

AN EARLY ROMAN CEMETERY AT ALTON, HAMPSHIRE

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents evidence from a nineteenth century excavation and another in 1980 both of which examined a small early Romano-British cremation cemetery in Alton, Hampshire (SU 7160 3909). The material from this site is presented and the dating considered. It is argued that the cemetery is related to a late Iron Age-early Romano-British rural settlement. Evidence is also presented for the presence of a later Roman villa in the vicinity. The significance of the burial ground and the affinities of the rite are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

THE EXCAVATIONS OF 1860 AND 1980

In 1860 a rescue excavation took place at 87 High Street, Alton in Hampshire. The excavators, whose identity is now obscure, uncovered a richly furnished early Roman cremation burial, and appear to have been skilful in its recording and recovery. The only published account (White 1887, 464 note 2) reports that:

‘About thirty or forty years ago some interesting remains were found there (Alton) in ground now occupied as a timber yard by Messrs Dyer. . . . They consisted of several sepulchral vases, set in dishes or saucers; two lachrymatories; a small wooden dice-box; a small lamp; and a signet-ring of onyx, set in gold, which was still (when found) on the calcined bone of the wearer’s finger. . . . There were also some small pieces of samian or British samian, ware.’

The majority of the finds from this excavation

eventually passed to the Curtis Museum, Alton, now part of Hampshire County Museum Service. (The 1860 finds bear the accession numbers AOC 304.1/1–21d and AOC 880; those from 1980 have the number A1980.80). The Accessions Register lists twenty pottery vessels, two glass vessels, nineteen gaming pieces and a carnelian signet ring found at 87 High Street, Alton in 1860 – the premises formerly Dyer’s Yard and latterly Kemp’s Yard. The signet ring is now missing, but was last recorded when the collections were re-accessioned in 1921, but there is no doubt that the surviving finds are from the group described in the account cited above. The Museum archive also contains a hand-written display-case label which belongs with these objects and reads:

‘Many of these black and white counters, with dice – the carnelian seal, from which the wax impressions were taken, and other small articles were found in Messrs. Dyer’s Yard, 87 High Street, Alton, and had apparently been contained in a box, the metal corners of which were preserved and were lying around the contents of the box.’

Beyond this information, and the objects themselves, nothing else is known of the excavation, but when redevelopment began in the south-western part of Alton town centre in the mid 1970s the site was given a high archaeological priority (Fig 1). Trial trenches were thus opened on the adjacent site prior to its redevelopment in 1978 (Fig 2, trenches 1–3). These failed to locate any further Roman burials, but proved that there was a sufficient depth of

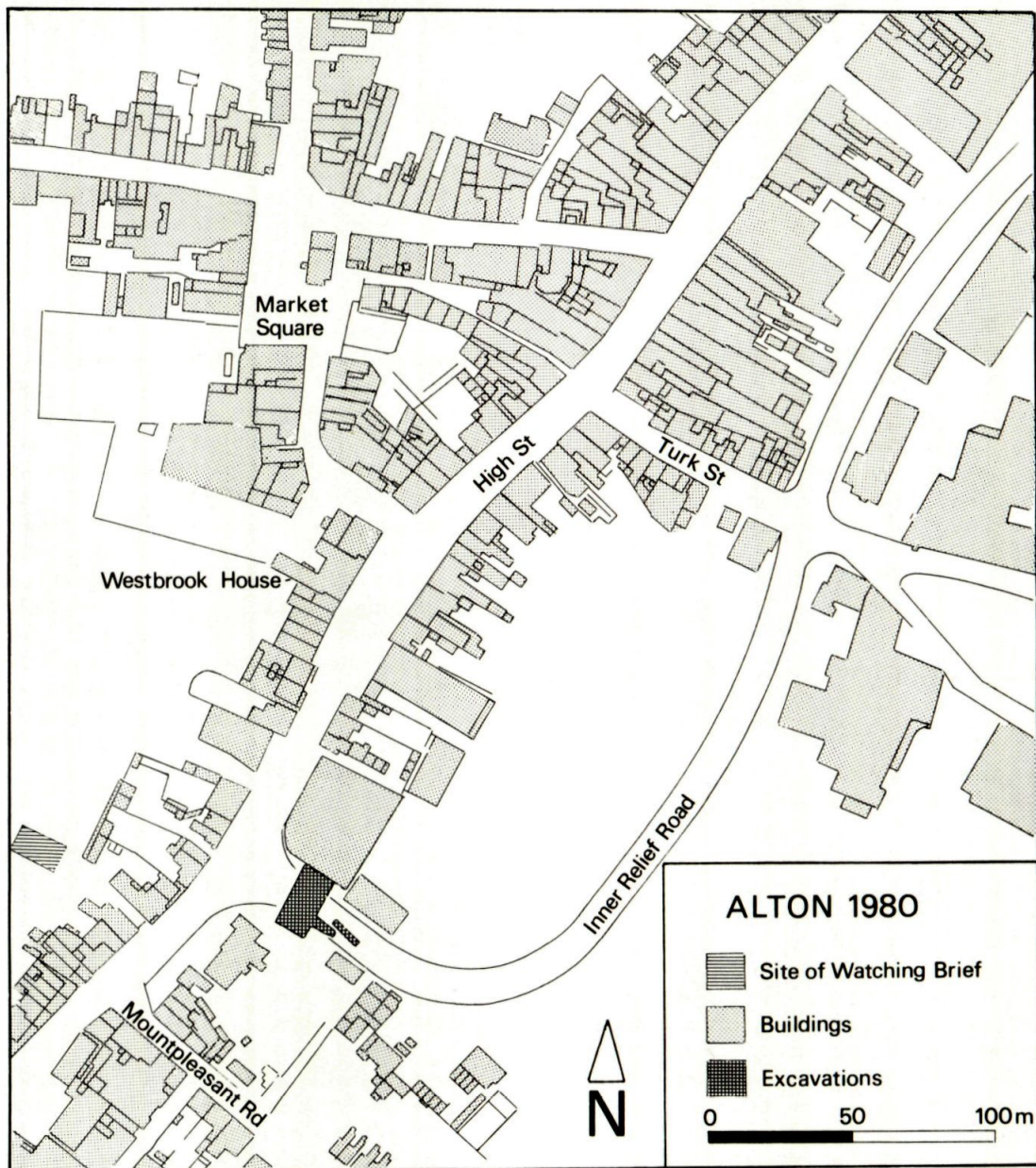


Fig 1. Plan of Alton showing the location of the 1980 excavations.

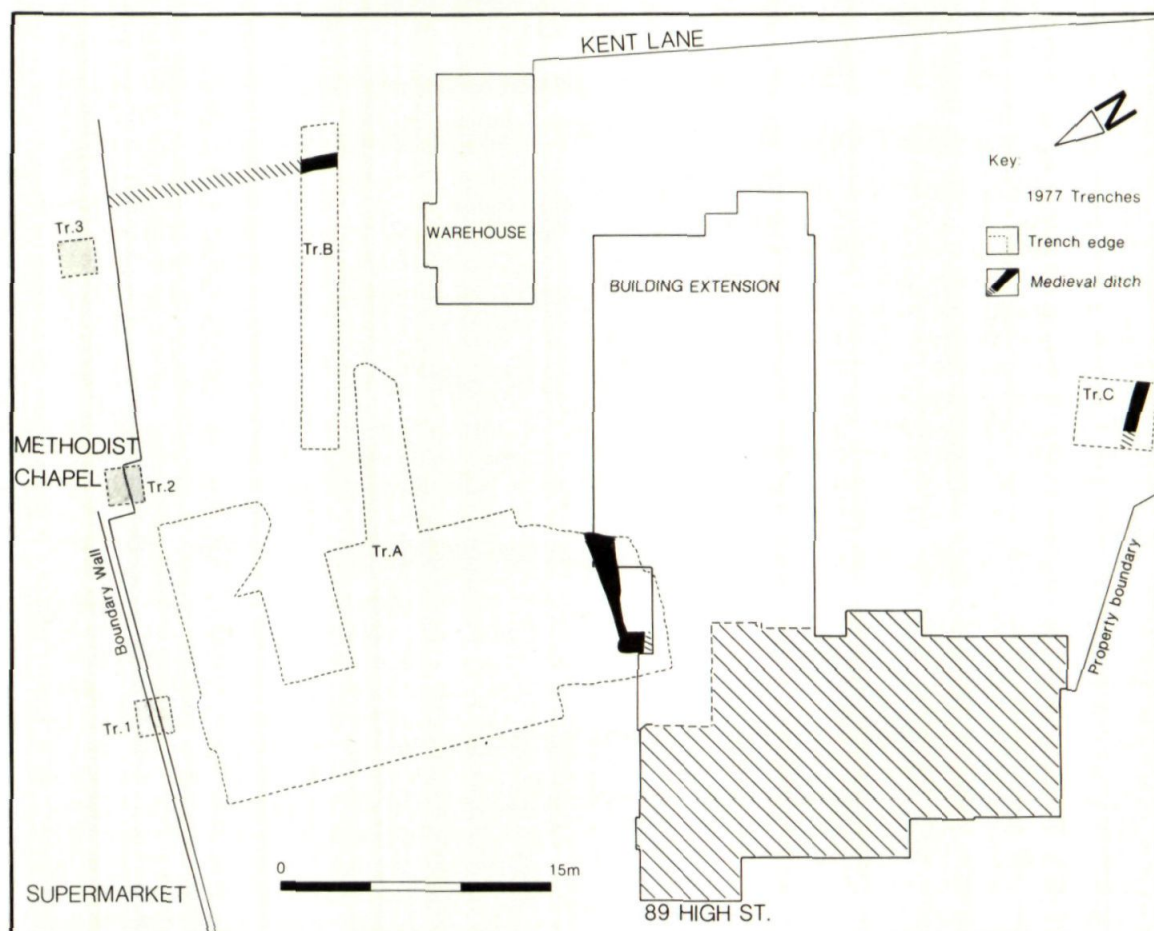


Fig 2. Plan of nos. 87-89 High Street, Alton showing the location of the trenches in relation to the buildings standing in 1980.

stratigraphy to merit further work. A watching-brief during the construction of a supermarket on this site located a ditch which was thought to be Roman, but is now known to be medieval (Fig 2).

The demolition of the builder's yard at 87 High Street in 1980 in order to make way for the Inner Relief Road provided the opportunity for further investigation of the cemetery site. Hampshire County Council were approached and kindly arranged for access to the site after demolition but prior to the lowering of the ground-level for road building. Initial ground-work by the contractor disturbed one burial

(Grave 9), confirming the potential of the site, and a further eight graves were excavated during a three week season in August 1980 (Fig 2, trenches A and B). In September the same year, an extension to the adjacent property (89 High Street) was built. The owners, Oceonics Ltd, kindly granted permission for excavation prior to the development. It was thus possible to extend trench A (Fig 2) to the south and open a further small area further south (Fig 2, trench C). No further graves were found in these areas, although trench C revealed evidence for later Roman activity.

The present report deals with the material

from these excavations and reassesses the evidence for Roman settlement in this part of Alton.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The sites examined lie in the southern part of Alton (Fig 1) on a gravel terrace of the River Wey, which lies about 300 m to the north and bisects the present town. The terrace, which is free-draining, lies at about 105m OD and is made-up of a coarse, flint-gravel with patches of clay derived from the chalk which it overlies. The terrace is generally flat, but in this area of the town it slopes gently towards the centre of a dry-valley, the axis of which lies along the line of the High Street. As a result, the excavated site slopes gently to the north-west.

STRATIGRAPHY

This area of Alton remained as fields until the town's expansion during the seventeenth century. There was thus little build-up of stratigraphy over the area excavated. Since the nineteenth century the area had been a builder's yard, with little raising of the ground level. However, during the post-medieval development the sloping ground was terraced such that the buildings of the High Street frontage (Fig 2) were cut into the natural gravel, removing any earlier deposits. Further east, at the rear of the property, the site had been heavily disturbed by pit-digging (revealed in trenches 3 and B; Fig 2). It has therefore only the central area of the site, covered by trench A, which remained relatively undisturbed. Even in this area, some damage had been caused to the archaeological deposits by the construction of buildings, the provision of their services, and the surfacing of the yard, which overlay a truncation which had removed most of the Roman ground surface: only in trench C, to the south, was this preserved. Over the majority of the site Roman features thus survived only where they had been cut into the subsoil. Later deposits did contain residual Roman material which makes it possible to reconstruct some of the later Roman activity (below p. 83).

THE CEMETERY

Before describing the grave groups, the relationship of the material excavated in 1860 to that found in 1980 is discussed. A chronological sequence is then established to provide a framework for the description. The graves are then catalogued, before the burial rite is discussed. The specialist contributions which discuss data from more than one grave are provided as appendices.

THE CONTEXT OF THE 1860 FINDS

The location of the 1860 excavation is not recorded, although both the coherence of the finds (with the exception of one vessel; Fig 13, no 2) and the description already cited, clearly demonstrate that we are dealing with a single grave group. A comparison of the Tithe Map of 1842 with the OS Map of 1870 shows that one building was constructed during the period in question – that described as an Engine Shed on a later nineteenth-century plan. If we assume that the 1860 discoveries were made as a result of building work, we can surely identify this building with the location of that excavation. Within the area of this structure (Fig 3) Graves 2 and 7 can be shown to have been disturbed by walls, whilst the area at its east end had been completely quarried away for the construction of a cellar (Fig 2). The range of pottery forms from the 1860 excavation is dissimilar to that from Grave 7 but is closely similar to that from Grave 2, only a small segment of which survived to be excavated in 1980. An analysis of the nineteenth century stratigraphy within the excavated part of the building revealed a cut coterminous with the edges of Grave 2 excavated in 1980. As this contained small residual sherds clearly derived from the grave it seems highly likely that this cut represents the part of Grave 2 excavated in 1860 (Fig 8). On these grounds the material from the museum collection is here published as part of Grave 2.

THE CHRONOLOGY

The graves excavated were stratigraphically iso-

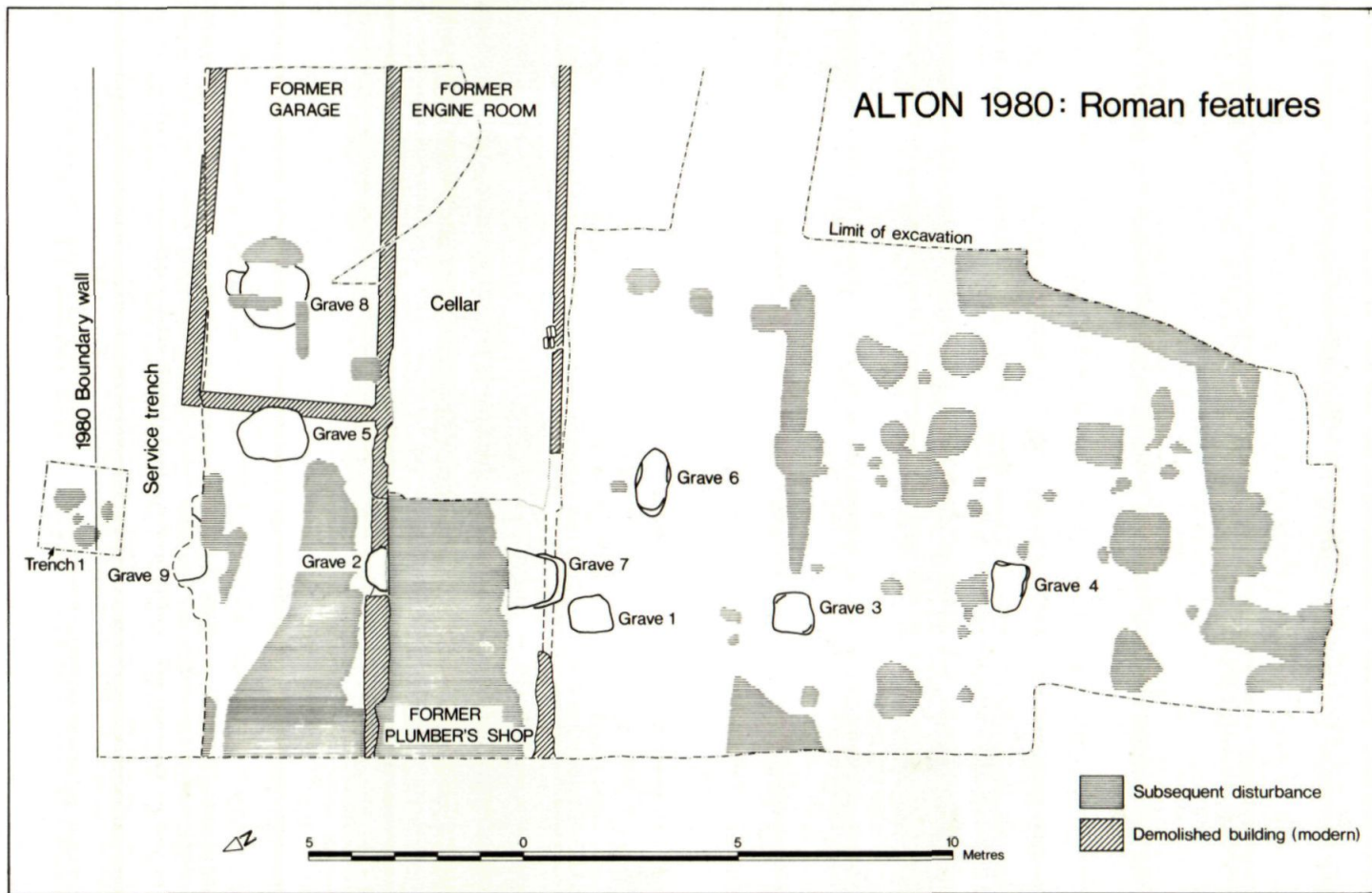


Fig 3. Plan of Trench A showing the location of the graves.

Table 1. *Vessel Types occurring in the Graves. *indicates those used in the seriation.*

Graves Type	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
F1			1						
F2*		2		1	1			2	1
F3*	1	1		1	1				
F4								2	
F5*					1				1
F6			1						
F?	1				1				
BK1					1				
J1A*	1		1						1
J1B*				1	2	1		1	
J2*		1			1			1	
J3*	1			1	2		1		3
J4*			1	1					
J5*		1		1	7	2			1
J6							1		
J7			2						
J?		1			3		1		
B1					2				
B2				1					
B3					1				
B4*		1	2						
B5*	4								1
D1*		3	1						
D2A*		6	2		2		2	4	7
D2B*			3	1		3	3	1	3
D2C*					11		1		
D2D*							1		1
D2E									1
D2?	1								
D3A*	1	10			1				
D3B*	1						2		
D3C*	1				2		6	1	3
D3D*	1								1
D4*			1		8	4	3	5	5
D5*	1	1	4	2					
D6								4	
D7*			1				1		
D8					1				
D9									1
L1*							1		1
L2*			1	2			2		
L3		2							
L4*		1			5			2	
L5	1								
L6	1								
L7*			1		1				
L8				2					
L9*					1				1

lated, but each contained a reasonably large assemblage of pots as grave goods (Table 1), whilst several also contained items of metalwork. Too few of the objects were sufficiently diagnostic to enable all the graves to be satisfactorily dated on these grounds alone, but it was felt that they could be used to provide some calibration if a general chronological sequence could be obtained. The method used to provide such a sequence was that of automatic seriation based on the occurrence of the pottery types within the grave assemblages (Doran & Hodson 1975; Ciolek-Torrello 1984). The seriation was achieved using the Principal Components Analysis routine on the Program SPSSX on the Durham University Computer. The technique searched for the main causes of variation between the pottery assemblages, which it was argued would relate to chronology because of the nature of the typology used (summarised in Table 1). The results, summarised in Table 2, were consistent with this hypothesis since the seriation suggested provides a sequence which is consonant with the evidence available from the samian stamps, metalwork and other datable objects (Table 2). The sequence suggested is not entirely unambiguous: Grave 1 may be contemporaneous with Grave 2; Grave 4 may be contemporaneous with either Grave 2 or Grave 5; whilst Grave 7 may possibly be later than Grave 9. These ambiguities are partly a result of the method, which does not cope well when several

groups are closely similar, thus probably of similar date. They are also partly a function of the nature of the data which are not structured simply by chronological factors. This is shown by the Principal Components Analysis, which showed that the factor – equated with time – which is responsible for most of the variation in the data, accounts for only 32% of the total variance. In simple terms, this suggests that the contents of the graves are determined more by factors such as sample size, ritual and status than by time (Millett 1980a; 1983).

