

FURTHER EXCAVATION OF AN IRON AGE ENCLOSURE AT DANEbury ROAD, HATCH WARREN, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE, 1995

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ABSTRACT

An Iron Age enclosure complex recognized from aerial photography was investigated by a series of substantial trial trenches in the 1980s by Wessex Archaeology and a series of enclosures defined, with phases from the early Iron Age to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Part of the complex was re-investigated by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 1995. A number of features, in addition to those visible from the air, were found during both phases, although no structural evidence was present.

A moderate-sized assemblage of pottery dating from the middle Iron Age to the late 1st century AD was recovered during the latest phase of excavation, which focused on the main enclosure ditches. The number of finds but lack of structural evidence suggests that the main focus of what may have been a substantial settlement was located elsewhere.

INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by the first two authors, of Thames Valley Archaeological Services, on an Iron Age enclosure prior to the redevelopment of land off Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hampshire (SU 607 487: Figs. 1 and 2). The site, initially identified from aerial photographs, is situated south-west of Basingstoke in an area formerly known as Brighton Hill South but now part of Hatch Warren, and had been subject to extensive trial trenching by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology during the Heritage Project in 1985, in advance of large-scale housing development (the detailed background is described in Fasham and Keevill 1995). The excavation described here was undertaken during June and

July 1995. Both fieldwork projects were commissioned by Hampshire County Council. The excavation was undertaken as a requirement of the planning process and was carried out to specifications approved by Mr David Hopkins of the County Archaeology Section. The site consisted of rough ground and was to be developed as a school with playing fields and car parking.

The site is on the crest of a slight ridge which slopes from 137 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the south-west to 133 m above OD at the north and 136 m above OD to the east. There is a shallow dry valley to the east. The geology is Upper Chalk (BGS 1981).

The chalk downland on which the site lies is generally known to have a background rich in Iron Age farming activity (e.g. Cunliffe and Miles 1984) and therefore the site had the potential to supply valuable information on settlement and agriculture in the area during this period. The Heritage Project, which took place prior to and during the development of the estate, contributed much of the prior information for this area. To the north and north-east of the site several cropmarks, representing enclosures of middle to late Iron Age date, were investigated (Fasham and Keevill 1995). Morphologically similar enclosures were excavated by the Basingstoke Archaeological Society during the 1970s at Rucstalls Hill, Basingstoke (Oliver and Applin 1978, 89–90). Other notable sites in the area include the Iron Age and Saxon settlements at Cowdery's Down (Millett and James 1983) and Winklebury hillfort (Smith 1977; Robertson-Mackay 1977).

A large degree of understanding of the site had already been achieved by trial trenching approximately 35% (by area) of the enclosure. A series of

long, 10 m wide trenches were placed at strategic points across the identified enclosures, but avoided the crucial relationships which would have enabled a detailed picture of their phasing to be obtained. Results indicated that little archaeological activity was present outside the enclosure boundaries and consequently these areas were only subject to a watching brief during groundworks.

The aims of the excavation in 1995 were to test the validity of the phasing of the site by examining the crucial intersections of features (only one of which had been intersected by the trenches of the earlier work) and to identify the function(s) of the enclosures. This was to be achieved by an area strip of the whole of the interior of the enclosures within the development area. All newly identified internal features were to be half-excavated, together with those sections of the boundary ditches that might reveal stratigraphic relationships.

The site code is HWB95. The archive has been deposited with Hampshire Museum Service, accession number A1996.27.

Summary of previous work

The earliest period of activity suggested by the trial trenching belonged to the early/middle Iron Age and is represented by ditches, gullies, and pits restricted to an area north of that excavated (Fig. 7, Phase I: Fasham and Keevill 1995, fig. 16), with just a single gully (5434) further south. Enclosure 5911 enclosed seven pits. To the east of this, an enclosure formed by ditch 5100/5244 and ditch 5746/5369, defined an occupation area used from the early/middle Iron Age to the early Roman period (Fasham and Keevill 1995, fig. 15). This enclosure was the most northerly element re-examined in the excavation (205).

Activity then shifted east and south for the two main phases (II and III). The earliest pits and scoops, belonging to an unenclosed middle/late Iron Age phase, were not located by the excavation. Phase III, late Iron Age/early Roman, included several subphases. Enclosure 5912 was re-examined as 206 in the excavation. Its western limit and entrance lay outside the excavation area. This was interpreted as the main enclosure and

dated to the 1st century AD. It covered a trapezoidal area of c. 2720 sq m with the main axis aligned NE-SW. During the trial trenching around half of the length of this enclosure was excavated. The ditch terminals forming the entrance were 3.75 m apart with two internal postholes (6605 and 6606) for a gate. South of the entrance the ditch became part of a field system continuing for at least 70 m to the south-west. No evidence for an associated bank survived. The ditch was later recut.

A further enclosure (5913) located in the trial trenching lay outside the excavated area. It coincided roughly with the western side of enclosure 5912; evidence for an eastern side to this enclosure was absent. This ditch was thought to form a phase by itself, post-dating the original cutting of 5912 but replaced by the latter's recutting.

A late Iron Age/early Roman 'annexe' (5914; 207 in the excavation) on the south side of enclosure 5912 (206) was rectangular in plan with an internal area of c. 975 sq m. An irregularly-shaped enclosure, formed by ditches 5406 and 5444 (209 and part of what is now 210), was believed to post-date annexe 5914.

Little evidence of activity was found within any of the enclosures. A number of pits and scoops but no structures (apart from the presumed gate posts) within enclosures 5912 and 5914 belonged to Phase III but could not be tied in to the sub-phases.

THE EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEFS

An area of approximately 4525 sq m was stripped by machine. Slots through ditches were labelled A-T and features located within slots were given individual numbers. Group numbers were assigned to collections of features when appropriate. Five enclosures have been identified (Figs. 2 and 3); these are referred to by group numbers: 205, 206 (with earlier cut 208), 207 (with recut 211), 209, and 210.

A series of watching briefs was maintained on development outside the enclosures. The first (WB1) monitored an area of stripping measuring c. 65 m by 25 m and 0.30–0.40 m deep, some 35 m

