

# A Late Iron-Age Enclosed Settlement at Newington Road, Stadhampton

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## SUMMARY

*The excavation of two areas on land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton targeted late Iron-Age features identified by evaluation. Within Area A, a late Iron-Age settlement enclosure displayed four distinct phases of reorganisation and development. Domestic pottery, animal bone, worked flint, charcoal, and metalwork items were recorded within the fills of intercutting ditches and pits. Metalwork finds included a copper alloy issue of Cunobelin dating to AD 10–40, together with a small number of iron items. An undated hollow way feature immediately to the west of the enclosure was cut by late Iron-Age ditches, and may represent an earlier phase of prehistoric activity. A gully, possibly representing a structure, together with several storage pits, a cremation burial, and a pit containing metalworking residues, were also recorded. Successive phases displayed increasing subdivision and complexity, including a domestic area and a gateway structure on the eastern side of the enclosure. Isolated lengths of undated ditch south of the enclosure may represent the remnants of earlier enclosures or associated field boundaries. Area B contained a large late Iron-Age pit, which had been recut and re-used during the latest phase of Area A. This feature was associated with a natural spring, which probably provided a water source during the lifetime of the settlement. The Newington Road, Stadhampton site represents a further addition to the rich Iron-Age settlement record of the upper and middle Thames valley.*

In May and June 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook a strip, map and sample excavation on land on the east side of Newington Road, Stadhampton (centred on NGR: 460266 197986; Fig. 1), on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. Two areas (Areas A and B) were excavated (Fig. 2), within a proposed development area of 2.75 hectares.

Excavation followed two phases of evaluation, respectively in September 2014 (Phase I, AC 2014),<sup>1</sup> and October 2014 (Phase II, CA 2014),<sup>2</sup> and was targeted within the two parts of the site (Areas A and B) which displayed significant concentrations of archaeological features.

The Newington Road site originally comprised equestrian paddocks. It is bounded to the north by the rear of properties fronting onto Newington Road and Warren Hill, to the east by agricultural land, to the south by a commercial plant nursery and to the west by the A 329 Newington Road. The site displays gently sloping topography, from an elevation of 60 metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east, to 55 metres above OD, in its south-west corner.

<sup>1</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire: Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation', unpublished AC Archaeology report no. ACW699/2/1 (2014).

<sup>2</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, Phase II: Archaeological Evaluation', unpublished CA report no. 14511 (2014).

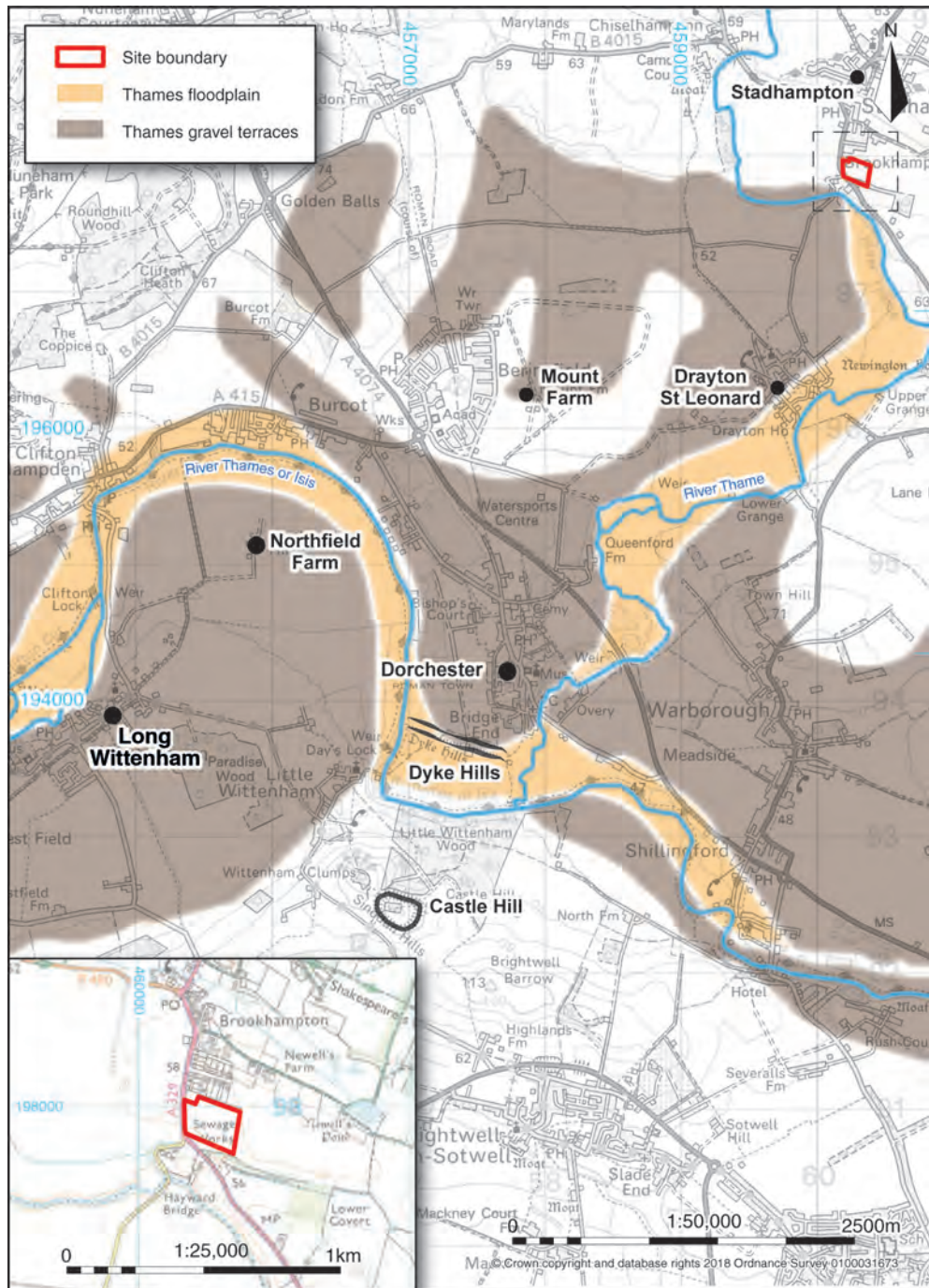


Fig. 1. Location of the Newington Road, Stadhampton site in relation to surrounding Thames valley sites mentioned in the text.

Underlying geology comprises mudstone, sandstone and limestone of the Gault and Upper Greensand Formations (undifferentiated). Within the northern and central parts of the site (including Area B), superficial Quaternary deposits of sands and gravels of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member, were encountered, with alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel recorded to the south.<sup>3</sup>

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION

A significant group of Neolithic and Bronze-Age funerary and ceremonial monuments has been recorded from cropmark evidence within Stadhampton and surrounding parishes. These include a cursus, a mortuary enclosure, a long barrow, a causewayed enclosure, an oval barrow and a hengiform monument.<sup>4</sup>

The cropmarks of two Bronze-Age barrow ditches,<sup>5</sup> are located c.200 metres to the south-east of the site, together with recorded scatters of worked flint.<sup>6</sup> A prehistoric pit alignment, associated with ring ditches, has been recorded at Drayton St Leonard, 1.5 km to the south-west.<sup>7</sup> Together with a number of neighbouring locations in the middle Thames valley, including Dorchester-on-Thames, Drayton and Benson, the Stadhampton environs appear to have represented a significant focus of ceremonial activity in earlier prehistory.<sup>8</sup>

The Newington Road site is located 5 km to the north-east of the late Iron-Age nucleated oppidum of Dyke Hills, Dorchester, and 2.75 km north-east of the multi-period site at Mount Farm, Berinsfield, which included a significant late Iron-Age phase of occupation (Fig. 1).<sup>9</sup> Limited evidence of later activity includes a late Iron-Age and early Roman field system recorded east of Chiselhampton House, 1 km north-west of the site, together with cropmark evidence of square enclosures, possibly representing Iron-Age 'square barrows'. These appear to be associated with a linear ditch, located 500 metres to the north-west.<sup>10</sup> Widespread finds of Roman pottery around Stadhampton are complemented by geophysical survey evidence of a rectilinear ditched complex, with possible evidence of buildings, located c.750 metres to the south-west.<sup>11</sup>

Early medieval and medieval finds, including inhumation burials of possible early Saxon date, were recorded at Chiselhampton House, 1 km to the north-west, and local finds of medieval pottery suggest widespread activity of this date around Stadhampton village.<sup>12</sup> Stadhampton appears to have been a medieval manor, although Domesday Book records it as part of the demesne lands of Dorchester manor, held by the bishop of Lincoln. The earthwork

<sup>3</sup> BGS (British Geological Survey) Geology of Britain Viewer: [http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_of\\_britain/home/html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_of_britain/home/html) (2014).

<sup>4</sup> G. Hey et al., 'Part 2: The Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, and the Establishment of Permanent Human Occupation in the Valley', in A. Morigi et al., *The Thames Through Time: Early Prehistory to 1500 BC*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 32 (2011), p. 232, fig. 10.7; p. 278, fig. 12.19; RCHME, *Thames Gravels Survey* (1993), map.

<sup>5</sup> HER, PRN 27434.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. PRN 15322.06.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. PRN 2034; RCHME, *Thames Gravels Survey*, map.

<sup>8</sup> G. Hey et al., 'Part 2: The Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age', pp. 338–44, figs. 14.9–11; A. Whittle et al., 'Place and Time: Building and Remembrance', in D. Benson and A. Whittle, *Building Memories: The Neolithic Cotswold long barrow at Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire* (2007), pp. 327–64.

<sup>9</sup> G. Lambrick with M. Robinson, *The Thames Through Time: Late Prehistory, 1500 BC–AD 50*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 29 (2009), pp. 34, 36; G. Lambrick, *Neolithic to Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm, Berinsfield, Dorchester-on-Thames*, Oxford Archaeology Occasional Paper, 19 (2010), pp. 72–5.

<sup>10</sup> HER, PRN 15330; RCHME, *Thames Gravels Survey*, map.

<sup>11</sup> HER, PRN 27435; 'Sites near Dorchester-on-Thames, Stadhampton and Warborough: Geophysical Surveys', unpublished Keevil Heritage Consultancy report (2010); J. May, 'Romano-British and Saxon Sites near Dorchester-on-Thames', *Oxoniensia*, 42 (1977), pp. 42–6.

<sup>12</sup> 'An Archaeological Watching Brief at Orchard House, School Lane, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire', unpublished JMHS report (2006).

remains of Ascott shrunken village have been recorded below Ascott Farm, 700 metres to the east.

An earlier magnetometer survey of the Newington Road site identified a series of positive linear and rectilinear magnetic anomalies, which related to the enclosure ditches and other features revealed by excavation (Fig. 2).<sup>13</sup>

### *Evaluation*

The excavation of six initial evaluation trenches (Phase I), in September 2014 (Fig. 2, trenches 1–6), focussed on the northern part of the site, and confirmed the presence of boundary ditches of first-century AD date.<sup>14</sup> A second evaluation (Phase II), was undertaken in October, 2014 (Fig. 2, trenches 7–12), to define the overall extent of archaeological features, and recorded a large late Iron-Age pit, together with evidence of medieval cultivation.<sup>15</sup>

## EXCAVATION METHODS

The fieldwork strategy outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation was set out in accordance with the period summaries in the Regional Research Framework,<sup>16</sup> and the brief provided by the Oxfordshire county archaeologist.<sup>17</sup> The primary aim of the fieldwork was to identify, record and date any significant archaeological features or deposits which could be affected by the proposed development. The two excavation areas (Areas A and B; Fig. 2) were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates, using Leica GPS. Area A measured 0.43 ha in area, together with a trench extension measuring 572 sq m, and Area B measured 0.027 hectares. Two substantial sumps were also machine-excavated to the north and south of pit B1, in Area B, to safely manage the high levels of groundwater, and to further investigate the features found within this area (Figs. 10 and 11).

Fieldwork commenced with the removal, under continuous archaeological supervision, of topsoil and subsoils from Areas A and B. This was undertaken by a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, until either natural geology or archaeological deposits/features were observed. The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of the archaeological sequence. Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential, and twenty-nine features considered to have potential for characterising late Iron-Age phases of activity were sampled. The full excavation report, including specialist reports and data, and additional illustrations (CA 2017), can be found on the Cotswold Archaeology website.<sup>18</sup>

## DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

### *Earlier Prehistoric*

A total of 70 items of redeposited worked flint (888 g), principally comprising flakes, was recorded from 49 separate deposits in Area A. This material is indicative of transient activity around the site between the Mesolithic and Bronze-Age periods. An abraded sherd of comb-decorated beaker vessel was recorded from a fill of Ditch A20, and a rim-sherd of a possible

<sup>13</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire: Magnetometer Survey Report', unpublished Archaeological Surveys report (2014).

<sup>14</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire'.

<sup>15</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, Phase II'.

<sup>16</sup> G. Lambrick, 'The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Research Agenda', in G. Hey and J. Hind (eds.) *The Solent Thames Research Framework, Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (2014), pp. 149–54.

<sup>17</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation', unpublished CA report (2017).

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>.



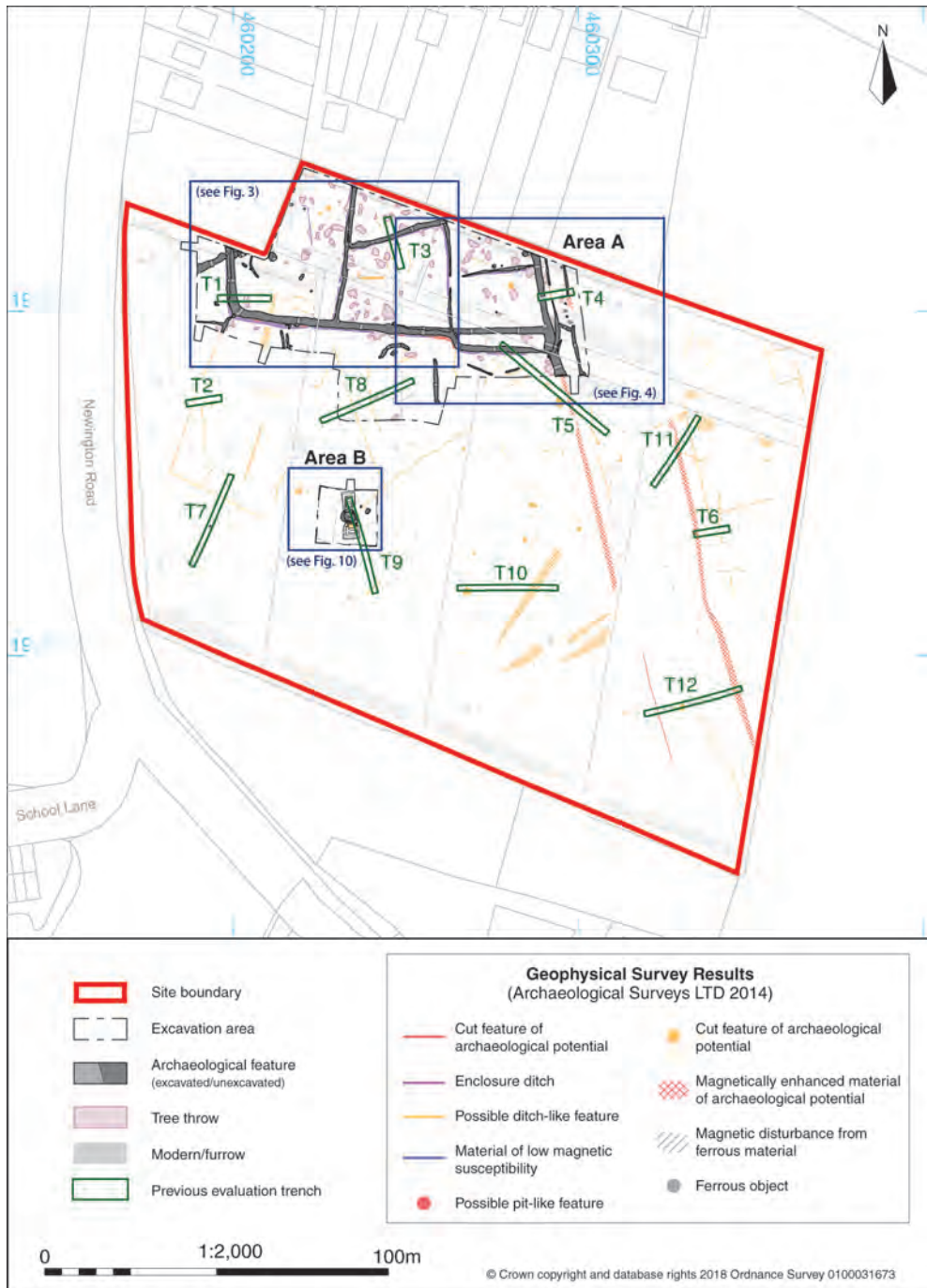


Fig. 2. The site, showing excavation areas A and B, and evaluation trenches (1:2,000).

middle Bronze-Age globular jar, from the same context, may also represent a phase of earlier activity.

### *Late Iron Age*

Excavation confirmed the results of geophysical survey and field evaluation, and identified the remains of an enclosed late Iron-Age settlement. The pottery assemblage is of early first-century AD date, and suggests a limited period of occupation of perhaps fifty years, or less. The material record and developmental sequence of the settlement are illustrative of cultural change and social identity within small rural communities during the decades prior to the Claudian conquest.

