber-Severn line.

177. **Hod Hill brooch.** Gently arched bow with grooved decoration. Hinged pin. Cu alloy. L 52 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 2356. Ph 4.
178. **Hod Hill brooch.** Arched bow with shallow grooves on upper portion, lower portion eroded. Two side lugs. Pin mount incomplete. Cu alloy. L 32 mm. Context 10769, robber pit 10768, SF 1272. Ph 4.
179. **Hod Hill brooch.** Hinged pin (missing). Almost flat bow with sharply angle head. Silvered or tinned. Cu alloy. L 53 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1645. Ph 4.

*Colchester Derivatives*

*Headstud brooch*

Headstud brooches are widely distributed in Britain and the earliest examples occur in Neronian and Flavian contexts. They continue to be produced until well into the 2nd century.

180. **Headstud brooch.** Small headstud and bow with ridged back. Possibly sprung. Cu alloy. L 50 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3121. Ph 4.

*Dolphin brooch*

A Colchester derivative brooch dating to the mid 1st century.

181. Possible **Colchester derivative** (Dolphin) brooch with hinged pin. Plain bow of circular section. Fe. L 53 mm, W 21 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2904. Ph 4.

*T-shaped brooches*

T-shaped brooches fall into two groups: Initial T-shaped brooches dated to the late 1st century and concentrated in the West Country, and Developed T-shaped brooches, which as the name implies are more decorated on the bow and occur in more diverse forms and range in date from the late 1st to 2nd century. Again their concentration is in the South West. The examples from Higham Ferrers appear to be similar in form and decoration to the initial T-shaped brooches (Bayley and Butcher 2004, fig. 127, T135 and T137). Initial T-shaped brooches are usually, but

not exclusively fitted with hinged pins. The developed T-shaped brooches (*ibid.*, fig. 138) are also mainly fitted with hinged pins. The examples from Higham Ferrers are fitted for the most part with hinged pins formed from wire twisted around an axle bar, rather than the usual cast form.

182. **T-shaped brooch,** with catchplate and much of bow missing, possibly cut away. Cu alloy. W 28 mm. Context 10502, colluvium alongside road, SF 916. Unphased.
183. **T-shaped brooch,** with catch plate and much of bow cut away. Raised triangular panel on the bow. Cu alloy. W 22 mm. Context 10502, road surface, SF 932. Unphased.
184. **T-shaped brooch.** Upper part of bow with raised ridge with slight notches. Moulding at foot. Cu alloy. L 44 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1508. Ph 4.
185. **T-shaped brooch.** Bow with notched raised crest. Cu alloy. L 44 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2251. Ph 4.
186. **T-shaped brooch,** with a raised triangular panel on the bow. Cu alloy. L 36 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2886. Ph 4.
187. **T-shaped brooch,** with a raised triangular panel on the bow. Cu alloy. L 41 mm. Context 11485, building 11350, SF 1650. Ph 4.
188. (*not illustrated*) **T-shaped brooch,** with a raised triangular panel on the bow. Broken or cut across the triangular panel. Cu alloy. L 22 mm. Context 11600, ditch 11320, SF 1677. Unphased.
189. **T-shaped brooch,** with raised triangular panel on upper part of bow, and raised moulding below. The bow has been slightly bent, and the brooch pin detached and wrapped around the bow. Deliberately damaged. Cu alloy. L 37 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1871. Ph 4.
190. **T-shaped brooch,** with raised triangle at the top of the bow. The brooch has been straightened out. Deliberately damaged. Cu alloy. L 43 mm. Context 12327, building 10820, SF 2360. Ph 5.
191. **T-shaped brooch,** with raised triangle motif on the upper part of the bow. Cu alloy. L 40 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3064. Ph 4.
192. **T-shaped brooch.** Grooved decoration on the bow. Bent and flattened bow and twisted catchplate. Deliberately damaged? Cu alloy. L 42 mm. Context 12853, surface SW of shrine, SF 3081. Ph 4.

*Fantail brooch*

This type dates to the 1st century (Hattatt 1987, no. 780).

193. **Fantail brooch,** with plain fantail and moulded bow. Hinged pin. Cu alloy. L 48 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3122. Ph 4.

*Trumpet-headed brooches*

194. **Trumpet headed brooch.** Small brooch with trumpet head, small head loop and wing-like plates decorated with enamel. Cu alloy. L 33 mm. Context 11528, colluvium beneath buildings 10860 and 11370, SF 1651. Ph 4.
195. **Trumpet headed brooch.** Plain head, broken and encrusted, with head-loop. Sprung pin. Cu alloy. L 53 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3054. Ph 4.

Plain trumpet-headed brooch of late 1st- to early 2nd-century date.



Fig. 5.33 Personal – brooches

**Knee Brooches**

Knee brooches are a late form dating to the late 2nd and 3rd century. Widely distributed, they are more common in the north of Britain.

196. **Knee brooch**, eroded. S-shaped bow with flat cross-section, open half cylinder head and transverse

catchplate. Pin and spring missing. Cu alloy. L 32 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1166. Unphased.  
 197. **Knee brooch**, with S-shaped bow of hollow curved cross-section, with half cylinder head and sprung pin. Cu alloy. L 31 mm. Context 11331, behind building 10840, SF 1453. Ph 5.

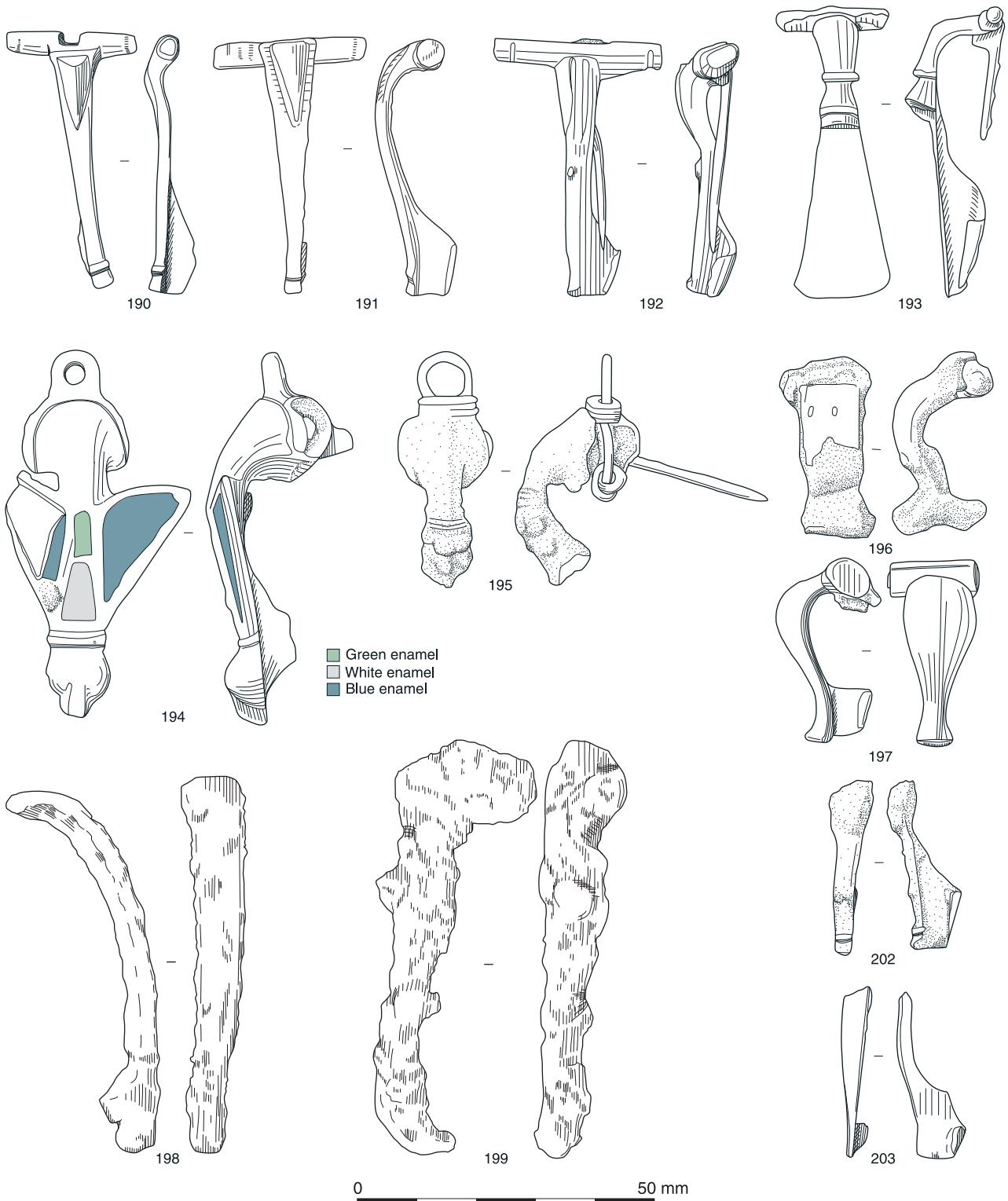


Fig. 5.34 Personal – brooches

**Brooch fragments**

- 198. **Bow fragment**, of tapering rectangular section, with plain catchplate. No pin or attachment. Fe. L 63 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1239. Ph 4.
- 199. **Bow and spring fragment** with at least 4 coils and originally at least 7 coils. Fe. L 70 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3047. Ph 4.
- 200. (not illustrated) **Catchplate fragment**. Decorative foot moulding, catchplate and part of bow, deliberately rolled and straightened. Cu alloy. L 56 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1190. Unphased.
- 201. (not illustrated) **Catchplate fragment**. Plain, with no decorative foot. Cu alloy. L 20 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2969. Ph 4.

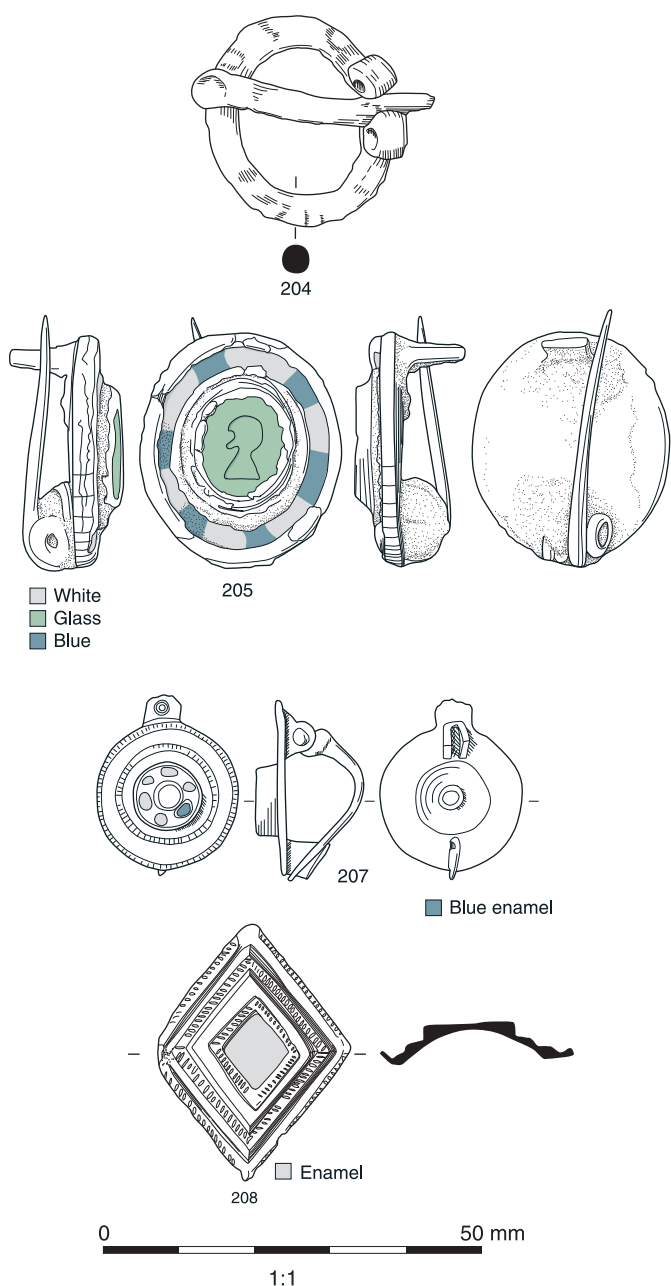
- 202. **Catchplate fragment** with decorative foot moulding and part of a curved bow. Cu alloy. L 28 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3128. Ph 4.
- 203. **Catchplate fragment**. Plain. Cu alloy. L 28 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3132. Ph 4.

**Penannular brooch**

- 204. **Penannular brooch**. Fowler type C. Fe. L 27 mm, D 25 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2631. Unph.

**Plate brooches**

- 205. **Oval disc brooch** with possible intaglio set at its centre. The outer border is ornamented with ivory coloured enamel. Surrounding band of longer white and shorter blue segments. Central setting impressed in intaglio with a male head left. Sprung pin with internal chord. Cu alloy. L 34 mm, W 27 mm, Central setting 15 mm x 11 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1330. Ph 4.
- 206. (not illustrated) **Composite plate brooch**, with crescent moon (white enamel inlay) and two ?stars (with central circular setting with white enamel). Cu alloy. L 44 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1260. Ph 4.
- 207. **Small circular plate brooch**, with moulded grooves/ridges around outer plate. The raised central section has a central hole – for the attachment of a stud? – surrounded by 6 small enamel spots. The hinged pin and catchplate are still in place. Cu alloy. L 25 mm, W 19 mm. Context 11672, shrine area, SF 1723. Ph 4.
- 208. **Lozenge shaped plate brooch**. stepped profile, with chased edges and enamel in central diamond setting. Hollow underside. Pin missing. Cu alloy. L 35 mm, W 27 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1107. Ph 5.



**Personal – other jewellery (Figs 5.36-9)**

**Armlets**

Armlets are generally late in date, often dating to the 3rd or 4th centuries. There are three broad early copper alloy forms from Higham Ferrers (Cat. Nos 210-212). The remaining examples are late in date.

**Shale**

- 209. **Armlet fragment** of circular section with cable pattern on outer face. Shale. L 38 mm. Context 10506, ditch 10700, SF 2965. Ph 5.

**Copper alloy**

- 210. **Broad armlet fragment**. Plain terminal, the body of the armlet is decorated with fine parallel lines and one milled strip. Silvered or tinned Cu alloy. L 42 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1575, Ph 4.
- 211. **Broad armlet fragment**. Fragment with parallel lines of chased decoration. Deliberately rolled. Cu alloy. W 18 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1598. Ph 4.
- 212. **Broad armlet fragment**. Simple band with embossed central rib, folded and flattened. Cu alloy. L 26 mm, W 11 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 941. Unph.
- 213. **Narrow flat armlet**. Four fragments. Two fragments join and form a broadened and rounded terminal, a

Fig. 5.35 Personal – brooches

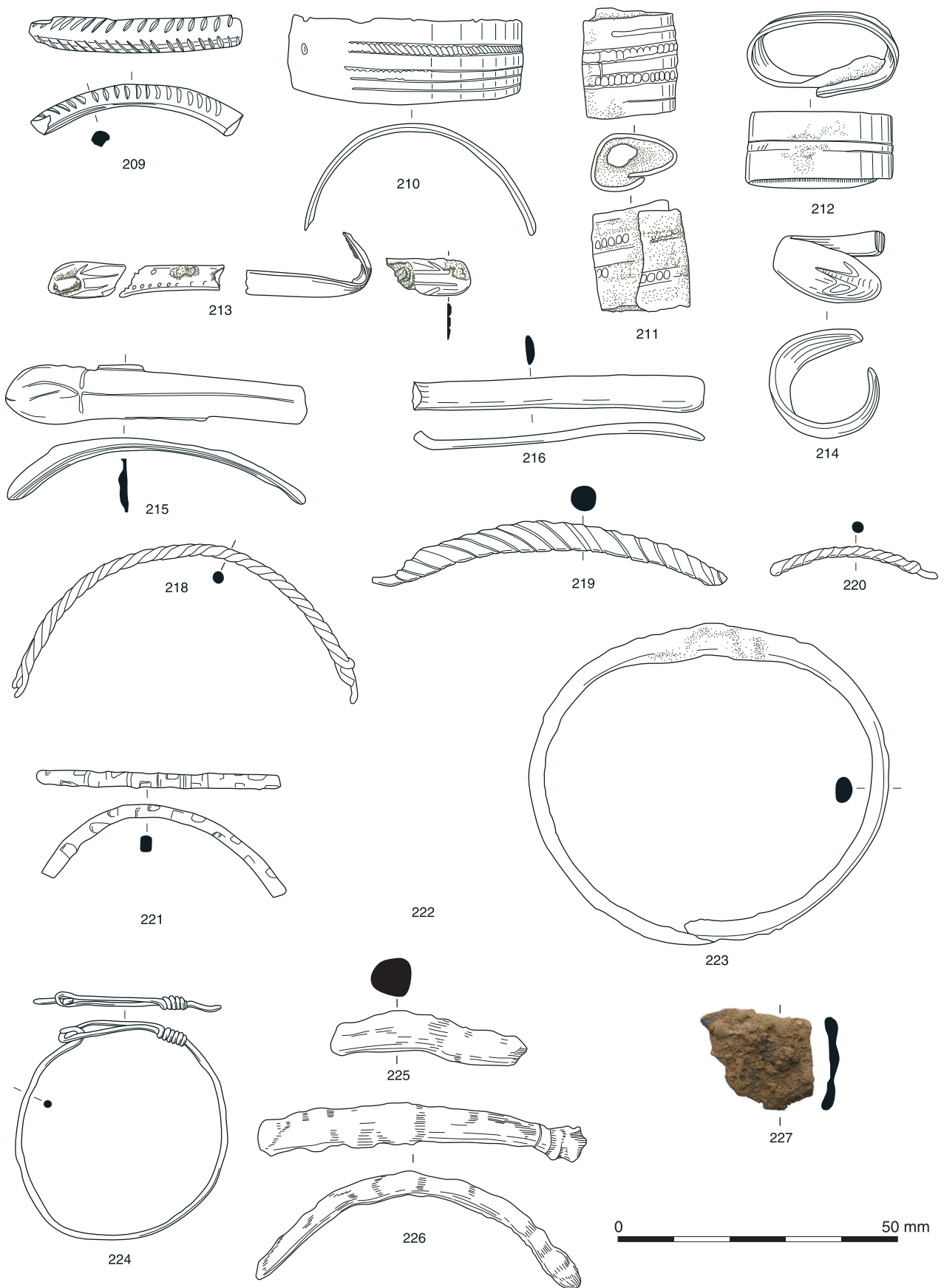


Fig. 5.36 Personal – other jewellery

- third fragment forms the second terminal. The terminals are decorated with herring bone, or feather, pattern. The band has a row of dots evenly spaced along one edge. The fourth fragment is plain and may not be part of the armlet. Cu alloy. L 29 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1215. Unphased.
214. **Narrow flat armlet with snake's head terminal.** Cut and rolled. Cu alloy. L 19 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3151. Ph 4.
215. **Narrow flat armlet fragment,** comprising expanded round ended plain terminal and narrow band decorated with a central groove. Cu alloy. L 54 mm. Context 11526, well 12890, SF 1659. Ph 3.
216. **Narrow flat armlet fragment.** Strip of lentoidal section, widening slightly at one end to form a rounded plain terminal. Undecorated. Cu alloy. L 52 mm. Context 10739, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 1247. Ph 4
217. (*not illustrated*) **Narrow flat armlet fragment,** of flat oval section, with expanded terminal. Undecorated. Similar to *Cat. No. 216*. Cu alloy. L 35 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3152. Ph 4.
218. **Cable pattern armlet fragment,** formed from two lengths of thin wire twisted tightly together. At one end is a small fragment of wire, which circles the cable pattern, and which formed part of the catch. Cu alloy. L 62 mm. Context 11731, ditch 11729, SF 1788. Unphased.
219. **Cable pattern armlet fragment,** formed from two wires closely twisted together to form a cable pattern. Remains of possible hook at one end. Cu alloy. L 64 mm. Context 12141, pit 12142, SF 2231. Ph 5.
220. **Cable pattern armlet fragment,** formed from two wires tightly twisted together. Cu alloy. L 30 mm. Context 12835, building 10840, SF 3105. Ph 5.
221. **Decorated armlet fragment,** of circular section, with alternating opposed bevelled notches. Cu alloy. L 44 mm. Context 12836, building 10840, SF 3163. Ph 5.
222. **Cast decorated armlet terminal,** with cast mouldings, flat on the inner face. The end is squared off. Highly polished fragment. Cu alloy. L 17 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2102. Ph 4.
223. **Plain armlet** of oval section with flattened inner face. The band tapers to ends that overlap, but may originally have joined. Cu alloy. D 64 x 56 mm. Context 12727, grave 12725, SF 2934. Ph 4.
224. **Plain wire armlet.** The thin wire is hooked at one end, while the other end is formed into a long thin loop secured by twisting the wire around itself several times. Cu alloy. D 44 x 38 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2692. Ph 4.

*Iron armlets*

225. **Plain armlet fragment** comprising loop of lozenge section, with a small out curved terminal. Fe. L 69 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1762. Ph 4.
226. **Plain armlet fragment** of lentoidal section, with small expanded terminal. Fe. L 58 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1241. Ph 4.
227. **Plain armlet** of oval section, tapering to pointed terminals. Fe. D 62 x 50 mm. Context 11762, building 10870, SF 1772. Unphased.
228. (*not illustrated*) **Plain armlet** with terminal knobs.

