Chapter 2: The Romano-British Cemetery

By Richard Chambers and Angela Boyle

INTRODUCTION

The 69 archaeologically detectable Romano-British burials on this site belonged to the 3rd and 4th centuries and occurred both as distinct burial groups and as isolated graves (Fig. 2.1, Pl. 2.1, Table 2.1). There were 57 inhumations and 12 cremations, 6 of which were located within a square ditched enclosure. The human skeletal assemblage was extremely well preserved due to the alkaline nature of the Thames Valley gravels upon which the site was located. Cremation deposits had suffered as a result of repeated ploughing, and although some were afforded protection by the ridges of the former open field system, an unknown number may have been lost. Most cremation burial pits stopped at the surface of the gravel terrace, as had the ploughing. Several pottery fragments from the topsoil may have represented ploughed-out burials, but unaccompanied shallow bone deposits would have left no trace.

An inhumation cemetery was excavated in 1945 some 300 m to the north of the present burial area (Atkinson 1952–53). The cemetery comprised a distinct burial group of 35 inhumations, all orientated north-south and apparently arranged in rows running in a west-east direction (see Fig. 2.5). Excavations to the north of Wick Hall Drive during 1983–5 did not reveal any further burials in the intervening area. Atkinson's cemetery will be referred to in the text as Radley I and the present cemetery as Radley II.

CEMETERY ORGANISATION (Figs 2.1–4)

As with the site excavated by Atkinson (1952–3) the full extent of the cemetery seems to have been revealed. The main area of the cemetery was formed by a discrete group of 49 inhumations and 11 cremations within which three distinct 'plots' could be identified. A fourth 'plot' of five inhumations lay 20 m to the SW. Three outlying inhumations and one cremation were also uncovered close to the S edge of the excavated area. The 'plots' have been defined as follows (see Fig. 2.4):

Group A

A linear group of 37 north-south aligned inhumations arranged in rows: 1008–1015, 1017–1020, 1022–1027, 1029, 1037, 1039–1050, 1052, 1093–1094, 1096–1097. Inhumation 1044 is problematic. Although spatially it appears to belong to Group A, its west-east orientation may suggest otherwise.

Group B

A cemetery of nine cremations incorporating a square ditched burial enclosure: 1006–1007, 1203, 1208, 1218, 1233–1235, 1243. Five of these are located within the enclosure (1007, 1218, 1233–35) which is cut at its north-east corner by 1006. The remaining three cremations lie outside the enclosure to the north-west.

Group C

A group of 11 west-east aligned inhumations arranged in a north-south row: 1071, 1090–1092, 1095, 1098–1100, 1102–1103, 1213 and one cremation, 1004. Group C has a distinct west-east orientation and a predominance of infants. The cremation 1004 has a date range equivalent to four of the cremations in Group B and it may well be an outlier belonging to that group.

Group D

A group of five west-east inhumations *c* 20 m to the south-west of the main agglomeration of burials: 3781–3784, 3786. The group is defined on the basis of its broadly west-east orientation and location at a distance from the main body of the cemetery.

Isolated burials

Isolated burials comprise inhumations 3518, 3521–3522, 4261 and cremation 4614. This is a widely spaced grouping which comprises four outlying inhumations and a cremation. The inhumations are orientated broadly north-south and the cremation has a unique late date range of AD 390–400+.

The pronounced rows within Group A may represent individual linear plots similar to those proposed for the late Romano-British cemeteries at Queensford Farm, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon. (Chambers 1987, 66), Curbridge, Oxon. (Chambers 1976, fig. 2; 1978, 252), and for Lankhills, Winchester (Clarke 1979, 185). As Clarke has written, '... often there is a suggestion that graves lay end to end .... There is no reason why lines should have been less satisfactory than rows and it is not therefore implausible to suggest their existence.' This is also broadly true of the burials belonging to Group C though it is not a feature of the other grave groups at Barrow Hills. Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3, fig. 15) may well have been organised on a similar linear basis (see Fig. 2.5).

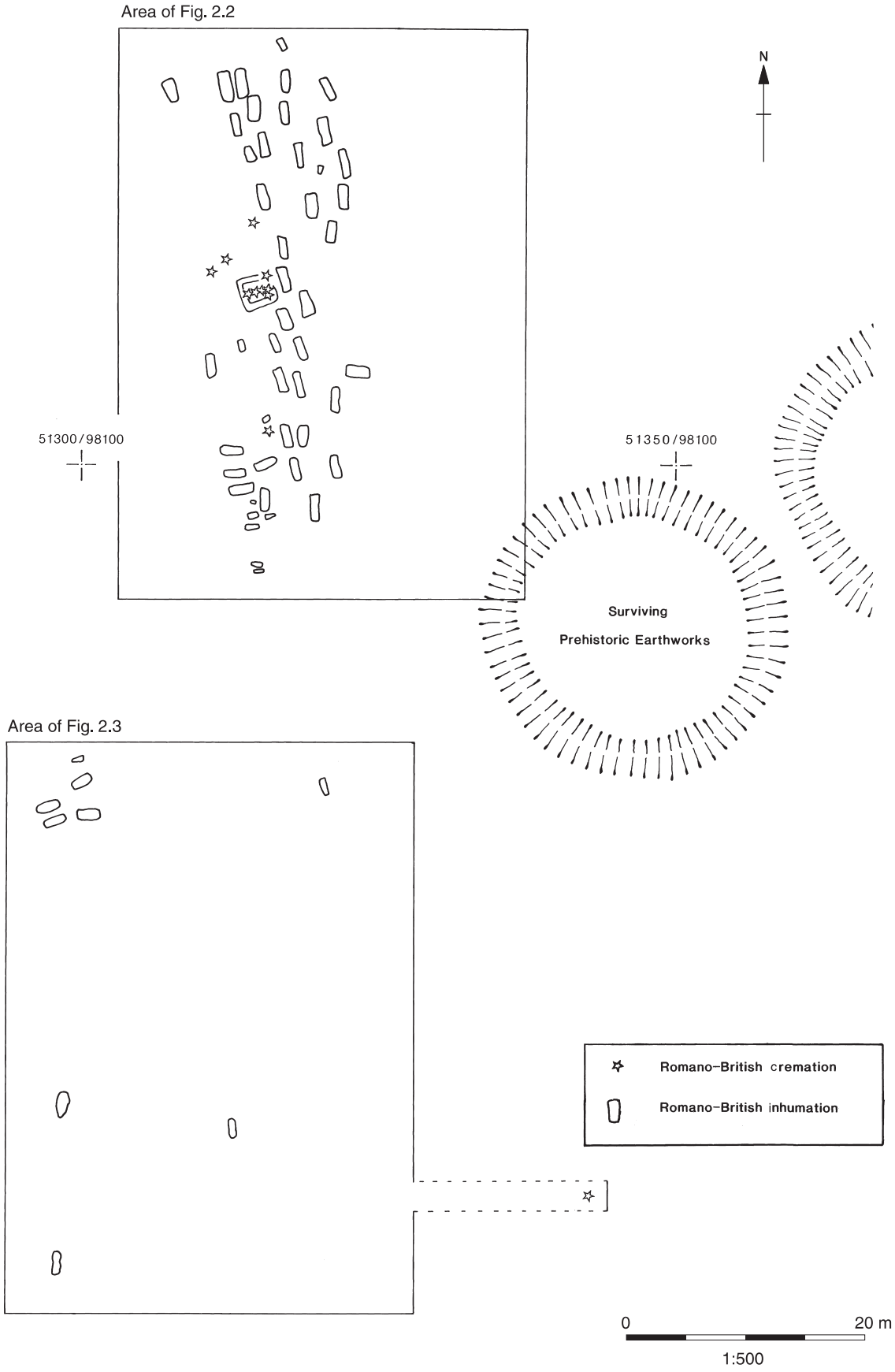

Figure 2.1 The Romano-British burials.

Plate 2.1 The excavator of Barrow Hills, R A 'Charlie' Chambers, photographing a Romano-British grave.

As within the majority of small Romano-British cemeteries in rural areas (Atkinson 1952–3, 32; Chambers 1976, fig. 12; Collis 1977; Chambers 1978, 252; Chambers 1986, 40–41, fig. 1) there was no evidence for boundaries delimiting either the cemetery or individual plots within it, but Radley II was probably laid out along a north-south path leading up from the lower ground to the south (see Romano-British land use and cemetery location below), and the arrangement of the inhumations on the west side of Group A suggests that they respected the small square burial enclosure which appears to have acted as a focus for a number of the cremations in Group B. Hedges or light fences might have been in use, but although they leave few archaeological traces in deep soils, it is likely that such features would have marked the gravel beneath the shallow soil at Barrow Hills.

Overall the graves appear to have been well spaced and none of them intercut. Several of the graves may have been deliberately paired and those whose alignments do not quite match may reflect the inherent difficulty of excavating a rectangular pit accurately aligned upon an earlier grave which was long since infilled and poorly marked. No gravestones are known from the area but within Group D the west ends of graves 3783 and 3784 were just clipped by postholes 3785 and 3792 (Fig. 2.22). There is no means of dating either posthole, although they do not appear to relate to any of the Anglo-Saxon features in the vicinity. It is possible that they were grave markers, but if so, it is difficult to explain why there were only two in the cemetery.

The absence of intercutting graves and the visible order within the cemetery as a whole does strongly suggest that some form of regulatory system was in operation. Atkinson (1952–3, 32) believed that the ordered layout at Radley I must have been in part due to the existence of markers, perhaps in the form of soil mounds. This was later reiterated by Clarke (1979, 185) who commented that the digging of any grave generates more soil than is required to fill it and suggested that the resulting mound of surplus soil could have provided an adequate marking with which to site the graves accurately, at least in relation to each other. In his discussion of Stanton Harcourt, McGavin (1980, 118) suggested that where a cemetery had a short life span grave fills may have remained visible to act as markers. There was

Table 2.1 The Romano-British inhumations: details of orientation, body position and grave good associations.

Context no.	Orientation	Position	Direction in which skull facing	Grave good details
1008	N-S	on left side	E	coin AD 310–312
1009	NNW-SSE	″	Decapitated, skull beneath left knee	
1010	NNW-SSE	supine	E	pottery beaker
1011	NW-SE	on left side	E	
1012	NNW-SSE	supine	SE	
1013	N-S	″	E	
1014	NNW-SSE	prone	E	
1015	N-S	on left side	E	
1017	N-S	supine	E	
1018	N-S	on left side; legs semi-flexed	Decapitated, skull beneath right knee	
1019	NNW-SSE	″	E	1 R-B sherd in fill
1020	NNW-SSE	supine, turned slightly to left	E	
1022	N-S	supine	E	
1023	NNW-SSE	″	E	
1024	NNE-SSW	″	?	
1025	N-S	prone	E	
1026	N-S	supine	Decapitated, skull to left of body over feet	
1027	N-S	″	E	
1029	N-S	″	E	
1037	N-S	supine, turned slightly to left	E	
1039	NNW-SSE	″	E	
1040	NNW-SSE	supine	E	
1041	NNW-SSE	″	SE	bone pin
1042	NNW-SSE	prone	E	copper-alloy bracelet, shale bracelet, 85 glass beads, 56 hobnails
1043	NNW-SSE	supine	E	
1044	W-E	″	N	
1045	N-S	″	E	
1046	NNW-SSE	″	E	
1047	NNW-SSE	on left side	E	pottery beaker
1048	N-S	supine	E	flint flake
1049	NNW-SSE	prone	E	pottery beaker
1050	N-S	supine	E	
1052	NNW-SSE	on left side, legs semi-flexed	NE	
1071	W-E	supine	?	
1090	W-E	″	NE	
1091	W-E	?	?	
1092	W-E	supine	S	
1093	N-S	prone	E	
1094	N-S	supine	E	
1095	W-E	″	Upwards	
1096	NNW-SSE	″	E	
1097	NNW-SSE	″	Decapitated, head placed below right femur	
1098	WSW-ENE	″	NE	
1099	SW-NE	supine?	?	
1100	W-E	supine	N	
1102	W-E	″	N?	
1103	W-E	?	?	

Table 2.1 (Continued)

Context no.	Orientation	Position	Direction in which skull facing	Grave good details
1213	?	?	?	
3518	NNE-SSW	supine, turned slightly to left	E	
3521	N-S	on left side	E	
3522	NNE-SSW	''	SE	tooth
3781	WSW-ENE	supine	W	
3782	WSW-ENE	''	S	
3783	W-E	''	S	
3784	WSW-ENE	?	?	
3786	WSW-ENE	supine	Upwards	
4261	NNE-SSW	''	W	bucket hoop, *c* 40 hobnails

archaeological evidence for one burial having been clearly marked, the 4th-century cremation 1007 which was located at the centre of the small square ditched enclosure 1217. This is discussed in detail below.

The fact that the graves were marked, probably by their mounds, is demonstrated by the fact that they were consistently avoided by the Anglo-Saxon occupants of the site. Only one posthole of PBS 5 clips the northern edge of grave 1013, and the southern half of this building overlies the infant burial 1011, perhaps because it was no longer visible.

The cremation enclosure (Figs 2.2, 2.12–13, Table 2.2)

A shallow gully which cut 0.15 m into the gravel terrace and varied between 0.34–0.6 m in width formed a 3 m enclosure, 1217, around a central 3rd- to 4th-century cremation burial, 1007. Further cremations 1218 and 1233 lay east and west of this central burial. The fragmentary remains of two more cremation burials, 1234 and 1235, also lay within the enclosure. Cremation 1243 lay 5 m north of the enclosure; 1203 and 1208 were located 3 m to the north-west. At some time after the gully had become infilled with gravelly loam the north-east corner was cut by cremation burial pit 1006. The area was heavily affected by animal burrows which masked the true plan of the enclosure (Fig. 2.12). The majority of the cremation deposits had been disturbed and there was a thin scatter of calcined bone over the whole of the immediately surrounding area.

Although similar burial enclosures with central cremations are known to have occurred in large, late Romano-British urban cemeteries outside the Oxford region, notably at Lankhills, Hants., their true distribution is unclear because of the lack of extensively excavated cemeteries on a similar scale to Lankhills (Clarke 1979, 183). Ditched grave enclosures have also been found in small, well regulated cemeteries within the Upper Thames Valley at Claydon Pike, Glos. (Miles *et al.* forthcoming) and Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon. (Chambers 1987). In each case they also acted as a focus for later burials. At Lankhills the enclosures were constructed throughout the 4th century to mark and protect what were presumably important graves (all were described as unusual), and Clarke (1979, 183) interpreted them as possible planting trenches, although one such enclosure, F6, was cut by a series of later graves and at Dorchester-on-Thames (Chambers 1987, 45, fig. 3) the insertion of later graves into the ditch fill again suggested that there was no hedge. At Radley II enclosure 1217 was cut by a cremation 1006 after it had silted up.

Orientation (Table 2.1; Figs 2.2–3)

The majority of the inhumations within this cemetery show a strong north-south alignment, placed end to end and side by side as in Group A, where the only exception is grave 1044. With the exception of graves 1100 (south-west – north-east) and 1098 (west-south-west – east-north-east) all those in Group C are orientated on a west-east axis. The five inhumations which make up Group D all lie on a broadly west-east alignment. On the whole, where inhumations are orientated north-south, skulls are turned to face east. It is likely that the influence of local topographical features on burial orientation was a significant factor (Philpott 1991, 1) and the possibility that the linear north-south arrangement of the inhumation burials in Group A may represent an alignment on a single linear feature, perhaps a trackway, has already been mentioned. Radley I also has a strong north-south alignment (Atkinson 1952–3). There was a general move to a west-east orientation in the 4th century and it was seen as initially an urban phenomenon which was not indicative of Christian influence (Thomas 1981, 232).

Age and sex (Tables 2.10–11, 2.13; Figs 2.6–7)

For the purpose of this discussion all the burials within the cemetery are considered to be representative of a homogeneous population, although the different groups are not necessarily contemporary and may

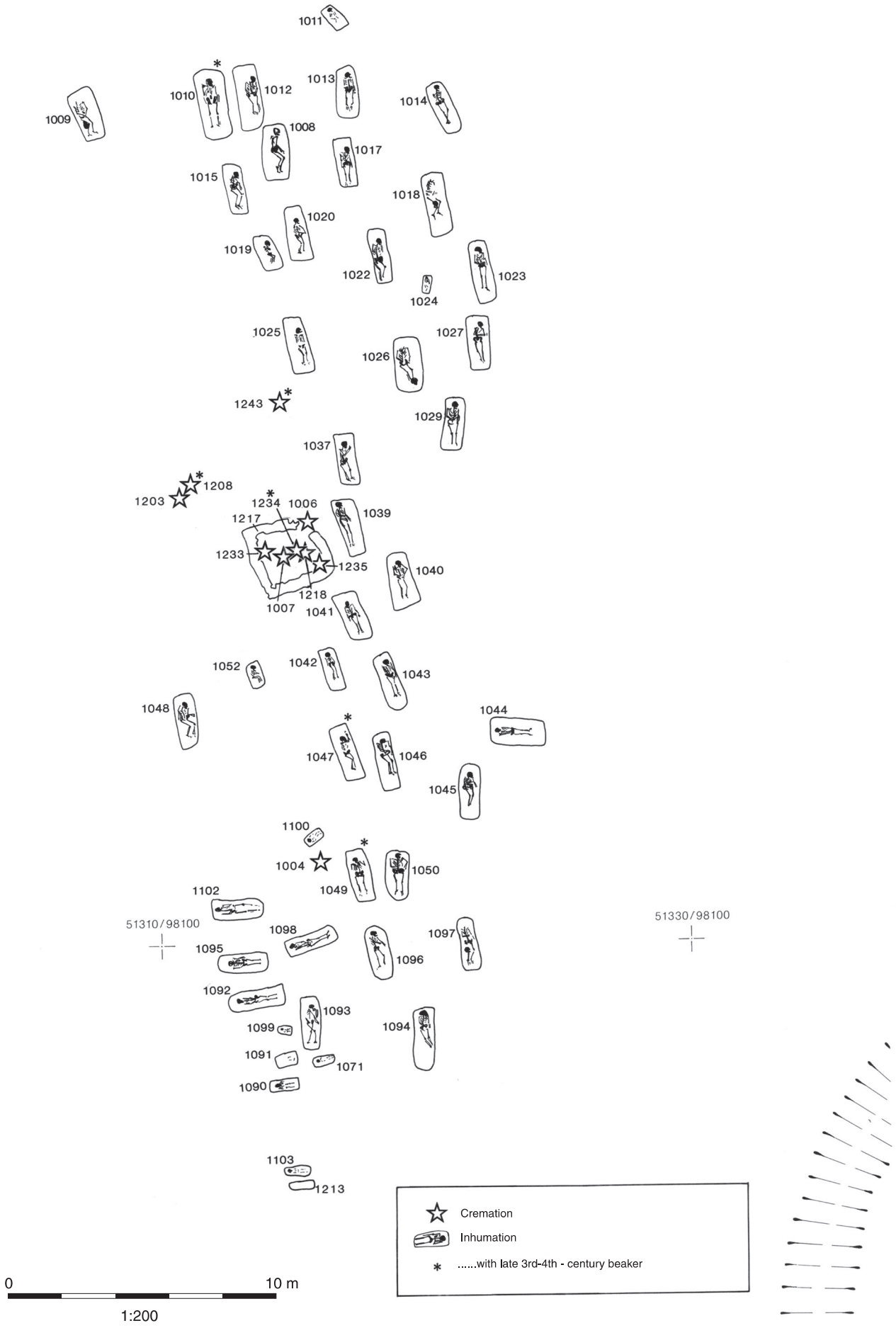

Figure 2.2 Northern cemetery Groups A-C, for location see Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.3 Cemetery Group D and isolated burials, for location see Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.4 Suggested divisions within the burials at Barrow Hills.

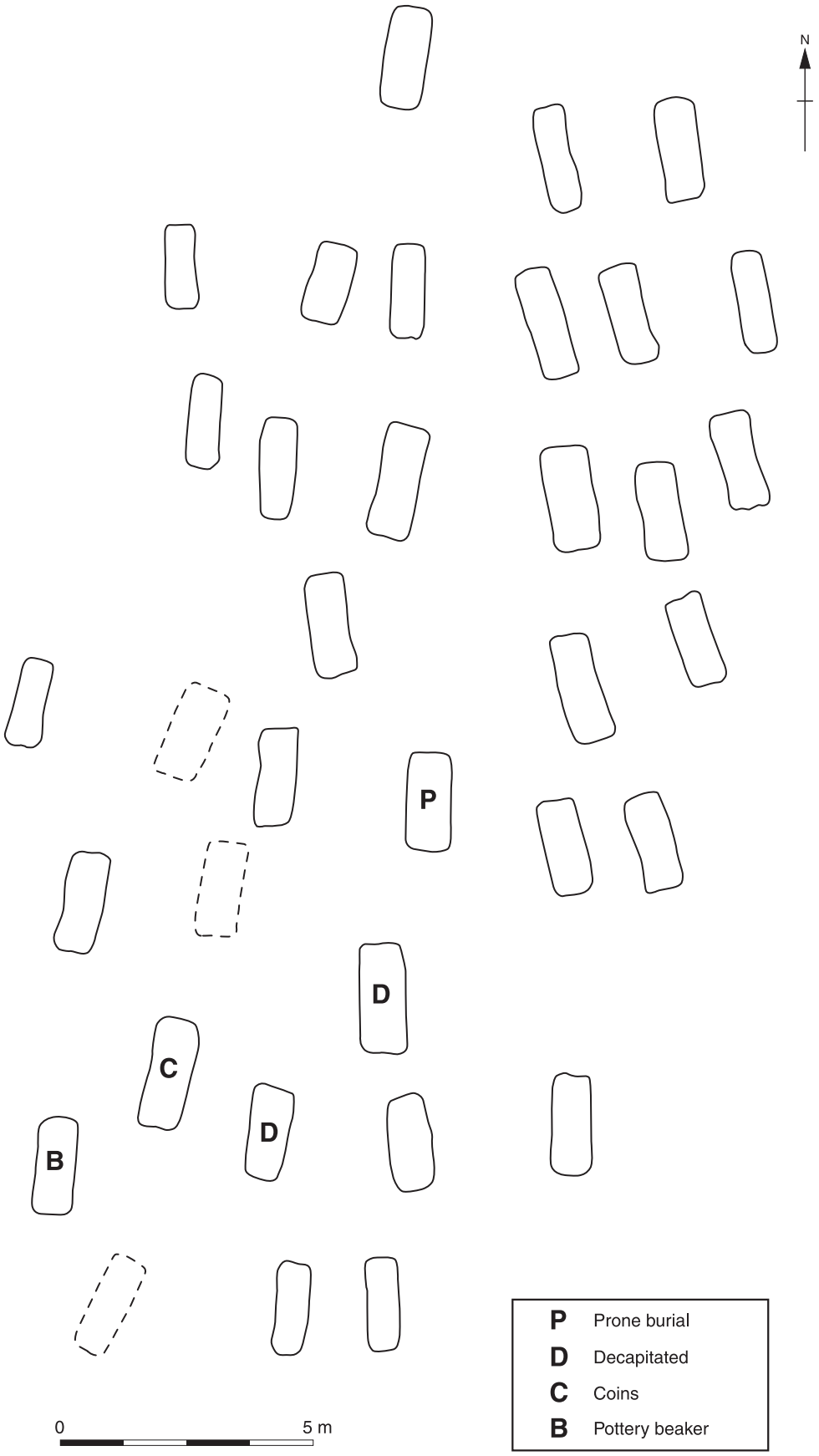

Figure 2.5 Plan of the late Romano-British inhumation cemetery at Barrow Hills excavated in 1945 (Atkinson 1952).

Table 2.2 The Romano-British cremations: depth, container, associated objects and preservation.

Context no.	Depth of cremation pit (in mm)	Cremation container	Associated objects	Preservation
1001	in topsoil	–	–	–
1004	100	grey ware jar	pottery beaker, fossil sea–urchin	partial
1006	80	″	pottery beaker	″
1007	200	″	colour coat beaker, 2 iron nails	″
1203	60	coarse ware jar	–	″
1208	100	″	pottery beaker, 2 iron nails, calcined bird bone	″
1218	–	coarse ware sherds	–	traces, much animal disturbance
1233	30	–	–	partial
1234	50	–	–	″
1235	–	sherds	fragments of burnt bone and burnt wood	″
1243	220	coarse ware vessel	colour coat beaker	″
4614	100	colour coat beaker	2 nails	″

represent different phases of use rather than different family groupings.

Little can be said about the age and sex of the cremated individuals, as all are unsexed, and only very broad age ranges have been assigned (see Table 2.10 for details). There were 57 inhumations and all were assigned sex and age ranges (see Table 2.11 for details). The group comprised 24 males, 18 females and 15 subadults, who in keeping with usual practice were not assigned sex (see Harman below).