Evidence of increasingly complex internal organisation within the Newington Road settlement is typical of contemporary middle Thames sites, including Barton Court Farm, Abingdon, and Mount Farm, Berinsfield.<sup>19</sup> These are generally interpreted as self-contained, single farmsteads, or family holdings, which collectively reflect a vigorous phase of settlement and/or population expansion within the region.<sup>20</sup> Broadly comparable evidence was recorded at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt, where modest enclosure ditches delineated three similar settlement and farming units, including structural remains.<sup>21</sup> These, and other excavated examples, including Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, displayed evidence of considerable reorganisation during relatively short periods of occupation.<sup>22</sup> The developmental sequence at Newington Road is closely paralleled by a contemporary settlement at Bicester Fields Farm, Bicester, 20 km to the north, where a small rectilinear enclosure of later middle Iron-Age date was repeatedly enlarged and re-divided throughout the later Iron-Age period.<sup>23</sup> At Newington Road, traces of other, possibly earlier, enclosure or boundary ditches hint at the integration of the enclosed settlement within a wider developed landscape of settlement and field boundaries, such as appears to have been the case at Ireland's Land, Northmoor, Oxon.<sup>24</sup> Comparable evidence of reorganisation and increasing spatial complexity is also evident at Thornhill Farm, Fairford,<sup>25</sup> and Claydon Pike, Lechlade.<sup>26</sup> These sites, as here, appear to reflect a predominantly pastoral economy. The small quantities of ironworking residues recorded at Newington Road suggest limited economic reliance on this activity, as at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt.<sup>27</sup> Increasing economic specialisation at this time may be reflected in the formal demarcation of specific activity areas, in this case possibly including domestic space.

The limited faunal evidence at Newington Road precludes firm conclusions regarding the character of farming regimes, although bone assemblages from nearby contemporary

<sup>19</sup> D. Miles (ed.), *Archaeology at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon, Oxon*, Oxford, Oxford Archaeological Unit Report, 3 (1984); Lambrick, *Neolithic to Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm*, pp. 72–5, fig. 50.

<sup>20</sup> M. Henig and P. Booth, *Roman Oxfordshire* (2000), p. 20; J.D. Hill, 'The Dynamics of Social Change in Later Iron Age Eastern and South-Eastern England', in C. Haselgrove and T. Moore (eds.), *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond* (2007), pp. 23–4.

<sup>21</sup> T. G. Allen, 'Late Iron Age and Early Roman Occupation', in G. Lambrick and T. Allen, *Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt: The Development of a Prehistoric and Romano-British Community*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 21 (2004), pp. 161–4, figs. 4.1 and 4.2.

<sup>22</sup> G. Hey, 'Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake', *Oxoniensia*, 60 (1995), pp. 93–176.

<sup>23</sup> A.M. Cromarty, et al., 'The Excavation of a Late Iron-Age Enclosed Settlement at Bicester Fields Farm, Bicester, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, 64 (1999), p. 163, fig. 6.

<sup>24</sup> A. Norton, 'Excavations at Ireland's Land, Northmoor, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, 71 (2006), pp. 175–96.

<sup>25</sup> D. Jennings et al., *Thornhill Farm, Fairford, Gloucestershire. An Iron Age and Roman Pastoral Site in the Upper Thames Valley*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 23 (2004), pp. 30–5; G. Hey, 'Unravelling the Iron Age of the Upper Thames Valley', in Haselgrove and Moore (eds.), *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond*, pp. 166–9.

<sup>26</sup> D. Miles et al., *Iron Age and Roman Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley: Excavations at Claydon Pike and other Sites within the Cotswold Water Park, Oxford*, Thames Valley Monograph, 26 (2007), pp. 69–77.

<sup>27</sup> Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, p. 344.

sites suggest a reliance on pastoral husbandry within neighbouring low-lying areas across river floodplains and lower terraces.<sup>28</sup> Moderate evidence of charred cereal grains and crop processing waste might imply a mixed farming economy, although cereals could equally have been imported in varying stages of processing.<sup>29</sup>

The partly Romanised, definably pre-Conquest character of the pottery assemblage includes local copies of tableware platters and butt beakers.<sup>30</sup> In representing new approaches to eating and drinking within indigenous communities, these provide evidence of pre-Conquest acculturation.<sup>31</sup> However, with the exception of a single sherd of Catalan amphora, possibly representing secondary usage, the prevalence of locally produced fabrics and limited range of forms suggests a site of low status, and one with correspondingly restricted access to continental or regional imports.<sup>32</sup> A fragment of sandstone quern from Lodsworth, West Sussex, together with possible evidence of briquetage, might, however, indicate some integration with regional trade networks.<sup>33</sup> In common with surrounding contemporary settlements, this site is likely to have been economically and/or politically focussed on emerging late Iron-Age centres located at significant Thames confluences, both at Abingdon,<sup>34</sup> and Dorchester-on-Thames.<sup>35</sup> A number of commentators have identified the role of such centres along a significant socio-political border of the pre-Conquest period, with important implications for the distribution of material culture.<sup>36</sup> The coin of Cunobelin, from a Period 4 context, may be significant in this respect, and its securely stratified context, rare for such finds, further supports a pre-Conquest date for all phases on this site.

Booth has argued that, across the upper Thames valley, some, if not the greater majority, of wheel-made late Iron-Age pottery types date no earlier than a generation or so before the Claudian conquest.<sup>37</sup> This observation may further qualify an apparently limited period of occupation, which nevertheless encompassed considerable internal reorganisation. The conjectural roundhouse dwelling may be coeval with the settlement as a whole, although a general paucity of structural evidence within Area A could simply reflect changing techniques of circular building construction at this time.<sup>38</sup> While evidence of post-Conquest continuity is commonplace within the regional settlement record for this period,<sup>39</sup> such appears not to be the case here. Dating evidence is insufficiently precise to suggest any close association between

<sup>28</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 49–51.

<sup>29</sup> R. Kennedy and R. Massey, 'Bronze Age Activity and Roman Settlement at Abingdon Road, Drayton', *Oxoniensis*, 69 (2017), pp. 263–98.

<sup>30</sup> Possibly the products of a postulated fineware production centre in the Dorchester/Abingdon area: P. Booth et al., *The Thames Through Time: The Early Historical Period, AD 0–100*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 27 (2007), p. 304.

<sup>31</sup> V. Rigby, and I. Freestone, 'Ceramic Changes in Late Iron Age Britain', in I. Freestone and D. Gaimster (eds.), *Pottery in the Making* (1997), pp. 56–61; C. Haselgrove and T. Moore, 'New Narratives of the Later Iron Age', in Haselgrove and Moore (eds.), *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond*, pp. 10–11.

<sup>32</sup> J. Evans, 'Material Approaches to the Identification of Different Romano-British Site Types', in S. James and M. Millett (eds.), *Britons and Romans: Advancing an Archaeological Agenda*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report, 125 (2001), pp. 26–35.

<sup>33</sup> D.P.S. Peacock, 'Iron Age and Roman Quern production at Lodsworth, West Sussex', *Antiquaries Journal*, 67:1 (1987), pp. 61–87.

<sup>34</sup> T.G. Allen, 'An "Oppidum" at Abingdon, Oxfordshire', *SMidA*, 21 (1991), pp. 97–9.

<sup>35</sup> Lambrick, with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 363–4, fig. 9.21.

<sup>36</sup> Henig and Booth, Roman Oxfordshire, pp. 29–32; L. Sellwood, 'Tribal Boundaries Viewed from the Perspective of Numismatic Evidence', in B. Cunliffe and D. Miles (eds.), *Aspects of the Iron Age in Central-Southern Britain*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph, 2 (1984), pp. 191–204; I. Thompson, Grog-Tempered "Belgic" Pottery of South-Eastern England, Oxford, BAR BS, 108 (I–III) (1982), p. 20.

<sup>37</sup> Henig and Booth, Roman Oxfordshire, pp. 40–1.

<sup>38</sup> P. Booth, et al. *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 35–6.

<sup>39</sup> D. Jennings et al., *Thornhill Farm, Fairford, Gloucestershire. An Iron Age and Roman Pastoral Site in the Upper Thames Valley* (2004), pp. 30–58.

abandonment and the Claudian conquest,<sup>40</sup> although this may have been associated with local political or tenurial changes in the immediate aftermath.<sup>41</sup>

## STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

The second stage of evaluation followed that of 2014, and confirmed the presence of late Iron-Age enclosure boundaries.<sup>42</sup> Archaeological features were exposed in only two trenches.<sup>43</sup> A large pit, corresponding with a discrete geophysical anomaly, was partly revealed at the north-western end of Trench 9. This feature had been truncated by post-medieval/modern ploughing, although a second fill contained what appeared to be re-deposited Iron-Age pottery and animal bone. Evidence of medieval furrows, running on a broadly north-west-south-east alignment, was recorded in Trenches 8 and 12.

### *Site Phasing*

Beyond a small residual assemblage of worked flint, and two sherds of Bronze-Age pottery, archaeological activity was overwhelmingly of the late Iron-Age period, of c.50 BC to AD 50. Stratigraphical relationships between enclosure ditches enabled three distinct phases of late Iron-Age activity to be identified (Periods 2–4):

- Period 1: Earlier prehistoric (c.4,000 BC–700 BC);
- Period 2: Late Iron Age phase I (c.50 BC–AD 50);
- Period 3: Late Iron Age phase II (c.50 BC–AD 50);
- Period 4: Late Iron Age phase III (c.50BC–AD 50); and
- Period 5: Medieval (AD 1066–1539).

Periods 2–4 could only be distinguished stratigraphically, as the largely undifferentiated character of respective pottery assemblages did not permit closer dating. While allowance could be made for occupation persisting for perhaps a decade or so following the Conquest, material from the latest phase indicates that it did not significantly post-date this event.

Some features could not be definitively assigned to a period on the basis of stratigraphy or dateable material, and remained unphased. On the basis of spatial relationships, a number of these are plausibly of Period 2 or 3 date, while others may relate to an earlier phase of late prehistoric activity.

### *Superficial Geology*

Natural superficial geology across the site was of variable composition. In Area A, this comprised compact, orange/brown sands and gravels of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member, with alluvial clays further to the south-west. In Area B, further to the south, clays, silts and sands were encountered. Natural horizons were overlain by a subsoil of friable, mid-orange/brown sandy clay silt of 0.2–0.38 m depth, and subsequently by a topsoil, of mid-grey/brown silty sandy clay, which averaged 0.2–0.25 m in depth. Within the eastern half of Area A, two distinct subsoils were encountered. An orange/brown upper subsoil, probably representing a colluviated plough-soil, was identified at the foot of the south-eastern slope, facing the River Thames. Subsoils exhibited a maximum depth of 0.38 m, resulting in increases

<sup>40</sup> D. Mattingly, *An Imperial Possession. Britain in the Roman Empire* (2006), pp. 91–4.

<sup>41</sup> P. Booth et al., *The Thames Through Time*, p. 42.

<sup>42</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton: Results of Archaeological Trench Evaluation', unpublished AC report, ACW699/2/1 (2014).

<sup>43</sup> 'Land East of Newington Road, Stadhampton: Archaeological Evaluation', unpublished CA report, 14511 (2014).



in overall trench depth, from 0.4 m BGL in the west, to 0.93 m in the east. The topsoil is classified as a slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich, loamy and clayey soil. These factors are likely to have affected levels of bone survival within the site.<sup>44</sup>

#### *Area A (Figs. 2–8)*

##### *Period 2 – Late Iron-Age Phase I (50 BC–AD 50)*

The earliest dateable features recorded in Area A comprised four ditches, A1, A2, A10 and A20 (Figs. 3 and 4). Period 2 features represented isolated surviving elements of a rectilinear ditched enclosure, which were extensively recut and remodelled in subsequent phases (Table 1).

*Ditch A1* Ditch A1 comprised two elements, the most substantial of which, measuring 48 m in length, as excavated, partly defined the eastern limits of the enclosure (Figs. 3 and 4). It was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, and joined by an east-west-aligned element c.15 m north of the southern limits of Area A. At intervention 1031, Ditch A1 exhibited a width of 2.53 m and depth of 0.58 m, with steeply sloping sides and flat base, and displayed evidence of re-cutting. A lower fill, of grey/red clay sand, with charcoal, contained no finds. An upper fill, 1033, of mid-grey/brown clay sand, contained charcoal and late Iron-Age pottery.

Intervention 1097, at the junction with Ditch A7, displayed a width of 1.75 m, and a depth of 0.55 m, with rounded, concave sides and base (Figs. 3 and 7, section DD). Intervention 1135, on the east-west-aligned length of Ditch A1, displayed a width of 1.73 m and depth of 0.39 m, with moderately sloping sides and flat base. A single fill of grey/brown clay sand contained no dateable material. Terminal 1269, extending northward from the surviving length of Ditch A1 (Fig. 3), may represent a vestigial survival of an earlier, Period 2 internal ditch.

Ditch A1 represented the earliest phase of enclosure, which appeared to be of simple rectilinear form, and the dimensions of its eastern section suggest that this feature, along with parallel Ditch A10 to the east, may have been integrated with a substantial, north-south-aligned ditched boundary, or trackway, on that side. This is strongly supported by the north-west to south-east-aligned linear anomalies to the south-east of the enclosure, identified by geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Period 4 Ditch A21 may represent a blocking of this route. The integration of the Newington Road settlement with a wider network of ditched boundaries may offer some indication of its origins.

*Ditch A2* Ditch A2 was located at the western margins of the enclosed settlement, and represented a surviving length of Period 2 ditch, which had elsewhere been partly recut as Period 3 Ditch A3. Ditch A2 cut the earlier, but undated, hollow way A12 (Fig. 3), and was cut by pit 1303 at the point of intersection with the hollow way. Intervention 1139 displayed a width of 2.10 m and depth of 0.68 m, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained three fills (Fig. 5, section AA). These comprised a lower fill of grey-brown sandy silt, and upper fills respectively of grey-brown and yellow-brown silty gravel, all of which contained no dateable material. Fill 1299, of intersection 1297, contained late Iron-Age pottery and fired clay fragments.

*Ditch A10* Ditch A10 was located within the south-east of Area A, and clearly extended for an unknown distance beyond the excavation area. It was aligned broadly north-south, terminated to the north, and measured approximately 15 m in length (Fig. 4). It displayed a width of 0.85 m and a depth of 0.27 m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, and contained two fills containing late Iron-Age pottery. Ditch A10 shared the south-south-east to north-north-west alignment of Ditch A9, located 10 m to the north, and the 8 metre

<sup>44</sup> Cranfield University, Soilscape, Soil-Type Viewer (2019), [www.landis.org.uk/soilscape](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscape).

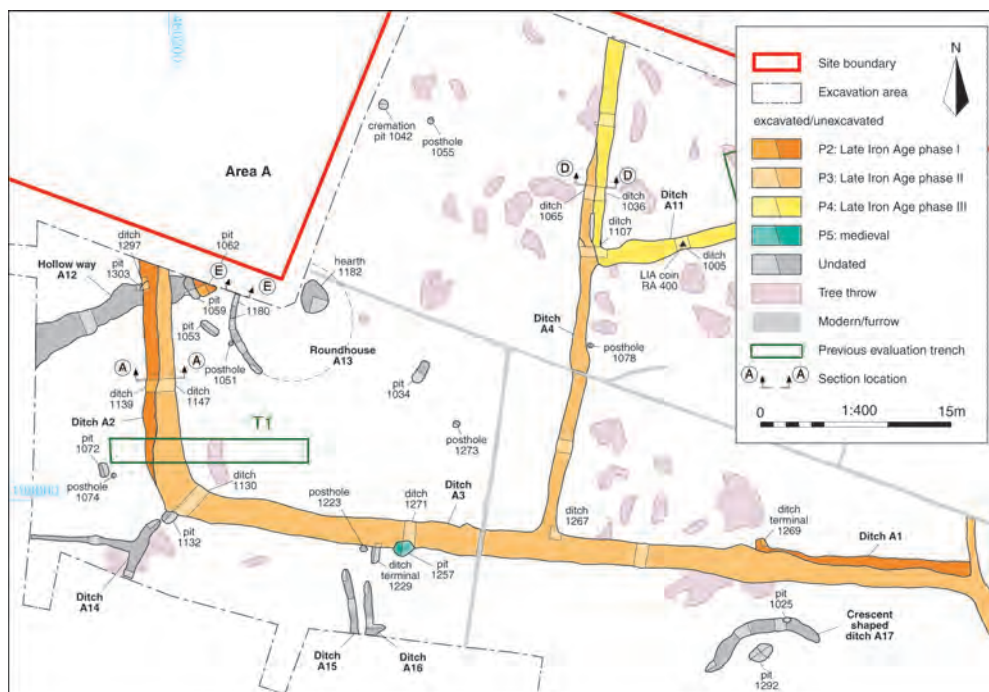


Fig. 3. Plan of excavated features in the western section of Area A (1:400).