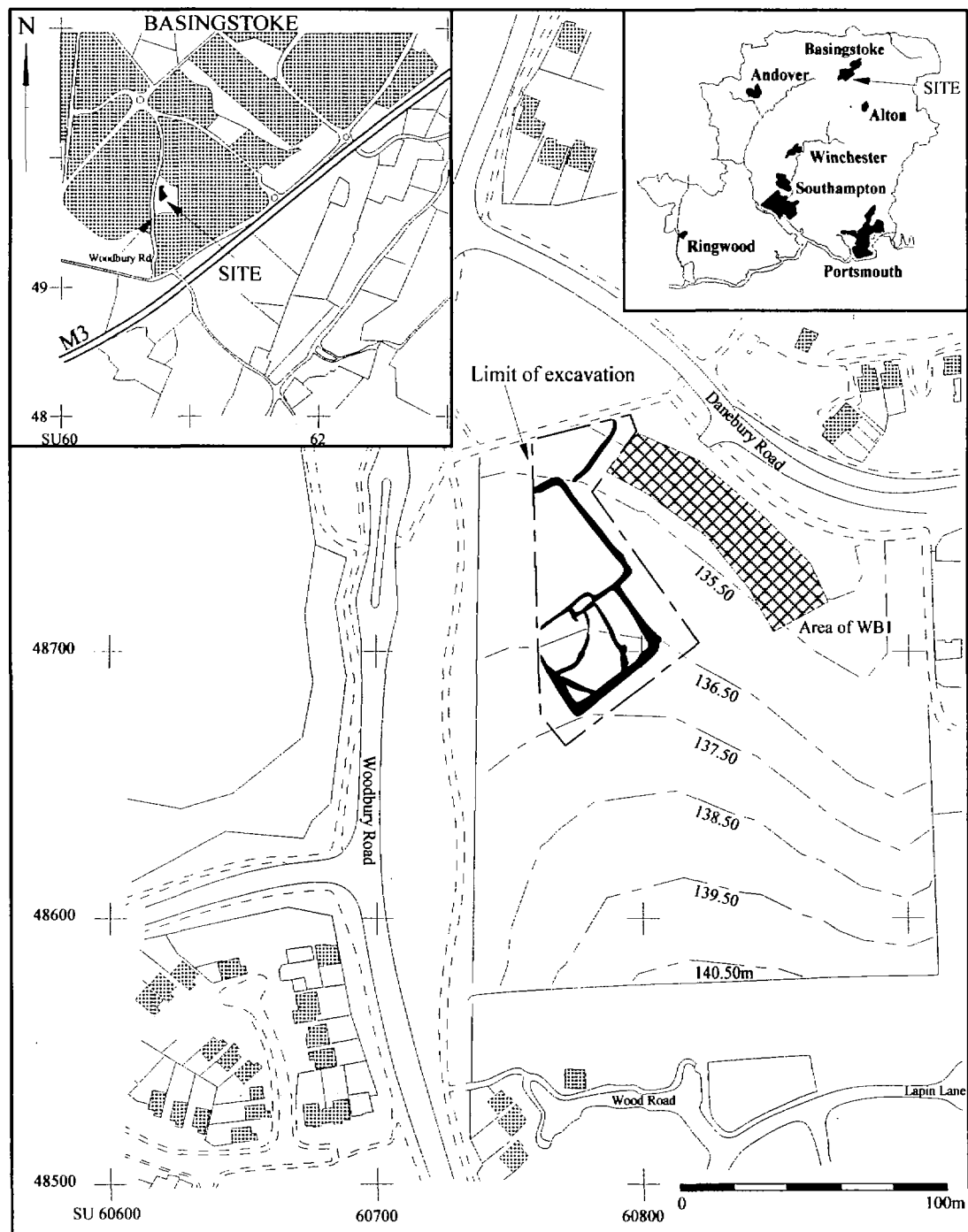


Fig. 1 Location of site showing excavated area and watching brief (WB) 1

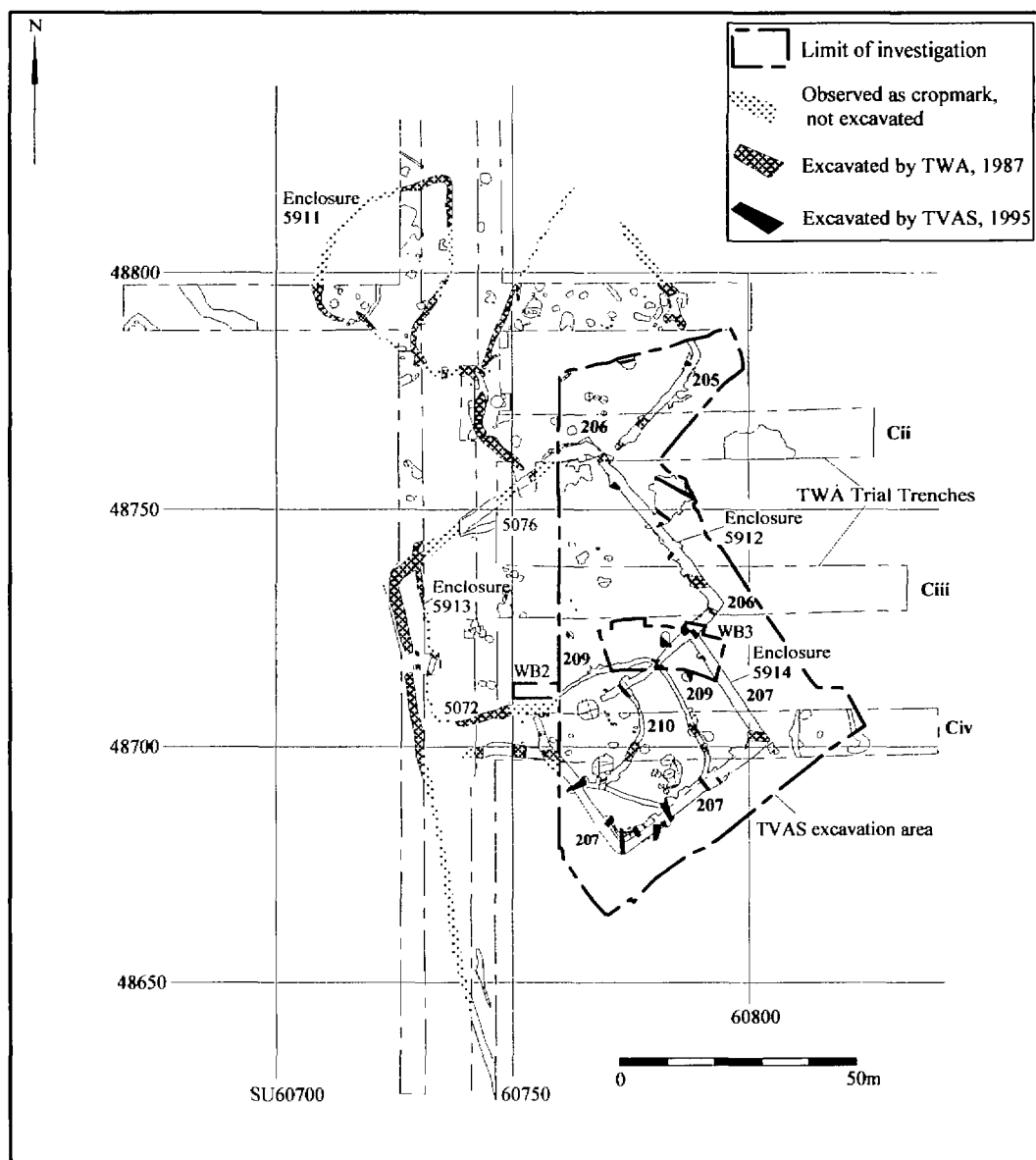
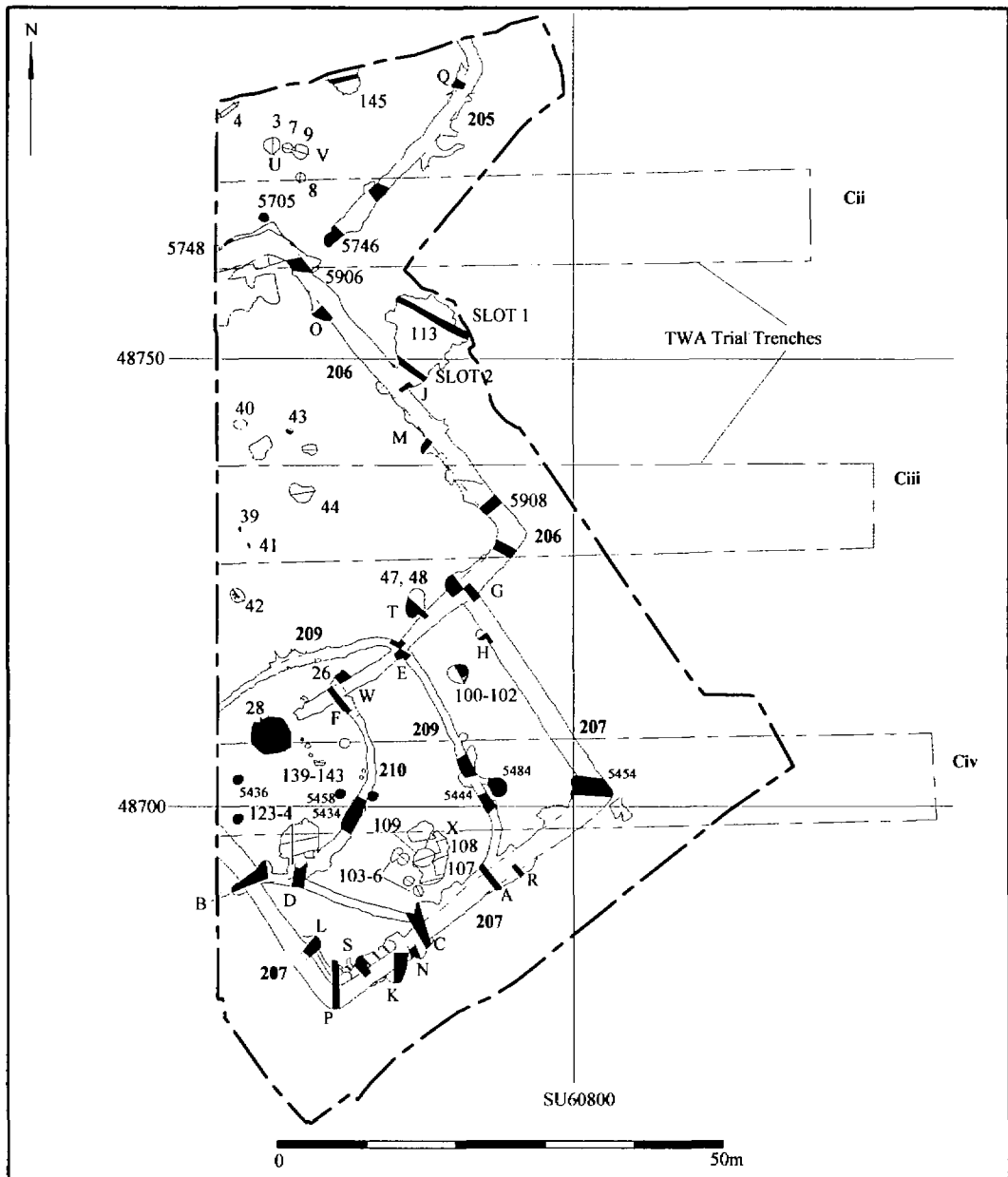


Fig. 2 Plan of the main enclosures as revealed in the excavation and the trial trenches; also showing locations of WB2 and WB3, and plot of cropmarks from aerial photographs

to the north of the enclosure complex (just south of the entrance to the site from Danebury Road). The south-western part of the stripped area

revealed a bedrock of chalk with flint but this changed in the north-eastern part to a silty clay with flint. No features or finds of archaeological



significance were observed. Subsequent watching briefs monitored further development at St Mark's Primary School (WB2, August and WB3,

Phasing (Fig. 7)

The phasing of the various enclosure ditches and other features has been determined on the basis of stratigraphic relationships, and associated pottery. Four main phases, based on ceramic associations, were identified; the same basic phases used in the earlier trial trenching report have been used here for the sake of continuity, but with deliberately different sub-phasing and with the addition of phase IV accounting for contexts with evidence of later 1st century Roman activity, allowing that this phase must overlap with the early Roman component of Phase III. In the earlier work, it was not thought that there was any pottery deposition after *c.* AD60 (Rees 1995, 43), although of course the less diagnostic assemblages cannot confirm such a limit.

As with the trial trenching work, some natural features were found to contain pottery, presumably as a result of root or animal disturbance, most probably to be laid at the door of the rabbits, whose bones were also occasionally found, intrusive in Iron Age features.

A large number of pits, minor gullies and more dubious features were cut by the enclosure ditches. Those that contained no dating evidence or other finds have not been discussed below. A number of isolated features also contained no finds and are omitted from the discussion.

Phase I: Middle Iron Age

A small group of pits (3, 7–9 and 13) was discovered in the north of the site, towards the south of the area enclosed by ditch 205, which corresponded with a Phase I (early-middle Iron Age) enclosure (5911 in the trial trenching) (Fig. 2). Along with pit 109, in the south of the site, these are the earliest features excavated and dated.

Pits 7, 8 and 109 are all datable to the middle Iron Age; pits 3 and 13 are probably associated, pit 9 seems to be later on ceramic grounds although it certainly represents much the same activity. These features have no stratigraphic relationship with any of the enclosure ditches. Beehive pits 3, 7 and 109 would have originally been used for grain storage. Pit 3 was a large, beehive-shaped storage pit, 1.8 m in diameter and

0.95 m deep. The sides were undercut in places and the top fill consisted of a lens of burnt material. The primary fill was a layer of redeposited chalk, possibly weathering from the sides, which underlay a deposit of clay loam. The pit was cut on its southern side by a small bowl-shaped depression (12) 0.48 m in diameter and 0.34 m deep, with a single clay loam fill. Pit 7 was also beehive-shaped, 1.1 m × 1.06 m and 0.48 m deep, with undercut sides, with a lip at the top making the opening narrower, and contained three fills. The first fill was a mix of redeposited chalk and silt, within which was an Iron Age ploughshare. Above this was a thin layer of burnt material, which was in turn covered by a layer of clayey silt. Pit 8 was smaller, 1.20 m in diameter and 0.33 m deep, with a rounded profile and flatish base. It contained a single fill of clay loam. Pit 109 was a large possible storage pit 2.5 m in diameter and 1.7 m deep. It contained several fills, including some with evidence of burning, and also a possible chalk capping layer.

Phase II: Middle-late Iron Age subphase II A

The earliest enclosure ditch is the irregular 209, containing mid-late Iron Age pottery. Stratigraphic evidence (slots A and C) demonstrates that it is earlier than the larger main enclosures. In slots A, C and D ditch 209 had a slightly irregular bowl-shaped profile, was 1.2 m wide, 0.3 m deep, and filled with a clay loam at A and D and a silty loam at C. A large pit, 20, cut ditch 209 and was in turn cut by ditch 207. Ditch 210 cut 209 in slot D. In slot E, ditch 209 was clearly cut by ditch 208, which was itself cut by ditch 206.