If the composition of the individual groups within the cemetery is considered then certain patterns can be discerned. Group A comprises 18 males, 13 females and 5 subadults, the latter ranging in age from birth to 8 years. Among the adults, males are aged between 18 and upwards of 50 years. Females range between 30 and 50 years of age. Group C comprises 1 male, 3 females and 7 subadults. The single male is aged upwards of 50 years, females range from 30–50 years and subadults are aged from 2 months to 4 years. With the exception of 1213 (?infant) and 1090 (2–4 years) all the children are less than 1 year old. Group D comprises 2 males, 2 females and 1 child aged 2.5–5 years. Men are 35–40 and females are upwards of 40 years. The outlying burials comprise 2 males aged 35 to upwards of 45 years and 2 subadults aged 6–7 and 12–14 years.

Proportionally speaking there are far more children than adults in Group C (7:11) than in any other group within the cemetery. They are also predominantly very young infants. It may be argued that this is because Group A were burying their infants elsewhere. Such a high proportion of child and infant burials is unusual in comparison with other contemporary cemeteries in the region including Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3; Harman *et al.* 1981, 149, table 1). The absence of young women at Radley II is interesting, as one might expect a number to have died in childbirth.

Body position (Table 2.1)

The most common burial position in the rural cemeteries of the later Roman period is a supine extended one; see for example the cemeteries at Stanton Harcourt (McGavin 1980) and Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3). This is also the case at Radley II, where the majority of inhumations are buried in a supine position (24 in Group A, 8 in Group C, 4 in Group D and 2 outliers) and less frequently on the left side in a semi-crouched position (8 in Group A and 2 outliers). Philpott (1991, 71) discusses the possibility that burial in the latter position may be linked to attitude at death and/or deforming disease, which may have impeded the placing of the body in a supine position. However, there does not seem to be any strong correlation between this position and severe skeletal pathology at Radley I. Five individuals, all belonging to Group A, were buried in a prone position. The burial position of 4 individuals is unknown (3 in Group C and 1 in Group D).

In 30 out of the 43 cases in which skull position could be determined, the skull was turned to face east (28 in Group A and 2 outliers). This was not confined to burials with a particular body position or orientation. Three skulls faced south-east (2 in Group A and 1 outlier), 3 faced north (1 in Group A and 2 in Group C), 2 faced west (1 in Group D and 1 outlier), 3 faced north-east (1 in Group A and 2 in Group C) and 2 faced upwards (1 in Group C and 1 in Group D).

Prone burials (Table 2.1; Fig. 2.8)

Burials 1014, 1025, 1042, 1049, 1093 (all belonging to Group A)

Prone burials are considerably rarer than supine or crouched burials but become more common in the 4th century. The examples at Radley II all fall within

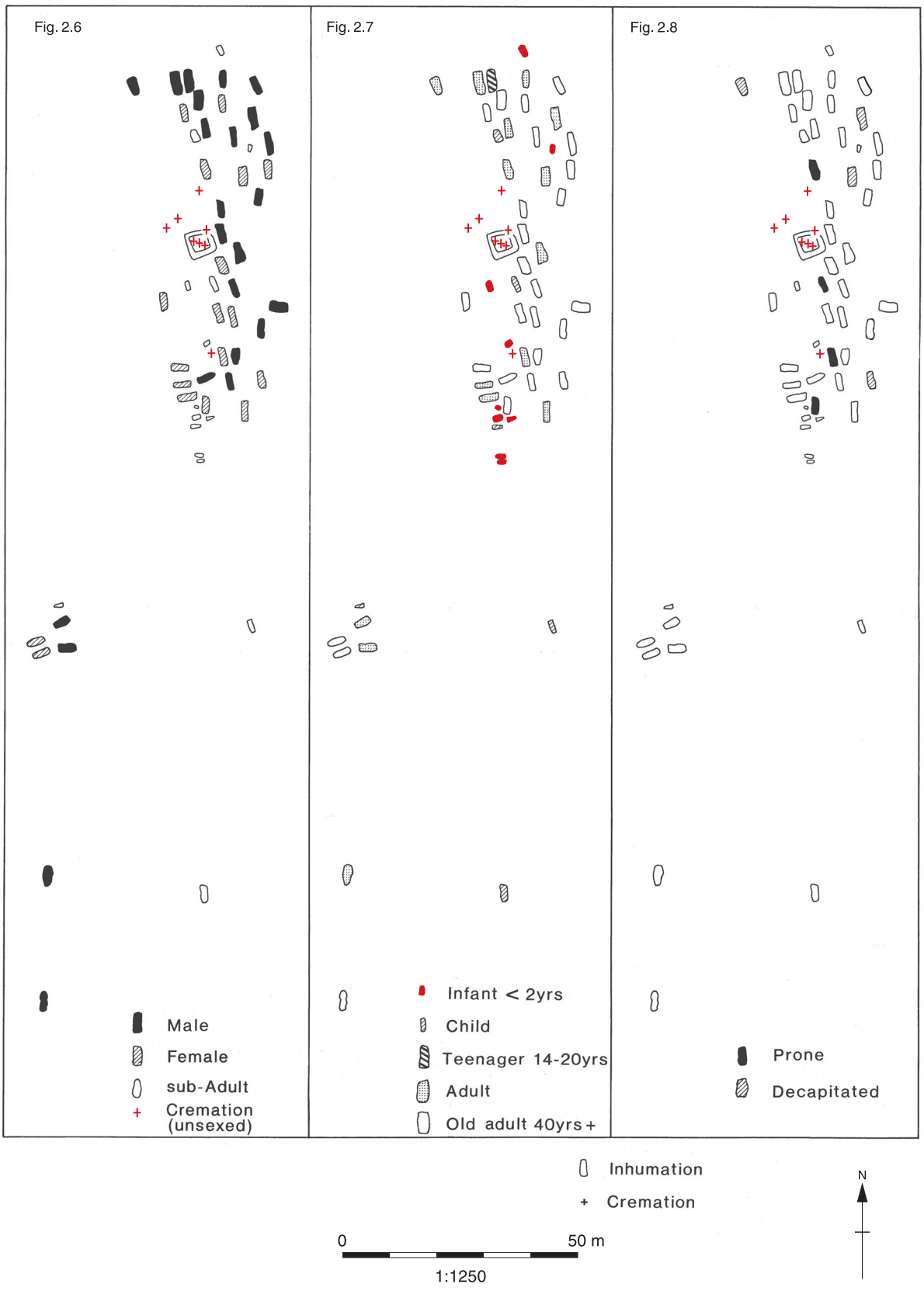

Figure 2.6 *Distribution of inhumations by sex.*
Figure 2.7 *Distribution of inhumations by age.*
Figure 2.8 *Distribution of prone, semi-prone and decapitated inhumations.*

Philpott's 'formal or semi-formal category', that is, burial in a coffin, in association with grave furnishings, within an established cemetery (1991). A total of five prone burials were uncovered, all within Group A and all orientated north-south. Both sexes and a wide age range were represented: one male aged 50+, three females ranging from 30–50 years and a 6–7 year old child. Two of the six graves included grave goods. Skeleton 1042 was a child buried in a coffin with two bracelets, one of copper alloy and one of shale, a necklace comprising 85 glass beads and a pair of shoes, represented by 56 hobnails. A pottery beaker lay to the left of the skull of the man in 1049, The heads of all five burials faced east, as with the majority of the corpses in Group A (Table 2.1).

Like decapitations prone burials commonly occur in both rural and urban extra-mural cemeteries. In the 4th century they appear to be more common in rural or small town cemeteries although they were apparently used to denote 'unusual' burials as early as the 1st century (Philpott 1991, 226). The table published by Harman *et al*. (1981, table 6) indicates that age and sex did not play a major role in determining who was accorded this burial rite. As with decapitated burials, prone corpses appear to have retained the right to an otherwise outwardly normal burial. It may be noteworthy that at Radley II both prone burials and decapitations are confined to Group A. They were not, however, confined entirely to the periphery of the group.

Whatever the motivation behind prone burial, two out of the six inhumation graves in which grave goods were detected were buried prone, in contrast to the general lack of detectable grave goods in the majority of the north-south graves, and two prone burials lay in coffins. A great many of the explanations advanced for the practice of prone burial appear to hinge upon the fact that within urban cemeteries they are almost always located on the peripheries, but this is not at all uniformly true of rural cemeteries, for instance Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3) and Stanton Harcourt (McGavin 1980). It may be that the growing predominance of the practice in the 4th century was related to an increasing concern to differentiate states at death through variation in burial practice (Philpott 1991, 73).

Decapitation (Table 2.1; Pl. 2.2)

Skeletons 1009, 1018, 1026. 1097 (all belonging to Group A)

There was evidence to indicate that four individuals within the cemetery had been decapitated. Although in every case the head had been severed (the osteological evidence is discussed by Harman below) it was always located within the grave, albeit displaced. In three instances the skull was placed under the knees and in the fourth it lay on the feet. In a recent summary of the practice in Roman Britain, details of skull location showed that burial under the knees occurred

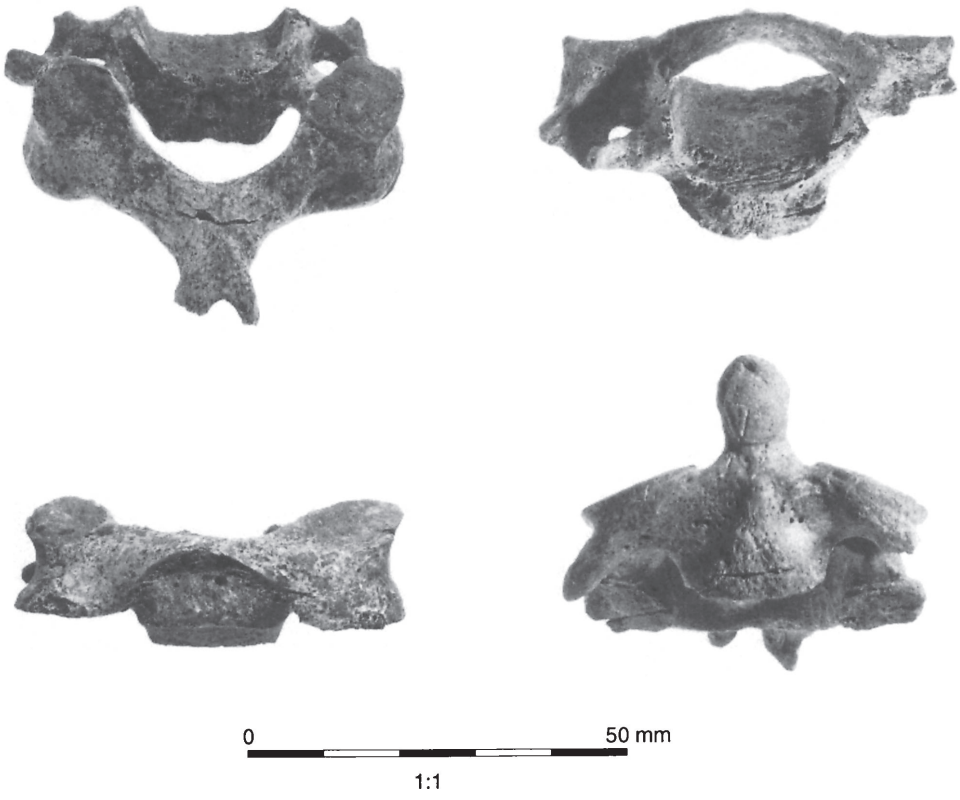

Plate 2.2 Photographs of cervical vertebrae cuts.

in 8 out of 123 recorded cases and burial over the feet in 9 cases (Philpott 1991, 78, table 13). This type of burial does not appear to be confined to any particular age or sex group: the examples here comprise two males aged 17–22 years and 18–22 years (1009 and 1018) and two females aged 35–40 years and 40–50 years (1026 and 1097). Two were supine and two lay on their left sides, and all were orientated broadly north-south without any grave furnishings. Evidence for the existence of a coffin was represented in the case of 1097 by a stain in the soil.

Decapitated burials occur in both rural and urban cemeteries, although they are rather more common in the former and are believed to have originated there (Philpott 1991, 83). A survey of the practice in the Oxfordshire region (Harman *et al.* 1981) has shown that decapitation and prone burial were not uncommon among the late Romano-British cemeteries of the Upper Thames; indeed, almost a quarter of the recorded examples for the whole of Britain derive from this area (amalgamation of data from Harman *et al.* 1981 and Philpott 1991). Recent examples include three skeletons from Alchester, Oxon. (Boyle 2001, 386–8) and a single skeleton from the site of the Chemistry Research Laboratory Building, South Parks Road, Oxford (Witkin 2006). Examples are also known from Worton Rectory Farm, Yarnton (Boyle forthcoming) and Crowmarsh (Boyle unpublished). Four 4th-century Roman burials from Abingdon included a decapitation within a lead coffin. It had been buried with six coins dated AD 348–360. In general, age and sex are not seen as a determining factor and the majority of decapitated burials in which the head has been deposited elsewhere in the grave are orientated north-south. The practice declines with the change to west-east burial (Chambers 1976, 30–55; 1978, 252; Harman *et al.* 1981, 148–168).

The motives for this type of burial were discussed in detail with reference to the Lankhills examples (Clarke 1979, 192–3; MacDonald 1979, 414–421), and most recently by Philpott (1991, 77–89), who summarised all the known evidence for Roman Britain. It is clear that whatever the reasons for this particular treatment, the individuals involved often appear to have retained the right to an otherwise outwardly normal burial (cf the example from Abingdon which was accompanied by six coins and buried within a lead coffin). Philpott noted that although grave furniture is not common in decapitations, where it does occur it is broadly consistent with the wider patterns of 4th-century grave furnishings (1991, 73).

As decapitation is geographically so widely distributed, the separation of the head from the remainder of the corpse is likely to have been performed for one or more of a well defined and generally accepted set of motives.

The question of whether or not decapitation was the cause of death is a difficult one to answer. At Lankhills the victims had suffered minimal bone damage and it was therefore suggested (Watt 1979, 342) that the soft tissues in front of the spine were cleared to expose the anterior surfaces of the vertebral bodies. This would have required considerable skill and care and it was deemed likely that the victims were dead prior to the severing of the head. In addition, the totals are thought to reflect the average life expectancy of the Roman population (with the exception of infants and children) and Philpott therefore concluded that there was no reason to suggest that the group who were decapitated were different from those who died in the course of nature (1991, 80).

Where decapitations are associated with datable artefacts in urban cemeteries most can be placed in the second half of the 4th century, and Clarke concluded (1979, 374) that the rite spread from rural to urban sites during this time. This fits well with the dates suggested for the cemetery at Radley II (see Chronology below). Although none of the decapitations is dated *per se*, the general date range for Group A to which they all belong is AD 270–400.

Coffins (Table 2.3; Fig. 2.10, Pl. 2.3)

Graves 1010, 1012, 1013, 1015, 1025, 1042, 1044, 1095, 1097, 1098, 3522, 3781, 3783, 3784, 3786, 4261

Sixteen graves contained evidence for burial in wooden coffins (seven in Group A, three in Group C, four in Group D and two outliers). In addition one coffin is represented by a single nail (1092). Thirteen inhumations contained one or more iron nails and in nine instances the presence of coffins was indicated by soil marks, either as outlines or as differential fillings within and around the container. In six cases the soil marks were accompanied by nails, and in 3783, which contained seven nails, the soil marks clearly represented a rectangular coffin; in three graves, 1015, 1025 and 1097, rectangular soil outlines around or over the body also suggested coffins, although no nails were present. In 3781 the presence of a coffin was suggested by the displacement of the skull. In three graves the jaw had fallen onto the chest, suggesting that the bodies had decayed in a void (Table 2.3). At Dorchester-on-Thames four of the six individuals with fallen jaws were associated with other evidence for coffins (Chambers 1987, 54–7).

As at Lankhills, Dorchester-on-Thames and elsewhere, there was no direct evidence to indicate whether any of the coffins had lids, as has been argued for the Roman period coffins at Mucking (Jones and Jones 1975, 133–87). However, decay of a body in a void and the presence of nails among the bones of the skeleton are suggestive of the presence of lids. In grave 1013 the coffin had been strapped together with ironwork, much of it reused (Fig. 2.24). Apart from several fragments representing one or more plates, parts of hinges and two strips had been re-employed as nailed plates to clamp the coffin boards together. These and an iron corner bracket had been secured with clenched nails, whose protruding ends were bent over to prevent them working loose and falling out.

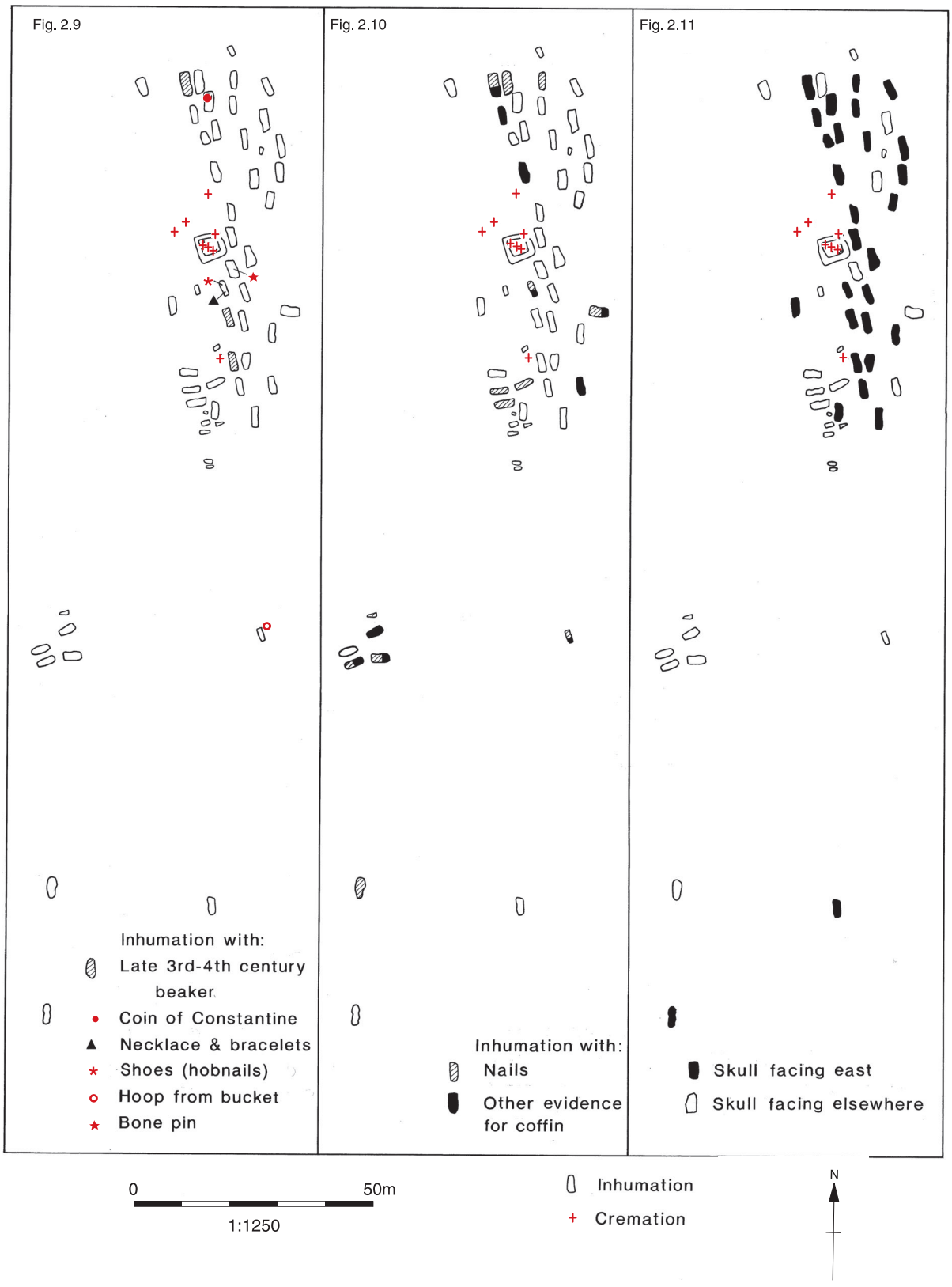

Figure 2.9 *Distribution of grave goods accompanying inhumations.*
Figure 2.10 *Distribution of evidence for inhumations in coffins.*
Figure 2.11 *Orientation of heads.*

Plate 2.3 Grave 1010: Skull and Oxford colour-coated beaker.

Table 2.3 Coffin evidence.

Context No.	Nails and other fittings	Skull/jaw position	Coffin staining.
1010	5		X
1012	11	jaw fallen away, skull rolled away from body	
1013	50		
1015	coffin fittings	jaw fallen away	X
1025		”	X
1042	10		X
1044	2	jaw fallen away	X
1092	1		
1095	4	jaw fallen away	
1097		”	X
1098	2	”	
3522	1		
3781		skull rolled away from body	
3783	7	jaw fallen away	X
3784	2		X
3786	1		
4261	19	jaw fallen away	X

The number of nails within each grave varied widely. Grave 1013 contained 50 nails, but seven other graves yielded fewer than five nails each. In those graves which contained only a few nails, one or two often lay among the bones of the skeleton, perhaps having fallen there when the coffin sides decayed and collapsed. Although traces of mineralised wood often adhered to the ironwork, the direction of the grain could rarely be distinguished.

The evidence for coffins was less plentiful than in some urban cemeteries such as Lankhills, where they occurred in over 75% of the graves, although their use diminished towards the end of the 4th century (Clarke 1979, 332). On the other hand, relatively few burials in rural late Romano-British cemeteries have produced evidence for burial in coffins and only one of the 35 inhumations in Radley I contained nails (Atkinson 1952–3, 34). At Stanton Harcourt evidence for coffins was recovered from no less than 16 out of 35 graves (McGavin 1980, 118). The fact that there are so few nails in some of the Radley II graves suggests that the coffins must have been dowelled or jointed; well made coffins may have left no trace, and the worst may have been those in which most nails were used.

Cremations (Figs 2.2, 2.12–13; Tables 2.2, 2.4 and 2.10)

Ten of the 12 cremation burials found at Radley II were poorly preserved and only one survived intact. One deposit, 4614, lay 52.5 m south-east of the main body of the cemetery, cremation 1001 was recovered from the topsoil and cremation 1004 appeared within the west-east aligned inhumation Group C. The remaining nine cremation deposits formed burial Group B and were located within and around the square ditched enclosure, 1217, which appears to have served as the focus for the group. All belonged to the later 3rd or 4th centuries, with two (1001 and 4614) perhaps dating to the late 4th century (Tables 2.2 and 2.4). All were placed in shallow pits, which when measurable were never more than 0.40 m in diameter. The majority of the burial pits penetrated the gravel only to a depth of a few centimetres and were later truncated by ploughing.

Five of these cremations were the simple urned type, placed in grey ware or shell-tempered jars. Shell tempering reappeared towards the end of the 4th century at the neighbouring Barton Court villa

Figure 2.12 The cremation enclosure 1217 and surrounding cremation burials.

(Miles 1986). Seven of the cremation burials were placed in, or accompanied by Oxford product colour-coated beakers of the late 3rd or 4th centuries AD, a feature shared with three inhumation graves (Tables 2.1–2, 2.4). All but one of these beakers showed substantial amounts of wear before deposition in the grave, indicating that they were probably removed from ordinary domestic contexts and that no effort was made to provide new vessels for the purposes of the burial ritual. The beaker in 1007 had been deformed, perhaps due to the intense heat of the funeral pyre, and was used as a container for

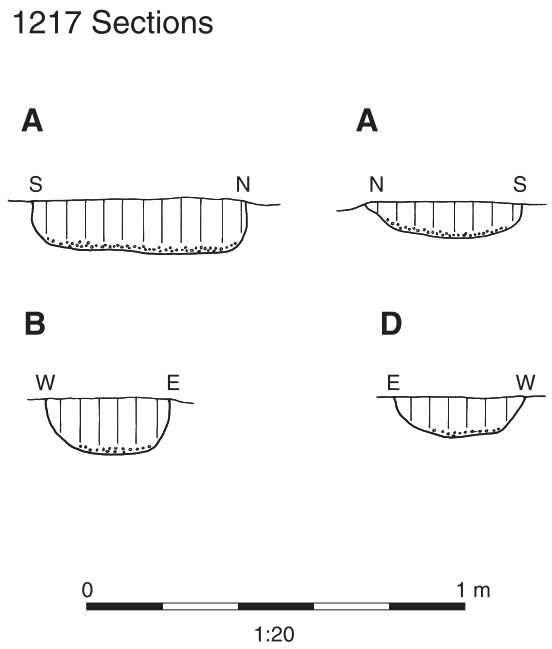

Figure 2.13 Sections across the cremation enclosure 1217.

the ashes. A calcined bird bone was present in cremation 1208, which again was contained within the beaker.

