

EARLY–MIDDLE ANGLO-SAXON SETTLEMENT BESIDE THE WINCHESTER TO SILCHESTER ROMAN ROAD AT ABBOTTS BARTON, WINCHESTER

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ABSTRACT

An excavation and watching brief at Abbots Barton, Winchester, revealed a short section of Roman road, comprising a metalled surface flanked by two ditches 24m apart. This lies almost 200m east of the often presumed line of the Winchester–Silchester Roman road along Worthy Road. However, it lies almost precisely on a line projected between the sections of road excavated outside the Roman town's north gate at Hyde Street, a length of 'ancient causeway' on the west bank of the River Itchen followed by the Nun's Walk (part of the Pilgrims' Way), and the A33 Basingstoke Road which is known to follow the line of the Roman road.

Subsequently, in the early/middle Anglo-Saxon period, probably in the 6th/7th century, a settlement was established beside the Roman road, between it and the edge of the River Itchen floodplain, remaining in occupation possibly into the 9th century. The full extent of the settlement is not known, but the exposed area was divided into a southern part containing five sunken-featured buildings, and a northern part containing at least three post-built buildings (and other post-built structures) and a further sunken-featured building. One sunken-featured building contained large numbers of ceramic loomweights associated with evidence of burning, possibly of floor timbers and a loom.

INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological works at Abbots Barton, on the north-eastern margin of Winchester, uncovered evidence of pre-historic, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon activity (Fig. 1). The works, which were a condition of granting planning permission for Redrow Homes to develop the site for

housing, comprised an evaluation and two areas of strip-map-and-record excavation undertaken in 2010 (by Wessex Archaeology), and a watching brief undertaken in 2012 (by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA)) (Wessex Archaeology 2013).

The site, which covers 4.5 hectares centred on NGR 448670 131170, lies 1.4km north of the north wall of the historic city of Winchester, and close to the presumed line of the road between Roman Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) and Silchester (*Callewa Atrebatum*). Findspots of Bronze Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have previously been recorded from the area (CgMs 2007; Portable Antiquities Scheme database). The site lies between Worthy Road (the B3047) to the west and the floodplain of the River Itchen to the east, and is bounded by residential housing to the south and arable fields to the north. At the start of the fieldwork the site consisted of open fields surrounded by mature hedges; a belt of trees extending from the southern boundary almost divides the site into two parts.

The ground slopes gently down from 57m OD at the north-west to 39m OD at the south-east, the slope becoming slightly steeper towards the east (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation (Upper Chalk), overlain in the western part of the site by River Terrace Deposits (Sand and Gravel) and in the eastern part by Head deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) (British Geological Survey online viewer). Over most of the site, the dark grey/brown silty clay topsoil was up to 0.45m thick but thinned to 0.15m at the south-east.

The development proposals involved residential housing in the western part of the site and a soak-away in an area of open



Fig 1 Site location, showing selected sites mentioned in the text

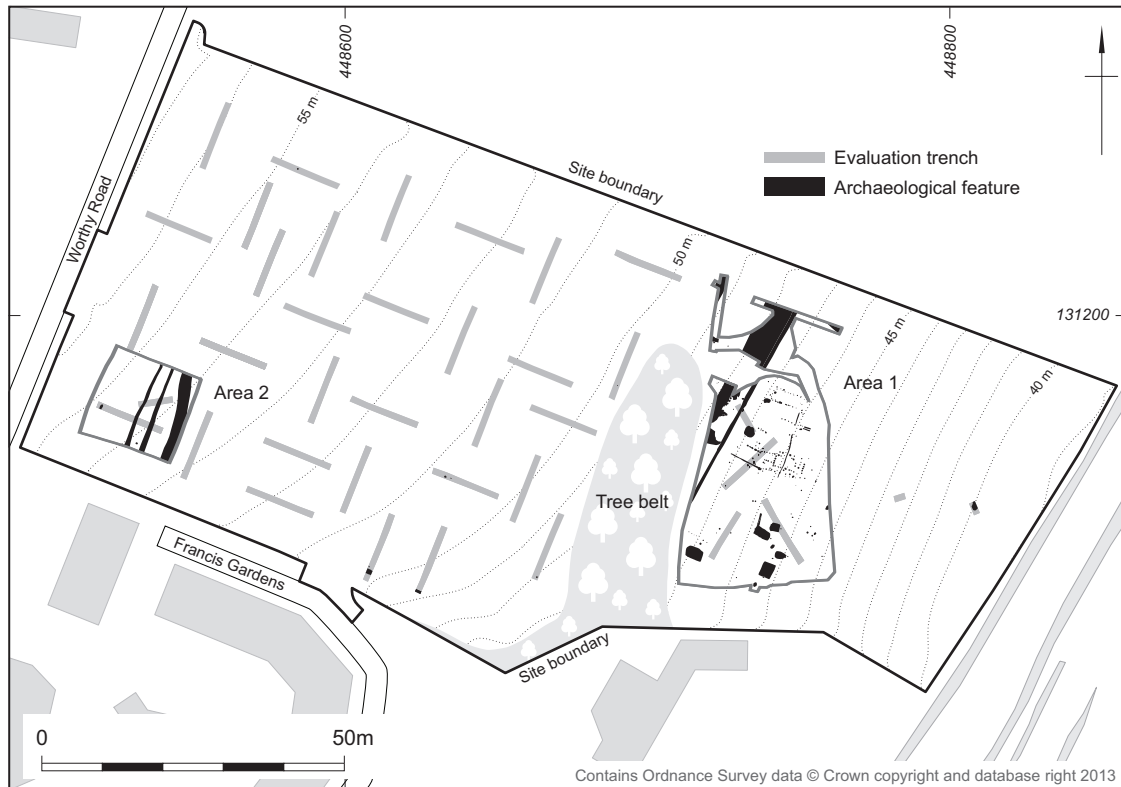


Fig 2 Evaluation trenches and site Areas 1 and 2, showing all features

space to the east. During the evaluation, a total of 38 trenches were opened, 32 in the area of proposed housing, four in the area of the soak-away, and two along the line of a proposed path further to the east. The evaluation revealed two areas of moderate–high archaeological potential, with evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation in the area of the soak-away and a series of ditches parallel to Worthy Road near the south-western corner of the site. These two areas were subject to excavation in 2010. Subsequently, in 2012, a watching brief was maintained prior to the construction of the soak-away, involving additional stripping around it, and the stripping of a proposed play area, and an area of heavy plant movement, to its north (Fig. 3). The total area exposed in the eastern part of the site (Area 1) was 3430m²; Area 2 in the south-western corner of the site covered 940m².

PREHISTORIC

Prehistoric activity is represented in part by an assemblage of 298 pieces of worked flint, mostly debitage and much of it residual. Among them are four pieces of probable Mesolithic date: a large tranchet pick (ON 50) from a tree-throw hole (6257) (Fig. 3), a blade, a triangular platform rejuvenation tablet and a notched flake. Most of the assemblage, however, appears to be of post-Middle Neolithic date, with one piece possibly being a Late Neolithic discoidal core.

Four widely dispersed pits (203, 2303, 2905, 6045) (Fig. 3) contained small quantities of flint-tempered pottery, all potentially falling within the known range of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramics of the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition; pit 203 also contained 19 pieces of worked flint,

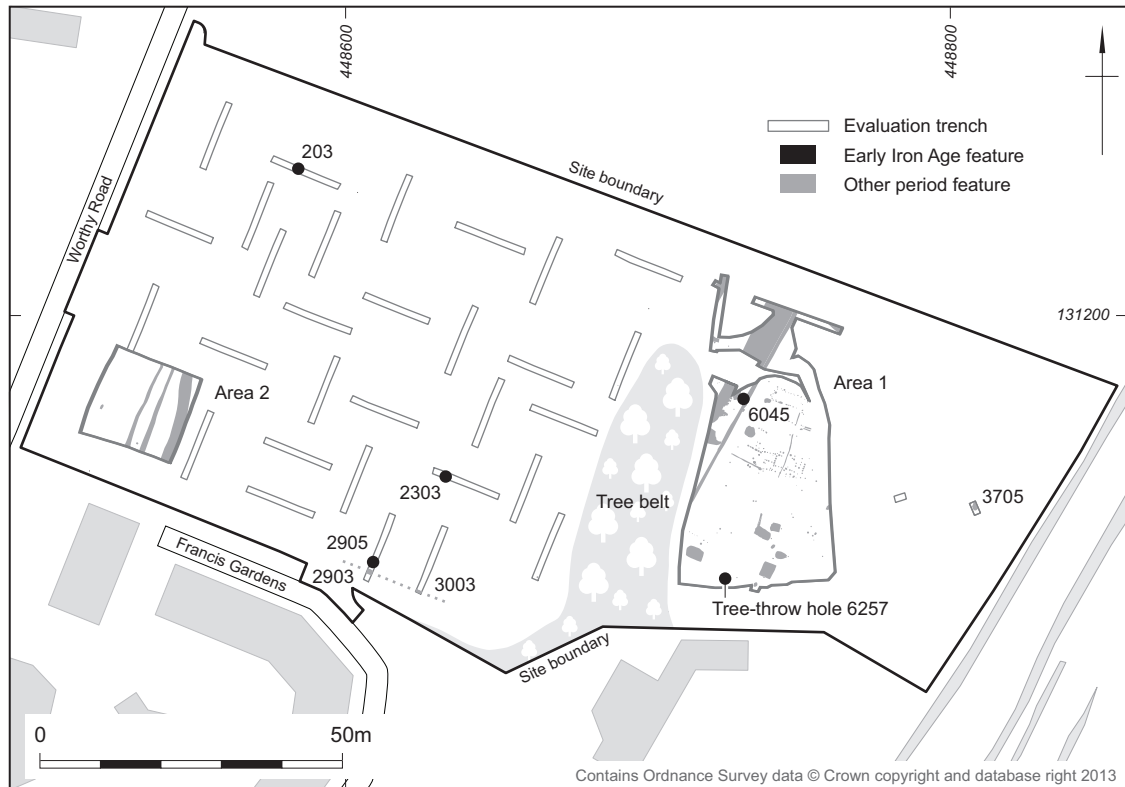


Fig 3 Possible prehistoric features, and selected other features

while pit 2303 contained six pieces of flint that were relatively fresh in appearance. Pit 6045 was cut by Romano-British ditch 6315 (below, Fig. 5) which contained further prehistoric sherds. The few other prehistoric sherds were residual in later features. The easternmost feature on the site, an irregular hollow (3705) on the edge of the floodplain, contained two pieces of worked flint along with burnt flint and charcoal, and may also have been of prehistoric date.

ROMANO-BRITISH

A length of Roman road, represented by two, parallel, NNE–SSW aligned ditches, 24m apart, with patches of metallised surface between them (although not centrally), crossed Area 1 (Figs 4 & 5). The eastern, downhill ditch (6315),

which was up to 1.7m wide and 0.9m deep with a V-shaped profile, produced one sherd of Romano-British pottery, along with residual late prehistoric pottery, worked flint and burnt flint. The western ditch (3820) was substantially larger (1.5m deep), but a later recut had removed most of its original profile; its uppermost surviving fill (3815) contained 17 sherds from a single vessel of 2nd–4th century AD date. The recut (3807) was 3.3m wide and 1.1m deep with a wide U-shaped profile, its upper fills containing a concentration of animal bone (cattle, horse, pig and dog), as well as single pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay, and one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Patches of the metallised surface (6037) were recorded during the excavation, but it was more widely exposed during the watching brief. The surface, of compacted flints, was recorded

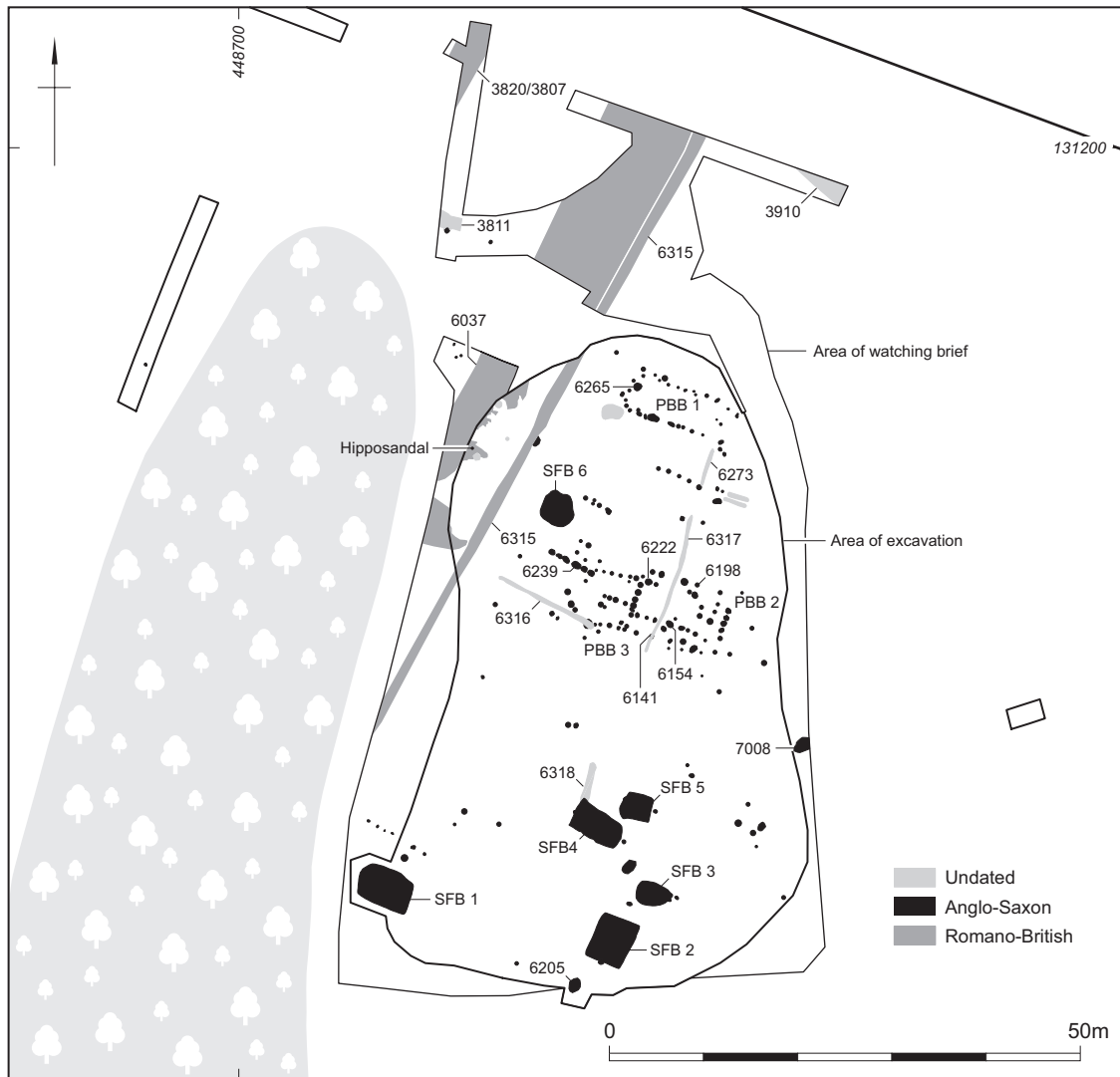


Fig 4 Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon features in Area 2 excavation and watching brief areas

extending up to 10m west from ditch 6315, with an apparently sharply defined western edge. An iron hipposandal (ON 21; Fig. 13) was recovered from the surface, along with a sherd of Romano-British pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.

