

A Romano-British Site at Camp Corner, Milton Common

By MARGARET GRAY

SUMMARY

The excavation revealed a superimposed ditch system of at least three different phases from the 3rd century A.D. to post-Roman date, and three iron-working complexes of 3rd to 4th century A.D.

INTRODUCTION (FIG. 1)

THE two sites are situated on Milton Common (SP 645 037) in the parishes of Great Milton and Tiddington, Oxon. Site A is in the field called Long Ground on the tithe map of 1838-44, and is divided from Site B, called Stephen Heath, by a hedge and ditch which forms the parish boundary between Great Milton and Tiddington.

A series of pre-war aerial photographs, taken by Major Allen, shows crop-marks in the form of possible circles and enclosures in both the fields under excavation. Photographs (PL. I, A), taken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, National Monuments Record, also show a remarkable series of peri-glacial ice-wedge casts at the head of the dry valley which lies directly to the south of Site A, extending in a less well-defined manner over the areas of both Sites A and B, making crop-mark interpretation very misleading.

In advance of the construction of the M.40, trial-trenching was undertaken by members of the M.40 Archaeological Research Group on Site A and this was followed by a larger scale excavation by the writer during September and October of the same year on both Sites A and B. Flooding of Site B prevented the completion of this excavation and none of the features could be stratigraphically dated; however, thorough cleaning of the surface had shown up pebble-lines, and over-lapping features could easily be distinguished at this stage; pottery from the top levels of the features had been recorded and excavation of the individual features had just commenced. Unfortunately the site never dried out and it was destroyed by the motorway construction in March 1972.

The finds and a more detailed record of the excavation are deposited with the Oxford City and County Museum.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr. M. Davies for arranging the excavation and for his work on the site; to the Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department; and to Mr. W. A. Timbs and Mr. R. Reed for making access to these two fields possible. Thanks are due to N. B. Clayton who was Site Supervisor, and to

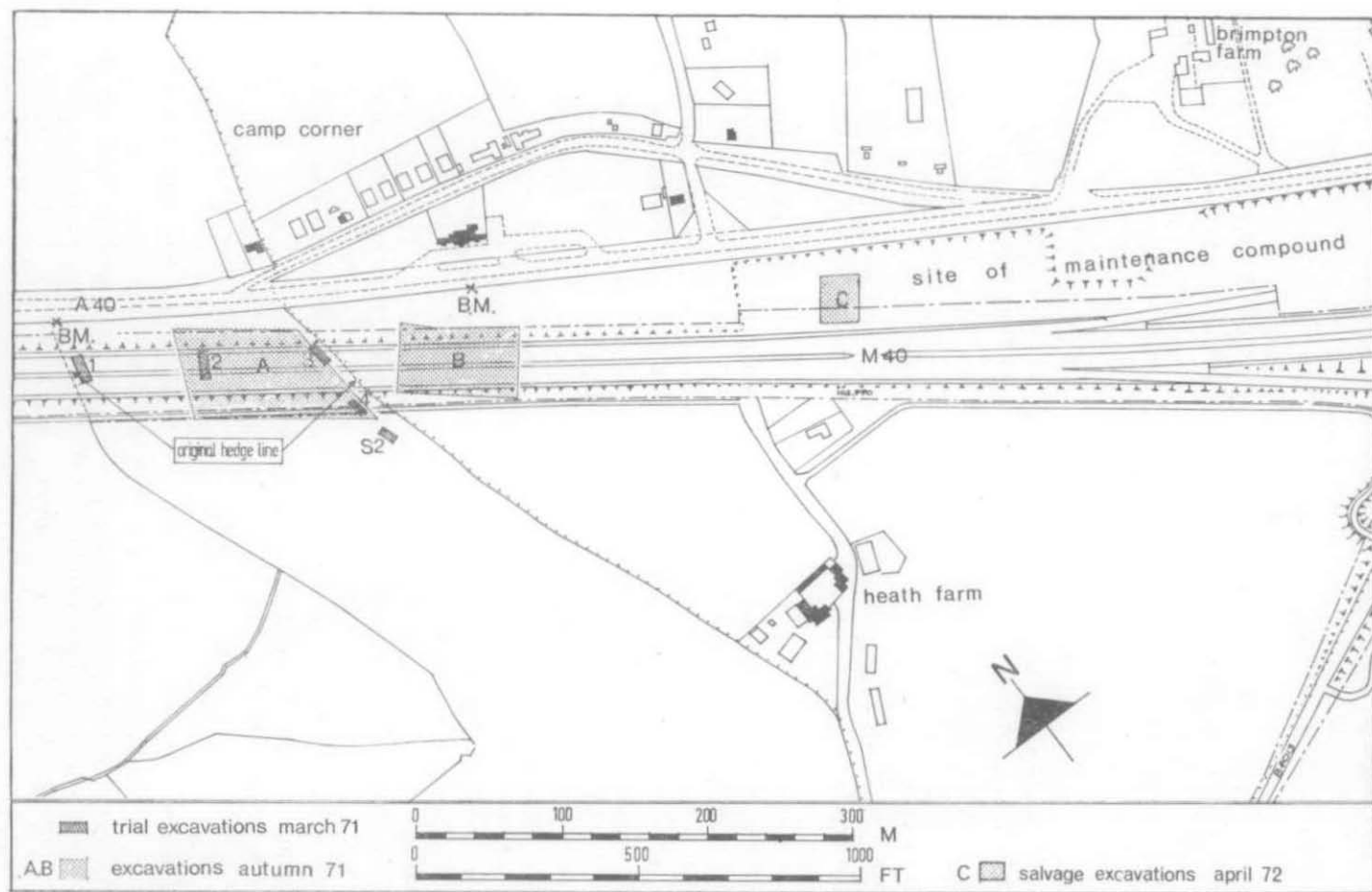


FIG. 1

Sites A and B are the Camp Corner, C the Heath Farm, excavations.

Mrs. J. Mitchell who was Finds Assistant, and to B. Hodgkinson, R. de Freitas and A. Whittle who worked full time on the site. I am also grateful to the members of the M.40 Research Group, and to students from the Lady Spencer-Churchill College and from the Oxford Polytechnic for their part-time help. Assistance with the publication plans was provided by P. Woodward and with the pottery drawing by Miss A. Tuckwell. The coins were identified by Dr. C. M. Kraay. Finally, I would like to thank C. J. Young for examining and reporting on the pottery.