Here the findings of the excavation differ from those of the trial trenching, which suggested that 207 (5914) was earlier than the irregular enclosure 209 (5444) within it (Fasham and Keevill 1995, 29). The excavation results now show that 209 was cut by the larger enclosure 207. It is also worth noting that although the aerial photograph (Fasham and Keevill 1995, plate 2) clearly shows 209 running into 210 before the latter joins 207, the interpretative plots had blurred this distinction, which this excavation has now confirmed.

Two pits (103, 104) were discovered within enclosure 209. Neither is dated, although they

may be associated with pit 109 (Phase I) or with the ditch. Other possible features in this area were natural.

Subphase II B

Enclosure ditch 210 also contained pottery of the mid-late Iron Age, but it is stratigraphically later than 209. In slot B ditch 210 had irregular sides and a narrow base. It was 1.1 m wide and 0.7 m deep and was cut by ditch 207. In slot F, ditch 210 was less substantial, and more rounded, 0.62 m wide and 0.25 m deep. The relationship between ditches 210 and 208 was not absolutely unambiguous in section although it is reasonably certain that ditch 208 must be later: ditch 210 was clearly earlier than 206, which is the recut of 208.

A number of features were located within enclosure 210. A large rectangular feature, 28, just to the west of the terminal of ditch 208, measured 4 m × 4.65 m and was 0.35 m deep with an irregular base. Superficially it resembled a Saxon *Grubenhaus* but the pottery from its silty loam fill is mid-late Iron Age in date. It is possible that all of this is residual, but it has been taken at face value as dating evidence here. Feature 123, a depression similar to 28, 4.8 m across and 0.28 m deep, seemed to contain a separate cut (124) 1.05 m wide and 0.39 m deep, which contained loomweight fragments of an Iron Age type. Both of these features could have been working hollows within enclosure 210.

Only five convincing postholes were located on the site: 139–143, all situated near pit/hollow 28. They may have formed a fence line.

Phase III: Late Iron Age/early Roman

The dating of this phase ceramically is somewhat vague, perhaps spanning the end of the 1st century BC and at least the first half of the 1st century AD, but either end of this range could be extended, and there is some stratigraphic depth within the phase although sub-phases have not been defined.

A large (2.4 m × 1.55 m and 1.85 m deep), steep-sided pit, 26, contained eight fills (85, 364–70). One fill (367) contained the skeleton of a baby and a fragment of a metal knife with a bone

handle and the pit as a whole had pottery dating to the late Iron Age (probably in the latter years BC). The dimensions of the pit suggest that it may originally have been used for grain storage. This pit was cut by enclosure 208.

Enclosure ditch 205 in the north-east corner of the site had been partly excavated in the earlier investigation (5746). The ditch was 1.9 m wide, aligned SW–NE and turned north-west through a right angle before going beneath the baulk. It stopped 2.5 m short of enclosure 206. In slot Q, it cut a flat-based gully 137 (Fig. 6). Gully 137 was parallel to the ditch on its north-west side for only a short distance (3 m). It was 0.87 m wide and 0.34 m deep. No pottery was recovered from the single clay loam fill of enclosure 205 during the excavation, nor were there any stratigraphic relationships with dated features. The dating evidence obtained during the previous trial trenching would place the enclosure broadly in phase III while its apparent respecting of the line of 206 might be taken to suggest these two were contemporary. It might equally be suggested that it belonged with Phase I ditch 5100/5244 as originally thought, and thus could have had earlier origins.

A circular, bowl-shaped pit, 45 contained pottery of late Iron Age to early Roman date, and was cut by enclosure 207. A similar pit, 46, 2 m in diameter, 0.65 m deep, and filled with silty sand, can be dated to the early 1st century AD. It was certainly cut by ditch 207, but probably had already been cut by ditch 206. Pit 9 was a large, roughly circular, beehive pit with straight sides and a slight lip at the opening. It measured 1.80 m × 1.67 m, was 0.64 m deep, and contained five layers of silty clay and chalk; its pottery and a small fragment of tile place its backfilling in Phase III but the positioning of pits 7 (Phase I) and 9 so close together and their formal similarities suggest continuity of practice from the earlier phase.

In the southern limb of enclosure 206 there is some evidence of an earlier, shallower ditch (208) which was recut as 206. In slot F it appeared that ditch 208 had been recut on two occasions; both recuts were shallow and U-shaped. Although no pottery was recovered from the original 208, it can be phased stratigraphically, as it cut pit 26 (late Iron Age), and ditches 209 and (almost cer-

tainly) 210, which both belonged to phase II; 208 was itself recut as 206 which contained some post-conquest pottery.

Enclosure 5913 from the earlier investigation lay beyond the area opened in the excavation. It is possible it could have some association with ditch 208 but this cannot be confirmed. In plan it also seems possible that it related to ditch 209 or 210, but the stratigraphy observed in the trial trenching rules this out.

Several pits and several more natural features are dated only as being earlier than Phase IV ditch 207, which cut them all. The pits (29, 116, 119, 120, 130, 146 and 149) were mostly along the south-eastern edge and in the southern corner of the enclosure. Pits 116 and 146 were both circular with steep sides, approximately 0.7 m deep and 1.5 m in diameter. Pits 119, 120, and 130 were irregular shapes with undercut sides in places. They were filled with silty loam and redeposited chalk and are possibly the results of quarrying. All of these were cut by the enclosure ditch 207. Pit 45, a bowl-shaped cut 0.9 m in diameter, 0.5 m deep, and filled with clay loam, cut the western side of ditch 207. Pits 117 and 118, similarly, were irregularly-shaped and filled with layers of clay loam, silty loam, and chalk, and may be the results of quarrying or tree throw holes. Pit 149 on the south side of enclosure ditch 207, had a rounded base with slightly undercut sides and may have been a storage pit. It was 1.25 m wide and 0.68 m deep.

Phase IV: Post-Conquest Roman

An oval flat-based pit, 40, situated within the area enclosed by 206, contained pottery of post-conquest date. No stratigraphic relationships with other features were present which would have allowed more refined phasing, although it was presumably contemporary with the enclosure and ceramically it may be among the latest features on the site. Nearby pits 42 and 43 may be associated with 40. Pit 40 was oval, flat-based, 1.4 m across and 0.6 m deep, and had three loamy fills. Pit 42 had a similar profile, measured 2 m × 1.3 m and 0.45 m deep, with two silty loam fills. Pit 43 was bowl-shaped, 0.7 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep. It contained a single silty loam fill with

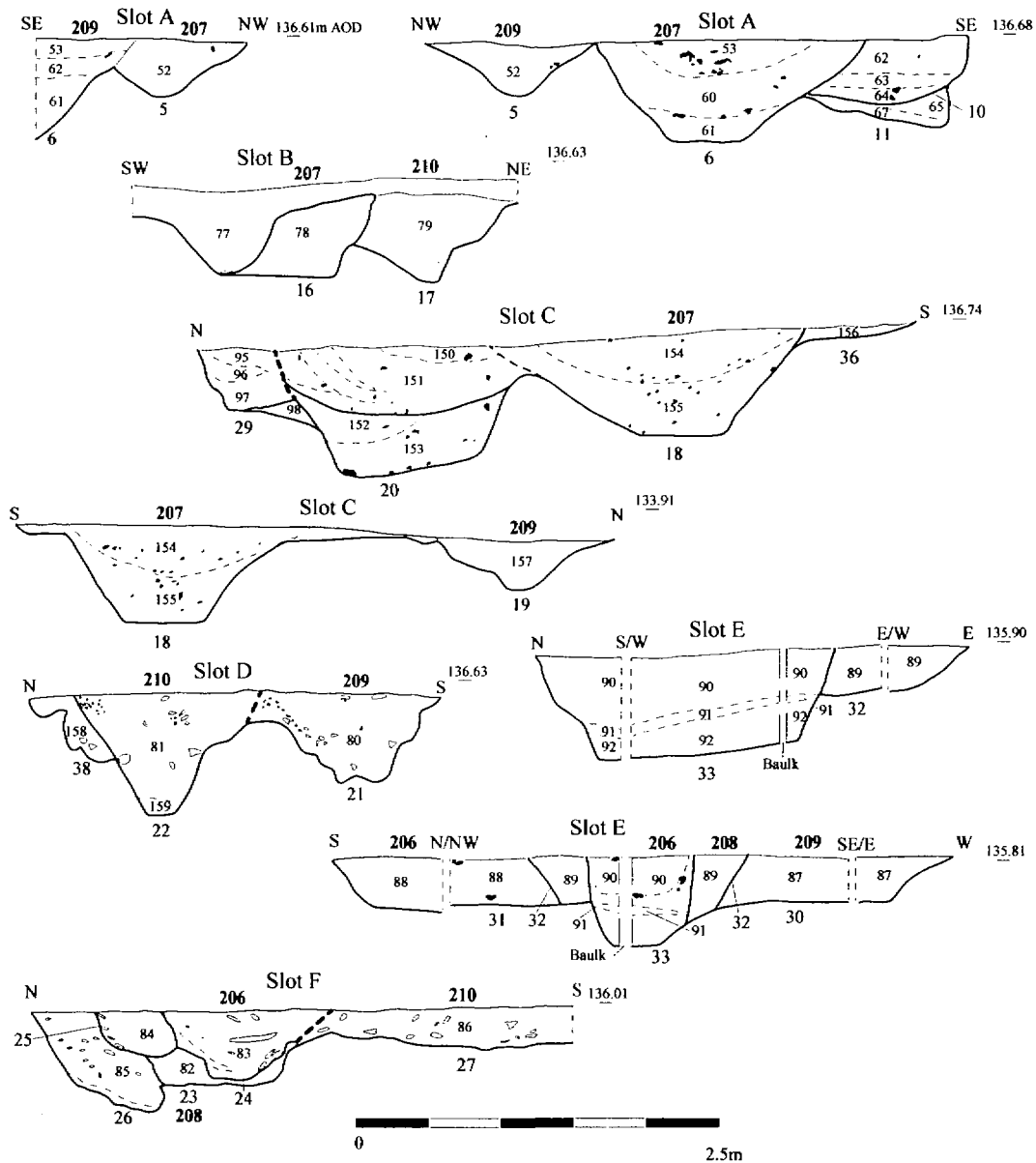
large flint nodules and burnt flint. Other features within the enclosure may have been post holes but are only dubiously archaeological.

Other features can be sub-phased within Phase IV.

Subphase IV A

The main enclosure ditch (206), in the middle of the excavated area, had been examined in the trial trenches (5912). Three sides of the enclosure were re-exposed by the excavation, revealing a rectangular plan orientated NW–SE. The enclosure was not complete as the southern limb terminated just short of a large pit (28), leaving a southern entrance gap at least 15 m wide; which might suggest that ‘annexe’ 5914 (207) was part of the original conception. Stratigraphic relationships with other ditches or with smaller features were investigated in six slots (E, G, J, M, O and T) but few complete ditch profiles were obtained (Figs. 4–6). Where revealed, the profile showed a flat-based U-shaped cut approximately 1.7 m across and 1.1 m deep, filled with several layers of sandy silt. Ditch 206 contained pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD, along with some earlier material. The phasing is supported by stratigraphic relationships; 206 cut 208 which belonged to the previous phase, and was cut by 207 (see below).

