

Chapter 9: Artefactual Evidence from the Area of White Horse Hill

COPPER ALLOY

Coins

by Paul Booth and Gilbert Oteyo

Sixty-three late Roman coins were found during the 1994–5 excavations in the interior of Uffington Castle, 32 in 1994 and 31 in 1995, together with two 20th-century coins, one found in each year. These last were a 1932 sixpence of George V and a 1940 halfpenny of George VI (respectively sf 555 from context 7005 and sf 452 from context 6500). All the Roman coins were of copper alloy and were generally in poor condition. They were cleaned, stabilised and initially reported on by G Oteyo at the Institute of Archaeology, and a detailed description of their condition is contained in the conservation archive. The coins were for the most part imperfectly patinated, many were quite deeply corroded and brittle, some appeared to be quite worn and a few were broken, although most of these characteristics are not detailed in the catalogue. It was noted that the coins from the 1994 excavation were generally in even poorer condition than those found in 1995. These factors made precise identification very difficult in many cases, and while the assemblage appears to be fairly homogeneous in character, with a striking emphasis on issues of the late 4th century, some individual identifications are fairly tentative.

The identifications are largely based on the reverse types. In Table 9.1 these are given in upper case where part of the legend as well as the figure type survived, and in lower case where only the figure type could be seen. For those coins where only 'Victory' has been recorded, identification of the type as *Victoria Auggg* is likely but other types cannot be ruled out. The condition of the coins precludes any attempt to quantify the proportion of irregular issues amongst the 4th-century material. Only very rarely could specific identification references be given.

Context

The coins were distributed in features and deposits in eight excavation trenches spread across the interior of the hillfort. The majority, however, were concentrated in the western half of the site. Twenty coins came from a single context (11505), the fill of a hearth or oven in trench H13. There is no clear significance in the contexts from which the other coins derived and many were poorly stratified in ploughsoil and similar deposits. The breakdown of coins by trench is given in Table 9.2.

Chronology and function

The coin list begins with a few late 3rd-century pieces, but appears to be dominated by issues of the later 4th century. A minimum of 38 coins were assigned to the latest issue period (Reece period 21), dated AD 388–402 (Reece 1991, 1) with a further 16 or 17 thought to be probably of the same date. The overall consistency of the material strengthens the case for seeing the unidentified coins as contemporary with the majority of the rest of the assemblage and in all probability assignable to the period AD 388–402. This gives a potential maximum of 55, or 87.3% of the total coins, in this period. In addition, one and possibly two other coins were assigned to the immediately preceding (and usually poorly represented) period 378–388. This pattern marks a complete contrast with that normally seen on Romano-British rural and other sites in general (*cf eg* Reece 1991; 1995) nor are there parallels within the region. So, for example, at Dorchester-on-Thames, which has an unusually high representation of coins of the House of Theodosius, these still only amount to roughly 25% of the assemblage of 105 coins (Reece 1991, 34; *cf* Reece and King 1984) and at Alchester such issues constitute 3.6% of 359 identifiable coins from the 1991 excavations (Darwish 2001), though two smaller groups from Alchester (from surface collection) have representations (32% and 19%) closer to the Dorchester level (Reece 1991, 33). At nearby Wantage, 4 of the 49 identifiable Roman coins were of the House of Theodosius, with a further one of Magnus Maximus (Guest 1996). On rural sites within the region, with smaller coin lists, the proportion of late 4th-century issues is usually rather less and in many cases they are missing altogether. For example, a group of 18 coins from Rams Hill, only *c* 1.5 km to the east, closed with six issues of the House of Valentinian (Bradley and Ellison 1975, 136).

The possibility that the coins represent an unusual functional group, associated, for example, with a religious site, was considered. Relevant comparanda have recently been discussed by Boon (1994) in the context of Lowbury Hill, some 25 km to the east, following on from Davies' (1985) reassessment of material from the 1913–14 excavations there. This analysis shows conclusively that in such sites where coins of the House of Theodosius are common they are nevertheless almost always outnumbered (often heavily) by issues of the House of Valentinian (Boon 1994, 176). On this basis an interpretation of the White Horse Hill coins as potential votive material or in some other way indicative of a ritual site cannot be sustained.

Close parallels for the composition of this assemblage are, however, found in late Roman hoard

material. Romano-British hoards terminating at the end of the 4th century and later have been reviewed recently (Guest 1997). A significant number of bronze hoards of this period (defined by Guest as group 2 and 3 bronze hoards) are seen to contain respectively up to 80% and above 80% of coins dated AD 383–402, with the suggestion that group 3 hoards, which concentrate particularly in south-eastern England, might be later (*ibid.*, 414). Otherwise the differences between group 2 and group 3 late bronze hoards are slight. A local example of such a hoard is hoard A from Dorchester-on-Thames, found in 1962, consisting of 43 coins of which 26 were of the *Victoria Auggg* and *Salus Reipublicae* types dominant at White Horse Hill, and a further 12 were described as ‘reverses illegible; all by module and head, where visible, House of Theodosius’ (Reece 1984, 132). This constitutes a very close parallel for the White Horse Hill assemblage. In view of this and the other comparable hoard material from further afield, the present assemblage seems likely to have derived from a hoard. The relatively widespread distribution of the latest coins across the site would tend to argue against this, though it might indicate that there was more than one hoard of the same date, but the numismatic case appears to be overwhelming.

The occurrence of 20 coins in one feature in trench H13 may indicate one source for the hoard(s), but the reason for dispersal of the remainder of the material, if this is what happened, remains unknown. It is, of course, uncertain which of the earlier coins from the site should be seen as associated with the hoard. Taken together, however, the assemblage produces a plausible profile in terms of either group 2 or 3 late bronze hoards. Given the condition of the present material it may be unwise to press attribution to one or the other group too closely, but if all the probable and possible Period 20 and 21 pieces are included they amount to 90.5% of the total coins from the site, which would place the hoard firmly in group 3 and make it the most westerly hoard of this type (*cf* Guest 1997, 423). Since all the early coins come from trenches which also produced reasonable quantities of the late pieces, it may be that the entire collection was originally associated. This would at least help to explain the absence of coins of periods 17 and 19 (330–348 and 364–378) which would otherwise be expected to have been more common if the assemblage had included ‘normal’ casual loss material as well as hoard material.

Broadly comparable bronze hoards within the region include not only the Dorchester example, but also one from Kiddington, Oxon (Sutherland 1936) and two from Cirencester (Kent 1994, cxxxv). A small hoard dated to the early 5th century was associated with a burial at nearby Rams Hill, but this consisted of eight silver siliquae (one plated) and a single bronze coin (Sutherland 1940; Kent 1994, clxxvii). This is of interest for its proximity rather than its comparable character. The White Horse Hill material thus fits into an already observed regional pattern.

The exact date of deposition of the probable hoard is uncertain. Despite the general attribution of the principal issues to the period AD 388–402, the *Victoria Auggg* type, produced in the Gaulish mints, was not struck after AD 395, while *Salus Reipublicae* continued to be struck in Italy, particularly at Rome, until AD 402 (Kent 1994, lxxxvi). Hoards dating much after AD 395 would be expected to show a higher proportion of *Salus* issues than hoards before this date (*ibid.*). In the present assemblage these coins are in the minority – with 9 possible examples as opposed to some 20 *Victoria* issues, and a further 8 coins probably with a victory type, most of which are likely to have been *Victoria* rather than *Salus*. On this basis, the final composition of the assemblage need not have taken place much after AD 395, though deposition could have followed at a later date.

Copper alloy objects

by Antonia Craster and Ian Scott

The hillfort interior (Trenches H1–3)

Ten copper alloy objects were recovered from these contexts. Four objects were modern and from the topsoil, and included three cartridge cases and a coin. Three fragments of copper alloy sheet which cannot be dated were found just beneath topsoil. Three remaining objects are probably Romano-British in date. A domed disc or harness boss (sf 404) was found beneath the topsoil (6001) and a roset or armlet (sf 438, Fig. 9.1.2) was found in material (7004) eroded from the rampart. It is of 3rd- to 4th-century date (Crummy 1983, 38–40, fig. 43, no 1659). The brooch fragment is of Romano-British type and (sf 451, Fig. 9.1.3) was found in the body of the rampart (7001). It had been made into a punch or point, with the catch plate rolled to form a handle.

Other contexts

Within other trenches in the hillfort interior (H6, 7, 9, 10, 13), ten copper alloy objects were found, including three objects of post-medieval date from topsoil. The remaining pieces cannot be dated closely on typological grounds, and include fragments of copper alloy sheet and wire. In the linear ditch a well preserved copper alloy brooch of mixed styles (sf 2, Fig. 9.1.1) was found, but was unstratified. This is possibly of a form transitional between La Tène III and Colchester styles. A flat button of modern date was found in the turf in trench 3 of the White Horse, and two modern cartridge cases came from the topsoil of the round barrow.

Catalogue of illustrated objects

Figure 9.1

- 1 Brooch of mixed styles, open rectangular catch plate of La Tène III style, but contradicted by external cord, possibly a form transitional between La Tène III and

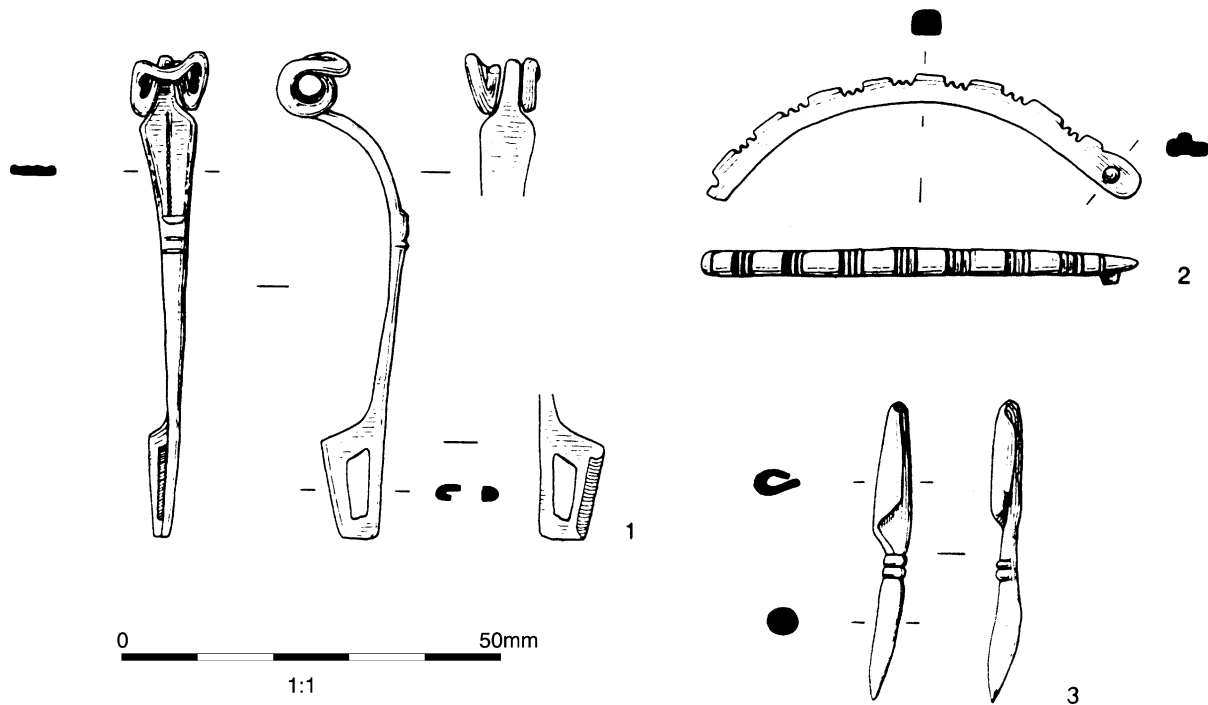


Figure 9.1 Romano-British copper alloy finds: 1) brooch, 2) armlet, 3) brooch fragment.

Colchester, decoration on flattened upper section of bow comprised a single punched line down the centre and raised edges, above a small cross-rib or collar, perhaps from curled catch plate of La Tène II type, length 65 mm, unstratified, sf 2

- 2 Armlet, crenellated with tothing between crenellations, 3rd to 4th century, fragment only, a simple lap joint fixed with a single iron rivet, length 58 mm, 7004, sf 438
- 3 Pointer formed from the foot and bow of a Romano-British brooch, with a solid catch plate rolled to form a handle, base of bow with cross rib above catch plate, end sharpened to a point, length 39 mm, 7001, sf 451

LEAD OBJECTS

by Antonia Craster and Ian Scott

Nine lead objects were found in the excavations, including pieces of strip, sheet and two discs. These came from trenches in the hillfort ramparts (R1) and the hillfort interior (H1, 2 and 4: H10–12). Unfortunately none of the pieces is identifiable to function or is closely datable.

IRON OBJECTS

by Kathryn Thomas and Ian Scott

A total of 287 iron objects and fragments were recovered during the excavations. The majority of the finds are nails and miscellaneous iron fragments. Full details and description of the artefacts and their location can be found in the site archive. The ironwork assemblage is small and predominantly comprises recent objects and nails, and is

mostly derived from topsoil or late deposits. The most notable recent object is the anti-tank shell from the excavations in the hillfort interior (trenches H1–3). There are some identifiable pieces of possible Romano-British date, such as a spud (Fig. 9.2.2) for chopping vegetation or cleaning tools (Manning 1985, 49, pl. 20, F17; Scott 1979, 31, fig. 13, 60), and the hobnails, boot cleats and a rivet (Fig. 9.2.4). The majority of the nails are handmade but cannot be closely dated. A hinge point (Fig. 9.2.3) may be of Saxon or medieval date (Fairbrother 1990).

Catalogue of illustrated finds

Figure 9.2

- 1 Object with a long strip folded to make a slot, terminating in a loop and the second piece, attached, terminates in a leaf-shaped point, length c 250 mm, unknown purpose, hillfort interior, trench H13, possible Romano-British corndrier 11505, sf 1468
- 2 Spud, with much of open socket missing, length 70 mm, linear ditch trench 1, possibly Roman, 104, sf 1
- 3 Hinge point, comprising attached plate and angle spike, length 80 mm, possibly Saxon or medieval, round barrow, 3001, sf 303
- 4 Rivet, thick circular section, flat head, length 24 mm, possibly Roman, hillfort interior, 6501, sf 520

SLAG-LIKE MATERIAL

by Chris Salter

Most of the material examined was natural – various ironstone deposits. The only material possibly

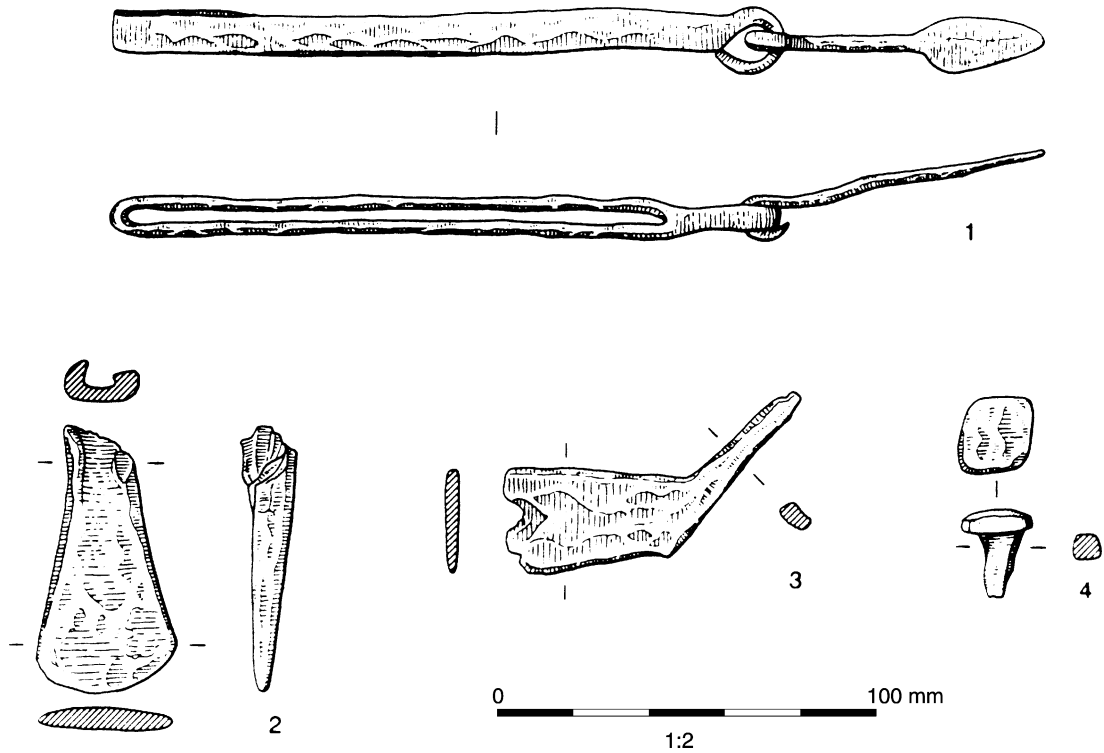


Figure 9.2 Iron finds: 1) slider of uncertain function, 2) spud for weeding and cleaning, 3) hinge point, with plate and spike, 4) rivet.

associated with metallurgical activity were two pieces of modern boiler clinker from context 3003 (topsoil), one fragment of metallic iron, with no obvious form, from context 11505 (top fill of corndrier 11504), and one very small fragment of material which could have come from a vitrified hearth-lining or possibly a piece of burnt bone from context 11018 (lowest fill of pit 11003).