Three widely separated cremation burials each contained fragmentary remains of two iron nails, the significance of which is unclear. Charred wood was not present on any of the nails and their size does not suggest carpentered grave goods. Cremation 1007 had been placed in an approximately square pit, while 1208 and 4614 appear to have been placed in shallower, circular pits.

Only three cremations (1233, 1234 and 1235) appeared to be unurned. They survived as piles of bone located at the base of the topsoil, although it is likely that 1235 was a ploughed out urned cremation (see catalogue below). Similar deposits were identified at Lankhills (Clarke 1979, 350), their survival largely due to the unusual conditions prevailing there. Examples of unenclosed cremations in rural cemeteries are becoming more common and are discussed in detail by Philpott (1991, 45–47)

Seven of the cremations including the small square burial enclosure 1217 lay in a group separated from the inhumations. The enclosure appeared to have been respected by later inhumation graves to the south and east. A cremation lay between graves 1049 and 1100, 20 m to the south, and another isolated cremation 150 m further south again, well away from the cemetery (Fig. 2.1). None of the cremations cut any other burials, and two of the cremations (1006 and 1007) contained the remains of more than one individual.

Clarke was able to identify only 13 4th-century cremation sites from Roman Britain for his discussion of the rite at Lankhills (Clarke 1979, 350–51). Most of these late cremations occurred within substantial inhumation cemeteries, and only at Winterbourne Down did a substantial number of late Romano-British cremations occur, outnumbering the inhumations by 36:14 (Algar 1961, 470; Philpott 1991, 50).

The isolated cremation 4614 was associated with a colour-coated beaker which has a suggested date range of AD 390–400+. It may therefore represent a slightly later phase of activity, as all other dated cremations are no later than the end of the 3rd century. Unfortunately, the inhumations in Group D and the outlying graves are all undated, although the absence of grave goods and orientation on a west-east alignment may be seen as a general indicator of a later 4th-century date.

Inhumation versus cremation: comparative evidence

Although by the 4th century cremation had been largely superseded by inhumation a small number of late cremations have been identified. Philpott (1991, 50–52) defined three groups within England, one of which, distributed through southern England and the Midlands, incorporates this assemblage. Seven of the cremations were accompanied by colour-coated beakers and assigned a date range of AD 270–400 (for details see Table 2.4. Similarly dated examples from the Midlands have been recovered from Alchester, Oxon. (Booth *et al.* 2001), Asthall, Oxon. (Booth 1997), Barton, Glos. (Heighway 1980, 57) and Bray, Berks. (Wilson 1970, 301–2; Wilson 1972, 349). It has been suggested that 4th-century cremation may be representative of an intrusive Germanic rite (Myres 1973; Clarke 1979) although Philpott (1991, 51–2) argues persuasively that cremations of this date are more likely to represent the survival of a Romano-British rite, particularly among rural populations such as the one served by Radley II in which new influences would have been slow to permeate.

At Radley II colour-coated beakers occurred in both cremation and inhumation graves and the exclusive use of readily available Romano-British wares suggests small closed family, social or religious groups within the indigenous population, reserving their own plots within the burial area. The cremation group in and around the enclosure 1217 may represent religious conservatism in a rural population slow to adopt new ideas.

Grave goods (Pls 2.3–4)

As in Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3), there were few grave goods accompanying the 41 north-south inhumations and all of the 16 west-east inhumations were unfurnished.

Seven north-south aligned inhumation graves contained non-perishable grave goods and seven of the cremation graves contained 3rd- to 4th-century colour-coated drinking beakers similar to those included with three of the inhumations (see Booth, below).

Table 2.4 Pottery dated inhumations and cremations.

Context no.	Young type	Suggested date range	Associated pottery	Burial type
1001	C102	AD 390–400+	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
			Shell tempered jar	
1004	C24	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
	R24	AD 1st–4th	Grey ware jar	
1006	C23	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
	–	–	Shell tempered jar	
1007	C23	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
	R24	AD 1st–4th	Grey ware jar	
1010	C27 or C104	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Inhumation
1047	C29 or C106	AD 270–360	Colour coat beaker	Inhumation
1049	C31	?AD 300–400	Colour coat beaker	Inhumation
1203	–	–	Coarse ware vessel	Cremation
1208	C24	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
	R24	AD 1st–4th	Grey ware jar	
1218	–	–	Fragments of pot	Cremation
1243	C24	AD 270–400	Colour coat beaker	Cremation
	–	late Roman	Shell tempered jar	
4614	C102	AD 390–400+	Colour coat beaker	Cremation

A child inhumation placed prone within a coffin, 1042, was accompanied by both shale and copper alloy bracelets lying east of the right shoulder, a glass bead necklace by the left shoulder and hobnailed shoes placed between the legs. In Britain shale bracelets are associated chiefly with child graves (Chambers 1986, 37–44) and where dated occur in 4th-century contexts. The copper alloy bracelet may have been manufactured by a local smith and cannot be closely dated. There is as yet no systematic study of copper alloy or shale bracelets, although Clarke has gone some way to remedy this (1979, 301–13). At Wroxton, Oxon., one of the six-year-olds in grave 3 was also associated with a shale and a copper alloy bracelet with a suggested date in the second half of the 4th century (Chambers 1986, 41). At Lankhills eight out of ten shale bracelets were found in child graves and were of an appropriate size. The example from Radley II is of a common type in the form of an unbroken circle, cut from solid shale in such a way that the inner surface is triangular in cross-section. Another child's grave, 4261, also contained hobnailed shoes and an iron hoop, possibly from a small wooden container. No other graves contained evidence for shoes, although footwear without hobnails would have left no trace. The adult grave 1041 contained a bone pin.

An early 4th-century coin of Constantine (AD 310–312) by the left foot of inhumation 1008 was probably intentionally buried, although there were no mineralised traces of a purse or wrapping such as were found with a similarly dated deposit in Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3), where grave 9 contained nine coins sewn up in a piece of linen cloth. It is unlikely that the coin found in 1008 was in circulation much after the mid 4th century. Although grave 3522 contained a tooth and grave 1019 a single abraded pottery sherd, both were probably residual.

The paucity of graves containing contemporary grave goods is paralleled in other later rural cemeteries in the region, such as Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3), Curbridge (Chambers 1976), Stanton Harcourt (McGavin 1980) and Wroxton-St-Mary (Chambers 1986) and increased in frequency as the 4th century proceeded (Clarke 1979, 147).

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE CEMETERY

Most of the burials excavated at Radley II probably belonged to the 3rd and 4th centuries although the pottery evidence suggests that a date in the early 5th century is not inconceivable in some cases. The colour-coated beakers are all late Roman types and products of the Oxford potteries. In more general terms, various distinctive burial rites such as extended inhumation, prone burial, decapitation, a general decrease in the deposition of grave goods (excepting coins and footwear) and west-east orientation are all consistent with this period. Within the cemetery 12 burials were accompanied by two vessels each. Nine were cremations, which with the exception of the outlier 4614 (with a potentially later date range) belonged to Group B, and three were inhumations, all from Group A. The pottery from 10 of these could be dated and 7 contained at least 1 vessel which belonged to the second half of the Roman period. Seven cremations and three inhumations contained vessels of types which were in production by the late 3rd or the beginning of the 4th century and two cremation burials contained vessels of types which on Young's chronology did not come into production until the end of the 4th century though the evidence from Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtenay (Booth *et al.* 1993) suggests that they also could be dated as early as the early 4th century. While it is possible that some burials were taking

Plate 2.4 Grave 1049: Oxford colour-coated beaker.

place by or soon after AD 270, none of the vessels present in the graves need have been manufactured any earlier than the second half of the 4th century AD (Table 2.4). The distribution of the three pottery-dated inhumations in Group A strongly suggests that the majority of graves within it are likely to belong to the 4th century. Pottery-dated cremations include most of Group B, the cremation 1004 in Group C and the outlier 4614. The large jars containing the cremations, whether in grey or shell-tempered fabrics, are standard late Roman types, which would be equally at home on local occupation sites. It is not, however, possible to determine whether the vessels were manufactured especially for the purpose of burial or whether they were in everyday domestic use, although some of the beakers have worn surfaces suggesting that some time elapsed between manufacture and burial. There is no clue to be gained from their size or decoration as they fall within the normal range recorded for such vessels from other occupation sites such as Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, 7: C 13, fig. 130).

Of the remaining grave goods, the shale bracelet placed beside the child in grave 1042 is best paralleled in the 4th century at Lankhills, Hants. (Clarke 1979, 301–13), and at Wroxton, Oxon. (Chambers 1987, 42). Inhumation 1008 contained a coin of Constantine with a date range of AD 310–312 which is unlikely to have been in circulation much after the mid 4th century.

ROMANO-BRITISH LAND USE AND THE CEMETERY LOCATION (Fig. 2.14)

In the Roman period the circular ditches of the larger Bronze Age barrows were still discernible as earthworks and remained so until they were infilled with Anglo-Saxon settlement debris (see Chapter 3, Anglo-Saxon fills of prehistoric barrow ditches), and the place-name evidence indicates that the mounds survived into the 16th century AD (Chapter 1, Saxon settlement). Within the prehistoric barrow cemetery there was little evidence for Iron Age or Roman period settlement or cultivation, and this may reflect a surviving folk memory of the ancient use of the area for ritual and burial. The thin leached soil covering the gravel terrace may have ensured that this area remained wasteland or common grazing. There is no environmental evidence for the prevailing land use in the later Roman period but the fact that the land was available for burial suggests that it was permanently out of cultivation and fairly open (although pit 411 contained a substantial amount of pure grain, most of it free-threshing wheat, dated to cal AD 130–510 (1710 $\pm$ 70 BP; OxA-1885). The presence of considerable quantities of Romano-British pottery within the Saxon features is indicative of deliberate selection rather than manuring.

Following the extensive excavation of the Barton Court Farm villa, Jones (1986, 38–42) postulated the existence of territorial boundaries between the villa estate and two other less well understood neighbouring settlements at Goose Acre Farm and Thrupp Farm (1986, fig. 25). Excluding the smaller settlement units present in the landscape, about which relatively little is known, Jones derived a gravitational model incorporating a north-south boundary which passed close to the present cemetery. It is more probable that in reality the territorial boundaries respected some major natural feature such as the nearby north-south stream line.

There is cropmark evidence for a trackway leading north-east from Barton Court Farm along the edge of the terrace towards the Daisy Banks stream (Miles 1986, 4, figs 1 and 3; see Figs 1.3 and 2.14). It seems plausible to suggest that on the east side of Daisy Banks this trackway would have encountered a roughly north-south path leading to the smaller contemporary settlement at Ford's Field on the floodplain. If a trackway led northwards from Ford's Field over the First Terrace its most convenient route would have lain east of the marshy ground beside the stream and west of the still standing mounds of barrows 12 and 13 (the smaller ring ditches would no longer have presented significant barriers at this date, although there are signs that ring ditch 801 was deliberately levelled by the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants; see Chapter 3, SFB 14). The existence of such a trackway, on marginal agricultural land and near the probable

estate boundary, may explain the location and alignment of the Radley I cemetery. A parallel for this positioning can be found in the cemetery at Stanton Harcourt (McGavin 1980, fig. 2, 117), where the north-south aligned graves appear to have been aligned upon and delimited by a north-south trackway.

It is tempting to relate the burial groups identified at the cemetery to the successive phases of activity at Barton Court Farm. During the phase of use of the infant cemetery within the settlement the burial of adults must have taken place elsewhere. The likely first phase of cemetery activity at Radley II is represented by the large group of 36 north-south inhumations (Group A), only five of whom are subadults, and the cremations whose focus is a rectangular ditched enclosure (Group B). This could represent the peak period of use of the farmstead. If the remaining groups of burials in the cemetery (C and D) represent later phases of use then a decline in the population is indicated. Both of these groups have a west-east orientation and include a much larger proportion of infants. These groups may relate to a decline in the settlement at Barton Court Farm towards the end of the 4th century, perhaps evidenced by the demolition of the farmhouse and the silting up of the main system of paddocks. The use of the smaller two-roomed 'Building 2' may, however, have continued into the 5th century (Miles 1986).

It is interesting to note that the rarer examples of discontinuous traits recorded on the bone, such as retention of metopic suture, separate neural arch of 5th lumbar vertebrae and cleft atlas, occur among all of the burial groups. This may indicate that the different groups represent the successive use of the cemetery by the same family group or groups rather than contemporaneous use by a number of different families.

Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3) and Radley II are almost equidistant from the known major settlement areas to the east and south-west, and both burial areas are separated from the Barton Court Farm villa by the intervening stream and marshy channel now known as Daisy Banks.

The homogeneous burial rites displayed in the largest burial group (Group A, Fig. 2.4) suggest a small, closed, long-lasting social group such as a landowning family. The scatter of small groups and isolated burials to the south of the large burial cluster in the presently excavated area may be associated with the small farmstead further to the south indicated by cropmarks and surface finds during the construction of Audlett Drive in 1981 (Wallis 1981a).

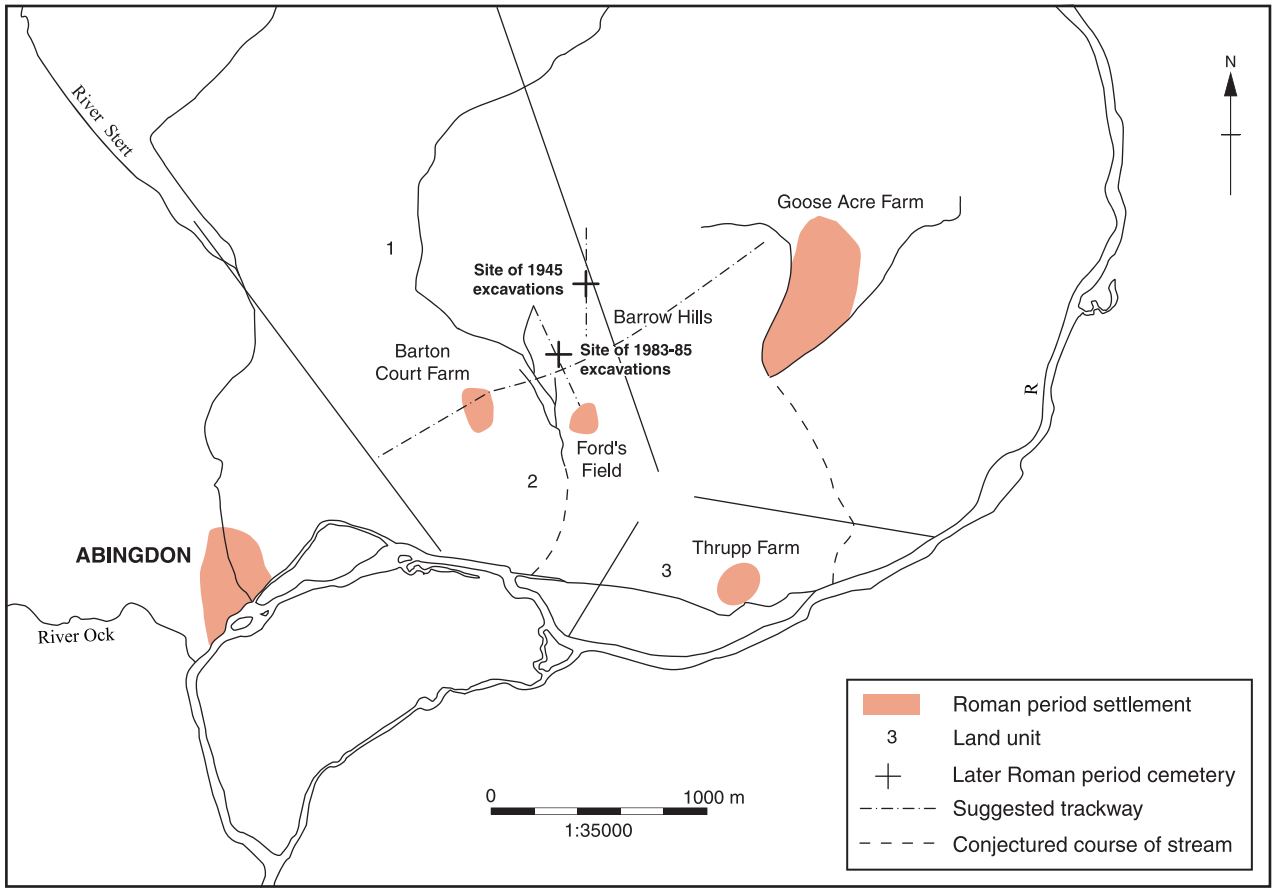

Figure 2.14 Proposed Roman period land divisions in relation to known settlements and cemeteries (after Jones in Miles 1986).

Table 2.5 Summary of the feasibility models for a farmstead based at Barton Court Farm.

Model A	Land unit 1	77 ha	5 working adults	–
Model B	Land units 1 and 2	226 ha	10–12 working adults	+12 at harvest time
Model C	Land units 2 and 3	162 ha	8 working adults	+5 at harvest time
Model D	Land units 1, 2 and 3	311 ha	16 working adults	+16 at harvest time

If Radley II did serve the population of Barton Court Farm then it becomes possible to define more closely two phases of activity within the cemetery. The north-south burials of Group A represent the major phase of cemetery use, probably contemporary with the deposition of cremations in the ditched enclosure (Group B). If the inhabitants of Barton Court Farm were burying their dead in the cemetery then the absence of infants within Group A can be explained by the fact that, as noted above, during this phase of use of the cemetery infants were buried within the settlement. The adjacent Group C with its west-east mainly infant and female burials may be a later addition and the more distant west-east Group D and the other isolated burials later still. Watts has argued (1989) that the presence of discrete west-east neonate graves in a largely adult cemetery may be a pointer to Christianity.

Jones devised a series of models for the population and organisation of the Romano-British farm at Barton Court Farm (1986, 38–42), and it seems appropriate to re-examine these models in the light of the evidence from Radley II. The models are summarised in Table 2.5; Jones considered model C the most convincing on the basis of the available evidence. The cemetery was in use for perhaps 150 years (*c* AD 270–420), with 41 adults in the first phase, lasting for about 90 years or three generations (assuming 30 years per generation; Arnold 1988) and 11 adults in phase 2, lasting for 60 years or two generations. This indicates a considerable decline in the population, from 13–14 adults per generation to 5–6, even allowing for the fact that these are average figures and that there would have been periods of decline and increase within each phase with corresponding fluctuations in population. Clearly there is no direct correlation with any of the proposed models, but bearing in mind that the cemetery may also have been used by the occupants of the settlement at Ford's Field, the figures for phase 1 are broadly comparable with model C of Jones (1986).

ROMAN POTTERY
by Paul Booth

Introduction

A total of 1124 Roman sherds weighing 21,496 g was recorded from all areas of the site, with roughly equal quantities of sherds coming from Roman burials, Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings and 'other' contexts (the pottery was recorded by Sarah Green). This material was initially divided into fabrics (numbered from 1 to 24). Each context group was recorded using this fabric series and for vessel forms the type series defined for the Oxfordshire industry by Young (1977). In a few cases other type codes (such as for samian ware) were used, and STJ (undifferentiated storage jar) was also employed. Quantification was principally by sherd count and weight, though EVES were also noted (see below). For the purposes of this report the original fabric numbers have been recoded to bring them into line with the recording system now consistently applied by Oxford Archaeology to all Roman pottery assemblages from the region. One oxidised and three reduced coarse ware fabrics are recoded only in the broadest categories, however, since it was not possible to relocate the original fabric type series. Detailed fabric descriptions are contained in the site archive.

Fabrics and forms

The total quantities of pottery by fabric are given in Table 2.6 together with a common name, published reference or a summary description. The generalised breakdown of pottery (ie combining individual fabrics within the major ware groups, particularly the reduced wares) in relation to context type, ie vessels from graves, from Saxon sunken-featured buildings and from 'other' (undifferentiated) contexts is shown in Table 2.7.

The principal components of the assemblage are Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51), reduced coarse wares (R), usually sand-tempered, and shell-tempered (C10) fabrics. The distribution of these is noteworthy, with Oxfordshire colour-coated ware as a major element in the grave groups and in the material from the sunken-featured buildings. Reduced coarse wares were also used in the cemetery and were important in the sunken-featured building groups. Shell-tempered ware, in contrast, occurred almost exclusively in cremation vessels in the cemetery.

The great majority of the pottery was from local sources. Continental imports were represented by samian ware and a single South Spanish amphora sherd, and extra-regional British sources were standard late Roman ones such as the lower Nene Valley and black-burnished (Dorset) industries. The source of the shell-tempered jars is uncertain. They may have originated at the Harrold industry in North Bedfordshire, a major source for such vessels in the late Roman period. If so, they are the only significant non-local product.

Vessel types represented by rims amounted to 12.90 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalents, based on measurement of the surviving percentage of rim

Table 2.6 Quantification of Roman pottery fabrics.

Fabric code	Old no.	Description	No. Sh.	% Sh.	Wt (g)	% Wt
S	8	Samian ware (all sources)	14	1.3	213	1.0
F51	3	Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 123)	366	52.6	7493	34.9
F52	14	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	1	0.1	5	–
F53	21	New Forest colour-coated ware (Fulford 1975, 24–5)	1	0.1	55	0.3
F50	24	Rough cast colour-coated ware from uncertain source	1	0.1	25	0.1
A11	16	South Spanish amphora fabric (form Dressel 20 etc)	1	0.1	140	0.7
M22	13	Oxfordshire white mortarium fabric (Young 1977, 56)	3	0.3	35	0.2
M31	1	Oxfordshire white colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 117)	10	0.9	370	1.8
W12	11	Oxfordshire fine white ware (Young 1977, 93)	8	0.7	87	0.4
W21	18	Oxfordshire coarse white ware (Young 1977, 93)	3	0.3	131	0.6
Q21	7	Oxfordshire white colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 117)	1	0.1	15	0.1
O11	20	Oxfordshire fine oxidised ware (Young 1977, 185)	1	0.1	5	–
O20	22	Coarse oxidised	2	0.2	15	0.1
O	19	Oxidised with grog temper	1	0.1	50	0.2
R11	9	Reduced, very fine	55	4.9	500	2.3
R30	2	Dark grey exterior light grey interior, micaceous	159	14.2	3672	17.1
R30	4	Grey throughout or with red/grey core, cf fabric 2	237	21.1	5562	25.9
R30	6	Grey, hard and coarse with much quartz	11	1.0	150	0.7
R90	5	Grey with coarse quartz and organic temper	8	0.7	312	1.5
R	12	Reduced with oxidised interior, grog temper	4	0.4	16	0.1
R	17	Reduced, grog temper	4	0.4	165	0.8
R	23	Reduced	2	0.2	20	0.1
B11	10	Black-burnished ware (BB1)	6	0.5	116	0.5
C10	15	Shell-tempered, reduced, coarse	218	19.4	2310	10.8
Z	0	Undesignated	7	0.6	34	0.2
TOTAL			1124		21496	

Table 2.7 Distribution of Roman pottery fabrics by context type groupings.

Fabric	Roman Graves		Saxon SFBs		Other contexts		Total sherds	Total weight
	% Sh.	% Wt.	% Sh.	% Wt.	% Sh.	% Wt.		
S	–	–	71.4	77.9	28.6	22.1	14	213
F51	30.6	17.2	38.0	50.7	31.4	32.1	366	7493
Other F	–	–	–	–	100	100	3	85
A11	–	–	–	–	100	100	1	140
M (all)	–	–	76.9	91.4	23.1	8.6	13	405
W (all)	–	–	18.2	66.5	81.8	33.5	11	218
Q21	–	–	–	–	100	100	1	15
O (all)	–	–	50.0	78.6	50.0	21.4	4	70
R (all)	14.6	20.2	32.1	40.0	53.3	39.8	480	10397
B11	–	–	33.3	38.8	66.7	61.2	6	116
C10	99.5	99.1	–	–	0.5	0.9	218	2310
Z	–	–	28.6	50.0	71.4	50.0	7	34
TOTAL							1124	21496

circumference). Non-cemetery material, however, only amounted to 4.91 EVEs. Detailed analysis of the significance of different vessel types based on such a low figure is of little value. The occurrence of types, chiefly using the classification of Young (1977), is presented in Table 2.8 without further comment.

Vessel types recorded as present on the site but unrepresented by rims included samian ware forms 18/31, 31, 37 and Curle 46, Oxfordshire colour-coated types C8, C40, C47, C48, C75, C83 and C97, white wares W14, W15 and ?W53, oxidised coarse ware types O10 and ?O39, and reduced types R52 and R80.

Table 2.8 Quantification of vessel types by EVEs (additional values in brackets represent once-complete vessels known to have been present but with no surviving rim).

