

Excavations at Beech House Hotel, Dorchester-on-Thames 1972

By TREVOR ROWLEY and LISA BROWN

SUMMARY

Limited excavations within the north-western corner of the defences of Roman Dorchester revealed a sequence of occupation horizons dating to between the 1st century AD and the 10th century. The work confirmed the importance of Dorchester as a settlement centre in the post-Roman period.

In 1971 the Department of the Environment was informed of a scheme to comprehensively redevelop a plot of land within the scheduled area of the Romano-British town at Dorchester. The redevelopment plan involved the demolition of existing buildings on the site and the construction of maisonettes based around two courtyard areas. Despite the fact that the whole of the plot lay inside the walled area of the Romano-British town, the developers, Q Properties Ltd., permitted archaeological investigation only of those areas where there was to be no building. This dictated the excavation strategy and limited the potential for success of the operations. The excavations were directed by Trevor Rowley under the aegis of the Upper Thames Archaeological Committee and the Department for External Studies of Oxford University. The work was carried out at the same time as the excavations at the Old Castle Inn site in the southern part of the Romano-British town.¹

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THE SITE

At the time of the excavations, the plot (120m. x 30m.) was occupied by the then empty Beech House Hotel, a large detached Victorian building, and its grounds. Excavation was not possible in the area of the hotel building, but subsequent observation confirmed that cellars had already destroyed any stratification. Between the hotel and the road there was an area of packed gravel, and behind the hotel was an overgrown garden on two levels and a number of outbuildings. The natural subsoil was very close to the surface between the hotel and the road, but behind the hotel the depth of stratigraphy increased westwards, presumably in the area immediately behind the Romano-British town walls, which ran across the western part of the plot. The northern boundary of the plot was believed to follow the northern Roman town boundary. The modern road roughly follows the alignment of the Roman and medieval road. The northern gateway of the Roman town lay immediately to the north-east of the plot. The ancient road appears to follow a ridge of higher ground, and the archaeological material accumulated on the

¹ R. Bradley, 'Rescue Excavations in Dorchester on Thames, 1972', *Oxoniensia*, xlii (1978), 17-39.

DORCHESTER

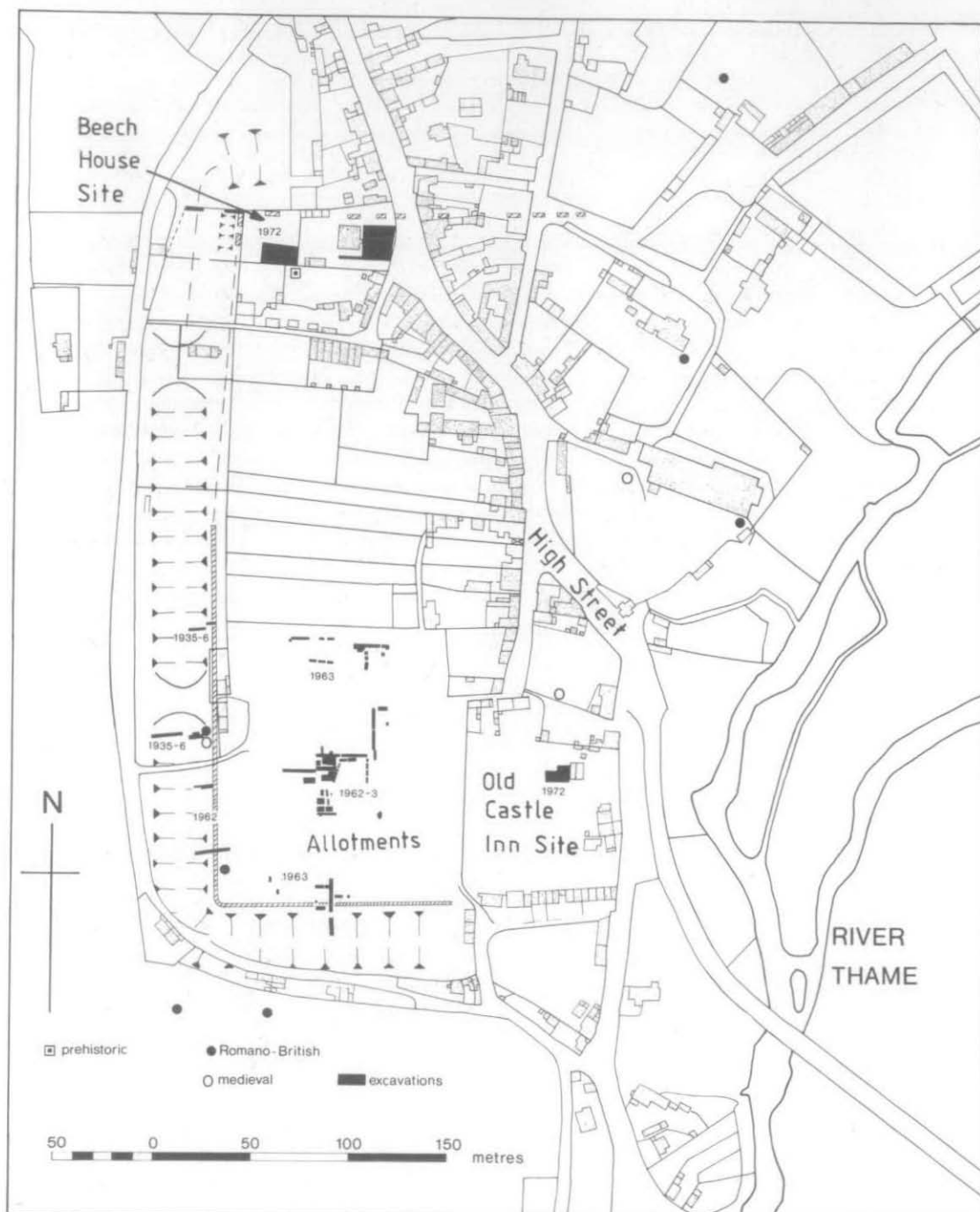


Fig. 1. Plan of Dorchester-on-Thames.

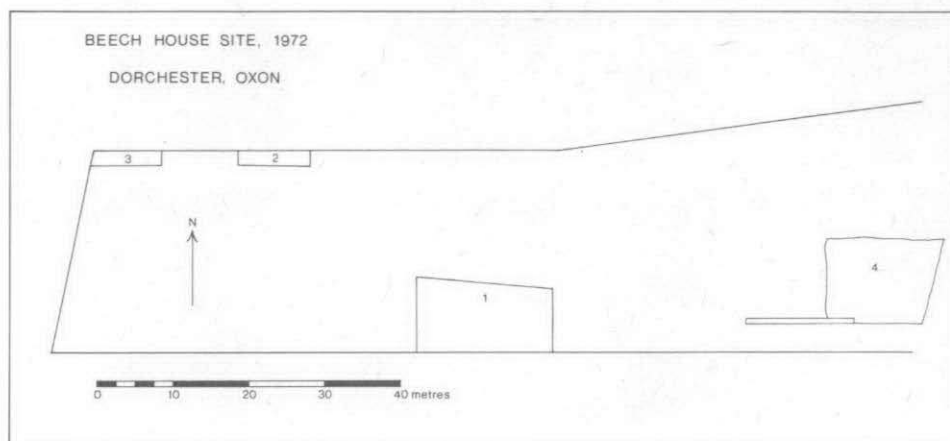


Fig. 2. Plan of Beech House Hotel Site, Cuttings 1-4.

slope running westwards from it.

The natural subsoil consisted of sand and gravel with a residual clay capping. The rather patchy nature of this deposit made the identification of the undisturbed natural subsoil difficult in some areas. As there are no natural deposits of building stone in the immediate vicinity of Dorchester, all the stone found on the site must have been imported. Rough limestone was the most common stone found, and probably originated in the outcrop to the south of Oxford. Flint was recovered from all layers and presumably originated in the chalk outcrop which forms Wittenham Clumps, to the south of the River Thames. Fragments of chalk blocks were also found on the site. The 'stone-hungry' nature of the Dorchester area makes it likely that few buildings were completely stone built, even those dating to the Romano-British period. The most common form of construction appears to have been cob and/or timber walls sitting on rough stone sills, a tradition that survives in the village today. (Plate I). All phases of construction which involved the use of stone showed evidence of robbing; there was no evidence of dressed stone, and the repeated re-use of stones meant that even traces of tooling were barely discernable. Most of the stone found in the upper layers was shapeless and worn.

At Easter, 1972 a small trial trench (3m. x 15m.) was dug at the rear of the Beech House Hotel. This work revealed the presence of stone rubble spreads close to the surface, suggesting flimsy structural remains representing buildings of late Saxon or early medieval date. Accordingly, a major campaign was undertaken in the summer of 1972 to investigate fully those areas on the Beech House plot which were available for excavation. Because of lack of time, only a very small trench, Cutting 2, was excavated to natural. With the exception of the machine-dug ditch sections, all the excavation, including topsoil clearance, was carried out by hand.

CUTTING 1

Cutting 1 was excavated as an open area 16m. by 19.5m. There was a considerable amount of recent disturbance, particularly in the eastern part of the site. Some modern pits had been dug almost down to the natural subsoil, which here consisted of mixed



Plate 1. Thatched cob wall in modern Dorchester-on-Thames.

alluvial sand, gravel, and clay. Additionally, there had been considerable root, animal, and worm disturbance, which, in places, extended 1.50m. below the garden surface to the top of the latest Romano-British levels. This resulted in an extremely blurred vertical stratigraphy. It was noticeable that the compound leaching process resulted in the accumulation of a very fine layer of pea-grit above all the solid structures found in this cutting. Nevertheless several clearly defined occupation horizons were identifiable in the form of stone and tile spreads, and packed and burnt clay. Generally speaking the sections failed to reflect the existence of these horizons. (Fig. 8).

The area investigated lay between the town defences to the west and the north-south Roman road to the east. Evidence of several phases of occupation was recovered, including part of a 3rd-century building (probably a town house) which appears to have either been converted to or replaced by industrial activity. There were traces of at least three subsequent phases of post-Romano-British structures.

The earliest features (layers 12-14)

Occupation preceeding the construction of the Romano-British house was represented by general layers 12, 13 and 14. These were identified in the narrow trench (1m. x 16m.) which was dug down to natural. The earliest features were two pits, F109, which may have been a natural solution hollow, and F113, which contained a few sherds of Roman pottery not necessarily later than 1st century, and appears to have been dug down from

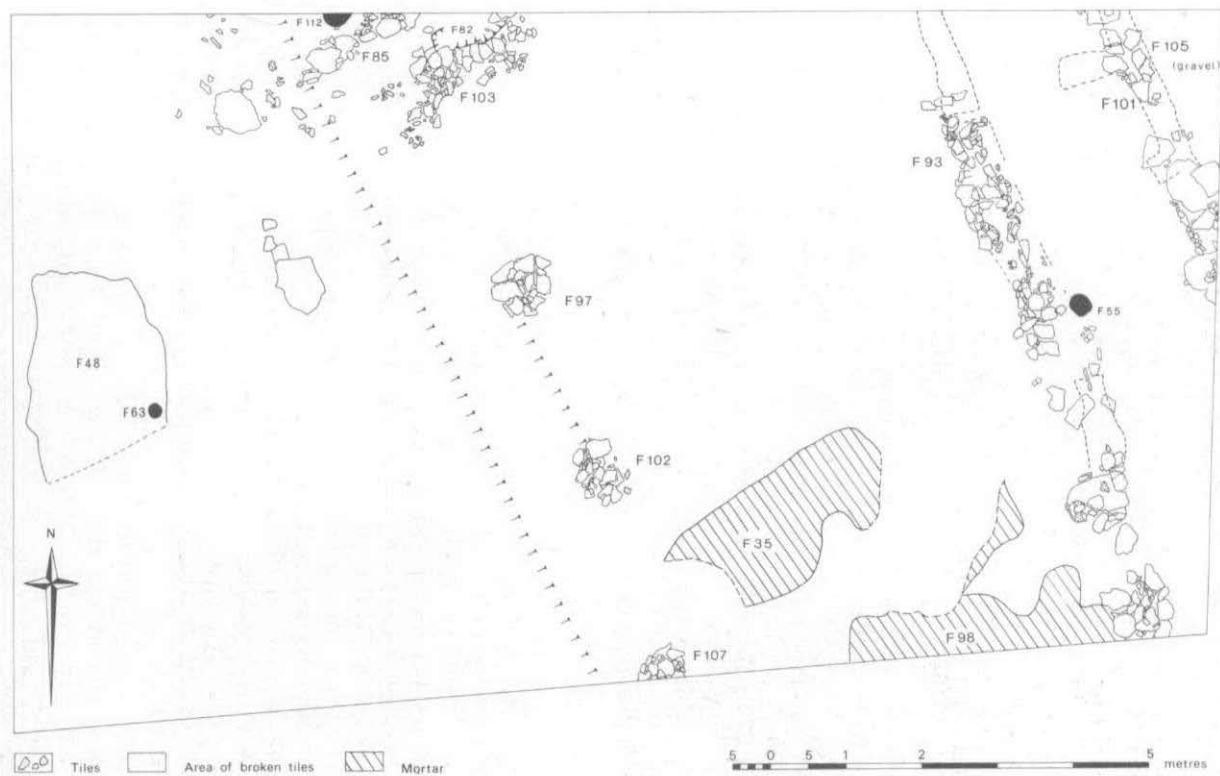


Fig. 3. Plan of Romano-British House, Cutting 1.

layer 11. Taking layers 12, 13 and 14 together, this pre-house phase consists of levels of brown, or dirty red clay with spreads of ash and charcoal and associated finds indicating a date of mid, or slightly later 2nd century. There was no substantial evidence in the trench of associated structures. There is, however a strong possibility that these layers were disturbed or redeposited natural. The Samian pottery from this phase was Flavian and Antonine, the latest sherds dating to about 130. The coarse pottery indicated a terminal date of c. 150. Datable examples include a globular beaker of fine cream ware (T69 see pottery report), and a bowl in reduced fine ware (T27, 50-100). A coin of Cunobelin was found in L14, the earliest level. A few sherds of 3rd-century colour-coated pottery should probably be associated with the later building, the construction of which disturbed the early layers.

The Romano-British House (layer 11): the structural evidence (Fig. 3)

The earliest substantial structure found in this cutting was part of what appeared to be a much robbed-out Romano-British house. The surviving features of the structure were clearly aligned north-west to south-east, in contrast to the north-south grain of the town's road system (Fig. 3), and apparently at variance with the alignment of the late Roman stone building located in the southern part of the town during an earlier excavation.²

The building appears to have been a courtyard house. In the eastern part of the cutting, two heavily robbed walls of unfaced limestone blocks and rubble formed a corridor or veranda approximately 2m. wide. The rubble consisted of tile and natural stone-slate fragments and mortar. The walls were set into shallow trenches and should therefore perhaps be viewed simply as foundations for stone sills which were subsequently robbed out. Ghost walls or robber trenches appeared at the level above and indicated that there was a cross wall between F101 and F93.

The room linked to the corridor to the east had a floor foundation of packed gravel (F105). Underneath the gravel there was a curving kerb of set flint on the inside of which there was a layer of compact creamy clay, which ran underneath the eastern section (F99); it was not possible to determine the function of this feature from the small area examined. An open area to the west of the corridor, about 5m. across — probably a courtyard — was bounded on its western side by four post pads consisting of roughly formed circles of undressed stone with an average diameter of 0.60 m. Two lines of stone seem to have formed a corner to the northwest of the line of post pads (F97, F102, F103 and F107), but these were almost completely robbed-out. The only evidence of a structure to the west was two large flat stones and a patch of packed gravel, (F48), a floor-level not necessarily associated with the building. It is possible that this floor-level originally carried a pavement of some type as it was level and firmly constructed. A possible doorway from the corridor to the courtyard is indicated by a large posthole (F55) and a break in the line of the wall.

Two heavily disturbed areas of packed gravel and mortar (F35 and F98) present a problem of interpretation. The northern edge of F35 was clearly defined as a straight line which, if extended to the north-east, would have coincided exactly with the supposed doorpost. Furthermore the character of this 'floor' level is much more in keeping with this phase than with subsequent structures. Nevertheless, level 98 did appear to overlie the foundation of F93 at its extreme southerly point in the cutting. This might be explained if

² S.S. Frere, 'Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1962', *Arch. Jnl.* cxix (1962), 121.

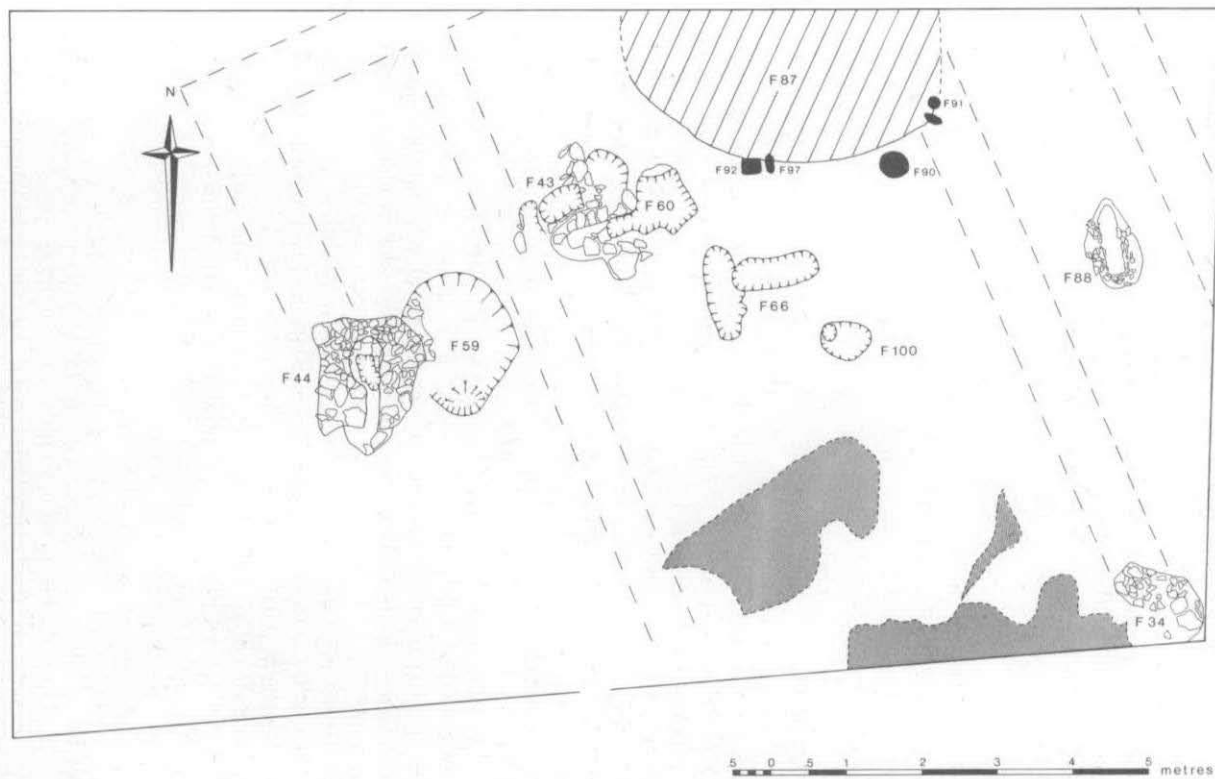


Fig. 4. Industrial Phase, Cutting 1.

the Roman house had more than a single building phase. The walls seem to have measured about 0.75 m. wide on average, and probably supported a timber superstructure. A slight but consistent break of slope in the contemporary ground surface lay about 1m. from and parallel to the east of the line of post pads. This area was empty of discernable contemporary structures; the very homogenous friable nature of the material recovered from the area, might suggest that it had once been a garden. (Part of the problem of interpretation of these structures might be overcome if two phases of construction are postulated. The fragmentary nature of the evidence together with the absence of clear stratigraphical relationships makes this a difficult building to understand.)

At least five features strictly follow the same north-west to south-east alignment and at least three features run at right-angles to this. It is possible, however, that not all these features are contemporary and that while the building's basic alignment is maintained there are two major structural phases. Not the least frustrating element in this puzzle was the fact that the most substantial building and occupation debris lay at the extreme eastern end of the cutting, and that the main structures appeared to lie outside the excavated area.

Dating Evidence

Finds recovered from features relating to the building indicate an initial date of construction of around the mid 3rd century. The range of pottery associated with the robbed walls F85, F93, F101 represents that group generally in use before the advent on a large scale of locally produced colour-coated wares about 240. This is true also for the floor-level F105 which was contemporary with the initial construction. Precise dating is difficult because of later disturbance during the industrial phase of the building. Pottery associated with the robbed walls could even be later intrusions making an earlier date of construction possible. One posthole, F112, which seems to be associated with the northern wall, F85, contained only the pre-colour-coated ware range. A second posthole, F82, contained no finds.

There were few signs of conspicuous luxury associated with the house. No tesserae were recovered and most of the wall plaster recovered was plain with a creamy-white surface although some was ornamented with orange bands. Similarly, no window glass was found. Small finds included a small assortment of bronze tweezers, toilet implements, and bone and bronze pins.

