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Cover: Buildings 1 and 6, Stonehill - 12th century farmhouse and 13th-14th century dovecote

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AT FREEMAN'S FARM, FELTON

by Lynne Bevan and Peter Ellis

INTRODUCTION

Fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in the spring of 1992 at Freeman's Farm, ST517667, on behalf of RMC Roadstone Products Ltd (Fig. 1). An initial field survey, air photograph study, and collation of known evidence was followed by a fieldwalking exercise, geophysical survey and trial trenching. The fieldwork was directed by Peter Ellis and the finds were analysed by Lynne Bevan. Nearby known sites (recorded on the Avon SMR) comprised two barrows or field clearance mounds now ploughed out, and the findspot of a Bronze Age adze.

A collection of flint artefacts, flakes and cores was made but geophysical prospection and trial trenching failed to locate any features. The flint collection was principally of Neolithic date (Fig. 2).

Thanks are due to members of the BUFAU excavation team, in particular Richard Cuttler who also provided Figure 2; to Keith Owen of RMC; to the tenant farmers for kindly allowing access; and to Vince Russett and Chris Gaffney for advice and comments.

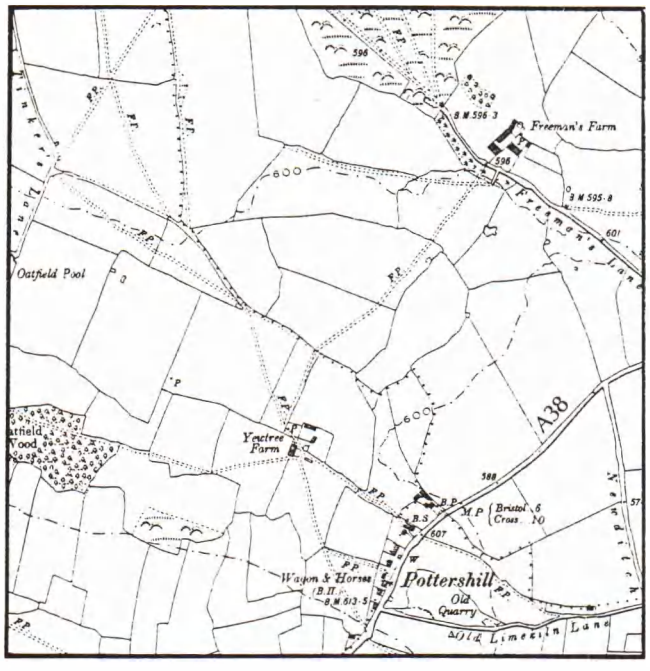

Fig. 1 Location

FIELDWALKING

Nine arable fields were walked, and flints, prehistoric pottery, Romano-British pottery and medieval pottery were collected (Fig. 2). The fields were divided into 4m wide transects for each team member, and each find, or group of finds, was bagged and left at the place of collection, marked with a garden cane. After the completion of each field, each find-spot was plotted with an EDM, and the finds were then collected and numbered. The results from one field (Field 4) were limited by the presence of crops, but over the years a number of arrowheads, including leaf-shaped, have been collected there by the farmer.

The figure shows the distribution of flint tool and waste types, and of prehistoric pottery within the survey area. Three sherds of Iron Age pottery are also included on the figure. One was quartz-tempered with a double incised line, another flint-tempered and the third vesicular, originally shell-tempered, with some quartz and mica.

The flint collection comprised 621 struck flakes and artefacts (Tables 1 and 2). The raw material is a high-quality flint, presumably from Wessex (the Marlborough Downs are the nearest source 40 miles to the east), predominantly light to dark grey in colour with some examples exhibiting partial to total white patination. Few primary flakes occurred in the assemblage and cortex had been entirely removed from most of the cores. The majority of the flint had been broken in the ploughsoil. Few of the flakes, and none of the blades and microliths, retained their original lengths, and some items, whilst retaining traces of retouch, have lost their diagnostic elements – three of the eight arrowheads were fragmentary. More durable classes of artefacts, cores and scrapers survived intact.

Table 1: Occurrence of flakes, flake types, and cores

	flake/burnt flake	retouched flake	core/burnt	nodule core
primary	17/0			
secondary	129/8	6		
tertiary	286/60	20		
totals:	432/68	26	33/3	1

Table 2 : Occurrence of flint tools

scraper/burnt scraper	arrowhead	blade	microlith
34/2	8	9	5

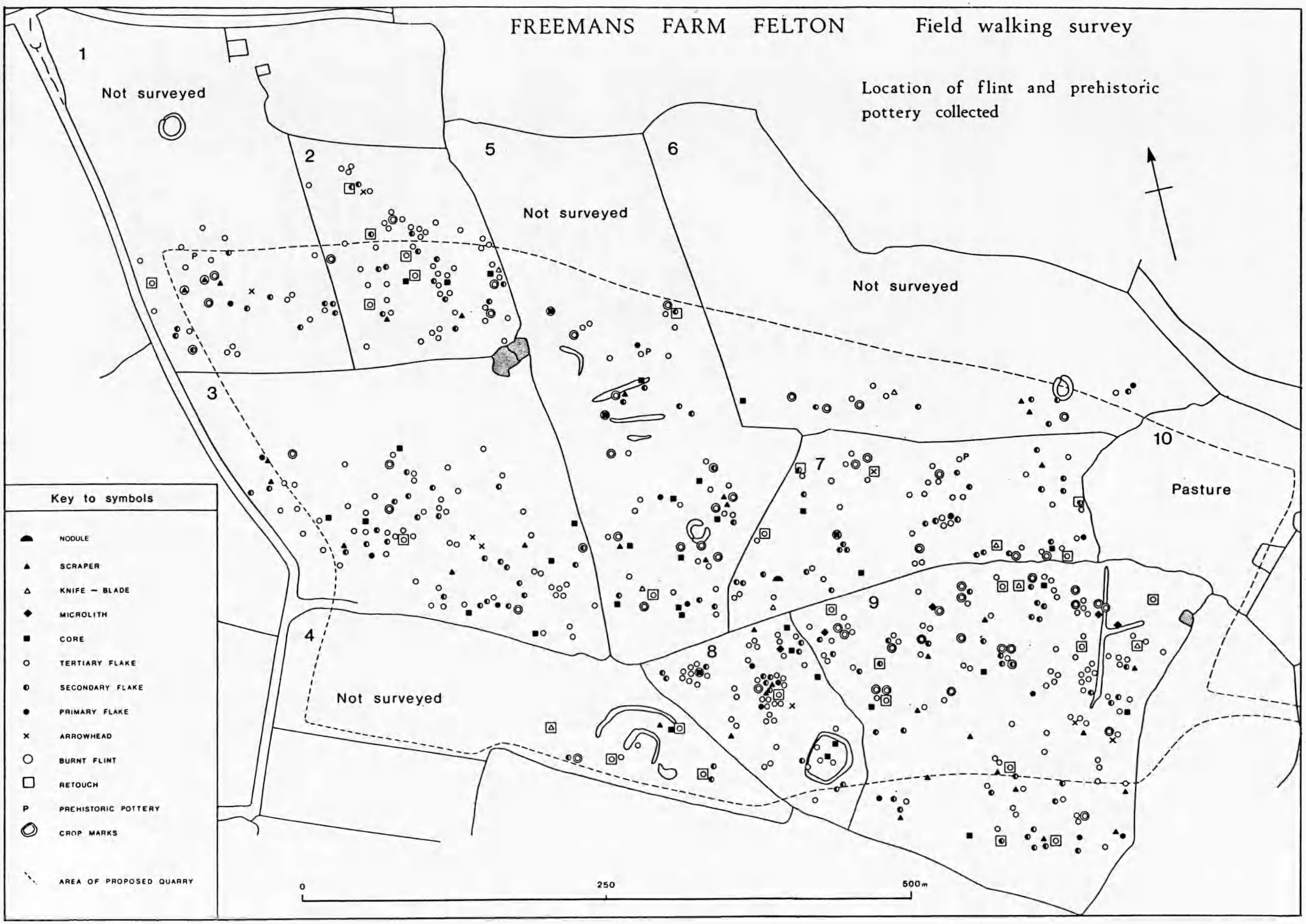

Fig. 2 Fieldwalking results

Lithic scatters are difficult to date (Bradley and Gardiner 1984, 112). Although chronologically diagnostic artefacts are rare in the assemblage, it appears to be broadly Neolithic in date, although some elements imply activity during earlier and subsequent periods. The presence of five convincing microliths and four cores used for the production of small blades, suggests some Mesolithic activity in the area. Earlier Neolithic flint types (Bradley and Gardiner 1984, 21), are restricted to the presence of four leaf-shaped arrowheads, two of which had been abandoned during the manufacturing process. In addition there were three barbed and tanged arrowheads, two of which were fragmentary. This type is typically Bronze Age in date although some degree of chronological overlap with the Neolithic is possible. Cores and scrapers are well-represented, but these tools are not datable in unstratified assemblages and stylistic differences may relate to function, with several distinct types being used concurrently for different purposes. The real value of the scrapers lies not in their limited use for dating purposes but as settlement indicators. Together with awls and burins, scrapers are the only retouched implements to be expected in settlement areas with any degree of frequency (Schofield 1987, 280). The distribution of scrapers in the survey area attests to widespread settlement during the Neolithic, and possibly Bronze Age, especially in Fields 3, 5, 8 and 9. The high incidence of burnt flakes, tertiary flakes, and cores in the south of Field 5, continuing south into Fields 8 and 9 indicates that flint-working, possibly involving the heat-treatment of flint, was carried out on the site. The systematic removal of cortex would have taken place at the quarry site where nodules were reduced in weight before being removed to the home range for tool production. This would explain the small number of primary flakes in relation to the higher incidence of secondary and tertiary flakes.

A nodule of high quality dark grey flint was found in Field 7 close to the intersection between Fields 5 and 8, an area of core concentration and flint density. The piece is of chalk rather than pebble origin, and would have been easily portable, weighing 421 grammes. It has a naturally thin cortex. Despite abrasion, two flake scars are visible on its surface.

Roman and medieval pottery finds are quantified by field in Table 3. A lack of feature sherds and a high incidence of abrasion, common in ploughsoil assemblages, precluded chronological identification in most cases.

Table 3: Occurrence of Roman and medieval pottery (No. of sherds)

	Roman pottery	medieval pottery
Field 1	7	19
2	4	25
3	7	16
5	10	10
9	4	0
Total	32	70

The distribution of identifiable ceramics is sparse and random, occurring only in Fields 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9, and could be attributed to manuring. The Roman pottery assemblage mainly comprised local greywares which probably originate from the kilns at nearby Congresbury, some Black Burnished Ware (BB1), a few sherds of Severn Valley ware and a heavily abraded fragment of an Oxford colourcoat vessel.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND TRIAL TRENCHING

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford following the fieldwalking in Fields 5, 8, and 9. After subsequent trial trenching the anomalies were seen to refer not to archaeological features but to a generalised high magnetic reading from the clay itself. This cannot be natural and must have an anthropogenic origin. Excavation trenches covering 835 sq.m were laid out to cover areas of potential archaeology indicated either by concentrations of fieldwalking finds or by the geophysical plots. The results were almost completely negative. All the areas were machine-cleared of topsoil and the natural clay or bedrock then cleaned by hand. The topsoil and subsoil cover varied between 0.1m and 0.25m. The natural surface varied from a clean orange clay to limestone bedrock. Some of the geophysical anomalies were seen to coincide with natural fissures, while cropmarks visible on air photographs could have resulted from crop growth differences at junctions between clay and rock.

In contrast to the abundant finds of flint in the topsoil, very few finds came from the excavations. Only three flint flakes were found and three sherds of Romano-British pottery.

DISCUSSION

The survey area lies within a limestone upland zone of a type which was generally well favoured in prehistory. Where more archaeological research has been undertaken nearby, widespread Neolithic and Bronze Age features are known, with some evidence of upland Iron Age and Romano-British farms and enclosures (Aston and Iles 1986; Ellis 1992; Fowler 1975). An aerial photograph in the Avon SMR of the field to the north-east of Freeman's Farm suggests a settlement enclosure and fields similar to those excavated at Butcombe (Fowler 1968, 1970), and there are Bronze Age round barrows close by. The flint scatters are a significant piece of evidence, representing former settlements and industries established on a number of occasions. However, the flint scatters found, and the evidence of burning, can only be seen as the final remnant of ploughed-out sites.

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EXCAVATION OF A ROMANO-BRITISH SITE AT STONEHILL, HANHAM

by Donna E. Yorkston MA and Philip J. Piper

SUMMARY

Excavation of a site off Aldermoor Way, Hanham, within the area of the former market garden at Stonehill Nursery (NGR ST 65187186), revealed evidence of previous activity in the area from the prehistoric period to the 20th century. An extended period of Romano-British activity dating between the late 2nd and 4th centuries, was evident from a series of enclosures and field boundaries which appeared to represent further evidence of a settlement excavated by Vince Russett in 1990 (Russett 1994). Evidence for the earlier Romano-British occupation of the site included substantial quantities of ironworking residues associated with a rural ironsmelting industry. The later (4th century) Romano-British occupation indicated a change in the organisation and landuse of the settlement, suggesting that the earlier ironsmelting industry had been abandoned by that time. Evidence of medieval activity was also recorded on the site, although insufficient remains were preserved to determine the precise nature of that activity.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The site (Fig. 1) was excavated in January 1994 prior to the development of the land as a retail park. The excavation was designed to record the total archaeology within a specific area of the development where archaeological structures and deposits had been recorded during a previous evaluation exercise (Yorkston 1993).

The excavation was wholly funded by J. J. Gallagher (Birmingham) Limited. Thanks are due to the site staff and to Ruth Cullen, Lynn Hume, Richard Wykes and Anne Linge for preparing the various illustrations. Thanks are also due to the authors of the specialist reports included in this article.

All archive material relating to the excavation (Avon SMR 9671) is deposited with the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number BRSMG 8/1994. A microfiche copy of the archive is deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) at Swindon.

METHODOLOGY

An area of approximately 1250 square metres was excavated within the site of a former market garden (Stonehill Nursery, Fig. 2). The excavation area was initially opened by a 360 degree slew-tracked excavator in order to remove the remains of former buildings and overgrown structures relating to the market garden. In some areas the topsoil and overburden was removed to a depth of *c.*0.7m by this means. Archaeological features and deposits exposed were then cleaned and excavated by hand.

Fig. 1

Archaeologically significant features and deposits were recorded on standard context-based record sheets, photographically and in archaeological section drawings and plans at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. The precise location of the excavation area was surveyed and related to the 1:1250 scale Ordnance Survey map of the area. In addition, archaeological features and deposits were levelled to a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark.

SUMMARY OF SITE PHASING

Evidence of nine phases of archaeological activity, dating between the prehistoric and post-medieval/modern periods, were identified during the excavation (Fig. 3). Of these, four phases related to Romano-British activity on the site.

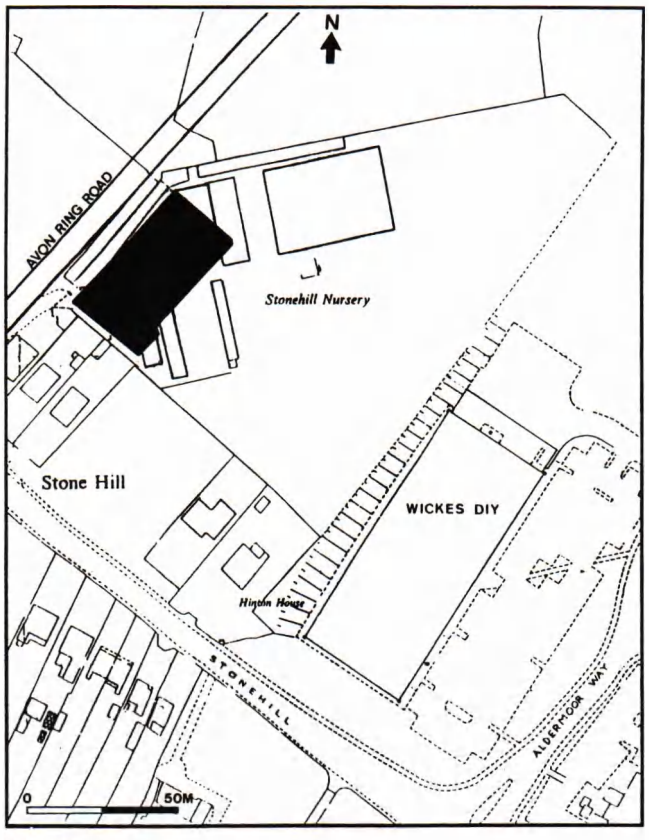

Fig. 2

The archaeological features and deposits relating to each Romano-British phase were phased on the basis of stratigraphy and supported by pottery dates. The majority of the Romano-British pottery consisted of local wares which ranged in date between the late 2nd century and the 4th century AD (see specialist report below). The assemblage therefore provided a date range for the period of Romano-British activity as a whole, but was less useful in defining the precise chronology for each of the four phases of Romano-British activity.

The sequence of activity on the site can be summarised as follows:

Period I: Prehistoric
Period II: Romano-British – incorporating four structural phases;
Phase 1 – late 2nd/early 3rd centuries
Phase 2 – late 2nd/3rd centuries
Phase 3 – 3rd/early 4th centuries
Phase 4 – 4th century
Period III: Sub-Roman
Period IV: Medieval – incorporating two structural phases;
Phase 1 – 10th-12th centuries
Phase 2 – 13th/14th centuries
Period V: Post-medieval/Modern

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

Period I – Prehistoric

No structural evidence relating to prehistoric activity was recorded within the excavation area. The evidence for prehistoric activity was confined to a small number of flint objects, which included two scrapers of possible Neolithic/Bronze Age date, from unstratified and residual contexts.

Period II – Romano-British

Phase 1 (late 2nd/early 3rd centuries) (Fig. 4)

The earliest phase of Romano-British activity recorded was represented by the cutting and subsequent abandonment of a large oval pit (1087) of unknown function. Pottery from its fills (1085, 1086) dated the feature to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries. Both fills (1085, 1086) were cut by a later (phase 2) ditch (109) immediately to the southeast.

Phase 2 (late 2nd/3rd centuries) (Fig. 4)

The second phase of Romano-British activity consisted of the construction and partial silting of a series of boundary ditches (ditches 109, 108, 106 and 107) which crossed the area and appeared to divide it into a number of distinct plots or enclosures. Ditch 110, which was located immediately adjacent and parallel to ditch 108, appeared to represent an abandoned attempt to recut the boundary formed by ditches 108 and 109.

Plate 1 Romano-British ditch 108, from the north east

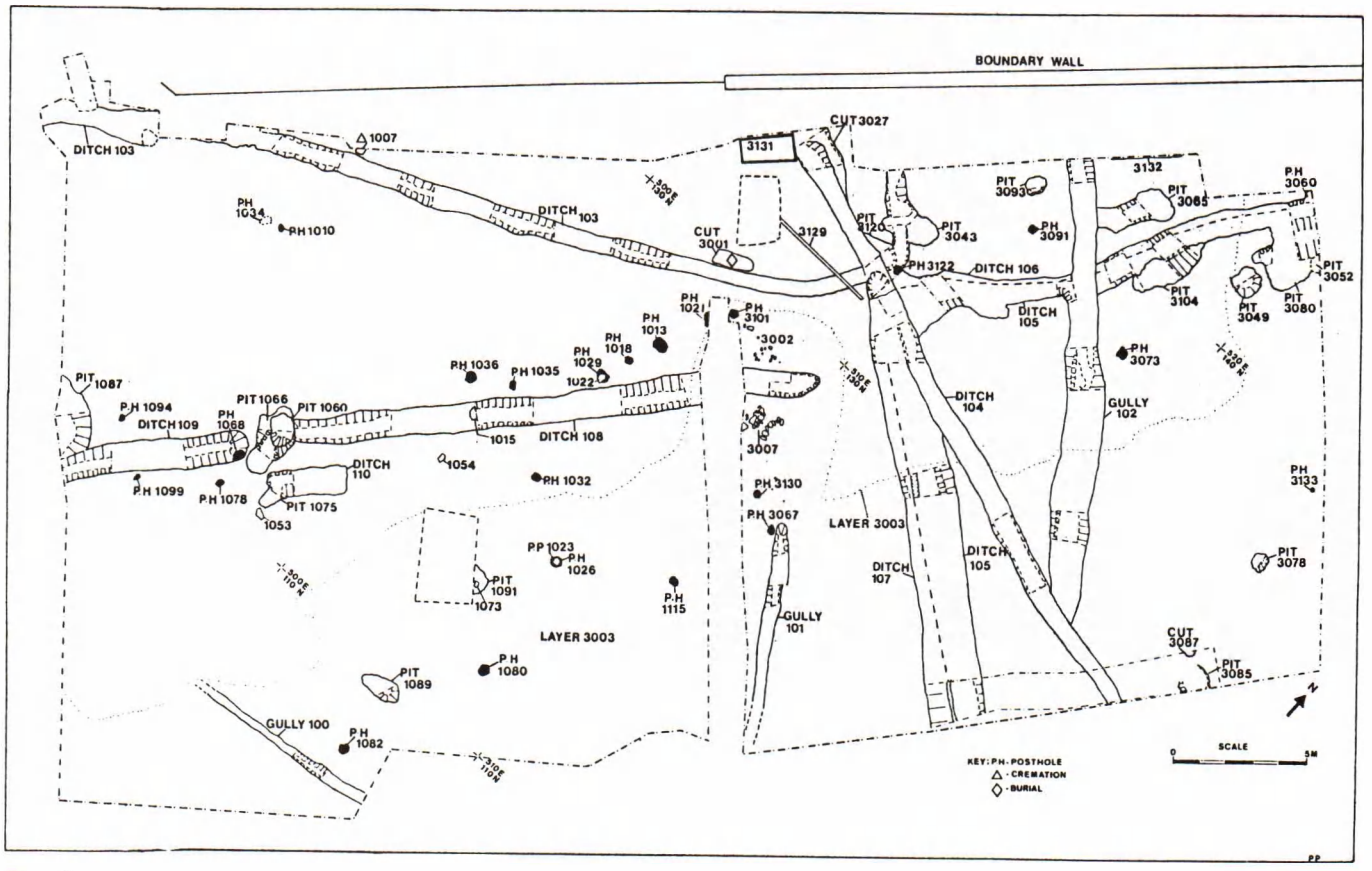
BOUNDARY WALL
DITCH 103
1007
CUT 3027
3131
PIT 3093
3132
PH 3060
PH 1034
PH 1010
DITCH 103
CUT 3001
3129
PIT 3120
PIT 3043
PH 3091
PH 3122
DITCH 106
PIT 3052
PIT 3104
PIT 3049
PIT 3080
PH 1021
PH 3101
PH 1013
PH 1018
PH 1029
1022
PH 1036
PH 1035
3002
DITCH 105
PH 3073
PIT 1087
PH 1094
DITCH 109
PH 1088
PIT 1066
PIT 1060
1015
DITCH 108
DITCH 104
GULLY 102
3007
DITCH 110
1054
PH 1032
PH 3130
PH 3133
PH 1099
PH 1078
PIT 1075
1053
PH 3067
LAYER 3003
PP 1023
PH 1026
PIT 1091
1073
PH 1115
DITCH 107
DITCH 105
PIT 3078
GULLY 101
LAYER 3003
CUT 3087
PIT 3085
PIT 1089
PH 1080
GULLY 100
PH 1082
KEY: PH - POSTHOLE
△ - CREMATION
◇ - BURIAL
SCALE
0
5M

Fig. 3

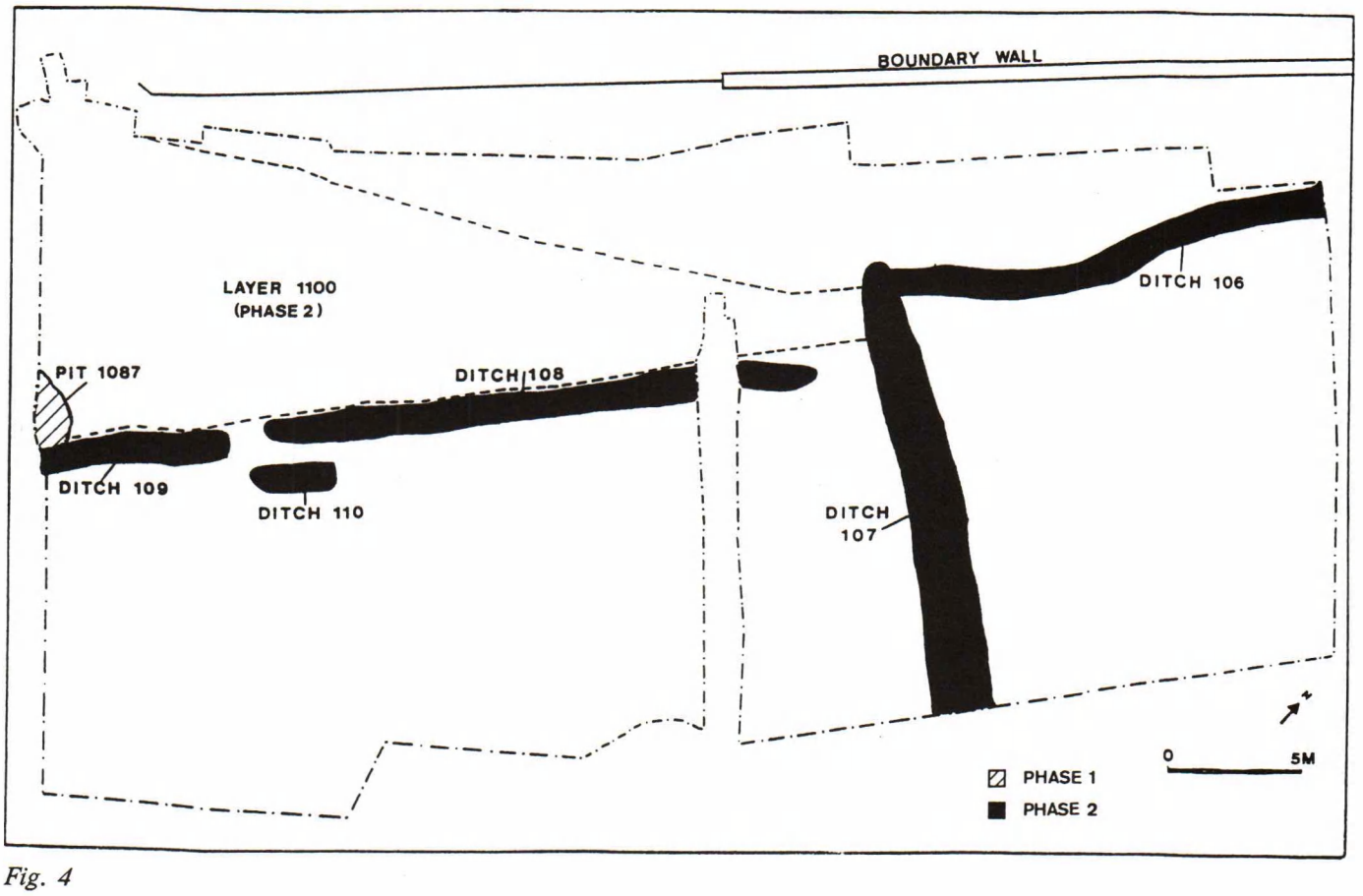
BOUNDARY WALL
LAYER 1100
(PHASE 2)
DITCH 106
PIT 1087
DITCH 108
DITCH 109
DITCH 110
DITCH
107
0
5M
PHASE 1
PHASE 2

Fig. 4

Ditch 109 was orientated northeast-southwest and had a fairly steep V-shaped profile with a narrow, flat base (Fig. 8.3). It contained a weathered primary fill (116), which suggested that the ditch had been open for a considerable period of time after its construction. A small number of pottery sherds were retrieved from its primary fill (116), which dated to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries. The ditch, which continued beyond the southwestern baulk, extended northeastwards across the excavation area for a distance of approximately 7m before terminating approximately 2m from the southwestern terminal of opposing ditch 108. The gap between the terminals of ditches 109 and 108 appeared to have been deliberate, possibly to provide access across the boundary at that location. Ditch 108, which had a fairly steep U-shaped profile which was cut into the natural sandstone substratum. It extended across the excavation area for a distance of 21m on a similar northeast-southwest alignment before terminating at its northeastern end. Ditch 108 also contained a weathered primary fill, although no finds were retrieved from the deposit.

Ditch 106 extended across the eastern half of the excavation area and was also orientated northeast-southwest. It was offset by *c.*2m to the northwest of the boundary line defined by ditches 108 and 109. The southeastern side of the ditch and its southwestern terminal had been destroyed during the construction of a later (phase 3) ditch (105). The single fill (fill 123) of ditch 106 consisted of a naturally silted deposit which contained no datable finds. A second ditch (107) was also partially destroyed by the construction of phase 3 ditch 105. Ditch 107 was orientated northwest-southeast and ran across the excavation area from the southeast for a distance of 15m before terminating at its northwestern end, immediately to the west of ditch 106. It (107) had a steep southwestern side and a rounded base cut into natural red clay and sandstone. The single fill (fill 122) consisted of a naturally silted deposit from which a few sherds of 3rd century pottery and a fragment of Roman roof tile were retrieved. Ditch 107 was set out perpendicular to ditches 106 and 108 and was separated from ditch 108 to the west, by a 2m gap. The gap between ditches 107 and 108 again appeared deliberate.

A further short ditch section (110) orientated northeast-southwest, was located adjacent to ditch 108 in the southwest of the excavation area. Ditch 110 had a rounded terminal at its southwestern end opposite to the terminal of ditch 108. The feature had a moderately steep V-shaped profile and was cut into the natural sandstone substratum parallel to ditch 108, before terminating in a squared-off edge. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with a mixture of redeposited natural sandstone and loamy soil (fill 119), which contained a few sherds of late 2nd and 3rd century pottery.

Phase 3 (late 3rd/early 4th centuries) (Fig. 5)

The third phase of Romano-British activity was represented by the construction of ditch 105, which recut the enclosure boundary defined by phase 2 ditches 106 and 107. Ditch 105 was also deliberately backfilled in this phase, as were

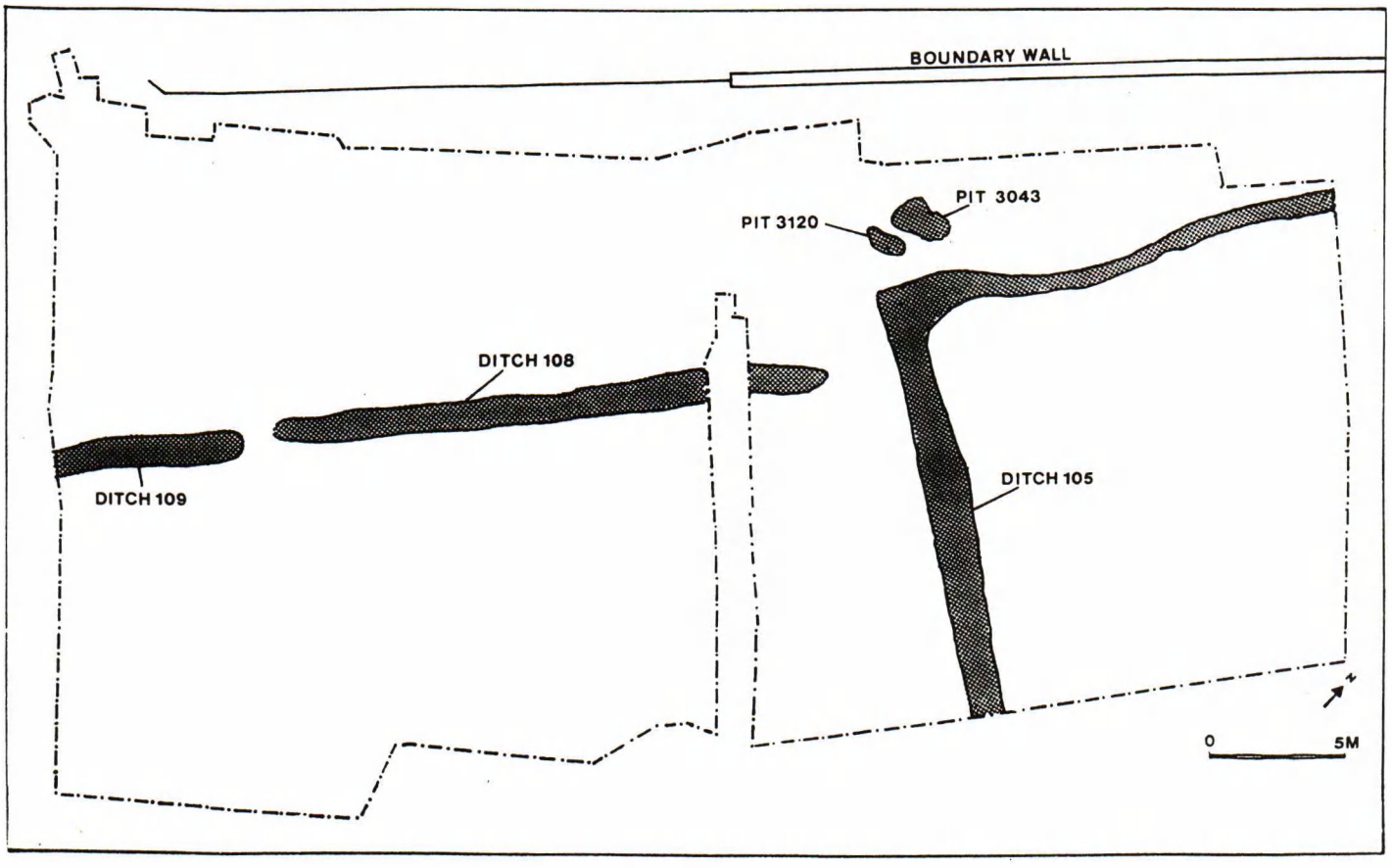

Fig. 5

phase 2 ditches 108 and 109 in the west of the excavation area. The upper fills of the phase 2 ditches (108 and 109) contained large quantities of dense tap and furnace slag, which indicated that iron-smelting had been carried out in the immediate vicinity during this, or an earlier phase of Romano-British activity. Two pits of indeterminate function (cuts 3043 and 3120) which were located in the west of the excavation area, were also included within this phase on the basis of their stratigraphy.

Ditch 105 represented a recutting of the phase 2 enclosure formed by ditches 106 and 107. In general, ditch 105 had a steep, U-shaped profile although it narrowed and became more V-shaped in parts where it was cut into solid natural sandstone. It was backfilled with a loamy deposit (fill 124), which contained many large subangular sandstone blocks and 3rd century pottery.

To the southwest, ditches 108 and 109, which had been constructed during the second phase of Romano-British activity, were also deliberately backfilled. The upper fills (120 and 115 respectively) consisted of loamy deposits and contained large quantities of dense tap and furnace slag as well as some large subangular sandstone fragments. The quantities of dense tap and furnace slag recovered from fills 120 and 115 were particularly concentrated in both ditch terminals. Pottery retrieved from fills 120 and 115 dated the backfilling of ditches 108 and 109 to the late 3rd/early 4th centuries. The base of a small pottery bowl (Figure 9.1), which had been used as a crucible for the smelting of copper-based alloys, was retrieved from fill 120 (ditch 108) and a broken perforated disc made from a grey ware jar, possibly used as a spindlewhorl (Fig. 9.2) was recovered from fill 115 (ditch 109).

Two subcircular pits (cuts 3043 and 3120), located in the northwest of the excavation area, were included within this phase on the basis of stratigraphy. The pits (cuts 3043 and 3120) were backfilled with a single, mixed deposit (fills 3042 and 3119 respectively) and were partially destroyed during the construction of the phase 4 enclosure (ditch 103).

Phase 4 (4th century) (Fig. 6)

The final phase of Romano-British activity was represented by the construction and subsequent abandonment of two enclosures located in the west and south of the excavation area. Several features which were sealed by the subsoil, but which otherwise produced no dating evidence, were also included within phase 4. The southern enclosure was defined by two gullies (100 and 101), which marked its southern and eastern sides; the enclosure to the northwest was defined on its southern and eastern sides by a single foundation trench and ditch (103), which contained foundations for a short stretch of limestone wall (structure 126) along its southern side. A human burial (skeleton 9000) and a human cremation (context 1006) were located immediately adjacent to ditch 103 and within the enclosure which it appeared to define. Gully 102, which was located

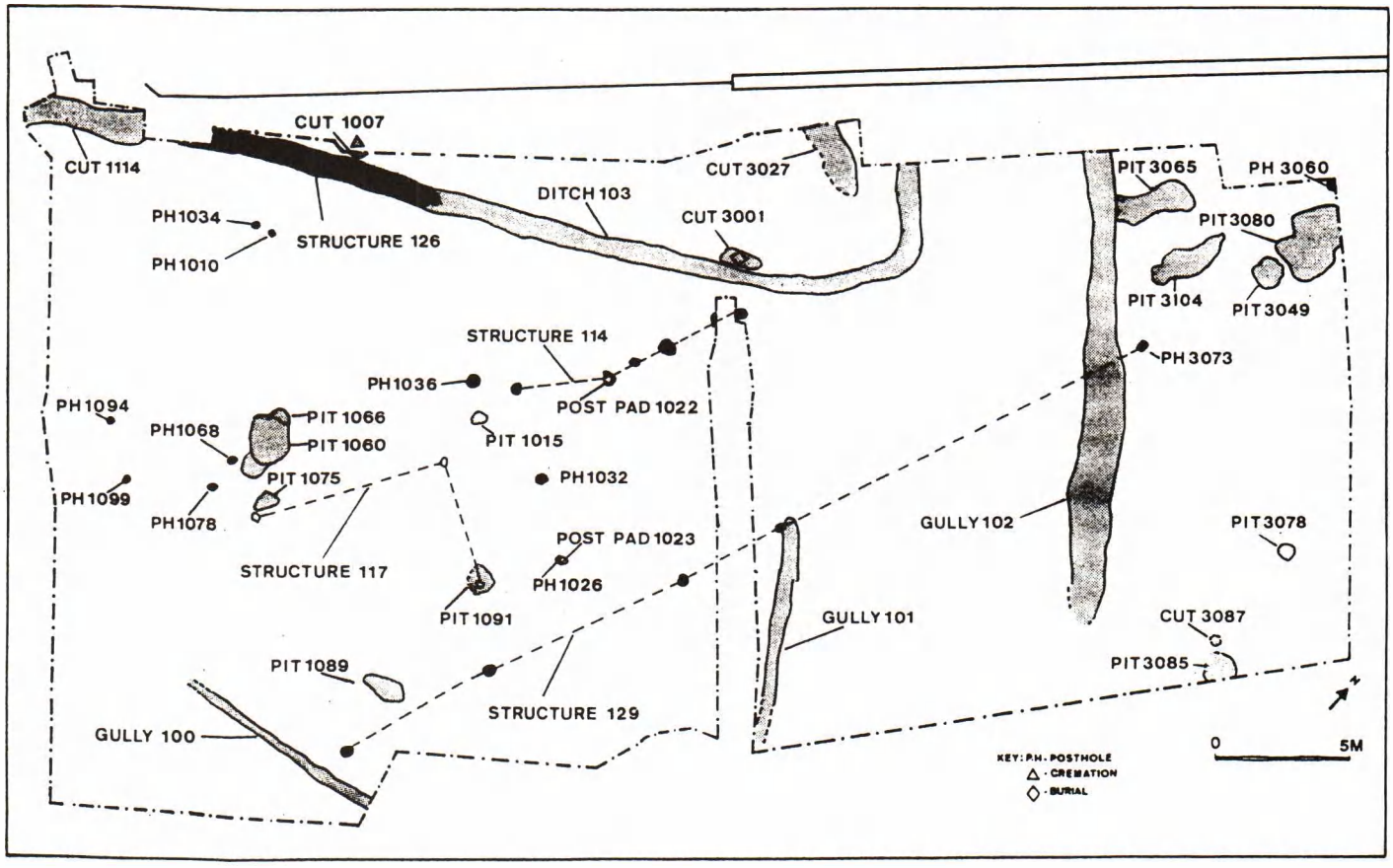

Fig. 6

in the northeast of the excavation area, was also included within this final phase, as it lay parallel to gully 101 and cut phase 3 ditch 105.

The southern phase 4 enclosure was defined to the south and east by two gullies orientated at right angles (gullies 100 and 101). The full extent of gully 100 was not determined as it had been destroyed by later activity at its western end. It extended beyond the excavated area to the east and had a moderately steep, U-shaped profile which was entirely filled by a silted deposit (fill 111). No datable finds were retrieved from the fill. Gully 101 was 8m long and terminated at its northern end, although it extended beyond the baulk to the south. The gully had a shallow, U-shaped profile and contained a single silty fill (112) from which a few sherds of 3rd/4th century pottery was retrieved.

The northern phase 4 enclosure was defined to the south and east by a single ditch (103) which contained the rubble foundations of a short length of limestone wall (structure 126, Fig. 8.2). The foundation ditch was cut into natural yellow clay and extended across the excavation area for a distance of 27m before turning at its eastern end to run northwards. The largely robbed-out foundations of a limestone wall (structure 126) were recorded for a distance of 8.6m within the foundation trench (103) before fading out. Pottery dating to the 4th century was sealed beneath the foundation rubble in the base of the ditch. The profile of the foundation trench changed along its length. This change in profile appeared to be related to a change in its function. To the west, it had a rectangular profile with steep sides and a flat base, but from a point approximately 15m eastwards, it continued with a U-shaped profile. The western end with the rectangular profile appeared to have been deliberately cut as a foundation trench for a limestone wall (structure 126). The eastern section suggested that the boundary was defined by an open ditch rather than by a wall at that location. The north-south section of the ditch was filled by a silty clay deposit (fill 128) and also contained a few sherds of 4th century pottery.

Plate 2 Skeleton 9000, viewed from the west

At the close of the excavation, rapid investigation was undertaken to further expose the western end of ditch 103 and structure 126, beyond the original limit of the excavation area. Here the ditch (103) continued on its original east-west alignment for a distance of 1.4m, before turning slightly and extending southwestwards for a further distance of 5m, where it appeared to continue beyond the excavation area. In this area the ditch (cut 1114) had a weathered primary fill and was backfilled with a loamy soil which contained large unabraded sherds of domestic RB pottery including imported tableware (Fig. 9.3) which ranged in date from the mid 2nd to 4th centuries. The rubble wall foundations (126) did not appear to extend any further westwards beyond the original edge of excavation. The ditch was sealed by a series of Romano-British deposits containing domestic debris, some slag and numerous large, unabraded sherds of 4th century pottery.