Geology

The two sites lie on plateau gravel composed of sub-angular flints alternating with sands and glacial clays. Site B was distinctive in having a considerable encrustation of iron-panning; on both sites there was, lying on the natural horizon, a fine, buff-grey silt up to 8 cm. thick in places.

THE EXCAVATION

Stratification. Continuous ploughing over many years had removed most of the stratification from the site. The only stratification was within the features themselves.

Levels. The levels were taken for Site A from Bench Mark A1 at 101.139 m. AOD (Newlyn) and for Site B from Bench Mark H5 at 102.048 m. AOD (Newlyn). All section datum lines were related to these figures. For the position of the Bench Marks see plan (FIG. 1). AOD means Above Ordnance Datum.

Method of excavation. The ploughsoil was removed by mechanical grader and the resulting surface was cleaned by hand hoeing and trowelling. On Site A, it was found that the west end, almost as far as the boundary hedge, consisted of geological features, so the topsoil, which was being removed mechanically, was dumped onto this negative area. The plan of Site A (FIG. 2) shows only those areas which were hand-cleaned after mechanical stripping of ploughsoil; the southern part of the site, as indicated, was not cleaned.

After the sites had been cleaned, a 15 m. grid was laid out and all features encountered were numbered and a site plan was drawn. Excavation of these features had started when flooding halted the work. It is indicated in the text which of the features had undergone the initial stages of excavation, and which remained unexcavated. The pottery and finds were from the top levels of the features unless otherwise stated: the symbol P indicates features from which pottery was recovered.

SITE A

Trial Trenches. These were cut as indicated in Figure 1. The four trenches 1-4 in the western and central areas of the site proved to be archaeologically negative. Trench S2 (see fig. 3) was cut across a raised area of gravel to the south of the line of the motorway. The ploughsoil lay above a disturbed occupation level, which contained Romano-British pottery and a coin (a Follis of Diocletian, A.D. 284-304). Below this lay a thin undisturbed occupation level (10 cm.),

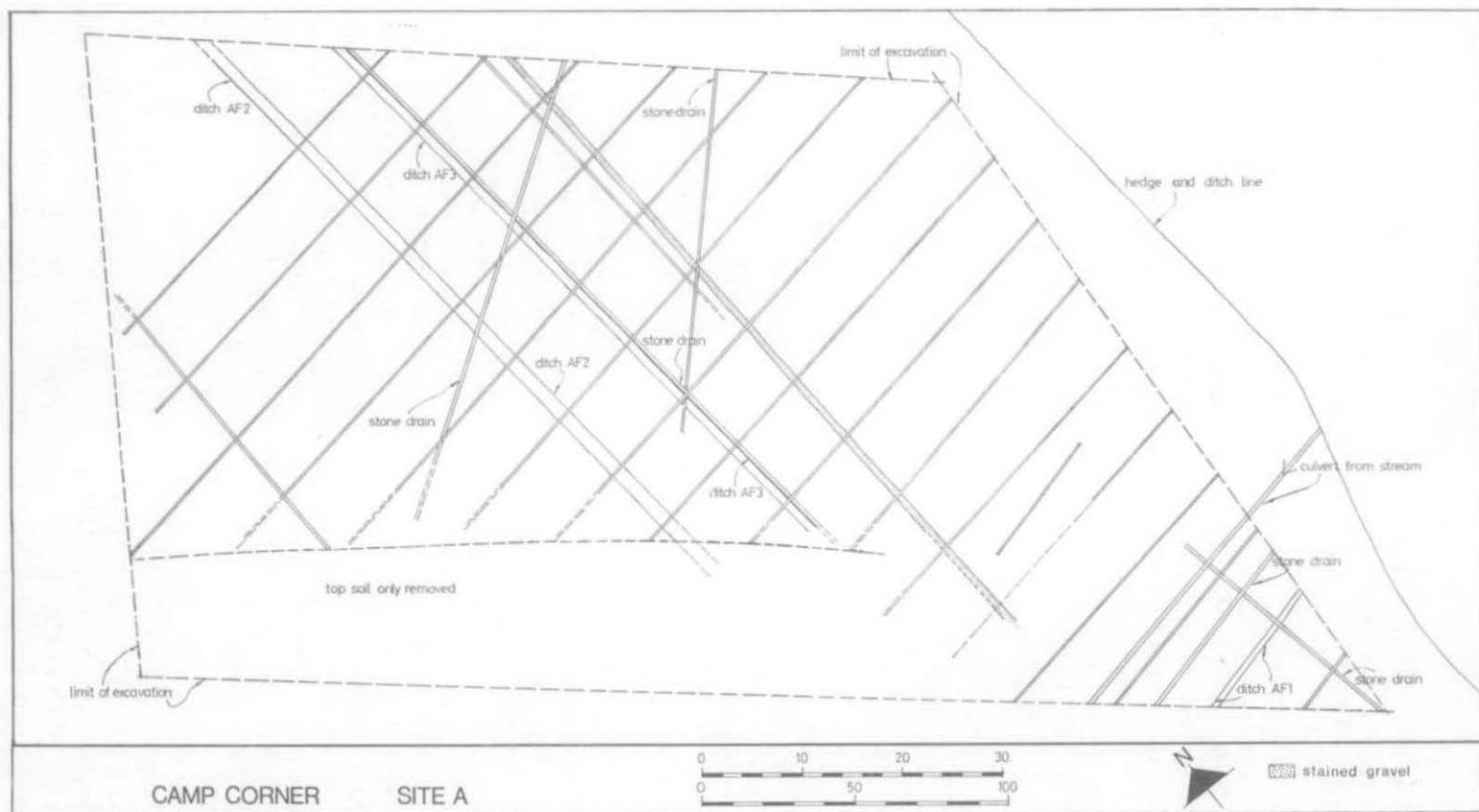


FIG. 2

containing more Romano-British pottery. Finally, two dark, silt-filled gulleys and a post-hole were found cut into the natural sand and gravel.

The Ditches. Three ditches and one long strip of stained gravel crossed the site (FIG. 2).

Ditch AF 1 crossed the S.E. corner and was the nearest feature to the trial trench S2. A section cut across it showed that it was V-shaped and filled with grey, silty soil. Depth of ditch = 40 cm. Section line datum = 101.018 m. P.