Whatever the precise date of the building, its modification and its destruction, it clearly pre-dates the town walls, believed to have been constructed towards the end of the 3rd century. This explains the apparent discrepancy between the building alignment and the central road alignment. It could well be that the communication pattern within the settlement was altered at the same time as the walls were built. (For discussion see p. 23).

The Industrial Phase (layers 9, 10) (Fig. 4)

In the late 3rd or early 4th century the house, or what remained of it, was converted to industrial use. A dozen hearths and ovens were found, surrounded by pits and spreads of burnt clay. The evidence suggests that these were used for the manufacture of lime, initially perhaps using the stone walls and mortar of the house itself. (Plate 2).

The ovens, F34, F43, F44, F60 and F88, were oval or semi-circular, stonelined and just over one metre long, some containing burnt material and traces of lime. The stone used in the ovens was presumably re-used from the walls of the town house, flint nodules



Plate 2. Ovens and Hearths indicating industrial use of Romano-British house site. Cutting 1. Beech House site.

were extensively used and the largest hearth (F44) incorporated two large fragments of quernstone. F88 was stone-lined with yellow clay packed between the stone courses. Three of the ovens contained pottery dating to the mid 3rd century or later. Other features included a number of shallow scoops or pits filled with burnt material or a green sandy fill which incorporated limestone fragments. At the northern edge of the cutting a large pit (F87), containing ash and the distinctive green sandy material, is associated with this phase. A series of small postholes F91, F92, F97 and F90, were traced on the edge of the pit. A smaller pit (F59) was filled with blackened soil and flints and seems to have been associated with an oven F44. The fact that F60 cut F43 may indicate at least one sub-phase within the industrial period. There was also evidence of robbing in some of the hearths.

At least part of the building appears to have been standing to its full height when it was taken over for industrial use. In the corridor area a large quantity of roof tile lay on top of the ovens and hearths, along with mortar and plaster, presumably a result of subsequent collapse.

It is not clear precisely when the complex went out of use, but the pottery associated with the collapsed material is of the late 3rd and 4th century. A coin of Valentinian II (388–392) or Theodosius (423–5) and a silver ring with ring and dot decoration which has late parallels (Fig. 20, No. 23) were associated with the debris covering wall F85.

The presence of several other late coins indicates occupation continuing into the late 4th or 5th centuries, most notably in the form of a second coin of Valentinian II from the southern part of the courtyard area and one of Gratian (367–75) from the area close to the northernmost post-pad.

Because of the constricted area available for investigation the precise significance of this phase (or phases) of activity within the Roman town cannot be understood. Nevertheless, the overall impression gained from the available evidence suggests a period of lime manufacture, probably for agricultural use. The dating evidence indicates that this phase continued into the 5th century, but it is impossible to relate the structures to any precise date. It is possible, on the coin evidence, to postulate that the demolition was associated with the last decades of Roman Dorchester.

Post Romano-British: Phase I: (layers 6, 7, 8, Fig. 5)

The earliest phase of post-Roman occupation was represented by two sub-rectangular depressions which were assumed to be Grubenhauser, (F39 and F41). These two features cut the gravel and mortar floors, F35 and F98, which were contemporary with or possibly post-dated the courtyard house. It was not possible to determine whether the Grubenhauser were contemporary. Both were aligned north-south, and they were 2m. apart.

F39 was 3m. long, about 1.5m. wide, and survived to a depth of about 0.35m. The fill consisted of a mixture of reddish-brown and blackened soil. There was evidence of a hearth at the northern end — a patch of small stones and burning 0.55m. across — and of timber staining around the edge of the feature, but no postholes. A large quantity of Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th century date, presumably residual, was recovered from the fill, along with three sherds of Saxon pottery of types B and D. F41 was the same width as F39, but its length could not be determined since it ran into the south section of the cutting. There was no evidence of a hearth in the part of the feature exposed. Like F39, the fill contained a considerable quantity of Roman pottery. The eight sherds of Saxon pottery also recovered were of types B, D, E and BE. It is perhaps significant that the Grubenhauser produced no grass-tempered pottery, which seems to be a later Saxon type in the Dorchester area.

Contemporary with one or both Grubenhauser was an irregular pit, F40, which cut an oven, F34, associated with the Roman industrial phase. The pit contained a Roman pottery group similar to that of the Grubenhauser and a few Saxon sherds (types E, D and BE).

To the north of these features was an area of stiff black material with flecks of charcoal and burning (layer 7) which seems to represent late Roman or earlier post-Roman activity, but which did not incorporate any Saxon features. The scatter of Saxon pottery found elsewhere in this layer was of the same range as that from the Grubenhauser. A spindle whorl of baked clay (Fig. 22 No. 17) from layer 6 could have been associated with Grubenhaus F39.

The identification of the two main features of this phase as Grubenhauser was to some extent determined by their location in Dorchester, a place that has long been associated with early Saxon settlement. They both conform to the normal sunken house shape; both were dug into Romano-British levels, one contained a hearth, but neither had associated post-holes to take uprights for roof support, despite the traces of timber staining around F39 which might have been associated with a superstructure. There are three possible explanations for the lack of uprights. First that they never had any supporting posts and the roofing sprang from timbers lying horizontally on the ground surface around the holes — it should be noted that although the Grubenhaus from the allotment site,³ had a number of post-holes it did not have the normal paired posts to

³ Frere, *Arch. Jnl.* cxix. 123.

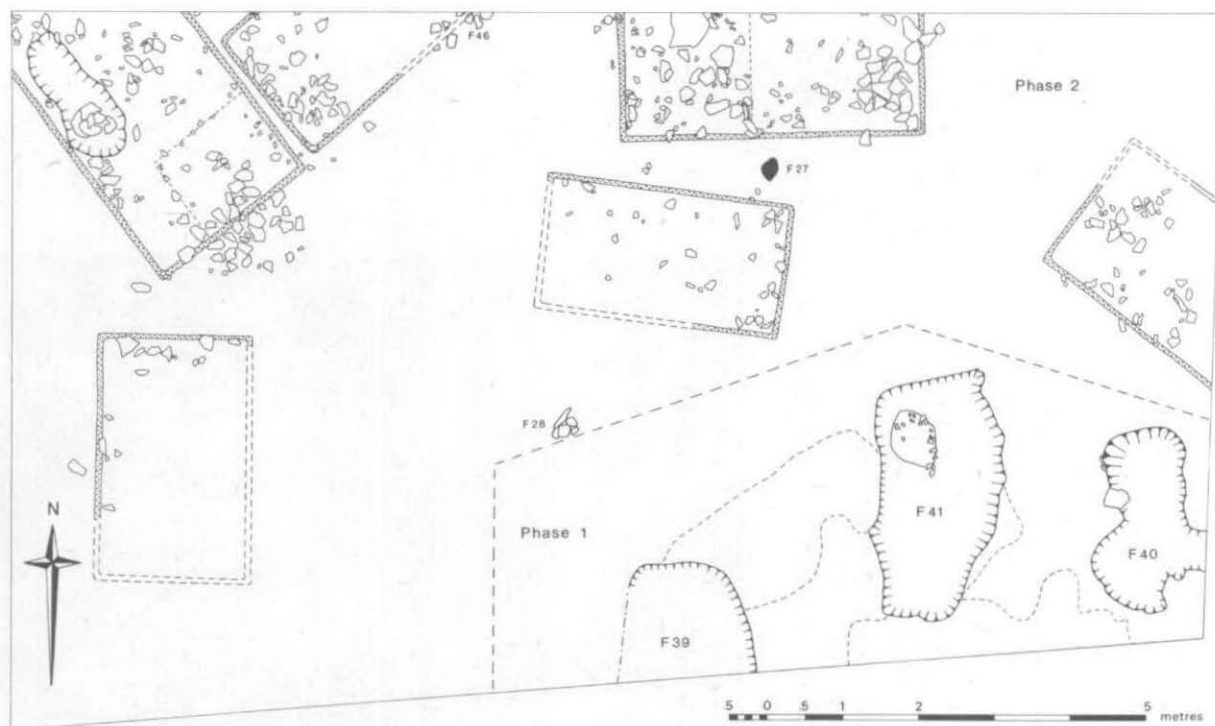


Fig. 5. Anglo-Saxon Buildings, Phases 1 and 2, Cutting 1.

hold a ridge pole. Secondly, that the soil conditions were such that traces of uprights were obscured; and finally that the features were not Grubenhauser at all, but simply hollows dug for an indeterminate purpose during the post Romano-British phase. The authors believe that a combination of one and two provides the most likely explanation.

Post Romano-British: Phase II: (layers 5 and 5/6, Fig. 5; Plate 3)

Layer 5 and 5/6 consisted of a dark friable loam, within which six possible buildings were represented by accumulations of debris within lines of timber staining, visible in wet conditions. The stains were on average only about 0.15m. wide, and two postholes, F27 and F28, bear no obvious relation to the structures. The average size of the structures was 2m. x 5m.; there was no uniformity of orientation and none of them was aligned with the Roman road system.

The walls were probably timber-framed, resting directly on the ground surface and have, therefore, left no visible trace. The shapes and positions of the structures were however, quite clear from the stains and the well defined concentrations of stone, bone and pottery (Plate 3). Limestone slabs within the line of the walls may have raised a wooden floor above ground-level or may have served as a floor themselves. One of these patches of stone, F46, is visible in the north section.



Plate 3. Accumulation of stone and bone debris demarcating sites of Anglo-Saxon structures. Phase 2. Cutting 1. Beech House site.

Some of the units were very close together, especially 1 and 2 (Fig. 5) which were positioned at right angles and separated by only 0.15m., too close to allow for most types of wall or roofing if they were indeed two separate buildings. It seems likely that either the two were not contemporary or that they were part of one structure formed around a central yard. Building 1 contained a possible hearth consisting of a dense patch of charcoal, burnt bone and burnt stones.

In this second phase of Saxon occupation the residue of the Romano-British destruction level was still very much in evidence. Most of the pottery and all other finds recovered from layers 5 and 5/6 were late Roman. A considerable amount of Saxon pottery was also found, mainly fabrics B and E with a few sherds of limestone-gritted ware (A) and of grass-tempered ware (C).

Post Romano-British: Phase III: (layer 4, Fig. 6)

Layer 4 produced the first evidence of Saxon building in stone on the site. The fragmentary lines of limestone, never surviving to more than one course, possibly represent sills for cob buildings. The building technique is known to have been in use in the late Saxon and early medieval period in this part of the Thames Valley — a mud walled building standing to roof height was recently excavated at Wallingford Castle sealed under 13th century earth-works — and indeed is still in evidence in Dorchester today. It was difficult to tell precisely how many buildings were represented by the fragmentary evidence recovered, but there seem to have been three or four (Fig. 6).

On the inside of one of the walls were two postholes, F23 and F18. Several patches of burnt clay, including F12 and F21 were probably hearths, but modern disturbance at this level was so intense that most features were damaged. A very small number of Saxon sherds were recovered from layer 4, mostly of types B and E with a few grass-tempered sherds.

Post Romano-British: Phase IV: (layer 3, Fig. 7)

A second phase of building in stone was also represented by robbed limestone walls. Only one building could be definitely identified. A wall, F4, running in an east-west direction, was made up of worn limestone fragments (only one was faced), some with traces of burning and others with mortar still adhering. A silver penny of Burgred (852-874) was recovered from this wall. At the western end of the building remains of a hearth were found (F8). To the north of wall F4 and running into the north section of the cutting, was part of another wall, F6, and a hearth, F3. It was not possible to determine whether these were part of the building. The walls of the structures of this phase rarely survived to a height of more than one course. All features rested on about 0.40m. of fine clear soil.

About 10 per cent of the Saxon pottery recovered from this layer was grass-tempered ware, the rest being types B and E. Finds included two bone pin beaters (Fig. 22) and a fragment of a ring-shaped clay loom weight.

At the western end of the cutting was a large spread of gravel and worm-worked soil 0.12m. deep at the west section and tapering off towards the centre of the cutting. This was designated layer 3A. It contained a few residual sherds of late Roman pottery and 2 sherds of Saxon sandy ware (Fabric E). The spread was cut by F1, a medieval pit a little more than 1m. in diameter, steep sided and flat based, about 0.30m. deep. It contained a fill of black earth, a few Roman sherds and two sherds of Oxford Late Medieval Ware. The pit was sealed by modern topsoil.

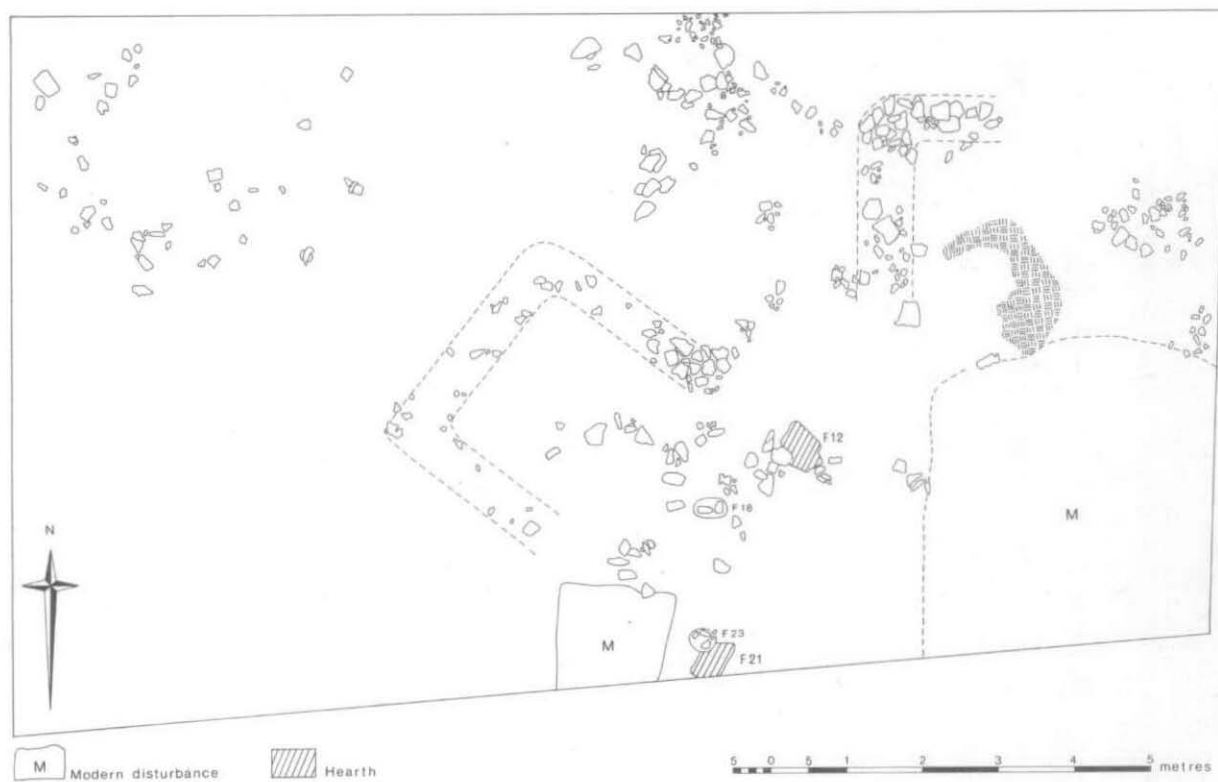


Fig. 6. Anglo-Saxon Buildings, Phase 3, Cutting 1.



Fig. 7. Anglo-Saxon Buildings, Phase 4, Cutting 1.

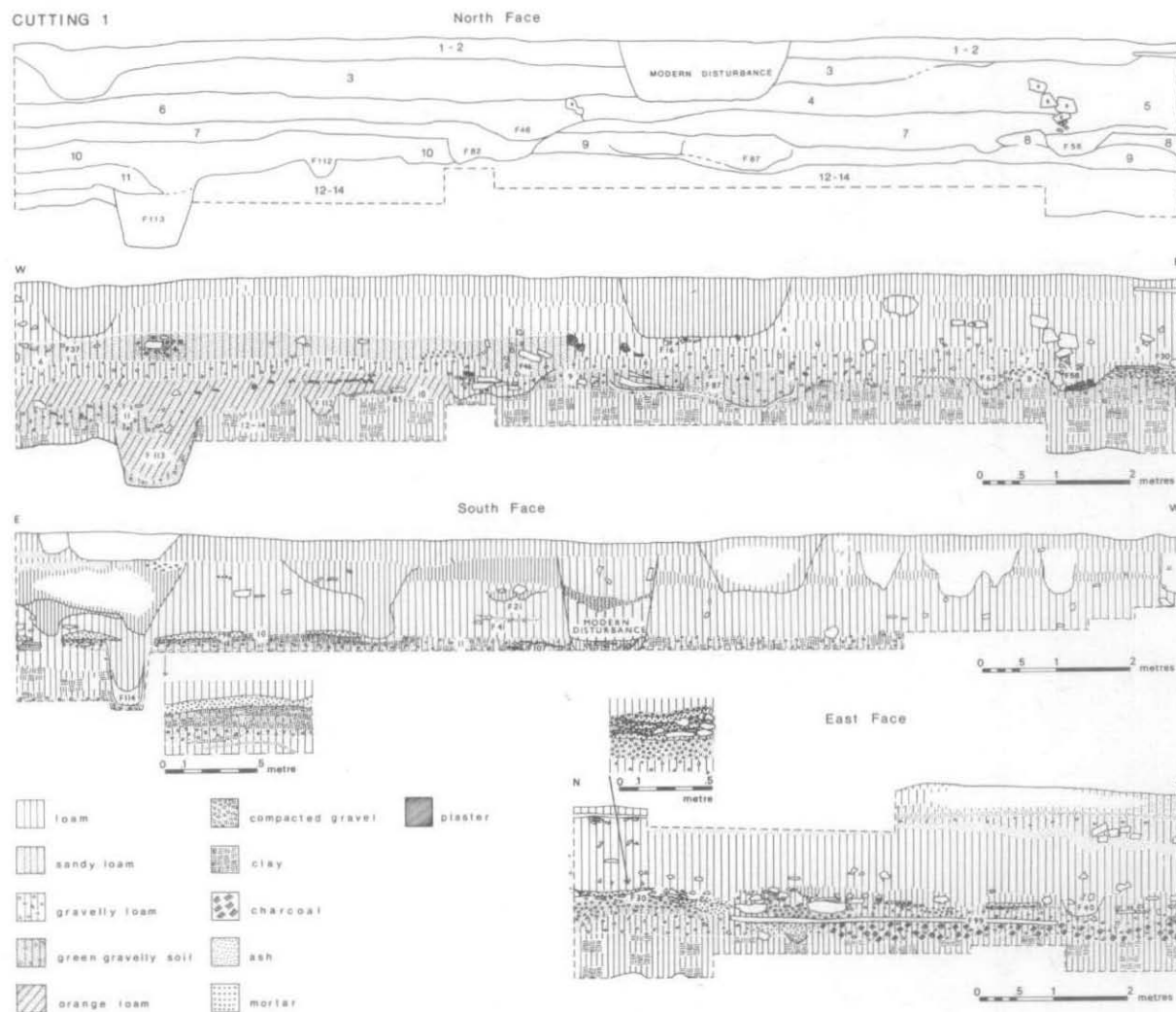




Fig. 9. Sections, Cutting 2.

Apart from the pit there were no significant post-Saxon features in Cutting 1, and certainly no evidence of medieval structures. The medieval pottery amounted to only a few sherds. The evidence from this cutting, at least, indicated a break in occupation of this part of the town during the later Saxon period.

CUTTING II: (Fig. 9)

A trench 9m. x 2m. was opened in what was believed to be the north-west corner of the Romano-British town defences. Two phases of a ditch were discovered; the later one apparently represented the inner ditch of the two-ditch defence system. The robber trench of the town wall was found at the extreme eastern end of the trench (F10), and its siting suggests that the line of the town wall is parallel to that of the modern property boundaries in the western part of Dorchester. That is, instead of following the hypothetical line of the wall proposed in earlier reports,⁴ it swings several metres to the east.

⁴ A. Hogg and C. Stevens, 'The Defences of Roman Dorchester', *Oxoniensia*, ii (1937), 42.

Ditch 2 represents the earliest phase in the cutting. It was about 2.50m. wide and 1.50m. deep with a V shaped profile. The lower fill was a pale soft green silt from which only one undated potsherd was recovered. Above this was a layer of reddish-brown loam which contained pottery dating to the 1st–2nd centuries, including a jar-rim which could be as early as 50–100 and a Samian rim dated 100–130. The fill was stone-free. It is possible that this feature was a ditch or gully of the Belgic period like those found by Frere below the southern defences.⁵

The fill of Ditch 2 was cut on its eastern side by the foundation trench of the town wall. No large blocks of stone remained in the trench but it was filled with yellowish mortar and numerous fragments of limestone. F6, a large compact 'bank' of redeposited natural overlying this mortary material, was probably the collapsed east side of the foundation-trench which fell in during or after the robbing.

The material overlying the robber trench was cut by a pit containing Saxon material (a weaving pin and a few sherds of pottery). This would suggest that this part of the wall at least was robbed in late Roman or in Saxon times, though the wall is believed to have been standing in some areas of the town until the 12th century.

