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EXCAVATIONS AT CLATTERFORD ROMAN VILLA, ISLE OF WIGHT

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ABSTRACT

Clatterford was one of the first villas to be found on the Isle of Wight, but since its discovery in 1856 it has been eclipsed by the major excavations at Brading (1880–1), Newport (1926–8), and Combley (1968–79) villas. Now, as a result of the recent geophysical survey and excavations carried out by English Heritage, we can begin to discuss its archaeological sequence, economy, and the environmental impact it had on its immediate area. Investigation revealed the plan of the later villa complex, and suggested that the villa, or its proto-settlement, may date to the time of the Roman Conquest. Later in the 1st century a road was established across the valley bottom. To the east of this, and closely associated with the villa, a herb-rich peat accumulated which has a rare chalkland pollen sequence. During the 3rd century extensive surfaces were laid out over the fringe of the valley bottom, adjacent to the villa. It is believed that these surfaces might have been stock yards. From this period a waterlogged Stone Pine (Pinus pinea) cone was retrieved. The villa site was abandoned during the 4th century, and lost from view until 1856. Until the current investigation, Clatterford has been no more than a spot on Tomalin's map of Roman villas (1987, Fig. 1). It must now be recognised as an important site where we can hope to address regional and national research questions such as the origins of Vectis ware, the study of trade between the Isle of Wight and the Continent in the mid 1st century AD, and the development of villas.

THE SITE

Geophysical survey results and excavations by P A Busby

Clatterford Roman villa is located at NGR SZ 4798 8741 (Fig. 1), at a height of 32m OD, just to the southwest of Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight. It is situated on the western side of the sheltered valley containing the Lukely Brook, a tributary of the River Medina. The villa is located on the chalky hill wash which overlies Cretaceous Chalk (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983), some 5m above the water meadow at the base of the valley.

The villa was partly excavated in the mid 19th century revealing a wall 20ft to 30ft long and 3ft wide composed of mortared stone and flint (Kell 1856). After the excavations the site was robbed for building materials by local farmers.

By the late 1970s the fields containing the villa had been under arable cultivation for some time and finds were regularly being collected from its surface (eg Tomalin 1987, 47, 97 and 108). In 1977 the site was subjected to a magnetometer survey by the Isle of Wight County Council Archaeological Unit (Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) 496) which proved relatively uninformative. Subsequently, a test pit was dug in order to examine the villa remains, which revealed 'substantial tumbled walling' (SMR 1416). In 1986 the presence of a rectangular enclosure was noted from aerial photographs in the water meadow to the southwest of the known villa site, and in 1988 the remains of walls were observed in the side of a ditch to the south, adjacent to Lukely Brook (SMR 1706). From this evidence it was suggested that the villa complex extended to the banks of the Lukely Brook, and was not confined to the drier ground around the villa.

In 1990 the fields containing the villa were purchased by the Isle of Wight County Council, with assistance from English Heritage. The site was by then under consideration for scheduling, and the Archaeometry Branch of the then Ancient Monu-

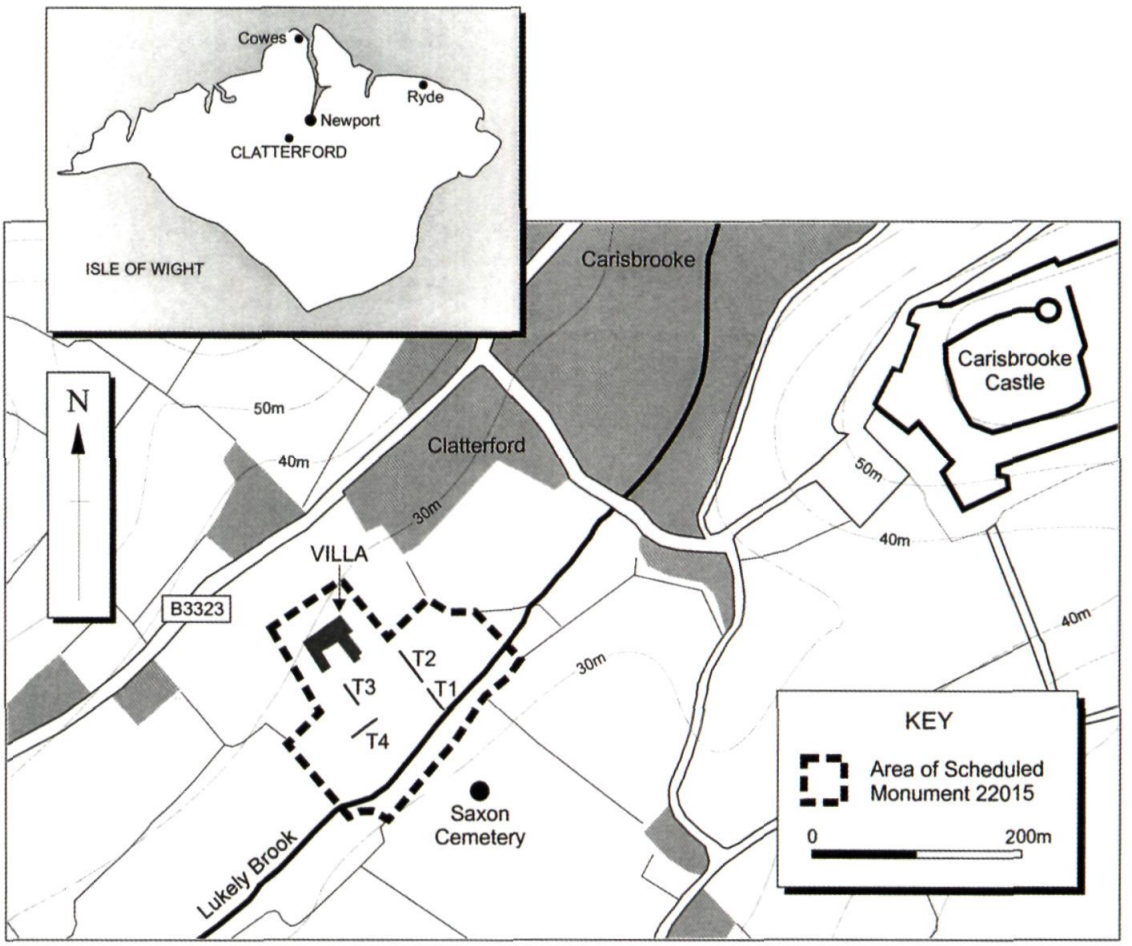

Fig. 1 Location map showing Clatterford Roman Villa

ments Laboratory was commissioned to carry out a geophysical survey of the villa and adjacent water meadow. This was carried out in July 1993 (see below) and the results led directly to the site becoming a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Isle of Wight 22015) in September 1994. However, the survey also showed a number of anomalies that could not be easily interpreted. It was decided that limited excavation should take place to investigate these. The opportunity was also taken to examine the sedimentary sequence of the valley bottom, and the potential for artefact and ecofact preservation within the water meadow. This resulted in the excavation of four trial trenches by the then Central Archaeology Service of English Heritage during October 1995. The trenches had a total area of 141m^2 or 0.6% of the total scheduled area to the south of the villa.

The geophysical survey had the objectives of locating and defining buried structures, and defining the extent of the site prior to scheduling (Payne 1993). Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were carried out using the same grid of 30m squares established over the two fields, which contained the villa and water meadow to the east of Lukely Brook. The results from the

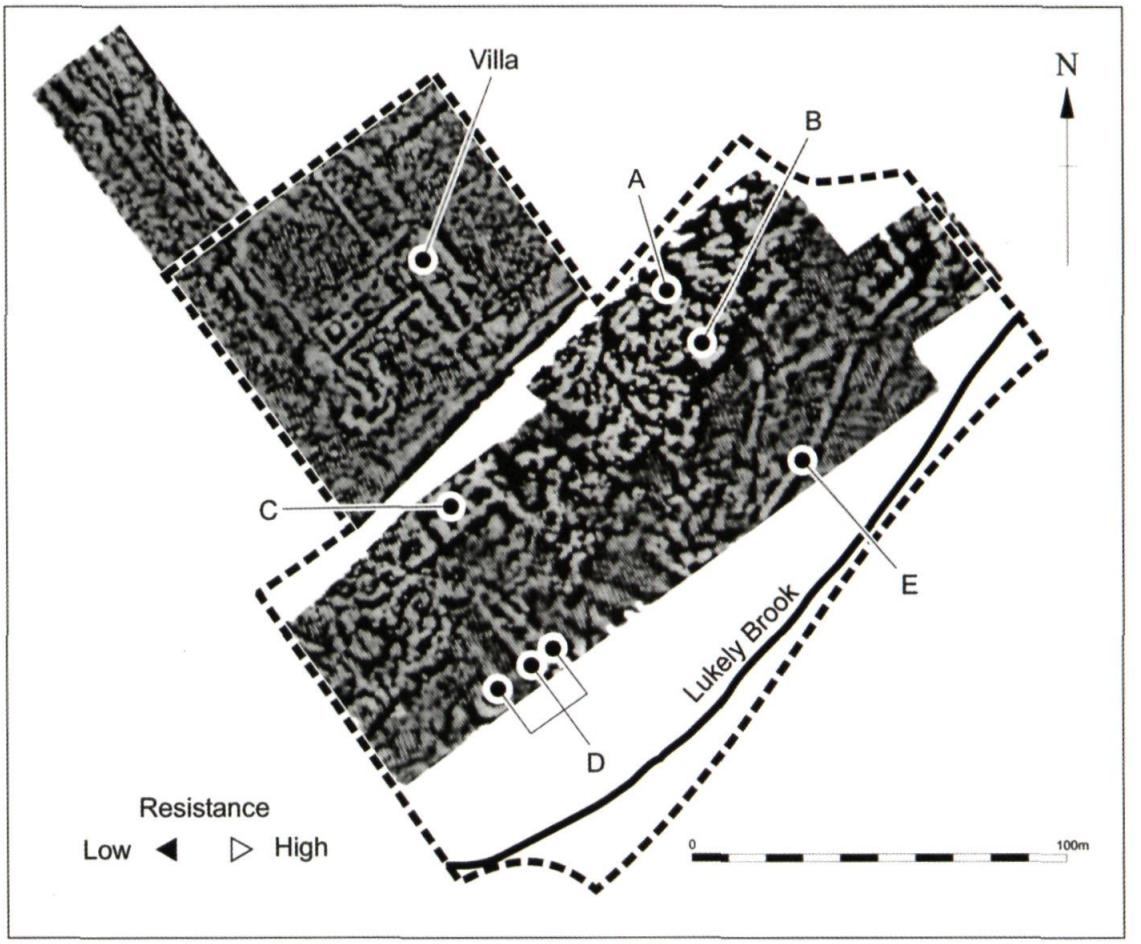

Fig. 2 An enhanced plot of the resistivity survey results from the 1993 survey (Payne 1993)

magnetometer survey were disappointing and yielded little information about the site; however, the resistivity survey produced useful results.

In Figure 2, the villa is clearly visible as a winged structure, with a linear anomaly forming a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners on its northern side. The strong, straight north-west-southeast orientated anomaly shown as crossing the villa is believed to be a modern pipe trench. Along the western margins of the water meadow the survey revealed an extensive zone of high resistance (point A on Fig. 2). This zone generally lacked any internal patterning, although some angularity is discernable, suggesting the presence of structural remains. At the time it was unclear if the anomaly was archaeological in origin or some unidentified natural phenomenon. However, excavation has since revealed that an extensive flint rubble spread over 0.5m thick (context 536 on Fig. 4) was responsible for this anomaly. This spread has been interpreted as a series of stock yards laid over the marshy fringes of the valley bottom during the 3rd century AD

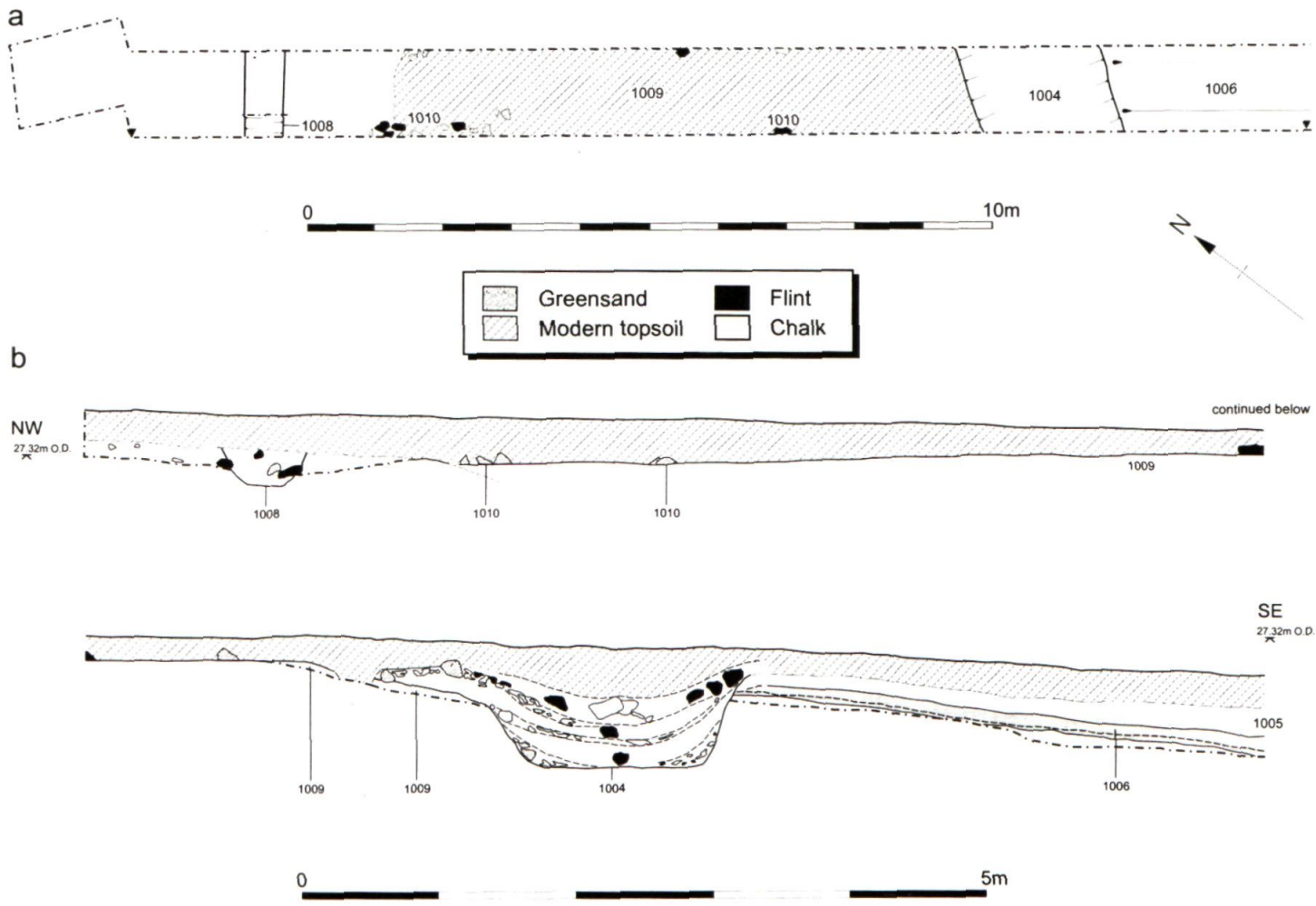

Fig. 3a (*above*) Plan of Trench 3, including Building 1
Fig. 3b (*below*) The east facing section of Trench 3

