

Chapter 3 The Middle Iron Age Settlement at Warrens Field (Phase 1)

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INTRODUCTION

The earliest activity at Claydon Pike was discovered in Warrens Field, approximately 120 m to the north-east of Longdoles Field (Fig. 3.1). It comprised a series of round house gullies and enclosures, plus ditches and pits, dating to the middle Iron Age. These features were located on three gravel islands separated by tributary palaeochannels, and a network of Roman and post-medieval ditches traversed the area (Fig. 2.2). Ceramic analysis has indicated that the settlement shifted from west to east during the middle Iron Age, with Island 3 representing the

earliest occupation, and Island 1 the latest. The chronological development of features within each island could not be fully discerned due to a lack of stratigraphic relationships, however a number of suggestions have been outlined in the discussion based on the pottery and stratigraphy present.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Island 3 (Fig. 3.2)

Island 3 represented the most westerly limit of occupation, encompassing excavation Trenches 14

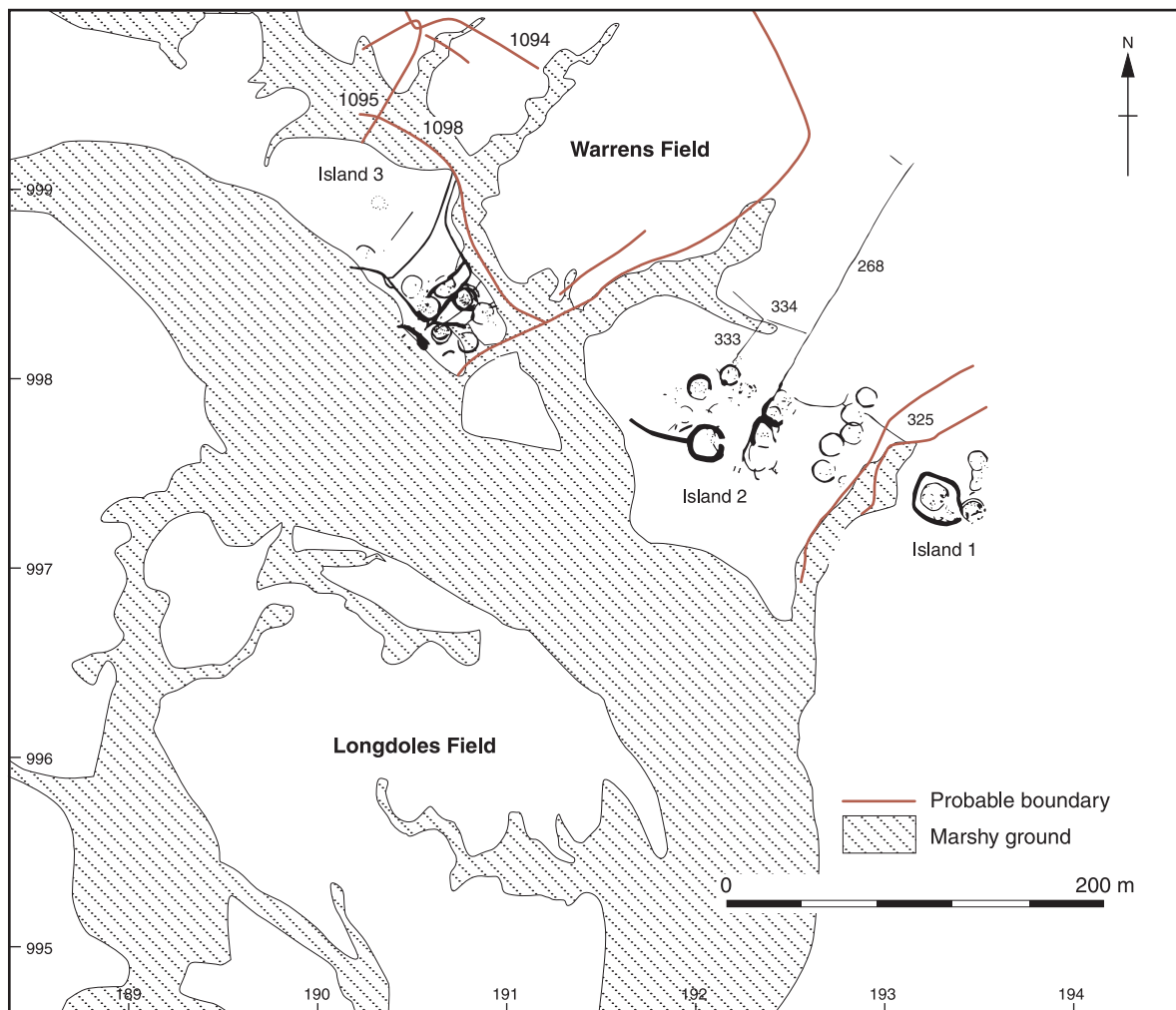


Fig. 3.1 Middle Iron Age settlement in Warrens Field

and 15. Seven middle Iron Age roundhouse structures were revealed in Trench 14, as well as a number of linear boundaries (hereafter abbreviated to the prefix LB) dating to the Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods. One further penannular gully was suggested by a short length of curving gully (context 413) located in the south-western area of Trench 14, truncated by Roman ditch 377. Trench 15, located to the west of Trench 14 in a lower lying area, contained an enclosure ditch (E 8) which probably dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Salvage work was also carried out to the north of Trench 14, revealing two further structures (S 18 and S 21).

Trench 14 (SU 19070 93830)

Structure 13

Structure 13 was situated on the north-west side of the occupation area, defined by a penannular gully with an internal diameter of 10.5 m (Fig. 3.2). A south-east facing entrance was indicated by two postholes, 2 m apart, plus a short stretch of gully on the southern side. It faced into the north-west orientated entrance of Structure 19, perhaps fortuitously. The entrance posts were double in form, with shallower sockets to the outside. The gully appeared to have been recut on one occasion; no occupation material was recovered from the feature. A clay-lined pit containing burnt stone was located on the north-east side of the enclosure and was the only remaining internal feature.

Structure 14

Structure 14 was located to the south-east of S 13 (Fig. 3.2), defined by three arcs of gully together enclosing an area 10 m diameter with gaps to the north-east, south-east and north-west, none greater than 4 m. The gully arcs contained reasonable quantities of occupation debris (819 g of pottery and 117 animal bone fragments). A south-east facing entranceway was indicated by two paired postholes with a shallow socket to the front of the entrance, 2 m apart. Internally, two intercutting clay-lined pits were just off centre, a third clay-lined pit lay less than a metre from the entrance postholes. Two more pits were located within the enclosure area, with no indication of clay linings. The structure was truncated by LB 363.

Structure 15

On the southern edge of the settlement area lay Structure 15, defined by a penannular gully 10 m in diameter (Fig. 3.2). A gap of 3 m created a north-west facing entranceway, flanked by two postholes. These posts were 2 m apart and double in form, with a shallow socket to the front. The unusual orientation of S 15 suggests it may have been associated with S 17 situated only 4 m to the north-west, the entrance of which looks out onto it. A narrow shallow slot was located within the gully, forming an arc on the north, east and south sides, *c* 8 m in diameter.

A solitary pit was excavated within the structure on its north-east side. It had vertical sides and a flat bottom, contrasting with the more shallow clay-lined pits seen in many of the structures. Occupation debris from this structure was sparse, comprising 0.5 kg of pottery and 49 animal bone fragments. It had been truncated by Roman boundary ditch 414.

Structure 16

Situated towards the east edge of the island was Structure 16 (Fig. 3.2). It was formed by a gully which created an oval-shaped enclosure, 11.5 m x 9 m. Within the enclosed area two sets of paved postholes were adjacent to the south-east facing entrance gap, 2 m apart. Other internal features consisted of a cluster of small post/stakeholes on the east side of the area, and a central oval pit. Very little occupation debris was recovered from the structure. Two postholes located in the north of the structure are spatially more likely to be associated with the later enclosure of Structure 20. It was truncated by the Structure 20 enclosures.

Structure 17

Structure 17 was situated on the south-western edge of the island, and indicated two specific builds of structure (Fig. 3.2). It is unknown whether the two structures followed in quick succession, or if a period of time lapsed between the phases of build. The earliest phase was formed by two gully arcs enclosing an area of 7.25 m diameter, with gaps to the north-west and south-east. Set back from the south-east gap were two entrance postholes, 2 m apart, both double in form. A series of smaller postholes clustered around the entrance posts.

The second phase of penannular gully created a larger internal diameter *c* 10 m, with one break to the south-east, located further south than the previous phase. Two double postholes with shallow sockets were associated with the entrance. Connecting the two gully terminals was a narrow slot or groove, which may indicate some kind of blocking of the entranceway, either on a temporary or permanent basis. A scatter of small postholes and pits was seen within the area of the two gullies, including two clay pits. The internal features might belong to either phase.

Domestic debris from the structure gullies comprised 1.8 kg of pottery, 291 animal bone fragments, a briquetage fragment and three pieces of fired clay, one possibly from a loomweight. A single pottery sherd was recovered from the internal features. Both phases of gully were cut by the south-western enclosure of Structure 20, and one of the clay pits had been truncated by linear gully 373. Spatially Structure 17 may have been paired with Structure 15.

Structure 19

Structure 19 was situated on the west side of Trench 14 (Fig. 3.2). It was defined by two gully arcs with an internal diameter of *c* 10.5 m. Gaps were present to

the north-west and south-east, however two internal postholes indicated that the structure was orientated to the south-east, the sections showing the double character noted elsewhere. A scatter of pits, postholes and stakeholes were also recorded within the structure, including a clay-lined pit which contained small fragments of burnt limestone. Finds were recovered from the gullies only, and comprised 809 g of pottery and 32 animal bone fragments.

The northern terminal of the structure gully abutted LB 363, and the break in the boundary appeared to relate to the presence of the structure, suggesting contemporaneity. Structure 19 was one of the latest Phase 1 features on the island.

Structure 20

Structure 20 was situated in the central nucleus of occupation (Fig. 3.2; Pl. 3.1). Three phases of penannular gullies were identified, with associated enclosures to the north-east and south-west connected to the second phase. Each structural phase had a south-east facing entrance. The three phases of penannular gully were separate on the north and east, but to the west and south they intercut.

The earliest phase gully enclosed an area *c* 11.5 m in diameter; its entrance was the most easterly of the three phases. A pair of postholes was set back *c* 2 m from the entrance, 2 m apart. The second phase of the gully enclosed an internal area of *c* 10.5 m diameter. A pair of stone-packed postholes was set back *c* 2.5 m from the entrance and may have functioned as entrance posts during this or the final phase of the gully. The third and latest phase of penannular gully formed an area of internal diameter *c* 10 m. There is no evidence that the latest phase defined a separate structure, its entrance area

coincided closely with that of the middle phase.

The interior of S 20 contained a series of small stakeholes and postholes, plus a clay-lined pit which contained large quantities of burnt limestone. A number of the postholes appeared to form a square shape with sides of 4 m, and may indicate part of a support framework for the roof. Fairly central to the house site were four large post pits, filled with stone and gravel packing. A 3 m square structure may have been formed by the posts. The posts may have created internal supports; alternatively they may represent a free standing structure, not contemporary with S 20.

Enclosures associated with Structure 20

The eastern terminal of the middle phase of penannular gully curved out to the south-east and demarcated the entrance to the north-eastern enclosure. Two small postholes flanked the entrance, perhaps forming a gate. The eastern boundary was not located by sections through the marshy area, however the size of the enclosure is estimated to be 11 m x 11 m in size.

The south-western enclosure utilised the first phase of NE-SW orientated linear boundary 372 for its northern side. The 4 m entrance gap to the enclosure had a small gully cut across it, possibly designed to block the entranceway at some point. The enclosure measured 14 m x 7 m, and contained a sterile pit and two stakeholes.

Once the enclosure ditches and middle phase of penannular gully had been backfilled, the house site was cut through by the redefinition of linear boundary 372. Structure 20 truncated S 16 and S 17, and its latest phase truncated LB 373.



Plate 3.1 Structure 20 Island 3

The enclosure ditches and penannular gullies contained large quantities of finds. A total of 605 animal bone fragments and 15 kg of pottery were recorded, plus two fitting fragments of a saddle quern rubber and a small amount of fired clay including two briquetage fragments. Few finds were recovered from the north-eastern enclosure.

Trench 14 – Linear boundaries

Trench 14 was bordered by Roman ditches to the east, west and south, and by a post-medieval boundary to the north (Fig. 3.2). Four middle Iron Age linear boundaries traversed the island, LB 451, LB 372, LB 363 and LB 373.

At least six cuts were recognised in the southern boundary ditch 414. A fragment from a possible saddle quern or rubber, plus 33 g of middle Iron Age pottery indicated that the boundary may have originated during the Iron Age. The alluvial top fill of the latest cut indicated contemporaneity with the Roman field system traversing the islands.

One of the Late Glacial channels that dissected the Warrens Field area was located at the western edge of Island 3. A layer of organic *Chara* marl had accumulated in this channel (see Robinson Digital section 4.4), overlaid by a peaty deposit which contained a small quantity of middle Iron Age pottery. Above this was a layer of black loam, and bone from this layer produced a radiocarbon date of 220 BC (2170+80 HAR-5411). A further sequence of layers had built up in the channel, finally sealed by a gravel bank 466. This gravel bank may have been associated with NW–SE orientated ditch 444, which contained 577 g of middle Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of animal bone. It truncated a NE–SW ditch, the possible western extension of LB 372. Ditch 444 was in turn overlaid by Roman gravel bank 1044 and parallel gully 1055.

Linear boundaries 372 and 451 were located in the north of Trench 14. The spatial relationship between the features suggest that they functioned together, creating an enclosed area *c* 30 m x 20 m. Both turned to follow the eastern boundary of the island and crossed the marshy area, forming a trackway into the enclosed area from the north-east.

Linear boundary 372 had two distinct phases, the earliest was marked by a break of *c* 8 m. On the east and west sides the boundary turned and followed the edges of the island, an alignment mirrored by the Roman ditches. During the later phase the ditch followed closely the line of the earlier phase on the north-east side, but to the south-west it continued straight into the lower area to the west of the island. Ditch 372 contained 396 g of middle Iron Age pottery and 104 animal bone fragments, plus small quantities of iron, wood and fired clay.

Linear boundary 363 ran parallel to 372 *c* 10 m to the north, and at least two phases were identified.

A break in the boundary coincided with the location of Structure 19 suggesting a relationship between the two features. The ditch then continued westwards and terminated in the marshy area at the western limit of the island. It cut through Structure 14 and truncated LB 372. The boundary produced 367 g of middle Iron Age pottery and 227 animal bone fragments.

A shallow narrow gully (LB 373) was seen near the centre of the trench. A length of *c* 6.75 m ran approximately north-south, the southern end then turned towards the south-west for over 25 m. The gully cut through a clay-lined pit in the interior of Structure 17, but was truncated by the final phase of penannular gully in S 20.

Trench 15 (SU 19015 99835)

Enclosure 8

A probable late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure (Phase 2), E 8, was located to the west of Trench 14, within the lower lying area adjacent to the modern stream (Fig. 3.2).

Salvage, north of Trench 14

Structures 18 and 21

Situated 30 m north of Trench 14 a circular ring of posts was observed during the stripping of the site, forming S 18 (Fig. 3.2). One definite posthole was recorded in the interior. Two additional but larger postholes lay on the south-eastern side, *c* 1.5 m away outside of the post-ring. This structure may have functioned either as a post-ring building with projecting porch, or as a post-ring aisle within an outer stake wall. As a stake-walled house with internal aisles, a structure 10.5 m diameter would have been formed, which is a significantly larger floor area than the rest of the structures at Claydon Pike.

Structure 21 was located approximately 20 m to the south-west of S 18, its penannular gully surviving clearly only on the northern side (Fig. 3.2). The estimated diameter of the gully was 10 m, comparable to the house enclosures, and it appeared to face south-east. Lack of surviving detail makes it difficult to interpret this with certainty as a house site.

A series of other linear features were recorded during the commercial stripping of the topsoil. Of possible middle Iron Age date were three irregular ditches with associated gullies, which extended both north and west out of the observed area. These were contexts 1094, 1095 and more certainly 1098, 50 to 100 m north of S 18 (Fig. 3.1).

Island 2 (Fig. 3.3)

The second gravel island was located approximately 100 m to the south-east of Island 3, with



Fig. 3.3
Warrens Field Island 2



Plate 3.2 View looking south-east over Island 2, with S 10 in foreground

two main excavation trenches, 8 and 12 (Pl. 3.2). Trench 8 contained evidence for two enclosures. Three roundhouse structures were identified in Trench 12 and a rectangular structure. Three enclosures and a number of linear ditches were also discovered. To the south of Trench 12 a number of ditches and curving gullies were identified during salvage operations, as well as a four-post structure. To the east of Trench 12 five penannular gullies and a number of linear boundaries were also seen.

Trench 8 (SU 19200 99750)

Enclosure 4/Structure 11

Enclosure 4 was formed by a penannular ditch, *c* 15 m internal diameter with a 2 m entrance to the east (Fig. 3.3). Three phases of ditch cut showed from the excavated sections, the latest had been backfilled or levelled out with gravel. This latest cut terminated 4 m south of the original terminal and would therefore have formed a wider entrance of *c* 6 m, during the latest phase. Domestic debris from the fills comprised 1 kg of middle Iron Age pottery, 141 animal bones fragments, a probable part of a saddle quern rubber (Fig. 3.9, no. 2) and 8 pieces of fired clay including a loomweight.

Internal features included several postholes and a clay-lined pit located on the northern side of the enclosure. A sub-rectangular pit in the centre of the enclosure had been truncated by a large post-medieval feature. A further pit was seen towards the entrance area, together with a 5.5 m length of gully, truncated by the enclosure ditch. The gully contained 331 g of middle Iron Age pottery, 2 pieces of fired clay including an oven fragment, and burnt

limestone, the fill became cleaner towards the ditch.

The north-east of the enclosure ditch had been cut through by a gully arc containing 693 g of middle Iron Age pottery, 38 animal bone fragments and 3 pieces of fired clay, including an oven fragment. Running west from Enclosure 4 were ditches 180 and 192. These continued *c* 40 m beyond Trench 8 before they were lost in the marshy divide of Islands 2 and 3. Earlier cut 192 was clearly cut by Enclosure 4, however the gravel backfill of Enclosure 4 extended 5 m along 180, indicating that they were infilled together. Enclosure 4 was truncated by Enclosure 3 to the south.

It is suggested that Enclosure 4 was associated with a building, Structure 11. Gullies or posts that may have been associated with such a structure appear to have been removed by later activity. The clay pit finds parallels in its position for the other more definite house sites at Claydon Pike. The gully that leads to the southern part of the enclosure ditch, if contemporary, may be a drain starting within the structure, the change in fill marking its emergence outside.

Enclosure 3

Enclosure 3 was formed by circular ditch 153, creating an internal diameter of *c* 16 m (Fig. 3.3). A 3 m gap on the north-east side formed an entrance. The relative sparsity of occupation debris, and an interior devoid of archaeological features suggests the area was not utilised for domestic occupation. The fills did not show any sign of deliberate infilling and had fully silted prior to any alluvial deposition. The enclosure clearly cut Enclosure 4 and would appear to belong to the Phase 2 occupation at Claydon Pike.

Trench 12 (SU 19220 99785)

Structure 10

Situated *c* 20 m north of Enclosure 4 was Structure 10, defined by at least four cuts of penannular gully (Fig. 3.3). The internal diameter varied from 10 m to 11.75 m, with a south-east facing entrance gap of *c* 4 m. One of the middle cuts took on ditch-like proportions, but this was seen only on the north and west sides. Set back just over a metre from the entrance were two large stone-packed double postholes, both posts of the northern posthole appear to have been replaced. The gully contained an abundance of domestic debris, including *c* 4 kg of middle Iron Age pottery, 156 animal bone fragments, 6 pieces of fired clay and 2 briquetage fragments. A single intrusive Phase 2 pottery rim was also recovered from the gully.