A gully orientated north-south (gully 102) was also assigned to the final Romano-British phase primarily because of its parallel alignment with gully 101. It (102) had a moderately steep-sided profile with a gently sloping base which was cut into natural yellow and red clays. It cut the fill of phase 3 boundary ditch 105 and extended beyond the excavation area to the north. The full extent of gully 102 was not determined as features in this part of the excavation area had been eroded by later activity. The lower fill of the gully consisted of a silted deposit and contained a few sherds of late Romano-British pottery. It was cut by a medieval ditch (104) and faded out approximately 3m short of the southern baulk of the excavation area. The upper fill only survived at its northern end where it consisted of a layer of redeposited pure clay and chunks of sandstone rubble.

A human burial, orientated approximately east-west (skeleton 9000) was recorded immediately adjacent to p2 immediately adjacent to ditch 103. A few small sherds of late Romano-British pottery were retrieved from the grave fill (context 3000), as were several coffin nails (SF 6004) and numerous boot studs (SF 6005). These indicated that the body had been clothed and placed in a coffin for burial. No grave goods were recovered from the grave. The positioning of the grave just inside the northern enclosure, and its parallel alignment with ditch 103, indicated that the two features were probably contemporary. A human cremation (context 1006) was also located within the northern enclosure, immediately adjacent to ditch 103 and

approximately 13m to the west of the burial. Unfortunately, no vessel or other artefacts were associated with the cremated bone (context 1006), which appeared to have been deposited directly into a shallow pit (context 1007). As no dating evidence was retrieved from the cremation, its dating is tentative and based wholly upon its relationship with ditch 103 and its apparent location inside the northern enclosure.

Several other features were assigned to the final phase of Romano-British activity solely on the basis of their distribution. These features included several postholes and postpads (postholes 1010; 1015; 1026; 1032; 1036; 1068; 1078; 1094; 1099; 3060; 3122 and postpads 1022; 1023; 1034; 3070), the majority of which were located within the southern enclosure defined by gullies 100 and 101. Three possible structures (structures 114, 117, and 129) were interpolated from the distribution of these postholes and postpads, although a number of alternative alignments were also possible.

Structure 114 appeared to consist of a group of six postholes orientated northeast-southwest. The postholes (1013; 1018; 1021; 1029; 1035; 3101) were all cut into the natural sandstone and shared a similar morphology, comprising a steep, U-shaped cut and the use of limestone rubble as post-packing. The employment of limestone as a construction material appeared to be confined elsewhere on the site to phase 4, (e.g. limestone wall 126).

A second posthole structure orientated northeast-southwest (structure 129) appeared to have been set out roughly parallel to, and 8m to the east of structure 114. All the postholes (1080, 1082, 1115, 3067 and 3073) shared a similar fairly steep, U-shaped profile and were cut at varying depths into natural red and yellow clays. Post-packing was recorded in the construction of three of the postholes (cuts 1080, 3067 and 3073), although in this case the use of sandstone predominated.

A further structure (structure 117) was suggested by the presence of a right-angled arrangement of three flat sandstone postpads (1053; 1054; 1073). This arrangement of postpads was interpreted to define three corners of a possible four-post timber structure.

A number of irregular pits (1060; 1066; 1075; 1089; 1091; 3027; 3049; 3065; 3078; 3080; 3085; 3104) of unknown function also appear to have been cut into the natural sandstone and clay at this time. Fragments of Romano-British roof tile were retrieved from pits 1075 and 3085, but the remainder contained no dating evidence. One or two of the pits were observed to cut earlier Romano-British features. Elsewhere a large subcircular pit (1060) was dug which cut the redeposited fill of phase 2 ditch 108 at its southwestern terminal. In the extreme northeast of the excavation area a subcircular pit (3080), containing a base or lining set with fragments of sandstone, cut the fill of phase 3 ditch 105. A further shallow pit (3078) contained an ash and charcoal-rich deposit (fill 3077) perhaps related to the iron-smelting activity attributed to Romano-British phase 3, although this could not be determined with certainty.

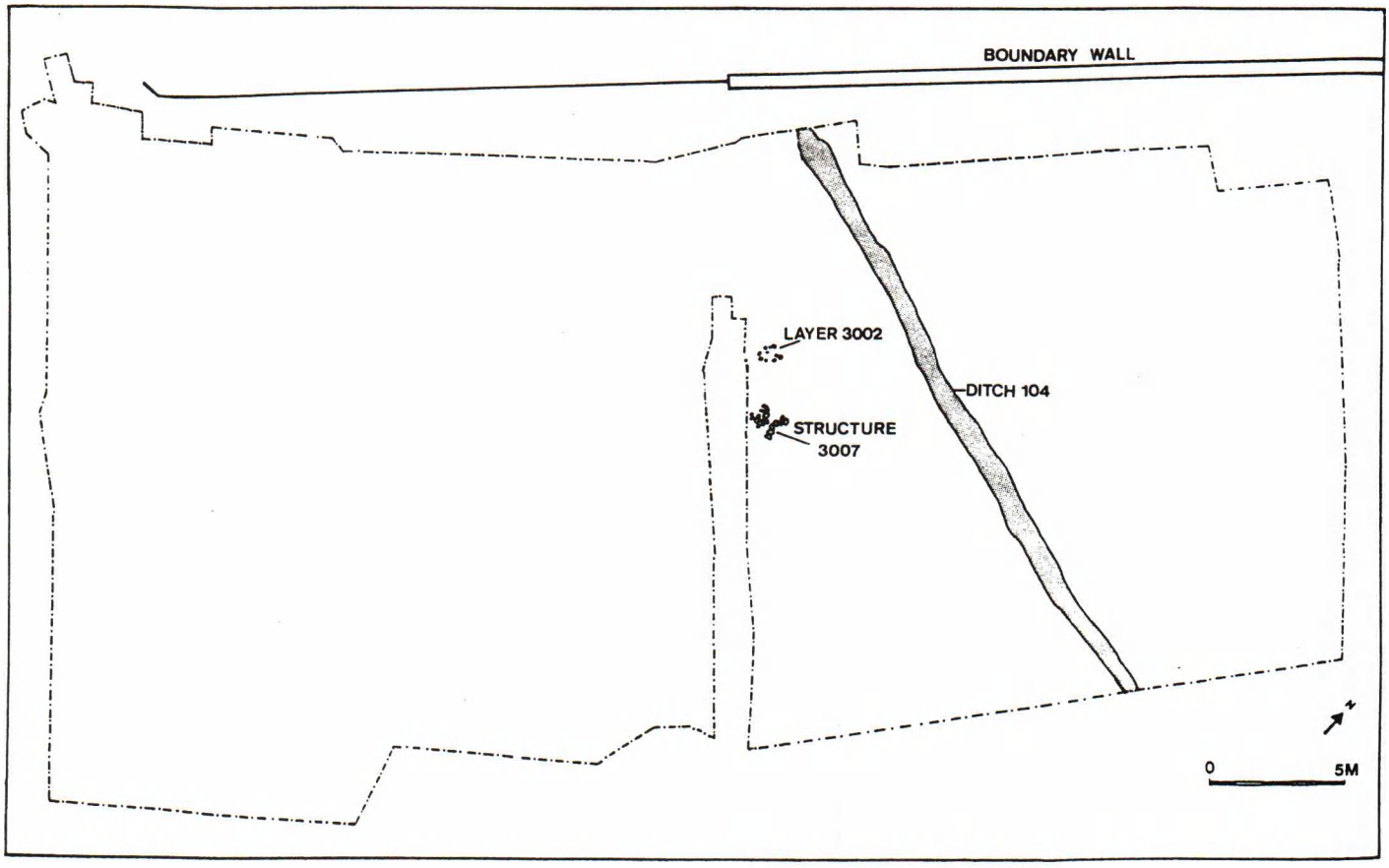

Fig. 7

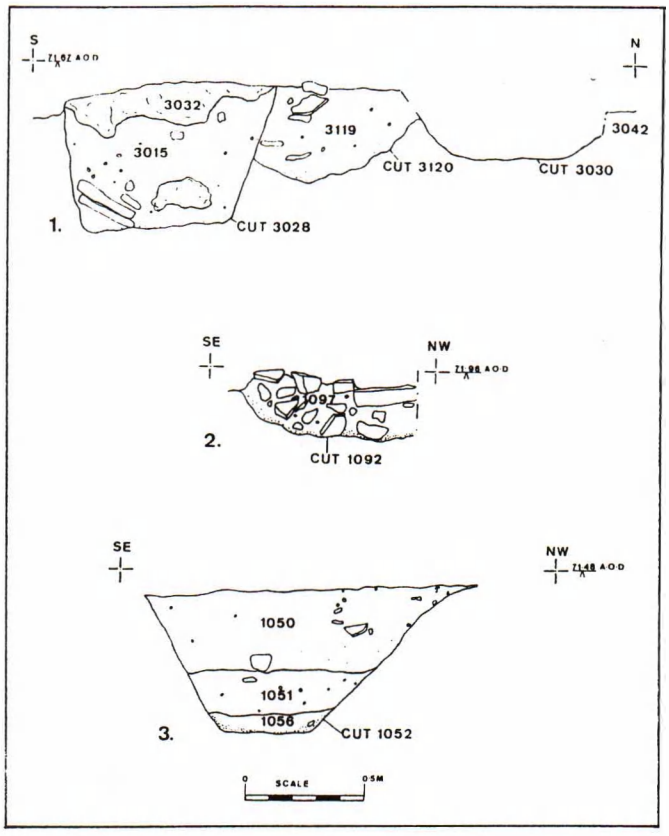

Fig. 8

Period III – Sub-Roman

No structural evidence of post-Roman activity was identified within the excavation area. However, three joining sherds of pottery of post-Roman/early Saxon date were retrieved from the general unstratified cleaning layer (1000).

Period IV – Medieval

Phase 1 (10th-12th centuries)

An earlier phase of indeterminate medieval activity was indicated by a mixed and reworked layer of reddish brown silty loam (3003), which extended across the eastern half of the excavation area. The layer contained pottery sherds ranging in date from the 10th-12th centuries and included a late Saxon/early medieval sherd with stamped decoration (Fig. 9.4). Soil layer 3003 was sealed at certain locations by a number of later medieval stone spreads (3002 and 3007) and was cut by a later medieval ditch (104).

Phase 2 (13th/14th centuries) (Fig. 7)

A later phase of medieval activity was represented by two stone spreads (3002 and 3007), which sealed the earlier medieval soil layer (3003) in the centre of the excavation area, and by the construction of a ditch (104) which crossed the site.

Layer 3002 contained a few sherds of 13th/14th century pottery. The deposit consisted of an irregular spread of angular sandstone rubble which was set within a loamy soil matrix. Although the feature was approximately circular in plan it lacked any clear form and could not be attributed to any specific activity.

A second stone spread (3007) overlay two parallel lines of flat limestone and sandstone slabs. The feature extended for a distance of only 1m on a north-south orientation and may possibly have represented the remnants of a drain.

A later medieval ditch (104) crossed the excavation area at a point 6m to the north of stone spread 3007. The ditch was orientated northwest-southeast and extended beyond the excavation area in both directions. Several Romano-British features were cut by the feature (Fig. 8.1) and it contained a thin primary fill of fine coal dust/ash that was present along its entire length. The ditch was sealed with a mixture of redeposited yellow and red clays (3023 and 3032) at its northwestern end. Elsewhere it was entirely backfilled with a very mixed deposit containing lumps of pure red and yellow clays and strong lenses of coal ash in a loamy soil matrix. Sherds of glazed 13th/14th century pottery were recovered from the later fills of the feature.

Period V – Post-Medieval/Modern

Phase 1 (19th/20th centuries)

Several post-medieval and modern features, some of which were possibly associated with the former Stonehill Nursery, were identified during the excavation. These included a small rectangular brick structure (3131) which was filled with humic topsoil, two pits of indeterminate function (3052 and 3093) and a ceramic field drain (3129), as well as modern postholes (3130 and 3091) and a subcircular concrete postpad (3133). A possible bell-pit (3132), filled with modern debris, was also partially exposed in section in the extreme northwest of the excavation area.

SUMMARY OF FINDS

(Followed by specialist reports)

THE POTTERY

A relatively small pottery assemblage of 828 sherds (total weight approximately 9kg) was retrieved during the excavation. The majority of the pottery was dated to the Romano-British period (2nd-4th centuries), although small quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery were also recovered, as well as three joining sherds of possible sub-Roman pottery.

Overall, the pottery was relatively well preserved and distributed in greater concentrations in the west of the excavation area. On occasion, larger sherds of pottery, some joining, were deposited within features, although the majority appeared to have been derived from elsewhere on the site. Despite this, its reasonably good condition suggested that the source of the material was relatively close.

Bone

A small bone assemblage (total weight 6.355kg) was

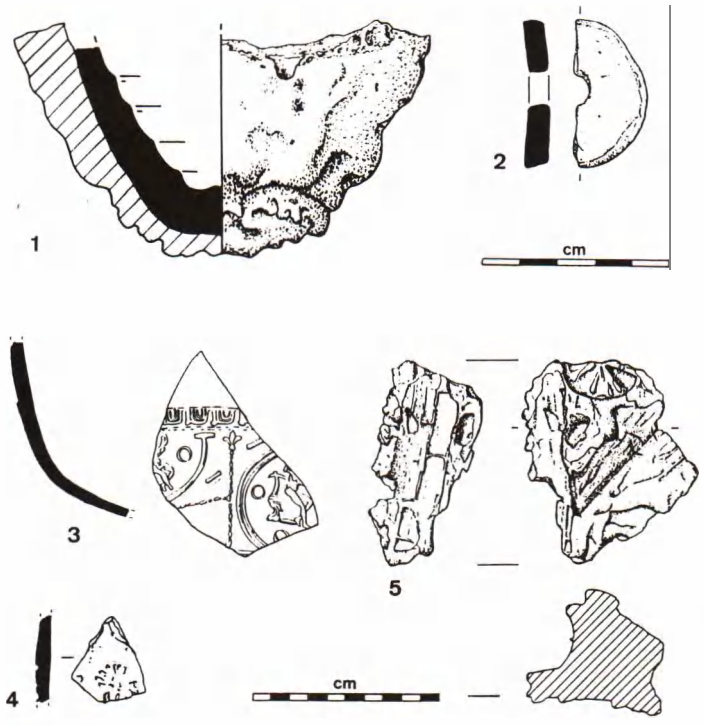

Fig. 9

retrieved during the excavation. The majority of this was identified as animal bone, although a single human burial (skeleton 9000) and a human cremation (context 1006) were also retrieved. No significance could be attributed to the distribution of the bone, which was retrieved from features located throughout the site.

Slag

A significant quantity of metallic slag (approximately 165kg) was recovered during the excavation. Although the slag was retrieved from most features across the site, a dense concentration was recorded in the southwest of the excavation area, particularly within the Romano-British (phase 3) fills (fills 120 and 115) of the opposing terminals of ditches 108 and 109. The slags and residues retrieved during the excavation had a distinctive character. Dense tap slag and furnace slag predominated over tap slag, the latter of which is usually the more common type recorded on Romano-British sites. This suggested that the tap slag may have been deposited outside the excavation area, or that a different smelting technology had been utilised (see specialist report below).

Three sherds of Romano-British pottery (one of which was retained for analysis at the Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford) from the base of a small bowl used as a crucible (SF No. 6001, Figure 9.1) were retrieved from ditch 108. The exterior of the vessel was thickly encrusted with ferrous slag and was made from a dense sandy fabric which had become heat-affected (possibly vitrified) during its use. The preliminary analysis by X-ray Fluorescence of a thin metal residue in the base of the crucible, recorded the presence of copper and zinc, confirming the use of the vessel for the melting of copper-based alloys.

Metalwork

Despite the presence of ironworking residues surprisingly few metal objects (75) were recovered and the greater number of these (51 boot studs, SF No. 6005 and coffin nails, SF No. 6004) were associated with the human burial. Of the remainder, six were identified as iron nails and a copper alloy coin of unknown date was also retrieved.

Worked Stone

Ten pieces of worked stone (sandstone) were recovered during the excavation from both unstratified and stratified contexts, the latter dating to the Romano-British and medieval periods. Generally the worked sandstone was in the form of thick slabs which either bore incised tool marks on one or more of their surfaces or were smoothed as a consequence of use as a whetstone or sharpener.

Flint

A small number of flints (10) were retrieved from unstratified or residual contexts during the excavation. Of these, six were identified as tools. The tools identified included two scrapers, each with a steeply retouched face, of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date, and two struck blades. A finely worked, barbed arrowhead, of Bronze Age type, was recovered from unstratified layer 1000.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The specialist reports on the artefacts have been abbreviated for publication. The complete reports may be found in the excavation archive (BRSMG 8/1994).

THE POTTERY — Dr Jane Timby

Roman Wares

The Roman assemblage ranged in date from the second half of the 2nd century AD through to the later 3rd early 4th century. Fourteen main fabric types were identified, of which the most frequent were Dorset black burnished wares (BB1, fabric 1) and local micaceous grey wares (fabric 2). The Dorset BB1 included quite a high proportion of bowls, mainly types with a grooved rim dating to the later 2nd but unlikely to last much beyond the mid 3rd century. The presence of a few flanged examples dating from around the mid 3rd century and continuing into the 4th century show certain continuity of supply. Other BB1 products include at least two, handled flagons, not a particularly common form, generally dating to the 2nd century, straight-sided dishes, and a number of jars with burnished line lattice decoration. The micaceous grey wares include a similar range of forms, and certainly, in the later Roman period, tended to largely copy BB1 forms. Although a few of the forms clearly continued into the 4th century there is insufficient evidence to suggest that the site was actively used throughout the 4th century. Non-local material includes a few sherds of imported Central Gaulish Samian, mainly dishes (Dragendorff form 31) but including one decorated sherd from a bowl (Dragendorff form 37, Fig. 9.3). The existence of a few finer tableware, to an otherwise fairly standard domestic assemblage, perhaps suggests the presence of a

habitation in the vicinity, and that this was not a purely industrial site. The only other traded regional ware present derives from the later Roman Oxfordshire colour-coated industry, represented by two sherds of mortaria and some bowls. Production of these wares dates to the period after c.AD 240 continuing through the 4th century.

Medieval Wares

A small number of fairly diverse medieval wares were present although unfortunately, few of these were featured and many were recovered from cleaning layers. Amongst the material that could be recognised from its occurrence elsewhere were sherds of Bath fabric A (fabrics M5 and perhaps M8) and Minety type ware (fabric M10). A small number of white-firing wares with a glazed surface were also present, some examples with applied decoration likely to be from jugs dating to the 13th/14th centuries.

Although there are none of the more typical grass or chaff-tempered post-Roman wares present, it is possible that one or two sherds might date to the sub-Roman period. Amongst these in particular are some "corky" wares from context 3050 and the grave fill (context 3000) and three sherds from a oolitic limestone tempered jar from context 1000. However, the presence of a stamped sherd (Fig. 9.4) probably dating to around the 10th century would indicate some activity in the area in the late Saxon/early medieval period. Stamped wares have been found in Bristol, in particular St Mary-le-Port where a group was found associated with a coin of 1066 (Rhatz 1974, 119). More recent material from the northeast defences of the castle and dating to the 11th century, is described as lightweight calcareous gritted ware with a soapy but slightly bumpy feel (Ponsford 1974, 120). This may well be the same material as Hanham.

Tile

A small quantity of Roman roofing tile was found in a number of contexts. Examples of both imbrices and tegulae were present with a few pieces of flat tile. Several different fabrics appear to be present. The most distinctive are two pieces of particularly well-fired dark red clay with a grey core which is typical of the products made at Minety, Wiltshire. There were no fragments of hypocaust present. A few fragments of post-Roman constructional material (brick/tile) were present from the cleaning layers (contexts 1000, 1002 and 1003).

EXAMINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SLAGS

Gerry McDonnell
Department of Archaeological Sciences
University of Bradford

INTRODUCTION

Quantities of slags and other residues recovered from the excavation of 2nd-4th century Roman contexts at Stonehill, Hanham are described. The majority of the slags were recovered from a pair of ditches (ditches 108 and 109), each 1m wide and 1m deep. The ditches were sectioned at intervals. The slag retrieved is representative and a proportion of the slags generated on the site in antiquity

Slag Classification

The slags were visually examined and the classification is solely based on morphology. In general, slags and residues are divided into two broad groups; diagnostic and non-diagnostic slags. The diagnostic slags can be attributed to a particular industrial process. These comprise the ironworking slags, i.e. smelting or smithing slags, and the non-ferrous residues, e.g. crucibles. The non-diagnostic residues cannot be directly ascribed to a process, but may be identified with a process by association with diagnostic residues e.g. clay furnace lining with smelting slag.

Discussion of Slag Types

The group of slags and residues from Stonehill Nursery have a distinctive character. Firstly, the Dense Tap Slag and Furnace Slag predominates over Tap Slag; usually Tap Slag is the more common. There are two explanations for this observation, either the Tap Slag was deposited elsewhere, or that the evidence indicates a different smelting technology. Dense Tap Slag and Furnace Slags were identified in the large corpus of slags excavated from Worcester Deansway (McDonnell in prep.) but Tap Slag predominated. The morphologies of Tap Slag, Dense Tap Slag and Furnace Slag are merely indicators of the mode of slag removal (or not) from the furnace. The difference between Tap Slag and Dense Tap Slag is that the former is run out in narrow rivulets or channels, whereas the latter is tapped into a large channel or pit and represents a more massive scale of slag removal. The difference may be for example, continuous tapping to generate Tap Slag and tapping at intervals to produce Dense Tap Slag. The slag types may only represent different stages in the iron smelting technology used on the site. The Tap Slag group included large "runners" i.e. thick 20-50mm solid tubes of slag, often one or more fused together. The maximum length was between 100-150mm. Similar slag tubes were common at Worcester Deansway. One of the Dense Tap Slag lumps had a very large (in excess of 50mm wide) charcoal/wood impression (Fig. 9.5).

There was no evidence from the excavation for a furnace(s) structure. This is generally the case, since furnaces were upstanding shafts up to 2m high and 1m in diameter. The only possibility of structural evidence is if the furnace was built into a bank or slope, or the furnace base or tapping channels or pits were dug into the ground, but this need only have been dug to soil depth. Furnaces were usually built of clay, or clay and stones. Therefore it is usual to recover vitrified clay lining derived from the tuyere zone of the surface. The evidence from the slags and residues showed that there was very little of this characteristic form of lining. The material identified as furnace structure/lining (Clay Lining) was a mixture of clay and stones, in some cases vitrification was present, in others grey reduced colouring. The lumps of clay lining were up to 10-15cm thick, and one piece had wattle impressions. This form of structure has not been encountered previously, but is a response to local availability of suitable construction material. The sandstone of the area would also have provided a suitable refractory material for furnace construction. The absence of daub and other "fired clay" material from the site enables this material to be associated with the furnace. It could therefore be considered, in these unique circumstances, as a diagnostic slag.

The material classed as probable ore was in two forms, a red ferruginous sandstone containing black (manganese?) bands, and a harder red bedded ferruginous rock. Analysis will be required to ascertain whether either or both of these rock types could have been used as an ore. It should be noted that ores used in the direct process must be very rich i.e. in excess of 80% Fe_2O_3 and less than about 10-15% SiO_2.

The quantity of confirmed smithing debris was very small. The slag that was noted as smithing, was difficult to distinguish from the smelting debris. It would be expected that primary smithing debris would have been generated on site. However, such slags have rarely been identified due either to their similarity with some of the smelting debris, or the possibility that since they were rich in iron they could have been recycled. It should also be noted that a smithy was identified on the adjacent excavation.

The lumps of slag containing a high metal content may either be extremely corroded artefacts, or slag pieces containing a high metal component. They are extremely important because they are the direct evidence of what was being produced on the site (e.g. ferritic iron, phosphoric iron or steel).

Three fragments of crucible, all parts of the same vessel (Fig. 9.1), were identified during the excavation. The crucible was made from wheel-turned pottery. Preliminary analysis by X-ray Fluorescence has confirmed the presence of Copper and Zinc. Zinc was the major peak, but this is quite usual since it readily volatilises and condenses in the crucible fabric. The analysis confirms the use of the vessel for the melting of copper based alloys.

Slag Distribution

Preliminary examination of the distribution indicates that the slag was concentrated in the phase 3 Romano-British ditches 108 and 109, with a focus towards the southwest. It is therefore suggested that the iron-smelting furnace(s) (and a structure to protect it from the weather) was located to the direction (N, S, E or W) of the ditch, but within a few metres.

EXAMINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE BONE ASSEMBLAGE

Geraldine Barber

The Animal Bone

The excavation of Stonehill Nursery (Avon SMR 9671) produced 493 animal bone fragments (Table 1), of which 249 bone fragments (50.5%) were identified as belonging to six different species, all indigenous British mammals. Seven distinct phases of activity were identified during the excavation and animal bones were present in five of these. Each phase was taken in turn and the species and bone parts identified were discussed. With such a small sample, little can be said about the fauna from this area in the Romano-British and medieval periods except general comments on relative frequencies of body parts and age of some animals at death. Although there are preservation biases in any archaeological assemblage, as certain bones often preserve better than others (i.e. the bones of the skull and the feet), the material from this site is probably a mixture of butchery waste and dumping of more complete carcasses of other animals, and is of a primary nature. There are no significant changes in the species composition between the phases during the Romano-British period, nor between the Romano-British and medieval periods.

The Human Remains

Skeleton 9000

The remains of a single articulated human skeleton (Skeleton 9000) with flexed lower limbs were found in a grave cut aligned northeast-southwest. A number of coffin nails and several boot studs were also found within the grave, as well as pottery which dated the skeleton to the Romano-British period. Observations upon excavation were of a very poorly preserved individual, and on lifting the skeleton most of the bones crumbled to nothing.

The best preserved part of the skeleton was the skull, which was almost entirely present, although in many pieces. The skull had a near complete set of maxillary and mandibular dentition, and from this an age of between 17 and 25 years was calculated (Brothwell 1981). From the shape and size of the brow ridges and the mastoid processes, the skeleton is probably female, although it is difficult to tell with such fragmentary remains.

Parts of the following bones were also identified, although no joint surfaces were present: right and left humeri: right and left radius and ulna: right and left femur: right and left tibia and fibula. No measurements could be taken due to the fragmentary nature of the material.

None of the bone fragments showed any signs of pathology, but the upper left and right canines showed evidence of crowding.

To conclude, Skeleton 9000 is a badly preserved skeleton of a 17-25 year old ?female. The poor state of the remains does not allow for any further comment.

Context	Cow	Horse	Pig	Red Deer	Dog	Sheep /Goat	Large Mamm	not ident	Total
1000	2 (1)	1 (1)	3 (1)					15	21
1001							16		16
1002	1 (1)								1
1003	1 (1)						1	1	3
1005				2 (1)		1 (1)	7	1	11
1008	10 (2)						13		123
1011									1
1033	3 (1)	1 (1)					14		18
1039	5 (1)	1 (1)					12		18
1040	5 (1)				20 (1)	4 (1)		23	52
1041	4 (1)						13	1	18
1042	68 (1)						9		77
1043							1		1
1047	5 (1)						11		16
1048	4 (1)	2 (1)						11	17
1070	1 (1)								1
1071		1 (1)							1
1095							2		2
1105	12 (1)	2 (1)				1 (1)	19	1	35
1106	1 (1)					5 (1)			6
1112	1 (1)							2	3
3002						1 (10		3	4
3003	3 (1)							6	9
3010								6	6
3011								1	1
3013	9 (1)	38(1)					14		61
3014								2	2
3015		4 (1)					9		13
3016	3 (1)								3
3018			1(10)						1
3029								3	3
3031	9 (1)								9
3037	1 (1)							1	2
3061	3 (1)								3
3063	3 (1)	1 (1)						4	8
3095	1 (1)	1 (1)				1 (1)	21		25
3098	2 (1)								2
Total	157(25)	53(10)	4 (2)	2 (1)	20 (1)	13(6)	162	82	493

Table 1

Cremation 1006

A possible human cremation was discovered in context 1006, deposited straight into the grave cut. There was no associated pottery, so the date of this cremation is not known.

The material was of highly fragmented bone (approximately 900g) and was entirely human in origin, the fragments being on average between 20 and 30mm long. No fragments were over 50mm in length, and most of them were unidentifiable to anything more than longbone fragments. The material was a creamy white in colour and was cracked and fissured and showed a great deal of distortion.

A total of 39 pieces of bone were identifiable to any extent, 36 of these being skull fragments (3 occipital fragments, 1 zygomatic fragment, 19 parietal fragments and 7 frontal fragments). Other skull fragments were present but they could not be identified to a particular bone. A fragment of each proximal and distal phalange (hand) and a left proximal rib were also identified.

To conclude, skeleton 1006 was a cremation of at least one human individual of unknown sex and age. The material was fissured and distorted, and as such no more can be said about it.

Sample No.	Context No.	Wt of flot (gms)	Charcoal/ plant remains	Comments
8000	1006	47.2	Flot-charcoal 1 oat (*Avena*) sp grain	cremated bone and charcoal from shallow bowl shaped cut. Possible late R/B date. Modern roots and seeds.
8001	1048	8.2	Small frags charcoal 1 oat grain 1 wheat (*Triticum*) sp grain 2 cereal indet *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp frag vetch /tare	lower fill of boundary ditch R/B date. Preservation poor. Modern roots and seeds.
8003	3022	81.7		from base of ditch cut flot coal, slag and charcoal
8004	3048	108.8	Flot-charcoal 1 barley (*Hordeum*) sp grain	dense charcoal layer in base of pit modern roots and seeds
8005	3077	63.4	2 *Rumex* spp (dock)	from shallow feature with high amount of charcoal modern roots and seeds

Table 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Julie Jones
University of Bristol

Five samples were extracted for environmental analysis from both Romano-British and medieval features (ditch fills and pit fills) identified during the excavation at Stonehill Nursery, Hanham. The samples were flotation sieved by the Avon Archaeological Unit and then sorted and identified by the author. The samples produced floats which consisted predominantly of charcoal, with very few other carbonised remains. Preservation of these remains was poor. All of the samples contained modern roots and seeds. Details of the individual contexts sampled are shown in the table below (Table 2).

The samples recovered from the Romano-British and medieval deposits excavated at Stonehill, Hanham contained mostly charcoal fragments, with a few examples of charred cereal remains, including grains of wheat, barley and oats. These probably have no relevance to the function of the features sampled. With such small numbers of cereals, it is only possible to suggest that these crops were available for use, but not whether they were being grown nearby.

The presence of quantities of charcoal suggest that burning had occurred for a domestic or industrial purpose. Identification of the charcoal to species is not thought to be worthwhile, unless this may give information on the type of wood used for fuel in the Romano-British ironworking process.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Romano-British

The principal evidence recorded during the excavation relates to the Romano-British settlement at Stonehill which was first investigated in detail in 1989 by Vince Russett (Russett 1993). That excavation was situated immediately to the northwest of this site (the intervening area has since been destroyed by the construction of the Avon Ring Road) and recorded a archaeological sequence which represented the construction and use of an industrial structure and the subsequent development of a large animal house or barn. That sequence indicated an earlier (*Phase 1a*) phase of activity associated with industrial processing, specifically ironworking, and a later phase (*Phase 1b*) of less specific agricultural settlement which appears to replace it.

The general sequence of RB archaeology broadly mirrors that which was recorded in the 1989 excavation. Overall the nature of the remains on this site suggests that they reflect an area which was peripheral to the core of the Roman settlement in the area (no RB dwellings have yet been identified at Stonehill) and most probably situated at its southern margin, in an area which possibly separated the core of the settlement from surrounding enclosures or other field systems.

The pottery assemblage indicates that the main phase of activity on the site seems to lie in the later 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century. Thereafter the level of activity appears to drop away and although early 4th century wares are represented there is insufficient evidence to suggest that the site was actively used beyond the mid 4th century.

The earliest RB evidence (phases 1-3) dates to the late 2nd to 3rd centuries and indicates the development of a series of enclosures. The enclosures were defined by ditches (108, 109, 106 and 107) which were set out parallel and at right angles to the slope of the site (further similar ditches were recorded to the northeast of the site during a preceding and wider evaluation of the proposed development area). The ditches defining the western boundary of the earlier enclosures (108,109 and 106) appear to have been sited with particular care since they follow very precisely the natural boundary which separates a ridge of brashy weathered limestone from deeper silty clay soils which lie to the east and south of that line. Although it was not demonstrated conclusively whether the area of weathered limestone (1100) represented an early occupation/erosion horizon the development of such a layer would be consistent with the focus of activity in the settlement being situated nearby to the north.

The dating of phases 1-3 suggests there is an earlier period of RB activity in the area which was not represented on the 1989 site. The presence of the phase 2 enclosures, combined with the general quantities of early pottery present and the implied significance of imported Samian wares, albeit in relatively small quantities, indicates that the settlement was probably already established by the end of the 2nd century and represented by habitation as opposed to more transient activity.

Although the evidence for industrial activity on the site is confined to artefacts including quantities of metallic slag and a few sherds of a non-ferrous crucible, it is nonetheless compelling. When assessed in conjunction with the industrial structure recorded by Russett (Russett *ibid*; Structure B) and the presence of a bowl furnace which was recorded nearby (Stiles, Cornwell and Taylor, 1992) there seems little doubt, as the specialist report makes clear, that a significant ironworking industry was established in or around the settlement. Large quantities of Dense Tap Slag and Furnace Slag were incorporated in the later deposits which filled the Phase 3 enclosure ditches. This suggests that the industrial processing on the site, which most likely included both smelting and smithing processes, ultimately incorporated areas which were formerly enclosures, and in the process backfilled the ditches they had been defined by.

In the absence of any clear industrial structures the date for the inception of industrial processing on the site relies upon the pottery recovered from the phase 2-3 enclosure ditches. Material from their secondary fills indicates that they were only substantially filled during the later 3rd to early 4th centuries and, therefore, that the inception of the main phase of industrial activity also lies within that period. This dating corresponds broadly with pottery dates recovered from the foundation trench of the 'horse-shoe' shaped industrial structure identified by Russett (*ibid.* Structure B).

Structures 117, 114 and 129 are placed within the latest phase of RB activity (phase 4) primarily because of an absence of precise dating evidence. It is possible, however, that they represent the remains of structures directly associated with the industrial processing on the site during an intervening phase, as is suggested by the material evidence alone. Assuming that Structure 117 was originally founded on a squared arrangement of post pads, it is situated immediately adjacent to ditch terminals (109 and 108) whose upper fills contained the densest concentrations of furnace slag; possibly the residues from processes undertaken within the structure (117). The two parallel lines of postholes (structures 114 and 129), and other postholes (1032, 1026 and 1036), which appear to respect the structure may also be related, possibly defining a narrow enclosure or ironworking compound.

During the early 4th century (phase 4) significant reorganisation appears to have taken place on the site. Evidence for a continuation of industrial processing is confined to lesser quantities of slag, the majority of which is probably residual, and it is possible production ceased altogether or was moved to other areas of the settlement. The eastern side of a rectilinear enclosure was set out, defined by a ditch (103 and 1114) part of which at least, formed the foundation trench for a stretch of limestone wall (126). Insufficient of the interior of the enclosure was investigated to determine its precise function although it appears likely that it would have formed the boundary of an area which contained the agricultural building recorded by Russett (Russett 1993; Structure A), and possibly other buildings. To the south and east of the enclosure a series of ditches (100, 101 and 102) were set out which suggest the development of a series of new enclosures to the south of the settlement.

The overall date range suggested by the pottery indicates little activity in the area during the second half of the 4th century. Evidence recovered during the 1989 excavation, however, suggests that the settlement as a whole continued to be occupied until the later 4th century. The absence of evidence for later 4th century activity may simply reflect the continued use of the area for wholly agricultural purposes, or perhaps that the focus of the settlement shifted, with a consequent reduction in the quantities of pottery or domestic rubbish which found its way onto the site.

Medieval and Later

Pottery from the site indicates some activity during the early medieval period (10th-12th century) although the material was recovered from a general soil horizon which simply sealed the earlier RB features. No earlier medieval structures were evident and the activity may simply reflect periods of stone robbing adjacent to the site, as were demonstrated during the 1989 excavation.

Evidence for later medieval (13th-14th century) activity was also very limited and patchy. Ditch 104 was dug across the site from west to east. To the south of the ditch remnants of a possible stone lined drain (3007) and a rubble spread (3002) suggest the presence of an associated structure although simply too little remained to indicate its original form or purpose. A proportion of the rubble spread appeared to be heat affected. This, taken in conjunction with the presence of fine coal residue which formed the primary fill of the ditch, suggests the possibility that some form of industrial processing may once again have been operation on or in the vicinity of the site during the later medieval period.

Post Medieval and Modern

Post medieval features on the site were confined to a single pit, probably a bell pit, which was partly exposed in the northwest corner of the site. A larger number of similar features were recorded in greater detail during the 1989 excavation.

The remaining post medieval activity on the site related to modern features (brick and concrete etc.) associated with the former Stonehill Nursery which closed earlier this century.

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EXCAVATION OF A BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT AT SAVAGES WOOD, BRADLEY STOKE

Jonathan G. P. Erskine MIFA MIMgt

INTRODUCTION

After an evaluation exercise on the development site known as Bradley Stoke Centre (Fig. 1) previously carried out by the author and A. Kidd (Erskine 1991), an area containing evidence of prehistoric activity was identified within an area to be developed as a superstore, car park and associated facilities by Carter Commercial Developments for Tesco Stores Limited.

As a result of a Planning condition applied by Northavon District Council, a full archaeological excavation of the area was carried out by Avon County Archaeological Unit under the general direction of the County Archaeological Officer, the late Jan Roberts, and supervised on site by the present writer

The excavation was wholly funded by Carter Commercial Developments, Tesco Stores Limited and Higgs and Hill.

An area of approximately 3500 sq. metres was stripped of topsoil by mechanical excavators to a depth of approximately 250mm, removing the previously disturbed ploughsoil and exposing the natural substrata, which divided almost equally between thin bedded lias limestone and associated clays, and archaeologically significant soil deposits. The areas stripped (Fig. 2) corresponded to the proposed development areas and were designated Areas B, C and D. The large gap between areas B and D was caused by the presence of a large hedge and ditch field boundary line which was assumed to have destroyed any underlying archaeology.

During the excavation structural evidence relating to prehistoric occupation and later activity on the site was recorded. The evidence consisted entirely of negative soil features and included several hundred postholes with some linear features. From this evidence four groups of features have been interpreted as including Round Houses, ditches and gullies, and a few larger pits (Fig. 2). There was one cremation burial which appeared to be associated with a rectangular structure, possibly a mortuary building, some small pits of unknown function containing Romano-British pottery, eight modern field drains and part of a rectangular, post-built structure, again of modern date.

Evidence of Romano-British occupation is widespread throughout Bradley Stoke, as evidenced by excavations (e.g. Donald 1992, and Russell 1990) and many metal detector finds and chance construction finds (Avon SMR passim), as, to a lesser extent is evidence of late Iron Age (Erskine, Great Meadow 1992). The evidence for activity of a similar date at Savages Wood was limited and will not be further discussed here.

Discussion of the modern features is also deferred to a more detailed account. All details of the finds from more recent archaeological periods are available in the project archive, currently stored at Avon Archaeological Unit, 325 Fishponds Road, Bristol.

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE (Fig. 2)

The majority of the postholes, pits and other excavated features on the site were interpreted to be of prehistoric origin although many did not form any recognisable patterns which could be easily related to prehistoric structures. The main reason for this was the lack of significant vertical stratification, coupled with the paucity of finds to enable the closely packed arrays of similar features to be differentiated or phased.

However a total of eight structures (Fig. 2) were interpreted from the data, one of which, structure 1002, is undoubtedly of modern origin. The most clearly defined structures were the largest Round House (Structure 1001), a subrectangular structure (Structure 1004) and the modern rectangular structure (Structure 1002). Three possible further circular structures have been postulated in Areas C and D (Structures 1003, 1005 and 1006). There is also the small rectangular posthole grouping (Structure 1007) which was located adjacent to a cremation grave (Feature 532) in Area B. A further subrectangular structure, Structure 1008, which was only partially excavated has been suggested south of Structure 1004.

The analysis presented below is restricted to the discussion of features which appeared to represent elements of recognisable structures. Several pits which were recorded also appeared to be related to the prehistoric occupation. They may have been dug either for storage purposes or for the extraction of the underlying clay for use in the manufacture of pottery or for daub although insufficient evidence was recovered to be certain of their function. It is also possible to pair or match up many postholes of similar dimensions in order to tentatively interpret them as bases for hay drying racks or similar postbuilt structures (Gingell 1992).

THE SUBRECTANGULAR DITCHED STRUCTURE (Boat shaped House) Structure 1400

The main elements of this structure appear to be two shallow, roughly parallel trenches forming the long sides of the building with seven or eight postholes forming an entrance at the southeastern end and a northern gable. Burnt clay fragments, possibly from wattle and daub walling were recovered from the majority of the excavated features, together with some pottery and flint fragments. Pennant

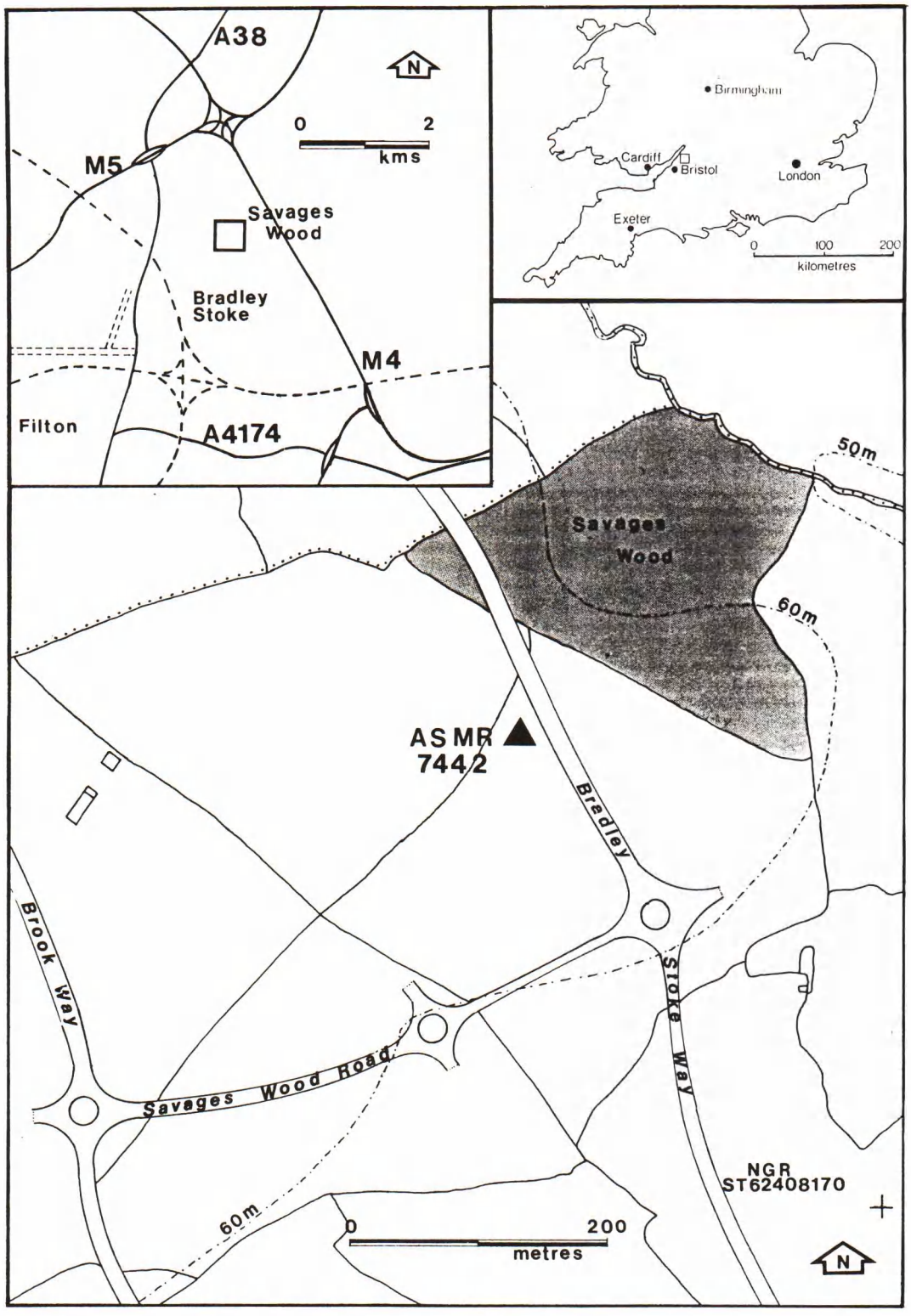

Fig. 1

sandstone fragments (not native to the area) were recovered, especially from the possible entrance area. The overall dimensions of the structure were 14m x 7.25m, with an entrance area some 2m wide. No contemporary occupation deposits survived within the structure although the distribution of flint finds from the interior and immediate vicinity of the building indicates a concentration of flint use or working within and immediately outside the entrance area of the structure.