Vessel type	EVEs in cemetery contexts	EVEs in other contexts	Total EVEs
Cf C16.2	0.74		0.74
C18		0.15	0.15
C23	1.00 (+ 1)		1.00
C24 miniature	1.00 (+ 2)		1.00
C27	1.00		1.00
C45		0.10	0.10
C46		0.37	0.37
C50		0.22	0.22
C51		0.21	0.21
C52		0.10	0.10
C81		0.17	0.17
C98		0.09	0.09
C100		0.22	0.22
C101/2	1.00		1.00
C106	1.00		1.00
C108	1.00		1.00
WC7		0.40	0.40
R9		0.10	0.10
R15		0.75	0.75
R24	1.15	1.17	2.32
R47		0.67	0.67
R53		0.16	0.16
Jar (reduced)		0.03	0.03
Jar (shell-tempered)	0.10 (+ 5)		0.10
TOTAL	7.99	4.91	12.90

The illustrated vessels are described individually in the grave catalogue. Pottery from the graves is summarised in Table 2.9 below and reused sherds in Anglo-Saxon contexts are dealt with in the section of the report on finds from the Anglo-Saxon structures (Table 5.3).

Discussion

Although the Roman pottery from Barrow Hills was treated as a homogeneous assemblage for the purposes of recording it should be remembered that it is far from being 'normal' occupation debris. The principal components of the assemblage are a group of vessels (some fragmentary) from the Roman burials, and material from the Saxon settlement, much of which derived from the sunken-featured buildings of that settlement.

The vessels associated with the Romano-British burials are noteworthy since they constitute the only significant group of pottery from any late Roman cemetery in the region. The occurrence of one or two vessels with small groups of burials is known, both immediately, in the cemetery at the north-west margin of Barrow Hills (Atkinson 1952–3, 34), at the Old Abbey Grounds, Abingdon (VCH 1906, 202)

Table 2.9 Summary of pottery in graves (note that dates have not been assigned to the coarse ware cremation urns).

Context	Fabric	Type (Young etc)	Possible date range	Burial type
1001	F51	cf C16.2	?AD 300–400	Cremation
	C10	Jar		
1004	F51	C24	AD 270–400	Cremation
	R30	R24		
1006	F51	C23	AD 270–400	Cremation
	C10	Jar		
1007	F51	C23	AD 270–400	Cremation
	R30	R24		
1010	F51	C27	AD 270–400	Inhumation
1047	F51	C106	?AD 350–400	Inhumation
1049	F51	cf C108	?AD 350–400	Inhumation
1203	C10	Jar		Cremation
1208	F51	C24 small	AD 270–400	Cremation
	C10	Jar		
1218	C10	Jar		Cremation
1243	F51	C24 small	AD 270–400	Cremation
	C10	Jar		
4614	F51	C101/2	?AD 325–400	Cremation

and at Ashville (Parrington 1978, 25), and further afield as at Cassington (Case 1982, 147–8), Long Wittenham (Gray 1977, 14), Crowmarsh (Clarke 1996), Roden Downs, Compton, Berks (Hood and Walton 1948, 34) and Fawley, Berks (VCH 1906, 206). In most cases these are colour-coated auxiliary vessels (usually beakers) associated with inhumation burials (the Cassington vessel was a reduced ware bowl or jar). A complete colour-coated beaker of Young type C102 from the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Sutton Courtenay, containing a late 3rd-century coin (Leeds 1947, 85 and 89) may best be explained as having been recovered from a Roman grave. The Barrow Hills group is the only example from the region of a dated late Roman cremation cemetery.

The jars which contained cremated remains were usually in shell-tempered fabrics (six vessels), but reduced coarse wares were also used (two vessels). These vessels are standard late Roman types which would have been equally at home on local occupation sites, though at Barrow Hills only one sherd of the shell-tempered fabric was found outside the cemetery. One cremation was apparently unurned (4614). This and six of the others were accompanied by colour-coated beakers, usually small, of similar character to those found in four of the inhumations.

The colour-coated beakers are all late Roman types and products of the Oxford potteries. The use and possibly the manufacture of some of these vessels into the 5th century might be implied by parallels from some sites. However, it should be noted that the only type (only tentatively identified at Barrow Hills) assigned by Young exclusively to the end of the 4th century (C102) has now been found at the kiln site of Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtenay, in contexts which

are very unlikely to date after the mid 4th century at the latest (Booth *et al.* 1993, 163). Nevertheless, a late 4th-century date is quite possible for some of the vessels, perhaps particularly the beaker from inhumation 1049, with its combination of Roman form and 'Saxon' stamps. The character of these stamps is, however, still broadly within the late Oxfordshire tradition, and a single example of such a stamp (from Shakenoak) was used as a potter's mark (Young 1977, 180–181 no. 66), though it is not paralleled amongst the known 'decorative' stamps (cf Young 1977, 130).

It is not possible to determine whether these vessels were manufactured especially for inclusion with burials or whether they were in everyday domestic use. Some of the beakers have worn surfaces, suggesting that some time elapsed between manufacture and burial. One vessel (with cremation 1007) of type C23 was clearly overfired. This maybe explained by its having been burnt with the body before being placed in the cremation urn. Alternatively, it may have been a 'second'. The occurrence of such vessels in cremations has been noted from as early as the 1st century AD. The forms and decoration of the vessels do not suggest a specifically funerary function since they fall broadly within the range recorded from occupation sites such as Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, 7:C 13). However, there is a suggestion that unusually small vessels might have been favoured for inclusion within graves. Four of the six vessels for which measurement is possible were less than 120 mm in height, and this seems certain to have been true of the incomplete vessels from 1001 and 1208 also. A height of about 100 mm is suggested as the maximum for miniature type C101 and *c* 120 mm seems to provide a reasonable dividing line between the miniature beaker C102 (and its related forms) and their larger counterparts (not all the vessels in Young (1977, 172) conform to this definition). While small vessels could occur on domestic sites only one from Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, 7:C13 no. 74.1) fell within the smaller size category. The high proportion of particularly small vessels in burials at Barrow Hills may therefore be significant.

There is no direct evidence for Roman settlement within the excavated area of Barrow Hills, though such sites do occur in the near vicinity, known both from salvage and large-scale excavation, cropmarks and surface scatters of pottery (see Chapter 1, The Romano-British landscape). Some of the Roman pottery from the Saxon settlement may have been introduced to the site accidentally, possibly as a result of agricultural activities (either within the Roman period or later), but this explanation is unlikely to account for more than a very small proportion of the material. It is noteworthy that there is almost no 'background noise' Roman pottery within the grave fills. This suggests that Roman material was not to be found in the immediate vicinity of the site. It is therefore likely that much of it was 'imported' during the Saxon period. Some support for this suggestion comes from a consideration of the average weight of the Roman sherds. The average figure for the total assemblage is *c* 19 g. This is towards the high end of the range when compared with data from a selection of recently examined Roman domestic assemblages in the region. These are Asthall (Booth 1997, 104; 11,399 sherds, average weight 12.6 g), Alchester (Booth *et al.* 2001, 263; *c* 46,475 sherds, average weight *c* 13.5 g), Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Lambrick and Allen 2004; 14,471 late Iron Age and early Roman sherds, average weight *c* 15 gm), Wally Corner, Berinsfield (Booth 1995, 17; 2319 sherds, average weight *c* 16 g), Wantage (Timby 1996, 135; 3001 sherds, average weight 18.6 g) and Worton Rectory Farm, Yarnton (Hey *et al.* in prep.; 8060 late Iron Age and Roman sherds, average weight *c* 20.6 g.). Unfortunately data for nearby Barton Court Farm are not available. These figures indicate that the average sherd weights at most sites were rather below that at Barrow Hills, though there are a few assemblages in the region which do have closely comparable average weights.

The average sherd weight for Barrow Hills has not been inflated by the presence of substantially complete vessels associated with burials. Since many of these were recovered in a fragmented condition their average sherd weight is in fact lower than the site average, at 14.2 g. Most striking is the average weight of the sherds from sunken-featured buildings. These totalled some 28.6% of all sherds, but 40.8% of weight, with an average of 27.3 g. This figure compares with that for the Anglo-Saxon pottery from the same contexts.

These data suggest that Roman sherds occurring in Saxon features, and particularly those found in the sunken-featured buildings, were deliberately selected, for whatever reason. This is also indicated by the range of material represented in the collection. The total absence of shell-tempered fabrics, widely used in the 4th century (eg at Barton Court Farm) and therefore presumably readily available locally, may be one significant characteristic of the group. 43.3% of the Roman sherds (37.9% by weight) from the sunken-featured buildings were of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. Directly comparable data from adjacent late Roman sites are lacking, but at Barton Court Farm 'Oxfordshire ware' totalled 20.5% of weight of the late Roman assemblage (recalculated from Miles 1986 fiche 7:C3 omitting Iron Age and Saxon material). The proportion of this total accounted for by colour-coated ware is not known, as the figure also includes mortaria, other white wares and some oxidised coarse wares, but is unlikely to have exceeded 10–15%. There was no significant difference between the proportion of Oxfordshire wares occurring in SFBs and in late Roman features at Barton Court Farm, however, and the Roman material from these features was described as 'smallish worn sherds' (Miles 1986, fiche 7:F3). The only significant difference noted between the composition of the Roman material in late Roman as opposed to Saxon SFB contexts was a marked increase in the incidence of Nene Valley colour-coated ware in the latter. The total quantity of Roman pottery in these contexts, however, was *c* 11.85 kg, of which

Table 2.10 Summary of the cremations.

Group	Context no.	Max. length of fragments (in mm)	Average size of fragments	Identifiable bones	Further comments (inc. age assessment)
–	1001 topsoil	13	S	4 long bone shaft fragments, not all completely calcined	human/animal
C	1004	42	M	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments, part mandible, humerus ends, phalanx	adult
B	1006 cuts cremation enclosure	23	S and M	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments	adolescent/adult
B	1006 SF 6*	19	S	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments	child/adult
B	1006 SF 7*	31	S and M	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments	child/adolescent
B	1007/1*	35	S and M	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments, parts radius head, patella, astragalus	adult
B	1007/2*		S, M and L	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments, parts ulna, femur head, tibia – proximal end	adult? (nuchal crest)
B	1203 adjacent to enclosure	50	M	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments, vertebra	adult
B	1208 adjacent to enclosure	59	S and L	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments, part vertebra, pelvis, patella, phalanx	adult (also fragment bird bone)
B	1218	22	S	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments	?adolescent/adult
B	1233	18	S	long bone shaft fragments	?child/adult
B	1234 within enclosure F1217			charcoal fragments, calcined bone	
B	1235 collapsed animal burrow			calcined bone and pottery fragments	
B	1243 N of enclosure	40	S and L	skull vault and long bone shaft fragments	adult
Isolated	4614			calcined bone, ash and charcoal	

Key
S – small M – medium L – large.
*Deposits 1006 and 1007 were contained within two separate pots, representing at least two individuals in each case.

Nene Valley ware comprised only 3.3% (Miles 1986). It is therefore uncertain that the increase in its representation can be seen as statistically significant.

At Wally Corner, Berinsfield, primarily an assemblage of later 2nd-4th-century date, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware amounted to *c* 7% of the assemblage (by both sherd count and weight; Booth 1995). At Beech House Hotel, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware amounted to 23% (Rowley and Brown 1981, 27 – it is assumed that this figure is based on sherd count, but neither this nor the total quantity of material involved is stated). The representation of colour-coated ware in the Barrow Hills sunken-featured buildings is therefore broadly at least twice that at late Roman sites in the region, and probably exceeds the representation on local rural sites by between three and five times.

The presence of reworked Roman sherds on Saxon settlement sites is a widely known phenomenon, both within the region and beyond. Locally, at Sutton Courtenay, 'several bottoms of Roman vases pared down to form pot-lids' were noted (Leeds 1947, 85) and worn and trimmed fragments (of Oxfordshire colour-coated wares) occurred in sunken-featured buildings at Audlett Drive, Abingdon (Underwood-Keevill 1993, 71–2). The great majority (48, 64%) of the 75 Roman sherds identified as being reused at Barrow Hills were of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. Three were of samian ware and one in Oxfordshire white ware, the remainder (23, *c* 31%) occurred in a variety of reduced fabrics. With the colour-coated sherds in particular the bases of bowls (including mortaria) were clearly preferred, as at both Sutton Courtenay and Audlett Drive. These lent themselves to conversion into discs, but a variety of shapes occurred, the possible functions of which are discussed below (see Chapter 5, reused Roman pottery). The reasons for the preference for Roman over Saxon pottery for reuse are not certain,

but colour was presumably one significant factor (cf Plouviez 1985, 84) and the fine and evenly textured fabrics of some of the selected pieces may have been another.

The Barrow Hills data indicate not only the secondary use of pottery (6.7% of the Roman material bears evidence of physical modification) but on the basis of the evidence of average sherd weight from the sunken-featured buildings a more widespread selective collection and curation of Roman sherds. Some of the apparently unmodifed material may of course have been destined for such treatment, but the purpose behind the collection of the rest is unknown.

Outside the region evidence for comparable sherd collection is found at sites such as West Stow (Plouviez 1985), which produced an assemblage with similar biases to that at Barrow Hills, with an abnormally high proportion of base to body sherds and of fine wares to coarse wares.

Such activity was not a universal phenomenon. The positive absence of evidence for collection and reuse of Roman material is noted at nearby Barton Court Farm, for example (see above) and probably also at Worton Rectory Farm, Yarnton. There are no clear indications why this practice was observed at some sites and not at others, particularly since Roman pottery was readily available in quantity at both Barton Court Farm and Yarnton. As Chapter 5 indicates, other Roman artefacts such as metalwork and glass were also collected and reused at Barrow Hills.

HUMAN BONE
by Mary Harman

Inhumations (Tables 2.1, 2.3, 2.11–13)

This was a rewarding group of skeletons on which to work. Nearly all of the 57 inhumations are in very good condition and almost complete, the only exceptions being 1010 and 1093 (Group A), which are in poor condition, and 1011, 1024 (Group A), 1071, 1091, 1095, 1099 and 1100 (Group C), all of whom, with the exception of the adult 1095 (Group C), are child skeletons in a fair state of preservation. They represent a discrete group, a whole cemetery completely excavated: the only burials which might be missing are those which were so shallow as to be ploughed through and scattered, and any such, if they existed, are perhaps more likely to have been those of small children than older persons.

The sex of adults was determined through examination of the relevant features of the skull and pelvic girdle, and the size and robust or gracile character of the bones; age was assessed from the state of epiphyseal fusion and tooth eruption, attribution of both age and sex being based on the criteria recommended by Ferembach *et al.* (1980, 517–549), the age of adults being assessed also from the degree of wear on the teeth, using Miles's chart (1962, 884). Height was calculated from the total lengths of long bones, using the formulae of Trotter and Gleser (Brothwell 1981, 101). Table 2.11 gives brief notes on each individual. The completeness of the skeleton is indicated, the sex, age and height are given where possible, and the numbers of carious teeth, abscesses and teeth lost *ante mortem* in the number of teeth and tooth sockets present. The presence of skeletal anomalies and evidence of injury or disease is noted: further details are given below.

There is some difficulty in assessing the age of individuals who lack many of their teeth. None of the skeletons with reasonably complete jaws has lost molars before 30 years. Light wear on the remaining teeth of 1008, 1027 and 1046 (all Group A) suggests that some molar loss occurred in the twenties, though most of the remaining molars in people with many missing show wear consistent with loss of the opposing tooth in the thirties or later. Those people with a considerable proportion of their teeth lost *ante mortem* have therefore been regarded as over 40 years of age, though it is possible that in some cases multiple tooth loss could have occurred earlier. The possibility that when some teeth are lost, wear on those remaining may be more extreme creates a further complication. A number of people have reasonably complete sets of teeth which are worn to such an extent that it seems reasonable to suggest that they may be over 50 years.

The remains from this cemetery may be compared with those from Radley I (Atkinson 1952–3, 32–35) and with others of similar date at Cassington, Curbridge, Queensford Mill and Stanton Harcourt (Harman *et al.* 1981, 145–187).

The number of people involved is quite small and all conclusions should be regarded as tentative. The cemetery may be seen as comprising different contemporary groups or as representative of successive use by one group which gradually went into decline. The choice of interpretation obviously has implications for the conclusions which may be reached regarding population composition. Children under ten comprise about a quarter of the population as a whole; half of these children were babies of six months old or less. This is in contrast to the other cemeteries in the area. Atkinson found no children under 15 in a group of 32 people (Harman *et al.* 1981), and only at Queensford Mill were any number of children found. Here too they formed nearly a quarter of the total population, but there was only one infant, a premature or undersized baby buried with an adult female. Several of the few infants found in the other cemeteries were also in the same grave as adult females, and it is clear that generally they were not buried in the cemeteries, but around the settlements, as at Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986). This cemetery, then, is exceptional in the number of infants found in an area which the community was using to bury all its dead, though neonatal infants are probably underrepresented. However, if one subscribes to the view that the cemetery represents successive use by one group then the situation looks rather different. The majority of children appear within the much smaller Groups

Table 2.11 Summary of the inhumations.

Group	Context no.	Bones present	Sex	Age	Height	Caries	Abscesses	Tooth loss	General comments
A	1008	vc	m	40+	5′7"/1.70 m	05/21	03/25	05/30	pathology: both hips, feet
A	1009	vc	m?	17–22		01/31	00/32	00/32	decapitated; at least 5 lambdoid wormian bones
A	1010	lc	m	20–25		00/29	02/30	00/30	1+ lambdoid wormians; pathology: r ulna
A	1011	lc	–	1–1.5					
A	1012	vc	m	18–20	5′2"/1.57 m	00/27	00/27	01/28	
A	1013	vc	m	25–30	5′6.75"/1.70 m	02/31	01/32	00/32	sacralised L6
A	1014	vc	m	50+	5′5.75"/1.67 m	05/17	05/21	06/28	prone; 10 lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine, r elbow, hips ?rib
A	1015	vc	f?	40+	5′4.5"/1.64 m	01/11	05/15	17/32	pathology: spine
A	1017	vc	f	50+	5′3.5"/1.61 m	04/17	02/27	06/32	pathology: spine, knees, hands, feet
A	1018	vc	m?	18–22		01/32	00/32	00/32	decapitated; 2 lambdoid wormians
A	1019	vc	–	7–8					pathology: skull
A	1020	vc	m	35–40	5′2.75"/1.59 m	09/14	06/23	06/28	metopism; pathology: spine, ribs, clavicle
A	1022	vc	m	50+	5′5.5"/1.66 m	02/10	04/25	08/32	1 lambdoid wormian; pathology: spine, feet
A	1023	vc	m	50+	5′8.75"/1.74 m	02/26	05/30	00/32	9 lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine, ribs, r clavicle
A	1024	lc	–	1–3 m					
A	1025	vc	f	30–35	5′2"/1.57 m	03/13	08/23	06/28	prone; 1 lambdoid wormian; pathology: spine, r clavicle, L3 has cleft neural arch
A	1026	vc	f	35–40	5′1.25"/1.55 m	06/20	10/29	03/32	decapitated; 6 sacral vertebrae, sacrum has cleft neural arches; pathology: spine
A	1027	vc	f	40+	4′11"/1.49 m	00/02	03/06	27/32	3 lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine
A	1029	vc	m	50+	5′8"/1.72 m	01/07	03/19	13/32	4 lambdoid wormians, L5 arch part separate; pathology: spine
A	1037	vc	m	40–50	5′10.25"/1.78 m	08/27	03/29	02/32	4 lambdoid wormians, L5 arch separate; pathology: spine
A	1039	vc	m	40+	5′10.25"/1.78 m	01/08	04/12	21/32	1 lambdoid wormian, inca bone; pathology: spine, r elbow, l hip
A	1040	vc	m?	30–35	5′6"/1.67 m	04/22	01/32	00/32	7+ lambdoid wormians, metopism
A	1041	vc	f	40+	5′3"/1.60 m	04/10	01/15	13/28	9+ lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine, r clavicle, l lower leg
A	1042	lc	–	6–7					prone; 1 lambdoid wormian
A	1043	vc	m	50+	5′9.75"/1.77 m	04/25	01/27	06/32	sacralised L5; pathology: spine, ?ribs
A	1044	vc	m	40–50	5′6.75"/1.69 m	08/21	11/29	02/31	8 lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine, mandible, hands
A	1045	vc	m	50+	5′2.25"/1.58 m	02/12	02/18	06/23	1 ?lambdoid wormian; pathology: spine, mandible, l femur
A	1046	vc	f	40+	5′6.5"/1.68 m	07/13	08/15	11/24	pathology: spine
A	1047	vc	f?	40+	5′0.5"/1.53 m	03/03	03/09	21/30	3 lambdoid wormians, metopism; pathology: spine, l foot

Table 2.11 (Continued)

Group	Context no.	Bones present	Sex	Age	Height	Caries	Abscesses	Tooth loss	General comments
A	1048	vc	f	40+	5′5.25"/1.65 m	01/06	00/09	20/28	3+ lambdoid wormians, metopism, L6; pathology: spine, l clavicle, l hip
A	1049	vc	f	35–40	5′2"/1.57 m	04/23	06/29	01/30	prone; pathology: spine
A	1050	vc	m	40+	5′8.25"/1.73 m	07/16	07/24	09/32	pathology: spine, ?rib
A	1052	vc	–	*c* 2					
C	1071	lc	–	4–6 m					pathology: skull, limbs
C	1090	lc	–	2–4					1 parietal wormian
C	1091	legs only	–	4–5 m					
C	1092	vc	f	30–35	5′1.75"/1.57 m	13/29	02/31	00/31	pathology: spine
A	1093	vc	f	40–50	5′4.5"/1.64 m	03/09	09/19	03/22	prone; pathology: spine, ?rib, l hand
A	1094	vc	f	35–40	4′11"/1.50 m	00/31	00/32	00/32	L5 cleft neural arch, part separate, sacralised
C	1095	vc	f	35–40	5′1.5"/1.56 m	03/21	04/24	04/28	pathology: spine, r wrist, l thumb
A	1096	vc	m	40+	5′4"/1.63 m		04/07	27/32	1+ lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine, l humerus, r femur
A	1097	vc	f	40–50	5′2.5"/1.59 m	06/24	01/27	05/32	decapitated, 6 sacral vertebrae, 2 lambdoid wormians; pathology: spine
C	1098	vc	m	50+	5′6.5"/1.69 m	01/30	02/32	00/32	pathology: spine, ribs, l scapula
C	1099		–	2–4 m					
C	1100	lc	–	9–12 m					pathology: skull, limbs
C	1102	vc	f	40–50	5′7.25"/1.70 m	01/02	00/08	18/26	2+ lambdoid wormians, metopism; pathology: spine, ribs, l knee
C	1103	part	–	*c* 6 m					pathology: skull
C	1213		–	?infant					
Isolated	3518	vc	m	45+	5′1.5"/1.56 m	08/20	04/24	05/29	pathology: severe osteophytes on vertebrae, osteo–arthritis in shoulder and hand; 2+ lambdoid wormians
Isolated	3521	vc	–	12–14		00/24	00/18	00/24	
Isolated	3522	vc	m	35–40	5′7.5"/1.71 m	07/26	02/27	00/32	pathology: slight osteophytes on some lumbar vertebrae, slight periostitis on lower legs
D	3781	vc	m	35–40	5′4.5"/1.64 m	01/16	00/09	00/17	4+ lambdoid wormians, metopic suture, separate neural arch on L5
D	3782	lc	f	40+	5′4.5"/1.64 m	02/25	06/28	05/32	pathology: l knee, slight osteophytes
D	3783	vc	m	35–40	5′7.5"/1.71 m	00/27	02/30	02/32	large mandibular torus, sacrum has 6 bodies, slight osteophytes
D	3784	mandible, r arm, legs	f?	40+			02/06	08/16	r femur head diseased
D	3786	lc	–	2.5–5		00/12	00/20		metopic suture, cleft neural arch on atlas
Isolated	4261	vc	–	6–7		02/20	00/22		asymmetric inca bone, cleft neural arch on atlas

C and D as well as among the outliers. It has been argued that the presence of infants and neonates within cemeteries, particularly when associated with west-east orientation, is a feature of the late 4th century and may be related to Christian influences. It may well be that the cemeteries mentioned above are slightly earlier and therefore not directly comparable with this proposed phase of use at Radley II.

Almost half of the population (45.6%) survived beyond the age of 40, some probably well beyond, and there is no obvious difference between males and females in this respect, though in other cemeteries in the area, while half of the men survived beyond 40, only 40% of the women lived beyond this age (Harman *et al*. 1981).