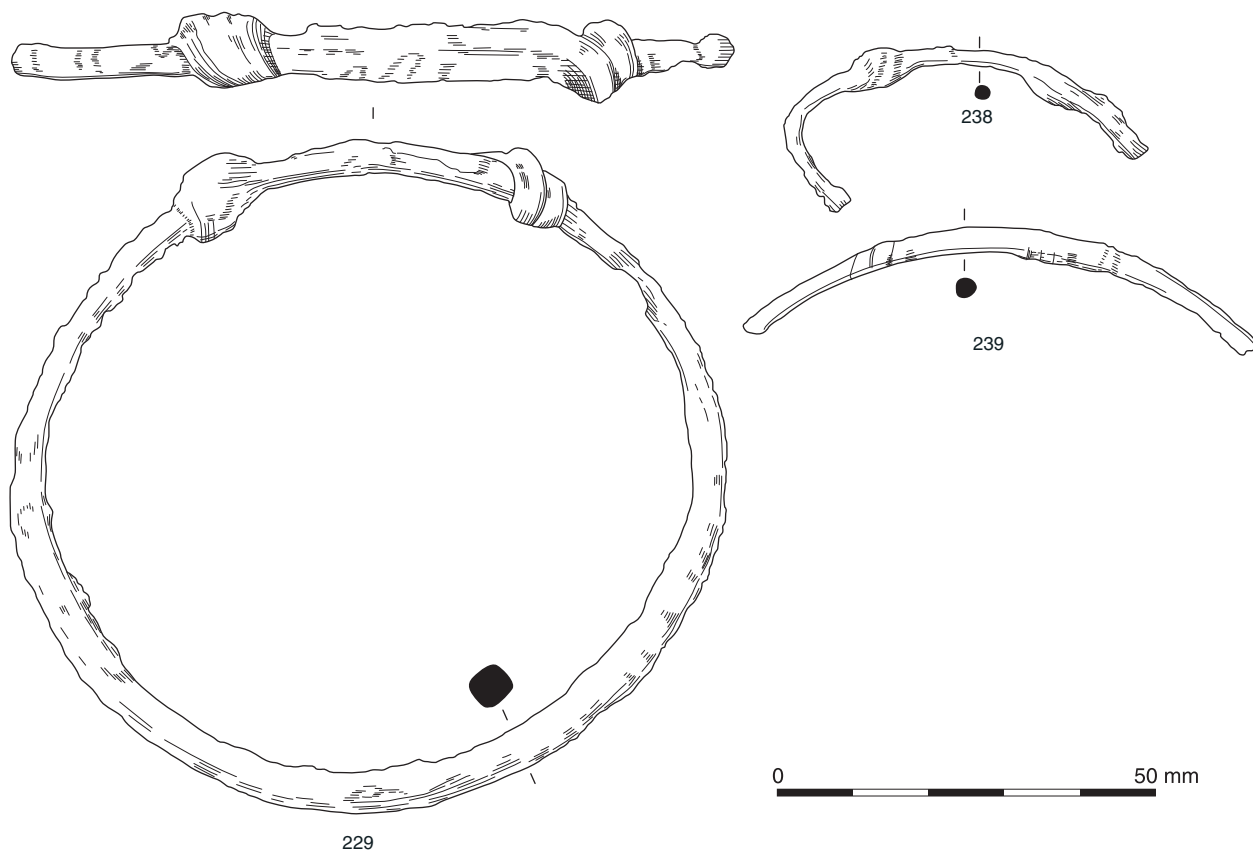


Fig. 5.37 Personal – other jewellery

- Fe. D 85 x 62 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2628. Unphased.
229. **Armlet.** Complete armlet of lozenge cross-section, thicker on one side. The ends are overlapped and formed into triple-looped slides to form an adjustable section. Fe. D 95 x 89 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1970. Ph 4.
- 230-237. (not illustrated) **Armlet fragments.** Fe. L 16-49 mm. Context 11328, shrine area (SF 2164, 1763, 2088, 2926, 2153), Context 12433, colluvium north of the shrine area (SF 2565), Context 12434, colluvium west of the shrine area (SF 2874), Context 11626, shrine area (SF 1708). Ph 4.
238. **Wire armlet fragment,** with wire slides visible on the x-ray plate. Fe. L 47 mm. Context 11627, colluvium underlying shrine, SF 2942. Ph 4.
239. **Armlet fragment** comprising curved length of wire with decorative bindings or loops attached (visible on x-ray but not to the naked eye). The decorative effect of the bindings is to give the appearance of opposed triangles or zigzags. Fe. L 67 mm. Context, 11328, shrine area, SF 2648. Ph 4.
240. (not illustrated) **Armlet fragment.** Curved wire fragment with decorative tubular bindings of non-ferrous metal. Fe. L 50 mm. Context, 11626, shrine area, SF 1690. Ph 4.

#### *Finger rings* (see Table 5.24 above) (Fig. 5.38)

The finger rings from Higham Ferrers can be divided into two broad groups, decorative rings, including those with intaglios and bezels, on one hand, and plain bands, sometimes with a little decoration, on the other. Only one possible ring – of silver wire – is made in any metal other than iron or copper alloy. Copper alloy rings dominate the finger ring assemblage. The entire ring assemblage is summarised in Table 5.24 above. Many of the plain rings are very similar, and only a small representative selection has been illustrated and described in the catalogue. All the trinket rings are catalogued; most have been studied by Martin Henig and his report follows:

#### *Decorative rings* by Martin Henig

Dates are ascribed to the rings on the basis of ring type and stylistic comparisons. On superficial examination the iron rings, which approximate to Henig (1978) ring types II or III, might be assigned to the late 1st or earlier 2nd centuries, but it is now clear that in iron at any rate – as shown for example by the drain deposit in the Fortress Baths at Caerleon – such rings continued to be made and used through the 2nd century and into the 3rd century, and this dating is in full agreement with the copper alloy rings listed here. The rings, indeed, comprise a fairly consistent group of the 2nd-3rd centuries. None is of precious metal and such trinket rings will have belonged for the most part to people in the lower ranks of society. A few of the rings contain intaglios (only one a cut stone, very simply engraved) showing that the use of signet rings had trickled down to the lower ranks of society.

#### Rings with intaglios:

241. **Iron finger ring** with flattened hoop, expanding towards the bezel, Type III/V which contains an almost circular setting, bearing the intaglio device of *Bonus Eventus*, standing to the front and facing right. In his left hand he holds a patera and in his right two ears of corn. External D 24 mm, W across hoop ranges from 3 mm to 13 mm, bezel inset 10
- mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2607. Ph. 4. For *Bonus Eventus* see Henig 1978, nos 203-19, pls vv, viii. Mid 2nd century or later.
242. **Iron finger ring**, section of circular hoop of which half survives, expanding towards the bezel which is set with a small, slightly convex cornelian intaglio evidently depicting a flower. D of hoop c 20 mm, W at bezel 8 mm, at narrowest remaining point 3 mm, intaglio 6 mm x 4 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1987. Ph 4. 2nd-3rd century.
243. **Copper alloy finger ring** with flattened hoop, expanding towards the bezel, ring type XII, which has an oval setting of nicolo glass bearing in intaglio the device of a running hound(?) in profile left. External D 20.5 mm, W across hoop ranging from 1.25 mm to 10 mm, intaglio 9 mm x 7 mm. Context 12473, layer sealing ditch 12471, SF 2456. Ph 5. 3rd century.
244. **Copper alloy finger ring** with pinched necking and everted shoulders. The bezel, rilled on the exterior, contains an intaglio of deep blue glass depicting a standing male figure. This is a good example of a 'Romano-British imitation' intaglio. D of ring across shoulders 23 mm, W ranges from 2 mm across narrowest point to 13 mm across bezel, intaglio D 9 mm. Context 10733, grave 10740, SF 1226. Unphased. For Romano-British imitations see Henig 1978, nos 539-78, pls xvii, xviii. For the ring see Wheeler 1930, 100-101, fig. 30 no. 10. 3rd century.

#### Rings without intaglios – a). iron

245. **Iron finger ring.** Incomplete hoop, and narrow bezel. D 15 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1767. Ph 4. 2nd-3rd century.
246. **Iron finger ring.** Incomplete hoop and ovoid bezel (11 mm x 8 mm). D 27 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1947. Ph 4. 2nd-3rd century.
247. **Iron finger ring** with narrow hoop of which less than half remains expanding towards bezel which retains oval seating for gem or other inset. D 25 mm, bezel 12 mm x 10 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1966. Ph 4. 2nd-3rd century.
248. **Iron finger ring** with narrow hoop (of which less than half survives), expanding markedly towards the bezel. D 20 mm, W across bezel 7 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2014. Ph 4. Henig ring type II, to which a 1st /2nd century date is assigned but see Zienkiewicz 1986, 142-3, nos 5-8 showing that such rings were extant through the 2nd century and into the 3rd century.
249. **Iron finger ring**, expanding towards bezel which once contained an intaglio or other setting. Only a small part of the hoop remains. D 20 mm, W across bezel 8 mm, narrowest point 2 mm, seating for intaglio 8 x 6 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2172. Ph 4. The type approximates to Henig ring type II.
250. **Iron finger ring** with ovoid bezel with setting missing. Ring D 16 mm, bezel 8 mm x 5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2257. Ph 4. 2nd-3rd century.
251. **Iron finger ring** with somewhat narrow hoop. Flattened rectangular at top (10 mm x 5 mm), no trace of setting. D 17 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2292. Ph 4. Cf Zienkiewicz 1986, 142-3, nos 9 and 10. 2nd-3rd century.
252. **Iron finger ring**, broad flattened hoop expanding towards the bezel. D 18 mm, W across bezel 11 mm,

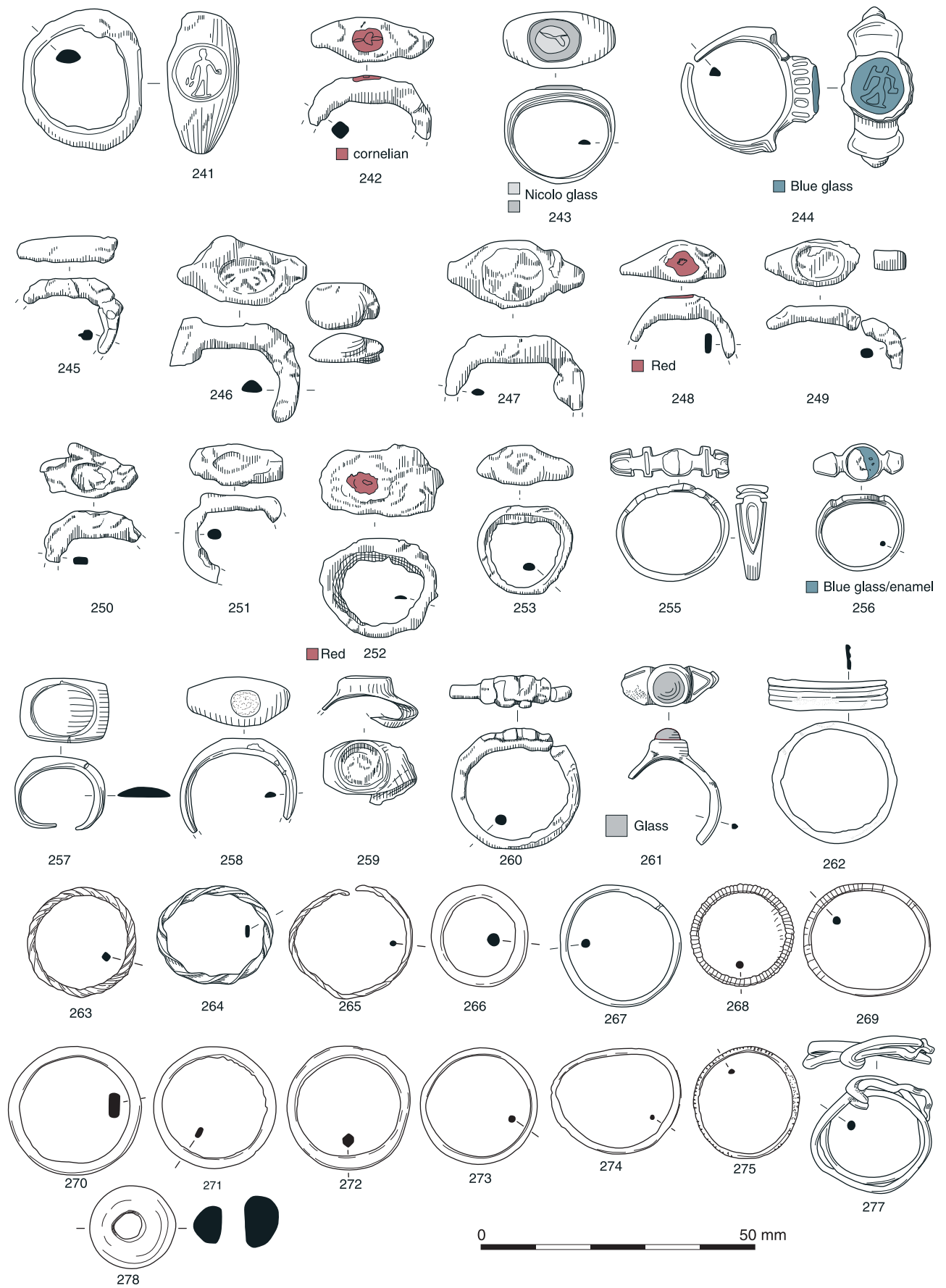


Fig. 5.38 Personal – other jewellery



W across narrowest point of hoop 3.5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2459. Ph 4. Ring type XI, 3rd century.

253. **Iron finger ring**, expanding towards bezel. Hoop has somewhat D-shaped section. D across shoulders 17 mm, W at narrowest point 1 mm, W across bezel 7 mm. Context 12328, ditch 13010, SF 2766. Ph 5. Ring type III, but probably 2nd-3rd century.
254. (*not illustrated*) **Iron finger ring fragment** with hoop expanded for form a narrow oval bezel. The bezel has laminated at an angle. D 23 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2258. Ph 4.

Rings without intaglios – b) copper alloy

255. **Copper alloy finger ring** with flattened hoop, expanding to the shoulders which are indented on each side. Above, the neck is pinched with cross-bars and there is a circular bezel which may once have had a small box-setting with 'jewel' attached. D 21 mm, W across bezel 4mm, W at narrowest point 2 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1323. Ph 5. Cf Henig 1993a, 171 no. 4, fig. 132. 3rd century.
256. **Copper alloy finger ring**, narrow hoop but expanding to the shoulders; pinched neck and circular bezel containing (broken) blue glass or enamel inset. D 17 mm, W across shoulders 4 mm, at narrowest point on hoop 1 mm, bezel 6 mm x 6 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1554. Ph 4. Cf Neal 1974, 137 fig 60 no.115, but with different shoulders. 3rd century.
257. **Copper alloy finger ring** with broad flattened hoop expanding towards the bezel. Slightly D-shaped section. Part of hoop is lacking. Oval setting, now empty, formerly contained glass or stone setting or enamel. D 16 mm, W across bezel 12 mm, across narrowest remaining point 2.5 mm, setting 12 mm x 10 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2364. Ph 4. Ring type XI/XII. 3rd century.
258. **Copper alloy finger ring** with hoop of D-shaped section expanding towards the bezel which contains a small circular setting, filled with decayed enamel. Only half the hoop remains. D 21 mm, W across bezel 9 mm, across narrowest surviving point on hoop 2 mm, enamel inset 5 mm x 5 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2380. Ph 4. Ring type approximates to type XII. 3rd century.
259. **Copper alloy finger ring** with flattened hoop. Expanding slightly towards the bezel. Only part of hoop remains. Its circular raised bezel once contained a setting. W across bezel 11 mm, across narrowest remaining part of hoop 2mm, bezel 9 mm x 9 mm. Context 12836, building 10840, SF 3077. Ph 5. Ring type approximates to type XII. 3rd century.
260. **Copper alloy finger ring**, decayed. Circular hoop to which was applied a flat rectangular bezel, divided it seems into segments by grooving. D 23 mm, bezel 12 mm x 4 mm, W of hoop 1.5 mm. Context 12503, building 10820, SF 2533. Ph 5.
261. **Copper alloy ring** with much of hoop missing. It has decorated triangular shoulders, and a raised bezel with a small round dark blue ?glass setting. D 22 mm. Context 12543, building 10820, SF 2479. Ph 5.

*Simple finger rings: Plain finger ring with grooved decoration*

262. **Finger ring** of rectangular cross-section, with parallel grooves on outer face. Cast. Cu alloy. D 22 mm. Context 11344, building 10880, SF 1631. Ph 5.

*Simple finger rings: Barley sugar twist*

263. **Finger ring** decorated with a barley sugar twist. Well-preserved with little sign of wear. Cu alloy. D 20 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1561. Ph 4.
264. **Finger ring** decorated with a barley sugar twist. Cu alloy. D 21 mm x 18 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2064. Ph 4.
265. **Finger ring**, worn and distorted. Formed from thin strip with a barley sugar twist. Cu alloy. D 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1557. Ph 4.

*Simple finger rings: Plain circular section*

Twenty five examples were recovered (Table 5.24) mainly from the shrine deposits and associated contexts.

266. **Small finger ring** of circular section, eroded. Cu alloy. D 19 mm x 18 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface, SF 1270. Ph 5.
267. **Finger ring** of circular section, slightly eroded. Cu alloy. D 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1546. Ph 4.

*Simple finger rings: Decorated circular section*

Four examples were found, all recovered from the shrine deposit context 11328.

268. **Finger ring** of circular cross section, with pattern of closely set radial lines around band. Cu alloy. D 19 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1481. Ph 4.
269. **Finger ring** of circular section, with slight radial grooving. Well-preserved, possibly worn. Cu alloy. D 23 mm x 21.5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1506. Ph 4.

*Simple finger rings: Flat oval or rectangular section*

These rings are flat and the cross sections of the hoop are in the plane of the ring, and not at right angles to it. Thirty examples were recovered, including 24 from the shrine deposits.

270. **Finger ring** of flattened oval section. Cu alloy. D 24 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1116. Ph 4 to 5.
271. **Finger ring** of rectangular section, with pattern of fine lines on faces. Cu alloy. D 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1476. Ph 4.
272. **Finger ring** of sub-rectangular cross-section. Well-preserved with little evidence of wear. Cu alloy. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1494. Ph 4.

*Simple finger rings: Sub-square or sub-rectangular section*

Four examples were found (Table 5.24).

273. **Finger ring**, thin, sub square section, slightly eroded. Cu alloy. D 21 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 991. Ph 4 to 5.
274. **Finger ring** of sub-rectangular cross section. Cu alloy. D 21 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1235. Ph 4.

*Simple finger ring: Triangular section*

A single example (SF 1582) was found. It came from the shrine deposit, and has not been illustrated.

*Simple finger rings: Hoops formed from strips of oval or rectangular section*

Three examples (SFs 1458, 1555 and 1749) were recovered, two from the shrine deposit (SFs 1555 and 1749) and the third from the settlement. None is illustrated.

*Simple finger rings: Thin patterned*

275. **Finger ring**, thin, oval section, with pattern of parallel lines on external face. Cu alloy. D 20 mm x

- 19 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1039. Ph 4-5.  
 276. (*not illustrated*) **Finger ring**, thin on one side – possibly due to wear – possibly with slight cable pattern on outer edge. Cu alloy. D 23.5 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1235. Ph 4

*Simple rings: wire*

Six simple rings formed from wire hoops were found. None has been illustrated. One silver example (SF 1621) came from the shrine deposit together with three copper alloy examples (SFs 1832, 1835 and 2709). Two copper alloy examples (SFs 2449 and 2621) came from contexts associated with the shrine.

*Simple finger rings: Rings formed from twisted wire*

277. **Possible finger ring** formed from twisted and rolled wire. Could be a bracelet fragment. Cu alloy. D 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2042. Ph 4.

**Bead** (Fig. 5.38)

278. **Annular bead** of pewter with off-centre hole. Pb. D 15.5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1536, Ph 4.

**Hairpins** (Fig. 5.39)

*Copper alloy*

See Cool 1990 for the typology of copper alloy hairpins.

279. **Hairpin** with tapering stem and decorated head. The latter comprises an inverted conical knob with a grooved top. Cu alloy. L 95 mm. Area G, Context 8047, well 8032, SF 660. RB. No precise parallel known. It does not fit readily into any of groups defined by Cool and has to be assigned to her miscellaneous multi-grooved category, Group 25. (Cool 1990, 170).
280. **Hairpin** with rolled or coiled head. Cu alloy. L 117 mm. Context 10744, ditch 12970, SF 1269. Ph 5.
281. (*not illustrated*) **Hairpin fragment**, with large domed head. Cool Group 1 domed knob. Cu alloy. L 20 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1036. Ph 4 to 5.
282. **Hairpin fragment**, with onion-shaped head with plain narrow cordon below. Cool Group 2. Cu alloy. L 16.5 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 942. Unphased.
283. **Hairpin** with small baluster head and cordon, of no greater diameter than stem. Cool Group 2. Cu alloy. L 108 mm, D 1.5 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1623. Ph 4.
284. **Hairpin fragment** with neatly formed head with pointed top, baluster and reel. Cool Group 3. Cu alloy. L 44 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine, SF 2844. Unph.
285. **Hairpin fragment**, broken near point, with clear bend. Possibly a deliberate break. Small baluster head with two plain cordons. Cool Group 3. Cu alloy. L 80 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3061. Ph 4.
286. **Hairpin** with broad flat button-like head with slight domed top, and plain cordon below. Cool Group 6 button and cordon. Cu alloy. L 90 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3058, Ph 4.
287. **Hairpin fragment**, with drum-like top with mouldings below. Uncertain moulded form. Cu alloy. L 63 mm. Context 12585, between buildings 10820 and 10830, SF 2772, Ph 5.
288. **Hairpin fragment** with moulded head. Uncertain moulded form, Cu alloy. L 67 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3117. Ph 4.

*Anglo-Saxon form*

289. (*not illustrated*) **Hairpin** with tapering stem and knob with writhen decoration, with slight cordons

below. Anglo-Saxon type. Cu alloy. L 96 mm. Context 10738, shrine area, SF 1302. Ph 5.

*Bone*

The types of bone hairpins follow Crummy 1979 and 1983.

290. **Hairpin** with three crudely cut mouldings or cordons below a short point at the head. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 104 mm. Context 11262, trample south of building 10810, SF 1400. Ph 5.
291. **Hairpin**, possibly complete. Crudely made with cut mouldings or cordons at the head and a slightly twisted stem of sub-rectangular to rectangular section. As it stands the pin is short, but appears to be complete. It may have been longer but roughly reshaped after a break. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 65 mm. Context 11318, hearth 11316 within building 10890, SF 1475. Ph 4.
292. **Hairpin fragment**, with crudely cut moulding below roughly pointed head. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 62 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2254. Ph 4.
293. **Hairpin fragment**, with crudely cut moulding or cordon below pointed head. The stem is broken and partially split, suggesting that the break may have been deliberate. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 78 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2262. Ph 4.
294. **Hairpin**, with crudely cut cordon below the head, and with a point which appears to have been re-sharpened with a knife. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 77 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2736. Ph 4.
295. **Hairpin fragment**, with knife cut moulding below pointed head. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 25 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2775. Ph 4.
296. **Hairpin fragment**, with knife cut small moulding below conical or pointed head. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 38 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2913. Ph 4.
297. **Hairpin**, complete, with pointed head and single neatly cut moulding. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 120 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2948. Ph 4.
298. (*not illustrated*) **Hairpin fragment** with conical head and single knife cut moulding below. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 61 mm. Context 11430, ditch 11750, SF 1607. Ph 4.
299. Possible **hairpin fragment** comprising pointed head with thin moulding and part of thick tapering stem. Crummy type 2. Bone. L 39 mm. Context 11771, shrine area, SF 1834. Ph 4.
300. (*not illustrated*) **Hairpin** with swelling stem and plain spherical head. Crummy Type 3. Bone. L 104 mm. Context 10597, pit 10885, SF 1024. Ph 5.
301. **Hairpin** with swelling stem and plain spherical head. Crummy type 3. Bone. L 114 mm. Context 11680, building 10880, SF 1785. Ph 4.
302. (*not illustrated*) Fragment of **small hairpin with small head**. the head is a little eroded, and is separated from the polished stem by a small collar. Crummy type 3. Bone. L 30 mm. Context 12305, shrine area, SF -. Ph 4.
303. **Hairpin fragment** with possibly drum shaped head, drum, Bone. L 62 mm. Context 11134, building 10810, SF 1423, Ph 5.
304. **Hairpin fragment** with large drum shaped head, with slightly angled sides. Stem broken. Bone. L 37 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2929. Ph 4.
305. **Hairpin fragment** with baluster moulding with writhen decoration. Stem marked with an X with a line above and below. Bone. L 52 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 2911. Ph 5.