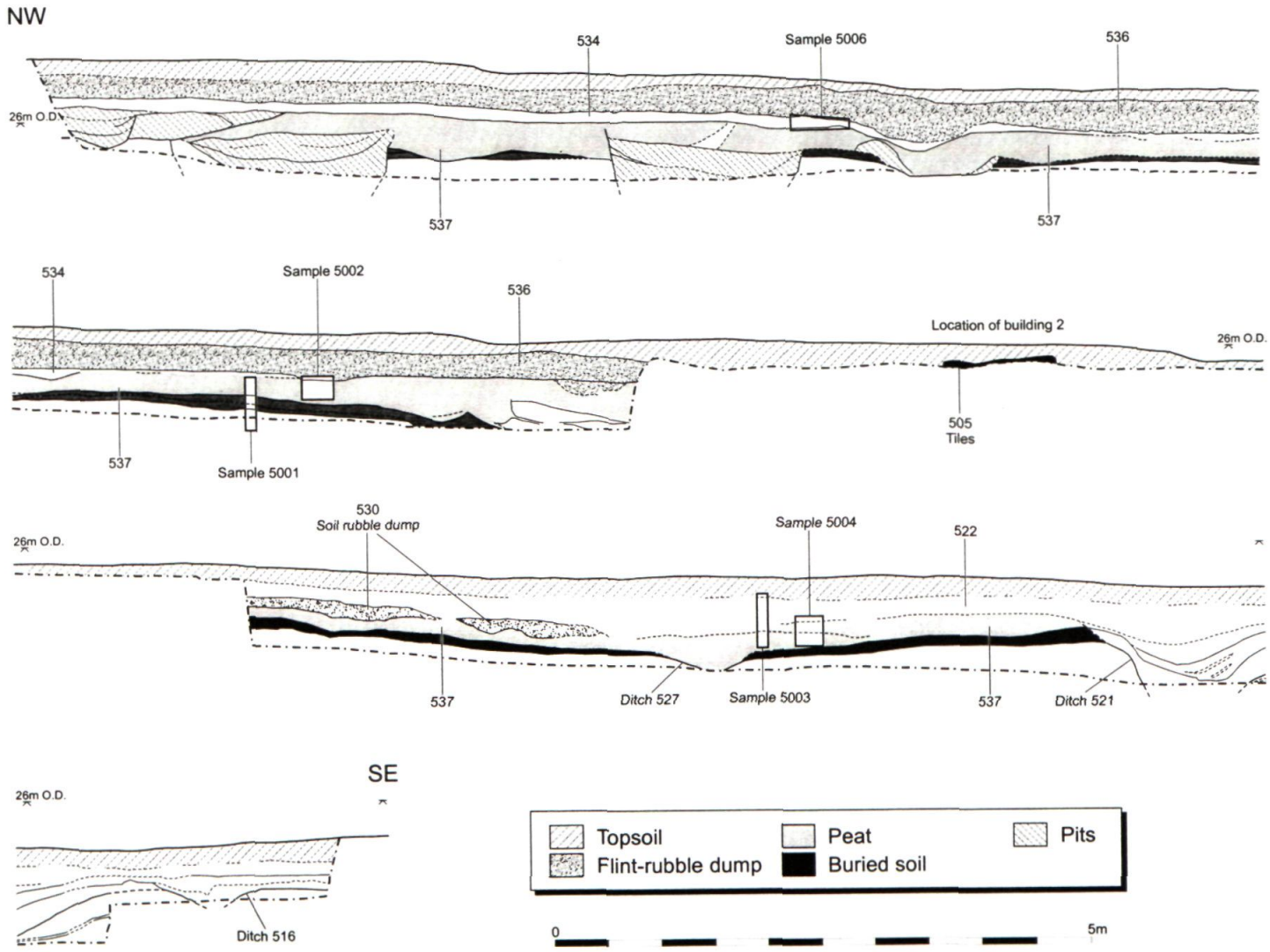

Fig. 4 The east facing section of Trench 2

(Phase 4). The angularity within the anomaly is seen as being produced by a building (Building 2, Phase 5 below) on the yard surface (at least at point B on Fig. 2).

To the south of the villa a clear rectangular high resistance, building-like anomaly was detected (point C on Fig. 2). Excavation revealed that this was a building with a gravel floor, possible beam slots and an internal stone beam pad (Building 1, below). Further to the south (at point D on Fig. 2) a number of northwest-southeast orientated high resistance anomalies were detected. These were thought to be archaeological in origin, but it was not until they were investigated that they were revealed to be successive road surfaces (contexts 1509, 1511 and 1512) crossing the valley bottom. It is now thought that this road runs north west, along the western edge of the villa complex, and is masked by a later field boundary. A number of other linear features can be seen in the southeastern corner of the surveyed area. These have the appearance of boundary ditches and it is now believed that the particular feature at point E in Figure 2 has the potential to be boundary ditch enclosing the villa complex.

Excavation has shown that much of the patterning seen in the resistivity plots (Fig. 2) is man-made in origin and contemporary with the known villa. However, the 1995 fieldwork has shown that the deposits detected were those lying just below the topsoil, and many of these had a high stone content. This means that the later deposits mask much of the early Roman activity in the valley bottom. In addition, the apparent difference in response observed between the two fields surveyed could be due to a substantial accumulation of soil against the field boundary to the south of the villa. This may be masking part of the villa buildings, and is obscuring any relationship between the stock yards and the villa building.

Trenches 1 and 2 were aligned northwest-southeast, forming a 68m long transect across the valley bottom to investigate the major resistivity anomalies (A, B, and E on Fig. 2), and to provide a section across the valley floor. The other trenches (3 and 4) were located to investigate resistivity anomalies C and D, and were 23m and 30m long respectively. Each trench was 1.2m wide and was cut by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. In trenches 1 and 2 the archaeological deposits were excavated down to the level of infilled palaeochannels and natural geology. The only exception to this involved remains of Building 2 in Trench 2, which were left *in situ*. The remaining two trenches were cleaned by hand after initial machining; features and deposits were selected in each trench for excavation, to further characterize the deposits and to retrieve dating evidence. Environmental samples were also taken from key deposits. The following summary of the excavation results is by phase.

Phase 1. Pre Roman

Although no material definitely dating to a pre Roman period was recovered, there were buried soils and palaeochannels below context 1006 (Phase 2). These may represent earlier activity on the site, but the limited area of the excavations prevent further characterization of these deposits.

Phase 2. Mid 1st century

The earliest datable context encountered during the excavation was a buried soil consisting of slightly greasy brown silty clays up to 120 mm thick (context 1006) in the southern end of Trench 3 (Fig. 3). It was sealed by a dump of spoil (context 1005) consisting of mixed greyish brown silty clay containing abundant small lumps of chalk, common charcoal flecks and pot sherds. The pottery retrieved from the buried soil suggests a Claudian date for this context (Lyne assemblage 1, below), while assemblage 2 from the overlying dump consists predominantly of pre-Flavian forms. The quality and location of these pottery assemblages, just to the south of the main villa building, suggests that the origins of this Isle of Wight villa may well date to the time of the Roman conquest. From the composition of context 1005, it is possible to infer that it is a dump of spoil used to re-claim part of the valley floor adjacent to the villa complex during the later 1st century AD

Phase 3. Late 1st to early 2nd century

To the south west of the villa, in Trench 4, three separate compact cobble surfaces were exposed

(not illustrated). These surfaces were between 3 to 5m wide and were located on the eastern side of a slight ridge of glacial till extending out into the valley bottom. The easternmost surface (context 1509) was bounded on its western side by a ditch (unexcavated), which cut three (unexcavated) pits. The central surface (context 1511) was higher than the others and was bounded on the east by a shallow ditch (context 1520), and on the west by a curb of rough greensand blocks. From below this curb, the widest of the three surfaces (context 1512) extended westwards for *c.* 5m before fading out. There was a small gully (unexcavated) running parallel to, and *c.* 1.25m in from the eastern edge of the surface.

These surfaces appear to correspond to the northwest-southeast orientated resistivity anomalies that were identified in the 1993 survey (point D on Fig. 2). It would therefore seem highly likely that they represent different phases of a roadway, which ran down the western side of the villa complex before crossing the valley bottom. The form of the roadway in the valley bottom changed over time, sometimes having a flanking ditch and at other times a drainage gully within the body of the road. The pottery indicates that the roadway was in use from at least the late 1st/early 2nd century until the late 2nd/early 3rd century AD (Lyne assemblages 3, 4 and 6, below).

In the valley bottom within trench 2, to the east of the roadway, there was an accumulation of herb-rich fen peat (Scaife, below) up to 300 mm thick (context 537) over an earlier buried soil (Fig. 4). A mid-late 1st century sherd (Lyne assessment report in archive) was retrieved from this layer, and its accumulation was halted by the dumping of a flint rubble layer (context 506/536) in the 3rd century AD (Phase 4). Along the northern fringe of the valley bottom there were a number of undated pits cut in the peat layer at different times during its period of accumulation. It would seem likely that this represents early Roman activity in the margins of a damp area adjacent to the villa.

The linear resistivity anomaly seen towards the southeastern extent of the 1993 survey (point E on Fig. 2) was investigated in Trench 1. It was revealed to be a broad, flat-bottomed U-shaped ditch (context 32). The ditch was *c.* 1.2m wide by 0.58m deep, cut into the underlying buried soils and palaeochannels. It contained a number of peaty fills, containing pottery dating to the late 1st and early 2nd century AD (Lyne assemblage 5, below). The presence of a bank on the northern and western sides of this ditch is suggested by the presence of high resistance anomaly. Within the confines of Trench 1 it was unclear whether the flint rubble deposits on the north western side of the ditch were bank material, or the fill of the palaeochannel. The overall form of this feature suggests that it is a boundary ditch, possibly forming the southern and eastern limits of an enclosure around the villa complex. It is also possible that the laying out of this boundary may have been responsible for changing the drainage regime of the valley bottom, which led to the accumulation of the peat layer (context 537).

Phase 4. Late 2nd to early 3rd century

Building 1

Trench 3 was located to look at a large (*c.* 28m by 10m) rectangular resistivity anomaly, which had been interpreted as a building (point C on Fig. 2). Excavation revealed a flat, fine gravel surface (context 1009), some 8.3m in extent (Fig. 3). The surface appeared to be bounded to the north by linear feature (context 1008). It had a 'U' shaped profile (580 mm wide by 260 mm deep) and contained a single dark brown silty clay fill. Approximately at right angles and sitting on the gravel surface there was a ragged line (5.8 m long) of large flints and greensand blocks (context 1010), partially hidden by the western baulk of trench 3. It would seem likely that the fine gravel surface and line of stones represent the remains of an undated timber building. However, it is unclear from the excavation whether the linear feature (context 1008) is a gulley, or a beam slot belonging to this building.

In trench 2, to the south east of the villa, there was an extensive dump of flint rubble (context 506/536 on Fig. 4), some 0.5m thick, deposited above the peat (context 537), and the pits. This flint rubble dump overlay a thin (up to 0.1m thick), well-defined dump of charcoal and burnt clay flecks (context 534) which contained fragments of vitri-

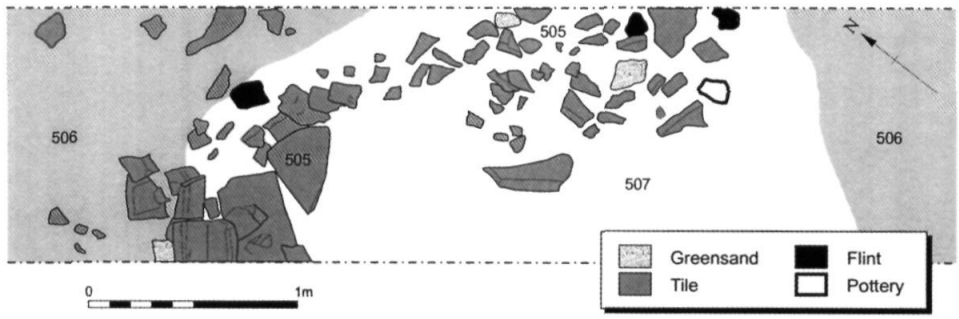

Fig. 5 A plan of Building 2 in Trench 2

fied hearth lining and slag (Dungworth, below). The dumps correspond to the extensive high resistance resistivity anomaly seen in the 1993 survey (point A on Fig. 2). This allows us to speculate that they cover an area of *c.* 110m by 45m along the northern fringe of the valley bottom, and that the dumps represent a major reclamation of the boggy area to the southeast of the villa. While there is no direct evidence to suggest the function of such an extensive surface at Clatterford, one of the few functions of extensive yard surfaces in a rural context is for holding cattle. It is, therefore, possible that this area represents one or more stock yards, similar to those found associated with the stone farmstead underlying the main villa at Stanwick, Northamptonshire (*pers comm* David Neal), and at Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire (Webster and Smith 1983, 94).