Romano-British artefacts, mostly residual, were also recovered from Anglo-Saxon contexts, including bronze coins of 3rd and 4th century AD date, pottery and CBM.

ANGLO-SAXON

Part of an early to middle Anglo-Saxon settlement, containing sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) and rectilinear post-built structures, was recorded in Area 1, on the eastern side of the Roman road (Fig. 4). Apart from two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered during the evaluation from an otherwise undated ditch (3003), immediately west of the line of the road (Fig. 3),

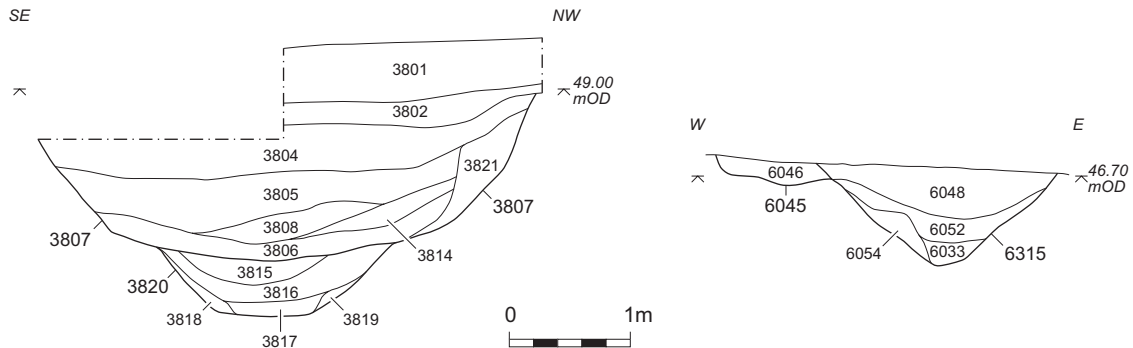


Fig 5 Sections of Roman road ditches 3820/3807 and 6315

all the evidence for activity in this period was found downslope of the road, between it and the valley floor. The features appear to have been largely orientated in relation to the road, although they could equally have been aligned on the prevailing slope of the ground.

There was a clear distinction in the settlement features between the central and southern parts of Area 1. Five of the six SFBs were clustered in a relatively close group in an area at the south with relatively few other features, while the sixth (SFB 6), 30m to the north, lay among a dense concentration of post-holes forming post-built structures. SFB 6, recorded during the evaluation, was sealed by a 0.25m thick spread of grey/brown soil (3503) which extended further to the north-east; this was subsequently equated with a more extensive (but not surveyed) spread of material (6004) interpreted as an occupation/activity layer, containing 10 sherds of pottery (nine Anglo-Saxon and one Romano-British), small quantities of CBM (Romano-British and medieval), animal bone and number of iron objects (including five nails, a hobnail, a cleat and a rod).

Sunken-featured buildings

The SFBs generally consisted of subrectangular hollows with moderately steep sides, and arrangements of associated post-holes, many of them lying centrally along their long axes, both inside and just outside the hollows (Fig. 6).

The hollows varied in size and shape (Table 1); one of the largest (SFB 2) measured 5m long (NNE–SSW) by 4.1–4.3m wide, and was almost rectangular with sharp corners (Fig. 7), while SFB 3 was oval, measuring 3.8m (WNW–ESE) by up to 2.5m. SFB 2 was the only one with its longer axis running along the slope, although the positions of the post-holes in SFB 6 suggest that its main axis was similarly aligned.

Many of the SFBs had comparable arrangements of post-holes. SFB 4 (the longest at 5.7m) had three post-holes along its axis, one on its WNW edge, and the other two just inside and just outside its opposite end; similarly, SFB 5 had a post-hole on its WNW edge and another just outside the ESE end. SFB 2, on its different alignment, had opposing post-holes immediately inside each end of the hollow, and a third on the edge at its SSW end. This general pattern probably reflects a largely uniform method of SFB construction, comprising a ridge pole supported on central posts at the gable ends, and a pitched roof sloping down to or beyond the sides of the hollow. This is a method of construction for which there are many other examples in the area, such as at Northbrook, Micheldever (Johnstone 1998, figs 7 & 9), Abbots Worthy (Fasham & Whinney 1991, figs 24 & 25) and Riverdene, Basingstoke (Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003, figs 13 & 14).

Other, less regular arrangements, such as the short line of four post-holes (one possibly a replacement) inside the ESE end of SFB 1, may in part be due to some post-holes not being rec-

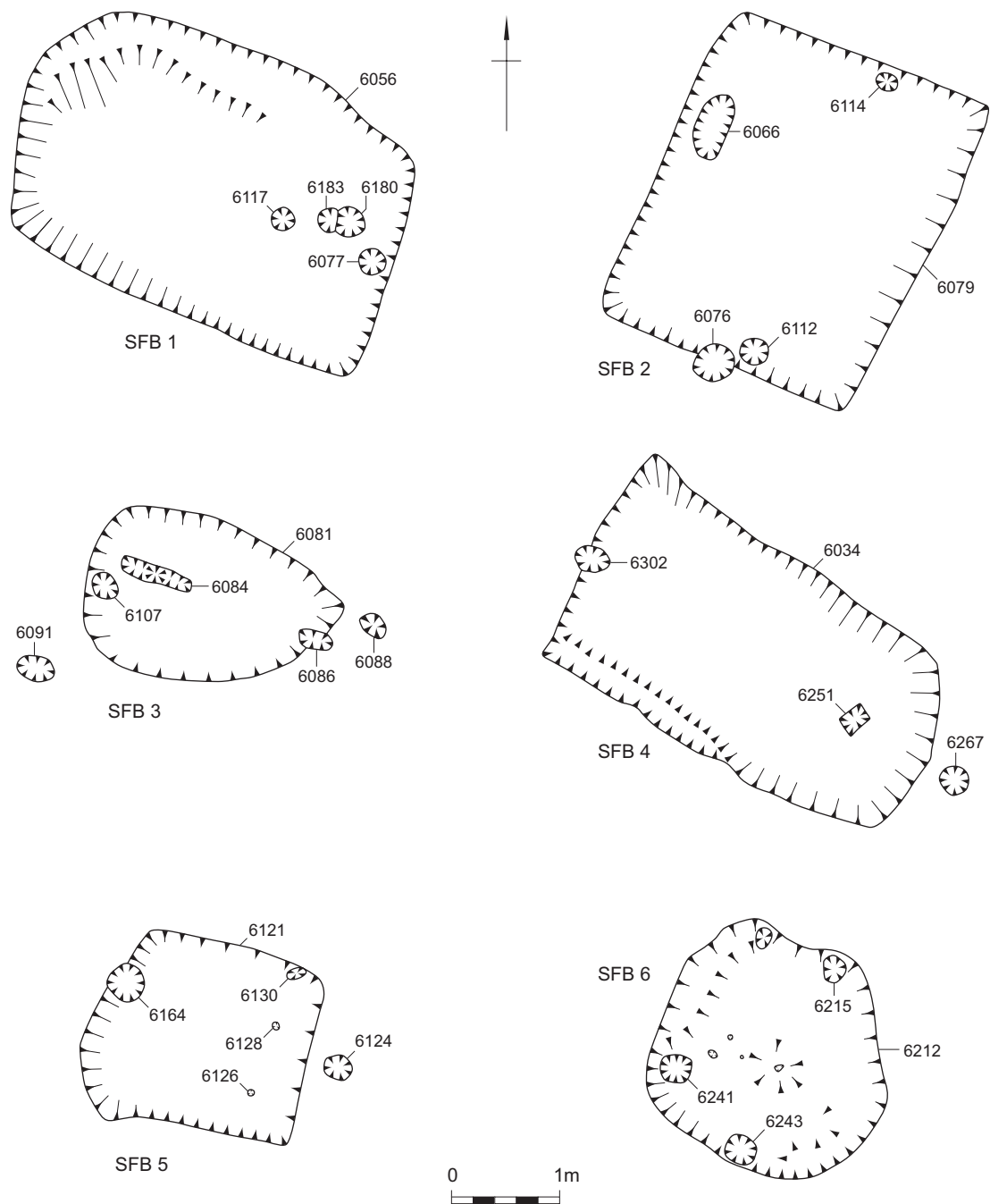


Fig 6 Plans of Anglo-Saxon SFBs

Table 1 Summary dimensions of SFBs, and quantities of selected finds

<i>SFB no.</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>			<i>Pottery</i>	<i>F. clay</i>	<i>A. bone</i>	<i>B. flint</i>	<i>Other objects</i>
	<i>L</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)	
1	6.0	4.0	0.33	588	282	1379	22,198	Cu alloy: 2 coins, 2 other objects Fe: 1 knife, 4 nails, 4 other
2	5.0	4.3	0.28	521	288	5417	646	Cu alloy: 4 coins, 1 other Fe: 16 nails, 4 others Stone: 1 whetstone, 1 quern Worked bone: pin Glass: 2 beads
3	3.8	2.5	0.15	175	–	173	253	Fe: 2 nails; slag (18g)
4	5.7	3.1	0.36	225	11808	951	28,538	Cu alloy: 1 coin, 1 other Fe: 2 knives, 2 nails, 1 staple, 2 others Worked bone: pin Fired clay: 23 loomweights Stone: 1 quern
5	3.3	2.9	0.20	152	107	242	99	Cu alloy: 3 coins, 2 others Fe: 1 rod, 1 nail
6	3.5	3.5	0.37	404	99	220	147	Cu alloy: 1 tweezers Fe: 2 nails Possible saddle quern

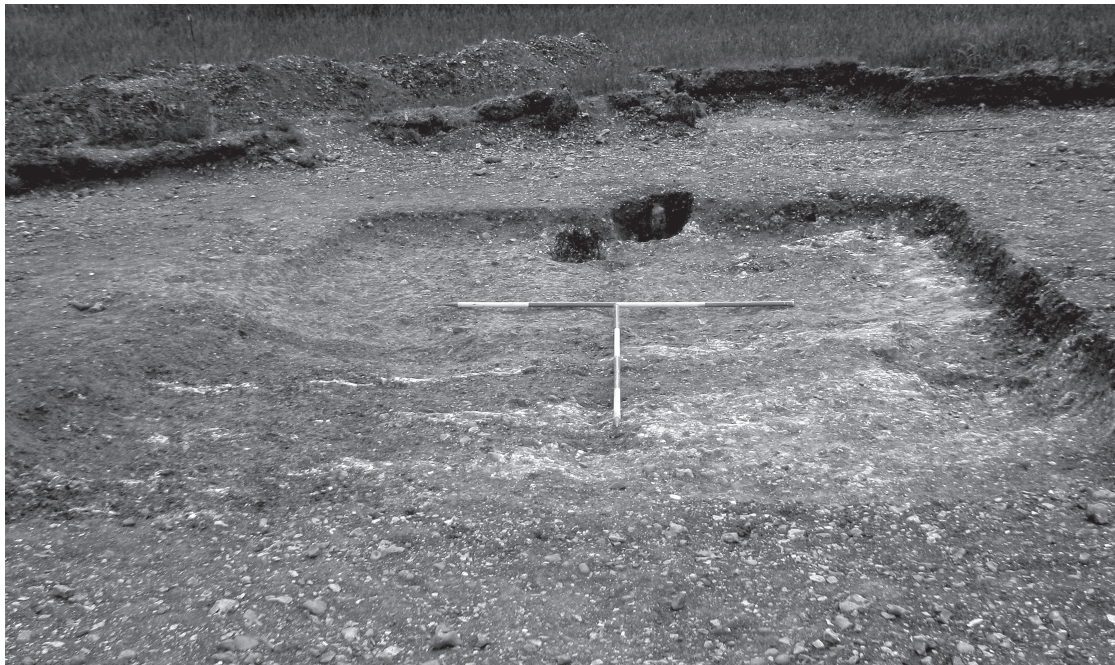


Fig 7 SFB 2 after excavation viewed from the north-north-east



Fig 8 SFB 4 during excavation showing charcoal spreads and loomweights, viewed from the north-west

ognised, or not surviving, but such variation is not unusual in SFBs on sites elsewhere. This may reflect aspects of their construction, or possibly repair. While SFBs have been subject to various methods of classification based on the numbers and the positions of their post-holes (e.g. West 1985), the variable and in some cases irregular arrangements of post-holes makes some of the Abbots Barton SFBs hard to categorise.

