

# Chapter 3: The Anglo-Saxon Settlement, Structural Evidence

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## INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation excavated at Barrow Hills between 1983 and 1985. The features are listed in five gazetteers:

- 1 Post-built structures.
- 2 Sunken-featured buildings.
- 3 Anglo-Saxon inhumations.
- 4 Pits, barrow ditches and miscellaneous contexts.
- 5 Anglo-Saxon features at Barton Court Farm (published in fiche in Miles 1986).

## CONDITIONS OF SURVIVAL

The history of land use on the site has been described in Chapter 1. The soil was light and free-draining (the field was known as 'Dry Piece'), only 0.15–0.30 m thick and prone to leaching and drought. It provided an ideal habitat for burrowing animals but not an ideal environment for crops (the sample of charred grain from the Romano-British pit 411, south-east of barrow 13, was not necessarily grown on site: Moffett 1999, 246). It was probably used for grazing until it was brought under ridge and furrow cultivation in the medieval period. After the Second World War the site was intensively cultivated for cereals, and both medieval and modern ploughing had caused extensive damage to features. The Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon site at Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986), 300 m to the south-west across the Daisy Banks stream, was excavated between 1972 and 1976, and the Anglo-Saxon features are noticeably better preserved than those at Barrow Hills, which had endured an additional decade of deep ploughing. There was some evidence of erosion on the south-east of the site, towards the edge of the second terrace, and the site was crossed by at least two service trenches which disturbed SFBs 33 and 36/37. These were not planned in relation to the archaeological features during the excavation but appear on the magnetometer survey (David 1994, fig. 1; Barclay and Halpin 1999, fig. 2.2). As one might expect on a site which was apparently occupied for over a century, there was also a high level of replacement and repair of structures. All these factors, but particularly the replacement, ploughing and animal disturbance, contributed to a loss of detail and clarity which contrasts sharply with chalk sites such as Cowdery's Down (Millet and James 1983; Alcock and Walsh 1993) and Chalton (Addyman *et al.* 1972; Addyman and Leigh 1973; Walsh 1992, fig. 3). In many cases it is not possible to establish even the original dimensions of

the structures with any certainty, and the site can contribute little to the discussion of Anglo-Saxon metrology or building techniques. Fine details of construction and internal fittings have been lost, and although the excavator has stated (Chapter 1) that even small stakeholes penetrated the gravel it would appear, in some areas at least, that this was not the case, and that slighter features did not survive.

The virtual absence of postholes in the 10 m square north-east of SFB 2 is probably the result of a recording error or loss of records, as noted in Chapter 1. The absence of postholes around the outer ditch of barrow 12, on the other hand, may reflect the survival into the Anglo-Saxon period of an external bank now destroyed by ploughing. This was probably relatively slight (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 102).

## ORIGINAL EXTENT OF SETTLEMENT

The pits of the sunken-featured buildings showed up clearly as dark rectangles on the aerial photographs (Pl. 1.1, Fig. 1.4), and even the shallowest were visible. It may be possible to detect at least one such rectangle on Plate 1.1 to the south of Audlett Drive, suggesting that the settlement may have continued some distance towards the edge of the gravel terrace. The dark marks visible on this photograph on the north-east side of Audlett Drive, on the other hand, were excavated in 1985 and proved to be tree-throw holes. No further trace of Anglo-Saxon settlement was found in this direction, and the ditches of barrow 1 contained only small quantities of Anglo-Saxon material.

Deposits in the northern ditch of the oval barrow suggest that Anglo-Saxon activity continued some distance to the north, and in 1928 Leeds collected Saxon pottery from pits revealed by gravel extraction to the north of the excavated area (Avery and Brown 1972; see also Fig. 1.3). The marshy area of Daisy Banks seems to have formed the boundary of the activity at Barrow Hills to the west, and there is no aerial photographic or other evidence of activity between Daisy Banks and Barton Court Farm. The area between the Daisy Banks streams produced a possibly Saxon skeleton and Saxon pits containing rubbish which included the burnt remains of what may have been a wattle and daub structure, 5th- to 6th-century pottery and an amethyst bead of 7th-century type (Avery and Brown 1972; see Fig. 1.3). Leeds collected Saxon pottery from gravel pits to the north of the present excavations, although he did not record the presence of sunken-featured buildings like those he had previously excavated at Sutton

Courtenay (Leeds and Harden 1936, fig. 1). The settlement at Barton Court Farm may originally have extended some distance to the west into an area destroyed by 19th-century gravel extraction. The pottery suggests that Anglo-Saxon occupation at Barton Court Farm began slightly earlier than at Barrow Hills and probably also ended earlier, but the use of the same pottery stamps on both sites indicates that they have a strong claim to be considered part of the same community.

The excavated area of Barrow Hills seems therefore to have more or less coincided with the extent of this part of the settlement to the east and west. It probably continued for some distance to the north and south. The density of features is not great in either direction, however. To the south the spread of activity would have been limited by the slope down to the lower terrace, here quite steep. It seems likely that the excavated area of Barrow Hills, together with its sister settlement at Barton Court Farm and the other fragments of evidence noted above, covered most of the original Anglo-Saxon activity in the immediate area, with the possible exception of the area to the north of the present site.

## POST-BUILT STRUCTURES

### Methodology

The published site plan (Fig. 7.11) gives a misleadingly tidy impression of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site. In addition to the post-built structures and sunken-featured buildings that were recognised in the field, the site plans show high densities of other features, particularly in the areas west of the Romano-British cemetery and around the cluster of buildings at its north end and, to a lesser extent, in the areas between and east of PBS 21 and SFB 43 and around the pond barrow.

One of the first tasks of the second phase of post-excavation was therefore to produce an overall site plan showing all recorded features. A site mosaic of 32 plans was assembled from the 1:50 'C' plans prepared during excavation, and this allowed a working site plan to be produced. At a scale of 1:250 it measured approximately 1.5 × 1.25 m. This in turn formed the basis for Figure 7.11.

Using the working site plan, the site records were systematically re-examined. A key aid to identification was the marked preference displayed by the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of the site for a north-east to south-west orientation, approximately parallel to the edge of the gravel terrace and the line of the barrow cemetery. A broadly east-west orientation was a common feature of early Anglo-Saxon settlements (Marshall and Marshall 1993, 375–7). This may have been because doorways positioned in the long south-facing walls of sunken-featured buildings or post-built structures, as for example in PBSs 1 and 8, would have captured maximum daylight. The first step was therefore to examine the overall site plan for groups of postholes of the same approximate

size, spaced at more or less regular intervals, which appeared to form rectilinear arrangements.

The site records for all the features in the proposed alignments were then checked. Features positively identified as animal burrows were excluded, and some potential structures were eliminated in this way. In many instances, however, it was clear that burrows had disturbed existing postholes, accounting for the irregular shapes of many of the planned features. Selecting only those features which seemed to fit the plan of a proposed structure would have lent a false certainty to the interpretation of groups of features which as excavated and recorded were extremely confusing and difficult to understand. In assembling the 1:100 plans of the structures in the gazetteers, therefore, all the features identified in the site records as probable or possible postholes in the immediate area of the structure have been included.

Some structures have almost certainly not been recognised, and some of the less coherent structures have been retained on the basis of a presumption in favour of the original excavator's observation and interpretation. Although the site records are generally good, there are some problems. In the case of the groups of features identified as PBSs 21 and 22, for example, there are no section drawings and the context records provide only the context number and grid reference. It is therefore impossible to distinguish animal burrows from postholes. In all, 22 post-built structures have now been identified. The 22 possible or probable post-built structures have been divided into rectangular post-built structures, structures whose plans are less clear and are described as ancillary structures, fencelines and structures of uncertain function.

Very few postholes contained finds. Five (PBSs 1, 5, 8, 21 and 22) produced small quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery: PBS 1 also yielded a reused Roman sherd and the postholes of PBS 6 held two quern fragments. The remaining post-built structures are dated to the Anglo-Saxon period primarily on the grounds of their spatial relationship to the sunken-featured buildings. There was no evidence of the use of post-in-trench construction.

Posthole depths varied considerably within buildings, from shallow, barely visible depressions in the ground to holes up to 0.3 m deep. Depth seemed to be unrelated to post size as indicated by posthole diameter and presumably reflects the use of timbers of uneven length which had to be level with each other at the top. Many slighter postholes have probably been obliterated by ploughing. No evidence for postpipes was recorded (except for the postholes of SFBs 35 and 45). Apart from posthole 1430 of PBS 5, which cut the north-west corner of the Romano-British grave 1013, no stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

### Rectangular post-built structures (Figs 3.1, 3.3–4; Pl. 3.1)

Seven buildings were identified with varying degrees of confidence as free-standing rectangular

post-built structures, PBSs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11. Some or all of these may have been family dwellings, like the 'halls' West records at West Stow (West 1985, 112), or the 'posthole' houses identified at West Heslerton (Powlesland 1999, 22–5), or they may have been barns or byres, or they may have fulfilled a range of functions throughout their lifetimes. As a group they are poorly preserved and incomplete, and chronological or other variations in construction technique cannot be detected. PBS 1 seems to show clear signs of timber replacement (Fig. 3.3: 1512 for 1513 and 1511 for 1510), and the general lack of clarity in the plans may conceal other replacements. Powlesland (pers. comm.) also notes repairs in the post-built structures at West Heslerton.

PBS 8, the best preserved of the structures, was clearly constructed using a double line of posts along each of the long walls. The double-post technique may also have been employed in PBS 7, the worst preserved and least coherent of all the rectangular post-built structures at Barrow Hills. It has been suggested that the double posts held in place the horizontal boards which formed the walls, and that they performed the same function as the raking timbers recognised at Cowdery's Down and Chalton in stabilising the wall plate against the outward thrust of the rafters, but James *et al.* argued that the angle of raking timbers was too steep to act as buttressing, and that their function was to counter torsion in the wall plate (Hamerow 1993, 8; James *et al.* 1984, 194). In the absence of foundations it seems very probable that these buildings derived their structural integrity from the tie-beam construction of the roof, and the main focus of effort would have been on keeping the posts in place to support the tie-beam rather than countering thrust.

In all the rectangular post-built structures at Barrow Hills, the end walls seem to have been less substantial than the long walls, and they are clearly visible only in PBSs 1 and 8 and at the south end of PBS 5. There is no convincing instance of internal subdivision, and in many cases it is difficult to establish the positions of the doorways. In PBS 1 there seem to have been opposing doorways in the long walls towards the south-west end, between 1512/3 and 1510/1 on the southern side and 1436 and 1437 on the northern. There may also have been a doorway in the south-west end wall between 1619 and 1700, but the plan of this end is confused. There is a clear entrance between 3853/4 and 3841/50 of PBS 8, but there is no equally clear sign of an entrance in the opposite wall. In PBS 11, which probably continued originally some distance to the north-east, there seems to have been an entrance in the southern long wall between 3977 and 3980, which again has no obvious partner on the opposite wall.

There has been much discussion of the metrology of Anglo-Saxon buildings, and the arguments were summarised by Hamerow (1993, 9–10). The post-built structures at Barrow Hills were measured according to the method suggested by Huggins (1991) using a clear plastic ruler to measure the distances between lines drawn as a best fit through

the centres of the postholes of the walls. The structures at Barrow Hills are not sufficiently well preserved to make a significant contribution to this debate, but there is some indication that a standard unit of measurement, possibly of 3.5 m, was in use.

The rectangular post-built structures at Barrow Hills are smaller than those at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 9–10 and fig. 4), where the ten best preserved were on average 10 m in length with an average floor area of 50 m<sup>2</sup>, but they fall within the same range as the equally poorly preserved building plans from West Stow (Fig. 3.1; West 1985, 10–13). Figure 3 of James *et al.* (1984, 188) indicates that the majority of buildings in what are defined as Group 1 settlements (those without large, 'high status' buildings) are under 50 m<sup>2</sup> in area. The floor areas for the post-built structures at Barrow Hills range from 24.5–37.5 m<sup>2</sup> in area, and thus fall within the range for early Saxon buildings in the Midland area defined by Marshall and Marshall (1993, 371–2). Marshall and Marshall suggested that 5th-century buildings were small, with clusters at 10 × 5 m and 7 × 3.5 m, and that building sizes tended to increase with time (1993, 374–9 and 390–1), although in the light of the arguments concerning dating evidence reviewed in Chapter 7 this observation should be regarded with caution. Most of the rectangular post-built structures at Barrow Hills fall roughly into the 7 × 3.5 m cluster, although two of the Barton Court Farm structures are larger. PBSs 1 and 5, in the centre of the site, have areas of 24.5 m<sup>2</sup> and c 31.5 m<sup>2</sup>, while PBS 6 to the south has an area of 37.5 m<sup>2</sup>. It is impossible to determine whether these differences in size reflect differences in date, status or function. At the later and supposedly high status sites of Chalton and Cowdery's Down there is a marked distinction between the large halls and the smaller buildings facing three sides of a square in the adjacent compounds (see Table 7.2).

PBSs 1 and 8 reflect the use of a two-square module. PBS 1 is a simple double square, PBS 8 a double square plus door width. Unfortunately, the northern end of the rectangular post-built structure in the central group of buildings, PBS 5, lay in an area of extensive disturbance where few postholes survived, and its original dimensions can only be estimated. If these buildings were dwellings, the use of bilateral symmetry might reflect a division by function, gender, status or generation, or a combination of all four. Two-room one-storey cottages were in widespread use as rural housing in the British Isles well into the 20th century, and their patterns of usage often accommodated these factors.

#### Ancillary structures (Figs 3.3, 3.5–6)

This category includes PBSs 2–4 (all part of the central group of PBSs 1–5) and PBSs 9, 12 and 13. They were all small, enclosing (as far as their plans can be reconstructed) floor areas of 15 m<sup>2</sup> or less. Their plans are approximately rectilinear. Little can be said about the function of these buildings, which presumably had a variety of domestic, agricultural and craft uses.

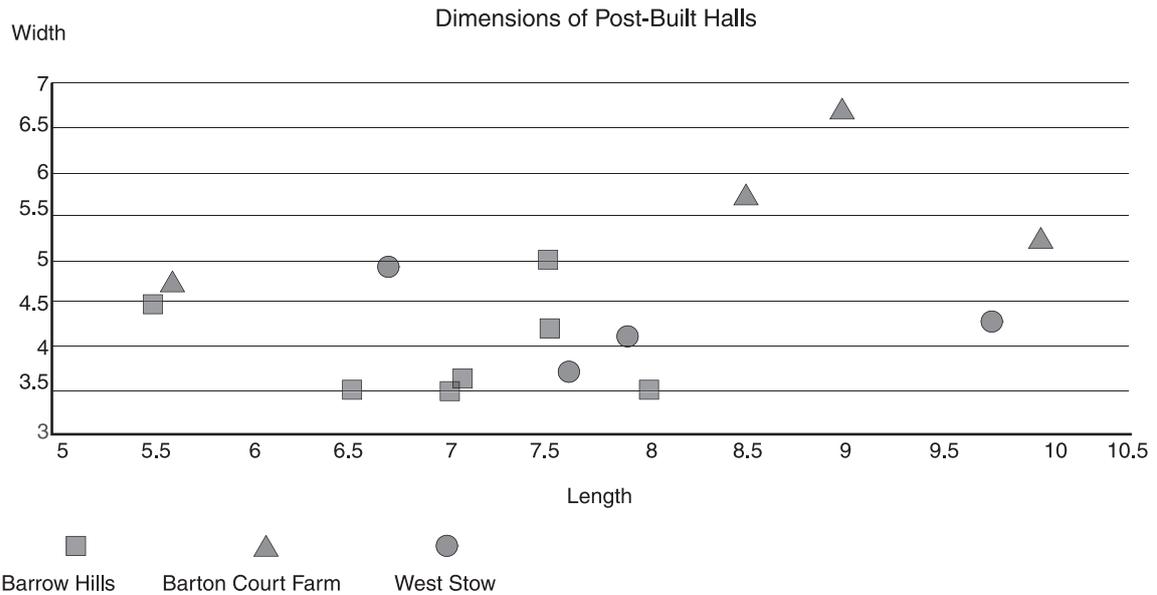


Figure 3.1 Scatter diagram showing dimensions of post-built halls at Barrow Hills, Barton Court Farm and West Stow.

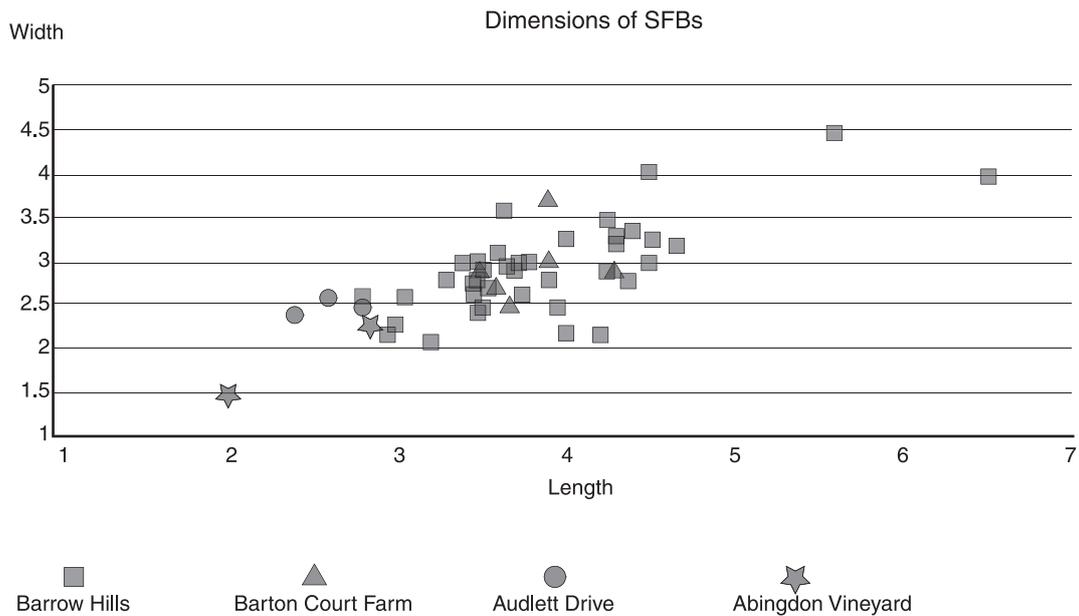


Figure 3.2 Scatter diagram showing dimensions of sunken-featured buildings at Barrow Hills, Barton Court Farm, Audlett Drive and Abingdon Vineyard.

PBS 13 was a roughly D-shaped arrangement of postholes, open on the south-east side (the straight stroke of the D) and situated about 1.3 m north-west of SFB 4 (Fig. 3.6). The superficially similar structure 122 at New Wintles (Chadwick Hawkes and Gray 1969, fig. 1; Gray 1974, 51–5) was in fact a building cut by SFBs 123 and 124, but there is no evidence at Barrow Hills that PBS 13 was part of a larger building cut by SFB 4. It may have been a pen or lean-to associated with SFB 4.

#### Fencelines (Figs 3.6–8)

PBSs 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 have been tentatively identified as fencelines. PBS 14 consists of two approximately parallel lines of postholes *c.* 3.5 m apart, the northernmost possibly continuing on the same line some distance to the south-west as PBS 15. If these were in fact one fenceline it would have been over 20 m long. There are few traces of Anglo-Saxon activity in this part of the site, apart from SFB 39. It is

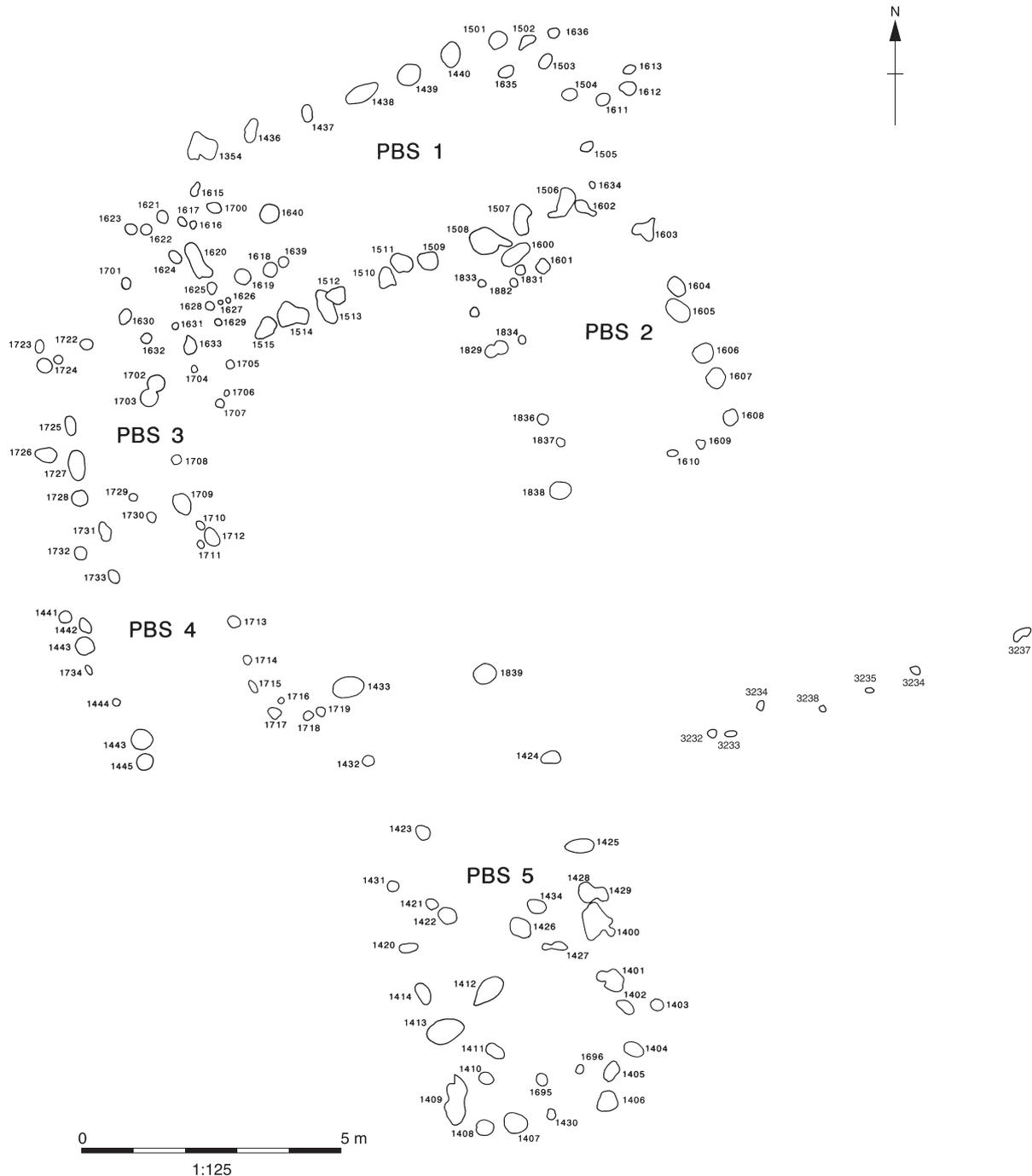


Figure 3.3 Post-built structures 1–5.

possible that PBSs 14–15 represent a simpler and less well-preserved version of PBS 21, which was also situated in an area with few definitely Anglo-Saxon features and is discussed in more detail below. PBS 16, which appears in plan to be a funnel-shaped arrangement of posts, may in fact be two unrelated fragments of fenceline.

It is extremely difficult to distinguish the detail of the structures originally formed by PBSs 19 and 20 (Fig. 3.8), but the overall impression is of two fencelines enclosing two sides of an area of about

18 × 10 m which contains SFBs 7 and 15. The northernmost fenceline starts with posthole 1784 in the north-east and continues south-west in an approximately straight line for about 18 m to 3117, at which point it turns through a somewhat dog-legged right-angle to continue north-west to 3624. The southern line starts in the north-east at 1744, continues south-west to 3753 and then turns northwards to 3614. Over most of their extent they are 1.5 to 2 m apart, with a funnel-shaped gap between them at the north-east end.

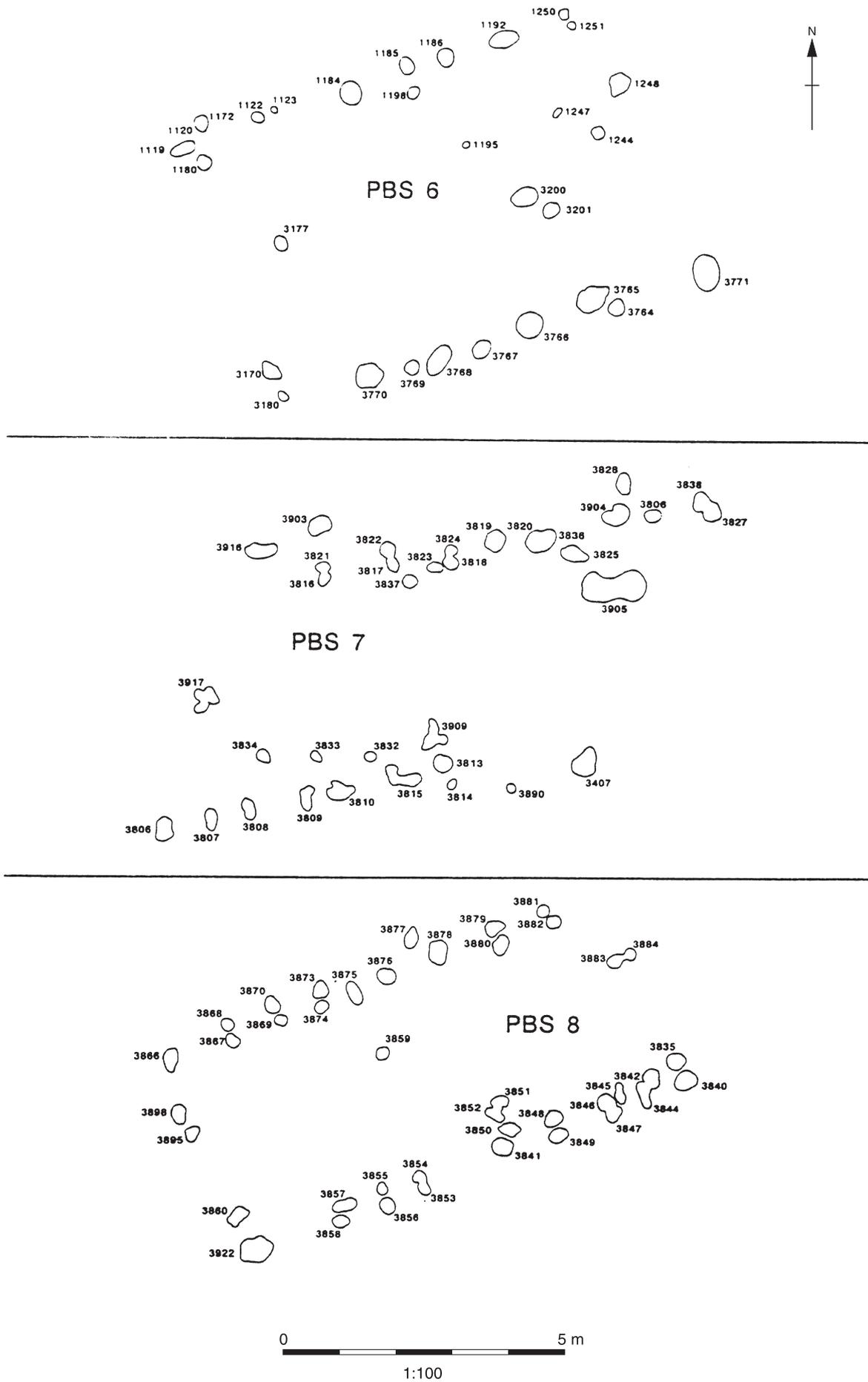


Figure 3.4 Post-built structures 6–8.



Plate 3.1 Looking south across PBS 1 to PBS 5 and the Romano-British cemetery: PBS 2 and SFB 6 on the left.

The most probable interpretation of these two features is that one is a replacement for the other, perhaps of the northern line by the southern one after the construction of SFB 7. There was a posthole structure in this area, but its plan and stratigraphic relationship to SFB 7 cannot be reconstructed. It is worth noting that both phases of the fenceline consisted of two sides at right angles, and there is no trace of a third and fourth side.

The postholes of the southern line in particular seem to be paired (eg 3585/3614, 3625/6, 3584/3621, 3739/40, 1951/2 and the off-line 3589/3613), and the postholes of PBSs 14 and 21 also appear in pairs or groups of three with gaps of from 1.5 to 4 m between groups. The details of Anglo-Saxon fencing techniques can be seen more clearly at Cowdery's Down, where the phase A/B fenceline consisted of alternate closely and more widely spaced pairs of postholes (Millett and James 1983, 202–3 and figs 28 and 30). The closely spaced pairs probably clasped at least one horizontal timber, and the more widely spaced pairs acted as buttresses to panels of wattling. The phase C fenceline at the same site involved three different methods of construction; individual postholes in a closely spaced staggered pattern, paired timbers in the same posthole, and individual postholes cut into the base of a narrow slot (Millett and James 1983, 209 and fig. 38). The widely spaced staggered pairs of posts in the Barrow Hills fences seem to be a hybrid between the phase A/B technique and the first phase C technique, perhaps with uprights clasping panels of wattling; it is possible that there were originally slighter uprights between the more substantial paired timbers. PBS 17, a line of

double postholes to the east of rectangular post-built structure PBS 6 (Fig. 3.7), seems to demonstrate the second phase C technique, in which the paired uprights (in this case *c* 1 m apart) clasped horizontal planks or panels.

#### Other post-built structures (Figs 3.9–10)

The site records for PBSs 21 and 22 are unusually poor. There are no sections, and the context records give only context number and grid reference. It is clear from the plan that there was extensive animal disturbance in the area, but it is not possible to identify animal burrows. The plan of PBS 22 cannot be reconstructed with any certainty, although an arrangement of parallel lines of postholes may be discernible.

PBS 21 was one of the most interesting and unusual structures to be identified at Barrow Hills. The plan can be broken down into four elements: two parallel north-east/south-west fencelines 30 m long and 8.5 m apart consisting of the widely spaced paired postholes discussed above and two roughly L-shaped posthole structures of approximately similar plan, a small one at the southern end of the fencelines and a larger one at the northern end. One of these structures may have replaced the other.

### SUNKEN-FEATURED BUILDINGS

#### Methodology

The sunken-featured buildings were excavated and planned as discrete features (see Chapter 1, Recording

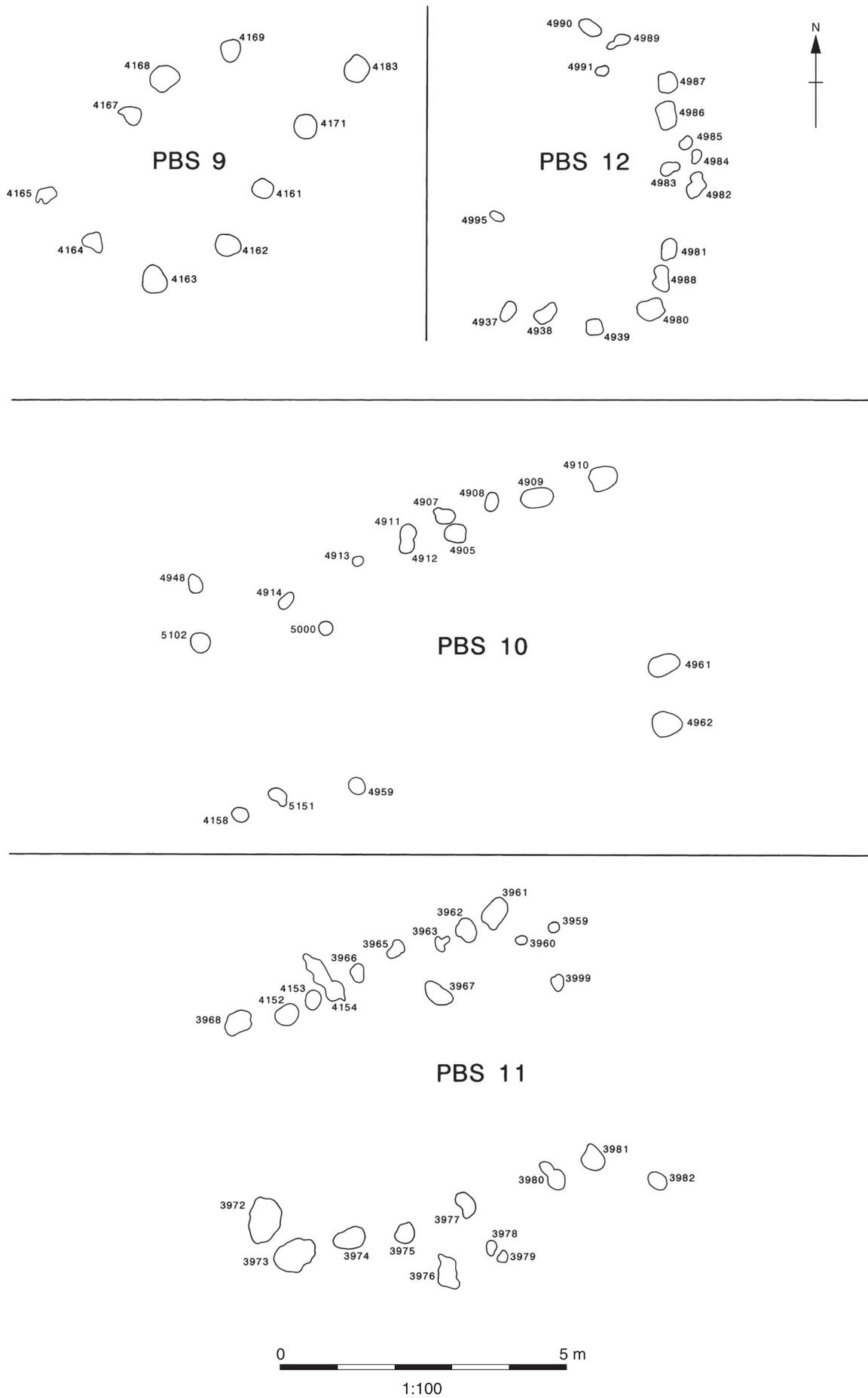


Figure 3.5 Post-built structures 9–12.

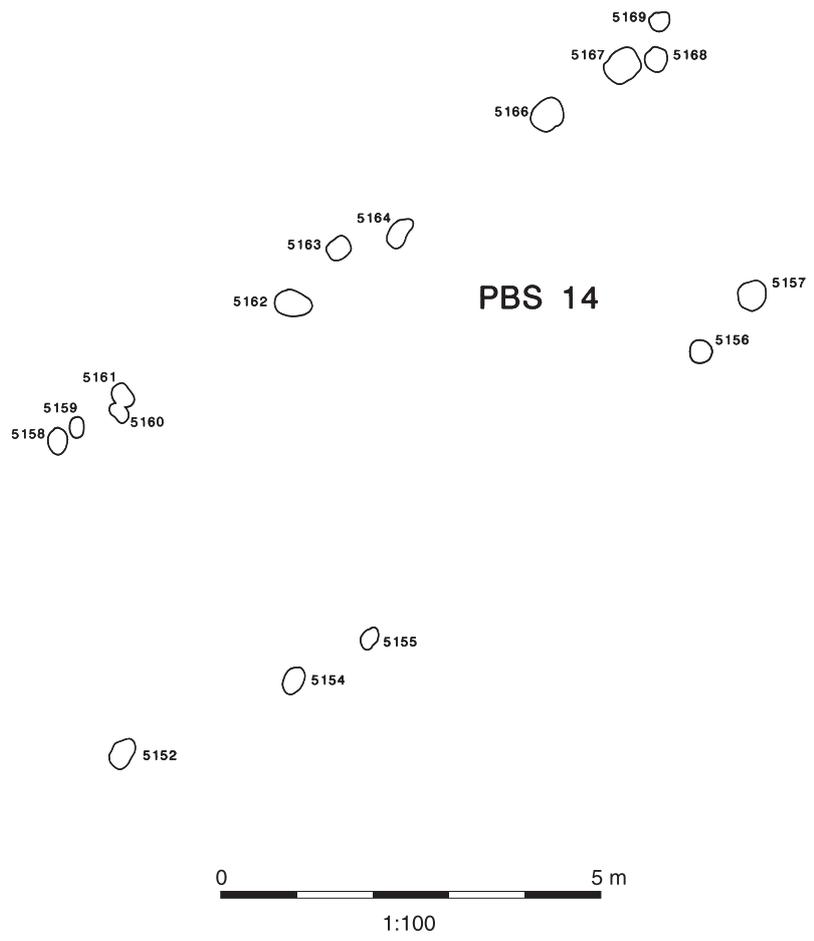
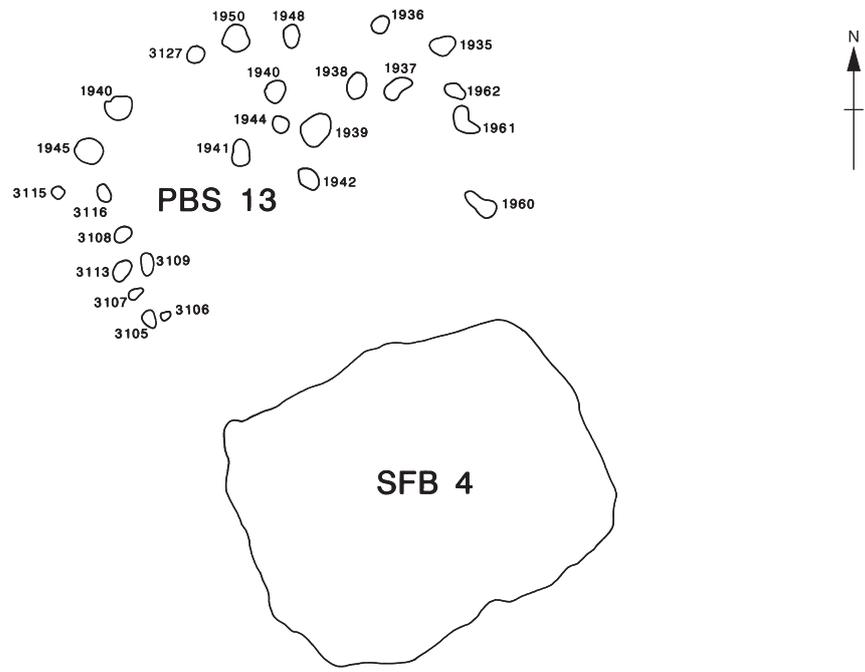


Figure 3.6 Post-built structures 13–14.