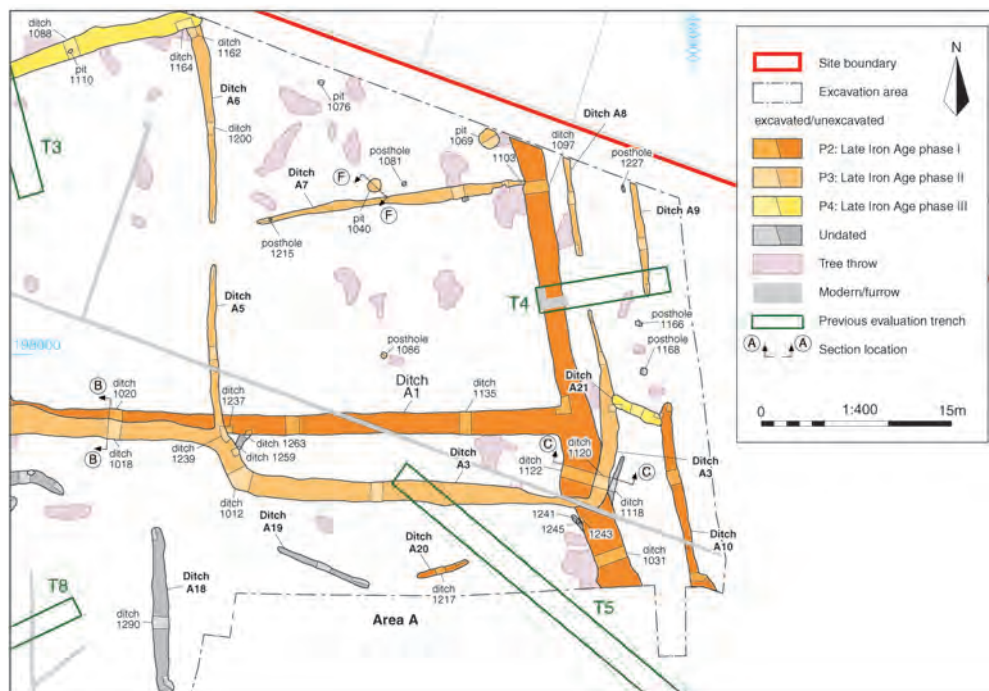


Fig. 4. Plan of excavated features in the eastern section of Area A (1:400).

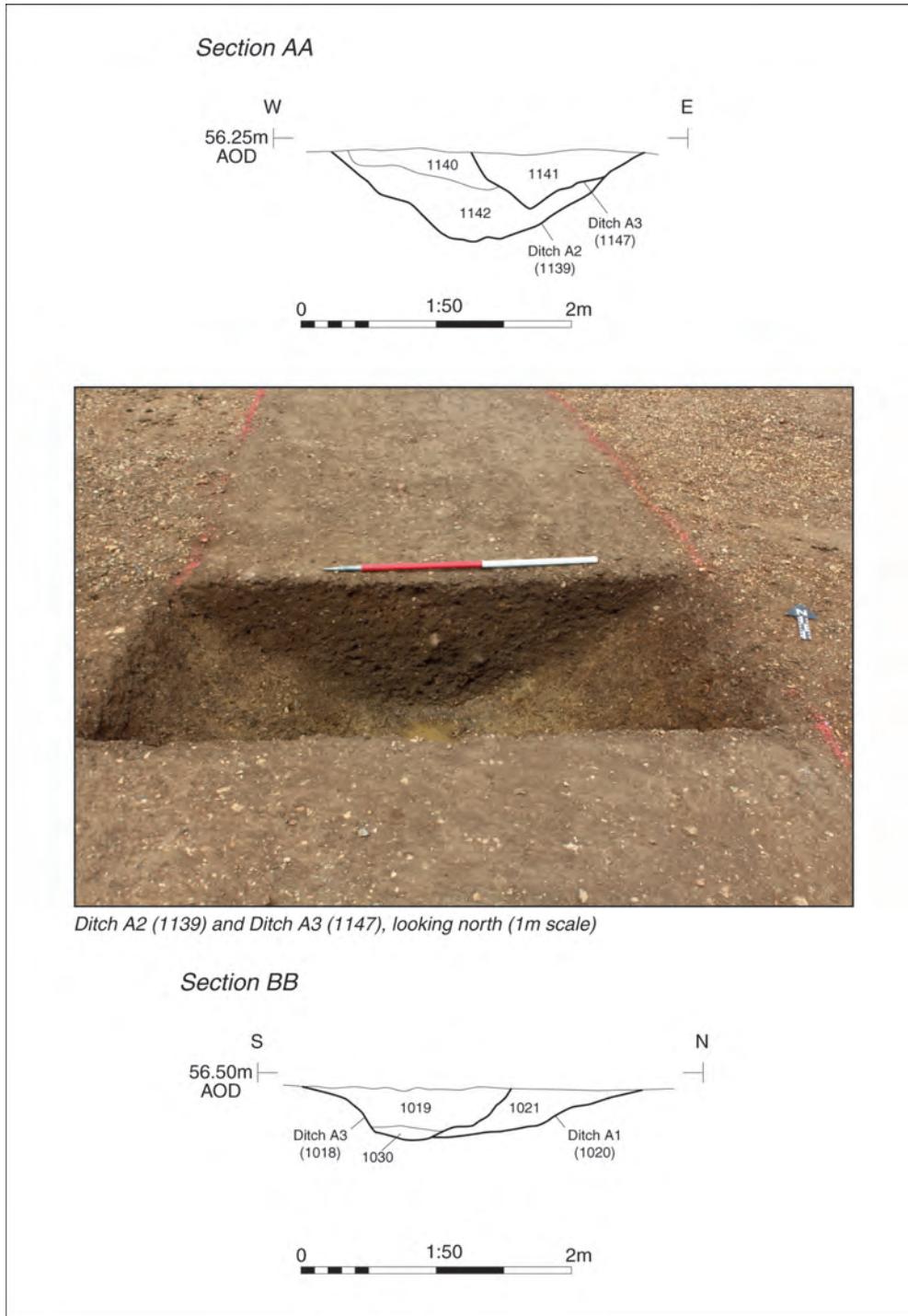


Fig. 5. Area A: south-facing sections (1:20), and photographs. of Ditch A1 (1020, section BB); Ditch A2 (1130) and Ditch A3 (1147, section AA) (1 metre scales).

interval between both features, together with paired postholes 1166 and 1168 (Fig. 4) appears to represent a formal entranceway. It is possible that Ditch A9, although a later feature, may represent a northward continuation of the suggested trackway formed to the south by Ditches A1 and A10 (see Fig. 2).

*Ditch A20* The short, discontinuous length of Ditch A20, located to the south of Ditch A3, and east of undated ditch A19, was aligned broadly north-east to south-west (Fig. 4). It measured 4 m in length, with a width of 0.3 m and a depth of 0.17 m, and terminated at either end. It displayed gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Late Iron-Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from a single fill. Ditch A20, and nearby undated ditch A19, displayed similarities of profile, and may have been contemporary.

#### *Period 3 – Late Iron Age Phase II (50 BC–AD 50)*

The second phase of recorded activity in Area A was represented by Ditches A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, and A9, together with pits/postholes 1069, 1040, 1086 and 1062 (Figs. 3 and 4; Table 2). The Period 3 ditches represented a more complex, subdivided site layout, partly involving the re-cutting of some Period 2 features, including Ditch A1 (Fig. 5, section CC). Many Period 3 features were distinguishable only by stratigraphic relationships, as pottery within their fills displayed little, if any, differentiation from that of Period 2 features. The internal subdivisions represented by Ditches A4, A5, A6 and A7 collectively represent a broadly rectilinear complex of adjoining enclosures, the most westerly of which, defined on the eastern side by ditch A4, contained possible roundhouse gully A13, and appeared to be domestic in character. Although it contained no dateable material, roundhouse gully A13 was possibly of Period 3 date. Other Period 3 ditches within the east of Area A, including A8 and A9, appear to represent an eastward modification of the enclosure complex, possibly in association with what appeared to be a formal gateway entrance on that side.

Ditch A3 represented the primary element of Period 3 reorganisation, and principally comprised an east–west length, which partly recut and replaced Ditch A1 (Figs. 3, 4 and 6, section CC). At intervention 1130, Ditch A3 contained two fills, of which the lower fill, of mid-grey sandy silt, contained pottery and animal bone. An upper fill, of dark-grey sandy silt, contained similar finds. Associated with this ditch were four, partly contiguous internal sub-divisions, ditches A4–8, whose broad north–south alignment was perpendicular to the principal east–west length of Ditch A3. These ditches also represent a partial recutting and reorganisation of the Period 2 layout, together with a slight extension of the enclosed area to the east, which involved the superimposing of ditches A3, A7 and A8 over the Period 2 Ditch A1. Period 3 changes also included the creation of a formal gateway into the enclosed settlement, defined by ditch A9 and paired postholes 1166 and 1168.

Ditch A5 occupied the same alignment as Ditch A6, to the north, from which it was separated by a distance of 3.5 m, presumably representing an original entranceway. Ditch A7 ran, on a broadly east–west alignment, for 18.5 m from Ditch A1, at its eastern end, which it slightly cut, and formed the northern boundary of an enclosed area otherwise defined by Ditches A3, A5 and possibly A8. Ditch A8 ran for 7.5 m, on a north–north–west to south–south–east alignment, from the northern edge of Area A, before terminating. This ditch ran directly parallel to the north–south element of the course of Ditch A1, 1.5 m, to the west, and on the same alignment as the easternmost, north–south-aligned element of Ditch A3 to the south, from which it was separated by an interval of 4 m. It therefore appeared to redefine the eastern edge of the enclosure complex, and was probably intended to replace the original eastern boundary represented by Ditch A1. Ditch A9 extended 8.7 m, on a north–north–west to south–south–east alignment, from the northern edge of Area A, and terminated to the south. It ran parallel to Ditches A8 and A1, to the west, and respectively 7 m and 9 m from them, and appeared to represent a Period 3 rearrangement of the eastern side of the enclosure complex.



Table 1. Area A: summary of Period 2 features

Feature	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Stratigraphic or Spatial relationship	Sides	Base	Alignment	Fills	Figure	Finds
Ditch A1	2.53	0.58	48	Ditch A2	Steep	Flat	NNW/SSE	2	3 and 4	Pottery
Ditch A2	2.10	0.68	14	Hollow way A12	Steep	Flat	N/S	3	4	Pottery & fired clay
Ditch A10	0.85	0.27	15	Ditch A9	Gradual	Concave	N/S	2	4	Pottery
Ditch A 20	0.3	0.17	4	–	Gradual	Concave	NE/SW	1	4	Pottery
Pit 1062	0.8	0.45	0.78	Ditch A3/hw A10	steep	convex	–	2	3	pottery

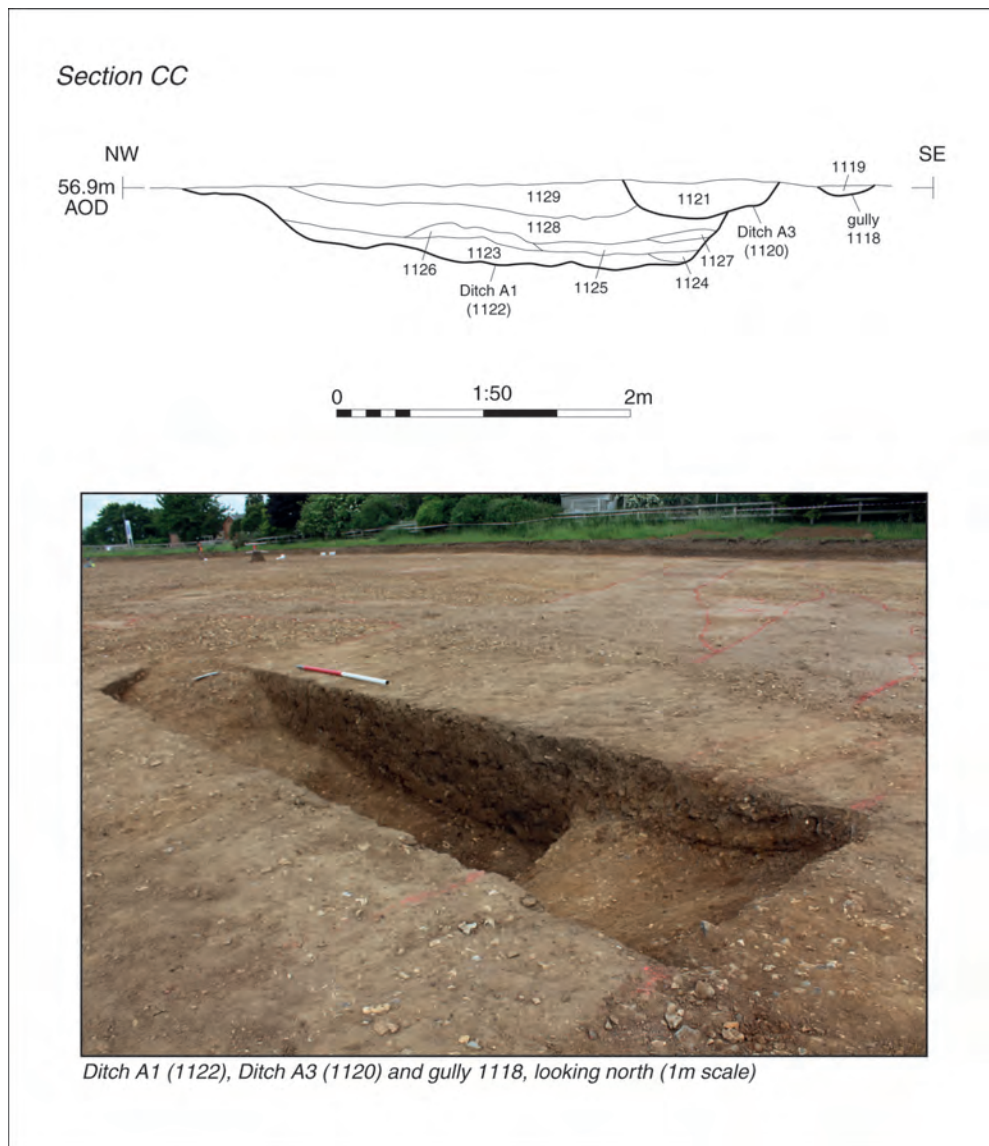


Fig. 6. Area A: south-west facing section CC (1:20), and photograph, of Ditch A1 (1122), Ditch A3 (1120) and gully 1118 (1 metre scale).

These Period 3 sub-divisions may not represent a single, coherent development. Intervention 1239 suggested that Ditch A5 was dug later than Ditch A3, whereas the junction at intervention 1267 indicated that Ditch A4 was dug at the same time as Ditch A3, and therefore comprised part of the original Period 3 layout (Figs. 3 and 4). A small number of Period 3 pits, including 1069, 1040 and 1062 (Figs. 3 and 4) contained charcoal-rich fills, including pottery and animal bone, and are likely to be associated with domestic refuse. However, the profile and surviving depth of pit 1069 suggested an original storage function. The principal Period 3 features are summarised in Table 2, below.

Table 2. Area A: summary of Period 3 features

Feature	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sides	Base	Dateable artefact	Strat'c Relat	Alignment
Ditch A3	2.7	0.67	Gradual	Flat	Pottery	A4	E/W
Ditch A4	0.93	0.41	Gentle	Flat	Pottery	A3 A11	N/S
Ditch A5	0.49	0.06	Rounded	Concave		A3, A6	N/S
Ditch A6	0.56	0.2	Moderate	Concave	Pottery		N/S
Ditch A7	1.0	0.13	Rounded	Flat	Pottery	A1	E/W
Ditch A8	0.44	0.14	Rounded	Flat			NNW/SSE
Ditch A9	0.63	0.14	Rounded	Concave	Pottery		NNW/SSE
Pit 1069	1.6	0.48	Steep	Irregular		1067	
Pit 1040	1.04	0.09	Shallow	Concave	Pottery	A7	
Pit 1062	0.8	0.45	Steep	Unexcav			
P'hole 1086	0.62	0.1	gradual	uneven			

#### Period 4 – Late Iron-Age Phase III (50 BC–AD 50)

Period 4 comprised the latest phase of late Iron-Age reorganisation, and was represented by only by 'L'-shaped Ditch A11 in the north of Area A, and by minor Ditch A21, which may have been a late modification of the eastern enclosure entrance or a blocking of the earlier trackway (Fig. 4; Table 3). Both arms of Ditch A11 extended beyond the northern edge of Area A, and cut two Period 3 ditches, A6 at the east, and A4 at the west (Figs. 3, 4 and 7, section DD). Intervention 1088 displayed a width of 1.55 m and depth of 0.82 m, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a sequence of five fills of yellow/grey silty sand, containing abundant pottery and animal bone, which suggested nearby domestic occupation, although no pits or structural features were apparent within the exposed area bounded by Ditch A11. A small pit or posthole, 1119, was recorded within the base of the eastern arm of Ditch A11. Fill 1004 of Ditch A11 contained 185 sherds of late Iron-Age pottery, and a late copper alloy issue of Cunobelin (RA 400). The stratified presence of this coin, in association with a pottery group of distinctly pre-Roman character, strongly suggested a pre-Conquest *terminus ante quem*.

The short, north-west to south-east aligned ditch A21 was 8.5 m in length, and terminated at Ditch A3 to the west and at Ditch A10 to the east, both of which it cut. It displayed a width of 0.81 m and depth of 0.41 m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill of red/brown clay, containing animal bone but no dateable finds. The location of ditch A21 suggests a late modification to the Period 3 enclosure entrance, presumably with continuing use of Period 3 enclosure boundaries.

#### Period 5 – Medieval (AD 1066–1539)

Pit 1257, located within the south-west of Area A, comprised the only evidence of post-Iron-Age activity (Fig. 3). It displayed a maximum diameter of 0.85 m and depth of 0.63 m, with steep sides and flat base. Of its two fills of grey/brown silty clay, which appeared to indicate rapid backfilling, the lower contained a sherd of green-glazed medieval ware.