Only very small quantities of pottery were recovered from the ditches and postholes which formed the structure although their distribution appears to mirror that of the flint.

The morphology of the excavated ditches and postholes suggests that the structure was probably founded upon light posts set both in individual postholes and in lateral post trenches. In general the lateral trenches were rather eroded and irregular although this could possibly have been as a result of eaves-drips in later stages of the structure's use.

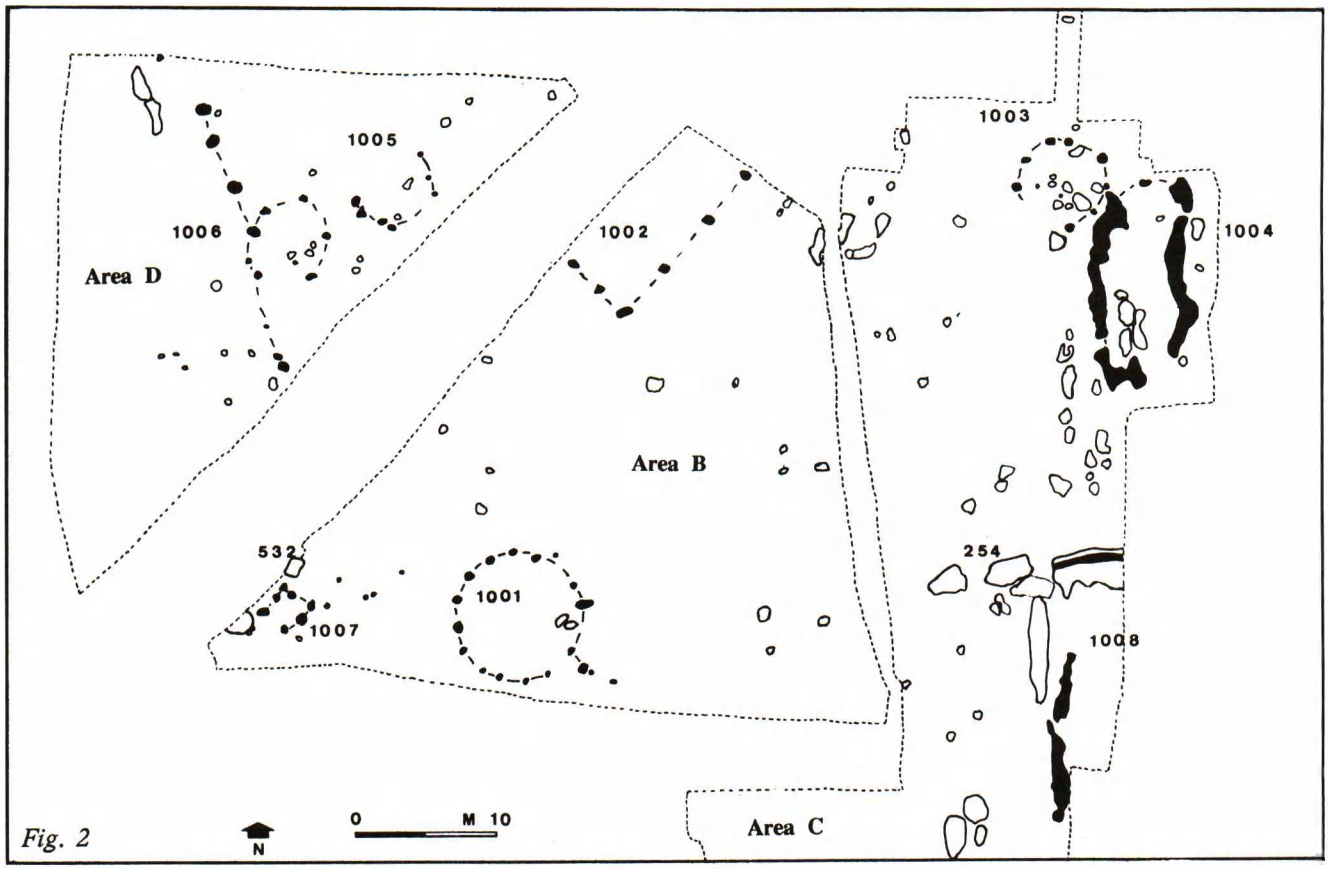

Fig. 2

SUBRECTANGULAR STRUCTURE 1008

A very similar structure of slightly larger dimensions, approximately 20m x at least 8m was located, but not fully excavated, to the south of Structure 1004. No distinctive occupation layers survived within its interior, although a large quantity of flint chips were located within and to the rear (North) of the structure.

The northern post trench or eaves-drip of the structure cut and therefore post-dated the fill of a shallow pit. Small quantities of prehistoric pottery and burnt clay, possibly daub, were recovered from the trenches.

CIRCULAR STRUCTURE (Round House) 1001

This presumed dwelling consisted of a complex of 16 postholes forming a circle 10.5m in diameter at its maximum, with a postulated porch or entrance at its south east. There was no central post and no hearth or flooring surfaces survived. A central post would not have been essential for a structure of this size as radial posts fixed at the apex and ground-fast are quite stable. The presumed porch structure was indicated by larger postholes, possibly to provide greater rigidity. Parallels for the building have been recorded at Chalton and Thorney Down in Wessex and in California (Cunliffe 1993 and Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984). The circular bronze age houses located at Brean Down (Bell 1990) and Bishops Canning (Gingell 1992) also provide close parallels.

Flints were extremely rare both within and adjacent to the Round House but 82 sherds of Bronze Age pottery (including examples of site fabric types 1 and 8 – See Pottery Report below) were recovered from eight of the sixteen postholes, mainly towards the rear (north-west) of the dwelling where it is possible that rubbish could have accumulated. Pottery sherds (Fabric Type 1) dated to the Late Bronze Age, and identical to the inverted urn found in the closely adjacent cremation burial, predominated, but there were also sherds of earlier Early-Middle Bronze Age date including grog tempered wares. Burnt clay fragments were located in eight of the postholes and Pennant sandstone fragments in three.

CIRCULAR STRUCTURE 1003

This possible structure measured approximately 6.5m in diameter, more akin to Bishops Canning House A (Gingell 1992) and consisted of eight postholes with a possible central posthole. A gap in the ring at the south west indicates the possible position of the entrance.

Pottery was recovered from the postholes at the back of the structure, assuming the entrance was to the south west. Flints were recovered only from the area of the entrance. A fragment of a Pennant sandstone saddle quern was recovered from a rear posthole, but there was no burnt clay evident.

Plate 1 Round House - Structure 1001

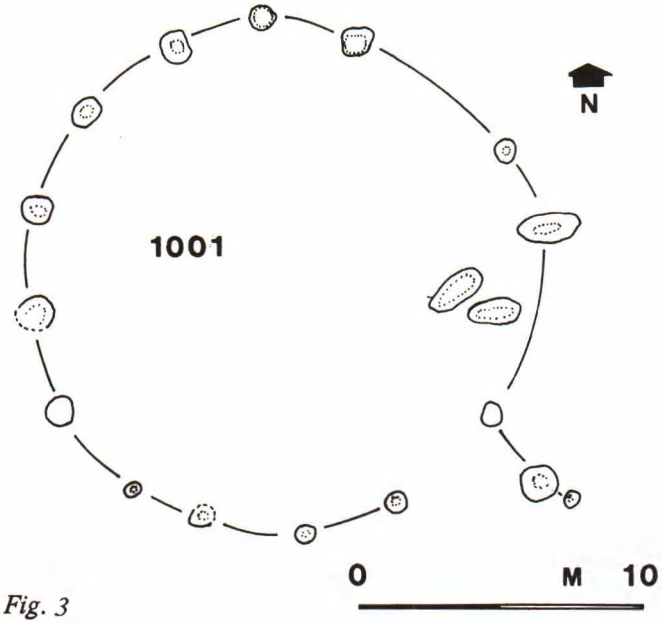

Fig. 3

This structure was interpreted as a small, conical structure, perhaps lightly constructed of branches and thatch.

CIRCULAR STRUCTURE 1005

This post built structure also measured approximately 6m in diameter, with an entrance either to the northwest or the southeast, with the latter more likely. Seven postholes survived with the addition of a possible central hearth. No floor or occupation deposits survived.

No flints were recovered from the vicinity of this structure, but pottery was recovered from one posthole and the hearth. Burnt pennant sandstone fragments were also recovered from the hearth which were interpreted as either part of the hearth construction or as possible pot boilers, being resistant to fire, unlike the soft lias limestone found naturally on this site.

STRUCTURE 1006

This structure measured approximately 7m in diameter, consisting of some seven postholes and four interior posts. The entrance is presumed to be at the south, and the west side of the building appears to have been sheltered by a linear structure of six posts, possibly supporting a fence. A possible hearthpit containing burnt pennant sandstone fragments appears unlikely to associated with this structure as it would have been placed at the entrance, but a fire in that position combined with the presence of a shelter fence does not rule this hypothesis out. No floor or occupation deposits survived and only two flint fragments and one sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the structure.

CREMATION GRAVE – FEATURE 532

A pit, 1.6m x 1m, was excavated at the conclusion of the excavation and was found to contain a prehistoric urn of Late Bronze Age date in an inverted position, well sealed in clay below a layer of burnt clay, a large (900mm x 700mm) irregularly shaped slab of pennant sandstone and finally another layer of heat-affected clay. The total depth of this deposit was approximately 800mm.

The cremation vessel had been badly compressed and crushed in on itself, but appeared to be complete. It has been identified as a Late Bronze Age form and fabric type. In addition, a possible ring of very small stake holes was also located to the south and east of this burial.

The contents of the burial were floated and sieved and some small fragments of cremated bone were recovered together with charcoal fragments, but no other grave goods.

On the basis of the pottery dates the Round House, the cremation burial and the rectangular structure (Structure 1007 below) appear to be of later Bronze Age date and broadly contemporary. The postholes containing similar mixes of residual Early and later Bronze Age pottery.

Cunliffe (Cunliffe 1993) notes that Late Bronze Age cremation burials were invariably without grave goods, in a variety of types of vessel and were sometimes marked with stone slabs or upright timbers.

RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE 1007

This structure, made up of six postholes, measured some 3.5m x 3m, and was aligned southwest northeast with the postulated entrance to the southwest. A possible north east gable end posthole contained two sherds of Bronze Age pottery.

As this structure is closely associated spatially with the cremation grave, it is suggested that it may represent the remains of a mortuary house or an exposure platform, predecessors to a possible multi-use barrow which has since been totally ploughed away. Late Bronze Age barrows were smaller than the earlier examples and would therefore be more at risk to even light cultivation.

The sophistication of the construction of the cremation burial though, especially considering the importation from a distance of a large and heavy sandstone slab, suggests that this may be the area of a flat cemetery.

PIT AND GULLY ALIGNMENT – STRUCTURE 254

Partially underlying the north end of the second rectangular structure (Structure 1008) was a shallow gully closely associated with three other pits, each approximately 2.5m long and 0.8m deep. This area of deep pits was unique on the site. Each was part sectioned and excavated and produced small quantities of flint flakes.

It was not possible to interpret this alignment other than to surmise that the pits could have been used to extract clay for pottery or daub manufacture. An alternative explanation is that they were used for food storage, but the lack of finds would appear to be against this.

MODERN RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE 1002

This structure, represented by six rectangular postholes aligned approximately parallel to the existing hedge, was a modern structure, with some recently rotted wood still surviving in the fills. It was interpreted as a possible decoy structure associated with the aircraft factory and World War II RAF field at Filton, and is not further considered in this report.

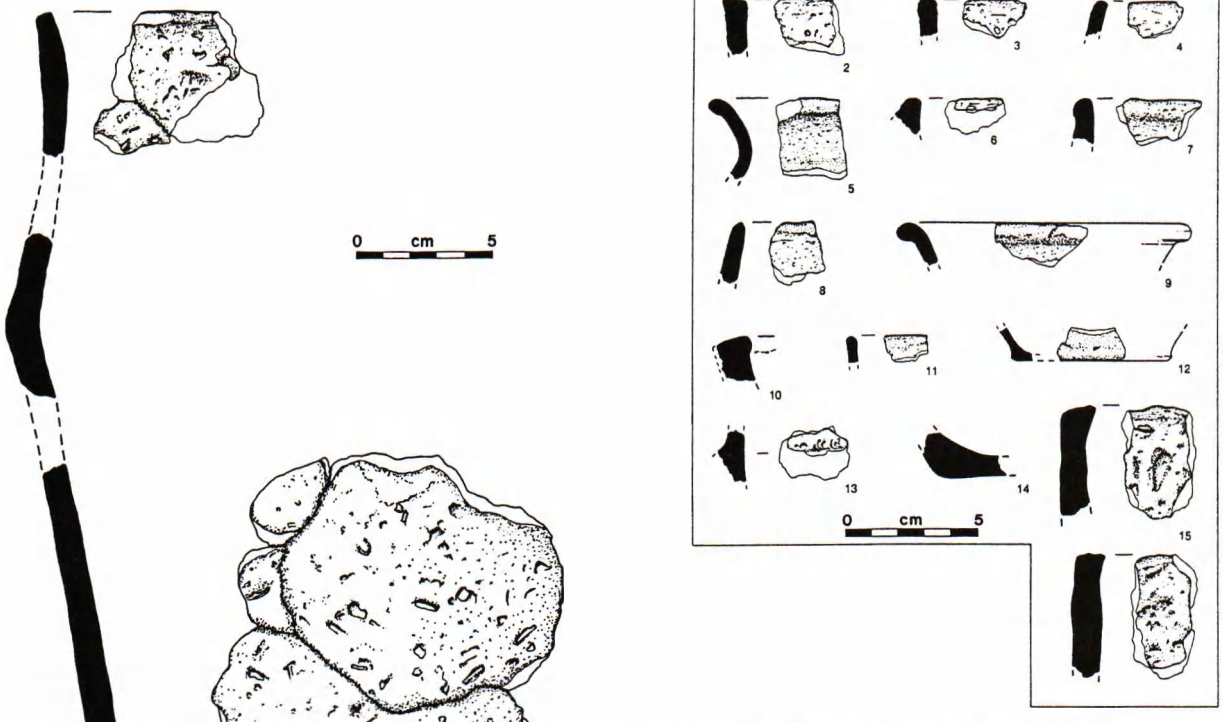

Fig. 4

1 Cremation urn - Feature 532; FT 1; M/Later Bronze Age
2 Rim sherd - Context 419; FT 8; E/Middle Bronze Age
3 Rim sherd - Context 423; FT 3; M/Later Bronze Age
4 Rim sherd - Context 399; FT 3; M/Later Bronze Age
5 Rim sherd from cookpot/storage vessel - Context 5018; Romano-British
6 Rim sherd - Context 339; FT 1; M/Later Bronze Age
7 Rim sherd - Context 390; FT12; Prehistoric, ?Bronze Age
8 Rim sherd - slightly inverted - Context 419; FT 2; Prehistoric, ?Bronze Age
9 Rim sherd from bowl - Context 5091; Romano-British
10 Rim sherd - Context 5152; FT 8; E/Middle Bronze Age
11 Rim sherd - Context 5160; FT 4; Romano-British
12 Rim sherd - Context 397; FT 9; Romano-British
13 Body sherd with decorated cordon or ridge - FT11; Prehistoric, ?Bronze Age
14 Base sherd - Context 176; FT 9; Romano-British
15 Rim sherds - Context 390; FT 8; E/Middle Bronze Age

SUMMARY FINDS REPORTS

THE POTTERY (Fig. 4) by Elaine Morris

The pottery was assessed by Elaine Morris after fabric descriptions by Andrew Young. The assemblage includes a number of Early-Middle Bronze Age pottery fabrics (Fabric Types 8 and 14). Fabrics similar to Fabric Type 8 have been used in the manufacture of Trevisker-type thick-walled urns and Deverill-Rimbury urns, but this is only a provisional identification.

The assemblage also contains sherds with distinctive traits of later Bronze Age pottery, the use of calcareous inclusions as temper (Fabric Type 1). This includes the large shouldered cremation urn.

Only one Bronze age sherd was decorated (with a raised cordon). This was of Fabric Type 11 and supports a later Bronze Age date for the majority of the pottery assemblage.

Pottery recovered from the same area closely adjacent to structure 1008 during the previous evaluation exercise (Erskine 1991) was examined by Dr Anne Woodward and nine sherds were identified as probably Early to Middle Bronze Age date. One sherd was decorated with faint fingertip impressions with parallels from Brean Down, Somerset and Bevans Quarry, Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire among others to confirm this provisional dating.

RADIO CARBON DATES

No deposits were recovered at Savages Wood which were suitable for radiocarbon dating, but a very similar site excavated by Adrian Parry at nearby Webbs Farm (ASMR 8723) some 1km to the south east (Parry 1992), produced evidence of similar prehistoric activity in association with pottery, flints and pennant sandstone fragments, usually burnt. Radiocarbon dates obtained from samples on that site (C14 references AA-10328 (AMS/183) and AA-10329 (AMS/184)) were 1014-849 bc and 1387-1000 bc at 1 sigma confidence rating, calibrated.

THE FLINT

192 flint fragments were recovered from the site with nine from the evaluation exercise. The evaluation flints were reported on earlier (Russett in Erskine 1991). When examined by Vince Russett and Peter Woodward they included an A1 type core, possibly dating from the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period and a petit tranchet derivative arrowhead of the Neolithic to Bronze Age overlap.

Of the total from this excavation, only 35 were identified by Vince Russett as other than damage, waste or trimming debris. Twenty one fragments had formed parts of utilised blades, three of knives and six of scrapers. There were also two arrowheads, one core fragment and one small piece of a polished axe. Some items had a possible Neolithic date, but most were typologically indistinct.

This information, taken with the previous identification of cores and arrowheads as possibly dating from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic-Bronze Age overlap, indicates no more than the fact that human activity on this site may have established well before the Bronze Age settlement.

A distribution analysis was undertaken on the finds from the site, although it should be noted that the evidence from that study is based upon a very small number of artefacts. The distribution appears to associate the earlier pottery and the majority of the flint items with the subrectangular buildings to the east of the site, Structures 1004 and 1008. The later pottery is concentrated in the vicinity of the round houses and the cremation burial to the west of the site, where very little flint was found.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Very large samples for environmental analysis were taken from all securely stratified deposits. A representative sample of the material was floated on a Siraf Flotation tank and the residues were submitted to Vanessa Straker of Bristol University for identification.

Unfortunately, the results were entirely negative. Either because of the nature of the original occupation or the state of preservation of the excavated deposits, no significant information was obtained.

BONE REPORT

Geraldine Barber of the University of Bristol Department of Medicine, Rhumatology Unit reported on the bone finds as follows.

Fifty-seven contexts contained 356 bone fragments, but all were in a poor fragmentary condition. None could be measured. 64 were identifiable of which 13 were identified only as mammal tooth fragments. Four species were identified. In order of frequency they were cow, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

14.4% of the unidentifiable fragments were burnt, but none of the identifiable bones were burnt.

The assemblage is considered to be a primary deposit of food production remains. All aged fragments appear to be from adult animals. The context with the greatest number of bones, 39 (9.1%) was the small pit 435.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Bradley Stoke District Centre site produced well documented evidence of a Bronze Age settlement consisting primarily of a circular postbuilt house of not very substantial construction. Closely associated were many other similar postholes and small pits which are interpreted to represent similar buildings of varying phases and rebuilds or other utilitarian agricultural structures.

The cremation burial, carried out in a sophisticated ritual manner was of an identical date.

Other trench and post built timber structures were identified closely adjacent. The dating of these structures remains tentative due to the paucity of pottery from the area and it is possible that they represent the remains of an earlier phase of settlement on the site. If the rectangular structures were contemporary with the main phase of Bronze Age settlement on the site then their shape and the concentration of flint finds associated with them may in fact reflect some functional preference, perhaps an area for flint working or other agricultural activity as opposed to a dwelling.

Evidence of Bronze Age settlement is rare in Avon. Pits containing Bronze Age material reflecting occupation have been recorded at Chew Park, Ben Bridge and Combe Hay (Aston and Iles 1987). This paucity of evidence for occupation contrasts with the abundance of bronze age hoards and of course the large number of barrows which are recorded in the county. Clearly part of the contrast lies in the fact that while hoards and barrows are relatively robust or easily detected and noted, the extremely tenuous remains of a settlement, which was possibly of a seasonal or transhumant nature, are very difficult to detect. More importantly perhaps is that we are not yet looking in the places where such settlement is more likely to have been sited, for example in river valleys, and where the remains of occupation are more likely to be better preserved.

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EXCAVATIONS AT HARRY STOKE, STOKE GIFFORD, NORTHAVON

by Andrew C. Young

INTRODUCTION

The following report sets out the results of two stages of archaeological excavation of a rural medieval settlement at Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford, (Fig. 1) during 1987 and 1988. The excavation investigated an area containing well preserved earthworks immediately to the north of Paddocks Farm (Fig. 2). The project was initiated by the former County Archaeological Officer for Avon, Rob Iles. Both the fieldwork and post excavation stages of the project were managed by the writer; the post excavation stage of the project was wholly funded by English Heritage.

The hamlet of Harry Stoke is located to the northeast of Bristol within the parish of Stoke Gifford, in what was (pre 1974) South Gloucestershire. In 1987 the hamlet consisted of little more than a few modern houses and a farm (The Paddocks) of post medieval origin. The settlement appeared to reflect development alongside Harry Stoke Lane, which originally ran between the village of Stoke Gifford and Bristol. The area of earthworks were preserved immediately to the north and east of Paddocks Farm. Today that area, and the bulk of the traditional pasture which existed north and east of the settlement, has been incorporated within an extensive scheme of commercial development. In 1993 arrangements were made with Sun Life Assurance which ensured that the remains of the settlement which were not excavated were preserved beneath raised car parking areas.

In 1993 the records and materials recovered from the site were updated and the finds were assessed by specialists. The work was funded by English Heritage and led to the preparation of an assessment report (Young 1994) from which this report is drawn.

The excavation archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under Accession Number BRSMG 30/1994.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the support of the former County Archaeological Officer for Avon, the late Jan Roberts MIFA.

The writer gratefully acknowledges the resources provided by the former Avon County Community Environment Scheme (ACCES) during the excavation and English Heritage for supporting the post excavation programme and publication.

Thanks are also due to the site staff, too numerous to mention individually, who worked on the excavation; to Lee Prosser, Rod Burchill, Anne Thompson, Julie Jones and Dale Sarjeantson for specialist assessments; Vince Russett for commenting on the flint assemblage and to Davina Ware, Ruth Cullen and Lynn Hume for assistance in preparing the illustrations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND by Lee Prosser

Historically, Harry Stoke was a subsidiary hamlet or tithing of the parish of Stoke Gifford, located slightly to the north. However, it constituted a separate manor in the later medieval period which passed through a succession of owners. An important clue to its status is reflected by the fact that it never possessed its own chapel or church. Like many small settlements of this nature, which have a history of private ownership (as opposed to ownership by a monastery or large baronial family), Harry Stoke is very poorly documented indeed.

Atkins' history of the county (1712) indicated a few references in the historical documents, but Rudder, the Gloucestershire antiquarian, was unable to add very much, and very little new documentary information has been revealed since. This appears at odds with the extensive archaeological remains which are detailed elsewhere in this report.

The parish of Stoke Gifford itself contained four hamlets; Stoke Gifford, Great Stoke, Little Stoke and Harry Stoke. This occurrence of four 'stoc' names, indicating settlements dependent upon a larger, more important place, suggests that the parish was broken off from a larger, multiple estate at a date earlier than Domesday. It is significant that the church of St Michael in Stoke Gifford did not originally possess the important rite of burial. Instead the dead were carried either to Almondsbury to the north, or Stapleton to the south. Harry Stoke was originally in Swineshead Hundred, and Taylor (1889) suggested that it was transferred to Barton Regis Hundred on the creation of the great barony of Gloucester in the 12th century. The tenurial landscape of south Gloucestershire was heavily reorganised during the 12th century, with interference from the earls of Gloucester and later under the influence of the Berkeley family. The evidence does suggest, however, that the original settlement at Harry Stoke was, with the other hamlets of Stoke Gifford parish, peripheral to a large multiple estate at Almondsbury.

At the time of Domesday, Harry Stoke must have been important enough to have constituted a separate estate within Stoke Gifford. Under the lands of the Bishop of Coutances, a 'stoke' is listed;

Theobald holds it from him. Aldred held it from Earl Harold and could go where he would. 2 hides; 1 which pays tax, the other not. In lordship 1 plough; 2 villagers and 1 smallholder with 1 plough.

6 slaves; meadow; 5 acres. The value was 40s; now 20s.

Recent publications seem happy to identify this 'Stoke' with Harry Stoke, but it is by no means clear if Harry Stoke is the estate described. However, as Harry Stoke alone passed out of the tenurial ownership of Stoke Gifford, it remains the most likely candidate.

Fig. 1

At Domesday Harry Stoke was a very modest estate, but thereafter tracing the decent of the area becomes difficult. Robert de Mowbray, the heir to the bishop, had his lands confiscated in the late 11th century, and most of his manors were redistributed. Osbern Giffard was awarded Stoke Gifford in 1066, and in the early 14th century, following a rebellion by John Giffard, his lands were awarded to Maurice de Berkeley. Harry Stoke may have passed to the family at the same time. Although it does not occur in the accounts of the Berkeley manorial records, Harry Stoke may have been held by a collateral branch of the family, or simply sub-let.

Elias de Filton was siezed of the manor in 1331-32, and Evans (1958) perhaps erroneously attributed the naming of Harry Stoke to this man. In fact the origin of the name is untraced (EPNS). In the late 14th century the manor was held by Sir Thomas FitzNichols and his son, also Thomas. In turn it was sub-let for a few years in 1381 to Edmund Blount, together with the manor of Filton, for 16 marks annually. Surviving documents of 1625 and 1653 refer to a tenement known as Kemis of Kemys House and an associated field called Kemis Hayes. Based on the assumption that Kemys House represented the only house in Harry Stoke worth mentioning in the documents, it is possible that it represented the original manor house of the settlement. A further clue lies in the name 'Kemys' which is linked to a retainer family of the lords of Berkeley (after Birchill 1989). An important estate map of 1725 preserves field names including one called 'Kennis Hay', within which an enclosure and house are represented, which had disappeared by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey. The first edition probably preserves the outline of that enclosure as a line of trees.

As a whole the morphology of the surviving settlement appears to represent simple development along a street, which may suggest a later date (post Domesday) for the majority of its growth.

Harry Stoke appears to represent the settlement of a typical small, subinfeudated manor of the 12th or 14th century. The lists of tax-payers recorded in the 1327

Subsidy Rolls for Stoke Gifford do not separate the various hamlets, but a William atte Dych who is listed may, on the evidence of field names, have come from Harry Stoke. If the Domesday entry does refer to the area of Harry Stoke, then the hamlet should have archaeological remains dating from at least the 11th century. The little manor was probably detached as a small parcel of land coterminous with the tithing, although the boundaries of this are unfortunately impossible to determine with any certainty.

Harry Stoke was, however, never very important or, it seems, profitable, and Kemys House was reduced in status by the 17th century. Since then the hamlet has undergone further shrinkage, with much of the northern half, including Kemys House, abandoned by the late 19th century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Fieldwork and survey by Rob Iles suggested that the earthworks preserved in the vicinity of The Paddocks Farm (Fig. 2) represented the remains of former and more extensive settlement within the hamlet. An evaluation excavation undertaken by the archaeology section of Bristol City Museum in 1986 (Burchill *et al.* 1989a) at the southern margin of the area indicated as 'Kemis Hayes', next to Harry Stoke Lane, revealed structural remains, including walls and postholes, and artefacts which confirmed that part of the site at least had been occupied during the later medieval and post medieval periods.

THE EARTHWORKS (Fig. 2)

Rob Iles' earthwork survey of features to the north and east of Harry Stoke Road indicated that former settlement and activity at the northeastern end of the hamlet was not confined to the area north of Paddocks Farm but also extended to the east of Harry Stoke Road. The earthworks in that area today remain undisturbed.

The archaeological remains revealed during the 1987 excavations to the north of the Paddocks Farm correlate well with features detailed in the survey. Not surprisingly excavation confirmed that the most prominent earthworks in that area corresponded in general with the buried remains of medieval buildings. Faint linear earthworks immediately to the north of the Paddocks Farm were interpreted by Iles to represent the remains of ridge and furrow, immediately to the south of a main area complex of earthworks. That interpretation is supported by the results of the excavation.

METHODOLOGY

The excavation areas (Fig. 3, Areas 1-6) were opened to investigate the corridor of a new distributor road (Areas 5 and 6) and a complex of well preserved earthworks (Areas 1-4) which were preserved in the northern half of the field, an area which lay within a wider zone designated for future development.

With the exception of Area 4, where the topsoil was removed by machine, all of the excavation areas were

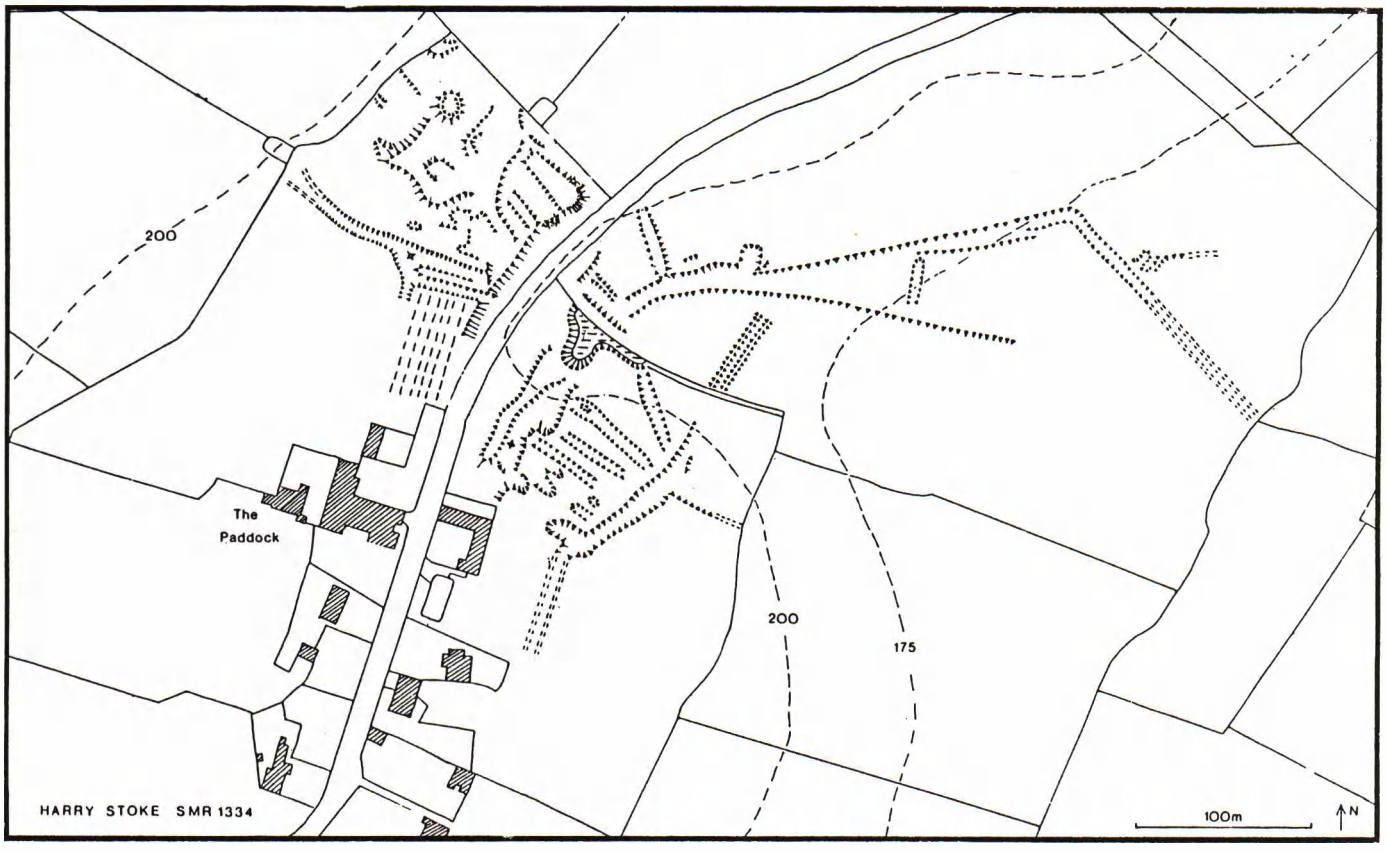


Fig. 2

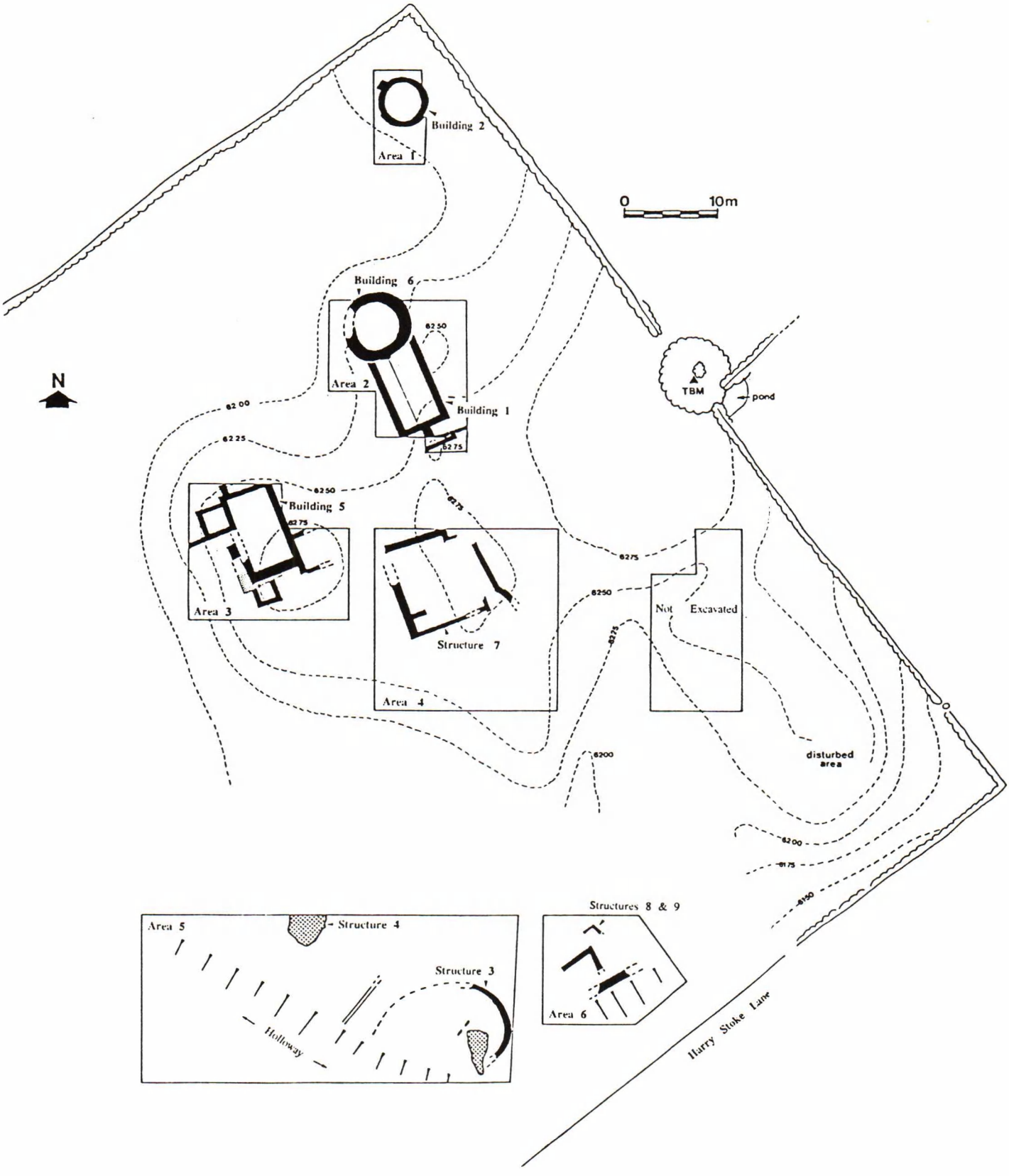

Building 2
Area 1
0 10m
Building 6
Area 2
Building 1
N
TBM
pond
Building 5
Area 3
Structure 7
Area 4
Not Excavated
disturbed area
Area 5
Structure 4
Structure 3
Holloway
Structures 8 & 9
Area 6
Harry Stoke Lane

Fig. 3

opened by hand. Standard context based archaeological records were compiled for each excavation area and all of the archaeology revealed was recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20m and levelled in relation to a nearby Ordnance Survey datum. Small finds were recorded three dimensionally. The site excavation grid was based on 5m square divisions with an origin at 100E/100N.

After excavation, which ironically coincided with the postponement of much of the site's immediate development, excavation Areas 1-4, which contained the remains of a number of well preserved medieval buildings, were backfilled with excavated spoil. The medieval buildings in those areas were protected by layers of sand before being backfilled.

EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

The excavations (Fig. 4, Areas 1-6) revealed the remains of five drystone buildings in association with contemporary surfaces and layers, and a range of artefacts, which reflected a period of medieval agricultural settlement on the site. The pottery assemblage (below) indicated that the settlement was already established by the second half of the 12th century and continued to be occupied until around the middle of the fourteenth century when the entire farmstead was abandoned and subsequently demolished. The structures which were preserved on the site (Figs 5 to 9) reflected the development and use of the farmstead over a period of approximately two hundred years. The remains included stone houses, dovecotes, ovens or kilns, a walled yard and a range of associated walls, drains and contemporary rubbish deposits. The buildings and most of the related structures were built of limestone rubble. In places stone walls were preserved below ground to a height of up to 1m.

Although the site's stratification was generally shallow and relatively simple, sufficient dating evidence was recovered from remnants of floor layers and other deposits to allow a fairly precise chronology to be assigned to the structural development of the medieval settlement.

Evidence of pre-medieval activity on the site was confined to a small collection of flint tools and flakes. The majority of the flint assemblage was recovered from subsoil deposits in Area 5 (Fig. 3) and appeared to reflect Neolithic or Bronze Age activity. No structural evidence was recorded to indicate there had ever been any Roman activity on the site although a few sherds of residual Roman pottery and a bronze fibula brooch were recovered from medieval layers.

No structural evidence was recorded to suggest that occupation on the site continued into the post-medieval period although post medieval pottery was present in both the topsoil and the uppermost surfaces of rubble which sealed the medieval buildings. In general the post medieval material appeared to relate to the 18th and 19th century development and occupation of the Paddocks Farm, immediately to the southwest, and to material brought onto the site to surface a post medieval trackway which ran from Harry Stoke Road to Stoke Gifford.

SUMMARY OF PERIODS AND PHASING

The archaeological evidence recorded on the site indicated the following sequence of activity although further sub-divisions are possible within Period II (medieval).

PERIOD I: Prehistoric

Evidence of later Neolithic or Bronze Age activity was indicated in Area 5 by a small assemblage of flint tools and flakes. Further discussion of the flint assemblage can be found in the project archive.

PERIOD II: Medieval (c.1150 - 1400 AD) Fig. 3

Although the period of medieval occupation on the site appears to have been unbroken the site's development can be subdivided into a series of phases based upon stratigraphic relationships and pottery dates. The detailed evidence for each phase is set out below.

Phase 1 (c.1150 - 1200 A.D.)

Pottery indicates that the medieval farmstead was established by the second half of the 12th century. The presence of earlier 11th century pottery in residual contexts suggests the possibility that it may have already been established by Domesday. In its initial excavated phase the settlement appears to have consisted of at least one stone building (Building 1), probably a farmhouse. A stone dovecote (Building 2) is suggested to have been built around he same time although its dating remains tentative. To the south of these buildings, adjacent to Harry Stoke Lane, two large ovens or kilns (Structures 3 and 4), drains and service areas of rough cobbling were built, immediately to the north of a sunken trackway.

Phase 2 (c.1200 - 1250)

By the end of the 12th century the first dovecote on the site (Building 2) appears to have been demolished. At the same time, or soon after, the original farmhouse (Building 1) was abandoned as were the ovens along the southern edge of the site. Reorganisation involved the construction of a second farmhouse (Fig. 6a-b, Building 5), which incorporated a small southern extension or porch and an internal drain. Further reconstruction during this phase, although possibly at a slightly later date than Building 5, involved the construction of a second dovecote (Fig. 8, Building 6) which destroyed the northern end of the 12th century farmhouse. Fragments of earlier 13th century walls and associated layers recorded elsewhere on the site in Area 4 (Fig. 4) suggest that other buildings were probably set out at this time, in the area of what was later to contain a 14th century walled yard (Fig. 9).

