REPORTS

Excavation of Early Bronze-Age Cremations and a Later Iron-Age Settlement at Finmere Quarry, North-East Oxfordshire

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SUMMARY

In 2000 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook an excavation at Finmere Quarry in advance of mineral extraction. Three areas were excavated in order to investigate features identified on aerial photographs and by field evaluation. The earliest features were a small number of early Bronze-Age pits; two of these contained cremation burials, one of which was accompanied by a pair of vessels. The majority of features dated to the later Iron Age, including an open linear roundhouse settlement which was succeeded by a sub-rectangular enclosure and a 'C'-shaped enclosure. Other features of this date were a penannular enclosure and a linear boundary or drove-way. A later trackway was probably Roman.

In 2000 Cotswold Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation at Finmere Quarry, Finmere (centred on NGR SP 6250 3250). The excavation was commissioned by Premier Aggregates Ltd in advance of mineral extraction. The site is located in the north-eastern corner of Oxfordshire, to the east of Buckingham and to the south-west of Finmere village (Fig. 1). It lies on the edge of an outcrop of fluvioglacial sands and gravels surrounded by clay which sit on a limestone plateau at 120 m OD.[1] The plateau forms part of the catchment area of the Great Ouse river which lies 2 km away, and the watershed between the catchments of the Great Ouse and the tributaries of the Thames is *c.*5 km to the south.

The site was initially identified as a cropmark complex consisting of a penannular ditch, a rectangular enclosure, a north-west to south-east boundary ditch, and an east-west trackway (Fig. 2).[2] This archaeological potential led to a condition being placed on the grant of planning permission requiring archaeological investigation.

The archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken in stages. It began in 1993 with a fieldwalking survey which identified a focus of Prehistoric material in the location of the cropmarks, including a small assemblage of largely undiagnostic worked flint, a small amount of burnt stone, and a fragment of daub.[3] Evaluation trenches were excavated across the cropmarks,

[1] British Geological Survey, *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 219: Buckingham. Solid and Drift Edition* 1:50,000 series (2002).

[2] Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record, Nos. 3468 and 13469.

[3] Cotswold Archaeological Trust, 'Foxley Fields Farm, Finmere, Oxfordshire: report on the results of a fieldwalking survey and archaeological evaluation', typescript reports 93122 and 93126 (1993).

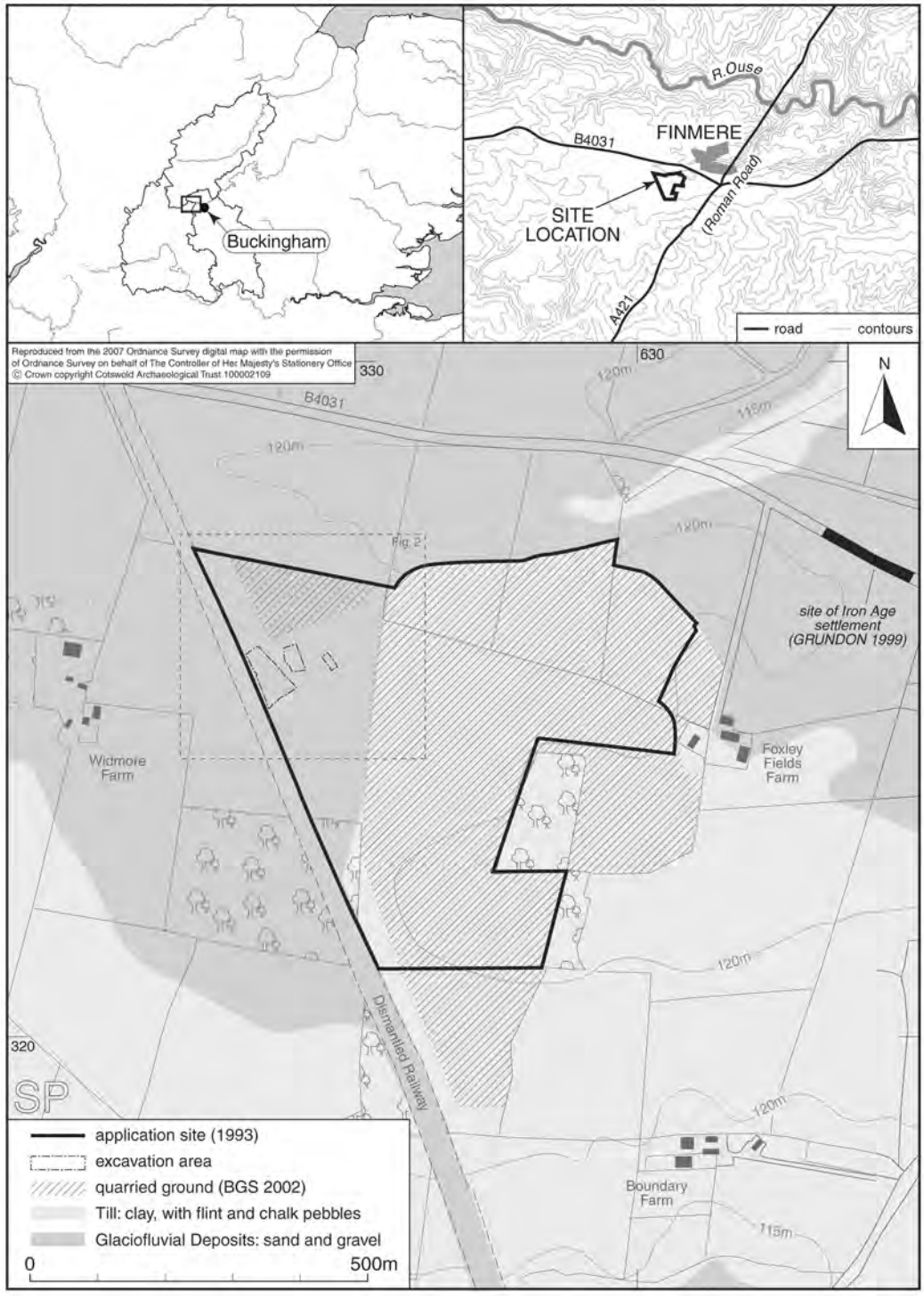

Fig. 1. Site location.

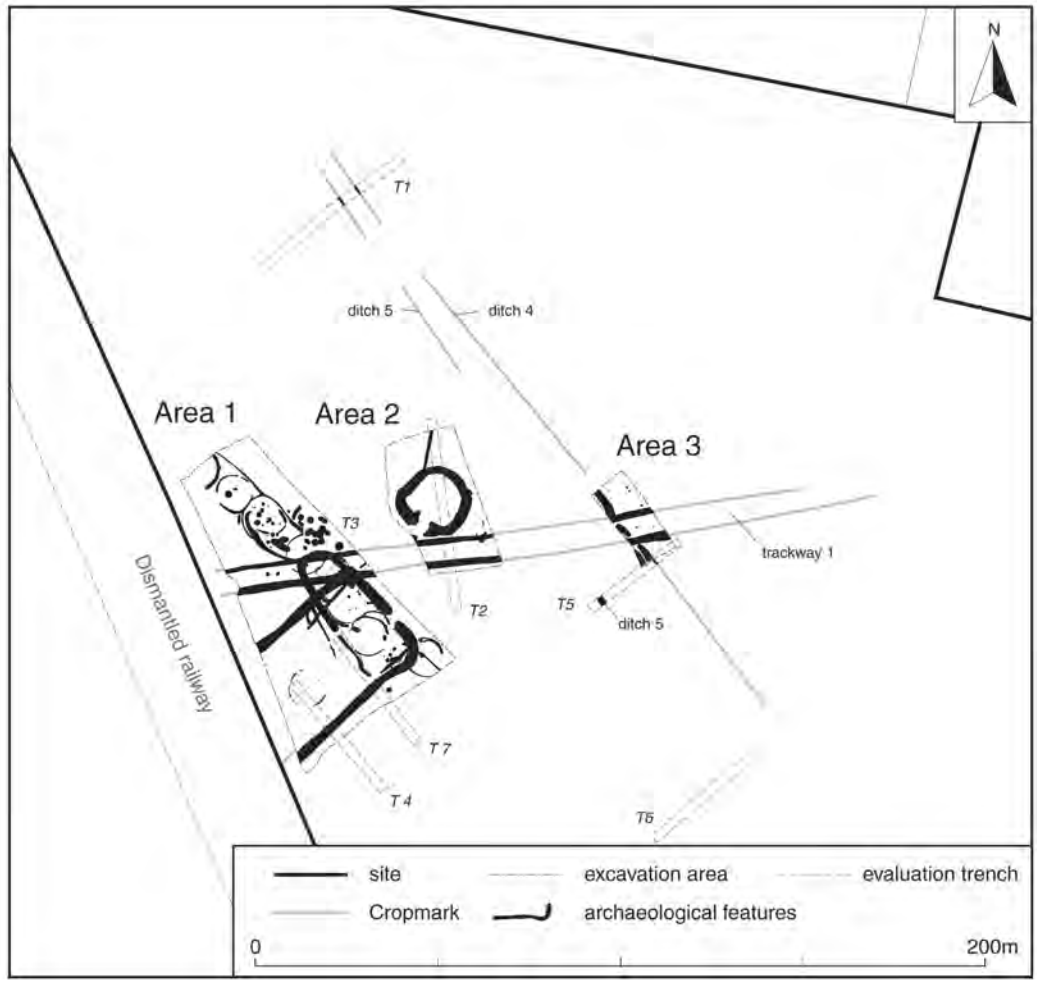

Fig. 2. The site, showing excavation areas.

leading to the identification of three areas of archaeological importance: area 1 contained a Prehistoric rectangular enclosure; area 2 a Prehistoric penannular ditch; and area 3 an undated segmented ditch. An undated trackway ran through all three (Fig. 2). Based on these findings, a brief for the necessary investigation of these three areas was produced by Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Service, and the work was carried out in November and December 2000.

Between 0.3 m and 0.5 m thickness of topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to the top of the highest archaeological horizon using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Excavation continued by hand thereafter. The excavation sample was generally 10% of linear features and 50% of discrete features, although, in agreement with Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Service, the sample rates were lowered in area 1 where a number of pits were not examined.

DISCUSSION

Early Bronze-Age Burial

The discovery of two separate early Bronze-Age cremation burials, one of which was accompanied by a pair of inverted collared urns, was fortuitous as there was no prior indication of their presence through the evaluation stages of the archaeological work (Fig. 4). The cremations were associated with three pits (one of which was demonstrated through radiocarbon determination to date to the early second millennium BC) without cremated bone but filled with oak charcoal. These contents would appear to be pyre material associated with the funerary rite and would indicate that both the cremation and the burial took place on the same site. However, the wider context of the burials is unclear. There are no cropmark indications of ring-ditches in the area and therefore no suggestion that the area was used as a Bronze-Age cemetery or 'mortuary complex' of any sort, although it is possible that other flat graves existed elsewhere on the site. The superficial flintwork found across the application site is generally of later Neolithic or Bronze-Age type (Table 1), but was lightly scattered and does not indicate any particular activity.

The presence of a pair of collared urns in one grave pit is unusual but not exceptionally rare. The limited amount of cremated bone present and the absence of any duplicated bone elements with this burial make it uncertain whether more than one individual is represented. It is notable, however, that the accessory vessel (vessel 2) contained most of the bone, including diagnostic pieces indicating a sub-adult individual (perhaps a child). Whether the larger vessel contained parts of a second, older individual is not knowable. The larger vessel contained an accompanying flint blade which appears to have been a 'grave good' (Fig. 19). The piece is of Mesolithic form and shows some damage through rolling so it was probably a collected item. It can be noted that the superficial and unstratified flintwork from the site contains no Mesolithic material and the blade was probably not found locally.

The interment of small (or 'token') quantities of cremated bone, with or without accompanying vessels, was a common practice in the Bronze Age and indicates a selective process which may have entailed collecting just a few handfuls of bone from the pyre. It is notable that the base of vessel 2 contained the larger pieces, presumably those that were chosen first (Table 3). These may have included skull fragments in particular.

Iron-Age and Roman Settlement

Date and phasing. The dating evidence provided principally by the pottery indicates that the Iron-Age settlement did not start earlier than the fourth century BC and was abandoned by the first century AD. The end date is indicated by the scarcity of late Iron-Age wheel-made wares, which entered the region generally in the century or so before the Roman conquest, but which are only represented on the site by two sherds from ditch 2 and two further sherds from ditch 4. Late Iron-Age wares were present at a site about 300 m north-east of Foxley Fields Farm,[4] and unless there was a particular cultural reason why they were not used in the later phases at Finmere Quarry, it seems that the occupation here must have ended before the early first century AD. This conclusion is significant because the sequence of at least three phases of Iron-Age activity includes the digging and apparently natural in-filling of a substantial enclosure ditch (enclosure 2), followed by the digging of a 'C'-shaped probable stock enclosure ditch (enclosure 3), itself of two sub-phases, through the silted ditches. Again, the ditch of the 'C'-shaped enclosure appears to have largely in-filled of its own accord, although the upper fill contained what may have been a deliberate deposit in the form of a semi-complete bipartite vessel of middle Iron-Age type (Fig. 22.8). It is worth considering that, if the purpose of the 'C'-shaped enclosure was restricted to the

[4] I. Grundon, 'Finmere, Gravel Farm and Foxley Fields Farm', *South Midlands Archaeology,* 29 (1999), pp. 31–5.

management of livestock, the vessels used there might have been limited to 'old-fashioned' styles even if wheel-thrown wares were generally in use elsewhere. This situation would allow a longer chronology, perhaps until the mid or later first century AD, but it is clear that the site had been abandoned before Roman pottery became common.

The early linear settlement has been called phase 1. While it clearly included some intercutting features, including pits, which indicate changes in land-use over time, the precise sequence of activity is not clear and sub-phasing has not been attempted. It can be noted that, while a number of roundhouses and pits had become redundant by the time the sub-rectangular enclosure 2 was in use, it is possible that elements of the earlier settlement were still in use during phase 2. In particular, ditches 2 and 3 and a number of the pits partly enclosed by these ditches may have been used in phase 2, as well as, or instead of, phase 1 (Fig. 12).

Land division and settlement. It is not entirely clear whether a land boundary was formally in existence at the time the settlement was founded, but the linear alignment (approximately north-south) was certainly established early in the settlement's existence and was presumably conditioned by earlier land uses. While evidence for settlement of any form is not common in north Oxfordshire, and where identified tends to be of the enclosed type,[5] settlements inserted into an apparently pre-existing land division have been recorded elsewhere. Linear planning has been noted as a distinctive feature of the Stanton Harcourt and Cassington area of Upper Thames Valley, where settlement from the early Iron Age is seen to be tightly constricted towards the edge of the gravel terrace. At Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt, it was suggested that this location provided access to the arable land on a strip along the outer margin of the gravel terrace, and pasture towards the core of the terrace.[6] An example closer in both form and sequence comes from the settlement at Silverstone 3, about 15 km to the north-east in Northamptonshire.[7] Here a linear later Iron-Age settlement occupied a restricted space either side of a land division which had been defined, at least in part by a pit alignment of slightly earlier (but probably later Iron-Age) date. The occupation sequence was completed by a deep-ditched enclosure also aligned with the land division.[8]

In the case of both Finmere Quarry and Silverstone 3 it is not clear why the community had chosen to position itself at these precise locations, although the need to avoid impinging on productive land would seem to be an obvious explanation. They may have provided access to different types of land. At Finmere Quarry the position of the storage pits on the north-east side of the settlement need not imply that arable land lay on this side since a possible stock enclosure (enclosure 4) also lay in this direction. Unless this enclosure was the location of another domestic dwelling, or used for purposes connected with arable farming (such as grain or straw storage) the Gravelly Guy 'model' may not be applicable in this instance. Moore also sees the positioning of settlements in proximity to existing landscape divisions as implying control of those features, and there may be an element of 'laying claim' behind this kind of colonisation.[9]

Land division in the form of continuous linear ditches and pit alignments have been recognised as a late Bronze-Age and early Iron-Age phenomenon in many areas of the country, including

[5] R. Featherstone and B. Bewley, 'Recent Aerial Reconnaissance in North Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, 65 (2000), pp. 13–26.