This is a very curious site distribution of metal-working debris. Most Iron Age and Roman sites of any significant size produce a limited amount of metallurgical or other pyro-technological debris. The total absence of this type of material is surprising given the apparent amount of evidence of archaeological activity recovered.

POTTERY

Earlier prehistoric pottery by Alistair Barclay

The excavations produced a total of 65 sherds (479 g) of earlier prehistoric date. The early identifiable pottery belongs to fine ware Beakers. However, most of the pottery appears to derive from urns of either early or middle Bronze Age date. This material probably belongs to the Biconical and Deverel-Rimbury Urn traditions of the early to middle Bronze Age. None of the pottery was found in association with funerary deposits, although the large number of sherds recovered from the barrows could suggest that

they derive from disturbed cremation deposits. Table 9.3 shows the date range and context of the pottery and provides a quantification of the assemblage by weight and sherd number (excluding refitting fresh breaks). The pottery is characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment, decoration and colour.

The sherds were analysed using a binocular microscope ($\times 20$) and were divided into fabric groups by principal inclusion type. OAU standard codes are used to denote inclusion types. A = sand (quartz and other mineral matter), G = grog, C = calcareous limestone S = shell, F = flint. Size range for inclusions: 1 = <1 mm fine; 2 = 1–3 mm fine-medium and 3 = 3 mm < medium-coarse. Frequency range for inclusions: rare = <3%, sparse = <7%, moderate = 10%, common = 15% and abundant = >20%.

Fabrics

The assemblage is divided into nine fabrics of which three are LNEBA/Beaker G1, GFA2), one is used for both Beaker and EBA (G2), two are early Bronze Age (G3, GF3), two are middle Bronze Age (F2, S2) and two are indeterminate earlier prehistoric (AF1, SA3).

Sand-tempered AF1/IND

hard fabric with sparse coarse sand and rare calcined flint

Flint-tempered F2/MBA

hard fabric with common to abundant calcined flint

<i>Grog-tempered</i>	
G1/LNEBA	soft fabric with fine sub-angular grog
G2/LNEBA/EBA	soft fabric with common medium sub-angular grog
G3/EBA	soft fabric with common coarse sub-angular grog
GF3EBA	soft fabric, sparse to common coarse sub-angular grog, rare to sparse calcined flint
GFA2/LNEBA	soft fabric with sparse medium grog, rare medium flint and rare coarse sand
<i>Shell-tempered</i>	
S3/MBA	soft fabric with sparse-common medium to coarse possibly fossil shell inclusions
SA3/IND	soft fabric with sparse coarse shell and sparse quartz sand

Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age (LNEBA) and Beaker

LNEBA pottery, most of which can be described as Beaker, was recovered from the long mound (context 4003) and from beneath the rampart in trench R1 (contexts 30 & 726). A single small sherd came from the upper ditch fill (4003) of the long mound. Five sherds including two with decoration and a base fragment came from the buried ground surface (30) beneath the rampart (Fig. 9.3.5, 8).

Early Bronze Age

Thirty-four sherds of early Bronze Age pottery were recovered mostly from the barrows, but also from trenches within the hillfort's interior (Table 9.3). These sherds are all manufactured from grog-tempered fabrics (G3, GF3) and come from generally thick-walled vessels. Diagnostic sherds include a fingertip-impressed rim, a plain rim, an applied boss and a fingertipped cordon. The fabrics indicate an early Bronze Age date, while the featured sherds suggest sub-biconical forms. The generally simple, unelaborated character and lack of decoration would suggest that the material perhaps belongs somewhere within the transition from true Biconical Urns to Deverel-Rimbury style urns at the end of the early Bronze Age (c 1700 BC) (Fig. 9.3.3–4).

Middle Bronze Age

Twenty sherds of middle Bronze Age (MBA) pottery were recovered from the barrows and the hillfort interior (Table 9.3). These sherds were all manufactured from either flint or shell-tempered fabrics. Such fabrics are commonly used to manufacture Deverel-Rimbury style pottery. The only featured sherds are in fabric F2 and include the rim and base from a small bucket-shaped vessel (Fig. 9.3.1–2, 6–7).

Miscellaneous

Three small and worn handmade sherds (contexts 9003 & 9008) in fabrics AF1 and SA3 are thought not to be of Iron Age date and could be earlier prehistoric.

Discussion

The earliest diagnostic pottery from Uffington is of Beaker date. The small spread of material from beneath the rampart would indicate surface material associated with occupation rather than anything else. Likewise some of the EBA pottery from the hillfort interior could also derive from domestic activity. In contrast the EBA and MBA pottery from the barrows is likely to derive from disturbed cremation deposits.

Pottery of similar date has been recovered from the LBA enclosure at Rams Hill. This includes a small number of Beaker sherds, part of a Collared Urn and some indeterminate EBA sherds (Bradley 1975a, 90–3 and fig. 3.1: 11–13). Again most of this pottery is from secondary contexts and is likely to indicate some form of pre-enclosure open settlement. Elsewhere pottery of similar date has been recorded from the Lambourn Seven Barrows and from the Lambourn long barrow (Case 1956–7; Richards 1986–90; Smith 1966, 12).

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

Figure 9.3

The long mound

- 1–2 MBA, Deverel-Rimbury, rim and base sherds of small Bucket Urn. Fabric F2. Colour: grey throughout. Condition fair, 4042 & 4015

The round barrow

- 3 EBA, sub-biconical, simple flattened rim of a bucket or sub-biconical urn. Fabric G3. Colour: ext. reddish-brown, core black, int. reddish brown. Condition fair, 3010
- 4 EBA, sub-biconical, five sherds, one with fingertip-impressed cordon (illustrated), bucket or sub-biconical urn. Fabric G3. Colour: ext. reddish-brown, core black, int. reddish-brown. Condition fair to worn, 3015

Pre-rampart ground surface

- 5 LNEBA, Beaker, shoulder sherd, impressed decoration. Fabric G1. Colour: ext. reddish-brown, core grey, ext. reddish-brown. Condition worn, 30

Hillfort interior

- 6 MBA, Deverel-Rimbury, base sherd prob Bucket Urn. Fabric GF3. Colour: ext. reddish-brown, core black, int. yellow-brown. Condition fair to worn, 8507

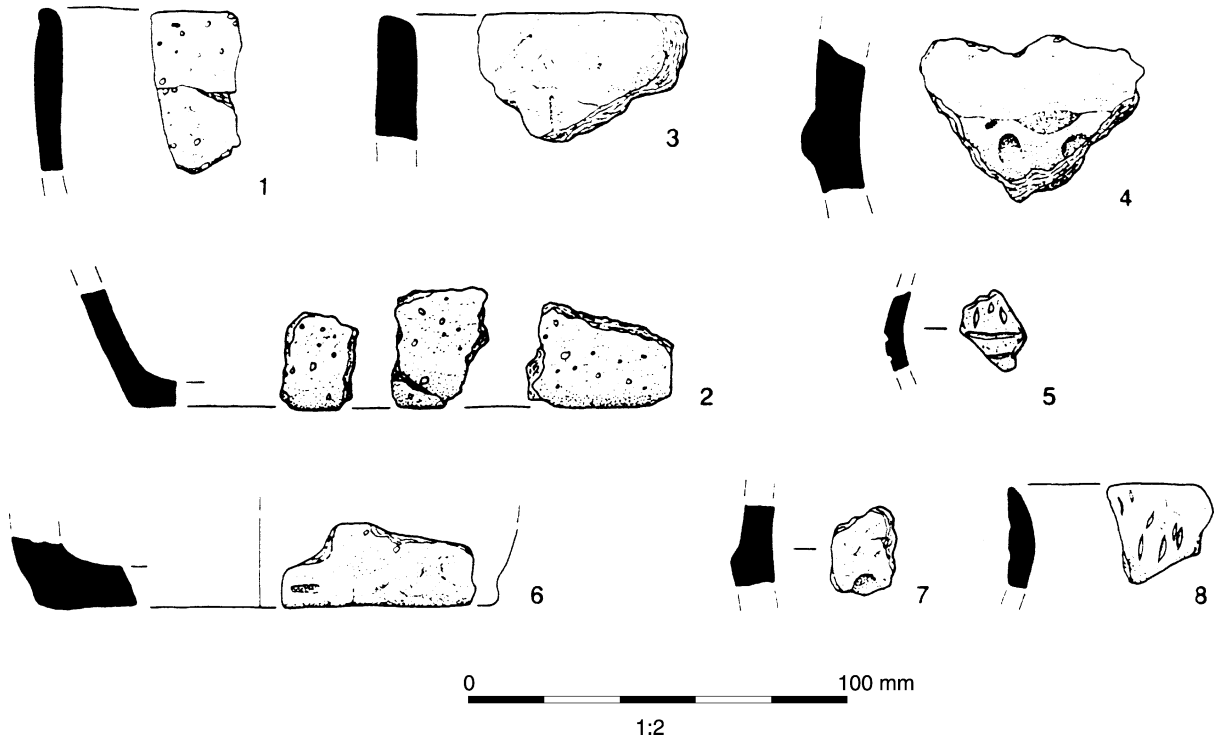


Figure 9.3 Earlier prehistoric pottery: 1) and 2) Deverel-Rimbury Bucket Urns, 3) and 4) sub-biconical urns, 5) Beaker sherd, 6) Deverel-Rimbury base sherd, 7) Deverel-Rimbury cordoned sherd, 8) Beaker rim.

- 7 MBA, Deverel-Rimbury, cordoned sherd with fingertip decoration. Fabric GF3. Colour: ext. yellow-brown, core and int. black. Condition fair, 8509
- 8 LNEBA, Beaker, rim sherd with fingernail decoration. Fabric G1. Colour: yellowish-brown throughout. Condition worn, 10505

Later prehistoric pottery by Lisa Brown

The excavations produced a total of 3596 sherds (17,581 g) of later prehistoric pottery. The condition of the assemblage is generally poor and fragmentary, but it was possible to establish a broad chronological and style sequence on the basis of distinctive sherds and fabrics.

The majority of sherds are of early Iron Age type (EIA), but a small proportion of these may be regarded as belonging more properly to the middle Iron Age. Just under 42% of the total assemblage was recovered from pits in the interior of the hillfort, a relatively high proportion (28%) from disturbed and superficial contexts (including backfill from Martin-Atkins' trenches), and the remaining 30% from buried soils, rampart material, ditch fills and post-holes. The detailed distribution of the pottery across the site, by sherd count and weight, is provided in Tables 9.4. to 9.10.

Methodology

Although much of the pottery derived from modern deposits or had been redeposited in the 19th century,

the entire assemblage was recorded to the same level of detail. The sherds were examined with the aid of a binocular microscope ($\times 20$) and a hand lens ($\times 10$ and $\times 20$). Eleven sherds were submitted for petrological analysis and the results integrated in the fabric descriptions. The pottery is characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment and decoration and degree of abrasion. Presence of residues was also recorded. Vessel dimensions could rarely be established due to the fragmentary nature of the majority of sherds. The Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group and OAU guidelines are used to indicate inclusion types: A = quartz sand, S = shell, F = flint. Size and frequency of inclusions are included in the general fabric descriptions.

Fabrics

Thirteen fabric types were identified, of which six are predominantly sand-tempered, five shell-tempered and two flint-tempered. The flint-tempered wares are extremely rare (see Table 9.4) and some sherds may represent residual Bronze Age material. Surface treatment, where observable, is confined to rough smoothing or wiping of the shell-tempered wares and smoothing or, less commonly, burnishing of the fine sandy wares.

Predominantly quartz sand temper

A1 Fine sandy ware

Sandy ware containing very common, well sorted sub-angular very fine quartz, sparse small mica and glauconite.

Some sherds contain rare inclusions of quartzite or shell fragments. Compact, dense fabric, smooth feel, fine fracture. Fires to dark grey/black, less commonly reddish brown.

A2 Medium sandy ware

Sandy ware containing very common well sorted, rounded and sub-angular quartz grains of medium size, sparse small mica and common rounded glauconite pellets (visible in hand specimen). Some sherds contain rare additional natural inclusions of non-calcined flint and shell fragments. Sandy surface texture, hackly fracture. Fires to dark grey/black or reddish brown.

A3 Medium/coarse sandy ware

Sandy ware containing very common well sorted, rounded quartz grains of medium to coarse size with additional rare shell and non-calcined flint fragments present in some sherds. Rare mica and rounded glauconite pellets. Very sandy surface texture, hackly fracture. Fires to dark grey/black or reddish brown or variable.

A4 Very fine sandy ware

Very finely sanded, dense compact clay containing very common well sorted sub-angular quartz grains of very fine size. Slightly sandy surface texture, fine fracture. May be equivalent to A1 but consistently fires to light orange with light grey core and surface is invariably not burnished. That this is a prehistoric rather than Roman fabric is confirmed by the presence of distinctive decoration on some sherds.

A5 Coarse sandy ware with additional inclusions

Sandy fabric containing common, ill-assorted rounded quartz grains of coarse to very coarse size (up to 1 mm) and rare, rounded glauconite grains and mica flecks. Contains additional rare to sparse temper of rounded and sub-angular quartzite, shell, or angular non-calcined white flint up to 2 mm in size, or a combination of these tempers. Granular texture, hackly fracture. Generally fires to orange or reddish-brown with a grey core.

A6 Very coarse sandy ware with additional inclusions

Sandy fabric containing common, ill-assorted rounded quartz grains of very coarse size (up to 1 mm), rare rounded glauconite grains and mica flecks. Invariably contains additional rare to sparse inclusions of rounded quartzite, iron pellets or fragments of haematite up to 3 mm in size, or a combination of these tempers. Granular texture, hackly fracture. Generally dark grey to black colour.

Predominantly shell temper

S1 Smooth, finely sanded ware with sparse shell temper

Soft, fine sandy fabric containing common, tightly packed silt grade quartz grains and rare strands of mica and glauconite grains. Moderately frequent shell fragments

0.5–5.0 mm in size. Fine sandy feel, laminated fracture. Fires almost invariably to reddish-orange.