Ditch 1 seems to have been dug at some period in the 2nd century, but because of drainage problems it was not possible to record the bottom profile. The fill, layer 14, was a soft dark loam with some gravel. This was overlaid by gravelly material, layers 11 and 12, which contained a small quantity of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (240–400+).

It was difficult to interpret the period following the filling of the ditches because of extensive damage by root action and modern digging. A foundation trench for a fairly small wall (0.50m.–0.75m. wide) was found to cut the accumulated deposits overlying the fill of Ditch 2 and on the edge of the robber trench. This small wall, F4, had also been robbed, but several limestone blocks with mortar adhering to them remained. Finds from this feature included pottery dating to the mid 3rd century or later. It was unclear whether F4 cut or was contemporary with F7, a patch of packed gravel to the west of it. This surface, which may have been a floor associated with F4, was badly damaged by root action and its full extent was unclear. It may have partly overlain the fill of Ditch 1. The only datable pottery sealed by it was that from the fill of Ditch 2.

The remains of wall F3 at the west end of the cutting present another problem. There was no trace of a foundation-trench proper, but the stones, apparently toppled, lay on a shelf of mortar above the ditch fill. There are at least two possibilities. The stone and mortar could have been tumble from a small retaining wall on the outer lip of Ditch 2. Hogg and Stevens found such a wall in the corresponding position on the western defences.⁶ On the other hand, the stones may be associated with a general layer of building debris, layers 13 and 7 overlying the ditch fill. It may be that F3 and F4 were contemporary — the remains of a 3rd or 4th century building with a gravel floor and associated collapsed material — but the area excavated was too small to confirm this. A layer sealing the gravel floor, layer 5, contained 3rd–4th century pottery.

It seems most likely that the fill of the two ditches was built over at some time in the 3rd century or possibly 4th century, the structure being sited just inside the town wall, or what remained of it, and possibly dating to the same period as the house in Cutting I.

⁵ Frere, *Arch. Jnl.* cxix, 117.

⁶ Hogg and Stevens, *Oxoniensis*, ii, 50.

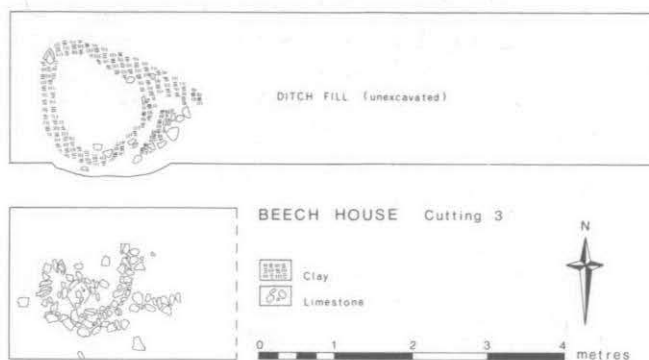


Fig. 10. Plan of Hearth, Cutting 3.

CUTTING III: (Fig. 10)

A trench 8m. x 2m. was opened in the garden area of the Beech House Hotel in an attempt to locate the northwest part of the town's outer defence-system. The stratigraphy was highly disturbed to a depth of about 1.50m. below the turf and contained a mixture of medieval and late Roman pottery. Below a layer of mortar and Roman brick debris in the western end of the cutting, an area of burning emerged, with charcoal and burnt clay. This overlay a feature which proved to be a kiln. In view of the absence of pottery wasters or slag of any sort this too could have been for lime-burning.

The feature first appeared as a ring of hard baked clay, about 1m. across, with extensive burning in the centre. Flint and a great deal of unburnt bone were recovered from this central area together with a small amount of 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery, including a mortarium rim in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. The hardened clay was removed to reveal a ring of limestone slabs, incomplete on the north side, set in clay with concentrations of mortar between them. A thinner scatter of stones lay in the centre, embedded in gravelly material; it included a large flat stone 0.25m. across. (Fig. 10).

The kiln was built on a mixture of light brown soil and dark brown stiff clay. This material was probably ditch fill. Its depth became greater towards the central and eastern parts of the trench, indicating that the kiln had been built on top of the fill of the western edge of the outer ditch. The fill produced a few sherds of coarse grey Romano-British pottery, undated. Because of the flooded condition of the trench at a depth of 2.50m., the excavation was discontinued and the bottom of the ditch not located. The location of this outer defence ditch confirms the conclusion drawn from the evidence in Cutting II, that the north-west line of the defences was further to the east than had been previously believed.

CUTTING IV: (Fig. 11 & 12)

A narrow machine trench was opened to the east of the hotel, between the main building and the present road, in an attempt to trace the north-south road of the Roman town. Part of the road was discovered, and a larger area subsequently opened up to reveal the road surface. The nature of the deposits in this area contrasted markedly with those found in the garden area to the west of the hotel. A fairly thin layer (av. 0.50m.) of modern hard

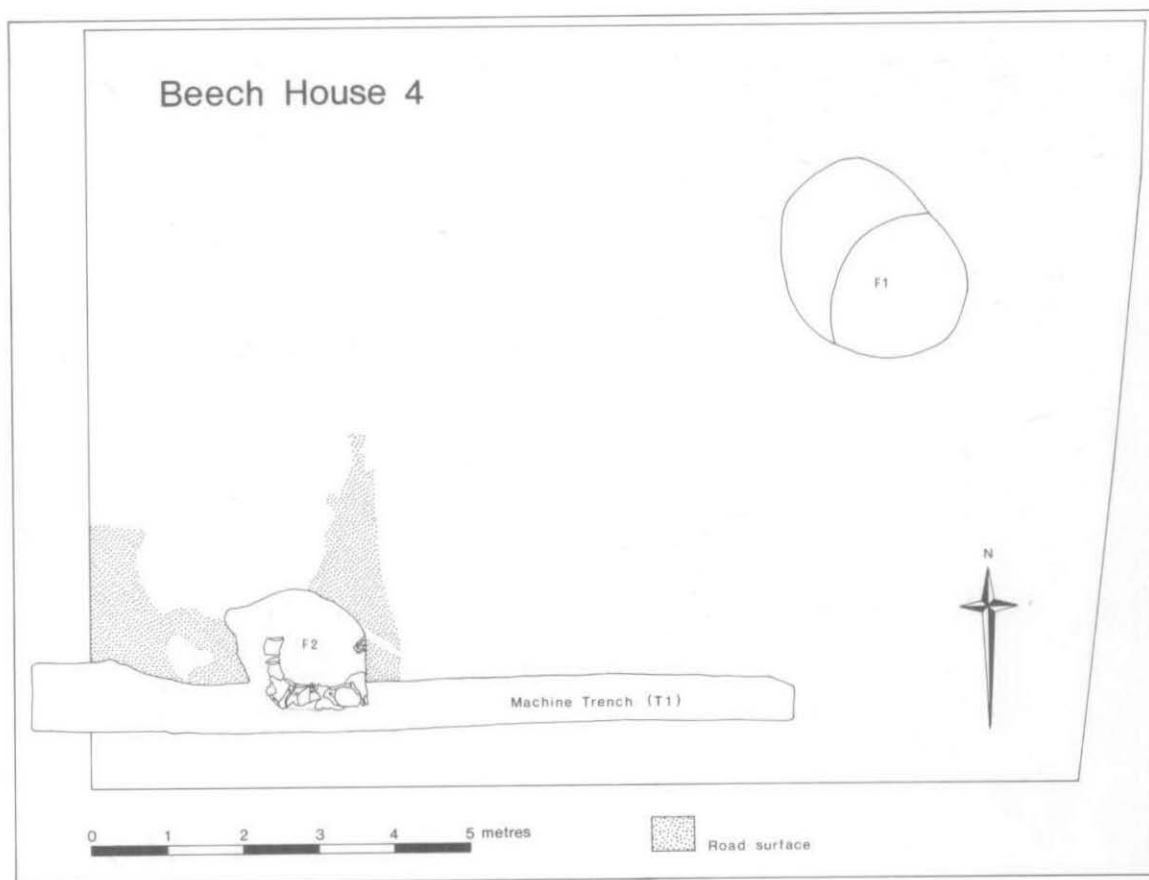


Fig. 11. General Plan, Cutting 4.

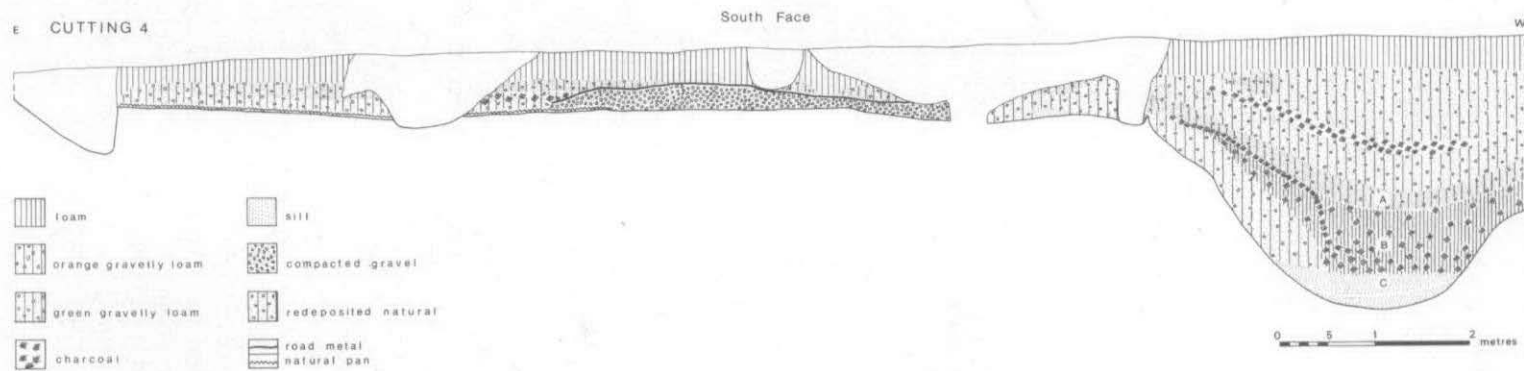


Fig. 12. Sections, Cutting 4.

core lay directly on top of the natural subsoil. As a result, there was little stratification, apart from that found in features dug into the natural clay. Unfortunately, most of the metallised surfaced had gone in the open area and was best seen in the south section of the machine trench (T1). (Fig. 12).

The road consisted of hard-packed gravel metalling above a layer of sandy orange loam about 0.25m.–0.30m. deep. In the extended area (T2) the orange layer survived but most of the metalling had disappeared. The excavators at first mistook a hard natural pan overlying the natural subsoil and partly underlying the orange road material for road-metalling. Where the road surface had disappeared there had been extensive disturbance from late Roman times to the present, as evidenced by finds of 3rd–4th century Roman pottery, a few Saxon sherds, a medieval well, and 18th century finds including a penny of George III and a curious bronze ornament (Fig. 20, No. 21).

The machine trench, when extended westwards, cut through a hitherto unknown early Roman defensive ditch about 2m. west of the road. The unfortunate siting of a modern pit just at the western edge of the road made it difficult to assess the relationship between road and ditch. Because of shortage of time the ditch was excavated by machine. It seems to have been cut from a level just above the natural soil, and there were possible traces of a bank on its east side, but the modern disturbances obscured this. The ditch was about five metres across and had a rounded profile. A pale greenish silt at the bottom was overlaid with a layer of black soil with lenses of charcoal running into it from the eastern side. A layer of greenish fill covered this and the whole was overlaid by a layer 0.50m. thick of redeposited natural, apparently as a result of deliberate back-filling. Another layer of burnt material containing a great deal of charcoal overlay this.

The ditch-fill below the layer of redeposited natural soil was removed in three stages and finds categorised accordingly, but the coarse pottery was datable only within a general range, and all three stages contained similar types — storage jars of 1st to 2nd century date (and possibly later), reduced fine wares, and a large quantity of south Gaulish Samian ware dating to the Flavian period. On the basis of the pottery, the ditch seemed to be of 1st or early 2nd century date. It is not at all clear where this ditch belongs in the complex sequence of structures that are a feature of early Roman Dorchester.

MEDIEVAL FEATURES:

The Beech House excavations revealed little trace of medieval occupation, but in Cutting IV two features of medieval date were discovered, a well (F2) and a pit (F1).

The well had been cut through the Roman road and was first revealed in the section of the machine trench (T1). (Not visible in published section). It was approximately 1.60m. in diameter, stone-lined at the top, and was excavated to a depth of about 1.50m. The fill, below a slump of black gritty humus, was gravel and a reddish loam mixed with red-brown sandy clay. Several large fragments of limestone in the fill were probably tumble from the lining. It was difficult to date the well since it was not completely excavated. The material recovered represented the final stage of infilling, and if the well had remained open for some time the finds cannot be considered satisfactory dating evidence. The medieval pottery recovered from the well included Oxford Late Saxon Ware (8th–9th century) and Oxford Late Medieval Ware (late 13th–15th century).

Two metres to the east of the Roman road an oval pit averaging 2.70m. wide had been dug into an area which revealed few other signs of occupation. Pottery from the pit included flint-gritted ware of the late 12th–15th century, Oxford Medieval Ware, a Tudor Green ware handle, a strap handle from the Brill kilns, and 15th-century glazed ware.

DISCUSSION

Despite the limitations imposed by the available area for investigation and lack of time, the excavations at Beech House provided some valuable new information about the archaeology of Dorchester.

Although the fragmentary nature of much of the new evidence means that much of it is enigmatic and we must await further investigation to understand it fully, the work confirmed Dorchester's claim to be a site of continuity in the post-Roman period; but the range of occupation identified was surprisingly limited apart from the period between the 1st and 10th centuries AD.

In view of the limited areas where natural was fully explored, the absence of substantive pre-Roman occupation features is perhaps not surprising, nevertheless the almost complete absence of prehistoric pottery and other artefacts in a residual context should be noted.

The earliest structural features on the site were the two ditches, which dated probably to the 1st century AD; one preceded the line of the northern defences of the town, and the other, which was located in cutting 4, ran north-south in a context which at this stage is not explicable. It does not appear to form part of the postulated 1st-century fort complex but must be roughly contemporary with it. Although the two ditches were dissimilar in their fill, and indeed in their cut, they should perhaps be ascribed to an early phase of as yet imperfectly understood defensive features to the north of Dyke Hills and the 1st century Roman fort. Unfortunately the relationship between the north-south ditch and the north-south axial road was not clear. It seems unlikely, however, that they would have been contemporary in such close juxtaposition and this probability reinforces the argument developed below that the road which preceded the establishment of the walls differs from the later version. In any case, the north-south ditch appears to run along the upper edge of the clay ridge along which Dorchester developed.

It is possible that the presence of these early ditch systems explains the apparent absence of 1st- and 2nd-century occupation levels on the site. The town house would seem to be fairly securely ascribed to the 3rd century but to predate the construction of the town walls. It is particularly unfortunate that it was not possible to examine more of this structure, as our knowledge of the various phases of Romano-British buildings in Dorchester remains tantalizingly vague. It is possible that we were dealing with only the very edge of the dwelling area and were excavating garden areas and out-buildings. Nevertheless despite the uncertain structural sequence of the building and indeed of its nature one thing seems incontrovertable: that its alignment is at variance with the general grain of communications within the town and with the town defences. Such irregularity in property boundaries and access lanes does appear to be a feature of early small Roman towns in Britain. It is possible that there was a reorganisation of the road alignment at the time of the construction of the town walls. The only evidence for this however, is highly speculative and to some extent contradictory. The north-south road was found during the allotment excavations in the south of the town; if the road were projected northwards on the same alignment, it would lie a few metres to the east of the road found in the Beech House excavations, which might indicate a re-alignment. The town house, however, would have been even further out of agreement with this alignment than the other. It is more likely that the town house was originally aligned on a subsidiary lane of the main north-south road and that the town walls when constructed simply encapsulated the existing road system. The dating of the final phase of this building is so imprecise that it is not possible to say with certainty that it out-lived the construction of the walls, but this would seem to be the probable answer, and that it continued to

function, perhaps sitting rather uncomfortably within the town defences. Certainly there was no attempt to re-align the building or to reconstruct another.

The excavations did little to clarify the problem of Dorchester's Roman defences, except to make a marginal correction to the projected line of the town wall itself and, by the projection of the central road, to pin-point the siting of the north gate more precisely. The robbing of the town wall during the post-Roman/Saxon period throws interesting light on Saxon activity in the town area. Mention should also be made of the hearth found well up within the fill of the outer north-south ditch of the town wall (cutting 3), perhaps contemporary with the wall-robbing phase. The Beech House excavations were by their very nature able to contribute little to the vexed question of the eastern defences.⁷ The excavator noted the impressive nature of the defences, which would logically indicate a larger enclosed area than the 16.5 acres previously postulated.⁸ On balance, the demolition of the building and the development of the site for industrial purposes cannot be placed before the latter part of the 4th century, and should probably be assigned to the 5th century, on the evidence of associated coins. Despite all the qualifications about the nature of the evidence it is quite clear that in this part of Dorchester at least there are only two major phases of activity within the Roman period.

During the post-Roman period there was a considerable build-up of material on the Beech House site between the Roman wall and the central road (up to 1.50m.). This build-up either ceased at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period or was subsequently truncated; the evidence suggests the former and might be associated with the final removal of the town walls, perhaps in connection with the building of the Norman abbey.

The sequence of the post-Roman buildings on the site conforms roughly to that found in the southern part of the town. Regardless of the detailed interpretation of the structures, the Beech House site provided a stratigraphical sequence of occupation levels and an impressive assemblage of artefacts ranging from the early to late Saxon. A more detailed analysis of the pottery assemblage might eventually allow a clearer definition of the various post-Roman horizons. Such a definition is only possible in the broadest terms at the moment.

It should perhaps be emphasized that the final structural phase on Beech House I was clearly dated by a coin of Burgred; apart from a medieval pit and more recent disturbance associated with the Victorian house, there was neither medieval building nor extensive medieval disturbance in Cutting I.

Little can be said about medieval Dorchester based on the Beech House excavations. The location of one certain and one possible well in the front of Beech House suggests perhaps that this area was open in the Middle Ages and possibly part of an extended square. This would agree with the reconstruction of the topography of medieval Dorchester proposed by Rowley,⁹ which suggested that there was an extended triangular 'square' leading to the area immediately before the Abbey Gate House. It is certainly possible that medieval structures existed underneath Beech House itself, but cellarage here would have destroyed all traces.

⁷ M. Aston, 'The Roman Town Defences at Dorchester, Oxon — An Interim Assessment', *CBA 9 Newsletter* 4 (1974), 3-4.

⁸ Hogg and Stevens, *Oxoniensis*, ii, 50.

⁹ T. Rowley, 'Early Saxon Settlement in Dorchester', in *Anglo-Saxon Settlement and Landscape*, ed. T. Rowley (BAR VI, 1974), 42-50.

THE FINDS POTTERY

THE ROMAN POTTERY

The stratigraphic sequence of Cutting 1 was divided into 14 general layers, 1 being topmost. Because of the high degree of disturbance to the site, there was a lack of reliably stratified groups of pottery suitable for analysis as 'key groups' which would provide chronological baselines. Many of the larger features, such as the ditches, were almost devoid of pottery in their lower layers. It was decided, therefore, to produce a type series from the pottery stratified within the general layers of Cutting 1. Significant forms from Cuttings 2-4 were added to the series. Layers 1-6 were too disturbed to be considered reliable and they are, therefore, not included in the table (Table II) which illustrates the number of vessels of each type within layers 7-14.

Seventeen general fabrics (A-Q) were recognised. A colour range assigned from the Munsell Color Chart is given where considered useful. In those cases in which a particular fabric has been discussed in detail elsewhere, a reference is given. Similarly, forms which have not been illustrated in this report are accompanied by a reference to an illustration in another publication. In the catalogue, a date has been given for forms where possible, and for Fabrics D-H and M the proportions of general vessel forms have been expressed as percentages. This was not considered useful in the case of fabrics which were used for only one general form (e.g. Fabrics A, B, I) or in those cases in which there were very few vessels in a particular fabric. (e.g. K and L).

Samian wares were recovered from all layers but only that from layers 11-14 and from Cutting 4 has been included in the report since the rest is certainly residual.

SAMIAN WARE - By JOANNA BIRD

Layer 11:

Dr. 27 S. Gaulish. Flavian X4.

Dr. 37 C. Gaulish.

Dr. 45 C/E Gaulish. Antonine. Mid 3rd Century.

Dr. 27 Early Lezoux. Flavian.

Dr. 37 C. Gaulish. X2 Antonine.

Dr. 31 C. Gaulish. X7 Antonine.

Dr. 37 S. Gaulish. X2.

Walters 79. C. Gaulish. Antonine.

Overall date; 170-250 AD.

Decorated: Form 37. S. Gaulish. Hare in panel (similar to Oswald 20 74) c. AD 70-90. Fig. 13, 1.

Form 37 S. Gaulish; basal wreath of S. Gadreons c. AD 75-95.

Form 37 Lezoux. Ovolo is incomplete. No apparent parallel in Stanfield & Simpson. Probably Antonine.