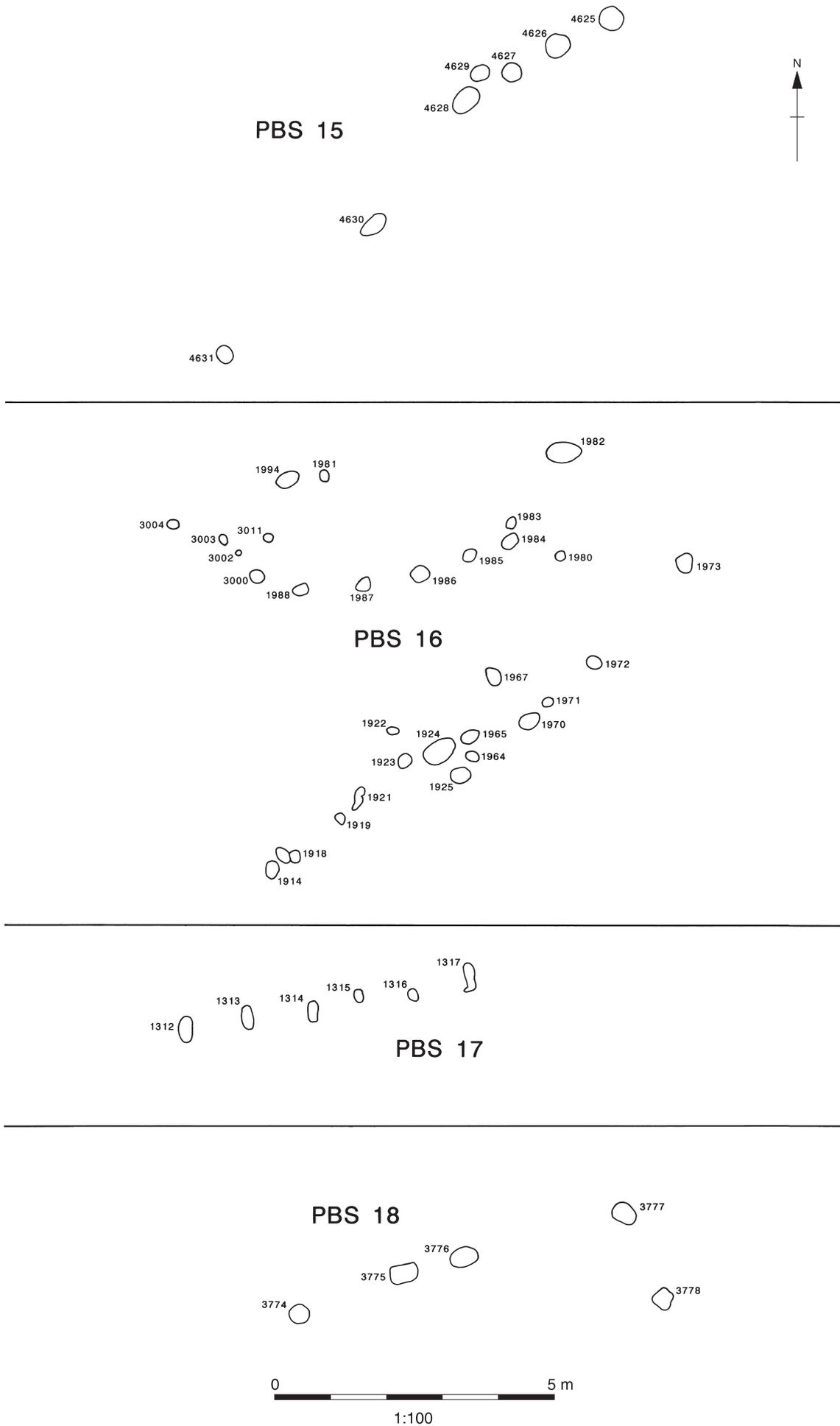


Figure 3.7 Post-built structures 15–18.

system). In the first phase of post-excavation the decision was taken not to publish stratigraphic description, and to treat the finds (apart from those from intercutting features) as a homogeneous group. During the second phase of post-excavation stratigraphic descriptions of each sunken-featured building were incorporated in gazetteer entries and section drawings were prepared for publication wherever possible. In some instances section drawings bore no recognisable relationship to the context and finds records, and these have not been reproduced. They show multiple patches of differently coloured gravel. It is clear from the site records that it was seldom, if ever, possible to excavate the fills of intercutting features separately.

Tipper (2004) has recently produced a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of sunken-featured buildings, their origins, structure, fills and formation processes. Rather than replicating his arguments at length, reference will be made to this volume.

## Metrology

### *Length and width* (Fig. 3.2)

The sunken-featured buildings are generally sub-rectangular, with straight sides and rounded corners, although some pits are less regular. For those sunken-featured buildings whose full original dimensions are known, surface lengths range from 3 to 6.5 m and widths from 2.1 to 4.45 m, with an average length of 3.89 m and width of 2.92 m. SFBs 4, 12 and 17 were larger than the rest; it has been observed at other sites that there appears to be a general trend towards larger *Grubenhäuser* from the 7th century onwards (Hamerow 1993, 11; Tipper 2004, 66), but Tipper concluded that the size of the pit alone was not a reliable indicator of date. The distribution of length x width is comparable both to other sites in the area and to West Stow (West 1985), Mucking (Hamerow 1993) and West Heslerton (Tipper 2004, tables 15–16), with two clusters, a large one around 3.5 x 2.75 m and a smaller, more diffuse one around 4.5 x 3.5 m. These clusters may reflect some functional difference. The base areas of the pits are considerably smaller than the surface areas.

### *Depth*

The average surviving depth of sunken-featured buildings at Barrow Hills is 0.43 m, but would almost certainly originally have been greater, an unknown and probably variable depth of topsoil having been lost. The soil cover at the start of excavation was generally thin, only 0.15–0.30 m, and is likely to have been affected by the medieval ridge and furrow cultivation which ran north-west/south-east across the site (see Bartlett 1999) and by more recent ploughing. SFB 9 in the centre of the oval barrow was almost completely eroded, suggesting that the mound of the oval barrow was standing to a height of perhaps 0.3–0.4 m or more in the

Anglo-Saxon period (Bradley 1992; Pl. 3.2), and the absence of postholes around the outer ditch of barrow 12 may reflect the survival into the Anglo-Saxon period of an external bank now destroyed by ploughing. If so, the bank was probably relatively slight. The surviving central mounds of barrows 12 and 13 may have been high enough to offer some shelter from the prevailing wind to SFBs 23, 24 and 26, and certainly survived long enough, and in a sufficiently impressive form, to give the site its name, the first recorded instance of which occurs in 1547 (Chapter 1, Saxon settlement). There is some evidence of erosion along the south-east edge of the site, where the ground slopes down towards the edge of the Second Terrace. The depth of sunken-featured buildings measured from the top of the gravel to the bottom of the pit ranged from 0 for SFB 9 in the centre of the Neolithic oval barrow to 1.03 for SFB 12. Apart from the three largest SFBs, 4, 12 and 17, there is no clear correlation between size and depth. Some topsoil has been lost, and some parts of the site may have been over-scraped during topsoil removal, but it seems likely that there was originally considerable variation in the depths of sunken-featured buildings.

## Typology (Figs 3.2 and 3.11–114)

Thirty-eight out of 45 sunken-featured buildings at Barrow Hills were of two-post type, with a posthole in or near the centre of each short end. This was the predominant type throughout England and on the continent during the migration period (Tipper 2004, 68). There was only one definite example of a three-post sunken-featured building with a central post on the long axis and one possible example (12 and possibly 17). There were two sunken-featured buildings with only one posthole (13 and 26) and two with no postholes (27 and 44), but these probably represent uncompleted or eroded sunken-featured buildings rather than the separate type which has been identified at other sites (West 1985, 113–4). Finally, there was one possible six-post or six-post derivative, SFB 2.

## Evidence for construction

### *Postholes*

In most cases the gable postholes were in the centre of the short sides of the pit, although occasionally (for example, SFB 45) they straddled the edge of the pit. In some instances the angle of the gable postholes inclines inwards slightly (eg SFBs 4, 10, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 30 and 40). This may reflect the way in which the structure was dismantled at the end of its life, with the posts being pulled down into the pit, rather than a construction technique. In one or two cases (eg SFB 38) the posthole slopes outwards. Postpipes were observed in very few instances, most clearly in the postholes of SFB 35 and 45. The site records are not always informative on the relationship between postholes and pit fill, but in the majority of cases

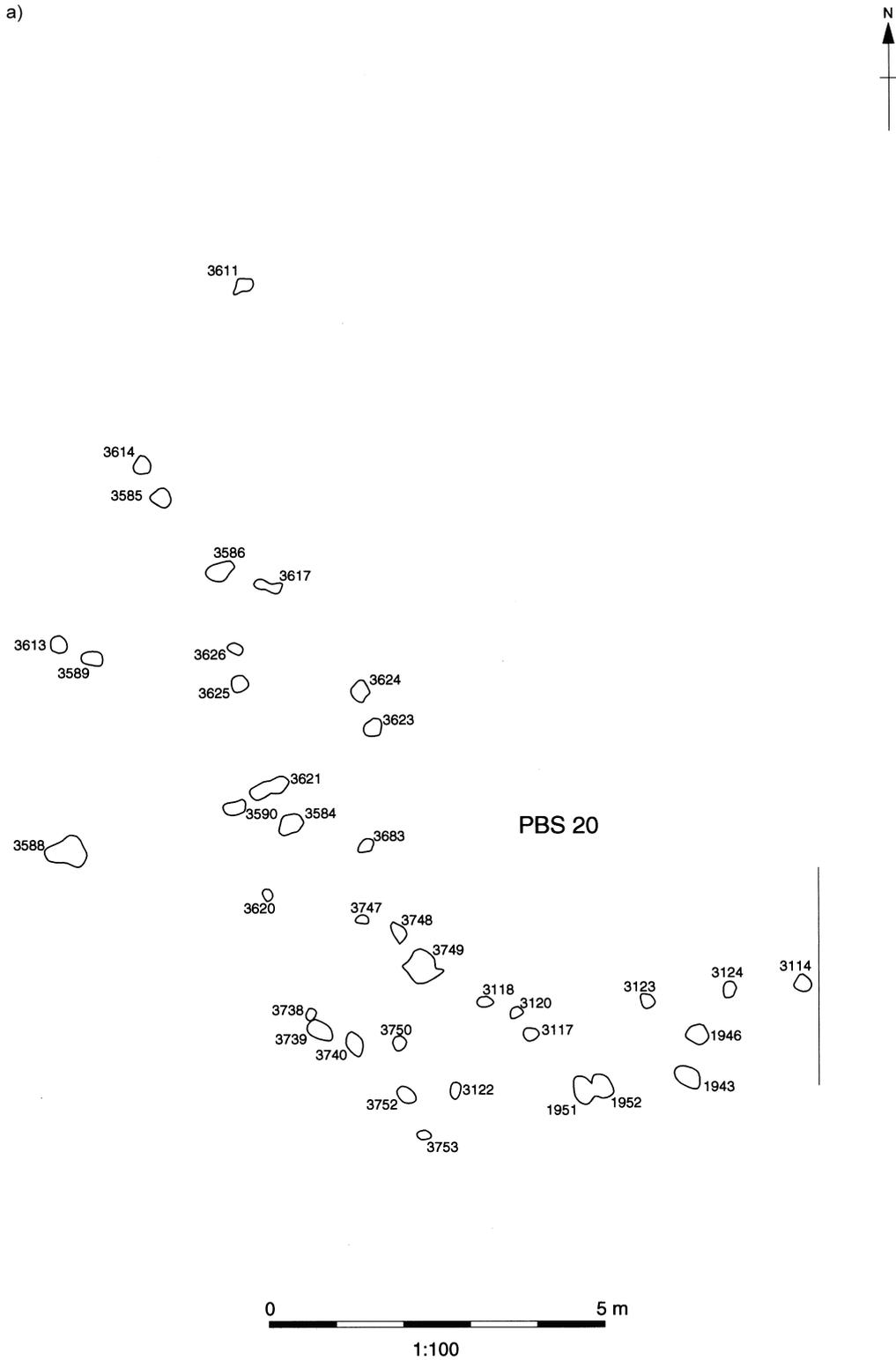


Figure 3.8 Post-built structures 19–20.

in which the relationship could be established with any confidence it seems that the pit fill extended into the postholes, indicating that the posts had been removed before the pit began to fill rather than decaying *in situ*.

There was considerable variation in posthole depths, even within posthole pairs in the same sunken-featured building (eg SFBs 3, 5, 8, 23, 31, 39, 41 and 43). This probably reflects the use of timbers of uneven length which had to be level at the top, but



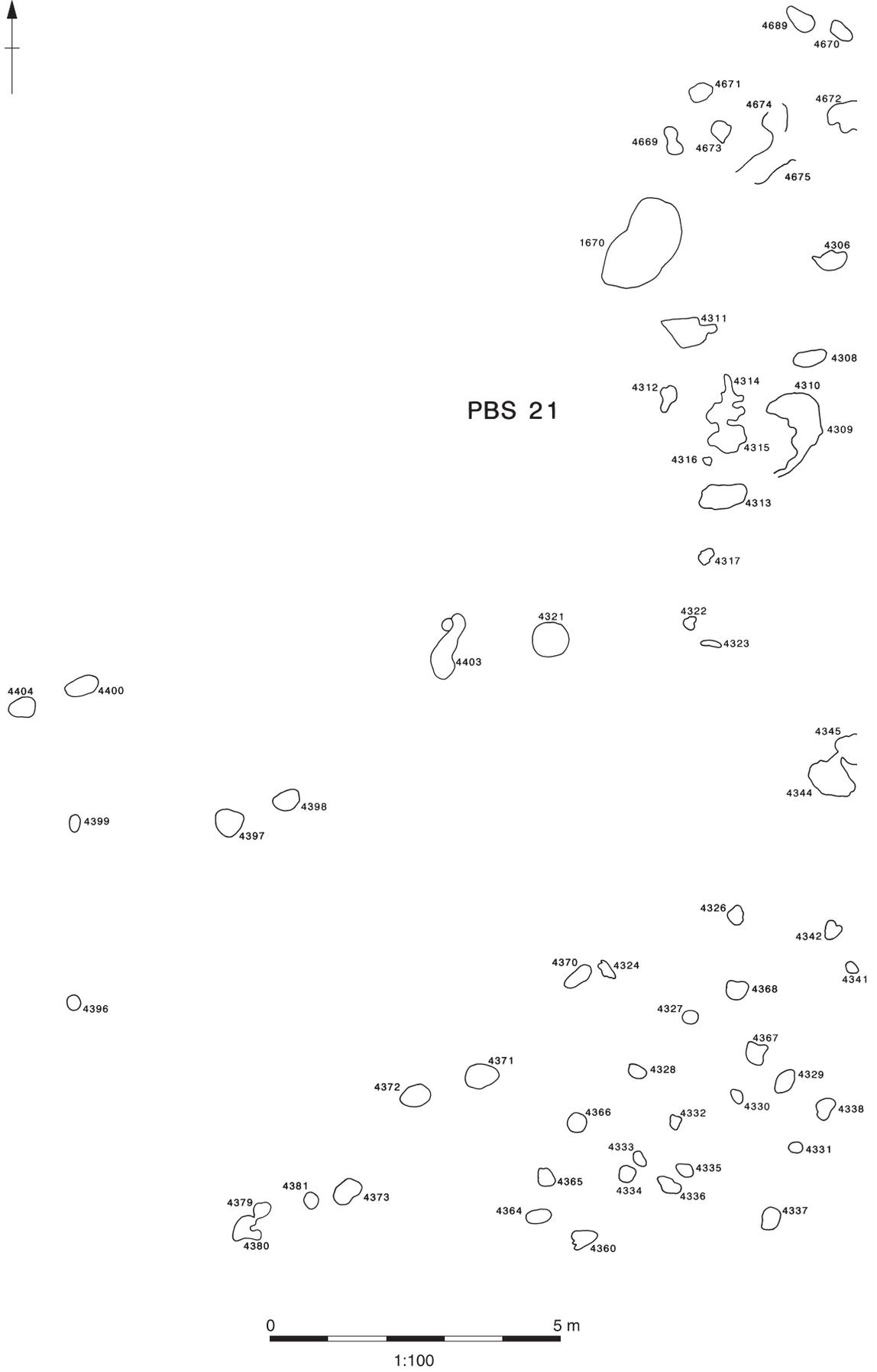


Figure 3.9 Post-built structure 21.

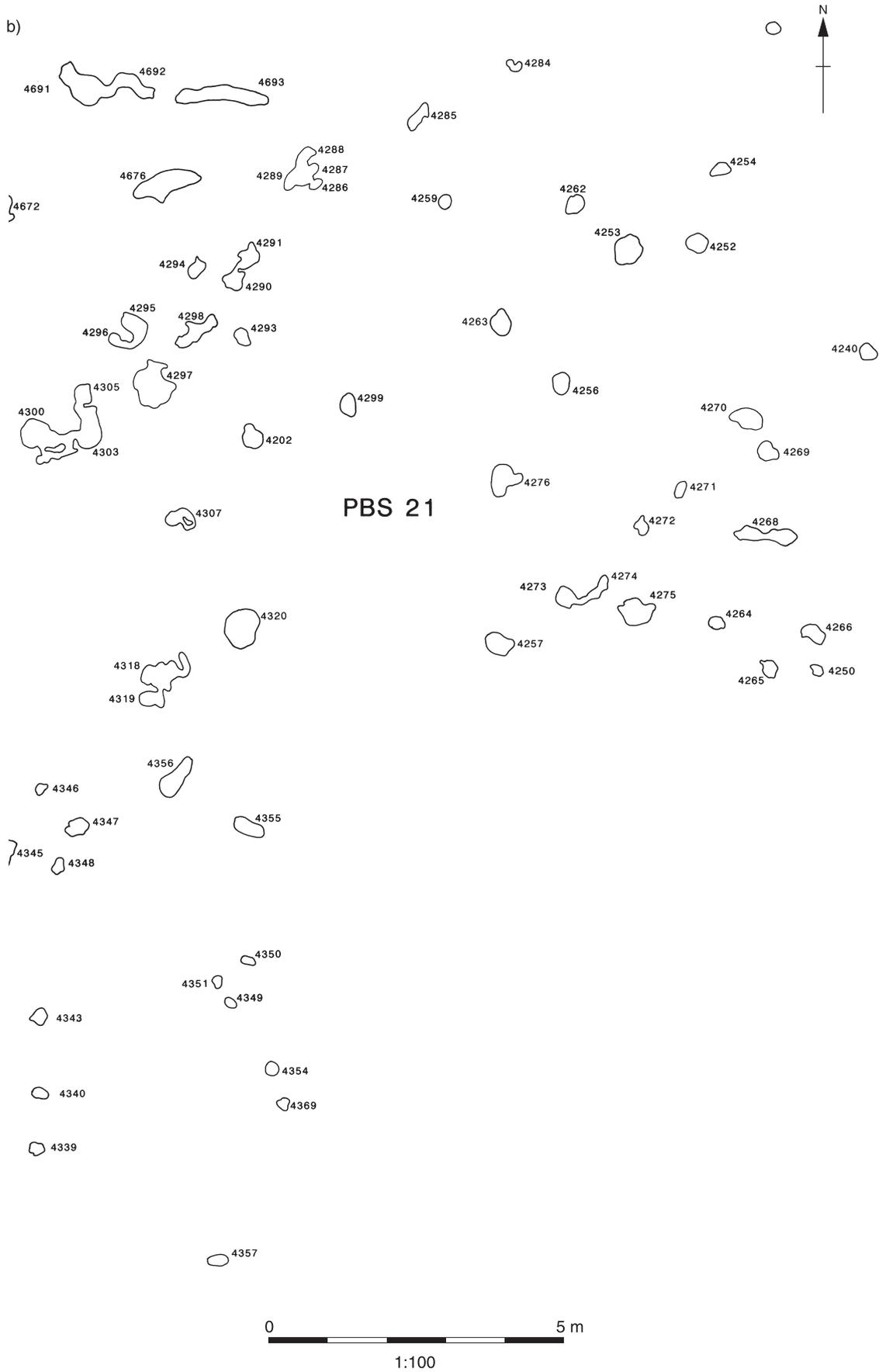


Figure 3.9 (Cont.)

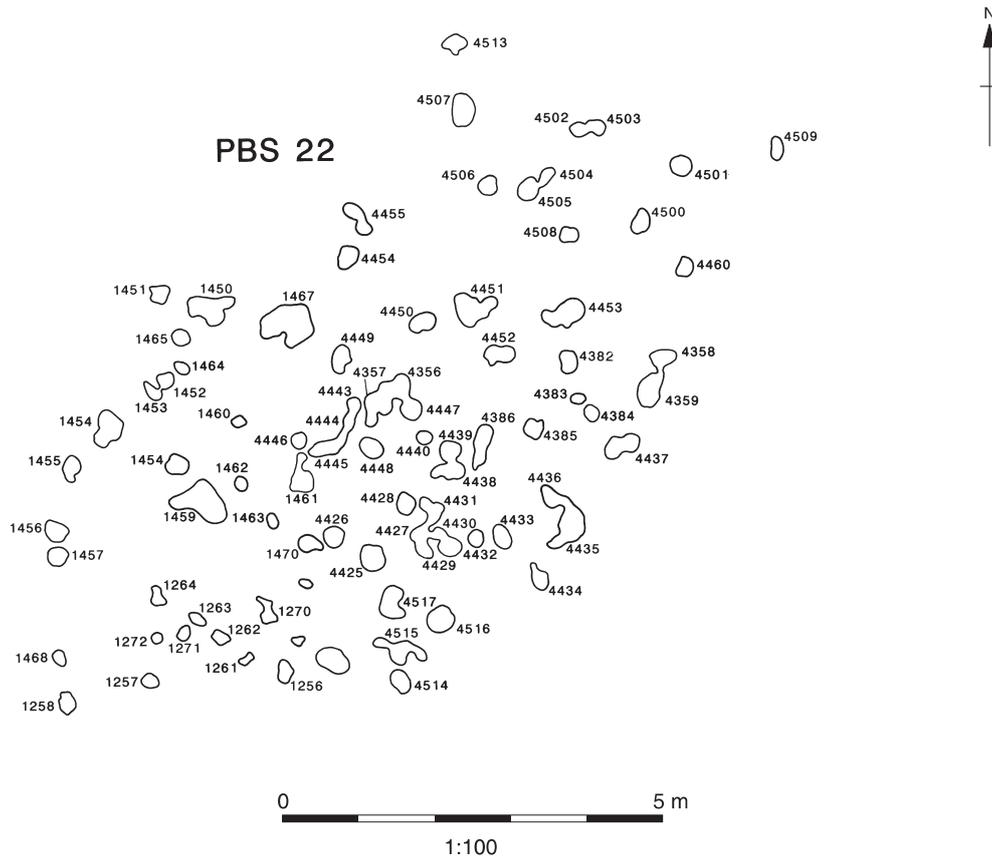


Figure 3.10 Post-built structure 22.

always possible to distinguish between the two processes, or to determine whether there had been a period of disuse before the rebuilding took place. There were possible recut or replacement postholes in

five sunken-featured buildings (1, 2, 3, 8 and 38). In several cases the pit had also been extended or recut (3, 14, 23, 38, 39 and 43), and there were 9 intercutting sunken-featured buildings (17/18, 28/29, 32/33/34,



Plate 3.2 The excavation of the Neolithic oval barrow with SFB 9 in the centre.

and 36/37). The proximity to each other of 20/21/22 and of 30 to 32/33/34 suggests that they too were replacements. This means that around 50% of the sunken-featured buildings were refurbished or replaced in or near the same location. This is broadly comparable to the level of replacement and refurbishment visible in the site plan at West Stow (West 1985, fig. 300), and may imply that their location was significant and that they performed a particular function within the layout of the settlement.

### Reconstruction

Sunken-featured buildings have traditionally been envisaged as simple constructions, with two gable posts supporting a ridgepole from which descended a thatched roof (West 1985, 121; Welch 1992, fig. 11; Hamerow 1993, 14). Tipper (2004, 68–74) has discussed the structural role of the gable posts. The fact that some were replaced indicates that they had some function, but some sunken-featured buildings have no postholes, or only one. There is evidence from the experimental reconstructions at West Stow to suggest that they were not essential to the structural integrity of the buildings after they had been erected, since in several cases they had rotted away below ground level without affecting the walls and roof. They may have functioned as scaffolding during the construction of the superstructure, after which the building was self-supporting, the main weight of the roof being borne on purlin-posts (West 1985) or turf walls around the outside of the pit.

Rhizome evidence indicates that the sunken-featured buildings at West Heslerton had turf walls (D Powlesland pers. comm.). R A Chambers, the excavator of Barrow Hills, noted that pits often contained lumps of conglomerated gravel, which he interpreted as evidence that the upcast from the pit had been used to form walls which were then pushed back in when the structure was dismantled. It seems likely that the D-shaped structure north of SFB 4 abutted a wall, and turf seems the most probable building material. Although the site records for several sunken-featured buildings state that daub was present in the fill, only one fragment of daub with impressions of rods and sails is listed in the catalogue of finds, from SFB 28. Hamerow also notes that the use of upcast to form walls is particularly plausible in view of the paucity of daub recovered at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 11–12).

### Use of hut floors

The question of whether sunken-featured buildings had sunken or suspended floors was for many years hotly contested, but in his exhaustive review of the structural evidence Tipper concludes that an interpretation of *Grubenhäuser* as having suspended or cavity floors provides the best fit with most of the archaeological evidence (Tipper 2004, chapters 4 and 9). The data from Barrow Hills would appear to support this. Chambers recorded that there was very

little evidence for the use of the base of the pit during the life of the structure, and he concluded that most of the pits at Barrow Hills were covered by plank floors during the lifetime of the building, as West has suggested was the case at West Stow (1985, 116–120). Chambers also observed that there was no evidence of trampling and use of the hut floors while the gable posts were in place and that many pits had struck patches of hard, conglomerated gravel which made the floors and walls extremely uneven (archive notes). In other places the gravel was so loose that without revetment the pit walls would have collapsed upon contact, whereas only minor gravel slumping was recorded. In addition, the pit walls in many cases slope outwards at an oblique angle, so that the area at the base of the pit would have been very restricted. Not all the context records for the sunken-featured buildings refer explicitly to the condition of the floor and sides, but where they do they tend to confirm the excavator's general remarks. The section and profile drawings also show some notably uneven floors with base areas much smaller than the surface area (for example, SFBs 6, 12, 13, 38 and 39).

There is little evidence for pit linings. There were 35 postholes and stakeholes associated with SFB 2, many of them positioned along the south-east side, but their function is obscure. They may have formed a lining for the pit, but there was no evidence for occupation or a floor surface on the base of the hut. At least some of them had gone out of use by the time the pit began to fill. There was a line of limestone and conglomerate lumps on the floor of the pit of SFB 5 parallel to the south-west end, but again these do not seem to have been associated with evidence for the use of the pit floor. There is no evidence for entrances to the pit.

There were occupation layers on the floors of seven of the sunken-featured buildings (SFBs 6, 17/18, 24, 26, 28, 40 and 41). Six of the seven are described as grey, greenish grey or grey brown friable or powdery deposits, usually only a few centimetres thick, containing charcoal flecks and in three cases pottery and animal bone as well. Layers 3–7 of SFB 28 were different, and consisted of a hearth, a layer of clay and several layers of burning on and above the smooth compact gravel which formed a surface on the floor of the pit. The relationship of these layers to the posthole fills is not always clear; in the case of SFB 26 the occupation layer definitely accumulated before the removal of the posts and in the case of 6, 24 and 28 definitely after, with 17/18 and 41 possibly after. The records do not indicate whether there was wear on the pit floor of SFB 26; the intermittent occupation layer 4 may represent debris which has sifted through floorboards, but it contained a substantial weight of pottery, including cross-joins with layer 2. The evidence of these occupation layers is thus inconclusive, but most of them seem to represent the use of the pit floor after the removal of one or more posts, rather than during the lifetime of the structure. The pottery from these layers is not datable.

### Existence of floors

West argued on the basis of structural, stratigraphic and finds evidence (in particular the evidence from the burnt hut 15) that the pits of the West Stow sunken-featured buildings had been floored over, and interpreted the primary fills as being for the most part material that had sifted through cracks in the floor boards (1985, 116–121). Powlesland has also stated that most of the sunken-featured buildings at West Heslerton were floored over (1990). Welch, however, challenged West's interpretation of the West Stow evidence, arguing that the plank floor he envisaged rested on the bottom of the pit and that the 'side walls' were in the revetment lining of the pit sides (1992, 21–5). Hamerow also argued for the direct use of hut floors at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 11).

It has been argued (Welch 1992; Hamerow 1993, 14) that the sunken floor of the hut was used as a work floor to overcome the problems of restricted headroom imposed by the simple gable-post construction, giving the maximum amount of head room for the minimum quantity of raw materials. It is difficult to accept this explanation in the context of Barrow Hills, where it is clear from the mass of postholes covering the site as well as from the evidence of the post-built structures that the inhabitants possessed both ample supplies of timber and sophisticated woodworking skills. It seems improbable in the circumstances that economy of raw materials alone could have prompted the adoption of a building type which offered only a modest increase in head room against a severely restricted floor area and the effort and inconvenience of excavating a sizeable pit, and it seems necessary to seek some other, practical explanation for this form of construction. The balance of evidence suggests that the construction of a suspended floor over the pit was part of a larger ground-level construction which, if the West Stow reconstructions are accurate, could provide spacious accommodation (Tipper 2004, chapter 4).

### Function

Many and various functions have been ascribed to sunken-featured buildings and these have been discussed in detail by Tipper (2004, chapter 8). Most have been ascribed on the basis of the material culture found within the pits. However, as we shall see, most of the material found in sunken-featured buildings is the result of tertiary deposition, with no direct relationship to the function of the buildings. The possible functions Tipper considers include dwellings, barns, byres, textile production sheds, stores (particularly grain stores), bake-houses, pottery workshops, loomweight manufactories and craft workshops.

The interpretation of these buildings as weaving sheds has been particularly persistent. Welch (1992, 28) notes 'the frequency with which clay loomweights, spindlewhorls and other items associated

with textile production are found in *Grubenhäuser* hollows'. He argues that weaving was one of the most important activities practised in them and that one of the functions of the pit was to ensure the damp atmosphere suitable for weaving. However, textile-related artefacts are among the commonest and most widely distributed artefacts on all sites, reflecting the fact that spinning in particular would have been an almost constant activity if a settlement was to be self-sufficient in textiles, and the output of many spinners would have been required to keep one loom intermittently busy. The sets of loomweights at Barton Court Farm (SFB 1190; Miles 1986, 16–17; see below, Gazetteer 5 Anglo-Saxon features at Barton Court Farm) and Sutton Courtenay (House XX; Leeds 1927, 74–5 and fig. 12) seem to have been stored or deposited on strings or sticks, rather than being set up as a loom, and the loomweights in the burnt SFB 15 at West Stow represent either three looms or sets of weights stored separately (West 1985, 23 and 138). This implies that some sunken-featured buildings were used to store or discard weaving equipment, and that weaving may have taken place in them, but not necessarily that all sunken-featured buildings were used for this purpose. One might also question whether dampness has ever been so unusual in Britain as to make it necessary to encourage it artificially.

Powlesland has identified many of the sunken-featured buildings at West Heslerton as grain stores on the basis of large quantities of carbonised grain (1990, 40), although as with the other contents this material does not relate to the primary function of the building. Storage for grain would obviously be an essential part of any farmstead. The following very approximate calculation indicates roughly how much grain could be stored threshed in sacks or baskets in an average 4 × 3 m sunken-featured building, assuming that the floor overlapped the pit edges by 0.5 m in each direction and that the presence of walls allowed an interior height of at least 2 m:

Average length 5 m (5.5 yds).  
 Average width 4 m (4.4 yds).  
 Estimated average height: 2 m (2.2 yds).  
 Therefore interior volume of average sunken-featured building = 53.24 yds<sup>3</sup>.  
 Volume of 1 cwt of threshed wheat = c 1 yd<sup>3</sup>.  
 Therefore storage capacity of average sunken-featured building = c 53.24 cwt.  
 = 425.92 st.  
 = 5962.88 lb.  
 = 95,406.08 oz.  
 Approximate calorific value of 1 oz of grain = 90 kcal.  
 Calorific value of 95,406.08 oz = 8,586,547.2 kcal.  
 If average daily consumption of grain (bread and beer) per adult c 2000 kcal, then 8,586,547.2 kcal = 4293.27 days = 11.76 years.  
 If average daily consumption of grain (bread and beer) per adult c 3000 kcal, then 8,586,547.2 kcal = 2862.18 days = 7.84 years.

In other words, the average sunken-featured building might have been able to store enough grain to feed about 8 to 12 adults for one year, with an additional requirement for seed corn on top of this. It is perhaps more probable that grain was stored unthreshed, as it was in the later middle ages, but it

has not proved possible to locate figures for the volume of unthreshed, hand-harvested grain, which would obviously occupy more space. It is notoriously difficult to establish how people may have occupied a structure of a given size (Millett and James 1983, 249), and hence to arrive at any reliable estimate of the population of a settlement and its possible storage requirements. Crude statistics calculated on the basis of so many occupants per m<sup>2</sup> fail to reflect the constantly changing nature of human populations, and even in periods when documentary records are available historical demography is fraught with difficulty. Jones's model of land use and population and the evidence of the cemetery indicate an adult population for Barton Court Farm of from 5 to 14 adults (see Chapter 2, Romano-British land use and the cemetery location). If the occupants of Barrow Hills were working the same area of land as the Romano-British occupants of Barton Court Farm, these figures suggest that at least two or three sunken-featured buildings per generation would have been needed for grain storage.

The four primary considerations for grain stores are that the walls should be able to withstand the considerable lateral thrust exerted by loose grain (approximately two-thirds of the vertical pressure), that the contents should be both dry and cool (usually achieved by allowing the free circulation of air by the use of a floor supported on low vented walls) and that the structure should be resistant to attacks by pests. It may be that the underfloor space in sunken-featured buildings was designed to improve ventilation and protect against damp, and possibly, if the floor overhung the cavity, to deter rodents.

In the light of what is known of the use of buildings in pre-industrial agricultural societies it seems more than probable that sunken-featured buildings were used for many different purposes, including grain and other food storage, craftworking and accommodation. The apparent existence of two sizes may indicate some functional differentiation. Sunken-featured buildings are rare on chalk sites, where their place was presumably filled by post-built structures.

Tipper has reviewed the distinction in function between post-built structures and sunken-featured buildings (2004, 182–3). At West Stow the excavator described the seven post-built structures as 'halls', focal points for family units, and argued that the sunken-featured buildings formed groups around each hall and performed complementary functions. According to Hamerow there was no evidence for this sort of relationship between individual posthole buildings and sunken-featured buildings at Mucking. At West Heslerton, on the other hand, there is clear spatial differentiation between a zone dominated by posthole buildings, interpreted as housing, and a zone dominated by *Grubenhäuser*, interpreted as a craft and industry area. While not disputing the general interpretation of posthole buildings as dwellings with *Grubenhäuser* forming ancillary buildings on early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites, Tipper

notes that if the reconstruction of *Grubenhäuser* as substantial ground level buildings is correct they would have rivalled some 'halls' in size, and suggests that the rigid functional distinction between the two building types should be reconsidered.

At Barrow Hills there is no clear relationship between the rectangular post-built structures and the sunken-featured buildings. It is difficult not to interpret the sunken-featured buildings in close proximity to post-built structures as related to them, for example SFBs 4–7, 15 and 19 around the cluster of buildings and fencelines in the centre of the site, SFBs 14 and 17/18 near PBS 6 and SFBs 23, 24 and 45 near PBSs 7, 8 and 11. However, there are also rectangular post-built structures with no adjacent sunken-featured buildings, such as PBS 10, and sunken-featured buildings with no adjacent post-built structures, like SFBs 30 and 32–4.

### Building lifespans

The lifespan of sunken-featured buildings and timber halls would have depended on the nature and quality of the materials used, especially the timber, and on how carefully the buildings (particularly their roofs) were maintained. This in turn is likely to have been related to their function, since main dwellings tend to be better maintained and less frequently replaced than outhouses, workshops and stores. Estimates vary between 35 years for substantial halls (Hamerow 1993, 90) to 40–50 years, on the assumption that the main hall farmhouse would be rebuilt once every generation (Welch 1992, 29), and 20–25 years for sunken-featured buildings (Welch 1992, 30). The West Stow reconstructions are still in good condition after 20 years and may well exceed this estimate. It seems likely that on well drained soil the lifetime of a substantial, well maintained post-built structure of oak might also have exceeded these estimates, and as will be seen in Chapter 7 there is evidence that this was the case at Barrow Hills.

### ANGLO-SAXON INHUMATIONS

Two inhumations datable to the Anglo-Saxon period were found during the 1983–5 excavations. One, Grave 5004 on the south-west side of pond barrow 4866, contained the south-west/north-east inhumation of an adult female over 45 years of age accompanied by a small iron knife, iron buckle and bronze pin of late 6th- or 7th-century type with traces of mineralised cloth (Fig. 3.104). The other, grave 4562, was a much disturbed east-west newborn infant burial in a shallow cut in the bottom of the south side of SFB 32. There were no grave goods.

### PITS

Only a few pits could be dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, and these are listed in the gazetteer. They tended to form complexes of shallow, irregular pits

and scoops, like 4786 and 4798 near SFB 43 or 414–8 in barrow 13.

#### **ANGLO-SAXON FILLS OF PREHISTORIC BARROW DITCHES**

Anglo-Saxon material was found in the ditches of the Neolithic oval barrow, barrows 1, 12, 13, segmented ring ditch 2123 and in the uppermost level of pond barrow 4866. There is also evidence for deliberate levelling of ring ditch 801 in this period. For illustrations see Barclay and Halpin 1999, chapter 4.

Saxon pottery was found in upper fills of the inner (2060) and outer ditches (2061) of the oval barrow, concentrated at the north corner and in the centre of the north-east side of the outer ditch. Very little Saxon material occurred in the remaining ditch sections. These two concentrations may represent deliberate dumping from activity outside the area of the 1983–5 excavations. No other finds or animal bone are recorded from these dumps, but this may be the result of accidental loss.

Barrow 1 was on the east of the excavated area. Layers 2 and 3 produced Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and small finds, including a clay pipe fragment from layer 2. Finds densities were very low and the ditch was not completely excavated.

Layers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the outer ditch (601) of barrow 12 produced Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and small finds. Layer 1 was topsoil; layers 2 and 3 represent deliberate Anglo-Saxon dumping, with some plough disturbance of layer 2. Layers 2 and 3 both contained post-medieval finds, including a clay pipe fragment from layer 2 and a fragment of post-medieval glass from layer 3. SFB 26 lay between

the inner ditch 602 and the more substantial outer ditch 601.

Layers 2 and 3 of the ditch of barrow 13 (401) contained Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and small finds. Plough and animal disturbance extended into layer 4, which produced a clay pipe fragment and a piece of iron bar. A series of inter-cutting pits 414–8 in the north-west quadrant of the barrow yielded Anglo-Saxon finds, pottery from 414 and a loomweight from 416. The ditch was cut by two SFBs, 23 and 24.

A small amount of Saxon pottery was found in the upper fill of the north-west segment of ring ditch 2123. Just inside the north-east segment was a shallow pit whose fill contained a considerable quantity of oak charcoal. This provided a radiocarbon determination of cal 390–600 (1570 ± 50 BP; BM-2705), suggesting that the feature belongs to the period of Anglo-Saxon occupation of the site. A sample of the fill contained a wheat grain and an oat grain (Moffett 1999).

A single Romano-British sherd, a small quantity of Saxon sherds and the almost complete skeleton of a fairly large adult dog (c 590 mm shoulder height) were recovered from the uppermost level of pond barrow 4866. The cut of the Anglo-Saxon grave 5004 on the south-west side of pond barrow 4866 was shallow, and the grave may have been inserted in a bank, which was subsequently denuded by ploughing.

Although there were no Anglo-Saxon finds from ring ditch 801, layer 3 of SFB 14 probably represents deliberate backfill of the ditch, either derived from the slighting of a barrow mound or redeposited from the digging of SFBs 17–18 as an attempt to level the ground surface (see Barclay and Halpin 1999).