The chronology provided by this method, calibrated according to the other grave contents, is thus used in the following catalogue. It should be stressed that there is reason to believe neither that the time intervals between the graves is equal, nor that those graves mentioned above as being ambiguously placed in the sequence are not contemporaneous with one of the other graves.

CATALOGUE OF THE GRAVE CONTENTS

The graves are listed below according to the proposed chronological sequence. The contents of each grave are described, the grave plan and grave goods are illustrated, and the specialist reports on particular goods are included. Full discussion of the pottery and the human remains are presented as appendices.

Table 2. Calibration of Grave Seriation

Grave	Dating evidence	Suggested date
1	Imitation Gallo-Belgic forms with footrings.	Claudian ?
2	Samian stamp <i>c.</i> AD 35–55. Ring Julio-Claudian. Imitation Gallo-Belgic forms.	Claudio-Neronian
3	Samian stamp <i>c.</i> AD 40–65. Imitation Gallo-Belgic forms. Amphora <i>Camulodunum</i> form 169.	Claudio-Neronian
4	Absence of Pre-Flavian forms.	Early Flavian
5	Brooches <i>c.</i> AD 75–100. Single devolved imitation Gallo-Belgic form plus a Butt Beaker.	Early Flavian
6	Absence of Pre-Flavian forms	Flavian
7	Brooch <i>c.</i> AD 40–60/70. Devolved imitation Gallo-Belgic forms.	Flavian
8	Forms D6 and F4 suggest a later first-early second century date	Flavian-Trajanic
9	Incomplete, but coarse pottery appears Flavian	Later Flavian ?

Table 3. *Shape categories of Vessels represented in the Graves.*

Grave	Jars	Beakers	Flagons	Bowls	Dishes	Lids	Total	Comments
1	2	0	2	4	6	2	16	
2*	3	0	3	1	21	3	31	Includes 1860 finds
3	4	0	2	2	12	2	22	
4*	4	0	2	1	3	4	14	Includes finds from residual contexts
5	9	0	1	1	1	1	13	Upper fill
	4	1	3	2	24	6	40	Lower fill
	13	1	4	3	25	7	53	Total
6*	3	0	0	0	7	0	10	
7	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	Upper fill
	1	0	0	0	18	3	22	Lower fill
	4	0	0	0	20	3	27	Total
8	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	Upper fill
	2	0	3	0	15	2	22	Lower fill
	3	0	3	0	16	2	24	Total
9*	5	0	2	1	22	2	32	

Note: * = assemblage known to be incomplete.

GRAVE 1 (Figs 4–7): Sub-rectangular grave pit very shallowly buried beneath the builder's yard surface, and thus truncated leaving a depth of only *c* 100mm. The grave was badly crushed and was disturbed during the mechanical clearance of the site. This damage resulted in the loss of sherds from some of the vessels. The cremation was in Pot B, although little of it survived, so the age and sex could not be ascertained. The shears and knife would suggest that it was a male.

Pottery (Fig 7): A total of sixteen vessels were recovered from the grave. These are summarised in Tables 1 and 3. Despite the damage to the grave it seems probable that all those deposited were recovered.

Ironwork (Fig 6). By Dr Martin Henig:

1. Shears with plain U-shaped spring. Length 185mm. (Compare Crummy 1983, 112–3, no 2981 and Stead 1967, 52 no. 21).

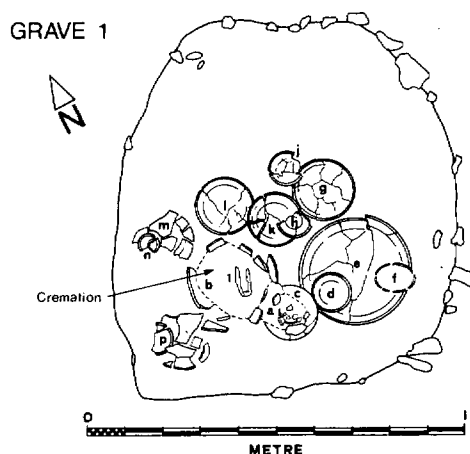


Fig 4. Plan of Grave 1 (context 83).

2. Fragmentary iron knife with bone handle. Surviving length of blade 24mm; of handle 44mm. Tang has round section. Found amongst the cremated bone in Pot B.

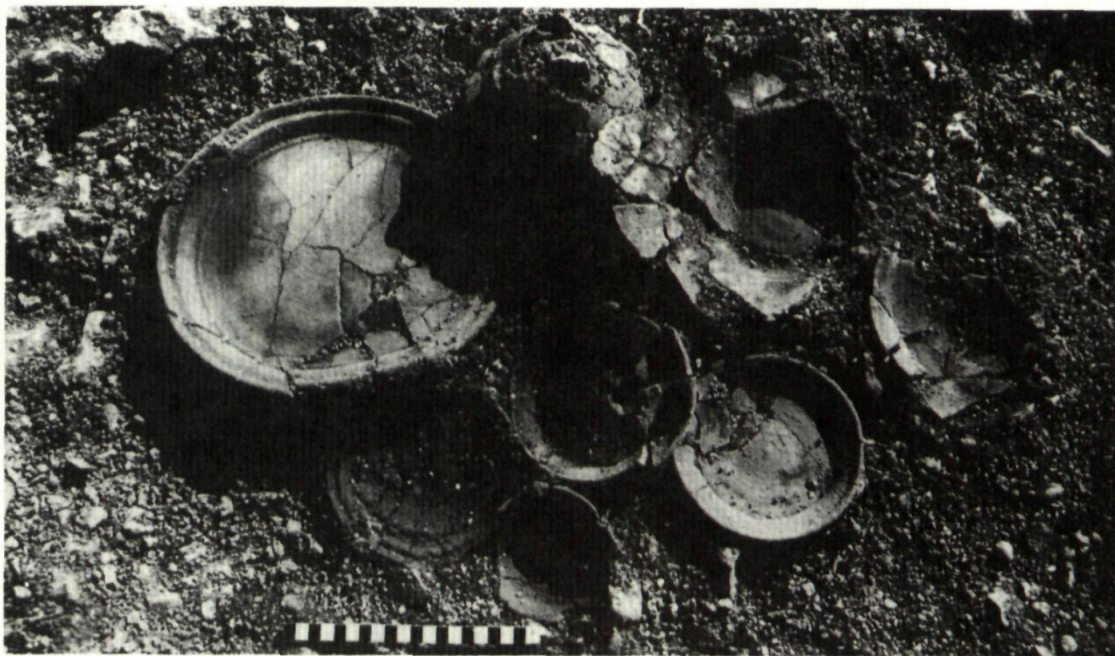


Fig 5. Photograph of Grave 1 viewed from the north-east. (Photo by Graham Huxley).

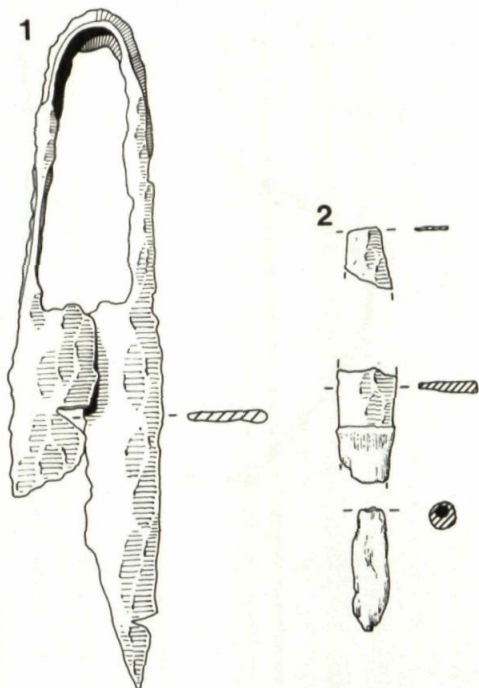


Fig 6. Small Finds from Grave 1. Scale 1:2.

GRAVE 2 (Figs 8–14): The portion of this grave excavated in 1980 comprised the northern end of the shallow pit ($\approx 50\text{mm}$), which was preserved beneath the footings of the wall of the Engine Shed constructed in 1860. The outline of the part of the grave excavated in 1860 has been identified from an examination of the adjacent nineteenth-century features. The cremated bone recovered from the grave fill, presumably scattered from the casket described by Buckland (White 1887, 464 note 2) is from an adult of indeterminate sex. The signet ring and gaming pieces from the 1860 excavation suggest a male.

Pottery (Figs 13–14): A total of 31 vessels have been identified from this grave. 18 of these are from the 1860 excavation, the remainder, all but 3 of which are fragmentary, came from the 1980 excavation. It is almost certain that the whole assemblage originally buried has not been recovered. The vessel forms represented are summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

The Samian stamp on Pot A by Brenda Dickinson (Fig 11): Form 18R, stamped REGENVS with Die 6b of Regenus of La Graufesenque. No other examples of

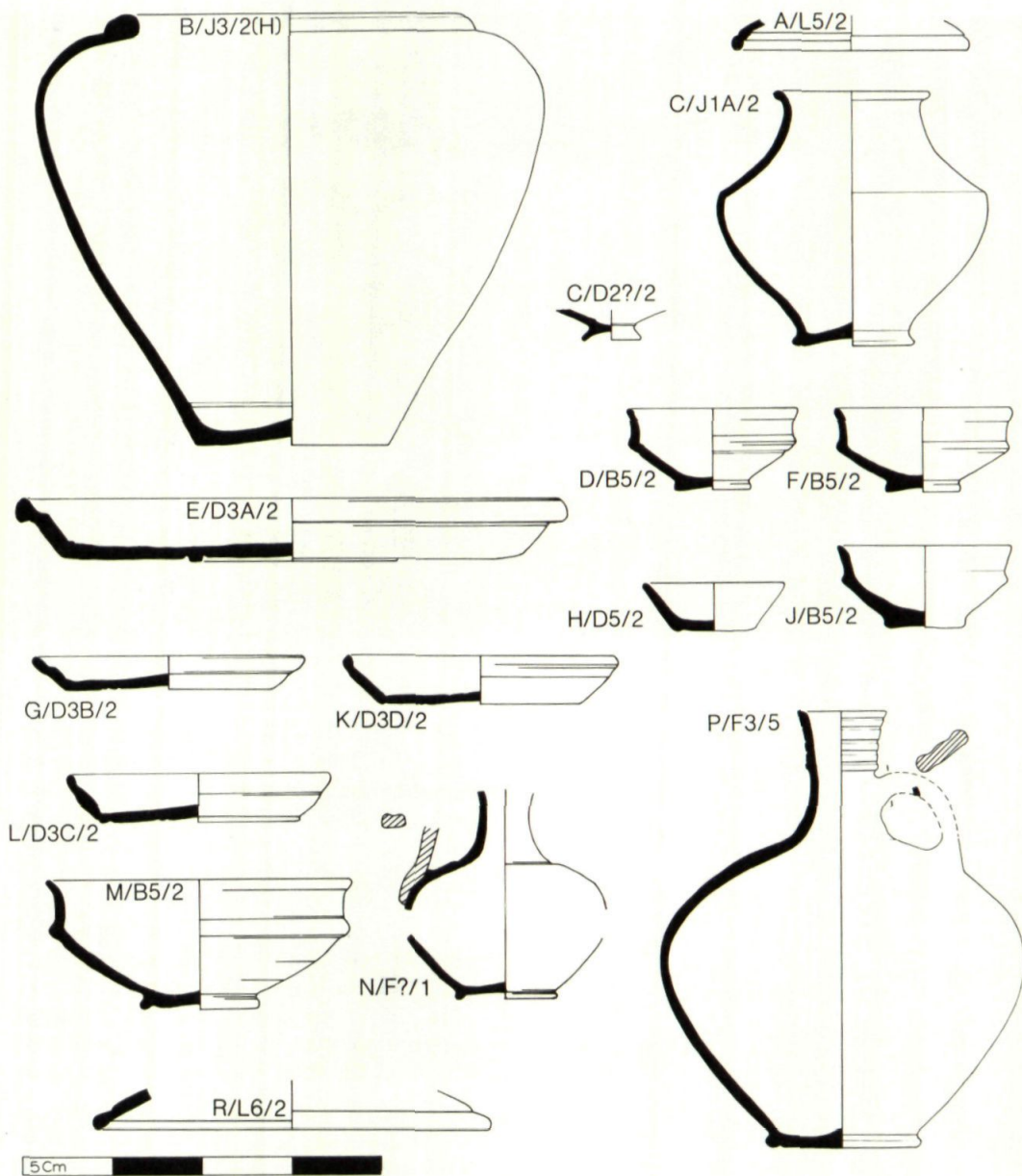


Fig 7. Pottery vessels from Grave 1. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77 (note that Pot C on the plan comprised one whole vessel with fragments of another).

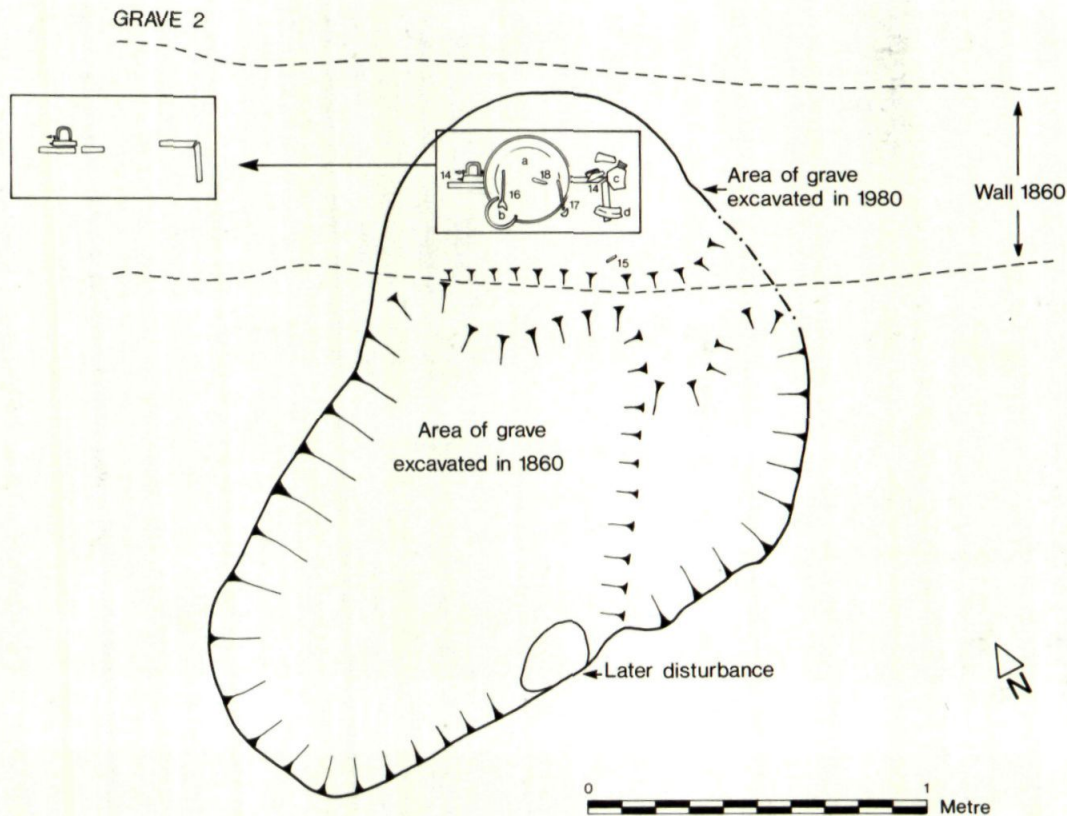


Fig 8. Plan of Grave 2 (context 91).

this particular stamp have been recorded. Stamps from his other dies occur at La Graufesenque (in a Claudio-Neronian group), at Velsen (before AD 47) and in a Tiberio-Claudian grave at Bregenz (*Bonner Jahrbücher* 140-1, 1936, 342). c AD 35-55.

The Glass Vessels from the 1860 excavation by J D Shepherd (Fig 11):

1. (Museum Accession number AOC 880)
Small, square-sectioned bottle, Isings (1957) form 50a.
Mould-blown; bluish-green glass. Rim folded inwards and then flattened down to give a triangular section. Applied handle with two small side spurs. Base design consists of one small circle (diameter c 17mm) with a central dot. Height 82mm, base 49mm by 49mm.
2. (Museum Accession number AOC 880)
As no. 1 but with a pushed-in base. Base design also as no. 1.

These two mould-linked bottles belong to the common series of containers produced from the first until the early third century (see Isings 1975, form 50). Although it may appear to be a simple and perhaps regularly used base design, very few examples of the single circle and central dot motif have been recorded. A fragmentary example, from a bottle of the same size, but not the same mould, comes from Montmaurin, France (Fouet 1969, Fig 14 no 431; also Robertson 1975, Fig 46.5 and Frere 1972, 200, no 5 Fig 75.16)

The Glass Counters from the 1860 excavations by V Snetterton-Lewis (Fig 11):

- (Museum Accession numbers AOC 304.1/21D)
3-10. Eight opaque white glass gaming counters.
11. Single dark blue glass gaming counter.

Gaming counters of this type (often mistaken for stone) are widely found in the Roman Empire and are



Fig 9. Photo of Grave 2 viewed from the north-east, with spoons (16 and 17) and knife (18) *in situ*. (Photo. by Graham Huxley).