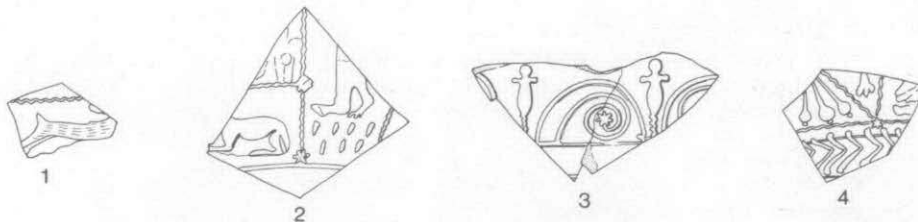


Fig. 13. Samian Pottery. Scale: 1/2

Layer 12:

Dr. 18/21. Les Martres. 100–130 AD.

Dr. 27. S. Gaulish. Probably Flavian.

Curle 15. Les Martres. Mid 2nd century. Overall date c. 130 A.D.

Layer 13:

Dr. 18. S. Gaulish. Flavian.

Dr. 33. C. Gaulish. Probably Antonine. Overall date: Antonine.

Layer 14:

Dr. 15/17 or 18. Only foot. S. Gaulish. Later 1st century.

Dr. 18/31. Les Martres. 100–125 AD.

Dr. 29. S. Gaulish.

Dr. 35. S. Gaulish. Flavian. Overall date: 125 AD.

BH4

Trench 1 ditch (A): Dr. 37. S. Gaulish, Fr. 18 S. Gaulish. Flavian.

1 ditch (B): Dr. 18. S. Gaulish N — early Flavian. Dr. 37. S. Gaulish. Flavian.

1 ditch (C): Dr. 18. S. Gaulish. Flavian.

Decorated: Fig. 13

1. T2 (unstratified) Form 37. S. Gaulish. Poppybuds and chevron wreath characteristically Flavian motifs. c. AD. 75–95.
2. T1 ditch (A) Form 37. S. Gaulish. Hare is Oswald 210315, other figure unidentified. Arrowheads and rather coarse borders typically later Flavian. c. AD. 80–100.
3. Unstratified: Form 29. S. Gaulish. Closely similar frieze used by Primus (Knorr 1919, 67K) c. AD. 65–85.

THE COARSE WARES

The following abbreviations are used in this section:

- Frere, 1962 S.S. Frere, 'Excavations at Dorchester-on-Thames, 1962', *Archaeological Journal*, cxix (1962), 114–49.
- Gillam, 1968 J.P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain* (1968).
- Shakenoak I-V A.C.C. Brodribb, A.R. Hands, D.R. Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak I-V* (1968–1978).
- Swan, 1973 A. Detsicas (ed.), 'Aspects of the New Forest late-Roman Pottery Industry', *Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery* (1973), 117–34.
- Swan, 1975 V.G. Swan, *Pottery in Roman Britain* (1975).
- Young, 1977 C.J. Young, *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery* (1977).

Fabrics

- A. Coarse, granular fabric containing inclusions of grog, small pebbles and stone fragments, occasional sand, iron ore and quartz. Usually grey in colour (2.5 YR N4/dk. grey), sometimes light reddish colour (5 YR 6/4 lt. reddish brown). Usually partially burnished, often with burnished lattice. (4%)
- B. Fine sandy fabric, usually grey (2.5 YR N6/). Products of Alice Holt kilns. (0.77%)
- C. Shell gritted ware. (5%)
 - (1) Coarse, somewhat sandy fabric containing large fragments of shell — up to 8–10mm. Usually dark grey-black. Sometimes light brown.
 - (2) Finer, more compact fabric containing shell fragments usually below 4cm. in size. Colour range as C(1).
- D. Black Burnished Ware. All examples are Black Burnished I type. (4%)
- E. Reduced coarse wares. (43%)
 - (1) Smooth grey fabric, uniform in colour, hard fired. Inclusions, generally well sorted, of black or translucent sand, and occasional small fragments of limestone, up to 1mm. Colour range: 7.5 YR N4/ (dk. grey) to 2.5 YR N4/ (dk. grey).

- (2) Coarse sandy fabric, white or light grey interior and black, dark grey or greyish-brown inner and outer surfaces. Well sorted coarse sand and quartz filler, and angular black inclusions up to 1mm. Fracture often has a porous appearance. Colour of surfaces usually 7.5 YR N4/ (dk. grey) to 2.5 YR N7/ (lt. grey).
- (3) Coarse paste, generally lighter than the blackened matte surface. Sometimes burnished. (c.f. Shakenoak I, 50, B.) Surfaces: 7.5 YR N3/ (very dk. grey). Core: 5 YR 6/1 (grey).
- (4) Gritty dark red paste with sand filler and occasional ill-assorted inclusions of limestone. Sometimes sandwiched grey core and partially burnished dark grey surface. Surfaces: 2.5 YR 4/ (dk. grey). Core: 10R 5/6 (red).
- F. Reduced fine ware. Smooth grey fabric with few or no visible inclusions and smooth fracture. Vessels generally thin-walled, often burnished, sometimes decorated with incised or burnished latticing, rouletting, paint or barbotine. Surfaces: 2.5 YR N5/ (grey) to 2.5 YR N4/ (dk. grey). Core: 10 YR 6/1 (grey). (8%)
- G. Fine orange ware. Fine hard fabric with little or no visible temper, smooth fracture and light creamy orange colour. 2.5 YR 6/6 (lt. red).
- H. Coarse orange ware. Rough, sandy texture, containing inclusions of quartz, occasional grog or angular white fragments (possibly dolomite.) Usual colour. 10R 5/8 (red).
- I. Burnt white ware. Hard sandy fabric, usually off-white in colour with outer surface partially blackened, apparently deliberately. Colour range 7.5 YR 8/2 (pinkish white) to 7.5 YR 7/2 (pinkish grey). (cf. Young 1977, 113.) (1%).
- J. Parchment ware. (cf. Young 1977, 80-92).
- K. Fine white ware. Hard fired white — off white fabric with smooth fracture, sometimes containing sparse well-sorted inclusions of black sand. Colour range 7.5 YR 8/2 (pinkish white) to 5 YR 7/4 (pink). (under 1%).
- L. Coarse white ware. Gritty coarse fabric, sometimes porous, with sand and quartz filler and angular red inclusions under 1mm. Surfaces usually 5 YR 6/6 (reddish yellow) or 10R 8/3 (v. pale brown). Core: 5 YR 7/4 (pink).
- M. Oxfordshire Red colour-coated ware. (cf. Young, 1977) (23%).
- N. White Colour-coated ware. (cf. Young, 1977). (0.75%)
- O. Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware.
- P. Rhenish Ware. All sherds of true Rhenish fabric rather than Lezoux type.
- Q. Miscellaneous.

The coarse and fine orange wares taken together represent 4.5%, the coarse and fine white wares, 3.5%, and the non-Oxfordshire colour-coated wares, 1% of the total sherds found.

TABLE I

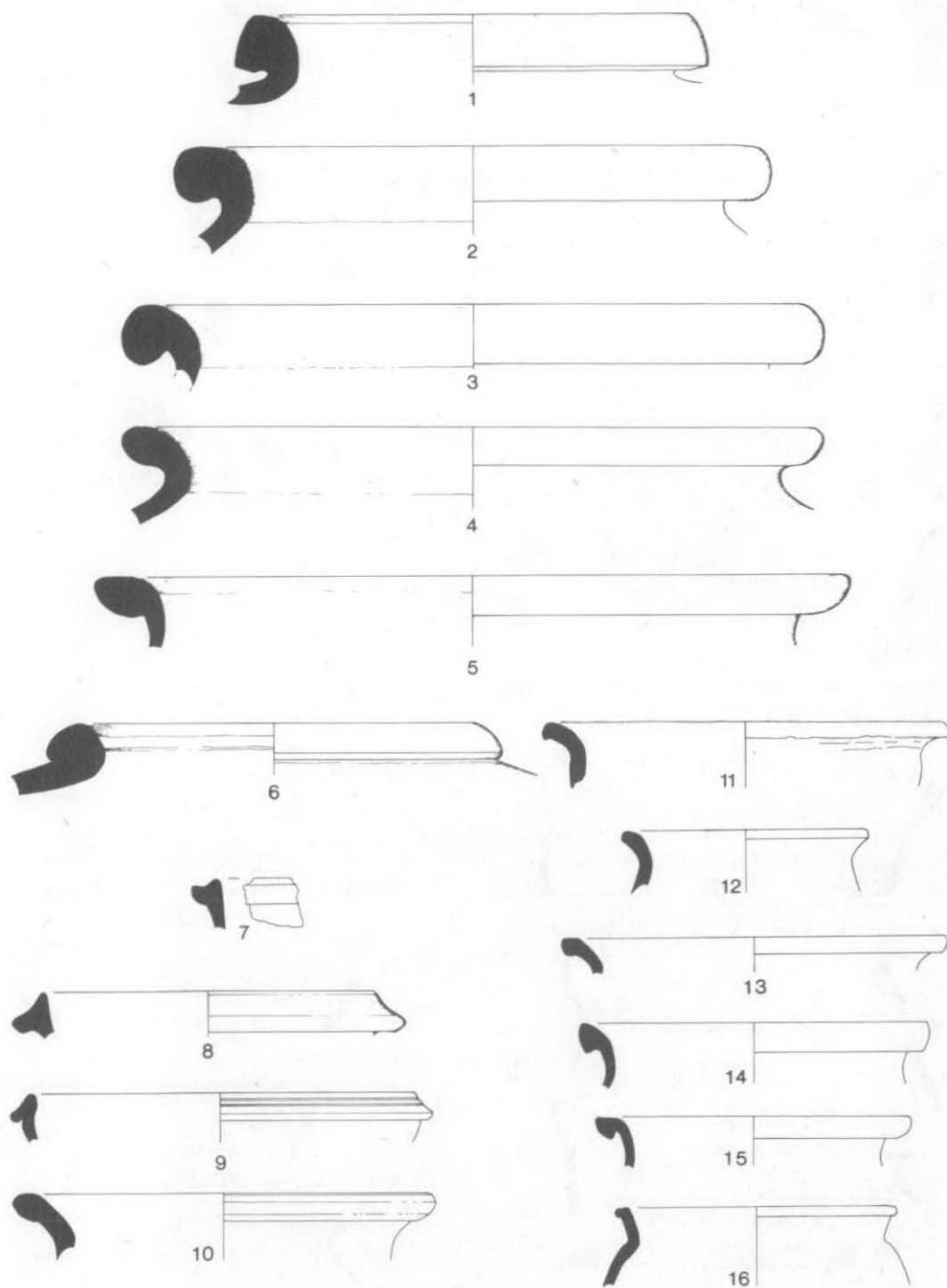
Percentages of Vessel Forms in Each Fabric

Black Burnished Ware (Fabric D)	
Straight-sided bowls	38%
Flanged bowls	29%
Cooking pots	33%
Reduced Coarse Wares (Fabric E)	
Jars	68%
Straight sided bowls	13%
Flanged bowls	14%
Flagons and NN jars	3%
Misc.	2%
Reduced Fine Wares (Fabric F)	
Necked jars/bowls	39%
Beakers	30%
Bowls and dishes	24%
Flagons and bottles	4%

Orange Wares (Fabric G and H)	
Bowls and dishes	42%
Jars	33%
Beakers	18%
Red Colour-Coated Wares (Fabric M)	
Necked bowls	34%
Flanged bowls	42%
Bead-rim bowls	19%
Beakers	7%
Jars	1%

Types (Figs. 14-17)

- Fabric A*
- 1 T1 Storage jar with squared, cut rim, short neck. Orange slip, burnished. L6.
- 2-5 T2 Large storage jars with everted or large bead rims. L8, L10, L13, L13.
- Fabric B*
- 6 T3 Storage jar with rounded rim folded onto body. Partially silvered and combed surface. 3rd-4th centuries. L6.
- Fabric C*
- T4 Flanged bowls. Fabric C (1).
- 7 (a) Short upturning flange. Pre. 350? (cf. Shakenoak iv fig. 35, 629). L4
- 8 (b) Longer slightly upturned flange. L4.
- 9 (c) Downward turning, grooved flange. L3.
- T5 Necked jars.
- 10-11 (a) Thickened everted rim, possibly hand-made. Fabric C(1). L3, L5.
- 12 (b) Plain flared rim in Fabric C (2). L7.
- (c) Everted and squared rim. Fabric C(2) (cf. Shakenoak iv. fig. 36, 640-643).
- 13 (d) Out-turned, squared and flattened rim. Fabric C(1). L3.
- 14-15 (e) Rim with triangular section. Fabric C(2). L3, L8.
- 16 T6 Shouldered jar with vertical neck and small out-turned rim. Fabric C(2). L3.
- Fabric D*
- T7 Cooking pots. Of 58 rim sherds recovered, most were Gillam Type 138 (180-250). A few were of Type 127 (130-170) or 128 (130-180).
- 17 T8 Small cooking pot, (cf. Gillam, 1968, Type 122, 125-160 in date). L8.
- T9 Straight-sided bowls.
- 18 (a) Large thick unburnished wall. L5.
- 19 (b) Small, fine form, often with latticed burnishing. L11.
- T10 Straight-sided flanged dishes.
- (a) Plain horizontal projecting rim. Gillam Type 307 (125-160).
- 20 (b) Grooved flange, or flange projecting above level of bead. Gillam Type 226 (220-270). L5.
- (c) Developed flange and bead. Gillam Type 228 (310-370).
- (d) Non-flanged degenerate form. (cf. Shakenoak I, 58. Post-350?).
- Fabric E*
- 21 T11 Straight-sided bowl with plain or grooved wall, some with latticed burnishing (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 82, R53 240-400+). Illustrated example in Fabric E(1). L2.
- T12 Flanged dishes.
- (a) Plain horizontal rim (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 81, R43.7 100-300)
- 22 (b) Out-turned slightly hooked rim. Illustrated example in Fabric E(2), with burnished design. (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 81, R41 80-400). L9.
- 23 (c) Sharply angled grooved flange. Fabric E(1). L11.
- (d) Grooved flange, incipient bead, as T10(b). Fabric E(1). (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 81, R47.1 3rd cent. onwards).
- 24 (e) Developed bead and flange. Possible Alice Holt product. L5.
- (f) Degenerate non-flanged form. See T10(d) (cf. Young, 1977, R47.4, fig. 81 3rd cent. onwards).

Fig. 14. Roman Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

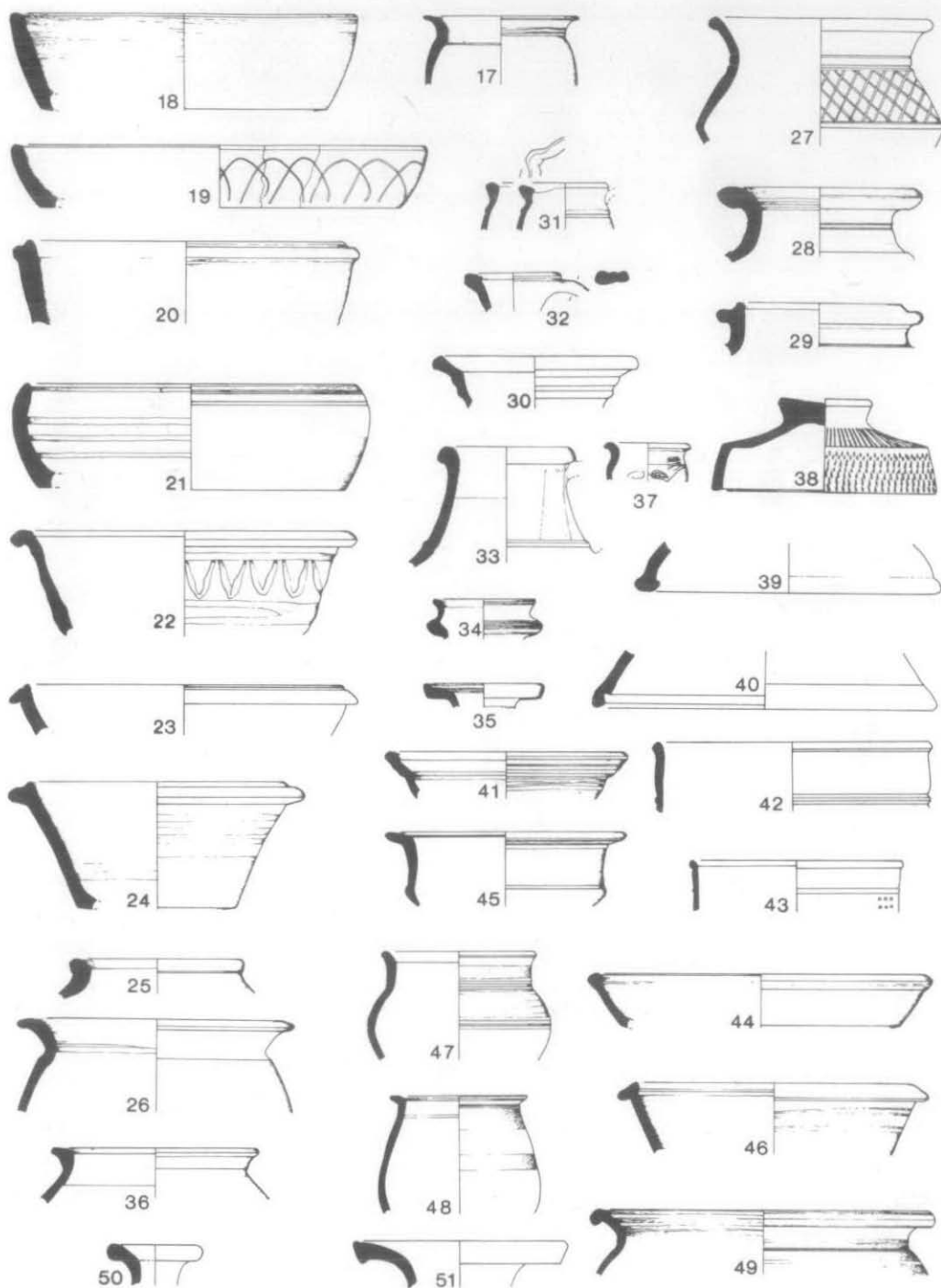
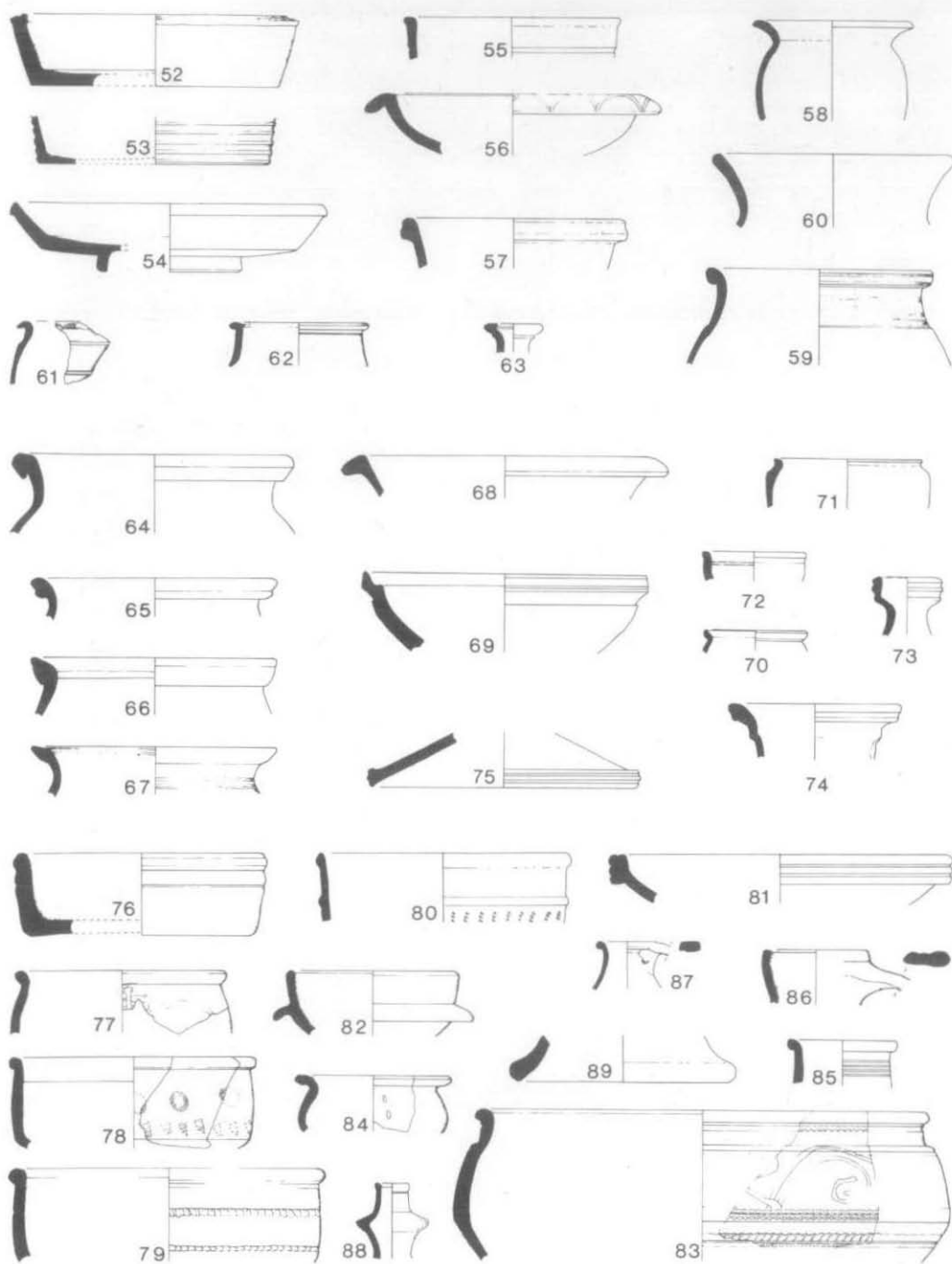