# Gazetteer 1: Post-built Structures

*By Richard Chambers and Ellen McAdam*

## INTRODUCTION

A total of 22 post-built structures were identified at Barrow Hills and are listed in this gazetteer (see site plan, Fig 7.11). The structures were not well preserved and the problems of identification are discussed in the introduction to this chapter. Each entry gives the post-built structure (PBS) number assigned during the second phase of post-excavation, the grid reference of the centre of the feature, Figure number(s), original site plan number (for ease of reference to the archive) and orientation. Wherever appropriate, dimensions are given in the format length x width. The measurements were taken from the 1:50 site plans drawn up after excavation. Each PBS is illustrated in plan at a scale of 1:100. Very few of the postholes of the PBSs contained finds, but details of these have been included under the relevant structure.

### PBS 1

Grid reference: SU 51314 98151; Figure 3.3; Site plan: E6 Orientation: ENE/WSW Dimensions: 7.0 m x 3.5 m

#### Description

PBS 1 was the northernmost and best preserved structure of the group of five PBSs to the north of the Romano-British cemetery (Figs 7.3 and 7.11). The long walls were constructed of *c* seven pairs of substantial, evenly spaced single postholes. The postholes of the end walls were slighter and there are no definite corner posts. Some of the posts appeared to have been replaced and some were affected by animal disturbance. The most probable position for the doors is between postholes 1436 and 1437 on the north side and 1512/3 and 1510/1 on the south side; 1512 may have been a replacement for 1513 and 1511 for 1510. There may also have been a door in the west end between 1619 and 1700. There is a confused arrangement of postholes and stakeholes in this area which may represent another structure.

#### Finds

*Posthole 1440*

**Reused Roman sherd no. 37** SF 1456 Diameter 90 mm. Almost complete cut down foot ring base in Oxford red/brown colour coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

### PBS 2

Grid reference: SU 51318 98148; Figure 3.3; Site plan: E6 Orientation: NNW/SSE Dimensions: 4.0 m x 3.5 m

#### Description

PBS 2 was positioned at right-angles to PBS 1, about 1 m from the east end of the south wall. The east wall was marked by a line of large postholes, but the other walls were less well preserved.

### PBS 3

Grid reference: SU 51309 98147; Figure 3.3; Site plan: E6 Orientation: N/S Dimensions: 4.2 m x 1.8 m

#### Description

PBS 3 was a small, poorly preserved structure approximately 2 m from the west end of PBS 1 and at right-angles to it. Posthole 1722 was the only trace of an end wall. There is a possible doorway between 1702/3 and 1708.

### PBS 4

Grid reference: SU 51310 98142; Figure 3.3; Site plan: E6 Orientation: NNW/SSE Dimensions: 3.2 m x 2.7 m

#### Description

PBS 4 was a small, poorly preserved structure. The east side more or less continued the alignment of the east side of PBS 3, but PBS 4 extended further to the west, close to the north-east end of SFB 5. As with PBS 3, there was no trace of the end walls.

### PBS 5

Grid reference: SU 51316 98136; Figure 3.3; Site plan: E6 Orientation: NNE/SSW Dimensions: *c* 9.0 m x 3.5 m

#### Description

PBS 5 was a poorly preserved structure extending southwards from the south side of the open area bordered by PBSs 1–4. The plan south of postholes 1425 and 1431 is reasonably coherent, with long walls consisting of paired posts and weak corners, although it is confused by rebuilding or another structure at the south end. The north end lies in what appears to have been an area of particularly severe damage, but the large posthole 1433 lines up with the west wall, giving an overall length of about 9 m.

Posthole 1430 cuts the north-west corner of the Romano-British grave 1013, and the south end of the structure is sited over the Romano-British infant burial 1011.

### **PBS 6**

Grid reference: SU 51302 98090; Figure 3.4; Site plan: D/E7 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 7.5 m × 5.0 m

#### **Description**

PBS 6 was situated to the east of ring ditch 801. The long walls are reasonably distinct, with several sets of paired postholes, although the postholes of the south wall seem to have been more substantial than those on the north. As usual, there is relatively little trace of the end walls.

#### **Finds**

##### *Posthole 1186*

413 SF 1182 **Rotary quern** Length 200 mm. Fragment of coarse sandstone conglomerate, red and feldspathic, Upper Old Red Sandstone from Welsh border/Forest of Dean. (Not illustrated)

##### *Posthole 3765*

414 SF 1181 **Rotary quern** Length 75 mm. Fragment of coarse calcareous grit with gastropods, Corallian. (Not illustrated)

### **PBS 7**

Grid reference: SU 51393 98074; Figure 3.4; Site plan: H8 Orientation: ENE/WSW Dimensions: >7.0 m × 3.5 m

#### **Description**

There was extensive animal activity in the area of PBS 7 and the plan of this structure or structures is not clear. There seem to be two approximately parallel lines of postholes running ENE-WSW (3816/21 to 3827/38 on the north and 3806–3813 on the south). Several of the postholes on the northern side were double, but the postholes in the southern row were disturbed by animal burrows. There is no sign of end walls and it is not certain that these two lines were related as a structure, although the spacing of 3.5 m between them supports this interpretation.

### **PBS 8**

Grid reference: SU 51388 98083; Figure 3.4; Site plan: H7/8 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 8.0 m × 3.5 m

#### **Description**

PBS 8 was the best preserved rectangular post-built structure at Barrow Hills. The long walls were represented by predominantly double postholes, with posts at the south-west and south-east corners. The west end was represented by three small single postholes and the east end by one double posthole.

The most likely position for a doorway was between 3853/4 and 3841/50 on the south side, but there was no obvious gap on the north side.

### **PBS 9**

Grid reference: SU 51322 98062; Figure 3.5; Site plan: E8 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: c 5.0 m × 2.5 m

#### **Description**

PBS 9 was a small, narrow structure represented by ten postholes which may have formed three sides of an irregular rectangle or some other plan.

### **PBS 10**

Grid reference: SU 51425 98107; Figure 3.5; Site plan: I/J7 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 7.5 m × 4.2 m

#### **Description**

PBS 10 was the westernmost post-built structure identified, to the south-east of pond barrow 4866. The plan is not clear. The north-west long wall (5102 to 4910?) was fairly substantial, with at least one double posthole, but the south-east side (4158 to 4961?) was considerably less so.

### **PBS 11**

Grid reference: SU 51375 98080; Figure 3.5; Site plan: H7/8, G7/8 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: c 5.5 m × 4.5 m

#### **Description**

There was extensive animal activity in the area of PBS 11, with an incoherent mass of postholes and animal burrows at the north-east end. The long walls consisted of mainly single postholes, some of which were paired. If this was originally the full extent of the building then the paired posts include four corner posts. There was little trace of the end walls. There appears to have been a doorway between 3977 and 3980 on the south-east side.

### **PBS 12**

Grid reference: SU 51387 98124; Figure 3.5; Site plan: H6 Orientation: NNE/SSW Dimensions: 4.2 m × 2.5 m

#### **Description**

PBS 12 was an irregular structure north-east of barrow 13 consisting of two lines of postholes 4980 to 4987 and 4937 to 4980 approximately at right-angles to each other.

### **PBS 13**

Grid reference: SU 51296 98145; Figure 3.6; Site plan: D6 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 4.7 m × 3.0 m

**Description**

PBS 13 was an approximately D-shaped structure, open on the south-east side facing SFB 4 and *c* 1.5 m north-west of it.

**FENCELINES AND OTHER STRUCTURES**

**PBS 14**

Grid reference: SU 51327 98192; Figure 3.6; Site plan: E/F5 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 10.0 m × *c* 4 m apart.

**Description**

PBS 14 consisted of two approximately parallel lines of postholes in the northern part of the site, both discontinuous. The northernmost line is on the same alignment as PBS 15.

**PBS 15**

Grid reference: SU 51313 98185; Figure 3.7; Site plan: E5 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 9.5 m

**Description**

PBS 15 is a line of postholes on the same alignment as the north part of PBS 14 but *c* 10 m to the south-west. If these features were part of the same structure, it extended over a distance of 20 m.

**PBS 16**

Grid reference: SU 51324 98155; Figure 3.7; Site plan: E/F6 Orientation: *c* NE/SW Dimensions: north line 7.0 m south line 9.0 m Distance apart 2.5–6.5 m

**Description**

PBS 16 was situated immediately to the north-east of PBS1. The structure or structures consisted of two curving lines of postholes which together formed a funnel shape, possibly an animal pen or two unrelated fencelines.

**PBS 17**

Grid reference: SU 51312 98092; Figure 3.7; Site plan: E7 Orientation: ENE/WSW Dimensions: 5.2 m

**Description**

PBS 17 consisted of six postholes in a row between PBS 6 and the Romano-British cemetery, possibly a fenceline.

**PBS 18**

Grid reference: SU 51314 98088; Figure 3.7; Site plan: E7 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: 6.0 m

**Description**

PBS 18 was about 5 m south of and parallel to PBS 17 and consisted of four substantial postholes in a row, possibly a fenceline, with another, 3778, *c* 1.75 m to the south of 3777.

**PBS 19**

Grid reference: SU 51304 98156; Figure 3.8; Site plan: E6 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: *c* 8.0 m × 3.5 m

**Description**

PBS 19 describes the area of postholes to the north-east of SFB 7. There may have been a structure or structures in this area cutting or cut by SFB 7, or even associated with it, but it is not possible to reconstruct any plan.

**PBS 20**

Grid reference: SU 51290 98147; Figure 3.8; Site plan: D6 Orientation: ENE/WSW turning to NNW/SSE Dimensions: ENE section 18.0 m NNW section 9.5 m

**Description**

PBS 20 comprised two approximately parallel lines of postholes 1784–3624 and 1744–3614, aligned WSW for about 15 m before turning at right-angles to run NNW to enclose an area of about 9.5 × 10.0 m to the west and north of SFB 7 which was devoid of postholes. It is not possible to determine whether the two lines were contemporary or one was a replacement for the other.

**PBS 21**

Grid reference: SU 51350 98120; Figure 3.9; Site plan: F/G 6, F7 Orientation: NE/SW Dimensions: *c* 30 m × 8.5 m

**Description**

PBS 21 was an area of postholes and animal disturbance which contained one or more structures. The features in this area were drawn in plan but not in section, and only grid references and context numbers were recorded on the context sheets. It is therefore impossible to distinguish postholes from animal burrows and it is difficult to reconstruct the plan or plans with any certainty.

At least four, possibly related, structures can be discerned. There was a northern line 4396 to 4284 which ran NE/SW for over 14 m, and the Bronze Age cremation pit 4321 containing the cremation of a subadult covered by an inverted Collared Urn was approximately on this alignment (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 175–83). A parallel line 4380 to 4318 ran NE/SW for 9 m *c* 5 m to the south. Finally, there were two roughly L-shaped arrangements, one at the

southern end of the fencelines and a larger one at the northern end. The plan of the southern arrangement is more distinct. Each appeared to consist of four very approximately parallel rows of NE/SW post-holes (tentatively, 4364 to 4342, 4360 to 4341, 4336 to 4329 and 4337 to 4336 in the south, and 4303 to 4259, 4307 to 4252, 4320 to 4253 and 4257 to 4270 in the north). The nature and function of these structures are obscure: they are dated to the Anglo-Saxon period by a small quantity of pottery (see below).

**PBS 22**

Grid reference: SU 51332 98102; Figure 3.10; Site plan: F7 Orientation: c NE/SW Dimensions: c 15 m × 5.5 m

**Description**

This was an area of postholes and animal disturbance to the south-west of PBS 21 which almost certainly concealed the plan of one or more structures. The features in this area were drawn in plan but not in section, and only grid references and context numbers were recorded on the context sheets. As in PBS 21, it is therefore impossible to distinguish postholes from

animal burrows and no plan can be reconstructed. There was a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery from one of the postholes.

**Pottery**

It was impossible to date any of the post-built structures on the basis of the pottery. Few of the buildings produced any pottery, and none any decorated wares. The assemblages were too small to allow even the remotest speculation with regard to chronology. The pottery from the PBSs is summarised below; all other PBSs were aceramic.

*Pottery occurrence per post-built structure by weight (in g) per fabric type per structure.*

PBS no.	F1	F2	F3	Total wt (g)
1	0	62	2	64
5	0	12	20	32
8	0	0	2	2
21	32	0	32	64
22	0	0	3	3

# Gazetteer 2: The Sunken-featured Buildings

By Richard Chambers and Ellen McAdam

## INTRODUCTION

A total of 45 *Grubenhäuser* or sunken-featured buildings were recorded at Barrow Hills and are listed in this gazetteer. Each entry gives the sunken-featured building (SFB) number assigned in order of excavation during the first phase of post-excitation, the context number, grid reference of the centre of the feature, Figure number(s), original site plan number (for ease of reference to the archive) and orientation. The descriptions of the sunken-featured buildings are quoted from site context records with only minor editorial changes, and interpretative text, if any, follows the layer descriptions. The site records state that virtually all the sunken-featured buildings had been disturbed by burrowing animals, and disturbance is mentioned only in those cases in which it appeared to be unusually severe.

Four dimensions are given for each sunken-featured building: length at surface, the overall length of the pit as it was first defined; distance between postholes, from centre to centre of the postholes in the ends of the sunken-featured buildings; width at surface; and depth, taken from the top of the natural gravel.

Wherever possible the measurements were taken from the 1:20 plans and sections made on site of the individual features during or soon after excavation. The plans prepared for publication were based on the 1:50 A4 site plans which were drawn up after excavation and slight discrepancies may therefore exist. Each sunken-featured building is illustrated in plan and section at a scale of 1:50. In some cases sections have been lost or are unintelligible, because they cannot be related to the context and finds records. They appear to record all the patches of colour variation in the gravel fills. These sunken-featured buildings are illustrated by profiles only.

The gazetteer entries also include a summary and catalogue of the finds and pottery. Objects are referred to by their number in the catalogue prepared during the first phase of post-excitation by John Hedges, which lists all the Anglo-Saxon finds arranged by material and function. A copy of this catalogue is lodged with the archive. The small find number assigned in the field is also given, prefixed by SF. In the illustrations, glass and copper alloy objects are shown at 1:1 and all other materials at 1:2. Pottery is illustrated at 1:3. The finds were catalogued by Barbara Ford and pottery by Paul Blinkhorn.

## SFB 1

Context 1005; Grid reference: 51309 98104; Figures 3.11–13; Site plan: E7; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: 3.05 m; Distance between postholes: 2.70 m; Width: 2.60 m; Depth: 0.4 m

## Description

SFB 1 lay on the west edge of the Romano-British cemetery. The pit was slightly irregular on the north side, with an uneven floor and sloping sides. There were three large postholes, 1089 in the centre of the east end, a shallow impression 1056 in the centre of the west end and 1086, which projects beyond the west end. The posthole 1088 in the north-west corner may also have been associated with this structure.

The fill consisted of three layers:

- 1 medium brown sandy loam with 40% gravel, containing medieval and post-medieval pot and tile.
- 2 medium grey/brown sandy loam with 10% gravel, containing bone, pottery, burnt limestone, burnt daub and heat-cracked quartzite pebbles.
- 3 medium brown sandy loam with 60% medium gravel; seems to represent silting from the sides while the pit was open.

Posthole 1086 may have replaced 1056. Since the post pit of 1089 appeared as a different filling from 2 it may have remained in situ while the main layer of pit fill accumulated, but 1086 had clearly contained the same sequence of fills as the pit.

## Finds

Ten objects were recovered. These included a hobnail, 242, and a fragment of a flask, 291, both of Roman date. The glass fragment has secondary polishing and has been reused at some later date. There are also a modified complete base and a cut half base of two reused Roman pottery vessels.

Number 158 is a fragment of a very corroded copper alloy pin, the head of which is missing. 192, a fragment of a rod with a hooked terminal, is probably a handle from a bucket or cauldron. An iron handle of this type has been found on a copper alloy cauldron from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Morning Thorpe, Grave 200 (Green *et al.* 1987, 87, fig. 356 Ai). A similar complete iron handle was found on a bucket from Grave 27 at Alton, Hampshire (Evison 1988, 78, fig. 31).

Weaving equipment included a fragment of an annular loomweight, 452, a type generally dated to the early Saxon period (Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24), and a bone pin beater, 356, used for separating the warp threads with a warp-weighted loom. Other items of bone include a pig's metapodial which has been pierced, probably for use as a dress fastener. Such toggles are common on sites from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. Part of an antler beam recovered from layer 2 is waste, left over from antler-working.

## Layer 1

242 SF 334 **Iron hobnail** Length 20 mm Domed head and rectangular cross-sectioned shank (Not illustrated)

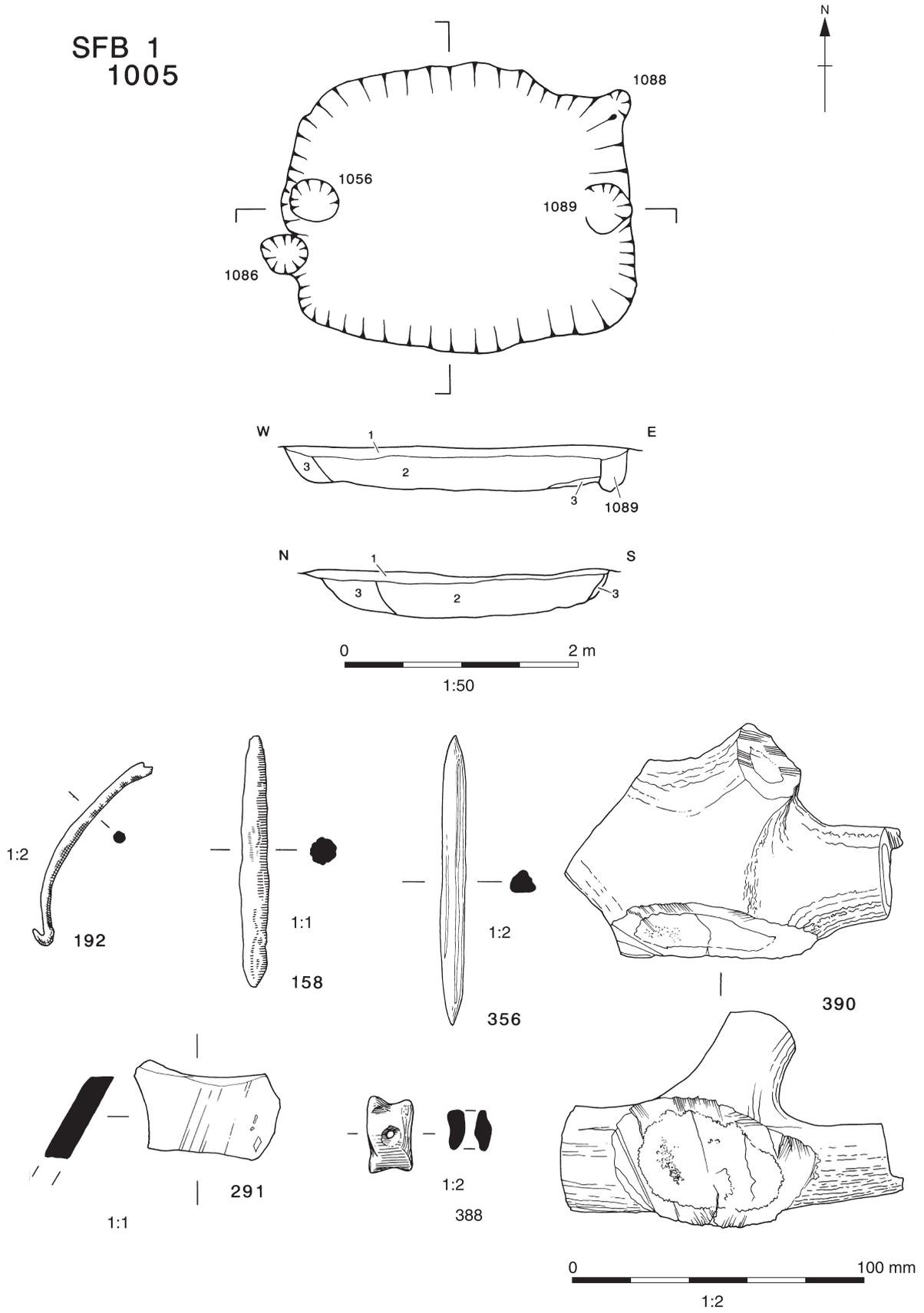


Figure 3.11 Sunken-featured building 1 and artefacts.

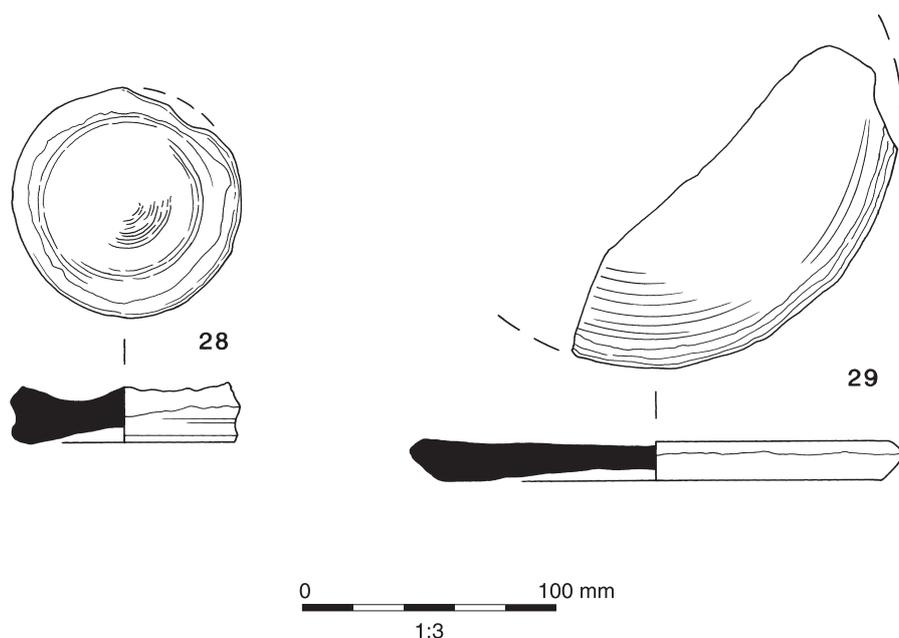


Figure 3.12 Sunken-featured building 1 artefacts continued.

192 SF 228 **Iron handle** Length 77 mm. Part of a rod with circular cross-section, turned up at end to form a hooked terminal.

291 SF 329 **Vessel glass** Thickness 4 mm. Pale green transparent fragment. Possibly part of the neck of a flask. One edge has secondary polish extending beyond the true lip of the outer edge. Scratched outer edge. Late Roman.

**Layer 2**

158 SF 26 **Copper alloy pin** Length 45 mm, diameter 4.5 mm. Pointed at one end, head missing.

356 SF 19 **Bone pin beater** Length 105 mm; diameter 9 mm. Highly polished. Triangular cross-section. Tapers to a point at both ends.

388 SF 1526 **Bone toggle** Length 28 mm, width 16 mm. Astragalus, probably from a sheep? Perforated.

390 SF 230 **Antler waste** Fragment from a beam. Sawn at both ends. Two tines also removed by sawing. Sawn through almost to the edge and then broken off leaving small burrs.

452 SF 341 **Annular fired clay loomweight** Diameter 120 mm. Fragment approx 20% Surface roughly smoothed. Estimated total weight 395.5 g (Not illustrated).

**Reused Roman sherd no. 28** SF 1463 Diameter 60 mm. Cut down base in greyware from a small beaker or jar, fabric 2.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 29** SF 1453 Diameter 120 mm. Cut down half of a flat greyware base, fabric 4.

**Pottery tpq early-mid 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	64	71	240	12	79	67.8	32.2	466
2	364	1362	877	20 g	60 g	47.0	53.0	2683
3	1	0	0	0	0	100	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1433</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>139</b>			<b>3146</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>19.9</b>			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	122	36	171	137	466
2	1590	540	195	358	2683
3	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total wt (g)</b>	<b>1712</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>3150</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>15.7</b>	

EVE: Jars = 1.60; Bowls = 0.21.

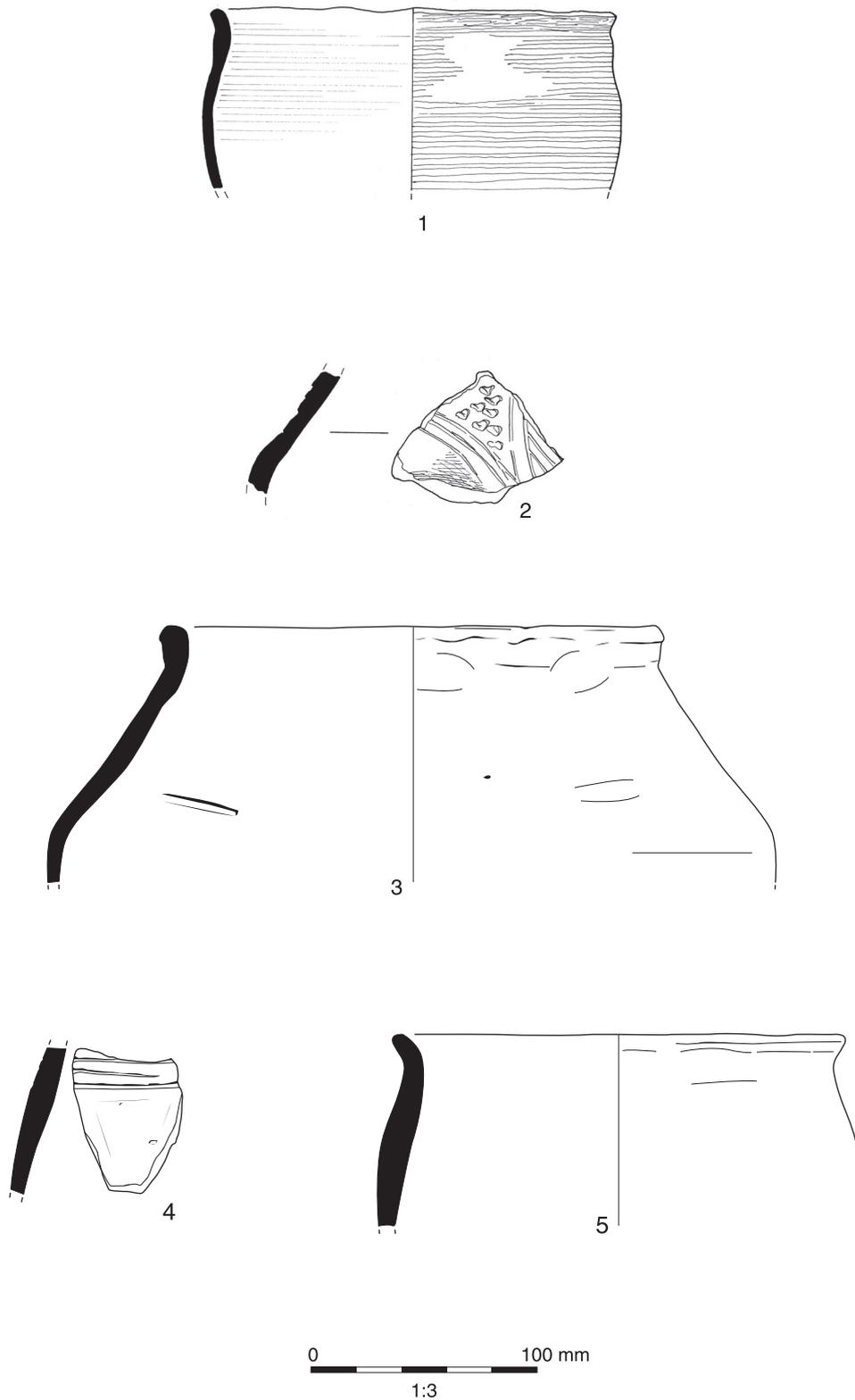


Figure 3.13 Sunken-featured building 1 pottery.

Four incised sherds: (A/1, F3, 16 g; A/2, F6, 16 g; B/2, F1, 20 g; D/1, F3, 6 g).

One sherd, bossed, incised and stabbed, (D/2, F2, 56 g).

One stamped sherd (D/1, F1, 4 g).

Cross fits: A/2 = C/1, A/2 = C/2.

*Illustrations*

3.13.1 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

- 3.13.2 Bossed and incised sherd. Black fabric with brown outer, both surfaces burnished.
- 3.13.3 Profile through large shouldered jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surface on upper body.
- 3.13.4 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surface.
- 3.13.5 Rim sherd from large jar. Black fabric with brown smoothed surfaces.

The overall decorative scheme of the bossed sherd (Fig. 3.13.2) is not entirely clear, but it appears similar to two vessels from Cambridgeshire (Myres 1977, fig. 295 no. 265 and fig. 310 no. 2712). Myres dates such vessels to the first half of the 6th century.

**SFB 2**

Context 1053; Grid reference: 51300 98119; Figures 3.14–15; Site plan: D7/E7; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.80 m; Distance between postholes: 3.40 m; Width: 3.02 m; Depth: 0.40 m

**Description**

SFB 2 was 10.0 m west of the Romano-British cemetery, c 20 m north-west of SFB 1. It lay directly under a medieval plough furrow. The pit was rectangular, with main postholes 1081 in the centre of the east end and 1075 (for which 1080 may be a replacement) in the centre of the west end and possible corner posts 1062, 1226, 1077 and 1156. The sides were sloping and irregular. In all, 35 postholes and stakeholes are associated with 1053, many positioned along the south-east side. There was no evidence of occupation or a floor surface on the base of the pit.

The fill consisted of four layers, of which layers 1 to 3 were similar in colour and texture, but the colour lightened progressively towards the base of the feature, the gravel content decreased and the fill became more silty and friable. The fill was stratified and the differences between the layers noticeable. Layer 3 continued into postholes 1075 and 1081, suggesting that the main posts 1081 and 1075 were removed before the pit was backfilled. The fill of some of the 35 postholes and stakeholes was overlain by layers 3 and 4, indicating that they had gone out of use before the pit was filled in. They may represent a pit lining.

- 1 dark brown sandy loam with 40% gravel, containing bone and pottery.
- 2 medium dark brown sandy loam with 20% gravel containing pottery, bone and pieces of limestone, burnt limestone and quartzite.
- 3 medium to light red brown loamy silt with 5% pea gravel, containing pottery and bone.
- 4 pea gravel.

**Finds**

Finds included a small plain dome-headed stud, 152, of a type commonly found from Roman through to post-medieval sites, a fragment of an iron nail, 253, and an iron tool 207, possibly part of an awl, for piercing holes in leather. An almost complete awl, still with its antler handle intact, was found in SFB 56 at West Stow (West 1985, 45, fig. 188.1). 375 is a fragment of a pierced pig fibula pin, of a type common on this site.

The glass globular drawn triple bead, 289, is of a type which occurs from the 2nd to the 6th centuries (Boon 1977). A similar bead has been recovered from the cemetery at West Stow (West 1985, 71–74, T15, fig. 275.19).

**Layer 1**

- 207 SF 27 **Iron awl** Length 108 mm. Circular in cross-section changing to square cross-section and tapering to a point.
- 253 SF 151 **Iron nail** Length 30 mm. Shank fragment. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

- 152 SF 206 **Copper alloy stud** Diameter 7 mm. Domed head. Broken shank with rectangular cross-section.
- 375 SF 323 **Bone pin** Length 37 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at proximal end, with modified head. Polished. Tip missing.

**Layer 3**

- 289 SF 207 **Glass bead** Length 12 mm; Diameter 4.5 mm. Blue, opaque. Cylindrical with three unequal segments along its length. Straight hole. Iridescent.

**Pottery tpq 5th/6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	72	240	293	15	19	59.5	40.5	639
2	117	965	188	5	38	23.6	76.4	1313
3	0	175	31	0	102	10.1	89.9	308
Total	189	1380	512	20	159			2260
wt (g)								
Mean sherd wt	7.9	27.1	13.8	5.0	17.7			

SFB 2  
1053

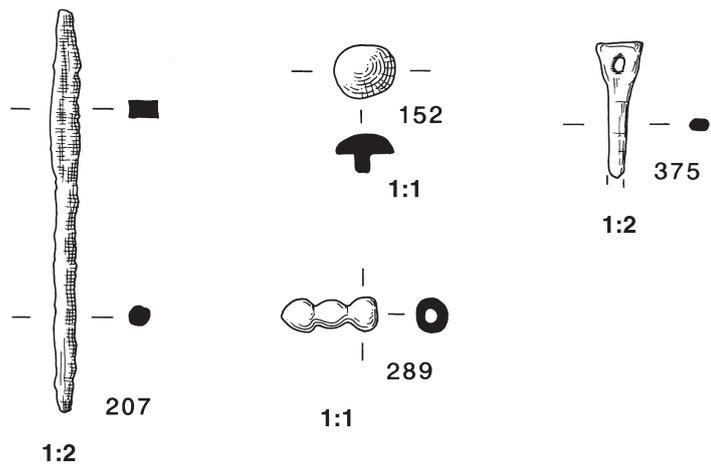
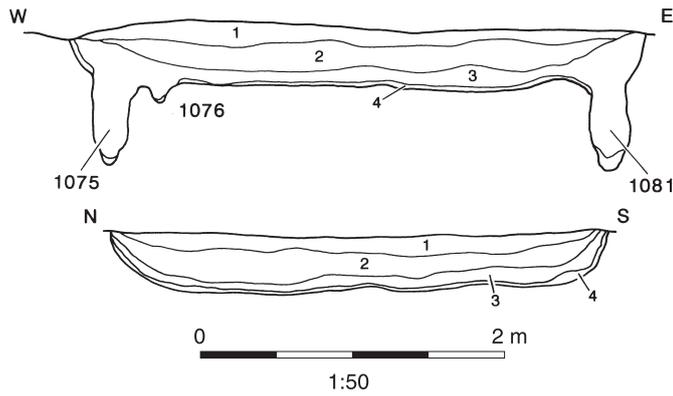
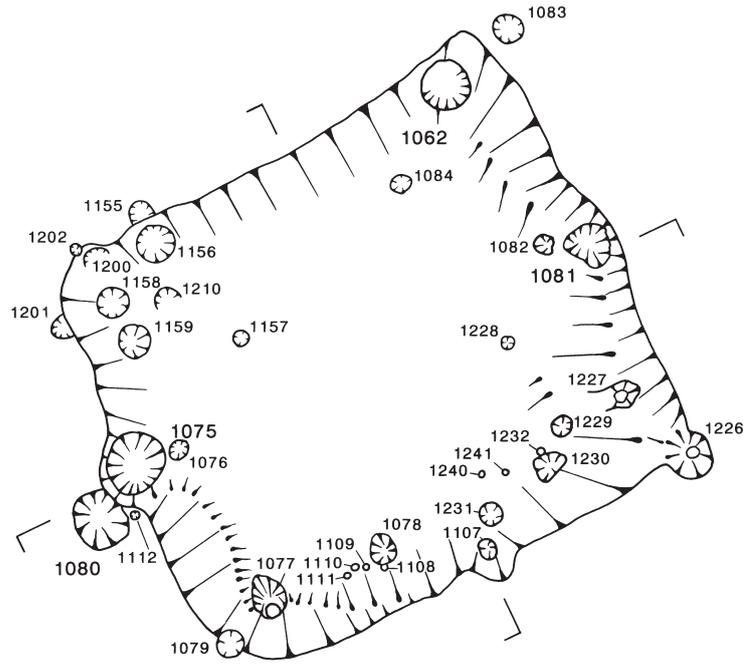


Figure 3.14 Sunken-featured building 2 and artefacts.

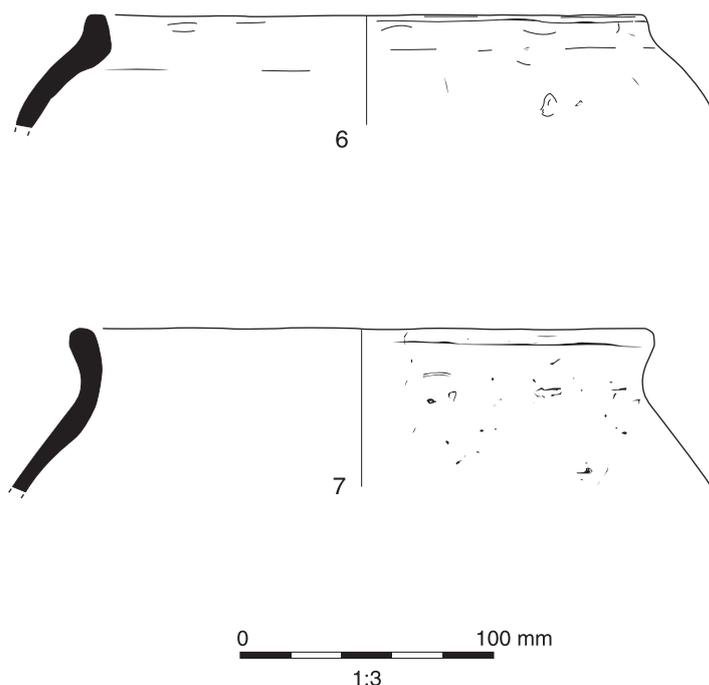


Figure 3.15 Sunken-featured building 2 pottery.

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	320	203	107	9	639
2	486	432	312	83	1313
3	0	217	0	91	308
Total wt (g)	806	852	419	183	2260
% of total	35.7	37.7	18.5	8.1	

EVE: Jars = 0.62; Bowls = 0.04.

Two incised sherds (B/2, F2, 36 g; B/2, F6, 22 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.15.6 Rim sherd from large jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.  
 3.15.7 Light grey fabric with black smoothed surfaces.

**SFB 3**

Context 1061; Grid reference: 51294 98108; Figures 3.16–17; Site plan: D7 Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 4.0 m; Distance between postholes: 3.10 m; Width: 3.28 m; Depth: 0.72 m.

**Description**

SFB 3 was c 10.0 m south-west of SFB 2, west of the Romano-British cemetery. The pit was an irregular rectangle with a protrusion at the east end and

bulging edges. There were two postholes 1282 and 1242 at the east and west ends respectively, possibly compound and/or recut, and the posthole 1516 to the south-west of 1242 may also have been associated with the structure. The sides of the pit were almost vertical. There was no evidence of a floor or occupation surface; the base of the pit was conglomerate and gravel.

- 1 dark red brown loam with 40% gravel, containing bone, pottery and worked flint.
- 2 medium grey brown friable loam with 60% gravel containing pottery and bone.
- 3 light grey buff silt with 80% gravel.
- 4 pea gravel.

The pit fill continued into the recut of 1242.

**Finds**

There were two reused Roman pottery vessels, 30 and 31, both cut down bases. 215 is a possible latch lifter used to raise a latch or bolt, although it is unlike Roman latch lifters. It may be a lift key used in conjunction with a tumbler lock like those from Graves 134 and 369 at Morning Thorpe (Green *et al.* 1987, fig. 343.F, 428.Ui). The iron ferrule, 183, is probably the butt from a staff or spear. Another example comes from SFB 11 (see Fig. 3.33, no. 184). Many Anglo-Saxon graves have produced similar iron ferrules in association with spearheads, for example Grave 24, Fonaby, Lincs (Cook 1981, 28, fig. 27) and Abingdon Grave 49 (Leeds and Harden 1936, 40, pl XVIII). An iron fitting, 224, is of uncertain use. 332, a tooth segment from a comb, is similar to the many combs of 5th- to 7th-century date from the site (see for example Fig. 3.23, no. 3.19).