[6] G. Lambrick, 'The Development of Late Prehistoric and Roman Farming on the Thames Gravels', in M. Fulford and E. Nichols (eds.), *Developing Landscapes of Lowland Britain: the Archaeology of the British Gravels*, Society of Antiquaries occasional paper, 14 (1992), pp. 78–105; G. Lambrick and T. Allen, *Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt: the Development of a Prehistoric and Romano-British Community*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 21 (2004), pp. 479–83.

[7] Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands.*

[8] Ibid.

[9] T. Moore, *Iron Age Societies in the Severn–Cotswolds: Developing Narratives of Social and Landscape Change,* BAR BS, 421 (Oxford, 2006), pp. 88–90.

the permeable geologies of Northamptonshire.[10] The date and character of land division in the Cotswolds is less well known, although a possible late Bronze-Age or early Iron-Age division is represented by a ditch and a drove-way at Rollright.[11] There is, however, certainly evidence of a rather later date for land division in some of the upland areas of the south midlands including south Northamptonshire and north Oxfordshire. Six kilometres to the west near Cottisford a pit alignment, which was re-dug as a segmented ditch, returned a radiocarbon date in the third to fourth centuries BC.[12] This feature appeared to lie at some distance from contemporaneous settlement as there were very few finds.

At Slade Farm on the northern outskirts of Bicester a later Iron-Age boundary ditch, with intermittent structures attached or positioned alongside, was traced for over 400 m.[13] The ditch was shallow and, while broadly orientated north-south, it incorporated several changes of alignment at points which may have been significant landscape features which were sometimes occupied by circular structures. The boundary itself is linked to the need to manage resources in an increasingly contested landscape, and it was considered likely that the mostly single structures represented temporary houses for transhumant shepherds or cowherds.

Houses. The houses at Finmere Quarry show a tightly ordered use of space. There are numerous examples from other sites of this type of settlement planning, although it is normally difficult to demonstrate those houses that were strictly contemporary with each other. The analysis of the enclosure groups at Gravelly Guy suggests that within each of the five or six 'blocks' of settlement, just two or three enclosures would have been in use at any one time.[14] In some cases the encircling gullies lie tight up to each other, and occasionally overlap, so it is possible these were in fact of different phases and that pairs of buildings were more common than groups of three.

The later Iron-Age phases at Claydon Pike, Fairford (Gloucestershire) likewise show a remarkably tightly organized use of space, particularly Warrens Field Island 2, which was occupied by three linear groups of roundhouses.[15] Of the dozen or more roundhouses present, it is estimated that no more than three were in use at any one time. On Warren Field Island 3 the plan shows a tight cluster of seven or eight roundhouses although it is suggested that only one or two were in use at the same time.

Despite the clear restrictions on land available for housing at Claydon Pike, it is notable that fresh land was nearly always used for construction, rather than rebuilding being undertaken on the same spot. One possible reason for this is that the original building was left intact while the new one was being constructed.[16] In addition, house construction and dismantling may have been linked to the biographies of individual households (marriages, deaths, and so on) with socially prescribed reasons why the location was not immediately re-used.[17] If either situation reflects the reality, it counters frequent interpretations which show phases of building on the same spot following one another in sequence. It is possible instead that the site of a house was left alone for a generation or so before it was re-occupied.

This kind of pattern applied to the Finmere Quarry linear settlement suggests that no more than two or three roundhouses were used at the same time, implying about three sub-phases of

[10] Moore, *Iron Age Societies*, p. 82; A. Kidd, 'Northamptonshire in the First Millennium BC', in M. Tingle (ed.), *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society (2004), p. 52.

[11] G. Lambrick, *The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: Draft Resource Assessment,* http://thehumanjourney.net accessed 1 July 2010).

[12] Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands*, p. 76.

[13] Ellis, Hughes, and Jones, 'Iron Age Boundary and Settlement Features'.

[14] Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, Fig. 3.10.

[15] D. Miles, S. Palmer, A. Smith, and G. Perpetua Jones, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley: Excavations at Claydon Pike and other Sites within the Cotswold Water Park,* Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 26 (2007), Fig. 3.3.

[16] Miles et al., *Iron Age and Roman Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley*, p. 59.

[17] T. Moore, personal communication.

construction within the area exposed for excavation. Other roundhouses may have lain further north and south.

Enclosure 4. This was a relatively small enclosure defined by a substantial ditch. Its position in relation to the linear settlement suggest that it had a distinctive function, although there was no particular indication as to what this might have been. The form is common in the Thames and Great Ouse valleys,[18] and the absence of many contemporaneous internal features, particularly when contrasted with the presence of penannular house gullies outside the enclosures, has led to the suggestion that these were for stock.[19] The suggestion is perhaps re-inforced in the case of enclosure 4 at Finmere Quarry by the indication that the accompanying bank was an external one, and the enclosure therefore would have been appropriate for retaining animals, as opposed to preventing them getting in. It is alternatively possible that the enclosure was for a dwelling of unusual status. Parker Pearson has suggested that this kind of significance may be attached to houses with west-facing entrances.[20]

Defended enclosures. Enclosure 2 bears a resemblance to the 'Wootton Hill style' enclosure of Northamptonshire, for which a defensive function has been argued.[21] Around sixteen examples of this type of enclosure have been identified in Northamptonshire.[22] They are generally small (less than 1 ha in internal area) and defined by an unusually deep ditch, a single entrance which sometimes shows evidence of a substantial timber gateway.[23] The enclosure interiors were normally not densely occupied, showing just one or a small number of roundhouses and a general absence of pits. While originally described as 'late Iron Age', dating has tended to suggest they are a middle to late Iron-Age phenomenon.[24] While some variation in these enclosures is apparent, and the defensive function has also been questioned, the Finmere enclosure is strikingly similar to enclosure 1 at Silverstone 3 in its form and relationship to the other elements of the middle Iron-Age settlement.[25] The general scarcity of internal features, which, as at Silverstone, comprise just a single roundhouse, suggests that the enclosure had restricted use and may have been for someone of high status. However, in common with the other 'Wootton Hill-style' enclosures the assumption of high status is not supported by anything in the finds assemblages and the role of these enclosures remains somewhat enigmatic.

There is a case for seeing enclosure 2 at Finmere Quarry as a southern outlier of a type of enclosure with a generally more northerly distribution. However, while this type of enclosure does not seem to have been recorded outside Northamptonshire, this may be more a reflection of a lack of excavation in adjacent areas without which this category of enclosure may be difficult to define. Certainly, small sub-rectangular Iron-Age enclosures are common as cropmarks in other regions, a recent analysis suggesting that the type comprises over half the examples of Iron-Age settlements in the Cotswold–Severn region.[26] Excavated examples include The Bowsings, Lower Barn, and Middle Ground in the northern Cotswolds.[27] Marshall has interpreted the Bowsings as

[18] e.g. Pennyland, Fig. 5 (enclosures 1–5), in R.J. Williams, *Pennyland and Hartigans.*

[19] Williams, *Pennyland and Hartigans,* pp. 19–20.

[20] M. Parker Pearson, 'Food, Sex and Death: Cosmologies in the British Iron Age with Particular Reference to East Yorkshire', *Cambridge Arch. Journal,* 9, 1 (1999), pp. 44–6.

[21] B. Dix and D. Jackson, 'Some Late Iron Age Defended Enclosures in Northamptonshire', in A. Gibson (ed.), *Midlands Prehistory: Some Recent and Current Researches into the Prehistory of Central England,* BAR BS, 204 (1989), pp. 158–67; Kidd, 'Northamptonshire in the First Millennium BC'.

[22] Kidd, 'Northamptonshire in the First Millennium BC', p. 54.

[23] Dix and Jackson, 'Some Late Iron Age Defended Enclosures', Figs. 10.2, 10.3, 10.4.

[24] Kidd, 'Northamptonshire in the First Millennium BC', p. 54; Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands,* p. 167.

[25] Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands,* Fig. 2.2.

[26] Moore, *Iron Age Societies,* p. 31.

[27] A. Marshall, 'From Iron Age to Roman – The Park and Bowsings Sites at Guiting Power', *Glevensis,* 28 (1995), pp. 13–19; Moore, *Iron Age Societies,* p. 31 and Fig. 5.6.

a defended site, although Moore sees the defensive character as symbolic rather than pragmatic.[28] One of the features of this group is the presence of a single 'storage' pit towards the corner of the enclosure, a feature which may find parallel with the four-post structures in the corners of the enclosures at Wootton Hill, Wakerley, and Weekley.[29] While these in Northamptonshire have been labelled possible watch-towers (in the context of a supposed defensive function), a more common interpretation is that they were perhaps structures for grain storage. Thus both these types of enclosures may have had similar functions involving grain storage, one above ground and the other below. There is no good evidence of facilities for grain storage within enclosure 2 at Finmere Quarry, although these could have lain in the unexcavated part at the back of the enclosure. There are a few pits and post holes near the enclosure entrance, although they may relate to the earlier settlement rather than the enclosure.

Roman Trackway

While the post-Iron-Age trackway was undated, its form is characteristic of the rural pattern of communication that developed across large areas of southern England in the Roman period. It appears to have respected both the north-south ditched division of the later Iron Age (ditches 4 and 5) and to some extent enclosure 4, which the trackway might even have been aligned on. It disregards enclosure 3, however, which for reasons discussed earlier, is considered to be a relatively late feature, and overall it implies a major re-organisation of land division after the abandonment of the Iron-Age settlement.

Many examples of Roman trackways have been found in those parts of the region which have been examined in detail, particularly the Upper Thames Valley (e.g. Claydon Pike, Roughground Farm, and Farmoor), where they appear to be linked to a reorganisation of rural settlement in the early Roman period.[30] Superficially then, the Finmere Quarry example follows the Upper Thames Valley pattern of settlement dislocation in the first century BC, and new rural arrangements in the first or second century AD. Because this seems to be a recurring pattern, Lambrick has linked these changes to imposed stimuli, rather than organic pressure for change.[31] The evidence for discontinuities in Northamptonshire is more equivocal, with some sites showing continuity across the Iron Age-Roman transition and others not. Excavations on the A43 road scheme have indicated that the Iron-Age sites showed 'a similar pattern of foundation in the third or fourth century BC and abandonment in the first century BC or first century AD',[32] and the Finmere Quarry settlement would appear to fit this pattern.The Finmere Quarry trackway can be traced no further than the extraction site from aerial photographs (probably reflecting unsuitable geological conditions to the east and west). A similar feature has been plotted as a cropmark just west of Finmere running in a very straight north-east to south-west alignment for about 500 m. It runs closely parallel to the Alchester-Towcester Roman road, albeit some distance away, and is almost certainly Roman in date. However, the pattern of rural Roman communications is under-researched in the region and further speculation can do little to advance our understanding.[33]

EXCAVATION RESULTS

This report presents the results of the excavation and incorporates those of the evaluation. Archaeological features were present in all three areas although it was clear that all had been truncated by ploughing. The majority of feature fills were very similar in appearance and were considered likely to be the result of natural in-filling. As a result,

28 Moore, *Iron Age Societies*, p. 32.
29 Dix and Jackson, 'Some Late Iron Age Defended Enclosures', Fig. 10.2.
30 Miles et al., *Iron Age and Roman Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley*, p. 91 and Fig. 5.1.
31 Lambrick, 'Development of Late Prehistoric and Roman farming', p. 84.
32 Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands*, p. 165.
33 M. Henig and P. Booth, *Roman Oxfordshire* (Stroud, 2000), pp. 95–102.

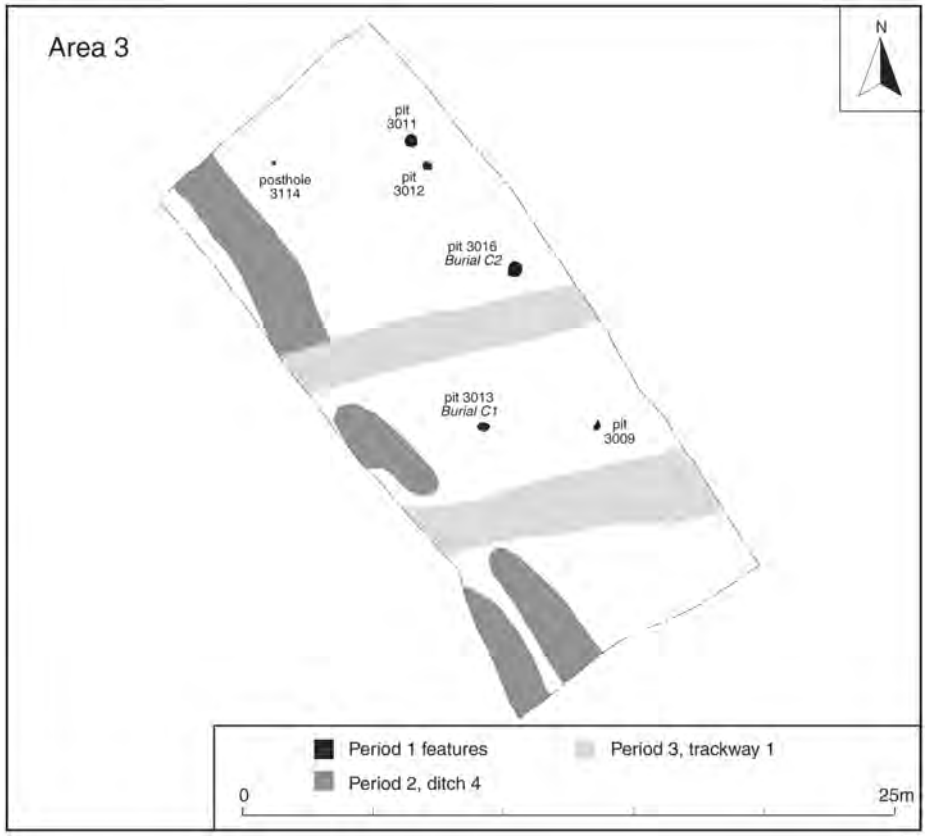

Fig. 3. Area 3, early Bronze-Age cremations and later features.

stratigraphic relationships between intercutting features were often difficult to establish. The suggested phasing relies largely on spatial relationships between features, on their relationships to cropmarks, and on artefactual and radiocarbon dating, as well as on the few established stratigraphic relationships. All radiocarbon dates quoted in the text are at 95.4% confidence level (two sigma).

Evidence for activity dating to three periods was identified:

Period 1, early Bronze Age (*c.*2100–1600 BC): a small number of pits, including two cremation burials.

Period 2, later Iron Age (fourth to first centuries BC): the majority of features dated to this period and included at least three phases of activity consisting of a linear roundhouse settlement, a sub-rectangular enclosure, and a 'C'-shaped enclosure. In addition to the phased features, a number of features were present which dated to period 2 but which remained unphased.

Period 3, undated, but probably Roman: a trackway that was stratigraphically later than period 2.

In addition, a small number of pits that were irregular or 'C'-shaped in plan were found throughout the site. Excavated examples proved to have irregular edges and are most likely to have been tree-throw pits. None contained artefactual material and most lacked stratigraphic relationships with other features, although a few were earlier than period 2 and 3 features.

Period 1: Early Bronze-Age Cremations (c.2100–1600 BC) (Fig. 3)

Early Bronze-Age activity was restricted to area 3 and comprised five pits and a posthole. Of these, pits 3011, 3013, and 3016 were dated, while pits 3009 and 3012 were assigned to this period due to the similarity of their form and fills to the dated pits. Posthole 3114 remained undated but might also have belonged to this period given its proximity to the other features.