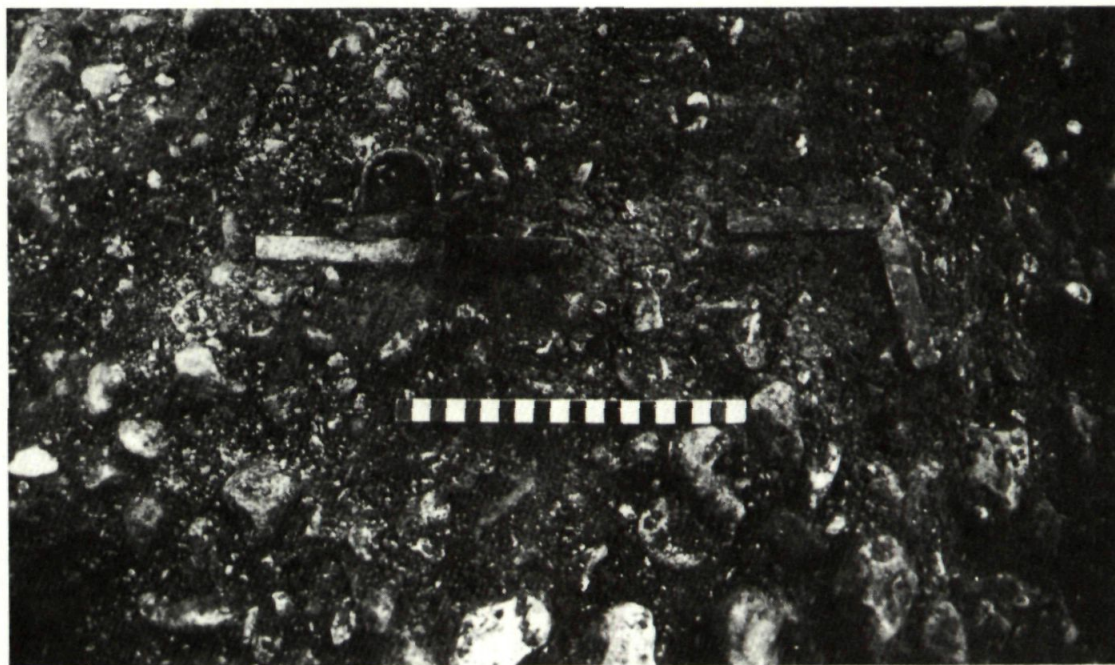


Fig 10. Photo of Grave 2 viewed from the south-west, with the bindings for the board (15) exposed. (Photo. by Graham Huxley).

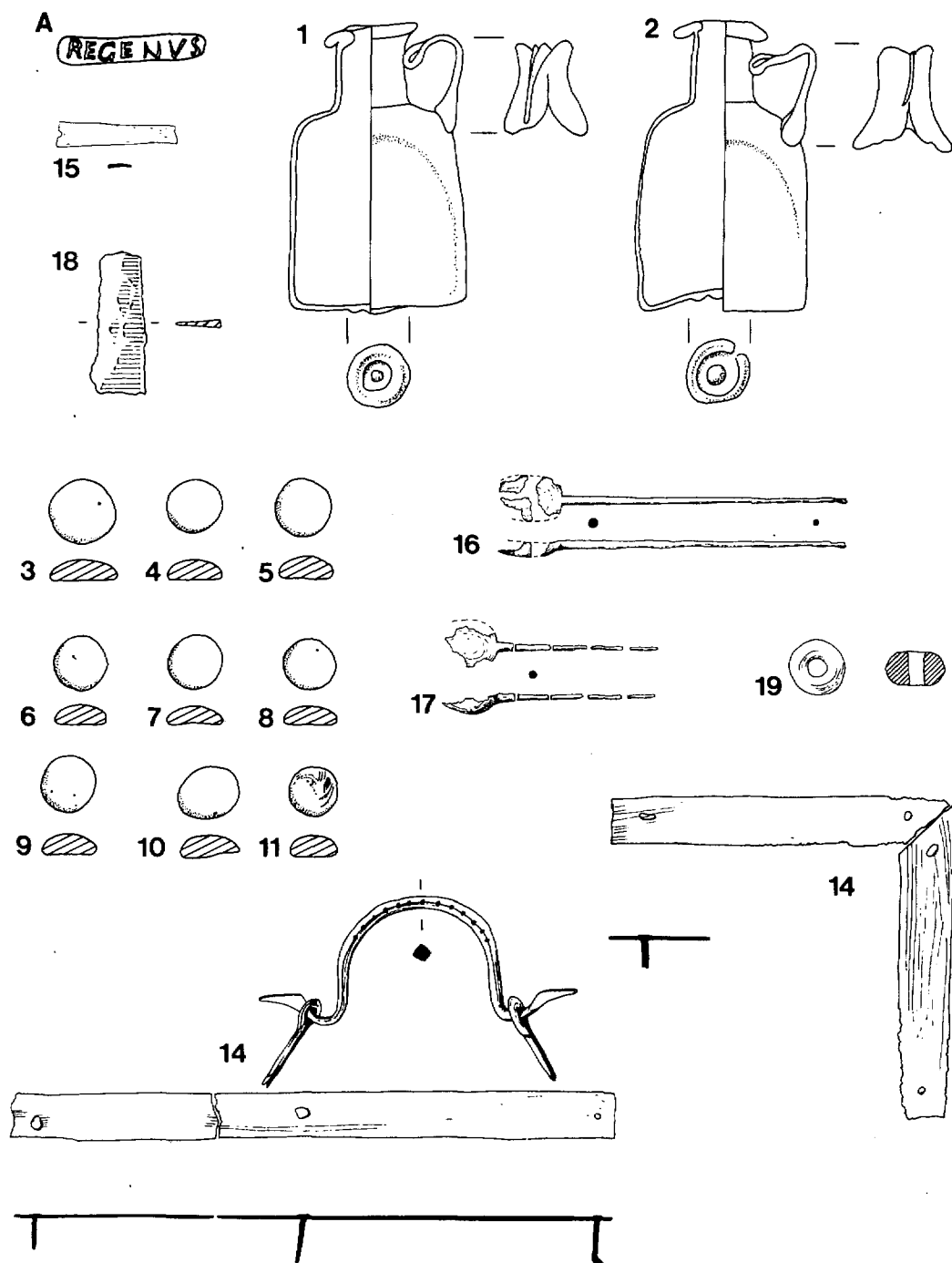


Fig. 11. Small Finds and samian stamp on Pot A from Grave 2. 1 to 11 from the 1860 excavations, remainder from the 1980 investigation. Scale 1:2 except samian stamp at 1:1.

12



Fig 12. Photo of a plaster cast of the impression of the intaglio from Grave 2, 1860 excavation. Scale 2:1. (Photo. Dept of Archaeology, Durham University).

generally of the early Empire. Examples for instance from Tarraco (Archaeological Museum), Czechoslovakia (Kolník 1984, pl. 94), the Corbridge hoard of cAD 105 (in site museum) and from the Grange Road Winchester graves (Biddle 1967, 243 Fig 9). As in this instance (see no 14 below), they are often found in burials associated with gaming boards (Stead 1967; Biddle 1967; Wachter 1978, 160 pl. 70 and especially Whiting *et al*, 1931, pl. LVI). There is a strong probability that they are continental imports.

The Other Grave Goods by Dr Martin Henig (Figs 11 and 12):

12. Gold ring from 1860 excavation (Fig 12), the present whereabouts of which is unknown. It is described from Buckland's (White 1887, 464,

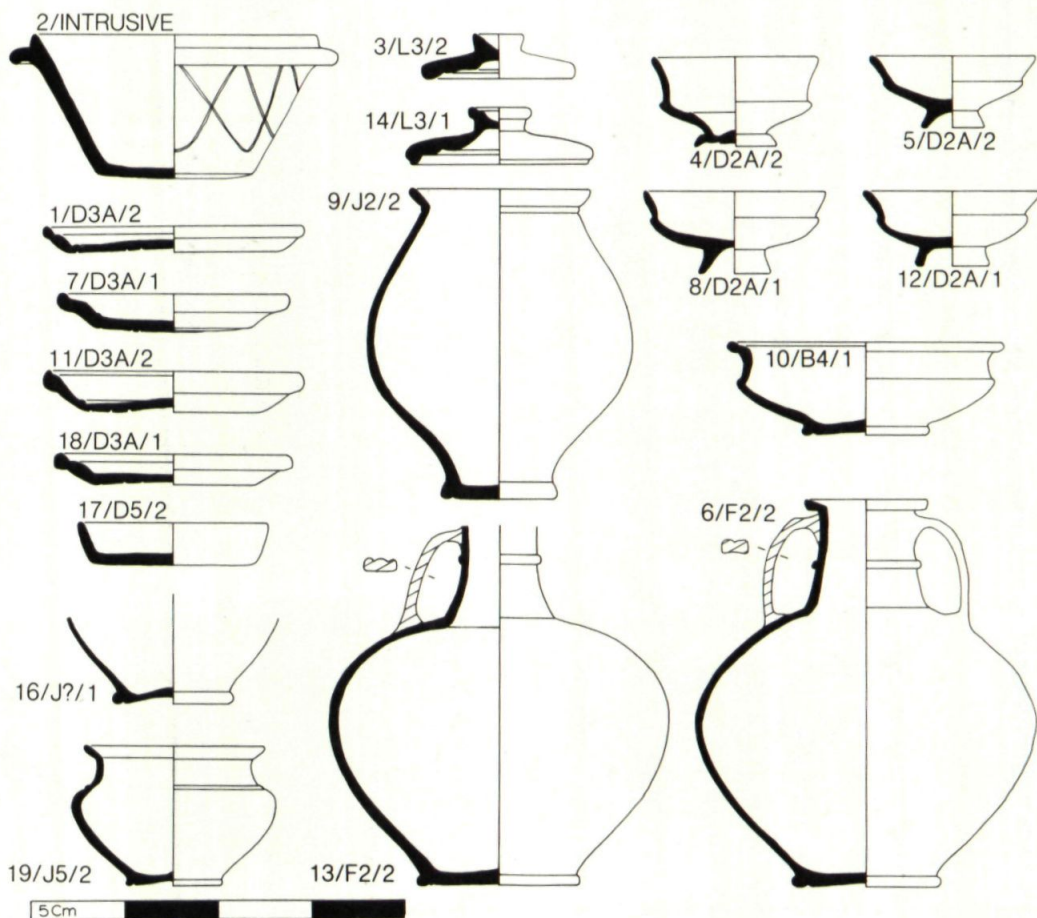


Fig 13. Pottery vessels from 1860 investigation of Grave 2. Scale 1:4. (Note the first number used is the Museum accession number – prefixed 304.1; the remainder of the code follows the conventions given on p. 77. Number 2 is Black Burnished ware, category 1, certainly intrusive, and no. 19 was unlocated although the accession register description shows it to have been a form D2A in fabric 1).

note 2) account and a wax impression of the intaglio in the museum collection. It is described as 'carnelian' (*sic*) on the old museum label, but by Buckland as 'a signet-ring of onyx set in gold. . . . On this seal are engraved four small figures, set upright, parallel to each other, those in the centre representing an amphora and an ear of bearded corn, between an axe with fasces on one side and a quiver with arrows on the other.' It was clearly an oval stone with flat upper surface measuring 11 mm by 9 mm. On the left is a steering-oar with rudder (not an axe with fasces) then a club (rather than an amphora), an ear of corn and a quiver with arrows. These are the symbols respectively of Fortuna, Hercules, Ceres and Diana and they evoke the powers of protection, salvation and fecundity in field and woods bestowed by the deities.

It belongs to a large class of symbolic types, and may be compared with an intaglio from Hod Hill showing a steering-oar and rudder, corn-ear and cornucopia and another from Waddon Hill depicting corn-ear, club, steering-oar and rudder and palm-spray (Henig 1978, 236, pl. xiii, 405–6). The gem exhibits the crisp, neat style of cutting characteristic of the second half of the first century BC, the Augustan age and the Julio-Claudian period, when, indeed, symbolic devices were very popular.

Its discovery in a cremation is exceptional, for signet-rings are seldom found in graves – at least in Britain (Henig 1978, 50–2) perhaps because

they were generally needed by the heir to prove succession. Suetonius quotes Seneca in reporting that Tiberius on his deathbed 'took off his ring as if to give it to someone but held fast to it for a time; then he put it back on his finger' (Suetonius *Tiberius*, lxx); the indecision of a man who did not know where he wished to bestow the empire! The most frequent reason for not handing on a ring was, however, probably the youth of the owner (i.e. it belonged to someone without heirs), and here we may recall the gold ring set with a gem showing 'two ears of corn from Bartlow Barrow no 2, in the cremation of a child dated by a coin to the reign of Hadrian or later (Gage 1834, pl. iii Fig 6). We may also note the intaglio from Burial XXXV at Skeleton Green (Henig in Partridge 1981, 273–5, pl. viii). It should be noted that sumptuary laws prohibited the use of gold rings save by people of senatorial and, especially, of equestrian rank (Marshall 1907, xix–xx). This rule was relaxed late in the Empire, but would surely have been in force at the relatively early date that the Alton ring was worn. The ring thus tells us something of the status of the deceased.

13. A Die. Mentioned on the old museum label but not traced in the present museum collection.

14a–d Wooden tray. This is represented by four plates of copper alloy width 14 mm (lengths 114, 99, 90 and 60 mm) pierced by cleated nails, suggesting a thickness of c 10 mm. Two of the plates (lengths 99 and 90 mm) each have one short edge cut at an angle of 45° to make a right

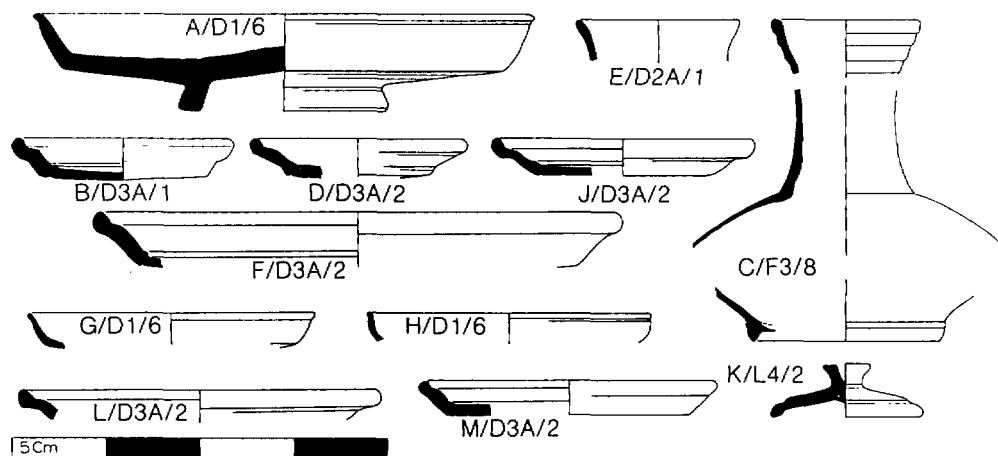


Fig 14. Pottery vessels from the 1980 excavation of Grave 2. Scale 1:4. Vessels A to D shown on the grave plan; the remainder are from contexts which appear to derive from it. For conventions see p. 77. For the stamp on Pot A see Fig 11.

angle join for a corner. The tray was carried by means of a drop handle, of rectangular section in the centre, ornamented with notches, affixed by means of split pins (length 90mm).

The position of the pieces in the grave suggests that the handle was assymmetrically placed on the side of the tray, the total length of which was c 600mm. Whether there was a corresponding handle on the other long side is unknown. Stead (1967, 31–6) has also published a board from a grave which he interprets as a gaming-board. Here the fittings are of iron. We should also note the shale board, described as a trencher, from a Flavian gale at Winchester (Biddle 1967, 233–4, Fig 6). The presence of gaming pieces in that grave may also suggest that it too is a gaming-board.

15. Tapering strip of copper alloy, perhaps part of the trim of the tray (no 14) on the basis of its location within the grave. Length 34mm.
- 16–17 Two spoons (*cochleare*), copper alloy, tinned or silvered. Lengths 94mm and 85mm. Type as Strong (1966) Fig 32. Note the examples from graves at Ospringe (Whiting *et al* 1931, 32 pl. LIX Group XCVII) and Winchester (Biddle 1967, 242–3, no 19).
18. Fragment of iron knife blade.
19. Annular bead of light green glass. Diameter 16mm, string hole 5mm. Cf. Guido (1978) group 6 (iia). Derived from grave; found in the backfill of the 1860 excavation.

The Animal Bone by Mark Maltby:

Cattle upper second premolar (in wear).

Cattle first-phalanx; complete, proximal fused; superficial medio-lateral chop mark on proximal posterior towards medial and oblique chop mark on anterior of shaft. Marks probably made during skinning. Exostosis on shaft on medial and posterior aspects.

Unidentified sheep-sized mammal tibia fragment – shaft fragment towards proximal, anterior aspect.

Unidentified large mammal fragment.

GRAVE 3 (Figs 15–19): Sub-rectangular grave pit, c 200mm deep with a flat bottom. Some of the vessels have sherds from their upper parts missing, perhaps suggesting slight post-depositional disturbance. The cremation, found in Pot F (covered by a lid, Pot E), was an adult of indeterminate sex. The grave goods, including a cosmetic set, suggest a female.

Pottery (Figs 18–19): A total of twenty-two vessels were recovered, and there is no evidence that any others

GRAVE 3

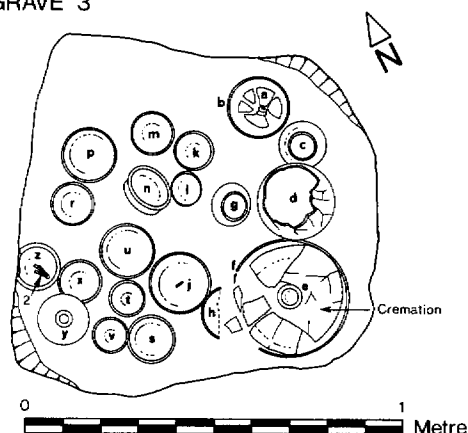


Fig 15. Plan of Grave 3 (context 89).

ever existed. They are summarised in Tables 1 and 3. *The Samian Stamp on Pot J by Brenda Dickinson (Fig 17):* Form 18, stamped OFSILVIN with die 3a' of Silvinius i of La Graufesenque. This is from a broken die, which originally gave OFSILVIN. Stamps from the complete die occur in Claudio-Neronian groups of Narbonne, La Nautique (Fiches *et al.* 1979, 218 no 80). He almost certainly worked entirely in the Pre-Flavian period, though his stamps turn up occasionally in Flavian contexts. c AD 40–65.

The Objects of Copper Alloy by Dr Martin Henig (Fig 17):

1. Lid of small circular box or *pyxys*, copper alloy, circular, diameter 26mm. Upper sheet of lid is of thin copper alloy with concentric mouldings. The lower sheet is thicker with an extension on one side to take a hinge. There is a simple bar-stop on the underside. The two sheets are joined with an iron rivet. Found with cremation in Pot F.
2. Cosmetic set: tweezers, nail-cleaner and ear-scoop. The nail cleaner is of a distinctive form, expanding towards the centre. The three items hang from a bar, the ends of which are joined to the terminals of a loop. Length 60mm. A similar toilet-set is published by Wedlake (1958, 259, no 3, Fig 59).

The Animal Bone from Pot D by Mark Maltby:

Examination of the bones from the flotation samples revealed that they belonged mainly to a mole (skull, mandible, six vertebrae, two ribs, humerus), which of course could have been intrusive and not from the original grave filling. There were also two unidentified phalanges of a species of bird.