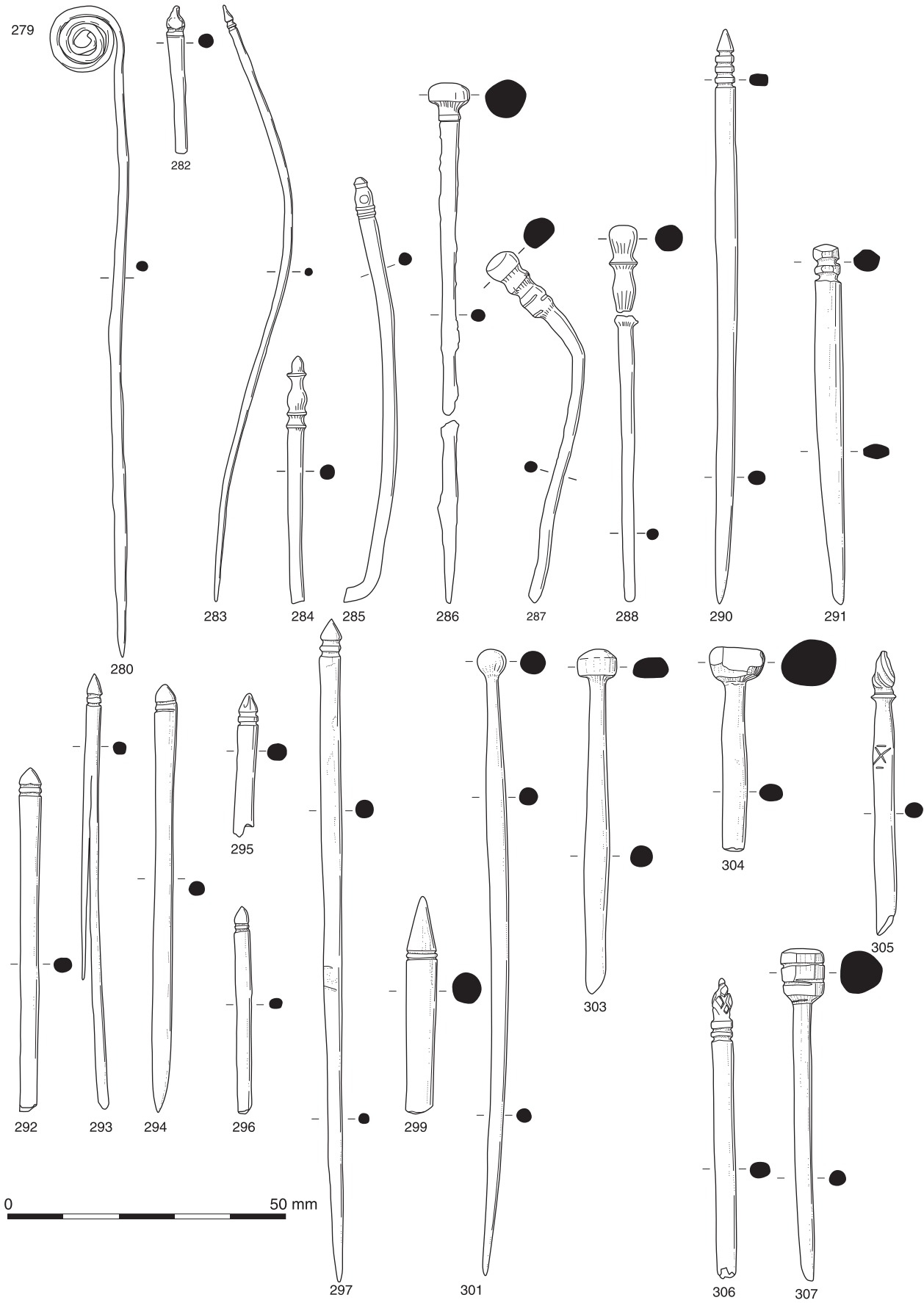


Fig. 5.39 Personal – other jewellery

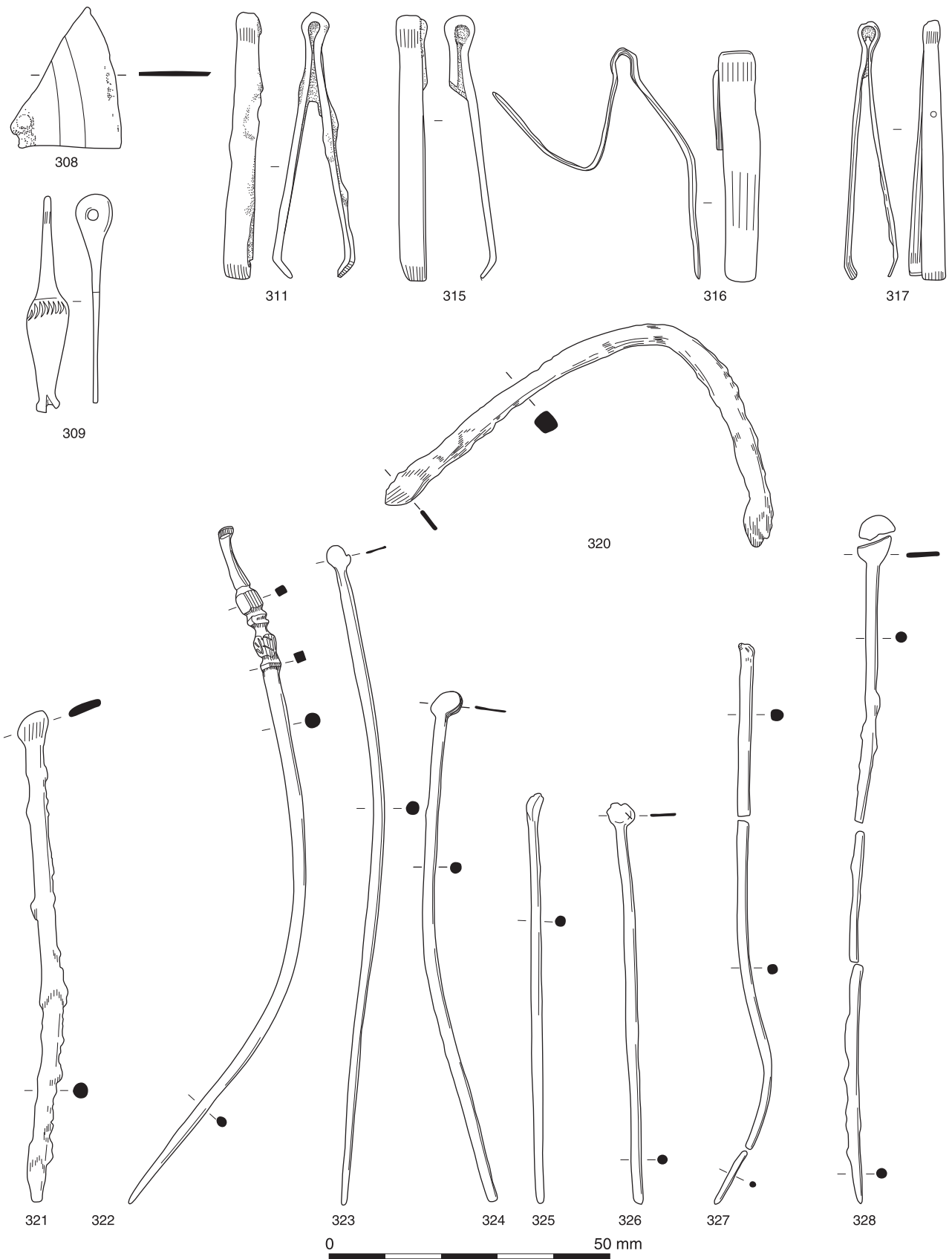


Fig. 5.40 Personal – toilet items

306. **Hairpin fragment**, with top decorated with a pine cone motif with two mouldings below. Bone. L 54 mm. Context 11018, ditch 11940, SF 1398. Ph 5.
307. **Hairpin** with cylindrical head with two cut grooves or mouldings. Bone. Context 10510, ditches 10835, 10845 and 10855, SF 995. Ph 5

#### Personal – Toilet items (Fig. 5.40)

308. **Mirror fragment**. Slightly concave in section. Segment of a probably circular mirror. Silvered or tinned on both faces. Copper alloy. L 25 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1613. Ph 4.

#### Nail cleaner

309. **Nail cleaner**, Baldock type (Crummy 2001b). There is a chevron pattern on either face of the blade. Copper alloy. L 38 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3048. Ph 4. This is a variant of the Baldock type identified by Crummy (2001b) and dating from the mid 1st century and into the 2nd century (Crummy and Eckhardt 2003, 53).

#### Tweezers

310. (*not illustrated*) **Tweezers**. Plain tweezers formed from strip. The sides are straight, not curved, and widen towards the jaws. Cu alloy. L 52mm. Area G, Context 8003, unstratified, SF 605. RB.
311. **Tweezers**, plain, complete. Copper alloy. L 48 mm. Context 10675, building 10870, SF 1199. Ph 4.
- 312-313. (*not illustrated*) **Tweezers**. One pair (SF 1263) bent. Copper alloy. L (extant) 24 mm; L 55 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface (SF 1263), Context 11333, limestone surfacing between buildings 10870 and 11630, SF 2138, Ph 5.
314. (*not illustrated*) **Tweezers**. Broken arm deliberately rolled. Copper alloy. D 18 x 20 mm. Context 11627, shrine, SF 2051, Ph 4.
315. **Tweezers**. One arm broken. The complete arm widens towards the angled jaws. Copper alloy. L 47 mm. Context 12232, robber trench 12390, SF 2255. Unphased.
316. **Tweezers** formed from thin strip, now bent, possibly deliberately. Copper alloy. L 50 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2426. Ph 4.
317. **Tweezers**, plain pair, with angled jaws. The jaws are slightly wider than the sides. Copper alloy. L 47 mm. Context 12472, ditch 12471, SF 2454. Ph 4.
318. (*not illustrated*) **Tweezers**, plain, complete, almost no taper. L 53 mm. Cu alloy. Context 12986, metal detector find on the west side of Roman road opposite Area G, SF 3210. Ph 4
319. (*not illustrated*) **Tweezers**, plain, complete, but bent and twisted at the jaws, probably deliberately. L (extant) 54 mm. Cu alloy. Context 12986, metal detector find on the west side of Roman road opposite Area G, SF 3210. Ph 4

#### Ligulae

320. **Ligula** with square section stem ending in small spoon terminals. Bent. Fe. L 69 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1635. Ph 4.
321. **Ligula**, with a small spoon/spatula at one end and pointed at the other end. Fe. L 88 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2118. Ph 4.
322. **Ligula**, stem decorated with mouldings adjacent to the small angled spatula. Copper alloy. L 122 mm.

- Context 12104, ditch 13025, SF 2134. Ph 5.
323. **Ligula** with flat circular angled spatula at one end and point at the other. Copper alloy. L 115 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2253. Ph 4.
324. **Ligula**, with flat spade-shaped angled spatula at one end and broken at the other end. Copper alloy. L 91 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2671. Ph 4.
325. **Ligula** with eroded long thin spatula at one end and blunt rounded point at the other end. Copper alloy. L 74 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2716. Ph 4.
326. **Ligula**, with flat circular angled spatula, notched at the end. Copper alloy. L 72 mm. Context 11672, shrine area, SF 1768. Ph 4.
327. **Ligula**, with angled spatula, largely missing, and point at the other end. Copper alloy. L 100 mm. Context 11812, building 10870, SF 1822. Ph 4.
328. **Ligula**. Flat, circular and angled spatula. Copper alloy. L 78 mm. Context 12618, ditch 12617, SF 2470. Ph 4.

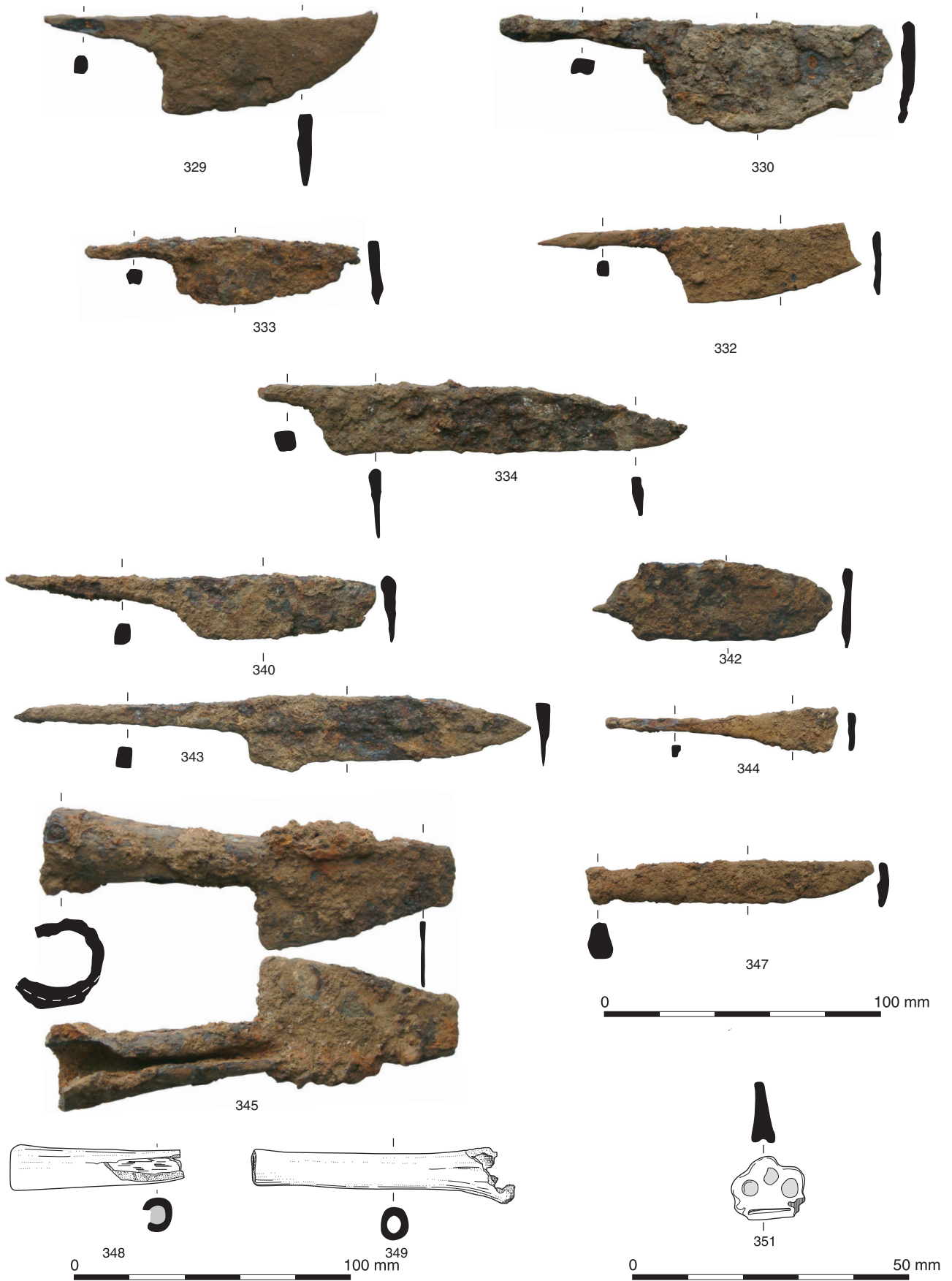
#### Household (Fig. 5.41-3)

##### Cutlery including knives (Fig. 5.41-2)

##### Whittle tang knives

329. **Whittle tang knife**, with slightly curved back with three notches near turned up tip. Deep triangular section blade with curved edge, and dropped edge. Fe. L 121 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 965. Unphased.
330. **Whittle tang knife**. Deep blade of triangular section, with a straight back aligned with handle or tang and dropped edge. The cutting edge curves up to the tip of the blade. Fe. L 142 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface, SF 1211. Ph 5.
331. (*not illustrated*) **Whittle tang knife** with short triangular blade. The blade has a straight back continuing the line of the tang, a dropped edge and an angled cutting edge. Fe. L 138 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1625. Ph 4.
332. **Whittle tang knife**, with S-curved back, and curved edge. The back continues the line of the tang. The choil is steeply angled and slightly curved. There are traces of mineralised wood on tang. Fe. L 116 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1816. Ph 4.
333. **Whittle tang knife**, with slightly curved back, which continues the line of the tang, and dropped edge. The cutting edge is curved and the choil square. Could be a blade from a pair of shears. Fe. L 99 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1177. Unph.
334. **Whittle tang knife**, with straight back with an angled break to point, and straight edge and angled choil. The blade has a more or less triangular section. Fe. L 157 mm. Context 11301, building 10870, SF 1441. Ph 4.
335. (*not illustrated*) **Whittle tang knife**, with curved parallel-sided blade, the back curves down sharply near the tip and the choil is angled. Possibly recent? Fe. L 121 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3172. Ph 5.
336. (*not illustrated*) **Whittle tang knife**, with slightly curved or arched back and steeply down-curved tip. The blade has a slightly sinuous edge with curved choil, and is of triangular section. The tang continues the line of the back. Fe. L 108 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3176. Ph 5.
337. (*not illustrated*) **Whittle tang knife**, with slightly curved back and sharply angled tip. The edge has a

*Between Villa and Town*



*Fig. 5.41 Household*

- slight concave curve. The back and edge are parallel. The triangular section blade has a dropped edge and angled choil. Fe. L 143 mm. Context 12503, building 10820, SF 2528. Ph 5.
338. *(not illustrated)* **Whittle tang knife fragment.** The blade is eroded, but has straight or slightly curved back that curves down to the tang. The blade edge has a triangular section and a curved or angled choil. Fe. L 70 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1181. Unphased.
339. *(not illustrated)* **Whittle tang knife fragment.** The blade is incomplete, but appears to be slightly tapered possibly with a slightly curved back and straight edge. The tang is centrally placed. Fe. L 105 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3175. Ph 5.
340. **Whittle tang knife.** The blade has a curved back and edge, and dropped edge with angled choil. The tang continues the line of the back, but is slightly angled up. Fe. L 134 mm. Context 12945, building 10830, SF -. Ph 5.
341. *(not illustrated)* **Knife with whittle or plate tang.** The incomplete tang is broad and flat and continues the line of the back. The blade has a slightly curved back and edge and terminates in a rounded tip, and has a dropped edge with an angled slightly rounded choil. Fe. L 125 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1063. Ph 5.
342. **Whittle tang blade,** short blade of triangular section, with curved back and edge and rounded tip. It has a lobe-like extension on the back near the tang. There was possibly a similar extension on the cutting edge. Centrally placed tang. Fe. L 88 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1179. Unph.
343. **Whittle tanged knife** of distinctive form. The blade has a step along the middle of one face. The back is straight and then curves down to the point. The edge is similar but wider near the handle. The tang continues the line of the back. Triangular section blade with dropped edge. Could be intrusive. Fe. L 191 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface, SF 1212. Ph 5.
344. **Possible whittle tang knife blade.** Little of the blade survives, but it has a single cutting edge. The tang is centrally placed. Fe. L 85 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1477. Ph 4.
- Socketed knives*
345. **Socketed knife,** with triangular blade. The socket is heavy and has no visible nail hole. Fe. L 148 mm. Context 10500, topsoil, SF 1183. Unphased.
346. *(not illustrated)* **Socketed knife,** with broad blade. The blade is parallel sided, except near the tip where the back curves down sharply. The edge also curves down slightly. The blade has a square choil, and there is a possible nail hole visible on the x-ray near the choil. Fe. L 94 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 903. Ph 5.
- Solid handled knife*
347. **Small knife with a solid handle,** short and tapering with loop at the end. Fe. L 105 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1743. Ph 4.
- Knife handles*
348. **Tapering plain bone handle** with remains of iron tang inside. Bone. L 62 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1652. Ph 5.
349. **Possible knife handle** made by cutting one end from a small long bone. Bone. L 96 mm. Context 11804, pit 11803, SF 1844. Ph 5.
350. *(not illustrated)* **Probable bone handle fragment** comprising polished piece of long bone. The broader end is rounded and smoothed, with traces of a sub-rectangular socket, and decorated with a band of lattice pattern. Bone. L 41 mm. Context 11310, building 10870, SF -. Ph 5.
351. **Trilobate terminal,** small, cast, probably from the hilt of a knife. Copper alloy. L 13 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 993. Ph 5.
- Spoons*
352. **Spoon fragment,** comprising part of pear-shaped bowl with cranked stem. Copper alloy. L 39 mm. Context 10624, building 10840, SF 1157. Ph 5.
353. **Spoon bowl fragment.** Copper alloy. L 22 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1532. Ph 4.
- Utensils (Fig. 5.42)*
354. Possible **flesh hook fragment,** with rectangular section stem and two hooked points. Fe. L 67 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3180. Ph 5.
355. **Ladle fragment,** with incomplete hemispherical bowl. The handle has a barley sugar twist, except close to the bowl where it is wider and flat. Fe. L 194 mm, bowl D 80 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3170. Ph 5.
356. **Ladle fragment,** comprising part of hemispherical bowl and handle with barley sugar twist. Fe. L 107 mm, bowl D c 80 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1528. Ph 4.
- Vessels (Fig. 5.42)*
357. **Vessel rim fragment,** possibly from a spun or raised vessel. Copper alloy. L 35 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1084. Ph 5.
358. *(not illustrated)* **Vessel rim fragment,** probably from a bowl with everted rim. Fe. L 86 mm. Context 10657, building 10860, SF 1405. Ph 5.
359. **Small dish,** which has been flattened. Part of the rim is missing. Pewter or Pb. D 96 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1602. Ph 4.
360. Possible **vessel fragment,** comprising cut sheet of roughly square outline. Appears to have a cast ridge across it suggesting that it might have been part of a decorated vessel. Pb. L 40 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2266. Ph 4.
- Lead repairs (Fig. 5.42)*
- A small number of lead plugs or repairs were identified. One example is illustrated and was recovered from the shrine deposit. The other five examples came from settlement contexts (SFs 1065, 1223 and 1657) or were recovered by metal detector (SFs 1124 and 1128) from over buildings 10840 and 10850.
361. **Repair plug,** roughly circular. Pb. L 25 mm. Context 11328, SF 1568. Ph 4.
- Miscellaneous household items (Fig. 5.43)*
362. *(not illustrated)* **Candlestick** with lead base and candle holder formed from rolled copper alloy sheet. The candle holder protrudes from lead base.

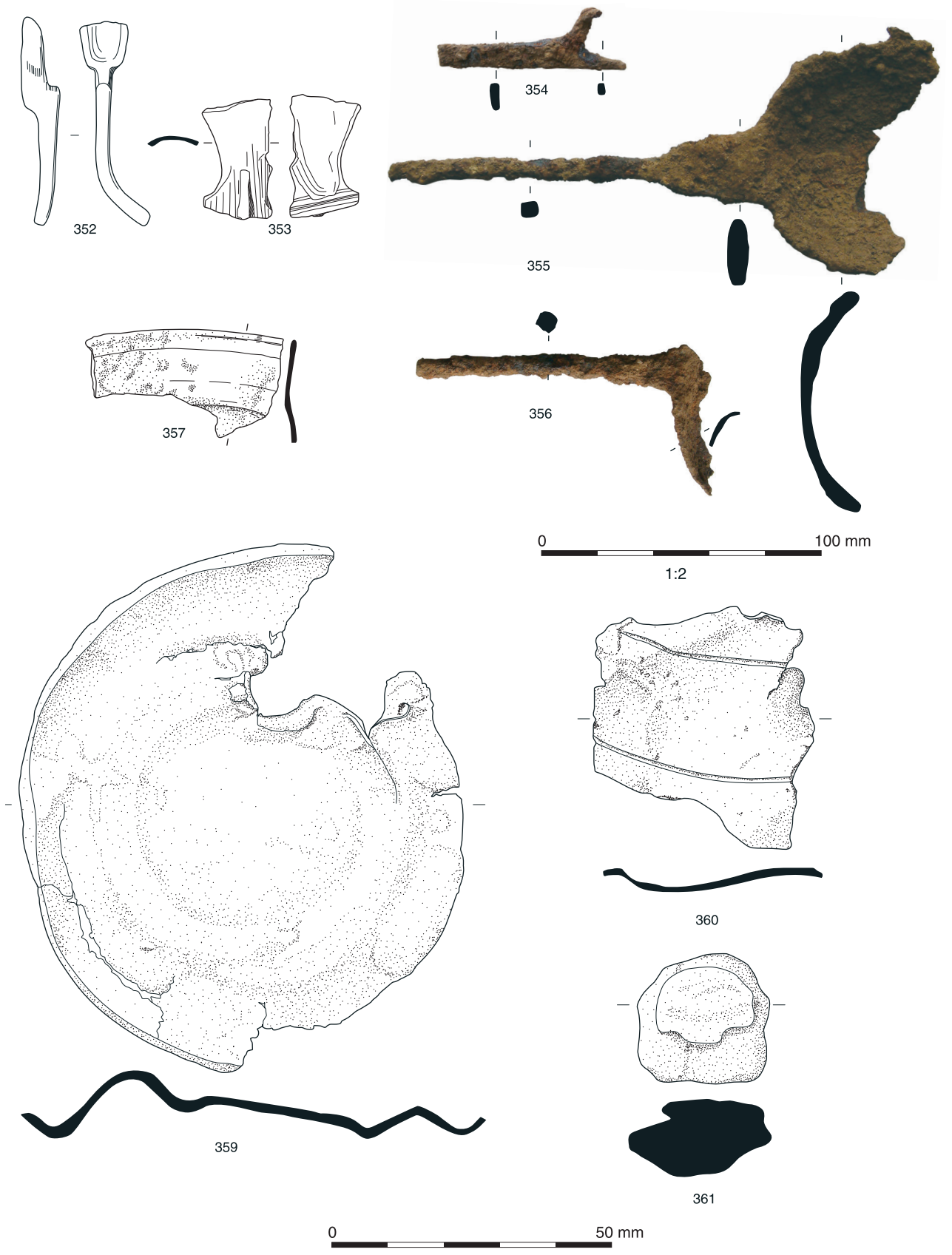


Fig. 5.42 Household



Copper alloy and Pb. H 51 mm, base D 50 x 55 mm.  
Context 10506, ditch 10700, SF 924, Ph 5.