Phase 3 (c.1250 - 1350)

The 13th century farmhouse (Building 5) and dovecote (Building 6) continued in use throughout this later phase of medieval occupation although the farmhouse was certainly

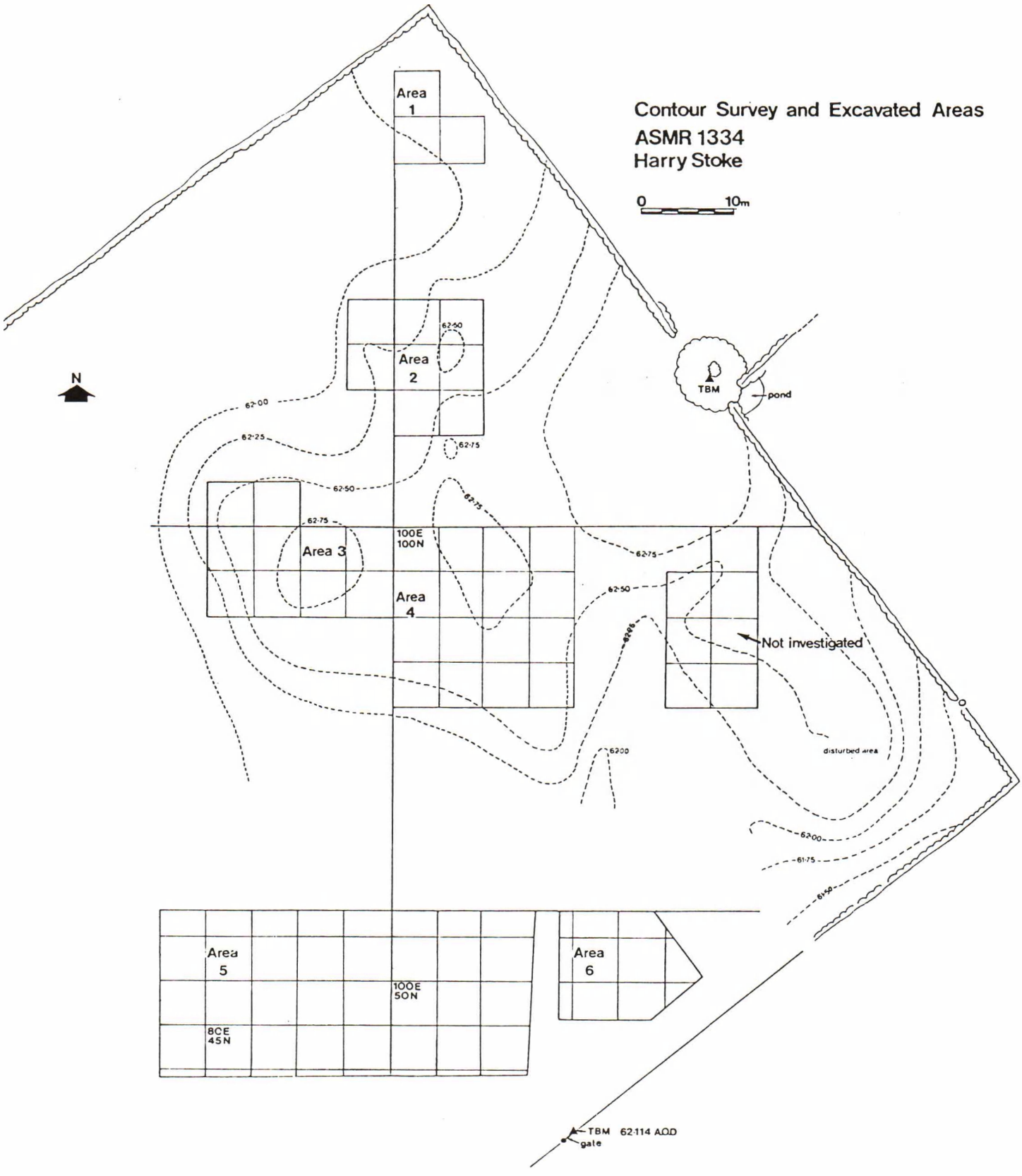

Contour Survey and Excavated Areas
ASMR 1334
Harry Stoke
0 10m
N
Area 1
Area 2
Area 3
Area 4
Area 5
Area 6
100E 100N
100E 50N
80E 45N
TBM
pond
Not investigated
disturbed area
TBM 62·114 AOD
gate
62·00
62·25
62·50
62·75
61·75

Fig. 4

developed and new buildings were constructed elsewhere on the site. The farmhouse (Fig. 6a-b) underwent a sequence of structural development which involved the addition of a western room, possibly a Gaurderobe, followed by the construction of an eastern extension or room and new boundary walls. During the first half of the 14th century the farmhouse was further substantially redeveloped. The alterations involved strengthening the southern gable wall, the removal and reconstruction of much of the west wall.

During the early 14th century a square walled yard was also built (Figure 9, Structure 7), which probably succeeded earlier stone buildings. Other late 13th and early 14th century activity was represented by stone walls and deposits in Area 6 which, although poorly preserved, appeared to represent at least one further building (Structure 8) and perhaps a boundary wall at the southern boundary of the farmstead.

Phase 4 (c.1350 - 1400)

During the second half of the 14th century, and possibly shortly after 1350, the farmstead appears to have been abandoned. Pottery from demolition rubble which filled the later farmhouse and dovecote indicated that the buildings were levelled by the end of the 14th century .

PERIOD III: Post medieval

Post medieval activity was confined the accumulation of a metalled trackway and the construction of a series of stone filled land drains (not illustrated) in Area 5.

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

INTRODUCTION

The following section details selective structural evidence recorded in excavation Areas 1-6 (Fig. 3). The evidence from each area is discussed chronologically by Period and Phase.

In general the topsoil across the site varied in thickness between 5cm and c.25cm and lay above an extensive layer of well consolidated demolition rubble and stones. In certain areas (e.g. Area 3) the upper surfaces of stone walls were exposed immediately below the topsoil. The demolition rubble was not as thick or extensive in Area 5 where it appeared to be specifically related to a single medieval stone structure (Structure 3).

AREA 1 (Fig. 7, Plate 1)

Period II: Medieval Phase 1

The excavation of an irregular raised earthwork revealed the remains of a well preserved stone dovecote (Building 2). The circular wall forming the core of the building (78) was sealed beneath topsoil and a thin layer of limestone rubble and appeared to have been constructed directly upon the natural clay and limestone substratum (82), although it should be noted that the wall was not excavated to natural. The wall was generally slightly less than 1m thick and

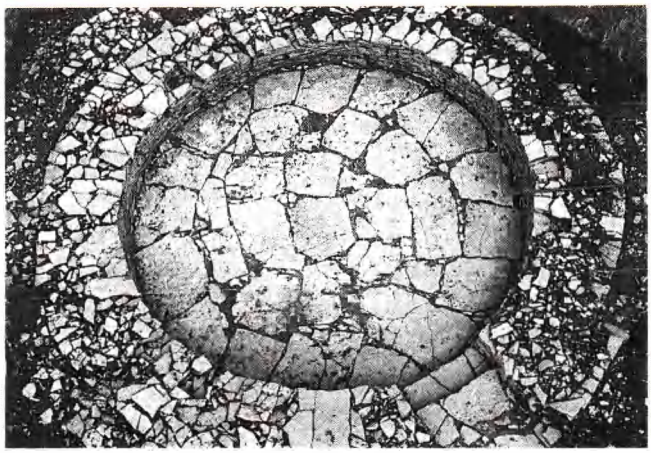


Plate 1a Building 2 - dovecote

formed of roughly coursed and faced limestone rubble which was preserved to a maximum height of c.0.5m. Internally the building measured 4.3m in diameter and had a stone floor consisting of flat but irregular limestone slabs which were set into natural clay. The floor was at a slightly lower level than the surface of the natural clay outside, suggesting that some form of foundation pit or trench was prepared and levelled in advance of its construction. The entrance to the dovecote faced southeast and consisted of a stone threshold and an internal step.

Internally two tiers of squared nesting boxes were preserved, the lower tier roughly 0.25m above floor level. The entrances to the boxes varied slightly in size but were generally c.0.15m high and c.0.2m wide. The boxes were L shaped in plan and set into the wall to a depth of c.0.35m, the rear of the niche turning at 90° to the entrance to form a larger rectangular space c.0.3m x 0.2m x 0.15m. The tiers were constructed in parallel lines, the boxes in the second tier offset from the those below (i.e. boxes in the second tier did not, in general, lie directly above boxes in the lower tier). In the lower tier the recesses were all angled anti-clockwise, those in the second tier were all angled clockwise. This may have been to minimise any structural weakness the niches caused in the wall.

A rectangular drain (84), probably a sluice for cleaning out pigeon droppings, was constructed at floor level through the wall to the southwest. Adjacent to its external opening remnants of lime plaster or rendering adhered to the dovecote wall. Around the south facing quadrant of the building the foundations of wall 78 (80) were considerably wider. The main wall was further supported with an external rubble buttress (128) which butted its northwest face.

The internal fill of the dovecote consisted of a thick and unstructured but well consolidated layer of demolition rubble and soil (79) which contained only 12th century pottery sherds. As the walls of the dovecote were not excavated the date of the building's construction and use remains tentative, based as it is, on the date suggested by the pottery from the demolition rubble.

Plate 1b Building 2 - nesting boxes and drain

AREA 2 (Figs. 5 and 8)

In Area 2 the remains of two medieval stone buildings (Buildings 1 and 6) were recorded.

Medieval (Phase 1)

Building 1 was constructed of roughly coursed and faced limestone rubble set into a shallow foundation trench. The walls (24, 25 and 26) and the remains of internal structures and floor layers were sealed by a layer of limestone rubble (2) whose upper surface had been compacted by the construction and use of the later dovecote (Building 6). The northern end of the phase 1 building (walls 24 and 26) had also been destroyed during the construction of the later dovecote (wall 40).

At the southern end of the building the remnants of a soil floor layer (30) and an area of heat affected flagstones (29) were preserved beneath the rubble. The earliest layer (30) contained medieval pottery (c.1150-1200), animal bone and iron objects, the latter consisting mostly of iron nails. The flagged hearthstones lay above the earliest floor layer and consisted of a roughly squared arrangement of eight limestone slabs which were discoloured and weathered at the centre. Towards the north of the building layer 30 faded out and was replaced by an uneven layer of small limestone slabs and stones (299) which lay directly above the natural Limestone clays (31). At the northern end of the building, adjacent to the foundation trench of wall 40, a small patch of dark soil and limestone stones (149) were preserved. The layer contained several joining sherds of decorated 12th century pottery and appeared to represent a further remnant of floor layer 30.

Medieval (Phases 2-3)

The construction of a second dovecote (Building 6: wall 40), destroyed the northern end of Building 1. Although the walls of the dovecote were not fully excavated its relationship to Building 1, in conjunction with pottery from the internal demolition rubble (44) and a few sherds which were impressed between its floor slabs (43), indicated that the building was in use by c.1250 and demolished by c.1350.

The main wall of the dovecote (40) was built in a foundation trench (122) which was cut into the natural clay. The wall was formed of roughly coursed limestone rubble,

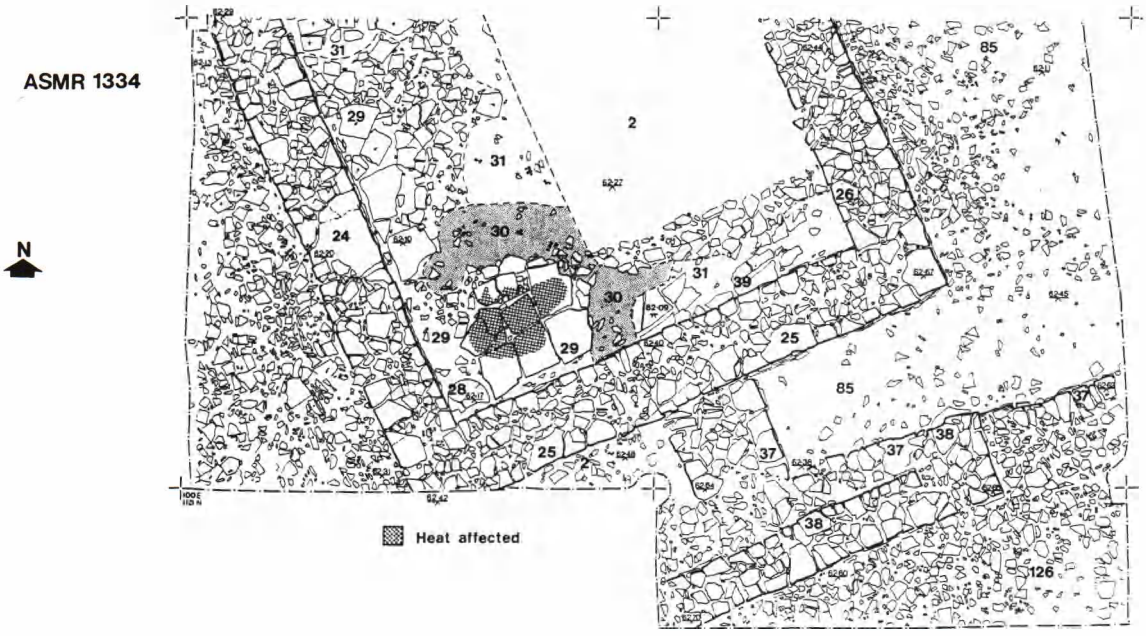


Fig. 5

Fig. 6a

rarer sandstone rubble and patchy clay bonding. Both externally and internally the stonework was well faced although the core of the wall contained many smaller stones and silty clay. Along the southeastern face of the wall, where it appeared to be preserved above the height of its contemporary ground level, the external stonework was carefully battered to form a series of narrow steps. Around the internal face of the wall a lower tier and remnants of a second tier of rectangular recesses were preserved, the lowest tier at floor level. The recesses were all less than 0.5m deep and 0.15m tall, the second tier again slightly offset from the lower niches.

In the middle of the interior a short section of wall (56) was preserved to a maximum of three courses. The wall probably represented the foundation for a central pole or 'potence'. The centre of the wall had slumped or been forced downwards into the underlying clay, as had the floor slabs immediately adjacent to it, possibly as a consequence of the weight of the potence structure. Finds from the floor of the dovecote and the demolition rubble included both mature and immature domestic pigeon bones.

In the southwestern quadrant the dovecote wall had been cut by a later robber trench (130) and the wall (5) was only preserved as a foundation. Another section had been destroyed by one of a series of geotechnical test pits (123) which were opened on the site shortly before the excavation began.

AREA 3 (Figs. 6a, 6b and 10)

Excavation in Area 3 revealed the remains of a medieval stone building (Building 5), probably a farmhouse, which was in use by the early 13th century, developed and extended between c.1250 and 1350, and abandoned shortly thereafter. The main walls and structures which formed the building were not excavated and remain preserved on the site.

Medieval (Phase 2) Plate 2

Building 5 was constructed of drystone rubble directly above the natural clay. It was initially a simple rectangular structure (comprising walls 13, 14, 8, 107, 19, 35 and 104) with a southern ante-room (16, 113 and 114). With the exception of wall 104, which had been destroyed during later alterations and was only evident as a soil mark, all of the original walls were roughly coursed and well faced.

A stone lined and capped drain (100), which was set into

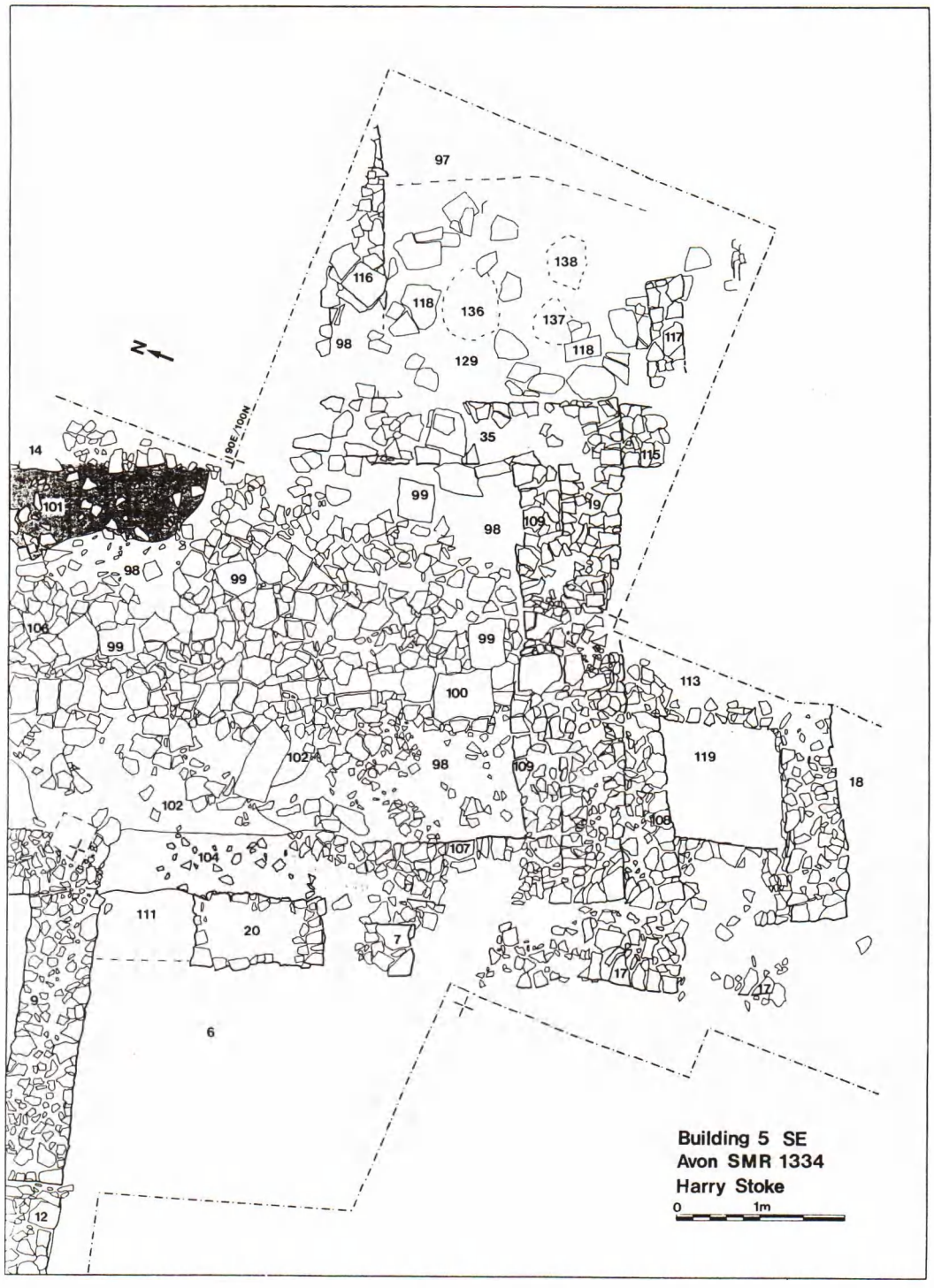


Fig. 6b

a shallow cut in the natural clay, ran through the centre of the building and out through the north wall. The relationship of the drain and the south wall (19) was not determined as the junction had been destroyed during later medieval development (109).

No early (Medieval Phase 2) soil floor layers were preserved within the building although some or all of the rather random accumulation of limestone and sandstone floor slabs were probably also laid at that date. The dating evidence for the original construction of the building is based upon a stratified group of pottery recovered from the earliest floor layer (119) excavated in the southern ante-room (Room 2), which contained pottery from the first half of the 13th century. On that basis, and in the absence of dating evidence from beneath main walls, the date from layer 119 provides a general *terminus ante quem* for the construction of the building. As such it remains possible that Building 5 was constructed at a significantly earlier date, perhaps contemporary with Building 1.

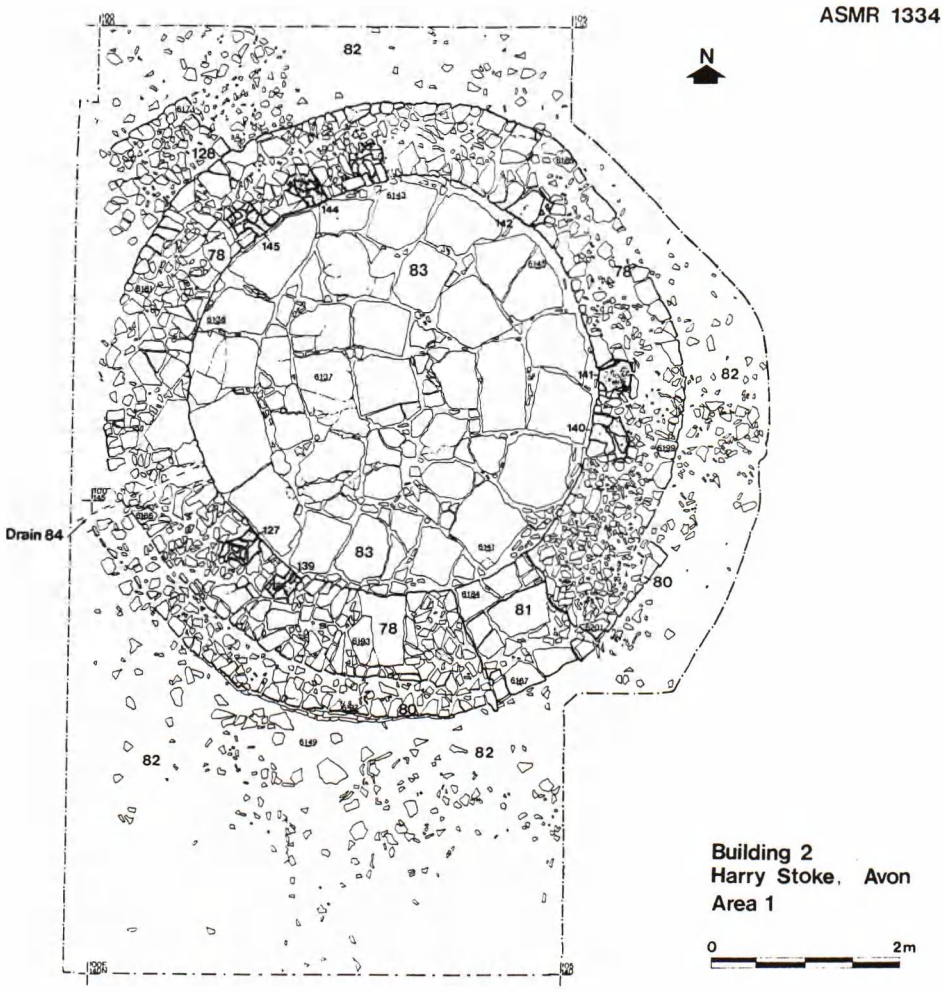


Fig. 7

Medieval (Phase 3)

During the second half of the 13th century Building 5 was extended to the northwest with the addition of a square room whose drystone walls (103 and 9) butted the external face of wall 8. The north and south walls of the room were of similar construction to those which formed the original building, however, the southern half of the west wall (11) was significantly thicker, possibly to provide support to the structure in an area where the natural ground sloped away to the west. Entrance to the room was through a narrow doorway in the north wall (103). Inside the room, and beneath a layer of demolition rubble, were the remains of limestone floor slabs (21) which lay above a thin lime rich soil (22), and natural clay. Pottery from layer 22 dated to the second half of the 13th century.

Further development of the farmhouse involved the construction of an eastern extension (116, 117 and 118) and major reconstruction and strengthening of both the southern gable wall (109 and 108) and the west wall (7, 20 and 17). The original south gable wall (19) was virtually doubled in width (to 1.7m) with the addition of facing walls which were butted externally and internally. Facing wall 108 was bonded with a new section of west wall (17) which butted the external face of the original (107). The original west wall (107) was bonded with Wall 8 although a section was demolished at this stage in order to make way for a new west doorway (111) and a further wall segment (20). The original extent of wall 107 was clearly evident as a soil mark (104).

Two irregular silty clay floor layers (101 and 102) were preserved within the building. Layer 101 butted the internal face of wall 14 and appeared to have accumulated in a shallow scour in the natural clay (98) at the edge of the main concentration of floor slabs (99). Finds from the layer included over 300 sherds of 14th century glazed and coarseware pottery (dated to 1300-1350), animal bone, and worked stone objects including quernstones and whetstones. Metalwork from the layer included iron hinge pivots, nails, brackets, buckles, and a concreted but complete barrel padlock.

Layer 102 had accumulated adjacent to the internal face of wall 8, above the natural clay. The western edge of the layer respected the original line of wall 107 as indicated by soil mark 104. The layer was overlain by a number of larger Limestone slabs which appeared to represent the latest floor layer. The range of finds from layer 102 were broadly similar to those recovered from layer 101 although the assemblage also included a horseshoe, fragments of oyster shell and a strip of lead, possibly from a leaded window (see

Figs. 13-15). The pottery appeared to be of a slightly earlier date (early 14th century) than that recovered from layer 101.

The extension at the southeastern corner of the building involved the construction of drystone walls 115, 116 and 117. The walls enclosed a floor layer (129) which contained shallow lenses of charcoal and ash rich soil (136-138). Excavation did not determine whether the walls represented a fully enclosed room. Floor layer 129 was not excavated to natural although it was overlain by a group of limestone slabs (118) which represented the remains of a later floor. The limestone slabs and the remains of the roughly coursed and faced rubble walls were sealed by a demolition layer (97) containing later 14th century (1350-1400) pottery. A small assemblage of earlier 14th century pottery was recovered from layer 129.

Medieval (Phase 4)

Building 5 appears to have been abandoned during the second half of the 14th century and possibly as early as 1350. Over 300 sherds of pottery were recovered from the demolition layers (34 and 97) which sealed the walls and internal features of the building. None of the pottery dated any later than 1400. This suggests the period between the buildings abandonment and subsequent demolition may have been relatively short.

AREA 4 (Fig. 9)

Excavation revealed a complex of later medieval walls, cobbled surfaces and deposits relating to the construction and use of an enclosed yard. Work in the area was limited due to time factors and concentrated on the removal of demolition rubble in order to expose and record as large an area of the yard and walls as possible, accordingly none of the main structural features were excavated to natural. Deeper small scale excavation within the enclosure revealed the remains of an earlier wall (68) and a layer (94) reflecting earlier (Phase 2), but unspecified, activity prior to the development of the yard.

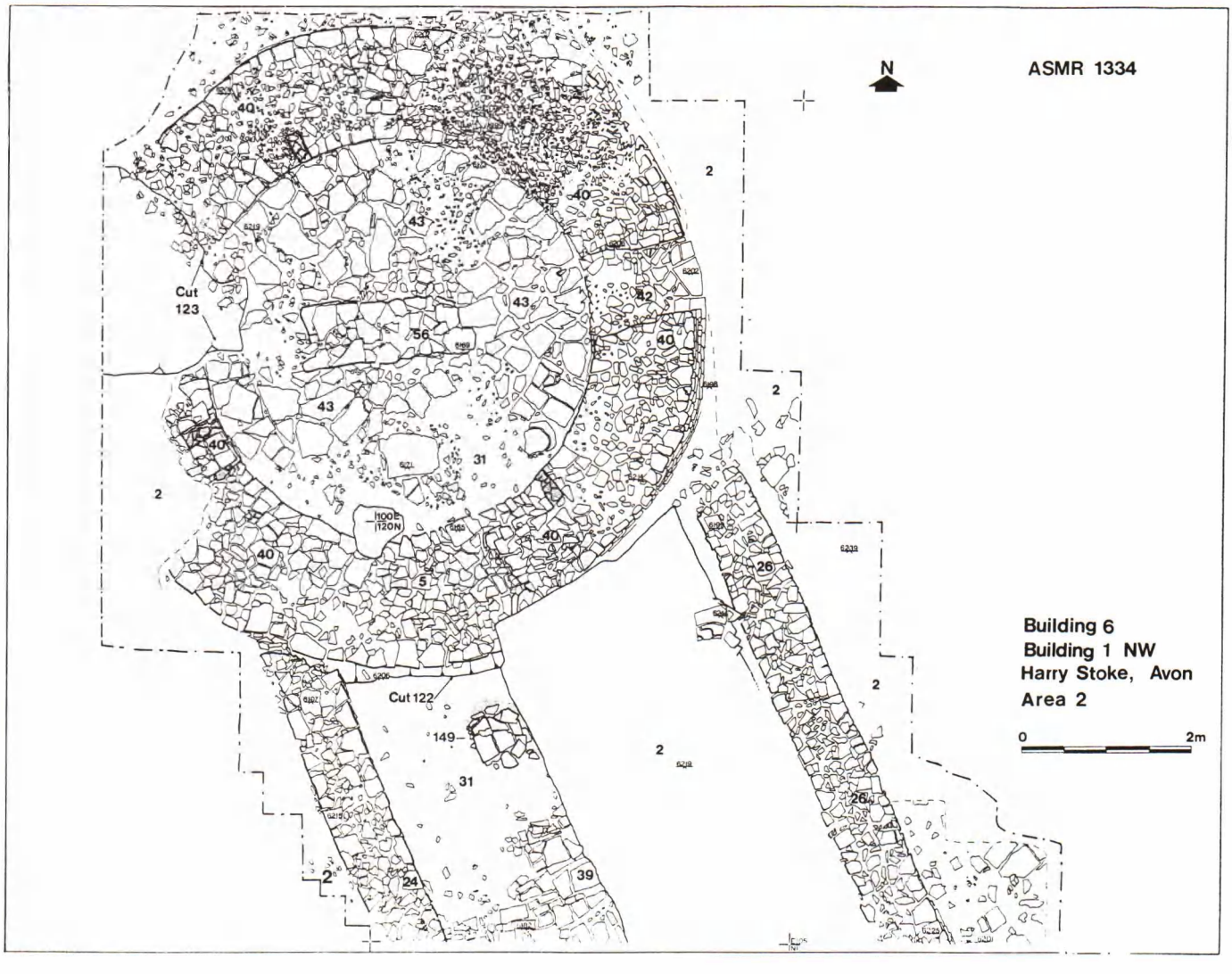


Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Medieval (Phase 2)

Wall 68 was sealed beneath an area of fragmentary limestone slabs (60) which appeared to have formed part of the later (Phase 3) yard surface. Only the southern face of the wall was exposed where it was roughly coursed and faced of limestone rubble. Early 13th century pottery was recovered from a soil layer (94) which butted the southern face of the wall and lay below remnants of later floor slabs.

Medieval (Phase 3)

The later medieval yard (Structure 7) was formed by a roughly squared arrangement of drystone walls (Figure 9) and wall foundations (63). All of the walls were roughly coursed and faced and built of limestone rubble. Less substantial walls (65, 89 and 67) were preserved which appeared to represent the remains of internal divisions or bays. Where the demolition rubble was fully excavated other internal features were revealed including stone drains (61 and 66), slabbed and compacted stone surfaces (60 and 71) and areas of well consolidated cobbling (69, 90 and 93). Limited excavation of the demolition layer revealed a dense horizon of finds at the interface of the rubble and the underlying yard surfaces (60, 90 etc.) which included approximately two thousand 14th century (1300-1350) pottery sherds, animal bone, iron objects and worked stone plus quantities of oyster shell, a small number of copper alloy fittings and strips and worked bone objects. Further 14th century pottery and finds were recovered from a rubbish heap (64) which had accumulated against the external face of the west wall (62).

Medieval (Phase 4)

The walls forming the yard were demolished, the rubble was subsequently spread to form a thin but compacted layer sealing the underlying archaeology.

Plate 2 Building 5 and possible 'guarderobe' room

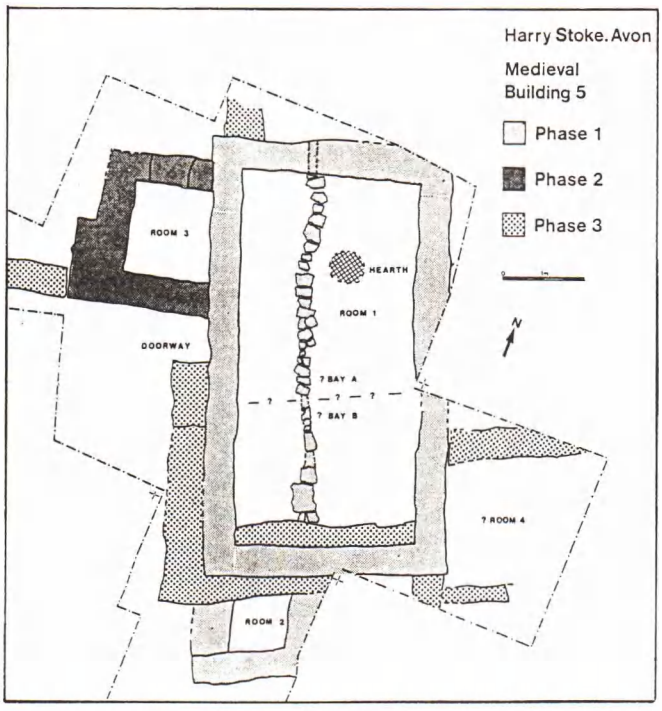


Fig. 10

AREA 5 (Fig. 11)

Area 5 was located to the south of the main earthworks on the site and situated across a boundary formed by a holloway orientated northwest to southeast. The holloway appeared to separate the focus of the farmstead immediately to the northeast, from ridge and furrow earthworks to the southwest. The main structures and deposits recorded in Area 5 were associated with the earlier medieval (Phases 1 and 2) settlement of the site and related to the construction and use of two ovens or kilns (Structures 3 and 4 below). During the post medieval period material for a trackway (252, 253 and 254) was deposited across the eastern corner of the area and stone lined land drains (267 and 293) were constructed. During the 18th and 19th centuries domestic rubbish was dumped in the southwest corner of the site.

Medieval (Phase 1): Structure 3 ***Plate 3***

Structure 3 was built during the second half of the 12th century. The remains of the structure included a semicircular section of drystone foundation wall (281) which was set into a shallow foundation trench. The rubble forming the footing had been randomly set within the foundation trench although in places one or two coursed stones were preserved above it. The northern end of the arc of the wall appeared to have been disturbed and beyond that point associated activity was represented by an area of limestone cobbling (283). Wall 281 was butted along its northern face and to the west by a distinctive dark grey soil layer (255) which extended beneath the cobbling (283) as far as a stone-lined and covered drain (268), which ran into the holloway. Layer 255 contained significant quantities of 12th century pottery as well as animal bone and a number of whetstones. The northern face of the holloway was consolidated with a layer of roughly packed limestone and rarer sandstone rubble (269).

To the west of, and within, the structure partly defined by Wall 281 were a group of features and deposits (270, 289, 284, 279, 280 and 290) which appeared to represent the remains of an internal oven or kiln structure. The core of the structure consisted of a layer of heat affected Pennant sandstone slabs (270) which were set into an underlying layer of friable pale sandy silt and ash (290). Immediately to the northwest of this layer (270), and surrounded by a dense concentration of carbonised material and charcoal (284), were two groups of edge-set limestone slabs (289) which appeared to represent the entrance to a stoke-hole or hearth. The charcoal rich layer (284) also lay above a rectangular setting of smaller sandstone stones, immediately inside the edge-set slabs (289), which were discoloured and powdered as a result of intense scorching.

The floor or surface formed by the sandstone surface (270) was slightly raised in relation to the surrounding area and faded out immediately adjacent to the spread of the rubble which was set into the northern face of the holloway. Along its northern edge layer 270 was bounded by a soil layer (279) which contained late 12th and early 13th century pottery and animal bone. Layer 279 butted the internal face of wall foundation 281 and contained a linear

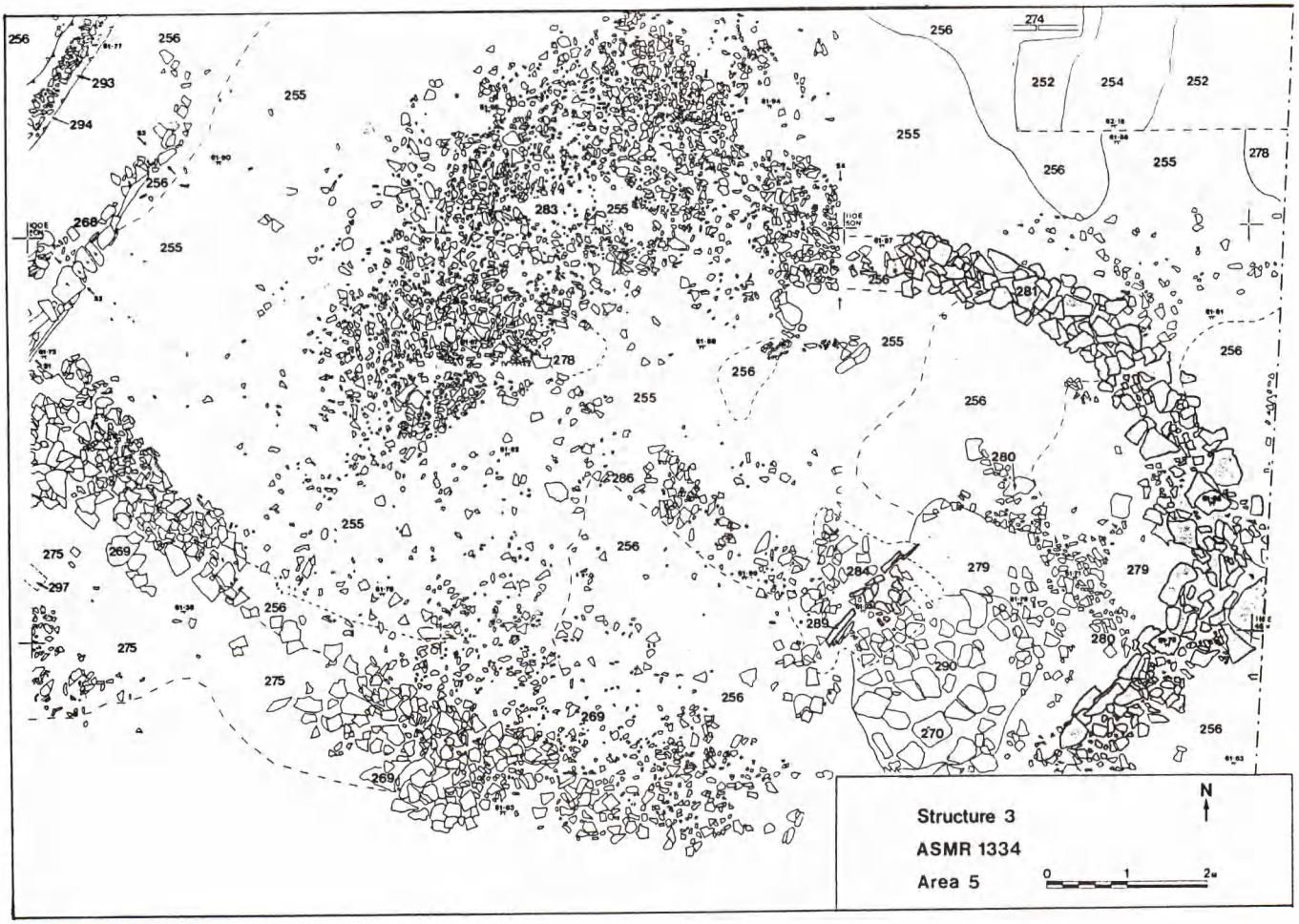


Fig. 11

Plate 3 Structure 3 - kiln or oven during excavation

spread of small limestone stones and rubble (280) which may have served as a foundation for the body of the oven or kiln. Layers 279, 290 and 284 lay above a light brown natural clay (256) which was variously exposed in the area immediately below later demolition rubble (282).

To the southeast of the densest area of cobbling (283) further thin and patchy cobbling (286) was preserved above a thin veneer of occupation layer 255 or natural clay (256). Where it was best preserved the cobbling appeared to represent a narrow path (286) which had been laid from the entrance or stoke-hole slabs (289) towards the northwest. The distribution and variation in the concentration of the cobbling in the area suggested that the boundary of the structure as a whole (Structure 3), which was formed along its eastern side by wall foundation 281, originally continued in an arc to the southwest as indicated by the southern edge of the denser cobbling (283).

Medieval (Phase 1): Structure 4

(Not illustrated in detail)

Structure 4 appeared to represent a second oven or kiln. It was preserved as a slightly raised and roughly circular spread of heat affected Pennant sandstone slabs which lay above a layer of friable lime rich ash. The layers forming the structure extended beyond the area of excavation to the north and, where exposed, were not completely excavated to the underlying natural (256 and 278). A soil layer relating to the use of the structure contained 12th century pottery, primarily from domestic cooking and/or storage vessels. Unlike the sandstone surface within Structure 3 (270, above) no evidence was recorded to suggest that Structure 4 was originally enclosed within a larger structure although it was clearly used for a similar purpose.

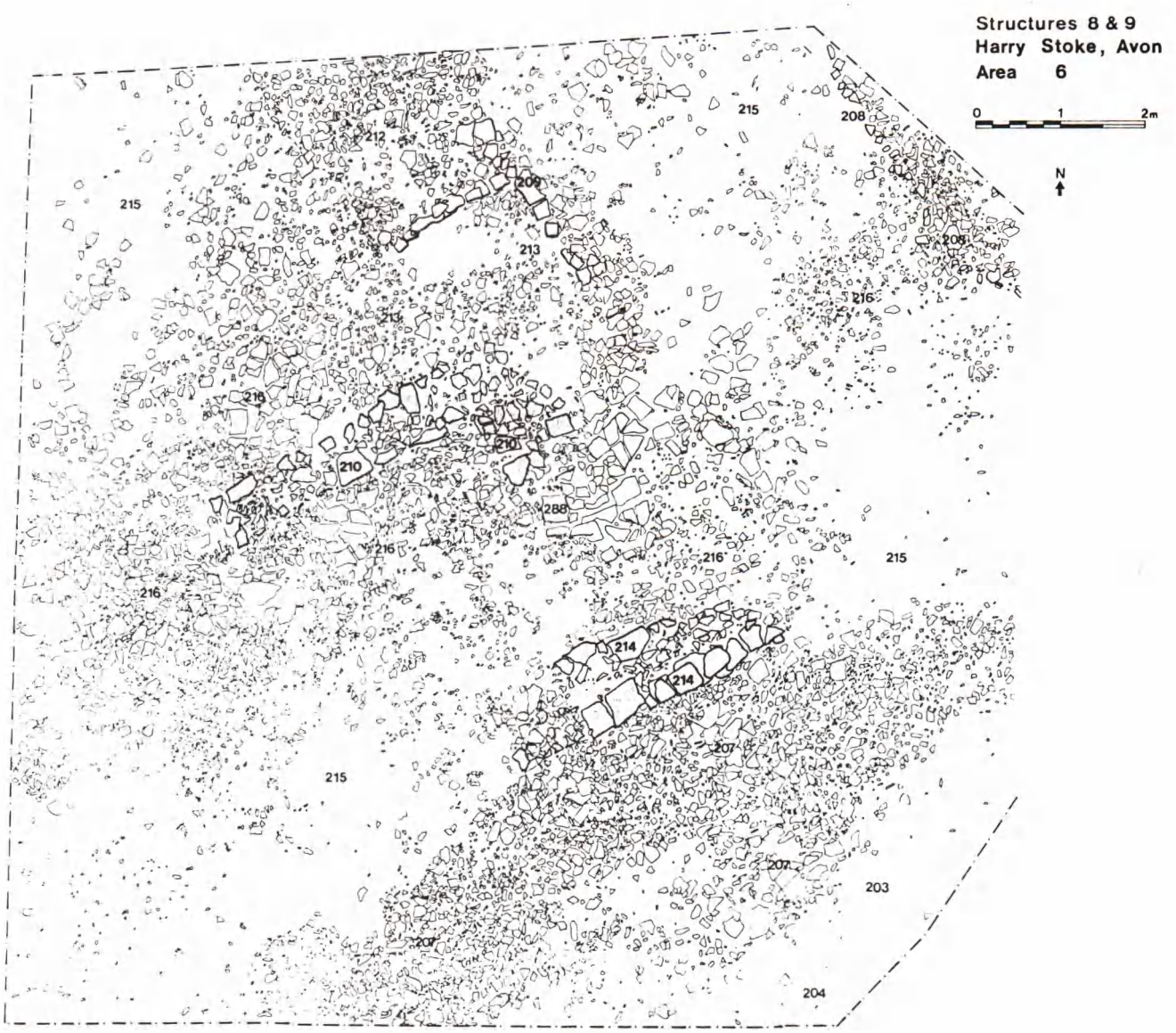


Fig. 12

Two limestone packed land drains (267 and 265) were dug across the area. The features were bonded at their southeastern junction and extended beyond the excavation area to the west and north. The stone packing filled a rectangular and straight sided cut into the natural clay which appeared to have been constructed by hand. No dating evidence was recovered from two excavated sections (not illustrated). The southern end of drain 263 cut through medieval layer 269.