Ditches AF 2 and 3. Parallel ditches crossing the length of the site. Section across the two ditches showed V-shaped profiles with clean buff, silty filling. The gravel surface between these two ditches seemed raised to a higher level than the gravel elsewhere, with a slight bank of gravel on the west side of the west ditch. Depth of AF 2 = 22 cm. Depth of AF 3 = 18 cm. Section line datum = 101.130 m.

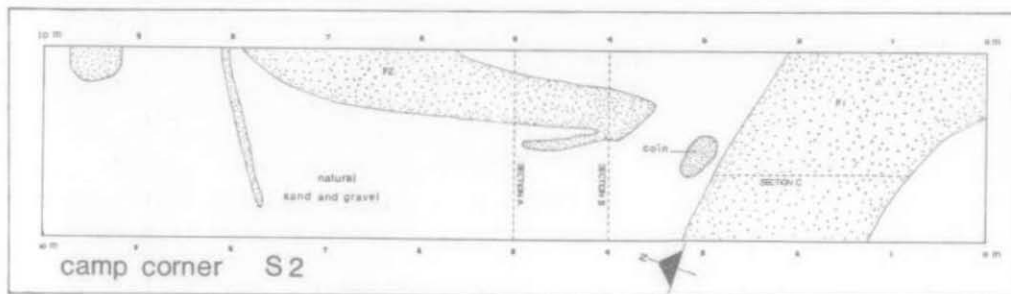


FIG. 3

Since these ditches are visible as a distinct cropmark, continuing to the south for some distance, and since there is a slight camber to the gravel between them, they may be the flanking ditches for a road leading to a settlement site further to the south.

Land-drains. There were two types of drains on the site, and all are included on the plan (FIG. 2). The stone-lined drains may be of any post-medieval date and appear to cross the site at random. As there were slight traces of ridge and furrow, before the site was stripped, and plough marks were observed cutting the gravel and running in a N-S direction (that is, in line with the parish boundary), and not on the line of modern ploughing, it is assumed that this field was under cultivation in the Medieval period, and that the stone-lined drains were laid down subsequently. The more recent ceramic drains make a regular pattern across the field, which did not flood like Site B.

SITE B (FIG. 4)

The Ditches. Ditches I and II were possibly contemporary, having the same filling and range of pottery. The fillings were of dark brown sandy soil and gravel, with much charcoal. Neither was fully excavated.

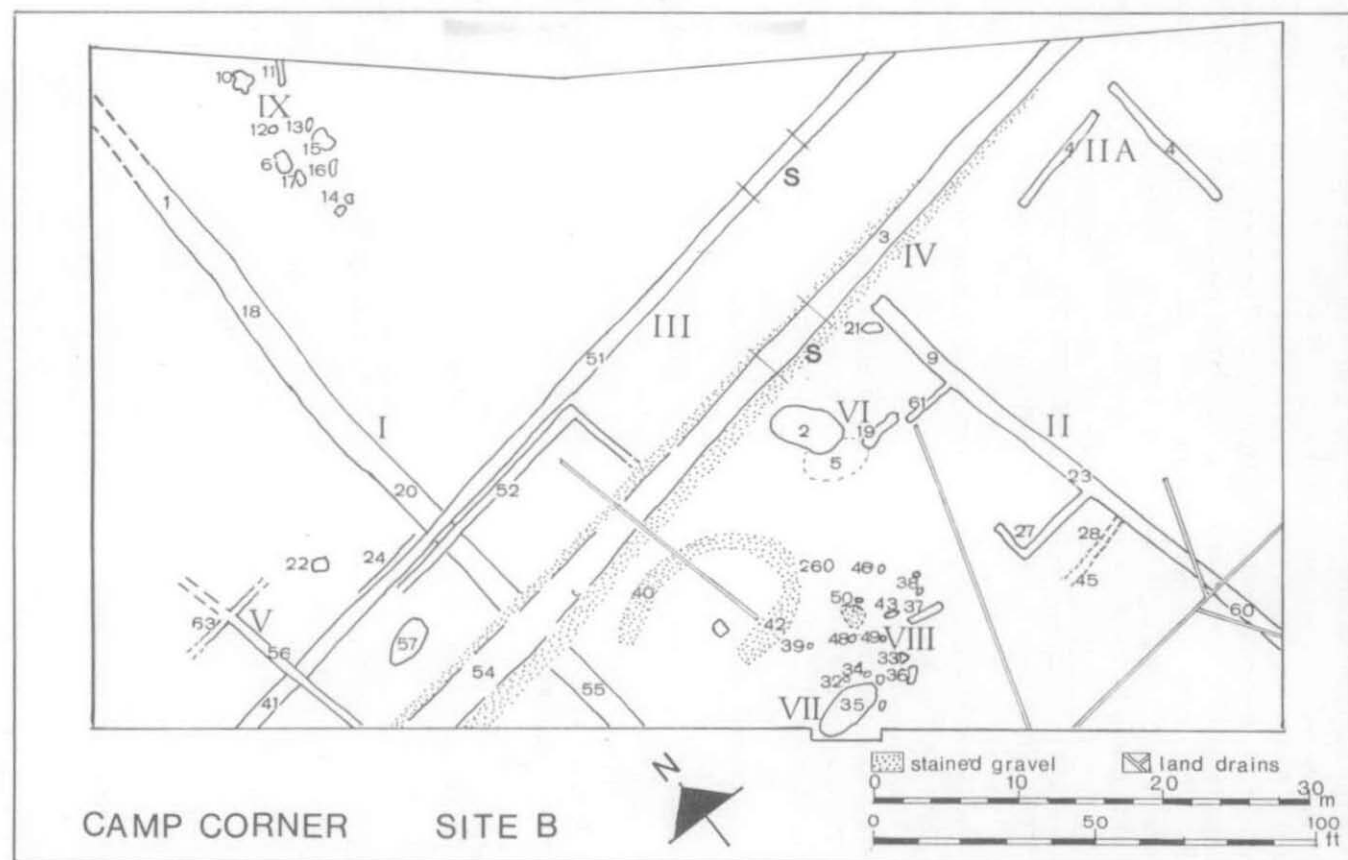


FIG. 4

Ditch I (BF Nos. 1, 18, 20, 55) faded out at its northern end but continued beyond the limit of the excavation to the south. Animal bone, fragments of tile (including part of a box flue-tile), some burnt daub and iron nails. P.