#### Undated Features in Area A (Figs. 3 and 4)

Undated features are summarised in Table 2, below. These include the hollow way A12, cut by Period 2 Ditch A2, and Ditch A14, both of which may pre-date the late Iron-Age enclosed settlement. It is possible that Ditch A14, together with Ditch A15 and adjacent Ditch A16, posthole 1223 and ditch terminal 1229, comprise elements of an earlier enclosed settlement,

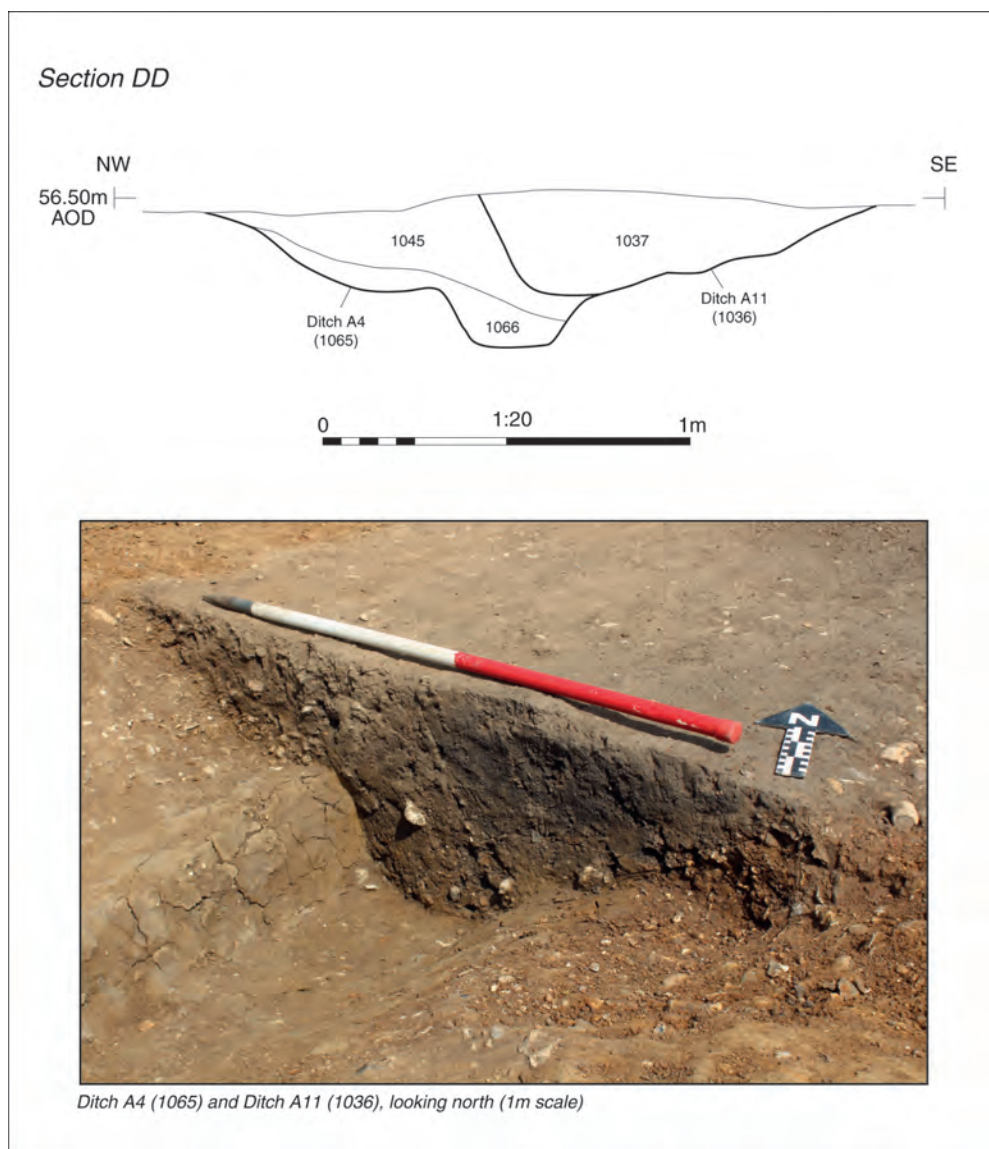


Fig. 7. Area A: south-west facing section DD (1:20), and photograph, of Ditch A4 (1065) and Ditch A11 (1 metre scale).

although this conjecture is unsupported by dateable evidence. Other undated ditches, including A18, A19, may represent associated field boundaries. The crescent-shaped Ditch A17, roundhouse gully A13, cremation pit 1042 and paired gateway settings A22 appear to relate to Periods 2–4, and are described in further detail, below. A number of isolated minor pit and posthole features are undated, although none represent coherent structural evidence. All undated features are summarised in Table 4, below:

*Hollow Way A12* Hollow way A12 was located towards the western margins of Area A. It was aligned north-east to south-west, and a length of 14 m was exposed. This feature displayed



Table 3. *Summary of Period 4 features*

Feature	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Stratigraphic or spatial relationship	Sides	Base	Alignment	Fills	Figure	Finds
Ditch A11	1.55	0.82	26	Ditches A6 and A4	Steep	Flat	NW/SE and SW/NE	1	3 and 4	Pottery and coin of Cunobelin
Ditch A21	0.81	0.41	8.5	Ditches A3 and A10	Gradual	concave	NW/SE	1	4	Pottery and animal bone

Table 4. Area A: summary of undated features

Feature	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Stratigraphic or Spatial Association	Sides	Base	Alignment	Fills	Fig.	Material In fill
<b>Uncategorised</b>										
Hollow way A12	2.0	0.43	14.0	Ditch A1 and pit 1059	Steep	Uneven	NE/SW	2	2	
Ring gully A13	0.52	0.2	8.5	Pit (hearth) 1182, ph 1051	U-profile	Concave	N/S	2	2	Daub, charcoal
Crescent-shaped										
Ditch A17	0.83	0.27	11.0	Pits 1292, 1025	Gradual	Concave	SW/NE	1	2	
Cremation pit 1042/1048	0.7	0.3		?posthole 1055	steep	flat		2	2	Crem. Bone charcoal
<b>Ditches</b>										
Ditch A14	0.71	0.24	13.2	Pit 1132	Gradual	Flat	E/W & NE/SW	1	2	
Ditch A15	0.65	0.08	4.5	Ditch A16/posthole 1223	Gradual	Concave	N/S	1	2	
Ditch A18	0.82	0.15	13.5		Gradual	Concave	N/S	1	3	
Ditch A19	0.44	0.12	8.0	Ditch A20	Gradual	Concave	NW/SE	1	3	
Ditch 1118	0.38	0.06	3.5	Ditch A1	Gradual	Concave	NE/SW	1	3, 5	
Ditch 1241	0.5	0.15	1.5	Ditch A1/posthole 1215	Gradual	Concave	NW/SE	1	3	
Ditch 1259/1263	0.75	0.27	1.5	Ditches A1 and A3	Gradual	Flat	NE/SW	1	3	
Ditch terminal 1229	0.7	0.14	1.39	Ditch A3 / posthole 1223	Gradual	Concave	N/S	1	2	
<b>Pits</b>										
Pit 1034	0.8	0.16	2.0	Roundhouse gully A13	Gradual	Concave	.	1	2	Animal bone
Pit 1182 (hearth)	2.5	0.11		Roundhouse gully A13	Steep	Irregular		1	2	Burnt material
Pit 1053	0.7	0.12	1.75	? 1051	Gradual	Concave		1	2	
Pit 1132	1.48	0.26		1168	Gradual	Flat	NW/SE	1	2	
Pit 1059	0.72	0.4		Hollow way A 12, pit 1062	Gradual	Concave		2	2	
Pit 1072	0.7	0.12	1.15	Posthole 1074	Gradual	Flat		1	2	
Pit 1303	0.6	Unexcav		Hollow way A12/ditch A2	Gradual	Unexcav		1	2	Worked flint
Pit 1292	1.2	0.26	1.73	Crescent-shaped ditch A17	Gradual	Flat	NE/SW	1	2	
Pit 1076	0.48	0.48	0.05	-	Gradual	flat		1	3	
<b>Postholes</b>										
Posthole 1051	0.41	0.06		? 1053/roundhouse A13	Gradual	Concave		1	2	
Posthole 1055	0.45	0.08			Gradual	Concave		1	2	
Posthole 1223	0.5	0.12		Ditch terminal 1229	Gradual	Flat		1	2	
Posthole 1078	0.3	0.12			Gradual	Flat		1	2	
Posthole 1074	0.4	0.12		Pit 1072	Gradual	Concave		1	2	
Posthole 1076	0.48	0.05			Gradual	Uneven		1	3	Ironworking residue
Posthole 1081	0.37	0.05			Gradual	Concave		1	3	
Posthole 1166	0.45	0.05		Posthole 1168	Gradual	Flat		1	3	
Posthole 1168	0.6	0.11		Posthole 1166	Gradual	Flat		1	3	
Posthole 1273	0.5	0.14			Gradual	Flat		1	2	
Posthole 1227	0.25	0.11	0.67		steep	flat	N/S	1	3	

a width of 2 m, and depth of 0.43 m, with gradual to steeply sloping, irregular sides and an uneven base, and contained up to two secondary fills (Fig. 4). It was cut by Period 2 Ditch A1 and pit 1059, and may represent an earlier prehistoric feature.

*Ring Gully A13* The partial arc of ring gully A13 may represent the incomplete remains of a circular-plan structure (Roundhouse A13), within the enclosed space defined by Ditches A3 and A4 (Figs. 3, and 8, section EE). In plan, the ring gully described an approximate quarter-circle, with a projected internal diameter of 10 m. It displayed a 'U'-shaped profile, with widths ranging from 0.28 m to 0.52 m, and depths of between 0.15 m and 0.2 m. The grey-brown silty clay fill contained burnt flint, but no dateable material. Such gullies are commonly interpreted as 'drip trenches',<sup>45</sup> although the depth and profile of this feature could represent a simple construction slot (Fig. 8). No evidence for re-cutting of the gully was identified. It was not possible to extend the trench to define the northern limits of this feature, and the lack of supporting posthole evidence precludes any firm interpretation. In this case, an absence of occupational evidence and cultural material might suggest an animal pen or workshop structure, rather than a roundhouse dwelling.<sup>46</sup>

*Crescent-Shaped Ditch A17* Crescent-shaped Ditch A17 was located to the south of Area A, and formed a south-facing arc, which partly encompassed pit 1292 (Fig. 3). This feature measured 9 m in length, and terminated at its east and west limits. Ditch A17 displayed a width of 0.83 m and a depth of 0.27 m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, and a single fill of yellow-brown silty sand. Two crescent-shaped ditches of similar form and dimensions, associated with late Iron-Age cremation burials, were recorded at Winchester Road, Basingstoke, and offer a possible parallel, although neither focal pit 1292, nor pit 1025, cut into the fill of the crescent-shaped ditch, contained a cremation-related deposit.<sup>47</sup> It is possible that Ditch A17 may represent a windbreak of some kind, possibly associated with industrial activity.<sup>48</sup> Pit 1292 was located centrally, within the projected arc of the crescent-shaped ditch, and contained a single fill of grey/brown sandy silt (Fig. 3). Both features are probably associated and contemporary.

*Cremation Pit 1042* Cremation pit 1042 was circular in plan, and located in the north-west of Area A, and c.14 m to the north-east of roundhouse A13 (Figs. 3 and 9, section FF). The pit measured 0.7 m in diameter and 0.3 m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained two charcoal-rich fills, with an unurned deposit of cremated bone representing an adult individual. Burnt bird and animal bone was also present within this deposit. The occurrence of a cremation burial within an enclosed settlement is uncommon within the upper Thames valley, but is closely paralleled at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt.<sup>49</sup>

*Feature 1182* The interior of ring gully A13 displayed an absence of structural evidence. A shallow, sub-oval feature, 1182, recorded within the projected limits of the postulated roundhouse (Fig. 3), measured up to 2.6 m in diameter, with a depth of 0.11 m. A function as a hearth was suggested by a fill of fire-affected, red-brown sandy silt.

<sup>45</sup> D.W. Harding, *The Iron Age Round-House: Later Prehistoric Building in Britain and Beyond* (2009), pp. 76–81.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. p. 68; B.W. Cunliffe, *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (2005), pp. 271–3.

<sup>47</sup> M. Nichol and R. Massey, 'Iron Age and Roman Occupation at Winchester Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire', forthcoming.

<sup>48</sup> G. Lambrick and M. Robinson, *Iron Age and Roman Riverside Settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and Council for British Archaeology Research Report, 32 (1979), pp. 21 (fig. 11), 24 (fig. 13).

<sup>49</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 309–10, 316–17; Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, p. 232.

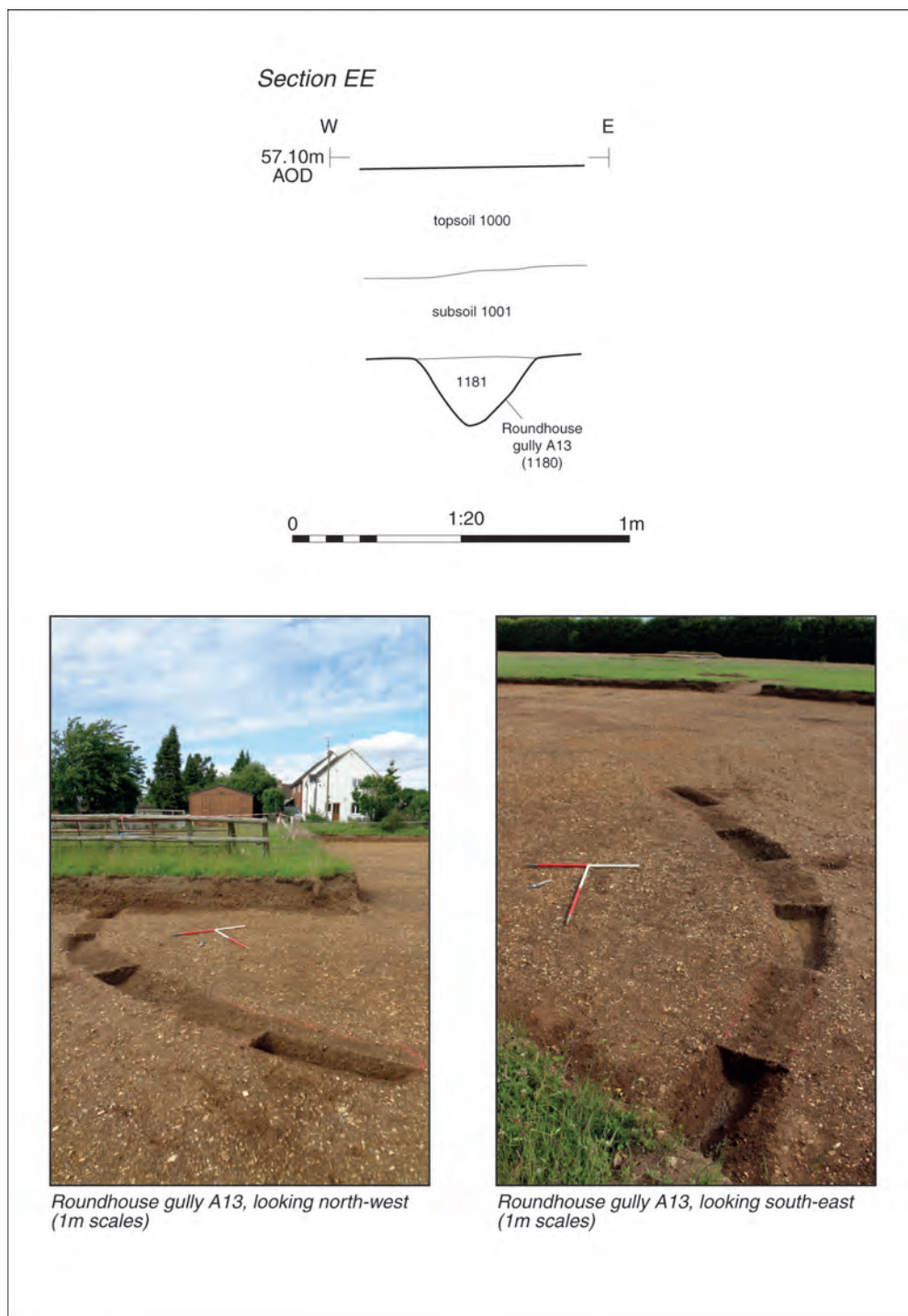


Fig. 8. Area A: south-facing section EE (1:20), and photographs, of roundhouse gully A13 (1 metre scales).



