

Figure 3.60 Sunken-featured building 23 artefacts continued.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	95	63	17	0	0	64.0	36.0	175
2	121	145	59	8	17	53.2	46.8	350
3	22	23	2	0	77	19.4	80.6	124
Total wt (g)	238	231	78	8	94			649
Mean sherd wt	9.5	11.6	15.6	8.0	6.7			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	136	111	23	0	270
2	0	45	153	152	350
3	0	76	0	48	124
Total wt (g)	136	232	176	200	744
% of total	18.3	31.2	23.7	26.9	

EVE: Jars = 0.35; Bowls = 0.12.

Two incised sherds, (C/1, F1, 15 g; C/1, F3, 8 g).  
Stamped sherd (B/1, F2, 22 g).

Cross-fit: Stamped sherd joins pit 414, barrow 13 H/2.

*Illustrations*

- 3.61.103 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with bur-nished surfaces.
- 3.61.104 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with brown outer surface below the carination.

The stamped sherd (Fig. 3.61.103) is probably 6th century.



103



104

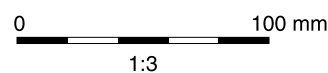


Figure 3.61 Sunken-featured building 23 pottery.

**SFB 24**

Context 3805; Grid reference: 51381 98098; Figures 3.62–3; Site plan: H7; Orientation: NNE/SSW; Length at surface: 3.54 m; Distance between post-holes: 2.6 m; Width: 2.72 m; Depth: c 0.5 m.

**Description**

SFB 24 was cut into the east side of barrow 13. It was sub-rectangular in plan with two postholes, 3872 and 3871, in the centres of the NNE and SSW sides. The pit bottom was level and the sides sloped outwards.

- 1 dark brown loam with 10% gravel containing much domestic debris.

SFB 24  
3805

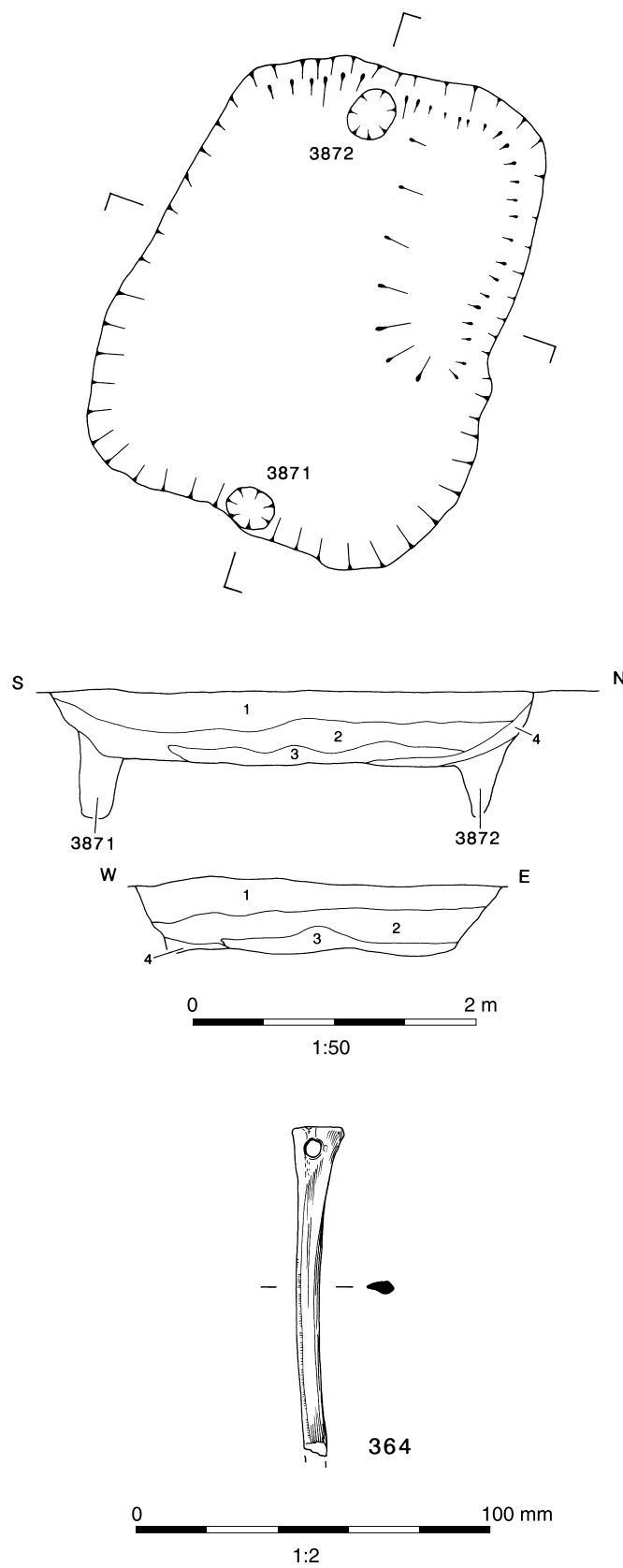


Figure 3.62 Sunken-featured building 24 and artefact.

- 2 darker grey brown loam with 10% gravel containing some charcoal flecks and domestic debris.
- 3 grey brown fine friable soft loam with 5% gravel containing large quantities of ash and charcoal, burnt bone and pottery. The sections indicate that this deposit overlay another layer (4 on section), dark brown sandy loam with 5% gravel, which had accumulated at the north edge of the pit.

The two layers of fill within each posthole are described as sandy loams with 20% and 5% gravel and there is no indication that the burnt layer continued into the postholes. It therefore seems most likely that the posts had been withdrawn and the pit had begun to fill before the pit bottom was used as a hearth.

### Finds

Seven finds were recovered. Textile equipment includes three annular loomweights, 459, 463 and 464, of a type used with a warp-weighted loom and common in the early Saxon period (Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24), and a possible pin beater, 357. A perforated pig fibula pin, 364, was also found, a very common type at Barrow Hills. Also found were a fragment of a late Roman glass bowl, 295, and a nail fragment, 259.

### Layer 1

- 259 SF 1075 **Iron nail** Length 45 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 295 SF 1173 **Glass bowl** Thickness 1.2 mm. Small fragment of pale green heavily bubbled translucent glass. Patches of a dark brown flaky weathering crust. Late Roman. (Not illustrated)
- 464 SF 1596 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Length 42 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

- 459 SF 1076 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 140 mm. Fragment approx. 15% with roughly smoothed surfaces. Estimated weight 638.33 g. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 3

- 357 SF 1219 **Bone pin beater?** Length 45 mm, diameter 7 mm. Polished shaft fragment with circular cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 364 SF 1074 **Bone pin** Length 92 mm. Made from a pig fibula polished and perforated at the proximal end. The head has been modified. Tip missing.
- 463 SF 1218 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Length 57 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

### Pottery tpq 6th century?

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

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	446	1572	334	72	146	33.2	66.8	2570
Mean sherd wt	8.3	17.5	13.4	9.0	10.4			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	1342	844	248	131	2565
% of total	52.3	32.9	9.7	5.1	

EVE: Jars = 1.35; Bowls = 0.35.

Seven incised sherds: (A/2, F1, 16 g; A/2, F2, 5 g; B/1, F1, 4 g; B/2, F1, 14 g; B/3, F3, 14 g, jar rim 8% complete; D/1, F1, 15 g; D/2, F6, 17 g).

Six stamped and incised sherds: (A/2, F2, 11 g; B/1, F1, 4 g; B/1, F1, 5 g; B/3, F1, 5 g; D/2, F2, 20 g; D/2, F6, 4 g).

Cross-fits: A/1 = B/3 (x2), A/2 = B/1, B/1 = B/2 = D/2.

### Illustrations

- 3.63.105 Rim sherd from lugged jar. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.63.106 Rim sherd from incised jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.63.107 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.63.108 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.63.109 Lugged bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces, turning brown on lower body.
- 3.63.110 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.63.111 Stamped and incised sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric. Surfaces worn.
- 3.63.112 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.63.113 Stamped and incised sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric, brown worn outer surface.
- 3.63.114 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

The presence of the stamped and incised sherds (Figs. 3.63.111 and 113) suggests a 6th-century *terminus post quem*.

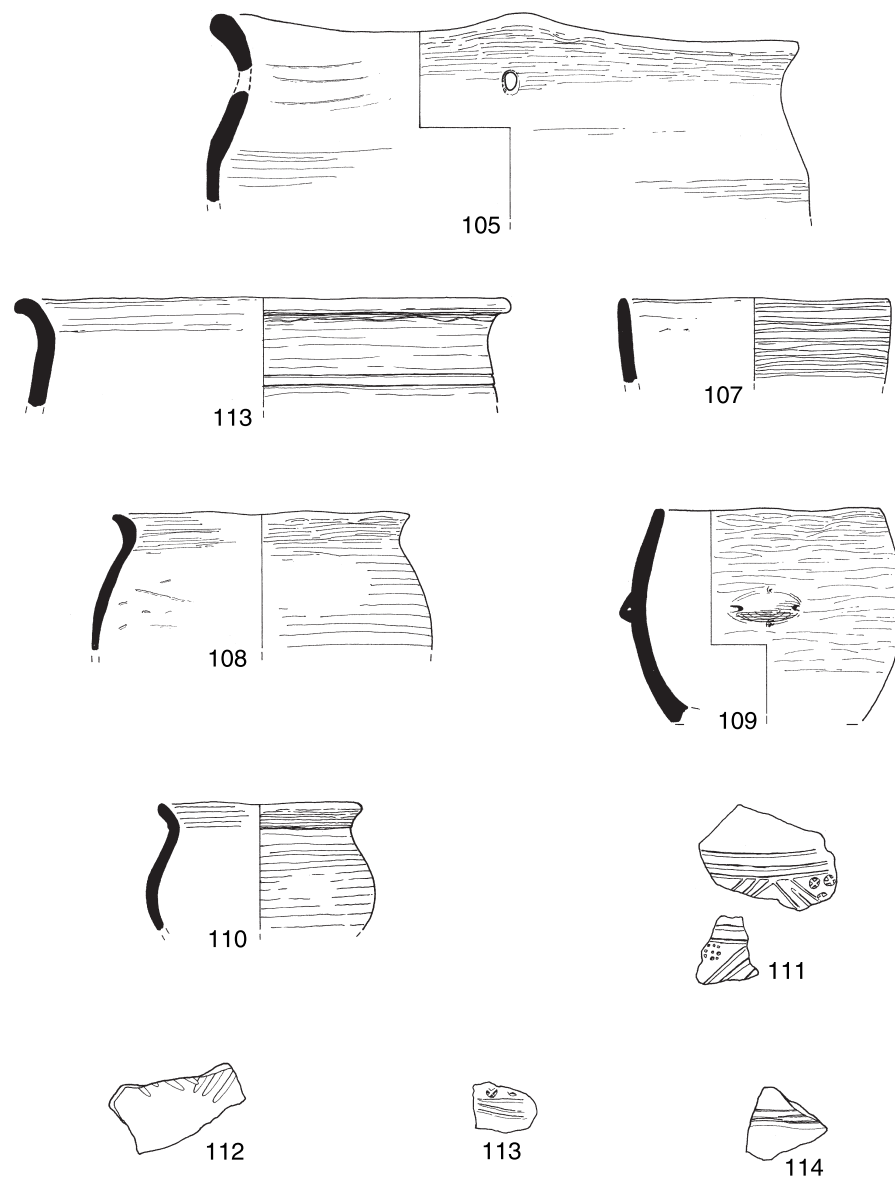


Figure 3.63 Sunken-featured building 24 pottery.

**SFB 25**

Context 3811; Grid reference: 51310 98033; Figures 3.64-5; Site plan: F9; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: > 3.95 m; Distance between postholes: 3.5 m; Width: 2.5 m; Depth: 0.11 m.

**Description**

SFB 25 was in the south of the excavated area, 50 m south-west of the segmented ring ditch. The pit was shallow and irregular and its identification as a sunken-featured building rests mainly on the shape

SFB 25  
3811

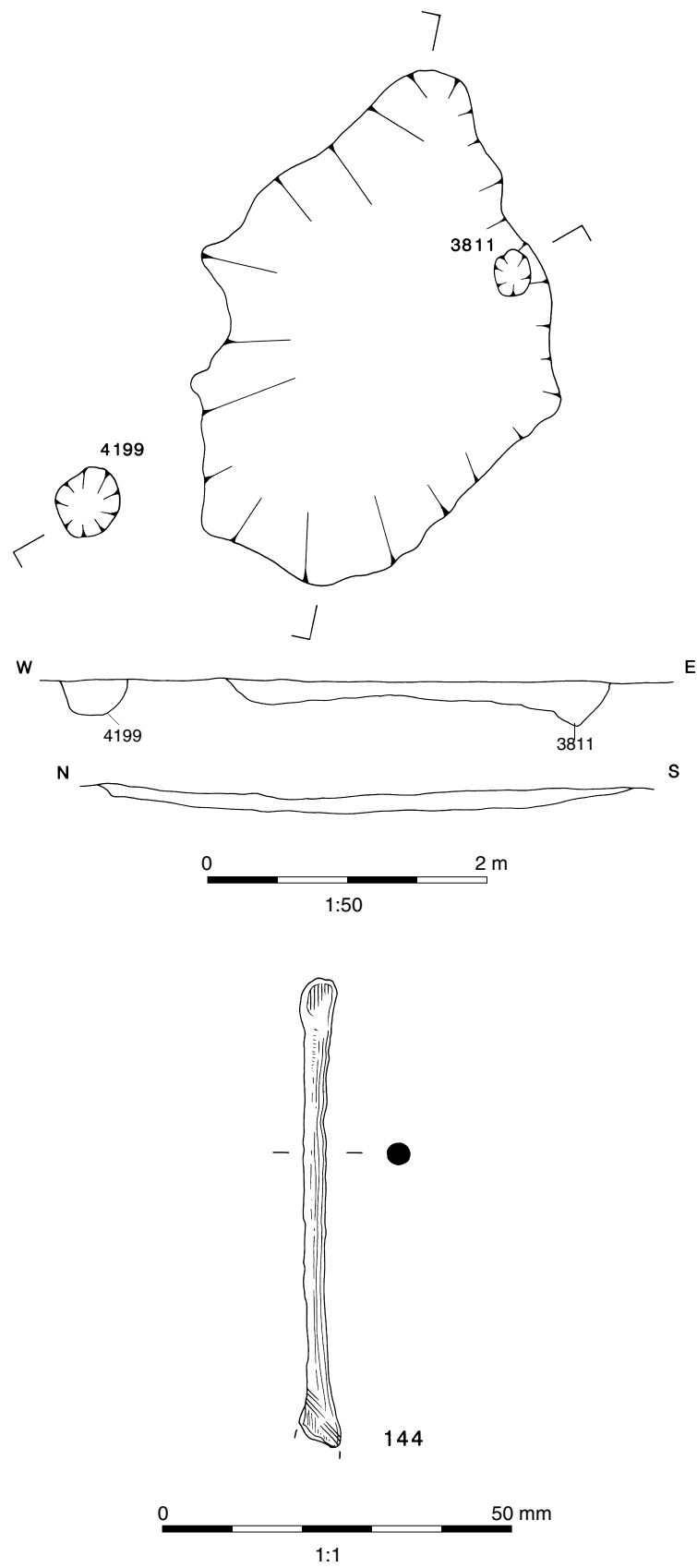


Figure 3.64 Sunken-featured building 25 and artefact.

of the north-east end and the presence of two post-holes, 3811 and 4199, on a north-east/south-west alignment, the former in the centre of the north-east end and the latter slightly to the south-west of the surviving edge of the depression.

1 dark grey brown sandy loam with 15–20% gravel containing flecks of charcoal and sherds of Saxon and Romano-British pot, the latter noticeably abraded.

### Finds

Only three objects were found in this sunken-featured building: 144, a toilet spoon, is very corroded and was probably pierced for suspension. Spoons such as this were often features of toilet sets and were used as ear scoops. They are common in female graves in the Upper Thames region in the 5th and 6th centuries (Dickinson 1976, 224). The feature also contained a cut wedge-shaped fragment from the base of a Roman pot, 58, and part of an annular loomweight, 460, of early Saxon type (Dunning *et al.* 1959, 24).

### Layer 1

144 SF 1077 **Copper alloy toilet spoon** Length 67 mm. Made from a rolled sheet. There is a spoon-like bowl at one end and the other end has a flattened scoop, now broken. File marks on scoop.

460 SF 1174 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Length 51 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 58** SF 1503 Diameter 170 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment from a flat base in greyware, fabric 4. (Not illustrated).

### Pottery tpq 5th–6th century?

Pottery occurrence by fabric type.

Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
	51	11	319	5	95.9	4.1	386
Mean sherd wt	7.3	3.7	39.9	5.0			

\*not excavated by quadrant and layer.

EVE: Jars = 0.11; Bowls = 0.02.

One incised sherd (F1, 6 g).

### Illustrations

3.65.115 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with smoothed and burnished outer surface.

3.65.116 Incised sherd. Grey fabric with dark brown burnished surfaces.

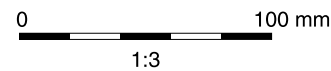
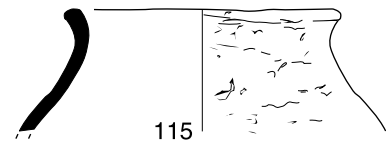


Figure 3.65 Sunken-featured building 25 pottery.

### SFB 26

Context 4001; Grid reference: 51347 98079; Figures 3.66–7; Site plan: F8b; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.4 m; Distance between post-holes: not known; Width: 3.0 m; Depth: 0.6 m.

### Description

SFB 26 cut the inner southern ditch of barrow 12. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan with posthole 4603 in the centre of the WSW side. The base of the pit was uneven.

Four layers were distinguished. Layers 1–3 contained numerous tip lines and 3, which became greyer towards the bottom, continued into posthole 4603.

- 1 reddish brown sandy loam with few finds.
- 2 reddish brown sandy loam with less gravel.
- 3 grey brown loam with varying amounts of gravel.
- 4 fine greenish grey loam, possibly representing an occupation deposit contemporary with the use of the sunken-featured building, perhaps debris fallen through floorboards: intermittent over the base of the pit, nowhere more than 60 mm thick.

### Finds

Thirteen objects were recovered from the fills of this feature. Textile working equipment consisted of two pin beaters, 351, which was short and cigar-shaped, and 354, which was longer and slimmer and came from the possible occupation layer. There was also a fragment of a biconical spindlewhorl, 446, in the backfill. Found in association with one of the pin beaters, 354, also in the possible occupation debris, were a perforated pig fibula pin, 373, a fragment of a composite comb, 327, of the type common in the

SFB 26  
4001

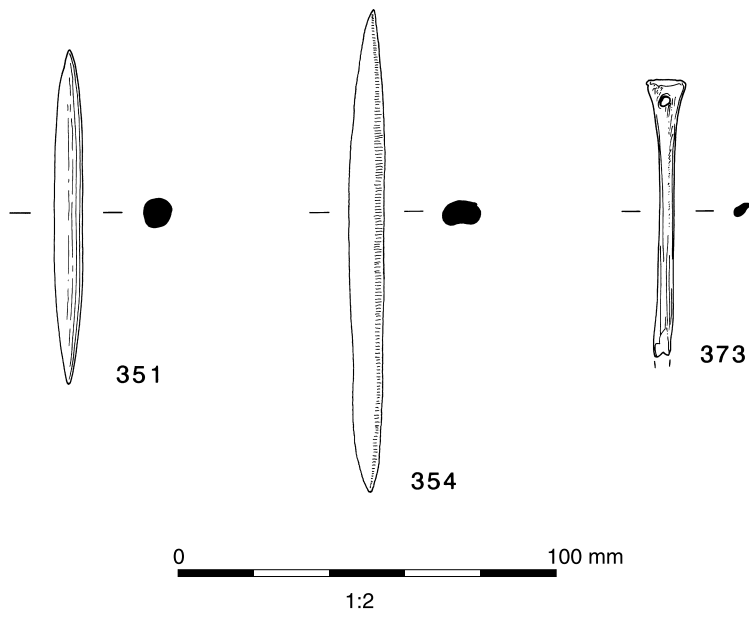
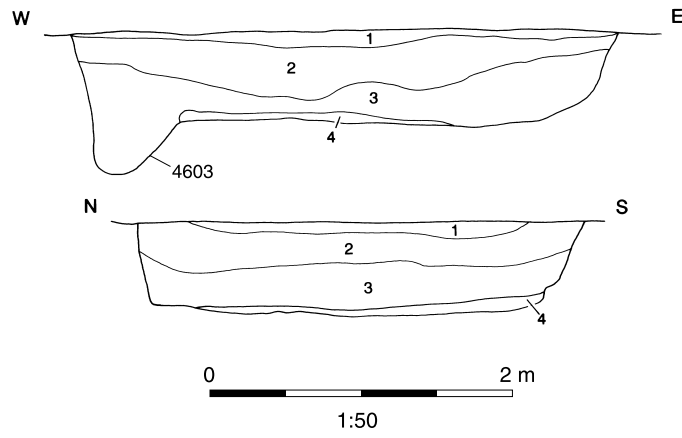
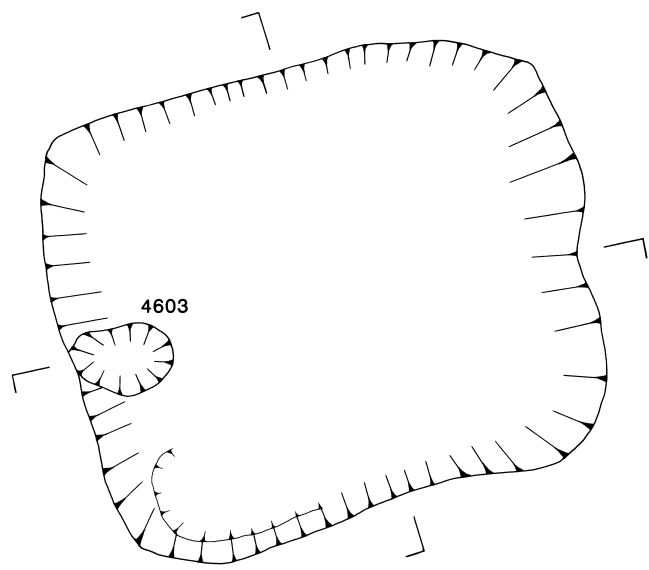


Figure 3.66 Sunken-featured building 26 and artefacts.

5th to 7th centuries, a nail with a T-shaped head, 231, and two ceramic gaming pieces, 1193 in an Anglo-Saxon fabric, and 60 in samian ware. From layer 3 there is a complete base from a reused Roman pot, 59. Two fragments of an abraded tine, 398, which had been sawn and split, are probably waste from antler working.

**Layer 1**

- 254 SF 1351 **Iron nail** Length 24 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)  
 623 SF 1408 **Clay pipe** Stem fragment. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

- 398 SF 1520 **Antler waste** Fragments of two abraded tines. Probably sawn and split to detach them from the beam. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 3**

- 272 SF 1158 **Iron pin** Length 40 mm, diameter 2 mm. Shaft fragment with circular cross-section. (Not illustrated)  
 351 SF 1085 **Bone pin beater** Length 88 mm, diameter 8 mm. Made from a polished shaft with circular cross-section. Pointed at both ends.  
 446 SF 1221 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Fragment of a biconical whorl, approx 25% Estimated weight 20.8 g. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 59** SF 1491 Diameter 65 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 60** SF 1492. Ceramic counter Diameter 40 mm. Samian ware, fabric 8, burnt. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 4**

- 231 SF 1086 **Iron nail** Length 60 mm. T-shaped head, rectangular cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)  
 327 SF 1192/1222 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Height 42 mm. Tooth segment with teeth averaging 4 per cm on both sides. Half rivet holes at both edges with traces of iron staining. Fragment of a connecting plate with D-shaped cross-section and saw cuts along both edges. One iron rivet and part of two rivet holes remain. (Not illustrated)  
 354 SF 1092 **Bone pin beater** Length 128 mm, diameter 9 mm. Made from a polished

shaft with oval cross-section. Pointed at both ends.

373 SF 1220 **Bone pin** Length 72 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Tip missing. Polished.

SF 1193 **Ceramic counter** Diameter 34 mm. Modified body sherd in Anglo-Saxon fabric. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	167	229	205	3	28	63.1	36.9	632
2	13	159	23	0	19	16.8	83.2	214
3	256	554	1123	0	41	69.9	30.1	1974
4	269	379	388	0	27	61.8	38.2	1063
Total wt (g)	705	1321	1739	3	115			3883
Mean sherd wt	6.4	9.3	25.6	3.0	7.2			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	77	126	90	339	632
2	69	0	15	130	214
3	1126	0	139	709	1974
4	151	0	182	730	1063
Total wt (g)	1423	126	426	1908	3883
% of total	36.6	3.2	11.0	49.1	

EVE: Jars = 1.27; Bowls = 0.24.

Four incised sherds (A/1, F1, 15 g; A/1, F2, 8 g; C/1, F3, 19 g; D/3, F1, 2 g).

Two stamped and incised sherds (D/1, F6, 9 g; D/3, F2, 24 g).

Cross-fit: D/2 = C/4 = D/4.

*Illustrations*

- 3.67.117 Jar rim. Black fabric with dark brown smoothed surfaces.  
 3.67.118 Jar rim. Black fabric with brown burnished outer surface.  
 3.67.119 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.  
 3.67.120 Jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.



Chapter Three

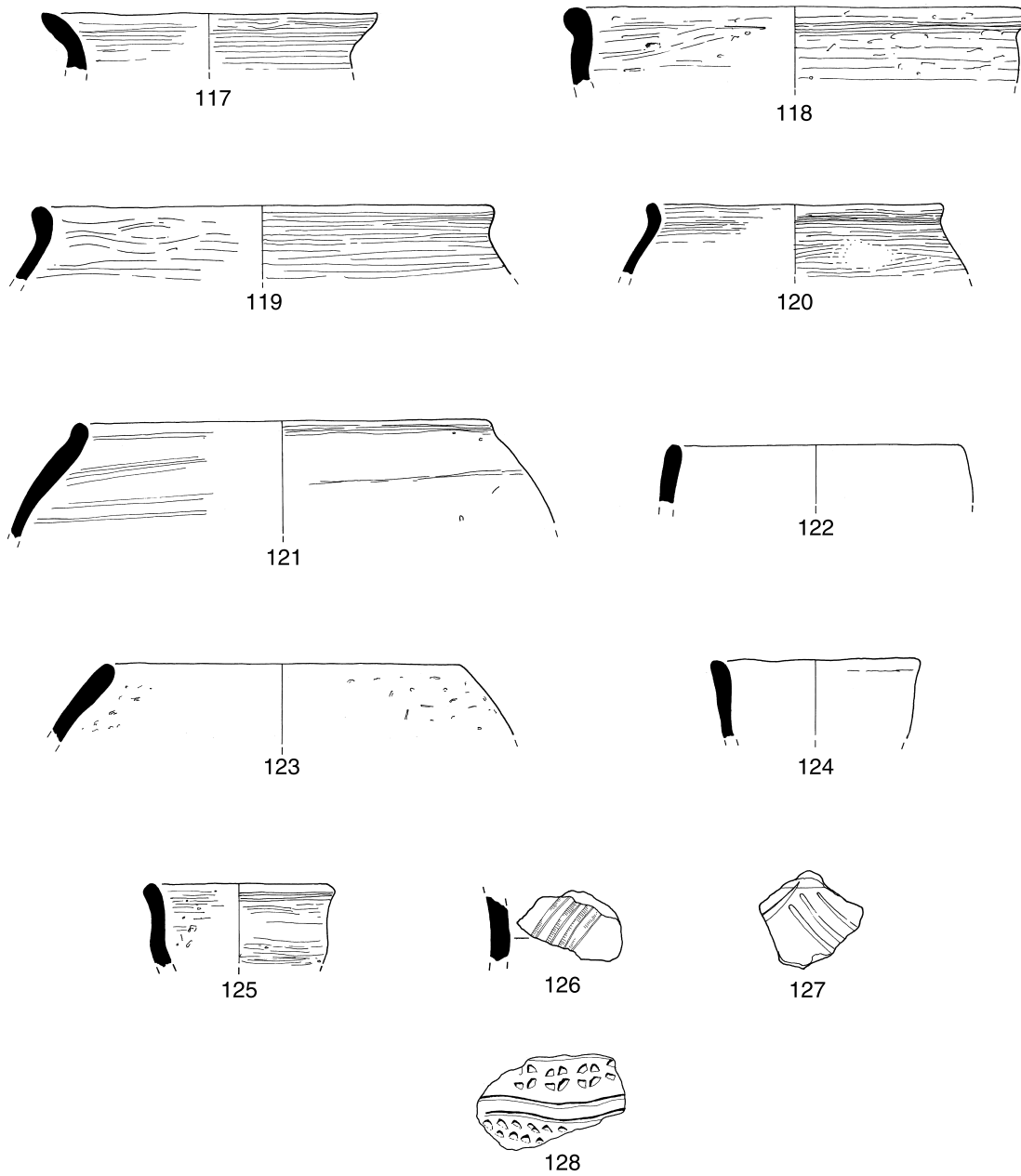


Figure 3.67 Sunken-featured building 26 pottery.

- |          |  |          |  |
|----------|--|----------|--|
| 3.67.121 | Inturned jar rim. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces. | 3.67.123 | Inturned bowl rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.  |
| 3.67.122 | Inturned bowl rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.    | 3.67.124 | Rim sherd from small bowl. Black with smoothed surfaces. |

- 3.67.125 Rim sherd from small jar. Dark reddish-brown fabric with smoothed black outer surface.
- 3.67.126 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.67.127 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.67.128 Stamped and incised sherd. Dark grey fabric with smooth surfaces, outer lightly burnished.

The stamped sherd (Fig. 3.67.128) suggests a 6th-century *terminus post quem* for this group.

**SFB 27**

Context 4101; Grid reference: 51345 98035; Figure 3.68; Site plan: F9; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 2.95 m; Distance between postholes: not applicable; Width: 2.2 m; Depth: 0.24 m.

**Description**

SFB 27 was c 35 m south of barrow 12, near the south-east edge of the excavated area. The sub-rectangular plan of the pit suggests a sunken-featured building, although an unusually small one; there were no post-holes and the floor slopes markedly upwards towards the west. It is possible that the feature represents the

excavation of a sunken-featured building pit which for some reason was never completed.

1 dark brown friable loam with 10% gravel.

**Finds**

There were no small finds.

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/Fabric	F1	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	10	57	7	90.5	8.5	74
Mean sherd wt (g)	3.3	57	7			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	60	14	0	0	74
% of total	81.1	18.9	0	0	

EVE: Jars = 0; Bowls = 0.

**SFB 27  
4101**

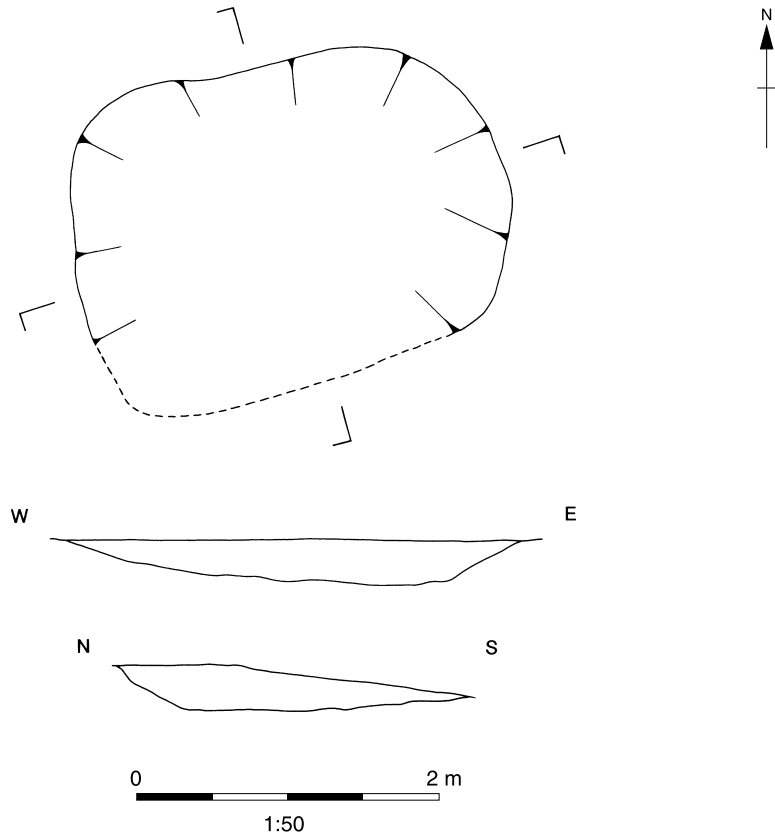


Figure 3.68 Sunken-featured building 27.

**SFB 28**

Context 4198; Grid reference: 51307 98048; Figures 3.69–74; Site plan: E8; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.65 m; Distance between post-holes: 2.85 m; Width: 2.95 m; Depth: 0.44 m.

**Description**

SFB 28, which cut SFB 29, was about 25 m south of the segmented ring ditch. The pit was sub-rectangular, with a slightly irregular south side and post-holes 4556 and 4401 in the centres of the ENE and WSW sides. The presence of a cross-join suggests that the finds of the two features were mixed, either during or before excavation.

The context records list up to seven layers:

- 1 dark greyish brown sandy loam containing charcoal flecks, domestic debris, burnt limestone and patches of greenish soil suggesting decayed faecal matter.
- 2 dark grey brown fine friable loam with some ash and charcoal flecks and much domestic debris, patches of greenish soil as 1.
- 3 patchy charcoal spread.
- 4 charcoal spread below 3 containing circular hearth.
- 5 charcoal blackening of floor of pit (6).
- 6 smooth compact gravel forming a surface on the floor of the pit.
- 7 orange brown loamy clay spread irregularly over the occupation surface of which 3 was part.

Layer 4 continued into posthole 4556 and therefore post-dated its use but did not continue into 4401, which contained medium red brown sandy loam.

**Finds**

The 21 finds from this SFB are very mixed and include some personal items. Number 142 is part of a cable bracelet, of a type commonly found in the Roman period and similar to examples from Barton Court Farm (Miles 1986, fig. 106.3). Number 143 is a very fine gilded pin with a biconical head and faceted and ribbed decoration which is paralleled by pins found on the continent in the early 5th century (Van Es 1967, 143) and other British pins from 5th-century contexts (Ross 1991, 281–2). Numbers 147 and 157 are both fragments of copper alloy wire. Number 147, with its hooked terminal, is possibly a ring from a toilet set. Number 148 is a thin sheet metal buckle plate which has broken across the pin slot. Number 181 is an iron arrowhead with a leaf-shaped blade, similar to Swanton's class C1 spearheads although much smaller. A similar arrowhead comes from Chinnor I, dated to the later 5th/early 6th century (Dickinson 1976).

There are no items which may be definitely associated with textile production but there are two pig fibula pins; 358 is perforated and of a type common from the site and 378 is unperforated and may have been used as an awl. Numbers 395 and 397 are fragments of antler-working-waste which have been sawn and chopped. Other finds include five bases of reused Roman pots 61–65, four complete and one which is a half circle. Stone artefacts comprise a well

worn whetstone, 432. There is also a fragment of a quern, 419.

A slag deposit, 604, was recovered from layer 3. It is furnace-cooled and probably the product of a smith's hearth.