AREA 6 (Fig. 12)

Medieval: Period II (Phase 3)

A soil layer (202) containing late 13th and early 14th century pottery and animal bone was recorded in the northwestern corner of the area. The layer appeared to butt an L shaped section of coursed and faced drystone wall (210) orientated northeast to southwest. Natural clay (215) was exposed between and below a patchy layer of limestone rubble immediately to the south of the wall. The northeastern end of wall 210 formed a right angled return to the southeast where it was butted by a layer of heat affected limestone and sandstone slabs (288), possibly the remains of a hearth. An area of rough cobbling (211) appeared to extend beyond the excavation area towards the northeast. The layer faded out before the northeastern corner of wall 210 although it may have been a contemporary feature as it extended below a later segment of drystone wall (209) and contained a few sherds of later medieval pottery (1300-1350).

Undated (Medieval Phase 3 or later)

The poorly preserved remains of an L shaped section of drystone wall (209) lay above layer 202 and cobbling 211. The wall was butted and/or overlain by a thin horizon of limestone rubble (212, 216 and 213) which lay directly below the topsoil.

Feature 214 consisted of a section of drystone wall orientated southwest to northeast. The wall was preserved immediately below the topsoil and constructed directly above the natural clay (215), at the shoulder of a stone packed surface (207) which sloped down towards Harry Stoke Road.

Insufficient evidence was preserved in Area 6 to date the construction of walls 209 and 214 with any precision or to determine their structural relationship although layer 202 appeared to provided a *terminus post quem* for wall 209.

THE FINDS

In most instances the following finds reports have been abbreviated. Some reports relating to post medieval finds (e.g. Glass and Clay Pipe) have been omitted completely.

recovered from unstratified and post medieval contexts. The remaining pottery was recovered from stratified contexts and appeared entirely medieval in date although a few sherds of residual Roman Samian were also recovered. No prehistoric or Saxon pottery was recovered from the site although it should be noted that only a small proportion of the site was excavated to the natural substratum.

All of the medieval pottery recovered was fragmentary although, in general, the degree of abrasion, whilst variable, was relatively low, suggesting the material had undergone limited disturbance after deposition.

The bulk of the medieval pottery (approximately 90%) consisted of sherds of undecorated coarseware in a range of fabrics, primarily representing cooking and storage vessels although a small number were decorated with simple incised wavy and linear designs. The relatively small number (approximately 10%) of glazed sherds within the medieval assemblage appeared to represent a small number of jugs and splash decorated cooking vessels (provisionally identified as Ham Green and North Wiltshire [Minety] wares respectively). The nature of the site (no negative soil features were recorded) did not, however, provide for the preservation of any single stratigraphic and ceramic sequence.

Some broad degree of variation in the distribution of medieval pottery was apparent during excavation in that the vast majority of the glazed and decorated sherds were recovered either from within or immediately adjacent to the main stone buildings on the site. The pottery assemblage recovered from the southern area of the site, in the vicinity of a curved stone wall (Structure 3) which may have formed part of a large oven or kiln structure, contained very few decorated or glazed sherds.

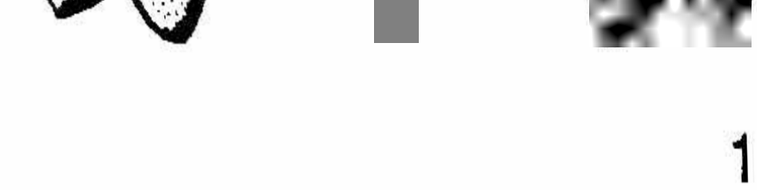
Date Range

The material ranged in date from the late Roman to Modern periods. The Roman fabrics were entirely residual and not significant to the assemblage.

After excluding the Roman material the pottery falls into two distinct groups: a late post-medieval to modern group associated with a trackway, rubbish dump and the topsoil; and an entirely medieval one associated with the excavated structures. There was a clear chronological gap in the ceramic sequence with no significant material for the 15th to 17th centuries.

A start date sometime in the mid-12th century is suggested for the assemblage with the exclusively medieval group having an end date during the 14th century probably around the 1350's. The small number of 11th/early 12th century sherds are probably residual in these contexts.

A minor problem exits with the need to rely on the Ham



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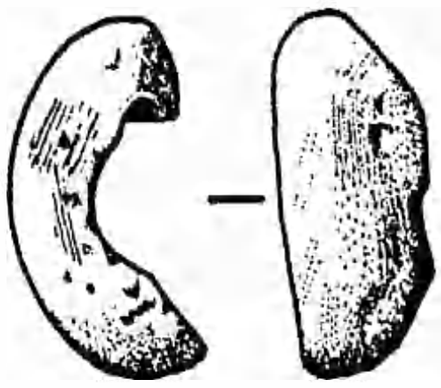

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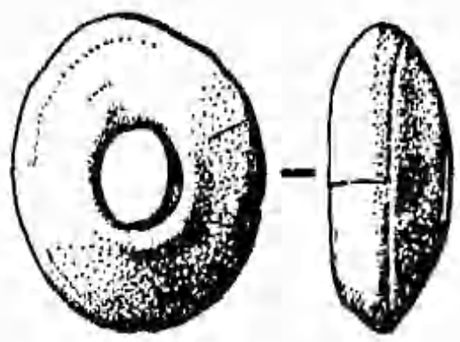

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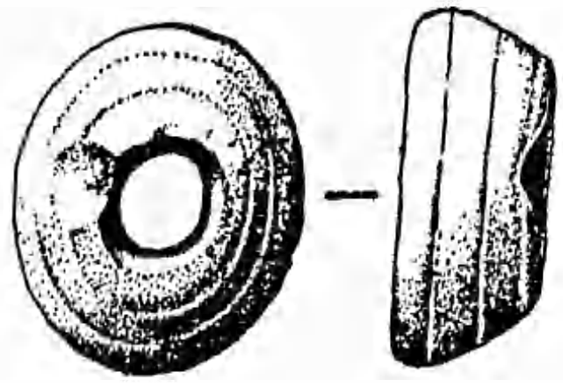

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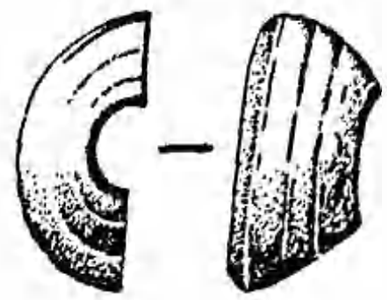

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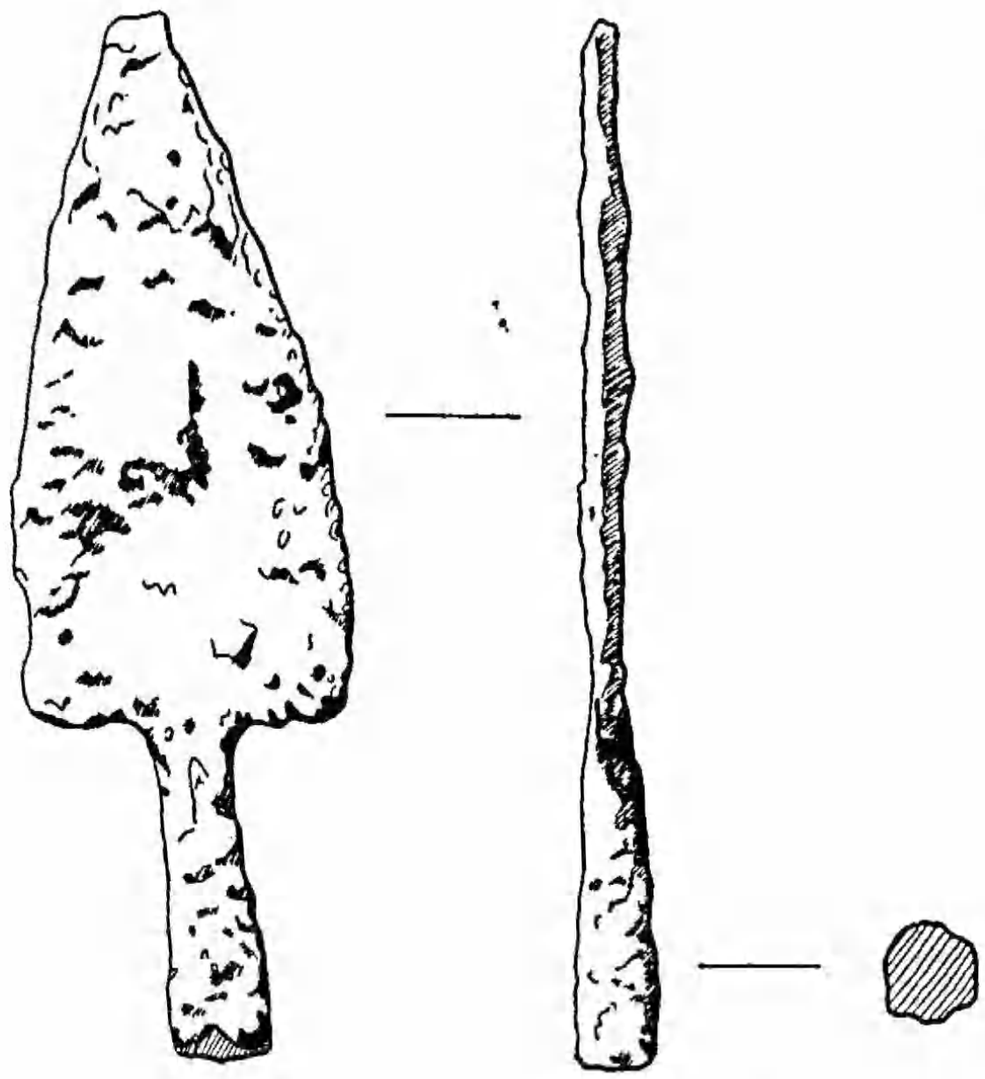

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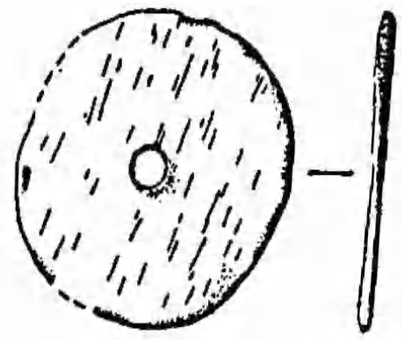

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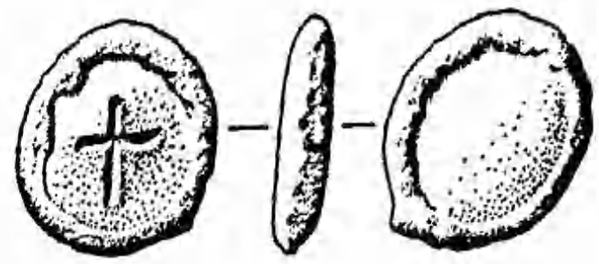

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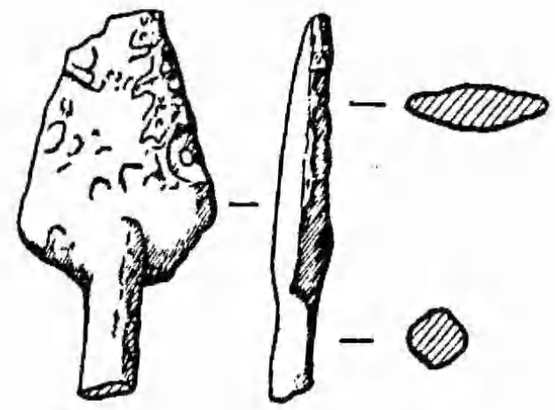

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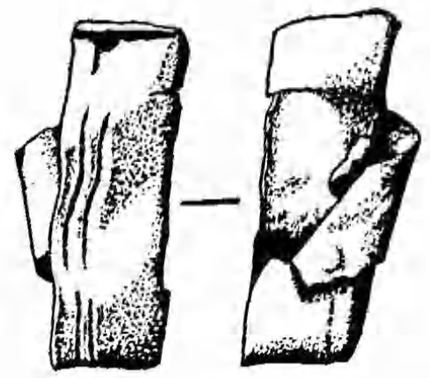

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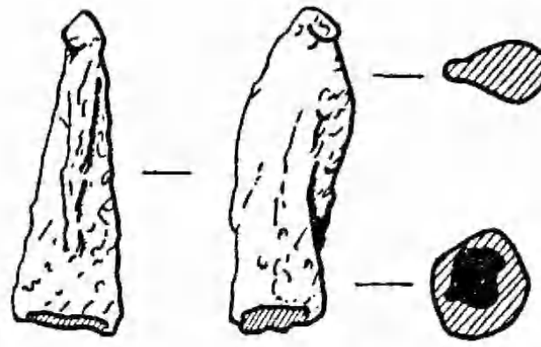

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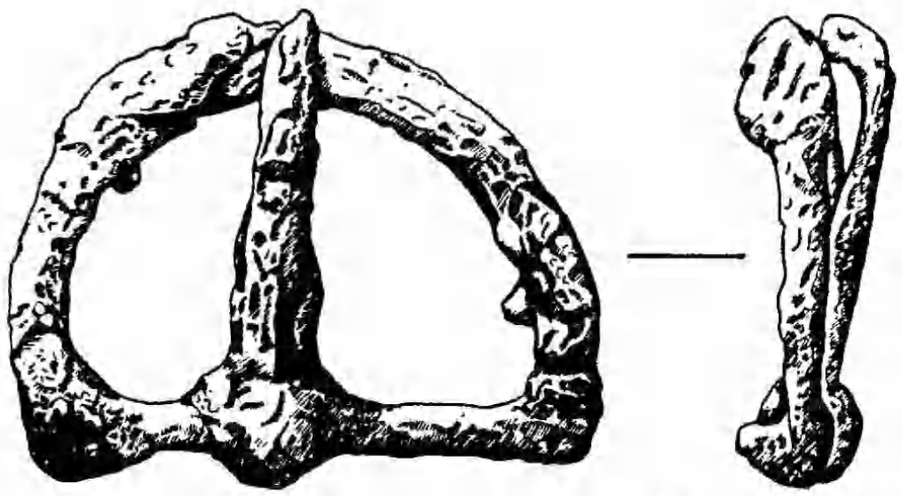

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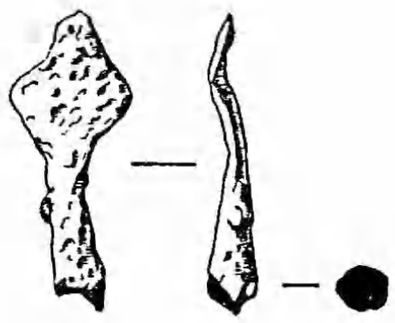

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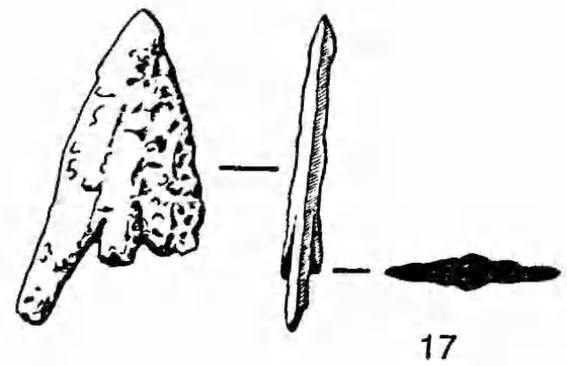

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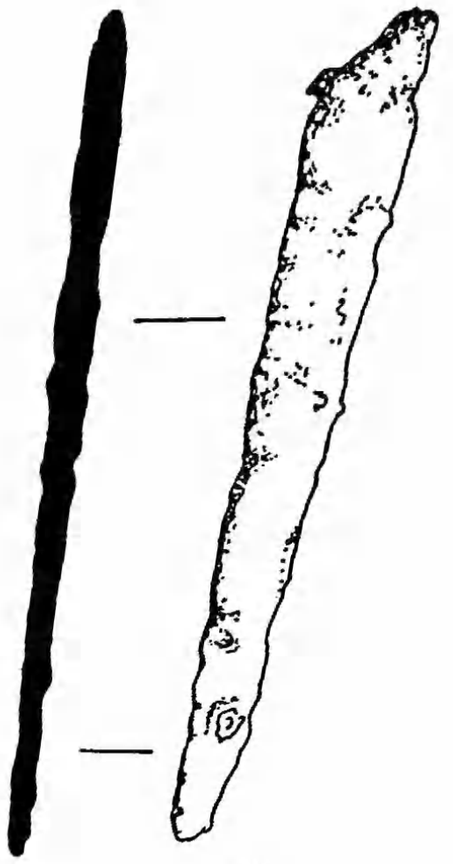

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CM 5

Fig. 13

Green wares to date some contexts. The jugs have recently been subject to much tighter dating (Ponsford 1991) but a problem still exists with the coarseware, with a date range from the mid-12th to sometime in the 13th century, no complete chronology of form has yet been devised although some forms are datable. Few of the North Avon Gritty wares are yet datable except by association.

The post-medieval groups are all common 18th and 19th century wares although a few sherds may be from vessels current in the last decades of the 17th century. Apart from a rubbish dump in Area 5 all contexts in this group show a high level of residual material.

Fabrics and Forms

Material from the post-medieval group is not fully discussed here, suffice to say that the wares are those typical of the 18th/19th centuries, the majority of which are products of the Staffordshire and Bristol industries.

Within the medieval group six wares predominate: Ham Green, Bristol/Redcliffe, lime gritted wares from North West Wiltshire (Minety), a shell and quartz gritted ware, flint tempered micaceous ware and a group of coarse quartz gritted fabrics currently known as North Avon Gritty ware.

The Ham Green wares in the assemblage included the standard cookpot fabric, the coarser "proto" Ham Green cookpot fabric and class A, B and Intermediate jugs.

Those attributed to Bristol/Redcliffe included the standard and highly decorated jugs, jugs in the slightly later (post 1300) pink fabric, one sherd in the Redcliffe Late fabric (post 1350), a fine white/buff fabric attributed to Bristol and the rose quartz tempered fabric designated as 254 in the Bristol type series.

The North West Wilts lime gritted wares included hand built and the post 1300 wheel thrown products.

Amongst the shell and quartz tempered wares three fabrics were identified: two very similar but probably from different kilns on stylistic grounds and a third coarser 11th century fabric. These are as yet unsourced but are very common in the Bristol area and are felt to be of local manufacture.

The flint tempered wares are a group of fabrics with varying amounts of flint, mica and calcareous inclusions, presently unsourced but all within the acceptable range for Bristol 46/Bath A.

North Avon Gritty Ware is the name currently being given to a group of fabrics all heavily tempered with quartz, with or without additional inclusions, and only recorded from sites in north Avon (pre 1974 South Gloucestershire).

A number of other fabric types occurred in small numbers one of which a quartz gritted jug fabric believed to be of south Gloucestershire (?Thornbury) origin is a key date type. (Burchill forthcoming.)

Two imports were noted both from South-west France.

The range of forms was very restricted and consisted entirely of cookpots/storage jars and jugs none of which appear to be untypical. Although flint tempered ware was present in some quantity there were no obvious examples of "west country dishes" or jugs in that fabric. There would appear to be no tripod pitchers in the assemblage although sherds in hand built lime tempered fabric may possibly include this form. The jugs include a number of highly decorated examples but none are perhaps of the highest quality.

The Contexts

An analysis of contexts by sherd count, weight and provisional date was undertaken the results of which can be found in the excavation archive.

WORKED STONE

Only twenty-four worked stone objects were recovered during the excavation. Of this small assemblage two objects were recovered from unstratified contexts. The remainder of the finds were recovered from secure dated medieval contexts located within and adjacent to stone buildings.

The bulk of the assemblage consisted of Pennant type sandstone objects although it also included a single schist whetstone (SF 13), probably a Scandinavian import, a finer sandstone whetstone (SF 67) and a number of finer mudstone spindle whorls (SFs 24, 33 and 38).

The majority of the stone artefacts recovered were fairly typical of medieval rural assemblages which have been recorded elsewhere in the region (e.g. Eckweek-Young and Kidd forthcoming) reflecting essentially domestic and agricultural activity. The assemblage included the upper and lower halves of two rotary querns, a small number of flat and rod shaped whetstones, a few fragments of roof tile, four spindle whorls and three probable pot lids. Two larger dressed sandstone blocks (SF 80) and a semicircular slab (SF 81) were also found. Both the objects were recovered from Area 4, inside the 14th century yard, although their function remains unclear.

Typology and Date range

On the basis of associated pottery and stratigraphy the majority of the stone objects date from the 14th century although two rod shaped whetstones (SF's 100 and 110) and a polished pebble (SF 88) were recovered from a 12th century layer (255) in Area 5.

The range of worked stone artefacts from the site is restricted and primarily consisted of domestic objects although the larger sandstone blocks from Area 4 may have been structural.

THE FLINT

The assemblage of flint consisted of 174 fragments weighing 507g. Of these 18 fragments weighing 85g were recovered from the topsoil. The remaining fragments were either recovered from deposits and layers dating from the medieval period, and hence in reworked and residual contexts.

The bulk of the assemblage was in relatively fresh condition and not abraded, suggesting the material has undergone very limited transportation since its deposition. The collection included a number of relatively small struck and retouched tools including thumb and end scrapers, blades and prepared cores.

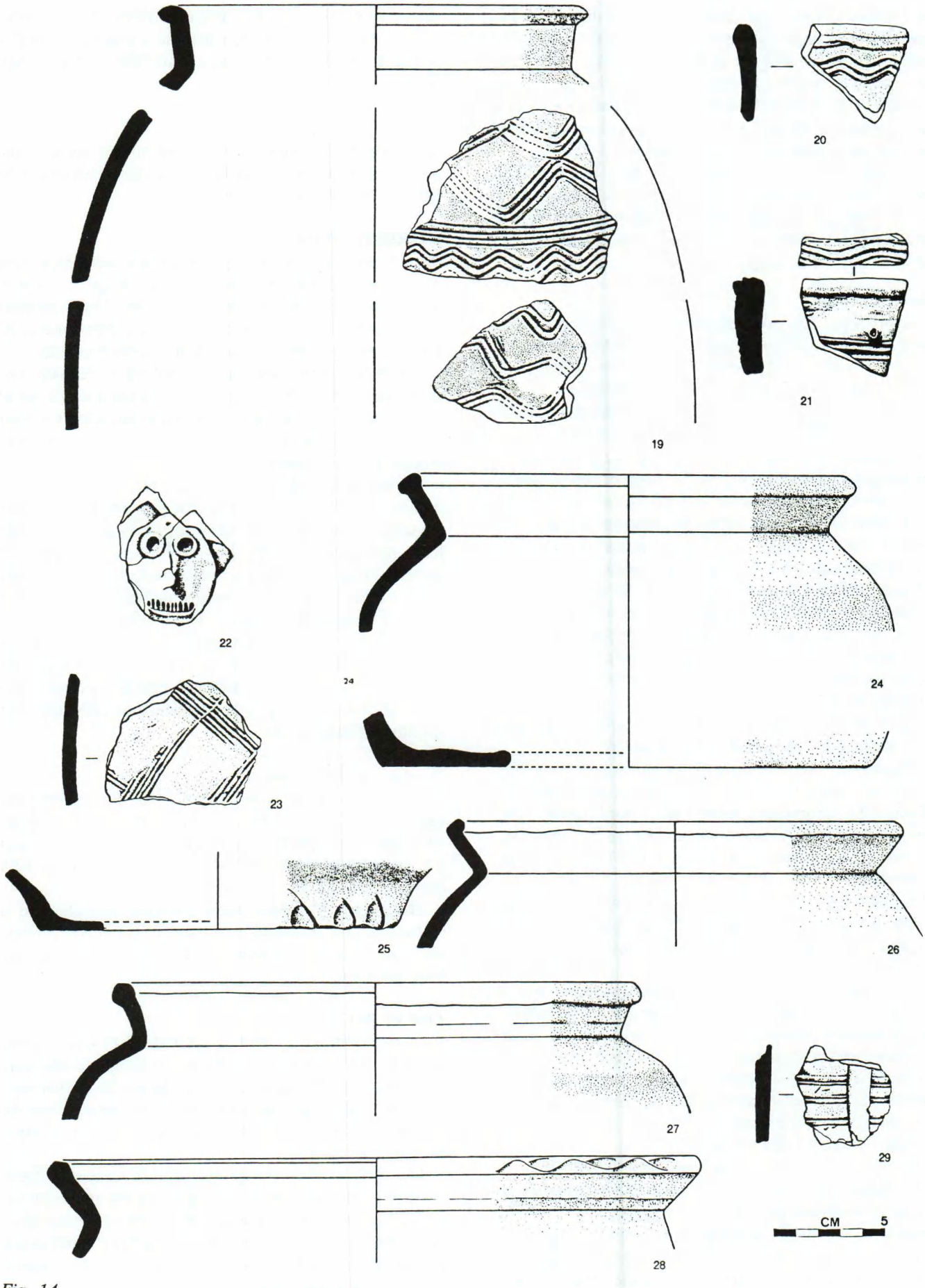

Fig. 14

Catologue of finds

1 Copper alloy pendant (x2) - SF16; unstratified,?medieval
2 Bone button - SF86; context 264, 14th century
3 Schist whetstone - SF13; context 33, 14th century
4 Copper alloy tweezers - SF45; context 119, 1200-1250
5 Mudstone spindle whorl - SF38; context 59, 14th century
6 Clay spindle whorl SF33; context 14th century
7 Sandstone spindle whorl SF23; context 68, 14th century
8 Mudstone spindle whorl SF24; context 59 14th century
9 Iron spearhead - SF12; context 33, 14th century
10 Bone button SF8; context 18, 13th century
11 Lead ?counter - SF20; context 43, pre 1250
12 Iron arrowhead - context 256, ?12th-13th century
13 Decorated bronze strip - SF27; context 94, 13th century
14 Socketed iron arrowhead SF1; context 6, ?14th century
15 Iron buckle - SF27; context 101, 14th century
16 Socketed iron object SF25; unstratified
17 Barbed iron arrowhead - SF18; context 82, ?14th century
18 Iron knife blade - SF60; context 6, ?14th century
19 Cookpot with incised decoration - SF17; context 149, pre 1200 (BPT 114)
20 Rim of cookpot/storage jar with incised decoration; context 202, late 13th - early 14th century
21 Decorated rimsherd with narrow hole below rim - SF40; context 59, 14th century
22 Applied face from a decorated jug. Probably Bristol/Redcliffe product - SF14; conte3, 14th century
23 Body sherd from cookpot/storage jar with incised decoration - ?NW Wilts.; context 33, 14th century
24 Cookpot; context 29, mid-late 12th century
25 Base of jug or storage vessel with thumb impressed base and thin external green glaze; context 201, medieval
26 Cookpot with hooked rim; context 30 mid/late 12th century
27 Handmade cookpot - SF109; context 262, pre 1200
28 Cookpot/storage jar decorated with fingertip impressions; context 119, 1200-1250
29 Body sherd from cookpot decorated with applied strip and incised lines (BPT 32); context 279, Early 13th century
30 Base of sandstone rotary quern - SF31; context 98, 14th century
31 Top of sandstone rotary quern - SF32; context 101, 14th century

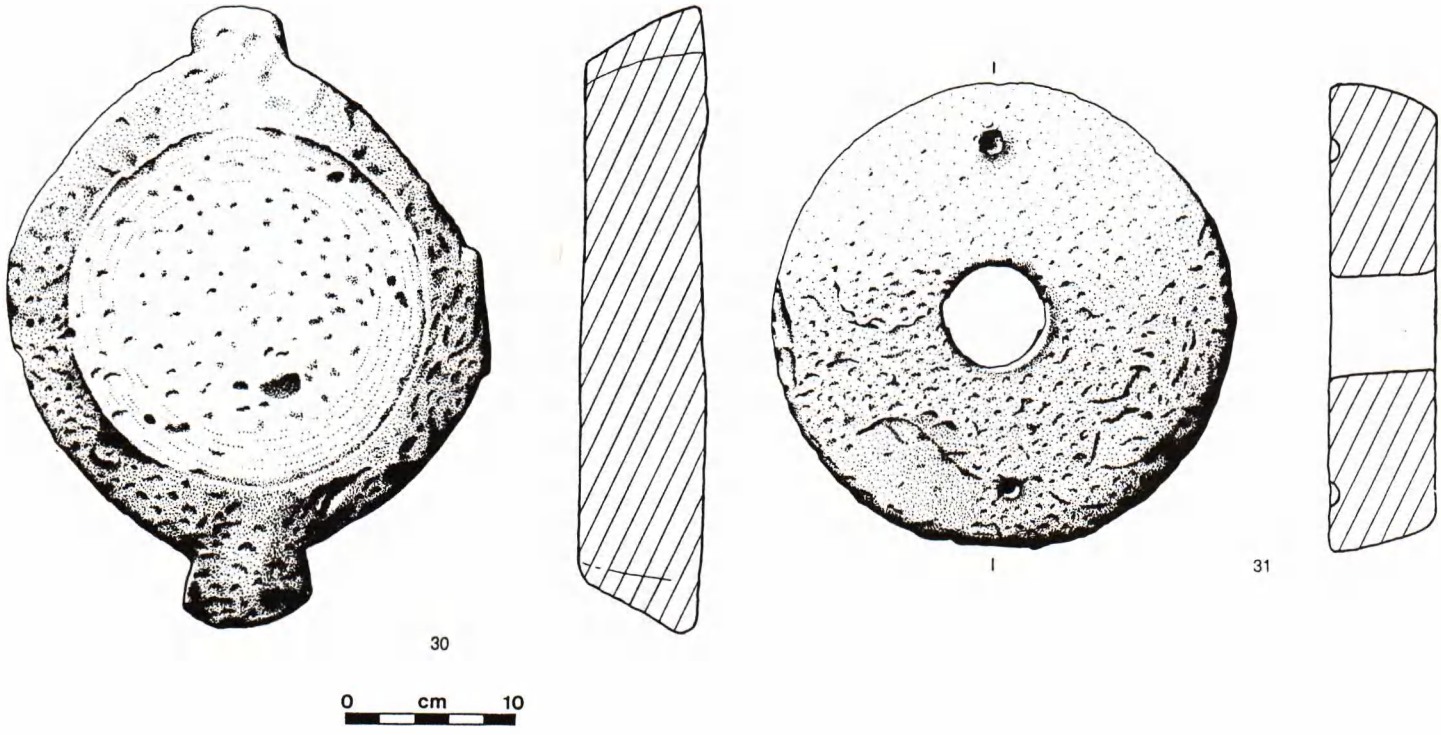

Fig. 15 Rotary querns from within Building 5 - 14th century

Typology and Date Range

Approximately 45 flint tools or utilised flakes were recovered plus a small number of what are probably later strike-a-lights. The bulk of the tools and cores were relatively small with fine retouch, a characteristic best attributed to Neolithic or Bronze Age industries. A small group of blades and backed points formed of a distinctive cream flint had a thick brown post-deposition patina. These appeared to be of an earlier date, possibly Palaeolithic.

THE METALWORK **by Anne Thompson**

All the metal objects were initially examined by Margaret Brooks at the Salisbury Conservation Laboratory to assess conservation requirements. All the iron objects, six copper alloy, and one lead object were X-rayed for identification purposes.

The Assemblage

Quantification of Finds (by material category)

- Copper alloy - 36
- Lead - 3
- Silver - 1
- Iron - 490

Provenance

Of the 36 copper alloy objects, 26 originate from stratified deposits. One object is residual Roman, nine are of medieval date, ten post medieval and six modern. The three lead objects are all from stratified deposits, two of medieval date and one post medieval. The one silver object was recovered from an unstratified deposit but is of medieval date. All the 490 iron objects are from stratified deposits with 16 from contexts of un-assigned ceramic date, 288 of medieval date, 75 of post-medieval and 111 of modern date.

Tabulated Summary

All the metal finds recovered from the excavation are listed in Table 1. The finds are identified by material category (copper alloy, lead, silver and iron) in context order. Where small find numbers are available these are also included. The provisional dating of each context is as provided by the pottery analysis.

DISCUSSION

Copper Alloy objects

Seven copper alloy objects were recovered from the topsoil including a residual Roman brooch (fibula) and medieval/post-medieval types of fitting/ferrule. Three coins and a button were recovered from the post-medieval trackway (259), whilst four buttons, a thimble, and a ring were found in the post-medieval rubbish dump (265). The nine copper alloy objects from medieval contexts comprise three studs, a hook, a fitting, tweezers and three small strips/fragments. As expected the range of copper alloy objects from the site represents both personal items (buttons, coins and tweezers), and household items, such as thimbles, hooks, studs, and fittings. The unstratified finds comprised four buttons, two coins, a thimble, a strip/fragment and two other unidentified objects.

Lead objects

Lead objects recovered from the excavation consisted of a counter, a fitting and a strip of medieval date, and a lead strip from the post medieval rubbish dump (265). The medieval strip from layer 102 may represent a fragment of window leading.

Iron Objects

The assemblage of iron artefacts includes only a few personal items such as buckles and knives. The majority of the objects represent functional items, such as the key, padlock, latch, and tools (chisel, divider and punches), together with structural objects, such as strap hinges, hinge pivots, hooks, fittings, staples and nails/bolts (for timber). The three arrowheads and three socketed points found were probably used for hunting as much as for weapons. Fifteen horseshoes with numerous associated (fiddle key) nails represented evidence of the use of horses on the site presumably for transport and labour although no bits or other horse trappings were found. One cattle shoe fragment was identified together with various rods, bars, and sheet fragments of no identifiable function.

Small quantities of iron working slag was recovered from the site, all of which were of medieval date. The material suggests some form of smithing activity may have been undertaken on the site.

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Iron	1	100/95	Key	Modern	X 6576
Iron	1	100/95	Horseshoe	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	Buckle	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	6 structural nails	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	3 links	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	Fiddle key nail	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	Bar	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	Chisel	Modern	X 6583
Iron	1	100/95	3 structural nails	Modern	X 6577
Iron	1	100/115	Cattleshoe	Modern	X 6588
Iron	1	100/115	Perforated strip	Modern	X 6588
Iron	1	100/115	Bar	Modern	X 6588
Iron	1	100/115	4 structural nails	Modern	X 6578
Iron	1	100/115	Link	Modern	X 6578
Iron	1	100/115	Handle	Modern	X 6578
Iron	1	105/95	Structural nail	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	105/95	Fragment	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	110/85	Horseshoe	Modern	X 6577
Iron	1	110/85	2 fiddle key nails	Modern	X 6577
Iron	1	110/90	2 structural nails	Modern	X 6575
Iron	1	130/80	Staple	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	130/80	Knife	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	130/80	5 structural nails	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	130/80	Fiddle key nail	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	130/80	2 nail stems	Modern	X 6585
Iron	1	130/90	Nail stem	Modern	X 6588
Iron	2	61a	Horseshoe	Late C13	X 6564
Iron	2	61b	Sheet with rivets	Late C13	X 6564
Iron	2	100/110	Strip	Late C13	X 6578
Iron	2	100/110	Fiddle key nail	Late C13	X 6578
Iron	4	-	5 structural nails	Mid C12	X 6578
Iron	4	-	Fiddle key nail	Mid C12	X 6578
Iron	6	1	Arrowhead	Late C13	X 6566, D 24
Iron	6	2	Horseshoe and nail	Late C13	X 6568

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Iron	44	-	2 structural nails	Post 1300	X 6581
Iron	59	46	Handle	C14	X 6568
Iron	59	55a	Hinge pivot	C14	X 6569
iron	59	55b	Bar	C14	X 6569
Iron	59	55c	Perforated disc	C14	X 6569
Iron	59	100/85	2 structural nails	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	100/90	Slag	C14	X 6576
Iron	59	100/90	5 fiddle key nails	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	100/90	6 structural nails	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	100/90	3 rods	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	100/90	Sheet fragments	C14	X 6576
Iron	59	100/90	Horseshoe	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	100/95	Slag	C14	X 6574
Iron	59	100/95	Structural nail	C14	X 6580
Iron	59	100/95	35 fiddle key nails	C14	X 6580
Iron	59	100/95	4 fiddle key nails	C14	X 6579
Iron	59	100/95	32 structural nails	C14	X 6579
Iron	59	100/95	Bar/strap	C14	X 6574
Iron	59	100/95	Horseshoe	C14	X 6574
Iron	59	100/95	Rod	C14	X 6573
Iron	59	105/90	Rod	C14	X 6573
Iron	59	105/90	3 structural nails	C14	X 6576
Iron	59	105/90	2 fiddle key nails	C14	X 6575
Iron	59	110/90	Structural nail	C14	X 6581
Iron	64	100/85	4 structural nails	1300-1350	X 6574
Iron	64	100/85	Rod	1300-1350	X 6574
Iron	64	100/85	Fragment	1300-1350	X 6574
Iron	64	-	Fiddle key nail	1300-1350	X 6573
Iron	64	-	8 structural nails	1300-1350	X 6573
Iron	64	-	4 fiddle key nails	1300-1350	X 6573
Iron	64	-	5 structural nails	1300-1350	X 6573
Iron	64	-	Slag	1300-1350	X 6573
Iron	71	-	Structural nail	Late C13/C14	X 6571
Iron	78	41	Latch	N/A	X 6567

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Iron	10	80/100	Ring	Mid-late C13	X 6581
Iron	10	80/100	2 structural nails	Mid-late C13	X 6581
Iron	10	80/100	Rod	Mid-late C13	X 6581
Iron	18	62	Hinge pivot	Mid-late C13	X 6566
Iron	18	85/90	4 structural nails	Mid-late C13	X 6585
Iron	18	85/90	Horseshoe	Mid-late C13	X 6585
Iron	18	85/90	Fiddle key nail	Mid-late C13	X 6585
Iron	22	80/100	2 structural nails	Mid-late C13	X 6577
Iron	22	80/100	Strip	Mid-late C13	X 6577
Iron	29	-	Structural nail	Mid-late C12	X 6585
Iron	30	56	Fitting with rivet	Mid-late C12	X 6569
Iron	30	64	11 structural nails	Mid-late C12	X 6565
Iron	30	64	Staple	Mid-late C12	X 6565
Iron	30	-	Slag	Mid-late C12	-
Iron	33	12	Arrowhead	C14	X 6566
Iron	33	-	5 structural nails	C14	X 6584
Iron	33	-	Ring	C14	X 6584
Iron	33	-	Fitting	C14	X 6584
Iron	33	-	Knife	C14	X 6584
Iron	33	-	Horseshoe	C14	X 6584
Iron	33	-	Bar	C14	X 6584
Iron	34	58	Hook	C14	X 6567
Iron	34	90/95	Sheet fragments	C14	X 6577
Iron	34	90/95	3 fiddle key nails	C14	X 6576
Iron	34	90/95	4 structural nails	C14	X 6576
Iron	34	90/95	Horseshoe	C14	X 6575
Iron	41	105/110	2 horseshoes	N/A	X 6587
Iron	41	105/110	Rod	N/A	X 6587
Iron	41	105/110	6 fiddle key nails	N/A	X 6587
Iron	41	105/110	4 structural nails	N/A	X 6587
Iron	43	-	23 structural nails	Pre 1250	X 6586
Iron	43	100/120	14 structural nails	Pre 1250	X 6581
Iron	44	100/120	Structural nail	Post 1300	X 6588
Iron	44	100/120	Bar	Post 1300	X 6588

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Iron	79	100/140	2 structural nails	C12	X 6573
Iron	79	100/140	Staple	C12	X 6572
Iron	79	100/145	Structural nail	C12	X 6572
Iron	79	100/145	Blade	C12	X 6572
Iron	82	18	Arrowhead	N/A	X 6566, D 48
Iron	87	50	Fitting	N/A	X 6569
Iron	90	134	Socketed point	C14	X 6566
Iron	90	110/95	Fiddle key nail	C14	X 6573
Iron	90	110/95	3 nail stems	C14	X 6573
Iron	90	110/95	4 structural nails	C14	X 6573
Iron	93	110/95	5 structural nails	C12	X 6572
Iron	93	110/95	Fragment	C12	X 6572
Iron	94	-	2 fiddle key nails	Early C13	X 6572
Iron	95	100/95	Structural nail	Post 1150	X 6571
Iron	97	85/95	Structural nail	Post 1350	X 6571
Iron	97	85/100	Fiddle key nail	Post 1350	X 6572
Iron	97	85/100	2 structural nails	Post 1350	X 6572
Iron	97	85/100	2 structural nails	Post 1350	X 6571
Iron	97	85/100	Fiddle key nail	Post 1350	X 6571
Iron	97	85/100	2 structural nails	Post 1350	X 6572
Iron	97	85/100	2 structural nails	Post 1350	X 6572
Iron	97	85/100	Fiddle key nail	Post 1350	X 6572
Iron	101	34	Padlock	C14	X 6569
Iron	101	37	Buckle	C14	X 6566
Iron	101	63a	3 structural nails	C14	X 6565
Iron	101	63a	2 rods	C14	X 6565
Iron	101	63a	Loop	C14	X 6565
Iron	101	63b	Strap hinge	C14	X 6565
Iron	101	68	Bar	C14	X 6568
Iron	101	79	Buckle	C14	X 6566
Iron	101	85	Hinge pivot	C14	X 6569
Iron	101	85/100	6 structural nails	C14	X 6571
Iron	102	65	Hinge pivot	Early C14	X 6565
Iron	102	71	Knife	Early C14	X 6567