Pit 3016 was bowl-shaped, 0.4 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep, and contained two inverted early Bronze-Age collared urns (vessels 1 and 2) placed side by side (Figs. 4 and 20). The space between the urns and the pit edges had

Fig. 4. Burial C2, early Bronze-Age collared urns. Vessels 1 (left) and 2 (right) after excavation.

been packed with natural clay. The urn and the surrounding fill were block-lifted for excavation in CA's laboratory which revealed that the urns were filled with sandy clay with the larger one (vessel 1) containing a flint blade and a broken flint blade fragment or flake. The intact blade (Fig. 19) is of probable Mesolithic date and appears to have been a selected item, while the broken piece might have been an accidental inclusion. Cremated human remains were found in both vessels, bones from the accessory vessel (vessel 2) indicating a sub-adult individual (burial C2).

Pit 3013 lay 6 m to the south of pit 3016 and was slightly smaller but otherwise similar. It contained a single charcoal-rich fill, 3004, from which a few fragments of cremated human bone (burial C1) and three small sherds of undiagnostic Prehistoric pottery were recovered. It cannot be conclusively determined whether or not these sherds represent the remains of a truncated urn although, based on their small size, this seems unlikely: they are more likely to represent background material. A fragment of the charcoal from fill 3004 proved to be oak (*Quercus* sp.), probably from the trunk of the tree.

Pits 3009, 3011, and 3012 were located within 6 m of the burial pits. All were similar to the burial pits and were entirely filled with charcoal-rich deposits, although no further finds or cremated bone were recovered. Charcoal from pit 3011 gave two radiocarbon dates with a range of 2040–1880 cal. BC (Wk-19471; Wk-19472) which is consistent with the date of the collared urns recovered from pit 3016. The charcoal in the pits and the cremations occurred in similar quantities and the identifiable pieces were all from oak (*Quercus* sp.).

Other evidence of early Prehistoric occupation includes a small collection of worked flint, probably largely of late-Neolithic or early Bronze-Age date, recovered during fieldwalking over the entire application site, and as residual material within Iron-Age and later deposits during excavation.

Period 2: Later Iron-Age Settlement (Fourth to First Centuries BC) (Figs. 5–18)

Iron-Age features were found in all three areas. The recovered pottery largely consists of hand-made material typical of the later Iron Age (fourth to first centuries BC). It is notable that there was a virtual absence of wheel-thrown grog-tempered pottery which commonly signifies a date in the early to mid first century AD in the region.

Although stratigraphic relationships between the Iron-Age features in area 1 were often poorly preserved, a sufficient number were established to define three successive phases of activity. Within each of these phases a chronology has been suggested, largely based on spatial relationships and feature morphology. Thus, although the broad phasing is presented with a high degree of confidence, it is accepted that the sequence of events within each phase is open to other interpretations. In areas 2 and 3 the Iron-Age features cannot be related to the phasing in area 1 and are represented as unphased, although considered to be broadly contemporary with the occupation in area 1 (Fig. 5).

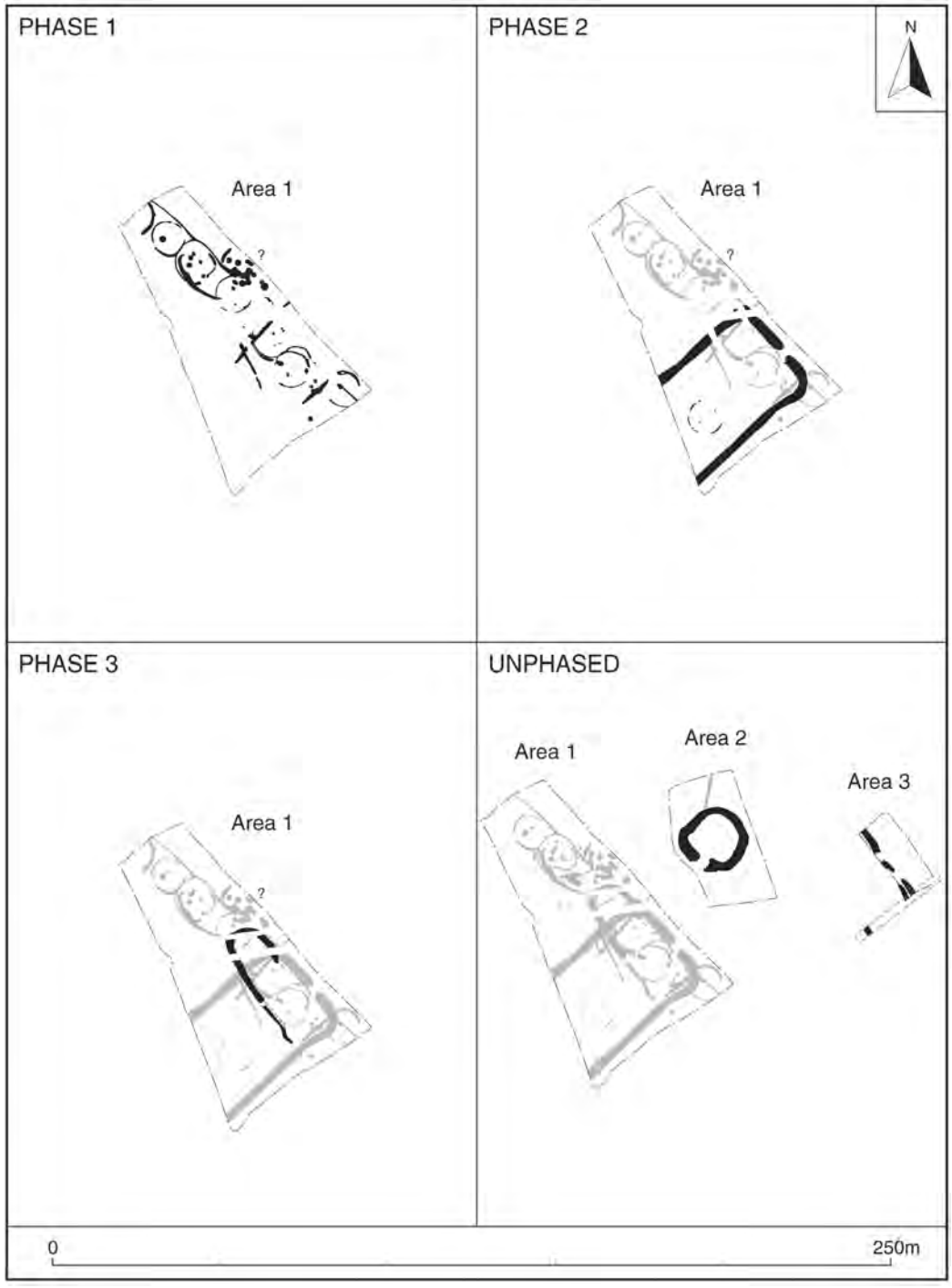

Fig. 5. Period 2, suggested phasing.

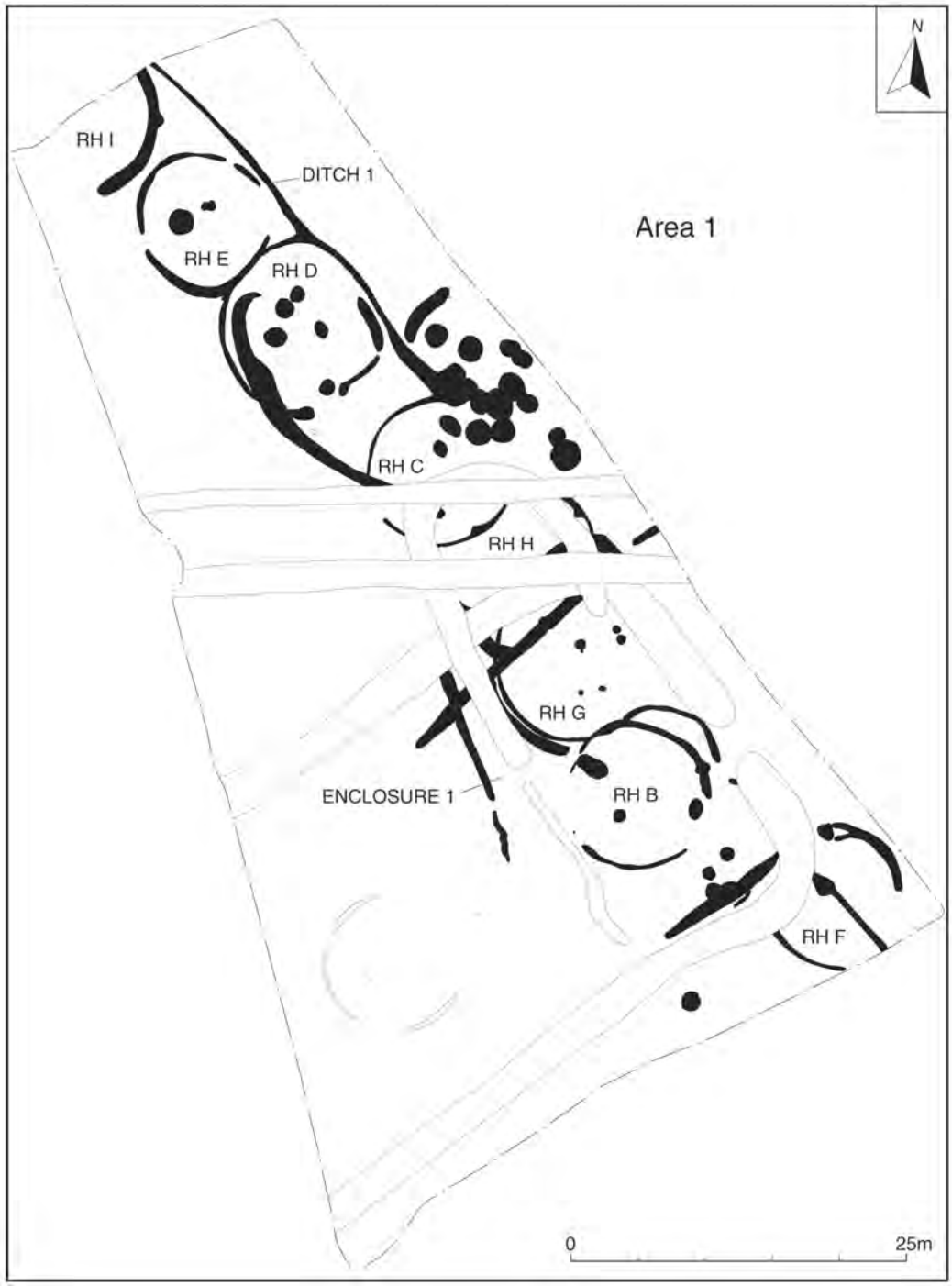

Fig. 6. Period 2, phase 1, linear settlement.

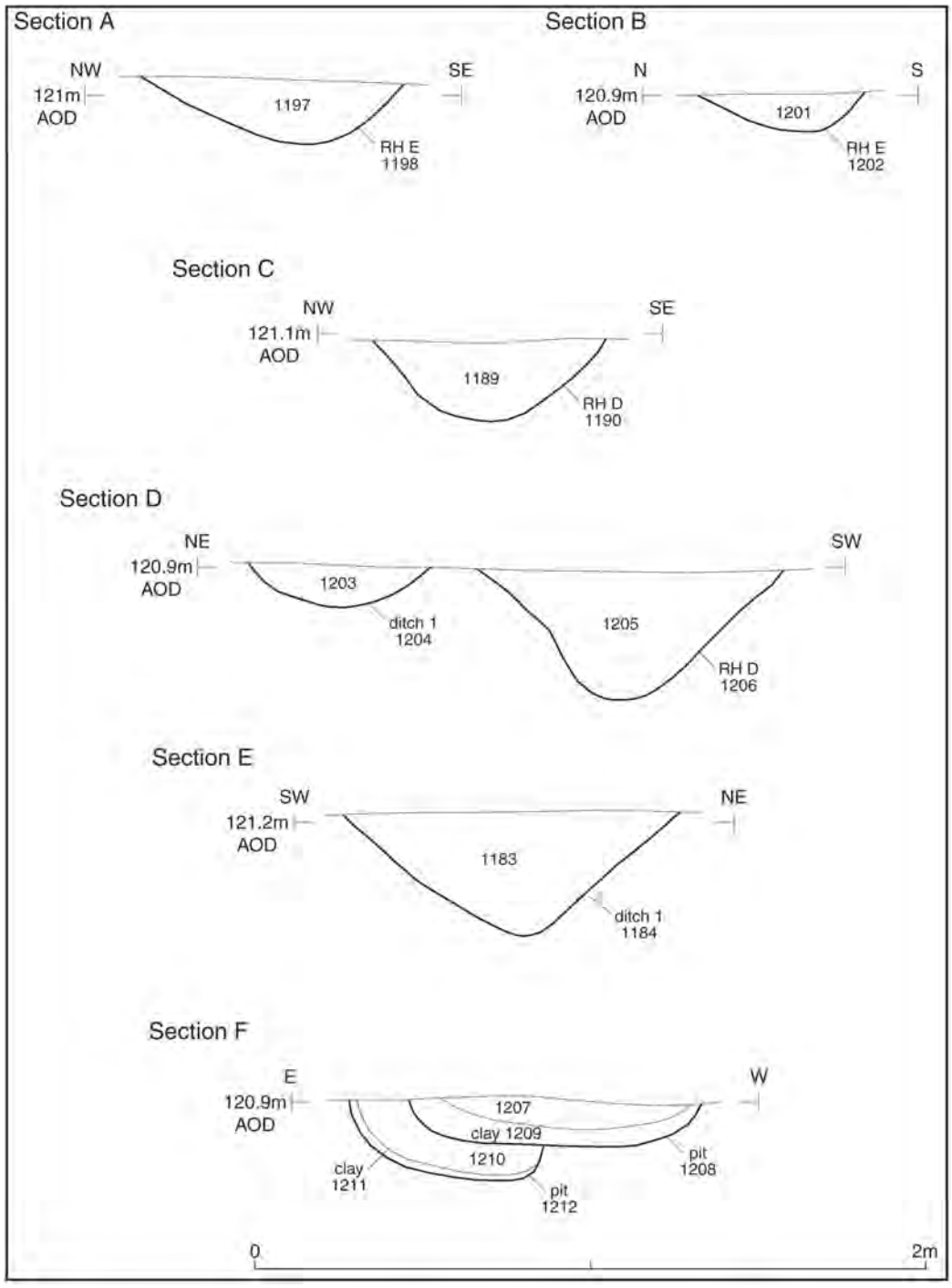

Fig. 7. Period 2, phase 1, sections through roundhouse gullies and associated features.

Period 2, phase 1: linear settlement (Figs. 6–13). Phase 1 comprised eight roundhouses (roundhouses B–I) and a number of pits in area 1 (Fig. 6). No structural remains were present and the roundhouses were identified only through the survival of their drainage gullies. These gullies were up to 0.8 m wide and 0.6 m deep (Fig. 7, sections A–D), but were typically smaller and often highly truncated, and in only a few instances was it possible to suggest the presence of entrances.

Ditch 1 was located in the north-west of area 1 and was 0.6–0.95 m wide and 0.15–0.3 m deep with a rounded profile (Fig. 7, sections D and E). Although it functioned as a drainage ditch for at least two of the roundhouses, its significance as a boundary was also clear since all of the phase 1 roundhouses either adjoined it or were located to conform to its projected alignment, perhaps indicating that the boundary continued in some other form (Figs. 6 and 8). Ditch 1034, on the alignment of ditch 1, may have been contemporary with enclosure 1, and it is possible that a similar shallow ditch, ditch 2080, in area 2 (Fig. 17) might also have formed a field boundary of this date.

A distinct kink in ditch 1 formed part of the drainage gully surrounding roundhouse D, whilst its terminus defined a north-east facing entrance to roundhouse C (Fig. 8). This suggests that both roundhouses were contemporary with the ditch and were in use at the same time. Both gullies and the ditch appeared to have filled naturally and contained small quantities of middle Iron-Age pottery. The gully surrounding roundhouse D enclosed an area up to 11.5 m in diameter and two distinct terminals along its circuit defined a south-east facing entrance. The gully enclosing roundhouse C was slightly smaller in diameter (10.5 m), but although this potentially reflects a functional difference between the two roundhouses, this can not be proved since no internal floor surfaces or occupation layers survived and the quantity of finds recovered from each gully was only sufficient to suggest general settlement debris.