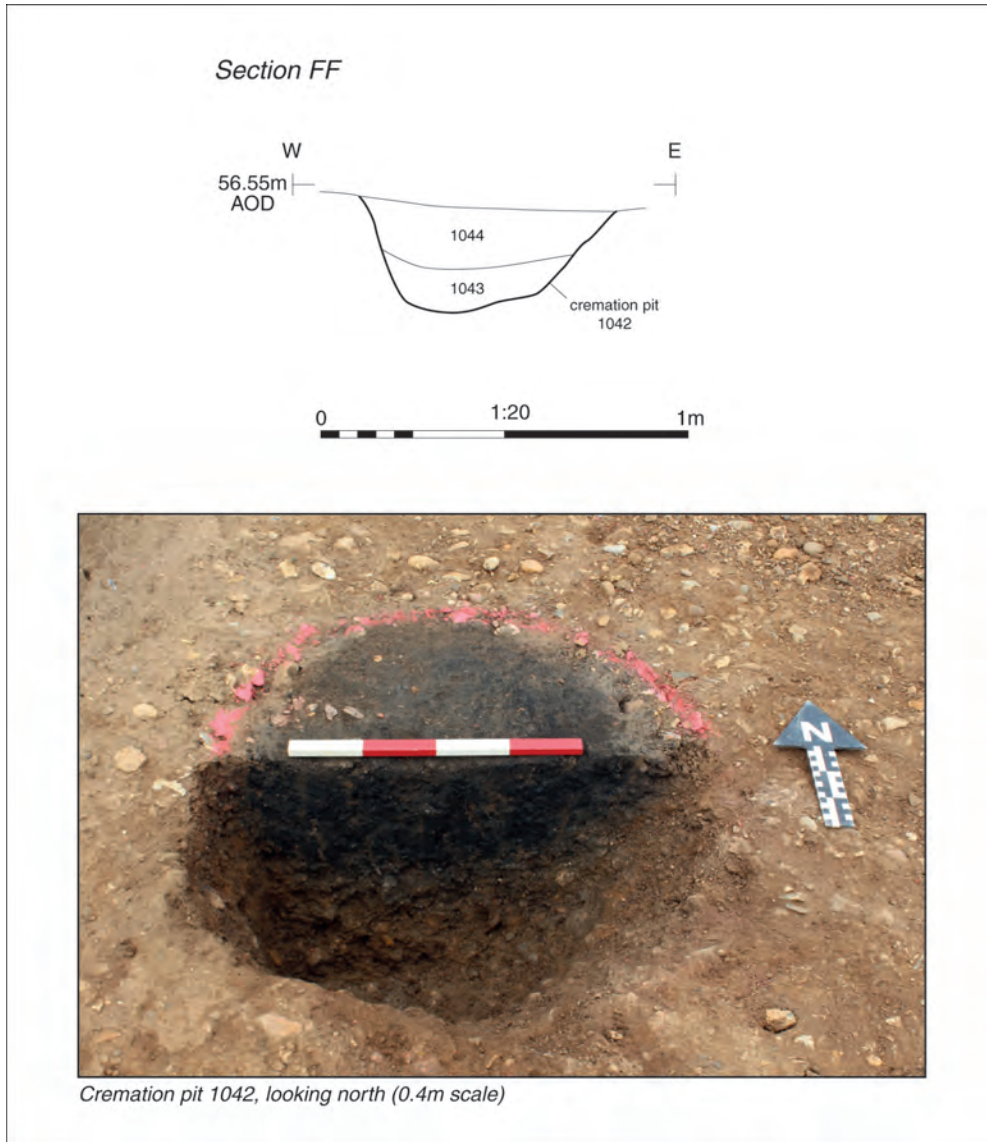


Fig. 9. Area A: south-facing section FF (1:20), and photograph, of cremation pit 1042/1048 (0.4 metre scale).

## AREA B

### *Periods 2–4 – Late Iron Age (50 BC–AD 50)*

The earliest feature recorded in Area B was a large pit, 2007 (Figs 2, 10, and 11, section GG). Pit 2007 was irregularly sub-circular in plan, and located centrally within Area B. The pit measured 3.77 m north-west to south-east, and 3.15 m north-east to south-west, with a depth of up to 1.1 m BGL. It displayed gradual to steeply sloping sides, with a stepped, flat base in two locations, and contained a sequence of four, charcoal-rich fills of clay silt (Fig. 11, section GG). This feature was recut by pit 2010. The north and south quadrants of Pit 2007 were excavated

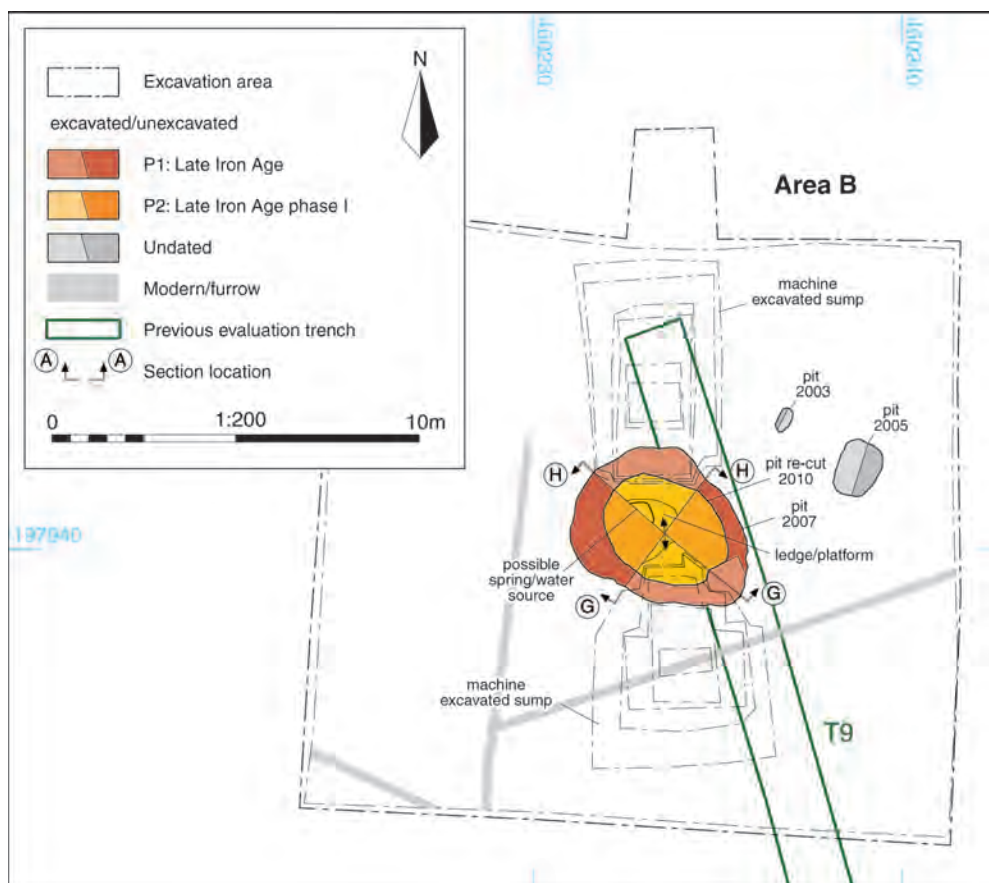


Fig. 10. Plan of excavated features in Area B (1:200).

by hand, while the eastern and western quadrants remained unexcavated. Individual contexts which were seen to extend into one or more of the four quadrants were assigned separate context numbers for each quadrant, and correspondences between comparable contexts in adjoining quadrants are given in each case. Two substantial sumps were also machine-excavated into the natural geology, 2002, to the north and south of the pit, to safely manage the high groundwater table (Figs. 10 and 11).

The same sequence of fills was evident in each of the recorded quadrant sections, indicating comparable backfilling activity across pit 2007. The earliest of four tertiary fills was respectively represented by contexts 2035, 2036, 2039 and 2040, with a second fill by 2038, 2029, 2030 and 2031, all of which were associated with late Iron-Age pottery. A third dark, clay silt fill (2027, 2028, 2032 and 2037) was covered by a final dumped deposit (2020, 2008, 2009 and 2024) (Fig. 11, section GG; Fig. 12, section HH). Fill 2020 indicated a final phase of natural weathering and abandonment, before the later, re-cut pit 2010, representing a Period 4 phase of activity. It is difficult to ascertain the reasons for this backfilling, which appears to have been re-cut after a relatively short period.

At the base of pit 2007, and located slightly off-centre within its northern quadrant, a water-source was identified (Fig. 12, section HH). Groundwater was observed to percolate through the natural geology in this location, after existing water levels had been drained. This natural spring appears to have filled pit 2007 (Fig. 11), and thus provided a water source for

the adjacent settlement. Unlike a number of excavated regional examples of later prehistoric waterholes, no trace of a timber or wicker lining, or ramped access, was apparent in pit 2007.<sup>50</sup> The samples recovered from fills 2026 and 2026, of pit 2007, contained charcoal fragments but no charred plant remains, and suggested that these fills represent dumped industrial or agricultural debris, rather than domestic waste.

Relatively few waterholes of Iron-Age date have been investigated in the Thames valley, although that at Watkins Farm, Northmoor had a similarly close relationship to settlement, and was radiocarbon-dated to 390–330 cal BC.<sup>51</sup> A further, ramped example, comprising a more extensive and heavily recut sequence of contemporary waterholes, at Mount Farm, Berinsfield, was similarly sited to exploit a natural spring or perched water table.<sup>52</sup> Given the context, and evidence from a number of contemporary examples, it is perhaps surprising that no evidence of ritual observance was recorded within pit 2007.<sup>53</sup>

#### *Pit 2010*

A second phase of activity within Area B was represented by pit 2010, which was broadly oval in plan, and aligned north-west to south-east (Fig. 10; 11, section GG; Fig. 12, section HH). This was cut, in concentric fashion, within the fills of pit 2007. It measured 3.05 m north-west–south-east, 2.6 m north-east–south-west, with a depth of up to 0.62 m, and displayed gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The north and south quadrants of this feature were hand-excavated, and the east and west quadrants remained unexcavated, but were recorded in exposed section.

The north quadrant of pit 2010 contained a sequence of three charcoal-rich fills, 2019, 2018 and 2017, all representing dumped deposits (Fig. 12, section HH). Late Iron-Age pottery was recovered from fill 2018. These fills corresponded closely with the sequence recorded in other quadrants.

#### *Undated features in Area B*

Of two undated features in Area B (Fig. 10), pit 2003 was sub-oval in plan, and measured 0.7 m in length, and 0.4 m in width, with a depth of 0.15 m and an irregular profile. It contained a single fill of red/brown sandy clay. Pit 2005 was sub-oval in plan, and measured 1.48 m in length and 1.18 m in width, with a depth of 0.4 m. It displayed gradually sloping sides and an even base, and contained a single fill of grey/brown sandy clay. These two pits may have been contemporary, although their date and function were not confirmed.

### FLINT by JACKY SOMMERVILLE

A total of 70 items of worked flint (888 g), and 34 pieces (567 g) of burnt, unworked flint, were recorded from 49 separate deposits. Of the 49 flints assessed, cortex was chalky on 14 items and abraded on 33, indicating the exploitation of both primary (chalk) and secondary (river gravel) sources. Possible sources include the Upper Chalk of the Berkshire Downs or the Chilterns, or the Chiltern outwash gravels, although the latter is of notably poorer quality.<sup>54</sup> Limited evidence for the reworking of items knapped in an earlier period was demonstrated

<sup>50</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 267–71, fig. 7.15.

<sup>51</sup> T.G. Allen, *An Iron Age and Romano-British Enclosed Settlement at Watkins Farm, Northmoor, Oxon.*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph: The Windrush Valley, 1 (1990), p. 14, fig. 3.

<sup>52</sup> G. Lambrick, *Neolithic to Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm*, pp. 34–6, fig. 24.

<sup>53</sup> J. Webster, 'Sanctuaries and Sacred Places', in M.J. Green (ed.), *The Celtic World* (1995), pp. 449–50; Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 270–1.

<sup>54</sup> M. Avery, 'The Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure, Abingdon', in H.J. Case and A.W.R. Whittle, *Settlement Patterns in the Oxford Region: Excavations at the Abingdon Causewayed Enclosure and Other Sites*, CBA Research Report, 44 (1982), p. 35.



Fig. 11. Area B: section (1:20), and photograph, of pits B1 (south quadrant); pit 2007 and pit 2010 (1 metre scales).



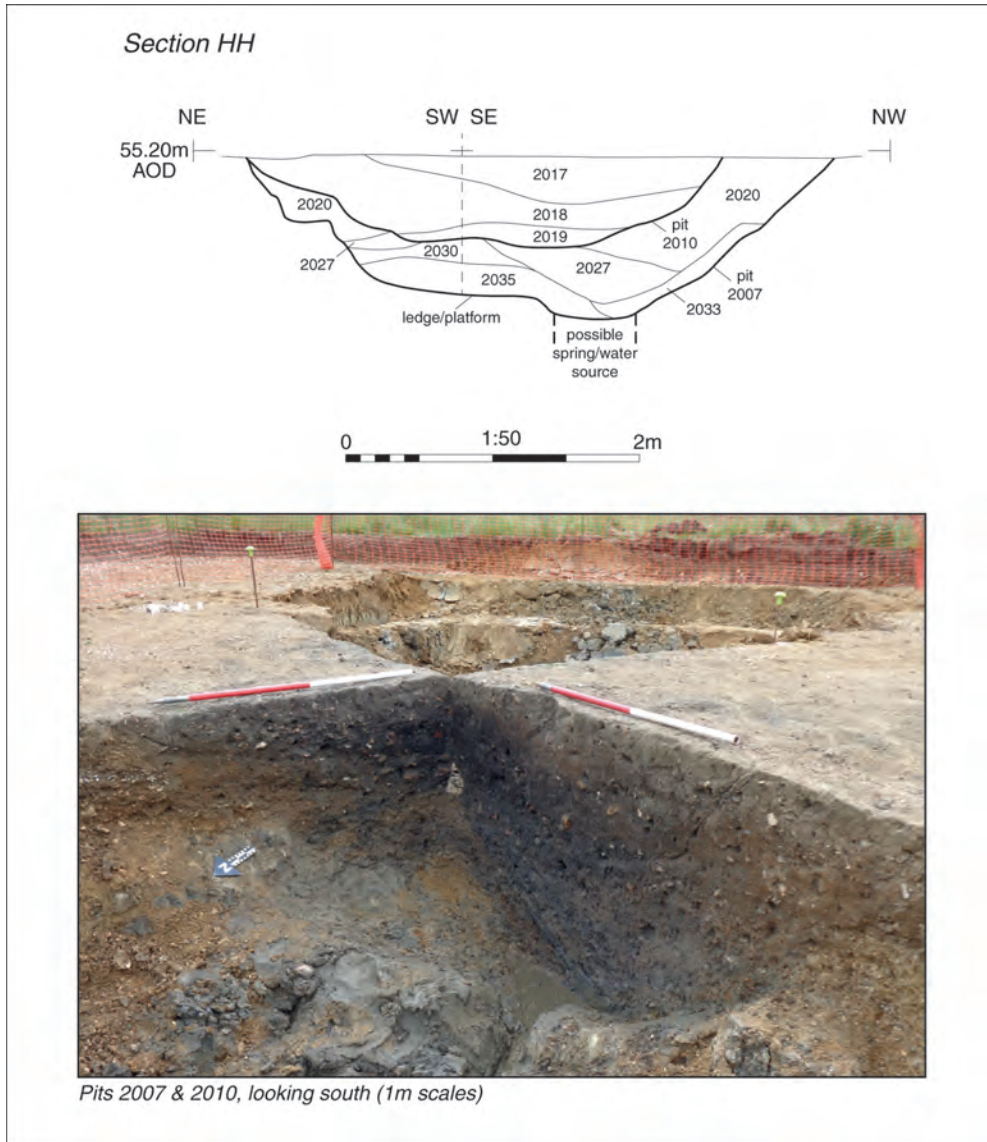


Fig. 12. Area B: south-west and south-east facing section GG (1:20), and photograph, of pit 2007 (north quadrant) and pit 2010 (1 metre scales).

by two items (3 per cent), with working partially removing previously recorticated (and worked) surfaces.

#### *Provenance and Condition*

Most worked flints (69 per cent) were recorded from ditches or pits (13 per cent), with small numbers of each from fills of a structural cut, a cremation, a posthole, and natural deposits. All flint-producing deposits dated by associated pottery (61 per cent of the assemblage), are of Late Iron Age date, and all lithics are therefore redeposited. Context groups are small, with only two deposits producing more than five flints – Period 1 Ditch A1 and Period 2 Ditch A3.

The condition of the lithics is variable, with moderate to heavy rolling and/or edge damage recorded on almost 60 per cent of items. Fourteen items are broken, and two worked flints have been burnt.

#### *Range and Variety*

Debitage consists mostly of flakes, but also includes three blades. One blade, and four flakes, had been removed using a 'soft' hammer, which is a feature of Mesolithic/early Neolithic flintworking. The flakes can only be assigned to a broad prehistoric date. The ten cores comprise six single-platform, one dual-platform and three multi-platform types. All were used for the production of flakes, and four had only one or two flakes removed from them. None had been systematically worked, and the overall impression is of an ad hoc knapping method, characteristic of the late Neolithic or Bronze-Age periods. None of the seven tools is an inherently diagnostic type.

### THE POTTERY by GRACE PERPETUA JONES

A total of 710 sherds of pottery (11,442 g) was recovered, almost all from hand excavation, with just one sherd (2 g) from bulk soil samples. With the exception of one beaker sherd, and one of possible middle Bronze-Age date, the assemblage is of late Iron-Age date. The pottery is in moderate condition, with an average sherd weight of 16.1 g. The surfaces of the harder-fired sandy wares have fared rather better than the softer, grog-tempered wares. The pottery has been fully recorded, according to the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group.<sup>55</sup> Each sherd, or group of related sherds, has been assigned a pottery record number (PRN), and details of fabric, form, rim diameter, surface treatment and decoration have been recorded to the project Access database.

#### *Early Prehistoric*

A single, abraded sherd of comb-decorated beaker pottery, in a fabric with sparse detrital flint (F3, 6 g, PRN 188), was residual in Ditch A20 (intervention 1217). A rounded, undifferentiated rim in a very fine, flint-tempered fabric, possibly from a middle Bronze-Age globular jar, was also recovered from this fill.