Table 1

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Iron	102	72	Horseshoe	Early C14	X 6568
Iron	102	73	Hinge pivot	Early C14	X 6567
Iron	102	74	Hook	Early C14	X 6567
Iron	102	75	2 rods	Early C14	X 6569
Iron	102	85/95	6 structural nails	Early C14	X 6571
Iron	102	-	Structural nail	Early C14	X 6572
Iron	102	-	Slag	Early C14	X 6572
Iron	110	-	Fiddle key nail	Post 1300	X 6571
Iron	110	-	Nail stem	Post 1300	X 6571
Iron	112	-	Fiddle key nail	Post 1300	X 6571
Iron	119	-	Nail stem	Early C13	X 6570
Iron	119	-	Socketed point	Early C13	X 6570
Iron	201	90	Knife	Modern	X 6567
Iron	258	96	Button	Late C13	X 6567
Iron	400	Bag 1	Punch?	Post-medieval	X 6570
Iron	400	Bag 1	3 large nails/bolts	Post-medieval	X 6570
Iron	400	Bag 2	4 large nails/bolts	Post-medieval	X 6591
Iron	400	Bag 3	35 structural nails	Post-medieval	X 6593
Iron	400	Bag 3	4 bars	Post-medieval	X 6593
Iron	400	Bag 3	Punch	Post-medieval	X 6593
Iron	400	Bag 4	9 large nails/bolts	Post-medieval	X 6592
Iron	400	Bag 5	Knife	Post-medieval	X 6591
Iron	400	Bag 5	Bolster	Post-medieval	X 6591
Iron	400	Bag 5	Horseshoe	Post-medieval	X 6591
Iron	400	Bag 6	Knife	Post-medieval	X 6590
Iron	400	Bag 7	Divider	Post-medieval	X 6570
Iron	400	Bag 8	Sheet	Post-medieval	X 6590
Iron	400	Bag 9	8 structural nails	Post-medieval	X 6590
Iron	400	Bag 10	Wall hook and nail	Post-medieval	X 6570
Iron	400	Bag 10	Staple	Post-medieval	X 6570

MATERIAL CATEGORY	CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	DESCRIPTION	PROVISIONAL DATING OF CONTEXT	COMMENTS X = X ray no. D = Drawing no.
Copper Alloy	1	-	Fitting	Modern	
Copper Alloy	1	15	Brooch - Roman	Modern	D 25
Copper Alloy	1	16	Pendant	Modern	D 28
Copper Alloy	1	21	Ferrule	Modern	X 6608
Copper Alloy	1	29	Fitting	Modern	D 57
Copper Alloy	1	43	Strip	Modern	
Copper Alloy	1	76	Rove	Modern	
Copper Alloy	6	44	Hook	Late C13	
Copper Alloy	10	7	Stud	Mid-late C13	
Copper Alloy	59	49	Fitting	C14	
Copper Alloy	59	59	Stud	C14	
Copper Alloy	90	30	Stud	C14	
Copper Alloy	90	69	Strip	C14	X 6608
Copper Alloy	94	27	Strip	Early C13	
Copper Alloy	101	36	Strip	C14	X 6608
Copper Alloy	119	45	Tweezers	Early C13	
Copper Alloy	259	89	Coin	Post-medieval	X 6608
Copper Alloy	259	92	Button	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	259	93	Coin	Post-medieval	X 6608
Copper Alloy	259	94	Coin	Post-medieval	X 6608
Copper Alloy	265	102	Thimble	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	265	103	Ring	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	265	104	Button	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	265	105	Button	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	265	106	Button	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	265	107	Button	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	Unstratified	-	Thimble	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	Unstratified	-	4 Buttons	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	Unstratified	-	2 Coins	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	Unstratified	-	Strip	Post-medieval	
Copper Alloy	Unstratified	-	2 Objects	Post-medieval	
Lead	43	20	Counter	Pre-1250	
Lead	102	66	Fitting	Early C14	
Lead	265	108	Strip	Post-medieval	

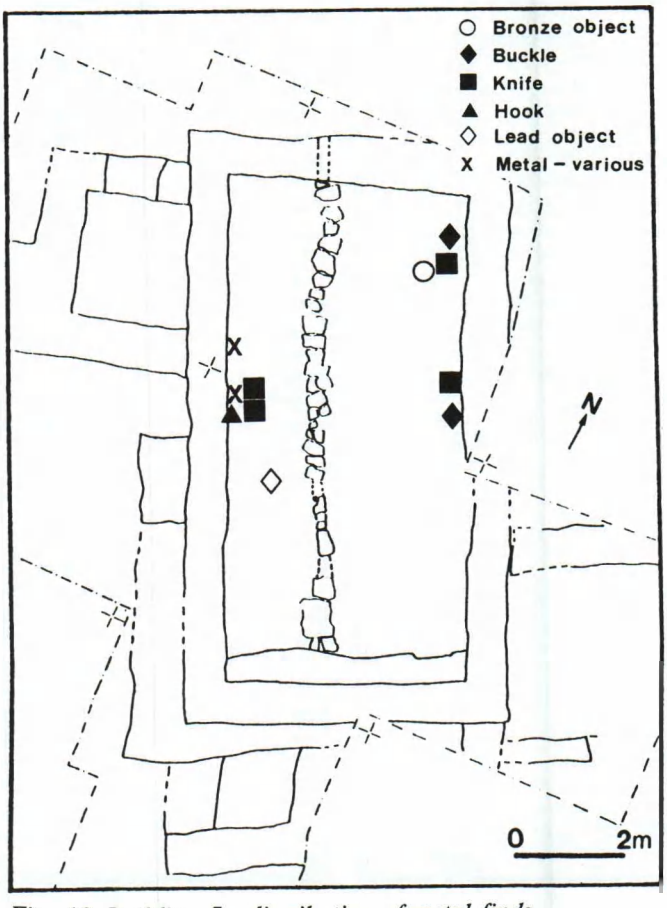

Fig. 13 Building 5 - distribution of metal finds

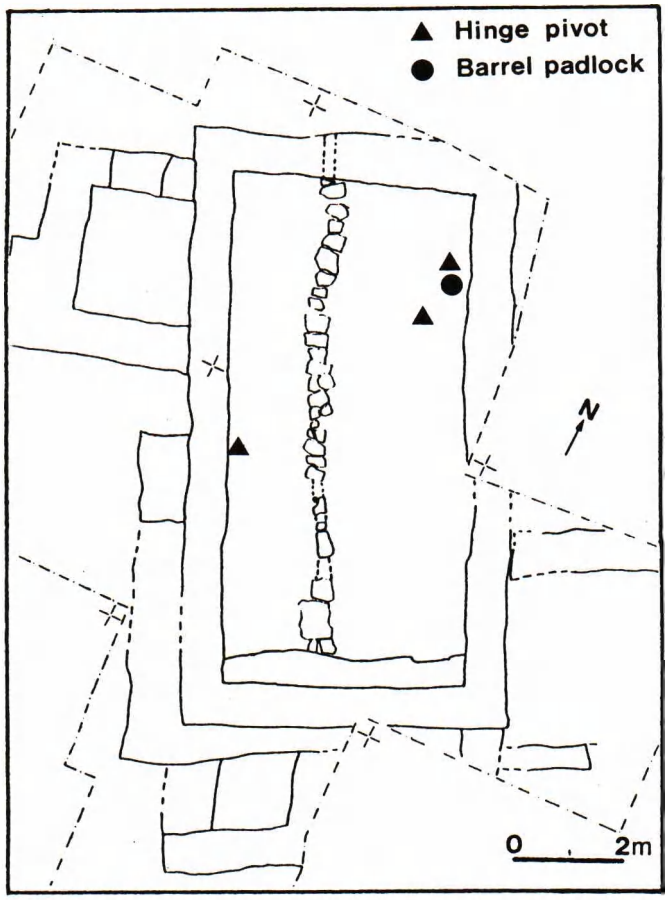

Fig. 14

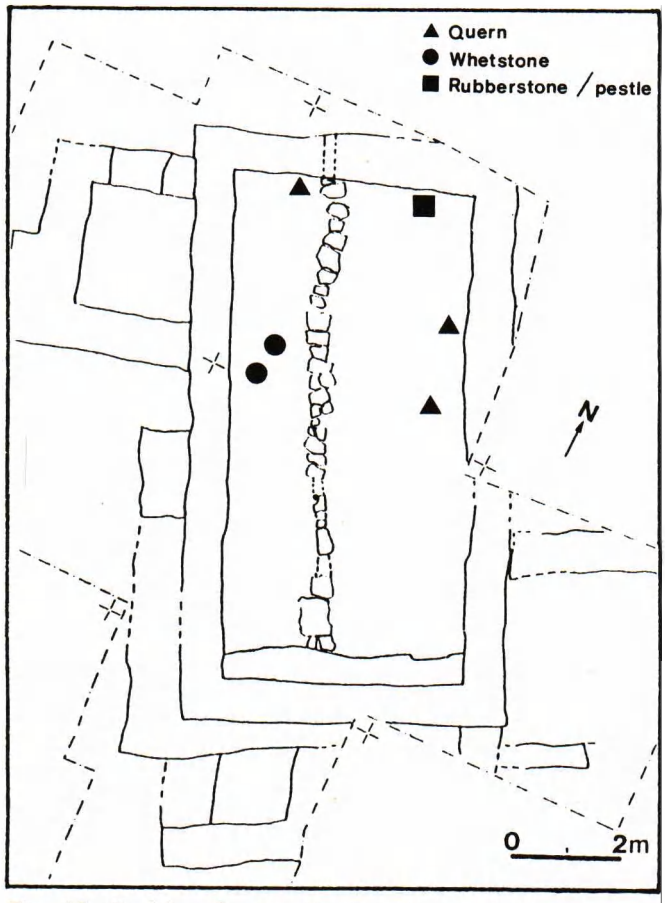

Fig. 15 Building 5 - distribution of worked stone

THE CARBONISED PLANT REMAINS by Julie Jones

Samples for environmental analysis were taken from a series of features including floor layers, a drain fill and layers adjacent to oven or kiln structures (Structures 3 and 4).

Five samples were examined for carbonised plant remains. The samples were small, varying in size from 500 grams to 2kg. A quantity of material from layer 255 (Area 5) was also sieved during the excavation. The remaining samples were flotation sieved by Tertia Barnett in the Department of Geography, University of Bristol. They were washed over a 250 micron sieve, and the residues onto a 500 micron mesh. These were then dried and sorted by the author under a binocular microscope. The carbonised plant remains recovered are listed in Table 2. Classification of the weed species, and habitat information is taken from Claphan, Tutin and Moore (1987).

The earliest deposits examined, dated to the 12th century. They were recovered from a soil floor layer (30) inside Building 1, and charcoal rich layers (284 and 255) adjacent to the entrance of oven or kiln structures in Area 5. Context 30 produced the richest assemblage of charred grain, chaff and weed seeds, whilst the deposits from the area of the ovens/kilns produced predominantly grain. The principal component in these deposits was cereal grain. Many of the cereals have been classified as indeterminate due to their poor preservation. It was, however, possible to distinguish free-threshing wheat (*Triticum spp*) from the more rounded caryopses and steeply angled embryo. This is a naked wheat, where the grains are only loosely held in the glumes, and so are easily freed from the ears with threshing. There are two main groups of naked wheat identified in Britain; the tetraploids, including macaroni or hard wheat (*Triticum durum*) and rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*), and the hexaploids, the bread wheats (*Triticum aestivum*). Other wheat identified as *Triticum sp* is also likely to fall within these categories. One grain was identified as either emmer or bread wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/aestivum*), as its morphology was ambiguous, though emmer is unlikely from a medieval site.

There are no usable characters for the differentiation of grains of the various groups of free-threshing wheats. Identification of the chaff, the waste products from grain processing is a more useful criteria in the identification of the types of wheat present. Context 30 produced internodes of both rivet/hard wheat (tetraploid) and bread wheat (hexaploid) types. The tetraploid rachis internode is straight sided with thickenings or swellings under the glume base which are absent in the hexaploid internodes which are of a more curved 'shield' shape.

A few carbonised and silicified wheat/barley awn fragments were also present in the floor layer (30). These suggest firing at high temperatures in oxidising conditions. The chaff recovered from this context (i.e. the rachis fragments and awns) represents the small, lighter elements which would have been removed as fine waste towards the end of processing. It is often thought to have been used as tinder in household fires, although surprisingly no chaff

was recovered from the vicinity of the oven/kiln structures. Two fragments of charred hazel nuts from a deposit (255) adjacent to one of these structures, may indicate the use of fuel.

Barley was also present, identified from its spindle-shaped grains, and the more angular shaped grains of hulled barley could also be distinguished. There were single examples of both straight (symmetrical) and twisted (asymmetrical) grains which suggests that six row barley was definitely present and two row barley may also have been.

Only a few oat grains were recovered, but unfortunately no floret bases to suggest whether the wild or cultivated forms were present.

Some of the legumes may also have been cultivated, perhaps for use as a fodder crop. As the hilum on the seed was not preserved, in most cases, it was not possible to distinguish the species. However, on the basis of the size of the two seeds from context 30, it has been suggested that field bean (*Vicia faba*) was present

a. length: 8.5cm breadth: 6cm
b. length: 8cm breadth: 7.4cm

Other legumes have been identified as pea/vetch/tare (*Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus sp*). It is also possible that the common vetch may have been the cultivated form (*Vicia sativa subsp sativa*). Legumes would have been of value in a crop rotation system, and are often used today as a green manure to be dug into the soil providing a valuable form of nitrogen.

Many of the weeds recovered are common plants of disturbed ground and are often found in charred cereal assemblages suggesting their presence as arable weeds. Narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*), corn chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*) and brome (*Bromus sp*) are often found in medieval deposits, together with stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), a species which prefers heavy, damp soils. Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is an autumn germinating species, and therefore would tend to grow as a weed in autumn sown rather than spring sown crops (Jones 1978). Other species such as docks (*Rumex spp*) and bartsia/eyebright (*Odontites/Euphrasia*), cover a wide range of habitats and may include waste ground and grassland as well as arable fields.

Some of the species are more often typical of grassland and may represent field margins or more marginal, damp ground nearby. Grassland herbs include smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*), medick/clover (*Medicago/Trifolium*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), a species typical of open, grazed and trampled grassland. Many of the grasses would also have been growing in this situation. Species of meadow grass (*Poa sp*) can tolerate both dry and damp conditions. Timothy grass (*Phleum sp*) today is grown extensively for grazing or hay, but is also common on field margins and the moist soils of water meadows. Damper conditions are also indicated by the presence of rushes (*Juncus spp*) and sedges (*Carex spp*). Common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*) and ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) are also typical of damp marshy conditions, and will tolerate standing water. *Eleocharis palustris* requires water at, or above, soil level during the spring period of active rhizome growth (Walters 1949).

The soils in the Harry Stoke area today are described by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1984), as "slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy, over clayey soils." Current land use is winter cereals and short term grassland. Seasonally waterlogged soils would have provided conditions for the growth of the damp loving species mentioned, and stinking mayweed would have flourished in such heavy, damp soils.

It is interesting to look at the percentages of grain/chaff/weeds from the earliest deposits discussed above. The two layers adjacent to the possible oven/kiln structures both contained a high percentage of grain (89% in 284, and 86%-100% in 255), and no chaff. It may be possible to suggest that the ovens were used for drying grain at some stage prior to baking and that periodically some was accidentally burnt. The proportion of weeds is low in both contexts, and is predominantly grasses, which may represent hay used as tinder, together with a few hazel nut fragments, also used as tinder. In contrast floor layer 30 has a lower percentage of grain (36% grain, 62% weeds and 2% chaff). Apart from the possible cultivated legumes (which account for less than 3% of the total) the weed seeds are small and may represent the fine sievings from crop processing which may also have been used as tinder in hearths and ovens, the redeposited ash being accumulated in the floor layer.

Two of the contexts are dated to 1300-1350 AD. These are a soil layer (213), possibly a floor remnant, and a drain fill (110-100). The drain fill only produced one oat grain, part of a vetch and a single fig-leaved goosefoot seed (*Chenopodium ficifolium*), a plant of disturbed, often nutrient-rich ground. The possible floor layer produced a few free-threshing wheat grains, other indeterminate cereals and some vetches.

Although the numbers of charred cereal remains recovered from the deposits at Harry Stoke were not large, they have produced interesting evidence for the cultivation of rivet/hard wheat. It was always thought that bread wheat types were the major wheats grown in Medieval Britain, but there is increasing evidence for the cultivation of rivet/hard wheat (Moffett 1989). There are differences in the quality of the different types of wheat. Bread wheat has a high gluten content, which is important in producing a lighter bread, while rivet/hard wheat is a soft mealy grain. It would have produced a denser bread than the bread-wheat types, but may have been mixed with the flour of bread wheats for baking. Percival (1921) also suggests that it may have been used in biscuit making. Rivet (*Triticum turgidum*) and hard wheat (*Triticum durum*) cannot be separated morphologically, but it is most likely that rivet is known to have been cultivated in this country from documentary sources (Moffett 1989).

Other examples of finds of free-threshing tetraploid

wheat from the south-west include waterlogged rachis remains from the 13th century waterfront at Bristol, and charred fragments from a late 12th/13th century priory barn in Taunton, Somerset (Moffett 1989). Perhaps the best comparison is from the medieval farmstead at Eckweek, southwest of Bath (Carruthers in prep.). Although much larger assemblages of charred material were recovered from Eckweek (Young and Kidd forthcoming), the assemblage is dominated by wheat grain with smaller amounts of barley and oats, as at Harry Stoke. Rachis fragments of both rivet/hard wheat and bread wheat types were also recovered. Legumes were also present and it is suggested that they formed an important crop at that site.

Carbonised Plant Remains: Harry Stoke

Context no.	30	110-100	213	255	255	284	HABITAT
Sample no.	501	502	503	504	504A	505	
Weight (gm)	600	2kg	400	500	750		
CEREALS (grain)							
Triticum spp (free-threshing wheat)	47		5	3	16	37	
Triticum sp (wheat)	35			14		33	
T. dicoccum/ aestivum (emmer/bread wheat)	1						
Hordeum sp (hulled barley/ straight grain)	1						
Hordeum sp (hulled barley/ twisted grain)	1						
Hordeum sp (barley)	8			3	6	2	
Hordeum sp (barley/ straight grain)				1			
Avena sup (oat)	3	1				5	
Avena/Bromus sp (oat brome)					1		
Indeterminate cereals	26		5	9	26	25	
CHAFF							
Triticum turgidum/durum (rivet/hard wheat internodes)	4						
Triticum aestivo-compactum s.l (bread/club wheat internode)	1						
Triticum sp (tough rachis internode)	1						
Triticum/ Hordeum sp (wheat/barley awn frags)	+						
Triticum sp (wheat awn frags silicified)	+						
CARYOPHLLACEAE							
Lychnis flos-cuculi L. (ragged robin)	2						M
CHENOPODIACEAE							
Chenopodium ficifolium Sm (fig-leaved goosefoot)	1						DaDn
LEGUMINOSAE							
Lathyrus/Vicia spp (tare/vetch)	4	1	3	1			
Lathyrus/Vicia/ Pisum spp (tare/vetch/pea)	1						
Medicago Lupulina L. (black medick)	3						GR
Medicago/ Trifolium spp (medick/clover)	18						GDR
Vicia faba L. (field bean)	2						C
Vicia c. f. tetrasperma (L.) Schreber (smooth tare)	5		3				G
c. f. Vicia tetrasperma (smooth tare)	24		3				G
Vicia sativa L. (common vetch)	2						G
POLYGONACEAE							
Polygonum aviculare L. (knotgrass)	2						DR
Rumex spp (dock)	9						
CORYLACEAE							
Corylus avellana L. (hazel)				2f			HSW
SOLANACEAE							
Solanu dulcamara L. (woody nightshade)	1						DHW
SCROPHULARACEAE							
Odontites/ Euphrasia spp (bartsia/eyebright)	7						DDa

Table 2

	30	110-100	213	255	255	284	HABITAT
	501	502	503	504	504A	505	
	600	2kg	400	500	750		
PLANTAGINACEAE							
Plantago lanceolata L. (ribwort plantain)	5						G
RUBIACEAE							
Galium aparine L. (cleavers)	1						DH
VALERIANACEAE							
Valerianella dentata (narrow fruited cornsalad)						1	A
COMPOSITAE							
Anthemis arvensis L. (corn chamomile)	1						AD
Anthemis cotula L. (stinking mayweed)	7					5	ADh
JUNCACEAE							
Juncus spp (rush)	4						M
CYPERACEAE							
Carex spp (sedge)	53						M
Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis (spike rush)	2						M
GRAMINEAE							
Bromus sp (brome)				1		4	
c. f. Phleum sp (timothy/catstail)	20					1	G
c. f. Poa sp (meadow grass)	15						G
Gramineae indet	18		3	1		2	
TOTALS	**334**	**3**	**22**	**35**	**49**	**115**	

+ = present
f = fragments

HABITATS: A = arable; C = cultivated; D = disturbed; Da = disturbed ground; inclu arable; G = grassland; H = hedgerow; M = marsh; R = roadside; S = scrub; W = woodland; h = heavy soils; n = nutrient rich.

THE ANIMAL BONE by Dr Dale Sarjeantson

Approximately 2,700 animal bone fragments were recovered during the excavation. Of this total assemblage a proportion (c.20%) were recovered from unstratified and post medieval contexts. The remainder were recovered from sealed contexts containing pottery sherds and other artefacts. Only a representative sample of the assemblage was assessed during post excavation (Table 3).

The assemblage was generally in a good state of preservation although damage due to limited transportation and crushing was common. Some evidence of butchery marks were recognised during excavation. Unfortunately there was no policy of soil sieving to recover small fish and bird bones during excavation although a significant number of bird bones were recovered from within one of the demolished dovecotes (Building 6) on the site.

Animal bones were widely distributed across the areas of excavation and were recovered from floor deposits within medieval stone buildings as well as contemporary rubbish deposits. Very few of the contexts excavated yielded no bone whatsoever.

The species recorded during the assessment are summarised in Table 3. Most fragments are of cattle, with pig the next most numerous, followed by sheep. One goat horn core was present and horse was relatively common. There was one dog burial. Domestic fowl and geese are present but relatively few in number. The floor of the dovecote (Building 6) contained c.60 bones of both mature and immature domestic pigeons.

WORKED BONE

Five worked bone artefacts were recovered from medieval contexts during the excavation including two buttons (SF's 8 and 86) and a strip decorated with dot and circle design (SF 26).

OYSTER SHELL

Quantities of complete and fragmentary oyster shells were recovered from medieval contexts, including floor layer 102 within Building 5. No detailed analysis was undertaken on the assemblage.

DISCUSSION

PERIOD I: Prehistoric

The small assemblage of flint flakes and tools, in particular those from Area 5, suggests unspecified Bronze Age or Neolithic activity on or in the near vicinity of the site. Little significance, other than their presence, can be attributed to the flints specifically although they support more recent evidence from sites at Savages Wood (Erskine forthcoming) and Webbs Farm (Parry 1993) which appear to indicate wider and more significant Bronze Age settlement and activity in the area than had previously been thought.

PERIOD II: Medieval

Medieval – (Phase 1)

Building 1 – Farmhouse

Pottery from interior floor layers indicate that Building 1 was the earliest stone structure built on the site and that it was in use by the later 12th century. The date range of the pottery suggests a construction date around 1150 and occupation thereafter for roughly fifty years, until the turn of the 13th century, when it appears to have been systematically demolished.

Internally the building was slightly less than 5m wide and at least 8m long. During its use further drystone walls were

HARRY STOKE ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL BONES

12TH -13TH

CON	DATE	TOTAL N	UNID N	ID N	ID %	COW	SG	PIG	FOW	GOOS	PIDG	DOG	HOR	OTH
30	12	0				4	2	4						
30	12	0												1
95	12	2	1	1	50.0	1								
30	12	180	143	37	20.6	6	14	4		1				1
43	13	87	15	72	82.8	1	7	1	0	0	61		0	2
6	13	22	13	9	40.9	1		4	2	1				1
10	13	13	10	3	23.1				1	2				
22	13	15	7	8	53.3	1	2	3	1	1				
18	13	31	10	21	67.7	10	2	7	1					1
TOTA		350	199	151	43.1	24	27	23	5	5	61	0	0	6

14TH

102	14	91	56	35	38.5	7	3	12	6	3				4
34	14	17	11	6	35.3	3	0	1	1	1	0		0	
59	14	517	313	204	39.5	84	44	48	4	1	1	1	12	9
TOTA		625	380	245	39.2	94	47	61	11	5	1	1	12	13

P-MED AND TOPSOIL

201	MOD	44	25	19	43.2	8	6	2				1	2	
259	PMED	146	67	79	54.1	40	24	9					6	
265	PMED	189	89	100	52.9	30	10	6				50	3	1
TOTA		379	181	198	52.2	78	40	17	0	0	0	51	11	1

Table 3

butted to the outer face of the southern gable wall, possibly to subdivide areas or yards within the farmstead. Insufficient evidence was recorded to determine the detailed layout or internal organisation of the building; for example there was no evidence to indicate the location of any doorway or entrance. Internally the earlier soil floor appears, at least in part, to have been replaced by a rough layer of stone flooring and overlain in the southwest corner by a hearth, or perhaps an oven, whose base was formed of larger limestone slabs (29).

Finds recovered from the floor layers consisted primarily of pottery relating to domestic cooking or storage vessels but also included bones of cattle, pigs, sheep/goat and a goose plus a small number of structural nails and other metalwork. Carbonised remains associated with those artefacts included a relatively wide range of plants, including bread wheat and weeds (Table 2). Taken as a whole the variety of the artefactual evidence appears to be more compatible with a dwelling and cooking activities as opposed to any single agricultural or industrial process.

Structure 2 – Dovecote

The dovecote would have housed pigeons for food. The internal niches provided secure recesses for breeding birds and subsequently enabled the collection of eggs and the birds themselves. Comparison with surviving medieval dovecotes, for example at nearby Winterbourne Court (Avon SMR 2784) suggests the structure would have risen to a height of c.5-6m and, given the absence of stone tiles from the site, was most likely capped with a thatched roof. The dovecote appears to have had some external lime plastering although whether it was originally entirely plastered remained unclear. No evidence of any support or foundation for a central timber structure or 'potence' was preserved although it is still possible some form of internal structure was used to reach the higher tiers of nesting boxes.

The phasing of the dovecote remains tentative as its dating relies upon pottery recovered from the internal demolition rubble. Stylistically it is significantly different from the second dovecote in Area 3 (Figure 8) and, on that basis alone, it seems unlikely that the two buildings were contemporary. Similar dovecotes have been recorded elsewhere in the region, notably at Englishcombe near Bath and adjacent to Bristol Cathedral (Boore 1979). The dovecote recorded to the rear of Bristol Cathedral appears to have been stylistically very similar to Building 2 at Harry Stoke although it was of a significantly later date (14th century).

Structures 3 and 4 – Kilns/Ovens (Fig. 13)

Structures 3 and 4 (Area 5) relate to earlier medieval activity within the settlement, primarily during the 12th century, and contemporary with the occupation of Building 1. The structures were of similar form, each consisting of a core of roughly circular and slightly raised heat affected sandstone slabs set onto a lime rich bedding layer.

Evidence from Structure 3, which was more fully excavated, suggests the sandstone core formed the base of a firing chamber for a drying oven which was heated by the

stoke-hole or hearth at its base. The analysis of carbonised deposits which were recovered from that area (Table 2 above) recorded very high percentages of cereal grain which suggests that both structures were for drying grain as opposed to baking.

Structure 4 (not illustrated) appears to have been freestanding with a north facing stoke-hole or hearth. Structure 3 was enclosed to the east by a curved stone wall (281) and it is possible the rear of the kiln itself was formed by the wall. Variation in the density of a cobbled surface to the west (283) suggests that, overall, the kiln operated within an oval enclosure, possibly fenced adjacent to the cobbling and bounded to the south by the northern bank of the holloway.

The kilns were certainly abandoned by the early 13th century although pottery from contemporary layers suggests their use was probably confined to the 12th century. Later medieval activity in the area they occupied appears to have been confined to the continued use of the holloway.

Medieval (Phases 2-3)

Building 5 – Farmhouse (Figs 6a, 6b and 10)

Building 5 appears to have been constructed and in use by the early 13th century, perhaps replacing Building 1 as the main farmhouse on the site. The accumulation of a floor layer (119) in a southern ante-room (Room 2), itself possibly an addition, by 1250 makes it feasible that the building was constructed as early as c.1200. No early floor layers were preserved within the main room of the building (Room 1) although the central drain, which probably acted as a general soakaway, almost certainly formed part of its original layout. Elements of a stone floor, which appeared to have developed as a haphazard accumulation by the latest phase of occupation, may also have been laid during its earlier use.

No clear evidence was preserved to indicate the location of the original entrances to the building. The west wall, partially demolished during later rebuilding, was originally continuous at least as a foundation course. Later rebuilding incorporated a new west doorway and it is possible its position reflected the location of an earlier entrance.

An extension was butted onto the northwest corner of the original farmhouse during the later 13th century. No clear evidence was recovered from within the room to indicate its function although it may have served as a Gaurderobe. The latest phase in the structural development of the farmhouse involved major reconstruction of the south and west walls and a southeastern extension, possibly a further room (Room 4). The south wall was virtually doubled in width by the addition of an external and internal stone facing. At the same time the west wall was demolished and replaced outside the line of the original. The new west wall had a doorway and possibly a low window, which was suggested by the facing at the south end of wall 20 and a lower shelf formed by wall 7. The reason for these substantial alterations was not clear. The original walls (19 and 107) showed no sign of subsidence or instability which would have warranted major supporting work. It is possible the extension of the foundations was needed to support an upper story although, if so, it is difficult to understand why a large section of the original south wall was actually demolished at the same time and why other walls were not also reinforced.

Whatever the reasons for the redevelopment the work appears to have been undertaken somewhere between c.1325-1350, as indicated by layer 104. It may be significant that the rebuilding appears to coincide with a documented change in ownership to the Berkeley family around the same time.

Finds from inside the building, in particular from floor layers 101 and 102, included pottery, quernstones, whetstones, metalwork and animal bone (the latter indicating geese, chicken, pork and beef was prepared and/or eaten). The assemblage appeared to reflect essentially domestic activity associated with food preparation in the area of a small hearth (105). The distribution of the floor layers and the bulk of the finds appeared significant as they were located within the northern half of the room. Their distribution suggests, in common with similar rural medieval buildings excavated in the region at Barrowmead (Rahtz. P 1960-1) and Eckweek (Young and Kidd forthcoming), that the room may have been subdivided into at least two bays, the domestic activity apparently undertaken in the larger north bay. The distribution of structural metalwork inside the building, in particular hinge pivots and a barrel padlock, suggests that by the 14th century the building also had an eastern doorway, possibly slightly offset and to the north of the western entrance.

Structure 7 – The Yard (Fig. 9)

The majority of the walls and features exposed in Area 4 were associated with an enclosed yard whose use was confined to the first half of the 14th century. Although its main walls were not excavated the range of pottery and other artefacts which were recovered suggest that it was probably set out and built around 1300. Only a relatively small area of its interior was investigated in detail and it is clear further excavation would have significantly enhanced interpretation.

Although the walls forming the yard had suffered some disturbance it appeared to have at least two entrances. The southern entrance, separated by walls 89 and 87, was narrow and, judging by walls 88 and 92, continued to the south where it became slightly wider. A northern entrance was indicated between the end of wall 87 and wall 57, although again the latter had suffered some disturbance. It is possible there was a third entrance in the western corner formed by the gap between walls 62 and 45, perhaps leading to the farmhouse (Building 5).

The interior of the yard appeared to have been segregated into discreet areas indicated by variations in the type of surfaces which were laid and a covered drain (66). Further subdivision was indicated by fragments of interior walling

(65 and 67). It is possible the variation between floors 60 and 71, which were laid with larger flagstones, and other areas of well consolidated, but rough, cobbling (69, 90 and 93), reflects the division of the yard into a central open enclosure which was flanked by covered stalls or work areas.

Finds recovered from inside the yard seem to confirm this interpretation. The metalwork assemblage (see Table 1) contains mostly structural items, including nails, straps and hinge pivots, plus horseshoes and associated fiddle key nails. Domestic items were rare and confined to a number of rods and bars, probably tools, associated with general agricultural work. The yard also contained a larger quantity and a wider range of animal bone than other areas of the site. Whilst a proportion of the material may represent rubbish originating from the farmhouse or other areas of the settlement the numbers of cattle, pig, sheep/goat and horse bones, in association with smaller numbers of fowl, goose pigeon and dog appears consistent with its primary use as a stock yard.

Structures 8 and 9 (Fig. 12)

The group of drystone walls, soil and cobbled layers in Area 6 had suffered greater disturbance than other parts of the site and were poorly preserved, the underlying natural clay often exposed immediately below a thin layer of demolition rubble.

Wall 210 was associated with a soil layer (202) containing late 13th-14th century glazed jug sherds and animal bone. The wall represented the earliest structure (Structure 8) identified in the area and its association with a scorched area of slabs, probably a hearth, suggests it may have formed part of a building although too little remained to determine whether it was for domestic or agricultural purposes. The relationship between the hearth and wall 214 was not preserved although the latter may have represented the southern boundary wall of the medieval settlement.

Wall 209 (Structure 9) represented a subsequent stage of indeterminate building in the area. No firm evidence was recovered to date its construction or indeed the date of wall 214 (above) although both were tentatively dated as medieval on the basis of their construction method and the significant absence of 15th century and later finds, which had been recorded immediately to the north of Area 6 during previous sample excavations (Birchill *et al* 1989).

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation confirmed that the earthworks preserved on the site represented the remains of a medieval farmstead whose occupation was well established by the middle of the 12th century and which was abandoned, for unknown reasons, during the second half of the 14th century.

The earliest farmhouse recorded on the site (Building 1) was built at a time when the early medieval tradition of earthfast timber building was gradually being superseded by the use of stone (see Dyer 1989). Its construction appears to represent a relatively early example of the development of stone building in the region when compared with similar farmsteads excavated at Eckweek (Young and Kidd *ibid*), Barrowmead (Rahtz *ibid*), Charlton (Burchill 1989b) and Chew Valley (Rahtz and Greenfield 1977). The development of stone buildings on the site by the mid 12th century may simply reflect the local availability of limestone, which occurs widely near to the surface in the Bradley Stoke area, as much as the status of the site although the presence of the dovecotes suggests the farmstead almost certainly had manorial connections, and may indeed represent the site of the small manor in Stoke Gifford which is recorded in Domesday.

During the early 13th century the farmstead underwent major redevelopment. The original farmhouse and its associated dovecote and drying ovens were all abandoned and were replaced with a new, but essentially similar, farmhouse and dovecote (Buildings 5 and 6). The reason for this programme of rebuilding was not clear. During the later 13th and 14th centuries the farmstead developed as further boundary walls and an enclosed yard were laid out, congruent with the existing buildings and walls on the site. Between c.1325 and 1350 the farmhouse was substantially redeveloped, possibly to provide the foundations necessary for an upper story.

Around 1350 or shortly afterwards the farmstead was essentially completely abandoned. Its buildings were demolished and levelled by the early 15th century, by which time only a single building immediately adjacent to Harry Stoke Road appears to remain (Burchill *et al* 1989). The reason for the abandonment of the farmstead was not evident from the archaeological remains. Its demise represents other instance of an apparently successful rural settlement which shrinks or disappears, probably due to a combination of economic and social pressures (see Dyer 1989), during the second half of the 14th century, as is the case elsewhere in the region and indeed, throughout much of England as a whole.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE PROPOSED LINE OF THE A46 NORTH OF BATH

by Peter Ellis with contributions by Lynne Bevan

INTRODUCTION

An assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposed new route for the A46 between Bath and the M4 interchange was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in the summer of 1992 on behalf of the Department of Transport (Fig. 1). This comprised a mix of fieldwalking, geophysical survey, trial excavation and building recording, and followed on from earlier recommendations by Avon County Council (Erskine and Russett 1991). The full report has been lodged with the County Council Sites and Monuments Record. The following summarises results found at four of the total of ten sites examined, a Bronze Age round barrow at Tolldown, a Romano-British site at Nimlet, a medieval farmstead at Hartley Farm, and the known Iron Age field systems on Charmy Down (Fig. 2). Further excavation at all four sites before road construction has been recommended. The Department of Transport accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the findings.

Thanks are due to members of the BUFAU field team, in particular Lynne Bevan and Cathy Mould, and to Nigel Dodds for the illustrations; to Mike Widdowson of Rust Consulting Ltd. (formerly MRM), Bristol; to landowners and tenant farmers for kindly allowing access; and to Vince Russett, Peter Davenport, Chris Gaffney, and Peter Leach for their valuable advice and comments.

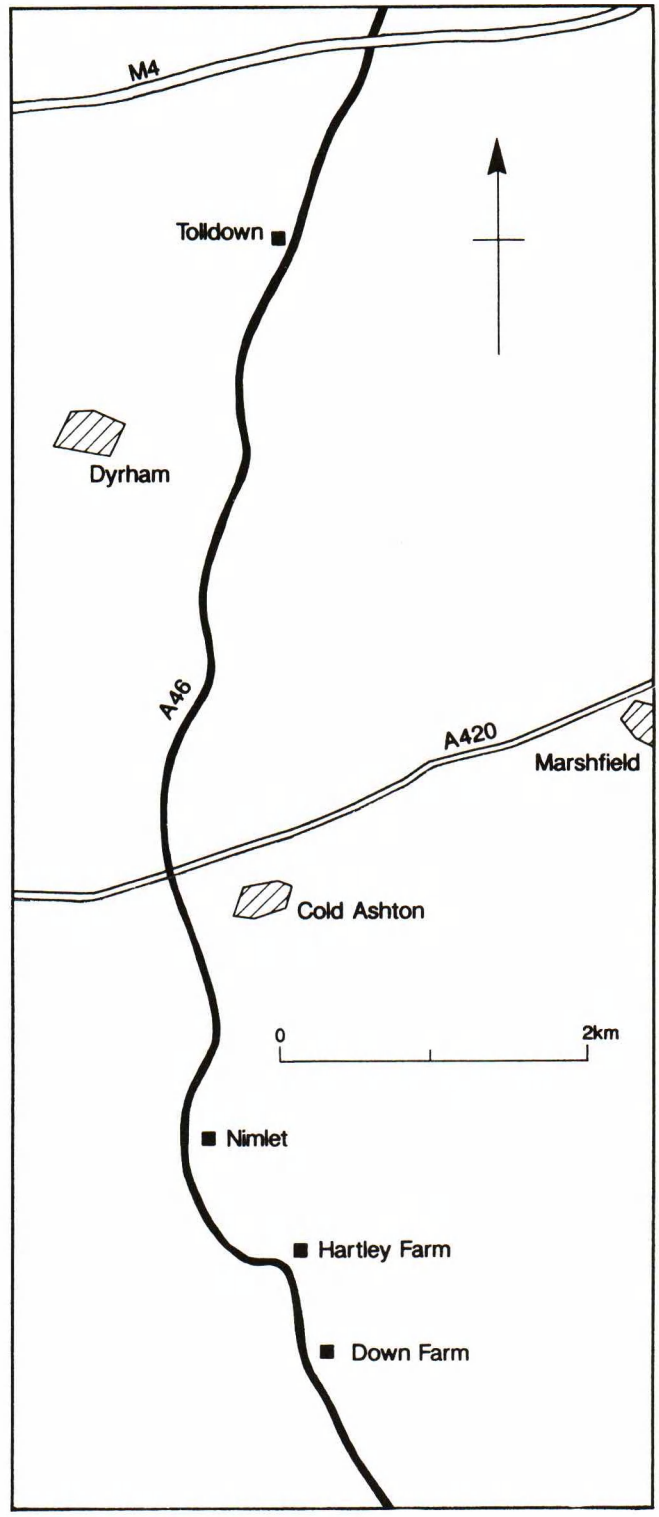

Fig. 1 Location of sites

MOUSE BARROW, TOLLDOWN

INTRODUCTION

A barrow or barrows at ST 75307689 in Dyrham and Hinton parish were recorded by Leslie Grinsell in 1953 as a double mound, and interpreted either as two conjoined barrows or as a long barrow which would have owed its irregular shape to some later use such as quarrying (O'Neil and Grinsell 1961). The east end of the monument at that time was cut by the road. Grinsell also suggested an association with the 'Mouse Barrow' of the Anglo-Saxon charters (Grundy 1936). Since 1953 road works have severely damaged the monument. The east side of the field containing the barrow has been relocated in its present position and the ground between the road and the field boundary has been levelled to allow sight lines across the road bend. There was no evidence in 1992 of a double mound, the earthwork comprising a slight rise in the field representing the west side of a barrow and a distinct rise and drop of the drystone field boundary wall as it runs across its top. The ground level on the road side of the wall

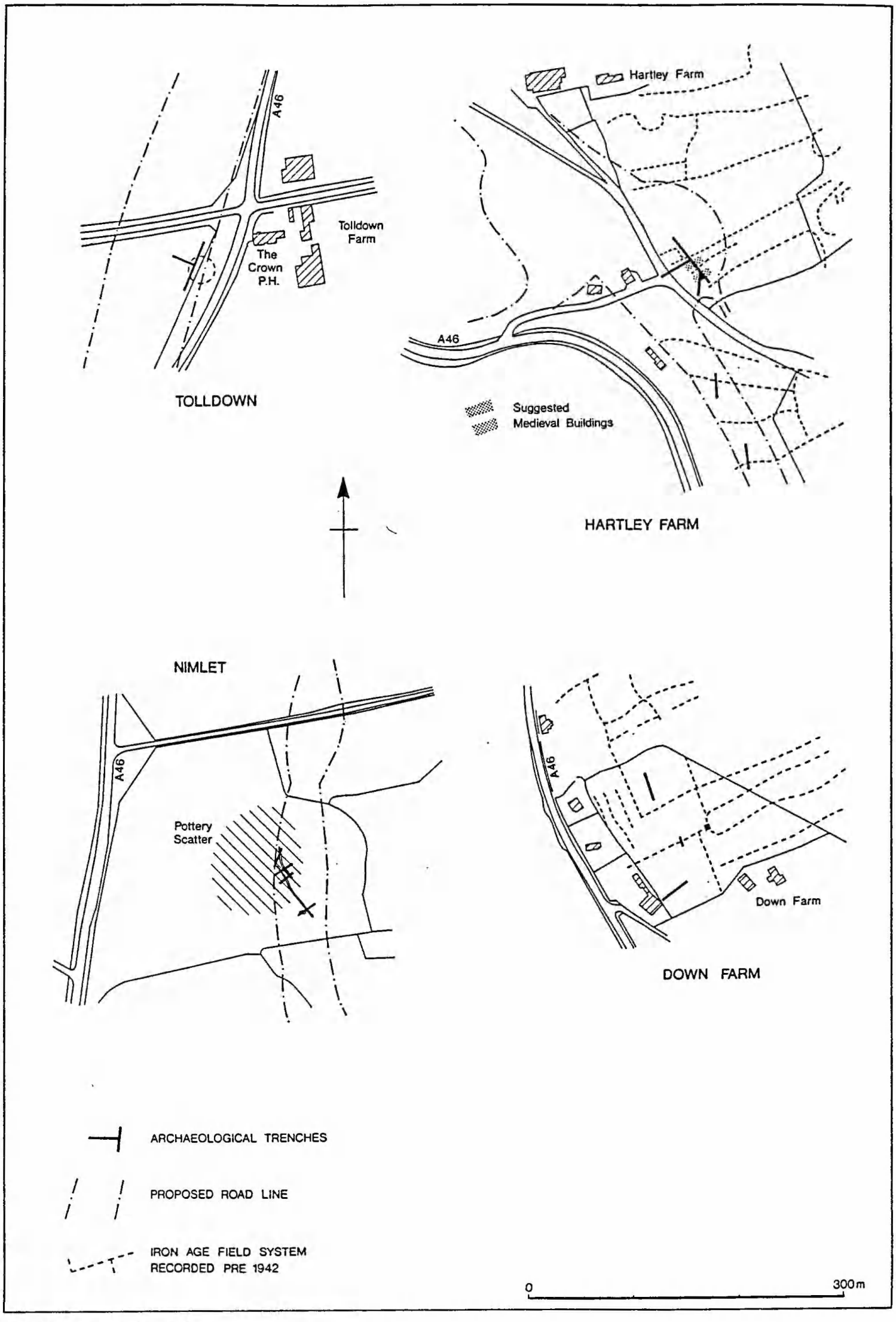

Fig. 2 Location of trenches

is now lower than in the field.