Fig. 15. Roman Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

- T13 Straight-sided carinated bowl with out-turned rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R57, fig. 82 100–400).
Enclosed Vessels.
- 25 T14 Neckless jars with simple bead rim. Fabric E(1). L3.
- 26 T15 (a) Jars with everted rims. Illustrated example is a copy of black burnished ware cooking pot. Gillam Type 117 (125–150) Fabric E(1). L8.
(b) Jars with bead rims. Illustrated example in Fabric E(2) with cordoning on neck and shoulder, carinated body with burnished linear design. (cf. Young, 1977, R.26, fig. 78 1st and 2nd cent.) L9.
(c) Jars with triangular section rims. (cf. Young, 1977, R23.1, fig. 77 1st–4th cent.)
(d) Rusticated ware jar. One body sherd only.
- 28 T16 Narrow necked spheroid jar with short neck and out-turned thickened rim. Fabric E(1). (cf. Young, 1977, R17, fig. 76. 240–400+). L9.
- 29 T17 Flanged narrow-necked jar. Fabric E(1). (cf. Young, 1977, R18, fig. 76. 250–400+). L8.
- 30 T18 Large jug or narrow-necked jar with dished, moulded rim. Fabric E(1) (cf. Young, 1977, R10, fig. 74. 250–400+). F99.
- 31 T19 Small, handled jug with simple spout, Fabric E(1). L11.
- T20 Flagons/bottles
(a) Handled flagon with simple out-turned rim. Fabric E(1). L7.
(b) Flagon with plain neck, wide burnished vertical strip and cordon. Fabric E(1). L5.
(c) Flanged flagon with burnishing on flange. Possible copy of form T101. Fabric E(1). L7.
(d) Narrow-necked flagon or bottle with out-turned, undercut rim. Fabric E(1). (cf. Young, 1977, R12.1, fig. 74. 180–240). L7.
- 36 T21 Globular beaker, rim sharply out-turned from body. Fabric E(1). (cf. Young, 1977, R31, fig. 79. 50–150). L3.
- 37 T22 Small globular jar with impressed rosette, probably unguent jar. Fabric E(1). L5.
T23 Cheese press. Body sherds only. Fabric E(1).
T24 Colander. Body sherds only. Fabric E(1).
- 38 T25 Boxlid, copy of Castor type. All over rouletted decoration, micaceous dark grey outer surface. Fabric E(2). Lids of this type were made at Allen's Pit. (cf. Young, 1977, R77, fig. 84. 2nd cent. onwards.) F78.
- 39–40 T26 Lids in Fabric E(1). F39, L13.
- Fabric F*
T27 Dog bowl with plain rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R49, fig. 82, 50–100 A.D.)
- 41 T28 Campanulate bowl, copy of samian Drag. 27. (cf. Young, 1977, R62, fig. 83, 2nd cent.) L11.
- 42 T29 Hemispherical bowl with complex moulded upper section. Copy of samian Drag. 37. (cf. Young, 1977, R68, fig. 83, 2nd cent.) L3.
- 43 T30 Cylindrical bowl copying samian Drag. 30, decorated with barbotine dots. (cf. Young, 1977, R64, fig. 83, late 1st and 2nd cent.) BH4, T2.
- 44 T31 Carinated bowl with bead rim, derived from samian Drag. 18. (cf. Young, 1977, R60, fig. 83, 70–100 A.D.) L12.
- 45 T32 Carinated bowl with horizontal pie dish rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R57, fig. 82, 100–400 A.D.) L13.
- 46 T33 Straight-sided bowl with 'hammerhead' rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R44, fig. 81 100–300 A.D.) L9.
T34 Small straight-sided bowl with drooping flange and small bead. (cf. Young, 1977, R47, fig. 81, 3rd cent. onwards — but in fine fabric.) Too small to illustrate.
- Enclosed Vessels.
- 47 T35 Poppyhead beaker, possibly product of the Overdale kilns. (cf. Young, 1977, R34, fig. 79. 2nd cent.) L13.
- 48 T36 Globular beaker with rim out-turned sharply from body. Decorated with wide burnished stripes. (cf. Young, 1977, R31, fig. 79. 50–150 A.D.) L11.
T37 Bag shaped beaker with small out-turned rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R35, fig. 79. 2nd cent.).
T38 Necked bowl derived from Belgic necked jar forms. (cf. Young, 1977, R38, fig. 79. 1st–4th cent.) Too small to illustrate.
- 49 T39 Necked jars.
(a) Enlarged bead rim and angled neck. L11.
(b) Plain everted rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R24.2, fig. 78. 1st–4th cent.)
(c) Cavetto rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R27, fig. 78. 100–400+).
(d) Squared everted rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R24.11, fig. 78. 1st–4th cent.)

Fig. 16. Roman Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

(e) Thickened everted (cf. Young, 1977, R24.1, fig. 78. 1st-4th cent.)

These jar forms were more commonly produced in the coarser fabrics.

T40 Flagons/bottles.

- 50 (a) Narrow-necked bottle or flagon with out-turned rim. L10.
 (b) Ring necked flagon (only rim surviving.) (cf. Young, 1977, R6.2, fig. 74. 180-240 A.D.)
 51 (c) Narrow-necked bottle or flagon with out-turned under-cut rim. (cf. Young, 1977, R12.2, fig. 74. 180-240 A.D.) L10.

Fabrics G and H

Bowls/dishes

- 52 T41 (a) Thick walled straight sided bowl with flattened, reeded rim. Partially reduced. Fabric H. L5.
 (b) Similar to above, plain rim, burnished. Fabric H (cf. Young, 1977, O35, fig. 72. 240-400+).
 53 T42 Straight sided bowl with grooved wall. Fabric G. Possibly from Churchill kilns. L9.
 54 T43 Shallow carinated bowl with pedestal foot, copying samian Drag. 18. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, O41, fig. 72. 100-300). L11.
 T44 Deep hemispherical bowl, rim missing. Fabric G. Form similar to Young C55. (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 60).
 55 T45 Small hemispherical bowl, copying samian Drag. 37. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, O45, fig. 73. 100-200). F40.
 T46 Shallow flanged bowl copying samian Drag. 36. Fabric G. burnished. (cf. Young, 1977, O44.2, fig. 73. 240-400+).
 56 T47 Bowl with hanging rim and rounded body. White painted decoration on rim. (cf. Young, 1977, O39, fig. 72. 70-150.) L13.
 57 T48 Small bowl with out-turned rim, similar to Parchment Ware form. Fabric G. BH2, unstratified.

Enclosed Vessels.

- T49 Necked jars, with simple everted rims. Fabric H.
 59, 60 T50 (a) Necked jars with plain everted or squared rims. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 71, O10. 50-400+) L11 and F40.
 58 (b) Jar with cavetto rim. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, O16, fig. 71. 240-300.) F46.
 (c) Jar with plain upstanding rim. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, O12, fig. 71. 240-300.)
 61 T51 Bag shaped beaker with small hanging rim and carinated shoulder. Fabric G. Possibly from Churchill kilns. (cf. Young, 1977, O20.6, fig. 71. 240-300). L7.
 62 T52 Beaker with plain out-turned rim. Fabric G. (cf. Young, 1977, O20.5, fig. 71. 240-300). L6.
 T53 Bag beaker with simple out-turned rim. (cf. Young, O19, fig. 71. 240-300).
 T54 Indented beaker in Fabric G, burnished. Body sherds only, (cf. Young, 1977, O23, fig. 71. No date.)
 63 T55 Small bottle rim, Fabric G. Possibly from Churchill kilns. (cf. Young, 1977, O2, fig. 71. 240-300.) F34.
 T56 Narrow-necked jar with everted rim. (cf. Young, 1977, O6, fig. 71. 240-400+).
 T57 Small, handled jug (?) handle only. Fabric H.
 T58 Cheese press fragments. Fabric G with red paint on inner surface. Too fragmentary to illustrate.

Fabric I

- 64,65,66 T59 Necked jars. L7, L9, L6.
 The early layers of Cutting I, 11-14, produced sherds closely resembling T59 in fabric. The rims, however, are a simple flared form and may be a different group altogether. The date range proposed by Young for burnt white wares (240-400+) is too late for Layers 11-14 and it is unlikely that they were all intrusive. Rim sherds from four distinct vessels of this type were recovered. See T60 below.

- 67 T60 Necked jar with simple everted and flared rim. L12.

Fabric J

T61 Wall-sided bowl with red paint on rim. (cf. Young, 1977, P24, fig. 27. 240-400+).

T62 Small jar with out-turned rim. (cf. Young, 1977, P7, fig. 26. 240-400+).

Fabrics K and L and Miscellaneous white fabrics.

- 68 T63 Bowl with out-turned rim. Fabric L with light orange wash. Similar in form to Young type W44.2 (cf. Young, 1977, fig. 32. 100-240). F52.
 69 T64 Bowl with lid seated rim. Fabric L with blackened bottom inner surface. No parallel. L10.

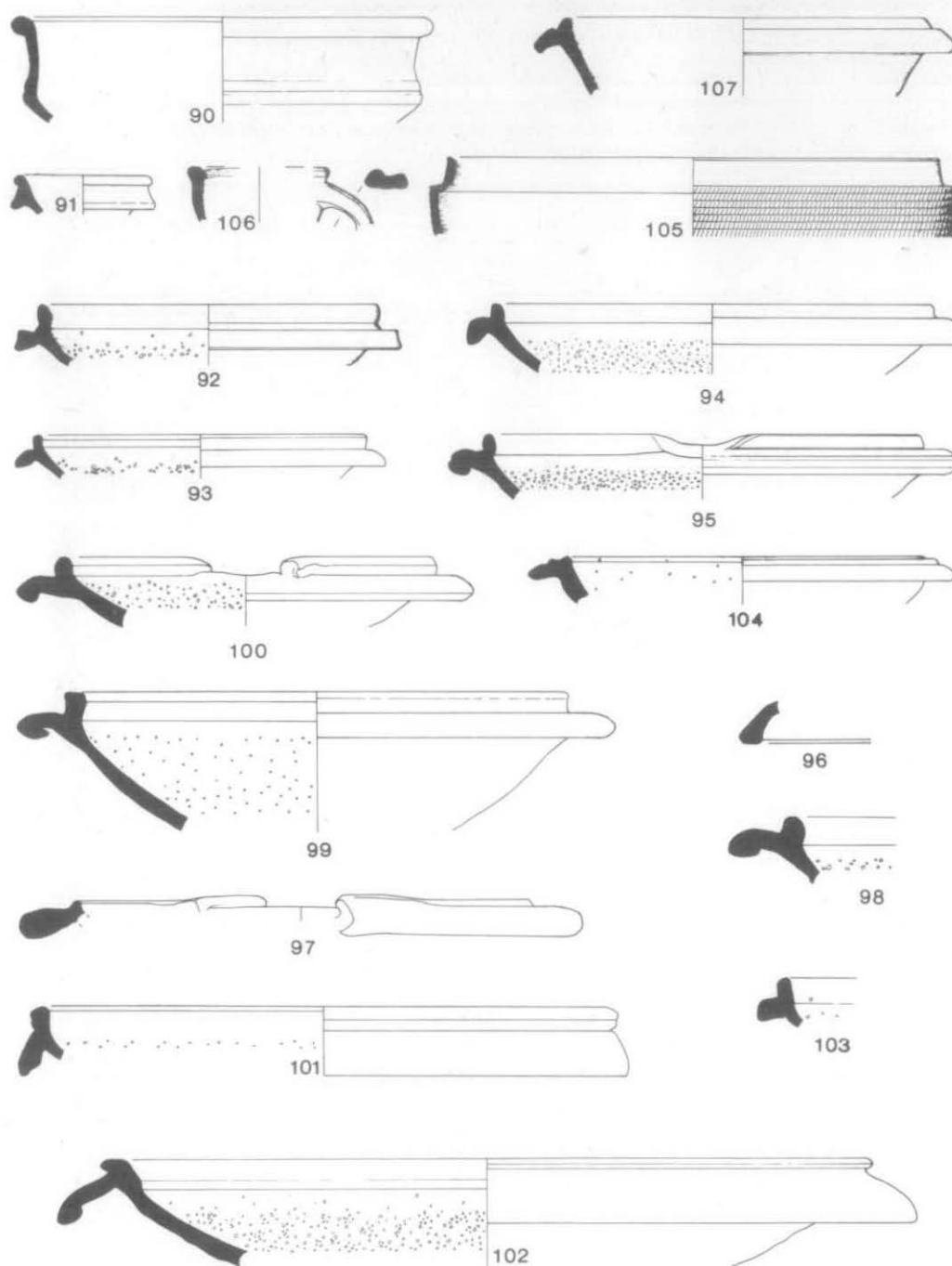


Fig. 17. Roman Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

- T65 Fragmentary rim of butt beaker in coarse gritty white fabric (misc.) with blackened outer surface.
Body sherd in same fabric with applied nodule and dark buff surface. (cf. Frere, 1962, 132, fig. 12. No. 9).
- T66 Small jar with plain everted rim. Fabric K.
- T67 Necked jar. Fabric K. (cf. Young, 1977, W33.6, fig. 31. 50-400+).
- T68 Fragmentary rim of small jar or beaker. Fabric K with orange paint and varnish type slip.
Too small to illustrate.
- 70 T69 Globular beaker with out-turned rim. Fabric K. (cf. Young, 1977, W37, fig. 32. 2nd cent.) L14.
- 71 T70 Flagon with grooved, moulded, wall-sided rim. Probably from Churchill kilns. Fabric L. (cf. Young, 1977, W9.2, fig. 30 240-300). F3.
- 72 T71 Flagon in Fabric L. Churchill type (cf. Young, 1977, W9, fig. 30 240-300). L4.
- T72 Large flagon (only neck surviving) Fabric L. Probably Churchill type.
- 73 T73 Flagon. Fabric K. (cf. Young, 1977, W15, fig. 30. 240-300.) L10.
- 74 T74 Trefoil-lipped jug, cordoned mid-way down neck. Fabric L. (cf. Young, 1977, W26, fig. 31, 300-400). L6.
- T75 Fragment of lid with upward folded edges. Fabric L.
- 75 T76 Lid in Fabric L. Partly overfired to dark orange. L12.
- T77 Body sherds in Fabric L with red painted decoration on inner surface. Possibly copy of Parchment Ware bowl.
- Fabric M*
Oxfordshire Red Colour Coated Wares.
- 76 T78 Dog bowl with double groove on side. (cf. Young, 1977, C94, fig. 66 300-400+.) L5.
- T79 Small plain hemispherical bowl. (cf. Young, 1977, C54, fig. 59 no date.)
- T80 Bowl with small hooked rim copying samian Drag. 31. (cf. Young, 1977, C44, fig. 57. 270-350 A.D.)
- T81 Bead rim bowl with large rounded bead. (cf. Young, 1977, C46, fig. 58 340-400+.)
- T82 Bead rim bowl with wide flattened bead. (cf. Young, 1977, C46.1. fig. 58 340-400+.)
- 77 T83 Bead rim bowl with globular body and white painted decoration. (cf. Young, 1977, C69, Fig. 61. 325-400+.) L5.
- T84 Straight sided bowl with small rilled flange and bead. (cf. Young, 1977, C93.4, Fig. 66. 350-400+.)
- 78 T85 Carinated bowl with impressed design or white painted decoration. (cf. Young, 1977, C70, Fig. 61. 325-400+.) L6.
- 79 T86 Deep bowl with rouletted design or grooved side, copying samian Drag. 37. (cf. Young, 1977, C68, Fig. 61. 300-400+.) L7.
- T87 Deep bowls with cordoning on side, some with white painted decoration. (cf. Young, 1977, C61.6, Fig. 60. for illustration of Beech House sherd. 350-400+.)
- 80 T88 Wall sided cylindrical bowl with impressed design, copying samian Drag. 30. (cf. Young, 1977, C84, Fig. 64. 340-400+.) F36.
- 81 T89 Shallow bowl or platter with hammerhead rim. (cf. Young, 1977, C41, Fig. 57. 300-400+.) F13.
- 82 T90 Flanged bowl, some with white painted decoration on flange, copying samian Drag. 38. (cf. Young, 1977, C51, Fig. 59. 240-400+ or C52, 350-400+.) L4.
- T91 Shallow flanged bowl, sometimes with white painted decoration on flange, copying samian Drag. 36. (cf. Young, 1977, C47 or C48, Fig. 58. 270-400+.)
- T92 As above but with tip of flange upturned. (cf. Young, 1977, Fig. 59, C49, 240-400+ or C50, 325-400+.)
- 83 T93 Necked bowl with bead rim, carinated shoulder and rouletting and/or white painted decoration. (cf. Young, 1977, C77, Fig. 62. 340-400+.) L1.
- T94 Necked bowl with cordoning on shoulder and rouletting on neck. (cf. Young, 1977, C75, Fig. 62. 325-400+.)
- 84 T95 Necked bowl with out-turned flattened rim, very short neck and globular body. Decoration of white painted dots. (cf. Young, 1977, C114, Fig. 66. 340-400+.) L6.
- T96 Jar with plain or everted rim. (cf. Young, 1977, C18, Fig. 54. 270-400+.)
- T97 Jar with incised decoration on body. Body sherd only. (cf. Young, 1977, C2/15.3, Fig. 54. no date.)

- 85 T98 Beaker with small out-turned rim. (cf. Young, 1977, C37.3, Fig. 56. no date. From Rose Hill or Cowley kilns.) F44.
- T99 Body sherds from indented beaker with dark brown colour coat. Possibly not an Oxfordshire product.
- 86 T100 (a) Small handled jug with plain upright rim. L3.
- 87 (b) Variant of (a) with small out-turned rim. L6.
- T101 Flanged flagon. (cf. Young, 1977, C8, Fig. 53. 240-400+.)
- 88 T102 Flanged flagon with double handles (missing). (cf. Young, 1977, C9, Fig. 53. 240-400+.) BH4, unstratified.
- T103 Body sherds only from beaker with Castor Ware type hunt cup design. Probably from Sandford kilns. (cf. Young, 1977, C25, Fig. 56. 270-400+.)
- 89 T104 Lid in Oxfordshire red colour coated ware. No parallels. F50.

White Colour-Coated Wares

- 90 T105 Copy of Parchment Ware bowl. Some of these have red painted decoration. (cf. Young, 1977, WC3, Fig. 38. 240-400+.) L4.
- T106 Copy of Parchment Ware globular jar with red painted design. From F59 (pit). (cf. Young, 1977, WC2.2, Fig. 38 for illustration of Beech House example. 240-400+.)
- T107 Bulbous beaker (?) with plain upright rim. Too fragmentary to illustrate. No parallel.
- 91 T108 Flanged flagon. New type. Probably late 3rd-4th cent. One example. BH4, unstratified.

Mortaria

Mortaria in Red Colour-Coated Ware:

- T109 Mortarium copying samian Drag. 45, some with rouletted band at top and bottom of wall. (cf. Young, 1977, C97, Fig. 67. 240-400+.)
- T110 Flanged forms:
- 92 (a) With high out-turned bead and angular flange. (cf. Young, 1977, C100, Fig. 67. 300-400+.) L7.
- 93 (b) With large high bead and flattened flange. (cf. Young, 1977, C100.10, Fig. 67. 300-400+.) L5.

Mortaria in White Colour-Coated Ware:

- 94 T111 Mortarium with downward turning flange copying T117 (below). (cf. Young, 1977, WC5, Fig. 38. 240-300 A.D.) L4.
- 95 T112 Variations of a flanged form with bead and pointed, down-turned flange or rounded and grooved or plain rounded flange. (cf. Young, 1977, WC7, Fig. 38. 240-400+.) L6.

Mortaria in White Ware:

- 96 T113 Mortarium with elongated and squared flange; bead missing. (cf. Young, 1977, M3.6, Fig. 18. 140-200 A.D.) L11.
- 97 T114 Mortarium with roll rim under-turned and internal bead. (cf. Young, 1977, M1, Fig. 18. 100-150 A.D.) L11.
- 98 T115 Mortarium with large rounded flange and upstanding rounded bead. (cf. Young, 1977, M6(?), Fig. 19. 100-170 A.D.) L3.
- T116 Mortarium with short down-turning flange (broken). (cf. Young, 1977, M11, Fig. 20. 180-240 A.D.)
- 99 T117 Mortarium with upstanding rim, wide, flat flange with hooked tip. (cf. Young, 1977, M17, Fig. 21. 240-300 A.D.) F66.
- 100 T118 Mortarium with long flange, square and down-turned, high bead pushed out to form spout. (cf. Young, 1977, M18, Fig. 22. 240-300 A.D.)
- T119 Mortarium with thick rim, high bead turning out to form spout. (cf. Young, 1977, M19, Fig. 22. 240-300 A.D.)
- 101-102 T120 Mortarium with downward turning angular flange, sometimes grooved, and high bead. (cf. Young, 1977, M21, Fig. 22. 240-300 A.D.) L9 and BH4, F2.
- 103 T121 Mortarium with short folded flange and squared bead. (cf. Young, 1977, M22.16, 240-400+.) F13.
- T122 As above but with red painted flange.
- Miscellaneous:
- 104 T123 Mortarium in Oxfordshire type orange ware with reeded rim and possible traces of white colour-coat. Very crudely made. New type. F39.