SFB 3  
1061

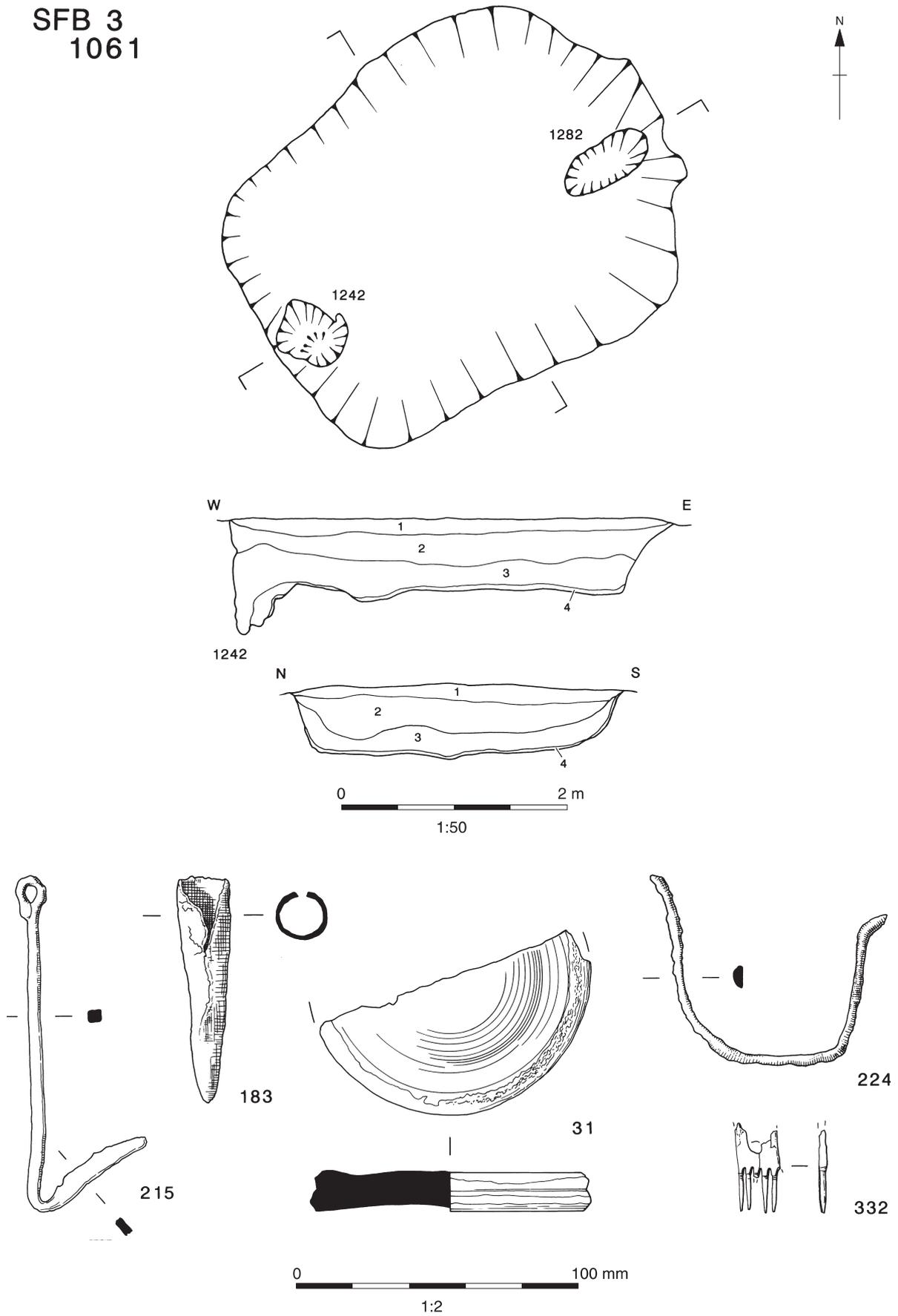


Figure 3.16 Sunken-featured building 3 and artefacts.

There are two deposits of slag. Number 607 is a planoconvex slag which has been furnace-cooled and is probably a 'hearth bottom' from a smith's hearth. Number 608 is in a mostly vitrified state and has been formed by the interaction of the lining of a hearth or furnace with bulk slag.

**Layer 1**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 30** SF 1452 Diameter 45 mm. Cut down half of a foot-ring base of a beaker in Oxford red/brown colour-coated, fabric 3. (Not illustrated).

**Layer 2**

215 SF 33 **Key/latch lifter** Length 120 mm. Stem has a square cross-section and hooked terminal. The bit is a knifelike projection bent up at an angle of 45°.

183 SF 29 **Iron ferrule** Length 80 mm; max diameter 18 mm. Hollow conical shape made from a rolled sheet with slightly overlapping edges. Closed at pointed end.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 31** SF 1455 Diameter 100 mm. Cutdown half of a flat base in greyware, fabric 4.

**Layer 3**

224 SF 32 **Iron fitting** Length 68 mm. U-shaped, D-sectioned bar with out-splayed ends.

332 SF 219 **Antler comb** Fragment of a tooth segment with 4 teeth per cm. Remains of one rivet hole.

- 607 SF 1653 **Slag, plano-convex fragment** (not illustrated)
- 609 SF 1339 **Slag, lining reaction product** (not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 5th/6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	122	0	67	15	92.6	7.4	204
2	314	539	47	0	40.1	59.9	900
3	44	126	31	0	37.3	62.7	201
4	116	50	0	11	65.5	34.5	177
Total wt (g)	596	715	145	26			1482
Mean sherd wt	10.3	16.3	9.7	8.7			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	30	142	32	0	204
2	188	248	279	185	900
3	20	97	56	28	201
4	0	177	0	0	177
Total wt (g)	238	664	367	213	1482
% of total	16.1	44.7	24.8	14.4	

EVE: Jars = 0.72; Bowls = 0.

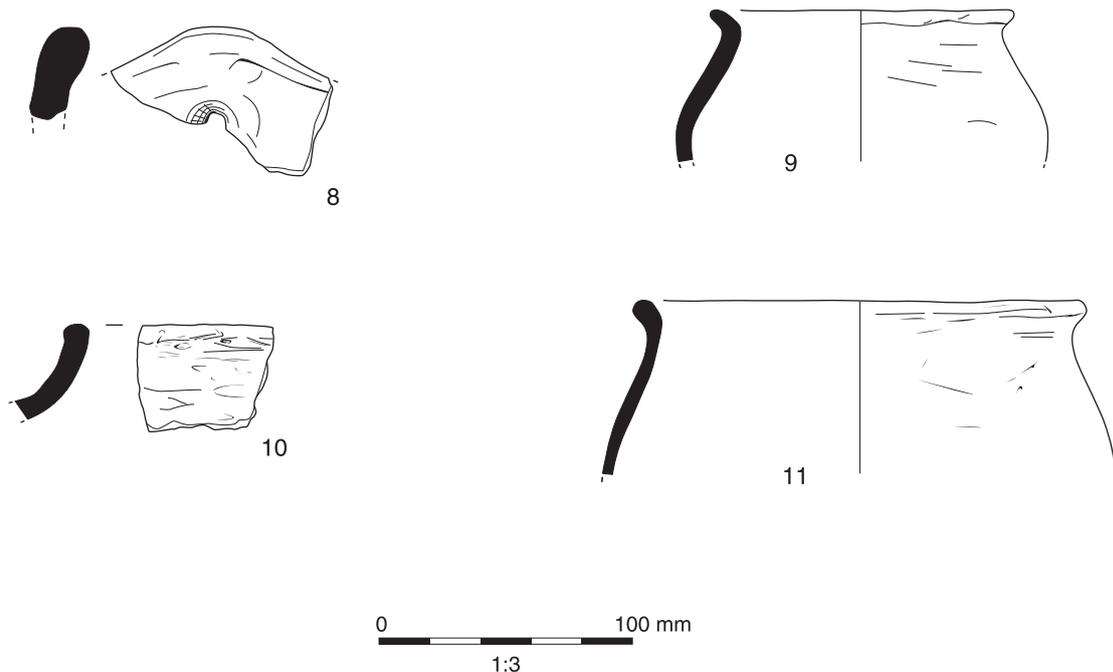


Figure 3.17 Sunken-featured building 3 pottery.

One incised sherd (C/2, F1, 5 g).  
 One rusticated sherd, (D/2, F1, 11 g).  
 Cross fits:  $A/2 = A/2 = C/1 = C/2 = C/3 = D/2$   
 ( $\times 2$ );  $B/2 = A/2 = C/1 = C/2 = C/3 = D/2$ .

#### Illustrations

- 3.17.8 Upright lug. Black fabric, light brown unfinished surfaces.  
 3.17.9 Jar rim. Light grey fabric with black burnished surfaces.  
 3.17.10 Rim from small jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.  
 3.17.11 Rim from large jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.

#### SFB 4

Context 1105; Grid reference: 51298 98140; Figures 3.18–20; Site plan: D6 Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 4.5 m; Distance between postholes: 3.5 m; Width: 4.05 m; Depth: 0.88 m.

#### Description

SFB 4 lay to the west of the central group of post-built structures, north-west of the Romano-British cemetery. The sub-rectangular pit was larger and deeper than average, with two small postholes, 1355 and 1280, in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides respectively. The sides were vertical. There was no evidence of a floor or occupation surface.

There were five layers of fill over a pit base of hard conglomerate. There were lumps of conglomerate at all levels in the fill and layers 4 and 5 continued into both postholes.

- 1 medium red brown sandy loam with 40% gravel containing pottery, bone, worked flint and lumps of conglomerate.
- 2 medium red brown sandy loam with 20% gravel containing pottery, bone and worked flint.
- 3 medium light red brown loamy silt with 20% gravel.
- 4 light red brown loamy silt with 80% gravel increasing towards the bottom.
- 5 intermittent layer of pea gravel on the base and sides of the feature.

PBS 13 was adjacent to the north-west and may have been in association. (Note: the line of the east-west section as indicated on the publication drawing is estimated. It is not possible to establish the actual line of the section, which clearly runs through posthole 1355.)

#### Finds

Thirteen artefacts were recovered. These included a copper alloy disc fragment, 139, with a series of small circular hammer marks on the underside. 140, the foot and catchplate from a brooch, is probably part of a Roman trumpet brooch, a type which is common in the 1st century but continues well into the 2nd century (Hattatt 1985, 105). The copper alloy mount, 149, is pierced with two rivet holes and is probably a belt fitting.

Number 156, from layer 3, is a large copper alloy nail. Part of the shaft has been twisted towards the tip and the shank is deliberately bent. The head is burred from use but presumably the shaft could only have been partly driven into the wood.

There are fragments of two iron nails, 243 and 248: 248 is probably part of a horseshoe nail. Other iron objects include an iron hook, 223, which is similar to one from a Anglo-Saxon pit at West Stow (West 1985, 57, fig. 232.1). There is also an iron mount, 217, made from a tapering sheet pierced with three holes. This may have been a bucket fitting.

There are two fragments of worked antler. 387 is part of a tine which has been sharpened at one end. The sides have been trimmed and it has been pared down at the other end. It was probably used as a peg. 380, which is a tine with a small section of the beam, shows extensive wear and is probably a tool, possibly used for digging or scraping.

#### Layer 1

- 139 SF 101 **Copper alloy disc** Thickness 0.5 mm. Fragment with hammering marks on the reverse. Obverse tinned.  
 140 SF 247 **Copper alloy brooch** Length 37 mm. Fragment of moulded foot knob and catchplate. The rear of the pin catch is decorated with incised horizontal and diagonal lines. The bow has two incised lines marking the edges.  
 248 SF 107 **Iron horseshoe nail** Length 33 mm. Part of head missing. Rectangular cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)  
 387 SF 205 **Antler peg** Length 72 mm Modified tine, pared down towards the tip, now missing. The other end has been shaped to a point.

#### Layer 2

- 243 SF 250 **Iron nail** Length 53 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)  
 303 SF 341 **Window glass** Max thickness 5.5 mm. Tapering fragment of bottle green translucent bubbled glass. Badly scratched and worn on both sides. Roman. (Not illustrated)  
 311 SF 1524 **Bone pin** Length 16 mm. Shaft fragment. (Not illustrated)  
 380 SF 215 **Worked antler** Length 183 mm. Tine and sloping portion of the beam, cut from the beam with signs of wear at the cut end.  
 624 SF 1406 **Clay pipe** Stem fragment. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)

#### Layer 3

- 149 SF 251 **Copper alloy mount** Length 23 mm; width 9 mm. Rectangular cut sheet with two rivet holes. File marks on underside.

SFB 4  
1105

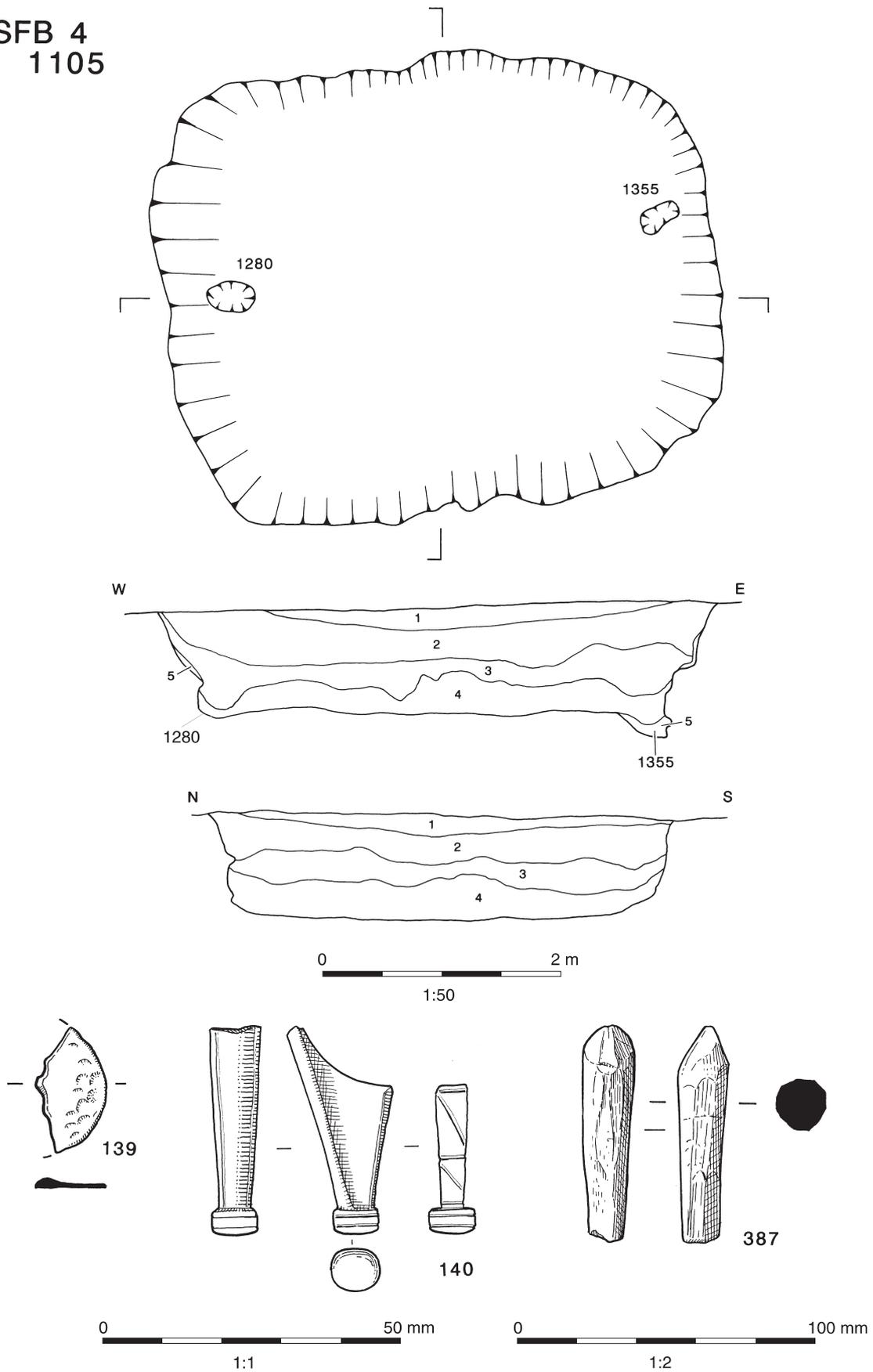


Figure 3.18 Sunken-featured building 4 and artefacts.

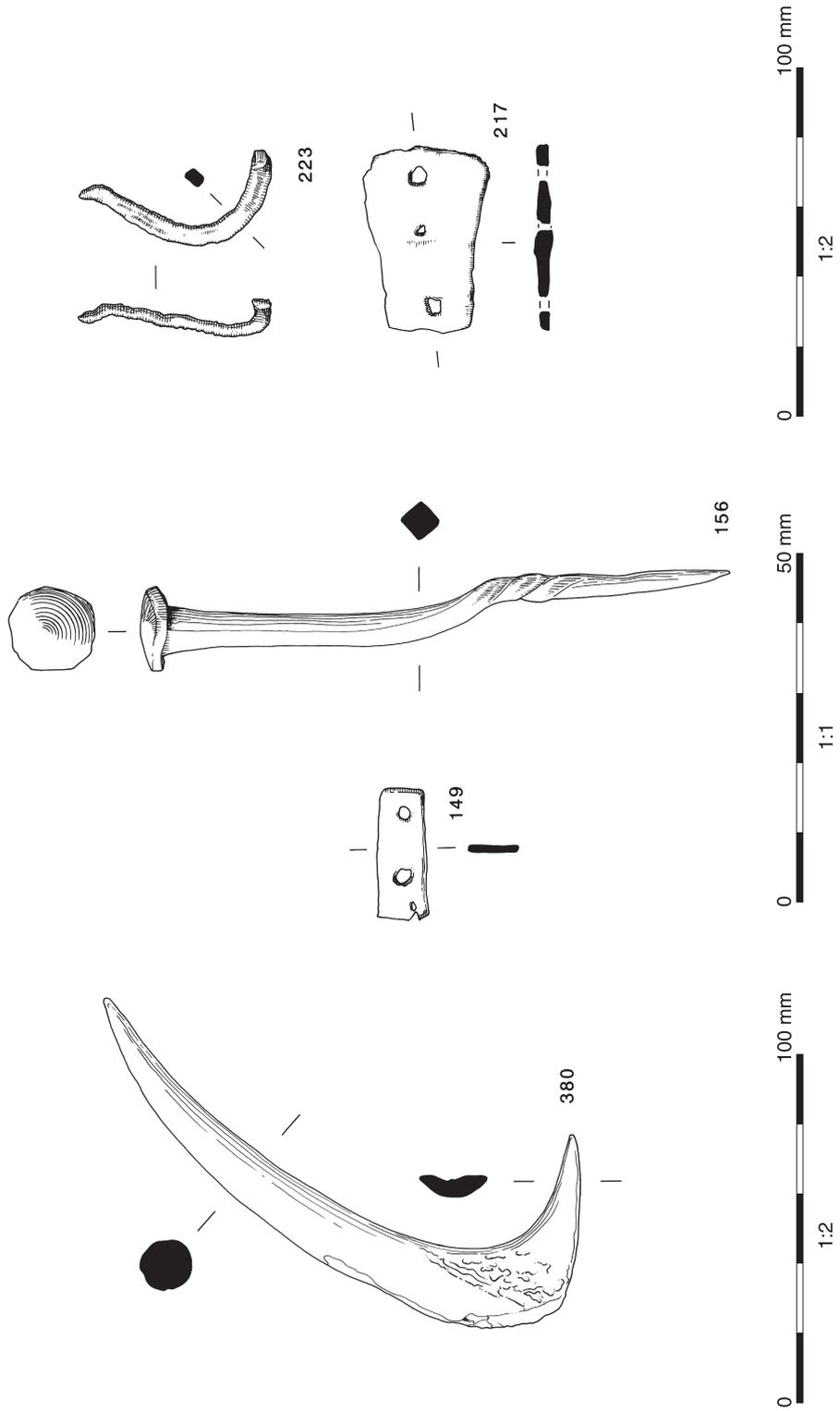


Figure 3.19 Sunken-featured building 4 artefacts continued.

- 156 SF 245 **Copper alloy nail** Length 103 mm; Diameter of head 14 mm. Circular head slightly burred at edges. The shaft has a square cross-section and is bent and twisted near the tip.
- 223 SF 137 **Iron hook** Length 66 mm. Rectangular cross-sectioned curved rod with both ends curved to form small hooks.

**Layer 4**

- 217 SF 246 **Iron mount** Length 23 mm; width 9 mm. Tapering sheet, perforated by three rivet holes down the centre.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	180	112	22	0	46	56.1	43.9	360
2	270	197	60	2	83	54.2	45.8	612
3	163	44	44	0	90	60.7	39.3	341
4	124	106	9	0	115	37.6	62.4	354
Total wt (g)	738	459	135	2	333			1667
Mean sherd wt	6.4	5.7	6.8	2.0	9.0			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	124	53	70	113	360
2	282	35	210	85	612
3	152	73	19	97	341
4	132	29	61	132	354
Total wt (g)	690	190	360	427	1667
% of total	41.4	11.4	21.6	25.6	

EVE: Jars = 0.74; Bowls = 0.

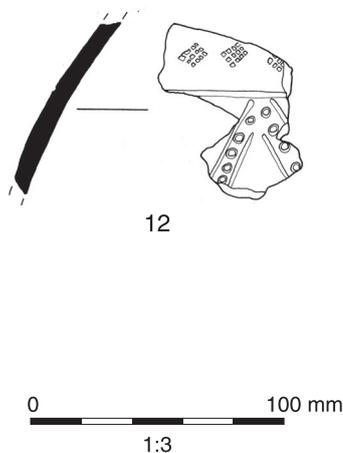


Figure 3.20 Sunken-featured building 4 pottery.

- Six incised sherds, (A/2, F2, 2 g; A/3, F6, 8 g; A/4, F2, 4 g; A/4, F2, 2 g; B/4, F3, 2 g; C/2, F1, 1 g; C/4, F1, 6 g).  
Two stamped and incised sherds (C/4, F2, 6 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.20.12 Stamped and incised sherd. Brown fabric with dark grey, smoothed surfaces.

The stamped and incised sherd (Fig. 3.20.12) indicates a *terminus post quem* of the 6th century for the backfill of the feature.

**SFB 5**

Context 1225; Grid reference: 51306 98140; Figures 3.21–2; Site plan: E6 Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.46 m; Distance between postholes: 3.06 m; Width: 2.64 m; Depth: 0.2 m.

**Description**

SFB 5 was immediately to the west of PBS 4, one of the central group of post-built structures north of the Romano-British cemetery. The pit was shallow and sub-rectangular in plan, with postholes 1356 and 1281 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides. There was no evidence of occupation debris. The sides were near vertical.

Two layers of fill were recorded. A line of limestone and conglomerate lumps resting on the base of the pit formed a line parallel to the south-west end. Layer 1 extended into both postholes.

- 1 dark red brown sandy loam with 40% gravel, containing pottery and bone.
- 2 pea gravel over the hard conglomerate base of the feature.

**Finds**

The only objects recovered were reused Roman sherds.

**Layer 1**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 32** SF 1467 Diameter 70 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Posthole 1281**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 33** SF 1458 Diameter 170 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down fragment of a foot-ring base in Samian ware, fabric 8. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 5th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type*

Layer/Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	360	315	89	290	42.6	57.4	1054
Mean sherd wt (g)	10.0	7.9	8.1	9.7			

SFB 5  
1225

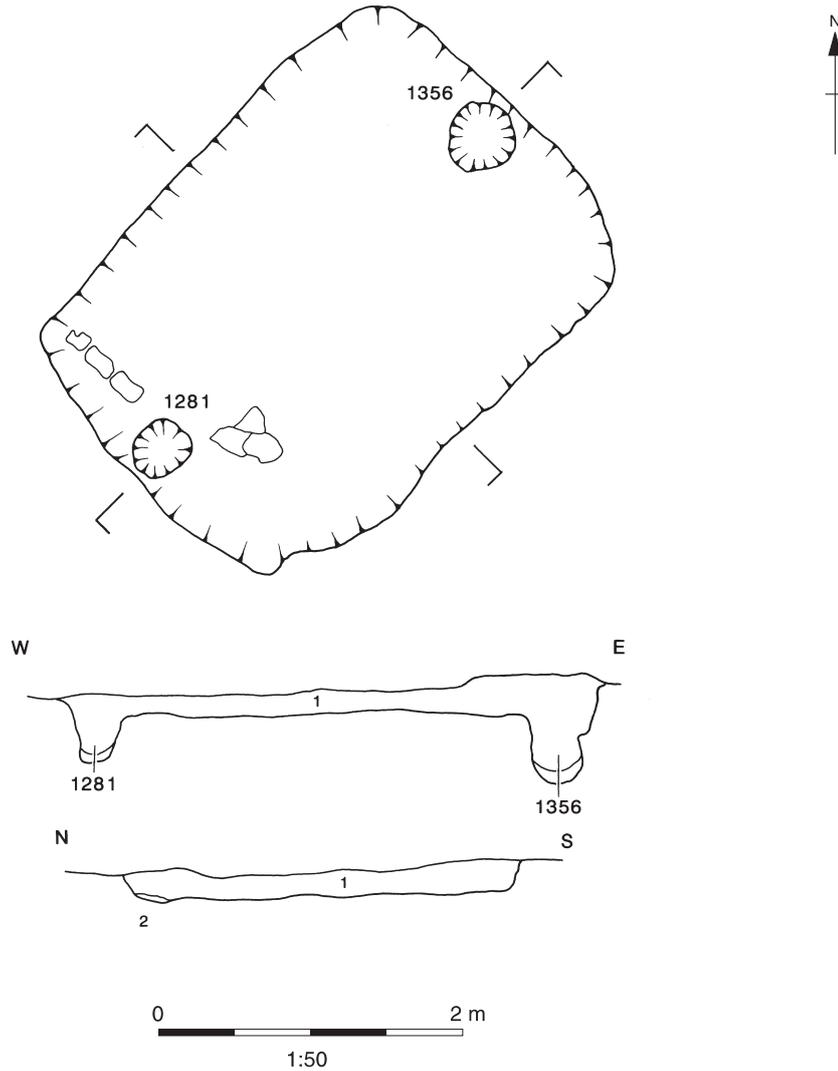


Figure 3.21 Sunken-featured building 5.

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	350	339	251	114	1054
% of total	33.2	32.2	23.8	10.8	

EVE: Jars = 0.63; Bowls = 0.

One incised sherd, (B/1, F2, 3 g).

Rim from carinated vessel with zig-zag decoration, 8% complete (B/1, F1, 24 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.22.13 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric, both surfaces burnished.
- 3.22.14 Incised carinated ?jar rim. Uniform black fabric, both surfaces burnished.
- 3.22.15 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric, both surfaces brown and burnished.

It is highly probable that the carinated vessel with the zig-zag decoration (Fig. 3.22.14) is an early type. There are a number of similar examples in the Myres corpus (1977, fig. 120), and such vessels are said by Myres to be among the earliest Anglo-Saxon vessels found in England (Myres 1977, 23–4). Hamerow (1993, 42–4) has made a case for such vessels still having been in use in the 6th century. In this case, however, no stamped pottery is present, and so the feature may have a *terminus post quem* in the 5th century.

**SFB 6**

Context 1297; Grid reference: 51323 98144; Figures 3.23–5; Site plan: E6; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.74 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.3 m; Width: 3.0 m; Depth: 0.66 m.

**Description**

SFB 6 was one of a group of sunken-featured buildings in the area of the central cluster of post-built structures

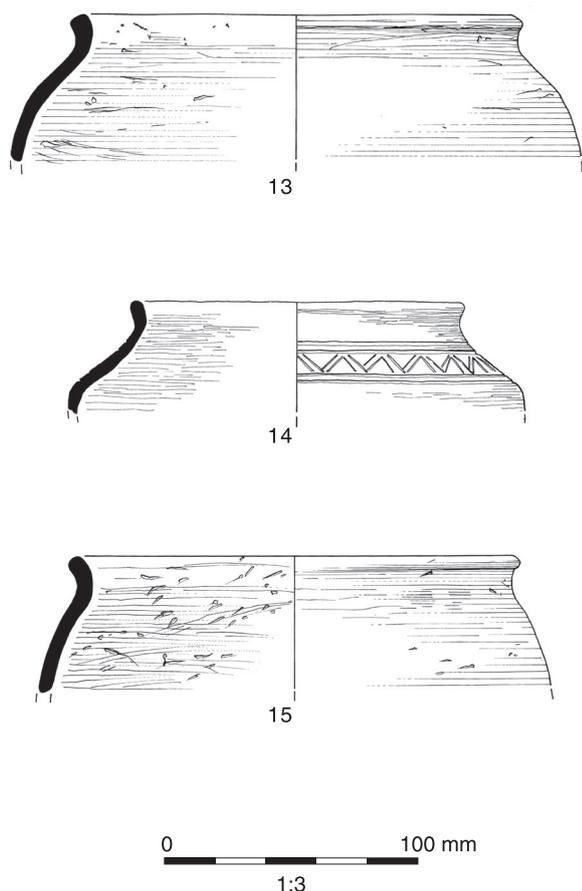


Figure 3.22 Sunken-featured building 5 pottery.

north of the Romano-British cemetery. The pit was sub-rectangular with an irregular plan and uneven, sloping sides. The postholes 1517 and 1518 were in the centres of the east and west sides respectively. Eight other postholes or possible postholes around the pit may be associated with SFB 6 and perhaps indicate that it was part of a larger, less archaeologically obvious structure, although there was extensive animal activity within and around the edges of the feature which had disturbed some of the postholes. The base and sides of the pit were loose gravel, with ridges and ledges of hard conglomerate.

- 1 dark red brown sandy loam with 60% medium gravel.
- 2 dark red brown loamy silt with 20% medium gravel.
- 3 medium grey brown loamy silt with 60% medium gravel.
- 4 dark grey-brown loamy silt containing charcoal flecks, powdery burnt material and much pottery and animal bone: appears to be a midden deposit which accumulated in the feature after abandonment.
- 5 intermittent pea gravel on the base of the feature, which consisted for the most part of fairly loose gravel, with ridges and ledges of hard conglomerate.

It is not possible to relate the fills of the postholes to the fill of the pit with certainty, but from the context descriptions it seems that the post of posthole 1517 was in place while layers 3 and 4 accumulated on the bottom of the pit, whereas 1518 seems to have begun to fill before 3 and 4 were deposited.

### Finds

Fourteen artefacts were recovered, including three iron nails (of which 249 is probably from a horseshoe), an iron strip, 262, and a very worn iron knife, 193, of Böhner's type A, in use during the 5th to 7th centuries (Böhner 1958, 214). There is also a whetstone, 427, which exhibits extensive wear, producing a waisted profile. It is made of a calcareous sandstone which was probably collected locally. There was a small fragment of Roman window glass, 304, and two reused bases of Roman pots, 34 and 35. Number 35 has a scratched lattice on the inside which was applied after reuse. There are two incomplete antler combs. Number 319 is typical of Anglo-Saxon combs of 5th- to 7th-century date. Number 315 is a small fragment decorated with ring and dot motifs, a common feature of Anglo-Saxon combs. Numbers 365 and 308 are bone pins. Number 308 is a dress pin with a very simple head. Bone headless pins of this type are described by Crummy as hairpins. She puts the date of manufacture between the 1st and early 3rd centuries (Crummy 1983, 20–21). Number 365 is a pierced pig fibula pin of a type common at this site.

### Layer 1

- 257 SF 1341 **Iron nail** Length 19 mm. Shank fragment with rectangular cross-section. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

- 193 SF 253 **Iron knife** Blade fragment, length 122 mm, width 18 mm, thickness 4.5 mm. Point central to blade. Inclined back, angled back slope and leading edge. (Type A. 1. b). Very worn. Tang length 31 mm. Set just below back, sloping shoulders.
- 232 SF 233 **Iron nail** Length 46 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 249 SF 1355 **Iron horseshoe nail** Length 32 mm. Part of head missing. Rectangular cross-sectioned shank, bent. (Not illustrated)
- 304 SF 235 **Window glass** Thickness 6 mm. Small fragment of pale green translucent tapering bubbled glass. Abraded and now semiopaque. Roman. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 34** SF 1464 Diameter 110 mm. Cut down base in greyware, fabric 4. (Not illustrated).

### Layer 3

- 262 SF 324 **Iron strip** Length 58 mm, width 7.5 mm, thickness 2 mm. Rectangular cross-section. Broken at both ends. (Not illustrated)

SFB 6  
1297

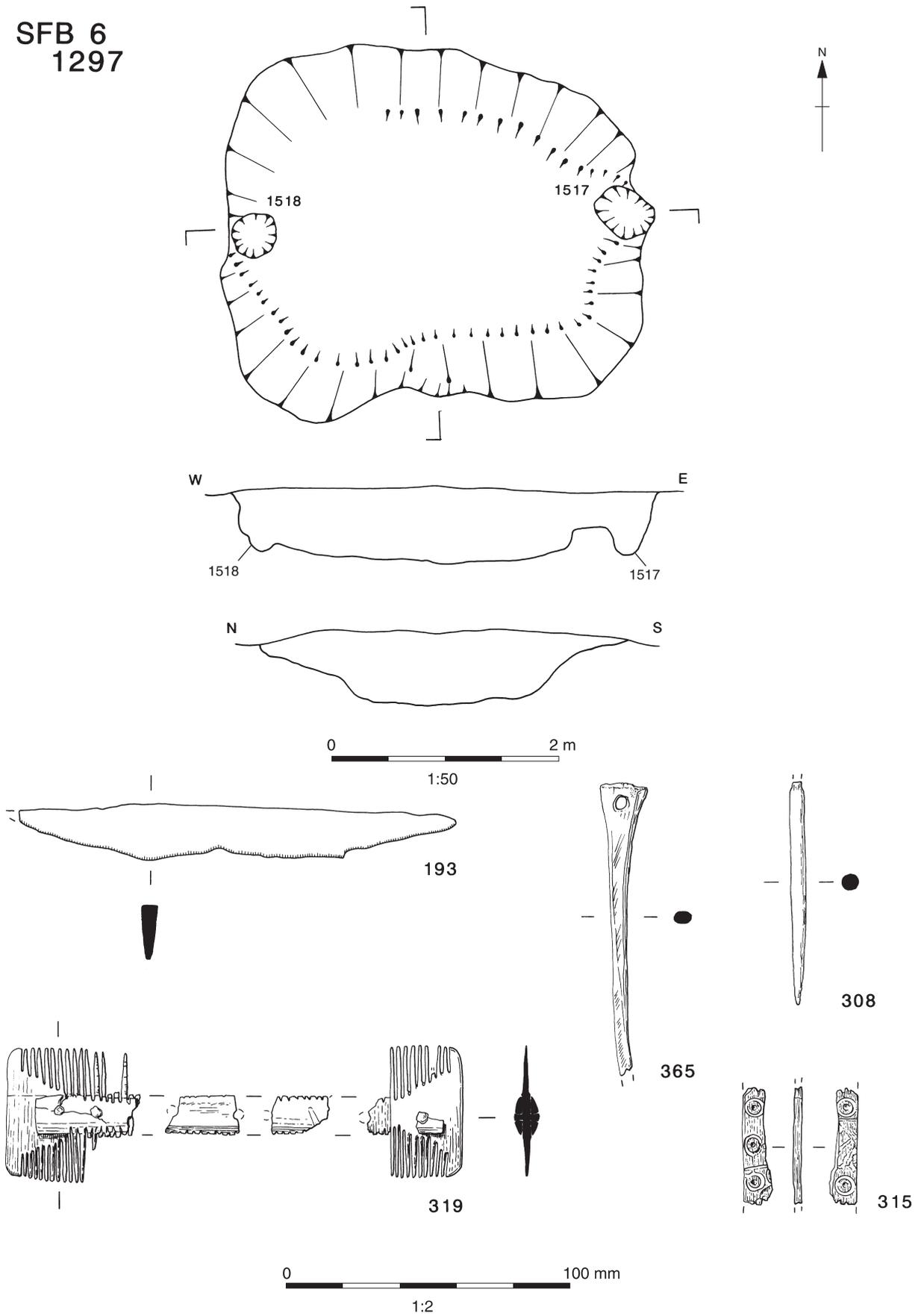


Figure 3.23 Sunken-featured building 6 and artefacts.

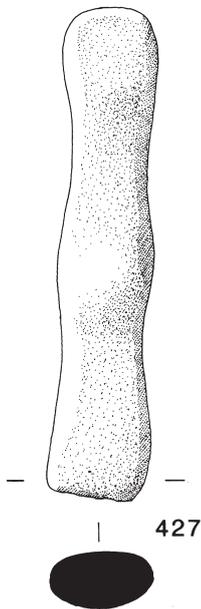
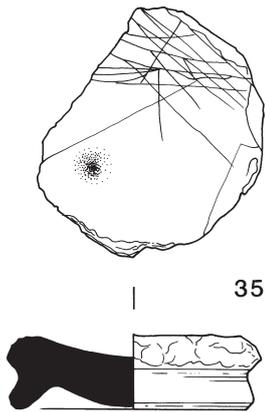


Figure 3.24 Sunken-featured building 6 artefacts continued.

319 SF 238 **Double-sided composite bone comb**  
 Height 48 mm. Fragments of the same comb from layers 3 and 4. Two rectangular end plates with graduated teeth, plus part of another tooth segment. The teeth average 4 per cm on one side and 5 per cm on the other. The connecting plates have a flat, D-shaped cross-section. Remains of three iron rivets and part of two rivet holes. There are two additional fragments of a connecting plate with the remains of four rivet holes each with iron staining.

365 SF 237 **Bone pin** Length 103 mm. Made from a pig fibula. The proximal end has been trimmed and perforated. Tip missing. Polished.  
 308 SF 236 **Bone pin** Length 79 mm. Polished shaft with simple waisted head.  
 377 SF 325 **Bone point** Length 31 mm Shaft fragment. Polished. Head missing. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 4**

315 SF 340 **Double-sided composite bone comb**  
 Length 41 mm; width 10 mm. Fragment of an end plate with a straight end and rectangular cross-section. Decorated on both sides with ring and dot motifs.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 35 SF 1460** Diameter 65 mm. Modified half of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. Scratched lattice decoration on the inside of the sherd.

427 SF 240 **Whetstone** Length 130 mm. Heavy wear on all four faces, producing a waisted profile. Oval cross-section. Calcareous sandstone. Local Corallian.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	12	27	29	65	30.8	69.2	133
2	273	161	0	83	52.8	47.2	517
3	331	167	220	34	73.3	26.7	752
4	436	613	19	16	42.0	58.0	1084
Total wt (g)	1052	967	268	199			2486
Mean sherd wt	12.2	19.8	19.1	9.4			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	10	74	35	14	133
2	87	49	294	87	517
3	33	111	432	176	752
4	230	0	562	292	1084
Total wt (g)	360	234	1323	569	2486
% of total	14.5	9.4	53.2	22.9	

EVE: Jars = 1.06; Bowls = 0.43.

One incised sherd, (B/2, F1, 8 g).

One incised and stamped sherd, (D/2, F2, 45 g).

Other illustrated decorated sherds now missing.