Ditch II (BF Nos. 9, 23, 60) finished abruptly at its northern end and may have been cut off by the construction of Ditch IV. The southern end continued beyond the limit of the excavation. Animal bone, building stone, tile and iron nails, P. Two coins, too corroded for identification. Three small gullies. These were at right angles to, and at the western side of Ditch II. Flooding made it impossible to test their relationship with Ditch II; they are presumed to be contemporary with it, although the fillings were slightly different, being grey-brown silty, with ginger streaks and less charcoal.

BF 61. This gully was cut off by a land-drain to the west. P.

BF 27. Two gullies at right angles to each other which, together with BF 61, could have formed a small enclosure. Fragment of Roman brick. P.

BF 28. Similar, but further south. P.

BF 21. Three coins. See coin list.

Ditch II A. Two shallow gullies at the N.E. end of site, at right angles to each other. Perhaps part of a small enclosure. P.

Ditch III (BF Nos. 41, 51). A long ditch crossing the extent of the site, cut across and later than Ditch I. The filling was grey-buff sandy with ginger flecks. A sector of this ditch was emptied (FIG. 4, marked as S), but the primary filling could not be removed because of flooding. The ditch had a rounded profile with a depth at the centre of 18 cm. (before removal of primary silt) from the surface of the natural gravel. (101.048 m. AOD.) The sherds were very worn. P. There was also burnt daub in the filling, and some coal.

BF 52. Parallel to Ditch III was a narrow ditch, which turned south to make two ditches at right angles to each other. This also cut across and must be later than Ditch I, but was cut off by Ditch IV at its southern end. The filling was grey-purple mottled sandy soil.

BF 24. A narrow gully, which may at one time have been a re-cut of Ditch III, having the same filling and also some burnt daub. P.

Ditch IV (BF Nos. 3, 54). A broad band of grey-buff silty soil crossing the extent of the site, which cut across and was later than Ditch I and also cut away BF 52. An area of stained gravel on each side of this feature may have been the remains of banks from ditch cleaning. A sector of this ditch was emptied (FIG. 4, marked as S). At this point the ditch was 1.75 m. wide and had a rounded profile, the depth from the surface of the gravel after the removal of primary silt being 35 cm. in the centre (101.183 m. AOD). The only finds were a few very worn sherds, and a fragment of Roman tile. P.

Ditch V. A narrow ditch which cut across and was later than Ditch III and, therefore, also later than Ditch I. It was impossible to test its relationship with Ditch IV as the junction was under the spoil-heap, which had not been removed as intended before the flooding of the site. For the same reason it was not possible to examine the northern end of this ditch satisfactorily, where it joined Ditch 63. It is presumed to be of the same date or later than Ditch IV, because

of the similarity of the fillings and because the sherds here also were very worn. P. Also in the filling was a fragment of Roman tile.

Interpretation of the Ditch System. The first ditches on the site were Ditches I and II, which were possibly contemporary. It is not possible to ascertain the place of II A in the sequence as this ditch was some distance from the other ditches and was not excavated beyond the initial cleaning. The ditches I and II may be contemporary with the iron-working features described below and may be boundary ditches for this complex, as no iron-working features appeared outside them. Their fillings were consistent with this as they did not appear to have silted up gradually but rather to have been deliberately back-filled with top-soil at the time of the termination of this complex. Duration of use was 3rd-4th centuries A.D.

At a later stage, possibly in immediately post-Roman times, the land may have been turned over to agriculture and the Ditches III, IV and V may have been an attempt to drain what must have been at times waterlogged conditions. The silty fillings of these three ditches is consistent with a gradual accumulation of water-borne material. It is interesting to place the present ditch between Sites A and B in the sequence. This is both the parish boundary between Great Milton and Tiddington and also still a very efficient drainage ditch after excessive rainfall. Its width and depth were much the same as the other ditches encountered on this impermeable plateau gravel.

The Iron-Working Complexes. There were three separate iron-working complexes on the site.

Complex VI comprised two features BF 2 and BF 19 (FIG. 5). BF 2 first showed as a sub-rectangular area of dark brown soil with charcoal and with many sherds, some Roman tile, iron objects, animal bone and fragments of limestone. These are recorded as BF 2a.

The feature was excavated in quadrants, but the natural gravel was not reached before flooding, so only the plan is illustrated, as the section was not completed.

N.W. Quadrant. The plan shows layer BF 2a removed and the following : *NW BF 2b.* Dark brown sandy soil with charcoal and some limestone. The gravel was composed of flints larger than those in the surrounding natural gravel. Included amongst the Iron Objects is an iron bar (see Iron Object list) and the coins were of A.D. 270 or later (see Coin list). P.

NW BF 2c. Concentration of burnt material in centre of feature. This consisted of a collapsed stone structure, which was very burnt, the stones used being conglomerate, limestone, and one fragment of quern-stone with its curved edge to the inside of the circular structure ; there was also a good deal of burnt daub. This was probably a central hearth. P.

NW BF 2d. Two lines of stones, set on edge. These were limestone, sandstone and a fragment of quern-stone. Between the double line of stones the soil was very dark and included fragments of burnt and unburnt clay, some animal