S2 Sandy ware with moderate density of shell temper
Sandy ware containing common moderately well-sorted, sub-angular quartz grains of fine to medium size, rare shreds of mica and infrequent small glauconite pellets. Abundant temper of shell fragments 1.0–5.0 mm in size. The quantity of shell varies from sparse to moderate but the clay matrix appears standard. Sandy feel, irregular fracture. Fires to reddish-brown or orange, occasionally variable.

S3 Micaceous sandy ware with common shell temper

Slightly micaceous sandy ware with moderate to frequent, variably sorted, rounded and sub-angular quartz grains of medium size with additional common temper of poorly sorted shell fragments 0.5–10.0 mm in size. Sandy texture, irregular fracture. Fires to reddish brown, occasionally variable with dark grey.

S4 Sandy ware with sparse fine shell temper

Sandy ware containing very common, well sorted rounded fine quartz grains with rare to sparse inclusions of small, apparently weathered shell fragments 0.5–1.0 mm, probably natural inclusions in the clay. Sandy texture, hackly fracture. Variable colour, grey to reddish-orange.

S5 Sandy ware with crushed shell and limestone, including ooliths

Sandy ware containing common, moderately well sorted rounded quartz grains of fine size with common inclusions of moderately well sorted limestone, shell and ooliths of medium to coarse size. The inclusions probably occur naturally in the clay. Soapy texture, irregular fracture. Fires to dark reddish-brown or grey or variable.

S6 Micaceous sandy ware with shell temper

Micaceous sandy ware containing abundant, well sorted quartz grains of fine to moderate grade, very fine mica and moderate to common inclusions of opaque rounded black sand or iron pellets. Sandy texture, hackly fracture. Variable colour, orange to brownish grey.

Predominantly flint temper

F1 Fine sandy ware with sparse flint inclusions

Sandy ware containing very common, well sorted rounded, fine quartz grains with additional rare to sparse inclusions of poorly sorted, sub-angular white and grey non-calcined flint pieces 0.5–2.0 mm in size. Sandy feel, hackly fracture. Fires to dark grey. At the hillfort this was used for the manufacture of two of the furrowed bowls recovered.

F2 Medium sandy ware with moderate flint temper

Sandy ware containing moderate density of moderately sorted sub-angular quartz grains of fine size with additional moderate temper of poorly sorted sub-angular

non-calcined white flint pieces 0.5–2.0 mm in size. Sandy texture, irregular fracture. Reddish-brown to dark grey colour. Possibly Bronze Age date.

Grog temper

G1 Fine sandy ware with grog temper

Sandy ware containing common silt grade to fine quartz sand and sparse to common inclusions of fine grog, generally pale orange or grey in a lightly sandy but overall soapy textured clay. Irregular texture. Variable colour, but often pinkish-orange outer surfaces, dark grey core. Possibly Roman.

Forms

The majority of the sherds is fragmentary and abraded and only 430 fragments (12% of the total) preserved features classifiable by form or decoration. Nonetheless, it was possible to establish a basic typology, classifying sherds by rim, base and body form or, less frequently, by vessel form. Very few sherds could be assigned a vessel type and, in most cases, there are few examples of each form. Most are illustrated.

Form typology

- 1 Plain jars with upright or slightly in-turned rims, which may be plain, slightly expanded, pointed or pinched. The surfaces are generally unfinished or roughly smoothed or brushed. These resemble Type 2 but context and affinities suggest a LBA/EIA transitional date. Six vessels.
- 2 Straight or bow-sided jars with plain or slightly pronounced rim top, generally in sandy fabrics with unfinished or roughly smoothed surfaces. Resembles Type 1 but context and affinities suggest an early middle Iron Age date. Uncommon at Uffington. Two vessels.
- 3 Globular jars with slightly out-turned or thickened rim, suggesting a proto-bead rim. Generally in sandy fabrics with smoothed or burnished surfaces. Middle Iron Age type. Three vessels.
- 4 Simple shouldered jars with slightly flaring rims and pronounced, but not sharply defined, shoulder. Generally produced in sandy fabrics. Surfaces usually roughly smoothed, rarely burnished. Six vessels.
- 5 Coarse shouldered jars with angular profile and out-turned, elongated rim, which is sometimes flattened. Most examples are decorated on the rim and/or shoulder with fingernail, finger-tipped or slashed decoration. (The type could be subdivided on the basis of size and other detail but the small size of the group does not justify this. Furthermore, since all Uffington White Horse Hill examples are in shell-tempered ware and bear similar decorative motifs, they appear to form a coherent group.) Eleven vessels.
- 6 Tripartite vessels with out-turned rims. The more complete examples have a carinated shoulder. The larger vessels may be jars rather than bowls but, in the absence of complete profiles, this distinction is usually unclear. Many examples bear incised, punched or impressed decoration, sometimes infilled with white paste. Almost invariably produced in fine sandy wares. Nine vessels.

- 7 Shallow bowl with wide, out-turned rim and pronounced, sometimes slightly angled, shoulder. The rim diameter is equal to or exceeds the shoulder diameter. Some examples decorated with fingernail impressions or slashing on rim/shoulder. Produced in medium grade sandy wares. Three vessels.
- 8 Rounded bowl with simple expanded or beaded rim. Resembles middle Iron Age Type 9 but profile is slacker and less globular and the decorative motifs show a subtle difference in style and application. Generally decorated with incised and punched linear/geometric decoration, sometimes with white infilling. Produced in finer grade sandy wares. Four vessels.
- 9 Globular bowl with beaded or moulded rim, decorated with incised, tooled, and impressed decoration. Middle Iron Age type. Produced in sandy wares. One vessel.
- 10 Bowls with furrowed decoration, sometimes red-finished. Only three small body fragments so precise vessel shapes are uncertain. Two examples in fabric F1. Three vessels.

Miscellaneous featured sherds

A number of fragments which are typologically unique with the assemblage are described below and illustrated within their context groups.

- a. Small fragment of a cordoned neck jar rim, single example, fabric A2, resembles two vessels from Knight's Farm – fig. 31, 1a and fig. 35, 30v (Bradley *et al.* 1980), Fig. 9.5.39, context 12033
- b. Basal section of a miniature vessel in fabric A2, crudely made, Fig. 9.5.44, context 4010
- c. Crudely shaped clay strip with faint incised diagonal toolmarks, possibly a strip of fired potting clay scrap, S2, Fig. 9.5.34, context 8505
- d. Neck fragment of a vessel with slashed cordon in fabric A3, resembles Knight's Farm fig. 34, 15v, Fig. 9.5.42, context 8507
- e. Body fragment bearing slashed ridge or slight cordon decoration, F1, Fig. 9.5.35, context 8509
- f. Body sherd with unusual incised irregular multiple swag or wave decoration, A4, Fig. 9.4.1, context 107

Rim forms

- R1 Short, simple rim
- R2 Short beaded rim
- R3 Squared beaded rim
- R4 Elongated, in-turned rim
- R5 Simple upright rim
- R6 Flaring rim
- R7 Out-turned, internally bevelled rim
- R8 In-turning hooked rim
- R9 Out-turned, internally dished rim (possibly lid seating)

Base forms

- B1 Simple flat base
- B2 Flat base with pinched out, expanded basal angle

Body sherds

- P plain body sherd
- D decorated body sherd
- 1 simple convex
- 2 simple concave

- 3 slightly angled shoulder
- 4 sharply angled shoulder
- 5 carinated shoulder
- 6 simple, straight
- 7 flaring sherd

Petrology

Eleven sherds were subjected to thin-section petrology, undertaken by Dr D Williams of Southampton University. The fabrics represented in analysis were A1, A2, A3, A6, S1, S2, and S3. The full report is available in archive but the main points are summarised here and in the fabric descriptions.

Analysis revealed that all of the sand and shell-tempered samples contained some proportion of glauconite which is likely to be a natural component of the clay, and suggested that, in the case of shell-tempered wares, the fossiliferous shell fragments had been deliberately added as temper to a fine sandy, glauconitic clay matrix resembling fabric A1 (and possibly identical in source). Upper Greensand, the source of glauconite, outcrops less than a mile to the north of White Horse Hill and the shell, calcite and shelly limestone fragments present in fabrics S1–S5 could all derive from Ridgeway deposits. A curious elongated scrap of shell-tempered clay (no. 34) which matches fabric type S2, may represent a coil fragment discarded during potting on site and accidentally or deliberately fired. It bears faint traces of crude cross-hatching, and may represent activity by a child. As such, it would provide some evidence for on-site production.

The chalk ridge could also provide a source for the flint-tempered fabrics. Most of the flint-tempered wares from the site represent earlier prehistoric material, but two of the three furrowed bowl fragments recovered are in fabric F1. In the light of these likely source locations, it is reasonable to predict that much or all of the later prehistoric ceramic assemblage could have been locally produced from raw materials derived from sources only 3 to 4 km distant. A large proportion of the group, however, stylistically resembles the All Cannings Cross type wares recovered from sites in Wiltshire, and comparative petrology confirms the similarity between fabric A2 and samples from Longbridge Deverill (Cow Down), Wilts (Hawkes 1961, 346–7). It is possible that some examples of the decorated wares in the highly glauconitic fabrics A1 and A2 were manufactured in the Devizes area, at the western end of the Ridgeway, and traded along that natural transport route to sites including Uffington Castle.

Condition

The condition of sherds was recorded on an abrasion factor scale of 1 to 3, 1 indicating fresh

condition, 2 moderately abraded and 3 heavily abraded. Factor 4 was assigned to sherds which had been refired. Seventy-five per cent of the assemblage was heavily abraded and a small but significant proportion, 94 sherds (2.6%) were refired. All of the refired sherds were recovered from deposits in trench 4, in the vicinity of the blocked entrance. Mean sherd size was not specifically calculated but the data indicates that the majority of individual sherds fall into a weight bracket of between 3 and 7 g. The general character of the assemblage is, therefore, fragmentary and abraded. Carbonised residue, usually on the inner face, was detected on only 29 sherds, and traces of external sooting on only six fragments. The data is too limited to hypothesise about function but it should be noted that in no cases were these residues present on fine decorated wares.

Surface treatment and decoration

The majority of sherds exhibit no attempt to produce a particular surface finish. Burnished or smoothed surfaces were present on 685 sherds (19% of the total assemblage), usually in combination with incised decoration on sand-tempered wares. Evidence of brushing or wiping was visible on a very few sherds and may, in some cases, relate more to the process of pulling up the clay in construction than to deliberate finishing of the surface. A relatively high proportion of the pottery is decorated in one of two distinctive styles. Fingernail or fingertip impressed decoration on the rim and/or shoulder was found to occur only on shell-tempered vessels. Slashing, which produces a similar visual effect, occurs on shelly wares but also, rarely, on sand-tempered vessels. Incised, impressed and punched decoration, sometimes with a white infill, generally occurs on the finer sandy wares but also very rarely on the finer shell-tempered vessels. Analysis of the white infill indicates that it is a calcareous substance, almost certainly chalk paste.

The motifs are generally geometric in style, consisting of incised diagonal lines, triangles and squares, sometimes infilled with punched dots, and incised or impressed single or double circles. This EIA stylistic tradition is commonly known as the All Cannings Cross style after the Wiltshire type-site which produced substantial quantities of this ceramic type (Cunnington 1923). The furrowed bowl form which is particularly a feature of the later All Cannings Cross tradition is very poorly represented at Uffington. Only three sherds bore traces of red-finish, one of them a furrowed bowl fragment. The incised pendant swag and arc type decoration typical of the middle Iron Age assemblages of the Upper Thames Valley is represented by a single vessel from Uffington (see Fig. 9.6.45).

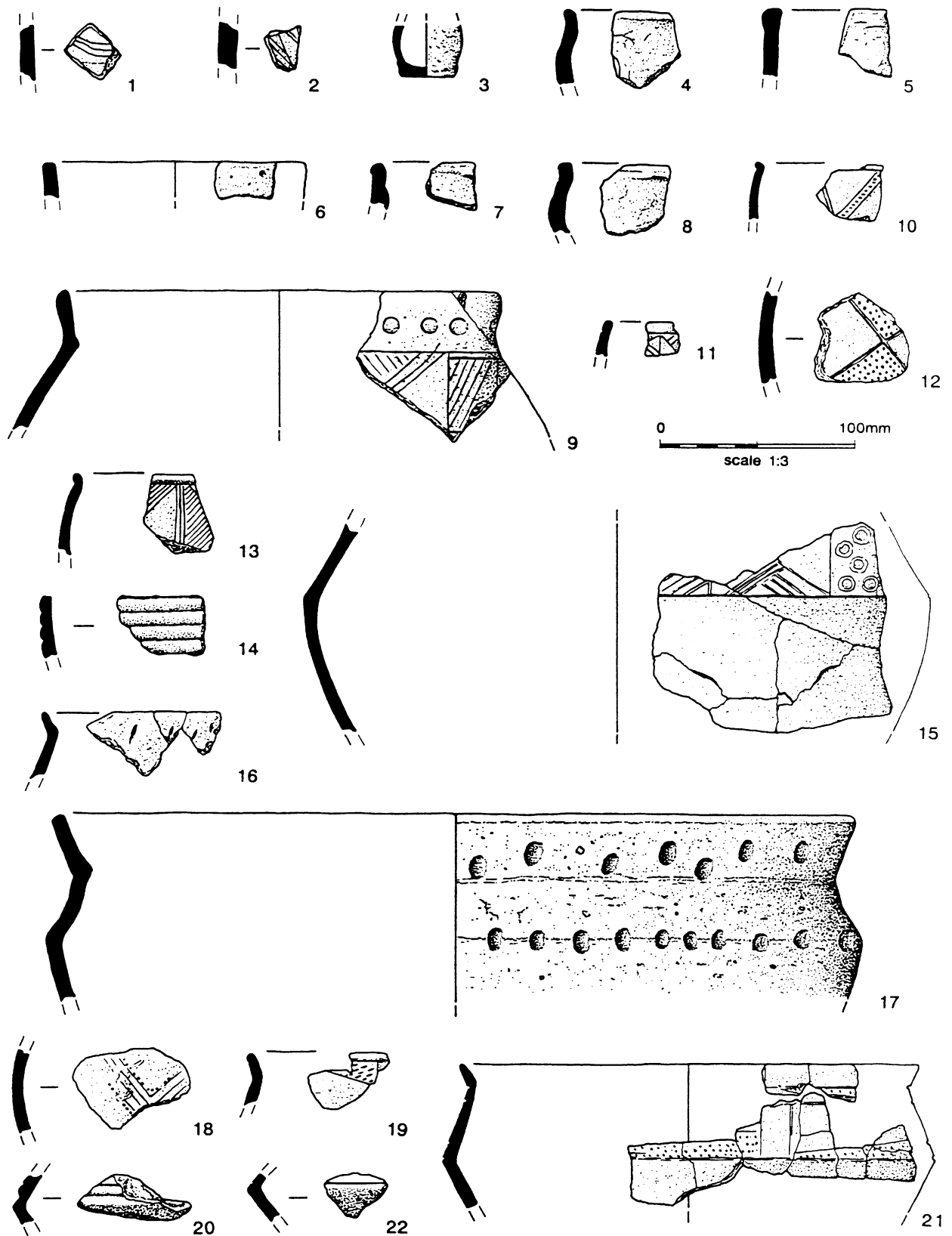


Figure 9.4 Early to middle Iron Age pottery: 1 to 22.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