Oval SFB 3 had a 1.1m long slot, possibly a beamslot, in its western half, aligned on an elongated post-hole on its eastern edge; elongated slots observed in two SFBs at Mucking (Hamerow 1993, 17, figs 60 & 66) have been suggested as possible emplacements for looms (Tipper 2004, 88). Together, the slot and post-hole in SFB 3 had a slightly different axis to that of the hollow and its two other post-holes,

and could represent a phase of rebuilding or repair. Possible rebuilding/repair was indicated by the paired post-holes at both ends of one of the SFBs (F7698) at Abbots Worthy (Fasham & Whinney 1991, 30, fig. 24).

SFB 5 had two stake-holes in its base (and a possible third on its northern edge), which may mark an internal division 0.6m from its western end, or reflect activity within the SFB. There was also an irregular arrangement of four possible stake-holes in the base of SFB 6. Such stake-holes are a common feature, much larger numbers being recorded, for example, in the SFBs at Northbrook, Abbots Worthy, and Riverdene, sometimes in apparently random arrangements, elsewhere with some arranged in a line running laterally across the long axis, although Tipper (2004, 88) suggests that most



Fig 9 Distribution of loomweights and charcoal spread in SFB 4

such features were probably natural or the result of animal disturbance.

Only one feature within an SFB was clearly not structural in function. A shallow, oval pit (6066), against the western side of SFB 2, contained what appears to have been a placed deposit comprising two copper alloy coins (ONs 53 and 54), a worked bone pin (ON 93; Fig. 14, 8), and three cattle bones, all from the foreleg (scapula, radius and ulna). Unless this feature was the base of an earlier, deeper pit truncated by the SFB, some of this material must have been curated; the pin is of uncertain date, but the coins date to the AD late 3rd and 4th centuries, respectively. It is possible that it represents some form of foundation deposit related to the construction of the SFB. Special deposits, in many cases of animal bone (most

frequently cattle), have been recorded in a number of Anglo-Saxon settlement contexts, including within SFBs (Hamerow 2006, table 1), but the presence of the other objects, particularly curated objects, would make this feature unusual, although far from the scale of the precious, high-status artefacts in deposits in houses at some southern Scandinavian settlements (*ibid.*, 26).

The SFBs, which were excavated in quadrants, each contained a series of fills, some of which were localised and distinct in appearance, others more extensive and less well-defined. SFB1 and SFB 4 (Figs 8 & 9) both had extensive spreads of charcoal-rich soil within their fills, although it was not always clear whether these resulted from activities within the buildings, the burning of parts of the buildings themselves,



Fig 10 Stack of loomweights in SFB 4

or the subsequent dumping of charcoal-rich waste.

Some of the charcoal spreads (e.g. 6159) on the base of SFB 4 had a distinctly linear appearance, possibly from burnt timbers, either floor planks or other structural timbers (Fig. 9). Burnt lateral planks on the base of an SFB at West Stow (SFB 15) have been interpreted both as evidence for a suspended floor collapsing onto the base (West 1985, 119–20), and of a plank floor resting directly on the base (Welch 1992, 21–5), and the question remains as to the nature of SFBs' floors (Tipper 2004, 84–7). One possibility is that raised floors rested on the ledges found around the edges of some SFBs; such ledges were noted in SFBs 1, 4 and 6, but only short lengths were present, and it is possible that these simply represent less worn areas around the edge of the floors.

Closely associated with the charcoal spreads in SFB 4 was a large number of annular ceramic loomweights, including a 'stack' of them (Figs 8–10) at the building's western corner, some of which were in a very friable condition and appeared to have been under-fired; a similar association was noted in West Stow SFB 15 (West 1985, fig. 71). There were smaller spreads of material in the overlying layers, one

(6105) containing large charcoal fragments of possibly worked wood, perhaps part of a loom (see Challinor, below). A shallow rectangular feature (6251) cut into the floor of the hollow contained burnt clay and burnt flint, and had charcoal around its edge, but it is unclear whether the burning was *in situ*; while it is possible that it marks the position of a hearth, or a burnt post-hole, it could also be related to the evidence of burning in the overlying layers.

The SFBs contained significant quantities of finds indicative of domestic, economic and industrial/craft activity, including animal bone, pottery, fired clay, burnt flint, and objects of copper alloy, iron, glass, stone and worked bone (summarised in Table 1). Quantities of residual worked flint and abraded Romano-British CBM were also recovered. There were significant differences in the quantities of specific materials from the different SFBs, and while this might indicate that some were used for particular functions, it could simply reflect the subsequent dumping of variable waste. In addition to the large number of loomweights from SFB 4, the large quantities of burnt flint from SFBs 1 and 4 are of note.

Post-built structures

The central part of Area 1 was dominated by post-holes, the majority of them closely spaced in lines orientated ESE–WNW or NNE–SSW; some of the lines formed buildings (Fig. 11). The post-holes varied considerably in size, and some of the larger examples (up to 1m wide) were provisionally interpreted as pits. While a small number of pits were identified on the site, post-holes of variable size are only to be expected, and as there were no specific reasons to interpret any of the features in lines as pits, they are all considered here most likely to be post-holes.

A very small number of post-holes were recorded to the west of Roman roadside ditch 6315, although none of these were dated, and it is possible that the post-built structures, like the SFBs, were confined to the area between the road and the river. It is not clear, however, how far to the east these features extended. The fact that very few were recorded within 5m of the eastern side of Area 1 is likely to be due in part to the fact its eastern edge was subject only to a watching brief. However, it was noticeable that the post-holes in the most northerly building (all within the excavated area) became shallower towards the east, and others further east may have been completely truncated. No post-holes east of the road were recorded during the watching brief in the very northern part of Area 1.

The northern post-built building (PBB 1) was defined by approximately 30 post-holes. It was at least 9m long (WNW–ESE) and 4.5m wide, although a number of the post-holes further east may also have been part of it; there were no clearly associated post-holes at the eastern end but this may be due to truncation. The sides were slightly irregular, and the western end was slightly bowed. The post-holes varied in size, about half being less than 0.4m in diameter with a few being significantly larger. The post-holes were unevenly spaced, but this may be due to the subsequent addition of extra posts; if a small number of possible additions are excluded, the typical spacing was 0.8–1.2m. The gap between relatively large post-holes in the middle of the south side has the appearance of an entrance, but the eastern

of these was much shallower than might be expected for a doorpost. Central entrances were a common feature of similar buildings at Chalton and Cowdery's Down, although many of these had opposed entrances on both sides (Addyman *et al.* 1972; Addyman & Leigh 1973; Millett & James 1983). Small quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and burnt flint were recovered from the post-holes. A circular feature (6265), 0.8m in diameter, lay centrally just inside the western end; while it could be a post-hole in a similar position to those in the SFBs, it was only 0.1m deep and may have had some other function.

A shallow depression outside the south-western corner of the building contained a small spread of compacted flint gravel (6005) from which an iron nail was recovered. It was comparable in appearance to the metallated road surface to the immediate west, and could feasibly be associated with it, although it is perhaps more likely is that it was a surface laid down with reference to the Anglo-Saxon building, relating to a specific activity. Approximately 5m south of the building, a parallel line of five post-holes were evenly spaced at approximately 1m intervals. The function of this line, as with other single lines of post-holes to the south, is unclear. It is possible that it marks a short fence-line partly enclosing a yard area adjacent to the building. Although its easternmost post-hole was adjacent to the southern terminal of undated ditch 6273, this ditch appears to have been part of a more extensive field system which had no other obvious relationship to the settlement structures (below). Some of the other lines of post-holes appear unrelated to buildings and must have had some other, if unknown, function.

The post-holes were densest in the central part of Area 1, and it clear that here they represent more than one phase of construction. On the basis of the slightly different orientations of the lines of post-holes, and on the sizes of the post-holes within the lines, at least two buildings (possibly three) can be suggested, accounting for the majority, but not all of the post-holes. In the absence of any stratigraphic relationships between them, no building sequence can be proposed, but it does appear that two buildings occupied almost the same position.

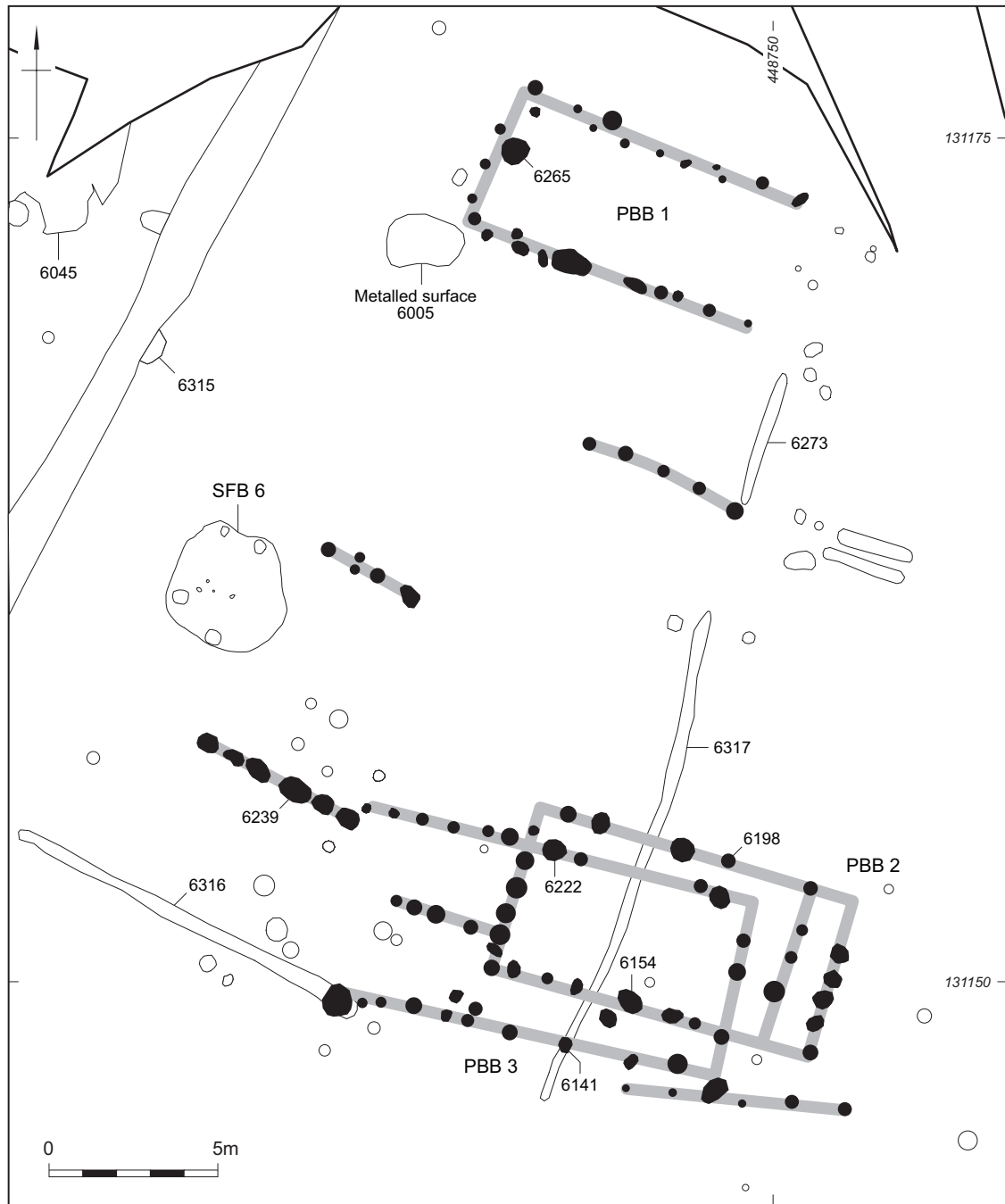


Fig 11 Suggested post-built buildings and other post-built structures in central part of Area 1

PBB 2 is defined by a rectangular arrangement of approximately 25 post-holes, 10m long (WNW–ESE) and 5m wide (Fig. 11). The post-holes averaged over 0.5m wide, but despite considerable regularity in size they varied in depth (0.1–0.44m). They were mostly closely-spaced and regular in size along each end. There were a number of apparent gaps, in some cases possibly resulting from truncation, and there were no posts at the north-west and north-east corners. There were two 2m wide gaps along the northern side, the eastern of which was flanked on one side by the deepest of the post-holes (6198); the opposing post-hole was not excavated. These could have been entrances, although it is perhaps more likely, given the examples of similar structures at Chalton and Riverdene, that the narrower central gap marked the entrance, matched by a similar one on the building's southern side.

An internal line of three post-holes close to the eastern end of PBB 2 may mark an internal division, approximately 1/7th of the length of the building. This is a feature recorded on many similar buildings, a close parallel being provided by building A20 at Chalton (Addyman & Leigh 1973, fig. 8), for example. However, it was evident from a comparable but trench-built building (AZ1) at Chalton that this narrow space represented some form of lobby for an additional entrance at the end of the building. This seems unlikely to have been the case at PBB 2 given the close spacing of the post-holes at its eastern end. However, the internal division of structure C8 at Cowdery's Down was accessible only from the interior of the building (Millett & James 1983, fig. 39), which is also a possibility for PBB 2.

PBB 2 also had an external line of four post-holes extending perpendicular from its western end. This may be compared to a narrower 'annexe' at the eastern end of building A1 at Cowdery Down (*ibid.*, fig. 30); if so the other side of the annexe would be on the approximate line of the post-holes of PBB 3 (below). Small quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery, animal bone and burnt flint and an iron nail and strip, were recovered from the features in PBB 2 (along with residual prehistoric and Romano-British material).

A further 20+ post-holes appear to define

PBB 3 (one of which could also belong to PBB 2). This measured up to 12m long and 5.5m wide, and was orientated slightly closer to east-west than PBB 2. It appeared to be open at the west, and lacking in corner posts at its eastern end. On average, the post-holes were slightly smaller (under 0.45m wide) than in PBB 2, but had similar depth variation (0.1–0.54m). There was a 3.4 m wide gap on the north side, flanked by the two largest post-holes (over 0.7m diameter), each with adjacent small post-holes. If not due to truncation, the width of this entrance and the building's open western end, may relate to its function, possibly as a barn. Small quantities of fired clay, burnt flint and residual flint were recovered from its features.