**Layer 1**

- 147 SF 1126 **Copper alloy wire** Diameter 1 mm. Fragment bent out at one end.
- 148 SF 1039 **Copper alloy buckle plate** Length 33 mm, width 12 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Made from a thin cut sheet broken off at fold, with rectangular slot for pin. Holes for two missing rivets.
- 157 SF 1090 **Copper alloy wire** Length 78 mm, diameter 1.5 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)
- 143 SF 1094 **Copper alloy pin** Length 114 mm. Biconical head with flat top. Two bands of moulded decoration below the head. Separated by a faceted section with traces of gilding. The shaft has a circular cross-section. Tip missing.
- 176 SF 1031 **Lead waste** Length 70 mm. (Not illustrated)
- 181 SF 1128 **Iron arrowhead** Length 64 mm, width of blade 11 mm. Leaf-shaped blade with one angular and one rounded shoulder and a blunt point. The blade is flat. Open socket.
- 245 SF 1087 **Iron nail** Length 38 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 395 SF 1096 **Antler waste** Upper beam and three tines. Lower part of the beam detached by sawing. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 65** SF 1093 Diameter 50 mm. Modified grooved base of a beaker in greyware, fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

- 142 SF 1133 **Copper alloy bracelet** Length 39 mm. Formed by twisting two strands of cable around a central core. Broken at both ends.
- 378 SF 1228 **Bone pin** Length 90 mm. Made from a pig fibula. Polished, broken at tip.
- 397 SF 1521 **Worked antler** Tine chopped and broken off from the beam. Additional tine removed by sawing and breaking. Partially pared down.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 64** SF 1481 Diameter 75 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

- 432 SF 1101/1231 **Whetstone** Length 97 mm. Signs of wear on all faces. Grooves for sharpening points on one flat face and one

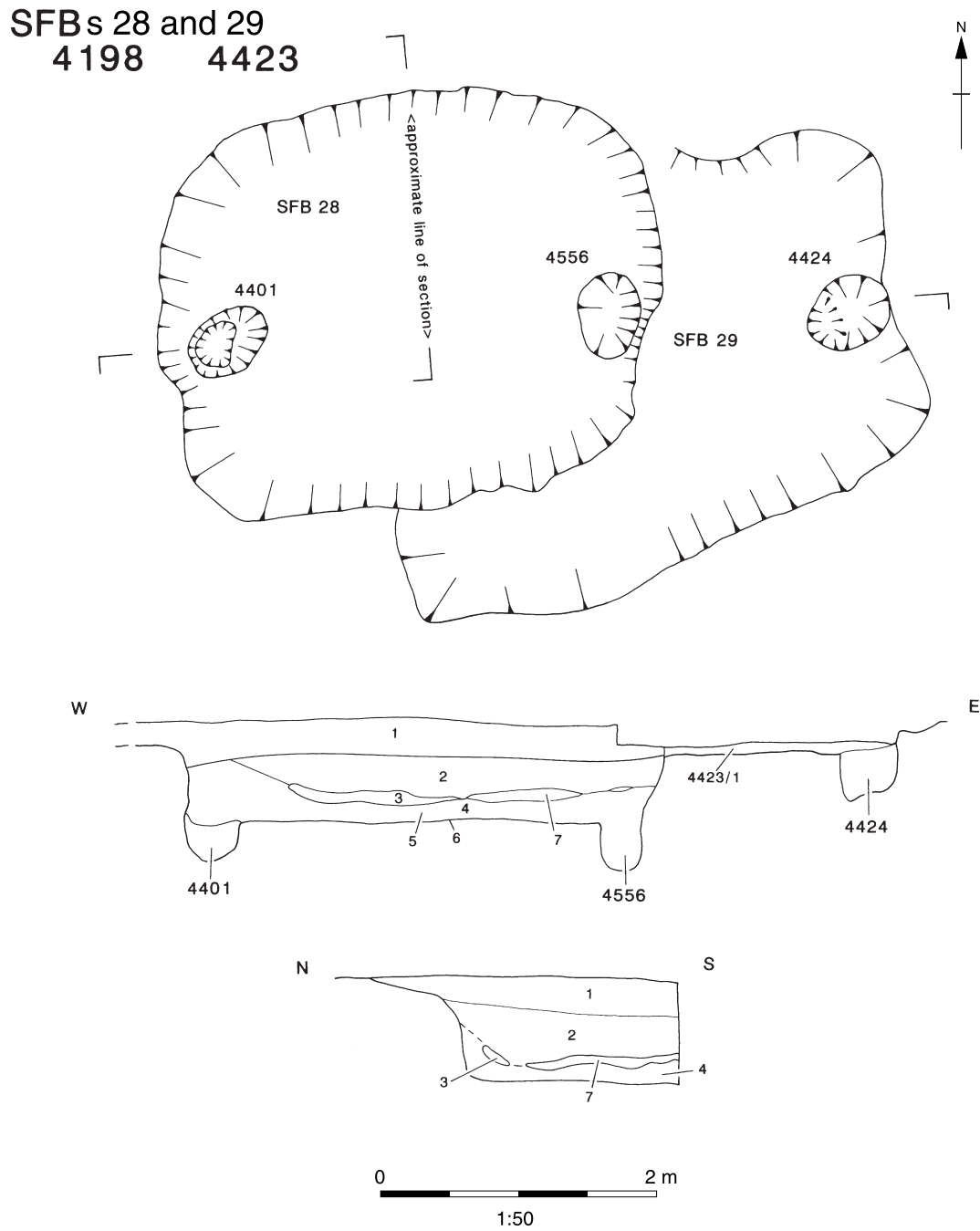
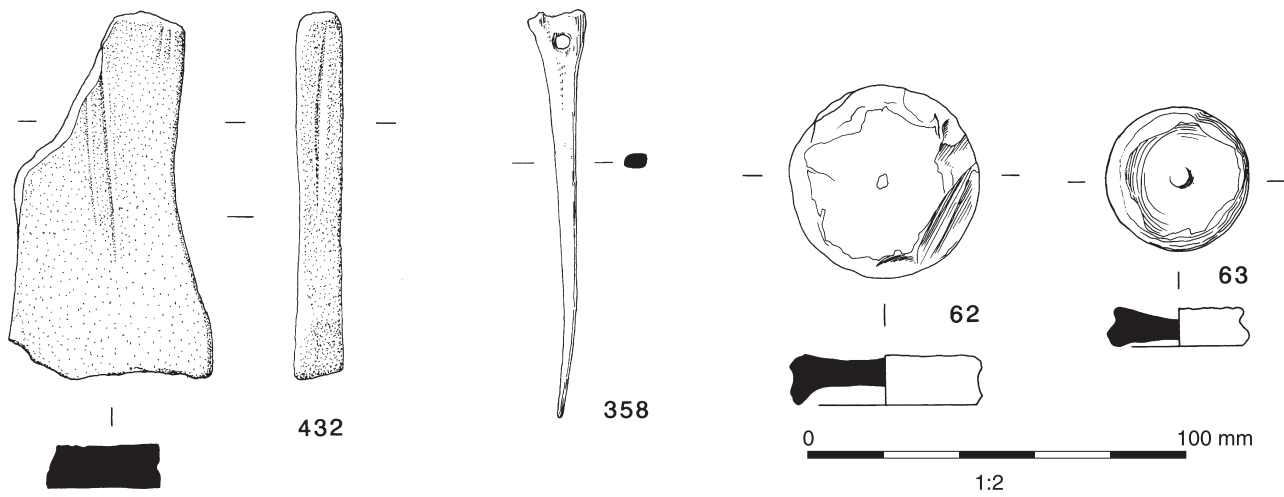
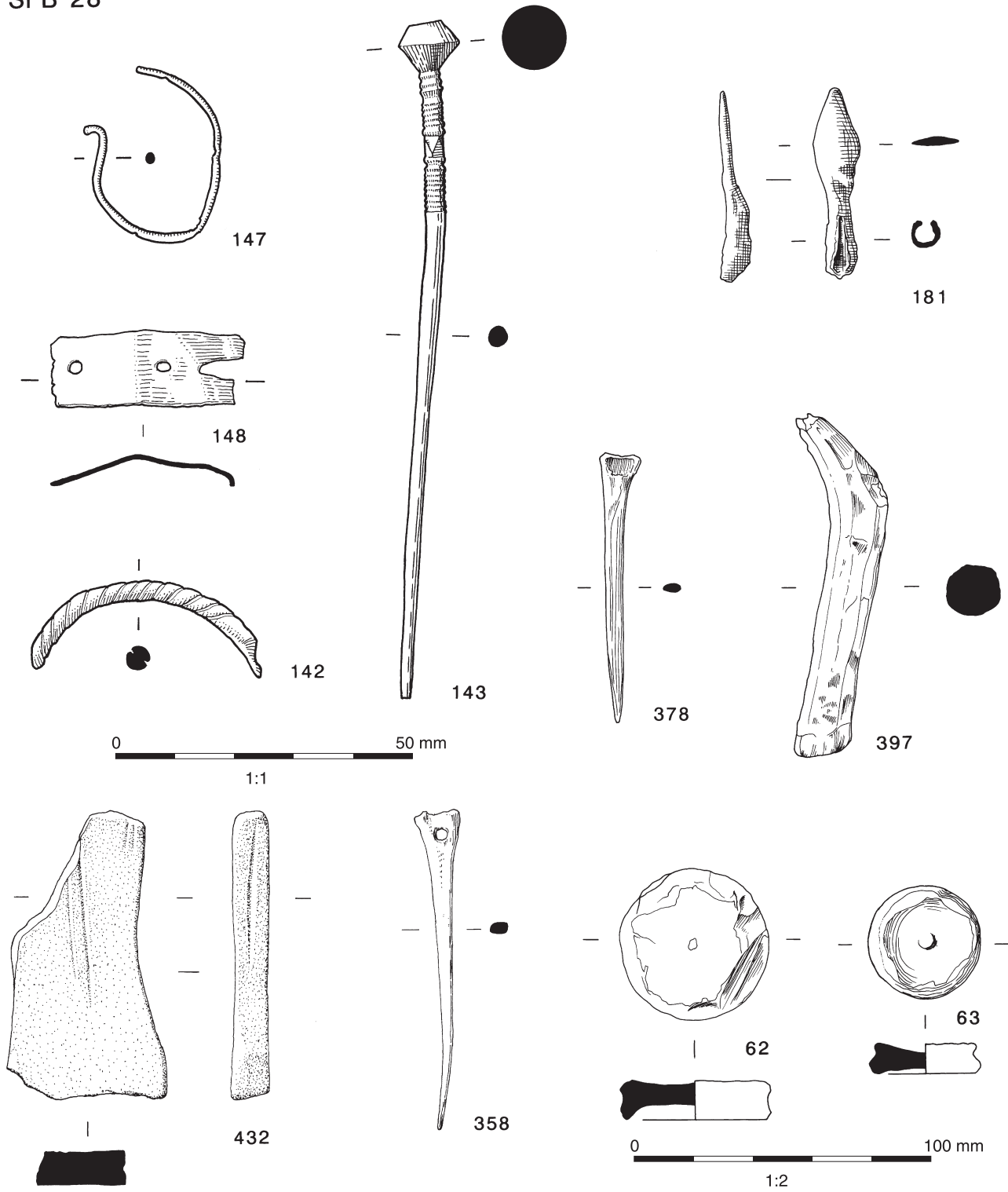


Figure 3.69 Sunken-featured buildings 28 and 29.

- edge. Fine grained reddish/brown sandstone with mica similar to Brownstones of the Lower Old Red Sandstone of eg Monmouthshire.
- 419 SF 1098 **Rotary quern** Length 73 mm. Fragment, reddish-brown, feldspathic coarse grained probably Old Red Sandstone. (Not illustrated)
- 604 SF 1100 **Slag, plano-convex fragment.** (Not illustrated)
- Layer 4**
- 358 SF 1232 **Bone pin** Length 106 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end and polished.
- 400 SF 1522 **Antler waste** Part of a tine. The tip has been partially sawn through and then broken off. (Not illustrated)
- Reused Roman sherd no. 61 SF 1493** Diameter 100 mm. Semicircular fragment from a foot-ring base

SFB 28



SFB 29

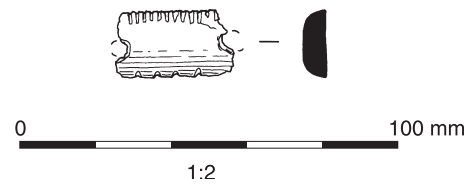


Figure 3.70 Sunken-featured buildings 28 and 29 artefacts.

in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 62** SF 1129 Diameter 50 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 63** SF 1134 Diameter 35 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Pottery tpq 6th century?

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

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	946	837	343	3	8	49	59.5	40.5	2186
2	2627	5242	497	46	0	265	36.5	63.5	8677
3	22	572	36	0	0	48	8.6	91.4	678
4	75	647	55	0	0	0	16.7	83.3	777
7	3	20	5	0	0	0	28.6	71.4	28
Total	3673	7318	936	49	8	362			12346
Mean sherd wt	11.8	19.7	13.8	12.3	8.0	21.3			

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

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	1172	0	508	506	2186
2	2414	0	433	5830	8677
3	538	0	0	140	678
4	412	0	115	250	777
7	0	0	28	0	28
Total wt (g)	4536	0	1084	6726	12346
% of total	36.7	0	8.8	54.5	

EVE: Jars = 4.22; Bowls = 1.89.

Five incised sherds (A/1, F1, 5 g; A/2, F1, 15 g; A/2, F2, 8 g; C/2, F2, 19 g; D/1, F1, 3 g).

Three rusticated sherds (C/2, F3, 18 g; D/1, F3, 38 g; D/2, F3, 89 g).

One stabbed sherd, (D/2, F1, 6 g).

One bossed sherd (C/2, F6, 26 g).

Five pierced sherds (A/1, F1, 2 g; A/1, F1, 3 g; C/1, F3, 19 g; C/4, F1, 3 g; D/2, F3, 9 g).

Drilled sherd (D/1, F1, 4 g).

One stamped sherd (A/2, F1, 18 g).

Cross-fits: A/2 = A/3 = D/3, A/2 = D/2, A/3 = A/4, A/4 = D/4.

#### Illustrations

3.71.129 Rim sherd from large jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.

- 3.71.130 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces, outer body lightly finger-grooved.
- 3.71.131 Rim from incised vessel. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.71.132 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.71.133 Rim sherd from small shallow bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.71.134 Rim of large jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.71.135 Bowl rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.71.136 Rim sherd from carinated jar. Black fabric, burnished surfaces, brown below the carination.
- 3.71.137 Jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.71.138 Jar rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.72.139 Full profile of jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces, outer body becoming browner towards base.
- 3.72.140 Small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.72.141 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.72.142 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.72.143 Jar rim. Black fabric, burnished surfaces, outer surface brown.
- 3.72.144 Bowl rim. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.72.145 Bowl rim. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.72.146 Bowl rim. Black fabric with dark brown burnished surfaces.
- 3.72.147 Rim of small bowl. Black fabric with brown burnished outer surface.
- 3.72.148 Rim sherd from shallow bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.72.149 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.73.150 Lugged rim sherd. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.73.151 Rim sherd from lugged vessel. Uniform black fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.73.152 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.73.153 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.73.154 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.73.155 Upright lug. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.73.156 Longitudinal lug. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.73.157 Upright lug. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.73.158 Upright lug. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.

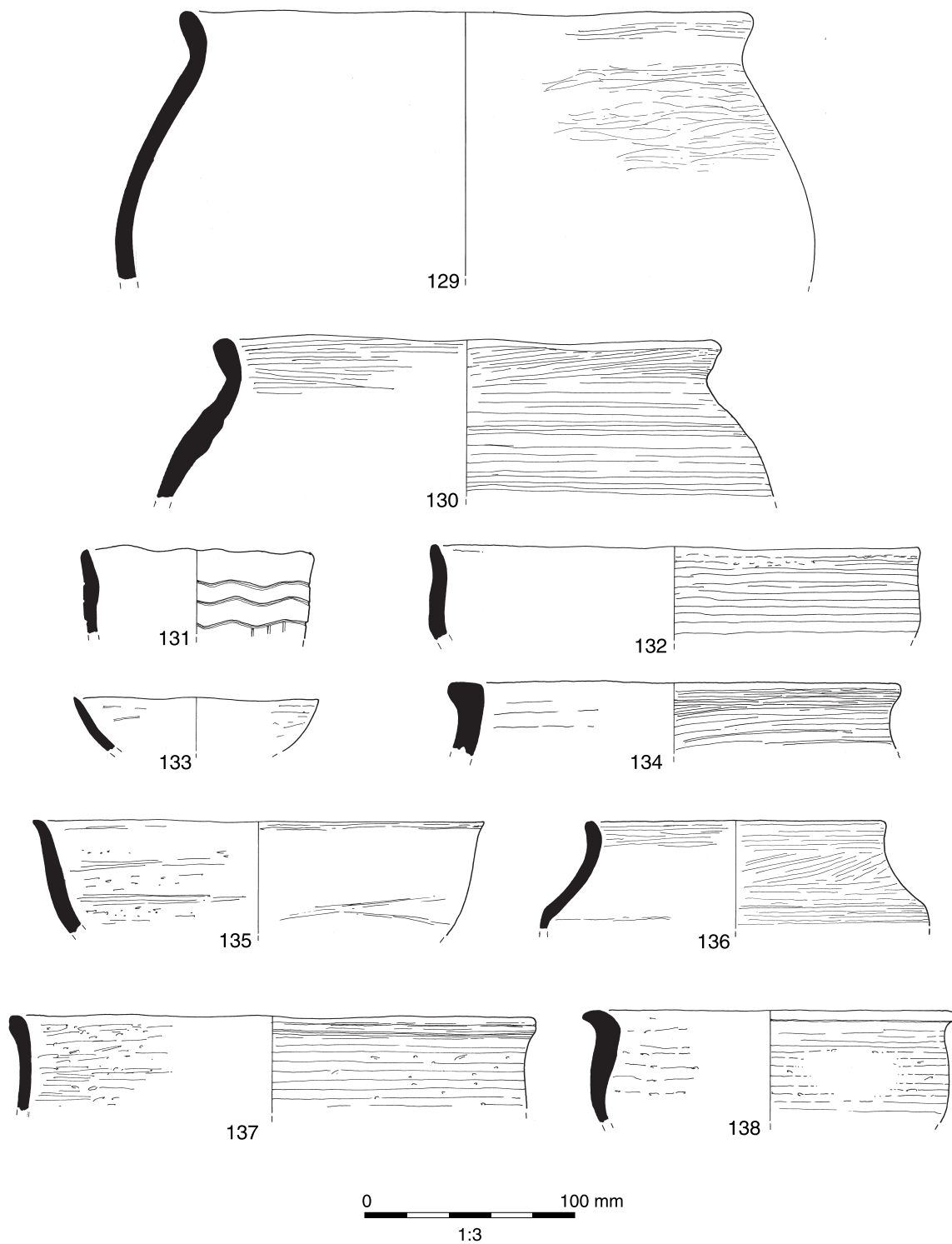


Figure 3.71 Sunken-featured building 28 pottery.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>3.73.159 Pierced sherd. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.</p> <p>3.74.160 Rusticated base sherd. Black fabric with brown, smoothed outer surface.</p> <p>3.74.161 Rusticated sherd. Uniform black fabric with brown outer surface.</p> | <p>3.74.162 Body sherd from bossed miniature jar. Black fabric with brown unfinished surfaces.</p> <p>3.74.163 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with brown burnished outer surface.</p> |
|--|--|

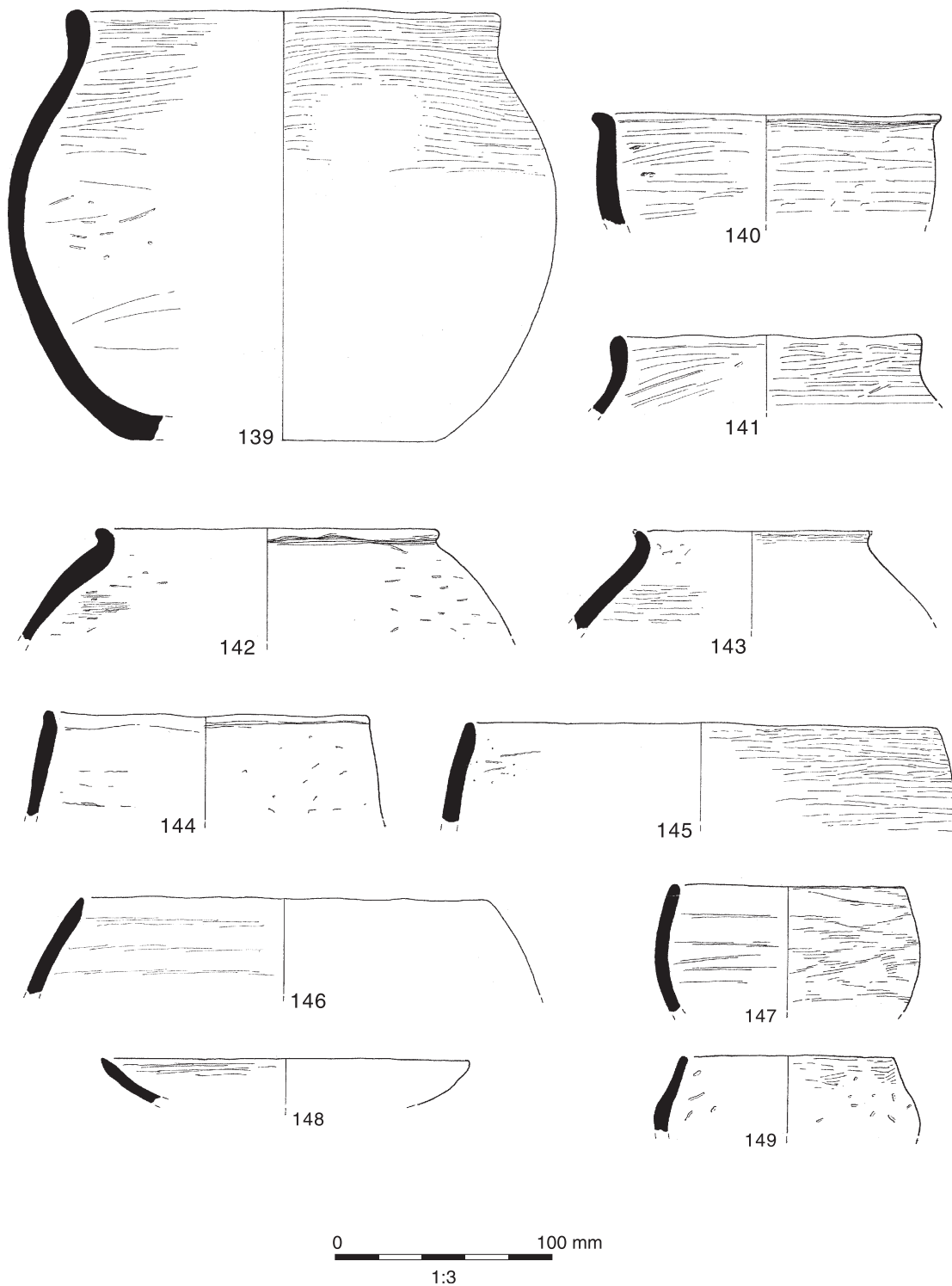


Figure 3.72 Sunken-featured building 28 pottery continued.

- 3.74.164 Jar rim. Grey fabric with reddish-brown surfaces. Outer smoothed.  
 3.74.165 Pierced sherd. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.  
 3.74.166-7 Stamped sherds. Dark grey fabric, black surfaces, outer burnished.

- 3.74.168 Stamped sherd. Dark grey fabric, black surfaces, outer burnished.

The general date range of the decorated pottery from this sunken-featured building would conventionally be ascribed to the 5th century, and other material



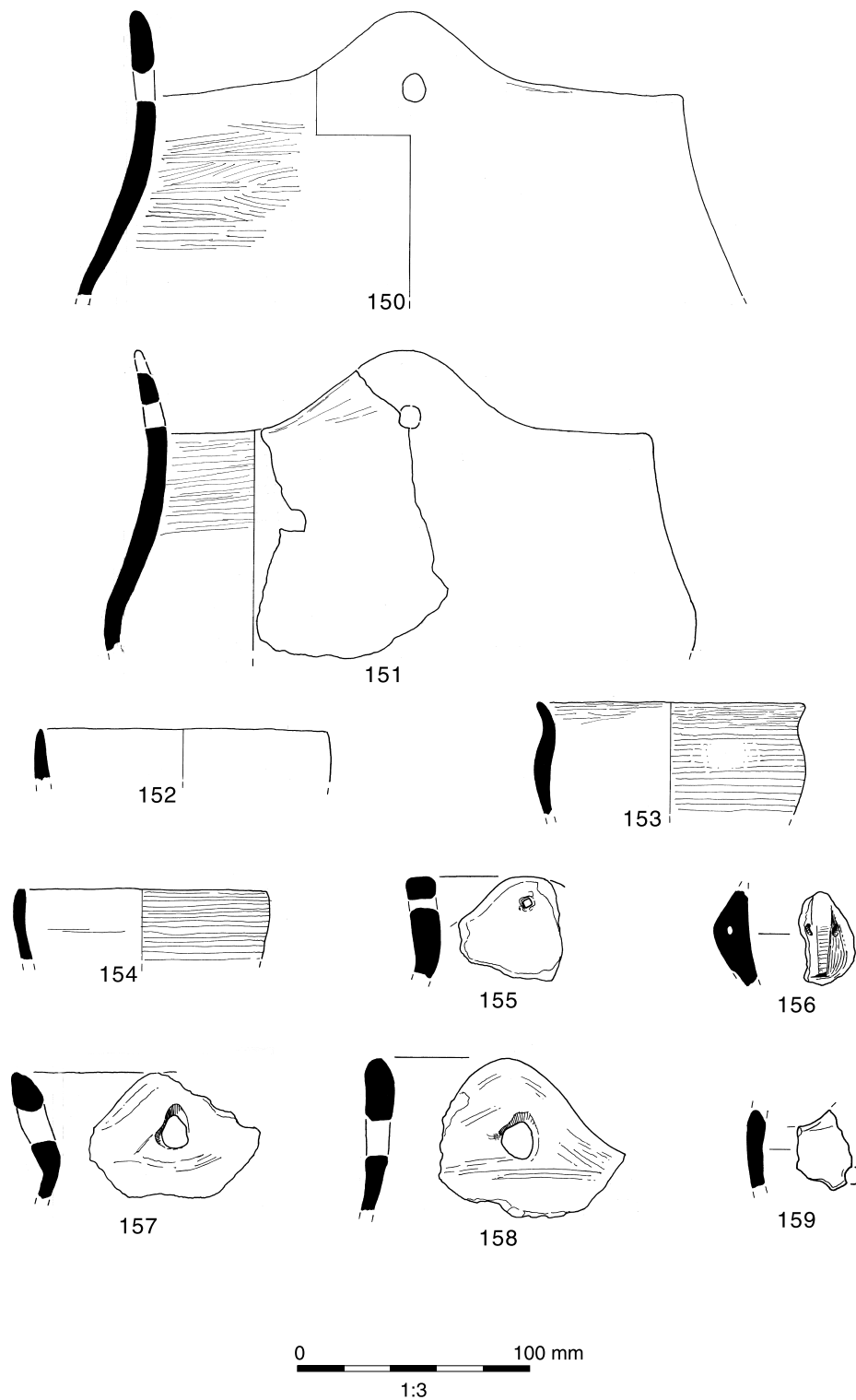


Figure 3.73 Sunken-featured building 28 pottery continued.

present, such as the 5th-century pin and 5th- to 6th-century arrowhead would appear to support this date. However, the structure cuts SFB 29, the backfill of which has a *terminus post quem* in the 6th century. There is also an unstamped sherd which cross-joins with the stamped vessel in SFB 29, and the records indicate that there was mixing of the finds from

the two structures, certainly during and possibly before excavation. The bossed sherd from SFB 29 (Fig. 3.74.162) appears to have originated from a sharply carinated vessel, with the bosses located along the carination, possibly similar to those vessels illustrated in Myres (1977, figs 79–81), particularly a vessel from Norfolk (Myres 1977, fig. 79 no. 1792)

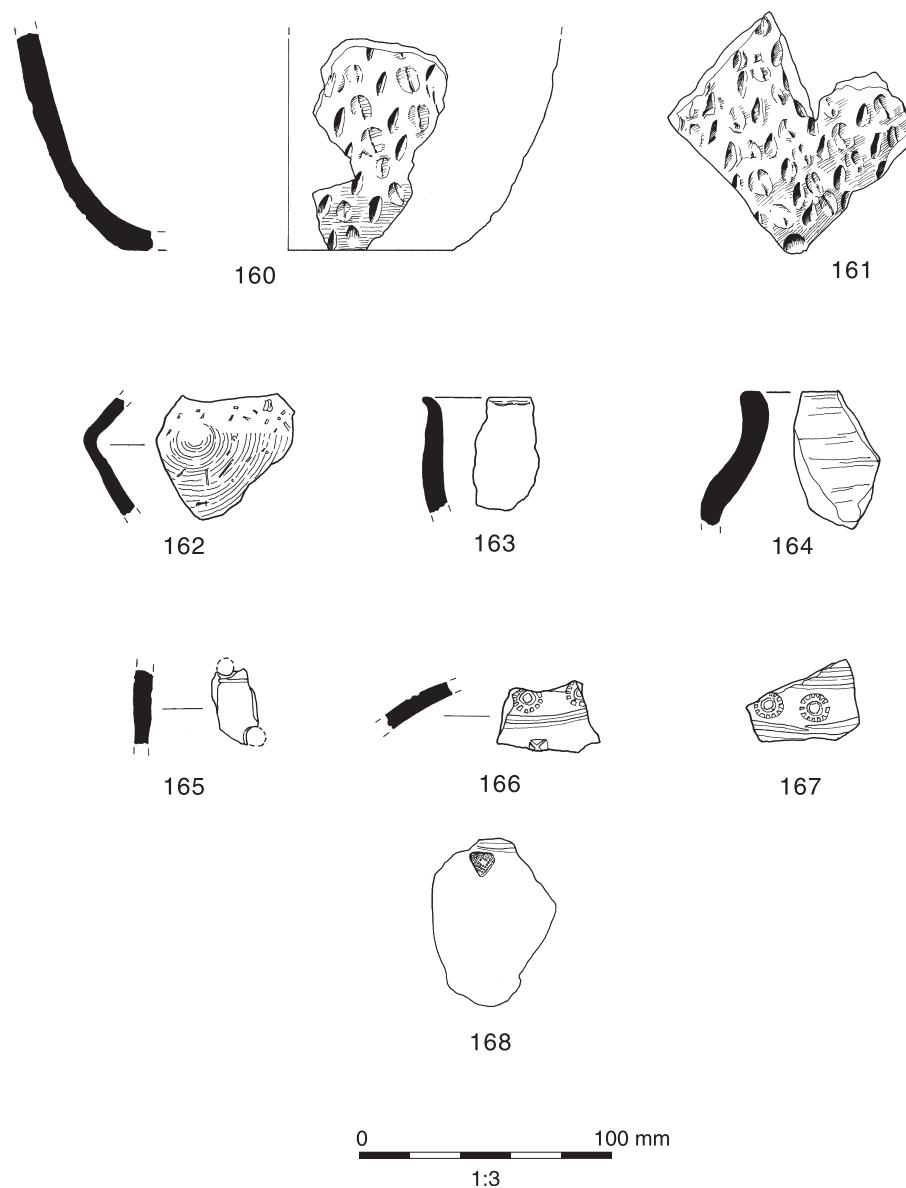


Figure 3.74 Sunken-featured building 28 pottery continued.

which is dateable to the 5th century. This is from an upper layer.

#### SFB 29

Context 4423; Grid reference: 51308 98049; Figures 3.69–70, 75; Site plan: E8; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.95 m; Distance between postholes: not applicable; Width: *c.* 2.5 m; Depth: not known.

#### Description

SFB 29, which was cut by the deeper SFB 28, was about 25 m south of the segmented ring ditch. It appears to have been sub-rectangular in plan, with a posthole 4424 in the centre of the north-east side.

There are no context descriptions in the site records for this sunken-featured building, which

was very shallow, but the cut was recognised in plan from an early stage and the records state that the finds were recovered separately. The pottery records indicate that two layers of fill were identified, although only one is shown on section.

#### Finds

Only two finds were recovered, a woodworking nail, 236, and a fragment of a connecting plate from a double-sided antler comb, 329, with fine and coarse teeth; this type is more common in the Roman period.

#### Layer 1

236 SF 1137 **Iron nail** Length 27 mm. Rectangular flat head. Square cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)

329 SF 123 **Double-sided composite antler comb**  
 Fragment of a connecting plate with saw cuts on both sides. The teeth would have averaged 4 per cm on one side and 10 per cm on the other. Remains of two rivet holes with iron staining.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F4	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	146	463	0	0	24.0	76.0	609
2	67	145	7	142	20.5	79.5	361
Total wt (g)	213	608	7	142			970
Mean sherd wt	7.9	16.9	7.0	35.5			

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

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	609	0	0	609
2	0	361	0	0	361
Total wt (g)	0	970	0	0	970
% of total	0	100	0	0	

EVE: Jars = 0.76; Bowls = 0.16.

Two incised and stamped sherds (B/2, F2, 4 g; B/2, F6, 142 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.75.169 Stamped rim sherd. Dark grey-brown fabric with smoothed outer surface
- 3.75.170 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.75.171 Rim from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.75.172 Small lugged jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.75.173 Small lugged bowl/cup. Black fabric with smoothed, abraded surfaces.
- 3.75.174 Stamped sherd. Grey fabric with darker smoothed surfaces. Outer surface lightly burnished.
- 3.75.175 Indented base. Black fabric with brown outer surface.

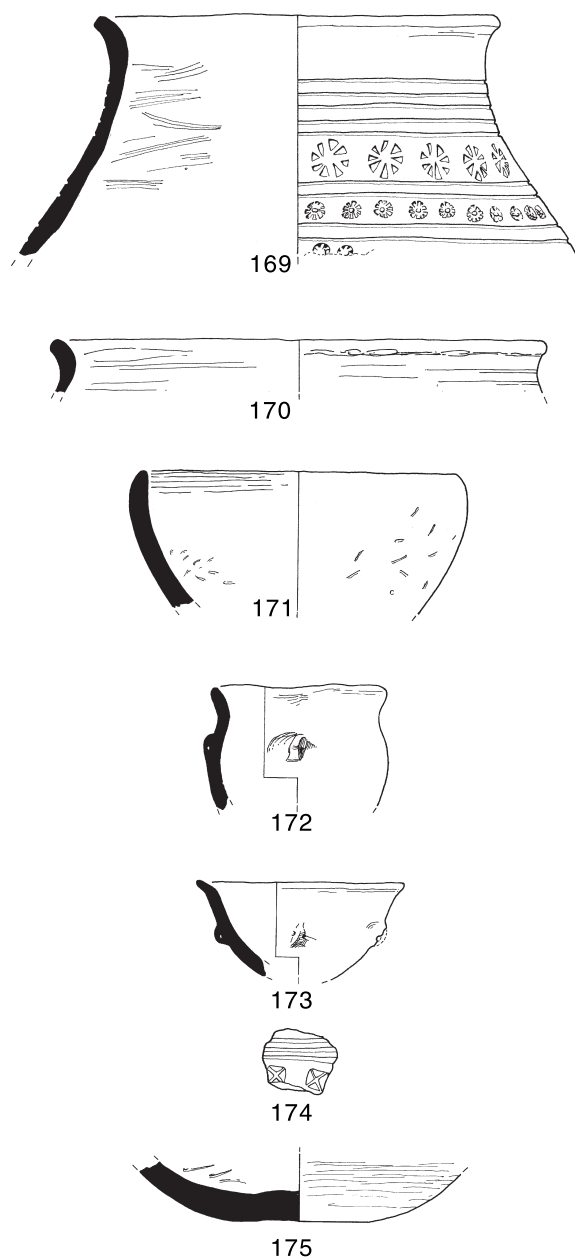


Figure 3.75 Sunken-featured building 29 pottery.

The stamped vessel (Fig. 3.75.169) is almost certainly 6th-century in date, and joins with a sherd from SFB 28. There is also another small stamped sherd. It is impossible to ascertain in which of the SFBs the cross-joining vessel was originally stratified.

**SFB 30**

Context 4472; Grid reference: 51364 98181; Figures 3.76-7; Site plan: G5; Orientation: ENE/WSW;

Length at surface: 3.45 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.0 m; Width: 2.75 m; Depth: 0.46 m

### Description

SFB 30 was the northernmost of a group of sunken-featured buildings approximately 40 m west of barrow 1. It was irregularly sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 5365 and 5364 in the centres of the ENE and WSW sides. There was a slight shelf in the south-west corner.

Two fills were distinguished. Layer 2 represented the fill of the feature and layer 1 the fill of a pit dug into it. Layers 1 and 2 were mixed in quadrant A but removed separately elsewhere.

- 1 dark sandy loam with 30% small pebbles, confined to the centre of the feature.
- 2 pale yellow and grey brown very sandy loam with 60% gravel.

The fills of the postholes were not recorded and it is not possible to reconstruct with certainty their relationship to layer 2.

### Finds

Three finds came from the backfill, a Roman coin 280 dated AD 335 to 341, a fragment of a copper alloy sheet, 172, and an antler double-sided composite comb, 317, of a type common in the 5th to 7th centuries.

### Layer 1

280 SF 1161 **Bronze coin** Reverse GLORIA EXERCITUS (1 standard). Denomination 4. AD 335–341.

172 SF 1130 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 11 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 2

317 SF 1152 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Length 122 mm, height 44 mm. Plain rectangular end plates with graduated teeth. The teeth on both sides average 4 per cm. Five tooth segments connected by plates with a trapezoidal cross section. Eight iron rivets.

### 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	792	726	684	0	116	63.7	36.3	2318
2	226	183	126	2	0	65.9	34.1	537
Total wt (g)	1018	909	810	2	116			2855
Mean sherd wt	15.0	9.0	21.3	2.0	38.7			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	620	439	1065	197	2318
2	0	363	0	174	537
Total wt (g)	620	802	1065	371	2855
% of total	21.7	28.1	37.3	13.0	

EVE: Jars = 1.94; Bowls = 0.64.

Three rusticated sherds (A/1, F1, 98 g; C/1, F1, 16 g; C/1, F3, 11 g).

Two incised sherds (B/1, F2, 5 g; B/2, F2, 8 g).

One 'swallow's nest' lug (B/1, F1, 104 g, jar, rim 22% complete).

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

### Illustrations

- 3.77.176 Rim from large jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.77.177 Rim from small jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces
- 3.77.178 Rim from small jar. Uniform black fabric with burnished surfaces
- 3.77.179 Rusticated sherd. Black fabric. Non-rusticated areas burnished
- 3.77.180 'Swallow's nest' lug. Dark reddish-brown fabric with burnished outer surface
- 3.77.181 Rim sherd from large jar. Dark grey fabric with burnished outer surface
- 3.77.182 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with burnished surfaces
- 3.77.183 Small lugged jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

### SFB 31

Context 4550; Grid reference: 51322 98023; Figure 3.78; Site plan: E9; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: not known; Distance between postholes: 2.4 m; Width: not known; Depth: 0.15 m.

### Description

SFB 31 was a shallow, irregular pit on the south-east edge of the excavated area, 50 m south of the segmented ring ditch. Only the north-east section of the pit edge was traced successfully; on the north-west the edge was over excavated and to the south the pit seems to have tailed out. There were two postholes, 4590, which was probably originally in the centre of the north-east end, where there was an area of animal burrows, and 4589, which was also rodent-disturbed and was probably near the south-west end. The floor of the pit was very uneven.

There seem to have been two layers:

- 1 medium brown loam with 20% gravel.
- 2 sandy brown loam with 15% gravel.

SFB 30  
4472

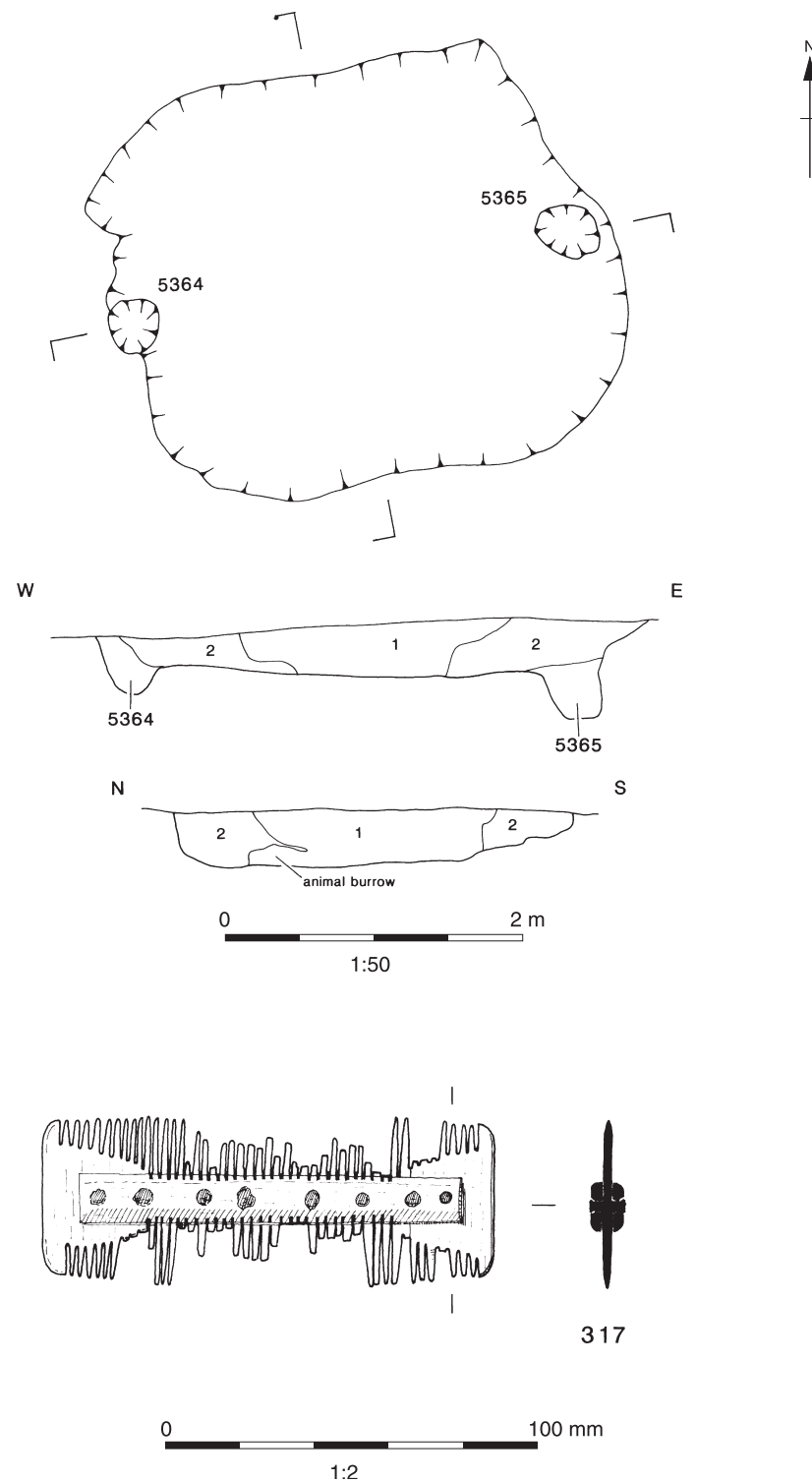


Figure 3.76 Sunken-featured building 30 and artefact.