Sherd no.	Context	Form	Fabric	Surface/Dec/ Other
<i>Figure 9.4</i>				
Ramparts				
1	TrR2/107	D1	A4	incised wave/swag
2	TrR2/112	D6	A2	triangle infilled with diagonal lines
Long mound				
3	LM/4010	misc.	A2	base of miniature vessel
4	LM/4010	7	A3	smoothed
5	LM/4010	1	A2	–
6	LM/4010	1	A3	–
7	LM/4010	1	A2	smoothed
8	LM/4015	7	A5	–
Hillfort interior-blocked entrance trench Topsoil				
9	TrH4/7500/3	6	A2	triangles, impressed circles, white infill
Rampart material				
10	TrH4/7502	8	A2	incised diagonal lines, punched dots
11	TrH4/7502	8	A1	incised triangle
12	TrH4/7503	D1	A2	incised triangles, punched dots, white infill
Feature 7504				
13	TrH4/7505	8	A2	incised triangles, white infill
14	TrH4/7505	10	F1	smoothed surface, furrowed decoration
15	TrH4/7505	6	A2	incised triangles, impressed circles, infill
16	TrH4/7505	5	S2	finger nail impressed rim
17	TrH4/7505	5	S2	finger nail impressed rim and shoulder
Chalk blocking				
18	TrH4/7511	D1	A3	incised diagonal lines, punched dots
19	TrH4/7511	6	A2	incised triangle, punched dots, white infill
Occupation layer				
20	TrH4/7515	10	F1	furrowed decoration
21	TrH4/7515	6	A1	incised triangle infilled with dots
Occupation layer				
22	TrH4/7521	6	A4	incised line
<i>Figure 9.5</i>				
23	TrH4/7521	5	S2	finger nail impressed rim
24	TrH4/7521	6	S4	incised circles
25	TrH4/7521	6	A1	smoothed
26	TrH4/7521	5	S2	finger nail impressed rim
27	TrH4/7521	D6	A3	diagonal incised lines
28	TrH4/7521	D1	A4	incised line, impressed circles, white infill
29	TrH4/7566	8	A2	incised diagonal lines, punched dots
(Unassigned)				
30	TrH4/7610	B2	S2	–
31	TrH4/7610	5	S2	finger nail impressions below rim
32	TrH4/7610	6	A2	incised line, punched dots
Pit 8004				
33	TrH5/8010/12	3	A2	partially burnished
Pit 8504				
34	TrH6/8505	misc	S2	potting scrap?
35	TrH6/8509	D1	F1	incised linear decoration

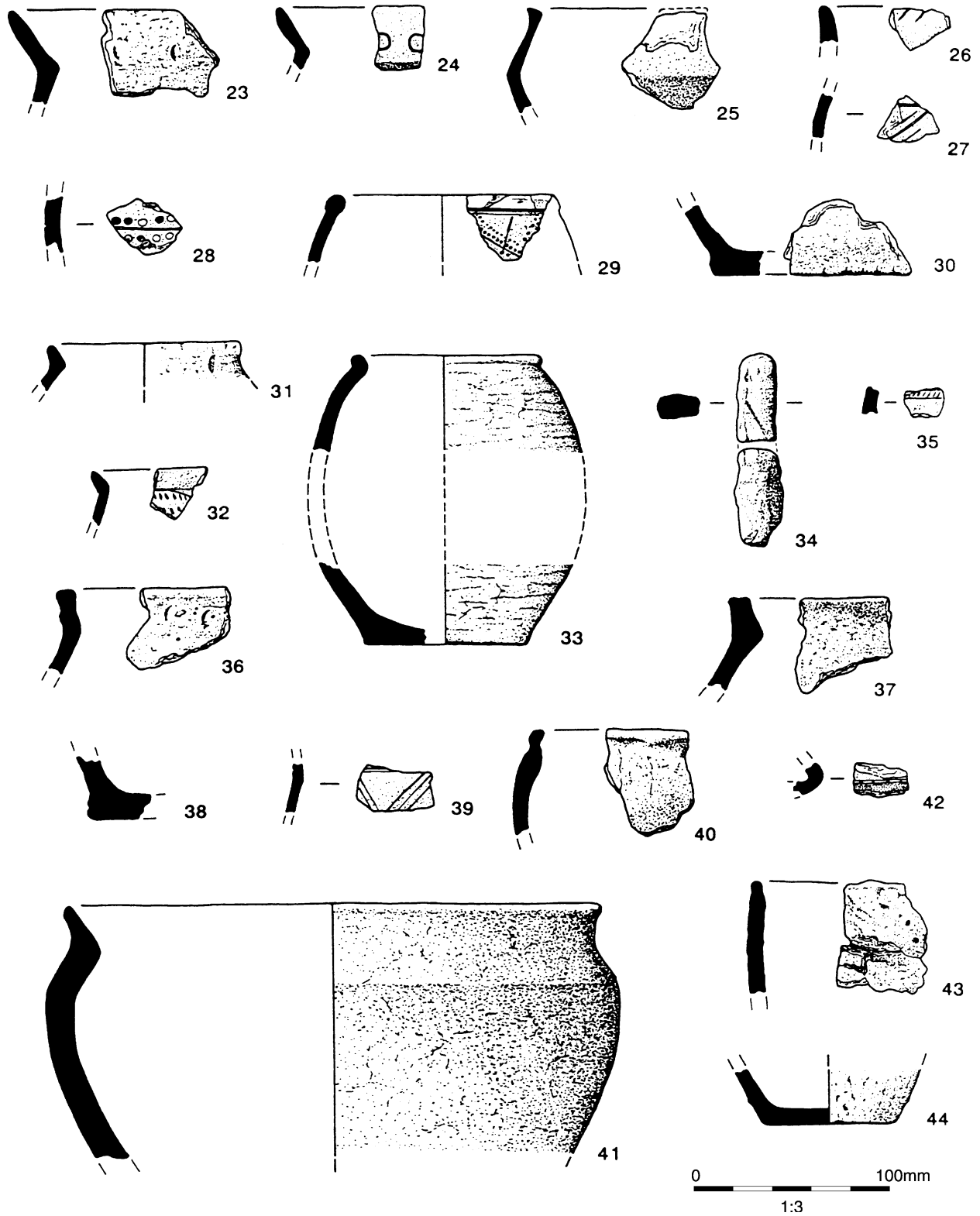


Figure 9.5 Early to middle Iron Age pottery: 23 to 44.

36	TrH6/8514	5	S2	thumb impressions below rim
37	TrH6/8514	5	S2	-
38	TrH6/8514	5/B2	S2	-
39	TrH6/8514	D7	A1	incised diagonal lines

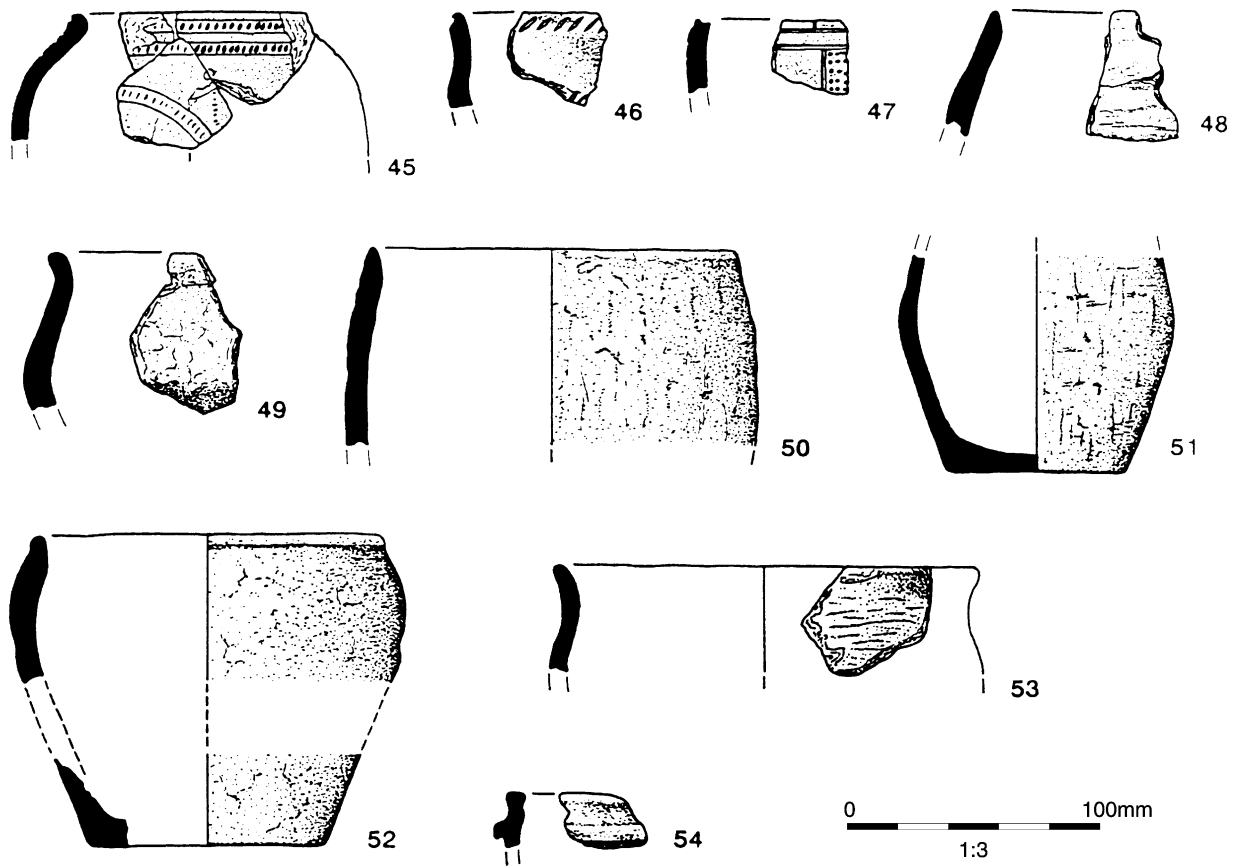


Figure 9.6 Early to middle Iron Age pottery: 45 to 54.

40	TrH6/8514	1	A2	–
41	TrH6/8514	4	A2	–
Pit 8506				
42	TrH6/8507	D5	A3	slashed cordon
43	TrH6/8508	2	A1	wiped, possibly with grass
44	TrH6/8513	B1	A2	–

Figure 9.6

Pit 9002				
45	TrH7/9003/8/9	9	A2	incised lines, impressed points (MIA type)
46	TrH7/9003	7	A3	slashed rim and shoulder
47	TrH7/9010	D1	A2	incised square with punched dots, infill
48	TrH7/9010	1	A3	partial burnish
Pit 10504				
49	TrH11/10505	4	A2	–
Pit 11003 (early MIA)				
50	TrH12/11017/8	2	A5	brushed
51	TrH12/11018	B1	A5	brushed
52	TrH12/11018	3	A2	burnished
Pit 12003				
53	TrH10/12033	4	A2	burnished
54	TrH10/12033	misc	A2	cordoned neck jar

Discussion: chronology and affinities

The later prehistoric assemblage is dominated by a large and distinctive component of early Iron Age type (EIA), probably best placed in the 8th to 7th century BC, although some part of the group may be a little earlier. Despite the presence within this EIA group of many highly distinctive sherds, precise dating was difficult due to the fragmentary state of most of the group. For example, the furrowed bowl sherds lacked the rim element necessary to distinguish between the biconical form (regarded as early All Cannings Cross type) and the later, flaring rim. The majority of decorated fragments are body sherds. If it is accepted, however, that a distinguishing feature of the later All Cannings Cross tradition (Cunliffe 1991, 64–5) is an increase in the production of furrowed bowls and in the use of red finishes, and a decrease in the production of decorated jars, the Uffington assemblage is, on balance, best placed within the Early All Cannings tradition. As reported above, only three furrowed bowl sherds were recovered, and three red-finished sherds (one of which is a furrowed bowl), whilst incised and impressed decorated jar sherds were common. Many elements of the Uffington EIA assemblage resemble the Knight's Farm assemblage, which is placed at the early end of the LBA/EIA transition (Bradley *et al.* 1980, 265–74).

The remainder of the Iron Age assemblage comprises a small quantity of sherds which can *arguably* be dated to the middle Iron Age, and two or three vessels which are undoubtedly of that period. There is no recognisable pottery which distinctly resembles early Iron Age groups from the region (ie 6th to 5th centuries) and it is probably safe to assume, despite the limited scale of the excavations, that the site was wholly or largely abandoned during the 6th to 4th centuries. A period of occupation in the middle Iron Age, the scope and extent of which could not be ascertained on the available evidence, was followed, again, by apparent abandonment in the late Iron Age.

Pre-hillfort construction

Deposits predating the construction of the hillfort produced a small quantity of earlier prehistoric material, most of which dates to the early and middle Bronze Age. There is no clear evidence for use of the site in the late Bronze Age. But pre-hillfort deposits, including old ground surfaces sealed below the north-east sector of the primary rampart (contexts 51, 52, 107) produced small groups of what appears to be later prehistoric pottery which lacks the distinctive elements of the main EIA group (sandy wares with All Cannings Cross style decoration and fingernail impressed shelly wares). The very small size of the assemblages recovered from these contexts probably accounts for this, but there is a possibility that this small collection of

largely non-featured sherds, which includes coarse wares A6 and the unique decorated sherd (Fig. 9.4.1) could predate the EIA assemblage. The group is, however, too small and undistinguished to allow for the construction of a useable type sequence and too ambiguous to label late Bronze Age. Furthermore, the absence of identifiable LBA pottery from activity outside the hillfort would argue in favour of a break in occupation during that period.

Rampart construction

Material recovered from the primary construction of the rampart (18, 25, 26, 33, 112) includes small quantities of shell-tempered fingernail-decorated wares and incised decorated sandy wares, consistent with an EIA date, and the paltry assemblage from well stratified deposits relating to the secondary rampart and associated ditch fills produced no recognisably later material. The quantities of pottery recovered from the rampart features, particularly the counter-scarp bank, are so small that precise dating is impossible, but the group exhibits a degree of cohesion which does not sustain the proposal of an enhancement of the rampart at any point after the EIA.

Blocking of the east entrance

Nor does the balance of ceramic evidence support a MIA date for the blocking of the east entrance. The assemblage recovered from deposits relating to the rampart in trench 4 and the blocking episode is considerably larger than those from the other rampart and ditch sections, and can, therefore, be regarded as a more reliable chronological indicator. The group is clearly and consistently EIA in character, and includes a significant quantity of sandy wares decorated in All Cannings Cross style. Material for the rampart construction and blocking of the gateway would have been amassed from soil, turf and stone deposits in the vicinity which may have contained artefacts from a period predating that collection. It is even possible that not a single artefact contemporaneous with the construction found its way into the relevant deposits. Nonetheless, in the absence of any pottery post-dating the EIA period, the most that can be said of the period of rampart construction and modification is that, on the basis of ceramic evidence, it appears not to have continued beyond the 7th century or thereabouts.

Hillfort interior

Most of the pottery recovered from the hillfort interior derived from pit fills. The majority of pits produced assemblages which contained exclusively EIA type sherds, or which were too small and undistinguished to date with any degree of accuracy. Three pits, however, may be allowed a middle Iron Age (MIA) date on the basis of, admittedly, rather paltry evidence. Pit 9002 in trench H7, in the north of

the interior, produced joining sherds of a 'Frilford' style (Harding 1972, 105) decorated bowl (Fig. 9.6.45) along with (presumably) residual earlier material. Fragments of the vessel were scattered throughout the pit fill including within the lower undisturbed fill (9009). Therefore, the vessel represents a definite MIA presence on the site. Pit 8004 in trench H5, south of the blocked entrance, produced 32 joining sherds of a Type 3 burnished globular jar of MIA appearance (Fig. 9.5.33). The pit also contained EIA material, including a red-finished sherd and incised decorated wares.

Pit 11003 in trench H12, near the west entrance, also produced a burnished Type 3 jar (Fig. 9.6.50) and a straight-sided Type 2 jar which could be early middle Iron Age. These three pits are located on the inner edges of the hillfort interior and indicate some level of occupation involving the use of pits and positioning in the shelter of the rampart. Some of the other excavated pits may be of the same date but contain only residual pottery. Several studies have highlighted the high degree of residuality of artefacts in archaeological deposits (Lambrick 1984, 164; Brown 1995, 59). However, considering the frequently observed pattern of intensification of production in the middle Iron Age (Cunliffe 1995), such a dearth of appropriately dated sherds across the site would tend to indicate a limited presence on the hilltop in this period.

