# Chapter 4: Final Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

# by Alistair Barclay

Five relatively small ring ditches/barrows, up to 10 m in diameter, 602, 611, 801, the segmented ring ditch, and a pond barrow-like feature, 4583, were excavated in 1983–5 in the S half of Dry Piece, an area which also contained later Neolithic pits and Beaker 'flat' graves. Hengiform ring ditch 611 was probably the earliest and could have acted as a focus for the remaining monuments. The segmented ring ditch and ring ditch 602 (barrow 12 phase 1) were possibly aligned on 611.

## RING DITCH 611 (51332 98084; FIGS 4.1-4.6)

Ring ditch 611 appeared as an irregular cropmark to the immediate W of barrow 12 (Fig. 1.10) and was cut by its outer ditch (601).

#### Method

The ploughsoil was stripped mechanically to reveal an irregular oval soilmark and the ring ditch was excavated by quadrants.

#### Phase 1. Hengiform ring ditch

The ring ditch had an outer diameter of 6.5 m and enclosed an area 2 x 1.5 m. Towards the NW it cut treethrow hole 612. The ditch was continuous and had been dug to a depth of 1.75 m below the gravel. It has a flat bottom and, even in its eroded state, steep sides. The primary fill consisted of clean pebbly gravel (611/14) interdigitated with fine dark brown loam. Layer 611/14 represented collapse of the ditch edges; the accumulation of fine loam (611/15) suggested that this was a gradual and natural process rather than deliberate backfilling. Placed deposits of antler (AB7-14) and cattle limbs (AB15 and 16) had been made in layers 611/14–15. These did not rest directly on the ditch floor but lay within the primary fill. The two articulated cattle limbs (AB15 and 16) occurred in layer 611/14 and were diametrically opposed. The red deer antlers had been placed in a ring around the ditch base (Fig. 4.1). Six of the antlers (AB7-12) were in the primary gravel layer 14 and two more (AB13-14) in the overlyingloam, layer 13. Two radiocarbon determinations, 2900-2200 cal BC (95% confidence) (3950±80 BP; BM-2713) and 2600-2000 cal BC (95% confidence)(3860±80 BP; BM-2712)<sup>13</sup>, were obtained from AB8 and 13.

The middle ditch fill, 611/13, consisted of layers of dirty loose gravel and fine dark brown loam. This

material represented collapse from both the inner and outer ditch edges. More gravel and blocks of loam or ?turves, layers 11–2, were deposited from the outer edge into the upper ditch (Fig. 4.3). Sherds from a plain Grooved Ware bowl (Fig. 4.4, P9) were found in layers 6, 11 and 12, refitting sherds coming from quadrants A, C and B. This vessel could have been deliberately smashed with fragments deposited around the ditch. A fragment from a reworked group VI axe (Fig. 4.4, S1) was found in quadrant A, layer 12. There was also a small quantity of struck flint (Table 4.3).

The weathered interior enclosed by the ditch was only 2 m in diameter. It was overlain by a layer, 611/5, of 'disturbed' clean gravel. This was recorded as redeposited gravel, but is more likely to represent a weathered surface, perhaps contemporary with the gravel layers recorded as part of 611/13. The section suggests that the central area may have been artificially lowered when the monument was built (Fig. 4.3).

By this time, deposition of sediment from the interior had probably ceased. Layer 611/12 consisted of fine red loam, clods of dark brown fine loam, and gravel. The ditch silting had by now slowed and the earthwork had become relatively stable. Dark redbrown loam with little gravel, layers 611/6 and 611/ 10, accumulated in the top of the ditch. Further collapse of the ditch sides now occurred with the deposition of a layer, 611/9, of red-brown gravelly loam. At this stage the ditch had completely silted. The monument would have resembled a large, open pit. A layer of fine redbrown loam (611/4) accumulated in the S half of the interior overlying layers 611/5 and 611/9. A similar layer (8) of fine light brown sandy loam with little gravel accumulated in the N half of the monument. In the centre of the interior the two layers were indistinguishable.

## Phase 2. 'Pond barrow'

The ring ditch had now weathered into a circular depression up to 7.5 m in diameter and 0.8 m deep and in form would have resembled a pond barrow. There was no evidence that the monument was deliberately modified at this stage. An urned cremation was placed at the centre of the depression resting on top of layer 4. The vessel (Fig. 4.5, P10), only the lower part of which was present, was inverted over the cremated remains of a child aged between two and three years. A single radiocarbon determination of 2040–1640 cal BC (92%

<sup>13</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed contexts, both of short duration (BM-2713 primary silt accumulation; BM2712 initial silt accumulation). In both samples the possible offset between the shedding of the antlers and their deposition is unknown. The samples give direct dates for the antlers, and *tpqs* for the later silting process. *Evaluation*: High-value dates for structured deposits and early ritual use of ring ditch. Moderate(BM-2712) High-value (BM-2713) dates for the monument form: the time between the digging of the ditch and the deposition of the antlers is uncertain, but probably very short.



Figure 4.1 Ring ditch 611: phase 1, hengiform monument

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confidence) (3510±80 BP; OxA-1873)<sup>14</sup> was obtained from the charred human bone. A layer of gravelly loam (3) extended across the barrow, partially covering the cremation vessel. Above this was a thick accumulation (layer 2) of fine gravel-free loam which covered the inverted base of the urn. Blackthorn and oak charcoal from this layer gave a radiocarbon date of 2190–1760 cal BC (95% confidence)(3600±70 BP; OxA-1889)<sup>15</sup>. Charcoal from layers 2 and 3 could represent dispersed/ disturbed pyre debris associated with the cremation deposit. Unfortunately the precise context of the charcoal sample is not known and therefore the result should be used with caution.

Layers 2–4 were cut to the E by the outer ditch of barrow 12 and redeposited gravel, probably part of an outer bank for the barrow, was dumped above layer 2. Layers 4=8, 3, 7 and 2 were sealed beneath this deposit. These layers contained worked flint, including a microlith and serrated flakes (Fig. 4.6, F14, F13), a small quantity of animal bone, including red deer antler and aurochs, and sherds of Beaker and early Bronze Age pottery (Fig. 4.6, P11–13). A possible pig tusk knife (Fig. 4.6, WB1) was found in the primary layer 4. It is plausible that most of this material was redeposited in the open hollow of the 'pond barrow'.

Above the bank material (layer 1) were layers of gravelly loam, loam and clean gravel. These layers could have represented *in situ* or collapsed bank material. A calf, the skeleton of which was dated to 1100-890 cal BC (94% confidence)(2820±40 BP; BM-2896)<sup>16</sup>, was buried in a shallow grave cut into layer 1. The late Bronze Age date suggests that cattle had retained a special significance over the one and a half millennia since the deposition of calf limbs in the original monument.

## Suggested sequence

- 1. The position for the ring ditch was chosen in an area with pits but no other ring ditches. The ground was cleared of trees (612).
- 2. The ring ditch was excavated and an ?outer bank was constructed.
- 3. Deposits of antler and cattle limbs were placed around the bottom of the ditch after it had begun to silt.
- 4. The ditch was left to collapse and fill up naturally.
- 5. Material similar to the contents of the Grooved Ware pits was deposited into the silted ditch.

- 6. The weathered ring ditch now resembled a pit or pond barrow in form.
- 7. An urned cremation was placed at the centre and the depression was allowed to silt naturally.
- 8. The 'pond barrow' was cut by the ditch of barrow 12 (601) and partially buried beneath its surrounding bank.
- 9. The burial of a calf was inserted into the top of the bank.

## Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

*Cremation* 611/*D*/2*A* consisted of approximately 4 g of white and blue-grey bone representing an infant of approximately two to three years. Bones present were skull (vault and dentition), axial (vertebral body and arch) and longbone shaft fragments. Only 1 g belonged to the 10 mm size range, the remainder belonging to the 5 mm size range.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.4–6, Table 4.1)

#### Phase 1

**P9. 611**/*A*/**11**, *B*/**6**, *C*/**10** & **12**, *D*/**2**. Plain Grooved Ware. Fabric Q:2. A large quantity of sherds, weighing 332 g, of a single vessel. The vessel can be physically reconstructed as a bowl. The sherds are generally small and in very poor condition. No sherd count was possible as the poor quality of the fabric has caused the virtual disintegration of much of the vessel during burial and excavation and many fresh breaks are visible. Colour — exterior: dark brown, brown; core: black; interior: dark brown.



*Figure 4.2 Ring ditch 611 after excavation, looking towards barrow 12.* © *OAU* 

<sup>14</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event), though stratigraphically within deposits deriving from long duration silting/soil formation processes. The age-at-death offset is minimal; depositional offset unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample dates the charred bone, and gives a *tpq* for later soil development. *Evaluation*: Apparently high-value date, but doubts about the accuracy of radiocarbon determinations on charred bone put the date in question.

<sup>15</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context, within deposits deriving from long duration silting/soil formation processes. The sample may be of mixed origin. The age-at-death offset is possibly considerable, while the depositional offset is possibly minimal *if* debris is from a cremation pyre. The sample gives a *tpq* for later soil accumulation and perhaps for construction of barrow 12's bank. *Evaluation:* Low-value date; uncertain source and possibly large age offset.

<sup>16</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: discrete deposit (surface layer, depositional context unrecognised), of short duration (burial event). The ageat-death offset is minimal, and the depositional offset is probably minimal. The sample only dates the calf burial. *Evaluation:* Moderatevalue date: calf burial only, though perhaps relevant to other later Bronze Age activity.

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611/B/12	ı	'	ı	I	ı			·	•	ı	1*	1 g	·	
611/C/12		·	•		not	246 g	ı	ı		,	ı	ŀ	'	,
					counted									
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#### Phase 2

**P10. 611/D/2.** ?Collared Urn. Fabric S:-. Partially reconstructable vessel in a compact fabric with some sand. Only the lower half of the vessel has survived, showing that it has a plain body and protruding foot. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core: black; interior: dark grey.

**P11. 611/A/2.** Food Vessel. Fabric GS:1. One sherd with impressed circular decoration. Colour — exterior: dark brownish grey; core: dark grey; interior: dark grey. Condition: fair.

**P12.** 611/A/2. Beaker. Fabric FS:2. One body sherd with comb impressions and small oval impressions. Colour — orange throughout. Condition: worn.

P13. 611/A/2, and B/2. Fabric FGS:1. Three rim sherds and four body sherds of a vessel with a pointed rim and a wide grooved line on the rim interior. The rim may be slightly collared, or there may have been a very deep groove on the exterior below the rim along which the rim sherds have broken; both sherds are so small that it is impossible to be certain of the form. One of the body sherds appears to be part of an applied cordon with a groove along one side, which has been so inefficiently joined to the vessel that it has come away from the body wall. Colour - exterior: dark grey, brown; core: black; interior: dark grey, brown. Condition: worn.

#### Flint<sup>D</sup> (Figs 4.4, 4.6, Tables 4.2–3)

#### Phase 1

*F11. 611/A/14.* Multi-platform flake core.

*F12. 611/A/12.* End and side scraper, steeply retouched (*c.* 75–80°) at distal end.

Very little flint appears to have been deposited in the primary fills of this feature (Table 4.3). The only retouched piece from the primary fills was a backed knife from layer 15. A multi-platform flake core (Fig. 4.4, F11) and a single platform flake core were recovered from layer 14.

A little more material was recovered from the secondary fills. An end and side scraper and a serrated flake were found in layer 12, as was a single platform blade core. The sample of complete flakes available for metrical analysis is small (42, or 37 flakes >20 mm). However, flake proportions tend to fall in the middle range, only 4 flakes >20 mm having a breadth:length ratio of 2:5

 Table 4.1.
 Pottery from ring ditch 611. \* indicates only featureless sherds present

	Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammerstones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt Worked	Broken
Phase 1	611/15	1	_	_	10	-	-	1	12	1	4
	611/14	1	2	-	8	-	-	-	11	-	3
	611/13	1	-	-	5	1	-	-	7	-	3
	611/12	-	1	-	36	-	-	2	39	-	21
	611/11	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	2
	611/10	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	13	1	6
	611/9	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	6	-	1
	611/6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	-	3
	611/5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Phase 1 tota	ls 4	3	1	87	1	-	3	99	2	44
Phase 2	611/8	1	2	1	16	-	-	1	21	-	11
	611/7	-	-	-	28	1	-	1	30	1	16
	611/4	-	-	-	12	-	-	1	13	2	9
	611/3	1	-	1	33	-	-	3	38	-	20
	611/2	2	-	-	15	-	-	2	19	-	8
	611/1	7	-	2	47	-	-	3	59	1	35
	Phase 2 tota	ls 11	2	4	151	1	-	11	180	4	99

# Table 4.2. Struck flint from ring ditch 611

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	Context	Microlith	Scrapers	Serrated flake	Backed knife	Misc. Retouched	Totals
Phase 1	611/15	-	-	-	1		1
	611/12		1	1	-	-	2
	Phase 1 totals	5 -	1	1	1	-	3
Phase 2	611/8	-	-	1		_	1
	611/7	1	-	-		-	1
	611/4	-	-	-		1	1
	611/3	-	1	-		2	3
	611/2	-	1	-		1	2
	611/1	-	1	-		2	3
	Phase 2 totals	s 1	3	1		6	11

Table 4.3. Retouched flint from ring ditch 611

or less. Although the sample is small, some of this material would not be out of place in a late Neolithic context.

## Phase 2

*F13. 611/C/8.* Serrated flake. Left-hand edge utilized, right-hand edge serrated. *c.* 10 serrations per cm, gloss. Very worn.

*F14. 611/D/7.* Microlith, broken. Inverse retouch. Some recent damage.

F15. 611/D/4. Unretouched blade.

F16. 611/A/3. Tranchet axe sharpening flake.

*F17. 611/1.* End scraper, on end of a blade-like flake. Some recent damage. Scraping angle *c*. 70–80°.

180 pieces of flint were recovered from layers relating to the 'pond barrow'. The retouched component consisted of scrapers, retouched and serrated flakes. A microlith (Fig. 4.6, F14) recovered from layer 7 and a *tranchet* axe sharpening flake (Fig. 4.6, F16) from layer 3 suggest some redeposition. A single platform flake core and a fragmentary core were recovered from layer 8. Only 49 complete flakes were recovered (41 >20 mm). Flakes tended to be fairly small and soft hammer characteristics predominated.

#### Stone axe fragment<sup>R</sup> (Fig. 4.4)

#### Phase 1

*S1. 611/A/12.* Petrology no. Oxon 77. Fragment of stone axe with a small surviving area of polished surface. The grey-green colour, fine grain, banding and flaked surfaces are all suggestive of group VI Langdale tuff from the Lake District, and this has been confirmed by thin-sectioning.

#### Worked bone<sup>T,A</sup> (Fig. 4.6)

#### Phase 2

WB1. 611/C/4. Knife point? Manufactured from the canine tooth (tusk) of a pig/boar. The tooth has

been split to produce a flat surface. The blade edge and the point have been sharpened and polished. There is a slight polish probably from use. The majority of the visible striations are natural but a few are caused by manufacture or use. Length 41 mm. Condition: good. Sf 581.

#### Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

#### Phase 1

Placed Deposits of Animal Bone, Layers 14 and 15 (Fig. 4.1)

*AB7. 611/D/14.* Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow, bez and trez tines from a deer of at least 12 points. No apparent butchery, but localised burnt patches. Sf 620.

*AB8.* 611/*D*/14. Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow, bez and trez tines and evidence for two tines in the crown, from a deer of at least ten points. The tops are worn at the ends and burnt. Sf 604. Dated to 2900–2200 cal BC (95% confidence) (3950±80 BP; BM-2713).

*AB9.* 611/*B*/14. Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow and bez tines, crown broken off but evidence for at least eight points. No apparent butchery, but burnt patches present. Sf 602.

*AB10. 611/B/14.* Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow and bez tines, and possible trez tine, from a deer of eight or ten points. One worn tine; tops burnt and smashed off. Sf 603.

**AB11. 611/B/14.** Red deer antler. Shed. Coronet not worn. Brow and bez tines, beam and crown, from a deer of at least eight points. The bez tine has been smashed off at the base and burnt. Sf 601.

*AB12. 611/C/14.* Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow and bez tines and at least one further tine. The bez and next tine up have been burnt at the base for removal and smoothed. Sf 641.

*AB13. 611/A/13.* Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam, single brow tine and bez ?smashed off.



0 <u>1</u> 2 m

Figure 4.3 Ring ditch 611: sections

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Figure 4.4 Ring ditch 611: finds from phase 1 deposits

Beam broken 100 mm above base, possibly recently. The beam has been smoothed. Sf 593. Dated to 2600–2000 cal BC (95% confidence)(3860±80 BP; BM-2712).

*AB14. 611/A/13.* Red deer antler. Shed, with unworn coronet. Beam with brow and bez tines with evidence for two tines in the crown, from a deer of at least ten points. The tops are worn at the ends and burnt. Sf 605.

All the antlers are shed, and none is complete. Five have definitely been modified by man and the others may have been. The modifications are all in the form of tine removal, and on two there is abnormal wear on the tops of the tines (AB10 and 14). Antler crowns found in this condition have usually been interpreted as rakes. Tine removal appears to have been by means of smashing or wrenching off, apparently with localised heating taking place to make the zone more brittle. A different method of working is seen in AB8 where there are obvious cut marks around the base of the bez tine to facilitate removal. In no case is wear or battering seen on the coronet, as is found on antler picks from other sites such as Hazleton (Levitan 1990).

**AB15. 611**/**C**/**14.** Calf. Articulated right forelimb: scapula, humerus, radius and ulna. As with AB16, the bones are complete, except for some modern damage. The epiphyses have survived and are also all unfused, and that of the scapula is very 'rough' and obviously from a calf. No signs of butchery. Sf 633.

**AB16. 611**/**D**/**14.** Calf. Articulated left hind limb: pelvis, femur, patella and tibia. All are complete except the tibia which has a fresh break at the distal end. All the epiphyses are unfused, and additionally the elements of the pelvis are unfused. This limb is from a

calf. No signs of butchery were observed. Sf 621.

The two limbs are both from an animal of the same age, so it is conceivable that they are from the same individual.

AB17. 611/B/14. Burnt fragment of large ungulate bone. Sf 624.

**AB18. 611/D/14.** A fused left distal sheep humerus. The distal end is fused and the proximal end is missing. There are canid chewing marks on it.

## Other Antler and Animal Bone from Phase 1 Contexts

611/15. Red deer: antler tine and some small pieces. Cattle: two possibly articulated thoracic vertebrae, central epiphyses unfused, 1 deciduous lower premolar. Unidentified large mammal: 5 fragments.

611/14. Unidentified large mammal: 5 fragments.

611/13. Cattle: lower premolar. Unidentified large mammal: 3 fragments.

**611/12.** Cattle: first phalange, with signs of canid chewing. Pig: right humerus fragment. Sheep: left humerus, distal end chewed. Sheep/goat: right scapula. Unidentified large mammal 3 fragments; unidentified medium mammal 5 fragments.

611/10. Cattle: first phalange, both ends chewed.

611/6. Red deer: antler fragment. Pig: upper canine (female). Unidentified large mammal: 2 fragments.

#### Phase 2

Late Bronze Age Calf Burial

**AB19.** Layer 1. Most of the 51 bones are from a substantially complete infant calf skeleton. They comprise skull, mandible (pair, deciduous teeth not in



Figure 4.5 Ring ditch 611: phase 2, 'pond barrow'

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Figure 4.6 Ring ditch 611: finds from phase 2 deposits

wear), atlas, axis, five cervical vertebrae, two thoracic vertebrae, at least ten ribs, paired scapulae, humeri, radii, ulnae, metacarpals, pelves, femora, tibiae and metatarsals, one carpal, one patella, right astragalus and calcaneum and one first phalanx. Dated to 1100–890 cal BC (94% confidence) (2820±40 BP; BM-2896).

Enough bones are present to indicate that it was originally a complete burial, and most of the missing bones are the smaller or more fragile elements. The lack of wear on the deciduous molars show that this is a newborn calf. No trace of butchery was seen. There are parallels for burial of animals in barrows. The pond barrow at Down Farm, Dorset, had two burials of cattle and two of sheep, though these were all of adult animals and are likely to date from the early Bronze Age (Legge 1991).

## Other Antler and Animal Bone from Phase 2 Contexts

611/8. Cattle: milk tooth. Sheep/goat: left radius fragment (weathered). Pig: left tibia (weathered). Unidentified large mammal: 1 fragment; unidentified medium mammal: 6 fragments.

611/7. Cattle: left mandible fragment, upper molar.

611/5. Unidentified large mammal: 1 fragment.

**611/4.** Unidentified large mammal: 2 fragments; unidentified medium mammal 9 fragments, of which seven are burnt.

611/3. Unidentified large mammal 2 fragments.

611/5. Cattle, ?Bos primigenius: radius, left distal fragment, chewed at the distal end and so not measurable. Cattle: lower molar. Red deer: antler fragment. Unidentified large mammal: 13 fragments.

The cattle radius is very large, and possibly from aurochs rather than domestic cattle. The only other positively identified aurochs bone from the excavations was found nearby in barrow 12.

611/1 (in addition to the calf burial described above). Cattle: calcaneum fragment. Sheep/goat: scapula. Unidentified large mammal: 3 fragments.



F17

P13

F13

F16

WB 1

The ring ditch was visible on aerial photographs as a segmented circular cropmark (Fig. 1.8).

#### Method

Most of the soil was removed mechanically, leaving a single baulk 1 m wide extending from the N to the centre of the site. The soil from this baulk was sieved by hand as part of an exercise to detect the vestiges of a mound (Bradley 1984a). All four ditch segments were excavated completely, and single context recording was employed.

## The Ring Ditch

After the removal of the ploughsoil the ring ditch appeared as four segments enclosing a slightly subcircular area measuring  $10 \times 9$  m. To the W, the ring ditch was broken where it cut an ice wedge cast. The NE half was defined by three sections of ditch (2122, 2155 and 2139) separated by two narrow causeways about 0.7 m wide. The SW half was defined by a single stretch of ditch (2147) separated from the NE half by two wide causeways of 4.7 m and 6 m respectively.

The segments (2122, 2155, 2139 and 2147) varied considerably in their size and fills. The shallowest, 2139 and 2147, were to either side of the wide SE causeway. 2147 cut into the ice wedge cast, the compacted conglomerate filling of which evidently presented problems to the builders, and it was left unfinished. The eastern end of this ditch segment was particularly shallow towards the SE causeway. Segment 2139, on the other hand, was more substantial, attaining a width of 1.5 m and a depth of 0.5 m. Like 2147, it sloped up gently to the surface against the SE causeway. Although most of the fill resulted from natural weathering, it was slightly asymmetrical, with more material coming from inside the monument.

#### Chapter Four

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core	Flakes rejuvenation flakes	Chips and blades	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
2043	-	-	-	9	-	_	2	11	_	7
2080		-	-	25	-	-	2	27	2	13
2113	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	1
2114	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	1
2116	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	1
2132	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	-	3
2146	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	1	2
2154	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Topsoil sampling	2	1	-	25	7	-	2	37	4	23
Totals	3	2		79	7	-	6	97	7	48

Table 4.4. Struck flint from the segmented ring ditch and related features

The other segments, 2122 and 2155, were larger again, being about 2 m wide and 0.9 m deep. Both had filled up mainly from the interior, and in 2122 the primary fill (2115) was overlain by a discontinuous layer of charcoal. 2155, which lacked this feature, had been recut on one occasion (Fig. 4.8). The highest filling, layer 2080, of 2122 contained a 'thumbnail' scraper (Fig. 4.8, F19) and a small rim sherd of rusticated Beaker (Fig. 4.8, P14). Another 'thumbnail' scraper (Fig. 4.8, F18) was recovered from the topsoil above this feature. A microlith (Fig. 4.8, F20) was recovered from the middle ditch fill 2081.

Just inside one of the ditch segments, 2155, there was a shallow 'pit', 2142, containing a considerable quantity of ?oak charcoal. This provided a radiocarbon determination of cal AD 390–600 (1570 $\pm$ 50 BP; BM-2705)<sup>17</sup>, which would suggest that the feature belongs to the early Saxon use of the site.

The primary ditch fills were fairly clean of artefacts with small quantities of worked flint, fragmentary animal bone and pottery recovered from the upper. A small amount of Saxon pottery was found in the upper fills (2113 and 2080) of segment 2122.

Two funerary deposits were associated with the monument. A disturbed disarticulated inhumation was found in the eastern terminal of 2147 (layer 2132). This was initially identified as an infant aged between six months and a year old. It was covered by a thin layer of gravel and may well belong to the Roman reuse of the site. Outside the E terminal of 2147 was a pit (2123), containing an unaccompanied cremation in layer 2118.

## Human remains

Not relocated.

Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.8)

**P14. 2080,** upper fill of segment 2122. Beaker. Fabric FS:1. One rim sherd of a Beaker with plastic and non-plastic fingernail impressions. Colour — exterior: orange; core: bicoloured as for surfaces; interior: pale brown. Condition: fair.

In addition, there were two small fragments of pottery from 2043, a spit dug from the top of the same segment before layers 2080 and 2081 were distinguished. These are 1 sherd/5 g in Deverel-Rimbury fabric F:2 and 1 sherd/1 g in an unassignable flint-tempered fabric.

#### **Flint**<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.8, Table 4.4)

*F18. 2003.* From topsoil sampling. 'Thumbnail' scraper. Scraping angle 50–60°, some recent damage. Sf 259.

*F19. 2080.* 'Thumbnail' scraper. Scraping angle 50–65°. Sf 272.

F20. 2081. Microlith, rod type. Distal break.

A small quantity of mainly unretouched flakes was recovered. The primary fills were fairly clean, two flakes were recovered from 2154. 'Thumbnail' scrapers in the top fill of the ring ditch and topsoil would indicate a Beaker date for at least some of the material (Fig. 4.8, F18-F19). A later Mesolithic rod microlith in layer 2081 (Fig. 4.8, F20) and an opposed platform blade core from 2116 indicate that this group of material is mixed in date.

#### Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

## Segment 2155

Cattle. 2154: metatarsal and tooth (UM) fragments;

ł

<sup>17</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: unsealed context of short duration (pit backfill episode). The sample was from a diffuse origin in the soil matrix. The age-at-death offset is possibly large and the depositional offset is unknown. The sample only gives a *tpq* for the backfilling of the pit. *Evaluation:* Low-value date: Diffuse origin, possibly large age offset, no stratigraphic relevance and no recognisable spatial significance.

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Figure 4.7 Segmented ring ditch

2145: skull fragment, teeth (UM1, UM and LM3) and astragalus fragments.
Unidentified. 2154: one fragment. Sheep/goat. 2145: tooth (UM).
Unidentified. 2145: fragments.
Segment 2139

Cattle. 2114: metatarsal; 2116: metacarpal.
Pig. 2114: humerus.
Sheep/goat. 2113: UM2; 2116: radius.
Unidentified. : 2113, 2114, 2116: fragments.

Segment 2122

Cattle. 2080: tooth (LM).
Sheep/goat. 2080: radius and tooth (UM2).
Roe deer. 2080: jaw.

Unidentified large mammal. 2081: rib fragment

RING DITCH 801 (51289 98090; FIGS 4.9-11)

Ring ditch 801 appeared as a subcircular, segmented cropmark (Fig. 1.8). No evidence for a barrow mound or pre-barrow land surface survived within the ring ditch interior, the ploughsoil overlying natural gravel.

## Method

The ploughsoil (801/1) was mechanically stripped to reveal the ditch as an irregular soil mark enclosing a series of central features. From the soil mark the ditch gave the impression of having been excavated as a series of quarry pits. This fact determined the excavation strategy and the ditch segments were dug by quadrants (A–N) so that the ditch could be examined longitudinally. The entire ditch was excavated.



2155



P14





0

50 mm



2147







Context	GS:1/	/FV	F:4/	indet.	F	S:-	QV:1/	indet.	S	:-	]	F:-
801/1	-	-	1*	23 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
801/B/4	-	-	-	-	1*	5 g	-	-	-	-	-	-
801/F/3	6	42 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
801/F/4	1	23 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
801/g/4	9	69 g	-	-	-	-	~	-	-	-	-	-
801/H/2	1*	10 g	-	-	-	-	1	6 g	-	-	-	-
801/I/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1 g	4*	7 g
801/J/4	1	21 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4.5. Pottery from ring ditch 801. \* indicates featureless sherds only

### The ring ditch

The excavated ring ditch appeared as up to 11 elongated, interconnected quarry pits, which varied in length from 3–5 m and in depth from 0.3–0.9 m. Overall the ditch had an internal diameter of 10 m, with a relatively flat bottom and steep sloping sides. All the sections (A–N) had a primary fill (801/5 and 7) of clean, sometimes sandy gravel which could be traced longitudinally through from one pit to the next (Fig. 4.10, section 1). This would suggest that the quarry pits belonged to a single phase. The slower silting (801/4) consisted of a thick accumulation of dark reddish-brown loam with little gravel.

Sections 2–7 (Fig. 4.10) show that material was being deposited from both sides of the ditch at a uniform rate, perhaps reflecting the former presence of both inner and outer earthworks, although the position of the two Saxon SFBs (14 and 17/8) makes an inner earthwork more likely (Fig. 4.9).

The silted earthwork would have appeared as a series of discontinuous hollows. These hollows contained similar fills (801/3) of dirty gravel, sand and conglomerate blocks (Fig. 4.10). The similarity and nature of these fills would suggest that the hollows had been deliberately backfilled.