The spatial distribution of the sexes in the cemetery is uneven: within the main body of the cemetery the graves fall into two groups, Groups A and C (Fig. 2.4). Group A respects the square structure associated with the cremations. Just over half (51.3%) of those in Group A are men, while in Group C there are three times as many women as men, though the main body of this group comprises children. These proportions suggest that there may have been a partial segregation of the sexes in death, and a distinction between subadults and adults, though this is only the case if the groups are believed to be contemporary.

The average height of 21 men was 5 ft 6 3/4 ins (1.67 m) and of 17 women was 5 ft 2 1/4 ins (1.57 m); these are precisely the same as the figures for the area as a whole and only slightly less than the modern British averages (Office of Population Census and Surveys 1981).

Lambdoid wormian bones were seen in 23 of the 37 skulls where the feature could be observed (all groups though predominantly A): this represents 62%, which is slightly higher than the frequency observed in other cemeteries in the area (51%). The child in grave 1090 (Group C) had the only example of a parietal wormian bone seen, and the man in grave 1039 (Group A) the only definite inca bone. An open metopic suture was retained by six individuals in whom this could be observed, three men (1020, 1040 (Group A), 3781 (Group D) and three women (1047, 1048 (Group A), 1102 (Group C). A few people had vertebral anomalies and all were in Group A. One man (1037) had a separate neural arch on the 5th lumbar vertebra. Another man (1029) had the arch joined only on one side, and this was also seen in a woman (1094) who had further anomalies. Not only was the arch of the 5th lumbar vertebra half separate from the body, it was also cleft, so that one half was completely free; the body and the other half of the arch were joined to the sacrum, and some of the sacral vertebra had cleft neural arches. Other people exhibited some of these characteristics; one woman (1025) had a cleft neural arch on the 3rd lumbar vertebra, an unusual site. Some cleft neural arches also occurred on the sacra of two men (1018, 1043) and on the entire sacrum of one woman (1026). Extra vertebrae occurred in some people: one woman (1048) had an extra lumbar vertebra, a man (1013) also had an extra one which was joined to the sacrum, and two women (1026 and 1097) had six sacral vertebrae. It is possible that the people who share these anomalies were related, and if so, this would show that in this cemetery some relations were buried close to one another (1026, 1025, 1029 and 1037, all showing anomalies of the vertebral arch, the last three being particularly similar and also having lambdoid wormian bones), while others were spread over the cemetery (1013, 1026, 1048 and 1097, all with extra vertebrae).

Table 2.12 shows the incidence of caries, abscess and loss in the teeth and tooth sockets present. There is clearly a decline in dental health with increasing age, and the figures are broadly similar to those from other cemeteries in the area (Harman *et al*. 1981). If those over 40 are listed in more closely defined age groups, it appears that those regarded as over 50 had less trouble with caries and abscesses than those in younger age groups, though they had lost more teeth.

One woman, 1092 (Group C), had an abscess at the root of the upper left second molar which had penetrated the maxillary sinus. The crowns of the permanent incisors and first molars of one child of seven to eight years, 1019 (Group C), suggest that there was a serious disturbance to the metabolism at about six months of age, causing malformation of the enamel. This may have been the result of illness or a period of malnutrition.

Degenerative disease of the spine was seen in most of the adults over 30 years of age. There are only slight signs in people aged between 30 and 40 years. One woman, 1049 (Group A) had slight collapsing of the body of the 11th thoracic vertebra. Within the group of five individuals aged between 40 and 50 years all showing degrees of vertebral degeneration, one woman, 1093 (Group A) had eburnation between the atlas and axis, and possibly collapsing of the twelfth thoracic vertebra; one man, 1004 (Group A) had degeneration of the articular facets of most of the cervical and upper thoracic vertebral arches, and severe degeneration of the bodies of the lower cervical vertebrae, the lower thoracic and lower lumbar vertebrae being less severely affected. Of those regarded as over 40 years old, all showed slight signs of degeneration except one man, 1008

Table 2.12 Iincidence of caries, abscesses and antemortem tooth loss in teeth and tooth sockets present, for different age groups.

Age group	Caries	Abscess	Loss
17–30	04/150 (2.7%)	03/153 (2%)	01/154 (0.7%)
30–40	50/242 (20.7%)	41/289 (14.2%)	22/322 (6.8%)
40–50	34/103 (33%)	28/136 (20.6%)	35/172 (20.3%)
40+	31/115 (27%)	46/171 (27%)	184/348 (52.9%)
50+	21/144 (14.6%)	24/199 (12.1%)	45/243 (18.6%)

(Group A); in some individuals, 1041, 1046, 1047, 1050 (Group A) more moderate signs are seen in the cervical, some of the mid thoracic, and the lumbar vertebrae. One of these, 1047 (Group A), has slight collapsing of the bodies of the 4th and 5th lumbar vertebrae. Of those over 50 years, two men, 1023 and 1043 (Group A) are only slightly affected. The women, 1017 and 1045 (Group A) and the other men, 1014, 1022, 1029 (Group A), 1098 (Group C) are all moderately affected in parts of the spine and slightly affected through most of it; both women and one man (1029) have collapsing of some lumbar vertebral bodies.

One man, 1049 (Group A), and one woman, 1015 (Group A), both have two cervical vertebrae joined, possibly through osteo-arthritis, though the fusion may be congenital.

There is evidence of osteo-arthritis in other joints, all in people of 40 years or more except one woman, 1095 (Group C), who was slightly affected in the right wrist and left thumb. One woman, 1045 (Group A), and one man, 1044 (Group A), were slightly affected in the jaw; the latter was also affected in the right wrist, and together with one woman, 1093 (Group A), in the thumbs. One man, 1014 (Group A), was affected in the right shoulder and right wrist; two men, 1039, 1050 (Group A), were affected in the elbow joint. Four people had osteo-arthritis in the hip: one man, 1014 (Group A), was slightly affected; one man, 1008 (Group A) and one woman, 1048 (Group A) were more severely affected, in both hips and the left hip respectively, with erosion and pitting of the articular surfaces and extra bony growth on the margins. One man, 1039 (Group A), was very severely affected in the left hip, with half the head showing severe wear and deterioration, and considerable growth on the other half. One woman, 1017 (Group A), was affected in the knees, and slightly in both hands and feet.

One man, 1098 (Group C), has periostitis on the inner surface of most of the left ribs and two of the right ribs, and had suffered some injury or infection affecting the right shoulder blade. One man, 1096 (Group A), has malformation of the right femoral head, with shortening of the neck and deterioration of the articular surface. One woman, 1045 (Group A), has a low swelling of spongy bone on the medial aspect of the femur, with bone destruction penetrating to the cortex. Another woman, 1041 (Group A), has areas of periostitis on both tibia and fibula near the ankle. Two men, 1008 and 1022 (Group A), had foot problems: the first has mis-shapen joints in both big toes, and the second has mis-shapen ankle and foot bones.

Two infants, 1071 and 1100 (Group C), have periostitis on the skull and on the shafts of some long bones; both femora of the latter are distorted. Another infant, 1103 (Group C), has some spongy bone growth in the orbits. A child of 7–8 years, 1019 (Group A), has periostitis on the skull.

A number of people had suffered fractures. Seven men, 1014, 1029, 1043, 1044, 1050, 1020 and 1023 (Group A), all have healed fractures of the ribs, the last two having multiple fractures, combined in each case with probable fractures of the right clavicle. Three women, 1093, 1094 (Group A), and 1102 (Group C), have healed fractures of the ribs, the last having several fractured on the right side; another woman, 1025 (Group A), probably had a fractured rib, and a fractured right clavicle, while a second woman has a fractured left clavicle. One man, 1096 (Group A), may have had a healed fracture at the proximal end of the right humerus, while another, 1010 (Group A), may have a healing fracture towards the distal end of the ulna shaft.

There were four cases of decapitation (Figs 2.15–18, 2.21, Pl. 2.2). Skeleton 1009 (Group A), probably a young man, had his head buried by the right knee. The neck had been severed between cervical vertebrae 3 and 4: there are cuts on the dorsal surfaces of the arches and also on the inferior surfaces of the bodies of both vertebrae, demonstrating that more than one cut was necessary. Skeleton 1018 (Group A), also probably a young man, lay on his left side with his head buried under his right knee. There are cuts on the inferior surface of the arch of the axis, and also on the ventral surface of the body, and on the ventral surface of the body of the 3rd cervical vertebra, showing that the head was severed between these two vertebrae, in this case probably from the front. Skeleton 1026 (Group A), a woman of 35 to 40 years, was buried with her head over her feet. The neck was cut between cervical vertebrae 5 and 6, there being cuts on the ventral aspect of both vertebrae, suggesting that the head was severed from the front. Skeleton 1097 (Group A), a woman of between 40 and 50 years, was buried with her head under her right femur. There are cuts on the inferior surface of the axis and the superior surface of the third cervical vertebra, showing that at least three cuts were made in severing the head.

The cuts which run across bodies and arches are narrow and not deep, though some have obviously removed slivers of bone from the edges of arches and articular facets, and also from vertebral bodies, generally as thin wedges sliced from the articular surface of the body, in a slightly different plane. At some sites, the head was probably removed by a single blow by an instrument wielded with some force, such as a sword or cleaver, which seems to have been the method used sometimes at Cassington and Stanton Harcourt where the mandible was also cut (Harman *et al.* 1981). The neat character of the marks at Radley II, however, suggests that a fine sharp instrument was used, and once the joint between the two vertebrae was located, several incisions followed the joint until the vertebrae were parted: this is clear in the case of skeleton 1097 (Group A), who has cuts on the ventral surface of the arch of the axis which could not have been made until the neck was partially severed and the gap between the vertebrae widened (Fig. 2.15, Pl. 2.1). Such an operation would require

good visibility and involve close work, and although it would not be difficult to carry out on a corpse, it is doubtful whether the cuts observed could have been produced if the decapitation were the cause of death. Similar observations were made in the case of the Lankhills decapitations (Watt 1979, 352).

In other Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon examples, the neck was most commonly cut near the head; in skeleton 1026 (Group A) the cut is lower than usual but well within the recorded range. The position of the heads is interesting: burial beside or between the knees, lower legs and feet is most commonly recorded and three of those at Radley II conform with this.

Five prone burials were excavated; one man over 50 years of age, three of women aged between 30 and 50 years, and one of a child of six to seven years. The burial of children either decapitated or prone is rare, though at Cassington another child of seven to eight years was buried prone.

This cemetery, although it provides further examples of both forms of burial, does not provide reasons for them. Previously it has been impossible to decide whether decapitation took place after death or was the cause of it, but in this cemetery at least it is suggested that the head was removed after death. This cemetery is also important in that it is the first excavated in this area in which numbers of prone and decapitated bodies have been found in a group of people which appears to represent a whole, normal community: the other cemeteries either have very few children in theirs, as at Radley I, or few or no decapitated and prone burials, as at Queensford Mill.

The other Romano-British burials

3781–3784, 3786 (Group D and isolated burials)

A small group of five burials to the south-west of the cemetery included coffined burials and all were orientated on a similar axis to the burials in Group C. The group consists of two men, two women and a small child. The age of the child is difficult to assess, as although the state of tooth eruption suggests an age of about five years and wear of the deciduous molars is severe, the length of the long bones suggests an age of 2½–3 years. Possibly growth was seriously retarded, and the closing of the metopic suture may have been temporarily delayed if this was so.

Other isolated burials occur to the south of this group and of the cemetery. Burials 3521 and 3522 both show one of the postures observed in the cemetery, lying on the left side; the latter burial has one nail in the grave. Burial 3518 was not accompanied by any dating evidence, but 4261, a young child, was coffined and wore hobnailed shoes.

Though these people are not necessarily related either to each other or to those buried in the cemetery, it is perhaps worth remarking that several of the rarer anomalies noted in the cemetery (open metopic suture, cleft neural arch on the atlas and separate arch on the fifth lumbar vertebra) also occur in these outlying burials. Evidence of minor osteophytes on some of the vertebrae of these individuals, 3522 (outlier), 3782? and 3783? (Group D), is not unexpected; 3522 (outlier) also had minor areas of periostitis on the shafts of both tibia and fibulae. More serious pathological conditions were observed in 3518 (outlier) in the form of a badly affected spine, shoulders and right finger, 3782 (Group D) in the form of a serious condition affecting the left knee and 3784 (Group D) in the form of an area of degeneration of the right femoral head.

Cremations (Tables 2.2, 2.4, 2.10)

A small number of cremations were found. All were examined and details of maximum length, average size and colour of the fragments recorded. Any pieces which were identifiable were noted together with any evidence concerning the age of the individual, using the age groups recommended by Wells (1960, 29–37). This information is summarised in Table 2.10. Additional details of particular interest are given under the relevant cremations in the inventory below.

INVENTORY OF THE ROMANO-BRITISH BURIALS (FIGS 2.16–24; PLS 2.3–4, TABLES 2.10–11)

by Richard Chambers

Inhumations

This inventory lists the archaeological and osteological details of each grave. The skeletal remains including the pathology are discussed in the section on the inhumations by Mary Harman above. Each grave is defined by the context number allocated to it during the excavation, eg 1058. These context numbers do not run consecutively (Figs 2.2–3). Separate burial numbers have not been allocated. This inventory follows the conventions described in Chapter 1.

Table 2.13 Sex and age of inhumations by group.

Group	Male No.	Age range	Female	Age range	Subadult No.	Age range
A	18	18->50	13	30–50	5	birth-8
C	1	>50	3	30–50	7	2 months-4 years
D	2	35–40	2	>30	1	2.5–5
Outlying	2	35->45	–	–	2	6–7 & 12–14

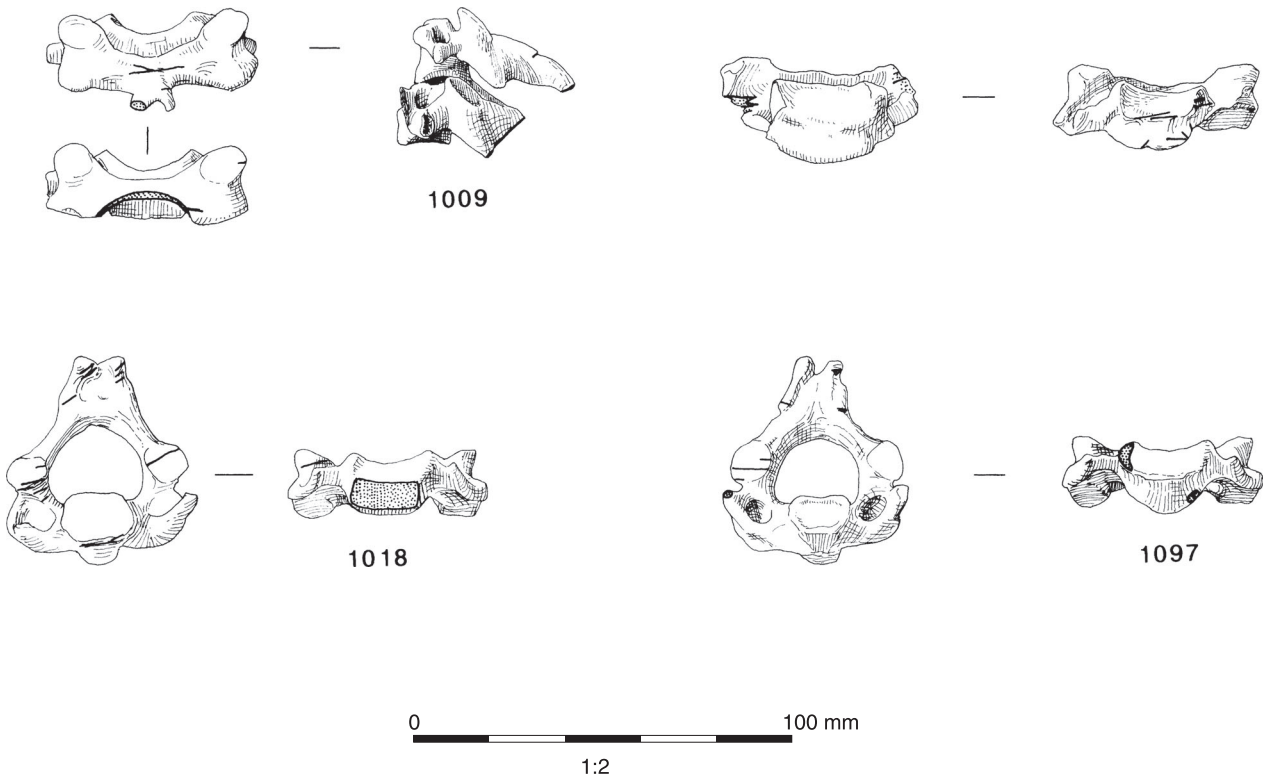

Figure 2.15 Cut marks on the cervical vertebrae from decapitated Romano-British skeletons.

Each entry begins with a description of the grave pit giving first the shape and then the width and length followed by the depth below the surface of the gravel. The surface of the gravel may be reckoned as 0.2–0.3 m beneath the Roman period ground surface.

Each grave contained a single inhumation unless stated otherwise. Posture, sex and age are given in that order.

The state of preservation of the skeletal remains has been categorised as good, partial, slight or none. Where parts of a skeleton are missing this may in every case be attributable to either natural decay or damage by animals or mechanical means.

The orientation of each extended body has been measured along the longitudinal axis of the grave, ie 270° (magnetic) represents a west-east orientation with the head to the west and the feet to the east. The state of preservation and orientation of the skeletal remains are followed by a detailed description of the skeleton.

The fill of each grave was a mixture of brown loamy subsoil and gravel. As might be expected on a site with only a thin covering of soil over the gravel, the bulk of the filling of each grave was gravel. Details of associated objects and grave goods are given where appropriate. The numbers refer to John Hedges' finds catalogue, now in archive. The original small find numbers assigned in the field are also given, prefixed by SF.

The skeletons were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and were photographed in black and white. The majority of the burials were also recorded on colour slide film. Each burial was described and then photographed through a 0.10 m grid to insure against loss of the detailed plans.

Grave 1008 *(Fig. 2.16)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.9 m × 2.1 m × 0.25 m deep. On left side, male adult, 40+ years, partial. 4°, facing east. Arms by sides, legs together and slightly flexed. Coin of Constantine I by right foot.

Associated finds:

132 Copper alloy coin of Constantine I (SF 11)
Obv CONSTANTINUS AUG Rev SOLI INV[] PTR Trier AE3 310–312

Grave 1009 *(Fig. 2.16)*

Rectangular, 0.9 m × 2.0 m × 0.4 m deep. Decapitated, on left side, male? adolescent/adult, 17–22 years, good. 343°, skull upright and facing north. Body lying against west side of grave pit, hands crossed over left hip, legs together, right leg slightly flexed over the skull placed beneath the right knee.

Grave 1010 *(Figs 2.16 and 2.23; Pl. 2.3)*

Rectangular, 1.16 m × 2.48 m × 0.95 m deep. Supine male adult, 20–25 years, partial. 355°. Skull turned

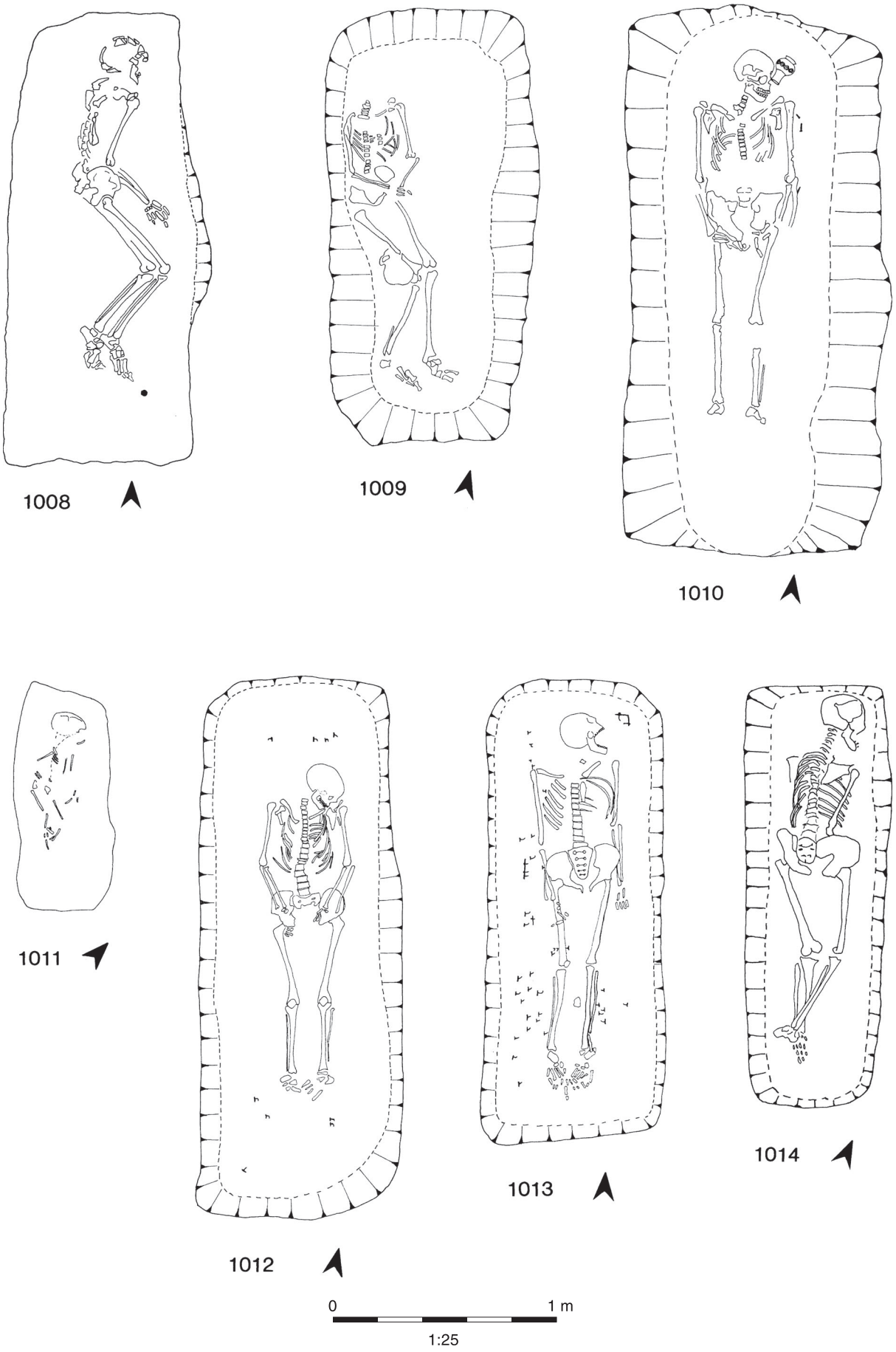

Figure 2.16 Romano-British inhumations 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014.

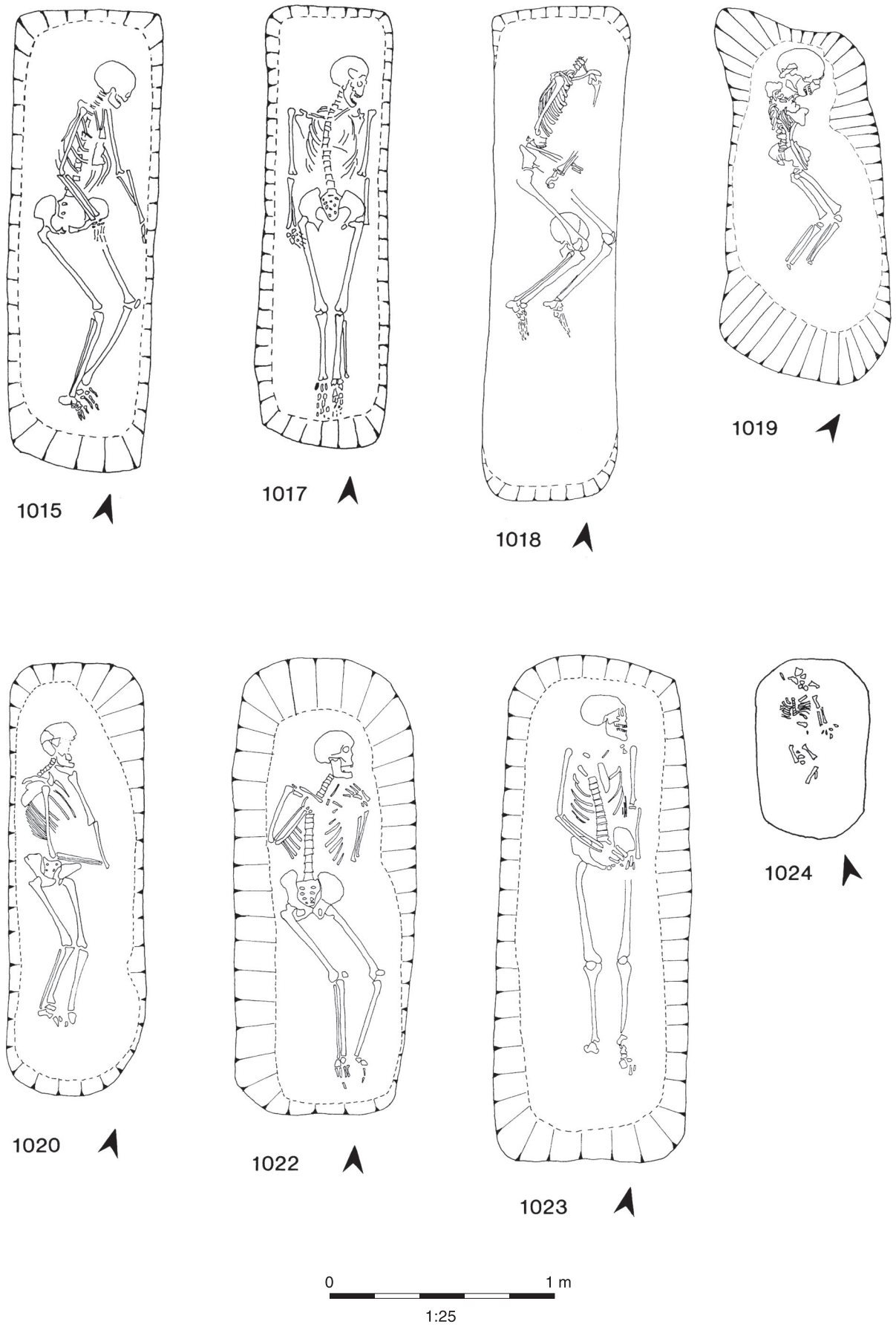

Figure 2.17 Romano-British inhumations 1015, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1022, 1023, 1024.