Nine postholes were located within the gully, three of which appeared to be double in form. These posts probably represent structural or support posts. Two appeared to be aligned with the entrance posts. A shallow clay-lined pit lay on the central north side, containing quantities of burnt limestone, part of a May Hill sandstone saddle quern (Fig. 3.9, no.1) and 551 g of middle Iron Age pottery.

Structure 9

Just over 5 m to the north-east of Structure 10 lay Structure 9 (Fig. 3.3). It was formed by a penannular gully with an internal diameter of *c* 9 m, smaller in comparison to the other house sites. At least three gully cuts were represented, all terminating to give an entrance of between 2-2.5 m on the south-east side. They contained 1.6 kg of middle Iron Age pottery, 59 animal bone fragments and five pieces of fired clay including an oven fragment and briquetage. Set back *c* 2 m from the entrance gap were two postholes, both stone packed and oval in shape, and appearing to have a smaller post set on the outside of each, forming a double post setting.

Within the area of the gully, several postholes lay on the north side, but did not form a coherent pattern. In the central north-west of the internal area lay two pits, one being clay-lined. Immediately west a third pit was seen, but all three had been truncated by a post-medieval pipe trench. Extending 2.5 m from the north-west side of the penannular gully was a shallow gully, cut by the outer penannular gully, but possibly respecting the inner and earlier cuts. A rectangular structure, S 23, cut across the northern part of the structure.

Rectangular Structure S 23

Structure 23 consisted of a trapezoidal arrangement of seven postholes (Fig. 3.3). They contrasted sharply with the other postholes on the site since they had been packed with a limestone that originated from the Cornbrash Formation rather than the Forest Marble that was usually seen. The structure cut across the northern part of Structure 9. No finds were recovered from the postholes, and they cannot therefore be dated with any certainty.

Structure 7

Positioned a few metres south-east of Structure 9 lay Structure 7 (Fig.3.3). Although this was lacking a penannular gully, the presence and arrangement of its features supported its interpretation as a structure.

Replacing the penannular gully were two foreshortened gullies, located 3.5 m apart and positioned as if they formed the terminals of a penannular gully with its entrance on the south-east. Set back *c* 2 m from these gullies were two sets of postholes *c* 2 m apart. A sparse amount of occupation debris was recovered from one of the gullies.

Two clay-lined pits lay on the north-eastern side of this structure. One contained part of a quartzitic sandstone cobble that was probably used as a saddle quern rubber, the other contained 67 g of middle Iron Age pottery, two pieces of fired clay, including a possible tuyère fragment. Four unrelated postholes were also seen in the interior of the structure.

Miscellaneous features in the south of Trench 12

To the north of E 4 and south of S 10 lay a set of curving gullies not obviously defining structures, and truncated by post-medieval boundaries (Fig. 3.3). Gully 198 formed a penannular enclosure *c* 8 m in diameter with a large 7 m break in the west and a narrower gap to the east. A central V-shaped slot was recognised in gully 198. The feature contained 114 g of middle Iron Age pottery.

West of gully 198 two intercutting gullies, contexts 199 and 200, had surviving lengths of 8 m and 5 m respectively. A short length of ditch, context 196, ran NE-SW for 8 m to the south of these gullies.

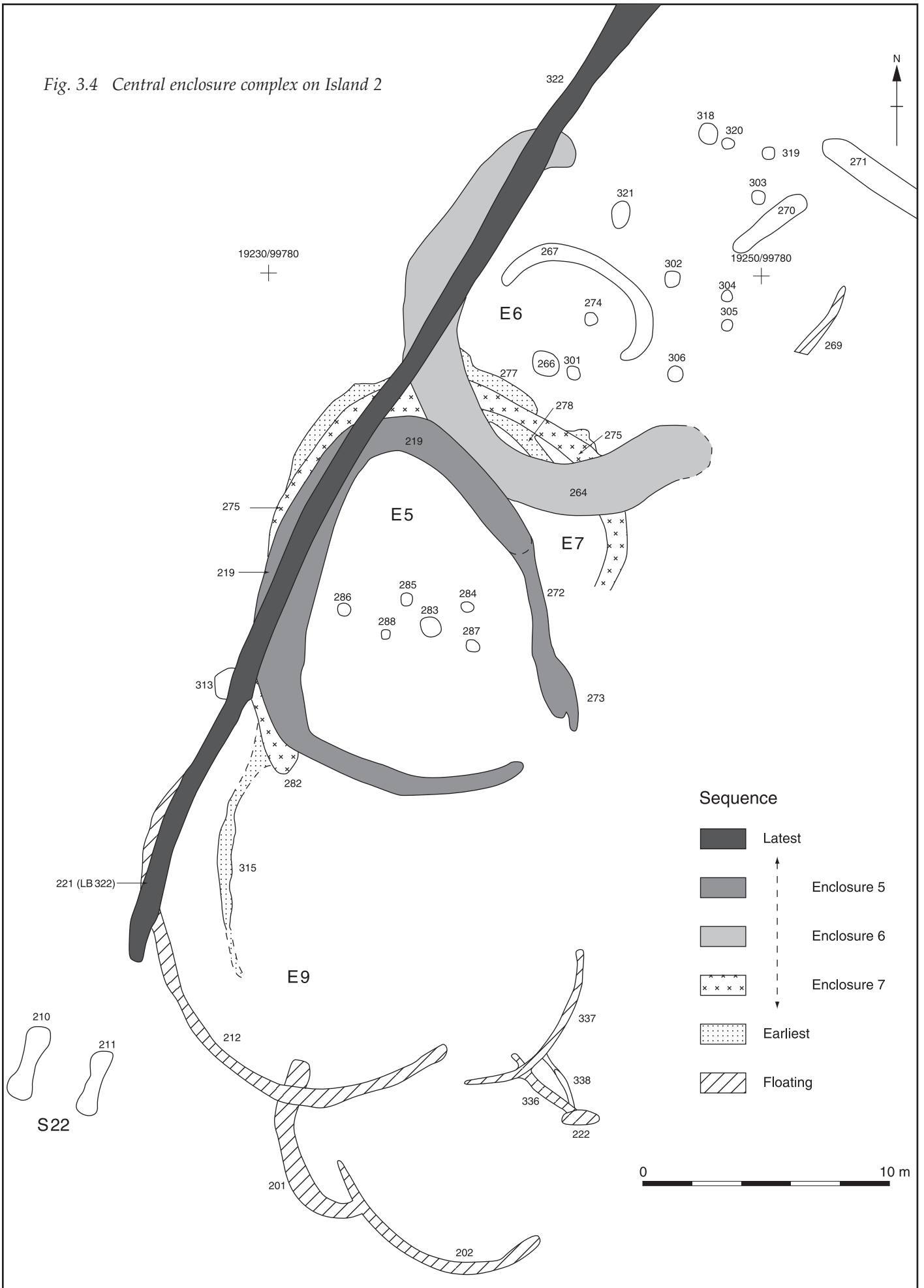
Central enclosure complex (Fig. 3.4)

A sequence of linears and ditched enclosures extended from the eastern part of Trench 12 south into the salvage area. The latest stratigraphic feature was linear boundary ditch 322 running NE-SW for *c* 75 m on the western edge of the enclosures. It appeared to be the latest cut of gully 268 in the north, and gully 221 in the south. Within this area gullies 277, 278 and 315 were the earliest features. They were truncated by E 7, which was in turn truncated by E 6 and then E 5, the latest of the enclosures. Each phase was bordered to the west by LB 322 and truncated by it.

Enclosure 7

Enclosure 7 was the earliest stratigraphically, and was approximately concentric with Enclosure 5, although slightly less angular. It delimited a rectangular area *c* 15 m x 12 m with the south and south-east sides open. The finds comprised 880 g of middle Iron Age pottery and 41 animal bone fragments. The internal features include five postholes and a clay-lined pit, which may have been contemporary with either Structure 5 or 7.

Fig. 3.4 Central enclosure complex on Island 2



Enclosure 6

Enclosure 6 was formed by an angular semicircular ditch located to the north of E 5. This enclosed an area of *c* 11 m diameter with the north-east side left open. The south-east terminal shelved into a *c* 1 m deep sump and contained large quantities of occupation debris, comprising 3.8 kg of middle Iron Age pottery, 2 pieces of fired clay and 105 animal bone fragments. At least one recut was apparent on the west side of the enclosure, showing signs of backfilling with gravel. A whole series of features lay within the area of this enclosure, including short lengths of gully, three clay-lined pits and eight postholes. None of the postholes appeared to function as entrance posts.

Enclosure 5

Enclosure 5 was the latest enclosure, formed by a ditch which created an almost triangular area, *c* 12 m x 9 m. An entrance of 8 m had been left on the eastern side, which had then been foreshortened by a stretch of gully to 2.5 m wide. The ditch produced 382 g of middle Iron Age pottery and 67 animal bone fragments. Internally there were five postholes and a clay-lined pit. Again, none of the postholes appeared to conform with the pattern of entrance posts found within the more recognisable structures. The internal features are also within the area enclosed by the earlier Enclosure 7, and could be contemporary with either structure.

Salvage area south of Trench 12

The central enclosure complex in Trench 12 continued south and was observed and recorded during commercial stripping of the site. A further enclosure was identified, E 9, truncated by the earlier phase of LB 322. The enclosure was *c* 12 m in diameter, and open on the north and east sides. Curving gully 315 appeared concentric with E 9, however the southern extent was not traced. Another gully arc (337) was noted lying on the same arc and may conceivably have been associated with context 315.

Central enclosure complex: summary

In comparison to the more definite house sites at Claydon Pike no structure can be readily identified in this area. This is despite the incidence of postholes, clay-lined pits and gully arcs. The stratigraphy of the area indicates three or four enclosure phases of shifting development plus the linear boundary phase. It is unclear if E 9 formed a phase on its own or was associated with another enclosure. A maximum of two enclosures would have been in use at any one time. The succeeding phases all shift to fresh ground, the overlap of areas being marginal. Throughout the period of use in this area the settlement appears to have been constrained in the west, and the axis of the enclosures remained static. The space between this edge and the nearest feature to the west (S 7) is *c* 7 m (Fig. 3.3). It is therefore conceivable that a path or small track led

through the island here. To the east the situation is similar, with a gap of *c* 20 m before the next block of house sites. It could be postulated that this was a yard area, perhaps associated with these enclosures, or the paddocks to the north.

Four-post structure 22

Structure 22 was formed by two pairs of postholes joined by a slack V-shaped gully, located 3 m south of the terminal of LB 322 (Fig. 3.4). The posts were packed with gravel and limestone, and appeared to form a structure *c* 2.75 m along the WNW-ESE axis, and 2.25 m on the NNE-SSW axis (post centre to post centre). Three small sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and a single iron nail were recorded from the structure.

Salvage area east of Trench 12 (SU 19280 99765) (Fig. 3.3)

Five further penannular gullies and a series of linear boundaries were recorded during the commercial stripping of the site east of Trench 12.

Structures 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12

Situated at the northern end of a line of penannular gullies lay Structure 4. It had an internal diameter of 9.5 m with a gap of *c* 2.5 m on the south-east side. The interior was devoid of features and only 85 g of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the gully.

Structure 5 was situated to the south of Structure 4, defined by a horseshoe-shaped arc open to the north-east. The internal diameter of the structure was 11 m and it encompassed three postholes, two of which appeared to form entrance postholes, creating an atypically north-east orientation for the structure. Twenty-two animal bone fragments and 900 g of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the gully, a large proportion of which originated in the southern terminal. A NW-SE orientated ditch (325) ran from the entrance posts of S 5, before terminating in the marshy divide of Islands 1 and 2. Gully 271 ran east from Trench 12, and was connected to S 5 by a short length of gully. No differences were recognised within these fills and hence the features were likely to have been contemporary.

Structure 6 was located to the south of Structure 5. Their penannular gullies overlapped, however the relationship between the two features could not be ascertained. The S 6 gully enclosed an internal area diameter 10.5 m with a gap of 4.5 m to the east. A single piece of fired clay, and a nearly complete expanded rim jar (Fig. 3.7, no. 8) was recovered from the northern terminal. Two postholes were set back from the entrance gap. On the north side of the enclosure was clay-lined pit. Structure 6 also impinged on Structure 8 to the south-west.

Structure 8 continued the line of penannular gullies to the south-west. It enclosed an area of 11.5 m internal diameter, with an opening to the south-east of *c* 4 m. Adjacent to this opening were six

postholes, clustered inside the northern part of the entrance. Little occupation debris was salvaged from this structure, comprising only three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery.

Structure 12 lay 3 m south of Structure 8. It had an internal diameter of 10.5 m and a break of 7 m to the east. This entrance gap was partially filled by a short length of gully which created gaps of 2.5 m and 3.5 m into the enclosure. Set back *c* 2 m from the latter gap were two entrance posts. Two further postholes were recorded in the southern side of the enclosure. The gully contained 798 g of middle Iron Age pottery, a fragment of fired clay, a single retouched flint flake, and a very small quantity of animal bone.

Just *c* 2 m south-east of Structure 12 lay a horse-shoe-shaped arc of gully (204), the maximum distance between the two termini was 5 m. It was steep-sided with a flat bottom, burnt limestone was present in the fill and it may have originally contained timbers. Two postholes (206) and a pit (215) were located to the south of the gully. The pit contained layers of burnt stone and signs of *in situ* burning. It may have functioned as an oven or hearth pit.

Linear boundaries

The central enclosure group formed the main axis of a system of small plots or paddocks on Island 2. One plot was seen to extend northwards from trench 12 (Fig. 3.1), defined by contexts 333, 334 and 268 (the northerly continuation of LB 322), 30 x 25 m in size. Another slightly larger plot was located to the east, defined by contexts 268 and 271. Ditch 180, attached to Enclosure 4, and gully 325 running from Structure 5 into the marshy divide between Islands 1 and 2, may also have created boundaries.

Island 1 (Fig. 3.5)

Gravel Island 1 represented the most easterly activity in the Warrens Field site. Excavation here focused on Trench 6, but also included three further trenches to the south (Trenches 2, 9 and 10: Fig. 2.2). Trench 6 contained one enclosure ditch and three structures, plus several gullies, postholes and scoops. A single enclosure ditch was situated in Trench 2, probably contemporary with the Phase 2 activity at the Longdoles Field site. A double-ditched enclosure was seen in Trench 9, believed to be post-medieval in date. Trench 10 was located at

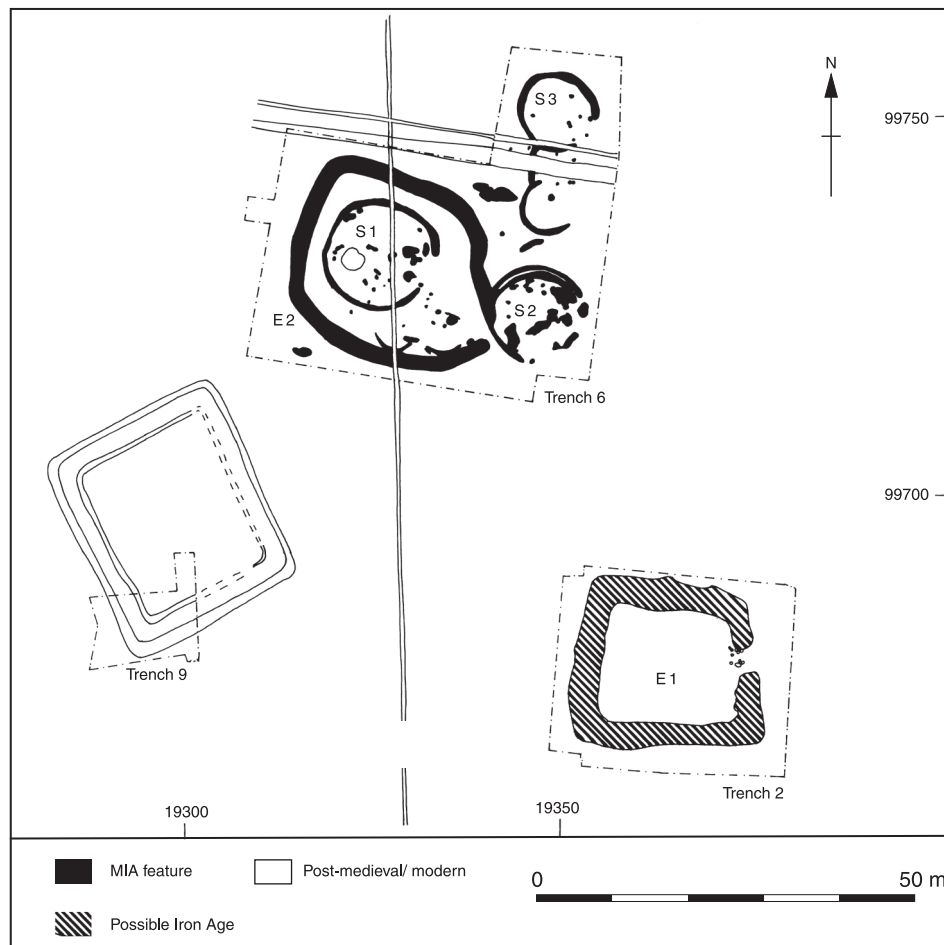


Fig. 3.5 Warrens Field Island 1

the western edge of Island 1, where the Roman trackway crosses the low area dividing Islands 1 and 2 (Fig. 3.3).

Trench 6 (SU 19335 99730)

Enclosure 2 and Structure 1 (Fig. 3.6, Pls 3.3 and 3.4)
Enclosure 2 was formed by ditch 8, creating a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 22 m x 20 m with an internal area of c 440 m². An entrance of 2 m lay on the south-eastern side. Excavation showed the ditch to be 1.75-2.25 m wide and 0.7-0.9 m deep.

No evidence for recutting was recognised. A number of features including Structure 1 lay within the enclosure. Ditch 8 is reasonably concentric to S 1 except on the south-east side where it swells out.

Occupation debris was recovered from the enclosure ditch, including 220 animal bone fragments, the majority of which were not identifiable, 5 pieces of fired clay, and 7 fragments of Droitwich bricketage. An iron knife and two flint flakes were also recovered from the ditch. A total of 3.5 kg of middle Iron Age pottery was identified, however the fabrics indicated a slightly later focus than the ceramics recovered from the enclosed structure. The sherds



Plate 3.3 Enclosure 2 and Structure 1 from Island 1



Plate 3.4 Iron Age roundhouse (S 1) reconstruction

are small and abraded, and were mostly recovered from the upper fill, suggesting some tertiary infilling from nearby later Structure 2.

Penannular gully context 21 (Structure 1) lay within Enclosure 2 (Fig. 3.6). An artist's reconstruction is shown in Plate 3.4. It had an unusually large internal diameter of 13 m and a 4.5 m wide entrance on the east side. The gully was 0.5-0.6 m wide on average, and 0.3-0.46 m deep. Traces of

posts were noticed in several sections of the gully, and a possible slot, 0.15-0.25 m wide and 0.14-0.19 m deep, was visible on the outer side of the gully. Small limestone fragments were noted throughout the fill, particularly in the terminals. Debris recovered from the gully included 3.7 kg of pottery, 82 animal bone fragments, 9 pieces of fired clay, 6 briquetage fragments, a piece of iron and a flint flake.