Ditch 206 was in all likelihood several incarnations of the same feature, with recuts apparent in most sections, matching the interpretation of 5912 put forward in the trial trenching report (Fasham and Keevill 1995, 29). At the southern end of the ditch the recut was most obviously separate and has been numbered 208 here. Elsewhere it is possible that earlier cuts of the ditch were discontinuous, or at least irregular, as there was much less consistency in form; nevertheless, there is a clear pattern of earlier features parallel to the ditch in almost every slot and the simplest explanation is that 206 was a redefinition of an existing enclosure. Unfortunately none of these earlier features can be dated but it seems that the chronology should be quite compressed. In slot F, the line of 206/208 seems to have been recut at least twice. The position in slot G is difficult to interpret, due to the interference caused by ditch 207 cutting



across 206. It is possible to see pit 46 as the terminus of an earlier cut of 207, in which case it is impossible to tell if this earlier 207 was cut by 206 and then 207 recut over the top or whether

207 in all its phases post-dated all phases of 206. Either way, at least some of 207 post-dates at least some of 206 but this need be no more significant than differences in direction of cleaning out if the

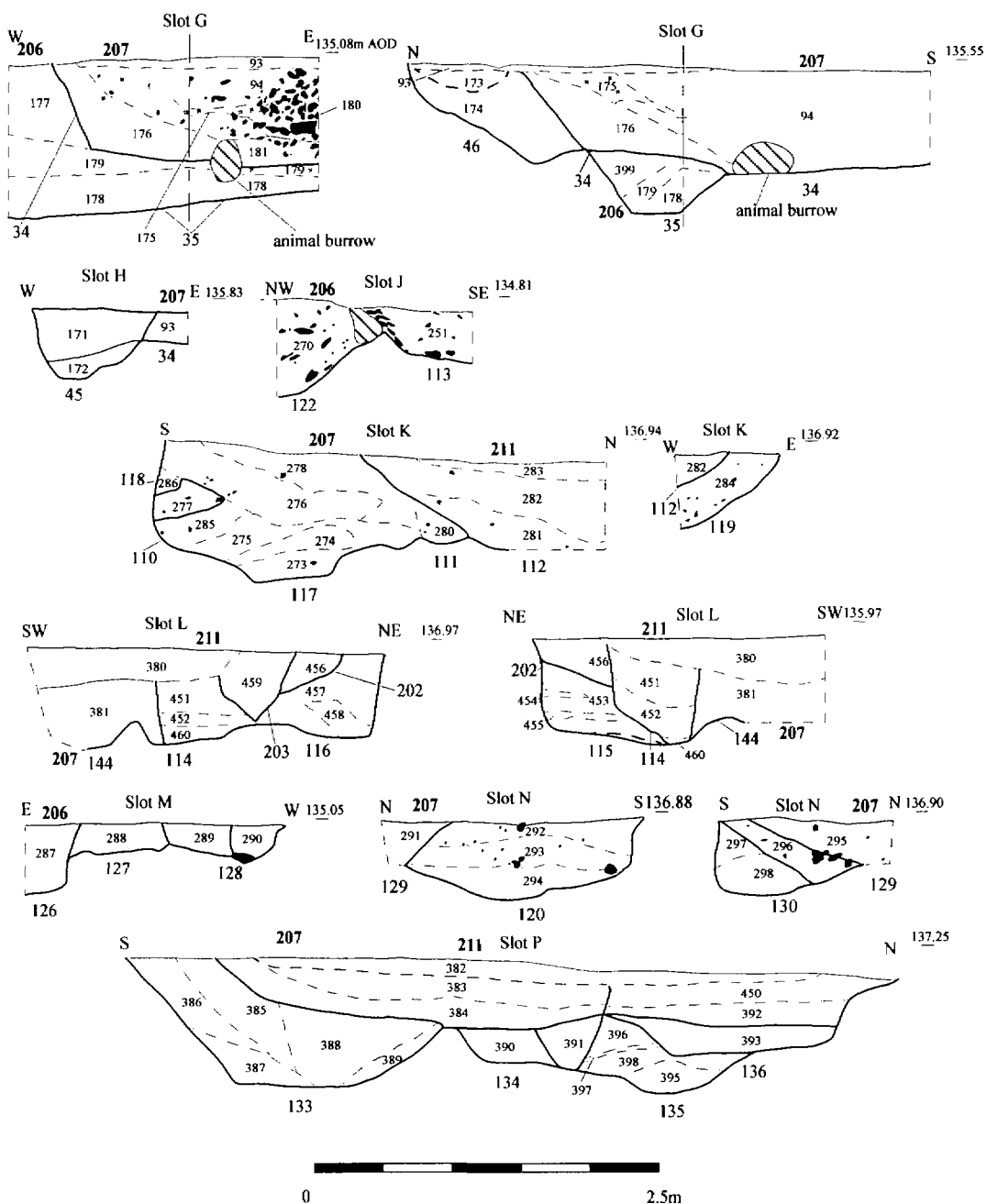


Fig. 5 Sections: slots G to P

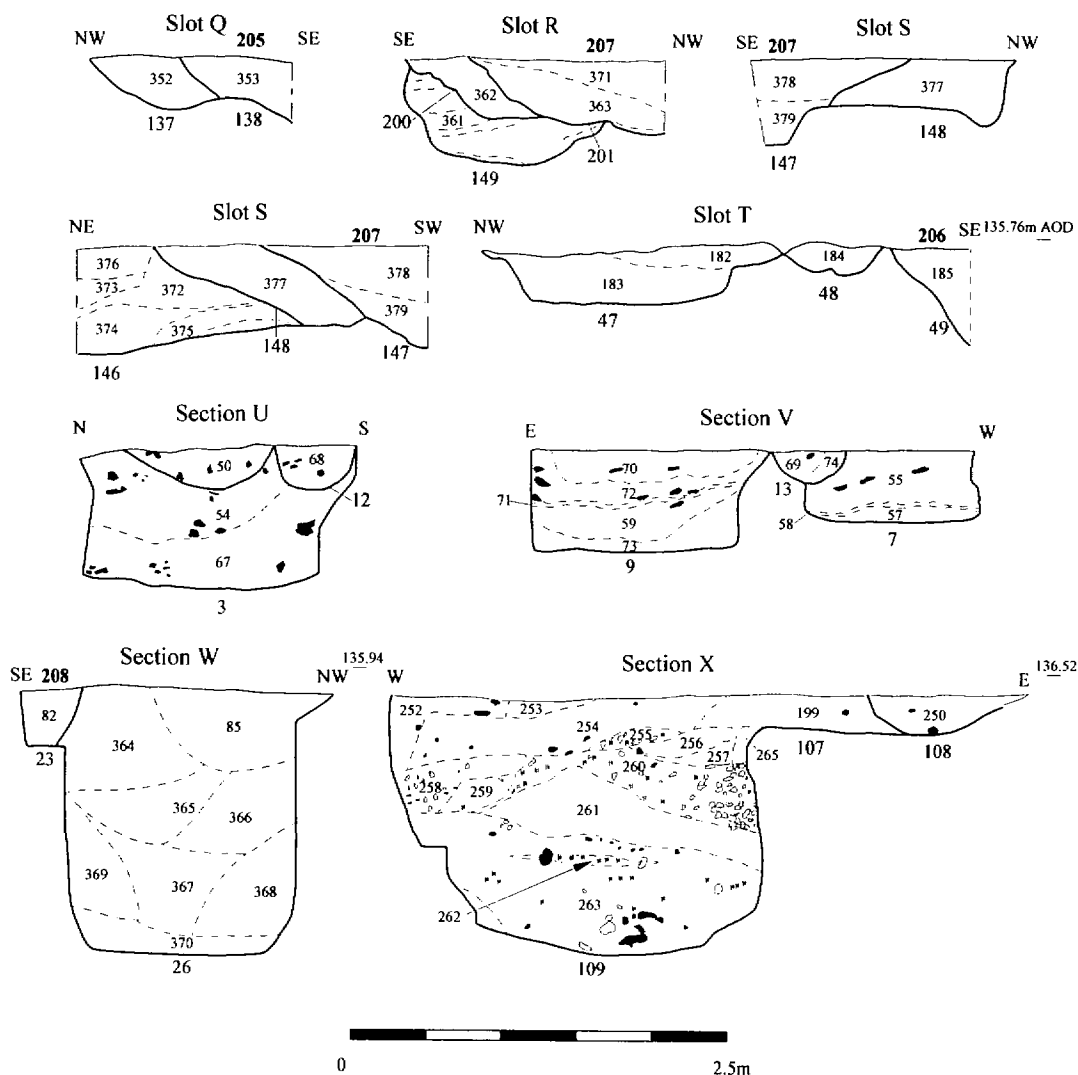


Fig. 6 Sections: Slots Q to X

two enclosures were contemporary. The little pottery that came from 206 suggests a later 1st century AD date, not significantly different from the dating for 207.

Other putative features observed along the length of ditch 206 were shown to be the result of animal activity or tree root action. With one exception, the real features were all located on the

inside edge of the ditch. In all cases it would seem that enclosure ditch 206 was later. Many of these features contained no finds and remain undated.

As with 206, there were numerous minor features along the course of enclosure ditch 207 and all cut by it. Again these are most simply interpreted as remnants of an earlier, irregular line of the same ditch, perhaps discontinuous, eventu-

ally recut as 207. It is impossible to assign these to a phase, but as they need not necessarily be significantly earlier than 207 itself, phase IV A seems appropriate.

Subphase IV B

Enclosure 207 was located in the southern half of the site. Fasham and Keevill described this as an annexe (5914) to the main enclosure (5912). It was rectangular in plan, measuring $c 37 \times 26.5$ m, with an internal area of $c 975$ sq m. Numerous slots revealed its relationship with other features (Figs. 4–6). Ditch 207 was flat-based, 2 m to 2.3 m wide and 0.7 m to 0.95 m deep. In slot G only it had a rounded base. Ditch 207 contained pottery which would indicate a post-conquest date for the fill, probably post-dating AD 60, and 207 was seen to cut into 206 in slot G. It was also the latest cut in slots A and B, where it cut Phase II ditches 209 and 210 respectively. In slot G there was a hint that 207 might even turn to run north-east along the line of 206, suggesting that the two enclosure ditches were contemporary and were being cleaned out together.