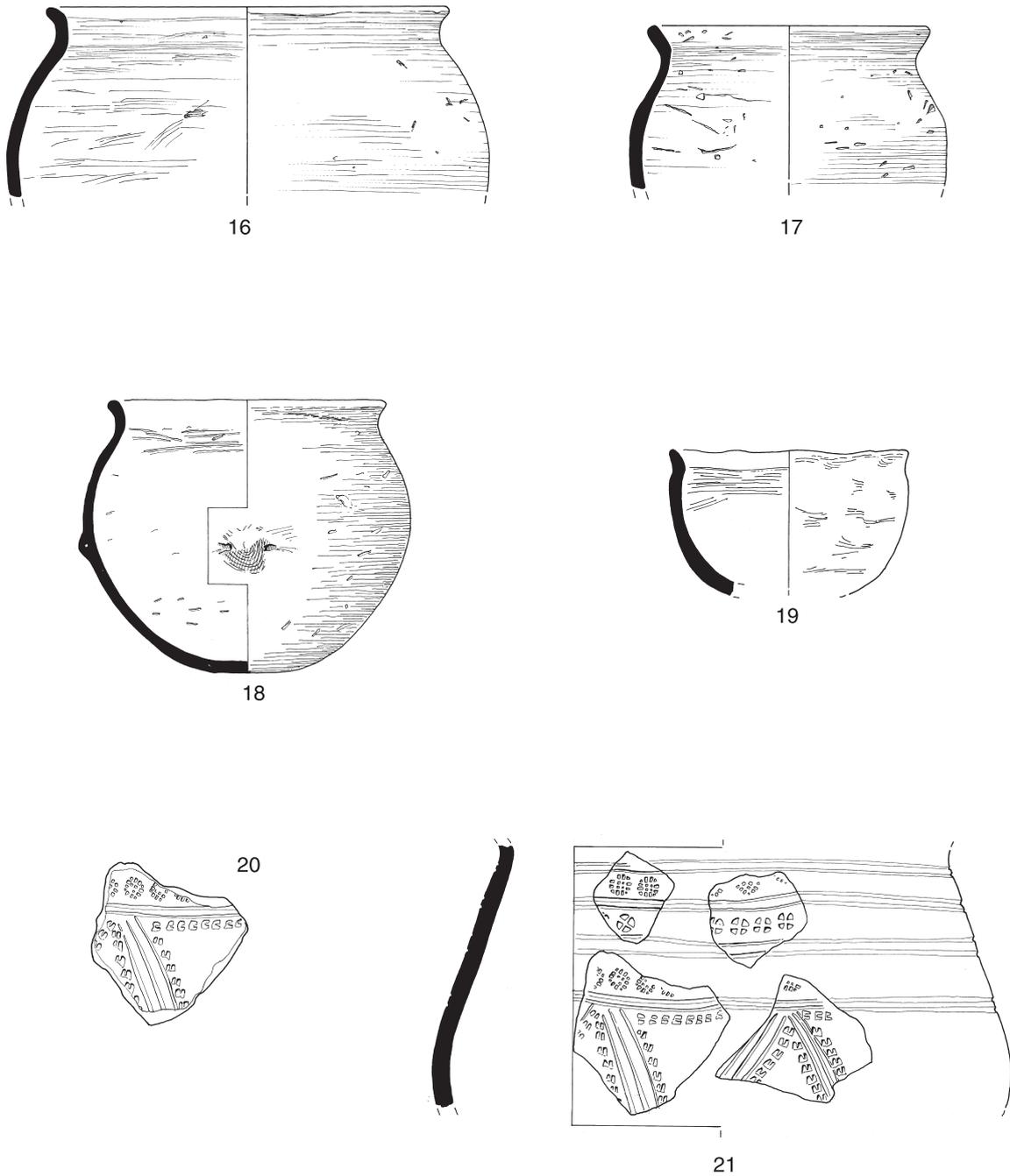


Figure 3.25 Sunken-featured building 6 pottery.

Illustrations

		3.25.18	Full profile of lugged jar. Uniform black fabric with burnished surfaces.
3.25.16	Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric, burnished outer surface.	3.25.19	Rim from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
3.25.17	Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric, smoothed surfaces, brown below the waist.	3.25.20-1	Incised and stamped sherd. Uniform black fabric, smoothed surfaces.

The stamped sherds (Figs 3.25.20–1) appear typical of those vessels dated by Myres (1977) to the 6th century.

### SFB 7

Context 1298; Grid reference: 51300 98154; Figures 3.26–7; Site plan: D6/E6; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.52 m; Distance between postholes: 3.1 m; Width: 2.92 m; Depth: 0.51 m.

### Description

SFB 7 lay about 8 m to the north-west of the central group of SFBs and PBSs. The pit was sub-rectangular with two postholes 1300 and 1990 in the centres of the north-east and south-west ends. The external posthole 1993 may be associated with this feature. In places the sides were near vertical but elsewhere they were uneven.

The fill of the pit extended into the postholes.

- 1 dark grey brown sandy loam with 30% gravel, contained pot and bone and may have been disturbed by ploughing.
- 2 dark reddish grey brown sandy loam with 15% gravel containing pot, bone and fragments of burnt clay or daub.
- 3 intermittent layer of redeposited gravel in a matrix of reddish brown sandy loam. This layer probably represents gravel slip from the sides of the feature.

### Finds

Only two finds were associated with this SFB: a knife fragment, 203, and a complete reused base of a Roman mortarium, 36.

### Layer 1

203 SF 1004 **Iron knife** Length 63 mm. Blade fragment width 11.5 mm, thickness 3 mm. The broken end is squared, possibly filed smooth, blade worn. Tang, length 35 mm central on blade, sloping shoulders, tapering and bent.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 36** SF 1462 Diameter 90 mm. Modified foot-ring base of a mortarium in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Pottery tpq 5th century?

Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	240	292	4	1	25	0	43.6	56.4	562
2	321	525	170	0	24	5	47.5	52.5	1045
3	0	82	0	0	0	14	14.6	85.4	96
Total	561	899	174	1	49	19			1703
wt* (g)									
Mean sherd wt	12.7	24.0	18.0	1.0	8.7	9.5			

\*some of the pottery from this feature was not assigned a specific quadrant or layer by the excavators

Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	27	278	0	257	562
2	371	93	415	166	1045
3	11	0	85	0	96
Total wt (g)	409	371	500	423	1703
% of total	24.0	21.8	29.4	24.8	

EVE: Jars = 0.95; Bowls = 0.20.

Five incised sherds (A/2, F3, 10 g; C/2, F1, 23 g; C/2, F2, 47 g; D/1, F1, 42 g; D/2, F2, 47 g).  
Incised carinated jar rim, 19% complete, (A/2, F1, 33 g).

### Illustrations

- 3.27.22 Rim from decorated carinated jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces, outer surface brown below the carination.
- 3.27.23 Upright lug. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.27.24 Incised bodysherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.27.25 Incised bodysherd. Dark grey fabric with black burnished surfaces.
- 3.27.26 Incised bodysherd. Dark grey fabric with black smoothed surfaces.
- 3.27.27 Incised bodysherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.27.28 Pierced rim from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

The decorated vessel (Fig. 3.27.22), with its carinated form, slashing and hanging curves (*hängende Bogen*) has no direct parallels in the corpus, but all the elements are classified by Myres as being characteristically early. The use of *hängende Bogen* in linear schemes is very early in date (Myres 1977, 57–8), and small carinated vessels such as this are said to be amongst the earliest Anglo-Saxon vessels found in England (1977, 17). The use of diagonal linear decoration is also said to be early (1977, 38–40).

### SFB 8

Context 2082; Grid reference: 51345 980580; Figures 3.28–9; Site plan: F8; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.5 m; Distance between postholes: 3.25 m; Width: 2.5 m; Depth: 0.26 m? (top 50–60 mm of feature removed by shovel).

### Description

SFB 8 was situated *c* 15 m south of barrow 601, on the north edge of the 19th-century tree plantation. The pit was sub-rectangular, with postholes 5373 and 5371 at the east-north-east and west-south-west

SFB 7  
1298

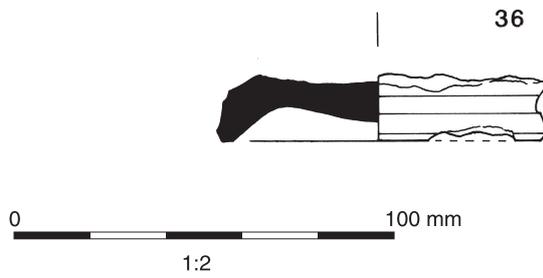
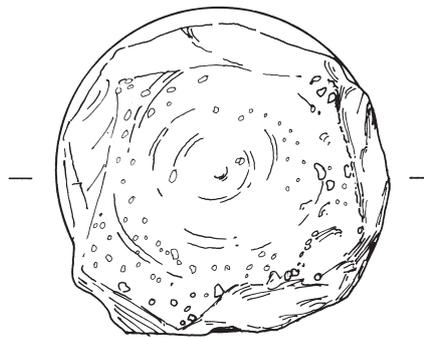
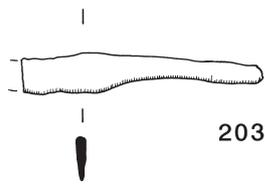
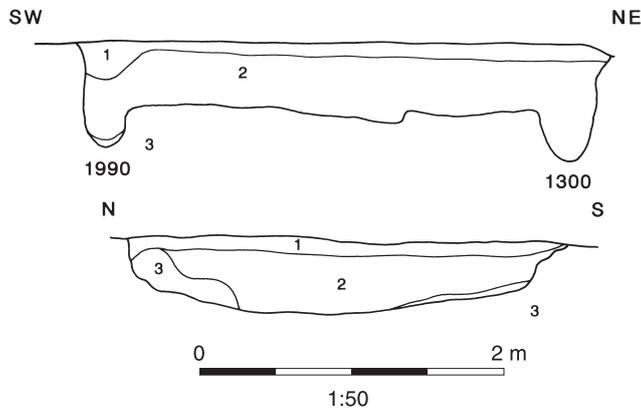
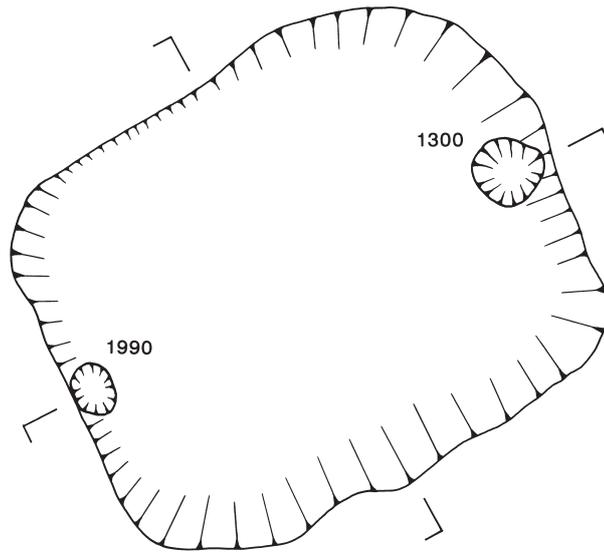


Figure 3.26 Sunken-featured building 7 and artefacts.

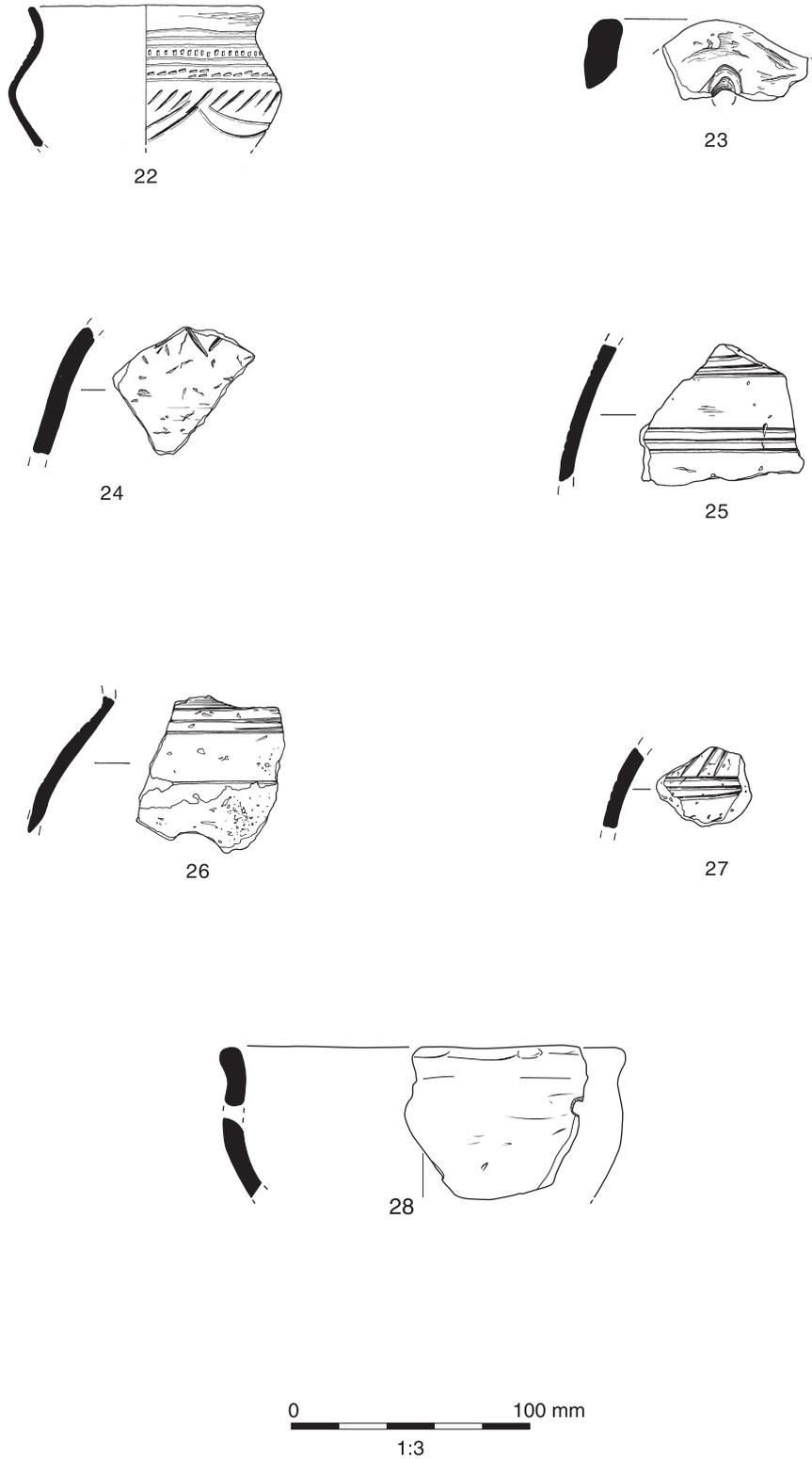


Figure 3.27 Sunken-featured building 7 pottery.

ends; another posthole, 5372, was a possible replacement for 5371. Posthole 5373 extended beyond the pit edge, and had been infilled and redug; it had cut a Neolithic pit and a large number of flint artefacts were found in the fill of SFB 8. The sides were

sloping and irregular. The sunken-featured building was cut by pit 2083 of the tree plantation.

There was difficulty in distinguishing the inter-cutting features and the site records are hard to interpret. There seems to have been one layer of fill

in SFB 8, a dark reddish brown clayey soil, but there was some mixing with the fills of the tree planting hole 2083 and feature 2084, both of which cut 2082. It was not possible to differentiate between the fills of posthole 5373 and the Neolithic pit, and finds from them were recorded as from 2082/B/2 and 3

and 2082/C/2 and 3. Finds from the posthole 5371 were recorded as 2082/A and D/2.

**Finds**

Four objects were recovered. Layer 1 was heavily disturbed and contained post-medieval material.

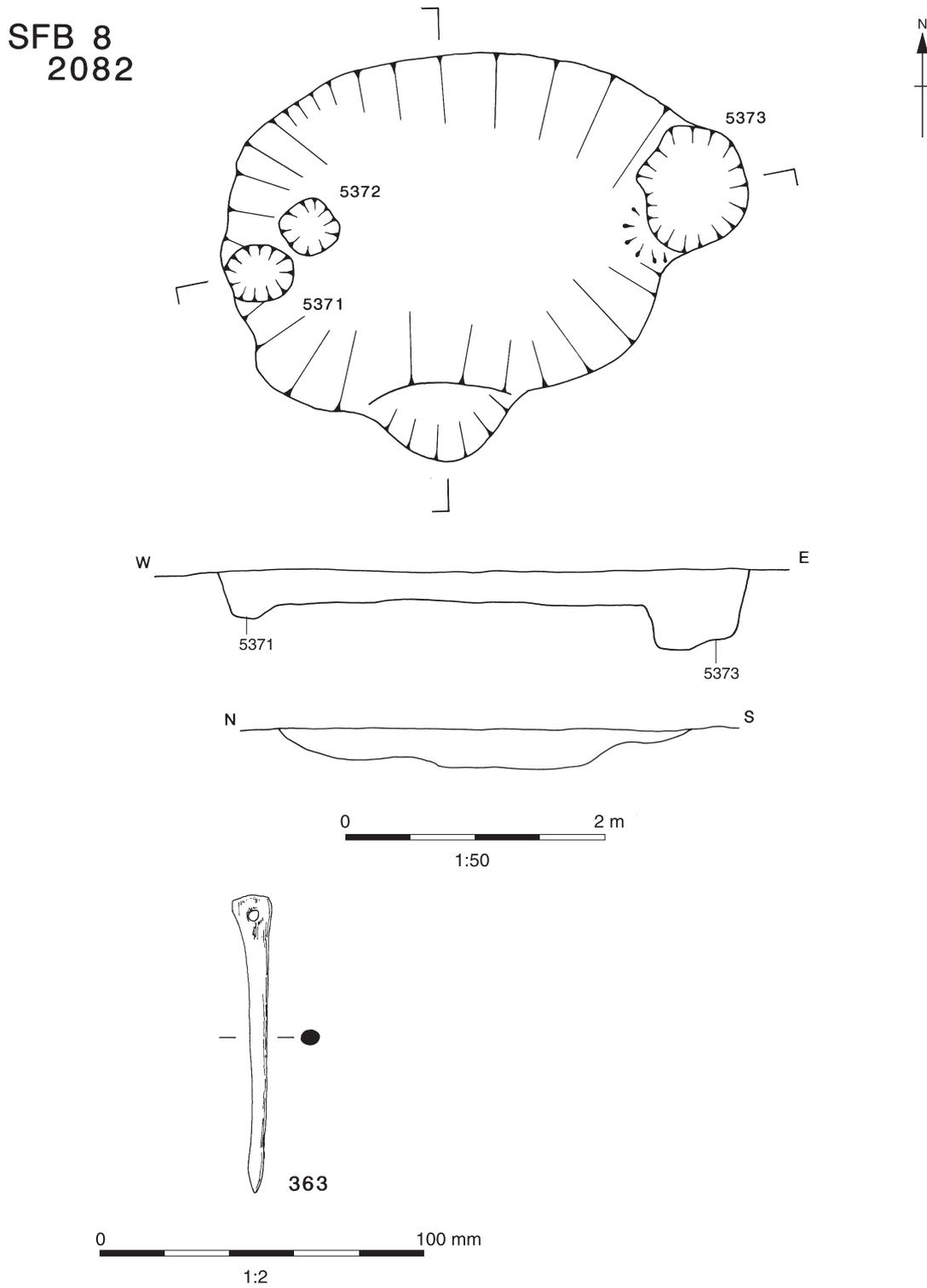


Figure 3.28 Sunken-featured building 8 and artefacts.

Layer 2, however, produced a perforated pig fibula pin of a type common throughout the site.

### Layer 1

- 251 SF 1374 **Iron nail** Length 45 mm. Shank with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)  
 615 SF 1308 **Glass bottle** Fragment, clear, colourless. 20th-century. (Not illustrated)  
 620 SF 1393 **Clay pipe** Stem fragment. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

- 363 SF 264 **Bone pin** Length 92 mm. Made from a pig fibula. The proximal end is perforated. Polished.

### Pottery tpq 6th century?

#### Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/Fabric	F1	F2	F3	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	232	325	212	57.7	42.3	769
2	8	13	0	38.1	61.9	21
Total wt* (g)	247	437	242			790
Mean sherd wt	6.2	14.6	9.7			

\*some of the pottery from this feature was not assigned a specific quadrant or layer by the excavators.

#### Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	85	299	218	167	769
2	10	0	0	11	21
Total wt (g)	95	299	218	178	790
% of total	12.0	37.8	27.6	22.5	

EVE: Jars = 0.52; Bowls = 0.19.

Incised boss, (A/1, F1, 10 g)

Incised boss, (B/1, F3, 2 g)

Incised sherd, (D/1, F3, 4 g).



Figure 3.29 Sunken-featured building 8 pottery.

### Illustrations

- 3.29.29 Incised and bossed sherd. Black fabric with orange-brown, worn outer surface.

The sherd with the bosses and triangles (Fig. 3.29.29) appears to belong to Myres's 'Long-boss' decorative scheme, typified by closely packed bosses, often delimited by vertical incised lines, which run down most of the length of a vessel's body, often with linear or stamped decoration. Again, there are no exact parallels for this sherd in Myres' corpus, but the use of stamped triangles above incised long-bosses is paralleled (Myres 1977, fig. 261). The style is very similar to that employed by Norwegian potters of the period, and three similar pots are known from the cemetery at Brighthampton in Oxfordshire (Myres 1977, fig. 260, 52-4). Myres indicates that the main *floruit* of this technique was during the first half of the 6th century.

### SFB 9

Context 2143; Grid reference: 51247 98196; Figure 3.30; Site plan: B5; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: c 4.2 m; Distance between postholes: c 3.70 m.

### Description

The site records for this feature are missing. It lay approximately in the centre of the Neolithic oval barrow. The pit was very shallow, with shallow postholes 5375 and 5374 at the east and west ends.

According to the excavator the fill extended into the postholes.

### Finds

Only one object was recovered, a fine example of a bone hipped pin with a thistle-like head. This is an uncommon type from Anglo-Saxon contexts. Hipped pins, however, are considered to be of 6th- to 9th-century date (Stevenson 1955, 285-6).

### Layer 1

- 306 SF 295 **Bone pin** Length 37 mm. Thistle head, with thickened hip.

### Pottery

#### Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/Fabric	F1	F2	F6	F8	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	11	4	47	24	45.3	54.7	86
2	0	0	5	0	0	100	5
Total wt (g)	11	4	52	24			91
Mean sherd wt	5.5	4.0	5.8	12.0			

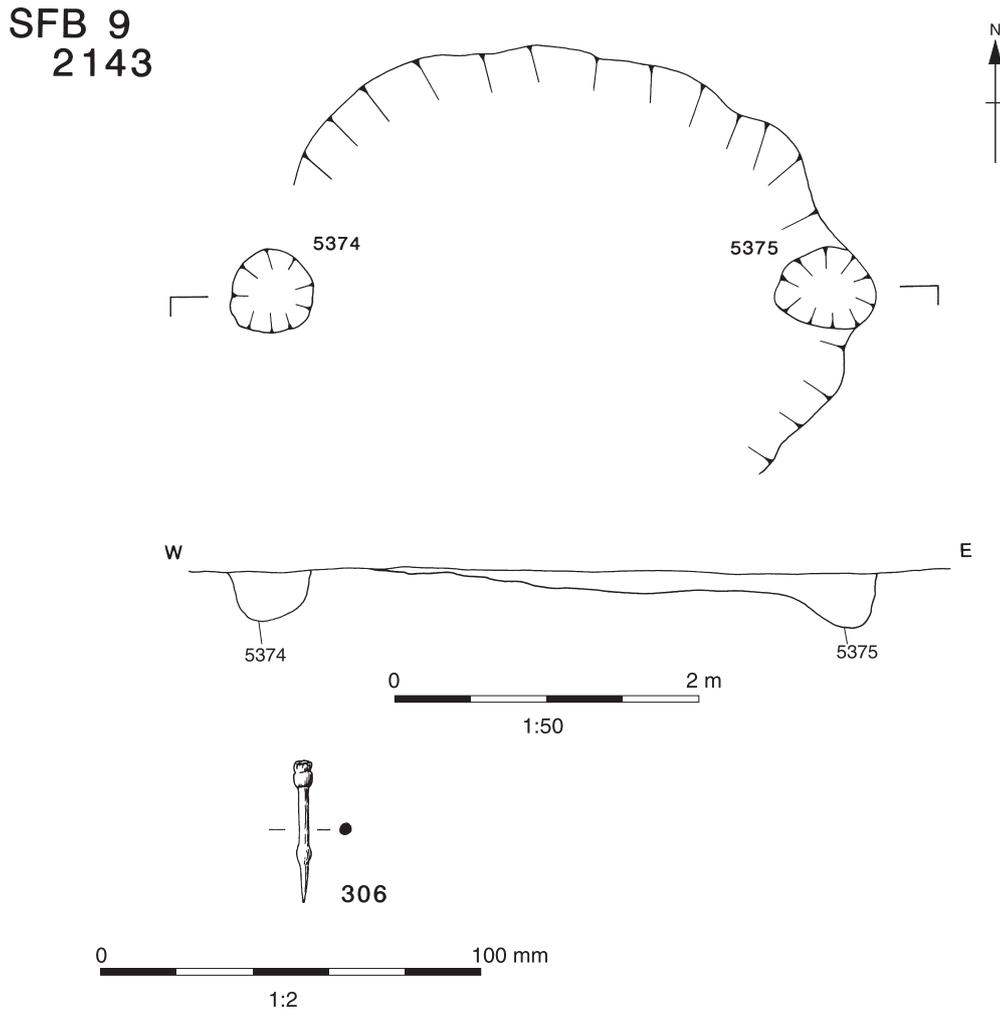


Figure 3.30 Sunken-featured building 9 and artefact.

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	29	55	2	0	86
2	5	0	0	0	5
Total wt (g)	34	55	2	0	91
% of total	37.4	60.4	2.2	0	

EVE: Jars = 0.04; Bowls = 0.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

**SFB 10**

Context 3216; Grid reference: 51277 98093; Figures 3.31–2; Site plan: D8; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.64 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.2 m; Width: 3.58 m; Depth: 0.35 m

**Description**

SFB 10 was just to the west of ring ditch 801. The pit was almost square in plan, with substantial postholes 3260 and 3286 cut 0.87 m and 0.7 m into the gravel at the east and west ends. The sides were sloping and irregular and the base sloped upwards towards the north.

There were three layers of fill, of which 1 and 2 contained numerous tip lines. The fill of the pit continued into the postholes.

- 1 medium brown sandy loam with 20–30% gravel containing pot, bone and small finds.
- 2 fine silty brown loam with gravel varying from almost none to 30%.
- 3 layer of loam with pea grit and gravel which covered the bottom of the pit and also produced pottery and small finds.

**Finds**

Five objects were recovered: 150, a copper alloy pin, has a flattened, perforated head; the iron concretion in the hole is probably the remains of an iron suspension ring. This could be a pricker from a toilet set. There is also a perforated pig fibula pin, 366. Number 191 is a

SFB 10  
3216

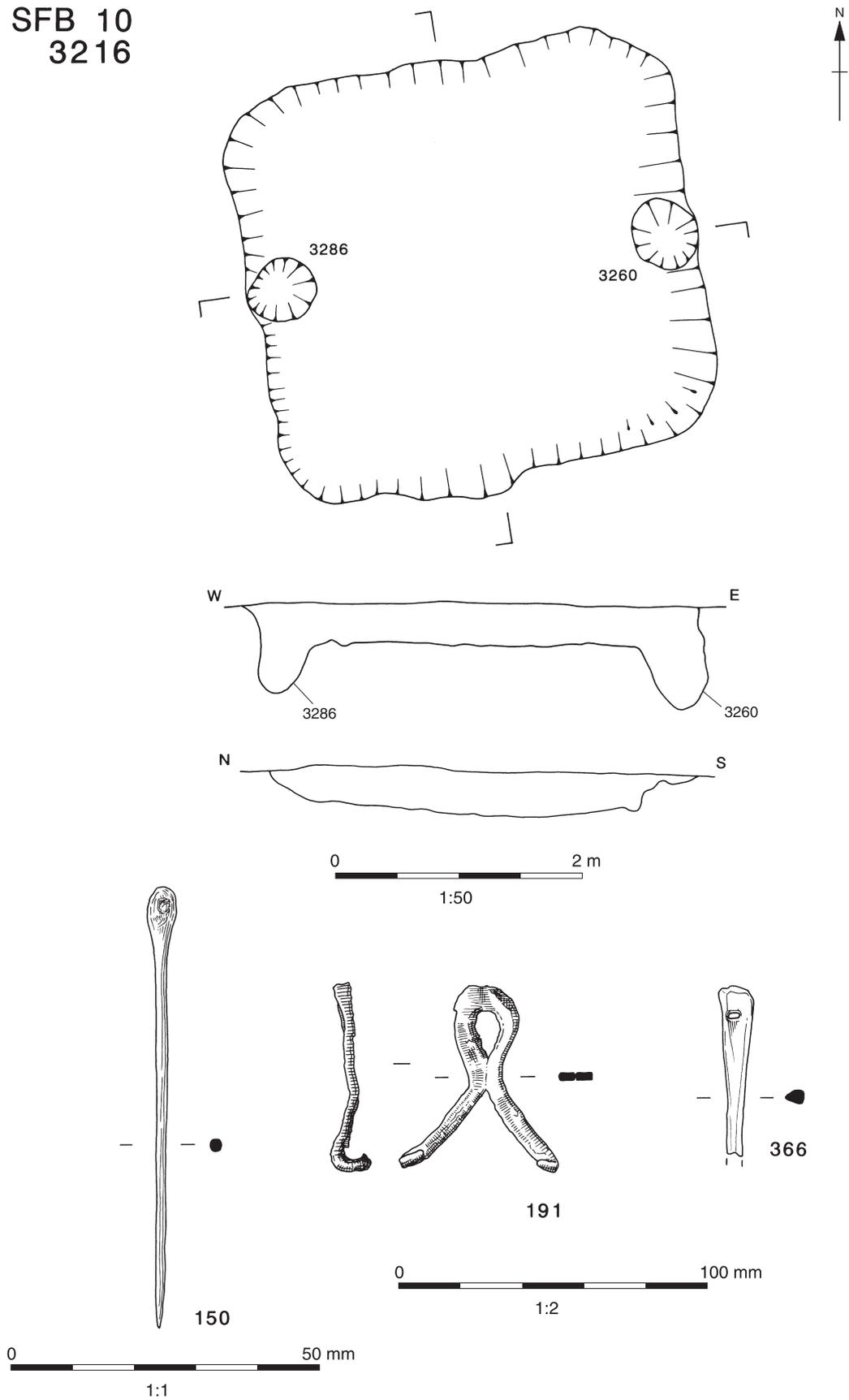


Figure 3.31 Sunken-featured building 10 and artefacts.

looped bucket fitting; the curved and pointed ends would have been driven into the wood to hold it in place. A similar copper alloy fitting occurs on a bucket from the 4th-century find at Saetrang in Norway (Slomann 1959, 56, pl III). An iron nail, 235, with T-shaped head is probably a woodworking nail.

**Layer 1**

- 150 SF 1011 **Copper alloy pricker** Length 72 mm. Made from a rolled sheet. The head is hammered flat and pierced. The hole contains iron concretion.
- 191 SF 1009 **Iron bucket loop fitting** Length 59 mm. Made from a rod with rectangular cross-section bent to form a loop with curved and pointed ends.
- 420 SF 1012 **Quern** Length 58 mm. Fragment of friable, porous, coarse-grained feldspathic grit, dark grains suggest Old Red Sandstone. Millstone Grit or Old Red Sandstone. (Not illustrated).

**Layer 2**

- 366 SF 1176 **Bone pin** Length 54 mm. Made from a polished pig fibula. The proximal end is perforated. Tip missing.

**Layer 3**

- 235 SF 1013 **Iron nail** Length 95 mm. T-shaped head. The shank tapers from rectangular to square cross-section. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	77	343	10	78	17.1	82.9	508
2	0	227	138	0	37.8	62.2	365
3	0	60	0	0	0	100	60
Total wt (g)	77	630	148	78			933
Mean sherd wt	15.4	15.0	29.6	39.0			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	26	98	306	78	508
2	94	3	44	224	365
3	0	0	17	43	60
Total wt (g)	120	101	367	345	933
% of total	12.9	10.8	39.3	37.0	

EVE: Jars = 0.35; Bowls = 0.34.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.  
Cross-fits: C/1 = D/2 (x2).

*Illustrations*

- 3.32.30 Rim sherd from lugged vessel. Uniform black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.32.31 Rim sherd from small lugged vessel. Dark grey fabric with partially smoothed surfaces.
- 3.32.32 Rim sherd from bowl. Uniform dark grey fabric with partly smoothed outer surface.

**SFB 11**

Context 3246; Grid reference: 51274 98102; Figures 3.33–4; Site plan: C7; Orientation: NW/SW; Length at surface: 4.3 m; Distance between postholes: 2.9 m; Width: 3.3 m; Depth: 0.35 m.

**Description**

SFB 11 was about 10 m north-west of ring ditch 801. The pit was sub-rectangular, with postholes 3287 and 3411 in the centre of the north-east end and c 1 m from the south-west end respectively. The sides were sloping. There was a large lump of limestone with traces of burning in layer 2.

Three layers were distinguished but the fill was very extensively disturbed by animal burrows, and post-medieval glass and china were found even in layer 3. There were numerous tip lines.

- 1 reddish brown sandy loam with 10–50% gravel.
- 2 medium reddish brown sandy loam with 10–50% gravel.

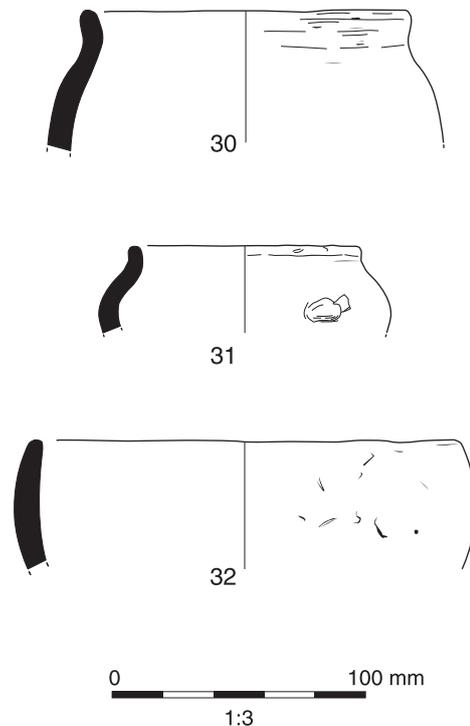


Figure 3.32 Sunken-featured building 10 pottery.

3 dark or reddish brown sandy loam with varying quantities of gravel and pea grit.

Layer 2 appears to have continued into post-hole 3287; 3411 had been disturbed by an animal burrow.

### Finds

Six objects were recovered. They included an iron ferrule, 184, similar to that from SFB 3 (see Fig. 3.16, no. 183), the butt from a staff or spear. There was a fragment of waste, 392, from antler-working and a double-sided composite comb, 330, with fine and coarse teeth, a type more common in the Roman period. A complete base from a reused Roman pottery vessel, 39, was also found.

#### Layer 1

- 184 SF 1017 **Iron ferrule** Length 78 mm, max. Diameter 23 mm. Hollow, conical in shape. Made from a rolled sheet, closed at the pointed end.
- 302 SF 1447 **Glass fragment** Bright green translucent glass. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated).

**Reused Roman sherd no. 39** SF 1494 Diameter 85 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

#### Layer 2

- 616 SF 1015 **Glass wine bottle** Fragment from the neck. 18th–19th century. (Not illustrated)
- 330 SF 1277 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Length 36 mm. Part of two teeth segments with fine teeth on one side averaging 8 per cm and coarse teeth on the other averaging 4 per cm. The connecting plates have a D-shaped cross-section. One iron rivet and part of two rivet holes remain.
- 392 SF 1517 **Antler waste** Discarded burr with tines and beam partly sawn and then broken off. (Not illustrated)

### Pottery

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	614	511	133	0	35	60.5	39.5	1293
2	355	374	104	0	3	55.3	44.7	836
3	7	172	8	23	6	9.7	90.3	216
Total wt (g)	976	1057	245	23	44			2345
Mean sherd wt	13.0	14.5	18.8	11.5	7.3			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	197	905	37	158	1293
2	130	125	449	132	836
3	102	0	114	0	216
Total wt (g)	429	1030	600	290	2345
% of total	18.3	43.9	25.6	12.4	

EVE: Jars = 1.40; Bowls = 0.18.

Six incised sherds, (A/1, F1, 4 g; A/2, F3, 7 g; A/3, F3, 8 g; B/1, F2, 34 g; B/2, F3, 34 g; C/2, F1, 28 g).

One rusticated sherd (D/1, F1, 7 g).

### Illustrations

- 3.34.33 Lugged rim sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.34.34 Incised sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.34.35 Uniform black fabric with smoothed and burnished outer surface.
- 3.34.36 Uniform black fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.

### SFB 12

Context 3284; Grid reference: 51264 98200; Figures 3.35–7; Site plan: C4/5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 5.6 m; Distance between postholes: 4.9 m; Width: 4.45 m; Depth: 1.03 m.

### Description

SFB 12 was an unusually large sunken-featured building just to the east of the Neolithic oval barrow. The pit was irregularly sub-rectangular in plan, with three postholes 3802, 3803 and 3804 positioned on the long axis of the pit. The pit base and near-vertical sides were irregular.

The site records for this sunken-featured building are somewhat confused but there seem to have been five fill layers. There were numerous tip lines.

- 1 disturbed by a rabbit burrow: dark or medium red brown sandy loam with 10%–20% gravel, containing pottery and small finds.
- 2 medium red brown sandy loam with 40% gravel.
- 3 medium red brown sandy loam with 60–70% gravel containing many small fragments of daub.
- 4 gravel slip.
- 5 red/brown sandy loam with gravel and pea grit.