SFB 14 cut this redeposited gravel in ditch section 801/J. The gravel could have derived from the slighting of a barrow mound or could have been redeposited from the digging of SFB 17–8 as a deliberate attempt to level the ground surface. Possibly associated with the Saxon settlement was a thin layer of loam with charcoal flecks which had a restricted distribution above layer 3 in ditch segments H and B.

The primary ditch fill was relatively clean of finds and contained only a few flint flakes, so that the date at which the monument was constructed remains uncertain. In contrast the secondary fill contained Food Vessel sherds (Fig. 4.11, P15–7) and considerable quantities of animal bone and worked flint. The worked flint was typologically late Neolithic and resembled the material recovered from the Grooved Ware pits. Retouched pieces from layer 4 included a scraper which may have been deliberately snapped (Fig. 4.11, F21) and a chisel arrowhead. The Food Vessel sherds could be contemporary with the central cremation deposit. Layer 2 contained a Saxon sherd and a redeposited Peterborough Ware rim (Fig. 4.11, P18).

#### Cremation pit 802

The pit was oval in plan, measuring 0.47 x 0.52 m with gently sloping sides, and contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks. At the centre of the pit near its base was a deposit of cremated human bone surrounded by a rim of charcoal. An unburnt bronze awl (Fig. 4.9, M1) and a ceramic bead (Fig. 4.9, B1) had been placed amongst the bone. Charcoal from the pit fill included hawthorn, oak, onion couch tubers and vegetative grass remains and probably represented debris from the pyre. A radio-carbon determination of 1970–1600 cal BC (94% confidence)(3450±70 BP; OxA-1888)<sup>18</sup> was obtained for this material. No *in situ* burning or evidence for the place of cremation was found within the ring ditch.

## Suggested sequences

- 1. The construction of the ring ditch next to the segmented ring ditch and ring ditch 611.
- 2. The deposition of Grooved Ware, animal bone and flint in pits (3196–7) near the outer edge of the ditch, and the deposition of animal bone (mostly cattle and pig) and worked flint in the middle ditch fill.
- 3. The burial of a cremation deposit at the ring ditch centre.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: unsealed context of short duration (grave backfill). The sample was of diffuse origin from the soil matrix. The age-at-death offset is possibly large (oak charcoal), while the depositional offset is probably minimal (debris from pyre for associated cremation?). The sample probably dates the cremation but the stratigraphy is uncertain. *Evaluation:* Moderate-value date; apparently undisturbed burial context but diffuse origin and possibly large age offset.

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
801/5	-		-	12		-	-	12	-	8
801/4	11	6	5	334	1	-	10	367	56	174
801/3	5	3	-	78	4	-	3	93	11	48
801/2	-	1	-	37	-	-	4	42	-	19
801/1	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	4	-	3
Central	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
cremation 802										
Totals	16	10	5	465	5	-	18	519	67	253

#### Table 4.6. Struck flint from ring ditch 801

### Alternative

- 1. The construction of the ring ditch next to the segmented ring ditch and ring ditch 611.
- 2. The almost immediate deposition of the cremation at the centre of the ditch.

## Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

*Cremation 802.* A deposit of well calcined white bone weighing approximately 532 g was examined. The largest identifiable fragment was a humerus shaft which measured 110 mm in length. All parts of the body were represented though axial survival was particularly well marked. Considerable distortion had taken place and this seems to have affected the upper limbs to the greatest degree: the humerus shaft displayed a marked curvature and an ulna was extensively crushed. The bones are those of an adult and it has been suggested (M H) that their 'slight' appearance may indicate that they were those of a female. However this suggestion must be seen as tentative. A wormian bone was noted among the skull fragments.

#### Metalwork<sup>o</sup> (Fig. 4.9)

*M1. 802.* Bronze awl. Single-pointed awl with a wedgeshaped tang of subrectangular section. The flat faces of the tang taper out as long triangles and give way to a round section from the middle to the point. A slightly textured green and brown surface. Probably a little loss at both ends. Sampled at the centre. Sf 642. Extant length 30.5 mm; max. width 2.5 mm.

## Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.11, Table 4.5)

**P15.** 801/J/4. Food Vessel. Fabric GS:1. One rim sherd of a Food Vessel with deep cuneiform impressions on the internal rim bevel and the rim exterior. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: pale orange. Condition: fair.

**P16-7.** 801/F/3-4; G/4. Food Vessel. Fabric GS:1. Fifteen body sherds of a single vessel, of which five

are decorated with paired non-plastic fingernail impressions: it is not possible to ascertain the arrangement of the decoration. Colour — variable: exterior: buff, pale orange, pale grey; core: black; interior: black, grey. Condition: fair.

**P18.** 801/H/2. ?Fengate or Ebbsfleet Ware. Fabric QV:1. A single rim sherd of a vessel with grooved lines across the rim top and grooved lattice decoration on the exterior. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core: black; interior: worn. Condition: worn.

## Fired clay<sup>A</sup> (Fig. 4.9)

**B1. 802.** A flat, thin disk with a central hour glass perforation. The bead was made from fired clay. Fabric: slightly vesicular with no inclusions. The grey, non-oxidised appearance could indicate that the bead came into contact with the pyre. Colour — grey. Condition: fair. Sf 668.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.11, Tables 4.6–7)

**F21.** 801/H/4. Scraper broken in half and then in half again, perhaps deliberately snapped. Invasive retouch on the surviving portion, no sign of wear. Scraping angle 50–55°.

*F22 801/1* = ploughsoil. Side scraper. Slightly invasive retouch, scraping angle  $50-65^{\circ}$ .

*802* (unillustrated). A single unretouched flake was recovered from the cremation pit. It had not been burnt.

A considerable quantity of flint was recovered from the ditch of 801. The primary fill was fairly clean, 12 unretouched flakes were recovered. The majority of the material came from layer 4, the secondary fill. Retouched pieces from layer 4 include scrapers, retouched and serrated flakes and a chisel arrowhead. Another chisel arrowhead was recovered from layer 2. Ten cores were recovered from the secondary and tertiary fills of the ring ditch. These are generally unspecialised types or fragmentary. Keeled cores were recovered from layers 2 and 4 and an opposed platform blade core came from layer 4.



*Figure 4.9 Ring ditch 801 and cremation 802* 

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Context	Chisel arrowheads	Scrapers	Serrated flake	Misc. retouched	Totals
801/4	1	6	1	2	10
801/3	-	-	-	1	1
801/2	1	3	-	-	4
801/1	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	2	10	1	3	16

Table 4.7. Retouched flint from ring ditch 801

The attribute analysis (Fig. 7.4; Tables 7.13–18) and the presence of two chisel arrowheads would suggest a late Neolithic date for this material. The flint was concentrated in the layers on the right-hand side of the monument, perhaps indicating some relationship with adjacent Grooved Ware pits 3196 and 3197. The composition of the flint assemblage from layer 4 is similar to that of the assemblages from these pits (Tables 4.18–22).

## Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

Cattle bones were recovered from ditch sections A–M and were concentrated in layer 4. Small quantities of bone came from layers 2, 3 and 5.

*Cattle*. Cattle are the most abundant species (74% of the identified bones). Half of the bones are loose teeth; four of these are from juveniles and two are definite adults: the rest are of indeterminate age (first and second molars: juvenile or older). A mandible (one of four) has dentition with wear states: P4 — b, M1 — h, M2 — g, M3 — g; wear stage 37 (an adult). Other elements are scapula (2), humerus (2), radius, ulna, metacarpal (3), femur, tibia and calcaneum. Eleven have been chewed and one is weathered.

*Pig.* Eight of the identified pig bones came from ditch sections A, C, E–F and H–K, layer 4. These

included a scapula, two tibiae, radius, ulna and three teeth; three of the bones had their proximal ends chewed off. Two bones were identified from section B, layer 2: a tooth and a mandible which had butchery marks made with a metal implement.

*Red Deer.* A first phalanx (topsoil, layer 1) and two small pieces of antler (801/K/4).

Sheep/goat. Tooth (801/B/2).

75 unidentified fragments of large mammal bone.

## POND BARROW 4583 (51301 98063; FIGS 4.12-13)

4583 is part of the linear group of barrows which includes the segmented ring ditch, ring ditch 611, barrow 12, barrow 13 and pond barrow 4866. It was visible on aerial photographs as an irregular suboval cropmark (Fig. 1.8).

#### Method

The ploughsoil was removed mechanically to reveal a subcircular soilmark 4.6 m in diameter. The barrow was excavated by quadrants (A–D).

## The Monument

Excavation revealed a large pit which had been dug 1 m into natural gravel. After topsoil stripping the feature appeared on the surface as a subcircular soil mark 4.6 m in diameter. The pit had a primary fill, layer 4583/3, of red-brown sandy loam with gravel and gravel conglomerate. This extended around the W, N and E sides. On the S side there was a primary deposit of clean gravel (4583/5). These two layers represent the natural collapse and weathering of the pit, with the gravel perhaps deriving from a surrounding bank.

A linear bank of dirty gravel, 4583/4, had been redeposited in the SE side of the 'pond barrow' and may have been cut along its NE side (Fig. 4.12). A layer of gravelly loam, 4583/2 filled the lower half of the pit.



Figure 4.11 Ring ditch 801: finds

Above this was a further deposit of gravelly loam, 4583/1. in which two charcoal spreads were recorded. The southern charcoal spread included oak and blackthorn. The northern one, which included hazel, oak and blackthorn, appeared to be associated with the incomplete tightly crouched inhumation, burial A/B, of an adult male aged between approximately 40 and 50 years (Fig. 4.12, B). The bones seemed rather displaced, and extended down to the top of layer 2, where they were associated with animal bone, including a cattle jaw (Fig. 4.12, A). Although no grave cut was recorded in layer 1, the tightness of the skeletal position suggests that the burial was either inserted into a grave or otherwise contained, for example by binding or in an organic container.

A second crouched burial (Fig. 4.12, C) was recorded near the NW edge of the pit. This burial was of a subadult of approximately 14–16 years, placed on the right side with the head towards the NE. The fragmentary mandible of a large, possibly wild, pig was found 0.15 m S of the feet of the skeleton (Fig. 4.12)

Burial A/B has a radiocarbon age of 1310–1000 cal BC (95% confidence)(2930±50 BP; BM-2701); burial C one of 1020–810 cal BC (95% confidence)(2760±50 BP; BM-2702)<sup>19</sup>. While both fall within the later Bronze Age, the very slight overlap between them would accord with a later date for burial C, and perhaps for the displacement of burial A/B at the time of its insertion.

The upper layers of loamy gravel in which the burials were found (4583/1 and 2) contained small quantities of prehistoric pottery including Beaker (Fig. 4.13, P21–3) and Grooved Ware (Fig. 4.13, P20), and worked flint including a scraper and two chisel arrowheads (including Fig. 4.13, F23). It is unclear whether this material was contemporary with or predated the construction of the monument. In either case it would have been redeposited when the later Bronze Age burials were made.

#### Suggested sequence

The monument had been truncated by ploughing and this would have removed any trace of a surrounding bank. It is impossible to tell how long an interval separated the original excavation of the hollow and the insertion into it of two later Bronze Age burials, or indeed whether layers 1 and 2 were the fills of a substantial re-excavation, made when the burials were inserted.

- The monument position was approximately aligned on 611 and 601, possibly paired with pond barrow 4866. The central hollow was excavated and a surrounding bank constructed. Primary silt accumulated in the hollow.
- 2. Gravel, possibly from the bank, was dumped back into the hollow.

- 3. Two later Bronze Age burials were inserted into the top of the infilled hollow, perhaps successively.
- 4. A small Roman cemetery was placed outside the barrow 'bank' to the N (Fig. 1.9).

## Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

Burial A/B. 4583/C/1 and 2. This burial was that of an adult male who was probably of some considerable age, perhaps 40-50 years (M H). Dental attrition is heavy and no less than 11 teeth have been lost prior to death. In addition several teeth are carious and there are 11 abscesses. Osteophytes are present on the midthoracic and lower lumbar vertebrae and degeneration of the cervical and lumbar vertebral bodies has occurred. The articular facets on the right side of the second and third cervical vertebrae are fused together, as are the bodies. Degree of completeness of the skeleton is C and the preservation of individual bones is 3-2. The bones of the feet are quite well represented though very little of the torso survives. Possible healed fractures of both the proximal and distal radius and ulna were noted. Stature was calculated at 1.75 m.

**Burial C. 4583/D/1.** This burial was that of a subadult aged approximately 14–16 years. Degree of completeness of the skeleton is A and the preservation of individual bones is 3–2 with the exception of the talus which is graded 1.

## Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.13, Table 4.8)

**P19.** 4583/C/1. ?Beaker. Fabric CGS:2. Two sherds (one not illustrated), one with fingernail impressions. Colour — exterior: light brown; core and interior: dark grey. Condition fair.

**P20.** 4583/A/2. Grooved Ware. Fabric FGS:4. Rim with horizontal lines. Colour — exterior: reddish brown; core and interior: dark grey. Condition fair.

**P21–3 4583/***A*/1 and *D*/1. Beaker. Fabric Sh:4. Five beaker sherds (two not illustrated) with incised decoration. Colour — exterior: reddish brown; core and interior: dark grey. Condition fair.

Table 4.8. Pottery from pond barrow 4583

	FGS	:4/GW	Sh:4	/Bkr	CGS:2	2/?EBA
4583/A/1	-	-	2	5 g	-	
4583/A/2	3	11 g	-	-	-	-
4583/C/1	-	-	_	-	2	15 g
4583/C/2	-	-	1	2 g	-	-
4583/D/1	-	-	2	5 g	2	8 g

<sup>19</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: Both samples were from open contexts as grave cuts were not identified, and in the case of burial A/B, it may have been disturbed. Both samples were from short duration events (burials). In both samples the age-at-death offsets are minimal, however, while the depositional offset for burial C is probably minimal, that for burial A/B is probably also minimal as the tightness of the skeletal position and the fact that it was only partially disarticulated suggests it was probably not redeposited. Both samples only provide dates for the burial events, given their location, which suggests some perception of the mortuary significance of the infilled feature at the time of the burials. *Evaluation:* moderate value dates, burials only.



Figure 4.12 Pond barrow 4583

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Figure 4.13 Pond barrow 4583: finds

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.13, Table 4.9)

*F23. 4583/C/1.* Chisel arrowhead, slight damage to primary edge. Sf 588.

The primary silts were very clean, only three flakes were recovered. The majority of the assemblage was concentrated in layer 1. Two chisel and two unclassifiable arrowheads were recovered from layers 1 and 2 suggesting a late Neolithic date for at least some of the material. A side scraper was also recovered from layer 1. A crude, steeply retouched end and side scraper from layer 2 may be mid to late Bronze Age. Layer 1 produced four flake cores and a multiplatform flake core was found in layer 2.

#### Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

Animal bone was confined to layers 1 and 2.

#### 4583/2

*Cattle.* A mandible is from a juvenile or subadult beast, with teeth at the following wear states: dp4 - k; M1- g; M2- b; M3-E.

*Pig.* Unfused left calcaneum, distal end chewed. *Unidentified.* 9, including rib and limb bone fragments of large and medium mammal.

#### 4583/1

*Cattle.* Four teeth, one a deciduous tooth and the rest permanent. Other bones are a weathered tarsal, and a left humerus, with the distal end chewed off. A proximal metatarsal fragment appears modern.

*Sheep/goat.* A loose tooth and a right radius with both ends chewed off.

*Pig.* Eight bones, including a lower incisor and a canine from a sow, both permanent and in wear, recorded as found next to human skull fragments. This seems more likely to refer to burial A/B, the skull of which was fragmented, than to burial C. One of two pig mandibles was found close to the feet of burial C (Fig. 4.12). It has all its teeth missing (*post mortem*) and is too fragmented for measurement; however it appears larger than one would expect for a domestic pig of the period so may be a wild pig. A male pig upper canine was also found. There is also a right humerus with distal end removed by chewing, and a fibula.

*Dog.* A piece of radius shaft.

*Red deer.* Right scapula (measurements in Table 7.24). Roe deer: one shed antler, not worked.

*Unidentified bones.* 21, including vertebra and limb bone fragments of large and medium mammal.

## BEAKER 'FLAT' GRAVES 919, 950 AND 4660

A series of 'flat' graves occurred at the SW end of the barrow cemetery in an area which also contained many of the prehistoric pits. 'Flat' graves 919 and 950 were approximately 0.50 m apart and adjacent to ring ditch 801 (Fig. 4.30). 'Flat' grave 4660 was situated alongside a spread of intercutting pits, at least some of which were later Neolithic in date, and one of which (942) contained a later Neolithic burial (Fig. 4.40).

## 'Flat' grave 919 (51278 98078; Figs 4.14-17)

The grave was irregular in plan, 1.5 x 1.05 m wide. It had been cut into natural gravel and was deeper at the SW end. On the grave floor near the E side was the tightly-crouched skeleton of a child aged between four and five years. The body had been placed on its left side with the head towards the N. The legs were tightly flexed. The right femur had been displaced and lay across the right arm; it is not, however, clear whether this was an original feature of the burial or occurred during excavation. A radiocarbon determination of

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
4583/3	-	-	-	3	-	_	-	3	1	1
4583/2	-	1	-	23	-	-	3	27	2	11
4583/1	-	4	-	40	-	-	3	47	8	18
Totals		5	-	66	-	-	6	77	11	30

#### Table 4.9. Struck flint from pond barrow 4583

2700–2100 cal BC (93% confidence) (3930±80 BP; OxA-1874)<sup>20</sup> was made on the skeleton. A small Beaker, probably with 'barbed wire' decoration (Figs 4.14, 4.17, P24), lay on its side to the E of the chest. Near the Beaker and between the lower arms were a bone disc (Fig. 4.14, WB2) and a sheet copper ring (Figs 4.14, 4.16, M4). A further two copper rings (Fig. 4.14, 4.16, M2–3) were close to the right shoulder. The grave was backfilled with gravel and loam.

A second funerary deposit, consisting of the bones of a neonate and a small amount of cremated bone from a two to three year-old contained in a Wessex / Middle Rhine Beaker (Fig. 4.14, P25), lay to the S of the skeleton at the centre of the grave. The neonate skeleton was dated to 2900–2250 cal BC (95% confidence)(3990±80 BP; OxA-1875)<sup>21</sup>. The displaced right femur of the four to five year old could suggest that the grave was reopened and that the two deposits were not contemporary. However, no secondary cut was observed in the grave fill.

A charcoal- or manganese-rich patch, 0.15 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep, recorded in the top of the fill at the centre of the grave may represent a small pit dug into the backfilled burial.

#### **Suggested Sequence**

- 1. The position for the grave was chosen, the ground was prepared and the grave was excavated. Funerary rituals may have been conducted around the open grave. The corpse was positioned in the grave and the grave goods were placed around the body. The grave was backfilled and possibly marked with a small earthen mound.
- 2. The grave was reopened and a Beaker containing the disarticulated remains of a neonate and some of the cremated remains of a 2–3 year old was placed in the grave. Some disturbance was caused to the skeletal remains of the primary burial. The re-excavated grave was backfilled.
- 3. A small pit may have been dug into the centre of the grave and filled with charcoal-rich material.

The probable reopening of the grave would suggest that the grave was marked in some way. However, no evidence for a covering mound or surrounding bank was found.

#### Human Remains<sup>C,J</sup>

There are problems in reconciling the original descriptions of the material (M H) with what is extant. It has been concluded that, subsequent to the original work, a certain amount of mixing of the deposits has occurred. In addition, bone was destroyed in the process of radiocarbon dating. For these reasons the information given here is based entirely on the original archive report.

*The burial accompanied by M2–4 and P24* was the skeleton of a child aged between four and five years. Although said to be in fair condition the skeleton was incomplete: most of the torso and the bones of the hands and feet were missing. These may have been disturbed by the possible reopening of the grave. Skull fragments and a radius were submitted for radiocarbon dating.

The burial contained in P25 was the near-complete skeleton of a newborn baby whose bones were said to be in good condition. Missing bones included some skull fragments, vertebrae, a radius and the bones of the hands and feet. A humerus and ribs were submitted for radiocarbon dating. M H draws attention to the small size of the Beaker, 90 mm wide and 130 mm deep. It is too small to have contained the fleshed body of a complete infant and it is therefore suggested that the skeleton was placed therein as a collection of loose dry bones or in a partially disarticulated state. This might go some way to explaining the absence of the bones described above.

A small quantity of calcined bone was also recovered from P25. It is predominantly white and grey, comprising mainly skull fragments and two tooth crowns which appear to derive from a child aged two to three years. Flecks of copper or copper alloy were found in association with this deposit.

## *Metalwork*<sup>o</sup> (*Figs* 4.14, 4.16)

*M2. 919/1.* Copper ring: a simple penannular ring of thin wire. The wire was manufactured by wrapping or folding a length of sheet metal, creases being evident around the exterior and, less consistently, on the interior. Both ends are corroded, but condition is generally fair with a dark green patina. Sf 595. Max. diameter 16.9 mm; max. thickness 2.2 mm.

*M3. 919/1.* Copper ring: a coiled ring of thin wire. The wire has an oval to 'D' section and forms approximately two and a half coils. The terminals are thinned to very acute points. A few corrosion spots on the surface penetrate a dark green patina. Sf 598. Diameter 20 x 21.5 mm; max. wire thickness 2.2 mm.

*M4.* 919/1. Copper ring: a ribbon of thin sheet metal. The terminals are essentially straight and overlap by about a quarter circuit. The ring is broken in two; its surface is a smooth green patina. The edges of the band are a little irregular from damage, possibly ancient damage. Sf 599. Max. diameter 18 mm; max. width 12.0 mm; max. thickness 0.5 mm.

In addition, flecks of copper or copper alloy (not seen by the writer) were noted by Angela Boyle in the cremation deposit from P25.

#### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.14, 4.17)

**P24. 919/1.** Beaker. One complete, very poorly executed Beaker, with what appear to be thread-wound

<sup>20</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave context, including rich grave assemblage, and provides a *tpq* for the grave backfill. *Evaluation*: High-value date for burial and grave context.

<sup>21</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death offset is minimal and the depositional offset is unknown (infant remains disarticulated and incomplete; presumably moved from elsewhere). The sample dates the human remains, and possibly the burial event including the Beaker. *Evaluation*: Moderate-value date for burial and grave context.



Figure 4.14 Beaker 'flat' grave 919

stamp impressions, and therefore classifiable as a Barbed Wire Beaker (Clarke 1970). The form of the vessel is irregular and the impressions are difficult to distinguish, the distinctive 'barbed wire' shape only being clearly visible in a few cases. Colour — exterior: pale brown, orange; core: dark grey; interior: pale brown, buff.

**P25.919/1.** Beaker. One complete Wessex/Middle Rhine Beaker (Clarke 1970) in a fabric with possible calcareous inclusions, most of which appear to have leached out. One remaining inclusion may be chalk. The decoration is of rectangular-toothed comb impressions, with a comb approximately 38 mm long and the teeth 1 x 0.8 mm. The comb impressions have a 'fuzzy' appearance, which may be due to the decoration having been carried out when the vessel was very dry. Some burnishing survives. Colour — exterior:

buff to yellow; core: black; interior: buff, pale yellow.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Table 4.10)

Four flakes, a blade and a chip were recovered from the grave fill.

## Worked Bone<sup>T</sup> (Fig. 4.14)

**WB2.** 919/1. Bone disc. The disc has been cut from the scapula of a large mammal, probably cattle. The hole, which is off-centre, has also been cut. There is evidence for polish on one side and around the edges of the hole. Diameter: 31 mm; thickness: 3 mm. Condition: fair, some post-depositional damage to the surfaces. Sf 600.

#### Animal Bone

Unidentified: two fragments, one from a skull.



Figure 4.15 Beaker 'flat' grave 919. © OAU

# **'Flat' grave 950 and cremation 951** (51278 98075; Figs 4.18–21)

The grave was subrectangular in plan, 2.7 m x 1.8 m and orientated NW-SE. It had been dug 0.6 m into natural gravel. The outline of a possible 'tree trunk' coffin, which appeared as slight staining in the gravel, was recorded within the lower grave fill (Figs 4.19–20). The area between the coffin and the grave cut was backfilled with dirty gravel (layer 3). The grave finds were recorded at three levels in the grave and were restricted to the area of the suggested coffin. A small quantity of human bone (small fragments and bones), a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 4.21, F24) and Beaker sherds (Fig. 4.21, P26) were found on the grave floor (Fig. 4.18, level A). At level B the 'coffin' contained most of the same broken Beaker vessel, worked flints and large but broken human bones including the skull and long bones. Level C contained the broken pelvis, leg and arm bones and many of the ribs. A radiocarbon determination of 2300–1970 cal BC (95% confidence) (3720±50 BP; BM-2703)<sup>22</sup> was made on the skeleton.

The grave fill also contained animal bone (pig, cattle and roe deer), a flint-tempered sherd and worked flint of later Neolithic character. It is probable that much of this material was redeposited when the grave was originally backfilled. It is possible to suggest from the high quantity of flint that a small feature, possibly a pit of earlier Neolithic date, was destroyed when the grave was constructed.

The corpse was either deposited in an articulated state or may have been deliberately dismembered at this stage. The distribution of human bone and the sherds from the Beaker vessel would suggest that



*Figure 4.16 Beaker 'flat' grave 919: copper rings, M2–4, scale 2:1.* © *Ashmolean Museum, Oxford* 

<sup>22</sup>*Radiocarbon sample*<sup>1</sup>: disturbed context, although it would apear that the burial was redeposited in its primary context. The age-atdeath offset is minimal, while the depositional offset is unknown, but probably minimal in relation to original burial deposition. The sample gives a *tpq* for the backfilling of the grave after disturbance, but presumably represents original burial. *Evaluation:* Low-value date for grave disturbance (redeposited), moderate-value for Beaker association as the pottery is probably from the original burial. the corpse was exhumed and then dumped back into the grave as two deposits, with the disturbance to the grave resulting in the smashing of the Beaker vessel and the human bone.

The W corner of the grave was cut by a shallow pit, 951. The pit clearly cut the grave backfill, layer 3, but there was no recorded relationship with the 'coffin' and its contents (Fig. 4.18–19). The pit contained a small quantity of cremated bone and charcoal. The cremated remains were mostly from a subadult but also included three fragments from an adult and animal bones (cattle and horse teeth). The fill of loamy gravel in the top of the pit contained a few worked flints. Their exact positions were not recorded and they are best considered as incidental inclusions in the pit fill.

## **Suggested Sequence**

- 1. The place of burial was chosen next to grave 919.
- 2. The corpse, dismembered or articulated, was laid in the wooden coffin and the grave goods were placed around the body. The funerary ceremony was performed and the grave was backfilled and marked.
- 3. The grave was deliberately opened and selected bones/artefacts were perhaps removed.
- 4. A pit was dug into the disturbed grave and cremated bone and charcoal were deposited.

## Human Remains<sup>C,J</sup>

950. The remains of an adult male were recorded from three levels within the possible coffin (Fig. 4.18–20). The topmost spit (level C) contained the broken pelvis, legs and arm bones and many of the ribs. Level B contained large but broken bones including skull fragments and certain of the long bones. A small quantity of bone was recovered from level A (the grave floor). Although certain of the bones, such as skull fragments and metapodials, were found widely scattered, others, such as the right tibia and fibula, lay close together and this may indicate that the skeleton was at least semiarticulated when buried. A full set of adult teeth with fairly minimal wear was present and fusion at the medial end of the right clavicle was complete, suggesting an age range of perhaps 30-35 years. A cut was present at the medial end of the right clavicle (Fig. 7.1) and the tentative suggestion might be made that this results from the deliberate dismembering of the body, though it must be emphasised that no other such cuts were identified. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was A and the preservation of individual bones was 2-1. The bones of the feet were in excellent condition as was the torso and the pelvis, yet the right humerus and scapula as well as the first cervical vertebrae are absent.

Given the excellent level of completeness and preservation of the skeleton it is possible to argue that it was originally placed in the coffin in a fully articulated state. The few missing bones may perhaps have been removed when the grave was disturbed. They are not accounted for by the removal of the radiocarbon sample, which consisted of the left humerus and left ulna.



*Figure 4.17 Beaker 'flat' grave 919: P24, vessel accompanying the child burial, scale 1:1.* © *Ashmolean Museum, Oxford* 

*Cremation 951.* The pit contained 788 g of calcined bone, both white and grey in colour. Grey pieces are predominantly long bone shaft and vertebrae. All parts of the body are represented and the presence of unfused epiphyses indicate that the remains are those of a subadult who may have been approximately 11–13 years of age. The presence of the extremities may indicate that the body was fleshed or partially so immediately prior to burning. At the very least it may argue for great care in the post-burn collection procedure.

A second adult individual is represented by a handful of small fragments. Animal bone was also present and has been identified as cattle and horse (M H).

## Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.21)

**P26. 950/2.** Beaker. Fabric CGS:1. Reconstructable Wessex/Middle Rhine Beaker (Clarke 1970) with rectangular-toothed comb and other impressions, including fingernail and cuneiform. Comb length was not measured as it proved impossible to identify sufficient complete impressions. Some of the comb impressions retain their original white infill. Colour — exterior and interior: orange to pale brown; core: black. Condition: fair to worn.

In addition, there was 1 sherd / 7 g in indeterminate fabric FS:3. from layer 1.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.21, *Table* 4.10)

*F24. 950/2 level A.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Sutton B (Green 1984, 29). Retouch confined to edges, marked convex section. Sf 627.