As with the findings of the trial trenching (Fasham and Keevill 1995, 28–9), during the excavation general recutting of 207 (annexe 5914) was apparent, although the use of the ditch does not appear to have been long-lived. The recut observed during the trial trenching was interpreted as part of a general recutting of the, by this stage defunct, main enclosure ditch (206 = 5912), along with its annexe (207 = 5914) to replace enclosure 5913 (Fasham and Keevill 1995). As with 206, so 207 replaced earlier, possibly less regular and possibly discontinuous features marking the same line, but unlike 206, 207 was also serially recut on very much the same line (see especially slots B, L and P). In slot P there was also evidence of a totally different final cut (211), almost 5 m wide but only 0.6 m deep, probably also partly visible in slots K and L and perhaps B, but absent elsewhere, showing that the south-western corner had been remodelled separately from the rest of the enclosure; this forms sub-phase C but it must be assumed the rest of the enclosure still existed in some form.

A large shallow depression, 113, was the only

feature located outside the enclosed areas. It was 10 m by 8 m across and only 0.5 m deep. It cut ditch 206 and contained pottery dating to the 1st century AD. This may be a 'working hollow' similar to those found at Little Woodbury (Bersu 1940). Within it, an apparently separate cut, like 28 and 123, superficially resembled a Saxon SFB, but contained nothing to suggest this should be its date.

Subphase IV C

211 was a limited recut of the southernmost corner of 207, possibly open at the same time as the main ditch. Sherds of a sandy ware from the Alice Holt kiln near Farnham indicate that the fill of this recut post-dates AD 65/70.

THE FINDS

The Pottery by Jane Timby

Approximately 1186 sherds of pottery weighing some 12.5 kg, dating to the middle and later Iron Age and into the early Roman period were recovered. The group thus mirrors the chronological range seen in the much larger assemblage already recovered from earlier work on the same site (Rees 1995), although it is less diverse in composition. The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric types and quantified by weight, number and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) for each excavated context. A summary description of the fabrics is followed by a brief discussion of the groups recovered from the individual enclosures. A small number of vessels are illustrated to complement those already published (Fasham and Keevill 1995, figs. 24–6).

Fabrics and forms

Nineteen coarseware fabrics were defined (see below) in addition to a single sherd from an imported Gallo-Belgic *terra rubra* (TR3: Hawkes and Hull 1947, 204) beaker (from ditch 207). Where possible these fabrics are cross-referenced to the classification produced by Rees (1995) and to the Silchester fabric series (Timby 2000). The

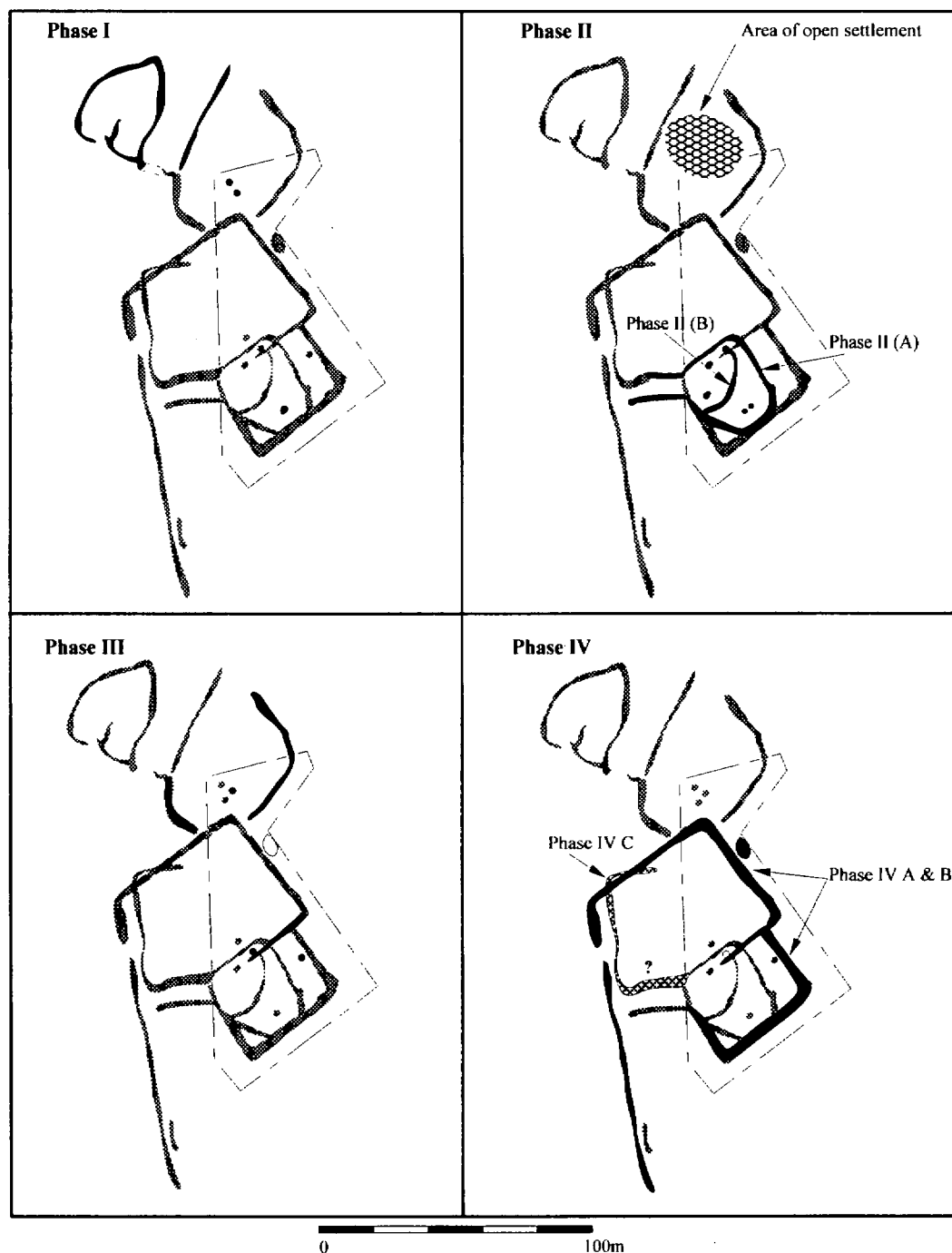


Fig. 7 Phase plans

commonest fabric present was a coarse flint-tempered (F1) ware which accounted for 46% by weight (39% by sherd count) of the total assemblage. The finer flint fabric F2 accounted for a further 13.5% by weight.

- F1** – An orange, brown or black ware containing a sparse to moderate frequency of coarse, angular calcined flint up to 5 mm across. Thick-walled handmade everted rim and beaded rim jars. Most of the sherds are likely to belong to the tradition of pottery commonly referred to as 'Silchester ware' dating to the late 1st century BC but reaching its maximum production around the mid 1st century AD. Also likely to be present are sherds from vessels dating to the earlier Iron Age which are difficult to distinguish in the absence of featured sherds. (=Rees fabric 1; Silchester fabric F1).
- F2** – A hard brownish-black ware with a red-brown core. The paste contains a moderate frequency of fine, angular calcined flint, up to 3 mm in size, and rare red iron. Handmade vessels, mainly in the saucepan-pot style, often with well-burnished exterior surfaces. (= Rees fabric 1/4).
- F3** – A dark reddish-brown to black ware. A sandy textured clay matrix containing sparse fine mica, iron and a scatter of angular white calcined flint. Handmade vessels with a burnished finish, including saucepan pots. (?= Rees fabric F4).
- F4** – A brown ware with a black core. The matrix contains a moderate frequency of ill-sorted, rounded quartz sand, sparse iron and organic matter and occasional large rounded gravel inclusions (flint, ?quartz) up to 4 mm across. Handmade vessels with uneven, lumpy finish.
- F5** – A mid brown core with orange edges. The surfaces have a dark brown wash worn through to the underlying orange. The sandy texture clay contains a sparse scatter of ill-sorted sub-angular, rounded and angular inclusions of flint and quartz up to 2 mm across. Wheelmade thin-walled beaker. Second half of the 1st century AD (=Silchester fabric SGF3).
- I1** – A dark reddish-brown ware, slightly friable. The paste contains a common frequency of well-sorted dark brown rounded iron grains, 0.5 mm and less in size, with occasional clear or white rounded or sub-angular quartz up to 1 mm across. Represented by a single basesherd from a handmade closed form from depression 28.
- G1** – A dark brown to black smooth soapy ware. The paste contains a scatter of rounded to sub-angular grog/clay pellets, and rare fine flint. Classic grog-tempered 'Belgic' ware. Handmade, wheel-turned and wheelmade vessels; bowls and jars with beaded rim. Late 1st century BC–mid 1st century AD (=Rees fabric 7; Silchester fabric G1).
- G2** – Generally an orange-brown exterior with a black core and interior. The paste has a sandy texture containing sparse ill-sorted quartz sand, rare angular flint, 1 mm and less in size and most distinctively, rounded to sub-angular orange brown ?ferruginous inclusions up to 2 mm across, possibly altered glauconite. (= Rees fabric 7). Handmade vessels.
- G3** – Smooth, soapy orange ware. The only visible inclusions are a moderate frequency of sub-angular dark grey, buff and orange grog/clay pellets. Handmade, thick-walled (10 mm) storage jars. (= Rees fabric 7).
- G4** – A reddish-brown ware with a black core. The paste has a soapy feel and contains a scatter of rounded to sub-angular grog/clay pellets, iron and quartz sand. Wheelmade vessels, jars and bowls, dating from the early 1st century AD (=Silchester fabric G4).
- S1/S2** – General sandy category. A brown or black, hard sandy ware containing a moderate to common frequency of fine (less than 0.5 mm) well-sorted quartz sand. Handmade closed forms.
- S3** – Brown ware with a finely micaceous clay containing a scatter of ill-sorted rounded quartz up to 2 mm across. Handmade and wheelmade closed forms. Probably from the Alice Holt/Farnham area. 1st century AD (=Silchester fabric S14).
- S4** – Very finely micaceous orange to dark grey-black ware. The only visible inclusions are grains of red iron up to 2 mm across. Handmade/wheel-turned vessels including a possible flagon and a necked globular jar. 1st century AD.
- S5** – A black sandy ware containing a moderate frequency of well-sorted quartz sand and rare flint. Handmade simple vessels with everted rims. One sherd carries burnished line decoration. Middle Iron Age.
- S6** – Black sandy ware with a red-brown core. The surfaces frequently laminate away from the core. The paste contains fine quartz sand with a 'sparkling' quality, rare iron and organic inclusions. Probably a product of the Alice Holt/Farnham area. Handmade and wheelmade vessels, mainly jars, bowls, dishes and platters dating to the second half of the 1st century. (=Rees fabric 5; Silchester fabric S17).