#### *Late Iron-Age*

*Fabrics* Grog-tempered wares dominate the assemblage (67.7 per cent by count, 67.1 per cent by weight), with grog and quartz or flint mixtures also present (10.7 per cent by count, 9.3 per cent by weight). Other fabrics include sandy wares (13.8 per cent, 18 per cent), flint-tempered wares (5.6 per cent, 4.2 per cent) and calcareous fabrics (2 per cent, 0.9 per cent). These are typical 'Belgic-type' wares, the date of their earliest use in this region is not clearly defined, but the range of fabrics present here is likely to represent activity during the early first century AD.<sup>56</sup> It was not possible to ascertain the manufacturing techniques for all sherds, due to abrasion of the vessel surfaces, but both handmade and wheel-thrown vessels are present. Single sherds occur in a Romanised fine greyware and a Catalan amphora fabric. The latter is a relatively thin-walled body sherd, suggestive of a Dressel 2–4 form, rather than a Dressel 1 – a wine amphora imported from the late 1st-century BC (Peacock and Williams' type 105, Class 10).<sup>57</sup> A Dressel 2–4 amphora sherd has also been identified

<sup>55</sup> Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, Occasional Paper, 1 and 2 (2010).

<sup>56</sup> P. Booth, 'Iron Age and Roman Pottery', in A. Simmonds et al., 'Excavations at Tubney Wood Quarry, Oxfordshire, 2001–9', *Oxoniensia*, 76 (2011), pp. 148–64.

<sup>57</sup> D.P.S. Peacock and D.F. Williams, *Amphorae and the Roman Economy* (1986).

Table 5. Quantification of fabrics, by number and weight

Fabric group/fabric type	Number	Weight (g)
<b>Beaker</b>		
F3	1	6
<b>Middle Bronze Age</b>		
F5	1	5
<b>Late Iron Age</b>		
<b><i>Grog-tempered wares</i></b>	<b>481</b>	<b>7679</b>
G1	348	4756
G2	95	1589
G3	12	878
G4	23	432
G99	3	24
<b><i>Grog and quartz tempered</i></b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1035</b>
GQ1	19	368
GQ2	50	650
GQ3	3	13
QG2	1	4
<b><i>Grog and flint tempered</i></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>
GF1	3	34
<b><i>Sandy wares</i></b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2065</b>
Q1	24	761
Q2	17	408
Q3	43	668
Q4	9	202
Q5	1	2
Q99	3	4
<b><i>Flint-tempered wares</i></b>	<b>40</b>	<b>485</b>
F1	23	265
F2	11	181
F4	4	28
<b><i>Calcareous-gritted wares</i></b>	<b>14</b>	<b>98</b>
S1	3	26
V1	11	72
<b><i>Romanised wares</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>
Amphora (Dressel 2-4)	1	46
Q100	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>11442</b>

from Old Shifford Farm, Standlake, in a context dating from the first half of the first century AD.<sup>58</sup>

The fabrics are quantified in Table 5, above. Note that in view of the relatively small pottery groups involved, and the generally homogenous composition of fabrics between the three late Iron Age phases, Table 5 is presented on a whole-assemblage basis.

<sup>58</sup> J. Timby, 'Pottery', in G. Hey, 'Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake', *Oxoniensia*, 60 (1995), pp. 124–36.

*Forms* The forms are dominated by necked jar/bowl types. These include examples decorated with cordons, in wide-mouthed (R1, R5, R16) and narrow-mouthed (R17) forms; one decorated with curved, combed lines on the shoulder (R4); one with lattice decoration below a cordon (R13), and plain types (R6, R8, R10). Other forms include bead-rimmed jars (R7, R22), everted-rim jars (R18), a large everted-rim jar (R9), a jar with high, rounded shoulder and lid-seated rim (R2), jars with lid-seated rim and shoulder cordon (R12), butt-beakers (R15, R21), a platter (R11) and two lids (R14 and R20). Decoration was noted on the above-mentioned necked vessels, but also on a lid-seated jar (R2), with burnished vertical chevrons below a horizontal shoulder groove; a lid-seated bead-rim jar with slashed, impressed decoration on the outer, upper rim edge (R22); and a butt-beaker (R15), decorated with diagonal combing in two directions, creating a lattice effect, below a horizontal groove. This range of forms is encompassed by the 'Belgic' ceramic tradition, found on late Iron-Age sites across the south-east, the upper Thames valley and into the Cotswold region, including examples from Ashville, Abingdon (Parrington's forms E: necked bowls, F: butt-beaker and G: bead-rimmed jar);<sup>59</sup> Barton Court Farm, Abingdon,<sup>60</sup> Oxford Road, Bicester,<sup>61</sup> Mount Farm, Berinsfield<sup>62</sup> and slightly further afield, at Old Shifford Farm, Standlake.<sup>63</sup> Although the lattice decorative motif is often associated with Black Burnished ware vessels and imitations thereof, of second- to third-century date, it is also noted amongst late Iron-Age assemblages from the region, including Ashville.<sup>64</sup>

At least five vessels have post-firing perforations through their base, but, more unusually, two sherds have multiple small perforations through their walls that appear to have been made prior to firing. Unfortunately, the form of the vessels from which they derived is unknown (PRN 187, context 1037, intervention 1005, Ditch A11; PRN 127, context 1138, intervention 1164, Ditch A11). One has faint grooves which may have acted as guide-lines for the laying out of the holes. Several vessels had fire-clouded surfaces, and one was burnt or overfired, but there was no other evidence to suggest these represented firing failures. Surface treatments recorded include burnishing (15 records), smoothing (three records) and wiping or scoring (13 records). Three vessels have burnt residues on their internal surfaces, and five have external sooting.

*Context of Recovery* The great majority of the assemblage was recovered from ditches, with only 8.7 per cent of the assemblage by count, or 7.6 per cent by weight, retrieved from pits and <0.1 per cent from a single posthole (Table 4). The largest group derives from 11 interventions through Ditch A3, particularly slots 1012 and 1018. It includes eight wide-mouthed, necked jar/bowls, in grog-tempered fabrics (PRNs 28, 29, 43, 98, 142, 150) and sandy wares (PRN 141, 208); two have sooting on their external surfaces (PRN 28, Fig.12.07 and PRN 29, Fig.13.08), suggesting a role in cooking. Other forms include a bead-rimmed jar (R7, PRN 30, Fig. 13.6), a large jar with everted rim, probably used for storage (R9, PRN 210), a smaller everted rim jar (R18, PRN 100), a platter with smoothed surfaces (R11, PRN 31, Fig. 12.9, tempered with multi-coloured grog [grey, black, red]), and two lids (R14, PRN 149; R20, PRN 193). Amongst the base fragments are three which appear to have post-firing perforations (PRNs 35, 38, 48), one of which has vertical and diagonal impressions on the exterior, possibly combed, and

<sup>59</sup> C.D. De Roche, 'The Iron Age Pottery', in M. Parrington, *The Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement, Bronze Age Ring-Ditches and Roman Features at Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon (Oxfordshire) 1974-76*, Oxford Archaeological Unit and the Council for British Archaeology (1978), pp. 40-74.

<sup>60</sup> D. Miles, et al., 'The Pottery', in Miles (ed.), *Archaeology at Barton Court Farm*, microfiche.

<sup>61</sup> P. Booth, 'Pottery', in C. Mould, 'An Archaeological Excavation at Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, 61 (1996), pp. 75-88.

<sup>62</sup> Lambrick, *Neolithic to Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm*, p. 80, fig. 55.

<sup>63</sup> J. Timby, 'Pottery' in G. Hey, 'Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Old Shifford Farm', *Oxoniensia*, 60 (1995), pp. 124-36.

<sup>64</sup> De Roche, 'The Iron Age Pottery', pp. 68, 70.

creating a woven appearance. Many of the sherds from intervention 1018 derive from a single vessel, but all are body sherds.

A relatively large group also came from five interventions through Ditch A11. It includes the rim from a large, grog-tempered storage jar, of 400 mm diameter (R9, PRN 27), and the rim from a second storage jar (PRN 131); six wide-mouthed, necked jar/bowls (PRNs 57, 110, 122, 130, 135, 153), including one with lattice decoration below a cordon (PRN 122); two everted-rim jars (R18, PRNs 63, 165); a bead-rimmed jar (R7, PRN 61); a lid-seated, cordoned jar (R12, PRN 116), and the rim from a probable butt beaker (R21, PRN 64).

The pottery from ditch A1 derives from five interventions. Most of the sherds from intervention 1122 appear to come from a single vessel – a grog-tempered butt beaker with offset neck, horizontal tooled groove at the neck-shoulder join, and diagonal combed decoration below. This was applied in two directions, creating a lattice pattern (R15, PRN 151, Fig. 13.10). The upper exterior is burnished. An expanded base with slight foot-ring is probably from the same vessel. Other vessels from this ditch include a narrow-necked, cordoned jar with horizontal grooves above, and below, the neck cordon, a groove at the shoulder, and a sooted exterior (R5, PRN 15; Fig. 13.04); a wide-mouthed cordoned bowl/jar (R1, PRN 16; Fig. 13.02); a bead-rimmed jar (R7, PRN 22; Fig. 13.5); and two rims from necked jars, but broken at the neck (R6, PRNs 19 and 23). Also recorded was a plain base with post-firing central perforation (PRN 17), and part of a pedestal base (PRN 20).

The only other ditch to contain more than 25 sherds was Ditch A6 (intervention 1162). This included 36 sherds (658 g) from a necked cordoned bowl/jar, with high, rounded shoulder (R1, PRN 4; Fig. 13.1). The rim diameter is 155 mm, 80 per cent is present; it is 150 mm high. The exterior and core are mostly unoxidised, although the margins are oxidised. The exterior surface has some fire-clouding and spalling towards the base, suggesting that it may be a firing failure, although the presence of at least two post-firing perforations through the base suggests that it was still utilised, perhaps as a 'second'. Other vessels from this ditch include a high, round-shouldered jar with internally bevelled rim, decorated with a horizontal groove at the shoulder and vertical burnished chevrons below (R2, PRN 5; Fig. 13.3); a necked jar with combed decoration at the shoulder (R4, PRN 12); an internally bevelled, thickened rim fragment (R3, PRN 10); a body sherd with a double cordon (PRN 7) and a pedestal base (PRN 6). The pottery is quantified by feature in Table 6, below. Note that in view of the relatively small pottery groups involved, and the generally homogenous character of fabrics and forms across the three Late Iron Age phases, Table 6 is presented on a whole-assemblage basis.

### Summary

The earliest activity at the site is represented by a single beaker sherd, and one of possible middle Bronze-Age date, but both were residual in Ditch A20. The late Iron-Age pottery recovered from the Newington Road site comprises a fairly limited range of forms, but all typical of the 'Belgic' ceramic tradition, and well-paralleled at regional sites.<sup>65</sup> The assemblage is dominated by grog-tempered fabrics, with smaller quantities of sandy wares, flint-tempered fabrics and calcareous-gritted wares. A single sherd in a fine, micaceous fabric is a Romanised ware (Q100, fill 1045, intervention 1036, Ditch A11), but the assemblage is otherwise fairly homogenous, representing activity in the first half of the first century AD, and possibly just extending into the post-Conquest period. The acceptance of Continental influences, and new forms of eating and drinking, is reflected in the range of forms, including platters and butt beakers, although the vessels from this site represent local imitations rather than imported wares.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>65</sup> De Roche, 'The Iron Age Pottery', pp. 40–74; Lambrick, *Neolithic at Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm*, pp. 79–80, fig. 55.

<sup>66</sup> J.D. Hill, 'The Dynamics of Social Change in later Iron Age Eastern and South-Eastern England', in Haselgrove and Moore (eds.), *The Later Iron Age in Britain and Beyond*, pp. 26–8.



Table 6. Quantification of pottery, by feature

Feature	Number	Weight
<b>Area A</b>		
Ditch A1	105	1496
Ditch A2	22	241
Ditch A3	223	3977
Ditch A4	14	312
Ditch A5	1	6
Ditch A6	62	975
Ditch A7	3	20
Ditch A8	4	97
Ditch A9	3	4
Ditch A10	1	30
Ditch A11	185	3361
Ditch A17	5	22
Ditch A20	2	11
Ditch 1241	1	15
Pit 1040	52	602
Pit 1062	10	141
Posthole 1086	3	5
Topsoil	2	5
<b>Area B</b>		
Pit B1	12	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>11442</b>

A single sherd of Dressel 2–4 Catalan amphora may reflect secondary use, but provides limited evidence of the import of wine at this time. The assemblage is otherwise typical of low-status rural sites of this period.

#### Illustration Catalogue:

1. Wide-mouthed, necked cordoned jar/bowl (R1), grog-tempered (G2), PRN 4, context 1137, ditch 1162 (Fig. 13.1).
2. Wide-mouthed, necked cordoned jar/bowl (R1), grog-tempered (G2), PRN 16, context 1033, ditch 1031 (Fig. 13.2).
3. High, round-shouldered jar with internally bevelled (lid-seated) rim, decorated with a horizontal groove at the shoulder, vertical burnished chevrons below (R2), grog and sand-tempered (GQ1), PRN 5, context 1137, ditch 1162 (Fig. 13.3).
4. Narrow-necked, cordoned jar, with horizontal grooves above and below the neck cordon, and a groove at the shoulder (R5), grog-tempered (G1), PRN 15, context 1033, ditch 1031 (Fig. 13.4).
5. Bead-rimmed jar (R7), flint-tempered (F2), PRN 22, context 1033, ditch 1031 (Fig. 13.5).
6. Bead-rimmed jar (R7), grog-tempered (G2), PRN 30, context 1013, feature 1012 (Fig. 13.6).
7. Jar with short neck and out-turned rim (R8), grog-tempered (G1), PRN 28, context 1013, feature 1012 (Fig. 13.7).

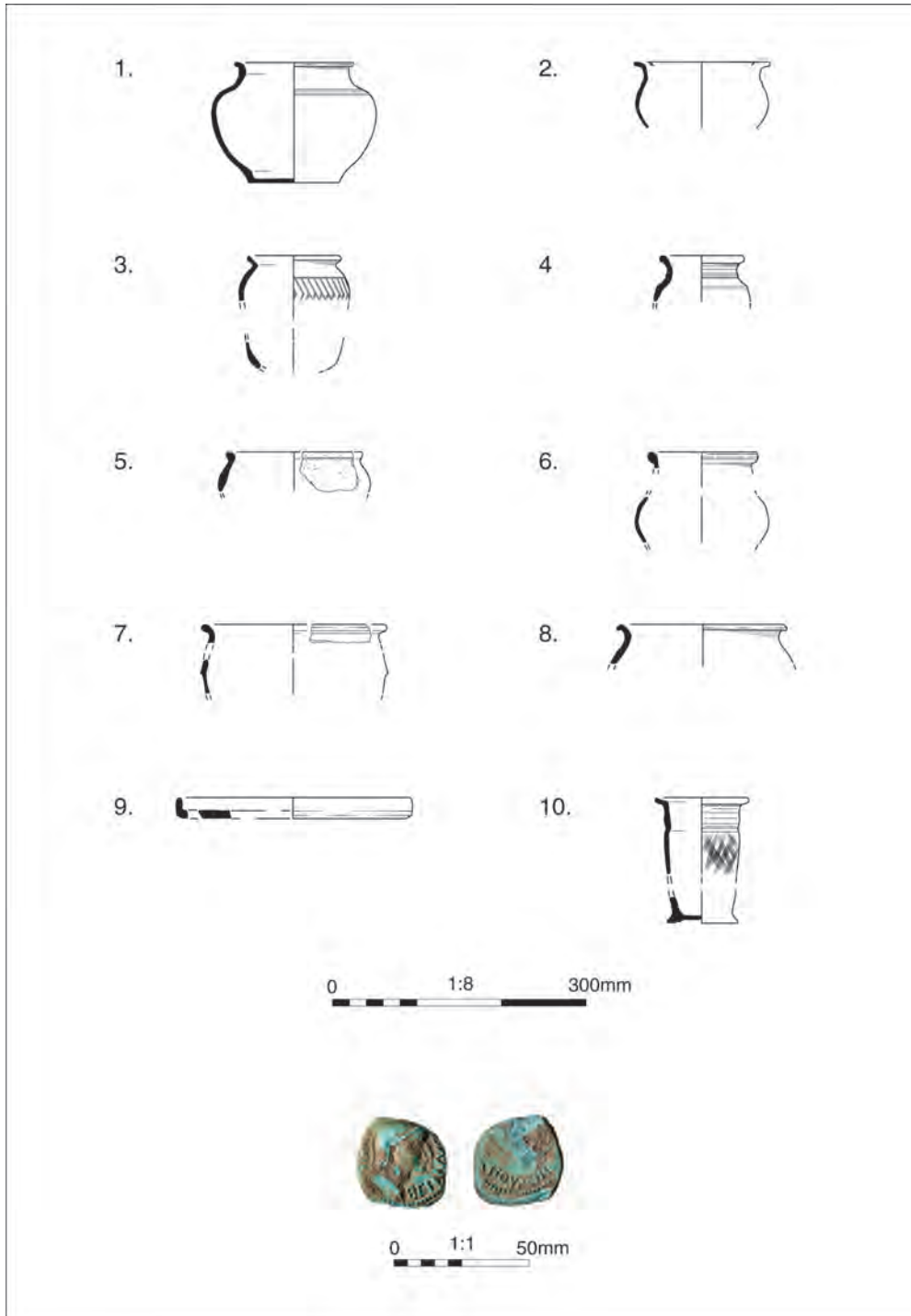


Fig. 13. Selected late Iron-Age pottery (1:4), and copper alloy coin of Cunobelin from fill 1004 of Ditch A11 (1:1).