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
919/1	_	-	-	5	1	_	_	6	2	3
950/3	1	-	-	7	- '	-	1	9	-	7
950/2	-	1	-	28	-	-	6	35	3	20
950/1	1	-	-	56	-	-	1	58	8	36
951/1 Cremation cutting 950	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	5	-	3
4660	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	4	-	1
Totals	2	1	1	101	2	-	10	117	13	70

#### Table 4.10. Struck flint from Beaker 'flat' graves

**950.** In addition to this apparent grave good, a considerable quantity of flint was recovered. The retouched component consists of a scraper, serrated and retouched flakes, a chisel arrowhead and a miscellaneous retouched piece. The majority of the retouched pieces, including the arrowhead, were recovered from layer 2. A fragmentary core was also found in layer 2. Much of it seems to be redeposited. Approximately 13% of the flakes were blades and blade-like flakes. Linear and punctiform butts and softhammer characteristics predominated. This material may be of earlier Neolithic date. The chisel arrowhead in layer 2 may also suggest some redeposition.

*Cremation 951.* Three flakes, a chip and a core tablet were recovered from layer 1.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

*Cattle.* Layer 1: deciduous maxillary tooth; layer 2: pelvis fragment.

*Pig.* Layers 1–2: 3 teeth from a young pig.

*Roe deer.* Layer 1: left radius and ulna. The radius has been butchered: the anterior face is burnt and battered.

Unidentified. Layers 1-2: 21 fragments.

#### 'Flat' grave 4660 (51294 98038; Figs 4.22-3)

The grave was large and suboval, 2 m long and 0.3 m deep. On the floor of the grave was a crouched inhumation. The body had been placed on the left side, with the head to the N and facing E. The left arm was extended with the hand near the pelvis and the right arm was loosely folded in front of the chest with the hand placed over the left elbow. The legs were flexed with the knees facing E and the feet placed below the pelvis. A damaged barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 4.23, F28) was found in the grave fill close to the right femur. Charcoal was recorded behind and in front of the body, close by the left hand and against the pelvis. Since it was not sampled it is impossible to tell

whether it was indeed charcoal or manganese pan. If the observed material was indeed charcoal then it could represent the traces of a coffin or mortuary structure.

The grave finds were placed in three groups around the corpse (Fig. 4.22). A finely carved wing-headed bone pin (Fig. 4.23, WB4) lay near the top of the skull, its head towards the face. A copper knife dagger (Fig. 4.23, M5) together with the remains of a black substance (collected but not traced, possibly lost) was found to the E of the face. The remaining finds had been placed beyond the feet and legs at the SE end of the grave. An exceptionally fine European Beaker (Fig. 4.23, P27), which had originally stood upright, was found with a fragmentary antler spatula (Fig. 4.23, WB3), a second barbed and tanged arrow-head (Fig. 4.23, F27), a flint blade (Fig. 4.23, F25) and a flint flake (Fig. 4.23, F26). A radiocarbon determination of 2190–1900 cal BC (3650±50 BP; BM-2704)<sup>23</sup> was obtained from the skeleton.

The grave was backfilled with virtually loam-free gravel. A pig incisor was found in the grave fill, its exact position was not recorded. The incisor could have been deliberately placed or, more probably, intrusive or redeposited. There was no evidence for a covering mound or surrounding bank.

#### Human Remains<sup>C,J</sup>

The grave contained an adult male. Almost all of the vertebrae have osteophytes and some degeneration of the lower cervical and thoracic bodies was present. An age range of 40–45 years is suggested. A bony spur is present on the anterior surface of the right femur shaft just below the lesser tuberosity and this may be the result of a repeated trauma involving the straining of the muscles and ligaments. The midshaft swelling on the right tibia may be an ossified haematoma where bleeding has occurred due to trauma in this region. Degree of completeness of the skeleton is A and preservation of long bones 3–1, though only ribs, certain sacral bodies and the metatarsals are assigned 3.

<sup>23</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave context, including rich grave assemblage, and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfill. *Evaluation*: High-value date for burial and grave context.

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Figure 4.18 Beaker 'flat' grave 950: floor of grave (A) and overlying spit (B)

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Cremation 951



Figure 4.19 Beaker 'flat' grave 950: topmost spit (C), section and cremation 951



Figure 4.20 Beaker 'flat' grave 950 during excavation, showing disturbed burial and outline of coffin. © OAU

#### Metalwork<sup>o</sup> (Fig. 4.23)

*M5.* 4660. Copper knife-dagger: knife-dagger with a tang or 'projecting butt' and a thin flat blade. A gently curving hilt line is suggested by differential patina coloration: green on tang, deep green on blade. Patches of patina have flaked away and the edges are serrated due to chipping. Short intact stretches suggest overall linguate blade shape and subtriangular tang seems minimally damaged. There are traces of very light edge bevels surviving up to 2 mm in breadth. The object is very slightly bent in long profile. Sampled below hilt line at centre of blade face. Sf 652. Length 52 mm; width 23 mm; max. thickness 1.2 mm.

## Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.23)

**P27. 4660.** Beaker. One complete and very fine European Beaker (Clarke 1970), in a fabric with some flint and sand. One very large flint inclusion (max. dimension 11 mm) has broken through the surface. The decoration is of toothed-comb impression; most of the teeth in the comb used appear to have been square  $(1 \times 1 \text{ mm})$ . but two are rectangular  $(1.5 - 2 \text{ mm} \times 1 \text{ mm})$ . Part of the same comb may have been used for the infilling within the horizontal zones. There are small cuneiform impressions on the interior beneath the rim. The vessel is well-finished and partially burnished; traces of burnishing survive mainly on the plain zones. Colour — exterior: patchy, pale brown/pale orange/orange; core: not visible; interior: pale brown. Condition: fair to good.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.23, *Table* 4.10)

## (results of usewear analysis by Andrew Brown indicated by \*)

**F25.** 4660. Blade, utilized. Heavily encrusted and iron-stained on both faces. \* Left proximal edge rounded from scraping. Right edge bifacial cutting damage. Sf 648.

*F26.* 4660. Unretouched flake, utilized. Heavily encrusted and iron-stained on both faces. \* Soft cutting with gloss, possibly post-depositional damage on right distal edge. Sf 649.

*F27. 4660.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead. Sutton B (Green 1980, 122). Sf 654.

*F28. 4660.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead. One barb and tang broken, slight damage to tip. Sf 651.

The utilized blade (F25) and flake (F26) were found close together, near the Beaker. One barbed and tanged arrowhead (F27) was found underneath Sfs 648 649, the other (F28) close to the legs.

## Worked Bone<sup>O,T</sup> (Fig. 4.23)

*WB3.* 4660. Spatula. Made from red deer antler. One end has been worked into a rounded point. Length 105 mm. Condition: poor and very fragmentary with one end missing. Sf 650.

*WB4.* 4660. Wing-headed pin. The pin has been manufactured from a longbone splinter from a large mammal (cattle or red deer, possibly horse). Some cut marks are still visible on the angles inside the wings. The shaft has been cut and polished to a regular rounded square section. The back of the head is flat, but the wings project forwards to stand proud of the shank top, which ends in a subtriangular peak. The shaft tapers slightly towards the tip, where a recent break suggests that more



Figure 4.21 Beaker 'flat' grave 950: finds

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Figure 4.22 Beaker 'flat' grave 4660

of the object was present at the time of excavation. A light polish is retained over most of the surface. Length 145 mm; width of head 12.3 mm; max. thickness of shank 4.9 mm; max. thickness of wings 4.9 mm; max. width of shank 6.0 mm. Condition: good, some modern damage. Sf 563.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

Pig. Layer 1: deciduous incisor tooth, worn.

# **Pits 2179–81 and 3421 and natural features 3422–6** (Figs 4.24–25)

Four pits, 2179–81 and 3421, together with a series of natural solution hollows and a treethrow hole (3422–6) lay S and SW of the oval barrow.

## *Pit* 2179 (51231 98177; *Fig.* 4.25)

Pit 2179 was large, subrectangular, 1.55 x 2.65 m

and up to 1.3 m deep. It had an irregular base with a hollow at the NE end. The primary fill (2179/4) consisted of a 0.6 m thick deposit of clean gravel. This material could have been deliberately backfilled or could represent over-excavated or disturbed natural. Above the primary fill was a thick deposit (2179/3) of dirty sand and gravel and a layer of gravel and pebbles (2179/2b). The upper fills consisted of a layer of very dark brown sandy loam overlain by a layer of yellow-brown sandy loam with abundant gravel. They contained small quantities of struck flint and of pottery in a Grooved Ware fabric.

The size, shape and fills of the pit were very different from those of other Grooved Ware pits on the site (described below). It is likely to have been a natural hollow in which artefacts were deposited, deliberately or accidentally. The worked flint and small sherds of Grooved Ware from the upper fills could have been deposited in an already silted-up hollow.



Figure 4.23 Beaker 'flat' grave 4660: finds

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

2179/2. 3 sherds/8 g in Grooved Ware fabric Sh:1.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Table 4.23)

The 24 pieces of struck flint, all from layer 2, compare well with the other Grooved Ware assemblages. The only core is fragmentary. The retouched element consists of two serrated flakes, a denticulate and a scraper or knife fragment.

Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (all from layer 1) Sheep/goat. Fragment. Cattle. First phalange. Unidentified large mammal. Fragment.

## Pit 2180 (51232 98175; Fig. 4.25)

Pit 2180 was irregular in plan, 0.8 x 0.8 m wide and very shallow with an irregular base. It had a single fill of dark brown sand. The pit had been almost completely destroyed and truncated by ploughing.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.25, Table 4.17)

**P28. 2180/1.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. One body sherd with applied cordons and 'knot'. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: black. Condition: exterior fair, interior worn.

**P29. 2180/1.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. One body sherd of a thin-walled vessel with grooves and applied

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Figure 4.24 Pits at the SW end of the oval barrow

wavy cordons. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: pale brown. Condition: fair.

*P30. 2180/1.* Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. One small body sherd, decorated with grooved lines. Colour — exterior: orange; core: black; interior: worn. Condition: worn; the interior surface is missing.

**P31. 2180/1.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Two body sherds possibly belonging to a single vessel. Both sherds show a raised cordon, and one has incised decoration. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core and interior: black, dark grey. Condition: fair to worn.

#### Flint<sup>D</sup> (Table 4.18)

There is a single flake from layer 1.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (all from layer 1)

**Unidentified.** 3, including humerus and thoracic vertebra of medium-sized mammal.

## Pit 3421 (51234 98176; Fig. 4.25)

Pit 3421 was subrectangular with a shallow, bowl-shaped profile. A layer of clean gravel (2) was recorded around the base and sides. The main fill, which consisted of fine loam and gravel, contained pig bones including a skull and an indeterminate prehistoric sherd. A lens of charcoal was recorded within this layer. A layer of dirty gravel which was recorded above layer 1 could have represented intentional backfilling of the pit. A single hazelnut shell fragment was recovered.

#### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

There is 1 sherd/3 g in fabric QS:- from layer 1.

Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (all from layer 1)

*Pig.* Skull fragments, metapodial. *Unidentified.* Medium-sized mammal rib.

## Pit 2181 (51223 98187; Fig. 4.25)

Pit 2181 was subcircular in plan,  $0.9 \ge 0.8$  m wide and up to 0.45 m deep. It had steep, sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a thick primary fill (2181/2) of yellow-brown sand and an upper fill (2181/1) of dark red-brown sandy loam rich in charcoal with little gravel. Finds were confined to this upper layer.

#### Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.25)

P32. 2181/1. Beaker. Fabric GS:2. Base angle and

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Table 4.11. Pottery from treethrow hole 3430. \* indicates featureless sherds only

Context	FQ:1	/D-R	F:2/	D-R	U:1	/Pet	QV:1	/indet.	Sh:2	/indet.	]	F:-	5	Sh:-
3430/1	1	5 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3430/2, spit 1	-	-	7*	39 g	1*	1 g	1*	10 g	3*	8 g	-	-	-	-
3430/2, spit 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	5 g	1*	1 g

lower body wall of a Late style Beaker decorated with rectangular-toothed comb impressions. 4 sherds/19 g. Colour — exterior: orange; core: dark grey; interior: grey. Condition: fair.

#### *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.25, *Tables* 4.23-24)

*F29.* 2181/1. Broken scraper, slightly invasive retouch across distal end, extending down both lateral edges. Scraping angle 65–70°.

The eight flakes are generally squat and there are several hinge fractures. This material, although a very small assemblage, would not be out of place in an early Bronze Age context.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,S</sup> (all from layer 1)

*Cattle.* Metacarpal, radius, tooth M2. *Unidentified.* Vertebrae, skull and indeterminate.

#### Pits 901-9, 916 and 3427-8 (centre 51290 98155; Fig. 4.26)

SE of the oval barrow and N of ring ditch 801 was a scattered group of features thought at the time of excavation to be potentially prehistoric from the nature of their fills. Pits 901–5, 908 and 916 had simple, bowl-shaped profiles and primary gravel fills overlain by red-brown sandy loam with varying proportions of gravel. 907 was a shallow subrectangular pit of possible Saxon rather than prehistoric date. Two further pits, 3427–8, had been cut through conglomerate and were more likely to have been caused by human agency. They both had fills of loam and loamy gravel.

There were relatively few finds: small quantities of struck flint from 904, 907, 916 and 3427, and indeterminate animal bones from 901 and 916.

Nearly all of these pits with the exception of 916 lay in an area with Saxon features. Saxon and Roman sherds from 901, 907 and 3427 would cast some doubt on their supposed prehistoric date. 916, with its rather more numerous prehistoric finds, is more likely to date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age use of the site.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Table 4.23)

The total of 14 pieces includes a single-platform flake core from pit 904.

## Pits 3226, 3306 and 3431 (centre 51280 98120; Figs 4.27-8)

These three features had a scattered distribution to the NW of ring ditch 801. Pit 3226 was suboval,  $1.1 \times 1.3 \text{ m}$  and 0.2 m deep. It had an irregular fill of loam and gravel with patches of clean gravel. It contained worked flint and animal bone including

red deer antler and cattle. 3431 was subrectangular in shape, had a bowl-shaped profile and was 0.5 m deep. It contained a single fill of sandy loam with gravel. 3306 was probably formed by animal burrowing rather than a purpose-dug pit. It was suboval, 1.2 x 1.1 m wide and 0.55 m deep with an irregular profile. It had a single fill of sandy loam which contained 12 worked flints. Near the pit sides were patches of clean gravel.

#### **Flint**<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.23–24)

The collection of 13 pieces includes a fragmentary transverse arrowhead from 3306.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

## Pit 3226

*Red deer.* Tine with butchery cut marks. *Cattle.* Scapula. *Unidentified large mammal.* Rib fragment.

## Treethrow hole 3430 (51273 98098; Figs 4.27-8)

This feature was suboval, 2.4 x 2 m, with steep sides and a flat bottom. It contained a primary fill (3) of loose clean gravel. The upper half was filled with fine clayey loam which contained a block of charcoal and charcoal runs. A layer of dirty gravel was interdigitated with layer 2. The feature was probably a treethrow hole.

#### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Table 4.11)

Layers 1 and 2 contained sherds in Deverel-Rimbury and indeterminate fabrics as well as a single sherd in Peterborough Ware fabric U:1.

### Flint<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.23–24)

The retouched component consists of a large endand-side scraper and a miscellaneous retouched piece. The scraper may be of late Neolithic date.

#### Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

*Cattle.* Metacarpal, distal end chewed off (layer 2). *Pig.* Humerus, perinatal (layer 2). *Unidentified.* Seven fragments (layers 1–2).

## Pit 900 (51324 98091; Figs 4.28-9)

Pit 900 was a large oval pit,  $3 \times 3.5$  m wide and 0.6 m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flat bottom. It had a primary fill, 900/2, of dirty gravel and red-brown loam which contained blocks of conglomerate. The main fill consisted of a thick deposit of red-brown sandy loam.

Pit 2179



Figure 4.25 Pits 2179, 2180, 3421 and 2181



Figure 4.26 Pits 901, 916 and 3427–8, between the oval barrow and the linear cremation cemetery



Figure 4.27 Pits 3226, 3306 and 3430–1, N of ring ditch 801

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
911/3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	-	-
911/2	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	5	-	3
911/1	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	12	4	3
Totals	2	1	1	15	1	-	-	20	4	6

# Table 4.12. Struck flint from pit 911
## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

There is 1 sherd/9 g in Deverel-Rimbury fabric F:2 from layer 1.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.23–24)

The retouched element consists of a broken side scraper and a miscellaneous retouched piece. The latter was either an invasively retouched scraper or knife fragment and may be early Bronze Age in date.

Animal Bone <sup>N,T</sup> (all from layer 1)	
Cattle. Femur, mandible.	
<i>Pig.</i> Tibia.	
Sheep/goat. Tibia.	
Unidentified. 8, including two	scapulae of

**Unidentified.** 8, including two scapulae of large mammals.

## Pit 911 (51284 98070; Figs 4.30 - 31)

Pit 911 lay 4 m N of pits 910 and 912 (described in Ch. 3). It was oval in plan, 1.25 x 1.1 m wide and up to 0.4 m deep, and had a bowl-shaped profile. It had a primary fill (911/3) of red-brown sandy loam which had been tipped from the W side. At the top of this layer on the W side was a concentration of gravel. A thin layer of charcoal was found around the pit base and the soil containing it, layer 911/3, appeared to have been burnt. The fill was recorded as resembling the deposit of burnt soil found in Grooved Ware pit 3196 (described below). Above layer 3 was a thick deposit of dirty gravel (911/2). The top of the pit contained grey-brown sandy loam and gravel (911/1) similar in appearance to the ploughsoil which was found across the site, suggesting that it was not completely backfilled, but stood open. A polished bone point (Fig. 4.31, WB5) came from the upper fill (911/1).

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.31, Table 4.12)

**F30. 911/2.** Keeled core. Weight 133 g.

Technologically the flint from this pit is similar to the flint from the Grooved Ware pits. A keeled core (F30), which was found in layer 2 and a fragment of burnt unworked flint was recovered from layer 1. Although there are no diagnostic types, this material may be of late Neolithic date.

## Worked Bone<sup>T</sup> (Fig. 4.31)

WB5. 911/1. Polished bone point, broken in antiquity. Made from a splinter of long bone (cow or possibly red deer). The splinter has been cut and sharpened to a point and has been smoothed. The tip has been polished through use. Some striations can be seen running longitudinally from the tip, extending for almost 20 mm. Length 60 mm. Condition good. Sf 546.

# Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

## Layer 1

*Cattle.* Horncore fragments, probably from a single horncore; proximal metacarpal, burnt and broken midshaft.

Sheep/goat. Metacarpal shaft.

Table 4.13. Summary of pig bones from pit 3196.

P = proximal, D = distal, N = not fused, J = just fused, F = fused

Element	Number	Fusion state / age
Skull	15	Juvenile
Upper teeth	4	Juvenile
Lower teeth	11	Juvenile
Mandible	15	1 adult, rest juvenile
Atlas	6	Juvenile
Axis	1	Adult
Thoracic vertebrae	42	1 adult, rest juvenile
Lumbar vertebrae	23	1 adult, rest juvenile
Sacrum	1	Juvenile
Scapula	3	Juvenile
Humerus	12	1 DJ, 6 DN, 2 infant, 1 foetal
Radius	14	3 PF, 1 PF/DN, 2 PN, 2 PN/
		DN, 1 infant, 1 foetal
Ulna	16	2 PN, 1 foetal
Carpal	3	
Metacarpal II	1	DN
Metacarpal III	1	DN
Meatcarpal IV	2	2 DN
Metacarpal V	3	3 DN
Pelvis	8	7 DN
Femur	8	1 PN/DN, 1 infant, 2 foetal
Patella	1	
Tibia	5	1 PN/DN, 2 Dn, 1 foetal
Fibula	13	4 PN/DN, 1 PN, 2 DN,
		2 foetal
Astragalus	3	
Calcaneum	4	4 PN
Metatarsal III	1	DN
Metatarsal V	2	
1st phalanx	4	4 PN
2nd phalanx	2	2 PN
3rd phalanx	1	

**Unidentified.** Nine fragments, including cattle and sheep-sized ribs. One is burnt.

Layer 2

**Unidentified.** Three fragments.



## Layer 3

Figure 4.28 Pits 3226, 3306 and 3430–1: sections

*Roe deer.* Metacarpal shaft. This is worth noting because it is one of only six roe deer bones from the excavations.

**Unidentified.** Five rib fragments from cattle- and sheep-sized mammals.

This feature contrasts with the Grooved Ware pits described below in the absence of pig.

## **Pit 2124** (51305 98056; Figs 4.30–31)

Pit 2124 was suboval, up to 0.85 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, and had steep sloping sides, a flat bottom and an asymmetrical fill. Its lower fill (2125) was of backfilled sandy gravel and loam and its upper fill (2117) was of loam. Finds were confined to 2117.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.31, Tables 4.23–24)

*F31. 2117.* Irregularly retouched scraper on a thick blank. Scraping angle 70–85°. ?Bronze Age in date.

The majority of the material from 2117 would not be out of place in a late Neolithic context. The assemblage includes large unretouched flakes, a keeled core and an end and side scraper. The core may have been used as a hammerstone. F31 is a crude, irregularly retouched scraper of possible Bronze Age date, and may therefore be intrusive.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

#### 2117

*Pig.* Fragments of mandible, maxilla, humerus, four teeth.

## Cattle. Tibia.

*Indeterminate.* 10 fragments including large mammal rib.

## Feature 3812 (51307 98054; Fig 4.30)

Feature 3812 was subcircular, up to 1.15 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep. It contained a single fill of gravel and 'peagrit' with lenses of red-brown loam. A block of conglomerate lay near the bottom. The fill contained a single worked flint. Although the feature had a regular profile its fill and lack of finds would suggest that it is more likely to have been of natural origin.

## Grooved ware pits 3196–7, 913, 917 and 3831

These pits were distributed around the SW end of the barrow cemetery between pond barrow 4583 and ring ditch 801 (Fig. 4.30). They were characterised by burnt soil fills rich in organic material and by the quantity and variety of artefacts and animal bone which they contained.

## Pits 3196–7 (51296 98089; Figs 4.32–6)

Pit 3197 was severely plough-damaged. Pit 3196 was a large circular pit, up to 1.45 m in diameter and up to 0.9 m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. The basal layer, 3196/4, consisted of a 0.22 m thick deposit of red-brown loam and gravel (15%). It contained worked flint, including four scrapers, two of which are illustrated (Fig. 4.34, F32–3), an awl made on the ulna of a white-tailed eagle (Figs 4.34–5, WB6) and a small amount of animal bone in comparison with the large quantities from overlying layers 1 and 2. At the centre of the pit above layer 4 was a thin deposit of ash and sand. No clean gravel was recorded between layer 4 and the pit base or edges, which would suggest that layer 4 was deposited soon after the excavation of the pit. Clean gravel was, however, recorded around the sides of the pit *above* layer 4, extending up to the top (Fig. 4.32). This material represents possible



*Figure 4.29 Pit 900 NE of the segmented ring ditch* 

backfilling of the pit after the deposition of the primary deposit.

The pit was then recut and layer 3, the main fill, was deposited, apparently from the W side. Layer 3 consisted of a thick (0.4 m) deposit of fine grey ash and charcoal (hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, oak and buckthorn) and contained a large quantity of pottery, animal bone and worked flint and the charred remains of a variety of collected and cultivated plant foods (mostly apple and hazelnut shell). The artefacts included the broken remains of three unusually decorated Grooved Ware vessels (Figs 4.32-3, P33, P38–9), a large quantity of worked flint (Fig. 4.23, F34-40; Tables 4.18-22), and utilised antler (Fig. 4.34, WB7). The flint assemblage included a scraper which may have been deliberately broken, found as two refitting halves (Fig. 4.34, F35). Layer 3 also contained a high proportion of pig bone some with butchery marks. Bones of cattle, sheep/goat, dog and red deer were also present. A radiocarbon determination of 2600-2000 cal BC (95% confidence)(3830±90 BP; BM-2706)<sup>24</sup> was made on cattle bone from layer 3.

Overlying this main deposit was a thin layer (2) of clean yellow gravel and dirty gravel, tipped, like layer 3, from the W side of the pit. The top of the pit contained loam with little gravel (layer 1). This material represents natural accumulation rather than backfilled soil, which would imply that the pit was intentionally left open in a half-filled state.

<sup>24</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration, probably a deliberate deposit. The age-at-death offset is minimal, while the depositional offset is unknown (possibly redeposited). The sample gives a *tpq* for the depositional event and pit silting. *Evaluation:* Moderate value date for depositional event and associated cultural material, though the possibility that the bone was redeposited should be considered. Thre is also the possibility that the bone fragments are from more than one animal, so the date could be an average of items of different age. This would obviously reduce the value of the date.

Table 4.14. Pit 3196: pig tooth wear data. Wear state/stage according to the method of Grant (1982). Data from mandibles only

	1	Wear state	Wear stag			
dp4	P4	M1	M2	M3		
a	-	v	-	-	2	
d	-	а	с	-	7	
f	-	b	-	-	7+	
-	а	e	а	v	18	
-	-	-	b	V	18+	
-	-	-	-	d	38+	

### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.32–3, Table 4.17)

P33. 3196/3. Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Two sherds of an exceptionally fine vessel with complex plastic decoration. On the exterior a lattice pattern has been created by applying strips of clay to enclose lozengeshaped areas which are each deeper at the right hand point than at the left. The lozenges are each also slightly undercut at the right hand extremity, and this may be the result of the technique used to press the applied strips onto the surface of the vessel. The plastic decoration on the internal rim bevel was formed with a round-ended implement on a cordon which may have been worked up rather than applied. There are also cordons on the exterior beneath the rim which carry short vertical slashes. A short length of the lattice cordon decoration has also been slashed, presumably in error. Colour- exterior: orange, brown; core: black; interior: black, brown. Condition: fair.

**P34.** 3196/3. Three very small rim sherds of a thinwalled vessel with a concave internal rim bevel, incised decoration on the exterior, and slashes across the rim. The fabric contains dense sand, and two small, red, matt inclusions are also present. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: grey-brown. The top of the rim is orange. Condition: worn.

**P35.** 3196/3. Indeterminate. Fabric S:2. A sherd probably from just above the base angle of a Beaker. The decoration consists of a complex incised ladder pattern. Colour — orange throughout. Condition: worn.

**P36. 3196/3.** A single rim sherd of a very small, thinwalled vessel in a soft fabric with dense, coarse sand. No decoration is visible on the exterior, but this may be due to the condition of the surface, which is very worn. Oblique incised lines are present on the rim top. Colour — exterior: abraded; core: dark grey; interior: grey-brown.

**P37. 3196/3.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Single body sherd, probably belonging to the same vessel as P39. Applied decoration. Exterior pale brown, core black, interior dark grey. Condition worn.

**P38. 3196/3.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Ten sherds of a fine, thin-walled vessel with applied horizontal cordons and a shallow groove with pushed-up edges of displaced clay, which converges with one set of horizontal cordons at an applied 'knot' with impressions. There are also two probably applied

cordons on the interior beneath the rim, one of which is decorated with impressions. There are two applied, impressed pellets on the rim. Colour — exterior: dark grey, brown, black; core: black; interior: grey-brown. Condition: fair.

**P39. 3196/3.** Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Seventyfour sherds probably belonging to a single thick-walled coarse vessel decorated with horizontal parallel grooved lines, grooved spirals, and fingernail impressions. The spirals appear to have been arranged as opposed pairs. The vessel is not physically reconstructable, although Figure 4.33 is a tentative reconstruction and shows that the vessel is likely to have been large and tub-shaped, with fairly straight walls, and with the decoration arranged in horizontal zones. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: black, dark grey. Condition: fair to worn.

### Fired Clay<sup>G</sup>

*3196/3.* Two lumps of fired clay (50 g). No visible surfaces. Exterior oxidised orange. Sf 1328.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.34, *Tables* 4.18–22)

F32. 3196/4. End scraper, fairly shallow retouch across distal end (c. 40–55°).

**F33. 3196/4.** End scraper, steeply retouched across distal end (*c*. 70–80°).

*F34. 3196/3.* End and side scraper. Steeply retouched across distal end, slightly shallower retouch along both edges (*c.* 55–70°). Slight damage to left-hand side.

*F35. 3196/3.* End and side scraper, ?deliberately broken. Two conjoining fragments. Steeply retouched across distal end (*c.* 70°), shallow retouch on right-hand side. No sign of wear.

*F36. 3196/3.* Opposed platform blade core. Weight 26 g. Bullhead flint.

*F37. 3196/3.* Notch, broken. On a blade-like blank. Bullhead flint.

F38. 3196/3. Flake from a polished implement.

*F39. 3196/3.* Hammerstone, on a tested nodule. Extensive areas of battering.

*F40.* **3196**/**3**. Serrated blade. Both edges serrated, *c*. 7 serrations per 10 mm. Very worn.

*F41.3196/1.* Keeled core. Weight 111 g. Bullhead flint. Flint from the Grooved Ware pits as a group is discussed below, following the account of pit 913.