On the southern fringe of the yard surfaces there was a *c.* 3.2m wide mixed dump (context 530) of brown silty clay, chalk, and green sandstones. This dump might be either part of the original yard surface, or represent a later extension as a result of the construction of Building 2. The southern edge of context 530 faded out as it dipped into the peaty fills of ditch context 527. This feature had a V-shaped profile some 0.9m wide. It contained a few sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd/3rd centuries (Lyne assessment report, in archive) and fragments of a human skull (Mayes, below) from an unknown source. The location of the ditch would suggest that it is a drainage ditch for the yard surfaces.

Phase 5. Late 3rd/early 4th century

The abandonment of Building 1 is marked by the cutting of the northeast-southwest orientated ditch (context 1004 on Fig. 3) across the southern portion of the gravel surface (context 1009). The ditch had straight sides and a flat bottomed U-shaped profile, some 2m wide and 0.74m deep. The primary fill (a slightly humic clay, context 1011) contained the shale object (Cat No 2) and pottery dated to the late 3rd century (Lyne assessment report, in archive). The upper fills (mixed dark brown silty clays and very pale brown silty clays containing varying amounts of small chalk stones or medium to large flint stones (context 1003), were dumps rather than natural accumulations of sediment. The pine cone from the Stone Pine *(Pinus pinea)* (Cat No 1) was retrieved from these fills.

On the southern fringe of the yard surface (context 506/536), in trench 2, the remains of a chalk floored building were uncovered (Building 2, Fig. 5). It consisted of a dump of crushed chalk (context 507), with a 'band' of tile fragments and stones (context 505) forming a right-angled band along its northern and eastern fringes. It would seem probable that the tile represents the remains of a beam pad for a timber-framed structure of un-

Table 1 Quantification of Assemblage 2

Fabric	*No. of sherds*	*percentage*	*Weight in gm.*	*percentage*
C.1A	174	66.4	642	51.4
C.1B	41	15.6	340	27.2
C.2	7	2.7	82	6.6
C.11	11	4.2	62	5.0
Total coarse	233	88.9	1126	90.2
F.1A	1	0.4	2	0.2
F.4C	19	7.3	46	3.7
F.7	6	2.3	60	4.8
F.8	2	0.7	10	0.8
F.9	1	0.4	4	0.3
Totals	262		1248	

known function dated to the late 3rd, or possible early 4th century (Lyne assemblages 8 and 9). This, in retrospect, can be identified on the resistivity survey (point B on Fig. 2).

Phase 6. Post Roman

There were few Post-Roman finds (Cat Nos 18–20) retrieved during the excavations and these were all from the topsoil above the western roadway in trench 4. It would appear from the excavations that during the 4th century AD, or shortly thereafter, the site was abandoned. This resulted in the formation of a sterile topsoil (c 0.3m thick) over much of the valley floor, suggesting that the valley bottom quickly took on the character it has today.

THE FINDS

The Roman pottery by Malcolm Lyne

The pottery from the four assessment trenches at Clatterford spans much of the Roman period, although there is very little material which can be attributed to the 4th century. Thirty five contexts (two unstratified) contained Roman pottery, and a total of 919 sherds, weighing 10879 gm, was retrieved. Only the major assemblages have been covered in detail in this report, a full list of the pottery is given in the assessment report which forms part of the site archive. Fabrics were classified using a ×8 lens. A numbered fabric series was created for coarse, fine and mortaria fabrics which were given the letter prefixes C. F. and M respectively.

Quantification by number and weight of sherds per fabric was carried out on all assemblages, although most were too small for any kind of meaningful analysis (Tab 1).

Fabrics

The fabric codes of *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection* (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been added in square brackets for the relevant fabrics from Clatterford.

Coarse wares.

C.1A. Vectis ware (Tomalin 1987, 30–40). There is a certain amount of variability to this fabric due to the decentralized nature of the industry, and

the use of a variety of Mesozoic and Tertiary clays.
C.1B. Black Vectis ware. This variety of Vectis ware has the same range of inclusions but is black surfaced. It has been separated out here as it is believed to have been made at a different centre or centres on the Island.
C.2. BB1 (Farrar 1973) [DOR BB 1].
C.3. Hampshire Grog-tempered ware variant with buff and orange grog (Lyne 1994) [HAM GT]. There are two main fabric groupings for these late Roman wares. The piece from Clatterford belongs to Industry 6A (*ibid.*). The percentage distribution of wares in this fabric suggests that the main production centre for this industry was in northern Vectis and associated with coastal salt production (*ibid.*, Fig. 38 and 40).
C.4. New Forest Grey Ware (Fulford 1975).
C.5. Crude handmade black fabric with moderate fine shell and crackled surfaces. This fabric looks rather prehistoric but the 3rd century material from Rock villa includes inferior quality BB1 type beakers in a very similar fabric (Lyne forthcoming a).
C.6. Handmadë black fabric with profuse up-to 0.10 mm subangular colourless quartz, sparse up-to 0.50 mm honey-coloured quartz and very sparse up-to 2.00 mm calcined flint and grog. A Late Iron Age – Pre-Flavian Vectis ware variant.
C.7. Rowlands Castle ware (Hodder 1974). It has to be said that the solitary sherd from Clatterford is slightly questionable.
C.8. ?Verulamium region whiteware (Davies *et al.* 1994, 41) [VER WH]. There is a single unstratified sherd from Clatterford.
C.9.Wheel-turned blue-grey fabric with up-to 1.00 mm subangular black ferrous inclusions, fired grey-black. Two sherds are present in the Context 1012 assemblage from the lower fill of Ditch 1004 and another comes from the fill of Ditch 32. The fabric is very similar to a greyware variant of the Hardham industry of West Sussex.
C.10. Sandy brown fabric with up-to 1.00 mm quartz and ironstone inclusions and sparse white-patinated up-to 2.00 mm flint grit. The only two sherds are unstratified and could well be Saxo-Norman.
C.11. Miscellaneous greywares.

Fine wares
F.1A. South Gaulish samian [LGF SA].
F.1B. Central Gaulish samian [LEZ SA].
F.1C. East Gaulish Trier samian [TRI SA].
F.2. Not used.
F.3. Trier dark-colour-coated wares or 'Moselkeramik' (Symonds 1992, 46) [MOS BS]. Beakers were imported into Britain in large quantities, along with barrels of Moselle wine, between AD 212 and 276.

The following three fabrics are from 1st–2nd century flagons imported from Northern Gaul. There is, however, a possibility that some vessels in Fabric F.4C were actually made on the Island as some very under fired flagon fragments in this fabric are present in the pottery from Combley villa (Lyne forthcoming b).

F.4A. Fine-quartz-sanded pale-orange fabric fired cream-buff with very-fine brown and red inclusions.
F.4B. Extra fine orange-brown fabric with soft up-to 1.00 mm brown inclusions.
F.4C. Sand free cream fabric with sparse up-to 1.00 mm soft red ferrous inclusions. Similar to Freestone and Rigby's Gallo-Belgic flagon fabric WW1 (1995, 651) [NOG WH].
F.5. Very-fine-quartz-sanded pink fabric. There are two beaker sherds from late 3rd century Context 505. Source unknown.
F.6. Extra fine orange-brown fabric with matt black colour-coat. An unstratified body sherd from a thin-walled beaker may have a Rhenish origin.
F.7. Gallo-Belgic Terra Nigra [GAB TN 1].
F.8. Sand free cream fabric with chocolate-brown internal slip. Freestone and Rigby's Gallo-Belgic flagon fabric WW2 (1995, 651). Two sherds are present in the assemblage from Context 1005.
F.9. Not used.
F.10. Fine-quartz-sanded cream fabric.
F.11. New Forest colour-coat (Fulford 1975, Fabric 1b) [NFO RS 2].
F.12. Central Gaulish (Cream) Colour-coated ware 2 [CNG CC 2] (Tomber and Dore 1998, 53–4). A fragment from an indented, rough-cast beaker was present in the assemblage from context 1511.

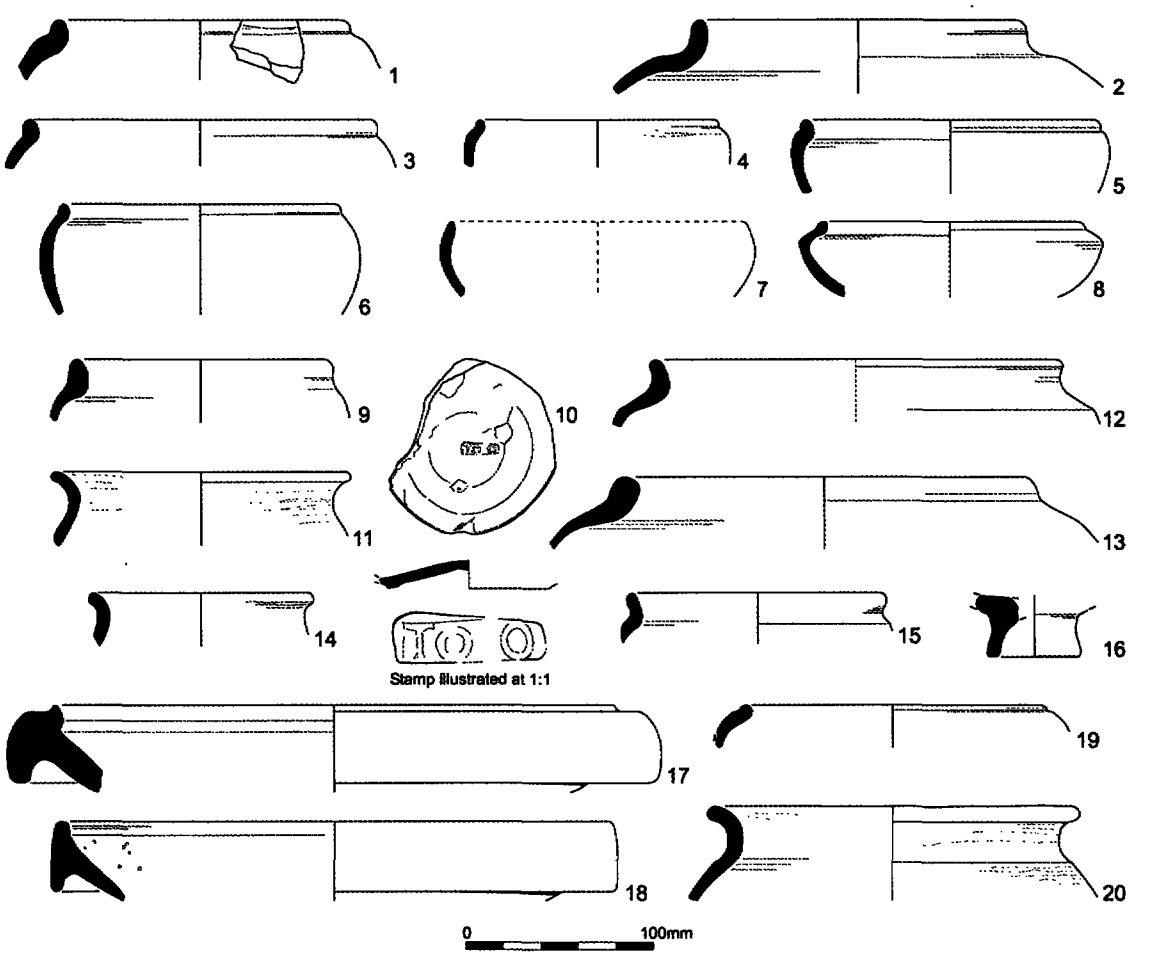

Fig. 6 The pottery. Scale 1:4

Mortaria

M.1. Rhenish Soft buff-brown to cream fabric with soft irregular 2.00 to 10.00 white inclusions [RHL WH].
M.2. North Gaulish White [NOG WH].

The assemblages

Phase 2. Mid 1st century AD
There are two consecutive pottery assemblages belonging to this phase:

Assemblage 1, from the buried soil horizon in Trench 3 (Context 1006). This layer produced 17 sherds (136 gm.) of pottery, comprising five sherds from a thin-walled flagon in pinkish-cream Gallo-Belgic fabric F.4C, a Dr.18 platter rim in South Gaulish Samian, a sherd in brown Vectis ware, nine sherds from the lower part of a small handmade jar in black Fabric C.6 and a rim from a black Vectis ware jar. A Claudian date is possible for this assemblage. Excavation of more of this layer might produce valuable evidence for the be-

ginnings of the Vectis ware tradition in this part of the Isle of Wight.

Figure 6

1. Bead rim from jar in black Vectis ware fabric C.1B. External rim diameter 160 mm.

Assemblage 2, from the rubbish dump over Context 1006 in Trench 3 (context 1005). This context produced 262 sherds (1248 gm) of pottery including Vectis ware bead-rim jars and Gallo-Belgic platter imitations as well as a stamped Terra Nigra platter base, 19 sherds from a whiteware flagon in Fabric F.4C and two from another flagon in Fabric F.8. Fragments from a burnt South Gaulish Samian Dr.15/17 platter and an indeterminate South Gaulish samian form with two rivet holes are also present. This is one of the largest pottery assemblages from the site but it is still too small for quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents.

The Vectis ware percentage of the assemblage (82% by sherd count and 79% by weight), although high, is considerably less than that from contemporary assemblages in the west of the Island: Atherfield (96%) and Grange Chine context 16 (100%). These coastal sites were, however, associated with brine boiling and may also have been engaged in the production of Vectis ware. Atherfield and Grange Chine also have few or no fine wares, reflecting the industrial nature of the two sites (Lyne forthcoming c and d). It is probable that most of the pottery in this Clatterford assemblage is pre-Flavian in date, although some Flavian pottery may also be present.