Table 1 Pottery from the ditches, by fabric

Ditch	206		207		208		210		211	
Fabric	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
F1	47	104	196	2647	–	–	–	–	212	2412
F2	12	105	13	112	–	–	27	461	–	–
F3	1	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
G1	1	12	1	7	7	23	–	–	–	–
G3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	578
G4	6	37	71	327	–	–	1	4	1	2
S1/2	16	157	61	440	–	–	–	–	124	1004
S3	8	105	16	234	–	–	–	–	5	81
S4	–	–	3	11	–	–	–	–	1	5
S5	1	7	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
S6	12	79	56	550	–	–	–	–	8	136
S7	–	–	4	30	–	–	–	–	–	–
S10	–	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
TR3	–	–	1	15	–	–	–	–	–	–
Misc.	–	–	5	20	–	–	1	14	–	–
Total	99	627	430	4391	7	23	29	479	365	4218

S7 – A hard, well-fired grey sandy ware. Wheelmade. Roman. (= Rees fabric 11).

S8 – A grey, black or brown sandy ware containing a common frequency of well-sorted rounded quartz. Probably from the Alice Holt/Farnham area. Handmade, wheel-turned and wheelmade vessels. Second half of the 1st century AD.

S9 – A dark brown sandy ware with an orange-brown interior. The paste contains a scatter of ill-sorted, sub-angular to rounded quartz sand and fine orange-brown iron, with occasional fine flint. Handmade vessels.

S10 – Orange sandy ware with a common frequency of well-sorted rounded fine quartz intermixed with fine dark red iron grains. Wheelmade thin-walled vessels, mainly butt beakers dating to c. AD 60–80. Possibly originates from the Abingdon area. (=Silchester fabric S16).

Pottery from the enclosures (Table 1)

Of the seven enclosures, 205 did not produce any pottery and 208 only produced seven sherds from a recut (24). By contrast the ditches belonging to 207 and 211 produced large groups, in total 36% and 34% respectively by weight of the total site assemblage. A smaller assemblage of some 85 sherds came from enclosure 206, with just a few sherds from 210. In total the ditches produced 78% of the total site assemblage.

206 Most of the pottery recovered came from the top of the enclosure ditch with three small groups from sections 35 (179), 122 (270) and 126 (287) and ten sherds from the surface, recovered during the 2003 watching brief. The presence of fabric S6

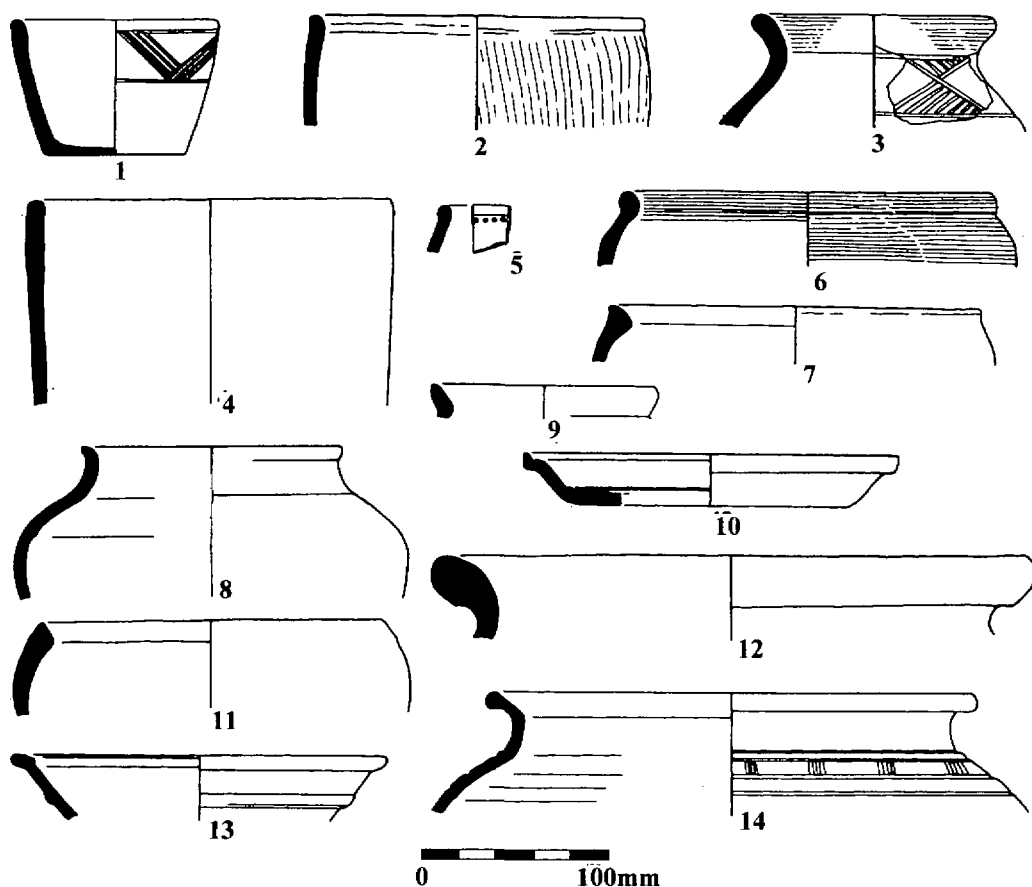


Fig. 8 Pottery (see text for details)

would suggest the enclosure was abandoned in the second half of the 1st century AD. 35 cut by 207 produced just four sherds and part of a loomweight.

- 207 Pottery was recovered from five separate sections (6, 18, 34, 112 and 133). Section 6 (60) contained the substantial part of a necked, cordoned bowl, fabric G4 and a Silchester ware (F1) internally beaded jar (Fig. 8.7), along with a beaker sherd (S10) and sandy ware S6 (Fig. 8.6) indicative of a post-conquest date of deposition. Further sandy wares were recovered from the overlying layer (53). Section 18 (155) produced just seven sherds, six from a fabric G4 necked bowl. Section 34 produced pottery from (94) and (93), both domi-

nated by the presence of Silchester ware (F1) with rims from several jars and one lid. Also present was the only imported sherd from this assemblage, a *terra rubra* beaker (Fig. 8.9), along with a local sandy ware platter (fabric S6) imitating an imported moulded form (Fig. 8.10). Identical platters with geometrical potters marks have been found at Hatch Warren (Rees 1995, fig. 27.102-3), with similar examples from Cowdery's Down, Basingstoke (Millett and James 1983, fig. 24), Bury Hill and Silchester. This indicates a post-conquest date for the fill of the ditch, with a likely *terminus post quem* of AD 60. Section 112 contained just four sherds, whilst 133 with slightly more material included sherds from a

flint-tempered saucepan-pot along with later post-conquest sandy wares suggesting disturbance of underlying features.

- 208 Recut 24 contained seven sherds of fabric G1 dating to the late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD.
- 209 Just three sherds, fabric F2, were recovered indicating a date in the mid-late Iron Age.
- 210 A small quantity of pottery was recovered from 17 (79) and 27 (86) mainly comprising a single saucepan pot (Fig. 8.4) indicating a date in the mid-late Iron Age.
- 211 A large group of pottery was recovered from fill 384. This included a substantial number of flint-tempered sherds in a mainly oxidized fabric suggestive of an urn-like vessel. Only a small fragment of a simple vertical rim was present making identification difficult, but superficially this may belong to an early Iron Age tradition, identified from previous work on the site (Rees 1995, 38, fig. 24). A number of sandy wares were present including 'Surrey bowls' (Fig. 8.13) and a necked, cordoned Alice Holt bowl (S6) (Fig. 8.14) indicating a date after AD 65/70.

Pottery from other features

Most of the other excavated features produced relatively small groups of pottery. The earliest material was associated with pits 7, 8 and 109. Pit 7 contained 13 sherds in fabric S5, one of which was decorated with burnished diagonal lines with hanging triangular pendants. Pit 8 produced sherds from at least three saucepan pots, one of which was decorated with triple-line chevrons (Fig. 8.1). A date in the middle Iron Age seems appropriate for these pits. A similar date is likely for pit 109, which produced 44 sherds of pottery, along with fragments of fired clay and part of a loomweight. Fabrics were mainly flint-tempered and included a saucepan pot (Fig. 8.2) and a simple everted rim jar with decoration (Fig. 8.3). A perforated base (F2) was also present.

Probably slightly later are pit 26 and depression 28 which also produced saucepan pot sherds, and from 26, a sandy ware sherd with part of a lightly incised ?geometric design but with odd grog-tempered sherds perhaps suggesting a date in the later 1st century BC. A decorated rim (Fig. 8.5) came from 28 along with the single

iron-tempered sherd. Pits 46 and 9 may similarly belong with this group with a beaded rim grog-tempered jar from the former but could be slightly later, dating to the early 1st century AD. Hollow 113 also suggests a 1st century AD date. The latest feature with pottery, likely to date to the second half of the 1st century AD, is pit 40.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds

- 1 Small saucepan pot with burnished line decoration. Fabric F3. Pit 8 (56).
- 2 Handmade reddish-brown saucepan pot with a well-burnished exterior and roughly burnished interior. Fabric F3. Pit 109.
- 3 Black everted rim jar with burnished line decoration. Fabric F2. Pit 109 (263).
- 4 Large straight-sided vessel with a black to red-brown exterior and black core and interior. Burnished finish. Fabric F2. Ditch 210, 27 (86).
- 5 Rimsherd, black in colour with a red-brown interior. Decorated with lightly impressed dots below a slightly beaded rim. Fabric F2. Depression 28 (360).
- 6 Beaded rim, globular, handmade bowl with a burnished finish. Fabric S6. Ditch 207, 6 (60).
- 7 Silchester ware jar, with an internally thickened rim. Fabric F1. Ditch 207, 6 (60).
- 8 Globular-bodied bowl, red-brown in colour with a burnished finish. Fabric S4. Pit 40 (170).
- 9 Rim from an imported *terra rubra* (TR3) beaker. Ditch 207, 34 (93).
- 10 Platter imitating an imported moulded form. Fabric S6. Ditch 207, 34 (93).
- 11 Handmade jar with internally bevelled rim. Dark grey with a reddish-brown interior. Fabric F1. Ditch 211, 134 (384).
- 12 Large expanded everted rim storage jar. Light orange to dark grey in colour. Fabric G3. Ditch 211, 134 (384).
- 13 Grey, sandy ware bowl, fabric S7. Ditch 211, 134 (384).
- 14 Large wheelmade necked jar, red-brown to black in colour. Burnished exterior and interior rim. Fabric S6. Ditch 211, 134 (384).

Fired Clay

Fragments of at least three (possibly four) triangular loomweights came from ditches 206 and 207, and pits 109 and 124. Two very small tile frag-

ments, presumably Roman, were found in gully 4 and pit 9.