### Finds

SFB 12 produced seven small finds, including two fragments from top stones of rotary querns, 405 and 406. There was a fine example of a highly decorated comb, 312, of a type common in the 5th to 7th centuries. The cross-hatched decoration is similar to that on Saxon combs from Shakenoak (Brodrick *et al.* 1972, fig. 57 and 58). There is also a tooth fragment

SFB 11  
3246

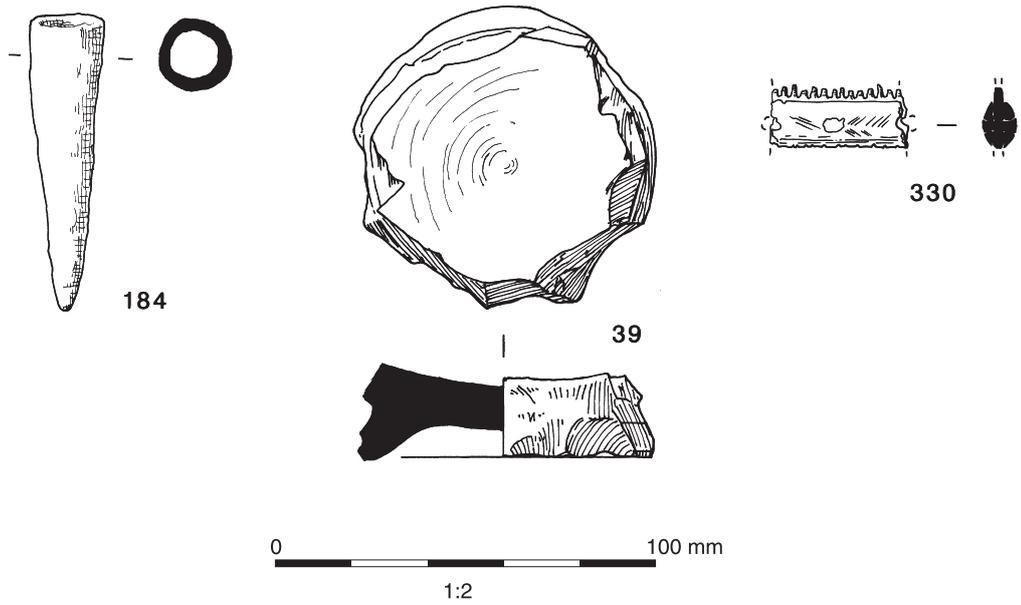
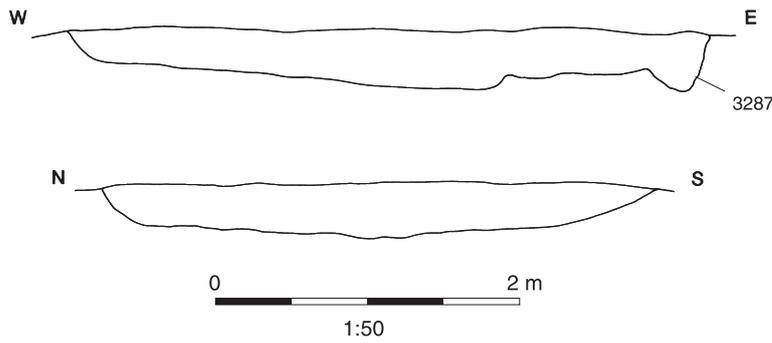
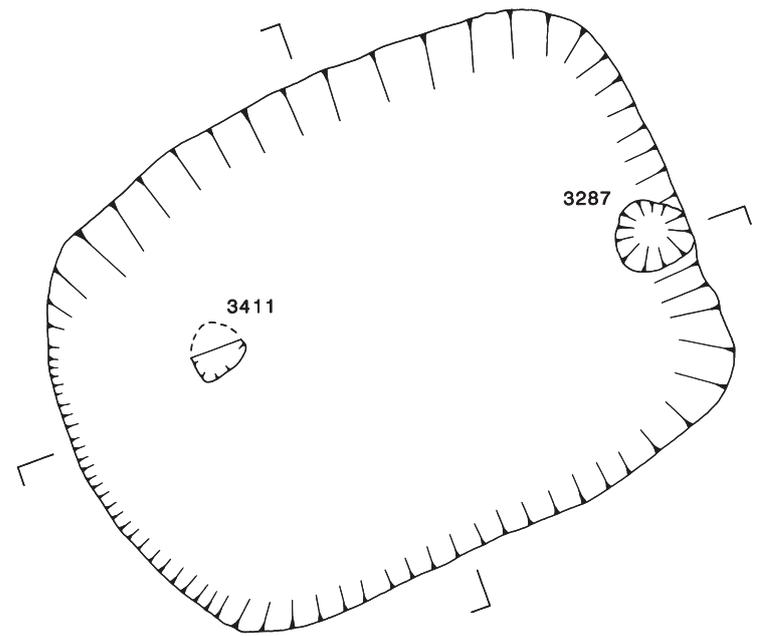


Figure 3.33 Sunken-featured building 11 and artefacts.

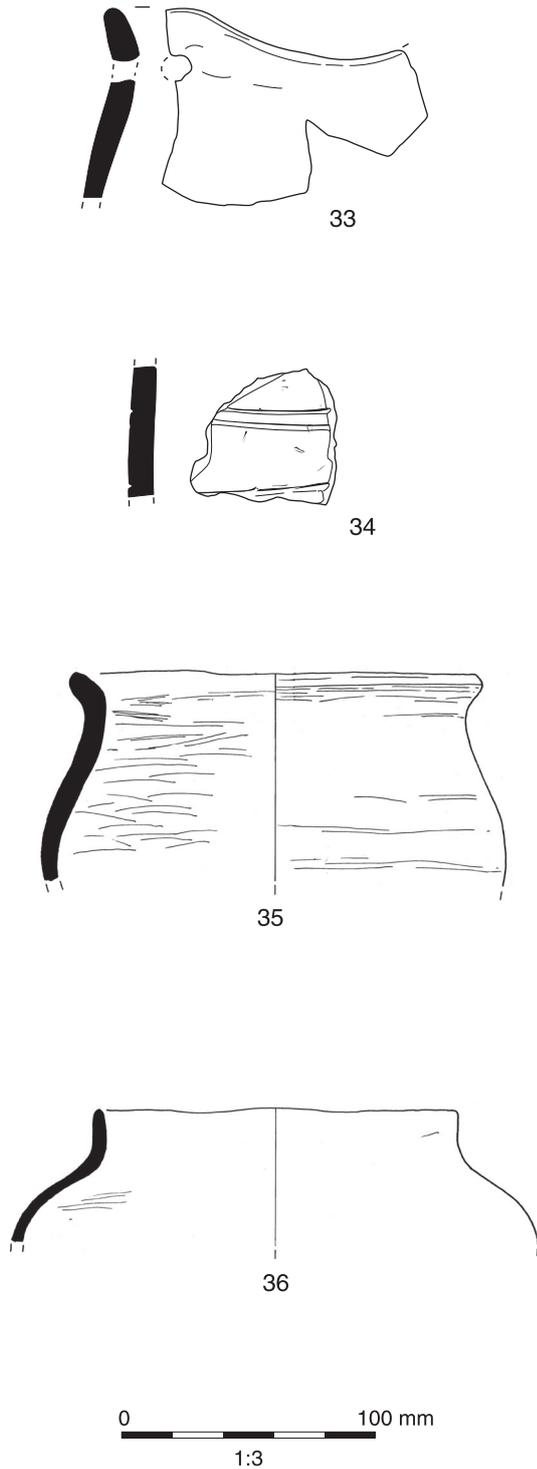


Figure 3.34 Sunken-featured building 11 pottery.

from another comb, 338. Two small iron pins, 241, an iron woodworking nail, 238, and a complete reused base from a Roman pottery vessel, 40, were also found.

**Layer 1**

238 SF 1356 **Iron nail** Length 48 mm. The flat square head is a slight expansion of

shank with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)

312 SF 1033

**Double-sided composite antler comb**  
Length 145 mm, height 57 mm. Plain rectangular end-pieces with graduated teeth, one of which is pierced for suspension. The teeth on one side average 5 per cm and on the other 3 per cm. Six tooth segments. The convex connecting plates have a D-shaped cross-section, with six iron rivets. The teeth cuts on the connecting plates have been incorporated into the decorative scheme. The connecting plates are decorated at the ends with incised crosshatching, with a central panel with incised border containing ring and dot motifs.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 40** SF 1488 Diameter 75 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

405 SF 1016 **Rotary quern** Top stone fragment. (Not illustrated)

406 SF 1031 **Rotary quern** Thick top stone fragment. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 4**

241 SF 1532 **Two iron pins** Lengths 26 mm and 17 mm. Circular cross-sections.

338 SF 1529 **Antler comb tooth** Length 18 mm. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	88	132	114	0	361	29.1	70.9	695
2	35	19	20	37	221	27.7	72.3	332
3	0	19	36	0	19	48.7	51.3	74
4	0	0	0	0	16	0	100	16
Total wt (g)	123	170	170	37	617			1117
Mean sherd wt	7.2	11.3	28.3	37.0	19.9			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	153	106	164	272	695
2	178	0	134	20	332
3	0	7	67	0	74
4	0	0	0	16	16
Total wt (g)	331	113	365	308	1117
% of total	29.6	10.1	32.7	27.6	

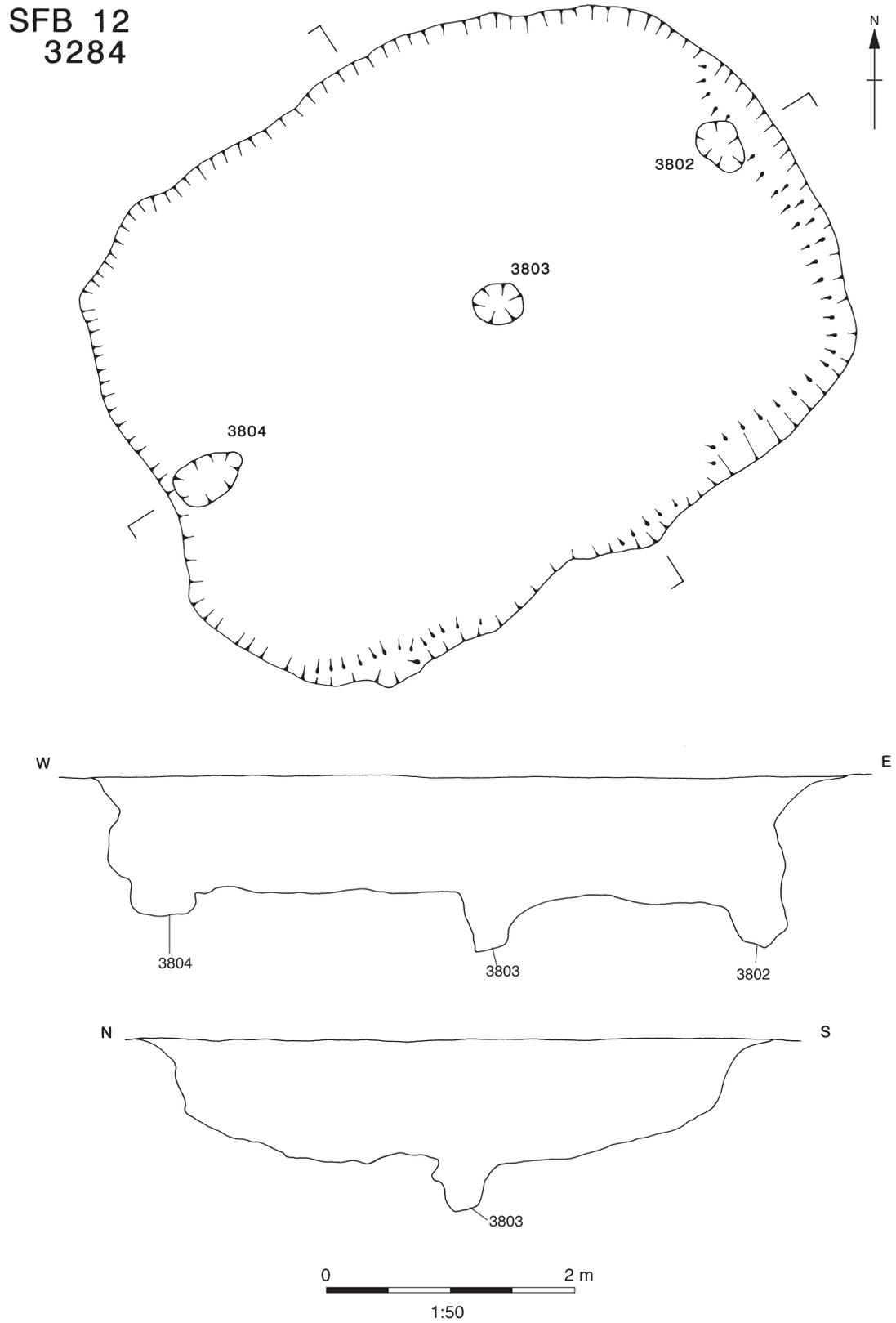


Figure 3.35 Sunken-featured building 12 and artefacts.

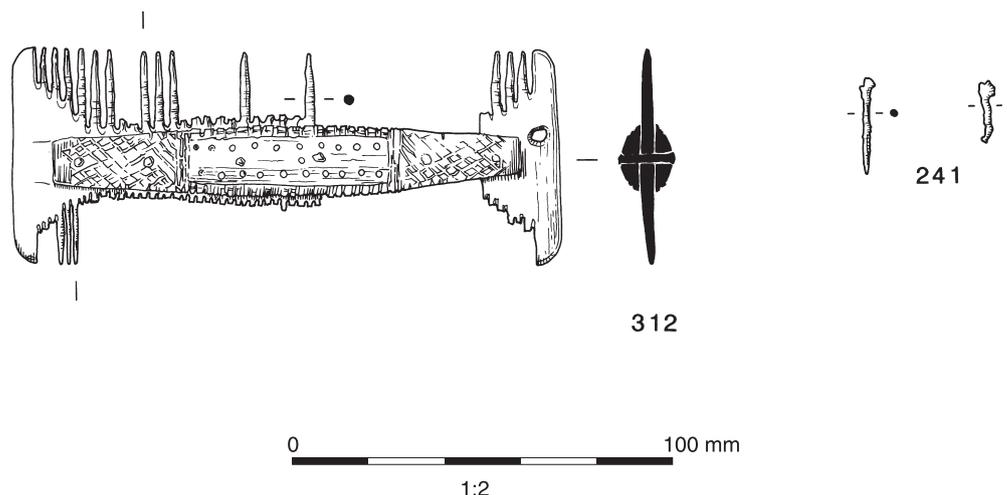


Figure 3.36 Sunken-featured building 12 artefacts continued.

EVE: Jars = 0.44; Bowls = 0.

One rusticated sherd (D/1, F2, 16 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.37.37 Rim sherd from jar. Uniform dark grey fabric, unfinished surfaces.
- 3.37.38 Base and lower body from small jar. Dark grey fabric, unfinished surfaces.

**SFB 13**

Context 3285; Grid reference: 51278 98193; Figures 3.38–9; Site plan: D7/D8; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: c 2.8 m; Width: 2.6 m; Depth: 0.43 m.

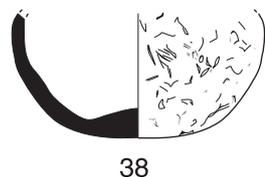
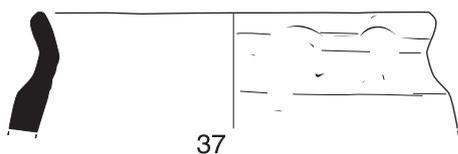


Figure 3.37 Sunken-featured building 12 pottery.

**Description**

SFB 13 was immediately west of ring ditch 801, between SFBs 10 and 11. There was a posthole, whose number is not recorded, in the centre of the east end. The floor of the pit was irregular and the sides were curving.

Four layers were distinguished; 1–3 contained numerous tip lines.

- 1 dark grey brown sandy loam with 10% gravel, containing pottery and animal bone.
- 2 medium red brown sandy loam with 50% medium gravel, containing pottery and animal bone.
- 3 medium red brown sandy loam with 80% pea gravel.
- 4 thin layer of redeposited natural gravel.

**Finds**

Three finds were recovered: 153 is a copper alloy drop handle. Drop handles are common finds on Roman sites and were probably fittings from furniture. Number 153 could have been from a small chest. A number of Roman drop handles from furniture have been found during excavations in Colchester (Crummy 1983, 80, fig. 85). A complete base of a reused Roman pot, 41, came from layer 3.

**Layer 1**

- 153 SF 1018 **Copper alloy drop handle** Length 72 mm. Made from a circular cross-sectioned rod. The handle has been filed down to a rectangular cross-section. The terminals remain circular.
- 301 SF 1442 **Glass wine bottle** Olive green glass. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 3**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 41** SF 1487 Diameter 80 mm. Cut down base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

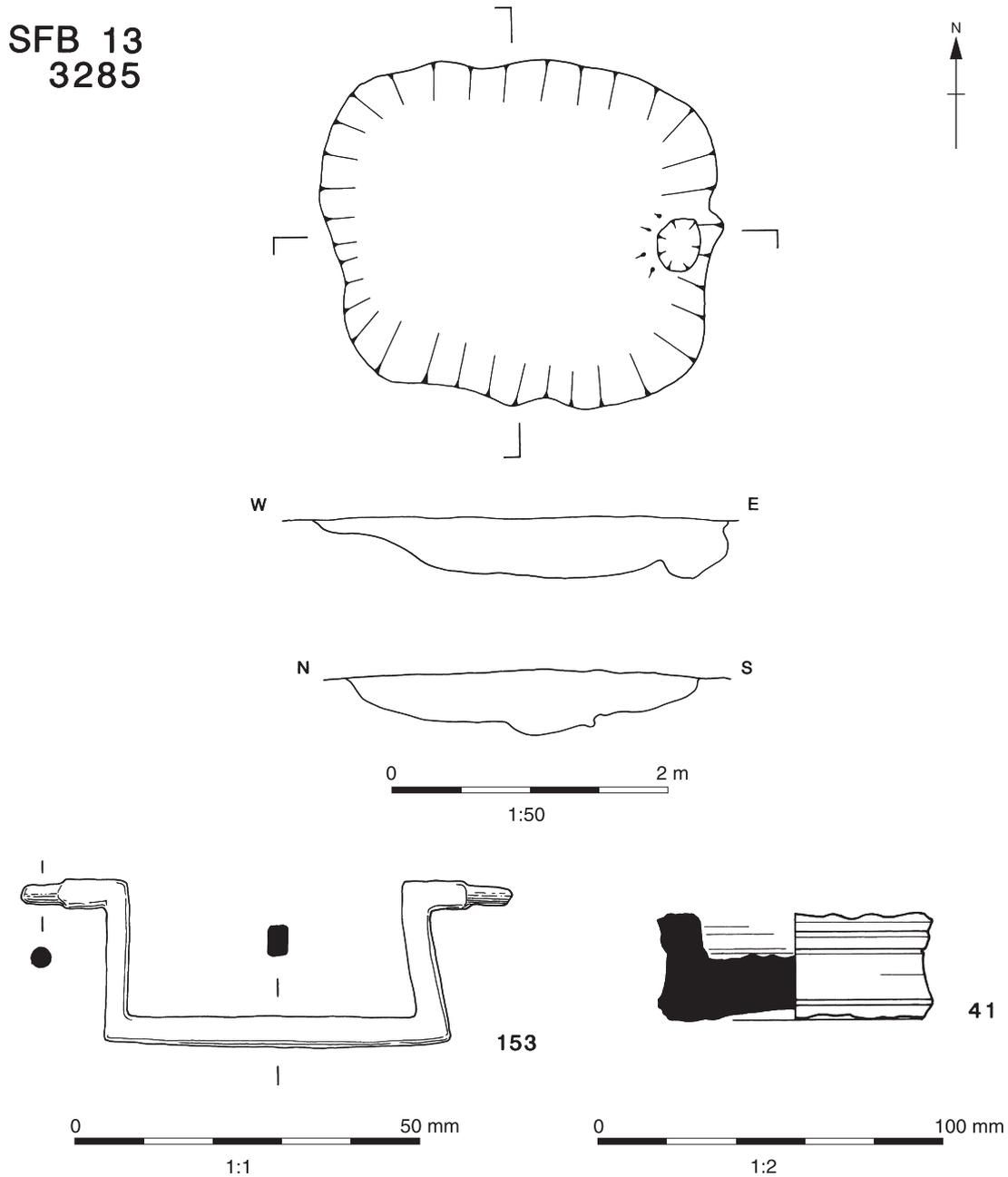


Figure 3.38 Sunken-featured building 13 and artefacts.

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	4	571	6	0	1.7	98.3	581
2	28	0	0	37	100	0	65
Total	32	571	6	37			646
Mean sherd wt	8.0	43.9	6.0	7.4			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	267	307	7	581
2	20	0	0	45	65
Total wt (g)	20	267	307	52	646
% of total	3.1	41.3	47.5	8.0	

EVE: Jars = 0.22; Bowls = 0.05

Cross-fit: B/1 = C/1

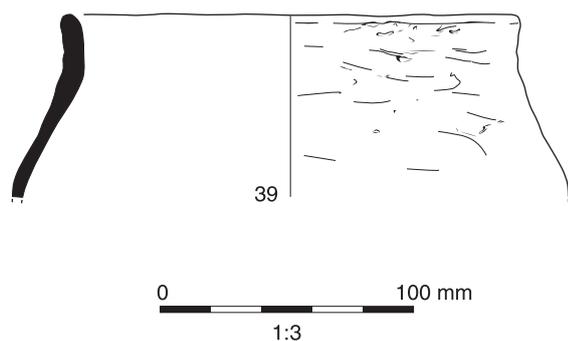


Figure 3.39 Sunken-featured building 13 pottery.

### Illustrations

3.39.39 Rim sherd from small jar. Uniform black fabric, both surfaces burnished.

### SFB 14

Context 3288; Grid reference: 51280 98080; Figures 3.40–3; Site plan: D7/D8; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 4.4 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.7 m; Width: 3.36 m; Depth: 0.40 m.

### Description

SFB 14 was cut into ring ditch 801. The pit was extremely irregular in outline, with substantial post-holes 3443 at the east-north-east end, 3444 c 0.75 m from 3443 and 3442 at the west-south-west end. 3442 had been recut and may have been paired with either 3444 or 3443; the irregularity of the pit outline may be the result of a radical rebuilding of the structure. The pit bottom was irregular and the sides were curving.

There were three layers in the pit. Spindlewhorl 441, SF 1020, was found at the interface between 2 and pea grit on the bottom of the hut.

- 1 dark red brown sandy loam with 15% gravel.
- 2 dark grey brown sandy loam with red and yellow daub and charcoal flecks, containing pottery, bone and small finds.
- 3 thin layer of medium red brown sandy loam with 50% gravel which represents the fill of the ring ditch.

It is not possible to reconstruct with certainty the relationship of the postholes to the pit fill, but it seems probable that the pit fill continued into the postholes.

Layer 3 probably represents deliberate backfill of the ditch, either derived from the slighting of a barrow mound or redeposited from the digging of SFBs 17–18 as an attempt to level the ground surface (see Barclay and Halpin 1999, chapter 4, ring ditch 801).

### Finds

SFB 14 contained a rather mixed group of 15 finds. These included three reused Roman pot bases; 42 and 43 are half bases and the letter R has been incised into the underside of 44 after firing. There was also a single gaming piece, 1473, in an Anglo-Saxon fabric and part of a cornice rim flask, 290, of late Roman date.

Textile equipment included one complete spindlewhorl, 441, and a fragmentary whorl, 468, both in coarse Anglo-Saxon fabrics. 441 came from the interface of layer 2 and pea grit on the base of the sunken-featured building. There are no objects specifically attesting to weaving from this sunken-featured building, but a complete perforated pig's fibula pin and a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon antler comb were found.

A fragment of a knife blade, 199, was recovered in association with part of a whetstone, 430, of probably local stone. Also found were an iron woodworking nail, 228, and fragments of two iron rods, 263 and 264, of unknown function.

### Layer 1

- 228 SF 1354 **Iron nail** Length 79 mm. Circular flat head. Rectangular cross-sectioned shank now bent. (Not illustrated)
- 263 SF 1229 **Iron rod** Length 120 mm, width 8 mm, thickness 6 mm. Rectangular cross-section, tapering to one end. Both ends broken. (Not illustrated)
- 360 SF 1046 **Bone pin** Length 105 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Head cut square. Polished.
- 337 SF 1177 **Antler comb** Length 14 mm. Fragment of an end plate with graduated teeth.
- 468 SF 1534 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Fragment with part of central hole. (Not illustrated)
- SF 1473 **Ceramic counter** Diameter 22 mm. Made from a body sherd in Anglo-Saxon fabric.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 42** SF 1483 Diameter 80 mm. Modified half of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 43** SF 1479 Diameter 60 mm. Modified half of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Layer 2

- 170 SF 1049 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 13 mm; thickness 0.5 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)
- 199 SF 1168 **Iron knife** Blade fragment Length 48 mm, width 10.5 mm, thickness 2 mm. Point central to blade, inclined back? angled back slope, angled leading edge (type A/C. 1.b).
- 264 SF 1027 **Iron rod** Length 95 mm, width 8 mm. Fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 290 SF 1053 **Glass vessel** Thickness 9 mm. Blue-green translucent fragment of a moulded everted rim, possibly from a flask. Late Roman.
- 430 SF 1175 **Whetstone** Length 45 mm. Fragment with signs of wear on one face. Square cross-section. Calcareous sandstone. Local Corallian

SFB 14  
3288

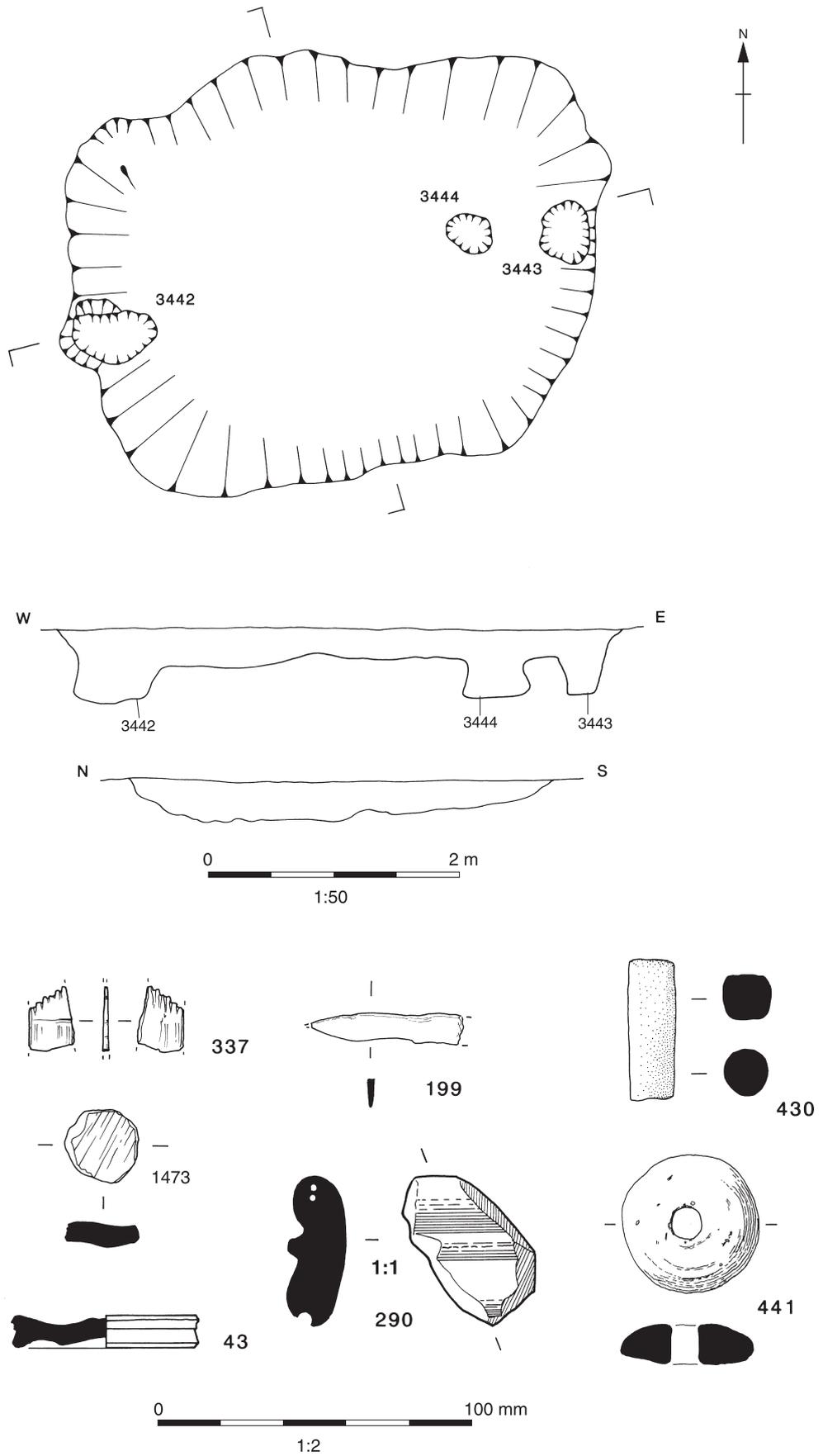


Figure 3.40 Sunken-featured building 14 and artefacts.

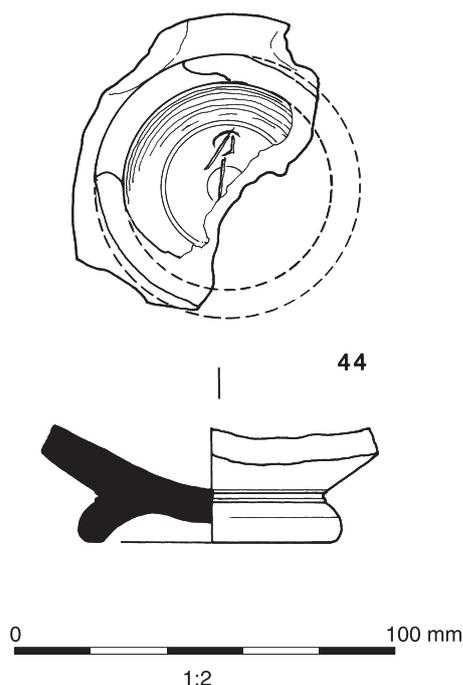


Figure 3.41 Sunken-featured building 14 artefacts continued.

441 SF 1020 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 43 mm. Hemispherical with convex upper and flat lower surface. Diameter of hole 10 mm. Weight 23.03 g.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 44** SF 1042 Samian ware bowl. Diameter c 80 mm. Cut down half of a base with letter R cut into the underside, fabric 8.

#### Posthole 3443

**Reused Roman sherd no. 49** SF 1499 Diameter 55 mm. Complete cut down foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coat. (Not illustrated).

**Reused Roman sherd no. 50** Diameter 60 mm. Cut down foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour coat. (Not illustrated)

#### Pottery tpq 6th century?

Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F8	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	468	554	400	24	61.7	38.3	1446
2	1016	1668	381	0	45.6	54.4	3065
3	0	6	0	0	0	100	6
Total wt (g)	1484	2228	781	24			4517
Mean sherd wt	16.1	31.8	19.5	24.0			

Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	543	330	220	353	1446
2	1445	195	130	1295	3065
3	0	0	6	0	6
Total wt (g)	1988	525	356	1648	4517
% of total	44.2	11.6	7.9	36.5	

EVE: Jars = 2.52; Bowls = 0.62.

One bossed and incised sherd, (A/1, F8, 24 g).

One incised sherd, (B/2, F1, 18 g).

One stamped sherd (B/2, F1, 15 g).

Cross-fits: A/1 = A/2, A/2 = D/2 (x2), D/1 = D/2 (x2).

#### Illustrations

- 3.42.40 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.42.41 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.42.42 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.42.43 Rim sherd from jar. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.42.44 Rim sherd from pierced vessel. Grey fabric, unfinished surfaces.
- 3.42.45 Rim sherd from jar. Dark brown fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.42.46 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.42.47 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.42.48 Rim sherd from bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.42.49 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.42.50 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surfaces.
- 3.42.51 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.43.52 Rim sherd from large jar. Dark grey fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.43.53 Rim sherd from jar. Light brown fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.43.54 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric, brown patches on burnished outer surface.
- 3.43.55 Jar rim. Reddish-brown fabric with black, burnished outer surface.
- 3.43.56 Upright lug. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.43.57 Incised sherd. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.43.58 Bossed and incised sherd. Dark brown fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.43.59 Incised base sherd. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.

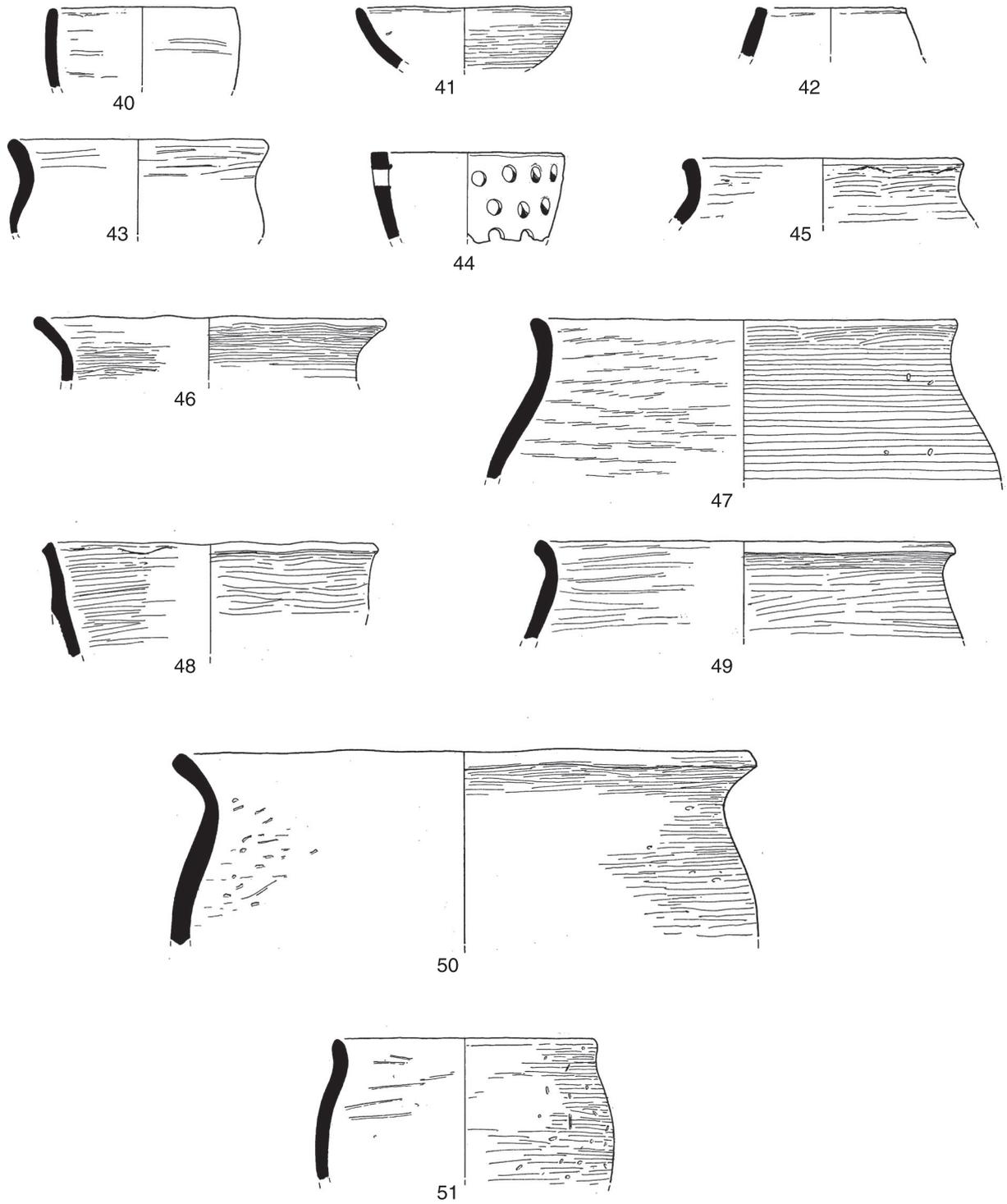


Figure 3.42 Sunken-featured building 14 pottery.

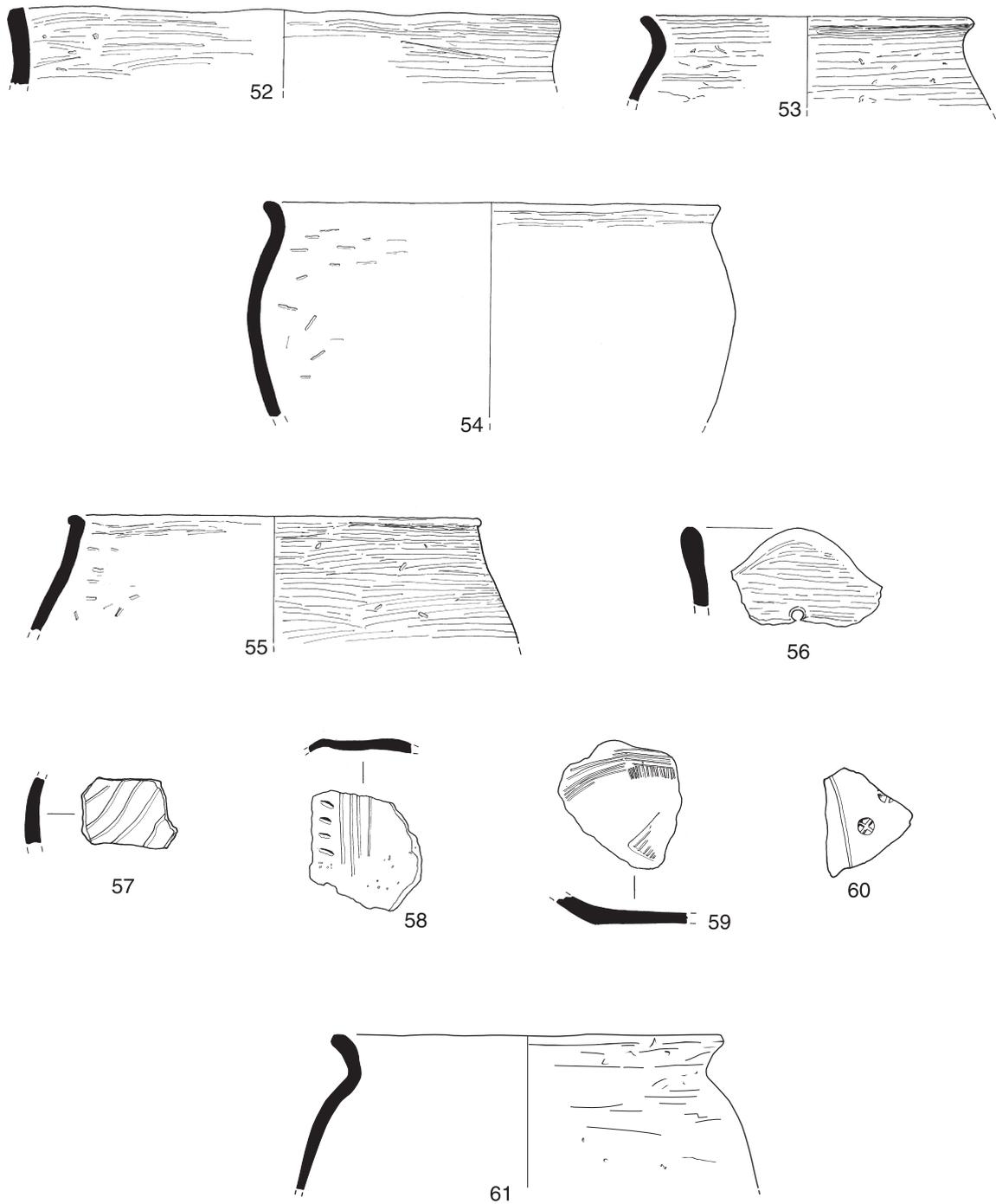


Figure 3.43 Sunken-featured building 14 pottery continued.

- 3.43.60 Stamped sherd. Dark grey fabric with black burnished surfaces.  
 3.43.61 Large rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished, brown outer surface.

The decorated pottery from this feature generally comprises small sherds, and is difficult to date. However, Figure 3.43.60 appears to be a fragment of a stamped pendant triangle, and may be a 6th-century type, as is the bossed sherd (Fig. 3.43.58).

### SFB 15

Context 3307; Grid reference: 51295 98163; Figures 3.44–5; Site plan: D5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 4.36 m; Distance between postholes: 3.8 m; Width: 2.8 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

### Description

SFB 15 was approximately 15 m north-west of the central group of sunken-featured buildings and post-built structures. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 3447 and 3445 in the centres of the north-east and south-west ends. The sides sloped outwards, with a shelf on the south-east side.

- 1 dark reddish brown sandy loam with 5–10% gravel.
- 2 dark reddish brown sandy loam with 20–30% gravel.
- 3 medium reddish brown sandy loam with 40% gravel which constituted the fill of posthole 3447.

It is not possible to reconstruct with certainty the relationship of the pit fills to the postholes, but it appears that a post remained *in situ* in 3447 while the fills accumulated.

### Finds

Only five objects were associated with this SFB. These included a woodworking nail, 237, and a knife, 198, probably of 5th- to 7th-century date. A quern, 415, probably of Old Red Sandstone, and part of a base of a Roman pot, 45, which has been cut into a wedge shape, were also recovered.

Number 324 is a comb, typical of those found on Anglo-Saxon sites. It has been broken in antiquity and repaired with copper alloy rivets. An original iron rivet has been replaced by one of copper alloy and three additional rivets have been used to secure the repair.