The fills of the pit appear to have continued into the postholes.

**Finds**

Five objects were recovered from the backfill. These included a tooth from a heckle for carding wool or

flax, 213, and part of a comb of a type common in the 5th to 7th centuries, 323. It has been pierced for suspension, probably from a cord or belt. Layer 1 produced a deposit of slag, 601, which had solidified within a furnace at a high temperature, probably during the process of welding.

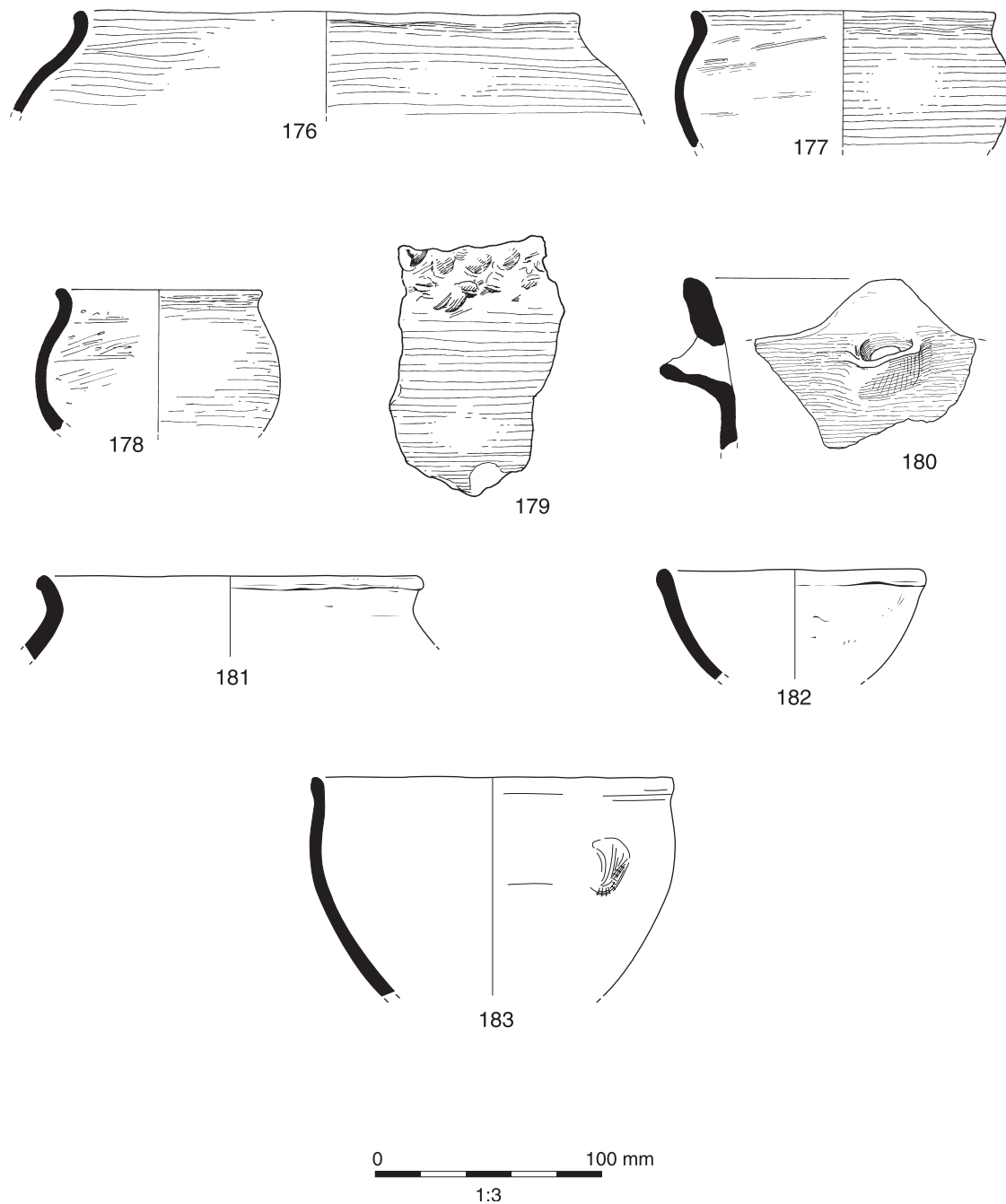


Figure 3.77 Sunken-featured building 30 pottery.

A loomweight fragment was found in posthole 4589.

**Layer 1**

- 213 SF 1142 **Iron heckle tooth** Length 42 mm. Circular cross-section, head missing.
- 260 SF 1163 **Iron strip** Length 19 mm. Rectangular cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 622 SF 1409 **Clay pipe** Stem fragment. Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)
- 601 SF 1335 **Slag, small irregular elongated fragment.** (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

- 323 SF 1162 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Length 47 mm. Fragment of a rectangular end plate with graduated teeth. Pierced by a hole for suspension; 5 teeth per cm on both sides. Remains of three tooth segments, teeth now missing. The connecting plates have trapezoidal cross-sections and saw cuts along both edges. Remains of three iron rivets and one rivet hole

SFB 31  
4550

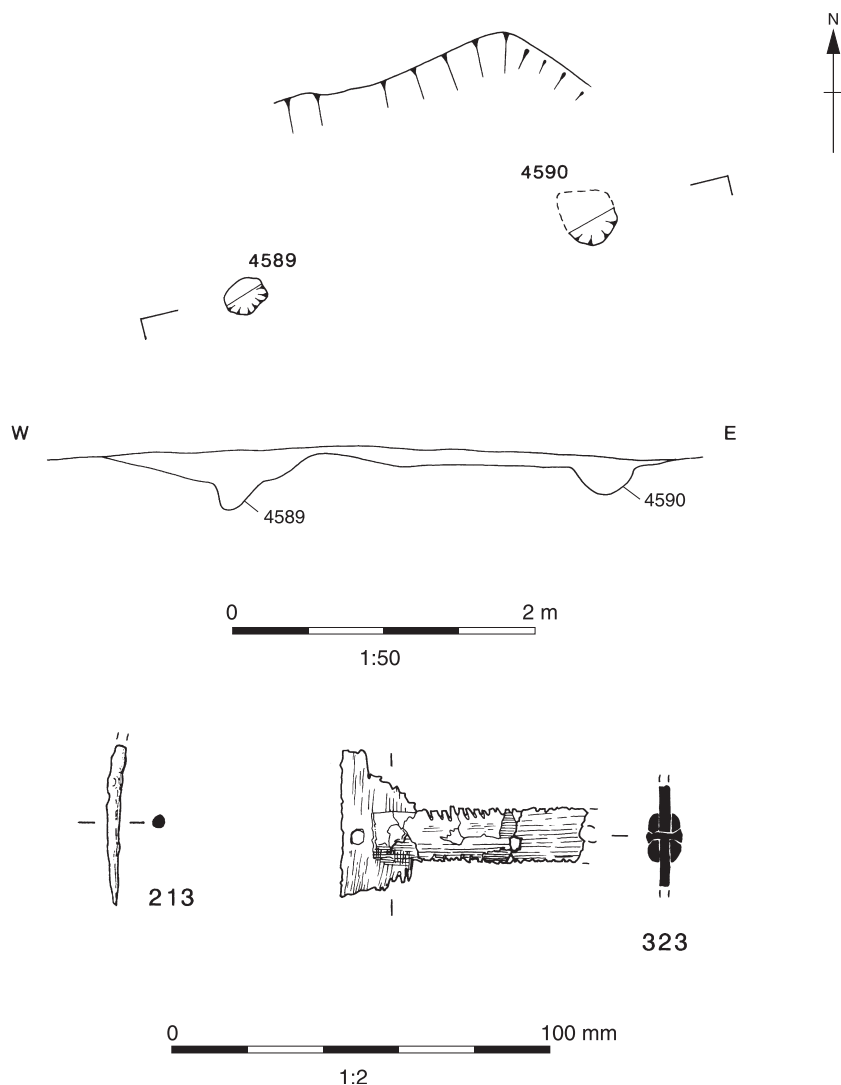


Figure 3.78 Sunken-featured building 31 and artefact.

**Posthole 4589**

458 SF 1189 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 110 mm. Well made from a fine clay with well smoothed surfaces. Fragment approx 25% Estimated weight 471 g. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/Fabric	F2	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	77	0	100	77
2	55	0	100	55
<b>Total wt (g)</b>	<b>132</b>			<b>132</b>
<b>Mean sherd wt</b>	<b>8.8</b>			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	47	30	0	77
2	0	0	0	55	55
<b>Total wt (g)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>	

EVE: Jars = 0; Bowls = 0

Cross-fits: B/1 = D/2

**SFBS 32, 33, 34 (Figs 3.79–81)**

As in the intercutting SFBs 17 and 18, the records for these intercutting sunken-featured buildings are somewhat complex and difficult to understand, and

SFBs 32, 33 and 34  
4558 4559 and  
4560

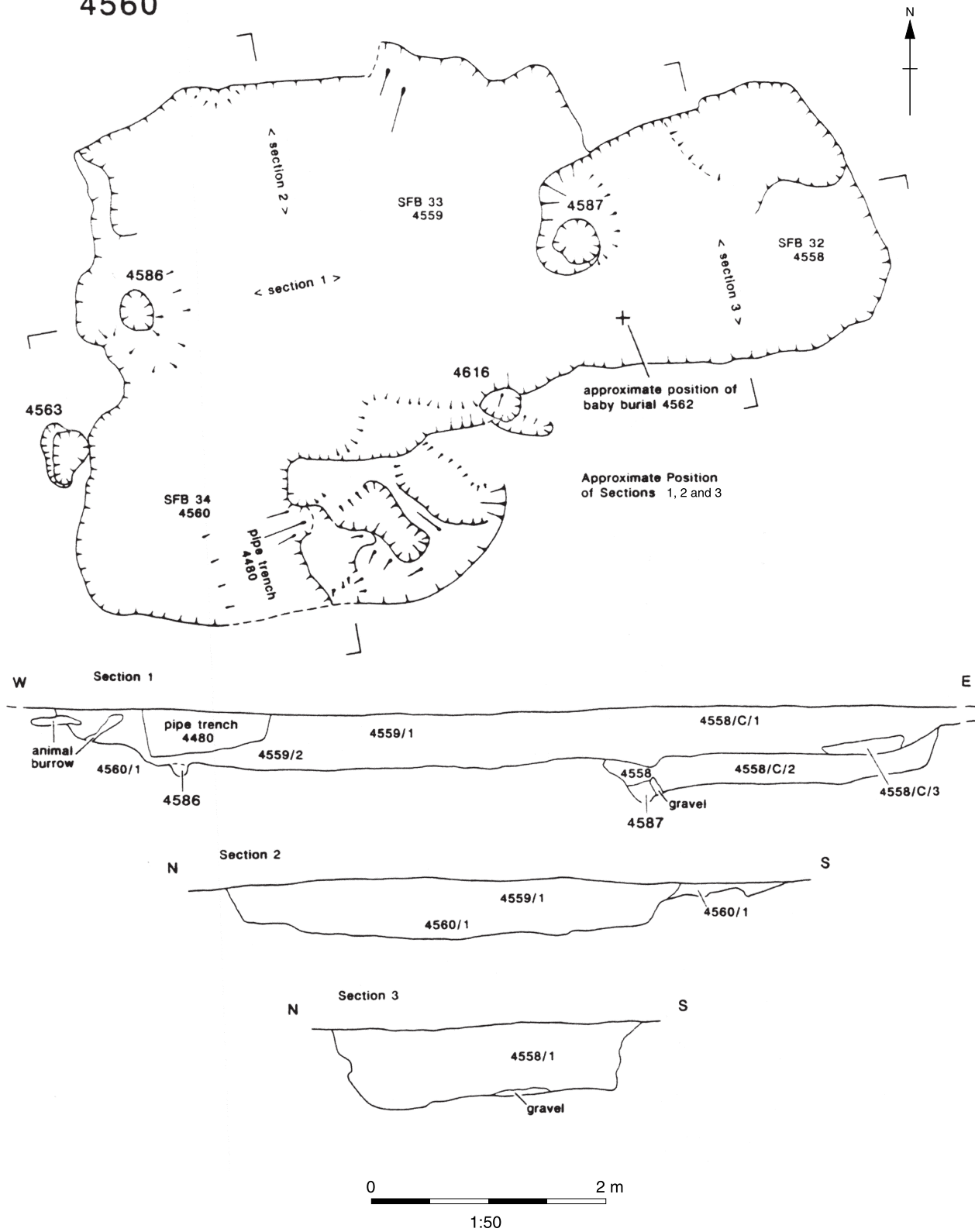


Figure 3.79 Sunken-featured buildings 32, 33 and 34.



the difficulty is compounded by extensive renumbering of contexts. The section in Figure 3.79 indicates the approximate position of layers as far as these can be established. Like 17 and 18, the features were excavated in six sections, A to F. In sections A, C and E two layers were recognised, but there seems to have been very little difference between the two fills. In A the two were taken out together. In B, D and F only a red brown sandy loam with 20% gravel was recorded.

- 1 red brown sandy loam with 20–25% gravel and in places large quantities of conglomerate.
- 2 red brown loam with 10–20% gravel.

### SFB 32

Context 4558; Grid reference: 51366 98178; Site plan: G5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: not known; Distance between postholes: not known; Width: 2.1 m; Depth: 0.6 m.

### Description

SFB 32 was the easternmost of the three intercutting sunken-featured buildings 32, 33 and 34, c 40 m west of barrow 1, and was cut by SFB 33. The pit seems to have had the usual sub-rectangular plan, with a post depression 4588 in the centre of the north-east end. The posthole 4587 seems to have belonged to SFB 33. The infant burial 4562 was cut into the south-west corner of the pit; it lay east/west with the head at the east end.

### Finds

There were four objects in the fill; a knife blade fragment, 197, fragments of a possible bone pin, 309, a spindlewhorl, 445, and a gaming piece made from a sherd of Roman pottery, 68.

### Layer 1

- 197 SF 1136 **Iron knife** Blade length 77 mm, thickness 2 mm. Inclined back, straight back slope? Curved leading edge. The cutting edge is very worn (type A/B.1.a). Tang, length 50 mm set just below the back.
- 309 SF 1165 **Bone pin** Three fragments of polished bone. Head and tip missing. (Not illustrated)
- 445 SF 1160 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 50 mm. Fragment of a biconical whorl with tapering hole. Approx. 35%. Diameter of hole 9 mm. Estimated weight 34.37 g.
- 68 SF 1159 **Ceramic counter** Diameter 25 mm. Modified body sherd in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Pottery tpq 5th–6th century?

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

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	361	374	86	700	29.4	70.6	1521
Mean sherd wt	14.4	10.4	10.8	29.2			

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

Layer/quadrant	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total wt (g)
1	0	1080	0	325	17	99	1521
% of total	0	71.0	0	21.4	1.1	6.5	

EVE: Jars = 1.26; Bowls = 0.30.

One rusticated sherd (B/1, F3, 37 g).

Cross-fits: B/1 = D/1 (x2).

### Illustrations

- 3.81.184 Rim from lugged jar. Uniform grey fabric with burnished black surfaces
- 3.81.185 Rusticated sherd. Black fabric with smoothed brown surfaces
- 3.81.186 Rim sherd from jar. Black fabric, smoothed surfaces, brown outer
- 3.81.187 Profile of jar. Burnished, with outer surface becoming browner down the body

### SFB 33

Context 4559; Grid reference: 51363 98175; Site plan: G5; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 4.3 m; Distance between postholes: 3.75 m; Width: 3.2 m; Depth: 0.41 m

### Description

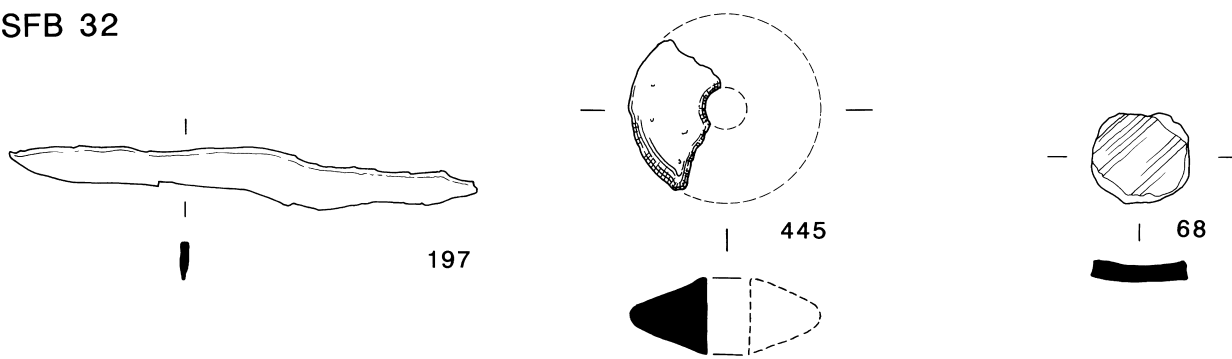
SFB 33 was the westernmost of the three intercutting SFBs 32, 33 and 34, c 40 m west of barrow 1, cutting SFBs 32 and 34. It had been disturbed by a pipe trench running north-west/south-east through the centre. The pit was irregularly sub-rectangular in plan, with a fairly level base. The posthole 4587 probably belonged to this feature and would have been in the centre of the ENE end, opposite 4586.

Layer 2 continued into posthole 4586.

### Finds

Seven finds were recovered from the backfill. A single tooth, from a heckle for combing wool or flax, 210, and

SFB 32



SFB 33

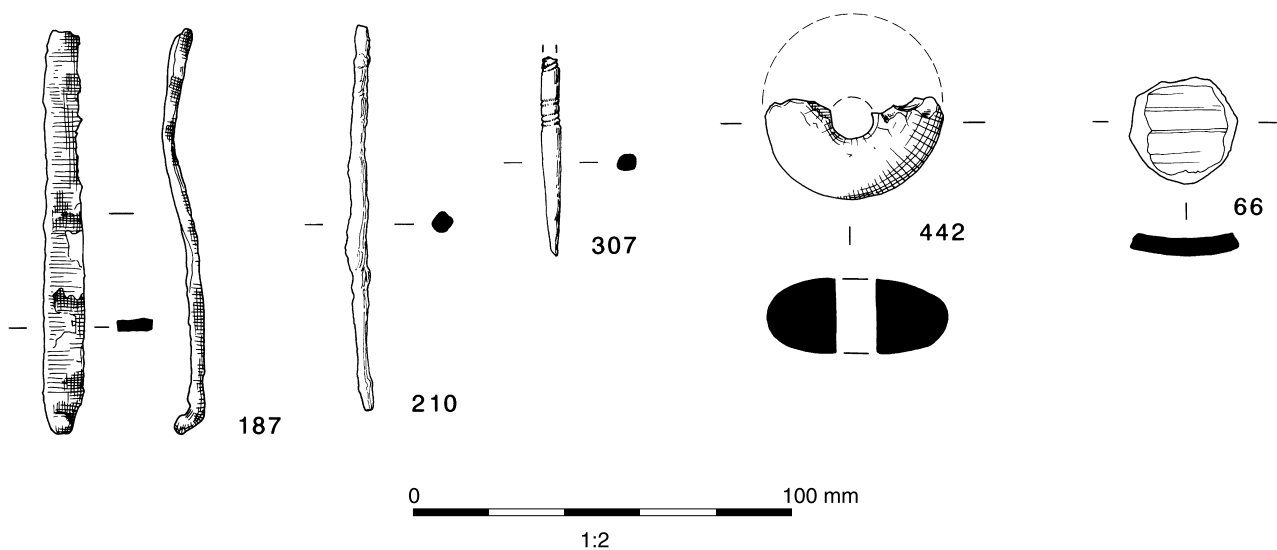


Figure 3.80 Sunken-featured buildings 32 and 33 artefacts.

a fired clay spindlewhorl, 442, were the only textile equipment found. Other finds were a ceramic gaming piece, 66, a decorative bone dress pin, 307, and part of a bottom stone from a quern 409. Number 187 is an iron rod with a upturned end; an object similar to this from Grave 25 at Fonaby, Lincolnshire, has been described as a simple key (Cook 1981, fig. 9.4).

442 SF 1155

bands of spiral decoration below the head (now missing).  
**Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 46 mm. Fragment from a biconical whorl. Approx. 55% Diameter of hole 11.5 mm. Estimated weight 42.07 g.

409 SF 1135

**Rotary quern** Fragment of a bottom stone. (Not illustrated)

Layer 1

- 66 SF 1144 **Ceramic counter** Diameter 28 mm. Modified body sherd in Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated fabric 3.
- 187 SF 1141 **Iron rod?** Length 106 mm. Rectangular cross-section upturned at one end, other end broken.
- 210 SF 1156 **Iron heckle tooth** Length 102 mm. Circular cross-section, broken at both ends.
- 252 SF 1139 **Iron nail** Length 33 mm. Shank fragment. (Not illustrated)
- 307 SF 1153 **Bone pin** Length 52 mm. Highly polished, with oval cross-section. Two

Pottery

Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	103	52	59	30	14	68.2	31.8	258
Mean sherd wt	4.7	4.7	6.6	4.3	14.0			

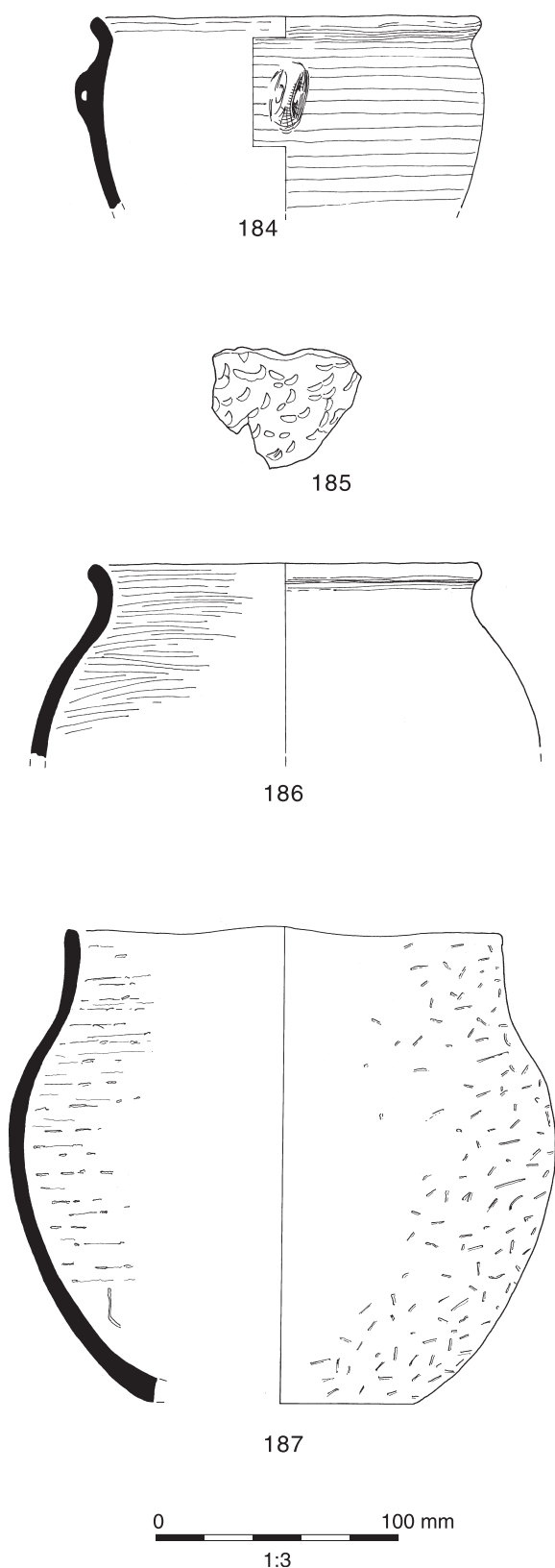


Figure 3.81 Sunken-featured building 32 pottery.

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

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	108	49	101	258
% of total	0	41.9	19.0	39.1	

EVE: Jars = 0.16; Bowls = 0.02

**SFB 34**

Context 4560; Grid reference: 51367 98175; Site plan: G5; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: c 3.3 m; Distance between postholes: 3.7 m; Width: not known; Depth: 0.32 m

**Description**

SFB 34 was the southernmost of the three intercutting SFBs 32, 33 and 34, c 40 m west of barrow 1, cut by 33. It had been disturbed by a pipe trench running north-west/south-east through the centre. The east end was also disturbed. There was a posthole 4563 just beyond the west side which may have been paired with posthole 4616. The floor of the pit on the east side was cut into conglomerate and therefore irregular.

There seems to have been only one layer of fill, an orange grey sandy loam with 35–40% gravel. The section shows a fragment of conglomerate in the fill.

**Finds**

The only object recovered is a very small fragment of a glass vessel of uncertain date.

**Layer 1**

300 SF 1226 **Glass vessel** Thickness 2.8 mm. Very pale green transparent bubbled fragment. Flaky dark brown weathering crust. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery**

No pottery was separately recorded.

**SFB 35**

Context 4561; Grid reference: 51330 98066; Figures 3.82–3; Site plan: F8; Orientation: E/W; Length at surface: 3.3 m; Distance between postholes: 2.7 m; Width: 2.8 m Depth: 0.23 m

**Description**

SFB 35 was c 10 m south-west of barrow 12. The pit is irregularly sub-rectangular in plan with postholes 4584 and 4574 in the centres of the east and west sides. Post impressions were visible in both.

There were only two layers of fill:

- 1 grey brown loam with some gravel, charcoal flecks and domestic debris, found mainly in the middle of the SFB, surrounded by
- 2 reddish brown loam with 40% gravel, charcoal flecks and domestic debris.

SFB 35  
4561

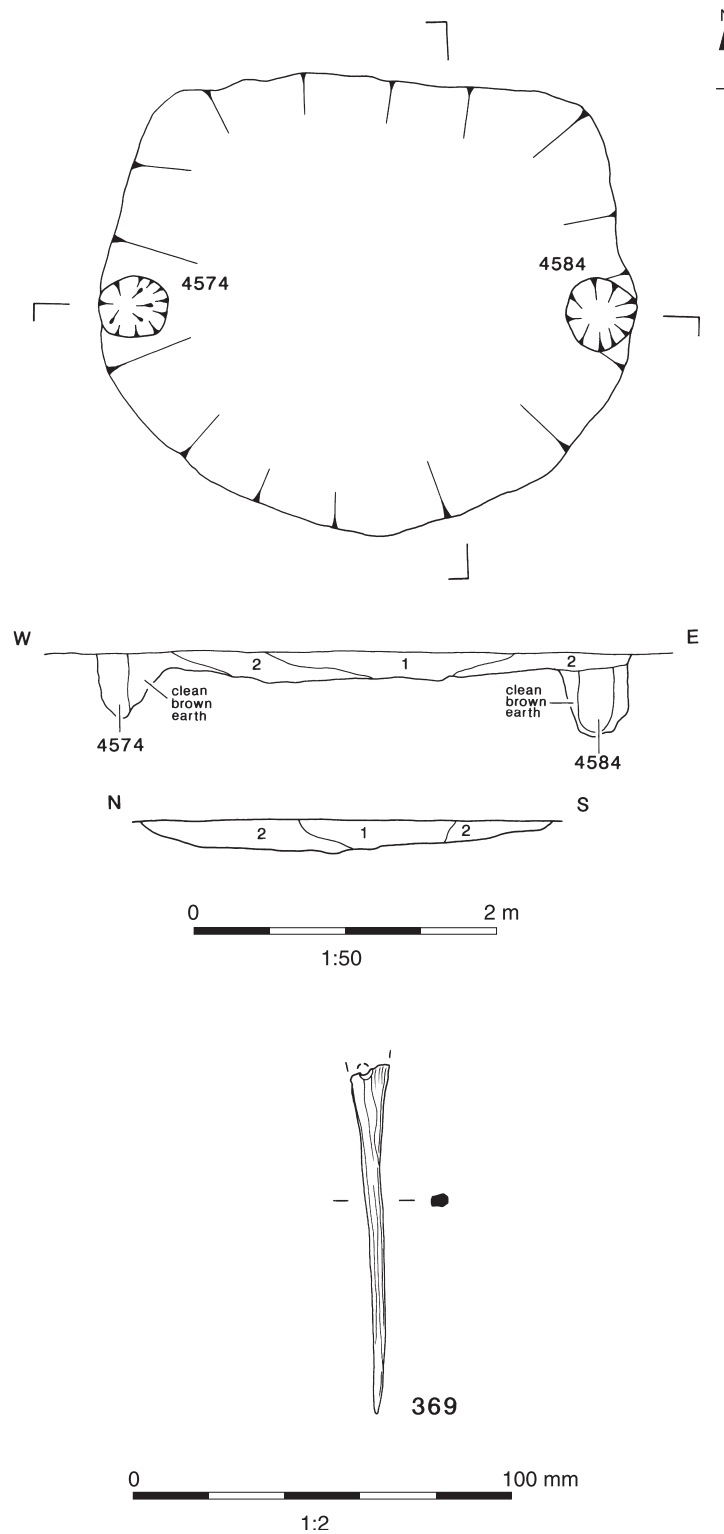


Figure 3.82 Sunken-featured building 35 and artefact.

**Finds**

Only two finds were recovered: 369, a perforated pig fibula pin of a type common from the site; and a reused base from a Roman pot, 67, which has been cut into a wedge.

**Layer 1**

369 SF 1227 **Bone pin** Length 91 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Broken across perforation

**Reused Roman sherd no. 67** SF 1485 Diameter 140 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a flat base of a jar in greyware, fabric 2. (Not illustrated)

### Pottery tpq 5th century?

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

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	6	436	15	91	20.4	79.6	548
2	10	6	0	25	85.4	14.6	41
Total wt (g)	16	442	15	116			589
Mean sherd wt	3.2	8.5	7.5	14.5			

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

Layer/Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	156	86	37	269	548
2	6	0	0	35	41
Total wt (g)	162	86	37	304	589
% of total	27.5	14.6	6.3	51.6	

EVE: Jars = 0.16; Bowls = 0.02.

Three rusticated sherds (A/1, F4, 13 g; A/1, F4, 6 g; B/1, F4, 6 g).

One finger-grooved and incised sherd, (A/1, F4, 30 g).

One incised sherd (D/1, F4, 12 g).

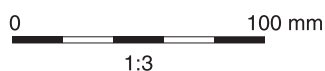
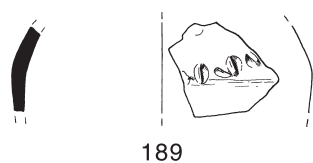
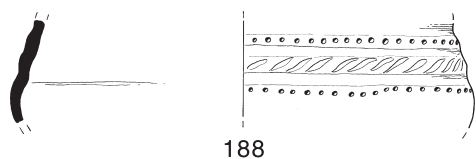


Figure 3.83 Sunken-featured building 35 pottery.

### Illustrations

- 3.83.188 Finger-grooved and incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.  
3.83.189 Rusticated sherd. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.

The finger-grooved and incised sherd (Fig. 3.83.188) from this sunken-featured building appears to be early in date. The sherd has no precise parallels, but simple line-and-dot decoration is generally dated by Myres to the 5th century (1977, 18 and fig. 94).

### SFBS 36 AND 37 (FIGS 3.84–6)

These two intercutting sunken-featured buildings were excavated at different times and the site records reveal some confusion.

### SFB 36

Context 4572; Grid reference: 51237 98162; Site plan: B5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.5 m; Distance between postholes: 3.2 m; Width: 3.0 m; Depth: 0.3 m.

### Description

SFB 36 was near the western edge of the excavations, c 25 m south-west of the Neolithic oval barrow. Its south-west corner cut SFB 37. The line of the southern edge is uncertain (see below), but the pit seems to have been of the usual sub-rectangular form, with postholes 4578 and 4601 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides. The floor of the pit was uneven.

There was some confusion in the recording and mixing of 4572 and 4598 occurred; all material from 4598/-/1 was included with 4572/B/1. According to the context records the feature was sectioned in January 1984 by a trench across the drainage channel (3610/A) but was not recognised as a sunken-featured building and was allocated a context number, now unknown. Once it had been recognised as a sunken-featured building it was excavated in two parts (A in the east and B in the west), but because of the difficulty in distinguishing soils during excavation the finds were allocated either to:

- 1 grey brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks and domestic debris, or
- 2 grey brown sandy loam with patches of cleaner reddish brown loam, charcoal flecks, domestic debris and lumps of chalky head.

### Finds

The only finds recovered were fragments of copper alloy sheeting.

### Layer 1

163 SF 1185 **Copper alloy strip** Length 45 mm, width 2 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Three fragments. (Not illustrated)

SF 1186 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 11 mm, width 5 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Rectangular cut fragment. (Not illustrated)

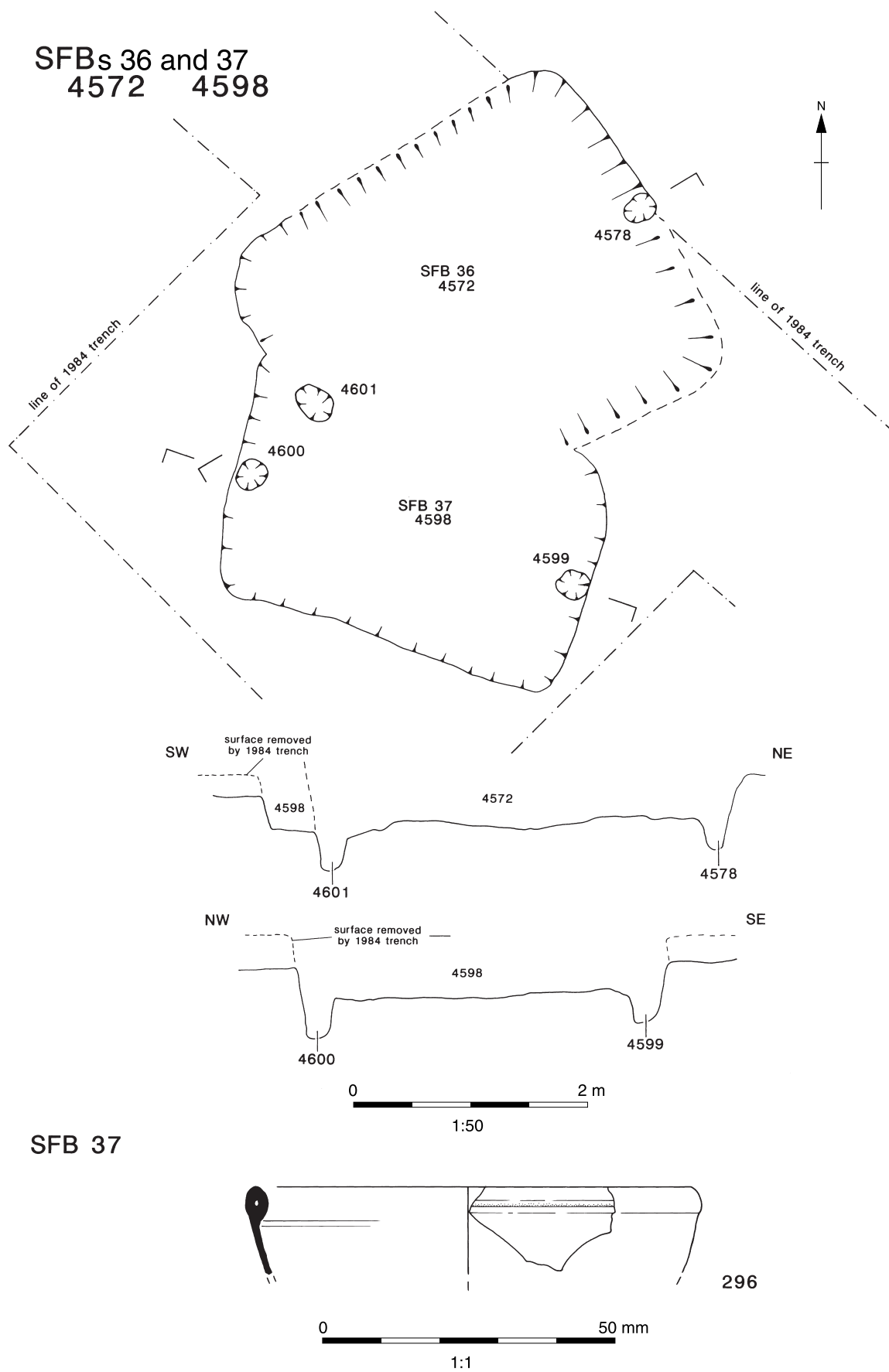


Figure 3.84 Sunken-featured buildings 36 and 37 and artefact.

**Pottery tpq 5th–6th century?***Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric*	F1	F2	F3	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	107	25	59	86.9	13.1	191
2	244	66	111	84.3	15.7	421
Total wt (g)	351	91	170			612
Mean sherd wt	7.6	12.3	8.6			

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

Layer/Quadrant*	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	191	0	0	191
2	0	421	0	0	421
Total wt (g)	0	612	0	0	612
% of total	0	100	0	0	

\*some of the pottery was not ascribed a layer or quadrant by the excavators.

EVE: Jars = 0.38; Bowls = 0.16.

One incised sherd (F1, 15 g).

One pedestal base sherd (B/2, F2, 17 g).

Pierced sherd (F2, 29 g).

*Illustrations*

3.85.190 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with brown outer surface.

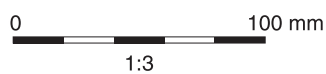
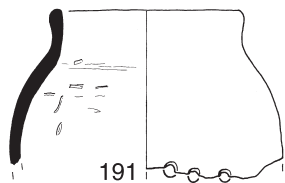
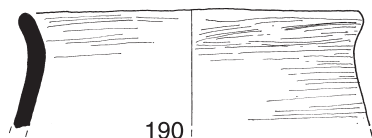


Figure 3.85 Sunken-featured building 36 pottery.

3.85.191 Rim from pierced jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.

**SFB 37**

Context 4598; Grid reference: 51237 98159; Site plan: B5; Orientation: NW/SE; Length at surface: 3.2 m; Distance between postholes: 2.9 m; Width: 2.1 m; Depth: 0.3 m.

**Description**

SFB 37 was near the western edge of the excavations, c 25 m south-west of the Neolithic oval barrow. Its north-west corner was cut by SFB 36. Although its orientation was unique on this site it was the usual sub-rectangular shape, with postholes 4600 and 4599 in the centres of the north-west and south-east sides.

There was some confusion in the recording and mixing of 4572 and 4598 occurred; all material from 4598/-/1 was included with 4572/B/1. A second layer was distinguished as a grey brown soil with charcoal flecks and domestic debris.