Non-Oxfordshire Colour-Coated Wares

- 105 T124 Bottom of Castor type box in white fabric with colour-coat fired red and grey. Nene Valley product. (cf. Swan, 1975, fig. VIII, 42.) Late 2nd-early 4th centuries. One example.
- T125 Bottom of box in white fabric with silver metallic looking colour-coat. Nene Valley type. Date as T124.
- 106 T126 Handled jug with metallic pink to grey colour coat. Nene Valley Fabric. L5.
- T127 Long-neck beaker with small bead rim in Nene Valley fabric. Dark brown colour coat.
- T128 Body sherds from Nene Valley type hunt cup. (cf. Swan, 1975, 32, pl. 18.)
- 107 T129 Pie dish in light buff fabric, possibly over-fired Nene Valley product. Copy of black burnished ware form.
- T130 Body sherds from beaker in light orange fabric, smooth fracture, no visible inclusions, dark brown colour-coat and applied scale decoration. Probably New Forest product. (cf. Swan, 1973, fig. 8, 17.) Late 3rd-early 4th centuries.
- T131 Body sherd from rough cast beaker. Fine buff fabric, smooth fracture, brown colour-coat. Probably Colchester product. Mid-2nd century (?).
- T132 Rhenish ware. All sherds of true Rhenish fabric — from the Rhineland rather than Lezoux. At least one example each of plain and indented beakers. Too fragmentary to illustrate. Late 2nd-3rd centuries.

TABLE II
Numbers of Vessel Types in Layers 7-14

Type	Layer								Type	Layer							
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
T1									T16	2	1	2					
T2		1	4		1	7	4	6	T17		1						
T3		1							T18					1			
T4									T19								
T5a	5	1	3		2				T20a	1							
b	1								b								
c	2	4							c	1							
d									d				1				
e	1	2	1						T21								
T6									T22								
T7	5	5	9	19	10				T23								
T8		1							T24	1							
T9a	1	1							T25			1					
b	9	4	20	8	14		1		T26							2	
T10a						1			T27					3			1
b	1	2	3		1				T28					1			
c	3	2	6	5	4	1			T29								
d									T30								
T11	4	5	5		12	1	2		T31					2	3	1	
T12a	1	3	2	1	2	2			T32			1		4	1	3	
b			1						T33	1	1	3		2			
c					1				T34								
d			2						T35	2	2		1	2		5	
e	6	1	2						T36		3	1	3	6		1	
f	1								T37	1	1	4	1	3	1		1
T13							2		T38					2		1	
T14							1		T39a	1	2			11	1	1	
T15a	24	19	11	9	22	8	10	3	b	4	7	1	7	6		2	1
b	9	2	5	1	3	2	1	4	c		1						
c	4		2		1	1			d					1			
d									e		1	1	1	3	1		

Type	7	8	9	Layer				12	13	14	Type	7	8	9	Layer				12	13	14
T40a	2	1		1							T85										
b								1			T86	1									
c				1							T87										
T41a											T88										
b								1			T89										
T42				1							T90	8	4		1						
T43			1	4		3		1			T91	1	1		1						
T44			2			1					T92										
T45	1										T93	7	11								
T46	2	1	1			1	1				T94										
T47						1			1		T95										
T48										1	T96	1									
T49			1	3	1						T97										
T50a	2	1	1			1					T98	3			3			1			
b											T99							2			
c	1				2						T100	2			1						
T51	2										T101							1			
T52	2										T102										
T53		2				1					T103	2			2						
T54											T104	1									
T55						1					T105										
T56	1										T106		1								
T57											T107						1				
T58											T108										
T59	5		1								T109	4	1								
T60						4	1			1	T110	4	1		1						
T61											T111										
T62											T112	2	1								
T63											T113							2			
T64					1						T114					1	2				
T65					1						T115										
T66									1		T116		1								
T67	1										T117	1	1		1	1					
T68											T118							1			
T69									2	1	T119										
T70											T120										
T71								1	1		T121	1									
T72					1						T122										
T73											T123										
T74											T124										
T75											T125					1	1				
T76									1		T126										
T77											T127				1	1					
T78	1	1									T128				2						
T79											T129		1								
T80											T130										
T81/2	6	4	1	1							T131		1								
T83											T132	1	9	11	13	3	2				
T84																					

The numbers in the columns represent the numbers of vessels of each type present.

DISCUSSION

Most of the Romano-British pottery from the Beech House site was of Oxfordshire manufacture. The exceptions were Rhenish Wares, a small quantity of Nene Valley colour-coated vessels, Black Burnished Ware of the Dorset type, and storage jars (and possibly a few smaller pots) from the Alice Holt kilns. One or two beakers could be New Forest or Colchester products. Altogether, these represent less than five per cent of the pottery.

Four possible kiln sites have been located within three kilometres of Dorchester-on-Thames.¹⁰ The Baldon site is unexcavated and has been identified only by a pottery scatter. At Watling Lane, a possible kiln, but no associated pottery, was discovered in 1952. The Abbey Well and Allen's Pit sites could be more satisfactorily identified. At Abbey Well a dump produced white wares, oxidised and reduced wares of the 1st century.¹¹ Allen's Pit, where kilns as well as waster dumps were discovered, produced a range of pottery including late types — white wares (including mortaria) dating to the 2nd–4th centuries, and red and brown colour-coated wares.¹² It is likely that much, if not all, of the Beech House colour-coated wares came from the Allen's Pit kilns. White colour-coated wares were also produced at Allen's Pit and were numerous amongst surface finds at Baldon. The proximity of these sources could explain the relative scarcity of white wares from the excavation.

Both Abbey Well and Allen's Pit produced orange and white wares, but in small quantities, and it seems that some of the Beech House examples came from the Churchill kilns, and possibly Sandford and others. The same seems to be true of white ware mortaria. No significant quantity of burnt white wares is known from any of the four nearby kilns. In fact, sherds have been recovered in significant numbers only at Churchill,¹³ and these kilns could well have been the source of the few Beech House examples.

The coarse reduced wares could be products of any of several Oxfordshire kilns, since most are known to have produced them. Only Allen's Pit, Abbey Well, and Sandford are known to have produced the fine reduced wares of the 1st–2nd centuries,¹⁴ and some of the Beech House examples no doubt came from these kilns, though other sources may as yet be undiscovered. The nearby sources probably account for the fairly large quantities of fine grey wares at Beech House, and possibly account for the small amounts of fine table wares in oxidised fabrics in this early period. Orange and white wares dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries were represented by a very few vessels at this site.

The pottery used in Dorchester as exemplified by the Beech House group was supplied largely by Oxfordshire kilns, and, for a large percentage of vessels, by the kilns around Dorchester itself. With such a wide range of products available locally during the Roman period, it seems there was little reason to import pottery on a large scale. Only a very small amount was supplied by even so close a source as the Nene Valley.

The disturbed nature of the site made relative dating difficult. In many cases the dating of the layers has been based largely on those pottery types which have been securely dated on other sites, together with the samian ware and small finds where possible.

THE ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY

based on a report by FREDA BERISFORD

Most of the 380 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered were from Cutting I, layers 1–8. Sherds from the topsoil and layers 1 and 2 were considered unstratified, and even layers 3–6 were so highly disturbed that associations were viewed cautiously. Very few rim and base sherds were recovered and, in some cases, sherds were so small as to make typing difficult. Percentages of each fabric (below) were based on a sherd count.

The pottery was divided into the following fabrics:

- Group A: Limestone Gritted Wares (5%)
The grits show as white flecks or lumps. Some are natural inclusions in the clay, especially the larger grits.
- Group B: Quartz Gritted Wares (18%)
Fabric containing hard angular grits, derived from local gravels and clays. Fine grits were often used for better quality pots, harder fired and more finely finished. Some inclusions natural, some deliberate.

¹⁰ C.J. Young, *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region* (BAR XLIII, 1977), 12.

¹¹ C.J.K. Cunningham and J.W. Banks, 'Excavations at Dorchester Abbey, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, xxxvii (1972), 158.

¹² Young, op cit. 10, 247.

¹³ Ibid. 113.

¹⁴ Ibid. 203.

Group C: Grass Tempered Wares (6%)

Tempered with vegetable matter. Produces a firm fabric capable of taking a high polish when used sparsely and as the sole temper. When combined with other tempering it tends to be more friable and used for crudely made vessels.

Group D: Shell Tempered Wares (9%)

A small proportion of sherds from earlier Saxon sites in the area around Dorchester are shell tempered. As a technique it seems to date to mid- and late periods. Oxford has produced large quantities of St. Neots and coarse wares. By the tenth century these formed the vast majority of the local wares in most of Oxfordshire.

Group E: Sandy Wares (36%)

In the area to the southeast of Oxford a high proportion of vessels are of fine sandy fabric with little or no gritting. It is difficult to tell how much sand was added deliberately.

A combination of tempers was frequent, especially a mixture of fabrics B and E and, to a lesser extent, A with B or E. Type BE totalled about 19% of the Saxon pottery, type AB, 3% and AE, 6%.

A relative chronology based on excavated groups from the Upper Thames Basin indicates that grass tempered wares (C) increased in popularity as the gritted wares, especially limestone gritted, showed a decrease. The shelly wares tended to occur in contexts with a high percentage of grass-tempered wares. Decorated pottery seems to have become less frequent in later periods.

At Dorchester the pottery displayed some marked differences to that from other Upper Thames sites. Fabrics appear to have changed little during the Saxon period. In this area, southeast of Oxford, where the Kimmeridge and gault clays rest on the greensands, a high proportion of the pots were made from a very sandy clay, often harder fired and of better quality than that from other settlements. 36% of the Beech House sherds were of this sandy fabric (E). Of the tempered fabrics, those from this southern area often have a sandy texture. Furthermore, at Dorchester there was a striking dearth of grass-tempered pottery. Whether this can be explained in terms of date is unclear. At Beech House the proportion of grass-tempered wares did not increase as much as might be expected in the later levels, but it is possible that the disturbed nature of the stratigraphy accounted for this at least in part.

In considering the question of this difference in pottery type, it should be remembered that Dorchester was earlier close to centres of the local Romano-British pottery industry (perhaps a centre itself) and it seems certain also that it is one example of continuity between native and Germanic elements. It may be that, to begin with, local native peoples helped to foster the traditions of late Roman potting and though Anglo-Saxon fabrics, forms and techniques were different to the late Roman ones, the better workmanship at Dorchester may have owed something to lingering earlier tradition. Another explanation is that Dorchester, being a religious centre in the Saxon period, probably attracted skillful craftsmen. Some of the pottery for local cremation burials may have been produced there.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery: (Fig. 18)

1. Sherd from pot with slightly everted rounded rim and sloping shoulder. Black, fairly smooth outer surface. Group C. Layer 2.
2. Rim sherd, tall upright and thickened with flat top. Finger impressions on top of rim. Dark grey, worn, pitted surface. Group B. Layer 2.
3. Pot with everted rim and very slight shoulder, harsh surface, heavily tempered, brownish-black colour. Group C. Layer 3.
4. Pot with upright thin rim, small particles of limestone, smoothed surface, black. Group A. Layer 5.
5. Rim sherd, upright and slightly everted. Very sparse limestone gritting, black with smoothed outer surface. Group A. Layer 5.
6. Large pot with upright rim, everted, and slight shoulder. Brownish-black colour, surfaces tooled smooth. Group E. Layer 5.
7. Rim sherd from small bowl with flat-topped rim and lug. Brownish-black, rough surface. Group E. Layer 5.
8. Pot with upright rounded rim and flaring shoulder (rim distorted). Black, soapy, fairly sparse tempering. Group C. Layer 5.
9. Sherd from pot with upright rounded rim, sloping shoulder. Fabric type BE (with a very few limestone inclusions.) Layer 5.
10. Flattened rim, internally sloping, from bowl or dish. Group BE. Layer 6.
11. Small baggy pot, black, harsh texture. Group E. Layer 5/6.
12. Pot with vertical, flattened rim. Fine quartz gritting, black, knife-smoothed. Group BE. Layer 7.

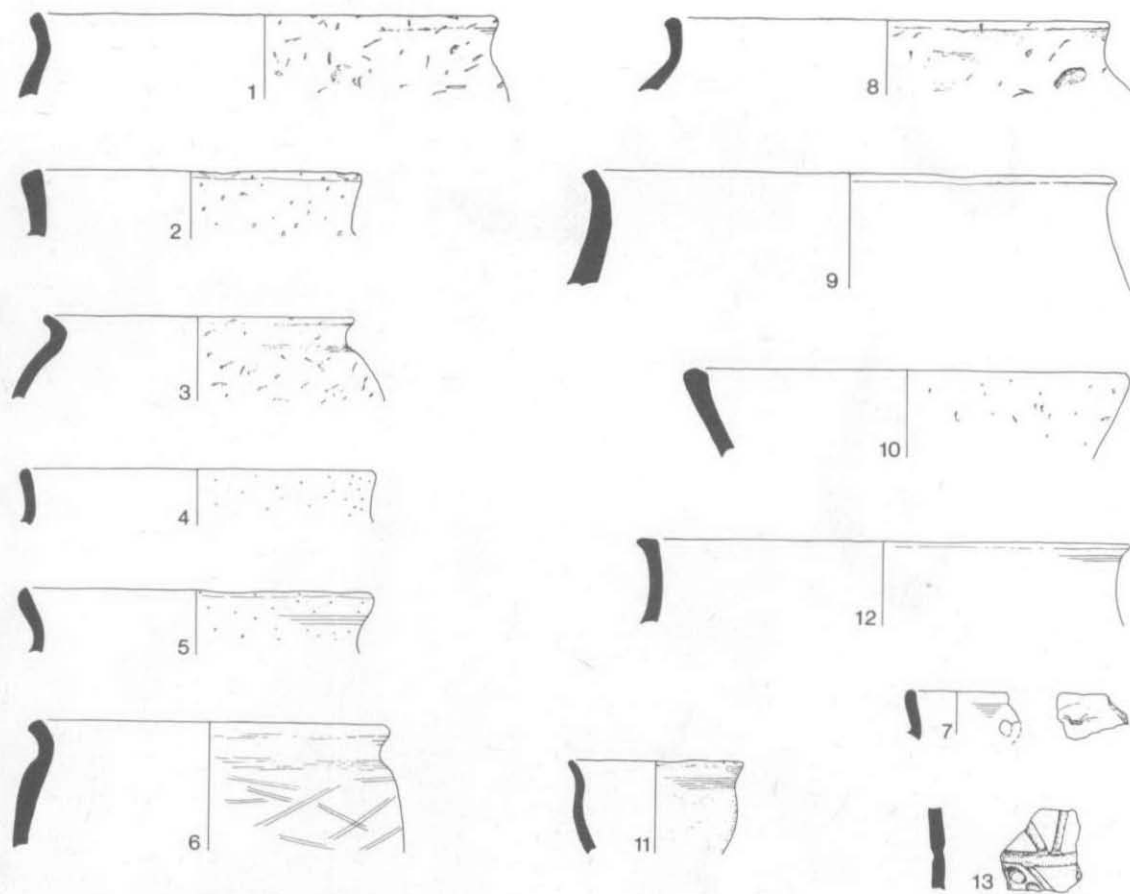
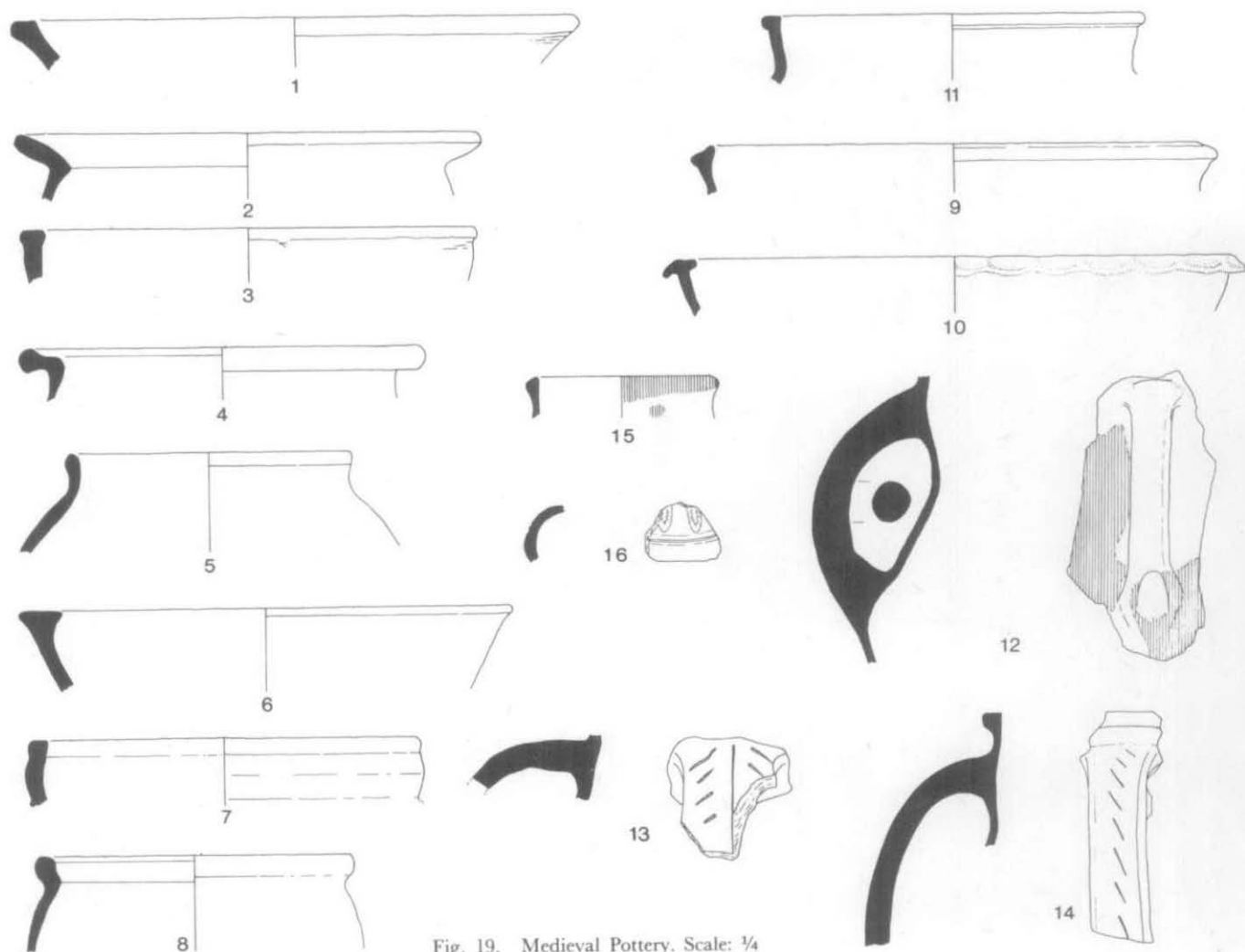


Fig. 18. Saxon Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

Fig. 19. Medieval Pottery. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

13. Decorated body sherd with two finger impressions and horizontal, diagonal, and vertical grooves. Possibly Romano-Saxon or Anglo-Frisian. Smoothed outer surface, black with dark grey core. Group BE. Layer 3.

TABLE III
Proportions of fabrics, Cutting I, Layers 1-8

Group	L1-2	L3	L4	L5	L5/6	L6	L7	L8
A	—	2%	—	8%	—	—	2%	—
B	6%	19%	22%	12%	—	20%	28%	62%
C	17%	11%	17%	4%	—	—	—	—
D	11%	2%	9%	12%	—	13%	9%	8%
E	28%	47%	43%	38%	55%	33%	28%	23%
BE	39%	21%	9%	24%	45%	33%	34%	—
AE	—	—	—	1%	—	—	—	8%

THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY (Fig. 19)

The medieval pottery amounted to well under 1% of sherds recovered from the four cuttings and included no complete profiles. In view of this, pottery from the four trenches was considered equally, rather than constructing a type series from one group. Most sherds were from Cutting I, Layers 1-3 and from Cutting 4, features 1 and 2 (pit and well.) Since most of the sherds could be paralleled with pottery already classified from Oxford and Abingdon the divisions and dates assigned to the type series compiled by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit were used here.

Group IA: Shelly Limestone

Fabric B Oxford Late Saxon Ware. Late 8th - early 9th cent. or later.

1-4 Considering the small amount of this type recovered (15% of the medieval pottery) there was a wide range of forms present. One rim sherd (No. 3) from Cutting 4, F2 (well). The others from Cutting I, L2-5.

Fabric R St. Neot's Type. 10th - late 11th cent. or earlier.

6 One rim sherd. Cutting I, L2.

Group II: Flint and other Inclusions

Fabric AQ Late 12th - 15th cent.