8. Necked jar with rounded shoulder (R10), grog-tempered (G4), PRN 29, context 1013, feature 1012 (Fig. 13.8).
9. Platter with rounded rim (R11), grog-tempered (G4), PRN 31, context 1013, feature 1012 (Fig. 13.9).
10. Butt beaker copy (R15), grog-tempered (G2), PRN 151, context 1128, ditch 1122 (Fig. 13.10).

Form Descriptions (with number of vessels):

- R1: Wide-mouthed, necked cordoned jar/bowl, with high, rounded shoulder (3).  
 R2: High, round-shouldered jar with internally bevelled (lid-seated) rim, decorated with a horizontal groove at the shoulder, vertical burnished chevrons below (1).  
 R3: Internally bevelled, thickened rim, groove below rim, body missing (1).  
 R4: Necked jar with curvilinear combed decorated at shoulder (1).  
 R5: A narrow necked, cordoned jar with horizontal grooves above and below the neck cordon, and a groove at the shoulder (1).  
 R6: Necked jar/bowl, broken at the neck/shoulder junction (8).  
 R7: Bead-rimmed jar (4).  
 R8: Jar with short neck and out-turned rim (2).  
 R9: Large jar with short, everted rim (4).  
 R10: Necked jar with rounded shoulder (7).  
 R11: Platter with rounded rim (1).  
 R12: Lid-seated, cordoned jar (2).  
 R13: Necked, cordoned jar with out-turned rim and acute lattice decoration below cordon (1).  
 R14: Lid with internal lid on rim (1).  
 R15: Butt beaker copy – out-turned rim, barrel-shaped body with groove at neck/shoulder junction. Body is decorated with diagonal combing in two directions, creating a lattice pattern (1).  
 R16: Necked and cordoned jar/bowl with high, rounded shoulder (1).  
 R17: Narrow-necked cordoned jar (2).  
 R18: Jar with everted rim (3).  
 R19: Plain, undifferentiated rim, form unknown, possibly MBA (1).  
 R20: Lid or bowl with beaded rim (1).  
 R21: Internally bevelled, squared rim, probably from a butt beaker (1).  
 R22: Bead-rimmed jar with internally bevelled rim – slashed, impressed decoration on outer, upper rim edge (1).  
 B1: Plain, flat base.  
 B2: pedestal base.

Fabrics:

- F1: A fairly hard, rough fabric, containing a common amount (20–25 per cent) of calcined flint, 0.1–1.5 mm, angular, poorly sorted, in a silty clay matrix.  
 F2: A hard, rough fabric, with sparse (5 per cent) flint, 0.1–1 mm, angular, moderately sorted, in a very fine sandy matrix.  
 F3: A soft, soapy fabric, containing a sparse amount (3 per cent) of detrital flint, up to 7 mm, sub-angular to angular, in a very fine sandy/silt clay matrix.  
 F4: A soft, rough fabric, containing a common amount (25 per cent) of flint, up to 5 mm, but mostly up to 1 mm, angular, poorly sorted.  
 G1: A soapy fabric, containing a common amount (25 per cent) of grog, up to 4 mm, sub-angular to angular, moderately sorted, in a silty clay matrix.  
 G2: A soft, soapy fabric, containing a very common amount (30 per cent) of grog, up to 2 mm, sub-angular to angular, poorly sorted, in a silty clay matrix.

G3: A hard, rough fabric, containing a common amount (20 per cent) of grog, 0.4–0.8 mm, sub-rounded to angular, moderately sorted.

G4: A soft, soapy fabric containing a common amount (25 per cent) of grog, 0.1–0.8 mm, sub-angular to angular, poorly sorted; rare (1 per cent) iron oxides, up to 0.8 mm, sub-rounded; rare (1 per cent) flint, 0.8 mm, sub-angular.

Q1: A soft, sandy fabric, with a common amount (25 per cent) of quartz, medium-grained, sub-rounded, with occasional coarse-sized rounded grains, well-sorted; rare (2 per cent) flint, angular, up to 1.5 mm.

Q2: A silty fabric, with moderate (10 per cent) fine quartz, and occasional rounded coarse-sized grains, but few other visible inclusions.

Q3: A soft, sandy fabric, containing a very common amount (30 per cent) of fine-grained quartz sand and glauconite, sub-rounded to sub-rounded, well sorted.

Q4: A hard, sandy fabric, containing a common amount (25 per cent) of quartz sand, medium to coarse-grained, sub-rounded, well-sorted.

Q5: A soft, slightly sandy fabric, containing a sparse amount (5 per cent) of flint, up to 3mm, angular, in a fine, glauconitic sandy matrix.

GF1: A soft, fairly smooth fabric, containing a moderate amount (10 per cent) of grog, up to 0.5 mm, angular; sparse (7 per cent) of flint, up to 0.4 mm, angular; rare (2 per cent) fine-grained quartz, rounded.

GQ1: A soft, sandy fabric, with a very common amount (30 per cent) of quartz, very fine to fine-grained, sub-angular, well sorted; rare (2 per cent) flint, 0.1–0.8 mm, angular.

GQ2: A soft, soapy fabric, containing a common amount (20 per cent) of grog, up to 1 mm, angular, moderately sorted; sparse (5 per cent) quartz sand, medium to coarse-grained, sub-rounded to sub-angular; rare (1 per cent) iron oxides, 1 mm, sub-rounded.

GQ3: A soft, sandy fabric, containing a very common amount (30 per cent) of fine-grained quartz sand and glauconite, sub-rounded to sub-rounded, well sorted; moderate (15 per cent) grog, up to 2 mm, sub-rounded, moderately sorted.

S1: A soft, soapy fabric, containing a very common amount (30 per cent) of crushed shell, up to 2 mm, moderately sorted, angular and rare (1 per cent) iron oxides, up to 1 mm, angular.

V1: A soft, silty fabric, containing a moderate amount (10 per cent) of voids, up to 0.4 mm, unknown type, with occasional fine-grained quartz.

V2: A hard, sandy fabric, containing a moderate to common amount (15–20 per cent) of voids, possibly from calcareous inclusions, up to 5 mm; sparse (3 per cent) argillaceous inclusions, up to 2 mm, sub-rounded, in a very fine, glauconitic clay matrix with occasional larger, rounded glassy quartz grains

Q100: A fine, micaceous greyware.

## FIRE CLAY by GRACE PERPETUA JONES

A total of 164 fragments of fired clay, weighing 2,048 g, was recovered from 20 contexts across two pits and six ditches. Most appear to derive from ovens or hearths, and include part of a triangular brick, recovered from intervention 1103 of Ditch A7. While such items are generally interpreted as loom weights, an alternative use as oven furniture is suggested.<sup>67</sup> This item had been made in a silty, micaceous fabric with organic inclusions, the length of one side is 75 mm; no perforations were visible.

Several other pieces of fired clay, from Ditches A1 (intervention 1031), A2 (intervention 1267), A3 (interventions 1018, 1147 and 1271), A11 (interventions 1088 and 1164) and pit 1069, display one or two flat surfaces, and probably also represent oven furniture, perhaps

<sup>67</sup> C. Poole, 'Fired Clay and Briquetage', in P. Andrews et al., *Digging at the Gateway: Archaeological Landscapes of South Thanet*, Wessex Monograph, 8 (2015), pp. 289–322.

clay bricks or plates; none of the fragments are perforated.<sup>68</sup> These occur in a silty micaceous fabric, a very fine sandy fabric, an organic-tempered fabric and a silty fabric with argillaceous inclusions; most are pinkish-buff in colour. The thickness of two was ascertained – 31 mm and 35 mm. The face of one vitrified fragment from Ditch A2 (intervention 1297), suggests that it derives from the floor of an oven or kiln. Two fragments from possible pedestals were recovered from Ditch A1 (slot 1031), and pit 1062.<sup>69</sup> The fired clay plates are closely paralleled by contemporary examples from Mount Farm, Berinsfield and Gravelly Guy.<sup>70</sup>

Three small pieces appear to derive from briquetage vessels, including two organic-tempered fragments from Ditch A3 (intervention 1012), and one in a silty fabric from Ditch A11 (intervention 1164). These were insufficiently diagnostic to attribute to source, although a south-coast origin appears likely. Hampshire briquetage has been recorded, in association with Lodsworth querns, in middle Iron-Age deposits at Abingdon Vineyard, and at Castle Hill, Little Wittenham, suggesting the increasing role of southern trade networks at this time.<sup>71</sup>

### METALWORKING RESIDUES by DAVID DUNGWORTH

A total of 582 g of probable iron smelting debris was recovered. A small proportion of this, from fill 1089 of intervention 1088, in Ditch A11, could be positively identified as tap slag, while the remaining material from fill 1137 of intervention 1162, in Ditch A6, was too fragmentary to make a positive identification certain. The remaining material includes some iron ore, in addition to naturally occurring soil concretions.

The small quantities of metalworking residues recovered provide positive, if limited, evidence for the primary production (smelting) of iron, the principal focus of which presumably lay outside the area of excavation.<sup>72</sup>

### METALWORK ITEMS by KATIE MARSDEN

A total of 45 items of metalwork, weighing 162 g, was recovered by hand collection from three deposits, and from the bulk soil sampling of a further three deposits. The group comprises three items of copper alloy, 39 items of iron and three of white-metal (pewter). The extent of corrosion/fragmentation is variable. The group includes four unstratified copper alloy and pewter buttons of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century date, together with a pendant fob seal with an engraved glass setting. These items probably derive from post-medieval manuring. Five possible iron nail-shanks, and a probable stud with round shank and head, from pit 1076 (fills 1077 and 1083) may be of early Roman date. The remaining item in this group is a copper alloy rivet, formed of rolled sheet, also recovered from pit 1076. A probable double-looped spike, recovered from intervention 1200, of ditch A6, is, similar to examples from Hod Hill, and intended to be affixed to planks or possibly walls.<sup>73</sup> A total of 27 pellets of iron (57 g) were recovered from pit 1076. Along with the hammerscale recovered from a bulk soil sample, these items appear to indicate iron-smithing activity on or around the site.

<sup>68</sup> T.G. Allen et al., *Excavations at Roughground Farm, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: A Prehistoric and Roman Landscape*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 1 (1993), p. 92.

<sup>69</sup> A. Palmer and T. Allen, 'Fired Clay Objects', in Allen et al., *Excavations at Roughground Farm*, p. 166.

<sup>70</sup> Lambrick, *Neolithic to Saxon Social and Environmental Change at Mount Farm*, p. 103; Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, p. 118.

<sup>71</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, pp. 211–12; T. Allen et al., *Castle Hill and its Landscape; Archaeological Investigations at the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeology Monograph, 9 (2010), p. 74.

<sup>72</sup> A. Smith, 'Rural Crafts and Industry', in M. Allen et al., *The Rural Economy of Roman Britain*, Britannia Monograph, 30 (2017), p. 185.

<sup>73</sup> W.H. Manning, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum* (1982), plate 61, nos. 39–46.



## THE COINS by KATIE MARSDEN

A copper alloy unit of Cunobelin (RA. 400), of 2 g weight and 14 mm module, was recovered from Period 4 Ditch A11 (fill 1004, Fig. 3), and dates to AD 10–41/2 (Fig. 13). The obverse bears the legend CVNOBELINVS, with a beardless, helmeted head right. The reverse has the legend TASCIOVANII, with Tasciovanus standing right upon an ornamental line, above a sow, with the letter F below. The coin identifies Cunobelin as a lineal successor to Tasciovanus, with the letter F on the reverse standing for the Latin *Filius*, 'son of'.<sup>74</sup> The classicised form of the obverse and reverse designs, and the adoption of a Latin legend, suggest a date late in Cunobelin's reign, and probably not much earlier than AD 30. The rare stratified presence of an Iron Age coin, in association with a pottery group of pre-Roman character, provides a valuable indication of pre-Conquest date (Fig. 13).

An unattributed Roman copper alloy sesterius, recovered as an unstratified item, has suffered significant wear, and is of probable second-century date. The reverse depicts a standing figure.

## WORKED AND BURNT STONE by GRACE PERPETUA JONES

A single fragment of a greensand quern was recovered from Ditch A3 (intervention 1130). It has one worked surface, and is 104 mm thick, but otherwise undiagnostic. The quern originates from the Lodsworth quarries of West Sussex, a principal source of saddle querns throughout the earlier Iron Age, and of rotary querns from the middle and late Iron-Age and Roman periods, and of particular importance during the first century AD.<sup>75</sup> Although not common within the upper Thames area, their presence suggests riverine distribution.<sup>76</sup>

## CREMATED HUMAN BONE by SHARON CLOUGH

A single deposit of cremated human bone was recovered from pit 1042 (Figs. 3 and 9, section FF). This feature is undated, but on the basis of almost all dating evidence on the site, is most likely to belong to the late Iron-Age period. The total weight of the cremated bone was 588.5 g which, in common with many later prehistoric cremation burials, appears to represent a token quantity recovered from the pyre, and to reflect the status of the individual.<sup>77</sup> It is probable that some of the original deposit has been removed by truncation. The cremated bone displayed a medium fragmentation level, where a good number of elements could be identified, but a large number was too fragmented to identify. The bone was not consistently fully white in colour, and retained patches of grey, black and brown colouration, indicating that pyre temperatures were occasionally insufficient. From the colour variations observed, the small bones of the hands and feet were well cremated, and the deep-tissue area of the femoral head also displayed evidence of sufficient temperature. However, cranial bone displayed areas of black, indicating locally poor burning. Although no obvious pattern was observed, it is possible that inefficient cremation may have contributed to higher fragment sizes. Insufficient bone was available for sex estimation, although the fused joints and size of bone indicated an adult individual. The

<sup>74</sup> J. Creighton, *Coins and Power in Late Iron Age Britain* (2000), pp. 170–3; R. Van Arsdell, *Celtic Coinage of Britain* (1989), p. 179.

<sup>75</sup> D.P.S. Peacock, 'Iron Age and Roman Quern production at Lodsworth, West Sussex', *The Antiquaries Journal*, 67 (1987), p. 74; C. Green, 'Querns and Millstones in the Late Iron Age', in D. Bird (ed.), *Agriculture and Industry in South-Eastern Roman Britain* (2017), pp. 163–6, fig. 8.6.

<sup>76</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, p. 209, fig. 6.13

<sup>77</sup> J. McKinley, 'The Analysis of Cremated Bone', in M. Cox and S. Mays (eds.), *Human Osteology in Archaeology and Forensic Science* (2000), p. 404.

identified bones represented all areas of the body, and there was no evidence of bias in the collection. Due to the degree of fragmentation, nearly 60 per cent were unidentified.

Animal bone (3.7 g) and bird long-bone (2 g) fragments were identified from deposit 1050 within the cremation pit. The white colouration of the bird bones indicated that they had also been cremated on the pyre. The animal fragments were brown and black, indicating burning at less than 275°, which suggests differential placing on the pyre. Pig/sheep and bird are common components of Romano-British cremation burials (approximately 10–50 per cent), and usually represented by a few grams of material.<sup>78</sup>

#### ANIMAL BONE by MATILDA HOLMES

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Period 2–4 features. Samples were too small to warrant detailed analysis, although the presence of several semi-fossilised bones is noteworthy.

##### *Taphonomy and Condition*

Bones were generally in good to fair condition, with more recent deposits subject to better preservation (Table 7). Several bones from Area B pits 2007 and 2010 had been weathered on at least one surface, suggesting that they were exposed to the elements for a sustained period of time, prior to their inclusion in the pit fill. A few refitted fragments and fresh breaks were observed, suggesting that bones were friable upon excavation, and it is possible that prevailing, slightly acidic soil conditions may have affected bone preservation in some contexts. Some gnawed bones reflect the presence of dogs around the site, and again suggested that not all were buried immediately following discard. Butchered and burnt bones reflect the processing of animal carcasses.

##### *The Assemblage*

Cattle were ubiquitous (Table 7), although sheep/ goat remains were more commonly recovered from Period 4 deposits. Occasional finds of pig, equus (horse or donkey), canis (dog or fox) were also made. A number of semi-fossilised bone fragments were recovered from interventions 1139 (fill 1140) and 1147 (fill 1141), of Ditches A3 and A2 respectively. These bones are not recognisably from the mammalian species commonly encountered in later Holocene assemblages, and it is possible that they relate to some larger fauna, no longer indigenous, of pre-Holocene date. It is difficult to account for their presence in these contexts, although it is possible that they were curated as a curiosity.

Fragments of animal bone (3.7 g) and bird long-bone (2 g) were identified within human cremation deposit 1050, in cremation pit 1042 (Figs. 2 and 8, section FF). These could not be identified to species, and their completely calcined condition suggested that they represent the remains of pyre offerings.

#### PLANT MACROFOSSILS by SARAH F. WYLES

A total of 29 bulk soil samples (468 litres of soil) were examined from a range of feature types across the site, with the intention of recovering cremated material and environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. These samples comprise 21 from Area 1, and eight from Area 2, with three samples from features dated to Period 2, nine from Period 3 and 17 from undated deposits.

The bulk samples were processed following standard flotation methods. All identifiable

<sup>78</sup> J. McKinley, 'Cremation...the Cheap Option?', in R. Gowland and C. Knüsel (eds.), *Social Archaeology of Funerary Remains* (2006), p. 84.