363. **Bucket handle mount**, comprising strip with two possible nail holes and formed into a loop at one end. Attached is a broken ring. Fe. L 95 mm. Context 11342, well 12885, SF 1586, Ph 4.
364. Possible **vessel handle** formed from strip with diamond-shaped terminal with a thin slit (visible on x-ray plate) at one end and a broad flange pierced

by a nail at the other end. This end is heavily encrusted. Fe. L 135 mm. Context 11342, well 12885, SF 1585, Ph 4.

*Miscellaneous household fittings* (Fig. 5.43)

365. **'Bell-shaped' terminal**, with trace of iron rod at base. Cast. Cu alloy. H 27 mm. Context 10510, ditches 10835, 10845 and 10855, SF 1381. Ph 5.
366. **'Bell-shaped' terminal**, possibly with enamelled



Fig. 5.43 Household



Fig. 5.44 Security

- end. Cast. Cu alloy. H 28 mm, D 16 mm. Context 10547, buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830, SF 1061. Ph 5.
367. **'Bell-shaped' terminal**, with hollow end and enamelled central button. Cu alloy. H 30 mm, D 32 mm. Context 10624, building 10840, SF 1120. Ph 5.
368. **Decorative strip**, with rows of dots flanking a row of larger oval pellets. Flanking the dots are thin lines. No visible nail or pin holes. Cu alloy. L 38 mm, W 25 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1032. Ph 4 to 5.
369. Possible **hinge strap** comprising cast tapering strip with three extant nail holes. The tapered end is decorated with a slight moulding. Cu alloy. L 48 mm, W 14 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2399. Ph 4.
370. **Decorative plate, circular**. The outer edge is milled, and there are two concentric ridges separated from the edge by a broad groove. Plate for a door knob or similar. Possibly recent and intrusive. Cu alloy. D 31 mm. Context 12433, colluvium north of shrine area, SF 2370. Ph 4.
371. **Figure-of-eight shaped object**, curved in both long and cross sections. Function uncertain. Fe. L 100 mm, W 49 mm. Context 12945, building 10830, SF 3207. Ph 5.
372. **Object of uncertain function** formed from iron strips. Comprises a roughly square central portion, with rolled scrolls at each corner. Fe. L 85 mm. Context 12945, building 10830, SF 3207. Ph 5.
373. **Circular washer** with domed centre, pierced with a nail hole. Fe. D 41 mm. Context 10506, ditch 10700, SF 927. Ph 5.

## Security (Fig. 5.44-5)

### Keys

#### *Barb spring padlock keys*

374. **Barb spring padlock key**. Fe. L 158 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3171. Ph 5.
375. **Barb spring padlock key**, with incomplete bit. Fe. L 198 mm. Context 10793, grave 10780, SF 1317. Ph 5.
376. **Barb spring padlock key**. Fe. L 160 mm. Context 10793, grave 10780, SF 1319. Ph 5.
377. **Barb spring padlock key handle** with suspension ring. Fe. L 70 mm. Context 12332, building 10820, SF 2687. Ph 5.

#### *Lift keys*

378. **L-shaped lift key**, with two extant teeth. Fe. L 137 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 3169. Ph 5.
379. **L-shaped lift key**, with three teeth. Cu alloy. L 119 mm. Context 10543, road surface, SF 1193. Ph 5.
380. **L-shaped lift key**, with three extant teeth. Fe. L 152 mm, W 46 mm. Context 10793, grave 10780, SF 1318. Ph 5.
381. **L-shaped lift key**, with two extant teeth. Fe. L 89 mm. Context 12335, pit 12334, SF 2236. Ph 5.
382. **L-shaped lift key**, with two extant teeth. Fe. L 80 mm. Context 12435, plot D, SF 2444. Ph 4.
383. **L-shaped lift key**, with three teeth. Fe. L 122 mm. Context 12585, silty deposit north of building 10800, SF 2771. Ph 5.
384. **L-shaped lift key**, with two teeth on bit. Fe. L 128 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3040. Ph 4.

385. **T-shaped lift key**. The bit has one tooth on each side. Fe. L 85 mm. Context 12836, building 10840, SF 3160. Ph 5.

#### *Slide key*

386. **L-shape slide key**. Manning Type 1 slide key (Manning 1985, 92-3). Fe. L 176 mm. Context 11331, behind building 10840, SF 1670. Ph 5.

#### *Other keys and latchlifter*

387. (*not illustrated*) **Lever lock key**, now fragmented, with copper alloy chain, of 6 figure-of-eight links with larger rings at each end. One ring (D 25 mm) is of circular section, the other (D 26 mm) has a small inner flange or ridge. Attached to the first ring is a heavily encrusted further ring or link to which the key was apparently attached. Cu alloy and Fe. L 120 mm. Context 11007, building 10810, SF 1411. Ph 5.
388. Possible **key handle** of rectangular cross section, with rounded shoulders and the remains of a narrow loop. Fe. L 175 mm. Context 12332, building 10820, SF 2686. Ph 4 to 5.
389. **Latchlifter**. Fe. L 160 mm. Context 10676, building 10880 and adjacent surface, SF 1207. Ph 5.

#### *Barb spring padlock*

390. **Barb spring padlock** of Manning Type 2 (Manning 1985, 95-6 and fig. 25, 11). In two pieces. One piece comprises the hasp with part of lock case. One end of the hasp is attached to the case, the other end terminates in a pierced plate through which the lock bolt passes, before being secured in the lock case. The second smaller piece comprises the padlock case, broken at one end. The closed end has a T-shaped cutout for the insertion of the lock bolt. Fe. L 125 & 84 mm. Context 10507, silty deposit north of building 10800, SFs 2797 and 2798. Ph 5.

This padlock comes from the same context as part of a slave shackle (**Cat. No. 58**) and could have been associated with it as part of a complete shackle or restraint (see above).

391. (*not illustrated*) **Chain link**, elongated figure of eight. Fe. L 77 mm. Context 10816, deposit overlying Roman features, SF 1337. Ph 5.

#### *Hinge fittings*

A number of hinge fittings were recovered (Table 5.26)

#### **Structural fittings**

A small number of structural items were found and these are shown in Table 5.27.

Table 5.26 Summary of hinge fittings by context group

Context Group	Hinge strap	L-shaped hinge pintle	Total
Settlement contexts	1	5	6
Shrine deposit		1	1
Shrine associated contexts	1		1
Total	2	6	8



Table 5.27 Summary quantification of structural fittings, excluding nails, by context group and phase

Context Group	Phase	Bolt	Clamp	Dog
Metal detecting Settlement	3 to 4		1	
	4			
	5		2	1
	Rom unph			
Shrine deposit	4	1		2
Shrine associated contexts	4			
	5	1		
Totals		2	3	4

**Nails**

The distribution of the nails by site area and phase is summarised in Table 5.28.

**Bindings (Fig. 5.46)**

There are 49 bindings (Table 5.29) but only a selection have been catalogued.

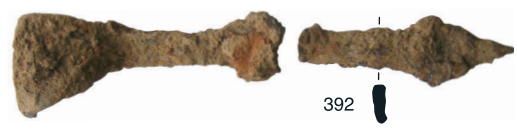
- 392. **Box corner binding.** Fe. L 130 mm. Context 10809, pit 10823, SF 1331. Ph 5.
- 393. **Corner binding**, in two parts. (1) Strip of iron bent at a right angle, with one certain and one possible nail hole. (2) Flat strip of cu alloy, deliberately shaped with waisted outline. No nail holes. Possibly originally attached to (1). Fe and Cu alloy. Dimensions: (1) L 71mm, W 17 mm. (2) L 46 mm, W 19 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1543. Ph 4.
- 394. **Binding**, comprising strip splayed at one end and bent over at a right at the other end. The long sides have raised borders. The right angle flange at one end has two nail/pin holes and no border. Cu alloy. L 56 mm. W 33 mm. Context 10503, roadside ditch 10670, SF 900. Ph 5.

Table 5.28 Summary quantification of nails by context group and phase

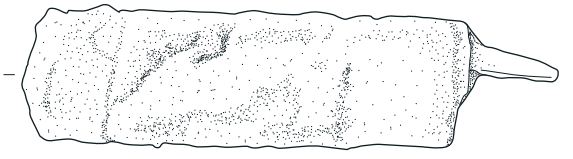
Context Group	Phase	Nails
Metal detector finds	4 to 5	6
	5	38
	unph	3
Settlement contexts	3	5
	3 to 4	1
	4	51
	5	196
	Rom unph	75
Shrine deposits	4	240
Shrine associated contexts	4	67
	5	1
Total		788

Fig. 5.45 (left) Security

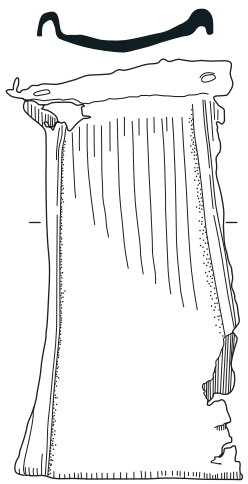
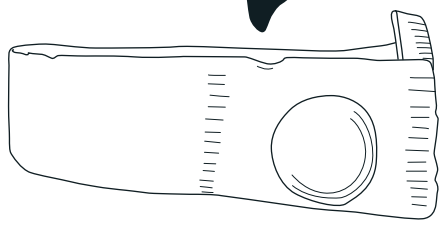
Holdfast	L-Staple	T-staple	U-staple	Spike	Split spike loop	Washer	Wedge	Yotting	Totals
1		1	1	1					5
1			1						2
3	3			1	1				11
		1						1	2
1	1			1	3	1			1
				1		3			12
						3	1		5
									1
6	4	2	2	4	4	7	1	1	40



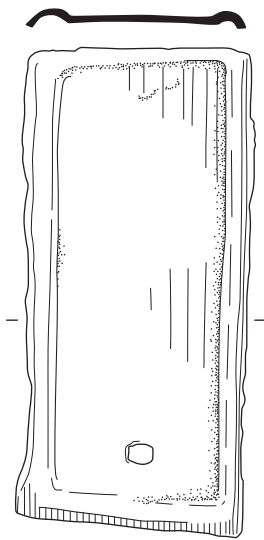
0 100 mm



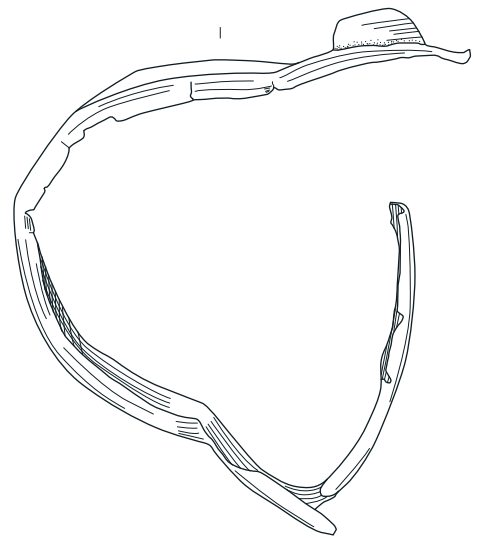
393



394



395



396

0 50 mm

Fig. 5.46 Bindings



Group 1	Phase	Silver	
		casting header	droplet
Metal detector finds	5		
	unph		
Settlement contexts	3		
	4		
	5		
	unph		
Shrine deposit	4		
Shrine associated contexts	4		
	5	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Fig. 5.47 Objects of uncertain identification

Table 5.29 Summary quantification of bindings by context group and phase

Context Group	Phase	Binding	Corner binding	Edge binding	Collar	Totals
Metal detector finds		5	1		1	7
Settlement contexts	4	2				2
	5	20	1		1	1
	Rom	2	1			1
Shrine	4	5	1		4	10
Shrine associated contexts	4	2		1	1	4
	4 to 5		1			1
Totals		36	5	1	7	49

395. **Binding** of thin sheet with raised border around three sides and nail holes at one end within border. Cu alloy. L 65 mm, W 30 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1512. Ph 4.
396. **Binding**. One end has a nail with a domed head, the other end has a nail hole. The strip is curved in plan. Cu alloy. L 60 mm, W 48 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2412. Ph 4.
397. (*not illustrated*) **Binding** of half round section, with two visible nail holes, one at each end. Cu alloy. L 60 mm. Context 12601, well 12885, SF 2749. Ph 5.
398. (*not illustrated*) **Edge binding** with one possible nail hole and one certain hole with a nail fragment *in situ*. Curved and angled. Cu alloy. L 91 mm. Context 12801, colluvium south of shrine area, SF 3063. Ph 4.

#### Industrial debris (Table 5.30)

Small quantities of industrial or craft debris were found. These included a silver casting header and droplet from context 10738 (Phase 5), and a copper alloy casting header (context 11253). There are also some possible iron billets. The main evidence for craft activity comprised cut fragments of bone (see above). Much this came from a small number of contexts.

#### Objects of uncertain identification (Fig. 5.47)

There are a number of objects of uncertain identification, and a selection have been catalogued and illustrated.

399. **Tube**, waisted and decorated with grooves. Cu alloy. L 24 mm. Context 10716, building 10920, SF 1599. Ph 3.
400. **Cast object**. Cu alloy. L 44 mm, W 18.5 mm. Context 10736, shrine area, SF 1236. Ph 4.
401. (*not illustrated*) **Rod**, with slight notches possibly cast into one side. Cu alloy. L 37 mm. Context 11203, robber trench 11230, SF 1431. Ph 5.
402. **Cast terminal**. Possibly the upper terminal of a scabbard slide. Cu alloy. L 18 mm, W 14 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1622. Ph 4.
403. **Pendant**, or **pivoted cover** with pivot or pin hole. Cu alloy. L 23 mm, D 20 mm. Context 12434, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 2446. Ph 4.
404. **Rod with rolled-over loop**, of square section. Fe. L 69 mm. Context 10656, building 11620, SF 1671. Ph 4 to 5.
405. **Curved rod with barley sugar twist**. Fe. L 78 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1815. Ph 4.
406. **Two narrow side strips** – incomplete – linked by a pivot. Between the strips and wrapped round the pivot is another strip forming a ?leaf spring. Finally an arched loop binds the whole together. Fe. L 45 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 2713. Ph 4.

Table 5.30 Summary quantification of industrial debris by context group, phase and material

casting header	Copper alloy		cut and broken bone fragments	Bone		Iron billet	Lead droplet	Totals
	casting waste	droplets		cut bone fragments	roughout			
		1				2		2
		1						1
					1			1
			5	56				1
				1		2	1	1
1								1
	1	1					1	3
		1						1
		1		2				5
1	1	4	5	59	1	4	2	79

407. **Oval ring** of circular cross section with expansion/thickening at one side. Fe. L 43 mm. Context 11634, paved surface, SF 1649. Ph 4.
408. **Possible armlet fragment**, with band of lozenge section. One end angled, flattened and broken, the other end is flattened. Fe. L 75 mm. Context 11779, shrine area, SF 1883. Ph 4.
409. **Stem with looped terminal** of square section. Fe. L 49 mm. Context 12503, building 10820, SF 2529. Ph 5.
410. **Medallion or seal**. Pewter or Pb. D 20 mm. Context 10739, colluvium west of shrine area, SF 1250. Ph 4.
411. **Antler tine** that has been cut from the main antler. It has a large nick cut above the cut surface. Below this the surface of the antler shows significant wear and some cuts. The tip also shows signs of wear. The tine has a recent break. Antler. L 237 mm. Context 11328, shrine area, SF 1583. Ph 4.

### THE ROMAN GLASS by H E M Cool

In total 55 fragments of Roman vessel glass were recovered, the majority of which were relatively small and undiagnostic and do not lend themselves to being more meaningfully quantified by EVEs. The assemblage was dominated by blue/green prismatic bottle fragments (Nos 10–18, 25 fragments), a form which is very common from the later 1st to the earlier 3rd century (Price and Cottam 1998, 194–200). No. 17 is a base fragment which retains a pontil scar, a technique used only occasionally on these bottles and suggesting that this particular one was made during the later part of the life of the form. None of the other bottle fragments retain any features that would enable a closer dating within the 1st- to 3rd-century date range.

Items of tableware are uncommon. The colourless body fragment No. 2 is most likely to have come from a mid 2nd-century wheel-cut beaker (Price and Cottam 1998, 91-2, fig. 32a), and the rim fragment No. 3 is most likely to come from a later 2nd- to 3rd-century cylindrical bottle (*ibid.*, 202-3), though the rim formation is not typical of the ones used on those. The rim No. 7 might have come from a blue/green jug with pulled out spout (*ibid.*, 159-60), though a fire-rounded rim would normally be expected on those rather than the rolled rim on this fragment. The asymmetry of the rim may merely reflect that this is a poorly made funnel-mouthed jar. Jars are represented by the yellow/brown example No. 1 and very possibly by the blue/green rim fragments No. 5. Jars tend not to be particularly chronologically sensitive, but the colour of the former would suggest a 1st- or earlier 2nd-century date. The latest item is the base fragment No. 19. The form cannot be identified but it is made in the bubbly pale greenish glass that is typical of the 4th century.

This small assemblage shows features that are to be expected, and some rather surprising omissions. That it is dominated by fragments from blue/green bottles is typical of rural sites of the 2nd century whose inhabitants often seemed to be uninterested in acquiring other types of glass vessels in any

numbers. Given, however, that occupation continued throughout the Roman period, the rarity of later forms and the lack of diversification into tablewares is striking. Colourless cylindrical cups (Price and Cottam 1998, 99-101) are extremely common in later 2nd- to mid 3rd-century assemblages, and are not uncommon finds on rural sites, including in this area of the East Midlands. Several, for example, were recovered during the nearby excavation of the villa estate at Stanwick (unpublished). At Higham Ferrers they appear absent, despite the extensive excavation.

Given the poverty of the general assemblage it is of some interest that the fragment of what appears to be the only good quality drinking vessel (No. 2) comes from the area of the shrine. The jar No. 1 came from the same context and is also unusual within this assemblage as being the only fragment made from a strong coloured glass which, as already noted, is not to be expected after the early 2nd century, and indeed would have been rare by then. So even though functionally this is a utilitarian vessel, visually it would have been unusual given the date of the occupation on the site. The quantities being dealt with are very small, but it does appear that at Higham Ferrers the vessel glass used in everyday life was not thought appropriate for use within the shrine area.

A small quantity of blue/green window glass was found in contexts 11012 (plot division boundary ditch between rear of buildings 10810 and 10820) and 11341 (fill of well 12885). This was the typical window glass of the 1st to 3rd centuries and its presence here suggests some glazing in the buildings of the settlement.

### Catalogue of vessel glass (Fig. 5.48)

1. Jar; rim fragment. Yellow/brown. Rim bent out, edge rolled up and in. Rim diameter 80 mm, wall thickness 1.5 mm, present height 15 mm. Context 11328, SF 2700. Illustrated.
2. Beaker; lower body fragment. Colourless. Fragment broken close to carination and sloping in. Wheel-cut line below carination. Dimensions 21 x 17 mm, wall thickness 2 mm. Context 11328, SF 2729.
3. Bottle; rim fragment. Colourless. Rim bent out, up, in and flattened; inner edge broken. Rim diameter 70 mm. Context 12945, SF 3208.
4. Body fragment. Colourless. Convex-curved with terminal of narrow rib. Dimensions 28 x 10 mm, wall thickness 1 mm. Context 12809, SF 3004. Also 1 undiagnostic colourless body fragment from context 12945
5. Bowl or jar; 2 joining rim fragments. Blue/green with flaking iridescence. Wide, out-turned rim with fire-rounded edge. Rim diameter 120 mm, wall thickness 1 mm, present height 10 mm. Contexts 11852 and 11854.
6. Bowl, cup or jar; rim fragment. Blue/green. Vertical (?) rim, edge externally fire-thickened. Dimensions 19 x 12 mm, wall thickness 2 mm. Context 12563, SF 1680.
7. Jug(?); rim fragment. Blue/green. Asymmetric



- funnel rim with rim edge rolled out. Present height 13 mm. Context 11430.
8. Base fragment; blue/green. Shallow concave base without pontil scar. Base diameter *c* 40 mm. Context 12984, SF 3204.  
Also 18 undiagnostic blue/green body fragments from contexts 10547, 10624, 10643, 10717, 10895, 10972, 11115, 11309, 11328, 11834, 12563 (2 fragments), 12733, 12827 (3 fragments), 12945, 12984.
9. Body fragment. Blue/green. Retaining part of very shallow rib. Dimensions 20 x 19 mm, wall thickness 1.5 mm. Context 10876.
10. Bottle or Jug; neck fragment. Blue/green. Cylindrical neck broken at junction with shoulder. Neck diameter 23 mm. Context 11963, SF 1908.
11. Bottle; handle fragment. Blue/green. Angular reeded handle retaining small fragments of upper attachment. Context 10972, SF 1387.
12. Bottle; chip from outer edge of folded rim? Dimensions 14 x 7 mm. Context 11834.
13. Bottle; handle fragment. Blue/green. Edge of reeded handle. Context 10842, SF 1344.
14. Bottle; handle fragment. Edge of reeded handle fragment. Context 10577, SF 966.
15. Hexagonal bottle; base fragment. Blue/green. Base design – corner of six-sided moulding. Dimensions 45 x 16 mm. Context 11152. Illustrated.
16. Prismatic bottle; base fragment. Blue/green. Base design – part of one straight and one curved moulding. Context 10657, SF 1403.
17. Prismatic bottle; base fragment. Blue/green. Broken at edge of moulding and retaining curved scar from pontil. Dimensions 45 x 15 mm. Context 10657.
18. Prismatic bottle; lower body and edge of base fragment. Blue/green. Present height 25 mm. Context 11007.  
Also 16 blue/green bottle body fragments from contexts 10806, 11154, 11233 (2 fragments), 11656, 12146, 12643, 12827 (5 fragments), 12838, 12945 (2 fragments).