Figure 6

2. Jar with weakly everted rim in grey Vectis ware fired buff- brown. External rim diameter 170 mm.
3. Bead-rim jar of Tomalin (1987) Form 9 in similar fabric fired rough brown-grey. External rim diameter 190 mm.
4. Bead-rim jar of Tomalin Form 4 in black Vectis ware. External rim diameter 160 mm. Late Iron Age to *c.* AD 70.
5. Bead-rim bowl of Tomalin Form 8 in similar fabric. External rim diameter 140 mm. Late Iron Age to *c.* AD 70.
6. Bead-rim jar of Tomalin Form 4 in similar fabric. External rim diameter 180 mm.
7. ?Gallo-Belgic platter imitation in grey-black Fabric C.1A fired buff-grey. Very large diameter. One of two vessels. Mid-late 1st century.
8. Bead-rim bowl of Hengistbury Head form BD 5.3 (Brown 1987) with carinated shoulder, in black Fabric C.2. External rim diameter 160mm. Late Iron Age to *c.* AD 70.
9. Bead-rim jar, probably of Hengistbury Head form JC 3.1. External rim diameter 200 mm.
10. Base from Gallo-Belgic Terra Nigra platter with very worn stamp, possibly reading TO[RN]O. Platters with this stamp or similar are known from the Claudian Phase III at Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 212; pl XLVII 147/8).

Phase 3. Late 1st to early 2nd century. Assemblage 3. From the cobbles of the roads in Trench 4 (contexts 1509 and 1511). The two cobbled patches 1509 and 1511 yielded three sherds (22 gm) and five sherds (44 gm) of pottery respectively. The sherds from 1509 consist of a jar fragment in black Fabric C.1B and one fragment each from a South Gaulish samian Dr.18 platter and a ?Dr.37 bowl. The five fragments from 1511 comprise two Vectis ware body sherds, the flange from an early 2nd century Central Gaulish samian Curle 11 bowl, a mortarium sherd in cream Fabric M.2 and a fragment from a rough-cast indented beaker in Fabric F.11 (*c.* AD 70–140).

Assemblage 4. From the fill of roadside ditch 1520 (context 1516). The fill of the ditch produced 38 sherds (802 gm) of late-1st-century pottery consisting entirely of Vectis ware forms and with an overwhelming predominance of Fabric C.1B fragments. It is possible that all of this pottery is pre-Flavian in date: if so, it would suggest that the road was constructed very soon after the Roman conquest and reinforce the suspicion that most of the pottery from the road cobbles was pushed in during use.

Figure 6

11. Butt-beaker rim of Tomalin form 2 (1987) in black Fabric C.1B. External rim diameter 160 mm. Mid–late 1st century.
12. Necked-bowl of Tomalin form 6 in similar fabric.

External rim diameter 140 mm. Mid–late 1st century.

13. Bead rim from jar of Tomalin form 4 in similar fabric. External rim diameter 240 mm. Mid–late 1st century.
14. ?Butt-beaker rim of Tomalin form 2 in similar fabric. External rim diameter 120 mm. Mid–late 1st century.
15. Stubby everted rim from jar in similar fabric.
16. Pedestal base of Tomalin form 3 in similar fabric. Mid–late 1st century.

Assemblage 5. From the fills of Ditch 32 (contexts 29, 30 and 73). These ditch fills produced 72 sherds (884 gm) of late 1st and early-2nd century pottery in total. Vectis ware makes up 85% of this by sherd count and includes the rim of a lid-seated flanged dish of probable 2nd-century date, a fragment from a butt-beaker of Tomalin form 2, a jar rim of form 10 and a lid sherd. The other wares include four miscellaneous greyware fragments, two sherds from a flagon in buff-brown fabric and three sherds from two Central Gaulish samian Dr. 18/31 platters (*c.* AD 120–150). One of the Dr.18/31 basal fragments has the fragmentary stamp PER[.

Phase 4. Late 2nd to early 3rd century. Assemblage 6. From layers 1502 and 1508 over the road surfaces in Trench 4. These two layers produced 32 sherds (396 gm) of pottery between them, including fragments from two wall-sided mortaria in cream Fabric M.1 (*c.* AD 150–220/240) and a Central Gaulish samian Dr. 33 (*c.* AD 120–200). Vectis ware fabrics make up 75% of the assemblage by sherd count but there are no rim fragments from what are entirely closed forms.

Assemblage 7 from contexts 508 and 509, poorly defined dumps of soil overlying the unphased ditches (contexts 516 and 521) in the southern end of Trench 2. The material machined from these two contexts produced 53 sherds (2602 gm) of mainly late 2nd and early 3rd century pottery. The assemblage includes sherds from Vectis ware forms 13 (*c.* AD 100–300+) and 28 (*c.* AD 70–250), as well as an incipient beaded-and-flanged bowl of 3rd century type in the same fabric. There are also 14 sherds from Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae, fragments from a Central Gaulish samian Dr. 31 platter (*c.* AD 150–200), an East Gaulish samian Dr. 79 (*c.* AD 160–200+) and the following:

Figure 6

17. Rim, from a large Rhenish mortarium in buff-brown Fabric M.1. External rim diameter 380 mm.
18. Rim from another, wall-sided, mortarium in a similar fabric. External rim diameter 300 mm. *c.* AD 150–240
19. Rim sherd, small bead-rim jar in black Fabric C.1B.

Phase 5. *c.* AD 270–300+. Assemblage 8. From the constructional contexts 505, 506 and 507 for Building 2 in Trench 2. The tile and stone beam pad (context 505) produced 37 sherds (242 gm) of pottery, largely made up of 29 sherds from a 2nd-century jar of Tomalin Form 10 in Fabric C.1B. Three sherds from a 1st-century flagon in Fabric F.4B are also present. The residual nature of nearly all of this pottery is, however, indicated by the presence of a reeded-rim sherd from a New Forest Greyware jar of Fulford's Type 33.2 (*c.* AD 270–350).

The layer of dumped flints below 505 (context 506) produced three sherds from a closed form in Fabric C.1B, as well as a small fragment from a rod handle in crude black Fabric C.5. Despite its rather prehistoric appearance, this fabric is reminiscent of that used for some remarkably crude and irregular handmade pots from late-3rd-century contexts at Rock villa (Lyne forthcoming a, Fabric C.4). The chalk floor of this building incorporated 92 sherds (650 gm) of black Vectis ware (Fabric C.1B), most of which comes from one vessel (Fig. 6 no 20).

Figure 6

20. Cavetto-rim jar of Tomalin Form 13. External rim diameter 200 mm. This jar type has a very wide date range of *c.* AD 100–300+ and persists in early 4th century assemblages from Rock villa.

Assemblage 9, from the cleaning layer above building 2 (context 504). Most of the pottery retrieved from this context (17 sherds, 280 gm of pottery) is not closely datable: there are no rim

sherds present. Vectis wares make up more than half of the assemblage and there are fragments from both Dressel 20 and Gauloise amphorae. The presence of a jar sherd in black Hampshire Grog-tempered ware (Fabric C.3) does, however, indicate occupation later than AD 270 and possibly after AD 300. The continued predominance of Vectis ware, and lack of other 4th century sherds in this assemblage does, however, make it likely that occupation did not go on very far into the 4th century; certainly no later than AD 350.

Ceramic building material by Sean McPhillips

Quantities of tile and brick (weight 107.52kg) were recovered from twenty seven contexts, including ditch fills, dumps, surfaces, and clearance layers. The types consist of standard *imbrex*, *tegula*, box-flue and flat tiles, with only small amounts of brick. Most of the tile collected (66%) came from Building 2, located south-east of the main villa complex in Trench 2, and dated to the late 3rd century AD (Phase 5). The Building 2 material comprised 35 *imbrex* (4.66kg), 54 *tegula* (14.58kg), 5 box-flue (1.76kg), 211 flat (17.32kg), and 7 bricks (2.78kg), disturbed broken fragments from above the tile beam pads of Building 2. The *in-situ* tile was not excavated and was reburied at the end of the excavation. The tiles from within this building probably indicate a re-use of material from the villa in the later 3rd century. This ceramic building material is likely to be a local product, with a possible source near Combley villa.

The fact that demolition deposits from the main villa building were not encountered is reflected in the relatively small quantities of the tile retrieved from the types of deposits excavated.

Roman coins

Three Roman coins were recovered. The second century *denarius* came from the topsoil above the road surface (context 1508, Phase 3). The coin date does not disagree with those suggested by the pottery from soils above the road surfaces in Trench 4, (contexts 1502 and 1508; Lyne assemblage 6, above); the *denarius* could easily have been in circulation as late as the early third century (cf King 1984, 53; fig 1.A.).

Identifications by Barry Knight

Antoninus Pius silver denarius, 155–156 AD
Obv. Laureated bearded head r., ANTONINVS AVG | PIVS PP IMP II
Rev. Female figure standing l, holding cornucopia and baton (Providentia), TR POT XIX | COS IIII
Good condition, little wear or corrosion. Probably lost by 3rd quarter of 2nd century. 16–17 mm dia, wt 2.98g
Context 1508 soil above road surface context 1512, Trench 4, Phase 4: SF 5504.

2nd century copper as?
Obv. Bust r.
Rev. Standing figure l.
Very corroded and pitted. 26 mm dia, wt 5.01g
XRF Analysis: Identified as Copper
Context 1009, late Roman gravel surface Building 1, Trench 3, Phase 4: SF 5511.

2nd century copper as?
No features visible to the naked eye
Very corroded and pitted. 22–23 mm dia, wt 5.70g
XRF Analysis: Identified as Copper
Context 1005, Trench 3, Phase 2: SF 5512

The objects by Sean McPhillips

Twenty objects were collected from the site in addition to the three coins. Most of the metal objects were located by metal detecting the trench spoil heaps created by machining. The diagnostic artefacts are generally dated to the 2nd century, and although several of the metal finds, such as the horseshoes, are post Roman date in date, the lack of evidence in the form of pottery, glass or clay tobacco pipes for subsequent occupation on the site suggests that the rest of the metal finds derive from the Roman phases. The two post medieval horse shoes were found above the route of the later 1st century road, and probably represent the continued use of this route through to the post medieval period.

Although the assemblage of finds from the excavations is small there are several objects which may point to the possibility of ritual deposition. The imported pine cone (Cat No.1) and unusual shale object (Fig. 7: No 2), recovered from within fills of ditch 1004 (Phase 5: Fig. 3), alert us to the suggestion that they may represent unusual deposition. The only other metal object from the ditch

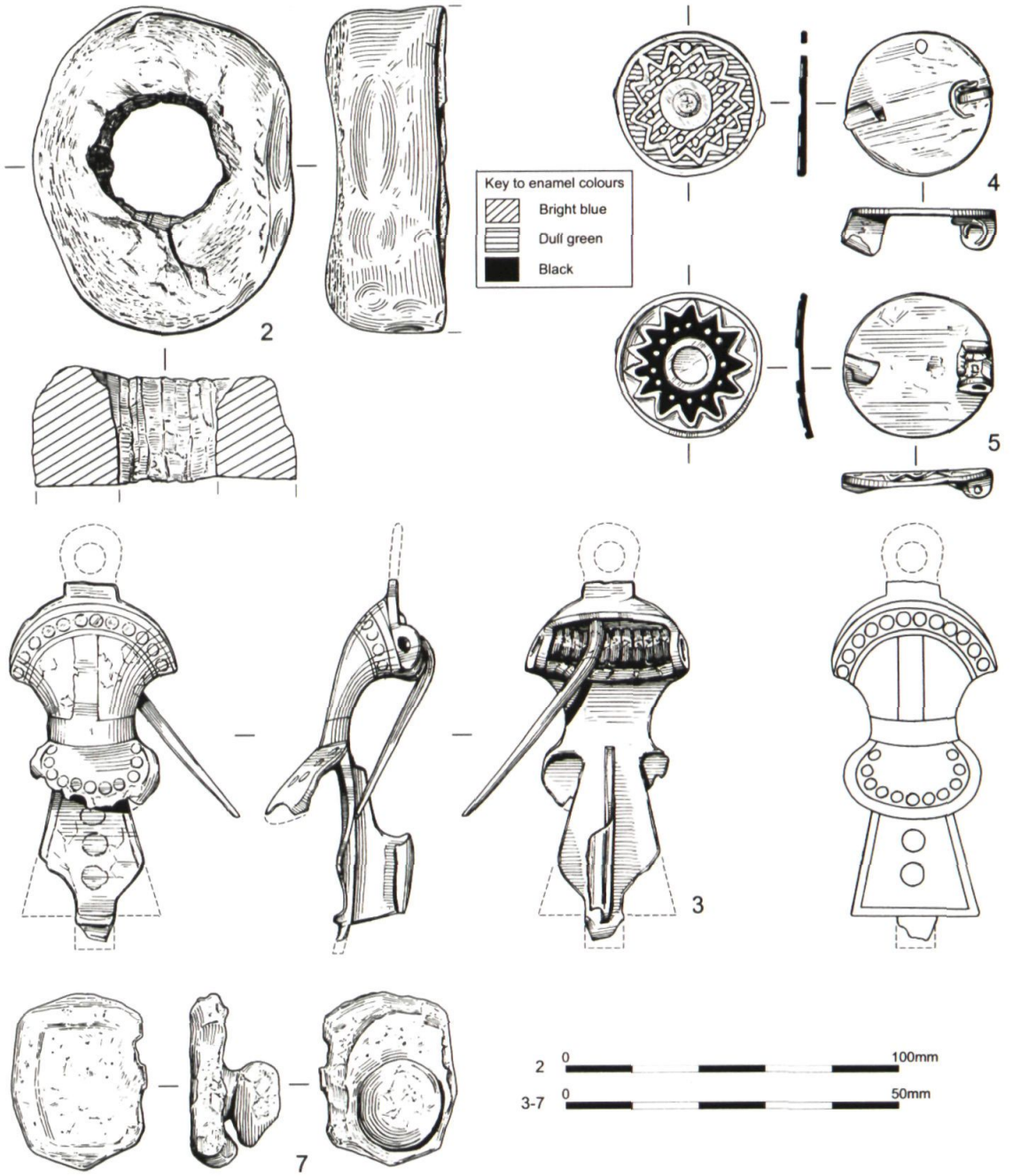

Fig. 7 The Objects: Shale (No 2) Scale 1:2. Metal (Nos 3–5 and 7) Scale 1:1

in Trench 3, an iron nail (Cat No 12), may also be significant, as suggested by Dungworth (1998, 148).