### Layer 1

- 198 SF 1022 **Iron knife** Blade length 48 mm, width 17 mm, thickness 2 mm. Point central to blade, inclined back, back slope and leading edge angled, tip missing. (Type A/C. 1. b.). Blade worn. Tang length 20 mm, set just below back, sloping shoulder.
- 237 SF 1024 **Iron nail** Length 58 mm. The small flat square head is a slight expansion of the square cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)

- 324 SF 1023 **Double-sided composite bone comb** Length 58 mm, height 48 mm. Two tooth segments. The teeth on both sides average 5 per cm. The connecting plates have D-shaped cross sections and saw marks along both edges. Three iron rivets and four copper alloy rivets remain.

- 415 SF 1025 **Quern** Length 100 mm. Fragment of reddish-brown feldspathic coarse-grained, probably Old Red Sandstone. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

- Reused Roman sherd no. 45** SF 1497 Diameter 100 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a grooved base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Pottery tpq 5th century?

#### Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	340	1274	128	136	24.9	75.1	1878
2	42	248	118	23	37.1	62.9	431
3	0	27	0	0	0	100	27
Total wt (g)	382	1549	246	159			2336
Mean sherd wt	10.1	17.8	18.9	9.4			

#### Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	327	552	754	245	1878
2	112	284	0	35	431
3	27	0	0	0	27
Total wt (g)	466	836	754	280	2336
% of total	19.9	35.8	32.3	12.0	

EVE: Jars = 1.12; Bowls = 0.22.

One vessel with multiple collars/finger-grooves, (A/1, A/2, B/1 and D/1, F2, 319 g).

Two incised sherds, (B/1, F1, 3 g; B/2, F2, 3 g).

One pedestal base (B/2, F2, 19 g)

Pierced sherd (B/2, F2, 5 g).

Cross-fits: A/1 = A/2 = B/1 = D/1.

### Illustrations

- 3.45.62 Large jar with finger-grooved shoulders. Uniform dark grey fabric with smoothed outer surface.
- 3.45.63 Rim from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

SFB 15  
3307

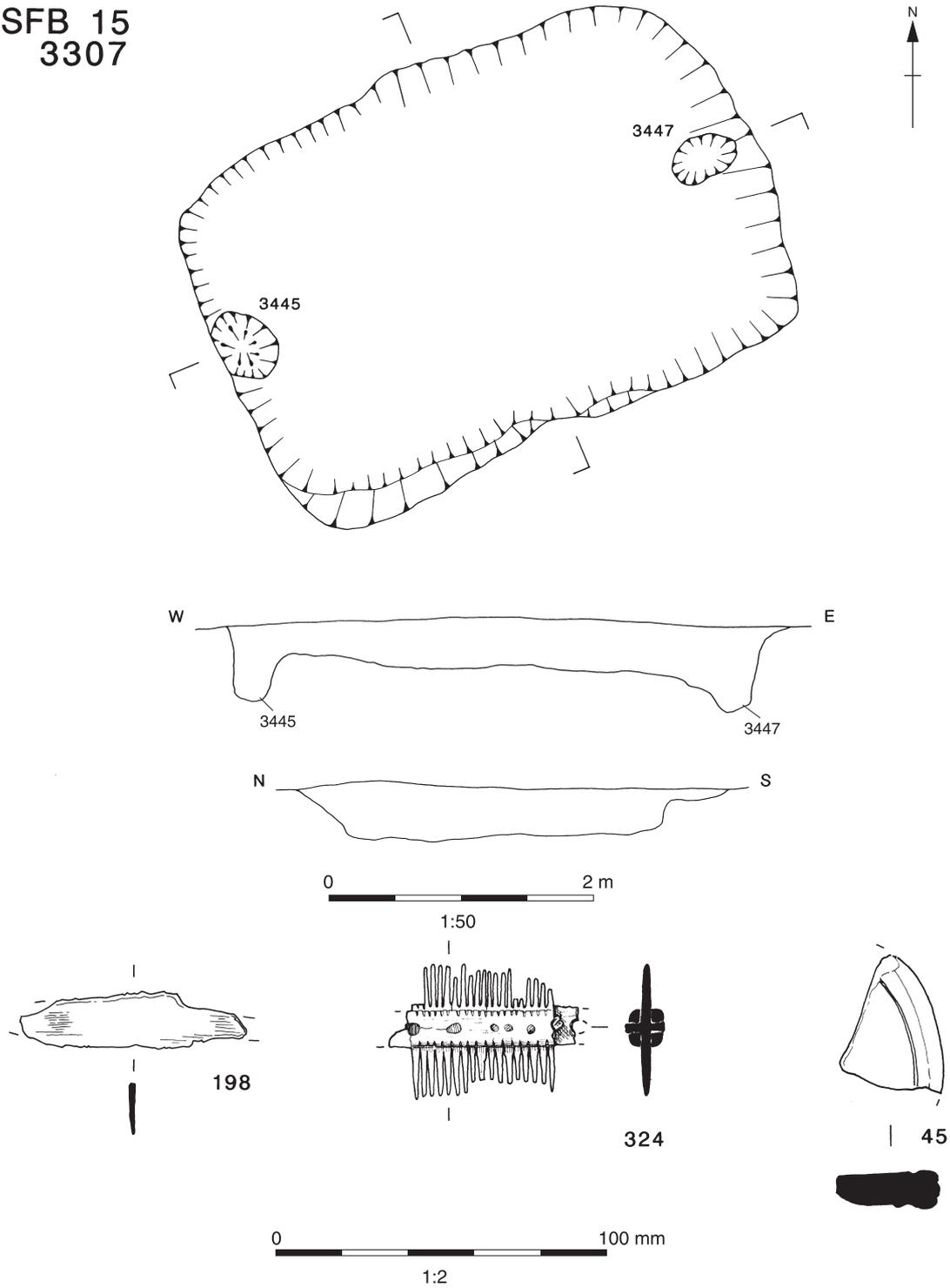


Figure 3.44 Sunken-featured building 15 and artefacts.

- |         |   |         |   |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| 3.45.64 | Rim from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.    | 3.45.67 | Stamped sherd. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces. |
| 3.45.65 | Sherd from 'stepped' base. Black fabric, unfinished surfaces. | 3.45.68 | Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.    |
| 3.45.66 | Miniature jar. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.       | 3.45.69 | Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.    |

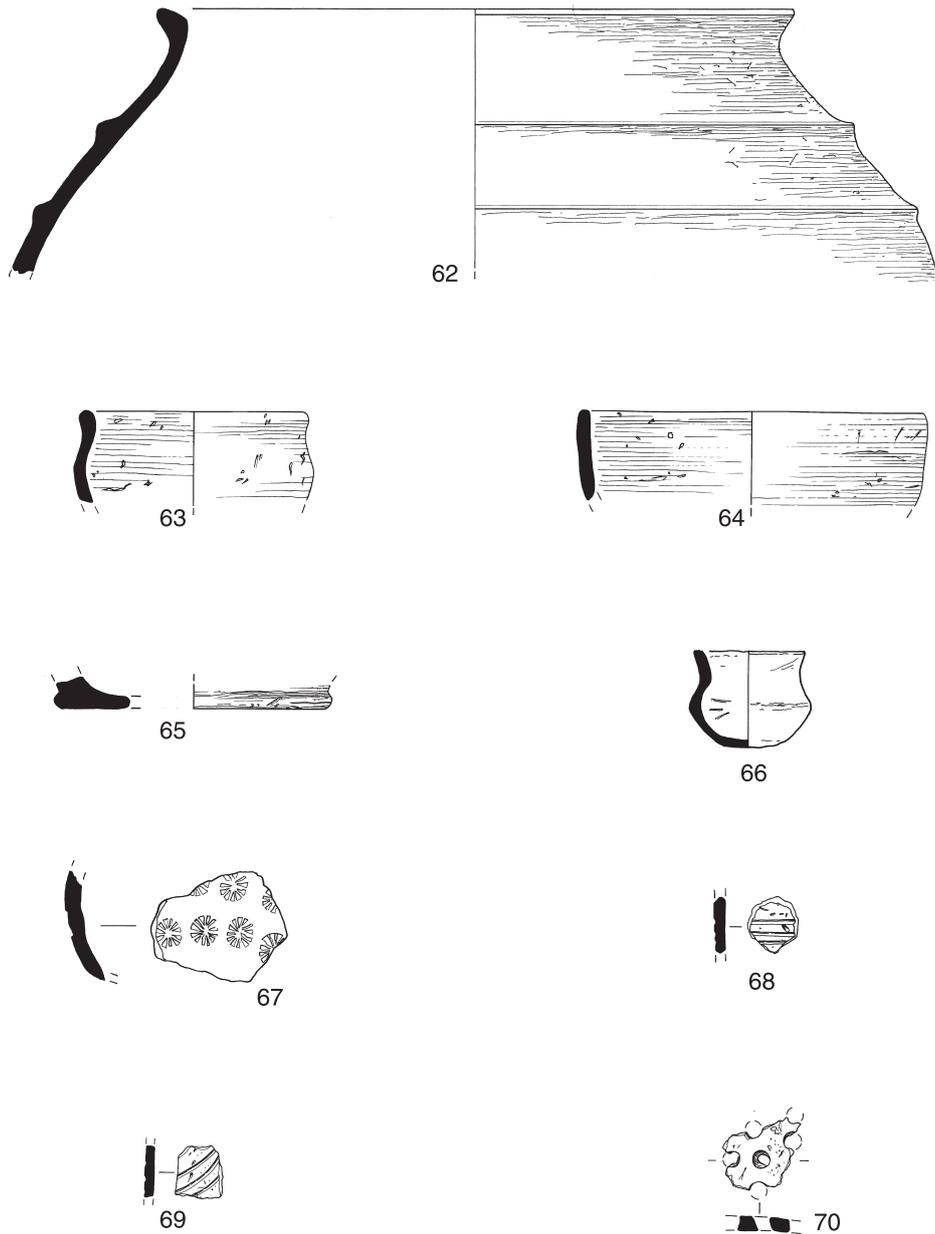


Figure 3.45 Sunken-featured building 15 pottery.

3.45.70 Pierced bodysherd. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.

The vessel with the finger-grooved shoulders (Fig. 3.45.62) is extremely unusual, and has only one parallel, a carinated bowl from Sussex (Myres 1977, fig. 89, no. 3652). The Barrow Hills vessel is obviously a jar,

but it seems highly likely due to be of the same date due to the distinctive nature of the vessel. Support for this date comes from the presence of the small carinated jar in the same feature (Fig. 3.45.66). Such vessels are said by Myres to be characteristically early.

SFB 16  
3378

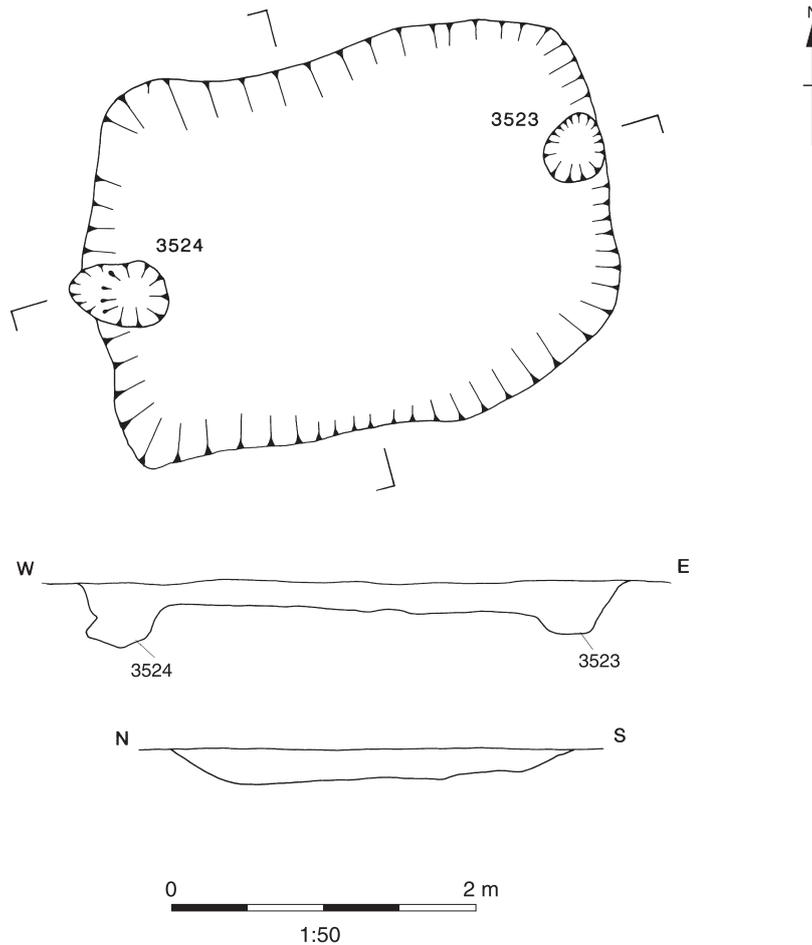


Figure 3.46 Sunken-featured building 16.

**SFB 16**

Context 3378; Grid reference: 51286 98137; Figures 3.46–7; Site plan: D6; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.48 m; Distance between postholes: 3.1 m; Width: 2.44 m; Depth: 0.22 m.

**Description**

SFB 16 was approximately 20 m to the south-west of the central group of structures. The pit is sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 3523 and 3524 in the centres of the east-north-east and west-south-west sides respectively. The sides sloped outwards.

Only two layers were distinguished, containing numerous tip lines and animal disturbance. There was 30–40 mm of pea grit and gravel in the bottoms of the postholes.

- 1 medium brown sandy loam with 10–50% gravel.
- 2 medium red brown sandy loam with 5–20% gravel.

It is not possible to reconstruct with certainty the relationship of the fill to the postholes.

**Finds**

There were no finds.

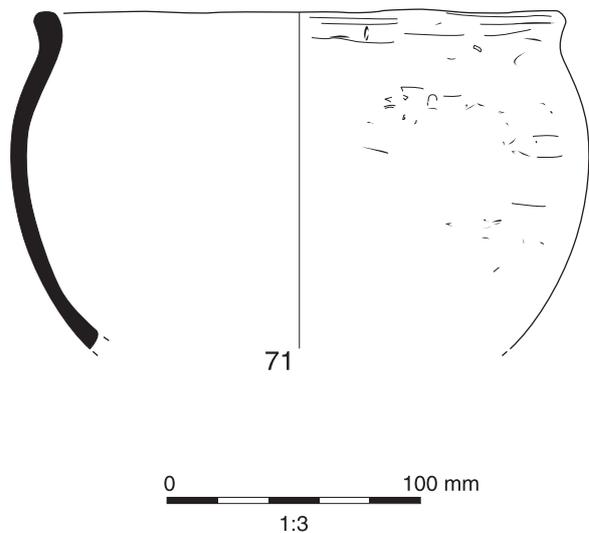


Figure 3.47 Sunken-featured building 16 pottery.

**Pottery***Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	81	349	11	16	20.1	79.9	457
2	28	361	0	8	7.1	92.9	397
Total wt (g)	109	710	11	24			854
Mean sherd wt	0.4	21.5	5.5	12.0			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	108	349	0	457
2	346	15	0	36	397
Total wt (g)	346	123	349	36	854
% of total	40.5	14.4	40.9	4.2	

EVE: Jars = 0.20; Bowls = 0.

*Illustrations*

3.47.71 Jar rim. Dark grey fabric with burnished outer surface.

**SFBS 17 AND 18 (FIGS 3.48–50)**

These two intercutting sunken-featured buildings were excavated together as feature 3441 in six sectors. It is no longer possible to establish the exact lines of the sectors, which were irregular in shape, but they ran in the usual anti-clockwise direction starting from A in the usual position of the south-west quadrant with B adjacent to the east, C next to B in the north-east end of SFB 18 with D in the north-west end, E to the west and finally F in the usual position of quadrant D of SFB 17. The line of the cut could not be distinguished in plan and proved difficult to detect in section. There was therefore considerable mixing between the fills of the two features and it is extremely difficult to reconstruct their relationships, particularly in view of the fact that not all the layers identified in the context records appear in section.

**SFB 17**

Context 3441; Grid reference: 51295 98096; Site plan: D7/8; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: *c* 6.5 m; Distance between postholes: 6.2 m; Width: 4.0 m; Depth: 0.56 m.

**Description**

SFB 17 was unusually large and cut the north-east ditch of ring ditch 801. It cut or was cut by the south-west end of SFB 18. The pit was sub-rectangular in

plan with postholes 3797 and 3801 in the centres of the east and west ends. The sides of the pit sloped outwards. The posthole 3796 in the centre was filled by the occupation layer 5 and was probably the south-west posthole of SFB 18, although the possibility that it held a centre post for SFB 17 cannot be completely excluded. A limestone block lay on the base of the pit.

It appears from the context records and sections that SFB 17 contained six main layers of fill:

- 1 grey brown sandy loam with 50% gravel containing pottery and bone.
- 2 medium red brown sandy loam with 40% gravel containing pottery, bone, a large piece of limestone, green clay, burnt material and small finds.
- 3 medium red brown sandy loam with 70% gravel containing pea grit inclusions, pottery, bone, green clay, powdery burnt material, conglomerate and limestone.
- 4 discontinuous deposits of medium yellow brown sandy silt above and within layer 3.
- 5 well defined layer of slightly powdery medium grey brown silt containing powdery burnt material and ash, overlying 6.
- 6 pea gravel and natural gravel overlying the natural soft gravel base of the feature.

**SFB 18**

Context 3441 Grid reference: 51295 98096; Site plan: D7 Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: *c* 4.5 m; Distance between postholes: 4.0 m; Width: > 3.0 m; Depth: *c* 0.5 m.

**Description**

SFB 18 lay just outside the ditch of ring ditch 801 and cut or was cut by SFB 17. The pit appears to have been the usual sub-rectangular shape, with postholes 3798 and 3796 at the north-east and south-west ends. The pit edges sloped outwards.

1–5 descriptions as 17.

6 yellow brown sand, discontinuous between 2 and 3.

D/7 = C/9 light-medium red brown sandy loam, 50% medium gravel, apparent only around 'upper edge' of sector (labelled as 7 on section, Fig. 3.48).

D/8 = C/10 pea gravel underlying D/7 = C/9.

D9 = C7 natural sand extending into base of 3798, underlying 5. C/8 redeposited natural gravel stained with topsoil and pea gravel.

The pits of SFBS 17 and 18 were dug to the same approximate depths. There were four postholes in SFBS 17 and 18; 3796, 3797, 3798 and 3801. The nature of the fill of 3801 is not recorded, but it seems clear that it was the west posthole of SFB 17. It seems equally clear that 3798 was the north-east posthole of SFB 18. The records concerning the fill of 3797 are confusing; its position strongly suggests that it was the east posthole of SFB 17, but it is described as having a fill homogeneous with D7 = C9, said to have been part of the primary fill of 18. However, the site records elsewhere state that at times it was extremely difficult to distinguish between layers 2 and 3 of 17 and 9 of 18, and it is possible that layers 3 and 9 have been confused. From its position, it also seems likely that 3796 was originally the south-west posthole of 18. It is filled by layer 5, which from the soil description was probably an occupation layer.

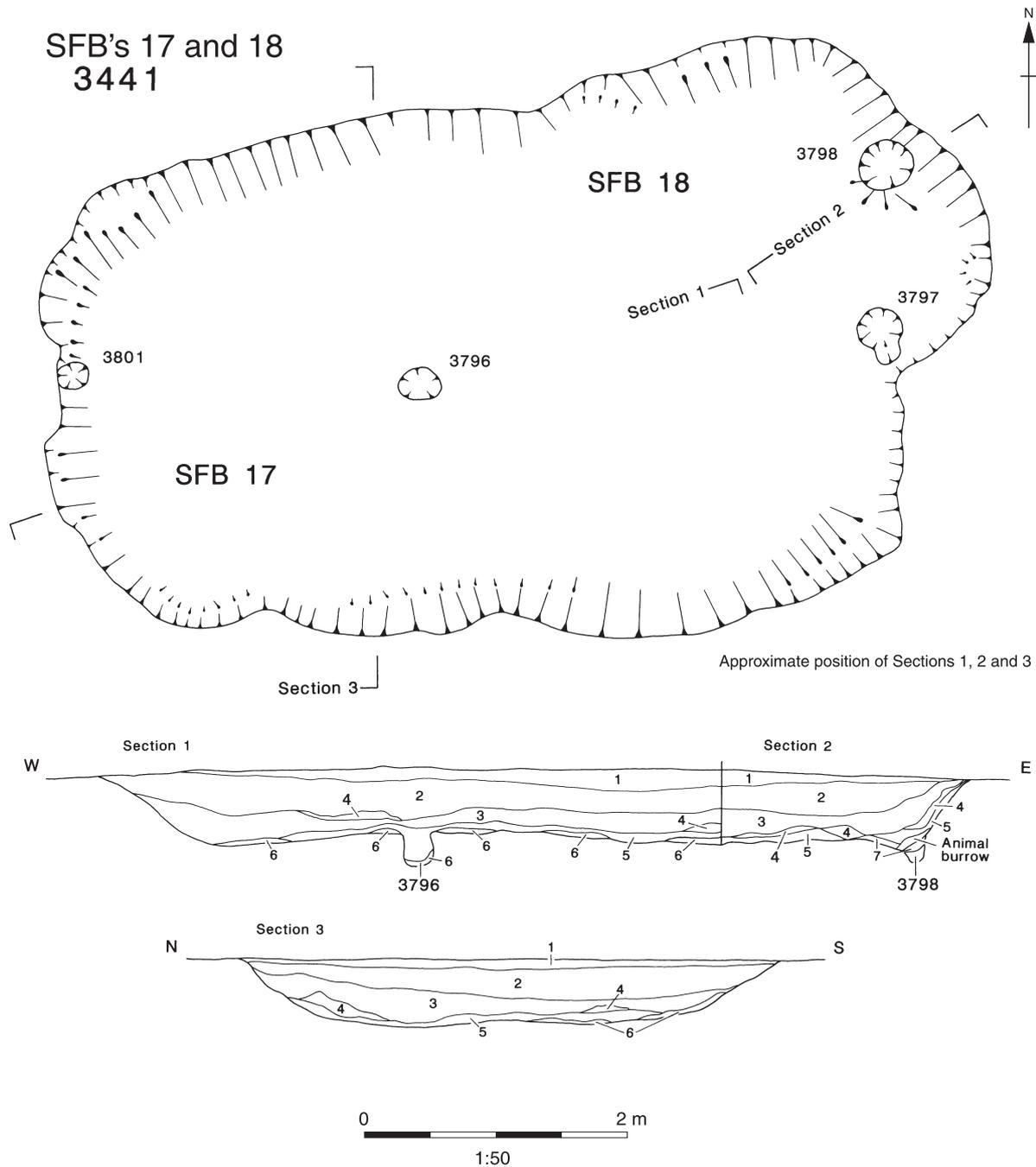


Figure 3.48 Sunken-featured buildings 17 and 18.

Since 5 extends as far as the north-east end of SFB 18, overlying the fill of posthole 3798, but on the section stops *c* 0.6 m short of the south-west end of SFB 17, the balance of probability seems to be that 5 represents an occupation layer in the base of 18 after its posts had been removed and that 18 therefore post-dates 17, possibly reusing its central posthole 3796. The cut could not be identified in the field, although the site records state that C/9 and C/10 appeared to have been cut by other fills. It is possible that they represent slumping from the sides of the pit of SFB 18 after the posts had been removed and before the buildup of

occupation layer 5. It is impossible, however, to be certain of the stratigraphic relationship of these two features.

#### Finds

Eleven finds were associated with SFBs 17 and 18. Textile equipment consisted of a simple bone spindle-whorl, 348, and a very fine example of a pin beater, 343, used to separate the warp threads in conjunction with a warp-weighted loom. It has a number of transverse grooves due to extensive use.

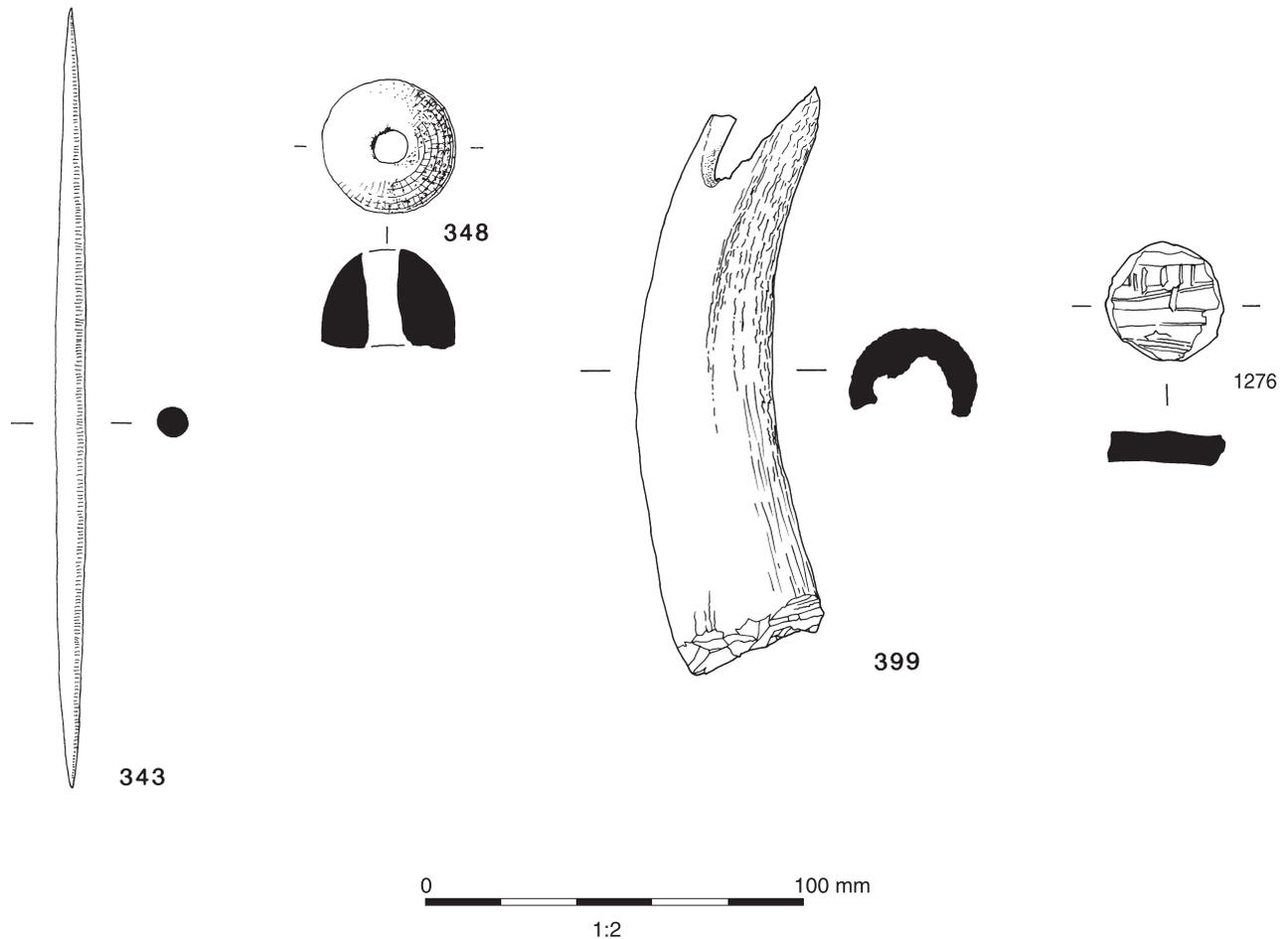


Figure 3.49 Sunken-featured buildings 17 and 18 artefacts.

Part of an antler tine, 399, is a waste product of antler working. There are also a woodworking nail, 229, and a fragment of an iron rod 266.

Three reused bases of Roman vessels were also recovered. 46 is a half base. 47 and 48 have been cut into wedge shapes. There is also a small gaming counter SF 1276 in an Anglo-Saxon fabric. 611 is a fragment of vitrified pottery, which has been subjected to an intense amount of heat over a short time.

**Layer 1**

266 SF 1026 **Iron rod** Length 55 mm, width 11 mm, thickness 8 mm. Rectangular cross-section, broken at both ends. (Not illustrated)

614 SF 1028 **Copper alloy farthing** Harington farthing, James VI and I 1613–1614. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 48** SF 1495 Diameter 60 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated).

611 SF 1654 **Slag, vitrified sherd** (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

229 SF 1065 **Iron nail** Length 55 mm. Circular flat head, bent shank with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)

343 SF 1066 **Bone pin beater** Length 207 mm. Highly polished shaft tapering to a point at both ends. Transverse grooves down one side.

348 SF 1064 **Bone spindlewhorl** Diameter 35 mm. Hemispherical. Bovine? femur head with central perforation, diameter 9 mm. Weight 11.2 g.

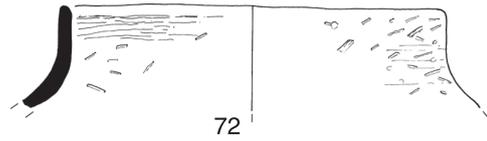
399 SF 1519 **Antler waste** Antler tine, the base has been chopped part way through and then broken off to detach it from the beam.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 46** SF 1496 Diameter 90 mm. Modified half of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 47** SF 1498 Diameter c 70 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 3**

SF 1276 **Ceramic counter** Diameter 30 mm. Made from a body sherd in Anglo-Saxon fabric.



**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	154	28	24	0	20	78.8	21.2	226
2	85	141	83	2	236	31.1	68.9	547
3	137	121	46	2	559	21.4	78.6	865
5	0	0	0	0	45	0	100	45
Total wt* (g)	376	290	153	4	860			1683
Mean sherd wt	8.4	7.4	13.1	2.0	14.3			

\*some of the pottery from this feature was not assigned a specific quadrant or layer by the excavators.

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total wt (g)
1*								-
2	28	148	102	111	65	93	0	547
3	168	183	0	159	255	100	0	865
5	38	0	0	0	3	0	4	45
Total wt (g)	234	331	102	270	323	193	4	1457
% of total	16.1	22.7	7.0	18.5	22.2	13.3	0.3	

\*Layer 1 was not excavated by quadrant.

EVE: Jars = 0.75; Bowls = 0.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

Cross-fit: C/2 = D/2.

**Illustrations**

- 3.50.72 Upright jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.50.73 Neck of jar with upright rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.50.74 Jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.50.75 'Stepped' base sherd. Black fabric with brown unfinished surfaces.

**SFB 19**

Context 3542; Grid reference: 51279 98154; Figures 3.51-2 Site plan: D6; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at

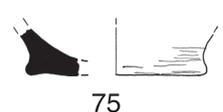
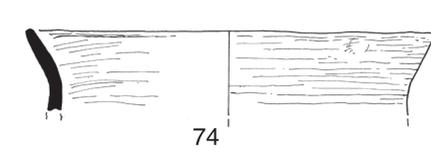
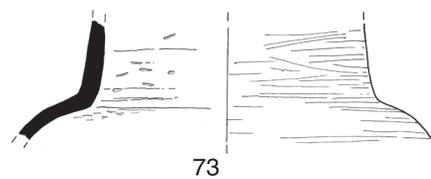


Figure 3.50 Sunken-featured buildings 17 and 18 pottery.

surface: 3.9 m; Distance between postholes: 3.5 m; Width: 2.8 m; Depth: 0.39 m.

**Description**

SFB 19 was approximately 25 m north-west of the central group of post-built structures. The pit was an irregular sub-rectangle with postholes 3546 and 3555

at the north-east and south-west ends. The floor of the pit was uneven and the sides sloped outwards.

The fill consisted of three layers:

- 1 red brown sandy loam with 35% gravel containing bone, pot, slag, daub and charcoal flecks.
- 2 brown black sandy loam with 25% gravel, flecks of charcoal, dark burnt patches, bone and pot.
- 3 brown sandy loam with 30% gravel at the sides of the pit.

There was a layer of pea gravel on the bottom of the pit.

It is not possible to relate the fill of the postholes to the fill of the pit with certainty, but from the soil descriptions it seems most likely that the fill of the pit continued into the postholes.

### Finds

The five finds from this sunken-featured building include two reused bases of Roman pots. Number 51 is a complete base and 52 a cut half base. There is also a large ceramic fragment of uncertain use, 467. Number 273 is a small fragment of iron wire and 606 is two fragments of slag; both are probably the products of smiths' hearths. The larger fragment has been furnace-cooled and the smaller fragment cooled at a rapid rate.

### Layer 1

**Reused Roman sherd no. 51** SF 1500 Diameter 60 mm. Modified base sherd in greyware, fabric 4. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 52** SF 1501 Diameter 90 mm. Half of a flat base in greyware, fabric 4.

606 SF 1338 **Slag, two planoconvex fragments** (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

273 SF 1353 **Iron wire** Length 35 mm Circular cross-section, broken at both ends. (Not illustrated)

467 SF 1588 **Large ceramic fragment** (Not illustrated)

### Pottery tpq 6th century?

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	233	240	113	34	55.8	44.2	620
2	997	543	806	858	56.3	43.7	3204
3	107	20	40	14	81.2	18.8	181
Total wt (g)	1337	803	959	906			4005
Mean sherd wt	13.2	13.0	26.6	45.3			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	248	187	128	57	620
2	276	813	611	1504	3204
3	0	85	0	96	181
Total wt (g)	524	1085	739	1657	4005
% of total	13.1	27.1	18.5	41.4	

EVE: Jars 1.97; Bowls = 0.10.

Three incised sherds (A/1, F3, 5 g; A/2, F1, 2 g; C/2, F2, 6 g).

One stamped sherd (B/1, F1, 7 g).

One incised sherd (A/1 and B/1, F2, 121 g, rim sherd 18% complete).

One rusticated sherd (B/2, F1, 2 g).

One combed sherd (A/2, F2, 118 g).

Cross-fits: A/1 = B/1, A/1 = B/2, B/2 = B/3, B/2 = D/2, D/2 = D/3.

### Illustrations

- 3.52.76 Profile of jar. Black fabric with browner, hand-smoothed outer surface.
- 3.52.77 Rim from incised jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.52.78 Rim from large jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.52.79 Rim from large jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.52.80 Rim from large jar. Dark grey fabric with brown surfaces.
- 3.52.81 Rim from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.52.82 Stamped and incised sherd. Dark grey fabric with burnished surfaces.

The stamped and incised sherd (Fig. 3.52.82) is probably of 6th-century date.

### SFB 20

Context 3606; Grid reference: 51299 98214; Figures 3.53–4; Site plan: D4; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 4.3 m; Distance between postholes: 3.6 m; Width: 2.9 m; Depth: 0.57 m.

### Description

SFB 20 was one of a group of three sunken-featured buildings (20, 21 and 22) on the north-west edge of the excavated area, c 15 m north-east of the Neolithic oval barrow. The pit was sub-rectangular with postholes 3609 and 3695 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides. The floor of the pit was uneven and the sides sloped outwards.

SFB 19  
3542

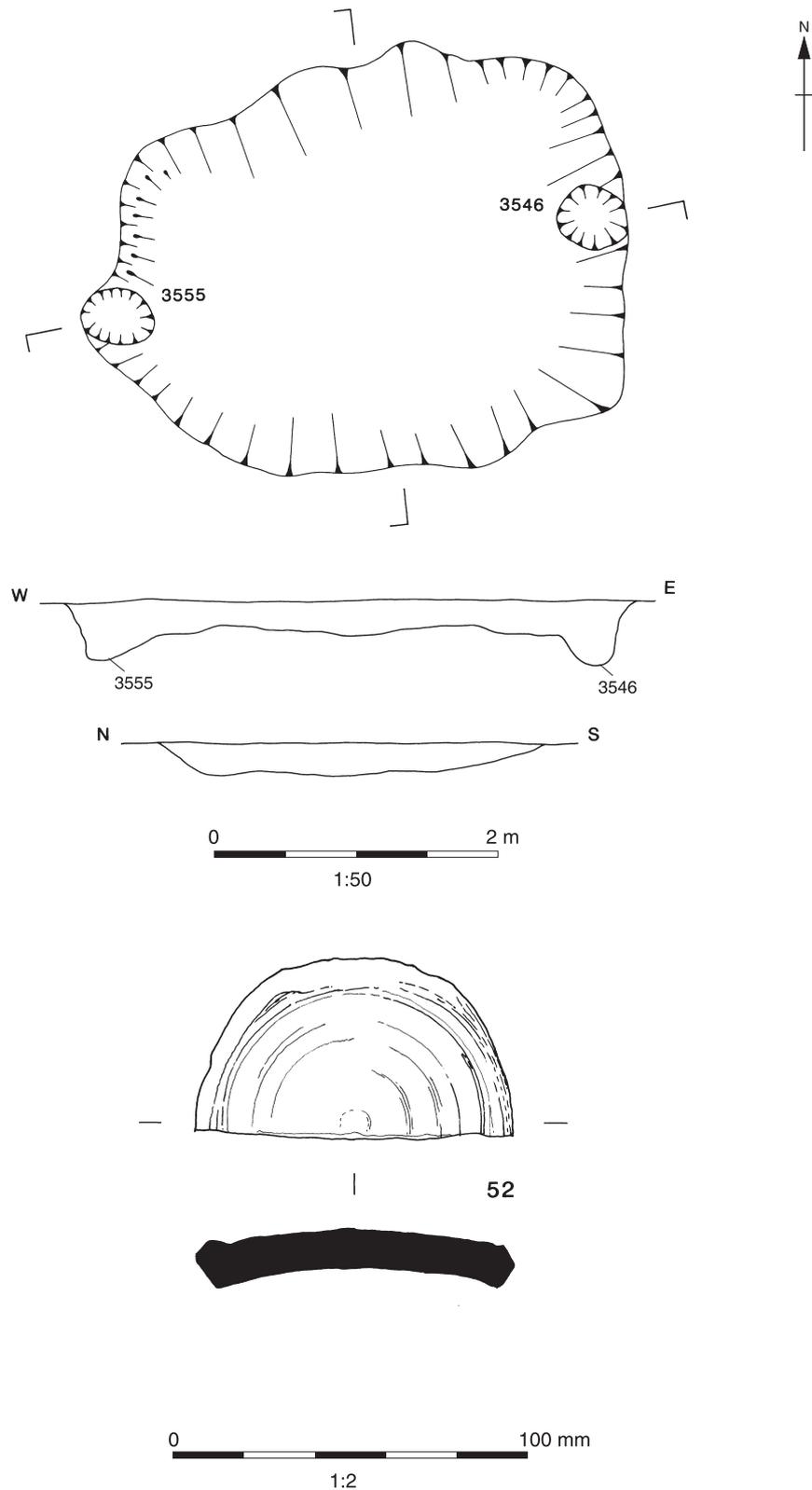


Figure 3.51 Sunken-featured building 19 and artefact.