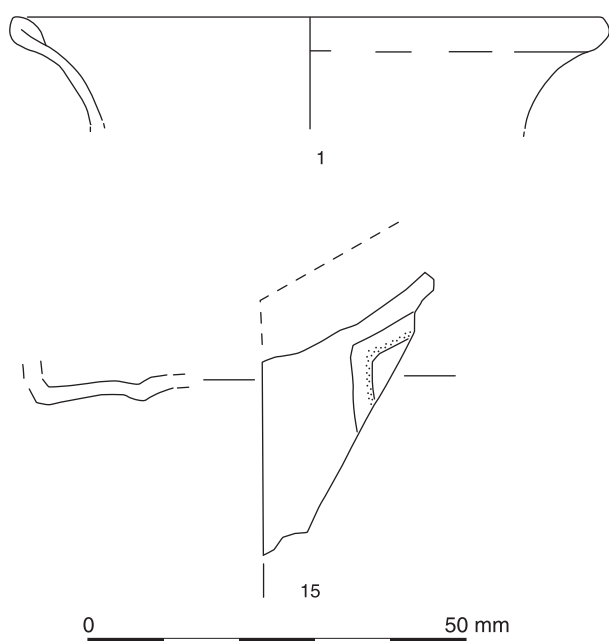


Fig. 5.48 Vessel glass

19. Bowl, cup or beaker; base fragment. Light greenish bubbly. Very shallow concave base. Base diameter 25 mm, Wall thickness 1.5 mm. Context 12984, SF 3203.

#### LEATHER OBJECTS by Quita Mould

A shoe of single-piece construction was found in backfill (8048) of the upper level of well 8032 in Area G, while the remains of a shoe of nailed construction were recovered from a lower level (8279) of the same well. The well was dug in Phase 4 (late 2nd-3rd century) although the fills (including both contexts containing the shoes) were associated with the abandonment of the structure during the 4th century. The remains of a second nailed shoe and a single piece of secondary waste were recovered from a lower fill of well 8278, also in Area G and dated to the 3rd century onward. All three shoes were of adult size and Roman date; there is no reason to doubt they are contemporary with the pottery with which they were associated.

The nailed shoes were highly fragmentary so that only the general shoe type is known. Nailed shoes have soles made of several layers held together principally by nailing. These layers, usually comprising an insole, a middle sole, middle laminae or small pieces of middle packing, and an outer sole, are known collectively as the bottom unit. The nailed shoes found at Higham Ferrers had middle laminae packing the bottom unit between the insole and sole, that in one shoe was clearly of recycled leather. This shoe, from the shaft of well 8032, had constructional thonging running around the edge of the bottom unit (type 3, Mould 1997, 328-333). The lasting margin of the upper had been sewn to the edge of a middle lamina with a narrow leather thong. The other nailed shoe found in well 8278 had constructional thonging running down the centre of the remaining bottom unit (type 1 or 2). Each shoe had a heel stiffener suggesting that they had closed uppers. Insufficient leather remained for the nailing patterns to be classified according to van Driel-Murray's typology (2001, 350-2) but the larger example, from well 8278, can be placed into type C of the classification used in earlier publications of British nailed footwear (Rhodes 1980, 105-7; Mould 1997, 331).

The single-piece shoe of cattle hide for the left foot was not heavily worn when thrown away. The larger fastening loops had been torn off. A fragment of fastening present, possibly broken from an integral fastening lace, was decorated with three opposing pairs of small lobes.

#### METALWORKING DEBRIS by Gareth Hatton

A total of 5.3 kg of metalworking debris was recovered during excavations (Table 5.31). Density and visual appearance was used to discriminate between types of metalworking debris, and all pieces were categorised, counted and weighed. All

Table 5.31 Summary quantification of slag by weight (g)

Phase	Fuel ash slag	Non diagnostic	run slag	smithing hearth bottom	Total
3-4	166	99		738	1013
5	57	1130	90	2804	4081
Saxon			15	25	40
Unknown				224	224
Total	223	1229	105	3791	5348

terms used below to describe the material are defined in Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, *Archaeometallurgy* (Bayley *et al.* 2001). Smithing hearth bottoms are slag that accumulates in a smith's hearth and are diagnostic of iron-smithing. Run slag refers to pieces of slag which resemble tap slag but are smaller and less distinctive while retaining their ropey appearance. This may form during iron smithing or smelting processes. Run slag and non-diagnostic iron-rich slag can form in either iron smithing or smelting processes. Here no diagnostic smelting slag was identified but smithing slag was identified. The non-diagnostic and run slag are most likely the by-products of iron smithing. The fuel ash slags only indicate high temperature activities and may not be associated with metalworking.

All the material is from backfill contexts suggesting that it was dumped. The high proportion of smithing hearth bottoms with smaller quantities of non-diagnostic slag and no corresponding vitrified hearth lining suggests that it was selected and transported from elsewhere on the site. However there is no pattern to the distribution. There is no evidence for any metallurgical installation such as a furnace. The smithing waste also is in large, fist-sized pieces, suggesting that it may have been transported by hand.

### Phase assemblages

#### 2nd to 3rd century (Phases 3 and 4)

The material studied is from three contexts at opposite ends of the site and can be considered as general backfill material.

#### 4th century (Phase 5)

The majority (76.3%) of the metal working debris is from this period and contains all of the types identified; though most of the material consists of smithing hearth bottoms.

#### Saxon

There is possible run slag and a small amount of evidence for a smithing hearth bottom. However, the quality of material is limited and may be residual.

### Conclusion

As 70% (by weight) of the material studied consists of smithing hearth bottoms and no definite iron smelting slag was identified, it can be assumed that smithing accounts for all the debris found on this site. It can therefore be concluded that smithing may have been the only process undertaken, but not all the wastes normally associated with smithing, such as hearth linings or hammerscale, were present. Therefore the slag must be redeposited, with only the larger, more durable pieces of a smithing assemblage being selected. The slag in the 2nd- to 3rd-century context suggests that some iron smithing took place at this time, but the bulk of the material (76.3%) was from 4th-century contexts and was evenly spread across the contexts suggesting general waste deposition. The general pattern of deposition is in backfill contexts.

### ROTARY QUERNS by Ruth Shaffrey

A total of 19 quern fragments were recovered, of which 13 are positively identifiable as rotary querns and the remainder are almost certainly quern fragments. Six querns range from 300–490 mm in diameter, falling within the normal range for hand operated rotary querns while a single example measures at least 540 mm in diameter (and probably in the region of 600 mm); this is almost certainly from a small mechanically operated mill. The remaining specimens are too small for their original size to be determined.

Very few of the querns were recovered from primary contexts so they cannot tell us about the whereabouts of food preparation on the site and many were reused in structures and in late Roman (3rd and 4th century) or undated contexts. This makes it impossible to investigate any patterns of importing materials to Higham Ferrers, such as changes in quern supply, although generalisations can be made for the whole of the period and comparison made to other assemblages in the region.

The querns are mainly made from Millstone Grit (7), Old Red Sandstone (5), Hertfordshire Puddingstone (1) and Niedermendig Lava (3). The seven Millstone Grit fragments are all of the disc type with flat or curved but parallel faces. Several

have the deep spaced pecking typical of Millstone Grit (SF 1218, 2770, 988) and at least one of the fragments is of a small millstone, mechanically operated rather than hand turned (SF 2770). This was reused in a floor surface in building 10810 (11008). The five Old Red Sandstone (ORS) querns are all of typical sizes, varying from 350-440 mm diameter. Two of the lower querns are of cake style (SF 1336 and 2276: Fig. 5.49.12) and one is indeterminate but tapered to the edges (SF 1335). One of the upper stones is of flat-topped type with a basin shaped hopper (SF 1127: Fig. 5.49.4) and the other is of a disc or slightly tapered type (SF 1445). The ORS querns are thus of quite different design to the Millstone Grit (MG) querns, although all the ORS styles represented at Higham Ferrers have also been seen on the nearby sites of Redlands Farm or Stanwick (Shaffrey and Evans in prep). The cake style lower querns and flat-topped upper stones are the most commonly occurring ORS type in the region (Shaffrey 2006).

Of the three lava quern fragments, two are clearly identifiable as querns (SF 6630 and 10676) and the third comprises a number of small weathered pieces from a single context (fill of pit 6267). Only one example (SF 10676) survives sufficiently for its style to be determined and this is of a typical small kerbed quern. The single Hertfordshire Puddingstone quern is an incomplete lower stone (SF 1826: Fig. 5.49. 13) of typical bun shape and small size. It is not from a phased context (11325) but is almost certain to date to the 1st or 2nd century

(Major 2004, 4). There are also two querns of unidentified sandstone and one of burnt Greensand.

#### Catalogue of rotary querns (Fig. 5.49)

1. *(not illustrated)* **Probable quern fragment.** Millstone Grit. One worked and smoothed surface. Context 10511, SF 1375. Surface find associated with building 12900.
2. *(not illustrated)* **Two adjoining probable quern fragments.** Medium grained sandstone. Two pecked and worn parallel faces. Context 10812, SF 1334. Surface find associated with building 10900.
3. *(not illustrated)* **Third of a lower rotary quern.** Old Red Sandstone. Spindle socket measures 25 mm deep x 20 mm diameter and is slightly conical. Edges are vertical and pecked although whole quern is slightly tapered to the edges. Grinding surface is slightly convex and pecked. Base is roughly dressed and flat. Measures 440 mm diameter x 71 mm max thickness. Context 10547, SF 1336. Surface finds associated with buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830.
4. **Two adjoining upper rotary quern fragments.** Old Red Sandstone. Flat-topped type with basin shaped hopper measuring 100 mm in diameter. Pecked all over. Measures 350 mm diameter x 42 mm max thickness. Context 10633, SF 1127. Surface find associated with building 10850.
5. *(not illustrated)* **Two adjoining fragments of probable lower rotary quern or possible millstone.** Millstone Grit. No edges or centre remain but the fragments are large and are dressed with very

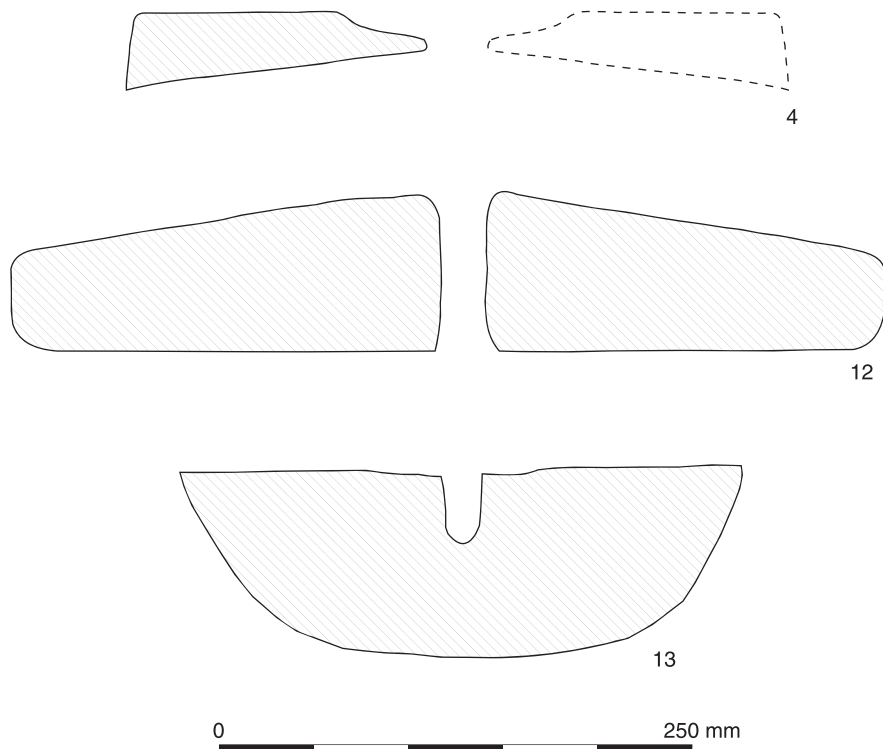


Fig. 5.49 Rotary querns

- spaced style pecking (Typical of Millstone Grit querns). Measures 62 mm thick. Context 10666, SF 1218. Arbitrary deposit north-east of building 10820.
6. *(not illustrated)* **Small upper rotary quern fragment.** Millstone Grit. Edge fragment of probable disc or flat topped type. Pecked all over although both faces are worn quite smooth. Measures approximately 490 mm diameter x 33 mm thick. Context 11004. Likely demolition rubble above internal deposits. 4th century or possibly later.
  7. *(not illustrated)* **Probable quern fragment.** Sandstone. Two worked faces with a curved edge and heavily burnt. Fragment measures 59 x 69 x 54mm. Context 11731. Top fill of ditch. 4th century.
  8. *(not illustrated)* **Lower rotary quern fragment.** Old Red Sandstone (QC). Burnt. Small edge fragment which tapers to slightly rounded edges. The grinding surface is angled and pecked and the base is rough. Measures 40mm thick. Context 10547. SF 1335. Surface finds associated with buildings 10800, 10810, 10820 and 10830.
  9. *(not illustrated)* **Upper rotary quern fragment.** Old Red Sandstone. Small edge fragment. Disc or very slightly tapered type. Edge are straight and vertical. Measures 74 mm maximum thickness. Context 11153, SF 1445. Demolition layer overlying the whole of the building 10860 and 11370. 4th century.
  10. *(not illustrated)* **Small millstone fragment.** Millstone Grit. Less than 5% circumference survives but the quern measures >540 mm diameter x 56 mm max thickness. Top is slightly convex and the grinding surface has deep spaced pecking (but worn). Context 11008, SF 2770. Stone floor surface within northern end of building 10810. 3rd to 4th century.
  11. *(not illustrated)* **Upper rotary quern fragment.** Lava. Very weathered but tapered to centre and in typical lava style with a thick kerb measuring 12 mm thick and 47 mm wide. Surface weathered so dressing not visible. Measures 330 mm diameter x 60 mm maximum thickness. Context 10676, SF 1333. Surface finds associated with buildings 10880 and 10870.
  12. **Incomplete lower rotary quern.** Old Red Sandstone. Cake style with straight slightly splayed sides, flat base and straight convex grinding surface. Pecked all over. Measures 440 mm diameter x 64 mm maximum thickness. Context 12332, SF 2276. Smoothed limestone slab surface, 3rd century or later.
  13. **Incomplete lower rotary quern.** Hertfordshire Puddingstone. Small beehive bun shaped quern. Spindle socket measuring 39mm deep x 25mm wide, slightly conical. Very damaged around all the edges. Grinding surface is worn down at the centre so there is a slight bowl around the socket and there is also some polish towards the circumference. Measures 275-300 mm diameter x 95 mm thick. Context 11325, SF 1826. Collection of unworked limestone blocks around north edge of interior of building 10870.
  14. *(not illustrated)* **Lower rotary quern fragment.** Millstone Grit. Disc style quern of fairly even thickness with roughly flat faces and straight vertical edges. The grinding surface is very slightly concave and pecked (but worn) and the base has been roughly worked. Measures approximately 440 mm diameter x 48 mm maximum thickness. Context 12676, SF 3189. Demolition rubble within building 10830, 4th century.
  15. *(not illustrated)* **Probable rotary quern fragment.** Burnt possible Greensand. Heavily burnt and cracked as a result. Edge fragment with flat other surface probably from flat-topped type with curved concave grinding surface. Context 8118, SF 705. Only fill of ditch 8117, gradual infilling.
  16. *(not illustrated)* **Lava rotary quern fragment.** Lava. Very weathered. Context 6631. Only fill of possible SFB 6630.
  17. *(not illustrated)* **Lava rotary quern fragments.** Lava. Small weathered fragments. Context 6268. Only fill of oval pit 6267 (date uncertain).
  18. *(not illustrated)* **Upper rotary quern fragment.** Millstone Grit. Six edge fragments, four adjoining and two part of the same quern and joining each other but not main four. Quern is thin, curved and of even thickness. Edges are slightly curved and lean inwards. Measures 26 mm maximum thickness. Context 12984, SF 3202.
  19. *(not illustrated)* **Rotary quern fragment, probably upper.** Millstone Grit. Very small edge fragment, worn all over. Top is flat, edges are straight and lean in and grinding surface has spaced pecking. Measures 26 mm maximum thickness. Context 10517, SF 988.

## Discussion

Four principal materials were used for querns at Higham Ferrers: Millstone Grit, Old Red Sandstone, Niedermendig Lava and Hertfordshire Puddingstone. Redlands Farm, Stanwick, located very close to the roadside settlement, produced querns in only two of these materials (four of Millstone Grit and two of Old Red Sandstone: Shaffrey and Evans in prep). However, it is no surprise that a limited range of materials is represented in such a small assemblage. The villa at nearby Stanwick produced all these materials but the assemblage is much larger and heavily dominated by Millstone Grit and other sandstones, with lesser numbers of Old Red Sandstone and Lava and only a few querns of Hertfordshire Puddingstone.

Although no comprehensive survey has been done, Millstone Grit was a popular choice for rotary querns in the region with a number being found at Ashton (Meadows 1983) and at several sites in northern Bedfordshire (Shaffrey in prep b). Lava was also used at Ashton (Meadows 1983) and although it is less commonly found in the region, this may be due to the particular properties of the stone which make it much more vulnerable to weathering and likely to occur in small friable fragments. Neither stone type is out of place at Higham Ferrers.

Hertfordshire Puddingstone (HPS) always occurs in smaller numbers than Lava and Millstone Grit and rarely numbers more than one or two querns at any site. The best-known study found it to be rarely used west of the Icknield Way (Rudge 1966, 247) which would suggest that the Higham Ferrers quern is unusual. Since that initial survey, however, its use has been poorly researched except in Essex

(Major 2004) and in an area north of London including Bedfordshire but not Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire (King 1980). Its distribution around Higham Ferrers has not been studied in the same way, but current research reveals that HPS querns occur quite regularly in small numbers, but are at the periphery of their distribution. Along with known finds from Great Staughton to the south-east (Anderson 1994, 103), Ravenstone to the south-west (King 1980, 74) and a number of sites in northern Bedfordshire including Odell (Dix 1980), three examples were also found at Stanwick and a single specimen was recovered at Ashton (Meadows 1983). The Higham Ferrers quern is therefore not out of place.

Hertfordshire Puddingstone is always assumed to have originated in Hertfordshire and the type seen here, a cream coloured matrix containing cream and tan coloured inclusions with iron stained rims, is very similar to two of the examples from Stanwick (SF 1827 and 96006). This pale type of HPS appears to be most common in this and the Essex region and is quite different to that usually found in Kent with a darker matrix and pebbles (eg at Thurnham villa; Booth *et al.* 2006, and at Springhead; Shaffrey 2007a). The difference in the petrology of the HPS used in these two regions may suggest some difference in the sources of the stone but a physical description of HPS querns is rarely given in published quern reports. In order to determine to what extent this spatial patterning is real, detailed descriptions of HPS querns should always be included with finds records. It is not possible, given the current lack of information, to determine whether or not Hertfordshire is the most likely source.

The Old Red Sandstone (ORS) querns add to a growing number in the area of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire borders including Peterborough (Shaffrey in prep), Great Barford (Shaffrey 2007b), Kempston (Dawson 2004, 376) and a possible example from Great Staughton (Greenfield *et al.* 1994, 105). These sites are all on the periphery of ORS distribution, however, and Higham Ferrers is of particular significance because it has more than the usual number of ORS querns and because they form a high proportion of the assemblage (approximately one third). The only other sites in the region with more than one or two querns of ORS are Stanwick, which produced 22 examples, and Harrold Pit, Odell (Dix 1980), which produced fragments from seven querns. Both these sites, however, have substantially larger assemblages than Higham Ferrers (approximately 200 querns) and the proportion of ORS is therefore relatively low. Why Higham Ferrers stands out in this respect is difficult to be sure, but its proximity to other sites with relatively high numbers of ORS querns may suggest that it functioned as a secondary distribution point. This pattern has been observed for a number of other Roman towns, notably Silchester (Shaffrey 2003b) and Wanborough

(Shaffrey 2006), and although the number and proportion are both lower at Higham Ferrers, they are comparable because this region is much further from source.

Higham Ferrers is located in an area where the use of Old Red Sandstone overlaps with another principal Romano-British quern supplier (Millstone Grit), although Millstone Grit appears to have been preferred (Shaffrey and Evans in prep) and occurs on fractionally more sites and in slightly higher numbers than Old Red Sandstone. While this may be in part due to problems with identification (Millstone Grit is more widely known and Old Red Sandstone has consequently often been mistaken for it; Shaffrey 2006), the dominance of Millstone Grit is highlighted by a number of assemblages containing large quantities of it, notably Stanwick and Odell. This dominance is intriguing, as Millstone Grit had no obvious advantages over Old Red Sandstone. Both stones had to be imported to the area, so Millstone Grit was not the primary choice because of easily availability. The great similarity between the two rocks petrologically also means that Millstone Grit was not chosen because of grinding superiority. The dominance is most likely to be explained in terms of the strength of the two industries and the sheer number of querns produced. The Romano-British Millstone Grit industry has not been comprehensively studied but the stone appears to have been used over a wider area than Old Red Sandstone and intensively for much longer, and the industry may simply have produced much greater numbers of querns.

### Summary

The Higham Ferrers quern assemblage is not a large one but it includes all the principal materials used in the region. The area in which the settlement is located is one in which there are no natural quern resources readily to hand and the result is a region dominated by one stone type (Millstone Grit) but penetrated by other major suppliers (Old Red Sandstone, Lava, Hertfordshire Puddingstone). The differences between sites in such an area may well be highly significant and the use of materials other than Millstone Grit is likely to be related to the personal or political connections of those sites. In the case of Higham Ferrers, the broad range of lithologies within a fairly small assemblage suggests access to a number of different suppliers. Of particular interest are the Old Red Sandstone querns and their suggestion of trade links with the Wye Valley area.