The A46 here coincides with the 'Jurassic Way', a prehistoric ridgeway route running in this area from Old Sodbury hillfort to Tog Hill and then across to Lansdown (Grimes 1951; 1960). This was also used in Roman times (Margary 1973, 143). Bronze Age round barrows are known on Freezing Hill, Lansdown, Charmy Down, and in Marshfield parish (O'Neil and Grinsell 1961).

RESULTS

Two trenches were cut by machine and taken down to the natural limestone bedrock (Figs 2 and 3). The north-south trench ran parallel with the boundary between field and road with its north end sited just within the entrance gate.

A number of features were located beneath the barrow. F6-8 and F10 were slight linear cuts into the bedrock with very shallow V-sections punctuated by occasional deeper areas suggesting stakeholes, and may either be evidence of a phase of activity prior to the barrow or natural features. All were filled with material indistinguishable from the overlying clay forming the barrow.

A barrow was defined in plan by a ditch (variously F1, F2, and F3). The regular curve of the ditch suggested an overall diameter of 21m. In the excavated section the ditch was uniform with a rather flat-based U-shaped section giving a width varying between 0.7 and 1.1m and a depth of about 0.25m. Two slighter trenches, F4 and F5, were traced in places, as well as a line of possible stakeholes. These features were sealed beneath a mass of red-coloured clay which formed the body of the barrow and which had slumped over the surrounding ditch in the course of time.

Other features were excavated outside the barrow ditch line. Two of these, F14 and F15, proved to be inhumation burials to the south of the barrow. It was difficult to define the extent of the grave cuts in plan. In the case of F15 the sides of the feature were not defined but an arbitrary sondage was dug into the hard-packed fills of stone and clay. In both cases only small parts of the grave fill were removed and neither of the burials was disturbed. The skeletons were found at a depth of 0.4m orientated approximately east-west, and in F14 large stones were found over the burial. Here the skull was exposed lying on its right side. The bone was crushed and distorted but preservation was good. The stones might represent parts of a cist. In F15 the remains comprised two rib bones and the radius and ulna of the left arm. No dating evidence was found for any of the features found.

DISCUSSION

Excavation confirmed Grinsell's barrow identification and demonstrated that this was a round barrow. Grinsell's description must therefore suggest that another barrow has been lost since 1953. The possibility that a barrow group formed a significant landscape feature is enhanced not only

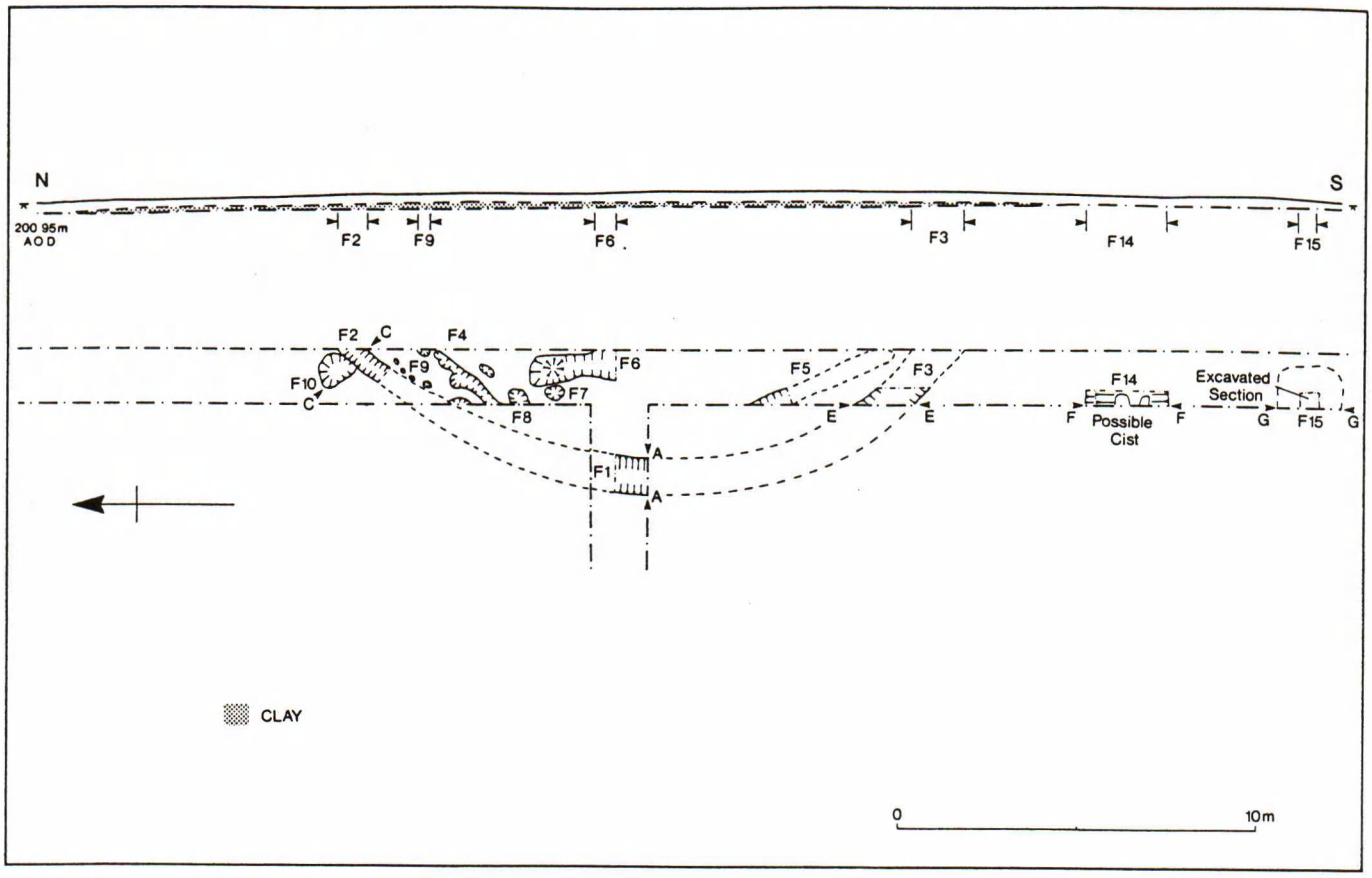

Fig. 3 Mouse Barrow, Tolldown: main features and barrow profile

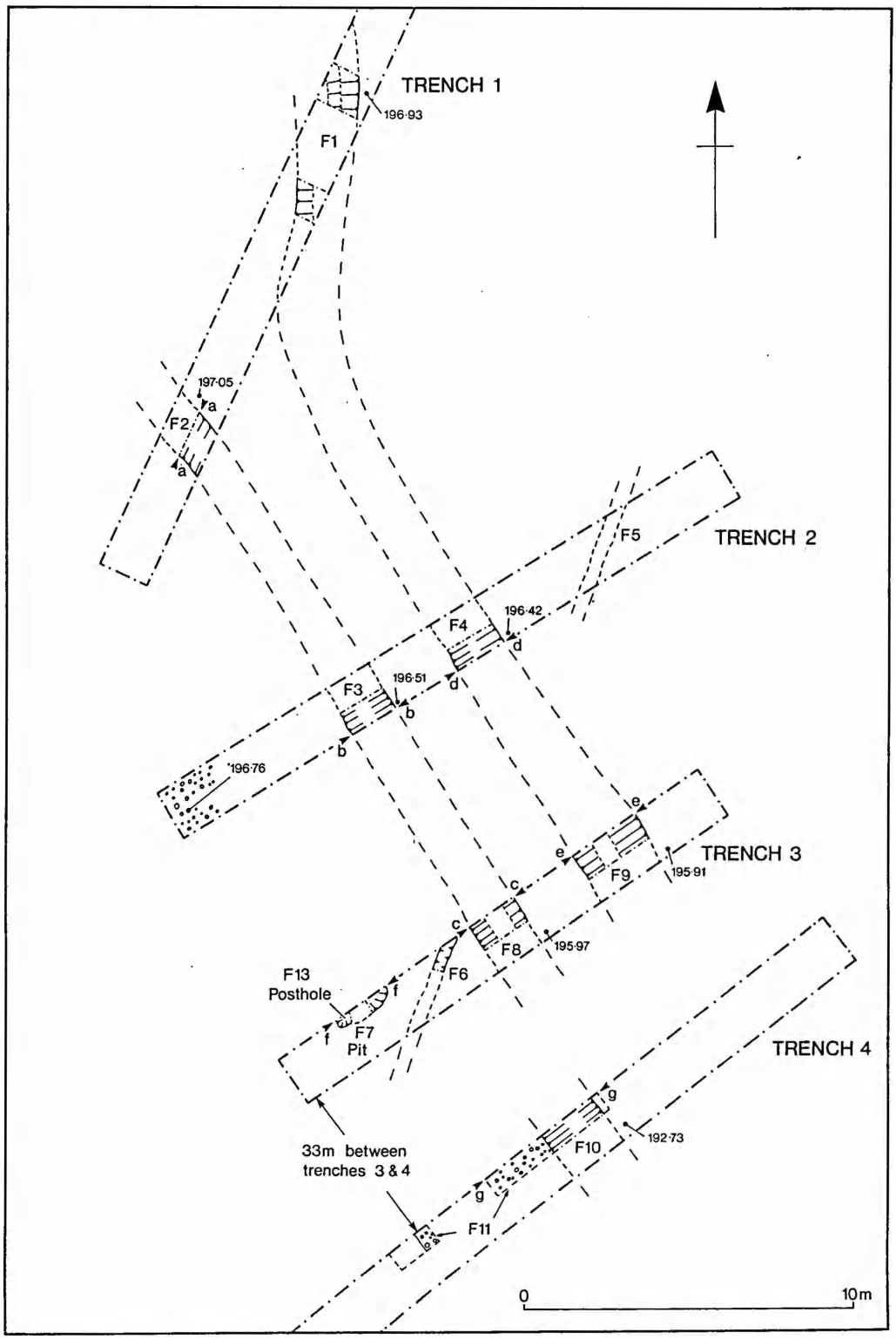

Fig. 4 Nimlet: excavated features

by its suggested Saxon name and by the discovery of nearby burials, but also by the route taken by the A46 which, as noted above, is of ancient origin here. This is aligned north and south directly on the site, but curves eastward as if to pass around a major feature.

The barrow was of clay and it would seem unlikely that stone formed any significant part of the construction. The amount of material involved in the construction of perhaps two barrows may indicate that turf was readily available and that clay was present in the vicinity. The surrounding ditch must have defined the barrow area and the slight trenches found immediately within its circumference may indicate some structural element forming a curb to the barrow material.

That this is identified as an earthen Bronze Age round barrow allows it to be compared with some of those excavated on Charmy Down (Williams 1950; Grimes 1960). These varied between barrows of stone, stone revetted soil dumps, and soil. Number 6 in the Hartley Down group was entirely constructed of soil and was the latest in the sequence (Grimes 1960, 220).

The two burials found outside the perimeter ditch to the south are assumed to be later. More can be assumed in the vicinity and indeed may have lain within the trench area but were not excavated. The presence of inhumation rather than cremation burials points to a Roman or post-Roman date although a prehistoric context is possible

A ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT NIMLET

INTRODUCTION

Nimlet is in Cold Ashton parish. The placename derived originally from Nemeton – a sacred grove or precinct – which has Celtic and Graeco-Roman associations (Rivet and Smith 1979). A scatter of Romano-British pottery had been found in fields here by the author in 1987. Geophysical survey on the proposed roadline (slightly east of the pottery scatter focus) gave a clear indication of two ditches together with a pit-like feature. A straight linear anomaly running right across the area examined appeared to be modern.

RESULTS

Four trenches were laid out at ST 74737105 to intersect the principal features identified as geophysical anomalies (Figs 2 and 4). A topsoil of around 0.2m depth was removed mechanically to a natural bedrock surface in Trenches 1-3 and to clay in Trench 4. In the latter trench a hillwash layer, 0.15m deep, underlay topsoil, and sealed the archaeology.

The principal archaeological features located were two ditches. The easternmost ditch, F1, F4, and F9, was not located in Trench 4 confirming geophysical indications that it terminated just south of Trench 3. The slighter westernmost ditch, F2, F3, F8 and F10, became deeper the further down the slope it was recorded. In Trenches 2 and 3 the eastern ditch had been cut through rock into the underlying clay. The even distribution of large boulders throughout the fills tended to suggest an episode of deliberate backfilling rather than any recutting. The western ditch only cut through into the natural clay in Trenches 3 and 4. In the latter trench, the subsidence over the ditch fill was filled with animal bone in layer 4004, some of which was butchery waste, and this was sealed by a dense layer of charcoal and heavily burnt clay, 4003 (Fig. 5). The upper fills in Trenches 1 and 3, 1003 and 3003, contained soil with pottery, charcoal, and bone. In Trench 3 clay, 3008, was found within the fill on both sides of the ditch, possibly material that had slumped back from upcast clay on either side of the ditch. Again, the fills gave the impression of backfilling rather than gradual accumulation, although subsidences in the ditch had clearly collected cultural debris in places along its length.

In the near complete absence of archaeological deposits outside of cut features, no stratigraphic relationships could be established between the two ditches, although both were cut by a modern pipe trench, F5 and F6. Two other features were located and excavated. In Trench 3 a possible pit, F7, was noted, backfilled with stone and clay. A possible secondary posthole or a recutting of the pit was recorded as F13. To the south in Trench 4 the easternmost ditch cut through a lowered area, F11, which had been indicated as an anomaly in the geophysical survey. This feature had been cut down 0.3m and apparently floored with a cobbled surface, 4008, laid over the natural surface of clay. This cobbled surface was covered with a mass of charcoal and soil, 4006, with many fragments of fired clay, some perhaps lining from hearths or furnaces. This was in turn sealed beneath a layer of clay and stone, 4005.

The surface of bedrock in Trenches 1-3 was varied but some uniform surfaces of small stones appeared to be man made rather than the weathered upper levels of the limestone. In particular the western ends of Trenches 1 and 2 gave an impression of having been deliberately surfaced, and then worn with use. Here may have been the edge of a yard or trackway.

THE FINDS by Lynne Bevan

Amongst the total pottery assemblage of 382 sherds, a proportion (around 20%) was Late Iron Age in date, represented by two fabrics, one shell-tempered and the second grog and organic-tempered. Sherds were found in both ditches and in F11 in Trench 4 as well as in the upper overall layers in all the trenches (Table 1). In all cases the pottery was found together with Romano-British material – in F11 however this was represented by a single Roman sherd.

Table 1 Nimlet: incidence of Iron Age pottery (nos of sherds)

Trench	1	2	3	4	total
Topsoil	3	-	2	2	7
West ditch	2	-	1	-	3
East ditch	-	23	39	-	62
F11				6	6
total	5	23	42	8	78

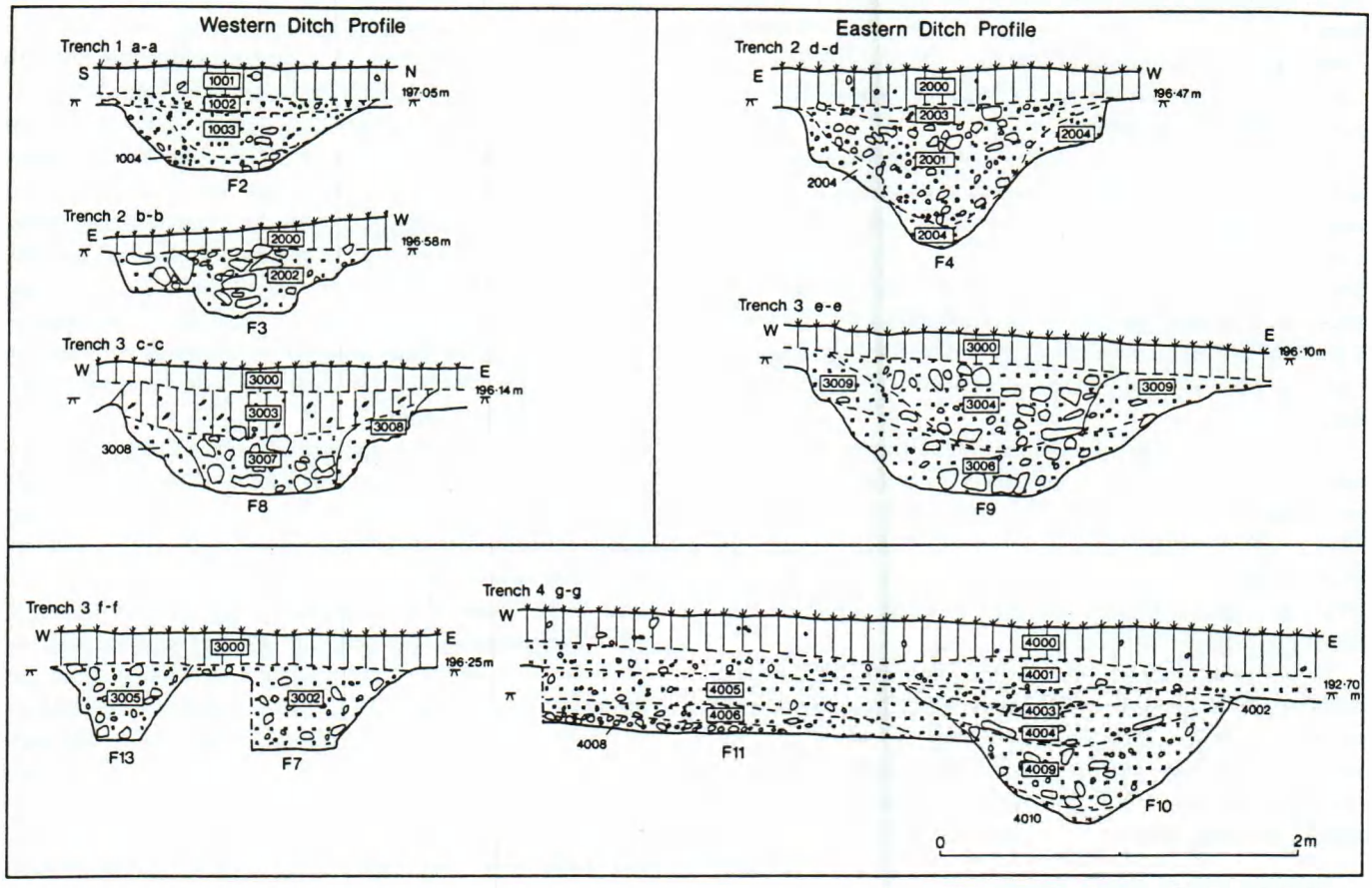

Fig. 5 Nimlet: feature profiles

Of the Romano-British pottery a small number of sherds were 1st and 2nd-century products with samian ware, early Severn Valley ware, Savernake ware, and an early grey ware represented. The majority of the assemblage was later Roman in date and was dominated by coarsewares. Black burnished ware formed about a third of the total assemblage with datable rim forms falling into a mid to late 3rd-century bracket. Oxfordshire ware from the 3rd and 4th centuries was present in small quantities, as was a small group of finewares presumably from a local source. The predominance of locally manufactured wares and of coarsewares is what would be expected from a rural assemblage. Wider contacts are however indicated by smaller numbers of non-local sherds occurring throughout the chronological range of the pottery.

Other finds included a copper alloy brooch pin from Trench 1, a burnt fragment from the neck of a Roman glass flask, and an iron door fitting, both from Trench 3. Spreads of metalworking debris were found in Trench 4 in F11 as well as the fired clay. Botanical samples from layer 4003, the charcoal-rich upper fill of ditch F10, showed the presence of quantities of snails and carbonised material.

DISCUSSION

Part of a Romano-British rural settlement is represented by the remains here. Although no Iron Age features were recognised (all those investigated contained some Romano-British material), pre-Roman settlement activity must also be suspected. The Iron Age pottery found presumably derived from earlier contemporary features and levels. The excavated features, all of which, bar the modern pipe trench, are of Roman date, were given a context by the geophysical survey. It is possible to suggest that one ditch replaced the other and that both might mark features towards the periphery of a settlement. It can be argued that the western ditch postdated the eastern, the latter perhaps deliberately infilled to be replaced by the former, which then remained open for some time and continued to receive rubbish from an expanding settlement. The eastern ditch contained the greater quantity of Iron Age pottery (Table 1) as might be the case if it was cut and backfilled earlier than the western ditch. The curious bend in the eastern ditch may perhaps indicate a structure to the north west of the bend. The ditches might be seen either as field boundaries or as ditches alongside trackways exiting downslope from a settlement to the west. The possible industrial area found in Trench 4 would thus lie towards the edge of the occupied area.

A possible context might be an upland farmstead of later Iron Age and Romano-British date sited just away from the scarp edge. Roman period farmsteads on the Cotswolds are known to be numerous, mostly recognised by pottery and building stone scatters (RCHM 1976; Rees 1984; Russett 1985). A nearby settlement is known at Marshfield (Rawes 1989, 257) and a later Roman farmstead is suggested by excavations at Ironmongers Piece to the north of Marshfield

(Blockley 1985). The extent of the pottery spread may indicate a larger settlement, as might the finding of the possible industrial working area. The communication route southward across Charmy Down is argued to predate the Roman period (Grimes 1960, Fig. 81), and it may be that the site should be seen as associated with a road and perhaps more than a simple farmstead. The religious associations suggested by the local placename Nimlet may also be a factor in the existence of this settlement, relating perhaps to a nearby Romano-Celtic temple.

The Iron Age findings, although restricted to pottery sherds, are intriguing, and might suggest that the site should be seen in the context of the Charmy Down Iron Age evidence. There, Iron Age farm sites are suggested towards the edges of the plateau, and these may perhaps be seen as accompanied by similar sites set within a few hundred metres of the higher ground. A site of this character has been found on the southern slopes of the Down at Ramscombe Bottom (Avon SMR). However, once again the potential religious significance of this locality is just as likely to have pre-Roman origins.

A MEDIEVAL FARMSTEAD NEAR HARTLEY FARM

INTRODUCTION

Traces of a small rectilinear enclosure and three field boundaries were plotted as earthworks and from air photographs by Grimes (1960, Fig 80). In 1992 these were barely visible within a pasture field east of the track approaching Hartley Farm from the south at ST 752703 in Cold Ashton parish. Excavation trenches were laid out to intersect these as well as geophysical anomalies, which in the event proved to be of modern origin (Figs 2 and 6).

RESULTS

A slightly raised area of large limestone rocks, F11, in Trench 1 strongly resembled the other exposures of Iron Age banks seen on Charmy Down (see below). A central spine of large stones was possibly represented by a line of flat stones, F12 (Fig. 7). This coincided with the south side of the line of the field bank plotted by Grimes (1960, Fig. 80). To the south, a slight ditch, F14, was recorded which would have run beneath Building 1 (Fig. 8).

Building 1, was represented by two parallel walls 3.7m apart (Fig. 8). The southern wall, F1, was the best preserved and was 0.8m wide with a single surviving course of facing stones and a filling of smaller material. The lowest course of the northern wall, F3, had presumably been caught by the plough but the facing stones formed a clear linear feature only slightly misaligned. An interior wall to the west, F4, was less clearly represented by a linear spread of flat stones of the same size as those forming the more definite wall lines. This internal wall butted up against F1 and represented the west side of a room about 4m east-west which was marked on its east side by a wall, F2, only part of which lay in the excavated area. Like F4, F2 was butted against the south wall F1. An entry to this room from the exterior on the south side was represented by an opening, F13, with a concentration of pitched stones on the west side perhaps indicating that the door was hung from a post on the east side. To the east of F2, 1.4m of a second room was exposed. Excavation here failed to locate a definite floor level which may have been formed of the natural rock and clay surface. A third room would have lain to the west of F4. The building's roofing material was indicated by a handful of broken Pennant sandstone roof tiles.

On the exterior of the building to the south a possible paved area, F17, 1.5m wide was suggested in Trench 1 abutting the south wall and running alongside it. To the north was a rubbish dump, F19, containing cooking pots smashed where they had been discarded. To the west in Trench 2 it was hard to tell whether the exposed loose rock surface was in fact the natural surface or perhaps a laid yard.

Some 10m further north was the remains of what could be interpreted as a second building, Building 2 (Fig. 7). A similar space of 3.7m divided two possible walls F10 and F18, although in both cases the evidence was decidedly impressionistic. In the space between the two buildings a clay and stone presumably represented a yard. Further Pennant sandstone roof tiles were found to the north of this suggested building, where there appeared to be a stony yard area. A group of rounded fire-stained cobbles, F20, suggested a hearth. Further north the Iron Age bank would have remained an upstanding feature, perhaps explaining the positioning of hearths in its lee. At the western end of Trench 3 a spread of larger stone, F9, may indicate another disturbed wall. Beyond it a hard-packed area of clay and stone may have been a trackway, in which case the wall remains represent a boundary to the trackway, which has subsequently shifted westward to its present position.

THE FINDS by Lynne Bevan

Just over 1500 sherds of medieval pottery were collected. The condition of the material was surprisingly good given the evidence for plough damage, with some groups of less fragmented vessels found together. The assemblage comprised a number of large cooking vessels, with most rim diameters varying within the range 160 and 220mm and bases from 180 to 200mm. Two principal fabrics were noted, each representing about half the assemblage, a third fabric was represented by only four sherds.

The two main fabrics are closely comparable to Bath A and Bath B/D (Cunliffe 1979). These are commonly found in the west Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset region with occasional examples of Bath A found further afield in the West Midlands. Bath A is currently dated from the 10th/11th century (at Bath and Trowbridge) to the late 14th century. Bath B/D first occurs at Bath in the 11th century with production ceasing some time in the 13th century (Vince 1983). No kiln sites have been found, but the characteristics of Bath A temper suggest production at a site on the margins of the Upper and Lower Cretaceous series with the Warminster area as a possible source. Little of the

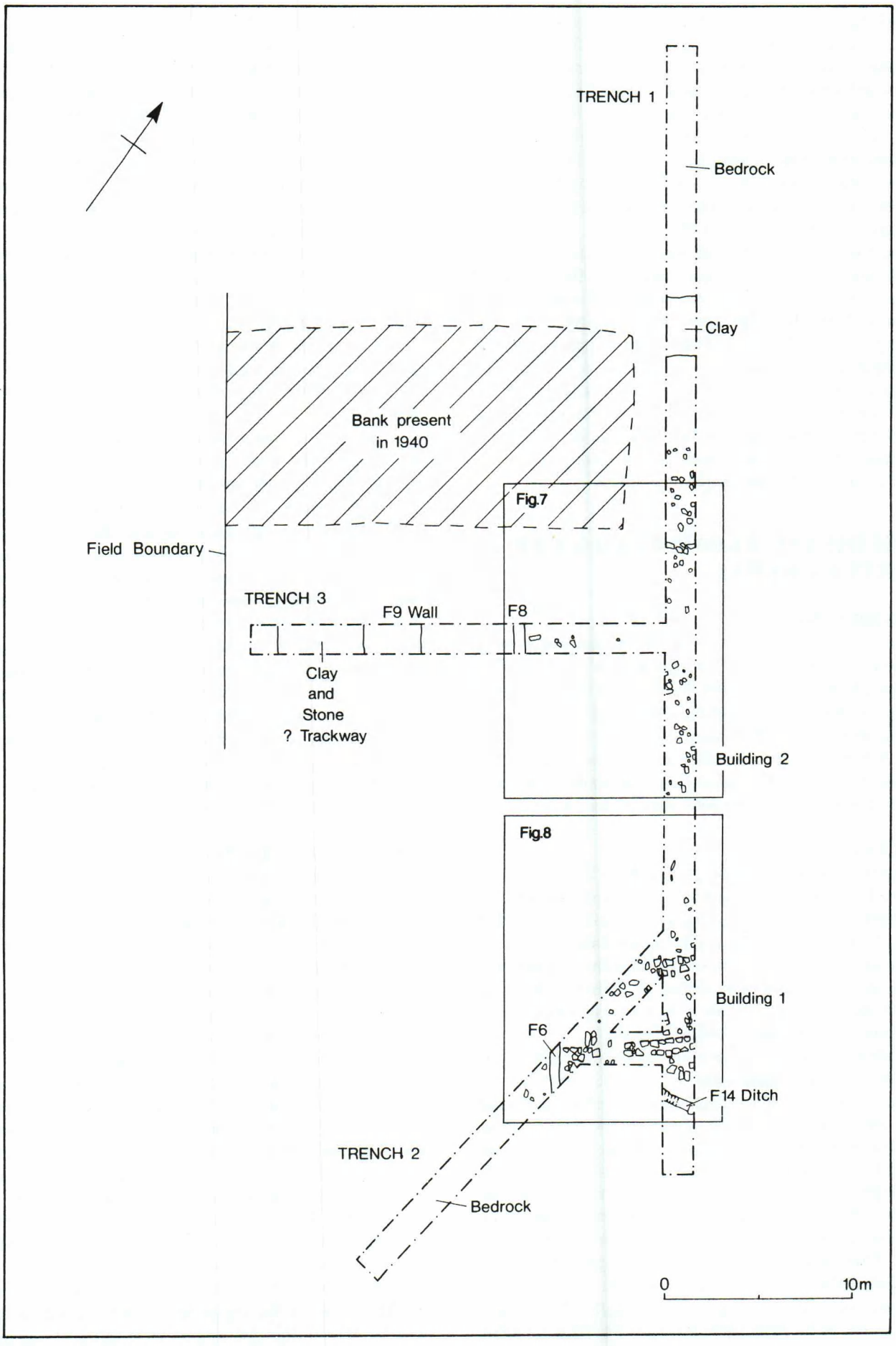

Fig. 6 Hartley Farm: main excavated features

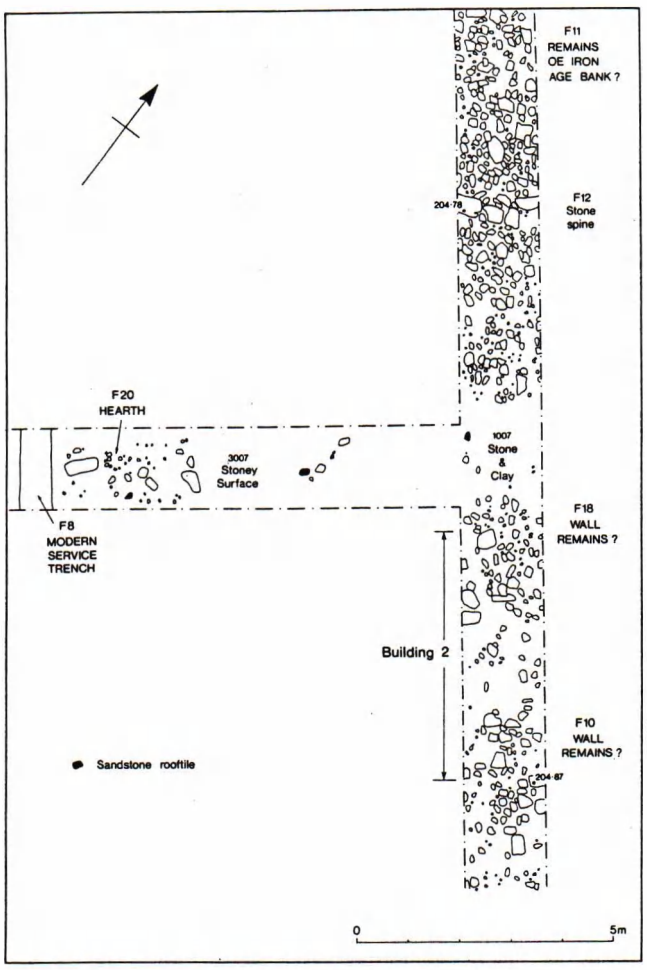

Fig. 7 Hartley Farm: northern area details

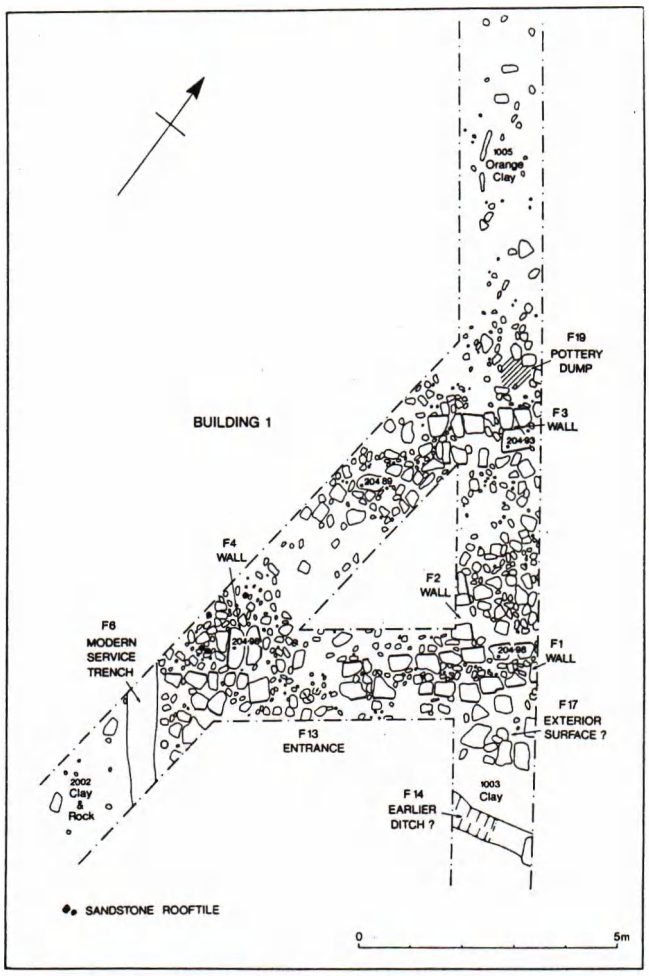

Fig. 8 Hartley Farm: southern area details

Charmy Down pottery was decorated, although one sherd in Fabric B/D was found double-stamped with a design paralleled amongst pottery from Bath (Cunliffe 1979, Fig. 65.34). There was also a thumb-impressed lug handle in Bath A fabric. Sherds in the third fabric, possibly another variant of Bath B/D, may have derived from a single vessel. One was decorated with stab impressions, perhaps made with a small bone, and retained faint traces of green glaze.

The absence of tripod pitchers and jugs, or of any green-glazed pottery other than the fragment noted above, suggests that the assemblage can be dated to a period before the 13th century since pitchers and jugs would have been commonly used by then. This would seem to be a characteristic Saxo-Norman collection of limited forms and fabrics, indicating that site use may have ceased by the mid-12th century.

A sherd of abraded samian and a possible spindle whorl made from the base of a small beaker can both be dated to the Roman period. Post-medieval pottery was noted in the topsoil but not collected. Its incidence is unsurprising in fields ploughed in recent times. Other finds included an unidentifiable copper alloy coin perhaps Roman, a Pennant sandstone 'rubber' stone used for grinding and sharpening probably medieval, some pieces of Pennant sandstone roof tile also medieval in date, a copper alloy plate of indeterminate function, and a 19th or 20th-century slate pencil. Fragments of iron included nails, studs, shoe cleats, part of a key, and three blades. Industrial residues were represented by fragments of slag.

DISCUSSION

Only one of the prehistoric field boundaries shown by Grimes as existing in the early 1940s was located (Fig. 2). The southern boundary may have lain just beyond the south end of Trench 1, while the slight line of the central boundary may now be interpreted as part of the located medieval farmstead. What is clear is that the farmstead was built within the existing system of still upstanding boundaries which would have been then over 1000 years old. The western end of a building, presumably a medieval longhouse, was found and a possible second building to the north. A domestic context was demonstrated by the cooking pots found and by animal bone, although this occurred in far smaller quantities. The rooms within the southern building could not be assigned a use, and might be for animals or humans, or be a ground floor below an upper level as suggested by the substantial width of the surviving outer walls F1 and F3.

The survival as earthworks of the Iron Age boundaries, and of an Iron Age farmstead about 200m to the east (Grimes 1960, Site A), suggests that Charmy Down was not cultivated in the early medieval period but used for sheep as was the case in more recent times. The medieval buildings found in the evaluation may have originated as a shepherd's shieling and then become a more permanent structure. A relationship with Hartley Farm itself may be suggested, and indeed local continuity of agricultural exploitation and settlement from the Iron Age onwards is possible with various farm sites all within 250m of one another although of widely different dates.

The discovery of a medieval farmstead on Charmy Down means that it cannot now be assumed that all the earthwork sites plotted around the periphery of the Down plateau are Iron Age or Roman, although this must remain the most likely interpretation in the absence of excavation. Presumably other medieval farmsteads and shielings remain to be found if they have survived ploughing and the airfield construction, but these may well not have left evidence above ground unlike their earthwork predecessors noted by Grimes.

THE IRON AGE FIELD SYSTEM ON CHARMY DOWN

INTRODUCTION

Much of the Charmy Down field system recorded by Grimes was destroyed by the airfield construction in 1940. Ploughing since then has reduced the banks in other areas. One surviving section lies at NGR ST 754696 in Cold Ashton parish in a field north of Down Farm threatened by the road scheme, and here portions of low, linear grassed field banks in a more recent permanent pasture field were surveyed. The banks appeared to be of collapsed stone rubble, thinly covered with turf and defining parts of rectilinear field plots. An entrance between fields is apparent at one point but there is no indication of settlement earthworks here. Slight ridge and furrow formations could be seen on the ground which may be dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods (Figs 2 and 9).

RESULTS

Trench 2 was laid out over the entranceway and the turf was removed by hand. Beneath this cover was an area of densely-packed large stones. The surface gave the impression that traffic had crossed it – boulder surfaces were worn and the surface appeared compacted. It had no limits in the exposed area. A passageway between fields must be assumed here from the disposition of field boundaries. The evidence from the small area examined suggests two possibilities, one that this entrance was blocked and then reused, or a second that an earlier bank layout underlies the fields apparent now as earthworks.

The main focus of attention was a hand-dug trench, Trench 3, across a section of bank which was carefully dismantled to the underlying natural surface (Fig. 10). The bank was about 5m wide and 0.4m high, and made up of large weathered stones generally 0.2 by 0.2 by 0.1m thick. These appeared to have been randomly deposited. A lower layer of boulders was set in a brown clay matrix while the upper layer was set in a soil matrix. The bank sealed a layer up to 0.2m thick of orange clay. An exceptionally large stone, which remained partly in the section, may well have formed part of a marking out line. The boulder was 0.6m by at least 0.6m by 0.25m thick. This stone was set well to the south of the existing bank, and might have been the centre line of a primary bank with the northern part a secondary addition. This suggestion was reinforced by the observation that boulders tended to be slightly pitched about 2.5m from the northern edge, perhaps indicating a more rounded bank profile over the spinal line of large stones, against which further stones were placed in the course of time.

DISCUSSION

Two further banks near Hartley Farm were also excavated (Fig. 2), and in neither instance were there any accompanying ditches or evidence of revetting with drystone facing walls. At Down Farm the bank appeared to have been of one phase initially with additional material added over the course of time. The large boulders are complemented by the line of larger stones found in excavation of two of the Hartley Farm banks, which were also slightly off centre. Thus an initial laying out of stone boundaries appears to mark a planned allotment. Whether this was also the initial laying out of field boundaries is not clear, since work on Dartmoor has shown that some stone boundaries overlie a slight earthen bank (Fleming 1988, Fig. 42b). The buried soil found at Down Farm may have been originally a bank.

The stone structure of the bank seemed quite random and it is suspected that the banks were not intended to be very much higher than they are today. The absence of a retaining wall and the apparently haphazard deposition of boulders would mean that this was not the foundation for a structure of height such as a drystone wall. The banks may have been topped by hedges as has been suggested elsewhere (Fleming 1988, Fig. 52).