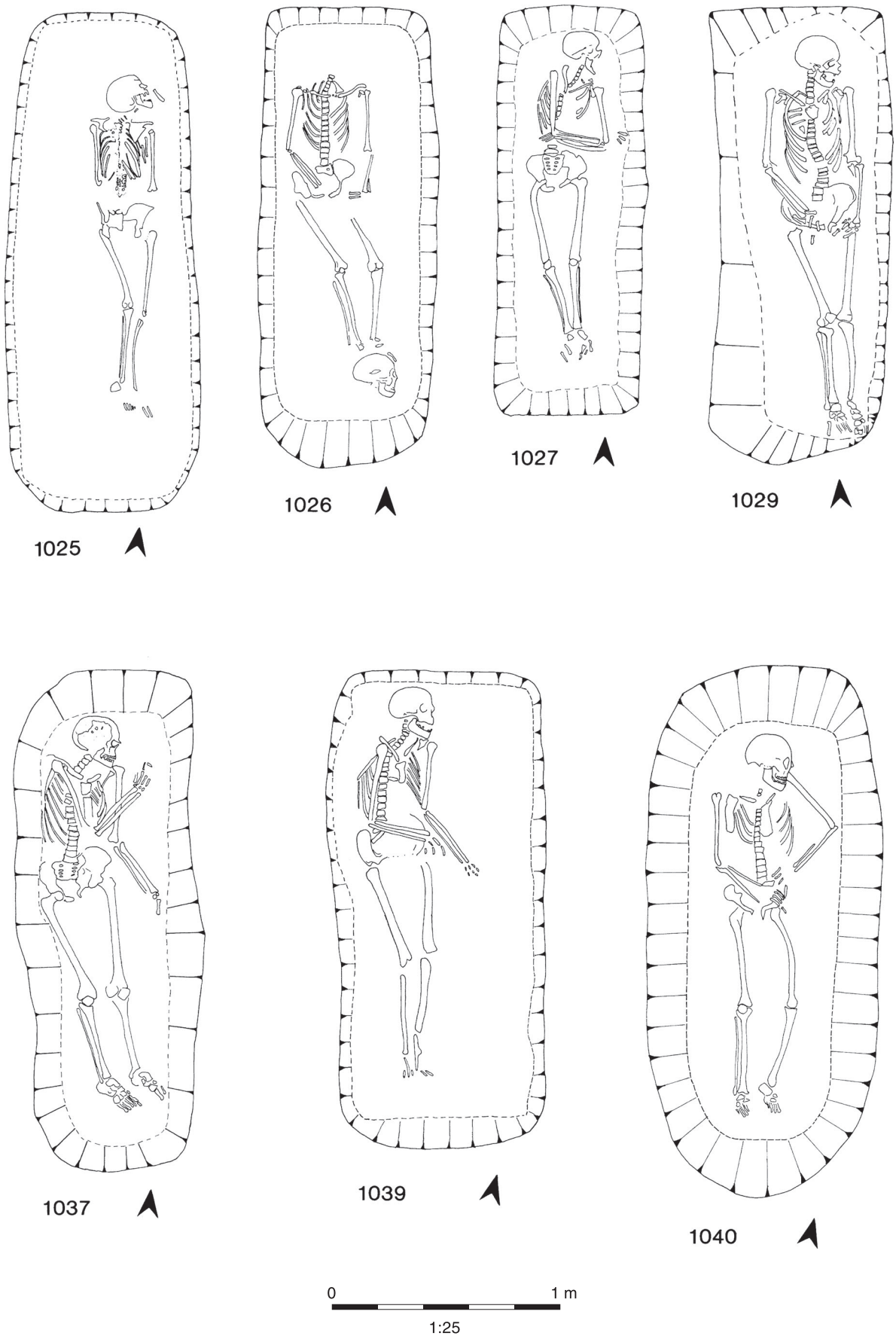

Figure 2.18 Romano-British inhumations 1025, 1026, 1027, 1029, 1037, 1039, 1040.

towards right shoulder, arms by sides, hands on hips, legs straight and parallel. Coffin partially outlined by line of dark soil and higher soil content within the coffin area compared to the gravelly grave filling around the sides. Four iron nails, over right pelvis, under left forearm, by left shoulder and north-west of skull on projected outline of coffin. Oxford product colour-coated beaker by the head.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coated beaker, form C27, AD 270–400 (Young 1977, 153–4). The vessel has white trailed slip decoration over a red/brown slip and bands of rouletting (compare with Atkinson 1952–3, 34).

Also five iron nail fragments representing four nails, one with replaced wood. Not illustrated

13 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 45 mm (SF 13).
14 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 47 mm (SF 14).
15 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 19 mm (SF 17).
16 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm (SF 21).
17 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm. Replaced wood. (SF 24).

Grave 1011 (*Fig. 2.16*)

Sub-rectangular, 0.45 m × 1.0 m × 0.26 m deep. On left side, child, 1–1.5 years, slight. 341°, lying on left side facing east. Skull cap, upper arms, fragments of pelvis and legs remained. Possibly disturbed by burrowing animals.

Grave 1012 (*Fig. 2.16*)

Rectangular, 0.96 m × 2.35 m × 0.58 m deep. Supine male, 18–20 years, partial. 356°. Skull tilted towards left shoulder, jaw fallen onto collar bone, arms by sides, legs straight and together. The presence of 11 iron nails at various depths suggests a coffin.

Associated finds:

11 iron nail fragments representing 9 nails, mainly round-headed, a number clearly showing their use in joining coffin boards some 20 mm thick. Not illustrated.
18 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 95 mm (SF 87, 89).
19 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 65 mm. Replaced wood – board. Maximum thickness (MT) 19 mm (SF 88).
20 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 80 mm. Replaced wood – boards at 90° (SF 90).
21 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 60 mm. Replaced wood – boards at 90° (SF 91).
22 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 85 mm. Replaced wood – board MT 20 mm (SF 92).
23 Fragmentary iron nail. Maximum length 65 mm. Replaced wood – board MT 20 mm. (SF 93)
24 Missing (SF 94).
25 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 58 mm. Replaced wood (SF 97).
26 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 93 mm min (SF 337).
27 Round-headed iron nail Maximum length 90 mm Replaced wood (SF 337).
28 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 85 mm (SF 337).

Grave 1013 (*Figs 2.16 and 2.24*)

Rectangular, 0.75 m × 2.0 m × 0.5 m deep. Supine male adult, 25–30 years, good. 356°. Skull turned to right, arms by sides, legs straight and together. Fifty iron nails, corner bracket and iron plate with mineralised wood lying at various depths suggest coffin.

Associated finds:

4 Corner bracket; wide rectangular plate bent at slightly acute angle with remains of three nails, two at one end, one at the other, opposite corner missing. Length 72 mm, max. width 72 mm (SF 34).
5 Fitting with turban-shaped end; nail through end. Part of reused hinge. Nail head 17–18 mm in diameter; shank missing Length of fitting 99 mm, max. width 50 mm (SF 84).
6 Fitting with turban-shaped end, tip damaged; nail through end. Part of reused hinge. Nail head 21 mm in diameter. Nail shank 16 mm (incomplete). Length of fitting 91 mm. Width 46 mm (SF 82).
7 Strip with nail at each end. Replaced wood on underside and around nail shanks. Max. depth 14 mm. Length 45 mm. Width *c* 17 mm (SF 42).
8 Rectangular strip with two probable nails; replaced wood on underside. Thickness of wood up to 19 mm (SF 43).
9 Fragment of plate, one corner bent round as a spike – possibly part of a dog. Replaced wood on underside. 37 × 34 mm (SF 81).
10 Fragment of nailed plate. Present length 28 mm (SF 217).

50 nails and fragments, mostly rectangular-headed and occasionally showing replaced wood, many clenched over 15–40 mm.
29 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 45 mm. Clenched over 38 mm (SF 35).
30 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 54 mm. Clenched over 37 mm (SF 36).
31 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm (SF 37).
32 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 50 mm. Clenched over 37 mm (SF 38).
33 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 47 mm (SF 39).
34 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm (SF 40).
35 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 20 mm (SF 41).
36 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 33 mm. Clenched (SF 44).
37 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm. Clenched (SF 45).
38 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 22 mm (SF 46).
39 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 40 mm (SF 47).
40 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 67 mm. Clenched over 26 mm (SF 48).
41 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 26 mm (SF 49).
42 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm (SF 50).
43 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 4 mm (SF 51).
44 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm. Clenched over 22 mm (SF 52).
45 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 26 mm (SF 53).
46 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 40 mm (SF 54).
47 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm. Clenched (SF 55).
48 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 28 mm (SF 56).
49 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm. Clenched (SF 57).
50 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 50 mm. Clenched over 34 mm (SF 58).
51 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 11 mm (SF 59).
52 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 30 mm. Clenched over 19 mm (SF 60).
53 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 15 mm (SF 61).
54 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm (SF 62).
55 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 8 mm (SF 63).
56 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 54 mm. Clenched over 32 mm (SF 64).
57 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 20 mm (SF 65).
58 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 50 mm. Clenched over 40 mm (SF 66).

59 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm. Clenched (SF 67).
60 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 20 mm. (SF 68).
61 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm (SF 69).
62 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 38 mm (SF 71).
63 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 34 mm. Clenched over 20 mm (SF 72).
64 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 48 mm. Clenched over 20 mm (SF 73).
65 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 14 mm. Clenched (SF 74).
66 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 30 mm. Clenched over 15 mm (SF 75).
67 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 20 mm (SF 76).
68 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 40 mm (SF 77).
69 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm. Replaced wood (SF 78).
70 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 17 mm. Replaced wood (SF 79).
71 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 17 mm. Replaced wood (SF 80).
72 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 45 mm (SF 83).
73 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 32 mm (SF 85).
74 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm. Replaced wood (SF 86).
75 Rectangular-headed. Maximum length 48 mm. Clenched over 40 mm (SF 336).
76 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 18 mm (SF 336).
77 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 31 mm. Replaced wood (SF 336).
78 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 31 mm. Replaced wood (SF 336).

Grave 1014 *(Fig. 2.16)*

Rectangular, 0.65 m × 1.85 m × 0.62 m deep. Prone male adult, 50+ years, good. 341°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Upper arms by sides, forearms beneath stomach, legs together, right foot over left ankle.

Grave 1015 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.7 m × 2.0 in × 0.5 m deep. On left side, female ? adult, 40+ years, good. 358°, resting on left shoulder with skull facing east. Arms by sides, pelvis supine, legs together and slightly bent. Higher proportion of brown earth around body than in remainder of grave fill.

Grave 1017 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.5 m × 2.0 m × 0.4 m deep. Supine female adult, 50+ years, good. 6°. Skull facing left shoulder, arms by sides, legs straight and together.

Grave 1018 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.6 m × 2.2 m × 0.5 m deep. Decapitated, on left side, legs semi-flexed, male, 18–22 years, good. 350°, skull beneath right knee resting on left cheek facing south-east, upper arms by sides, lower arms left over right wrist, legs together and bent up 45°. Space for head left as a void in the top of the grave and 0.6 m left void at the foot of the grave, partly filled with brown earth.

Grave 1019 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.7 m × 1.5 m × 0.2 m deep. On left side, legs semi-flexed, child, 7–8 years, partial. 346°, laid on left side in a semi-crouched position facing east. Arms by sides, legs together and bent through 45°. One fragment of Romano-British pottery in the upper filling of the grave.

Grave 1020 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.3 m × 0.4 m deep. Supine male adult, 35–40 years, partial. 358°, skull and shoulders twisted to face eastwards. Body laid against west side of the grave pit, left arm straight, hand 0.15 m in front of body, legs together and slightly flexed.

Grave 1022 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.0 m × 0.34 m deep. Supine male adult, 50+ years, good. 354°, skull on left cheek facing eastwards. Arms by sides but flexed with hands by respective shoulders, legs together and slightly flexed to the east.

Grave 1023 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Rectangular, 0.85 m × 2.22 m × 0.22 m. Supine male adult, 50+ years, good. 349°, skull on left cheek facing east. Left arm by side, right forearm across abdomen with hand on left hip, legs straight and parallel.

Grave 1024 *(Fig. 2.17)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.5 m × 0.8 m × 0.10 m deep. Supine infant, 1–3 months, slight. 8°, body twisted slightly facing east. Skull fragmentary, left arm straight, left forearm crossed over abdomen, legs together, slightly flexed to the east.

Grave 1025 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.15 m × 0.4 m deep. Prone female adult, 30–35 years, partial. 349°, skull on left cheek facing east. Right arm by side and bent up with hand by shoulder, left upper arm by side with forearm beneath abdomen, legs straight and together. Lines of dark soil either side of the skeleton suggested the outline of a coffin.

Grave 1026 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.95 m × 1.95 m × 0.5 m deep. Supine decapitated female adult, 35–40 years, good. 360°, skull resting on left cheek facing east between the feet and the end of the grave pit. Upper arms by sides, hands over hips, legs together and flexed slightly to the east.

Grave 1027 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.0 m × 0.5 m deep. Supine female adult, 40+ years, good. 4°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Right shoulder propped against conglomerate protrusion on west side of grave, upper arms by sides, forearms crossed over stomach, legs straight and together.

Grave 1029 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.1 m × 0.4 m deep. Supine male adult, 50+ years, good. 349°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Upper arms by sides, hands over hips, legs straight and together. Extraneous human bones in the lower grave filling adjacent to upper trunk.

Grave 1037 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.2 m × 0.35 m deep. Supine, turned slightly to left, male adult, 40–50 years, good. 355°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Laid against west side of the grave pit, the trunk slightly twisted to face east, arms in front of body, right arm bent up, left arm by side but slightly flexed, legs straight and together.

Grave 1039 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.15 m × 0.6 m deep. Supine, turned slightly to left, male adult, 40+ years, good. 348°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Trunk propped against the west side of the grave pit twisted slightly to the east, upper arms by sides, right lower arm across abdomen, left lower arm flexed outwards, legs straight and together.

Grave 1040 *(Fig. 2.18)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.2 m × 0.6 m deep. Supine male? adult, 30–35 years, good. 358°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Body laid against west side of the grave pit, left arm flexed, hand on hip, right forearm over abdomen, legs parallel and straight, foot turned towards the east.

Grave 1041 *(Figs 2.19 and 2.25)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 1.95 m × 0.5 m deep. Supine female adult, 40+ years, good. 349°. Skull tilted towards left shoulder, facing south-east, arms by sides, legs straight and together.

Associated finds:

134 Polished bone pin with a ball head. Length 90 mm (SF 208).

Grave 1042 *(Figs 2.19 and 2.25)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.64 m × 1.55 m × 0.35 m deep. Prone child, 6–7 years, partial. 348°, skull face down twisted slightly to face east. Arms by sides, legs straight and together. Dark outline stain of decayed coffin accompanied by four coffin nails, one at each corner. Shale bracelet, copper alloy bracelet and bluish green glass beads by and partly beneath left shoulder. Group of iron hobnails by right foot.

Associated finds:

1 Copper alloy bracelet with flattened terminals decorated with impressed dots. Maximum width 63.5 mm. Thickness 3.5 mm, terminals 6.5 mm (SF 140).

135 Small shale bracelet with sub-circular section and incised rope decoration around outside. Diameter 54 mm, thickness 5–6 mm (SF 139).

85 small transparent and translucent glass beads of three types (SF 111, 115–135, 141–150, 152–204):

(i) 52 conical shaped and of transparent blue colour. Length 5 mm.

(ii) 25 conical, cylindrical or with square sections, of translucent blue-green (turquoise) colour or a mixed blue-green and yellow-green colour. Some are roughly made with irregular extensions. Length 5 mm.

(iii) 8 annular, conical or square-sectioned, of translucent yellow-green colour. Length 4 mm.

c 56 iron hobnails (SF 2)

Ten iron nail fragments, including two rectangular-headed, some with replaced wood and two indicating a board 27 mm thick (79–88)

79 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 24 mm (SF 95).

80 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 31 mm (SF 96).

81 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 45 mm. Replaced wood (SF 98).

82 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 24 mm. Replaced wood. (SF 99).

83 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 46 mm (SF 100).

84 Fragmentary. Maximum length 70 mm. Replaced wood – board. Maximum thickness 27 mm (SF 103).

85 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 45 mm. Replaced wood – board. Maximum thickness 27 mm (SF 104).

86 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm. Replaced wood (SF 105).

87 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 27 mm. Replaced wood (SF 106).

88 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 34 mm. Replaced wood (SF 110).

Grave 1043 *(Fig. 2.19)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.85 m × 2.20 m × 0.53 m deep. Supine male adult, 50+ years, good. 346°. Skull tilted towards left shoulder, right hand over left thigh, left arm by side, legs straight and together.

Grave 1044 *(Fig. 2.19)*

Rectangular, 1.0 m × 2.3 m × 0.3 m deep. Supine male adult, 40–50 years, good. 282°. Skull tilted slightly towards right shoulder, arms straight, hands over pelvic area, legs straight and together. Two iron coffin nails associated with areas of dark soil above body. Possibly two associated postholes.

Associated finds:

89 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 65 mm (SF 15).

90 Fragmentary iron nail. Length 85 mm. Clenched. Replaced wood (SF 25).

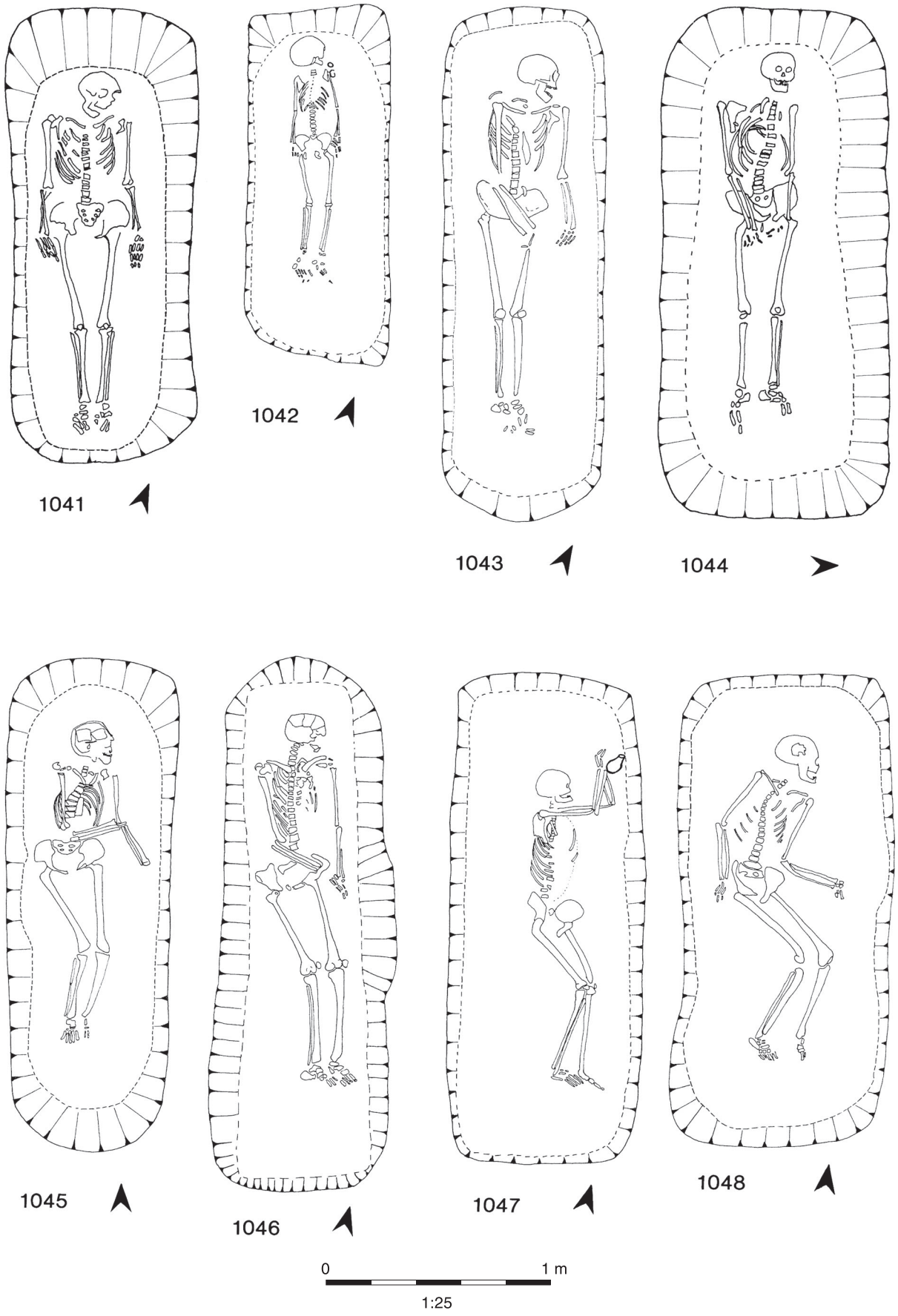

Figure 2.19 Romano-British inhumations 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048.

Grave 1045 *(Fig. 2.19)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.86 m × 2.15 m × 0.6 m deep. Supine male adult, 50+ years, partial. 5°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm straight at 30° to body, right forearm across stomach with hand on left elbow, legs straight and together.

Grave 1046 *(Fig. 2.19)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.35 m × 0.46 m deep. Supine female adult, 40+ years, partial. 349°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm by side, right arm across body with hand on left hip, legs straight and together.

Grave 1047 *(Figs 2.19 and 2.23)*

Rectangular, 0.85 m × 2.2 m × 0.45 m deep. Supine, on left side, female adult, 40+ years. 346°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Although supine whole body turned slightly to the east, upper arms extended horizontally towards the east, arms bent 90° at elbows with forearms in front of skull and hands by small pottery beaker, legs slightly flexed. Oxford product colour-coated pottery beaker by hands.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker, similar to C29, AD 270–360 or C106, undated. (Young 1977, 54, fig. 55, 174, fig. 66). Diagonal comb-stamping

Grave 1048 *(Fig. 2.19)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.9 m × 2.05 m × 0.4 m deep. Supine female adult, 40+ years, partial. 355°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Both arms flexed along contour of body, legs slightly flexed.

Associated finds:

Flint flake, probably intrusive

Grave 1049 *(Figs 2.20 and 2.23, Pl. 2.4)*

Rectangular, 0.6 m × 1.95 in × 0.45 in deep. Prone female adult, 35–40 years, good. 352°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm beside body with lower arm bent up beneath upper arm, right arm arranged at 30° to body with lower arm bent up and hand by pottery beaker. Oxford product colour-coated pottery beaker by right hand.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coated beaker, similar in form to C31, ? AD 300–400 or C108 undated (Young 1977, 154, fig. 56, 174, fig. 66).