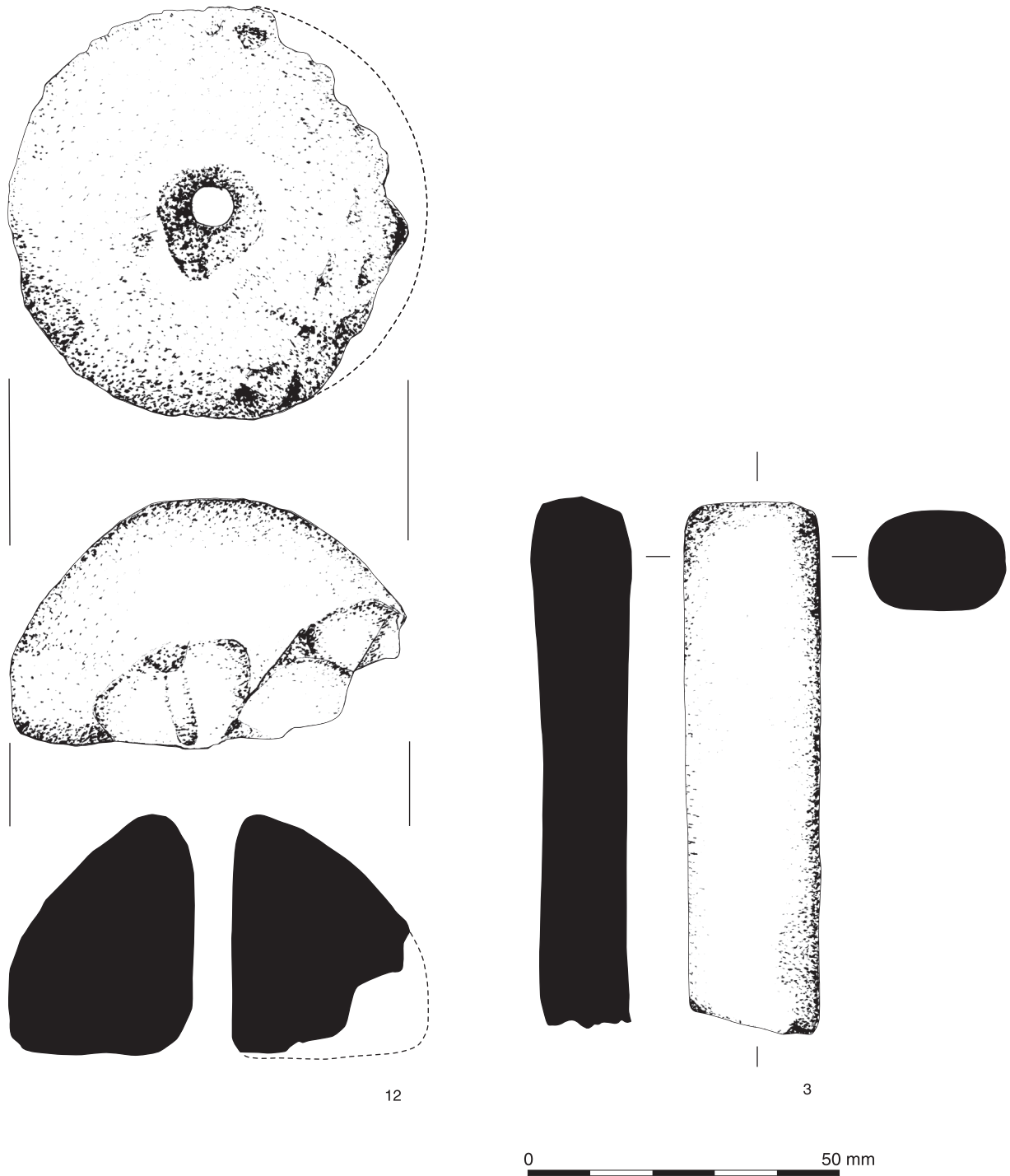
### OTHER WORKED STONE *by Ruth Shaffrey*

The assemblage of worked stone comprises mostly whetstones and large numbers of roof and floor stones with some rubbers, pot boilers, a loomweight, stylus tip, tessera, bead and possible pot lid. Most of the roof and floor stones retain no evidence of their

function, but three examples of Jurassic limestone slabs still have their suspension holes and were certainly used for roofing (11328 and 11324).

The main artefact class represented is whetstones, of which nine were found: four primary whetstones, four secondary and one natural. The four primary whetstones include one of a fine-grained sandstone (11146 SF 1448) and three of Kentish Rag. Two of these are surface finds associated with ditch 10506

and one was found amongst rubble within building 10840 (12835: Fig. 5.50.3). Three of the four secondary whetstones have made use of slabs previously probably used for flooring or roofing, a fairly common occurrence on Roman settlements. The fourth makes use of a rectilinear shaped waste piece of stone (8158). The natural whetstone utilises a large elongate pebble of fine grained micaceous sandstone (12843).



*Fig. 5.50 Other worked stone*

A single probable spindle whorl (SF 2006) was recovered from context 12065 Fig. 5.50.12). Although this is on the large side at 66 mm diameter, it falls well within the maximum diameter suggested for spindle whorls at Danebury of 100 mm (Brown 1984, 423). The weight of the spindle whorl is perhaps more significant than the size, for it is the weight which affects the material being spun. This whorl weighs in at 148 g which is substantially heavier than medieval whorls from Winchester where the heaviest stone whorl weighed 101 g (Woodland 1990, 217). Although heavy whorls would have been useful for spinning coarser yarn or for doubling or plying the yarn (*ibid.*, 218), it is possible that this weight had another function altogether, perhaps as a net sinker. A fragment of a single shale object (SF 1158) was also found (10624) but is too damaged for more than a small piece of spiral decoration to be made out.

### Catalogue of worked stone (Fig. 5.50)

#### Whetstones

1. (*not illustrated*) **Central fragment of primary rectilinear whetstone.** Kentish Rag. Both ends are very worn and all four long faces are worn and slightly concave. Rectangular cross section. Measures >55 mm long x 18 x 15.5 mm. Context 10507. Surface find associated with ditch 10506.
2. (*not illustrated*) **Central fragment of primary rectilinear whetstone.** Kentish Rag. Elongate whetstone with rectangular cross section and quite square edges. Slightly worn on all faces, two being convex and two faces both have a long groove longitudinally along them which predates the whetstone breaking. Measures 51 mm remaining length x 16.5 x 13 mm. Context 10507. Surface find associated with ditch 10506.
3. **Elongate primary whetstone.** Kentish Rag. Broken at one end and worn. Oval cross section but bevelled across both edges. Measures > 83 x 21 x 14 mm. Context 12835, SF 3155. Rubble layer/collapse/late surface within building 10840. Mid 4th century or later.
4. (*not illustrated*) **Natural pebble whetstone.** Fine grained micaceous siltstone. Large elongate pebble used extensively on one edge as we whetstone. Some polish. Measures 180 x 63-77 x 25-40 mm. Context 12843, SF 3154. Possible wall collapse in building 10840. 4th century+.
5. (*not illustrated*) **Rectilinear whetstone, probable secondary.** Micaceous fine grained cream sandstone, quite sparkly. Single edge only has been well used as a whetstone. This edge is flat but curved along the length. Measures 60 x 30-32 x 13 mm. Context 8158. Area G.
6. (*not illustrated*) **Elongate primary whetstone.** Fine grained brown sandstone. End fragment has been used along the two edges to make these slightly concave and the face slightly bevelled. Sub-rectangular section. Measures >50 x 15-18 x 12 mm. Context 11146, SF 1448.
7. (*not illustrated*) **Secondary slab whetstone.** Very fine grained sandstone/siltstone. Slab used as a whetstone on one face and mostly on one edge. Other edges are broken. Measures 102 x 42 x 29 mm. Context 12643. SF 2758.
8. (*not illustrated*) **Secondary slab whetstone.** Fine grained pinkish brown slightly micaceous sandstone. Slab used as a whetstone on one face (some scratches/groove) and mostly on one fairly concave edge. Measures 140 x 74 x 22 mm. Context 11146. SF 1436.
9. (*not illustrated*) **Secondary whetstone.** Fine grained pinkish brown slightly micaceous sandstone. Slab used as a whetstone on one face (some scratches/groove) and mostly on one edge which is fairly concave. Measures 140 x 74 x 22 mm. Context 11146. SF 1436.

#### Selected other worked stone

10. (*not illustrated*) **Tessera.** Pale cream coloured fine grained slightly micaceous sandstone. Slightly rectilinear cube with one smoothed face. Measures 29 x 24 x 21 mm. Context 10739. Finds reference for silty soil located below and to the west of 10738.
11. (*not illustrated*) **Possible crude pot lid.** Fine grained dark brown iron rich quartz sandstone. Flat worked piece with rounded edges, heavily burnt, shaped and rounded on upper surface but fairly rough and flat under. Pot lid? Measures >100 x >78 x 18 mm. Context 11172. Mixed fill of dumped mortar and topsoil within robber cut, 4th century.
12. **Large spindle whorl.** Jurassic fine grained shelly limestone. 75% remains of flat-bottomed bun shaped whorl. Biconical perforation measuring 7 mm wide at narrowest point in middle to 14 mm at each surface. Not perfectly smoothed but nicely worked all over. Measures 66 mm diameter x 37 mm high. Context 12065, SF 2006.
13. (*not illustrated*) **Bead.** Shale. Small fragment, broken on all 4 edges. One face is plain, the other is decorated with twists. Measures 10 x 6 x 3 mm. Context 10624. SF 1158.
14. (*not illustrated*) **Pot boiler and rubber.** Fine grained slightly quartzitic sandstone pebble used as a potboiler (cracked and also very burnt). Naturally smoothed original faces but one is worn slightly concave and has probably been used as a processor. Context 11203. Fill of robber trench, 4th century.
15. (*not illustrated*) **Possible rubber.** Fine grained slightly micaceous sandstone. Broken pebble with one smoothed and slightly polished surface. Very burnt stone and slightly cracked from use as potboiler. Measures >54 x 75 x 45 mm. Context 10668. Surface find.

#### Discussion

Slabs of stone appear to have been widely used in the settlement for flooring and probably for roofing. Two of the slabs with suspension holes were found associated with the shrine and may indicate a stone, or partial stone roof to a structure such as the entrance-way. The majority of the stone slabs are made of Jurassic limestone and although a very specific source has not been pinpointed for this stone, none appears to have been imported any distance to the site.

The remainder of the worked stone assemblage is fairly small and is mostly indicative of general

domestic activity. The single spindle whorl (SF 2006) is the only stone object that provides evidence for industry of any kind. Although nine whetstones were found, this is a fairly small assemblage for a settlement of this size and none of the examples found is particularly noteworthy. Whetstones are common finds on Roman sites and are generally made from Kentish Rag (as are three examples from Higham Ferrers) or other objects reused (as are four examples here).

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND SCULPTURAL STONE**

*by Peter Davenport with a contribution from Martin Henig*

### **Catalogue of architectural and sculptural stone**

Eleven fragments of architectural stonework were recovered during excavations. Five of them are parts of dwarf columns or colonnettes of a type well known on high status domestic sites or public buildings in Roman Britain. Two are pieces of building stone, one of them notable merely for its size, which in its present form may even be cut down from a larger block. The remaining two others are pieces of sculpture, of contrasting styles.

**1-2. Two fragments of a shaft of a colonnette** (Fig. 5.51.1-2). These two pieces represent a cylinder split lengthways approximately into two halves. The break is rough but quite straight and may be the result of deliberate fragmentation of the shaft for re-use. As the ends are broken off as well, there is no surviving evidence of chisel or wedge marks. The original finish was smooth and regular, probably achieved on a lathe. The shaft has a slight taper from an estimated full diameter of 0.20 m at one end to 0.205 m at the other. The taper is straight, not an entasis. Both fragments have been broken across at each end and have surviving lengths of 0.37 and 0.38 m. The stones are a good quality oolitic Cotswold limestone, and were recovered from ditch 12294 (Plot A/B division boundary 13010 flanking the north side of building 11370). The two blocks do not now fit together, due to damage, but are almost certainly two parts of the same length of colonnette, representing about 33% of the original shaft length.

**3. Capital and abacus broken from the head of a colonnette** (Fig. 5.51.3). Slightly smaller in scale than Nos 1 and 2. The column diameter below the capital is 0.16 m and the abacus width and top capital moulding diameter are the same at 0.22 m. The height of the capital and abacus is 0.1275 m. The capital mouldings consist of two cymas separated by a bead; a bead appears at the top of the shaft, but has an angled or keel profile. The intricate multiple mouldings are indicative of lathe work and indeed the whole colonnette must have been at least finished on a lathe. The square socket on the head (0.05 m square and 0.045 m deep) may have been the location for the metal or hard wood centre point

of the lathe. However, as the socket shows clear signs of chiselling on two adjacent edges to remove what was in it, it seems very likely that, whether or not it served in the turning process, it was also used to house a lead-seated iron (or wood or bronze?) pin to aid construction, salvaged for scrap when the colonnette was removed from its position. The capital is cut from oolitic limestone slightly more vesicular than that used for Nos 1 and 2. This may be the result of acid ground conditions rather than the original stone character. The capital shows extensive remains of creamy whitewash, especially on the capital mouldings. It has worn off the abacus and most of the shaft, but some remains to show the shaft was also whitewashed. It was recovered from context 10735, the short western wall of the inner shrine precinct. SF 1225.

**4. A colonnette minus the capital and abacus** (Fig. 5.52.4). This has most of the base surviving (all of the profile), one side having been roughly flattened back to the shaft. The fresh condition of the scar suggests this was done during excavation, although older, weathered damage is visible on the same side on the shaft. The shaft, surviving to a height of 0.41 m, has a diameter, where broken, of 0.17 m and of 0.20 m where it joins the integral base. The latter is 0.216 m high. There is no obvious entasis, merely a taper. The base is, in essence, an attic base of two tori separated by a filleted scotia. The shaft joins the upper torus via a cavetto and another fillet. There is a trace of a further fillet on the base of the lower torus. Each torus has a mid line channel, barely more than an incised groove and two more occur in the scotia just above and below the fillets separating it from the tori. Two more similar grooves mark the junction of the base and shaft. The colonnette is cut from a fine grained oolitic limestone, identical to Bath stone, and is clearly lathe turned. It is curiously flat and unplastic and while technically highly finished, is very wooden and linear with very little play with the mouldings, which remain shallow and very restrained. The base has a square recess for a lathe centre point and/or fixing pin, 52 mm square. This shows evidence for removal with a chisel or similar. The piece was recovered from layer 8285 (well 8278) in Area G. SF 401.

**5. Upper part of the shaft of a colonnette with integral necking moulding** (Fig. 5.52.5). The column diameter below the capital is 0.155 m and where the shaft is broken, the diameter is 0.168 m. A maximum length of 0.39 m survives. The maximum diameter at the moulding is 0.18 m and the raised disc on the top is 0.155 m. The slight nature of the moulding and the raised disc set back on its top surface implies that it is meant to support a separate capital. This is more usual with larger columns. The moulding is 0.04 m in height with a maximum projection of 0.125 m. The moulding starts with a fillet at the necking under a cyma merging up into a half round. There is a suggestion





1

2

3

*Fig. 5.51*  
*Architectural stone*

0 250 mm



|



4



|



5

0 250 mm



*Fig. 5.52 Architectural stone*

of a groove at the junction of the cyma and half round, but this may be damage. The colonnette is well proportioned and carefully finished, probably on a lathe. This is despite the fact that it has been cut from a very coarse, shelly oolite, which nonetheless appears to have been hard and cohesive enough to allow the basic shape to be cut accurately. The stone has suffered ancient damage and erosion, quite possibly while *in situ*, as it would not have been very resistant to frost. However, while none survives, it is possible that the column was heavily coated with whitewash which would have disguised the stone and increased its frost resistance. The piece was also recovered from well 8278 in Area G. SF 402;

**6. Cuboid block of very shelly and coarse oolite.** A finer grained stone than No. 5. The shells, which are generally small and not filled with sediment, contribute to the vesicular character of the stone. This has fractured along one of the natural beds visible in the face of the stone. Despite the coarse material, the stone is capable of taking a level surface and has been carefully and smoothly worked. It is currently 0.21 m wide and 0.24 m tall and 0.14 m thick. It is broken on all faces except the front and rear, although the right hand face has been smoothly recut, not quite at right angles to the rest of the block. This face has half of a square section hole in one end which may be a remnant of a wedge hole to split the original block. The front face has what appears to be the corner of a recessed panel a little less than 0.02 m deep in the front face. The edges of this are not at right angles to the face but slightly splayed. Narrow flat chisel marks are visible in the recessed panel, including a strip that seems unfinished with not all the material removed. The left-hand stile of the panel is not flush with the rest of the stone face, but cut so as to taper gently into the recess. The rear face is flat but roughly finished. The block may well be part of a wall with shallow panelled recesses. These may have held bas-reliefs. The tapered side frame of the stile of the supposed panel, in fact, may be part of the contents of a panel; an altar base or side of a building or piece of furniture are possibilities. This piece was found in the water-logged lower sediments (context 8279) of well 8032 in Area G. SF 3195.

**7. Large trapezoidal (almost triangular) block of oolite.** This may be part of a broken rectangular block, 0.54 m x 0.33 m. There is no well-finished face, although the best is probably the short length at right angles to the shorter face before the block angles to the rear. This may be a joint face. The 0.33 m-long face is adze or chopper finished and the two long faces are merely broken and crudely worked flattish. One of the flat sides has the edges worked level and the centre slightly hollowed as if for a vertical joint. This is obscured by heavy secondary working with a punch or gouge,

diagonal to the block. Such working is also visible on the opposite face. This is probably a large block from a monumental wall. The piece is from context 12924, a rubble layer deriving from the demolition of the monumental wall within the outer precinct. SF 3194.

**8. A piece of laminar wall stone.** Broken or unworked on all sides, 0.37 m x 0.27 m x 0.07-0.10 m. Piece of wall rubble from context 8199 in well 8032, Area G. SF 400.

**9. A large piece of fine-grained oolite.** 0.51 m x 0.29 m x 0.17. The upper face of this is smooth and rounded for about 0.10 m of the thickness. The rest of the block's thickness is roughly broken away. The finished stone gives the impression of being the result of deliberate carving, but is very worn as a result of re-use in a stone rubble floor. The overall impression is of the torso of a quadruped, perhaps with shoulders represented by the wider part of the swelling. It could, perhaps, be a bovid. A small leaf shape and some wave-like hollows over what in this interpretation would be the haunches, may represent flora and drapery in front of the body. While this interpretation may be optimistic, there is little doubt that the block has been deliberately sculpted. The broken edges are presumably the points where the ground of the bas-relief has been broken away. Holes in the side of the block in or just above this zone may be evidence of the breaking up process, or later re-use. The piece was from context 11008, a floor surface within the northern end of building 10810. SF 3197.



Fig. 5.53 Limestone relief panel from the shrine

10. **A flat piece of naturally laminated oolite.** (Fig. 5.53). 0.35 m x 0.28 m x 0.12 m. This piece of stone was found facing downwards within an enclosure wall (12923) immediately south of the main shrine enclosure. It is distinguished by a very crude carving of a small, nude, male figure in shallow relief. A rough, saucer-like depression has been very crudely cut in the face of the stone and in a reserved area in the centre a figure with legs apart in a conventional striding pose and arms out wide has been delineated. The surface of the stone has not been flattened prior to the commencement of carving, although there are some indications of narrow, flat chisel-working here and there on the surface. The figure is 0.19 m high. It gives the impression of being extremely crudely and roughly worked, although the work has clearly been left unfinished and, in addition, has suffered later damage. The right leg from knee to above the hips into the torso, has an area of well-finished stonework, and another similar area can be seen in the inside left leg. This contrasts with the clearly broken-away front of the right leg, for example. Male genitals are also schematically represented. The central torso area has three small and deep chips knocked out of a flattened area, suggesting, to the imaginative, a shield or even a cuirass with an embossed decoration in the form of a face of some kind. The head is over-sized and the cheek area is much exaggerated. An enclosing helmet is possibly intended. It has also been suggested that this may be an attempt to show an animal head worn as a hood. This, and the enlarged left arm, which could be meant to represent a club, would imply that this figure was meant to be Hercules (see below). The series of radiating scratches around the head may simply represent working, or they may be an attempt to show radiating sun rays, as they do not occur elsewhere on the carving. This piece was incorporated within shrine outer precinct wall 12923. SF 3196.

### Discussion

Little can be said about the fragments of broken shaft (Nos 1-2), except that its original height, as far as it can be broadly estimated from the diameter and taper, falls within the normal range for dwarf columns in Roman Britain: 0.81 m to 1.21 m (Blagg 2002, 145). However, it can be noted that most dwarf columns have an entasis on the shaft, often quite exaggerated (eg the examples from Bath, Cunliffe 1969, plate LXXVIII). This is completely absent on fragments 1 and 2 and 4.

The capital (No. 3) is not of a size to have originally been part of 1 and 2. It appears to be of Blagg's type IVa, although the central fillet or ovolo is rather large (ibid., 129), and is similar to a local example from Yarwell (Woodfield, 1978, 77 and fig. 2), although that column has a necking moulding, for which there is no evidence on the present example. Most of the examples of this group are known from the south-west, but one from Leicester and another

from North Leigh in Oxfordshire (Blagg 2002, 132), as well as the Yarwell example, show that this find is within the wider geographic spread of this type. The base and shaft fragment is of a distinctive type, which were it not clearly lathe-turned, and technically accomplished, might be thought, in its provincial and unsophisticated style, to be of Saxon date. It follows, in outline, the "civilian" type of Blagg (ibid., 108), where the cavetto makes the transition from shaft to base, the torus mouldings are bordered by fillets and medial grooves are applied to the tori. However, except for the cavetto, these elements are reduced to the merest of projections and simple linear incisions in this example. Despite its competence, it is as if the craftsman was working from descriptions, not actual examples or drawings, and knew nothing of proportions. Other examples from Towcester (Woodfield 1978, fig. 2) show capitals with comparable shallow mouldings, which as a style seem to owe more to lathe-turned furniture than architectural tradition. Fragment 5 is classically proportioned and well executed. Its rough stone is all the more odd for this.

It is noticeable that all the shaft fragments have been broken off to lengths between 0.37 and 0.41 m. This suggests deliberate reduction for re-use in a wall or footing of that width. Examples of dwarf columns or colonnettes are not generally closely datable, though most come from later Roman contexts, such as later villas, but are never *in situ*; they may, therefore, be considerably older than the contexts in which they are found, a situation which may apply at Higham Ferrers. With the exception of No. 4, the columns are rather classically correct, suggesting an accomplished or well-informed mason or client. The strong possibility of the existence of relief sculptured panels, represented by Nos 6 and 9, fits in well with this view. Such things are probably more likely in earlier Roman contexts in Britain, but they are not unparalleled later.

The crude relief figure carving seems to have been a private venture, very probably a lunchtime recreation, and not meant for public display. This is especially clear in the failure to dress the surface of the stone flat before beginning. Alternatively, it is possible that the figure was prepared as a private offering to the god or goddess of the shrine. Nonetheless it shows awareness of more sophisticated and technically better models, especially in the pose and the probable use of symbolic accoutrements and may well have been rather better when new, if still amateur, as it has certainly suffered damaged since completion.

*Martin Henig has commented on the piece as follows:*

The oolitic limestone relief depicts a nude male figure standing or perhaps walking to the left. His body is full frontal, his legs apart, his right arm is raised and his left somewhat lowered though bent at the elbow. The genitals are only schematically indicated. Only the initial stages of carving have been carried out with a broad chisel, and apart from

a triangular-shaped nose and slight hollows for the eyes the only detailing is some fine grooving around the head indicative of hair or a nimbus.

The importance of the sculpture is that it may well be a trial or apprentice piece, albeit unfinished, which attempts to portray a nude male figure such as Hercules (see Huskinson 1994 no. 8 from Water Newton, Hunts). The only other example of an unfinished carving is a piece from Cirencester likewise depicting a nude figure but carved in the round (Henig 1993b, no.148). The rough detailing is close to the non-professional tradition represented by the image of the goddess Regina from Lemington near Dorn (ibid., no. 94), the phallic head found near Broadway (ibid., no. 156) or the mounted warrior from Margidunum, Notts (Huskinson 1994, no. 30). These all display wedge-shaped noses and pecked-out eyes. The blocking out of these figures is rather less ambitious, however.

It is probable that the stone was rejected or left over from building. The first stage in working it may be represented by the chiselling on the reverse where the sculptor was trying to get to grips with handling the chisel before getting on to the real business of carving. It is difficult, considering the location of the site, not to recall the Roman sculpture from Stanwick. This group is highly accomplished and clearly the work of a team of sculptors. Initial thoughts suggested that they came from a mausoleum near a villa but it must be borne in mind the possibility that they came from a sanctuary. Certainly the rider god represented by one of the fragments and perhaps the Minerva would be more at home as 'religious' sculptures. The monumental mortared structure immediately outside of the sanctuary at Higham Ferrers was probably dismantled and robbed at the end of the shrine's use in the later 3rd century, and it is not impossible that building material and any possible associated sculpture could have been transported to nearby Stanwick.