### Worked Bone<sup>T</sup> (Figs 4.34–5)

WB6. 3196/4. Bird bone point/awl (identified by Bruce Levitan). The object is in a good but fragmentary condition and the recently broken tip is missing. The implement has been made on the ulna of a white-tailed eagle, *Haliaeëtus albicilla*, closely matching specimens in the collections of the Natural History Museum and distinguished from the golden eagle by the greater size of the bone and the location of the tuberculum for the bicipital muscle. The bone has been split longitudinally and the proximal end has been retained for use as a handle. The edges of the shaft have been smoothed and the surface has been polished. It probably functioned as a fine point or awl. Length: 110 mm. Condition: good but broken. Chapter Four



Figure 4.30 Pits and graves in the area of ring ditch 801 and pond barrow 4583





Though today the golden eagle is the only surviving native British eagle, the white-tailed eagle was probably the more common species until the nineteenth century. It was persecuted to extinction in Britain at the beginning of this century. The scant finds of bird bones on prehistoric sites in Britain include a few of this species, including some from early Flandrian peats in the Fens (Northcote 1980), the later Neolithic Conybury Henge in Wiltshire (Maltby 1990, 153) and Iron Age Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray 1917), but no parallels are known for the use of an eagle ulna as an implement.

If analogies are drawn with later periods and other cultures, the eagle is likely to have been a bird of high status, echoing its role in the animal kingdom as the largest of the predatory birds. Following from this, rights to the capture and use of the bird, including its remains, are likely to have resided with the individuals of status in the community.

**WB7.** 3196/3. Antler tine. A utilised antler tine which has been partially cut and snapped from the beam. The tine point has been cut and the outer curve of the tip is worn and damaged. There are a number of cut marks down the length of the tine, although it is possible that they are the teeth marks of deer (Clutton-Brock 1984, pl. 3). Some areas of the tine exhibit burning; this may have been to ease removal from the beam or subsequent to use. Condition: good.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (Fig. 4.36, Tables 4.13–14)

*Pit 3197* contained two jaw fragments and a fused distal tibia, all of cattle (layer 1).

*Pit 3196* produced the most remarkable of the bone deposits from the site: at least half (225 of the 493) bones are pig (46%), and if one includes the unidentified medium mammal bones which are probably pig (cervical vertebrae, ribs and costal cartilages), this figure increases to 336 (68%). Another estimate of frequency is the percentage based on identified bones only — in this case pig is 89% (Table 7.24).

Pig. Concentration of bone in layer 3 but also found in layers 1 and 4. The 225 bones are from no more than seven individuals, of which parts of at least six skulls with maxillae are present. The remains were mostly disarticulated and many of the bones bear butchery marks. The vast majority of the bones have unfused epiphyses, and with the exception of an axis, a thoracic and lumbar vertebra, all fused epiphyses are from early fusing bones: two scapulae, a distal humerus, and five proximal radii. The fusion evidence is summarised in Table 4.13. Tooth wear from six mandibles was recorded; all but one were very young (Table 4.14). In addition, four bones were from infant and eight from perinatal or even foetal pigs. Most elements of the skeleton are present (Table 4.13). Ribs and costal cartilage were not identified to species, but 94 medium mammal ribs (including three foetal) and five pieces of ossified costal cartilage are most probably from pig. The butchery seen was mostly very fine cuts. The location of the cuts is shown in Figure 4.36. Quite a large number of the bones (33) have been chewed, probably by dogs, implying that they were chewed before they were deposited, or less likely, that the pit was left open for a while. A small

number were burnt. Both the astragali measured (Table 7.25) are from young individuals.

*Cattle.* Concentration in layer 3 but also found in layer 1. Of the 20 bones, most (12) are loose teeth, all permanent dentition. Other elements are fragments of skull, mandible, axis, scapula, ulna and third phalanx. An unusual group of 30 vertebrae and 29 rib fragments, not positively identified to species, are also probably from cattle. Fifteen of these are neural spines of thoracic vertebrae, 13 are lumbar vertebrae transverse processes and two are lumbar vertebrae neural spines. Most have clear cut marks, and the rest have obviously also been deliberately removed from the vertebral bodies, which are absent. Of the 29 ribs, seven have definite cut marks, and it would appear that the ribs and neural spines were being removed, leaving the vertebral column filleted of meat.

*Sheep/goat.* Scapula (glenoid) (layer 3), ulna (layer 1), metapodial fragment (layer 3) and humerus shaft of an infant lamb (layer 1).

*Dog.* Right femur with both ends unfused (Bruce Levitan considered that this bone looked suspiciously modern).

*Red deer.* Complete fused left metacarpal (layer 3). Transverse cuts at the proximal end are of the kind made during dismemberment of the lower leg or skinning.

*Bird.* Coracoid of a galliform, identified by Bruce Levitan as pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* (layer 1).

This bone raises problems. The coracoid is very difficult to distinguish between pheasant and its close relative among the galliforms, domestic fowl, so the possibility that it is from fowl probably cannot be ruled out. Domestic fowl were introduced to Britain in the late Iron Age, and the pheasant was introduced by the Romans, so neither species should be expected in a late Neolithic context. Given that layer 1 seems to have accumulated slowly in the top of the pit, the bone is likely to derive from Roman or Saxon use of the site.

Other bones. 239 unidentified bones included 88 large mammal, and 151 medium mammal.

### Pit 917 (51289 98060; Fig. 4.37)

Pit 917 was a large subrectangular pit,  $1.4 \times 0.94$  m wide and up to 0.7 m deep. It had steep sides and a flat bottom. Yellow-brown loam and gravel (layer 3) was recorded around the sides of the pit. The lower half of the pit was filled with a 0.4 m thick deposit (layer 2) of burnt soil represented by very dark grey-brown sandy loam with gravel, charred plant remains (mostly hazelnut shell) and charcoal flecks. This layer contained decorated Grooved Ware, worked flint, a small quantity of antler and an abundance of animal bone. A radiocarbon determination of 2700–2200 cal BC (95% confidence)(3940±60 BP; BM-2715)<sup>25</sup> was obtained on cattle bone from layer 2.

The upper fill (layer 1) consisted of grey-brown sandy loam with gravel. A reused Group I stone axe (Fig. 4.37, S2) was found in this layer.

The section suggests that layers 2 and 1 may have been the fills of a recut, although it is impossible to be sure whether this was the case.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.37, Table 4.17)

**P40–1. 917/B/2, ( spits 1 and 2).** Fabric Sh:1. Five decorated and four plain body sherds probably of a single vessel decorated with grooves and ridges. The general appearance of the sherds suggests that they may belong to the vessel represented by P39, from pit 3196. Colour—exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: dark grey. Condition: fair to worn.

*P42. 917/A/2.* Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Base and body sherds of a vessel with horizontal grooves. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core: black; interior: pale brown. Condition: fair.

*P43.* 917/*B*/2 Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. One small body sherd with applied complex decoration. Colour — pale orange throughout. Condition: worn.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig. 4.37*, *Tables 4.18–22*)

*F42.* 917/A/2. Retouched flake. Fine retouch along one lateral edge, possibly through use rather than formal retouch.

F43. 917/B/2. Serrated flake, c. 10 serrations per 10 mm, gloss. Worn.

### Stone Axe Fragment<sup>R</sup> (Fig. 4.37)

*S2. 917/B/1.* Petrology no. Oxon 76. Part of the blade end of a stone axe made from Group I greenstone, now weathered to a mottled brown. The original coarse texture of the gabbro can still be seen, with dark grains, up to 4 mm in diameter, of pyroxene altered to hornblende which contrast with the lighter brown of altered feldspar. The source for this rock is likely to be in Cornwall, possibly in the Penzance area. Part of the cutting blade of the axe is missing, and the implement appears to be worn across the corners of the broken end, as if it had subsequently been used as a small rubber or grinder.

### Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (Table 4.15)

The large number of bones (313) from this pit, concentrated in layer 2, includes the high proportion of pig characteristic of the other Grooved Ware pits. One of these is possibly from a wild pig.

*Pig.* 64 bones, 20% of the total (layer 2 but also layer 1). Adding the probable pig bones from the unidentified group, this is increased to 75 bones (24%). Alternatively, pig is 45% of identified bones (Table 7.24). A large fused distal humerus is possibly from a wild pig (measurements in Table 7.25).

<sup>25</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (deliberate deposition). The age-at-death offset is minimal, and the depositional offset is unknown (possibly redeposited). The sample provides a *tpq* for the depositional event and pit silting. *Evaluation:* Moderate value date for depositional event and associated cultural material, though possibility that the bone is redeposited should be considered. It is also possible that the sample may not have been from a single animal, in which case the date obtained may be an average of several items of different age.

		913		917		3831
Element	No.	Fusion state/age	No.	Fusion state / age	No.	Fusion state/age
Skull	2	Infant	1	Infant	5	2 juvenile
Upper teeth	2	Juvenile	1	Juvenile	1	juvenile
Lower teeth	4	1 adult, 3 juvenile	20	12 adult, 8 juvenile	10	5 juvenile, 2 adult
Mandible	5	2 juvenile	19	1 foetal, 3 juvenile, 3 infant, 3 adult	5	1 juvenile, 1 adult
Atlas	1	Х				
Axis			1	Х		
Cervical vert.	1	PN				
Thoracic vertebrae	2	PN	1		1	
Scapula			2	1 F, 1 J		
Humerus	2	Infant	2	1 DF, 1 foetal	2	infant
Radius	1	PX/DX	2	1 PU, 1 foetal	1	PF
Ulna			2	1 PU, 1 foetal	1	PN
Metacarpal V					1	DN
Pelvis			1	Foetal		
Femur	1	Foetal	2	1 foetal, 1 PN	1	
Tibia	2	Foetal	3	1 foetal	2	
Fibula	12	3 foetal, 1 infant	2	1 infant, 1 DN	5	
Calcaneum			1	PN		

Table 4.15. Summary of pig bones from pits 913, 917 and 3831. P = proximal, D = distal, N = not fused, J = just fused, F = fused, X = not fused and very porous

Table 4.15 summarises the bones present, and it is evident that foetal and infant bones are again common. Bones of adult pigs are quite infrequent, though adult teeth are present. Most skeletal elements are represented, in contrast to pit 913 (described below) but similar to pit 3196. The scapula has been measured (Table 7.25). Mandible wear state data are given in Table 4.16: all are in the infant to young adult age range. Two canine teeth are of females. Butchery was observed on a number of bones: cuts on the labial surfaces of two mandibles, one at M3 and one near canine; cuts on the posterior of a calcaneum. Six bones had been chewed, including the humerus which may be from wild boar.

*Cattle.* There are more cattle bones (69) than pig in this pit (layer 2 but also layer 1), but 33 of these are loose teeth. Fourteen of the cattle bones have butchery marks, 39% if loose teeth are discounted, a very high proportion. Bones with butchery are skull (mastoid process), mandible, humerus, radius (3), pelvis, femur, tibia (4), astragalus, and calcaneum. There is also much evidence of canid chewing: fifteen bones (42% if teeth are discounted). Thirteen of the teeth are from juvenile or younger individuals (40%), and five (15%) are adults

(M3 in wear). The rest could be anywhere between juvenile and adult (M1 and M2 in wear). There are nine mandible fragments, none of which has a complete dentition preserved. Two have M3 at wear states a and b, ie young adult, and a third has permanent P4 erupting (sub- or young adult). There is one infant. The rest are at least juvenile, but with no certainty of actual age. Ageing evidence from epiphysial fusion indicates that the majority were at least juvenile. Measurements were taken on four bones (Table 7.25).

*Sheep/goat.* A tooth (layer 1); a humerus with the distal end chewed off and a radius, which has been butchered (both from layer 2). The last was positively identified as sheep.

*Red deer.* Four pieces of antler, a right distal humerus and a left proximal metatarsal (layer 2). All the antler fragments have localised burning at the breakage zone, and two have a high polish in the burnt area. One of these has a cut mark.

**Unidentified bones.** A number of the unidentified bones also have butchery marks (layers 1–2): five ribs, a scapula (probably of cattle) and a long bone fragment. Seventeen (out of 170) are burnt, and two have been chewed.



Figure 4.32 Pit 3196 and Grooved Ware

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Figure 4.33 Further Grooved Ware



*Figure 4.34 Pit 3196: struck flint and worked bone and antler* 



*Figure 4.35 Pit 3196: awl made on white-tailed eagle ulna (WB6).* © *Ashmolean Museum* 

### Pit 3831 (51296 98054; Fig. 4.38)

Pit 3831 was circular, 1.1 m in diameter and up to 0.45 m deep. It had steep sides and a flat bottom. The primary fill, layer 3831/3, was of clean gravel. Above this was layer 3831/2, a thick deposit of grey-brown loam with patches of ash, charcoal (hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and oak) and scant charred plant remains. This layer contained decorated pottery including Grooved Ware, worked flint and animal bone among which pig was predominant.

The upper fill, layer 3831/1, consisted of fine redbrown loam and contained similar charcoal to layer 2. It contained animal bone, mostly pig, and a utilised antler tine.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.38, Table 4.17)

*P44.* 3831/*B*/2. Indeterminate. Fabric S:1. Single sherd, possibly from just above the base of a flat-based vessel, decorated with oblique grooved lines. Colour — dark grey throughout. Condition: fair.

**P45.** 3831/B/2. Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. One rim sherd of a vessel with parallel horizontal and converging grooves. The rim is extremely abraded, but there is a slight raised ridge or cordon on the interior. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: dark grey; interior: pale orange. Condition: worn.

### Fired Clay?<sup>G</sup>

*3831/B/1, 2.* Fired clay or burnt soil. Numerous lumps (150 g) of ?low-fired sandy clay. One piece oxidised orange. Some pieces have one flat surface. Sfs 1329–30.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig. 4.38, Tables 4.18–22*)

*F44. 3831/A/1.* End and side scraper, scraping angle *c*. 50–70°.

#### Worked Stone<sup>R</sup> (Fig. 4.38)

*S3. 3831/B/2.* Rubber fragment. Made from lower Calcareous Grit. 95 mm x 60 mm x 23 mm.

The quartz content of this material, which could have been obtained locally, would have made it suitable for use as a grain rubber. The worn surface is slightly convex and a somewhat similar piece, though with two slightly concave surfaces, from the Abingdon causewayed camp, is made of the same material (Avery 1982, 42, fig. 23, 3).

## Worked Bone<sup>T</sup> (Fig. 4.38)

*WB8. 3831/A/1.* Utilised red deer antler tine. It has been heated to aid removal before being snapped. The point has been cut and or ground in two directions to form a rounded, chisel-like point. The inner cut has numerous striations on its surface, but the outer one is smoothed almost to a polish suggesting that it was the working edge. Condition: good. Sf 552.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (Table 4.15)

This pit contained a quantity of animal bone, 156 fragments, and, as in pit 3196, the best represented species is pig.

*Pig.* 36 bones, 68% of identified bones, or 23% of total fragments (layers 1 and 2; Table 7.24). Eleven bones are loose teeth: one from an adult (M3 at wear state b) and at least six from juveniles. An upper canine is from a male and a lower from a female. Table 4.15 summarises the elements present and shows that juveniles are the main age class represented, in common with pits 913 and 917, though infant and foetal individuals are also common in the latter contexts and not at all so in 3831. Three of the bones have been chewed. The radius and ulna are articulated.

*Cattle.* 13 bones (layers and 2), including two horncore fragments. There are six teeth, all permanent



Bracketed numbers refer to the number of specimens with butchery marks.

Figure 4.36 Pit 3196: location of butchery marks on pig bone

Table 4.16. Pit 917: pig tooth wear data. Wear state/stage according to the method of Grant (1982). Data from mandibles only

We	ar state			Wear stage
P4	M1	M2	M3	
				0
	С			1
	-	0		13+
	с	а	с	15
b	f	С	а	25
-	-	-	b	27+
-	-	-	С	28+
	We P4 b -	Wear state P4 M1 C - C - c b f c f - 2 -	Wear stateP4M1M2C°cabfca	Wear state         M1         M2         M3           P4         M1         M2         M3           C         -         -         -           -         °         -         -           b         f         c         a           -         -         b         -           -         °         -         -           -         a         c         a           -         -         -         b         a           -         -         -         b         b           -         -         -         b         b           -         -         -         c         b

### Chapter Four



Figure 4.37 Pit 917

and at least two adult. There are two scapulae, one radius, one tibia and one metatarsal. Both radius and metatarsal bear butchery marks, and a scapula and the tibia have been chewed. The radius measurements are given in Table 7.25.

*Sheep/goat.* Radius, chewed (layer 1).

*Red deer.* A pair of foetal or infant mandibles (layer 1) and a metatarsal of similar age, also probably red deer (layer 2).

*Other bones.* 103 bones are unidentified (layers 1 and 2). These include a rib with cut marks and one chewed bone. Thirteen are burnt.

### Pit 913 (51296 98051; Fig. 4.39)

913 was a large circular pit, up to 1.2 m in diameter and up to 0.48 m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. The lowest fill, 913/3, extended around the pit edge and consisted of dark grey-brown loam interspersed with lenses of 'peagrit'. It contained two bone pins (Fig. 4.39, WB9–10) and animal bone.

A small pit was dug into the top of this layer into which a deposit of burnt soil, 913/2, was dumped. This was a dark grey-brown loam containing charcoal and charred plant remains. Numerous finds were recovered from it, in the form of a bone awl (Fig. 4.39, WB11), animal bone and worked flint. Overlying layers 2 and 3 was 913/1, a grey-brown loam with charcoal (blackthorn and oak) and gravel. Decorated Grooved Ware (Fig. 4.39, P46–9), antler, a small quantity of animal bone and worked flint (Fig. 4.39, F46–7) were found in it.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.39, Table 4.17)

**P46–7. 913**/*A*/1 Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Two body sherds, probably belonging to a single vessel, with complex raised or applied decoration. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core and interior: black. Condition: fair.

*P48. 913/B/1.* Grooved Ware. Fabric Sh:1. Rim sherd with applied cordon on the exterior and internal horizontal grooves. Exterior pale brown, core dark grey, interior pale brown. Condition fair.

**P49.** 913/B/1. Grooved Ware. Decorated with a horizontal ladder motif. Fabric Sh:1. Exterior: pale orange-brown, core: dark grey, interior: pale orange-pink. Condition fair.

### *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.*4.39, *Tables* 4.18–22)

F45. 913/2. Multiplatform flake core. Weight 72 g.

**F46. 913/A/1.** Serrated flake, *c.* 13 serrations per 10 mm. Worn.

F47. 913/A/1. Retouched flake. Both lateral edges

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Figure 4.38 Pit 3831

lightly retouched, possibly through utilization rather than formal modification.

## Worked Bone<sup>T</sup> (Fig. 4.39)

**WB9. 913/B/3.** Bone awl or pin. Both ends have been broken off, the tip break appears to be recent. Made from a limb bone (?metapodial) splinter from a sheep-sized mammal. The bone splinter has been cut and ?polished. Linear scratches which run down towards the broken tip could have been caused by use or manufacture. Length 39 mm. Condition : good.

WB10. 913/B/3. Bone pin. Made from a limb bone splinter. The thickness of shaft at the proximal end would suggest a cattle-sized mammal. The bone splinter has been cut to produce a fine point and has been ground. The tip exhibits no wear patterns suggesting use. Length 46 mm. Condition: good.

*WB11. 913/A/2.* Bone awl. The awl has been made from a cattle ulna, with the proximal end retained as a handle. The handle has been dog- (or carnivore-) chewed. The bone has been sharpened or ground to a point. In section the awl is roughly triangular, striations can only be seen on the corners of this triangle. Length 146 mm. Condition: good.

**913**/**B**/**1**. Red deer antler tine with a burnt and smoothed patch at the break point and a worn or polished tip.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> (Table 4.15)

A large group of bones (187) of which pig, as in pit 3196, is the most abundant species (Table 7.24). There

are 35 pig bones, 19% of identified fragments or 57% of the identified bones. If one adds the unidentified medium mammal bones which seem likely to be pig this increases to 46 bones (25%). There are 18 cattle (10%), five sheep/goat (3%) of which one is sheep, one dog (0.5%), two red deer antler fragments (1%) and 126 unidentified bones (67%): 33 of large mammal and 93 of medium mammal.

*Pig* (concentrated in layer 3 but also found in layers 1 and 2). Six bones are of infants and five are of foetal individuals. All the rest, with the exception of a lower first molar (wear state k) are from juveniles, including two mandibles at wear stages 7 and 11. The bones present are summarised in Table 4.15. Interestingly, there are twelve fibulae from at least ten individuals, and only six other long bones. Two of the mandibles have butchery marks, one with a cut below M1 and one below M2, both on the labial surface. One canine is from a male.

*Cattle* (concentrated in layer 3 but also found in layers 1 and 2). Seven of the finds are loose teeth, and there is also a maxilla: half are juvenile and half are adult. Of three scapulae, two have had the glenoid process chewed off and the other has deep cuts into the cervical wing of the scapula near the collum. Chewing is also evident on a distal humerus (epiphysis fused) and proximal ulna, and the butchery was noted on both the ulna and an astragalus. The latter has cuts on the medial side; its measurements are given in Table 7.25. A metatarsal has a burnt patch. There is a right femur with fused proximal end.





Figure 4.39 Pit 913

*Sheep/goat* (layers 2 and 3). One bone is butchered, possibly worked, a metatarsal has been split longitudinally and the split edges smoothed. The single definite sheep bone is an ulna, and there is also a scapula, radius and tibia. Both tibia and metatarsal have distal ends fused whilst the radius is from an infant.

*Dog* (layer 3). Complete right radius, both epiphyses fused. The measurements (Table 7.25) provide a shoulder height estimate of about 0.52 m. This is within the range for Neolithic dogs, though at the high end of the length range (Harcourt 1974).

Red deer (layer 2). Antler tine fragment.

# **Discussion of Struck Flint from the Grooved Ware Pits**<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.18-22)

As a group, the Grooved Ware pits produced a substantial quantity of flint (2483 pieces or 38% of the excavated assemblage).

The total quantity of flint from each pit is varied. 2180 was truncated by ploughing and some of the other features may have been similarly affected. However, among the pits which have definitely not been truncated, the overall quantity and range of artefacts remain varied, suggesting some pattern in deposition. Only one chisel arrowhead was recovered from the Grooved Ware pits out of a total of 14 from the site, perhaps suggesting some selectivity. The number of cores retrieved from the pits is small (13; Table 4.19) and includes four fragmentary or unclassifiable examples. Keeled cores like F41 (Fig. 4.34) are the most frequent type present, (5 or 35.7%). Keeled cores account for only 8.3% (15) of total cores from the site, five of which were recovered from fieldwalking. Therefore, although the sample is very small, there would seem to be a correlation between keeled cores and Grooved Ware. This relationship has been noted elsewhere (Healy 1985, 192–3). Good quality flint was almost exclusively used in these features.

**WB10** 

**WB11** 

WB9

The opposed platform blade core (Fig. 4.34, F36) is of Bullhead flint, and seems to have been carefully worked down to maximise the raw material. The other cores do not seem to have been intended to produce specific types of removal. The average core weight is 77.6 g, more than double the mean of 33.6 g for all the excavated cores. Only one of the Bullhead flint cores seems to have been extensively worked and other cores from these features were discarded before exhaustion.

Bullhead flint seems to have been originally deposited in pit 3196. Two flakes were also found in the lowest layer of pit 2082, possibly suggesting deposition at around the same time. Although Bullhead flint occurs in other features, it is argued that it is particularly associated with the Grooved Ware assemblages (Ch. 7, Table 7.19). The material from the

## Table 4.17. Pottery from the Grooved Ware pits.

\* indicates featureless sherds only NB Sherds from 3196 were extremely friable, rendering a count impractical. Some were partly decayed and could not be separated from the soil matrix, allowing only an approximation of total weight.

Context	Sh:	1/GW	S:2	/Bkr?	S:1/	indet.	S:3/	indet.	9	5:-	S	h:-
2180/1	9	55 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3196/3	100+	c. 1500 g	1	13 g	-	-	2	4 g	4	6 g	1	4 g
3196/A/3	2	7 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3196/D/3	1	1 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
917/A/2	7	275 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
917/B/1	7	21 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
917/B/2	1	3 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
917/B/2 spit 1	17	100 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
917/B/2 spit 2	4	<i>c</i> . 50 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3831/A/2	10	121 g	-	-	-	-	2	85 g	-	-	-	-
3831/B/2	2	22 g	-	-	1	5 g	-	-	-	-	-	-
913/A/1	5	19 g	-	-	16*	72 g	1*	1 g	-	-	-	-
913/A/2	2	18 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
913/A/3	1	180 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~
913/B/1	2	8 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2082/B/2	1*	12 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~

Grooved Ware pits was examined for refits with some limited success (Ch. 7). Two Bullhead flakes from 3196 layer 3 and three flakes from an 'old' heavily corticated nodule, also from 3196 layer 3, were refitted (Fig. 7.3).

Two hammerstones were recovered from 3196. Both were fairly small subspherical flint nodules with extensive battering. One appeared to have been flaked, possibly to shape it, before being used as a hammerstone (Fig. 4.34, F39). A core from 2082/3 had been reused as a hammerstone. No soft hammers were identified, despite the recovery of bone and antler tools from several of the pits.

Samples of complete flakes and some retouched pieces from five of the pits were subjected to metrical analysis. All complete unretouched flakes were measured and breadth:length ratios were calculated for flakes larger than 20 mm. There are some narrow flakes and blades (with a breadth:length ratio of 2:5 or less). The proportions of serrated flakes and other retouched forms often fall in this range, and narrow flakes and blades seem to have been preferentially selected, even produced, for their manufacture. These pieces are often non-cortical and seem to have been fairly carefully made. The majority of the unretouched flakes are relatively broad, with breadth:length ratios peaking at 3:5–4:5 or 4:5–5:5. There are also some very broad flakes (Fig. 7.4; Table 7.16).

The material from the pits was relatively carefully worked. Linear and punctiform butts form a significant element, and feather terminations are the most frequent, although accidents of debitage, in the form of hinge, step and plunging terminations, are also present (Tables 7.17–8). Core rejuvenation flakes, both tablet and core edge/face forms, were present in these features, indicating attempts to rework intractable platforms. Among the classifiable chips, core front chips were the most common, reflecting the reduction of overhangs between removals.

Soft hammer percussors seem to have been dominant. Soft stone hammers (including flint cortex) can, however, produce similar characteristics (Ohnuma and Bergman 1983). Identification of hard and soft hammer characteristics is a subjective process, perhaps best carried out by experienced knappers. Cortical areas on some cores exhibited battering consistent with use as hammerstones.

Wholly cortical flakes from early stages in the reduction process are not well represented (Fig. 7.4, Tables 7.13–16). This, together with the low incidence of cortical butts (Table 7.17), would suggest partial preparation of cores elsewhere, probably at the procurement site.

Among the retouched component scrapers are predominant (Table 4.20). They tend to be made on large, thick flakes, including preparation flakes and side

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
2180/1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
3197/1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3196/4	-	-	-	22	-	-	5	27	4	6
3196/3		9	4	4	601	402	1	13	1034	238
614										
3196/2	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	1	1
3196/1	2	2	-	95	9	1	2	111	12	64
3196 totals	12	6	4	722	411	2	20	1177	255	685
917/2	4	2	3	170	61	-	8	248	56	87
917/1	1	-	-	26	12	-	1	40	13	15
917 totals	5	2	3	196	73	-	9	288	69	102
3831/2	5	-	1	99	93	-	4	202	26	116
3831/1	14	-	2	101	31	-	4	152	12	70
3831/1&2	2	-	-	20	29	-	-	51	6	29
3831 totals	21	-	3	220	153	-	8	405	44	215
913/3	4	2	-	103	19	-	5	133	9	56
913/2	3	1	2	107	113	-	3	229	15	96
913/1	1	-	5	84	49	-	3	142	22	66
913 totals	8	3	7	294	181	-	11	504	46	218
2082/3	2	<b>2</b> <sup>1</sup>	-	7	-	-	1	12	1	1
2082/2	-	-	-	9	-	-	2	11	2	5
2082/1	4	-	-	58	2	-	1	65	5	43
2082/-	2	-	-	15	1	-	1	19	-	13
2082 totals	8	2	-	89	3	-	5	107	8	62

### Table 4.18. Struck flint from the Grooved Ware pits

<sup>1</sup>One core reused as a hammerstone

trimming flakes (Table 4.22; Harding 1990, 218). End scrapers dominate (Table 4.21). Removals are often large, and scraping angles are generally fairly steep (typically between 50° and 80°). Some scrapers, such as those from pit 3831, seem to have been used extensively, while other do not seem to have been used at all.

Serrated and retouched flakes are the next most common implement type. Many of the serrated flakes were made on blades or blade-like flakes. Between 7 and 13 serrations per 10 mm seem to be the norm for these pieces. Several examples are heavily worn along all or part of their length. Gloss occurred on at least two examples, indicating the cutting and processing of silica-rich plant materials (Keeley 1980; Unger-Hamilton 1988).

Most of the chips from the site were retrieved from the Grooved Ware pits, 3831, 3196 and 913 producing the most. This is a reflection of sampling policy, and hence the incidence of sieving, rather than of the original distribution of such material.

All the complete chips from pit 913 (91 out of 181) were analysed. Of the diagnostic forms, core front chips were the most common (40 or 44%). These are

characterised by a small butt, feathered edges, parallel or converging lateral edges and straightish profiles and often have a central ridge (Newcomer and Karlin 1987, 33). They are produced when overhangs are removed from the core front. One possible bulbar scar chip was identified (Newcomer and Karlin 1987, 34). The remaining 50/55% were undiagnostic, generally fanshaped, fairly squat and non-cortical.

# **Intercutting pits and pit scatter** (centre 51305 98037; Fig.4.40)

A series of intercutting pits extended for over 40 m in the S corner of the excavation area. They appeared as an irregular cropmark (Fig. 1.8), were cut by a number of Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs 28–9 and 41), and were overlain by a layer of burnt soil (3900/4198) associated with the Saxon settlement.