Areas of linear ditch and long mound

The area beyond the rampart confines produced little conclusive evidence of the nature of occupation in the later prehistoric period. The linear ditch produced no LBA or Iron Age pottery. Most of the later prehistoric material recovered from features in the vicinity of the long mound was found in association with Roman and post-medieval pottery, and most contexts producing finds relate to backfill of Martin-Atkins' excavations. Contexts 4003, 4009, and 4015, which appear to be undisturbed, produced, significantly, no sherds of the distinctive EIA decorated ware, which was so common within the hillfort. Undecorated body sherds, the great majority in fabric A2, were recovered from these contexts, along with two very small rim fragments of vessels, one assigned to Type 4 and one to Type 7. As the sherds are very small and these particular vessel types somewhat ambiguous (simple profiles of this type occur in most Iron Age period assemblages) it is not possible to be absolutely certain of their date. The possibility that this plainware assemblage may be early middle Iron Age must be allowed, but the absence of decorated EIA vessels in these *extra* hillfort deposits (even the disturbed long mound deposits produced only four All Cannings style sherds) may indicate not that they are of a different date, but that, for reasons that are unclear, the fine, decorated wares were confined to activities within the ramparts.

Late Iron Age

There is no ceramic evidence for late Iron Age occupation on the site and it must be concluded that the limited MIA activity, whatever its nature, was followed by a phase of abandonment until the Roman period.

Dating synopsis

The later prehistoric ceramic assemblage indicates that the hilltop was a focus for intensive activity at or about the 8th to 7th century BC and that, for the remainder of the Iron Age, activity was limited and sporadic. The nature of the EIA occupation is not entirely clear in that the excavations produced little conclusive evidence for structures of either a domestic, industrial or ritual function. That there were structures is certain, based on the spread of postholes, some designed to support very substantial uprights. The rampart sequence is also ambiguous in that an anticipated MIA date for its enhancement and for the blocking of the east gate is not borne out by the ceramic evidence.

Excavations in the hillfort interior provided evidence of pit digging in both the EIA and MIA period, but the material sample produced by the small number of pits excavated does not allow for a conclusive assessment of degrees of residuality. At most, three of the pits may be classified as MIA in date.

Nature of the ceramic assemblage

Structural and stratigraphic evidence apart, the ceramic assemblages of the EIA and MIA periods can perhaps shed some light on the nature of occupation and activity at Uffington Castle during the later prehistoric period, especially when compared to other sites in the vicinity. The most striking feature of the EIA assemblage is the relatively high proportion of fine incised-decorated sandy wares which resemble similar collections from All Cannings Cross, Longbridge Deverill, Potterne, Wilts (Gingell and Lawson 1984), and East Chisenbury, Wilts (unpublished). These fine wares are found in association with distinctive coarse ware vessels, and, at Uffington, this element is most clearly represented by the Type 5 shell-tempered, fingernail-decorated jars, almost certainly locally produced, and present in large quantities (representing about one-half of the assemblage, by fabric). Analysis of the Uffington sherds does not provide clear evidence of importation of pottery from the Wiltshire region, since similar glauconite-rich clays outcrop near the site, but the stylistic link is undeniable. Either the vessels were imported or expertly copied.

Patterns of behaviour

The picture that is emerging as more and more All Cannings Cross type assemblages are recovered during excavation is that the use of these distinctive

wares is often associated with patterns of behaviour which can be recognised in the archaeological record. At Potterne and East Chisenbury, large quantities of these wares were present within structured middens, along with bone and other artefacts. The suggestion is that the middens are the result of ritual activities such as feasting and perhaps even potlatch. This sort of behaviour is generally attributed to phases of the Bronze Age but is increasingly recognised within the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age transitional period.

A number of sites including Longbridge Deverill, Brighton Hill South, Hants (Morris 1992, 5–21), and Houghton Down, Hants (Brown 2000) produced pottery of 8th–7th-century date, including furrowed bowls and incised wares, which had been refired in conflagrations producing temperatures of up to 950° centigrade. These temperatures cannot generally be achieved in a bonfire, indicating that the affected sherds are unlikely to be wasters. The burning of a roundhouse, on the other hand, could produce this level of heat (Rye 1981) and, significantly, at the three sites referred to above, the refired sherds were found closely packed together in postholes of destroyed circular structures. It could be suggested that the burning of the structures and of the pottery represent a form of ritual behaviour.

At Uffington, most of the refired pottery of this date came from contexts 7515 and 7521, which represent an occupation surface contemporaneous with the phase 1 rampart. The pottery need not be of the same date as the construction, as the material may have derived from deposits elsewhere on the hilltop where such burning activities had taken place earlier. Much unburnt decorated pottery of the same type was recovered from throughout the rampart deposits, sometimes in very large quantities, giving rise to speculation that EIA midden deposits may have been quarried as rampart material. The most prolific pit excavated, 8504, produced 327 sherds of EIA pottery, most shell-tempered, but including a furrowed bowl fragment and incised wares with the characteristic white infill. The pit had clearly been deliberately backfilled and the fill hints at the availability of curated midden material. Results of trial trenching and fieldwalking on Weathercock Hill to the south of Uffington have demonstrated that a combination of agricultural activity and subsequent machine stripping to bedrock of sites by archaeologists can totally destroy evidence of non-subsurface features, such as middens (Bowden *et al.* 1991–3b).

Domestic and ritual activity

The ceramic evidence for EIA activity at Uffington, therefore, suggests forms of activity which may be regarded as ritual in focus, albeit possibly integrated into routine activities of a domestic or industrial nature. In the immediate vicinity, the ceramic assemblage is best paralleled at Rams Hill, where the enclosure ditches produced fragmentary All Cannings Cross type finewares along with

finger-nail-decorated coarse wares which, perhaps significantly, clearly do not correspond in fabric to the Uffington shell-tempered wares. Blewburton Hill to the east (Collins 1947; 1953; Collins and Collins 1959) produced an All Cannings style decorated ware component, but occupation of this site clearly continued into the EIA and MIA and the pottery assemblage includes fine examples of wares of these periods. A cursory appraisal of the pottery from the recently excavated Segsbury hillfort indicates that this assemblage is chronologically and typologically distinct from Uffington, producing sherds of 6th–5th-century and later date.

Comparative sites

Off the Ridgeway to the south a number of site assemblages share elements of the Uffington group. Knight's Farm, located on the Kennet Valley gravels has already been cited. Dunstons Park, also in the Kennet Valley, produced a small assemblage which, though similar in some respects to the Uffington group, includes sherds of Later All Cannings Cross type, placing it fairly firmly in the 7th century BC. Decorated coarse wares of the latest phase of occupation at the Reading Business Park site, dated to the 8th century, correspond in form (though not fabric) to the Uffington coarse ware range, but there the All Cannings Cross component is entirely absent. Few sites in the Upper Thames Valley to the north of the Ridgeway have produced assemblages clearly datable to the 7th to 8th centuries. EIA assemblages from sites including Ashville (De Roche 1978), Appleford (Hinchliffe and Thomas 1980, 9–111), Wytham Hill (Mytum 1986) and Allen's Pit (Bradford 1942) appear to lack the All Cannings Cross ware component, although fingertipped jars and red-finished, scratched cordoned jars are common.

The Uffington assemblage resembles in many ways a smaller later prehistoric collection from Liddington Castle hillfort, located about 12 km to the south-west on the Ridgeway (Hurst and Rahtz 1996). Most of the Liddington material was recovered from the first three phases of the rampart construction and was dated to the 7th to 6th centuries BC. Very little of the hillfort interior, however, was investigated and the ceramic evidence from the two pits explored is ambiguous, whereas most of the Uffington assemblage derives from its fills. In broad terms, however, both groups appear to date to the first phases of the early Iron Age and both include components of the All Cannings Cross tradition. There are broad similarities in the range of fabrics, both groups including the fine sandy and shell-tempered wares. There are, however, none of the Uffington type shelly wares with fingertip and nail decoration reported from Liddington, although the motifs do occur there on sandy wares. Another notable difference between the two groups is the larger proportion of furrowed bowls and red-finished wares from

Liddington. The latter site also produced a hoard of haematite pieces, which may have been used in the manufacture of red-finished pottery. This may suggest a slightly later date for the rampart construction at Liddington than at Uffington where the assemblage is dominated by incised fine sandy wares more commonly associated with the early All Cannings Cross style (Cunliffe 1991, 64). The dearth of MIA pottery, particularly associated with rampart enhancements, is a feature of both assemblages and could suggest abandonment of both sites at broadly the same time.

Middle Iron Age pottery

Of the small middle Iron Age assemblage recovered from Uffington, little can be said except that it is paltry and undecorated, with the exception of the Type 9 globular bowl (Fig. 9.6.45). The fabrics represented are glauconitic sandy wares which resemble the EIA fineware fabrics. The evidence is too limited to suggest the nature of the occupation during this period but the indications are that there was no substantial presence on the hilltop during this period.

Roman pottery *by Kayt Brown*

The excavations produced a total of 2644 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 22,456 g, with 260 vessels recorded by rim count. Roman pottery was recovered from most areas of excavation, with the main concentration being recovered from within the hillfort enclosure (93% by count, 97% by weight). The limited range of material indicates a predominantly late Roman date for the assemblage although a large proportion of the assemblage comprises unsourced, presumably local, coarse wares, which cannot be closely dated within the Roman period. The fabrics and forms will be described, followed by a discussion of the assemblage and a description of pottery by area. All quantification is given by weight, unless specified otherwise.

Nature of the assemblage

The assemblage is in a poor state of preservation, with an average sherd weight of 8.4 g. Much of the colour-coat material has little surface finish surviving and a large number of the rim fragments are too small to be measured for estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs). Very little evidence of use, such as sooting or limescale was observed within the assemblage. A large amount of material (51% by count, 47% by weight) recovered was unstratified or from poorly stratified deposits, such as topsoil, ploughsoils and ramp erosion. Of the total assemblage, 97% of the assemblage was from the interior, of which only 27% was recovered from secure contexts.

Methodology

The material was examined microscopically ($\times 20$) and fabrics were recorded following the OAU system for the recording of Roman ceramics (Booth 1994). Within this system fabrics are defined by a hierarchical system of alphanumeric ware codes, so that sherds can be assigned to a specific fabric (eg, R11: Oxfordshire fine sandy reduced ware), or an intermediate level (eg, R10: fine sandy reduced wares) or at a broad level (R(00): a reduced ware). Ware groups were then quantified by number of sherds and weight by context, with vessel numbers recorded by rim count and EVEs. Form, decoration, surface treatment and evidence of use were also recorded. A total of 36 fabrics were identified. These have been listed by groups such as fine and specialist wares, late Iron Age/early Roman wares and Romanised coarse wares. The OAU ware group codes are followed by their equivalent code in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Other, local fabrics, are listed with a brief fabric description. The fabrics are listed in Table 9.11.

Fabrics

The only imported material was a small number of samian sherds, including a dish rim (probably Dragendorff 18) from the Manger and a rim sherd of a Dragendorff 31, from the enclosure, trench 1. No amphorae were found within the assemblage. British fine wares are predominately colour-coated products of the Oxfordshire industry (89%), with a small amount of New Forest and Nene Valley colour-coated material, all late Roman fabrics. Also present were four sherds of Oxford white-slipped ware. The proportion of fine wares within the assemblage is low, comprising only 4.3% of the total assemblage. Booth (Henig and Booth 2000, 174) has used the combined figures of fine wares, amphorae and mortaria to look at questions of status between sites. He has identified a pattern in the later Roman period, where all the sites in this study produced between 11–30% fine and specialist wares. At Uffington, this combined total forms 10.5% of the total assemblage, and using this criteria would represent low status use of the site, at least in terms of the ceramics. With the exception of a single body sherd of Mancetter/Hartshill, the mortaria were again dominated by Oxfordshire products. However it is interesting to note the absence of white ware combined with the high number of white-slipped mortaria. A similar trend was observed at Bath, where it may represent a decline in the white-ware mortaria in the late Roman period in favour of the white-slipped product (Green and Young 1985).

Oxidised coarse wares formed 16% of the total assemblage. A range of fabrics from very fine (O10, O11) through to the coarse tempered (O80) and grog-tempered (O81) were recorded. The majority of material was unsourced, and presumably local in origin (O10, O20, O30, O80). The material which could be assigned to specific industries comprised the Oxfordshire fine and sandy fabrics (O11, O21,

O22), and possible products from the kiln sites identified at Compton (O29). These combined constituted 26% of the oxidised material.

The largest component of the Roman assemblage was, perhaps unsurprisingly, the reduced sandy coarse wares, comprising 70.5% of the assemblage. The unsourced, sandy fabrics (R10, R20, R30, R90) formed 48% of this material. Oxfordshire material (R11, R21) was again a major component, as was the north Wiltshire material, alongside a small amount of Alice Holt (R39). One sandy fabric, R45, containing sparse to moderate angular flint inclusions, was also recorded and has not been previously observed at other sites within the area. Material from the Compton kilns was also present from the hillfort interior, with conjoining sherds in 8003/8005 and 11505/11506. Three vessels were recorded by rim count, decorated with a cordon on the shoulder and multiple combing/rilling.

A large proportion of the assemblage comprised the miscellaneous codes, R10, R30, O10, O20. These generalised codes are used for sherds that cannot be attributed to a particular industry, whereas the generalised OF and OM codes are almost certainly Oxfordshire products. For example R30 incorporates all the sandy reduced wares and consequently may include both early and late material. Similarly, OF is used to define oxidised fine sandy sherds, which are too abraded to be confidently assigned to the colour-coat code F51, but are nevertheless likely to be of this class, on the basis of general fabric and form. Likewise OM refers to Oxfordshire colour-coat and white-slipped mortaria where only body sherds survive with no surface finish.

Forms

Form codes are again in accordance with the OAU system (ie hierarchical), and are defined below, alongside quantification by rim count (MV) and EVEs, where applicable. Where forms are comparable to established sequences, these are listed in Table 9.12.

The predominant vessel forms were jars, principally necked/shouldered jars, followed by bowls. A selection of necked/shouldered jars and flanged bowls (forms HB and HC) are illustrated in Figure 9.7. A total of 26.56 EVEs were recorded, of which jars form 73%, bowls 12% and indeterminate jar/bowl rims 3%. The figures for flagons are skewed slightly by the presence of a complete rim (5%), with mortaria forming 4% of the assemblage. Cups and beakers were poorly represented within the assemblage with only 1 cup recorded by rim count, the beaker being identified by diagnostic body sherds. A total of 260 vessels were recorded by rim count, but of these 19 were too small to be confidentially assigned to vessel class. The DR18 rim displayed insufficient rim survival for EVEs calculations, as did the oxidised cup and wall-sided mortaria fragments.

Decoration

A wide range of decorative techniques were observed, namely grooves, cordons, burnishing (overall, lines and lattice), white paint, combing, incision, stamping and rouletting. The reduced sandy wares displayed a wide range of these, particularly grooves and cordons, mainly on the neck, base of neck and/or shoulder on jars. Burnishing was restricted to the reduced sandy fabrics, and burnished lattice decoration occurred on a black-burnished ware body sherd, a reduced sandy ware everted rim jar and an Alice Holt bowl. A number of the late Roman shelly wares (C10, C11) displayed rilling on body sherds (Figs 9.7.4 and 6). Notched cordon decoration was also observed on this latter fabric (Fig. 9.7.3).

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

The condition of the assemblage and the lack of secure groups of material means that it is not appropriate to illustrate much of the material, but where sufficient survived a small selection of profiles have been drawn to highlight the late nature of the assemblage. Most of the examples (1–6) are from within the hillfort interior of which only two are from upper pit fills (Nos 3 and 4). Number 7 is from the fill of a pit in the enclosure. The illustrations are grouped by vessel class and area with a description, fabric and context.