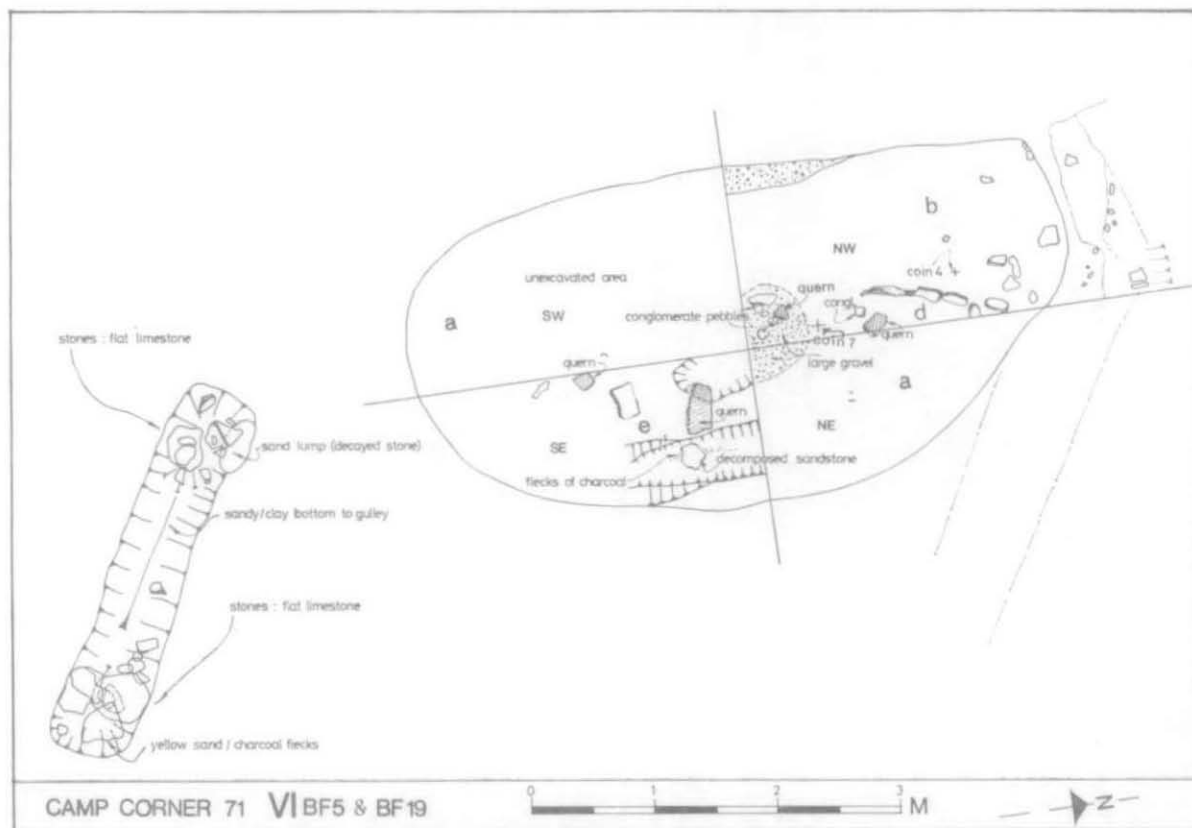


FIG. 5

Note : In the title, BF₅ should read BF₂

bone, and iron objects. P. This may have been a flue leading to the central hearth.

S.E. Quadrant. The plan shows layers a, b and c removed. They were similar to these layers in the N.W. quadrant. There was no d (stone-lined flue) in this quadrant.

SE BF 2e. This was a bright yellow soft sand, which may be either decayed lumps of sandstone, or sand brought in and deposited as a levelling material for the features above. Into this was cut the hearth BF 2c to a depth of 10 cm. below the section line (section line = 101.333 m. AOD). The filling of this feature was dark brown soil with a great deal of charcoal, burnt and unburnt clays, ash, animal bone and some iron slag. Further to the west there was a gully, 16 cm. deep from the section line, with decayed sandstone and dark ashy soil in the filling. P.

S.W. and N.E. quadrants remained unexcavated. The finds recorded were from the cleaning of the top layers. P.

BF 19. A long pit with filling of dark brown soil and charcoal. There were many small fragments of stone in this filling, which remained unchanged to the bottom of the feature. At the bottom were several large stones in position (See plan, Fig. 5), lying on a bedding of sandy clay. Depth to the bottom of feature averages 25 cm. from surface of the gravel. P.

BF 5. Area of blue clay and brown soil with sherds, burnt daub and iron objects, to the S.W. of BF 2 and probably associated with it.

Complex VII. BF 35 was a large (5 m. E.-W. \times 2 m. N.-S.) sub-rectangular area of dark brown soil with charcoal. It was not possible to excavate beyond the top layers because of flooding, but it had every appearance of being the same type of feature as BF 2, except that it had post-holes and a pit adjacent to it.

BF 35a. Top layer of dark brown soil and charcoal with many sherds, iron objects and fragments of stone but no burnt daub.

BF 35A. A pit on east side of BF 35 (70 cm. E.-W. \times 86 cm. N.-S.). Filled with compact, greasy, black-brown soil and gravel, much charcoal. Depth was 22 cm. from section line (section line = 101.223 m. AOD). P.

BF 35B. North Quadrant. A pit in the central area, filled with dark grey, ashy material. Some large pieces of limestone set on edge in this channel. Depth was 18 cm. below section line. P.

BF 35C. South Quadrant. Same feature. P.

These features are cut through a compact buff sandy soil containing limestone fragments. (BF 35D.)

BF 35E. Post-hole on S.E. side of feature. Not excavated. (45 cm. N.-S. \times 35 cm. E.-W.).

BF 32. Post-hole on N.E. side of feature. Filled with dark brown soil at the top. Lower there was a packing of blue clay. Depth below surface gravel = 14 cm. Size 25 cm. N.-S. \times 45 cm. E.-W.

BF 34. As BF 32. Depth 16 cm. below surface of gravel. Size 48 cm. N.-S. \times 30 cm. E.-W.

Complex VIII. Areas of ashy soil, post-holes and pits with animal bone and many sherds in the top layers. None excavated. (FIG. 4.)

BF 26, 31, 43. Areas of ashy soil, sometimes covered by blue clay. P.

BF 46. Shallow depression. Filled with grey-brown soil and charcoal, much iron staining. P.

BF 48-50. Post-holes with blue clay packing. Between these three post-holes there was an area of blue clay, shown stippled on plan.

BF 33, 36, 38, 39. Post-holes. Fill dark brown soil, lumps of blue clay.

BF 37. Long rectangular (2.50 m. E.-W. \times 1 m. N.-S.) pit. Fill dark brown soil and gravel, with lumps of blue clay. The sides were bright yellow sand, perhaps decayed sandstone. Top layer only excavated. This had marked similarity to BF 19.

Complex IX. Iron working features grouped at north end of the site.

BF 6. Hearth (1.80 m. N.-S. \times 1 m. E.-W.). Top filling black-brown soil with much charcoal with burnt and unburnt stone and with some burnt clay at the west end. The lower filling mixed with gravel, which may have been re-deposited rather than slip from the sides. Depth = 25 cm. (101.098 m. AOD).