The Animal Bones by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

Animal bone was recovered from 42 contexts in 23 features. Identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections. Many of the bones were fragmented, where possible they have been joined and counted as single bones. Undiagnostic fragments have been divided into cattle/horse-sized and sheep/pig-sized with a further group identified only as mammalian. The few measurements follow the methods of von den Driesch (1976). The archive gives full details of anatomy, butchery, measurements and other details not in the text.

A total of 377 bones was recorded. This includes 61 amphibian bones from the bottom of pit 26. Mammal remains totalled 315 bones. Many contexts produced fewer than ten fragments, most of the material came from pit 26, pit 109, and ditch 207 (34).

Cattle and sheep/goat were the most frequently identified taxa with some horse and pig. Other animals were few, one fragment each of dog and red deer, three bones of rabbit, seven of small mammals, and the amphibians mentioned above. Birds were absent, and few were identified amongst the many thousands of bones of the previous assemblage from the site (Maltby 1995).

Amongst the sheep/goat material most bones which could be distinguished were of sheep and included a horned skull in pit 26. This feature also contained the only definite evidence of goat, again part of a skull. The red deer fragment, a sawn off tine tip, also came from this feature. The amphibian bones, and those of the mouse-sized small mammal in the same feature are probably pit-fall victims. This may be the explanation for the mole jaw in pit 109 or it may be intrusive as it is a burrowing animal and the find is in an upper context. The rabbit bones in ditch slots 17, 21 and 22 are assumed to be intrusive as these features (Ditches 209 and 210) are dated as Iron Age; the one recorded for 22 represents a complete skeleton.

Preservation varies from good to poor with material from the lower contexts of pit 26 noticeably better preserved than other bones, even

those higher up in the same feature. Although only one bone of dog was found, several fragments had been gnawed, all from pit contexts. Material recovered from ditch contexts was often retrieved in pieces. Differential preservation can affect species representation with the smaller bones better represented in the pit contexts; but disposal practices may also be different for pits and ditches. In the large group of material already examined (Maltby 1995) cattle and horse were predominant in the ditches whereas sheep/goat were better represented in the pits. This can also be seen in the present assemblage despite its small size; sheep are better represented in pit 26 and cattle in ditch 207 (34). Other groups of material are too small for meaningful comparison.

Butchery marks were few and consisted mostly of knife cuts, as in the earlier material. One large cattle horn-core found in 133 (ditch 207) in the southern corner of the enclosure had saw marks near, but not at, the base. A large quantity of similar horn-cores had previously been found in the north-west area of enclosure 5912 (206), indicating industrial processing. Another horn-core, from slot 122 on the north-east side of enclosure 206, had been sawn through at both ends.

Of particular interest are two cattle scapulae from Phase I pit 109. These were both perforated through the middle of the blade. They are not a pair as both are from the right side of the animal, and they are of similar size. This type of perforation has been suggested as preparation for smoking the blade joint and has been reported from several urban and military sites of Roman date but not from native rural sites.

Information on size and ageing is very limited, but there are strong similarities to the main assemblage. There are no bones sufficiently complete for withers height estimations but other measurements were available on twelve bones, including the two perforated scapulae and the horn-core in 133. This bone was comparatively large with a basal diameter of 45 mm; like some others from the main assemblage this is larger than any from 1st–2nd century AD deposits at Owslebury. The single cattle jaw with teeth had fully erupted permanent dentition and several loose third molars were also in wear. The three sheep/goat jaws, one from a pit and two from a ditch, were all at

Maltby's stages 4/5 as were most of those from the main assemblage. Of the few horse remains, two animals represented by jaws in pit 109 are immature. These jaws have teeth in the process of shedding and the third molar is not yet in wear. Similar jaws from young horses were found in the main assemblage, but are rare at other sites in Wessex.

Pathology was limited to two bones, a broken and healed cattle rib in pit 26 and an anomalous cattle third molar from ditch 207 (34) which had no third cusp.

The Child Burial by Andrew Smith

During the extraction of a soil sample from a large pit (26, 367) a group of bones was recovered. These elements came from the section and were not recorded *in situ*. However, the collection exceeds 45% of the total bone representation, with phalanges, carpals and tarsals mostly absent. Orthological examination suggests that the individual was no more than six months old at the time of death (measurements based on Bass 1981; Sundick 1978). The epiphyses were separate or absent from all areas, the mandible and maxilla, although with teeth absent, have room only for a deciduous range. The cause of death is unknown.

Three other bones of a child aged under 6 months were recovered from the upper levels of ditch recut 211 (384). They comprised a right humerus, a left femur, and a right femur which had been gnawed at the distal end.

Charred Plant Remains by John Letts

Charred seeds were recovered from nine samples, but none contained sufficient specimens to justify extensive interpretation. The single tuber of onion couch grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* in pit 109 (260) is not an unusual find for an early Iron Age deposit. It is a species common in overgrown grassland and scrub, in contrast to black bindweed *Fallopia convolvulus*, an arable crop weed that also appears in the sample. Spelt wheat *Triticum spelta*, a 'hulled' wheat with indurate husks, was a staple cereal in southern England in the late Iron Age and Roman periods, and the single glume

base and probable spelt wheat grain in pit 104 (193) are expected. Hulled barley, *Hordeum vulgare*, including one specimen from the 6-row subspecies, appears in three samples and was also a staple in pre-Saxon times.

The hazel (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments in the late Iron Age/early Roman sample from ditch 207 (34 (94)) suggest that hazel nuts were gathered for human consumption and their shells burned in a convenient hearth. This sample also contained a single poorly preserved specimen of what is probably cultivated pea, *Pisum sativum*, a storable, protein-rich legume that has been grown in Britain since Neolithic times.

Metalwork by David Richards

- 1 Iron ploughshare. Pit 7 (57) (Fig. 9.1). Length 103 mm. A small and almost intact Iron Age share (Type 1a, Rees 1979). There is a marked step in the internal sole, which positioned the share on the end of the plough beam. The oval point is apparently unworn. Rees dates these implements to the 4th–1st centuries BC.
- 2 Iron knife (frag.) Pit 26 (367) (Fig. 9.3). Length 96 mm. A curved and tapering bone or horn handle (perhaps a tine), split at the broad end to hold the square end of an iron blade. Only 35 mm of the blade survives, snapped off close to the handle. It is secured by two rivets, only 10 mm apart on the long axis. This is a primitive and inefficient method compared to the long whittle or scale tangs of the late Iron Age and Roman periods. There is an incised decorative ring behind the rivets and a neat 8 mm square hole halfway down the handle, probably to hold a leather thong.
- 3 Copper alloy fibula, unstratified (Fig. 9.2). Length 36 mm. The bow and part of spring-housing of a small, cast 'Colchester' type brooch. Hawkes and Hull (1947) published a very similar brooch from the Sheepen site at Colchester, and dates it to the early part of the 1st century AD (Pl. XC No. 17). Crummy (1991) illustrates another similar example.
- 4 Ironstone ball. Pit 40 (170). Diameter 70 mm. Weight 570 g. A naturally-occurring ovoid sphere of iron-stone, probably 'altered marcasite'. It is slightly kidney-shaped with a shallow depression around one half; this, and its unusual symmetry, may have resulted in it being given a ritual significance.

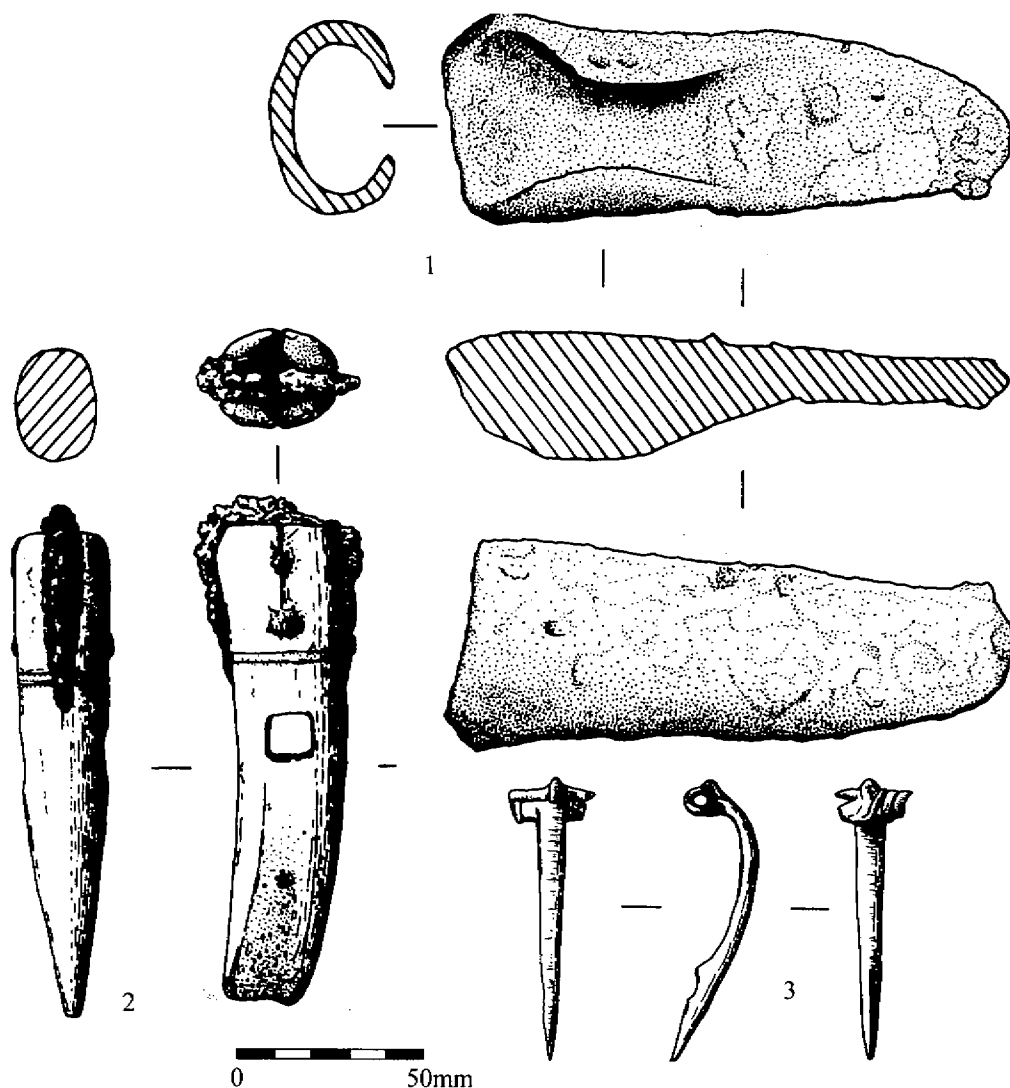


Fig. 9 Metalwork: 1. Ploughshare, pit 7 (57); 2. Fibula (unstrat.); 3. Knife (pit 26 (367))

Struck Flint by Theresa Durden

A total of eighteen struck flints were recovered. The flakes from pits 4 (51) and 26 (370) are small waste flakes. Three others are relatively broad flakes, which are more typical of the flint technology from the later Neolithic onwards. The

example from pit 3 (54) may have been subject to some platform preparation prior to striking and is the broadest flake. None of the flakes bear any retouch and are undiagnostic in type, so cannot be assigned to a particular period. Flakes from ditch 207 (6) and pit 26 are associated with late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, but it is impossible

to suggest whether they are contemporary with the pottery. A broken flake from pit 8 (56) has blade scars on its dorsal surface, suggesting the presence of a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic industry. The raw material appears to be flint derived from the chalk or clay with flint deposits, and so would have been locally available. The flakes from ditch 207 (6) and gully 10 are completely patinated; other pieces are in varying stages of patination.