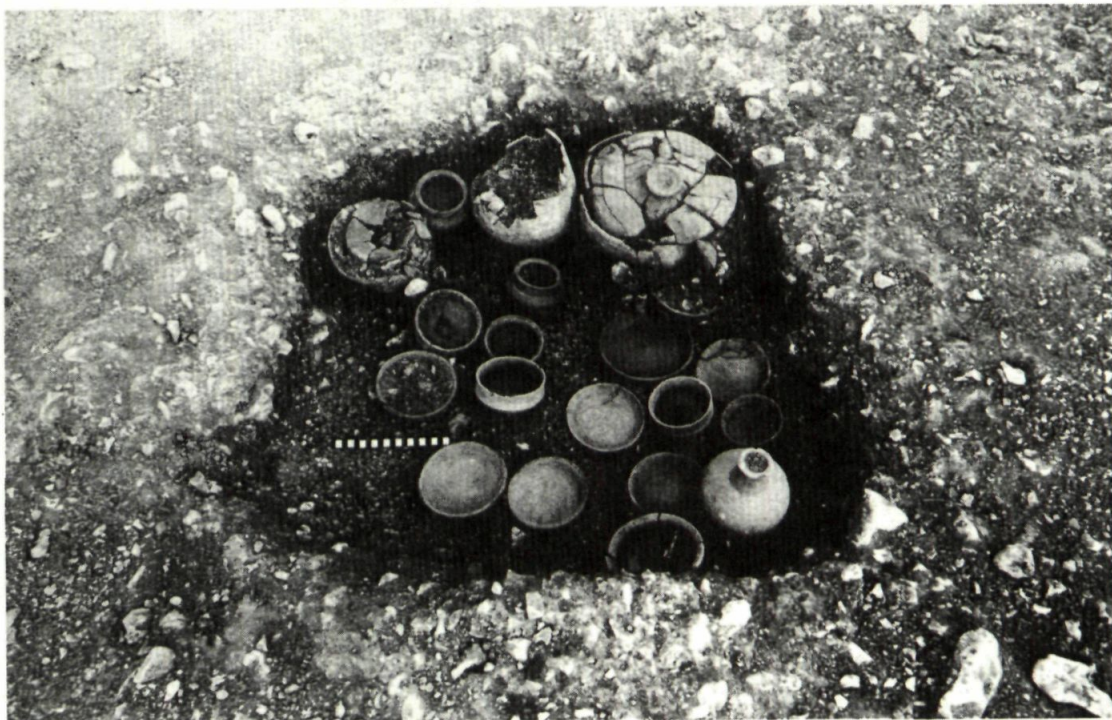


Fig 16. Photo showing Grave 3 viewed from north-west. (Photo by Graham Huxley).

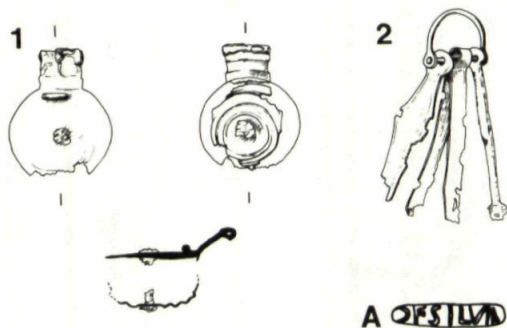


Fig 17. Small Finds and samian stamp on Pot J from Grave 3. Scale 1:2 except samian stamp at 1:1.

GRAVE 4 (Figs 20–22): Elongated, sub-rectangular pit *c* 150mm deep and badly disturbed. The neck of the flagon (Pot B) had protruded through the ground surface after the post-medieval truncation. Much disturbed material from the grave was also recovered from post-medieval features which cut the grave. This

enables us to reconstruct some of the other contents of the grave. A small quantity of cremated bone from the grave fill demonstrates that the interment was adult, although the sex is indeterminate. The finger ring and fragment of cosmetic set derived from the grave suggests a female.

The Pottery (Fig 22): A total of fourteen vessels from the grave can be identified, although it is almost certain that others were originally present. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

The Objects of Copper Alloy by Dr Martin Henig (Fig 21):

1. Nail-cleaner, expanded in middle; V-shaped end; circular piercing in head for attachment to other items of toilet-set. Length 53mm. The type is published by Cunliffe (1971 Vol 2, 109–110, nos 67–71 Fig 42 – first century AD).

Found in layer 62, clearly derived from the grave.

2. Finger ring, bronze. Wrap-around terminals with central twist to create a bezel. Diameter 21mm. The type belongs to an Iron Age tradi-

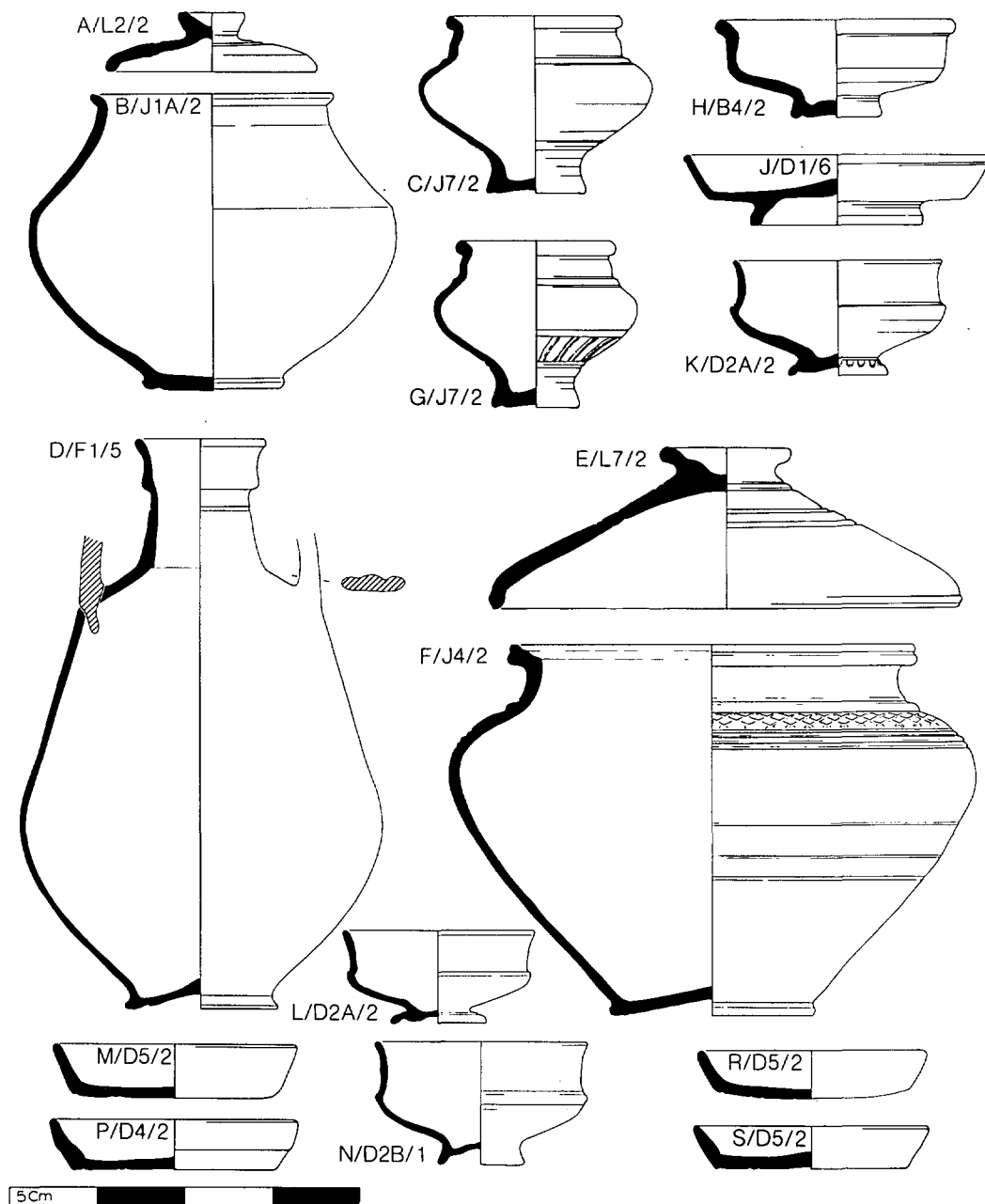


Fig 18. Pottery vessels A to S from Grave 3. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77.

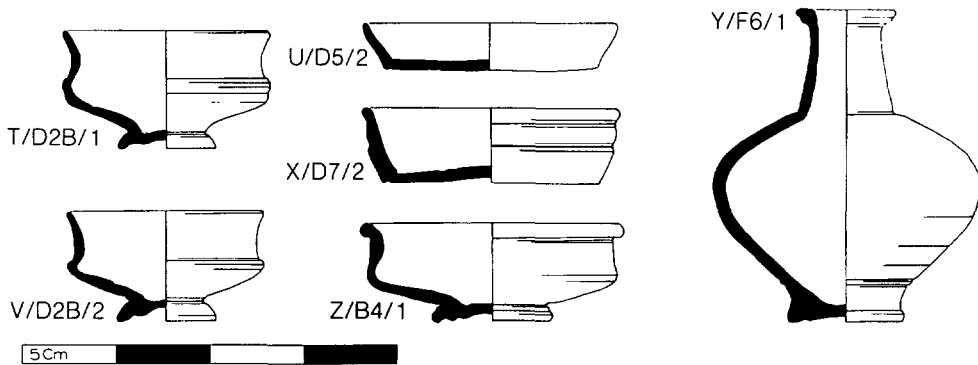


Fig 19. Pottery vessels T to Z from Grave 3. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77.

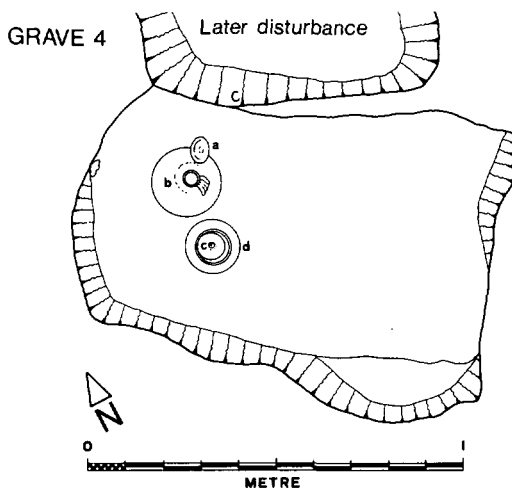


Fig 20. Plan of Grave 4 (context 90).

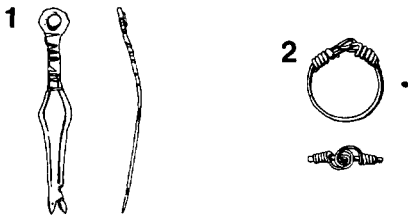


Fig 21. Small Finds derived from Grave 4. Scale 1:2.

tion (Henkel 1913, 74 and 228, pl. xxix nos 712-6). A variant of the type is represented at Ospringe (Whiting *et al.* 1931, pl. LVII Fig 1 group LXII).

Found in layer 133, clearly derived from the grave.

GRAVE 5 (Figs 23-29): Large grave in deep pit, slightly disturbed at the surface by a nineteenth century feature and showing root damage near its base although otherwise intact. The grave pit, which was sub-rectangular, had steep, square-cut sides and was c 550mm deep with a flat bottom. The material within the grave comprised two deposits: the upper 200mm of the grave containing a mass of broken pottery, and a scatter of animal bone and cremated human bone. The lower part of the grave contained the majority of the pots, together with the other grave goods. This deposit, which included the cremation, had been covered with earth and levelled before the upper material was introduced. In the lower fill the vessels were concentrated in the north-west corner of the grave. A concentration of ironwork and fittings from a casket lay just west of the centre of the grave. To the north of this, beneath Pot MM were the remains of a bronze bound casket (No 3 below) which had contained the two brooches. On the eastern side of the grave was an inverted horse skull. The cremation, contained in Pot PP (covered by a lid, Pot U), had been placed in the grave early in the sequence of infilling. The individual was mature (25+ years) but of indeterminate sex although the grave goods which include a cosmetic set, suggest a female.

The Pottery (Figs 26-29): Thirteen vessels came from the upper fill; forty (plus three sherds) came from the lower fill. These are summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

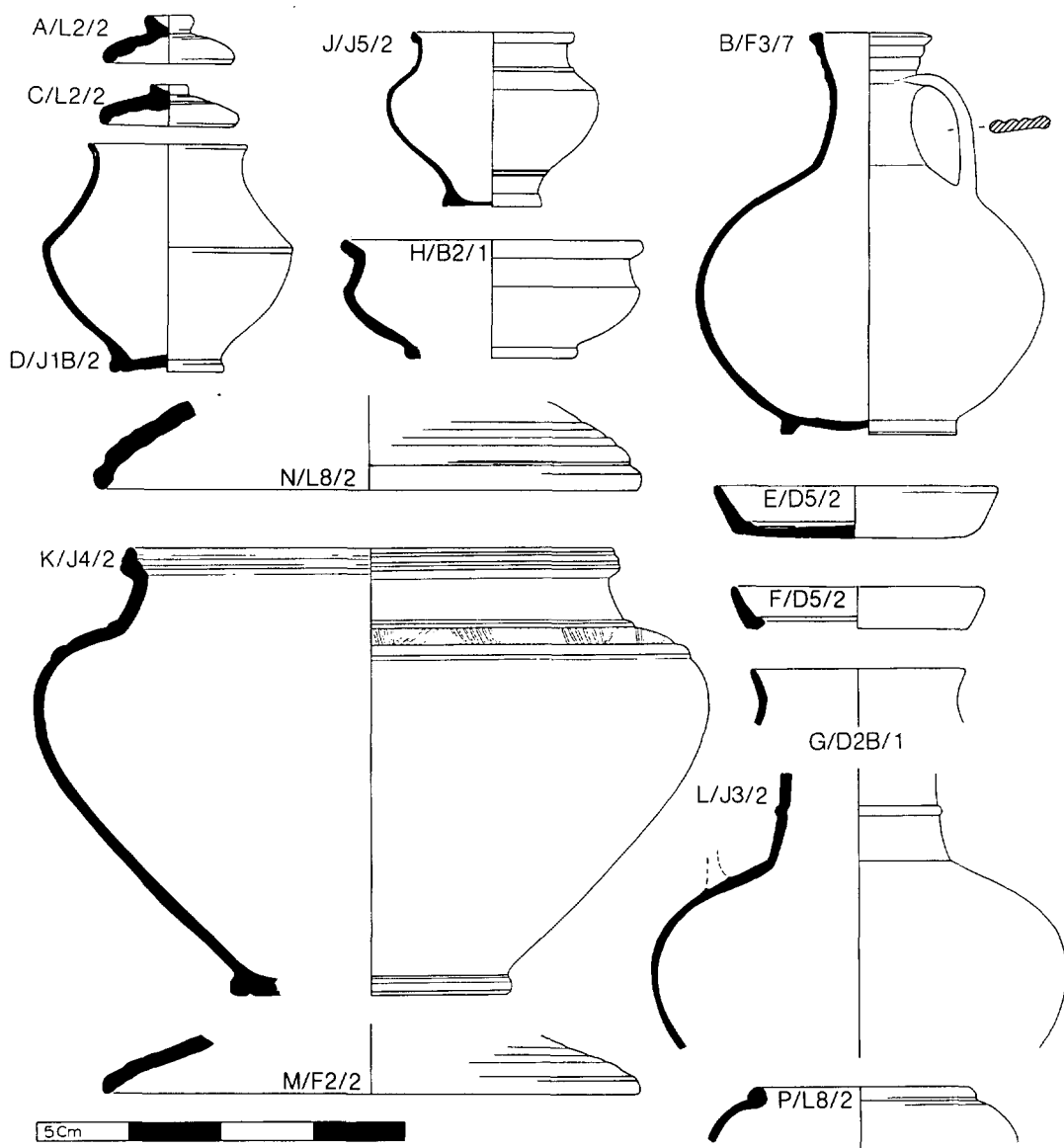


Fig 22. Pottery from Grave 4. Scale 1:4. Vessels A to D are shown on the Grave plan; the remainder are from contexts derived from the grave. For conventions see p. 77.

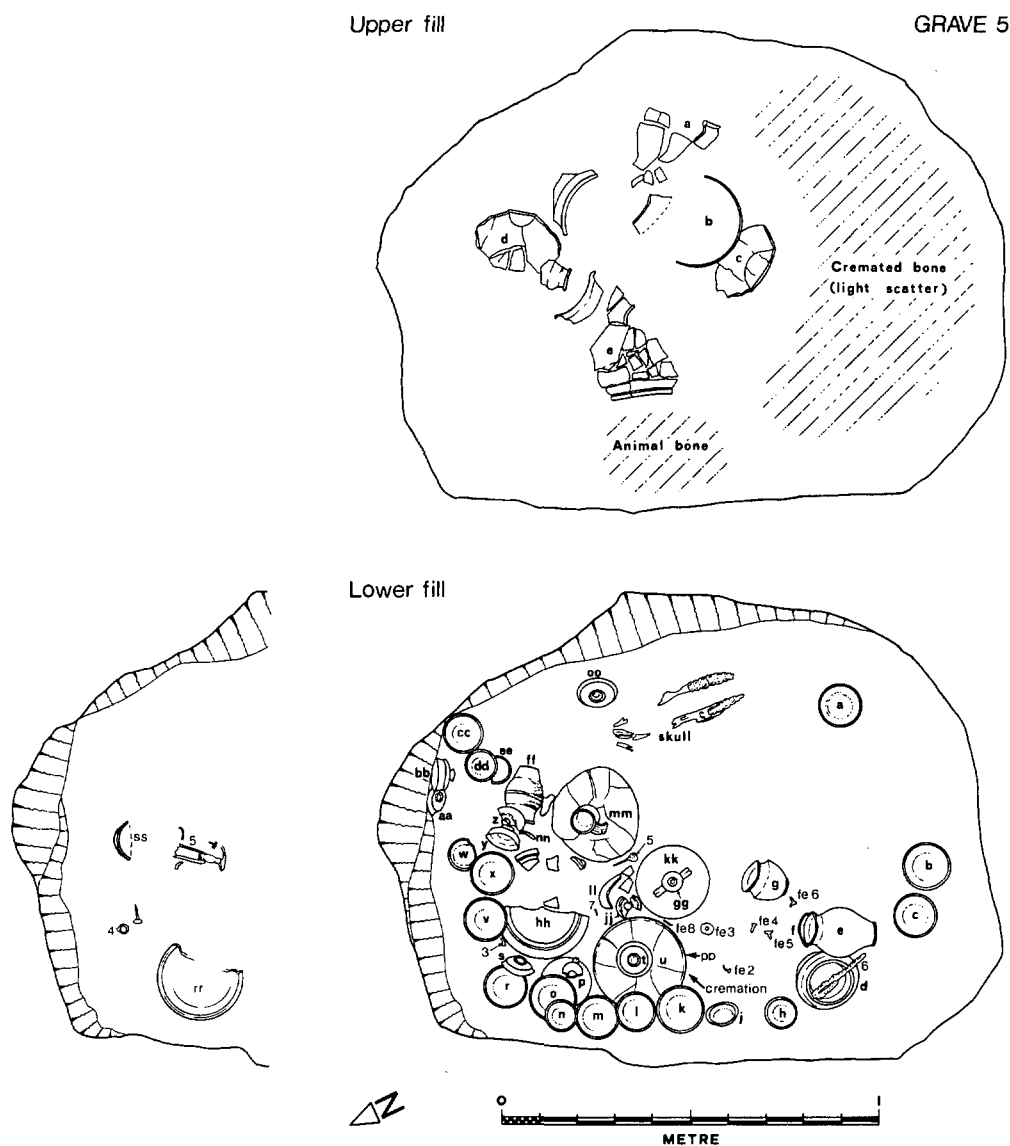


Fig 23. Plans of Grave 5 (upper fill, context 69; lower fill; context 88, with inset showing material obscured beneath vessels at the northern end of the grave).