BF 10. Hearth (1.50 m. N.-S. \times 1.50 m. E.-W.). Top filling black-brown soil with much charcoal. Burnt and un-burnt clays formed a circular feature in the centre. Iron slag and some lumps of iron concretion scattered throughout this layer. A channel (7 cm. wide \times 90 cm. long, 10 cm. deep) cut through this material on the S.W. side of the feature; this could have been a flue, facing the prevailing wind, or the emplacement for bellows. At the furnace end of this channel was a concentration of iron concretion. The gravel all around the feature had been subjected to intense burning. It was not possible to excavate the feature completely owing to flooding. P.

BF 11. Long rectangular pit (50 cm. wide \times 1.75 m., but part of structure under baulk). Fill black-brown soil. A small section was excavated across it by the baulk and the depth at that point was 45 cm. from the surface of the ploughsoil (100.983 m. AOD).

BF 12-17. Post-holes associated with above, but not excavated. All filled with dark brown soil with charcoal.

Interpretation of Iron-Working Complexes. It is difficult to interpret these features without total excavation, but certain facts emerge from the small amount of work done. Both BF 2 and BF 35 may have been forges rather than smelting furnaces, since there was little iron slag in them, but the slag could have been cleared from the working areas and deposited elsewhere. There were many iron objects in the features, although the large number of nails may not, of course, come entirely from their manufacture there, but from the building which covered the working area. However, it is difficult to distinguish the furnace of an early iron-worker from that of a smith, and some of the structures may have alternated in use.¹ Both these features had central hearths with flues leading to the hearths; these

¹ A. Raistrick, *Industrial Archaeology* (1972), 169.

could either be used with bellows or, as they were sited to catch the prevailing S.W. winds, by such draught as would be available on the exposed gravel plateau of Milton Common. Certainly there would be no difficulty in obtaining timber to make the charcoal necessary for smithing. Local ore could have been used.² The natural gravel of this site was covered with concreted masses of iron-panning. It is recorded that at Silchester³ iron was obtained from iron-pan, a material occurring there in the local gravel. BF 2 may have been a hut of wattle and daub construction, as burnt daub was found. There was none of this in BF 35, which had associated post-holes and may, therefore, have been of timber construction. The many post-holes and pits of area VIII may have been from small huts, though it was difficult to make any coherent pattern from them. The whole area was very dirty, with a great deal of blue clay, and this clay was also used in the post-holes as packing for the posts. This clay may have been from daub of buildings which have collapsed, leaving only the clay residue on the ground. The clay was probably obtained from the Gault clays which lie close beneath the plateau gravels of the region.

The two hearths BF 6 and BF 10 may have been bowl furnaces for smelting iron.

Attached to each of the three iron working areas there was a long rectangular structure (BF 11, BF 19 and BF 37). These may have been ore-roasting ovens, such as are recorded from other iron-working sites of this period, including Bardown, Sussex,⁴ and some in Northamptonshire.⁵

Other Features included two large pits, not associated with the iron-working areas. There was also a definite staining on the gravel in a horse-shoe shape, and stone-lined land-drains.

BF 22. A circular pit (diameter 80 cm.) filled with dark brown soil with much charcoal. Its depth from the surface of the gravel was 20 cm. P.

BF 57. Large pit (2 m. N.-S. \times 3.50 m. E.-W.) filled with black-brown soil with charcoal). In the top of the filling was a piece of box flue-tile, and a coin which was too corroded to identify. P.

BF 40, BF 42. Very definite area of iron-staining on the gravel, with trampled dirty soil and many sherds and Roman tile. This was horse-shoe shaped, but may originally have formed a complete oval. The purpose of this feature is unknown.

BF 47, BF 58, BF 59, BF 64 and BF 65. Stone-lined land-drains.

CONCLUSION

It would appear that this part of Milton Common was first occupied in the 3rd century A.D. when parallel boundary or drainage ditches were constructed,

² H. Hodges, *Artifacts* (1964), 81.

³ G. C. Boon, *Roman Silchester* (1957), 182.

⁴ H. Cleere, 'The Romano-British Industrial Site at Bardown, Wadhurst', *Sussex Archaeological Society Occasional Paper*, I (1970).

⁵ Information from D. Jackson on sites in the Corby area.

and within this area iron-working took place. The many fragments of Roman building material found in these features suggest that the iron-working complexes were peripheral to a large late Roman settlement, possibly further to the S.W. The life of this settlement appears to be 3rd-4th century A.D. At some time after this date, the area must have come under agricultural use with ditches to drain the somewhat impermeable sub-soil. The area possibly later came under Medieval cultivation; although modern ploughing had removed most traces of this, there is evidence in the surrounding fields of ridge and furrow. The stone-lined drains could be of post-medieval date, followed by ceramic ones in recent times.

THE FINDS

IRON OBJECTS

Nails from BF 1, 2, 10, 35, 57.

Chain links from BF 5.

Iron Bar from BF 2.

Unidentified objects from BF 2 (7 objects), 9 (1 object), 35 (2 objects).

BUILDING MATERIALS

Roman brick from BF 2, 5, 27, 40, 42.

Roman tile from BF 1, 2, 3, 9, 35, 43, 48, 63.

Box flue-tile from BF 40, 57.

ANIMAL BONE

Animal bone is recorded from BF 2, 35, 43, 60.

STONE

Quern-stones are recorded from BF 2.

COINS

Coin 1. Probably VICTORINUS, *c.* A.D. 265-70, but perhaps another emperor of this period.

obv. illegible.

rev. [PAX] AVG. Pax standing holding (branch) and cornucopiae, from surface of the natural gravel (BF 21 on Fig. 4).

Coin 2. Illegible, but found with Coin 1.

Coin 3. TETRICUS I or II, *c.* A.D. 270-3

obv.]RICV[.

rev. illegible.

Found with coins 1 and 2.

Coin 4. CLAUDIUS II (posthumous). Minted *c.* A.D. 270 or later.

obv. illegible.

rev. Altar CONSECRATIO.

From BF 2, NW Quadrant, layer b. (See plan, Fig. 5.)

Coins 5 and 6. Illegible. From BF 60.

Coin 7. Radiate head of late 3rd cent. A.D. From BF 2, NW Quadrant, layer b. (See plan, Fig. 5).

Coin 8. Illegible. From BF 57.