Figure 9.7

- 1 Everted rim jar, R30, context 7004
- 2 Jar with grooves at base of neck and on shoulder, R35, conjoining sherds from context 7004 & 7008
- 3 Shouldered jar with notched cordon decoration, O29, context 11506
- 4 Profile of jar with rilled decoration on body, C11, context 8005
- 5 Complete profile of flanged bowl, R37, context 7004
- 6 Flanged bowl with rilled decoration on body, C11, context 11000
- 7 Flanged bowl, R10, context 50

Distribution of the pottery

The barrows

A small amount of Roman material (30 sherds, 90 g) was recovered from the round barrow, although only from disturbed layers dating from the 19th century. Four sherds were recovered from a number of disturbed layers and backfill from Martin-Atkins' excavations. The material comprised entirely local sandy oxidised or reduced fabrics, which can only be assigned a broad Roman date of 1st–4th centuries. Only three sherds (15 g) were recovered from the disturbed ditch fill 4002 from the long mound, again in a local oxidised sandy fabric.

The Manger

The only pottery recovered from the Manger comprised three sherds from a colluvial layer (2003). Two sherds, including one jar rim, were in a reduced sandy fabric,

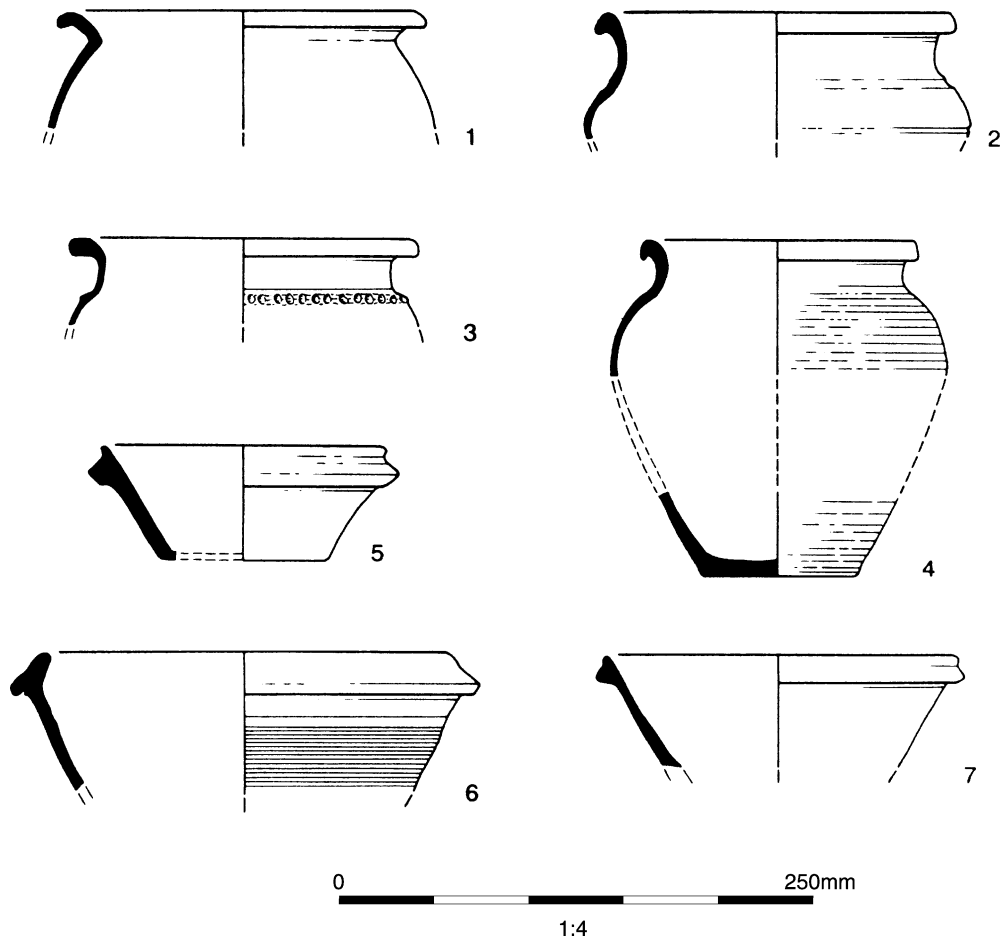


Figure 9.7 Roman pottery: 1 to 7.

although a single rim sherd (probably Drag. 18) sherd of South Gaulish samian was also present and datable to the mid-late 1st century.

The linear ditch

Of the five trenches within this area, only trenches 2 and 3 produced Roman material. Only two sherds were recovered from each trench (15 g and 27 g respectively), all of which were sandy grey wares, probably local and again datable only to the 1st to 4th centuries. Within trench 2 the sherds were recovered from ditch fills 205, 206, with the topsoil and upper fill of ditch 308 producing the material from trench 3.

The enclosure

Both trenches produced a small amount of material, mostly indeterminate sandy wares but also two sherds of samian, and four of black-burnished ware. The samian was of form Drag. 31, datable to the mid to late 2nd century AD. This was recovered from trench 1, which produced a total of nine sherds (54 g). However, all this material is from the topsoil, as is the material from trench 2, which includes the black-burnished ware sherds, one of which is decorated with burnished lattice on the exterior. This material represents the only samian recovered from the entire

excavations and only one other sherd of black-burnished ware was recovered from the hillfort interior.

The hillfort ramparts

Roman material was recovered from trenches R1, 3 and 4. All the Roman pottery from trench R1 occurs in phase 3 (the secondary ditch fills) and phase 4 (modern/post-breach). Sixty-four sherds (217 g) from 13 contexts were recovered from trench R1, with seven vessels recorded by rim count and an average sherd weight of 3.4 g. This low sherd weight and the poor condition of the sherds did not facilitate dating. A range of vessels recovered comprised necked and narrow mouthed jars and plain or flanged bowls in local sandy fabrics. However, the occurrence of characteristically late forms, such as bowls with flanged or flat-top rims and the presence of Oxford and New Forest colour-coat material indicates a late date *c* AD 240+. In trench R3 four contexts produced 27 sherds weighing 310 g, with a single vessel from context 501. All the contexts are fills of ditch 507. Contexts 502 and 501 (final silting of 507) produced sandy wares that cannot be dated within the Roman period.

Of the 12 fills of ditch recut 734, in trench R4, three produced pottery datable to the late Roman period, totalling 15 sherds (166 g). A single vessel, an Oxford colour-coat curved sided bowl, was recovered from fill 705 dated to AD 240–400, along with a sherd of New

Forest colour-coat. Oxford colour-coat material was also recovered from 707. There are conjoining sherds in 705 and the unstratified material from this area.

The hillfort interior

The vast majority of the Roman assemblage was recovered from the excavations within the hillfort interior. This produced 2471 sherds, weighing 21,824 g (93% and 97% of the total assemblage by sherd count and weight). Of this material the bulk appears to be redeposited, mainly in topsoil or ploughsoil layers (6000, 6001, 6500, 6501, 7000, 7002, 8502, 9000, 11001) which account for 42% of the hillfort interior material by sherd count, but only 27% by weight, reflecting the poor condition of this material. A number of features also contained pottery. A series of pits within trenches 16, 17, 18, 21–3 (fills of features: 8004, 8504, 8506, 9002, 11005 & 12019) all produced a similar range of material (Table 9.13), including a number of late fabrics such as late Roman shelly wares (Fig. 9.7.4), Oxfordshire and New Forest colour-coated wares, Oxfordshire white-slipped mortaria and a single sherd of black-burnished ware from pit (8004). These pits can therefore be dated to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries. Other features to produce Roman material were the hearth in trench 2, from which was recovered a single sherd of M31, and three sherds of sandy grey wares from the trackway in trench 3. Pottery from the oven (11504/11507; fills 11505, 11506 & 11509) in trench 24, comprised Compton material (Fig. 9.7.3), late Roman shelly wares, a range of sandy fabrics white-slipped mortaria and colour-coated sherds, including an Oxfordshire colour-coat bowl (Young 1977, C75), dated to AD 325–400.

Discussion

Assemblages within the region which can be compared to Uffington include Lowbury (Timby 1994) and Wantage (Timby 1996) which produced assemblages of 18.35 kg and 25.26 kg of pottery respectively. Whereas these sites display a broader date range, the Uffington material has a clear late Roman component, with notable absences of characteristically early Roman material. At Wantage the presence of earlier material was observed through the presence of early finewares, such as tablewares with barbotine or painted decoration, fineware beakers being produced in the Abingdon area and mica-slipped wares (*ibid.*, 134). At Lowbury a middle Roman component was identified from the presence of Oxford white wares, black-burnished ware and samian (including eight stamps). However at Uffington there is no significant part of the assemblage demonstrably earlier than the 3rd century.

There is very little 2nd–3rd-century material, with the only samian and black-burnished ware (except for a single sherd from the hillfort) being recovered from the enclosure. Although the local sandy wares may represent an earlier component to the assemblage, the forms and amount of later material are indicative of a late Roman date. Lowbury and Wantage produced a number of samian vessels including stamped material, mostly Dr 37s as opposed to the single Dr 18 and 31 vessel fragments at Uffington. Instead the

assemblage is dominated by late jar/bowl forms, Oxfordshire colour-coat, Oxfordshire white-slipped mortaria and late Roman Shelly wares, fabrics which are comparable to the phase 3 material (mid 3rd–late 4th centuries AD) at Wantage.

There are differences in the assemblages as the proportion of finewares is much lower at Uffington. This low amount of fine wares is unlikely to be due to the short chronological time span represented by the Roman ceramics, as generally sites within the region dated to the second half of the 4th century tend to show an increase in the amount of colour-coat material which was produced until the end of the Oxfordshire industry. It is more likely, therefore, to reflect the supply and status of the site. It is also interesting that the mortaria at Lowbury are predominantly Oxfordshire white ware, whereas at Uffington the dominant fabric is the later Oxfordshire white colour-coat mortaria. Although jar forms tend to be the dominant form in Roman assemblages, both domestic and rural, the ratio of jars to bowls does decrease throughout the period, with some later assemblages containing 30–40% or even 50% bowls (P Booth, pers. comm.). Bowls and dishes form 41% of the assemblage at Lowbury, a factor which has led Timby to suggest that this high proportion of bowls and mortaria may indicate some element of specialised food or drug preparation (Timby 1994, 183). It is notable, therefore, that this is not the case at Uffington where the ratio of jars to bowls is 6:1, with jars comprising 73% of the assemblage.

A large proportion of the Roman pottery assemblage was redeposited or unstratified and the few securely dated groups did not produce much material. With reference to the nature of Roman activity within the hillfort interior, the condition of the sherds and average sherd weight of 10.4 g for the material from the pits, and 7.2 g for material from unstratified layers does not necessarily suggest an accumulation of this material through agricultural processes. It is more likely that the assemblage represents domestic debris which has been disturbed by later ploughing activity on the site.

The post-Roman pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 117 sherds (493 g). The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by ware type is shown in Table 9.14. Apart from a single sherd of Saxo-Norman/early medieval material, all the pottery was post-medieval, with the majority dating to the 19th century. The presence of Midland Blackwares and Red Earthenwares indicates that there was activity dating to the 17th or 18th centuries, but all of this earlier pottery was residual.

Ware types

All the wares are types commonly found on sites of the period in Oxfordshire (Mellor 1984; 1994). Where

appropriate, the coding system of the Oxfordshire County type-series has been used, as follows:

East Wiltshire Ware (OXBF): Flint and limestone ware, currency from the 11th to 14th centuries, commonest vessel forms are jars, although bowls and occasional pitchers are known, one sherd, 9 g

Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms, this 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century in Oxfordshire, but in some rural areas it continued in use until the 19th century, 12 sherds, 40 g

Midland Blackware: Hard, sandy fabric, usually brick red, but can be paler or browner. Vessels usually have an even coating of thick black glaze, and are made in a range of utilitarian forms, particularly mugs, dated to late 16th/early 17th century, and continued in use until the 18th century, two sherds, 10 g

English Stoneware: White/grey stoneware with a white salt glaze, made at numerous centres, such as Staffordshire, London and Nottingham, from the later 17th century onwards, in a wide range of utilitarian forms, four sherds, 68 g

Mocha/Yellow Wares: Both wares have the same hard, slightly sandy white fabric and thick lemon glaze, made between 1780 and 1850, in a range of utilitarian forms, decorated with a brown, fern-like pattern produced by a mixture of tobacco and urine, four sherds, 63 g

Creamware: Fine, cream-coloured earthenware with a clear lead glaze, made from the same clay as English stonewares, but fired to a lower temperature, with a range of forms mainly tablewares such as plates and bowls, dated c 1740–1880, six sherds, 13 g

Ironstone China: Hard white earthenware, often with blue or red transfer printing, in a wide range of tablewares, first made in 1810, and dominated the post-medieval pottery assemblages of Oxfordshire by the mid 19th century, 88 sherds, 290 g

Chronology

The single sherd of OXBF came from context 3005 within the round barrow. It can be dated to around AD 1100 or later. The chronology of the post-medieval pottery suggests that most of the activity of that period took place during the 19th century. The presence of Midland Blackware and Red Earthenwares indicate that there was also 17th- or 18th-century activity, although most of the pottery of that date is residual, and was redeposited in features which did not contain any contemporary pottery. Context 1, the turfline, produced two sherds of Red Earthenware, which certainly fall into that category, as does the single sherd from 102, an erosion deposit. Contexts 1000 and 6501 could be dated to the late 17th century, but, in each case, this would purely be a *terminus post quem*, as the English stonewares which provide the date were still being produced in quantity during the

19th century. The amount of pottery of that date present at the site, linked with the stratigraphic position of the sherds in question, suggests that they are likely to be later rather than earlier.

FIRE CLAY

by Kayt Brown

The excavations produced a total of 56 fragments (3393 g) of fired clay (Table 9.15). The majority of this material comprises small, abraded amorphous fragments, the function of which cannot be determined. However, a small amount of daub and structural clay is also present, with a single large piece from pit fill 7512 weighing 2450 g. A limited range of fabrics were observed and recorded by principal inclusions with an increasing scale of coarseness from 1–5. The principal inclusions were (A) sand, (VE) voids from fired out organic matter, (S) shell, (P) clay pellets and (M) mica. The letter (N) denotes no further visible inclusions. The fabric descriptions are given below:

- AVE2 Fairly fine fabric with moderate, poorly sorted, sub-angular quartz grains and moderate voids resulting from fired out vegetable/organic material
- SA3 Quite fine, oxidised fabric, containing moderate amount of shell, and moderate poorly sorted sub-angular quartz
- SP3 Moderate amounts of shell and occasional clay pellets in a fine, sandy clay matrix
- S5 Coarse fabric with frequent large (3–5 mm) shell in sandy clay matrix
- A3 Frequent well-sorted quartz was only inclusion visible
- AM2 Very fine quartz with occasional mica inclusions
- AN Fine sandy clay matrix with no visible inclusions

Single fragments of fired clay (both fabrics AVE2) were recovered from the long mound (4010) and early Bronze Age round barrow (3007) although given the degree of disturbance of these deposits they are probably redeposited. Two fragments (fabric AN) were also recovered from the topsoil in the interior of the hillfort (6001). The majority of material comes from the excavation in the interior during 1995. Fifteen contexts, mainly pit fills, produced 47 fragments of fired clay (3331 g) of which 25 fragments of daub and structural clay were identified. These occur only in the fabrics AVE2 and SA3 respectively, with a number of the structural clay fragments displaying moulding impressions, but not the characteristic wattle impressions of daub.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

by Anne Marie Cromarty

A single brick of dimensions 228 × 105 × 66 mm deep was recovered from the round barrow (3016). It was handthrown and, unusually, frogged on one side. The 19th-century date of this piece is consistent with the interpretation of this context, as backfill of

Martin-Atkins' excavations in 1857, but is unclear why a brick would have been carried to the top of this hill. Two pieces of possibly Roman tile came from topsoil (6000) within the hillfort.