 **Finds**

Four finds were recovered. A rim from a glass bowl of Roman date, 296, is very abraded. There are also fragments of a nail, 246, some copper alloy sheets, and a gaming piece, 69, made from the body sherd of a Roman pot.

**Layer 2**

173 SF 1188 **Copper alloy sheet** Max length 17 mm, thickness 1 mm. Six small irregularly shaped fragments. (Not illustrated)

246 SF 1191 **Iron nail** Length 35 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)

296 SF 1217 **Glass bowl** Thickness of rim 4 mm. Tubular rim fragment from a bowl in pale green transparent, finely bubbled glass. Worn and abraded on outer surface. Roman.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 69 SF 1190 Ceramic counter.** Diameter 20 mm. Made from a body sherd in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 6th century?***Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F8	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	55	9	8	0	87.5	12.5	72
2	74	488	16	14	17.6	82.4	592
Total wt (g)	129	497	24	14			664
Mean sherd wt	5.9	33.1	4.8	14.0			

Pottery occurrence per quadrant and layer, all fabrics.

Layer/ Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	72	0	0	72
2	592	0	0	0	592
Total wt (g)	592	72	0	0	664
% of total	89.2	10.8	0	0	

EVE: Jars = 0.25; Bowls = 0.

One rusticated sherd, (B/1, F1, 42 g).

Two stamped sherds (A/2, F2, 10 g; B/1, F1, 3 g).

Illustrations

3.86.192 Dark grey fabric with brown core margins, smoothed outer surfaces.

3.86.193 Stepped base sherd. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.

The stamped sherd (Fig. 3.86.192) suggests a 6th century *terminus post quem*.

SFB 38

Context 4602; Grid reference: 51264 98176; Figures 3.87–8; Orientation: NE/SW; Site plan: C5; Length at surface: 3.6 m; Distance between postholes: 5367–5370 3.15 m and 5367–5366 2.9 m; Width: 3.1 m; Depth: 0.54 m.

Description

SFB 38 was c 20 m south-east of the Neolithic oval barrow. The pit was irregularly sub-rectangular in



192



193

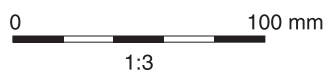


Figure 3.86 Sunken-featured building 37 pottery.

shape, with three postholes: 5367 in the centre of the north-east side, 5370 in the centre of the south-west side and 5366 a little to the south-east of 5370, perhaps indicating rebuilding.

1 grey sandy loam with 10% gravel.

2 red sandy loam containing pea gravel.

Finds

Several artefacts associated with the manufacture of textiles were recovered from the fill of SFB 38. There are two spindlewhorls, 345 and 347, both of bone, and two pin beaters, used to separate the warp threads on a loom. One of these, 355, is of the short cigar-shaped type, whereas 349 is longer and more slender. Other finds include a perforated pig fibula pin, 370, and a tooth from an antler comb 340.

One unusual find is a modified portion of a lower mandible of a large animal, possibly cattle or a horse, 379, cut to a triangular shape. The back of the tool is very worn and fits well into the hand. It has had extensive use resulting in the breakage of the blade-like edge. It was probably used in a downward motion possibly for scraping hides or as a scoop. Another object of this type was recovered from the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Sutton Courtenay (Leeds 1924, pl XXVIII, fig. 1F). Again, it is made from a lower mandible and has a blade-like edge. However, the Sutton Courtenay tool is somewhat smaller than 379 and could not have been used as a scoop.

A part of an antler beam, 394, with its tines removed, has been discarded from antler-working. Number 600, a piece of slag, also came from this SFB. It is from a furnace and has been subjected to a high temperature, as would be achieved if welding had been taking place.

Layer 1

256 SF 1198 **Iron nail** Length 27 mm. Shank fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)

349 SF 1194 **Bone pin beater** Length 133 mm, diameter 6 mm. Made from a polished shaft with circular cross-section. pointed at both ends.

370 SF 1195 **Bone pin** Length 80 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Broken across perforation. Polished. Tip missing.

340 SF 1196 **Antler comb tooth** Length 18 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

345 SF 1209 **Annular bone spindlewhorl** Diameter 40 mm. Polished with central hole diameter 10 mm. Turned, decorated with shallow concentric circles. Very worn on lower surface and uneven wear on the upper surface. Weight 25.46 g.

355 SF 1201 **Bone pin beater** Length 80 mm, diameter 6 mm. Made from a polished shaft with oval cross-section. Pointed at both ends.



SFB 38  
4602

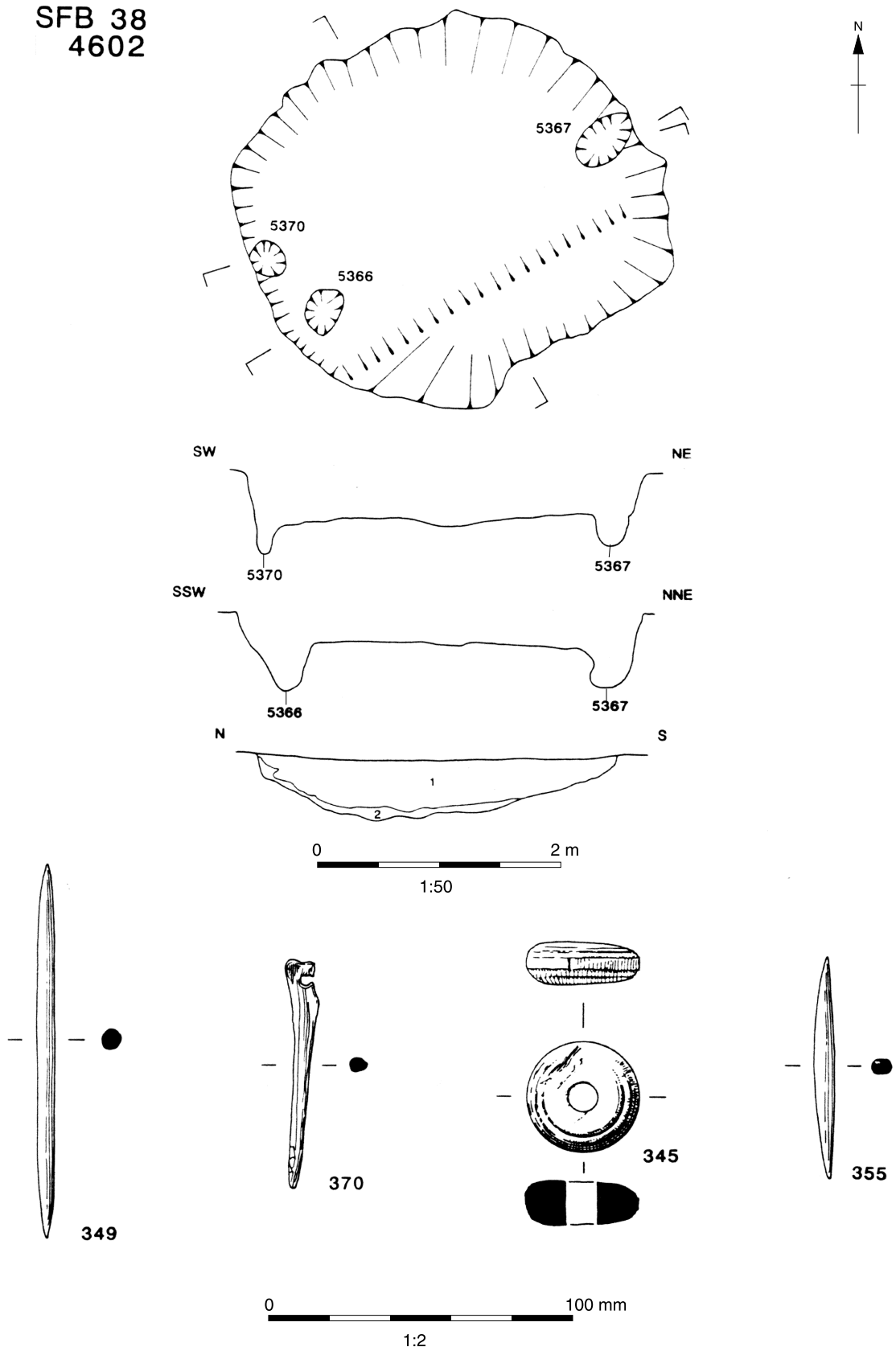


Figure 3.87 Sunken-featured building 38 and artefacts.

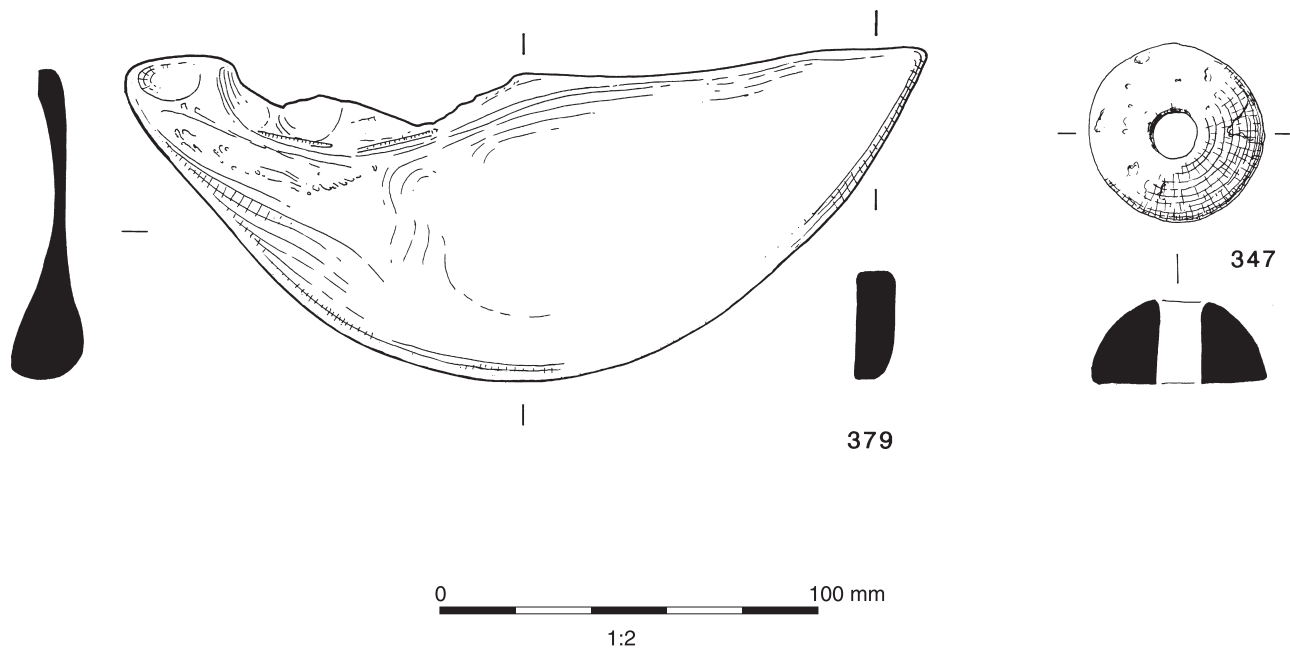


Figure 3.88 Sunken-featured building 38 artefacts continued.

379 SF 1210 **Bone scraper** Length 212 mm. Made from a cattle or horse lower mandible. The edge has become highly polished from much wear. The blade edge has been worn to a fine point. Part of the blade is broken off.

394 SF 1516 **Antler waste** Part of the beam and three tines. The tines have been removed by chopping and the rest of the beam has been removed by chopping and splitting. (Not illustrated)

600 SF 1332 **Slag, irregular elongated fragment** (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

347 SF 1203 **Bone spindlewhorl** Diameter 46 mm. Hemispherical with convex upper and flat lower surfaces. Made from a bovine femur head with central perforation diameter 13 mm. Weight 21.07 g.

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

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	522	381	66	211	49.8	50.2	1180
2	447	242	255	134	65.1	34.9	1078
Total wt (g)	969	623	321	345			2258
Mean sherd wt	11.0	13.8	45.9	11.9			

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

Layer/ Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	521	0	557	102	1180
2	0	1025	0	53	1078
Total wt (g)	521	1025	557	155	2258
% of total	23.1	45.4	24.7	6.9	

EVE: Jars = 1.28; Bowls = 0.05.

Four rusticated sherds (A/1, F2, 18 g; B/2, F2, 175 g; C/1, F2, 19 g; D/1, F6, 1006 g).  
One incised sherd (D/2, F1, 10 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.89.194 Base of rusticated vessel. Black fabric with brown outer surface.
- 3.89.195 Jar rim. Uniform dark grey fabric, smoothed outer surface.
- 3.89.196 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric. Smoothed surfaces with chaff voids.
- 3.89.197 Two non-joining incised bodysherds. Uniform dark brown fabric with burnished outer surfaces.
- 3.89.198 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed and lightly burnished surfaces.

**SFB 39**

Context 4605; Grid reference: 51312 98173; Figures 3.90–91; Site plan: E5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length

Chapter Three

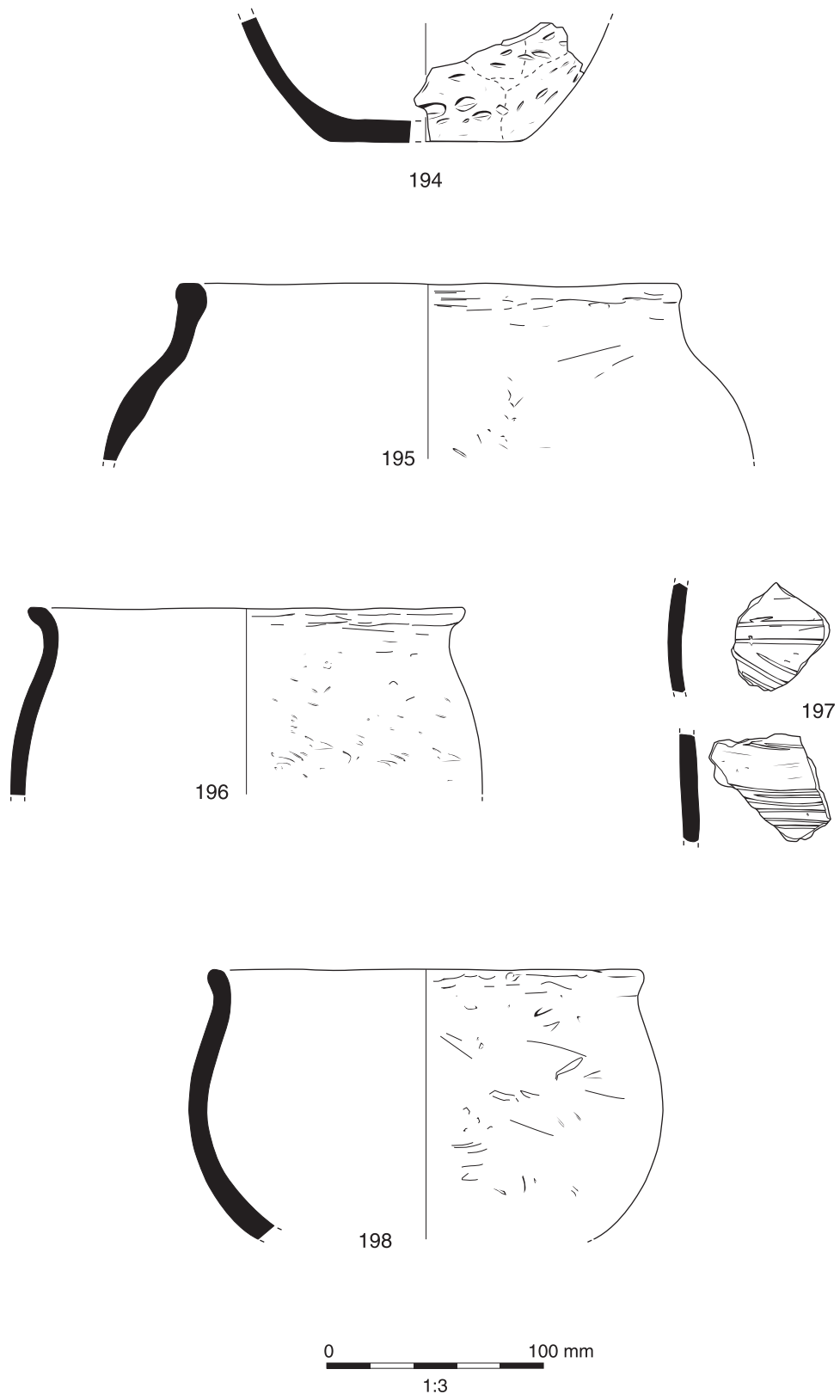


Figure 3.89 Sunken-featured building 39 pottery.

at surface: 4.2 m; Distance between postholes: 5369-4615 3.15 m and 5369-5368 3.75 m; Width: 2.2-2.6 m; Depth: 0.46 m.

**Description**

SFB 39 was c 20 m north of the central group of post-built structures. The pit was irregular in outline, as if a sub-rectangular pit with postholes 5369 and 4615 had been extended to the south-west and 4615 replaced by 5368.

Two layers were distinguished, but the feature had been cut into during machining and layer 1 was present only in quadrants B and part of C.

- 1 red brown loam with 10% gravel.
- 2 light yellow grey silty loam with 20-40% gravel.

The relationship of the pit fill to the postholes cannot be certainly established, but the pit fill appears to have continued into posthole 4615.

**SFB 39  
4605**

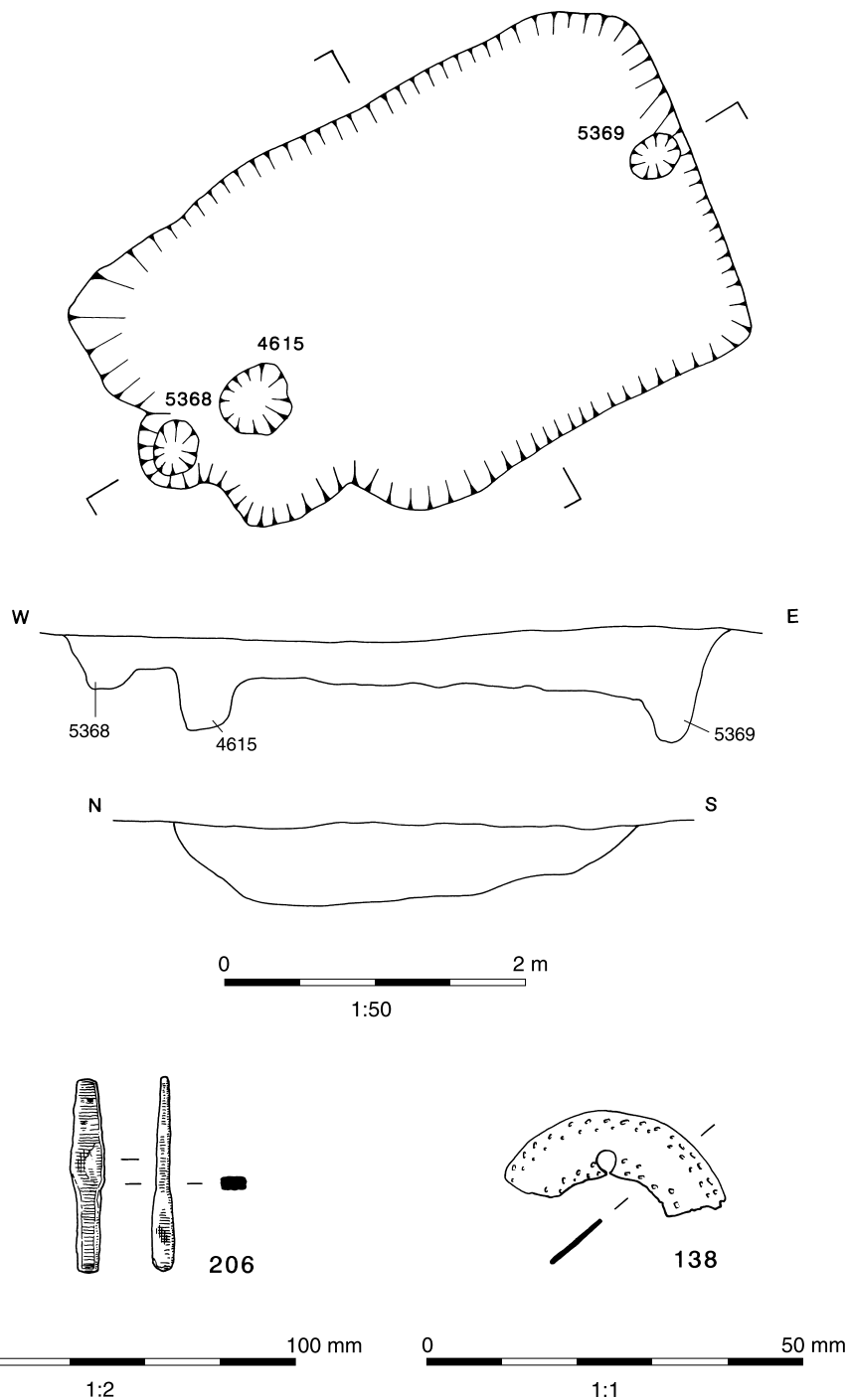


Figure 3.90 Sunken-featured building 39 and artefacts.

**Finds**

Seven objects were recovered. They include part of a flat annular brooch, 138, with punch dot decoration of narrow 'Anglian' type, which is probably a 6th-century import (Dickinson 1976, 146).

Iron objects consist of part of a rod, 265, and a lanceolate head and shank fragment, 206, probably the head from a drill bit or auger (Manning 1985, 25). There is also a fragment of slag 608, a slag lining reaction product from a hearth which was being run under reducing conditions. It has been subjected to a high temperature for some length of time. Number 367 is a bone point, probably from a pin. Number 70 is a reused Roman pot which has been deliberately cut to form a semicircle.

**Layer 1**

206 SF 1199 **Iron tool** Length 52 mm. Shank with square cross-section terminating in a flat lanceolate head, tapering to a flat edge.

265 SF 1200 **Iron rod** Length 100 mm. Shank with rectangular cross-section, tapers to a point at one end. Bent. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 2**

138 SF 1208 **Copper alloy annular brooch** Diameter 34 mm, width 9 mm, thickness 1 mm Fragment of a flat band with a rounded perforation for the loop of the pin. Double row of irregular punched dots around the inner and outer perimeters. Pin missing. (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, no. 35a)

376 SF 1525 **Bone point** Length 27 mm. Polished fragment. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 70** SF 1482 Diameter 75 mm. Modified half of foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

438 SF 1204 **Worked stone** Length 120 mm. Semicircular flat fragment. Corallian lower calcareous grit. (Not illustrated)

608 SF 1202 **Slag, lining reaction product.** (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	26	129	0	76	11.3	88.7	231
2	606	1243	524	128	45.2	54.8	2501
Total wt (g)	632	1372	524	204			2732
Mean sherd wt	16.2	21.8	174.7	14.6			

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

Layer/ Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	0	88	143	0	231
2	510	827	368	796	2501
Total wt (g)	510	915	511	796	2732
% of total	18.7	33.5	18.7	29.1	

EVE: Jars = 0.77; Bowls = 0.

Rusticated sherds, (A/2 and D2, F2, 162 g).

Two incised sherds, (B/2, F1, 37 g; D/2, F2, 12 g).

One sherd with runic graffiti (B/2, F2, 49 g, rim sherd, 8% complete).

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

*Illustrations*

3.91.199 Rim sherd from large carinated jar. Grey fabric with black burnished surfaces.

3.91.200 Base sherds from rusticated vessel. Uniform black fabric. Some sooting on outer surface, limescaling on inner.

3.91.201 Rim sherd with runic inscription. Uniform black fabric with smoothed surfaces.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery was noted, but a 6th-century annular brooch fragment was present.

The sherd with the runic inscription (Fig. 3.91.201) is highly unusual, with few parallels. The Myres corpus has examples of cremation urns with runic stamps (eg 1977, pl IIIb) and with single, incised runes, but only one vessel (fig. 369 no. 1437), from Loveden Hill in Lincolnshire, with what can be considered to be a free-hand inscription. The inscription in question appears to make no sense, and has been interpreted as a charm formula (Fennel 1964; Wilson 1992). In the case of the Barrow Hills sherd, it seems likely that the runes were scratched after breakage. If they were scratched on the pot before it was broken, the chances of their still being virtually central on a sherd after breakage would be very low indeed.

Sherds with runic graffiti are very rare, and only one parallel could be found, on an unpublished sherd of samian ware from Deansway in Worcester. I am grateful to Hal Dalwood of the Worcester Archaeology Service for the following information.

The sherd was broken after the inscription was added. There are the ends of two separate words, transliterated as -suir and -dis (or -mis). Professor R I Page (Cambridge University) and Dr Elisabeth Okasha (University College, Cork) both examined the sherd. It is agreed that the letters are indeed runes but, unfortunately, without the complete inscription, neither scholar could suggest a possible translation.

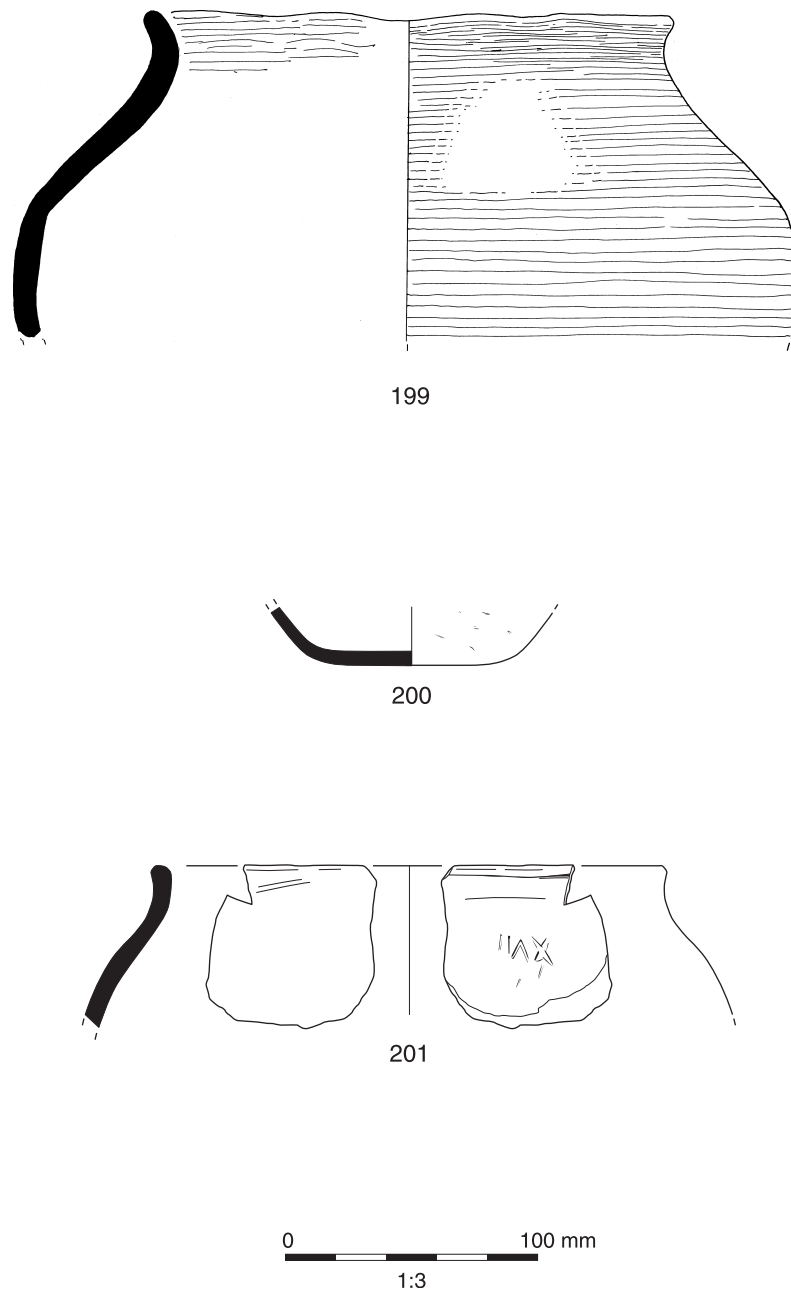


Figure 3.91 Sunken-featured building 39 pottery.

Dr Okasha suggested that texts on pots are most likely to be personal names.

The inscription on the Barrow Hills sherd comprises three or four characters, the first of which is not entirely clear, which can be translated as either 'ThIUG', 'RIUG' 'IIUG' or 'HUG' (Elliott 1959, 14–20). None of these are known Anglo-Saxon words, although it is possible that, like the Worcester sherd, they may be a personal name (D Parsons, pers. comm.).

#### SFB 40

Context 4617; Grid reference: 51280 98174; Figures 3.3.92–4; Site plan: D5; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 3.7 m; Distance between postholes: 3.4 m; Width: 2.9 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

#### Description

SFB 40 was c 30 m north-west of the central group of post-built structures. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan, with a posthole in the centre of each end; the numbers of the postholes were not recorded.

- 1 brown loam with 30% gravel, flecks of charcoal and domestic debris, over
- 2 clean sandy gravel, containing tip lines and possibly representing deliberate backfill.
- 3 fine grey-brown loose friable loam with some gravel and much ash and domestic debris, intermittent over the base of the pit.

The relationship of the postholes to the fill of the pit is unknown. Layer 3 may represent occupation on the base of the pit.

SFB 40  
4617

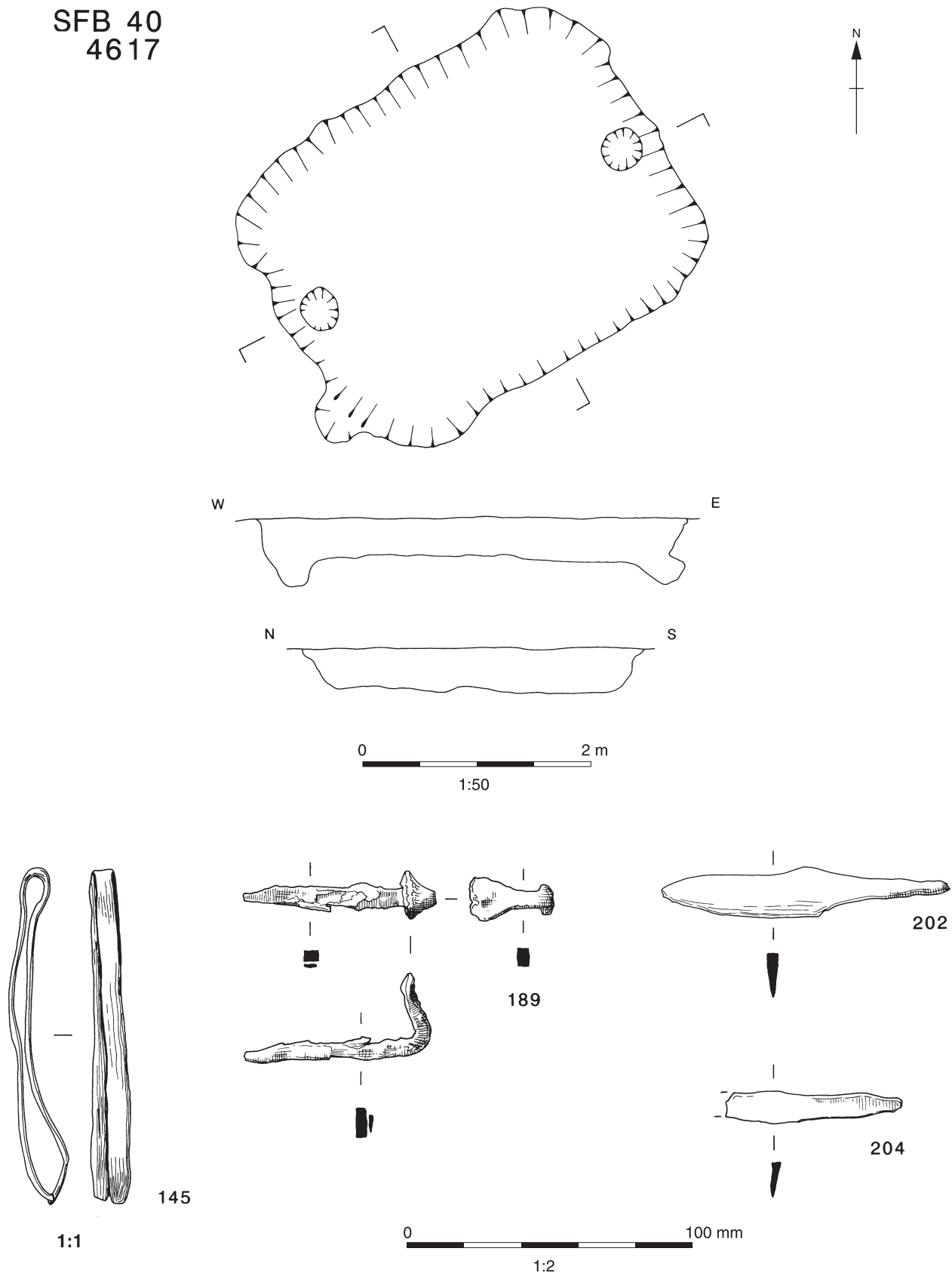


Figure 3.92 Sunken-featured building 40 and artefacts.

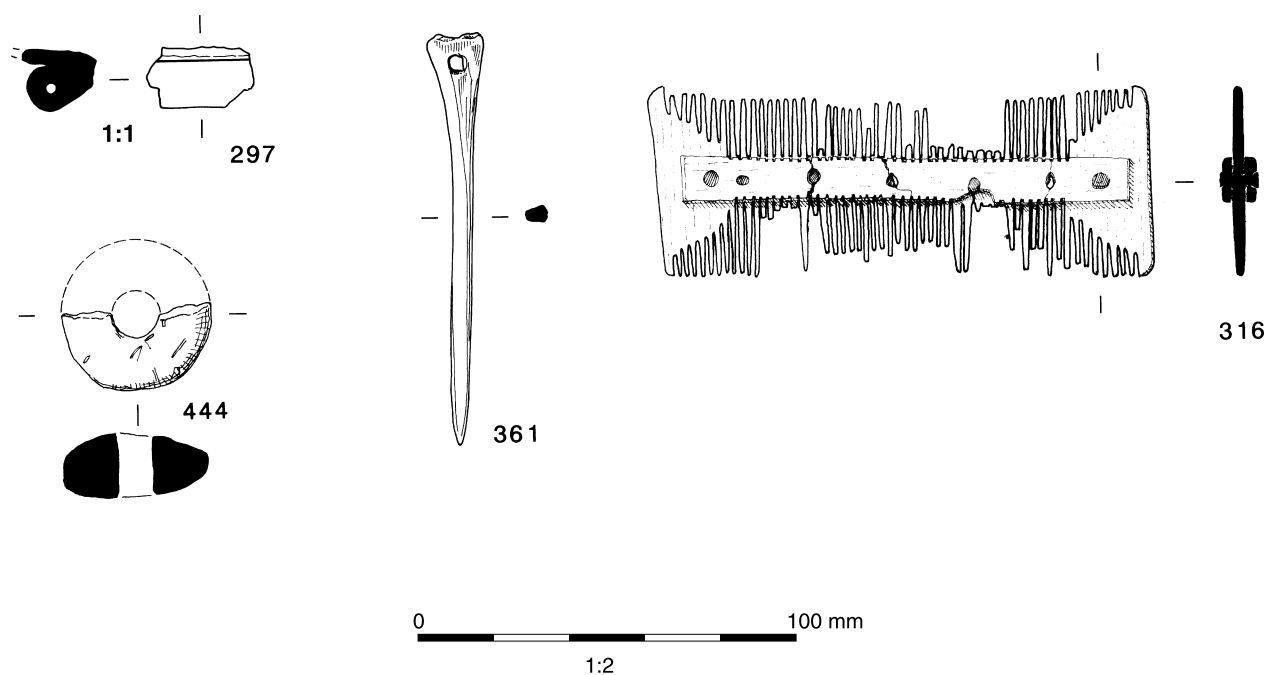


Figure 3.93 *Sunken-featured building 40 artefacts continued.*

**Finds**

Eight finds were recovered. These included a fragment of a late Roman glass bowl, 297, and a pair of simple tweezers, 145, similar to a pair of tweezers from cremation 2616/1 at Spong Hill (Hills *et al.* 1987, 62, fig. 101). There are two knives: 204 is fragmentary but 202 is of Böhner's type C, which appeared at the beginning of the 7th century (Böhner 1958, 214). There is also a fragment from a barb spring padlock bolt, 189, which is similar to one found in a 4th-century context at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 168, fig. 206.4694). Half of a spindlewhorl of fired clay, 444, a perforated pig fibula pin, 361, of the type common on the site, and a double-sided composite antler comb, 316, of a type common in the 5th to 7th centuries, were also found.

**Layer 1**

- 145 SF 1211 **Copper alloy tweezers** Length 58 mm. Made from a narrow strip of sheeting with rounded hammered ends Sheet folded double to make a loop at one end.
- 189 SF 1215 **Iron barb spring padlock bolt** Length 68 mm. Single spine with double leaf spring. Part of bolt missing.
- 202 SF 1223 **Iron knife** Blade, length 56 mm, width 17 mm, thickness 3.5 mm. Inclined back with convex back slope and curved leading edge (Type C.1.c) groove along one side of blade. Tip missing. Tang, length 44 mm set just below back. Sloping shoulder.
- 204 SF 1216 **Iron knife** Blade, length 53 mm, tip missing. Fragment possibly with inclined back. Tang central to blade, sloping shoulders.

297 SF 1230 **Glass bowl** Thickness 9.5 mm. Small fragment of a tubular foot-ring in pale green transparent finely bubbled glass. Late Roman.

361 SF 1224 **Bone pin** Length 108 mm Made from a polished pig fibula perforated at one end. Worn at tip.

**Layer 2**

316 SF 1225 **Double-sided composite bone comb** Length 133 mm, height 50 mm. Rectangular end plates with graduated teeth. The teeth on both sides average 5 per cm. Six tooth segments connected by plates with rectangular cross-section. Seven iron rivets.

444 SF 1214 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 40 mm. Fragment approx 50% of a bi-conical whorl with tapering hole. Max. diameter of hole 12.5 mm. Estimated weight 11.5 g.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	636	761	220	939	59	35.0	65.0	2615
2	61	212	650	77	0	71.1	28.9	1000
3	7	160	14	226	0	5.2	94.8	407
Total wt (g)	704	1133	884	1242	0			4022
Mean sherd wt	8.1	11.2	30.4	20.7	29.5			



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

Layer/Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	730	275	338	1272	2615
2	0	572	102	326	1000
3	404	0	3	0	407
Total wt (g)	1134	847	443	1598	4022
% of total	28.2	21.1	11.0	39.7	

EVE: Jars = 2.41; Bowls = 0.22.

Four incised sherds (A/1, F1, 4 g; B/1, F2, 5 g; C/1, F2, 5 g; D/2, F3, 2 g).

Two stamped sherds (A/1, F1, 23 g; B/1, F1, 9 g)

One pedestal base (C/3, F2, 102 g).

*Illustrations*

- 3.94.202 Jar rim. Dark grey fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.
- 3.94.203 Stamped and incised jar. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.94.204 Stamped and incised sherd. Dark grey fabric with smoothed and lightly burnished outer surface.
- 3.94.205 Slashed bodysherd. Dark reddish-brown fabric with black burnished surfaces.
- 3.94.206 Profile of small jar. Black fabric with smoothed outer surface.