The pits were characteristically shallow, with bowlshaped or flat-based profiles, and were filled with layers of loam, gravel and gravelly loam. They contained a considerable quantity of worked flint but relatively little pottery and animal bone. In addition pit 942 contained

Context	Opposed platform blade core	Tested nodules	Single- platform flake core	Multi- platform flake core	Keeled, non-discoidal flake cores	Unclassifiable/ fragmentary flake cores	Totals	Core weight (g)
3196	1	2	-	-	2	1	6	250
917	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	110
913	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	145
2082	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	116
Totals	1	2	1	1	5	3	13	621

#### Table 4.19. Cores from the Grooved Ware pits

the disarticulated skeleton of a man and 4662 contained a cremation.

Towards the S the features become more irregular in plan and profile and contained fewer finds. Despite having similar fills to the pits to the N, they were probably of natural origin.

**Pits 928–32, 939–42 and 953** (centre 51305 98045; Figs 4.41–44)

These pits were within the N of the general pit scatter. They had been cut by two early Saxon sunkenfeatured buildings (SFB 28–9). Pit 928 in the N of this group was at least 3.5 m long and 0.84 m deep. It was cut to the E by a small bowl-shaped pit, 932, and to the S by SFBs 28-9. It had a primary fill of dirty gravel with lenses of red-brown sandy loam and an upper fill of red-brown sandy loam with pebbly gravel. This pit contained 15 flints including a serrated flake and a further 86 flints were recorded from SFB 28. It also contained indeterminate animal bone. To the SW of pit 928 was pit 938. No relationship between the two pits was recorded. 938 was bowl-shaped and 0.5 m deep, with steep sloping sides. It cut a more substantial pit, 931, the loam and gravel fill of which contained 47 worked flints, including two scrapers, and a small quantity of animal bone. Pits 929 and 930 had been substantially damaged by the cutting of the SFBs. A small quantity of flint and indeterminate animal bone was recovered from them.

Pits 939-42 and 953 lay immediately S of pits 928–32. These pits all had shallow bowl-shaped profiles and appeared to intercut. They were filled with layers of red-brown loam with lenses of clean and dirty gravel. Pit 953 contained 36 worked flints including a chisel arrowhead and a reworked axe fragment (Fig. 4.41, F48). Another chisel arrowhead was found in pit 939. Pits 940–1 were cut by two postholes (4594–5), which could have belonged to a Saxon structure.

Context	Chisel arrowhead	Scrapers	Awl	Serrated flakes	Notches	Misc. retouched	Other	Totals
3196/4		5	-	-	_	-	-	5
3196/3	-	7	-	1	1	3	1	13
3196/1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
917/2	-	1	-	2	-	4	1	8
917/1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
3831/2	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	4
3831/1	-	3	-	-	~	-	1	4
913/3	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	5
913/2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3
913/1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
2082/3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
2082/2	-,	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
2082/1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2082/0	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	1	25	1	8	2	12	4	53

Table 4.20. Retouched flint from the Grooved Ware pits

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The SE pit, 942, contained the disarticulated remains of a young adult male, animal bone and worked flint. The bone was recorded in three 0.1 m spits (Figs 4.42–43). The uppermost, spit C, contained most of the skeleton including the fragmentary skull, semiarticulated vertebrae, ribs and fragmentary long bones. Spits B and A contained long bone, skull and small fragments. A radiocarbon determination of 2700–2450 cal BC (77% confidence) (4020±60 BP; BM–2711)<sup>26</sup> was obtained on fragments of human femur and tibia from this burial. The right femur head from the skeleton was found in a spread of burnt soil (3900/4198) which overlay the pits and the SFBs.

## Human Remains<sup>C,J</sup>

Pit 942 contained the disarticulated remains of a young adult male. An age range of 25–30 years seems appropriate, as a full set of adult dentition with slight wear was present, yet fusion of the left clavicle was incomplete. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was B/A and the preservation of the individual bones 2–1, with reasonable survival of both torso and extremities. The stature of this individual was 1.66 m.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

931/1. 2 sherds/7 g in indeterminate fabric F'B':1.

## *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.41, *Tables* 4.23–24)

*F48. 953/1.* Reworked axe. Blade end only surviving. Areas of polish on both faces. Sf 631.

*F49. 953/1.* Chisel arrowhead. Slight damage to tip and one edge. Sf 631.

F50. 927/1. Chisel arrowhead.

*Pit 942.* Of 24 unretouched flakes from 942 approximately half were soft hammer-struck blades and blade-like flakes, including a blade-like flake struck from an opposed platform core. One or two of the flakes appear to have been utilized. The material would seem to have been redeposited.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

#### 928

**Unidentified.** A humerus shaft fragment, and a further small ungulate limb bone fragment (layer 1).

### 929

*Unidentified.* A small ungulate rib and a further fragment (layer 1).

### 930

Unidentified. Fragment of large ungulate (layer 1).

### 931

*Cattle.* Three loose teeth, including an upper M3 in wear (layer 1). Upper molar M2 in wear and two tooth fragments (layer 2).

**Unidentified.** 6 fragments, including limb bone splinters of large and small ungulate (layer 1). Limb bone splinter of large ungulate (layer 2).

### 940

Cattle. Metatarsal, both ends chewed (layer 1)

**Unidentified.** 2 fragments (layer 1), further fragment (unstratified).

### 942

*Cattle.* A pair of frontal bones from the skull of a polled animal, and an upper molar in wear (unstratified). An astragalus (layer 1).

*Red deer.* Right metatarsal, weathered and in several fragments (layer 1). Also an antler fragment planned (Fig. 4.42:B, AB20), but not identified in post-excavation.

Unidentified. 5 fragments (layer 1 and unstratified).

#### 953

**Unidentified.** A burnt fragment of a cow / deer size animal and a piece of a rib of a sheep size animal (layer 1).

# *Pits* 918, 948–9, 933, 924–7, 935–7, 943 and 946 (centre 51304 98038; Figs 4.40–41, 4.44–45)

Pit 918 lay to the W of pits 948-9. It was oval in plan with steep sides and contained ?redeposited gravel (918/2) overlain by loamy gravel (918/1). Animal bone fragments, including red deer antler and cattle, came from layer 1 and indeterminate fragments from layer 2. A broken serrated flint blade (Fig. 4.41, F51) came from layer 1.

Pits 948–9 lay to the W of pit group 939–42 and 953. Pit 949 was suboval, 3 x 2.2 m wide and up to 0.7 m deep with sloping sides and a flat bottom. It contained a primary fill of gravel and loose conglomerate blocks and an upper fill of loam, gravel and conglomerate. It was cut to the SW by a much shallower pit, 948, which was 3 m long and 0.25 m deep with a single fill of loam with gravel.

Pit 949 contained a single unretouched flake. Pit 933 lay to the immediate S of pit 948. It was suboval, 1 x 0.75 m wide and up to 0.6 m deep. It contained a primary fill of dirty gravel and a main fill of sandy loam with gravel and conglomerate blocks. There was a small quantity of worked flint including one retouched flake.

Pit 925 was a small, suboval, shallow bowl-shaped pit and 926 was an irregular hollow. All the pits had similar fills of red-brown sandy loam and gravel. The small quantities of worked flint include a chisel arrowhead from 927. Three intercutting pits (935–7) lay to the SE of the main group. After excavation pit 935, which had a shallow bowl-shaped profile, appeared to be separate from 936–7. Pits 936–7 intercut and had flatter-based profiles. All three had loamy gravel fills.

<sup>26</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: unsealed, disturbed context, the remains had perhaps been redeposited in context (?backfill of disturbed grave). The age-at-death offset is minimal; the depositional offset is unknown (redeposited in context, but probably minimal in relation to original burial deposit). The sample dates the body and provides a *tpq* for the final backfilling of the grave; the date probably represents the original burial date. *Evaluation:* Low-value date for ?disturbed grave context, though directly dates skeletal remains.



Figure 4.40 Intercutting pits and pit scatter with Grooved Ware pits 913 and 3831 and Beaker 'flat' grave 4660



Figure 4.41 Central intercutting pits

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*Figure 4.42 Pit 942, disarticulated late Neolithic burial: lowest spit (A), middle spit (B) and topmost spit (C)* 

## Table 4.21. Scrapers from the Grooved Ware pits

Context	End scrapers	Side scrapers	End and side	Other scrapers	Totals
			scrapers		
3196	10	1	2	1	14
917	2	-	-	-	2
3831	2	-	1	1	4
913	1	2	1	-	4
2082	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	15	3	5	2	25

They contained only a small quantity of worked flint including a fragment of a barbed and tanged arrowhead from pit 936. 924 was shallow with a single loam with gravel fill. No record was made of 943.

### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

**918/1.** 2 sherds/7 g in indeterminate fabric F'B':1. **935/1.** 2 sherds/12 g in indeterminate fabric Sh:2.

### *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Fig.* 4.41, *Tables* 4.23–24)

*F51. 918/A/1.* Serrated blade, broken. Both edges serrated, gloss *c*. 9 serrations per 10 mm. Worn.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

## 918

*Red deer.* Antler tine and beam fragments with fresh breaks (layer 1).

*Cattle.* Tooth and tooth fragment, atlas vertebra (layer 1).

Unidentified. 5 fragments (layers 1 and 2).

**927** (all layer 1)

*Cattle*. One tooth fragment. *Pig.* Atlas, very fragmented.

### **933** (all layer 1)

*Cattle*. Jaw fragment. *Sheep/goat*. Femur shaft fragment. *Unidentified*. 4 fragments.

935 (all layer 1) Cattle. Jaw fragment.

## **936** (all layer 1)

*Pig.* Skull fragment with maxillary teeth present and in wear.

## 937 (all layer 1)

*Pig.* Skull fragment with maxillary teeth present and in wear.

*Unidentified.* 6 bones including three unidentified tooth fragments.

## **949** (layer 1)

Unidentified. 2 fragments.

Pits 920-3 (centre 51306 98034; Figs 4.40, 4.45)

These features were irregular in plan with shallow profiles. They had primary fills of gravel and upper fills of loamy gravel. Only a small quantity of worked flint was recovered from them (Table 4.23).

# *Pits* 4647–9, 4717, 4790, 4750–5 (centre 51302 98022; *Figs* 4.40, 4.45)

Pits 4647–8 were quite regular in plan with shallow, flat-bottomed profiles. They contained single fills of loamy gravel. Pit 4648 could have been cut by a similar feature, 4790, but the relationship was not entirely clear. 4649 had a similar flat-bottomed profile and fill but also contained primary gravel.

Features 4750–5 and 4717 were probably of natural origin, as were features recorded as 4663, 4667, 4665, 4704 and 4757-8. The small quantity of artefacts from them could well have been intrusive.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

/*A*/**1**. 1 sherd / 7 g in indeterminate fabric SSh:2. /*C*/**1**. 1 sherd / 1 g in Food Vessel fabric GS:1. /*A*/**1**. 1 sherd / 4 g in Food Vessel fabric GS:1. There is also Saxon pottery from 4117.

### Flint<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.23–24)

The 47 pieces of struck flint from the pits include a denticulate scraper and a serrated flake from 4648 and a barbed and tanged arrowhead from 4717.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

**4649** *Pig.* Tibia.

# *Pits* **4640**, **4759–61**, **4662**, **4668**, **4705-6** and **4740** (centre 51292 98025; Fig. 4.45)

Pit 4640 had an irregular U-shaped profile 1 m deep. It was filled with layers of dirty gravel which contained five flint flakes. The feature is probably natural and could be a treethrow hole. The top of the feature contained loam and finds of Saxon date. Pits 4759–61 had shallow, flat-bottomed profiles and mixed fills of loamy gravel. 4761 contained two flint flakes and 4759 produced a single sherd of prehistoric pottery. 4760, which was cut by the Saxon building SFB 41 (4641) next to a pit (4664) of Saxon date, contained ?intrusive Saxon sherds. All of these features were probably of natural origin.



Figure 4.43 Pit 942: disarticulated late Neolithic burial in the course of excavation.  $\odot$  OAU

### Cremation 4662 (51293 98019; Figs 4.40, 4.45)

This was a shallow, subcircular pit damaged by animal burrows. Its single fill was dark with abundant charcoal and ?cremated bone. The pit also contained a flint flake and a sherd of Saxon pottery. The charcoal and the cremated bone are now lost and were never examined. Therefore some doubt must remain over the character of this feature.

## Pottery<sup>G</sup>

4759/A/1. 1 sherd/8 g in indeterminate fabric FS:3.

# Discussion of the Flint from the Intercutting Pits and Pit Scatter<sup>D</sup>

The intercutting pits and pit scatter produced 151 pieces of flint, only four (928, 931, 942 and 953) containing any quantity. The most frequent retouched forms are scrapers (one end, one end and side, two side and three unclassifiable), retouched flakes and serrated flakes. Forms such as transverse arrowheads from pits 927, 939 and 953 (Fig. 4.41, F49–50, Table 4.24) and a barb from a barbed and tanged arrowhead from pit 936 would indicate a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date for at least some of this material.

The five cores from these features comprise three core fragments from pits 927, 940 and 933, a single platform flake core from pit 953 and a keeled core from pit 940. The two complete cores weigh 18 g and 19 g respectively. This is on the low side, the mean weight of all the excavated cores is 33.6 g and that of the cores from the Grooved Ware pits is 77.7 g.

Comparing the composition of the flint from the Grooved Ware pits and the intercutting pits and pit scatter provides some interesting results (Tables 4.18–24). The retouched component of the intercutting pit assemblage is 12.6% in contrast to 2.1% from the Grooved Ware pits. The figures for burnt worked flint are roughly comparable between the two groups of pits (19.2% intercutting and 17% Grooved Ware). The figure for broken pieces is much higher from the intercutting pits (91.4%) as opposed to 51.6% from the Grooved Ware pits. This may reflect the character of the assemblages, the material from the intercutting pits perhaps reflecting different activities to the material in the Grooved Ware pits. The low proportion of chips from the intercutting pits simply reflects the incidence of sieving.

### Pits 2082, 944, 4125, 4149, 945, 4148 and 4180

These formed a dispersed scatter S and SW of barrow 12 and E of the intercutting pits. Pit 4148 and Grooved Ware pit 2082 were of late Neolithic date. A precise date can not be assigned to the remainder although they are likely to be prehistoric.

### Grooved Ware Pit 2082 (51347 98057; Fig. 4.46)

2082 lay some 50 m E of the main group of Grooved Ware pits. It had been damaged by the construction of a sunken-featured building (SFB 8), when the SFB's eastern posthole was dug through the pit centre. The fills of the SFB, its posthole and the pit were not differentiated during excavation. The pit contained worked flint including a chisel arrowhead (Fig. 4.46, F52), an awl (Fig. 4.46, F53) and a reworked axe (Fig. 4.46, F54) a Grooved Ware body sherd and two fragments of red deer antler.

### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Table 4.17)

2082/B/2. 1 sherd / 12 g in Grooved Ware fabric Sh:1.

### *Flint*<sup>D</sup> (*Tables* 4.18–22)

*F52. 2082/D/1.* Chisel arrowhead, broken. Some damage to primary edge and right-hand side.

*F53.* 2082. Awl. Point formed by inverse retouch along left and steep retouch along right edge. Point damaged, probably through use.

*F54. 2082/B/2.* Reworked axe, butt end survives. Areas of polish on both faces. Sf 288.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

## 2082/B/3

*Red Deer.* Two antler tine fragments. The end of one has been shaved and smoothed.

## Pit 4149 (51344 98061; Fig. 4.47)

4149 lay NW of pit 2082 and was a small bowlshaped pit with a single fill of sandy loam.

### *Flint<sup>D</sup>* (*Tables* 4.23–24)

The retouched forms present are a side scraper and a serrated flake.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup> 4149/B/1

Pig. Lower incisor.

Length (mm)	0 -20	20 - 30	30 - 40	40 - 50	50 -60	60 - 70	70 -80	80+
Number of scrapers	-	-	-	7	11	4	1	-
Breadth (mm)	0-20	20-30	30 - 40	40 - 50	50 -60	60 -70	70 -80	80+
Number of scrapers	-	-	9	11	2	1	1	-
Thickness (mm)	0 -6	6 -8	8 -10	10 -12	12 –14	14 -16	16 –18	18+
Number of scrapers	1	1	2	3	7	3	1	5

Table 4.22. Dimensions of 23 complete flake scrapers from the Grooved Ware pits















Figure 4.44 Intercutting pits and pit scatter: sections



Figure 4.45 Intercutting pits and pit scatter: further sections





Figure 4.46 Pit 2082

**Unidentified.** Limb fragment of medium-sized mammal.

### Pit 4125 (51354 98053; Fig. 4.47)

Pit 4125 had a shallow bowl-shaped profile and a fill of dirty gravel with loam lenses. It produced a single unretouched flake (Table 4.23).

## Pit 945/4148 (51330 98042; Fig. 4.47)

?Pit 945 was a large suboval feature, 3 x 2.4 m wide and up to 0.8 m deep. It contained two layers of clean yellow gravel separated by a lens of gravelly red-brown sandy loam. It was cut to the N by pit 4148. 4148 was shallow with gently sloping sides and had a single fill of red-brown sandy loam with gravel. Finds included a decorated rim (Fig. 4.47, P50) and a scraper (Fig. 4.47, F55).

## Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.47)

**P50.** 4148/A/3. Indeterminate. Fabric F4. Single rim sherd with a fingertip impression on the rim top. Colour — exterior: pinkish orange; core: dark grey; interior: dark grey. Condition fair.

P50 forms part of a total of 13 sherds/47 g in this fabric, one from layer 2 of 945, seven from layer 3 of 4148 and five from layer 1 of 4148. There are also 4 crumbs in a flint- and grog-tempered fabric from layer 1 of 4148.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Tables 4.23–24)

*F55.* 945/2. End scraper, steeply retouched. Scraping angle *c*. 60–70°. Edges slightly rounded.

There are also two flakes from 4148.

## Animal Bone<sup>N,T</sup>

4148 (all from layer 1)
Cattle. Jaw with cut marks, ?cattle scapula.
?Sheep/goat. Jaw.
Pig. Astragalus.
Unidentified. Two limb bone fragments.

## Pit 4180 (51332 98043; Fig. 4.47)

Pit 4180 was shallow with a bowl-shaped profile, a primary fill of gravel and an upper fill of sandy loam. The only finds were eight flint flakes (Table 4.23).

## Pit 944 (51345 98039; Fig. 4.47)

944 was an oval pit, up to 1.3 m wide and 0.86 m deep with steeply sloping sides. Its lower fill, layer 2, consisted of tips of dirty gravel with conglomerate and loam. It had an upper fill, layer 1, of dark grey-brown sandy loam with a little gravel. Layer 1 contained two flint flakes (Table 4.23), a sherd in a Beaker fabric and seven sherds of Saxon pottery, all of which could have been redeposited.

### **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

944. 1 sherd/2 g in Beaker fabric S:2.

# BARROW 12 (RING DITCHES 601–2; 51345 98085; FIGS 4.48–55)

Barrow 12 appeared in air photographs as a double ring ditch with a central grave (Fig. 1.8). A Saxon building, SFB 26, was constructed on the S side between the two ditches and contemporary settlement refuse was deposited in the top of the partly silted ditch. The upper fills of the outer ditch (601) were excavated extensively in order to recover this large quantity of Saxon material. Once these upper levels were removed, the ditch continued to be excavated on a large scale to obtain datable finds from the primary fill and was eventually almost fully emptied, ie it was excavated to a far greater extent than the hachures on Fig. 4.48 indicate, segments A to P all being removed.

### Phase 1

### Inner ditch 602

Ditch 602 had an internal diameter of 10 m, with at least two narrow causeways on the NW side (Fig. 4.48).

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*Figure 4.47 Pits 944–5, 2082, 4125, 4148–9 and 4180, S of barrow 12* 

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These causeways were probably unintentional, the ditch having been dug as a series of quarry pits each up to 4 m long. The northernmost causeway coincided with an ice wedge cast running N-S, which could account for its position. The ditch had a U-shaped profile and had been cut 0.65 m into the natural gravel. The primary fill was of gravel and the secondary fill of gravelly loam. This was overlain in some sections by loamy gravel which was probably collapsed material from the phase 1 mound or an *in situ* remnant of the phase 2 mound (Fig. 4.49).

The upper fill, layer 1, contained a small quantity of earlier Neolithic flintwork, including refitting material from segments G, H and I (Fig. 4.55, F58–F60; Fig. 7.3; Table 4.28), and three small sherds of indeterminate prehistoric pottery (Table 4.25). Most of this material can be seen as redeposited and, particularly the flint, would predate the construction of the phase 1 barrow.

## Grave 607 (Figs 4.50-1)

The central grave was subrectangular in plan, oriented NNW-SSE and up to 1.6 m deep. It contained an articulated male skeleton. The corpse had been placed on the left side in a crouched position with the head to the N. The arms were folded up in front of the chest and the legs were tightly flexed with the feet below the pelvis. A bronze awl (Fig. 4.50, M6) and a flint flake (Fig. 4.50, F56) had been placed next to the feet. The grave was almost completely backfilled with gravel (607/2); this was overlain by a mixed deposit of gravel and loam (607/1) at the top of which was found a dense concentration of cremated bone (606; Fig. 4.51). The compactness of this deposit suggests that it was originally buried in an organic container or that it was tightly packed into a small pit. A radio carbon determination of 2330-1950 cal BC (95% confidence)(3720±60 BP; BM-2699)<sup>27</sup> was made on the skeleton.

## Phase 2

### **Outer Ditch 601**

Ditch 601 had a steep-sided profile with a flat base and an internal diameter of 19 m. It had been dug 1.2 m into the natural gravel, cutting through the already silted E side of hengiform ring ditch 611. The excavation of the outer ditch would appear to postdate the early Bronze Age cremation deposit at the centre of 611. At the base of the ditch was a thick accumulation of primary gravel (601/5 and 6). Above this primary fill were layers of loam and gravel (mostly 601/4; Fig. 4.49). This material had derived from the outside and perhaps represented the weathering of an outer bank. Further evidence for a bank surrounding 601 can be seen in the flattened W edge of the ditch of barrow 13, which suggests that it was respecting an existing earthwork (Fig. 4.48) and in gravel in the top of ring ditch 611 (Fig. 4.3).

The lower ditch deposits (layers 3–6) contained small quantities of animal bone, comminuted pottery and flint. The pottery included rim fragments of ?Abingdon Ware (Fig. 4.55, P55) and Fengate Ware (Fig. 4.55, P56) and a Beaker sherd (Fig. 4.55, P57), and the flint was of later Neolithic character. An early Bronze Age date is argued for the ditch, on the evidence summarised above, and layer 3 is interpreted as Saxon dumping (Chambers and McAdam in prep.). Much of this material must thus be redeposited. It is more than likely that some was derived from 611 and, since the NW part of the ditch cut one pit, 624 (Fig. 4.53), it is possible that other earlier features were totally destroyed, providing a source for the Neolithic material.

Two cremations in miniature Biconical Urns (Fig. 4.54, P53–4) were placed upright, side-by-side in the silting ditch at the interface of layers 4 and 3 (Fig. 4.49, section 2). A radiocarbon determination of 1980–1590 cal BC (92% confidence)(3450±80 BP; OxA-1872)<sup>28</sup> was made on the charred bone.

A deliberate deposit must surely be represented by a mallard skeleton and a pair of pike jaws both found in layer 4 in segment P, although their precise positions were not recorded.

### Central Grave 605/A-B (Figs 4.50-2)

Grave 605/A cut the S end of grave 607. It was a subcircular pit 1.1 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep. Placed at the bottom of the pit was a deposit of cremated bone. The faint and incomplete outline of a 'coffin' was recorded surrounding the cremation deposit (Fig. 4.51). The outline was trapezoidal in shape,  $0.4-0.5 \times 0.8$  m and oriented E-W, with the wider end towards the W. Its shape was defined by staining in the gravel, oak charcoal, and a fine loam fill more clearly distinguished in photographs than in the drawn record. A radiocarbon determination of 2500–2130 cal BC (93% confidence) (3830±70 BP; OxA-1887)<sup>29</sup> was obtained from the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave form, including the grave goods, and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfill. The location of the grave suggests an association with ring ditch 602 or ring ditch 601. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burial and grave context contemporary with ritual use of barrow 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event), though stratigraphically at the interface between deposits deriving from long duration soil formation processes. Age-at-death offset is minimal; the depositional offset is unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample dates the charred bone, and gives a *tpq* for the later soil accumulation in the ditch. *Evaluation:* Apparently high-value date, but doubts about the accuracy of radiocarbon determinations on charred bone put it in question. <sup>29</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (grave furniture, burial event). Age-at-death offset possibly considerable (oak charcoal); depositional offset unknown but perhaps considerable (re-use of timber possible). The sample dates the wooden object, in association with the cremation deposit and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfill. *Evaluation:* Moderate-value date for burial and grave context, particularly the wooden object (problem of possible large age-at-death offset).

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Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
414	-	-	-	2	-	_	_	2	-	1
900	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	6	-	4
904	_	1	-	_	-	_	-	1	-	_
907	-	_	-	2	-	-	_	2	-	-
916	-	_	_	- 8	-	-	-	8	1	4
918	-	-	_	8	-	-	4	12	-	7
920	-	-	_	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
922	-	-	_	1	-	-	_	1	1	-
923	-	_	_	3	_	-	_	3	1	2
924	-	-	_	10	-	-	1	11	2	5
925	_	_	_	4	_	_	-	4	-	4
926	_	_	_	4	1	-	_	5	1	3
927	_	1	_	6	-	_	1	8	2	3
928	1	-	_	13	_	-	1	15	-	7
920	1		-	3	_	_	1	3	_	, 2
929	-	-	-	5	-		-	5	-	2
930	-	- 1	-	11	_	_	-	16	-	2
931	-	1	-		-	-	1	40 7	1	21
933	-	1	-	15	-	-	1	15	1	11
933	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	15	1	11
930	-	-	-	5	-		1	4	-	1
937	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	1	4
938	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3 0	۲ 1	-
939	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	8	1	4
940	-	Z	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-
942	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	24	2	10
(disarticulated	innumati	.on)		-			1	-	1	-
943	1	-	-	5	-	-	1	7	1	5
944	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1
945	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
946	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
947	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	5	1	2
949	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
953	-	1	-	32	1	-	2	36	3	16
2124 (layer 211	7) -	1	-	16	-	-	2	19	1	8
2179		1	-	18	1	-	3	23	2	15
2181	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	9	-	3
3226	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
3283	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3306	-	-	-	9	2	-	1	12	-	8
3427	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	1	2
3430	-	-	2	11	-	-	2	15	-	5
3812	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
4125	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
4148	-	-	-	2		-	-	2	-	1
4149	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	5	1	3
4180	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8	-	6
4640	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	1
4647	1	-	-	9	1	-	- 1	12	2	8
4648	-	-	1	21	-	-	2	24	2	17
4649	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2

Table 4.23. Struck flint from miscellaneous pits and other features, including inhumation 942 and ?cremation 4662

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Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
4662 (?cremation) -		-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
4706	-	-	-	-	~	-	1	1	-	-
4717	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	8	1	6
4750	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
4752	-	-	-	2	~	-	-	2	~	1
4753	-	-	-	3	~	-	-	3	1	1
4761		-	-	2	-	-	-	2	~	1
	3	9	5	361	6	-	34	418	39	212

Table 4.23 (continued). Struck flint from miscellaneous pits and other features, including inhumation 942 and ?cremation 4662

charcoal. The grave may have been partly backfilled with a mixed deposit of loam and gravel.

A second burial (605/B), this time the inhumation of a child, was placed immediately above the cremation (Fig. 4.52). Only the upper half of the body was recorded; it had been placed on its left side with the head to the NW. A Food Vessel (Fig. 4.54, P51) had been placed upright next to the corpse. A radiocarbon determination of 2350-1750 cal BC (95% confidence) (3670±80 BP; OxA-1884)<sup>30</sup> was made on the skeleton. This burial could have been associated with an enlargement of 605, extending the grave to the NW, which was recorded in plan but not in section (Fig. 4.52). The grave was backfilled with loam and gravel.

## Cremation 606 (Figs 4.50-1)

A small bowl-shaped pit containing a cremation was recorded in the top of grave 607 (Fig. 4.51). In addition, cremated bone (603) was recovered from the ploughsoil above the pit, indicating damage and truncation from later ploughing. It is possible that the cremation pit was sunk through an existing earthwork.

### *Grave* 604 (*Figs* 4.48, 4.51)

A shallow grave oriented N-S was located 0.3 m SE of grave 605. It contained the crouched, articulated skeleton of a subadult placed on the right side with the head to the S. The arms were extended with the hands placed near the pelvis and the legs were flexed.

## Pit 609

A shallow pit, 0.25 m in diameter, between the two ring-ditches close to the outer edge of 601, had been severely truncated by ploughing. At the centre was the upright base of a ?Food Vessel (Fig. 4.54, P52). The vessel base was filled with brown sandy loam and the pit had been backfilled with dirty gravel. No evidence of a cremation was recorded.

### Cremation 614 (Fig. 4.48)

The cremation pit lay 5 m NE of barrow 12 and 3 m NW of barrow 13. It may have placed outside the outer bank of barrow 12. It was oval in plan,  $1.3 \times 0.5 \text{ m}$  and 0.1 m deep and had a single fill of gravelly loam. The exact position of the cremation within the pit was not recorded.