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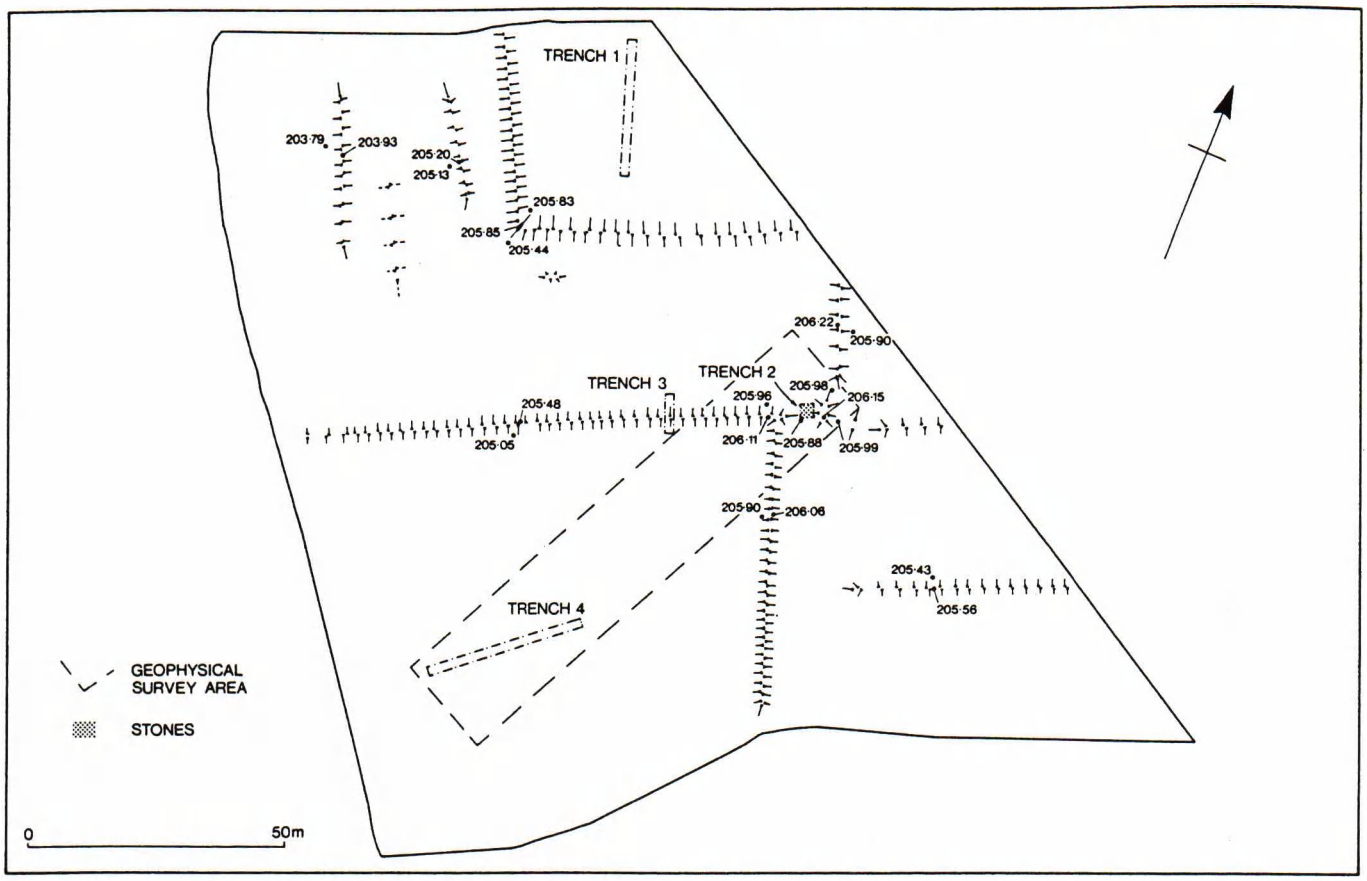

Fig. 9 Down Farm: plan of Iron Age field system

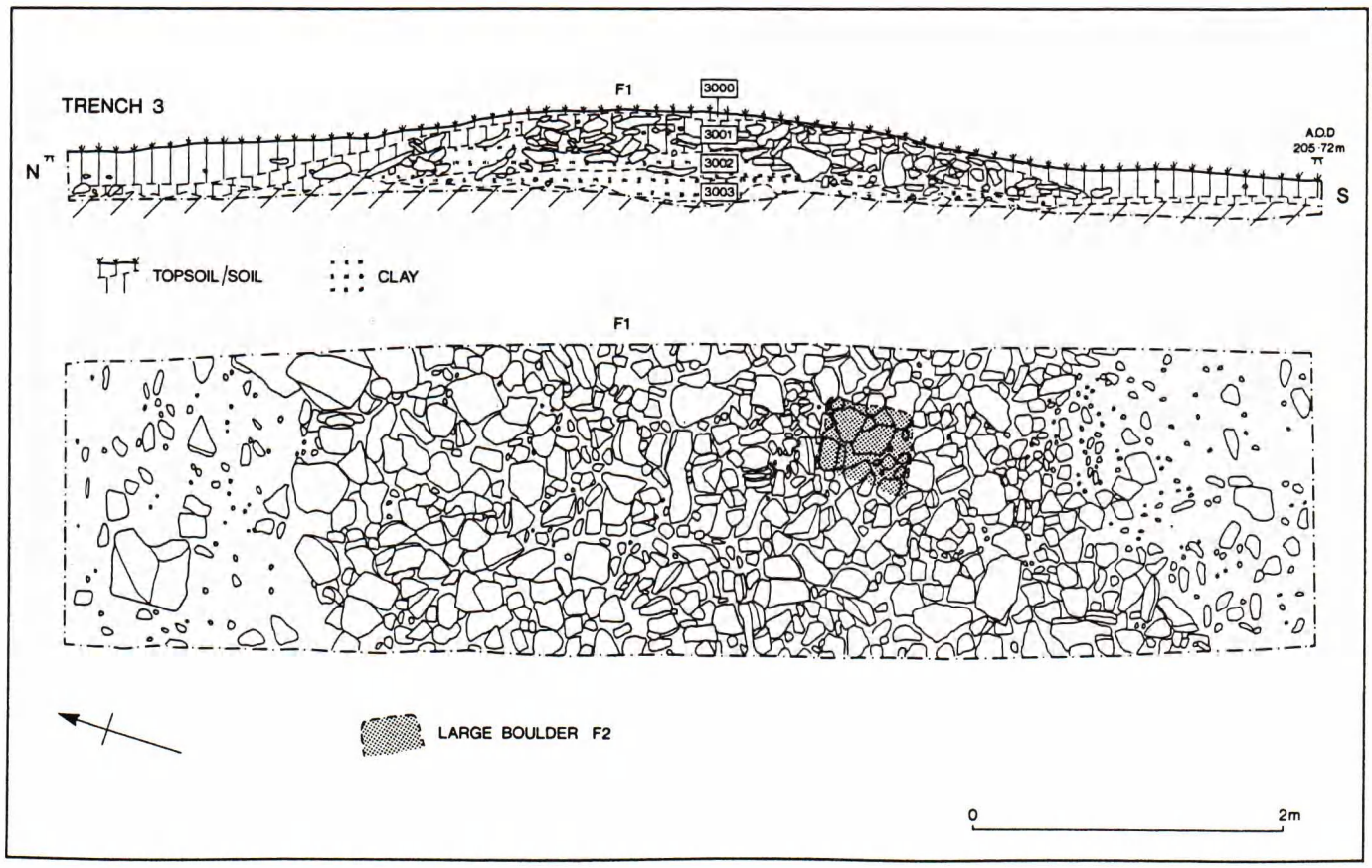

Fig. 10 Down Farm: Iron Age bank plan and profile, Trench 3

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SUMMARY OF AVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT FIELDWORK PROJECTS 1994-1995

KEYNSHAM, Cadbury Limited, Somerdale, NGR ST 6543 6950

A programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken to assess selective areas within the Somerdale factory grounds. The evaluation revealed further patchy evidence of Romano-British activity on the site and a buried RB land surface. A complex of earlier postholes and negative features were also recorded which were cut into the terrace gravels that underlay the site. In the absence of pottery or other artefacts the dating of the early features remains tentative although they appear to reflect later prehistoric activity and structures on the site. (Avon SMR 10539: BRSMG 31/1995)

Lynn Hume MA and Donna Yorkston MA

WESTON-S-MARE, St Nicholas's (Old) Church, Uphill, NGR ST 3149 5830

An evaluation incorporating geophysical survey and trial excavation was undertaken within the Nave and grounds of St Nicholas's Church, Uphill, which was consecrated in the early 12th century. Trial excavation within the Nave revealed an earlier but undated phase of masonry beneath the Chancel arch and a well preserved, but again undated, human skeleton within a rock cut grave. Geophysical data indicated the presence of several other human graves elsewhere within the nave. (Avon SMR 10441: Woodspring 1995.26)

Lynn Hume MA and Donna Yorkston MA

BRADLEY STOKE, BRISTOL, Savages Wood, NGR ST 621 821

An evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to the Tesco Store, Savages Wood, Bradley Stoke. Previous excavation which preceded the construction of the store revealed extensive Bronze Age remains (See Erskine above). The 1995 evaluation revealed further archaeological features, including ditches and postholes, which appeared to be of a similar date. (Avon SMR 10548: BRSMG 32/1995)

Adrian Parry MA

WESTON-S-MARE PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR CARRIAGEWAY, NGR ST 350 610

A watching brief was undertaken during the ground work stages of the new Weston-S-Mare ring road. The project revealed an extensive zone containing a complex of buried archaeological ditches. The ditches related to a buried former land surface which was also indicated by patchy archaeological layers at a depth of between 0.3m to 0.5m below the modern ground surface. Palaeoenvironmental evidence indicated a predominantly standing freshwater environment within the ditches although the presence of marine foraminifera at a few locations implied periodic saltwater inundation. Collectively the complex was interpreted to represent evidence of Romano-British saltmarsh reclamation and agricultural activity in the area. (Avon SMR 9767)

Greg Smith and Andrew Young

NAILSEA, Avon Motor Centre, (former Nailsea Glassworks site). NGR ST 478 709

A large area excavation was undertaken in advance of the first stage of new development on the site of the former Nailsea Glassworks Old House Cone. The excavation revealed approximately 60% of the well preserved remains of the Old House Cone, built in 1788, as well as a range of ancillary glass processing rooms, other associated buildings and a Victorian house. The second and final stage of the excavation programme is scheduled to take place in 1996. (Avon SMR 10509: Woodspring 1995.46)

Adrian Parry MA and Lynn Hume MA

WEST WANSDYKE RESEARCH PROJECT

The documentary, field survey and geophysical assessment stages of the project (Stage I) were completed and the results used to target the subsequent trial and research excavation elements of the project. Trial excavations recorded new and impressive sections across the dyke and ditch at a number of locations including sites at Compton Dando (SMR 10735), Stanton Prior (SMR's 10732 and 10733) and Newton St Loe (SMR 10741). A detailed research excavation at Blackrock Lane (SMR 10740), Publow, recorded a complex sequence of bank make-up and a 3m deep V shaped ditch profile. Important new evidence was recovered to strongly suggest that, in certain areas at least, the north facing scarp of the bank originally had a substantial timber revetment. Analysis of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence from the project continues and a series of radiocarbon dates are scheduled for 1996. (Avon SMR 10731)

Andrew Young and Jonathan Erskine for English Heritage

SALTFORD, St Mary's Church, NGR ST 6860 6748

Areas immediately adjacent to the nave and Saxon tower were evaluated on behalf of the St Mary's Parochial Church Council. The evaluation revealed stratified sequences of earth cut human burials and a large stone/brick burial vault. Finds included medieval and later pottery. The remains of an earlier but undated stone wall were recorded on the north side of the nave. (Avon SMR 10221)

Lynn Hume MA and Donna Yorkston MA

KEYNSHAM, Back Lane, NGR ST 6547 6866

A small area off Back Lane, Keynsham was excavated in advance of a new residential development. The site was located in the vicinity of the boundary which once separated the precinct of the Augustinian Abbey from the

medieval town. The earliest remains on the site were represented by a group of soil layers containing 12th to 14th century pottery. These layers preceded the construction of a cobbled trackway and rubble drystone wall which were dated stratigraphically to the late medieval or early post medieval periods. Later stone walls and layers were recorded which reflected continued development and activity on the site from the 16th century to the present day. (Avon SMR 10325)

Adrian Parry

MIDSOMER NORTON, Site of the former Springfield Colliery, NGR ST 6530 5495
An evaluation excavation and watching brief were undertaken on the site of the former Springfield Colliery in advance of and during the construction of a new Tesco store. The project recorded a number of well preserved stone walls and associated layers/features relating to the 19th and 20th century colliery complex. Features included remains of a coal screening building and railhead, and the foundations of an overhead tub line which originally connected the Springfield complex with the adjacent Old Mills Colliery. (Avon SMR 10518)

Philip J Piper

KEYNSHAM, Keynsham Nursery
An area immediately to the southeast of Keynsham Parish Church was excavated in advance of proposed development. The site was located in an area which appears to have fallen within the boundary of the precinct of the Augustinian Abbey from the 12th century until the dissolution. Excavation revealed a well preserved and stratified sequence of deposits and structures which included a proportion of a substantial medieval stone building, stone culverts and a complex of pits, ditches and postholes. A significant quantity of finds were recovered including charred environmental remains and possible industrial residues. The associated pottery assemblage is provisionally dated from the late Saxon period (10th/11th century) to the 16th century. Analysis of the finds continues and a full report is scheduled for a forthcoming volume of BAA. (Avon SMR 10746: BRSMG 59/1995)

Lynn Hume MA and Donna Yorkston MA

PILNING, Site off Cross Hands Road, NGR ST 557 850
A site off Cross Hands Road, Pilning was evaluated in advance of proposed development. The project revealed evidence of a buried land surface and associated ditches which were interpreted to represent Romano-British agricultural activity. (Avon SMR 10747: BRSMG 58/1995)

Andrew Young and Jens Samuel BA

HARRY STOKE, Site off Foxden Road, NGR ST 618 788
Land to the rear of Harry Stoke Farm was evaluated in advance of proposed development. No significant archaeological remains were revealed although post medieval and modern features including a stone trackway and drain were recorded immediately to the rear of the farm buildings. (Avon SMR 10749: BRSMG 63/1995)

Jens Samuel BA

FALFIELD, Site off Mill Lane, NGR ST 684 935
A site off Mill Lane was evaluated in advance of proposed development in order to assess a cropmark feature indicated on aerial photographs. The evaluation recorded only patchy soil features, probably associated with post medieval agricultural activity. The cropmark feature appeared to relate to variations in the natural geology and was not of archaeological significance. (Avon SMR 10020, BRSMG 8/1994)

Lynn Hume MA

AVONMOUTH, Wessex Water Kingsweston Pipeline,
A watching brief was undertaken during the ground work stages of the pipeline project. Almost entirely the pipeline route traversed areas dominated by deposits of modern made-ground which lay directly above undisturbed alluvium. The pipeline cut across the line of the medieval Mere Bank (Avon SMR 3205) although no significant new evidence relating to the monument was recovered because the location of the cutting had already been disturbed by previous modern activity. (Avon SMR 10420)

Simon Cox BA

OTHER WORK

WILTSHIRE, Atworth Roman Villa, NGR ST 855 655
The stage of record completion and assessment was undertaken on the evidence recovered from this important villa complex. The results are scheduled for publication in a future volume of the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*.

Jonathan G. P. Erskine MIFA for English Heritage

BRISTOL AND REGION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES PROJECTS 1994

(ed) Bruce Williams

AVON, *Bradley Stoke Primary School*, (BRSMG 91/1994), ST 62048266. An evaluation was carried out between 8 and 11 November 1994 to the south and east of the junction of Tresham Close and Bowsland Way in Bradley Stoke in advance of the redevelopment of the site for Bradley Stoke Primary School. The site was overgrown with wild plants and deeply rutted and marshy in places. It is surrounded by modern residential housing. The area was part of an open field system associated with the former Bowsland Farm previously situated south of the site.

There were 10 trenches excavated by machine. Trenches II and 1V-X were totally negative for remains of archaeological occupation. Trenches I and III revealed possible linear stone features overlying the Lias clay natural. They may represent the remains of late field boundaries orientated west-east. Post-holes in Trench I probably reflect the remains of a recent fence line. The natural Lias clay and argillaceous Limestone was located at a depth of 0.30-0.60m below modern ground level with a slight reduction in level to the south. The shallow deposition of the Lias clay and the disturbed ground throughout the site resulted in poor drainage of the area. This probably acted as a deterrent to occupation on the site.

A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery, dated to the 18th century, was found in the western area and probably derived from casual disposal when the site was used as farmland.

Eric Boore

AVON, *Stafford Crescent, Thornbury,* (BRSMG 104/1994) ST 63739208. An evaluation and documentary research was carried out between 16-22 December 1994 south of Stafford Crescent, Thornbury. The evaluation took place in advance of the redevelopment of the site for housing. The site was partly enclosed with stone walls and was overgrown with brambles, ivy-covered apple trees and buddleia. In the south-western area were the remains of dilapidated storage sheds and greenhouses and in the north-east corner of the site there was a standing building constructed of stone and brick.

There were 6 trenches excavated by machine. Trenches II-VI revealed no evidence of earlier occupation. In Trench I in the north-east area there was a gully which cut into the natural Dolomitic Conglomerate. The gully may have resulted from quarrying the natural stone for building material or for use as mortar. It was backfilled with ash and domestic rubbish including pottery, glass and clay pipes which are dated to the late 19th and early 20th century.

The ash represented industrial waste from the standing building. The gable ends were constructed of Pennant Sandstone with later side walls of red-brick. The original stone structure was dated to the late 19th century. The building was subsequently extended to the west and the south in the early part of this century and was in use as a smithy until 1989. It was renowned for its manufacture of horse-ploughs which were exported as far as Australia. The smithy survives intact, retaining its double-flued furnace and chimney and a forge and hearth which is still covered with ashes from the last firing. The floor is constructed of brick and the building also retains other architectural details including contemporary windows and frames in the west internal wall. Various associated implements, such as tongs and remnants of hammers used for smithying, are scattered around the building.

Eric Boore

AVON, *Saw Mill Lane, Thornbury*, (BRSMG 72/1994) ST 63829019. An evaluation was undertaken at Saw Mill Lane, Thornbury between 17-23 August 1994 in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site for housing. The north, west and eastern areas of the site exposed the Dolomitic Conglomerate natural immediately beneath the modern tarmac level. In the south-west area two trenches revealed deposits of humic soil varying from 0.20-0.40m overlying the natural bedrock. Both deposits were dated to the post-medieval period and represented back-garden occupation contemporary with the laying out of the tenements fronting the Gloucester Road and St John Street respectively. The former tenements may have been laid out in the 18th century, while the larger plots which front St John Street are probably earlier. The natural Dolomitic Conglomerate was recorded as sloping gradually from south to north. Residual finds of pottery, including material from Saintonge in south-west France, Ham Green, formerly in Somerset, and Minety in Wiltshire, date from the 13th and 14th centuries. Later red-ware pottery of the 18th century was found in the same context along with fragments of 18th-century glass phials, clay tobacco pipes, animal bone and teeth, and more recent pottery. A large fragment of millstone was also recorded.

Eric Boore

AVON, *Lower Barrs Court Farm, Oldland*, (BRSMG 24/1994) ST 64977246. Archaeological evaluation immediately north and west of Lower Barrs Court Farm, a Grade 2 listed building now derelict, revealed a stone-lined drain and two post-holes. Two sherds of pottery recovered from the drain's construction trench were dated to the late 16th or early 17th century.

Rod Burchill

AVON, 69-73 Hill Street, Kingswood, ST 65947374. Agricultural and industrial buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries were recorded by photography prior to demolition for a housing development.

John Bryant

AVON, *Avonmouth Liquid Waste Pre-Treatment Unit* (BRSMG 7/1995) ST 53407924. An evaluation and documentary research was undertaken on the site of the proposed Liquid Waste Pre-Treatment Unit and Waste Transfer Station at Avonmouth, Bristol between 13-24 February 1995. The evaluation took place following a proposal to develop the site for industrial purposes.

The site lay between the large Sedimentation Tanks of the Avonmouth Sewage Treatment Works north and the medieval Mere Bank and Rhine to the south. It was c.1.50-2m below the surrounding raised ground level though level with the fields adjacent to the Mere Bank Rhine at c.6.50m OD. The area was heavily waterlogged due to adverse weather and the underlying estuarine alluvium. It had also been used as a dumping area for quarry waste soil and rubble.

There were 5 trenches excavated by machine throughout the area of proposed development. After removal of the Made Ground and marshy clay deposits the alluvial clays were exposed at between 0.50-9.90m below the existing ground surface at 5.75-6.04m OD. The alluvial clay was sectioned by machine in each trench, the deeper excavations also serving as drainage sumps. The sumps varied in depth from 1.50-5.60m below existing ground level. There was no evidence of any earlier underlying archaeological occupation or any indications of peat deposits throughout the area. The low-lying nature of the ground level and the alluvium would have made the site liable to seasonal flooding. This may have deterred any occupation other than that recorded for the medieval and later periods when the area is shown on contemporary maps as open fields in use as pasture. This occupation continued until the more recent industrial development of the area around the Avonmouth Docks.

Residual finds of the late 19th and early 20th century included sherds of red earthenware pottery and an intact Codd or lemonade bottle complete with its glass marble. It was stamped C E BEEVES BRISTOL around a decorative windmill motif.

Eric Boore

BRISTOL, *43 Welsh Back*, (BRSMG 37/1994), ST 58897248. Trial trenching in the basement of 43 Welsh Back revealed deposits of ash and clay overlying the natural alluvium. This material represents a series of dumpings immediately pre-dating the development of Queens Square and the construction of the southern end of the Back (Welsh Back) in the late 17th/early 18th century. Contained in the deposits were important groups of late-17th and early-18th century pottery and clay tobacco-pipe. Palaeoenvironmental sampling of the alluvium produced only limited evidence including plant macro-fossils, insects and Foraminifera.

Rod Burchill

BRISTOL, *Kings Weston Road/Stowick Crescent, Lawrence Weston*, (BRSMG 86/1994), ST 55437852. An evaluation was carried out north of the junction between Kings Weston Road and Long Cross in Lawrence Weston between 10-21 October 1994. The evaluation took place following a proposal to redevelop the site for housing.

There were 7 trenches (I-VII) excavated by machine in the area between Stowick Crescent-Long Cross and Kings Weston Road. Trenches II-VII were totally negative for remains of archaeological occupation which pre-dated the contemporary landscaping. Trenches II and III produced a few sherds of residual Romano-British and later medieval pottery.

Trench I which was located at the east end of the site revealed extensive remains of several structural features including walls, a post-pit and post-holes. The features either overlay or cut into the natural Dolomitic Conglomerate bedrock. They may reflect the remains of a so-called 'native' settlement or represent stone foundations for temporary agricultural buildings built of timber. The buildings may have served as winter barns or paddocks which were frequently rebuilt. A large quantity of Romano-British pottery, dating from the lst to the 4th centuries AD was found. This included sherds of high quality pottery such as mortaria and Samian ware as well as imitation Samian, probably from the Oxford region. The green glazed pottery of this period may derive from St Remy in France, or may have been produced locally. Romano-British coarse pottery including abraded grey wares, Severn Valley ware and Black Burnished ware was also recovered. The vessels were mainly jars and bowls. A few sherds of post-Roman pottery, medieval and post-medieval wares were found, as well as animal bone fragments, a whetstone, worked flint and stone metal slag, iron nails and a few clay pipe fragments.

Eric Boore

BRISTOL, *Southwell Street/St Michael's Hill, Kingsdown*, (BRSMG 80/1994) ST 58397359. An excavation carried out on land to the rear of Nos. 78-100 St Michael's Hill (a fashionable suburb of Bristol in the 18th century) recorded mounded cultivation features. These are interpreted as medieval strip lynchets – built up over time from the 12th to the early-14th century and probably lying within the boundaries of a farm. This farm was divided up at some time during the 18th century to provide plots for the buildings currently fronting on St Michael's Hill. Three prehistoric flints were also found on the surface of the natural clay.

Jon Brett

BRISTOL, *Briscoes Avenue, Hartcliffe*, (BRSMG 76/1994) ST 58586795. Archaeological observations on groundworks for the construction of houses, a site previously evaluated by BaRAS, recorded a series of dry-stone walls and a stone-lined well. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were found nearby.

Rod Burchill

BRISTOL, *Briscoes Avenue/Wroughton Gardens, Hartcliffe*, (BRSMG 99/1994) ST 58586795. An evaluation was carried out between 6-8 December 1994 to the south of Briscoes Avenue in Hartcliffe. The evaluation took place in advance of the redevelopment of the site for new housing. The site is currently occupied by residential Council Housing with some properties in private ownership. The land between the properties is given over to grass and isolated trees with some areas covered with tarmac.

There were 11 trenches excavated by machine. Trenches I-VI and IX-X were totally negative for remains of archaeological occupation which pre-dated the present-day housing and landscaping. The natural Lias clay was recorded at 0.20-0.70m below modern ground level and reflected a reduction in level from south to north. The Lias clay overlay blue-grey argillaceous Lias Limestone which was recorded at 1.0m below modern ground level in the north-west area. In Trench VIII, located to the west of Wroughton Gardens, were the remains of a linear stone feature, aligned north-south which was contemporary with a similar east-west feature further south. These features were probably constructed with stone re-used from earlier features. They were early-modern garden features defining borders or paths. A small assemblage of 18th- and 19th-century pottery and a George V halfpenny dated 1929 represented back-garden rubbish resulting from casual disposal. The modern coin presumably derived from accidental loss. This garden area may have been subsequently abandoned and neglected as a result of poor drainage of this part of the site.

Eric Boore

BRISTOL, *St James Parade/Cannon Street*, (BRSMG 49/1994) ST 58937349. An evaluation was carried out between 1-15 June 1994 in the car-park area of the former National Farmers Union site. The site lies in the parish of St James to the east of St James Priory. Excavations in 1989 in the eastern half of the site revealed part of a medieval cemetery associated with the priory and later 18th-century pits (Jones 1989, BAA 8, 2-7). The evaluation recorded the presence of six separate inhumations aligned west-east, with the disarticulated remains of a seventh individual. Three of the interments occurred in head-niche graves. One head-niche burial was partly excavated and found to contain the remains of an adult female skeleton. This burial may pre-date the priory which was founded in the early 12th century. A sample from this burial was submitted to the British Museum Research Laboratory for radiocarbon dating. The other encoffined burials were in rectangular graves and are associated with the priory cemetery. They are dated to the period c.12th-16th century.

The south-east area of the site contained a complex of features including 18th-century drains and stone-lined pits which overlay earlier pits cut into the natural Triassic Sandstone. These features may have been originally excavated as quarry pits associated with the construction of the priory. The earlier pits contained finds which included animal bones with butchery marks, Redcliffe-ware pottery and glazed roof-tile of the 14th century, sherds of floor-tile made in a Bristol fabric also dated to the 14th century and 18th-century clay pipe fragments.

Eric Boore

BRISTOL, *Filwood Broadway, Knowle*, (BRSMG 62/1994) ST 59436975. A watching-brief occurred between 25 May and 10 August 1994 at Filwood Broadway on the site of the former shopping precinct. Observation of the groundworks for new shops, flats and houses, revealed no evidence of earlier occupation on the site which pre-dated the recently demolished modern buildings from the former precinct. The grey Lias Limestone bedrock was located at c.1m below the present-day ground level and was sealed beneath a deposit of grey clay c.0.40m in depth. The site appeared to have been undeveloped prior to the layout and construction of Filwood Park and Knowle West council houses in the 1930's.

There were no finds recovered during the groundworks other than a few sherds of modern pottery which were not retained. The area may originally have been open fields which were perhaps used for arable farming. Any contemporary occupation with the known Romano-British settlement of the 2nd-4th century to the south (Williams 1983, BAA 11, 12-20), including inhumation or cremation burials, probably occur further south where the overlying soil-clay levels increase in depth and would facilitate drainage over the Lias Limestone bedrock.

Eric Boore

BRISTOL, *Druid Stoke Avenue, Stoke Bishop*, ST 56077623. A watching-brief was carried out during construction of a house extension and garage close to the Neolithic burial chamber at Druid Hill. No finds were made.

John Bryant

BRISTOL, *Houlton Street*, (BRSMG 88/1994) ST 59717362. Two evaluation trenches were excavated by J. Bryant close to the position of a suspected Roman ford on the River Frome. No finds earlier than the late 17th century were made. The cellars of two early 18th-century houses were recorded, with evidence that their floors had been raised due to problems with flooding.

John Bryant

BRISTOL, *Park Row/Woodland Road*, (BRSMG 52/1994) ST 58217315. J. Bryant carried out a combined evaluation and watching-brief on the site of the early 20th-century Coliseum, a former dance and exhibition hall and skating rink. Beneath, and running parallel to the present Park Row, lay a substantial ditch, containing 18th-century finds but likely to have been the front of Essex Fort or Work, part of the 1643 Civil War defences and previously not accurately located.

John Bryant

BRISTOL, St James Church, (13/1994) ST 58887345. Following on from the 1993 evaluation, J. Bryant commenced excavation of an area to the west of St James

Church, formerly a Benedictine Priory and daughter to Tewkesbury Abbey. Evidence of dwellings built against the west wall of the south aisle and porch in the 17th and 18th centuries was recorded. Further west a late medieval structure was revealed. A single head-niche burial, outside the boundary of the later parish graveyard, was uncovered but not fully recorded. Further work is anticipated for 1995. The project is funded by English Heritage.

John Bryant

BRISTOL, *Belmont Street/St Mark's Road, Easton*, (BRSMG 75/1994) ST 60727435. Recording of Standing Buildings and Watching-Brief. Prior to the demolition of a building identified as the Manor House in an earlier BaRAS study, a record was made of the surviving first floor walls of this structure, the ground floor walls having been recorded in a prior evaluation. The former Manor House was encased within the former office buildings of the building firm J. Perkins & Sons. The walls of the Manor House were of a rubble construction, built of pennant sandstone. Only one phase of building could be identified and no dateable architectural features were noted. The surviving walls had suffered considerable alteration due to their incorporation in the office buildings.

The cellar of the building had at some time been divided into two, the larger of which acted as the boiler house for the offices. During the Second World War this had been heavily reinforced with RSJs encased in concrete to provide an air raid shelter for the workforce. A watching-brief during the demolition of the Manor House noted only the presence of two large wooden beams containing dowel pegs, while the watching-brief during groundworks for the foundations of the new buildings recorded no archaeological features. Nothing was recorded to contradict the 17th-century date proposed for the building by Bryant (BaRAS Report C069).

Eric Boore, Jon Brett and Rod Burchill

BRISTOL, *Montague Street*, (BRSMG 44/1994) ST 58907364. Two trenches were machined on the site of the former Bristol Wire Rope Company. Slightly-built walls of 17th and 18th century date associated with former houses on the site were recorded.

Rod Burchill

BRISTOL, *Briscoes Avenue, Hartcliff*, (BRSMG 10/1994) ST 58586795. Trial trenching at Briscoes Avenue, Hartcliffe revealed a wall, 0.95m wide, constructed of the local limestone. To the north of this wall was a contemporary stone-lined drain. Neither feature was securely dated. The features were restricted to the southern end of the site; the northern end appeared to have been terraced into the natural slope of the land, presumably when the adjoining road and houses were built in the 1950s.

Finds included Romano-British and medieval pottery, all unstratified.

Ken Sims

BRISTOL, *Quay Point, Temple Meads*, (BRSMG 45/1994) ST 595725. Archaeological evaluations were undertaken on the following sites.

Plate 1 Briscoes Avenue

The Portwall: Three evaluation trenches were excavated on the line of the mid-13th century city wall and its associated bastions.

A trench to the south of Temple Back (ST 59557258) located a 7m length of the Portwall at depths varying between 10.10m OD and 7.70m OD, depending on the degree of post-medieval cellaring. The wall was 4m wide at this point, much wider than had been recorded elsewhere, and may indicate this part of the wall was close to a bastion or external tower. The possibility of a bastion just to the north of the evaluation trench was also suggested by the presence of an internal structure within the thickness of the wall and a fragment of medieval wall standing proud of the outside face of the Portwall. A narrow passageway at an angle through the Portwall and approached by spiral stone steps may have been a sallyport constructed in the mid-17th century before or during the Civil War.

A trench south of the junction of Pipe Lane and Rose Street (ST 59507248) revealed the front of a semi-circular bastion on the Portwall at a depth of 7.54m OD. The bastion survives to a height of at least 0.9m. It is now known that

the Portwall runs below Pipe Lane at this point and therefore a further trench south of Pipe Lane and close to its junction with Temple Way (ST 59487243) failed to locate the wall.

Tower Harratz (ST 596268): Two evaluation trenches were excavated to locate the circular defensive tower on the east end of the Portwall overlooking the River Avon. An area excavation was then carried out to uncover the tower and associated structures.

Tower Harratz was found to be 13m in diameter. It was constructed of stone with a circular clay core with six clay 'spines' radiating from the core. Presumably due to its construction on unstable marshy ground adjoining the river there is evidence that the tower was repaired and a buttress built against its west face some time before the early 14th century. The Portwall joins the tower and is well preserved. What is presumed to be a later continuation of the Portwall between the tower and the river bank was constructed in the medieval period. This had a narrow passageway through it with a stone threshold. A cobbled surface apparently contemporary with this threshold adjoined the tower to the north-east and is dated to the mid to late-16th Century. A cobbled stone slipway of similar date was uncovered between the tower and the river bank. Two walls, one of which crossed the centre of the tower approximately on the line of the Portwall, appear to have been part of a Civil War gun battery shown on a late 18th-century plan. The finding of stoneware kiln wasters of late 17th-century date may indicate the presence of a pottery close to the tower as suggested by contemporary documents.

Ring's Clay Tobacco Pipe Factory (ST 59537272): Evaluation trenches were excavated in the area of the pipe factory shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. Floors made of bricks and fireclay slabs were found at a depth of between 8.95m and 8.22m OD. These are interpreted as the floors of the pipe factory. Kiln-damaged clay tobacco pipes were excavated which were contemporary with the use of the factory by the Ring and Hawley families in the late 19th century, as were quantities of heavily burnt kiln bricks which are presumed to be the remains of demolished kilns.

The Redware Pottery (ST 59507260): An evaluation trench was excavated across the site of the 19th century pottery owned by the Duffett and Hutchings families. No pottery buildings were found during the excavation and they must have been removed prior to the construction of the railway yards on the site in the 10th century. A stone-built well associated with the pottery contained a group of red ware vessels.

Reg Jackson

BRISTOL, *45 Kingsdown Parade, Kingsdown* (BRSMG 89/1994) ST 588667385. An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the supposed line of the 17th-century Civil War defences running between Colston's Redoubt and Prior's Hill Fort. The Civil War defences were not located.

Reg Jackson

BRISTOL, *Courage's Brewery, Bath Street* (BRSMG 97/1994) ST 59107293. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Courage's Brewery. Four trenches were

Plate 2 Tower Harratz

excavated within the brewery complex.

Two trenches in the Bottling Store located a late 18th/early 19th-century stone building, two other phases of 18th-century buildings, the arched roof of the 17th-century Law Ditch culvert and a 14th-century stone building with a flagstone floor.

Medieval occupation was found beneath the basement floor of the Keg Store at a depth of 6.15m OD. The structures uncovered there are interpreted as part of a medieval quay wall built on wooden piles, with a flight of stone steps along its east side. These steps went to a depth of at least 5.41m OD. After the steps had gone out of use, alluvial silts and deposits of dumped material appear to have built up rapidly some time during the 14th century. These waterlogged alluvial deposits contained much organic and environmental material in a good state of preservation.

Reg Jackson

MIDSOMER NORTON, *Springfield Colliery Site*, (BRSMG 1/1995) (ST 65205492). A salvage excavation was carried out on the site of the former Springfield Colliery near Midsomer Norton between 17-23 January 1995. The excavations took place in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a car showroom. There were two trenches excavated by machine to the east and north of the surviving foundations of the former Colliery Winding House. Trenches I and II were sealed beneath waste coal and mudstone fragments (colliery dirt) which came from the coal tip south. The structures and features revealed in the trenches confirmed the accepted chronological sequence for the colliery complex. The winding house, which was backfilled with concrete demolition rubble, measured 15.50 x 10.15 x 2.18m and a large stone foundation measuring 4.25 x 3.80 x 0.85 in the north-east area were the earliest buildings on site. The large stone feature did not occur on earlier plans of the site. It may have been associated with the original boilers used for producing steam to operate the winding engine and later, perhaps, was part of the Wagon Repair Shop area. These structures were dated to the 1860s.

A rectangular brick-built structure was revealed to the north of the Winding House. It measured 10.25 x 1.90 x 0.60m. This feature reflects the middle phase of colliery operation and was probably associated with the foundations for the new Lancashire Boilers installed in the 1930s. Contemporary brick features and coal deposits to the west may have served as the fire-box/stoking area. Later brick floors subsequently covered part of this area, perhaps when electricity replaced the steam-driven winder in 1963. Further brick and pitched stone areas, west of the boiler foundations, were open yards near the Colliery Screens and would also have provided access to outlying buildings such as the colliery offices and weighbridge.

There were no finds other than examples of fire-bricks and geological samples and no surviving evidence for any pre-colliery occupation. The remains of outlying buildings of the Springfield Colliery including the baths, offices, repair shops and so-on occur outside the present development and should still survive below ground.

Eric Boore

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, *Land at Bristol Road*, ST 371270. An archaeological evaluation on the proposed site of the new Banwell Magistrates Court involved the excavation of six trenches and five test pits. A stake hole of unknown date was recorded in Trench 2. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was found in Trench 6. Thin deposits of peat were found in Test-pits A-D, 4.20m below current ground level. Analysis of the peat from Test Pit B showed that it represents a raised bog, possibly dating from the third millennium BC.

Rod Burchill

L. V. GRINSELL OBE, MA, FSA, FMA (1907-1995)

by a close friend

Leslie Grinsell grew up lonely and unfulfilled. It was his discovery of prehistory among the ancient field monuments of Sussex that changed his life, starting him on a 69 year road of discovery and publishing for which, in 1972, he was appointed OBE, having received an honorary MA from the University of Bristol a year earlier.

His life's work was to record every Bronze Age burial mound in Southern England, measuring, classifying and mapping them. A huge corpus of meticulously published data is his permanent memorial.

Starting in about 1926 and armed with a rucksack, timetables (he did not drive), notebook, tape and folding rule, this self-taught archaeologist went into the field every weekend from spring to autumn. The admission that several months elapsed before he discovered the tape's retractable metal winding handle showed what a loner he was. By 1970 he had made more than 12,000 barrow visits and surveyed and published ten counties. After retirement in 1971 he added Somerset, Avon, most of Devon, Kent and Herefordshire with supplements to several earlier surveys. When in his later seventies, friends had to dissuade him from attempting to make a survey of the barrows of Cornwall, a task that would have added some thousands to the burial mounds which had received the Grinsell treatment over six decades. Instead he was constrained to do no more on Cornwall than to write a short paper on those of its barrows whose external appearance recalled the monumental chalklands forms of bell, bowl and disc. This useful paper emerged shortly before Leslie died; and we were able to assure him that his Herefordshire barrow survey was proceeding smoothly in the hands of the editors – Jim and Muriel Tomkin – whom he held in the highest respect.

At his death, the work extended from Norfolk (a joint survey with R. Rainbird Clark, which war and death of the latter restricted to card index form) to the Tamar and Welsh Marches. The records he drew up were not just a matter of dimensions and classifications, for which his early bank training was priceless. He included barrow names and folklore, early published references, details of finds and the state of the monuments at the time of each visit. *The Ancient Burial Mounds of England* (1936, 1953, 1975) remains a classic work of British Archaeology.

In the course of this pilgrimage Grinsell rediscovered countless barrows and he was the first to show, in the field, that the earthworks on Whiteaspect Hill (Wilts) were indeed those of a Neolithic causwayed camp. One bright Saturday in July 1953, Leslie and I walked from Amesbury to Stonehenge to see Atkinson's excavations We arrived a few minutes after his momentous discovery, through the viewfinder of his camera, that there were contemporary carvings on a number of the SARSEN uprights. This soon inspired Leslie's own discovery of the series of carved feet on a burial slab in the barrow at Pool Farm (Mendip) which is now an outstanding exhibit at Bristol City Museum.

To the writer, one of the most remarkable of Grinsell's achievements was his recreation of a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pattern of settlement (or rather, of hunting grounds) over an area of some fourteen square miles around Lower Swell (Glos). It was based upon his painstaking ground location of fields from whose surface the Rev. David Royce (1817-1902) had collected over 3000 flint implements. Their field-name find-spots had been marked upon them and, using title maps of the 1840's, questioning local farmers and endless, tramping over a three-year period of intensive study, Grinsell was able to create a distribution map of extraordinary interest and importance.

Leslie Valentine Grinsell was for nineteen years a bank clerk with Barclays and for twenty years more, the Curator of Archaeology and Ethnography at Bristol City Museum (1952-1972). But it was his intensive study of prehistoric burial mounds that made him pre-eminent in British field archaeology. Yet, apart from three paid years working on his survey of Wiltshire barrows for the Victoria County History (1957), Grinsell's considerable contributions were made in his spare time.

Field archaeology was not a total preoccupation, however. Other interests motivated his enthusiasm: folklore, place-names, numismatics, Egyptology and piano playing, teaching and lecturing, drawing, sketching, photography, love of the countryside, and "the tonic properties of the air".

Grinsell's fieldwork was not limited to these islands. A wartime posting to Egypt as an aerial photographer (he had been a pioneer in this field) led inevitably to a Grinsellian survey of the Pyramids (*Egyptian Pyramids*; 1947) and, during his later years, his annual Christmas holiday to the larger Mediterranean islands spawned *Barrow, Pyramid and Tomb* (*1975, 1977*; Italian edition 1978)

Grinsell was fascinated by medieval British coins. His studies of the mints at Bath and Bristol are major contributions to a specialist field in which, like Egyptology, he made himself expert. Much of the work was done while he was Curator at Bristol City Museum and it saw print, along with the Museum's holding of ancient British coins, in Volume 19 of *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*. That Bristol possesses such a fine collection of coins minted there, owes most to Grinsell's enthusiasm and knowledge.

Leslie Grinsell was a founder member of our Society in its first guise as BARG. Alan Warhurst (Director of the City Museum in the sixties) and he saw a need for a society that would have a more practical approach to local archaeology than traditional county societies like the Bristol and

Gloucestershire and for that reason, perhaps, attract younger enthusiasts (always one of Leslie's primary concerns). BARG was formed in 1962, with LVG their first editor. The famous *Survey and Policy* (1964, 1965) was a typical piece of editorship: with authorship of several of the *Field Guides* that were to follow. When Avon was added to our area of interests, Lastly wrote two of our first three folder guides.

Of all Grinsell's society interests, he gave his principal support to the Prehistoric Society; He was its exemplary honorary treasurer for twenty-years. This Society, together with our own and the Youth Hostel Association, became the main beneficiaries in his Will.

Leslie Grinsell's circle of friends included several women, but he eschewed personal attachments. Only when working for organisations such as the Prehistoric Society or in his painstaking help given to anyone with similar interests, did he betray that deep, selfless generosity which, with those flashes of wit and the shy smile, made his friendship so valued. Had he married, he might not have achieved what he did and we would know much less about our past.

(With grateful acknowledgements to Times Newspapers Limited.)

The Grinsell Bibliography, 1988 - 1994

Leslie Grinsell included a comprehensive bibliography of his writings up to 1988 in his An Archaeological Autobiography (1989). The list which follows includes everything of substance that he published since that year, completing a record of scholarly work that is his own inspiring monument.

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