Two parallel but relatively short (3.3m and 5.4m) lines of post-holes, 6m apart, lay to the north-west of PBBs 2 and 3. Their orientation and location suggest that they were associated, but they do not appear to form a building. The southern line consisted of five closely-spaced, relatively large, oval post-holes; only one (6239) was excavated, measuring 0.6m by 1m and 0.45m deep, and containing Anglo-Saxon pottery and burnt flint. None of the post-holes in the northern line, which were generally smaller, were excavated. It is possible that one, or both, of these lines were associated with SFB 6 which lay almost between them; a line of six post-holes lay to the north of SFB 1.

Other features

Over 40 other post-holes lay within and around these post-built structures, but none of them form any recognisable pattern; others were recorded to the south, in the area of the SFBs. There were also two large, shallow features (6205 and 7008) on the southern and eastern edges of Area 1 (Fig. 4), both containing small quantities of Anglo-Saxon finds but of uncertain function.

UNDATED

Area 1 field system

A number of lengths of truncated ditch in Area 1 appear to be associated, possibly forming

parts of a rectilinear field system (Fig. 4). They averaged 0.4m wide and were up to 0.2m deep. Three (6273, 6317 and 6318) were in a NNE–SSW line extending over 40m, while a fourth (6316) lay perpendicular to them towards the WNW, and two short, parallel features (both unexcavated) lay perpendicular to the east. Although they share broadly the same orientation as the Roman road and the Anglo-Saxon buildings, their long axis differs from that of the Roman road by 8°, suggesting that they were not contemporary with it. Their orientation is closer to that of the Anglo-Saxon post-built buildings, but ditch 6317 was cut by one of the PBB 3 post-holes (6141). The southern end of ditch 6318 overlapped with the northern corner of SFB 4, but their relationship was not established. Finds from the ditches included six pieces (808g) of Romano-British CBM and one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Short lengths of two other linear features (3811 and 3910) were observed during the watching brief towards the north end of Area 1 (Fig. 4). Feature 3811, aligned WNW–ESE, between the Roman road ditches, was 0.6–0.8m wide but only 0.1m deep. Ditch 3910, aligned NW–SE to the east of the road, was 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. Neither produced any finds.

Area 2 ditches and trackway

The recording of a number of parallel ditches aligned NNE–SSW in two evaluation trenches in the south-western corner of the site, led to the excavation of the surrounding area (Area 2) (Fig. 12). The most westerly of these features was northern terminal of a possible ditch recorded during the evaluation but not further identified during the excavation; another feature, which appeared during the evaluation to be an angled ditch, proved to be part of a tree-throw hole.

Although not recorded in the evaluation trenches to the north of Area 2 (Fig. 2), ditches were exposed during the excavation. The western ditch (5021), was 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep with a V-shaped profile. Approximately 3m to its east, a similar ditch (5012), was subsequently recut by a slightly shallower U-shaped ditch (5020), which diverged from it at the south. Together these ditches, which appear

to be associated, produced small numbers of late prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pot sherds, along with small quantities of animal bone, worked and burnt flint. Downslope of them, 3–6m to the east of ditch 5012/5020, was a shallow linear depression (5022), 4m wide, with what appeared to be wheel ruts in its base, suggesting that this was a trackway. Although it had roughly the same orientation as the ditches it curved slight towards them at the north. No finds were recovered from it.

In addition to the Area 2 features, a ditch aligned NNW–SSE was indicated by features (2903 and 3003) recorded in two evaluation trenches close to the southern boundary of the site (Fig. 3).

FINDS

Coins by Nicholas Cooke

Eight Roman coins were recovered (Table 2), seven of which could be identified to period. In general, their condition is good, with only ONs 44, 54 and 81 showing signs of post-depositional corrosion.

The earliest is ON 81 (from SFB 5), a heavily corroded *as/dupondius* struck between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. Two late 3rd century coins (ONs 1 and 54) are irregular radiate *antoniniani*, probably struck between *c.* AD 270 and the reform of coinage instigated by Diocletian in AD 296. These contemporary copies of official coinage (barbarous radiates) were probably struck to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain, providing sufficient small change for the province's needs. It is unclear whether such copies were officially sanctioned, but they are common site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.

The other five coins date to the 4th century AD. The earliest (ON 23) is a coin of Licinius II struck at Trier in AD 320, and three (ONs 44, 45 and 84) were issued by the House of Constantine; these are common types, although the latter is in particularly good condition. ON 45, an 'Urbs Roma' issue of the 330s AD, appears to have been pierced for suspension, probably

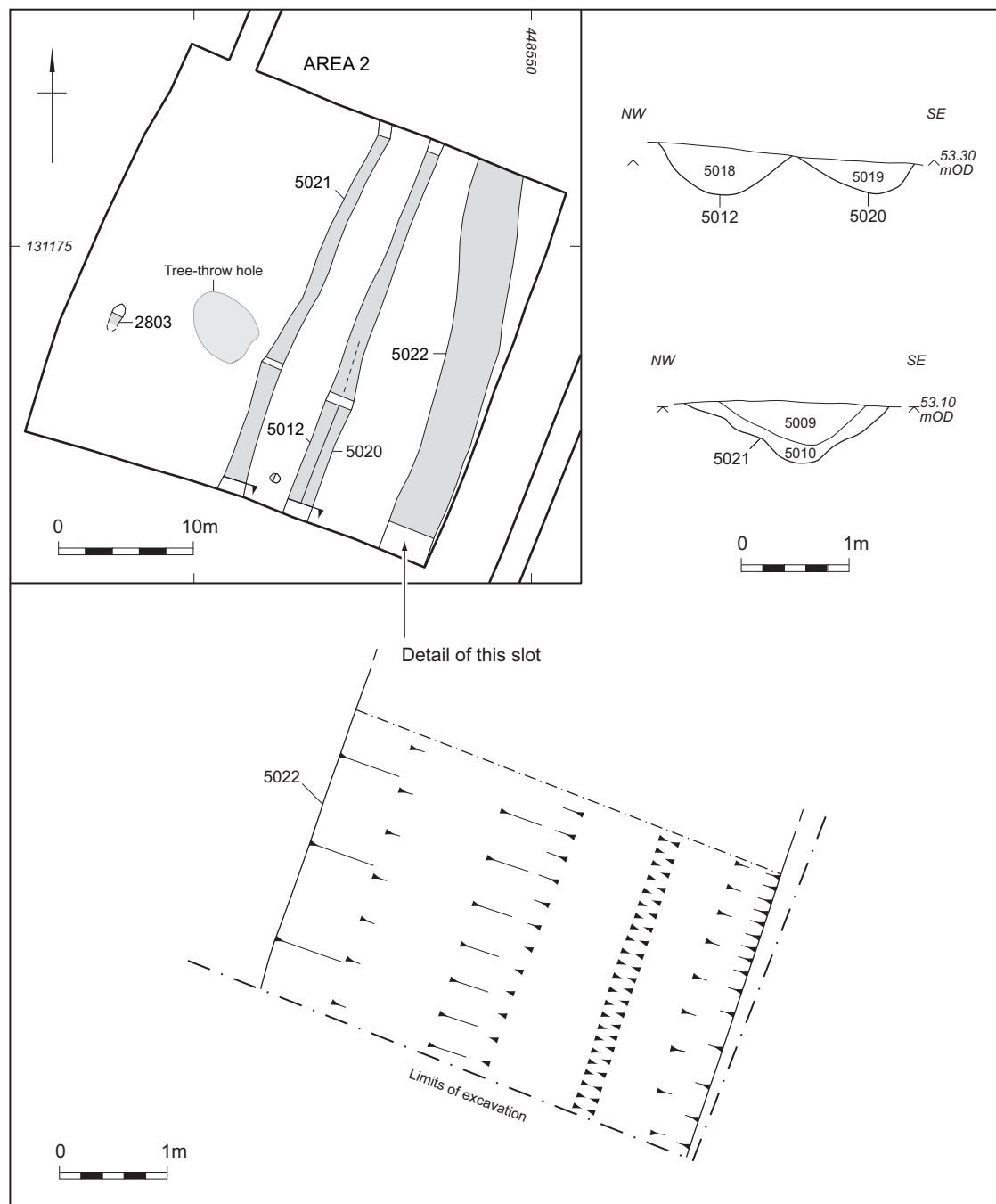


Fig 12 Plan of features in Area 2, and sections of ditches

Table 2 Coins

ON	Context	Denomination	Issuer	Description	Mint	Issue date	References
1	3304	Cu alloy <i>antoninianus</i>	Radiate copy	Reverse: Standing fig l with staff. Barbarous Radiate, struck on v irregular oval flan	Unknown	AD 270–296	
23	6042	Cu alloy <i>nummus</i>	Licinius II	Reverse: Standard inscribed VOT/XX between two seated captives. VIRVS EXERCIT. Mintmark (?) * /STR	Trier	AD 320	RIC VII, Trier, 256
44	6055	Cu alloy <i>nummus</i>	Constans	Reverse: 2 facing victories with wreaths. Victoriae-dauggqnn type. Mint Mark: D/TRP. Damaged coin. Approx 1/5 missing	Trier	AD 341–348	LRBC I, 149
45	6044	Cu alloy <i>nummus</i>	Emperor of the House of Constantine	Reverse: Wolf and Twins. Urbs Roman type. Pierced for suspension so that wolf and twins on reverse appear upright. Some edge damage	Unknown	AD 330–345	? Copy as LRBC I, 51
53	6065	Cu alloy <i>nummus</i>	Valentinian I	Reverse: Emperor r with standard dragging captive. Gloria Romanorum type. Mint Mark: O F II / ?	Unknown	AD 364–378	As LRBC II, 279
54	6065	Cu alloy <i>antoninianus</i>	Radiate copy	Reverse: Female figure standing l, with staff -CA. Poss Spes Publica type. Barbarous Radiate copy. Poss a copy of an issue of Tetricus II (AD 270–273)	Unknown	AD 270–296	
81	6123	Cu alloy <i>as/dupondius</i>	Unknown emperor	Reverse: Illegible	Unknown	1st–3rd century AD	
84	6122	Cu alloy <i>nummus</i>	Constantine I	Reverse: 2 soldiers, 2 standards. GLOR IAEXERC ITVS. Mint Mark: */PCONST	Arles	AD 330	LRBC I, 352

Key: LRBC – Late Roman Bronze Coinage, Vols I and II; RIC – Roman Imperial Coinage Vols I–X

on a necklace, perhaps with the intention of displaying the 'Wolf and Twins' design on the reverse. The final 4th century coin (ON 53) is a 'Gloria Romanorum' issue struck by Valentinian I between AD 364 and 378.

This small assemblage is typical of British sites, reflecting the vagaries of coin supply and use within the province. It is dominated by coins of the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD, with only a single earlier coin; the absence of coins of the last third of the 4th century AD need not be significant, as they are less common as site finds.

Metalwork by Jörn Schuster

Seventy-three metal objects were recovered – seven of copper alloy and 66 of iron. Most

derive from the fills of the SFBs, although a number of iron objects, including a bar, a bolt and a ferrule, come from the topsoil and are likely to derive from modern agricultural machinery. The assemblage is dominated by 37 nails, again mostly from the SFBs; where identifiable these belong to the type with flat round heads (Wastling 2009, type A, fig. 4.1). The following discussion concentrates on the identifiable and datable objects.

Items of Romano-British date comprised a hipposandal (ON 21) from metallated surface 6037, and probably a hobnail and a cleat from layer 6004 (in the area of SFB 6). The hipposandal is an almost complete example of Aubert's Type 1C (Aubert 1929, 7, fig. 2, C), with only the tip of the rear right wing now broken off

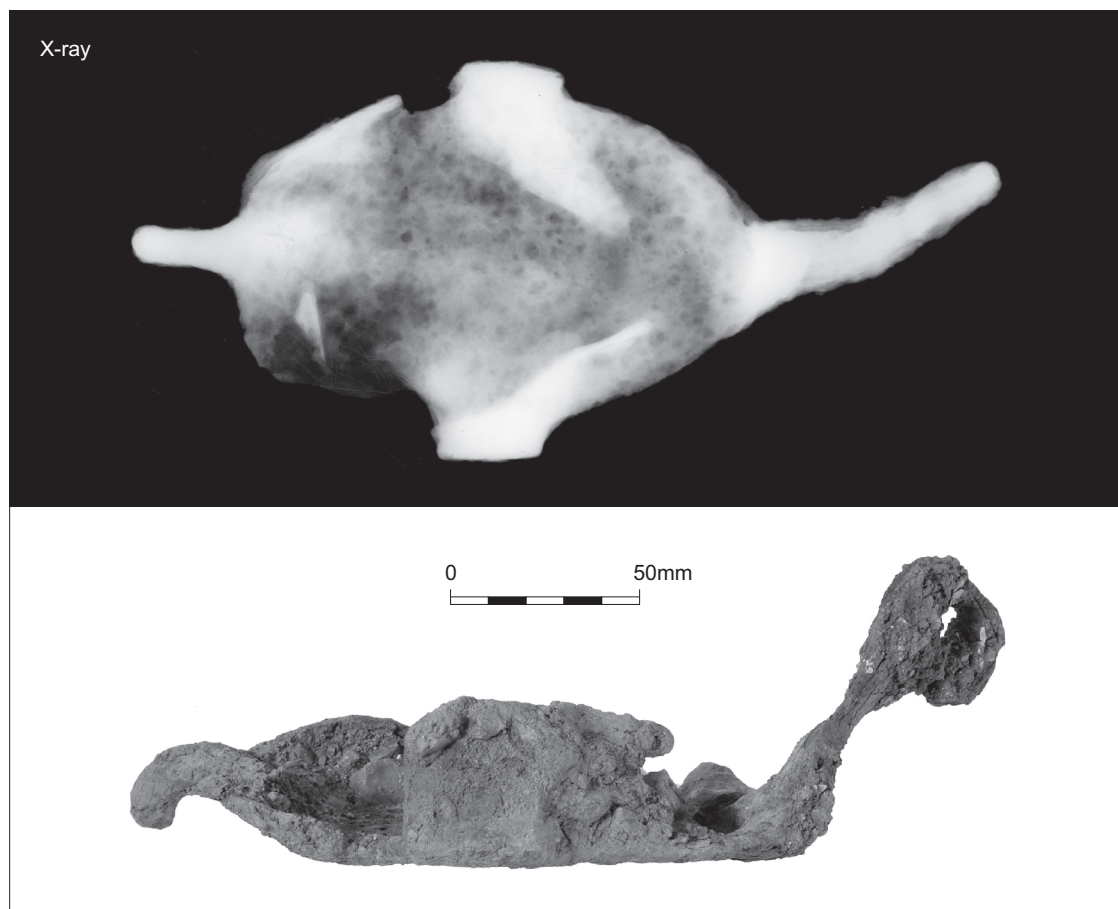


Fig 13 Hipposandal (ON 21) from surface of road

(it is visible in the corrosion products on the x-radiograph; Fig. 13). In Britain, the type has been found in contexts ranging in date from the 1st to 4th centuries AD (Manning 1985, 65). This example is a significant addition to the corpus as it was found *in situ* in a metalled surface of what was probably the camber of a Roman road (Fig. 4). On this fairly even stretch of road, the use of hipposandals may only have become necessary because the road surface may have fallen into disrepair, and thus additional protection of the horse's hooves on the uneven surface may have been required. Another indicator of the fact that the object was deposited towards the end of the use of the road is the circumstance that a complete and still functional hipposandal ended up in the camber of the road; had the road remained in good repair, the hipposandal would have posed a tripping hazard that could easily have been removed from the surface and reused by the finder.