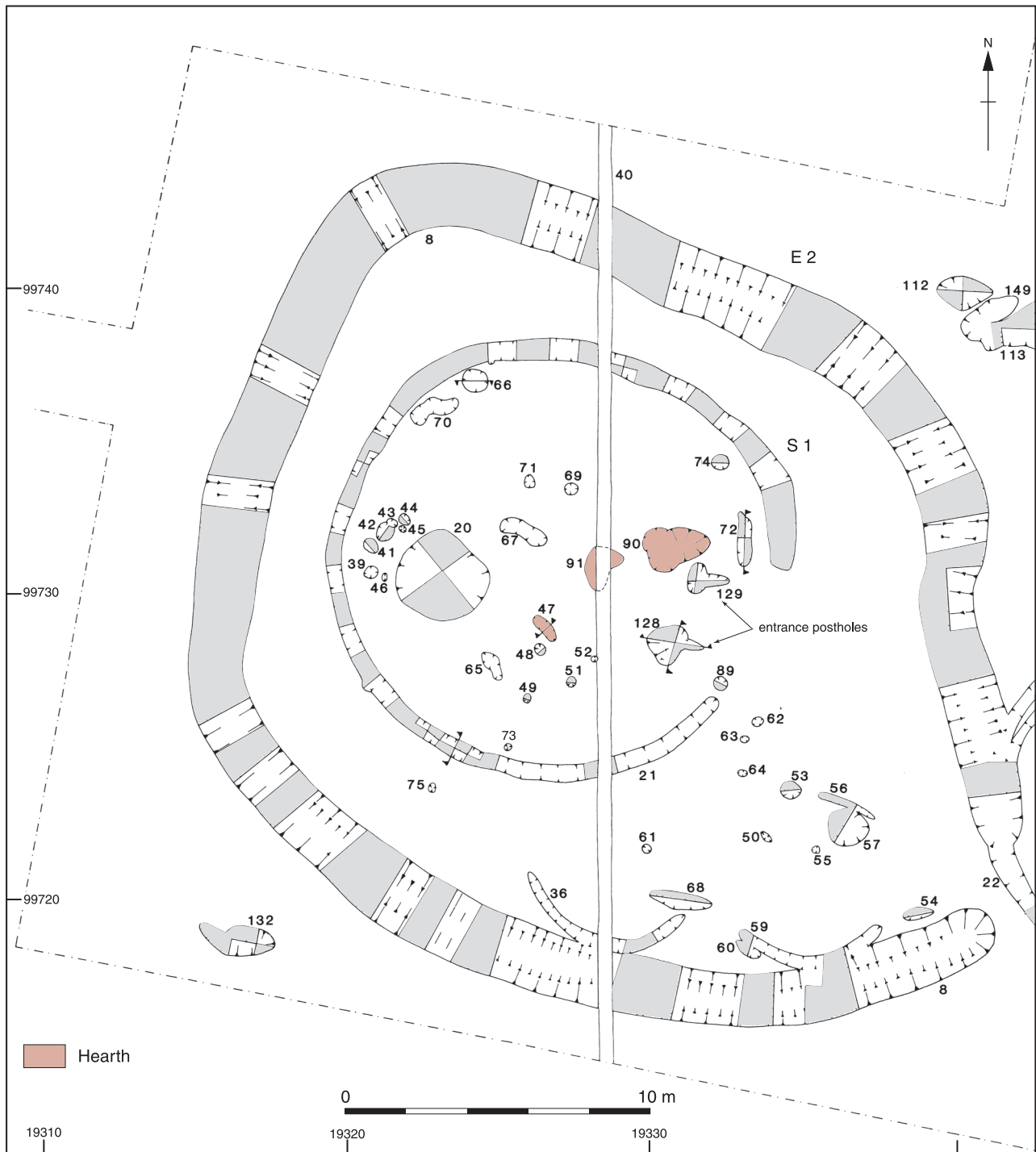


Fig. 3.6 Structure 1 and Enclosure 2 on Island 1

Two postholes, 128 and 129, were set back *c* 2.5 m from the terminals of the penannular gully (measured from the posthole centres; Fig. 3.6). The postholes were up to 1.4 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Projecting towards the entrance from the postholes were two shallow V-shaped grooves, inclined towards the posts, 0.6 m to 1 m long and 0.1 m to 0.3 m wide. Ten sherds (89 g) of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from posthole 128. A single posthole (89) was located at the southern terminus of gully 21, *c* 0.4 m diameter and 0.14 m deep. Burnt limestone was noted in its fill.

Within the area of gully 21 lay a series of postholes and pits, none necessary structurally related to the building. Several of these in fact would have lain between the outer wall of the structure and the penannular gully (the wall position conjectured from the posts 128 and 129). They include two postholes (50 and 74), a clay-lined pit (context 66) and a possible pit or short stretch of gully (72). Small quantities of domestic debris were recorded in features 66 and 72. Three possible hearths or fire pits were identified within the area defined by gully 21: features 47, 90 and 91. Feature 90 was irregular in shape, measuring 2.28 m by 1.7 m, and 0.36 m deep, heavily burnt clay on the north and south side may suggest the feature was an oven. Feature 47 was smaller, measuring 1 m x 0.4 m and 0.36 m deep. This was more regular and was intensely burnt down one side. Feature 91 was mostly destroyed by a modern pipe trench (40). The remaining feature was 1.4 m long and depth 0.42 m. Contemporaneity of the structure and the hearths cannot be shown, and for feature 90 must be doubted as it would seem to cross the conjectured wall line. No finds were recovered from the hearths.

A dozen postholes located predominantly on the west and south sides were excavated but did not create a coherent pattern, contexts 39, 41-6, 48, 49, 51-2 and 65 (Fig. 3.6). They ranged in diameter from 0.23-0.6 m, and 0.05-0.17 m deep. One further posthole was seen towards the north-east, context 69, which measured 0.4 x 0.33 m. Three irregular features (67, 70, 71) and one natural hollow (20) were also present within the structure area. A single sherd of pottery was present in feature 20.

Other features within E 2 (Fig. 3.6)

On the southern edge of ditch 8, adjacent to the enclosure entrance, were two arcs of gully, contexts 36 and 59. They may have been contemporary with the ditch, however the stratigraphic relationship was uncertain. Both were approximately 6 m long, 0.25 m wide and 0.19 m deep, and contained small quantities of middle Iron Age pottery and briquetage. A series of postholes, 50, 53, 55, 61-4, lay to the north of gullies 36 and 59 and south of the entrance to S 1, posthole 75 was seen to the west. Three shallow scoops or possible pits 54, 57 and 60, plus a short gully arc (context 56), also lay in this area but no clear signs of purpose was found. Context 68 is a natural feature. No finds were recovered from these features.

Structure 2 (Fig. 3.5)

Structure 2 was located to the east of Enclosure 2, and cut through its northern terminal. It was formed by two semicircular gullies with a circular diameter of up to 12 m, the south and east sides being completely open. Two possible gullies located on the eastern side may have restricted the entrance area. Both phases of semicircular gully contained domestic debris, totalling 953 g of middle Iron Age pottery, 5 pieces of fired clay (including an oven fragment), 5 fragments of briquetage, 120 animal bone fragments and an unidentified piece of iron. The inner gully cut had been partially sealed by a spread of limestone rubble. The associated soil layer contained 212 g of pottery, approximately 50% of which are sandy wares, indicating the latest middle Iron Age activity on the island. The spread appears to indicate some form of surface or levelling which survived best in the tops of features. Within the area of the gullies lay three clay-lined pits (103, 109, 120), and a circular arrangement of ten postholes which would have formed a structure just under 7 m in diameter. Small quantities of pottery were recovered from five of the postholes, a fired clay loomweight and iron fragment were also recorded in one posthole. One of the clay-lined pits was located on the post line, suggesting that it was not contemporary with the structure.

A number of other pits and postholes were located outside of the structural posts, and clustered in the east. Very small quantities of debris were recovered from the features, with the exception of a single pit which contained part of a disarticulated cattle skeleton, represented predominately by foot bones.

Structure 3 (Fig. 3.5)

Structure 3 was located 5 m north of S 2 and consisted of three connecting gullies, contexts 80, 83 and 97, truncated by the post-medieval field system. Gully 97 was interrupted on the south-east side by a 4 m gap and had an internal diameter of 9 m. Two postholes, set back *c* 2 m from the entrance, may be interpreted as entrance posts, although they were relatively slight. A scatter of postholes of no regular pattern was also enclosed within the area of the gully. Part of a loomweight was recorded from the feature, together with 4 fragments of briquetage, a piece of fired clay, 537 g of middle Iron Age pottery and 44 animal bone fragments. Connecting gully 83 contained 129 animal bone fragments and 29 g of pottery.

Semicircular arc 80 was smaller in diameter, 6.5 m, and was open to the north and east sides. A spread of postholes lay north-east of the gully and a shallow pit lay just within. Evidence of burning was seen in the pit, including charcoal and burnt limestone. Finds from the gully amounted to one piece of fired clay, three animal bone fragments, plus 338 g of abraded middle Iron Age pottery.

Trench 2 (SU 19365 99675) (Fig. 3.5)**Enclosure 1**

Situated in the south-east of Island 1, ditch 6 formed a rectangular enclosure with an internal area of c 260 m² (Fig. 3.5). An entrance causeway 3 m wide lay on the east side, marked by a series of postholes. No features were recorded in the interior. Few finds were recovered from the enclosure suggesting that it was not primarily utilised for occupation. Small quantities of pottery recovered from the ditch suggest a later Iron Age/early Roman date for the feature, placing it in Phase 2 (see Chapter 4, Fig. 4.1).

THE FINDS**Iron Age Pottery (Figs 3.7-8) by Grace Perpetua Jones**

A total of 4981 sherds of pottery, weighing 57627 g, was recovered from the middle Iron Age settlement at Warrens Field, Claydon Pike. The average sherd weight is 11.6 g which is fairly typical for pottery of this date in the Upper Thames Valley. The condition may be described as average to poor, with some of the pottery being quite abraded. The coarse calcareous fabrics were particularly prone to splitting horizontally and smaller sherds often lost one or both surfaces. Over-zealous cleaning has destroyed some of the surface treatments, and may have affected evidence for use such as sooting and burnt residues. Full details of the recording methodology may be found in Digital section 3.1.

Fabrics

Thirty-three individual fabrics were recorded from the middle Iron Age assemblage at Claydon Pike. These have been grouped according to principal inclusions (Table 3.1), to offer a clear impression of the character of the assemblage. Fabric group 3 has been omitted from the analysis as it represents a

single Phase 2 (late Iron Age/early Roman) vessel recovered from Structure 10.

Just over 91% of the assemblage was made from clays with abundant fossiliferous limestone inclusions (group 1), which may have been obtained from the immediately local Oxford Clay (within 1-2 km of the site), or the deposits of Cornbrash or Forest Marble located approximately 3-5 km to the north. Geological descriptions of the local geology suggest that the calcareous inclusions occurred naturally in the clay (after Sumbler 1996; Sumbler *et al.* 2000). The Oxford Clay may also have been the source of the sandy group 7 fabrics; Kellways Clay deposits and the Ferruginous Sands (located at 6 km and 11 km distant respectively) offered alternatives. Pockets of sandy clays were also located in the gravels. The Kellways Clay may have provided the raw materials for fabric group 4.

Oolitic limestone recorded in fabric groups 2 and 5 probably originated from the gravel, however Athelstan Oolite and the Coral Rag offered alternatives, located up to 9 km away. The dominant fabric in group 7 (AI3) contained glauconite grains, indicating a Greensand origin. The presence of glauconite has also been suggested in fabric groups 6 and 8. The nearest Greensand source was 14 km distant. The inclusions in the group 10 fabrics indicate a source approximately 65 km away (see Morris, below).

Using Arnold's (1985) model of resource procurement, local wares may be defined as those available within 7 km of the site. As such, the majority of fabrics used at Claydon Pike indicate local resource procurement, and therefore local production. Fabrics originating from the Greensand are non-local, as are the Malvernian fabrics. The latter were part of a regional distribution network, and are often found on sites where Droitwich briquetage is present.

The local clays appear to have contained enough natural inclusions for use, and required little added

Table 3.1: Summary of the middle Iron Age fabrics present at Claydon Pike

Group no.	Principal inclusions	% of total weight of assemblage
1	Abundant (40%) fossiliferous detritus (limestone and shell), including fragments of bryozoa indicating a Jurassic source	91.2
2	Very common (30%) to abundant oolitic limestone and shell	0.6
4	Quartz, fossiliferous limestone and shell in varying amounts	1.5
5	Very common oolitic limestone and shell, sparse (3-7%) to moderate (10-15%) quartz	2.3
6	Common (20-25%) to very common limestone and shell, rare (1-2%) to sparse quartz, occasional possible glauconite or limonite grains	0.4
7	Common to very common quartz and iron oxides/pellets. Glauconite grains were noted in the dominant fabric	3.4
8	Common quartz, rare to moderate possible glauconite, can have sparse calcareous inclusions	0.5
9	Moderate quartz and sparse grog	0.01
10	Malvernian fabrics: Group A and Group B1 (Peacock 1968)	0.1

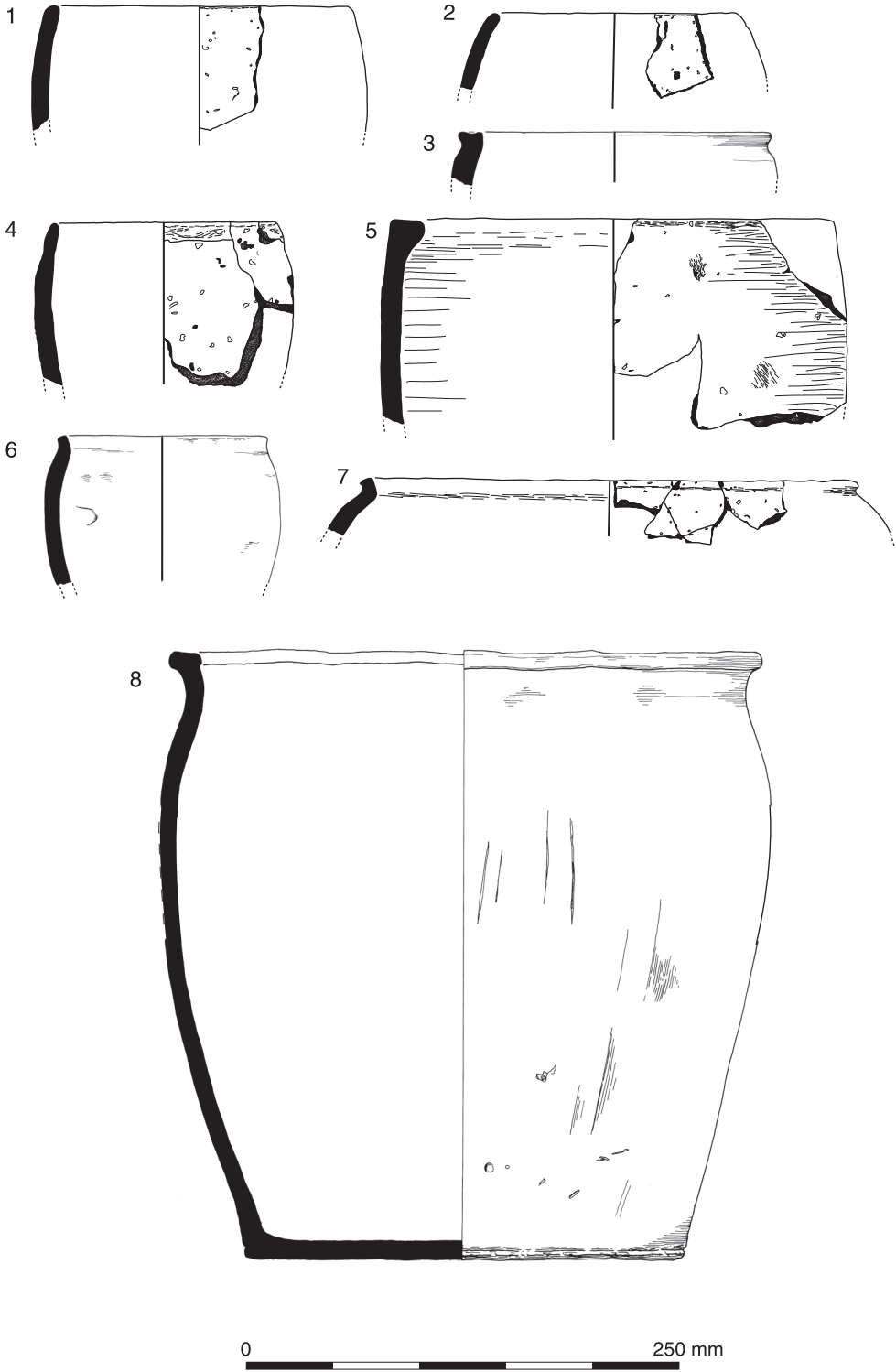


Fig. 3.7 Iron Age pottery from Warrens Field (1-8)

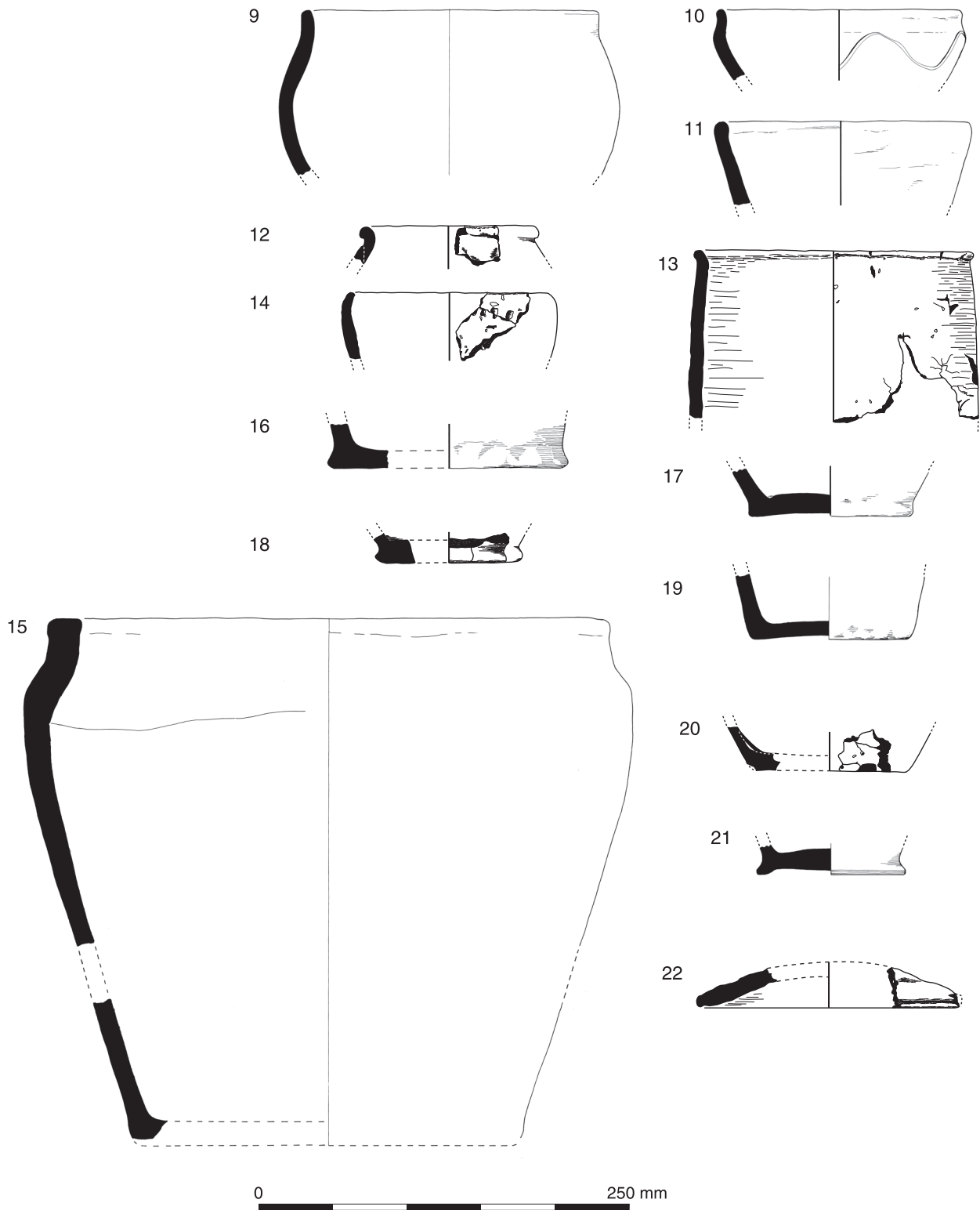


Fig. 3.8 Iron Age pottery from Warrens Field (9-22)

temper. The vessels recovered from the middle Iron Age occupation at Claydon Pike were all handmade. Coiling was clearly evidenced on a number of vessels, in these cases the coil join often provided a weak point on the vessel prone to breakage. No investment in equipment was identified at the site, or specific areas associated with potting. It is therefore proposed that the manufacturing of vessels was carried out on a part-time domestic basis, at the level of household production (after Peacock 1982). A lack of drying facilities and kilns suggest that production was very much affected by seasonality, and would have to be scheduled to avoid conflicting with subsistence activities (Arnold 1985). The weather would also have affected the gathering of raw materials.