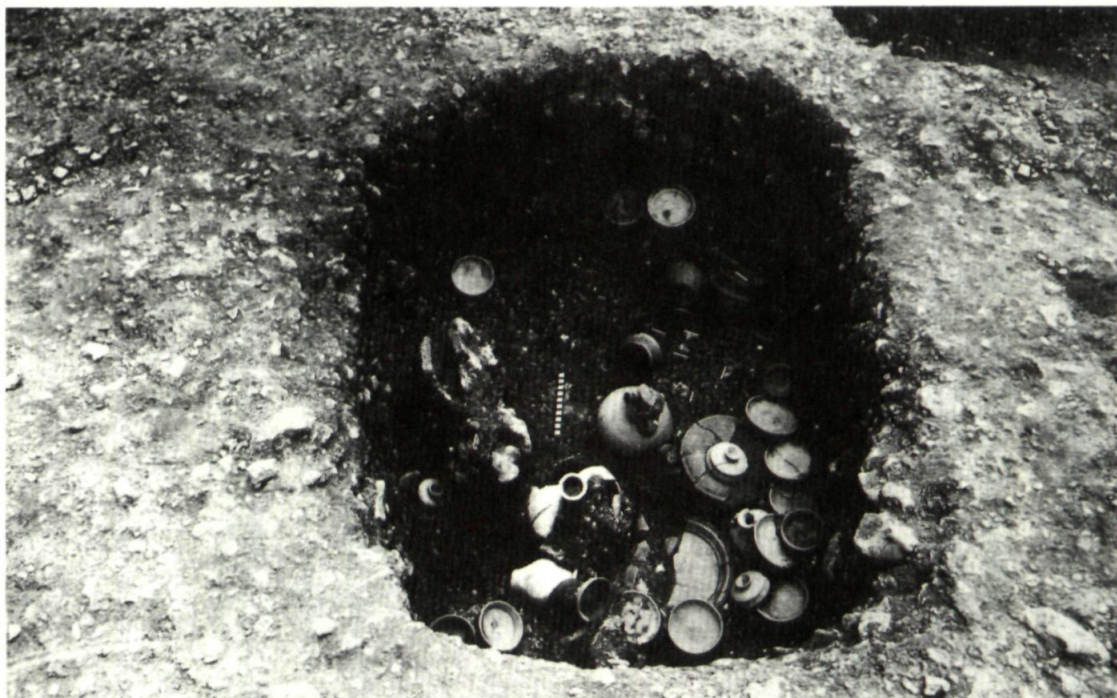


Fig 24. Photo showing Grave 5, lower fill, from the north-east. The match-sticks indicate the position of iron objects. (Photo by Graham Huxley).

There is little doubt that the entire assemblage originally deposited is present.

The Brooches by D F Macreth (Fig 25):

1. 36mm long. Colchester type. The spring has seven coils. The hook is long and tucked in well round the chord of the spring. One wing is obscured by iron corrosion, the other has six closely set grooves. The bow has a near right angle at the head and only a slight curve in its profile. On the front are three rectangular panels each with diagonal cross-cuts. The rest of the bow is chamfered down each side, and down the central face on the upper part of the bow to just below the second panel is a carefully made groove. The catch-plate has a large single piercing and has, along the back and return, a ridge at the top.

The writer has not recorded a parallel for the individual design on this brooch. However, two features betray it as a late specimen in the general sequence of the Colchester type: the grooved wing and the framed catch-plate. Initially, the articulation found on the front face of

the wings of some examples seems to imitate the spacing of the coils of the spring behind, but as the type began to change towards those that were to become its descendants, the patterning also changes. Commonly, it begins to adopt the alternating rhythm which is often found on the more elaborate of the derivative forms. The alternative to this decorative trick is the closely set grooving found here. The catch-plate of early Colchesters is often fretted and the tendency is for the piercings to become fewer and circular holes are known. In general, piercings are found only on brooches larger than the present example. Much would depend upon the degree of work lavished on a piece and it can be seen that the present specimen is more carefully detailed than is usually the case, no matter what the size of the piece is. The size of the piercing here is such that the catch-plate is merely a frame and, with the ridge across the top, recalls a not very common set of features found on early Colchester Derivatives. The ridge has come to the notice of the writer before on the Colchester and again in conjunction with aberrant decoration both on

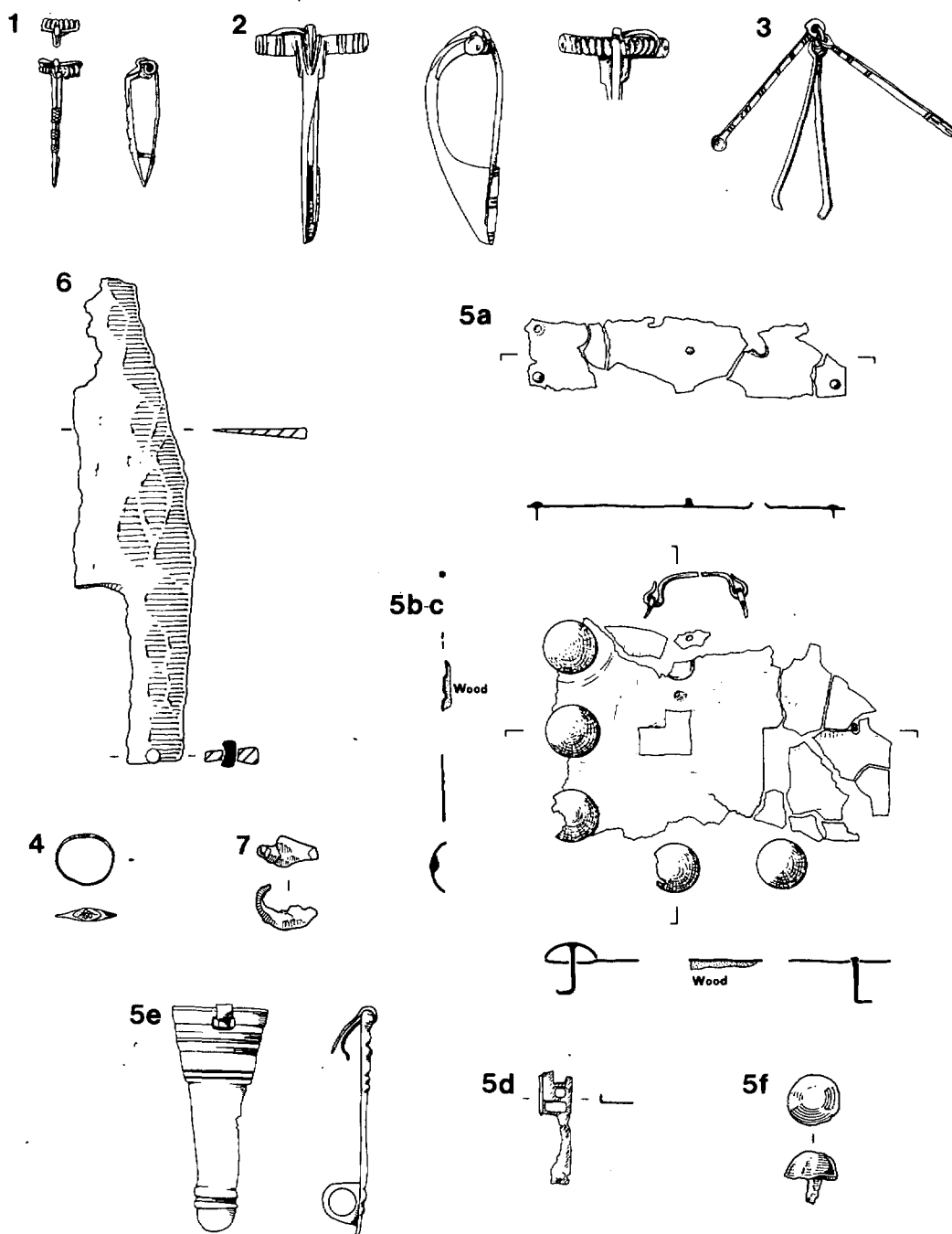


Fig 25. Small Finds from Grave 5. Scale 1:2.

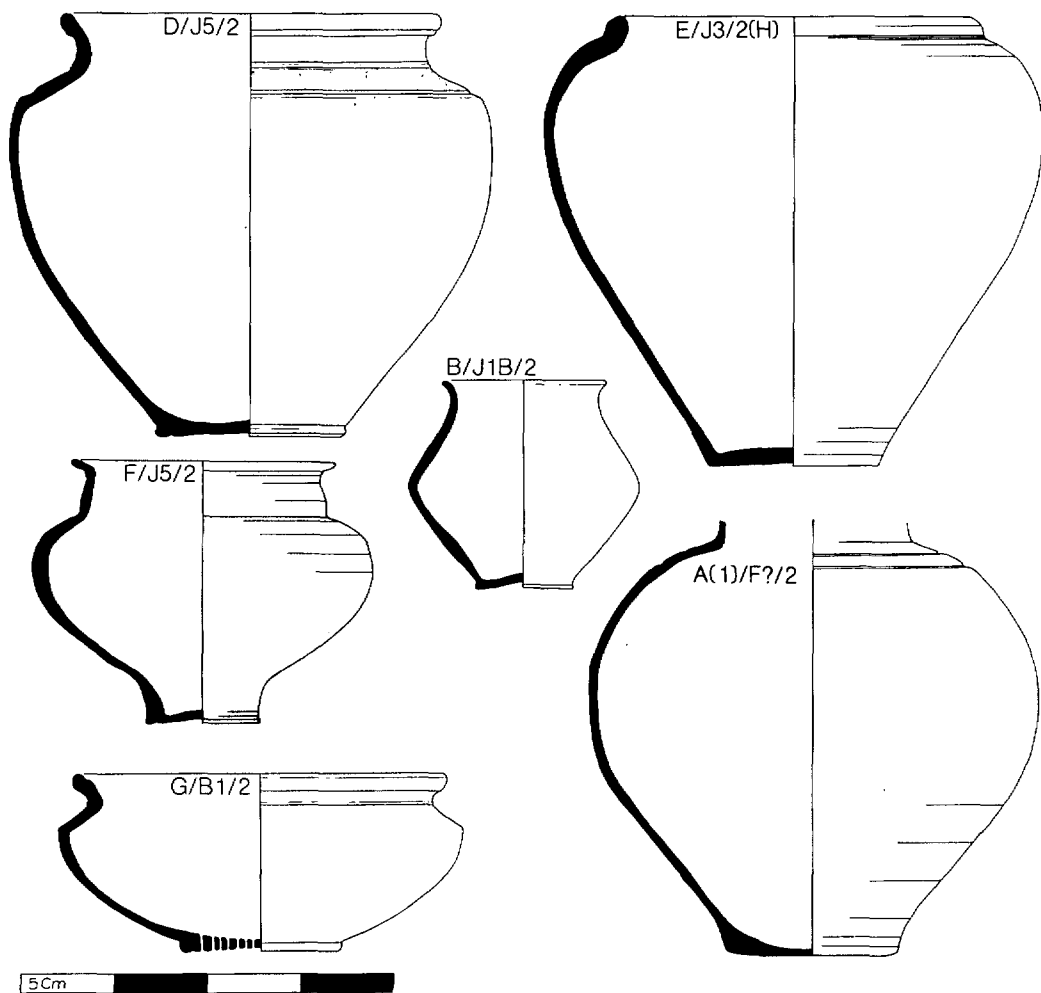


Fig 26. Pottery vessels from the upper fill of Grave 5. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77. (Note Pot A on the plan comprised two vessels, see also Fig. 27).

the wings and hook (from Canterbury, unpublished). The ridge appears on what might have been one of the first experiments both in the change in the functional arrangement of the spring and hook and in the technique of manufacture: the hook and spring were both wires cast in the body of the brooch and the hook faces the rear (from Eccles, unpublished). However, the main derivative which seems to have the greatest occurrence of large piercings and ridges on the catch-plate is the 'Harlow' (Partridge 1981, 137, Fig 69, 25; Bushe-Fox 1932, 77 pl. ix, 10). This is the one form which should have

developed before the Conquest. The Skeleton Green specimen was found in an ambiguous context, but as the brooch is the only Colchester Derivative in a remarkably early collection, it should have been made before the Conquest, even if lost afterwards. The three main varieties of pin-fixing arrangement on the derivative family had all come into being so soon after the arrival of the Romans that it is hard to see them as having arisen in the middle 40's of the first century. The bearing that this has on the brooch under discussion is that late Colchesters should be dated before these other systems and hence

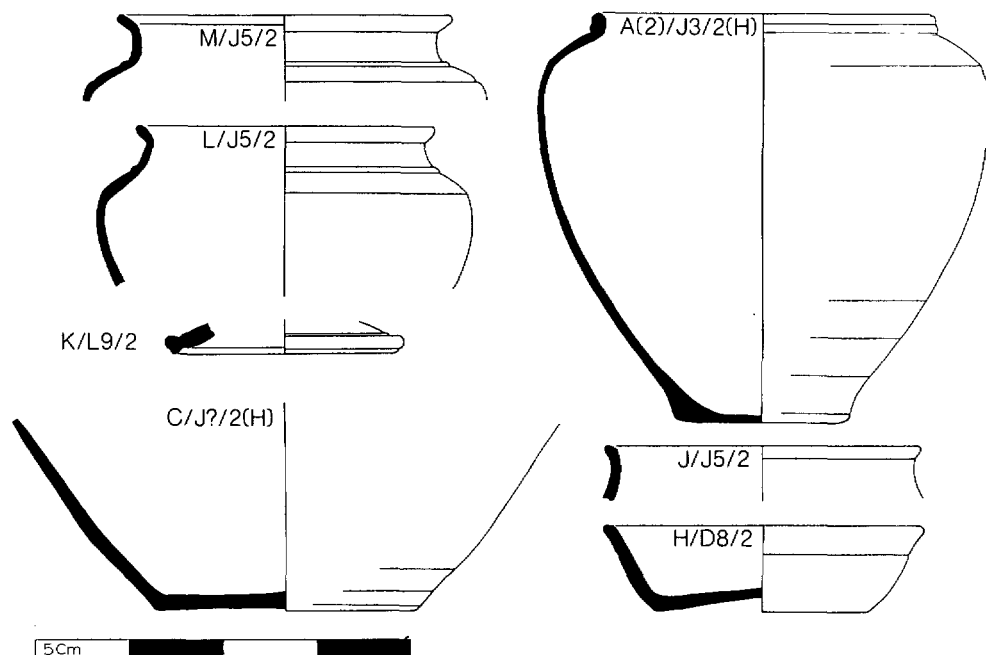


Fig 27. Pottery vessels from the upper fill of Grave 5 with vessels J to M from contexts derived from it. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77. (Note Pot A on the plan comprised two vessels, see also Fig. 26).

the most likely range for them is *c* AD 30–40. The argument is largely typological as so few dated specimens are known and it may be that these additional traits pointing towards the various types of Colchester Derivative had begun to appear at an earlier date. However, the evidence is lacking at present. (Found with no 5 below).

2. Colchester Derivative. The spring is held by the Polden Hill method: an axis bar in the coils of the spring is seated at each end in pierced plates at the ends of the wings; the chord passes through a pierced lug mounted on the head of the bow. Each wing is moulded fairly crudely with two groups of three vertical grooves, the outer set being obvious attempts to create the common form of two buried ridges divided by a flute. The lug on the head is carried down a short way to die out in the V formed by two converging ridges. The bow has, each side of the head, an additional moulding. The rest of the bow is plain and tapers to a pointed foot. The catch-plate is solid with its return decorated with three groups of grooves equally spaced along its length.

The group to which this brooch belongs has its main distribution in south-west England, and as it spreads out across the southern counties eastwards, it becomes more sparse in its incidence. Precise parallels are lacking, but the dated specimens which follow are very close, the chief variations being piercings in the catch-plate and the occasional minor emphasis given to the foot by a thin projection or some kind of subdued decoration: Verulamium, probably before AD75 (Lowther 1934); Camerton *c* AD 65–85 (Wedlake 1958, 218, Fig 50.7); Verulamium *c* AD 85–105 (Frere 1972, 114, Fig 29.9). Another with simplified mouldings on the head from Newstead cannot have arrived there before *c* AD 80 (Curle 1911, 318, pl. LXXXV, 4). The dating is largely second half of the first century, but the emphasis appears to be from *c* AD 75, perhaps into the second century. (Found with no 5).

The Other Metal Objects (Fig 25) by Dr Martin Henig:

3. Copper alloy cosmetic set comprising tweezers, nail-cleaner and ear scoop. The nail-cleaner is ornamented by gatherings of the transverse

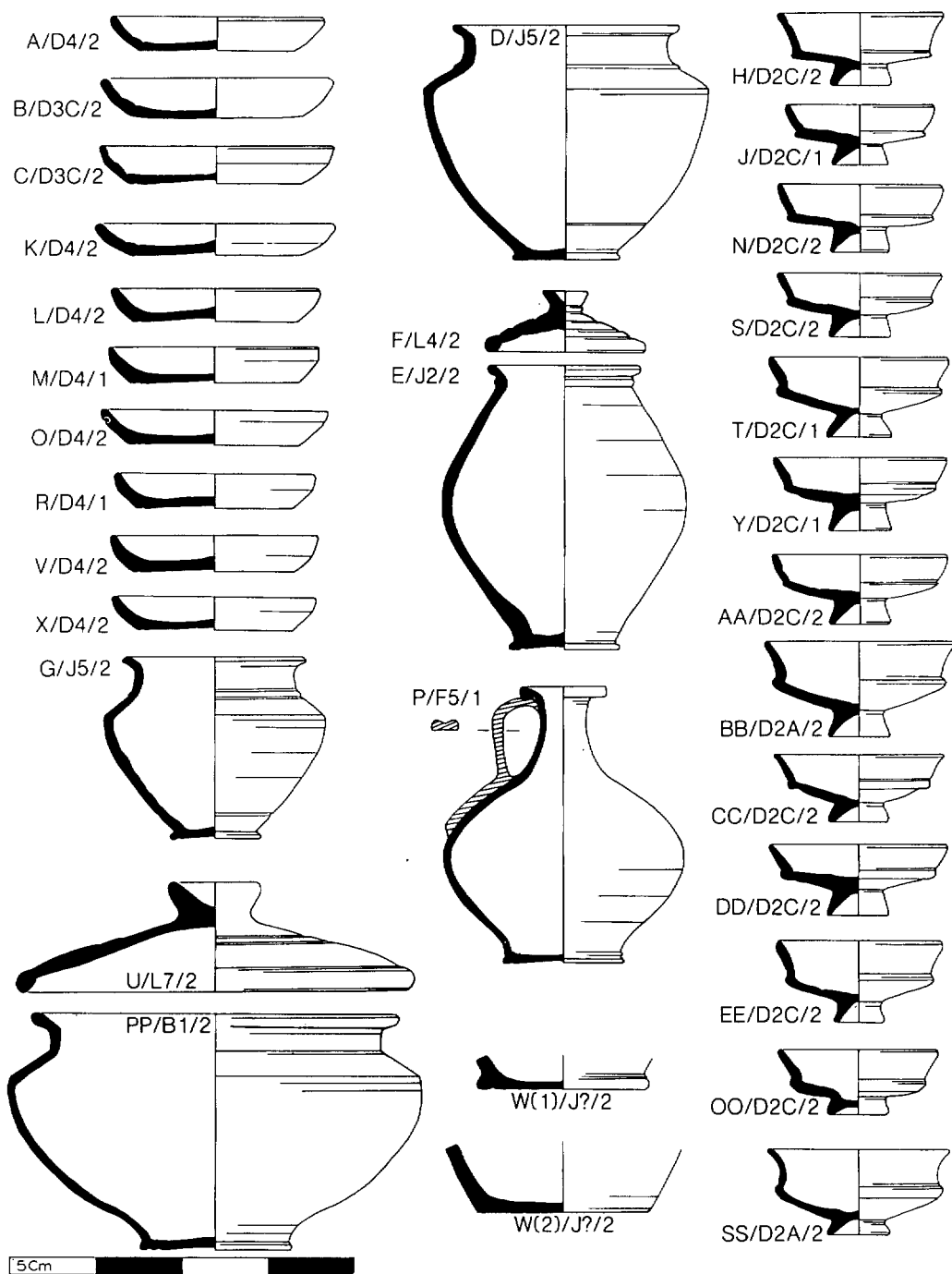


Fig 28. Pottery vessels from Grave 5, lower fill. Scale 1:4. See also Fig. 29. For conventions see p. 77. (Note Pot W on the plan comprised fragments of two vessels).