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

by Cynthia Poole

The excavation produced 745 fragments of Roman ceramic building material weighing 99,781 g. Tile forms are quantified and summarised in Table 5.32. Roofing material dominates the identified elements of the assemblage from the two areas (main excavation area and Area G) accounting for over 70% of the tiles found, and possibly nearly 90% as the majority of plain tiles are almost certainly the central sections of tegulae. Bricks account for most of the remaining 10%, with box flue and some possible tessera barely represented. The term 'tile' is used throughout the report when referring in general terms to all ceramic building material from the site; it is qualified if referring to a specific form or function.

### Fabric

Two broad fabric groups and twelve individual fabrics were originally assigned during the assessment (Edgeley-Long in OA 2004b) and a further category added at the analysis stage. The two broad classes are shell-tempered and sand-tempered; these form equal proportions by count, but by weight the shelly fabrics (65%) form a higher proportion than the sandy (35%). The results of analysis suggest that with the sandy fabrics diagnostic characteristics are not clear cut and the types form a continuum representing differences in the geological substrate, which might vary over short distances, and need not represent different sources or production centres.

### Group 1: Shelly fabrics

*Fabric B:* Colour: Reddish brown, orange, yellowish red, reddish yellow; some with reduced grey core; light-mid grey on base of reference sample. Inclusions: high density (40-50%) of coarse pale grey platy shell fragments 0.2-5 mm,

Table 5.32 Quantification of ceramic building material by tile forms and main fabric groups

Form	Sandy fabrics		Shelly Fabrics		Total		Total	
	Nos.	Wt (g)	Nos.	Wt (g)	Nos.	%	Wt (g)	%
Tegula	39	10740	178	43047	217	29.13	53787	53.91
Imbrex	183	9128	70	8130	253	33.96	17258	17.3
Ridge?	0	0	3	265	3	0.4	265	0.27
Box	1	50	2	1147	3	0.4	1197	1.2
Brick	8	6742	1	435	9	1.21	7177	7.19
Plain/brick	9	1735	0	0	9	1.21	1735	1.74
Plain/teg	7	845	53	6834	60	8.05	7679	7.7
Plain tile	74	4182	61	5271	135	18.12	9453	9.47
Tessera	2	36	1	12	3	0.4	48	0.05
Unidentifiable	53	1182	0	0	53	7.11	1182	1.18
Total	376	34640	369	65141	745	100	99781	100
%	50.5%	35%	49.5%	65%				

average c 0.5-1 mm, densely packed. Occasional stone grits: scattered lumps of limestone [R] up to 20 mm. Rare lumps of ?grog (subrounded) c 1-2 mm. Hackly texture. Reference sample: (10584).

Forms: tegula, imbrex, box, tessera  
Equivalent to Redlands Farm Fabric A

*Fabric F:* Colour: buff-light yellowish brown surface; reduced dark grey core (in the assessment colour was used as a main means of distinguishing between fabrics B and F). Inclusions: high density (40%) of pale grey platy fossil shell fragments 0.2-4 mm, average c 0.5-1 mm; possibly a higher proportion of fine shell in this fabric compared to B. Shell, densely packed. Grey buff clay silt pellets (rounded) 2-13 mm. Fine hackly texture. Reference sample: (10769).

Forms: tegula, imbrex, ?ridge, brick

*Fabric D:* The fabric is similar to, but not typical Fabric B: it seems to be a variant. It contains frequent grey very rounded and highly polished ?limestone grit 2-3 mm and larger cream limestone fragments c 5-8 mm. A lot of voids are present, where shell has leached out but very little evidence of surviving shell fragments. Reference sample: (10621). Only one example present.

Form: imbrex

Fabric G: Same as fabric B. Reference sample: (10739)

## Group 2: Sandy fabrics

*Fabric A:* Colour: red, orange, yellowish red; core: reddish brown, grey or light grey. Matrix: Very fine sandy-silty clay, faintly or diffusely finely laminated clay with paler streaks. Inclusions: Buff-cream silty clay pellets (low density) fine-medium sand size (<0.5 mm). Red iron oxide grains. Frequent fine medium quartz sand (clear, white) (subangular) <0.2 mm, rare grains up to 0.5 mm, mostly clear quartz, rare dark sand grains. Coarse inclusions: rare cream rock grits ?limestone (subrounded-rounded) up to 7 mm. Very rare silty clay pellets c 2 mm. Buff silty clay pellets 1-3 mm. Reference sample: (10739)

*Variant A /L:* orange sandy clay matrix with granular texture. Diffusely laminated. occasional quartz sand and red Fe oxide grains. Frequent silty clay pellets [rounded] cream buff, orange 0.5-5 mm

Forms: tegula, imbrex, brick, box, tessera

*Fabric C:* Colour: red – orange. Matrix: very hard uniform clay fabric with some large angular voids in the clay. Inclusions: high density of quartz sand (clear, white) (subangular-rounded) c 0.3-0.7 mm, well sorted. Coarse inclusions: none. Reference sample: (10507)

Form: plain tile

*Fabric H:* Same as fabric C. Reference sample: (10507)

*Fabric J:* Colour: uniform red throughout. Matrix: clay matrix slightly porous with elongate voids. Hard. Inclusions: infrequent mica silt. High density of fine – medium quartz sand (angular-rounded), clear/white, poorly sorted. Coarse inclusions: none.

Moulding Sand: two distinctive types were associated with this fabric, but not necessarily present on all examples of this fabric. Moulding sand 1 (on ref sample): coarse gritty sand including white grains of ?calcite and limestone and clear quartz 0.5-2 mm. The same moulding sand occurred fabric K. Moulding sand 2: a well sorted quartz moulding sand: clear/brown, medium subrounded-subangular. Plus rare-occasional rounded crypto-crystalline limestone (?chalk). Reference sample: (11159)

Form: imbrex

Only the reference sample was identified as this fabric at assessment, but subsequently an additional eight samples were identified.

Equivalent to Redlands Farm Fabric D.

*Fabric K:* Colour: Reddish yellow, light-mid orange surface; reduced light-mid-dark grey core and main body of clay. Matrix: dense fine silty clay matrix faintly laminated, with scattered elongated pores/voids 1-10 mm. Inclusions: rare quartz grains (rounded) medium. Diffuse red iron rich clay pellets. Coarse inclusions: very rare stone grits c 1 mm. Moulding sand: On reference sample: coarse gritty sand including white grains of ?calcite and limestone and clear quartz 0.5-2 mm. Not necessarily present on all examples of this fabric. Same moulding sand on reference samples as fabric J. Reference sample: (10507)

Form: tegula, imbrex

Only the reference sample was allocated to this fabric at the assessment, but subsequently an additional fourteen samples were identified as this (previously fabric A).

### Subgroup: Sandy micaceous

*Fabric E:* Colour: slightly mottled yellowish red, reddish yellow, reddish brown, yellowish brown. Matrix: micaceous silty clay. Inclusions: moderate density of medium quartz sand (rounded-subrounded) (brown grains) <0.5 mm, mostly c 0.2-0.5 mm, occasionally up to 1 mm. Coarse inclusions: Frequent red Fe oxide grains 0.3-0.5 mm. Reference sample: (10666)

Form: tegula

*Fabric L:* Colour: Light orange – brown surfaces; brown core; grey mottles in core. Matrix: Fine micaceous clay matrix. Very mixed; hackly texture. Inclusions: High density of quartz sand; rare mica sand. Coarse inclusions: Micaceous clay pellets (rounded); coarse red/maroon iron oxide clay pellets (subrounded) up to 8 mm. Uncommon unwedged clay (subangular) up to 4 mm. Reference sample: (10739) There was a variant with little or no mica in matrix.

Form: tegula, brick

Only the reference sample was allocated to this fabric at the assessment, but subsequently an additional three samples were identified as this (previously fabric A).

*Fabric M:* Colour: Orange-red. Matrix: evenly mixed sandy clay, possibly slightly micaceous (v fine) occasional voids and pores. Inclusions: very high density of fine sand: quartz <1 mm, occasional coarser sand and fine silt/clay

pellets, Coarse inclusions: frequent cream sandy clay pellets (rounded) 1-5 mm and red Fe oxide clay pellets 0.5-3 mm Reference sample: (10219)

Only one example of this fabric was identified.

Form: tegula

Fabrics E, L and M may all be equivalent to Redlands Farm fabric F.

*Fabric I:* fired clay fabric of mixed sand and shell. Equivalent to Redlands Farm Fabric G.

Most of the fabrics were used to produce a variety of forms. The only fabric that may have been used more exclusively is J, which was only used for imbrices. However if this is the same as Fabric D at Redlands Farm (Pringle 1997) it was used for a wider variety of forms there. Of the sandy fabrics E, L and M form a sub-group utilising micaceous clay and it is possible these should be regarded as a single fabric type. A similar limited range of fabrics was noted at Stanwick (Pringle unpubl) where the two main fabrics were a shelly variety and sandy with silty clay pellets together with a small number of other sandy fabrics. The pattern suggests that tile was being sourced from a relatively small number of local production centres. The shelly fabric B was noted to contain fragments of bryzoa, indicating a Jurassic source (Edgeley-Long in OA 2004). The site lies at the junction of the Lias clays and Oolitic Limestone of the Jurassic system, with the Northamptonshire Sands and Ironstone outcropping on the site together with the Upper Estuarine Series Silts and Clays on the extreme eastern edge of the site. The Upper Estuarine Series has been used up to the present day for brick and tile production, as has the Oxford Clay which outcrops about 2-3 km east of the site. Tiles were produced in a shelly fabric at Harrold, Bedfordshire, which lies 10 km to the south of the site, during the late 2nd century and late 3rd to mid 4th centuries (Brown 1994). However, suitable clays were readily available in the Nene Valley and it is possible there were production sites closer than Harrold utilising the Oxford Clay and the clays of the Upper Estuarine Series.

## Forms

### *Tegulae*

Tegulae were produced in a standard manner utilising moulds, which formed the upper and lower cutaways. One near-complete tile was found, which measured 354 mm long by 265 mm wide at the bottom of the tile (increasing to >275 mm towards the top) by 15 mm thick. Another partial tile measured 388 mm long, by >185 mm wide by 20 mm thick. For most pieces the only complete dimension was thickness, which measured between 10 and 30 mm with most measuring 15-24 mm. Flange and cutaway types are referred to using the type series developed by the writer and illustrated in the data file.

Intact flanges were present on 71 records of tegulae out of 90, the remainder being damaged or deflanged. The flange forms represented were rectangular (type A and B) and curved (types D, E, F) in profile (Fig. 5.54). Type A flange sizes ranged from 11-30 mm wide by 41-53 mm high. Type B measured 12-25 mm wide by 49-50 mm high. Type D measured 15-30 mm wide by 33-52 mm high. One complete type D flange measured 28 mm wide by 50 mm high at the tile base decreasing to 15 mm wide by 44 mm high at its top. Type E measured 20-25 mm wide by 40-48 mm high. The two type F flanges measured 20-26 mm wide by 40-46 mm high and 35 mm wide by 50 mm high. All height measurements are the external height of the flange. The unusually thin flanges appear more frequently amongst the shelly fabrics.

A total of 58 cutaways at the tile corners were recorded. Of these 32 were upper cutaways made at the top end of the tile and 26 lower cutaways made at the bottom of the tile. The object of these features is to facilitate the close fit of the overlapping tiles to ensure that the roof is weatherproof. All the upper cutaways were of type A2, formed by the removal of the whole flange to the same level as the body of the tile leaving a straight vertical face truncating the flange. Almost all were made in the tile mould, whilst just two were knife cut. The moulded cutaways measured 17-30 mm long, whilst the knife-cut ones were 42 and 50 mm long. A common feature with a high proportion of the upper cutaways was that an additional small wedge-shaped area of the flange had been roughly knocked off to extend it, usually for no more than about 15 mm.

The lower cutaways were limited to three types. The majority were type A3, in which a rectangular section from the outer side of the flange was removed for its full height and about half its width (11-18 mm wide) for a length of 38-57 mm. All had been formed by the tile mould. This type is sometimes combined with a C1 cutaway to form a composite type. The C1 cutaway takes the form of a triangular wedge cut from the lower outer angle of the flange. These were all knife cut and measured 18-40 mm wide by 20-32 mm deep and 47-60 mm long. Only three of this type were recorded alone and in all cases the preservation of the tile was such that it was not possible to judge whether an A3 cutaway had also been present. A single oddity consisted of an A3 type with an L-shaped profile, where the lower part of the cutaway undercut the tile. This was incomplete so its full size and shape did not survive, but it appeared to have been made entirely in the mould in a single operation.

A third type, the A3a, was similar to the A3, but differed in that it widened from top to bottom. Only two were recorded: one measured 2-10 mm wide by 44 mm long and the other 10-15 mm wide by 52 mm long. One of these had a chamfer to the top angle of the upstanding end of the flange and the whole cutaway and chamfer had been created by the tile mould. From the same feature (hearth 11147) came

Table 5.33 Tile cutaway forms present and Warry equivalents

Cutaway form	Warry equivalent	Date range proposed by Warry	Site Phase
C1	B6	AD 100-180	Phase 5
A3	C4	AD 160-260	Phase 5 (one in phase 6)
A3 / C1 composite	C5	AD 160-260	Phase 5 (one in phase 4)
A3a	D1	AD 240-380	Phase 5

another tile (Fig. 5.54.3) which had an A3 cutaway on one side possibly with a chamfer and an A3a cutaway with a moulded chamfer on both its lower cutaways. This seems to be an intermediate type perhaps representing a period of change in the design of cutaways.

The cutaways can be equated with the types designated by Warry (2007, 44) (Table 5.33). Warry has suggested a development of cutaway types, which represent improvements in functionality, and has provided a broad date range for the periods in which they were produced. The tile from hearth 11147 with differing cutaways may date to the period of overlap of Warry's type C and D, which is dated to AD 240-260.

Although it appears that there may be four different types of cutaway it is likely that there was in fact just one dominating the assemblage (Warry's type C5) the others being partial examples of this, with only his D1 variety representing a different type. The implications of the dating are discussed below in relation to the structures.

There were three tegulae which had holes drilled through sometime after firing. All were similar, positioned against the flange and apparently at some distance from the tile edge (190 mm and 285 mm where this survived). They measure 6-16 mm wide at their narrowest, surrounded by an upper cone 18-25 mm wide and usually with a wider flake scar on the underside up to 50 mm wide. The holes appear to be a modification related to reuse of the tiles rather than their primary function. Two of these tegulae were reused in hearth 11147 (Fig. 5.54.3 and 4) and one in grave 8123. Both these contexts were assigned to Phase 5.

Tegulae were made in fabrics A, B, E, F, K, L and M and the proportions reflect those of the whole assemblage. A small number had signature marks (described below).

### Imbrices

No complete tiles were found but one measured over 340 mm long by c 170-180 mm wide by 70 mm increasing to >90 mm high and 15-19 mm thick. Complete profiles survived from the ends of two tiles from context 12604 and they may represent

either end of a single tile. One measured 132 mm wide by 53 mm high and 16-19 mm thick and the other 148 mm wide by 63 mm high by 17-19 mm thick. There were a number of other examples where width or height could be measured or estimated: most widths ranged from 120 mm to 150 mm plus a couple estimated at c 190 mm. Heights ranged from c 80-110 mm. For the remainder the only complete measurement was thickness, which ranged from 10 to 23 mm with a mode of 16 mm for sandy fabrics and 13-19 mm with 14-15 mm forming the mode for shelly fabrics.

Apart from the distinctive moulding sands found on the imbrices made in fabrics J and K, already noted above, several of the tiles made in fabric J also had distinctive ribbing from finger smoothing longitudinally along the apex of the tile. All the fabric J imbrices were found associated with a single building, 10860.

### Ridge tile?

Two contexts produced fragments of a similar unusual form, which may be a form of ridge tile (Fig. 5.55.6) The type appears to have a semi-circular profile with a curvature equivalent to 280 mm diameter and similar in form to an imbrex, but rather than being open the surviving end was closed off with a flat face of clay. The fragments are small and it is impossible to assess whether the tile tapered, or to give any indication of length. No parallels have been found, but it is suggested it could have been used as the final ridge tile at the end of the gable or may have been a ridge tile or imbrex made with an integral plain antefix. All the fragments came from the shrine area.

### Bricks

Bricks formed a very small proportion of the assemblage with only seven definite examples and a further seven examples classified as flat/brick. All except one were made in sandy fabrics, predominantly A with a few in K and L. The single brick in shelly fabric F was noticeably thinner (26 mm thick) than the others which ranged from 35-44 mm thick. The flat/brick category was separated mainly on the basis of their thickness which ranged from 29-38 mm.

The small quantity of brick suggests that it was not being used for any major construction in walls or floors, but was used for minor features such as hearths, ovens or corn driers. A group of bricks was concentrated in context 8033, fill of pit 8035 in building 8019 the northern enclosure. One of these had a distinctive loop signature. The other bricks were found in general soil or occupation layers (11007, 12374) within two of the buildings; sooting on their surfaces may indicate they had been used in hearths.



**Box tile: *tubulus* and *tubulus cuneatus***

Only three examples of box flue tile were identified, all with evidence of combing. The better preserved pieces each presented large areas of one of the combed faces. The largest of these (12984) also had combing on both side faces, of which only the very edges survived (Fig. 5.55.9). Combing on all faces is usually indicative of a *voussoir*, though the piece is not sufficiently well preserved to substantiate this with evidence of tapering dimensions. The box tiles were made in fabric A and B.

All the box flue tiles were recovered from the main settlement area, in two ditches (11573, 12938) and building 10820 (12984). The small quantity of the form and its scattered distribution indicate that it was not used in any heating system, but had probably been brought in (from elsewhere within the settlement or possibly from the Redlands Farm villa) for recycling for use as brick in floors, hearths or oven structures.

***Tesserae***

Three small cubes derived from larger tiles may have been deliberately shaped to form *tesserae*. They are typical in shape and size measuring 18-28 by 20-29 mm wide by 18-22 mm thick and weigh 10-26 g; two have a trapezoidal and one a rectangular shape. Two were from Phase 4 contexts and one from Phase 5, all associated with the shrine. The only argument against them being *tesserae* is the absence of any evidence of tessellated floors: it would be stretching the evidence to its limits to propose the existence of a tessellated pavement within the shrine on the basis of three possible *tesserae*. An alternative interpretation, that *tesserae* were being manufactured, for the villa at Redlands Farm for example, is equally unlikely as one would have expected the distinctive waste debris from *tessera* production to be present.

***Flat tile***

Most of the remaining tile was classified as flat tile (or unidentified if extremely fragmentary). A distinction will be found in Table 5.33 between plain/tegula and plain/brick, based on other hints of typical characteristics of the specific forms in combination with thickness. The similarity in general characteristics and finish and thickness suggests that most of this category derives from tegulae, though imbrices must also have formed some proportion. Thickness ranged from 10-38 mm with the greatest proportion concentrated between 13 and 24 mm. Flat tile was a useful source of building material being selected from any type which could provide flat slabs suitable for use in ovens, corn driers and hearths, for use as floors, walls or kerbs, bridging flues or baffles/vent/stokehole covers for controlling air flow.

**Markings**

The only deliberate markings found within the assemblage were signature marks and combing, though three tegula had finger tip depressions from handling before firing such as one from 8033 (pit 8035), which had three finger tip impressions on the flange.

***Signature marks***

Only eight tiles had evidence of signatures. All but one occurred in Phase 5 contexts. The most common form was the curved finger groove forming part of a semicircular hoop occurring in combinations of one, two and three grooves. All were incomplete and occurred on tegulae. The double hoop occurred three times, the other two once each. One complete example of a horseshoe shaped signature (Fig. 5.54.3) made with three finger grooves and a fourth showing intermittently ran from the lower edge of a tegula from the hearth 11147. Two examples of a more unusual type were found, one on a brick from the clay lined pit 8035 associated with building 8019 and one on a tegula from ditch 10700, both made in the same fabric (A), suggesting they were made by the same tiler or at least production centre. This signature took the form of a circular loop, whereby the 'tails' crossed one another and extended beyond the circle (Fig. 5.54.1-2).

***Combing***

All examples of combing occurred on box flue tiles (eg Fig. 5.55.7-9). The two best preserved examples came from ditch 11750 and a layer overlying ditches to the north of building 11370. Both were made with a coarse-toothed comb, one with 8 teeth and one with 16 teeth, 40 mm and 75 mm wide respectively. One tile had a cross pattern formed by two bands running diagonally from corner to corner. The other had two bands of combing: one, relatively straight, probably ran parallel to one of the tile edges, the other at right-angles formed a series of sinuous curves, probably infilling the space between bands of straight combing. On the tile fragment from the fill (11573) of ditch 11750 can be seen an S-shaped groove and the edge of a second forming one side of a band of sinuous curving combing running parallel with the tile edge.

**Discussion*****Tile production***

There is a limited range of tile fabrics and forms, suggesting that the assemblage derives from a small number of tileries, with the bulk of material coming perhaps from just one. The fabrics broadly divide into shelly and sandy groups, with the latter probably representing as few as three tileries. The shelly group has been divided into two types but

though it is possible that this represents two different clay sources and therefore production sites, no clear-cut differences in the fabrics could be discerned apart from colour, which is a result of the firing and manufacturing process. It could be argued that this in itself might indicate different tileries, but equally the same manufacturer may have deliberately produced tiles in different colours for decorative effect. There is a possibility that the two colours may have been used in combination to create a decorative effect on the shrine. The similarity of flange and cutaway types suggests that the shelly fabric group is coming from the same source.

Similar fabrics were found at Stanwick (Pringle n.d.(a)) and at Redlands Farm (Pringle n.d.(b)). The equivalent types amongst the Redlands Farm material have already been noted in the fabric descriptions above. At Redlands Farm the micaceous fabric was more common, though the same shelly and sandy wares still predominated. The ubiquitous shelly fabrics derived from the Jurassic Lias associated with local clay sources were used over the lifetime of the site, suggesting that the same sources were exploited over a long period of time. The variety of sandy fabrics suggests that tiles may have been supplied by at least three tileries and that the one producing in fabrics J and K may have specialised in imbrices. A similar subdivision of shelly and sandy fabrics was found at Bancroft villa and mausoleum, Milton Keynes, but here there was additionally a distinctive pink grog-tempered ware (the same as the pottery fabric PNK GT, see Timby above). Higham Ferrers is on the easternmost edge of its distribution, which is centred on Towcester (Phil Mills pers. comm.) and its absence at Higham Ferrers is not surprising.

#### *Structural use of ceramic building material*

The ceramic building material has been utilised in two quite distinct ways. One is as a primary structural element in buildings and the second is for minor structural features within buildings (or possibly in the open). This is strongly reflected in the individual assemblages relating to each building.

The majority of the ceramic building material was found in Phase 4 and 5 contexts, which could be taken to reflect the fact that the early buildings were circular structures and unsuitable for ceramic roofing. However in the later phases the use of tile for roofing appears to have been strictly limited and the change from circular buildings in Phase 3 to rectangular buildings in Phases 4 and 5 did not herald a change to roofing with ceramic tiles. The only area that produced tile in sufficient quantity to suggest use as roofing is the shrine (see below), though it could be argued that two other buildings (8019 and 10860) may have had ceramic roofs.