Vessel form

A total of 127 middle Iron Age vessels were identified. These were placed in 13 form groups on the basis of rim form and predicted profile (Table 3.2). Group 14 was allocated to a single intrusive Phase 2 vessel and has not been included here. A further category (group 15) was added for vessels displaying finger-tipped decoration. Bases are mostly plain with flat bottoms and obliquely splayed walls, five forms were identified (B1-B5). One possible lid was also identified.

The assemblage at Claydon Pike is dominated by barrel-shaped vessels, probably jars, (form groups 1 and 3) with plain or slightly shaped rims, which account for 30% of the total number of recognised vessels. Forms with expanded or thickened rims (groups 6, 7 and 8) represent 20% of the vessels. Some 15.6% have shaped necks and internal bevels, and are mostly globular in profile (group 4), whilst 11% were recorded as bowl forms (groups 9 and 10), and 8.6% as ovoid jars (group 2). A further 4.7% are

globular vessels with rolled or beaded rims (group 11), and 3.1% were straight-sided vessels (group 12). A single high shouldered jar (group 13) was also recorded. Vessels demonstrating finger tip or nail decoration (group 15) account for 5.5% of the assemblage.

Catalogue of illustrated forms (Figs 3.7-8)

Details of the illustrated vessels are presented below. All vessels are fabric group 1, with the exception of no. 21 (fabric group 6).

1. FS 082. Form Group 1. Flattened undifferentiated rim, barrel-shaped vessel, probable jar. Upper exterior sooting. Context 264/D/1
2. FS 015. Form Group 2. Plain rounded undifferentiated rim, convex ovoid profile closed form, jar. 375/B/1
3. FS 228. Form Group 6. Channel-topped rim, expanded externally, slightly constricted neck. Vessel profile is probably barrel-shaped and a closed form. 396/A/1
4. FS 012. Form Group 3. Rounded rim, shaping causes slight neck constriction, finger indentations still present. Barrel-shaped jar. 375/A/1
5. FS 037. Form Group 7. Flat-topped rim, internally expanded, almost straight-sided profile. Slightly smoothed exterior and interior surface. 371/A/2
6. FS 234. Form Group 5. Squared, angled rim, internally beveled, barrel-shaped profile, wide mouthed jar. Smoothed exterior surface, minor sooting on exterior. 365/F/2
7. FS 163. Form Group 4. Squared, angled rim, internally beveled, globular profile. 97/S/1
8. FS 301. Form Group 8. Flat-topped rim, expanded externally and internally constricted neck area, slightly rounded profile, wide mouthed jar. Exterior has a slurry finish. 216/A/1
9. FS 085. Form Group 9. Flattened, slightly everted rim, globular bowl. Smoothed exterior. 264/A/2
10. FS 235. Form Group 9. Shaped, rounded rim, vessel wall slopes inwards quite sharply. Bowl, with tooled curvilinear decoration. 278/B/1

Table 3.2: Middle Iron Age forms present at Claydon Pike

<i>Form group</i>	<i>Description (Ashville, Abingdon equivalents shown in brackets)</i>	<i>Number of vessels</i>
1	Barrel-shaped vessels with in-curving un-differentiated rims (B3)	13
2	Plain un-differentiated in-curving rims, ovoid jars	11
3	Barrel-shaped vessels with slightly shaped rims/constricted necks (B3)	25
4	Short, squared, upright or slightly everted rims on vessels with internal bevel and globular profile (D0)	15
5	Everted rims, internally bevelled, from vessels with barrel-shaped profiles	5
6	Vessels with rims expanded on the exterior (A2)	11
7	Vessels with rims expanded on the interior (A1)	10
8	Vessels with rims expanded on the interior and exterior (A3)	5
9	Bowls with differentiated rims (D0)	9
10	Bowl forms with un-differentiated rims	5
11	Necked globular vessels with rolled / beaded rims, jar forms	6
12	Slack/straight sided vessels	4
13	High shouldered jars	1
15	Rims decorated with fingertip or fingernail impressions	7

11. FS 182. Form Group 10. Slightly flattened undifferentiated rim, gently thickened on the interior, bowl. Smoothed exterior surface. 8/B/1
12. FS 147. Form Group 11. Jar with slightly everted beaded rim. Vessel profile may be globular, profile too short to be certain. Minor sooting on exterior. 22/V/1
13. FS 122. Form Group 12. Slightly flattened rim, exterior is rolled to form a very irregular bead, minor internal bevel. Vessel walls are quite straight-sided, jar form. Very well smoothed exterior, sooting present on exterior. 425/F/3
14. FS 089. Form Group 15. Rounded rim, slightly incurving, wall slopes gently downwards, wide mouthed, possible jar. Decorated with a band of fingertip impressions on upper vessel exterior. 268/C/1
15. FS 125. Form Group 13. Flattened rim with rounded edges, slightly thickened on exterior and interior. Constricted neck, sharp high shoulder, walls slope inwards, wide mouthed jar. A band of sooting is seen in the shoulder area. 425/G
16. FS 057. Form Group B1. Obliquely splayed base, clear finger impressions around lower wall, possibly part of the construction process, may also have been seen as slightly decorative. Abraded interior. 218/A/1
17. FS 220. Form Group B1. Base with obliquely splayed wall, slightly pinched around wall / base join causing a very minor protruding foot. Smoothed exterior. 207
18. FS 103. Form Group B2. Base with slightly splayed foot. 275/H/1
19. FS 214. Form Group B3. Plain base, slightly domed centre. Wall angle indicates straight or barrel-shaped vessel. Slightly smoothed exterior, burnt residue on interior wall. 155/A/5
20. FS 156. Form Group B4. Plain base, probably from a globular vessel. Pitted interior. 59/C/1
21. FS 236. Form Group B5. Footring base with pronounced foot. 198/2
22. FS 070. Lid. Domed lid, upper exterior shaped towards the edge, slight recess runs around edge of interior. Burnt residue on interior, smoothed exterior. 264/F/1

Regional parallels for the fabrics and forms

The coarse Jurassic fossiliferous limestone fabric that dominates the assemblage is fairly ubiquitous and characteristic of locally produced pottery in the Upper Thames Valley during the early and middle Iron Age. It is closely paralleled at Thornhill Farm (Timby 2004), located less than 1 km from the site and as such shared the same resource base. At Ashville, Abingdon (DeRoche 1978) and Farmoor (Lambrick 1979) calcareous fabrics dominate the first phase of occupation, dated 550–300 BC. However during the second phase at both sites, enduring for most of the last three centuries BC, a shift in focus to more sandy wares is evident. This change from calcareous to sandy fabrics is repeated on other sites in the region, such as Gravelly Guy (Duncan *et al.* 2004), and appears to be chronologically significant. Pottery assemblages from sites occupied in the later part of the middle Iron Age, such as Watkins Farm (Allen 1990) occupied *c.* 250–

50 BC, are predominantly composed of sandy wares. The proportions of calcareous and sandy fabrics at Claydon Pike tend to be seen on other sites throughout the region that are dated to the earlier part of the middle Iron Age.

A progression in the forms repertoire is also seen during this period. The early Iron Age assemblage from Gravelly Guy, and early period pottery from Ashville and Farmoor, are dominated by angular forms, expanded rim vessels and those exhibiting fingertip decoration. During the later phases at these sites the vessel profiles become more rounded, and eventually globular. Barrel-shaped vessels are also popular. Beaded and everted rims appear, and the smoothing and burnishing of vessel surfaces becomes commonplace. The earlier forms are still present in the later periods, but in decreasing quantities.

The Claydon Pike assemblage does contain early Iron Age elements such as the expanded rims (form groups 6, 7 and 8), vessels decorated with fingertip impressions (group 15) and the high shouldered jar in group 13. However the general dearth of angular vessels suggests a date for the assemblage not earlier than the middle Iron Age. The barrel-shaped vessels are characteristic of the middle Iron Age in the Upper Thames Valley. The presence of more globular vessels, in particular bowls, plus the occasional beaded rim, indicates the assemblage may represent occupation spanning the entire middle Iron Age period. No late Iron Age indicators were identified.

Shifting settlement and social patterns: the evidence from changing fabrics

In the Upper Thames Valley the use of sandy fabrics increases, and calcareous fabrics decreases, over time during the Iron Age. This trend was applied to the Claydon Pike assemblage, and the proportion of different fabric groups present on each island was assessed to see if the islands were occupied simultaneously, or if they represented a shifting settlement pattern. The proportions of the different fabric groups by percentage of total weight per island are presented in Table 3.3. The largest assemblage comes from Island 2 (25 kg), followed by Island 3 (21.8 kg) and finally Island 1 (10.7 kg).

Using a model of increasing sand to decreasing calcareous inclusions over time, it can be shown that Island 3 is the earliest in date and Island 1 the latest. This conclusion is also supported by evidence from the Droitwich briquetage, reported on below. On Island 3 there is a clear dominance of group 1 fabrics, accounting for 99% of the assemblage. Only three other fabrics are present, and these in minute quantities. All fabric groups are represented on Island 2. The calcareous group 1 accounts for 87% of the total weight, the only other significant fabrics are group 5, oolitic limestone and quartz (5.3%) and the increasing sandy fabrics of group 7, now accounting for 3.5%. Island 1 shows a shift again with a slight

Table 3.3: Percentages of total weight per fabric group for each of the gravel islands

Fabric Group	Island	Island	Island
	1 %	2 %	3 %
1 Fossil limestone and shell	85	87.0	99.0
2 Oolitic limestone and shell	0.8	0.8	0.3
3 Non fossil shell	-	0.3	-
4 Quartz and calcareous	1.9	2.3	0.2
5 Oolitic limestone and quartz	0.1	5.3	-
6 Calcareous and quartz	0.9	0.5	-
7 Quartz and iron	9.0	3.5	0.5
8 Quartz, possibly glauconitic	2.2	0.2	-
9 Quartz and grog	-	0.0	-
10 Malvernian	0.1	0.1	-

decrease in calcareous group 1 to 85%, and an increase in sandy group 7 to 9%. Other fabrics with more than 1% include the possible glauconitic sand group 8, and quartz and calcareous group 4.

Analysis of the presence of different form groups across the islands indicated that Island 3 was dominated by barrel-shaped vessels, with groups 1 and 3 accounting for 47.4% of the total number of vessels on the island. Expanded rim vessels (groups 6, 7 and 8) account for 15.8%, and those decorated with fingertip decoration (group 15) represent 10.5%. Vessels with shaped necks and internal bevels are the only other fairly commonly seen form, with groups 4 and 5 totalling 7.9%. On Island 2 vessels with expanded rims become the most common forms, representing 29.3% of the total number of vessels identified on the island. This is followed by barrel-shaped vessels, 20.7%; vessels with shaped necks and internal bevels, 15.5%; bowl forms, 12.1%, and ovoid jars, 8.6%. On Island 1 barrel-shaped vessels and internally bevelled vessels are equally dominant, each accounting for 25%. They are followed by bowls, 15.6%; ovoid jars, 12.5%; expanded rim vessels, 9.4% and globular vessels with rolled/beaded rims, 9.4%.

If the chronological variations suggested by the fabrics are accepted, then it may be argued that barrel-shaped vessels, expanded rim vessels and those decorated with fingertip impressions decrease in number with time. Ovoid jars, internally bevelled vessels, bowls, globular vessels with rolled/beaded rims and straight-sided vessels increase with time. This pattern is borne out at other sites in the region. The eastwards shifting pattern seen with the fabrics is also present in the forms, with the earlier expanded rim vessels present in their lowest quantities on Island 1, and no examples of fingertip decoration seen from this island.

Fabric variation was minimal within the features of Island 3, as the calcareous fabrics accounted for 99% of the assemblage weight. A greater variation in fabric was seen on Island 2, where the latest features appeared to be Structures 7, 9, Structure 11/

Enclosure 4 and linear boundary 322. The earliest features include Structures 5, 6 and 12. Structure 2 on Island 1 appeared to be the latest middle Iron Age feature at the Warrens Field site. It truncated Enclosure 2 which also appeared to be late in the sequence. Curiously the pottery recovered from Structure 1, enclosed by E 2, appeared to be much earlier in date. However, the mean sherd weight from E 2 was 6.4 g, much lower than the average assemblage weight of 11.6 g. A large proportion of the pottery came from the upper fill, and may therefore represent some tertiary infilling from nearby later Structure 2, or material redeposited from elsewhere on the site. Enclosure 2 and Structure 1 were therefore probably the earliest features on Island 1, later replaced by Structure 3, and finally by Structure 2.

A decrease in calcareous fabrics and increase in the use of sandy fabrics indicates that the middle Iron Age settlement at Claydon Pike shifted eastwards over time. Occupation of the Warrens Field site therefore initially focused on gravel Island 3, and then moved eastwards to Island 2, finally moving eastwards again to Island 1.

Vessel use

The correlation between form and fabric was analysed to ascertain if specific fabrics were being selected for certain vessel types. Little variation was shown in the fabrics of each form group, perhaps not surprising in an assemblage dominated by coarse calcareous fabrics. However, 25 % of barrel- to globular-shaped vessels with shaped necks and internal bevels (groups 4 and 5), were constructed from a sandy paste. Of the 14 bowls in the assemblage (form groups 9 and 10) two were found in a sandy fabric. Sandy fabrics are chronologically associated with more rounded and globular forms during the middle Iron Age period in the Upper Thames Valley. Other sites in the region have recorded some correlation between fabric and form, particularly fine and sandy fabrics with globular forms. The Watkins Farm sandy fabrics 'were clearly deliberately chosen when making bowls' (Allen 1990, 39).

The surface treatments applied to the Claydon Pike vessels include smoothing, wiping and burnishing. Haematite coating and tool trimming, seen at other sites in the region, were not recognised. The most popular treatment was external smoothing, a common middle Iron Age surface treatment, occasionally also noted on the upper interior of vessels. Smoothing was seen on 26.2% of the assemblage by weight, although this translates to only 12.8% of the total number of sherds. External wiping was found on 0.3% of the sherds, and just under 2% were burnished. Smoothing and burnishing may have helped reduce permeability but may also have been purely aesthetic.

Smoothing is present in most fabric groups, the highest percentages were seen on the mixed quartz

and calcareous fabrics, within the calcareous groups higher proportions were noted on the finer fabrics. Wiping was exclusively seen in the group 1 fabrics. Wiping may have been preferred to smoothing in some cases as the calcareous fabrics were so coarse, containing sharp inclusions that might be more safely smoothed with organic matter or such like rather than the potter's hands. Burnishing is seen almost exclusively in the sandy fabrics and is a characteristic treatment of the Malvernian fabrics. A correlation between burnishing and sandy fabrics is seen throughout the region, usually associated with globular vessels. Few examples of decoration were recorded, other than the group 15 fingertip decoration.

The interior of a number of vessels appeared to have an almost waxy, dark greyish brown coating. It is not certain if this represents a reaction between the contents of the vessel and the calcareous inclusions in the paste, or perhaps some form of sealant. Work by Schiffer (1972, cited in Skibo 1992, 156) has shown that vessels 'without an impermeable surface treatment have a much lower heating effectiveness and may be unable to boil water'.

A number of observations concerning the actual use of vessels can be made from the presence or absence of sooting, burnt residues, pitting or abrasion. Group 5 vessels, forms with shaped necks, internally beveled rims and barrel-shaped profiles, all had soot on their outer walls, or internal burnt residues, and therefore indicate their use in cooking or heating. Their more globular-shaped counterparts, group 4, indicate this use in a third of cases. The plain barrel-shaped vessels (group 1) are often used for cooking, with evidence on 53% of vessels, those with more shaped rims (group 3) had only slightly less evidence, with sooting or residue adhering to 44% of the vessels. The ovoid jars (group 2) were also sometimes used for this purpose.

The expanded rim vessels were seldom used for cooking: groups 6 (externally expanded) and 8 (internally and externally expanded) were never used for this purpose, 20% of internally expanded vessels (group 7) did have evidence for cooking. The bowls were rarely used for cooking, in group 9 the only example (accounting for 11%) is the bowl with curvilinear decoration (Fig. 3.8, 10), 20% of bowl group 10 are sooted. Within the remaining classes of rolled/beaded rims (group 11) and straight sided vessels (group 12) this form of evidence is seldom seen. The single vessel in group 13 showed sooting around the shoulder area.

Interestingly, of the 38 vessel bases recovered from Claydon Pike, there were no deposits of external soot. This may indicate the vessels were placed in the fire during the cooking process, rather than suspended over it when carbon deposits would accumulate on the exposed base (Hally 1983). The rims of many vessels are plain and incurving with little neck definition, and therefore may not be suited to suspension over a fire.

Internal abrasion, caused by repeated stirring and scraping, was clearly shown on one vessel in form group 4 and on eight vessel bases. The worst damage caused by scraping and stirring would have occurred towards the base of the vessel, where food is most likely to stick. Pitting, often seen in vessels composed of calcareous fabrics that were used to hold acidic contents, was seen in three vessels identified by rim form, and three vessel bases. Vessels used for cooking and serving tend to be over represented in the archaeological record, as they break more frequently than other vessels that are not subjected to thermal and mechanical shock, such as storage vessels (Orton *et al.* 1999).

A wide range of vessel sizes were used at Claydon Pike, from quite small pots, 100 mm diameter, to much larger vessels, maximum diameter 380 mm (Fig. 3.8, no. 15). Vessel wall thickness is variable, most commonly ranging from 7-11 mm, although thicker walled examples were also seen. The wall thickness appeared to be associated with the overall vessel size, with thicker walls seen on larger vessels, undoubtedly partly because of the wall strength required to support large vessels during the drying process. A certain amount of control over this problem is shown by three of the expanded rim vessels with diameters 260-280 mm, and a wall thickness of 7-9 mm. It may also be that the expanded rim vessels were not designed to undergo mechanical shock, and therefore thick walls may have been less important.

Observations of use evidence have shown that within the different form groups the small to medium vessels (100-200 mm diameter) are quite often associated with sooting and burnt residues. Larger vessels within the same groups did not show this form of evidence. Sooting was seen on two large vessels in group 7 (260 mm) and group 13 (380 mm), however in each of these groups smaller vessels were not present. This suggests that vessel forms were made in a number of sizes, and a single vessel form might be used for more than one purpose, and this is influenced by the size of the vessel. The expanded rim vessels were rarely made in the smaller sizes and were seldom used for cooking. The bowl forms (groups 9 and 10) are mostly 140-180 mm diameter and may have been utilised as serving vessels.