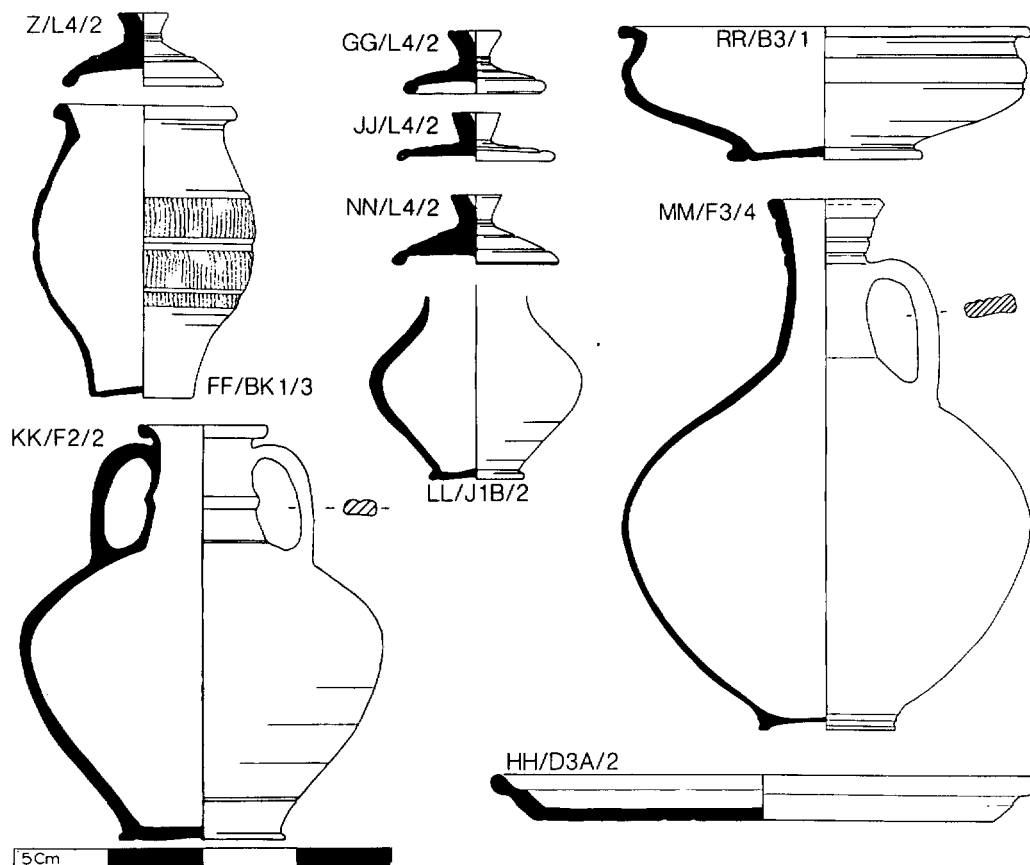


Fig 29. Pottery vessels from Grave 5, lower fill. Scale 1:4. See also Fig. 28. For conventions see p. 77.

striations down front and back, the ear scoop is similarly ornamented (on the front only), tweezers are notched on the sides below the pivot. The three objects are joined by a ring. Total length 51mm.

For toilet sets from burials see Bushe-Fox (1925, 19 pl. iv, 3), May (1930, 272, pl. lxxxiii Grave 69 no 568), and Stead (1967, 27, no VIII, 15 – from Welwyn).

4. Finger ring, copper alloy, expanding towards bezel which carries a lozenge-shaped device in relief. This is ornamented with raised dots. Diameter 17mm. Compare the examples published by Wheeler and Wheeler (1936, 215–6, Fig 47, 81 – Flavian) and Henkel (1913, 83 pl. XXXIII, nos 877–881).
5. Fragments of casket consisting of:

a) Sheet of thin copper alloy, pierced by rivets.

b) Lock plate with L-shaped opening for key. This is set with studs which have domed bosses, points cleated suggesting that the wood of the casket was about 7mm thick.

c) On the lid a drop-handle with terminals folded back, attached by means of split-pins. Length 31mm.

d) Lock tumbler or bolt, length 32mm. Found in Pot FF.

e) Hinged copper alloy hasp. Heavy moulding at top, pierced to take a split-pin which acts as a hinge. The plate tapers, but terminates in a U-shaped end. There are two further mouldings towards the top and two, close together, at the base. The object has a distinctly phallic appear-

ance which may imply that it had an apotropaic function (Turnbull 1978) as well as a practical one. At the back is a loop at right angles for fastening into the lock-plate. Length 63mm.

f) Rivet with domed head.

Similar caskets are known from Colchester (May 1930, 275-6, pl. LXXXV grave 81 no 503 - with identical hasp), Richborough (Cunliffe 1968, 101 and pl. XLIV no 186), Chichester (Down & Rule 1971, 107, Fig 5.16), Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981, 304-21) and Augst (Berger & Martin-Kilcher 1975, Abb 26, p 163).

6. Iron knife; top edge of blade slopes towards point. Flat handle with rivet hole for attachment of bone plates on sides. A similar knife comes from the Hertford Heath grave (Stead 1967, 52, no 20) and the same method of attachment is seen on examples from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 109-110, nos 2934 and 2935). Length 141mm.
7. Corroded iron loop, probably a finger ring with expanded bezel. Diameter 19mm.
8. Eight iron nails, showing wood grain details which reveal that they are the fixings from the corners of a wooden box. Not illustrated.

The Animal Bones by Mark Maltby:

Upper Grave fill: Two sheep/goat lower molars (in wear)

Cattle scapula distal posterior fragment-distal fused.

Lower Grave fill: Horse Skull very fragmentary; mainly maxilla and teeth survive. Wear on teeth suggests it belonged to an animal probably over 15 years of age.

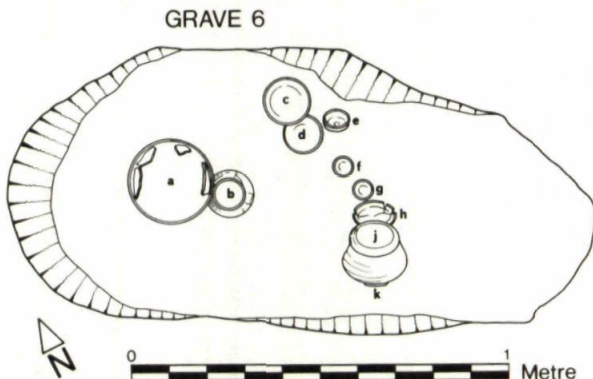


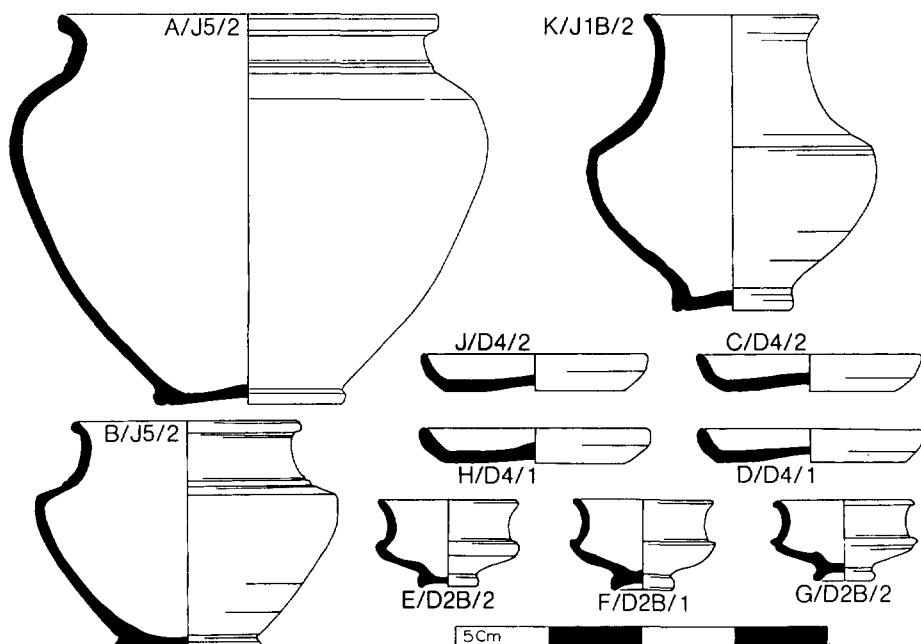
Fig 30. Plan of Grave 6 (context 152).

GRAVE 6 (Figs 30-32): Elongated oval pit, c 300mm deep with steep sides, apparently disturbed because of the absence of a cremation although we may note that another grave of the same tradition from Tilford also has no record of any cremation (Millett 1974). Apart from the ten pottery vessels no other grave goods have been recovered, although it seems likely that the grave has been disturbed.



Fig 31. Photo of Grave 6 viewed from south-east. (Photo by Graham Huxley).

The Pottery (Fig 32): A total of ten vessels were recovered, although it seems probable that others were originally present. The assemblage is summarised in Tables 1 and 3.



GRAVE 7 (Figs 33–35): Sub-rectangular grave, c 450mm deep with steep sides, truncated on the northern side, but apparently only little disturbed. The grave goods occurred in two layers,

with a small group of broken sherds in the upper level and the majority of the grave goods surrounding a casket containing the cremation in the lower level. The layout is closely similar to

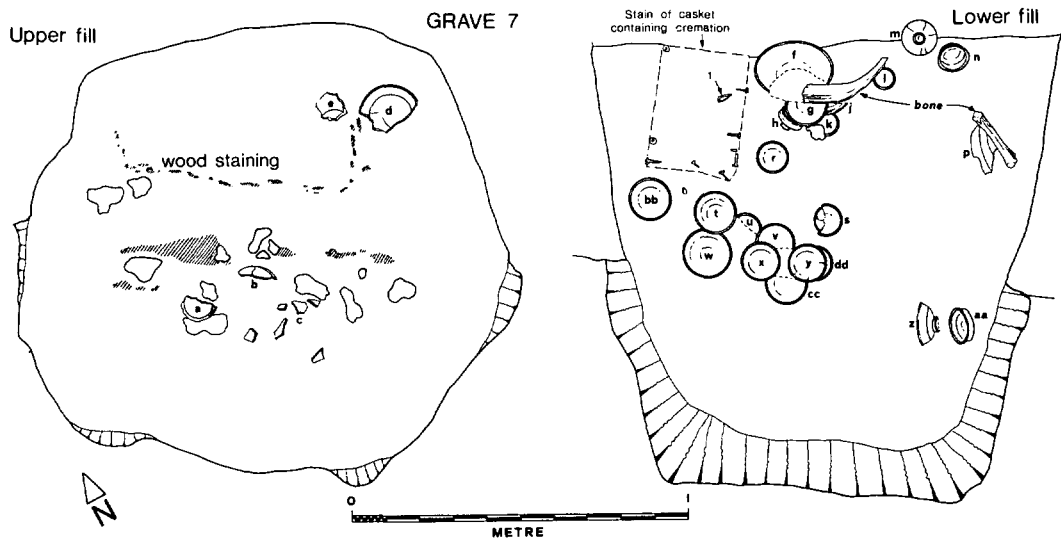


Fig 33. Plans of Grave 7 (upper fill, context 34; lower fill, context 195).

that of Grave 5 with the pots concentrated in the north-west corner and bone on the north-east side. The brooch came from within the casket, but was not burnt, so need not have been worn by the deceased. The body was of a female aged 30+ years.

The upper level, although disturbed, had contained an area of organic matter best interpreted as a rotted board (cf. Grave 9).

The Pottery (Figs 35): Five vessels were recovered from the upper fill, and twenty-two from the lower fill. These are summarised in Tables 1 and 3. There is some doubt about whether the assemblage from the lower fill is intact, because of the disturbance to the north-east. It seems certain that some material has been lost from the upper fill as a result of Victorian disturbance.

The Brooch by D F Macreth (Fig 34):

1. Hod Hill type. The axis bar of the hinged pin is housed in the usual rolled-over head of the bow.

The upper bow has a cross moulding at its top and bottom, an arris down the centre and, on each side of that, four diagonal cuts filled with niello. The pattern formed is, essentially, V-shaped and confined to the upper part. The lower bow is stepped back, has a slightly rounded front and continues the taper on the upper bow down to a simple strongly projecting foot-knob. The brooch was tinned or silvered.

No Hod Hill brooch has yet been published from a Pre-Conquest context. The type arrives

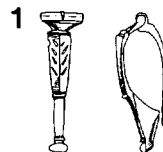


Fig 34. Brooch from Grave 7. Scale 1:2.

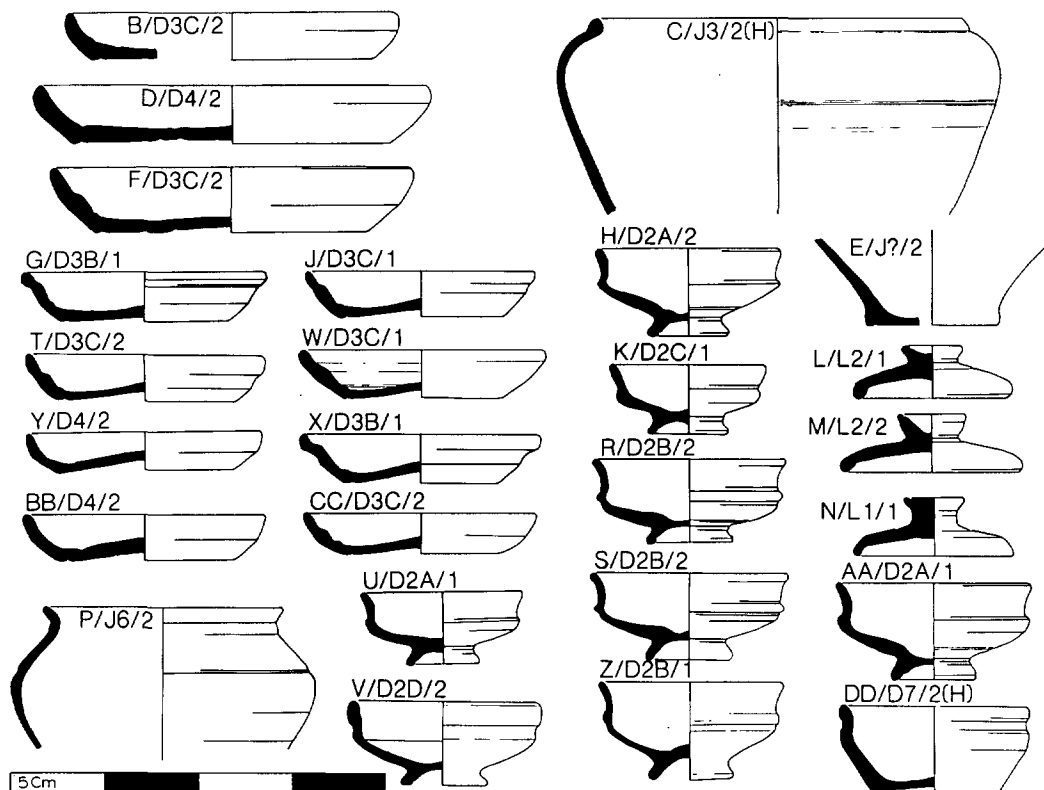


Fig 35. Pottery vessels from Grave 7: A to E from upper fill; F to DD from lower fill. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77.

in quantity with the army of invasion. The distribution and dating of the type show that it continued in common usage until *c* AD 60, but had mainly passed out of use by *c* AD 70. Few should be expected to last beyond *c* AD 75. Parallels are not usually expected amongst the great variety of designs to be found on Hod Hills, but there are sufficient in this instance to indicate that it had become a relatively popular pattern. It may be noted that the profile is straight and the foot-knob simple. However, there are not enough dated specimens to tell if these are signs that the design is late in the overall sequence.

The Ironwork by V. Snetterton-Lewis:

2-15. Fourteen iron nails all from the burial casket (not illustrated). The details of the wood grain revealed by the conservation show that the sides and floor of the casket were *c* 13mm thick.

The Animal Bone by Mark Maltby:

Upper fill: Sheep parietal fragment; chopped right through in a postero-anterior direction to remove brain; suture fused.

Lower fill: Cattle right femur, 75% of shaft.
Cattle mandible fragment

GRAVE 8 (Figs 36-38): Sub-rectangular pit, disturbed by a Victorian pit on the eastern side. This disturbance contained no material that can be shown to have derived from the grave, so

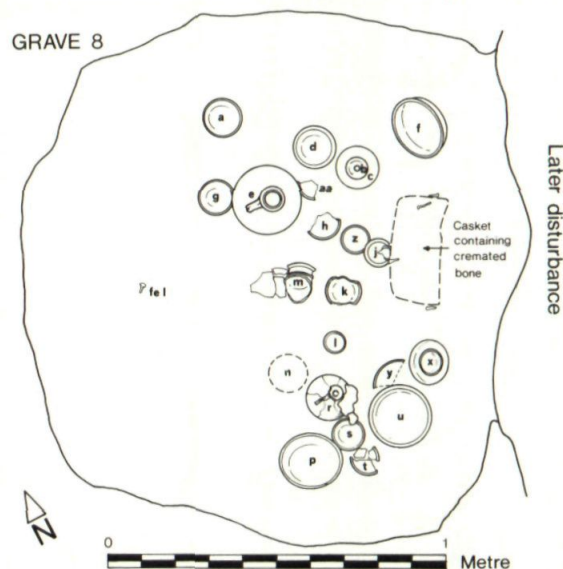


Fig. 36. Plan of the lower fill of Grave 8 (context 151).

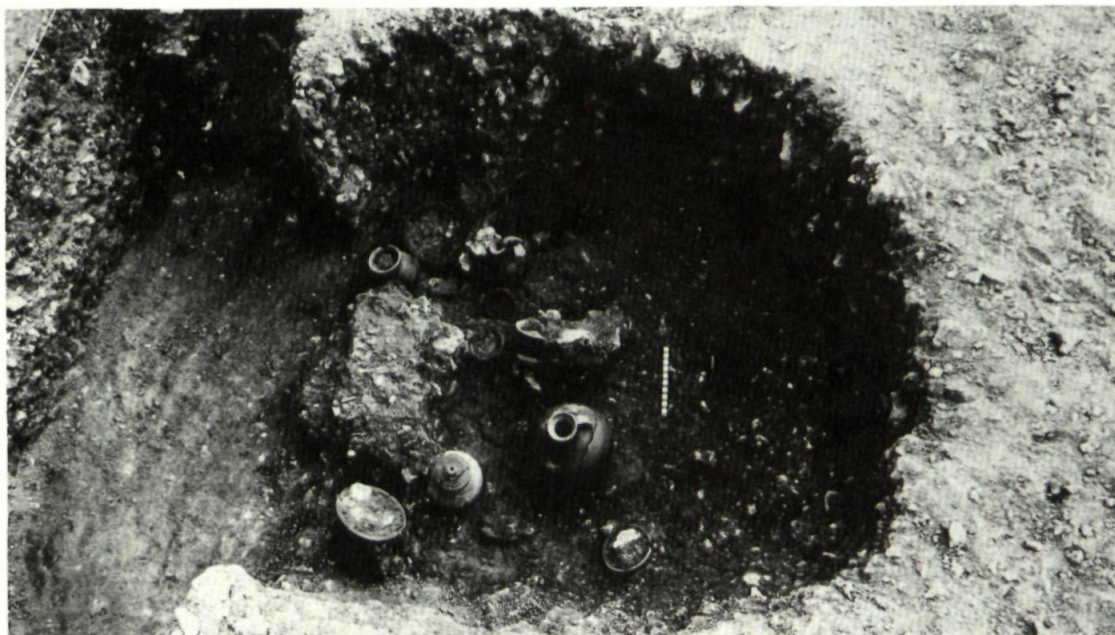


Fig 37. Photo of Grave 8, viewed from the north-east. The match-sticks indicate the position of iron objects. (Photo by Graham Huxley).