Table 5.34 Quantification of tile forms from the shrine (by weight)

	Weight (g)	%
Tegula	10995	41.8
Tegula/flat	2659	10.1
Flat	4843	18.4
Imbrex	7266	27.6
Ridge?	265	1.0
Brick	244	0.9
Tessera?	48	0.2
Total Weight	26320	

#### *Phase 4: the shrine*

The main structure relating to the shrine appears to have been a monumental entrance and it is this rather than any shrine building that was roofed with tile. Its vicinity produced the largest quantity and greatest variety of tile associated with a single structure. Tegulae comprise *c* 70% of the group by weight (ie the combined categories of tegula, tegula/flat and flat in Table 5.34) compared to nearly 28% of imbrices. These proportions are about right to represent a roof, and the difference in proportions is accounted for by the difference in weight between the two forms and the fact that slightly fewer imbrices than tegulae are used on a roof. The proportions are very similar to the estimates by Brodribb (1987, 11-12) based on tiles from Beauport Park, where the proportions by weight work out as 76% tegulae and 24% imbrices for a 15 m<sup>2</sup> section of roof. The proportion of tile by weight for Bancroft mausoleum (Zeepvat 1994) is similar, with 70% tegulae and 30% imbrices.

Both the tegulae and imbrices from the shrine were made in a mixture of sandy and shelly fabrics suggesting they came from a variety of sources, possibly even representing recycling of materials from other buildings in the area, especially if the community was not especially wealthy. However the tegula cutaway types associated with this structure (Warry (2007) type C4 and C5) indicate a production date for the tile of AD 160-260. The main period of deposition of artefacts within the shrine is the later 2nd century and 3rd century, suggesting that construction of the shrine took place at the beginning of the production period for this cutaway form. If this was the case it would suggest that the tile was not recycled from another source, but bought new.

Different tile types and colours may have been used in combination for decorative effect. The ceramic roof would have made this structure stand out from the domestic buildings and the unusual form of possible ridge tile, perhaps the base of some sort of finial, indicates that some care had gone into the selection of roofing materials.

The presence of the three possible tesserae from the area of the shrine is probably fortuitous, as there was clearly no evidence of a tessellated pavement associated with the area. However, they may indicate the presence of another structure with such a floor in the vicinity.

#### *Phase 4: Building 10860*

In the demolition and robbing deposits of building 10860 were found 2453 g of imbrex, nearly all made in fabric J; a further 3416 g of the same imbrex type occurred in the soil layers over both building 10860 and the later structure 11370. It is assumed that all the imbrex relates just to the earlier building, whilst the variety of flat tiles appears to relate to the later building and is discussed below.

This concentration accounts for almost all of the distinctive fabric J imbrices and indicates that these may have been sourced specifically for use in this building. The absence of tegulae suggests that they may have been put to some other use than roofing, though there is no evidence of other non-standard uses, for example as pilae or vents in hypocausts, as supports for the projecting shelf in corn driers or as lining of drains. The possibility of the use of these imbrices for their primary purpose as roofing should be seriously considered. It would be possible for the building to have been roofed exclusively with imbrices in the Laconian system, still commonly found in present-day Italy and Spain, though such an arrangement was probably unusual. Brodribb (1987) has suggested that ribbing running along the apex, such as occurs on these tiles, was possibly intended as a decorative effect.

#### *Phase 5: Building 8019*

This building was set in an enclosure on the north side of the settlement. It had been heavily robbed and the majority of the ceramic building material directly associated with it came from a 4th-century clay lined pit (8035), which had been backfilled with tile and limestone blocks, which both included some burnt material. Dating evidence for the building is poor, but it is likely to be contemporary with ditches 8290 and 8295, which started to fill during the late 3rd-4th century. The types of cutaways found on the tegulae are nearly all the same as those found on the shrine 10930 and date to AD160-260. However there was also a single tile with a later cutaway form (Warry (2007) type D1), which is assigned a production date of AD 240-380.

Compared to the shrine building, the tile is all made in the shelly fabric except for one piece, indicating a single source for the material. The overall quantities are similar to the shrine, but in contrast to that building the proportion of tegulae (70%) to imbrices (6%) does not reflect the normal proportions for a roof (as discussed above). Even if material from the whole of Area G is taken into account, the proportions do not alter significantly and require some explanation. One possibility is that a higher proportion of the imbrices was

recycled elsewhere. As the building was heavily robbed this suggests that it was being used deliberately as a source of building materials.

Alternatively, most of the group, which comes from the dump in pit 8035 does not represent debris from the roof of the building at all, but has come from some other structure or was used in some other manner within the building. One use might have been as flooring, but usually in such circumstances the tiles are deflanged, whilst another possible use could have been as part of the flues of a hypocaust or corn drier. The evidence of sooting on some of the tiles and burning on some of the associated limestone blocks adds credence to such a possibility. This building also produced a high proportion of the bricks found on site, and these clearly represent some constructional activity other than roofing. Bricks were commonly used as flooring over hypocausts, but this is patently not the case here, although the number present would be consistent with spanning the flue of an oven or corn drier. The character of the assemblage from this building has more in common with all the minor groups from the domestic houses, with the emphasis on varieties of flat tiles, except in respect of the concentration of material in one place. From the quantities involved one would expect there to be evidence of a large structure such as a corn drier, but in the absence of any such evidence on the site it may be that the tile indeed derived from the roof of the building, although some doubt must remain.

#### *Use of brick and tile in minor structures*

There are no other groups of tile of sufficient size or character to suggest that they formed a structural part of a building. All the remaining material, whether occurring within buildings or individual features such as wells, waterholes or ditches, presents a similar character. It consists predominantly of tiles that could be reduced to flat slabs – tegulae (though very few of these appeared to be deliberately deflanged), brick, box tile and unidentified flat tile. Varieties of flat tiles are frequently used as flooring over the flues of corn driers, as hearth surfaces or oven floors, as kerbs for hearths, and for controlling airflow through flues and vents. It is likely that most of the material from the domestic buildings was being used in this manner.

In a number of the buildings the tile is directly associated with hearths or ovens. The earliest evidence was found in Phase 3 contexts in the interior of buildings 10920 and 11340, domestic circular structures from the roadside settlement. In the latter building a highly vitrified tile was found associated with a hearth or oven base. Tile is also directly associated with ovens or hearths in several of the Phase 4-5 buildings.

Particularly notable is the use of tegulae to create the base of an unusual form of oven (11198) in building 10810 (see Plate 4.21). This had a base of two tegulae packed with clay, possibly as insulation, and further tegulae were set on edge to form

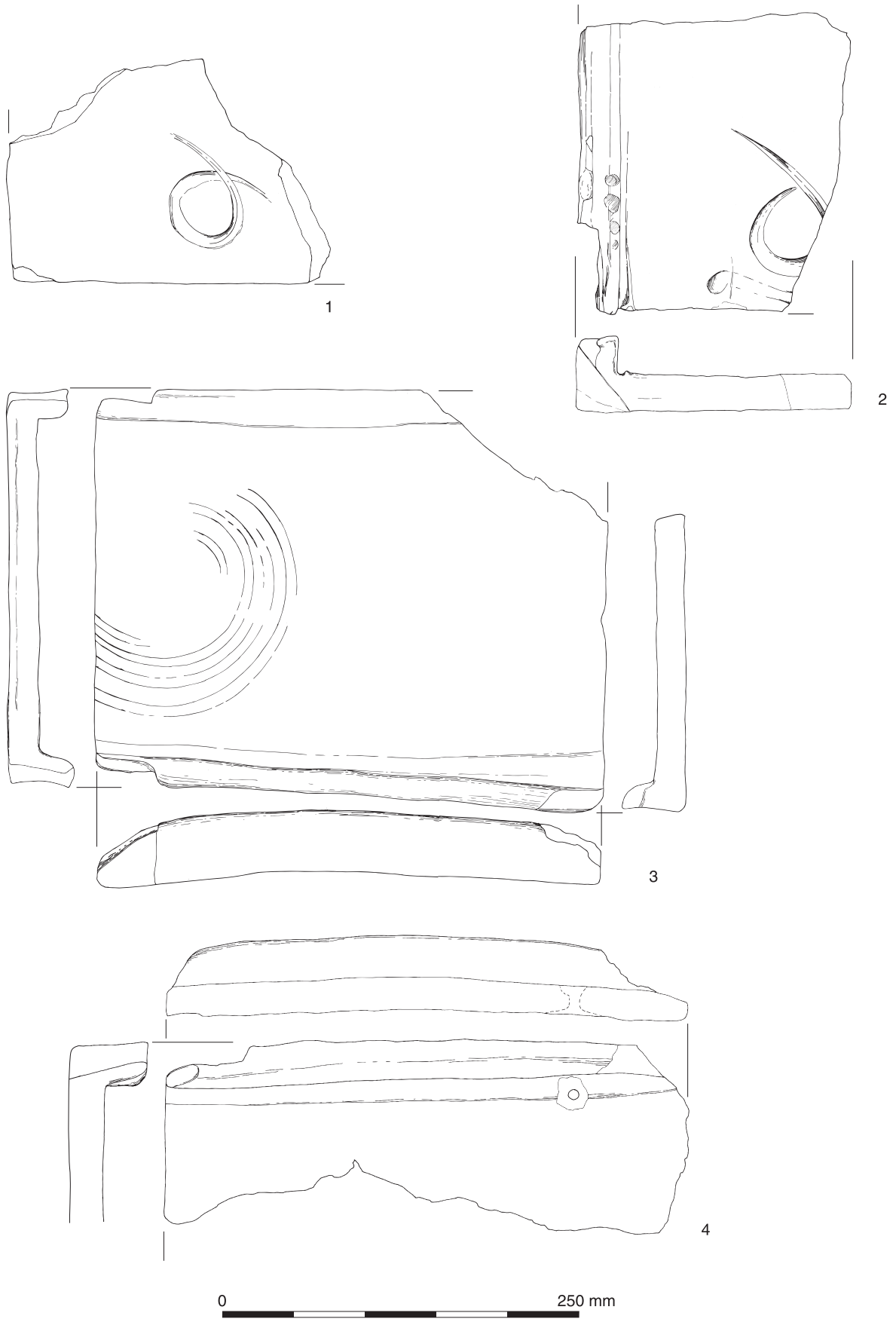


Fig. 5.54 Ceramic building material

the walls on three sides. It is possible that the superstructure was also insulated, though no evidence of this survived, and may imply it was used as a bread oven. Also of interest are the imbrices found in feature 11625 in building 10850, which has been interpreted as an oven flue. In character it is similar to corn drier flues and the imbrices may support such an interpretation as imbrices have been found used as supports for the rear shelf of a corn drier at Grateley villa, Hampshire.

A quite different manner of use for two large slabs of tegula found in grave 8123 was as a headrest and footrest for the corpse laid in the grave. A similar arrangement was found in a grave at Canterbury (Rady 2001, 5) where a tile was found close to the very poorly preserved skull of a Roman burial.

### Conclusions

The distribution of the tile shows distinct differences in its use between the domestic settlement and the 'public' building. The use of ceramic tile to roof the shrine entrance contrasts with the domestic buildings reflecting not only differences in status, but perhaps also the degree of Romanisation of the structures. Though the domestic buildings in the later phases were rectangular and could have been roofed with tile, the fact that they were not may reflect a conservative tendency in the population or the economic status of the inhabitants. The cost of tile may have been a prime consideration as the settlement does not appear to be overly wealthy and any economic surplus was concentrated on the communal building, the shrine. The general absence

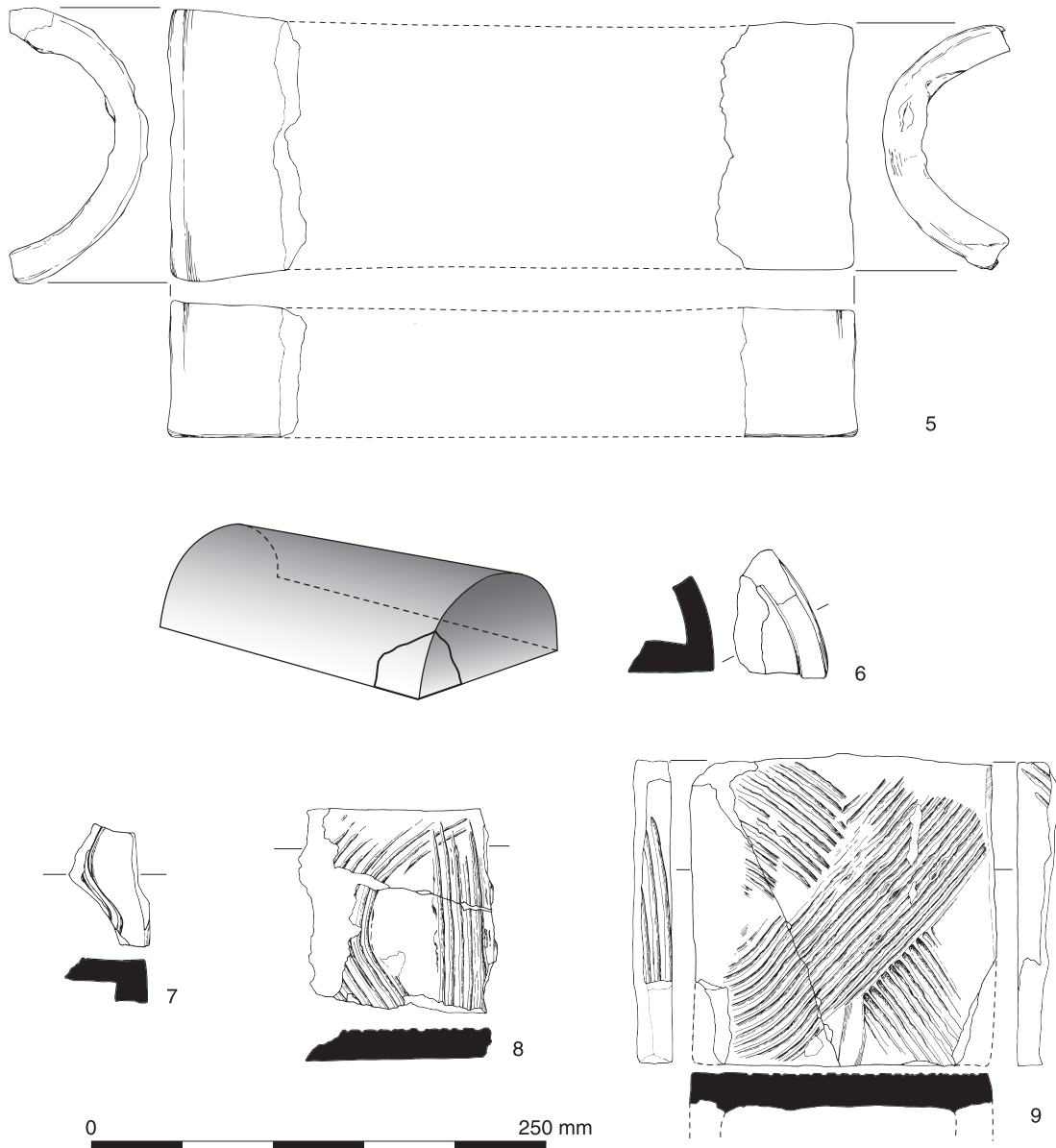


Fig. 5.55 Ceramic building material

of tile in building construction raises the question of where the community obtained the material for the minor structures in which tile was used. The obvious source is the nearby villa of Redlands Farm, which used the range of forms found at Higham Ferrers. However whether this represents some formal relationship between the settlements, such as the employment of the Higham Ferrers population on construction or agricultural work for the villa that enabled them to make use of unwanted materials from the villa (with or without permission), or the unofficial filching of tile, is impossible to tell.

#### *Catalogue of illustrated tiles* (Figs 5.54-5)

1. Brick with loop signature mark. Context 8033, clay-lined pit 8035 in building 8019.
2. Tegulae with type A flange and cutaway type (Warry 2007). Loop signature mark on surface and fingerprints from handling on flange. Context 10506, plot boundary ditch 10700.
3. Tegula with type D/E flanges and lower cutaways type A3 and A3a (Warry 2007). Three/four finger hoop signature mark. Context 11198, hearth 11147 in building 10810.
4. Tegula with type D flange and type A3 lower cutaway. Hole drilled beside flange post-firing. Context 11199, hearth 11147 in building 10810.
5. Imbrex: two ends of imbrex, possibly both ends of the same tile. Length is hypothetical. Context 12604, lower fill of oven 11625 in building 10850.
6. Ridge tile? Corner fragment of curved tile. The reconstruction of a ridge tile with one enclosed end (not to scale) shows the position the fragment is thought to represent. Context 10769, robber pit of shrine inner entrance.
7. Flue tile (?tubulus) with fragment of curved combing. Context 11573, boundary ditch 11750.
8. Flue tile (?tubulus) with two bands of combing. Context 12938, building 10910.
9. Flue tile (?voussoir) with one complete face with combing in the form of a cross and fragments of combing on both side faces. Context 12984, building 10820.

#### **FIRED CLAY** by *Cynthia Poole*

A small quantity of fired clay was recovered amounting to 177 fragments weighing 6959 g.

#### **Fabrics**

The fabrics are similar to the ceramic building material fabrics and form part of the same series. Sandy fabrics A and L were used for fired clay, though often they were more variable and not so well defined as those used for tile. Fabric B was generally finer than in the tile, with the shell fragments being predominantly *c* 1-2 mm.

Fabric I was a mixed shelly and sandy fabric, used exclusively for fired clay. This was a sandy clay, poorly mixed and mottled with reddish clay pellets or fragments, occasional-moderate amount of shell/limestone grit 1-5 mm, a low density of

medium quartz sand and occasional coarse grog fragments 10-27 mm.

Normally, fired clay utilises clay sources locally available on or close to the site. The Upper Estuarine Series of the Great Oolite that outcrops in the area could have provided suitable clays and the Northamptonshire Sands the sandy element. The shelly fabrics are likely to derive from other Jurassic deposits such as the Oxford Clay, which occur in the locality.

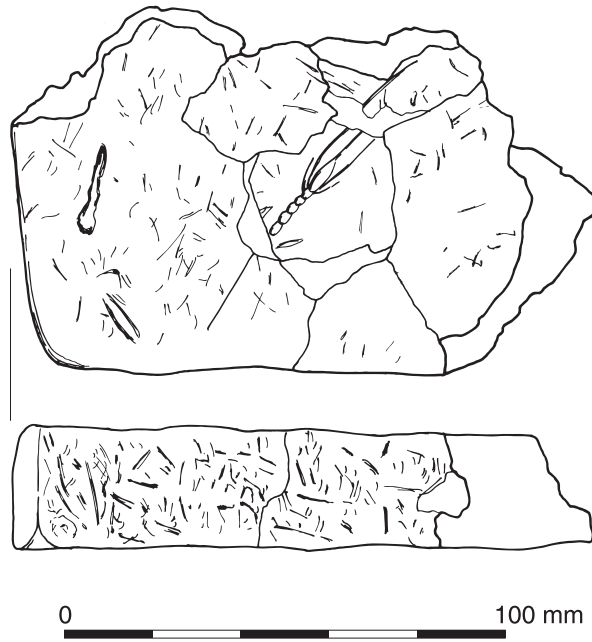
#### **Forms**

##### *Hearth or oven floor*

This material was found in five contexts, one of which was the fill of a hearth and the remainder ditch fills. All were made in a sandy or mixed sandy and shelly clay fabrics (I and A). All examples had a single flat smooth well-finished surface, fired grey and ranged in thickness from 22 to 35 mm. The opposite side was invariably rough and irregular sometimes with clear impressions of stones or gravel indicating that this was a surface that had been laid over a stone foundation or directly on an underlying layer of stones or stony soil. No fragments retaining an edge were found so the overall shape of the floor is unclear. Nor is it possible to say whether this a hearth floor, complete in itself, or the floor of a more complex structure such as an oven in which case the floor may have been continuous with the walls. The absence of any edges may point to the latter possibility.

##### *Oven plate*

There are five examples of plain oven plates. Some have only one surface preserved and could technically be hearth floor, but their general characteristics are similar to the better preserved examples. These are rectangular or polygonal: three corner fragments have angles of *c* 97-100 degrees. The edges are usually straight and flat, although the lower angle may be curved and corners may be rounded. Organic impressions may be present, either sporadic straw stems or a dense covering of hay/grass impressions. On one (Fig. 5.56.1) a perfect impression of a spikelet of 6-row barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) with a few segments of rachis internodes is preserved. No complete examples or dimensions were obtained except for thickness, which ranges from 10 to 33 mm with considerable variations within a single plate. The largest surviving pieces came from context 12859, a hearth fill. This plate was rectangular and the joining fragments indicate a width greater than 350 mm. One edge is much thicker than the other (30 and 10 mm) suggesting that it had a wedge shaped cross-section. The reason for this is unclear, but it may have stood on edge as a cover for a vent or stoke-hole, rather than lying flat.



1



2

Fig. 5.56 Fired clay

A single example of a perforated oven plate (Fig. 5.56.2) came from the fill of shallow oval pit 11576 within building 11340. Only a small portion of the plate was preserved and it was very fragmented. None of the perimeter survived so it is not possible to judge whether this was built integrally with a superstructure or was a portable oven plate. It was about 26 mm thick, though much of the underside had flaked off. Parts of five cylindrical perforations pierced the plate vertically and two were set 50 mm apart. The perforations measured 20-40 mm in diameter apart from one that may have been *c* 60 mm.

#### *Oven furniture*

Two examples of oven furniture were found. Both had a plano-convex surface and probably formed part of cylindrical objects such as a fire-bar or pedestal. One had a diameter of *c* 35-38 mm and the other *c* 50 mm: such a size suggests they may be firebars, though some other sort of small support is possible. One was found in an occupation layer (12945) in building 10830 in association with a fragment of oven plate and the other in the fill of a waterhole (11006).

#### **Discussion**

There is a neat division of fired clay forms between periods. The only fired clay deposited in Phase 3 (2nd century) was the perforated oven plate associated with building 11340, although this building did continue in use into Phase 4. All of the hearth floors are from Phase 4 contexts (late 2nd-3rd centuries), whilst the plain oven plates and oven furniture occurred in Phase 5 contexts (late 3rd-4th centuries). It would be satisfying to see these as clear cut developments in design of ovens or hearths, but such a small assemblage is not a sound basis for such an assertion.

However, the difference in phase does indicate that these elements derive from different structures.

The perforated plate within pit 11576 suggests that this sub-circular hollow was the base of an oven probably for cooking or baking. Only one hearth floor was found *in situ*, in building 10850 as part of a square hearth 12602, where it had been laid over a foundation of stones, which had also been burnt. All the fragments of hearth floor are likely to have derived from similar structures. A later structure 11625 within the same building as hearth 12602 contained part of an oven plate in the fill. The construction of this feature was similar to a corn drier and it is possible that the plate found in the fill was part of the drying floor. The presence of the rectangular oven plate in the fill (12859) of hearth 12860 also suggests that it formed part of a more complex structure. The feature is described as being lined with potsherds and the fill as consisting of burnt clay, which suggests the collapse of some sort of superstructure. This could be interpreted as a domestic cooking structure or a small grain drying oven.

Oven plates of rectangular or polygonal form are commonly found in the East Midlands. Several were found on the nearby site of Redlands Farm (Pringle n.d.(b)) made in a similar fabric (G) to fabric I. They are described as hand made bricks, hearth bricks or possible mud bricks, but are clearly fragments of oven plate. They were found in phases IIa (later 2nd century) and IIc (mid 3rd-4th century), in the latter case associated with a hearth. Similar oven plates have been found in Roman contexts at Stanwick (Poole unpubl) and at Sites 4 and 8 on the Great Barford Bypass (Poole 2007).

#### *Catalogue of illustrated fired clay* (Fig. 5.56)

1. Fired clay polygonal oven plate: the surfaces are covered with organic impressions including a well preserved spikelet of barley. Context 11489, boundary ditch 11940.
2. Fired clay perforated oven plate. Photographs show the fragments both in plan view and cross-section. Context 11575, shallow pit in building 11340.