### Pit 624

A pit 0.3 m deep was cut by the outer ditch of barrow 12 (Fig. 4.48). The pit contained a primary fill of gravel, a main fill of loam and no finds. If indeed the feature is of anthropogenic origin, then it could tentatively be associated with the scatter of Neolithic artefacts redeposited in the ditch fills of barrow 12.

### Pits 615-21

Seven pits were recorded around the outer edge of barrow 12. They were of unequal depth and size and unevenly distributed around the outside of the phase 2 ditch (601). All had loam fills, four (616–9) contained primary fills of clean gravel (Fig. 4.53). None contained postpipes, post packing or artefacts. Their positions, respecting the outer ditch and in the case of 619–21 possibly an outer bank, perhaps indicate that they postdated the barrow. They may even relate to later settlement. It is possible that some of the features are the result of animal disturbance, especially pits 615, 617 and 620 where the fills contain mixed loam and gravel (Fig. 4.53). Further pits were found inside barrow 13.

## **Barrow form**

No evidence for a surviving earthwork was found. However, the occurrence of clean gravel in the top of the inner ditch 602 could indicate that there was a central mound. This mound probably belonged to a late phase and could represent enlargement of a smaller mound covering grave 607. The shallower grave 605 could have been cut through a smaller phase 1 mound and likewise the shallow grave 604 was probably cut through the more substantial phase 2 mound. The possible cremation deposit in pit 609 could have respected the edge of the phase 2 mound as could SFB 26 (Fig. 4.48). The phase 2

<sup>30</sup>Radiocarbon assessment<sup>1</sup>: disturbed or severely eroded context (incomplete skeleton) of short duration (burial event). Both age-atdeath and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave context, including the Food Vessel. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burial and grave context. barrow had an outer bank, gravel from which survived in the top of hengiform ring ditch 611. The bank appears to have been respected by the ditch of barrow 13 and by satellite cremation 614.

## Suggested sequence

- 1. The position of grave 607 was chosen in an area which had already been a focus for Neolithic activity. The grave was dug to a significant depth, probably to allow for successive burials. The corpse and grave goods were placed in the grave and it was backfilled. The ring ditch was laid out with the grave at the centre. The gravel from the ditch was used to mark the grave with a mound. The barrow construction disturbed Neolithic deposits. An alternative sequence would be that the grave was placed at the centre of an existing ring ditch and that the refitting flints were deliberately placed.
- 2. A pit was dug through the centre of the existing mound and a cremation (606) placed in it. The barrow was possibly enlarged at this stage and a new ditch was cut through that of adjacent monument 611. Barrow 13 was constructed next to the enlarged barrow 12.
- 3. A series of secondary burials (604–5 and 609) were placed in pits dug through the enlarged barrow mound. Grave 604 was aligned on the double funerary deposit 605. Deposit 609 was placed at the edge of the mound.
- 5. Cremations in Biconical Urns and animal bone deposits were placed in the outer ditch.

### Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

### Phase 1

607/2. The grave contained the articulated remains of a young adult male. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was B and preservation of the individual bones 2–1. A full set of adult teeth was present, though epiphysial fusion of certain of the bones was incomplete. The iliac crest had only recently fused, as had the plates of the vertebral bodies and the sacral bodies were only partially fused. An age range of 18–23 years is suggested. Squatting facets are present on both the right and left tibiae. Spina bifida occulta of the sacrum was noted. Stature was calculated at 1.81 m.

*Cremation 606* was not relocated. This summary is based on the original report by Mary Harman.

There was a modest amount of calcined bone, some of it only grey indicating insufficient burning, including a few skull vault fragments, part of the right maxilla with six teeth present at death, and a few fragments of limb bones. The ashes are those of an adult, but there is not the quantity of bone which could be expected if these were the all the ashes from the cremation of a complete adult. The cremation may have been truncated and scattered by ploughing, or perhaps only a token quantity was deposited.

### Phase 2

Cremation 601/B/3, contained in P54 and P54. The

deposit weighed 22 g. The bones were white and well calcined with the exception of a petrous bone, a skull vault fragment and two vertebral arches all of which were blue-grey. The largest fragment was skull vault measuring 2 mm. Only skull, dentition and axial fragments were present. Two children are represented, one aged 4 years and one newborn. This is indicated by the presence of two pairs of petrous temporal bones.

*Cremation 605/A* could not be relocated. The description is based entirely on the original report by Mary Harman.

The deposit weighed 425 g. The fragments were mainly white, though some appeared grey, in particular femur shafts, some of which were dark grey. All parts of the body were represented. Seventeen tooth sockets were identified and all appear to have held teeth at time of death. An age range of 17-23 years is suggested, as the wisdom teeth may still have been erupting and parts of the proximal humerus and the distal ulna show unfused epiphyses. A large wormian bone which may have been part of a bi- or tripartite inca bone was noted.

*Inhumation 605/B* was destroyed for dating purposes. The description is based entirely on the original archive report by Mary Harman.

The upper half of a skeleton of an infant aged approximately one year was recovered from immediately above cremation 605/A. The remains were in fair condition.

### **Unphased Burials**

*Grave 604* contained a subadult aged approximately 12–13 years. Degree of completeness of the skeleton is A and the preservation of the individual bones is 3–2, the torso being in particularly poor condition. The teeth and parts of the hands and feet have been destroyed by ploughing.

*Cremation 614* weighed 131 g and comprised axial fragments as well as upper and lower long bones and two tooth fragments. Colour was variable and white through to merely blackened fragments were present. The remains appear to be those of an adult individual who may have been female. This assessment is very tentatively based on the small and gracile form of a fragment of femur shaft.

## **Metalwork**<sup>o</sup>

#### Phase 1

*M6.* 607/2. Bronze awl: a double-pointed awl with round-sectioned ends and a squarish-sectioned central swelling which tends to give lozenge facets. A green patina with some corrosion lumps. Fine grinding marks can be seen in the patina. Both extremities are missing. Sf 544. Extant length 41.7 mm; max. thickness 3.3 mm.

## **Organics**<sup>w</sup>

At one end of the awl there is organic material preserved by contact with copper corrosion products. This has very regular striations in its structure, which means that it could be wood, but it is probably more likely to be horn.

## Chapter Four

Context a	Transverse arrowheads	Barbed & tanged arrowhead	Scrapers flakes	Serrated fragments	Axe	Denticulate	Retouched flakes	Misc. retouched	Totals
900	-		1	-	-	-	· _	1	2
918	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	4
924	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
927	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
928	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
931	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
933	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
936	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
939	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
943	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
945	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
953	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
2124 (layer 21	117) -	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
2179/2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
2181/1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
3306	1	-	-	-	- ,	-	-	-	1
3430	-	-	1	-	-	-		1	2
4149	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
4647	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
4648	-	-	1	. 1	-	-	-	-	2
4706	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
4717	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	4	1	14	5	1	1	4	4	34

## Table 4.24. Retouched flint from miscellaneous pits

Pottery<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.54–5; Table 4.25)

#### Phase 2 – central area

**P51.** Inhumation 605/B. Food Vessel. A complete Food Vessel in a fabric with grog, coarse sand and some large fragments of flint. The decoration consists of fingernail impressions at the rim and shoulder. Colour — exterior: orange-yellow; core: dark grey; interior: orange-yellow. Surface colour is very even inside and out. Condition: good.

**P52.** *Pit 609.* ?Food Vessel. Forty sherds from the base of a single vessel. Fabric GS:1. Colour — exterior: pinkish orange; core: dark grey; interior: dark grey. Condition: fair.

## Phase 2 – outer ditch

**P53.** 601/B/3. Bronze Age miniature vessel. One third to a half of a vessel in a coarse fabric with some large flint fragments visible. The vessel is biconical, with the shoulder emphasised by a cordon decorated with fingernail impressions and an applied boss. Slight

vertical ridges are probably the result of the forming process, and might perhaps be taken as an indication that the vessel is slab-built. Colour — exterior: patchy, dark grey to black beneath the rim, brown over the rest of the body; core: black; interior: brown to black. Condition: good.

**P54.** 601/B/3. Bronze Age miniature vessel. An incomplete vessel in a compact fabric with a smooth fracture and sparse sand. The quality of the fabric is much finer than that of P53 and the finish is of a higher quality. Colour — exterior: pale grey, buff; core: interior: pale grey, pink. Condition: fair.

**P55.** 601/E/3. ?Abingdon Ware Fabric Sh(V):3. One rim sherd of a vessel with a simple, everted, plain rim. The shell fragments show only in fresh breaks. Colour — exterior: buff; core: black; interior: dark grey. Condition: worn.

**P56.** 601/L/5. Fengate Ware. Fabric S:4. Single rim of a Fengate Ware vessel with a large, well-defined, flat internal rim bevel and a convex collar. The rim bevel is decorated with incised herringbone, and the collar



Figure 4.48 Barrow 12



\*

Figure 4.49 Barrow 12: sections

Chapter Four



Figure 4.50 Barrow 12: primary burial at the base of grave 607 (above); cremation 606 in top fill of grave 607 and cremation at base of grave 605 (below)




Figure 4.51 Barrow 12: cremation 606 in top fill of grave 607, infant burial with food vessel above cremation in 605, and adjacent grave 604 (above); section (below)

Context	Sh(V	'):3/Neo.	S:4	/Pet.	GS:2	2/Bkr	FGS:	- (FV)	GS:5,	/?EBA	F:2	/ D-R	GQ:1	l/indet.	QS:1	/indet.	ŝ	5:-	ç	Sh:-	F:	;-
602/E/1	-	-	-	-	-	-		~	_	-	-	-	-	-	1*	8 g	-	-	-	-		-
602/F/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	3 g
602/H/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	3 g
601/D/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	9 g		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
601/E/3	1	4 g	-	-	-	-	-	~	-	-	-	- '	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
601/F/4	-	-	-	-	1	1 g	-	~	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
601/K/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	32 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
601/L/5	-	-	1	8 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
601/N/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1 g	-	-	-	-
601/O/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	7 g	-	-	-	-
Grave 605	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 vessel	Recon- structed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 609	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c. 40	115 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cremation 614	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SFB 26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	14 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4.25. Pottery from barrow 12 and related contexts. \* indicates featureless sherds only

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Barrow Hills, Radley, Volume 1

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
601/5	-	1	-	17	_		2	20	-	10
601/4	6	3	-	81	-	-	8	98	4	44
601/3	-	6	2	64	-		3	75	4	41
601/2	4	3	1	94	-	-	5	107	4	62
601/1	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	8	1	4
601/-	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	12	-	9
602/3	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	9	-	8
602/2	-	-	-	10	1	-	2	13	-	4
602/1	2	5	4	73	-	-	1	85	4	42
Grave 605/1	-	1	-	. 6	1	-	-	8	-	3
Grave 607/2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	-	1
Grave 607/1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Grave 607/-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	1
Graves 605-7	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	1	-
608 (?bank)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pit 619/1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
600 (topsoil)	5	7	-	129	-	-	8	149	9	59
Totals	19	26	9	512	2	-	30	598	27	291

 Table 4.26. Struck flint from barrow 12 and related contexts

exterior carries a curvilinear motif possibly of fingernail impressions, although the technique used is not clear. Colour — dark grey throughout. Condition: slightly worn.

**P57.** 601/F/4. Beaker. Fabric GS:2. One small body sherd with rectangular-toothed comb impressions. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: black; interior: orange-brown. Condition: worn.

*P58.601/N/2.* Indeterminate. A single rim of a thinwalled vessel in a hard but friable fabric with dense, coarse sand. The rim is simple, but the angle is not ascertainable, nor is it possible to determine which is the interior and which the exterior surface, as no curvature is visible. One surface has a narrow incised line running obliquely down from the rim. Colour — dark grey throughout. Condition: fair.

## Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.55; Tables 4.26–8)

#### Phase 1 – central burial

F56. 607/2. Unretouched flake.

#### Phase 1 — inner ditch

**F57.** 602/B/2. Side scraper. Minimal fairly shallow retouch (c. 40–50°) along left-hand side. Possible utilization damage on right-hand side. Some recent damage to distal end. Bullhead flint.

*F58.* 602/*G*/1. Opposed platform core with blade and flake removals. Weight 144 g. One refitting blade. (Fig. 7.3).

*F59. 602/G/1.* Single platform blade core. Weight 36 g. Some platform edge abrasion. One refitting flake (Fig. 7.3).

*F60. 602/G/1.* Single platform blade core. Weight 329 g. Some platform edge abrasion. One refitting flake (Fig. 7.3).

*F61. 602/G/1.* Core rejuvenation flake. Flake from an opposed platform core, removing unworkable face.

# Phase 2

*F62. 601/N/5.* Piercer, minimally retouched, point formed by burin blows. Point worn.

*F63. 601/F/4.* Unretouched blade, possibly utilized. *F64. 601/G/4.* Transverse arrowhead broken at base, possibly unfinished. Sf 570.

*F***65. 601/H**/**4**. Serrated flake, broken. On a bladelike blank. Traces of gloss. *c*. 7 serrations per 10 mm. Worn. Bullhead flint.

*F66. 601/M/4.* End and side scraper. Both lateral edges retouched. Scraping angle *c.* 70–80°.

*F67. 601/M/4.* End and side scraper. Small patch of cortex remaining on dorsal face. Scraping angle *c.* 45–70°. Worn,markedly rounded scraping edge.

*F68. 601/N/4.* Oblique arrowhead, broken at tip. Sf 557.



Figure 4.52 Barrow 12: infant burial with food vessel above cremation in grave 605.  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  OAU

*F69. 601/G/2.* Piercer, minimally retouched, on pebble flint.

The outer ditch produced more flint than the inner (Table 4.26). The primary layer of the inner ditch, 601, was clean; the primary layers of the outer ditch, 602, produced 22 pieces of flint, mainly unretouched flakes. A considerable quantity of the flint in 602, and to a lesser extent 601, was redeposited. Approximately 44.4% of the unretouched flakes from 602 are soft hammer-struck blades or blade-like flakes. The figure for 601 is approximately 19%. The earlier Neolithic character of this material is confirmed by attribute analysis (Tables 7.13–18). The majority of this material is a distinctive grey colour. Several series of refits were found among cores, blade-like flakes and blades from 602, although no long reduction sequences could be established (Fig. 7.3, Table 4.28).

# Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

Phase 1 – Inner Ditch (all layer 1)

*Cattle.* 602/F/1. Tibia, distal end chewed; fragmentary jaw and tooth.

*Sheep/goat.* 602/H/1. Humerus, proximal end chewed, and radius. *Bird* 602/F/1. 1 rib.

**Unidentified.** 11 fragments, including limb bone splinters from large- and medium-sized mammals.

# Phase 2 - outer ditch

*Aurochs, Bos primigenius.* 601/ D/4. A left distal radius of a large bovid is so much larger than typical Bronze Age cattle that it is considered to be from aurochs. The bone may have derived from later Neolithic ring ditch 611, which was cut by ditch 601 at this point (Fig. 4.48). The measure-ments are recorded in Table 7.25.

*Cattle* 601/D/4, H/4, K/4, *M*/4 and *P*/4. Nine bones, five weathered, and one chewed.

*Sheep/goat.* 601/A/6 and K/4. Five bones of which a metacarpal is certainly from sheep.

*Pig.* 601/*K*/4. Humerus and metapodial.

*Red deer.* 601/*B*/4 and *L*/4. Mandible and metatarsal.

*Deer indet.* **601**/*L*/**4**. Two small antler fragments.

Duck, probably mallard, Anas platyrhynochos. 601/P/4. Vertebra, rib, furcula, coracoid, humerus, radius, ulna (pair), pelvis, femur and tarsometatarsus from a single individual.

These are probably from a complete carcass, and one which was never cooked and eaten. It is thus unlikely to represent human food remains. If the origin is anthropogenic, it may have been killed as an offering, or to provide feathers, or indeed both. Bird bones are uncommon on Bronze Age sites, even where preservation is good and extensive sieving is carried out (Serjeantson in prep), which gives this find considerable interest. The possibility also needs to be considered that it is a natural death, or that it was killed by some predator other than humans.

*Pike, Esox lucius, 601/P/4.* The only two fish bones from these excavations area a pair of pike dentaries.

**Unidentified. 601/4.** 19 fragments from large mammals, including a femur possibly from a red deer, and two fragments from small mammals.

The bones from ditch 601 are far from a typical Bronze Age domestic assemblage. As well as cattle, sheep, Chapter Four



Figure 4.53 Barrow 12: sections of pits in the immediate area

and pig, there is red deer, an aurochs radius, part of the skeleton of a mallard, and a pair of pike jaws.

The aurochs find is important, if it is indeed of early Bronze Age rather than later Neolithic date, because wild cattle are not known to survive beyond the Bronze Age in this country. The latest known, which is from the site of Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet, Somerset, has been dated to 1630–1430 cal BC (95% confidence)(3250±37 BP; BM-731; Levitan *et al.* 1988, 200).

#### BARROW 13 (RING DITCH 401; 51371 98098; FIGS 4.56-9)

Barrow 13 lay immediately NE of barrow 12. The ditch was cut by one SFB, 24, and immediately adjacent to another, 23. Layers 2 and 3 contained Saxon settlement debris, probably representing deliberate dumping. Disturbance extended to layer 4.

## Ditch 401

Ditch 401 had a steep-sided profile with a flat base and an internal diameter of 19 m. It had been cut 1.20 m into the natural gravel and was subcircular in plan with a flattened SW side adjacent to barrow 12.

The ditch contained a primary fill (layer 5) of gravel from the collapse of the sides. The secondary fill (layer 4) consisted of layers of loam, loamy gravel and gravel deposited from both sides of the ditch. In sections 1 and 3 (Fig. 4.57) the fills were asymmetrical, with more material derived from the inside. The upper part of layer 4 could represent collapse from an inner bank or mound. In section 4, next to barrow 12, more material, comprising layers of loam, loamy gravel and gravel, entered the ditch from the outside; at least some of this could have derived from the adjacent outer bank of barrow 12. Fine loam (layer 3) accumulated in the top of the ditch and was overlain by ploughsoil (layer 2). Both layers 2 and 3 contained sherds of Deverel-Rimbury pottery (Fig. 4.59, P59–64; Table 4.29) in addition to abundant Saxon material. Although no cremated bone was found it is tempting to interpret this material as deriving from a ploughed-out cremation cemetery.

# The Interior

The initial sections excavated across the barrow interior showed that no internal earthworks had survived and that the modern ploughsoil (400 = 1) overlay natural gravel. Ploughmarks and a series of pits/postholes (402-6, 412 and 413) cutting the natural gravel were recorded in the interior. The ploughmarks are probably contemporary with the ploughsoil (401/2) in the top of the ditch sections. A single sherd in Deverel-Rimbury fabric F:2 (Fig. 4.59, P65) came from the ploughsoil covering the interior.

## Features 402-13

A series of seven shallow pits and postholes were found within the barrow interior (Figs 4.56, 4.58). They all had shallow bowl-shaped profiles with the exception of 402 and 405 which were deeper with vertical-sided profiles. They all had main fills of red loam and, with the exception of 406 and 412, gravel primary fills. Two external features, 409 and 410, were similar in character. None of these features contained artefacts. It has been argued from the ditch sections that the barrow had a central mound. It is also argued (Ch. 6) that it survived as an earthwork into the Saxon period. The spatial pattern of these features and the absence of gravel from their main fills could indicate a pre-barrow date. Charcoal from another external

Context	Oblique	Indeterminate	Scrapers	Awls/	Serrated	Misc.	Totals
	arrowheads	arrowhead		piercers	flakes	retouched	
601/5	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
601/4	2	-	2	-	2	1	7
601/3	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
601/2	-	1	3	1	-	-	5
601/1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
602/2	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
602/1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	2	1	11	2	4	1	21

# Table 4.27. Retouched flint from barrow 12



Figure 4.54 Barrow 12: pottery from burials



Figure 4.55 Barrow 12: pottery and struck flint

# Barrow Hills, Radley, Volume 1

Context	Flakes	Blades	Blade-like flakes	Chip	Core rejuvenation flake	Cores	Totals
602/D/3	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
602/G/2	1	2	-	1	-	-	4
602/D/1	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
602/G/1	16	4	4	-	1	4	29
602/H/1	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
605/1	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
Totals	22	10	7	1	1	4	45

Table 4.28. Grey flint from barrow 12 The material from 602/G/1 includes three cores, each refitting with a single blade, and two pairs of refitting blade-like flakes

Table 4.29. Pottery from barrow 13. \* indicates featureless sherds only

Context	F:2/	D-R	F:1,	/D-R	FGQ:1	l/indet.	SSh(V):	:1/indet.	FGS:3/	indet.	FQ:2/	indet.	Sh:2/	indet.	F	:-	
401/B/2	1*	14 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/B/4	-	-	-	-	3*	12 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/E/2	2*	29 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/E/2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	22 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/F/2	1*	13 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/F/3	-	-	1*	7 g	-	-	-	-	1*	7 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/G/3	2*	12 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3 g	3*	24 g	-	-	-	-	
401/H/2	2	22 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16 g	-	-	
401/J/3	1*	25 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/M/2	-	-	1*	9 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/N/2	2	8 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/N/3	3*	16 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/O/2	3*	44 g	1*	17 g	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	2 g	
401/O/3	-	-	5	102 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/P/2	2	18 g	1*	5 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/P/3	1*	16 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
401/1	5	83 g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	6 g	-	-	
(topsoil)																	

Table 4.30. Struck flint from barrow 13 and associated features

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
401/4	-	1	1	11	-	-	2	15	-	6
401/3	1	1	-	28	-	-	3	33	-	21
401/2	2	1	1	41	-	-	4	49	1	24
Feature 402/1	L -	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
(in interior)										
414/4 (one of	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1
intercutting p	oits in NW c	luadrant)								
400 (topsoil)	2	3	-	64	-	-	2	71	3	48
Totals	5	6	2	148	-	-	11	172	4	102

feature (pit 411, not shown in Figure 4.56) was, however, dated to cal AD 130–510 ( $1710\pm70$  BP; OxA-1885)<sup>31</sup>, raising the possibility of a comparable age for the remainder.

## Pits 414-8

There was a series of intercutting pits (414–8) in the NW quadrant of the barrow. Pit 414 cut the barrow ditch 401 after the accumulation of the tertiary fill (layer 3) and in addition upcast gravel was deposited above this layer (Fig. 4.58, section 5). These pits are probably contemporary with the Saxon settlement, especially as Saxon pottery came from 414 and a Saxon loomweight from 416.

# **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Fig. 4.59; Table 4.29)

**P59.** 401/O/3. Deverel-Rimbury. Fabric F:1. One featured sherd and one plain body sherd of a thin-walled vessel. The illustrated sherd has an applied handle, probably vertical and with a horizontal perforation. Colour — exterior: pale orange; core: grey; interior: dark grey. Condition: fresh.

**P60. 401/E/2–3.** Fabric SSh(V):1. Part of the base and lower body wall of a thick-walled vessel with a protruding foot. Most of the shell fragments have leached or burnt out of the fabric, creating a 'corky' appearance. Colour — exterior: orange, with yellow patches; core: pale grey; interior: orange. Condition: worn.

**P61.** 401/H/2. Fabric Sh:2. One plain rim and one plain body sherd of a single vessel. The rim is upright and slightly expanded; the two slight impressions on the rim interior are probably the result of the forming technique. Colour — exterior: grey-brown; core: not visible; interior: grey-brown. Condition: worn.

*P62.* 401/*H*/2. Fabric F:2. A single carinated sherd; the carination has slight impressions above and below it, probably the result of finger pressure used to form the carination. Colour — exterior: dark grey; core: grey; interior: pale orange.

*P63.* 401/*N*/2. ?Later Bronze Age. Fabric F:2. A single rim sherd of a vessel with an upright, simple, rounded rim. Colour — exterior: dark grey; core: not visible; interior: pale brown.

*P64.* 401/*P*/2. ?Deverel-Rimbury. Fabric F:2. A single rim sherd of a vessel with an upright, flat-topped rim decorated with single fingernail/fingertip impressions. Colour — exterior: dark grey; core: grey; interior: grey. The top of the rim is orange on the interior edge. Condition: fair.

*P65. Topsoil over barrow 13.* Fabric F:2. A single body sherd with a small oval lug, which appears to be worked-up rather than applied. Colour — exterior: grey,

dark grey; core: grey; interior; grey, grey-brown. Condition: fair.

# Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.59; Tables 4.30–31)

*F70.* 401/*P*/4. End and side scraper. Invasive retouch. Scraping angle *c*. 60–70°.

**F71. 401/L/3.** Multi-platform flake core. Weight 52 g. No flint was recovered from the primary silts. A small quantity came from the secondary silting (Table 4.30). The majority came from layers 2 and 3 which contained Saxon material.

Thirty-one complete flakes from 401 were measured, only 27 of them larger than 20 mm. Flake proportions generally fell in the middle range. The flakes were mainly soft hammer struck.

#### Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

*Cattle.* 401/4. Jaw fragment, radius shaft fragment, and complete left radius with the distal end chewed off. *Sheep.* 401/E/5. Proximal left metacarpal. *Unidentified.* 401/4. 2 fragments.

## POND BARROW 4866 (51409 98110; FIGS 4.60-4)

Pond barrow 4866 appeared as an irregular, circular cropmark (Fig. 1.8).

# The pond

The pond was subcircular, 6.5 m in diameter and cut 1 m into natural gravel. It had steep sloping sides and a flat bottom. On the SW side two cremation pits had been dug into the edge of the pond floor, respectively containing the remains of an adult (4866/II) and young adult (4866/I). The deposits were almost discrete and refitting fragments of the same tibia from each pit confirm their contemporaneity. A radiocarbon determination of 2500-1900 cal BC (95% confidence) (3720±80 BP; OxA-1879)<sup>32</sup> was obtained from cremated bone from 4866/I. The cremation pits were sealed by a layer of dirty gravel (4866/5) which had accumulated around the pond floor, derived from the natural weathering and collapse of the pond sides. Above this was a more substantial deposit (4866/4) of sandy loam and gravel. Tip lines and lenses suggested that the deposit derived from the weathering of a surrounding bank.

The section (Fig. 4.60) shows the lower half of the pond filled with loam (layer 3). Layers of gravel (3 and 2) within it could represent disturbance, probably anthropogenic, to the enclosing earthwork. The pond

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: unsealed context of short duration (pit backfill episode). The sample is of diffuse origin from the soil matrix. The age-at-death offset is possibly large (oak charcoal) and the depositional offset is unknown. The sample only gives a *tpq* for the backfilling of the pit. *Evaluation:* Low-value date: diffuse origin, possibly large age offset.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death offset is minimal, while the depositional offset is unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample gives a date on the cremated bone and a *tpq* for the silting sequence within the barrow. The cremation's relationship to the digging of the barrow is unknown, but its location beneath primary silts suggests it was deposited soon after the site was completed. *Evaluation*: Apparently high-value date for burial event and possibly pond barrow construction, but doubts about the accuracy of radiocarbon dates from charred bone put the date in question.



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Figure 4.56 Barrow 13



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contained no contemporary prehistoric artefacts. The top of the pond was filled with loam (layer 1) in which were a small quantity of Saxon pottery, a single Romano-British sherd and an almost complete dog skeleton.

Nine graves, one of which was Saxon (5004) were placed around the pond. The early Bronze Age graves, 5274, 4906, 4969, 4968, 4970, 4975, 5191 and 4979, were probably placed outside the enclosing bank; the Saxon grave could have been cut through a denuded bank (Fig. 4.60).

# Grave 5274 (Fig. 4.61)

Grave 5274 was suboval in plan,  $1.4 \times 0.9$  m, oriented NNE-SSW, and cut 0.25 m into natural gravel. It contained the crouched skeleton of a child which had been placed in the eastern side of the grave. The body had been placed on its left side with the head towards the NNE. The legs were tightly flexed with the knees drawn up towards the chest and the arms were folded. Three flint flakes and a knife (Fig. 4.61, F72–5) were

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Figure 4.59 Barrow 13: finds

found near to the right hand. A chisel arrowhead and a knife (Fig. 4.61, F76, F77) were found below the knees. Areas of charcoal, apparently unsampled, were found to the W, underneath the skeleton and above the torso. The charcoal could have represented the charred remains of a coffin. The grave was backfilled with sandy loam and gravel. A radiocarbon determination of 2040–1610 cal BC (95% confidence)(3480±80 BP; OxA-1903)<sup>33</sup> was obtained from the skeleton.

# Grave 4969 (Fig. 4.62)

The grave was suboval in plan,  $1.5 \times 1.1$  m, oriented NE–SW, and cut 0.6 m into natural gravel. It contained the crouched skeleton of a subadult aged 9–10 years. The body was tightly flexed and had been placed in a coffin. The coffin survived as faint line of alder charcoal. The coffin outline appeared to be trapezoidal in plan, 0.9 m x 0.4–0.65 m, and rested on the grave floor. The area between the coffin and the grave had been backfilled with gravel. Within the coffin was the poorly preserved, crouched skeleton of a subadult, patchily

Table 4.31. Retouched flint from barrow 13

Context	Scrapers	Misc. retouched	Totals
401/4	2	-	2
401/3	3	-	3
401/2	2	2	4
Totals	7	2	9

overlain by further charcoal. The body had been placed on its right side with the head towards the SW.

A flint piercer (Fig. 4.62, F78) was found within the coffin, near the back of the body. Up to six red deer antlers (AB20–25) had been placed along but above the sides of the coffin together with a cattle skull (AB26) and a fragmentary pig calcaneum (AB27). The grave was backfilled with sandy loam and gravel. A radiocarbon determination of 2040–1620 cal BC

<sup>33</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave assemblage, and provides a *tpq* for the backfilling of the grave. The location of the grave suggests an association with the pond barrow. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burial and grave context, probably contemporary with ritual use of the pond barrow.