Pine cones are known to be associated with the mystery religions, especially those devoted to the deities of Bacchus (Henig 1984, 117, Fig. 48) and Sabazius (Bird 1996, 121, Fig. 14.2), and have often been used as symbols of immortality in many funerary monuments (Boon 1974, 165). Kislev has pointed out that a pine cone is depicted in a wall painting at a villa at Boscoreale, near Pompeii, and is shown placed on an altar together with various fruits (Kislev 1998, 76). Complete pine cones of this species have also been found at the Temples of Mithras in London and at Carrawburgh on Hadrian's Wall, at Chew Park in Somerset, and in the Verulamium triangular temple (Boon 1974, 165) where they were interpreted as possible altar fuel (Willcox 1977, 273). However, the example from Clatterford has not been subjected to heat. The discovery of these pine cones on sites in England is becoming more common with the advent of improved environmental sampling methods; nevertheless the presence of the pine cone at Clatterford would still be an exotic item.

It is known that imported whole pine cones were used as votive offerings in temples. It has also been suggested that black shiny materials, such as jet and shale, could be linked to eastern mystery religions which became popular in the 3rd century AD (Allason-Jones 1996, 15–17). The association of these two items and the iron nail suggests the ditch could have been used as a place to dispose of ceremonial items in the manner of a *favissa* or ritual pit (Merrifield 1987,44). Such pits are known in the Roman world for the placing of votive objects that have been broken, for instance pottery and remains of ritual feasts.

The pottery evidence from the Clatterford ditch suggests that this possible ritual activity would have occurred in the late 3rd century AD (Lyne assessment report, in archive). This feature provided a small amount of material from a short (1.2m long) section, and therefore limited evidence for intentional deposition, but a case could be made for these artefacts to have been deliberately placed, and not merely casual rubbish disposal.

The site produced three brooches found by metal detection, two disc brooches and a well preserved trumpet brooch; all were finely decorated and date to the 2nd century (Fig. 7, Nos 3–5, Plate 1). Although the two disc brooches are unstratified they also come from Trench 3. Therefore, it is just possible that they too have ritual connections, as the discovery of two such similar enamelled disc brooches with star motif design is very unusual. Two very similar disc brooches with star motif designs and enamelled in red and white, and blue or black and red respectively, were found on Nornour in the Scilly Isles (Hull 1967, 52 and Fig. 21 nos. 191–2). Although Hull thought that the large number of brooches found on Nornour were manufactured there (*ibid*, 28), subsequent reinterpretation has proposed a votive explanation (Simpson and Blance 1998, 268). An enamelled disc brooch was discovered within a religious complex at Pagans Hill, Chew Stoke in Somerset (*ibid*, 277), reinforcing the link that can be made between this brooch type and ritual deposition. Butcher remarks in her report of the Uley shrine brooches that it is not uncommon for brooches to be kept for long periods, and they may be found in contexts much later than their date of manufacture (Butcher 1993, 157). The conversion of one of the disc brooches (Fig. 7, No.4) into a pendant, suggests a later reuse and possibly a longer currency. The 3rd century date suggested by Lyne is, therefore, not incompatible with the 2nd century date of the brooches. It is known that brooches have been intentionally deposited throughout the Roman period, and the presence of the disc brooches at Clatterford may eventually prove to have special significance.

The trumpet brooch (Fig. 7, No 3) is an Almgren Type 101. White metal decoration of this type is only found on British brooches, and tends to be found on ones with a date range of 125–225 AD (*pers comm* D F Mackreth). The decoration on this example is silver foil attached by tinning.

Three pieces of quern and millstone were recovered. All were broken fragments and could have been reused as building material. It is interesting to note that the millstone and one of the quern stones are not Island products, but were

imported. The hand quern fragment made from Millstone Grit (Fig. 8, No 15), possibly originating in the Pennines, is a rare occurrence on the Isle of Wight. David Tomalin mentioned no examples in his survey of material (Tomalin 1987, 85–96), but another has though recently been found at Cames Field, Bowcombe, near to Clatterford (*pers comm* David Williams). The sandstone quern (Fig. 8, No 16) could have been manufactured on the mainland, and other such querns have been found at Brading villa (Tomalin 1987, 89, G24-G28). The millstone (Fig. 8, No 17) may belong to Tomalin's North Downs Lower Greensand Sub-group 3, which is known on the Isle of Wight (*ibid*, 85). I am grateful to David Williams for this geological information.

Catalogue (Fig. 7–8)

1 Pine cone, species *Pinus pinea* (stone pine) (not illus). Almost complete but fragmented. Imported examples are not widespread in Britain, but have been found in at the Temples of Mithras in London and at Carrawburgh, Chew Park in Somerset, and at Verulamium, St. Albans (Willcox 1977, 273). Length 95mm, circumference 195 mm. Context 1003, upper fill of ditch 1004 Trench 3, Phase 5: SF 5516

2 Shale object. Function unknown. Ovular in shape with a hand made hole cut out with a chisel. Possibly unfinished, the upper surface is slightly coarse and uneven; from the profile one area could have been completed. The sides are smooth and naturally indented, and do not appear to have been polished. The surface on the reverse side indicates the object is either not finished (*pers comm* Lindsay Allason-Jones), or has sheered off at a naturally weak point. However, without any evidence of tool marks on this surface, this is difficult to determine. The appearance of the shale suggests the source is probably from Kimmeridge, Dorset (*pers comm* David Dungworth). A similar object, also made from Kimmeridge shale, but rather more circular in shape, was found at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight and described by Tomalin as an object of unknown use (1987, 46 and 50, C12). 95 × 77 mm, surviving thickness 36 mm, diameter of hole approximately 33 mm. Context 1011, primary sediment fill of ditch 1004 Trench 3, Phase 5: SF 5510.

Brooches (description of enamel and metal analysis by Justine Bayley).

3 Trumpet brooch variant, Almgren type 101. Spring, pin and catch plate are intact. The foot has a groove on its lower section, but is broken off. The upper area of the chain loop is missing. The flange is slightly damaged and folded over in places along the edge. The wide spring with eleven turns is contained between two lugs, no axis bar is visible. The pin angles outwards. Traces of tinning which attached silver foils remain of its original decoration, with two transverse lines on the head which border a single row of dots; an axial central band on the trumpet area terminates in a band immediately above the flange; a similar row of dots is visible near the edge of the mid bow flange which is edged with a tinned strip; three larger dots are on the foot plate, and the fantail shape was outlined by a narrow tinned strip. The form and surface detail is similar to the type found in Norfolk (Hattatt 1985, 113, and Fig. 47.448). Manufacture of later trumpet headed varieties continued well on into the 2nd century (Crummy 1983, 14). The brooch is made of brass. Traces of lead-tin solder and silver were detected by x-ray fluorescence. Length 52 mm. Context 1506, metal detected from the fill of a land drain, Trench 4: SF 5502.

4 Disc brooch with star motif, enamelled. Thirteen pointed star with thirteen concentric metal dots inside. Green enamel is intact in the outer zone of the design, with opaque blue enamel remnants around the reserved metal dots of the inner zone. The central area is empty, this is frequently the case on brooches of this type (Hattatt 1989 Fig. 203, nos. 119, 515.). The pin is missing, the catch plate and a single lug are present with one coil of the spring visible around the lug. A small hole has been drilled from the front between the star and the rim. This deliberate piercing is positioned approximately at right angles to the catch plate, and could indicate re-use as a pendant, or that something was suspended from the brooch. The brooch is made of leaded bronze with traces of tinning on the reserved metal. Diameter 22 mm, perforation 2 mm. Context 1001, metal detected from a spoilheap from the east end of Building 1, Trench 3: SF 5503.

5 Disc brooch with star motif, enamelled. Closely similar in design to No.4. The difference is in the enamel decoration; small traces of black enamel are visible within the star points around the metal

Plate 1 Pair of disc brooches with star motifs.

dots; no enamel survives outside the star. The catch plate and two lugs to hold the spring are present on the reverse. The iron corrosion between the lugs suggests the presence of an iron axis bar through the spring, which is now missing. The brooch is bronze containing a little lead, with traces of tinning on the reserved metal. Diameter 22 mm. Context 1001 metal detected from a spoil heap from the east end of Building 1, Trench 3: SF 5506

Other finds

6 Copper alloy fragment (not illus.) Amorphous shape, function unknown. Length 13 mm, width 10 mm. Context 1001, metal detected from Trench 3 spoil heap: SF 5509.

7 Lead plug. Flattened, square shaped with three rounded sides and a spherical protrusion off centre. The other side has a grooved edge forming a lip. Probable pottery repair. Length 25 mm, width 20 mm, thickness 3 mm, sphere 10 mm thick, diameter approximately 15 mm, weight 37gm. Context 1510 unstratified, Trench 4: SF 5521.

8 Lead run-off (not illus.). Formless melted waste, maximum length 23 mm, weight 7 gm. Context 1001. Metal detected from Trench 3 spoil heap: SF 5507.

9 Lead melted lump (not illus.). Irregular surface, slightly flat on one side, without specific shape. Length 23 mm, width 27 mm, weight 25 gm. Context 535, metal detected from Trench 2 spoil heap: SF 5514.

10 Lead folded sheet (not illus.). Rectangular with rounded corners, approximately a 3rd of the sheet is folded over. Length 44 mm, width 39 mm, weight 52 gm. Context 1513, under the cobble surface 1512 of the western road, Trench 4, Phase 3: SF 5513.

11 Lead sheet (not illus.). Fairly heavy working piece, flat with a cut edge, rounded ends and a cleft shaped groove along the bottom of one side, traces of the line of this groove is visible on the other side. Length 76 mm, width 55 mm, thickness 5 mm, weight 128 gm. Context 1001, metal detected Trench 3 spoil heap: SF 5522.

12 Iron nail (not illus.). The head is intact and oval in shape, the shaft is slightly bent. Surface corrosion has a fibrous appearance. Length 34 mm, width 10 mm. Context 1003, upper fill of ditch 1004 Trench 3, Phase 5: SF 5520.

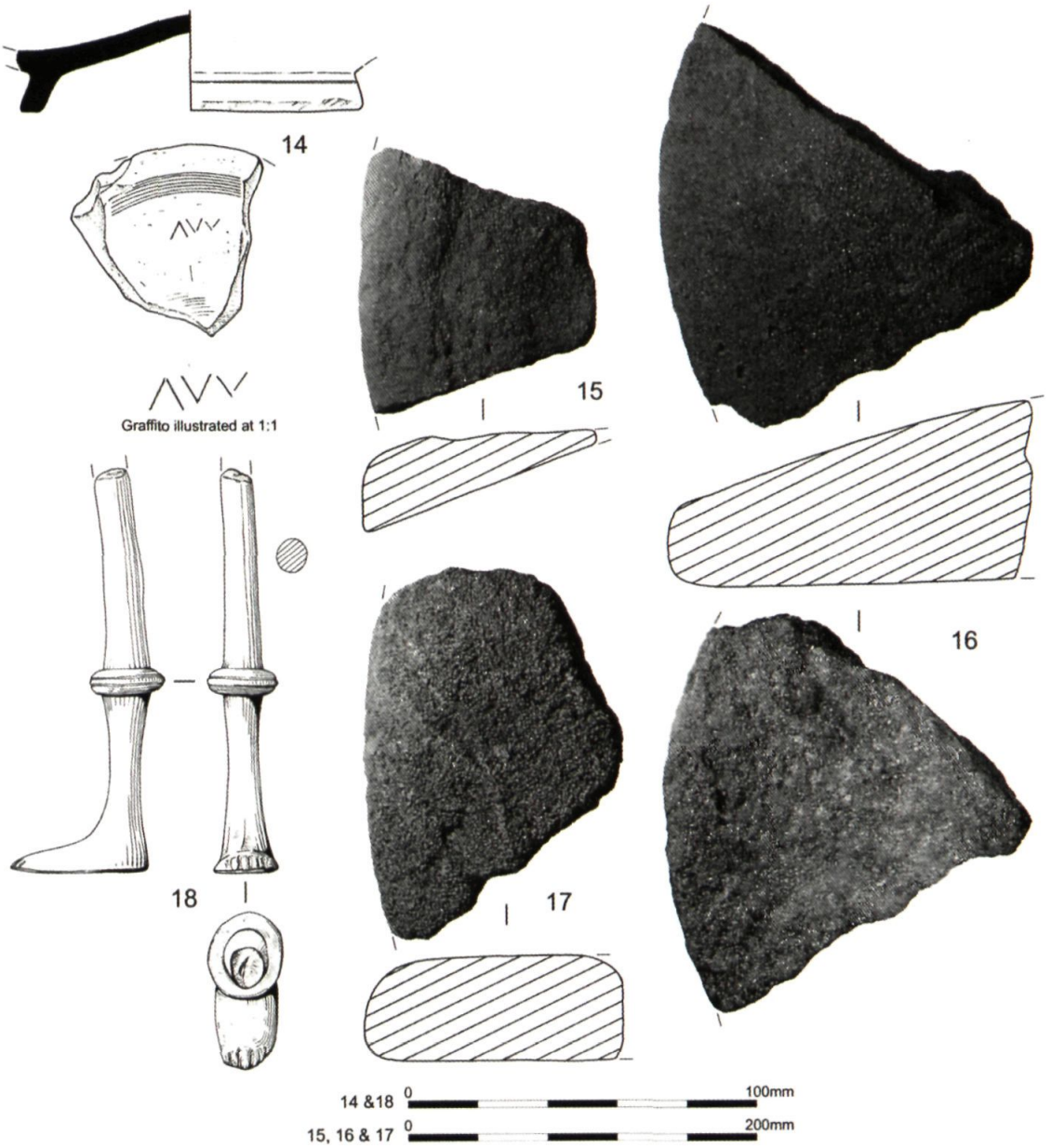

Fig. 8 The Objects: Stone (Nos 15–17) Scale 1:4. Samian and copper alloy (Nos 14 and 18) Scale 1:2

13 Glass bottle fragment (not illus.). A small fragment of a blue\green glass lower handle junction. The outer surface of the handle is slightly concave and reeded. This form is a common variety in Roman Britain (Cool and Price 1995, 179). 1st–3rd century (*pers comm* Hilary Cool). Length 26 mm, surviving width of handle 23 mm, thickness 8 mm. Context 1508, soil above road surface context 1512 Trench 4, Phase 4: SF 5505.