Roundhouse B was located within what appears to be a small enclosure defined by early-phase ditches (Figs. 9 and 10, enclosure 1). The exact extent of this enclosure is unclear due to later truncation, and in particular no north-eastern boundary was present. However, it is possible that a north-eastern boundary lay along the alignment of ditch 1 (continued by ditch 1034), giving enclosure 1 dimensions of approximately 23 m by 18 m. It was defined by a series of small ditches, typically 0.5 m wide and 0.35 m deep, with varying profiles (Fig. 13, section I) and containing small quantities of Iron-Age pottery. The drainage gully of roundhouse B was 9.75 m in diameter and relatively intact. Gaps along its south-eastern and western edges were at least partially the result of truncation but might indicate the locations of entrances. The presence of part of a second gully adjoining the north of roundhouse B, but without a clear relationship with it, suggests that the roundhouse was re-built on at least one occasion.

Given that ditch 1 seems to define the primary alignment of the phase 1 settlement, it seems likely that it and roundhouses C and D were among the first elements to be laid out. In the case of enclosure 1 and roundhouse B, however, stratigraphic relationships with other roundhouses were lacking or were not established, and it is unclear at what point in the settlement's development they were established.

The gully of roundhouse E intersected with that of roundhouse D (Fig. 8). Although this stratigraphic relationship was not established, if it is accepted that roundhouse D was part of the earliest settlement, then roundhouse E is best seen as having been constructed after roundhouse D fell into disuse. An alternative possibility is that roundhouses D and E were contemporary, with a shared drainage gully, although there was no change in the morphology of the shared part of the gullies to support this and it seems more likely that one cut the other.

Roundhouse G had been truncated by later features but was approximately 11.5 m in diameter (Fig. 11). An outer gully to its south-west may have been either a recut or augmentation of its drainage. Although the gully of roundhouse G intersected that of roundhouse B and the ditches of enclosure 1, these stratigraphic relationships were not established, and the relative sequence of these features remains unresolved.

Roundhouses E (Fig. 8) and G (Fig. 11) contained internal pits (1208 and 1212, and 1081, 1083, 1085, and 1089 respectively). All were steep-sided, flat-based cuts 0.5 m in diameter and up to 0.18 m deep and were lined with clay (Fig. 7, section F). They contained fills of burnt pebbles and, in one case, Iron-Age pottery. This type of pit occurred only within roundhouses, suggesting that they were associated with activity, quite probably of a domestic nature, within those structures. Two postholes (1091 and 1139) within roundhouse G remained undated but might also have been associated.

Roundhouse F was the south-easternmost exposed roundhouse and was 9.5 m in diameter (Fig. 11). Part of its gully had been re-cut and breaks were present along the north-western and south-eastern parts of the circuit, although whether these were entrances or the result of truncation remains unclear.

Roundhouse I was located alongside ditch 1 (Fig. 8). It survived only as a soil stain in the natural substrate and its status as a roundhouse remains tentative. The status of roundhouse H is also tentative since it was identified only through the presence of partial and highly truncated curvilinear gullies (Fig. 11).

A scatter of 32 pits was present, largely within the same strip as the roundhouses, although some extended to the east of ditch 1 (Fig. 6). Some of the pits were intercutting and some clustering was present, with a major group lying in a zone to the east. In particular, ditches 2 and 3 curved to partially enclose a cluster of the northernmost pits (Fig. 12). The pits typically comprised broad, flat-based cuts 0.6–2.5 m wide and 0.18–0.5 m deep (Fig. 13, sections G, H, and J) and contained fills derived from the natural substrate from which small amounts of middle Iron-Age pottery were recovered. Pit 1018 (Fig. 9) also contained two deposits of charcoal mixed with burnt animal bone.

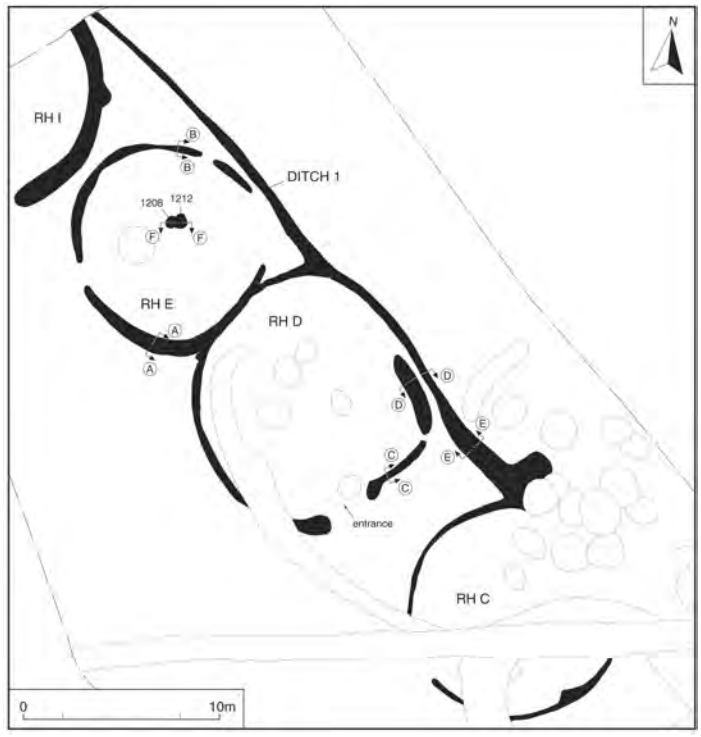

Fig. 8. Roundhouses C, D, E, and I, and associated features

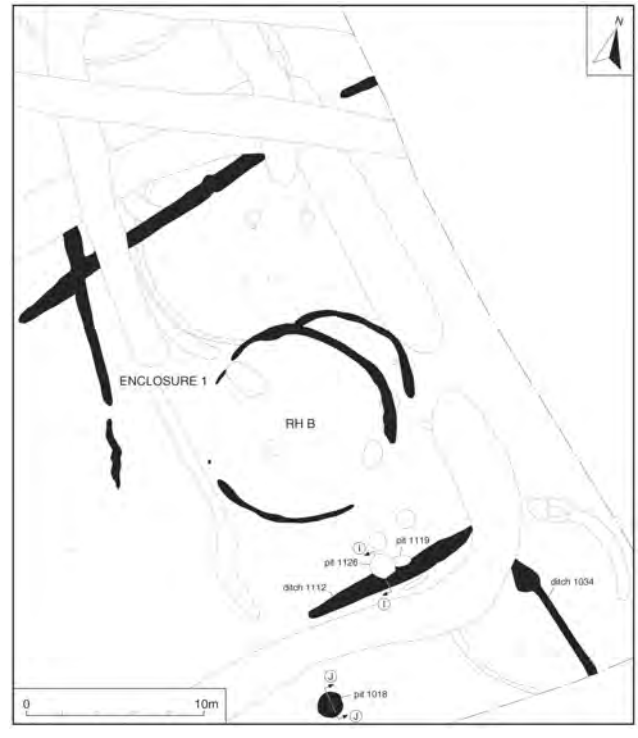

Fig. 9. Enclosure 1 and roundhouse B.

Fig. 10. Photograph of the excavation of roundhouse B, looking south.

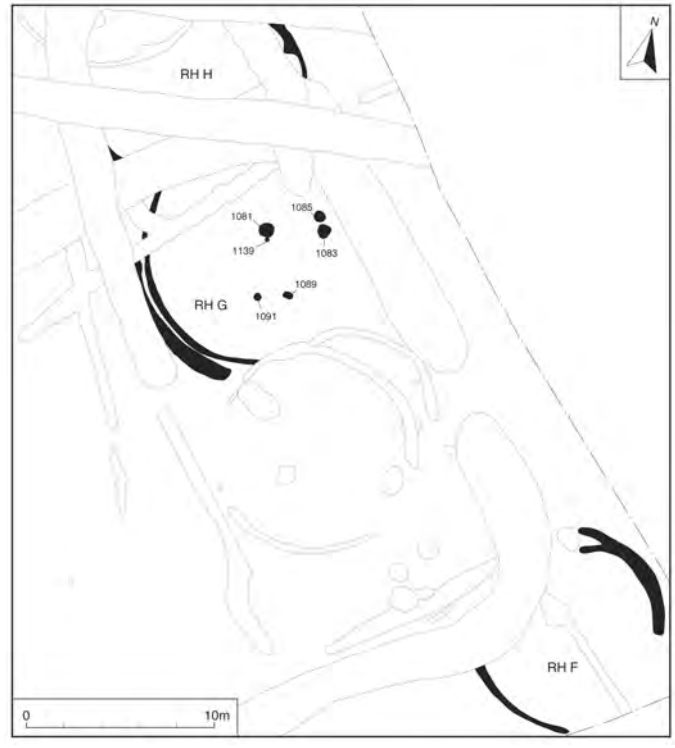

Fig. 11. Roundhouses F, G, and H, and associated features.

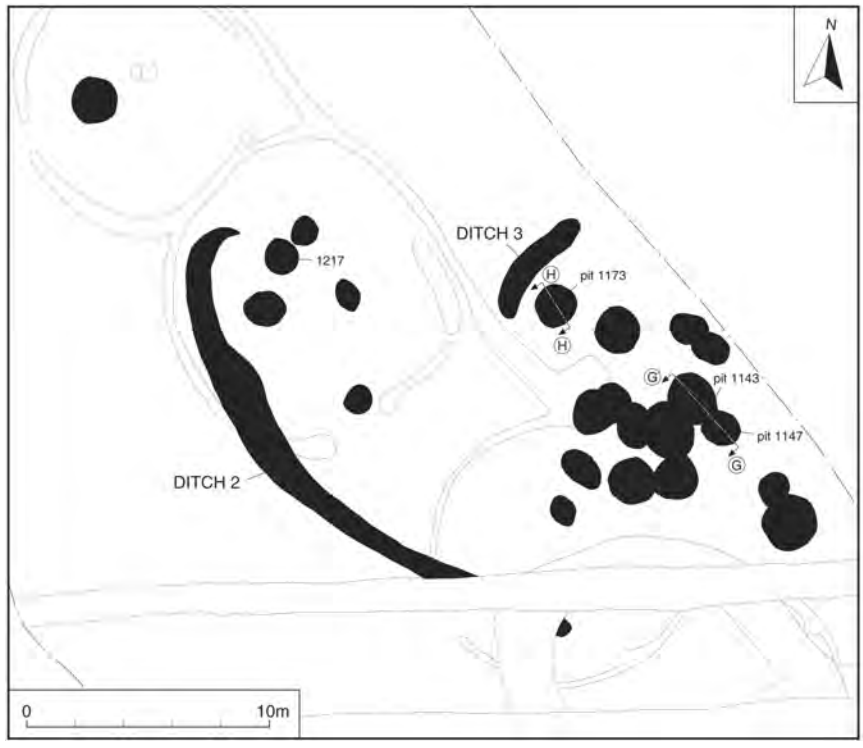

Fig. 12. Pits in the northern half of area 1.

Period 2, phase 2: enclosure 2 and roundhouse A (Figs. 14 and 15). The southernmost roundhouses (B, F, G, and H) had been truncated by the ditches of enclosure 2 (Fig. 14). This enclosure was defined by two ditches separated by a 2 m wide north-east facing entrance. The south-westernmost extent of the enclosure lay beyond the site but the surviving form suggests that it was originally rectangular.

The ditches comprised steep sided 'V'-shaped cuts up to 3 m wide and 1.75 m deep and appeared to have silted up naturally with no evidence of re-cutting and no indication of material slumping in from the sides or a bank (Fig. 15). Pottery and animal bone was recovered particularly from the later fills with lesser quantities present in the lower fills. The pottery included sherds of wheel-thrown ware from a secondary fill, and a scored ware vessel from an upper fill (Fig. 22.9).

Roundhouse A was located centrally within the surviving extent of enclosure 2 (Fig. 14). Although it was similar to the phase 2 roundhouses, its location suggests that it was associated with the enclosure. It consisted of a shallow and intermittent drainage gully 9.75 m in diameter and 0.05–0.3 m wide and 0.05–0.1 m deep. No obvious terminals were present along the gully's circuit and the breaks occurred where it shallowed out, suggesting that most or all were the result of truncation. The gully appears to having silted up naturally and contained three sherds of hand-made Iron-Age pottery.

Four postholes were found within enclosure 2. They appeared to be on an approximate north-east-south-west alignment, but their purpose in relation to the enclosure or roundhouse is not clear (Fig. 14).

Period 2, phase 3: enclosure 3 (Fig. 16). This phase saw the construction and use of enclosure 3 in area 1 (Fig. 16). It was defined by a 'C'-shaped ditch partly enclosing an area approximately 13 m by 9 m with a ditched continuation of the westernmost arc. The ditch varied in profile from 'U'-shaped to 'V'-shaped, was 2.5 m wide and 1 m deep, and contained natural fills which had been re-cut at least once (Fig. 16, section Q). Very small quantities of hand-made Iron-Age pottery, including a semi-complete bowl (Fig. 22.8), as well as part of a saddle quern (Fig. 23), were recovered from the latest fills of the recut. Other than the pottery and quernstone, the fills contained only a few pieces of fired clay and this paucity of anthropogenic material might indicate that the enclosure had an agricultural function, perhaps as a livestock corral. Enclosure 3 truncated phase 2 of enclosure 2, indicating that enclosure 2 had largely in-filled by this time. Since there was no evidence that the ditch of enclosure 2 had been deliberately in-filled, a phase of disuse or of archaeologically invisible activity separates phases 2 and 3.

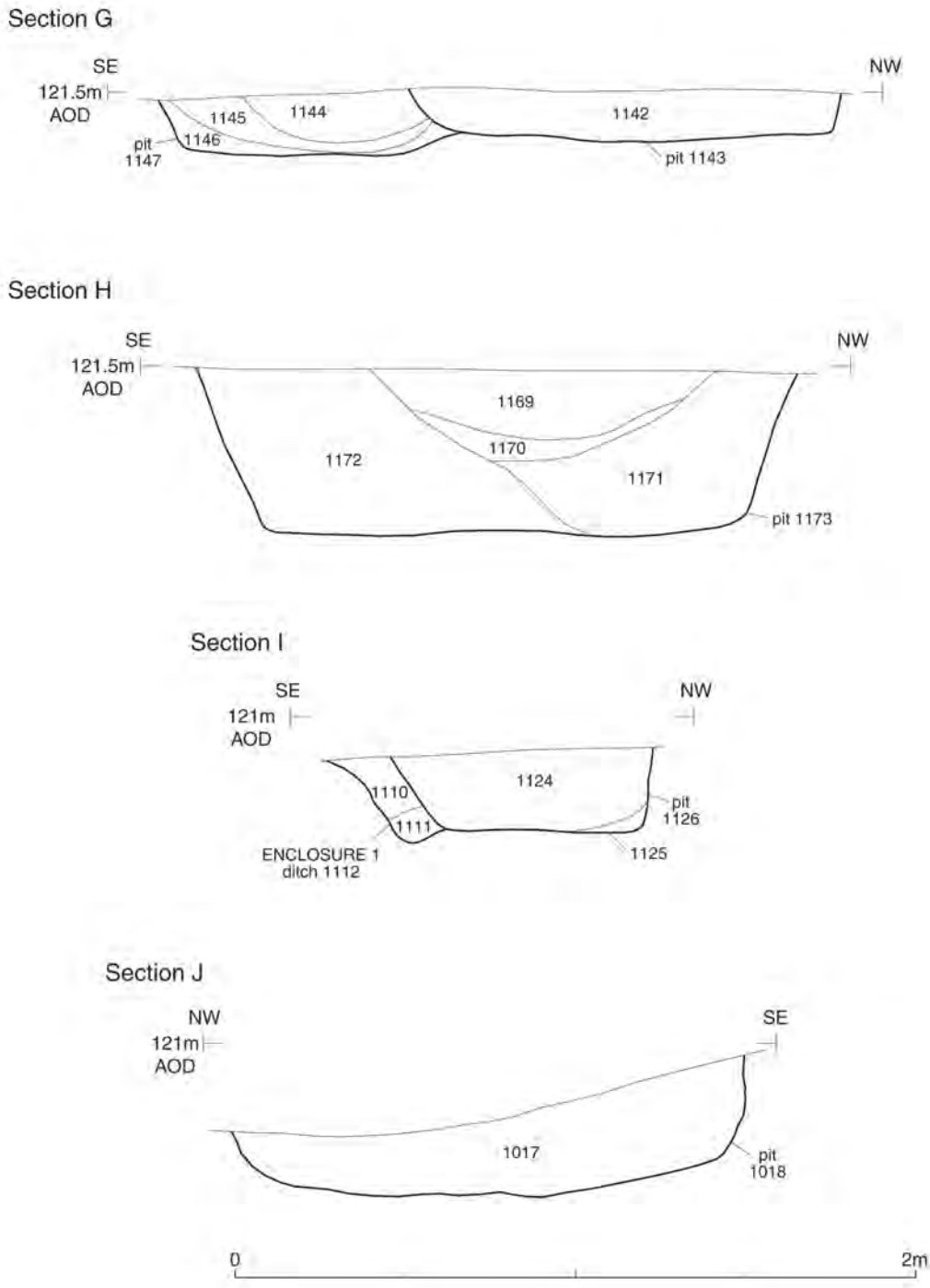

Fig. 13. Sections of pits and enclosure ditch.