Both the stamped vessels (Figs 3.94.203–4) have pendant triangle arrangements, indicating a 6th-century *terminus post quem*.

**SFB 41**

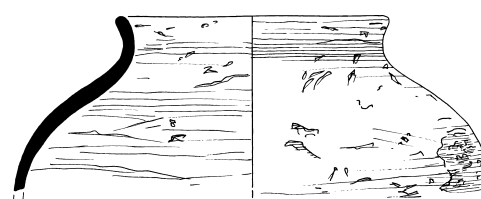
Context 4641; Grid reference: 51290 98022; Figures 3.95–6; Site plan: D9; Orientation: NE/SW; Length at surface: 4.5 m; Distance between postholes: 3.8 m; Width: 3.25 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

**Description**

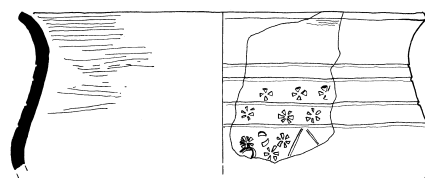
SFB 41 was c 70 m south-west of ring ditch 801 in the southern tip of the excavated area. The pit was sub-rectangular with postholes 4718 and 4659 in the centres of the north-east and south-west sides.

- 1 dark brown silty loam with 5–10% gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 2 dark brown loam with 30–40% gravel.
- 3 reddish brown sandy loam with 30–40% gravel.
- 4 light grey silt with 30% gravel and charcoal flecks.

The relationships of the postholes to the fill of the pit were not recorded, but from the descriptions of the posthole fills it seems likely that layer 3 continued into 4718 and layer 4 into 4659. Layer 4 may represent occupation debris accumulating on the pit floor after the superstructure had been removed.



202



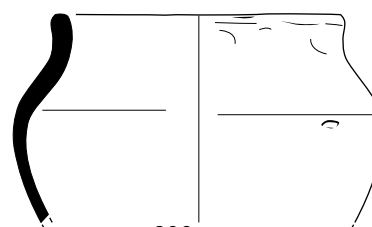
203



204



205



206

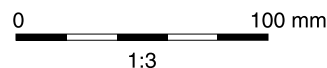


Figure 3.94 Sunken-featured building 40 pottery.

SFB 41  
4641

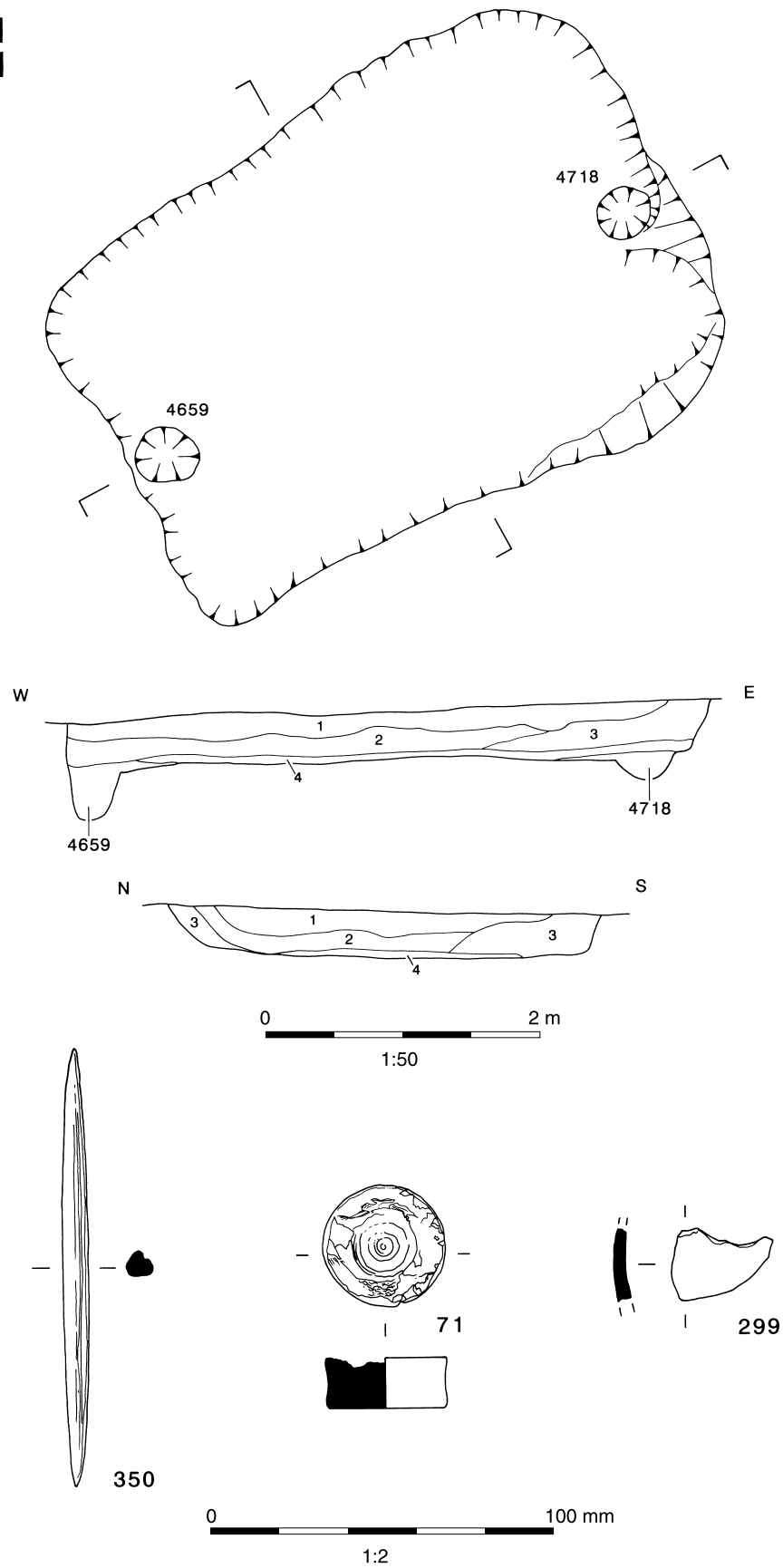


Figure 3.95 Sunken-featured building 41 and artefacts.

**Finds**

Four objects were recovered. They included a fragment of a beaker, 299, of probable Anglo-Saxon date, a gaming piece, 71, made from the base of a Roman pot, and a bone pin beater, 350, used during weaving to separate the warp threads on a warp-weighted loom.

**Layer 1**

- 618 SF 1443 **Wine bottle** Dark green glass. 18th–19th century. (Not illustrated)  
 350 SF 1236 **Bone pin beater** Length 127 mm, Diameter 7.5 mm. Made from a polished shaft with triangular cross-section. Pointed at both ends.

**Layer 2**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 71** SF 1235 Ceramic counter. Diameter 35 mm. Modified grooved beaker base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated, fabric 3.

**Layer 3**

- 299 SF 1444 **Glass vessel** Thickness 4 mm. Translucent green glass fragment with few bubbles. Possibly part of a beaker. Patches of a dark brown weathering crust. Probably Anglo-Saxon.

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F6	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	415	1022	594	293	43.4	56.6	2324
2	401	521	216	42	52.3	47.7	1180
3	119	177	97	81	45.6	54.4	474
Total wt (g)	935	1720	907	416			3978
Mean sherd wt	7.9	14.0	10.9	9.7			

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

Layer/ Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	28	132	1132	1032	2324
2	366	275	0	539	1180
3	274	0	172	28	474
Total wt (g)	668	407	1304	1599	3978
% of total	16.8	10.2	32.8	40.2	

EVE: Jars = 2.04; Bowls = 0.18.

Five incised and stamped sherds (A/2, F1, 5 g; A/2 and A/3 and B/3, F1, 54 g; B/2, F1, 16 g; B/2, F3, 9 g; D/1, F1, 7 g).

Two bossed and incised sherds (A/2, F1, 33 g; A/3, F1, 6 g).

Seven incised sherds (A/2, F2, 10 g; C/1, F1, 6 g; C/1, F1, 45 g; C/3, F1, 4 g; D/1, F2, 17 g; D/2, F2, 32 g; D/2, F3, 35 g).

One rusticated sherd (A/2, F2, 8 g).

Cross-fit: A/2 = A/3 = B/3.

**Illustrations**

- 3.96.207 Jar rim sherd. Dark grey fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.  
 3.96.208 Rim sherd from small lugged/bossed jar. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.  
 3.96.209 Longitudinal pierced lug. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.  
 3.96.210 Incised rim sherd. Reddish-brown fabric with black, smoothed outer surface.  
 3.96.211 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.  
 3.96.212 Stamped and incised sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric, smoothed outer surface.  
 3.96.213 Stamped and incised sherd. Uniform dark grey-brown fabric, smoothed outer surface.  
 3.96.214 Stamped and incised sherd. Uniform dark grey fabric, smoothed outer surface.  
 3.96.215 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.  
 3.96.216 Incised sherd. Buff fabric with pale orange burnished surfaces.  
 3.96.217 Bossed and incised sherd. Dark grey fabric with browner burnished surfaces.

This group appears to indicate a 6th-century *terminus post quem*. The bossed sherd (Fig. 3.96.208) appears to be a 'melon-ribbed' type which Myres dates to the later part of the early Anglo-Saxon period. The stamped sherds (Figs. 3.96.212–4) are almost certainly of 6th-century date.

**SFB 42**

Context 4661; Grid reference: 51265 98073; Figure 3.97; Site plan: C8; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 3.0 m; Distance between postholes: 2.9 m; Width: 2.3 m Depth: 0.24 m.

**Description**

SFB 42 was *c* 70 m west of the segmented ring ditch on the west edge of the excavated area. The pit was sub-rectangular with posthole 4739 in the centre of the west-south-west side; there was a corresponding shallow depression in the centre of the east-north-east side.

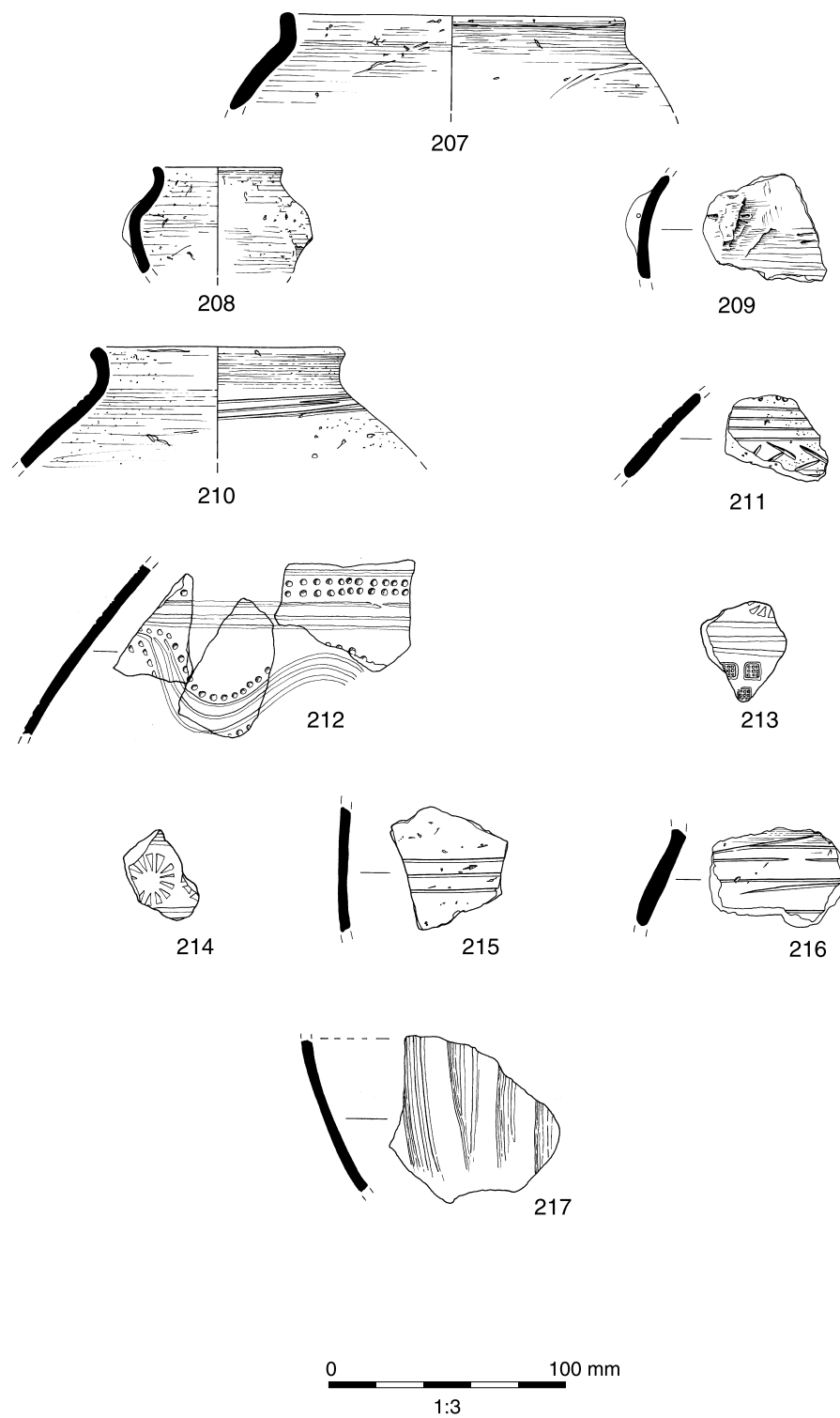


Figure 3.96 Sunken-featured building 41 pottery.

- 1 orange brown sandy loam with 50–70% gravel.
- 2 dark brown loam with 40–60% gravel.

The relationship of posthole 4739 to the pit fill was not recorded but from the context description it seems likely that the fill of the pit continued into the posthole.

#### Finds

Five objects were recovered, including a very worn Roman coin, 274, dated AD 138–161. Two objects definitely associated with textile manufacture are a fragment of an early Saxon annular loomweight, 457,

SFB 42  
4661

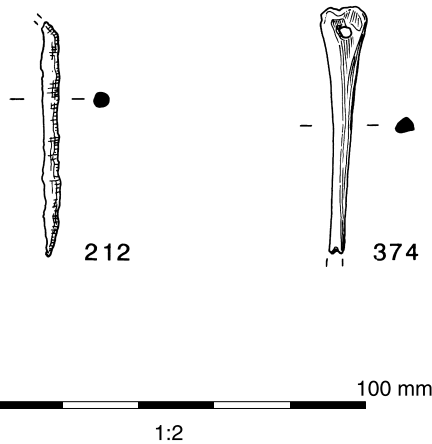
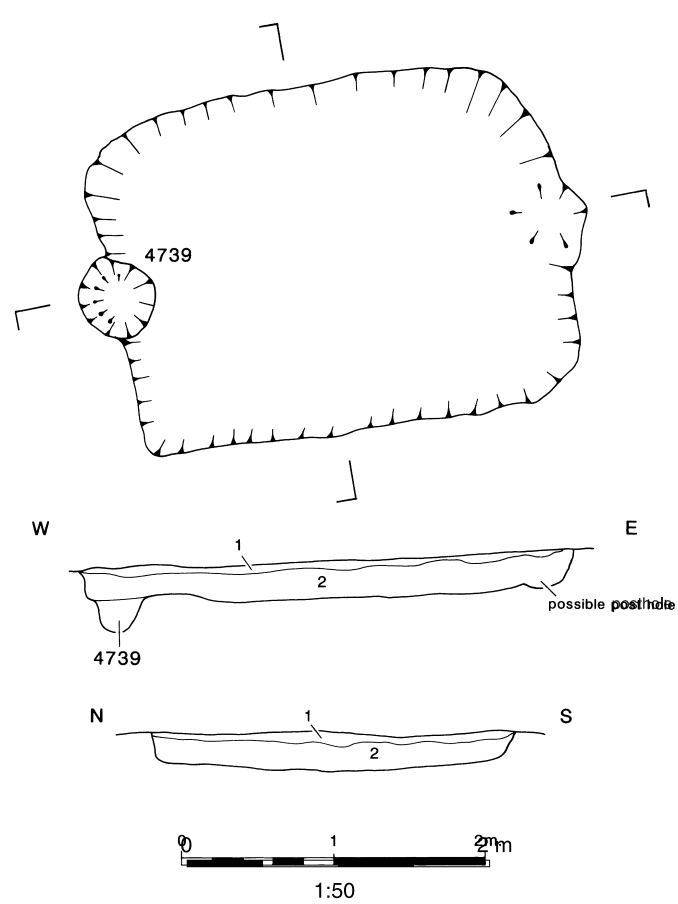


Figure 3.97 Sunken-featured building 42 and artefacts.

and a tooth from a heckle, 212, used for preparing flax and wool before spinning. Two teeth from an antler comb, 341, and a perforated pig fibula pin, 374, of a type common from the site were also found.

**Layer 1**

274 SF 1246 **Bronze coin** Antoninus Pius. Very worn. AD 138–161. (Not illustrated)

212 SF 1237 **Iron heckle tooth** Length 62 mm. Circular cross-section tapering to a flat point. Other end broken.

341 SF 1527 **Antler comb tooth** Length 8 mm. Two broken teeth. (Not illustrated)

374 SF 1282 **Bone pin** Length 65 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Polished. Tip missing.

457 SF 1244 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 90 mm. Two fragments, approx. 22% with roughly smoothed surfaces. Estimated weight 259 g. (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	105	93	233	13	75.5	24.5	444
2	0	16	3	0	15.8	84.2	19
Total wt (g)	105	109	236	13			463
Mean sherd wt	5.5	9.9	12.4	6.5			

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

Layer/ Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	37	244	100	63	444
2	0	0	19	0	19
Total wt (g)	37	244	119	63	463
% of total	8.0	52.7	25.7	13.6	

EVE: Jars = 0.41; Bowls = 0.

One incised sherd (A/1, F3, 22 g).

**SFB 43**

Context 4666; Grid reference: 51338 98162; Figures 3.98–100; Site plan: F5; Orientation: a) ENE/WSW b) E/W; Length at surface: 4.65 m; Distance between postholes: a) 4.1 m b) 3.65 m; Width: 3.2 m; Depth: 0.52 m.

**Description**

SFB 43 was c 20 m north-east of the central group of post-built structures. It almost certainly represented two intercutting sunken-featured buildings, a larger, shallower one aligned east-north-east/west-south-west with postholes 4730 and 4729 which was cut by a smaller, deeper sunken-featured building aligned east-west, with a new posthole 4771 at the east end and the reused and perhaps deepened 4729 at the west end.

The two phases were removed as one and three layers were recorded:

- 1 orange brown loam with 40% mixed gravel
- 2 dark grey brown loam with 15% gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 3 (present in quadrants C and D only) orange brown sandy loam.

It seems probable from the sections and profiles that the fills of the deeper SFB 43b cut the fills of the shallower SFB 43a rather than *vice versa*. The section and posthole descriptions indicate that layer 2 extended into the postholes.

**Finds**

Eighteen objects were recovered, including a Roman coin, 287, dated AD 364–378, which has been perforated twice, probably for suspension. Roman coins are the most common metal pendants on necklets in the Upper Thames region and are occasionally found in bags within graves (Dickinson 1976, 213, 239).

Two knives were recovered, 194 and 200. They are of Böhner's type A, in common use from the 5th to 7th centuries (Böhner 1958, 214). A well used whetstone, 435, of a type of Old Red Sandstone found in the Monmouthshire area, was also found. There were two fragments of quernstones, 411 and 418, one in a local shelly limestone and the other in Upper Old Red Sandstone of a type found around the Forest of Dean.

The only artefact specifically associated with textile manufacture is a fragment of a spindlewhorl, 443. However, there is a pierced pig fibula pin, 359, of the type common to the site, which may have been used in textile production. There is also a fragment of an antler comb, 334, which has been drilled for suspension. There are two other antler objects, 382 and 384; both are utilised tines. The point of 382 has been sharpened and it has been pierced for suspension, probably for use as a peg. The tip of 384 has been removed and it has been hollowed at one end. There has been an attempt to hollow out the other end but this was abandoned. It was probably intended for use as a handle. A fragment of worked bone, 386, is broken at both ends but one end has been pared down.

Number 221, an iron rod with two looped terminals one of which is broken, is similar to objects described as links from snaffle bits. Another similar object, 220, comes from the Anglo-Saxon fill of barrow 12. Two-linked snaffle bits were used in Britain in the Iron Age and throughout the Roman period (Manning 1985, 66), and other examples have been found on the Anglo-Saxon site at Shakenoak (Brodribb *et al.* 1972, fig. 39, 168–170).

There are two gaming pieces, 72 and 74, both made from sherds of Roman pots. Number 73 is a modified complete base of a Roman mortarium.

**Layer 1**

221 SF 1248 **Iron hook** Length 72 mm. Rod with square cross-section curved at one end to form an open-ended loop. Other end bent but now broken.

267 SF 1241 **Iron strip** Length 60 mm, width 9 mm, thickness 6 mm. Rectangular cross-section. (Not illustrated)

359 SF 1249 **Bone pin** Length 99 mm. Made from a pig fibula perforated at the proximal end. Polished.

SFB 43  
F 4666

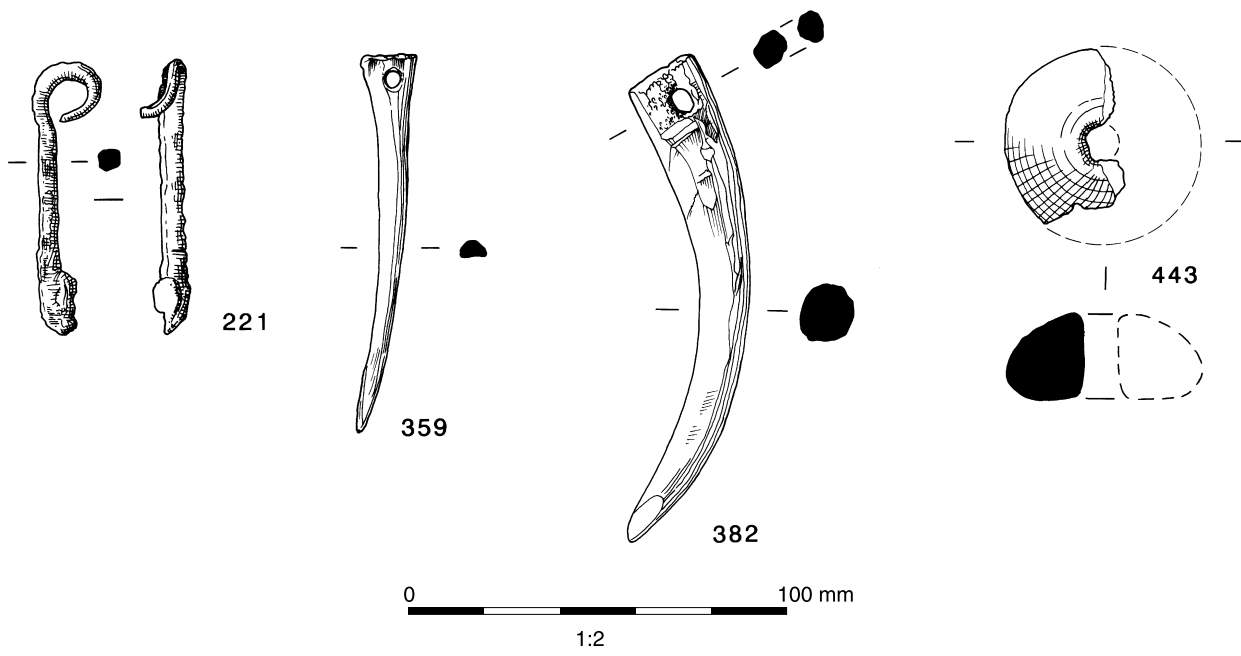
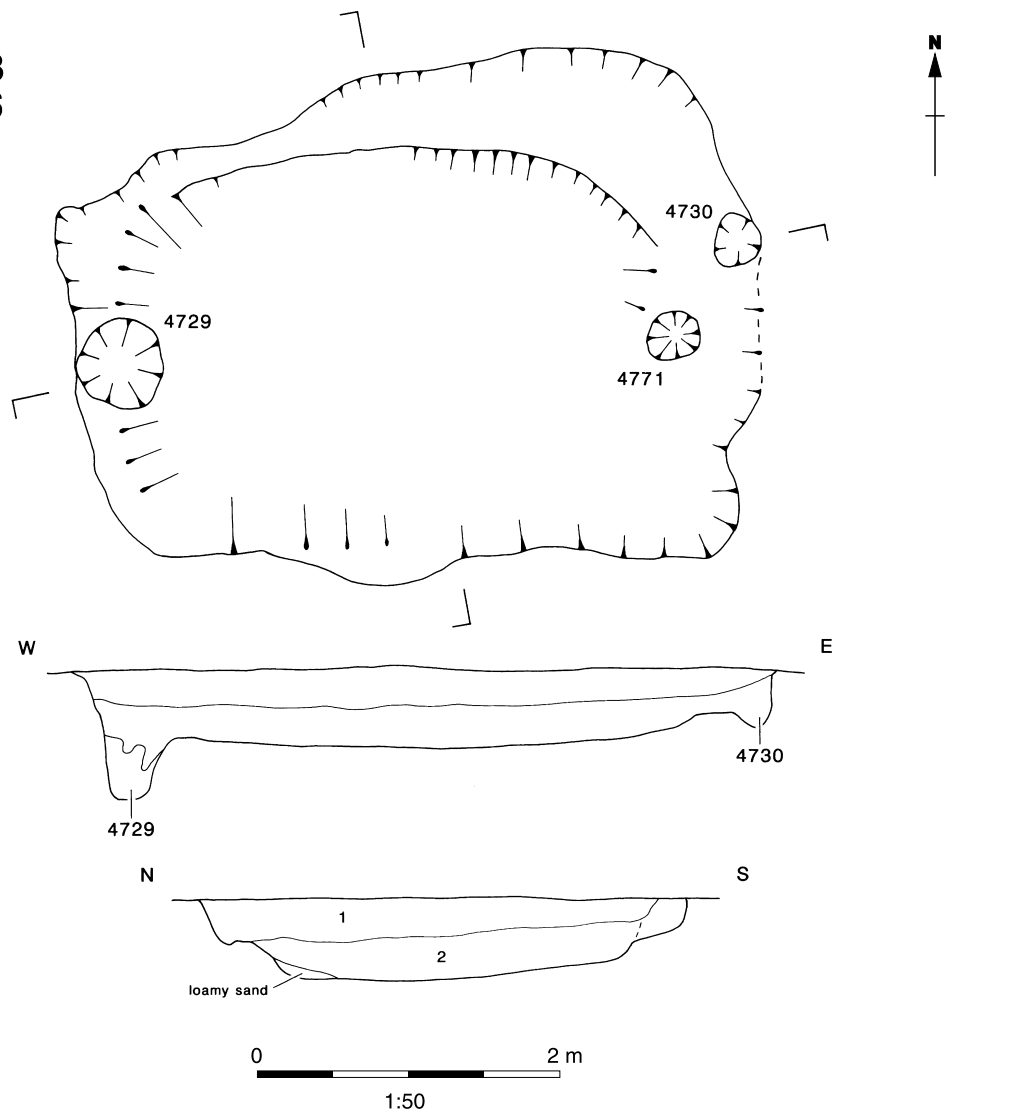


Figure 3.98 Sunken-featured building 43 and artefacts.

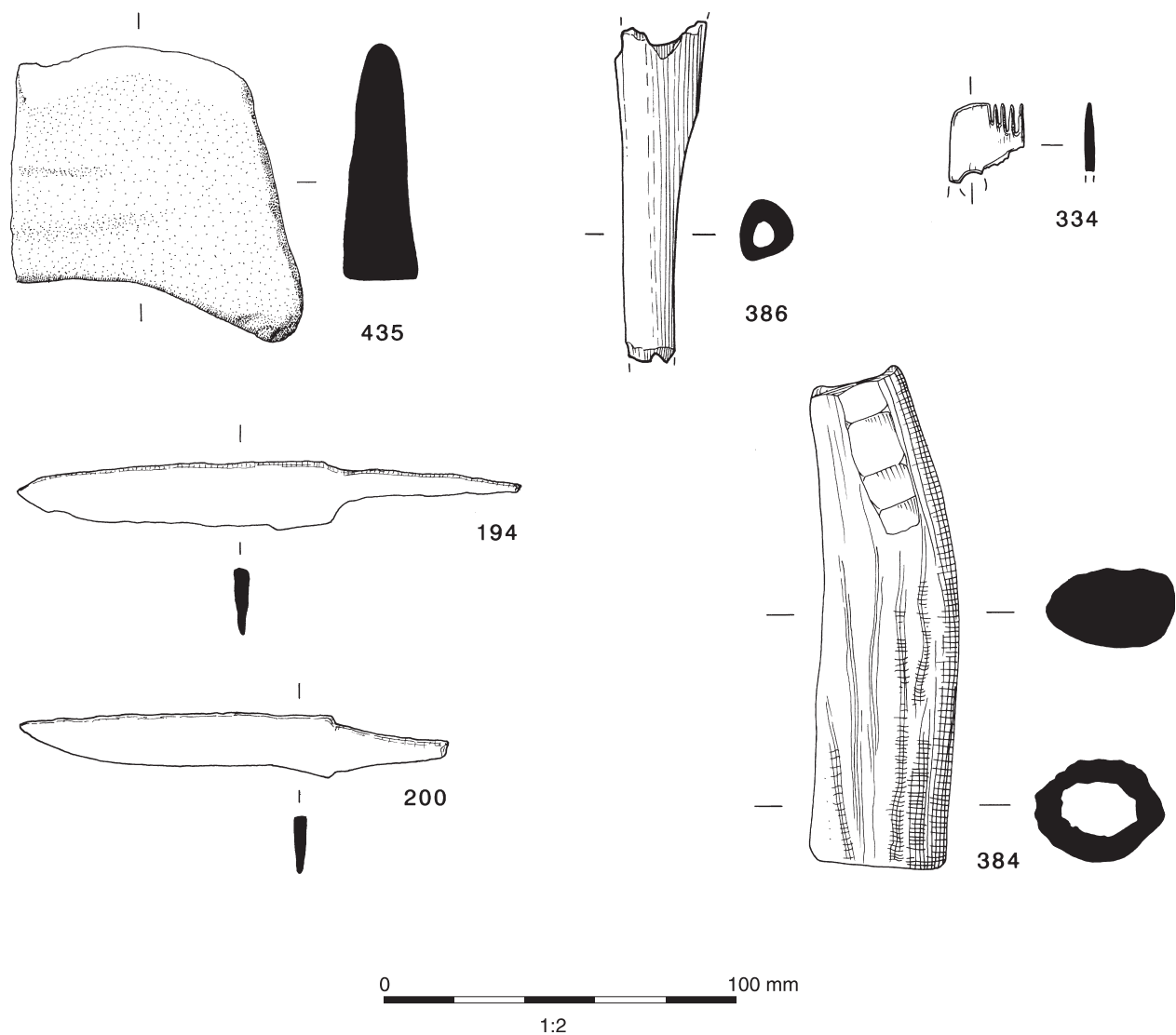


Figure 3.99 Sunken-featured building 43 artefacts continued.

382 SF 1239 **Antler peg** Length 130 mm. Tine which has been pared down and polished. The tip has been sharpened. It has been sawn from the beam, split part way down and perforated.

443 SF 1278 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 50 mm. Fragment of a hemispherical whorl with convex upper and flat lower surfaces approx. 32%. Tapering hole, max diameter of hole 11.5 mm. Estimated weight 84.34 g.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 72** SF 1238 Ceramic counter Diameter 20 mm. Made from a body sherd in greyware, fabric 2. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 73** SF 1480 Diameter 60 mm. Modified foot-ring base of a mortarium in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

435 SF 1243 **Whetstone** Length 110 mm. Fragment of a flat worked stone. Signs of wear on

all faces. Fine-grained reddish brown sandstone with mica, similar to Brownstones of the Lower Old Red Sandstone of eg Monmouthshire.

439 SF 1245 **Worked stone** Length 104 mm. Rectangular flat fragment. Reddish-brown, feldspathic, coarse-grained, probably Old Red Sandstone. (Not illustrated)

411 SF 1247 **Rotary quern** Length 72 mm. Fragment of coarse-grained sandstone conglomerate, red and feldspathic. ?Upper Old Red Sandstone from Welsh Borders/Forest of Dean. (Not illustrated)

386 SF 1528 **Worked bone** Length 99 mm, width 30 mm. Broken at both ends. One end has been pared down.

418 SF 1242 **Rotary quern** Length 108 mm. Fragment of shelly limestone, local Corallian. (Not illustrated)



**Layer 2**

- 287 SF 1252 **Bronze coin** Gratian. Reverse, GLORIA NOVI SAECULI. Minted at Arles. Denomination 3. AD 364–378 Perforated twice. (Not illustrated)
- 194 SF 1253 **Iron knife** Blade, Length 89 mm, Width 18 mm, Thickness 4 mm. Blade point central, inclined back, angled back slope and curved leading edge The cutting edge is worn (type A.1.b). Tang, length 55 mm, set just below blade back, sloping shoulders, bent.
- 200 SF 1255 **Iron knife** Blade, Length 89 mm, Width 17 mm, Thickness 2.5 mm. The blade point is central, inclined back with angled back slope and curved leading edge. Groove along one side of the blade. The cutting edge is worn (type A.2.b). Tang, length 33 mm, set just below back, sloping shoulders.
- 334 SF 1250 **Antler comb** Length 21 mm. Fragment from a rectangular end plate with graduated teeth and part of a hole for suspension.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 74** SF 1251 Ceramic counter. Diameter 40 mm. Modified base of a beaker in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 3**

- 384 SF 1254 **Worked antler** Length 140 mm. Tine, the tip and beam detached by sawing. The tip has been slightly pared down on one face and is partly hollowed. The beam end is hollow.

**Posthole 4729**

Decorated body sherd.

**Pottery tpq 5th century?**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	2330	571	1423	20	51	52	6	86.0	14.0	4453
2	246	297	841	13	8	0	0	78.9	21.1	1405
Total wt (g)	2576	868	2264	33	59	52	6			5858
Mean sherd wt	38.4	24.1	17.2	8.3	8.4	13.0	6.0			

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

Layer/Quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	2891	214	941	407	4453
2	0	813	0	592	1405
Total wt (g)	2891	1027	941	999	5858
% of total	49.4	17.5	16.1	17.1	

EVE: Jars = 2.87; Bowls = 0.16.

Two sherds, line-and-dot decoration (D/2, F1, 14 g, B/1, F1, 4 g).

Two pedestal base sherds (C/1, F1, 17 g; C/1, F1, 40 g).

One near-complete globular jar (A/1, F1, 1867 g, rim 91% complete).

*Illustrations*

- 3.100.218 Line-and-dot decorated sherd. Uniform black fabric. Highly burnished outer surface.
- 3.100.219 Rim sherd from large jar. Black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.100.220 Rim sherd from small jar. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.100.221 Rim sherd from bowl. Black fabric with unfinished surfaces.
- 3.100.222 Rim sherd from small bowl. Black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.100.223 Pedestal base. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.100.224 Pedestal base. Dark grey fabric with dark brown surfaces.
- 3.100.225 Near complete jar. Black fabric with smoothed and lightly burnished surfaces.

The sherds with line-and-dot decoration (Fig. 3.100.218) are probably early in date. The upper layers of the feature are contaminated, and a sherd of late medieval Cistercian ware was also present, but the larger line-and-dot sherd is from the lower layer of the fill, and the features therefore have a *terminus post quem* of the 5th century.

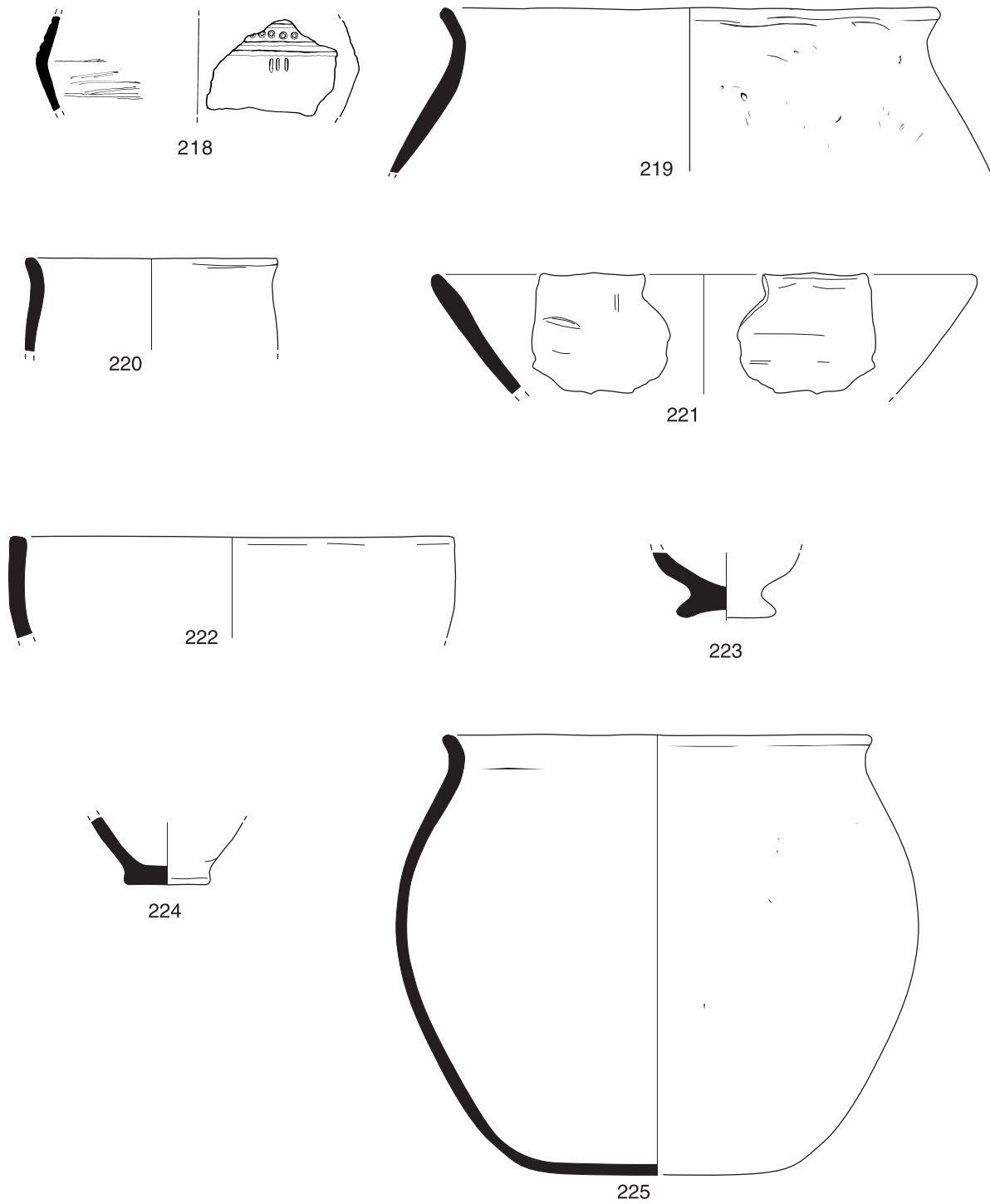
**SFB 44**

Context 4773; Grid reference: 51260 98122; Figure 3.101; Site plan: C6; Orientation: not known – possibly NE/SW; Length at surface: >2.75 m; Distance between postholes: not known; Width: >2.1 m; Depth: 0.14 m.