A pair of copper alloy tweezers (Fig. 14, 7), and three knives are likely to be of Anglo-Saxon date. The plain pair of tweezers comes from SFB 6. It has parallel sides and was folded out of a strip of copper alloy sheet. With a length of 45mm, it is slightly shorter than average for Anglo-Saxon copper alloy tweezers (47mm; Hirst & Clark 2009, 617). Although of such small size, this example is still fully functional as its arms have enough of a curve to ensure a tight grip. Typologically, it can be classed as Dickinson's type II, with a date range covering the 5th–7th centuries (Dickinson 1976, 221–2; cited after Scheschkewitz 2006, 156). However, it should be remembered that while Roman tweezers usually have jaws curved like pincers (Crummy 1983, 58), plain, parallel-sided tweezers without inturning jaws do occasionally occur in Romano-British contexts, at Higham Ferrers (Scott 2009, 238, fig. 5.40, 316) or the Marlowe Car Park, Canterbury (Garrard 1995, 1014, fig. 426, 316), for instance.

Two fragmented knives were found in SFB 4 and a third almost complete example came from SFB 1. The fragmented state of the knives from SFB 4 complicates their dating: the larger knife (ON 14, L 92.3mm) may have a slightly convex back, comparable to Romano-British knives like Manning type 14 or Anglo-Saxon

knives of Ottaway Form D (e.g. Ottaway 1992, 568, fig. 232, 2858), while the shorter knife (ON 15, L 47mm), with a centrally set tang and parallel sides, is too fragmentary for typological analysis. In contrast, the knife from SFB 1, with its straight, downward sloping back, belongs to Ottaway form C3 which is common in late Anglo-Saxon assemblages, at 16–22 Coppergate, York (Ottaway 1992, 570; 2009, 203), for instance. In contrast to the Coppergate knives, where metallographic analysis showed that six out of seven knives of form C3 had a blade of sandwich construction, with a steel core flanked by ferritic or phosphoric iron (Tylecote and Gilmour type 1), the x-radiograph of the knife from SFB 1 features a faint line separating the lower third of the blade from the back. This suggests that a steel cutting edge had been butt-welded onto an iron back (type 2b), similar to a C3 blade and most of the C1 blades from 9th- and 10th-century contexts at Flixborough, Lincolnshire (Starley 2009, 230).

The remainder of the assemblage comprises various strips and fittings of unknown purpose.

Worked flint by Matt Leivers

The assemblage consists of 298 pieces, mostly flake debitage (Table 3). Most are quite worn, with gloss, abrasion and damage consistent

Table 3 Quantification of worked flint

Type	Count
Flake core	3
Core fragment	8
Core rejuvenation	1
Blade(let)	7
Flake	268
Irregular debitage	2
Scraper	1
Tranchet axe	1
Misc retouched	7
Total	298

with redeposited material; a few have blotchy orange iron staining. With the exception of six pieces from pit 2303, which are relatively fresh in appearance and were associated with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, all may be residual. Cortex type suggests an origin in the chalk, although the condition indicates a secondary source.

A patinated blade, a triangular platform rejuvenation tablet and a notched flake (all residual), and a large transept pick from a tree-throw hole (6257), are likely to be Mesolithic. However, most of the debitage is broad and heavy, suggesting a post-Middle Neolithic date, although given the redeposited nature of the material any smaller element may have vanished. Cores are all flake cores, mostly irregular and multi-platformed, although one may be a Late Neolithic discoidal example.

Glass by Lorraine Mephum

Two glass beads were recovered from SFB 2. One (ON 65, context 6097), is a blue annular bead with an attached copper alloy wire suspension ring, the other (ON 70, context 6110), a small, slightly misshapen blue cylindrical bead. Both are well documented types from the Anglo-Saxon period, but are not amongst the more diagnostic, closely datable types. A small fragment of natural greenish vessel glass (from post-hole 6154) is of uncertain date, but is probably Romano-British.

Pottery by Lorraine Mephum

Prehistoric

The 24 prehistoric sherds are in flint-tempered fabrics, but none are diagnostic, which hampers closer dating, given the lengthy currency of flint-tempered fabrics within the prehistoric ceramic traditions of southern England. A date range in the later prehistoric period is, however, almost certain, and all the sherds could be accommodated within the known range of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ceramics of the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition. The only possible exception is a small sherd in a well-sorted and well-finished fabric (context 6022), which could be matched within the Middle Iron Age ceramics of the area.

Despite the abraded nature of the prehistoric sherds, suggesting that they have been redeposited from their original location, most serve as the only dating evidence for the features in which they occurred (evaluation pits 203 and 2303, ditches 2811 and 2905; post-hole 6023, pit 6045), although no confidence can be placed on such small quantities of material for dating purposes.

Romano-British

The 14 sherds of Romano-British pottery include both finewares (samian, New Forest colour-coated ware) and coarsewares (greyware and oxidised ware). Four diagnostic forms were recorded – three coarseware everted jar rims, and a flagon or bottle neck in New Forest colour-coated ware. Eight of the Romano-British sherds were clearly residual finds, but six comprised the only dating evidence for the features in which they occurred (one sherd in each of the features). As with the prehistoric pottery, however, dating on such small quantities of material cannot be depended upon.

Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon assemblage amounts to 304 sherds (3183g). Most derived from the fills of SFBs, with small quantities from other features. The assemblage has been analysed following the standard Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1994), which accords with national guidelines (MPRG 2001). Using this system, a number of fabric types have been defined, based on the range, size and frequency of macroscopic inclusions. In the absence of any well-established early/middle Anglo-Saxon type series for Winchester, no cross-reference has been made. Diagnostic rim sherds have been recorded, but there is insufficient data here with which to construct a detailed form type series.

The assemblage can be broadly divided into organic-tempered (group V) and sandy wares (group Q), and 11 separate fabrics have been defined (five organic-tempered, six sandy; see Table 4). However, it should be stressed at the outset that most fabrics contain both organic and sandy inclusions in varying proportions, and as a whole the range of wares appears to represent variation across a spectrum, by

Table 4 Anglo-Saxon pottery fabric totals and descriptions

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Q400	Hard-fired fabric with smooth texture; sparse glauconitic sand <0.25mm	30	177
Q401	Hard-fired fabric, fine sandy matrix; moderate, poorly sorted, sub-rounded quartz <0.25mm; rare organic inclusions	32	339
Q402	Hard-fired fabric; moderate, poorly sorted, subangular, quartz <1mm; rare organic inclusions	4	24
Q403	Hard-fired fabric with smooth texture, slightly micaceous; very fine, no macroscopically visible inclusions	14	196
Q404	Hard-fired fabric; abundant, well sorted, subangular quartz <0.5mm	11	159
Q405	Hard-fired fabric, coarse matrix; moderate, well sorted, iron-stained quartz <0.25mm	9	25
V400	Hard-fired fabric with silty matrix, slightly micaceous; sparse to moderate organic inclusions	60	631
V401	As V400 but with the addition of sparse glauconitic sand <0.25mm	1	66
V402	As V400, but with the addition of moderate, poorly sorted, subangular quartz <0.25mm	87	948
V403	Hard-fired fabric, coarse matrix; sparse to moderate organic inclusions; moderate, poorly sorted, subangular quartz <0.25mm	46	523
V404	Hard-fired fabric, coarse matrix; moderate organic inclusions; moderate, poorly sorted, subangular quartz <1mm	10	95
Total		304	3183

the addition of organic inclusions in varying quantities to naturally sandy clays, rather than well-defined, discrete fabrics. While detailed petrological analysis has not been undertaken, examination of the fabrics under a $\times 10$ binocular microscope indicates a broad similarity of clay matrix across most of the assemblage (fine-grained, slightly micaceous, with naturally-occurring quartz <0.5mm), suggesting that most if not all of the assemblage could have been manufactured from clay sources within a relatively restricted area. Some variation is implied in the presence of glauconitic sand in two fabrics (V401, Q400), although it is possible that more detailed microscopic examination might also identify this in other fabrics. One sandy fabric (Q405) is distinct from the rest of the assemblage in its

use of rounded, iron-stained quartz, and this might indicate a different source, although not necessarily at any great distance from the site.

Seventeen rim sherds are present. For only one of these could the complete vessel profile be reconstructed: a small, rounded vessel with a short, slightly inturned rim from SFB 1 (Fig. 14, 1). Other rims appear to belong to rounded or convex body profiles (e.g. Fig. 14, 2–3). There is no evidence of any carinated forms. Other diagnostic pieces comprise two body sherds bearing stamped decoration, both from SFB 5 (Fig. 14, 4–5). The first is a simple ‘hot cross bun’ motif (see Briscoe 1981, type A 4a i), and the second an ornate circular motif with an outer segmented circle (*ibid.*, type A 5f vii).

Both organic-tempered and sandy wares

Table 5 Distribution of Anglo-Saxon pottery

<i>Feature type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Mean wt (g)</i>
<i>Buildings</i>			
SFB 1	47	588	12.5
SFB 2	45	521	11.5
SFB 3	23	175	7.6
SFB 4	27	225	8.3
SFB 5	59	592	10.0
SFB 6	29	404	13.9
PBB 1	4	23	5.8
PBB 2	14	45	3.2
<i>Other features</i>			
Pit 6039	1	9	
Pit 7008	6	156	26.0
Ditch 6317	1	3	
Ditch 3807	1	8	
Other contexts	47	434	9.2
Total	304	3183	

have a currency in southern England throughout the early/middle Anglo-Saxon period (5th–8th centuries), although organic-tempered wares have a more limited timespan. They are considered to have been introduced at a slightly later date than the sandy wares, having a *floruit* in the 6th–early 7th century (Hamerow *et al.* 1994, 14); they appear to have been abandoned by the late 8th century at Portchester (Cunliffe 1970, 72), and the evidence from *Hamwic* (Southampton) suggests a similar pattern, where organic-tempered wares were succeeded in the middle Anglo-Saxon town by sandy wares (Timby 1988, 111–12). In this instance, both organic-tempered and sandy types are well represented, although the organic-tempered wares are in the majority (approximately two-thirds of the total by weight).

There is little else amongst the assemblage to enable any closer dating. Diagnostic sherds are scarce, and most of the rim sherds present

cannot be assigned to specific vessel forms. The absence of carinated vessels and the predominance of the organic-tempered wares suggest a date range perhaps no earlier than the 6th century, and this is supported by the presence of two stamped vessels. Stamped decorative techniques are particularly characteristic of the 6th century.

The majority of the assemblage derived from contexts within the six SFBs excavated (76% by sherd count; see Table 5). Numbers ranged from 23 to 59 sherds. All of the most diagnostic sherds came from these features (Fig. 14, 1–5). Quantities are too small to discern any significant differences between the various SFB assemblages, although it is worth noting that the mean sherd weight does vary, with SFBs 3 and 4 producing smaller sherds than the other four SFBs (see Table 5). Bearing in mind the fact that the pottery from these features derives from post-abandonment deposition, perhaps from one or more

midden deposits, this could indicate that not all of the SFBs were backfilled at the same time, and that some deposits went through a further process of reworking.

Smaller quantities of pottery came from post-holes associated with the post-built buildings, and other post-holes. There is nothing here to suggest that the pottery from these features differs significantly from that in the SFBs, although quantities are too small to draw firm conclusions. Mean sherd size, however, suggests that pottery in these features has been subjected to heavier, post-depositional, reworking than that from the SFBs.

Medieval and post-medieval

Only one medieval sherd was recovered, a coarseware of 'Kennet Valley' type, with a wide potential date range of 12th to early 14th century (ditch 5021). Nine sherds are post-medieval, and include coarse earthenwares (Verwood-type wares from east Dorset, and redwares probably from a more local source) and German stoneware. These sherds came were recovered during the evaluation and from the topsoil during the excavation.

Illustrated Anglo-Saxon vessels (Fig. 14)

- 1 Small rounded vessel; fabric Q403. Contexts 6061 and 6064; SFB 1.
- 2 Rim, gently convex vessel; fabric Q404. Context 6083; SFB 3.
- 3 Rim, rounded vessel; fabric Q401. Context 6213; SFB 6.
- 4 Body sherd with stamped decoration; fabric V402. Context 3304; SFB 5.
- 5 Body sherd with stamped decoration. Context 6122; SFB 5.