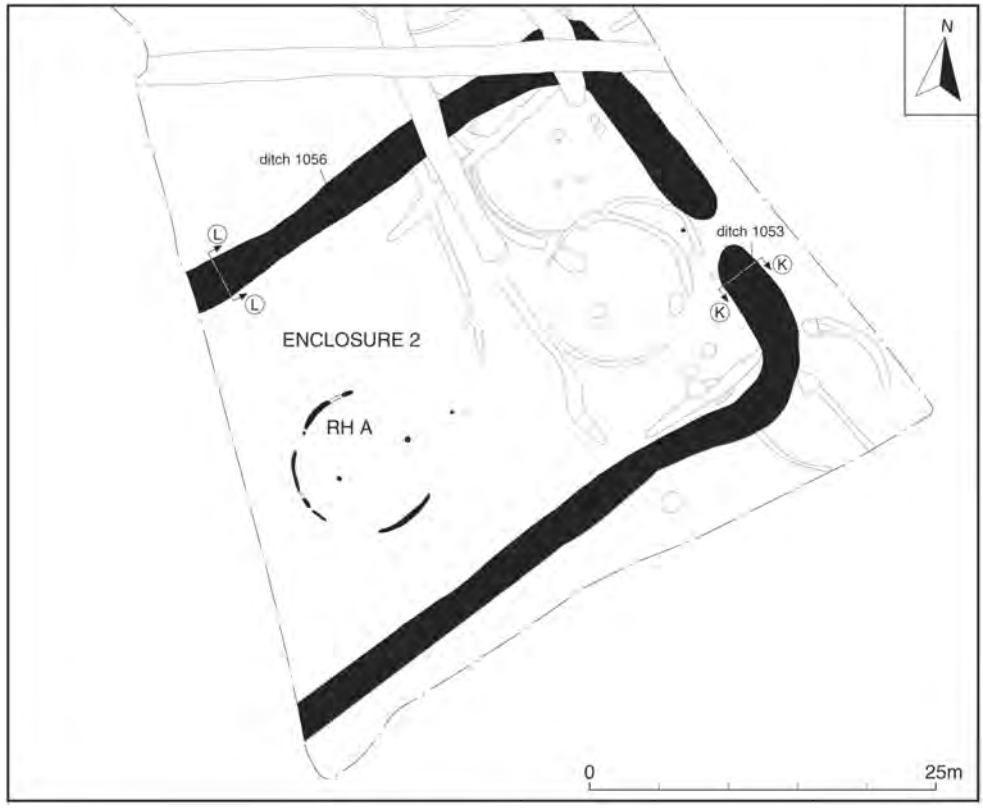

Fig. 14. Period 2, phase 2, plan of enclosure 2 and roundhouse A.

Period 2, unphased: ditch 4 (Figs. 2 and 3). Ditch 4 was an extensive cropmark feature on a north-west to south-east alignment and was targeted for excavation in area 3. The excavation revealed four ditch segments which were generally wide, shallow, flat-based cuts 1.4 m wide and 0.3 m deep. The aerial photograph shows a similar segmented feature on a close but slightly diverging alignment. This was also identified during the evaluation (Fig. 2, ditch 5). Together these ditches might have defined a drove-way. Very small quantities of Iron-Age pottery were recovered from the fills of ditch 4, along with two sherds from the same vessel (fill 3098) which are of wheel-thrown form and probably later than the material from area 1.

Period 2, unphased: enclosure 4, area 2 (Figs. 2, 17, and 18). Enclosure 4 was initially identified as a cropmark and was targeted for excavation in area 2. It consisted of a recut penannular ditch with a south-west facing entrance (Fig. 17).

The earliest cuts, 2035, 2037, and 2045, were relatively slight and were present only at the later terminals. The earliest surviving full circuit would have enclosed a sub-square area approximately 15 m wide but only survived to any significant extent around the terminals since elsewhere it was largely truncated by a recut along its inner edge. In both cases these ditches had been dug as a series of fairly straight sections and comprised steep 'U' to 'V'-shaped cuts 2–2.5 m wide and 0.8–1.1 m deep (Fig. 18).

Small quantities of hand-made Iron-Age pottery were recovered from the fills of the early ditches. The fill sequence of the latest recut survived largely intact, commencing with episodes of natural in-filling from which moderate quantities of Iron-Age pottery were recovered. Small amounts of fired clay and burnt pebbles were also recovered from these fills around the terminals, along with several large fragments of stone. A gravel tip line sealing these deposits might have derived from an external bank. This gravel was sealed by further natural in-fills onto which a turf line had formed, indicating a period of stability during which the ditch would have persisted as an earthwork. Small amounts of hand-made Iron-Age pottery were recovered from the deposits above the gravel and the ditch was finally filled by an undated topsoil-derived material.

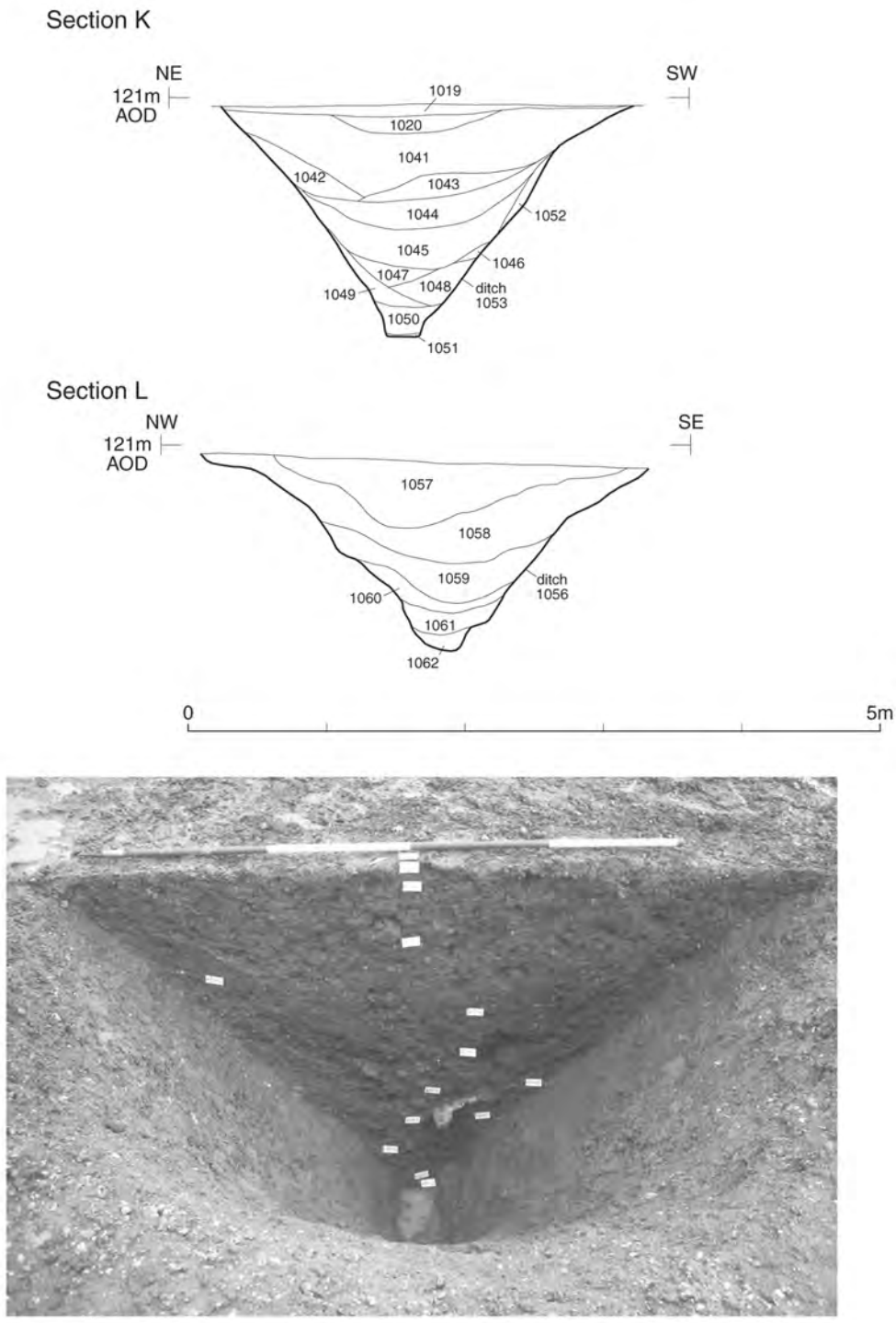

Fig. 15. Period 2, phase 2, sections of enclosure 2 and photograph of section K.

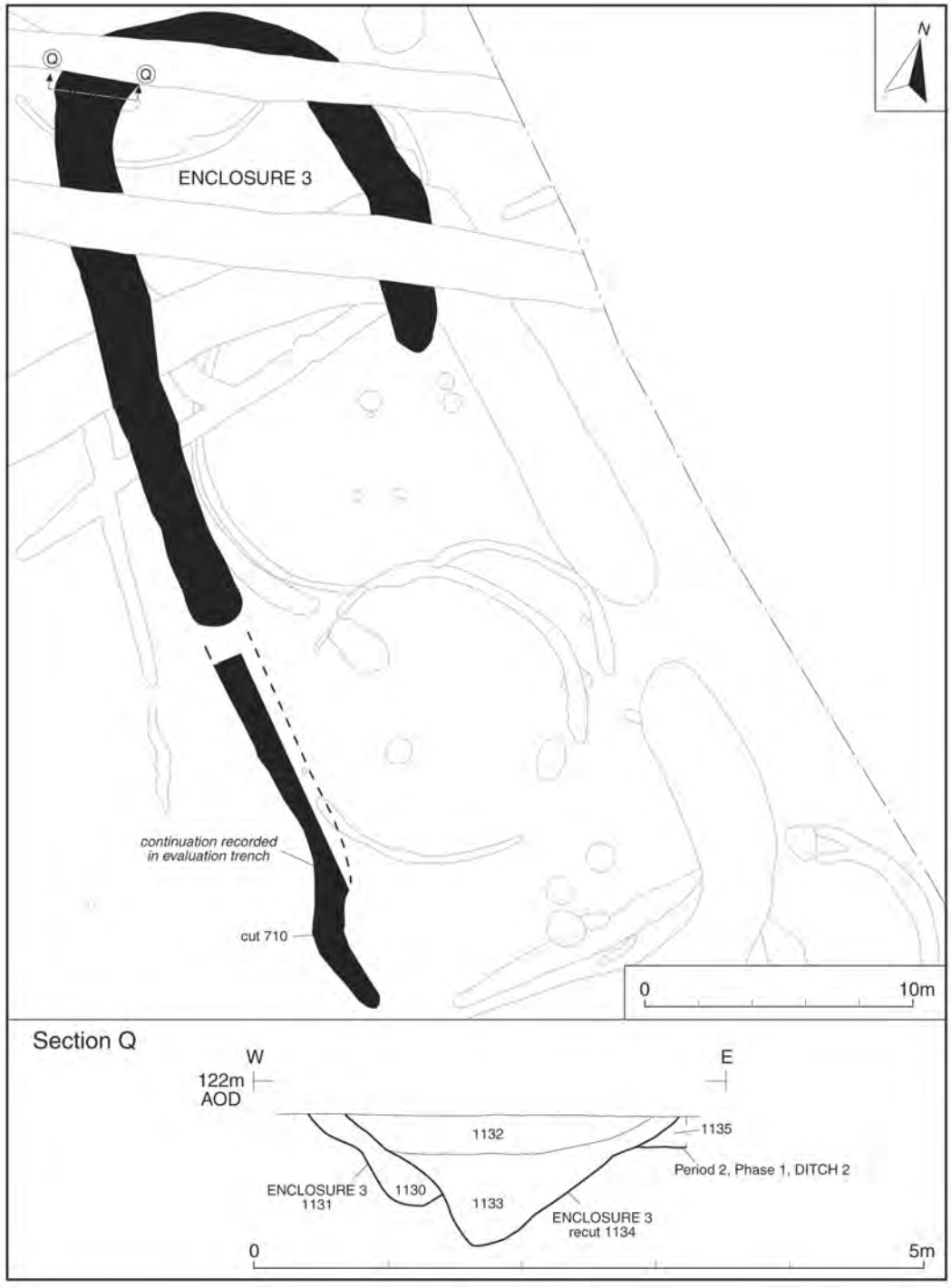

Fig. 16. Period 2, phase 3, enclosure 3: plan and section Q.

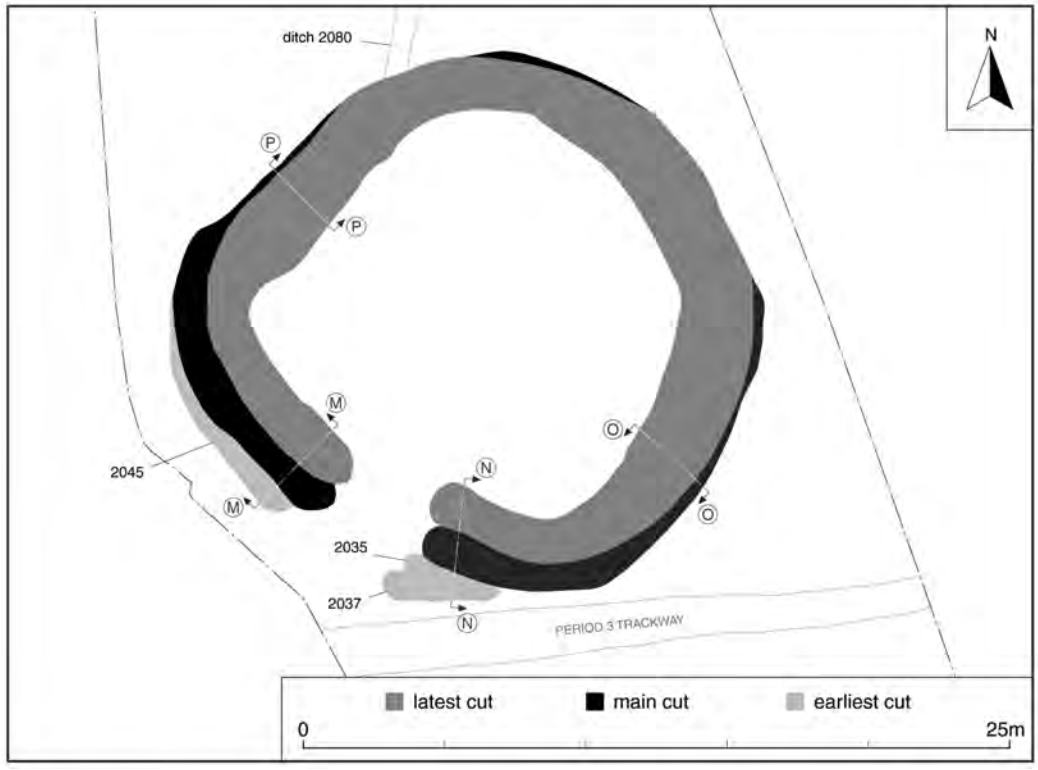

Fig. 17. Area 2, period 2, plan of enclosure 4.