CLAY PIPES

by Anne Marie Cromarty

A total of 159 pieces of clay pipe, 147 stem fragments and 12 bowl pieces, were recovered. Eighteen of these were recovered from the area of the round barrow while the rest came from around the breaches in the hillfort ramparts (trenches R1, 2 and 4) and the interior of the hillfort itself (trenches H1-7, and 10-12). Full details of these finds are given in the archive.

Makers' marks

Two stem fragments were found to have a very clear maker's mark. The first of these marks consisted of an incuse name written across the stem of the pipe in capital letters around 2 mm high. This reads: RICH/ARD./AYE (Fig. 9.8.1). There is the suggestion of a fourth character in the third line and this script may have been enclosed within a frame. According to Oswald (1975, 79) this type of a maker's mark occurs in central southern England as far north as the Thames and occasionally in London, dating from around 1690-1750. Oswald considered it doubtful if such makers were working in London. However, a maker Richard Ayer is known to have been working in the capital during this period, c 1696. The second marked stem bore mould imparted names in relief along the length of the stem. Such marks became common from around 1830. According to Oswald (1975, 83) the maker's name was usually combined with a road, or, as in this case, a place name. The place name WALLINGFORD is clearly marked in capital letters 2 mm high along one side of this piece. This is enclosed in a plain frame but flanked by a leaf design continuing along the stem. The other side bore the maker's name. The initial is abraded and somewhat obscure, but may be H. The surname is clearly BRYANT. The T of this word is twice as high as the rest of the script at about 4 mm high. This can be attributed to the maker Henry Bryant known to be working in Wallingford between 1848-54.

The few other makers' marks within this assemblage were initials, or possibly symbols, in relief, probably mould imparted, on the sides of the spur of two examples and the sides of the ridge that replaces the spur on the third, and full details are in the archive. One fragment from the rampart material (101) may be of 19th-century date on the basis of its slender stem and the ridge replacing the spur. This has a pair of initials in relief on each side of this ridge, probably R.R or R.B. There are no pipe makers with these initials known to have worked in the immediate area at this time, but there are several known from London and southern England in general.

The date range of this assemblage is from at least the late 17th to the 19th or even the early 20th century, and confirms what is known from historical sources that White Horse Hill continued to be a focus of some light use through this period.

Catalogue of illustrated clay pipe

Figure 9.8

- 1 Stem fragment with maker's mark, RICH/ARD./AYE, probably about 1690-1750, context 7

GLASS

Glass bead

by Angela Boyle

A single glass bead (sf 447) was recovered from trench H3 (Fig. 9.8.2). It was a translucent green glass hexagonal bead, with a central perforation. This type is a common one and has a date range spanning the whole of the Roman period (Guido 1978, 96).

Catalogue of illustrated glass bead

Figure 9.8

- 2 Glass bead, hexagonal shape, translucent green glass, 5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide with a central perforation measuring 1.5 mm in diameter, context 7008, sf 447

Vessel glass

by Anne Marie Cromarty

A total of 162 pieces of vessel glass were recovered during these excavations. With the exception of a few Roman fragments most of the glass is of 20th-century date and is described in the archive. The glass is mainly fragmentary, with only one complete vessel, and was recovered from the topsoil or immediately underlying modern layers in the area of the hillfort, from the round barrow and a single piece was found in the topsoil around the White Horse. A few pieces of Roman date were recovered from the fill of a feature within the hillfort interior. These pieces though small and fragmentary are the most archaeologically interesting within this assemblage being well stratified and datable.

Roman glass

Five sherds were recovered from the fill of the possible oven or corndrier feature in trench H13 within the hillfort. This includes two conjoining rim sherds of pale green glass (Fig. 9.8.3). These sherds are somewhat thicker than is usual for Roman glass, but the form is very typical of an Isings Form 106 truncated conical beaker with a cracked-off rim (Cool and Price 1995). This was one of the commonest types of drinking vessel in use in the 4th century. Another two body sherds of paler green, almost clear, glass recovered from the same context (11505) and one

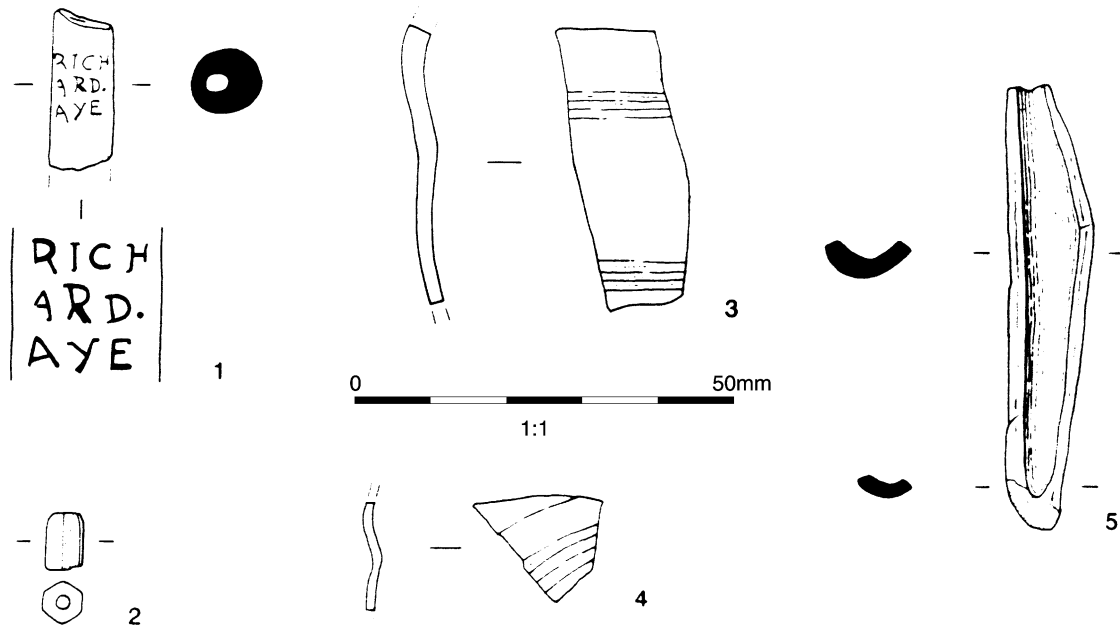


Figure 9.8 Miscellaneous finds: 1) clay pipe, 2) Roman glass bead, 3) and 4) Roman vessel glass, 5) worked bone gouge.

very small clear, colourless sherd from 11506 are all likely to be of similar vessels. A further four sherds of clear colourless vesicular glass were recorded as unstratified from these same excavations. The glass shows oblique wiping marks across the surface very typical of Roman glass (Fig. 9.8.4). This group includes four rim sherds with a body sherd from slightly below the rim, probably from the same vessel. These pieces are very thin as is characteristic of Roman glass and are also likely to be parts of this type of beaker. These vessels are likely to be of 4th-century date and this accords well with the dating of the coins and Roman pottery from this possible oven feature and the site in general.

Catalogue of illustrated vessel glass

Figure 9.8

- 3 Two conjoining rim sherds of pale green glass, possibly part of a truncated conical drinking beaker, Roman probably 4th century, context 11505
- 4 Clear glass piece with wiping marks, Roman, unstratified

WORKED BONE

by Angela Boyle

A worked bone gouge (Fig. 9.8.5) was found within the primary fill (11018) of a large irregular pit (11003) in the hillfort interior (trench H12). The gouge was made from a long bone shaft which has split in half longitudinally, and the outer surface of the cortex is highly polished. One end has been shaped and rounded. Pottery was also present and the pit is of early Iron Age date. The diagnostic feature of gouges is that the shaft is sliced longitudinally to form the shape, but the exact function is unclear. Similar

objects of comparable date have been recovered from Ashville Trading Estate (Parrington 1978, 81–2, fig. 60) and a probable middle Iron Age pit at Gravelly Guy Stanton Harcourt (Lambrick and Allen forthcoming, fig. 9.12, 584).

Catalogue of illustrated worked bone

Figure 9.8

- 5 Worked bone gouge, length 58 mm, width 11 mm, max thickness 3 mm, context 11018, sf 1354

WORKED FLINT

by Philippa Bradley

A total of 714 pieces of worked flint and 15 pieces of burnt unworked flint (weighing 205 g) was recovered, and is summarised in Table 9.16; selected pieces are described in the catalogue and illustrated in Figure 9.9. Further details of the assemblage may be found in the project archive. The majority of the flint was recovered from the ramparts of the hillfort, topsoil and other later contexts. The material has mostly lost its original context and has therefore been treated as a single group for the purposes of this report. Approximately 70 pieces of flint, mostly debitage, were recovered from the old ground surface, which was located in several of the trenches. This material and that from the round barrows and long mound are discussed in more detail.

Raw materials

The flint is mostly fairly good quality and therefore flakes well. Cortication is generally medium to heavy, obscuring the original colour of the flint.

Where this is visible, for example in breaks or where the cortication is lighter, the flint is dark brown to black and has a thick white, sometimes chalky cortex. Calcium carbonate concretion was recorded on some pieces. The flint would have been available in the locality, from the Clay-with-Flint deposits which overlie the chalk in places.

Flintworking

All elements of the reduction sequence were recovered (Table 9.16) but some pieces are obviously underrepresented, for example, chips and pieces of irregular waste. This presumably reflects collection biases rather than the activities occurring on site, although some post-depositional factors may have also affected the distribution of this material. The debitage is dominated by flakes, and a few blades and blade-like flakes were also recovered. These were distributed evenly across the areas excavated with a slight concentration in the area of the round barrow. The blades and blade-like flakes from this excavation came mainly from the topsoil and other recent contexts; although two were recovered from a possible grave fill (3017) and two from a layer relating to Martin-Atkins' investigations (3038).

In general both hard and soft hammers were used, although the former dominate. Many of the flakes are rather small; many preparation and trimming flakes were noted. Limited evidence for core rejuvenation was found with only a single face or edge flake (6500) being recovered. However, some of the cores have been carefully worked with evidence for edge abrasion and given the size of some of the cores at discard (five of the eight complete cores weighed under 60 g) it is likely that more examples were rejuvenated at some stage in the reduction process.

The core types are presented in Table 9.17. Core fragments are most numerous but a wide variety of other types were recovered. Some of the cores have been neatly worked and are likely to be of Neolithic date (Fig. 9.9.2). The presence of two discoidal types and a keeled core might support a later Neolithic date, as these types are more common in later assemblages (Healy 1985). Discoidal cores have been linked with the production of blanks for transverse arrowheads (Green 1980, 38).

Only 14 retouched pieces were found (Table 9.18). The types recovered are typical of domestic assemblages; knives (Fig. 9.9.3), retouched (Fig. 9.9.4) and serrated flakes dominate with some piercing and scraping tools (Fig. 9.9.5). A single unfinished arrowhead (Fig. 9.9.6) was recovered from the enclosure ditch (trench 2, 32), and it is certainly Neolithic although it is uncertain whether it is a leaf-shaped or a transverse type. A combination tool, a scraper and piercer was also recovered from this trench (25). The retouched forms, apart from the unfinished arrowhead, are

not particularly helpful in terms of dating. Some pieces are carefully worked whilst others have been much more perfunctorily made. The range of objects present would indicate a Neolithic to early Bronze Age date. The debitage and general characteristics of the material would accord with this.

Old ground surface

Areas of old ground surface from various trenches produced small quantities of relatively undiagnostic flintwork (Table 9.19). Taken together this material forms a fairly large sample of 71 pieces. The majority of this flint is debitage, a single retouched piece, a piercer, was recovered from context 520 (Table 9.19). The flakes tend to be fairly small and include some preparation and trimming flakes. Both hard and soft hammers were used to detach flakes. Three sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from context 30 and it is this material which may provide the most reliable dating evidence for this relatively indistinct flintwork.

Round barrows and long mound

The excavation of the round barrows and the long mound produced a fairly substantial quantity of worked flint (Table 9.16). However, much of the material from these trenches came from topsoil, the upper fills of ditches and other later contexts including layers associated with Martin-Atkins' investigations. The material from these trenches is dominated by debitage with only one miscellaneous retouched flake being recovered. As noted above a slight concentration of blades and blade-like flakes was noted but again many of these came from the topsoil. A quantity of soft-hammer struck flakes was also recovered; blade-like scars were also noted on the dorsal faces of some flakes (3015). This together with the blades and blade-like flakes might suggest a Neolithic date for some of this material although this is very tentative. Amongst the flakes various trimming flakes were recorded indicating that cores had been prepared in the area, the waste discarded and the prepared cores removed for use elsewhere. Only two cores and a core fragment were recovered (Table 9.17), a single platform type and a keeled core. The single platform example (context 3015) has some blade-like scars, perhaps suggesting that it too belongs with this tentative Neolithic activity. The keeled core may perhaps be later Neolithic in date (*cf* Healy 1985). Some of the material from this trench appeared to be mixed and it is possible that much of the flint from this excavation represents material discarded by Martin-Atkins.

Discussion

The worked flint was recovered from numerous trenches spread across the study area of the hill-fort, the White Horse monument and associated

landscape features. The quantities of material may simply reflect the intensity of archaeological activity, although a noticeable concentration of material came from the excavations of the round barrows and long mound (Table 9.16). Debitage dominates the collection and the relatively low number of retouched forms and the dominance of preparation and trimming flakes might suggest that the initial trimming of cores was an important activity. The range of tools present is entirely consistent with domestic occupation, perhaps of a fairly sporadic nature, during the Neolithic and possibly into the early Bronze Age. The flint recovered from areas of preserved ground surface located in several trenches is unfortunately quite undistinguished. The presence of a small quantity of Beaker pottery probably provides the best dating for these small groups of flint.

In the locality worked flint has been recovered from numerous sites; a small assemblage, including some Neolithic material, was recovered from Wayland's Smithy (Whittle 1991, 85–7). Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork was recovered from the excavation of the long barrow at Lambourn (Wymer 1965–6, 9) and Martin-Atkins' excavations of the Lambourn round barrows produced some very fine early Bronze Age gravegoods (Case 1956–7). Excavations at Tower Hill, Ashbury, produced a scatter of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint and an assemblage from a pit deposit associated with Grooved Ware and animal bone (Bradley, Chapter 12; Bradley 1994). Another Grooved Ware pit at Sparsholt produced a small flint assemblage, which was dominated by flakes but an oblique arrowhead, two serrated flakes and a scraper were also recovered (Durden 1996, 22). This material was associated with Grooved Ware and environmental remains (Howell and Durden 1996). At both Rams Hill and Weathercock Hill scatters of later Bronze Age flintwork with some earlier material were found (Bradley 1975b, 87; Bowden *et al.* 1991–3b, 77). Several surface collection surveys have taken place in this area and have produced Neolithic and Bronze Age lithics (for example, Gaffney and Tingle 1989; Tingle 1991).

Catalogue of illustrated flint

Figure 9.9

- 1 Single platform flake core, some platform abrasion. Heavily corticated. 29 g, 8509
- 2 Single platform flake core, some hinge fractures. Heavily corticated. 88 g, 21
- 3 Backed knife on a largely cortical flake, steep retouch down right hand side. 3, sf 21
- 4 Retouched flake, soft-hammer struck with steep retouch along right hand side. Heavily corticated. 30, sf 60
- 5 End and side scraper, neatly worked, scraping angle 60–70°. Heavily corticated. 102, sf 19
- 6 Arrowhead, possibly unfinished, oblique or leaf type. Heavily corticated. 32, sf 4

WORKED STONE

by Fiona Roe

The worked stone is a small assemblage, reflecting the small area inside the hillfort that was excavated. There are 15 pieces which have been utilised (Table 9.20), and a further 148 slingstones, all made from varieties of stone that could have been collected locally. Burnt stone was also noted. The main method of examination was with a $\times 8$ hand lens, and in addition a whetstone fragment was thin sectioned.