**Description**

SFB 44 was c 35 m north-west of ring ditch 801, 50 m west of the Romano-British cemetery. The feature appears to represent the bottom of a denuded sunken-featured building, better preserved on the east than

Excavations at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire, 1983-5



0 100 mm  
1:3

Figure 3.100 Sunken-featured building 43 pottery.

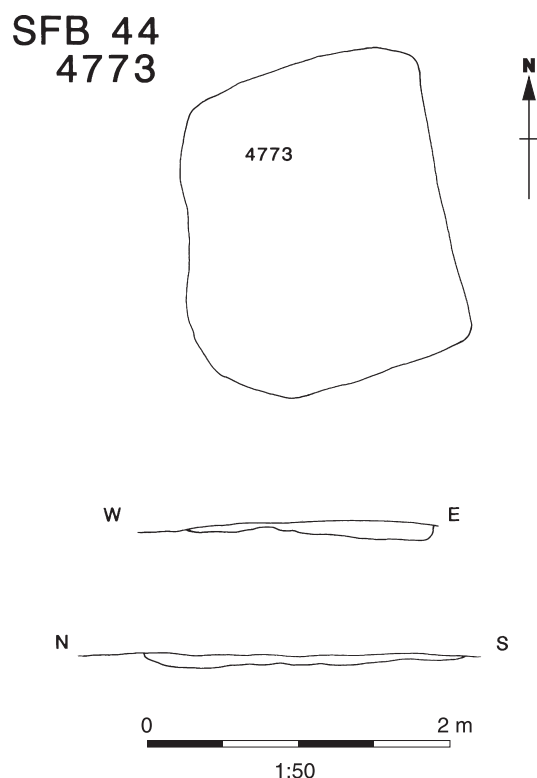


Figure 3.101 Sunken-featured building 44.

on the west side. No postholes survived and the fill consisted of dark grey brown loam with 30% gravel.

#### Finds

There were no finds.

#### Pottery

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

Layer/ Fabric*	F1	F2	F3	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	76	76	6	4	53.1	46.9	162
Mean sherd wt	10.9	12.7	6	4			

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

Quadrant*	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
Total wt (g)	9	50	103	0	162
% of total	5.6	30.9	63.6	0	

\* some of the pottery from this feature was not ascribed a layer by the excavators.

EVE: Jars = 0.05; Bowls = 0.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

#### SFB 45

Context 4865; Grid reference: 51401 98086; Figures 3.102–3; Site plan: I7; Orientation: ENE/WSW; Length at surface: 4.0 m; Distance between postholes: 3.6 m; Width: 2.2 m; Depth: 0.44 m.

#### Description

SFB 45 was c 20 m south-east of barrow 13. The pit was neatly sub-rectangular, with well defined corners and postholes 4876 and 4875 projecting slightly beyond the centres of the east-north-east and west-south-west ends.

Six layers were recorded, although they were excavated as three:

- 1 dark brown grey loam with stones and gravel.
- 2 dark brown grey clayey loam with stones and gravel. These layers were removed together and finds labelled as layer 1.
- 3 sandy brown loam with gravel. (Finds from this layer were labelled as layer 2).
- 4 dark brown silty loam with flecks of charcoal and gravel.
- 5 very dark brown silty loam with gravel, lumps of greenish yellow clay and many charcoal flecks. (Finds from layers 4 and 5 were labelled as layer 3).
- 8 dark brown grey clay loam with 10% gravel which filled a small pit cut into the centre of the feature; the pit contained a cattle skull and was sealed by 1.

According to the section the posts remained *in situ* while the pit filled.

#### Finds

Four finds were recovered, including a nail shank, 268, and a fragmentary fitting, 225, similar to one from SFB 3 (224). The two remaining finds are both connected with the manufacture of textiles. Number 344 is a spindlewhorl and 353 a pin beater used for separating warp threads on a warp-weighted loom.

#### Layer 1

353 SF 1280 **Bone pin beater** Length 77 mm, diameter 8 mm. Polished shaft with circular cross-section. Pointed at both ends.

#### Layer 2

225 SF 1263 **Iron fitting** Length 70 mm. Bent rod with V-shaped cross-section and arms of unequal length. (Not illustrated)

268 SF 1262 **Iron nail** Length 55 mm. Shank with rectangular cross-section. (Not illustrated)

#### Layer 3

344 SF 1264 **Bone spindlewhorl** Diameter 32 mm. Hemispherical with flattened top and bottom and convex sides. Made from a large femur head, polished with central hole diameter 9 mm. Turned. Decorated with shallow concentric circles, worn on the base. Weight 29.08 g.

SFB 45  
4865

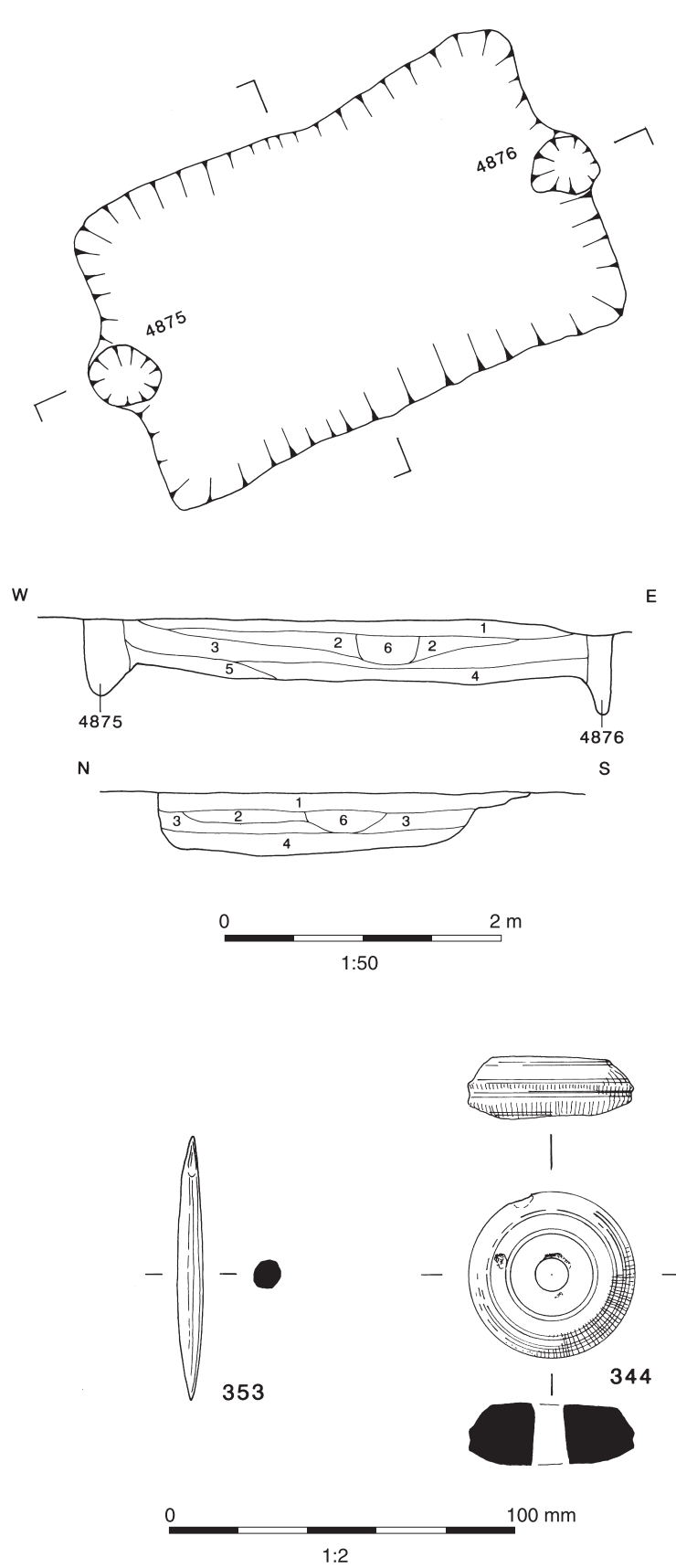


Figure 3.102 Sunken-featured building 45 and artefacts.

**Pottery tpq 6th century**

*Pottery occurrence per layer by fabric type.*

Layer/ Fabric	F1	F2	F3	F5	F6	F7	% mineral	% chaff	Total wt (g)
1	192	539	328	38	9	44	52.3	47.7	1150
2	86	222	184	0	0	1	55.0	45.0	493
3	7	170	677	0	366	4	56.2	43.8	1224
4	0	23	37	0	0	0	61.7	38.3	60
8	0	13	30	0	0	15	77.6	22.4	58
Total wt (g)	285	967	1256	38	375	64			2985
Mean sherd wt	7.7	17.6	16.7	38.0	187.5	8.0			

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

Layer/ quadrant	A	B	C	D	Total wt (g)
1	587	6	373	184	1150
2	122	29	71	271	493
3	383	515	0	329	1227
4	0	43	0	17	60
8	0	45	0	13	58
Total wt (g)	1092	638	444	814	2988
% of total	36.5	21.4	14.9	27.2	

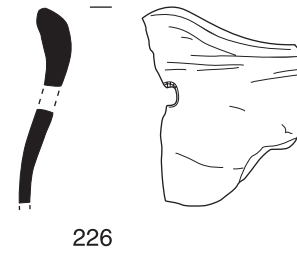
EVE: Jars = 0.60; Bowls = 0.63.

One sherd, stabbed pendant triangles (A/1, F2, 145 g).

One incised sherd (A/2, F1, 5 g).

One rusticated sherd (D/3, F3, 19 g).

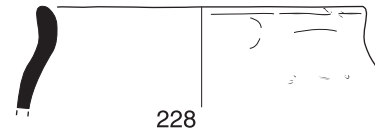
Cross-fits: A/2 = A/3 = B/3 = B/4 = C/1, A/3 = D/3, B/3 = D/4.



226



227



228



Figure 3.103 Sunken-featured building 45 pottery.

*Illustrations*

- 3.103.226 Upright lug. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.103.227 Bowl rim. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.103.228 Jar rim. Black fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.

The stamped sherds indicate a *terminus post quem* in the 6th century.



## Gazetteer 3: Anglo-Saxon Inhumations

*By Ellen McAdam*

### GRAVE 5004

Grid ref.: 51408 98110; Figure 3.104

Grave 5004 was on the south-west side of pond barrow 4866. The cut was shallow and may have been inserted in a bank which was subsequently denuded by ploughing. It contained the SW/NE inhumation of an adult female over 45 years of age in a sub-rectangular pit 1.63 m × 0.77 m × 0.22 m deep.

The upper level of the pond barrow contained a single Romano-British sherd, Anglo-Saxon sherds and the almost complete skeleton of a dog.

Good preservation, head south-west 266° on left side facing north; trunk on back, left hand over left pelvis, right arm straight with hand by knees, legs flexed.

Small iron knife (201) by left hip, small iron buckle at waist (180) and bronze pin (141) with traces of mineralised cloth at the throat.

### Finds

Grave 5004 contained three artefacts. A copper alloy pin, 141, with a flat perforated head is of a late 6th- to early 7th-century type. Other examples have come from a late 6th- or 7th-century context at Colchester (Crummy 1988, 6, fig. 2.3) and West Stow (West 1985, fig. 266.6, fig. 246.3). An iron buckle, 180, has a simple D-shaped frame and a knife, 201, is of

Böhner's type A in use from the 5th to the 7th centuries (Böhner 1958, 214).

141 SF 1266 **Copper alloy pin** Length 57 mm. Made from a wire with circular cross-section. One end has been flattened and filed to form a flat circular head which has been perforated. Diameter of hole 1.5 mm.

180 SF 1267 **Iron buckle** Length 27 mm. Single sided D-shaped frame with circular cross-section. Iron pin. Mineralised textile in top of pin.

201 SF 1265 **Iron knife** Fragmentary blade width 14 mm, thickness 2 mm. Blade point central, straight back, convex back slope, angled leading edge. (Type A.2.c). Tang length 30 mm, set just below blade back, sloping shoulders.

### GRAVE 4562

Newborn infant inhumation burial, disturbed by an animal burrow. The infant lay in a shallow cut 0.4 × 0.2 × 0.1 m in the bottom of the south side of SFB 32 (4558), oriented east-west. The backfill over the burial consisted of sand from the side of the sunken-featured building cut mixed with gravelly loam. Skull at east end of grave, much of body missing. No grave goods.

# Anglo-Saxon Grave 5004

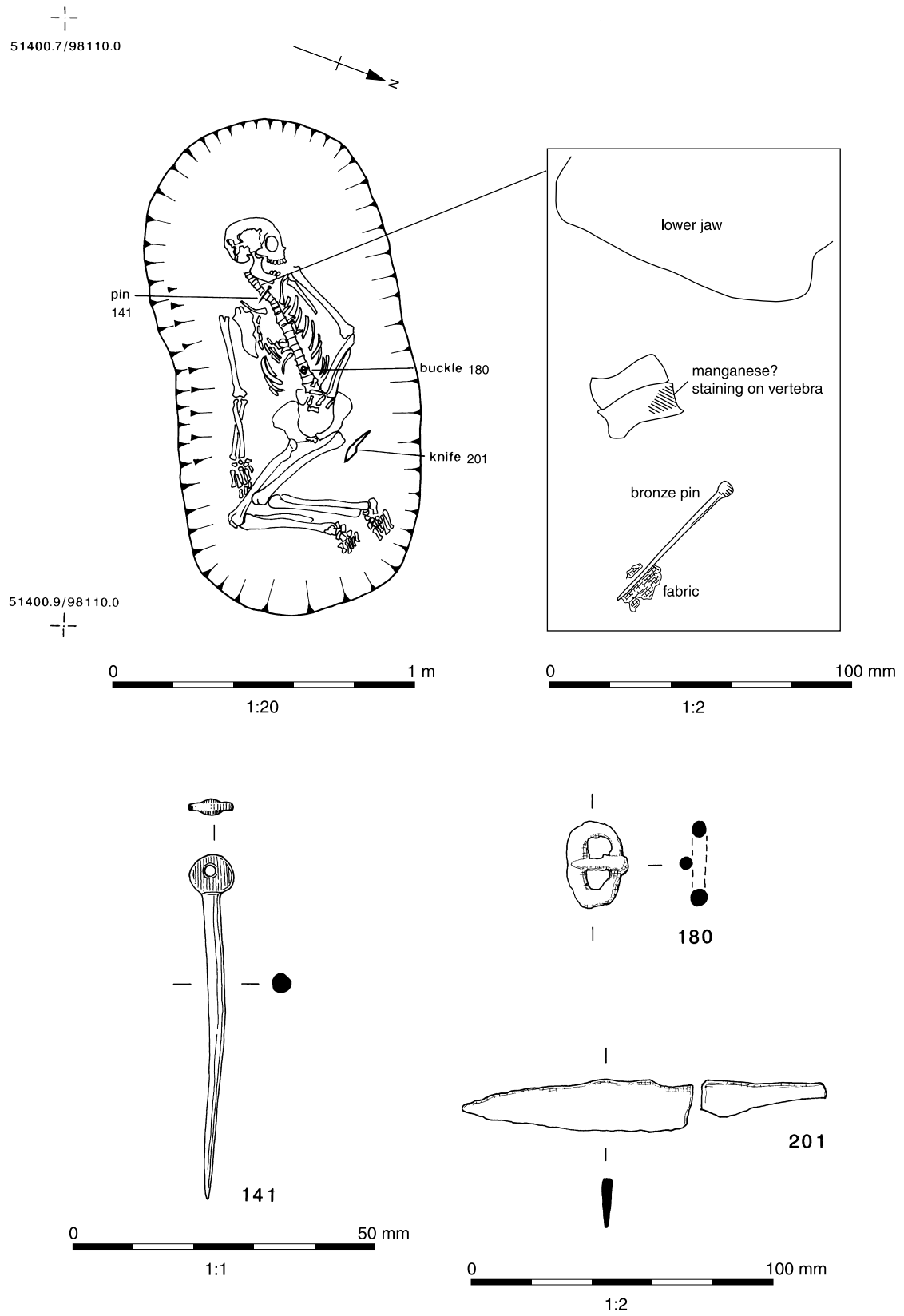


Figure 3.104 Anglo-Saxon grave 5004.



# Gazetteer 4: Anglo-Saxon Finds from Pits, Barrow Ditches and Miscellaneous Contexts

By Ellen McAdam

## PITS

**3297** Grid reference: 51275 98122; Site plan: C6c; Length: 1.26 m; Width: 0.97 m; Depth: 0.36 m

Oval pit *c* 15 m south-west of SFB 19  
576 SF 1601 <100 g fired clay. (Not illustrated)

**3519** Grid reference: 51264 98159; Figure 3.106; Site plan: C6c; Length: 2.2 m; Width: 1.8 m; Depth: 0.13 m

Shallow irregular scoop *c* 15 m north-west of SFB 19.

433 SF 1037 **Whetstone** Length 85 mm. Fragment with very heavy wear on all four faces giving a waisted profile. Fine grained reddish-brown sandstone with mica. Similar to Brownstones, Lower Old Red Sandstone from eg Monmouthshire.

**3551** Grid reference: 51267 98148; Site plan: C6c; Length: 3.56 m; Width: 1.5 m; Depth: 0.58 m

Irregular pit *c* 15 m south-west of SFB 19.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 53** SF 1502 Diameter 50 mm. Fragment of a cut down foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**3578** Grid reference: 512470 98148; Site plan: D4c; Length: 1.75 m; Width: 1.2 m; Depth: 0.36 m

Oval pit *c* 2 m north of SFBs 20 and 21. Produced Anglo-Saxon pottery and reused Roman sherd.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 54** SF 1484 Diameter 70 mm. Complete cut down foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**4664** Grid reference: 51290 98025; Site plan: D9c; Length: 1.1 m; Width: 0.8 m; Depth: 0.26 m

Pit 0.75 m north of SFB 41.

3.107.261 Jar with *hängende Bogen* decoration. Dark brown fabric with smoothed and burnished surfaces.

**4798** Grid reference: 51341 98159; Site plan: F6c; Length: 1.43 m; Width: 1.3 m; Depth: 0.32 m

Approximately circular pit on west side of complex of scoops 4786, 0.6 m south-east of SFB 43.

368 SF 1279 **Bone pin** Length 90 mm. Made from a pig fibula, polished. Broken across perforation. Tip missing. (Not illustrated)

**4829** Grid reference: 51349 98159; Figure 3.106; Site plan: F6c, G6c; Length: 1.75 m; Width: 1.6 m; Depth: 0.42 m

Pit *c* 10 m east-south-east of SFB 43.

331 SF 1261 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Width 30 mm. Two fragments of a tooth segment with teeth averaging 5 per cm on one side and 9 per cm on the other. (Not illustrated)

449 SF 1662 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 120 mm. Fragment approx. 35% Estimated weight 425.06 g.

450 SF 1259 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 120 mm. Fragment approx. 48% Estimated weight 281.3 g.

## ANGLO-SAXON FILLS OF PREHISTORIC BARROW DITCHES

### Neolithic oval barrow

Contexts 2004 (ploughsoil from clearance over and around the barrow), 1926 (relic stream course to the south-west), upper fills of inner (2060) and outer (2061) ditches Grid ref.: 51244 98195 Figures 3.105 and 108 (relic stream course), 3.109 (outer barrow ditch), 3.110 (inner barrow ditch) (Bradley 1992, 127–43; Barclay and Halpin 1999, 19–28).

SFB 9 was cut into the centre of the oval barrow and damaged the north-east end of the barrow grave. The pit was shallow to the point of non-existence, and Bradley has argued from this that a barrow mound at least 0.22 m high (probably more; see Chapter 3, Depths) was still standing when the SFB was constructed (1992, 133). SFB 12 was immediately to the east of the east corner of the barrow.

Saxon pottery was found in 2004, ploughsoil from clearance over and around the barrow, and 1926, said to be a relic stream course to the south-west of the barrow, as well as in the upper fills of the inner (2060) and outer ditches (2061) of the oval barrow. It was concentrated at the north corner (ditch sections 2061/J and Z and 2060/Z) and in the centre of the north-east side of the outer ditch (2061/K and D).

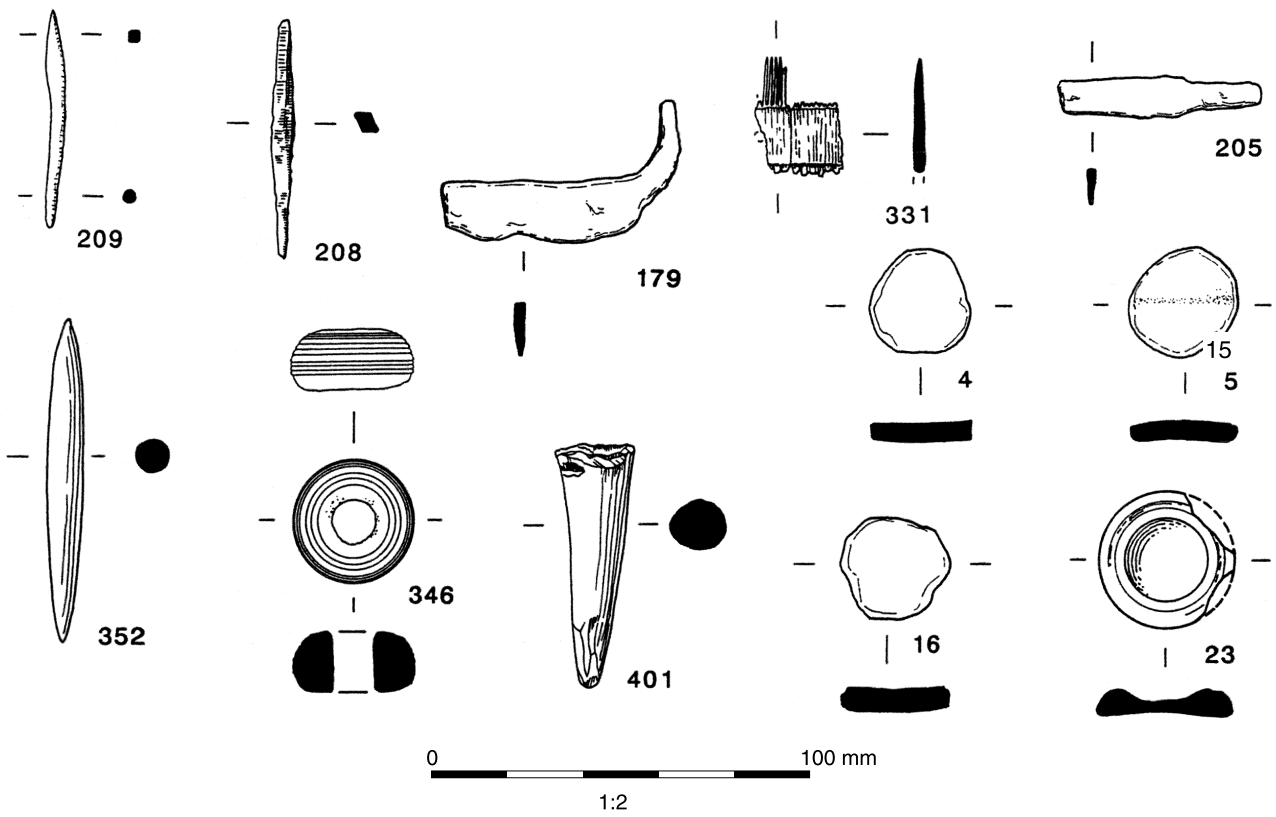
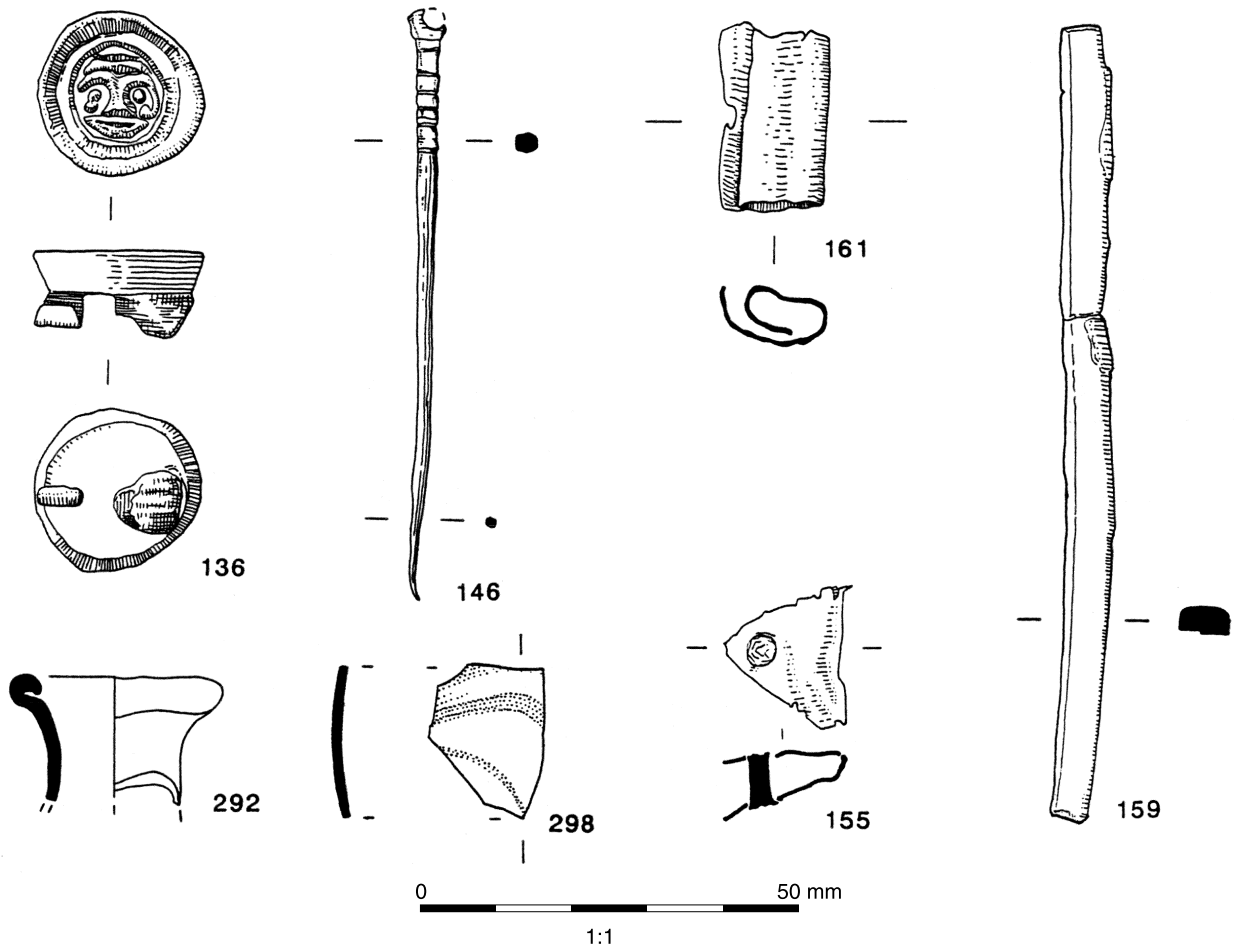


Figure 3.105 Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds from pits, unstratified and miscellaneous contexts and topsoil.

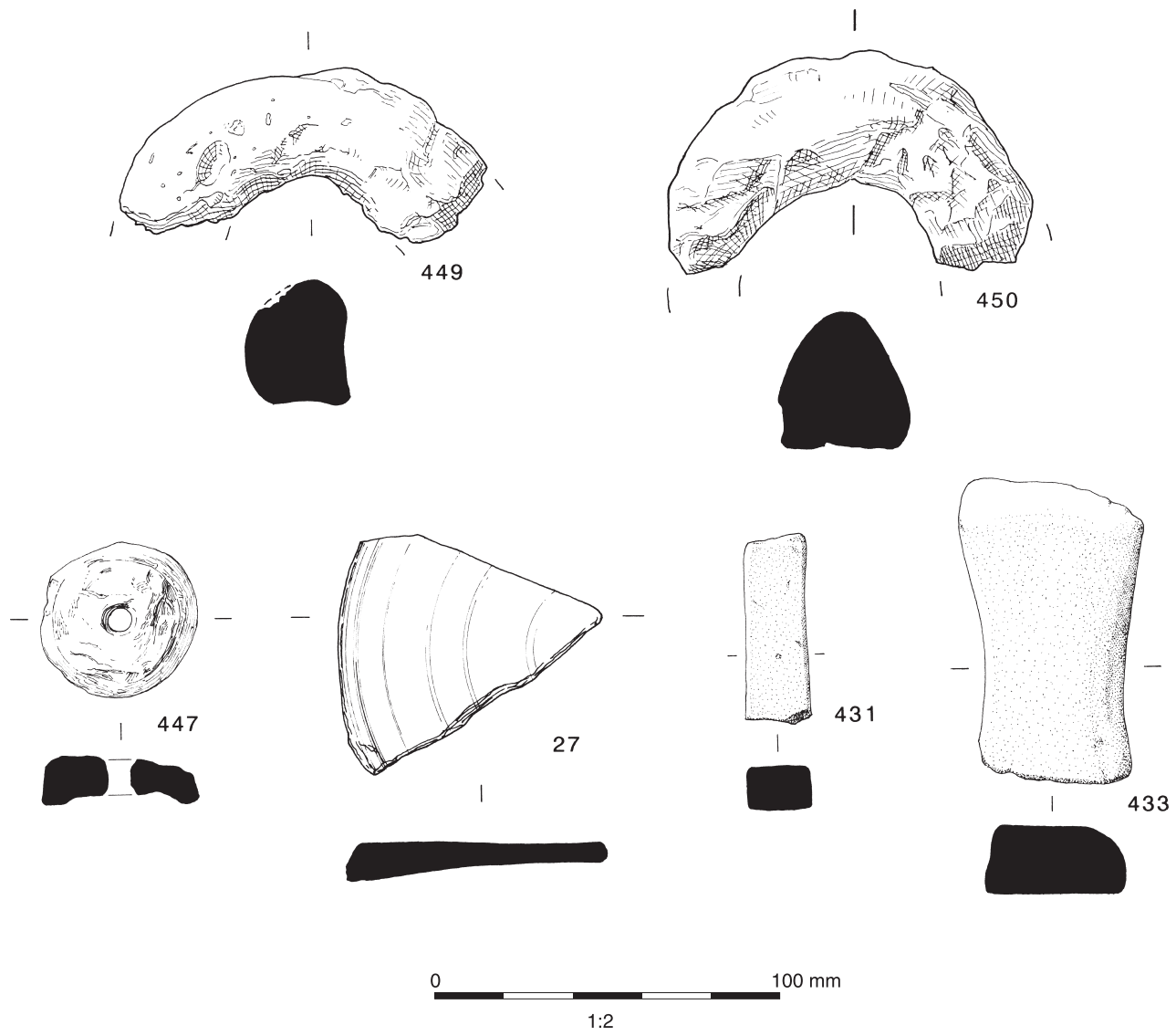


Figure 3.106 Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds from pits, unstratified and miscellaneous contexts and topsoil continued.

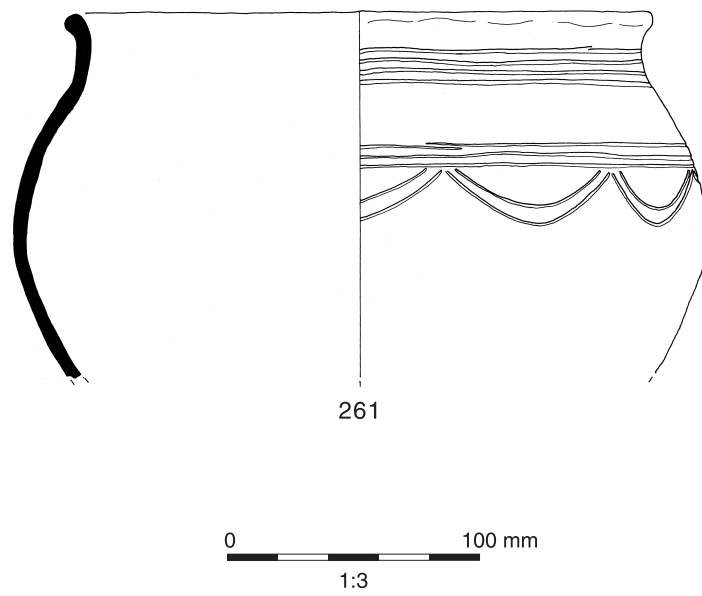


Figure 3.107 Pit 4664 pottery.

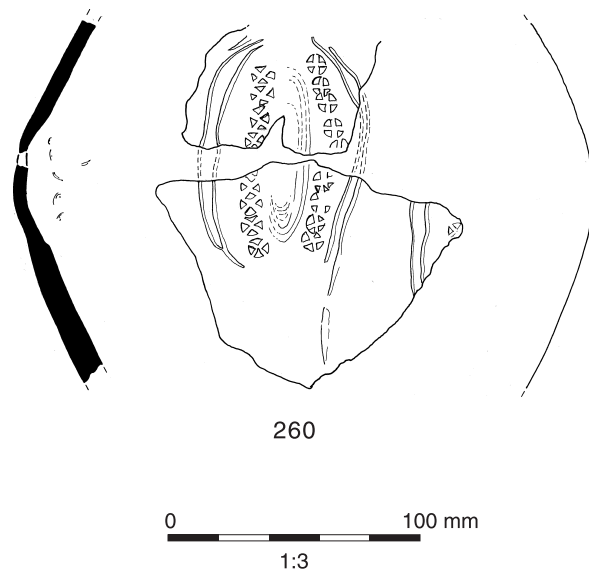
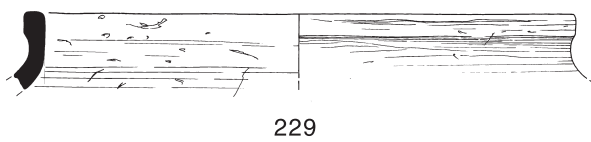


Figure 3.108 Relic stream course pottery.

Very little Saxon material occurred in the remaining ditch sections. These two concentrations may represent deliberate dumping into the stable hollows of the barrow ditches, possibly from occupation outside the area of the 1983–5 excavations, since neither is



231



Figure 3.109 Oval barrow outer ditch pottery.

immediately next to the two sunken-featured buildings in the area. There were no small finds from these dumps, and apparently little animal bone.

#### Relic stream course

Context 1926.

#### Finds

401 SF 1530 **Worked antler** Length 62 mm. Hacked off tine with pared down point. Figure 3.105.

#### Pottery

3.108.260 **Bossed and stamped vessel.** Grey fabric, surfaces slightly abraded.

#### Pottery (outer ditch 2061) tpq 5th/6th century

Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per fabric type per excavated segment.

Context	F1	F2	F3	F6	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
2061/C	0	2	0	0	2	0.2
2061/D	15	74	0	0	89	6.9
2061/E	0	14	0	0	14	1.1
2061/H	3	0	0	0	3	0.2
2061/I	64	25	11	21	121	9.4
2061/J	10	441	0	0	451	35.0
2061/K	21	0	0	0	21	1.6
2061/L	0	18	0	0	18	1.4
2061/N	0	8	0	0	8	0.6
2061/P	4	0	0	0	4	0.3
2061/Q	16	3	0	0	19	1.5
2061/V	0	41	0	0	41	3.2
2061/Z	0	499	0	0	499	38.7
<b>Total wt (g)</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1290</b>	
<b>%</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>		
<b>Mean sherd wt</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>		

EVE: Jars = 0.49; Bowls = 0.

One incised sherd (Q/1, F1, 11 g).

One rusticated sherd (Z/1, F1, 37 g).

Pierced sherd (I/1, F3, 8 g).

Cross-fits: J/1 = Z/1 (x4).

#### Illustrations

- 3.109.229 Rim sherd. Dark grey fabric with smooth dark brown outer surface.  
 3.109.230 Rusticated sherd. Black fabric with dark brown outer surface.  
 3.109.231 Stamped sherd. Dark grey fabric with smooth black outer surface.

**Pottery (inner ditch 2060)**

Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per excavated segment per fabric type.

Context	F1	F2	F3	F6	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
2060/A	9	0	0	0	9	10.2
2060/I	0	41	0	0	41	46.6
2060/L	8	0	0	0	8	9.1
2060/Z	4	26	0	0	30	34
Total wt (g)	21	67	0	0	88	
%	23.9	76.1	0	0		
Mean sherd wt	7.0	22.3	0	0		

EVE: Jars = 0.05; Bowls = 0.

*Illustrations*

3.110.232 Jar rim, uniform dark grey fabric.

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

**BARROW 1**

Context 1; Grid ref.: 51419 98190; Figures 3.111 and 3.113 (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 141–8).

Barrow 1 was on the east of the excavated area next to Wick Hall Drive, at the south-west end of the linear group of barrows. Layers 2 and 3 produced Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and small finds, including a clay pipe fragment from layer 2. These layers probably represent deliberate Anglo-Saxon dumping into the open barrow ditches, with plough disturbance in layer 2. The density of finds was very low and the ditch was not fully excavated.

*Finds*

Six small finds were recovered. These included two Roman coins, 284 and 285, both of mid 4th-century date, a fragment of worked bone 385, a reused half base of a Roman pot, 2, a ceramic gaming piece, 3, and 621, a clay pipe fragment.

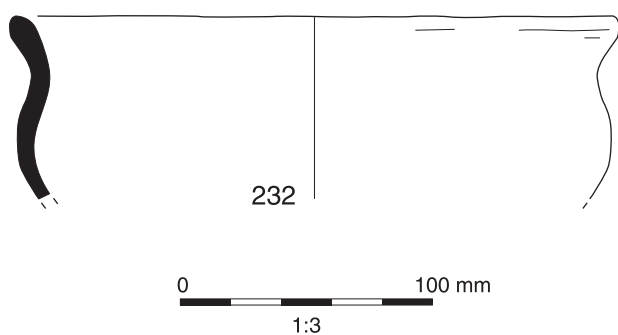


Figure 3.110 Oval barrow inner ditch pottery.

**Layer 2**

621 SF 1514 **Clay pipe fragment.** (Not illustrated)  
285 SF 503 **Bronze coin** Obverse GLORIA ROMANORUM. Minted Trier? Denomination 3. AD 364–378 (Not illustrated)

385 SF 1657 **Worked bone** Length 91 mm. Fragment of a tibia. Broken at both ends. One end has been pared down.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 2** SF 1477 Diameter 50 mm. Modified half base of a beaker in Oxford fine white ware, fabric 11. (Not illustrated)

**Layer 3**

**Reused Roman sherd no. 3** SF 1468 Diameter 25 mm. Made from a modified body sherd in grey ware fabric 2.

284 SF 504 **Bronze coin** Imitation. Constantius. Reverse FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Mint illegal. Denomination 4. c 348–360. (Not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 6th century**

Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per fabric type per excavated segment.