Estimation of vessel capacity has indicated that a small low vessel (130 mm diameter) would have been able to hold one litre, a medium tall vessel (160 mm diameter) nearly four litres, and the very large 380 mm diameter vessel approximately 30 litres when full. The two largest vessels found at Claydon Pike were 360 mm and 380 mm in diameter. Both showed evidence for use in cooking or heating processes, the former contained a small amount of burnt residue, and the latter (Fig. 3.8, no.15) had a ring of soot around the shoulder. Such large vessels suggest the preparation and therefore consumption of food on a communal scale.

Discussion and conclusions

'Pottery was part of the subsistence strategy for obtaining and distributing food and a primary contribution to the process of staying alive in later prehistory' (Morris 2002, 54).

The fabrics and forms present in the Claydon Pike assemblage readily find parallels at other sites in the Upper Thames Valley during the middle Iron Age. The proportions of calcareous to sandy fabrics present on each gravel island suggest that the settlement shifted eastwards during this period. Pottery manufacture was carried out at the household level, utilising local resources.

The increasing use of sandy fabrics is concomitant with a change in the form repertoire to include more rounded and globular forms. The sandier clays may have been easier to work and produce the new forms, or perhaps easier to fire. They would have been easier to smooth and burnish, surface treatments that are also associated with the new forms and fabric. This change may be the result of changes in cooking or eating practices. External surface treatments may have had purely aesthetic values, particularly on vessel forms such as bowls that were suitable for use as serving vessels at shared meals. Although only 2 out of the 14 bowls from Claydon Pike were constructed from a sandy fabric, 12 have been smoothed or burnished, and indicated a far higher degree of surface treatment than any other vessel form. The fact that so many were calcareous vessels is in itself interesting, as although the bowls were not being produced in sandy wares, an attempt was being made to achieve quite fine finishes on these vessels.

The simultaneous use of local sandy and non-local glauconitic sandy fabrics may be tied to the social role of pottery at this time. The glauconitic pots may have been technically superior in some way, or the pots represent 'the maintenance of exchange networks' within regional communities (Morris 1997, 38). The same is true of the presence of Malvernian wares, imported from approximately 65 km.

The majority of vessel forms identified at Claydon Pike are quite open in terms of access to the contents, and are mostly quite squat and therefore suited to boiling (Rice 1987). The presence of external sooting and burnt residues on many of the vessels supports this conclusion. Vessels with internal bevels such as groups 4 and 5 may have been designed to be used with a lid or another method of sealing the vessel. The internal bevel would help prevent evaporation during boiling. The larger, thicker walled vessels in the assemblage may have been intended as storage vessels. The open and fairly shallow forms of groups 9 and 10 appear well suited to a use as serving vessels.

Vessels appear to have been manufactured in a range of sizes for different purposes. Those with a diameter of 200 mm or less appear to have been most often selected for cooking or heating purposes.

Expanded rim vessels were seldom used for this purpose and tended to be present only in larger sizes. Two very large pots used for cooking activities point to communal sharing of food, and may have been used in feasting celebrations 'for displaying wealth and sharing to reinforce or renegotiate relationships' (Morris 2002, 55). The importation of Malvernian wares and vessels made from a glauconitic fabric may be further evidence of the importance of maintaining social networks.

The non-local Iron Age pottery and Droitwich salt containers *by Elaine Morris*

The non-local pottery and fired clay identified at Claydon Pike included 18 g with Malvernian rock inclusions (Group A) and 4 g with Palaeozoic limestone inclusions (Group B1) (after Peacock 1968; Morris 1983). A total of 351 g of Droitwich salt container material (Morris 1983; 1985) was also identified. The very low quantity of these artefacts suggests that Fairford may be at the southeastern edge of their respective distributions. Fairford is 60 and 65 km from the two pottery sources and 70 km from Droitwich.

Groups A and B1 Iron Age pottery

Detailed form and fabric descriptions of this material have already been presented elsewhere (Peacock 1968). The source for the inclusions in the Group A fabric pottery is located in the vicinity of the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire west of the river Severn. Early work on the inclusions in the Group B1 Paleozoic limestone fabric could not determine which of several was the likely source for this limestone (Peacock 1968, 421-2). Subsequent quantitative work on the distribution of the Group B1 pottery has favoured the Woolhope Hills in Herefordshire as the most appropriate source for these inclusions (Morris 1983, 116-22). At least one vessel of each fabric type was identified in the Claydon Pike collection from Island 2. This area is believed to date slightly later than Island 3 where, interestingly, Groups A and B1 pottery were not found. This information supports the interpretation that Groups A and B1 pottery were first produced during the 5th-4th century BC for a localised distribution, or core area, and that a wider distribution developed from the 3rd-1st centuries BC through an exchange network which eventually incorporated the Upper Thames Valley (Morris 1983, 112-6).

Droitwich salt containers

This material has been described in detail and illustrated elsewhere (Morris 1985). Two general fabric types, a sandy type (FT1) and an organic-tempered type (FT2) have been defined. The former includes a specific sub-variety (FT1a) which contains clay pellets and is often found in collections from earlier Iron Age sites such as Crickley Hill, Shenberrow

and Chastleton. All of the material was made from Keuper Marl clays found in the immediate Droitwich area and used to produce oxidized, vase-shaped porous containers. These in turn were used to dry and transport salt from the brine salt springs at Droitwich to hillfort and non-hillfort sites in the region. The FT1a sherds were found on Island 3 where FT1 sherds predominate in the salt container collection (61% by weight). On Islands 1 and 2, however, FT2 sherds are much more common (57% and 87% respectively). The observed difference in proportion between FT1 and FT2 on the islands is a pattern of technological change also found at the production source where in the earlier phase, FT1 was slightly more common but completely overshadowed by FT2 in the later phase.

Conclusion

Claydon Pike appears to represent the maximum distribution of this material in an exchange system. The similarly limited distribution of the very distinctive Groups A and B1 pottery in this area favours the interpretation that the salt and pottery represent commodities in a restricted exchange network.

Small finds by Hilary Cool

The material associated with Phase 1 is negligible, as is to be expected, and the metal small finds can cast little light on the nature of the occupation. Only five items were found stratified and no items belonging to this period were identified typologically. Of the stratified items, two are structural iron finds (24 and 3966), the latter being an iron nail and the possibility that this was intrusive is strong. The other items consisted of featureless fragments of copper alloy (20) and iron (296) and a possible iron blade fragment (21).

In addition to the small number of metal small finds, there were also a total of ten fired clay objects (not including briquetage, see Morris above). These

comprised five loomweights, a possible tuyère and four fragments of hearth or oven material.

Worked Stone (Fig. 3.9) by Fiona Roe

The worked stone from Warrens Field, Claydon Pike amounts to 12 pieces, representing one slingstone, three rubbers, two saddle querns, one rotary quern and five other fragments. They are summarised in Table 3.4. The emphasis is very much on querns or quern materials. The only exception was a possible slingstone from LB 997, which may date to the late Iron Age/early Roman phase of activity (Phase 2). Saddle querns appear to have been the main type in use, and there were at least two of these (recovered from clay-lined pit 223 in S 10 and ditch 998), with further fragments of traditional quern material. One saddle quern is apparently a reused piece from a larger quern. Its small size suggests that it may have been intended for a child, to use for grinding corn in order to practice an essential skill, and also no doubt to help out with the daily tasks (Fig. 3.9, no.1). There are also fragments from three rubbers for use with saddle querns (E 4 ditch 155, clay-pit 234 in S 7 and the intercutting S 20 gullies), one part of a hog-backed example, a typical Iron Age variety of rubber (Fig. 3.9, no. 2). Of note are two pieces from rotary querns. One of these (Fig. 3.9, no. 3) was probably once part of a somewhat thick upper stone, of which the surviving depth is now 105 mm. It is a well made example, not particularly large, with a diameter of approximately 300 mm, and a rim that was carefully pecked into shape. The second piece of rotary quern (Fig. 3.9, no. 4) is part of a lower stone which is also fairly thick, with a present depth of 85 mm. The diameter is about 330 mm.

The stone used for the Warrens Field querns was nearly all imported to the site (Table 3.4). The local resources at Claydon Pike were limited to pebbles of hard quartzitic sandstone or quartzite from the gravels of the area, which were used for just one small rubber from S 7, and also for the possible

Table 3.4: Middle Iron Age worked stone

Object	SF	Stone	Context
Rubber	154	May Hill sandstone	Island 3, S 20 gullies (cxt 401)
Rotary quern	176	Upper ORS	Island 3, Gully 413 (SW area of Trench 14)
Quern fragment	276	May Hill sandstone	Island 3, LB 414
Quern fragment	294	Upper ORS	Island 3, Layer 1046, underlying Roman gravel bank 1044
Saddle quern	291	Upper ORS	Island 3, Ditch 998, east of Trench 14
Slingstone	292	Quartzite	Island 3, LB 997
Rubber	28	May Hill sandstone	Island 2, E 4 ditch (cxt 155)
Rubber	57	Quartzitic sandstone	Island 2, Clay-lined pit 234, S7
Saddle quern	56	May Hill sandstone	Island 2, Clay-lined pit 223, S10
Rotary quern	71	Upper ORS	Island 1, Cobble layer 111, overlying S 2 gully
Quern fragments	25	Culham greensand	Island 1, Gully 104, abutting layer 111, S2
Quern fragments	5643	Culham greensand	U/S find from Warrens Field

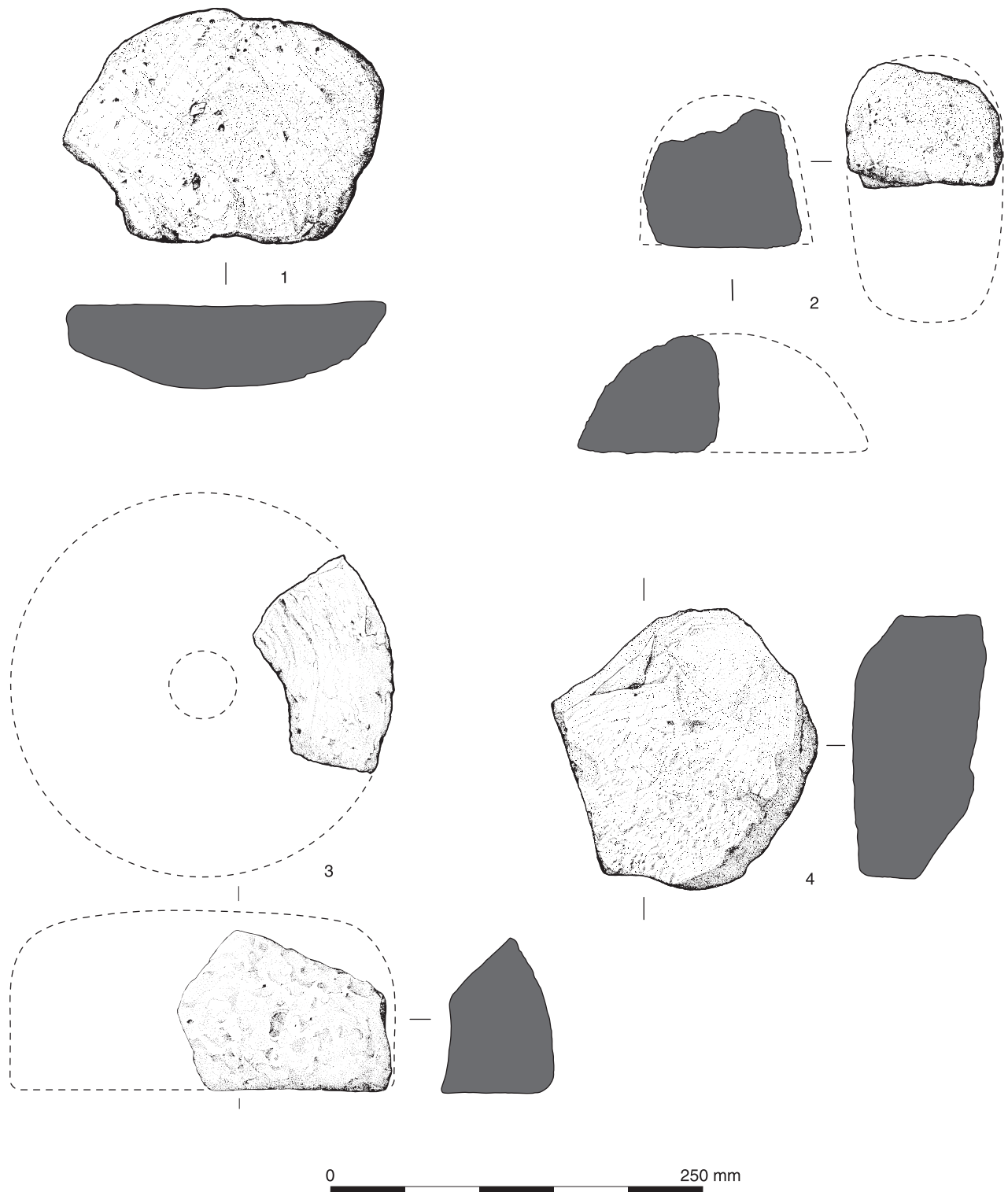


Fig. 3.9 Worked stone objects from Warrens Field

slingstone. The Jurassic limestone lies in a band to the north of the site, with Oxford Clay to the south, so that it would have been necessary to bring in serviceable grinding stone from beyond these two areas. Nearly all the quernstone came from the same direction, either from the Silurian sandstone of May Hill 51.5 km (32 miles) to the north-west, or from the Upper Old Red Sandstone of the Forest of Dean, some 64.4 km (40 miles) away. Two possible querns, represented now only by fragments (25 and 5643), were made from Lower Greensand with a source around Culham in Oxfordshire, and so these came from the opposite direction, from some 37 km (23 miles) down the River Thames. This greensand was very much a saddle quern material. The May Hill sandstone was also a traditional saddle quern material, and finds of this amount to one saddle quern (Fig. 3.9, no. 4) two rubbers (Fig. 3.9, no.2 and 154) and a worked fragment (276). By contrast, the Upper Old Red Sandstone was more widely used for rotary querns, although saddle querns are not unknown and one occurred at the Warrens Field site (291). There are also two pieces of rotary quern made from Old Red Sandstone, representing part of an upper stone (Fig. 3.9, no. 3) and part of a lower stone (Fig. 3.9, no.1). Another fragment of Old Red Sandstone (294) could not be further identified as to type.

The contexts in which the middle Iron Age quern fragments were found are varied, and all suggest deposition of the most casual kind (Table 3.4). The most common occurrence is in ditches, with two finds from house gullies, and two others from clay-lined pits. Saddle quern fragments came from all three islands, and so appear to have been in use throughout the life of the settlement. One rotary quern fragment (176) is from Island 3, while the other (71) is from Island 1. Island 3 is considered to be the earliest of the three (see Jones above), so it would seem that the new technology for grinding corn with rotary querns was known quite early on at the Warrens Field settlement. However the change-over to rotary querns appears to have been gradual, with saddle querns continuing in use for some time. Thus Lower Greensand from Culham, which had long been used for saddle querns, was found in a house gully on Island 1. The old ways persisted, whether from unwillingness to change the habits of thousands of years, or from lack of opportunity.

The worked stone from Warrens Field, Claydon Pike can be compared with finds from other sites in the locality. The middle Iron Age assemblage from the nearby site at Horcott Pit, Fairford includes saddle querns made from both May Hill sandstone and Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean (Lamdin-Whymark *et al.* in prep). The same two materials were also found in use for querns at the middle Iron Age site at Preston, Gloucestershire (Roe 1999a, 416). Finds of querns made from May Hill sandstone are common generally in the area, and are known from Thornhill Farm (Shaffrey 2004)

and further sites in Oxfordshire such as Hatford Quarry (Booth and Simmonds 2004) and Bampton (Ashmolean Museum). The Upper Old Red Sandstone has on the whole been less frequently recorded, but a fragment found at Gassons Road, Lechlade is from a late Bronze or early Iron Age context (Roe 1998). The small rotary quern found unstratified at Sherborne House, Lechlade may, if not Saxon in date, belong to the Iron Age occupation there (Roe 2003 (a)), and so join the growing numbers of Old Red Sandstone querns found in later prehistoric contexts either along or south of the Thames. The fragments of Culham greensand are the only examples of this stone known to date from Gloucestershire; most finds are from Thames gravels sites, and have been recorded mainly from Oxfordshire (Roe, in prep).

Catalogue of selected worked stone objects (Fig. 3.9)

1. 223 SF 56 *Saddle quern*. Fragment made from boulder, possibly reused part of larger quern, grinding surface worn smooth, especially round edge, central part slightly hollowed; 216 x 178 mm, Th 54 mm. 2.5 kg. May Hill sandstone
2. 155 SF 28 *Rubber*. Fragment with a flat surface which has been worn smooth, probably part of a hog-backed rubber for a saddle quern; now 104 x 77 mm, Th 90 mm, 935 g. May Hill sandstone
3. 413 SF 176 *Rotary quern*. Fragment from rotary quern, probably upper stone, grinding surface worn into rings, pecked into shape round rim; Dia c 300 mm, max Th now 105 mm, 1.390 kg. Upper Old Red Sandstone, sandstone
4. 111 SF 71 *Rotary quern*. Fragment lower stone rotary quern, slightly convex grinding surface prepared by pecking, roughly pecked round edge, underside not modified; 181 x 169 x 85 mm, 3.8 kg. Upper Old Red Sandstone, pebbly sandstone

THE ENVIRONMENT

Animal bone by Naomi Sykes

A total of 3,787 fragments of bone were retrieved from the three gravel islands (1-3) at Warrens Field, Claydon Pike (Table 3.5). Despite the sizeable quantity of material, poor preservation means that only 778 specimens (21%) are identifiable. Sample sizes for each of the gravel islands are therefore small, limiting the amount of information available.

As is the case for most Middle Iron Age sites in southern Britain, the assemblage consists almost exclusively of domesticates (cattle, caprines, pig, horse and dog), with just one wild animal species (a buzzard/kite) being represented. Relative frequencies of the main domesticates vary depending on quantification technique: NISP (number of individual species present) counts suggest cattle to be the dominant taxon, whereas caprines are more numerous according to the MNI (minimum number of individuals) data. Regardless of quantification method, horse are the third best represented taxon

Table 3.5: Composition of animal bone assemblage by gravel island

	Gravel Island			Total
	1	2	3	NISP (MNI)
Cattle	71 (3)	99 (1)	160 (5)	330 (7)
Caprines	29 (1)	78 (5)	172 (11)	279 (15)
Horse	27 (1)	33 (1)	61 (3)	121 (5)
Pig	7 (1)	6 (1)	21 (1)	34 (3)
Dog	3	4	6	13
Buzzard/kite	0	0	1	1
Indet	820	765	1424	3009
Grand Total	957	985	1845	3787
No Identifiable	137	220	421	778
% Identifiable	14	22	23	21

and pig are present only in low numbers. Whilst factors of poor preservation may have skewed the fragment counts in favour of cattle, the NISP-based taxa ratios – cattle 43%, sheep/goat 37%, horse 16% and pig 4% – are typical for Iron Age sites along the Upper Thames Valley: both Grant (1984a) and Hambleton (1999) have noted that assemblages from this region generally contain higher frequencies of cattle bones than are found on sites in Wessex.