Period 3: Trackway 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

A pair of parallel north-east-south-west aligned ditches, first identified as cropmarks, ran across the site (Fig. 2). These were identified during the evaluation and in all three areas of the excavation. Each ditch was between 1.15 m and 2.3 m wide and 0.35 m to 1.1 m deep with a rounded profile. Although no surfacing was present, the distance between the ditches (4.5 m) suggests that they flanked a trackway. Two sherds of hand-made Iron-Age pottery were recovered from the ditch fills but since such a small assemblage might easily be residual, the trackway remains technically undated. However, it was stratigraphically later than the period 2 settlement and is morphologically similar to Roman trackways seen elsewhere.

The alignment of the trackway changed slightly as it approached ditch 4. In fact, the trackway ditches each run through causeways in ditch 4 (Fig. 3) and it is possible that these survived as gaps between a slight earthwork onto which the trackway was aligned (although no surfacing or deliberate in-fills survived within the segment of ditch 4 that lay within the trackway). If this was the case, then the wheel-thrown Iron-Age pottery from ditch 4 lends further weight to the suggestion that the trackway was Roman and laid out with respect to the earlier ditch.

THE WORKED FLINT by M. TINGLE and E.R. McSLOY

A total of 90 pieces of worked flint was recovered from fieldwalking, evaluation, and excavation (Table 1). Most pieces are secondary or tertiary flakes with broad or squat proportions. Little secondary working is evident and tools present consist of undateable scrapers and one borer or piercer. The raw material typically consists of unpatinated, dark grey or brown flint, probably derived from the river gravels of the Great Ouse.

Most pieces were unstratified or were residual within Iron-Age or later features. Two pieces were associated with Bronze-Age burial C2 (context 3016). These included a blade of unpatinated grey flint, 60 mm long with a maximum width of 19 mm (Fig. 19). It is finely made, parallel edged and with evidence for platform preparation. Both edges appear much damaged with nicks and small flake scars but this is consistent with wear following

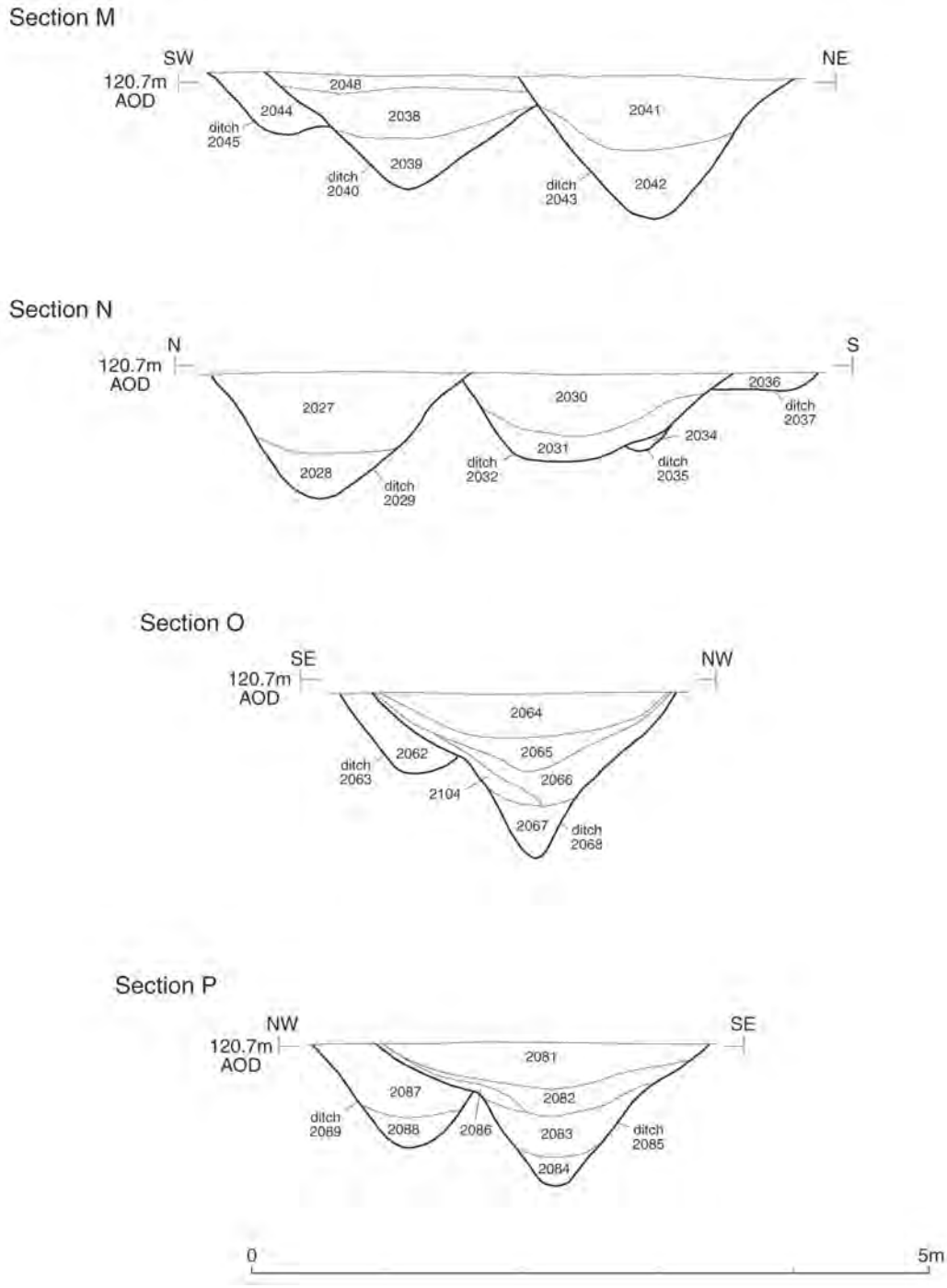

Fig. 18. Sections of enclosure 4.

deposition. Deliberately produced blades dating to the early Bronze Age are unusual, being far more typical of the Mesolithic period, and it is possible that this is a curated piece or was residual. The second piece found with the cremation was broken but could be the proximal end of another blade or long flake.

The worked flint indicates low-level flint reduction, producing a limited range of retouched tools, almost certainly utilising gravels from the Great Ouse. Little of the material is obviously dateable, although most would not be out of place in an assemblage of late Neolithic or early Bronze-Age date.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF WORKED FLINT BY TYPE

Description	Fieldwalking	Excavation: Period 1	Evaluation & excavation Periods 2–3	Totals
Blade		1		**1**
Broken flake	4	1	6	**11**
Primary flakes	4		3	**7**
Secondary flakes	20		12	**32**
Tertiary flakes	5		7	**12**
Cores	2		3	**5**
Core fragments	8		6	**14**
Borer	1			**1**
Scraper	1		5	**6**
Utilised	1			**1**
Totals	**46**	**2**	**42**	**90**

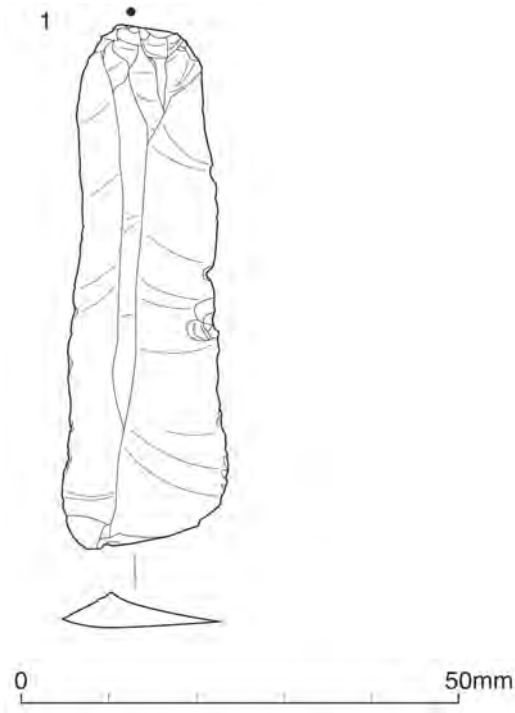

Fig. 19. Flint blade from period 1, burial C2.

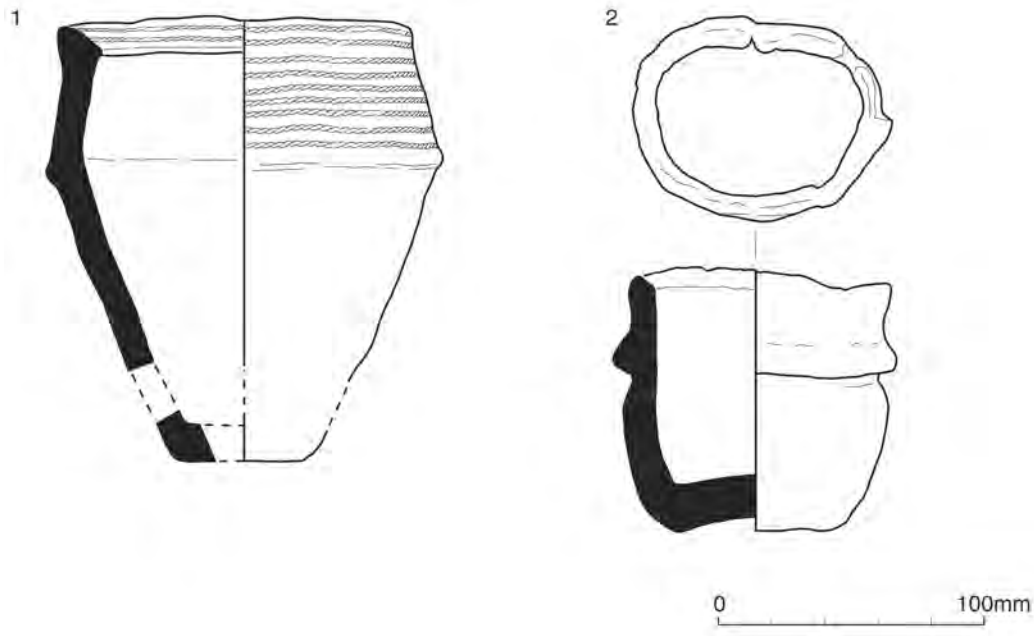

Fig. 20. Early Bronze-Age vessels 1 and 2 from burial C2.

THE EARLY BRONZE-AGE POTTERY by E.R. McSLOY

The early Bronze-Age pottery assemblage derived entirely from pit 3016 (burial C2) and comprises two substantially complete vessels weighing 916 g (Fig. 20).

The characteristics of vessel 1, notably its bi-partite form with a continuous and curved inner profile and the twisted cord decoration confined to the collar exterior, correspond with Longworth's secondary series and Burgess's late series.[34] Vessel 2 is typical of accessory vessels known from collared urn burials.[35] It would appear to have been inexpertly made, which can be a feature of vessels of its type, although in part the distortion may be due to heat damage or to stresses following deposition. Both vessels occur in a coarse grog-tempered fabric (see archive for full description).

The presence of two vessels, one alongside the other and placed inverted in a single cremation pit, would appear to be relatively uncommon. Longworth lists sixty instances where two or more vessels occur, out of a total 942 in which the circumstances of burial are recorded.[36] He lists two comparable examples of urns occurring with accessory vessels within 50 km of Finmere, one at Tyringham, Buckinghamshire and the other at Rothwell, Northamptonshire. It is unclear from the available evidence whether the rite as represented here, with a small quantity of cremated bone present within both vessels and within the surrounding pit fill, is usual.

Catalogue of illustrated vessels (Fig. 20):

1. Burial C2. Collared urn, Longworth form BII. Conforms to Longworth's secondary series, south-eastern style. Rim internally beveled (as Longworth type 6). Base largely missing though detached sherds indicate a simple base angle. Decoration to collar and rim bevel only consisting of continuous horizontal lines of twisted cord. Fabric EP G. Rim diameter 125 mm; collar height 46 mm.
2. Burial C2. Collared urn. Complete cup-like accessory vessel. Undecorated. Rim is crudely formed, rounded or slightly beveled inwards. Vessel shows patchy signs of burning and is heavily distorted. Fabric EP G. Rim diameter 96–73 mm; height 90 mm, collar height 28 mm.

[34] C. Burgess, 'Urnes of No Small Variety: Collared Urns Reviewed', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 52 (1986), pp. 339–51.
[35] I. Longworth, *Collared Urns of the Bronze Age in Great Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge, 1986), pp. 48–9.
[36] Ibid.

THE EARLY BRONZE-AGE HUMAN REMAINS by TERESA GILMORE

Two separate burial deposits were examined. Burial C1 consisted of un-urned deposits of cremated bone whilst burial C2 consisted of cremated bone contained within two collared urns and the surrounding pit fill. Three other potential cremation burials from area 1 were also assessed but proved to consist of fragments of burnt animal bone (not identified to species) from Iron-Age features and are not discussed further.

Burial C1 was recovered as a bulk environmental sample. Burial C2 was block lifted and the contents of the vessels excavated in spits at CA's offices. The bone from each spit was weighed and passed through different sieve sizes (10 mm, 5 mm, and 2 mm). Each size assemblage for each cremation was weighed and the number of identifiable fragments noted along with the colour and degree of fragmentation (Tables 2 and 3).

Due to the degree of fragmentation, establishing the minimum number of individuals (MNI) present was difficult. The absence of any duplication of elements between the two cremations means that there is an overall MNI of one.

Age and Sex

The bones were examined to establish sex using the standard criteria,[37] but sex could not be determined since none of the fragments displayed key sexual dimorphic traits. Age is normally assessed using epiphyseal fusion and dental eruption on skeletal parts present.[38] In this instance, age estimation was only possible for burial C2. Unfused tooth roots and unfused epiphyseal surface fragments from Vessel 2 indicate that this bone belonged to someone of sub-adult age (less than eighteen years old).[39]

Skeletal Elements

Due to the high degree of fragmentation diagnostic traits for bone element recognition were rare. Only burial C2 contained identifiable fragments, mainly from the larger skeletal elements, including the cranial vault and long bone diaphysis (shafts). Smaller bones identified included of tooth roots and crowns and phalangeal fragments (fingers and toes). No pathology was evident on the bone, although this may be mainly due to the high degree of fragmentation.

Efficiency of Cremation

Cremation efficiency is related to various factors, the most important of which are the duration and temperature of the cremation fire and the presence of oxygen, and can be estimated by analyzing the colour of the cremated bone.[40] The majority of the cremated bone in this instance was white or light grey, suggesting a high state of oxidation. This is consistent with cremation on a pyre at temperatures exceeding 750°C.[41]

Weight of Bone (Table 3)

The weight of cremated bone can provide details as to how the cremated remains were collected from the pyre. The expected weight for adult cremated remains covers a range of *c.*1000–2400 g but on archaeological sites this range is seldom encountered.[42] The range of weights for this site (4–137 g) was low, but might partly reflect the young age of at least one of the individuals present and the likely truncation of burial C1. Burial C2 is unlikely to have been significantly truncated, as both vessels were complete, and the survival of only 10% of the expected bone weight suggests that bone for burial had been selected.

[37] D.R. Brothwell, *Digging up Bones: the Excavation, Treatment and Study of Human Skeletal Remains*, 3rd edn (London, 1981); J.E. Buikstra and D.H. Ubelaker (eds.), *Standards for Data Collections from Human Skeletal Remains,* Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series, 44 (Fayetteville, 1994); J.H. Schwartz, *Skeleton Keys: An Introduction to Human Skeletal Morphology, Development, and Analysis* (Oxford, 1995).

[38] D.H. Ubelaker, *Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation* (Washington, 1982); S. Hillson, *Dental Anthropology* (Cambridge, 1996).