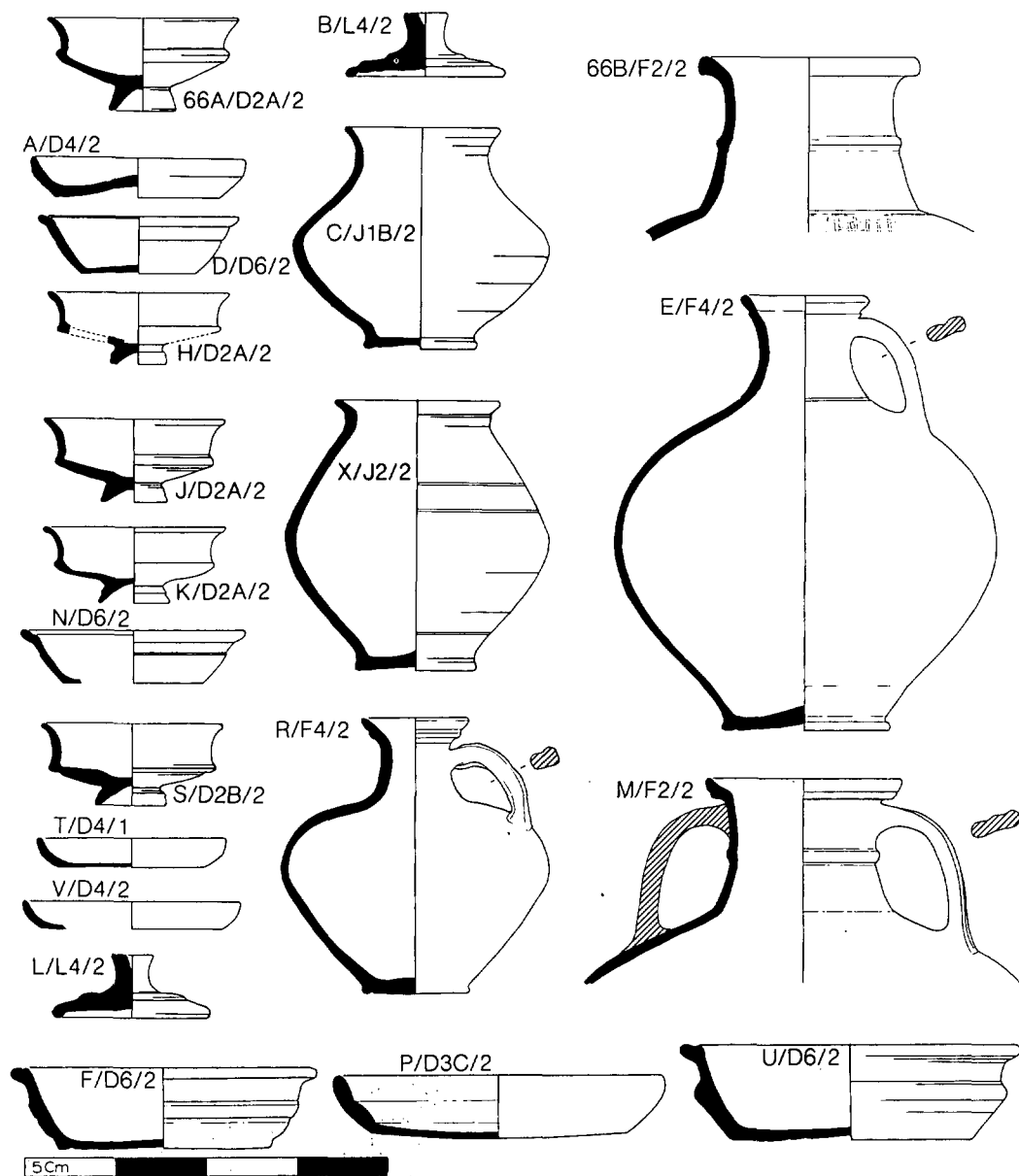


Fig 38. Pottery vessels from Grave 8; 66A and 66B from the upper fill (context 66); the remainder from the lower fill. Scale 1:4. For conventions see p. 77.

seems unlikely to have caused significant damage. The grave pit was deep (c 550mm), flat-bottomed, and straight sided. Like Graves 5 and 7 this one had been filled in two phases, with the upper level containing a few broken vessels, and the lower level holding the majority of the grave goods. The cremation, contained in a wooden casket joined with iron nails, was an adult, probably female.

The Pottery (Fig 38): Fragments of two vessels came from the upper level, and twenty-two complete vessels from the lower fill. Several of these vessels were so poorly fired that they were not recoverable complete. The pottery assemblage is summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

The Ironwork by V Snetterton-Lewis:

1-6. Six iron nails from the cremation casket (not illustrated). Despite conservation and careful examination, they revealed no clear evidence for the structure of the box.

The Animal Bone by Mark Maltby:

Upper fill: Pig lower incisor (in wear)

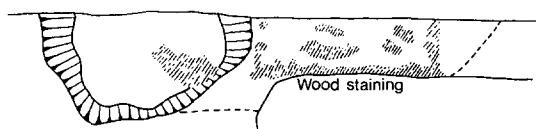
Unidentified sheep-sized longbone fragment; joint surface gnawed away by canid.

Three fragments of oyster shell.

GRAVE 9 (Figs 39-41): This grave was disturbed by contractors cutting a service trench immediately before the excavation began. It had also been slightly damaged by a post-medieval

GRAVE 9

Upper fill



Lower fill

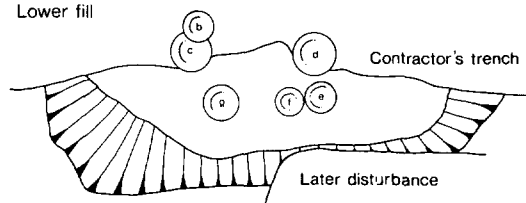


Fig 39. Plans of Grave 9 (upper fill, context 6; lower fill contexts 2 and 6).

disturbance. A large quantity of pottery derived from the grave was recovered from the contractor's spoil, and further material was rescued from the face of the trench wall. It was finally possible to excavate the southern edge of the

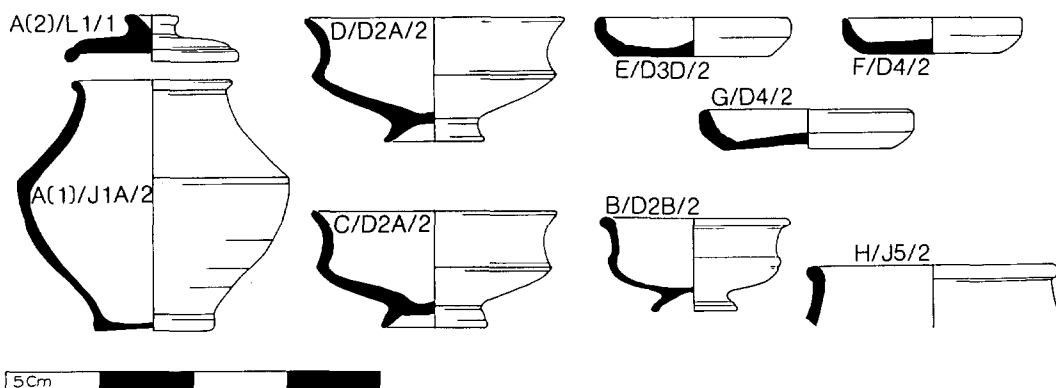


Fig 40. Pottery vessels from Grave 9. Vessels A(1), A(2) and H from the contractor's trench; B to G shown on the plan. For conventions see p. 77.

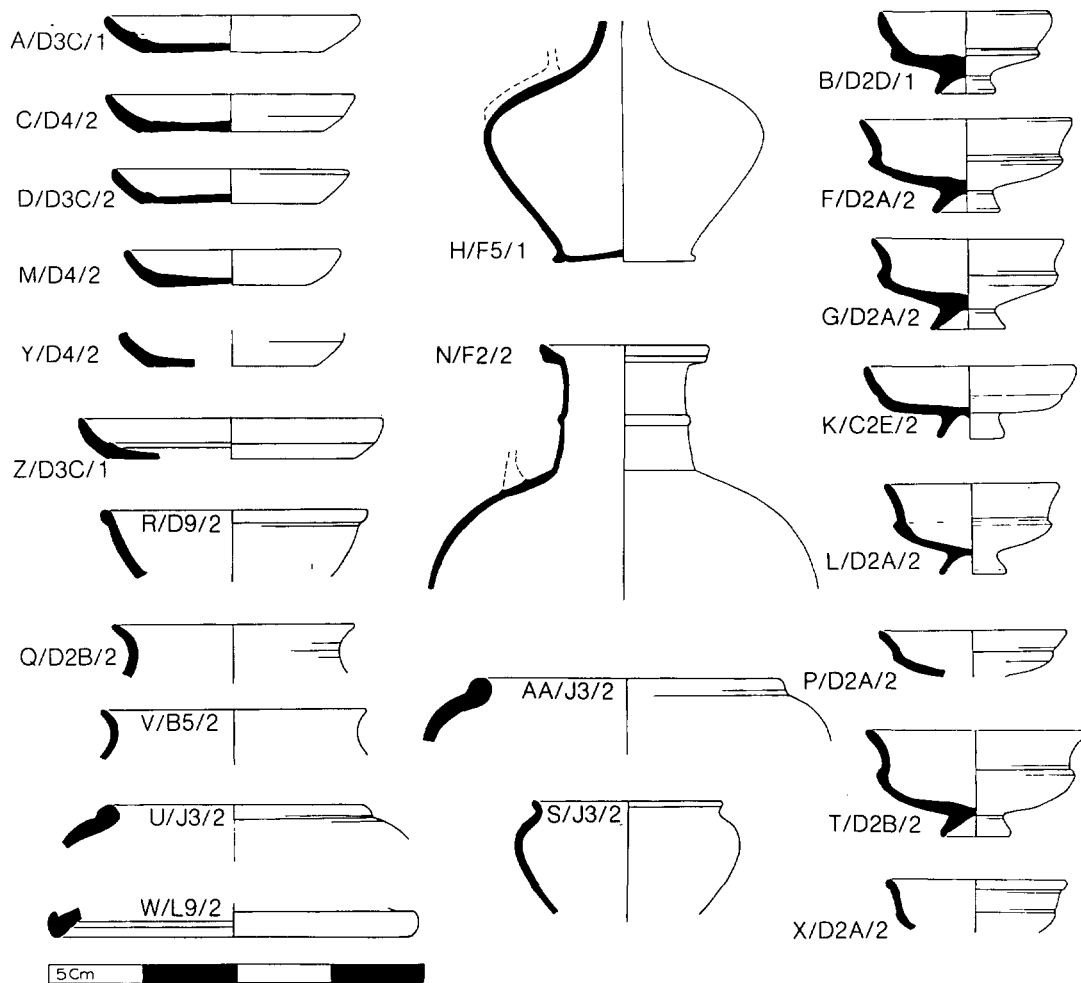


Fig 41. Pottery vessels derived from Grave 9. All vessels from the contractor's spoil heaps.

For conventions see p. 77.

grave under controlled conditions. This suggested that the grave had been of sub-rectangular shape, was deep (c 600mm) and steep sided. The maximum north-south dimension is 2m as it was not located by Trial Trench 1 in 1977 (Fig 3): this dimension is comparable with the other deep sub-rectangular graves (nos 5, 7, and 8) and would suggest that this too was approximately 1.5m by 1.5m.

The upper part of the excavated portion of the

grave contained evidence of a decayed plank (cf Grave 7), although too little survived for detailed interpretation. The presence of this feature suggests that this grave was also filled in two phases (cf Graves 5, 7 and 8).

No cremated bone was recovered.

The Pottery (Figs 40-41): A total of thirty-two vessels were recovered, although it is almost certain that others have been lost through recent disturbance. The vessels recovered are summarised in Tables 1 and 3.

THE SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Plant Remains by F J Green:

Sixteen soil samples from the burials produced plant remains. These were retrieved by flotation as described by Green (1979). This work was undertaken by John Bradfield. The plant remains were sorted and identified by Rupert Housely.

The evidence (Table 4) is typical of the range and quantity of plant remains recovered from graves of this period. Such small quantities of material must reflect background noise rather than major domestic or ritual activities. Similar evidence has been recovered from first and second century graves at Hyde Street, Winchester (Green unpublished), and from Saxon graves at Bevis Grove (Green 1979). It is always possible that cremations may have preserved charred plant remains from the old land surface where the burning took place or from food offerings or ritual at the time of cremation. None of the evidence has yielded information of this nature.

The range of plant remains, in particular the cereals, is typical of sites of this period. The large accumulations of elderberry seeds are difficult to explain, other than possibly resulting from insect activity, as they are clearly of modern origin.

The Cremated Bone by Guy Grainger:

The samples of cremated bone, from seven burials and one later feature, were in an extremely fragmented state, few being larger than 30mm in length. In the case of Grave 8, it was estimated that there were approximately 250 fragments per 100g: estimates were not made for the other samples although they appeared similarly fragmented. All are therefore comparable with the most severely fragmented examples from Skeleton Green (Borrill in Partridge 1981).

Although in very small pieces, the total weights of most of the samples are substantial, three (Graves 5, 7 and 8) being in excess of 1100g, and two more (Graves 2 and 3) just over 400g. By comparison 26% of the cremations from Skeleton Green and just 9% of those from Welwyn weighed more than 1100g (Borrill in Partridge 1981). Both the size of the fragments

and the weight recovered are most likely to be the result of the use of wet-sieving for the recovery of the bone from Alton.

The cremations from Graves 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 were all found to be adult, whilst the remains in Grave 1 were insufficient to provide any evidence of age. Closer estimation of age was impossible but the presence of vertebral bodies with osteoarthritic lipping, to a slight/moderate degree in Grave 5, and to a moderate degree in Grave 7 suggests minimum ages of 25+ and 30+ years respectively.

The sex of the individual could only be determined with any certainty in one case (Grave 7 – female) although it is thought likely that Grave 8 was also female. Details of the recognisable bone fragments from all the contexts are given in Table 5.

The Pottery

All the vessels from the graves, together with those that can reasonably be assumed to have derived from them are illustrated according to their group. Information concerning the pots has been provided on the drawings using the following conventions:

A/L5/1(h)

Where the first number or letter refers to the grave catalogue number (which also identifies the vessel on the plan); the second comprises the form number (used in the seriation, above p. 49); the third is the fabric code (see below) and the last indicates whether the vessel is wheel-made or hand-made (in which case an (h) appears after the fabric code).

The letter in the form code indicates the general shape category of the vessel (using the definitions provided in Millett 1979a):

J = jar	B = bowl
Bk = beaker	D = dish
F = flagon	L = lid

Where the exact form the vessel could not be ascertained, but the shape category is known, this is indicated by J? etc. Since there are so few published examples of similar vessels in Farnham ware, no attempt has been made to cite parallels. Rather it is felt that the material published here will serve that purpose in the future.

Table 4. Botanical Remains from the Graves.

		Grave: 1	2	3	4	5u	5l	6	7u	7l	8u	8l
	No of samples:	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2
Taxa	Synonym											
CRUCIFERAE												
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	Wild radish	0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAPILIONACEAE												
<i>Medicago</i> sp.		0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	Small seeded vetch	0	0	0	1c	2c	0	0	0	0	0	0
POLYGONACEAE												
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.		0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUBIACEAE												
<i>Galium</i> cf. <i>aparine</i> L.	Goosegrass	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Cleavers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1c
CAPRIFOLIACEAE												
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	Elderberry	9	2	15	7	10	16	1	0	1	5	83
JUNCACEAE												
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush	0	0	0	0	2c	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAMINEAE												
<i>Festuca</i> cf. <i>arundinaceae</i> Schreber.	Tall Fescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1c
<i>Lolium</i> cf. <i>perenne</i> L.	Rye grass	0	0	0	0	2c	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i>	Emmer/spelt wheat (caryopses)	0	0	1c	1c	0	2c	0	3c	0	2c	0
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>dicoccum</i> Schubl.	Emmer wheat (Caryopsis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1c	0	0
ditto	(Glume base)	0	0	0	0	1c	0	1c	0	0	0	0
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Bread wheat	0	0	3c	0	4c	0	0	0	0	1c	0
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Hulled Barley (6-row)	1c	0	0	0	10c	0	0	0	0	0	3c
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. var <i>nudum</i>	Naked Barley (6-row)	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	1c	0	1c
<i>Avena</i> cf. <i>Sativa</i>	Oat	0	0	2c	1c	0	1c	0	0	0	1c	3c
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Rye	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cereal sp.		3c	2c	12c	5c	7c	2c	1c	1c	1c	2c	8c
<i>Gramineae</i> sp.	Grasses	0	0	8c	0	2c	1c	0	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate rachis fragment		0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spores		x	x	0	0	0	x	x	0	0	x	x
Unidentified species		0	0	0	0	1c	0	0	0	0	0	0

The fabric codes used are:

1. Oxidised Farnham ware
2. Reduced Farnham ware
3. Off-white fabric, highly fired, tempered with clear to translucent sub-angular quartz sand.
4. Smooth, soft white fabric, fine paste tempered with very fine quartz sand.
5. Very fine orangey-buff fabric with grey core and cream slip on exterior. Slightly

micaceous, very fine clear to translucent quartz sand temper.

6. South Gaulish samian ware.
7. Hard, slightly chalky, creamy-white fabric, tempered with fine, sub-angular, multicoloured quartz sand plus a few ferric inclusions up to 2mm.
8. Very fine white, chalky, pipeclay fabric tempered with almost invisible micaceous sand.

Table 5: *The Cremated Bone*

Grave	1	2	3	4	5	7	8
Sex ?	?	?	?	?	?	F	F?
Age (years) A = adult	?	A	A	A	25+	30+	A
Weight of bone (g)	39	424	445	30	1562	1220	1717
Largest fragment (mm)	24	50	46	60	66	100	87
Bones present:							
Petrous temporal			x		x	x	x
Orbit: superior margin						x	
Cranial vault		x	x	x	x	x	x
Zygoma					x	x	
Maxilla or palate						x	
Mandibular condyle		x			x	x	x
Mandible (other fragments)						x	x
Teeth		x			x	x	x
Vertebral elements		x	x	x	x	x	x
Scapula						x	x
Pelvis		x	x		x	x	x
Proximal articulations:							
Humerus					x		x
Ulna						x	
Femur					x		
Distal articulations:							
Humerus					x	x	x
Radius							x
Ulna						x	
Femur					x	x	x
Shaft:							
Humerus, radius or ulna				x	x	x	x
Linea aspera (femur)	x		x	x	x	x	
Tibia			x		x	x	x
Patella					x	x	
Hands and feet		x	x		x	x	x

Discussion:

The vast majority of the pottery comprises the two Farnham fabrics. There is nothing to distinguish the two fabrics apart from the firing conditions. Since the same forms occur in both fabrics, and there is no discernible pattern in the quantity or presence of each fabric in the individual graves, it seems likely either that the potters had little control over the firing conditions, or that the purchasers were not concerned by the colour.