Ceramic loomweights by Lorraine Mephram

Of particular interest within the fills of the Anglo-Saxon SFBs was the deposit of a number of loomweights in SFB 4, with fragments of further weights from SFB 1 (Table 6). The weights in SFB 4 were found distributed across the feature, but included two 'stacks' at the north-east end, where the weights were wedged together on end (Figs 9 & 10).

One complete weight (Fig. 14, 6), and

a second almost complete example were recovered. The rest of the assemblage comprises fragments, some joining, from a minimum of 24 further weights (21 from SFB 4 and three from SFB 1). It is impossible to be precise over numbers, as the weights were in a very poor state of preservation, and actively disintegrating. Using the generally accepted form classification for early and middle Anglo-Saxon loomweights, of annular, intermediate and bun-shaped types (Hurst 1959, 23–4), where this can be determined, these weights are almost exclusively of intermediate form, although in most cases irregularly formed, with asymmetrical profiles. The one exception is a small fragment which appears to derive from a cylindrical weight. As this is a form usually considered characteristic of the Bronze Age, this fragment seems anomalous here, but there is no reason to suppose that it is anything other than Anglo-Saxon in date. The intermediate loomweight type is the most common form in the middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods; there are no examples here of the annular weights which are typical of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

The fabric of the weights varies slightly, but is generally of a relatively fine matrix with a low sand content and some sparse, coarse inclusions (mostly iron oxides, some rare flint), consistent with the use of locally available clay. The fabrics are soft and friable, reflecting underfiring. Overall, these weights appear to be the products of fairly perfunctory forming and firing processes.

The complete and almost complete weights measure 120mm and 130mm respectively in diameter; others, on the basis of surviving edges, range from approximately 100mm to 160mm, although it should be pointed out that recorded diameters should be treated with caution, due to the observed irregularity in profiles. The standard size for Anglo-Saxon loomweights until the 9th century appears to be 100–140mm (Hamerow 1993, figs 44–5). The complete weight weighs 565g, and the almost complete weight 955g, although the latter, being more fragile, has not been completely cleaned and the weight may therefore be an over-estimate. The normal range for the early Anglo-Saxon period appears to be 150–550g,

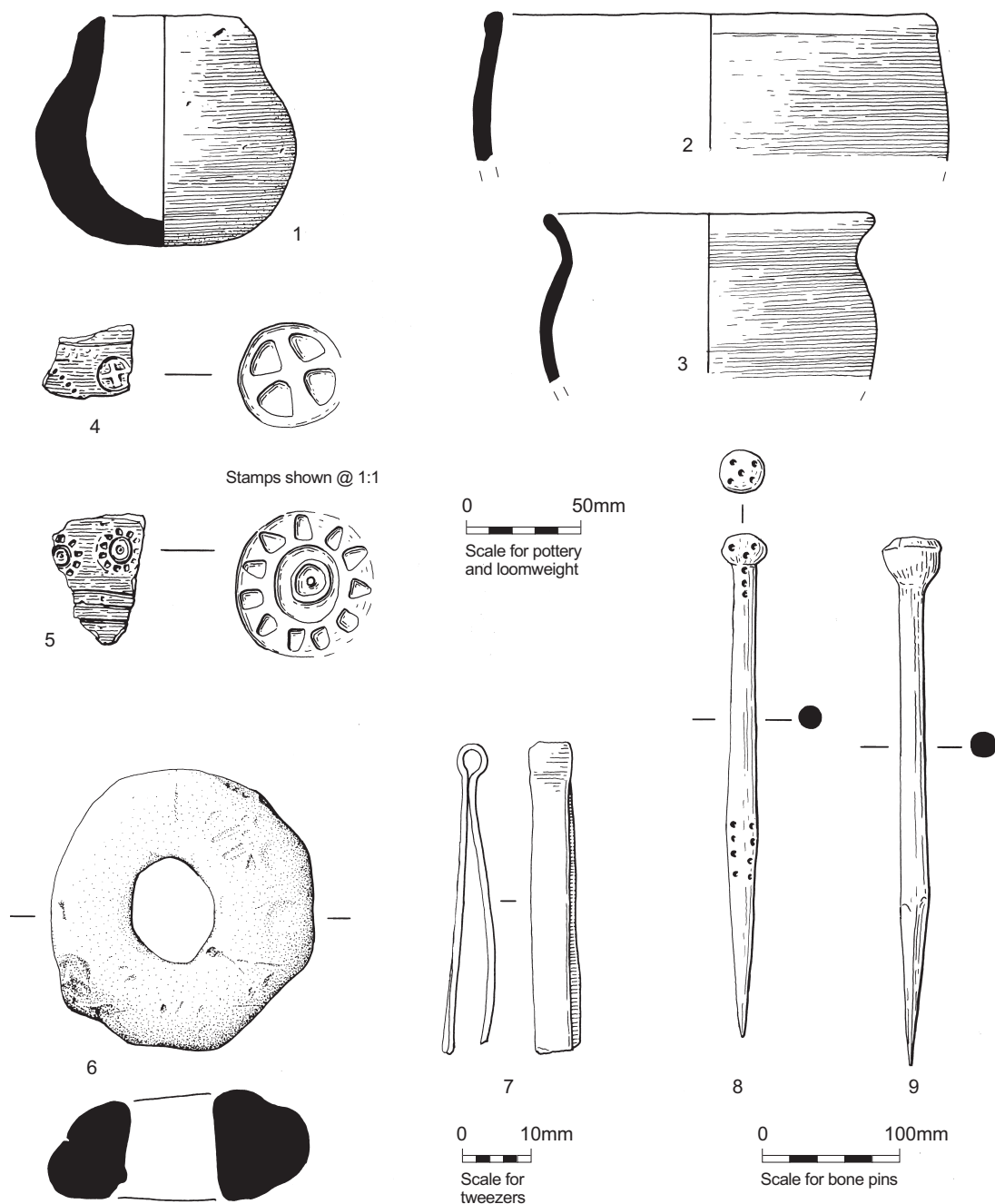


Fig 14 Selected finds. 1-5: Anglo-Saxon pottery; 6: ceramic loomweight from SFB 4; 7: tweezers; 8-9: worked bone pins (for detail see catalogue)

Table 6 Loomweights

ON	Layer	Number	Type	Description	Diam. (mm)
47	6044	1	intermediate	complete weight (weight 565g)	120
–	6044	3+	intermediate	fragments from at least 3 weights	–
–	6044	1	?cylindrical		–
–	6050	2	intermediate	fragments from 2 weights	–
–	6061	1	intermediate	fragments from single weight	160
–	6064	1	intermediate	single fragment	–
55	6067	1	intermediate	fragments from single weight	100
–	6074	?1	intermediate	fragments probably from single weight	–
–	6094	?1	intermediate	fragments possibly from single weight	160
–	6096	1	intermediate	single fragment	–
–	6105	1+	intermediate	fragments from one or more weights	–
–	6158	1+	indeterminate	fragments from one or more weights	–
–	6159	?1	indeterminate	fragments probably from single weight	–
85	6159	1	intermediate	more or less complete weight (weight 955g)	130
–	6160	4+	intermediate	fragments from at least 4 weights	140; 150 (x2)
–	6163	2+	indeterminate	fragments from at least 2 weights	–
86	6163	?1	intermediate	fragments from single weight	120
–	6181	1	intermediate	fragments from single weight	120
–	6185	1	?intermediate	fragments from single weight	–

while weights exceeding 500g are considered to be more characteristic of the middle Anglo-Saxon period (Hamerow 1993, fig. 46; Holden 1976, 315; Blackmore 2008, 196). The conclusion from form, size and weight, therefore, is that these loomweights are of middle Anglo-Saxon date.

Some groups of loomweights recovered from SFBs have been interpreted as representing the remains of warp-weighted looms, and therefore indicate the actual locations of textile-working (e.g. Holden 1976; Farwell *et*

al. 1999, plate 6), and it may be significant the fragments of worked wood recovered from the building's charcoal assemblage are suggested as being potentially from a loom (see Challinor, below). However, other loomweights seem to have been stored or deposited on strings or sticks (e.g. Miles 1986, 16–17; Leeds 1927, 74–5 and fig. 12) and the two 'stacked' groups from SFB 4 appear to fall into this latter category. It may be noted that no other textile-working equipment, in the form of spindlewhorls or pinbeaters, was recovered.

Illustrated loomweight (Fig. 14)

- 6 Complete ceramic loomweight, intermediate form. ON 47, context 6044, SFB 4.

Ceramic building material by Rachael Seager Smith

Apart from eight fragments of medieval roof tile recovered during the evaluation, all the CBM is of Romano-British date, and mostly residual in later (or otherwise undated) contexts, as reflected in its very fragmentary and frequently highly abraded condition. Few fragments can be assigned to specific brick/tile types, and identification depends largely on fabric type and thickness.

One *tegula* roof tile and two combed box flue tile fragments were identified, but the rest can only be broadly classified as 'flat fragments' and 'miscellaneous (undiagnostic) fragments'. Interestingly, 18 of the 21 flat fragments were 35–42mm thick, which would accommodate the thinner types of brick (e.g. *bessalis*, *lydion*, *pedalis*) commonly used for the pilae in hypocausts and as lacing/bonding courses in walls (Brodrigg 1987); the other three were under 30mm thick. This suggests that roof tile is largely absent from this assemblage, although it could indicate the selective re-use of certain types, perhaps during the Anglo-Saxon period. Many fragments, particularly the brick-sized flat fragments, occurred in coarse fabrics containing prominent grog or clay pellets.

Worked bone by Lorraine Mephram

Two worked bone objects, both pins, were recovered from SFBs 1 and 4. Both pins are short (35mm and 38mm, respectively), and have slightly hipped shanks. One has a slightly crudely finished head and is otherwise plain (SFB 4; Fig. 14, 9), while the second has a flattened, globular head and stabbed pin-prick dots around the mid-shank swelling and at the top of the shaft, running over the head (SFB 1; Fig. 14, 8). While pins with mid-shank swelling are known from the Romano-British period (e.g. Crummy 1983, fig. 23, 433), pins with shorter hipped shanks date from the 6th or 7th century (MacGregor 1985, 117, fig. 64, 10). No

direct parallel for the decorated pin has been found.

Illustrated objects (Fig. 14)

- 8 Bone pin with globular head, mid-point swelling and stabbed pin-prick dots. ON 93, context 6065, SFB 1.
9 Bone pin with globular head. ON 60, context 6074, SFB 4.

Worked stone by Lorraine Mephram

Four worked stone objects were recovered from the Anglo-Saxon SFBs. One is a whetstone, comprising a rectangular block with the long sides worn smooth, from SFB 2 (ON 35). It is made of calcareous sandstone, possibly glauconitic, and could be Purbeck limestone from Dorset. The other three objects are quernstones, although the identification of one is not certain. This is part of a probable prehistoric saddle quern (ON 90, from SFB 6), with a slightly concave surface and part of an edge, and a rough underside. It is made of heathstone, a coarse Tertiary sandstone/gritstone from the Hampshire basin. Two joining quernstone fragments from SFB 4 probably belong to a Romano-British rotary quern, although all working traces are now lost. The object has been reused, perhaps for whetting, as demonstrated by a smooth surface. Finally, four fragments from a single rotary quernstone, with an estimated original diameter of 450mm, came from SFB 2 (ON 39); this is in a shelly ferruginous conglomerate, probably from the London Clay south-west of Winchester, which is of interest as this stone type appears totally unsuitable for grinding, being far too soft.

Animal bone by L. Higbee

The animal bone assemblage, recovered by hand and from the sieved residues of bulk soil samples, comprises 1369 fragments (8.6kg); once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 937 (Table 7). Bone preservation varies from good to poor, and the proportion of gnawed fragments is quite low at only 3%. Although residual Romano-British finds were recovered from some Anglo-Saxon contexts,

Table 7 Animal bone

<i>Species</i>	<i>Romano-British</i>	<i>Early/middle Saxon</i>	<i>Undated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cattle	8	68	4	80
Sheep/goat	4	42	11	57
Pig	4	11	–	15
Horse	3	5	1	9
Dog	3	–	–	3
Cat	–	1	–	1
Domestic fowl	–	4	1	5
Goose	–	2	–	2
<i>Total identified</i>	22	133	17	172
<i>Total unidentified</i>	41	565	159	765
Overall total	63	698	176	937
% total	6.7	74.5	18.8	100

there was no indication that the bone assemblage also includes residual fragments since the condition of fragments within each context was generally consistent.

Sixty-three fragments of bone were recovered from Romano-British contexts, only 35% of which are identifiable to species. The largest concentration of bones comes from the upper fills of roadside ditch 3807 and includes fragments of cattle mandible, thoracic vertebra and femur; pig scapula, pelvis and tibia; horse femur and 1st phalanx; and several bones from a dog.

A relatively large number of bone fragments were recovered from Anglo-Saxon contexts (75% of the total), but only 19% are identifiable to species. Bones from livestock species, in particular cattle and sheep/goat, dominate the assemblage and account for 51% and 32% NISP, respectively. Less common were pig (8%), horse, cat, domestic fowl and goose. Measurements taken on a complete horse metatarsal indicate that this animal was a small pony of 12 hands. Most parts of the beef and mutton carcass are represented, indicating that livestock was slaughtered, butchered and consumed locally. Indeed, the general character of some of the larger concentrations of bones suggests that

waste material from these different processes/origins was deposited together. Age information is quite limited but the presence of several calf bones suggests local breeding and rearing of cattle, and could potentially indicate specialist husbandry strategies (i.e. dairying). There is also limited evidence of horn-working in the form of a few horn cores with saw and/or cut marks around their bases.

A total of 176 bone fragments were from undated features, with identified species including sheep/goat, cattle, horse and domestic fowl.