There were three layers of fill:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 reddish brown sandy loam with 40% gravel containing small quantities of bone, pot and flint.</p>                      | <p>2 brown black sandy loam with 25% gravel containing bone, pot, charcoal, daub, green clay and burnt limestone.</p> |
| <p>3 brown loam with yellow gravel inclusions and increasing quantities of pea grit towards the bottom of the feature.</p> |   |

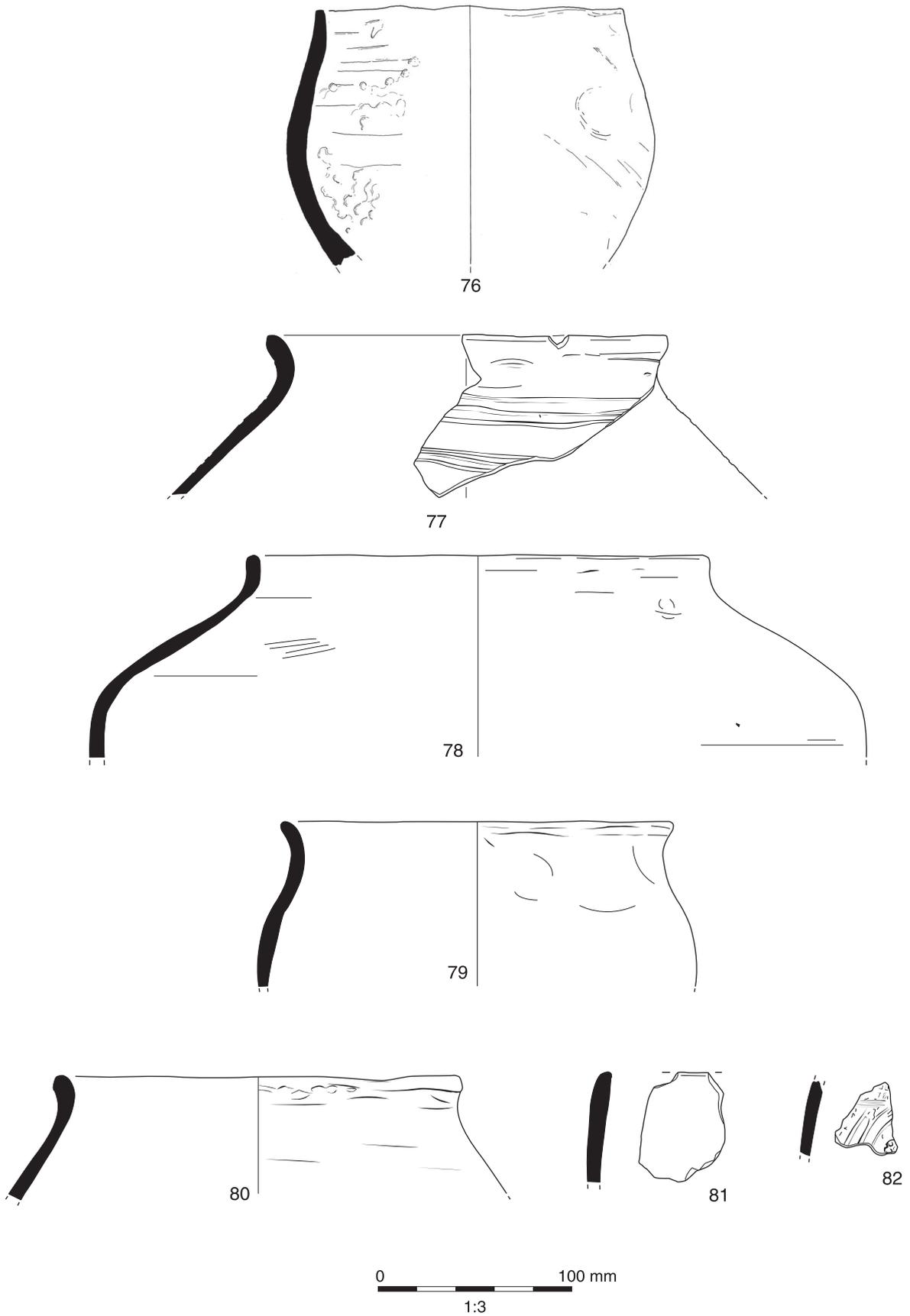


Figure 3.52 Sunken-featured building 19 pottery.

SFB 20  
3606

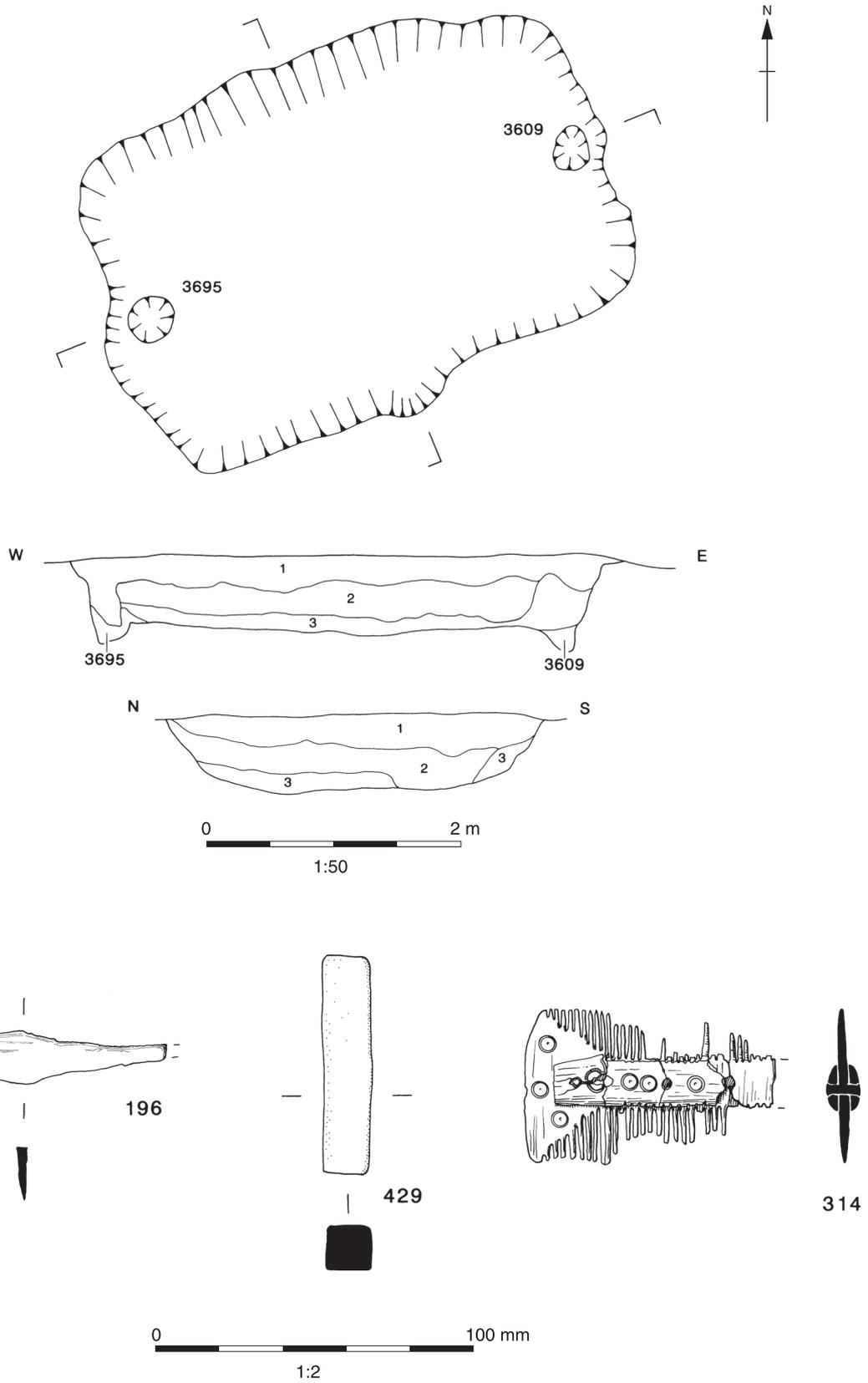


Figure 3.53 Sunken-featured building 20 and artefacts.

**Finds**

Only four finds were associated with this sunken-featured building. These include an iron knife, 196, of a type common in the 5th to 7th centuries. This has a worn blade and was found in association with a hone, 429, which also shows signs of wear.

Layer 3 produced part of a double-sided composite comb with ring and dot decoration, 314. This is similar to many combs from the site and is typical of Anglo-Saxon combs of 5th- to 7th-century date. An additional tooth, 339, was found in layer 2.

**Layer 2**

196 SF 1048 **Iron knife** Blade length 60 mm, width 16 mm, thickness 2 mm. Blade point central, inclined back with convex back slope and curved leading edge (Type A.1.c) Worn. Two grooves along one side of the blade. Tang set central to blade, length 44 mm, sloping shoulders

339 SF 1179 **Antler comb tooth** Length 16 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

429 SF 1050 **Whetstone** Length 69 mm Fragment with signs of wear on all faces. Fine grained green-grey sandstone.

**Layer 3**

314 SF 1047 **Double-sided composite bone comb** Length 79 mm, height 48 mm. Rectangular end plate with graduated teeth. The teeth on one side average 4 per cm and on the other 5 per cm. Remains of four tooth segments. The connecting plates have a flat D-shaped cross-section, with saw marks on both edges. Remains of four iron rivets. The connecting plates and end plates are decorated with simple ring and dot motifs.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	367	215	18	105	54.6	45.4	705
2	221	1097	8	289	14.2	85.8	1615
3	22	334	74	141	16.8	83.2	571
Total wt (g)	610	1646	100	535			2891
Mean sherd wt	14.5	20.1	20.2	16.7			

Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	260	78	367	0	705
2	287	454	346	528	1615
3	383	0	0	188	571
Total wt (g)	930	532	713	716	2891
% of total	32.2	18.4	24.7	24.8	

EVE: Jars = 1.27; Bowls = 0.20.

Two collared sherds (A/1, F3, 8 g; D/2, F2, 28 g).  
Four incised sherds (A/1, F6, 8 g; A/2, F1, 3 g; A/3, F1, 22 g; D/2, F2, 8 g).

One incised and stamped sherd (A/3, F2, 3 g).

One incised and bossed sherd (A/3, F2, 87 g).

One stamped sherd (D/3, F2, 11 g).

Cross-fits: A/1 = A/2 = D/2, A/2 = C/2.

**Illustrations**

- 3.54.83 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed and burnished outer surface.
- 3.54.84 Upper body of jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.54.85 Rim of lugged vessel. Uniform black fabric, burnished outer surface.
- 3.54.86 Stamped and incised jar. Black fabric with burnished surface.
- 3.54.87 Stamped and incised jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.54.88 Incised and stabbed sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.54.89 Finger-grooved sherd. Dark grey fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.54.90 Bodysherd from incised and bossed vessel. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.

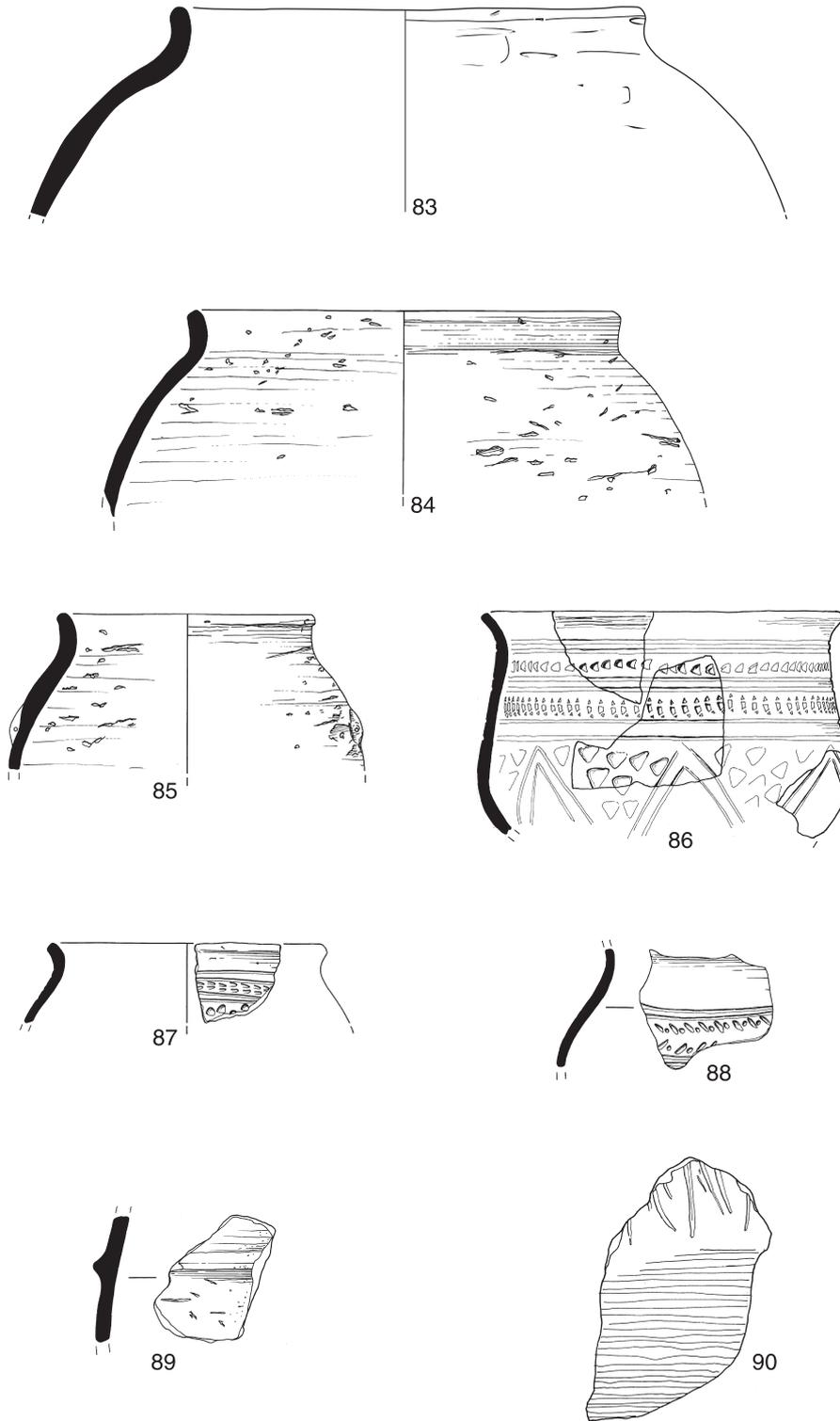
The stamped pendant triangle sherd (Fig. 3.54.86) appears typical of those vessels dated by Myres to the 6th century (1977), and this is generally supported by the nature of the other decorated sherds from this feature (3.54.87 and 88).

**SFB 21**

Context 3607; Grid reference: 51292 98213; Figures 3.55–6; Site plan: D4; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.48 m; Distance between postholes: 3.0 m; Width: 2.8 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

**Description**

SFB 21 was one of a group of three sunken-featured buildings on the north-west of the excavated area. Its south edge cut or was cut by SFB 22, but the stratigraphic relationship is not clear. It was sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 3677 and 3678 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides.



0 100 mm  
1:3

Figure 3.54 Sunken-featured building 20 pottery.

SFB 21  
3607

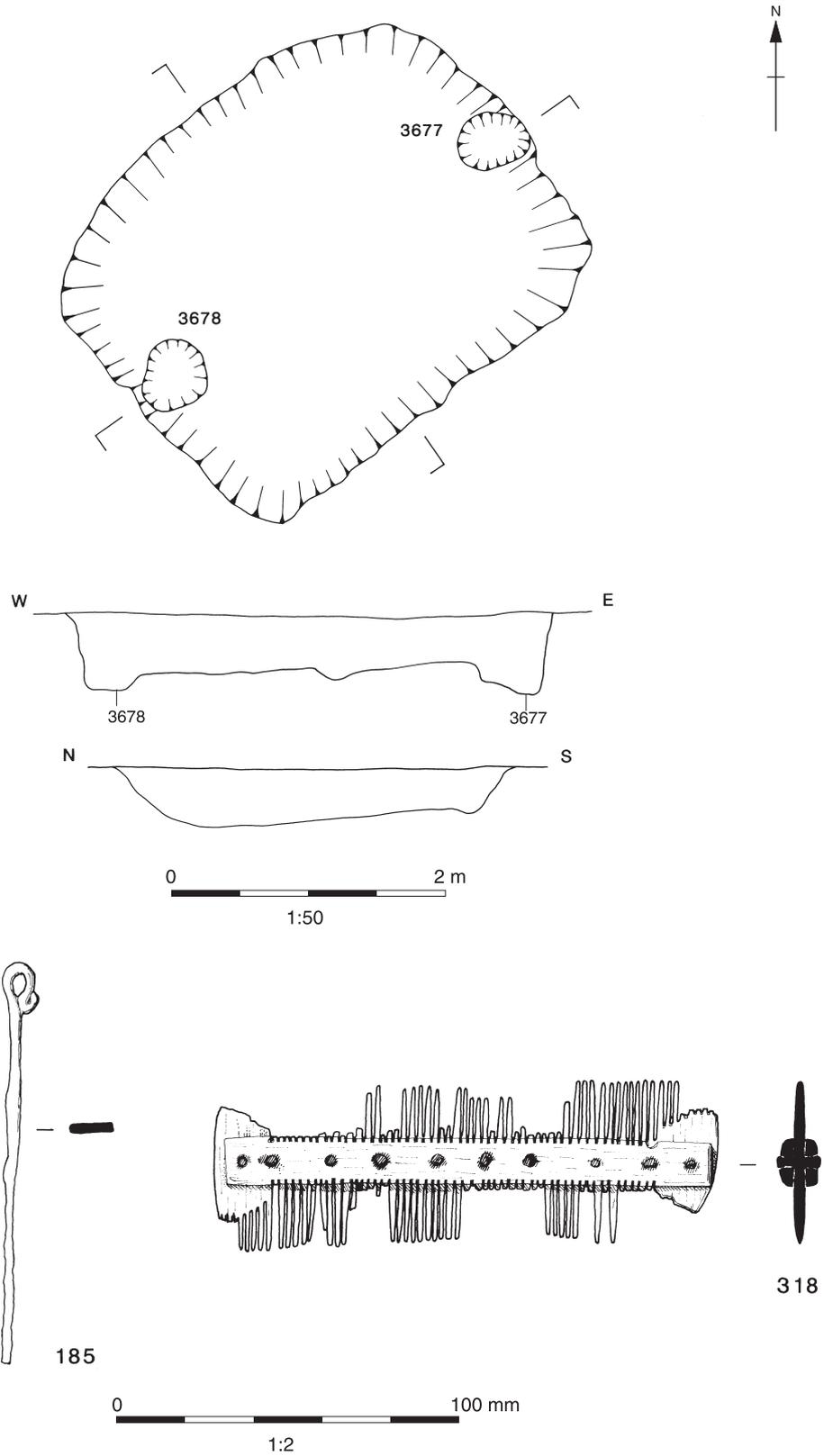


Figure 3.55 Sunken-featured building 21 and artefacts.

The floor of the pit was uneven and the sides sloped outwards.

1 medium reddish brown sandy loam with 25–30% gravel.

### Finds

Several fragments of copper alloy sheet, catalogued together as 162, were found in this sunken-featured building. There was also part of a padlock key, 185, probably used with a barbed spring padlock. Other barbed spring padlock keys have been found at Shakenoak (Brodribb *et al.* 1972, figs 40, 179, 181 and 186).

The remaining find, the comb 318, is interesting because it is the only one from the site with curved end plates. The teeth start very close to the edge and the connecting plate runs right up to the edge of the comb. The edge of the end plate has been shaved. It appears that this comb has been repaired in antiquity, probably to remove some broken teeth.

### Layer 1

- 162 SF 1051 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 21 mm, width 10 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Rectangular cut sheet broken across one side. (Not illustrated). Also SF 1051 Copper alloy sheet. Thickness 0.5 mm. Four fragments. (Not illustrated)
- 185 SF 1045 **Iron padlock key** Length 118 mm. Stem with rectangular cross-section, bit missing. Hooked terminal.
- 244 SF 1052 **Iron nail** Length 36 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. Bent. (Not illustrated)
- 318 SF 1040 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Length 147 mm, height 49 mm. Curved end plates with graduated teeth starting at the very edge of the comb. Both sides have teeth averaging 5 per cm. The nine tooth segments are connected by plates with flat D-shaped cross-sections. Saw marks on both edges. Remains of ten iron rivets.

### Pottery tpq 6th century?

Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	51	79	132	1423	10.9	89.1	1686
Mean sherd wt	12.8	8.9	18.9	13.7			

Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	447	245	0	994	1686
% of total	26.5	14.5	0	59.0	

EVE: Jars = 1.05; Bowls = 0.59.

Two incised sherds (D/1, F1, 1 g; D/1, F6, 3 g). One handled cup/bowl (A/1, F6, 72 g, rim 43% complete).

Full profile of vessel with longitudinal lugs and a pedestal base (D/1, F6, 426 g, rim 23% complete).

Cross-fit: A/1 = B/1.

### Illustrations

- 3.56.91 Near complete lugged jar. Black fabric with smoothed brown outer surface.
- 3.56.92 Jar rim. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.56.93 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed outer surface.
- 3.56.94 Jar rim. Black fabric, unfinished surfaces.
- 3.56.95 Small handled cup/bowl. Black fabric with dark brown unfinished surfaces.

The near-complete vessel with the lugs and foot-ring base (Fig. 3.56.91) has a number of parallels from around England (Myres 1977, figs 75–77). Myres suggests that they belong to the 'sixth century or even later' (1977, 10).

### SFB 22

Context 3608; Grid reference: 512935 982100; Figures 3.57–8; Site plan: D4; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.74 m; Distance between postholes: 3.4 m; Width: 2.64 m; Depth: 0.48 m.

### Description

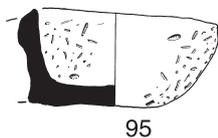
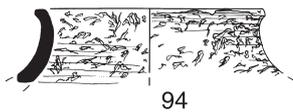
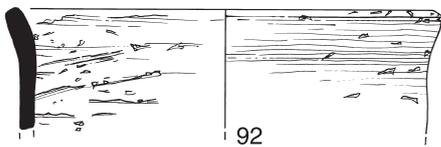
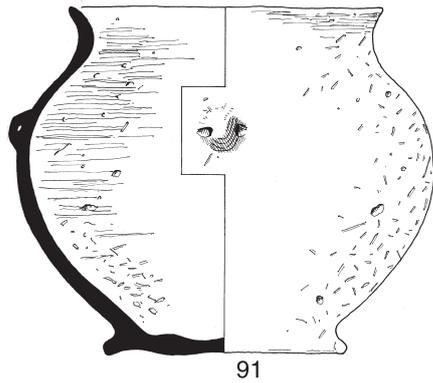
SFB 22 was the southernmost of the group of three sunken-featured buildings on the north-west of the excavated area, c 15 m north-east of the Neolithic oval barrow, and may have cut or been cut by SFB 21, although the stratigraphic relationship is not clear. It was irregularly sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 3604 and 3780 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides. The floor of the pit was uneven and the sides were straight, almost vertical. The east-west section cannot be reconstructed.

Four layers of fill were distinguished. There were extensive rodent burrows in quadrant B. Small quantities of clay were noted in all four layers.

- 1 red brown sandy loam with green clay and 25% gravel.
- 2 dark red or grey brown sandy loam with 10% gravel.
- 3 lens of redeposited gravel within 2.
- 4 intermittent layer of dark red brown sandy loam with 15% gravel on the uneven bottom of the pit and in the postholes.

### Finds

Four finds were recovered. There is a fragment of a bone shaft, 403, which has been polished. This is likely to be part of a pin or pin beater. Number 381 is a fragment from a bone spoon; spoons are comparatively rare finds from Anglo-Saxon sites, but there are a few 6th- and 7th-century examples (MacGregor 1985, 181–3). Number 381 is likely to have a flat spatulate bowl



similar to one from Shakenoak (Brodrigg *et al.* 1972, 122, fig. 59.71) and to another from Buckquoy, Orkney (Ritchie 1977, 194, fig. 6.43). Another example with a shovel-shaped spoon and well defined shoulders came from Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956).

There is also a fragment of a rotary quern, 412, and a reused base from a Roman pottery vessel cut into a wedge shape, 55.

**Layer 1**

403 SF 1169 **Bone pin** Length 33 mm. Cylindrical polished shaft fragment. Broken at both ends. (Not illustrated)

381 SF 1170 **Bone spoon** Length 49 mm. Polished shaft with circular cross-section opening to a flat scoop, now broken.

412 SF 1180 **Rotary quern** Length 145 mm. Fragment, friable coarse grained feldspathic grit, colour close to Old Red Sandstone. ?Old Red Sandstone, ?Millstone Grit. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 55** SF 1486 Diameter 70 mm. Wedge-shaped modified foot-ring base of a bowl in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	458	279	49	66	234	52.8	47.2	1086
2	92	130	53	45	2	59.0	41.0	322
3	76	54	0	4	6	57.1	42.9	140
4	115	38	5	0	28	64.5	35.5	186
Total	741	501	107	115	270			1734
Mean sherd wt	8.7	15.7	6.3	9.6	11.7			

*Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.*

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	308	0	278	500	1086
2	189	34	99	0	322
3	91	0	49	0	140
4	186	0	0	0	186
Total wt (g)	774	34	426	500	1734
% of total	44.6	2.0	24.6	28.8	

EVE: Jars = 2.25; Bowls = 0.22.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

Figure 3.56 Sunken-featured building 21 pottery.

SFB 22  
3608

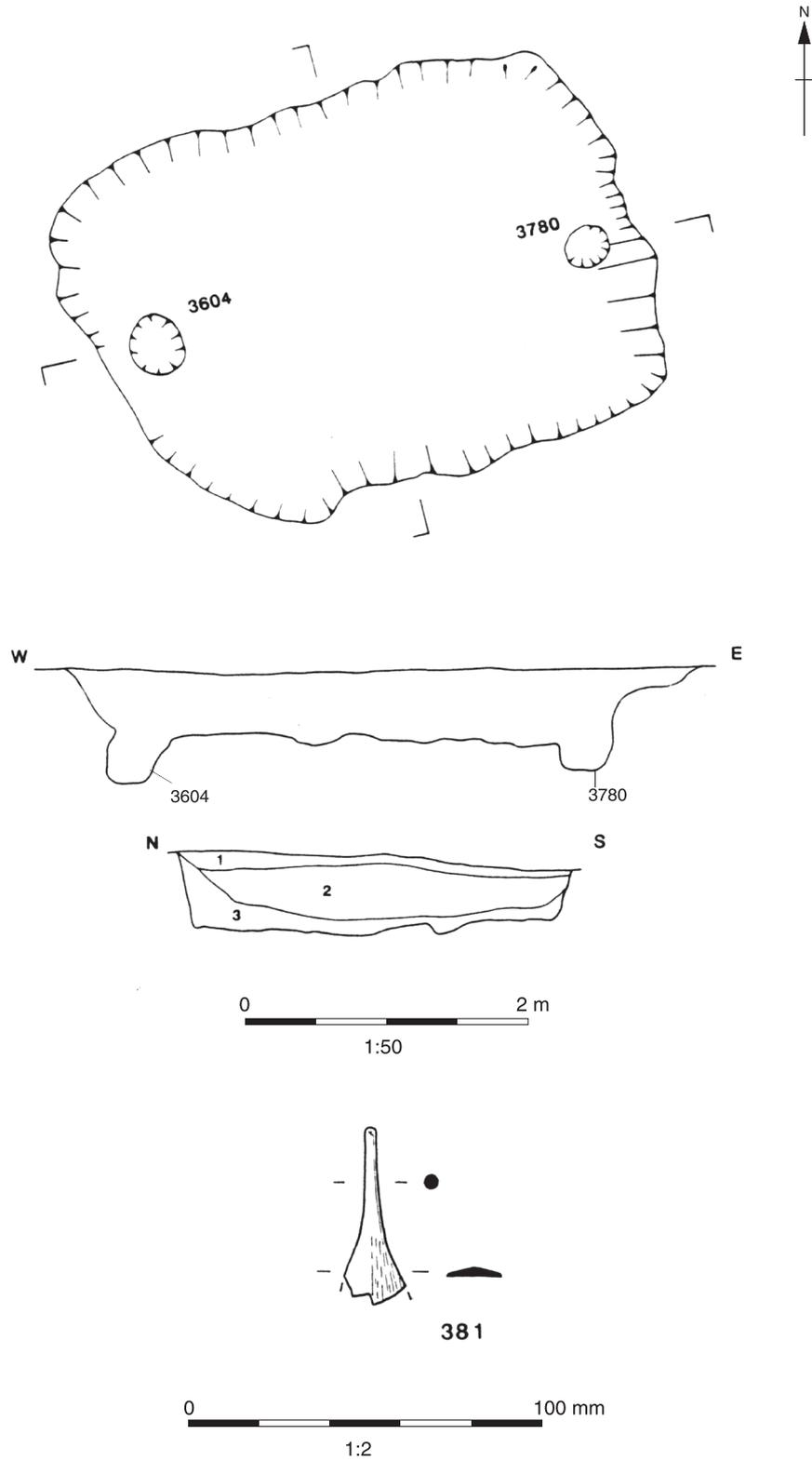


Figure 3.57 Sunken-featured building 22 and artefact.

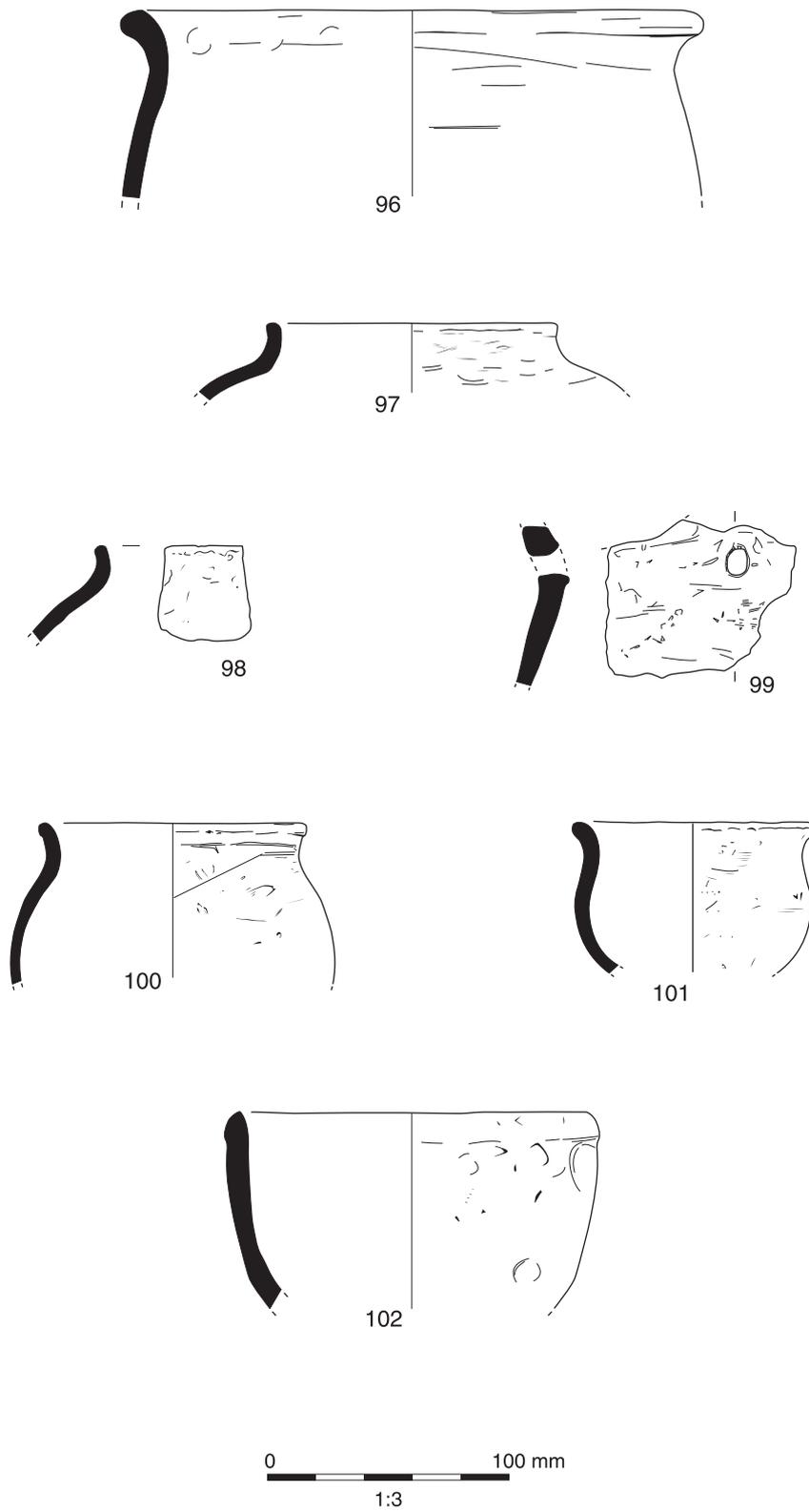


Figure 3.58 Sunken-featured building 22 pottery.

*Illustrations*

- 3.58.96 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with smoothed brown surfaces.
- 3.58.97 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.58.98 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.58.99 Upright lug. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.58.100 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.
- 3.58.101 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.58.102 Bowl rim. Black fabric with smoothed brown surfaces.

**SFB 23**

Context 3800; Grid reference: 51378 98087; Figures 3.59–61; Orientation: a) NE/SW b) E/W; Site plan: H7; Length at surface: 4.25 m; Distance between postholes: a) 3.2 m b) 3.5 m; Width: 3.5 m; Depth: 0.3 m.

**Description**

SFB 23 abuts the south side of barrow 13. It appears to have consisted of two intercutting sunken-featured buildings, or a major rebuild, but the stratigraphic relationships cannot be reconstructed from the site records. The feature as excavated was very irregularly sub-rectangular and contained four postholes which probably represent two pairs. It is not possible to establish which postholes belong together, but from the plan and depths the most probable pairing is one in which pair a) consists of 3991 and 3901 on a north-east/south-west alignment and pair b) of 3993 and 3992 on an east/west alignment. The pit was shallow, with an uneven floor and near-vertical sides.

- 1 brown loam with 5% gravel.
- 2 deposit of large fragments of conglomerate and white limestone in the centre of the pit.

**Finds**

Twelve finds were recovered: 154 and 167 are both copper alloy sheets. Number 154 has been decorated with punched dot motifs and may have been part of a belt fitting. Number 167, which has two rivet holes, is probably part of a strap-end, broken in antiquity and then rolled up into a parcel and saved, probably to put back into the melt.

There are three nails, 226, 239 and 255, two of which are almost complete woodworking nails, and part of the top stone of a quern, 408.

There were a number of articles associated with textile working: a small shale spindlewhorl, 404, and two annular loomweights, 454 and 456, of a type generally thought to be of early Anglo-Saxon date

(Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24). There were also two complete bases of reused Roman pots, 56 and 57.

Number 396 is a fragment of worked antler. It is a quadrant which has been split from a beam. This could be a stage in preparing to make an artefact, possibly part of a comb.

**Layer 1**

- 154 SF 1069 **Copper alloy strip** Length 18 mm, width 16 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Rectangular cut sheet, broken along one end. Pierced for a rivet now missing. Decorated with a band of punched dots around the perimeter.
- 226 SF 1070 **Iron nail** Length 89 mm. Circular flat head, square cross-sectioned shank. Tip missing. (Not illustrated)
- 239 SF 1171 **Iron nail** Length 60 mm. The small square flat head is a slight expansion of the square cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)
- 255 SF 1071 **Iron nail** Length 44 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 404 SF 1068 **Shale spindlewhorl** Diameter 31 mm. Hemispherical whorl with convex upper and roughly flat lower surface, possibly damaged. Central perforation, diameter 7 mm. Weight 8.14 g.
- 396 SF 1523 **Worked antler** Length 59 mm. Part of a tine with saw marks at both ends. The tine was then split longitudinally to form a quadrant.

**Layer 2**

- 454 SF 1072 **Annular fired clay loomweight** Diameter 130 mm. Three fragments, approx. 25%. Estimated weight 747.28 g. (Not illustrated)
- 456 SF 1080 **Annular fired clay loomweight** Diameter 160 mm. Two fragments, approx 30%. Roughly smoothed surfaces. Estimated weight 733.5 g. (Not illustrated)
- 408 SF 1073 **Rotary quern** Thin top stone. (Not illustrated)

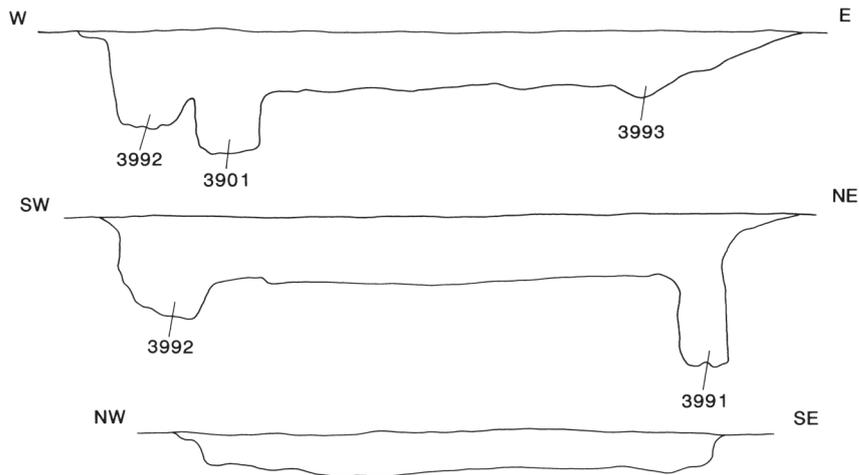
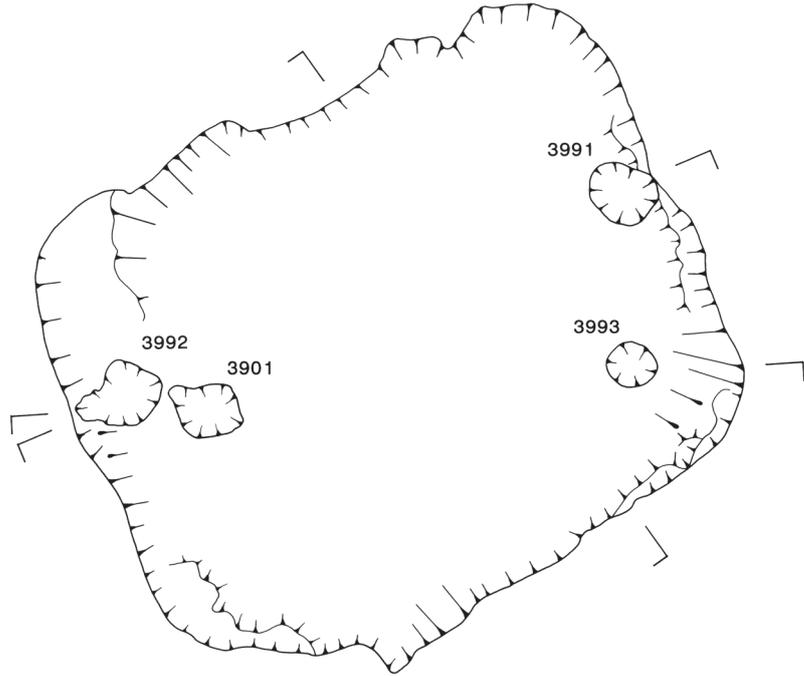
**Layer 3**

- 167 SF 1172 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 42 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Rectangular cut sheet with two rivet holes. Folded over into a parcel. Lines of solder on the upper surface.

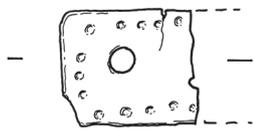
**Reused Roman sherd no. 56** SF 1489 Diameter 60 mm. Modified base from a pedestal beaker in greyware, fabric 2.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 57** SF 1490 Diameter 50 mm. Modified foot-ring base from a beaker in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated).

SFB 23  
3800



1:50



154



404



396



1:1



1:2

Figure 3.59 Sunken-featured building 23 and artefacts.