Materials

The site lies on the chalk, and this was used for at least seven loomweights (8507, 8508, 9009 & 12020), one spindlewhorl (7005) and one further miscellaneous cupped object (7008). Sarsen was used for querns, and one (41) was made from the saccharoidal variety, which was available in the area (Osborne White 1907, 120; 1925, 72). The Clay-with-Flints was a useful source for further types of stone such as dark ferruginous grit, micaceous sandstone and rounded flint pebbles (Osborne White 1907, 81; 1925, 79). Pieces of iron sandstone were perhaps rarely large enough to be used for querns, but were handy for small items such as an arrowshaft smoother (3030), and possibly also for small rubbers (6000, 12002). Dark red to brown micaceous sandstone was used for a whetstone (8509). Thin sectioning (R 300) has demonstrated that the stone is fairly well sorted sandstone, consisting mainly of quartz grains, all of which are coated in haematite. There is a little feldspar and calcite, and also some muscovite. Such a sandstone fragment could have been found in the Clay-with-Flints, or perhaps the Plateau Gravel (Osborne White 1907, 85; 1925, 79). Flint pebbles from the Clay-with-Flints were collected both for a hammerstone (8509) and for the slingstones.

Objects

There was only one small fragment of saddle quern (41) made from sarsen (Table 9.20). This is entirely typical of querns in the area before rotary querns came into use and is particularly characteristic of sites lying on the chalk. Similar saddle querns were found at All Cannings Cross (Cunnington 1923, 28 and pl 27.8). There is a fragment of sarsen saddle quern from one of the hut sites at Liddington Castle, and sarsen was also being used in an early Iron Age context at Roughground Farm (Allen *et al.* 1993, 44). Other broadly contemporary sites, however, were also equipped with some querns of imported stone, including Tower Hill, where Upper Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean had been brought to the site (see Roe, Chapter 12). Saddle querns of Lower Greensand from Culham, Oxfordshire were found during the 1996 excavations at

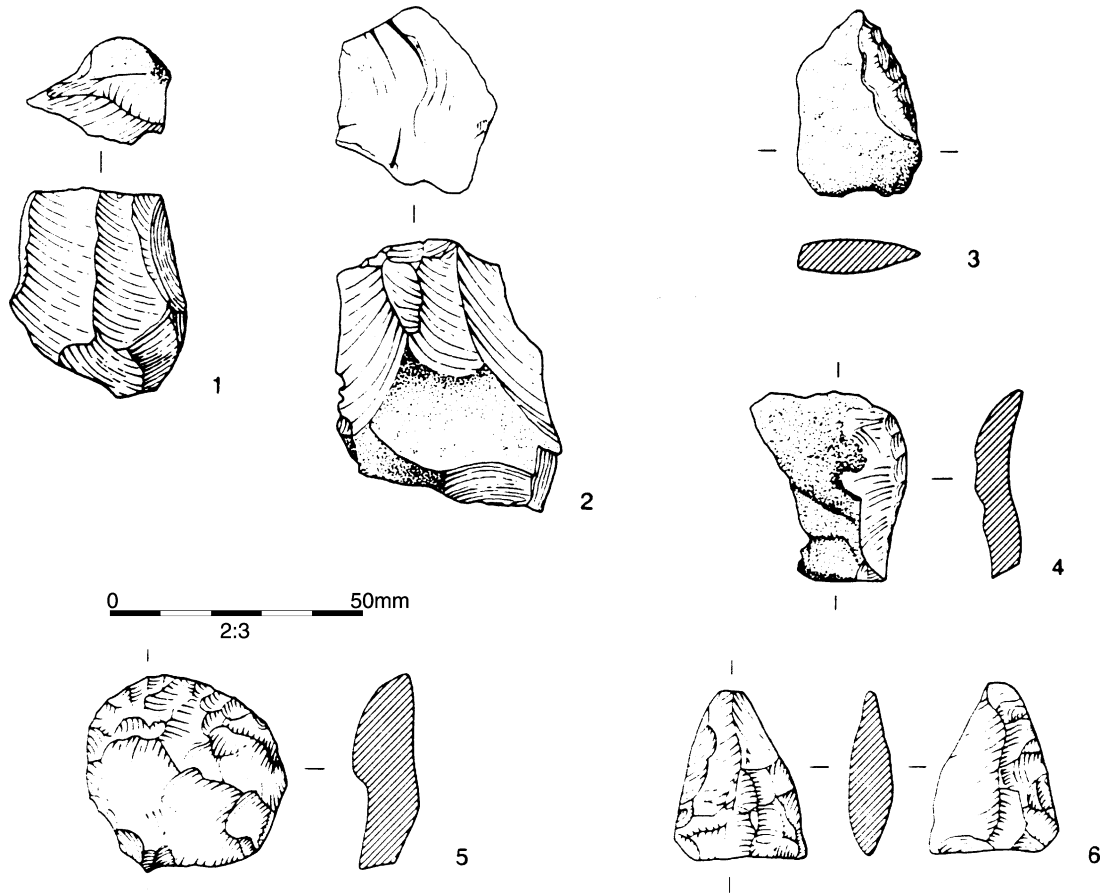


Figure 9.9 Worked flint: 1) and 2) single platform flake cores, 3) backed knife, 4) retouched flake, 5) end and side scraper, 6) unfinished Neolithic arrowhead.

Segsbury and also at Blewburton (Collins 1947, 21; 1953, 49). They also occurred at Appleford, close to the source of the stone (Hinchcliffe and Thomas 1980, 60). There may also therefore have been some querns of imported stone at Uffington, which so far have not shown up in the archaeological record.

The rubbers used for corn grinding at Uffington were probably also made from sarsen, or other suitable quernstone. Pieces of iron sandstone could have been used for smaller rubbers (6000, 12002), perhaps employed for different purposes, although the evidence is somewhat ambiguous.

The whetstone (Fig. 9.10.1) shows traces of wear on two edges, and came from a pit (8504) in a layer which contained Iron Age pottery, suggesting that it should be contemporaneous with the hillfort, although there was Romano-British pottery in the superseding layer. Roman whetstones were usually made from specific, traded materials, rather than locally acquired oddments of stone. The whetstone is pierced at the end, which is not a typical feature either of Iron Age or Roman whetstones, but is found on Bronze Age whetstones. Such perforated whetstones appear to have lasted until the late Bronze Age.

The Uffington worked stone has provided clear evidence that weaving was being practised at the hillfort, since the finds include a spindlewhorl and several loomweights (Table 9.20). Spindlewhorls made from chalk (Fig. 9.10.2) are common in the area, and two similar ones are known from Segsbury. They were also found at Ivinghoe Beacon, another contemporary site on the chalk (Cotton and Frere 1968, 213, fig. 13), and they were very common at Danebury (Laws *et al.* 1991, 397). The loomweights are of the pyramidal type (Fig. 9.10.4 and 5), although they are not particularly well shaped. This type of loomweight belongs in a definite slot in the prehistoric sequence, preceded by cylindrical Bronze Age loomweights, and followed later in the Iron Age by the triangular variety. The pyramidal version, or approximations to this shape, might be made either from chalk or fired clay, depending on the location of the site. At Aldermaston Wharf, two loomweights made from baked clay were cylindrical, and about 20 were of the late Bronze Age pyramidal variety (Bradley *et al.* 1980, 243, fig. 19). At Danebury, later in the timescale, a few loomweights, were made from chalk, and were oblong, approximating to the late Bronze Age variety, but were apparently phased out by numerous, more carefully shaped triangular

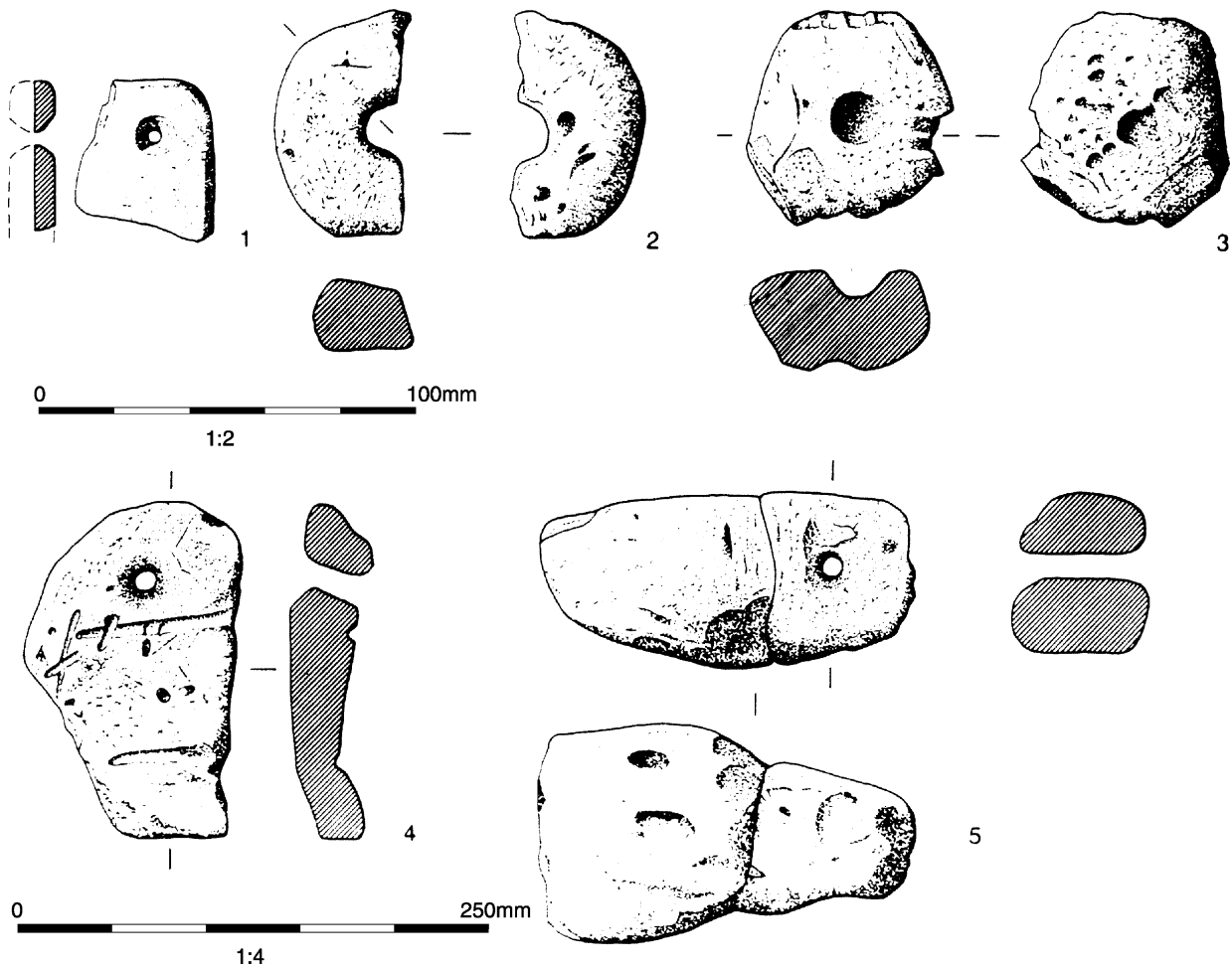


Figure 9.10 Worked stone and chalk artefacts: 1 to 5.

clay loomweights (Laws *et al.* 1991, 397 and figs 7.62–7.63; Poole 1991, 372 and figs 7.44–7.45).

Traditions of loomweight manufacture were strong and comparable types, either approximately pyramidal or oblong, have been found at a number of sites of similar date to Uffington hillfort. Similar chalk loomweights were found at All Cannings Cross (Cunnington 1923, 135 and pl. 24, no. 2), and there are also some from Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943, 297 and fig. 100; Laws 1991, 214 and fig. 171). Two from Compton Beauchamp, only 2.4 km from Uffington (though not specifically from Hardwell Camp), were made from chalk nodules (Ashmolean Museum 1951, 459). However at Ivinghoe Beacon, another site on the chalk, well-shaped pyramidal loomweights were made from baked clay (Cotton and Frere 1968, 214 and fig. 14). The use of this clay variety seems to have been widespread, with finds occurring on a number of sites as far apart as Runnymede Bridge, Surrey (Needham and Longley 1980, 407 and fig. 4) and Staple Howe, Yorkshire (Brewster 1963, 128 and fig. 73). Thus the rather unprepossessing objects from Uffington can be seen to belong to a widespread tradition.

Flint slingstones have also been recorded from a large number of sites, notably hillforts. The ones from Uffington are nearly all made from flint pebbles with a distinctive, crackled appearance, with just a few quartzite pebbles. They have an average weight of 63 g. These may have been collected from the Clay-with-Flints, but the ultimate source would have been in Tertiary beds, the suggested source for the thousands of flint slingstones found at Danebury (Brown 1984, 425 and fiche 12, E4–G8). Most fell within the weight range 29.5–109.5 g, comparing well with the Uffington slingstones, only five of which do not fit within this bracket. Some similar slingstones were found at Liddington Castle, most behind the rampart (Hirst and Rahtz 1996, 48). Flint slingstones have also been recorded from a number of south-western hillforts, and these are thought to have been collected from Chesil Beach, although with the same, ultimate Tertiary source. At Maiden Castle, again thousands of slingstones were found, those from the most recent excavations having an average weight of 51.6 g (Laws 1991, 232). They occurred mainly in later Iron Age contexts, and perhaps

represent the end of a tradition which could have been just starting at Uffington Castle hillfort.

There are three further miscellaneous objects. A grooved fragment which could be an arrowshaft smoother (3030) came from the ditch fill of the round barrow, and is likely to be earlier prehistoric. A flint hammerstone (8509) is from the same context as the whetstone, a pit in the hillfort interior. These are relatively common, even on Iron Age sites. A cupped chalk object (Fig. 9.10.3) is of unknown purpose, but a similar piece is illustrated from All Cannings Cross (Cunnington 1923, 139 and pl. 24, 3). There is another example from Alfred's Castle, although from a Roman context, and further such pieces were found at Danebury (Laws *et al.* 1991, 404 and fig. 6.67).

Burnt stone

There is not a large amount of burnt stone, consisting mainly of small fragments of quartzite and sarsen, most of which came from the ploughsoil (Table 9.21). There is also some burnt flint (see above).

Conclusion

In prehistoric times there was great awareness of what was available in the way of local lithic resources. The worked stone from Uffington Castle

demonstrates how every variety of local stone that could be utilised was put to some kind of use, however insignificant. Further lithic materials may have been imported to the site, but have not appeared amongst the excavated material. This assemblage consists of a few mundane, mostly incomplete objects, but nearly all have parallels at other contemporary sites, and so can be seen to form part of a wider picture of daily life in the region.

Catalogue of illustrated worked stone

Figure 9.10

- 1 Whetstone of iron sandstone with hole in one corner, possibly late Bronze Age, 42 × 28.5 × 6 mm, 20 g, context 8509, sf 853
- 2 Half of a chalk spindlewhorl of disc type, possibly Iron Age, 57.5 × 34 × 22 mm, 30 g, context 7005
- 3 Cupped object of chalk, unknown function, 61 × 56 × 28 mm, 80 g, context 7008
- 4 Complete chalk loomweight of pyramidal type, with 2 grooves across and hole at one end, possibly Iron Age, 169.5 × 109 × 61 mm, 850 g, context 8508, sf 855
- 5 Complete chalk loomweight of pyramidal type (in 2 pieces), with hole at one end, 190 × 118.5 × 9.35 mm, 1700 g, context 9009, sf 955