The small Romano-British and early/middle Anglo-Saxon assemblages provide only a limited insight into the nature of the site's pastoral economy, although the latter is of considerable local interest since much of what is known about Anglo-Saxon animal husbandry regimes in and around Winchester relates to the late Anglo-Saxon period (Serjeantson & Rees 2009). Cattle appear to have been of prime importance (51% NISP), with some suggestion that the herd was managed for dairy products. Evidence from contemporary sites in south-east England suggests that animal husbandry strategies changed from one based on local subsistence needs during the early Anglo-Saxon

period to a more specialised production system designed to produce agricultural surplus by the middle Anglo-Saxon period (Crabtree 2010; 2012; Dobney *et al.* 2007; Higbee 2009). This assemblage shows some of the characteristics associated with this shift towards specialist production, although the case is not conclusively proven given the limited evidence.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Charred plant remains

by Sarah F Wyles and Chris J Stevens

A total of 78 bulk samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal from features mainly of Anglo-Saxon date – the SFBs and the post-built structures (Wessex Archaeology 2013). Five samples (from SFBs 1, 2 and 4) were selected for further analysis, to provide information on the site economy and local agricultural processes during the Anglo-Saxon period, and to assist in determining any differences in the functions of the SFBs. Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods. Identification follows the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary & Hopf (2000, tables 3 and 5), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate.

The majority of the cereal remains were recovered from SFB 2, with the majority of the other plant remains from SFB 4 (Table 8). The identifiable cereal remains were predominantly grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), present in all three SFBs. There were also a few grains of rye (*Secale cereale*) recorded from SFBs 1 and 2, and of possible hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*); no chaff elements were present. A relatively high number of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments were recovered from SFB 4, and there were two seeds of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) from SFB 1. The weed seeds are generally typical of those recovered from arable habitats and field margins and are comparable with contemporary assemblages in the area. Mallow (*Malva* sp.) favours wetter soils and greenwood/gorse (*Genista/Ulex* sp.) is typical of sandy/peaty heath

areas. There was some evidence of mineralization, in the form of nodules, within SFB 2.

There are similarities in the assemblages, in particular those from SFB 2, with those from SFBs at the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Abbots Worthy which were dominated by cereal remains, in particular of barley (Carruthers 1991), although other Anglo-Saxon features at Abbots Worthy produced much richer assemblages; it is notable that SFBs have often produced smaller quantities of charred plant remains than pit deposits from the same settlement. Although there were differences in assemblages from SFBs 2 and 4, these are too small to indicate any specific functions; some of the SFBs contained domestic waste from cooking, but it appears that all were used ultimately as convenient pits for rubbish disposal.

Although free-threshing wheat became common in southern England during the Anglo-Saxon period (Greig 1991; Green 1984), generally replacing hulled wheat, the dominance of barley within the Anglo-Saxon samples was also seen at Abbots Worthy (Carruthers 1991), and Meonstoke (Hughes 1986) and on other rural Anglo-Saxon sites in the area (Green 1991). The presence of seeds typical of wetter soils and sandy/peaty heath among those of arable fields and possibly of lighter soils suggests the exploitation of different areas, although there was less evidence than at Abbots Worthy for the exploitation of the valley bottom. Hazelnuts appear to have supplemented the diet.

Charcoal by Dana Challinor

Five samples were selected for charcoal analysis, four from charcoal-rich layers in SFBs 1, 2 and 4, and one from post-hole 6222 flanking the possible entrance to PBB 3 (Table 9). Samples from other Anglo-Saxon features and other phases were not considered of sufficient quantity or potential interest to merit analysis.

The samples had been previously processed and sorted and the >2mm charcoal was provided for analysis; a random selection of fragments from several sieve sizes (8mm, 4mm and 2mm) was identified, with 30 fragments examined from oak-dominated samples and 100 from those with higher diversity. The charcoal was

Table 8 The charred plant remains from Anglo-Saxon SFBs

SFB		SFB 1		SFB 2		SFB 4	
Context		6057	6063	6051	6044	6159	
Sample		27	22	16	32	47	
Volume (l)		20	40	50	40	10	
Flot size (ml)		150	175	220	120	250	
% roots		50	60	50	65	15	
Cereals							
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. sl (grain)	barley	1	28	11	3	–	
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	–	–	cf. 2	–	–	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	wheat	–	3	–	–	–	
<i>Secale cereale</i> (grain)	rye	1	1	1	–	–	
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	–	30	20	4	–	
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	1	15	9	3	–	
Other species							
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	common nettle	–	–	–	2	–	
<i>Urtica urens</i> L.	small nettle	1	–	–	–	–	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (frags per 1 ml)	hazel	2	–	7	31	14	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	fat-hen	–	–	–	7	7	
<i>Atriplex</i> sp. L.	oraches	–	–	–	8	13	
<i>Polygonaceae</i> indet.	knotweeds	–	–	1	–	–	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	–	–	–	4	3	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Å. Löve	black bindweed	–	–	–	6	4	
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks	–	18	1	4	–	
<i>Malva</i> sp. L.	mallow	1	–	–	1	–	
<i>Brassica</i> sp. L.	brassica	1	–	1	–	–	
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	runch	3	–	–	–	–	
<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/pea	–	2	–	2	–	
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> sp. L.	clover/medick	1	–	–	–	–	
<i>Medicago</i> sp. L.	medick	–	–	–	1	–	
<i>Genista</i> sp. L./ <i>Ulex</i> sp. L.	greenweed/gorse	–	–	–	1	–	
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	flax	–	2	–	–	–	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.	fool's parsley	1	–	–	–	–	
<i>Torilis</i> sp. Adans	hedge-parsley	–	–	–	1	–	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	henbane	1	–	–	–	–	
<i>Galium</i> sp. L.	bedstraw	1	–	–	2	1	
<i>Avena</i> L./ <i>Bromus</i> L. sp.	oat/brome	–	2	1	–	–	
Monocot rootlets		–	2	–	10	–	
Mineralised nodules		–	40	6	–	–	

Table 9 Results of the charcoal analysis by fragment count

	<i>Feature</i>	<i>P-h 6222</i>	<i>SFB 1</i>	<i>SFB 2</i>	<i>SFB 4</i>	
	<i>Context</i>	6226	6115	6051	6105	6159
	<i>Sample</i>	64	40	16	37	47
<i>Taxus baccata</i> L.	yew	–	–	–	1	–
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	14	1h	10r	27r?w	24rs
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	7r	5r	23ri	1	–
<i>Populus/Salix</i>	poplar/willow	–	–	–	–	6
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	cherry type	–	10r	1	–	–
Maloideae	hawthorn group	14	47ri	37r	1r	–
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> L.	dogwood	–	25r	–	–	–
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> L.	holly	2	–	3	–	–
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	field maple	59ri	–	7	–	–
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	ash	–	–	15r	–	–
Indeterminate	diffuse porous	4	10	4	–	–
Indeterminate	bark	–	2	–	–	–
Total		100	100	100	30	30

Key: r=roundwood; s=sapwood; h=heartwood; i=insect tunnels; w=worked wood

Table 10 Charcoal: taxonomic composition of Anglo-Saxon features, based upon fragment count

	<i>P-h 6222</i>	<i>SFB 1</i>	<i>SFB 2</i>	<i>SFB 4</i>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Quercus</i>	14.6	1.1	10.4	85.0
<i>Corylus</i>	7.3	5.7	24.0	1.7
Maloideae	14.6	53.4	38.5	1.7
<i>Acer</i>	61.5	–	7.3	–
<i>Cornus</i>	–	28.4	–	–
<i>Fraxinus</i>	–	–	15.6	–
<i>Prunus</i>	–	11.4	1.0	–
<i>Populus/Salix</i>	–	–	–	10.0
<i>Ilex</i>	2.1	–	3.1	–
<i>Taxus</i>	–	–	0.0	1.7

fractured and sorted into groups based on the anatomical features observed in transverse section at $\times 10$ to $\times 45$ magnifications. Representative fragments from each group were then selected for further examination using a Meiji incident-light microscope at up to $\times 400$ magnification. Identifications were made with reference to Schweingruber (1990), Hather (2000) and modern reference material. Observations on maturity were made as appropriate. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

The charcoal was generally well preserved and abundant, with especially large fragments in context 6105 in SFB 4 (sample 37). The assemblage from post-hole 6222 was notably smaller in quantity and fragment size than the others, but this may be partially related to sample size (8 litres of soil, compared to 40 litres from the SFB samples). Ten taxa were positively identified (Table 10): yew (*Taxus baccata*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), poplar/willow (*Populus/Salix*), blackthorn/cherry (*Prunus* sp.), hawthorn group (Maloideae), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). All of the specimens were consistent with native taxa and it has been assumed that this is represented where there is a single native taxon. It was not possible in this material to confirm the *Prunus* species. It was clear from a visual scan of the charcoal from SFB 4 that *Quercus* dominated the assemblages, although only 30 fragments were recorded.

With the exception of one fragment of heartwood in SFB 1, most of the oak wood appeared to be from sapwood or branchwood. In general, there were no complete stems with pith and bark, but the sample from SFB 1 was notable for the quantity of roundwood fragments with strong ring curvature. Several of the dogwood fragments in this sample were eight years old (minus bark or cambial edge, but with pith) and the similarity of these pieces suggests that they may have come from the fragmented remains of the same branch. The large fragments of oak roundwood in the sample from context 6105 in SFB 4, exhibited strong ring curvature, with a minimum diameter of 50mm and >six years in age. Of particular interest in this sample was the presence of

possible worked wood. Owing to fragmentation, this was not certain but two fragments showed a curved edge, which appeared to be inconsistent with natural roundwood curvature. Several fragments from post-hole 6222 and SFBs 1 and 2 showed evidence for small, round-shaped insect tunnels.

The origin of charcoal from SFB deposits is often difficult to determine since, unlike pits which are frequently the deliberate receptacles of domestic dumps of spent fuelwood, the material may have derived from several activities and/or include burnt structural remains. The insect tunnels recorded in several samples is interesting as the round shape is consistent with the type of tunnels caused by the Anobiidae beetles which commonly inhabit structures and furniture (Mark Robinson, pers. comm.). While this cannot be conclusively established, it provides a tentative suggestion that the assemblages include remains other than firewood. The presence of charred cereal remains in several of the SFBs but particularly context 6051 in SFB 2 suggests that some of the charcoal would have come from domestic cooking hearths. The diversity of taxa and the quantity of roundwood pieces in context 6115 in SFB 1 are consistent with the type of brushwood species that would have been utilised for domestic hearths.

The striking feature of the assemblage is the dominance of oak in SFB 4 compared to the higher diversity (minimum of five taxa) recorded in post-hole 6222 (PBB 2) and SFBs 1 and 2 (Table 10). This is significant as some of the abundant charcoal from SFB 4 was found in association with a quantity of loomweights, and could possibly represent the remains of a burnt loom; the sampled charcoal was very well preserved, with abundant large fragments, which is unusual for assemblages generated from dispersed domestic material, and the possible worked wood from context 6105 suggests that the remains of an artefact is represented. It is also possible, however, that this charcoal represents some structural elements or furniture remains other than a loom, and there was no evidence that the loomweights themselves had come into contact with fire. While the strong ring curvature in this charcoal is inconsistent with planks or even

large beams, the spreads of charcoal just above the base of the SFB were linear in appearance suggestive of such timbers. The presence of a single fragment of yew is also interesting as yew wood is particularly valued for its properties in making artefacts (Gale & Cutler 2000, 396–8).

With the exception of the specific burnt remains from SFB 4, the charcoal gives a broad indication of the wood types which were utilised for fuel for various activities taking place within the buildings. Small to medium trees such as field maple, hazel, hawthorn group and blackthorn/cherry were exploited as well as shrub type taxa such as dogwood. Oak and ash are present but not the principal firewood components. The picture is complicated by the possible artefactual elements which may be included in the assemblages, but it is worth noting that there seems to be little use of wetland type taxa (such as alder and willow/poplar), which would have flourished in the adjacent river valley. Interestingly, the relative paucity of wet ground taxa is also noted in the plant assemblage (Wyles & Stevens, this report). At Goch Way, Andover, Gale (2004, 133) suggests that the ‘non-use of wetland species’ in the domestic assemblages from early Anglo-Saxon SFBs is indicative of the importance of these taxa for other purposes, such as hurdle making and basketry.

In conclusion, the evidence from the charcoal suggests that the oak charcoal deposit from context 6105 in SFB 4 may include the remains of a burnt loom. The higher taxonomic diversity of the assemblages from the other samples suggests less specific events are represented, with material probably deriving from various domestic activities deposited in the abandoned SFBs.

DISCUSSION

The limited evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, in the form of residual flintwork, including a small Mesolithic component, and a small number of pits containing late prehistoric pottery, is consistent with the use of the valley side for low-level economic and possibly settlement activity at different times during

prehistory. The field system in Area 1 could potentially be of prehistoric date, but this cannot be demonstrated; it pre-dates Anglo-Saxon building PBB 3 and the small quantities of later finds from it could be intrusive.

The Roman road provides new and clear evidence of the course of the Winchester–Silchester road over the 3km between its earlier identification at Hyde Street and the A33 Basingstoke Road (which is known to follow its line) (Fig. 15). The road ran from the town’s north gate (as did the road to Mildenhall (*Cunetio*)), and although the precise location of the gate has not been ascertained, it is presumed to lie close to the junction of Hyde Street and North Walls (Wacher 1974, 296–7, and fig. 132). Short sections of the road have been excavated at Hyde Street (Collis 1978, 119–22; Birbeck & Moore 2004), and a straight line projected between them and the southern end of the A33 (Winchester to Basingstoke section) passes through the site only 3m to the west of ditch 6315. This line also matches very closely that of Nun’s Walk (formerly known as Monks’ Walk), an ancient causeway which runs along the west side of the Itchen floodplain (on the eastern bank of the Hyde Abbey millstream). The Walk formed part of the Pilgrims’ Way between Winchester and Canterbury, passing through Hyde Abbey, and aligned north-north-east from the present Saxon Road (Milner 1839, 250; Cartwright 1911, 31).