Context	F1	F2	F3	F6	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
1/B	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
1/D	0	0	2	0	2	0.7
1/E	114	0	0	0	114	41.9
1/F	1	11	0	0	12	4.4
1/G	2	0	0	0	2	0.7
1/H	0	0	0	6	6	2.2
1/J	0	73	0	42	115	42.3
1/K	0	0	20	0	20	7.3
Total wt (g)	117	85	22	48	272	
%	43.0	31.3	8.1	17.6		
Mean sherd wt	4.2	21.3	11.0	6.0		

EVE: Jars = 0.37; Bowls = 0.

Two stamped sherds (E/2 and E/3, F1, 78 g; J/3, F2, 1 g).

Incised sherds, (J/3, F6, 12 g; 31 g).

Cross fits: E/2 = E/3.

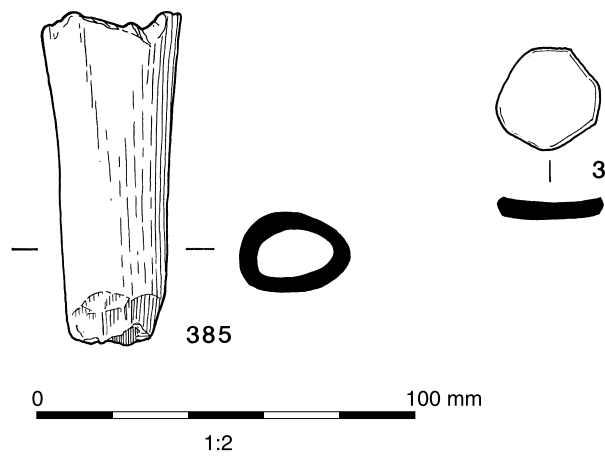
*Illustrations*

3.113.233 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

3.113.234 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.

The stamped and incised sherds suggest a *terminus post quem* of the 6th century.

Barrow 1



Barrow 12

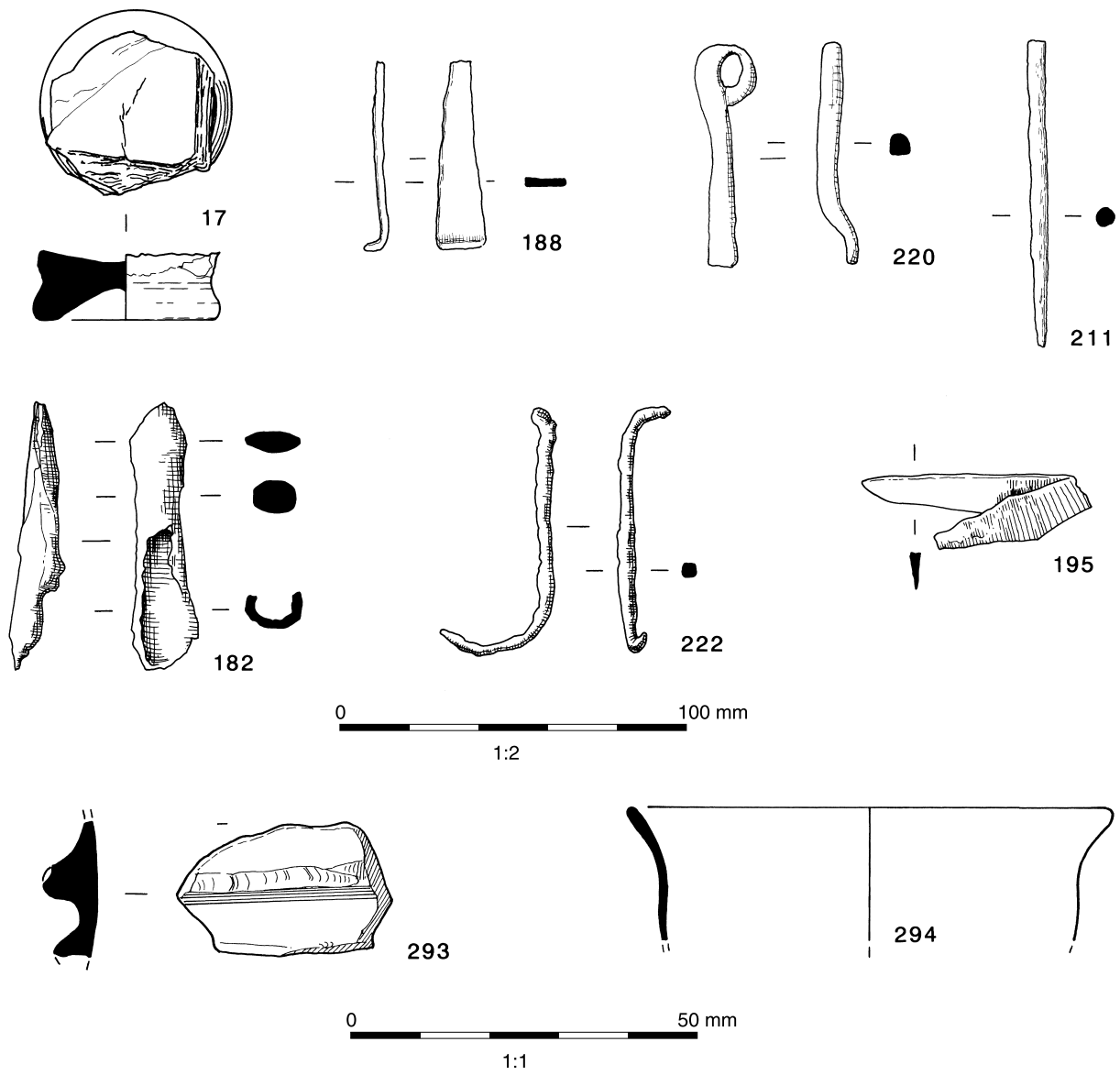


Figure 3.111 Barrows 1 and 12 artefacts.

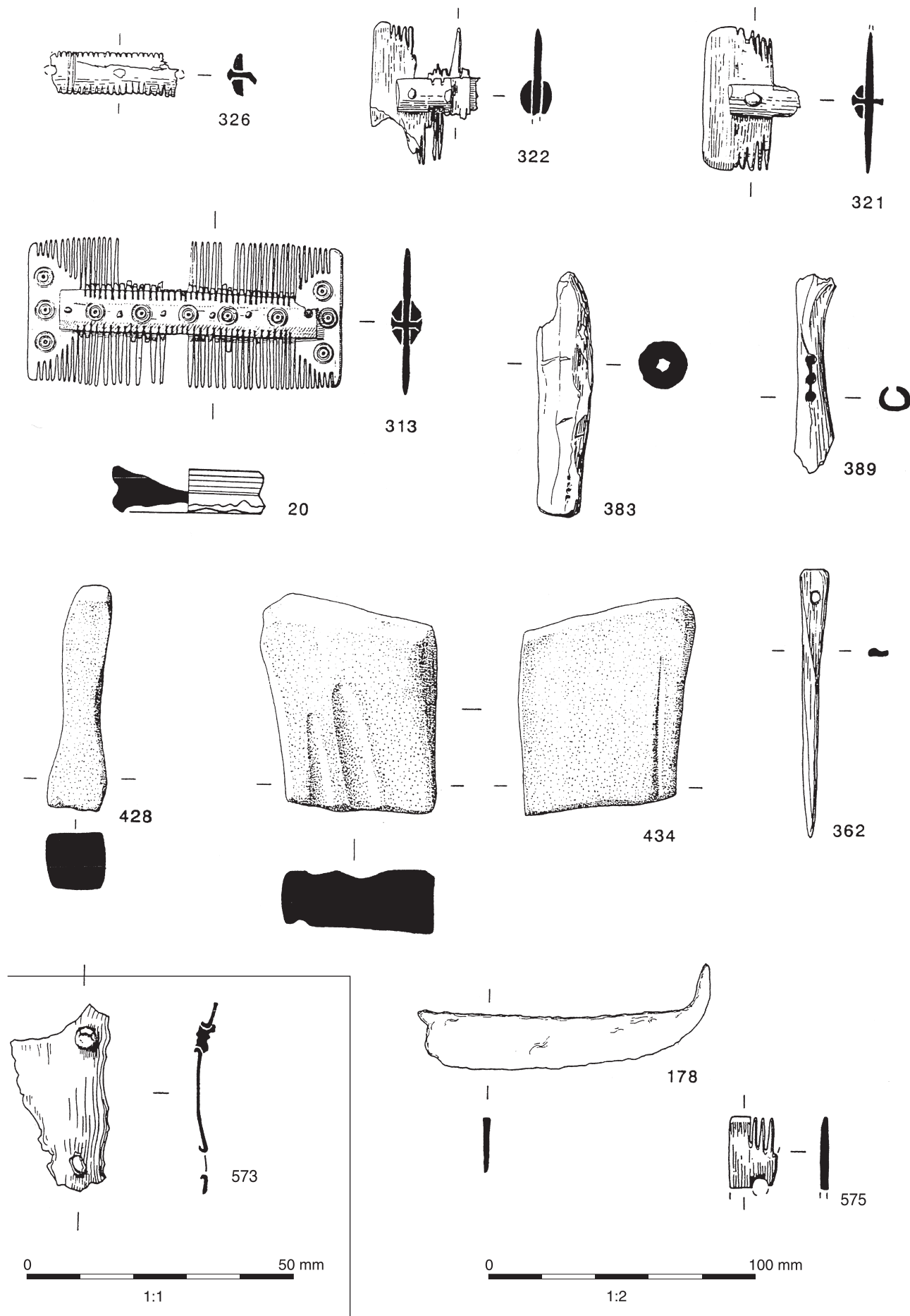


Figure 3.112 Barrow 12 artefacts continued.

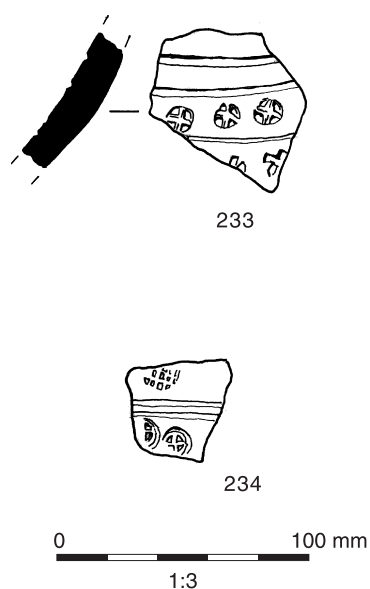


Figure 3.113 Barrow 1 pottery.

## BARROW 12

Context 601 (outer ditch); Grid ref.: 51346 98086; Figures 3.111–2, 3.114; (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 97–111)

Layers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the outer ditch 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 was constructed between the inner ditch 602 and the more substantial outer ditch 601.

### Finds

Forty small finds were recovered. These include three Roman coins: 275, which is very worn, is 3rd-century, 282 is dated to 330–335 and 283 is dated to AD 348–360. There are also fragments of a late Roman bottle, 293, and bowl, 294. There are six fragments of reused Roman pots. Numbers 18 and 19 are complete circles; 20 is a half base; and 19, 21 and 22 are all wedge-shaped pieces. Number 182, a spearhead, is too fragmentary to discern its type. Number 220, a rod with two looped terminals, one of which is broken, is similar to objects described as links from snaffle bits. It is similar to 221 from SFB 44. The complete looped terminal is very worn. Other examples have been found at the Anglo-Saxon site at Shakenoak (Brodribb *et al.* 1972, fig. 39, 168170). Number 212 is another hook-like object with hooks at both ends which are at 90° to each other. It is of unknown function. Number 188 is part of the stem and bit of a barb spring padlock key, similar to examples from Baldock (Manning *et al.* 1986, fig. 68, 559–561).

Number 195 is a knife of Böhner's type A, a type used from the 5th to the 7th centuries (Böhner 1958,

214). There is also a bladed object, 178, which Grainger has identified as a razor, and which he tentatively dates to the 7th–8th centuries. Another possible razor, 179, was found in possible posthole 3835. Although razors are common from Anglian cemeteries such as Spong Hill (Hills *et al.* 1987, figs 98 and 99), the form varies considerably from the Barrow Hills examples. The examples from Barrow Hills are squared off and do not have the looped tangs common on the Anglian types. There are, as yet, no published parallels to these objects from the Upper Thames region.

Two whetstones were also recovered. Number 428 is of Calcareous sandstone, probably of local origin. Number 434 is probably Old Red Sandstone or ?Millstone Grit. Number 428 has had extensive wear, producing a waisted profile. Number 434 has three point or needle sharpening grooves. There are also six fragments of quernstones: 416, 417, 422, 423, 424, and 425.

Evidence for textile manufacture is limited. There is a single iron tooth, 211, from a heckle, used for carding wool or flax fibres prior to spinning. Associated finds are three perforated pig fibula pins 362, 367, and 371. These may have been used for mesh knitting or looped needle netting or in association with a loom. There are fragments of five combs. They are all double sided composite combs, typical of the 5th to 7th centuries. Number 313 is a fine example with well executed ring-and-dot decoration. Number 326 is decorated with two transverse grooves. The remaining combs 321, 322 and 575 are all plain. 383 is a handle made from an antler tine which has been trimmed. The socket at one end was broken in antiquity and a new socket has been formed at the other end. Number 393 is a fragment of a beam which has had the tines removed by sawing. It has been discarded from antler working.

### Unstratified

282 SF 564,  
601/0

**Bronze coin** Obverse Vrbs Roma. Reverse wolf and twins TRP. Mint Trier. Denomination 4. AD 330–335. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 18** SF 1476 Diameter 100 mm. Modified foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

### Layer 1

**Reused Roman sherd no. 17** SF 1457 Diameter 55 mm. Modified foot-ring beaker base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

### Layer 2

625 SF 1505 **Clay pipe fragment.** (Not illustrated)  
283 SF 564 **Bronze coin** Constans. Obverse DN CONSTANS PF AVG. Reverse FEL TEMP REPARATIO (fh). Mint illegal. Denomination 4. AD 348–360 (Not illustrated)



- 182 SF 554 **Iron spearhead** Length 77 mm. Fragmentary blade and open-ended socket.
- 188 SF 657 **Iron barrel padlock key?** Length 53 mm, width 14 mm. Part of a flat stem and fragment of bit.
- 220 SF 550 **Iron snaffle bit** Length 64 mm. Rod with square cross-section curved round to form a loop at one end. The other end was also curved but now broken.
- 211 SF 578 **Iron heckle tooth** Length 90 mm, diameter 4.5 mm. Circular cross-section. The head has a slight lip.
- 222 SF 577 **Iron hook** Length 74 mm. Made from a rod with a square cross-section. Curved at one end to form a hook and bent at the other.
- 195 SF 548 **Iron knife** Blade length 82 mm, width 14 mm, thickness 3 mm, blade point central, inclined back, convex back slope, leading edge curved. Groove down one side of the blade. Cutting edge worn. Bent. (Type A.1.c). Tang length 31 mm, set just below blade back, sloping shoulders.
- 269 SF 1426 **Iron rod** Length 60 mm, thickness 6 mm. Fragment with square cross-section. (Not illustrated)
- 293 SF 663 **Glass bottle** Green heavily bubbled, transparent fragment with the remains of two parallel strengthening ribs. One rib is fractured along most of its surviving length. Late Roman.
- 294 SF 576 **Glass bowl** Diameter 70 mm. Everted rim and part of the wall from a straight sided bowl. Pale green translucent glass with patches of a dark brown weathering crust. Late Roman.
- 326 SF 553 **Double-sided composite bone comb** Length 46 mm. Fragment from a connecting plate with D-shaped cross-section. Saw cuts along both edges and decorated with two transverse parallel incised lines. Remains of one iron rivet and two rivet holes.
- 322 SF 583 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Height 51 mm. Rectangular end plate with graduated teeth, 4 per cm on one side and 5 per cm on the other. The connecting plates have D-shaped cross-sections and saw cuts along both edges. Two iron rivets remain and also a detached tooth segment.
- 321 SF 582 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Height 54 mm. Rectangular end plate with graduated teeth. The teeth average 5 per cm. The connecting plate has a D-shaped cross-section. One iron rivet and part of a rivet hole remain. Also four fragments of a tooth segment.
- 313 SF 551 **Double-sided composite antler comb** Height 54 mm. Rectangular end plates with graduated teeth. Each end plate is decorated with three ring-and-dot motifs with central perforations. Six tooth segments with teeth averaging 5 per cm on both sides. The connecting plates have trapezoidal cross-sections and saw cuts along both edges and are held by six iron rivets. Each connecting plate is decorated with five ring-and-dot motifs.
- 367 SF 547 **Bone pin** Length 104 mm. Made from a pig fibula. Broken across perforation, tip missing. (Not illustrated)
- 362 SF 580 **Bone pin** Length 99 mm. Made from a pig fibula. Head modified and pierced. Polished.
- 371 SF 644 **Bone pin** Length 60 mm. Made from a pig fibula. Broken across perforation. Tip missing. (Not illustrated)
- 310 SF 579 **Bone shaft** Fragment broken at both ends. (Not illustrated)
- 383 SF 586 **Antler handle** Length 91 mm, width 36 mm. Made from a tine, trimmed down and socketed at both ends.
- 389 SF 1531 **Worked bone** Length 74 mm. Part of a tibia broken at both ends. The central shaft is pierced with three holes. Diameter of holes 4 mm.
- Reused Roman sherd no. 19** SF 1459 Diameter 65 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)
- Reused Roman sherd no. 20** SF 1457 Diameter c 55 mm. Semicircular cut down body sherd in coarse greyware fabric 5. (Not illustrated)
- Reused Roman sherd no. 22** SF 1478 Diameter c 130 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a base in greyware fabric 2. (Not illustrated)
- 416 SF 587 **Quern** Length 120 mm. Fragment of friable, porous, coarse grained feldspathic grit, colour near range for Old Red Sandstone. ?Old Red Sandstone or ?Millstone Grit. (Not illustrated)
- 417 SF 645 **Quern** Length 52 mm. Fragment of reddish-brown, feldspathic coarse grained sandstone. Probably Old Red Sandstone. (Not illustrated)
- 424 SF 658 **Quern fragment?** Length 47 mm. Calcareous and highly ferruginous coarse grit with fossil bivalves, Faringdon Lower Greensand. (Not illustrated)
- 425 SF 1533 **Quern fragments?** Length 47 mm. Coarse grit with cement of iron ore, Shotover? (Cumnor?) and calcareous grit, Corallian? (Not illustrated)
- 428 SF 584 **Whetstone** Length 82 mm. Complete. Square cross-section. Extensive wear on all four sides producing a waisted profile. Calcareous sandstone. Local Corallian.
- 434 SF 585 **Whetstone** Length 99 mm. Rectangular cross-section, traces of wear on the

broader faces. Two wide grooves on one of the broader faces. The other broad face has a single deep groove containing traces of iron concretion. Coarse porous pink quartz grit with feldspar, ?Old Red Sandstone or ?Millstone Grit.

**Layer 3**

- 275 SF 574 **Bronze Sestertius, very worn** AD 200–300. (Not illustrated)
- SF 573 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 33 mm. Fragmentary. Pierced with holes for two rivets. One copper alloy rivet survives.
- 178 SF 571 **Iron razor** Length 108 mm. Straight blade back and curved blade with squared off end. The tang is set at almost 90° to the blade.
- SF 575 **Antler comb** Fragment from a rectangular end plate with graduated teeth. Part of a hole for suspension.
- 393 SF 1660 **Antler waste** Part of a beam, two tines removed by sawing. Chop marks at the base of the beam. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 21** SF 1450 Diameter 90 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

- 422 SF 558 **Quern fragment?** Length 108 mm. Coarse grit with highly ferruginous matrix. Shotover? (Cumnor?). (Not illustrated)
- 423 SF 560 **Quern fragment?** Length 100 mm. Coarse grit with highly ferruginous matrix. Shotover? (Cumnor?). (Not illustrated)
- 617 SF 1290 **Post-medieval glass.** (Not illustrated)

**Pottery tpq 6th century?**

EVE: Jars = 5.78; Bowls = 1.97.

Eighteen incised sherds (C/1, F1, 3 g; D/3, F1, 17 g; G/2, F3, 5 g; H/1, F2, 4 g; H/3, F2, 5 g; I/2, F1, 22 g; I/2, F2, 16 g; I/2, F2, 6 g; J/2, F1, 3 g; J/2, F1, 13 g; J/2, F1, 5 g; J/2, F2, 17 g; J/2, F3, 36 g; J/2, F3, 10 g; K/2, F1, 61 g; L/2, F2, 17 g; N/2, F2, 30 g; N/3, F3, 18 g).

One incised and stabbed sherd (I/2 and J/2, F3, 98 g).  
One incised and stabbed bossed sherd (J/2, F3, 145 g).  
One incised, stamped and bossed sherd (J/2, F3, 38 g).

One stabbed sherd (J/2, F7, 3 g).

Two rusticated sherds (J/2, F2, 10 g; J/2, F2, 16 g).

Three pierced sherds (D/3, F1, 3 g; N/2, F2, 3 g; N/4, F1, 13 g).

**Illustrations**

- 3.114.235 Pierced sherd. Dark grey fabric with unfinished surfaces.

**Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per fabric type per excavated segment.**

Context	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	F7	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
601/A	8	18	22	0	0	0	48	0.3
601/B	0	2	3	0	14	0	19	0.1
601/C	63	129	199	0	0	0	391	2.2
601/D	77	40	191	0	13	0	321	1.8
601/E	35	124	86	3	0	7	255	1.4
601/F	5	93	49	0	0	0	147	0.8
601/G	15	63	5	0	0	0	83	0.5
601/H	152	277	62	0	124	0	615	3.4
601/I	5174	1091	1061	0	220	0	7546	42.2
601/J	1000	1206	547	6	220	13	2992	16.7
601/K	217	311	113	8	461	0	1110	6.2
601/L	595	212	305	9	98	0	1219	6.8
601/M	687	245	411	0	189	0	1532	8.6
601/N	140	345	618	0	272	14	1389	7.8
601/O	20	48	0	0	20	3	91	0.5
601/P	45	44	34	0	0	0	123	0.7
Total wt (g)	8233	4248	3706	26	1631	37	17881	
%	46.0	23.8	20.7	0.1	9.1	0.2		
Mean sherd wt	17.3	10.7	17.2	6.5	10.6	6.1		

- 3.114.236 Jar rim. Dark brown fabric with smoothed outer surface.
- 3.114.237 Bowl rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed outer surface.
- 3.114.238 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed outer surface.
- 3.114.239 Rim sherd from small bowl. Uniform black fabric with orange-brown surfaces.
- 3.114.240 'Stepped' base. Uniform dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.114.241 Stabbed and incised sherd. Uniform black fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.114.242 Bossed and incised vessel. Black fabric with burnished brown outer surface.
- 3.114.243 Incised sherd. Uniform black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.114.244 Incised sherd. Uniform black fabric with burnished outer surface.
- 3.114.245 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed outer surfaces.
- 3.114.246 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed outer surfaces.
- 3.114.247 Jar rim. Uniform black fabric with smoothed outer surfaces.
- 3.114.248 Stabbed and bossed sherd. Dark grey fabric with smoothed surfaces.
- 3.114.249 Incised sherd. Black fabric with burnished brown outer surface.

Chapter Three

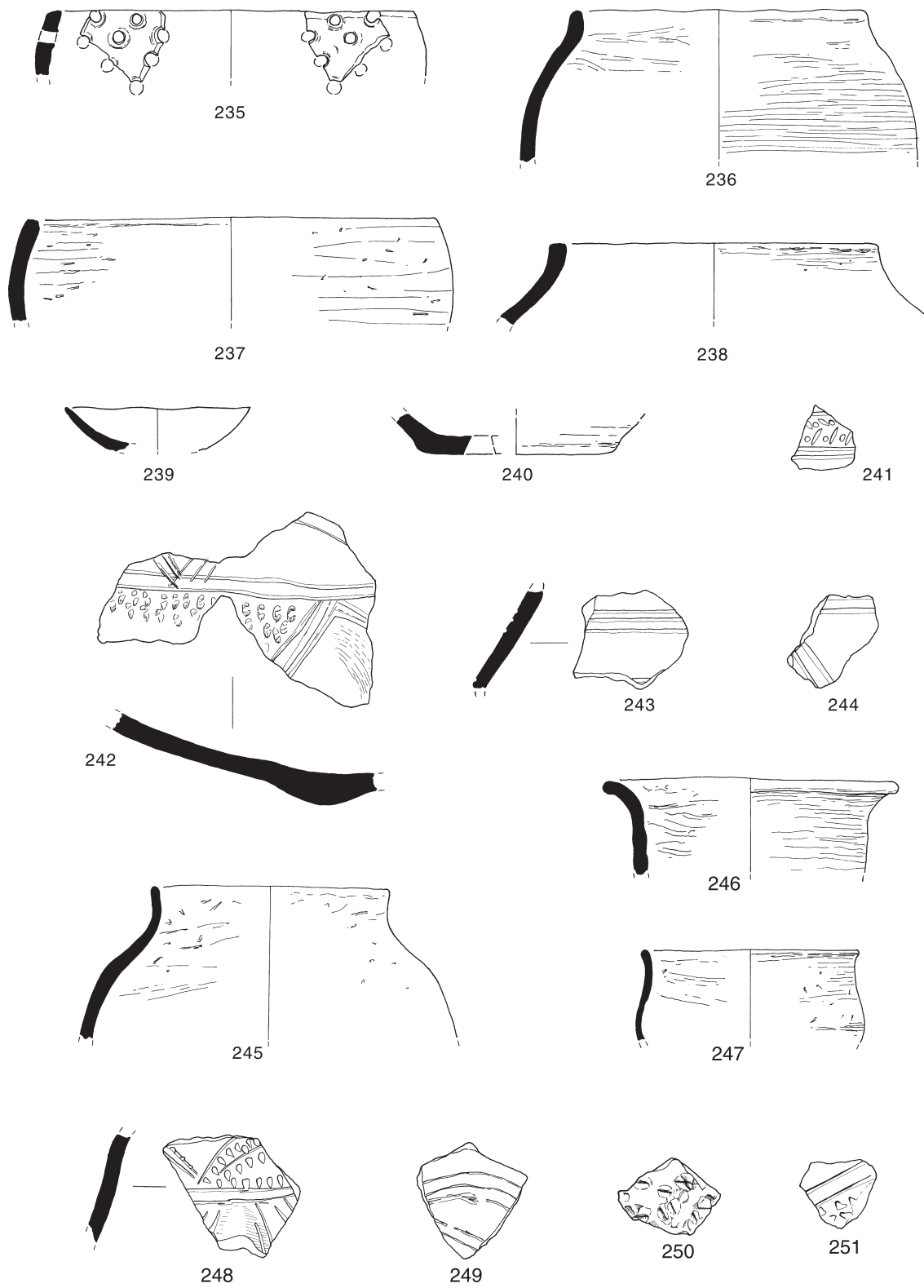


Figure 3.114 Barrow 12 pottery.

- 3.114.250 Rusticated sherd. Black fabric with brown outer surface.  
 3.114.251 Stamped and incised sherd. Black fabric with smoothed brown outer surface.

The decorated sherds indicate a firm 6th-century *terminus post quem* for the backfilling of this feature.

### BARROW 13

Contexts 401 (ditch) and 414–8 (inter-cutting pits); Grid ref.: 51371 98098; Figures 3.115–6, 3.117 (pit 414) (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 111–5).

Barrow 13 was north-east of barrow 12. The ditch 401 was cut by two sunken-featured buildings, 23 and 24, and layers 2 and 3 contained Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and small finds, probably representing deliberate dumping. 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.

### Finds

Thirty-five finds were recovered from the upper fills. These included five Roman coins 271, 279, 281, 286, and 288. Their dates range between AD 321 and 378. Number 288 has been pierced for suspension as has a further coin, 287, from SFB 44 probably for use as a pendant. An applied disc brooch, 137, is similar to those from Grave 75 Long Wittenham and Grave 19 Standlake I and is probably of mid 5th- to mid 6th-century date (Dickinson 1976, 191). Other personal items include a pyramid stud 151 and 160, a perforated and broken sheet, which could be the remains of a belt fitting.

Number 190 is a fragment of a horseshoe of pre-Conquest type (Clark 1986). It is similar to one from a 9th-century context at Winchester (Goodall 1990, 1055, fig. 340, 939). Number 186 is a rectangular sectioned rod with an up-turned end. Objects such as these when found in graves are often interpreted as simple keys, such as those from Grave 25, Fonaby, Lincolnshire (Cook 1981, fig. 9.4). There is also a single woodworking nail (SF 1423).

Textile equipment consisted of five fragmentary loomweights 448, 452, 455, 461 and 451. They are all of the early Saxon annular type and appear to have been dumped into the barrow ditch. Other loomweights have been found in SFB 25, which cut the ditch and SFB 24 to the south. A worked stone, 436, is probably also a weight but it is considerably heavier than those of fired clay. Number 372, a perforated pig fibula pin, is of the type common from the site which may have been used in association with a loom or for open mesh knitting or netting. Only one fragmentary comb was recovered, 336. It has a very wide solid zone and additional perforation similar to examples from Lankhills (Clarke 1979, fig. 31) and is of a type common from the second half of the 4th century onwards (MacGregor 1985, 92). Number 342 is a very

fragmentary piece of antler with a notch towards one end. Number 391 is part of an antler beam which has had the tines sawn off. It is waste from antler working.

There are eight reused bases from Roman pots: 6, 7 and 14 are complete circles. Numbers 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are all wedges. There are also two counters, 5 and 13, which are probably gaming pieces.

### Layer 2

- 137 SF 568 **Copper alloy applied disc brooch** Diameter 36 mm. Composite construction with a sheet metal backplate and an applied disc on the obverse, notched around the edge. Inserted fastenings, both missing. (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, no. 58)
- 279 SF 563 **Bronze coin** Constantius. Obverse DN CONSTANTIUS NOB C. Reverse GLORIA EXERCITUS (2 standards). Mint illegal. Denomination 4. AD 330–335. (Not illustrated)
- 281 SF 610 **Bronze coin** Obverse Constantinopolis. Reverse victory on a prow PLG. Mint Lyons. Denomination 4. AD 330–335. (Not illustrated)
- 286 SF 566 **Bronze coin** Obverse GLORIA NOVI SAECULI. Minted at Arles. Denomination 3. AD 364–378. (Not illustrated)
- 160 SF 565 **Copper alloy sheet** Length 41 mm. Rectangular cut sheet broken across one end. The other end is pierced with two rivet holes, now broken across both holes. One of the longer edges has two rectangular cut notches.
- 151 SF 561 **Copper alloy stud** Diameter 15 mm. Pyramid-shaped stud with circular cross-sectioned shank, most now missing.
- 174 SF 562 **Lead waste.** (Not illustrated)
- 190 SF 615 **Iron horseshoe.** Width 26 mm. Fragment of one arm with two rectangular nail holes and part of a third. Two nails with T-shaped heads and clenched shanks are still in place.
- SF 1423 **Iron nail** Length 69 mm. Circular flat head, square cross-sectioned shank. (Not illustrated)
- 372 SF 625 **Bone pin** Length 74 mm. Made from a pig fibula. Broken across perforation. Tip missing. Polished.
- 336 SF 616 **Double-sided composite antler comb.** Length 35 mm. Fragment of a rectangular end plate with fragments of teeth on both sides. One rivet hole in the centre and two decorative holes close to the edge.
- 448 SF 614 **Ceramic loomweight.** Diameter 70 mm. Made from a fragment of modified Roman tile, pierced off-centre. The edges have been ground. Diameter of hole 12 mm. Weight 180.27 g.

Barrow 13

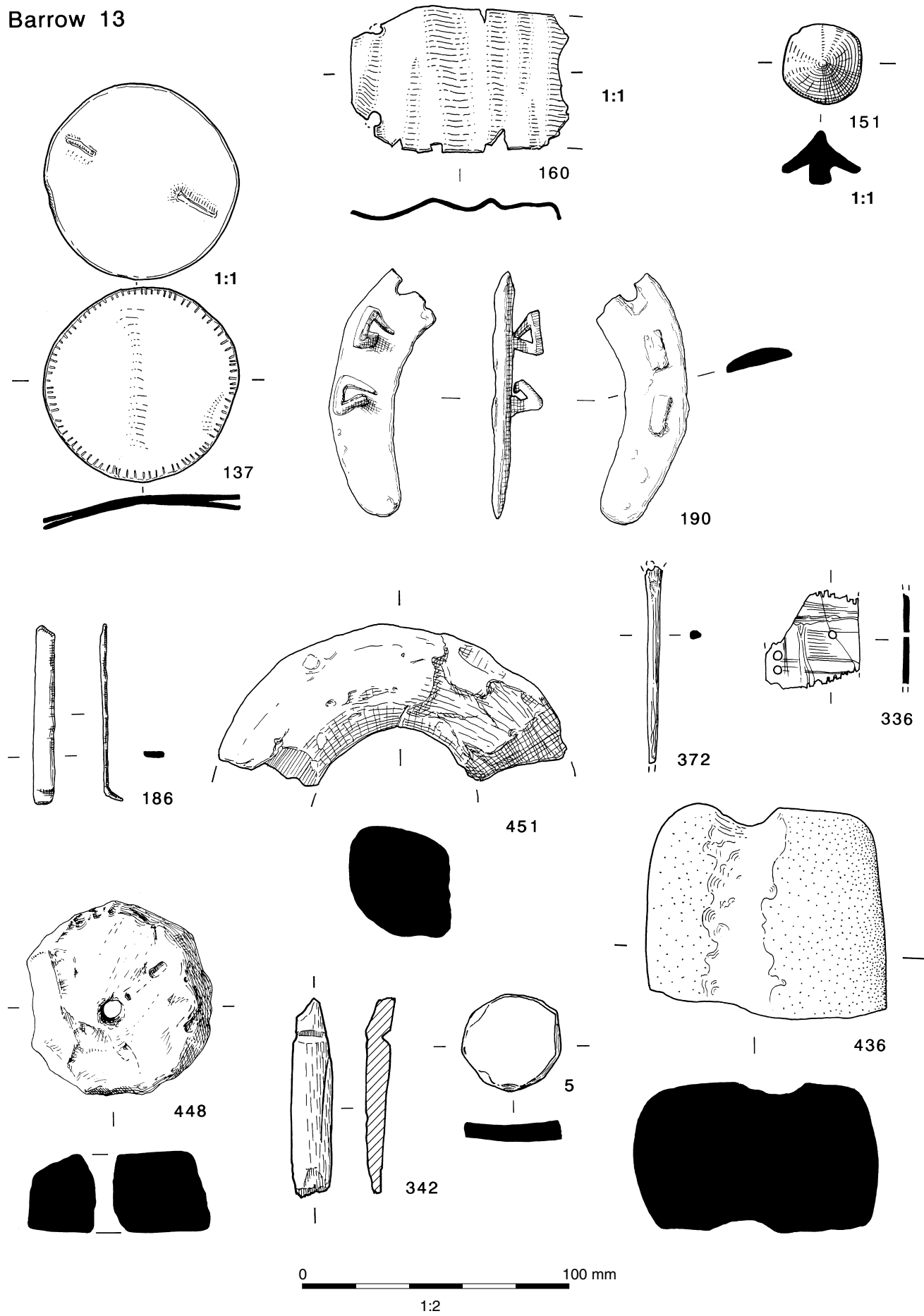


Figure 3.115 Barrow 13 artefacts.

- 451 SF 629 **Annular, fired clay loomweight.** Diameter 140 mm. Fragment approx. 40% with roughly smoothed surfaces. Estimated weight 450 g.
- 452 SF 626 **Annular fired clay loomweight.** Diameter 130 mm. Fragment approx. 25% Estimated weight 425.32 g. (Not illustrated)
- 455 SF 659 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Diameter 120 mm. Fragment approx. 22% Estimated weight 395.18 g. (Not illustrated)
- 461 SF 646 **Annular, fired clay loomweight** Length 57 mm. Fragment. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 5** SF 1475 Diameter 35 mm. Made from a body sherd in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 6** SF 1651 Diameter 100 mm. Base of a jug or large flagon in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 7** SF 1470 Diameter 50 mm. Modified base of a thick walled beaker in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 8** SF 1474 Diameter 80 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down flat base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 9** SF 1471 Diameter 70 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down foot-ring base of a mortarium in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 10** SF 1454 Diameter 110 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 11** SF 1469 Diameter 60 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down fragment of a foot-ring base in greyware, fabric 4. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 12** SF 1650 Diameter 50 mm Wedge-shaped cut down fragment of a beaker base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 13** SF 594 Diameter 60 mm Made from a flat base in greyware fabric 4. The edges have been ground smooth. (Not illustrated)

421 SF 628 **Quern fragment** Length 80 mm (Not illustrated)

426 SF 634 **Quern fragment?** Length 57 mm Fragment of coarse grit with highly ferruginous matrix, Shotover? (Cumnor?) (Not illustrated)

436 SF 592 **Stone weight** Length 91 mm, width 79 mm thickness 56 mm Fragment with pecked central groove.

#### Layer 3

271 SF 607 **Bronze coin** Constantine I. Obverse CONSTANTINUS AVG. Reverse BEATA TRANQUILLITAS. PTR.

Minted at Trier. Denomination 3. AD 321–323.

288 SF 572 **Bronze coin** Reverse GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI. Minted in Arles. Denomination 3. AD 364–378. Perforated.

342 SF 618 **Worked antler** Length 73 mm, width 14 mm Fragment of a tine with a notch towards one end.

391 SF 1661 **Antler waste** Length 80 mm Part of beam, two tines and part of beam sawn off. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 14** SF 1466 Diameter 45 mm. Modified foot-ring base in fine greyware fabric 9. (Not illustrated)

469 SF 623 **Ceramic?** Fragment of an object with large perforation. (Not illustrated)

#### Layer 4

186 SF 612 **Iron rod** Length 67 mm. Rectangular cross-section, very short arm with rounded tip.

619 SF 1510 **Clay pipe fragment** Post-medieval. (Not illustrated)

#### Pottery tpq 6th century?

*Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per fabric type per excavated segment.*

Context	F1	F2	F3	F4	F6	F7	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
401/A	0	8	12	0	108	0	128	1.8
401/B	37	9	0	0	102	0	148	2.0
401/C	66	114	0	0	35	0	215	3.0
401/D	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.1
401/E	165	25	22	0	63	3	278	3.8
401/F	29	21	69	0	43	0	162	2.2
401/G	39	56	19	0	26	0	140	1.9
401/H	394	285	44	0	283	23	1029	14.2
401/I	45	40	19	0	0	7	111	1.5
401/J	39	51	19	0	0	0	109	1.5
401/K	824	252	201	6	245	0	1528	21.0
401/L	203	54	115	3	53	95	523	7.2
401/M	9	0	2	0	0	0	11	0.2
401/N	27	80	93	0	101	0	301	4.1
401/O	497	758	312	6	228	0	1801	24.8
401/P	120	472	49	0	142	0	783	10.8
Total wt (g)	2498	2225	976	15	1429	128	7271	
%	34.4	30.6	13.4	0.2	19.7	1.8		
Mean sherd wt	9.0	11.6	10.6	2.5	11.6	25.6		

EVE: Jars = 3.92; Bowls = 1.41.