Table 7. Species representation by anatomical element (fragment count)

Element	1		2		3		4			5					
	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Cattle		Cattle	Canis	Cattle	Pig	Equus	Large mammal	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Equus	Large mammal	Medium mammal
Horn core + frontal					1							1			
Occipital			1		1			1							
Maxilla								1							
Mandible with teeth					3							1			
Loose tooth											3	6			
2nd cervical vertebra															
Cervical vertebra					1										
Thoracic vertebra					1										
Scapula	1				1									2	1
Humerus					1						1				
Radius	2				1						2				
Radius + ulna															
Ulna	1											1			
Pelvis					1					1					
Femur	1				1	1									
Tibia												1	1		
Astragalus															
Calcaneus	1														
Tarsal															
Metacarpal			1												
Metatarsal					1				1		1	1			
Metapodial															
Lateral metapodial															
1st phalanx									1						
3rd phalanx									1						
Phalanx		1													
Total	6	1	2		1	1	12	2	4	1	7	11	1	2	1
Unidentified	4		3		55		35				108				

charred plant remains were identified following the nomenclature of Stace for wild plants,<sup>79</sup> and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al. for cereals.<sup>80</sup> The results from Areas A and B are respectively summarised in Tables 8 and 9, below.

#### Area 1

##### Late Iron Age II (Period 3)

The large assemblage recovered from fill 1037 (sample 308) of section 1036 of Ditch A11 was dominated by weed seeds, in particular those of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). The other weed seeds included those of oat (*Avena* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), celtic bean (*Vicia faba*), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*), pale persicaria/redshank (*Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and docks (*Rumex* sp.). The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain, spikelet forks and glume-base fragments, a barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain, and a free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grain and rachis fragment. Some of the chaff elements were identifiable as being those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), and one as that of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). There was also a fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell, and a few charcoal fragments. This assemblage may be representative of a dump of crop processing and domestic waste material. It may include crop processing waste from the processing of stored, semi-cleaned grain, which had not been that well cleaned prior to storage, or possibly waste from an earlier stage of processing, such as the sieving stage after crops had been harvested, threshed and winnowed.<sup>81</sup>

A moderate number of charred remains were recorded from fill 1089 (sample 320), and small quantity of charred material from fill 1090 (sample 321), of section 1088, both of Ditch A11. The cereal remains included those of barley, emmer wheat and spelt wheat, and the weed seeds those of vetch/wild pea, oat, brome grass, grass vetchling, clover/medick, bedstraw, knotgrass, docks and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Again, these assemblages may represent domestic settlement waste.

Fills 1041, 1064 and 1071, respectively of Period 3 pits 1040, 1062 and 1069, contained moderate charred assemblages. The cereal remains included those of barley and hulled wheat, with some chaff elements identifiable as being those of spelt wheat. The weed seed assemblages were dominated by vetch/wild pea. Other weed seeds included those of dock, fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), oat, brome grass, knotgrass, black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and mallow (*Malva* sp.). There were also a few fragments of hazelnut shell and blackthorn/hawthorn (*Prunus spinosa/Crataegus monogyna*)-type thorns.

##### Undated

Large quantities of charcoal, but only a few charred plant remains, were recorded from cremation pit 1042. The small plant assemblage included remains of hulled and free-threshing wheat. Low levels of charred material were observed in the samples from pits 1025, 1053 and 1292, and hearth 1182, and is reflective of dispersed material. The assemblages from pit 1292 included a few remains of false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*). Fill 1083, of undated pit 1076, contained a moderate amount of charcoal, together with hammerscale fragments. This assemblage is likely to be associated with ironworking activities in the area.

<sup>79</sup> C. Stace, *New Flora of the British Isles* (1997).

<sup>80</sup> D. Zohary et al., *Domestication of Plants in the Old World: The Origin and Spread of Cultivated Plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley* (2012).

<sup>81</sup> G.C. Hillman, 'Reconstructing Crop Husbandry Practices from Charred Remains of Crops', in R. Mercer (ed.), *Farming Practice in British Prehistory* (1981), pp. 123–62; G.C. Hillman, 'Interpretation of Archaeological Plant Remains: The Application of Ethnographic Models from Turkey', in W. van Zeist and W.A. Casparie (eds.), *Plants and Ancient Man. Studies in Palaeoethnobotany* (1984), pp. 1–41.

*Area B**Late Iron Age I (Period 2)*

The moderately large assemblages recovered from fills 2026 and 2026, of Area B pit 2007, comprised charcoal fragments but no charred plant remains. These assemblages may represent dumped material from industrial or agricultural activity, rather than domestic waste. A possible free-threshing wheat grain, and a small amount of charcoal, was also noted from fill 2020, of the same feature. There is no indication of any waterlogging within these assemblages.

*Late Iron Age II (Period 3)*

The samples from deposits 2013, 2018 and 2021, of pit 2010, a recut of Area B pit 2007, produced moderately high numbers of charcoal fragments. The few other charred remains included a barley grain and an alder (*Alnus* sp.) cone. These assemblages appear to be indicative of dumped material, again possibly not from domestic settlement activity. There is no indication of waterlogging in these deposits.

*Summary*

Cereal remains from the site were dominated by hulled wheat, with more spelt than emmer present. Barley was present in small quantities, as was free-threshing wheat. Spelt wheat was the dominant wheat during the late Iron Age period within this region, and the free-threshing wheat is likely to be intrusive material within these assemblages.<sup>82</sup> The assemblages from this site appear to fit the general pattern of other late Iron-Age settlement sites. Spelt and emmer wheat, together with a greater amount of barley, was recorded in a number of Iron-Age assemblages at Ashville Trading Estate Abingdon,<sup>83</sup> and at Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt.<sup>84</sup>

Weed species were generally those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments, possibly indicative of a decline in soil fertility at the end of the Iron Age.<sup>85</sup> A number, including field madder and narrow-fruited cornsalad, are indicative of the exploitation of lighter, drier calcareous soils, whereas mallow and alder are typical of damper environments. There is some indication of the occasional exploitation of the hedgerow/woodland edge environment, as indicated by the presence of hazelnut shell and blackthorn/hawthorn thorn fragments.<sup>86</sup>

## CHARCOAL by SHEILA BOARDMAN

Following assessment of 29 bulk samples and analysis of the charred plant macrofossils from 21 samples (Wyles, above), it was recommended that five samples were examined in detail for wood charcoal. One sample came from Period 3 pit 1069 (context 1071, sample 316), and four were from the unphased cremation-related deposit 1042/1048 (contexts 1044, 1043, 1050, 1049, from samples 311, 312, 313 and 314 respectively). The pit sample and two samples (311 and 313) from the cremation-related deposit were analysed in detail (100-plus charcoal fragments examined per sample). Sample 316, from pit 1069, also produced a small assemblage of charred plant remains (Wyles), so this may represent domestic waste. The other two samples (312 and 314) were rapidly analysed (70 and 68 fragments examined respectively). Information was sought on the woods used in the cremation pyre(s), and in

<sup>82</sup> J. Greig, 'The British Isles', in W. van Zeist, et al. (eds.), *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany* (1991), pp. 229–334.

<sup>83</sup> M.K. Jones, 'The Plant Remains', in Parrington (ed.), *The Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement*, pp. 93–110.

<sup>84</sup> L. Moffett, 'The Evidence for Crop-Processing Products from the Iron Age and Romano-British Periods, and some Earlier Prehistoric Plant Remains', in Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, pp. 421–45.

<sup>85</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, p. 258; L. Moffett, 'Charred Plant Remains', in Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, p. 444.

<sup>86</sup> Lambrick with Robinson, *The Thames Through Time*, p. 262.



Table 8. Charred plant identifications from Area A

Phase		Periods 3 and 4 (LIA phases II and III)					
Feature Label	Feature Type	A11					
Feature		Ditches			Pits		
Context		1036	1088	1040	1062	1069	
Sample		1037	1089	1090	1041	1064	1071
Vol (L)		308	320	321	309	317	316
Flot size (ml)		20	16	9	20	20	20
Roots %		30	20	10	20	15	75
Cereals	Common Name	30	10	10	35	30	5
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	barley	1	3	1	2	7	2
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (rachis frag)	barley	–	–	–	–	2	–
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> (Schübl) (glume base)	emmer wheat	1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> (Schübl) (spikelet fork)	emmer wheat	–	1	–	–	–	–
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	spelt wheat	8	1	–	1	4	–
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	8	4	2	3	6	6
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (spikelet fork)	emmer/spelt wheat	7	–	–	2	7	–
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (glume bases)	emmer/spelt wheat	10	10	–	9	28	5
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (grain)	free-threshing wheat	cf. 1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (rachis frags)	free-threshing wheat	1	–	–	–	–	–
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	38	15	–	8	14	15
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	15	10	–	4	10	8
Cereal frags (culm node)	cereal	2	1	–	–	2	1
<b>Other Species</b>							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	hazelnut	1	1	–	–	1	1
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	goosefoot	–	2	–	–	3	2
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	fat-hen	–	–	–	–	2	–
<i>Atriplex</i> sp. L.	oraches	–	–	–	–	–	1
<i>Stellaria</i> sp. L.	stitchworts	1	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa</i> (L.)	pale persicaria/	6	–	–	–	–	–
Gray/Gray	redshank						
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	2	1	–	1	3	1
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Å. Löve	black-bindweed	–	–	–	–	1	4
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks	4	2	1	2	14	5
<i>Malva</i> sp. L.	mallow	–	–	–	–	–	1
<i>Brassica</i> sp. L.	brassica	2	–	–	1	1	3
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> / <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	sloe/hawthorn type	–	–	–	1	2	–
(thorns/twigs)	thorns						
<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	343	20	–	102	32	46
<i>Vicia faba</i>	celtic bean	2	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Lathyrus</i> cf. <i>nissolia</i> L.	grass vetchling	7	1	–	2	1	3
<i>Medicago</i> / <i>Trifolium</i> sp. L.	medick/clover	6	2	–	1	1	2
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.	field madder	4	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Galium</i> sp. L.	bedstraw	3	2	–	–	1	2
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.) Pollich	narrow-fruited cornsalad	2	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Lolium</i> / <i>Festuca</i> sp.	rye-grass/fescue	3	–	–	–	1	1
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> Var. <i>bulbosum</i>	false oat-grass	–	–	–	–	–	–
(Willd)							
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> Var. <i>bulbosum</i>	false oat-grass	–	–	–	–	–	–
(Willd) (stem)							
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (grain)	oat grain	2	1	–	1	1	2
<i>Avena</i> L./ <i>Bromus</i> L. sp.	oat/brome grass	16	3	–	2	6	7
<i>Bromus</i> sp. L.	brome grass	4	1	–	–	3	1
Monocot. Stem/rootlet frag		–	3	1	1	2	1
Tuber		–	–	1	–	1	–
Charcoal > 4/2mm		*/**	*/**	*/*	*/*	**/*	**/**

Key: \* = 1-4, \*\* = 5-19, \*\*\* = 20-49, \*\*\*\* = 50-99, \*\*\*\*\* = 100+

\*\*\*\*\* / \*\*\*\*\*

Table 9. Charred plant identifications from Area B

Phase	LIA 1				LIA 2				undated Pits	
Feature Type										
Feature	2007				2010					
Context	2020	2026	2031	Pit B1	2018	2021	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sample	304	303	330	333	305	302	301	301	300	300
Vol (L)	15	6	13	15	20	20	9	9	15	15
Flot size (ml)	15	60	60	70	50	60	5	5	15	15
Roots %	50	5	5	5	20	10	40	40	50	50
Cereals	Common Name									
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. s/ (grain)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Triticum turgidum/ aestivum</i> (grain)	cf. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Species										
<i>Alnus</i> sp. (cone)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charcoal >4/2 mm	*/**	***/*****	***/*****	***/*****	**/*****	***/*****	-/*	-/*	*/*	*/*

Key: \* = 1-4, \*\* = 5-19, \*\*\* = 20-49, \*\*\*\* = 50-99, \*\*\*\*\* = 100+

domestic fires at the site (that is in relation to Pit 1069), together with any evidence relating to the nature of local woodlands and how these were exploited.

### Methods

The samples were processed in the standard manner, with flots collected in sieves with mesh sizes of 1 mm and 0.25 mm, and the residues on 0.5 mm meshes. Where available, flots and sorted wood charcoal remains from the greater than 2 mm residues were submitted for investigation. The greater than 1mm flots were dry-sieved at 2 mm and 4 mm, and 68–108 charcoal fragments (depending on the quantity of remains present) were randomly extracted from the greater than 2 mm sample fractions. Individual charcoal fragments were fractured by hand, and sorted into groups based on features observed in transverse section, at magnifications of x10–x40. These were then fractured along their radial and tangential planes, and examined at magnifications of up to x400, using a Lomo Biolam-Metam P1 metallurgical microscope. Identifications were made using keys in Hather,<sup>87</sup> Gale and Cutler,<sup>88</sup> and Schweingruber,<sup>89</sup> and by comparison with modern slide reference material. Nomenclature follows Stace.<sup>90</sup>

### Results

Anatomical features observed on wood charcoal in the samples from this site are consistent with the following taxa. Full results, as fragment counts per taxon, can be found in Table 10, below.

### Rosaceae

Subfamily Prunoideae – *Prunus* cf. *spinosa* type, probable blackthorn type.

Subfamily Pomoideae - includes *Crataegus* spp., hawthorns, *Malus* spp., apple, *Pyrus* sp., pear and *Sorbus* spp., rowan, whitebeam and service. One or more of these taxa may be present.

### Fagaceae

*Fagus sylvatica* L., beech; *Quercus* spp., oak (*Q. robur* L., *Q. petraea*, or their hybrids).

### Betulaceae

*Corylus avellana* L., hazel.

### Salicaceae

*Salix/Populus*, willow/poplar.

### Sapindaceae

*Acer campestre* L., field maple.

### Discussion

The wood charcoal assemblages in samples from pit 1069 and the cremation pit 1042 were dominated by oak (*Quercus*). Hawthorn group (Pomoideae charcoal) was a minor component in samples from cremation pit 1042, so this may have been a secondary pyre component. Pomaceous wood may have been added for its pleasant fragrance when burnt.<sup>91</sup> Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is represented by seven fragments, six of which were in sample 316 from pit 1069. This sample produced other domestic material, including charred plant macrofossils (Wyles, above), so the wood charcoal may represent fuel waste from domestic fires. Of the five remaining taxa, four are represented by just one or two fragments across all five samples. These were probable blackthorn (*Prunus* cf. *spinosa*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*). They may be accidental inclusions, tinder

<sup>87</sup> J.G. Hather, *The Identification of Northern European Woods: A Guide for Archaeologists and Conservators* (2000).

<sup>88</sup> R. Gale and D. Cutler, *Plants in Archaeology: Identification Manual of Vegetative Plant Materials used in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to c.1500* (2000).

<sup>89</sup> F.H. Schweingruber, *Microscopic Wood Anatomy* (1990).

<sup>90</sup> Stace, *New Flora of the British Isles*.

<sup>91</sup> H.L. Edlin, *Woodland Crafts in Britain* (1949).

Table 10. Wood charcoal identifications

Site code	NRS 17	NRS 17	NRS 17	NRS 17	NRS 17	NRS 17
Phase	LIA 2	Undated	Undated	Undated	Undated	Undated
Feature type	Pit	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation	Cremation
Feature No.	1069	1042	1042	1042	1048	1048
Context No.	1071	1044	1043	1043	1050	1049
Sample No.	316	311	312	312	313	314
Soil volume (litres)	20	33	26	26	26	17
<b>Rosaceae</b>						
<i>Prunus</i> cf. <i>spinosa</i> type	1	-	-	-	1r	-
Pomoideae*	1	9r	4r	5r	5r	1r
cf. Pomoideae	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Fagaceae</b>						
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.	-	-	-	-	1	1
<i>Quercus</i>	93s(h)	97sh	66s(h)	101sh	65s(h)	65s(h)
<b>Betulaceae</b>						
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	6r	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Salicaceae</b>						
<i>Salix/Populus</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sapindaceae</b>						
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	2	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Indeterminate charcoal</b>						
<b>Fragments analysed</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>

KEY: Counts include: h – heartwood; s – sapwood; r – roundwood; b. bark.

\*Pomoideae may include: *Pyrus* (pear), *Malus* (apple), *Crataegus* (hawthorn) & *Sorbus* (rowan, service, whitebeam) species.



materials and/or minor fuels at the site. Willow/poplar and field maple were only present in the pit 1069 sample.

In summary, the main fuel wood used at Newington Road, Stadhampton, in both a domestic context (in relation to pit 1069), and for the cremation pyre, appears to be oak. All five samples had a mixture of immature and mature oak timber. Sapwood fragments were present in greater quantities than those of heartwood. For the cremation-related feature, this would seem to indicate that immature trees, or possibly branch wood, were mainly used, rather than entire mature trees, as seems to be the case in some Bronze-Age cremations (cf. Thompson 1998).<sup>92</sup> Oak, hazel, field maple and beech all may have been components of the local woodlands. Blackthorn and hawthorn group charcoal may have come from hedgerows/scrub (and woodland edges), and the willow/poplar, from damper ground. There was very little roundwood in the charcoal assemblage, and no evidence for woodland management practices, such as coppicing. The range of wood charcoal taxa identified here may indicate a decline in the number of species exploited, compared to earlier periods, which may suggest either the over-exploitation of woodland resources or greater selectivity of fuel wood species.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> G.B. Thompson, 'The Analysis of Wood Charcoals from Selected Pits and Funerary Contexts', in A. Barclay and C. Halpin, *Excavations at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire. Volume 1: The Neolithic and Bronze Age Monument Complex*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 11 (1998), pp. 247–9.

<sup>93</sup> R. Gale, 'Charcoal from Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and Early Roman Contexts', in Lambrick and Allen, *Gravelly Guy*, p. 455.