Sample sizes are just sufficient to consider inter-area differences in taxa ratios. The NISP data for each gravel island show similar overall patterns but there is some variation, especially when the MNI results are considered. Most notable is the change in the ratio of cattle to caprines – cattle are much better represented on Island 1 than they are on either Island 2 or 3 (Table 3.5). Without clear dating evidence this variation is difficult to explain, however, it seems possible that the inter-area differences represent temporal changes in economy: if Island 3 was the earliest settlement and that on Gravel Island 1 was the latest, the shift from a sheep/goat-dominated to a cattle-dominated economy would fit national trends (Grant 1989; King 1991). Inter-area comparisons of taxa representation are often complicated when the various assemblages derive from different context types (Table 3.6). In this case, however, each gravel island

demonstrated the same range of features; structural contexts, enclosure ditches and linear boundaries being the most common. Maltby (1985a) and Wilson (1996) have demonstrated that, due to variation in bone preservation, butchery and disposal practices, different feature types are often characterised by particular bone groups. The Warrens Field assemblage supports these findings. Contexts associated with the roundhouses contain a much higher percentage (43%) of sheep/goat remains than the enclosure ditches (26%) or linear boundaries (37%), suggesting that, compared to other taxa, caprines were more regularly processed within the houses. By contrast, cattle carcasses were probably processed towards the edge of the each enclosure, with the butchery waste being tipped directly into the ditch – hence the higher percentage (49%) of well-preserved cattle remains from these feature types. Assemblages from the linear boundaries show the poorest preservation with the highest percentage of loose teeth, perhaps indicating that the material was redeposited.

A cattle ‘head and hoof’ burial was recovered from pit 58 (S 2). It is tempting to classify this as a ritual deposit, especially since comparable examples have been recovered from other middle Iron Age sites (for example Maltby 1985b; Grant 1991; Wilson 1999; Hill 1996). In the absence of any associated finds, the true significance of the deposit is difficult to ascertain, although the superior preservation suggests that the remains were treated differently from everyday waste.

Skeletal representation seems to have been dictated by factors of preservation rather than human activities, since only elements with a high structural density are abundant (Table 3.7). Poor preservation has also rendered fusion-based cull-patterns worthless, as juvenile bones are less likely to have survived than those of adult animals. The robusticity of teeth, however, means that the kill-off patterns constructed from dental data provide a better reflection of herd and flock structure. Dental ageing for cattle show that the vast majority (64.5%) of animals died between 6-30 months, with a particularly heavy mortality at 26-30 months. Few animals lived past this point and none survived into old age. A similar lack of very mature animals is demonstrated by the caprine data: 30% of animals

Table 3.6: Number of fragments by feature type

	Cattle	Caprines	Horse	Pig	Dog	Buzzard/ Kite	Indet	Total%	Identifiable%	Loose Teeth
Structures	161	167	40	18	2	1	1675	2064	19	46
% NISP	41	43	10	5	0.6	0.4				
Linear boundaries	38	38	16	6	4	0	425	527	19	44
% NISP	37	37	16	6	4	0				
Enclosures	83	44	30	7	4	0	482	650	26	26
% NISP	49	26	18	4	2	0				

Table 3.7: Skeletal Representation for the main domesticates in terms of NISP and MNI

	Cattle		Caprines		Horse		Pig	
	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI	NISP	MNI
Mandible	74	10	49	19	5	5	7	4
Scapula	15		2	1			4	
Humerus	15	3	7		4		6	
Radius	13	2	29	3	5	4		
Ulna	4		2		6		1	
Metacarpal	6	1	3		5	5	1	
Pelvis	8	1	2		3	3		
Femur	8		9	1	1			
Tibia	18	2	48	1	5	2	2	
Astragalus	5		1		3			
Calcaneum	3		1		2			
Metatarsal	27	2	16		6	3		
Phalanx I	4	4	1	1	3	2		

were dead by 6-12 months with less than 10% surviving past 3-4 years. These cull-patterns are typical of assemblages from the Upper Thames Valley. They indicate a mixed economy, with cattle and caprines being raised primarily for their meat but also for secondary products. Absence of foetal and neonatal animals is common for Iron Age sites and may reflect a transhumance strategy, whereby lambing and calving took place at a time of year when animals were grazing away from the settlement (Hambleton 1999). Horse husbandry may have followed a slightly different trend. Traditionally it has been argued that Iron Age horses were not bred in captivity but that feral animals were periodically rounded up and the best individuals retained as riding animals (Harcourt 1979). The find of at least one sub-adult horse may challenge this view, suggesting that horse husbandry was taking place on sites along the Thames Valley. Horse meat does not appear to have been eaten on a regular basis as the equid remains are not processed in the same way as the cattle bones. Several of the horse bones are complete, allowing wither height estimates to be made: on the basis of eight metapodia shoulder heights ranged from between 1.17-1.23 metres.

Charred plant macrofossils by Vanessa Straker, Martin Jones and Ann Perry

The middle Iron Age site was excavated in 1979-81 and the charred plant macrofossils result from an extensive sieving programme designed by Martin Jones and Ann Perry to extract material from the non-waterlogged deposits. Perry and Jones carried out the identifications, the samples were checked and a report written in 1984 (Jones *et al.* 1984). This has been revised for the current publication. The full report can be found in Digital section 4.5.

The plant macrofossils from the Warrens Field settlement at Claydon Pike were recovered mainly

from gullies and some ditches and clay-lined pits excavated in Trenches 6 (Island 1), 8 and 12 (Island 2) and 14 (Island 3). The assemblages are very small and are dominated by weed seeds and chaff rather than cereal grain. Plant macrofossil concentrations (number of items per litre of soil) are shown in Table 3.8. They are low, with a mean of 1.5 for gullies and 1.3 for ditches. As in all phases, pits have a slightly higher density with a mean of 3.8 for the middle Iron Age, which is still very low. These sorts of figures are difficult to interpret but relate to the nature of the activities taking place in the vicinity. They can also show the patchy nature of deposition in linear features as demonstrated by gully context 21A with over 6 items per litre compared with 0.6 for context 21C.

The assemblages tend to be dominated by crop processing waste (chaff and weed seeds). The information from grain and chaff shows that of the crops, wheat was more commonly present in contexts than barley. The wheat chaff allows identification of hulled wheats suggesting that spelt wheat predominated, though a single rachis internode of free threshing wheat, probably hexaploid *Triticum aestivum* sl. (bread wheat) was also identified. This is the only example of free threshing wheat rachis node from a middle Iron Age context in the south of England (Campbell and Straker 2003). It is likely that emmer wheat and bread wheat were minor components of the wheat crop. The barley was not well preserved, rarely allowing distinction of the (more likely) hulled from naked form, but the absence of twisted grains suggests that the 2-row form with 2 as opposed to 3 grains maturing at each rachis node predominated.

Most of the charred weed seeds are associated with arable land or grassland, though some will live in a more varied range of habitats. Numbers of weed seeds are generally low though a fairly wide range of taxa was identified. Members of the Caryophyllaceae (eg *Stellaria media* agg., chickweed)

were among the most numerous and are associated with arable or disturbed conditions. Spike rush (*Eleocharis* spp.), was also common; this plant is associated with soils experiencing at least spring waterlogging (Walters 1949) and pond margins. Scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*) is an arable weed, but prefers lighter, drier cultivated soils and was found more commonly at Ashville (Jones 1978). Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella* agg.) has a competitive advantage over many other species in acid soil conditions but also grows on the largely calcareous gravels of the Thames Valley today (M Robinson, pers. comm.).

Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) was quite common at Claydon Pike, as it also was at Ashville, and is regarded as a weed of winter-sown cereals. Taxa associated with open grassy habitats are numerous and include clover (*Trifolium* sp.), vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), eyebright or bartsia (*Euphrasia/Odontites*) as well as several different grass taxa.

Crop processing and harvesting: recent and new models for interpretation

Since the excavations at Claydon Pike in the late 1970s and early 1980s, there has been much discussion on the use of charred plant macrofossil assemblages to try to identify the sorts of post-harvest crop processing activities that have taken place in the past and establish the existence of specialist farming settlements of an arable or pastoral nature.

The first model to be put forward was by Hillman (1981; 1984), and a further model also based on ethnographic evidence but using the characteristics of weed seeds, was published by G. Jones (1984). In 1985, M. Jones published a model for the interaction of Iron Age communities in this part of the Thames valley based on the composition of archaeobotanical assemblages. He suggested that sites dominated by

fine chaff and weed seeds (presumed to be derived from final cleaning of partially cleaned spikelets), rather than large quantities of grain, could represent 'consumer' economies of predominantly pastoral groups. He suggested that the middle Iron Age assemblage from Claydon Pike was an example of this, as was Smith's Field. Both sites were located at the junction of the river floodplain and first gravel terraces. Subsequently the settlement at Mingies Ditch was also interpreted as a 'consumer' site (Jones 1993). Settlements such as Ashville and Mount Farm, located on the second (higher) terrace more suitable for arable cultivation, were grain rich and could be viewed as 'producer' settlements.

Van der Veen (1991; 1992) pointed out that the approaches of Hillman and M. Jones were in conflict and went some way to try to resolve the differences. She concluded that the 'producer and consumer' model was rather too simplistic and suggested at least four types of settlement. These were those engaging in subsistence production, production for a surplus, small consumer sites and large urban complexes. Van der Veen suggested that there would be a continuum between these types of site. Van der Veen's surplus production, typified by large, grain-rich assemblages, would look similar to assemblages thought to represent a producer settlement using M. Jones's interpretation (van der Veen 1991, fig 27.2 and 355, 357). Assemblages from small consumer sites however, could look very like production on a small scale.

A recent paper by Stevens (2003) summarises the discussion in some detail and the reader is referred to it for further information. Stevens reworked some of M. Jones original data from Ashville, Mount Farm, Mingies Ditch and the middle Iron Age samples from Claydon Pike. He also used data from Gravelly Guy (Moffett 1989; 2004) and Yarnton. He used a different approach to inter-

Table 3.8: Phase 1 taxon presence in x samples (no. of items)

		No. of samples	74
Crops			
<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> Schübl.	emmer type	Grain	1 (2)
<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i>	cf emmer wheat	Glume bases	1 (1)
<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>spelta</i> L.	spelt type	Grain	1 (1)
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L.	spelt wheat	Glume bases	11 (15)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat	Grain	25 (88)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat	Sprouted grain	1 (2)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	hulled wheat	Glume bases	43 (200)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	hulled wheat	Brittle rachis internode fragments	4 (8)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	free threshing wheat	Tough rachis internodes	1 (1)
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Wheat	Awn fragment	1 (1)
<i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp.	wheat/barley	Grain	1 (1)
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley	Straight grain	4 (6)
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley	Indeterminate grain	10 (13)
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	Barley	Internodes	5 (5)
cf <i>Avena</i> sp.	cf oats	Grain	2 (2)

Table 3.8: Phase 1 taxon presence (continued)

		No. of samples	74
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oats	Grain	4 (7)
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oats	Awn fragments	5 (5)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	Grain	32 (79)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	rachis fragments	1 (1)
Cereal sp.	cereal indet.	culm nodes	1 (1)
Wild species		habitat range	
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	Buttercups	G	1 (1)
Cruciferae	mustard family	V	2 (2)
<i>Brassica/ Sinapis</i> sp.	mustard, cabbage etc	D Da	2 (4)
Caryophyllaceae	campion family		11 (15)
<i>Stellaria media</i> agg.	Stitchwort	D Da	17 (27)
Cerastium sp.	Chickweed	D Da	3 (17)_
<i>Silene</i> sp.	Campion	V	2 (2)
cf. <i>Arenaria</i> sp.	cf. Sandwort	Da, bare ground	1 (1)
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot family		1 (1)
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Orache		1 (1)
cf. <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	vetch, tare	Da M G S W	1 (1)
<i>Medicago</i> cf. <i>lupulina</i> L.	cf black medick	G	3 (3)
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	Clover	V	1 (1)
<i>Trifolium</i> cf. <i>pratense</i> L.	red clover	G	2 (3)
Roseaceae	rose family		1 (2)
<i>Potentilla/Fragaria</i> sp.	tormentil /strawberry		2 (2)
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.	Tormentil	V	0
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	Bistort	V	10 (10)
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> agg.	Knotgrass	D, Da	1 (2)
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (A.) Löve	black bindweed	Da	4 (5)
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	sorrel, dock	Da G M S W	4 (5)
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> agg.	sheep's sorrel	Da G	6 (6)
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.	small nettle	D Da	1 (1)
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	stinging nettle	D, V	1 (1)
<i>Veronica</i> sp.	speedwell sp.	V	1 (1)
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp./ <i>Odontites verna</i>	eyebright, red bartsia	Da G	9 (15)
Labiatae	mint family		5 (5)
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	ribwort plantain	Da G	4 (4)
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.	field madder	D Da	3 (3)
<i>Galium</i> cf. <i>aparine</i> L.	Cleavers	Da V	10 (14)
Compositae	daisy family		2 (3)
cf. <i>Filago minima</i> (Sm.) Pers.	cf. slender cudweed	Da H	1 (1)
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> (L.) Koch	scentless mayweed	Da	2 (2)
<i>Artemisia</i> sp.	Mugwort	D Da	1 (1)
Cyperaceae	sedge family	A M G	1 (1)
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	spike rush	A M G	2 (3)
<i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i>	spike-rush	A M G	11 (15)
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge	V (mainly wet)	6 (7)
Gramineae	grass family		32 (53)
Gramineae culm node	grass family		3 (4)
Gramineae rachis fragments	grass family		2 (3)
<i>Festuca</i> sp.	Fescue	G V	17 (23)
<i>Festuca gigantea/pratensis</i>	Fescue	G V	2 (3)
cf. <i>Lolium perenne</i> L.	cf. perennial rye grass	G V	2 (2)
cf. <i>Poa</i> sp.	cf poa	G	1 (1)
<i>Poa</i> sp.	Poa	G	2 (3)
<i>Bromus</i> S. <i>Eubromus</i>	brome, chess	Da G	6 (15)
<i>Bromus</i> cf. <i>rigidus/sterilis</i>		Da G	1 (1)
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i> Sibth.			2 (2)

preting charred assemblages and also suggested that social organisation, including the availability of post-harvest and pre-storage labour, could have played a part in different storage practices, which in turn affect the composition of the charred assemblages. Stevens used two different methods to analyse the data from the sites. One of these (the percentage of large weed seeds from all classified seeds plotted against the percentage of weed seeds to grain, Stevens, 2003, fig 6) produced clear variations between the sites included in his study. The interpretation he proposed was that waste from a number of crop processing stages, including processing of spikelets, was present at Claydon Pike, with a similar situation for Abingdon, Yarnton, Gravelly Guy and Mingies Ditch. Stevens comments that different storage practices could also produce the observed pattern. In contrast, the assemblages from Ashville, Mount Farm and Danebury, were dominated by grain as opposed to weeds and of the weeds, large seeds in preference to small and intermediate-sized ones. This fitted the expected pattern from his model for waste produced from the processing of semi-cleaned spikelets.

The method of analysis described above has been applied to the data from each of the subsequent phases at Claydon Pike, and is presented in Digital section 4.5.

Invertebrate remains by Mark Robinson

The flots that had been taken from the middle Iron Age contexts for carbonised plant materials were also scanned for molluscs (Table 3.9). Although the molluscan assemblages from samples 153/CC/5 (Phase 1 / 2, Island 2) and 371/D/3 (Phase 1, Island 3) suggest that the deeper Iron Age ditches held water, waterlogged organic material did not survive in them, a result of 18th- and 19th-century drainage. The absence of waterlogged deposits from the middle Iron Age features limited the environmental evidence for this period.

Slum aquatic molluscs, particularly *Aplexa hypnorum*, *Lymnaea truncatula* and *L. peregra*, predominated in samples 371/D/3 and 153/CC/5. There was also an open-country faunal element including such dry-ground species as *Pupilla muscorum*, which probably reflects conditions on the islands during the middle Iron Age.

It is difficult to use the molluscan evidence to ascertain whether the islands were experiencing flooding during the middle Iron Age. Many of the flots from the samples taken for carbonised plant remains contained flowing water aquatic molluscs such as *Valvata piscinalis* and *Bithynia tentaculata*. However, they were normally encrusted with tufa and fragments of tufa were also present in the samples. These shells had almost certainly been derived from bands containing tufa fragments within the gravels themselves, which in turn had probably been reworked from even earlier

(Pleistocene) sediments. The only flowing water mollusc from samples 153/CC/5 and 371/D/3 was a single specimen of *Valvata cristata* which could have been derived from the gravel. Therefore not all the shells extracted from the flots were contemporaneous with the archaeological deposits. Many of the samples also contained shells of *Candidula gigaxii* and *Cerņuella virgata*, both of which are regarded as medieval introductions (Evans 1972, 179). Post-depositional contamination was also confirmed by the presence of modern seeds in most of the flots. Fortunately contamination was not found to be a major problem for the carbonised plant remains as there was not any post-Iron Age occupation at the Warrens Field site which would have resulted in intrusive carbonised remains.

The flot from sample 416 was taken from the earlier phase of middle Iron Age linear boundary 472, located at the edge of Island 3. It contained many specimens of *Carychium* sp., *Lymnaea truncatula*, *Anisus leucostoma*, *Vallonia pulchella* and *Trichia hispida* gp., along with rather fewer specimens of *Valvata cristata*, *V. piscinalis* and *Bithynia tentaculata*. These shells are not encrusted with tufa and are in better condition than the encrusted shells. This assemblage of terrestrial, amphibious and flowing water molluscs was very similar to the molluscan assemblages from the late Saxon/early medieval alluvium at Claydon Pike. Sample 416 would appear to indicate the limit of Iron Age flooding. However, it is possible that this sample

Table 3.9 Mollusca from the middle Iron Age settlement at Warrens Field

Middle Iron Age Mollusca	Minimum No. of individuals in sample		
	Context/sample	371	153
<i>Valvata cristata</i> (Müll.)		1	-
<i>Carychium</i> sp.		2	7
<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i> (L.)		-	32
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> (Müll.)		81	10
<i>L. peregra</i> (Müll.)		48	69
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.		7	17
<i>Succinea</i> or <i>Oxyloma</i> sp.		2	2
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.		4	3
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i> (Drap.)		-	1
<i>V. pygmaea</i> (Drap.)		3	1
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (L.)		4	9
<i>Vallonia pulchella</i> (Müll.)		1	2
<i>V. pygmaea</i> (Drap.)		1	2
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		8	18
<i>Limax</i> or <i>Deroceras</i> sp.		1	3
<i>Helicella itala</i> (L.)		-	3
<i>Trichia hispida</i> agg.		5	20
<i>Arianta</i> or <i>Cepaea</i> sp.		1	1
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.		-	1
Total		170	209

had been contaminated with the later alluvium. Alluvial sediments were not noted in any of the Iron Age features.

Phase 2 features at Warrens Field

A waterlogged sample was taken from isolated enclosure ditch 6 (E 1). The sample contained a single seed whose plant may represent dry calcareous grassland growing on the unoccupied gravel islands. This enclosure seems to have experienced wetter conditions than the Trench 13 enclosures in Longdoles Field during Phase 2.

Context 962 represents an unphased waterhole or sump between Islands 2 and 3. It contained many seeds of the plants of wet pasture. This floodplain waterhole appeared to be removed from areas of disturbance on the site.

DISCUSSION by Grace Perpetua Jones

The middle Iron Age settlement at Warrens Field was concentrated on three gravel islands on the first terrace of the River Thames, at the confluence of the Thames and the Coln (Fig. 3.1). Analysis of the pottery recovered from the site indicated that occupation may have spanned the whole of the middle Iron Age, although there appeared to be a focus towards the earlier part of the period. The pottery furthermore suggested temporal variation across the islands, with Island 3 the first to be occupied, and Island 1 the last. This pattern is also borne out in the Droitwich briquetage and animal bone data. Different phases of activity were also evident within each gravel island, as a number of the structures and enclosures were clearly intercutting. Unfortunately it has not been possible to recreate the sequence in which these structures were built, used and demolished, however a number of observations may be made on the basis of the stratigraphic relationships and ceramic fabrics.