The assemblages present a useful collection of early Farnham ware types which are otherwise poorly known (Millett 1979b; Lyne & Jefferies 1979). It nevertheless seems likely that as a funerary assemblage it is atypical of its period

(see Millett & Graham 1986, Chapter V). However, the general range of types present well illustrates the typological development of the industry. The forms present show that the origins of Farnham ware lies in the combination of local Iron Age traditions (Cunliffe 1978, Figs A31-2) with those of Gallo-Belgic type probably arriving in the late pre-conquest period (Rigby 1973). On the present evidence it does not seem possible to isolate any single origin.

In general the vessels included are well made and show a high standard of workmanship. This is particularly evident in the earlier graves where intricate platter forms are common. The exception is grave 8 which contained eight vessels (D, G, H, K, S, V, Z and AA) which were so

poorly fired that they hardly survived in the ground. This phenomenon has been noted elsewhere (Millett & Graham 1986; Down & Rule 1971) and thus seems to represent a deliberate part of the ritual, with the vessels perhaps being wasters. The fact that all the vessels concerned are dishes or bowls casts doubt on Jones' questioning of the phenomenon at Chichester (Jones 1983, 77) where he suggests that the pots were there as containers rather than objects in their own right.

Apart from the Farnham ware, there are only a few other types of pottery present. The most notable pattern amongst these other vessels is the preference for white ware flagons which appear to come from a variety of sources and may include imports (Graves 2, 4, 5). These fabrics, which are similar to that used for the butt beaker in Grave 5, are perhaps to be seen as indicating a higher status of vessels appropriate for drinking. (Compare for instance the high status vessel associated with drink at, for instance, Welwyn; Stead 1967). Samian vessels (Fabric 6) occur only in graves 2 and 3 (although in the former there were at least four vessels excluding the 'samian or British samian' described by Buckland-White 1887, 464, note 2). It is perhaps significant that they are present only early in the sequence when samian still retained a value as a status indicator (compare Millett 1980b). The final group of non-Farnham products (fabric 5) occurs in graves 1 and 3, where its cream slip is presumably intended to let it pass for a white ware. The forms are both flagons although the vessel in grave 3 is a *Camulodunum* form 169, which is similar in scale to a small amphora. This form, known otherwise only from *Camulodunum* itself (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 249) seems to be of continental inspiration if not an import, and is the nearest the Alton graves approach to the inclusion of the amphorae so characteristic of the rich graves north of the Thames.

THE BURIAL RITE

The cemetery excavated in Alton is characteristic of a series of similar burials from this part of Central Southern England all of which are

typified by large assemblages of pots. The known examples are shown on Fig 42, and demonstrate that we are dealing with a regional sub-type of the late La Tène cremation tradition (Whimster 1979). Whilst in many areas the tradition of urned cremations accompanied by one or two accessory vessels continues well into the Roman period the burials from this area are exceptional in the number of such vessels present, with as many as sixty-five pots in a single grave (Neatham burial 1; Millett & Graham 1986). It might be argued that this group of well furnished graves is typical of the early Roman period in the area of La Tène III cremation, but this does not seem to be borne out by other published cemeteries which have a consistently more limited number and range of accessory vessels, even if richer goods are sometimes present (eg. Whiting *et al.* 1931; Down & Rule 1971; Partridge 1981; May 1930; Fulford 1985). The specific character of the East Hampshire series, together with its geographically circumscribed distribution, suggests that we ought to treat it as a significant variant of an otherwise widespread tradition. Its distribution seems significant as virtually all the other richly furnished graves of the La Tène III tradition are found north of the Thames in what is traditionally seen as the *Belgic* heartland (Whimster 1979, 209). Although most of the East Hampshire series are significantly less rich than the Essex-Hertfordshire Group (with the exception of Grange Road, Winchester; Biddle 1967), they ought to be seen to represent a significant social and economic focus. In this context, the fact that the majority of the burials can be dated from the very latest Iron Age to the second century AD might be considered significant in suggesting a development of dispersed wealth in this part of the *Atrebat* territory during this period.

The other characteristic is the comparatively small number of graves in each cemetery, with Alton (at nine graves) representing the largest known. The small cemetery size, together with the information on the relation of the burials to settlements, suggests that these graves are generally rural (see Appendix). This is particularly interesting when we consider that the larger urban cemeteries known at this date are

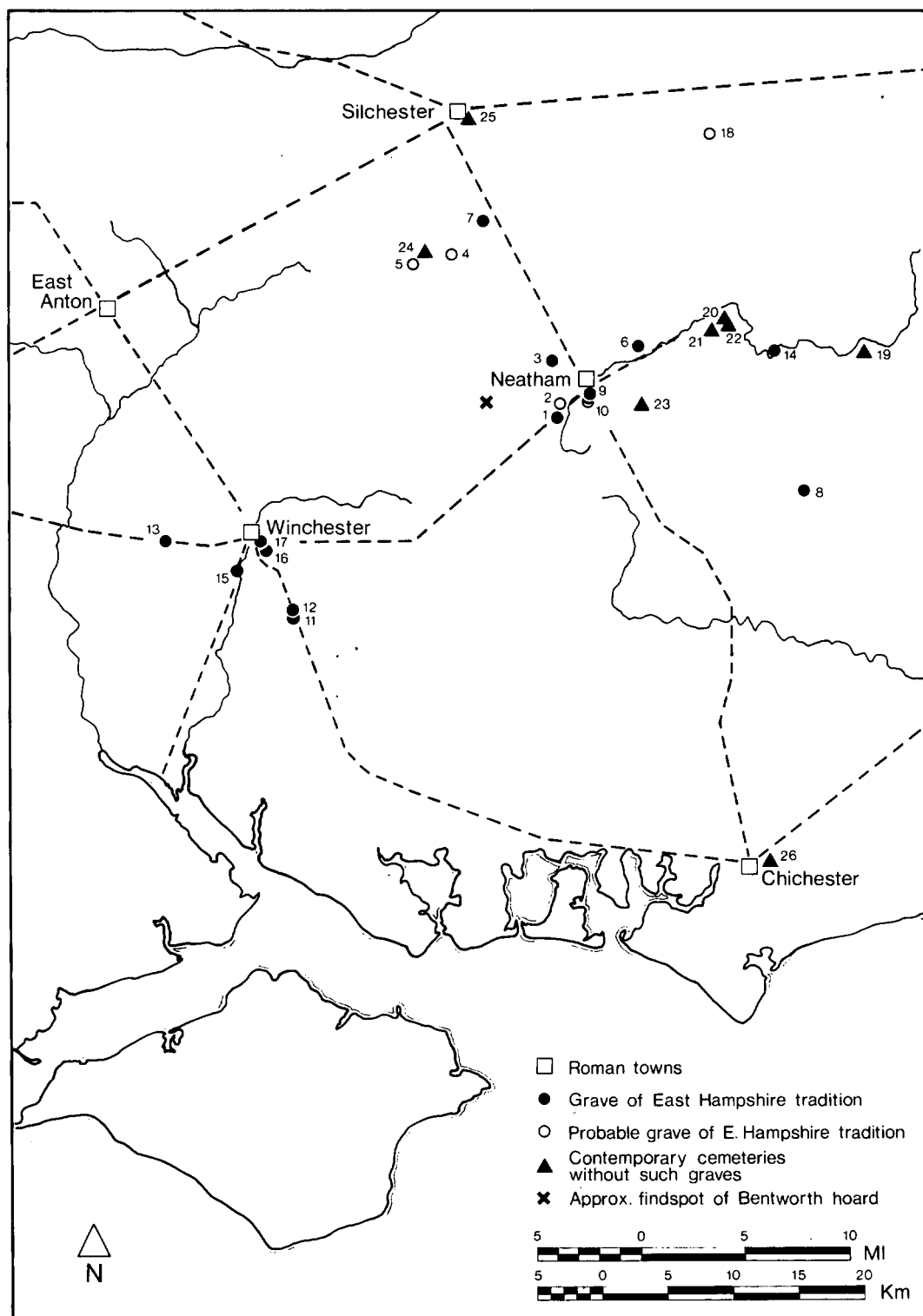


Fig 42. Map showing the distribution of burials in the East Hampshire Tradition, in relation to other contemporaneous burials, Roman settlement and the findspot of the Bentworth hoard. For the identification of the burials see Appendix (p. 84).

predominantly poorer in their assemblages. Dr Jones has suggested that the Chichester St Pancras graves can be divided into a hierarchy by the type and quantity of their grave goods (Jones 1983, 70–81). The richest graves in that cemetery were characterised by the presence of a wooden box, a few accessory vessels and some other grave goods. Jones concluded that the graves of the social elite did not occur in the urban cemeteries and were perhaps buried on their country estates (Jones 1983, 81). This conclusion seems to be reinforced by the evidence of the graves discussed here.

The Alton graves represent an important group for the discussion of this rite and they are amongst the few of the type that have been excavated under modern conditions and their chronological sequence thus offers some opportunity to observe changes in the rite through time. The general characteristics of the graves are summarised in Table 6 which shows a few major trends. First there is a tendency for the

earlier graves to have a wider variety of grave goods than the later ones, which tend only to have pots in them. The earlier graves are also generally shallower and simpler, with the earliest example of the two phase infilling dating to the early Flavian period. This phenomenon is difficult to interpret on such a small sample, but there does seem to be some pattern emerging with the presence of broken pottery, perhaps more typically domestic in its typological range, together with possible planks characterising the upper fills. It is possible that we should see this as disposing of the things used to prepare a funerary feast after the remainder of the grave had been filled.

Four burials contained caskets (although the two in Grave 5 were not to contain the burial). There is little to connect these caskets with either the sex or status of those buried, although the two richest graves (2 and 5) do contain them. The earliest of the graves containing a casket (Grave 2) is amongst the earliest known

Table 6. *Summary of the Grave Goods*

Grave no.	Deep/shallow	No. of pots	Av. no. of examples per pot type	Two levels of fill	Casket	Sex	Other grave goods	Date
1	Sh	16						
2*	Sh	31	1.3	no	no	M?	Shears, knife	Claudian
			2.7	no	yes†	M?	Gold signet ring; glass vessels; gaming board & counters; dice	Claudio-Neronian
							Spoons; knife; bead.	Claudio-Neronian
3	Sh	22	1.6	no	no	F?	Cosmetic set; <i>pyxis</i>	Claudio-Neronian
4*	Sh	14	1.2	no	no	F?	Cosmetic set; finger ring.	Early Flavian
5	D	†13 + 40=53	3.1	yes	two	F?	Horse skull; two brooches; two finger rings; iron knife; cosmetic set.	Early Flavian
6*	Sh	10	6.0	no	no	?	none	Flavian
7	D	†5 + 22=27	1.5	yes	yes‡	F	brooch	Flavian
8	D	†2 + 22=24	1.25	yes	yes‡	F?	none	Flavian-Trajanic
9*	D	32	2.1	yes	no	?	none	Late Flavian

Notes: * = grave incomplete

† = number of pots from upper fill plus number from lower fill

‡ = casket contained cremation

from Britain (Borrill in Partridge 1981). The possible significance of caskets has been discussed by Jones (1983, 70–81).

The richest burial is undoubtedly Grave 2 which bears comparison with other extremely rich late Iron Age and early Roman burials (for instance Grange Road, Winchester; Biddle 1967; and Bartlow Hills; Gage 1834). This and the other male burial (Grave 1) contains items most closely linked with those occurring in the Welwyn tradition (knives, spoons, gaming counters, dice and gaming board). The gold signet ring is however extremely unusual, being paralleled only at Bartlow Hills, and presumably indicating a native aristocrat of the highest status. Aside from Grave 2, there does not seem to be any significance in the relative status of male and female graves, although this is unsurprising when one considers the sample size.

What does seem clear from the dating of the graves is that the wealth deliberately disposed of as part of the burial ritual was wealth available at or just after the conquest. It should thus be seen as evidence of the wealth and status of the native elites, perhaps derived from the land, being expressed through conspicuous consumption or disposal. The form of this display activity may possibly be new at this time, replacing some less archaeologically tangible form of display, but there seems little doubt that the wealth was there previously. This is supported by the recent demonstration that Bentworth, near Alton, was the findspot of a hoard of 87 staters of Verica which were minted in the immediate pre-conquest period (Haselgrove 1981, 131–2). Few occupation sites of this period are yet known from this area but it might reasonably be suggested on the present evidence that there was a pattern of dispersed settlement which only became focused with the development of Neatham and its surrounding villas in the post-conquest period.

LATER ROMAN ACTIVITY

Amongst the material from the 1860 excavation on the site is a fragment of mosaic pavement (presumably that referred to by Haverfield

1900, 306) which indicates the presence of a substantial Roman building in the area. The 1980 excavations produced some further evidence to confirm this although most of the area excavated had been truncated and only in Trench C were undisturbed deposits located. Here a late Roman ground surface was examined. This produced a small assemblage of pottery together with a coin of AD 337–341. The pottery from this ground surface, together with sherds from residual contexts elsewhere on the excavation, show that occupation in the area continued until at least the later fourth century. Later Roman activity was also noted in a watching brief in 1980 on a site c 80m to the west (SU 7150 3911; Fig 1) where some evidence for terracing was observed by Mr G H Cole.

This evidence is not yet sufficient to do more than suggest the presence of a settlement, perhaps a small villa, as a successor to the then farmstead with which we believe the cemetery was associated.

The Coin by P J Casey:

Constantius II, Gloria Exercitus, one standard. As Carson, Hill & Kent 1972, 100. AD 337–341.

The Later Roman Pottery:

A total of 4.79kg of later Roman pottery was recovered, mostly from post-Roman contexts. 99.2% of this comprised Farnham ware with the remaining sherds being New Forest ware and East Hampshire Grog tempered ware (Fulford 1975a, fabric A). The former was a form 41.1 (Fulford 1975b) dated to the fourth century. In addition there was a sherd of BB1 flanged bowl recovered in 1860 (Fig 13 no 2).

The Farnham ware types present were (Millett 1979b):

Type 5 (2 examples); Type 6 (1); Type 12 (2); Type 13 (7); Type 14 (5); Type 21 (5); Type 23 (6); Type 24 (1); Type 25 (1); Type 26 (1); Type 30 (1); Type 31 (1).

These forms have a chronological range from the second to the late fourth century.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

The excavation produced evidence for some medieval and post-medieval activity on the site. This was of low intensity, and had been badly

truncated by the latest levelling. Nevertheless three major phases could be distinguished:

Phase 1: Pre-Yard build-up (late 16th to late 18th century)

A series of discrete features truncated by phase 2 levelling. These include a series of pits, post holes associated with a structure or structures on the southern side of the plot at 87 High Street, and a set of ditches (Fig 2) which are best interpreted as medieval field boundaries although the dating evidence is poor.

Phase 2: Yard levelling/construction (c 1842–1875)

Deposits associated with the construction of the builder's yard and its associated buildings.

Phase 3: Garden soils/demolition (terminates in 1980)

The material from the garden to the rear of 89 High Street together with the deposits resulting from the demolition of 87 High Street in 1980.

None of the material recovered is particularly important and the following evidence is included in the fiche:

Site Plan and Matrix	M/3–6
An Historical Summary by Georgia Smith	M/7–8
The Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery by David M Gaimster	M/9–38

The Medieval and Post-Medieval

Small Finds by Dr Martin Henig M/39–41

The Coins by V Snetterton-Lewis M/42

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was undertaken under difficult conditions when the author was only able to be present for limited periods. The supervision of the main excavation was therefore undertaken by Jeremy Evans and Mark Corney, with that in September 1980 run by Geoff Cole. I am extremely grateful to these three for their considerable contribution to the success of the project.

The work was funded by the Dept of the Environment, Hampshire County Museum Service and East Hampshire District Council. The funds were administered by Hampshire County Museum Service. I am most grateful to Tim Schadla-Hall who facilitated this, and to Mrs P Brown and Mrs P M Pottinger who shouldered the administrative burden. Help in kind and valuable advice was given by the Divisional Surveyor of Hampshire County Council and by members of the Alton Archaeology and History Society.

The production of this report has been made possible by the skilled help of Mark Corney (grave plans and small objects), Catrina MacArthur (Pottery), Neil Goddard and Yvonne Beadnell (other drawings). Graham Huxley acted as site photographer. Martin Henig and Andy Boddington have helped me by discussing various aspects of the interpretation and analysis.

APPENDIX: SITES WITH BURIALS IN THE EAST HAMPSHIRE TRADITION SITE NUMBERS REFER TO FIG 42

No	Site/Grid reference/Urban/ Rural location	No of large graves	No of other graves of same date	Date (century AD)	References No of pots per grave
1	Alton, Kemps Yard SU 716 390(R)	9	0	1st–2nd	This Report 10 to 53 pots
2	Alton, Westbrook Ho. SU 716 392 (R)	1?	0?	1st	HCMS Acc no 304.1/36–50 Grave size uncertain
3	Aylesfield SU 715 432 (R)	1	0	3rd	HCMS Acc no A1938.196 16 pots
4	Basingstoke SU 646 527 (R)	1	0	1st?	Franks 1852, 9 Grave size uncertain
5	Basingstoke, Worting SU 61 51 (R)	1	0	1st?	Ellaway & Willis 1932, 88 Grave size uncertain

No	Site/Grid reference/Urban/ Rural location	No of large graves	No of other graves of same date	Date (century AD)	References No of pots per grave
6	Bentley SU 777 446 (R)	1	0	1st	Collingwood & Taylor 1934, 216; HCMS Acc no A1956.39; 12 pots
7	Daneshill SU 657 541 (R)	2	0	2nd-3rd	Millett forthcoming 10 and 18 pots
8	Haslemere SU 907 335 (R?)	3	23	1st-2nd	Holmes 1949, 2-9; 14, 14 and 15 pots.
9	Neatham SU 744 413 (U?)	5	0	1st-2nd	Millett & Graham 1986 11 to 65 pots
10	Neatham SU 742 410? (U?)	1	0	2nd	HCMS Acc. no. 304. 1/21-32 13 pots
11	Owlesbury SU 522 244 (R)	1	0	1st-2nd	Schadla-Hall 1977, 131 33 pots
12	Owlesbury SU 522 247 (R)	4	14	1stBC-2ndAD	Collis 1977a, 26-34; 11 to 36 pots
13	Sparsholt SU 43 29 (R)	1	0	1st	Collis 1977b, 69-72; c 20 pots
14	Tilford SU 879 442 (R)	1	0	1st	Millett 1974, 19-24; 9+ pots
15	Winchester Grange Rd. SU 473 273 (R)	2	0	1st	Biddle 1967, 224-250; 13 and 15 pots
16	Winchester Highcliffe SU 494 287 (R)	1	0	1st-2nd	Collis 1978, 103-5; 22 pots
17	Winchester Milland SU 489 288 (R)	1	0	1st	Collis 1978, 93-103; 40 pots
18	Yateley SU 842 604	1	1	1st	Piggott 1928, 69-73; 6+ vessels

Notes:

In general only graves with ten or more vessels have been included in the list.

The following abbreviation is used:

HCMS = Hampshire County Museum Service

The list was compiled with the aid of the HCMS Environmental Record.

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