This beaker deserves a full description as the impressed decoration appears to be unique. The vessel is similar to the fragments of C31 and C108 published in Young's corpus in having circular indentations of varying size around the circumference (five in this case), but three other decorative motifs appear in random patterns between the dimples and scattered over the neck. The most obvious is the stamped cross-in-circle motif which is quite unlike the rosette stamps commonly found on late Roman colour-coated vessels, though perhaps in that tradition; these are arranged in irregular groups of 3–5 stamps between the dimples. Comb-stamping (found on type C108 between the dimples) is sometimes combined with these circular stamps but is here also found on the neck in no apparent pattern. The third type, triangular stabbed impressions, is less frequent and seems to appear only with one group of the circular stamps; this type has not previously been recorded in Oxford red/brown colour-coated vessels. The colour-coat is very dark brown (unlike the other beakers from the site which are variations on a red/brown colour) and its manufacturing technique is obviously the same as its fellows although it is not quite so well made. The unusual stamped decoration suggests a date after AD 350 (cf Young 1977, 132) if not even later.

Fragments of a similar vessel were recorded from a late context at Barton Court Farm, although only the comb-stamping is present between the indentations. A beaker from Reading of similar appearance and dimensions is published by May (1916, 124, no. 89, plates LII and LIII) although it lacks the random circular stamps and ladder decoration.

Grave 1050 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.8 m × 1.85 m × 0.45 m deep. Supine male adult, 40+ years, good. 3°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm slightly flexed outwards with hand beneath left pelvis, right lower arm across stomach with hand above left pelvis, legs straight and parallel.

Grave 1052 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.9 m × 0.55 m × 0.26 m deep. Child, *c* 2 years, partial. 344°. Laid on its left side with legs semi-flexed, arms to east of body, right arm flexed, left arm straight, legs together and flexed with knees drawn up by hands.

Grave 1071 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Rectangular, 0.3 m × 0.8 m × 0.2 m deep. Supine infant, 4–6 months, slight, 256°, skull fragmentary but probably facing north. Right arm parallel to body, left upper arms parallel to body, left lower arm bent up across chest so that hand rests on right shoulder, legs straight and together.

Grave 1090 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.5 m × 1.2 m × 0.25 m deep. Supine child, 2–4 years, partial. 257°. Skull tipped forward so that chin rests on left side of chest, arms straight and by sides, legs straight and together.

Grave 1091 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.4 m × 0.8 m × 0.2 m deep. Infant, 4–5 months, very slight. *C* 270°. Traces of skull and legs only.

Grave 1092 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Rectangular, 0.7 m × 2.0 m × ?m deep. Supine female adult, 30–35 years, good. 263°, skull resting on left cheek facing south. Upper arms by sides with hands over pelvic area, legs straight and together. One iron coffin nail.

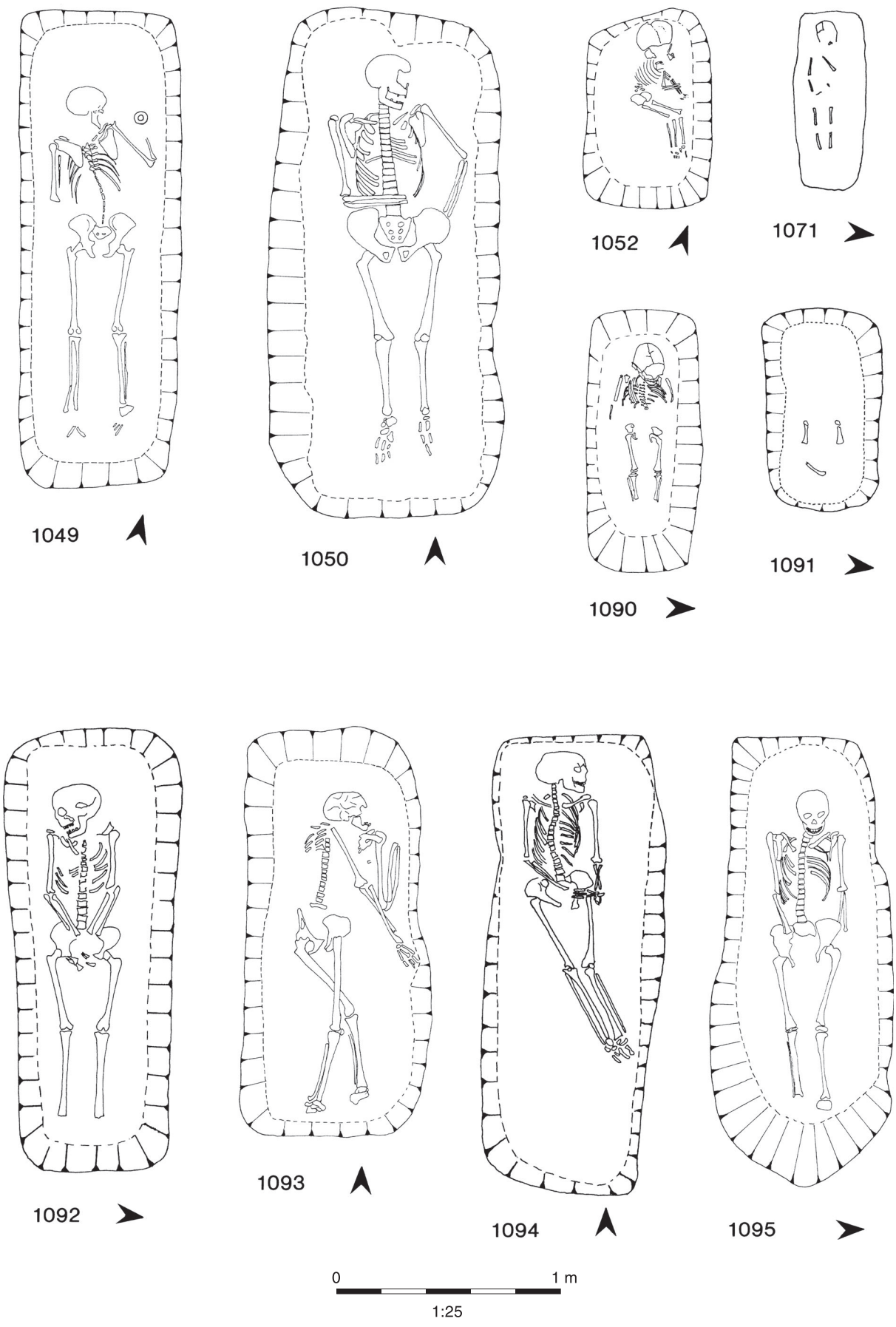

Figure 2.20 Romano-British inhumations 1049, 1050, 1052, 1071, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095.

Associated finds:

91 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 21 mm (SF 322)

Grave 1093 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.75 m × 1.85 m × 0.26 m deep. Prone female adult, 40–50 years, good. 3°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Right upper arm by side with lower arm bent back up with hand by shoulder, left arm laid straight, passing beneath body at an angle with hand on east side of grave pit, legs crossed right over left.

Grave 1094 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.75 m × 2.1 m × 0.45 m deep. Supine female adult, 35–40 years, good. 30°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm straight by side, right upper arm by side, hand over pelvic area, legs straight and together but at an angle across the grave pit. Large apparently unused area at foot of the grave pit.

Grave 1095 *(Fig. 2.20)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.75 m × 2.0 m × 0.4 m deep. Supine female adult, 35–40 years, good. 274°. Skull lying face upwards, lower jaw dropped and resting on the neck, arms straight and parallel to body, right hand resting on the pelvis, left hand below pelvis, legs straight and together. Four iron coffin nails.

Associated finds:

92 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 23 mm (SF 70).
93 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 26 mm (SF 326).
94 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm. Replaced wood (SF 338).
95 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 27 mm (SF 338).

Grave 1096 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Rectangular, 0.85 m × 2 m × 0.45 m deep. Supine male adult, 40+ years, partial. 353°, skull resting on left cheek facing east. Left arm straight at 30° to body, right arm slightly flexed across chest with hand by left elbow, legs slightly flexed, apart and almost parallel.

Grave 1097 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.63 m × 2.25 m × 0.3 m deep. Decapitated supine female adult, 40–50 years, good. 352°, skull lying on left cheek facing east. Body lying close to west side of grave, skull, decapitated, placed beneath upper right leg, left arm by side, right upper arm by side with forearm across stomach, hand on left forearm, legs together with knees slightly flexed to the east. Soil against the skeleton a dark reddish brown loam possibly produced by a decayed coffin.

Grave 1098 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.7 m × 1.95 m × 0.65 m deep. Supine male adult, 50+ years, good. 262°. Skull tipped forward with jaw resting on the left clavicle, upper arms by sides, hands over right hip, legs straight and together. Two iron nails present in the grave filling suggest a coffin.

Associated finds:

96 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 33 mm. Replaced wood – board. Surviving thickness 22 mm (SF 102).
97 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 42 mm. Replaced wood (SF 108).

Grave 1099 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.3 m × 0.55 m × 0.5 m deep. Supine infant, 2–4 months, slight. 280°. Fragments of skull, left arm, ribs, spine, pelvis and upper legs remained.

Grave 1100 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Sub-rectangular, 0.35 m × 0.75 m × 0.1 m deep. Supine infant, 9–12 months, slight, 240°, crushed skull lying on left cheek facing north. Fragmentary arms by sides, legs together with knees slightly flexed to the north.

Grave 1102 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Rectangular, 0.8 m × 2.0 m × 0.54 m deep. Supine female adult, 40–50 years, partial. 273°, skull turned slightly to the north? Upper arms by sides, left hand beneath pelvis, right hand over left hip, legs straight and together.

Grave 1103 *(not illustrated)*

Fragmentary remains of infant, *c* 6 months. 270°. Fragments of skull and long bones remaining.

Grave 1213 *(not illustrated)*

Sub-rectangular shallow grave-like indentation in the surface of the gravel immediately south of and parallel to the child inhumation 1103. The loam filling contained traces of bone. Probable infant burial heavily affected by animal burrow.

Grave 3518 *(Fig. 2.21)*

An isolated sub-rectangular grave pit 0.65 m × 1.8 m × 0.3 m deep. Supine, turned slightly to left, male, adult, 45+ years, good. 3°, skull resting on left side facing east. Body laid in grave pit against west side tilting the trunk to face slightly east. Right hand on pelvis, left hand in front of pelvis, right leg straight, left leg slightly flexed.

Grave 3521 *(Fig. 2.21)*

An isolated sub-rectangular grave pit 0.63 m × 1.52 m × 0.13 m deep. Supine unsexed adolescent, 12–14 years, good. 355°, skull on left side facing south-east. Body laid against west edge of grave tilting the body slightly to face east. Upper arms by sides, hands in front of pelvis, legs together and slightly flexed.

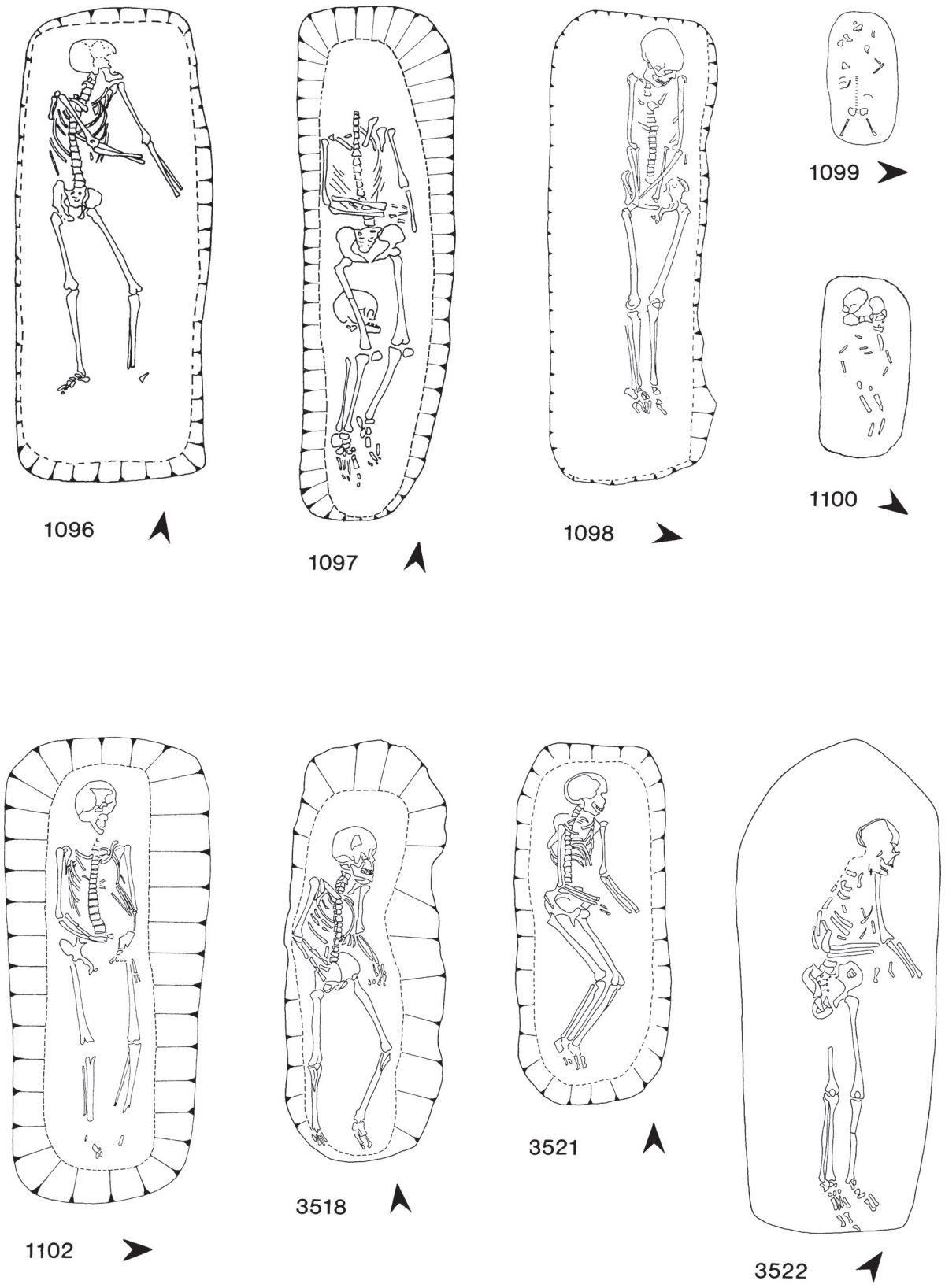

Figure 2.21 Romano-British inhumations 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1102, 3518, 3521, 3522.

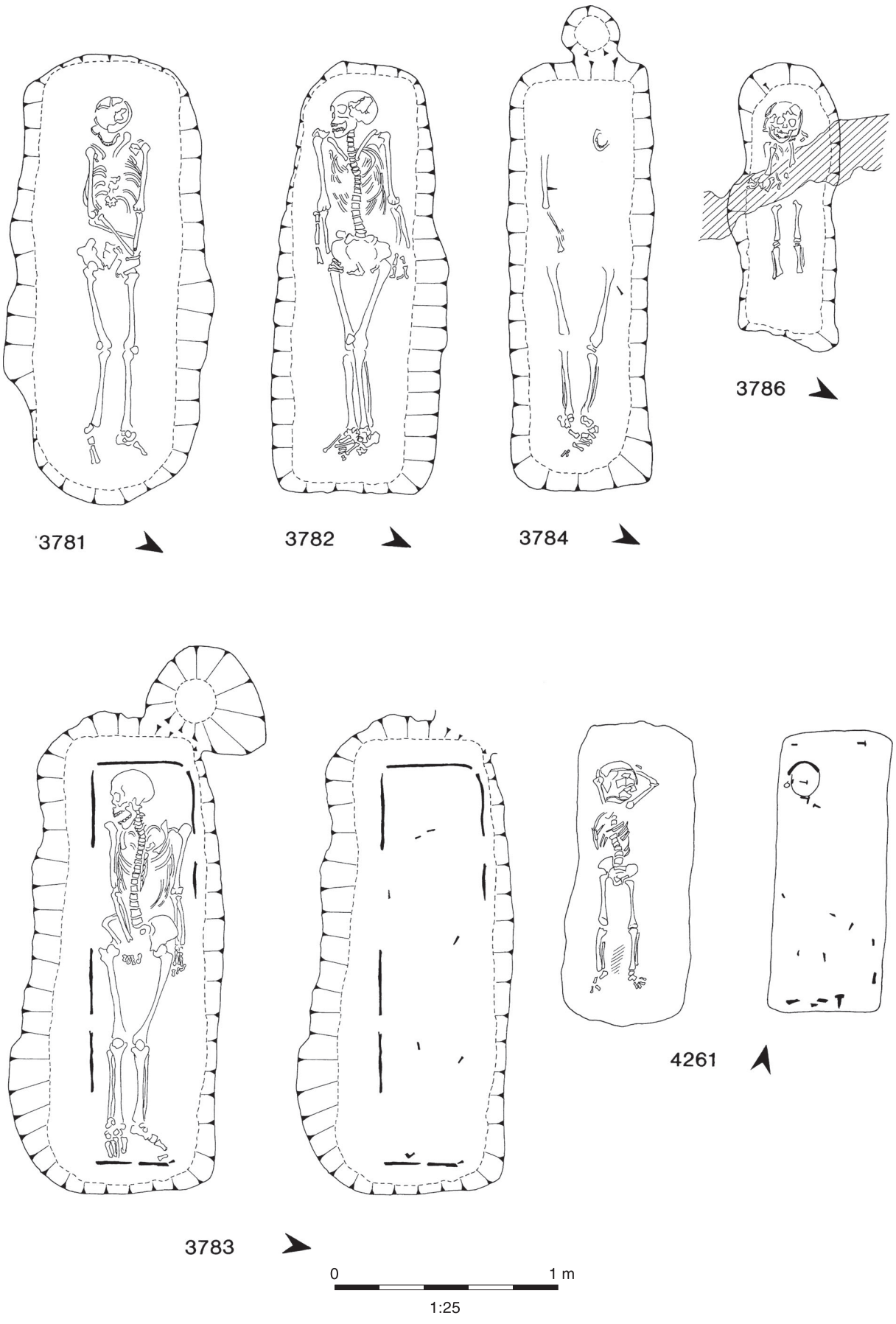

Figure 2.22 Romano-British inhumations 3781, 3782, 3783, 3784, 3786, 4261.

Grave 3522 *(Fig. 2.21)*

Sub-rectangular grave pit approximately 0.8 m × 2.1 m × 0.2 m deep. On left side, male adult, 35–40 years, good. 340°, skull and trunk lying on left side facing south-east. Upper arms by sides but lower left arm and hand extending away from body against edge of pit, legs parallel and straight. A tooth lay on the left pelvis and one iron nail by the right hand side of the lower jaw.

Associated finds:

100 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 23 mm (SF 1035).

Grave 3781 *(Fig. 2.22)*

One of an isolated group of five burials. Sub-rectangular grave pit, 0.9 m × 2.02 m × 0.45 m deep. Supine male adult, 35–40 years, good. 255°. Skull rolled backwards, neck uppermost but lower jaw resting in a normal position over the neck vertebrae, upper arms by sides, both hands over pelvis, legs together and straight.

Grave 3782 *(Fig. 2.22)*

One of an isolated group of five burials. Sub-rectangular grave pit 0.76 m × 1.93 m × 0.36 m deep. Supine female adult, 40+ years, good. 259°, skull lying on right side facing south. Arms by sides, legs together.

Grave 3783 *(Fig. 2.22)*

One of an isolated group of five burials. Sub-rectangular grave pit, 0.87 m × 2.17 m × 0.60 m deep. Supine male adult. 35–40 years, good. 271°, skull resting on right side facing south. Arms straight, right hand over pelvic area, left hand by side, legs straight and together. Coffin visible as a light grey silty stain in the sandy soil filling. Seven iron nails around and beneath body. A large post pit which cut the north-west comer of this grave may have been a later, unrelated feature.

Associated finds:

101 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm (SF 1054).
102 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 47 mm. Clenched (SF 1055).
103 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 37 mm (SF 1056).
104 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 32 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1057).
105 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 10 mm (SF 1058).
106 Missing (SF 1059).
107 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 15 mm (SF 1060).

Grave 3784 *(Fig. 2.22)*

One of an isolated group of five burials. Sub-rectangular grave pit 0.66 m × 1.95 m × 0.3 m deep. Supine female? adult, 40+ years, 255°. Remains of lower mandible lying off centre, right arm by side with hand over hip (hand bones missing), legs straight and parallel, feet together. Remainder of skeleton including skull, trunk, pelvis and right arm absent. Two iron nails by right upper arm and left thigh suggest wooden coffin. A posthole 0.3 m in diameter at the head of the grave pit may or may not have been contemporary.

Associated finds:

108 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 62 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1062).
109 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 65 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1063).

Grave 3786 *(Fig. 2.22)*

One of an isolated group of five burials. Sub-rectangular grave pit 0.47 m × 1.22 m × 0.14 m deep. Supine child, 2.5–5 years, remains disturbed by animal burrow cutting across centre of grave. 257°. Skull facing upwards, upper arms by sides, lower arms and trunk disturbed, legs straight and parallel, feet missing. Single iron nail suggests coffin.

Associated finds:

110 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 23 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1061).

Grave 4261 *(Fig. 2.22)*

An isolated grave. Sub-rectangular grave pit 0.54 m × 1.35 m × 0.15 m deep. Supine child, 6–7 years, good. 355°, skull collapsed along sutures and facing west. Arms either side of head, hands behind head pillowing skull, legs straight and parallel. Outline of coffin distinguishable as red-brown loam around body contrasted against dirty gravel packing outside coffin and 19 iron nails with mineralised wood. Over 40 hobnails indicated shoes placed between the legs. Traces of a circular iron feature *c* 160 mm in diameter, possibly the handle and top hoop from a bucket, were recorded on plan above the body but the object was too friable to be lifted without consolidation.

Associated finds:

111 Missing (SF 1106).
112 Missing (SF 1107).
113 Round-headed nail. Maximum length 30 mm (SF 1108).
114 Fragmentary iron. Surviving length 46 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1109)
115 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 30 mm (SF 1110).
116 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 26 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1111).
117 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm (SF 1112).
118 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 40 mm (SF 1113).
119 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 24 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1114).
120 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 50 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1115).
121 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 28 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1116).
122 Rectangular-headed iron nail. Maximum length 29 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1117).
123 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 5 mm (SF 1118).
124 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 52 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1119).
125 Fragmentary iron nail. Maximum length 29 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1120).

126 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 35 mm. Replaced wood. (SF 1121).
127 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 32 mm (SF 1122).
128 Round-headed iron nail. Surviving length 24 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1123).
129 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 36 mm. Replaced wood (SF 1125).

3 *c* 40 hobnails

Cremations (Figs 2.26–8)

In this inventory each burial retains the context number allocated to it during the excavation, eg 1058. These context numbers do not run consecutively (Figs 2.2–3). A separate burial number has not been assigned. This inventory follows the conventions described at the beginning of this volume.

Cremation 1001 *(Fig. 2.26)*

Possible remains of cremation in topsoil.

Small Oxford red/brown colour-coated vessel. A possible parallel may be the miniature beaker Young C102 (Young 1977, 174 fig. 66) but the form of the rim and narrow neck suggests a small globular flask, of a type not found in Young's corpus, though perhaps a miniature of a form such as C16.1 (Young 1977, fig 54). Burnt.

Associated with this vessel were fragments of a coarse ware jar in fabric 15, shell-tempered fabric.

Cremation 1004 *(Fig. 2.27)*

Located in the southern end of the inhumation cemetery at the junction between the north-south graves and a group of west-east burials (Fig. 2.12). Cremated bone placed in a grey ware vessel. The remains of a 3rd- to 4th-century Oxford red colour-coated beaker lay on the south-east side of the grave and a small fossil sea urchin was found in soil at the base of the pit. The fossil may have been residual, derived from the local limestone. The pit bottom cut 0.1 m into the gravel terrace. Ploughing had shattered both pottery vessels and an unknown amount of cremated bone was lost. The pit had been dug down to a hard layer of concreted limestone which appears to have limited the depth of the pit.

Associated finds:

Base of Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker, probably form C24 (Young 1977, 152, fig. 55, AD 270–400), with a single row of rouletting around the body.
Grey ware jar (fabric 2), form R38 (Young 1977, 219, fig. 80, 1st–4th centuries AD).

Cremation 1006 *(Fig. 2.27)*

Located within a small pit cutting the north-east corner of the burial enclosure 1217 (Fig. 2.12). Fragmentary plough-damaged remains of two vessels were scattered over an area 0.6 m × 0.4 m. Both vessels were presumably buried in the same pit. These remains probably represent a burial pit cutting into the filling of the burial enclosure ditch 1217, with two vessels surviving as fragments in the base of the medieval ploughsoil. Both pots contained ashes, and there were also some ashes which may have come from either or both pots. At least two people are represented, a child and an adolescent or adult. The remains were originally deposited in a shallow pit which stopped at the surface of the gravel. Plough damage occurred during the formation of the open field system but the surviving fragments were ploughed only once or twice before the increasing height of the ridge protected them from further damage.