THE POTTERY by CHRISTOPHER J. YOUNG

This report discusses a representative selection of pottery from Site B. It has not been thought necessary to discuss the total assemblage as the material from the different

features is very uniform and closely similar to that from Lewknor (M.40 Site 11). The conventions used to describe the pottery are those used in the Lewknor report (p. 131). Features are listed in the order used in the account of the excavation, and discussion of the pottery will be found at the end of the catalogue.

Ditch I

1. Mortarium ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I orange, Bk. grey ; multicoloured translucent quartzite grit ; traces of white colour-coat. Oxon kiln product.
 2. Imitation Dr. 31R ; hard, sandy, micaceous ; E,I buff-orange, Bk. pink-orange with thin grey core ; traces of red colour-coat. Oxon kiln product.
 3. Form and texture as last ; E,I, Bk. orange ; red colour-coat. Oxon kiln product.
 4. Necked bowl ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I buff-orange, Bk. buff-orange with buff core ; traces of red colour-coat ; rouletted on neck. Oxon kiln product.
 5. Jar ; hard, heavily tempered with calcite grit ; E,I,Bk. black. (See below, p. 22).
 6. Flanged dish ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I,Bk. grey. (*cf.* Lewknor, nos. 20-25.)
 7. Jar ; hard, sandy, granular, micaceous, with quartz inclusions ; E,I grey, Bk. red with thick grey core (*cf.* Lewknor, nos. 26-27).
 8. Bowl ; hard, sandy, granular, micaceous, many white inclusions ; E,I grey, Bk. grey with thick brown core.
 9. Flanged dish ; sandy, micaceous, black inclusions ; E,I,Bk. grey.
 10. Storage jar ; hard, sandy, heavily tempered with quartz, mica, large red and small black and white inclusions ; E,I off-white to pink, Bk. light grey. Similar body sherds were found at Lewknor.
- Not illustrated : Sherds of imit. Dr. 38, body sherds of beakers, all red colour-coat ware, white colour-coat bowl, form as Beacon Hill no. 3. All these Oxon kiln products.

Ditch II

11. Imitation Dr. 31R ; sandy ; E,I, orange, Bk. orange with grey core. Oxon kiln product.
 12. Jar ; very eroded ; hard, sandy, micaceous ; E,I off-white, Bk. white.
 13. Jar ; fabric as no. 7.
- Not illustrated : 1 mortarium as no. 14, 1 bowl as no. 2, 1 as no. 3, sherd of imit. Dr. 38. All Oxon kiln products.

BF61

14. Mortarium ; hard, sandy ; E,I,Bk. off-white ; grit as no. 1. Oxon kiln product.
15. Bowl ; hard, sandy ; E,I, Bk. off-white. Probably Oxon kiln product.
16. Jar ; hard, sandy, micaceous ; E,I grey, Bk. blue grey (*cf.* Lewknor, nos. 20-25).
17. Jar ; fabric as no. 5 but grit burnt out.

Ditch III

18. Beaker ; sandy, red inclusions ; E,I buff, Bk. orange ; brown colour-coat. Oxon kiln product.
 19. Bowl ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I,Bk. pink-orange ; traces of red colour-coat ; rosette stamped. Oxon kiln product.
 20. Jar ; hard, sandy, white inclusions ; E black, I grey, Bk. purple-red.
 21. Flanged dish ; fabric as last.
 22. Sherd of flagon or bottle ; fabric as last ; slashed cordon around base of neck. This is similar to a bottle type made in white ware at the Churchill Hospital kiln site.
- Not illustrated : jar, form as no. 7, orange ware.