Three incised sherds, (H/2, F1, 215 g; H/2, F1, 4 g; P/2, F2, 19 g, rim sherd, 13% complete).

One stamped, incised and carinated sherd (O/2, F1, 8 g).

Three stamped sherds, (H/2, F2, 22 g; O/2, F2, 8 g; P/2, F3, 2 g).

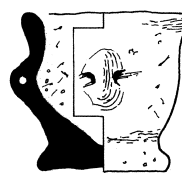
One complete miniature lugged vessel (No cut number, layer 2, 78 g, rim 100% complete).

One swallow's nest lug L/3, F6, 53 g, rim sherd, 14% complete).

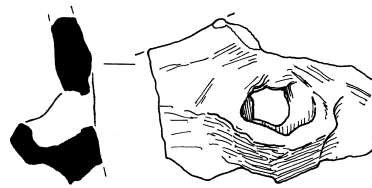
Three pierced sherds (A/2, F3, 6 g, rim sherd, 18% complete; K/2, F2, 32 g, rim sherd, 3% complete; P/2, F3, 9 g, rim sherd, 6% complete).

Foot-ring base (F/3, F3, 23 g).

Pedestal base (J/2, F6, 19 g).



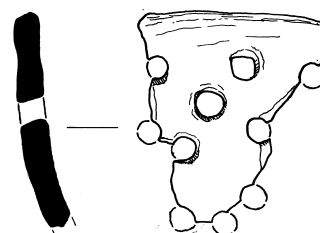
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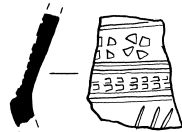
*Illustrations*

- 3.116.252 Miniature lugged vessel. Rough, orange-brown fabric, unfinished surfaces.
- 3.116.253 'Swallow's nest' lug, black fabric with dark brown unfinished surfaces.
- 3.116.254 Rim from pierced vessel. Dark grey fabric, unfinished surfaces.
- 3.116.255 Stamped and incised sherd from ?carinated vessel. Uniform black fabric, smoothed surfaces.
- 3.116.256 Incised sherd. Black fabric with smoothed burnished surfaces.



254

The stamped sherds indicate a *terminus post quem* of the 6th century. The carinated sherd (Fig. 3.116.255) may be earlier, but is so small that it is impossible to date with any accuracy, and the presence of stamps on the piece suggest a later date.



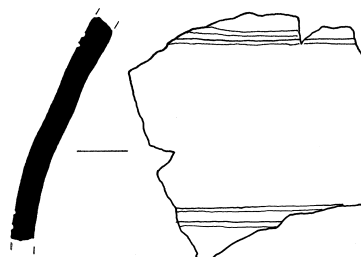
255

**PITS 414 AND 416**

**Pit 414**

*Pottery*

- 3.117.257 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.117.258 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.
- 3.117/259 Stamped sherd. Black fabric with burnished surfaces.



256

Pits 414–416 were the only features from this group to produce any pottery. Pit 414 produced small sherds of stamped pottery and no other decorated wares, indicating a *terminus post quem* of the 6th century for both features.

**Pit 416**

462 SF 619 **Annular, fired clay loomweight**  
Length 67 mm. Fragment with roughly smoothed surfaces. (Not illustrated)

**SEGMENTED RING DITCH 2123**

Grid ref.: 51316 98078.

0 100 mm

1:3

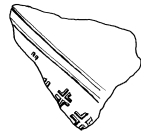
Figure 3.116 Barrow 13 pottery.

**PIT 2142** Grid ref.: 51317 98080. (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 44–6)

A small amount of Saxon pottery was found in the upper fill (2113 and 2080) of the north-west segment 2122 of the segmented ring ditch 2123. Just inside the north-east segment, 2155, was a shallow pit 2142



257



258



259

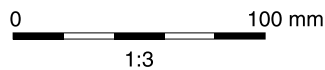


Figure 3.117 Pit 414 pottery.

whose fill, 2135, 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, 246).

#### POND BARROW 4866

Grid ref.: 51409 98110 (Barclay and Halpin 1999, 115–128); Site plan 17.

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.

#### Finds

**Reused Roman sherd no. 75** SF 1268, 4866/B/1 Diameter 55 mm. Complete cut down foot-ring base in greyware, fabric 9. (Not illustrated)

#### Pottery

Pottery occurrence by weight (in g) per excavated segment.

Context	F1	F2	F3	F6	Total wt (g)	% feature assemblage
4866/A	8	15	0	0	23	25.6
4866/B	3	10	17	9	39	43.3
4866/D	7	4	3	14	28	31.1
Total wt (g)	18	29	20	23	90	
%	20.0	32.2	22.2	25.6		
Mean sherd wt	3.6	4.1	10.0	7.6		

No chronologically diagnostic pottery.

#### ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON FINDS FROM MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

**3610/1** Grid ref.: 51265 98186; Figure 3.105

Section across 8 m silt spread, 0.1 m deep, running NW/SE.

**208 SF 1043 Iron awl** Length 63 mm. Awl tapering to both ends. Circular cross-section at one end, square cross-section at the other.

**3835** Grid ref.: 51392 98082; Figure 3.105

Possible posthole in area of PBS 11.

**179 SF 1078 Iron razor** Length 60 mm, width 16 mm, blade thickness 3 mm. The blade back is straight and the blade is worn and fragmentary and the end is missing. The curved tang is set almost at 90° to the blade.

**4459** Probable posthole

**Reused Roman sherd no. 66** SF 1144 Ceramic counter. Diameter 28 mm. Modified body sherd in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**2164, 2165, 2166** Grid ref.: 51254 98199; Figure 3.105

Fills of posthole cutting inside edge of inner ditch of oval barrow. Contained Saxon pottery and find.

**352 SF 296 Bone pin beater** Length 85 mm, diameter 9 mm. Cigar-shaped polished shaft with circular cross-section. Pointed at both ends

#### ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON FINDS FROM UNSTRATIFIED CONTEXTS AND TOPSOIL

**136 Figure 3.105 SF 545 Copper alloy button brooch** Diameter 22 mm. Single hinge plate with deposit of



iron corrosion; catch-plate. Annular rim enclosing anthropomorphic face-mask with horizontal lines forming helmet; well defined nose and mouth. All within a plain border. (MacGregor and Bolick 1993, no. 11, 1988.47).

276 SF 1234 **Bronze coin** House of Constantine. Reverse BEATA TRANQUILLITAS VOTIS XX. Denomination 3. Very worn. AD 320–325. (Not illustrated)

278 SF 569. **Bronze coin** Helena. Obverse FL HELENA AUGUSTA. Obverse SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE STRE. Mint Trier. Denomination 3. AD 325–330. (Not illustrated)

146 Figure 3.105 SF 607 **Copper alloy pin** Length 76 mm. Made from a drawn wire hammered below the head to give a rectangular cross-section tapering to an oval cross-section towards the tip. The head has been flattened to an oval and pierced. Broken across hole. Decorated below head with incised lines on all four faces.

161 Figure 3.105 SF 1030 **Copper alloy buckle plate?** Width 22 mm, thickness 0.5 mm. Rectangular cut sheet broken off at one end across a perforation. Rolled, traces of gilding.

155 Figure 3.105 SF 16 **Copper alloy repair fitting** Length 15 mm. Made from a cut sheet folded over and secured by a tubular copper alloy rivet.

159 Figure 3.105 SF 1257 **Copper alloy strip** Length 102 mm. Rectangular cross-section. Broken at both ends.

205 Figure 3.105 SF 661 **Iron knife** Blade length 33 mm, width 10 mm, thickness 2 mm. Straight back, angled back slope. Tip missing. (Type ?2.b). Tang length 20 mm, set just below blade back, angled shoulders.

209 Figure 3.105 SF 1283 **Iron awl** Length 58 mm. Diamond-shaped cross-section pointed at both ends.

431 Figure 3.106 SF 1281 **Whetstone** Length 55 mm. Fragment with rectangular cross-section, broken at both ends. Signs of wear on one of the broader faces. Calcareous sandstone, local Corallian.

447 Figure 3.106 SF 643 **Ceramic spindlewhorl** Diameter 46 mm. Made from a modified and perforated beaker base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. The edges have been ground. Diameter of hole 10 mm. Weight 25.64 g.

3900 Grid ref.: 51307 98048; Topsoil in area of SFB 28

292 Figure 3.105 SF 1151 **Glass bottle** Diameter at rim 28 mm. Pale green semi-transparent bubbled glass with rolled rim. Patches of a dark brown weathering crust.

#### UNSTRATIFIED/PIPE TRENCH

298 Figure 3.105 SF 1441, 4480 **Glass vessel** Translucent brown fragment, possibly from a bowl. Outer surface has swathes of white opalescent decoration which may have originally formed an arcaded pattern. Tapering thickness. Anglo-Saxon.

#### 1001 TOPSOIL

305 SF 1436 **Window glass** Thickness 6 mm. Fragment of pale green transparent glass. Roman. (Not illustrated)

346 Figure 3.105 SF 1 **Bone spindlewhorl** Diameter 32 mm. Annular, made from the head of a femur. Turned, the upper surface is decorated with shallow incised circles. Uneven wear on the lower surface. Weight 11.21 g.

#### REUSED ROMAN SHERDS FROM TOPSOIL

**Reused Roman sherd no. 4** SF 1472 Figure 3.105 Diameter 25 mm. Made from a body sherd in greyware, fabric 2.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 15** SF 1652 Figure 3.105 Diameter 25 mm. Made from a body sherd in greyware, fabric 6.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 16** SF 1465 Figure 3.105 Diameter 25 mm. Made from a body sherd in greyware fabric 4.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 23** SF 1448 Figure 3.105 Diameter 35 mm. Made from a beaker base which has been cut down and ground. In Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 24** SF 1648 Diameter 70 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base on Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 25** SF 1649 Diameter c 80 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 26** SF 1649 Diameter c 80 mm. Wedge-shaped fragment of a foot-ring base in Oxford red/brown colour-coated fabric 3. (Not illustrated)

**Reused Roman sherd no. 27** SF 1449 Figure 3.106 Diameter 140 mm. Wedge-shaped cut down flat base fragment in greyware, fabric 2.

**Reused Roman sherd no. 38** SF 1504 Diameter 75 mm. Complete flat base in greyware, fabric 2. (Not illustrated)

#### OTHER ANGLO-SAXON FEATURES IN THE AREA OF BARROW HILLS (FIG. 1.3)

##### CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE

Grid ref.: 511 983 (Avery and Brown 1972, 66–81; Leeds and Harden 1936, fig.1)

1905: possibly Saxon extended male skeleton found in north of area between Daisy Banks streams, next to the Radley Road.

1928: Saxon pottery collected by Leeds from pits revealed by gravel extraction on east side of Daisy Banks, just north of the area of the 1983–5 excavations.

1963: Salvage excavation in advance of housing in the area of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure recovered evidence for two Saxon pits containing rubbish deposits, including the burnt remains of a

structure, possibly of wattle and daub. Finds included 5th- to 6th-century pottery, a Roman coin pierced for stringing, a bone comb, a shale spindlewhorl, a bone pin beater and an amethyst bead of a possibly 7th-century type.

#### **BARROW 2**

Grid ref.: 5148 9322 (Parrington 1977, 37, 39 and 41 and figs 1, 4 and 7).

Secondary inhumation burial in layer 3 of ditch section 3 (north-west quadrant) of individual aged 17–19 with a 7th-century iron knife near left hip. Supine, north/south, head south and tilted east. Right arm across stomach with hand on left hip, left arm flexed with hand near right shoulder. Two wormian bones.

#### **BARROW 5**

Grid ref.: 5160 9929 (Williams 1948, 9–11 and fig. 4)

Two skeletons were discovered during gravel extraction on the north-west side of the barrow. They were inserted into the mound and therefore secondary, possibly Anglo-Saxon. One was of an adult male 1.69 m in height. All but one leg bone of the other was lost.

#### **BARROW 16**

Grid ref.: 5195 9842 (Leeds 1938, 33–4 and fig. 8)

Saxon sherds were recorded from the south-west quadrant of the ditch of barrow 16 at a depth of 2'6".

# Gazetteer 5: Anglo-Saxon Features at Barton Court Farm

By David Miles

## INTRODUCTION

The wording and layout of this section closely reflect the original fiche publication, and all figure numbers refer to the original report (Miles 1986). For an overall plan of the Anglo-Saxon features at Barton Court Farm see Figure 7.2.

## SUNKEN HUTS

Seven sunken huts or *Grubenhäuser* were found during the excavation. One, 188, was dug into the south-west angle of the Iron Age enclosure ditch 27 m west of the villa building (Miles 1986, fig. 78). The rest were spread along the edge of the gravel terrace to the south of the main farmyard enclosure ditch, within the area of the last phase of Romano-British enclosures. These six huts were all found on the strip of gravel about 30 m wide between the main villa complex and the wetter soils of the terrace slope. It is likely that evidence of further Saxon occupation to the W was destroyed when the 19th-century gravel pits were dug.

**SFB 188** Figure 64; Orientation: E/W?

Length at surface: c 3.3 m; Distance between post-holes: -; Width: 2.9 m; Depth: 0.5 m.

### Description

This, the first Saxon sunken hut to be found in the 1972 season of excavation, was not satisfactorily excavated. The hut had been partially dug into the top of the Iron Age enclosure ditch and was not visible to the excavators on the surface. The hut was first noticed when a section was being dug across the Iron Age ditch, by which time the west end of the sunken hut had been removed, including the post-hole that probably existed there.

The sunken hut was an irregular sub-rectangular shape. The fill of the hut was a uniform layer of brown, gravelly loam. The hut had a flat bottom and steeply sloping sides except on the east, where the gravel had been eroded to form a shelf. The posthole at the east end was 0.4 m deeper than the hut floor.

### Finds

A whetstone (38), a perforated bronze plate (39), 2 bone pin fragments (40, 62), piece of glass (41).

**SFB 952** Figure 64; Orientation: ENE/WSW

Length at surface: 3.5 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.0 m; Width: 2.9 m; Depth: 0.25 m.

### Description

This hut lay 2 m south of the main east-west Romano-British farmyard ditch (Fig. 83). It had a uniform brown gravelly loam fill. There was a centrally placed posthole at each end of the hut, 0.55 m deeper than the base of the hut. Two postholes close to its north edge and two off the west end could have supported a structure spanning the sunken feature.

This sunken hut sat within a rectangular arrangement of postholes, PBS C, which indicated a larger timber structure. The sunken feature was off-centre to the rectangular structure, lying very close to the north wall. The post building probably impinged on the Romano-British ditch, which contained Saxon pottery, implying that it was constructed at a late phase in the Saxon phase of occupation. The pottery in the sunken feature was consistent with a 5th-century date. The evidence is not conclusive but, on balance, it points to a timber-framed building having been constructed on the site of an earlier sunken hut.

### Finds

Two bone pin beaters (823, 525), iron objects (524, 561), lead loomweight (526), iron knife (527), bone comb (528) (562), shale fragment (641), two iron rings (643, 666).

**SFB 1023** Figure 64; Orientation: ENE/WSW

Length at surface: 3.9 m; Distance between post-holes: 3.6 m; Width: 3.7 m; Depth: 0.57 m.

### Description

This was the only hut inside the late Romano-British south-east paddock. It had a flat floor and a centrally placed posthole at each end a further 0.30 m deep. There were traces of five stakeholes in an irregular line along the central long axis of the hut floor. A stratum of natural gravel resulted in a shelf forming around the wall of the sunken hut. The erosion below this shelf contributed to the lower loamy gravel fill of the sunken area. Above this was a dark-brown sandy loam which had seemed to have been deposited after the hut had gone.

### Finds

All the finds were from layer 1 except 555–7, two needles and the lead loomweight, which were in layer 2: pottery spindlewhorl (537), iron object (540), lead fragment (541), iron object (542), slag (543), iron object (544), iron buckle (546), bronze object (547),

bronze object (548), perforated oyster shell (549), iron object (550), worked bone fragment (551), lead fragment (552), bone comb fragments (553–4), bronze needle (555), bone needle (556), lead loomweight (557), bone ring fragment (565), bone needle (568), bone pin beater (569), decorated bronze fragment (570), bone (571), clay loomweight fragments (575), bone needle (576), coprolite (577), bone tool (578), coprolite (579), iron pin (669).

**SFB 1026** Figure 64; Orientation: NE/SW

Length at surface: 3.6 m; Distance between postholes: 3.4 m; Width: 2.7 m; Depth: 0.3 m.

#### Description

This sunken hut lay just over 1 m west of the latest Romano-British paddock ditch (Fig. 87). On the ground this ditch curved to the south-east and the hut was tucked in close to it. It is not impossible that the ditch curved to avoid the existing hut, but on the whole it is most likely that the ditch pre-existed the hut.

The hut was of rectangular shape with two postholes centrally placed in the narrow ends; unusually, the postholes projected out from the sides of the hut. The east posthole was 0.25 m deeper than the floor of the hut, but the west one was only about the same depth. In three of the corners shallow hollows indicated the existence of slight corner posts.

The floor of the hut was flat and there was a linear cluster of Corallian ragstone aligned between the two postholes. The fill of the hut was a uniform brown sandy loam. Most of the stones were not directly on the gravel floor of the hut but sat 10–20 mm above it. Two stones at the west end were actually on the gravel floor, at right-angles to one another, with a bone comb (637) in the angle.

#### Finds

Perforated oyster shell (549), iron buckle (626), bone object (634), bone comb (637), iron buckle (657).

**SFB 1178** Figure 65, 85; Orientation: ENE/WSW

Length at surface: 4.3 m; Distance between postholes: 3.4 m; Width: 2.9 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

#### Description

A sub-rectangular hut with a flat base and gently sloping sides. The centrally placed postholes in each end are 0.3 and 0.4 m deep. A slab of limestone 0.4 × 0.3 m in size lay just above the base of the hut at its centre. The uniform fill of the hut consisted of a dark brown sandy loam. The finds included a fragment of glass slag.

#### Finds

Clay spindlewhorl (612), iron pin (613), worked tooth (614), bronze sheet (616), glass bead (617), glass slag (618), coin, AD 364–78 (564).

**SFB 1181** Figure 65, 85; Orientation: NE/SW

Length at surface: 3.9 m; Distance between postholes: 3.4 m; Width: 3.0 m; Depth: 0.6 m.

#### Description

Less than 2 m to the south-east of hut 1178 and on the same axis lay hut 1181. The base was flat and the sides sloping. The postholes at each narrow end were relatively slight; the one at the west end was dug into the sloping wall of the hut about 0.2 m and the other was dug a similar depth into the base. There was a shallow depression just to the south of the centre of the hut floor, possibly indicating a third post in this position. The fill was a uniform brown sandy loam with a few fragments of stone in the central area 0.2 m from the base. The fill also included a horse skull.

#### Finds

Bone handle (586), glass fragment (609), bronze bracelet (611), coins, AD 351–3 (585), coins, AD 388–92 (608).

**SFB 1190** Figure 65, 85; Orientation: ENE/WSW

Length at surface: 3.67 m; Distance between postholes: 3.2 m; Width: 2.5 m; Depth: 0.4 m.

#### Description

The sunken hut was cut into the shallow Romano-British ditch 1175 at a time when this feature had become filled with loam. The two postholes were cut 0.6 m below the level of the hut base. The fill was a uniform dark-brown sandy loam.

Thirteen lead loomweights were found on the base of the hut. Ten of them were in a row lying one over the next as if they had been threaded together on a cord. Three others were found to the south-west as well as fragments of clay loomweights.

#### Finds

Lead loomweights (587–598, 622), bone comb fragment (601), shale bracelet fragment (602), clay loomweights (603, 623), bone plaque (604), coal (605).

### POST-BUILT STRUCTURES

The site was carefully excavated with potential timber structures in mind. The whole site was trowelled over several times and the gravel surface was sprayed with water; particular attention was paid to areas apparently empty of features. In this way postholes were found which were not visible in the early stages of excavation. Most of the postholes were shallow and devoid of any datable material so that their allocation to a particular period contains an element of supposition. The following are believed to belong to the Saxon phase of occupation.

**PBS A** Figure 82; Orientation: NNW-SSE;  
Dimensions: 9 × 6.7 m

#### Description

A rectangular building aligned between the farmhouse enclosure ditch and the main farmyard boundary ditch; it overlay a straight shallow slot 611, which could not be accurately dated. The north side was well defined by four substantial and two lesser postholes. The position of the south end was less certain; two postholes, 627 and 653, probably indicated the south corners, but the south cross-wall was less pronounced than the north. This may be because the postholes supporting the end wall were not load-bearing, did not need to penetrate so deeply, and were therefore eroded by ploughing. The east side of the structure was indicated by a line of six postholes of varying spacing. The two southern-most, 654 and 653, were 2.4 m apart, possibly the position of a doorway near the south-east corner.

The west side of structure A was defined by a line of five postholes and to the east of these a second line of four postholes. This wall, possibly of planking, may have been supported by posts on both sides. These postholes were irregularly spaced though a central entrance may have existed between 629 and 630. The postholes varied in size: 654 was one of the larger ones (about 0.5 m diameter × 0.23 m deep), while others were about 0.3 m diameter × 0.15 m deep. All had U-shaped profiles, no obvious post voids or packing, and a brown sandy loam fill.

#### Dating

Of the 21 postholes forming the structure, only six contained any cultural material – a total of 19 sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, some identifiable as worn 4th-century AD types. These sherds indicated that the structure must have belonged to the late Roman period or later. The dark soil within the postholes, characteristic of the later settlements, also supports a date in the late Roman or post-Roman period. The orientation and position of the structure respected the Romano-British farmyard ditches, and it is possible that it was an agricultural building contemporary with the villa phase of settlement. On the other hand, the buildings positively dated to that phase had either stone foundations or stone-packed postholes. Structure A bears a much closer resemblance to the posthole structures on the site which produced Saxon material.

**PBS B** Figure 82; Orientation: E-W; Dimensions: approx. 4.2 × 3.5 m

#### Description

A rectangular arrangement of postholes parallel to the main Romano-British farmyard ditch and 1.3 m S of it. The west end had been removed by the 19th-century quarry so its length was uncertain.

The seven postholes varied in size between 0.22 and 0.4 m diameter and between 0.06 and 0.12 m deep. All contained the same brown sandy loam fill as structure A. Only one posthole, 665, contained a sherd of pottery of late Romano-British type. The structure had no related floor levels.

**PBS C** Figure 83; Orientation: E-W; Dimensions: 10 × 5.2 m

#### Description

A rectangular structure just south of the main villa farmyard boundary ditch. The sunken hut 952 lay within the area enclosed by the postholes. The north side of structure C was made up of a single, slightly irregular line of eight postholes. These averaged 0.3 m in diameter and 0.1 m in depth, with a brown sandy loam fill. The south side was formed of paired postholes, possibly one line replacing the other or alternatively providing support for a plank wall between interior and exterior supports. No trace of the end walls survived, presumably because the posts were not load-bearing. The postholes were on average 0.9 m apart. A slightly larger gap between postholes 947 and 970, centrally placed in the south side, might indicate an entrance.

At the west end of the south side there were two stone-packed postholes, 987 and 973, 1.5 m apart. These were of a very different character to the rest and it might be suggested that they were the doorposts of structure C. Neither feature contained any datable material; they were slightly off the general alignment of structure C; three postholes lie between the two and a fourth 1024, cut 973. It is probable that these two postholes were earlier than structure C and most likely belonged to the late Romano-British period. If so, they may indicate the entrance to a structure which has otherwise left no trace.

#### Dating

Posthole 852 produced a coin (Cat No. 76) datable to AD 364–78. Seven postholes contained a total of eleven sherds of pottery and one fragment of tile; these included two sherds of Oxfordshire ware. Posthole 963 contained two sherds of Saxon pottery.

Although structure C was aligned on the same axis as the late Romano-British farmyard boundary ditch, at its east end posthole 912 almost impinged on the Romano-British ditches. The top of the Romano-British ditch 853 was carefully examined for postholes. No convincing ones were found, but as the fills of the postholes and the ditch were almost identical, the failure to locate postholes within the upper fill of the ditch was not regarded as significant. On the whole, the positions of structure C and the line of postholes to the south suggest that the building was constructed when the ditch was more or less completely infilled. Structure C seems to fit best in a secondary Saxon phase, later than SFB 952 which lay within it.

**PBS D** Figure 86 Orientation: E/W;  
Dimensions: 5 m × ?

#### **Description**

When the modern hedge line was removed in this area it was found that the habit of ploughing a double furrow on each side of the hedge had created a hollow in the surface of the gravel. On the east side of the hedge a rectangular but apparently incomplete arrangement of postholes was found; the west side of this structure had probably been eroded by the plough.

Thirty-four postholes were found, all but two to the east of the hedge line. To the south-east of the main complex of postholes was a shallow oval hollow 6 m long and 2.5 m wide with fragments of limestone and Corallian ragstone lying on its floor. This may represent a working hollow or a spot worn by animal activity, or most likely an entrance in the corner of the Saxon enclosure. The postholes to the north-west of the hollow, 1030, 1031 etc, are thought to have been part of the Saxon fenceline. The rectangle bounded by postholes 1231 in the north-west, 1060 in the north-east, 1034 in the south-east, and 1037 in the south-west may outline a building lying close to the fence.

These postholes indicate a structure 5 m wide, almost the same as structure C, and of uncertain length, with a possible entrance on the east side. The postholes averaged 0.3 m diameter and 0.2 m in depth and had a brown sandy loam fill. Only two postholes contained any cultural material: 1037 had a sherd of Romano-British greyware and 1165 two sherds of red colour-coated Oxfordshire ware.

**PBSs E and F** Figure 80; Orientation: N-S and E-W;  
Dimensions: 5.7 × 8.5 m: 5.6 × 4.7 m

#### **Description**

An irregular but more or less rectangular complex of 27 postholes was found 27 m east of the villa building. These averaged 0.30 m in diameter and 0.20 m in depth with a brown sandy loam fill.

The postholes appear to have formed a rectangle aligned alongside a Romano-British ditch. Other postholes indicate a possible second structure, F, partially 'overlying' structure E. If there were two structures on this site, their relationship cannot be defined. The postholes in both were of similar character and the two structures can only be defined in terms of layout. It is not impossible that all belong to a single construction.

#### **Dating**

The postholes of structure E contained a total of 18 sherds of red colour-coated Oxfordshire ware of late 3rd- or 4th-century date. The similarity of the structure to the others dated to the Saxon period and the proximity to the late Romano-British ditch, suggesting that at the time of construction the ditch was infilled, makes a Saxon date likely for structures E and F.

**PBS G** Figure 84; Orientation: E-W;  
Dimensions: 6.5 m long

#### **Description**

A line of 11 postholes 6.5 m long ran east-west in the north-east corner of the latest Romano-British paddock. These lay parallel to the main Romano-British farmyard boundary ditch and about 4.5 m south of it. Several of the postholes, (eg 1079 and 1080) were paired as in the south wall of structure C.

The postholes were between 0.2 and 0.4 m diameter and about 0.1 m deep. These may have represented one wall of a building which otherwise has left no trace, or alternatively a length of fencing.

One of the postholes, 1082, contained a coin (Cat No. 69) dating to AD 364–78, and also an iron nail (563). Postholes 1082, 1085, 1088 and 1089 contained a total of nine sherds, including four of Romano-British greyware, one of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware, one Romano-British shell-gritted ware, and two of Saxon grass-tempered fabric. One posthole, 1084, contained two sherds of Neolithic pottery. In other respects it was similar to the postholes in the row; in particular it had a brown sandy loam fill.

**PBS H** Figure 85; Orientation: N-S; Dimensions:  
3.6 × 2.7 m

#### **Description**

A rectangular structure made up of ten postholes. The east side had four postholes, 1208 and 1211–13, 0.8 m apart, and both the north and south sides had three postholes 1 m apart. The lack of postholes on the west side suggested that this small structure was an open-sided lean-to. This interpretation was supported by the location of an intermittent line of six postholes running south from the south-east corner of structure H.

The postholes of structure H were all between 0.4 and 0.5 diameter and between 0.15 and 0.25 m deep; their fill was brown sandy loam. The postholes of the presumed fenceline, 1210, 1255, 1201–1204, were about 0.4 m diameter and only 0.1 m deep. The line of postholes was visible in a tongue of gravel which projected into the heavier clay soil of the terrace slope (see Fig. 85). It is possible that similar slight features might not have been seen if they had been cut into this more difficult subsoil.

#### **Dating**

A coin (Cat No. 38) was found in the south-east posthole, 1208, of structure H dating to AD 337–41. The same feature also produced four sherds of Saxon pottery fabric 1 and three sherds of Saxon fabric 3. Postholes 1209 and 1214 each contained a single sherd of Saxon pottery (fabric 1); 1219 had two sherds of Saxon fabric 1, two sherds of Romano-British greyware, and two sherds of Romano-British shell-gritted pottery. None of the posts in the proposed fenceline contained any datable material.

### THE FENCED ENCLOSURE

A line of 17 postholes was traced for 24 m running in a curving line NW-SE between the Romano-British well 950 and the corn-drying area (Fig. 83). At the north end posthole 940 was 2 m south of the edge of the trench: the line may have continued beyond this point into the unexcavated area. Posthole 957 formed the south-east corner of the fenced enclosure; the line of postholes then turned and ran south-west for 27 m crossing the late Romano-British paddock ditch 993. At the south-west corner, by posthole 1003, was a hollowed area 994, which may have resulted from wear of the surface at an entrance into the paddock. The fenceline then ran for approximately 10 m to the north-west alongside structure D. Beyond this point the gravel surface had been eroded by modern ploughing and, as already explained (see p. 224), postholes tended to disappear. Alternatively, posthole 1049 was level with the north-west corner of structure D and the fence may have stopped at this point.

On the east side the postholes were regularly spaced *c.* 0.7 m apart, similar in size, 0.5 m diameter and about 0.2 m deep. The fill in all of them was a brown sandy loam. Context 919 had a distinct post-mould visible in it 0.2 m in diameter, centrally placed in the posthole.

The south side of the enclosure was less regular, with the spacing becoming more erratic and the traces of the postholes slighter. On the west side the line of the fence was less certain as it ran close to structure D. In this area the postholes were shallow and close together.

### Dating

Three of the postholes on the east side, 941, 946, and 947, contained eight Romano-British sherds, all grey wares except one sherd of red colour-coated Oxfordshire ware. 947 also contained a sherd of Saxon fabric 1. On the south side 959 produced a single sherd of grass-tempered Saxon pottery and 1003 two sherds of Saxon fabric 1.

If, as the pottery and the character of the postholes suggest, the fenced enclosure belonged to the Saxon period, it must have been constructed across the late Romano-British paddock ditches 870 and 993. Both these ditches were excavated carefully with the possibility of locating postholes cut into their filling, but no convincing ones were found. As explained above, the fills of all these features were so similar that the failure to find postholes within the ditches is not a convincing argument in the dating of the fenceline, and does not preclude a Saxon date.

### WELL 1083 Figures 88, 66

A cutting across the line of the east side of the late Romano-British paddock revealed a dark brown layer of waterlogged material containing a dense concentration of Corallian ragstone about 0.3 m from the ground surface. After the layer of tumbled stones

had been removed, it could be seen that a circular wicker- and stone-lined well had been inserted into the bottom of the ditch, apparently while the ditch was still open.

The well consisted of a hole 1 m deep, the bottom of which was about 1.45 m from the ground surface. The hole was lined with wicker work of hazel, oak, and willow withies with a maximum diameter of 1.2 m and surviving to a height of 0.8 m. Horizontal wattles were woven between oak and hazel uprights between 0.21 and 0.25 m apart. Unfortunately, before the wicker lining could be accurately drawn, the sides of the well fell in under the pressure of incoming water.

Above the wicker lining there was a crude retaining wall of Corallian ragstone, the upper courses of which had fallen into the well. The fill of the well consisted principally of a mixed deposit of stone, silt, yellow clay, and waterlogged organic material. It was excavated in three spits of about 0.3 m each. It appeared that the well had silted up gradually, eventually becoming little more than a shallow puddle with watercress growing in it and colonised by water beetles. When the well was fully excavated it filled with water to a depth of 1.0 m.

### THE SAXON BURIALS AND THEIR GRAVE GOODS

by P D C Brown

Four inhumations of the pagan Saxon period were excavated, two within the late Romano-British farmhouse and two in the late Romano-British Building 2. The skeletal details are reported on in the section on human burials (4:D10) by Mary Harman.

### GRAVE 258 Figures 67, 79

Largely incomplete post-cranial skeleton of an adult male, possibly a young man, in Room 5 of the farmhouse. Supine, head to south. Damaged by ploughing.

### Grave goods Figure 68

- 1 (60) Fragment of iron knife, lying on left radius close to right hand.
- 2 (57) Fragment of iron knife point lying on right-hand edge of grave (possibly intrusive).
- 3 (55) A 3rd-century Antoninianus (*c.* AD 268–70; Cat No.13), found to the left of where the skull should have been, possibly deliberately placed with the body; originally in the mouth?

### GRAVE 271 FIGURES 67, 79

Fragmentary remains of an adult female with a newborn infant; damaged by ploughing. Inserted into room 4 of the late Romano-British farmhouse. Female supine with head to south; child lay by her right side, head to north.

**Grave goods** Figure 68

- 1 (87) Beads in fragments at head end. Parts of three amber beads, roughly rounded but angular. Dimensions 17, 17, and 15 mm. Part of a sub-spherical crystal bead, uneven surface. Length 16 mm. Fragment of a spherical (haematite?) pebble; would be ideal as a bead though not enough survives to show whether it was pierced or not. Diameter *c* 16 mm.
- 2 (86) Cast bronze ring, regular in shape, circular cross-section. Diameter 25–29 mm. Found in the area of the left ribs.
- 3 (88) Coin (Cat No. 10). Illegible sestertius of *c* 230–48. Close to the head and possibly deliberately placed with the body.

**Comment**

Disturbed and presumably incomplete. The cast bronze ring could be from a purse/amulet group. The combination of amber and crystal beads suggest a 6th-century date.

**GRAVE 807** Figures 8, 67

Female aged between 18 and 23 years; supine, head to south-west and accompanied by a newborn infant. Inserted in building 2.

**Grave goods** Figure 69

- 1 (353–7) Five amber beads and a fragment of a sixth; found near the infant.

Three together:

L: 12 mm; D: 5/11 mm; flat angular.

L: 10 mm; D: 6/10 mm; angular.

L: 10 mm; D: 8/11 mm; rounded.

Two together:

L: 9 mm; D: 6 × 10 mm; rounded.

L: 9 mm; D: 7 × 10 mm; rounded.

- 2 (420) Cast bronze ornament, adapted for use as a brooch. The casting was originally like a fish, but the head and tail have been removed so that it is not symmetrical, and could be thought of as an animal viewed from above. The back is flat; originally a stud projected from the centre of the back, but this was removed and only its scar remains. Traces of solder on the two ends show where brooch fittings were attached. The front of the object is curved, reflecting the shape of the fish's body. The surface was gilded, but gilding remains only in the hollows of the triangular punch marks surrounding the body and vestigial fins, and in the triple engraved lines. The triangular punch seems almost flat-headed, but was perhaps originally three-spotted. Neck and tail junctions are marked by a raised moulding beyond which the ends are broken off. Present dimensions: L: 61 mm; W: 27 mm; Th: 2 mm.

- 3 (359) Small iron buckle with fragmentary tongue and plate. From left shoulder. L: 34 mm; W: 24 mm. Maximum strap width 14 mm.

- 4 (358) Iron knife. L: 142 mm; W: 18 mm.

- 5 (348) Point of iron pin, flaking surface; from shoulder area. D: 2–3 mm.

- (360) Shaft or iron pin with folded crookhead. L: 50 mm.

Although these pieces do not join, they could well be from the same object. Overall length would be 110 mm.

- 6 (361) Bone comb, double-sided, conventional construction (7 iron rivets). Plain flat bar with plain ends, a single hole through each end. Found by lower right leg.

L: 144 mm; W: 54 mm. This comb is discussed with other combs from the site (5:E8).

**Comment**

The unusual brooch is discussed separately below; the iron pin in connection with the bronze pins in the next grave; and the comb below (5:F2–4). The assemblage seems substantially complete, though presumably there were originally two brooches.

**Date**

6th century, second half.

**GRAVE 820** Figures 81, 67

Female aged 30–35 years. Inserted in building 2. Body supine with head to north. Grave goods slightly disturbed.

**Grave goods** Figure 70

- 1 (412) 24 amber beads, smoothed, most approximately rounded. D: 6–11 mm; one larger: 16 mm. Scattered over ribs, mostly on left side.

- 2 (413) Cast bronze saucer brooch, gilt surface; seven pointed spiral coils; short catch-plate, two pin lugs; rusting iron pin preserves traces of thread, chiefly a single coarse S-spin thread. D: 46 mm.

- 3 (409) Two bronze pins on a wire ring. Made of solid metal, and rounded perhaps by hammering in a grooved block resulting in a certain amount of lapping over of the edges of the metal, and in places, in its breaking off. Ends of plain, flattened, and rounded shapes. One pin is stained with iron rust. Both pins were bent while buried. Original L: 125 mm and 128 mm. Found overlying left side of chest.

- 4 (416) Flat iron ring, buckle, covered on one face with a plain sheet of silver. Incomplete, total shape uncertain and not necessarily circular. No trace of rivets or other fastenings. Slight traces of textile preserved by rust on both sides of ring suggest it may have been attached with a cord.



- D: 32 mm; W: *c* 9 mm; Th: 2 mm. Found overlying centre of chest.
- 5 (299) A pair of bronze ornaments, appliques, in S-shape: an animal with head twisted backwards. The head-cum-neck and hindquarters are chip-carved and gilt; the body is flat, and covered with a thin plate of silver. At the back are two rivets, showing that the pieces were attached permanently rather than being movable. The two pieces are identical; the animals face the same way rather than in opposite directions. L: 32 mm; rivet length: 3–4 mm.
- 6 (410) Penannular ring of bronze, made by folding up a piece of a late Romano-British cogged-edge bracelet. D: 17 mm Found outside right thigh. Perhaps a chance inclusion in the grave.
- 7 (414–5) Two bronze rivets with flat, circular silver-plated heads. D: 15 mm; L. of rivet 4.5 mm D: 10 mm; L. of rivet 7 mm. Found overlying centre of chest.
- 8 (411) Small iron buckle, in fragments. Iron pin, no plate. W: 27 mm; max. strap width 17 mm. Not illustrated.

**Comment**

Although the skeleton is substantially complete, the grave goods seem to have been disturbed, and it is reasonable to assume that a brooch has been lost.

The bronze pins in this grave and the iron pin in the preceding grave can be matched elsewhere. They are commonly found on one or other side of the chest, suggesting that they were carried attached below one of the brooches; other local examples are Abingdon B60, B61, and B66, (Leeds and Harden 1936), and Harwell 9 (Ashmolean Museum).

The unusual appliqué and silver-plated rivets congregate in the centre of the chest. The nearby buckle suggest that they may have been decoration for a belt, though the buckle itself is very plain, unless the curious silver-plated ring was used somewhere to embellish it.

**Date**

6th century, mid-second half.