Settlement organisation and development

Island 3 (Figs 3.1, 3.10)

Stratigraphically the maximum number of house sites in use at any one time on Island 3 would have been three or four, although in reality perhaps only one or two were standing at any given time. The island was probably therefore inhabited by one or two families or an extended family. For the most part new structures were built on fresh ground, possibly to leave the original building intact whilst the new structure was constructed, as was suggested at Mingies Ditch (Allen and Robinson, 1993, 89). Two structures on Island 3, S 17 and S 20, each had at least two structural phases and it is unknown whether the different phases of build on a single site were sequential, or if a period of time lapsed between them. The pottery from Island 3 did not clarify the phasing as 99% had been made from

a single fabric group, containing coarse Jurassic limestone and shell inclusions.

Structures 15 and 17 may have been the first houses to be constructed (Phase 1a). The entrances to the two buildings face into one another suggesting they were paired. Structure 17 at least then appears to have been demolished and cut through by linear boundary 373 (Phase 1b), although the stratigraphic relationship between the two features is uncertain. Structures 14 and 16 may belong to either of these phases, as may linear boundaries (hereafter LB) 451 and 472, which enclosed the northern part of the island. An entrance to this enclosure was created by a gap in LB 372. Linear boundary 373 may have formed a funnelled, restricted access into the enclosed area created by LB 451 and 372 or demarcated a boundary associated with one of the structures.

The settlement then undergoes quite a major change with the construction of Structure 20, blocking the break in LB 372 (Phase 1c). During the second phase of S 20 two enclosures were attached to the drip gully (Phase 1d), the south western enclosure utilising LB 372 for its north side. Once demolished, the site of Structure 20 and its enclosures is cut through by the redefinition of LB 372 (Phase 1e). The northern part of the island no longer appears to be enclosed, and LB 372 runs into the marshy area to the west of Island 3 rather than following the island's boundaries. Spatially and stratigraphically the only other features which may be contemporary with the recutting of the boundary are Structure 13, and the four-post feature identified within Structure 20. Both features may be associated with any of the phases on Island 3.

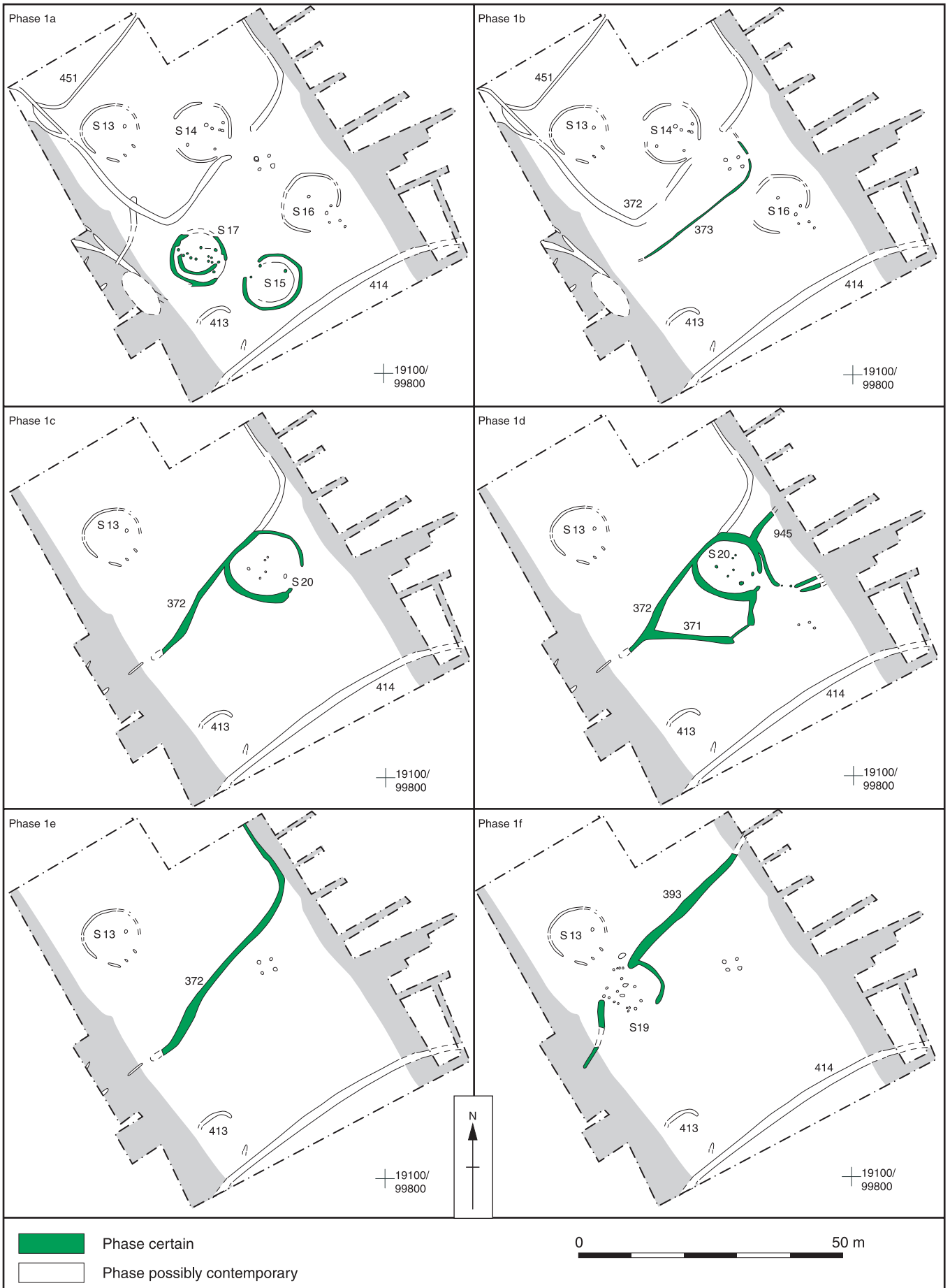
During the final phase of activity on the island Structure 19 was constructed and the linear boundary that traversed the island shifted approximately 10 m northward as LB 363 (Phase 1f). A break in the penannular gully to the north-west may have allowed access to both parts of the island divided by the boundary. Two structures were located in the salvage area to the north, however their relationship with the other features is unknown.

Island 2 (Figs 3.1, 3.3)

The settlement focus then appears to have shifted approximately 100 m to the south-east, to gravel Island 2. The organisation of the settlement on this island is again difficult to determine. With the exception of the central enclosure complex the features are mostly stratigraphically isolated, or in the case of the line of five penannular gullies revealed during stripping, stratigraphically indeterminate. Fortunately a wider range of pottery fabrics have been recorded from this island, allowing some estimation of the sequence of construction and abandonment.

The settlement focus initially appears to be with the eastern area of the island. Pottery from

Iron Age and Roman Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley



Structures 5, 6 and 8 all indicated an early focus. Insufficient quantities of pottery were recovered from Structures 4 and 12 for any estimation of their phase. A maximum of three of these structures could have been in use at any one time. A series of four enclosures ran parallel to the structures, bound to the west by a NE–SW boundary, LB 322. A number of the enclosures were clearly intercutting and a maximum of two may have been in use at any one time. Enclosure 9 appeared to be the earliest, succeeded by E 6, then E 7 and finally E 5. The succeeding phases of the structures and the enclosures all shift to fresh ground with only marginal areas of overlap. The pottery recovered from the enclosures indicate they may have remained in use throughout most of the occupation of Island 2, and the ditch that bound them to the west was redefined after they had been backfilled.

The structures west of the linear boundary are later than those to the east and are probably contemporary with the final recut of LB 322. Enclosure 4 had been recut on three occasions and appeared to contain a structure (S 11). It was contemporary with an east-west ditch that extended west from the enclosure; both features appeared to have been levelled out with gravel. No stratigraphic relationships were present between Structures 7, 9 and 10 to the north, however the pottery suggests Structure 9 was the latest. It appeared to be contemporary with a plot of land defined to the north (see Enclosures and linear boundaries below), and had been cut through by undated rectangular Structure 23.

Island 1 (Figs 3.1, 3.5)

The settlement then appears to have shifted 40 m to the south-east onto gravel Island 1. Here a large enclosure (E 2) was constructed around Structure 1 (see Pls 3.3-4), and two other structures were built. The pottery fabrics appeared to indicate that the debris recovered from Structure 1 was earlier in date than that recovered from the surrounding enclosure ditch. The pottery from Enclosure 2 was small and abraded, and mostly recovered from the uppermost fill, suggesting tertiary infilling comprising sherds that had been redeposited from elsewhere on the site, and therefore not representative of the enclosure's period of use. Alternatively Structure 1 may initially have been unenclosed, and the area around the building enclosed at a later date.

It has not been possible to ascertain if Structure 3 was contemporary with Structure 1 and Enclosure 2, or represented a later building. Structure 2 was the latest feature on the island, and the final building to be constructed during the middle Iron Age at the Warrens Field site.

Domestic structures (Fig. 3.11)

The Iron Age ground surface had been destroyed by ploughing and post-medieval drainage activity. As a result little remained of the actual house structures at Warrens Field; the identification of these houses rests on the presence of the penannular gullies that would have surrounded them, a pair of entrance postholes and often a clay-lined pit. Such features are seen on many sites in the region and characterise Iron Age roundhouses. Structure 7 (Island 2) was unique in having two foreshortened gullies positioned as if they formed the terminals of a south-east orientated gully. At Claydon Pike the penannular gully is unlikely to represent the foundation trench for the house, but instead would have been used to drain the structure, and probably also to collect the eaves drip. At least 23 houses were identified, two of which represent rebuilding on the same site (Fig. 3.11).

The walls of the structures were for the most part archaeologically invisible, although building foundations on the gravels need not have been substantial, and experimental archaeology by Peter Reynolds has 'emphasised that the foundations of Iron Age roundhouses need not penetrate the subsoil' (Allen *et al.* 1984). Mass walls of cob or turf would leave little or no trace in the archaeological record (Allen and Robinson 1993, 94; see Chapter 15 for a wider discussion). Very small quantities of structural clay demonstrating wattle impressions were recovered from a clay-lined pit within Structure 2, and it is possible that part of the unidentified bulk of fired clay from Claydon Pike may also have been structural.

Postholes were present in many of the structures, although for the most part these did not indicate the structural walls. The only example of post-ring construction from Claydon Pike was that of Structure 18, located in the salvage area to the north of the main settlement nucleus on Island 3. Here 12 postholes formed a circle *c* 7 m diameter, with two additional but larger postholes located 1.5 m away, forming a south-east orientated entrance. These projecting postholes may indicate that the structure had a porch, however it is more likely that an outer wall was attached of which no trace remains. In this case the posts recorded would have acted as support posts and created an aisle, with an outer wall attached to the projecting posts (Allen *et al.* 1984, 91). This would increase the floor to approximately 10 m diameter, significantly larger than the other Claydon Pike structures. This form of construction was categorised as 'building type 1' at Gravelly Guy, and of the seven examples recognised at the site, four are early Iron Age in date (Lambrick and Allen 2004).

Possible wall lines were also recognised in Structures 2 and 10. In S 10 a group of seven postholes

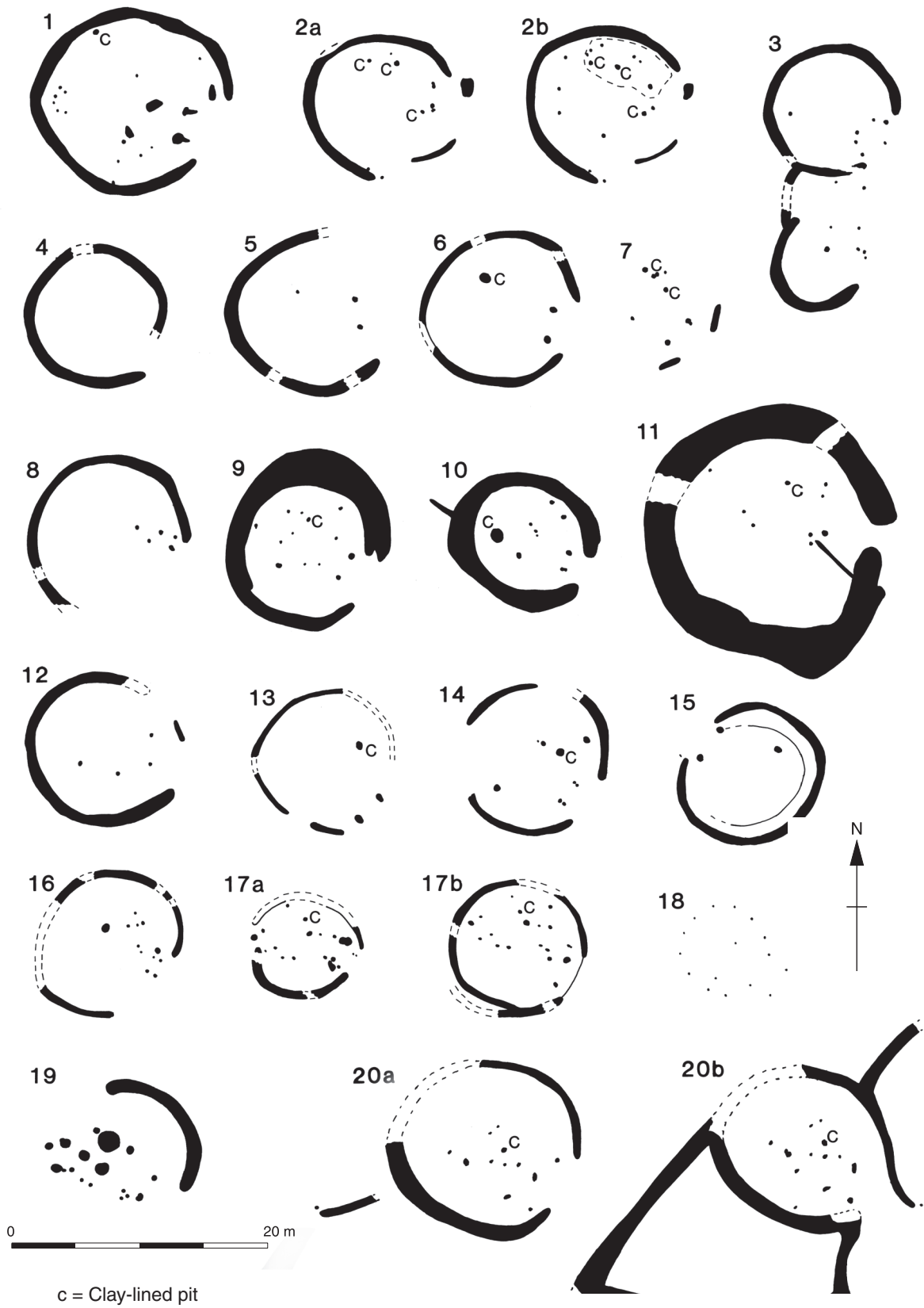


Fig. 3.11 Domestic structures from Warrens Field

formed an oval shape 6.5 m x 5 m, located 2 m behind the entrance posts. Although the posts would not have been substantial enough to take the weight of the roof, they may have acted in conjunction with a cob or turf mass wall which was connected to the entrance posts. The posts may then have acted as support posts or formed internal revetting. Oval structures are relatively rare in the Upper Thames Valley however one has been identified at Mingies Ditch (House 1). Here the structure was identified by posts bounding a visible darkened floor area. It would have been rounded at the front and back but with quite straight sides, 7 x 5.5 m internally (Allen and Robinson 1993, 95). Ten postholes within the Structure 2 gullies may have formed a circular structure 7 m in diameter, although curiously there are no obvious candidates for entrance posts. The centre of the structure thus formed would have been located to the north of the centre point of the surrounding gullies.

Structure 15, located on Island 3, exhibited the only example of a ring-groove. This slot ran concentric to the penannular gully on its inside. It survived only in the areas covered by a layer of Roman ploughsoil which afforded good preservation of the northern and eastern parts of the structure. This slot may indicate the base of a stake wall similar to House 5 at Mingies Ditch. It defined an area just over 8 m in diameter, similar to the sizes of stake-walled houses excavated at Danebury (Allen *et al.* 1984, 93). It is possible that many of the other houses at Warrens Field, Claydon Pike were also constructed in this way, however the evidence has not been preserved. Alternatively the slot may have held internal revetment for a mass wall, although the distance between the slot and the penannular gully is just under one metre and may have been a little narrow, as Lambrick and Robinson (1979) indicate that a mass wall would be at least 0.6–0.9 m wide at its base.

No examples of trench-built houses were identified, although traces of posts were noticed within a slot on the outer side of the penannular gully of Structure 1. If timbers had been set into the gully it would seem unlikely that they formed part of the actual structure as they would have been over 2 m from the entrance posts. As such their function is unknown. Central posts have been recognised in a number of domestic structures within the region such as Mingies Ditch and Gravelly Guy, however no examples were recorded at Claydon Pike. Evidence from Gravelly Guy suggests that the central post is seen more commonly in the early Iron Age rather than the middle Iron Age, and was commensurate with an increase in floor space (Lambrick and Allen 2004).

The internal diameter of the structure gullies was most commonly 10–10.5 m which is fairly typical of roundhouse gullies in the Upper Thames Valley. Structure 1 was the largest at Claydon Pike, 12.5 m diameter. At nearby Thornhill Farm middle Iron Age structure 207 was a comparable 13 m in

diameter. Most had a single entrance gap, S 19 and the first phase of S 17 had two opposing gaps, and S 14 had three gaps. These may have formed extra access points to the structure, possibly back doors as was noted for House 3 at Mingies Ditch (Allen and Robinson 1993, 116). A comparison for S 19 may also be drawn from Building E at Gravelly Guy which is aligned with a division within the settlement (Lambrick and Allen 2004).

Where measurable the distance between the gully terminals was mostly between 1.8 m and 4.5 m. The gap was sometimes much larger, and in Structures 12 and 13 had been partly filled by a short stretch of gully, presumably designed to restrict the entrance. A narrow groove or slot connects the penannular gully terminals of the second phase of S 17, and may have served to block the entranceway, either on a temporary or permanent basis. Structures 2 and 5 were completely open on one side.

The entranceways were defined by a pair of postholes, located 2 m apart (from post centre to post centre), usually set back up to 3 m from the terminals of the penannular gully, and up to 0.5 m into the gravel. On better preserved sites in the Upper Thames Valley the entrance posts are usually the deepest of the structural postholes (Allen and Robinson 1993, 95), and this may explain their widespread survival at Claydon Pike. The entrance posts nearly all demonstrated a characteristic double profile with shallow sockets to the outside. A shallower post therefore probably flanked the outer gully side of the posts. Burnt stone was present in many of the postholes, but was ubiquitous across the site. Structures 2 and 11 were unique in not possessing the distinctive entrance posts.

The location of the entrance postholes indicated that most of the structures were orientated towards the south-east. The exceptions to this were S 15, orientated to the north-west; S 5, open to the north-east; and S 6 and S 12 which face eastwards. The middle Iron Age houses at Thornhill Farm also face in an easterly direction (Jennings *et al.* 2004). In both multi-phase house sites S 17 and S 20 on Island 3, the earliest entranceways are located further towards the east than the later phases. Lambrick and Robinson (1979, 69) suggest that many Iron Age houses face in a direction between the east and the south as this is the position that offers most shelter from the prevailing wind. Hingley and Miles (1984, 63) further suggested that this orientation may have maximised daylight for activities carried out within the structure. More recently authors such as Oswald (1997) have related the east to south-east orientation of so many Iron Age structures to 'symbolic or ritual considerations' (Oswald 1997, 87).