7 Cooking pot rim from topsoil, Cutting I.

8 Cooking pot rim from Cutting I, F1 (pit).

Not illustrated: rim with fingertipping, Cutting II, L2, and body sherd with comb decoration, Cutting IV, F1 (pit).

Group III: Sandy and Finer Wares

Fabric Y Oxford Medieval Ware. Late 11th or earlier - late 13th cent. This type accounts for about 50% of the medieval pottery.

9 Enlarged out-turned rim. Cutting II, L2.

10 Finger-tipped rim from dish. Cutting IV, F2 (well).

Fabric AG Late 11th or earlier - 15th cent.

11 Cooking pot with vertical neck. Cutting I, L7.

12 Pitcher with round section handle, thumb impression at base of handle. Partially covered with dark green glaze. Cutting IV, F1 (pit).

Fabric AM Oxford Late Medieval Ware. Late 13th or earlier - 15th cent. No rimsherds recovered. Decoration included applied strips, incised lines and grid stamping. The lead glaze in most cases patchy.

Fabric BC Local Tudor Green Ware. 14th - 15th cent.

One small handle recovered, Cutting IV, F1. Not illustrated.

Brill Type: (Abingdon Fabric D)

13 Strap handle with slashed and incised decoration, fine orange sandy fabric, patch of dark green glaze. Cutting I, L3.

14 Strip handle with slash design, overfired. Cutting IV, F1.

Cistercian Type:

Base sherd in fine red fabric thick brown glaze. Cutting IV, topsoil. Too small to illustrate.

THE POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY

This also accounted for under 1% of the pottery. Most sherds were from Cutting IV. Feature 1 (pit) of Cutting IV, which contained a great deal of the medieval pottery, produced four glazed sherds similar to medieval Fabric AM, but numerous inclusions of grog indicated a post-medieval date. This has been classified as Fabric BX by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and dates to the 15th century or later.

Platter in Brill Slipware. Not illustrated.

Cutting I, F9 (modern pit).

- 16 Lid sherd in very fine white fabric with light green good glaze and leaf design. Cutting IV, Unstratified. Possibly 19th cent.

SMALL FINDS

The following abbreviations have been used:

Addyman, 1964	P.V. Addyman, 'Dark-age Settlement at Maxey, Northants.', <i>Medieval Archaeology</i> , viii (1964).
Claustentum	P.W. Gathercole, <i>Excavations at Claustentum, Southampton 1951-54</i> , (1958).
Hawkes and Dunning	S.C. Hawkes and G.C. Dunning, 'Soldiers and Settlers in Britain, Fourth to Fifth Century', <i>Medieval Archaeology</i> , v (1961).
Loring, Wadhams and Henig, 1972	L.E. Loring, M.C. Wadhams and M. Henig, 'Romano-British Finger Rings at Witham', <i>Essex Jnl.</i> , vii. 4 (1972).
Lambrick and Woods, 1976	G. Lambrick and H. Woods, 'Excavations on the Second Site of the Dominican Priory, Oxford', <i>Oxoniensia</i> , xli (1976).
Lydney	M. Wheeler, <i>The Lydney Excavations</i> , (1934).
Neal, 1974	O.S. Neal, <i>Roman Villa in Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead</i> (1974).
Painter, 1965	K.S. Painter, 'A Roman Silver Treasure from Canterbury', <i>Jnl. Brit. Arch. Assoc.</i> , xviii (1965).
Portchester I & II	B. Cunliffe, <i>Excavations at Portchester Castle I-II</i> , (1975-6).
Richborough V	B. Cunliffe (ed.), <i>Richborough V</i> , (1968).
Shakenoak I, II, III, IV	A.C.C. Broadribb, A.R. Hands and D.R. Walker, <i>Excavations at Shakenoak I-IV</i> , (1968-73).
Verulamium	S.S. Frere, <i>Verulamium Excavations I</i> , (1972).

THE BRONZE

by MARTIN HENIG (Fig. 20)

1. Pin with rounded head. 3rd-4th century. L8
2. Needle with broken eye. L11
3. Toilet instrument with nail cleaner at one end and ear scoop at other. L12.
4. Cosmetic spoon or ear scoop from toilet set with hole for attachment. L5, (cf. Shakenoak II, 110 and 113, No. 90)
5. Tweezers. L8
6. Small tweezers. L11
7. Stud. L11
8. Undecorated bracelet with oval section. Probably post 350 A.D. L8 (cf. Neal Fig. 61, Nos. 173-175)
9. Segment of decorated bracelet. Second half 4th century (?). L6 (cf. Lydney, Fig. 17, No. 58 and Kirk and Leeds 1952, 69c pl. Va and fig. 29 Nos. 2 and 5.)
10. Chip carved segment of bracelet or necklace. Late type. BH4 G4
11. Stud with missing head. F33. Building collapse
12. Simple finger ring with three projections at bezel. L5. (cf. Richborough V, pl. XLII, No. 165)
13. Finger ring with simple zig-zag decoration and lapped over end. 4th century. L3, (cf. Portchester I, Fig. 112, No. 48.) Also, for possible early Saxon parallels see Hawkes and Dunning, 1961, 45 and fig. 14(b).
14. Harness ring (?), L5
15. As above. L5. Two similar rings were recovered from L4 and L9. Not illustrated.
16. Decorated mount or ornament. F39. Grubenhaus.
17. Spoon bowl. Late 3rd or 4th century. L3. (cf. Shakenoak IV, 108 and fig. 53) No. 187.

18. Candleholder (?). L9. (cf. Lydney. Fig. 20 No. 98)
19. Strapend with two rivets. Debased zoomorphic ornament. Mid-Saxon? Unstratified. (cf. Portchester II 216 and Fig. 136, No. 52 and Addyman 1964, 62 and fig. 17, No. 1)
20. Spoon handle, silver or silvered bronze. Rat tail with decoration of lozenges on shoulders, pierced through plate at junction between handle and bowl. 4th century type. BH2 Layer 2. (cf. Clausentum 45 and fig. 12 No. 4 and Painter 1965, pl. IV 5-13)
General layers 4/5 and 8 produced numerous fragments of sheet bronze, some perforated to take rivets. (cf. Neal 1974, 134)
21. Disc with embossed clock face design. Post medieval. BH4. Unstratified.
22. Shoelace tag. Medieval. L4 (cf. Lambrick and Woods 1976, 216 and Fig. 11, No. 15)

THE SILVER (Fig. 20)

23. Silver finger ring ornamented with ring and dot motif. Probably late Roman. L10 cf. Henig, Loring and Wadhams 1972, 106f. No. 3 for bronze parallel. Late Roman bracelets are commonly ornamented with ring and dot. (cf. Neal 1974, 139 and fig. 60, No. 155, Shakenoak IV, 110 and fig. 54. No. 201-202 and Kirk and Leeds 70(i) Fig. 29, No. 13.)

IRON OBJECTS (Fig. 21)

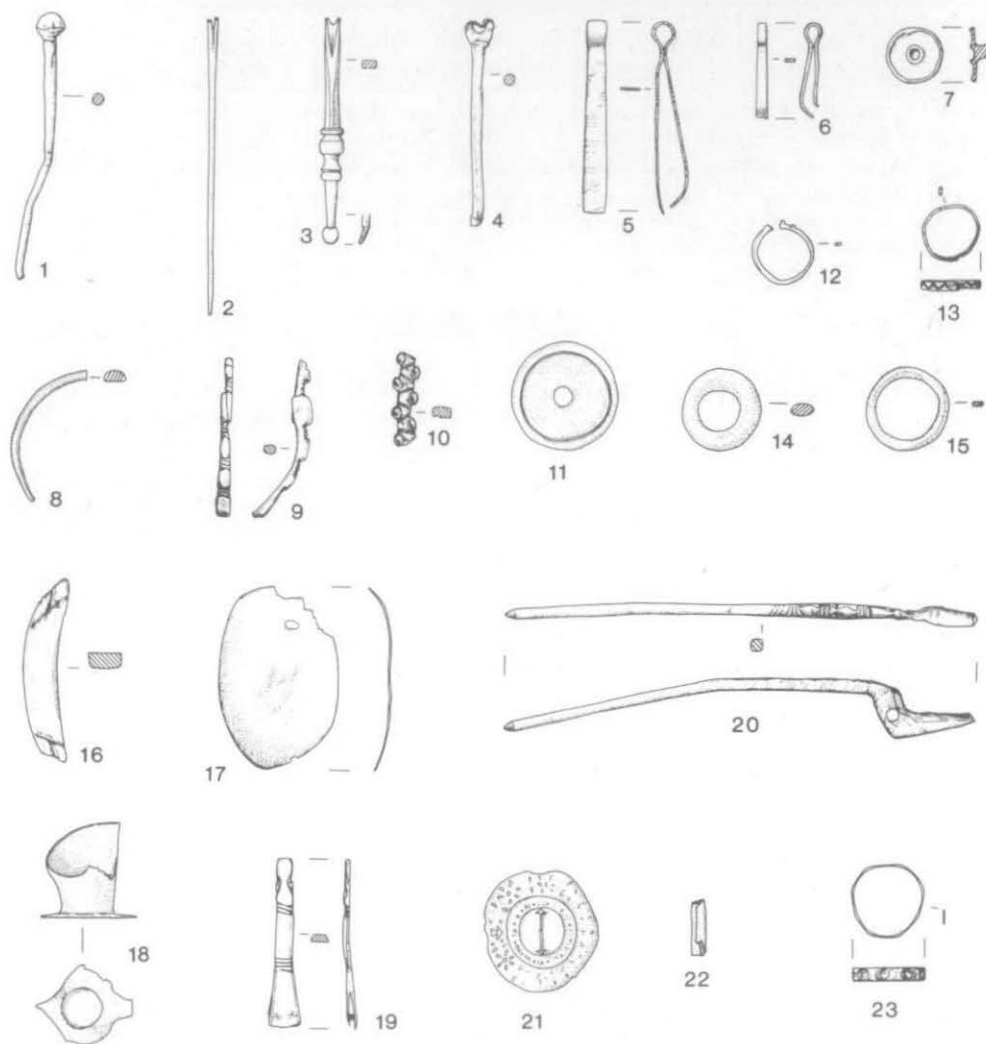
1. Large iron bar with nail holes. L5
2. Horse bit. L5
3. Uncertain. Possible harness part. L5. (cf. Shakenoak II, Fig. 51 No. 112)
4. As above. L5
5. Knife blade and tang. L5. Late Roman type. (cf. Shakenoak III. 112)
6. As above. L4
7. Harness ring with ends twisted together. L2. (cf. Shakenoak IV. Fig. 64. No. 503)
8. Small nail or tack with elongated head and square section shaft. Possibly medieval. L4
9. Iron cleaver. L8. (cf. Shakenoak IV. Fig. 387. for late 4th century example)

BONE OBJECTS (Fig. 22)

1. Pin with rounded head and incised horizontal line on shaft. L9.
2. Pin with rounded head. Late 3rd-4th century. L5. (cf. Shakenoak II, fig. 53 No. 32)
3. Pin with faceted head and incised line on shaft. Similar to 1. L9. (cf. Shakenoak II. Fig. 53 No. 30)
4. Pin with rounded, slightly flattened head. L5
5. Pin with circular flattened head. L5 (cf. Shakenoak II Fig. 53, No. 26)
6. Pin with 'turned' complex head. 2nd or 3rd century. L3. (cf. Shakenoak II. Fig. 53 No. 27)
7. Needle with pointed head and elongated eye. L10. Similar needle with broken eye from F87, L10 not illustrated.
8. Worked bone, possibly unfinished pin beater. L3
9. Counter with depression and small central pit in upper surface and series of intersecting scratches on base. Probably late 2nd century. L11 (cf. Verulamium Fig. 56. No. 215)
10. Shaped bone object. L3
11. Fragment of animal skull with decoration of incised lines. L3
12. Comb with transverse incised lines. L3 (cf. Portchester II 219 and fig. 140 No. 72)
13. Shaped bone decorated with incised transverse lines similar to No. 12 with iron rivet. Fragment of cross piece of comb or possibly knife handle. BH4 G4.
14. Pin beater. L3.
15. Pin beater. L3.
16. Pin beater. BH2. Layer 4.

CLAY OBJECTS

17. Baked clay spindle whorl. L6.

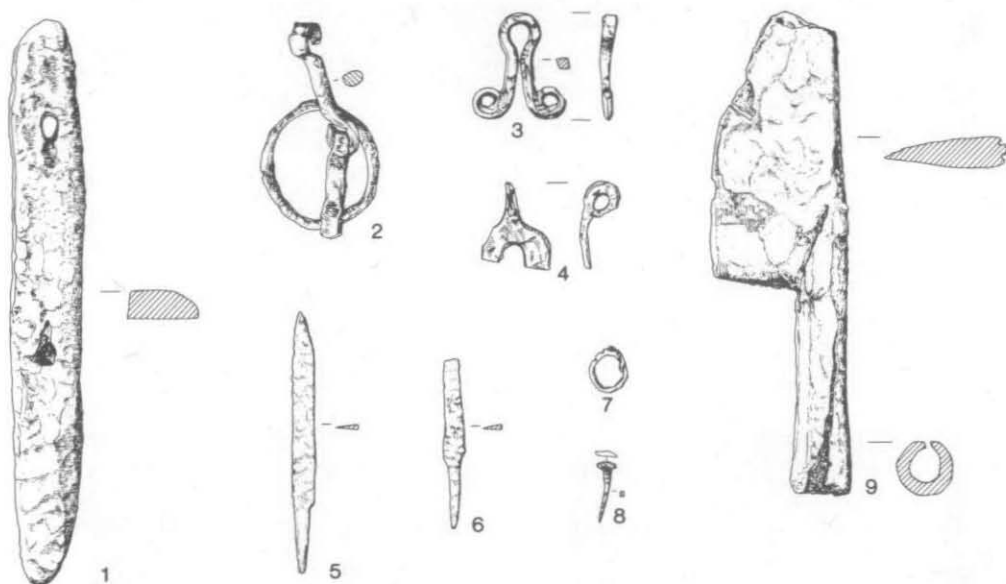
Fig. 20. Bronze and Silver Objects. Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$

GLASS (FIG. 22)

Of the eighteen fragments recovered, none was large enough to be identified as a particular vessel. The fragments included: in natural green colour, a fragment with fine fluted decoration (L3), a hollow tube rim, probably late 2nd century (L8), two fragments of a square or rectangular based vessel with rounded corners (L7); a very thin fragment in opaque white and yellow glass (L3); in colourless glass, one fragment with raised design (too small to illustrate. L5).

Illustrated: Fig. 22.

18. Fragment in colourless glass with cut linear and circular decoration. Probably late 2nd century (L8). Layers 3 and 7 produced several fused fragments of colourless and natural green glass.

Fig. 21. Iron Objects. Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$

SHALE OBJECTS

19. Straight sided vessel with double incised lines at rim and base. L8.
20. Fragment of undecorated bracelet. (cf. Verulamium, Fig. 57. 223.) L8.
21. Fragment of thin bracelet with notched outer edges. (cf. Verulamium, Fig. 57, 220.) L8.
22. Fragment of disc with central perforation, roughly worked. L8.

FLINTS (not illustrated)

identified by RICHARD BRADLEY

The following worked flints were recovered: Two scrapers, probably late Neolithic, L12; two fragments based on narrow flake technique, earlier Neolithic or, less possibly, Mesolithic, one each from L3 and L13; one core rejuvenation flake possibly used as a scraper, burnt, undatable, L13; two retouched core fragments, L13 and L14.

QUERNS

The stone type and source of the two quern fragments were identified by Dr. J. Palmer of the University Museum, Oxford. The stone from Layer 4 was identified as a Conglomeratic Red Sandstone, probably of New Red Sandstone age. The second fragment was re-used in an oven, F44, but showed no signs of burning. It was identified as Medium Red Sandstone, probably also New Red Sandstone, and was virtually unused when broken. The most likely source for both stones is the Warwick/Worcestershire area.

THE COINS — By D. NASH, K. KING, D.M. METCALF

One Celtic coin was recovered from the site, a bronze coin of Cunobeline minted at Verulamium. The obverse shows a beardless winged head (l.), and the reverse a seated figure (r.) with a hammer in the right hand at work on a cauldron. Bronzes with the Tasciovanus legend are of more westerly distribution than those without.

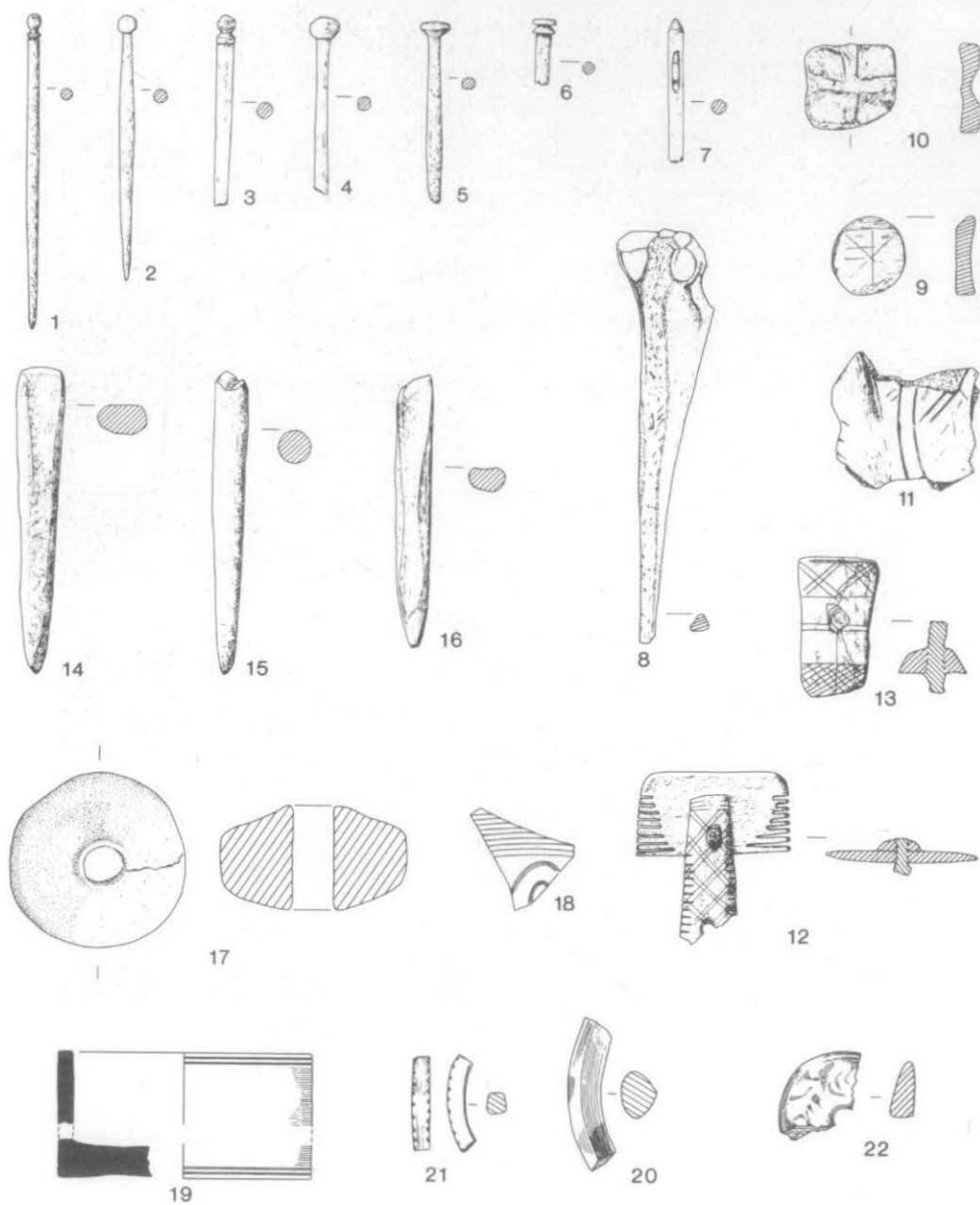


Fig. 22. Bone, Clay, Glass, Shale Objects. Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$

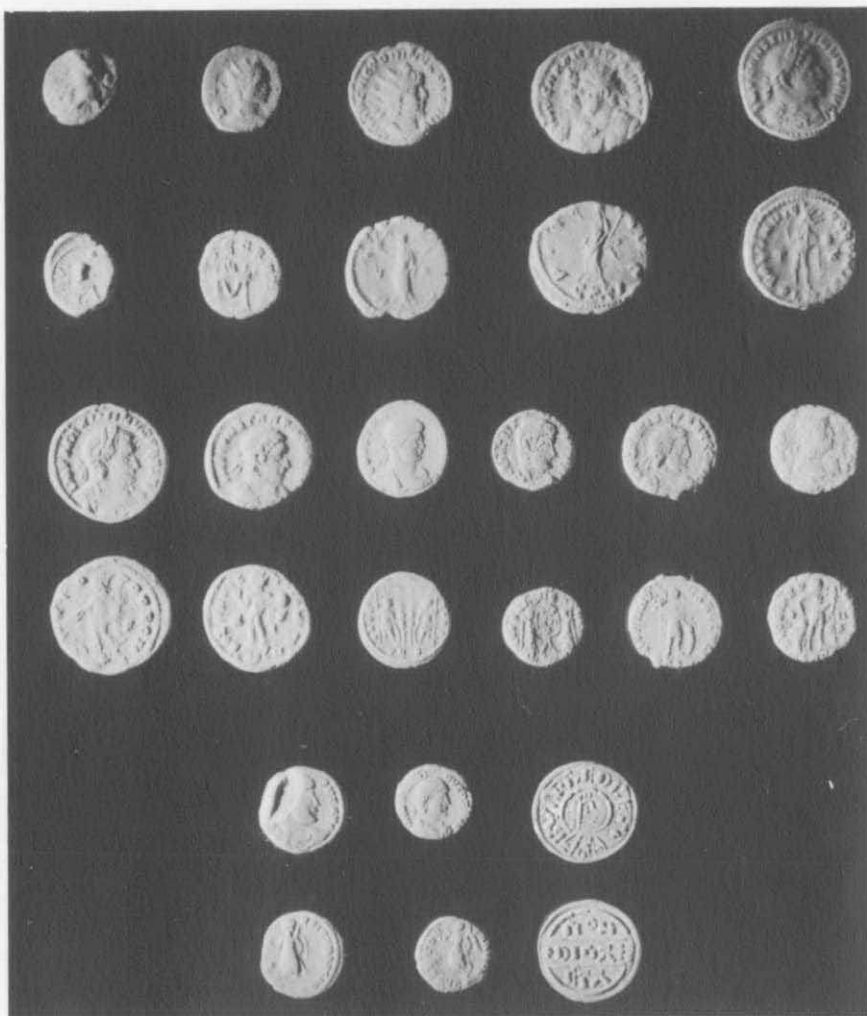


Plate 4. Coins from Beech House Hotel site, Dorchester-on-Thames. Scale 3:4

Guide to Plate 4 (Coins)
(from top left to right)

1. SF 167 AE Cunobeline 2.41 g. 2. SF — AE DIVO CLAVDIO 1.919 g. 3. SF 139 AE VICTORINVS 2.319 g. 4. SF 46 AE Carausius 2.21 g. 5. SF 93 AE Constantine I 3.90 g. 6. SF + AE Maximinus Dacia 4.20 g. 7. SF 71 AE Constantine I 3.25 g. 8. SF 119 AE Constantine II 2.29 g. 9. SF 31 AE Magnentius 1.60 g. 10. SF 118 AE Gratian 2.21 g. 11. SF 97 AE Gratian 2.06 g. 12. SF 110 AE Valens 2.52 g. 13. SF 122 AE Valentinian II 1.26 g. 14. SF 2 AR Burgred 1.155 g.