Stone Objects by David Williams

- 1 Unstratified. Large segment (1765 g) of the upper stone from a rotary quern made from a dark grey glauconitic greensand rock. It is 50 mm thick at the edge narrowing to 14 mm towards the centre. This stone appears identical to querns that were produced at Lodsworth, West Sussex, from the local Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand, from the late Bronze Age to the Roman period (Peacock 1987, fig. 3).
- 2 Ditch recut 211 (384). Two moderately large fragments from a flint stone belonging to a rotary quernstone made from a similar rock to the example above. 75 mm thick, 1700 g.

DISCUSSION

The Enclosures

The results from the excavation would seem to indicate some slight differences from the phasing of the enclosures suggested previously. It is now apparent that the earliest enclosures were the sub-circular 209 and 210, while the later ditches were 205 and 206, with 207 representing an extension of the enclosed area 206. Ditches 206 and 207 would appear to be at least partly contemporary, 205 may have been slightly earlier, but this cannot be confirmed as ceramically there is little difference and the assemblages are very small.

Enclosures 209 and 210 would seem largely contemporary with the activity identified by the trial trenching in the area later enclosed by 205, and for a time, the area to the west which was enclosed by ditch 5911 (dated to the early-middle Iron Age) (Fasham and Keevill 1995, fig. 16). This

area was north and west of that covered by the excavation so could not be investigated further. Allowing that the chronology of this phase is based on a very small ceramic assemblage, it need not necessarily be the case that the focus of activity or occupation shifted southwards from the area of 5911 (Coe *et al.* 1995, 66), as it may already have been present in the south in the form of 209 and 210 (that is, Phases I and II need not necessarily be separate).

Enclosure 206, along with 205 and 5701 presumably contemporary at its north side, represent a much expanded area, whether 207 was contemporary as originally laid out, or not.

A phase of redundancy of enclosures 206 and 207, when they were replaced by 5913, suggested by the trial trenching was not confirmed by the excavation. Although ditch 5913 was not re-examined, and certainly recutting of 206 and 207 took place, the coincidence of the recuts with the original lines of these ditches seems rather too close for any major hiatus to be likely. It may be the case that only the western side of 206 was redefined by enclosure 5913, and certainly the western side of 207 was treated differently in its last phase. But it must be considered whether it is inherently more likely that 5913 was entirely later than 206 and 207, and the stratigraphy which forced it into the hiatus between recuts of the main enclosures may have been mis-interpreted (Fasham and Keevill 1995; figs. 16 and 17, section 4). Crucially, the evidence linking the north and south arms of enclosure 5913 is entirely interpolated; on the aerial photo it is lost under a hedge line and as such it is not seen in the interpretative plot, but the site plans show it continuous as if firmly established. There is no question but that gully 5076 (5901) cut the top of enclosure 5912. However, there is no strong reason to link 5072 (5902) and 5076 (5901). We might equally allow 5902 to be part of (say) 5444 (i.e., Phase II enclosure 209). Ditch 5072 produced a (nearly new?) Colchester derivative brooch (dating AD45–55/60) which would rule out such an association, but the section (Fasham and Keevill 1995, fig. 17, section 9) of this shows that the already filled in ditch has been consolidated with a flint capping. This area would have been next to the entrance to enclosure 206 from the south and an

earlier ditch could have needed to be consolidated when the new enclosure was constructed. If it was from the capping that the brooch derived, or from an episode of filling associated with it, then 5072 could still be part of 209. This rephasing is admittedly, speculative, but has the merit of removing the awkward hiatus where 5913 had to be fitted in between the original cutting of enclosure 206 and its recutting.

Enclosure 27 can still be seen as a later annexe to 206 as suggested by Fasham and Keevill, but the evidence turns out to be very ambiguous and it is possible they were both laid out together. Certainly some of their filling and recutting episodes appear to overlap and both enclosures must have functioned together for some time. It appears that 207 required redefinition one last time after 206 had filled, but it is unclear if this necessarily means this enclosure lasted longer.

Pits

Relatively few pits and postholes were present within the excavated area, compared to the number found during the trial trenching. None of these features formed part of any obvious structure. A number of the pits were clearly storage pits and, except 149, all were within the areas enclosed by 209 and 205. Apart from pit 9 which was of early Roman date, the others that could be dated (7, 26 and 109) were of middle or late Iron Age date, which is consistent with the dates of the enclosure ditches which surrounded them.

It is possible that some of the contents of the disused storage pits may have been ritual deposits, although some also contained material such as dog-gnawed bones, which may have derived from middens (see bone report above). It may be that some types of rubbish also had a ritual significance (cf. Hill 1989). Ritual deposits have been recognized on other Wessex sites of this period, such as Winnall Down (Fasham 1985).

The two cattle scapulae, which may represent the remains of feasting, were found along with other bones in pit 109. An almost intact Iron Age ploughshare, which cannot have been a casual loss, was recovered from the primary fill (57) of storage pit 7 (Fig. 9.1). The skeleton of a baby was recovered from one of the middle fills of pit 26

(367) along with an iron knife fragment with a bone handle (Fig. 9.3), implying a ritual deposit. The practice of pit burial is not unusual in this area in this period (Harris 1974; Whimster 1981; Walker 1984).

Economy and social organization

One particular aim of the project was to consider more fully the trial trenching results, which interpreted the enclosures as lacking occupation structures. The fieldwork described above has largely confirmed the previous findings. While it is possible that temporary or non-earthfast structures may have been present, or any structures may have been eroded by subsequent ploughing, the evidence favours a genuine absence. The lack of structures suggests that the enclosure complex was not a settlement but a more specialized activity area. The enclosures may have functioned primarily as stock pens for sheep and cattle but a variety of other activities, including crop processing and textile manufacture, have been documented and a number of features that may be working hollows have been defined.

The plant remains recovered from both investigations show the presence of spelt wheat and barley, which are typical cultivars at this time and, together with the animal bones, indicate a mixed agricultural economy for the site and its environs; nothing can be added to the previous discussion on this topic. Crop processing is evidenced and the presence of large pits shows that storage of grain for seed or consumption took place.

The new evidence from this excavation has shown that the earliest activity consisted of *two* small, irregularly shaped enclosures (5911 and 209) approximately 100 m apart with an area of unenclosed activity to the north-east. These enclosures are broadly contemporary but cannot be conclusively shown to be strictly so. The later activity consists of a larger square enclosure (208/206) with two annexes (205, 207). There was no subsequent reduction in the enclosed areas until the site was abandoned. Apart from the rectilinear nature of the later enclosures, the most significant change is the three-fold increase in area enclosed compared to the combined total of the two earlier enclosures. If the enclosures were used for stock management, this

points to an increase in the size of herds (but with less emphasis on sheep (Coe *et al.* 1995, 72)), or more centralized control than previously.

The site in its wider setting

During the Iron Age settlement density on the Wessex chalklands is thought to have increased, and evidence suggests that both arable and pastoral uses of this landscape were highly organized (Robinson 1984, 4). Settlement types seem to have varied considerably through the Iron Age in Wessex. Early Iron Age farmsteads generally took the form of palisaded or ditched occupied enclosures; many of these did not change in function or morphology into the middle Iron Age (Cunliffe 1984, 21). The middle Iron Age, however, witnessed an increased diversity of non-hillfort settlements, and while sub-circular enclosed settlements such as Little Woodbury (Bersu 1940) continued to be occupied, new unenclosed sites such as Winnall Down (Fasham 1985), Worthy Down (Dunning *et al.* 1929) and Battlesbury (Chadwick and Thompson 1956) appeared. The late Iron Age saw further changes, with the abandonment of single enclosures like Little Woodbury in favour of settlements consisting of a series of smaller ditched units (Cunliffe 1984, 34), some on previously occupied sites such as Gussage All Saints (Wainwright 1979), Rotherley (Pitt Rivers 1887), Winnall Down and Worthy Down. A series of ditched paddocks just beyond the settlement enclosure often housed a variety of farming activities (Cunliffe 1984, 34).

Some settlements continued into the early Roman period, for example Viabes Farm (Millett and Russell 1984), Cowdery's Down (Millett and James 1983) and Rucstalls Hill (Oliver and Applin 1978), while others were abandoned during the first century AD.

The enclosures at Hatch Warren complement these observed trends. The earliest activity recorded on the site was found during the trial trenching, an early-middle Iron Age irregular enclosure and pits, but no structures, and no indication that this enclosure was inhabited.

Enclosures 209 and 210 were dated to the mid-late Iron Age but although morphologically similar to the single settlement enclosures discussed

above, contained no evidence of occupation. This suggests the presence of an open settlement nearby with the enclosures having a more specialized function. As well as their possible use for stock control, evidence for metalworking (small amounts of slag from the previous phase of work) and horn core working was found, and loomweights indicate weaving. The banjo enclosure at Beggarwood Lane, a little to the south-west, has tentatively been interpreted as a settlement of this date (Coe *et al.* 1995). Without information on the nature of the associated settlement, the enclosures cannot really be compared to the paddocks at sites such as Gussage All Saints and Winnall Down. Apart from such paddocks, there is a dearth of evidence for agricultural or specialized non-settlement enclosures in the Wessex Iron Age with which to draw comparison (Coe *et al.* 1995).

The above arguments also apply to enclosures 205, 206 and 207, which date from the 1st century BC through to the late 1st century AD. Again there is no evidence to suggest that any of these enclosures was occupied. Enclosures 206 and 207 can be compared to similar rectilinear enclosures of Roman date in the Basingstoke area which are associated with pastoral activities, at Rucstalls Hill, Cowdery's Down and possibly Site X/Y at Brighton Hill South (Coe and Newman 1992).

The site at Hatch Warren appears to have been continuously used from the early or middle Iron Age through to the late 1st century AD. The date for the abandonment of the site can now be confirmed as in the later stages of the 1st century, as the excavation recovered pottery associated with ditches 207 and its recut 211, and also 206, indicating a date at least after AD 60.

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