Clay-lined pits were recorded in many of the roundhouses with the exception of the eastern structures on Island 2, although this is probably a result of the nature of salvage excavation in this area rather than a genuine absence. This class of feature was similarly positioned in almost all of the struc-

tures, immediately north-west, north, north-east or east of the centre of the structures. Burnt limestone was commonly found in the clay-lined pits, however finds of domestic refuse were rare, usually amounting to only a small number of pottery sherds or animal bones. Pits in S 7 and S 10 were unique in that both contained saddle quern material (Fig. 3.9, no. 1). Their function is unclear, Allen *et al.* (1984, 94) have suggested they may have been used in cooking or acted as water containers. The presence of saddle quern material in two of the pits may be significant and relate to the function of the features or indicate purposeful discard of the querns. Clay-lined pits are relatively rare in the region, however parallels have been identified at Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen 2004). Very little evidence remained of actual hearths, with the exception of three located in Structure 1. Context 90 was the largest and in part crossed the conjectured wall line. It had heavily burnt clay on the north and south sides and may represent an oven. Context 47 was intensely burnt down one side.

Pits that were not clay-lined were present in many of the structures, however their function is unknown. Pits in S 2 and S 15 sharply contrasted with the profile of the clay-lined pits and had steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. They did not contain domestic refuse, and it would seem unlikely that they were used for storage due to the height of the water table. One pit in S 2 was unique as it contained part of a disarticulated cattle skeleton, represented predominantly by foot bones. The course of the projected wall line suggests that the pit was located immediately outside the structure, however this cannot be confirmed.

In Structures 1, 9, 16, 17 and 19 small groups of postholes appeared to cluster behind the entrance posts, sometimes forming short lines of two or three posts. Similar arrangements of postholes have been seen within houses at Mingies Ditch, and have there been identified as some form of internal partition or feature (Allen and Robinson 1993, 43).

Floor surfaces and occupation layers had not survived at Claydon Pike, although a spread of limestone rubble within the area defined by the Structure 2 gullies may have formed a cobbled floor contemporary with the second phase of gully. This lack of floor surfaces, and the general poor preservation of features within the structures has limited the evidence for the activities carried out within them. Hingley (1990b) proposed that within a roundhouse structure there was a distinction 'between a central 'public' space and a peripheral 'private' space'. Oswald (1997, 93) drew on ethnographic examples of the use of space in circular houses and found it often to be structured, acting on factors such as gender concerns. Fitzpatrick (1997, 77) stated that distinctions of light/dark and right/left appear to occur in early Iron Age houses in the Wessex region. The only suggestion of the use of space at Claydon Pike is the presence and positioning of the clay-lined pits which for the most

part occur within a defined range, usually somewhere on an arc just north of centre (see above). This may indicate that the interior of the Claydon Pike houses were ordered according to certain principals of space, and the pits would fall into Hingley's central public space (1990b).

Four-post structures

To the south-west of the enclosure group on Island 2 a four-post structure (S 22) was created by two pairs of postholes joined by a slack V-shaped gully (Fig. 3.3). Four large post pits located within Structure 20 may also form an independent four-post structure, however this could not be confirmed (Fig. 3.2). Four-post structures are not widely seen in the Upper Thames Valley during the Iron Age, however significant numbers have been identified at Shorncote (Brossler *et al.* 2002), Yarnton (Hey and Timby forthcoming) and Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen 2004). Examples have also been excavated at some of the lower lying first terrace and floodplain sites such as Mingies Ditch (Allen and Robinson 1993). The function of such structures is unknown, however some form of above ground storage would be advantageous on the lower lying sites (see discussion, Chapter 15). A small number of the four-post structures identified at Gravelly Guy were set within buildings, and like the S 20 example from Claydon Pike, are not aligned with the axis of the building. It was suggested that this may be coincidental, but that similar instances had also been recorded within the region (Lambrick and Allen 2004). At Groundwell Farm a four-post structure was identified within House 2 and was set diagonally to the entrance of the building. It has here been identified as a support structure for the roundhouse (Gingell 1982, 41-4).

Enclosures and linear boundaries

The middle Iron Age settlement at Claydon Pike was open, although linear boundaries divided the landscape and provided drainage. On Island 3, LB 372 and LB 451 created an enclosed area *c* 28 m x 37 m (1000 m²; Fig. 3.2). From the north-east area the two ditches turn to run parallel to each other and may have created a dry track onto the island.

Ditched enclosures were also attached to the second phase of penannular gully defining Structure 20 (Fig. 3.10). They enclosed an area of 14 m x 7 m to the north-east of the structure, and an estimated area of 11 m x 11 m to the south-west. Where the structure gully joined the enclosure ditches it became steeper and deeper, possibly to create a sump. The enclosure ditches were far more substantial than the house gullies, and this may indicate that they were designed to be animal-proof (see Chapter 15). They may have been reinforced by some form of above ground boundary such as a hedge. The entrance to the south-western enclosure had been blocked at some point by a gully, however

whether this represented a temporary or permanent block is unknown, it may have been designed to stop animals wandering in during a period of disuse. Two small postholes in the entranceway of the north-eastern enclosure suggest a gate structure to control access to the enclosed area.

The enclosed areas created by LB 372 and 451, and the enclosures attached to Structure 20, represent at least two of the phases of activity on Island 3, each associated with at least one domestic structure. They were probably used in stock management strategies, possibly for herding cattle, milking or winter corralling. Quantities of domestic finds were recorded in the south-western enclosure ditch, the largest quantity being recovered from the terminus adjacent to the structure entrance. This may represent cleaning out of debris from the structure itself, however there are also indications of more specific patterns of rubbish disposal (see Patterns of discard below).

The Island 3 enclosed areas appear to be related to a pastoral function, however the function of the enclosures on Island 2 is less clear as most contain domestic debris and a number of internal features, and as such share similarities with the domestic structures. There is also no reason why they may not have been used for a number of purposes.

The central area of Island 2 was occupied by four enclosures, bounded to the west by a NE-SW orientated boundary ditch (Fig. 3.4). A 20 m gap between the enclosures and the structures to the east may well indicate a yard area (Fig. 3.3). The linear boundary ditch appeared to provide the main axis of a series of small plots that were integrated into the settlement plan (Fig. 3.1). The plot to the east of the boundary is physically linked to Structure 5, and spatially appears to be associated with Enclosure 6, the most northerly of the enclosure group, which may have controlled access to it. The second plot ran to the west of the linear boundary, stopping immediately short of Structure 9 (Fig. 3.3). These plots or paddocks may have been used to control grazing and their integration into the settlement plan indicates a considerable degree of spatial organisation by the inhabitants of Warrens Field.

The south-eastern terminal of the Enclosure 6 ditch formed a metre deep sump containing large quantities of occupation debris including a nearly complete large ceramic vessel. The animal bone assemblage suggested a dominance of cattle processing in this enclosure. Internal features comprised short stretches of gully, three clay-lined pits and eight postholes. A domestic function for the enclosure cannot therefore be ruled out, as there are a number of parallels with the more definite house structures.

Enclosure 6 was interleaved between the two phases of enclosure to the immediate south, E 5 and E 7 (Fig. 3.4). Domestic refuse was again recovered from each, and internal features recorded. The interpretation of Enclosure 4 is also problematic for

similar reasons (Fig. 3.3). The ditch is penannular in form, contained reasonable quantities of occupation debris and enclosed several postholes and a clay-lined pit. It is suggested that in this case the ditch may have surrounded a structure (S 11) whose entrance posts were removed by post-medieval truncation in this area, however this could not be confirmed. An east-west orientated ditch ran west from Enclosure 4 for c 40 m into the marshy area, and may have been used as a division in the landscape, or for drainage.

Enclosure 2, located on Island 1, was the largest enclosure at the Warrens Field site (Fig. 3.5). It enclosed Structure 1, but swelled out on the south-eastern side, presumably to encompass activity around the entranceway to the structure. The enclosure ditch contained a large quantity of occupation debris, which appeared to be redeposited from elsewhere on the site during this phase.

Economy and material culture

Economy and environment

The environmental evidence for the conditions at Claydon Pike during the middle Iron Age is limited. Eighteenth- and 19th-century drainage ditches had greatly affected the site, and resulted in a complete lack of waterlogged deposits from this phase. A sample from one of the enclosure ditches associated with Structure 20 suggested an open-country faunal element, and indicated that the deeper ditches did hold water, a factor also recognised at Thornhill Farm during this period (Jennings *et al.* 2004). A sample taken from linear boundary 372 at the point where it borders the western side of Island 3 appears to indicate the limit of flooding during this period, and suggests that the drainage ditches were effective in keeping the island dry (Fig. 3.2).

The charred plant assemblages are very small and plant macrofossil concentrations low. There is no evidence that the inhabitants of the site were producing cereals, as the assemblages are dominated by crop processing waste rather than actual grain. They consist predominantly of spelt wheat, with emmer and bread wheat forming minor components of the bread crop, quite typical for middle Iron Age sites in the region (see Chapters 14 and 15). Barley was also present, but poorly preserved. The majority of the charred grains are associated with arable land or grassland, although some live in more varied habitats. The most numerous weed seeds were associated with arable or disturbed conditions. Cleavers, regarded as a weed of winter sown cereals was present, and grassland taxa were also numerous. The waterlogged macroscopic plant remains at Thornhill Farm also indicate grassland and dung-enriched disturbed soil, and therefore a pastoral interpretation may be suggested for both sites.

The animal bone offers a more detailed picture of the economy, in spite of its poor preservation and

the low identification rate (22 %). The assemblage consists almost exclusively of domesticates, cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig and dog, with only one wild species represented, a buzzard or kite. This range of taxa is seen across sites in Southern Britain during the Iron Age (see Ingrem, Chapter 14). At Claydon Pike there appears to be a focus on cattle husbandry, although sheep/goat were also an important part of the economy.

The cull patterns suggest cattle and caprines were kept primarily for their meat, but also secondary products such as dairy and wool (see Sykes above). Pig was present in low numbers, and would have been kept purely for meat. No foetal or neonatal animals were identified, a factor common to many Iron Age sites. This may be a result of poor preservation conditions, or may indicate 'a transhumance strategy, whereby lambing and calving took place at a time of year when animals were grazing away from the settlement' (see Sykes above). Similarly no remains were identified of animals that had reached old age.

Horse is the third best represented taxon and is mostly represented by mature animals. Horses were probably managed predominately as draught animals and there is no evidence they were used for meat, although this possibility cannot be ruled out. At least one sub-adult specimen was recovered suggesting the possibility horses were raised on the site. Juvenile horse remains have been recovered in small numbers from a number of other sites in the Upper Thames Valley (see Chapter 14).

Material remains

The pottery recovered from the middle Iron Age settlement at Warrens Field, Claydon Pike was handmade and characteristic of pottery from sites in the Upper Thames Valley at this time (see Chapter 15). The vast majority of the vessels had been constructed from a fabric paste containing coarse calcareous inclusions which were naturally occurring in the clay. This paste would have been available locally in the Oxford Clay, Cornbrash and Forest Marble deposits, located between 1–4 km from the settlement (Fig. 1.3). No investment in equipment was identified at the site, or specific areas associated with potting. It is proposed that this activity was carried out on a part-time domestic basis at the level of household production (after Peacock 1982). Ethnographic studies indicate that at the household level pottery is made and organised by women (Skibo 1995, 83; Woodward and Hill 2002, 83). An apparent lack of drying facilities and kilns may suggest that production was affected by seasonality. Furthermore, the ground would be that much harder in winter which would make digging for clay more difficult. Early spring and late autumn are thought to be optimal times when vegetation would be unlikely to obscure deposits (DeRoche 1997, 21). Pottery making would also be scheduled to avoid conflict with subsistence activities (Arnold

1985), particularly those associated with the pastoral base of the site.

During the later phase of the settlement a sandy paste begins to be used for the manufacture of vessels, a chronological trend identified throughout the region (see Jones above). Sandy clays were again available locally, although grains of glauconite in some of the fabrics indicate a Greensand source for a number of vessels. The nearest Greensand source is 14 km away and it is more likely that finished vessels were being brought in from the source area, rather than the raw materials being transported. Why a shift to sandy fabrics from calcareous fabrics occurred on such a wide regional basis is unknown. It may have been that the sandy fabrics were easier to work, or the change may have been triggered by stylistic and aesthetic reasons. The change in fabric tends to equate to changing forms throughout the region, and an increase in globular vessels and bowl forms. These vessels may have been used as serving vessels or eating bowls at social occasions and indicate the elaboration of subsistence traditions.

Pottery in Malvernian fabrics (Group A and B1) were present on the site in very small quantities, and were part of a regional distribution network. They are often seen on sites with fragments of Droitwich briquetage salt containers, a small quantity of which was recovered from the Warrens Field site. Peacock (1968) identified the source of the Group A fabric as the Malvern Hills area of Worcestershire, work by Morris (1983) has suggested a source in the Woolhope Hills, Hertfordshire for the B1 fabric. Both sources are 60–65 km from Claydon Pike. The pottery was initially produced and locally distributed in the 5th–4th centuries BC, the distribution area widening in the 3rd–1st centuries BC (see Morris above). At Claydon Pike the Malvernian pottery was not recorded on the earliest focus of settlement, Island 3, but is present on both Islands 1 and 2. The briquetage is evidence that salt was being brought to the site and was recorded from each island (see Chapter 15). Salt container material has also been identified at Mingies Ditch and Watkins Farm, but not at Ashville, Mount Farm or Farmoor. At Thornhill Farm only two pieces of briquetage were identified, plus three sherds of Palaeozoic limestone-tempered pottery, and two very small sherds of Malvernian rock-tempered ware. This would suggest that both sites were at the edge of the distribution network. Curiously at Thornhill Farm 166 very fragmentary sherds of coarse Malvernian rock-tempered pottery were recovered, which may indicate links with an earlier facet of the industry (Timby 2004).

The worked stone from the site is predominantly querns or quern material. Saddle querns were most commonly used and at least two were recovered, plus fragments from three rubbers. A fragment of rotary quern was also discovered. The querns were recovered from all three islands, although curiously the rotary quern was recovered from context 413 on Island 3, a stretch of curving gully truncated by

Roman field boundary 377 on the west of the island. Its function is unknown, but may have formed part of a structure of which little has survived. It is presumed to be contemporary with the settlement on Island 3 (Fig. 3.9, no. 3), although no pottery was recovered from its fill. If this is the case it represents an early use of this technology, although saddle querns continued in use on Island 1 (see Roe above). Five saddle querns were identified at nearby Thornhill Farm, although they were recovered from un-dated or early Roman contexts. The saddle quern materials include Greensand, quartz sandstone and a variety of Old Red Sandstone and are therefore comparable to the Claydon Pike materials (Shaffrey 2004).

Fragments from five fired clay triangular loomweights were recovered from across the site, and suggests that weaving was carried out at Claydon Pike. They came from Structure 17 on Island 3, Enclosure 4 on Island 2 and Structures 2 and 3 on Island 1. However there was no evidence for other crafts such as leather-working or weaving.

Patterns of discard

Many of the penannular gullies that surrounded structures in the Upper Thames Valley contained quantities of occupation debris (see Chapter 15). Claydon Pike is no exception and finds were recovered from all structures with the exception of S 13 on Island 3 (Fig. 3.2). This may indicate that the building was not used for domestic activities and instead may have been used for storage or to pen animals. Its location within the enclosed area created by linear boundaries 372 and 451 may be significant, however the building was stratigraphically isolated and may have been used at any stage in the life of the settlement on Island 3. The quantity of finds in the other structure gullies varies, with some of the largest quantities of pottery and animal bone being recovered from Enclosure 2 on Island 1 (Fig. 3.5) and Enclosure 6 on Island 2 (Fig. 3.3). By far the largest assemblage was recovered from the south-western enclosure attached to Structure 20 which contained 14.5 kg of pottery and 477 animal bone fragments (Fig. 3.2).

During excavation it was noted that the occupation debris tended to be concentrated in the gully and ditch terminals, a phenomenon seen on many other sites in the region including Thornhill Farm (see Chapter 15). Hill's study of discard patterns in the Wessex region has concluded that 'all human activities are symbolically structured, drawing on and reproducing cultural norms and structures' (Hill 1995, 95-6) and this included refuse strategies. On the sites he analysed, pit and ditch deposits were laid down according to rules of order, and the terminal deposits were structured. Unfortunately this level of analysis has not been possible at Claydon Pike as the animal bone has been recorded at the feature level only. However it has been possible to make some overall observations about the distribution of pottery.

Ten features had apparent concentrations of pottery in the ditch terminals. Within the structure gullies this concentration was seen to the left of the door (looking out from the structure) in Structures 6, 15, 17 and 20, and on the right-hand side of Structures 1 and 10. Within Enclosures 4 and 6 this concentration was located in the eastern ditch terminals. The debris from the south-western enclosure of S 20 was concentrated at the terminal of 371 (where it meets LB 372), and in the sump located at the junction of ditch 425 and structure gully 369.

The largest and most complete ceramic vessels recovered from the Warrens Field site were all located in the gully or ditch terminals. The largest vessel (Fig. 3.8, no.15), with a diameter of 380 mm and height of 360 mm, was recovered from the terminus of S 20 enclosure ditch 425 on Island 3, at the point where it meets the structure gully (Fig. 3.2). The next largest was 36 cm diameter and located in the eastern terminal of the Enclosure 6 ditch on Island 2 (Fig. 3.3). Both vessels showed evidence of use in cooking or heating processes. Such large vessels, the former with a capacity of 30 litres when full, suggest the preparation of food for a communal meal. Both vessels exhibited above average preservation, the mean sherd weight (MSW) recorded from the terminal of ditch 425 was 35.4 g (the greatest of any feature from Warrens Field), and 22.2 g from the terminal of Enclosure 6. These are significantly above average for the site (overall MSW 11.6 g), and suggest the sherds may have been curated and deposited with some care, although it should also be recognised that large vessels are prone to breaking into larger pieces than smaller vessels. A large quantity of animal bone was also recovered from ditch 425, totalling 281 fragments, although only 22% were identifiable. Identification rates from Enclosure 6 were rather better with 54% of the 105 fragments classified as indeterminate. This enclosure showed a dominance of cattle bones. A nearly complete vessel was also recovered from the eastern terminal of Structure 6. It was 340 mm in diameter and 350 mm high, with a capacity of approximately 24 litres. This vessel was again represented by very large sherds, with a MSW of 32.3 g.

For the most part the remaining structures and enclosures on Islands 3 and 2 have mean sherd weights that represent the site average, the exception being Enclosure 4 which was slightly higher (Fig. 3.3). A completely different situation was recorded from Island 1 where the mean sherd weight of all features is consistently lower than the site average. This is reflected in the animal bone as the identification rates on Island 1 are lower than those of Islands 3 and 2. This would suggest a different treatment of waste, perhaps collected in one area and used in the later infilling of features. At any rate it seems to be redeposited. However, a nearly complete vessel was recovered from very close to the southern terminal of the Structure 1 gully. The vessel had a diameter of 280 mm and

height of 300 mm, the capacity was 15 litres. Unlike the other nearly complete large vessels recovered, this example was in poor condition, with a mean sherd weight of 8.6 g. During excavation it was recorded that the vessel appeared to have been deposited upside down, and the base had broken inwards. Stone was noted around and below it.

Placed animal bone deposits

A pit within Structure 2 on Island 1 (Fig. 3.5) and a ditch on the eastern side of Trench 14 on Island 3 (Fig. 3.2) contained structured deposits of cattle and horse respectively. The phasing of the ditch is uncer-

tain and it may belong to the late Iron Age use of the area. Both deposits consisted predominantly of foot bones with some evidence for the presence of head elements. The presence of such specific body parts suggests disarticulation of the skeleton must have occurred. Although anatomical representation is indicative of primary butchery waste, the superior condition of the bones suggests they were treated differently to waste from day-to-day practices. Hill (1995, 28) has suggested that unusual deposits of well-preserved bone at a number of Wessex sites including Old Down Farm and Winnall Down may be evidence of a feast.