Of the 22 Roman coins found, the earliest were 2nd century sestertii of Trajan and Hadrian. The latest were of the house of Theodosius and can be approximately dated to 388–402. Many of the coins were found out of chronological context, with the result that the information relating to the layers in which they occurred is of no use in estimating the length of time of circulation. The number of coins recovered was too small to allow valid inferences to be made about their chronological and geographical divisions. The largest number of coins fall into the periods 260–285 and 364–378. These have previously been identified as periods of high production and coin loss.¹⁵ What look like possible anomalies are probably the result of the small size of the sample, so that the disproportionately high number of coins datable to 310–316 and low numbers for 330–346 must not be taken too seriously.

Four Roman coins were ancient imitations, two datable to 260–280, one to 335–341, and one to 348–360. These periods have been identified as times when counterfeiting in Britain was common.¹⁶ The copies were almost certainly produced virtually contemporaneously with the originals.

The length of time of circulation of Roman coins has yet to be satisfactorily established. First and second century bronze coins continued to be used until about the middle of the 3rd century, which accounts for their normally worn state. Circulation of radiate coins continued into the early 4th century, but they are not commonly found in hoards after c. 317. The frequent alteration in the size and amount of silver in the alloy of 4th century coins were indubitably linked to changes in the rates at which they were tariffed, and it is difficult to know whether older and newer 4th century coins circulated together and what denominational relationship they may have had. There is little evidence of demonetization. Bronze coinage ceased to be brought into Britain early in the 5th century when the legions were withdrawn, and it has been suggested that circulation of Roman bronze coinage had ceased by about 420.¹⁷

One Anglo-Saxon coin was found — a silver penny produced by the moneyer Diga. Pagan notes 16 specimens by this moneyer, all from different obverse and reverse dies. There are several varieties, of which this, reading REX + and + DIGA, is the most plentiful.

THE ANIMAL BONES By ANNIE GRANT

Animal bones recovered during the excavation of the north-west corner of the Roman town of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire were examined by the author. The majority of these bones came from successive layers representing the occupation of the site from Roman until early Medieval times. A small number was recovered from the presumed Saxon fill of a Roman ditch. The ditch was not fully excavated. (Cutting 2).

Over 7000 bone fragments were examined, of which approximately 2,500 were not positively identified.

The identification of the bones indicated the presence at the site of the following species — cattle, sheep, pig, horse, bird, dog, red deer, fallow deer, roe deer, cat and fox. The percentages of the species represented are given in Table V. The bones have been divided into groups representing the successive building phases at the site. Full details of the dating of these groups are given in the main report.

Three methods were used for calculating the percentages of species represented. The 'epiphyses only' method counts mandibles with at least one tooth present and each bone with part of an epiphysis or fusion surface present. Whole bones are counted twice, once for each epiphysis. Vertebral and cranial material is not counted. The 'total fragments' method counts each bone fragment once, but excludes ribs and skull fragments. 'Minimum numbers of individuals' are calculated by dividing by two the number of the best represented bone with an epiphysis for each animal. A full discussion of the calculation of these percentages and of their relative merits is given by Grant.¹⁸ Since there is no standardization of methods used for calculating the percentages of species represented, the use of several methods in one report will not only allow an assessment of the relative values of the methods used but will also enable comparisons to be made with other bone reports where any one of the methods may have been used. The following discussion uses mainly the results of the first method, which is thought to be the most reliable method for a site where the sample is not very large.

¹⁵ A. Ravetz, 'The Fourth Century Inflation and Romano-British Coin finds': In 'Patterns of Fourth Century Coinage on Romano-British Sites', *The Num. Chron.*, 7th ser. iv (1964), 201 ff.; R. Reece, 'A Short Survey of the Roman Coins found on fourteen sites in Britain', *Britannia*, iii (1972), 2bg. ff.

¹⁶ G.C. Boon, 'Counterfeit Coins in Romano Britain', *Coins and the Archaeologist*, ed. J. Casey and R. Reece, (BAR IV 1974), 115, 127, 130.

¹⁷ J.P.C. Kent, 'From Roman Britain to Saxon England', *Anglo-Saxon Coins*, ed. R.H.M. Dolley (1961), 18–21.

¹⁸ A. Grant, 'The Animal Bones', in *Excavations at Portchester Castle*, i, ed B.W. Cunliffe (1974), 378–404.

TABLE IV
Coins from Beech House

SF No.	Obverse	Reverse	Denom.	Date	Mint	Context	Cat. Ref.
<i>ANCIENT BRITISH</i>							
167	CVNOBELIN	TASCIO		10-40	Verulamium	L 13/14	Mack 248
<i>ROMAN</i>							
127	Trajan	PROVIDENTIA AVGVSTI SPQR SC	Sest.	114-117	Rome	L 8	
123	Hadrian	ADVENTVS (illeg)	Sest.	c134-138	Rome	L 7/8	
-	DIVO CLAVDIO	CONSECRATIO	Imit. Ant.	c268-70	—	U/S	
139	IMP C VICTOR INVS PF AVG	PAX AVG	Ant.	c268-70	V1*	L 9	cf Ric 5, 2, 118 (var.)
74	Tetricus II	SPES PVBLICA	Ant.	c270-73	—	L5	
38	Illeg.	Standing female figure	Imit. Ant.	c260-80	—	L 3	
46	IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG	PAX AVG	Ant.	287-93	CXXI	L 4	cf Ric 5, 2, 341 (var.)
93	IMP CONSTAN- TINVS PF AVG	SOLI INVICTO COMITI	Follis	c310	London PLN	BH4 F4	
+	IMP MAXIMINVS PF AVG	GENIO POP ROM	Follis	c310	Trier TF PTR	U/S	cf Ric 6, 845a
71	IMP CONSTAN- TINVS AVG	SOLI INVICTO COMITI	Follis	310-16	London SF MLN	L 5	cf Ric 7, 43
119	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C	GLORIA EXER- CITVS (2 stans)	Follis	330-5	Trier TR.S	L 8	cf Ric 7, 539
51	VRBS ROMA	Wolf + Twins	Follis	330-5	Trier TRP.	L 4	cf Ric 7, 522
109	CONSTANTINVS IVN NC	GLORIA EXER- CITVS (1 stan)	Follis	335-7	Illeg.	L 8	
31	Magnentius	VICTORIAE DD []	Imit. Follis	348-60	Illeg.	L 3	
118	DN GRATIANVS AVGG AVG	GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI	Follis	364-78	Arles CON	L 6	
60	Valentinian I	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	Follis	364-78	Arles CON	L 3	
110	Valens	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	Follis	364-78	Arles NI CON	L 8	
97	Gratian	GLORIA ROMANORVM	Follis	364-78	Lyons FII O RP LVGS	L 8	
114	House of Theodosius	VICTORIA AVGGG	Follis	388-402	Illeg.	L 8	
122	DN VALENTIN- IANVS PF AVG	VICTORIA AVGGG	Follis	388-402	Lyons LVGS	L 8	LRBC 390
157	House of Theodosius	Illeg.	Follis	388-402	Illeg.	L 11	
<i>SAXON</i>							
2	Burgred Rex	MON/DIGA/ETA	Silver Penny	852-74		L 3	

In all periods cattle appear to have been the most important animals. In bone material recovered from domestic contexts this should indicate that the most commonly eaten meat was beef. Lamb and then pork would have formed a smaller but not insignificant part of the diet. The results of the minimum numbers of individuals method gives greater importance to sheep and pig than do the other two methods, but the order of significance is the same using any of the methods. Cattle bones are relatively least important in the Saxon group from Layer 4, the Saxon (disturbance of a Roman) ditch fill and the Roman group. In these groups there is a corresponding increase in the proportion of sheep bones, especially in the Roman group, and a less pronounced increase in the proportion of pig bones. Unfortunately when we are comparing individual groups we are dealing with samples that are not always large enough to allow statistically reliable conclusions.

The other animals are represented by a very few bones making meaningful comparisons between groups almost impossible. However the relatively high percentages of bird bones in the Saxon layer 4 group and the Roman group might be significant. The Roman group also had the highest percentage of dog bones, but no horse bones were found in this group.

There are apparent differences in the proportions of species amongst the groups representing the various periods of occupation at the site, which might indicate economic changes that were taking place from Roman to early Medieval times. Since the bone material was recovered mainly from domestic contexts in a small part of a much larger occupation area, these differences could also reflect changes in eating habits, rubbish disposal or even the changing social status of the inhabitants of this area.

The representation of the individual bones of cattle, sheep and pig was analysed, but the sample of sheep and pig bones was too small to allow a valid discussion of the representation of these bones. The results of the analysis of the cattle bones are given in Table VIII. The method used is that described in Grant.¹⁹ A few interesting points arise from this analysis. There are comparatively high percentages of phalanges, especially of proximal phalanges in several groups, especially in the late Saxon/Medieval group and the Saxon layer 4 group. This is paralleled in the Saxon/Medieval group by high percentages of astragali, metapodia and atlases. All of these bones could be considered 'waste' bones as they bear little meat. One might therefore conclude that the bone material recovered from these groups represented mainly waste material, were it not for the fact that there are also comparatively high percentages of proximal humeri and distal femora. These bones which carry a lot of meat, are often ill-represented because their epiphyses fuse late in the animals' lives and they are made of porous and fairly fragile bone.²⁰ The pattern of representation in the earlier groups is of the general sort one might expect to see where recovery and survival are the prime factors affecting the representation of the bones. The apparently anomalous patterns in the Late Saxon/Medieval group and the Saxon layer 4 group may indicate that the bones recovered do not just represent the remains of whole carcasses, but that they reflect a particular pattern of butchery or rubbish disposal.

In all groups there are relatively small numbers of horn cores, mandibles and, except in the Saxon ditch fill, upper jaws. This would be explained if the heads of the carcasses were often cut off before they were brought to the site. If this were the case, the high percentages of atlases in the late Saxon/Medieval and Saxon layer 4 and 7 groups would indicate that the heads were severed from the body between the occipital condyle and the atlas.

Knife or chopper marks observed on the bones were recorded. These appeared generally to have resulted from the butchery of the carcasses. The use of at least three different types of tool was deduced from the nature of the cuts on the bones. They are a saw, a heavy chopper or cleaver and a sharp knife. Saw marks were only rarely encountered and the use of this tool seems to have been more or less confined to the sawing of antlers, presumably in the manufacture of antler tools. A fragment of scapula found in the ditch fill had been carefully sawn in a manner that suggested tool manufacture rather than butchery was the purpose. A hole has been made through the spongy tissue of the neck of the bone. The intended function of this bone is not clear.

The most commonly used tool in the butchery of the larger animals, cattle and horses, was a fairly heavy chopper. Chop marks were frequently observed around the epiphyses of the bones presumably resulting from the jointing of the carcasses.

The most commonly used tool in the butchery of the sheep was a sharp knife. The fine knife marks found on the bones of sheep indicate that the bones were either defleshed, or, more commonly, separated from one another by cutting through the ligaments that bind the joints. This method seems to have been employed for sheep from at least the Iron Age until modern times. Occasionally the heavier chopping tool has been used in the butchery of the sheep, and fine knife marks were occasionally observed on the cattle bones.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ C. Brain, 'The Contribution of Namib Desert Hottentots to an understanding of Australopithecine Bone Accumulations', *Scientific Papers of the Namib Desert Research Station*, xxxix, 13-22.

Butchery techniques for pig carcasses were more difficult to analyse since the pig bones were generally very fragmented, but both knives and choppers seem to have been used.

The same difference was observed between the Saxon and Roman bones from Dorchester as between the Saxon and Roman bones from Portchester Castle.²¹ This was the fairly frequent occurrence of bones that had been split longitudinally in the Saxon material and the absence of these split bones in the Roman period. The splitting of the bones, presumably mainly for marrow extraction, would appear to have been a technique not employed until the Saxon period.

In all periods the vertebrae of cattle were found cut across at right angles to the spine, and were never, with the exception of a few atlases and axes, split down the line of the spinal cord. In a modern abattoir the carcass is hoisted by the hind legs and then split into two longitudinal halves through the vertebral column. The chop marks on the Roman and Saxon bones implies that the butchery of the cattle carcasses was performed with the body flat and not hoisted.

A more detailed analysis of the butchery techniques would not be appropriate to a sample of this size.

The presence of butchery marks on horse bones recovered from the Saxon and Medieval layers would indicate that the horse was used as a food animal at least when it was no longer useful for other purposes such as riding or traction. There is also slight evidence for the use of the dog as a food animal. A fragment of the right mandible of a dog recovered from the late Saxon/Medieval layer had several knife marks on the bone on the outside just below the 1st molar. The use of the dog as a food animal has been discussed recently²² although the author does not cite any examples of dog bones with cut marks occurring as late as this example.

Many of the bones from all periods had been gnawed by dogs who were perhaps kept in or allowed to scavenge around the occupation area.

An analysis of the age at death of the three main food animals indicated a broad general pattern of husbandry practise. Cattle seem to have been killed in their second and third years, but up to 50% were kept beyond 4 years. Far fewer sheep were kept beyond maturity and most of the pigs were killed before maturity. A more detailed analysis of the age structure was not possible and the sample size was not large enough to determine any differences that might have existed between the different periods.

The analysis of the bones recovered at this site indicates an economy based on cattle, sheep, and pig. There are indications that economic or social changes might have occurred at the site during its fairly lengthy occupation, but the precise nature or significance of these changes was difficult to determine due to the limitations of the evidence. It is hoped that analysis of bones from other areas of Dorchester-on-Thames may throw more light on some of the questions raised by this analysis.

TABLE V
Percentages of species represented by the bones

	Context													
	L3		L4		L5		L7		Saxon Pit BH2		L11		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Epiphyses Only														
Cattle	323	67	148	55	603	83	145	72	50	48	40	49	1309	70
Sheep	74	15	53	20	46	6	24	12	17	16	20	25	234	13
Pig	49	10	34	13	61	8	24	12	19	18	10	12	197	11
Red Deer	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	6	
Roe Deer	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	
Fallow Deer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	10	1
Horse	19	4	2	1	5	1	1	—	4	4	—	—	31	2
Bird	13	3	28	10	9	1	5	2	3	3	6	7	64	3
Dog	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	10	1
Cat	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Fox	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Total	484		269		729		201		104		81		1868	

²¹ A. Grant, in *Excavations at Portchester Castle*, ed. Cunliffe, i, 378-404, ii, 262-86.

²² R. Harcourt, 'The Dog in Prehistoric and Early Historic Britain', *Jnl. Arch. Sci.* i, no. 2 (1974), 151-75.

TABLE VI
Total numbers of bone fragments

	L3		L4		L5		L7		Saxon Pit BH2		L11		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cattle	718	67	329	57	1180	85	245	75	159	63	100	51	2731	72
Sheep	208	19	145	25	81	6	38	12	42	17	62	32	576	15
Pig	97	9	57	10	88	6	31	10	27	11	16	8	316	8
Red Deer	2	—	4	1	6	—	3	1	—	—	1	1	16	—
Roe Deer	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	5	—
Fallow Deer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	5	—	—	13	—
Horse	25	2	11	2	13	1	3	1	8	3	—	—	60	2
Bird	14	1	24	4	8	1	5	2	3	1	5	3	59	2
Dog	10	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	20	1
Cat	—	—	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Fox	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Total	1075		574		1381		326		253		195		3804	
Ribs	172	13	93	13	283	16	86	20	45	13	37	15	716	15
Skull Fragments	41	3	22	3	84	4	18	4	37	11	9	4	211*	4
Total	1288		689		1748		430		335		241		4731	

TABLE VII
Minimum numbers of individuals represented by the bones

	L3		L4		L5		L7		Saxon Pit BH2		L11		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cattle	9	43	5	33	23	68	6	46	4	40	2	25	49	49
Sheep	5	24	4	27	4	12	2	15	2	20	2	25	19	19
Pig	4	19	2	13	4	12	3	23	2	20	2	25	17	17
Horse	1	5	1	7	1	3	1	8	1	10	—	—	5	5
Bird	1	5	2	13	1	3	1	8	1	10	1	12	7	7
Dog	1	5	1	7	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	12	4	4
Total	21		15		34		13		10		8		101	

TABLE VIII
Percentages of Cattle Bones Represented

Context	L3		L4		L5		L7		Saxon Pit BH2		L11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ulna P	7	41	7	70	19	45	2	17	1	14	3	75
Upper Jaw	2	12	—	—	5	12	—	—	6	86	—	—
Mandible	5	29	3	30	14	33	3	25	4	57	—	—
Scapula D	14	82	9	90	25	60	3	25	—	—	3	75
Humerus P	10	59	3	30	10	24	1	8	—	—	—	—
Humerus D	8	47	6	60	28	67	99	75	3	43	—	—
Radius P	14	82	4	40	23	55	9	75	2	29	2	50
Radius D	9	53	5	50	17	40	1	8	2	29	—	—
Metacarpal P	13	76	7	70	42	100	12	100	6	86	2	50
Metacarpal D	13	76	7	70	35	83	12	100	1	14	1	25
1st Phalange*	22	65	11	60	33	40	10	42	2	14	2	25
2nd Phalange*	16	47	6	30	19	24	3	17	1	14	1	25
3rd Phalange*	8	24	3	20	12	14	3	17	1	14	1	25
Pelvis + Acetabulum	11	65	10	100	19	45	9	75	4	57	3	75
Femur P	5	29	1	10	31	74	5	42	1	14	3	75
Femur D	17	100	6	60	26	62	4	33	—	—	—	—
Tibia P	9	53	5	50	21	50	3	25	2	29	—	—
Tibia D	10	59	5	50	15	36	6	50	—	—	4	100
Calcaneum	14	82	5	50	36	86	6	50	7	100	2	50
Astragalus	17	100	3	30	28	67	4	33	3	43	—	—
Metatarsal P	17	100	6	60	21	50	4	33	4	57	2	50
Metatarsal D	12	71	6	60	23	55	7	58	3	43	2	50
1st Phalange*	22	65	11	60	33	40	9	42	1	14	1	25
2nd Phalange*	16	47	5	30	19	24	3	17	1	14	1	25
3rd Phalange*	7	24	3	20	12	14	2	17	1	14	1	25
Atlas*	8	94	5	100	10	48	6	100	1	29	1	50
Axis*	6	71	1	20	10	48	2	33	—	—	2	100
Vertebrae	144		38		225		33		11		17	
Loose Teeth	139		82		107		19		56		11	
Horn Core	5	29	2	20	7	17	5	42	1	14	2	50

P = PROXIMAL D = DISTAL

Percentage are percentages of the greatest number.* Adjustments are made where there are more or fewer than two of any particular bone in a whole carcass.

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