Figure 4.60 Pond barrow 4866



Figure 4.61 Grave 5274

(95% confidence) (3490 $\pm$ 80 BP; OxA-1880)<sup>34</sup> was obtained from deer antler AB22.

# Grave 4906 (Fig. 4.62)

The grave was subrectangular in plan,  $1.8 \times 1.1 \text{ m}$ , oriented E – W, and cut 0.7 m into natural gravel. It contained the crouched skeleton of an ageing female. The body was tightly flexed and had been placed on the floor of the grave on the right side with the head to the E.

The grave was backfilled with sandy gravel (layer 1) and loamy gravel (layer 2). A red deer antler had been placed at the E end within the grave fill. A broken flint flake, also from this layer, is thought to be redeposited. A radiocarbon determination of 1780–1520 cal BC (88% confidence)(3380±50 BP; BM-2696)<sup>35</sup>

was obtained from human long bone.

## **Cremation 4979** (Fig. 4.60)

An oval pit, 0.6 x 0.5 m and 0.1m deep, contained cremated bone and a fill of sandy loam with little gravel.

# Grave 4975 (Fig. 4.63)

Grave 4975 appeared as a small suboval pit  $0.95 \times 0.85$  m, cut 0.35 m into natural gravel. An inverted Food Vessel (Fig. 4.63, P66) containing 'dark soil' had been placed on the E side of the pit. The dark soil (?burnt organic material) appeared to spread out from the pot and over the pit floor. Very fragmentary, unidentifiable burnt bone was found at the base of the pit within the spread of dark soil. The pit was backfilled with dirty gravel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The offset between the removal of the antler from the animal and its deposition is uncertain. The sample gives at least a *tpq* for the antler deposit directly associated with the burial and the rest of the grave context, including the possible coffin, and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfill. *Evaluation*: High-value date for burial and grave context, probably contemporary with ritual use of the pond barrow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave form and provides *tpq* for the backfill and associated antler deposit. The location of the grave suggests an association with the pond barrow. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burial and grave context, probably contemporary with the ritual use of the pond barrow.

# Grave 5191 (Fig. 4.63)

Grave 5191 appeared as a suboval pit 1.3 x 0.95 m, oriented NNW-SSE and cut 0.4 m into natural gravel. Towards the northern end of the grave were the crushed remains of a Food Vessel (Fig. 4.63, P67), and towards the southern end were fragments of unburnt human bone. The vessel had originally been inverted. The grave was backfilled with dirty gravel (layer 2) and gravelly loam (layer 1).

## Grave 4970 (Fig. 4.64)

The grave was suboval in plan, 1.65 x 1 m, oriented N-S, and cut 0.65 m into natural gravel. It contained the crouched skeleton of a female aged above 30 years. The body was tightly flexed and had been placed on the floor of the grave on its right side with the head to the S. A Food Vessel (Fig. 4.64, P68) had been placed on its side to the E of the body. Dark soil recorded above the skull and a line of charcoal recorded down the W side and at the NW end of the grave is likely to represent the charred remains of a 'coffin'. The grave was back-filled with dirty gravel. A radiocarbon determination of 1970–1690 cal BC (95% confidence)(3500±50 BP; BM-2698)<sup>36</sup> was obtained from the human bone.

# Grave 4968 (Fig. 4.64)

Grave 4968 was suboval in plan, 1.55 x 1.1 m, oriented SW-NE, and cut 0.35 m into natural gravel. It contained the skeletons of an ageing (50+ years) adult female and a child. The body of the adult had been placed on the grave floor on the right side with the head to the SW and facing SE. The legs were tightly flexed with the knees to the E and the feet placed below the pelvis. Overlying the adult was the skeleton of a child. The body had been placed with the head towards the NE and possibly on its left side. The head rested on top of the adult's pelvis and the lower legs were positioned near the adult's left shoulder. Charcoal which was found near the adult's feet and as a faint line along the NW edge of the grave could represent the charred remains of a coffin or mortuary structure. On the E side no charcoal was recorded, however, a definite line was noted between the outer gravel fill and the soil covering the skeletons. The area between the coffin and the grave had apparently been backfilled with clean gravel to support the coffin structure. The upper grave fill consisted of backfilled dirty gravel. Four flints were recorded from the grave fill. Their precise position relative to the two skeletons was not recorded. They could have been deposited during the backfilling of the grave as incidental finds, although it is also possible that they were grave goods. A radiocarbon determination of 1740-1510 cal BC (95% confidence) (3320±50 BP; BM-2697)<sup>37</sup> was obtained from a long bone from the adult burial.

## Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

Cremation 4866/I. This deposit weighed 825 g prior to sampling for radiocarbon dating and now weighs 406 g. It is uniformly white and calcined with the exception of fragments of radius or ulna shaft. The largest surviving fragment is a tibia shaft measuring 0.10 mm. Distortion is marked and has particularly affected the femur, tibia and fibula shafts. There is much warping: transverse fissuring was noted especially on the inner table of the skull. All parts of the body were well represented. Fusion of epiphyses was complete where seen. A premolar or molar mandibular tooth socket appears to have been completely resorbed. There were possible osteophytes on a lower lumbar body though this is inconclusive. The remains are likely to be those of a young adult. One fragment of tibia shaft fits two in the second cremation. Part of this cremation formed the sample for OxA-1879.

*Cremation 4866/II.* This deposit weighed 748 g and was uniformly white and well calcined. Distortion of the bone was greater in this cremation than in many of the others: longbone shafts in particular seem less easily identifiable as they are very cracked and twisted and some checking of the outer table of the skull had occurred. All parts of the body are represented. The remains are those of an adult individual and it is suggested that their size and robust character may indicate a male.

*Grave* 5274. This is the skeleton of a child aged approximately 4–6 years. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was C and the preservation of individual bones 3–2. Severe cribra orbitalia was noted in both orbits and is probably indicative of anaemia. The presence of enamel hypoplasia on the permanent canine and first molar teeth suggests that a metabolic disturbance occurred between the ages of 1–1.5 years. The lower right deciduous incisor may have been congenitally absent. There were one or two wormian bones in the lambdoid suture.

*Grave* **4969.** This grave contained the remains of a subadult aged approximately 9–10 years. The skeleton could not be relocated and the details which follow are based entirely on the original archive report (M H).

Although the skull is in reasonably good condition the post cranial bones are very poorly preserved. There were signs of cribra orbitalia in both orbits. Three small

<sup>36</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave form, including the artefact deposit, and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfilling. The location of the grave suggests an association with the pond barrow. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burial, grave context and Food Vessel deposit, probably contemporary with ritual use of pond barrow site.

<sup>37</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the double burial and grave form, including the possible coffin, and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfill. The location of the grave suggests an association with the pond barrow. *Evaluation:* High-value date for burials and grave form, probably contemporary with ritual use of pond barrow site. Chapter Four



Figure 4.62 Graves 4969 and 4906

lambdoid wormian bones were present and there was some indication that the occipital was partially divided, perhaps demonstrating the presence of a large inca bone which was only partially separated from the occipital.

Grave 4906. This grave contained an ageing adult female. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was B and the preservation of the individual bones 3-1, though only extremities were classified 1. The dentition was in poor condition: three upper right and two lower left teeth had been lost ante mortem, two teeth were carious and there were six abscesses. There was considerable reduction of the alveolus with uneven and extreme attrition, as well as deposits of calculus. Osteophytes were present on the cervical and thoracic vertebral bodies and degeneration of many articular facets was under way. The atlas (left inferior articular facet) and the axis (left superior articular facet) were severely affected. Osteophytes were present around the head of the right humerus. The corresponding medial articulations of the right femur and tibia show signs of lipping and grooving with very slight eburnation. Stature was estimated at 1.58 m.

*Cremation* **4979.** This deposit weighed 290 g and was on the whole white and well calcined, incorporating skull, upper and lower limb bones. Many of the long bones exhibited deep fissuring and cracking. A probable tibia fragment was curved and distorted. The remains appear to represent those of an adult.

*Cremation* **4975.** This deposit comprised a very small quantity (less than 5 g) of unidentifiable burnt bone.

*Grave 5191.* This deposit comprised a very few fragments of unburnt human bone.

*Grave* 4970. This skeleton was of an adult female aged upwards of 30 years. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was A and individual bones scored 3–1, extremities in particular were regularly 1. Some lipping and porosity of the first to third cervical vertebrae were noted and additionally there was some mild eburnation on the first and second. This is classified as Grade II (Brothwell 1981, fig. 6.9). An area of raised and roughened reactive bone was present in the glenoid cavity of the left scapula. Fusion of the second metacarpal to the novicular, pisiform and lunate or triquetral had occurred. Possible causes for this include osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and trauma. Survival of the bones

of the hands is poor and those that have survived are damaged. Some proliferation of new bone had occurred but no eburnation was noted. The absence of the majority of carpals, metacarpals and phalanges makes the probable cause difficult to determine. Dental health was not particularly good: the lower right molars exhibited both caries and abscesses. Many of the teeth had deposits of calculus and considerable resorption of the alveolar bone had taken place. Stature was calculated at 1.65 m.

*Grave* 4968. The adult skeleton was a possible female aged upwards of 50 years. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was C and the preservation of individual bones was 3 with the exception of the right talus assessed as 2. Four carious teeth and four abscesses were present and only three teeth had been lost ante mortem. Osteophytes and articular facet degeneration were seen in most of the surviving vertebrae. These were very fragmentary, though there appeared to be osteophytes on the lower cervical, lower thoracic and the lumbar bodies as well as the cervical and thoracic articular facets. There was some slight extra bony growth around the margins of the acetabula and the femoral heads.

A subadult aged approximately 5 years survived in very poor condition. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was C and the preservation of individual bones was assessed as 3. Slight signs of cribra parietalia were seen on one small skull fragment.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.63-4)

*P66.* 4975. Food Vessel. A complete (restored) Food Vessel in a soft, coarse fabric with a hackly fracture and no visible inclusions (although it is likely that the fabric includes grog). The decoration is of whipped cord impressions on the interior rim bevel and above and below the shoulder; the impressions of the strands are visible inside each segment of the impression. Colour — exterior: buff; core: dark grey; interior: buff. The colouring is even, apart from approximately one third of the rim top which is dark grey. Condition: good, except that a small length of rim seems to have been lost in antiquity.

*P67. 5191.* Food Vessel. A complete (restored) Food Vessel in a hard fabric containing dense shell (<7 mm, but some much smaller) moderate sand, some coarse, and rare iron oxide or glauconite. There are cuneiform

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
Pond barrow 4866/1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	2
Grave 4906/1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Grave 4969	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	1
Grave 5274	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	7	-	5
Totals	-	-	-	10	-	-	4	14	-	9

4.32. Struck flint from pond barrow 4866 and associated flat graves



Figure 4.63 Graves 4975 and 5191

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Figure 4.64 Graves 4970 and 4968

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impressions on the interior rim bevel and above and below the shoulder. The base of the vessel is convex, rendering it very unstable. Colour — exterior: orange; core: dark grey; interior: orange. The surface colouring is even. Condition: good.

*P68.* 4970. Food Vessel. A complete (restored), plain Food Vessel in a fabric with moderate to dense grog (angular, 5 mm+) and some coarse sand. Colour exterior: buff, pale brown; core: black; interior: buff, pale brown. The surface colour is even over the exterior and most of the interior, but the vessel is poorly made: is irregular in form. Condition: good. One spall has come away during firing. **Flint**<sup>D</sup> (Figs 4.61–2; Table 4.32)

*F72.* 5274. Unretouched flake, upper right-hand edge broken. Sf 676.

*F73.* 5274. Unretouched flake, slight break at distal end. Sf 677.

*F74.* 5274. Backed knife. Steeply retouched along right-hand edge, with invasive retouch along left-hand edge. Sf 678.

*F75. 5274.* Unretouched flake, slight damage at distal end. Sf 679.

*F76.* 5274. Chisel arrowhead, slight damage to base and primary edge. Sf 680.

F77. 5274. Backed knife. Old break at distal end.

Invasively retouched along right-hand edge, neat removals along left-hand edge. Sf 681.

All six artefacts were made from similar raw material, a grey lightly corticated flint with a sandy cortex. No refits could be found.

*F78.* **4969.** Piercer, on a blade. Snapped at distal end, truncating retouch. Both edges possibly utilized. Sf 673.

The position of the piercer suggests that it may have been a grave good (Fig. 4.62). There was also a broken flake from the same grave.

**4906.** A single broken blade-like flake with parallel blade scars on its dorsal face was found in layer 1, possibly redeposited.

4968. A flake, a blade and two blade-like flakes.

## Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

#### 5274

*Sheep/goat.* Distal tibia, chewed.

4969

*AB20. 4969/1. Red deer antler.* Right, smashed from the skull. Beam, brow, bez, trez from a deer of at least eight points. Sf 1270.

*AB21. 4969/1. Red deer antler.* Right, smashed from the skull. Beam, brow and bez tines and top from deer of at least 10 points. Cuts on the beam and one tine. Sf 1269.

*AB22.* 4969/1. *Red deer antler.* Top with beam broken *c.* 150 mm from top. Butchery cuts on one tine. Sf 1271. Sample for OxA-1880.

*AB23. 4969/1. Red deer antler.* Fragment of top from deer of at least eight points. Sf 1275.

*AB24. 4969/1. Red deer antler.* Smashed from the skull. Beam, brow, bez, trez and top from a deer of at least ten points. End of brow (?) tine cut off. Very damaged. Sf 1272.

*AB25.* 4969/1. *Red deer antler,* with coronet, beam, brow, bez and trez tines, beam cut above the trez tine. The coronet and all three tine tips are very worn. Sf 1273.

Red deer antler. 4969/1. One further fragment.

The antlers were placed, with cattle skull AB26 and pig bone AB27, around the circumference of the grave, above the level to which the 'coffin' could be detected, but respecting its outline (Fig. 4.62).

This is the second major deposit of antler, the other being in late Neolithic hengiform ring ditch 611. This deposit differs significantly from the Neolithic one in that all of the five antlers with the base present are unshed. All have pedicle and part of the frontal bone, and show signs of deliberate removal from the skull by smashing or breaking rather than by chopping. This means that the deer were most probably hunted and killed, though not necessarily only for their antler. Apart from one, they have similar patterns of modification to the Neolithic antler. None appear to have been used as picks. The exception is AB25 which was obviously used as a pick as the coronet is very worn and there is also excessive wear at the tips of the tines. In form the pick is much more like those from Hazleton, Gloucestershire (Levitan 1990) than those from Grimes Graves, Norfolk (Clutton-Brock 1984).

#### AB26. Cattle. 4969/1.

Base and posterior of skull, broken open in antiquity. Sf 1274.

# LINEAR CREMATION CEMETERY

There were ten pits along the N edge of the barrows in Dry Piece field. Cremations, four of them in Collared Urns, were recovered from nine of the pits. 4700 lay W of ring ditch 801. Slightly further E, 1063, 1064, 1067, 1060 and 1101 formed a closely-spaced row running approximately SSW–NNE, parallel to the alignment of the barrows. These were clearly visible as cropmarks (Fig. 1.8). Three radiocarbon determinations for the cremations are all anomalous. The problems of dating charred bone are discussed in Appendix 1.

## Cremation 4700 (51268 98088; Fig. 4.65)

The pit was circular in plan and 0.35 m deep. A Collared Urn (Fig. 4.65, P69) containing an adult cremation had been placed upright at the bottom of the pit, which had an undifferentiated gravelly loam fill. A radio-carbon determination of 2910–2570 cal BC (93% confidence)(4150±70 BP; OxA-1878)<sup>38</sup> was obtained from the charred human bone. This result is anomalous and too early for the accepted currency of the Collared Urn tradition (cf Longworth 1984, 79).

# **Cremations 1063–4, 1067 and 1101 and pit 1060** (centre 551300 98108; Figs 4.66–7)

#### Cremation 1063 (Fig. 4.66)

Pit 1063 was suboval in plan and had been dug 0.67 m into natural gravel. It appeared as a shallow hollow 1.2 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep, with a central vertical-sided pit. The hollow at the top of the pit could have been cut during its construction rather than formed by subsequent weathering, as little clean gravel was found in the pit. Cremated bone had been placed above a layer of clean gravel (11) at the base of the pit, and a small quantity of backfilled loamy gravel (layers 8 and 9) covered the cremation deposit. The lower half of the pit contained a fill (layer 7) of loam with little gravel. The western side of the hollow at the top of the pit contained gravel (layer 2) and loamy gravel (layers 3 and 6) which could have derived from a slighted or collapsed earthwork which enclosed or marked the cremation pit. The top of the pit contained a mixed fill of sandy loam with little gravel (layers 1, 4-5).

<sup>38</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: open context (upright urn in shallow pit) of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death offset is minimal; the depositional offset is unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample only dates the charred bone. *Evaluation:* Apparently high-value date for the burial, but doubts about accuracy of radiocarbon determinations on charred bone put the date in question.

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1060

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E

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1064

**P**70

1060

1101







# Cremation 1064 (Figs 4.66–7)

Pit 1064 was circular, 1 m in diameter, and cut 0.5 m into natural gravel. A Collared Urn (Fig. 4.67, P70) containing the cremated bone of an adult and a subadult had been placed upright at the bottom of the pit. The lower half of the pit had been backfilled with gravel (layer 3) and the upper half with sandy loam and gravel (layers 1 and 2). A single burnt flint flake came from layer 1 and was not directly associated with the cremation deposit.

# Cremation 1067 (Fig. 4.66)

Pit 1067 was circular in plan, 0.75 m in diameter and 0.75 m deep and had a similar profile to 1063 and 1101. The bottom of the pit contained sandy loam and gravel (layer 5) and above this was a deposit (layer 4) of sandy loam, gravel and cremated bone from a young adult. The upper half of the pit appears to have been backfilled by deliberately collapsing the sides (layer 1). The top of the pit contained gravelly loam which could represent natural accumulation.

1101

N

5 m

Ν

W

W

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# Pit 1060 (Fig. 4.66)

Pit 1060 was suboval in plan and had been dug 0.3 m into the natural gravel. In profile it resembled the hollow at the top of pit 1063. However, its fill of loam and gravel, clean gravel and gravelly loam was different. The excavation records imply that the feature was incompletely excavated, which may account for the absence of any cremation deposit. Its alignment with 1063–4, 1067 and 1101 strongly suggests a relationship to them.

## **Cremation 1101** (Fig. 4.66)

Pit 1101 was suboval in plan, 1 m in diameter and 0.8 m deep and had a similar profile to 1063 and 1067. The cremated bones (1101/8) of a young adult had been placed above the primary fill of loamy gravel (layer 9). An animal rib bone and many stones were found with the cremated bone. The pit had been backfilled with sandy loam and gravel (layer 7). Very little gravel occurred in these lower fills, which would imply the upper edges had collapsed before the cremation deposit was inserted. The upper half of the pit contained layers

(4–6) of sandy loam and gravel and a deposit of dirty gravel (layer 1). Layer 1 could have derived from the slighting of an associated earthwork.

**Cremations 4623 and 4321** (centre 51336 98121; Fig. 4.68)

# Cremation 4623

Pit 4623 was oval in plan, 0.85 m in diameter and 0.45 m deep, and had an irregular profile partly caused by animal disturbance. Its lower fill of gravelly loam contained cremated human bone and gravel con-glomerate blocks. A single Roman or Saxon grasstempered sherd was found in the pit and is thought to be intrusive. The upper fill consisted of greyish loam with more gravel than in the lower fill.

## Cremation 4321

Pit 4321 was suboval in plan, 0.6 m in diameter and 0.5 m deep, and had an irregular U-shaped profile. It contained a primary fill of loamy gravel which had resulted from the collapse of the pit sides. A cremation deposit of a subadult covered by an inverted Collared Urn (Fig. 4.68, P71) had been placed above the layer of loamy gravel. The pit was backfilled with gravelly loam. A radiocarbon determination of 1130–800 cal BC (95% confidence) (2770±70 BP; OxA-1877)<sup>39</sup> was obtained from charred human bone. The result is anomalous and is arguably too late for the Collared Urn tradition (cf Longworth 1984, 79).

# Cremations 4405 and 4245 (centre 51366 98123; Figs 4.69–70)

# Cremation 4405

Pit 4405 was an irregular pit which had been dug into the top of a ?periglacial feature. It contained cremated bone from an adult and a burnt plano-convex flint knife (Fig. 4.69, F79).

#### Cremation 4245

Pit 4245 was circular in plan, 1 m in diameter and 0.55 m deep. It had a weathered U-shaped profile similar to cremation pits 1063, 1067 and 1101. The bottom of the pit contained gravel collapsed from the sides. Two Collared Urns (Fig. 4.70, P72–3), one of them inverted, were associated with cremated human bone. The two deposits could be contemporary; alternatively the pit could have been reopened and a second urn, probably the upright one (P73), deposited. The pit was backfilled with gravelly loam.

<sup>39</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death offset is minimal; the depositional offset is unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample only dates the charred bone. *Evaluation*: Apparently high-value date for burial, but doubts about the accuracy of radiocarbon determinations on charred bone put the date in question.

The inverted urn (P72) could have been incomplete when buried and placed over a mixed deposit of cremated bone, which was mostly adult but also included the remains of two infants and a child. The upright urn (P73) contained the cremated remains of a subadult (5–7 years) and a fragment of adult bone. A radiocarbon determination of 1060–800 cal BC (95% confidence)(2740±70 BP; OxA-1876)<sup>40</sup> was obtained from charred human bone from P73. The result is anomalous and is arguably too late for the Collared Urn ceramic tradition (cf Longworth 1984, 79).

#### Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

*Cremation* **4700.** This deposit weighed 470 g and was uniformly white and calcined with the exception of three blackened pelvic fragments and a few bluegrey skull fragments. Bones present included skull (vault fragments, temporal, zygomatic, maxilla and mandible), axial (clavicle, rib, vertebrae, pelvis), upper limbs (humerus, radius — including conjoining pieces, ulna) and lower limbs (tibia, fibula, femur). The remains appear to be those of an adult of indeterminate sex.

*Cremation 1063.* This deposit weighed 187 g and was white and well calcined. Bones present included skull (vault, maxilla, dentition), axial (cervical vertebrae, rib), upper limbs (?ulna, radial shaft, humeral distal articulation, phalange, lunate) and lower limbs (fibula). Skull vault and ulna were deeply fissured. The remains are those of an adult of indeterminate sex.

*Cremation 1064.* The deposit weighed 288 g. Two individuals appear to be represented. A few white and grey skull vault fragments appear to be those of an adult. Skull vault and some long bone fragments probably belong to a subadult of perhaps 12–15 years. This assessment is based on the presence of some molars whose roots were not fully formed at time of death. In addition, although vertebral arches and bodies have fused together, the bodies of the vertebrae are clearly immature, ie there is no fusion of the centra.

Cremation 1067. This deposit weighed 1649 g and is predominantly white and well calcined, with the exception of two femur shaft fragments which are blue-grey and black (this was also seen in cremation deposits from grave 11 in barrow 1 and grave 605 in barrow 12). Bones present included skull (parietal, ?frontal, mandible, maxilla), axial (vertebrae, scapula, pelvis and a possible unfused clavicle) and lower limbs (femur, fibula). The majority of pieces are 10 mm+ (94.7%) and the quantity of skull in particular is very great (62.3% of the total). The proximal epiphysis of the humerus was unfused and fusion of the fibula had only recently been completed. On this basis an age of c. 16–20 years is suggested. Although skull and fibula appear very bent and distorted, femur and pelvis remain unaffected.

*Cremation 1101.* The deposit was substantial and weighed 1649 g. The colour of the bone was extremely variable, ranging from charred black through to white. Both petrous bones are very calcined and this is in considerable contrast to the rest of the skull. Lower limb bones had suffered only very minimal burning. Bones present include skull (vault, mandible, petrous, dentition), axial (rib, vertebrae, pelvis, scapula), upper limbs (humerus, radius, ulna) and lower limbs (femur, tibia and fibula). The presence of unfused diaphyseal fragments of adult size suggest a young adult individual, possibly aged 16–25 years. An unidentified animal rib was also present.

*Cremation 4623.* This sample weighed 155 g and was predominantly white and well calcined with the exception of a blue-grey fragment of femur. Bones present included skull (vault), axial (rib) and lower limb (femur). The remains were those of a probable adult of uncertain sex.

*Cremation 4321.* This deposit weighed 140 g and was white and well calcined. Bones present included skull (petrous, temporal, occipital, possible mand-ibular condyle, zygomatic, vault) and axial (rib shaft, vertebral arches). Dentition, unfused epiphyses and vertebrae suggest an age of perhaps 5–7 years.

*Cremation* 4405. The deposit weighed 90 g and is white and well calcined. Bones present include skull (dentition, vault and petrous), axial (rib), upper limb (humerus) and lower limb (femur). The thickness of skull vault suggests that the remains are those of an adult.

**4245. P72.** This deposit weighed 1529 g and included bones from at least two infants and a third child of less than 1 year old, although the bulk of the remains appear to belong to an adult. Bones present include skull, upper limb (humerus, radius and ulna) and lower limb (femur, tibia, patella, talus). One fragment showed signs of cribra orbitalia.

**4245. P73.** The deposit weighed 137 g. The colour is variable, ranging from black through blue-grey to white. Bones present include skull (petrous, mand-ibular condyle, vault, maxilla) and longbone shafts. Dental development suggests an age of approximately 5–7 years. A blue-grey fragment of atlas appears to belong to an adult individual.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.65, 4.67–8, 4.70)

**P69. 4700.** Collared Urn. A complete tripartite Collared Urn in a hard, coarse, slightly laminated fabric with some large, angular grog fragments visible. The decoration consists of small crescentic whipped cord impressions on the collar and in the neck. Colour — exterior: orange; core: black; interior: brown, black (patchy). Condition: fair.

**P70.** 1064. Collared Urn. An almost complete tripartite Collared Urn in a fabric with moderate medium grog inclusions and some sand. The decoration

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: possibly sealed context (sample's relationship to inverted urn unknown) of short duration (burial event). The age-at-death offset is minimal; depositional offset unknown, but minimal if burial took place soon after cremation. The sample only gives a date on the charred bone. *Evaluation:* Apparently high-value date for burial event, but doubts about the accuracy of radiocarbon determinations on charred bone put the date in question.

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Figure 4.68 Cremation pits 4623 and 4321

consists of rows of triangular impressions on the collar, and alternate rows of oblique and vertical impressions in the neck. There are two very indistinct lengths of cord impression (Z-twisted) separating the rows of triangular impressions on the collar (*c*. 130 mm in length: it is very irregular and is perhaps one short length repeated). Colour — exterior: buff; collar exterior: pale grey; core: not visible; interior: grey. The surface colours are fairly even: oxidised on the exterior and unoxidised on the interior. Condition: good. **P71. 4321.** Collared Urn. Fabric GS:3. A complete tripartite Collared Urn with filled triangles around the collar and herringbone at the shoulder and in the neck, all executed in twisted cord impressions. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core: black; interior: grey-brown. Surface colouring is fairly even. Condition: good.

**P72.** 4245. Collared Urn. A Collared Urn with approximately one third of the collar missing, in a fabric with well-finished exterior and interior surfaces; no inclusions are visible, but any present are likely to be

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
1063	-	-	-	7	1		_	8	1	4
1064	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	1	4
1067	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
4405	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	1	7
4662/1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	-	-	-	15	1	-	2	18	3	10

## Table 4.33. Struck flint from cremations

obscured by the surface treatment. The decoration consists of a herringbone motif in twisted cord impression on the collar. There is a very slight shoulder to the body of the vessel. Colour — exterior: buff; core: not visible; interior: buff, pale grey.

**P73. 4245.** Collared Urn. Fabric GS:4. A complete (apart from three short lengths of rim) tripartite Collared Urn with a 'hurdle' motif on the collar, a running zig-zag motif in the neck, and single upright impressions around the shoulder, all executed in twisted cord impressions, although possibly not all with the same length of cord. Colour — exterior: pale brown; core: black; interior: pale brown, grey. Surface colour is fairly even; on the interior one side is darker than the other.

## **Flint**<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.69; Table 4.33)

1064/1. Burnt, rather squat flake.

**F79. 4405/1.** Plano-convex knife, heavily burnt. Areas of damage due to burning. Fine invasive removals are discernible over the dorsal face.

## Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

4245. Mouse skull, no doubt intrusive.

# **RING DITCH 201** (CENTRAL BURIAL 203 AND FLAT GRAVE 206; 51440 98158; FIGS 4.71–9)

Ring ditch 201 was visible on aerial photographs as a subcircular cropmark with a central pit or grave (Fig. 1.8). It was excavated by quadrants (A-D). Baulks of ploughsoil, approximately 1 m wide and running NW-SE and SW-NE, were left over the barrow. An area approximately 20 m wide, including the ring ditch, was stripped up to the SW edge of barrow 1 in order to examine the area between the two monuments.

An ice wedge cast, context 204, running SW-ENE was cut by ditch 201. Its fine sandy loam fill varied in colour from yellowish brown to red-brown. A large oval pit (202 or 205) lay 2 m SE of ring ditch 201. A copper alloy pin of probable medieval date may have come from it.