[39] Brothwell, *Digging Up Bones.*

[40] J.L. McKinley, 'The analysis of cremated bone', in M. Cox and S. Mays, *Human Osteology in Archaeology and Forensic Science* (London, 2000), pp. 403–21.

[41] R.L. Lyman, *Vertebrate Taphonomy,* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge, 1994).

[42] J.L. McKinley, 'Bone Fragment Size and Weights of Bone from Modern British Cremations and their Implications for the Interpretation of Archaeological Cremations', *Internat. Jnl. Osteoarch.,* 3 (1993), pp. 283–7.

TABLE 2. HUMAN REMAINS: WEIGHT OF CREMATED BURIALS

Burial	Weight	Weight of >10mm fraction	Fraction %	Weight of >5mm fraction	Fraction %	Weight of >2mm fraction	Fraction %
C1	4g	0g	0%	1g	25%	3g	75%
C2	137g	16g	11.7%	73g	53.3%	48g	35%

TABLE 3. HUMAN REMAINS: SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS CONTAINING CREMATED BONE WITH WEIGHTS OF SIEVED FRACTIONS

Burial	vessel	spit	Total weight g	Wgt of 10mm fraction g	Wgt of 5mm fraction g	Wgt of 2mm fraction g	Wgt of identifiable bones g	Elements present
C1	N/A	N/A	4	-	1	3	-	No identifiable elements
C2	1	Top 0–2 cm	4	-	2	2	1	Intermediate phalangeal head
C2	1	2–5 cm	4	-	1	3	1	Mid hand phalange
C2	1	Loose from bottom	4	2	1	1	2	Skull vault fragments
C2	2	Loose material from top	5	-	1	4	-	?molar crown
C2	2	0–4 cm	2	-	1	1	-	No identifiable elements
C2	2	4–6 cm	3	1	-	2	-	No identifiable elements
C2	2	6–7.5 cm	1	-	-	1	-	No identifiable elements
C2	2	Loose material	114	13	68	34	10	Petrous portion, skull vault, mandibular condyle, unfused tooth root

Discussion

The small quantity of cremated bone recovered from burial C1 is likely to be the result of truncation due to its location beneath a later trackway, although it is also possible that these remains represent most that was selected for burial, or that they were a fraction derived from another cremation, such as burial C2.

Burial C2 survived to a greater extent and comprised the remains of a child or adolescent who had been cremated on a pyre and then collected for burial within two pottery vessels which were then placed upside down in a pit. Although the quantity of bone overall was small, excavation showed that the larger fragments tended to have been placed first in the base of the vessel while finer fragments and soil were placed to fill the vessels. Most of the bone, including fragments diagnostic of the age of the individual, came from the smaller vessel.

EARLY BRONZE-AGE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS by RUTH PELLING

Fill 3004 of Pit 3013 (burial C1), produced a single *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grain (Table 9, below).

The cremation deposits are dominated by oak charcoal (Table 4), which is interpreted as the chosen species for the funerary pyre. The uniformity of the charcoal suggests that each deposit may have been derived from a single burning event. As a valuable timber it could be suggested that its use in cremation pyres may have been deliberate and could be associated with ritual aspects of the tree. At Barrow Hills, Radley, the charcoal from the Bronze-Age cremations was shown to suggest individual trees were used for individual cremations.[43]

[43] G.B. Thompson, 'The Analysis of Wood Charcoals from Selected Pits and Funerary Contexts', in A. Barclay and C. Halpin, *Excavations at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire. Volume I: The Neolithic and Bronze Age Monument Complex*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 11 (Oxford, 1998), pp. 247–9.

TABLE 4. CHARCOAL IDENTIFIED FOR RADIOCARBON POTENTIAL

Period	Context	Feature	Sample	Description	Taxa identified
1	3006	Pit 3011	3	Pit fill	2 fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) sapwood; rest is oak heartwood
1	3006	Pit 3011	3	Pit fill	2 fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) sapwood; rest is oak heartwood
1	3007	Pit 3012	5	Pit fill	A large amount of charcoal but only oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood was identified
1	3007	Pit 3012	5	Pit fill	Only oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood was identified
2	1016	Pit 1018	13	Pit fill	2 fragments of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) sapwood 2 fragments of hawthorn/ *Sorbus* group (Pomoideae) 1 fragment of oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood
2	1015	Pit 1018	15	Pit fill	2 fragments *of* hawthorn/ *Sorbus* group (Pomoideae) 1 fragment ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) 3 fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood

RADIOCARBON DATING by SYLVIA WARMAN and ROWENA GALE

A series of charcoal samples from pit fills were examined to isolate suitable material for radiocarbon dating (Table 4). The charcoal from the early Bronze-Age pits was identified as *Quercus* (Oak). Only sapwood is suitable for dating as it represents the live growth in the tree close to the time it was felled.

Two oak sapwood samples from fill 3006 of early Bronze-Age pit 3011 were selected for dating by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS). The samples were processed in 2006 at the University of Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Results

The two samples submitted were both successfully dated. The radiocarbon dates produced an identical calibrated range of 2040–1880 BC at the 95.4% confidence level, confirming that the pit fill is early Bronze Age and likely to be contemporary with burials C1 and C2. The fact that the measurements are virtually the same may indicate that the two charcoal fragments derived from single piece of oak charcoal.

The results are given in Table 5 and presented in graphical form in Figure 21. Dates have been calculated using the calibration curve of Reimer et al. and the computer program OXCal v3.10.[44] Ranges are derived from the probability method of Stuiver and Reimer.[45]

TABLE 5. RADIOCARBON DATING RESULTS

Laboratory No.	Context	Feature	Period	Material	Radiocarbon Age (BP)	Calibrated date range (at 2∞ 95.4% confidence)
WK19471	3006	Pit 3011	1	Charcoal, *Quercus* (Oak) sapwood	3599+/-32	2040 BC – 1880 BC
WK19472	3006	Pit 3011	1	Charcoal, *Quercus* (Oak) sapwood	3595+/-32	2040 BC – 1880 BC

[44] P.J. Reimer, M.G.L. Baillie, E. Bard, et al., 'IntCal04 Terrestrial Radiocarbon Age Calibration, 0–26 cal kyr BP', *Radiocarbon,* 46 (2004), pp. 1029–58; C. Bronk Ramsey, *OxCal Version 3.10 Radiocarbon Calibration Programme* (Oxford, 2005).

[45] M. Stuiver and P.J. Reimer, 'Extended 14C Database and Revised CALIB 3.0 14C Age Calibration Program', *Radiocarbon*, 35, 1 (1993), pp. 215–30.

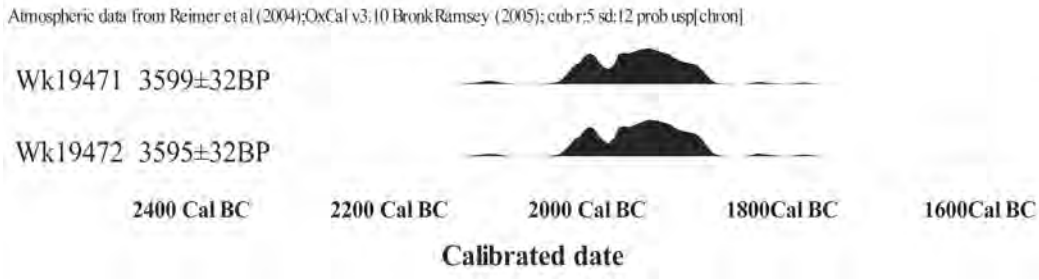

Fig. 21. Graph of radiocarbon results from pit 3011.

THE IRON-AGE POTTERY by E.R. McSLOY

Iron-Age pottery amounting to 561 sherds and weighing a total of 4392 g was recovered (Table 6). Comparable pottery was recovered during the evaluation. The majority derives from period 2 features, particularly from ditch and pit fills (respectively 45% and 34% by sherd count), with smaller quantities associated with fills of the roundhouse drainage gullies (16%).

TABLE 6. POTTERY FABRICS: QUANTIFICATION BY PERIOD AND FEATURE (SHERD COUNT/WEIGHT IN GRAMMES)

Period>		**1**			**2**		
Feature Group>		**All**	**RH/ditch**	**Encl. 1**	**Encl. 2**	**Encl. 3**	**Encl. 4**
Fab. group	*Fabric*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*
(BA) Grog	EP GR	6/916					
Grog	GR1		64/522	4/26	56/399	8/28	10/166
	GR2		1/5				
	GR3						1/63
	GR4				2/17		
Sandy	QZ1		2/9		6/48		
	QZ2						
	QZ3		6/86	2/21	18/243	7/77	2/3
	QZ4				3/40		
	QZ5						
Shell +	SH1		25/106	2/15	30/128	3/16	9/72
Calcareous	VES		2/9		33/95		
	LS		2/7				
Organic	ORG				3/37		
Totals		**6/916**	**102/744**	**8/62**	**147/1007**	**18/121**	**22/304**

Period>			**2**		**3**	**-**
Feature Group>		**Ditch 4**	**Pits**	**Other**	**Trackway**	**Evaluation**
Fab. group	*Fabric*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt*	*Ct./Wt.*	*Ct./Wt.*
Grog	GR1	5/34	97/1015	42/598		38/569
	GR2				1/7	
	GR3					
Sandy	QZ1			1/8		1/8
	QZ2			1/11		
	QZ3		11/98	15/27		14/26
	QZ4		1/20		1/6	
	QZ5		2/19			
Shell +	SH1		26/164	50/124		47/119
Calcareous	SH2	2/14				
	VES		2/2			
	LS			1/7		1/7
Organic	ORG					
Totals		**7/48**	**141/1318**	**116/1691**	**2/13**	**101/720**

The condition of the pottery is mixed. There are well preserved and substantially complete vessels from pit 1217 (Fig. 22.5) and from fill 709 of recut 710 of enclosure 3, but these are exceptions and most material is well-fragmented. Grogged/argillaceous and sandy fabrics survive well but calcareous (including probable fossil shell-tempered) fabrics are poorly preserved with inclusions leached to leave plate-like voids. The assemblage would appear to date largely to the later Iron Age (*c.*400–100 BC) with some evidence indicating that a portion of the assemblage dates to the latest part of this span.

Fabrics

Fabrics are listed below, sorted on the basis of principal inclusion type and inclusion size. Nomenclature is based on that proposed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group.[46] Full fabric descriptions are included in the archive. Occurrence of grouped fabrics across the periods is listed in Table 6.

Grog/Argillaceous

Gr1: medium grog/argillaceous type.
Gr2: grog with quartz.
Gr3: grog with shell.
Gr4: wheel-thrown grog-tempered.

Calcareous Inclusions

Li: limestone.
Sh1: fossil shell-tempered.
Sh2: wheel-thrown, sparse shell.
Ves: vesicular type (leached calcareous inclusions).

Organic Inclusions

Organic type:
Sandy
Qu1: medium quartz sand with rare shell/limestone.
Qu2: medium quartz sand with organic inclusions.
Qu3: medium quartz sand.
Qu4: fine quartz sand with grog.
Qu5: medium quartz sand with abundant limestone.

The largest group (49% according to sherd count) comprises fabrics with grog or argillaceous inclusions (Table 6). Comparable fabrics can characterise later (or 'middle') Iron-Age assemblages from the Ouse basin,[47] and western Northamptonshire.[48] More locally, such types were a feature of surface collected groups from the region of Hardwick, less than 10 km to the south.[49]

The bulk of the remaining assemblage comprises calcareous (including vesicular types) and sandy fabric groups (36% and 14% respectively by sherd count). The greater abundance of calcareous fabrics over sandy material was a feature of later Iron-Age assemblages from Bicester, approximately 15 km distant, and was thought to reflect a north Cotswolds pattern of use.[50]

[46] Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, *The Study of Later Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication,* Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers, 1 and 2 (1997, Oxford).

[47] A. Slowikowski, 'The Pottery', in M. Dawson, *An Iron Age Settlement at Salford, Bedfordshire*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph, 6 (Albion Archaeology and Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, 2005), pp. 95–117.

[48] A. Hancocks and A. Woodward, 'Prehistoric Pottery', in G. Hughes and A. Woodward, *Excavation at Crick Covert Farm, Northamptonshire*, BAR BS (Oxford, forthcoming); J.R. Timby, 'The Iron Age and Roman Pottery', in A. Mudd, *Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands: Archaeological Work on the A43 Towcester to M40 Road Improvement Scheme in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire,* Northamptonshire Archaeology Monograph, 1 (2007), pp. 88–118.

[49] Cotswold Archaeology, 'Hardwick, Buckinghamshire to Marsh Gibbon, Oxfordshire; archaeological fieldwalking survey,' typescript report, 06008 (2006).

[50] K. Brown, 'The Pottery', in A.M. Cromarty, S. Foreman, and P. Murray, 'The Excavation of a Late Iron Age Enclosed Settlement at Bicester Fields Farm, Bicester, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia*, 64 (1999), pp. 182–95; A. Woodward and J. Marley, 'The Iron Age Pottery', in P. Ellis, G. Hughes and L. Jones, 'An Iron Age Boundary and Settlement Features at Slade Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire: a Report on Excavations, 1996', *Oxoniensia,* 65 (2000), pp. 161–210.

Forms and Decoration

The poor condition of the assemblage means that few vessel profiles could be reconstructed with certainty. Where form is discernible, jars dominate, reflecting a utilitarian function typical for Iron-Age assemblages. Most vessels are modestly-sized, with rim diameters typically in the range 120–160 mm. Four sherds with carbonised external (sooting) or internal (burnt food) residues can be considered as evidence for use as cooking vessels. A single vessel is significantly larger, with rim diameter over 200 mm and possibly signifying use for dry storage.

Little variation was apparent across the phased and unphased assemblage (Table 7). Handmade jars of 'slack-shouldered' form familiar from among later Iron-Age assemblages from the east or south-east Midlands predominate. Rims are typically short, upright with simple/rounded terminals (Fig. 22.3–6). Barrel-shaped jars (Fig. 22.7), comparing to examples abundant from Upper Thames Valley groups and rounded-profile jars with bead-like rims occur rarely. Bowls are also rare and are of bipartite (Fig. 22.8) and rounded or ellipsoid form (Fig. 22.9–10). Two instances of countersunk handles, deriving from jars of globular or ovoid form are recorded.

TABLE 7. IRON-AGE POTTERY FORM/FORM ELEMENT BY FABRIC GROUP (RIM OR FEATURED SHERD COUNT)

Fabric group		**Grog**	**Sandy**	**Calcareous**	**Total**
Form	*Rim/other element*				
Jar, slack-shouldered	Upright, simple rim	10	3	2	**15**
Jar, slack-shouldered	Everted, simple rim		2		**2**
Jar, slack-shouldered	Upright, squared rim		1		**1**
Jar, barrel-shaped	Simple rim	1		1	**2**
Jar, rounded/globular	Bead-like rim		1	1	**2**
Jar/bowl	Squared rim		1		**1**
Jar/bowl	Everted, simple rim	1			**1**
Jar/bowl, large	Bead-like rim	1			**1**
?Bowl, rounded	Triangular rim				**1**
Bowl, rounded	-		1		**1**
Bowl, carinated. Prob. wheel-thrown.	-			1	**1**
-	Handle	1			**2**
-	Base, simple	4	3	1	**8**
-	Base, expanded			1	**1**
Total					**40**

Instances of decoration are rare, occurring on nineteen sherds (Table 8). Vertical scoring and 'restricted' fingernail ornament (Fig. 22.6) is characteristic of the Midlands 'scored ware' tradition.[51] Though chiefly associated with the area between the Trent and Nene valleys, the scored ware tradition occurs in the region to the south and south-west, for example at Glympton Park, Woodstock, north Oxfordshire and in the Milton Keynes region.[52] In common with the groups from Pennyland/Hartigans in the Ouse basin,[53] scored sherds at Finmere occur more infrequently compared to assemblages recovered from East Midlands sites, and scoring is typically lightly applied and unidirectional.