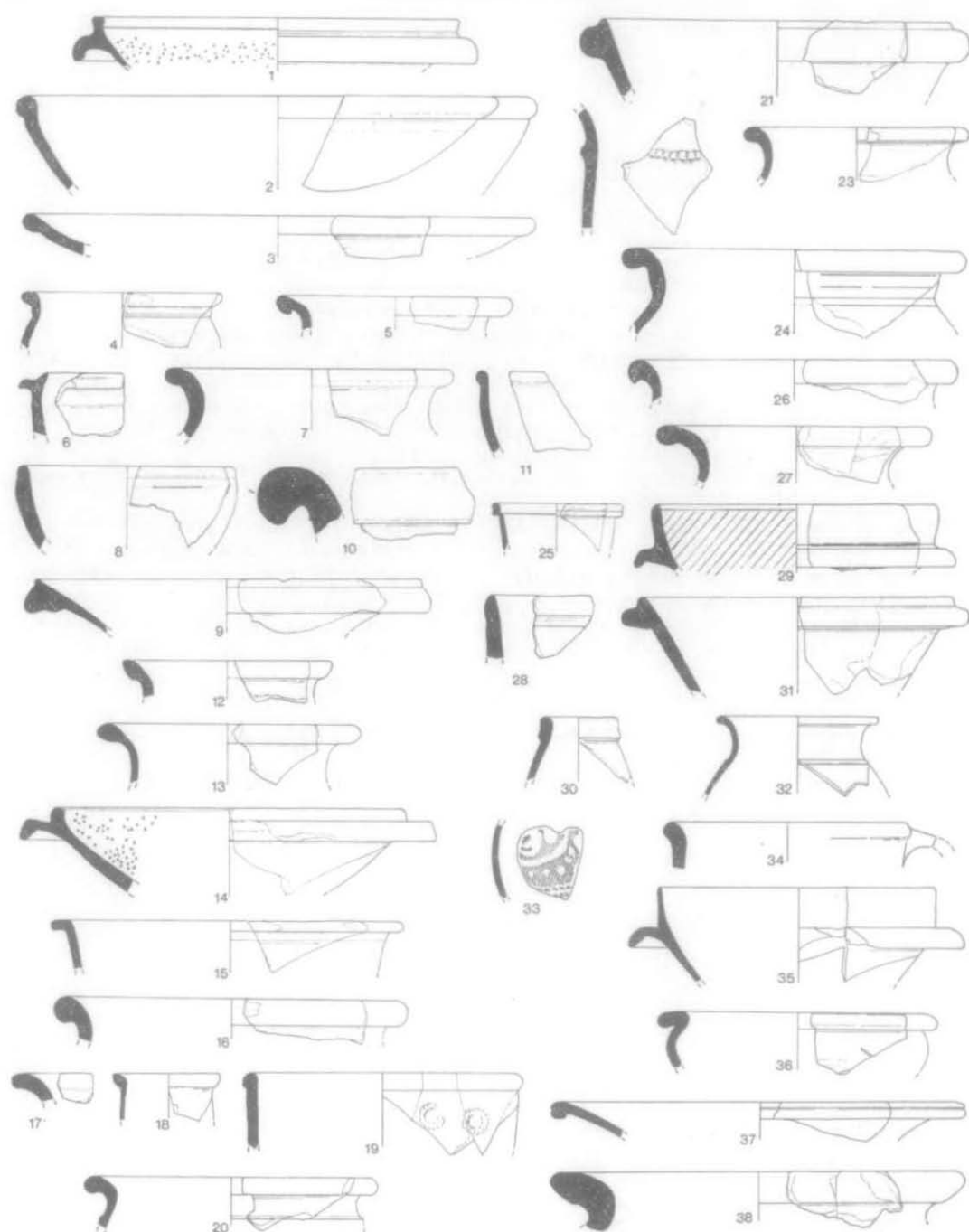


FIG. 6

Pottery. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

Note : The section of no. 22, which has not been numbered, should have been slanted inwards.

*Complex VI**BF 2a*

Not illustrated : Sherds of imit. Dr. 38, bowl as no. 4, both colour-coated ware ; Oxon kiln products ; sherds of 2 jars as no. 7, 1 as no. 16, all grey ware.

BF2, North-West Quadrant

- 23. Jar ; fabric as no. 16.
 - 24. Jar ; fabric as last.
 - 25. Bowl ; fabric as no. 6.
 - 26. Jar ; hard, sandy, micaceous, some quartzite grits ; E,I grey, Bk. reddish-buff.
 - 27. Jar ; fabric as no. 5.
 - 28. Straight-sided bowl ; hard, sandy, micaceous, small inclusions ; E,I,Bk. black ; burnished on interior.
- Not illustrated : 2 sherds of imit. Dr. 38, one joining no. 29 ; Oxon kiln product ; jar as no. 24, fabric as no. 7, storage jar.

BF 2, North-East Quadrant

- 29. Imitation Dr. 38 ; hard, sandy, micaceous ; E,I pink-buff, Bk. grey ; colour-coat black outside, red inside ; Oxon kiln product.
 - 30. Beaker or jar ; hard, sandy, containing black sand ; E,I,Bk. white ; inner surface smoothed, traces of red paint on rim. Rare form of Oxon parchment ware.
 - 31. Flanged dish ; hard, sandy, micaceous, with red and white inclusions ; E,I black, Bk. reddish purple.
- Not illustrated : 1, form as no. 12, 1, form as no. 24, both grey ware, 1 as no. 18.

*Complex VII**BF35*

- 32. Poppy-head beaker ; sandy, black inclusions ; E,I,Bk. blue-grey ; 2nd century A.D. Residual.
- Not illustrated : 1 sherd of mortaria, form as no. 1, Oxon kiln product, jar as no. 24.

*Complex IX**BF10*

- 33. Body sherd of bulbous beaker ; sandy ; E,I,Bk. orange ; black colour-coat ; originally decorated with white paint which has worn off ; Oxon kiln product.

BF22

- 34. Bowl ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I,Bk. orange ; traces of red colour coat ; white painted decoration. Rare form of Oxon colour-coat ware.

BF40

- 35. Imitation Dr. 38 ; sandy, micaceous ; E,I,Bk. orange-red ; traces of red colour-coat. Oxon kiln product.
- 36. Bowl ; sandy, micaceous, black inclusions ; E,I,Bk. grey, traces of black surface. Residual 2nd century type.
- 37. Fabric as last.
- 38. Storage jar ; fabric as no. 10.

The pottery, of which the above is a fully representative selection, falls into three groups : (i) products of the Oxford kilns ; (ii) other imports from known sources ; (iii) coarse wares from unknown kilns, probably local. The Oxford products comprise mortaria, colour-coated bowls and beakers, and a few sherds of white wares. All these fall into the class of fine or specialized wares mass produced and widely traded by the

Oxford kilns. They do not include any of the coarser wares also produced by the Oxford kilns, despite the relative closeness (approximately 7 kilometres) of Camp Corner to the nearest potting sites. All the Oxford wares present date to the late 3rd or 4th centuries.

Other imports from sources outside the immediate vicinity of the site include examples (nos. 28, 31) of the black-burnished wares made at various centres in southern Britain⁶ and of calcite gritted ware (nos. 5, 17, 27). The former was current throughout Britain in the late Roman period. The calcite gritted ware is a late development of a persistent tradition in the south midlands, the widely traded 4th century forms being made certainly at Harrold, Beds.,⁷ and possibly at Little Houghton, Northants.⁸ The wide distribution began in the second quarter of the 4th century, reaching Lockleys by c. A.D. 340 at the latest⁹ and Park Street by c. A.D. 350.¹⁰ It has been suggested that it continued in use until the mid-5th century,¹¹ but doubt has been cast on the evidence for this.¹² It seems more likely that it ceased in the early 5th century at about the same time as other late Roman pottery industries.

The remaining fabrics present at Camp Corner have no known site or sites of manufacture and have been found only in a very limited area. Certain of them occur also at Lewknor and Beacon Hill and it seems that they must be the products of local potters supplying needs for coarse wares over a very small area. On all three motorway sites they were found in association with types and wares of certain late Roman date and they must also be of this period. More exact dating of the Camp Corner site is difficult.

⁶ R. A. H. Farrar, 'Romano-British black-burnished ware', *Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery* (ed. A. P. Detsicas) (1973), 67-103.

⁷ Information kindly given by Mr. A. E. Brown.

⁸ D. E. Johnston, 'Romano-British kilns near Northampton', *Antiq. J.*, XLIX (1969), 75-97; Fig. 6, 28-33 shows obvious examples of this ware.

⁹ J. B. Ward-Perkins, 'The Roman villa at Lockleys, Welwyn', *Antiq. J.*, XXVIII (1938), 339-76, Fig. 12, 1.

¹⁰ H. E. O'Neil, 'The Roman villa at Park Street, near St. Albans, Herts: Report on the excavations 1943-5', *Archaeol. J.*, CII (1945), 21-110, Fig. 18, 31-3.

¹¹ A. C. C. Brodribb, A. R. Hands, D. R. Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak*, III (1972), 54-5.

¹² P. D. C. Brown, *Britannia*, III (1972), 376-7.