Figure 4.69 Cremation pits 4405 and 4245

# Grave 206 (Figs 4.73-5)

Grave 206 was eccentric to the ring ditch and just intersected with it, although the relationship between the two features was indiscernible (Fig. 4.71). The grave was subrectangular in plan, 2.1 x 1.5 m, and had the same NNW–SSE orientation as central grave 203. It had been dug to a depth of 0.76 m below the gravel. Two elongated oval hollows had been dug into the grave floor, one at each end. The grave fill consisted of fine reddish brown sandy loam with a small quantity (5%) of gravel and was very similar to the fill of ditch 201. Around the grave edge, below the main fill, was a thin layer (< 30 mm thick) of mixed loam and gravel. The two hollows contained fills of almost pure gravel. The lower 0.2 m of grave fill contained a small quantity of disarticulated human bones. The only



Figure 4.70 Cremation pit 4245

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Figure 4.71 Ring ditch 201

concentration of human bone was 0.3 m to the N of the S hollow. This deposit of bone lay within the fill slightly above the grave floor. An almost upright All-Over-Cord Beaker (Fig. 4.75, P74) had been placed in the S hollow. The rim was damaged and one side of the vessel was worn or damaged; sherds from the rim were found in the overlying grave fill. Beneath the Beaker was a flint flake (Fig. 4.75, F81). Three other flints were found in the upper grave fill. A radiocarbon determination of

2200–1870 cal BC (95% confidence) ( $3630\pm60$ ; BM-2520)<sup>41</sup> was obtained for the tibia, fibula and skull of the burial.

# Ring ditch 201 (Figs 4.71–72)

The ditch was irregular in outline, with an internal diameter of approximately 9.5 m. It appeared in plan as a series of quarry pits up to 6 m in length rather than a true circle. Towards the NE (quadrant A) was a single

<sup>41</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: the bones were severely weathered and the grave fill and form of bone deposit suggest disturbance of a formal burial context and removal of most of the skeleton. The Beaker may be associated with the original burial or its redeposition, or may be unrelated to the bone sample. The age-at-death offset is minimal, while the depositional offset is unknown, the bones possibly being redeposited in context, but it is probably minimal in relation to original burial deposition. The sample provides a *tpq* for the backfilling of grave after disturbance, but presumably represents original burial. *Evaluation:* Moderate or low-value date; sample material clearly redeposited.



Figure 4.72 Ring ditch 201: ditch sections

narrow causeway between the butt ends of two ditch sections. The excavated ditch had a shallow U-profile and was up to 0.5 m deep.

In sections 1, 3 and 4 there was a primary fill (201/2) of clean gravel which in places also contained loam or sand. No primary silt was recorded in section 2 where the ditch cut ice wedge cast 204 (Figs 4.71–2). It is probable, however, that the primary fill was indistinguishable from the fill of the ice wedge cast. Above the primary silt coarser sand, gravel and in places gravel pebbles occurred. The upper fill (201/2) consisted of fine reddish brown loam with only a small proportion of gravel. Lenses of gravel above the accumulation of reddish brown loam were recorded in sections 3 and 4. These layers had been deposited from the interior of the ring ditch. They also appeared in section to have been truncated (Fig. 4.72).

In the interior a layer of fine orange-brown sandy loam with gravel (207) overlay the natural gravel in quadrant A, and was cut by plough marks, approximately 0.2 m apart and running NNE–SSW. No relationship was evident between this layer and the two graves, 203 and 206. Layer 207 probably predated the construction of the ring ditch. No barrow mound material survived above it, although the gravel lenses recorded in sections 3 and 4 could have derived from a gravel mound. The site of the ring ditch was overlain by a layer (200) of grey-brown loam with pebbles up to 0.27 m thick, interpreted by the excavator as ploughsoil. This layer contained base sherds probably from a Collared Urn. In the SW half of the ring ditch,



where 207 did not survive, layer 200 directly overlay natural gravel, reflecting the level of truncation and damage to the ring ditch.

# Central grave 203 (Figs 4.76–9)

Grave 203 appeared as a subrectangular soilmark 1.83 x 1.3 m, with its long axis oriented NNW-SSE. The grave had been cut 0.36 m deep into natural gravel and had a fill of mixed orange-red loam and gravel which contained charred fragments of Gramineae rhizome (Moffett, Ch. 7). These remains could have been an accidental inclusion or could have derived from the burning of plant material during the burial ritual. On the grave floor was a crouched skeleton, lying on its left side with the skull to the N and facing E. The arms were folded up in front of the chest with the left hand close to the face. The legs were tightly flexed with the feet below the pelvis and the knees pointing towards the E. A barbed and tanged arrowhead with an impact fracture at the tip (Fig. 4.79, F99) was found near the spine (Fig. 4.77).

The grave goods were deposited in three to four groups (Fig. 4.76). A fine Southern style Beaker (Fig. 4.78, P75) had been placed upright behind the back of the skull and behind the right shoulder. A group of flint and bone tools and a fragment of iron pyrites (Fig. 4.78, F82; Fig. 4.79, WB12–13, S4) was placed close to the waist. Five barbed and tanged arrowheads (Fig. 4.78, F83–87) were found behind the right foot. A group of flint tools and a bronze awl (Fig. 4.78, M7, F88–96;

Chapter Four



Figure 4.73 Ring ditch 201: 'flat' grave 206



*Figure 4.74 Ring ditch 201: 'flat' grave 206 after excavation, with Beaker (P74) and human remains in situ.* © *OAU* 

Fig. 4.79, F97–98) were found at the SE end of the grave below and to the SE of the legs.

A radiocarbon determination of 1770-1520 cal BC (93% confidence) (3360±50 BP; BM-2700)<sup>42</sup> was obtained for a femur from the burial.

## Suggested sequence

- 1. The position for grave 206 was chosen. Two hollows were dug in opposing ends of the grave floor. Grave goods were placed in at least one of the two hollows. The hollows were backfilled with gravel. Human remains, possibly already disarticulated, were placed in the grave. The grave was left open for a short period, during which damage to the Beaker and perhaps to the human remains occurred, before being backfilled.
- 2. The position for central grave 203 was chosen near to the grave 206. The grave was dug, possibly deliberately aligned with the earlier burial. The corpse and the grave goods were placed in the grave. The grave was backfilled. The ring ditch was laid out with the grave at the centre. The material from the ring ditch was used to construct a mound or bank or was removed.
- 3. A possible third burial in the form of a cremation associated with a Collared Urn was placed in the barrow mound.

#### Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

*Grave* 206. The bones were completely destroyed for radiocarbon dating and all information is derived from the original archive report (M H).

A single skull fragment and the fragmentary and eroded femora, tibiae and fibulae of a late adolescent or adult were identified. As none of the bones are at all robust it is tentatively suggested that they are those of a female individual. Degree of completeness of the skeleton was C and the preservation of individual bones 2–1.

*Grave 203.* The grave contained an adult male. Degree of completeness of the skeleton is A and the preservation of individual bones 2–1. A barbed and tanged arrowhead found adjacent to the lower thoracic area may well have been the cause of death, although no injury to the spine was apparent. This poses no problem as death in this manner is likely to have been instantaneous, allowing no time for a bony reaction to take place. Alternatively, the arrowhead could have been placed there at the time of burial. A full set of healthy adult dentition is present with only very minimal

attrition affecting the first molars. Fusion at the medial end of the left clavicle is complete though sacral bodies 1 and 2 are fused at the wings only. An age of 20–30 years is suggested. There are minor osteophytes on the bodies of the mid thoracic vertebrae and Schmorl's nodes on the bodies of some lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. Stature was calculated at 1.78 m.

*Ploughsoil.* A single fragment of calcined bone was recovered from the soil overlying the ring ditch. This may represent the remains of a ploughed-out cremation which could have been associated with the Collared Urn located in the barrow mound.

# Metalwork<sup>o</sup> (Fig. 4.78)

*M7.* 203. Bronze awl: a delicate awl with circular section except at central swelling, where section is square. This swelling retains fragments of a wooden handle with an abrupt step one side perhaps being the original underside of the handle. One end of the awl retained a point (prior to sampling), the other seems to be broken. The surface is varied green. Sf 515. Extant length 21.0 mm; max. width (of metal object) 1.7 mm.

# **Organics**<sup>w</sup>

There is mineral-preserved wood on the tang, but not enough to sample for identification.

## **Pottery**<sup>G</sup> (Figs 4.75, 4.78)

**P74. 206.** Beaker. Reconstructable All-Over-Cord Beaker, slightly damaged by animal burrowing or exposure, in a fabric with dense sand and including iron

<sup>42</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (burial event). Both the age-at-death and depositional offsets are minimal. The sample dates the burial and grave context, including the grave goods and gives a *tpq* for the grave backfilling. *Evaluation*: High-value date for burial and grave context, including Beaker grave assemblage, contemporary with ritual use of ring ditch 201. Its central position suggests direct association with the ring ditch.

oxide or glauconite grains. Slightly less than one quarter of the rim is missing. The decoration is of twisted cord impression (Z-twisted), which appears to have been applied as a spiral impression with few breaks. The cord is very fine, with only 4-5 segments per 10 mm. The original finish, where it survives, is of a high quality, and the vessel is very well-potted, being light in weight for its size. Colour - exterior: orange-red; core: not visible; interior: orange-red. Two dark lines of unoxidised surface run across the underside of the base, one across the middle, and one clipping the edge; it is possible that these represent supports during firing, as given the evenness of the colour it would seem unlikely that these were left through simple carelessness of placing the vessel. Condition: worn in patches (mostly on one side, possibly caused by ground-water?).

P75. 203. Beaker. One complete vessel of Clarke's Final Southern (S4) Beaker group (Clarke 1970) in a fabric with moderate grog and some sand. Two combs appear to have been used to decorate the vessel: one comb had markedly rectangular teeth, the other squarer teeth with rounded corners. (Comb impressions on upper body are *c*. 13 mm long, with teeth 1.5 x 1 mm; for lower body 13 mm and 2 x 2 mm). However, it is possible that this has been caused by differential wetness of the surface, or difference in technique of application. Any lateral movement as the comb is impressed will give wider impressions than if the comb is impressed perpendicular to the surface; comb tooth length, however, cannot be affected in a similar manner, as movement longitudinally will blur the impressions. Given the very slight difference in comb tooth length here (ie 0.5 mm) and the difficulties of measuring impressions accurately, it would seem impossible to be certain that two combs were used. The surface of the vessel is well-finished, and there are traces of burnishing, but the decoration has been executed in a rather haphazard fashion. Colour - exterior: patchy orange, pale orange, buff; core: not visible; interior: Condition: good.

**Flint**<sup>D</sup> (Figs 4.71, 4.75, 4.78–9; Table 4.34)

(results of usewear analysis by Andrew Brown indicated by \*)

*F80. Layer* 207/1. Bifacially flaked subtriangular piece. Inverse retouch at tip and bulbar end. ?Unfinished arrowhead. On pebble flint.

*F81. 206.* Unretouched flake, placed under Beaker. \* Snapped left distal corner with ?light cutting/whittling damage on distal part of left edge, otherwise unused. Sf 513.

Two other flakes and a core rejuvenation flake were recovered from the grave fill.

*Ring ditch 201* was very clean, only two unretouched flakes were recovered.

*F82. 203/1.* Side scraper. Slightly invasive retouch on left hand edge, more steeply retouched on right-hand edge (*c.* 30-75°). Inverse retouch at distal end. \* Use damage RHS suggests scraping. Sf 521.

*F83. 203/1.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Green Low type. Retouched extensively over dorsal face, less



Figure 4.75 Ring ditch 201: finds from 'flat' grave 206

so on bulbar face. Sf 523.

*F84.* 203/1. Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Green Low type. Retouch confined to edges. Central portion not fully reduced, possibly due to an inclusion in the flint. Slight damage to one barb. Sf 524.

*F85.* 203/1. Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Green Low type. One barb broken (old break). Retouched extensively over dorsal face, but confined to edges on ventral face because of an inclusion in the flint. Sf 525.

*F86.* 203/1. Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Green Low type. Retouched extensively over both faces. Sf 526.

*F87. 203/1.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead, Green Low type. Extensively retouched on dorsal face, less so on bulbar face. Sf 527.

F88. 203/1. Blade-like flake. Sf 528.

*F89. 203/1.* Blade-like flake, utilized. Backed by cortex, right-hand edge utilized. Hinge fracture. \* Cutting/whittling wood on RHS. Sf 529.

**F90. 203/1.** Unretouched flake, distal break. Sf 530.

**F91. 203/1.** Unretouched flake. Slight recent damage. Hinge fracture. Sf 531.

**F92. 203/1.** Scraper, broken. Distal end snapped, steep ( $c. 60-70^{\circ}$ ) retouch along left hand edge. \*





Figure 4.76 Ring ditch 201: central grave 203

Retouched edge and bulbar end of snap used for scraping soft material. Sf 532.

*F93. 203/1.* Piercer. Slight damage to tip. Utilization damage on left hand edge. \* Slight use damage at tip, LHS used for scraping soft material. Sf 533.

*F94. 203/1.* Retouched flake. Shallow invasive retouch across distal end. \* Distal edges used for scraping hard material. Sf 534.

**F95.** 203/1. Piercer. Retouched along distal end and left hand edge to form a point. Hinge fracture, partly removed by retouch. \* Distal end scraping damage, mid left cutting/whittling damage. Sf 535.

*F96. 203/1.* Retouched flake, some removals may result from use rather than formal retouch. Hinge fracture. \* All edges used (except cortical distal end) for scraping. Edges are moderately rounded. Sf 536.

**F97. 203/1.** Unretouched flake. Hinge fracture. \* Slight damage to RHS ? use. Sf 537.

F98. 203/1. Unretouched flake. Sf 539.

*F99. 203.* Barbed and tanged arrowhead. Both barbs broken, impact fracture at tip. Probably a Sutton type (Green 1980). Sf 519.

The flint of the 18 flint artefacts accompanying central burial 203 (Figs 4.78–79) has a sandy cortex and is corticated grey. It was probably struck from the same nodule, although no refits could be found.

A barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 4.79, F99) was found close to the spine of the inhumation (Fig. 4.77). Both barbs are broken and there is an impact fracture at the tip. This arrowhead may have been the cause of death.

The other artefacts seem to have been placed in separate groups, some of the groups are so tight that the objects may have been in bags or other containers. A side scraper (Fig. 4.78, F82), a bone awl and an antler spatula (Fig. 4.79, WB12–13) were placed together near

to the waist. Scrapers are primarily hide preparation tools (Pitts 1979, 34) and it would seem likely that this group represents a collection of leather working tools.

The second group of flint artefacts consists of five fine barbed and tanged arrowheads of Green's (1980) Green Low type (Fig. 4.78, F83–7). The tight grouping of these artefacts suggests that they may have been deposited in a quiver.

Two unretouched flakes and a blade-like flake with cutting/whittling damage (Fig. 4.78, F88–90) were placed together underneath the legs.

Two groups of artefacts were placed close to the knees. One consisted of an unretouched flake, a broken scraper, a piercer and a retouched flake (Fig. 4.67, F91–94), the other of a piercer, a retouched flake, two unretouched flakes and a piece of irregular waste (Fig. 4.67, F95–98 and Sf 538, not illustrated). Andrew Brown's usewear analysis has shown that F92–97 were used for scraping soft and hard materials (see catalogue above).

# **Stone** (Fig. 4.79)

*S4. 203.* A fragment of iron pyrites. Possibly used as part of a strike-a-light kit.

## Worked bone<sup>T</sup> (Fig. 4.79)

*WB12. 203.* Bone awl. Manufactured from RHS metacarpal of a sheep/goat or roe deer. Bone splinter left attached to half of proximal end. The articular end has been retained and the medullary cavity has been removed. The bone has been split and the edges have been ground and polished to a point. Length: 106 mm. Condition: good. Sf 522.

*WB13. 203.* Spatula. Made, probably using the technique of groove and splinter, from the beam (or possibly a long tine) of a red deer antler. The internal surface is rough and was never worked. One end has been carefully rounded and the other end has been recently broken. Length: 200 mm. Condition: fair with some modern damage. Sf 520.

## Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

#### Cattle. 201. Lower molar

*Sheep/goat.* **201**. Lower molar and left distal humerus, the latter positively identified as sheep.

The small quantity of animal bones in the ring ditch contrasts with other contexts of the period, although it may in part reflect the shallowness of the feature (Fig. 4.72).

# BARROW 1 (51419 98190; FIGS 4.80-5)

Barrow 1 was visible as a large circular cropmark with a central pit (Fig. 1.8) and was the most south-westerly of linear group of barrows 1 to 11, the others of which lay to the NE of the area excavated in 1983–5 (Fig. 1.2).

The barrow was excavated in quadrants, the 0.5 m wide baulks of ploughsoil eventually being removed. The interior was cleaned by hand. Approximately 50% of the ditch was excavated (Fig. 4.80), mainly in the SE quadrant on the basis that later Bronze Age cemeteries are commonly located on this side of barrows. In the event there were few finds from the ditch, and its excavation largely ceased once the SE quadrant had been dug. Where possible features were cut by the ditch, small sections (I, N and O) were excavated to expose these and allow them to be dug.

#### **Barrow ditch**

The ditch was approximately circular with an internal diameter of 23 m. It was 4-6 m wide at the top and up to 1.6 m deep below the surface of the gravel, with a weathered U-profile (Fig. 4.81). All the excavated sections contained a thick primary accumulation of clean gravel (layer 5). Above this primary fill was a series of accumulations of gravel-free loam, loamy gravel and dirty gravel spills; lenticular blocks of stone also occurred. These layers, recorded as context 4, represented the slower silting and further weathering of the sides. Gravelly layers spilling from the inner edge may indicate the weathering of a central earthwork. The upper ditch fill took the form of a thick accumulation of pebble-free fine grey-brown sandy loam (layer 3), which contained sherds of indeterminate prehistoric pottery. A red-brown pebbly loam ploughsoil (layer 2) filled the remaining ditch hollows and spread across the barrow. The ditch cut a number of natural features on its NW and NE sides.



*Figure 4.77 Ring ditch 201: broken barbed and tanged arrowhead (F99) among the vertebrae and ribs of skeleton in central grave 203.* © *OAU* 

## The interior

Layers 1 and 2 were removed to reveal a series of irregular soilmarks, plough marks and a central oval pit (11; Fig. 4.80). There was no evidence for a surviving mound or a pre-barrow land surface. A pit, 20, was located against the NE edge of the barrow ditch. The pit was circular, 0.85 m in diameter and cut 0.5 m into the gravel. It had a lower fill of charcoal and contained no finds apart from a burnt cattle tooth. It could represent part of a funerary deposit.

# Grave pit 11

At the centre of the barrow was a pit represented on the surface by an oval soilmark 1.5 x 1.1 m, oriented ENE-WSW. The pit had an unweathered profile with steep vertical sides and a flat bottom. A thin layer of light brown sandy loam and 'peagrit' covered part of the pit floor.

Above this layer were two different and separate deposits (Fig. 4.82). N of the centre was a dense concentration of cremated bone which appeared to be tightly packed and relatively soil-free (11/5). Overlying the cremation were a bronze knife-dagger, a pair of bone tweezers and a bone ring-headed pin. Preserved against the dagger was a sheet of organic material decorated with a geometric design of lines and dots (Fig. 4.82, M8, L1–2, WB 14–15).

In the S half of the pit was a deposit of deep redbrown sandy loam which contained large charcoal flecks, a few flecks of ash and fragments of cremated bone (11/4). This deposit could represent the pyre debris. There was a distinct division between deposits 11/4 and 11/5 which suggested to the excavator that they could have been kept separate by a barrier such as a plank. A radiocarbon determination of 2040–1680 cal

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Figure 4.78 Ring ditch 201: finds from grave 203


Figure 4.79 Ring ditch 201: further finds from grave 203

BC (95% confidence) (3520 $\pm$ 70 BP; OxA-1886)<sup>43</sup> was made on charcoal from 11/4. Overlying the two funerary deposits was the main pit fill (11/2) of redbrown loam and small gravel. Bioturbation caused by animal burrows (11/3) was recorded within this layer. A depression was recorded within the top of the pit fill, which contained fine red-brown loam with large gravel pebbles.

## Suggested sequence

- 1. The ground was prepared for the barrow construction. The cremation pit and ditch were excavated.
- 2. The cremation was performed away from the site.
- 3. The final stage of the funerary rite was performed. The cremated bone, pyre debris and grave goods were placed within the pit.
- 4. The pit was backfilled and a barrow was constructed over the pit.

## Human remains<sup>C,J</sup>

This deposit weighed 733 g and was predominantly white and well calcined, with the exception of femur, fibula, patella and skull fragments. The skull and upper limb bones are particularly distorted. The remains are those of an adult ?male. Metalwork<sup>o</sup> (Figs 4.82–3)

*M8. Grave 11.* Bronze knife-dagger: the metal is in poor condition and the extant portion broken in two. The base of the blade appears fractured — the tip is therefore missing. Notches in blade side and butt need not be ancient features. Tiny patches of exposed blade face suggest a simple cross-section with well-thinned blade edges; one intact stretch is very sharp. Most of the blade is covered by corrosion-impregnated organics up to 2 mm thick, identified as mineral-replaced textile (below). The butt was probably a neat low arch with two rivets one of which survives *in situ;* it is essentially round in section with vestigially expanded heads. Overall the form was probably very similar to that of the knife-dagger from barrow 4 (M11).

The bottom end of the hilt itself survives unusually well in a fossil-ised form. Presumed corrosion impregnation has survived pref-erentially as a skin on the surface of the organic hilt plates, thereby creating a hollow shell on either face of the butt. This shell joins the metal blade round the sides and along a slightly concave hilt line. On one face the hilt end is undercut with a recess, but this could perhaps be an alteration during the replacement process. In plan the hilt end describes an ellipse from which the hilt shell swells, as

<sup>43</sup>*Radiocarbon assessment*<sup>1</sup>: sealed context of short duration (pit backfill episode). Diffuse origin of sample in soil matrix. The age-atdeath offset is possibly large, while the depositional offset is probably minimal (debris from pyre for associated cremation). The sample provides a *tpq* for the grave backfill. *Evaluation:* Moderate-value date; good sealed context but diffuse origin and possibly large age offset.



Figure 4.80 Barrow 1

seen in side view. Clear grain on this bulbous surface runs slightly skew to the long axis. Sf 507. Extant length 52.5 mm; width butt 34.5 mm; max breadth at hilt (includes corrosion products) 14.5 mm; max. thickness blade (without corrosion) *c*. 2 mm; diameter rivet 3.3 mm.

# Organics<sup>w</sup> (Figs 4.84–5)

The butt retains traces of the hilt, which appears to have been made from antler, with the cross-section outermost. It is not clear whether this was originally one piece of antler split to take the dagger or two separate pieces. Cross-section antler would combine the properties of an easily carved material and a marbled appearance. Underneath the antler are the remains of a coarse textile which may have been used to provide a firm seating for the hilt. At the edge of the empty rivet hole is a fragment of diffuse, porous wood, which may be all that is left of a repair. Associated with the knife-dagger were traces of shaped, copper alloy-preserved horn, which may have formed part of a contrast horn pommel. As the hilt components are now in a very poor and fragmentary condition, it is difficult to be certain how they were originally assembled. The possibility of an antler hilt with a horn pommel is heightened by two parallels in the form of the daggers from barrow G 51, Milston, Wiltshire, and from Ashgrove, Fife. The Milston dagger has a bone pommel attached to a possible wooden hilt (Annable and Simpson 1964, cat. no. 114). The Ashgrove example has a horn hilt and a sperm whale ivory pommel. The reconstruction published by Clarke *et al.* (1985, fig. 5.54) gives an impression of what this dagger may have looked like.

# **Textile**<sup>V,L</sup>

**T1.** *Grave* **11.** Fragment of textile approximately 20 mm x 30 mm attached to one side of a flat riveted knifedagger. It is thought that the textile would have originally covered both sides. Examination of a sample of the fibre by Anna Cselik of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory led to the conclusion that it was probably of animal origin, on the evidence of the apparent coarseness of the fibres and of possible microfibril structures. More precise identification was not possible. The cloth was plain-woven, the warp and weft being of different counts and spins. One was 16/S and the other 12/Z. One coarse thread running between the rivet holes of the knife dagger was also noticed (25/Z). Sf 507.

#### **?Sheath**<sup>A,O,V</sup> (Fig. 4.84)

*L1-2. Grave 11.* Fragments of as yet unidentified material, originally thought to be leather. The larger illustrated fragment measures 44 mm x 18 mm x 6 mm, is decorated on both sides, and retains part of an edge or rim. A triangular depression on one face interlocks with another fragment, together creating a somewhat thicker object. This union is curious, but does not seem to obscure the decoration on that face. The smaller illustrated fragment, 28 mm x 22 mm, has a possible perforation and is decorated on one side only. Both

carry a distinctive decoration of dot-filled geometric panels, perhaps originally zigzag bands or rows of triangles, separated by plain zones. The style of decoration has a close parallel with the decorated cup and lid from Aldbourne, Wiltshire (Kinnes and Longworth 1985, 127).

Microscopic examination of this material showed no visible structure. An attempt by D T Bilton of the Department of Biology, University of York, to extract DNA from samples of this material and of modern leather was unsuccessful; and analysis by infrared spectroscopy by C Doherty of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art was inconclusive. In texture the material seems more like pitch or bitumen than leather, although no material of this type has so far been found from this period in this country.

The organic material was found next to the dagger and underneath the bone tweezers and ring-headed pin. It could have formed part of a sheath or possibly a container for all or part of the grave assemblage, like a black-brown deposit surrounding a group of grave goods including a dagger and knife-dagger at Norton Bavant, Wiltshire (Butterworth 1992, 5, 13), and other examples cited in that report. Fragments of possible leather recorded from the Stanton Harcourt barrow (Harden and Treweeks 1945, 28) could likewise have represented a container rather than a sheath. A microscopic examination of these fragments, however, has revealed a pattern and fibre structure resembling those of a woven textile. Sf 508.

# **Pottery**<sup>G</sup>

*Ditch 1, layer 3.* There is 1 sherd/31 g in indeterminate fabric GQS:1 from segment C and 4 sherds/ 17 g in indeterminate fabric Q:2 from segment K.

Flint<sup>D</sup> (Fig. 4.80; Table 4.35)

### *Grave* 11. A single burnt flake. *F100. Ditch* 1/*C*/4. Oblique arrowhead, broken at tip.

Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
201/2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1
Grave 203/1	1	-	-	6	-	-	11	18	-	2
Grave 203/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Grave 206/1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	3
Grave 206/-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Layer 207 / 1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
208	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	2
200 (topsoil)	1	-	-	11	-	-	1	13	3	6
Totals	2	-	1	26	-	-	14	43	3	15

#### Table 4.34. Struck flint from ring ditch 201







Figure 4.82 Barrow 1: central cremation 11

The primary fill of ditch 1 was clean. 37 pieces of flint, including the oblique arrowhead (F100), a miscellaneous retouched piece and two multiplatform flake cores, were recovered from the secondary fills (layers 3 and 4).

*Worked bone*<sup>*T*</sup> (Figs 4.82–3)

*WB14. Grave 11.* Ring-headed pin. Manufactured from a splinter of a longbone of a large mammal (red deer or ox, max. diameter 6.23 mm). The pin shaft has

Table 4.35. Struck	flint from i	barrow 1 and	associated	features
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Context	Irregular waste	Cores	Core rejuvenation flakes	Flakes and blades	Chips	Hammer- stones	Retouched	Totals	Burnt worked	Broken
Ditch 1/4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	2
Ditch 1/3	-	2	-	32	-	-	1	35	1	21
Ditch 1/2	1	1	-	28	-	-	2	32	1	18
Ditch 1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Ditch 1/-	3	4	-	146	1	-	9	163	5	104
(topsoil)										
Grave 11/4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Associated	1	1		22	-	-	2	26	-	19
feature 2										
Associated	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
feature 3/1										
Totals	5	8	-	230	1	-	17	261	8	165



*Figure 4.83* Barrow 1: bronze dagger (M8) and bone ring-headed pin and tweezers (WB 14 and 15) in situ at the edge of cremation 11. © OAU

been ground to produce the round profile and point. The whole pin has been highly polished and is in an excellent state of preservation. The pin shaft has been stained green by copper corrosion products probably deriving from the knife-dagger (M8). Striations extending from the point to half way up the shaft have probably been caused by use. Length: 110 mm. Condition: good. Sf 509.

*WB15. Grave 11.* Tweezers. Manufactured from sheep/goat (caprine) metapodial (RHS). The top (articular end) has been removed but the shape of the bone has been preserved. The shaft has been hollowed out through the removal of the medullary cavity which would have weakened the object. The lateral and medial diaphysis have be used for the tweezer arms. The tweezers have been cut from a single bone and are highly polished. The arms have been thinned probably by whittling and have been polished. The arms are partially stained by copper corrosion products probably deriving from the knife-dagger. Length: 69 mm. Condition: excellent. Sf 510.

#### Animal bone<sup>N,T</sup>

*Unidentified. Ditch 1/D/4.* Fragment from medium-sized mammal.

*Cattle. Pit* 20. Upper molar in wear, calcined.





*Figure 4.84* Barrow 1: photomicrographs of dagger (M8) showing copper preserved antler hilt (above) and fibres around one rivet hole (below); x30. Photo Jacqui Watson



Figure 4.85 Barrow 1: photomicrograph of dagger (M8) showing copper-preserved horn ?pommel; x30. Photo Jacqui Watson

## **CREMATION PIT 5351**

This feature, at the extreme NE edge of the area excavated in 1983–5, is described in Chapter 5, with barrow 2, to which it probably related.