14 Central Gaulish samian base with graffito. Around quarter of a burnt Dragendorf 18/31 platter, with traces of a stamp (too worn to read) in the centre and some letters scratched through the surface slip on the underside. The latter are perhaps a mark of ownership, reading AVM; the last two letters are ligatured together and the M less certain than the others. This form is broadly Hadrianic to early Antonine (ie contemporary with Lyne's assemblage 5, above). Information provided by Colin Wallace. Base ring diameter 100 mm. Context 56, unphased layer of homogenous silt below topsoil at the western end of Trench 1: SF 5508.

Querns and millstone (geological identifications by Dr. David Williams)

15 Hand quern (upper stone), Millstone grit, possibly originating from the Pennine region of northern Britain. This small, lightish grey fragment has clear if worn radial grooving. Reuse as an implement is possible, as an area of the stone along the inside edge is worn where the quern may have been broken. It also appears to have been burnt and a part of the upper surface is missing, whether this was a feature of its secondary use is uncertain. Length 135 mm, width 125 mm, depth 38 mm, approximately 450 mm in diameter. Context 530, rubble dump south of Building 2 Trench 2, Phase 4: SF 5523.

16 Hand quern, well-sorted ferruginous sandstone. Peck marks on one surface indicates the stone has been dressed. The other surface is smooth and worn. Upper querns frequently wear and recede more than lower stones. This large fragment shows no sign of wear on the outer edge. The fragment is broken very near the centre where the corn chute would be on an upper stone, but as there is no evidence for a chute it is likely that this fragment is from a lower stone. Length 205 mm, width 200 mm, depth 73 mm, approximately 460 mm in diameter. Context 1512, surface layer of western road Trench 4, Phase 3: SF 5524.

17 Millstone, a weakly consolidated fairly well-sorted Lower Greensand, with a fairly well-sorted glauconitic element tending to limonitize. Fragment with a large circumference. The outer edge and grinding profile are very worn. Length 185 mm, width 130 mm, depth 55 mm, approximately 700–750 mm in diameter. Context 1512, surface layer of western road Trench 4, Phase 3: SF 5525.

Post Medieval finds, Phase 6

18 Copper alloy support. Solid circular rod with projected moulded ribbing at the mid point, traces of iron corrosion are visible around this area, the rod shaft slightly angles inwardly terminating in the form of a human foot, this is flat and tapers slightly towards the heel. The six toes are defined by incised lines. Probably post medieval in date (*pers comm* Geoff Egan). Total length 113 mm, diameter 10 mm, foot length 40 mm, width 19 mm, central ribbing 22 mm in diameter. Context 1504, top soil above western road (context 1512 in phase 3), Trench 4, Phase 6: SF 5501.

19 Cart horse shoe (not illus.). Almost complete, nails not present. Length 164 mm, width 163 mm. Context 1510, unstratified, Trench 4: SF 5517.

20 Horse shoe (not illus.). Almost complete, nail shafts missing. Length 180 mm, width 98 mm. Context, 1510 unstratified, Trench 4: SF 5518.

Other material

Small amounts of other categories of material were also recovered. These are only briefly summarized here; full details are available in archive reports.

Slag by David Dungworth. Approximately 1 kg of slag and a fragment of ironstone were recovered from a dump of charcoal and burnt clay (context 534 Trench 2, Phase 4: sample 5006). The slag is largely undiagnostic and the technological processes producing it are not certain, but no non-ferrous metals were detected. Although this type of slag could have been produced accidently, several fragments of vitrified hearth lining were also recovered, and this is usually only associated with high temperature technologies. The amount and type of slag is not uncommon for a Roman villa site.

Human bone by Simon Mayes. Four fragments of human bone were recovered from the fill within

ditch 527 (context 502, Phase 4) in Trench 2. The material comprises the occipital bone and adjoining parts of left and right parietal bones. The robust morphology indicates male sex, and the state of suture closure suggests an age in excess of about 40 years.

Animal bone by Clare de Rouffignac. The hand retrieved assemblage derives from 34 contexts and consists of 315 bones or fragments, totaling 914 grammes. These largely consist of the fragmentary and unarticulated remains of large animal bones.

PLANT MACROFOSSIL REMAINS
by Dominique de Moulins

Four samples, from the Phase 3 peat layer (context 537: sample 5002), the continuation of Phase 3 peat layer (contexts 524 & 526: sample 5004), Phase 2 dump deposit (context 1005: sample 5005), and a dump of charcoal and burnt clay (context 534, Phase 4: sample 5006) were taken for assessment of their environmental potential during the trial excavations. These samples were assessed (de Rouffignac 1998) and have now been analysed in this report. Pollen profile samples (5001, and 5003 through contexts 501, 526 and 532) were also taken to correspond with the two waterlogged samples 5002 and 5004; the results from sample 5003 are presented (Scaife) below. A pine cone of *Pinus pinea* (stone pine) was also recovered by hand from context 1003 (upper fill of Phase 5 ditch 1004, Trench 3). The samples for plant macro remains were taken from two early and one late Roman layers and from context 534 which contained industrial debris (see Dungworth above).

The results of the assessment report are included into the final discussion, but samples 5002 and 5004 were processed afresh in order to give a full account of their contents. 500 grams of each were sieved through a nest of geological sieves, the smallest mesh was 300microns . In the case of samples 5005 and 5006, the flots from the largest mesh (2 mm) and 1/6th of the finer fraction had been fully sorted for the purpose of the assessment (de Rouffignac 1998); the sorted material of 5006 has now been fully identified and counted and a further 1/8th of the small fraction has been sorted, identified and counted. The plant macros were sorted, identified and fully counted using a low power microscope at magnification ×10 to ×50 and the reference collection of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. The residues of the samples have been checked.

The charcoal of one sample, 5006, was examined by Dana Challinor. One hundred pieces measuring more than 4 mm were identified from one subsample of sample 5006.

The results of the identification of the items sorted from the two waterlogged samples (5004 and 5002) are presented on Table 2 following the order of the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace 1997). The results from the charred samples are shown on Table 3.

Sample 5004 was much richer than sample 5002 in terms of both number of species and abundance. The sample included plants of a wet *(Ranunculus sp., Rumex* cf *hydrolapathum,* Apiaceae indet.) to aquatic *(Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum, Rorippa* cf *palustris, Apium graveolens)* environment with a disturbed ground element (e.g. *Rubus fruticosus* and *Sambucus nigra).* Some deterioration of this sample appears to have occurred in storage. The results of the assessment of this sample by Clare de Rouffignac (1998) yielded a greater range of species including more taxa characteristic of wetland habitats e.g. *Ranunculus* subgen. *Batrachium* and *Juncus* spp. These were also recovered from the base of the pollen profile along with numerous *Sambucus* and *Urtica* (*pers comm* Rob Scaife).

This sample also contained charred remains consisting mostly of spelt chaff and a few grains of indeterminate cereal indicating that some rubbish had been thrown out into the deposits, or that the items had blown in from nearby.

Sample 5002 was species poor consisting mostly of *Urtica dioica* and *Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus* seeds, indicators, amongst other possible habitats, of recolonised waste places. There is no indication of wet ground in this sample and it is suspected that the layer has not always remained waterlogged as the layer of sample 5004 appears to have done, and that possibly differential preservation allowing only for the survival of the toughest seeds may have

Table 2 Plant remains from waterlogged deposits

			context sample 524 5004	*context sample 537 5002*
date			*early Roman–1st–2nd c.*	*early Roman–1st–2nd c*
amount processed			*500 ml*	*500 ml*
Species	*English name*	*Plant part*		
Charred plant remains:				
Triticum spelta L.	spelt wheat	grain		
		rachis	1	
		glume bases	11	
Hordeum vulgare L.	barley	grain		1
		rachis	2	
Cerealia indet.	Indeterminate cereal	grain	2	
Poaceae	grass family	spikelet	1	
Waterlogged plant remains				
Ranunculus sp.	buttercup	seed	1	
Fumaria sp.	common fumitory	seed	1	
Urtica dioica L.	common nettle	seed	47	10
Chenopodium sp.	goosefoot	seed	3	
Persicaria maculosa Gray	redshank	seed	2	
Polygonum sp.	knotweed	seed	10	
Rumex cf. hydrolapathum Huds.	water dock	seed	3	
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum (L.) Hayek	water-cress	seed	3	
R. cf. *palustris*	marsh yellow-cress	seed	2	
Rubus sect. *Glandulosus*	bramble	seed	7	6
Apium graveolens L.	wild celery	seed	10	
Apiacea indet.	carrot family	seed		1
Galeopsis segetum Neck.	downy hemp-nettle	seed		1
Rhinanthus angustifolius/minor	yellow-rattle	seed		1
Sambucus nigra L.	elder	seed	35	1

Table 3 Plant remains from dry deposits.

context		*Charred*	*1006*	*534*	*534*	*534*	*534*
sample			*5005*	*5006*	*5006*	*5006*	*5006*
date			*Roman conquest 1st. c.*	——— *late Roman–3rd–4th c.* ———			
size of sample			*401*	*201*			
size of float				*2400 ml*	*150 ml*	*150 ml*	*2400 ml all*
			from all of the 2mm fraction and 1/16th of fine fraction (500 microns)	*from the whole >2mm fraction and 1/16th of fine fraction (500 microns)*	*from 1/16th*	*from 1/16th*	*(multiplied up)*
no. of items per litre							
Species	*English name*	*Plant part*					
Cereals							
Triticum spelta L.	spelt wheat	glume bases		7	10	11	168
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt	grain	3	6			6
Triticum free-threshing type	wheat naked	grain	4	3			3
Triticum sp.	wheat	grain		8	1		16
		glume bases			3	7	80
Hordeum vulgare L.	barley	grain	17	17			17
Cerealia indet.	cereal	grain	[18]	12		[1]	20
weeds/wild plants							
Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn	fern	pinna		1			1
Vicia sp.	vetch	seed	1	1			1
Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus	pea/vetch	seed	4	[2]	1		10
Rumex sp.	dock	seed		3			3
Sambucus nigra L.	elder	seed		8			8
Liliaceae	lily family	seed		2			2
Bromus secalinus L.	brome	seed		1	1 cf		9
Lolium sp.	rye grass	seed			1		8
Poaceae	grass family	seed	1	3		4	27
others:							
		shell		[1]			[1]
		root		1			1

The first column shows the full account of sample 5005 as sorted for the assessment: the whole of the >2 mm fraction and 1/16th of the finer fraction. The second column shows the same for the 5006, and the two following ones, two subsamples of 1/16th of the volume each. The last column shows the results of sample 5006 with the items found in the fine fraction multiplied up (×8) to the full sample size.

Key: [ ] Numbers within [ ] indicate whole items calculated from fragments.

taken place. *Urtica dioica*, however, is not usually considered one of the toughest seeds and this argues against the differential preservation explanation, the low number of taxa may therefore reflect the very variable taphonomy of the deposit.

The samples that yielded charred remains, 5006 and 5005 are also different from each other: 5006 (context 534) includes an important proportion of chaff, mostly spelt glume bases whilst 5005 (context 1005) consists mainly of grains of wheat and barley with no chaff. Two 1/16" subsamples of the flot of 5006 (columns 3 and 4 of Tab 3) were quite similar in composition; this allows us to trust the extrapolation made when calculating the numbers of the various items in the full sample (column 5 of Tab 3). The ratios of wheat grain to glume bases: 1:5 indicates a very high presence of chaff compared to that of the grains. As normally grains survive exposure to fire better than chaff (Boardman and Jones 1990), the relatively high number of spelt glume bases points to a much greater number of glume bases being exposed to the fire than those found in the sample. The preservation of the grains was poor, as is ascertained by the relatively high number of unidentified grains. This poor preservation may be due to the intensity of the burning. It is therefore worthy of note that proportionately so much chaff survived in these conditions, and that this sample also yielded the high temperature working debris (Dungworth, above).

Besides, grain, chaff and a few weed seeds including Poaceae and small legumes, the sample consisted mainly of charcoal fragments. Eighty of these were from oak *(Quercus* sp.*)*, seven from hazel *(Corylus avellana)*, one was a twig of clematis *(Clematis vitalba)*, one fragment was birch *(Betula* sp.*)* and one was a fragment of tree or shrub from the Maloideae (*Sorbus* spp., *Crataegus* spp., *Malus* spp etc).

Discussion

The plant macrofossils recovered from the waterlogged deposits give a glimpse of the local landscape at the southern end of the Roman villa: a damp marshy area with some open water nearby, not unlike the present meadow close to an open area with some evidence of pioneer plant communities recolonizing a bare or cleared patch. The diversity of the present day meadow is not reflected in the samples analyzed here, but it is worth remembering that samples for analysis of waterlogged deposits are necessarily small because of the time needed to deal with them, and in any case only reflect a very small and localized spot. Ideally, many such samples from throughout the whole site need to be examined in order to have a comprehensive idea of the local landscape at any one time. The two samples under discussion came from different locations with Trench 2, but are from the same peat deposit and reflect its unhomogeneous nature.