Two vessels (Fig. 22.9–10), which exhibit linear scored decoration are comparable to the Hunsbury/Frilford series of bowls known mainly from Northamptonshire.[54] The La Tène style curvilinear motifs, which are feature

[51] S.M. Elsdon, 'East Midlands Scored Ware', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. & Hist. Soc.*, 66 (1992), pp. 83–91.

[52] P. Booth, 'The Iron Age Pottery', in C. Cropper and A. Hardy, 'The Excavation of Iron Age and Medieval Features at Glympton Park, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, 62 (1997), pp. 104–7 and Fig. 2; D. Knight, 'Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery from Pennyland', in R.J. Williams, *Pennyland and Hartigans: Two Iron Age and Saxon Sites in Milton Keynes*, Bucks. Archaeological Society Monograph, 4 (Aylesbury, 1993), pp. 219–38.

[53] Knight, 'Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery'.

[54] D. Jackson and B. Dix, 'Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Weekley, Northants.', *Northamptonshire Archaeol.*, 21 (1988), pp. 41–93.

TABLE 8. TYPE AND INCIDENCE OF DECORATION AND SURFACE TREATMENT FROM IRON-AGE POTTERY

Description	Sherd No.	Fabrics
Fingernail (rim upper)	3	QZ3, QZ5
Vertical scoring (body)	12	GR1, QZ3
Scored linear/curvilinear (and burnished)	2	QZ4
Burnished	2	GR1
Total	**19**	-

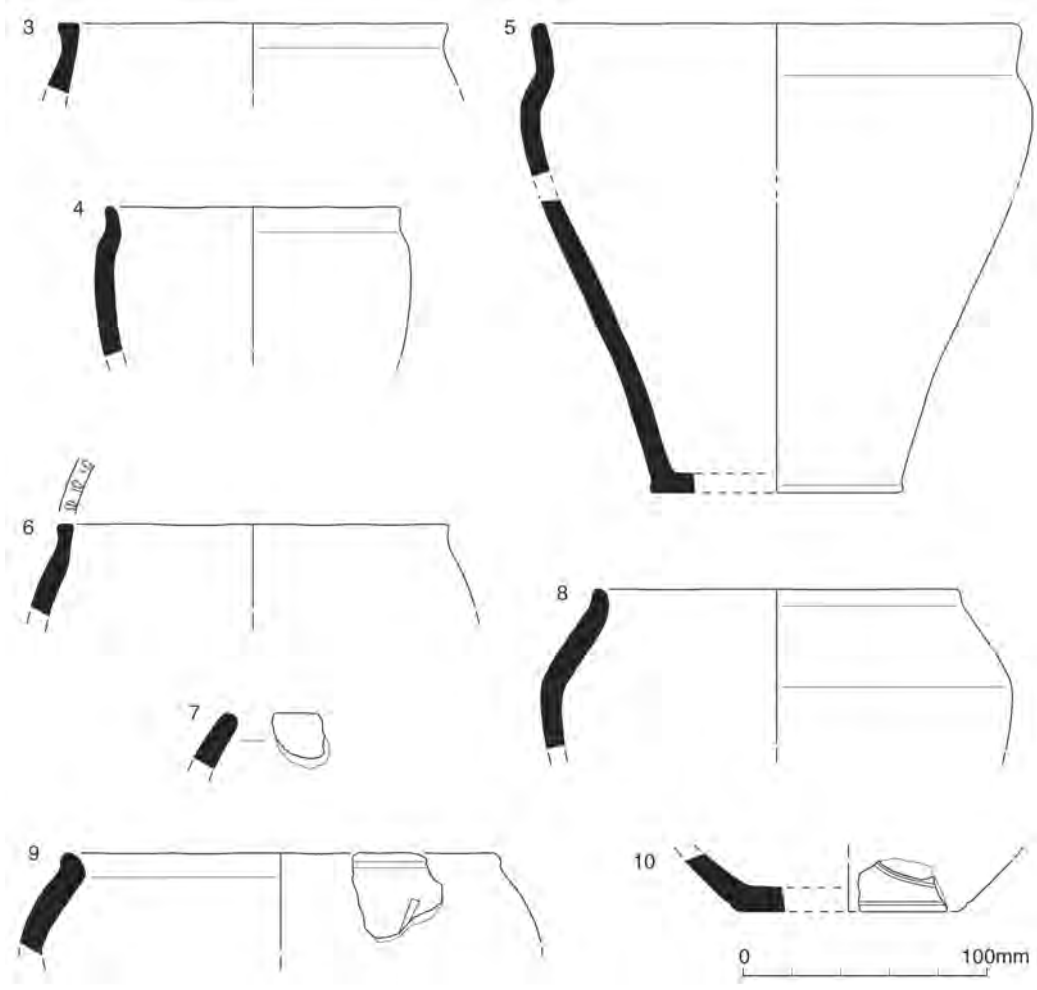

Fig. 22. Iron-Age pottery.

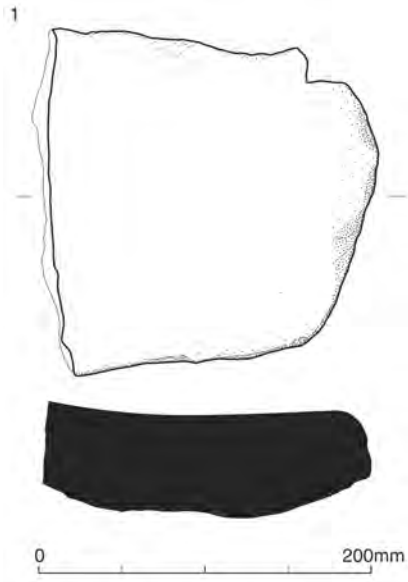

Fig. 23. Saddle quern.

of the Northamptonshire bowls, suggest dating across the second or first centuries BC, although earlier dating is also possible.[55]

Wheel-thrown pottery in fabrics indicative of dating after *c.*50 BC and continuing into the later first century AD, was present only rarely. Two body sherds from a single wheel-thrown grog-tempered vessel (fabric GR4) were recovered from a secondary fill (1027) of enclosure 2. One further wheel-thrown vessel, represented as two sherds from a small carinated bowl or cup in a shell-tempered fabric, was recovered from ditch 4 (fill 3098).

Discussion

There are few elements within the assemblage which permit refinement of chronology within the broad later Iron-Age scheme (fourth to first centuries BC). A small number of elements, most notably the decorated vessels (Fig. 22.10), and occasional wheel-thrown sherds, hint that activity continued into the second or first centuries BC. The scarcity of wheel-thrown grog-tempered or other wares which are common elsewhere in the area by the earlier first century AD, is, however, notable and suggests that the settlement was largely abandoned well before the Roman period.

The closest cultural affinities with this assemblage, evident from form/decoration and fabrics, are with later (or 'middle') Iron-Age groups from a region encompassing the southern portion of Northamptonshire, west Oxfordshire and north Buckinghamshire. Comparable, if larger, assemblages include those from Silverstone, Northamptonshire,[56] the Ouse basin at Pennyland/Hartigans,[57] and (later elements from) Salford, Bedfordshire.[58] There is little overt evidence for trade or regional contact, other than decorated bowls (Fig. 22.9–10) which stylistically are likely to have originated in central Northamptonshire. These vessels aside the Iron-Age pottery was probably locally made and is utilitarian in character, with no obvious indications of high social status.

Catalogue of Illustrated Vessels (Fig. 22):

3. Fill of ditch 1. Fabric Sh. Jar, slack-shouldered with simple rim.
4. Fill of roundhouse D gully. Fabric Qu1. Jar, slack-shouldered with squared rim.
5. Fill of pit 1217. Fabric Gr1. Jar, slack-shouldered with simple rim.
6. Fill of pit 1221. Fabric Qu5. Jar, slack-shouldered with simple rim (with fingernail slashing)

[55] D. Knight, 'A Regional Ceramic Sequence: Pottery of the First Millennium BC between the Humber and the Nene', in A. Woodward and J.D. Hill (eds.), *Prehistoric Britain: The Ceramic Basis,* PCRG Occas. Paper, 3 (Oxford, 2002), pp. 119–42.

[56] Timby, 'The Iron Age and Roman Pottery', pp. 95–103.

[57] Knight, 'Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery'.

[58] Slowikowski, 'The Pottery'.

TABLE 9. CHARRED SEEDS AND CHAFF BY PERIOD, SAMPLE, AND CONTEXT

	Period	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
	Sample	6	15	13	14	19	18	16	17	20
	Context	3004	1015	1016	1017	1044	1197	1210	1216	1220
	Fill of	Burial C1		Pit 1018		Encl. 2	RH E	pit 1212	pit 1217	pit 1221
species	**Common name**									
Hordeum vulgare	Barley hulled asymmetric grain			2						
Hordeum vulgare	Barley hulled grain			3	1			1		
Hordeum vulgare	Barley grain	1	4	6				3		1
Hordeum vulgare	Barley rachis									1
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat grain		2		1	1		1		
Triticum spelta/diococcum	Spelt/Emmer wheat grain			1					1	
Triticum sp.	Wheat Grain				1					
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat glume base				1					
Triticum spelta/diococcum	Spelt/Emmer wheat glume base		1		1				1	
Cerealia indet.	Indeterminate grain		4	4	2				1	
Brassicaceae ?*Sinapis* sp.	Cabbage/Turnip/mustard etc.			1						
Montia Fontana subsp. *Chrondrosperma*	Blinks						1			
Chenopodium album	Fat hen		1		1		1	1	1	
Atriplex sp.	Orache			1						
Rumex sp.	Docks		1	4	1			2		
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass			2						
Polygonaceae			1		1					
Odontites verna	Red Bartsia			1			1			
Galium aparine	Goosegrass							1		
Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless mayweed			1						
Carex sp.	Sedges			1						
Bromus subsect *Eudromus*	Brome grass		4	4	4				1	
Gramineae	Grass, large seeded		3	1	3			1		1
Gramineae	Grass, small seeded		2							
Ident.			3		3			1		

7. Fill of roundhouse D gully. Fabric Gr1. Jar, barrel-shaped, simple rim.
8. Fill of enclosure 3 ditch. Fabric Sh. Bowl, bipartite form with simple rim.
9. Fill of enclosure 2, ditch 1053. Fabric Qu4. Bowl, rounded with triangular rim. Linear scored decoration.
10. Fill of pit 1018. Fabric Qu4. Lower portion of ellipsoid? bowl, with scored curvilinear decoration.

THE IRON-AGE FIRED CLAY by EMMA HARRISON

Fired clay was recovered from four Iron-Age contexts in area 1. Four fragments (12 g) derived from pits 1119 and 1126 (Fig. 9) and a further four (20 g) from the ditch of enclosure 2. The fragments are orange in colour, sometimes with buff or dark grey edges, and are small and formless, in a slightly sandy fabric which includes rare linear voids from burnt-out organic inclusions.

THE IRON-AGE AND ROMAN WORKED AND BURNT STONE by FIONA ROE

The stone assemblage amounts to six objects and sixteen pieces of burnt stone. Most of the latter occurred in clay-lined pits within roundhouses E and G. Northampton Sand was used for a saddle quern, whilst the remaining objects and the burnt stone derived from pebbles collected from the local Boulder Clay.

The saddle quern (Fig. 23) was recovered from enclosure 3. It was made from a boulder the original surface of which can be seen on the unmodified underside. The stone is medium grained, light golden-brown quartz sandstone containing a little feldspar and scattered flakes of mica. Pseudomorphs of fossil-shell can be seen in the broken cross-section. This is typical of Northampton Sand, which is very variable and occurs across Northamptonshire so that no exact source can be suggested. However, it seems probable that the original piece of stone was brought to Finmere specifically for use as a quern. The quern has a smoothly worn grinding surface, which is concave lengthways but slightly convex crossways, probably to enable the rubber to fit more securely over the quern. The grinding surface was originally prepared by pecking, traces of which survive at the edges.

The pebbles and cobbles from the local Boulder Clay consist mostly of quartzite and quartzitic sandstone which could be used as rubbers for saddle querns. One fragment from the period 3 (?Roman) trackway has a worn, flat surface suggesting use of this kind and two other cobbles from the same context have slight wear traces and may have been utilised in the same way. Two further quartzitic sandstone cobbles came from the same deposit as the saddle quern and had been used as hammerstones.

The stone assemblage is typical for an Iron-Age site. The saddle quern is likely to predate *c.*100 BC since after this date rotary querns were current. Similar examples have been recovered elsewhere, in Alchester, Oxfordshire and at Rainsborough Camp, Northamptonshire.[59]

IRON-AGE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS by RUTH PELLING

A total of thirty-three samples were taken from eleven Iron-Age contexts. Samples were processed by flotation and flots collected onto 500μ mesh sieves and then air dried. The charcoal and charred plant material were scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification. Any seeds and chaff noted were extracted. Identifications were based on morphological characteristics and by comparison with modern reference material. Charcoal fragments were randomly fractured and examined in transverse section.

Table 9 shows the results from the seven most productive samples. Cereal grain was identified and tended to be abraded, suggesting post-depositional damage. Charcoal from pit 1018 is shown in Table 4.

The gully of roundhouse E (fill 1197, sample 18) contained charred weed seeds including blinks, fat hen and red bartsia. Clay-lined pit 1212 (sample 16) within the same roundhouse contained barley grains (one hulled) and a spelt wheat grain. It also produced weed seeds including fat hen, dock and *Galium aparine* (goosegrass) which are characteristic of autumn sown crop and heavy soils, and large seeded Gramineae (grass family).

Pit 1018 (sample 13) produced a larger and more varied assemblage comprising charred cereal grains and charred weed seeds. The cereal comprised grains of *Hordeum vulgare Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and *Triticum spelta/diococcum* (spelt/emmer wheat) as well as grains not identifiable to species. Non-cereal material included brassica seeds (cabbage, turnip, mustard family) and a number of weed seeds including *Chenopodium album* (fat hen), *Atriplex* sp. (orache), *Rumex* sp. (dock) and *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass) which are common arable or ruderal species; *Odontites verna* (red bartsia) and *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (scentless mayweed) which are

[59] F. Roe, 'Worked Stone', in P.M. Booth, J. Evans, and J. Hiller, *Excavations in the Extramural settlement of Alchester, Oxfordshire, 1991,* Oxford Archaeology Monograph, 1 (2001), pp. 248–253; M. Avery, J. Sutton, and J.W. Banks, 'Rainsborough, Northamptonshire, England: Excavations 1961–5', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 33 (1967), p. 276 (Fig. 23), p. 283 (Fig. 29).

characteristic of light soils and *Carex* sp. (sedges), *Bromus* subsect *Eubromus* (brome grass) and Gramineae (grass family) which are often found contaminating processed cereals.

Pits 1217 and 1221 (samples 17 and 20) contained smaller assemblages of cereal and weed seeds including emmer/spelt wheat, fat hen, brome grass, *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) grain and rachis, and large seeded Gramineae (grass family). The cereal and weed evidence suggest some re-depositing and re-working of material present within the soil.

Ditch 1053 of enclosure 2 produced only a charred *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) grain.

Discussion

The middle Iron-Age deposits contain material probably originally derived from grain processing or food preparation. The low concentration and abrasion of the material suggests that it was redeposited within the features from which it was recovered, rather than deriving from stored material. The two identified cereal species are spelt wheat and hulled barley which together formed the basis of the cereal economy of Oxfordshire during the Iron Age and Roman periods. The weed taxa identified were mostly of common arable or ruderal species. Although the data set is limited, the lack of evidence for cereal processing or production on any significant scale is in keeping with a site involved more with stock rearing than cereal production, although this may reflect taphonomic processes.

THE IRON-AGE ANIMAL BONES by LORRAIN HIGBEE

Only sixty-nine fragments of animal bone were recovered, due to the poor preservation conditions for bone on the site. The assemblage was dominated by tooth fragments which is often the case on sites where bone preservation is poor. Most of the material is from enclosure 2. Fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and horse have been identified, but the very small quantity of bone recovered can do little more than show the presence of these domestic species on the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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