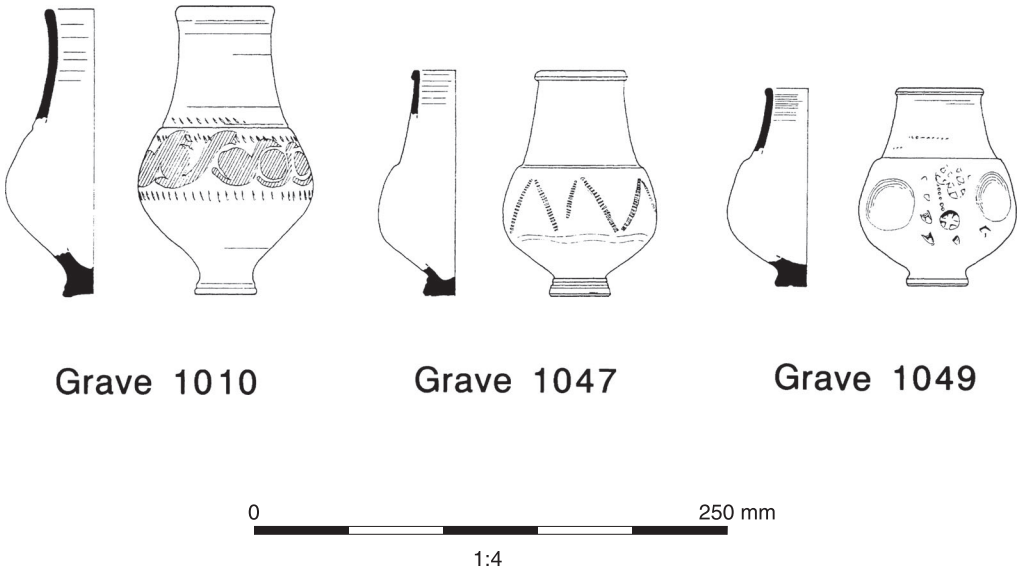

Figure 2.23 Pottery beakers from graves 1010, 1047, 1049 (1:4).

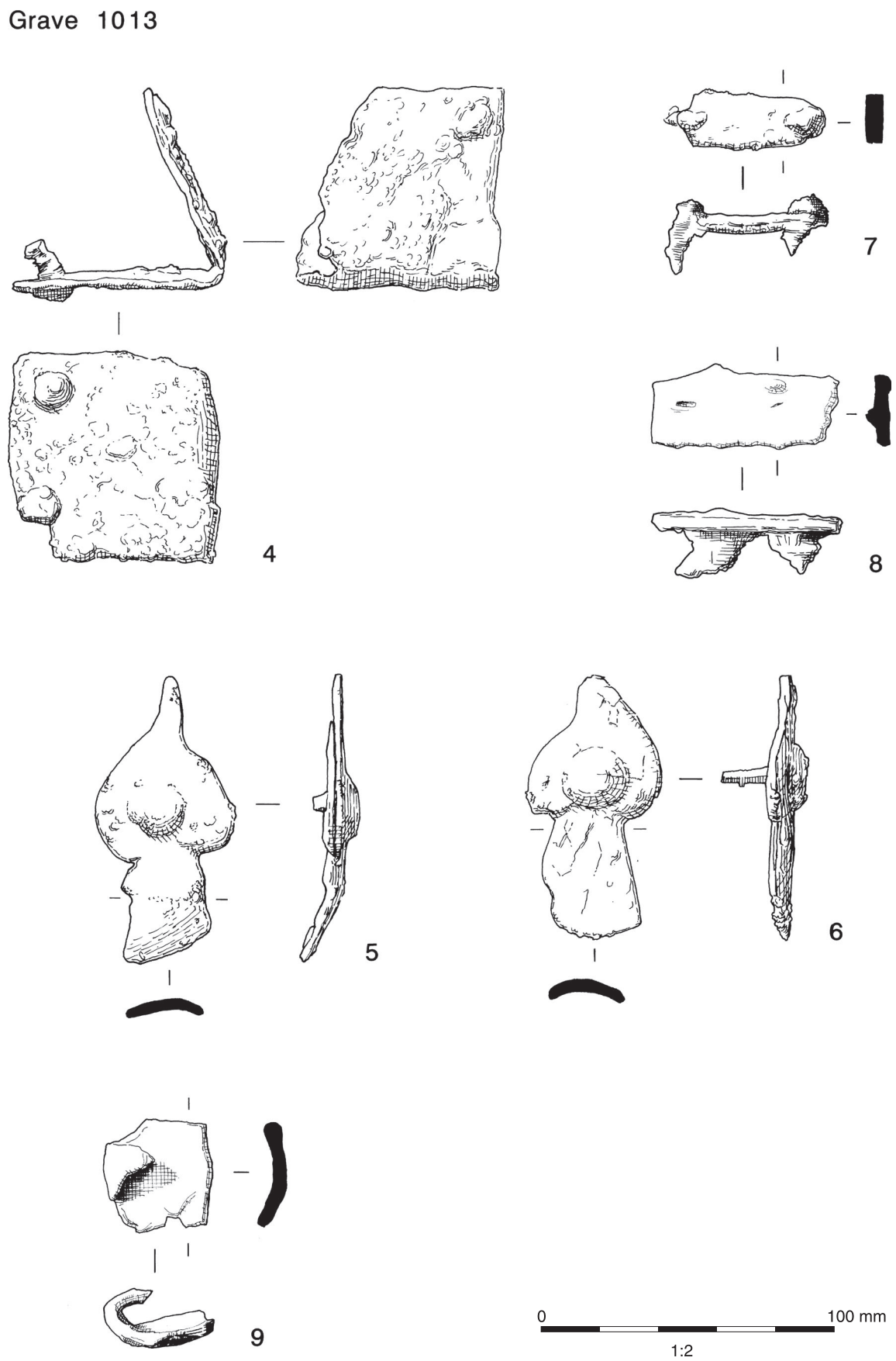

Figure 2.24 Iron fittings from grave 1013.

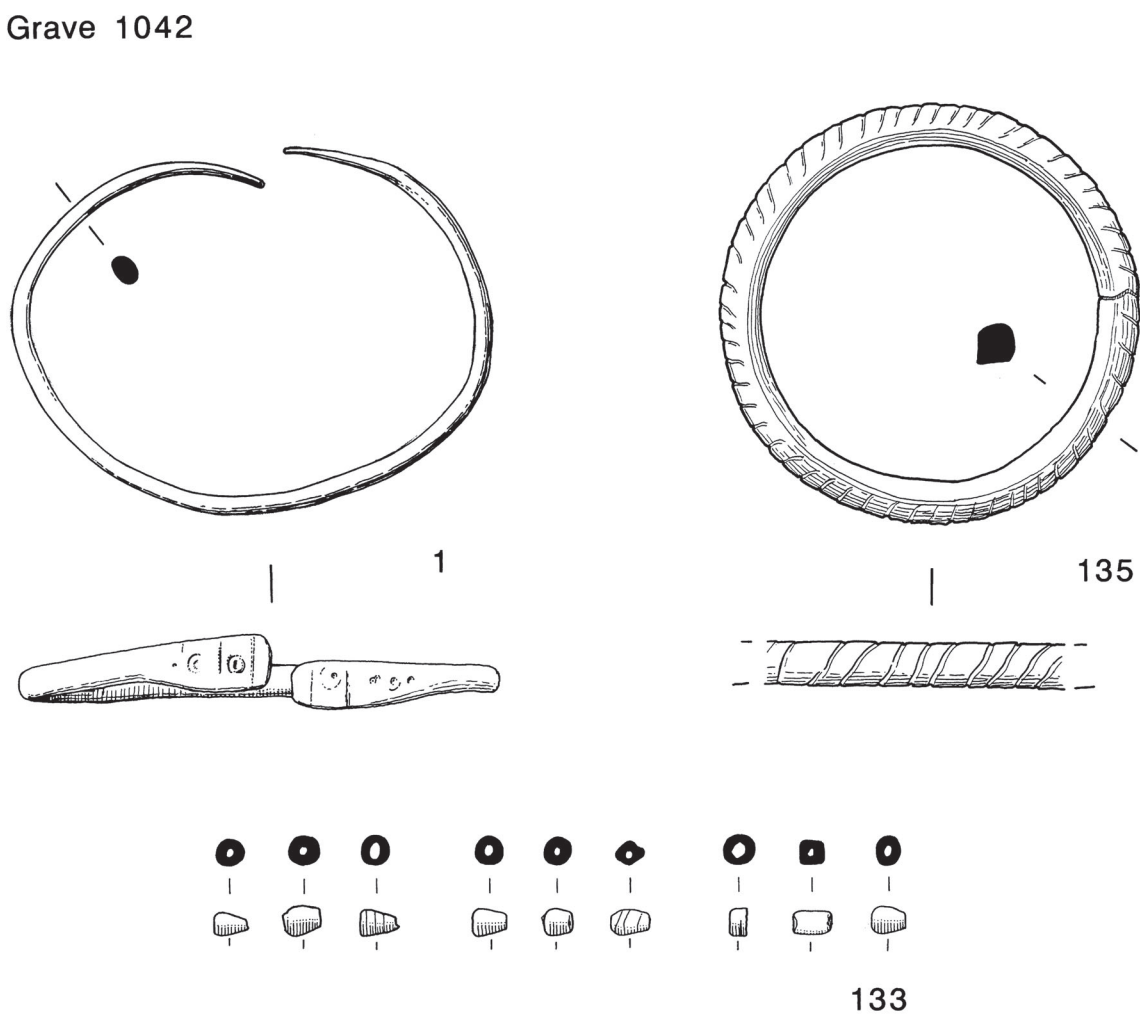

Figure 2.25 Bone pin from grave 1041; copper alloy bracelet, shale bracelet and selected glass beads from a necklace from grave 1042.

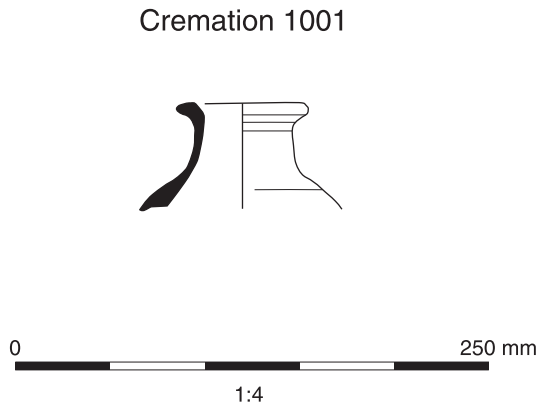

Figure 2.26 Pottery beaker from 1001, probable cremation in ploughsoil (1:4).

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker, probably form C23 (compare examples from topsoil and 1007, AD 270–400).
Base of shell-tempered jar (fabric 15).

Cremation 1007 (*Fig. 2.27*)

The central cremation burial within the square enclosure ditch 1217 with which it is presumably contemporary. The enclosure lies midway along this north-south linear cemetery on the western flank (Figs 2.12–13). North-south burials immediately to the south appear to respect the enclosure. The burial comprised a deformed grey ware pottery beaker within a larger grey ware jar placed in a more or less square pit cutting 0.2 m into the gravel. No plough damage. Both vessels contained bones of adults, and cremated bone also occurred in patches within the soil around the grey ware jar. It is possible that only one person is represented, distributed in two pots. A strong nuchal crest on a skull fragment suggests that one or the only person may have been male. Some of the pieces in the second pot were black or grey rather than being completely calcined, suggesting that cremation was not very efficient. The patches in the soil may have been secondary cremations deposited around the vessel, they may be residual from a previous cremation or they may represent the aftermath of the burrowing rodents which had substantially altered the outline of the burial pit, with two small scatters of cremated bone visible on the surface. The two fragmentary nails suggested that this burial may have originally been placed within a wooden casket.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker, probably form C23 (Young 1977, 152, fig. 55, AD 270–400). The vessel is overfired and distorted. It is possible that this beaker was burnt with the body whose cremated bones surrounded it inside the grey ware jar. The beaker was found intact though with many hairline cracks and fell apart as the cremation urn was excavated.
Grey ware jar (fabric 2). Form R24 as 1004. 1st-4th centuries AD.

11 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 29 mm (SF 330). Not illustrated

12 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 25 mm (SF 335). Not illustrated

Cremation 1203 (*Fig. 2.27*)

Located 3.0 m north-west of the burial enclosure 1217 (Figure 2.12). 4th-century shell tempered ware pottery jar containing calcined bones, placed in a circular pit cutting 0.06 m into the gravel. Upper portion of this burial deposit ploughed away with the lower part of the vessel *in situ* but broken. Some calcined bone appeared to have suffered redeposition within an animal burrow 1205 and associated nesting chamber to the east.

Associated finds:

4th-century shell-tempered ware pottery jar. Not illustrated

Cremation 1208 (*Fig. 2.28*)

Located 3.0 m north-west of the burial enclosure 1217 beside cremation burial 1203 (Fig. 2.12). Base of a subcircular burial pit 0.4 m in diameter cutting 0.10 m into the gravel. The burial deposit had been partly destroyed by ploughing and an animal burrow. The burial pit contained the surviving lower portion of a coarse shell-tempered later 4th-century jar containing calcined bone, including some black and grey pieces which suggested that the cremation was not thorough. The presence of a fragment of bird bone which had survived cremation is of interest: cremated fowls are known in Romano-British cremation deposits and fowl skeletons have also been found in inhumation graves. Much of the cremation deposit had been lost to ploughing. An Oxford product colour-coated beaker which exhibited much wear survived the cremation pyre only to be shattered by ploughing. The beaker did not appear to contain cremated remains. Two iron nails suggested the former presence of some wooden object.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker, form C24 (Young 1977, 152, fig. 55, AD 270–400).

Shell-tempered jar. See 1001 (topsoil) and 1006.

98 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 23 mm (SF 213).
99 Round-headed iron nail. Maximum length 23 mm (SF 333).

Cremation 1218 (*Fig. 2.28*)

Within the enclosure 1217 east of the central burial lay traces of a cremation burial with several sherds of a coarse ware vessel in the base of a rabbit burrow. This appears to have been a burial pit re-excavated by a rabbit leaving only a few sherds of the former burial container. The section continued back as a series of burrows.

Associated finds:

Shell-tempered ware sherds. Not illustrated.

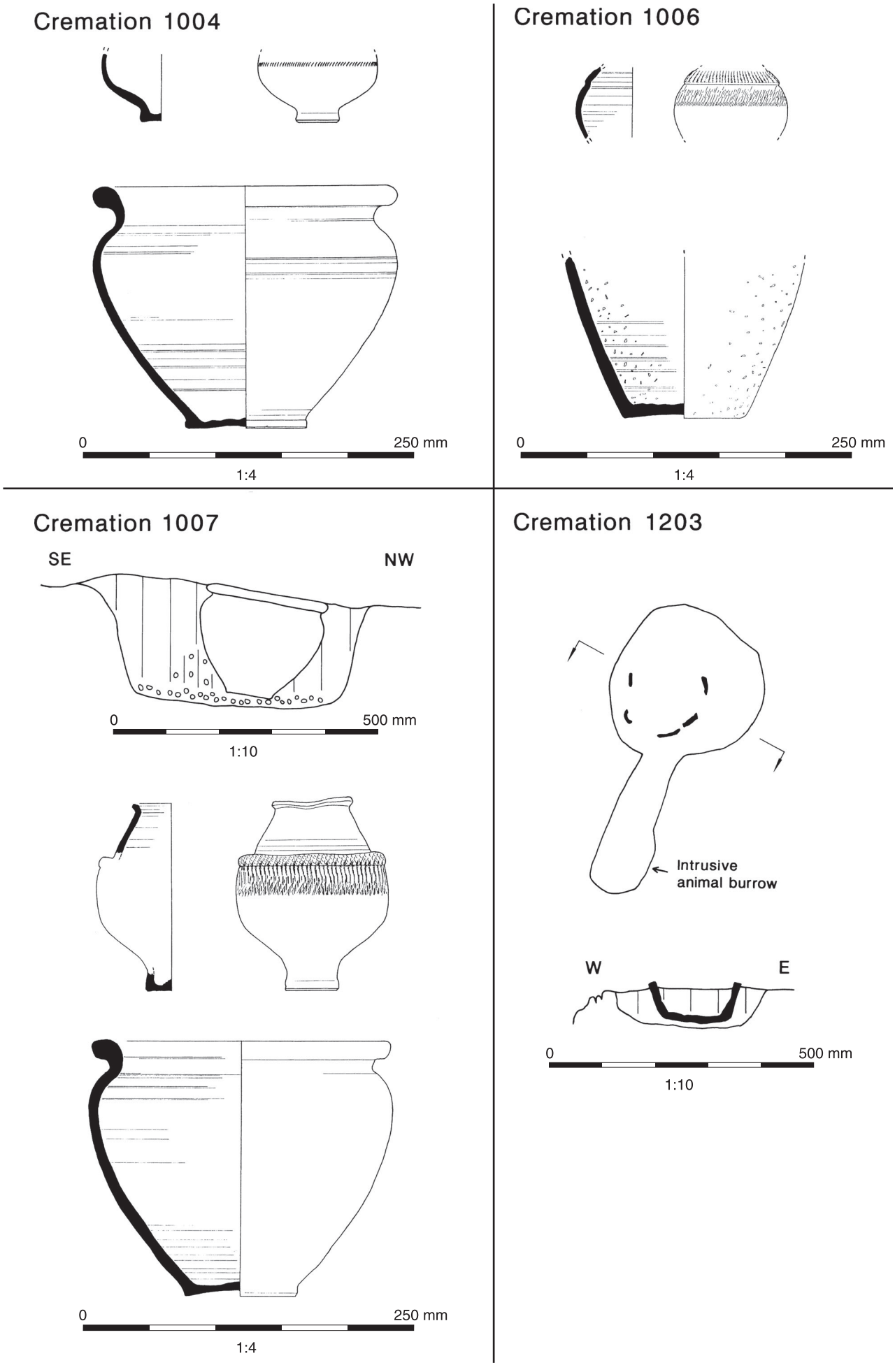

Figure 2.27 Cremation 1004, beaker and grey ware jar; cremation 1006, beaker and coarse jar; cremation 1007, section, deformed grey ware beaker and grey ware jar; cremation 1203, plan (note intrusive animal burrow) and section (pottery at 1:4).

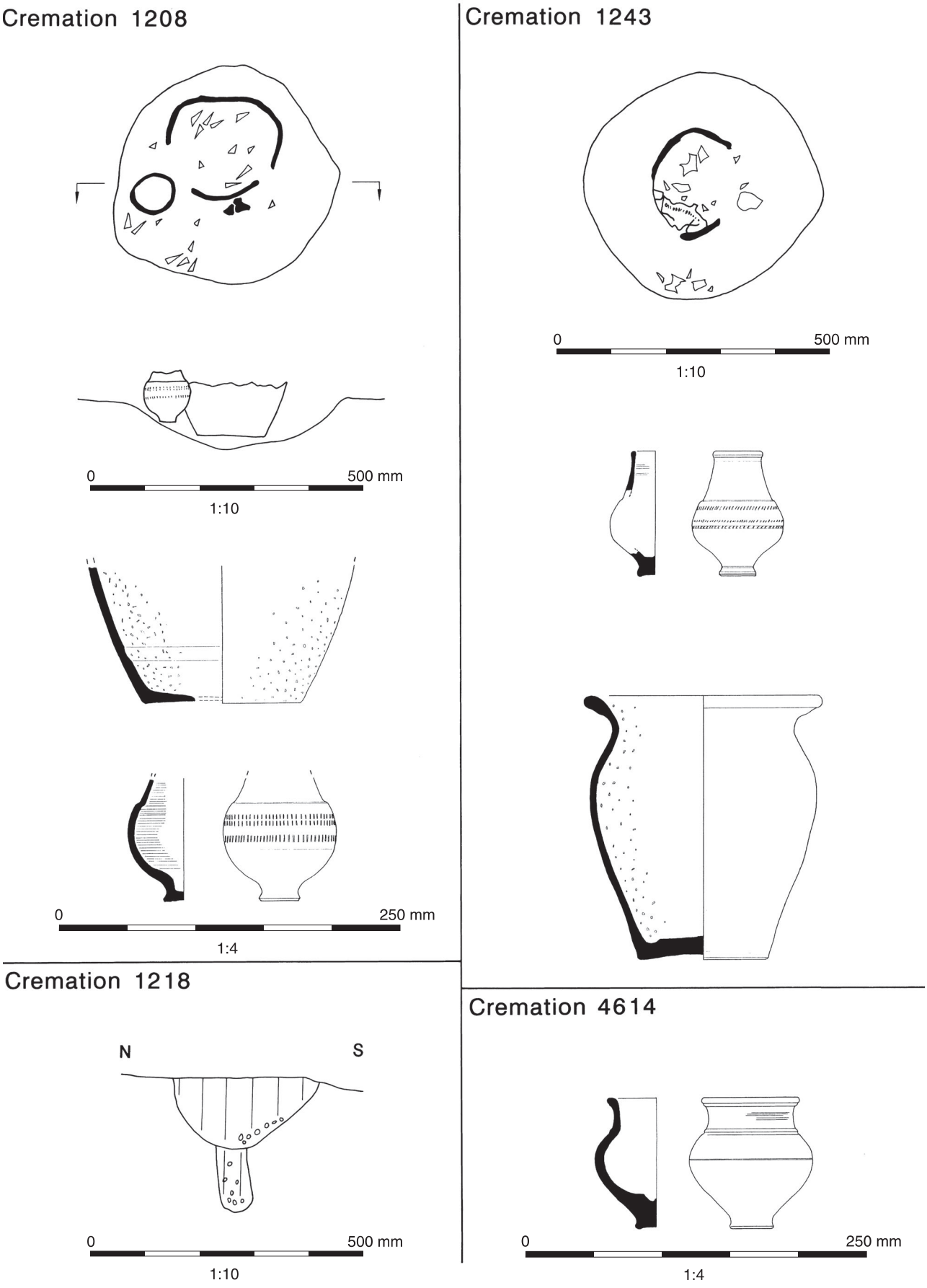

Figure 2.28 Cremation 1208, plan, section, beaker and coarse ware vessel; cremation 1218, section (note animal burrow); cremation 1243, plan, beaker and coarse ware vessel; cremation 4614, beaker (pottery at 1:4).

Cremation 1233 *(Fig. 2.12)*

Within the square enclosure 1217 west of the central burial was a pocket of cremated bone and charcoal some 0.03 m deep × 0.10 m in diameter in loam above an animal burrow. No evidence of pottery. The top of the cremation had been ploughed off. The preservation of this portion of the cremation deposit was due to the gradual subsidence of the soil into the animal burrow bringing the base of the deposit to below plough depth.

Cremation 1234 *(Fig. 2.12)*

Within the square enclosure 1217 against the east side of the central burial 1007 lay a pocket 0.05 m in diameter × 0.05 m deep of calcined bone and charcoal fragments. Like 1233 this is apparently the remains of a cremation deposit without pottery vessels or grave goods. Most of this deposit had been ploughed away.

Cremation 1235 *(Fig. 2.12)*

A collapsed animal burrow containing pottery fragments and calcined bone suggesting the remains of a plough-damaged cremation and urn transported by burrowing activity from nearby.

Cremation 1243 *(Fig. 2.28)*

Sub-circular pit 0.4 m in diameter cutting 0.22 m into the gravel. Coarse ware vessel containing calcined bone fragments. Small red colour-coated beaker placed against east side of the vessel. The colour coat was worn away around the girth and lip of the beaker before burial. Both vessels upright. Badly damaged by ploughing.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coated beaker, a miniature form C24 (see Fig. 2.28). Shell-tempered jar (fabric 15). This is the most complete example of the six coarse shell-tempered wheel-thrown vessels associated with cremations. From the published description they appear similar to late Roman vessels from Shakenoak where they are described as 'calcite-gritted' (Brodribb *et al.* 1971, 69 and 73, fig. 37, 660–668) and from Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, 7:C12, fig. 130).

Cremation 4614 *(Fig. 2.28)*

An isolated burial pit cutting 0.1 m into the gravel which contained the lower portion of a cremation deposit with ash, charcoal, calcined bone and a 4th-century colour-coated beaker. Two iron nails suggested this burial may have been placed within a wooden box.

Associated finds:

Oxford red/brown colour-coat beaker. In this fabric it is most similar to form C 102.3 but perhaps intermediate between C102 and C101 (Young 1977, 174, fig. 66). Both of these types occur in probable early 4th-century contexts in the Oxfordshire production site at Lower Farm, Nuneham Courtenay (Booth *et al.* 1993). A very close parallel for the form, however, is the grey ware type R24.5 (Young 1977, fig. 78)

130 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 22 mm (SF 1206).
131 Fragmentary iron nail. Surviving length 40 mm (SF 1207).