Some economic conditions are reflected by the charred remains. In one sample, the presence of a high proportion of chaff with some grain and weed seeds indicates that the processing of spelt was probably taking place in the vicinity of the villa in the late Roman period. It also indicates that the by-product of this crop processing may have been used to light the fire. The sample mainly consisted of charcoal fragments of various species especially oak and hazel. These must have constituted the main fuel of the industrial hearth which may be the origin of this layer. However, it would seem that in addition the chaff and probably the straw from crop processing were either added to the fire, or used as tinder to start the fire. Use of chaff as tinder has often been noted both in modern traditional societies (Hillman 1981) and at many archaeological sites, especially Roman sites (van der Veen 1989).

The other sample from the early Roman period appears to represent the background noise of the charred plant remains present on site at that time. The weed seeds from the two samples do not allow any remarks to be made as to the nature of the ground where the cereals were grown.

Conclusion

The southern extension of the Clatterford villa yielded four samples which have allowed us to confirm that the deposits in early Roman times were marshy in part and similar to the local present day local landscape, and that both wheat and barley were utilized on site. The late Roman deposits included elements of crop processing by-products which may have been used alongside oak as the fuel for an industrial hearth.

POLLEN ANALYSIS OF VALLEY FEN PEATS OF ROMANO-BRITISH DATE

by Rob Scaife

Peat sealed under flint rubble layer (context 506/536) adjacent to Clatterford Roman Villa was sampled by Clare de Rouffignac during the trial excavations at this site. Two monolith profiles were obtained, one of which sample 5003, through contexts 501 (topsoil), 526 (fill of Ditch 527, Phase 4) and layer 532 has been analysed for its sub-fossil pollen and spore content in order to provide data on local vegetation and environment. This profile has been dated by its artefact content to the Romano-British period up to the late 3rd century AD Although the Isle of Wight has a number of earlier studies, the majority of these are from peat areas developed on the acid bedrocks of the Lower Greensand (Scaife 1980a, 1980b, 1982, 1987), as well as from the coastal and estuarine peats which are present around the Solent fringes of North Wight (Devoy 1987; Scaife in press), and from occasional buried soil profiles (Scaife 1984, 1992). Overall, these data have provided a picture of the Isle of Wight environment from the end of the last cold (Devensian) stage. Successful extraction of pollen from the Clatterford peat deposits has provided data of some rarity. The peat is located in the middle of a chalk downland environment, an area not previously examined, and is in very close proximity to the Romano-British occupation.

Method

Two 50 cm monoliths were taken directly from the open, excavated sections of the peat stratigraphy. The most representative of these has been sub-sampled at 4 cm intervals in the laboratory. Fourteen samples were examined using standard techniques for the extraction and concentration of the microfossils (Moore and Webb 1978; Moore *et al.* 1992). Absolute pollen frequencies were calculated using Stockmarr *Lycopodium* tablets added to 2ml of sample. Counts of 300 pollen grains (dry land taxa) plus extant, marsh and fern spores were made at each level. These data are presented in diagram form (Tab 4a & b). Pollen has been calculated as a percentage of the dry land sum for the former, and as a percentage of the dry land plus marsh or spores for the latter. Pollen was identified using an Olympus biological research microscope fitted with Leitz optics. Data were plotted using Tilia and Tilia Graph. Taxonomy largely follows that of Moore and Webb (1978) modified according to the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace 1991), and amended pollen terminology of Bennett *et al.* (1994).

Results and pollen zonation

A total of 96 taxa was recorded in the 14 levels examined. Absolute pollen frequencies were calculated and ranged from 22,000 to 96,000 grains/ml. Pollen was generally well preserved and included substantial numbers of Lactucoideae, especially in the top half of the profile. Overall, pollen from trees and shrubs is more abundant in the lower levels and herbs relatively more important in the upper levels. Poaceae (to 46%) is dominant in the lower levels, while Lactucae are relatively more important above. In addition, there are diverse assemblages of other herbs in lesser quantities, or only single occurrences throughout the profile. These include predominantly, taxa within the Fabaceae, Polygonaceae, and Asteraceae. Cereal pollen is present but with relatively small numbers/percentages. In spite of the organic/peaty character of the deposits, the total numbers of marsh/aquatic pollen is small. Cyperaceae, *Potamogeton*, *Iris*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Caltha* and *Typha angustifolia*/*Sparganium* have been recorded.

Pollen zonation

The pollen spectra are broadly similar throughout the profile in spite of the great diversity of taxa present. However, three pollen assemblage zones have been identified. These are characterised from the base of the profile upwards.

Zone 1: 48–34 cm (context 526, fill of ditch 527). This zone has been delimited by higher percentages of cereal type (to 6%) than in subsequent zones. Overall herbs are dominant, with wild Poacaeae (to 44%) most important. Also of importance are Lactucae (10%) and *Sinapis* type which increases at the top of the zone. There is a wide range of other herb taxa, most of which occur

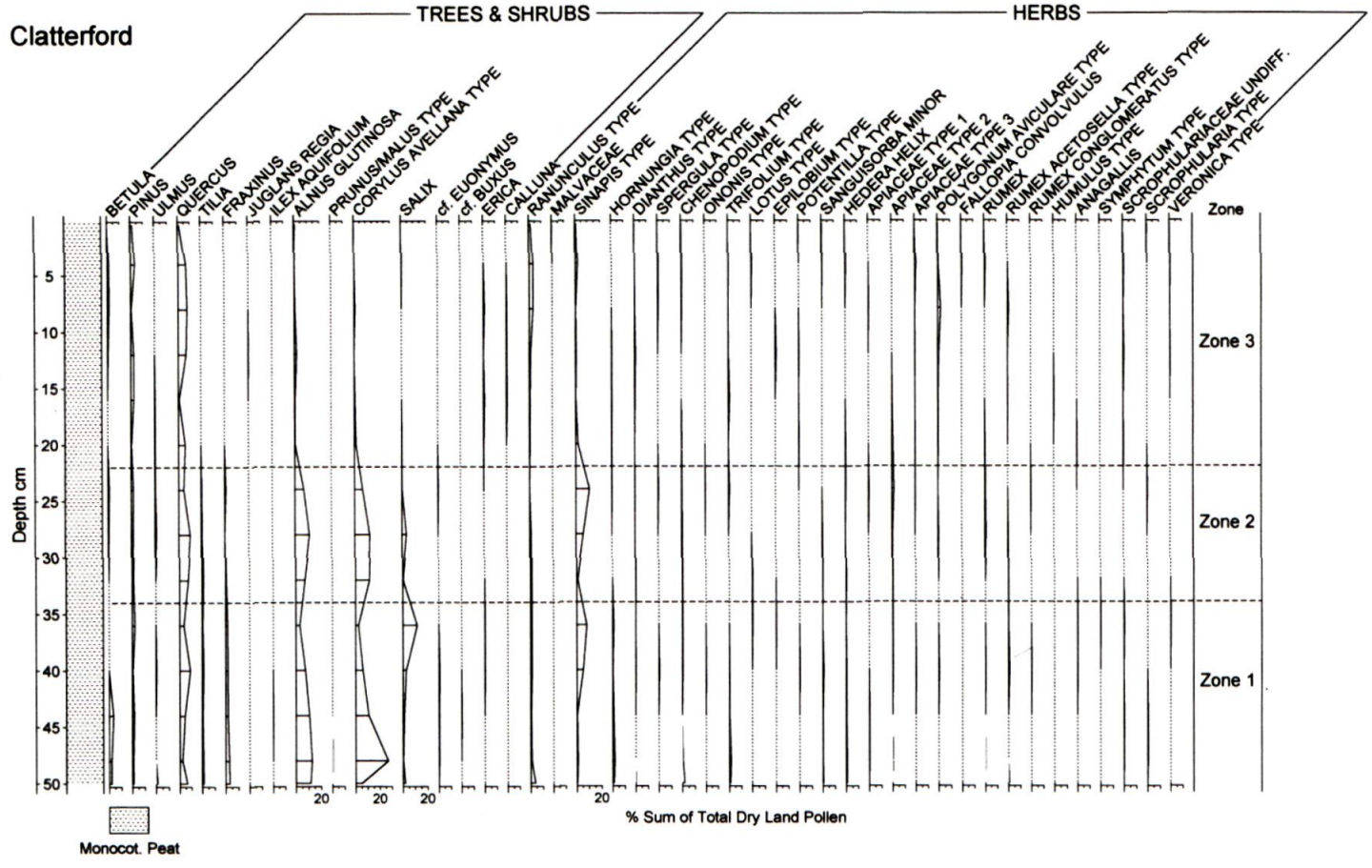

Table 4a Selected taxa. Trees, shrubs and herbs

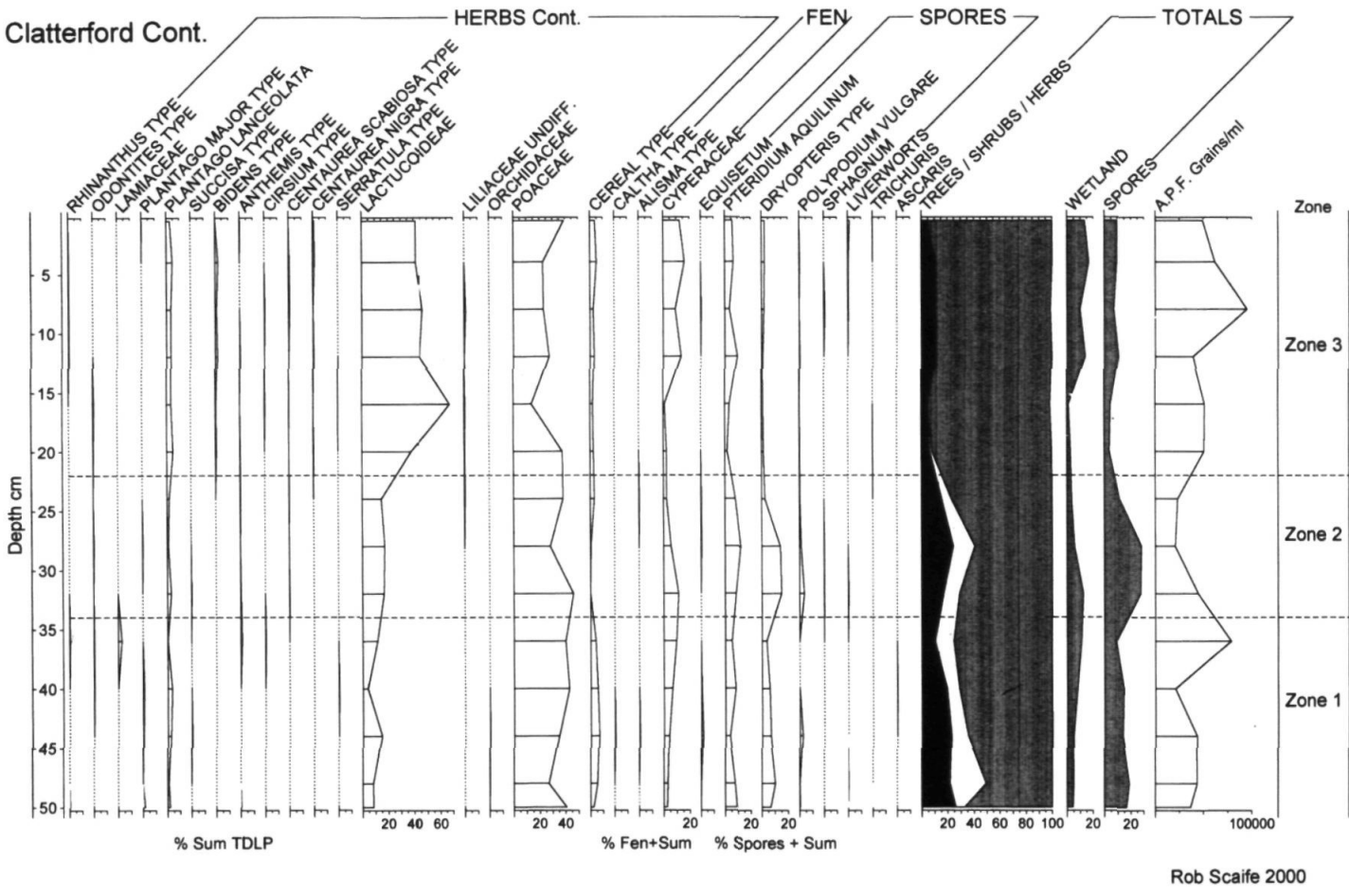

Table 4b Selected taxa. Herbs continued, fen types and spores

only sporadically. Trees and shrubs are more important in this than zone 2, with higher values of *Alnus* (15%), *Corylus* type (to 30% at 44 cm) and *Salix* (to 15%). There are also higher values of *Tilia* and *Fraxinus,* with sporadic occurrences of *Betula, Pinus, Ilex* and possibly *Euonymus* and *Buxus.* These largely continue in zone 2. Marsh taxa increase in importance upwards with Cyperaceae and occasional occurrences of *Caltha* type, *Alisma* type, *Lythrum salicaria* and *Iris.* Spores are dominated by *Pteridium aquilinum,* and *Dryopteris* type (monolete) with *Polypodium vulgare* and *Equisetum.*

Zone 2: 34–22 cm (lower portion of context 532). Cereal pollen is less important. There is an expansion of *Alnus* and *Corylus* type after diminished values in the top of zone 1. Herbs remain dominant, with Poaceae (40%) dominating but declining along with gradually expanding values of Lactucoideae. There are peaks in Cyperaceae (to 15% at the base of the zone), and spores of *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Dryopteris* type.

Zone 3: 22–0 cm (upper portion of context 532 and lower portion of topsoil 501). There are reductions in a number of trees at the base of the zone, especially *Alnus* and *Corylus* type and also *Tilia, Fraxinus* and *Salix.* Conversely, herb percentages attain their highest values in this zone (to 95%) at the top of the profile. *Juglans regia* is present at 12 cm. Poaceae remain important (to 40%), but with a marked increase in Lactucoideae (30–40% with peak to 85% at 16 cm). There are slight increases in cereal type and *Plantago lanceolata, Ranunculus* type, *Polygonum* spp. and Asteraceae types. Marsh types show a substantial expansion of Cyperaceae (20%).