This straight line, however, is at odds with the previous, presumed, course of the road, which lies further to the west, along Worthy Road – a route that requires two bends in the road around Kings Worthy (e.g. Fasham & Whinney 1991, fig. 45). This route seems to be based on the presence of a former 200m long linear earthwork (with the appearance of a hollow-way) in a field south-west of the former Abbott’s Barton Farm, which is marked on early edition OS maps as the *Site of ROMAN ROAD*. This unexcavated and undated earthwork lies 100m west of the straight line projected through the present site, and may mark a later route, possibly going to, or around the Abbott’s Barton Farm, which was originally the grange farm of Hyde Abbey, established in AD 1110. Winchester’s north gate may have ceased to function by the late 9th century with the road towards Kings Worthy by

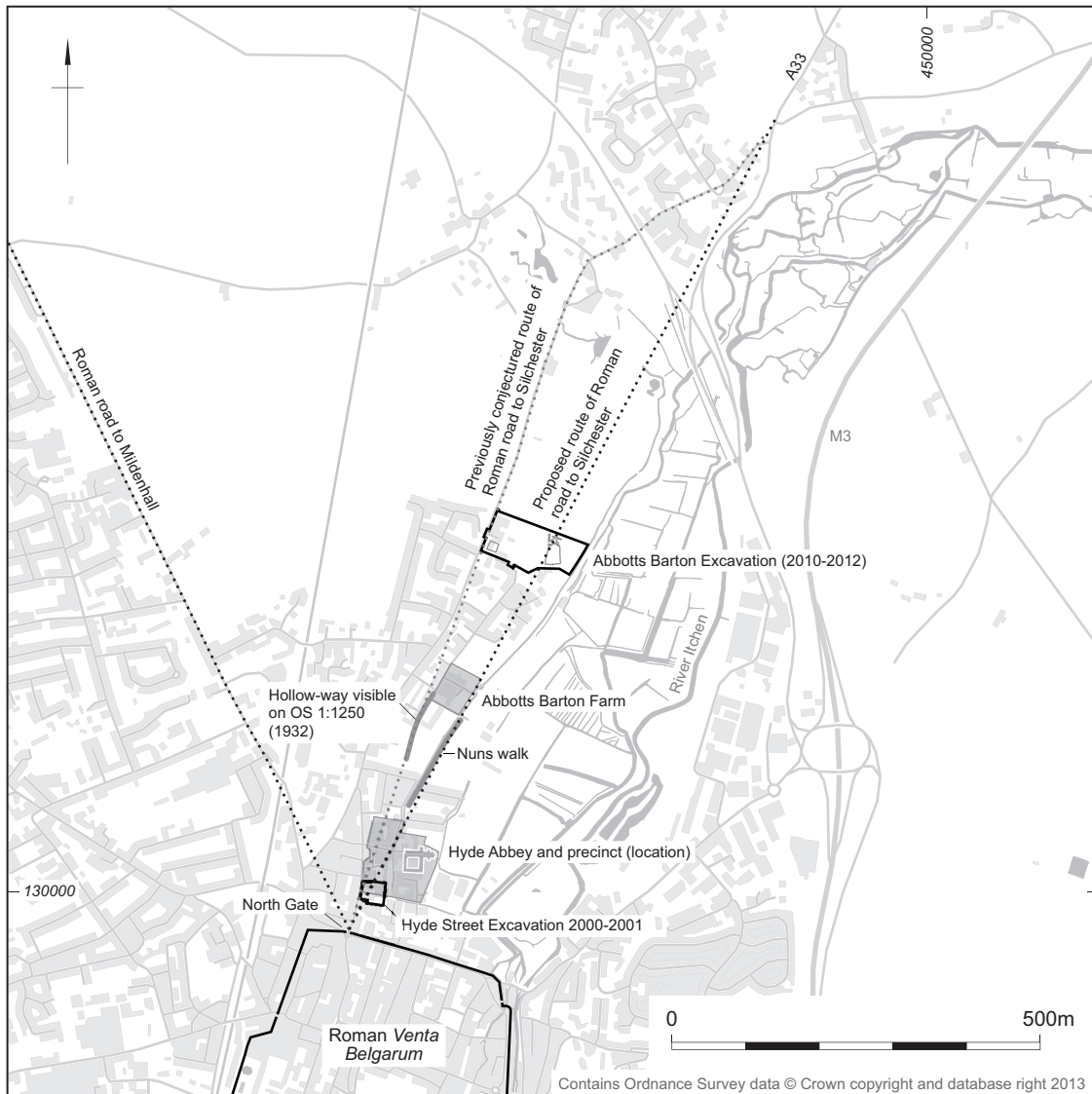


Fig 15 The line of the Winchester–Silchester Roman road at Abbots Barton

then following the line of the modern Worthy Lane (Collis 1978, 111).

The presence of a causeway, possibly originally an *agger*, at Nuns' Walk makes this feature a better candidate for a Roman road than the hollow-way. There was no trace in Area 1 of an *agger* centrally between the two ditches, but this may have been truncated by later ploughing. Some roads, however, also had lightly metalled

strips on either side of the *agger* (Smith 2011), and it may be this that has survived, possibly protected by the down-slope erosion (by ploughing) of the *agger*. The ditches were 24m apart, close to the typical width for many Roman roads, and the same width as that recorded at Hyde Street (Birbeck & Moore 2004, 87). The reason why the western ditch was substantially larger than the eastern ditch (and was recut) is

not known, but it is possible that it had some other function in addition to defining the road zone.

In Area 1, the Roman road appears to have continued in use into the early/middle Anglo-Saxon period, when a settlement was established beside it, 1.4km north of Winchester. The Roman town suffered a decline in the 4th century AD, and appears to have been largely abandoned during the 5th and 6th centuries. In its place, a pattern of small rural settlements, characterised by the widespread adoption of Anglo-Saxon material culture, developed under the influence of a newly arrived or emergent political elite. These settlements appear to have been spaced at intervals along the Itchen valley, as indicated by the early Anglo-Saxon settlement Abbots Worthy and the cemeteries at Worthy Park and Itchen Abbas (Fasham & Whinney 1991; Hawkes & Grainger 2003; McCulloch 1995). A 5th–6th century cemetery is also suggested by a cluster of early Saxon metal objects found by metal detecting north-east of Abbots Barton (Biddle & Kjølbye-Biddle 2007, 209), where, within 400m of the site, 11 brooches, two buckles, a sword pommel, a decorated mount, an escutcheon from a hanging bowl and a knife of possible early Saxon date were recorded (<http://finds.org.uk/database>). All were found at similar heights above the valley floor as the settlement, and 11 were from an area just 75m by 150m.

However, as argued by Fasham & Whinney (1991, 78), the abandonment of Winchester and the establishment of rural settlements need not have been closely related. The hinterland of the Roman town had been intensively settled and farmed for a long period, and it is possible that these new settlements largely replicated the locations of Romano-British farmsteads. Although no Romano-British settlement features were recorded on the site, the significant quantities of residual Romano-British CBM (12.5kg), along with a small amount of pottery (14 sherds, 229g), point to settlement in the vicinity.

It is not clear to what degree the Abbots Barton Anglo-Saxon settlement was influenced by the presence of the Roman road, although Reynolds has demonstrated that pre-Anglo-Saxon features, such as Romano-British field

boundaries, were used to structure settlement space in Anglo-Saxon period (Reynolds 2003). The road would have remained an important communication route, at least locally, and may have influenced the positions of the buildings; certainly, virtually all of the SFBs, post-built buildings and other lines of posts appear to be aligned either parallel or at right angles to it. The settlement's road-side location was almost certainly less important than its position on the edge of the river valley; the Abbots Worthy settlement a kilometre or so upstream was also clearly positioned in relation to the river, rather than to the nearby road. At Abbots Barton, however, the road may have concentrated what might have otherwise been a more dispersed settlement into the 100m wide zone between it and the floodplain. The larger, western road ditch, the re-cut of which contained a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a significant quantity of animal bone, may indicate this still marked a significant boundary. Many of the estate boundaries of the Anglo-Saxon manors along the upper Itchen valley are of middle Anglo-Saxon date (Klingelhöfer 1990, 37).

Given that the Area 1 excavation and watching brief was limited to the footprint of the soak-away and its immediate surrounds, it is possible that only part of a larger settlement extending along the valley side was revealed. Apart from two short evaluation trenches to the east of Area 1, the rest of the site to the east of the Roman road was not impacted by the development and, therefore, it was not subject to investigation. Nonetheless, within the area exposed, clear distinctions between the central and southern parts of the settlement are apparent, as reflected in the distributions of the post-built buildings and the SFBs, for example. This distinction could reflect a chronological development involving a change in construction methods and a slight shift in location. Settlement shift has been demonstrated sites such as West Stow (West 1985) and Mucking (Hamerow 1993), but although there was evidence at Abbots Barton for at least two phases of one post-built building, there was no stratigraphic evidence, and nothing in the distribution of the finds, to demonstrate the chronological development of the settlement.

It is more likely that the distinctions reflect

intra-site variability, with the two building styles indicating different functions. It has been suggested, for example, that post-built structures provided the main occupation spaces, while the SFBs were ancillary buildings used for small-scale industrial and craft activities, such as weaving (as may have been the case with SFB 4), and/or storage (Rahtz 1976, 76; Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003, 101; Tipper 2004, 184). The different shapes and sizes of the SFBs on the site (which all fall within the wide range of variability for such structures) may reflect specific uses. SFB 4 provides evidence for a planked floor, although whether this was in the base of the hollow or raised above it remains unclear.

Given the nature of their component features, it is only to be expected that the post-built structures produced much smaller quantities of finds than the SFBs which, after their abandonment, may have been used for rubbish deposition (Tipper 2004, 185). Nonetheless, although the post-holes of PBBs 1 and 2 contained small quantities of possible domestic waste (in the form of pottery, animal bone and burnt flint), the SFBs generally produced a significantly wider range of material types (as well as possibly curated items), including objects of copper alloy, glass, stone and worked bone, all of which were absent from the post-built structures. While this could reflect a wider range of activities undertaken within the SFBs, the fact that SFB 2 had a possible foundation deposit in its base (a feature noted in SFBs at other settlements) suggests that such structures cannot be viewed as simply the functional part (craft/industry/storage) of a settlement.

Post-built buildings and SFBs are found on many Anglo-Saxon settlements (although SFBs are rarer on Chalk). At Abbots Worthy, five SFBs occupied in the 6th–8th/9th centuries were excavated, but there were no post-built buildings (Fasham & Whinney 1991). While this could simply reflect spatial division within the settlement, the SFBs at Abbots Worthy were more dispersed than the tight cluster at Abbots Barton, and the Abbots Worthy settlement also differed in having a small, subrectangular ditched enclosure and a series of large pits. Seven SFBs and up to 11 post-built buildings were excavated at the 7th–8th century settlement at Riverdene, beside the River Loddon

at Basingstoke, and, as at Abbots Barton, they occupied largely different areas of the site with little overlap in their distributions. This was interpreted in functional terms, reflecting distinct land-use zones (Hall-Torrance & Weaver 2003, 101, and figs 2–4). Sixteen substantial timber structures (post-built or trench-built) were also recorded at the 5th–7th century settlement at Cowdery's Down, Basingstoke, for example, but here only two small SFBs were recorded, perhaps reflecting the high status of the site (Millett & James 1983).

The finds indicate that the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Abbots Barton was occupied in the 6th–8th centuries, possibly continuing later. There is nothing that can be assigned to the 5th century, but the loomweights from SFB 4 are likely to be of later 7th or 8th century date, whilst the knife from SFB 1 could belong to the 9th century. Overall, this might give a similar date range to the settlement at Abbots Worthy. Consideration was given to radiocarbon dating, but none of the charred plant remains and wood charcoal could be reliably associated with hearths or single burning events, and none of the animal bone was from secure Anglo-Saxon contexts. Moreover, the nature of the radiocarbon calibration curve covering the 6th to early 7th century means that any dates were only considered likely to confirm the date range suggested by the pottery.

There was little evidence from which to reconstruct the economy of the Anglo-Saxon settlement, although there were possible indications from the animal bone that the economy was undergoing a shift from local subsistence to more specialised agricultural production, possibly to supply *Hamwic*. Cattle were of primary importance, for both dairy and meat, although weaving and the production of textiles was also a significant craft activity on the site, indicating the importance of sheep. Different areas of the landscape were exploited not only for the collection of fuel wood, but also, as indicated by the charred weed seeds, for the arable cultivation of barley, rye and possibly wheat. Evidence of crop processing was absent from the plant remains, but food processing is indicated from the retrieval of a number of quernstones.

None of the features excavated in Area

2, all of probable post-medieval date, correspond to any features shown on the first or later edition OS maps. However, the OS Old Series map of 1810 does show a track in this general area, crossing at an angle from Worthy Road to a property set back from the road, and the 1826 Greenwood map shows what may also be a track almost parallel to the road.

The excavation at Abbots Barton, therefore, has provided significant new information relating both to Roman Winchester and to the nature and pattern of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the surrounding landscape in the centuries immediately after the end of Roman rule. The discovery of a short length of the Roman road between Winchester and Silchester, on the precise line, and midway between the town's North Gate and the straight course of the A33, 3km to the north, provides welcome clarification and simplification of the course of the road in this area, until now largely a matter of conjecture. The possibility that it may be preserved in the ancient causeway of the existing Nun's Walk provides considerable scope for future investigation. It is likely that the road influenced the location and layout of the Abbots Barton rural settlement, one of a number now known along the Itchen valley. The settlement, comprising post-built and sunken-featured buildings, appears to have had an adjacent cemetery, indicated by a concentration of metal finds. The discovery of a possible foundation deposit in the base of one of the SFBs, uniquely containing curated Roman coins, can be viewed as an interesting

symbol of continuity and change in the hinterland of post-Roman Winchester.

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The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project codes 70250-1, but in due course it will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service under the accession code WINCM: AY424.

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