Discussion and inferred vegetation history

The pollen profile obtained from Clatterford may be regarded as interesting and of value for two reasons. First, it is a peat developed within the chalklands which still has pollen preserved. Although such peat on, or in proximity to the downland of the Isle of Wight is not uncommon, this is the first time that pollen has been successfully extracted. Usually, calcareous, oxygenated ground water has removed all but the most resilient fern spores. Second, the associated archaeology provides a good dating control when radiocarbon dating may be hampered by hard water effects. Furthermore, there are few such records of vegetation from other chalkland regions of southern England, and these are of late Devensian and early Holocene age coming from river palaeochannels. In most cases pollen profiles are from other lithologies in close proximity to the chalk as for example, at Rimsmoor, Dorset (Waton and Barber 1987).

The depositional habitat of the Clatterford peat was a herb-rich fen. Elements present include *Caltha* type (marsh marigold), *Iris* (iris) and *Typha/Sparganium* (bur-reed and bulrush), *Alisma plantago-aquatica,* (water-plantain), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife) are typical elements. *Salix* (willow) was also possibly growing on-site in the earlier period of organic accumulation (zones 1 and 2). Interestingly, there are a small number of *Sphagnum* (bog moss) spores which are more typical of acid (bog) habitats. These spores are likely to have come from those taxa which are more tolerant of base rich conditions (e.g. *S. palustre*). The small numbers of *Erica* (heathers) and *Calluna* (ling) also attest to some areas of slightly more acid peat/soil conditions, perhaps on clay capping the chalk.

It is immediately apparent that tree and shrub pollen, even though more abundant in zone 1 and 2, are limited in number and suggest absence of woodland locally during the period spanned by this organic accumulation (1st–3rd century AD). Even though the over-representation of local herbs (especially Poaceae and Lactucae) may be skewing the data, it still appears that the near regional habitat was open, perhaps only with localised growth of some tree taxa. *Betula* (birch) and *Pinus* (pine) have wind dispersed pollen and small numbers here are certainly of non-local origin. *Quercus* (oak) and *Corylus* type (hazel and bog-myrtle but likely the former) undoubtedly formed the most important remaining woodland in areas of Tertiary lithology and heavier soils to the north of the Island. Middle to late Bronze Age clearance was responsible for removing woodland on the lighter soils of the Lower Greensand and chalk (Scaife 1980b, 1987). The small numbers of *Tilia* (lime/linden) in zones 1 and 2 and absence above is striking but not unexpected given the Romano-British date for this

sequence. *Tilia* was the dominant tree over much of the Island during the middle and later Holocene. The typical 'lime decline' has been seen at a number of Isle of Wight sites and dated to the middle-late Bronze Age (Scaife 1980b, 1987) reflecting increased pressure for agricultural land at this time and after which *Tilia* only occurs sporadically in the pollen record. *Juglans regia* L. (walnut) is an interesting pollen record and was found at 12 cm in zone 3. Although there are occasional records in pre-Roman sediments in other areas, (Long *et al.* 1999; Sidell *et al.*, in press) walnut is generally regarded as a Roman introduction into Western Europe as a whole (Godwin 1975). Thus, most pollen records are from Roman and post Roman sequences and in only small or individual occurrences such as found here. It is not clear whether these records represent long distance transport but it seems more likely that pollen come from local trees introduced for nuts or as garden ornament. *Alnus* (alder) and *Salix* (willow) are both taxa of fens. The former produces copious quantities of pollen and the percentages here suggest only growth locally of individual trees perhaps along the river banks or from carr woodland in valleys at some distance away. *Salix*, in contrast, is under represented in pollen spectra and here, even small numbers suggests growth on-site during the time-span of pollen zones 1 and 2.

The reduction in tree types and percentages after zone 2 may be considered as a taphonomic phenomenon or real decrease in growth. The former suggestion is caused by differential preservation of more robust types (Lactucoideae) in the poorer pollen preserving conditions in the upper peat. This would give higher pollen percentages of these more robust pollen grains, suppressing other pollen types. Destruction of the less robust types in poorer preservation conditions would also occur. Here, however, the pollen of Lactucae was well preserved and there are numerous other, less robust, pollen types also present suggesting that differential preservation and skewing of the pollen data has not occurred to any great extent. From this, it appears that locally remaining trees and shrubs were felled before Phase 5, 3rd–4th centuries; that is, lime, ash, alder and perhaps willow. Background oak remained consistent.

Herbs are dominant throughout the sequence and are attributed to the on-site, peat forming vegetation, the adjacent valley sides and Romano-British agricultural landscape in proximity to the Clatterford villa.

Cereal pollen is most important in pollen zone 1, and is somewhat enigmatic since there are only small numbers of associated arable weeds with *Sinapis* type (charlocks) most prominent. It is not clear whether the cereal pollen and arable weeds derive from cultivation at some distance or from secondary sources such as crop processing (see the querns and millstone, McPhillips above). Threshing and winnowing on the villa site will have liberated pollen trapped in the husks of cereals (Robinson and Hubbard 1977) and since spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.) was possibly transported as whole ears from producer to consumer sites, this is a real possibility. Indeed, charred macrofossils of spelt have been found in these deposits (de Moulins, this volume). Domestic waste (including human and animal ordure) disposed of in the peat mire may also have been a source of pollen and a small number of the intestinal parasites, *Ascaris* (round worm) and *Trichuris* (whipworm) attest to this possibility. Whichever cause, there is greater evidence of cereal growth or use in pollen zones 1 and 3 than in zone 2.

In contrast to the cereal and associated weeds, there is much stronger evidence that the surrounding lower valley sides were used for pasture with a substantial number of pastoral types. Poaceae (grasses) are dominant with Lactucoideae (dandelion family) and *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain). The marked expansion of Lactucae in the upper part of the profile has been noted above. Whilst this taxon is frequently associated with its preferential preservation in poor pollen preserving regimes, this may not be the case here. Exine degradation was minimal and it seems likely that this is a real expansion of this taxon which relates to an increase in pastoral land use. Other pastoral types may include *Ranunculus* (buttercups), *Dianthus* types, Fabaceae spp. (peas, vetches, clovers etc.), Apiaceae (carrot family), Scrophulariaceae spp. (figwort family), Asteraceae spp. (daisy family) and other sporadic/individual pollen occurrences.

Summary and conclusion

Well preserved pollen has been extracted and identified from these peat deposits of Romano-British peat date. This is surprising given the location of the site in a chalk valley. Such sites are extremely rare in limestone/chalk regions and extensive survey of the Isle of Wight (Scaife 1980a, 1980b) examined numerous such sites which failed to produce pollen. Here, the preservation is attributed to the fact that the site has remained waterlogged throughout its history and possibly with limited through-flow of oxygenated calcareous water. The environment portrayed is one of a pastoral habitat although there is clear evidence that some remaining but localised local ash, lime and hazel trees were felled during the period after which there is expansion of pastoral economy. Some cereal pollen was also recovered especially in the lowest levels (zone 1) which may be evidence of some local cultivation but may also derive from secondary sources such as crop processing, domestic waste and faecal material. Overall, the pollen sequence is valuable in providing vegetation and environmental data which is dated to a period (Romano-British) not previously studied on the Isle of Wight.

DISCUSSION

The geophysical survey and excavation has provided some evidence for the early history of the Clatterford Roman villa complex, and important vegetation and environmental data for the development of the valley during the Romano-British period. The pottery and artefacts, although fairly small assemblages, make contributions to the date and interpretation of the site. The pottery from the earliest contexts also highlights the potential of the site for providing information on the origins of Vectis ware, and could contribute much to the study of trade between the Isle of Wight and mainland Europe (Lyne above). At present it is only possible to speculate that the settlement at Clatterford represents the site of an early villa that developed, by the 3rd century, into the villa complex defined by the 1993 geophysical survey.

The pottery from the earliest level indicates the origins of this part of the settlement could be around the time of the Roman Conquest, and certainly by the mid 1st century (Assemblage 1 context 1006). This is contemporary with the earliest levels at the Newport villa (Tomalin 1987, 16). There was sufficient activity in the area for over 260 sherds to have been recovered from a limited area of a rubbish dump (Assemblage 2 from context 1005). These contexts have the potential to provide important information on the origins of Vectis ware.

A road was established crossing the valley bottom by the later 1st century AD (Phase 3: Fig. 9). This seems to have acted as the western boundary to the villa complex, and may have established a route across the valley that remained in use for centuries as it is the only place where post Roman finds were retrieved during the excavation (Cat Nos 18–20). A layer of herb-rich fen peat (Scaife, above) accumulated in the valley bottom to the east of the road (Trench 2). This is a very significant deposit for several reasons. Pollen and waterlogged plant macrofossils are well preserved. This is extremely rare in limestone/chalk regions, and many similar deposits have failed to produce pollen on the Isle of Wight (Scaife, above). It also tell us much about the history of the valley bottom at this point, and shows that the environment changed dramatically at some point during its history as the peat layer had accumulated over a buried soil. Because the peat, and the pits dug into its margins, were sealed by 3rd century yard surfaces (context 506/536, Phase 4), it seems likely that the peat layer belongs to the late 1st to early 2nd century period (Phase 3), and indicates that the environment of the valley bottom changed as a result of human activity associated with the Phase 3 settlement. One possible explanation for this is that the valley bottom was dammed to form a mill pond for a mill located in the right angle kink (point M, Fig. 9b) in the phase 3 boundary feature (context 32: point E, Fig. 2). This hypothetical mill would explain the presence of a millstone fragment (Fig. 8, No 17) from the western road surface (context 1512, Trench 4).

Building 1, Phase 3, may have belonged to the main villa buildings, forming part of a southern range. Unfortunately the accumulation of sediment against the northern face of the modern field

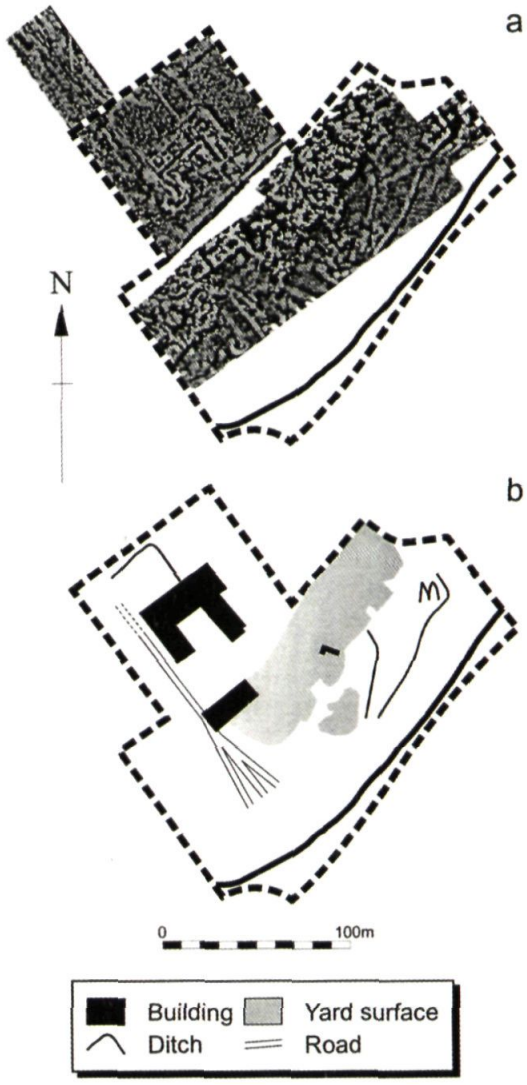

Fig. 9 (a) Resistivity plot (Payne 1993); (b) An interpretation of the site

boundary inhibits the testing of this theory with geophysical survey. This presumed timber framed building was demolished during Phase 5 (late 3rd to early 4th century). The recovery of the waterlogged pine cone (Cat No 1), a shale object (Fig. 7, No 2) from the ditch which cut the southern extent of the demolished Building 1, and the two associated enamelled disc brooches (Fig. 7, Nos 4 and 5) may have ritual association. These objects, together with the pottery, show the potential of the site for the recovery of finds and study of trade with the mainland.

During the late 2nd to early 3rd century extensive yard surfaces were laid out over the peat deposits in the valley bottom (context 506/536, Trench 2). These consisted mainly of flint rubble, but one dump of charcoal and burnt clay (context 543) also contained pieces of slag and vitrified hearth lining, debris associated with high temperature technologies (Dungworth, above). De Moulins (above) suggests that crop processing by-products may have been used along with oak to fuel the hearth. There is no direct evidence for the function of these surfaces at Clatterford, but a likely explanation is that they were stock yards. One of the few functions of extensive yard surfaces in a rural context is for holding cattle, and similar surfaces were found associated with the stone farmstead underlying the main villa at Stanwick, Northamptonshire (*pers comm* David Neal), and at Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire (Webster and Smith 1983, 94). The pastoral nature of the site is also hinted at by the plant macrofossil and pollen evidence (de Moulins and Scaife, above).

Building 2, dating to the late 3rd/early 4th century, was established during Phase 5. Like Building 1 it was probably a timber frame structure but with the beam pads constructed from tile fragments and stones (context 505). The area of this building revealed by the 1.2m wide trench was too small to determine its function.

During the 4th century activity in the area south of the main villa building appears to have ceased, and the present topsoil developed over the yard surfaces. The area of excavation was too limited to determine if the site as a whole was abandoned at the same time, but the route across the valley bottom established by the 1st century road may have continued well into the post medieval period.

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ARCHIVE

The site archive for the geophysical survey and excavations carried out by the now Centre for Archaeological, English Heritage has been deposited in its entirety with the Isle of Wight County Council Archaeological Unit under Isle of Wight site number 1706.

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